COINS IN CONTEXT: COINAGE AND VOTIVE DEPOSITION IN IRON AGE SOUTH-EAST LEICESTERSHIRE

IAN LEINS

Introduction

THE south-east Leicestershire site, discovered in 2000, has yielded the largest assemblage of Iron Age coins ever recovered under controlled archaeological conditions in Britain. In total 5,292 coins have been found, almost two-thirds of which were discovered as *in situ* hoards or deposits. Amongst the other finds was a decorated silver-gilt Roman cavalry helmet, which despite its fragile condition is set to become a truly iconic image of Roman conquest-period Britain. The principal value of the site, however, stems from the opportunity to study coins in their original depositional context. Coins are central to our understanding of the nature and chronology of the site, as a number of distinct deposits can be identified and related to other activities, including possible evidence of ritual sacrifice and feasting. The site also provides an alternative model for the interpretation of other coin assemblages, where disturbed scatters are often assumed to originate from a single hoard despite lacking archaeological context. The possibility that such scatters originally comprised multiple deposits of the kind found at the present site must be considered. Finally, the assemblage provides a fresh insight into the local production of Iron Age coinage in the north-east Midlands. With more than 4,800 coins being of locally produced types, it increases the overall number of known specimens of this regional coinage by around one hundred and fifty per cent.

Circumstances of discovery

In November 2000 a community fieldwork group, one of many set up in the last thirty years by Leicestershire County Council, began finding late Iron Age pottery whilst field-walking on a hilltop near Market Harborough, in south-east Leicestershire. Although the pottery was not unusual for the area, the discovery of a quantity of animal bone aroused the interest of one member of the group, Ken Wallace. A keen metal-detector user, he sought the farmer's permission to return to the site with his detector and over several days recovered more than two hundred coins. These were subsequently identified as late Iron Age silver coins, of types traditionally attributed to the Corieltavi 'tribe', and contemporary Roman Republican and early Imperial silver denarii.

Wallace reported his finds to the Leicestershire County Council heritage team, the Coroner and the British Museum, commenting there were plenty more coins still in the soil. English Heritage agreed to fund an archaeological evaluation, which was conducted by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 2001. Only now, however, after more than four years of excavation and many hundreds of hours of conservation and identification work at the British Museum, is the unique nature and significance of the site and its finds assemblage beginning to emerge.

The archaeology

Geophysical survey confirmed that the hilltop lay within a complex prehistoric and Roman landscape, but failed to locate any structural features in the area where the main concentra-

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tion of coins had been discovered. Circular features, perhaps Iron Age roundhouses, were noted to the north-west, but the coins appeared to be a single plough-scattered hoard. This conclusion would have been entirely consistent with the 'default interpretation' of dispersed finds of Iron Age coins. However, during the initial evaluation of the site, a trial trench opened in this area revealed at least fourteen distinct *in situ* coin hoards, comprising 2,026 coins in total; they were positioned immediately to the west of what appeared to be the entranceway of an Iron Age enclosure ditch. As the excavations proceeded, the complexity of the site and its coin deposits became apparent.

The surviving section of the enclosure ditch runs from north to south with an entranceway about two-thirds of the way along. At present it is impossible to determine whether or not the ditch formed a complete circuit. Pottery recovered from the ditch is suggestive of a late Iron Age date. On either side of the entranceway the ditch terminals are kinked, as if to guide traffic in and out through opposite sides, and the entranceway itself divided by an angled pit containing the skeleton of a small dog with its front legs pulled back under its body, apparently evidence of ritual treatment. The concentration of the coin groups, and location in relation to these features, is highly suggestive of both their association with the functions of the enclosure and the votive nature of their deposition.

The area excavated to the east of the entranceway (the 'outside' of the enclosure) produced a number of shallow pits packed with animal bone. The selection and treatment of the animals, which have been identified mainly as immature pigs often buried as articulated body-parts, raises the possibility of ritual sacrifice. The use of young animals for sacrifice or feasting can be paralleled at other temples and shrines of the period, including Uley (Gloucester), Harlow, Great Chesterford (both Essex) and Hayling Island (Hampshire). An Iron Age bronze tankard handle was recovered from the topsoil above the pits and perhaps provides further evidence for ceremonial feasting. Bone from two pits was radiocarbon dated, indicating a 95.4% probability that the animals died in the period 50 cal. BC–cal. AD 80, with a 68.2% probability of between 40 cal. BC and cal. AD 55 (Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit).

To the south of the entranceway, a mass of corroded iron was discovered together with more than 1,100 coins. After many hours of conservation by Marilyn Hockey at the British Museum, the corroded iron was identified as the remains of a silver-gilt Roman cavalry helmet, most closely paralleled by a first century AD example from Xanten in Germany.[1] One of the helmet's highly decorated cheek-pieces shows a member of the Imperial family (being crowned by Victory), on horseback, riding over a crouching barbarian. The style of the figure points to a Julio-Claudian production date.

Further to the south a number of coins and silver objects were discovered within the fills of the enclosure ditch. The objects included a decorated silver circular mount, a silver bowl and two large silver ingots. One of the ingots was semicircular, the other triangular (the typical shape of recorded British mid to late Iron Age crucibles). Both appear to have been made by melting down coins, as at least one protrudes from the triangular ingot. The artefacts seem to have been deliberately placed within the ditch, upright on their edges.

Summary

The excavated evidence suggests that the site formed an open-air location for gatherings and ritual activities that included the deposition of coin hoards and ceremonial sacrifice and feasting. There is no evidence of domestic occupation. The earliest datable feature appears to have been the enclosure ditch itself, which can be dated to the late Iron Age on the basis of pottery finds. Activity seems to have been formally divided, with coin hoards deposited to the west of the enclosure ditch, mirroring an area of animal bone deposition to the east. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the bone suggest that the animals were killed in the late Iron Age and/or early Roman period, and are therefore likely to have been deposited at

[1] Williams 2003. At the time of writing it is expected that the helmet will be fully published by Simon James in 2008–9.

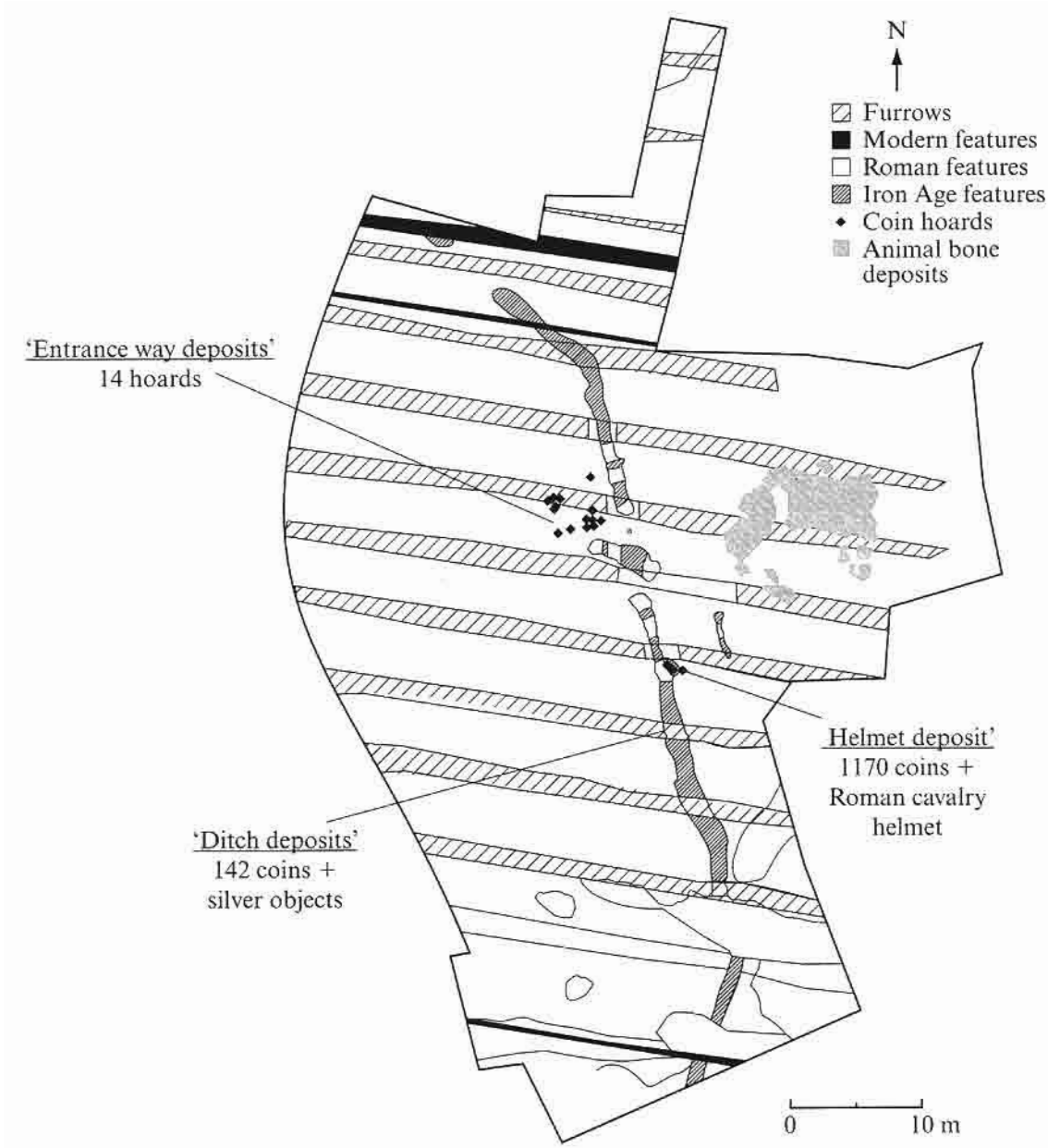


Fig. 1. Site plan showing the principal areas of coin deposition (source: ULAS).

roughly the same time as the coin hoards on the opposite side of the ditch. Coins deposited with the helmet and in the ditch fills to the south of the entranceway are also broadly contemporary with these deposits. A detailed analysis of the composition of the various coin groups produced more accurate dates for the individual hoards, and a clearer understanding of the relationship between the different areas of deposition (see below). There is evidence for Roman period structures to the south of the excavated area, and within the wider landscape, but these do not impinge on the main areas of ritual activity discussed above.

Summary of the coins

In total the site has yielded 5,292 coins, including 3,409 from stratified archaeological deposits. The vast majority can be identified as locally-produced Iron Age silver units and half units. A summary of the coins, by type, from each area and context (essentially an individual hoard or deposit) appears in Appendix 1. The different classes of local silver referred to in this summary are described in Appendix 2, with examples of most illustrated. The latest version of the full catalogue can be downloaded as a PDF file from the British Museum website (www.thebritishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/the_east_leicestershire_hoards.aspx).

