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ROMAN BRITAIN IN 2025

II Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme

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The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) was established in 1997 as an initiative to record archaeological objects found by members of the public. Following a pilot phase, it was extended to all of England and Wales from 2003 onwards.[1] Since 2004 surveys of Roman period finds documented by the PAS have been published in *Britannia*. This twenty-third annual summary outlines the general character of Roman finds reported in 2025 and reports significant individual artefact discoveries recorded by Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs).[2]

Overview

In 2025 29,540 objects of Roman date were documented by the PAS within 16,247 object records. The number of objects exceeds the number of records since a single record may document more than one item, especially in instances of coin hoards as well as in assemblages of ceramics or building materials. As in 2023 and 2024, the quantities of both objects and records compiled in 2025 continue to show the trend of overall increased discovery, reporting and documentation following decreased activity during the Covid pandemic, albeit with a somewhat smaller number of Roman objects recorded in 2025 than in the immediately preceding years.[3] The spatial distribution of finds reported in 2025 also follows that previously reported; again the highest numbers of objects and records occur in eastern and central southern counties in England.[4] The lowest numbers were again in northern England, the westernmost counties of south-west England and in Wales, as well as in conurbations (except for London's Thames foreshore).[5] The causes of this uneven

[1] S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2006 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 38 (2007), 303.

[2] From 2019 onwards we have no longer presented artefact quantities by county, since consistently recurring regional differences were established in *Britannia* reports on PAS finds up to 2018.

[3] 2024 34,469 objects within 16,955 object records, J. Pearce, S. Worrell and E. Wood, 'Roman Britain in 2024 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 56 (2025), 462; 2023 35,981 objects within 16,249 records, J. Pearce, S. Worrell and E. Wood, 'Roman Britain in 2023 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 55 (2024), 377.

[4] For example, the highest numbers of records in 2025 were created for the following counties: Norfolk (1,396); Wiltshire (1,287); Suffolk (1,270) Lincolnshire (1,115); Oxfordshire (966).

[5] For example, Northumberland 42 records, Cumbria 47 records, Devon 46 records, Cornwall 4 records, Wales 161 records, noting that record numbers mask those of objects recorded e.g. the 6,544 objects from Wales.

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distribution of artefact reporting remain as previously noted, i.e. regional variability in the circulation and deposition of metal objects in the Roman period, in historic and current land-use, especially agricultural practice and urbanisation, and in constraints on metal-detecting, the predominant mode of discovery of objects reported to the PAS.[6]

As in previous years, documented discoveries of coins in 2025 massively outnumbered those of all other Roman artefacts. 11,841 coins were recorded in 11,549 records (i.e. as 'coin' entries on the PAS database) and approximately a further 10,906 in 110 'coin hoards' and 'hoards'. As a percentage of all objects discovered (77%), this is slightly lower than is typical, but further coins as well as other objects, especially ceramic sherds, were also recorded among the 980 objects in the 30 'assemblage' records. Including the examples recorded in 2025, as quantified by these annual summaries, *c.* 505,000 Roman coins have now been recorded by the PAS. This number reflects the preponderance of coins among objects discovered and the emphasis placed by the PAS on recording Roman assemblages *in toto*.[7] The distribution of coins mirrors the distribution of all finds, the highest numbers being from the same counties as noted above and the smallest in northern and western England and Wales, a long-noted disparity that also applies to other datasets.[8] As for brooches, *c.* 43,400 examples have been documented by the Scheme since 2003, including a further 2,265 in 2025. These totals include brooches dated to the period from the last decades of the Iron Age to Late Antiquity. The distribution of brooches reported in 2025 corresponds to the overall distribution of PAS records, i.e. being more frequent discoveries in eastern and central English counties, noting also this year a high number in North Yorkshire (105), i.e. in the northern part of the arable region where so many metal-detected finds concentrate. The noted regional disparity in the ratio of Roman period brooch to coin finds continued to apply in 2025, this ratio being higher in Wales, some neighbouring English counties and northern England than elsewhere.[9] Occasionally noted in other contexts, this disparity deserves further analysis.[10]

Artefact descriptions

The entries below publish a sample of significant objects among the finds made or recorded in 2025 by PAS staff and the Treasure Department at the British Museum and their research collaborators.[11] They are selected for their contribution to the study of the material and

[6] K. Robbins, 'Balancing the scales: exploring the variable effects of collection bias on data collected by the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Landscapes* 14 (2013), 54–72; ead., *Portable Antiquities Scheme: A Guide for Researchers* (2014), http://finds.org.uk/documents/guideforresearchers.pdf; R. Bland *et al.*, 'The Treasure Act and Portable Antiquities Scheme in England and Wales', in G. Moshenska (ed.), *Key Concepts in Public Archaeology* (2017), 107–21.

[7] S. Moorhead and P. Walton, 'Coins recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme: a summary', *Britannia* 42 (2011), 432–7; Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2024), 377. Hoards and significant individual discoveries are noted annually in the *British Numismatic Journal*'s Coin Register. PAS hoard data continue to be used for the 'Oxford Coin Hoards of the Roman Empire' project: http://chre.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/content/about

[8] T. Brindle, 'Coins and markets in the countryside', in M. Allen *et al., The Rural Economy of Roman Britain*, Britannia Monograph 30 (2017), 237–45.

[9] For example, the following record numbers were made: Lancashire 21 (coin), 9 (brooch); Cheshire 65 (coin), 34 (brooch); Telford and Wrekin 3 (coin), 4 (brooch); Herefordshire 50 (coin), 31 (brooch). Wales 77 (coin) 42 (brooch). Cf. Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2025), 463.

[10] A. Smith, 'The central belt', in T. Brindle *et al., The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain*, Britannia Monograph 29 (2016), 184.

[11] The entries draw on, revise and extend the information documented in the PAS database, discussing the form, significance and context of individual discoveries. Online entries provide additional detail and images. Where object types are referred to with the prefix 'Artefacts', plus an alphanumeric identifier, we refer to *Artefacts: Online collaborative encyclopaedia of archaeological small finds* http://artefacts.mom.fr/



Fig. 1. Chollerton, chatelaine (No. 1) Scale 2:3 (*Photo: H. Morris; © Tyne and Wear Museums*).

visual culture of Roman Britain, in particular where they advance comprehension of object forms, typological and decorative variability and/or their distribution. They are reported in approximate geographical sequence, beginning in northern England. The alphanumeric reference number given for each find identifies the individual object record on the PAS database (www.finds.org.uk) and where relevant also the Treasure case designation number (20XX/TXX).[12]

The copper-alloy and precious metal artefacts presented here illustrate the variety of function and decoration documented among portable metal objects dated to the period between the first century B.C. and fifth century A.D. They include artefacts belonging to similar functional categories as presented in previous years, including vehicle and harness fittings, belt-fittings, bow and plate brooches, rings, a pendant and necklace clasp, cosmetic equipment, statue fragments and figurines, sceptre terminals, vessels, a miniature knife and a steelyard weight in figural form.

Northumberland

(1) **Chollerton** (NCL-CA5E5C) (Fig. 1)[13] A near-complete copper-alloy cosmetic set comprising tools and the bar-and-shackle from which they were suspended, 77.4 mm long (including tools), 33 mm wide and weighing 22.7 g. The sub-rectangular bar carries chequerboard red and yellow enamel inlay on one face, the other is plain, with broken suspension loop. Lugs projecting from the bar ends house an axis from which four tools are suspended, all with bead and reel mouldings. The three preserving their blades include an ear scoop, nail cleaner and tweezers, these names being a matter of archaeological convention rather than definitive function, which might be cosmetic or medical.

Several hundred toilet instruments are now documented by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, mostly individual tools, especially nail cleaners and ear scoops which are more

[12] As ever we are indebted to Martin Henig for his generosity in discussing many artefacts published here. We also thank Paul Booth, Hella Eckardt, Sabina Faust, Eleanor Ghey, Jenny Hall, Richard Hobbs, Fraser Hunter, Stuart Laycock, Claudia Nickel, Stéphanie Raux, Louise Revell and Kaja Stemberger for help of various kinds and the editor, Andy Gardner, for invaluable support. Any errors are of course our own responsibility.

[13] Found by G. McKenna. Recorded by C. Smith. C. Smith (2024) *NCL-CA5E5C: A Roman chatelaine* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1190235 (accessed 12 March 2026).



Fig. 2. Nether Kellet, coin ring (No. 2) Scale 1:1 (*Photo:T. Muscillo;The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

straightforwardly dated by type to the later Iron Age and Roman periods.[14] Approximately 65 examples of the chatelaines and bar-and-shackle suspension elements have also been recorded, the former more numerous than the simpler rectangular plates documented in this case. The decorative scheme is simpler in this case than most, with more complex configuration of enamelled cells in alternating triangles more often preferred.[15] A find near Sleaford, Lincs, offers an exceptionally well-preserved example of the enamelling scheme.[16]

This is a rare example of a near-complete set of toilet instruments documented by the PAS.[17] Its findspot, close to documented Roman period rural settlement in the North Tyne valley *c.* 3 km north of Hadrian's Wall, as well as that of another chatelaine from Warkworth, Northumberland (NCL-B79326), are the most northerly known from Britain. Alongside occasional isolated finds of individual instruments, these discoveries hint at the sharing of the symbolically laden grooming practices better documented further south.[18]

Lancashire

(2) **Nether Kellet** (LANCUM-02BA26/2025T1216) (Fig. 2)[19] A complete silver coin-set finger ring, the orange staining likely derived from its depositional environment. The keeled ring measures 25 mm at its widest and weighs 15.3 g. Its octagonal bezel, with solid circular rim and plain sides, accommodates a denarius of Geta. Its visible obverse shows his draped, bare-headed bust facing right, with accompanying legend (P SEPT GETA CAES [PONT]). The hoop, formed by curved segments, tapers from broad triangular shoulders. Both the latter carry decorative notches forming a double V at the junction with the bezel.

The coin obverse corresponds to that of *denarii* minted at Rome in Geta's name from *c.* A.D. 199–204, i.e. in the first phase of his joint reign as junior emperor with his father

[14] H. Eckardt and N. Crummy, *Styling the Body in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain: A Contextual Approach to Toilet Instruments*, Instrumentum Monograph 36 (2008); S. Worrell and J. Pearce, 'Romans at your fingertips? A new study of nail-cleaners from Britannia recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme', in D. Boughton and K. Hawkins (eds), *Back in the Bag. Papers in Memory of David Williams* (2021), 51–62.

[15] For some parallels to the simpler gridded enamelling scheme here, see examples from Bourne, Lincs (NLM4625), Swayfield Lincs (DENO-71C9F5) and Walkeringham, West Yorks (SWYOR-A084BA). For triangular cells, see for example: Abbess Beauchamp, Essex (LON-846071), East Herts (BH-1DB7F2, with surviving tools), and Holme upon Spalding Moor (YORYM-1DDBC0).

[16] J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2019. II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 51 (2020), Near Sleaford (LIN-A40146), 451–2, no. 9.

[17] Coombes (SUSS-EBC181), on a plain wire loop, J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2021. II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 53 (2022), 494–5, no. 19, with references to other complete examples; se also Narborough, Leics (LEIC-8572C4), S. Worrell op. cit. (n. 1, 2007), 315–6, no. 9. on an enamelled shackle and bar, see also Fincham, Norfolk (NMS-4FE992).

[18] Eckardt and Crummy, op. cit. (n. 14), 96–9.

[19] Found by G. Wigham. Recorded by C. Hempsall, T. Muscillo, E. Ghey and R. Hobbs. C. Hempsall (2025) *LANCUM-02BA26: A Roman finger ring* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1233642 (accessed 13 June 2026).

