

ROCHESTER: BELGIC COINS AND ASSOCIATED FINDS

A number of clay coin pellet moulds, some copper alloy objects (mainly coins) and one iron object were examined.

There were 10 fragments of coin pellet mould, details are given in the table below. The holes were very variable in both size and arrangement. Even if a constant weight of metal was placed in each hole, the resulting coin blanks would not be uniform in size which would doubtless have made them more difficult to strike. There is one mould fragment in particular ($\triangle 11$, R 114) where the hole is of a completely different shape to those in all the other fragments - it is wider and shallower and far more rounded in section; the majority of the holes have comparatively vertical sides and flat bottoms. Three of the fragments are edge pieces. In one of these ($\triangle 2$) the edge bevel is so shallow in angle that the holes near to it are much less deep than normal. X-radiographs showed that no metal was left in the moulds.

Table: The mould fragments

Site No	No of holes	Edge	Max thickness	hole diameter	hole dep th
1	2	Yes	10	over 7	6-7
2	3	Yes	11	over 7	7-8
3	6	-	13	8	8-9
7	4	-	14	7-8	6-7
8	4	-	11	8	6-7
9	3	-	12	over 7	5-6
10	0	-	over 9	-	-
11	1	Yes	over 10	over 11	5-6
-	7	-	12	8	8-9
-	4	-	19	8	8-9

All measurements are in mm.

The copper alloy and iron objects were x-rayed. It had been thought that the iron object (AM Lab No 620859) was a hoard of Belgic coins as the surface was coloured green in parts with copper corrosion products. This was shown to be not the case; it was a deeply corroded piece of iron sheet.

All the copper alloy objects [AM Lab Nos 620860-80] are coins, with the exception of those listed below:-












Possible coins: 620875, 620877

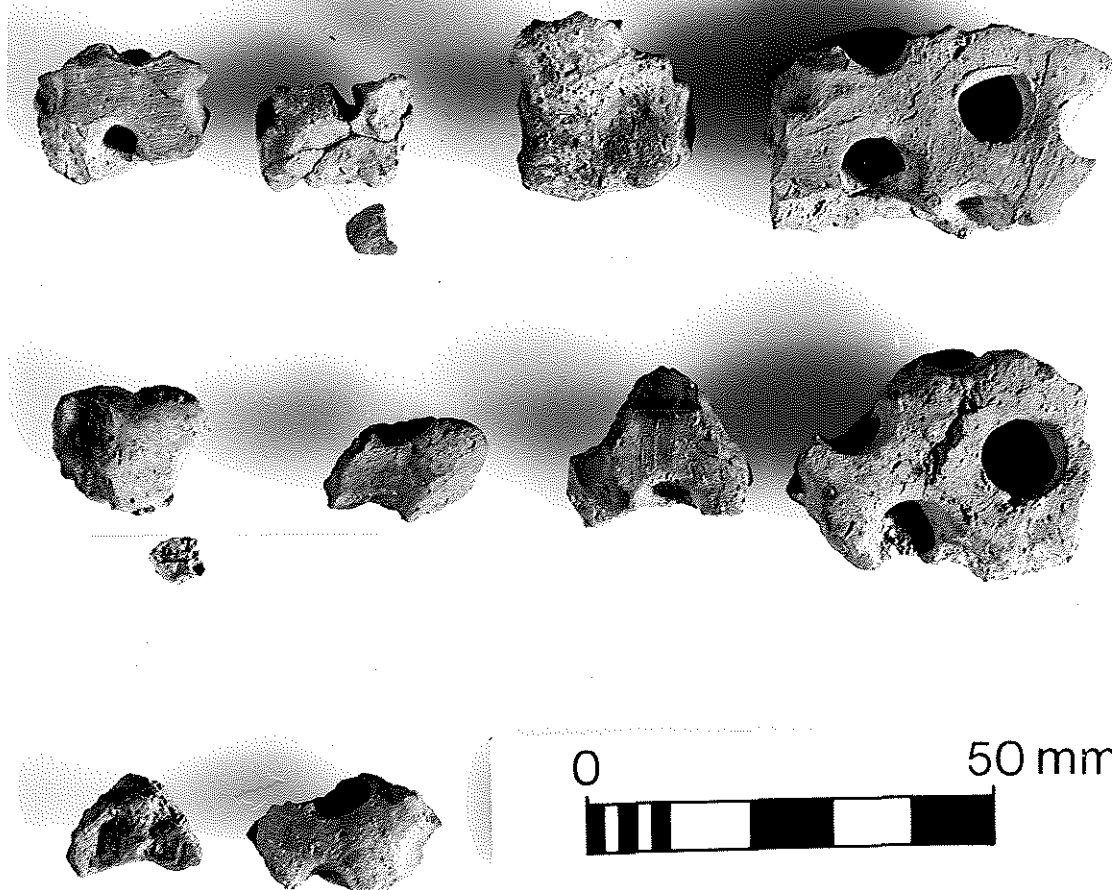
Fragments of copper alloy: 620866-7, 620870, 620879

Possible coin blank: 620862. This is a copper alloy disc 3.5 mm thick and with a diameter of just over 9 mm. It is too large to have come from any of the mould fragments except 11.

Justine Bayley

Correspondence of AM Lab and Site Nos

Lab No	Site No
620859	Reg 96
60	R 
61	R 
62	R 
63	R10
64	R13
65	R14
66	R11
67	R12
68	Reg 99B
69	Reg 100
70	Reg 102
71	Reg 2
72	Reg 5
73	Reg 101
74	Reg 104
75	Reg 66
76	Reg 3
77	Reg 103
78	Reg 4
79	Reg 105
80	Reg 109
620881	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
-	 R 114
-	97
-	98



The coin pellet mould fragments

Top row (L to R):	△8	△11	△9	98
Middle row:	97	△1	△7	△3
Bottom row:	△10	△2		