The following sections provide a summary of these coins, discuss their role in the dating and interpretation of the site, and outline their potential for improving our understanding of the production of coinage in the societies of the north-east Midlands during the late Iron Age. While the analysis concentrates mainly on the local silver coinages, most prevalent in the assemblage, the importance of non-local Iron Age and Roman coins will also be examined. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the Roman coins.

TABLE 1. Overview of coins.

		Quantity
Roman	Republic	117
	Imperial (31 BC–AD 43)	32
Iron Age, local	Uninscribed	240
	Inscribed AVN	2801
	Inscribed IISVPRASV	269
	Inscribed VEP	1424
	Inscribed IATISON	74
	Other (VOLISIOS, etc.)	15
Iron Age, non-local	Cunobelin	79
	Other	37
Other (Later Roman, Medieval, modern, fragments, etc.)		204
	Total:	***5292***

The coins in context

Almost all of the 3,409 stratified coins (3,338 = 98%) were recovered from one of the three main areas of coin deposition (Table 2, nos 1–3). A small number were recovered from other minor contexts (no. 4).

TABLE 2. Number of coins by context.

	'Area'	*Contexts (individual deposits)*	*Quantity*
1	Entranceway deposits	1–8, 13–15, 18, 69, 70	2026
2	Helmet deposits	73–75	1170
3	Ditch deposits	12, 28, 94/310, 96, 307	142
4	Various minor contexts	10, 17, 20, 26, 65, 68, 109, 213, 215, 218, 220, 222, 226–229	71
		Total	3409

The remainder of the coins from the site (1,883) lack stratified contexts, having been discovered either using a metal-detector or within the topsoil stripped during excavation. This group is likely to consist of a mixture of ploughed-out hoards or parts-of-hoards and (to a lesser extent) later coins indicative of the continued use of the site through the Roman period.

1. *The entranceway deposits*

Fourteen separate hoards, comprising 2,026 coins in total, were excavated from the western side of the entranceway. Several exhibited a clustered appearance suggestive of having been buried in fabric pouches. Most of the hoards can be clearly distinguished from one another, although several may be incomplete as the upper parts appear to have been removed and scattered by ploughing. In compositional terms all are broadly similar, suggesting that they were drawn from a similar circulation pool and therefore are likely to have been deposited over a

relatively short period of time. The major types of local inscribed coinage at the site (AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP) are present in every hoard, indicating that none can have been assembled before the production of the latest of these types had begun, i.e. later in their assumed production period (*c.*AD 10–40).[2]

Roman issues present in eight of the fourteen groups generally date to the Republican, Augustan or Tiberian periods. One hoard (context C3) includes a single, almost unworn denarius of Claudius struck in AD 41/42. As such these indicate *termini post quos* comparable to those suggested by the local coinage. The general absence of issues of Gaius, Claudius, Nero and later emperors suggests only *termini post quos* before *c.*AD 54, as denarii of AD 37–54 are unusual in both hoards and site assemblages in Britain. While pre-conquest deposition remains a theoretical possibility (for some or all of the hoards), the main period of deposition is most likely to date to the early post-conquest period (AD 40s/50s).[3]

2. *The helmet deposit*

In total 1170 coins were recovered together with, or immediately adjacent to, the Roman cavalry helmet.[4] Although excavated in two main groups (C74 and 75), numismatic analysis makes it clear that they represent a single deposit, broadly similar in composition (and hence date) to those from the entranceway. A striking similarity with one of the entranceway hoards (C18) suggests that these groups were drawn from an identical circulation pool and possibly deposited as part of the same votive act. This also provides a clear link between the depositional activity in the two areas.

The latest Roman coins are *Pontif Maxim* denarii of Tiberius (struck throughout his reign of AD 14–37). While these do not in themselves provide a particularly useful dating tool, wear levels and the presence of 'issue iv' types – one of the latest stages of this coinage – support the idea that the hoard was probably not assembled until *at least* the end of Tiberius's reign.[5] A post-conquest deposition date, in the AD 40s/50s, again seems most plausible.

3. *The ditch deposits*

One hundred and forty-two coins were found within the ditch fills to the south of the entranceway, and are amongst the earliest on the site. More than 50% are uninscribed, compared with 2.4% (average) for the entranceway contexts and 0.8% (average) for the helmet contexts. Although these deposits appear significantly earlier in compositional terms, a substantial number and range of local inscribed coins (totalling 43% and comprising AVN, VEP, IATISON and VOLISIOS DVMNOCO types) were discovered, some in the lower fills of the ditch. Eastern issues of Cunobelin (*c.*AD 10–40) were also present. Together these indicate that the ditch deposits cannot have been buried much before the hoards described above. While this seems contradictory, it implies that the ditch deposits were made after the production of the inscribed coinage was underway, but before the earlier uninscribed coinage had ceased to dominate the circulation pool. Other coins from the ditch include a single coin of Tasciovanos (*c.*20 BC–AD 10), recovered from the trench terminal to the north of the entranceway, and an uninscribed silver unit from near the dog burial.

4. *Other deposits, hoards, and unstratified coins*

A single stratified Gallo-Belgic D copy and a number of unstratified Gallo-Belgic and early British coins (mainly Southern QC quarter staters) were recovered from the 'feasting area'. These coins, which date to the mid first century BC, are the earliest from the site.[6] As such they may provide either an earlier date for the animal deposits in this area, or represent an earlier hoard or votive offering disturbed during the later deposition of the animal bone.

[2] Haselgrove 1987, 266. Haselgrove attributes these types to his Phase 8 (*c.*AD 10–40).

[3] The dating proposed here is consistent with the work of Haselgrove (1987, 266) and Curteis (2005), who have suggested that most ritually deposited Iron Age coins appear in contexts datable to the early post-conquest period.

[4] It must be noted that an estimated one hundred coins remain sealed beneath the cheek-piece of the helmet awaiting the completion of conservation work. X-rays suggest that these are mainly smaller half-units. Although these coins are unlikely to change the overall interpretation of the group, their existence and effect on any statistical analyses must be borne in mind.

[5] See Giard 1983, 47–48, 124ff.

[6] Haselgrove 1987, 240ff. All these types are dated by Haselgrove to his Period II (*c.*80–20 BC).

The majority of other stratified coin finds come from contexts on the periphery of the excavated area. Those from the more southerly area, which is characterised by archaeological features of possible Roman date, unsurprisingly consist of mainly Roman coins. Roman coins of first to fourth century date, typical of those found at most British sites, were also common amongst the unstratified finds. Appendix 3 compares the site's Roman coin assemblage to the 'British mean' coin loss figures. While this reveals continued activity at the site at least up to the AD 360s, it is the intense early activity that is particularly noteworthy. Unusually high peaks are registered for the Claudian, Neronian and Flavian periods, and to a lesser extent the Trajanic and Hadrianic periods. A number of unstratified brooches of later first or early second century date further support the idea that the site saw a significant level of activity at this time. Such a pattern is consistent with an early military presence and/or possible continued observance of the site's religious significance.[7]

Establishing the exact nature of the site during the Roman period, and the relationship with earlier Iron Age activity, is difficult when based mainly on unstratified coins. Further progress may result from future survey work beyond the excavated area.

Summary of coin deposition at the site

(1) Possible deposit(s) around the 'feasting area' (mid to late first century BC)
(2) Deposits in the ditch fill (late pre-conquest period, *c.*30s AD?)
(3) Entranceway and helmet deposits (early post-conquest period, *c.*40s/50s AD)
(4) Deposits/losses associated with continued activity into the Roman period (possibly focused around structures to the south of the excavated area)

The coinage of the north-east Midlands

At present there are two frameworks for understanding the local coinage tradition to which the Leicestershire assemblage belongs. The first ascribes all of the similarly styled coins found across the north-east Midlands and Yorkshire to a single 'tribe', the Corieltavi.[8] Implicit in this is the assumption that the later Roman *civitas*, described in Ptolemy's *Geography* of *c.*AD 150, was based upon pre-existing late Iron Age social organisation. The coins, which have been used to define a 'tribal territory' covering parts of modern Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, are the primary evidence for this perceived spatial and temporal continuity.

Within this tribal model individual inscribed coinages are viewed as products of successive tribal leaders. Simple dynastic succession is envisaged, except where combinations of names appear in inscriptions (see the 'group 5' coins below), when the possibility of shared leadership is acknowledged.[9] Coin production is assumed to be more or less regular and continuous, allowing a simple production sequence to be constructed to fill the period between the latest uninscribed issues (taken as *c.*10 BC) and the cessation of all insular coin production (*c.*AD 50s).[10]

A second, more cautious approach to attribution and dating has been adopted in the classifications of Haselgrove and Hobbs.[11] The possibility of a socio-political sub-division within the circulation area of north-eastern coinage, initially suggested on the basis of the appearance of combinations of names on the coins, was strengthened by analysis of coin

[7] Moorhead 2001, 88, 99. The votive site at Urchfont (no. 21 in Moorhead's analysis of coin assemblages from sites in Wiltshire) exhibits a similar profile in the early Roman period and may serve as a useful comparison.

[8] See Allen 1963 and Van Arsdell 1989. Until 1965 the Iron Age 'tribe' was referred to as the 'Coritani', based on readings of the later Roman *civitas* name in Ptolemy and the *Ravenna Cosmography*. The discovery of an inscription at Caves Inn, Warwickshire gave rise to the form 'Corieltauvi' (see *RIB* II.5, 2491.150). This was later corrected to 'Corieltavi' (see Breeze 2002 and Tomlin and Hassall 2003, 382).

[9] Van Arsdell 1989, 247.

[10] Van Arsdell 1989, 247–65.

[11] Haselgrove 1987; Hobbs 1996.

distributions in the 1980s.[12] The problems of applying the term Corieltavi (the evidence for which dates exclusively to the Roman period) to the pre-conquest period have also been recognised. As a result of these factors, stylistically linked coinage is labelled as a North-Eastern type series only, avoiding assumptions about the social and political coherence of its users. Recent reviews of the archaeological evidence have also failed to provide support for the idea of a coherent 'tribal' area, suggesting the region would have been dominated by much smaller scale communities and social networks.[13]

In terms of dating, Haselgrove chose to place all of the inscribed North-Eastern types into his overlapping periods 8 (*c.*AD 10–40) and 9 (*c.*AD 30–60), to reflect the possibility of continued production in the post-conquest period, our lack of independent dating evidence, and understanding of the mechanics of coin production.[14]

While there is now little agreement with regard to attribution and dating precision, both approaches essentially agree on a production sequence, based on stylistic developments:

(1) Uninscribed: Silver with boar/horse design (later 'boar' obverse dies worn blank)
(2) Inscribed: [VEP?] AVN CO
(3) Inscribed: IISVPRASV
(4) Inscribed: [VEP?] VEP CORF
(5) Inscribed: DVMNOCO TIGIR SENO; VOLISIOS DVMNOCOVEROS; VOLISIOS DVMNOVELLAVNOS; VOLISIOS CARTIVELLAVNOS; IATISON/LATISON

Style and production

The Leicestershire assemblage offers the opportunity to re-examine the relationship between these different coinages and in particular the uninscribed, AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP silver series that are most prevalent at the site. Stylistic evidence suggests that it may be wrong to seek to place the inscribed coinages into a linear sequence.

