

METALWORK

MOLAS: 330 Zone 1

Two metal artefacts were recovered from Zone 1. A post-medieval copper alloy tag is unstratified (CH 200+650) from ARC 330 98. A post-medieval/modern feature at ARC WHR 99 produced very small fragments of copper alloy (too small to identify the object).

MOLAS: 330 Zone 2

A total of nine metal accessions were recovered during archaeological work in Zone 2. Five metal accessions (one lead, one iron and three copper alloy) were recovered from ARC SSR 99 and four iron accessions from ARC 330 98. The majority of the metal finds are post-medieval or modern in date and the remaining objects are too fragmentary and corroded to be identified. The artefacts recovered are all probably related to the agricultural use of the area and a number of the artefacts may be of use for dating purposes.

MOLAS: 330 Zone 3

A total of 116 accessioned metal artefacts were recovered from archaeological work in Zone 3. Of this total: five accessions were recovered from ARC 330 98 of which four are iron and one is copper alloy; 23 metal accessions were recovered from ARC HRD 99 of which eleven are iron, ten copper alloy, one lead and one possibly gold; 22 metal accessions were recovered from the excavations at ARC WNB 98; 63 unstratified (from the topsoil over the site, located two dimensionally) metal accessions came from the metal detecting project which was undertaken prior to the excavation of ARC WNB 98.

MOLAS: 330 Zone 4

A total of 17 accessioned metal artefacts were recovered from ARC 330 98 Zone 4, all made of iron.

MOLAS: 330 Zone 5

Little metalwork was recovered from the archaeological investigations in Zone 5. Part of a handle for an iron tool or fitting, probably post-medieval in date, was recovered at chainage 44+560 in ARC 330 98.

MOLAS: 330 Zone 6

Metalwork forms the bulk of the finds from this site, and of these iron is the dominant category. A total of 126 objects from ARC CXT 98 are of metal and 14 are of composite construction which includes metalwork. The majority is typical of the late 6th and 7th centuries. All is from the cemetery phase and implies a date range of AD 580–700. The

finds mainly fall into the categories of dress accessories and weapons, but a few other personal items are present. The most abundant material is iron (87 accessions). The second most common material is copper alloy (29 accessions). Precious metals (silver and gold) are less frequent.

MOLAS: PARSONAGE FARM

A total of 50 metal objects were recovered. Of these 19 are medieval in date and almost certainly derive from the moated site and its inhabitants. They include both domestic objects, such as the vessel feet and rim fragments, candleholders, and various structural and household fittings. Of particular interest are the dress accessories and possible horse harness pendants, which indicate a degree of wealth and importance. Some of these pieces can be paralleled in urban assemblages, such as London and Norwich. The remaining 31 metal objects are all post-medieval in date.

CAT: WGC 98

IRON OBJECTS

The iron objects are limited to two knives, both of which are associated with the early medieval Structure 3. They are of familiar early medieval forms although the larger example has a copper alloy hilt plate, which is not common at this period.

FERROUS RESIDUES

A small quantity of ferrous residues, amounting to just twelve fragments, weighing 95g, was recovered. The twelve fragments are small pieces of smithing slag, with characteristic vesicular texture. Two pieces are unstratified and the remainder come from Phase 3 contexts, with the exception of two pieces from a post-medieval context. All of the material is typical of smithing slag of this period, but it has few distinguishing or notable characteristics.

CAT: MSH 98

FERROUS RESIDUES

A little over 115kg of ferrous metallurgical residues have been examined, about 20% of the overall sample collected, largely from contexts of Phase 3. The diagnostic material mainly consists of tap slag and dense slag from smelting along with smithing hearth bottoms. Smithing debris was also recovered.

COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS

Fragments of two copper alloy objects were retrieved from samples taken for metallurgical residues. Both are probably from dress accessories, in one case a pin and in the other a domed stud that may have come from a buckle. They may date to the mid Anglo-Saxon period.

IRON OBJECTS

A total of 47 iron objects were recovered by hand excavation and a further twelve came from sieved samples. The objects include fibre-processing teeth, a buckle frame, a horseshoe, knives, nails and strips of iron. A few pieces may perhaps have represented stock iron for smithing and the presence of hammerscale on a few objects reflects their local production.

LEAD OBJECT

A small strip of lead alloy was retrieved from the fill of a medieval ditch.

WESSEX: HOL 99

IRON

One nail, two hobnails and two unidentified fragments came from the probable Romano-British cremation-related deposits (3596TT). Six further objects (all unstratified), including one joiner's dog and several nail fragments are all of post-medieval date.

WESSEX: LSF 99

The metalwork recovered includes one copper alloy decorated strip (Early Iron Age vessel-hole **2304**), six fragments of a silver coin and 30 iron fragments consisting of 29 nail fragments and one possible knife blade (the latter unstratified). Twelve of the nails were found in Early/ Middle Iron Age post-hole **2408**.

WESSEX: SWR 99

Material	Count	Period	Comments
Cu alloy	1	UN	Folded strip
Cu alloy	1	PM	?vessel frag
Iron	1	UN	Object
Iron	1	MD/PM	Nail
Cu alloy	1	?BA	Rod (pin shank?)
Iron	1	MD/PM	Nail
Total	6		

WESSEX: SALTWOOD

ROMANO -BRITISH COPPER ALLOY AND SILVER OBJECTS

Thirty-three copper alloy and silver objects of Roman date were recovered. Most of the objects consist of small, indeterminate fragments which had been burnt in the cremation process, or represent waste from non-ferrous metalworking carried out near to one of the trackways, probably in the Late Roman period. The identifiable items include at least one mirror, which is elaborately decorated on its reverse and is likely to be of Early Roman date. In contrast, two bracelets are common Late Roman strip forms, and a fragmentary silver pin is also likely to be of this date. An amphora-shaped strap-end represents the only object to have any official or military connotations. Dress accessories and toilet items dominate the assemblage, emphasising the domestic character also demonstrated by the brooches and other objects of Roman date.

ROMANO-BRITISH IRON OBJECTS

A total of 219 objects of iron was recovered to the west of Stone Farm Bridleway; the few recovered to the east of the bridleway are all of post-medieval date and are not discussed here. Most of the objects are either nails or are indistinct, small fragments of objects that have not at this stage been identified. Objects other than nails comprise two

fragments of bars, five strap fittings, an implement, a knife and a possible pin. The knife and the pin are of intrinsic interest but the object series cannot be dated, other than in broad terms, and it is of little significance in terms of the Fieldwork Event Aims for the project.

ROMANO-BRITISH, MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL LEAD ALLOY OBJECTS

1. A small assemblage of lead alloy objects came from settlement C27, C333 etc. to the west. Four items are of Roman date and include a plumb-bob, a vessel repair, a folded sheet and a line spacer, used either with a fishing net or a line. Other objects include a small part of a medieval plumb-bob and a post-medieval cloth seal.

2. ROMANO-BRITISH METALWORKING WASTE

3. A small amount of smithing slag was recovered from the backfill of a Roman grave and in what may be remnants of road metalling (trackway C1); fragments of crucible were also found.

4.

5.