Deliberate defacement of British Iron Age coinage

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On the evidence of coins lost and deposited, the inhabitants of Iron Age Britain did not, in general, make a habit of defacing their coinage. Fewer than two percent of the 34,000 coins recorded in the Celtic Coin Index (CCI) appear to have been intentionally bent, broken, folded, cut, pierced or otherwise defaced. Indeed until very recently the identification of a coin treated in this way seemed worthy of particular comment.[1] The situation has changed somewhat with the discovery of two hoards containing many examples of defaced coins, and these discoveries provide a suitable opportunity to examine the whole range of defacement present on British Iron Age coinage.

The purposes of this paper are thus threefold: to summarise the evidence provided by the two recent hoard discoveries; to examine the nature of coin defacement other than in those hoards; and to consider why these coins should have been singled out for this treatment, and in particular whether it is possible to distinguish an element of ritual behaviour in the action of deliberately defacing an Iron Age coin. The coins will be considered by the nature of their defacement.

Cut marks

By far the commonest form of defacement of British Iron Age coinage involves scoring or gouging one or more cuts across some part of the flan of the coin. These marks have usually been interpreted as test cuts, made by a knife with the purpose of checking the alloy of a coin and specifically to establish whether the coin is plated.[2] There are several hundred recorded examples of this type of defacement, all but a handful in the Durotrigan stater series. This creates an immediate and obvious complication in attempting to identify some element of ritual activity in this defacement: the Durotrigan coinage is renowned for the long period of debasement it undergoes, from staters weighing just over 6 g and containing about 70-80% silver, down to coins of less than 3 g which are in effect copper,[3] all the while maintaining a more or less consistent design. It is hard to imagine a more likely candidate for cutting or scoring to test the alloy. How then can we differentiate between cuts made for this purely functional purpose, and cuts made with other - perhaps ritual - purposes in mind? And is it indeed possible to make such a simple distinction, or might there be elements of ritualistic behaviour in the action of test-cutting? These points will be addressed in the concluding discussion.

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1 See e.g. J. May, Test cuts on a Corieltauvian stater? *Spink Num. Circular* 102, 1994, 3; P. de Jersey, Deliberate defacement of a continental Celtic coin. *Spink Num. Circular* 103, 1995, 53.

2 See e.g. R.D. Van Arsdell, *Celtic coinage of Britain* (London 1989) 54.

3 J.P. Northover, Materials issues in the Celtic coinage. In: M. Mays (ed.), *Celtic coinage: Britain and beyond*. BAR 222 (Oxford 1992) 235-299 esp. 258.

1. The Durotrigan series

'Many coins, both early and late, bear cuts made in antiquity to test the quality of the metal or at least to show that the coins were not silver-plated.'[4]

There seems to be a general perception that test cuts on Durotrigan silver (or indeed on British Iron Age coinage in general) are more common than they really are. In fact even in the Durotrigan series fewer than one hundred examples were recorded until relatively recently, a situation fundamentally altered in the mid-1990s by the discovery of two hoards containing large numbers of coins with this type of defacement. These hoards will be considered first, followed by a summary of the older Durotrigan material.

a) Nursling, Hampshire (c. 1995)

In 1995 several private collectors reported to the Celtic Coin Index that a hoard, consisting mostly of base Durotrigan staters, was being offered for sale. At the time little precise information on the contents of the hoard was available, although it was said to have been found near Nursling, in the Test Valley north-west of Southampton. Some five years later, a video apparently showing the coins very shortly after they had been found was loaned to the CCI, of sufficient quality to enable at least a summary of the hoard's contents to be made. At the same time another 16 coins found during an archaeological excavation on the supposed site of the hoard were submitted to the CCI for identification.[5]

The video consists of 122 coins shown individually, typically for a second or two each, plus a group labelled as '125 smoothies', which is shown only briefly. While it seems likely that most of the latter are base Durotrigan staters, in common with much of the rest of the assemblage, this cannot be confirmed.