AVN 1 (see Appendix 2), the single most common coin at the site, is clearly struck from the same worn obverse dies employed for the latest uninscribed coins. This supports the conclusion that AVN types formed the earliest phase of inscribed coinage. Furthermore, a handful of coins of a new type, here called Uninsc/AVN 1, appear to attest to the appearance of the letters AV[N?] on coins otherwise similar to the latest uninscribed types (see Fig. 2). This may indicate either direct continuity between uninscribed and inscribed production, or the recycling of earlier dies for the production of the earliest AVN types. The order of the remaining AVN subtypes is difficult to establish on stylistic grounds, although as the single wreath-line is the only design to appear on the obverse of both units and half-units (AVN 2 and 3), these may be the latest struck.

On stylistic grounds the IISVPRASV and VEP coinages should be considered contemporary with one another. The former can be linked with VEP 3 types by obverse die links and the choice of a star motif beneath the horse's tail. As all IISVPRASV silver is struck with the same designs, and only as units, it seems reasonable to conclude that the type was struck for a brief period during the longer production of VEP coinage.

Similar arguments also point to the contemporary production of these types with the AVN series. Firstly, the recorded type V955–1, with a fuller VEPOC – ME[. . .] legend, appears in small numbers and crucially seems to have been produced with the same worn obverse dies used for AVN 1 coinage. Certainly a distinctive obverse die producing coins with a bean-shaped indent on the surface was used for both. Secondly, the similarity of AVN and VEP half-units in terms of style, weight standard and circulation (see comparative analysis of hoards, below) points to their contemporary production. AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP coinages clearly employ the same technologies and craftsmanship.

[12] Kimes, Haselgrove and Hodder 1982.
[13] See especially Hill 2007.
[14] Haselgrove 1987, 28ff; 264ff.

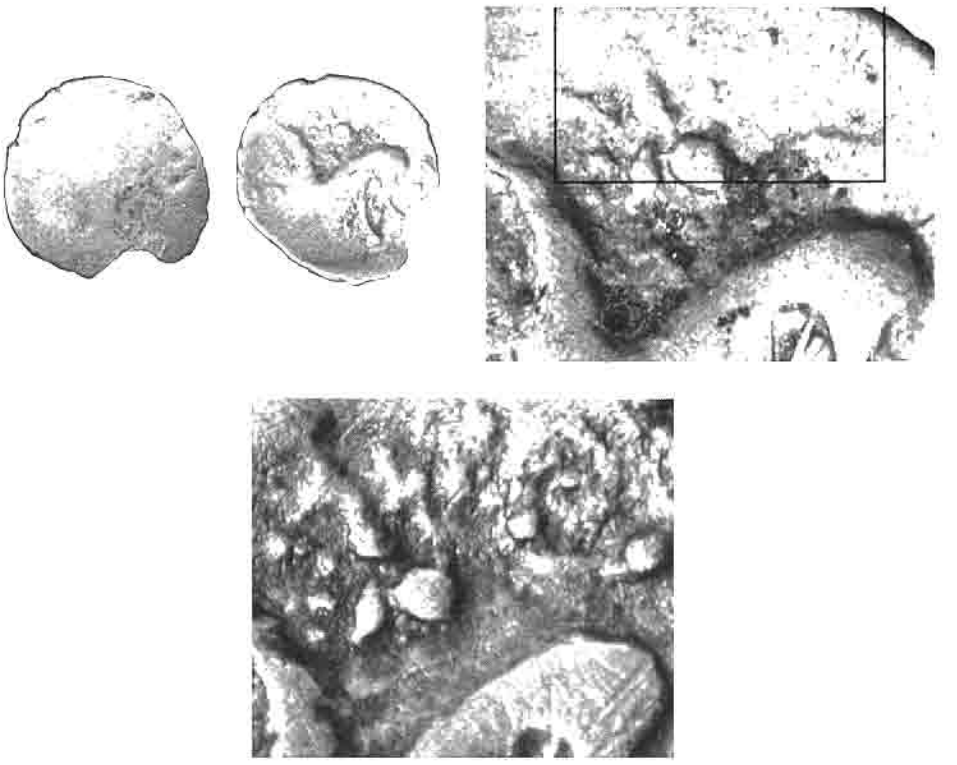


Fig. 2. Uninsc/AVN 1 (×2) and enlarged detail of possible inscription (top). The lower illustration shows an enhanced image of another example.

The remaining inscribed coinages ('group 5' above) are less common in the Leicestershire assemblage. IATISON types are limited in number (74 = 1.4%), while the VOLISIOS group are all but absent (15 = 0.3%). Their relationship with the above series will be discussed further below.

Inscriptions

Generally the inscriptions on North-Eastern coinage are interpreted as the names of dynastic tribal leaders. This is based on comparisons with the coinages of Iron Age Gaul and southern Britain. However, this assumption is highly problematic. While Southern types reveal a detailed knowledge of Latin and can provide indications of an individual's role and relationship to others (e.g. BMC 1332/V505: REX VERICA COMMI F), there are no parallels for this on North-Eastern coinage. Furthermore, the major local inscribed types reveal a degree of inscriptional variation, including the interchange of letters and symbols, which hints at a basic lack of understanding of the Latin alphabet and language.

AVN

This inscription has been read variously as AVN COST, AVNT COST, AVN OST and AVN AST. However, only the AVN above and the retrograde CO below are clearly and consistently represented as letters on the silver coinage. A retrograde 'S' below the horse's tail is tightly scrolled at one end and is likely to be a symbol rather than a letter. The letter T has been identified beneath and in front of the horse, but these are more commonly inscribed as a 'Y' or further shrunken into three-point stars. An S between the horse's forelegs makes a more convincing letter, but often takes an angular ('lightning flash') form. Even the CO is sometimes represented conjoined and looking like an apple with a stalk (see AVN 1b types). The following forms of the AVN lettering are also common:

ΛVN ΛVNƆ ΛVИƆ
ΛVΛ ЧVN IVN
ΛƎN ΛИV ИVΛ
MVI VW NVƎ
VΛV ΛΛΛ

This apparent unfamiliarity with the Latin alphabet is most clearly revealed by the AVN 4a–d types, which are characterised by the inclusion of an inscription on the obverse. The degree of variation, inverted 'AVN' lettering within the word 'CNAVO' and the similarity of all to the CAMV/CVNO inscriptions of Cunobelin are all worth noting:

4a/4b: CVTΛS/CΛTVS CИΛVO
4c: VVИV VΛM
4d: VΛTΛ [VΛMƆ]

VEP

The most common forms, VEPO CORF and VEP CORF, appear on coins with identical obverses (e.g. VEP 5a/5b). It is clear that the first O was reduced to a small circle or pellet at the hand of some die-engravers and not others. This tendency – and the occasional separation of the upright and curved parts of the letter P into two sections – further demonstrates the interchange of letters and symbols.

Several variations on the above inscription occur that cannot be easily reconciled with a reading of VEP CORF. Firstly, a fuller legend, sometimes read as VEPO COMES (V955–1), appears in the Leicestershire assemblage. The clearest specimen of this type, here referred to as VEPOC 1, is struck well within the flan yet allows no more than VEPOC – ME to be read (although the inscription may terminate with a flattened, retrograde C). An accompanying half unit, VEPOC 2, also includes faint traces of a longer inscription. Secondly, a group of new half-units, VEP 12, display a markedly different inscription, with VEI or VEII on the reverse above the horse and CA, CAI or CP below. The obverse of these reads (in two lines):

VEIIΛ/SΛCИƧ

Again, the resemblance of several of these forms to the VIR/VER and CO F/COM F inscriptions on Southern coins of Verica may be of note.[15]

IISVPRASV

The IISVPRASV coinage exhibits the least inscriptional variation of the three common silver types, providing further evidence of its shorter issue period. Only the position of the letters around the flan and the occasional use of retrograde lettering differ between individual dies.

IATISON

This group provides the best demonstration of Latin illiteracy and blundered copying described above. The inscription – variously read as LATISON, IATISON and IAT ISO – was initially represented as relatively clear Latin lettering (in standard and retrograde forms), before it degenerates on successive issues into an unintelligible combination of the letters A, O and V or a geometric pattern. The degeneration of T·I into a dot-in-diamond motif is clear (and appears on new types in silver and gold) (Fig. 3).

The significance of writing on Iron Age coins has been discussed in detail by Williams.[16] He suggests that the addition of Latin lettering (and coincidental adoption of Roman imagery) on the coinage of the Southern and Eastern 'kingdoms', under Commios/Tincomarus and Tasciovanos respectively, was an attempt to emphasize difference from what had gone before. For Williams, adding inscriptions was essentially part of the creation of new

[15] Sills 1991 has suggested that the F of VEP CORF could be interpreted as 'filius', i.e. 'Vep son of Cor'. Here I propose that North-eastern types may have incorporated some of the familiar inscriptions from Southern types as elements of their design, perhaps in recognition of the importance of the presence of lettering and without full comprehension of this Latin inscriptional formula.

[16] Williams 2001.

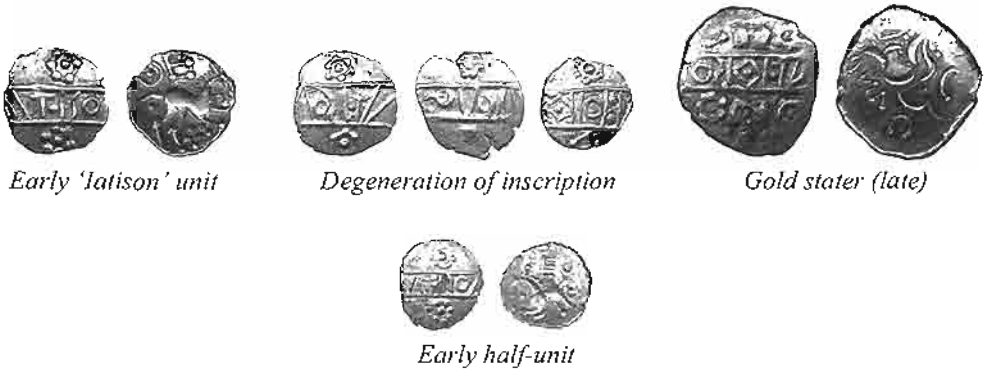


Fig. 3. Major stages of the IATISON development, based on assumed degeneration of inscription.

identities and the developments in the North-Eastern series (and other so-called 'peripheral' coinages) demonstrate a partial adoption of this new 'Roman cultural package'. It could be argued that the emergence of inscriptions on the North-Eastern coinage reveals a deliberate cultural alignment with the 'kingdoms' of the south. The suggested links between the local inscriptions and those of Cunobelin and Verica reinforce this point. In this context it may have been more important that the coinage was inscribed, than it was for the inscriptions to be intelligible.

