

Easton Maudit VI – The Brooches

Donald F. Mackreth

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Mr. Mackreth for donating his time and granting us the benefit of his formidable expertise.

Introduction

The group of brooches submitted to Mr. Mackreth with illustrations by Mr. B. Martin. The vast majority of these artefacts were metal-detected unstratified finds from around the perimeter of the excavated area, their find spots were not accurately recorded. The relatively small group is presented here, arranged into a simplified type series using generally accepted names.

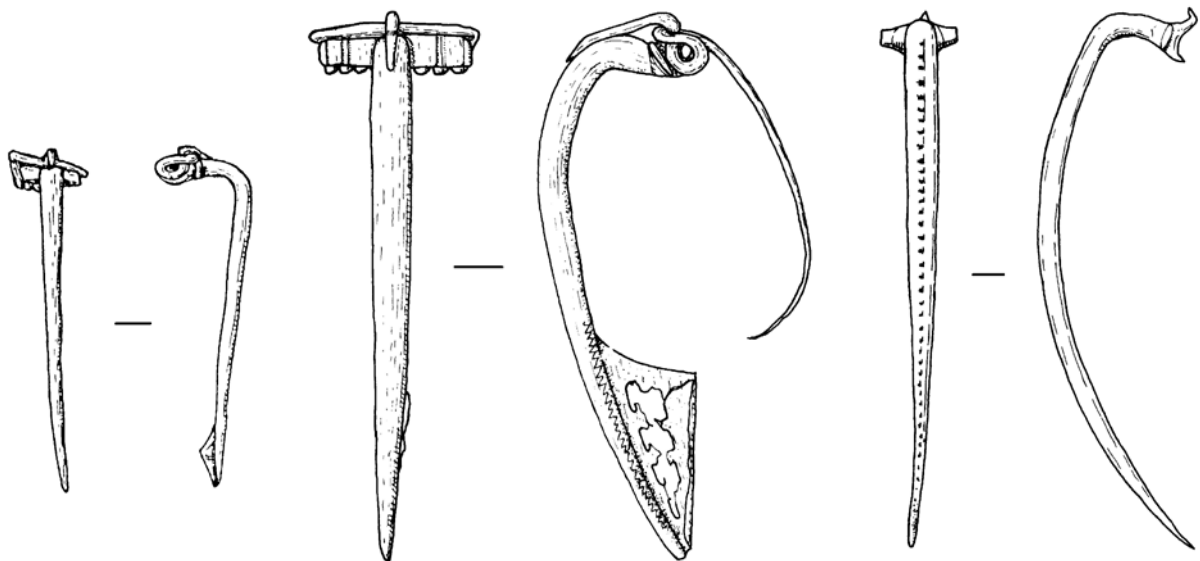
All are of copper alloy unless stated.

SCALE OF ALL DRAWINGS – 100%

Colchester one-piece types

Each has an integral bilateral spring and hook issuing from the back of the bow, the latter to hold the external chord.

- 1 SF 338 (9444) – grid-square AE/7, Area D The hook is very short with just a hint of a bend along the top of the bow. The wings and bow are plain, the bow having an octagonal section. Its profile is almost straight, the suggestion of a re-curve may be the result of damage. The catch-plate is largely missing, along with the bottom of the bow.
- 2 SF 206 (7024) – Area A The hook is moderately long. Each wing has two wide flutes divided by a groove. The bow is plain, an octagonal section and a well curved profile. The catch-plate has damaged piercings, maybe seven, probably fewer, the arrangement of separating dog-legs is uncertain. The bow has a line of rocker-arm on each side next to the catch-plate.
- 3 SF 69 (unstratified, from field, Area K) Brutally stripped during conservation, none of the original surface is left. The wings are now plain. There is evidence for having once been a wavy ridge down the front of the bow, which may have had a hexagonal section.

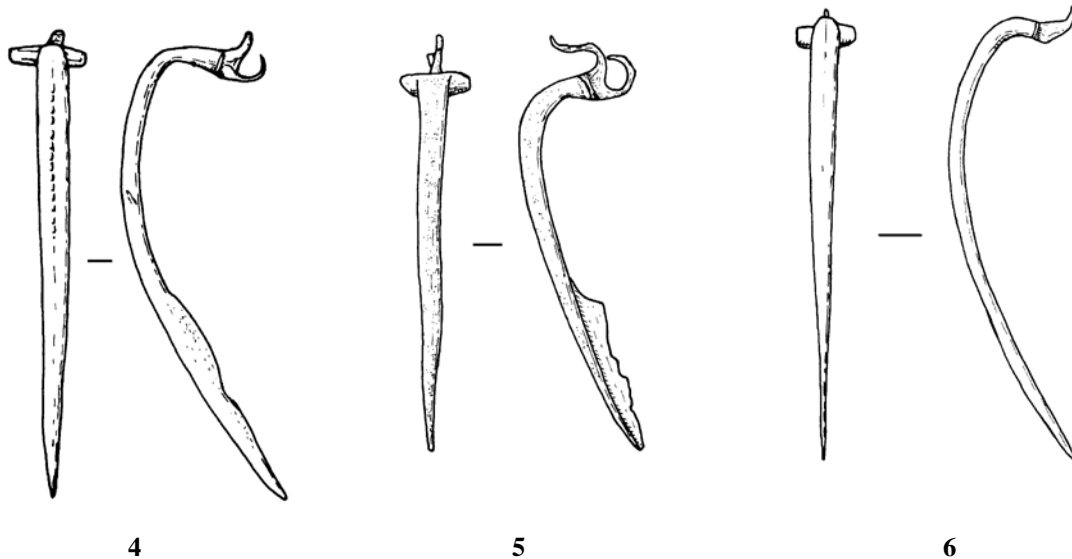


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- 4 SF 75 (unstratified, from field, Area J) Brutally stripped during conservation, none of the original surface is left. The wings had been fluted and the bow, probably with a hexagonal section, once had a wavy ridge down the front.
- 5 SF 51 (trial trench south of excavated area) The wings and bow are plain, the latter has a hexagonal section. The profile is almost straight in its lower part.
- 6 SF 175 (unstratified, maybe from field, Area J) Badly pitted, only general details can be seen. The wings and bow appear to have been plain, the latter certainly had a hexagonal section and is now bent.



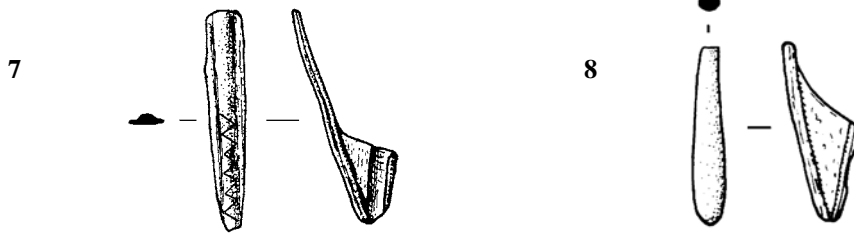
None of these brooches displays any sign of being late in the overall sequence: they are long, all the ornament is handmade, where the catch-plate survives, the piercing is carefully made and where only the stubs survive, there are traces of rectangular holes and not circular ones. As Colchester types like these were not being made at the time of the conquest, in fact, the latest types had probably passed out of manufacture by then. However, many survived in use after the conquest, but these are almost exclusively the late types, short in length, fully cast whose catch-plates have circular holes or none at all. The only true guide to the development of the Colchester available at the moment is the King Harry Lane cemetery (Stead and Rigby 1989).

The dating of the phases into which the cemetery is divided is not entirely secure. While the earliest likely date for the cemetery is said to be 15 BC (*ibid.*, 83), the authors preferred to be more conservative in their dating: Phase 1, AD 1-40; Phase 2, 30-55; Phase 3, 40-60; Phase 4, 60+ (*ibid.*, 84). Over half of the burials should therefore be statistically later than the Roman conquest. However, the Samian report (*ibid.*, 113) contains the comment that it is surprising that there should be only six vessels: three earlier than 25, none dating 25-50, two dating 45-65 and the last being much later. Looking at the published dating, it is surprising that there is only one Colchester Derivative (G316,4) and no fully formed Hod Hill, both types well represented in Verulamium scarcely 500 metres away. If the dating is, however, taken back to 15 BC, and the divisions between the phases adjusted accordingly, most of the basic problem largely disappears. The following ranges are suggested: Phase 1, 15 BC-AD 30; Phase 2, 20-40; Phase 3, 35-50/55; Phase 4, 45+. Most of the burials now become pre-conquest. The end date of 50/55 for Phase 3 was arrived at by using general evidence for the dating of Colchester and is relevant to the present brooches in that they would be subject to the same rules of residuality which governs all material not melted down or otherwise removed from a normal site assemblage. In the case of such a specialised collection like that from King Harry Lane, the writer would be happier a terminal date for Phase 3 of 40/45. This should mean a further adjustment in the phases before then, but no suggestions are made here. In terms of brooch 2, which is the best preserved and only placed in second place because it has a longer hook than that on brooch 1, the occurrence of similar ones in the cemetery is: Phase 1, G.202.9-11, G.206.3, G.397.6; Phase 2, G.143.3, G.231.4, G.23.2. The criteria used were size, decoration and the presence of relatively elaborate to very elaborate fretting in the catch-plate. Following these, the result is clear, most occur in Phase 1, some in Phase 2 and none later. In terms of the suggested dating, such brooches range up to about 40, in terms of life in use, then it is possible that one might have been seen in as late as 45, but hardly beyond. As far as all the brooches here are concerned, the end of their life in use should not be later than 45/50.

