

# Roman Coins from Bredon Hill and the Vale of Evesham in the Almonry Museum

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## Introduction

Coin finds are an essential source of information for the archaeology and history of Roman Britain, and are the subject of a lively scholarly tradition spanning the sixteenth century to the present day (Burnett 2020). While Worcestershire's Roman coin finds have attracted interest for nearly 400 years (Andrews 2018, 43), the county has experienced a markedly slower pace of publication than its eastern and southern neighbours, and many important groups of material remain unpublished in museums and private collections. As a precursor to a broader survey of Roman coins from the county, this article seeks to 'fill the gap' in publication by describing a major group of 272 Roman coin finds held by the Almonry Museum and Heritage Centre in Evesham, as well as a small assemblage of four Iron Age and Roman coins recorded as part of the Worcestershire Archaeological Society's 'Small Pits, Big Ideas' project (Appendix 1).

## The collection

Established in 1957 within the Grade I listed Evesham Abbey almoner's house, the Almonry Museum and Heritage Centre holds a rich collection of material relating to the archaeology and history of the Vale of Evesham from prehistory to the present day, including a sizeable number of ancient, medieval, and modern coins and tokens. The Roman coins in the collection include 272 specimens found locally in the Vale of Evesham, all of which appear to be 'single finds' of coins lost accidentally over a prolonged period of time. Existing museum documentation enables these coins to be divided into three separate provenanced assemblages from Beckford, Bredon Hill, and the Vale of Evesham.

### *Beckford*

One coin in the Almonry collection was found in a field west of Cobbler's Quarry, Beckford. It is a contemporary British copy of a 'Falling Horseman' *nummus* of the House of Constantine dated AD 348–64 (Cat. No. 1), and is moderately worn.

### *Bredon Hill*

Two hundred and thirty-four coins in the Almonry collection were found at Bredon Hill and the surrounding countryside by a retired metal detectorist, who had lived in the area since childhood and was active over a period of several decades (A. Jayes, *pers. comm.*). This is one of the largest collections of single coin finds yet unearthed in Worcestershire, and is the largest assemblage known from the Bredon Hill area, complementing earlier collections held by Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery (Salisbury 1919) and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (King 2008).

The Bredon Hill assemblage consists of a mix of silver and copper alloy Roman coins issued between the first and fourth centuries AD. The series begins with two heavily worn copies of Minerva type *asses* of Claudius (Cat. No. 2–3), which were probably struck in the AD 50s and were almost certainly lost before the early AD 70s (Boon 1988, 123; Guest 2008, 43). Coins of this type are known to have a close link with Conquest-era military activity in Britain (Walton 2012, 79–87), and their presence at Bredon Hill raises important questions

about the role of the Roman army in the transition from the Iron Age to Roman periods in the Vale of Evesham – a matter of no little interest, given Bredon’s position between the forts at Gloucester and Worcester (Hurst 1985; Andrews 2022) and the possible existence of a marching camp at Great Comberton (White 1991) and Conquest-era spearheads at Kemerton Camp (Thomas 2005, 257; cf. Weston and Hurst 2014, 161). Two bronzes of Vespasian and Domitian (Cat. Nos. 4–5) continue the sequence into the Flavian era, which segues into the early second century with a *denarius* and *dupondius* of Hadrian (Cat. Nos. 7–8). There is then a long gap in the sequence, which resumes in the mid-third century with an *antoninianus* of Volusian, a *dupondius* of the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus, and a run of 48 official and imitative *antoniniani* of the Central, Gallic, and Britannic Empires (Cat. Nos. 9–58). The fourth century is represented by 131 *nummi* of the Constantinian (Cat. Nos. 59–160), Valentinianic (Cat. Nos. 161–87 and 189), and Theodosian (Cat. No. 188) dynasties, which include coins struck at the major western mints of Trier, Lyons, and Arles, as well as other mints at Aquileia, Heraclaea, London, Rome, and Thessalonica. Interestingly, two of the Constantinian *nummi* (Cat. Nos. 86 and 128) have lime mortar adhesions on their surface, and might therefore have originated in construction deposits from substantial stone buildings like those recorded at the Bredon’s Norton and Childswickham villas (Hurst and Patrick 2012; Allen, Brady, and Foreman 2016). The latest coin is a well-worn *nummus* of the House of Valentinian struck in AD 383–8. Forty-six coins, including an early Roman *sestertius* and 45 fourth-century *nummi* (Cat. Nos. 190–235), were too worn or corroded to be identified.

