

## APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF METALWORK

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Conservation by Liz Barham

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Forty-eight metal objects, found by hand excavation and metal detecting were recovered during the excavation works. The material has potential both for informing about the wealth and status of the site itself and also its place in the surrounding landscape.

1.2 The study of the material should assist the following fieldwork aims:

- *to determine the function and economic basis of the site*
- *to establish a dated sequence of occupation and use*

### 2. Methodology

2.1 All the finds were examined. Each find was given an individual accession number, and the data was recorded on accession cards and on the Oracle database.

### 3. Quantification

3.1 Sixteen copper alloy accessions, sixteen iron, fourteen lead and two composite objects were recovered. Only identifiable objects are included in the table below.

*Table 1: Assessment of metalwork*

Context	Special Number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
480	5	Copper alloy	1	MD	Small buckle with intact buckle plate and oval frame with ornate outer edge; 13 <sup>th</sup> century
382	103	Copper alloy	1	MD	Approximately half of an ornately moulded circular buckle frame.
382	4	Copper alloy	1	MD	Decorated square buckle frame; partly divided; equestrian?
622	20	Copper alloy	1	MD	Strap-end or binding fragment; decorated; 15 <sup>th</sup> -early 16 <sup>th</sup> century.
966	28	Copper alloy	14	UN	Small fragments of possible mounts or studs.
0	66	Copper alloy	1	PM	Eyelet; probably used on canvas or leather.

Context	Special Number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
MD5	9	Copper alloy	1	MD	Double oval buckle frame with simple moulded decoration and remains of iron pin; late 13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century.
MD13	17	Copper alloy	1	MD	Small circular shoe buckle frame.
MD1	7	Copper alloy	1	MD/PM	Cup and part of shaft of a socketed candleholder; late medieval/early post-medieval.
MD11	15	Copper alloy	1	MD?	Decorated fragment, possibly from an elaborate candleholder; joins <16> [MD12].
MD2	1	Copper alloy	1	MD	Shield-shaped pendant; probably for horse harness; decorated with <i>lion rampant/passant</i> .
MD4	101	Copper alloy	1	MD	Circular pendant with cartwheel design in relief.
MD16	19	Copper alloy	1	MD	Diamond-shaped heraldic pendant; enamelled decoration of a ?lion; 13 <sup>th</sup> century.
MD3	8	Copper alloy	1	MD?	Cast vessel foot; probably from cauldron; leaded copper alloy?
MD6	10	Copper alloy	1	MD?	Cast vessel foot; probably from cauldron; leaded copper alloy? From same vessel as [MD17] <27>?
MD8	12	Copper alloy	1	MD?	Cast vessel foot; probably from cauldron; leaded copper alloy?
MD17	27	Copper alloy	1	MD?	Cast vessel foot; probably from cauldron; leaded copper alloy? From same vessel as [MD6] <10>?
MD7	11	Copper alloy	1	UN	Small fragment of vessel rim.
MD0	<112>	Copper alloy	1	UN	Waste.
MD0	56	Copper alloy	1	PM	Bullet; leaded copper alloy?
MD0	58	Copper alloy	4	PM	Buttons; undecorated.
MD14	<111>	Copper alloy	1	UN	Plain, thin ring; similar size to but possibly too thin , for a drape ring.
207	24	Iron	8	UN	Fragments of sheet; possibly scrap?
307	21	Iron	3	MD	Socketed tool or implement, such as a flesh hook.
308	23	Iron	1	UN	Strap fragment.
312	63	Iron	2	MD	Two complete pintles.
382	31	Iron	1	MD	Hooked fitting or tool fragment.
382	32	Iron	1	MD	Pintle.
585	26	Iron	3	MD?	Knife? Possible traces of tinning(?); very corroded.
709	38	Iron	1	UN	Curved fragment; fitting?

