

Finds from West Lilling (Site code BPTSEP:169)

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The non-ceramic finds from West Lilling are consistent with a Romanised settlement of moderate status.

Iron

A number of corroded iron objects were recovered. Most are either nails or the broken shafts of nails. Other artefacts are a D-shaped buckle (SF5b), a bill hook (SF17) a whittle-tang knife (SF18) and fragments of what might be iron sheet, or natural concretion. None of these items is independently-datable but all are of types found in the Roman period (and later).

SF3 context 5014 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Nail, 32mm shaft, 10mm head.

SF4 context 5015 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Probably a heavily-corroded nail shaft.

SF5a context 4008 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.2.1999. Nail 45mm long broken shaft with 10mm wide head.

SF5b context 4008 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.2.1999. Probable D-shaped buckle with iron pin.

SF6 context 5016 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Probable nail shaft and tip. 55mm long.

SF7 context 4001 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.2.1999. Two nails. (a) 45 mm long broken shaft, 13mm head. (b) 30mm broken shaft, 15mm head.

SF8 context 5013 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.2.1999. Two nails. (a) 70mm shaft, 18mm head (b) 47mm shaft, 9mm head

SF10 context 4003 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Three nails (a) bent in centre of shaft 400mm long, 12mm head, (b) broken shaft 20mm long, 10mm head, (c) 30mm broken shaft

SF11 context 3014 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Nail 45mm shaft, 15mm head.

SF12 context 5001 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Nail. 30mm shaft, 10mm head

SF13 context 5001 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Nail. 55mm shaft, 10mm head

SF14 context 5001 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Nail. 50mm broken shaft

SF15 context 3009 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999.Two nails (a) heavily corroded, no metal shown in X-Ray, (b) 35mm broken shaft, 15mm head

SF16 context 3016 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Broken shaft of nail, 55mm long.

SF17 context 5013 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.2.1999. Bill hook with broken? Tang possibly folded back over blade. Blade 110mm long and 80mm wide.

SF18 context Tr.3 from under Roman tile. X-Ray BPTSEP:169.3.1999. Whittle-tang knife blade. Tang 50mm long, blade 145mm long 35mm wide and 3mm thick.

SF20 context 2002 X-Ray BPTSEP:169.1.1999. Five fragments of possible iron object. The x-rays show that no metal remains. Could either be remnants of flat iron sheeting or natural iron panning.

Lead

SF2. Unknown object constructed from a solid cylinder of lead 35mm long and 21mm diameter with flanges at either end. At one end the flange (diameter 35mm) seems to have been moulded or beaten out of the metal comprising the cylinder but at the other (diameter 33mm) it seems more likely that the flange is formed from an added strip of metal, although no sign of any seam or join is visible. There is no sign of wear on either end, nor on the central spindle. Thus, although the object superficially looks like a pulley (without a central hole) or repair plug neither function is possible.

The poor condition of the metal is consistent with a Roman date, although the object is unstratified and could be of any date up to the present day.

Glass

SF19 Context 4001. Three fragments of light green window glass, c.2.0mm thick. These fragments have the characteristic irregular surface on one side resulting from being formed from a blown cylinder of glass from which both ends were cut after blowing. This technique is characteristic of the Roman period.

SF19 Context 4001. One fragment of light blue ?mould blown vessel glass, 5mm thick. Probably of Roman date.

Copper Alloy

SF1 Context 3011. Shears, c.123mm long. In contrast to medieval shears from the London waterfront, the bow is not differentiated from the arms but in other respects there is little difference between these shears and the London examples, although there is no close parallel to the detail of the recesses either (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 106-113).

Coins

SF9 Context 4002. X-Ray BPTSEP:169.4.1999. Barbarous radiate. Mid 3rd century.

Wall Plaster

Context 4001. 23 fragments of wall plaster, some of which have a red wash and one of which has the straight junction between an area of red wash and an area of plain plaster. The plaster is of variable thickness and in one case was plastered onto wood, but in other cases the backing is unclear. The finish of the plaster is irregular with tool marks showing on many pieces and despite the use of paint it seems that the plastering is of low quality.

Bibliography

Cowgill, J, de Neergaard, M & Griffiths, N 1987 *Knives and Scabbards* Medieval Finds from Excavations in London. HMSO