Colchester Derivative types

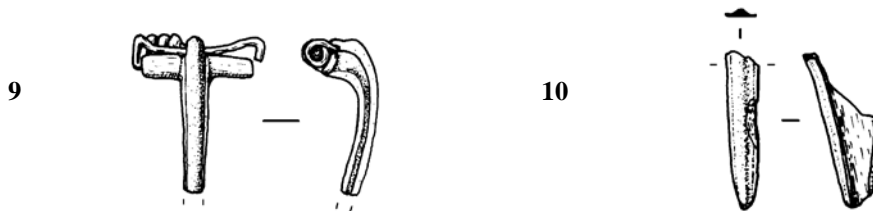
The following brooches down to and including brooch **13** had the axis bar of the separately made springs passing through the lower of two holes in a plate projecting behind the head of the bow, the chord passing through the upper.

- 7** SF 300 (unstratified, from field) The lower bow and catch-plate of a brooch, the central face of which has a line of rocker-arm ornament down it and the solid catch-plate has a pin-groove.
- 8** SF 99 (unstratified, from field) The lower bow of a brooch very similar to the last, too damaged for it to be definitely ascribed to the same family.



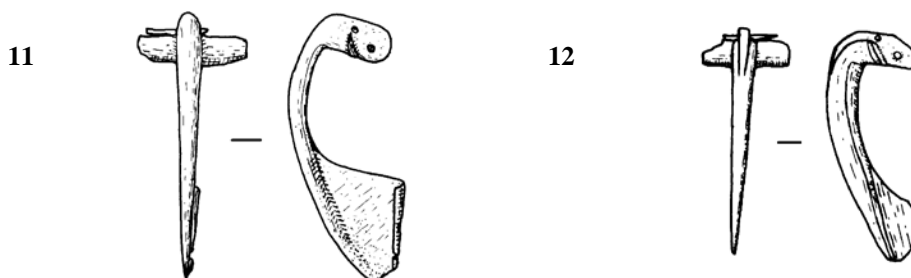
Both members of the Harlow type which a recent review has shown runs from just before the conquest to about 75-80 (Mackreth 1996, 306-313, fig 95:27).

- 9** SF 299 (unstratified, from field) The wings are plain and join the edges of the bow which has a step above them and a strongly projecting central face. The lower bow, with the catch-plate is missing.
- 10** SF 275 (unstratified, from field) The lower bow of a brooch similar to either brooch **8** or **9**.



The lower bow constituting brooch **10** is related to brooch **9** on the section alone: there is no guarantee that the upper bow would have been the same. That being so, neither belongs to a properly isolated group of Colchester Derivatives and all that can be offered here is the general date range of the later 1st century to the third quarter of the 2nd.

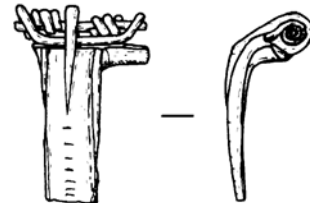
- 11** SF 212 (9444) – beneath room 2, black soil, Area D The plate behind the head is more or less a direct continuation of the top of the bow. Both wings and bow are plain. The solid catch-plate has a line of rocker-arm ornament along the junction with the bow and another across the top.
- 12** SF 174 (unstratified, from field) The plate behind the head of the bow runs over the top to form a short crest, otherwise the wings and bow are plain.



Brooch **11** is a member of a highly distinctive group which tends to have very narrow bows and the same layout of holes in the plate behind the head of the bow and this is the feature of brooch **12** which associates the two. The other characteristic of the main group is the absence of decoration except on the catch-plate, that on brooch **11** being typical. The group is centred on the south-west part of Northamptonshire and the areas around. The area of distribution is fairly restricted which means that few have been published. The available dating is: Bancroft Mausoleum, 25-50 (Mackreth 1994, 289, fig 131:9); Quinton, 50-60 (Friendship-Taylor 1979, 135, fig 63:471); Bancroft villa, late 3rd – early to mid. 4th century (Mackreth 1994, 298, fig 135:41). This spread of dates should mean that the brooch belongs at least to the 3rd quarter of the 1st century, the last example obviously being residual in its context.

13 SF 278 (unstratified, from field)

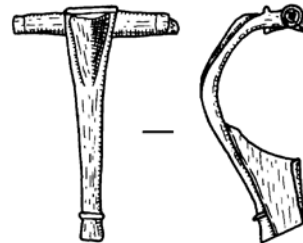
There is a skeuomorph of the Colchester's hook.
 The surviving wing is very small and plain.
 The broad bow has a groove down each side and a curved face between with lightly marked cross-cuts.
 The lower bow is missing.



Again not a member of an established group, but whose prominent imitation of the hook on the Colchester should indicate a 1st century date rather one entirely in the 2nd.

14 SF 330 (8174/7023) - black clay amongst/below yard stones

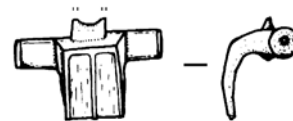
The axis bar of the wire pin was inserted in a slot in the back of the wings which were then closed round it.
 The pin is of wire wound round the axis bar.
 Each wing has a sunken moulding at its end.
 The bow has an elongated triangular boss at its head with a line of cross-cuts on each side.
 The rest of the bow is plain and tapers down to a cross-moulding above a conical foot.



An example of one design in a group of brooches employing a few motifs to great effect amongst which the lower bow can be a fantail, with ring-and-dot ornament, and the upper bow can have a beaded central ridge. However, the foot, when not a fantail, and the wings are typical. The manner of holding the pin is also typical, ranging from several turns of the wire down to a proper hinged pin. It might be suspected that the latter are the latest form. The family has recently been reviewed (Mackreth 1996, 301, fig 93:9-11) and the few that have been published from dated context indicate a range from the 1st to the mid-late 2nd century.

15 SF 78 (unstratified, from Area K)

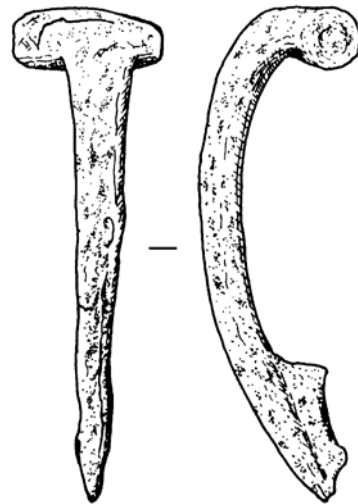
Each wing is short and has a sunken moulding at its end.
 Only the top of the bow survives. It has a square top on which is the base of a cast-on loop and two elongated rectangular cells for enamel, now missing.



An example from an uncommon group which can have either the hinged pin, as here, or the Polden Hill spring system, in which the spring is mounted between pierced plates at the ends of the wings. The rest of the brooch would have had mouldings just below the enamelled part and would then have tapered to a decorative foot. The type is found mainly in the South West, but spreads up the Severn Valley and out towards the East as far as this site and others in the same general zone. The dating is mainly 2nd century, most being lost before 175.

16 SF 62 (unstratified, from field)

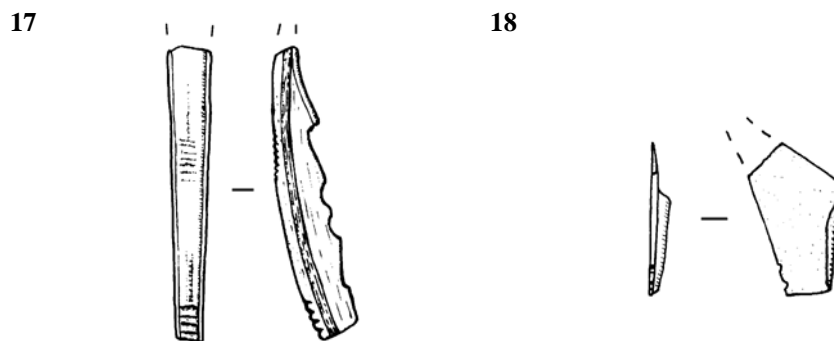
Iron, the bow has a narrow section, probably rounded, its top expanding to be rolled over to hold the axis bar of the pin.