Context	Special Number	Material	Count	Period	Comments (Description)
958	30	Iron	2	MD	Horseshoe; complete.
1045	100	Iron	1	UN	Shot/waste.
1053	29	Iron	1	MD	Horseshoe; complete.
MD0	54	Iron	1	MD	Horseshoe; near complete.
MD0	55	Iron	1	PM	Horseshoe; complete; large – for a shire horse?
MD0	46	Iron & Lead	1	PM	Bullet.
MD12	16	Iron & copper alloy	1	MD	Joins [MD11] <15>. Copper alloy decorative fragment with a small rectangular iron mount.
207	6	Lead	2	UN	Runnel and molten waste.
MD9	13	Lead	1	PM	Buckle with simple moulded decoration (gun metal?); 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century.
MD14	18	Lead	2	UN	Washers.
MD10	14	Lead	1	UN	Circular disc weight; perforated.
MD0	57	Lead	3	UN	Sheet waste.
MD0	<110>	Lead	1	UN	Possible weight.
MD0	<109>	Lead	2	UN	Rolled sheet; weights?
MD0	<108>	Lead	1	UN	Small patch with nail hole; structural?

MD in Context column refers to metal detector numbers

#### 4. Provenance

##### *Metal-detected finds*

- 4.1 Thirty-two accessions were recovered by metal detection and from the topsoil over the site and include a number of interesting objects.

##### *Moated domestic site*

- 4.2 A number of the accessioned finds can be related to the medieval manor house and its use. Context [382] (occupation layer) contained both items of a more personal nature (the two small decorated buckle frames <4> and <103>) and probable household fittings (the hooked fitting or tool <31> and a pintle <32>).

#### 5. Conservation

- 5.1 This assessment considers requirements for finds analysis, illustration and investigative conservation of the metal finds from Parsonage Farm. It also includes work necessary to produce a stable archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1992), and to the level required by the Museum of London's standards for archive preparation. (Museum of London 1999).

- 5.2 Treatments are carried out under the guiding principles of minimum intervention and reversibility. Whenever possible preventative rather than interventive conservation strategies are implemented. Procedures aim to obtain and retain the maximum archaeological potential of each object.

- 5.3 Most conservation work on metal artefacts begins with visual examination under a binocular microscope followed by mechanical cleaning using scalpel and other hand tools. Occasionally other mechanical devices such as air abrasive and ultrasonic devices are used. Mechanical cleaning will reveal detail and a conservation surface beneath often voluminous corrosion products enabling the true shape and purpose of the artefact to be understood. After cleaning to reveal detail copper alloys are stabilised with a corrosion inhibitor (benzotriazole) and coated with a protective lacquer (Incralac).

- 5.4 All conserved objects are packed in archive quality materials and stored in suitable environmental conditions. Records of all conservation work are prepared on paper and on the Museum of London collections management system (Multi MIMSY) and are currently stored at the Museum of London.

- 5.5 The accessioned metal finds were assessed by visual examination of the objects using a binocular microscope where necessary, and by examining their related X-radiographs. The finds were reviewed with reference to the above assessment by Jackie Keily.

##### *Analysis/Investigative cleaning.*

- 5.6 Further investigative cleaning is recommended for 9 metal accessioned items to examine their form or identify metal elements present on their surfaces:
- <26> [585] iron knife(?): to clean a section of 'blade' to see if this is a knife and if there are traces of tinning.
  - <15> [MD11] and <16> [MD12] copper alloy and iron candle holder(?): to check metal types and method of manufacture; clean to reveal detail.

- <1> [MD2] copper alloy pendant: clean – to check for gilding & enamel and treat to stabilise post cleaning.
- <19> [MD16] copper alloy pendant: to clean, stabilise and establish decoration details.
- Four copper alloy vessel feet and a rim fragment: some local cleaning and chemical spot tests to check the metal – whether this is a leaded copper alloy.

*Preparation for archive deposition.*

5.7 The ironwork is very corroded and fragmentary but now relatively stable, enclosed in dry silica gel. The copper alloy is in varying stages of corrosion, but none of it appears active and a number of the objects have been treated by the conservation department at the excavation stage. The metal accessions are packed appropriately for archive.

## **6. Comparative material**

6.1 It is recommended that similar assemblages from other rural moated sites be examined for comparative purposes. In particular other moated sites such as Darenth, Fawkham, Otford, Old Soar and Wilmington Manor.

## 7. **Potential for further work**

7.1 The study of the material should assist the following Fieldwork Event Aims:

- *to determine the function and economic basis of the site*

7.2 The site produced a number of medieval metal artefacts. Relatively few of these could be directly stratigraphically linked to the moated site and a few were unstratified (from the topsoil over the archaeological area). The unstratified objects are of limited potential, except in general terms of what their presence at this site can infer.