### *Vale of Evesham*

Thirty-seven Roman coins in the Almonry collection are noted as having been found by fieldwalkers and metal detectorists in the Vale of Evesham. Though strictly unlocalised, most of these coins are thought to have been found in and around Badsey (P. Stewart, *pers. comm.*), and thereby supplement the 516 Roman coins from the Badsey area recorded in the A.E. Jones and P. Stewart collections (Andrews 2018; 2021).

The Vale of Evesham assemblage consists exclusively of base metal Roman coins, and spans the first to fourth centuries AD. The series begins in AD 71 with a moderately worn *as* of Vespasian, and continues into the second century with a succession of worn *asses* and *sestertii* of Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius (Cat. Nos. 237–41). There is a break in the sequence during the first half of the third century, which then resumes in AD 260–96 with seven official and imitative *antoniniani* of the Central, Gallic, and Britannic Empires (Cat. Nos. 242–8). Fourth century coins are predictably well-represented, and include a broad selection of *nummi* of the House of Constantine (Cat. Nos. 249–63, 265–6), the usurper Magnentius (Cat. No. 264), and the House of Valentinian (Cat. Nos. 267–8). The latest coin is a lightly worn *nummus* of Valens’ SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE type, struck at Rome in AD 367–75 and probably lost shortly thereafter. Four coins, including one early Roman *as* and three late Roman *nummi* (Cat. Nos. 269–72), were unidentifiable.

### **Discussion**

While the coins in the Almonry collection offer important glimpses of Roman activity in the Vale of Evesham, their full archaeological significance cannot be appreciated without some consideration of their wider numismatic context, and particularly their relationship to the background patterns of coin supply and circulation in Roman Britain. In the first instance, we can compare the chronological distribution of the Bredon Hill and Vale of Evesham coins in

the Almonry collection to three comparative datasets (Figure 1), consisting of two nationwide ‘British mean’ coin loss profiles (Reece 1995; Walton 2012) and one countywide ‘Worcestershire mean’ (Andrews 2022). These comparisons reveal certain similarities between the Bredon Hill and Vale of Evesham assemblages and the broader pattern of Roman coinage in Britain and Worcestershire as a whole, including a shared lack of coins predating AD 260, defined peaks of coin loss in AD 260–96 and 330–48, and corresponding troughs in the early and late fourth centuries. However, there are also some important divergences: the Bredon Hill assemblage, for example, contains markedly more coins dated AD 330–48 and AD 364–78 than might be expected, while the Vale of Evesham assemblage has a glut of coins dated AD 296–317 but relatively few coins dated AD 275–96.

[FIGURE 1 NEAR HERE]

On a local level, the Bredon Hill and Vale of Evesham coins in the Almonry collection can also be compared with three other recently published assemblages from the Vale of Evesham at Badsey Fields Lane, Bowers Hill, and Badsey parish (Andrews 2018; 2021). Both sets of assemblages have a fairly close fit (Figure 2), and it is particularly interesting to see Bredon Hill’s peaks in AD 330–48 and AD 364–78 reflected in the three Badsey sites. In addition, we might compare the Bredon Hill coins in the Almonry collection to other Bredon Hill coins in the collections of Worcester City Museum and Art Galley (Salisbury 1919) and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (King 2008). Unsurprisingly, these three groups have much in common (Figure 3), though we might note a bias towards *antoniniani* dated AD 260–96 in the Worcester collection – a consequence, most probably, of its relatively small sample of 53 coins.

[FIGURE 2 NEAR HERE]

[FIGURE 3 NEAR HERE]

What archaeological conclusions, if any, can be drawn from these numismatic comparisons? Firstly, it is clear that the chronological distributions of the Roman coins from Bredon Hill and the Vale of Evesham in the Almonry collection are, like all Romano-British coin assemblages, heavily shaped by underlying trends in coin supply and circulation as reflected in the ‘British mean’ and ‘Worcestershire mean’ coin loss profiles. This has important ramifications for any attempt to directly read settlement history from coin finds: while we might be tempted to see the low levels of coin loss in the first and second centuries and high levels in the late third and mid-fourth centuries as evidence of the ebbs and flows of Roman settlement in south-east Worcestershire, they are fundamentally reflections of the pattern of coin supply and use in Britain as a whole, and are shared with nearly every Roman site from Hadrian’s Wall to the south coast (Reece 2002, 98–100). What should interest us, therefore, are the points of divergence from the background pattern, and indeed research elsewhere in Britain has shown how assemblage-level differences from national and regional means can provide important insights into aspects of settlement chronology, regional economies, and the function of coin-yielding sites (Ryan 1988; Reece 1995; Lockyear 2000; Moorhead 2001; Walton 2012; Moorhead 2015; Walton 2015; Brindle 2016).

