

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

3888

SERIES/No CONSULTANT

AUTHOR Elizabeth Crowfoot 20.1.83

TITLE Ardleigh, Essex, Textiles;
Roman

Textiles
Elisabeth Crawford

29.637. Iron brooch (7910101)

On all fragments, remains of very deteriorated textile, fibres replaced by metal oxides, largest area c.3.0 x 1.5 cm overall. Spinning Z in both systems, lie of threads suggests a coarse woollen twill, but not clear enough for further identification or count.

29.650. Bronze bow brooch (7910455)

Small fragments of textile, fibres replaced, one fairly clear area c.1.0 x 1.0 cm. Fine spinning, Z both systems, weave a close twill, as far as can be seen three-shed, 2/1 surface showing, count estimated c.28/18 (clear 8-9 threads warp on 3 mm, 8-9 weft on 5 mm) per cm, appearance suggests fine wool.

29.776. Nail (7910532)

Area textile, fibres replaced, clear c.1.0 x 1.0 cm overall. Spinning Z both systems, even medium spin, very even weave, as far as can be seen again probably 2/1 twill, count c.16-18/12 per cm.

Both the textiles clear enough for identification here seem to be three-shed (2/1 or 1/2) twill weaves. This weave was found on one other Roman site in Britain, in the Trajanic hoard at Corbridge, Northumberland; six examples are recorded from Mainz, Germany (1). All these are of wool, spinning Z in both systems, as here, but the weaves rather coarser - Corbridge 10/8 threads per cm, and the Mainz pieces ranging from 8-10/8-10 to 13/13 per cm.

1 J.F.Wild Textile Manufacture in the Northern Roman Provinces 1951, 49-50; cat. Table A.50 and Table B.79-84.