Of the other 122 coins, ten are Roman and one medieval: these have not been further identified. The single medieval coin must be intrusive, while the status of the Roman coins is uncertain. They too may be intrusive, but finds of Durotrigan coinage with Roman material are not uncommon, and they may have been hoarded together.[6] The 111 Iron Age coins individually captured in the video can be more or less positively identified as the following types:

77 Durotrigan base silver or billon staters (VA 1235)
25 Durotrigan bronze staters (VA 1290)
1 Chute gold stater (VA 1205)
2 British O gold quarter staters (VA 1225)
1 British O gold quarter stater (VA 1227)
1 British O gold quarter stater (VA 143)

4 D.F. Allen, The Celtic coins. In: I. Richmond, *Hod Hill II: Excavations carried out between 1951 and 1958 for the Trustees of the British Museum* (London 1968) 43-57 esp. 47.
5 A. Russel, pers. comm.
6 For example, the hoards from Holdenhurst, closing with coins of Hadrian of c. AD 134-138, and Romsey, closing with Domitian, c. AD 90: A. Robertson, *An inventory of Romano-British coin hoards* (London 2000) 25 no. 134; 18 no. 92.

1 Durotrigan silver quarter stater (VA 1242)
1 hemispherical gold quarter stater, possibly a Gallo-Belgic import or British copy
1 Dobunnic silver unit (VA 1135 or 1137)
1 unidentified coin

There is no clear dividing line between base silver staters of the *Durotriges* (VA 1235) and their bronze equivalents (VA 1290), short of metal analysis, and so the figures for these must be regarded as approximate. Likewise the 16 coins examined at first hand, of which five are probably base silver or billon, and eleven bronze.

Taking these various sources of information together, the hoard must have contained at least 252 Iron Age coins. The fate of many of these coins (other than those archaeologically excavated) is uncertain. The better quality material is likely to have been sold soon after discovery, while the poorest coins may have remained in the hands of the finder(s). However, a part of the hoard, which was apparently kept intact after its discovery, has recently been made available for study, and it is those coins which are of particular interest here. This group consists of 156 coins, of the following types:

102 Durotrigan base silver or billon staters (VA 1235)
52 Durotrigan bronze staters (VA 1290)
1 Dobunnic silver unit (VA 1135)
1 Atrebatic silver minim (VA 561)

The silver minim, possibly an issue of Verica, is in poor condition and is likely to be the unidentified coin previously noted on the video of the hoard.

Of the 102 base silver Durotrigan staters, 42 have one or more cuts on the obverse. There are no instances of cut marks in a similar position on the bronze staters, nor is there any indication of cuts on the reverse of either the base silver or bronze staters. The number of cuts on any particular coin typically varies between one and three, although occasionally there may be more; one exceptional coin (Fig. 1) has at least 24 separate cuts.[7] Comparison of the obverses of these coins (Fig. 2) shows a clear bias in the preferred position of the cuts: all but two have at least one cut across the 'spike' which crosses the laurel wreath, usually in the section which actually has the wreath to each side, but occasionally lower down where a crescent forms the end of the spike. There is also a clear preference for the orientation of the cut itself, which is usually parallel or nearly parallel to the direction of the wreath.

The value of this group of 156 coins for any very detailed statistical analysis is severely limited by the uncertainty surrounding its composition: it has evidently been selected from the overall total of c. 247 (excluding the excavated coins), but it is unclear on what grounds. There may have been more cut coins in the hoard as a whole, for example. Within this portion, the weights of the coins which have been

7 Exact figures are 17 coins (40%) with one cut, 13 coins (31%) with two cuts, five coins (12%) with three cuts, four coins (10%) with five cuts and one coin (2%) each with six, eight or 24 cuts.

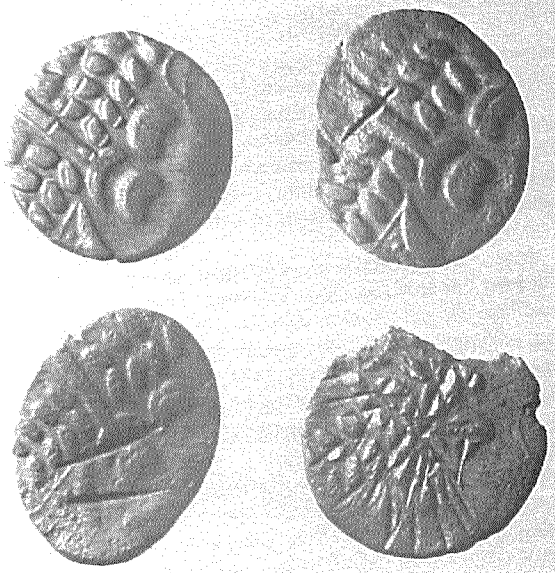

Fig. 1: Examples of coins from the Nursling hoard with obverse cut marks (scale 2:1). (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford).

subject to cutting appear to reflect the composition of the portion as a whole (Fig. 3); the significance of this will be considered below.

b) Hampshire (1997)

In late 1997 unusually large quantities of Durotrigan staters and quarter staters began to appear in the coin trade. Many of the coins were in very poor condition: the quarter staters in particular were heavily worn, often bent or folded, and a significant proportion of the staters bore cuts across the obverse. The coins clearly had a common source: information pointed towards an origin in Hampshire, but no more precise location is known. The hoard does not appear to have come from the same site as the Nursling find discussed above – there was certainly a gap of two or three years between the two discoveries – but this possibility cannot be entirely ruled out.