While statistical differences between the Vale of Evesham assemblage and the British and Worcestershire means probably reflect chance variation within a relatively small sample, those observed in the large Bredon Hill assemblage are more likely to be of archaeological

significance. In particular, we might note pronounced differences in the representation of coins dated AD 330–48 and AD 364–78, which are significantly over-represented at Bredon Hill (39.6% and 14.4% of coins) compared to the Worcestershire mean (25.5% and 7.9% of coins) and both British means (23.5–24.6% and 11–11.8% of coins). These phenomena require some explanation. In the case of the period AD 330–48, it seems likely that the proliferation of coins at Bredon Hill reflects something of the local economic setting: Walton (2012, 230) has identified above-average coin loss in this period as diagnostic of Romano-British rural sites, and a similar pattern has been observed locally at the possible villa or wealthy farmstead at Badsey Fields Lane (Figure 2). Such rural characteristics fit neatly within the known archaeological context of south-east Worcestershire, which seems to have been a populous agrarian district throughout the Roman period (Britnell 1975; Dalwood et al. 2018), and gain added salience by virtue of the presence of mortar-adhered Constantinian *nummi*, which might hint at the presence of an as-yet undiscovered villa site.

The rural context of the Bredon Hill assemblage could also explain the ‘Valentinianic peak’ in the period AD 364–78, a phenomenon that has been reported elsewhere in the Vale of Evesham (Andrews 2018, 49). Moorhead (2001, 90–5; 2015, 158–61) has identified similar ‘Valentinianic peaks’ in the West Country, and suggests that they might reflect localised influxes of coin to agricultural regions at a time when military and procuratorial authorities were especially keen to secure official grain supplies. The possible links between Valentinianic coins and official activity in the Vale of Evesham are of special interest given the number of finds of Late Roman dress accessories from the area, which include crossbow brooches from Aldington and Bishampton and a Hawkes and Dunning Type IA belt buckle from South Littleton (PAS GLO-0CAD91; WAW-520C84; WAW-32AC31), both types associated with military and civilian officials (Hawkes and Dunning 1961; van Thienen 2017). If the ‘Valentinianic peak’ at Bredon Hill therefore reflected the status of the Vale of Evesham as a fourth-century British breadbasket, it would find obvious echoes in more recent history, when the district emerged as a major nineteenth- and twentieth-century supplier of market garden crops to the industrial towns of the West Midlands (Robinson 1983). Moreover, it might explain why Worcestershire’s sole Valentinianic coin hoard was itself found in the Bredon area, and why none have yet been found in the woodland districts of the north and west of the county (Bland 2018, 279, no. 2585).

While it might be tempting to see the absence of coins dated AD 388–402 (Figure 3) as evidence of agrarian or settlement dislocation in the Vale of Evesham during the final decades of the fourth century, coins of this period are noticeably rarer in Worcestershire than they are in most parts of Britain (Figure 1: 0.5% of Worcestershire mean vs 3.2–5% of British means), and in this respect the Bredon Hill assemblage is unremarkable. Given the limited volume of fresh coin entering the county in this period, we should be alert to the possibility that at least some of the older coins in the assemblage were in fact lost several years after their date of production, as suggested by the contents of Honorian bronze hoards from Fladbury (*tpq* 395–402; Reece and Watson 1988) and elsewhere (Bland 2018, 108–109). With this in mind, it is interesting to note the latest coin in the assemblage is a worn *nummus* of the House of Valentinian dated AD 383–8, whose condition is not incompatible with a prolonged circulation into the AD 390s or early AD 400s.

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## Catalogue

All coins identified by the author in 2016. Abbreviations as follows: Mat. = Material; Denom. = Denomination; RP = Reece (1991) Period; RIC = *Roman Imperial Coinage*; LRBC = *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*.

