

APPENDIX 1 - METALWORK

1.1 Assessment of Metalwork

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Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1.1 A small assemblage comprising 17 pieces of metalwork was recovered during strip, map and sample excavation at Chapel Mill.
- 1.1.2 The material was recovered during fieldwork and from sieving.
- 1.1.3 The objects were retrieved in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The main aim of the retrieval and assessment programme was to contribute to the dating of the features on the site, to provide evidence of possible settlement activity, and to provide evidence for late Iron Age burial practice.

Quantification and Provenance

- 1.1.4 With the exception of an iron nail found in the topsoil, all of the metalwork was found in the upper fill of cremation pit 205, dated from the late Iron Age to *c* AD 70. The metalwork in this cremation pit consists of eight fragments of iron nail shanks, one iron ring or washer, two small fragments of sheet copper and numerous unidentified copper fragments many of which appear to have been melted (Table 7). All of the metalwork is poorly preserved. The presence of probably post-medieval ceramic building material in the same context raises the possibility that the metalwork too is intrusive and much later in date than the cremation, although it is also possible that the copper alloy objects were melted on the cremation pyre and are thus directly associated with the cremation.

Conservation

- 1.1.5 The metalwork is largely unidentifiable, although it may represent the remains of a modest assemblage of grave goods and as such it would not be normal practice to discard it. If the X-rays are deposited with the site archive, the nail from the topsoil may, however, be discarded.

Potential for further work and comparative material

- 1.1.6 Although the nail shanks may be accidental inclusions, the remaining artefacts and fragments from cremation 205 may have been deliberately deposited on the pyre or as grave goods in the cremation pit. However, given the presence of post-medieval brick in the same context there remains a possibility that the material originated elsewhere.
- 1.1.7 Compositional analysis would probably be able to confirm whether the copper fragments are of Iron Age date, but it is unlikely that the fragments will prove to be identifiable as objects. If the Iron Age date of the copper can be confirmed, the group provides evidence for the presence of grave goods, but it will not be possible to establish their original form.

Table 7: Summary of metalwork

Context	Special number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (description)
200		Fe	1	?	Nail
203	sample 100	Fe	8	?	Fragments nail shanks
203	sample 100	Fe	1	?	Ring or washer
203	sample 100	Cu	2	LIA?	Two tiny fragments of metal sheet
203	sample 100	Cu	<i>c</i> 40	LIA?	Unidentified fragments, mostly melted
203	SF 100	Cu	1	LIA?	Small unidentified fragment
204	sample 101	Cu	1	LIA?	unidentified fragmented, melted