

A1 L2B Death, Burial and Identity Monograph: Coin Report

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The archaeological work associated with the A1L2B road-widening scheme produced a total of well over 500 coins, but of these only some 36 are of relevance to this volume. Most importantly, there were eight instances (three at Bainesse Cemetery and five at Cataractonium) where coins were found in connection with inhumations or cremations, seven single coins plus a hoard of 9 coins, totalling 16 coins in all (summarized in Table Coins 1). A further coin was found at Bainesse in a context originally thought to be a burial, though a grave cut could not be identified; the coin is likely, therefore, to originate from a disturbed burial somewhere in the vicinity. In addition a further 19 single coins were found at Cataractonium in contexts with disarticulated human remains (summarized in Table Coins 2; full catalogue entries for all coins may be accessed at ...).

Site	Field No	Grave no.	Context no.	Burial type	Sex	Age at death	Recorded find no. (RF)	Coin description	Qty	C14 calibrated date (2σ)	Coin mint date
Bainesse Cemetery	163C	148	12798	Inhumation	-	-	11144	Probably Antoninus Pius, <i>as</i> , pierced behind head, EW/EW	1	-	AD 138-61?
Bainesse Cemetery	163C	221	13113	Inhumation	-	-	11659	Probably Antoninus Pius, <i>dupondius</i> , pierced below nose, EW/EW	1	-	AD 138-61?
Bainesse Cemetery	163C	269	12293	Cremation	-	Non-adult	582	Antoninus Pius, <i>as</i> , pierced behind head, ?W-VW. Possibly tied around neck of cremation urn.	1	127 (81.7%) 261 cal AD 278 (13.7%) 327 cal AD	AD 138-61
<i>Cataractonium</i>	172	6723	6725	Cremation	-	-	6516	Antoninus Pius, <i>as</i> , not pierced, W/W	1	127 (81.7%) 261 cal AD 278 (13.7%) 327 cal AD	AD 140-43
<i>Cataractonium</i>	172	6782	6780	Cremation	-	-	11412	Faustina II (Antoninus Pius), abraded <i>sestertius</i> , (not pierced), ?VW/VW	1	-	AD 145-61
<i>Cataractonium</i>	172	6790	25005	Cremation	-	-	11420	Vespasian, <i>as</i> , VW/EW	1	126 (82.0%) 264 cal AD 275 (13.4%) 330 cal AD	AD 71
<i>Cataractonium</i>	178	20417	20415	Inhumation	M	36-45 years	12797	Hoard, from mouth of burial; House of Constantine, UW/SW, deposited c.AD 325	9	231 (95.4%) 392 cal AD	AD 309-324
<i>Cataractonium</i>	178	20476	20478	Inhumation	-	13-17 years	7602	Constantine II, Caesar, W/W	1	210 (95.4%) 430 cal AD	AD 335-37

Table Coins 1: Coins recovered from graves.

NB also **F163, Context 12508, RF692**: another *as* of Antoninus Pius, AD 138-61, ?W/C, similarly pierced, below nose (but apparently not associated with human remains). This context was originally thought to be a burial, but a grave cut could not be identified; the coin is likely, therefore, to originate from a disturbed burial somewhere in the vicinity.

