

APPENDIX 7: ASSESSMENT OF COINS

Jackie Keily (coin identifications by Mike Hammerson)

Conservation by Liz Barham

1. Introduction

1.1 A total of 51 coins (41 copper alloy, five lead and five silver) were recovered during archaeological work in Zone 3. Of these, 20 coins were recovered from the metal detecting/field walking project at ARC WNB 98, prior to the start of the excavation and one from the actual excavation. Twenty-nine copper alloy coins were recovered from the excavation at ARC HRD 99. Only one coin was recovered from ARC 330 98 in Zone 3, a modern two pence piece.

1.2 It is not thought that the coin from ARC 330 98 or the metal detected coins from ARC WNB 98 can add much to the fieldwork event aims.

1.3 The coins from ARC HRD 99 can assist the following fieldwork event aim:

- To recover dating evidence from the features located to enable a chronology for the division of the landscape to be established.

2. Methodology

2.1 The coins were accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system. The records have been entered onto the MoLAS Oracle relational database and subsequently have been transferred to RLE Datasets.

2.2 The majority of the coins (see Conservation, below) have been treated and X-rayed. They have been identified and dated by Mike Hammerson.

2.3 No sampling was undertaken of the accessioned finds.

3. Quantification

3.1 The coins have been quantified in the tables below:

Table 38: Assessment of Coins from ARC 330 98

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
1	88	1	MO	New two-pence coin (Elizabeth II)

Table 39: Assessment of Coins from ARC HRD 99

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
102	1	1	RO	Constantius II Caesar; c 340- c 350; irregular
CH39.605	2	1	RO	Helena; c 340- c 350; irregular
153	3	1	RO	Valentinian II; 375-392
53	4	1	RO	Constantine II; 335-341; poss irregular
178	5	1	RO	Constantius II; c 355- c 365
9	6	1	RO	Constans; c 347- c 350; prob irregular
88	7	1	RO	Constantinopolis; 330-335; prob regular
131	8	1	RO	Constantine II; c 340- c 350; irregular
135	9	1	RO	Helena; c 340- c 350; irregular
135	10	1	RO	Prob Constantius II; c 355- c 365; probably irregular
135	11	1	RO	Urbs Roma; c 340- c 350; irregular
7	12	1	RO	Prob Constantius II; c 355- c 365; irregular
7	13	1	RO	Constantinian; c 340- c 350; irregular
178	14	1	RO	Constantius II; c 340- c 350; irregular
32	15	1	RO	Constantine I; c 340- c 350; probably irregular
32	16	1	RO	Constantius II; c 340- c 350; irregular
32	17	1	RO	Constantinian; c 347- c 350; irregular
32	18	1	RO	Constantius II; c 355- c 365; irregular
7	19	1	RO	Urbs Roma; 330-335
7	20	1	RO	Constantine II; c 340- c 350; irregular
7	21	1	RO	Constantinian; c 340- c 350; irregular
7	22	1	RO	Constantinian; c 340- c 365; illegible
7	23	1	RO	Gratian; 367-378
7	24	1	RO	Valens; 364-378
7	25	1	RO	Urbs Roma; 330-335
7	26	1	RO	Constantinopolis; c 340- c 350; good irregular copy
7	27	1	RO	Urbs Roma; c 340- c 350; good irregular copy
7	28	1	RO	Urbs Roma; c ?340- c ?350; possible copy
CH39.720	43	1	RO	Urbs Roma; c 175- c 225; silver plated bronze copy of a denarius

Table 40: Assessment of Coins from ARC WNB 98:

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
1167	30	1	RO	Silver; Faustina I; c 141- c 161
0	35	1	RO	Silver; Julia Soemias; c 218- c 222
0	34	1	PM	Silver; George IV; 1824-1829
0	36	1	MD	Silver; 'long cross' penny
0	48	1	PM	Silver; to date
0	33	1	RO	Copper alloy; Constantine I; c 340- c 350
0	28	1	PM	Copper alloy; 1760-1830
0	29	1	RO	Copper alloy; Nerva; c 96- c 98
0	32	1	RO	Copper alloy; Constantine II; c 347- c 350; very rare
0	31	1	PM	Copper alloy; illegible; probably

