

rather it may simply be indicative of large numbers of individuals attending the site, one could surmise, to partake in acts or rites involving structured deposition. His implication is that they are attending in large numbers, and probably on many occasions, the numerous brooches then representing the accumulation of many casual losses.

That the brooch types here lack diversity on occupation sites is noteworthy. The brooches are not indicative in their own right of anything in particular, they are all relatively plain, although not the plainest of brooches in the Romano-British repertoire. The Colchester derivative, and its sub-types – the Harlow and Springhead – are exceedingly common and widespread, in terms of regional distribution, in the South East. The existence of this type here, therefore, is not surprising but, in the absence of any complementary data from the occupation sites of the people wearing these brooches, it is likely that they were all of one social group. The lack of high-status and exotic types suggests therefore that they did not include people with means to acquire such elaborate types. But this interpretation must be made with caution. This is just a group of similar brooches from one site, however exceptional the archaeological remains from the features on this site may be.

IRON AGE AND ROMAN COINS, by Murray Andrews (figs 37 and 38: see *Endnote*)

A total of 55 Iron Age and Roman coins were recovered during excavations at the site. These are listed in a catalogue, which forms part of the site archive. All the coins are ‘single finds’ deposited individually, although a significant proportion were disturbed or redeposited in the post-Roman period; roughly half the coins derive from phased contexts of later prehistoric to Roman date, with the remainder occurring as residual finds in later hill wash, subsoil and topsoil deposits.

The earliest coin is a Late Iron Age copper-alloy Flat Linear Class I potin (SF A263). Although residual in a Roman context (Quarry 2: Infill Event 2), distributional evidence indicates that the coin is an entirely plausible loss of the Middle–Late Iron Age (Holman 2016, 28), and may therefore evidence otherwise ephemeral activity at the site in the pre-Roman period.

The Roman coin series commences in the mid-1st century with three copper-alloy *asses* of Nero (SFs A284, A285, A287), all issued by the *Lugdunum* mint during the AD 60s. These are followed in the Flavian period by seven *asses* (SFs B35, A200, A271, A273–4, B286, A290) and three *dupondii* (SFs A261, A272, A277) of Vespasian and Domitian; these include one *as* of Vespasian’s IVDAEA CAPTA issue (SF A290), struck to commemorate the capture of Judaea and destruction of the Second Temple during the First Jewish Revolt (recovered from Quarry 1: Infill Event 1). There is then a break in the sequence, which resumes in the Antonine period with two *asses* of Antoninus Pius’s BRITANNIA issue of 154–155 (SFs A5, A278), the reverses of which depict a female personification of the province seated on rocks with a round shield and sceptre. The presence of these coins at Ewell accords well with the overall pattern of Pius’s BRITANNIA coinage, specimens of which are encountered with disproportionate frequency in British hoards and single finds. It seems likely that these coins were either deliberately shipped to, or possibly minted in, the province as part of a conscious political strategy, intended to construct a sense of provincial identity and unity in a region where its recent history was marked by violent unrest (Todd 1966, 149–50; Rowan 2013, 226–8).

There are no late 2nd or early 3rd century coins from the site. The series resumes in the mid–late 3rd century with *antoniniani* of the Central, Gallic and Britannic Empires, with official coins (SFs A3, B19, A213, A227) and contemporary copies (SFs B13, A206, A221) represented in roughly equal proportions. Fourth century *nummi* are predictably numerous and form a more or less continuous sequence from the 320s to the 370s incorporating both official coins and contemporary copies. Ten of these coins (SFs A207, A222, A230–1, A234, A237, A239, A254, A269, A276) have observable mint-marks, which exhibit a skew towards core western mints – *Arelate*, *Londinium*, *Lugdunum* and *Treveri* – commonly observed

in British hoard and site finds. Seven further coins are indeterminate late Roman issues of the mid-3rd–4th centuries (SFs B17, B20, A251) and 4th century (SFs A238, A241, A259, A267). These include a heavily worn 4th century *nummus* (SF A267), found in the topsoil, that had been pierced with a small, round hole, almost certainly intended to be suspended and worn as a pendant. This coin is of special interest in view of the presence of a 6th century inhumation on the site, as pierced Roman coins are commonly encountered in Saxon mortuary assemblages (White 1988), and it is quite likely that the coin represents a reused object displaced from a disturbed Saxon grave.