Septimius Severus and brother Caracalla. The ring form is widely attested in the third century, but Geta's murder and *damnatio memoriae* in A.D. 211 give a likely *terminus ante quem* for this example's making, It joins a handful of coin rings from Roman Britain, amplified by finds reported to the PAS, including a similar ring from Spetisbury, Dorset, set with a coin of Elagabalus (A.D. 218–222).[20] As elsewhere in the Roman empire, coin rings dated to the third and fourth centuries A.D. are more numerous in Britain, many being emblems of *fides* to ill-fated third-century rulers and their family members.[21]

Cheshire

(3) **Malpas** (LVPL-0002E4/2025 T1548) (Fig. 3)[22] A gold filigree finger-ring with a nicolo intaglio, slightly distorted, measuring 18.1 mm wide, with a narrow hoop (4 mm) and weighing 3.63 g. The hoop is formed by a central twisted band bordered on both sides by wires which fold back on themselves where they meet the bezel, widening the ring's shoulders, each terminating in a bead at each corner of the raised oval box bezel. The setting is carved with a standing figure, facing right, wearing a broad-brimmed traveller's hat and chlamys, i.e. Bonus Eventus, a personification of abundance. His extended left hand holds a vessel, the right stylised ears of grain. The figure is widely documented on intaglios from Britain, especially on military sites, though the most spectacular instance is set in a ring from the Snape boat burial, Suffolk. An example from London, dated to the second century A.D., shares an especially strong resemblance.[23] A very substantial corpus of gold finger-rings of Roman date is now documented by the PAS, with almost 250 examples found across eastern and central England. This ring form is classified from the box bezel and the beads at the shoulders as a Henig IV/Guiraud 4c.[24] Martin Henig notes a now lost ring with very similar hoop form from Ribchester, likely from the same workshop, set with a hexagonal inscribed gem.[25] The PAS has documented a growing corpus of elaborate gold rings of this kind, some dated later than this example to the third and fourth centuries A.D.[26]

(4) **Stanthorne** (WREX-8C7F72) (Fig. 4)[27] An incomplete copper-alloy circular harness fitting or 'fob dangler', 51.8 mm in diameter and weighing 30.8 g, with a dark brown patina and some corrosion and wear. The flat ring frames an openwork triskele. Each of the triskele's members comprises an extended 'neck' and a head with flaring mouth. Each eye carries a larger ring-and-dot motif, as does the centre of the triskele. The triskele itself and ring

[20] Spetisbury: J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2012. II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 44 (2013), 375, no. 29 (DOR-B43092/2012 T840). Coin set bezels: Ulceby area, Lincs (LIN-A8E677), Julia Maesa, A.D. 220–22; Chirton, Wilts (WILT-B0C652), Plautilla A.D. 202–5; East Hendred, Berks (BERK-4F3699), Macrinus(?), A.D. 217–18.

[21] A. Daubney, 'A gold Roman coin-ring from Benniworth, Lincolnshire', *Antiquaries Journal* 89 (2009), 69–71; M. Joyet, 'Bijoux monétaires et objets monétiformes, petites pièces d'orfèvrerie à vocation politique, économique et culturelle', *L'Antiquité à la BnF* (2019), https://doi.org/10.58079/b8mv

[22] Found by P. Ryan. Recorded by P. Carey and identified by H. Beeton. P. Carey (2025) *LVPL-0002E4: A Roman finger ring* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1248530 (accessed 6 April 2026).

[23] Cf. A. Giecco, *et al. Uncovering Roman Carlisle* (2026), 34, 41; M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites I*, BAR Brit. Ser. 8 (2007), 221, pl. VII, nos. 204–15, no. 204 (London), no. 205 (Snape — BM 1950.12-6.1).

[24] H. Guiraud, 'Bagues et anneaux à l'époque romaine en Gaule', *Gallia* 46 (1989), 189; C. Johns, *The Jewellery of Roman Britain* (1996), 47.

[25] *RIB* II, 3, 2423.7 with references.

[26] E.g. Near Bassingham, Notts (LIN-AED713/2022 T877), J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2022. II. Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 54, (2023), 405–6, no. 7, with references to further examples; also Alderton, Glos (GLO-C4FAD5/2024 T598), Bures, Suffolk (ESS-E366EB/2019T1187).

[27] Found by D. Helm. Recorded by S. White. S. White (2024) *WREX-8C7F72: An Iron Age harness fitting* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1195696 (accessed 17 March 2026).



Fig. 3. Malpas, ring (no. 3) Scale 2:1 (*Photo: H. Beeton;* © *National Museums Liverpool*).



Fig. 4. Stanthorne, harness fitting (no. 4) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: S. White;* © *National Museum Wales*).

carry a continuous line of smaller punched dots. All decoration appears on one side only.

The purpose of these fittings is uncertain. Like this example, most are openwork, probably suspended from human apparel or horse harness. Thanks to metal-detected finds many more are now documented (over 90) than the 20 or so recorded by Jope and Macgregor.[28] In the absence of many stratified examples, the suggested date range remains broad, i.e. from *c.* 200 B.C. to A.D. 200. The expanded dataset reveals the strongly regional character of fobs' distribution, focused on the west and south-west Midlands, Yorkshire and East Anglia. The variety of triskeles is near infinite, whether in their overall shape, either circular, trefoil, quatrefoil or triangular, or in the arrangement of their members — triskele or whirligig/swastika — or the form of those members, either curved, straight or zig-zagged, equal-sized or unequal.[29] Ring-and-dot motifs decorate a small number of other examples, most strikingly on a fob from Streatley, West Berks.[30] Others are heavily bossed.[31] The Streatley fob is also the most striking in terms of zoomorphic decoration; the stylised water birds on each of its members remains exceptional, but like the Stanthorne fob some

[28] E.M. Jope, *Early Celtic Art in the British Isles* (2000), 285; M. MacGregor, *Early Celtic Art in North Britain* (1976), 37. For PAS examples, J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2017. II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 49 (2018), 404–5, no. 3.

[29] On a fob from Colebatch, Salop (LEIC-3639EC), where each member carries its own detached miniature equivalent.

[30] Streatley (SUR-8328CA), K. Adams *et al.*, 'From figurines to fob-danglers: recent Iron Age and Roman objects documented by the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Lucerna* 49 (2015), 25–9. See also Lillings Ambo, North Yorks (SWYOR-83EE29); Brewood and Coven, Staffs (MID-02CA35); Hindlip, Worcs (WAW-F4D8B4); Weybourne, Norfolk (NMS-A2A5D1).

[31] Caerwys, Flintshire (WREX-6B3658); Eccleshall, Staffs (WMID-050623).



Fig. 5. Raskelf, greyhound brooch (No. 5) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: I. Whitehead; © West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service*).

other examples also see triskele members transform into animal heads where they join the frame.[32]

North Yorkshire

(5) **Raskelf** (SWYOR-D9D7DE) (Fig. 5)[33] A zoomorphic brooch fragment in canine form, modelled in three dimensions, with a dark brown patina, 24.3 mm long and weighing 7.21 g. The slender head of a greyhound-type dog faces right with a large eye formed by a groove encircling possible white metal inlay and folded ears. The narrow neck twists sharply so that the dog looks back across its body, the powerful chest and shoulders tapering to slender hindquarters, the latter mostly lost to breakage with part of the front leg. Shallow striations on the body hint at schematised ribs. On the concave reverse a lug behind the shoulder may be part of the catch plate.

A more complete example from Fulbeck, Lincs, offers a very close parallel to the Raskelf brooch details, while a greyhound catching a hare on a brooch from Giggleswick shares its three-dimensionality.[34] The feeling for sculptural forms dwindles on plate brooches where greyhounds are occasionally translated to two-dimensional forms. One of these, the dog reserved on a rectangular plate against an enamelled background, has a strongly regional focus around the Solent.[35] The other is so stylised that it can be hard to distinguish from its hare prey, though the latter is a more common brooch subject, despite the myriad dogs in other monumental and portable media.[36]

Doncaster

(6) **Hatfield** (SWYOR-A8F7D3) (Fig. 6)[37] A copper-alloy probable harness fitting in two near joining pieces with a light green patina, dating *c.* 100 B.C.–A.D. 200. Together the two

[32] Bardsey cum Rigton, Leeds (SWYOR-3C71D6); Azerley, N. Yorks (SWYOR-AEA96F); no findspot (NARC-F20EBE).

[33] Found by M. Tinker. Recorded by J. Scriven. J. Scriven (2025) *SWYOR-D9D7DE: A Roman brooch* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1220559 (accessed 17 March 2026).

[34] S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2005. II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 35 (2006), 437, no. 4 (SWYOR-BFE1C5). Giggleswick, N. Yorks (SWYOR-FA6BC5), Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2025), 466, No. 3.

[35] For the rectangular plate brooch, Solent examples (Hampshire: Hursley (SUR-9D4D08), Hambledon (SUR-2DB7BA), Broughton (WILT-596884), Chilcomb (HAMP-DCDD52); Isle of Wight (IOW-50E085)) and occasional outliers, e.g. Grafton Regis, Northants (NARC-5EBE83), Plompton, W. Yorks (SWYOR-25F884).

[36] D. Mackreth, *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain* (2011), 182–3, pl. 125; L. Allason-Jones, 'Zoomorphic brooches in Roman Britain: decoration or religious ideology?', in R. Marzel & G.D. Stiebel (eds), *Dress and Ideology: Fashioning Identity from Antiquity to the Present* (2015), 69–86.

[37] Found by A. Wilson. Recorded by J. Scriven. Identified by F. Hunter. J. Scriven (2025) *SWYOR-A8F7D3: A Roman harness fitting* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1238230 (accessed 9 March 2026).



Fig. 6. Hatfield, harness fitting (No. 6) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: P. Holmes; © West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service*).

elements form a fitting 69.6 mm long, a maximum of 27.8 mm wide, up to 14.5 mm thick and weighing 32.2 g. The fitting comprises two arms which meet at an expanded lozenge-shaped centre in which a deep channel frames a central boss. One arm is broken, perhaps missing a small fragment at the junction between the surviving pieces. At their ends the arms expand into a triple-collared hoop. The latter might enable a cord or thong to be threaded along the back of the fitting.

In general size and form the fitting has a passing affinity to bridle cheekpieces and toggles, for example from Carleton Rode, Norfolk (NMS-5983B3), but does not share their function. The central feature echoes the boss-and-petal decorative motifs on metalwork such as harness fittings, for example from Northumberland (NCL-74DE87). Fraser Hunter (pers. comm.) notes a resemblance to the similar-sized elongated strap junctions (so-called) with bowed profiles of which examples are documented in the legionary fortress at Inchtuthil (enamelled), in the Middlebie hoard (Dumfries), and a pit within a round-house in the hillfort at Broxmouth (East Lothian), the latter two being 'boss and trumpet' style, similar but not identical to the present example.[38] The central 'boss and petal' design can be paralleled in Wild type III button and loop fasteners and in strap slides, for example from Misson, Notts (YORYM-D76783), which are roughly contemporary in date.[39] The present example's find spot lies in a region where both strap slides and Type III fasteners are heavily concentrated (Yorkshire and surrounding counties), perhaps suggesting a common regional origin and style. It is possible that this object may form a part of a cavesson, i.e. a form of adjustable bitless bridle, this piece forming the bridge across the animal's nose which is often padded. This is suggested by the slight curve of the object which would accommodate the nose's natural curve, while the circular loops would attach to the side fittings of the bridle and the fabric padding. A more complete iron example from Newstead is different in style, but shares the same flared middle, also seen on Roman hackamores.[40]

[38] MacGregor, op. cit. (n. 28), nos 32–5, Inchtuthil and Middlebie (3 examples); from Broxmouth I. Armit & J. MacKenzie, *An Inherited Place: Broxmouth Hillfort and the South-east Scottish Iron Age* (2013), 374–7.

[39] J.-P. Wild, 'Button-and-loop fasteners in the Roman provinces', *Britannia* 1 (1970), 138–40; for a PAS example, see North Cave, E. Yorks (YORYM-965A30). For strap slides with similar decoration, see examples from Snainton, N. Yorks (YORYM-08F090), Stamford Bridge, E. Yorks (YORYM-C12A50), Harpham, E. Yorks (YORYM-2EB525).

