

## II. Finds Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme

By SALLY WORRELL and JOHN PEARCE

### INTRODUCTION

The Portable Antiquities Scheme was established in 1997 as an initiative to record archaeological objects found by members of the general public and was extended to the whole of England and Wales in 2003.<sup>1</sup> Surveys of Roman period finds recorded by the PAS have been published in *Britannia* annually since 2004. This ninth report gives an overview of the finds reported in 2011 and of their character and distribution. As in previous reports, descriptions then follow of significant individual artefacts recorded by Finds Liaison Officers in the year concerned, selected because of their iconography and/or their contribution to the understanding of object type or distribution, in some cases being items not previously recorded in the repertoire of small finds from the province. In this year's report the opportunity is also taken to review the evidence reported to the PAS for a specific category of artefact, namely objects for which an association with the Roman army is likely, including earlier finds as well as objects reported in 2011.

### OVERVIEW

Almost 25,000 artefacts of Roman date were recorded on the PAS database in 2011, a figure that, as in previous years, includes those finds to which a date has been attributed that spans the late Iron Age and early Roman period. Table 1 shows the number of Roman non-ceramic artefacts recorded on the database by county and grouped by PAS region, as well as the two numerically most significant categories of finds, coins and brooches.<sup>2</sup> This abbreviated form of reporting replaces the former scheme, in which all non-ceramic finds were presented in functional groupings. With the exception of brooches, numbers of other individual non-coin finds in any one year are small and they are not presented in detail this year. The eight previous reports in which the data have been fully presented provide a sufficiently substantial sample to establish the general characteristics of PAS finds on a province-wide and regional basis. They allow general and regional profiles for metal-detected finds to be compiled against which individual groups of PAS and excavated finds can be compared.

The 2011 finds recorded by the PAS comprise 21,929 metallic items, primarily coins (18,222). This is the largest number of metallic finds to have been reported in a single year of operation of the PAS.<sup>3</sup> 2,948 fragments of Roman pottery were also reported, as well as small quantities of architectural material (tesserae, wall plaster and tiles) and ceramic and stone objects, including

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

<sup>2</sup> As in previous years, the data for 2011 include only a small quantity of the many artefacts recorded from Norfolk, although all records have been entered onto the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

<sup>3</sup> Coins from hoards are not included in the statistics presented in Table 1. Full publication of hoards is still provided through the Coin Hoards of Roman Britain series. Details of some hoards are also available on the PAS database and the construction of a complementary database for recording hoards from Britain is planned.

TABLE 1. NUMBERS OF NON-CERAMIC ARTEFACTS RECORDED BY THE PAS IN 2011 BY REGION AND TYPE

	Coins	Brooches	All non-ceramic objects
<b>Wales</b>			
Denbigh	1	1	2
Pembroke	3		3
Wrexham	1		1
Carmarthen	4		4
Monmouth	104	18	140
Powys	9	3	13
Glamorgan	24	20	52
Bridgend	2	2	4
Gwynedd	2	2	3
Newport	12	4	18
Swansea	3	1	5
Caerphilly	3		3
Flintshire	1		1
Torfaen	3		3
Cardiff			1
Conwy	5		6
<b>England</b>			
Northumbd	29	2	42
Durham	13	2	17
N Yorks.	343	88	511
E Yorks.	1365	110	1534
S Yorks.	45	29	83
W Yorks.	55	11	77
N Lincs.	124	21	171
NE Lincs	57	2	60
Cleveland	4		4
Cumbria	90	13	146
Cheshire	37	22	60
Lancs.	23	2	37
Merseyside	48		51
Lincs.	1970	189	2366
Notts.	382	89	525
Derbys.	26	13	43
Herefs.	54	23	103
Shrops.	52	51	100
Staffs.	51	38	104
Leics.	402	102	558
Rutland	5	5	11
Worcs.	64	35	105
Warwicks.	173	32	222
Northants.	400	33	478
Norfolk	89	26	163
Suffolk	1110	120	1509
Cambs.	849	37	908
Essex	351	53	446
Beds.	285	54	374
Herts.	426	37	494
Bucks.	1264	61	1449
Oxon.	730	54	833
Gt.London	174	1	183
Hants.	834	51	950

*Continued*

TABLE 1. CONTINUED

	Coins	Brooches	All non-ceramic objects
Berks.	548	21	583
IOW	320	27	368
Surrey	593	14	637
W Sussex	85	38	132
E Sussex	74	11	91
Kent	1093	34	1195
Wilts.	1451	110	1637
Glos.	391	86	490
Avon	995	34	1064
Somerset	333	99	474
Dorset	183	28	217
Devon	50	2	53
Cornwall	5	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>18222</b>	<b>1966</b>	<b>21929</b>

querns and weights. As in previous years, coins are the most common Roman artefact recorded: the 18,222 individual coin finds recorded in 2011 account for 83 per cent of the total of metallic finds and include 12 Greek and Roman Provincial coins.<sup>4</sup> The Roman coins reported this year represent a further significant addition to the *c.* 109,000 instances recorded by the end of 2010<sup>5</sup> and reflect the enduring impact of the initiative to record large assemblages of Roman coins *in toto*. The regional distribution of the coins reported this year is very similar to that of previous years, with much larger quantities being recorded in the eastern and south-eastern counties of England than in northern and western England and Wales. In almost all counties substantially larger numbers of coins were reported in 2011, especially in Avon, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Suffolk, Surrey, Kent and Wiltshire, in some cases significantly extending the samples for these counties. The 1,966 brooches recorded for 2011 account for 9 per cent of all finds recorded in this year, a typical annual percentage. The sample reported for 2011 represents an increase of *c.* 15 per cent in the total number of brooches documented by the Scheme, 12,968 having been recorded between 2003 and 2010.<sup>6</sup> The distribution of brooches is also very similar to that already documented, being concentrated in eastern counties from North Yorkshire to Essex, with notable numbers also from Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and in some central southern and south-western counties. Although the absolute numbers of finds concerned are not large, the figures for 2011 illustrate a pattern, which can also be seen intermittently in previous reports, of a significantly higher than average ratio of brooches to coins found in the west and north-west Midlands, especially Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire. As has been observed for previous years the distribution of finds reported shows significant and complex regional variation which is the product of multiple factors, including the character of Roman period societies and economies, modern agricultural regimes and metal-detecting practice.

<sup>4</sup> A selection of the most important coins is published annually in the *British Numismatic Journal* by S. Moorhead.

<sup>5</sup> S. Moorhead and P. Walton, 'Coins recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme: a summary', *Britannia* 42 (2011), 432–7; P. Walton, *Rethinking Roman Britain: Coinage and Archaeology* (2012).

<sup>6</sup> S. Worrell and J. Pearce, 'Roman Britain in 2010 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 42 (2011), 401.

## ARTEFACT DESCRIPTIONS

The entries below set out some individual highlights of the past year's discoveries recorded by the Finds Liaison Officers.<sup>7</sup> Fuller details of the objects recorded by the PAS can be obtained from the Scheme's central office,<sup>8</sup> and there are full descriptions of finds on the PAS website: [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk). The reference number in brackets associated with each record is the PAS identifying find record.<sup>9</sup>

## VALE OF GLAMORGAN

(1) **Fontygary, Rhose** (NMWPA 2011.215.1) (NMGW-C14CE7) (FIG. 1).<sup>10</sup> A hollow copper-alloy handle bearing animal and divine faces, near-complete, with some damage to the socket and crushing on one face. It is 61.8 mm long, 31.6 mm wide, 18.8 mm thick and weighs 83.6 g. On either side of the handle is a face and at its end is a boar's head. Depending on the angle of view some elements of decoration can be read as belonging to either one of the faces or the boar's head. The youthful, clean shaven face can be identified as Mercury by the wings emerging from the hair (which also serve as the boar's ears); the god's features are schematically rendered by incision. The eyes are lentoid, the right containing a central dot to represent the pupil and the left a dot positioned at the top of the eye. Beneath the broad nose and slit mouth, the elongated face ends in a narrow chin. The hair descends in curls on either side of the face. The older face, also elongated, is that of a satyr or Pan, with moustache, long beard and deeply furrowed brow. The horns and goat ears also serve to mark the boar's lower jaw-line. The boar's head is well-shaped with careful modelling and incision is used to represent detail on the face and the underside of the jaw. On either side of the ridged mane, the flaps of the sub-triangular ears lie against the head. Both small lentoid eyes contain a central punched dot to represent the pupil. The snout has an encircling groove and the mouth is slightly open with triangular tusks emerging from the lower jaw. A circular aperture (4 mm in diameter) perforates the snout, and is worn above and below, suggesting its use for suspension. The socket of the handle, which is near oval with a raised collar, has sustained some damage. Lead survives within the socket, presumably as the remnants for a fixing. The surface is worn but is well preserved with a dark green patina. XRF analysis demonstrated that the metal is a heavily-leaded bronze consistent with Romano-British alloys. A close parallel, better preserved, from Niederbieber, with a much more fully naturalistic rendering of the figures, suggests that this was a key handle.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Throughout the year staff in the British Museum, in particular Ralph Jackson and Richard Hobbs, together with Martin Henig (University of Oxford) have provided invaluable support in the identification of individual objects. Janina Parol (British Museum) prepared images for publication. Philippa Walton and Justine Bayley acted as Finds Advisors during the first author's maternity leave.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG.

<sup>9</sup> The geographical sequence here follows that set out in the 'Roman Britain in 20XX. I. Sites explored' section of *Britannia*.

<sup>10</sup> Found by J. Lambert. Identified by M. Lodwick, J. Pearce and S. Worrell.

<sup>11</sup> H. Menzel, *Die römischen Bronzen aus Deutschland III Bonn* (1986), 115–16, n. 274, Tafel 119, with further parallels.



FIG. 1. Fontygary, Rhoose, handle bearing animal and divine faces (No. 1). Scale 1:1.  
 (Photo: M. Lodwick; © National Museum of Wales)

The specific significance of the iconography is not clear. The representation of Mercury may perhaps relate to the safeguarding of the proceeds of trade. The janiform imagery, seen not only in the paired faces but also in their combination of youth and age, may be appropriate to door-keeping. An association with the boar is more difficult to interpret, though key handles in the form of zoomorphic figures are not uncommon. Parallels for objects bearing faces on opposite sides can be found in Roman iconography (e.g. on some intaglios from Britain<sup>12</sup>) and also in La Tène art.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from Britain*, BAR British Series 8 (2nd edn, 1978), nos 373–80.

<sup>13</sup> I. Armit, 'Janus in furs? Opposed human heads in the art of the European Iron Age', in G. Cooney, K. Becker, J. Coles, M. Ryan and S. Sievers (eds), *Relics of Old Decency: Archaeological Studies in Later Prehistory; Festschrift for Barry Raftery* (2009), 279–86.

## NEWPORT

(2) **Langstone** (PUBLIC-A435B8) (FIG. 2).<sup>14</sup> A near complete cast copper-alloy cheek-piece or toggle. The toggle is 84.5 mm long, 15 mm high, 13.8 mm wide, and weighs 61 g. The mid-section is pierced by a rectangular slot 24.7 mm long and 8.0 mm high. The decorative recess on its upper face is divided into three panels. In the centre is a square panel with two raised ridges running diagonally across the middle forming a sinuous cross and defining four cells, in two of which blue enamel survives. Each end panel is subdivided into three sections, the central ones of which contain blue enamel, while the others are now empty, but perhaps originally held red enamel. The toggle, either side of the decorative panel, is waisted and then flares to circular-sectioned terminals which rise to dome-shaped knobs bearing fluted decoration. At the centre of each dome are circular recesses, which may originally have held enamel insets.