Iron brooches were much more common before the conquest after which they become a rarity, except for those like this one which are poorly dated. The odd feature here is that the head is rolled-over for the axis bar of the pin and this should be a guarantee of a post-conquest date. The dating favours the second half of the 1st century, but there are signs that some were being consigned to the ground in the early 2nd.

17 SF 185 (unstratified, from field) A fragment of a lower bow. The bow is almost straight sided with a triangular back, a step on each side of the front whose main face is curved. Above the square foot are two groups of cross-cuts. The catch-plate is largely missing, but had a flange across the top and at least two circular holes.

18 SF 173 (unstratified, from field) Only the foot of the bow with most of the catch-plate is present. The very thin bow has two large nicks at its foot.

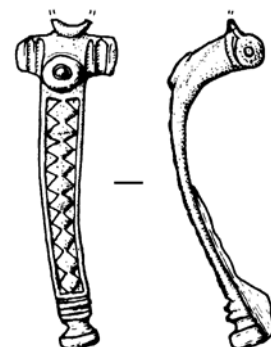


Brooch **17** is a Colchester Derivative, the other is assumed to have been one. There are no obvious associations for the first, but the flange across the top of the catch-plate, coupled with the presence of at least two circular holes, points to a date in the first two decades after the conquest. There is little to say about Brooch 18, the nicks in the foot may indicate a later 1st into the 2nd century date.

Headstud

19 SF 273 (unstratified, from field)

The axis bar of the hinged pin was housed in a semi-circular projection across the back of the wings, the front of each of which steps up to the bow. On the head are remains of a cast-on loop. The stud has an annular groove around a small boss. The face of the bow beneath the stud once had a groove down each side and a line of reserved lozenges between two longitudinal cells for enamel, now missing, stopped at the bottom by two cross-mouldings which are separated from the two-part foot-knob by a flute.



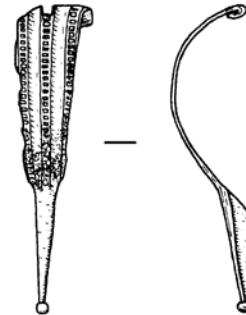
At home all over England south of the Dee-Humber line, very few come from further north. The dating is weak: Doncaster, 80-90 (Buckland and Magilton 1985, 88, fig 19:13); Nettleton, Wilts, later 1st into 2nd century (Wedlake 1982, 128, fig 53:61); Worcester residual in an early-mid 3rd century deposit (Mackreth 1992, 75, fig 38:1). Any from 4th century contexts have been omitted. The dating favours the later 1st into the 2nd. The absence of a strong presence along Hadrian's Wall may show that this variety had largely passed out of use by, say, 125, rather than the marketing by the manufacturers was fallible, after all the spread of examples is far too wide for that to have been the case.

Aucissa-Hod Hill Sequence

The next eleven brooches have or had the axis bars of their hinged pins housed in the rolled-over heads of their bows, except the first whose head is rolled under.

20 SF 224 (7043/7044) above (94152) - Area B

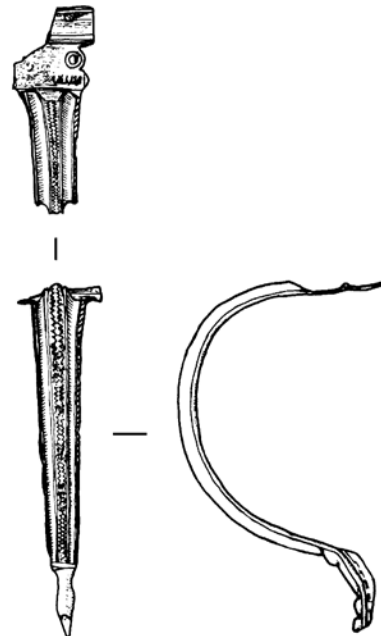
The bow design is simple, consisting of three sunken bead-rows separated by longitudinal flutes. The lower bow is plain and there is no ornamental head-plate, the design beginning just short of the rolled-under head.



The rolled-under head places this brooch in an awkward category: the style would suit the Strip Brooch at home in the South West, but the use of a square punch does not suit that, pointing to a time when early examples of what became the Aucissa were so decorated before proper beading was introduced. Which should take precedence, the Strip or the pre-Aucissa strain, is hard to tell, perhaps the punch marks are the prime indicators, in which case the date is before 30, otherwise it would be from c30 to near the end of the 1st century. The presence of the next brooch in this collection suggests that the earlier date is not out of place.

21 SF 184 (unstratified, from field)

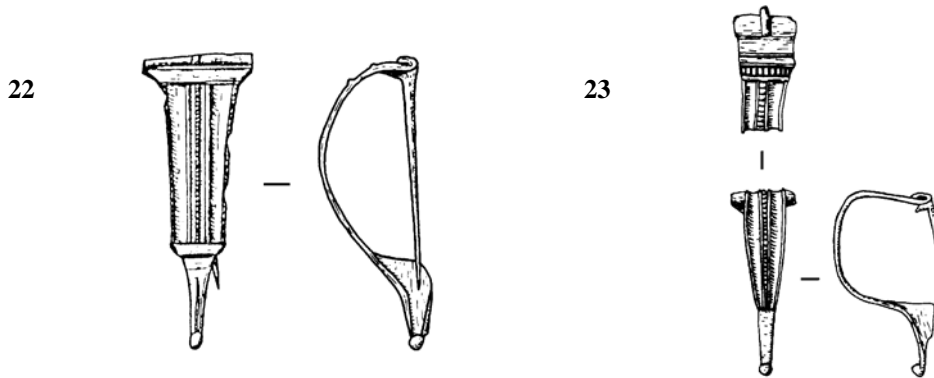
The bow is like that of a conventional Aucissa: a ridge down the centre of a curved face. The head-plate is made up of a central flute between sunken bead-rows and stopped at each end by prominent "eyes" consisting of a tall boss rising from an annular groove. The upper bow is stopped by two small cross-mouldings, the rest being largely missing.



The Aucissa proper has a simple head-plate with either a bead-row on either side of a flute, or with the bead-row next to the bow replaced by a name, usually Aucissa although others are known. In either case, the flute ends in semi-circular cut-outs, unlike the semi-circular projections running part of the way round "eyes". These are never found on Aucissas which lie at the end of a line of development from the middle of the 1st century BC (Duval 1974). The Aucissa had ceased to be made at the time of the conquest, although survivors in use arrived

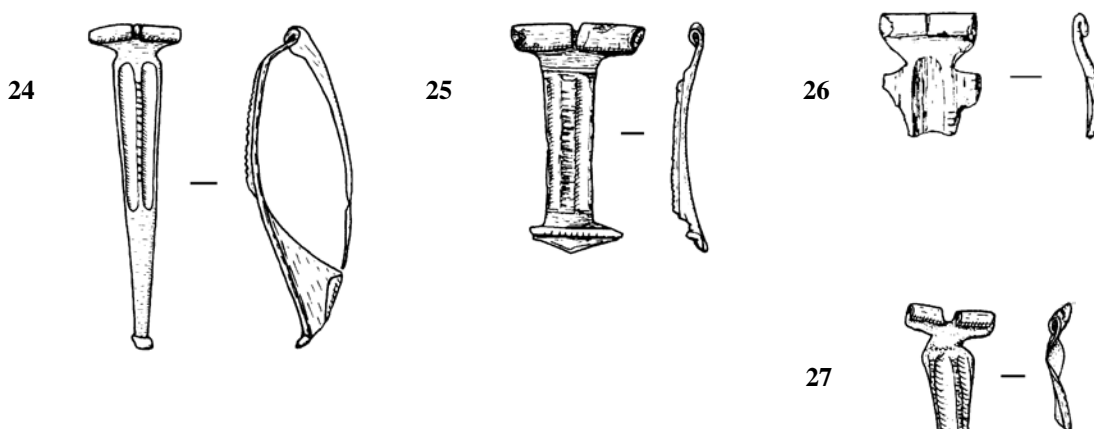
in some numbers then. No Aucissa as such has been shown to come from an unequivocal pre-conquest deposit. The present brooch is earlier and should hardly have been in use by AD 45.

- 22** SF 333 (7084/7085) - western side, near cellar entrance The upper bow is broad and stopped top and bottom by two cross-mouldings. Between these, there is a central sunken bead-row with a flute on each side. The plain lower bow is very narrow and plain, finishing in a plain globular separately-made foot-knob.
- 23** SF 332 (9444) – grid-square AE/5 A repeat of the last, whose small size precluded the full form of the cross-mouldings on the upper bow.

