

*Archaeology & Historical
Landscape Research Group*

**A Coin Assemblage from Calne,
Wiltshire**



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Author: Lynn Amadio MSc and Brian Clarke MSc

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Summary

An assemblage of 79 coins and 12 other artefacts unearthed during garden cultivation, 65 of the coins are Romano-British. The Romano-British coins are of a low denomination and the condition of the coins is poor suggesting a trading centre (stall or small shop). Of the remaining 12 coins, 1 is of special interest a Henry III long cross penny, the remainder are Georgian and Victorian pennies and half pennies. The artefacts of note, 1 Romano-British finger ring and buckle.

A Coin Assemblage from Calne, Wiltshire

Introduction

An assemblage amassed over forty years, numbering 91 artefacts (79 coins and 12 other items) collected during the cultivation of a garden in Calne (SU00157030), North Wiltshire.

During the construction of a domestic garage in the 1970s two Romano-British coffins was discovered (left in site) and in 2012 a small scale excavation in the garden revealed an insubstantial wall.

Geology

The site is located on the Coraillian ridge.

Location

Calne is situated 30 km south-south-west of Swindon in North Wiltshire.



Fig.1. Map of Wiltshire

The Coins and other Artefacts

1. Third Century Roman radiate – illegible.
2. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, two soldiers with two standards with the legend ‘GLORIA EXERCITVS’ (Glory of the Army) AD330-335.
3. Fourth Century – Constans, DN CONSTANS PF AVG, soldier dragging young barbarian from hut under tree, legend ‘FEL TEMP REPARATIO’ (Restoration of Happy Times) AD337-350 (Reece and James, 1986 p.39 no, 122).
4. Third Century radiate – Gallienus/ Laetitia (Joy) facing left holding wreath and anchor, legend LAETITIA AVG AD253-265 (Sear 1981 p.252 no. 2871)
5. Fourth Century commemorative issue in the reign of Constantine – Rome VRBS ROMA, she-wolf suckling twins. AD330-346 (Reece and James, 1986 p35 no. 93/94).
6. Fourth Century – Constantius II/ Two soldiers with two standards GLORIA EXERCITVS (Glory of the Army) AD330-335 (Sear 1981 p.325 no,3886).
7. Illegible – small size suggests either late fourth century AE4 or third/fourth Century imitation (Reece and James 1986 p.46/47).
8. Fourth Century – Constans DN CONSTANS PF AVG/ Soldier dragging young Barbarian from hut under tree FEL TEMP REPARATIO (Restoration of Happy Times) AD337-350 (Reece and James 1986 p.39 no. 122).
9. Fourth Century- Gratian, Emperor holding laburum (standard with Christian Chi-Ro symbol) and shield GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI (Glory of the New Age) AD367-383 (Sear 1981 p.338 no.4041).
10. Fourth Century – Constans/ Emperor standing in galley holding labarum and Phoenix FEL TEMP REPARATIO (Restoration of Happy Times) AD337-350 (Reece and James 1986 p. 39 no. 123).
11. Third Century Roman radiate – Tetricus I/ Quintillius, Laetitia (Joy) facing left – very poor Copy. AD270-277.
12. Fourth Century – Constans, Two victories holding wreaths VICTORIAE DD AVGG QNN (The victories of our Lords and Emperors) AD337-350 (Reece and James 1986 p.37 no.114).
13. Fourth Century – Constans, Two soldiers with one standard GLORIA EXERCITVS (Glory of the Army) AD337-350 (Sear 1981 p.323 no.3870).
14. Fourth Century. House of Constantine. Two soldiers with one standard GLORIA EXERCITVS (Glory of the Army) AD335-341.
15. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, Wolf with Suckling Twins. Helmeted Roman facing right VRBS ROMA AD330-335
16. Illegible possibly fourth century.
17. Fourth Century? Illegible.
18. Illegible.
19. Illegible.
20. Third Century radiate illegible.
21. Fourth Century – GLORIA ROMANORUM, Emperor with Captive.
22. House of Valentinian , Obverse inscription illegible, Emperor dragging captive GLORIA ROMANORVM AD364-378.
23. Fourth Century – Constantine I, Two Standing Figures, GLORIA EXERCITVS.
24. Lead token.
25. Third Century – Tetricus, IMP C TETRICVS PFAVG, Standing Female Figure, LETITIA? AD271-274.
26. Partially circular piece of metal.

27. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, FEL EMP REPARATIO Phoenix on Rocks AD348-350
28. Third Century – Barbarous Radiate of Claudius II,
29. Fourth Century – Constantine I, VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP, two Victories holding shield on altar AD318-319.
30. Fourth Century – Diademed Head GLORIA ROMANORUM, Emperor with Captive and Labarum.
31. Fourth Century – Crispus, Two Captives against a Standard Inscribed XX, VIRTUS EXERCIT, AD317-320
32. Third Century – Claudius II, IMP CLAVD IVS, Male Figure walking right, illegible AD268-270
33. Third Century – Gallienus, Pax holding Branch and Transverse Sceptre.
34. Third Century – Claudius II, IMPCLAVDI VSFAVG, Mars walking right with Transverse Spear and Trophy, MARTI P, AD268-270.
35. Fourth Century – House of Valentinian, illegible reverse.
36. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, Helmeted Personification of Constantinople, CONSTANTINOPOLIS, Victory facing left on Prow AD352-353.
37. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, GLORIA EXERCITUS, Two Soldiers and Two Standards, AD330-335.
38. Third Century Radiate – Valentinian II (?), Sacrificial Implements, PIETUS AVGVSTORUM
39. Fourth Century – Constantine I, Two Victories holding a Shield with the inscription ‘rot pr’ over an altar, VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINCIPERP AD318-324.
41. Illegible.
42. Standing Figure on Reverse. Possibly Soldier Illegible, Third Century ?
43. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, Two Soldiers and Two Standards, GLORIA EXERCITVS, copy?
44. Fourth Century – FEL TEMP REPARATIO ? Copy ?
45. Fourth Century – Diademed Head, illegible.
46. Illegible.
47. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, Two Soldiers holding Two Standards, GLOR IAEXERC ITVS AD330-335.
48. Fourth Century – Winged Victory, otherwise illegible.
49. Constantine II, GLORIA EXERCITVS.
50. Radiate, illegible,
51. Fourth Century.
52. Fourth Century – House of Valentinian, Emperor dragging Captive, GLORIA ROMANORUM, AD364-378.
53. House of Constantine? Wreath.
54. Illegible.
55. Third Century radiate – Claudius Gothicus, IOVI VICTORI.
56. Fourth Century - House of Constantine, GLORIA EXECITUS, Two Soldiers.
57. Constans? FEL TEMP PEPARATIO?
58. Fourth Century – copy, GLORIA ROMANORUM.
59. She Wolf and Twins, URBS ROMA.
60. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, GLORIA EXERCITVS, Two Soldiers and Two standards. AD330-335

61. Fourth Century – House of Constantine, GLORIA EXERCITVS, Two Soldiers One Standard AD335-341.
62. Fourth Century – Two Victories Holding Wreath, VICTORIAE DD UN AVG ET CAE.
64. Third Century Radiate – Standing Figure (reverse) Illegible.
65. Diademed Head and size suggests Gratian Fourth Century?
66. Second Century Sestertius – Hadrian, HADRIANS AVGVSTVS, Ship moving left with Steersman and Rowers, FELICITATI AVG COS III PP SC AD117-138 (Sear 1014 RSC706).
67. White Metal Button.
68. Penny post 1860.
69. George II farthing 1746.
71. Farthing either Charles II or George II.
73. Finger ring.
74. 2 fragments of small decorated buckle
75. Lead blob 20x18mm.
77. Two lead washers both with a 17mm diameter.
78. Part of a copper alloy ring with a 32mm diameter.
79. Radiate, possibly third century, illegible.
80. Fourth Century – House of Valentinian, Victory holding Wreath, SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE, AD364-378.
81. R-B illegible.
82. R-B illegible.
83. Henry III Long Cross Penny, AD 1216-1272.
84. Lead counter inscribed with a 'V'.
85. 2 small copper alloy rings.
86. Copper alloy disc 15mm diameter with small hole drilled into it, possibly from a necklace or similar.
87. One piece metal button, with loop on back for attaching to garment, has an Impressed star design.
88. Young Victoria half penny, date illegible.
89. Half penny, young Victoria, 1860.
90. Penny, young Victoria, 1882.
91. Half penny, illegible.
92. Half penny, illegible.
93. Penny, illegible.
94. Penny, illegible.
95. Penny, illegible.
96. Penny, illegible.



Fig. 2 Constans AD337-350 (coin no.2)



Fig. 3 Ring (no. 73)



Fig.4 Buckle (no. 74)



Fig. 5 The Long Cross Penny (no.83)



Fig. 6 The Long Cross Penny (no. 83)



Fig. 7 Button/ Disc/ Pendant (nos. 67 +86)



Fig. 8 Button (no.87)

Discussion

The assemblage consists of 91 items, 79 coins (86.5%) and 12 other items, the majority of the coins and artefacts attributed to the Romano-British period. Of the coins, 65 (84%) are Romano-British.

Date (AD)	Reece Period	No. of Coins
-41	1	
41-54	2	
54-69	3	
69-96	4	
96-117	5	
117-138	6	1
138-161	7	
161-180	8	
180-193	9	
193-222	10	
222-238	11	
238-260	12	1
260-275	13	5
275-296	14	
296-317	15	
317-330	16	3
330-348	17	12
348-364	18	2
364-378	19	4
378-388	20	
388-402	21	
403+	22	
TOTAL		28
Illegible coins		16
Roughly date to 3 rd Century		7
Roughly dated to 4 th Century		14

Table 1 Romano-British coins.

An attempt to apply Richard Reece's (1995) method of grouping coins into 21 periods for analysis has been applied to the 65 coins. The majority of the coins are Fourth Century (54%), 19% are Third Century, 1 coin being Second Century (1.5%) and 24.5% illegible.

The Romano-British coins are all worn and of small denomination; and with the discovery of a small structure suggests a small shop or stall, with a hiatus of activity in the Mid Fourth Century.

The artefacts are also mainly attributed to the Romano-British period; and with the exception of a finger ring and buckle, all are fittings or fixtures. As with the coins these represent stray losses.

Of the other coins of special interest is the Henry III long cross penny, also a stray loss. The Georgian and Victorian coins are consistent with domestic losses as the house was built in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Bibliography

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