The toggle is of early Roman date — though of recognised native or late Iron Age form and inspiration — and was found near a hoard of copper-alloy bowls and strainers of similar date.<sup>15</sup> The use of polychrome enamel and the fluting on the terminal bosses are Roman elements suggesting a date of manufacture certainly between A.D. 50 and 150 and probably between A.D. 60 and 120. Around 30 examples of toggles are currently known. This is only the fourth known from Wales, with other examples coming from Maescar, near Sennybridge,<sup>16</sup> Brecon, Powys (NMGW-2362B2), and near St Brides Major, Vale of Glamorgan (NMWPA 2009.101).



FIG. 2. Langstone, cheek piece or toggle (No. 2) (colour online). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: M. Lodwick; © National Museum of Wales)

## CUMBRIA

(3) **Carlisle** (LANCUM-C840D2) (FIG. 3).<sup>17</sup> A first- to second-century A.D. copper-alloy mount, heavily worn and corroded, in the form of a leopard with its front right leg raised and its paw resting on what may be a human head.<sup>18</sup> This mount may be part of horse harness or a rein trace from a cart or wagon. The leopard, with its head high and its tail curled forward and resting on its back, stands on a near-rectangular base. Some of the mouldings representing its spots are still clearly visible on the animal's flanks. The eyes, snout and ears are finely moulded and on the head on which the paw rests some moulding to show the hair can still be seen. At one end of the object, against the leopard's hindquarters, is a shaft and loop. The inner surface of the loop is slightly worn and may have held one end of a chain or rope. The object is 39.5 mm long, 40.5 mm high, 17.5 mm wide, 8 mm thick, and weighs 42.7 g.

<sup>14</sup> Found by J. Duthie. Identified by A. Gwilt. Recorded by S. Johnson.

<sup>15</sup> S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2008 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 40 (2009), 285–7, nos 1–4. A. Gwilt, pers. comm.

<sup>16</sup> A. Gwilt and E. Besly, 'Maescar, Powys: Iron Age bronze toggle and Roman bell (05.6)', *Treasure Annual Report 2005/6* (2008), 223, entry 1225.

<sup>17</sup> Found by D. Armstrong. Identified by M. Henig. Recorded by D. Boughton.

<sup>18</sup> Poor preservation makes it difficult to be conclusive at present on this point.



Although lions are more common than leopards, the motif of a big feline with a human or animal head under or between its paws is also found on other objects, especially key and knife handles. An elaborate key handle depicting a panther with its paw on a ram's head was found at Silchester.<sup>19</sup> The existence of similar iconography on funerary monuments means that the motif on mundane objects such as this may have been susceptible to reading as a *memento mori*.<sup>20</sup>



FIG. 3. Carlisle, mount in the form of a leopard (No. 3). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: D. Boughton; © D. Boughton)

#### NORTHUMBERLAND

(4) **Glanton** (NCL-A38DF3) (FIG. 4).<sup>21</sup> An elaborate copper-alloy harness stud inlaid with well-preserved millefiori enamel dating from the second to third century A.D. The object has a diameter of 41 mm, is 3.2 mm thick, and weighs 19.4 g. The upper surface of the circular stud has three narrow concentric circles of reserved metal separating bands of enamel decoration. The outer band is of blue enamel with rosettes in two rows, their white petals surrounding a white centre contained within a red circle. The inner band has a background of white enamel surrounding fourteen rosettes, their blue petals also surrounding a white centre contained within a red circle. The centre of the stud has a red background with squares in two patterns alternating in a chequer-board arrangement — one a blue square as background for a rosette in the same form as in the outer band of decoration, and the other itself a chequer board of miniature blue and white squares. Similar discs with millefiori decoration, though differing in the detail of their decoration, are known from Chepstow, Mon., and Usk, Mon.<sup>22</sup> PAS has recorded four studs inlaid with millefiori enamel in a similar style from Hibaldstow, N Lincs. (NLM-3F9905), Wigginton, Oxon. (BERK-555701), Thornham, Norfolk (NMS-40A082), and Freckenham, Suffolk (SF-D17023).

<sup>19</sup> G.C. Boon, *The Roman Town of Calleva* (1974), 205, fig. 32, no. 6; S. Worrell 'Roman Britain in 2005 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 37 (2006), 439–40, no. 7, fig. 8.

<sup>20</sup> F. Hunter, 'Funerary lions in Roman provincial art', in P. Noelke (ed.), *Romanisation und Resistenz in Plastik, Architektur und Inschriften der Provinzen des Imperium Romanum: Neue Funde und Forschungen* (2003), 59–67.

<sup>21</sup> Found by R. Burns. Recorded by R. Collins and S. Worrell.

<sup>22</sup> C. Johns, *The Jewellery of Roman Britain: Celtic and Classical Traditions* (1996), 201; E. Chapman, *A Catalogue of Roman Military Equipment in the National Museum of Wales*, BAR British Series 388 (2008), 138, no. Tg07.



FIG. 4. Glanton, stud with millefiori enamel (No. 4); for colour image see online journal:  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/bri>. Scale 1:1.  
 (Photo: R. Collins; © R. Collins)

#### NORTH YORKSHIRE

(5) **Askham Bryan** (SWYOR-374234) (FIG. 5).<sup>23</sup> A cast copper-alloy handle from a fixed-blade knife depicting an erotic scene involving two people engaged in sexual intercourse. It is 59 mm long, 31.7 mm wide, 10.7 mm thick, and weighs 64.3 g. The man lies on a couch and is straddled by a woman who faces his feet, which she holds, while the man's left hand rests on her left buttock. A small section of the handle, behind his head, has broken away and there is a circular hole for the knife's tang. The modelling is relatively crude and the features of both individuals are much worn. The handle is corroded with a rough, dark brown patina. The closest parallel noted so far is a handle of unknown provenance with somewhat better modelled features, which was sold by auction at Christie's in December 1998.<sup>24</sup> The reverse *mulier equitans* scene is also paralleled on other objects, for example the discus of picture lamps.<sup>25</sup> Other knife handles portray erotic scenes, but all those otherwise known from Britain involve variations on the theme of three individuals.<sup>26</sup> Three other examples, all in a similarly provincial style, have been recorded by the PAS from Over Wallop, Hants. (HAMP-4D3135), Monk Soham, Suffolk (SF-A23522), and a fixed-blade knife handle from Syston, Lincs. (LIN-536F87).<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> Found by S. Sunter. Recorded by A. Downes.

<sup>24</sup> *Ars Amatoria: the Haddad Family Collection of Erotic Art Sale 9050* [http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/lot\\_details.aspx?intObjectID=1404030](http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/lot_details.aspx?intObjectID=1404030)

<sup>25</sup> H. Eckardt, *Illuminating Roman Britain* (2002), 376, fig. 132, no. 1323.

<sup>26</sup> C. Johns in S.S. Frere, *Verulamium Excavations* Vol. III (1984), 58–9, fig. 23, pl. 3.

<sup>27</sup> S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2007 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 39 (2008), 358–9, no. 8, fig. 12.





FIG. 5. Askam Bryan, knife handle with erotic scene (No. 5). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Downes; © A. Downes)

(6) **Fulford** (SWYOR-FF96F4) (FIG. 6).<sup>28</sup> A copper-alloy harness strap loop with a stylised bird's head forming a hook, and peltoid projections to the sides. At the centre of the fitting is a domed boss decorated with punched dots around the rim. An incised circle around the crown has radiating grooves that flare towards the base of the boss and which were possibly decorated with niello. There are traces of a white metal coating on the rest of the fitting. At the back of the dome is a rectangular loop. A flat decorative element in the form of a closed pelta crescent projects from either side of the dome. The bulbous ends of the crescent on the right join to form a closed loop, but the peltoid on the left side is broken. A curved hook projects from the top edge of the dome and terminates in the form of a stylised bird, probably a swan with a pronounced rounded forehead and a flat beak which flares outwards. The hook is twisted slightly to the right. At the bottom of the dome is a broken edge from which there would have been another projection, perhaps in the form of a loop. The break is patinated. The object is 29.6 mm long, 26.6 mm wide, 21.3 mm thick, and weighs 11.8 g. No close parallel has been found, though it bears some general similarities to military harness strap fittings.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Found by M. Andrusyk. Recorded by A. Downes and S. Worrell.

<sup>29</sup> e.g. E. Deschler-Erb, *Ad arma! Römischer Militär des 1. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. in Augusta Raurica* (1999), Tafel 22, nos 438–44; G. Webster, 'Gazetteer of military objects from Cirencester', in J.S. Wachter and A.D. McWhirr, *Early Roman Occupation at Cirencester*, Cirencester Excavations I (1982), 109, nos 100–1, fig. 36.



FIG. 6. Fulford, harness strap loop with a stylised bird head (No. 6). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Downes; © A. Downes)

#### NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

(7) **Crowle** (FAKL-9900E3) (FIG. 7).<sup>30</sup> Three joining fragments of a small cast copper-alloy pan decorated with *champlevé* enamel. The handle and base are missing. The surviving fragments are 107 mm long, 41 mm high and 2.2 mm thick. Most of the enamel is now missing, but the *champlevé* cells show the decorative scheme consisted of a series of roundels (37 mm in diameter) set around the vessel, each enclosing a three-armed whirligig with the arms containing enamel-filled recesses. It appears that the whirligigs were inlaid with mid-blue and light green enamel and each was surrounded by a ring inlaid with red. The roundels appear to have been set touching each other in pairs. Between each pair were three horizontal bars of enamel inlay, comprising two green bars separated by a band of red. Above and below the horizontal lines were pairs of lung-like motifs inlaid with red, surrounded by green, enamel and containing what appear to be pairs of opposed comma motifs. The distortion of the fragments makes it impossible to determine the original dimensions of the vessel, but it is clear that it was originally convex with a diameter comparable to that of other bowls in the series. The similar Ilam pan has a circumference of 281 mm, suggesting that around 38 per cent of the original circumference of the Crowle bowl survives. The vessel's rim bears an external beading 3.8 mm wide by 2.9 mm thick. Below this is a plain band, 4.2 mm wide, separating the rim from the decorated zone. All of the fractures appear to be old, suggesting that the damage is not recent, and the surfaces are corroded with some loss of patina.

This pan is the third of its type recorded by the PAS: previous finds are the Ilam ('Staffordshire Moorlands') pan (WMID-3FE965) and the vessel found at Winterton, N Lincs. (NLM-F50443).<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Found by D. Wilson. Recorded by K. Leahy.

<sup>31</sup> S. Worrell, 'Enamelled vessels and related objects reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme 1997–2010', in D.J. Breeze (ed.), *Enamelled Vessels from Hadrian's Wall*, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Tract Series 23 (forthcoming).

