

Chapter 12

Cotswold Water Park Survey Sites

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INTRODUCTION

While excavations were being carried out at Claydon Pike in the early 1980s, a number of field-walking and metal detecting surveys were conducted in a private capacity by Mark Maillard in the Lechlade-Fairford area (Fig. 12.1). At some of these sites, quantities of Roman material were uncovered, which demonstrated the intensity of occupation in this area during this period. With the exception of Green Farm (LGF), the finds from all the surveys were derived from surface collection, and therefore no stratigraphic information was obtained. However, the finds from Leaze Farm, Lechlade (LLF) and Cottage Field (LCF) were

plotted to generalised areas, which were recorded on a plan (see below and Fig. 12.2).

The survey sites were mainly concentrated in the eastern part of the Lechlade Parish, south-east of the River Leach and north of the River Thames (Figs 12.1 and 12.2). Other sites lay between the rivers Coln and Leach, while one lay to the south of the Thames in Buscot Parish, Oxfordshire. The general location and character of the survey sites is shown in Table 12.1 and Figure 12.1. The range of finds from the sites is shown in Table 12.2. These finds were recorded in the 1980s and have unfortunately not been available for re-analysis.

Full finds descriptions can be found in Digital section 8.2.

Table 12.1 Survey sites incorporated in the Cotswold Water Park project

<i>Survey Site</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Site Character</i>
Leaze Farm , Lechlade (LLF)	Many coins and metal small finds	1st/2nd– late 4th C	Settlement/ritual site?
Warren’s Cross, Lechlade (LWC)	Coins and limited small finds	Late 2nd–4th C	Unknown
Campfield, Lechlade (LC)	Coins	4th C	Small hoard
Cottage Fields, Lechlade (LCF)	Coins and small finds	1st– 4th C (most late)	Settlement?
Wigmore, Lechlade (LW)	Coins and limited small finds	2nd–4th C	Settlement (known from AP)
Buscot (LB)	Coins and limited small finds	4th C	Unknown
Green Farm, Lechlade (LGF)	Pottery, Wooden tablets etc	2nd–4th C	Settlement
Whelford Mill , Kempsford (KWM)	Coins and lead weights	Late 3rd C	Small hoard

Table 12.2 Finds from the Cotswold Water Park survey sites

<i>Function</i>	<i>LGF</i>	<i>LB</i>	<i>LC</i>	<i>LCF</i>	<i>KWM</i>	<i>LLF</i>	<i>LW</i>	<i>LWC</i>	<i>Total</i>
Coins	1	4	22	37	42	249	51	18	424
Personal	-	-	1	4	1	24	4	-	34
Toilet	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Household	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	1	7
Weighing	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	5
Writing	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Transport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Structural	15	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	17
Tools	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	6
Fasteners	-	3	-	2	4	9	6	4	28
Agriculture	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Military	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4
Metal working	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous	3	3	-	3	19	68	22	12	130
Total	22	10	23	47	69	367	88	36	662