No.	Mat.	Denom.	Issuer	Mint	Date	RP	Reference
<b>Beckford</b>							
1.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 348-64	18	Copy as LRBC II 252-61
<b>Bredon Hill</b>							
2-3.	AE	As	"Claudius"	"Rome"	AD 50s	2	Copy of RIC P Claudius 116
4.	AE	As	Vespasian	Rome	AD 72	4	RIC II:P Vespasian 1203
5.	AE	Dupondius	Domitian	Rome	AD 81-96	4	
6.	AE	As	Claudio-Neronian or Flavian		AD 43-96		
7.	AE	Dupondius	Hadrian	Rome	AD 120-1	6	RIC II:III <sup>P</sup> Hadrian 403
8.	AR	Denarius	Hadrian	Rome	AD 125-7	6	RIC II:III <sup>P</sup> Hadrian 787
9.	AR	Antoninianus	Volusian	Rome	AD 251-3	12	RIC IV Volusian 184
10.	AE	Dupondius	Gallienus	Rome	AD 255-6	12	RIC V:I Gallienus (Joint Reign) 254
11.	AE	Antoninianus	Gallienus	Siscia	AD 260-8	13	RIC V:I Gallienus 574
12.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Trier	AD 269-71	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 51
13.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Trier	AD 271	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 61
14-15.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Trier	AD 271	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 71
16.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Trier	AD 271	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 78
17-18.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Cologne	AD 269-70	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 114
19.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Trier	AD 269-71	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 116-18
20.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 272-3	13	RIC V:II Tetricus I 56
21-22.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 272-3	13	As RIC V:II Tetricus I 56
23.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 272-3	13	RIC V:II Tetricus I 100
24-25.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 271	13	RIC V:II Tetricus I 135
26.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 271-4	13	
27.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus II	Trier	AD 272-4	13	RIC V:II Tetricus I 280
28-29.	AE	Antoninianus			AD 260-96	13/14	
30.	AE	Antoninianus	Carausius	London	AD 285-93	14	RIC V:II Carausius 77
31.	AE	Antoninianus	Allectus		AD 293-6	14	
32.	AE	Antoninianus	"Claudius II"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:I Claudius II 259
33-36.	AE	Antoninianus	"Claudius II"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:I Claudius II 262
37.	AE	Antoninianus	"Claudius II"		AD 275-96	14	Copy of RIC V:I Claudius II 266
38.	AE	Antoninianus	"Victorinus"		AD 275-96	14	Copy of RIC V:II Victorinus 118
39.	AE	Antoninianus	"Tetricus I"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:II Tetricus I 115
40.	AE	Antoninianus	"Tetricus I"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:II Tetricus I 135-6
41.	AE	Antoninianus	"Tetricus I"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:II Tetricus I 140-1
42.	AE	Antoninianus	"Tetricus I"		AD 275-96	14	Copy as RIC V:II Tetricus I 148
43-44.	AE	Antoninianus	"Tetricus I"		AD 275-96	14	
45-58.	AE	Antoninianus	"Barbarous" copy			14	
59.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	London	AD 319	16	RIC VII Londinium 154
60.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	London	AD 320	16	RIC VII Londinium 168
61.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	London	AD 322-3	16	RIC VII Londinium 242
62.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	London	AD 323-4	16	RIC VII Londinium 289
63.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 327-8	16	RIC VII Treveri 504
64.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 330-1	17	RIC VII Treveri 520
65.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 330-1	17	RIC VII Treveri 528
66.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Lyons	AD 330-1	17	RIC VII Lugdunum 247
67.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I		AD 330-1	17	As RIC VII Lugdunum 242
68.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 332-3	17	RIC VII Treveri 546