The decoration on the Crowle bowl resembles that seen on the ‘Staffordshire Moorlands’ pan in that both are decorated with ‘Celtic-style’ motifs consisting of curvilinear scrollwork laid out in roundels (eight in the case of Ilam). However, the decoration on the Ilam pan is more fluid than that on the Crowle bowl and all the roundels touch. It is known that enamel-decorated vessels were being made at Castleford (W Yorks.) and while most of the material produced there bore geometric or leaf designs, some ‘Celtic’ designs were applied; one vessel fragment from Castleford, while adorned with leaf-motifs, bears some stylistic similarity to the Crowle find.<sup>32</sup>



FIG. 7. Crowle, fragments of pan decorated with champlevé enamel (No. 7) (colour online). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: K. Leahy; © K. Leahy)

#### LINCOLNSHIRE

(8) **Osbournby** (LIN-1213A7) (FIG. 8).<sup>33</sup> A copper-alloy hollow object in the form of a human head with caricatured and grotesque features, crudely modelled. The back of the head is plain. The object is 34 mm long, 16 mm wide, 20 mm thick, and weighs 17.4 g. At the top is a small loop for suspension, indicating its likely purpose as a steelyard weight (though its weight is low and traces of lead alloy within the head have not been seen). The grotesque adult male head, elongated and asymmetrical, shows remarkable facial detail. On the left eyebrow is a large projection representing a boil or excrescence. On the forehead above is one or possibly two similar, though smaller protuberances, from which a ridge runs to the nose, further emphasising the creased and lined character of the face. The figure has projecting ears of different sizes, with deeply recessed interiors; these are placed asymmetrically, the left ear being further forward than the right. The socket of the left eye is much more pronounced than the right, which contains some traces of glass. Across the bridge of the prominent and very broad nose is a thick band of flesh, accentuated on the left side of the face by furrows which extend across the cheek; the upper and longer of these may represent a scar. On the right cheek is another large boil. While the tip of the nose points to the right, the tongue lolls to the left as it emerges from the large, thick-lipped mouth. At each corner of the mouth is a hole, though the perforation does not extend across the mouth.

<sup>32</sup> H.E.M. Cool and C. Philo, *Roman Castleford Excavations 1974–1985. Volume 1: The Small Finds* (1998), 219, no. 474, fig. 95.

<sup>33</sup> Found by T. Camm. Recorded by A. Daubney and J. Pearce.

Steelyard weights in figural forms are widely known from excavated and PAS examples, though they comprise a small minority of the corpus of weights.<sup>34</sup> Anthropomorphic examples include images of gods, heroes and humans, but only one parallel of a weight in the form of a caricature has been found — an unprovenanced and much more finely modelled example from the Getty collection.<sup>35</sup> The depiction of grotesque figures in Roman art has Hellenistic antecedents, best known in the mass-produced terracotta figures of the eastern Mediterranean representing deformity, disability and disease, though in this case no specific condition appears to be indicated.<sup>36</sup> The Osbournby head is similar in spirit to a much more finely modelled terracotta grotesque head of second- to first-century B.C. date from Smyrna, which has a huge nose, ridged brow and lolling tongue as the most prominent of its distorted features.<sup>37</sup> Among the small number of other instances of this genre in Roman Britain are the caricatured elderly declaimers and diners among the pipeclay figures associated with a cremation burial in Colchester.<sup>38</sup> The Osbournby weight further serves to demonstrate the diversity of classicizing forms and genres in circulation in a provincial setting.



FIG. 8. Osbournby, steelyard weight in the form of a grotesque head (No. 8). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Daubney; © A. Daubney)

(9) **Market Rasen (LIN-B8FA27)** (FIG. 9).<sup>39</sup> A second-century A.D. copper-alloy bust bearing a close resemblance to portraits of Antinous. The bust, 84 mm long, 62 mm wide and 35 mm thick, is hollow and the surviving remains of an iron shank suggest that it is a furniture fitting, perhaps from a chest. The bare-chested figure faces forward, his gaze slightly upturned. The very full head of hair is swept forward from the crown, from which radiate thick locks running in a neat fringe across the forehead and falling to the neck on both sides, with an exceptionally thick clump over both ears. Individual strands are delineated by incisions. The face, flat and square jawed, lacks expression, as noted on other similar representations, and there is little fine detail. The thick neck and broad shoulders convey a muscular physique. The recessed eyes and nipples lack the inlay they would originally have held. If correctly identified as Antinous, this is the third such depiction of Hadrian's favourite from Britain; a high quality bust was

<sup>34</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 1), 317–18, no. 12, fig. 13. Further figural examples recorded by the PAS include BH-9A1197 (Herts.); BERK-34F754 (Berks.); HAMP-079895 (Hants.); BH-C53040 (Herts.); NARC-8D6343 (Northants.); NCL-CF6F62 (East Riding of Yorks.).

<sup>35</sup> Getty Museum 96.AC.156 <http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/artObjectDetails?artobj=35604>

<sup>36</sup> N. Himmelmann, *Realistische Themen in der griechischen Kunst der archaischen und klassischen Zeit* (1994), 89–122; R. Garland, *The Eye of the Beholder: Deformity and Disability in the Graeco-Roman World* (1995), 105–22.

<sup>37</sup> J.P. Uhlenbrock, *The Coroplast's Art, Greek Terracottas of the Hellenistic World* (1990), 149, no. 36.

<sup>38</sup> H. Eckardt, 'The Colchester "child's grave"', *Britannia* 30 (1999), 57–90.

<sup>39</sup> Found by J. Nugent. Identified by A. Daubney and S. Worrell. Sold by auction at Christie's April 2011, Sale 6060, lot 265: <http://m.christies.com/sale/lot/sale/23214/lot/5425434/p/5/from/?KSID=0096c52c32f48d5ba4f4c2974dd5ce04>

discovered in Littlecote, Wilts.,<sup>40</sup> and another from Capel St Mary, Suffolk, was recorded by the PAS. The Market Rasen example is very similar to the latter. All three busts are comparable to an unprovenanced example set on a tripod now in Lyons Museum.<sup>41</sup>



FIG. 9. Market Rasen, bust in the form of Antinous (No. 9). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Daubney; © A. Daubney)

#### LEICESTERSHIRE

(10) **Near Bosworth Field** (LEIC-7F4CC3) (FIG. 10).<sup>42</sup> A Roman copper-alloy statue fragment, 91 mm long and 40 mm at its widest. The object is in fair condition with a green patina. The fragment represents the left hand of a third- to half-life-size statue. It is broken just above the wrist and much of the back of the hand is also missing, having broken away more or less along the line of the knuckles. The forefinger is extended while the others curl towards the palm and the tips of the middle finger and thumb touch. Had the hand originally grasped an object, such as a spear or sceptre, it is unlikely that the forefinger would be so extended, but too little is preserved to identify the specific gesture.

This represents a further addition to the group of fragments of monumental Roman statues documented by the PAS.<sup>43</sup> Other examples are more commonly from life-size images. In this case, greater contextual information than for other finds allows its original setting to be suggested. Among the associated artefacts reported from an extensive scatter of Roman period material of first- to fourth-century A.D. date is the largest assemblage of horse and rider brooches (95) yet to be documented from a single site in Britain (revising the figure of 19

<sup>40</sup> B. Walters and M. Henig, 'Two busts from Littlecote', *Britannia* 19 (1988), 407–10.

<sup>41</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 27), 363–4, no. 13, fig. 17; ESS-B39770.

<sup>42</sup> Identified by W. Scott, S. Worrell and J. Pearce.

<sup>43</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 15), 291, no. 7; Worrell and Pearce, *op. cit.* (note 6), 410–12, no. 6.



given in an initial report on the site), indicating the possible presence of a temple.<sup>44</sup> An (unpublished) geophysical survey has also found possible traces of a temple building.<sup>45</sup> On this evidence the fragment is likely to have been associated with a sanctuary, although its size suggests that it may derive from a subsidiary rather than the principal cult image.



FIG. 10. Near Bosworth Field, hand from bronze statue (No. 10). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: W. Scott; © W. Scott)

#### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(11) **Rolleston area** (DENO-BC9E66; 2011 T804) (FIG. 11).<sup>46</sup> A very small gold finger-ring, intact and undamaged, which dates from the third to fourth centuries A.D. The hexagonal hoop has neatly incised decorative edges and triangular shoulders with elaborate openwork. The small hexagonal box bezel, with sloping sides and flat surface, is set with a tiny oval gem, its surface now largely degraded, but what does remain is black in colour and there is evidence of an engraved design. The ring has an external width of 16.2 mm, an internal width of 13.9 by 11.1 mm (the dimensions of the bezel are 8.1 by 7.3 by 2.9 mm), and it weighs 2.46 g. Non-destructive surface metal analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated a gold content of 90–93 per cent and silver content of 5–7 per cent. Raman spectroscopy indicated that the degraded gem is more likely stone than glass.



FIG. 11. Rolleston area, gold finger-ring (No. 11). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: C. Burrill; © Derby City Council)

<sup>44</sup> S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2004 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 36 (2005), 456–7, no. 7.

<sup>45</sup> Wendy Scott, pers. comm.

<sup>46</sup> Found by W. French. Identified by R. Jackson. Recorded by C. Burrill.

(12) **Maulden** (BH-B6AF26) (FIG. 12).<sup>47</sup> A copper-alloy figurine of the Genius-Paterfamilias type, taking the form of a standing male wearing a toga, a fold of which is pulled up over the head. The left forearm extends outward from the elbow and the poorly formed upturned hand holds a patera. The right forearm is missing, and the well patinated break suggests that the damage occurred in antiquity. The elongated face, completely framed by the toga, is somewhat stylised; the large lentoid eyes are set within deeply recessed sockets, the brow ridge extends downwards into a slightly bulbous nose, the mouth is narrow and the chin is squared. The folds of the toga's drapery are more fully modelled on the front of the figure, especially the deep fold which runs diagonally across the body to the left shoulder. The toga hangs almost to the ankles of the figure. The undersides of the heavily corroded feet display an off-white corrosion product, possibly representing a degraded solder. In profile the figure is unusually thin, emphasising, as might be expected, that it was intended to be viewed from the front. The figurine measures 65.1 mm high, up to 30.6 mm wide, 18.1 mm deep, and weighs 47.9 g. Its current appearance follows conservation which has revealed significant additional detail.

Parallels for copper-alloy figurines of this type have been found in Britain, including examples from a stratified context within the forum at Silchester<sup>48</sup> and from the excavation of a late third- to early fifth-century Romano-Celtic temple at Lamyatt Beacon, Somerset.<sup>49</sup> A plausible context for its original display is in a *lararium*.



FIG. 12. Maulden, figurine of Genius-Paterfamilias type (No. 12). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: J. Watters; © J. Watters)

<sup>47</sup> Found by A. Jones. Identified by M. Henig. Recorded by J. Watters.

<sup>48</sup> L. Pitts, *Roman Bronze Figurines from the Civitates of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes*, BAR British Series 60 (1979), 68–9, pl. 18, no. 92.

<sup>49</sup> M. Henig in R. Leach, 'The excavation of a Romano-Celtic temple and later cemetery on Lamyatt Beacon, Somerset', *Britannia* 17 (1986), 277, pl. xxiv, fig. 16, no. 7; A. Kaufmann-Heinimann, *Götter und Lararien aus Augusta Raurica* (1998), 229; E. Durham, 'Depicting the gods: metal figurines in Roman Britain', *Internet Archaeology* 31 [http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue31/durham\\_toc.html](http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue31/durham_toc.html) (2012), 3.9.



