

8. SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES

By JOHN P. SALVATORE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(1) **Bishop's Cleeve**, *Cleevelands (Swales)* (SO 9520 2827): an excavation revealed Roman settlement activity included field boundaries, a crop drying oven and fragments of a potential millstone.¹

(2) **Bourton-on-the-Water**, *Hazelton, Whiteshoots Hill* (SU 0801 9653): an evaluation identified a pit of late Iron Age or early Roman date. mid-first to second century A.D. pottery was retrieved from a small pit or posthole and two similar undated features may have been broadly contemporary. Roman ditches forming a series of enclosures or plot boundaries perpendicular to the Fosse Way were also recorded.²

(3) **Cirencester**: (a) *3 - 5 Queen Street* (SP 0284 0127): an evaluation revealed a sequence of Roman deposits including surfaces likely to have been associated with a portico on the southern side of Ermin Street separating Insulae VIII and IX. These were overlain by successive soil horizons of post-Roman date.³

(b) *17 The Avenue, Cirencester* (SP 0268 0176): an evaluation identified an intersection of two walls and a small portion of a probable *opus signinum* floor that are most likely associated with the continuation of Roman building XIV, 2 which fronted street D, the boundary between Insula I and Insula XIV/XV.⁴

(c) *Land off Bowling Green Lane* (SP 0227 0313): an evaluation revealed two Roman ditches partway down the eastern slope of the Churn valley. The silty nature of their fills suggests that they may have been used to conduct water, perhaps functioning as open aqueducts.⁵

(4) **Fairford**, *land South of London Road* (SP 1630 0093): an excavation recorded several Roman ditches forming a field boundary and four probable Roman burials, indicative of a nearby related settlement. Undated features included an enclosure ditch that may have been associated with the burials.⁶

(5) **Forest of Dean**: hoard of 7 Republican denarii and 1 denarius of Tiberius. Deposition c. A.D. 14–37 or later.⁷

(6) **Gloucester**: (a) *97 London Road* (SO 8416 1896): an evaluation identified two Roman inhumations and a cremation burial, along with broadly uniform cemetery soil deposits dating to the mid-first to late fourth centuries A.D. A ditch and some structural remains may relate to Roman funerary practices.⁸

¹ Work by P. Guarino of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

² Work by L. Brannlund of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

³ Work by A. Barber of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

⁴ Work by M. Cardelli of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

⁵ Work by C. Leonard of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

⁶ Work by D. Sausins, Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

⁷ BM ref. 2017 T1050; PAS ID: GLO-AD13B8. A. Brown sent information.

⁸ Work by A. Thomson of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

(b) *Albion House* (SO 8290 1810): investigation suggested that the earliest remains comprised a probable Roman roadside ditch, which was located adjacent to Southgate Street, as well as two possibly associated later Roman 'roadside' graved inhumations. Analysis of the human skeletal remains indicated that they were probably older females, who may have been of some social status. Comparative analysis has indicated that the late Roman burials are likely to be related to, and represent a continuation of, the Roman South Gate Cemetery, located approximately 100 m to the east.⁹

(c) *Quedgeley* (SO 8115 1330): archaeological investigations revealed a period of later Iron Age activity focussed in the eastern part of the site followed by a second phase of activity dating to the earlier Roman period. The latter appears to have been focused on a group of ditches which may have formed part of a drove or trackway and a ditch orientated perpendicular to the droveway. Pottery from these features dated them to the earlier Roman period.¹⁰

(7) **Tetbury**, *Highfield Farm* (ST 8941 9418): an excavation identified three late Iron Age/early Roman stock enclosures which produced a finds assemblage suggestive of a contemporary settlement in the vicinity. The enclosures had gone out of use by the late Roman period.¹¹

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(1) **Emerson's Green**, *Ibstock Land* (ST 6782 7711): an evaluation and watching brief identified Roman ditches, pits and postholes which produced a finds assemblage indicative of small-scale metalworking.¹²

BATH AND NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

(1) **Compton Dando**, *The Two Headed Man Junction, Burnett* (ST 6687 6398): an evaluation revealed the ditches of two enclosures in the northern half of the site, one of which is tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. In the centre of the site, the course of the West Wansdyke earthwork was exposed but not further excavated. Rubble representing the core of the bank was consistent with evidence found during other local excavations, and possibly suggests that the earthwork here had a stone revetment.¹³

SOMERSET

(1) **Aller**, *Aller Court Farm* (ST 3893 2934): an investigation revealed a late Roman trackway, defined by two parallel ditches which crossed the site. New Forest indented beaker pottery was recovered

⁹ Work by A. Hood of Foundations Archaeology. T. Michaels sent information.

¹⁰ Work by Worcestershire Archaeology. A. Walsh sent information.

¹¹ Work by D. Stansbie of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

¹² Work by T. Brown of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

¹³ Work by M. Allen of Oxford Archaeology for Bath and North East Somerset Council. R. Shaffrey sent information.

from the lower silt of one of the ditches. The late Roman trackway cut straight through the centre of an early/middle Bronze Age trapezoidal enclosure.¹⁴

(2) **Barrington**: hoard of 10 Tetrarchic nummi. Date of deposition c. A.D. 307 or later.¹⁵

(3) **Bicknoller**: hoard of 13 denarii, the earliest being one of Nero (A.D. 54-68) and the latest being one of Faustina II. Deposition c. A.D. 161-176 or later.¹⁶

(4) **Bishops Lydeard**: hoard of up to 173 radiates the latest of which dated from Tetricus II (A.D. 270-274). Deposition c. A.D. 274 or later. Abraded Roman pottery, two fragmentary denarii (Trajan and Severus Alexander), a worn and corroded dupondius of Trajan and a sestertius of Lucilla were reported with the coins.¹⁷ A group of 36 nummi were assumed to be stray finds but could also be a small Valentinianic hoard.