69.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 52
70.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 58
71.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 60
72.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 63
73.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 71
74.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	As LRBC I 51
75.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Lyons	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 181
76.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Lyons	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 184
77.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Lyons	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 200
78.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Arles	AD 330-5	17	As LRBC I 356
79.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Rome	AD 330-5	17	As LRBC I 546
80.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 330-5	17	As LRBC I 52
81-82.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 330-5	17	Copy as LRBC I 48
83.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 330-5	17	Copy as LRBC I 51
84-85.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 330-5	17	Copy as LRBC I 59
86.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 330-41	17	
87.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 335-7	17	RIC VII Treveri 593
88.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"	"Trier"	AD 335-7	17	Copy of LRBC I 87
89-90.	AE	Nummus	Constantius II	Trier	AD 335-41	17	As LRBC I 89
91.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 335-41	17	As LRBC I 92
92.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 335-41	17	As LRBC I 87
93-102.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 335-41	17	Copy as LRBC I 87
103.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Thessalonica	AD 336-7	17	RIC VII Thessalonica 230
104.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Trier	AD 337-40	17	RIC VIII Treveri 55
105.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Trier	AD 337-40	17	RIC VIII Treveri 56
106.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Arles	AD 337-40	17	RIC VIII Arelate 44
107.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Aquileia	AD 337-40	17	RIC VIII Aquileia 27
108-109.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 337-40	17	As RIC VIII Treveri 43
110.	AE	Nummus	Constans		AD 337-40	17	As RIC VIII Treveri 54
111.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II		AD 337-40	17	As RIC VIII Treveri 55
112.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II		AD 337-40	17	As RIC VIII Treveri 56
113.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 337-40	17	Copy as RIC VIII Lugdunum 5
114.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Trier	AD 337-41	17	LRBC I 99
115.	AE	Nummus	Helena	Trier	AD 337-41	17	LRBC I 112
116.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 337-41	17	LRBC I 133
117.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Lyons	AD 337-41	17	LRBC I 240-1
118.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Lyons	AD 337-41	17	LRBC I 241
119.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 337-41	17	As LRBC I 124-7
120.	AE	Nummus	Constantius II	Trier	AD 340	17	RIC VIII Treveri 96
121.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 340	17	RIC VIII Treveri 110
122.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 138
123-124.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 140
125.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 140a
126.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 149
127.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 150
128-129.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 159
130.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 341-6	17	LRBC I 160
131.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 137
132.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 139
133-134.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 145

135.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Lyons	AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 260
136.	AE	Nummus	Constans		AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 137
137.	AE	Nummus	Constans		AD 341-6	17	As LRBC I 274
138.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Aquileia	AD 348-50	18	RIC VIII Aquileia 103
139.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Aquileia	AD 348-50	18	RIC VIII Aquileia 109
140.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 348-50	18	As RIC VIII Trier 231-7
141.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 348-64	18	As LRBC II 47-71
142-145.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine		AD 348-64	18	As LRBC II 252
146-159.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 348-64	18	Copy as LRBC II 252
160.	AE	Nummus	"Constantius II"	"Rome"	AD 352-5	18	Copy of RIC VIII Rome 251
161.	AE	Nummus	Valentinian I	Arles	AD 364-7	19	LRBC II 479
162.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Arles	AD 364-7	19	LRBC II 480
163.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Aquileia	AD 364-7	19	LRBC II 981
164-165.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian	Arles	AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 501
166.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian	Arles	AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 493
167.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian	Aquileia	AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 965
168.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian	Heraclea	AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 1921
169-172.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian		AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 275
173-177.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian		AD 364-78	19	As LRBC II 276
178-179.	AE	Nummus	"House of Valentinian"		AD 364-78	19	Copy as LRBC II 276
180-181.	AE	Nummus	Gratian	Arles	AD 367-75	19	RIC IX Arelate 15
182.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Arles	AD 367-75	19	RIC IX Arelate 17B
183.	AE	Nummus	Valentinian I	Arles	AD 367-75	19	LRBC II 512
184.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Arles	AD 367-78	19	As LRBC II 526
185.	AE	Nummus	Valentinian I	Lyons	AD 367-75	19	LRBC II 311
186.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Lyons	AD 367-75	19	LRBC II 319
187.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Rome	AD 375-8	19	RIC IX Rome 28A
188.	AE	Nummus	House of Theodosius		AD 378-83	20	As LRBC II 136
189.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian		AD 383-8	20	As LRBC II 782
190.	AE	Sestertius			AD 43-260		
191-233.	AE	Nummus			AD 300-400		
234-235.	AE	Nummus			AD 350-400		
<b>Vale of Evesham</b>							
236.	AE	As	Vespasian	Rome	AD 71	4	RIC II:1 <sup>p</sup> Vespasian 302
237.	AE	As	Trajan	Rome	AD 98-102	5	As RIC II Trajan 395-435
238.	AE	Sestertius	Hadrian		AD 117-38	6	
239.	AE	As	Antoninus Pius		AD 138-61	7	
240.	AE	Sestertius	Marcus Aurelius	Rome	AD 176-80	8	RIC III Marcus Aurelius 1715
241.	AE	Sestertius	Commodus	Rome	AD 192	9	RIC III Commodus 619a
242.	AE	Antoninianus	Gallienus		AD 260-8	13	
243.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Cologne	AD 269-70	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 40
244.	AE	Antoninianus	Victorinus	Cologne	AD 270-1	13	RIC V:II Victorinus 75
245.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus I	Trier	AD 271-2	13	RIC V:II Tetricus 136
246.	AE	Antoninianus	"Barbarous" copy		AD 275-96	14	
247.	AE	Antoninianus	Allectus	C-mint	AD 293-6	14	RIC V:II Allectus 91
248.	AE	Antoninianus	Allectus	C-mint	AD 293-6	14	RIC V:II Allectus 105
249.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 307	15	RIC VI Treveri 707
250.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 310-13	15	RIC VI Treveri 870
251.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	London	AD 313-14	15	RIC VII Londinium 10
252.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I	Trier	AD 319	16	RIC VII Treveri 216
253.	AE	Nummus	Constantine I		AD 319	16	
254-255.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 49
256.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 59
257.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	LRBC I 85
258.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 330-5	17	As LRBC I 51