[40] Newstead, J. Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People* (1911), 297, no.4, pl. LXX; Roman hackamores, A.K. Taylor, *Roman Horse Equipment: A Study of Harness and Horse Furniture in the European Provinces of the Roman Empire*, PhD thesis, University of London (1978), 79, fig. 13.



Fig. 7. Kniveton, vessel element? (No. 7) Scale 2:3 (*Photo: T. Gilmore; © Birmingham Museums Trust*).

Derbyshire

(7) **Kniveton** (WMID-7C901E) (Fig. 7)[41] A copper-alloy circular fitting, with a mid-green patina, 53 mm in diameter, 17.5 mm high and with walls 4.1 mm thick. It weighs 52.1 g. The fitting has a thicker collar, enamelled on the outside, and a thinner short 'sleeve' with a broken edge. From the latter three rivets extend inwards. The decoration comprises triangular cells of alternating red and blue enamel, the latter often discoloured or lost. It is hard confidently to identify the object from which this fitting derives. It has a passing resemblance to other enamelled copper-alloy objects, for example tall Biebrich-type cylindrical inkwells and necks of copper-alloy bottles, but at present it joins fittings whose purpose future discoveries may illuminate.[42]

Lincolnshire

(8) **East Kirkby** (DUR-B42FB9) (Fig. 8)[43] A copper-alloy likely candlestick leg, 50.9 mm long and weighing 31.5 g with a green/brown patina and with much detail lost to wear. The leg is decorated with two faces, a larger above and a smaller below. The larger is an idealised youthful male face, round and framed by thick clumps of hair, with two recesses for the eyes, perhaps once with a setting; traces of a triangular nose and slotted mouth. The hollow back likely housed an element to connect to the rest of the object. The smaller head is feline, the surviving modelling including the ears, recesses for eyes and perforations on the sides and front of the head to render the mouth. The leg terminates in a paw-like foot, with incised chevrons on its sides rendering stylised fur.

Legs of varying size in zoomorphic (felines above all, also griffins) and human form are common supporting members for Roman candles, lampstands, tripods, stools and tables. As a motif in its own right, this trapezophoric form is also 'borrowed' for other objects, especially knife handles, transcending its primary function. The translation of full-sized legs from stone, bronze and shale furniture into a confusing variety of miniaturised copper-alloy

[41] Found by N. Parnell. Recorded by T. Gilmore. T. Gilmore (2025) *WMID-7C901E: A Roman Vessel* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1199605 (accessed 17 March 2026).

[42] Biebrich-type inkwells, Artefacts ENC-4004, H. Eckardt, *Writing and Power in the Roman World, Literacies and Material Culture* (2018), 71–6. Bottles, Artefacts BTL-4003; see also Artefacts IND-4157, an enamelled base with similar decoration, perhaps from a candle holder, from a cremation burial at Mably, Loire.

[43] Found by R.E. Turnbull. Recorded by M. Robinson. M. Robinson (2024) *DUR-B42FB9: A Roman vessel* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1165498 (accessed 13 May 2026).



Fig. 8. East Kirkby, tripod leg (No. 8) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: H. Morris; © Durham County Council*).

forms complicates identifying the specific function of fragmentary and isolated examples like this.[44] The numbers of these documented by the PAS significantly augment the existing corpus.[45] In order to put the present item in context, the following paragraph therefore outlines the variety among the smaller zoomorphic and human trapezophoric supports for lighting equipment, using these new examples.

The commonest supports are the legs of tripod pricket candlesticks, a widespread mid-imperial object type occasionally documented in near-complete form, with elegant examples attested in the Bavay hoard, elsewhere in France, and from Merida and Banasa.[46] These share very slender legs below a stylised feline or griffin head and a clawed or cloven foot. PAS examples only survive as single legs, the best preserved from Collingham (Notts) surviving to its full length.[47] New similar-sized variants are documented among PAS examples. One group is distinctively modelled in the form of a griffin with a snake's body, documented at Thwing Roman villa (E. Yorks) and from near Wellingore, Lincs.[48] Another combines the animal head translated into a stylised beaked mouth and curving chest with a human leg rather than animal claw as support.[49] Similar objects in the form of straight human legs are also documented.[50] Similar, but thicker-legged, are the animal-leg supports

[44] E. Riha, *Kästchen, Truhen, Tische – Möbelteile aus Augusta Raurica,* Forschungen in Augst 31 (2001), 21.

[45] H. Eckardt, *Illuminating Roman Britain*, Monographies Instrumentum 23 (2002), 257; H. Eckardt, 'Heating and lighting', in L. Allason Jones (ed.), *Artefacts in Roman Britain: Their Purpose and Use* (2011), 180–93.

[46] Artefacts CHL-4013. D.M. Bailey, *A Catalogue of the Lamps in the British Museum, 4. Lamps of Metal and Stone, and Lampstands* (1996), 114, nos Q3947–8, pl. 153; Bavay, L. de Chavagnac and M. Feugère, 'L'eclairage et les objets de la sphère religieuse', in L. de Chavagnac and B. Mille, *Nouveaux regards sur le Trésor des bronzes de Bavay* (2019), 351–4, no. 189. Banasa, C. Boube-Piccot, *Les bronzes antiques du Maroc, II. Le mobilier* (1975), 298–9, n° 532, pl. 238. S.F. Pozo Rodríguez, 'Candelabra, candeleros, lampadophoroi y linternas antiguas de bronce halladas en Hispania', *Mainake* 40 (2022), 96–7, no. 24.

[47] Collingham, Notts (SWYOR-D27686); Steeple Bumpstead, Sufolk (SF-33BD41); Barnby in the Willows, Notts (DENO-203066); West Lindsey (LIN-505FA6); near Woodbridge Suffolk (SF-B89FD6), probable. Cf. M. Henig, 'Zoomorphic supports of cast bronze from Roman sites in Britain', *Archaeological Journal* 127 (1970), 185–6, no. 6.

[48] Nr Wellingore (LIN-A1DD21), Thwing, E. Yorks (FASW-D3A9FD), J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2016', *Britannia* 48 (2017), 432–3, no. 3.

[49] Sewards End, Essex (ESS-A5B0C2), very closely paralleled at Leigh, Wilts, (NMGW-C1B167) and likely fragmentary examples from Westhaston with Mells, Suffolk (SF-BBF2E8) and of unknown provenance (SOM-B90771).

[50] Glentham, Lincs (SWYOR-3057E1); near Cheddar, Somerset (SOM-80CF88). These are smaller than the legs for the exceptional standing figure from West Keal, Lincs (LIN-15CBCC), L. Brundle, 'Further details on the Roman figure with a circular socket from West Keal, Lincolnshire', *Britannia* 56 (2025), 373–83, possibly also Walkeringham, Notts (NLM-05E9AB).



Fig. 9. Bracebridge, ring (No. 9) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: R. Trevaskus; © Lincolnshire County Council*).

for small braziers perhaps used as incense burners.[51] Another form terminates above the animal head in a slotted sphere which articulates with another element, the latter attested in the Kirkby Lonsdale example by a corroded iron stub surviving in the slot.[52] These have some affinities with the miniature tripods known from the Bavay hoard, but are not similar enough to share their function.[53] The leg from Pidley cum Fenton, Cambs, is similar, albeit exceptional for the modelling of stylised animal detail, but articulates with connecting members in a different way.[54] The hoofed leg from Buriton, Hants, is likely to be part of a longer candelabrum, as is the trapezophoric foot from Leyburn, though as a vertical member on a large splayed paw it may be a tripod foot instead.[55]

Given its similarities with the candle feet outlined above, the East Kirkby leg shares a likely function as a lighting support. However, its distinctive two-headed form does not align it closely with any of these variants. Other supports which also combine a large human face with a leg offer partial parallels, but stand differently.[56] This new decorative variant is a further example of the widening use of artificial lighting that these PAS finds collectively represent. Their decoration is conventional, the feline forms lending themselves to the easy *otium* in a Bacchic neverland that much interior decoration evoked. But like the other beautiful boys who hold the lights in this company, the East Kirkby youth's supporting labour reifies enslavement as a natural order of things, underpinning the comfort of a few.[57]

(9) **Bracebridge** (LIN-37DDD1/2025 T128) (Fig. 9)[58] A large silver finger-ring, with some surface wear and damage, set with a red carnelian intaglio, with maximum external diameter of 28.3 mm, and broad hoop (14.5 mm wide), weighing 20.9 g. The finger-ring is D-shaped in cross-section, with an oval bezel for the intaglio and broad shoulders gradually tapering into the hoop. The intaglio is carved with a bust of Jupiter Serapis in profile with modius above an eagle framed by standards.

[51] Artefacts BEN-4007, with a very well-preserved example from the Bavay hoard, de Chavagnac and Feugère, op. cit. (n. 43), 351–4, no. 193, 112 mm high. Piercebridge (BM-CA5E3D), H. Eckardt and P. Walton, *Bridge over Troubled Water: The Roman Finds from the River Tees at Piercebridge in Context,* Britannia Monograph 34 (2021), 173–4; Buckland, Herts, claw foot (BH-A68473).

[52] Isleham (SF-9F9E15); Box (WILT-65A4BE); Great Barford, Leics (LEIC-7D8B32); Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria (LANCUM-829F52); Gussage St Michael, Dorset (DOR-64BC2D).

[53] Artefacts STP-4002, Bavay hoard, de Chavagnac and Feugère, op. cit. (n. 46), 354–6, no. 190, 103 mm high.

[54] Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 48, 2017), 450–1, no. 20 (CAM-43C844).

[55] Buriton (HAMP-076C63); Leyburn, N. Yorks (LANCUM-D9C603).

[56] E.g. Albury, Herts (BH-D2202A); Silverstone, Northants (BH-EE9948).

[57] J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2020', *Britannia* 52 (2021), 444–6, no. 7, West Keal, and other examples; N. Lenski, 'Working models: functional art and Roman conceptions of slavery', in M. George (ed.), *Roman Slavery and Roman Material Culture* (2013), 129–57.

[58] Found by S. Hudson. Recorded by L. Brundle. L. Brundle (2025) *LIN-37DDD1: A Roman finger ring* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1201133 (accessed 13 June 2026).



Fig. 10. Blyton, chain and pendant (No. 10) Scale 2:1 (*Photo: M. Preece; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

The corpus of silver finger-rings once or still carrying intaglios documented by the PAS now numbers more than 150.[59] This ring joins a notable concentration of silver rings with intaglios in Lincolnshire; in particular a group with figural motifs carved in carnelian gems, including the example under discussion, cluster to the north and south of Lincoln.[60] Close parallels to the image combining Serapis, eagle and standards are known from Sussex and (a sard) from Beckford, Worcs, allowing it be dated more closely to the late second to early third century A.D.[61] As a device the eagle is a common subject for Roman finger-rings and in military contexts had a likely protective potency for soldiers.[62] Given this example's date to the first to early-third centuries and its findspot close to Lincoln, a connection to the legionary community is not impossible.[63]

(10) **Blyton** (LIN-BE2D99/2025 T404 (Fig. 10)[64] A gold pendant and attached fragment of chain, the former 24.3 mm long, the latter *c.* 15 mm long, in total weighing 1.3 g.[65] Of the chain three gold-wire loops survive, albeit bent and misshapen, circular in cross-section and connected by a figure-of-eight loop-in-loop construction with each link turned by 90 degrees.[66] The upper attachment loop is lost, but at the other end the chain connects with a final loop to a drop-shaped pendant, over and around a hoop formed from the latter's back plate. A beaded border, soldered onto the pendant's surface, frames a single applied globule at the damaged narrow end. The pendant carries a crude repoussé design, perhaps a face, but difficult to identify.

The loop-in-loop chain form is widely paralleled across the empire, including instances from Britain, for example in necklaces from Snettisham, Norfolk, or Backworth, Tyne and Wear.[67] A similar drop- or leaf-shaped pendant is recorded from Wheathampstead, Herts, but two complete examples of chain and pendant are known from Britain, one a plain pendant from Byfield, Northants, *c.* 18 cm long and the other, *c.* 23 cm long with a pendant carrying a similar repoussé design of a possible mask, from the *c.* A.D. 300 hoard from

[59] It is not possible easily to make a direct comparison with the number exploited in Ian Marshman's analysis of signet ring use, but over half of these have been recorded since his project. I.J. Marshman, *Making Your Mark in Britannia,* PhD thesis, University of Leicester (2016).