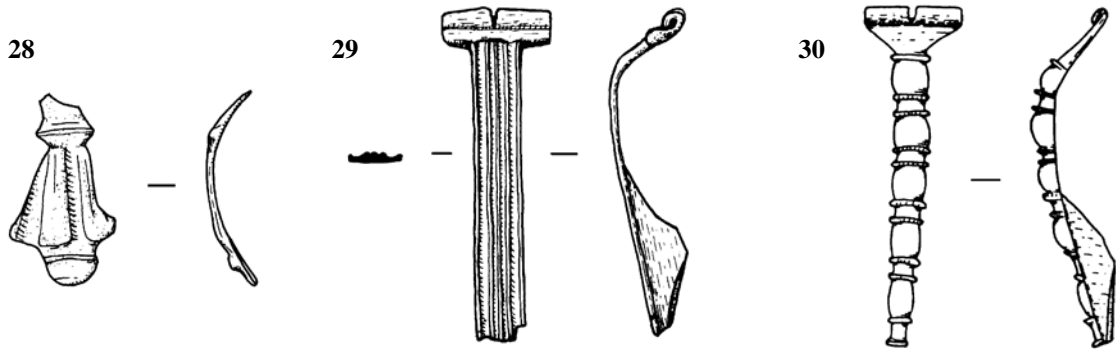


Both of these, with their separately-made foot-knobs are transitional between the Aucissa and the myriad of true Hod Hills. Both have bow designs which are clearly derived from the earlier type, but both show the flattening out of the bow section which is more a mark of the Hod Hill. These brooches were made before the conquest as the Hod Hill arrives fully developed with the army of the conquest.

- 24** SF 58 (unstratified, from field) The design is based on the Aucissa: the upper bow has a prominent cross-cut central ridge with another on each border, the lower bow is plain and tapers to a simple moulded foot. The brooch was differentially tinned or silvered, the flutes on the upper bow being left as the base metal.
- 25** SF 111 (unstratified, from field) The upper bow has central ridge but lacks the prominent side ones of the last, but has a cross-ridge above and below. The lower bow is missing, apart from the very top which is wider than the upper bow. The brooch has slight traces of having been tinned or silvered.
- 26** SF 548 (8103) – grid-square O/5, L3, beneath room 10 sub-floor, Area B Here, only the very top of the upper bow is present. It has a short wing on either side and a central flute, with traces of tin or silver plating.
- 27** SF 301 (unstratified, from field) Distorted, the surviving part of the upper bow has the remains of two flutes with cross-cut ribs on either side.



- 28** SF 331 (unstratified, from field) The upper bow tapers outwards towards the bottom where there are vestiges of wings. There are three ridges down the middle with a flaring flute on each side. There is a cross-moulding above and below. The lower bow is lost.
- 29** SF 271 (8021) - room 2 amongst stone, above layer 2
The manner of holding the pin relates this to the Hod Hill family, otherwise it looks very much like a Langton Down with three ridges and flutes on each side down the whole length and the cross-moulding on the head. The profile also suits the earlier type.
- 30** SF 337 (7024) – grid-square G/7 The bow consists of five beads and reels topped by one side of another reel. Only the beads and the ridges of the reels are tinned.

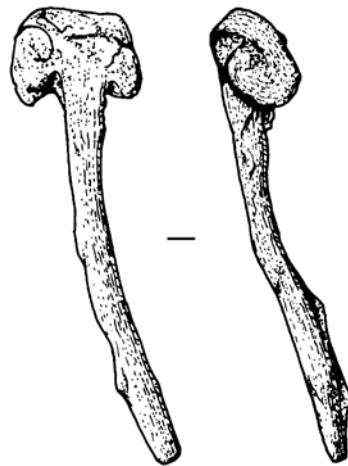


These are all, one way or another, Hod Hills. None has yet been convincingly published from an undoubted pre-conquest deposit and the distribution of the type shows clearly that it had largely passed out of use when the army moved north of the Dee-Humber line in the 70's. Therefore, brooches **24-29** should have an end-date of 70/75. However, in the case of brooch **30**, the matter is not quite so simple. Hod Hills moulded all the way to the foot are excessively rare and the suspicion is that this is an example of the strain of Hod Hills which, on the continent, continued to the end of the 1st century by which time it had begun to be decorated in enamel and showed the first signs of becoming what is a fairly wide family of designs in the 2nd century which shows as much liking for various patterns as the Hod Hill had done half a century before.

La Tène

- 31** SF 197 (unstratified, from field)

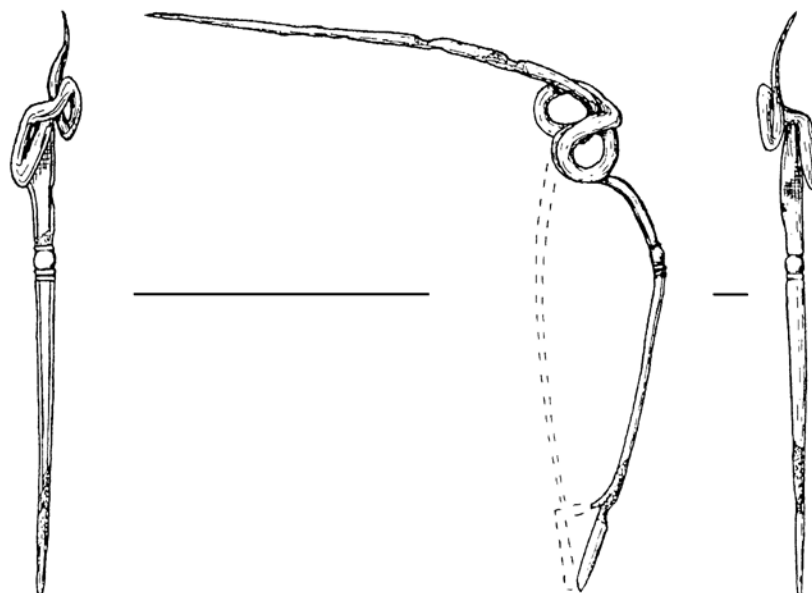
Iron. What survives is a long piece with a spring arrangement at one end. This is bilateral of four coils and the signs are that the chord lies the plane of the shank.



As such, the item should be part of a brooch of La Tène I or II type. The lack of an arc in the profile of the shank suggests that it cannot have been an early or middle La Tène I type, but it is more than probable that the bow has become distorted. The date would, in any case, be before 100 BC.

The next seven brooches had four-coil springs, the first with an external chord, the remainder with internal ones.

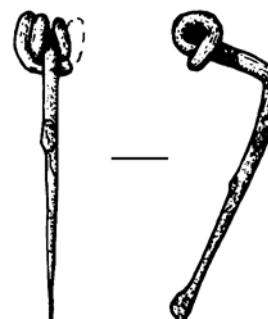
- 32** SF 336 (9444) – grid-square AC/6. The bow is thin and narrow with a groove down each side of the front face. The catch-plate had been framed and, on the right-hand side, another groove ran from the top corner of the piercing as far as a triple moulding, whose central element is wider than the others, across the front of the bow. The intention was to suggest the return of the foot to the collar of a La Tène II brooch.



- 33** SF 223 (8064/8065) – grid-squares K-L/6-7.

Very much like a Nauheim derivative brooch with internal chord. In very poor condition with little of the original surface left, there is just enough present to show that there had been some kind of moulding on the bow like that on the last.

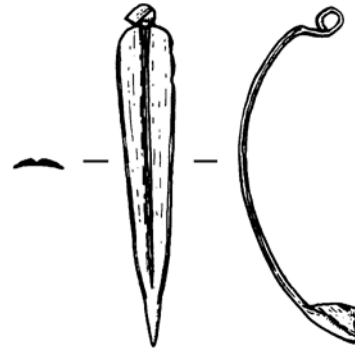
Not enough is left of the catch-plate to tell whether that had been framed or not.



Both of these belong to a type discussed by Ian Stead (1976) when dealing with the Aylesford-Swarling culture, and the brooch types associated with that. In the present instances the chief characteristics are the thin bows, their length when the catch-plates are complete, and the mouldings on the upper bow. Brooch **32** has an external chord and this determines its date as definitely 1st century BC. Both have the slight shoulders, for the chord of the spring to butt against, to be expected on the earliest form. The later forms develop exaggerated trumpet heads completely hiding the spring from view and this is the form found in the King Harry Lane cemetery (Stead & Rigby 1989, Phase 1, G.270.4; Phase 3, G.124.4). Comments on the dating of the phases there, after brooch **6**, should make it clear that the present forms, even without external chords are fully 1st century BC. The external chord is in effect a hang-over from the earlier La Tène I and II in which the chord has moved from the position of that on brooch **31**. The date by which the external chord passes from use is not well fixed as it happened at a time when dating is vague. The Nauheim, which is a type brooch of the 1st century BC is also found with external chords, although the internal chord is one of the defining features of the type. The date of the earliest Nauheims is somewhere around the late 2nd century BC and the earliest 1st (Feugère 1985, 224-5), therefore, allowing for a certain overlap in manufacture and use in brooches using the external chord, the present examples should be earlier than 100 BC but may have survived in use to 75.