259.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Thessalonica	AD 330–5	17	LRBC I 838
260.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 335–41	17	Copy as LRBC I 87
261.	AE	Nummus	Constantine II	Thessalonica	AD 337–41	17	LRBC I 854
262.	AE	Nummus	Theodora		AD 337–41	17	As LRBC I 120
263.	AE	Nummus	Constans	Trier	AD 348–50	18	RIC VIII Treveri 228
264.	AE	Nummus	Magnentius	Amiens	AD 350–3	18	RIC VIII Amiens 11
265-266.	AE	Nummus	"House of Constantine"		AD 348–64	18	Copy as LRBC II 252–61
267.	AE	Nummus	House of Valentinian		AD 364–78	19	As LRBC II 275–367
268.	AE	Nummus	Valens	Rome	AD 367–75	19	RIC IX Rome 24b
269.	AE	As			AD 43–260		
270-272.	AE	Nummus			AD 300–400		

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### **Appendix 1: Iron Age and Roman Coins from Black Banks, Badsey**

In May 2022 the Worcestershire Archaeological Society's 'Small Pits, Big Ideas' research project undertook a series of test pit excavations in Badsey. During the excavations a local resident presented the Project Leader with four coins that they had previously found at Black Banks, a plot of farmland adjoining the Littleton Brook in the centre of the parish. The coins form an important addition to the archaeological corpus from Black Banks, which has previously produced large numbers of Iron Age and Roman ceramic, glass, and metal artefacts, as well as several Roman coins (Savory 1920, 294–5; Cox 1967, 15, no. 2; Watson 1986; Andrews 2018).

The earliest of the four coins is a plated copy of a Western Class IJ silver unit struck between c.10 BC and AD 10 (Cat. No. 1; Figure 4), and is the first Iron Age coin to be recorded from the Black Banks site. Units of this type have been traditionally ascribed to the Dobunni tribe of the Cotswolds and Severn Valley region (Allen 1961, 84–6), and have a core distribution extending across the north Cotswolds from the Forest of Dean to the Upper Thames, though rarely occur to the north of the Vale of Evesham (Hurst and Leins 2013, 309). The Black Banks coin therefore sits at the northern edge of the type's distribution and, when viewed alongside similar finds from Beckford, Broadway, Cleeve Prior, and Pershore (CCI 90.0717; van Arsdell and de Jersey 1994, 81–2; Hurst and Leins 2013, 306), offers important new evidence for the role of the River Avon as a boundary to the circulation of Western or Dobunnic silver in the pre-Conquest period (cf. van Arsdell and de Jersey 1994, 24). While the function of Iron Age coins has long been debated, the Black Banks coin's status as a plated copy, almost certainly intended as a contemporary forgery (Allen 1961, 86; Cottam

2001), adds further evidence in favour of the notion that silver coins served as general purpose money in late Iron Age economies, and were not a restricted ‘special purpose’ medium as has often been suggested of contemporary gold coins (Haselgrove 1993, 48–50; cf. Talbot 2017, 139–45).

**[FIGURE 4 NEAR HERE]**

The three remaining coins are all base metal issues of the late Roman period, and consist of a late third-century *antoninianus* of Tetricus II and two Constantinian *nummi* of the period AD 330–348 (Cat. Nos. 2–4). These coins closely match the profile of previously recorded finds from Black Banks, which also date mainly to the late third and mid-fourth centuries (Savory 1920, 304–5; Andrews 2018, 53; 2021), and are consistent with Watson's (1986, 17) interpretation of the site as a long-lived Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement.