(13) **Pirton** (BH-9A1197) (FIG. 13).<sup>50</sup> A lead-filled copper-alloy steelyard weight in the form of a three-dimensional male head, almost certainly representing a god, perhaps Jupiter. The object has been hollow-cast and the inside filled with lead. The face is sloping and has realistically moulded features; the eyes are defined by pointed oval grooves with recessed pupils, the brow extends downwards to the nose, the mouth is small and the lips are closed. As well as its bushy beard the face is also framed by a raised band of curls. The locks of both hair and beard are represented as large clumps. The weight is cracked down one side and this damage extends to the top where an iron prong from the otherwise missing loop is visible. The opposing end of the prong is visible on the flat underside of the weight, which is open and reveals the corroded lead infill. At 73.1 g, this weight may represent three *unciae*, a quarter of a Roman pound. It measures 29.8 mm high, 28.7 mm wide and 35.3 mm deep. This is a further example of a steelyard weight in figural form from Britain.<sup>51</sup>



FIG. 13. Pirton, steelyard weight in the form of a male head (No. 13). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: J. Watters; © J. Watters)

#### OXFORDSHIRE

(14) **Crowmarsh** (SUR-A1B642) (FIG. 14).<sup>52</sup> A copper-alloy protome in the form of the front half of a prancing winged horse, i.e. Pegasus, now patinated dark grey. The object is 50.9 mm high, its greatest surviving width is 11.8 mm, and it weighs 56 g. The horse has cast detail on its mane, while the eyes have been punched. Only the right side of the neck carries decoration in the form of a group of small punch marks. The surviving part of the wings extends from the back of the neck. The ends of the forelegs, which are not separated on the figure, are missing. The object is broken at two points; at its lower extremity and above the extension on its back. Another horse protome recorded by the PAS is that from Brandon and Bretford, Warwicks. (WMID-774A77), but this, like most similar continental examples, lacks wings. A closer winged parallel of similar size, but more finely modelled, comes from Boudevilliers, Malvilliers (Neuchâtel) in Switzerland. The function of the Crowmarsh object is uncertain, but it may have been a fitting on a piece of furniture, a lamp or a vessel.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Recorded by J. Watters.

<sup>51</sup> Examples are noted above in the discussion of the Osbornby weight, No. 8, LIN-1213A7.

<sup>52</sup> Found by B. Taylor. Recorded by D. Williams and S. Worrell.

<sup>53</sup> A. Leibendgut, *Die römischen Bronzen der Schweiz III. Westschweiz, Bern und Wallis* (1980), 119, no. 150, Tafel 151.



FIG. 14. Crowmarsh, protome in the form of a winged horse (No. 14). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: D. Williams; © D. Williams)

(15) **South Oxfordshire** (BERK-88AAE2) (FIG. 15).<sup>54</sup> A cast copper-alloy key handle in the form of a ram's head. The well moulded horns curl around small downturned ears that project from the side of the head; the tips of the horns also point slightly outwards. Although the ram's facial features are worn, the slightly recessed eyes on either side of its head can be discerned. Some modelling of the nostrils is also visible, especially on the right side of the head. The worn traces of what may be curls from the fleece can be seen between and behind the horns. At the back of the head is a slightly raised band forming a collar around an internal recess, within which is set the shank of an iron tang with traces of the lead alloy solder that held it in place. At the end of the shank, 39 mm long, the upper section of the bit is preserved.

Zoomorphic key handles are widely known from excavated and PAS examples. The only other key handle featuring a ram was reported to the PAS from Winthorpe, Notts., but here it is held between the jaws of a lion.<sup>55</sup> Ram's head terminals are, however, documented on other artefact types, such as handled pans. Zoomorphic decoration on key handles often comprises the forequarters of large felines, especially lions, and dogs, but rarely herbivores, as in this case.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Found by R. Smith. Recorded by A. Byard and J. Pearce.

<sup>55</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 19), 439–40, no. 7, fig. 8; S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2009 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 41 (2010), 433–4, no. 17; J. Schuster, 'Springhead metalwork', in E. Biddulph, R. Seager Smith and J. Schuster, *Settling the Ebbsfleet Valley. High Speed I Excavations at Springhead and Northfleet, Kent. The Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, and Medieval Landscape* (2011), 264–5, no. 281.

<sup>56</sup> Examples include ESS-BE2B07, ESS-683963 and HAMP-452878.



FIG. 15. South Oxfordshire, key handle in the form of a ram's head. Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Byard; © A. Byard)

(16) **Somerton** (BERK-817A95) (FIG. 16).<sup>57</sup> A heavily worn copper-alloy figurine, broken below the knees. The figurine is 41.4 mm high, 5.1 mm wide, and weighs 12.3 g. The corrosion products make the attributes of the figurine difficult to identify, but it may depict Attis, though it does not closely resemble any of the more common representations of the god.<sup>58</sup> The figure appears to wear a Phrygian cap and a short belted tunic extending just below the buttocks. In the left hand the figure holds a large circular object, perhaps a tambourine, though this would ordinarily be an attribute of Cybele, while in the right hand is an object which is not easily identified, but perhaps a *syrinx* or pan pipes.<sup>59</sup> Representations of Attis from the province are rare and it is difficult to point to a single confidently identified example in the form of a figurine.<sup>60</sup>



FIG. 16. Somerton, figurine, possibly of Attis (No. 16). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Byard; © A. Byard)

(17) **Somerton** (BERK-C55677) (FIG. 17).<sup>61</sup> A group of Roman lead alloy (pewter) vessels was excavated and recorded in a secure stratigraphic context during excavation after its discovery with a metal detector. The group was found in an upturned pile in a burnt deposit in association with several ceramic vessels — all broken but in many cases almost complete —

<sup>57</sup> Found by A. Forster. Identified by M. Henig. Recorded by A. Byard.

<sup>58</sup> M.J. Vermaseren, *Cybele and Attis. The Myth and the Cult* (1977).

<sup>59</sup> M. Henig, pers. comm.

<sup>60</sup> Durham, op. cit. (note 49), 3.4.

<sup>61</sup> Found by R. Steanson. Identified by L. Smith. Recorded by A. Byard.

and several iron nails. This deposit was located within a room, which geophysical survey later showed to be part of a much larger building, probably a villa. A coin recovered from the deposit gives a *terminus post quem* of A.D. 332 (BERK-AB6E77).

The group comprises the following vessels: a small complete conical bowl with pellet-bead rim (Lee Type 1<sup>62</sup>); an incomplete pedestal bowl with square flange of a previously unknown form; an incomplete large octagonal dish (Lee Type 2)<sup>63</sup> with chicken bones found directly beneath it; an incomplete hemispherical pedestal bowl with thick rim (Lee Type 2e);<sup>64</sup> an incomplete hemispherical pedestal bowl with beaded rim (Lee Type 2i);<sup>65</sup> an incomplete flanged dish of under 300 mm diameter (Peal Type 4).<sup>66</sup> The composition of the group is not dissimilar from that of other assemblages of pewter vessels, but such groups are typically recorded from structured deposits in wells and pits and not, so far, from a destruction deposit, as appears to be the case here, where the findspot relates more closely to the context of use.<sup>67</sup>



FIG. 17. Somerton, pewter vessel assemblage (No. 17).

(Photo: A. Byard; © A. Byard)

<sup>62</sup> R. Lee, *Production, Use and Disposal of Romano-British Pewter Tableware*, BAR British Series 478 (2009), 180, fig. 82.

<sup>63</sup> *ibid.*, 180.

<sup>64</sup> *ibid.*, 180.

<sup>65</sup> *ibid.*, 174, fig. 75.

<sup>66</sup> *ibid.*, 207, fig. 98; C.A. Peal, 'Romano-British pewter plates and dishes', *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 60 (1967), 19–37.

<sup>67</sup> Lee, *op. cit.* (note 62), 77–81.

## BERKSHIRE

(18) **West Ilsley** (SUR-BDB067) (FIG. 18).<sup>68</sup> A Roman military cast copper-alloy strap fitting with niello inlaid decoration on three sides. The fitting is rectangular in plan with sloping sides and a slightly rounded top. The interior is hollow and an arching bar of circular section runs lengthwise within it. The long sides of the object are decorated with palmettes, and on the top are opposed isolated fronds. The fitting is 39 mm long, 19.5 mm wide, 29.23 mm thick, and weighs 37.45 g. The fitting, paralleled in a find from Erichem-‘Hooge Korn’, is of a type dated by Nicolay to the first century A.D.<sup>69</sup>



FIG. 18. West Ilsley, strap fitting with niello decoration (No. 18) (colour online). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: D. Williams; © D. Williams)

## NORFOLK

(19) **Acle** (NMS-3CECC3) (FIG. 19).<sup>70</sup> A fragment of a copper-alloy figurine comprising the lower leg of a naked figure, presumed to be male, 78 mm long and weighing 101 g. On this solid cast piece, the green patina has also formed at the break below the knee, indicating that it is ancient. The fragment is of the highest quality; individual toes and toenails are separately modelled with the big toe pushed out from the others. The leg bends slightly as if the figure was leaning forwards and placing his weight upon his right leg. The treatment of musculature

<sup>68</sup> Found by D. Attenborough. Recorded by D. Williams and S. Worrell.

<sup>69</sup> J. Nicolay, *Armed Batavians. Use and Significance of Weaponry and Horsegear from Non-Military Contexts in the Rhine Delta (50 BC to AD 410)* (2007), 221–3.

<sup>70</sup> Found by D. Clarke. Identified by A. Marsden.



and the rendering of individual arteries place this piece outside the mainstream of Romano-British art. It is a striking object, both in terms of its large size (the original statuette would have stood at least 300 mm high) and its workmanship. It is impossible to identify the subject, but the slender leg conveys the impression of an athletic young male and the bareness of the foot may suggest divinity. The lower leg of a slightly smaller figurine reported in 2011 from Whittington, Northumberland (NCL-BD0923), is similarly well rendered, though it still bears flashmarks which had been filed. The sophistication of the rendering of both examples makes them unusual within the province.<sup>71</sup>



FIG. 19. Acle, lower leg of figurine (No. 19). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: A. Marsden; © A. Marsden)

(20) **Hillington** (NMS-94CA46; 2011 T78) (FIG. 20).<sup>72</sup> A hollow, gold pendant in the shape of a phallus is formed from sheet metal soldered together lengthways. It is rounded at the terminal with a small aperture left open at either end. A separate transverse loop formed from triple-ribbed strip is soldered into position at the top, with separately applied solid globular testicles to either side. Separately applied wire — with irregular transverse grooves on the underside, perhaps to act as keying for the solder — defines the edge of the foreskin. The length (including loop) is 21.5 mm, the width is 3.5–4.5 mm and 10 mm at testicles, and it weighs 2.44 g. The pendant is similar to solid gold examples from Braintree, Essex (ESS-0CDDC1; Treasure case PEE 81), and Knaresborough, N Yorks. (SWYOR-E56143). In Britain the use of apotropaic amulets of this form, in a variety of materials, has sometimes been associated with the presence of the Roman army but examples, including this one, also occur in rural contexts.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Durham, *op. cit.* (note 49).

<sup>72</sup> Found by K. Hillier. Recorded by E. Darch.