34 SF 298 (unstratified, from field)

Only the start of the spring is present.
 The bow is leaf-shaped, with a groove down each side and the middle, to the top of the catch-plate where the bow became very thin.
 The bottom with most of the catch-plate is missing.

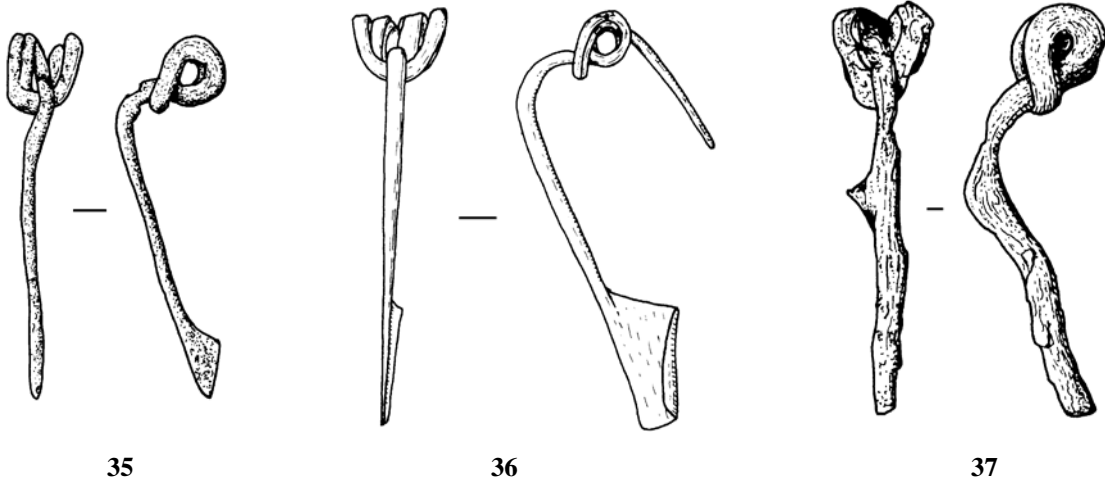


This brooch is not demonstrably a Nauheim, the necessary framed catch-plate is missing. However, the design of the bow is similar to a Nauheim and the restoration of a long catch-plate such as would be found on the type would make this piece the appropriate size, but the profile may be held to be wrong. In short, if this is not a Nauheim, it is closely related. In that sense it may fall into the same class as a brooch from Fox Holes Farm which, bearing in mind the overall date of the Iron Age material, including the brooches, found with it (Partridge 1989, 129,132, fig 76:5), this brooch could be as early as 50/25 BC, but could equally run on to near the conquest in the 1st century AD. It is unlikely to be later, as the design of the bow is excessively rare in undoubted deposits producing the generally emasculated versions of Nauheim/"*Drahtfibel*" origin dating 50-100.

35 SF 59 (unstratified, from field) Iron. The bow is like a piece of wire and may have had a re-curve in its profile. The remains of the catch-plate are not enough to show whether or not it had been pierced.

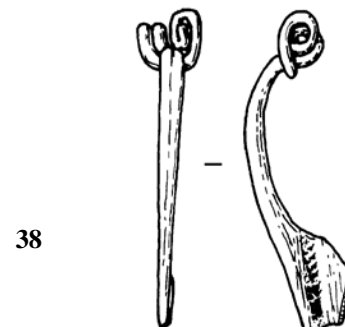
36 SF 340 (8184) – grid-square O/1 Very like the last, but complete apart from half the pin. The square section of the spring shows that it had been forged, not cast.

37 SF 225 (7043/7044) - above (94152) Iron. In poor condition, the lower bow and catch-plate are lost. The bow, however, was obviously more like a piece of rod than a thin rectangle in section.



38 SF 129 (8021) – Roundhouse 2/room 2, layer 1, doorway adjacent to corridor, Area D

Complete apart from the pin, the bow has a rounded section and the solid catch-plate has rocker-arm ornament along the junction of the bow and across the top.



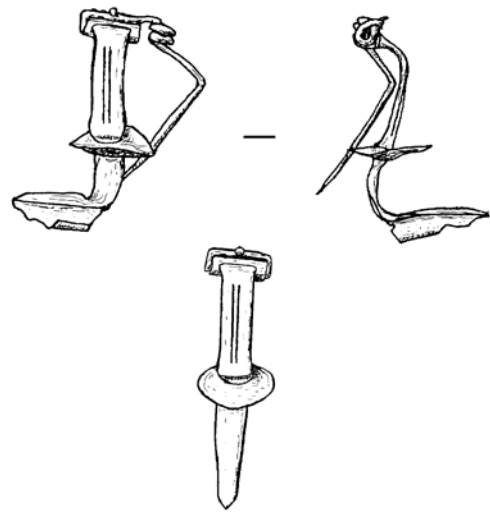
38

The preceding four brooches derive from the *Drahtfibel* which has, as the name suggests, a rod-like bow not always significantly thicker than the wire forming the spring. None is actually an example of that type, that having a framed catch-plate and is contemporary with the Nauheim itself. The difficulty is that brooches such as these are very difficult to date when there is no decoration, brooch **38** excepted. The use of iron for brooches **35** and **37** is a virtual guarantee that they are pre-conquest, but no more refined dating can be offered. The three coils of brooch **37** are of interest. Three-coil brooches of the overall family are commonest in the deeper parts of the South East. However, iron ones are more widespread and the dated ones lie in the peripheral zone: Puckeridge, 25-Claudian (Partridge 1979, 35, fig 6:3), pre-conquest (Partridge 1981, 132, fig 66:3); Maiden Castle, 25-50 (Wheeler 1943, 252, fig 85:34). Brooch **36**, in copper alloy, has a profile which should be pre-conquest: brooches of this family had assumed the generally slack appearance which most display by the conquest. As for brooch **38**, the bow is much thicker than would normally be warranted on a *Drahtfibel* and the decoration on the catch-plate is very reminiscent of the way in which the same kind is applied on brooch **11** and the same kind of date may apply here.

Rosette

39 SF 334 (unstratified, from field)

The brooch is now distorted, but had clearly had a standard rosette profile. There is a Colchester spring system (see above brooch **1**) set behind a small and plain head-plate. The hook is very short. The upper bow is thin and wide with two vertical incised lines. At the point of inflection with the foot is a piece of trimmed plain sheet metal which has been slotted over a contrived waist to form a rosette. The foot is narrower than the bow and completely plain. The only decoration is on the bow, but the small size of the whole, it weighs only 2.4g, may have precluded any greater elaboration.



Obviously a Rosette, the chief indicators of its date lie in the separately made disc and the use of a recognisably Colchester-style spring system without a trace of a separately made sheet cover. By the end of the 1st century BC, the usual spring-case forged from the head of the upper bow had developed and, although the general form of the brooch appeared very much as it does here, the brooch was cast as a straight item with a disc in the middle, the whole forged into its finished shape, a separate plate being fitted under the disc to form the prominent plate familiar on the type. The present brooch is therefore two stages before this, as the cast-in disc appears before the Colchester spring system becomes modified. A view of the earliest kinds of Rosette in the King Harry Lane cemetery puts these developments in their proper context (see after brooch **6** for comments on the dating of the cemetery). Very few were found with separately made plates fitted under the disc, none with cast-in discs alone with stamped decoration, and none with an integral spring as here. The early Rosettes in the cemetery were well represented in Phase I showing that by the end of the 1st century BC those like the present specimen, as well as the intermediate stages, had passed completely out of use. The dating of the earliest Rosettes is not yet well fixed and much depends on arguments based on the representation of such brooches on coins (Allen 1972), but brooch **39** probably falls between 50 and 25 BC.

Langton Down

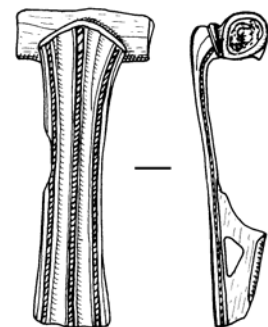
40 SF 339 (8204) – grid-square AA/1.

The plain spring case is set off from the bow by a plain cross-moulding. The bow has three sets of triple mouldings, the central element being beaded, separated one from another by flutes.