In view of the very variable quality of the information associated with this hoard, it is possible to offer little more than anecdotal evidence here of the nature of the defacement seen within this group of coins. However, it is worth placing on record at least some initial observations on what may have been the largest

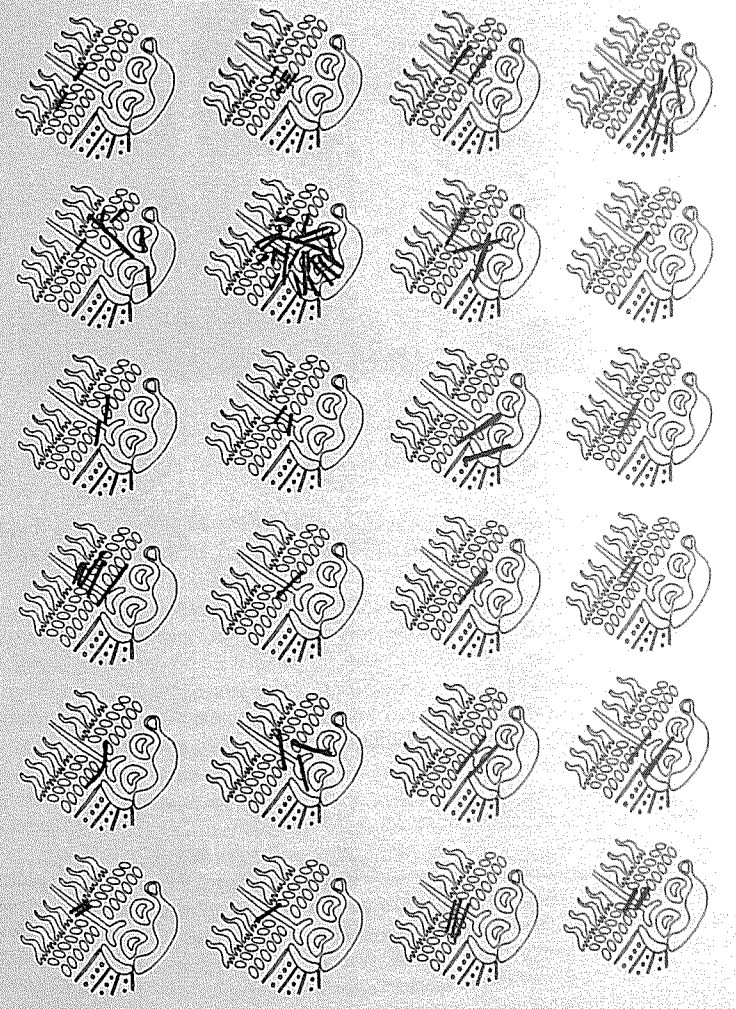

Fig. 2: The cut marks on staters from the Nursling hoard.

