

APPENDIX 1 - METALWORK

1.1 Metalwork

by Valerie Diez

Introduction

- 1.1.1 A total of 204 metal objects were recovered during watching brief fieldwork at Bower Road. All the items were retrieved by hand excavation.
- 1.1.2 The recovery and assessment of the metalwork was undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The retrieval of this assemblage was undertaken to assist with identifying status and the economic orientation of the settlement and to refine understanding of its development.

Methodology

- 1.1.3 In order to achieve a more accurate quantification of the research potential of the assemblage, all material was rapidly inspected and identified. This has allowed the identification of a large number of iron nails which require little further investigation.
- 1.1.4 All the metalwork was assessed by inspection of the X-radiographs (with inspection of the objects where appropriate).
- 1.1.5 It should be noted that in Table 4.1, under 'count', the number entered does not always correspond with the number of fragments. The assemblage contains a large number of nails or nail fragments, which have a tendency to fragment. The number of fragments present when the find was X-rayed is given in the description field. The total number of nails relates to the number of heads represented, providing a minimum number estimate.
- 1.1.6 Information about context description and date has been taken into consideration in the assessment that follows.

Quantification

- 1.1.7 All the metalwork is listed by context in Table 4.1.
- 1.1.8 The assemblage is dominated by structural items, mainly iron nails (70 items). Apart from nails and nail shanks, 14 objects were identified most of which are broken fragments of utilitarian, probably structural, ironwork and fittings. Except for one item, they were all broken and could not be attributed to a specific type. They comprise two strips with rivets or possible rivet holes (sf 76 and 90), one ring fragment (context 103) and one complete ring or collar (sf 4), two hooked objects (sf 1 and 124), some chain links (sf 77) and various unidentified fragments (6 items).
- 1.1.9 One object may belong to the category of personal equipment (context 464). It is a probable fitting fragment, oval shaped with a small knob on each side. It is possibly a mount or a strap end.
- 1.1.10 None of these items was datable.

Provenance

- 1.1.11 All the objects come from stratified contexts. They have been recovered from a range of features all over the site, although large numbers seem to derive from the fills of ditch group 169. The lack of evidence for earlier or later occupation at the site suggests that most of this material is likely to be of Roman date, although not in itself intrinsically datable.
- 1.1.12 The metalwork is in moderately good condition, so it may be assumed that the small size of the assemblage reflects the level of discard and is not the result of poor preservation on the site.

Conservation

- 1.1.13 The current packaging is adequate for long term storage. This assemblage does not require further conservation work.
- 1.1.14 It is not normal practice to discard Roman metalwork.

Comparative material

- 1.1.15 The limited potential of the assemblage provides no scope for comparative study.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.16 The objects themselves offer no potential for further analysis in support of the CTRL research aims.
- 1.1.17 The size of the assemblage and the type of items present supports the impression given by the pottery (Appendix 1.1, above), that the posthole building itself was a barn or ancillary building to a main focus of occupation elsewhere. Therefore, although the objects themselves have no intrinsic potential for further analysis, a closer study of the distribution of metalwork on the site (particularly nails) may help to clarify the nature of structures, buildings and secondary deposition on the site. This may be expected to contribute to CTRL research aims at Landscape Zone level concerning the nature of the Iron Age/Roman transition and changes in patterns of occupation and agricultural exploitation during the Roman period.

Bibliography

RFG & FRG, 1993 Roman Finds Group & Finds Research Group AD 700-1700, 1993 *The guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds other than fired clay vessels*

1.2 Assessment of the Roman coins

By Paul Booth

Introduction

- 1.2.1 Nine Roman coins were recovered during watching brief fieldwork at Bower Road.
- 1.2.2 All coins were retrieved by hand excavation.
- 1.2.3 The recovery and assessment of the coins was undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The principal purpose of recovering coins was to assist the establishment of a dated occupation sequence for all phases of the site's development.

Methodology

- 1.2.4 All the coins were X-rayed and then examined briefly. All the coins were in very poor condition, being very corroded, and identification was not possible without conservation work being undertaken. Therefore, the nine coins have been cleaned and stabilised in order to allow provisional identifications based on a quick scan. In some cases, close dating was still not possible after cleaning owing to the degree of wear or corrosion.

Quantification

- 1.2.5 Details of the date and context for each coin found at Bower Road are provided in Table 4.2.
- 1.2.6 The assemblage is too small for any comment on chronological trends, although the assessment results suggest a preponderance of 3rd and 4th century coins.