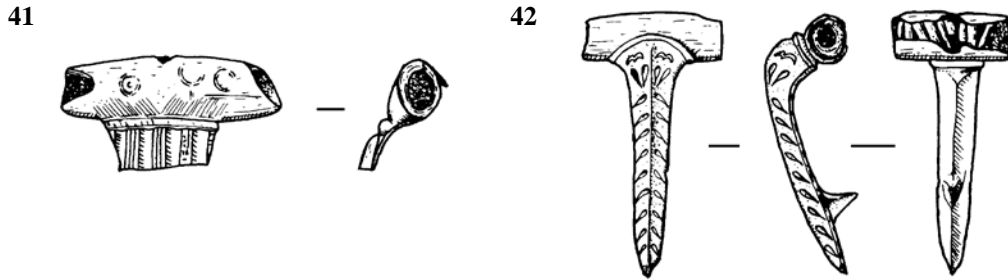
The sides of the bow splay out at the top and bottom.

At the upper end an extra moulding has been introduced into the right-hand flute, there being only a slight trace on the left.

The catch-plate is trapezoidal with a small triangular perforation.



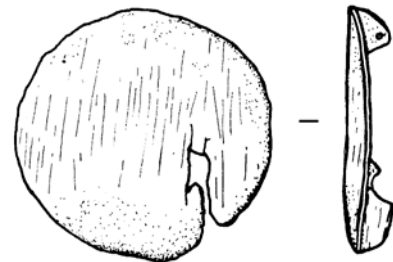
- 41** SF 274 (unstratified, from field) The spring case had a panel on the front containing lines running obliquely away from the top of the bow. There are slight traces of three of possibly four ring and pellet features above these, there is too much damage to see the full form of the panel. The moulding across the top of the bow is beaded, but the three triple mouldings down the bow were possibly plain, though there may be a trace of beading. Only the very top of brooch survives.
- 42** SF 79 (unstratified, from field) The spring case is plain. The bow has, beneath a plain cross-moulding, a plain curved surface into which are set tear shaped cells for niello. These are arranged as nine pairs across the bow with, at the top, four placed to radiate upwards and each pair here is capped by a peltate cell. The catch-plate appears to have been framed and has a large flange across the top.



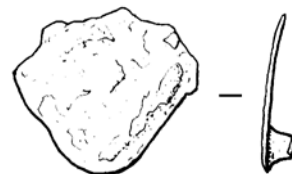
The beading on brooch **40** tends to be earlier than the straight-forward reeding found on brooch **41**, discounting the possibility that there had been any of the former on that. The only place where this can be demonstrated is in the King Harry Lane cemetery: Beaded – Phase 1, G.97.5, G.202.8, G.287.5-7, G.309.5; Phase 2, G.255.2, G.289.3, G.361.4; Phase 3, G.68.6, G.117.5, G.370.4; Reeded – Phase 1, G.71.3-4, G.413.3-4; Phase 3, G.41.3, G.47.4, G.156.2-4, G.370.5. The difficulty with the report is that there is no guarantee that faint traces of beading were always represented on the drawings. Be that as it may, the message is fairly clear, the beaded examples crowd the earlier parts of the phasing, but the reeding-only group is best represented in Phase 3. Therefore, the likely dating for brooch **40** is before 40/45 and for brooch **41** before 50/55. As for brooch **42**, there is little to go on other than the presence of a flange across the top of the catch-plate which, as it occurs on the Nertomarus which cannot be given an early date on the basis of available evidence should date to c25-55/60?

Plate Brooches

- 43** SF 49 (unstratified, from field)
- A plain circular plate with a pierced lug behind for a bilateral spring and the catch-plate which has a small projection at the top where it joins the plate. The front has deliberate scratch marks as though to secure something, but no trace remains of what that might have been.

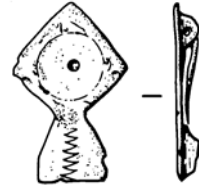


- 44** SF 563 (unstratified, from field)
- Part of a similar plate brooch, this one is of uncertain shape, though a rounded lozenge is possible. The front is heavily encrusted with a white residue, believed the product of corrosion of a white metal, probably a tin/lead alloy solder. This is presumed to have once adhered a repoussé decorated plate.



45 SF 676 (unstratified, from field)

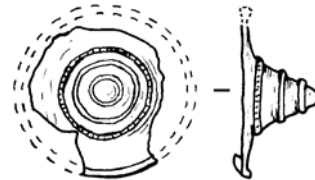
A degraded Rosette/Repoussé-mounted brooch. A flat plate brooch shaped as a lozenge with an expanded tail, the latter bearing rocker-arm ornament. The lozenge has a small central cup depression with traces of a rivet. A circular impression marks the position of a repoussé or glass/stone mounting, now lost. External of the impression of the mounting, the plate is tinned with white metal.



There should have been an applied plate, almost certainly with a repoussé design, which would then place these three brooches amongst those which include designs derived from coins (Goodchild 1941) belonging basically to the 2nd century.

46 SF 187 (unstratified, from field)

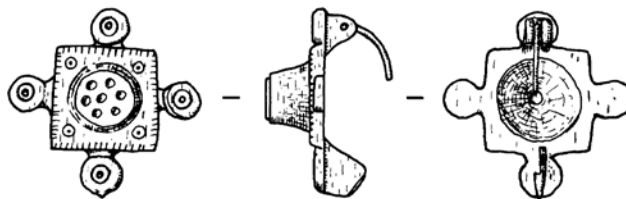
No trace is left of the pin-fixing arrangement. The brooch consists of a cone rising from a flat plate with a bordering ridge. There are three mouldings on the cone, one at the base being cross-cut, others further up being plain.



A dated parallel from one of the Grange Road burials, Winchester, belongs to the Flavian period (Biddle 1967, 245, fig 4:14).

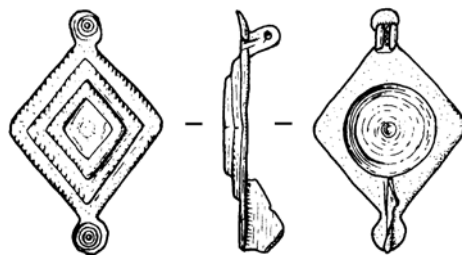
47 SF 335 (unstratified, from field)

The pin is hinged. The brooch is made up of a thick square plate with a circular excrescence in the middle of each side and a tall circular boss in the middle. The borders of the square are cross-cut and there are in the spandrels and on the projections, circular stamps made up of a raised central boss with a raised annulus around them. The top of the boss is set with white glassy enamel in which was once set seven spots presumably of a similar material, but of a different colour.



48 SF 533 (unstratified, from field)

The absent pin was hinged on an iron axis bar. The brooch consists of a lozenge-shaped plate with a circular excrescence at the two most distant points, these help to accommodate the hinge and catch-plate. The lozenge rises from the baseplate in two steps before culminating with a similarly shaped cell, now empty but presumably once containing enamel. The projections bear circular motifs of a raised central boss with three raised annuli around them. The borders of all lozenges are delicately cross-cut.



Without citing many parallels or how the elements were combined in a host of different ways in what is a large family of continental brooches, the dating is uniformly 2nd century.

Zoomorphic

49 SF 280 (unstratified, from field)

The pin had been hinged. The brooch is in the form of a duck at rest on water, its back and the folded wings have cells for enamel of which only a mid-blue on the wings survives. The brooch has lost its margins and the head is damaged.



This is one of at least four standard designs. Despite being attractive and therefore highly collectable, surprisingly few zoomorphic brooches seem to have been made judging by their representation in museums and published sources. Dating is therefore, poor, but it should be expected that this kind of enamelled brooch would be 2nd century and one from Verulamium falls right in the middle: 150-155/160 (Frere 1972, 118, fig 31:21).

50 SF 297 (unstratified, from field)

A Horse-and-rider brooch, the bilateral spring had been mounted on a pierced plate behind the horse's rump. The head of the rider is reduced to a plain outline with cross-cuts indicating flying hair, and he has a crudely shaped torso. The cells for enamel give little sense of modelling, but an arm may be indicated. The horse has a plain neck and head, cross-cuts marking the mane and pricked ears. The spaces between the cells for enamel on its body may indicate the rider's leg and some harness. No enamel remains.



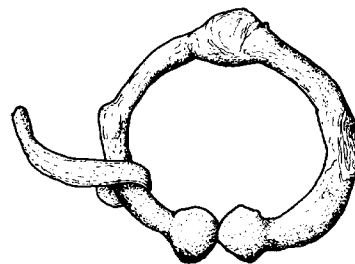
Horse-and-Rider brooches are almost the commonest design amongst brooches involving living creatures. Groups are sometimes found on temple sites, so much so that sites producing five or more probably had shrines. A review of the dating shows that brooches with white metal trim, as this example once had, date basically from c125-225. However, when they occur on religious sites in numbers, they are likely to run on into the 4th century (Jackson and Potter 1996, 322-3).

Penannulars

All the rings have circular sections.