[60] Examples include another Bonus Eventus Near Sleaford (LIN-443672), Torksey, charioteer (LIN-77D30B), Welby, boar (2024 T48: LIN-B7F466), Caythorpe, Fortuna (2003 T379: BM-50DED7), and Sleaford, standing figure (DENO-BF9800).

[61] Beckford, Henig, op. cit. (n. 23), 226, no. 357, pl. XII; Sussex, Barbican House Museum, Acc. No. A007.3.1; Marshman, op. cit. (n. 59), 122, cat. nos. 122.20–1.

[62] Henig op. cit. (n. 23), 15; Marshman, op. cit. (n. 57), 121–2.

[63] Guiraud, op. cit. (n. 24), 181.

[64] Found by M. Kirby. Recorded by M. Preece. M. Preece (2025) *LIN-BE2D99: A Roman pendant* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1211285 (accessed 17 Mar 2026).

[65] The chain length is taken from the photograph.

[66] For an illustration Johns, op. cit. (n. 24), 195, fig. 8.3.

[67] Snettisham (BM 1986, 0401.328); Backworth, Tyne and Wear (1850,0601.4).



Fig. 11. Harborough, *Trompetenmuster* mount (No.11) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: M. Harvey; © Derby Museums Trust*).

Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire. The latter's suspension loop was separated by a bar from the rest of the chain.[68] The silver chains suspended from paired brooches with similar pendants in the form of stylised ivy leaves from the Pitt-Rivers collection offers a partial parallel.[69] The Roman examples prefigure their proliferation in Byzantine ceremonial dress; for example in their mid-sixth-century mosaic portraits in S. Vitale, Ravenna, Justinian and Theodora wear pendants suspended from brooch (Justinian), collar and headdress (Theodora).[70]

Leicestershire

(11) **Harborough** (LEIC-AB7A67) (Fig. 11)[71] A complete copper-alloy belt mount in *Trompetenmuster* style with intertwined trumpet motifs, 37 mm in length, 25 mm wide and weighing 15.3 g. The design comprises S-forms with flared trumpet terminals. Four of these form two intertwined pairs that join at their terminals to frame a central opening. On opposed sides of this opening are roundels formed of a central boss framed by a narrow gully. Where each pair of S-forms crosses is a smaller opening that may have accommodated a rivet; however, it is possible they are part of the openwork design, mirroring the inner roundels. Two worn stubs on the reverse of the mount are probably the remains of the original integral rivets.

The design of this mount is unusual, though *Trompetenmuster* mounts in themselves are not uncommon with 126 examples known from Britain and 215 internationally. Another striking example of a *Trompetenmuster* fitting was also documented by the PAS in 2025 from near Abbess Roding, Essex.[72] In Britain they are concentrated across the areas north of the Thames and south of Lincoln, and east of the Pennines into southern Scotland. On the continent they are found along the Rhine and Danubian *limites* but outlier clusters are also known in Morocco and at Dura Europos, Syria. This distribution suggests a strong connection to the Roman armies, particularly on the frontiers. The *Trompetenmuster* style seems to have developed in the early Antonine period and remained in use until at least the A.D. 230s.[73] The apparent higher concentration in Britain is misleading since PAS finds account for a

[68] Wheathampstead, Herts (BH-8468CE/2015 T911); Byfield, Northants (NARC-24350B/2017 T823); H.J.M. Green, 'Romano-British hoard from Godmanchester', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 50 (1957), 85–6.

[69] From 'Uj-Sozny', i.e. Szőny, Hungary, part of Komárom, ancient *Brigetio* (BM 1991,0126.1).

[70] M. David, *Eternal Ravenna* (2015), 148–51.

[71] Found by A. Chamberlain. Recorded by M. Gard. M. Gard (2025) *LEIC-AB7A67: A Roman mount* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1234706 (accessed 11 May 2026).

[72] L. Rogerson (2025) *ESS-49B879: A Roman strap fitting* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1203248 (accessed 16 July 2026). See also Pearce and Worrell op. cit. (n. 17, 2022), 481–2, no. 7, Wetwang (NLM-214DFB), with references to further examples.

[73] E. Wood, *Britannia Under the Boot. Roman Militaria from the 'Civil Zone' of Southern England*, BAR Brit. Ser. 697 (2025), 102.



Fig. 12. Stanstead Abbots, belt fitting (No. 12) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: M. Fittock; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

substantial percentage of the data. Where Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands offers a comparable dataset because of its documentation of metal-detected material, the density of finds suggests a widespread use of the motif on mounts. When this data bias is accounted for, the strongest concentration of the mount form is perhaps along the Upper Danube in southern Germany and Austria.[74]

Hertfordshire

(12) **Stanstead Abbots** (BH-06DFB6) (Fig. 12)[75] A copper-alloy belt buckle of likely continental origin with a studded profile and a plate with punched decoration, worn with an even mid-green patina, 74 mm long, up to 41.1 mm wide and weighing 23.9 g. An angled pin bar, narrowing where the lost pin hinged, divides the D-form buckle into two zones, one smaller adjacent to the plate, the other larger and omega-shaped. Short projections stud both pin bar and buckle frame, plain on the former, grooved on the latter. Two such projections frame the pin-rest. The folded sheet for the rectangular buckle plate is joined by rivets at each corner. Where it folds around the buckle frame the plate has an aperture for the lost pin. It carries a repoussé swastika with pellets in each angle, framed by parallel lines of punched dots along the plate's margins edges.

A very large number (almost 800) of Late Roman belt fittings has been documented via the PAS. Many can be accommodated within the existing typologies developed for such finds from continental Europe and Britain.[76] This belt buckle has some affinities with other types, especially continental examples from the later fourth and fifth centuries. The use of separate bars to hinge the pin and connect to the buckle plate is a widely documented as a form of *c.* A.D. 350–425, the 'Teba' type, to use the most recent typological designator. The same feature is used to assign a type within the Hawkes and Dunning scheme for Late Roman belt buckles in Britain, albeit represented by examples which are not very typical of the wider type.[77] However, the studded frame finds parallels in other forms too, including

[74] https://portable-antiquities.nl/pan/#/public; J. Nicolay, *Armed Batavians* (2007), 52–4, 63, with references; J. Oldenstein, 'Zur Ausrüstung römischer Auxiliareinheiten. Studien zu Beschlägen und Zierat an der Ausrüstung der römischen Auxiliareinheiten des obergermanisch-raetischen Limesgebietes aus dem zweiten und dritten Jahrhundert n. Chr.', *Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission* 57 (1976), 234–5.

[75] Found by M. Steele. Recorded by M. Fittock. M. Fittock (2024) *BH-06DFB6: A Roman buckle* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1166242 Thanks to S. Laycock for comments.

[76] R. Henry, *Fractured Britannia. The Twilight of Roman Britain*, Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 137 (2026), 84.

[77] 'Teba' type, J. Aurrecoechea-Fernández, 'Late Roman belts in Hispania', *JRMES* 10 (1999), 55–62; Artefacts PLB-4013, S.C. Hawkes and G.C. Dunning, 'Soldiers and settlers in Britain, fourth to fifth century: with a catalogue



Fig. 13. Sarratt, bull figurine (No. 13) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: M. Fittock; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

those of later date.[78] Punched decoration for central motifs and border devices is also widely applied to diverse belt plates.[79] The similarities in one such group from Ickham, Kent, illustrates a possible shared maker.[80] As a solar motif widely deployed for its apotropaic value, for example as an openwork brooch form, the swastika is documented on other buckle plates and strap ends of similar late-fourth- to early-fifth-century dates.[81]

(13) **Sarratt (**BH-7940E9) (Fig. 13)[82] A small, solid-cast copper-alloy figurine in the form of a triple-horned bull, worn and corroded, especially on more prominent areas. The figurine is 48.3 mm long, 38.3 mm high and weighs 79.9 g. Thick-necked and squat-bodied, the bull stands with wedge-shaped head turned to the right. Three horns, worn and rounded, project from the head which otherwise preserves limited detail, save the left ear and rounded muzzle with traces of nostrils and mouth. A prominent dewlap sags from the ridged neck. Powerful shoulders, rump and upper legs are well defined. The right front leg and back left leg are bent, as if the animal is in motion, but lower legs are lost. A short tail curls back over the rump. Genitals are fully modelled, the scrotal sac hanging prominently between the hind legs.

This example joins a small corpus of similar figurines from Roman Britain, including a recumbent example from Hertfordshire also documented in 2025.[83] The British examples

of animal-ornamented buckles and related belt-fittings', *Medieval Archaeology* 5 (1961), 34, 56–9, type IIC, arguing for a post-Roman date, but the Roman dating for the type seems straightforward from many wider parallels. For an example with a studded frame from Aquileia, M. Feugère, 'Tra Costantino e Teodosio (IV–V secolo d.C.). Osservazioni sui militaria di Aquileia', *Aquileia Nostra* 83/84 (2012), 326–8, Tav. 3, 43.

[78] For other studded belt fittings: Artefacts PLB-4047, A.D. 400–500, e.g. from Aquileia, also with punched decoration, M. Feugère, ibid., 326–7, Tav. 2, 27, noting that this transverse grooving is very rare on Roman examples and more characteristic of sixth- to seventh-century buckles; PLB-4082, represented by an example from a villa at Châteauneuf-du-Rhône (Drôme), A.D. 350–425; a type IIA buckle from Charminster, Dorset (DOR-EBBD19), with plain mouldings more closely spaced.

[79] Hawkes and Dunning, op. cit. (n. 73), passim. PAS examples: Hopton, Suffolk (SF-359801); St. Mary Bourne (with a saltire), Hants (HAMP-BAE647); Hurstbourne Priors, Hants (SUR-F059A5); Broad Chalke, Wilts (SUR-CD9083); Chiddingstone, Kent (SUR-344778); Shrewton, Wilts (WILT-58EDD3); Salisbury, Wilts (WILT-0A3C54); the Deverills (WILT-05734E); continental examples, Artefacts PLB-4035.

[80] Ickham: S. Laycock pers. comm.

[81] Buckle plate with punched swastika, West Sussex (BM 2019,8022.63); Churchover, Warws, S.C. Hawkes, 'A late Roman buckle from Tripontium', *Trans. Birmingham and Warwickshire Arch. Soc.* 85 (1972), 145–58; S. Hirst and D. Clark, *Excavations at Mucking. The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries* (2009), 367, fig. 192, Gr 117/1 b. (BM 1970,0406.26.b). Strap ends: Benefield, Northants (RAH1497); Sculthorpe, Norfolk (NMS-65D691). Openwork brooches, mid-imperial, Artefacts FIB-4534 and FIB-4705, D. Mackreth, op. cit. (n. 36), 172–3, pl. 115.

[82] Found by M. Nisbet. Recorded by M. Fittock. M. Fittock (2025) *BH-7940E9: A Roman figurine* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1212625 (accessed 9 March 2026].

[83] E. Durham, 'Depicting the gods: metal figurines in Roman Britain', *Internet Archaeology* 31 (2012) https://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue31/2/3.35.2.html; Weaverham, Cheshire (LVPL-CB6114), similar pose to Sarratt: S.