**Catalogue**

All coins identified by the author in April 2023. Abbreviations as follows: Mat. = Material; Denom. = Denomination; RP = Reece (1991) Period; ABC = *Ancient British Coins*; RIC = *Roman Imperial Coinage*.

No.	Mat.	Denom.	Issuer	Mint	Date	RP	Reference
1.	AE	Unit	Western Series/‘Dobunni’		10 BC–AD 20		ABC 2036
2.	AE	Antoninianus	Tetricus II	Trier	AD 272–3	13	As RIC V:II Tetricus II 270 or 272
3.	AE	Nummus	Constantius II	Trier	AD 330–1	17	RIC VII Treveri 521
4.	AE	Nummus	House of Constantine	Trier	AD 341–8	17	As RIC VIII Treveri 186

## FIGURES

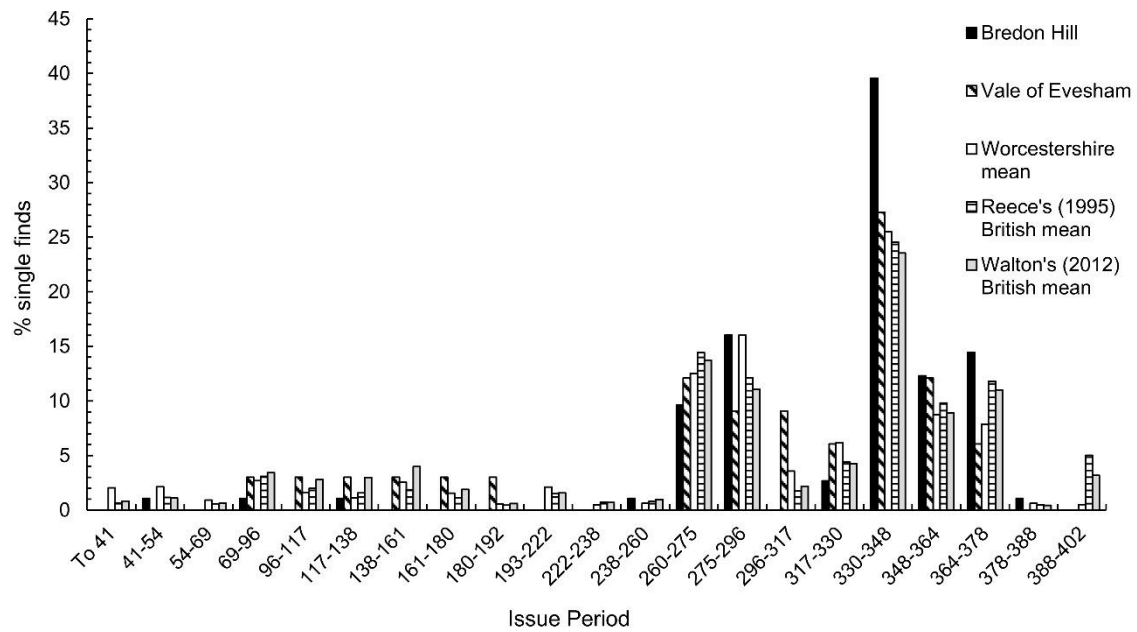


Fig. 1: Coin loss profiles for Roman coins from Bredon Hill and the Vale of Evesham in the Almonry collection compared with the Worcestershire mean (Andrews 2022) and two British means (Reece 1995; Walton 2012)