				18th/19th c.
0	50	1	RO	Copper alloy; Constantine I; c 320- c 340
0	51	1	PM	Copper alloy; Victoria; 1877; one penny
0	52	1	PM	Copper alloy; Victoria; 1866; farthing
0	53	1	PM	Copper alloy; very corroded
0	54	1	RO	Copper alloy; to clean & to date
0	49	1	PM	Copper alloy; early post-medieval; to date
0	37	1	PM	Lead; token (to date)
0	38	1	PM	Lead; token (to date)
0	47	1	PM	Lead; to date
0	45	1	PM	Lead; to date
0	46	1	PM	Lead; to date

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The coin from ARC 330 98, <88>, was recovered from context [1], the fill of a modern field boundary, ditch 2.
- 4.2 Coins were recovered from the following contexts at ARC HRD 99:
- [7] (sub-group 788) rubbish deposit containing Roman pottery,
 - [9] (sub-group 789) ruts,
 - [32] (802) build up over track,
 - [53] (sub-group 712) ditch fill,
 - [88] (sub-group 798) ditch fill,
 - [102] (sub-group 809) demolition deposit between walls of malting oven,
 - [131] (sub-group 775) ditch fill,
 - [135] (sub-group 788) rubbish deposit,
 - [153] (sub-group 725) demolition spread over medieval kilns
 - [178] (sub-group 814) possible building demolition deposit or collapse.
- 4.3 A number of the coins occur with Roman pottery of a similar later Roman date.
- 4.4 The only stratified coin from ARC WNB 98 is from context [1167] (sub-group 93), the fill of a pit and dates to the 2nd century AD.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 All of the coins from ARC HRD 99 have been conserved by the Museum of London conservation department; no further conservation work or analysis is required on these.
- 5.2 Please refer to the metalwork assessment for details of the aims of conservation of metal finds and an overview of their treatment. All the coins from ARC WNB 98 should be X-rayed prior to archive as a permanent record for deposition in the archive. Nine coins require dating. Coin <54> requires cleaning for dating and would be treated post-dating. Of the remaining coins for dating, the copper [+]<49>, the five lead and one silver coin should be degreased and lacquered post-dating.
- 5.3 It is recommended that all of the coins should be retained in accordance with national guidelines.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 No comparative work is required for the coin from ARC 330 98.
- 6.2 It is of interest that ARC HRD 99 produced the most coins of all the sites in Zone 3, and that the ARC HRD 99 coins virtually all date to the 4th century AD. This pattern was not noted amongst the coin assemblages recovered from the other archaeological work in this zone. The ARC HRD 99 coin assemblage should be compared with other rural sites of a similar nature (ie a possible work area or road) in the area and elsewhere. Are there any interesting patterns of coin loss? Nearly all of the coins are 4th century AD in date and there is a particular

concentration of mid-4th century coins: this should be compared/contrasted with other CTRL sites in Area 330, particularly ARC NBR 98. Very few late Roman coins have been found elsewhere in Area 330 Zones 1 to 6.

- 6.3 Little can be done in terms of comparative work with the coins from ARC WNB 98 since most of the coins are unstratified. The unstratified coin <32> of Constantine II, is very unusual and rare.

7. **Potential for further work**

- 7.1 There is no potential for further work with the coin from ARC 330 98.
- 7.2 The coins from ARC HRD 99 may assist the following landscape zone aim:
- *The character, function and development of the rural urban fringe*
- 7.3 Is the quantity of late Roman coinage present on the site unusual or is it larger than may be expected to be found? If so, what does this say about the area during the late Roman period? ARC HRD 99 produced evidence for human activity dating to the later Roman period. A brief comparison with other sites in the surrounding area is recommended and a discussion of how the coin loss on the present site compares with those. Assessment results suggest that other sites in Area 330 have not contained such a large amount of Late Roman coinage.
- 7.4 The coins from ARC HRD 99 may assist in the following fieldwork event aim:
- *To recover dating evidence from the features located to enable a chronology for the division of the landscape to be established*
- 7.5 The majority of the coins date to the mid-4th century AD. Closer analysis of the features and coins may refine the dating of those features.
- 7.6 The coins from ARC WNB 98 are only of use for dating purposes and as only one of them can be related to a stratified feature, this potential is rather limited.
- 7.7 It is recommended that the following work should be undertaken:
- ARC HRD 99:*
- further investigation of the coin assemblages. This will include comparative work with other sites in the region as outlined above and the writing of a report on the assemblage and what it infers about the site.
 - It is recommended that 10 coins should be photographed.
- ARC WNB 98:*
- Nine coins require precise dating
 - Conservation pre & post-dating
 - The unusual coin <32> may require further work
 - It is recommended that 5 coins require illustration.

