

Hoard 1: 2016 T753 Roman coin hoard

(1,691) from Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire Valued at £5,000.

1691 radiates and 1 nummus to AD 274

BM Ref: 2016 T753 PAS Ref: BERK-2C9948

Circumstances of discovery

A hoard of Roman coins in a fine grey-ware vessel was discovered in September 2016 by a metal detector user on cultivated land. The majority of the upper layers of coins had been disturbed by both the plough and the metal detectorist during the initial discovery; the finder reported getting a large iron signal, which when he dug down realised was probably a plough share. He removed this from the ground and disturbed a large number of coins. A controlled excavation by the Finds Liaison Officer took place on 15th September. The hoard appears to have been hit by the plough at least two seasons prior to discovery, and coins were scattered northwards and westwards through plough action. When a relatively undisturbed level was identified, coins were removed in layers c. 5 cm thick. There were no obvious individual episodes of deposition, with coins of Tetricus I and Tetricus II found in the final layer at the base of the vessel. The vessel was lying at an angle although it is likely to have been dislodged from its original position by the plough. Approximately 50% of the vessel was missing, although a few small sherds were recovered during excavation. A second coin hoard (Stoke Lyne II, 2016 T756) was later discovered 6.5m away from this hoard. Scattered coins from the general area (c. 232 coins) are considered in that report but could be from either find. A number of later coins were also discovered in the area at the time of discovery and several months later, and are thought to be unrelated to these two deposits. The coins in the hoard are all of the denomination commonly referred to as a radiate and date from the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus (AD 253-260) to the reign of the Gallic emperors Tetricus I and II (AD 271-4) and the first years of the reign of Aurelian in the Central Empire (AD 270-5). The earliest coins have a higher silver content but the bulk of the hoard is made up of the debased copper alloy coinage issued in large quantities under the Gallic empire (AD 260-274). The hoard contains a number of unofficial copies that could post-date AD 274 but cannot be closely dated.

Hoard 2: 2016 T756 Roman coin hoard

(588) from Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire. Valued at £4,000

395 radiates to AD 271

(with additional scatter of 193 radiates from Stoke Lyne I and II and 42 stray coins)

BM Ref: 2016 T756 PAS Ref: BERK-A39DED

Circumstances of discovery

Found by a metal-detector user in September 2016 6.5m away from another Roman

coin hoard in a vessel. This hoard was contained in or in close association with a colour-coated ware vessel. The vessel had been disturbed by the plough and was in about 22 fragments. A controlled excavation of Stoke Lyne I was carried out by the Finds Liaison Officer. The coins in the hoard (group as catalogued) are all base metal coins of the denomination commonly referred to as a radiate and date mostly from the joint reign of Valerian and Gallienus (AD 253-260) (with one earlier coin) to the reign of the Gallic emperor Victorinus (AD 269-271). The coins are mostly well-preserved, the earlier coins in the group having a higher silver content. The hoard has a clear terminus in the reign of Victorinus, with no coins later than his third issue present. A few stray nummi and possibly one illegible radiate are thought not to belong to the hoard. The majority of the scattered coins seem to belong to hoard II but there are a few radiates dating between AD 271 and 274 that may well belong with hoard I. This group also contained 37 fourth-century nummi and a fourth century silver siliqua. The stray coins are of different appearance to the coins from the hoard (one or two appear to have been treated with olive oil). More problematic was the presence of a radiate of Carausius and a so-called Q-radiate of Allectus. The latter was not out of keeping with the appearance of the coins from the hoard (post-conservation). It is unlikely, but not impossible that the first hoard extended this late in date, due to the absence of any other regular post AD 274 coinage. The fourth-century coins are worn and appear to represent losses from later occupation of the site rather than a third hoard.

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