

Roman finds from Beddington Park

A Roman coin and a Roman brooch were recently found in Beddington Park at NGR TQ 295 658. More precise details of the findspot are held in the Sites and Monuments Record of the Greater London Archaeology Department of the Museum of London.

THE BROOCH by A C Skelton

The brooch (fig 1) is of copper alloy with traces of tinning on the head and parts of the bow. It weighs 4.68g. Most of the catchplate, foot and one wing are missing; its original length would have been *c* 45–55mm. The brooch has a pattern of ribs and pointillé decoration extending across the bow and the remaining wing on either side of a bolder central rib. Below the bow, three ribbed sections are all that remains of the foot; only the upper part of the catchplate survives. The brooch is of the Hod Hill type, and although there are no precise parallels (*cf* Skelton 1984, 33, 37, nos 100–1), this style of brooch seems to date to before the period AD 50–5 (Brailsford 1962).

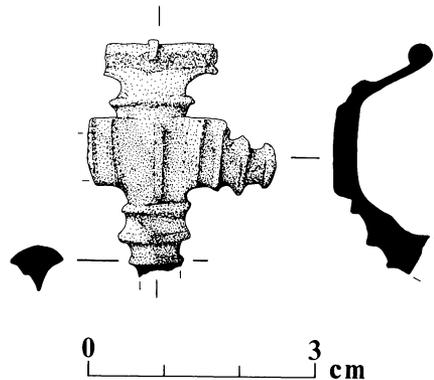


Fig 1. Roman brooch from Beddington Park

THE COIN by K Hunter-Mann

The coin is of Valentinian I (rev SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE. Æ3, same mint as LRBC 2, 86). It weighs 2.17g. The coin was issued in the period AD 365–75, and is worn – wear code ?C (after Hammerson 1978). The estimated date of loss of this coin is the last quarter of the 4th century, or perhaps the very early 5th century AD. If the loss of this coin is related to activity on the Beddington villa estate, it reinforces the suggested increase in activity on the estate towards the end of the 4th century AD (Hunter-Mann forthcoming).

The brooch and coin, although not related in date, are related in their proximity to the Roman villa at Beddington which lies 300m to the east, and the Roman coffins 550m to the south (Adkins & Adkins 1984). They are evidence of activity in the area between the villa site and the river Wandle, and since the dates of these finds fall within the period of occupation of the villa site, they may provide an indication of the extent of the villa estate.

We would like to thank the finder, Mr J A W Dabkowski, for bringing the brooch and coin to our attention. The finds are in the possession of Sutton library.

REFERENCES

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