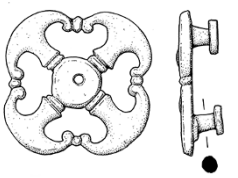


Fig. 14. Shouldham, harness fitting (No.14) Scale 3:4 *(Drawing: J. Gibbons; © Norfolk County Council)*.

are outliers of a wider north-western provincial distribution centred on Burgundy, where dated from first- to third-century A.D. contexts. Here larger figurines, notably a finely modelled bull from Avrigney, Haute Saône, present a similarly muscular body and thick, ridged dewlap, interspersed among many small bronzes more like the present example.[84] The figures otherwise show the same diversity as two horned examples (seated, standing, sometimes with *dorsuale* etc.) but their third horn likely manifests divine qualities such as superlative fecundity or strength, even 'a symbolic energy born of paradox'.[85]

Norfolk

(14) **Shouldham** (NMS-61238A) (Fig. 14)[86] A complete copper-alloy openwork cruciform (probable) harness fitting with mid-green patina, dating to *c.* A.D. 150–250, 29.2 mm long by 28.6 mm wide, 7.5 mm thick (plate and rivet) and weighing 5.5 g. The fitting is formed by four peltas projecting from a central disc, each joined to the next by their terminals and separated from the centre by a collar. The central disc has an off-centre perforation, which with the rivets projecting beneath each pelta enabled attachment to harness straps.

Parallels for this mount are widely documented, if of uncertain function, with varying attachment methods and sizes.[87] To take but a small range of examples, an example from Hatert (Nijmegen) is listed among horse fittings, while larger comparable examples from Viminacium and Apulum are identified as baldric phalerae.[88] On similar phalerae the peltas are inverted, butting against the hub at the centre.[89] The same configuration (cruciform with four peltas) is also adapted for openwork brooches, very closely on an example from the Ravensworth area, Co. Durham, and more generally in a larger third-century

Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2007: finds reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 39 (2008), 355–6, no. 5; Watlington, Oxon (BUC-668F82); Holbrook, Suffolk, similar, but with *dorsuale* (SF-DCB627); near Wragby, Lincs (LIN-B2326D); Recumbent, Benington (BH-6BF4C3).

[84] Artefacts STE-4283; P. Lebel and A. Colombet, 'Les taureaux à trois cornes', *Revue Archéologique de L'Est* 4 (1953), 108–35.

[85] O. Putelat, 'Le bestiaire polycère', *Revue de Paléobiologie* 10 (2005), 293–5; M. Green, 'Crossing the boundaries: triple horns and emblematic transference', *European Journal of Archaeology* 1.2 (1998), 219–40.

[86] Found by M. Coggles. Recorded by T. Heaton. Identified by E. Wood. T. Heaton (2025) *NMS-61238A: A Roman harness fitting* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1241666 (accessed 13 May 2026).

[87] S. James, *Excavations at Dura-Europos 1928-37 Final Report VII. The Arms and Armour and Other Military Equipment* (2004), 95–6, no. 318, fig. 43, with further references.

[88] Hatert: J. Nicolay, *Armed Batavians* (2007), pl. 75 no. 108.1. *Viminacium*: S. Redžić, *Roman Belt Sets on the Territory of Serbia from the I to the IV Century* TXXI, doctoral thesis, University of Belgrade (2013), no.162c; *Apulum*: D. Ciugudean, 'Roman bronze military equipment and harness in the collections of the Alba Iulia Museum. I. Belt and baldric plates', *Acta Musei Apvlensis* 54 (2017), 382, no. 10, pl. V.

[89] Banasa: C. Boube-Piccot, *Les bronzes antiques du Maroc, III. Les chars et l'attelage* III (1980), no. 386, pl. 85, 10.7 cm across, noting other examples. See also M.C. Bishop and J. Coulston, *Roman Military Equipment* (1993, 2nd edn), 191, fig. 124.1.

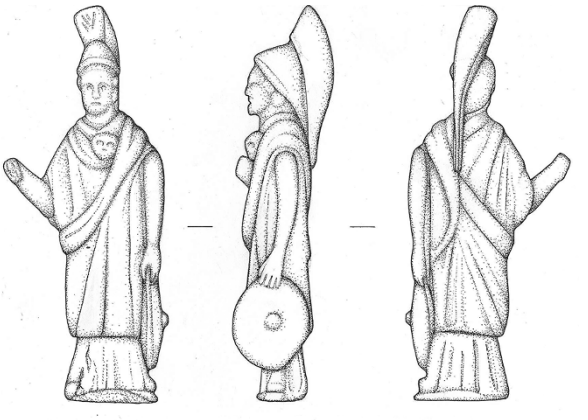


Fig. 15. Hawkedon, Minerva figurine (No. 15) Scale 3:4 (*Drawing: K. Howard; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

A.D. group from frontier settings.[90] [91] Reminiscent of *Trompetenmuster*-form mounts, this fitting likely dates from the Antonine period to the earlier third century. As a harness fitting it would be difficult to assign it specifically to either military or civilian use as by the mid-imperial period most types of harness furniture are in widespread use. As a baldric fitting, an identification that the central piercing might support, then a military association is stronger.

Suffolk

(15) **Hawkedon** (SF-D85FE7) (Fig. 15)[92] An incomplete copper-alloy figurine of Minerva, with worn and corroded surface detail, 74.5 mm tall, weighing 60.4 g. The figurine shares the canonical features of the standing goddess. Beneath a large, crested helmet are traces of curls which frame the face; the large eyes, nose and slot mouth are a little better preserved. The goddess wears a cloak, its heavy folds angled across her left shoulder and down her back. The aegis is visible as a small disc on her chest. The tunic beneath reaches the floor, swathing her feet, with the figure terminating in a flat base. Her left arm rests against her side, holding a circular bossed shield, while her right forearm is raised, reaching outwards with a now missing hand to hold a spear.

The god is documented in this and similar forms in many surviving copper-alloy figurines from Britain. Durham lists 31 examples mainly from eastern and southern England, though only one — a lead figurine in an aedicula from Greyhound Yard, Dorchester — has been closely dated from its stratified context, in this case to the late fourth century A.D.[93] At least ten further examples have since been documented by the PAS, as well as numerous mounts and steelyard weights in Minerva form.[94]

[90] Ravensworth area (DUR-3A62E6), with other examples in bronze and silver, M. Tache, *Fibules antiques celtiques, romaines, mérovingiennes* (2015), pl. MTF 72, no. 1997, silver; Artefacts FIB-41786.

[91] W. Jobst, *Die römischen Fibeln aus Lauriacum* (1975), 116–18, 210, Taf. 47, type 31, variant 1, e.g. no. 331. D. Mackreth, *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain* (2001), 172–3, type 7, pl. 115.

[92] Found by O. Wilkins. Recorded by A. Booth. A. Booth (2025) *SF-D85FE7: A Roman figurine* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1209766 (accessed 11 May 2026).

[93] Durham, op. cit. (n. 83), section 3.29, section 4.4.2, Greyhound Yard, no. 642.

[94] For other figurines, with further references, J. Pearce and S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2018: finds reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 50 (2019), 481–2, no. 15, Hailey (OXON-7B00CD; for busts from furniture mounts etc., J. Pearce and S. Worrell, op. cit. (n. 48, 2017), 431–2, no. 2, Ribchester (LANCUM-B19766); steelyard weights, Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020), 467–8, no. 25.



Fig. 16. Near Harlow, vehicle fitting (No.16) Scale 1:3 (*Photo: L. Rogerson; © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service*).

Essex

(16) **Near Harlow** (ESS-8AC18A/2025T310) (Fig. 16)[95] A copper-alloy vehicle fitting, 114 mm long, 100 mm high, 43 mm wide and weighing 116.2 g, with a light green patina. The object takes the form of a thick-bodied female leopard, modelled in the round on one side and hollow on the other, its forelimbs resting on a human head. Turning its head towards the viewer, the leopard squats on its hind quarters, tail tucked beneath its body and extending onto the narrow base, the latter hatched on three sides. Anatomical detail is both modelled in the round and incision, the latter giving stylised accentuation to muscles on haunch and shoulder. Incised circles on rump and neck prompt identification as a leopard. The feline head too combines three-dimensional modelling of the muzzle and incision of whiskers; the eyes take a distinctive lentoid form, with lids, eyeball and pupil clearly modelled. On the human head parallel striations form cap-like hair; a slot mouth is framed by a similar moustache and long beard, the latter extending onto the base. Further details include short parallel diagonal mouldings over the right orbit, likely brows, and curving shallow grooves above both eyes, perhaps a furrowed temple. Coiffure and beard identify this as a barbarian; his closed eyes suggest his death. On the back the animal body's green patina gives way to a recess with rough edges and interior surfaces, both with extensive traces of a lighter colour metal, perhaps solder. Iron traces by the legs and through the base are likely remnants of nails fixing the fitting in place.

This object's closest affinities are with vehicle fittings, rare finds in Britain, much better documented in central Europe where wagon burial reveals a rich array of decorative metalwork.[96] One parallel takes the form of a female feline, modelled on one side only. Of varying sizes and modes of attachment, pairs of these figures at the front of a vehicle sometimes framed a central group, usually divinities, illustrated by the fittings on the restored vehicle in the Römisch-Germanisches Museum in Cologne, based on an excavated example from Salonika.[97] A larger tigress figurine found near Great Dunham, Norfolk, is a

[95] Found by J. Jennings. Recorded by L. Rogerson. Identified by J. Pearce. L. Rogerson (2025) *ESS-8AC18A: A Roman vehicle fitting* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1201519 (accessed 27 March 2026). Thanks to Kaja Stemberger for enabling access to references and suggesting parallels.

[96] V. Ignatov, *Funeral Complexes with Carts in the Roman Province of Thrace*, National Archaeological Institute with Museum Dissertations 11 (2018).

[97] Boube-Piccot, op. cit. (n. 89), 22–6, fig. 10 bis. For the details of the reconstruction, C. Röring, *Untersuchungen zu römischen Reisewagen* (1983).

rare example of this type from Britain, with a slot on the back for attachment to a vehicle body.[98]

In its size and in the presence of a motif beneath the animal's front paw, the Harlow mount also resembles the yoke-end fittings for enabling attachment of draught animal collars; these comprise paired felines set symmetrically on either side of a horseshoe-shaped fitting, with a rod connecting the two medallions on which the animals rest their paws. Many have been identified in central Europe, dated to the first and second centuries A.D.[99] Rare examples from Britain include a distinctive fitting from Colchester, where a female panther rests its paw on a medallion carrying a Jupiter Ammon head and another from the Claudian-phase deposits at the river harbour in London.[100] However, the similarity is limited as such figures are fully modelled in the round. The Harlow fitting's interior with its traces of metal filling or solder resembles other mounts, for example like the bull figurine from Calbourne, Isle of Wight.[101]

Large felines, including panthers, leopards and tigers, are decorative motifs associated with Bacchus and his retinue (*thiasos*). The same reasons which explain their proliferation on household objects also account for their presence on vehicles, i.e. tokens of prosperity and abundance associated with the god.[102] Separate 'barbarian' figures do feature among vehicle fittings, for example hooks enabling suspension of vehicle bodies, but the resting of the leopard's paw on a severed barbarian head is, however, not easily matched.[103] This pairing evocatively combines beings from imperial peripheries, fierce human and animal 'others' tamed. The stylisation of some features, for example the animal's musculature, or the dead man's cap-like mass of hair, recalling that of bound captives and similar figures from Britain, may suggest local making.[104] A similar style choice is noted for the Regis house fitting.[105]

(17) **Near Brentwood** ESS-466663/2025T1038) (Fig. 17)[106] A complete gold necklace clasp, 25.3 mm long and weighing 2.2 g. The clasp comprises a circular openwork wheel formed by two beaded rings, the larger outer being connected to the smaller inner ring by a plain wire bent into a scrolling wave. Within the inner ring two opposed peltas are set back-to-back on a bar made in two parts, perhaps because of repair. This bar forms a loop at both ends, one bent back, the other twisted.

[98] Great Dunham (NMS-DB2ED6): Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 48, 2017), 445–8, no. 16. A slightly smaller example from Framlingham, 152 cm long (ESS-9049F3): Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020) 456–7, no. 15; cf. a similar figure from Banasa, Morocco: Boube-Piccot ibid., 213–15, no. 342.

[99] Artefacts APJ-4024; for some recent examples, with reconstructions image: D. Ratković, 'Wagon and harness bronzes from the Roman collection of the National Museum in Belgrade', in C. Franek *et al.* (eds), *Thiasos. Festschrift für Erwin Pochmarski zum 65. Geburtstag* (2008), 798–800; A. Starac, 'Elementi antičkih i kasnoantičkih kola iz Istre/Antique and late antique cart elements from Istria', *Diadora* 35 (2021), 38–9, figs 24–5; Ignatov, op. cit. (n. 96), 187, pl. 26, no. 6.3.2.2.