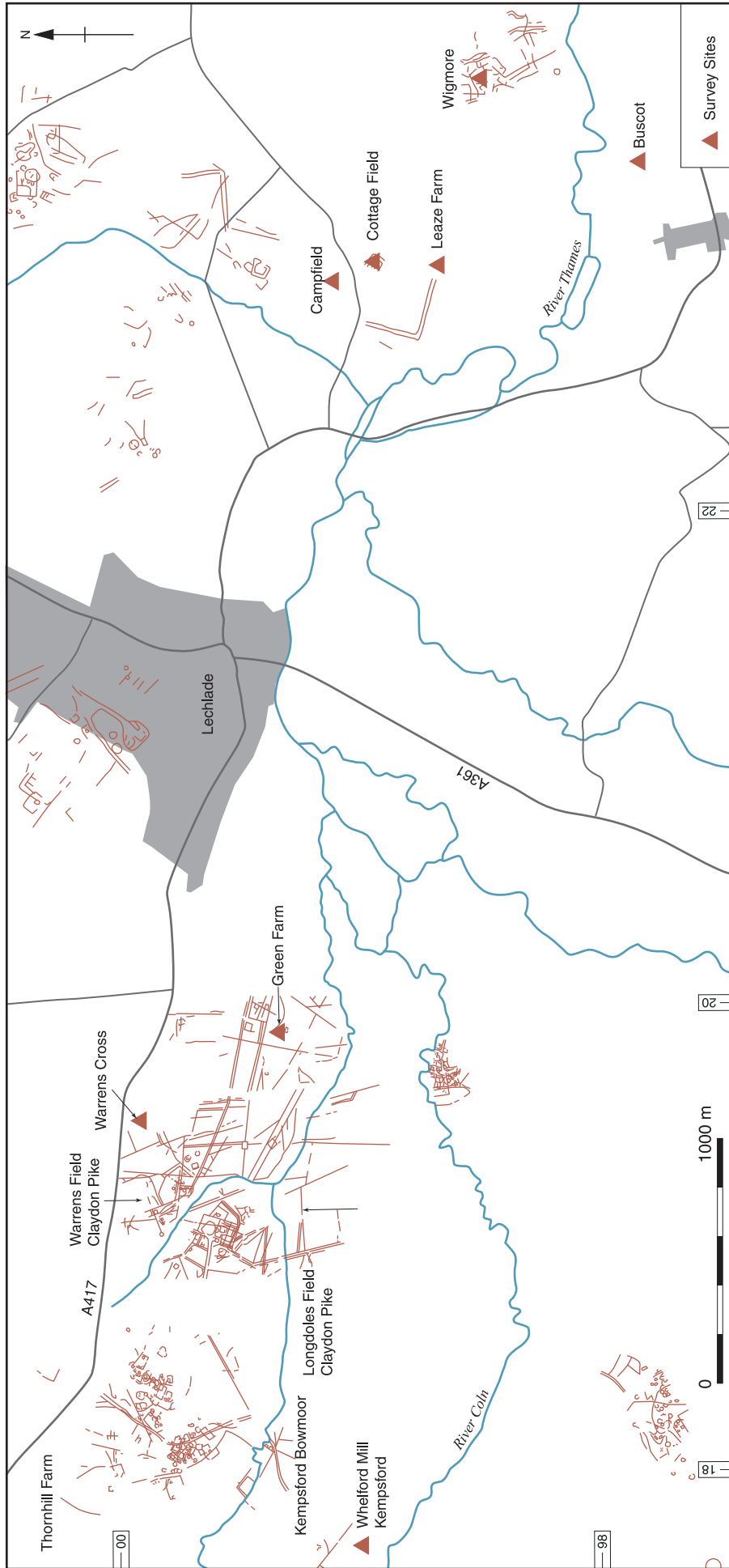


Fig. 12.1 Location of the survey sites

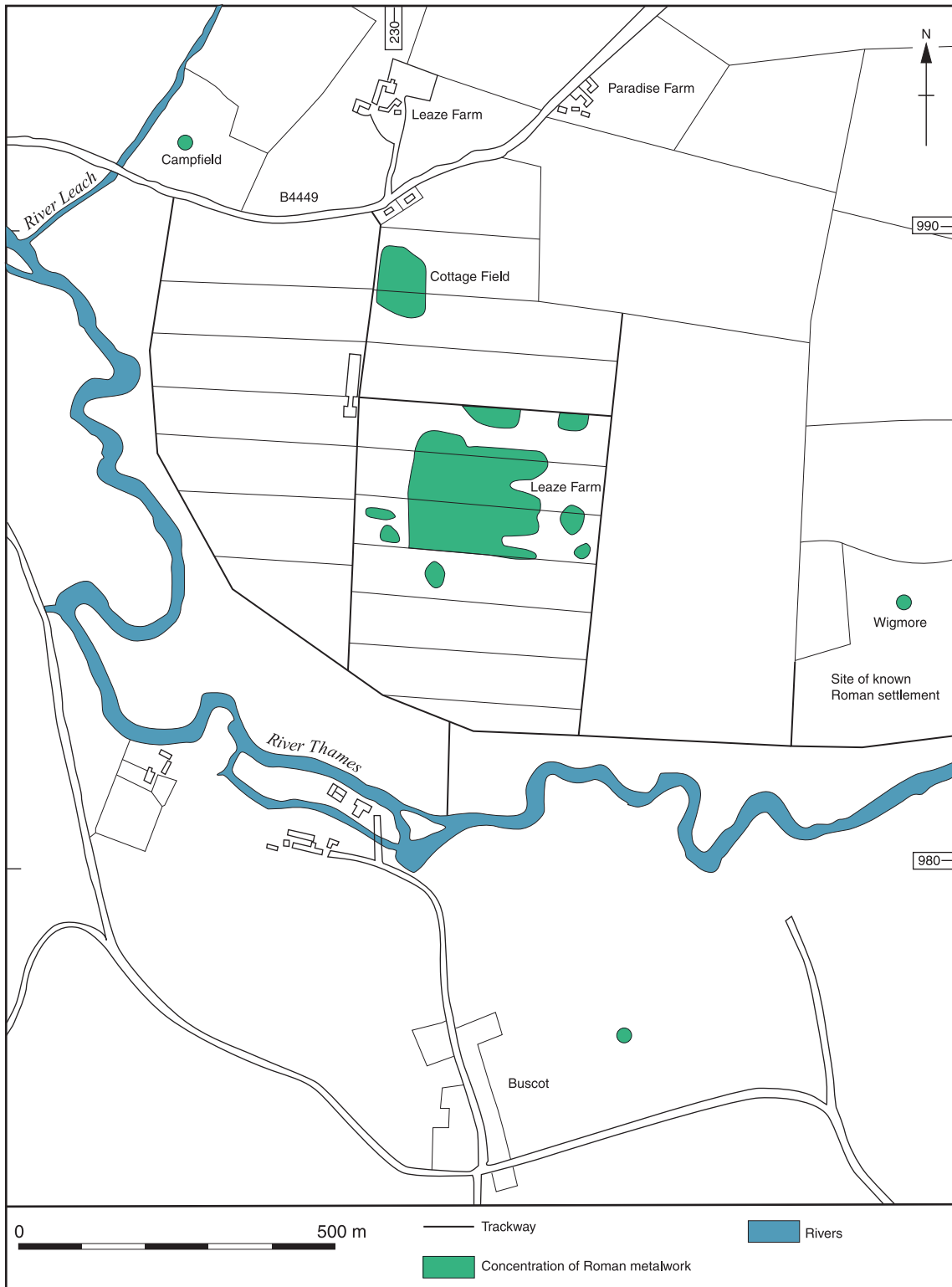


Fig. 12.2 Finds distribution at Leaze Farm

THE EASTERN SITES (Fig. 12.2)

Leaze Farm, Lechlade

A large quantity of Roman metalwork was found spread over an area c 4 ha in extent, about 600 m west of a known Roman cropmark settlement at Wigmore (see below), and 1.5 km east of Lechlade. Although individual finds were not plotted, the extent of the areas which produced finds concentrations were recorded and the individually numbered finds were assigned to these areas (Fig. 12.2). There is no evidence to indicate the nature of the site, and the objects are too widespread to have been a single hoard. The nature of the finds does suggest the possibility that they could have been ritual deposits, although it must be stressed that this is far from certain. A parallel L-shaped linear cropmark, possibly a trackway, is seen to the west of the concentration heading SSW for about 250 m before turning sharply eastwards and leading towards the site. The feature is undated, but could be related in some way. The finds suggest a 2nd- to 4th-century date, although a small number of coins do hint at earlier activity (see below).