From a broader provincial perspective, the coins from Ewell exhibit an unusual chronological pattern (fig 37). First century coins, particularly those of Nero and the Flavian emperors, are disproportionately common at Ewell when compared with the province as a whole, whereas the late 3rd century and early and late 4th century coins are represented in far fewer numbers than might be anticipated given the background pattern of provincial supply. The peculiarly early profile of the coin finds from this site is confirmed through comparison with the 140 excavated site assemblages catalogued by Richard Reece (1991). By far the closest parallels are found in the excavated coins from the *civitas* capital at Chichester, the *colonia* at Gloucester and the small town at Sea Mills, Bristol (Reece 1991, sites 14, 49, and 59; cf Lockyear 2000, 420), three sites where coins are numerous in the 1st century, scarce in the 2nd–mid-3rd centuries, particularly common in the mid-4th century, and rare in the late 4th century (fig 38). The close resemblance between the coins from the site and these early urban settlements is of interest given the evidence for an early roadside settlement at Ewell in the Flavian and Antonine periods (Pemberton 1973b, 6–9).

Given the evidence for structured deposition of human and animal remains on the site, it is equally interesting to observe the lack of any clear parallels between the chronological profile of the Ewell coins and the profiles of coins from other British temple and ‘ritual’ sites (cf Reece 1991, sites 130–140). Moreover, it is notable that none of the Ewell coins bear traces of mutilation – for example, bending, cutmarks and portioning (Kiernan 2001) commonly observed on structured deposits of coins from Romano-British ‘ritual’ sites. It seems unlikely, therefore, that the Ewell coins represent acts of structured deposition; instead, they are consistent with a background of accidental losses accumulated on a site located close to an early settlement on a major road connecting the *civitas* capital at Chichester to the provincial capital at London.

#### THE MIDDLE-SAXON SMALL FINDS, by Märit Gaimster with coin identification by Murray Andrews

Two objects were recovered from the Saxon burial (Period 6; Inhumation 7), both of which can be classified as grave goods. A complete iron knife blade was found beside the right hip of the body, while a silver coin was situated in the head area. The coin is a Series B *sceat*; with a broad date range of *c* AD 685–700, it provides a *terminus post quem* for the burial, dating it to the Middle Saxon period (fig 39).

The knife (SF A268) is tang-hafted, and the blade has a curved back and a straight cutting edge (fig 40). The form can be identified as Evison Type 4, a classification based on the finds from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Dover Buckland in Kent (Evison 1987, 113–16). Alternative ways of classifying knives have since been advanced taking into account the unreliability of definitions based on the cutting edge, which may have been modified by use and sharpening (cf Ottaway 1992, 558–72). Altogether, however, knives with curved backs appear to be the most frequent form in the early medieval period (Blakelock & McDonnell 2007, 54). While nothing remains of the organic handle it is likely to have been made of horn, which seems to have been the preferred material for knife handles in the early Saxon period (Cameron 2000, 50, 53). The position of the knife in the grave, situated on the right hip of the body, suggests it was worn at the belt as part of the clothing.