Site	Field no.	Context no.	Recorded find no. (RF)	Coin description	Qty
<i>Cataractonium</i>	175	31882	13350	Claudius II, AD 268-70, SW/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1405	163	Constans, AD 346-48, SW/SW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1482	334	Gratian, AD 378-83, W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1482	366	Valens, AD 367-75, W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1571	6148	Trajan, counterfeit <i>denarius</i> , AD '98-99', C/C	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1569	6176	Trajan, counterfeit <i>denarius</i> , AD '98-117', C/C	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1571	6212	Modern token. c.AD 1700-1900, C/C	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1571	6255	Antoninus Pius, <i>sestertius</i> , AD 145-61, SW-W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1571	6288	Severus Alexander, <i>denarius</i> , AD 222-24, W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1482	286	Hadrian, <i>sestertius</i> , AD 125-28, VW/VW-EW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1405	156	Gratian, AD 367-75, SW/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1429	184	Constantius II, Caesar, AD 330-35, SW/SW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1405	209	Lucilla (Marcus Aurelius), <i>as</i> , c.AD 164-69, W-VW/W-VW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1405	214	Valens, AD 367-75, W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1405	225	Valentinian I, AD 364-75, W/W	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	176	1571	8178	Trajan, <i>as</i> , AD 98-102, VW-EW/EW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	179	8141	5778	Carausius, AD 286-90, SW/SW	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	179	8141	5916	Probably radiate fragment, AD 260-73?, C/C	1
<i>Cataractonium</i>	179	8141	5935	'Constantine I' copy, AD '330-31', SW/SW	1

Table Coins 2: Coins recovered from deposits at *Cataractonium* containing disarticulated human remains.

Together with the other grave goods and the C14 dates, the coins provide valuable insight into the probable dating of individual burials. In addition, discussion of the types of coin chosen and their positioning within the grave context, together with comparison with a not dissimilar group of finds from nearby Scorton (Brickstock, 2002?), may help to shed light on burial customs pertaining at various times within the local community.

There is nothing unusual in the presence of one or two coins within a burial context: the practice of placing a (normally low-denomination) coin in the mouth of the dead to “pay the ferryman” goes back at least to the 5th century BC and continued even in the post-Roman period (seemingly regardless of the advent of the “Christian” era); and the placement of coins over the closed eyes of the dead was also a not-infrequent custom both in Roman times and thereafter. Both practices were common and widespread, but not at any time anything approaching universal. The slightly more unusual (but by no means unprecedented) aspects of this assemblage include the presence of a number of pierced coins of the Antonine period in both the inhumations and cremations recorded in the Bainesse Cemetery, Field 163C; and, from the Cataractonium cemetery (burial 20417), a small Constantine hoard apparently placed in the mouth of the deceased.

Bainesse Cemetery (Field 163C):

Here we are concerned with only four coins, all low-denomination and all pierced: two, an *as* and a *dupondius*, from inhumations (Grave nos. 148 and 221, respectively); another *as* from a cremation (burial no. 269); and the previously mentioned coin, also an *as* (RF 692 from Context 12508), perhaps from a disturbed burial of type unknown. All four coins are Antonine, though the precise attribution of the two coins from the inhumation graves is uncertain. The coins are rather poorly preserved, especially the two from the inhumation graves, but useful information can still be gleaned despite the corrosion:

Burial 148, Inhumation, Context 12798, RF 11144

As, probably of Antoninus Pius, AD 138-61 (and certainly mid-2nd century)

Catalogue reference: RIC *as* Pius 727; Die Axis 12; Condition: EW/EW (worn smooth)

Obverse: Bust right; pierced at 9 o'clock, behind the head

Reverse: Seated figure left; pierced at 3 o'clock, i.e. behind the main type

If hung round the neck as a pendant, the head of the emperor would therefore face downwards, but so would the reverse type.

Other grave goods: a CuA loop (RF11145) and lead token/medallion (RF 11146).

Burial 221, Inhumation, Context 13113, Coin RF 11659

Dupondius, probably of Antoninus Pius, AD 138-61 (and certainly mid-2nd century)

Catalogue reference: RIC *as* 970; Die Axis 6?; Condition EW/EW

Obverse: Bearded radiate bust right; pierced at 3 o'clock, below the nose

Reverse: Providentia, or similar, standing left; pierced probably at 3 o'clock, i.e. behind the main type

If suspended, the head would thus face upwards and (if my reading of the die axis is correct) the reverse figure would face downwards.

Other grave goods: mixed beads (RF 111398): one very worn faience melon bead (late 1st-2nd century), two barrel-shaped copper alloy beads, and a highly decorated large annular bead (for a late 1st-2nd century date is suggested based on similarities with glass bangles).