Coins

A total of 249 coins were recovered during field walking and metal detecting at Leaze Farm (Table 12.3). The number of coins found, of which two are post-Roman, is much larger than those from any of the other survey sites and they form the third largest group of the Cotswold Water Park coin

assemblages. The coin loss pattern is interesting in having a small but significant proportion (6.4%) of early material, including silver, minted before AD 193. There are nine silver coins in total ranging in date from the Iron Age to the late 4th or early 5th century AD. There is also a small but significant amount of bronze coinage of the 1st and 2nd centuries (4.8%) of which nine coins (3.6%) were minted in the second century AD. The most unusual coin recovered was a semis of Nero probably minted at Lugdunum although the obverse is too perished to be absolutely certain of this mint attribution. Semisses are rare as British finds although four were recovered in the excavations at Harlow Temple and a barbarous piece was found at Hayling Island probably imitating a piece from Rome (France and Gobel 1985, 67-70; Briggs *et al.* 1992, 23, no. 245).

At Leaze Farm the actual number of coins found that were minted before AD 260 is small and the site, like that of its near neighbour Claydon Pike, is dominated by coins of the 3rd and 4th centuries. Leaze Farm's pattern of peak coin loss for these years is somewhat unusual in having a low proportion of radiates (9.6%) minted between AD 260 and AD 296. This is the lowest percentage of any of the excavation and survey sites discussed in this volume with the exception of the shrine at Claydon Pike (4%), which is believed to be later 4th-century in date (see Chapter 6). Leaze Farm also has the highest number of coins (6.8%) minted in the years from AD 388 to AD 402 and in addition it has a relatively high percentage of coins (25.7%) from the years AD 364 to AD 378. This is again exceeded only by the shrine at Claydon Pike (43.5%) and Campfield (59.1%). The 4th-century coin loss pattern at Leaze Farm is most like that of the shrine at Claydon Pike, which may suggest that this site also had some kind of ritual function.

Table 12.3: Coins from Leaze Farm, Lechlade

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Celtic	1	100	-	-	1	0.4
1st C	3	75	1	25	4	1.6
2nd C	7	100	-	-	7	2.8
1st-2nd illegible	4	100	-	-	4	1.6
193-250	2	66	1	33	3	1.2
250-260	-	-	-	-	-	-
260-284	10	58.8	7	41.2	17	6.9
284-296	1	100	-	-	1	0.4
3rd illegible	5	83.3	1	16.7	6	2.4
296-305	-	-	-	-	-	-
305-320	3	100	-	-	3	1.2
320-330	5	100	-	-	5	2
330-348	47	83.9	9	16.1	56	15.4
348-364	16	42.1	22	57.8	38	15.4
364-378	62	100	-	-	62	25.1
378-388	1	100	-	-	1	0.4
388-402	17	100	-	-	17	6.9
4th illegible	11	91.6	1	8.4	12	4.8
3rd-4th C illegible	8	80	2	20	10	4
Total	203	89.2	44	25	247	99.8

Small finds (Fig. 12.3)

The largest group of small finds came from Leaze Farm and for this site they can provide some insights into the date of occupation. The brooch assemblage ranges from a mid 1st-century Hod Hill brooch (Fig. 12.3, no.1) to a 3rd-century gilded disc brooch (Fig. 12.3, no. 5), but the main focus of the brooches is on 2nd- and 3rd-century forms. It does not suggest much occupation in the 1st century. Metal detecting is very good at recovering bow brooches and, as will be clear from the brooch assemblages for the other Water Park sites (see Cool, Chapter 13), this is an area where brooches were worn and lost in large numbers during the 1st century. The absence of the normally ubiquitous Colchester Derivatives is probably a good chronological indicator. The 2nd- to 3rd-century date is also supported by items such as the silver jewellery item and probably by the finger rings which are not uncommon in the 3rd century though still in use in the 4th century (Fig. 12.3, nos 8,7, see also Digital