(5) **Cannington, Cannington Flood Alleviation Scheme** (ST 2539 3892): an excavation identified Roman activity in three locations. A rectilinear enclosure forming part of a previously identified ladder settlement represented the westernmost remains; a probable late Roman boundary ditch was 50 m to the south-east. A late Roman enclosure with internal pits and postholes was truncated by further Roman ditches and pits. Some 45 m to the north-east was an area of flooding with two distinct phases of middle to late Roman activity separated by an alluvial layer. The earliest features comprised an enclosure, burial, postholes and several ditches which yielded pottery and dumped domestic waste and provided evidence that iron smelting and crop processing occurred in the vicinity. Three further burials, a small pit cluster, postholes and ditches represent the later Roman features.¹⁸

(6) **Frome St. Quintin**: 3 denarii: 1 of Trajan (plated copy), 1 of Septimius Severus and 1 of Julia Domna. Deposition c. A.D. 196-211 or later.¹⁹

(7) **Merriott**: 2 base metal nummi and one copper alloy ring. Deposition c. A.D. 353-4 or later.²⁰

(8) **Middlezoy**: hoard of 3 radiates, 1 radiate or nummus and 21 nummi. Deposition c. A.D. 355-61 or later. The group appears to include a dispersed hoard.²¹

(9) **North Petherton**: hoard of 131 nummi and fragments. Deposition c. A.D. 354 or later.²²

(10) **Puriton, Riverton Road** (ST 3174 4167): excavation identified a late Iron Age rural settlement comprising an enclosure with two internal roundhouses and several associated features. An outer

¹⁴ Work by M. Allen of Oxford Archaeology for British Solar Renewables. R. Shaffrey sent information.

¹⁵ BM ref. 2017 T555; PAS ID: SOM-FFB4D4. L. Burnett and I. Donaldson sent information.

¹⁶ BM ref. 2017 T21; PAS ID: SOM-CBB093. W. Partridge sent information.

¹⁷ BM ref. 2017 T57; PAS ID: SOM-7344B7. R. Abdy sent information.

¹⁸ Work by J. Orellana of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

¹⁹ BM ref. 2017 T332; PAS ID: SOM-B80A84. W. Partridge sent information.

²⁰ BM ref. 2017 T78 (addenda to BM ref. 2015 T853); PAS ID: SOM-F2CB6C. L. Burnett sent information.

²¹ BM ref. 2017 T367; PAS ID: SOM-F5E4D4. W. Partridge sent information.

²² Found in 2016. BM ref. 2016 T948; PAS ID: SOM-587138. E. Ghey sent information.

enclosure ditch, a small adjacent domestic enclosure and an outlying field system were associated with the enclosure whilst to the east of the settlement, a trackway, a cremation burial and several ditches and pits of late Iron Age–early Roman date were present.²³

DEVON

(1) **Fremington, Tews Lane** (SS 530 321): an excavation revealed a small rectilinear enclosure dated to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The pottery assemblage illustrates a continuity of settlement from the end of the Iron Age through to the early Romano-British period.²⁴

CORNWALL

(1) **Callington**: 2 denarii, deposited c. A.D. 161–2 or later.²⁵

(2) **Hayle**: hoard of 1 denarius and 2004 radiates deposited c. A.D. 274 or later. The coins were found with a pure tin vessel with a curved handle in four large fragments and many smaller ones, a copper alloy rivet (possibly used to attach the handle to the vessel), a lead plug (possibly used to plug the mouth of the vessel) and an iron stud.²⁶

(3) **St. Levan V**: hoard of 17 Iron Age gold staters and quarter staters, 1 base metal Iron Age stater, 1 Continental silver quinarius and 5 silver Roman Republican denarii. Of the inscribed staters, one was inscribed COMVX (*ABC* 2054) and one was inscribed ANTED (*ABC* 2066); one of the quarter staters was inscribed COR: (*ABC* 2051).²⁷ Discrete groups of coins were found and are likely to represent sequential ritualised deposition over a large area. The latest coin in the first group found in 2016 was dated A.D. 68–9.²⁸

²³ Work by J. Orellana of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

²⁴ Work by Paul Cooke of AC Archaeology, for Linden Homes Southwest. Paul Rainbird sent information.

²⁵ Found in 2014. BM ref. 2014 T333; PAS ID: DEV-A08099. E. Ghey sent information.

²⁶ Found in 2016–2017. BM ref. 2016 T916 and 2017 T804; PAS ID: CORN-470A75 and CORN-A7D1CD. R. Abdy sent information.

²⁷ BM ref. 2017 T 50 (addenda to BM ref 2016 T19); PAS ID: CORN-D4A789. A. Tyacke and E. Ghey sent information.

²⁸ See *Britannia* 48 (2017), 406.