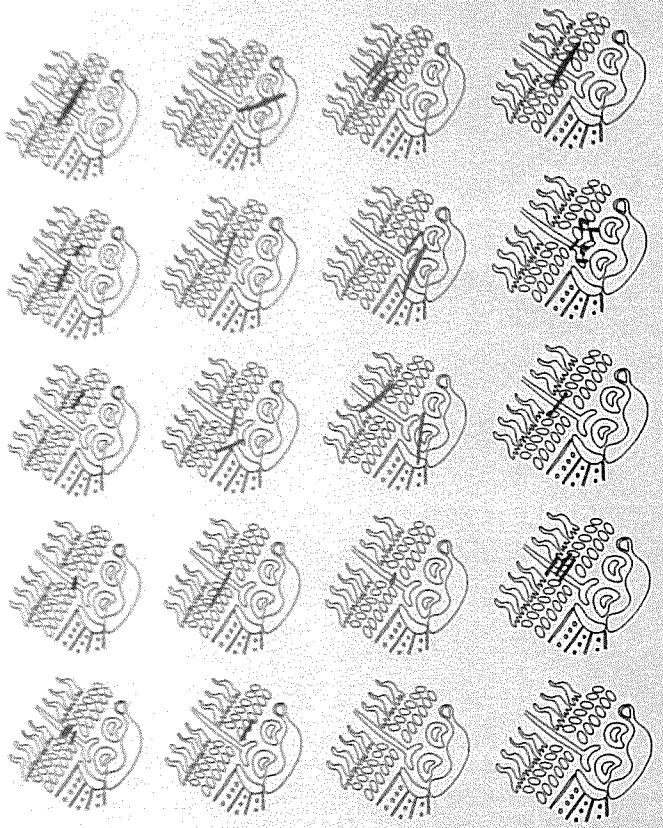

Fig. 2: (continued).

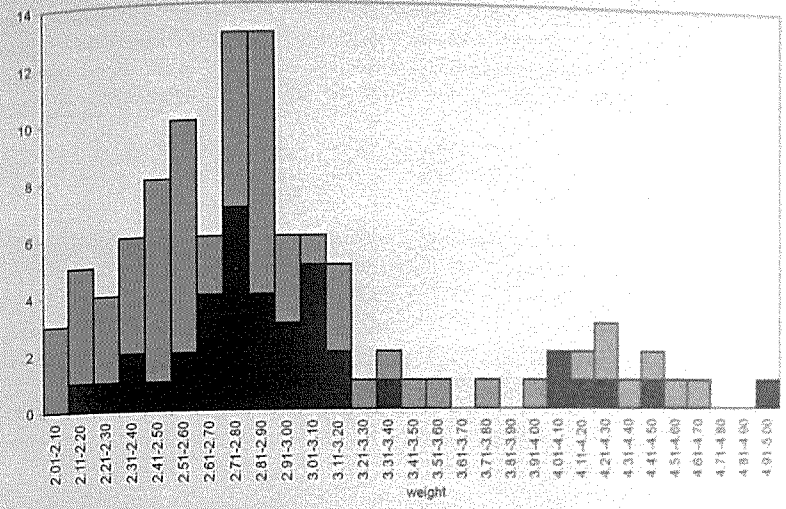

Fig. 3: Distribution of the weights of staters from the Nursling hoard. The areas shaded black represent coins with cut marks.

single find of Iron Age coins in Britain, not least since the hoard was not reported at the time of its discovery, and has been widely and rapidly dispersed since.

Initial estimates of the size of the hoard indicated that more than 5000 coins had been found, although more recent information suggests that the true size may have been in excess of 10,000 coins, and that the coins may have been contained in one or more barrels. While it may eventually be possible to provide a more accurate record of the contents of the hoard, the process is hampered on at least two counts: by the poor condition of many (if not most) of the coins, which has ensured that they are not widely illustrated in sales catalogues and the like; and by the speed with which the hoard was dispersed after its discovery. Several major auction houses have offered large lots of staters and quarters which must have originated in this hoard, and smaller quantities have become a staple of innumerable coin dealers, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States: more than 400 Durotrigan staters have been offered on the internet auction site eBay since early 1998, more than 95% of which probably originate from this hoard.

As at Nursling, the stater defacement seems to be very nearly exclusively in the form of one or more thin cuts across the spike on the obverse. Among the c. 400 coins recorded on eBay, at least 105 have this form of defacement. Perhaps more significantly, not one of these coins appears to be defaced either elsewhere on the obverse, or on the reverse. Although we evidently have little idea of the selection processes which have resulted in these particular coins being offered for sale, as the size of the sample increases it becomes ever more likely that this is the

predominant, if not exclusive form of defacement on coins from this hoard. The quarter staters are less well-recorded, since the majority appear to be in very poor condition. Anecdotal evidence suggests, however, that most have been bent or folded along the knife or chisel marks, which are always on the obverse of each coin, as on the staters.

c) other Durotrigan material

Prior to the discovery of the Nursling and Hampshire hoards in the mid-1990s, at least 81 Durotrigan staters with cut marks had been recorded in the Celtic Coin Index, comprising 46 nominally of silver or billon, and 35 of bronze. Four types of defacement can be identified. By far the commonest (on 64 coins, 79%) is what might, following the discussion of the hoards above, be termed the 'typical' obverse defacement: one or more thin cuts across the spike. Five coins (6%) are also cut on the obverse, but in positions other than across the spike. Three coins (4%), two of which are plated, are cut both on the obverse and reverse; and nine coins (11%) are cut solely on the reverse.