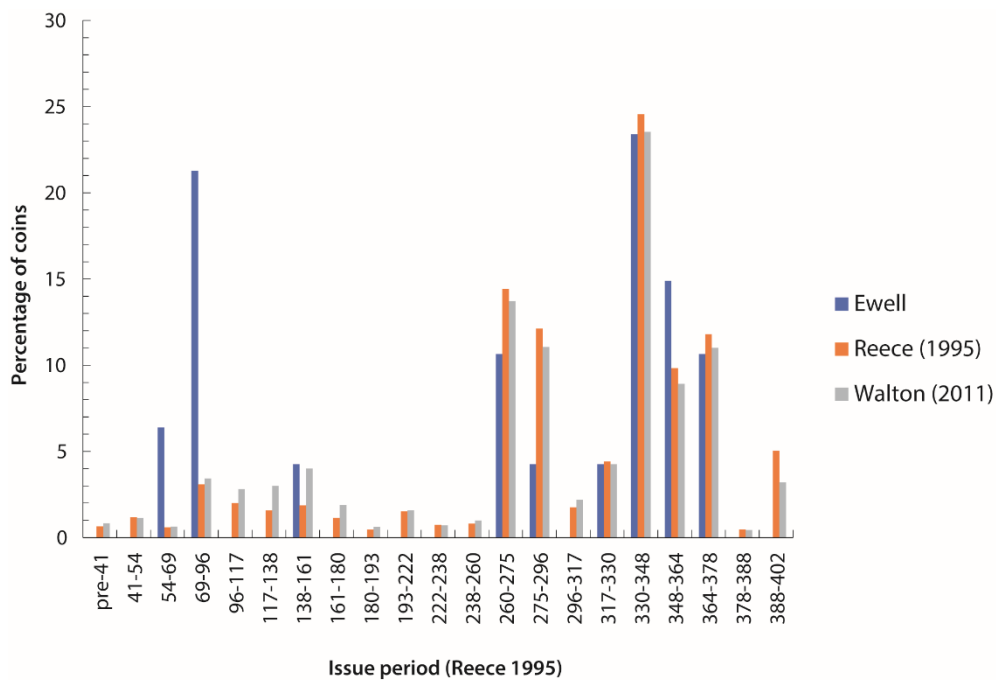


Fig 37 Chronological distribution of Roman coins from Ewell Sites A and B compared with Reece's (1995, 183) and Walton's (2011, 420) British means.

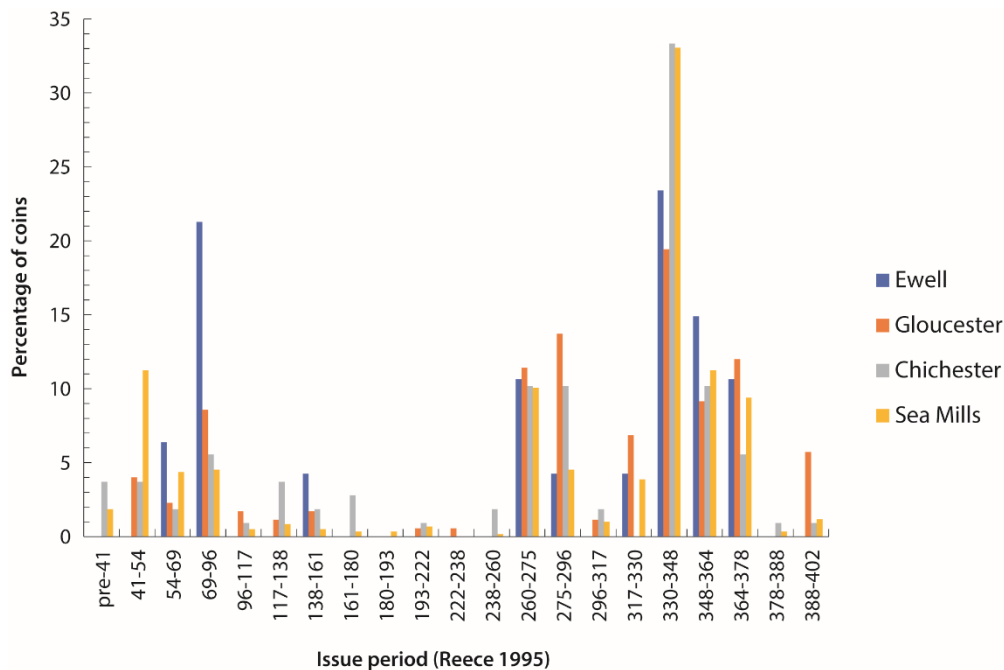


Fig 38 Chronological distribution of Roman coins from Ewell Sites A and B compared with coins from Chichester (Reece 1991, site 14), Gloucester (Reece 1991, site 49), and Sea Mills (Reece 1991, 59).