[100] Colchester, COLEM:JOS.1078; London, T. Brigham and B. Watson, *Early Roman Waterfront Development: Excavations at Regis House, City of London, 1994–96* (2024), 430–1, fig. 163. https://doi.org/10.48583/j7n8-vh88

[101] S. Worrell *et al.*, 'Roman Britain in 2010. II. Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 42 (2011), 399–437, no. 24 (BM 2010.8020.1).

[102] C. Johns, *The Hoxne Late Roman Treasure* (2010), 68–9. Ignatov, op. cit (n. 96), 253–5.

[103] Artefacts SCH-4004; SCH-4008.

[104] Bound captives: R. Jackson, 'Roman bound captives: symbols of slavery?', in N. Crummy (ed.), *Image, Craft and the Classical World. Essays in honour of Donald Bailey and Catherine Johns*, Monographies Instrumentum 29 (2005), 143–56 (e.g. HAMP-378231). Pins: J. Pearce and S. Worrell, op. cit. (n. 48, 2017), 427–56, no. 21; esp. Itchen Stoke and Ovington, S. Worrell, op. cit. (n. 34, 2006), 463, no. 33.

[105] Brigham and Watson, op. cit. (n. 100), 413–14.

[106] Found by B. Cowie. Recorded by P. Wickenden and L. Rogerson, with comments from Martin Henig. L. Rogerson (2025) *ESS-466663: A Roman necklace* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1232384 (accessed 15 June 2026).



Fig. 17. Near Brentwood, necklace clasp (No. 17) Scale 3:2 (*Photo: L. Rogerson; © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service*).



Fig. 18. Newington, knife (No. 18) Scale 3:4 *(Photo: L. Smith; © Oxfordshire County Council*).

This form is widely documented as both clasp and pendant for gold jewellery in the Roman empire, albeit more commonly in spoked form and sometimes more elegantly realised.[107] Parallels from Britain include necklace clasps from the mid-second-century hoards from Backworth, Northumberland, Dolaucothi, Carmarthenshire and (in three silver-gilt examples) Snettisham, Norfolk.[108]

Oxfordshire

(18) **Newington** (OXON-13E521) (Fig. 18)[109] A small copper-alloy broad-bladed knife with a mid-green/brown patina and some surface pitting, 76.7 mm long and weighing 16.2 g. The handle, sub-circular in section and expanding as it nears the blade, carries incised chevrons on all sides and ends in a small suspension loop. The blade is approximately triangular, with a straight upper edge continuing decoration from the handle, changing angle to curve towards the now blunt and rounded point and a curving lower edge.

[107] E.g. BM 1904,0603.1 (Jewellery 2375), said to be from Egypt; Lunnern, Switzerland: S. Martin-Kilcher *et al., Der römische Goldschmuck aus Lunnern (ZH): ein Hortfund des 3. Jahrhunderts und seine Geschichte* (2008), 77–85; for a more elegant example, see the two clasps on necklace from this hoard, 38–40, no. 8, Abb. 2.22–24.

[108] C. Johns op. cit. (n. 24), 92–3 figs 5.5–6; for Dolaucothi, see F.H. Marshall, *Catalogue of the Jewellery, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, in the British Museum* (1911), 319, no. 2741, pl. LX (BM 1824,K/Bulla.3).

[109] Found by E. Delabie. Recorded by L. Smith. L. Smith (2025) *OXON-13E521: A Roman razor* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1237053 (accessed 12 May 2026).

Similar knives interpreted as razors of Roman date have been documented by the PAS across East Anglia and central southern Britain.[110] Alternatively it might be a miniature version of the iron knives classified by Manning under Types 23–24 with curved back and broad blade, i.e. Iron Age forms continuing in use into the first and second centuries A.D. These, however, curve to an upturned tip and lack the abrupt change between straight and curved back seen in this case. The blade's proportions give it some affinity in miniature with the cleavers attested among surviving ironwork and as a common motif on altars, but in practice such blades are usually socketed.[111] The size in this and other cases suggests that the knife may have been a possible votive model rather than a functioning item.

Surrey

(19) **Woldingham** (SUR-BE686A) (Fig. 19)[112] An incomplete copper-alloy winged brooch with strongly articulated form and distinctive decoration. The brooch is 80 mm long, 14.5 mm wide and weighs 21 g. Its curving oval head carries a ring-and-dot motif within an incised triangle, with further incision along the edges. On its underside is a remnant of the integrally cast spring, now largely lost with the pin. The bow is sharply angled. It first takes triangular form, at more than 90 degrees to the head, carrying the same decoration. A second sharp change of angle follows, with the bow's two facets carrying the same ring-and-dot motif in eye-like configuration above the first of a pair of projecting triangular 'wings' or petals; these curve inwards towards a prominent disc. Beyond this the strongly ridged bow curves gently to the foot. The catchplate beneath is formed by the widening of the pronounced midline flange on the bow's underside.

This brooch has a close affinity with '*fibules à ailettes*' (*Flügelfibeln*), widely documented in Gaul, especially central-eastern France, and dated to the later first century B.C. and early first century A.D., exemplified by finds from the Titelberg oppidum (type 9).[113] The prominence of the central disc and associated 'wings' is shared with a variant documented in smaller numbers at Mont Beuvray and much further south at Montagnac (Hérault).[114] However, the distinctive 'eyes' are not paralleled in this type. The latter recall, albeit distantly, the eponymous features of *Augenfibeln* from lower Germany.[115] Alternatively they are testimony of insular adaptation of a continental form.

Hampshire

(20) **Overton (**SUR-0B07ED) (Fig. 20)[116] An enamelled copper-alloy plate brooch in the form of a hexagonal shield, 30 mm long, 15 mm wide and weighing 2.8 g. Small projections occur at each vertex and one on the top and bottom edges. Of the six triangular cells, four are

[110] Steeple Langford, Wilts, 60 mm (SUR-66284E); Southhill, Beds, 95 mm (BH-FBD78C); Amesbury, Wilts 52.1 mm (BERK-CA5ED9); Ardley, Oxon, 100.5 mm, with two holes in blade (BERK-5AFDC6); Emneth, Norfolk, 4 mm (NMS-654254); St Edmundsbury, Suffolk, 55 mm (SF-730E59); Hindlip, Worcs, 50.9 mm (WAW-74B532); Nettleton, Lincs, *c.* 64 mm (LIN-535BB3); Chichester, 54.9 mm (SUSS-E6FC82). For a small example, Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020) 468–9, no. 26, Codford (DEV-7068D3).

[111] W. Manning, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum* (1985), 118–19.

[112] Found by G. Blunden. Recorded by S. Maslin. Identified by M. Feugère. S. Maslin (2025) *SUR-BE686A: An Iron Age brooch* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1209359 (accessed 14 April 2026).

[113] Artefacts FIB-4048; S. Heeren and L. van der Feijst, *Fibulae uit de Lage Landen* (2017), 59–60, type 15; N. Gaspar, *Die keltischen und gallo-römischen Fibeln vom Titelberg*, Dossiers d'Archéologie du MNHA XI (2007), 28, 52, Abb. 17, 103, Taf. 20–1.

[114] Artefacts FIB-41800.

[115] Artefacts FIB-4492. Heeren and van der Feijst, op. cit. (n. 113), 71–6, Type 20, first half of first century A.D.

[116] Found by K. Pokora. Recorded and identified by S. Maslin. S. Maslin (2025) *SUR-0B07ED: A Roman brooch* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1219364 (accessed 13 June 2026].



Fig. 19. Woldingham, brooch (No. 19) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: S. Maslin; © Surrey County Council*).



Fig. 20. Overton, plate brooch (No. 20) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: S. Maslin; © Surrey County Council*).

inlaid with red enamel. These frame two of dark enamel and an empty central circular cell as a diminutive boss. The reverse carries the remnants of hinge lugs and catchplate. Brooches of this second- to early-third-century type, similar in form with varying enamel colours, come mainly from southern British findspots, including other instances close to Winchester, but with at least one outlier at Straubing, Bavaria.[117] Different variants are also documented elsewhere.[118] As a shield it is a protective device *par excellence* for a plate brooch; its form echoes the hexagonal shields sometimes feature in captured weapons on tropaia.[119]

(21) **Buckholt** (DOR-16581A) (Fig. 21)[120] An incomplete enamelled copper-alloy plate brooch, slightly bent, in the form of a narrow right shoe sole with rounded heel and pointed

[117] Mackreth, op. cit. (n. 36), 180–1, pl. 123, no. 7890. Artefacts FIB-41183; for further PAS examples, Boarhunt (HAMP-8EB104) and Chilcomb (SUR-357756), both Hampshire.

[118] Artefacts FIB-41758, London, Mackreth, op. cit. (n. 36), e.g. no. 7898, a more 'realistic' boss, no enamel; with detail of protective strip. Catton, N. Yorks (SWYOR-8A9170); Baston, Lincs (SWYOR-7CA262); Great Milton, Oxon (OXON-1DFF9B).

[119] E.g. Rome, tomb of Caecilia Metella; Tiliurium (Croatia) relief, D. Demicheli. 'Tiberius and his family on the epigraphic monuments from Dalmatia', in P. Kovács (ed.), *Tiberius in Illyricum* (2017), 9–39.

[120] Found by J. Truss. Recorded by C. Hayward-Trevarthern. C. Hayward-Trevarthen (2025) *DOR-16581A: A Roman brooch* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1237167 (accessed 15 Jun 2026).



Fig. 21. Buckholt, plate brooch (No.21) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: C. Hayward Trevarthen; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

toe, 37.5 mm long, 8.8 mm wide, weighing 3.1 g. The brooch carries a recess filled with red enamel and framed by reserved metal carrying small punched dots. Incised into the enamel is a possible female personal name.[121] A stub of a loop to attach a chain is visible at the heel. A double lug to hold the axis bar for the pin survives at the heel end and an incomplete catchplate at the toe.

Plate brooches in shoe sole form, the most popular skeuomorphic type, dated from the late first to third centuries A.D., are documented in more than 60 examples from the PAS. The Buckholt brooch is of the 'wide border' or second most popular type, framing a narrow enamel field in a common colour. Left and right soles are equally well represented in the 238 examples recently documented.[122] The distribution of PAS examples, spanning the typological range refined by Shaw, extends from East Yorkshire south across eastern and central southern England. The occurrence of a scratched name is exceptional; the only other inscribed examples carry love mottoes.[123]

Kent

(22) **Otterden** (KENT-123FE8/KENT-11714C/KENT-2152B4/KENT-12307C/KENT-123904) (Fig. 22)[124] Fragments of five copper-alloy digits, mainly solid fingertips, from a larger than life-size statue. The breaks are as corroded and patinated as the other surfaces, indicating fragmentation in antiquity. Altogether they weigh 308.7 g. The longest fragment is 56 mm, the shortest 30.4 mm, while the width varies, four fragments being between 17 and 17.5 mm wide and one 20.5 mm. They derive from different sections of the finger. One fragment (KENT-123904) likely comprises parts of proximal and medial phalanges, bent at the first joint; another (KENT-123FE8) has the medial and part of the distal phalanges, while the other three include the tip, distal phalanx (KENT-11714C, KENT-123904), and in one case (KENT-E4EC2C) also part of the medial phalanx. The phalange length demonstrates the superhuman dimensions. One fragment ((KENT-E4EC2C) is significantly thicker than the others (even without the wider parts of the digit surviving) and it is perhaps a thumb rather than a fingertip (KENT-11714C). KENT-123FE8, thinner than the others where it narrows on the distal phalange, is a possible little finger.

The solid character of the digit tips is typical of Roman bronze statuary, an artefact of metal flow in casting. The short-trimmed nails and cuticles suggest high-quality work, in

[121] The inscription will be published separately by Roger Tomlin.