There does not seem to be any characteristic pattern to the position or orientation of the cuts which occur on the reverse: any part of the horse, or the group of pellets above it, may have been chosen for this treatment. At least four of this small group of coins have cuts which extend to the edge of the flan, a feature which is almost unknown on the much larger assemblage of coins with obverse cuts. One coin which is evidently plated has been cut four times, twice on each side (Fig. 4); the photographic evidence suggests that deep cuts were necessary to penetrate to the bronze core.

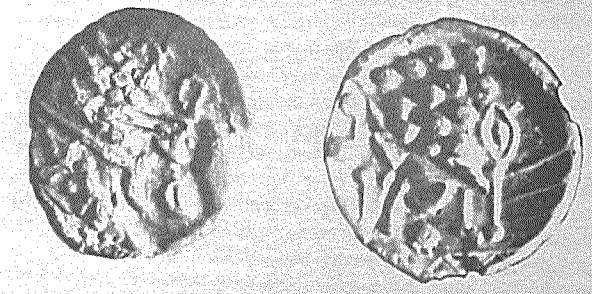

Fig. 4: Plated Durotrigan stater with multiple cuts (scale 2:1). (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford).

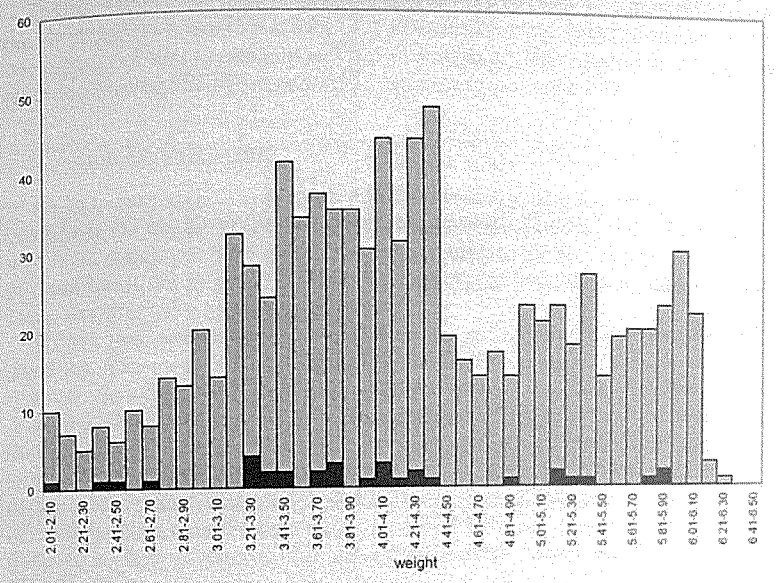

Fig. 5: Distribution of weights of Durotrigan silver or billon staters (VA 1235) in the CCI. The areas shaded black represent coins with cut marks.

Figures 5 and 6 show the weights of these defaced staters, both silver/base silver (VA 1235) and bronze (VA 1290), in relation to the weights of all the Durotrigan material in the Celtic Coin Index. In neither case is it really possible to identify coins of a particular weight, or range of weights, which were more susceptible to being cut: cuts on the VA 1235 type are spread across most of the usual weight range, with perhaps a very slightly disproportionate emphasis on coins of between about 3.20 - 3.80 g, while the pattern on the bronze type, VA 1290, is more or less consistent with the overall frequency of each weight interval.

There may be some significance in the geography of the findspots of these coins (Table 1). Most of them have been discovered either in the extreme east of the Durotrigan territory, if not actually beyond, in the Atrebatic territory, or perhaps in some kind of buffer zone between the two tribes, roughly equivalent to the New Forest.[8] Together with the Nursling and Hampshire hoards, this does suggest that this form of defacement may have some sort of valid geographical basis. We will return to this point again below.

8 B.W. Cunliffe, *Iron Age communities in Britain* (3rd ed. London 1991) 159. Traditionally Durotrigan territory is thought to be demarcated from the *Atrebates* by the river Avon, running north from Hengistbury Head.

Table 1: Provenances of other Durotrigan cut coins.