Burial 269, Cremation, Context 12293, Coin RF 582

As of Antoninus Pius, AD 138-61

Catalogue reference: RIC as 680; Die Axis 6; Condition ?W-VW/C

Obverse: Bearded bust of Pius, right; pierced at 9 o'clock, behind the head

Reverse: Felicitas or similar standing left; pierced at 9 o'clock, in front of the main type.

If suspended, therefore, the bust would face downwards, and the reverse type upwards (i.e. on its back rather than upright).

Other grave goods: found in association with – and perhaps originally tied around the neck of – cremation urn CREM 11296. A late 1st to early 2nd century date has been suggested for the urn; and a C14 date has been obtained from this context (see Table Coins1, above).

Context 12508, Coin RF 692, perhaps from a disturbed burial

As of Antoninus Pius, AD 138-61

Catalogue reference: -; Die Axis unknown; Condition ?W/C

Obverse: Bearded bust of Pius, right; pierced at 3 o'clock, below the nose

Reverse: illegible (and positioning of piercing therefore unknown)

If suspended, the bust would face upwards; the reverse type cannot be assessed.

Dating:

At first glance, four Antonine coins might suggest four graves of much the same period. However, the coins in both inhumation burials appear extremely worn: both are poorly preserved, making an accurate assessment problematic – but the degree of wear is undoubtedly considerable, the coin in burial 148, in particular, being worn almost completely smooth. This suggests, in both cases, a very substantial period of usage prior to deposition: thus deposition may belong many decades later than the date of minting, quite possibly well in to the 3rd century AD. A later 2nd-century date for either or both, however, remains possible, and in the case of Burial 221 at least, that would be more in line with the suggested dating for the beads also recovered from that grave context.

The other two coins both appear substantially less worn (though again it is hard to be precise because of the state of preservation). The coin in cremation burial 269 I have assessed as W or VW (worn or very worn), which might suggest a period of perhaps as much as 40 years in circulation prior to deposition, pushing the date into the late 2nd century, perhaps c. AD 180-200 ; though it is conceivably rather less worn than I have estimated. This dating accords well with the radiocarbon date (see Table Coins1 above); and a rather earlier date for the cremation urn presents no intrinsic archaeological problem.

The other pierced coin, RF 692, I have assessed (with rather more confidence) as worn, in this instance equating to perhaps a couple of decades in circulation. Since there appears to be no other dating evidence available for this context, I suggest a date of deposition for this coin of c. AD 160-80, but again there remains the possibility that I have over-estimated (but not, I think, under-estimated) the extent of the circulation wear.

Thus the contexts of these four Antonine coins appear to span a considerably longer period than the reign of Antoninus Pius, possibly something approaching a century, from the mid-second century onwards. Even so, these contexts represent only a short period in the life of the nearby settlement at Bainesse, where occupation probably began in the late first century and continued at least until the AD 370s (though perhaps no later; coin evidence for the Theodosian period is currently absent, in contrast to Cateractonium itself; Brickstock, 2007)

Choice of coin:

It is not immediately apparent that there was any particular rationale involved the choice of coin types for inclusions in the various burials, and I incline towards the view that there was not:

Denomination:

The smaller, base metal, fractions of the Augustan system of coinage, the *semis* and the *quadrans* (tariffed at respectively 1/32nd and 1/64th of a *denarius*), though still produced in small numbers in the time of Antoninus Pius, had been rendered essentially obsolete (by inflation) by the mid-1st century, as witnessed by their rarity as Romano-British site finds. The denominations chosen for inclusion in the Bainesse graves (three *asses* and one *dupondius*, worth respectively 1/8th and 1/16th of a *denarius*) therefore represent the lowest denominations in common circulation in the second century AD, in line with the practice outlined above. By the early third century AD, both of these denomination had also largely been replaced in day-to-day transactions, likewise through the operation of inflation, by the *sestertius* (1/4 *denarius*) and the *denarius*, though they were still legal tender and would still have been fairly readily available. Thus, the coins would appear to have been selected at least in part on the basis of denomination (i.e. because they were not worth much), but there is probably little additional significance to be attached to this.

