

APPENDIX 1 METALWORK

1.1 Assessment of metalwork

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Introduction and Methodology

- 1.1.1 Two objects, a pin and a brooch, as well as a small number of fragments which may also have formed part of the same brooch, were recovered by hand excavation at West of Blind Lane.
- 1.1.2 The material was recovered 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 recovered to provide dating evidence, and to elucidate the function and economic basis of the site.
- 1.1.3 The objects have been examined visually and X-rayed.

Quantification

- 1.1.4 The finds consist of a copper alloy pin, a fragment consisting of the head and part of the bow of a copper alloy brooch, and smaller copper alloy fragments including what may be the finial at the end of the bow of the same brooch (Table 4.1).
- 1.1.5 The pin is just over 0.09 m long, and tapers to a point from its thickest point near the other end of the pin where it is *c* 2.5 mm in diameter. It tapers at this end to a blunter point. The closest parallels for this simple pin are found in Cool's Group 24, simple pins, which are thought most likely to date from the 2nd century AD (Cool 1990, 170). They may have been used as hair pins.
- 1.1.6 The brooch is of simple La Tène 1 type (Hattatt 1982). The catch-plate and pin are missing, but what survives suggests that the bow bent up and back at the catch-plate. One of the fragments may have formed a flattened, cobra-head finial at the end of the bow. A two coil spring and external chord survive, as does the slightly asymmetric curved bow which narrows slightly towards the catch-plate. The only decoration visible is a slight median rib running along the bow. It is likely to date from the 4th-3rd centuries BC.

Provenance

- 1.1.7 The brooch was found in the fill of posthole 1007 in the eastern SMS area, and suggests that some of these features may be earlier in date than the main field system. The pin, in contrast, was found in the upper fill of a natural feature, possibly a pond (2014). Its typology suggests a slightly later date than the pottery found in this context, but not markedly so.

Conservation

- 1.1.8 All the fragments of the brooch has the same unusual 'chequered' character to the corrosion of the surface layer, the cause of which is unknown. The fragments have been temporarily conserved using BJA (3% in IMS), and the surface has been consolidated by brushing (capillary action rather than immersion) on 5% paraloid B72 (acrylic resin). Further conservation may, however, be needed. The pin may have a plate layer, but is in a good condition and does not require further conservation.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.9 Although these finds provide significant dating evidence for the site, they do not themselves form a distinguished assemblage, nor do they derive from especially significant contexts, probably being stray, lost objects. They thus have relatively limited potential in terms of the interpretation of the site and in terms of the CTRL research aims. No further analysis is recommended.

Bibliography

Cool, H E M, 1990 Roman metal hair pins from southern Britain, *Archaeol J*, **147**, 148-82

Hattatt, R 1982, *Ancient and Romano-British brooches*, Sherborne

Table 4.1: Summary of metalwork

Context	Special number	Material	Count	Period	Comments	Description
1008	SF 1001	Cu	1	MLIA	3rd-4th century BC	La Tène 1 brooch (head, spring and most of bow)
1008	SF 1009	Cu	4	MLIA	3rd-4th century BC?	fragments same brooch (?), including cobra-head finial
2015	SF 2009	Cu	1	RO	2 nd C AD	Pin