APPENDIX 1 - COINS

1.1 Roman Coins

by Paul Booth

Introduction

1.1.1 Fourteen Roman coins were recovered from the site. Coins were recovered in hand excavation but a number were located by metal detector used in conjunction with hand excavation. The use of the metal detector means that a fairly high rate of recovery of coins can be assumed, increasing their basic value as dating evidence.

1.1.2 The Fieldwork Event Aims which the assemblage can be expected to contribute are as follows:

- Fieldwork Event Aim 1: To establish the origins and decline of the Roman settlement.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 2: To recover the plan and a dated occupation sequence for all phases of that section of the Roman settlement (including the rural-urban fringe and immediate hinterland) affected by the CTRL, to further the understanding of the extent and character of the core Roman settlement, its interaction with its immediate environs, and changes through time.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 3: To recover artefact assemblages (especially pottery) to elucidate the sequence of site development; provide information on trade and exchange within the local, regional and international economy, and the status and economy of the settlement.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 4: To determine the origins and decline of urban functions within the settlement.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 7: To establish the chronology of the cemetery.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 8: To establish the spatial development of the cemetery as far as possible within the area of investigation.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 9: To establish if spatial variations exist within the cemetery in relation to burial practice.

Methodology

1.1.3 All the coins were X-rayed and then examined briefly. The condition of the coins was very variable: full identification was occasionally possible with relatively little work, but in other cases close dating was not possible owing to the degree of wear, corrosion or encrustation. Coins were dated as closely as possible, and the need for further specialist cleaning in order to facilitate identification was also indicated where appropriate.

Quantification

1.1.4 Only one coin came from the 1997 excavation (ARC PHL97). All the rest were from the 1998 excavation (ARC NBR98). Only sf 1515 came from the backfill of a grave (962). The remainder came from the topsoil, the hollow way 10029 and the large pit or well 10415 which predated the hollow way.

1.1.5 The 14 coins (including surface and metal detector finds) can be broken down by approximate period and appear in Table 5.1.

Provenance

1.1.6 The assemblage is too small for detailed comment on chronological trends. The earliest coin, of Claudius I, is relatively unworn and is consistent with the use of the cemetery from the immediate post-conquest period, as suggested by the pottery. No later 1st- or early 2nd-century coins are present, but there are four coins of the mid to late 2nd century. The range of 4th-century material is unremarkable, except insofar as these coins are relatively common, while very few graves are clearly dated to this period. The latest coin is of the House of Valentinian and is dated *c*. 367-375. Only one coin derived from the backfill of a grave, however, so their relationship to the operation of the cemetery is still unclear. Most of the coins were recovered from silts filling the hollow way and the shaft/ well, which tends to support the impression of dereliction by the late 4th century.

Conservation

1.1.7 Nine of the 14 coins require specialist cleaning in order to improve their identification (though it is not certain, in one or two cases, that anything identifiable remains), but consolidation work is unlikely to be appropriate.

Potential for further work

1.1.8 The coins are most important for dating the contexts from which they derive. Regardless of the position of these features and deposits in relation to the rest of the cemetery the coins can still inform interpretation of the overall chronological development of the site. The coins which require cleaning (see above), plus a further three coins, will need more detailed examination to maximise the information recovered, particularly with regard to dating. Only two coins require no further examination at this stage. The records of these and the records for the remaining coins, updated in the light of cleaning and more detailed examination, can be used to refine understanding of the chronological sequence of the site. They can be compared with other assemblages from Kent, both from the various sites within the small town of Springhead and also with the cemetery assemblage from Ospringe, to determine the extent to which the pattern of coin loss observed at the cemetery is typical of the region.

1.1.9 The Ospringe cemetery produced a larger assemblage of coins (64) ranging across the whole of the Roman period, but as at Waterloo Connection very few of these (four, from a single grave) were clearly associated with burials (Whiting, Hawley and May 1931, 100).

Bibliography

Whiting, W, Hawley, W, and May, T, 1931 *Report on the excavation of the Roman cemetery at Ospringe, Kent*, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiqs London **VIII**, London

1.2 The Post-Roman Coins

Introduction

1.2.1 A total of five post-Roman coins were recovered, of which two were of 17th-century date, one was of 18th-century date, and two were 19th- to 20th-century. Corrosion ranged from moderate to heavy. The coins are summarised in Table 5.3. All were unstratified in the topsoil.

Potential for further work

1.2.2 The small assemblage of coins has no potential for further analysis.

Bibliography

Dyer, G P and Gaspar, P P 1992 Reform, the new technology and Tower Hill, 1700-1966, in *A New History of the Royal Mint* (ed. C E Challis), Cambridge, 398-606

Challis, C E, 1992 'Lord Hastings to the Great Silver Recoinage, 1464-1699, in *A New History of the Royal Mint*, 179-397

Craig, J, 1953 *The Mint: A History of the London Mint from A.D. 287 to 1948,* Cambridge, 266-7

Table 5.1: Breakdown of Roman coins by period

Date	**Number**
1st century	1
2nd century	4
late 3rd century	1
4th century	5
3rd-4th century	2
Roman uncertain	1

Table 5.2: Summary of the Roman coins

Context	Context type	Special Number	Period	Early Date	Late Date	Comments
PHL97						
963	fill of grave 962	1515	RO			Poss 4C??, C
NBR98						
10001	Topsoil	2	RO	3rdC	4thC	C
10001		9	RO			?empress, C; mid 2ndC
10030		461	RO	?367	375	Victory, prob Securitas Reipublicae, C
10031	fill of hollow way 10029	462	RO	41	54	Claudius, C
10031		463	RO	270	295	Barbarous radiate, C
10031		464	RO	350	351	Magnentius, GLORIA ROMANORVM, NFW
10031		465	RO			C; ?early 4thC
10031		467	RO			Poor condition, C; ?4thC
10090	layer within general cremation spread	157	RO	?late 3rdC	4thC	V poor condition, C
10414	fill of pit 10415	92	RO	?138	161	Antoninus Pius
10414		93	RO	322	325	Constantine I; VOT XX, NFW
10414		457	RO	180	192	Commodus
11340	no record	1524	RO			Faustina Senior; c 141

Conventions in comments column: C = cleaning required; NFW = no further work required on identification

Table 5.3: The post-Roman coins

Context	Special number	Period	Early Date	Late Date	Comments
ARC NBR98					
10001	12	PM; MO	1860	1956	Bronze farthing. Probably deposited no later than 1960 when farthings were withdrawn from circulation
10001	26	MO	1901	1910	Edward VII Bronze farthing. Probably deposited no later than 1960 when farthings were withdrawn from circulation
10001	31	PM	1625	1649	Charles I Silver shilling, sharp type E2, privy mark Crown (18 June 1635-14 Feb 1636). Charles I shillings were removed from circulation by the Great Recoinage of 1696-8. Clipping of such coins became widespread from c. 1685, but this example is unclipped
10001	50	PM	1714	1727	George I Copper halfpenny. This coin was probably depoisted no later than 1817, when the withdrawal of copper coins minted before 1797 was completed.
10866	993	PM	1689	1702	William III Copper farthing, intrusive found in grave