[122] E. Shaw, *Best Foot Forward: The Social Significance of Representations of Feet and Footwear in the North-Western Provinces of the Roman Empire*, PhD thesis, Newcastle University (2022), 226–38, 242, type 2; Mackreth, op. cit. (n. 36), 179–80, pl. 123; R. Hattatt, *A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches* (2001), fig. 217, no. 1141.

[123] Artefacts FIB-4140.

[124] Found by R. and D. Goldsmith. Identified and recorded by I. Diggle, J. Ahmet and B. Croxford. The latest of the relevant entries supplies links for the others: I. Diggle (2025) *KENT-11714C: A Roman statue* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1200833 (accessed 23 April 2026).



Fig. 22. Otterden, statue fragments, to scale in suggested approximate position (No. 22) Scale 2:3 (*Photo: composite from images by I. Diggle; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

tandem with careful modelled phalanx form and proportions. The shared condition, quality of modelling and identification of a possible thumb fragment hint at likely derivation from a single hand; the bending of the finger at the only fragment where the first joint is preserved may better support the light flexing of some digits rather than the gripping of an object. This can be paralleled in other examples, for instance larger than life-size bronzes at Caerleon.[125] They contrast with much more flexed hands from London.[126] The Otterden fragments join numerous others from monumental bronze statues documented by the PAS.[127] Their fragmented condition typically frustrates identification of subjects, human or divine, and in this case context offers little further help, being some distance from known sanctuaries or urban settings which might have housed a statue on this scale. The same factors make it impossible to decide between breakage for procuring a valuable metal resource or for enabling distribution of objects with continued symbolic potency.[128]

West Sussex

(23) **Stonham** (SUSS-97ED42) (Fig. 23)[129] A terminal from an axle linchpin of late Iron Age to early Roman date, 61.8 mm long, at the widest 58.2 mm, weighing 105 g. The copper-alloy crescentic head carries enamelling and incision on one side and is plain on the other, with a mid-green patina. Its socket houses the surviving end of the iron shank, with lugs on either side housing an axis bar surviving *in situ*.

On its decorated side the head is divided into crescentic panels separated by reserved metal, a smaller panel being framed by a larger. Decoration within each panel is organised symmetrically, interlocking reserved metal and coloured champlevé enamel inlay. The larger panel is organised around a lyre loop in reserved metal, framing cells with yellow inlay; it extends on either side in S-coils, narrowing then flaring and bounded by red inlay. Where the S-coils thicken into lobes at the terminal edge they frame yellow-inlaid cells. At

[125] R. Brewer, *Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani: Great Britain. Vol. 1. Fasc. 5,Wales* (1986), 32–3, nos 45–6.

[126] P. Coombe *et al., Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani: Great Britain. Vol. 1. Fasc. 10. Roman Sculpture from London and the South-East* (2016), 117–19, nos 215–20 (pl. 80–1), for example solid-cast fingers from Fenchurch St (nos 219–20).

[127] P. Coombe *et al.*, 'A fragment of a monumental bronze statue, Lincoln', *Britannia* 50 (2019), 349–59; Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020), 459–60, no. 18, St Michael Herts (BH-0B9D64).

[128] B. Croxford, 'Metal sculpture from Roman Britain: scraps but not always scrap', in K. Troels Myrup and S. Lea (eds), *The Afterlife of Greek and Roman Sculpture: Late Antique Responses and Practices* (2016), 27–46.

[129] Identified and recorded by J. Clark. J. Clark (2025) *SUSS-97ED42: An Iron Age linch pin* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1224442 (accessed 30 March 2026).



Fig. 23. Stonham, linch pin (no. 23) Scale 2:3 (*Photo: J. Clark; © The Portable Antiquities Scheme*).

the centre of the smaller panel is an inverted trumpet framing a hemispherical cell with yellow inlay; to either side are red inlay cells whose tips extend to the margins of the crescent and onto the junction with the socket. The latter carries a roundel, also with red and yellow inlay. Decoration on the reserved metal adds further intricacy, with incisions both following the metal's outline and subdividing it into further zones, some of which carry punched stippling.

Linchpins served to fasten axles to wheel hubs. Among the more than 180 examples of Iron Age and Roman date now recorded by the PAS are *c.* 20 examples like this, characteristic of Spratling's Group II, i.e. 'crescent-headed' linchpins. Several combine curvilinear enamelled inlay and reserved metal, amplifying the decorative repertoire identified by Spratling.[130] In arrangement and motif this decoration closely resembles that on terrets of crescentic form, also documented through many more PAS examples.[131] The enamel inlay colours may date this linchpin, like the terrets, to the early first century A.D.[132] The application of curvilinear motifs to complex geometric effect is testament to investment in vehicle decoration predating the figural repertoire introduced by Roman conquest (cf. no. 16).

East Sussex

(24) **Near Eastbourne** (SUSS-009B37) (Fig. 24)[133] A small cylindrical copper-alloy mount or sceptre-head, 37.2 mm high, 15.9 mm wide at the base, and weighing 15.4 g. The mount has

[130] M.G. Spratling, *Southern British Decorated Bronzes of the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age*, PhD thesis, University of London (1972), vol. I, 56–8, vol. III, fig. 38. Brayton, N. Yorks (YORYM-A26E26); Yoxall, Staffs (WMID2798); Shropshire marches (HESH-20D20A; HESH-1188AD), albeit crescent wider and thinner; Wymondham (NMS-690256) and Scarning (NMS-690256), Norfolk; Wenhaston, Suffolk (SF-1C670A); Great Easton, Essex (ESS-E14874); Coberley, Glos (GLO-DB46F). A linch pin complete with iron shank is recorded from Adisham, Kent, crescentic but not decorated (KENT-4CB117), Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020), no. 21, 462–3.

[131] A. Lewis, *Iron Age and Roman-era Vehicle Terrets from Western and Central Britain: An Interpretive Study*, PhD thesis, University of Leicester (2015), 179; Spratling ibid., vol. I, 31–4 (Group VIIIA), vol. III, figs 20–8). Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2024), 395–6.

[132] Lewis, ibid., 108.

[133] Found by D. Wood. Recorded by J. Clark. J. Clark (2025) *SUSS-009B37: A Roman sceptre*: https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1235211 (accessed 14 May 2026).



Fig. 24. Near Eastbourne, sceptre terminal (No. 23) Scale 3:4 (*Photo: J. Clark; © Sussex Archaeological Society*).

a dark patina and traces of gilding in the recesses of neck and head as well as in the socket's grooves. With some small losses to damage and wear, the slightly tapering socket carries iron staining on its inner surface. Just below the junction with the long-necked head which tops the mount two grooves run around its circumference. The wear to the head obscures the nature of the headgear, which includes a thick band ringing the head from brow to neck and a brim broadening at the back, perhaps a helmet. Rows of short diagonal lines decorate the back and sides of the head, rendering details of helmet or hair, while a patch of iron corrosion is preserved on the top. Wear has erased detail on the clean-shaven face; outsize eyes frame a broad nose, above a narrow mouth and rounded chin. The hair is rendered in rope-like strands on either side of the face and in moulded curls low on the neck. A moulding at the base of the neck carrying short diagonal grooves with a double projection at the front is a likely torc with prominent terminals. A further collar moulding forms the junction with the socket.

This is a likely head of a sceptre, i.e. a short staff carried to express religious(?) authority. Of these only the metallic fittings, i.e. terminals and bindings, typically survive as metal-detected and excavated examples.[134] The traces of iron corrosion may be residues from an iron core within the staff to which the mount was attached, attested in the second-century burial from Brough on Humber, E. Yorks, which contained elements of two sceptres including terminals in the form of Mars, shaft elements and sockets containing such cores.[135] As a helmeted figure this terminal may be another representation of Mars, as attested in sceptre-heads recorded by the PAS from Lincolnshire.[136]

Gloucestershire

(25) **Withington** (GLO-2F7D7D) (Fig. 25)[137] A copper-alloy circular plate brooch with a worn sheet-metal applique and gilding, 28 mm in diameter, weighing 15.1 g with partial preservation of decorative detail. Over the copper-alloy plate is a *c.* 6 mm thick central disc overlain by a thin white metal appliqué. This carries a human face in high relief and framing elements. From a central parting the hair is drawn outwards and downwards in thick strands on either side of the face. Beneath a prominent brow the eyes are lenticular, with raised edges for their lids and a circular pupil; they frame a triangular nose above a slot-like mouth and smooth chin. Much detail is lost but the head was framed by punched circles

[134] A. Esposito, *Performing the Sacra: Priestly Roles and Their Organisation in Roman Britain*, Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 53 (2019), 37–47. For more recent PAS examples with further references, see Ryedale hoard (YORYM-870B0E), Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 57, 2021) 438–42, no. 7; Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2025), 473–4, no. 11 Boxworth (CAM-4E170C), for the most recently published PAS (possible) example.

[135] Esposito ibid., 38–9; P. Corder and I. Richmond, 'A Romano-British interment, with bucket and sceptres, from Brough, East Yorkshire', *Antiquaries Journal* 18 (1938), 68–74.

[136] Nettleham, Lincs (LIN-71ECB3); Wragby, Lincs (YORYM-36E9D2) and Wickenby, Lincs (NLM-5FBEB7).

[137] Found by S. Hall. Recorded by K. Adams. K. Adams (2025) *GLO-2F7D7D: A Roman brooch* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1208511 (accessed 12 March 2026).



Fig. 25. Withington, brooch (No. 25) Scale 1:1 (*Photo: K. Adams; © Bristol City Council*).

and a scrolling motif, better preserved beneath the chin, and an outer gilded edge. On the underside of the brooch part of the catchplate and a double lug housing part of the pin survive.

This brooch has affinities with two plate brooch forms known from continental Europe. It recalls the so-called *Kapselfibel/Dosenfibe*l plate brooches which take their name from their box-like central medallion in the form of a female head with similar framing motifs. These are found across continental Europe with a concentration in transfrontier Hungary in graves of third-century date.[138] Snake-like hair allows some of these faces to be identified as those of gorgons. Unlike this example, however, the portrait on these brooches is typically added as a cast glass medallion. The Withington brooch also recalls examples from a mixed group of brooches of first-century A.D. date with a sheet-metal appliqué in portrait form at the centre.[139] However, the slightly closer affinities with the first type may indicate a similar date for the Withington brooch.

Bath and North-east Somerset

(26) **West Harptree** (WILT-BFF9E2) (Fig. 26)[140] A copper-alloy lion protome, re-used as a steelyard weight, 95.8 mm long and 67.5 mm wide, weighing 948 g, corroded on the right side with a lighter patina than on the head and left. Facial features and mane are rendered in detail, with prominent brows and wide-open large eyes above a muzzle on which whiskery detail is reproduced with close-set lines. The mane rises in thick clumps on head and neck, with parallel striations for individual strands of fur; these continue onto the body and upper legs. The latter stretch forward, paws splayed. The lion clasps a broken ring in the right side of its mouth with a small copper-alloy loop. The body ends in a copper-alloy plate, extending on both sides and incised with crudely rendered lines, very approximately parallel; some of these frame sequences of punched dots. This plate forms the junction with a sub-hemispherical lump of lead, added to repurpose the handle as a steelyard weight. The attachment method is not clear and there is little space for any further element of the handle or shank surviving in the lead mass.

The likeliest original use of the lion protome is as a key handle, these being widely documented across the Roman provinces: for example, more than ten are previously recorded

[138] Artefacts FIB-41689. S. Raux *et al.*, 'Une fibule en bronze à tête de Méduse en verre découverte à Allonnes (FR, Sarthe)', *Instrumentum* 56 (2022), 17–22, with references. V. Bârcă, 'Disc brooches of box/capsule type (*Dosenfibel/Kapselfibel*) in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain. A few notes on their dating and origin', in V. Bârcă (ed.), *Orbis Romanus and Barbaricum* (2016), 251–82.

[139] Artefacts FIB-4129. M. Feugère, *Les fibules en Gaule méridionale, de la conquête à la fin du Ve siècle ap. J.-C.* (1985), type 27a2.