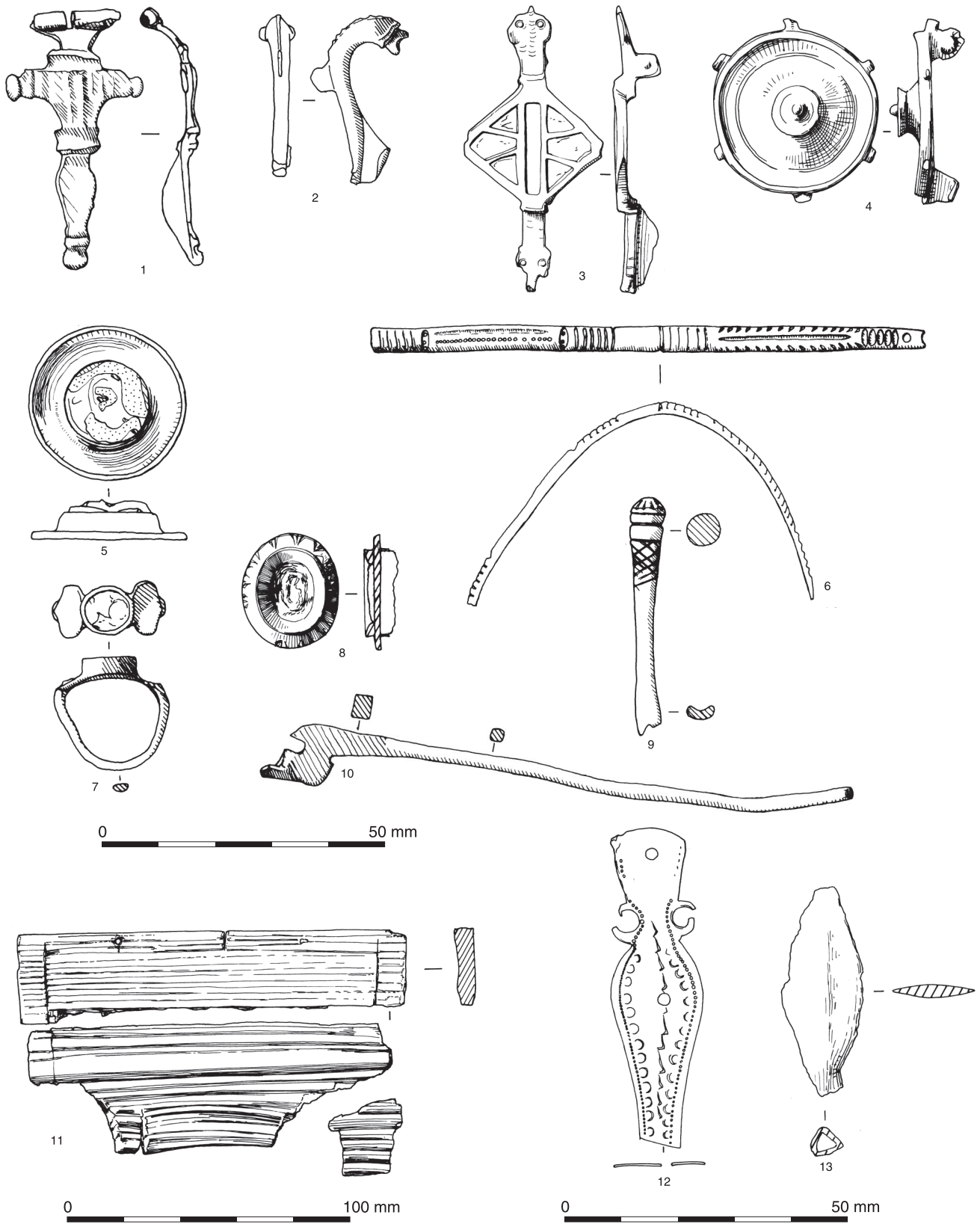


Fig. 12.3 Small finds from the survey sites

section for more examples). Fourth-century occupation is indicated by the bracelets and a late 4th-century presence is demonstrated by the strap ends (Fig. 12.3, nos 6, 12, see also Digital section for further examples).