Type:

Was the type, either of the obverse (head side) or reverse (tails), an important factor in the choice? That all four coins appear to be issues of Antoninus Pius may be of some significance, though it may be that this circumstance represents no more than chance selection of some of the commonest issues from the currently-available circulation pool. In

no case, unfortunately, is the reverse type fully legible, so little can be said on that front. Neither can much be made of the position of the piercing, other than to say that, by boring the hole at either 3 o'clock or 9 o'clock to the upright, in every case it manages to avoid both the head and the main elements of the reverse type – though that does not tell us which of the two, if either, was the main consideration. The way in which the coins might have hung if slung as pendant necklaces (if that was the intention; remember that one or perhaps two of these coins ended up in cremation burials) is equally unrevealing:

	Obverse	Reverse
Type upright:	-	-
Type sideways, facing up:	2	2
Type sideways, facing down:	2	1
Type inverted:	-	-
Type illegible:	-	1

A parallel may be drawn between these finds and a series of six pierced coins recovered from a single grave context of the Anglian Cemetery at nearby Scorton (just north of the Swale; *ibid*, 2002?). There the positioning of the finds within the grave suggested that the coins were strung as a necklace, though the physical remains of the body were too insubstantial to be certain. Thread found in the holes seemed rather thin to have supported the weight of six coins, perhaps suggesting that the necklace was constructed especially for the burial; a possible alternative is that the coins were sown to the clothing on the upper torso.

The coins were all considerably-worn Roman issues of the second and third centuries (the earliest of the younger Faustina, from the reign of Antoninus Pius; the latest from the AD 270s), and all were thus, of course, obsolete as currency by the Anglian period, though their occasional re-use as jewellery (either in the Roman period or in succeeding centuries) is by no means unheard of.

Here also an attempt was made to decide whether the manner and positioning of piercing might give some indication of the relative importance of obverse or reverse in the selection process, and, following on from that, whether it might be possible to attach some significance to the types chosen. These results were far from conclusive, though there was some indication that greater care might have been taken over the displaying of the reverse type:

	Obverse	Reverse
Type upright	1	3
Type sideways on	2	3
Type inverted	3	-

Perhaps this should not surprise us: images of long-dead imperial figures are unlikely to have held anything other than pictorial significance for a later age, but the subject matter of

the reverses might conceivably have retained or accrued some significance. However, the selection of reverse types appearing in this grave at Scorton (relating to Apollo, Venus, Abundantia, Concordia and the consecration of the emperor) did not make apparent any such significance – and the same is true of the four examples from Bainesse. Thus we return, with some reluctance, to the view that the selection of coin type was probably close to arbitrary.

Cataractonium (Fields 172-179):

From Cataractonium we have a further five instances of coins within graves contexts (Table Coins1 above), together with the list of 19 coins found in association with disarticulated remains (Table Coins 2). The grave finds fall into two obvious groups, namely three relatively early coins from cremation graves in F172, to the west of Catterick Racecourse (RF 6516, RF 11412 and RF 11420); and two much later (fourth-century) finds from inhumation graves in F178, some distance to the north on the outskirts of Brompton on Swale, one a single coin (RF7602) and the other a small hoard (RF 12797).

F172

The three grave finds from F172, though none of them pierced, show some similarities with those from F163, a couple of kilometres further to the south, in that two of the three are Antonine and the third an *as* of Vespasian, the latter of a type still in common circulation in the second century; and my comments on the choice of coin denomination and type apply equally well here.

Burial 6723, Cremation, Context 6725, Coin RF 6516

As of Antoninus Pius, AD 140-43

Catalogue reference: RIC 675; Die Axis 6; Condition W/W

Obverse: ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP TRP COS II[I] Bearded head of Pius right

Reverse: ANNO[NA AVG] SC

Other grave goods: none; but a C14 date was obtained (see Table Coin 1)

Burial 6782, Cremation, Context 6780, Coin RF 11412

Much abraded *sestertius* of Faustina II (from the reign of Antoninus Pius), AD 145-61

Catalogue reference: RIC as Pius 1347; Die Axis 7; Condition ?VW/VW (or less?)