Comparative analysis of hoards

The identification of individual coin deposits at the site, rendered possible by the preservation of archaeological context, affords a unique opportunity for analysis. If contexts with less than twenty coins are excluded, sixteen distinct stratified deposits can be identified from the three main areas of coin deposition. Although the incomplete nature of some of these deposits (see n.4 and the entranceway hoards section above) creates problems for any statistical analysis, nonetheless they can be compared in compositional terms. This offers further insight into both the nature of coin deposition at the site and local coin production.

Table 3, below, shows these deposits ordered by the percentage of Roman coins in each. This analysis assumes that Roman coinage was likely to have formed an increasing proportion of the circulation pool over time and hence may reveal a chronological sequence for the assembly of the hoards. As the date of the latest Roman coin broadly increases with the overall percentage, this seems to be a valid assumption. This approach appears to confirm the basic depositional sequence offered above: the enclosure ditch deposits seem to be the earliest at the site, followed by some of the entranceway hoards, with the helmet and other entranceway hoards being the later.

When sequenced in this way, a number of broad trends can be identified that hint at changes in the local coinages dominating the circulation pool. Of those contexts with no Roman coins (C94/310; 307; 14; 13; 4 and 2) the ditch deposits (C94/310 and 307) are conspicuous by a high proportion of uninscribed coinage (see Fig. 4 below). Otherwise the proportion of earlier uninscribed types is low and can be seen to decline as the percentage of Roman coins increases.

The other groups with no Roman coins are all from the entranceway. Of these C14 and 13 are characterized by high proportions of AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP units, while C4 and 2 have fewer IISVPRASV and VEP units, but an increased number of AVN and VEP half units (see Figs 5–6). Another group of entranceway hoards, with up to 1.5% Roman coins (C5; 6; 7 and 1) exhibit coin profiles that essentially fall between those of C14/13 and C4/2.

While these entranceway hoards have varied compositions, they can be easily distinguished from both the ditch deposits and an apparently later group of deposits with between 1.5 and 3% Roman coins. This latter group includes the entranceway hoards C18 and 70 and the

TABLE 3. The composition of individual stratified deposits (those with twenty or more coins), ordered by the percentage of Roman coins in each. (D = 'Ditch deposit'; E = 'Entranceway deposit'; H = 'Helmet deposit'.)

	D: 94/ 310	*D: 307*	*E:14*	*E:13*	*E:4*	*E:2*	*E:5*	*E:6*	*E:7*	*E:1*	*E:18*	*H:74*	*E:70*	*H:75*	*E:15*	*E:3*
Roman Imp. (to AD 43)							0.3		0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7		1.1		1.4
Roman Rep.								0.5		1.1	0.5	1.1	2.4	1.5	3.3	9.9
Vep half	24.3	28.6	8.5	5.3	19.2	28.2	11.7	17.6	25.2	2.7	31.9	40.8	26.7	36.7	13.3	2.1
Aun half	2.7	9.5	2.8	1.6	14.2	11.7	3.5	5.8	11.9	2.7	17.7	20.5	12.3	25.3	8.3	3.5
Vep unit	5.4		8.3	17.1	2.5	4.9	11.3	8.3	5.2	15	9.3	8	7.2	7.9	6.7	16.4
Aun unit	0.9	14.3	55.8	56.3	51.7	46.6	61	55.7	42.3	61.3	35.2	24.1	29.4	24.4	56.7	49
Iisuprasu			20.9	15.5	5.8	3.7	5.8	5.3	4.5	7.6	3.3		14.8		10	9.2
Iatison				2.7			4.5	0.5	2.2	4.2		2.4			0.7	
Uninscribed	61.3	47.6	3.7	0.5	5.8	2.5	1.6	5.8	4.3	2.7	0.5	1.5	2.4	0.2		
Other	5.4			1	0.8	2.4	0.3	0.5	3.7	2.3	0.5	3.3	2.4	2.9	1.7	7.1
Total	**111**	**21**	**106**	**189**	**120**	**163**	**395**	**209**	**138**	**262**	**183**	**448**	**41**	**721**	**61**	**141**
Latest Roman	none	none	none	none	none	none	Aug	Rep	Aug	Tib	Tib	Tib	Rep	Tib	Rep	Cla

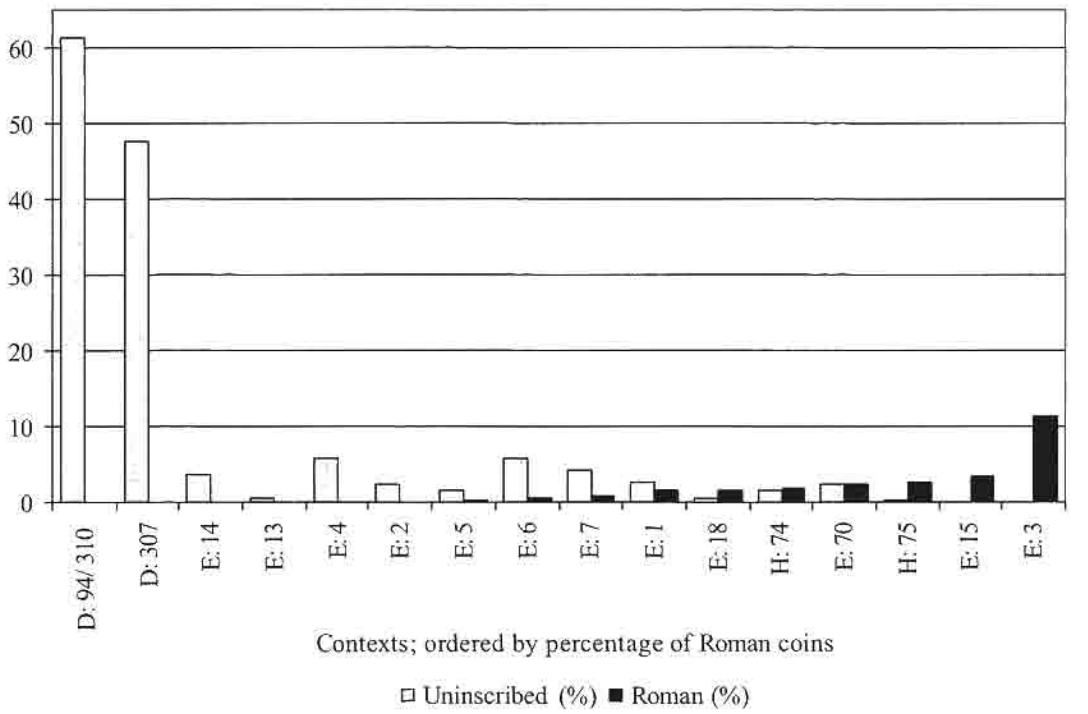


Fig. 4. Chart showing the percentages of uninscribed and Roman coins in each context (ordered by the percentage of Roman coins).

helmet deposits (C74 and 75). These have distinctly different profiles, with significantly fewer units and more AVN and VEP half-units. This decline in the proportion of units and coincidental increase in half-units, during the assembly of the entranceway and helmet hoards, is graphically represented in Figs 5 and 6 below.

Two hoards do not fit this pattern. Entranceway groups C15 and 3 include high proportions of Roman coinage (3.3 and 11.3% respectively), despite exhibiting profiles more similar to the earlier groups. C15 is small (sixty-one coins) and its high percentage of Roman coins in fact comprises just two Republican issues of 89 BC. As such it is almost certainly an earlier deposit. C3 is also problematic, with all ten Cunobelin issues (AD 10–40) and thirteen of the

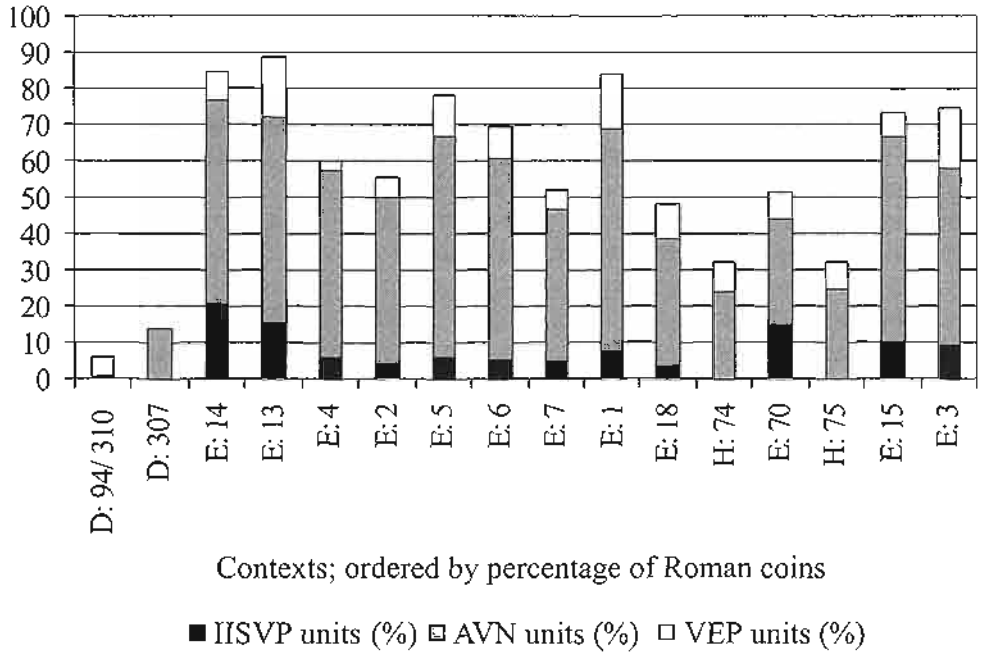


Fig. 5. AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP units as a percentage of each deposit (ordered by percentage of Roman coins). Units form a higher proportion of the 'earlier' entranceway deposits (especially C14, 13) than the 'later' helmet and entranceway deposits (C74/75/70/18).