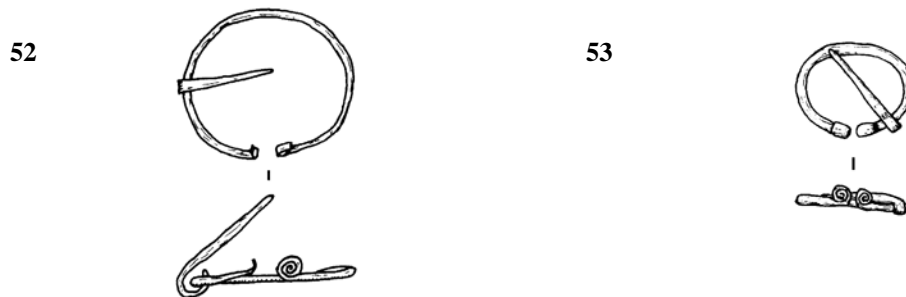
51 SF 192 (8034) – Area A

Iron. Each terminal is a globular boss, and there seems to be another such moulding set opposite the opening. The pin had a high arc.



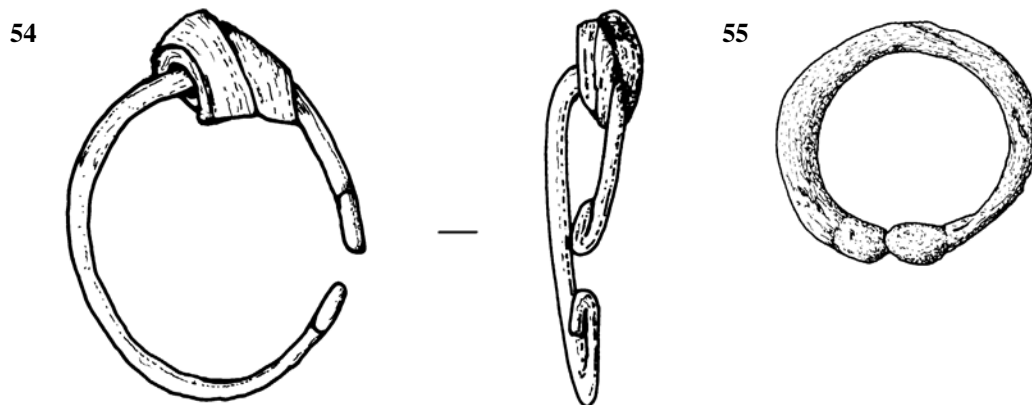
The moulding or bulge opposite the opening is paralleled on a brooch from Sawdon, Yorks. This also has the same kind of terminals and a pin with a high arc which is essentially Iron Age (Stead 1979, 71, fig 26:8). Arched pins are relatively common in the north where it seems to be a persistent habit, but in the south, brooches with pins having such a high arc should always be Iron Age, here, probably 1st century BC.

- 52** SF 63 (unstratified, from field) The surviving terminal is coiled at right angles to the plane of the ring.
- 53** SF 196 (7084/7085) – grid-squares X-Y/5-6 Tiny and complete, as the last, but the pin is present and is straight.



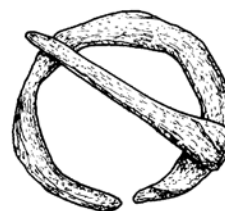
A review of this kind of terminal, excluding those in which the curve barely touches the ring, showed that the pattern here persisted through the 1st century, probably through the 2nd, but not really into the 3rd. The small size and thin section may be a sign that these two are 2nd century.

- 54** SF 549 (9432) – grid-square L/6 The terminals are turned back along the top of the ring, but the very poor condition of the piece only allows two slight cross-flutes to be seen on one of them. A piece of iron strip curled around the ring would appear to be the remains of a crude replacement pin.
- 55** SF 198 (unstratified, from field) Iron. The terminals are turned back along the top of the ring and the fully visible one has a slight turn-up at the end.



The condition of brooch **53** prevents any fine determinations, and the use of iron for brooch **54** means that only the general form of the terminal can be taken into account. In general, such brooches are well represented in the 1st century and weaken towards the middle of the 2nd. The use of iron for brooch **54** may indicate that this is a pre-conquest item.

- 56** SF 205 (9404) – grid-squares X-Y/5-6
- Iron. The ring is forged at each terminal to produce a thin upright block projecting above the ring itself. The flattened pin splays outwards where it is looped once around the ring.



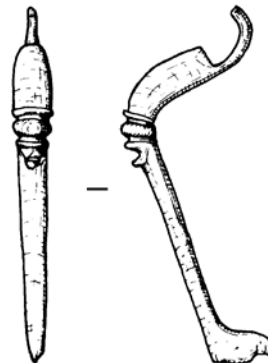
The way in which, in plan, each terminal is narrow and, in full view, is stepped up from the ring, with no sign of a fold-over, places this brooch in a poorly dated group which only occurs only in very late Roman contexts.

Brooches found subsequent to the compilation of Mr. Mackreth's report.

The following items, metal-detected in the environs of the villa subsequent to the excavation and the compilation of the report by Mr. Mackreth, are separately reported here.

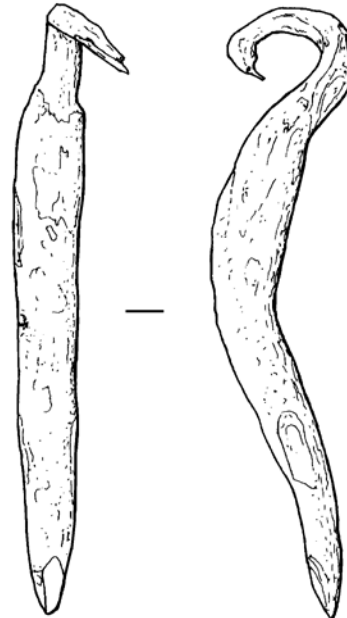
57 SF 534 (unstratified, from field)

A Knotenfibeln variant of La Tène III brooch.
A one-piece brooch, the spring having broken off at the first partial coil. Bow is of round section with a bold angle near the head. At this angle is a decorative button of three elements similar to that seen on brooch 32, but with the addition of a small beak or hooked lip issuing from beneath this. The bow is otherwise plain and terminates bluntly at the foot with a simple narrow catch-plate behind. It is likely that the tip of the bow and more elaborated catch-plate has been lost from here.



58 SF 666 (unstratified, from field)

Iron. The remnant of what appears to be a large La Tène III brooch. The spring is absent but for the beginning of the first coil. The bow is of round section and there is no trace of a catch-plate.



59 SF 701 (7084) – grid-squares X-AA/3-5, L4, Area D

Iron. The head is formed into wings and a spring-fixing lug. The lower bow begins to widen and flatten to make a catch-plate.



58

n.i. SF 846 (unstratified, from field)

The bow, hook and wings of a small Colchester one-piece brooch of thin flattened 'D' section. Length of approximately 45mm.

n.i. SF 529 (unstratified, from field)

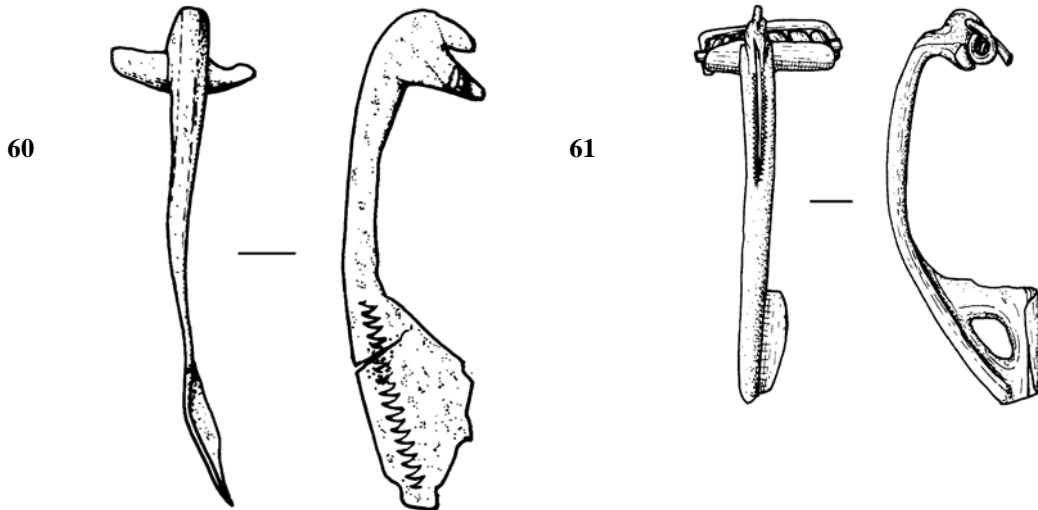
The head of a small Colchester one-piece brooch of similar characteristics and proportions as SF 846, above.

n.i. SF 840 (unstratified, from field)

Bow, wings and hook of a Colchester one-piece brooch, similar to nos. 2 – 6 but rather shorter, the bow measuring 45mm in length. All exterior surface has corroded away, there is a hint of maybe a toothed central rib decorating the bow and the remnant of catch-plate bears evidence of being perforated.