Obverse: [FAVSTINA AVG ANTO]?NINI A[VG PII F] or sim.

Reverse: Venus or sim. standing left

Other grave goods: none.

Burial 6790, Cremation, Context 25005, Coin RF 11420

As of Vespasian, AD 71

Catalogue reference: RIC as 497; ed.2, as V1170; Die Axis 6?; Condition VW/EW

Obverse: IMP CAESAR VESPASIANVS AVG...

Reverse: probably Eagle on globe SC

Other grave goods: CuA bracelet with twisted wire terminal (RF 11421 etc.); fossil crinoid stem (RF 11422); CuA tacks (RF 14524, 14531); hobnail shoes (234 hobnails); molten CuA fragment; and a C14 date was obtained for this context (see Table Coin 1).

Dating:

The *as* of Antoninus Pius (RF 6516) is relatively well-preserved; the types are legible and a reasonable estimate of circulation wear can be made. It is worn, but not excessively so, perhaps consistent with a period of two or three decades in use – and, working on that basis, a date of deposition in the third quarter of the second century, perhaps c. AD 160-75, might be suggested. There are no other grave goods to provide a comparative date, but this suggestion sits well with the C14 date obtained for the context.

The *as* of Vespasian (RF 11420), minted in AD 71, is much more worn (VW/EW according to my classification, for which see Brickstock 2004), suggesting a more prolonged period of usage, amounting to perhaps a century. This would suggest a very similar date of deposition for this coin, i.e. sometime in the third quarter of the second century, though either an earlier or a later date remain possible. The additional grave goods are not, I think, closely datable, but a radiocarbon date almost identical to that for context 6725 lends weight to this suggestion.

RF 11412 is a *sestertius* of the Younger Faustina, wife of Marcus Aurelius, struck in the reign of Antoninus Pius. It is significantly undersize, having been abraded (perhaps in antiquity) down to approximately the size of a *dupondius* (i.e. c.28 mm). It is less well-preserved than the previous coins, rendering the assessment of wear rather less certain: I have suggested that it is very worn (VW/VW), but that could be something of an overestimate. Lacking any corroborative evidence, it is difficult to be precise about a suggested date of deposition, but sometime in the second half of the second century (possibly c. AD 180-200, roughly in line with the coin from F163, burial 269) seems most likely; but a slightly later date is also possible, particularly given the choice of a larger denomination, a *sestertius* (albeit abraded) rather than a *dupondius* or *as*.

F178

A single coin (RF 7602, context 20478) was recovered from the fill of inhumation grave 20476 together with a collection of other copper alloy objects (CuA brooch RF7597; seven CuA loops (RF 7598-9, 7603-7); CuA horse harness strap connector (RF 7600). The whole assemblage appears to have been placed, perhaps in a box, adjacent to the skull of the deceased. The coin is an issue of Constantine II as Caesar, of a common type of the AD 330s:

Obverse: [CONSTANTI-NV]S IVN [NC]

Reverse: [GLOR-IA EXERC-]ITVS 1 standard, mint-mark .TRP.

Date: AD 335-37 Mint: Treveri (Trier) Condition: W/W Catalogue: RIC 7
Trier 591

We therefore have a terminus post quem of AD 335 for the deposition of the assemblage; but the relatively worn condition of the coin suggests that that date can be pushed on a few years, perhaps to c. AD 350.