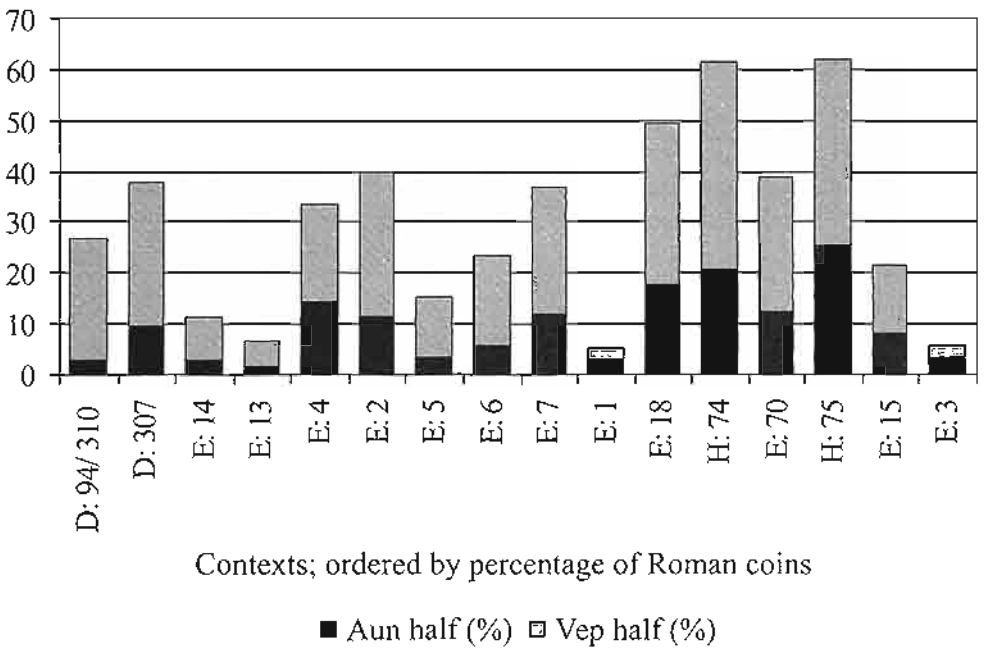


Fig. 6. AVN and VEP half-units as a percentage of each deposit (ordered by percentage of Roman coins). Half-units form a higher proportion of the 'later' helmet and entranceway groups (especially C18, 74, 75).

sixteen Roman coins being excavated in tight clusters beneath or around the main parcel of coins. The main concentration of C3 contained just two Republican issues and a 'legionary denarius' of Mark Antony (32–31 BC). It is possible that C3 may have represented more than one deposit at the time of its burial, serving to highlight the need for caution when interpreting this material.

Despite these irregularities the analysis appears to reveal something of the changing circulation pool during the period in which coins were being deposited at the site.

1. Deposits made in the enclosure ditch reveal an earlier circulation pool that includes the major inscribed types, but which was dominated by earlier uninscribed coins.
2. Hoards deposited in the entranceway reveal a circulation pool dominated by inscribed AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP units.
3. Other later hoards from the entranceway and the helmet deposit reveal an increased availability of, or preference for, smaller denominations.

These results are consistent with conclusions drawn from an analysis of style, which also fails to identify significant temporal differences in the production and circulation of AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP coinage. The comparative analysis, however, also highlights a potential chronological difference between the units and half-units, with the latter displacing the former as the dominant coinage in circulation during the period in which the entranceway and helmet hoards were assembled and deposited.

Comparisons with other sites

So far it has been suggested that the coin hoards were deposited over a relatively short period in the late pre-conquest and/or early Roman period. The concurrent production of the major coinages (AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP) and a shift towards the production of smaller half-units have been proposed on the basis of stylistic considerations and circulation patterns as revealed by a comparison of the different hoards at the site. Comparing the main hoards and deposits with coin assemblages from other sites in the area where North-Eastern coinage circulated is also illuminating. This provides further evidence for the dating of the coin deposits and the key changes to the inscribed series described above.

Table 4 and Fig. 7 compare the Leicestershire deposits to a number of other sites with significant North-Eastern coin assemblages, compiled by Jeffrey May.[17] May identified three key sites – Kirmington, Ancaster and Dragonby – all of which exhibited well-stratified pottery and artefacts revealing continuous occupation from the second century BC. This allowed a 'standard' coin assemblage for a local site occupied during the pre-conquest period to be identified. These sites were characterised by the inclusion of *c.*73–79% uninscribed coinage. Other site assemblages were then compared to this 'standard' profile and their likely period of occupation ascertained. May concluded that those sites at the end of the curve, Old Winteringham and Horncastle, could be considered to belong to either the late pre-conquest or early Roman period, as their percentages of uninscribed coins fell as low as 59 and 45% and their archaeological evidence was ambiguous.

TABLE 4. The percentage of uninscribed coins within the coin assemblages of major North-Eastern ('Corieltavian') sites (after May 1992). The key deposits of the present site (in bold) are included for comparison.

	no of coins	*percentage of uninscribed types*
Ludford	101	92
South Ferriby	37	84
"Spilsby"	63	81
Kirmington	83	79
Ancaster	16	75
Dragonby	37	73
Thistleton	24	71
Owmby	73	69
Redcliff	54	66
Old Winteringham	42	59
Leics. (average for ditch contexts)	**142**	**58**
Horncastle	11	45
Leics. (average for entranceway contexts)	**2026**	**2**
Leics. (average for helmet contexts)	**1170**	**1**

[17] May 1992.

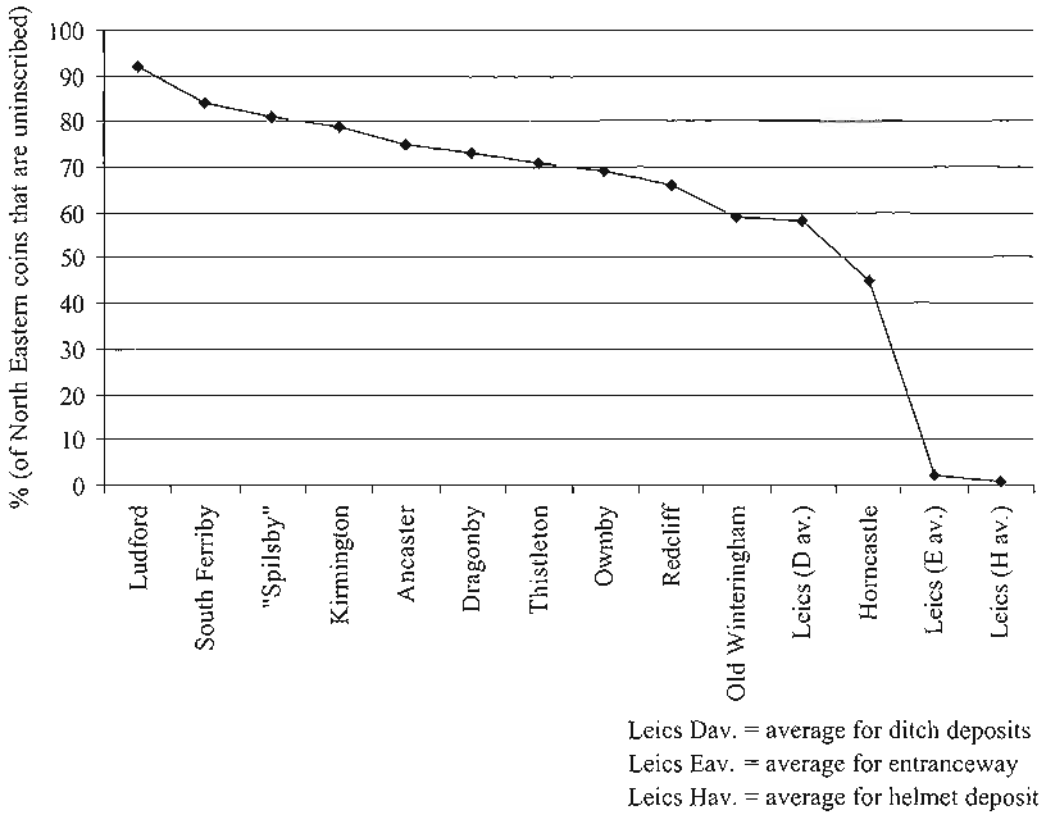


Fig. 7. Graphic representation of data in Table 4 (after May 1992).

When the Leicestershire deposits are placed within this sequence, it is clear that while the ditch deposits fall in line with May's later sites (Old Winteringham and Horncastle), the profiles of the entranceway and helmet deposits appear considerably later.

Non-local Iron Age coinage

This study has naturally focused on the local Iron Age coinage which constitutes more than 90% of the assemblage. However, a number of non-local Iron Age issues (116 = 2%) were recovered within the stratified and unstratified material. These are summarised in Table 5 below. The appearance of early Gallo-Belgic and Southern uninscribed coins, and their concentration around the 'feasting area', has already been discussed.

The most common non-local coins across the site are quarter staters and units of Cunobelin (AD 10–40), of which seventy-nine have been identified. These appear to have formed a significant element of the local circulation pool, particularly in the later hoards which also include Roman coins. These coins are essentially similar to the contemporary Roman issues of Tiberius in that they are never heavily worn, but the variety of subtypes, including the 'classic' types thought to be the latest,[18] suggests that they reached Leicestershire after the end of Cunobelin's reign. A similar conclusion resulted in the post-conquest dating of the Silsden hoard, which included a number of 'classic A' type staters of Cunobelin.[19]

[18] Allen 1975.
[19] Edwards and Dennis 2006.

TABLE 5. Summary of non-local Iron Age coins.