<sup>73</sup> N. Crummy, *The Roman Small Finds from Excavations in Colchester 1971–9*, Colchester Archaeological Report 2 (1983), 50–1; J. Plouviez, 'Whose good luck? Roman phallic ornaments from Suffolk', in N. Crummy (ed.), *Image, Craft and the Classical World. Essays in Honour of Donald Bailey and Catherine Johns* (2005), 157–64.



FIG. 20. Hillington, gold pendant in the form of a phallus (No. 20). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: E. Darch; © Norfolk County Council)

#### SUFFOLK

(21) **Wetheringsett cum Brockford** (SF-EE7435) (FIG. 21).<sup>74</sup> A complete bone amulet in the form of a winged phallus. The wings, with incised decoration on both sides indicating feathers, project from either side of its base. The phallus is straight and cylindrical in form, and the glans is separated from the shaft by deeply incised grooves. On the underside of the phallus, the testicles are represented and hang beneath the pair of wings. There is no sign of any pendant loop or other means of suspension. The object is 28 mm long, a maximum of 35.7 mm wide across the wings, and weighs 3.05 g. It differs from most other similar examples, being made of bone and also lacking a definite means of suspension or attachment. Like the previous example (No. 20) this too derives from a rural context.<sup>75</sup>



FIG. 21. Wetheringsett cum Brockford, bone amulet in the form of a winged phallus (No. 21). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: F. Minter; © Suffolk County Council)

#### ESSEX

(22) **Broomfield area** (ESS-593DC4; 2011 T650) (FIG. 22).<sup>76</sup> A cast silver zoomorphic brooch in the form of a leaping dolphin. The body is arched and the head terminates in a gilded triangular

<sup>74</sup> Found by M. Seager. Identified by F. Minter. Recorded by A. Brown.

<sup>75</sup> Plouviez, *op. cit.* (note 73).

<sup>76</sup> Found by M. Cuddeford. Identified by L. McLean and S. Worrell.



mouth. There are two raised and gilded circular eyes located just in front of the gilded, elongated triangular dorsal fin which extends halfway along the dolphin's back. The fin is decorated with incised vertical lines along its length. There are two short, pectoral fins with a central groove, set just back from the eyes and terminating before the end of the dorsal fin. The tail curves up and over the body of the dolphin and terminates in a triangular fin. The mouth and upper surface of the tail are damaged. The underside of the dolphin is plain and undecorated. There are double, D-shaped lugs, with central perforation for the missing hinged pin, projecting from the underside of the tail; one is damaged and incomplete. The catchplate, which is now distorted, projects from behind the mouth. The brooch is 30.4 mm long, 11.1 mm wide across the side fins, 9 mm wide across the tail, 8.9 mm thick, 19.7 mm deep, and it weighs 10.2 g. The brooch is similar to examples published by Hattatt (suggesting a date of the first to second centuries A.D.) and to a fine example from Suffolk of a dolphin inlaid with curved niello panels, with a winged Cupid sitting astride it.<sup>77</sup>



FIG. 22. Broomfield area, silver brooch in the form of a dolphin (No. 22). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: L. McLean; © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service)

(23) **Colchester** (ESS-998F26) (FIG. 23).<sup>78</sup> A hollow pipeclay standing figurine, 155 mm tall, in a cream-brown fabric, possibly representing Juno. The figure has crudely modelled and worn facial features and is heavily draped. A veil extends from the figure's headdress down the back of the neck. The figure's right arm is held against the side of her body and the right hand holds a dish. The left arm is slightly bent, and the hand is hidden beneath the folds of the robe which hangs to the base of the figure. The left leg is bent slightly and the right leg is straight. This and the impression of the body's form revealed by the folds of cloth over the abdomen and thighs give the figure a greater realism. The figure stands on a plain, hollow base and the feet are not visible.<sup>79</sup>

The attributes of the figure do not allow for certain identification, but stylistically it has a number of parallels with central Rhineland depictions of Juno of early second-century A.D. date.<sup>80</sup> There is a somewhat similar but incomplete figure from Hofstade in Gent, Belgium, perhaps produced in the Moselle region.<sup>81</sup> Beyond the Capitoline triad, the cult of Juno was

<sup>77</sup> R. Hattatt, *Brooches of Antiquity* (1987), 246, nos 1200 and 1203; N. Mills, *Celtic and Roman Artefacts* (2000), 60, R155.

<sup>78</sup> Found by a Mr Hammond in the early 1960s during works on Colchester High Street and brought into Colchester Castle Museum in May 1965. Recorded by L. McLean.

<sup>79</sup> Though identified at the time by R. Higgins as an earlier Greek example, a possibility reiterated by M. Henig (pers. comm.), the findspot and parallels support a Roman period attribution.

<sup>80</sup> G.M.E.C. van Boekel, *Roman Terracotta Figurines and Masks from the Netherlands* (1987), 33, as noted by N. Crummy (pers. comm.).

<sup>81</sup> C. Bémont, M. Jeanlin and C. Lahanier, *Les figurines en terre cuite gallo-romaines* (1993), 232, fig. 101, no. 25, cf. p. 235, as noted by M. Henig (pers. comm.).

not widespread in Britain or elsewhere in the northern provinces of the Roman world. Pipeclay and bronze figurines depicting the goddess are uncommon and no direct evidence for her cult has previously been noted in Colchester.<sup>82</sup>



FIG. 23. Colchester, pipeclay figurine, possibly of Juno (No. 23). Scale 2:3.  
(Photo: L. McLean; © Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service)

#### EAST SUSSEX

(24) **Lewes** (SUSS-0F1783; 2011 T139) (FIG. 24).<sup>83</sup> An incomplete Roman gold hooked sheet in two joining fragments, identified either as an ear-ring or a votive plaque or amulet. The maximum width of the object is 17.3 mm, its maximum surviving length is 33.2 mm, and it weighs 2.0 g. It comprises a simple hook at the end of a trapezoid sheet with embossed design consisting of a marginal line enclosing a central row of ribs flanked by pellets. The lower edge of the sheet is broken off and now lost, and there is also associated oblique crease-damage on one border. Immediately adjacent to the broad broken edge and pushed through from the back are three tiny perforations. They are not part of the design and are presumably related to the breaking away of the lower part of the object. The ribbed decoration may, on analogy with terracotta medical ex-votos, represent the uterus. It is possible that this is the first Roman gold

<sup>82</sup> Durham, *op. cit.* (note 49), 3.26.

<sup>83</sup> Found by D. Hill. Identified by R. Jackson and M. Henig. Recorded by S. Smith.

votive plaque of this type found in Britain, although medical ex-votos are generally uncommon in the province, which reflects the wider decline by the imperial period in the frequency of anatomical representations as votives.<sup>84</sup> If correctly identified, then the spirit of the object is similar to that of other charms and amulets from the province directed at seeking divine protection for the health of the womb and childbirth.<sup>85</sup>



FIG. 24. Lewes, gold hooked sheet ear-ring or plaque (No. 24). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: S. Smith; © Sussex Archaeological Society)

#### HAMPSHIRE

(25) **Twyford** (HAMP-FE1374) (FIG. 25).<sup>86</sup> An incomplete and slightly damaged copper-alloy object on a low stand. The object is 39.5 mm high, has walls up to 2.3 mm thick, and weighs 36.55 g. On the convex upper body (38 mm in diameter) the sides rise to four peaks formed by globular terminals. The outer surface is decorated in relief with a vine scroll and elongated leaves beneath each peak. Below this scroll is a narrow band of cable decoration formed by fine, diagonal nicks. The lower body is waisted (13.4 mm in diameter), before flaring to a circular base (c. 29 mm in diameter), which is supported on three small globular feet, a fourth having been lost. The base is decorated with a row of extended triangular cells in red (and another) enamel. On the underside is a small patch of orange-brown corrosion. The object otherwise has a largely blue-green patina. There are some resemblances to the decoration on some rare examples of open copper-alloy lamps, but the purpose of the object is unknown.<sup>87</sup>

<sup>84</sup> A. Cruse, *Roman Medicine* (2004), 114–15, figs 52 and 53, 130–1; R. Jackson, *Doctors and Diseases in the Roman Empire* (1988), 91, fig. 22.

<sup>85</sup> PAS BERK-0B6771, R. Tomlin, 'Roman Britain in 2008 III. Inscriptions', *Britannia* 40 (2009), 353–4, no. 97.

<sup>86</sup> Found by S. Owens. Recorded by L. Ellis, R. Webley and S. Worrell.

<sup>87</sup> Eckardt, *op. cit.* (note 25), 224, fig. 99, including no. 1260 from Colchester.



FIG. 25. Twyford, copper-alloy object on a low stand (No. 25). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: R. Webley; © R. Webley and Winchester Museums Service)

(26) **Kingsworthy** (HAMP-069741) (FIG. 26).<sup>88</sup> A cast copper-alloy lid from a Roman seal-box with phallic decoration, 24 mm long and 18 mm wide. The lid is in the shape of a teardrop or leaf with a protruding suspension loop which has now broken, as has the tip at the other end. The upper surface is decorated with a faint incised line and within this, placed slightly off-centre, is a phallus, separately cast and riveted in place. The rivet can be seen on the underside of the lid. At the tip of the phallus a circular setting, originally filled with enamel, delineates an outside glans. Areas of tinning survive around the phallus; the metal is otherwise a dark grey colour. The internal surface bears transverse file marks. Four similar examples have been recorded by the PAS, including instances from Piercebridge, Co. Durham (NCL-40721N6), Ditchingham, Norfolk (NMS-6FF112), Barton Bendish, Norfolk (NMS-1BA274), and Essex (ESS-861674). This form of seal-box adorned with a phallus is widely documented across the North-West provinces.<sup>89</sup>



FIG. 26. Kingsworthy, seal-box lid with phallic decoration (No. 26). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: R. Webley; © R. Webley and Winchester Museums Service)

<sup>88</sup> Found by A. Muller. Recorded by R. Webley.

<sup>89</sup> T. Derks and N. Roymans, 'Seal-boxes and the spread of Latin literacy in the Rhine delta', in A.E. Cooley (ed.), *Becoming Roman, Writing Latin? Literacy and Epigraphy in the Roman West*, *Journal of Roman Archaeology Supplementary Series* 48 (2002), figs 9.8, 9.10, 21.2 and 137.2; A. Furger, M. Wartmann and E. Riha, *Die römischen Siegelkapseln aus Augst und Kaiseraugst* (2009), 54–5, Abb. 32.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

(27) **Calbourne** (IOW-5FEAA4) (FIG. 27).<sup>90</sup> An incomplete Roman cast copper-alloy double terret of an unusual elaborate form, 93.5 mm high, 66 mm at its greatest width and weighing 221.1 g. It comprises the following elements: lozenge-shaped ornaments forming a domed or croissant-like 'skirt' with the remains of an iron shaft on the underside; two conjoined circular loops above; a top ornament formed by a flat oval plate surmounted by a baluster-style knob with mouldings. Finds of terrets with croissant-like 'skirts' have previously been confined mostly to Raetia and the two Germanies.<sup>91</sup> However, the PAS has now recorded significant numbers of such terrets with a distribution extending from Surrey to Lincolnshire. A double terret with conjoined loops is known from Chinnor, Oxon. (BERK-41B625), but no direct parallel has been found for this piece.<sup>92</sup>



FIG. 27. Calbourne, double terret of unusual form (No. 27). Scale 1:2.  
(Photo: F. Basford; © F. Basford)

<sup>90</sup> Found by T. Hayward. Identified by J. Schuster. Recorded by F. Basford and P. Walton.