60 SF 684 (unstratified, from field) Part of what I believe to be a variant of Colchester one-piece brooch. The spring and hook, seem to be represented by broken stumps at the head, behind plain wings. The bow is of oval section and is plain, becoming very narrow at the foot. A solid catch-plate has a line of rocker-arm decoration on one side only where it meets the bow.

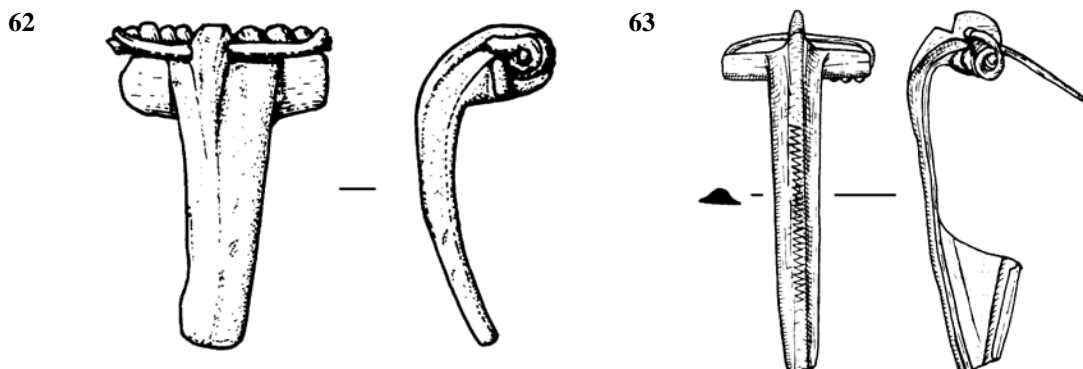
61 SF 531 (unstratified, from field) A Colchester derivative two-piece brooch. Spring is of seven coils, wrapped around a copper-alloy axis bar. The patination of the axis bar clearly indicates that it is of a different formulation of alloy to that used for the bow and spring. The bow is of a rounded 'D' section with the upper part having a central triangular groove with incised rocker-arm to either side of it. The catch-plate has a rounded triangular perforation.



n.i SF 847 (unstratified, from field) Bow with plain catchplate of a small Colchester derivative brooch, length of 38mm. The lowest tip of the crest/mock hook bears two incised notches, the foot of bow is similarly decorated. Bow is otherwise undecorated and of generally rounded profile.

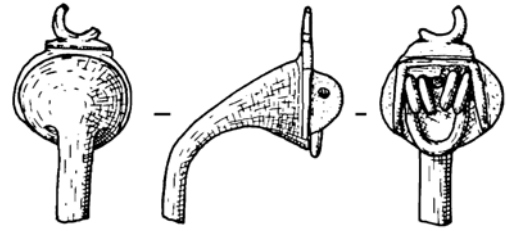
62 SF 679 (unstratified, from field) The head and top of bow of a large Colchester derivative brooch. The pin is missing but the spring of eight coils is wrapped around a copper alloy axis bar. The wings are plain, as is the central crest which emulates the hook of a Colchester type brooch. The bow is of 'D' section.

63 SF 532 (unstratified, from field) A Colchester derivative brooch, having a spring of seven coils held in place behind plain wings by a copper alloy axis bar. The spring, axis bar and stump of pin are all of rectangular section. The central rib, holding the chord and emulating the Colchester type of brooch's hook is highly crested with a deep 'V' notch cut out just forward of the chord. The central rib continues the whole length of the bow where it is gently rounded and incised with rocker-arm ornament for much of its length. There is a cavetto moulding either side of the rib on an otherwise flattened bow. The catch-plate is solid, with a file-cut groove to retain the pin.



64 SF 516 (unstratified, from field)

The head and upper part of the bow of a trumpet type brooch. A spring of four coils and an internal chord is held in place by an iron axis bar fixed between two lugs. The head carries an integrally moulded chain-loop.



65 SF 530 (unstratified, from field)

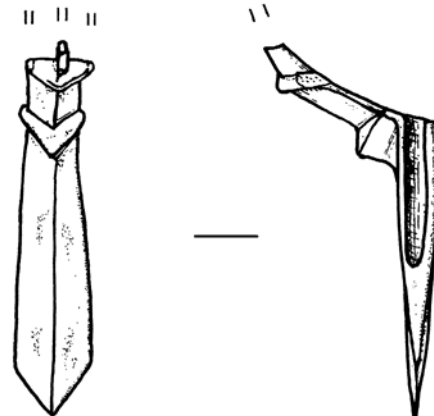
The bottom part of a bow and catch-plate which looks to be identical to that found on a bow and fantail/T-shaped hybrid brooch in Hattat 1987, 111, fig 38:920. The fragment of bow is decorated with two grooves tapering to a lateral rib. This decoration would appear to be the tip of a shield shaped moulding. Below the dividing rib, a flattened leg widens to the bottom and another lateral rib.

This leg bears three stamps of a raised central boss with two raised annuli around it. The catch-plate is plain, a recess has been filed to accommodate the pin. Another, very nearby parallel is a brooch from Stantonbury, Milton Keynes (Marney & Mackreth in Mynard, 1987, 131-132, fig 41:14).



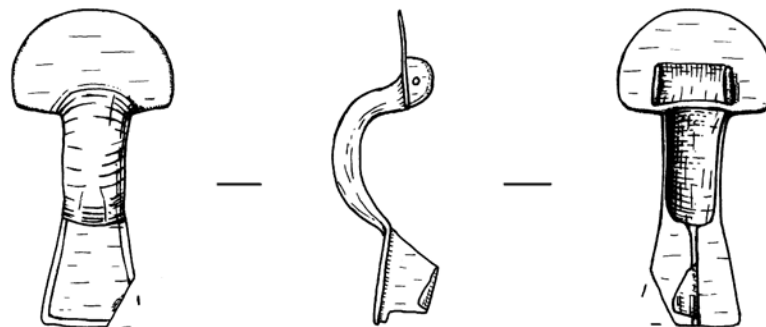
66 SF 691 (unstratified, from field)

The foot of a large triple-divided bow P-shaped brooch. All three bows have broken off at the triangular moulding atop the lowest portion of bow which is solid. A further moulding marks the step to a triangular foot with integral pin-slot. A continental type, these brooches are conventionally dated to the late 2nd – early 3rd century.



67 SF 99068 (9910) - pool, Area G

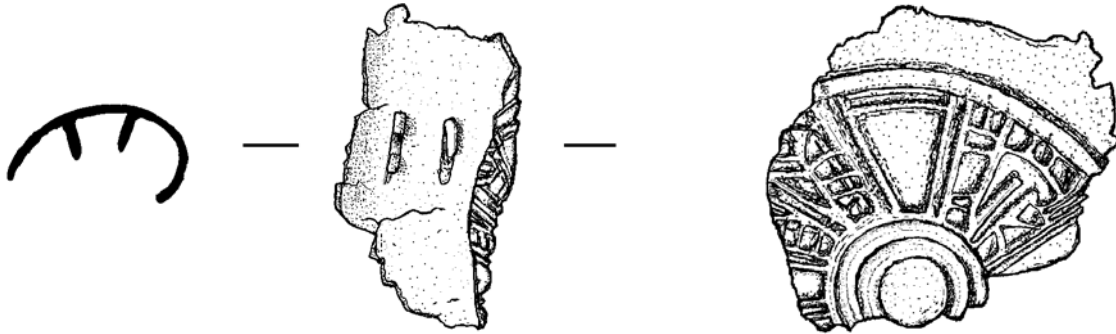
A Knee type brooch with an undecorated head of semi-disc form. The rear of the head bears two lugs with a slight depression for an absent spring mechanism. The bow is highly arched, rounded and hollow in section. The trapezoidal foot is decorated with an incised line bordering its bottom and side edges. This particular type is considered to date from late in the series and to the late 2nd century.



SF 361 (unstratified from field)

A fragment of a Saxon circular brooch, coarsely cast in a heavy, presumably lead-rich copper-alloy.

Fire-damaged, the disc has partly melted and curled in the plane of the pin. The brooch does not retain a certain outer edge, but would seem to have had a likely diameter of 75mm. A raised central boss, maybe resembling the inset material seen on more elaborate examples is surrounded by two stepped rings. Between these and a plain outer border, the decorated zone consists of radiating keystone shaped elements with grooves and ribs between, often variously and seemingly unintelligibly cross-grooved. Face of brooch is drawn as if unrolled to flat.



This brooch bears some similarities to another believed also to have been found in Northamptonshire, (Hattat 1985, 219, fig 86:691). That example has the same plain border and central boss arrangement except the central element is a recess believed originally to have contained a white substance. The decorated zone had keystone and circular elements all with recesses for garnets maybe, the spaces between being filled with coherent zoomorphic 'limb' elements.