Cottage Field

Another smaller concentration of finds was recovered at Cottage Field, approximately 200 m north of the main Leaze Farm site (Fig. 12.2). The finds lay within an area of known cropmarks, which probably relate to the Roman finds.

The 37 coins from Cottage Field range in date from a first-century bronze coin of Vespasian to two coins of the years AD 388 to AD 402 (Table 12.4).

Table 12.4: Coins from Cottage Field, Lechlade

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1st C.	1	100	-	-	1	2.7
2nd C	-	-	-	-	-	-
1st-2nd C illegible	1	100	-	-	1	2.7
193-250	-	-	-	-	-	-
250-260	1	100	-	-	1	2.7
260-284	3	37.5	5	62.5	8	21.6
284-296	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd C illegible	1	50	1	50	2	5.4
296-305	-	-	-	-	-	-
305-320	2	100	-	-	2	5.4
320-330	-	-	-	-	-	-
330-348	12	80	3	20	15	40.5
348-364	2	66.6	1	33.3	3	8.1
364-378	2	100	-	-	2	5.4
388-402	2	100	-	-	2	5.4
Total	27	73	10	27	37	99.9

Table 12.5: Coins from Wigmore, Lechlade

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1st-2nd C illegible	2	100	-	-	2	3.9
193-250	-	-	1	100	1	1.9
250-260	7	30.4	16	69.5	23	45.1
260-284	4	80	1	20	5	20.8
284-296	1	100	-	-	1	1.9
296-305	-	-	-	-	-	-
305-320	-	-	-	-	-	-
320-330	1	100	-	-	1	1.9
330-348	12	75	4	25	16	31.4
348-364	2	66.6	1	33.3	3	5.8
364-378	2	100	-	-	2	3.9
3rd-4th C illegible	1	100	-	-	1	1.9
Total	32	56.7	23	43.2	55	100

There are no silver coins and only two bronze coins minted before AD 192. The majority of the coins (79.5%) are concentrated in the periods of peak loss as follows: AD 260-96 (10 coins, 27%); AD 330-48 (15 coins, 40.5%); AD 364-78 (2 coins; 5.4%); AD 388-402 (2 coins, 5.4%). This pattern is not incompatible with that for rural sites established by Lockyear in his statistical analysis of the data from Reece's 140 sites (Lockyear 2000, 415-16, fig. 14; Reece 1991). Other small finds recovered included two undiagnostic brooch fragments, a bracelet and other personal items in copper alloy.

Wigmore

A small group of metalwork was recovered from an area of cropmarks just north of the River Thames at Wigmore, c 600 m east of the Leaze Farm finds concentration (Fig. 12.2). The cropmarks reveal a number of linear boundaries, trackways and enclosures, and the finds recovered from metal detecting and field walking presumably relate to the occupation of the settlement. They indicate activity from the 1st to 4th century AD, with concentrations in the late 3rd to mid 4th centuries.

The 51 coins from Wigmore are chronologically concentrated in the years between AD 260 to 296 and AD 330 to 348 (Table 12.5). There is a noticeable decline in the later 4th century with no finds securely datable after AD 378. There is one silver coin, the core of a plated denarius of Caracalla, minted between AD 193 and 260 and two illegible bronzes of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD.

The remaining small finds from Wigmore are somewhat limited, comprising a small number of copper alloy objects, including personal items, along with waste/debris and undiagnostic fragments (Table 12.2, Fig. 12.3, no. 3). There is a single iron object, a ring-headed pin. The lead comprises waste, and offcuts, rivets and plugs from ceramic repairs and the ubiquitous weights. The most interesting find is a pewter bowl, although its form and date are not known.