Series	*Group*	*Denom.*	*Qty*	*Description*
Gallo-Belgic	Uninscribed	gold	4	1 Db; 1 D copy; 1 E base gold copy; 1 XB copy
Eastern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	1	Lx, BMC 365/V234
Eastern	Uninscribed	silver unit	1	New type, cf. Celtic Coin Index 97.0037
Eastern	Tasciovanus	bronze unit	1	BMC 1711/V1705
Eastern	Addedomaros	gold quarter	2	Both plated copies of BMC 2416/V1608
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold stater	1	Wild series plated copy
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	12	Linear type – BMC 1837/V1927
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	12	Wild type – BMC 1843/V1935
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	2	Wild/plastic type – BMC 1843 etc./V1935 etc.
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	17	Plastic type – BMC 1846/V2015
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	3	Plastic type CAM-CVN obv. – BMC 1845/V2017
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	9	Classic type – BMC cf. 1850/V2038
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	3	Copies – 1 Wild type; 1 Wild/plastic; 1 uncertain
Eastern	Cunobelin	gold quarter	3	CVNO/DVBN new type
Eastern	Cunobelin	silver unit	7	Winged bust/sphinx – BMC 1874/V2057
Eastern	Cunobelin	silver unit	1	Winged bust/sphinx – plated copy
Eastern	Cunobelin	silver unit	7	Hercules/horsewoman – BMC 1884/V2061
Eastern	Cunobelin	silver unit	1	Hercules/horsewoman – plated copy
Eastern	Cunobelin	silver unit	1	BMC 1886/V2063
Southern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	4	British QC – BMC 478/V220
Southern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	2	British QC – pale gold copy of V220
Southern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	3	British QC – V244–1
Southern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	1	British QC variant
Southern	Uninscribed	gold quarter	4	British QC variant – cf. Essendon hoard (2 in pale gold)
Southern	Uninscribed	silver minim	1	Danebury type – BMC 647
Southern	Verica	silver minim	1	Illegible obv./horse right – cf. BMC 1524/V550
Western	Uninscribed	silver unit	1	Allen class C – BMC 2963/V1045
Western	Uninscribed	silver unit	2	Allen class C/D – cf. BMC 2963/V1045
Western/E.Wilts.	Uninscribed	silver half	1	Allen class M variant – cf. BMC 3022/V1180 etc.
Western	Anted	gold stater	1	Plated copy (as BMC 3023/V1066)
Western	Anted	silver unit	1	Allen class G – BMC 3032/V1082, 1085
Western	Eisu	silver unit	3	Allen class H – BMC 3043/V1110
East Anglian	Uninscribed	silver unit	1	Normal Face/Horse type – BMC 3556/V790, 792
East Anglian	Ece(n)	silver unit	1	Allen VII – BMC 4360/V760
South Western	Uninscribed	bronze stater	1	BMC 2790/V1290
		TOTAL	**116**	

Three examples of a new quarter stater, with the standard inscription CAMV/CVNO replaced by CVNO/DVBN, were recorded. These appear to offer the first direct association between two rulers of the Eastern 'kingdom', Dubnovellaunos and Cunobelin.[20]

Also represented are the non-local coinages of the Western, South-Western and East Anglian traditions. Crucially, these coins are absent from the entranceway and are almost entirely concentrated in the helmet deposit. It therefore seems clear that these non-local coins penetrated the local circulation pool at a late date, after Roman coinage and the plentiful Cunobelin imports, perhaps around the same time as half-units began to displace units as the prevailing local coin.

Implications for coin production, chronology and social models

The prevailing approach to North-Eastern coinage (as exemplified by Van Arsdell, adopted as the standard in Cunliffe's *Iron Age Communities in Britain*)[21] involves the classification of different inscribed coinages into a single linear production sequence which is then stretched

[20] Williams and Hobbs 2003. For an alternative interpretation of this legend see Kretz 2006, who proposes that the inscription DVBN is an abbreviation of Togodumnus (or Togodubnus), the son of Cunobelin, rather than Dubnovellaunos. This he argues is more consistent with the probable late date of the coin. However, there is no reason why Cunobelin could not have chosen to commemorate his relationship with Dubnovellaunos later in his reign.

[21] Cunliffe 2005.

Fig. 8. New CVNO/DVBN quarter stater (×2).

to fill the uncomfortable silences of the late Iron Age with a convincing succession of named tribal leaders. This tendency, it should be noted, is based more on the assumed significance of kingship and tribal forms of social organisation than on any strong numismatic reasoning. Evidence from East Leicestershire has pointed to the simultaneous production of the main coinages (AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP), and the later introduction of half-units to both the AVN and VEP series. An alternative model of coinage production is offered below (Fig. 9).

More difficult to establish is a precise date for the introduction of inscribed coinage to the North-Eastern series and an estimation of the duration of its production. It is clear from the variety of types, dies and inscriptional forms, as well as the composition of hoards, that the AVN and VEP series were produced over a significantly longer period than any of the other inscribed types. Early AVN and VEP silver types appear to have produced using

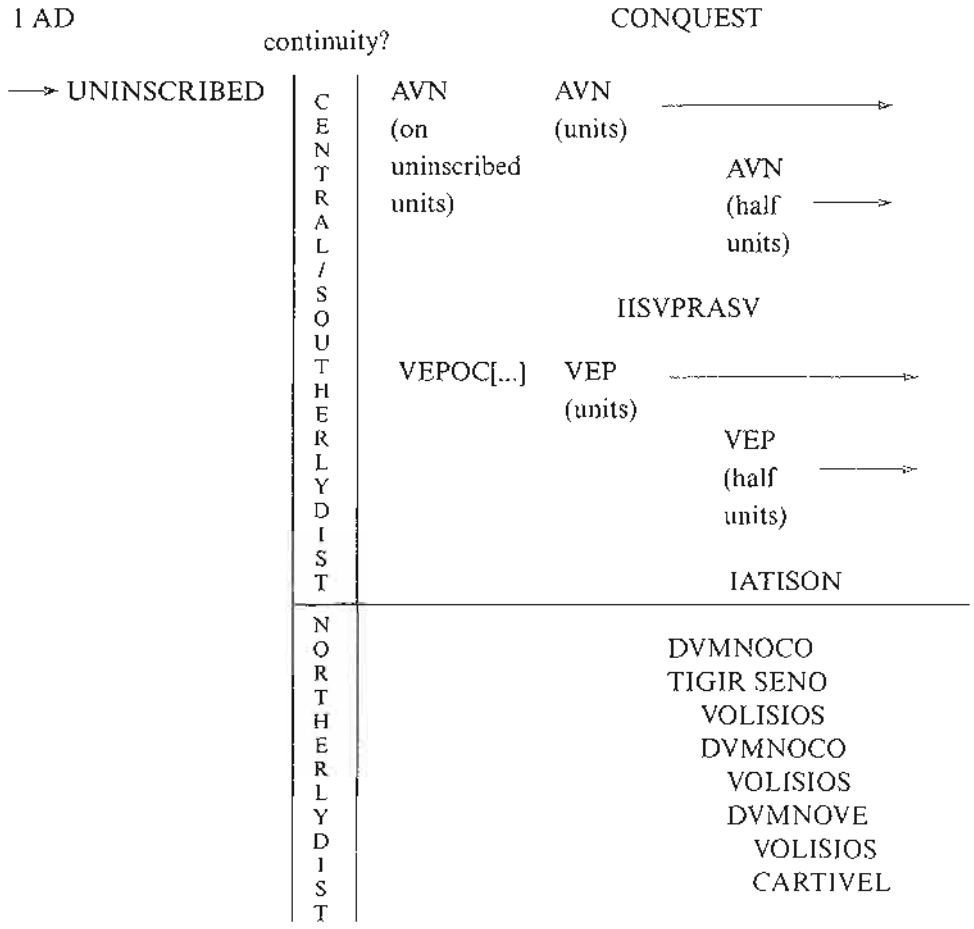


Fig. 9. Likely production sequence of local silver coinage.

technologies borrowed from the uninscribed series, while their half-units seem to be amongst the latest coins produced (based on the comparative analysis of hoards, above).[22]

Current chronologies suggest that inscriptions appeared on the series around the turn of the millennium. Van Arsdell's inscribed production period spans the period 10 BC to AD 55 (sixty-five years), while Haselgrove's spans *c.*AD 10–60 (fifty years).[23] If the main inscribed types were contemporary products then the introduction of inscriptions need not have occurred until considerably later. In fact it would be difficult to stretch the inscribed production, as indicated above, over a period of fifty or sixty years. Several pieces of evidence support the idea that inscriptions were introduced later than is traditionally assumed.

Firstly, the quantity of uninscribed North-Eastern coinage recorded in the Celtic Coin Index far exceeds that of inscribed. Approximately 75% of the coins are uninscribed types.[24] If inscriptions were added around 10 BC/AD this pattern could only be explained if the level of production had been drastically reduced after this time. The variety of AVN and VEP dies strongly suggests that this was not the case. This 75% figure appears to be most consistent with a later introduction of inscribed coinage.

Secondly, although difficult to quantify, the degrees of wear of coins from the stratified contexts of the Leicestershire site are instructive. Inscribed coins from the entranceway and helmet deposits appear to be largely unworn, consistent with having been deposited soon after their production. Assuming that the deposition of these hoards can be dated safely to the 40s/50s AD, as has been suggested, it seems unlikely that any of the inscribed coins were produced much before *c.*AD 30.

Thirdly, recent evidence suggests that the IISVPRASV coinage, which has now been demonstrated to be contemporary with AVN and VEP types, may have been produced after *c.*AD 40. IISVPRASV staters discovered in the Silsden hoard were less worn than the 'classic A' staters of Cunobelin which Edwards and Dennis suggest cannot have been produced until late in Cunobelin's reign, or reached Yorkshire until after the Roman conquest.[25] The late dating of the IISVPRASV series has also been suggested by Williams, who has convincingly associated them with the inscribed East Anglian silver units reading SVB ESVPRASTO ESICO FECIT.[26] If these conclusions are correct, and the IISVPRASV coinage can be demonstrated to have been produced contemporaneously with the AVN and VEP coinages, there is good reason to believe that all of the major North-Eastern coinages may have been struck in a period spanning the conquest of southern Britain (i.e. all in Haselgrove's period 9, *c.*AD 30–60).

As has been discussed, the relationship between the AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP coinages and the IATISON and VOLISIOS groups (which are less common at the site) is also unclear. Significantly, however, the distributions of VOLISIOS types recorded in the CCI can be seen to reveal a more northerly circulation (see Fig. 10 below). As such they might also be broadly contemporary, but produced at different centres. This would explain their relative scarcity at the Leicestershire site, to the far south of the North-Eastern circulation area. By contrast, IATISON types appear to circulate in areas similar to AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP. The relationship between these coins will undoubtedly be better resolved in the forthcoming study of the series by Geoff Cottam.

This alternative model for the production of coinage in the North-East Midlands has obvious implications for our understanding of the societies through which these coinages were produced and used. In the 'tribal' model inscribed coinages were the products of dynastic tribal leaders. It has already been suggested that the concept of a single socio-political entity cannot be supported by the archaeology of the region. The existence of a unified Corieltavi 'tribe' in the pre-Roman period in fact rests mainly on the naïve assumption that the use of similarly styled coinage implies social and political cohesion. If the coinages of the inscribed

[22] A similar use of adapted uninscribed dies can be identified for the VEP gold series (J Sills, pers. comm.).

[23] Van Arsdell 1989, 247–65; Haselgrove 1987, 94, 264–6.

[24] Calculation based on 3,280 clearly identified North-Eastern coins recorded on the Celtic Coin Index (between 1960 and 2005). Also compare this figure to May's 'standard' North-Eastern coin profile, see n.17.

[25] Edwards and Dennis 2006.

[26] Williams 2000.

phase were produced during a period of perhaps fifteen years either side of the Roman conquest of southern Britain, the proliferation of contemporary inscriptions may reveal something of the real social and political fragmentation of this area, which was previously masked by a reliance on a shared uninscribed coinage.