[140] Identified by M Broomfield and M. Henig. M. Broomfield (2025) *WILT-BFF9E2: A Roman key (locking)* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1224803 (accessed 10 March 2026). Thanks to Sabine Faust for comments.



Fig. 26. West Harptree, steelyard weight (No. 26) Scale 1:2 (*Photo: S. Hawke; © Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum*).

by the PAS.[141] A similar lion is documented from Augst.[142] Roman steelyard weights sometimes take figural forms, often purpose-made in anthropomorphic form, comprising busts or heads of gods, emperors and empresses, youths, athletes and so on.[143] These are occasionally documented among PAS finds.[144] However, more relevant to the present case are the weights which commonly re-use figural elements, especially from furniture, including the decorative appliqués from couch *fulcra*, with a repertoire including Bacchic figures and animals.[145] The present example is a very distinctive instance of re-use, joining other examples from Britain which are more consistent with this wider practice of re-using Bacchic *thiasos* figures. From Britain, the mounts with busts of a maenad (Nursling), Diana (Great Chesterford), Silenus (Richborough) and a youth (Cupid?, Rampisham) are further instances of the same phenomenon, with lead masses and sometimes surviving suspension loops from

[141] Pearce *et al.*, op. cit. (n. 3, 2025) Gussage St Michael (DOR-0A93D7), 491–2, no. 27; J. Schüster, 'Springhead metalwork', in E. Biddulph, R. Seagar Smith and J. Schüster (eds), *Settling the Ebbsfleet Valley* (2011), 265, overview of zoomorphic types.

[142] A. Kaufmann-Heinimann, *Die römischen Bronzen der Schweiz I. Augst und das Gebiet der Colonia Augusta Raurica* (1977), 132, no. 220, Taf. 142–3 (see also 131–5, nos 217–19, 221–4).

[143] N. Franken, *Aequipondia. Figürliche Laufgewichte römischer und frühbyzantinischer Schnellwaagen* (1994), 115–18. F. Rodríguez Martorell and J. Ruiz de Arbulo Bayona, 'Un *aequipondium* de peso excepcional y la balanza pública del puerto de Tarraco', *Archivo Español de Arqueología* 89 (2016), 171–3. For an example from Britain: M. Henig, 'Steelyard weight', in J. Timby, *Excavations at Kingscote and Wycomb, Gloucestershire* (1998), 183–6.

[144] Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020), 468, for a summary of PAS finds.

[145] Franken, op. cit. (n. 143), 203–7. S. Faust, *Fulcra: figürlicher und ornamentaler Schmuck an antiken Betten*, MDAI, Römische Abteilung. Ergänzungsheft 30 (1989), e.g. nos 87, 405. For provincial examples in Bacchic forms: J. Déchelette, *Ville de Roanne. Catalogue du Musée Municipal* (1895), 89, no. 594, Silenus; N. Franken *et al.* 'Balances et poids du trésor de Bavay', in L. de Chavagnac and B. Mille, *Nouveaux regards sur le Trésor des bronzes de Bavay* (2019), 370–1, no. 208, maenad with hook and lead mass; A. Leibundgut, *Die römischen Bronzen der Schweiz II Avenches* (1976), 76–7, no. 73, Taf. 52, maenad, with further examples.

their afterlife as weights.[146] All these figures are also documented among re-used mounts from *fulcra* elsewhere.[147]

Swindon

(27) **Near Swindon** (WILT-BD4B5F) (Fig. 27a–f)[148] A group of four copper-alloy vessels, comprising a Hemmoor bucket, two cups and a spouted jug. The cups, one inside the other, were placed within the bucket and the jug was laid on its side above them. After reporting in 2022 with the vessels and soil fill still within it, the bucket and its contents were subsequently X-rayed, clarifying the positions of the vessels (Figs 27a–b). Excavation and conservation followed at Historic England before display at Swindon Museum.[149]

The bucket is largely complete but fragile with some detached fragments, 135 mm in height with a diameter of 240–245 mm. Its concave base is heavily patched. A low narrow pedestal supports the vessel, with a corroded mass of likely solder between it and the body (Fig. 27c). Thin straight sides (*c.* 1 mm thick) flare slightly at the rim, from which triangular lugs rise to enable the attachment of the cast handle, still in place. The flat-bottomed and broad-bellied jug is 190 mm tall from base to spout and 140 mm in diameter at its widest on the lathe-turned body, the latter dented and holed (Fig. 27d). The two cups, both lathe-spun, of similar form and height (120 mm), swell from the base to a wide belly and taper to the rim (Figs 27e–f). One is much narrower than the other (90 mm *versus* 120 mm in diameter), allowing it to be placed inside the larger. Mineralised traces of plant packing survive on the surface of the jug and one cup.

The bucket is a squat version of the 'Hemmoor' type, produced from *c.* A.D. 160–170 to the mid-third century. This example's size lies in the centre of the documented range.[150] Its findspot lies at the western extremity of the type's distribution, which extends eastwards across Europe to Scandinavia and Ukraine.[151] Within Roman frontiers such buckets occur commonly within structured deposits, as here, or as fragments in settlement assemblages. They are rare finds in Britain, including two examples in the Drapers Garden vessel group from London, one containing a coin hoard from Beachy Head and burnt fragments from

[146] Rampisham (DOR-45611B), Pearce and Worrell, op. cit. (n. 16, 2020), 467–8, no. (25). For Nursling and other examples, M. Henig, 'The maenad bust in the British Museum', in R. Henry and A.C. King 'Iron Age and Roman Nursling: a review of current evidence and surviving artefacts' *Hampshire Studies* 80 (2025), 99–100. For the Great Chesterford weight (BM 1865,0408.12, 'bust of a maenad') Sabine Faust (pers. comm.) notes that, despite the absence of a quiver, this is a bust of Diana, not a maenad, identifiable from the topknot and tunic.

[147] For Artemis/Diana as a recurring *fulcrum* figure, Faust, op. cit. (n. 145), 100–2, examples of re-use as weights from Trentino (ibid., 210, no. 379,) and Rome (Franken, op. cit. (n. 143), 205, Taf. 125 a–b. For maenads and others from retinue of Bacchus in similar ecstatic pose, Faust op. cit. (n. 145), 99–100, 105–9.

[148] The group was found by L. Davies and recorded and identified by A. Tanner. A. Tanner (2022) *WILT-BD4B5F: A Roman hoard* https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1086302 (accessed 13 June 2026).

[149] The group was found and reported in 2022 and subsequently acquired by Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. Investigations at Historic England comprising radiography, micro-excavation, pXRF and conservation were undertaken by Karla Graham (*X-radiography Report 2: PAS Wiltshire. BD4B5F*) and Carola Del Mese (conservation) (*Investigative Conservation Report: PAS Wiltshire. BD4B5F*). This entry briefly presents this group and its context, drawing on these reports.

[150] A. Koster, 'Het bronsdepot van Nistelrode', in R. Jansen *et al., Bewoningsdynamiek op de Maashorst. De bewoningsgeschiedenis van Nistelrode van Laat-Neolithicum tot en met de Volle Middeleeuwen*, Archol rapport 48 (2007), 443; M. Luik, 'Ein Hemmoorer Eimer von Rainau-Dalkingen, Ostalbkreis, Baden-Württemberg', *Germania* 91 (2013), 120, 126–9.

[151] A. Bursche and K. Myzgin, 'The Gothic invasions of the mid-third c. A.D. and the Battle of Abritus: coins and archaeology in east-central Barbaricum', *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 33 (2020), 205, map 2; Luik, *ibid.*, 118–19.



Fig. 27. Vessel group near Swindon: (a) before excavation; (b) X-ray; (c) Hemmoor bucket before excavation and conservation; (d–f) flagon, wider and narrower cups after conservation and cleaning (No. 27) (*a, d–f: Photos, Carola del Mese; © Carola del Mese/Historic England; b: photo, Karla Graham; © Karla Graham/Historic England; c: photo R. Trevaskus; © Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum*).

third-century burials at Brougham, Cumbria.[152] There are also occasional metal-detected fragments documented from East Anglia.[153]

Spouted sheet bronze jugs are also widely found in north-western Europe, within and beyond Rome's frontiers, including complete examples from burial and river finds. With a handle, mouth and spout made as a single entity, this second-century type was used for water heating, attested by the lime scale often found on the interior.[154]

The cups are harder to parallel, there being few in copper alloy of any type. The closest parallels are silver, especially the well-preserved smaller cups in the Chaourse hoard, respectively 8.4 cm high and 8.75 cm high.[155] Their form also echoes the forms of some late Roman ceramic beakers, for example a group probably made in Trier.[156]

Hemmoor buckets occur in varied combinations with other copper-alloy vessels, often in much larger structured deposits, some of which connect to wine preparation and consumption.[157] Here the assemblage is specific to that purpose, comprising vessels for heating water, mixing it with wine and drinking. This co-occurrence is occasionally paralleled in other structured deposits, for example the jug, bucket and beakers with other copper-alloy vessels buried in a cauldron in a late-third- to fourth-century A.D. context from Argentomagus (Indre), where residue analysis supports the use of the vessels for wine preparation.[158] Rather astonishingly this combination of beakers, spouted jug and buckets is exactly paralleled in the vessels stacked in the tableau of domestic luxury carved on the interior of the late-third- or early-fourth-century sarcophagus from Simpelveld (Limburg, Netherlands).[159] While the vessel combination evokes Roman-specific drinking styles, the careful deposition of used vessels echoes long-lived local practice linked to collective consumption, its scarp slope findspot being only a few kilometres east of the Chiseldon cauldrons buried 600 years or so before.[160]

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[152] R.F. Bland, 'The 1973 Beachy Head treasure trove of third-century antoniniani', *Numismatic Chronicle* 19 (1979), 61–107; H.E.M. Cool. *The Roman Cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria,* Britannia Monograph 21 (2004), 374–5; J. Gerrard, 'The Drapers' Gardens hoard: a preliminary account', *Britannia* 40 (2009), 171, nos 2–3.

[153] Rattlesden, Suffolk (SF-421AA0), Great Dunham, Norfolk (NHER4188), in both cases handle attachment mounts, cast separately from the bucket in the form of a female head, paralleled in continental examples, e.g. Otterstadt, Rheinland-Pfalz, and Nistelrode, Noord-Brabant (Luik, op. cit. (n. 150), 122, fig. 6.2; Koster, op. cit. (n. 150), 456–7).

[154] Artefacts CRU-4008A. A. Koster, *Description of the Collections in the Provinciaal Museum G.M. Kam at Nijmegen XIII. The Bronze Vessels 2* (1997), 30–35, nos 10–13; H. Cool, *Eating and Drinking in Roman Britain* (2006), 137–40.

[155] H.B. Walters, *Catalogue of the Silver Plate (Greek, Etruscan and Roman) in the British Museum* (1921), 45, nos 176–8 (BM 1890,0923.10 and 1889,1019.1).

[156] P. Booth (pers. comm.) notes echoes of the form in late Roman ceramic traditions, most closely among some likely Trier-produced fourth-century beakers, e.g. R. Symonds, *Rhenish Wares, Fine Dark Coloured Pottery from Gaul and Germany*, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology Monograph 23 (1992), fig. 50, nos 860–2.

[157] For example, the larger Drapers Garden or Nistelrode hoards: Gerrard, op. cit. (n. 152); Koster, op. cit. (n. 150), 439–86.

[158] Y. Rabasté, 'Un service à vin en alliage cuivreux à Argentomagus', *Archéopages – Archéologie et société* 39 (2013), 102–3, https://doi.org/10.4000/archeopages; Y. Rabasté, 'Saint Marcel – Les Mersans', *ADLFI. Archéologie de la France – Informations – Centre-Val de Loire* (2016), fig. 3, https://journals.openedition.org/adlfi/46756

[159] Luik, op. cit. (n. 150), 123, Abb. 7.

[160] A. Baldwin and J. Joy, *A Celtic Feast. The Iron Age Cauldrons from Chiseldon, Wiltshire* (2016).