Campfield

A small number of coins were recovered from a site about 100 m east of the river Leach and 350 m north-

Table 12.6: Coins from Campfield, Lechlade

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
330-348	2	66.6	1	33.3	3	13.6
348-364	2	66.6	1	33.3	3	13.6
364-378	13	100	-	-	13	59.1
4th C illegible	3	100	-	-	3	13.6
Total	20	90.9	2	9	22	99.9

west of the Cottage Field site (Fig. 12.2; Table 12.6). All the coins are from the 4th century, minted between AD 330 and 378. The chronological distribution is concentrated in the years AD 364 to 378 (13 coins, 59.1%) suggesting that this group is a small hoard. This hypothesis is supported by the fact that the finder has stated that the coins were recovered from a small area. The only other find recovered from this site find was a copper alloy bracelet.

Buscot

A small number of Roman objects were recovered from Buscot in Oxfordshire, lying approximately 200 m south of the river Thames and 600 m south-west of the cropmark settlement at Wigmore (Fig. 12.2). The nature of the site at Buscot is unknown and the group of coins recovered (4) is far too small a sample on which to base a valid chronological pattern of loss. However, the fact that three of the four coins were minted between the years AD 330 and 360 and the last is an illegible 4th-century piece may be worth noting. The other finds recovered include two copper alloy objects, a single iron nail and three lead objects.

THE WESTERN SITES

Warrens Cross

The finds at Warrens Cross were recovered about 0.5 km north-east of the main Roman settlement at Longdoles Field, Claydon Pike, not far from Warrens Field (Fig. 12.1). The small number of coins retrieved (18) from Warrens Cross gives little indication as to the site's character although they do concentrate in the later 3rd and 4th centuries

(Table 12.7). They range in date from an illegible bronze coin of the 2nd century AD to the later 4th century AD. The only silver coin is an illegible plated third century denarius minted between AD 193 and 260. In terms of the periods of peak loss, three coins (16.6%) can be dated to the years to AD 260 to 296 and four (22.2%) to the years AD 330 to 348. The group ends with a piece of Valens from the period AD 364 to 378. There are five illegible coins (27.7%) from the 3rd or 4th centuries. Other finds include a fragment of a copper alloy vessel and stud, along with lead rivets, weights and waste.

Green Farm

Green Farm lies about 800 m east of the Longdoles Field site at Claydon Pike (Fig. 12.1). It is the only one of the survey sites included here to have been the subject of archaeological investigation, in the form of a brief salvage operation prior to gravel extraction (Rawes 1979, 129). The excavations revealed a stone-lined well, 0.68 m deep, within which was found sandstone roofing tiles, 2nd-century pottery, fragments of a green glass bottle, four quernstone fragments and a small quantity of ironwork including a hammer, spike and nails. The waterlogged conditions in the well also preserved part of a leather shoe, two pieces of wooden plank and 18 fragments of a wooden wax writing tablet (Fig. 12.3, no. 11). The writing on the larger pieces of the tablet appeared to be indecipherable (Mark Hassall pers. comm.). Unfortunately the writing tablet could not be found for re-examination during the recent phase of post-excavation work. Just to the north of the building lay masonry building foundations, although no ground plan was recorded. Other non-stratified finds from the area included 2nd- to 4th-century pottery sherds and a barbarous radiate coin of Tetricus I (AD 271-3), limestone slabs and iron slag. The exact nature of the gravel pit site remains uncertain, although the masonry structure and writing tablet suggest that it may have been of at least some local significance. The site may well have been connected to the Claydon Pike complex in some way, as a trackway can be seen on aerial photographs leading from this general area towards the Longdoles Field site (see Fig. 12.1).