Grave context 20417 produced a hoard of nine coins (RF 12797), seemingly deposited in the mouth of the inhumation:

RULER	CATALOG	OBVERSE	REVERSE	DATE	CONDIT
CONSTANTINE I	7LN154	IMP CONSTAN-TINVS MAX AVG	[VICTORIAE LAETAE] PRINC [PERP VOT/PR] "hour- glass"//PLN	319	UW-SW/SW
CONSTANTINE I	7LN203	CONSTAN-TINVS AVG	BEATA TRA-NQVILLITAS VOT/IS/XX P/A//PLON	321	SW/SW
CONSTANTINE I	7LN191	CONSTAN-TINVS AVG	VIRTVS - EXERCIT VOT/XX //PLN	320-21	UW- SW/UW-SW
CRISPUS, CAESAR	7LN174	FL IVL CRIS-PVS NOB CAES	VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP VOT/PR wreath//[PLN]	320	UW- SW/UW-SW
CONSTANTINE I	7TR213	IMP CONSTAN-TINVS MAX AVG	VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP VOT/PR [*]//STR	319	SW/SW
CRISPUS, CAESAR	7LN275	CRISPV-S NOBIL C	BEAT TRA-NQLITAS VOT/IS/XX //PLON	323-24 (or 321-22)	UW- SW/UW-SW
CONSTANTINE I	6LG309	IMP CONSTANTINVS P[FAVG]	SOLI INVI-C-TO COMITI F/T//PLG	309-13	SW/SW(- W?)
LICINIUS I	7LN79	[IMP] LICINIVS PFAV[G]	SOLI [INVI]CTO COMITI S/P//MSL	316	SW/SW(- W?)
CONSTANTINE II, CAESAR	7LN236	CONSTANTI-NVS IVN NC	BEATA TRA-NQVILLITAS VOT/IS/XX //PLON	321-22	SW/SW

The coins should perhaps be seen as a small 'purse hoard', i.e. a representative selection of the small change in circulation in Britain in the early AD 320s. They range in date from a *follis* of Constantine I minted in AD 309-13 (listed in RIC as c. AD 309-10; but more likely in the light of subsequent studies to fall later in the range 309-13) to a coin of Crispus, Caesar belonging to AD 323-24 (rather than, I think, the very similar issue dating to AD 321-22; there is some ambiguity in RIC). Seven are issues of the London mint, which until its closure in AD 325 provided a very significant proportion of Britannia's small change; and the remaining two are from the mints of Treveri (Trier) and Lugdunum (Lyon), which provided most of the remainder at this period. The circulation wear exhibited by the coins is slight, especially on the coins of AD 320 or later, consistent with a deposition date certainly after AD 321; almost certainly after AD 323; and in all probability not much later than AD 325.

The sheer number of coins placed in the mouth of a corpse may come as something of a surprise; but the value of the coins taken together is not great; and it seems likely that their perceived function, i.e. for “paying the ferryman”, was unchanged. The positioning of the coins apart, the incidence of small coin hoards within grave contexts is not particularly remarkable. Finds from the Roman cemetery at Scorton, just north of the Swale, included, from two separate contexts, a pair of small Constantinian hoards (Hoard 1 of 24 coins; latest coins AD 340-41; and Hoard 2 of 44 coins together with other low-value grave goods; latest coins, copies of issues of AD 353-58) . In both instances dark stains in the soil suggested that the coins had been buried in an organic container, either a bag or a small box, placed adjacent to, but not on, the body.

Coins recovered from contexts containing disarticulated remains:

The nineteen coins found in these contexts (one in F175, three in F179 and 15 in F176; summarized in Table Coins 2 and in listed in chronological order below) reveal a much broader temporal spread, perhaps rather more indicative of the Catterick cemeteries as a whole, ranging from the turn of the second century through to the last quarter of the fourth century:

		F175 F179	F176
Trajan, AD 98-102	<i>as</i>	1	
Trajan	counterfeit <i>denarii</i>	2	
Hadrian	<i>sestertius</i>		1
Antoninus Pius	<i>sestertius</i>		1
Lucilla (M. Aurelius)	<i>as</i>	1	
Severus Alexander	<i>denarius</i>		1
Claudius II	‘antoninianus’	1	
Radiate fragment	‘antoninianus’		1
Carausius	‘aurelianus’		1
Constantine I copy	‘nummus’		1
Constantius II, Caesar	‘nummus’	1	
Constans	‘nummus’		1
Valentinian I	‘nummus’	1	
Valens	‘nummus’	2	
Gratian, AD 367-83	‘nummi’	2	