Conclusions

The south-east Leicestershire site has provided an alternative model for the interpretation of scattered coin assemblages. Many smaller, but essentially similar assemblages are discovered each year, mainly by metal-detector users. Due to the lack of archaeological context, all are treated as dispersed hoards. At the present site a combination of the fortuitous timing of the discovery (before the shallow archaeological contexts were completely destroyed by ploughing), and the actions of the finders in quickly reporting their initial finds, allowed something of the nature of their deposition to be reconstructed. Compositional similarities between the individual deposits at the site mean that they could easily have been interpreted as a single hoard or deposit if separated from their archaeological contexts. The possibility that other Iron Age 'scattered hoards' may in fact comprise multiple votive deposits of this kind must be considered.

The Leicestershire assemblage serves to suggest that the site was active (in terms of artefact deposition) from the mid/late first century BC when the earliest coins may have been buried. The principal coin deposits, however, are likely to have been made in the middle decades of the first century AD, perhaps in a period spanning the Roman conquest of southern Britain. The deposition of coins also appears to have been closely associated with ritual sacrifice and/or feasting. Coins deposited in the enclosure ditch appear to be similar to other assemblages of North-Eastern coinage that can be loosely dated to the late pre-conquest and/or early Roman period. The main coin deposits in the entranceway of the enclosure and buried together with the Roman helmet appear from their composition to date to the early

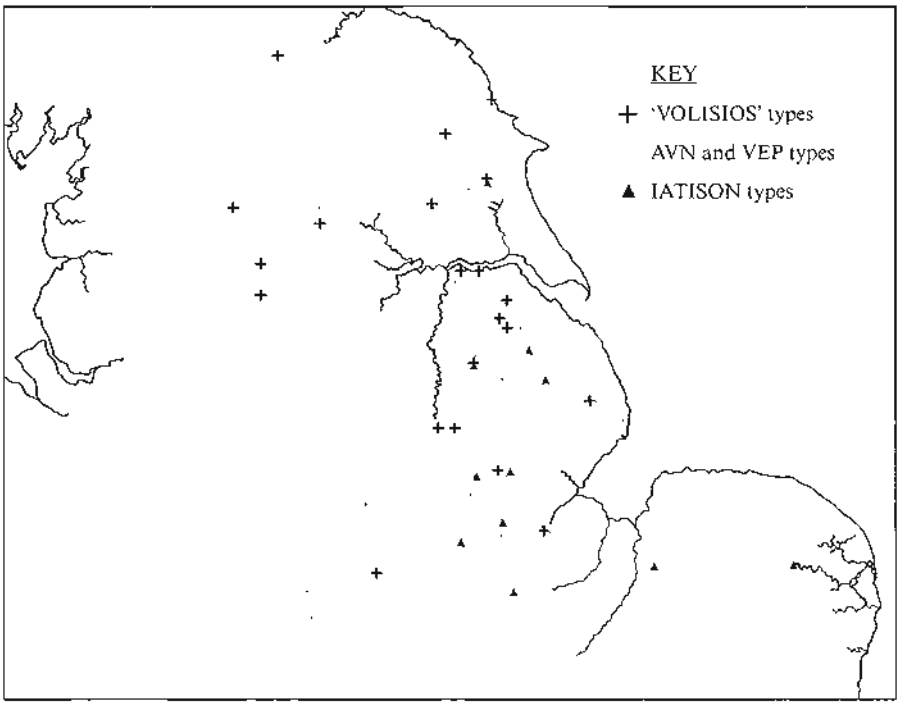


Fig. 10. Distribution map showing the more northerly concentration of VOLISIOS types compared with AVN, VEP and IATISON types.

Roman period. All the numismatic evidence suggests that the site was most active in the Claudian-Neronian period.

The assemblage also has a great deal to add to our understanding of the Iron Age coinage of the North-East Midlands, offering in particular an insight into the production of the inscribed AVN, IISVPRASV and VEP silver coinages which are most prevalent at the site. These types, which are traditionally viewed as the successive products of a single tribal unit, can now be shown to be contemporary issues. This is clearly demonstrated by the analysis of style and through comparisons between individual hoards and deposits. It also appears that the local coinage may have gone through its key change – the introduction of inscriptions – much later than is often assumed. Given the likely dating of this change proposed above, it may be that the brief but large scale production of inscribed coinage should be seen as related to the growing influence and threat posed by Rome and the need to establish new political and cultural relationships with the Iron Age 'kingdoms' of the south.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF COINS IN LEICESTERSHIRE ASSEMBLAGE (BY TYPE, AREA AND INDIVIDUAL DEPOSIT)

	Entranceway											*Helmet*						*Ditch*					*Others*			*Total*
	1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*18*	*69*	*70*	*73*	*74*	*75*	*12*	*28*	*94f 310*	*96*	*307*	*Other exts.*	*Spoil*	*Top-soil & unstrat.*	
Ar: Roman Republic	3		14			1					2	1		1		5	11				2		2	64	11	117
Ar: Roman Imperial (to AD43)	1		2		1		1					2				3	8						1	13		32
Au: Cunobelin	4	2	10			1	5	1	1			1	1	1		7	11			2			1	12	2	62
Ar: Cunobelin	2	1		1												5	3			1				4		17
Au: Other IA																							4	13	3	20
Ar/Ae: Other IA																2	4		1	1				8	1	17
Au: Uninscribed																							1	5	1	7
Ar unit: Uninscribed 1a																										0
Ar unit: Uninscribed 1b																								1		1
Ar half: Uninscribed 2a																										0
Ar half: Uninscribed 2b																								1		1
Ar unit: Uninscribed 3a						2										1		1		23	3	4	1	19	3	57
Ar unit: Uninscribed 3b	1					2						1								10		1			1	16
Ar half: Uninscribed 4a				1		3	1							1						3				9	2	20
Ar half: Uninscribed 4b	1	4		4	5	3	2									3	1			4		1		15	5	48
Ar unit: Uninscribed 5a																								1		1
Ar unit: Uninscribed 6b	5			2	1	1	1		1	1						2	1			26	1	4		24	2	72
Ar half: Uninscribed 7a										2										1				1		4
Ar half: Uninscribed 7b						1	1			1						1				1				4		9
Ar: Uninscribed Uncertain							1																	2	1	4
Ar unit: Uninsc/Aun		1				1																1	1	2		6
Au stater: Aun	1		1			1		1				1					2							3		10
Ar unit: Aun 1	104	61	38	41	172	82	38	1	71	32	22	56	5	6		86	139					2	13	397	236	1602
Ar unit: Aun 1b	10	1	1	3	8	6	4		7	2	2	6				1								25	17	93
Ar unit: Aun 1b (vars)	3																2									5
Ar unit: Aun 2	20	7	11	7	31	11	4		13		6	1		2		20	31			1			1	45	27	238
Ar half: Aun 3	7	19	5	17	14	12	16		3	3	5	32		5		91	182			3		2	5	58	28	507
Ar unit: Aun 4a	3	1	2	3	5	4	4		2		1			1										21	8	55
Ar unit: Aun 4b			1		2		2		2															13	1	21
Ar unit: Aun 4c	4	1	2	1	11	2	1			1			1												8	32
Ar unit: Aun 4d																								1		1
Ar unit: Aun 5	16	3	14	6	13	9	5		10	24	3			3									1	79	40	226
Ar: Aun Uncertain		1		1													1							1	1	5
Ar unit: VEPOC 1			1			1														2						4
Ar half: VEPOC 2							1																			1
Au stater: Vep			1					1								3	2						1	2		10
Ar unit: Vep 1a	8	2	6		12	5	1		2	1		1		1		2	8			3			2	18	12	84
Ar unit: Vep 1b			1																					3		4

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF COINS IN LEICESTERSHIRE ASSEMBLAGE (BY TYPE, AREA AND INDIVIDUAL DEPOSIT)

	Entranceway														*Helmet*			*Ditch*			*Others*			*Total*
Ar half: Vep 2a		1			3	1	3				4				8	19		1				3		**43**
Ar half: Vep 2b (+2c)	1	11		3	9	3	1		1	1		1	2		25	32		5		1	1	10	10	**117**
Ar unit: Vep 3a	2									1	1			1	3	3						1	1	**13**
Ar unit: Vep 3b	20	5	13	3	26	7	6		25	3	4	15	2	1	20	26		1			2	54	37	**270**
Ar half: Vep 4b	2	17	1	11	11	14	12		3	4	4	25	1	3	46	90		5			1	34	15	**299**
Ar unit: Vep 5a	7		1		3	2		1	3	2				1	6	11					1	13	4	**55**
Ar unit: Vep 5b (+5c)	1				1				1	1					1	2						1	4	**12**
Ar half: Vep 6b	1	4		4	7	4	2		1	1	2	8		1	28	39		4		2		9	7	**124**
Ar unit: Vep 7b					1										1									**2**
Ar half: Vep 8b		5	1	2	6	10	6		2	2	2	10		1	38	48		8		2	1	28	14	**186**
Ar half: Vep 9b	3	8	1	3	4	5	6		3	1		9		3	33	33		4	1	1	1	30	14	**163**
Ar half: Vep 10b							1							1									1	**3**
Ar minim: Vep 11a					2																			**2**
Ar minim: Vep 11b					2		2									1								**5**
Ar half: Vep 12					2							2			4	3						1		**12**
Ar: Vep Uncertain	1	1			1	2			1	1						5					1		2	**15**
Au stater: Iisuprasu			3		1	1		1														1	1	**8**
Ar unit: Iisuprasu 1	20	6	10	7	22	10	6		29	22	6	6		6							1	64	46	**261**
Au stater: Iatison	1																							**1**
Ar unit: Iatison 1	10		1		18	1	3		5				1	1					1		2	20	9	**72**
Ar half: Iatison 2																							1	**1**
Ar: VDC		1			1						1				1	2		2				1		**9**
Ar: VDV									1													3	1	**5**
Ar: DTS																1								**1**
Others/Later/fragments/etc						1	2		2		1	1			2						26	150	19	**204**
Total	**262**	**163**	**141**	**120**	**395**	**209**	**138**	**6**	**189**	**106**	**61**	**183**	**12**	**41**	**1**	**448**	**721**	**1**	**1**	**111**	**8**	**21**	**71**	**1287**	**596**	**5292**
Latest dated Roman coin	AD 14		AD 41		2 BC	54 BC	15 BC				89 BC	AD 14		64 BC		AD 14	AD 14				32 BC				

APPENDIX 2: CLASSIFICATION OF MAIN SILVER TYPES

The following major varieties of silver coinage can be recognised. There are no completely new inscriptions, but a number of new variant forms have emerged. The subtypes are mainly based on distinctions and varieties of the obverse designs.

