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NH

HousesteadsTextile

Elisabeth Crowfoot

81072123. Ae Coin

Area c. 2.4 X 1.7 cm overall, replaced textile (negative impression). Spinning not clear; weave appears to be a half-basket (extended tabby) weave, i.e. with single threads in one system (normally the warp) and paired threads in the other (weft); thread count 9/11prs per cm.

Half-basket was a popular weave in Roman textiles. Most of the English examples published by Dr. J.P. Wild (who has examined this coin) are woollens with rather finer counts (Wild 1970.46,90-91,94; Wild 1977.9-11,27); replaced fragments on metal grave-goods from Winterbourne Earls and Kelvedon are rather coarser, and an impression on a pot from Gestingthorpe, Essex, could perhaps have come from light sacking (Crowfoot E. 1985, 97). A weave near in quality to the Housesteads example was also found with coins, parts of a lined bag from Lackford, Suffolk, containing a 4th century coin hoard.

Wild, J.P. 1970. Textile Manufacture in the Northern Roman Provinces.

Wild, J.P. 1977. Vindolanda III. The Textiles.

Crowfoot, E. 1985. XXIII. Textile impressions, in Jo Draper Excavations at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe, Essex. East Anglian Archaeology 25.