<sup>91</sup> Schuster, *op. cit.* (note 55), 254–5, fig. 111, nos 220–2.

<sup>92</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 19), 446–7, no. 14, fig. 15.

(28) **Shalfleet** (IOW-1402E8) (FIG. 28).<sup>93</sup> An incomplete cast copper-alloy enamelled leopard brooch dating from the second century A.D. It is 20.9 mm high, 31.8 mm long, 16.2 mm thick, and weighs 13 g. The leopard's large head is turned to the right and its features are crudely modelled. Its small ears point upwards, the mouth is a small horizontal groove, and both eyes are circular recesses; the right eye contains what may be traces of decayed enamel. Each of the three short legs represented in a sidelong view of the leopard terminates in a sharp point. The tail is curled around the body and extends horizontally towards the head. Decoration on the body consists of ten unevenly distributed circular cells which are filled or partially filled with decayed enamel. On the back of the brooch are two D-shaped lugs, the corroded remains of a copper-alloy pin, and an incomplete, short catch-plate. The brooch lacks a patina and the surface colour is reddish brown. Two other leopard brooches, both of which represent females, have been recorded by the PAS, one from Little Waltham, Essex (CAM-925392), and the other from Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield, Suffolk (SF9384). This rare type may be a continental import, but less than a dozen known examples have been found from the Netherlands to the Black Sea, while a small number are known from Britain.<sup>94</sup>



FIG. 28. Shalfleet, enamelled leopard brooch (No. 28). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: F. Basford; © F. Basford)

#### DORSET

(29) **Tarrant Rushdon** (DOR-6E73F1) (FIG. 29).<sup>95</sup> A small copper-alloy mount in the form of a male bust which appears to rise out of a calyx.<sup>96</sup> The hair is swept forward into a short fringe, the ears and eyes are well defined, the latter with clearly delineated lower lids and brow line. The nose is triangular and somewhat flattened, perhaps as a result of damage to the mould. The mouth is narrow, but both lips are visible, the chin is rounded and the head is supported by a broad neck. On the chest is a small, flat oval disc with a crescent beneath it, perhaps a *bulla* and another amulet, but the means of suspension for neither is indicated. The back is flat with a slightly uneven surface and a rectangular-sectioned integral rivet projects from it at neck level. The features, executed in a fairly naturalistic manner, are reminiscent of portraiture of the first century A.D. The object is 27.3 mm high, 21 mm wide at the shoulders, 14.4 mm deep (excluding the rivet), and weighs 19.3 g. A similar mount has been recorded from Hadham, Herts. (BH-84F731).

<sup>93</sup> Found by P. Lewis. Recorded by F. Basford.

<sup>94</sup> E. Ettlinger, *Die römischen Fibeln in der Schweiz* (1973), 126–7, Taf. 14.22.

<sup>95</sup> Found by J. Earley. Recorded by C. Hayward Trevarthen, P. Walton and J. Pearce.

<sup>96</sup> The detail at the base of the figure seems more likely to represent the leaves of a calyx.





FIG. 29. Tarrant Rushdon, mount in the form of a male bust (No. 29). Scale 1:1.  
(Photo: C. Hayward Trevarthen; © Somerset County Council)

#### MILITARY OBJECTS RECORDED WITH THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME FROM 1997 TO 2011: A SUMMARY

The opportunity is taken in this section to summarise and review the metal objects likely to be associated with the Roman army as reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Individual finds with a military connection have been among the most noteworthy reported to the PAS, in particular the Crosby Garrett helmet and the Ilam ('Staffordshire Moorlands') pan, as well as fragments of a diploma found near Scarborough.<sup>97</sup> Among the more commonly occurring artefacts to be reported, some items stand out because of their good preservation — for instance a third-century openwork belt-plate decorated with enamel and millefiori glass from Kingsclere (Hants.)<sup>98</sup> — and others for their typological or iconographic interest — for example a phalera from Yscir, Powys,<sup>99</sup> an unusual late fourth-century openwork buckle from Chepstow showing a stylised helmeted rider,<sup>100</sup> a looped strap slide from Cambridge bearing a three-dimensional representation of a horse's head,<sup>101</sup> and an early Roman stud from Nottinghamshire with repoussé decoration in the form of a male head in profile, reminiscent of examples from Caerleon.<sup>102</sup> Finds of military objects — namely weapons, vehicle fittings, belt and harness fittings and mounts and other horse gear — quantified as categories I and J in previous annual summaries, comprise *in toto* a small percentage of the artefacts reported in any one year (typically *c.* 1 per cent of metal objects). Nonetheless by accumulation over the last 15 years a substantial body of more than 2,000 objects which may be associated with the Roman army has been documented. Military metalwork has received renewed scrutiny in recent years for its potential not only as a possible proxy form of evidence for the distribution of Roman army units or for insights into soldiers' equipment, but also in relation to the social identities of soldiers and their relationships with the communities amongst which they were stationed.<sup>103</sup> The following provides a summary of this category of artefacts from the first to fourth centuries A.D. recorded by the PAS — the types of object found, their quantities, date and distribution — and briefly considers aspects of their significance and interest.<sup>104</sup> Particular

<sup>97</sup> Crosby Garrett: Worrell and Pearce, *op. cit.* (note 6), 402–7, no. 1; Ilam: S. Worrell, 'Roman Britain in 2003 II. Finds reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme', *Britannia* 35 (2004), 326, no. 8; R. Tomlin, 'Roman Britain in 2003 III. Inscriptions', *Britannia* 35 (2004), 344–5, no. 24; near Scarborough: PAS YORYM-67D811.

<sup>98</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 55), 435–6, no. 20.

<sup>99</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 15), 288, no. 5.

<sup>100</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 55), 416–17, no. 1, fig. 3.

<sup>101</sup> PAS CAM-A831D3.

<sup>102</sup> PAS DENO-F2DA54, Chapman, *op. cit.* (note 22), 94–5.

<sup>103</sup> S. James, 'Writing the legions: the development and future of Roman military studies in Britain', *Archaeological Journal* 159 (2002), 1–58; Nicolay, *op. cit.* (note 69).

<sup>104</sup> This overview is the first stage in a wider study by the authors of this now very substantial body of data.



emphasis is placed on the frequent occurrence of ‘military’ objects of mid- and late imperial date in a rural setting in the province, especially in midland and eastern Britain.

Table 2 summarises the distribution of metal objects recorded by county, organised into PAS regions. It is based on a review of the descriptions and images of all instances of object types relevant to this category recorded on the database up to the end of 2011. In order to define relevant objects, this survey has used the major studies of Roman military equipment from Britain and adjacent areas. For presenting the data in summary form, the studies by Chapman and Nicolay, respectively of military finds from Roman Wales and non-military sites in the Rhine delta, have been especially useful as a guide, in particular the latter because of its extensive use of objects found during metal-detecting.<sup>105</sup> Catalogues of major relevant finds assemblages from excavations have also been consulted.<sup>106</sup> In general, artefacts identified as the equipment of Roman soldiers are interpreted as such either by function, representation in images of soldiers and their mounts, epigraphic evidence (especially ownership inscriptions), occasional textual references, and in particular their occurrence on military sites. As scholars working in this area have noted, it is often not easy to attribute individual object types — especially some belt or harness fittings — to a specifically military context, especially in the mid- and later imperial period, because they have also been shown to occur on non-military sites. This is most emphatically demonstrated in Nicolay’s recent survey.<sup>107</sup> For the purposes of tabulating and mapping finds, the definition has therefore been drawn broadly and not all scholars would accept some of the artefact types presented here as having an association with the Roman army. Nicolay, for example, includes the looped strap mount, a type of harness fitting otherwise not usually considered in this connection.<sup>108</sup>

The categories chosen for Table 2 present the data in approximate chronological order. The offensive and defensive weapons include swords, spears, daggers, chapes, armour and helmets. The vehicle fittings specifically comprise artefacts of first-century A.D. date in the form of an eagle’s head above a hexagonal socket with a projecting hook depicting a water bird’s head, to which reins may have been secured.<sup>109</sup> The other categories are: buckles, plates and strap ends from belts and baldrics of the first to third centuries A.D.; phalerae, i.e. as elements of horse harness; miscellaneous harness elements, principally junction loops, strap unions, strap fasteners; mounts,<sup>110</sup> primarily decorative fittings for leather strapping in a variety of forms — including square, rectangular, circular with or without a central boss, conical, vulvate, openwork, peltiform, *Trompetenmuster*, swastika forms — with a separate listing for both looped strap mounts (i.e. with one or two rectangular fixing bars<sup>111</sup>) and phallic mounts; button-and-loop fasteners; pendants, comprising elements from the military apron and horse

<sup>105</sup> e.g. M. Bishop, ‘Cavalry equipment of the Roman army in the first century AD’, in J.C. Coulston (ed.), *Military Equipment and the Identity of Roman Soldiers. Proceedings of the Fourth Roman Military Equipment Conference*, BAR International Series S394 (1988), 67–195; M. Bishop and J. Coulston, *Roman Military Equipment from the Punic Wars to the Fall of Rome* (2006); Chapman, op. cit. (note 22); M. Feugère, *Weapons of the Romans* (2002); Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69); 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.’, *Bericht der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission* 57 (1976), 49–366.

<sup>106</sup> e.g. L. Allason-Jones and R.F. Miket, *Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort* (1984); M. Bishop, *Finds from Roman Aldborough* (1996); Cool and Philo, op. cit. (note 32); P. Wilson (ed.), *Cataractonium. Roman Catterick Part 2* (2002); Crummy, op. cit. (note 73); H. Cool and D. Mason (eds), *Roman Piercebridge. Excavations by D.W. Harding and Peter Scott 1969–81* (2008).

<sup>107</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 207–36.

<sup>108</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 54–5.

<sup>109</sup> G. Webster, ‘The Roman military advance under Ostorius Scapula’, *Archaeological Journal* 115 (1958), 75.

<sup>110</sup> The mounts include seven examples identified as coming from the military apron.

<sup>111</sup> This type is described by Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 54. His analysis puts greater emphasis on this category than do other studies of Roman military metalwork.