In the uninscribed section an 'a' or 'b' suffix indicates right or left facing horses respectively. For the VEP coinage these tend to indicate whether a coin has 'VEPO' or 'VEP' inscribed above the horse.

Those coins illustrated below (pp. 45–6) are marked *.

Uninscribed

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
1a	Unit	Boar/traces of boar only	Horse right; varied and numerous peripheral patterns (wheels, etc)	V860–1
*1b	Unit	As above	As 1a, but horse left	V855
2a	Half	As above	As 1a	V862–1
2b	Half	As above	As 1b	V866–1
*3a	Unit	Traces of boar/blank	Horse right; less peripheral decoration; 'pellet-ring' motif above	V877/884
*3b	Unit	As above	As 3a, but horse left	V887–1
*4a	Half	As above	As 3a	V879–1/881–1
*4b	Half	As above	As 3b	BMC 3242
*5a	Unit	Traces of boar/blank	Horse right; less peripheral decoration; 'domino' motif above	BMC 3233
*6b	Unit	Traces of boar/blank	Horse left; less peripheral decoration; 'kite/diamond' motif above	cf. CCI 95.1370
*7a	Half	As above	As 6b, but horse right	new
*7b	Half	As above	As 6b	V889–1

Uninsc/AVN

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1	Unit	Blank/almost blank	As Uninscribed 3b/6b, but with AV[. . .] replacing decoration above	new

AVN

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1	Unit	Blank/almost blank	Horse left, AVN/variations above, small triskeles and retrograde CO below. 'S' shape below tail.	V914–3
*1b	Unit	As above	As above but CO appears like an apple with stalk	cf. CCI 99.1709
*2	Unit	Single wreath line	As 1	BMC 3263
*3	Half	As above	As 1	V918–1
*4a	Unit	Inscription in two lines reading CVTAS [. . .]	As 1	cf. CCI 98.2252
*4b	Unit	As 4a but reading CATVS [. . .]	As 1	cf. CCI 98.2251
*4c	Unit	As 4a but reading VVNV [. . .]	As 1	cf. CCI 95.1362
*4d	Unit	As 4a but reading VATA [. . .]	As 1	new
*5	Unit	Crossed wreath with pellet-in-ring decoration	As 1; but horse has mane.	cf. CCI 97.2250

IISVPRASV

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1	Unit	Crossed wreath with Xs and pellets	Horse right; IISVPRASV around; 5–6 point star below tail.	V924–1

VEPOC|. . .|

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1	Unit	Blank	Horse right; VEPOC[ME. . .] above; pellet-in-ring below and below tail	V955–1
*2	Half	As above	As above	new? cf. CCI 71.0019

VEP

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1a	Unit	Simple crossed wreath	Horse right; VEPO above; CORF below and in front; pellet-in-ring below tail.	cf. CCI 00.0700
*1b	Unit	As above	As 1a; but VEP above	V950–1
*2a	Half	As above	As 1a; but pellet below tail	cf. CCI 93.0854
*2b	Half	As above	As 1b; but pellet below tail	V938/952
*2c	Half	As above	As 2b; but retrograde VEP and horse; pellet-in-ring below tail	V947? cf. CCI 93.0853
*3a	Unit	Crossed wreath with Xs (and sometimes pellets)	Horse right; VEPO above; CORF below and in front; 5–6 point star below tail.	cf. CCI 97.2262
*3b	Unit	As above	As 3a; but VEP above	V934–1
*4b	Half	As above	As 3b	cf. CCI 97.1813
*5a	Unit	Single wreath line with ancillary pellet-ring motifs	Horse right; VEPO above; CORF below and in front; pellet-in-ring below tail.	cf. CCI 94.0742
*5b	Unit	As above	As 5a; but VEP above	cf. CCI 94.1289
*5c	Unit	Similar, but more stylised. Extra peripheral motifs	As 5a/5b; but retrograde VEP and horse	new
*6b	Half	Single wreath line with ancillary pellet-ring motifs	As 5b; but triangle motif below tail	BMC 3319
*7b	Unit	'Blackberry'	Horse right; VEP above; CORF below and in front; pellet-triangle below tail.	cf. CCI 98.0290
*8b	Half	As above	As above	cf. CCI 03.0178
*9b	Half	Blank	Horse right; VEP above; CO or retrograde OR / pellet / pellets below. Pellet below tail.	BMC 3324
*10b	Half	Single wreath line	Horse right; VEP above; pellet below; pellet below tail.	new
*11a	Minim	4 pellet-in-oval motifs	Horse right; VE(P) above	cf. CCI 98.1984
*11b	Minim	2 pellet-in-oval; 2 pellet-ring motifs	Horse right; VE above	cf. CCI 94.0223
*12	Half	Inscription either side of wreath: VEIIA / SACNS	Horse right, with mane; VEI, VEII above; C, CA, CP, CAI below.	new

IATISON

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
*1	Unit	(I/L)ATISON (more often retrograde and corrupted); pellet-ring motifs above and below	Horse right; EC above; pellet-in-ring before inscription; pellet below tail; pellet-ring motif below horse.	V998–1
*2	Half	As above	As above but design and inscription retrograde.	new

DTS

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
1	Unit	DVMNOCO	TIGIR SENO	V974–1

VDC

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
1	Unit	VOLISIOS	DVMNOCO	V980–1
2	Half	VOLISIOS	DVMNOCO	V984–1

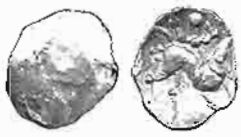
VDV

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
2	Half	VOLISIOS	DVMNOVE	V992–1

VCV

Subtype	*Denom.*	*Obverse*	*Reverse*	*Reference*
2	Half	VOLISIOS	CARTIVEL	V994–1


Uninscribed 1b


Uninscribed 3a


Uninscribed 3b

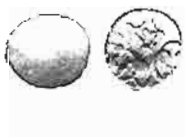

Uninscribed 4a

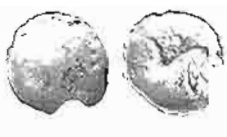

Uninscribed 4b


Uninscribed 5a


Uninscribed 6b


Uninscribed 7a


Uninscribed 7b


Uninsc/Aun 1


AVN 1


AVN 1b


AVN 2


AVN 3


AVN 4a


AVN 4b


AVN 4c


AVN 4d


AVN 5


IISVPRASV I


VEPOC I


VEPOC 2


VEP Ia


VEP Ib

VEP 2a

VEP 2b

VEP 2c

VEP 3a

VEP 3b

VEP 4b

VEP 5a

VEP 5b

VEP 5c

VEP 6b

VEP 7b

VEP 8b

VEP 9b

VEP 10b

VEP 11a

VEP 11b

VEP 12

IATISON 1

IATISON 2

APPENDIX 3: ROMAN COINS BY PERIOD (AND CONTEXT)

		Stratified contexts					Unstratified	
Period	**Date**	**Entrance-way**	**Helmet**	**Ditch**	**Other**	**Total context**	*(Spoil, topsoil, etc)*	**Total**
1	to 41	28	27	2	3	60	88	148[27]
2	41–54	1	–	–	–	1	4	5
3	54–69	–	–	–	–	–	9	9
4	69–96	–	–	–	1	1	16	17
5	96–117	–	–	–	–	–	9	9
6	117–138	–	–	–	–	–	6	6
7	138–161	–	–	–	1	1	–	1
8	161–180	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
9	180–193	–	–	–	1	1	–	1
10	193–222	–	–	–	1	1	3	4
11	222–238	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
12	238–260	–	–	–	1	1	–	1
13	260–275	–	–	–	2	2	8	10
14	275–296	–	–	–	3	3	6	9
15	296–317	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
16	317–330	–	–	–	–	–	6	6
17	330–348	–	1[28]	–	6	7	26	33
18	348–364	–	–	–	2	2	18	20
19	364–378	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
20	378–388	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
21	388–402	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Uncertain	41–238	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
Uncertain	260–402	–	–	–	6	6	36	42
Total		**29**	**28**	**2**	**27**	**86**	**247**	**333**

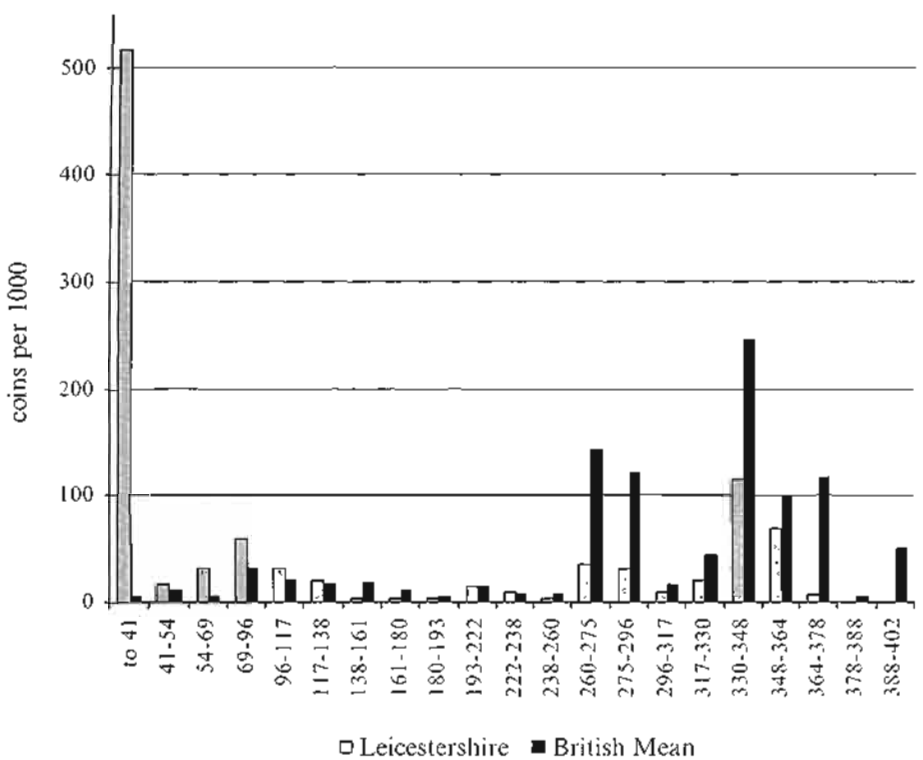


Fig. 11. Roman coins by issue period: Leicestershire assemblage against mean values for British sites (after Reece).

[27] Period 1 figures include only Roman coins and exclude Iron Age coins.

[28] This coin, a Constantinian issue of AD 335–7, was clearly intrusive to the context. It was discovered in the spoil associated with the lifting of the helmet block during excavation.

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