Provenance

- 1.2.7 Coins were recovered from all areas of the site. Ditch 174 contained one coin dated to the mid 1st century. Two coins of 2nd century date were recovered from ditches 170 and 742. Late 3rd and 4th century coins were retrieved from ditches 171, 181, 179 and from slot 151. A very late 4th-century coin was recovered from beamslot 187 within the posthole building.

Conservation

- 1.2.8 All coins are in poor condition. They have already been cleaned and stabilised for identification and no further work in conservation is required. It is not normal practice to discard Roman coins.

Comparative material

- 1.2.9 Due to the very small size of this assemblage and the poor condition of the coins, there is no potential for comparative studies.

Potential for further work

- 1.2.10 The following section discusses potential for further work in the light of the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Aims.
- 1.2.11 The only further potential of the assemblage to contribute to the CTRL research strategy lies in the possibility that the identification of seven of the coins might be refined by further consultation of published parallels. This would allow closer dating of the associated features and deposits. The two other coins (SF 99 and 134) are in very poor condition and can not be identified with more precision.

1.3 Assessment of Iron Slag

by Valerie Diez

Introduction and methodology

- 1.3.1 A total of 19 pieces of slag (374g) were recovered by hand excavation during watching brief fieldwork at Bower Road.
- 1.3.2 The material was collected in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The material was collected in order to provide data relating to change in

organisation of the landscape at the Iron Age/Roman transition, and economic and environmental indicators for the site during the same period.

- 1.3.3 The small assemblage was quantified and rapidly scanned.

Quantifications and provenance

- 1.3.4 The total weight of slag was 374g. The breakdown by context is given in table 4.3. The majority is iron slag.

- 1.3.5 Only small amounts of slag were present in each relevant context, suggesting that these represented scattered redeposited material rather than the remains of *in situ* metalworking. Twelve fragments were found in 386, fill of ditch cut 382 (group 173). Other slag fragments derive from ditch fills (group 169 and group 181), subsoil layer 381, and context 740, the backfill of a robbed wall. No other evidence of metalworking activity has been identified on the site.

Conservation

- 1.3.6 The slag, although unwashed, is stable and unlikely to be affected by any factors of preservation. Iron slag, being fayalitic, requires no special storage conditions. Decisions as to whether the assemblage can be discarded should await final decisions about the analysis and post-excavation stages of the CTRL projects.

Potential for further work

- 1.3.7 Due to the very small size of the assemblage and the absence of metalworking on site, the potential of this assemblage is very limited. The slags recovered in Bower Road seem unlikely to answer any of the Landscape Zone Priorities or Fieldwork Event aims. Therefore no further work is required.

Table 4.1: Details of metalwork by context

Context	Special number	Material	Count	Period	Simple name	Comments
101	103	Iron	1	?	Nail	Head
102		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
102	105	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
103		Copper alloy	1	RO	Ring fragment	
103		Iron	5	RO	Nails	shank fragments + 1 head
104		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
106		Iron	3	RO	Nails	Shanks
126		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
126	107	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head (2 frags)
148	113	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
148	114	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
152	108	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
152	109	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
152	110	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
152	111	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
152	112	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
162		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
214		Iron	4	RO	Nails	shank frags
215		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
215	90	Iron	1	RO	Sheet	square fragment, possibly with rivet through it?
243		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
243	93	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
243	115	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
246		Iron	3	RO	Nails	2 heads + 1 shank
250	97	Iron	1	RO	Fragment	irregular shaped fragment
250	98	Iron	1	RO	Fragments	small irregular shaped fragments, very corroded
250	116	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
250	117	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
272	100	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
277	102	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
290	101	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
300	66	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
300	67	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
300	68	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
300	69	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
300	70	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
301		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
301	62	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
301	63	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
301	64	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
301	65	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
305	71	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
324	72	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
324	73	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
326	77	Copper alloy	1	?	Chain links	7 oval links
338	76	Iron	1	RO	Strip	2 fragments, incl 2 rivet holes with 1 rivet <i>in situ</i>
349	75	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
367		Iron	21	RO	Nails	8 heads, 13 shanks
367	82	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
371		Iron	6	RO	Nails	2 heads, 4 shanks
371	78	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
371	79	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank

Context	Special number	Material	Count	Period	Simple name	Comments
371	83	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
371	85	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
377		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
381	84	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
384	81	Iron	1	LIA; RO	Nail	Head
415	19	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
418	20	Iron	1	RO	Shank	possibly nail shank
421	22	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
429	23	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
429	24	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
429	25	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
429	26	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
429	27	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
441		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
443	28	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
443	29	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
462		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
464		Copper alloy	1	RO	Fitting	possible mount or strap end
487	31	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	32	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
487	33	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head? (3 frags)
487	34	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
487	35	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	36	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	37	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head?
487	38	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	39	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	40	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	41	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	42	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
487	43	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	44	Iron	1	RO	Nail	shank (2 frags)
488	45	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	46	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	47	Iron	1	RO	Nail	shank (2 frags)
488	48	Iron	2	RO	Nails	Head
488	49	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head (3 frags)
488	50	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
488	51	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
488	52	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	53	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	54	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head (4 frags)
488	55	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	56	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	57	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	58	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	59	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
488	60	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
489	61	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
494	74	Copper alloy	1	?	Pin?	strip with circular section, possibly pin shaft
501		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
502		Iron	1	RO	Disc	
502		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
504		Iron	5	RO	Nails	shank frags
508		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
508	123	Iron	1	RO	Strip	rectangular section, broken at both ends
510		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
510	1	Iron	1	RO	Hook	hook at each end, one with a square

Context	Special number	Material	Count	Period	Simple name	Comments
						section. shank expanded and rectangular in section
511		Iron	1	LIA; MD	Nail	head?
521		Iron	5	?	Nails	Shanks
528	4	Iron	1	RO	Ring/collar	ring or collar
528	94	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
528	95	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
542	17	Iron	1	?	Nail	Head
549	11	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
549	12	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
549	86	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
549	87	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
549	88	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
549	89	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
552	2	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
552	3	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
555		Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
556	119	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
556	120	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
556	121	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
556	122	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
557		Iron	6	RO	Nails	1 head, 5 shanks
559	5	Iron	2	LIA; RO	Nails	2 heads
561	6	Iron	1	LIA	Nail	Head
567	8	Iron	1	?	Nail	Shank
567	14	Iron	1	?	Nail	Head
567	21	Iron	1	?	Object	triangular fragment with rectangular section
573	10	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
573	13	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
575	18	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
581	15	Iron	1	LIA	Nail	Head
584	16	Iron	1	RO	Nail	shank (2 frags)
695	124	Iron	1	RO	Object	angled object with a hooked end
695	125	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
695	126	Iron	1	RO	Nail	head (2 frags)
695	127	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
695	128	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
695	129	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
695	130	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
712	131	Iron	1	RO	Nail	shank (2 frags)
725	132	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Head
725	133	Iron	1	RO	Nail	Shank
891		Iron	2	RO	Nails	Shanks

Table 4.2: Summary of the coins

Context	Context type	Special number	Material	Period	Early Date	Late Date	Comments
152	Beam slot cut 151	118	Copper alloy	RO	364	378	AE3/4. Standing figure and ?captive cf GLORIA ROMANORUM etc
280	Upper fill of ditch group 179	104	Copper alloy	RO			Late 3rdC. ?Barbarious radiate. Poor condition
245	Ditch group 170	91	Copper alloy	RO	145	175	Sestersius. ?Faustina Junior. Very poor condition
376	Ditch group 174	80	Copper alloy	RO	69	79	Sestersius. Vespasian. SPQR OB CITES SERVATOS. Poor condition
462	Ditch group 171	99	Copper alloy	RO			Late 3rdC. ?Barbarious radiate. Very poor condition

Context	Context type	Special number	Material	Period	Early Date	Late Date	Comments
528	Subsoil, seals all Roman features	30	Copper alloy	RO			?2ndC. Sestercius. Very poor condition
564	Ditch group 187	7	Copper alloy	?	388	402	AE4. House of Theodosius. VICTORIA type
567	Ditch group 181	9	Copper alloy	?	321	323	AE3. BEATA TRANQUILITAS
707	Top of ditch group 742	134	Copper alloy	RO	1stC	2ndC	?As/quadrans. Worn, very poor condition

Table 4.3: Quantity of slag

Context	Type of context	Number of slag	Weight in g
304	Fill of ditch group 169	1	62
381	Subsoil, seals all roman features (same as 528)	2	14
384	Primary fill of ditch group 169	1	9
386	Fill of ditch group 173	12	271
469	Fill of ditch group 173	1	2
573	Fill of ditch group 181	1	4
740	Backfill over robbed wall remains group 730	1	12
<i>Total</i>		<i>19</i>	<i>374</i>