TABLE 2. NUMBERS OF MILITARY ARTEFACTS RECORDED BY THE PAS FROM 1997 TO 2011 BY COUNTY AND TYPE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
<b>Wales</b>															
Anglesey									2						
Wrexham									1			1			
Swansea															1
Monmouth	1	1				1	1							1	
Powys		1	1		1	1	3		3						
Rhondda Cynon Taf		1													
Newport		1													
Glamorgan	1	1					1								
Flintshire									2						1
<b>England</b>															
Northumbd	10	3	3			3	2	2	5	1	1	3			
Durham	35	2	33			4	4		77	1	3	9		1	
Cleveland															1
N Yorks.	3	3	1				8	1	17	3	9	51	9	4	3
E Yorks.	2		1		4		3	1	10	2	1	52	13	2	4
S Yorks.	1								1			13	2		3
W Yorks.							1		1		3	9			
N Lincs.	2				2	1		1	8		2	8	5	5	2
Cumbria	2	3	1		2	1	5		15	1	1	11			
Cheshire	1	1				1			3	1		8			1
Lancs.	1						2		2			3			3
Lincs.	11	21	2			4	18	2	50	8	8	34	36	17	22
Notts.	3		1	1	1		1	1	9	1		14			
Derbys.	3	2					1	2		1		1	1		1
Herefs.	4	2				1						3	1	1	
Shrops.		1	1			2						9	1		1
Staffs.	2	2	2	1			2		8		1	11	1	1	2
Leics.	1	4	3	2		2	6	1	11			10	2		7
Rutland							1		3			2	1		
Worcs.	2	4					1	1	4	1		2			2
Warwicks.	2	7		1			2	2	37	2		2	8		2
Northants.	8	4				1	6		11	2	2	6	10	9	6
Norfolk	9	6	5		3	3	42	1	62	3	5	3	26	27	20
Suffolk	12	11	6	4	3	7	15	7	68	5	7	23	29	41	22
Cambs.	6	2	2	1			3		13		1	3	7	5	5
Essex	3	11			1	2	9	1	29	1	3	4		2	8

*Continued*

TABLE 2. CONTINUED

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Beds.	1		1			2	1		10	3		2	4	2	1
Herts.	2	3		4	2		3		36	4		4	6	9	1
Bucks.	2	2				3	3		6	2		2	3	5	
Oxon.	1	4				1	1		6	1	1		10	4	2
Gt. London	1		1					1	1	2		2			1
Hants.	3	5		2	2	2	7	1	30	1		2		15	11
Berks.		1		2									1	2	1
IOW		1		1		1	1					6	1	2	5
Surrey	1	2			1		2		4			6		1	2
W Sussex	2	2			1		3		6	1	1	3	3	1	
E Sussex				1			1		3				2	3	2
Kent	4	3					2	2	5	4		5	7	2	12
Wilts.	2	1			1		3	2	8			3	9	6	3
Glos.	6	2				2	3		7			5		1	1
Avon		2		1			2	1	1			1	3		
Somerset									1				2	2	1
Dorset								1	2		1	1	1	1	2
Devon															2
Cornwall											1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>164</b>

KEY

- A. Arms and armour
- B. Buckles and belt plates (1st–3rd century A.D.)
- C. Strap ends (1st–3rd century A.D.)
- D. Cart fittings
- E. Phalerae
- F. Misc. harness
- G. Pendants (1st–4th century A.D.)
- H. Phallic pendants
- I. Mounts
- J. Phallic mounts
- K. Other looped strapped mounts
- L. Button-and-loop fasteners
- M. Late buckles
- N. Late strap ends
- O. Crossbow brooches

harness, with phallic examples listed separately; buckles and strap ends from belts and baldrics of the 'long' fourth century A.D.; crossbow brooches.<sup>112</sup>

The 2,202 objects presented in Table 2 represent a substantial addition to the corpus of military objects. Allowing for variations in definition, the quantity is equivalent, for example, to those used in major surveys of Roman military equipment, such as the *c.* 1,300 objects examined in Chapman's corpus of evidence from military sites in Roman Wales, the 1,665 instances documented by Oldenstein in his fundamental study of second- and third-century A.D. metalwork associated with the Roman army in southern Germany, or the *c.* 2,700 objects from over 300 non-military sites in the lower Rhine region assessed by Nicolay, of which 44 per cent were collected by metal-detectorists outside a formal fieldwork setting.<sup>113</sup> When individual object categories are scrutinized the significance of the new PAS data is also apparent. In 2008 an additional 177 examples of button-and-loop fasteners were available to compare with those discussed in previous surveys.<sup>114</sup> Since that time the number reported to the PAS has increased by a further 160 examples. Equally the 21 bird mount vehicle fittings represent a significant number of new finds of objects of this type,<sup>115</sup> as do the 164 crossbow brooches<sup>116</sup> or the many more strap ends of fourth-century belts recorded by the PAS which are much more widely distributed than previously known examples.<sup>117</sup>

As in the case of excavated military metalwork, it is also essential to take taphonomic factors into account in assessing the character and distribution of metal-detected material.<sup>118</sup> The nature of the material and the circumstances of discovery determine some significant differences from excavated assemblages of similar artefacts.<sup>119</sup> The number of weapons, offensive or defensive, is very small and such items, with occasional exceptions such as the Crosby Garrett helmet, occur in only very fragmentary form. This must in part at least reflect the absence of iron (as well as bone) objects (for obvious reasons) from metal-detected finds, and also the lack of examination of context types that might produce complete or near-complete examples of such objects, for instance graves and votive deposits in pits or rivers. The only example of riverine deposition of arms recorded by the PAS is at Piercebridge; the finds of scabbard elements (slides, runners and a chape) and of fragments of armour (especially scale armour) account for many of the mounts and strap ends as well as the unusually high number of weapons in County Durham.<sup>120</sup> Some individual finds may also derive from votive deposits or graves, perhaps for example the Ilam pan or the Crosby Garrett helmet, but without excavation this remains supposition. The difficulty of identifying, and perhaps consequent non-reporting, by detectorists of fragmentary remnants of shields, helmets and armour (including, for example, tie loops) is also likely to have influenced the low representation of this category.<sup>121</sup> The predominance of horse harness and, to a lesser extent, belt elements is not unexpected; fittings certainly or probably related to horse harness — especially mounts and pendants — were also

<sup>112</sup> Late Roman spurs have been recently reviewed elsewhere: H.E.M. Cool, 'Spurs', in P. Booth *et al.*, *The Late Roman Cemetery at Lankhills, Excavations 2000–2005* (2010), 290–1.

<sup>113</sup> Nicolay, *op. cit.* (note 69), 9; Oldenstein *op. cit.* (note 105).

<sup>114</sup> Worrell, *op. cit.* (note 27), 341–7.

<sup>115</sup> Webster, *op. cit.* (note 109), 75.

<sup>116</sup> Swift's analysis, made before the PAS, exploits 108 examples from Britain, see E. Swift, *Regionality in Dress Accessories in the Late Roman West* (2000), 27.

<sup>117</sup> cf. K. Leahy, 'Soldiers and settlers in Britain, fourth to fifth century – revisited', in M. Henig and T.J. Smith (eds), *Collectanea Antiqua. Essays in Memory of Sonia Chadwick Hawkes*, BAR International Series S1673 (2007), 137, fig. 7.

<sup>118</sup> M. Bishop, 'Weaponry and military equipment', in L. Allason-Jones (ed.), *Artefacts in Roman Britain. Their Purpose and Use* (2011), 114–32.

<sup>119</sup> e.g. compare Chapman, *op. cit.* (note 22), 195.

<sup>120</sup> P. Walton, 'The finds from the river', in Cool and Mason, *op. cit.* (note 106), 286–93.

<sup>121</sup> Objects of this type, often fragmentary or corroded, are infrequently seen by Finds Liaison Officers amongst the artefacts of all periods that they are called on to identify.

by far the commonest objects among the finds from the Dutch eastern river area.<sup>122</sup> The large number of button-and-loop fasteners has already been noted. The high representation of belt buckles and strap ends of the late Roman period among the objects reported to the Scheme is a phenomenon already known from other studies<sup>123</sup> and may well reflect the greater recognisability to detectorists and perhaps also to Finds Liaison Officers of these highly decorated objects, often bearing zoomorphic iconography.

Table 2 also shows that the highest numbers of objects are found in the counties of eastern England from Yorkshire to Essex, with frequent finds also in the central and north-east Midlands, i.e. a zone between the Humber, Severn and Thames estuaries. The quantity of objects recorded from Norfolk is striking, since the overall number of objects from this county entered on the PAS database is otherwise much lower than for other counties in East Anglia.<sup>124</sup> With the exception of an arc from the Solent to the Severn few are reported in the coastal counties of southern England or from upland northern and western England and Wales. This is very similar to the distribution of all Roman period objects reported to the PAS, as comparison with the summaries of object distribution annually reported in *Britannia* and with the numbers and density of coins by county demonstrates, which must reflect similar biasing factors of regional variability in ancient societies, modern agriculture and detecting practice.<sup>125</sup> An additional influence on the distribution of military objects as recorded by the PAS is of course the scheduled ancient monument status of many garrison sites in northern England and Wales.

The distribution of individual object types is, with some exceptions, similar to that of the general category. For example the distributions of buckles of different dates recorded by the PAS (FIGS 30 and 31) have only minor differences in emphasis, with a greater concentration of findspots of first- to third-century A.D. buckles in Lincolnshire and slightly fewer examples in Norfolk and Suffolk than might otherwise be expected.<sup>126</sup> There are very few first-century A.D. buckles or strap ends in this group, especially examples of pre-Flavian date: first- and second-century hinged buckles and second- to third-century buckles with trapeziform extensions comprise the majority of instances. The distribution of late Roman zoomorphic buckles (FIG. 31) shows a slightly greater emphasis in the West Country and East Yorkshire, though the clustering around the Severn Estuary apparent in other recent studies — drawing on metal-detected material not reported to the PAS as well as excavations — is not manifested here.<sup>127</sup> The distribution of pendants of first- to fourth-century A.D. date is also generally similar to that of all the object categories (FIG. 32). A regional emphasis is not visible in the distribution of single pendant types, except perhaps for openwork, leaf-shaped and sub-triangular examples which cluster to some degree in Norfolk. The object with the clearest regional profile in its distribution is the button-and-loop fastener, the majority of findspots being in the east Midlands and north-east England, especially North and East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. This has previously been noted, but can now be documented on the basis of a very much larger sample.<sup>128</sup>

<sup>122</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 66–7, 70–1, fig. 3.3, 228–30, figs 6.8, 6.10.

<sup>123</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 69–70, fig. 3.3.

<sup>124</sup> See note 2 above.

<sup>125</sup> Moorhead and Walton, op. cit. (note 5), 435–6, table 2.

<sup>126</sup> The maps were prepared by S. Brookes, Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

<sup>127</sup> Leahy, op. cit. (note 117); J. Coulston, 'Military equipment of the "long" 4<sup>th</sup> century AD on Hadrian's Wall', in L. Allason-Jones and R. Collins (eds), *Finds from the Frontier* (2010), 54; S. Laycock, *Britannia – The Failed State: Tribal Conflict and the End of Roman Britain* (2008), 115–21.

<sup>128</sup> Worrell, op. cit. (note 27), 341–7.



FIG. 30. Distribution of first- to third-century A.D. buckles recorded by the PAS.