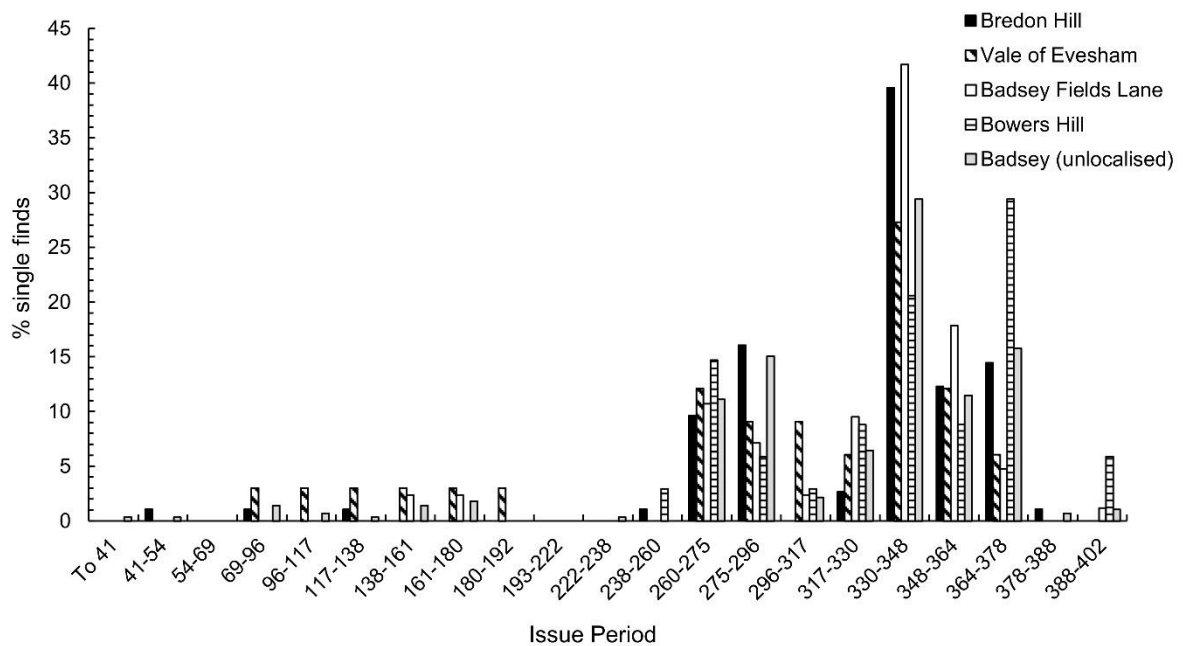


Fig. 2: Coin loss profiles for Roman coins from Bredon Hill and the Vale of Evesham in the Almonry collection compared with selected sites in Badsey (Andrews 2018)

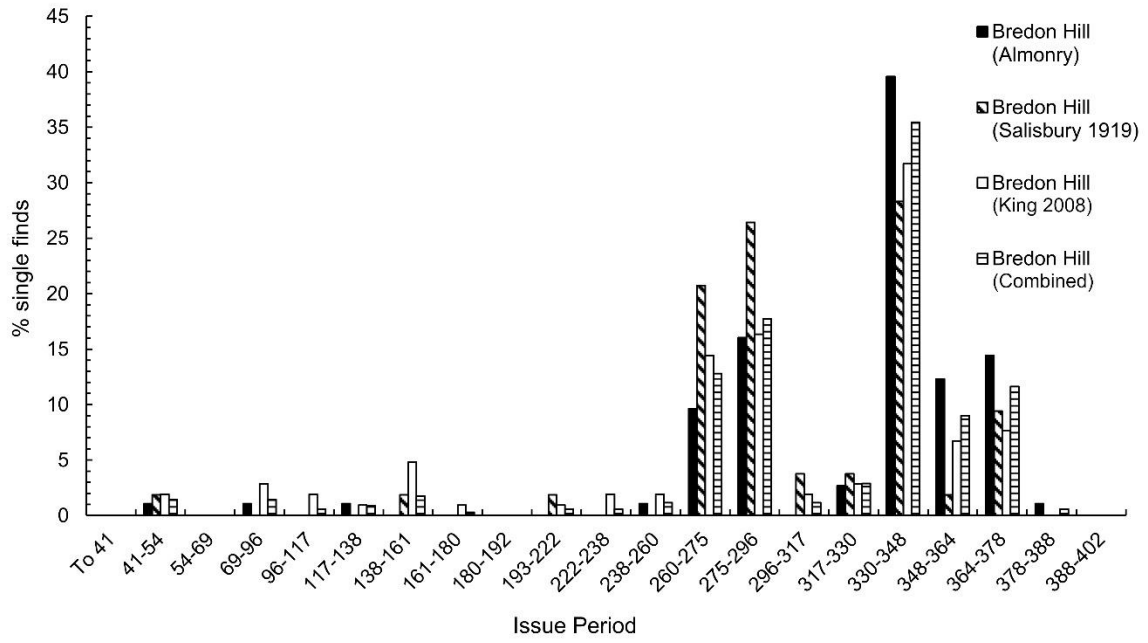


Fig. 3: Coin loss profiles for Roman coins from Bredon Hill in the Almonry, Worcester (Salisbury 1919), and Birmingham (King 2008) museum collections



Fig. 4: Plated copy of an Iron Age silver unit from Black Banks, Badsey