

TextilesRichboroughRoman7351449. Brooch

Fragments of Z spun thread caught under the spring of the pin, too deteriorated for the weave to be identified.

HM Appleyard is of the opinion this fragment is of silk, though there is some quite severe damage.

If this is so, it is of considerable interest. So far silk has only been published from one Roman burial in England, a fragment of 3/1 silk damask from a child's grave at Holborough, Kent, of the 3rd century A.D. (1). The Z spinning of our thread shows that this must have been from a fabric woven within the Empire, not imported directly from China, where silk was woven unspun (2).

1. J.P.Wild, Textile Manufacture in the Northern Roman Provinces, Cambridge University Press, 1970, p.101, fig.41.
2. *ibid*, pp.12,51.