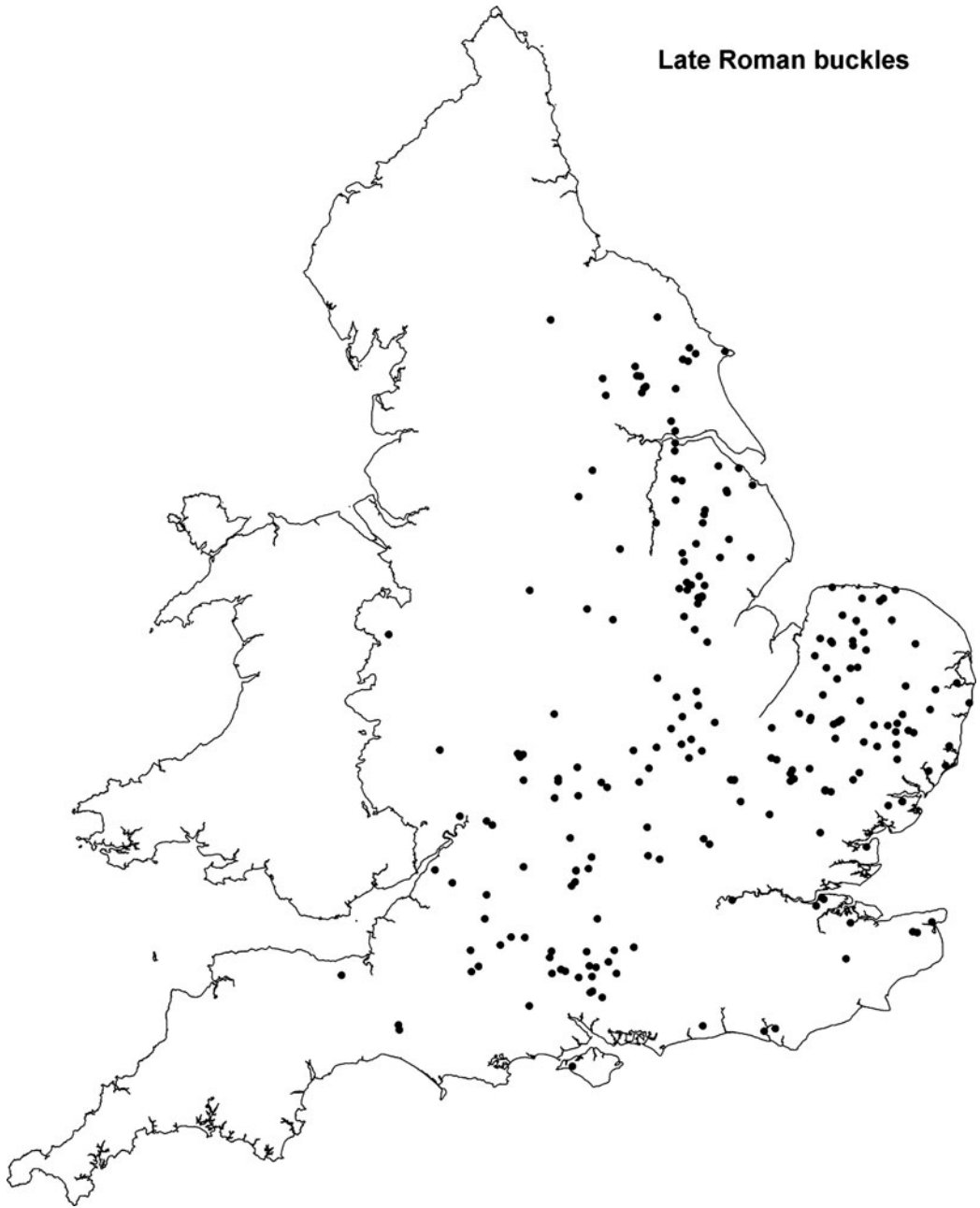


FIG. 31. Distribution of fourth-century A.D. buckles recorded by the PAS.



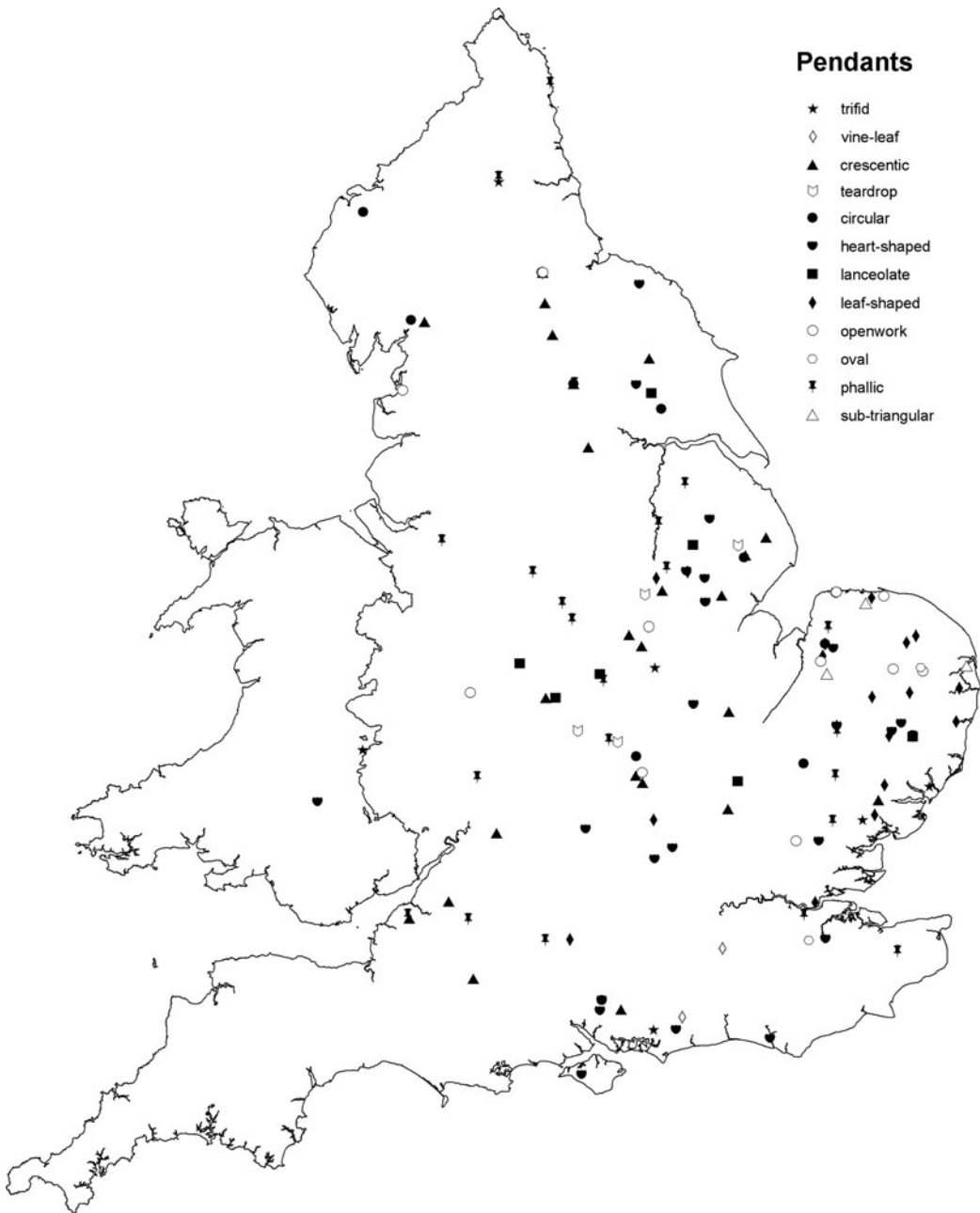


FIG. 32. Distribution of pendants of Roman date recorded by the PAS.

Although the objects discussed here represent a substantial new dataset, it will of course be important in future study to take account of the caveats expressed above. There are significant biases in the PAS dataset, both in the types and in the distribution of finds documented: in particular the upland areas where permanent garrisons were sited have only very limited representation among PAS records. While the overall numbers of objects are quite large, there are very few substantial assemblages from the same site, the main exceptions being the River Tees at Piercebridge, as already mentioned, or the numerous fittings found outside the fort at Brecon Gaer, Yscir, Powys, which also represents an otherwise unusual collection of objects from a recognised military site, on which work is currently in progress.<sup>129</sup> From an initial evaluation, however, it is otherwise only occasionally possible to identify groups of objects from the same or related sites, for example at Brancaster in Norfolk: otherwise even in regions where they are abundant, objects of the types considered here occur in only very small numbers or in isolation amongst other categories of finds, though there is scope for closer examination of local distribution patterns.<sup>130</sup> Nonetheless some points of wider interest can be made. This survey points to the abundance of military objects in rural areas of the province, which after the conquest phase of the mid-first century A.D. lacked garrisons stationed in close proximity to them. Some forts may remain to be discovered here, but while the sites from which these objects originate are difficult to define on the basis of unstratified evidence alone, most are likely to be farms or, more occasionally, villas or small towns, and perhaps occasionally shrines or disturbed burials. Some finds will also be part of the widespread ‘background noise’ of Roman finds produced by ancient and post-antique agricultural practice and geomorphological processes.<sup>131</sup> Some of the arguments advanced to explain the presence of military items in towns may apply here, including chance loss by passing troops, the stationing of soldiers either in units or as *beneficarii*, the manufacture of objects of this type, and veteran settlement.<sup>132</sup> In some cases their presence may be a product of a scenario outlined by Nicolay, i.e. the return of discharged auxiliaries to the places from which they had been recruited or with which they had become associated during military service, having retained items of equipment to be disposed of in rite of passage rituals on leaving the army or curated as heirlooms.<sup>133</sup> But as Nicolay also observes, it seems unlikely that such a wide distribution of objects of this type in a broad array of forms can only be the product of military activity. His argument that ‘the terms military and civilian cannot be satisfactorily applied’ in the case of several object types — especially in the belt and harness fittings used for men and animals, particularly horses — after the first century A.D., seems to be strongly reinforced by these data.<sup>134</sup> Unlike Nicolay’s case study area, immediately adjacent to the frontier, this province-wide survey shows a distribution of artefacts of this category — especially dress and above all harness items — extending hundreds of miles from the frontier. Objects of this type may prove in future to be more abundant on garrison sites than on any others when excavated data are taken into account; nonetheless the evidence considered here suggests the existence of a general koine of decorative and apotropaic metalwork for dressing and adorning people and horses that extends across military and civilian communities. On the evidence of their

<sup>129</sup> Worrell, op. cit. (note 15), 288.

<sup>130</sup> T. Brindle, *The Portable Antiquities Scheme and Roman Britain: An Evaluation of the Potential for Using Amateur Metal Detector Data as an Archaeological Resource*, unpub. Ph.D. thesis, King’s College, London (2011); Jude Plouviez and Andrew Rogerson (pers. comm.) and the first author make similar observations on objects associated with the Roman army in relation to Suffolk, Norfolk and Hampshire respectively.

<sup>131</sup> Brindle, op. cit. (note 130).

<sup>132</sup> M.C. Bishop, ‘Soldiers and military equipment in the towns of Roman Britain’, in V.A. Maxfield and M.J. Dobson (eds), *Roman Frontier Studies 1989* (1991), 21–7.

<sup>133</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 173–206.

<sup>134</sup> Nicolay, op. cit. (note 69), 11.

distribution this shared repertoire includes items which are influenced by Iron Age tradition, such as the button-and-loop fastener, and those which come from a Classical tradition, such as the phallus motif. It should also be noted that the distribution in the PAS dataset of the many belt buckles and strap ends of the later fourth century A.D. — so extensively discussed for their possible insights into the distribution of late Roman soldiers — extends across a zone in which the practice of adorning the bodies of men and horses with metal ornament had already been well established in former centuries. In this respect their presence arguably represents the changing expression of an established practice. On this basis, it could be argued that the general distribution of items of harness and suspension gear should be established as a reference point against which that of specific artefact types may be compared in order to assess their importance.

*Institute of Archaeology, University College London (S.W.)*

s.worrell@ucl.ac.uk

*Department of Classics, King's College London (J.P.)*

john.pearce@kcl.ac.uk

*This paper is published with the aid of a grant from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.*