

Interim analytical results for some brooches from Leicester

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February 1986

A total of twelve objects from excavations at Redcross Street, Leicester (1962) were submitted to the Laboratory and all but two, a ring and a brooch spring, were analysed. Nine of them, brooches of various types, were analysed qualitatively by energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and three of these were also sampled so they could be analysed quantitatively by atomic absorption (AA). The final object, part of a large penannular brooch or a small bracelet, was also sampled for AA. The samples of uncorroded metal were removed from the backs of the objects using a fine drill.

Table of XRF results

Finds No	Alloy	Brooch type
17	leaded gunmetal	Polden Hill
34	(leaded) bronze	Trumpet
41	brass	1-piece, cf Colchester
47	leaded bronze/gunmetal	Trumpet
48	gunmetal	Penannular
92	brass	Colchester 'A'
135	brass	Bagendon (?)
138	leaded gunmetal	Polden Hill
193	brass	Enamelled plate

The objects sampled were Nos 34, 47, 138 and 202. The rest of the brooches were too thin or too corroded to permit this.

The enamelled decoration on No 193 is arranged in two concentric bands, the outer one consisting of 14 petals, alternately yellow and turquoise, with triangular red fields between them. The inner portion of the design is five petals, again of turquoise and yellow, separated by fields of red enamel.

The discussion of the XRF results will be presented together with the AA results when the latter become available.