Whelford Mill, Kempford

A small number of metal finds were recovered from Whelford Mill, Kempford, c 200 m north of the River Coln and 500 m south-west of Kempford Bowmoor (Fig. 12.1). The 42 coins represent a small hoard since 81% of the identifiable coins were minted in the years between AD 260 and 296 (Table 12.8). There are no silver coins, no early bronze coins and no identifiable 4th-century coins but some, if not all, of the eight illegible coins (19%) almost certainly belong in the later 3rd century as

Table 12.7: Coins from Warrens Cross, Lechlade

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1sr C	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd C	-	-	-	-	-	-
1st-2nd illegible	1	100	-	-	1	5.5
193-250	-	-	1	100	1	5.5
250-260	-	-	-	-	-	-
260-284	2	66.6	1	33.3	3	16.6
284-296	-	-	-	-	-	-
296-305	-	-	-	-	-	-
305-320	-	-	-	-	-	-
320-330	3	100	-	-	3	16.6
330-348	4	100	-	-	4	22.2
348-364	-	-	-	-	-	-
364-378	1	100	-	-	1	5.5
4th C illegible	2	100	-	-	2	11.1
3rd-4th C illegible	3	100	-	-	3	16.6
Total	16	88.8	2	11.2	18	99.6

well. The coins were surface finds recovered from a small area, along with a quantity of lead objects, some of which are waste. These objects included a number of weights or possible weights.

Table 12.8: Coins from Whelford Mill, Kempford

	Gen.		Imit.		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
260-284	26	86.7	4	13.3	30	71.4
284-296	4	100	-	-	4	9.5
3rd-4th C illegible	8	100	-	-	8	19.5
Total	38	90.5	4	9.5	42	99.9

Illustrated catalogue: Small finds from the survey sites (Fig. 12.3)

1. *SF 246. Hod Hill brooch.* Copper alloy. Type Hull 63. Mid C1. Length 45 mm. Leaze Farm, Lechlade (LLF)
2. *SF 245. Trumpet variant brooch.* Copper alloy. Type Hull 170. C1-C2. Length 29 mm. LLF
3. *SF 484. Zoomorphic equal-ended bow brooch.* Copper alloy. Type Hull 228. C2. Length 50 mm. Wigmore, Lechlade (LW)
4. *SF 249. Disc brooch.* Type Hull 239. C2. Diameter 33 mm. LLF
5. *SF 264. Disc brooch.* Probably a gilded disc brooch of 3rd-century date (Hattatt 1987, 253). C3. Diameter 28 mm. LLF
6. *SF 258. Bracelet.* Copper alloy. Multiple unit. Cool Group 31. C4. Present length 95 mm. LLF
7. *SF 250. Finger ring.* Copper alloy. Finger ring. Oval box bezel with scalloped shoulders. Cool Group 16A. C3-C4. Diameter 19 x 20 mm. LLF
8. *SF 266. Jewellery element.* Silver. Finger ring? Such fluted flanges are found surrounding the box bezels of late 2nd to 3rd-century rings and brooches (see Henig 1981, 129 pl 8.1 nos 6, 8 and 9; Marshall 1911, 340 nos 2871-2). C2-C3. Dimensions 20 x 17 mm. LLF
9. *SF 294. Nail cleaner.* Copper alloy. C1-C2. Present length 40 mm. LLF
10. *SF 293. Spoon.* Copper alloy. Probably late Roman. Present length 105 mm. LLF
11. *SF 677. Writing tablet.* One side of a wax tablet. Length 138 mm. Green Farm, Lechlade (LGF)
12. *SF 261. Strap end.* This is a Tortworth style strap end (Clarke 1979, 281) in use during the second half of the 4th century and possibly into the 5th century. Present length 56 mm. LLF
13. *SF 347. Spear head?* A possible socketed spearhead, although most spear-heads are much larger. It is possible that this should be regarded as a deliberate miniature object, used for religious purposes. Length 32 mm. LLF