This temporal spread is mirrored in individual contexts in F176: five coins from context 1571 range from an *as* of Trajan (AD 98-102) to a *denarius* of Severus Alexander (AD 222-24) plus a modern token; five coins from context 1405 include an *as* of Lucilla (AD c.164-69), an issue of Constans (struck in AD 346-48) and three coins of the House of Valentinian (AD 364-75); and the three coins from context 1482 are a *sestertius* of Hadrian (AD 125-28) plus two further Valentinianic issues. Thus it seems clear that various areas of the cemetery saw activity over a very protracted period of time, though the exact extent of that time period is rather less clear-cut and the activity was not necessarily continuous in all locations.

There are six coins of the late-first and second centuries (all from F176) amongst the nineteen finds— but it is perfectly possible, even likely, that only one or two of those were deposited much before the end of the second century: it is unfortunate that both of the two counterfeit *denarii* of Trajan (RF 6148 and 6176 from contexts 1571 and 1569, respectively) are too corroded to allow an assessment of circulation wear; but the *as* of Trajan (RF 8178), which provides a *terminus post quem* of AD 98 for context 1571, is very worn and could easily have remained in circulation until close to AD 200, conceivably even longer. A *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius (AD 145-61; RF 6255) from the same context is appreciably less worn and may therefore represent the earliest deposit from the context, perhaps after the passage of only a couple of decades, i.e. c.AD 160-75 or thereabouts.

If we lay aside the modern token (RF 6212) recovered from demolition spread, the remaining coin from context 1571 is a somewhat worn *denarius* of Severus Alexander (RF 222-24), presumably deposited sometime in the second quarter of the third century. Thus although the mint-dates of the coin finds from context 1571 extend from c.AD 100 to the AD 220s, the depositional spread may be, in reality, something closer to AD 160-250.

The two second-century issues not yet discussed are the *sestertius* of Hadrian (RF286) from context 1482; and the *as* of Lucilla (RF 209) from context 1405. Both appear very considerably worn, the *sestertius* particularly so, suggesting the passage of a number of decades before deposition – so, again, a date of deposition in the region of AD 200 rather than much earlier is arguable and, in my opinion, highly likely.

The remaining seven coins recovered from F176 all belong to the fourth century: two are of the House of Constantine - an issue of Constantius II as Caesar from context 1429 (RF 184; AD 330-35 and only slightly worn) and the coin of Constans from context 1405 (RF 163; AD 346-48, also slightly worn); and five coins are of the House of Valentinian. Thus we have a complete absence in the assemblage of later-third and early fourth-century issues, including the 'Radiates' of the late-third century which are normally so numerous as site finds. Given the statistical preponderance of the latter on most Romano-British sites, if the finds as to be seen as at all representative of the F176 area as a whole, the obvious conclusion is that this part of the cemetery was not active during this period. If so, burials must have taken place elsewhere, for the town of Cataractonium is demonstrably occupied throughout – and the finds from F175 and F179 perhaps provide part of the answer, for three of the four finds from these locations are of the missing period, the late third century (RF 5778 and 5916 from context 8141 in F179; and RF 13350 from context 31882 in F175); and the fourth is a Constantinian copy of the AD 330s (F179, context 8141, RF 5935).

If activity had indeed ceased in F176, it was resumed by the mid-fourth century (though it is worth noting that many of the commonest issues, e.g. FEL TEMP REPARATIO copies of the AD 350s are nonetheless absent). The House of Valentinian (AD 364-83) is represented by five coins, three from context 1405 (RF 156, RF214 and RF225) and two from context 1482 (RF 366 and RF 334). The last of these, minted in the period AD 378-83 is the latest coin recovered from the site – but the worn condition of all the Valentinianic coin strongly suggests that activity continues well into the AD 380s if not beyond.

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