7.3 The medieval artefacts are almost certainly all associated with the moated site and the people who lived and worked there. Therefore the assemblage should be examined for its potential to add to our understanding of the function and economic status of the site. A number of the decorative objects indicate a degree of wealth and affluence, which, when added to some of the other types of artefacts found (for example, the shell palette), suggest a building or settlement of some social standing and wealth. More mundane, domestic objects such as the vessel feet, probably from tripod cauldrons or similar vessels, also indicate a degree of wealth (all of these feet are unstratified but it is likely that they were associated with the moated site, being recovered from above the main area of occupation).

7.4 A number of the dress accessories are comparable with urban assemblages, such as at Norwich and London, which is interesting to find with a group of artefacts recovered from a site in rural Kent and indicates a degree of wealth and social importance. Three small pendants may have been used in conjunction with a horse harness. Two of these are heraldic and further work is required to try and identify the heraldic schemes.

- *to establish a dated sequence of occupation and use;*

7.5 A number of the finds may also be of use for dating purposes.

7.6 The following Landscape Zone aims may be addressed:

- *towns and their rural landscapes (100 BC-AD 1700)*

7.7 The accessioned metalwork helps to build up a picture of what life in a rural moated site was like in the medieval period. A number of pieces are decorated and indicative of a degree of wealth. As pointed out above, a number of the pieces are comparable to pieces found in urban centres such as London and Norwich, indicating that rural settlements were not isolated from urban fashions and trends. Comparison can also be made between this site and other moated sites such as Darenth, Fawkham, Otford, Old Soar and Wilmington Manor.

- *recent landscape (1700-1945)*

7.8 A number of quite modern objects were also recovered, largely from metal detection, including a number of bullets. These, similar to the late coinage, are almost certainly due to accidental loss or loss during agricultural work.

## 8. **Bibliography**

Museum of London, 1999, 'General standards for the preparation of archaeological archives to be deposited with the Museum of London'

## APPENDIX 7: ASSESSMENT OF COINS

Jackie Keily

Conservation by Liz Barham

### 9. Introduction

9.1 Six coins were recovered by a combination of by hand excavation and metal detecting from the excavations works.

9.2 The coins may be able to assist the following fieldwork event aim:

- *to establish a dated sequence of occupation and use*

### 10. Methodology

10.1 All the coins were examined. Each coin was given an individual accession number, and the data was recorded on accession cards and on the Oracle database.

### 11. Quantifications

*Table 2: Assessment of Coins*

Context	Special Number	Count	Period	Comments
607	104	1	MD	Silver clipped coin quadrant (to date)
851	70	1	PM	Large copper alloy coin of George III (requires cleaning)
MD15	102	1	PM	Copper alloy half penny of George III; 1770-1807
MD0	39	1	PM	Copper alloy penny of George V; 1919
MD0	52	1	PM	Copper alloy half penny of Victoria; 1866
MD0	53	1	PM	Copper alloy three pence of George VI; 1944

MD in Context column refers to metal detector number

### 12. Provenance

12.1 Four of the six coins recovered, were found with the aid of a metal detector and are unstratified. The remaining two coins are a coin of George III, which came from [851], a stakehole, and a clipped silver coin, which came from [607] a levelling layer.

### **13. Conservation**

#### *Investigative cleaning*

- 13.1 Please refer to the metalwork assessment for details of the aims of conservation of metal finds and an overview of their treatment. One copper alloy coin <70>[851] was identified for further cleaning to aid dating and for post cleaning treatment.

#### *Preparation for archive deposition*

- 13.2 The six coins are stable. Museum of London's policy for archive preparation of these coins would be to repack them in crystal boxes with acid free tissue backing.

### **14. Comparative material**

- 14.1 The coin assemblage from ARC PFM 98 is rather limited, however, it may be of use to compare it with coin assemblages from nearby sites, and even with rural sites from elsewhere to see if the low loss rate is unusual.

### **15. Potential for further work**

- 15.1 The potential of the coins is low given that only six coins were recovered and that four of them are unstratified, however, the coins may assist the following Landscape Zone aims;

- *towns and their rural landscape (100 BC-AD 1700)*

- 15.2 Only one of the coins may be of use for dating purposes within this period and that is the medieval silver coin <104> [607].

- *recent landscapes (1700-1945)*

- 15.3 Five of the six coins recovered date to this period, four of them unstratified. They are all thought to be due to accidental loss, almost certainly during agricultural use.

### **16. Bibliography**

None.