Location	*Details*
Dorset	
Badbury Rings	single find
Bere Regis	one in hoard
Hengistbury Head	at least 16 in the 1911-12 excavations, 9+ at other times
Hod Hill?	single find
Tarrant Launceston	single find
Hampshire	
Fair Oak	two single finds
Fordingbridge	seven in hoard
Holdenhurst	21 in hoard
Isle of Wight	single find
Wiltshire	
Warminster	single find
Winterbourne Monkton	four in hoard

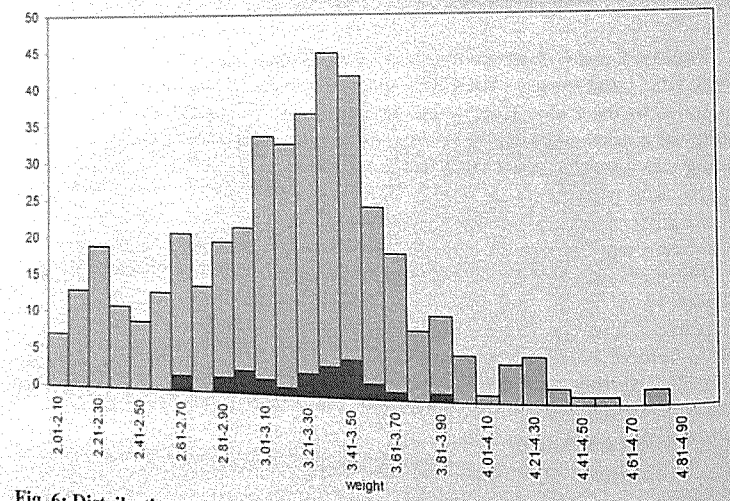

Fig. 6: Distribution of weights of Durotrigan bronze staters (VA 1290) in the CCI. The areas shaded black represent coins with cut marks.

Before leaving the region, it should be noted that a single cast bronze coin from the Holdenhurst hoard (VA 1340, CCI 79.0459) bears two thin cuts on the obverse, one about 1.5 mm in length and the other 3 mm. This appears to be the only recorded example of a Durotrigan cast bronze treated in this way.

2. Non-Durotrigan cut coins

As indicated above, only a very small proportion of non-Durotrigan Iron Age coins bear cut marks. Appendix 1 lists 33 examples identified in the CCI, together with brief details of the nature of the defacement and the provenances.[9] Twenty-six of these coins are in gold (of which at least two or possibly three are plated), and seven in silver (of which three are plated).

Within this assemblage of coins there are at least two distinct groups which stand out. The most obvious consists of the seven examples of very early Iron Age coinage, including Philippus imitations and other derivatives probably from the third or early second century BC. Given the overall rarity of these coins in Britain, the presence of seven examples in this list reflects an extraordinarily high propensity for these coins to suffer this type of defacement.[10] The nature of their defacement is also noteworthy: the cut marks on all but one of these coins are noticeably more massive than those on any of the other, later coins in the list, and there is a clear preference for defacement of the human head on the obverse (Fig. 7).

A second, smaller group may also be noted. At least two and possibly three uninscribed Dobunnic staters and an uninscribed Dobunnic silver unit, all with cuts, are recorded from Mount Batten in Devon. The silver unit was found during construction work between 1917 and 1920,[11] and the staters formed part of a very poorly recorded hoard perhaps found c. 1830.[12] Although at first sight the presence of several cut coins in this hoard might appear significant, this fact should be placed in context. None of the Armorican coins apparently from the same hoard appear to be cut, on the basis of the surviving drawings,[13] nor is this treatment

9 As with most of the other categories of defacement examined here, it is difficult to provide exact figures because of the poor quality of some of the images in the CCI and the impossibility of examining many coins at first hand. Although the figure given should therefore perhaps be regarded as a minimum, experience suggests that the maximum is unlikely to be significantly higher.

10 Sills maps 13 British findspots for 17 coins of all the various classes of imported gold coinage prior to the introduction of Gallo-Belgic A and B: J. Sills, *Gaulish and early British gold coinage* (London 2003) 64 map 10.

11 T.V. Hodgson, Ancient British coins recently found at Mount Batten, Plymouth. *Num. Chronicle* ser. 5, 4, 1924, 320-322 esp. 321 no. 5.

12 D.F. Allen, The origins of coinage in Britain: a reappraisal. In: S.S. Frere (ed.), *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*. Inst. Arch. Occ. Paper 11 (London 1960) 97-308 esp. 292-293; L. Sellwood, The Celtic coins. In: B.W. Cunliffe, *Mount Batten, Plymouth. A prehistoric and Roman port*. OUCA Monogr. 26 (Oxford 1988) 49-52.

13 L. Jewitt, *A history of Plymouth* (London1873) pl. II.

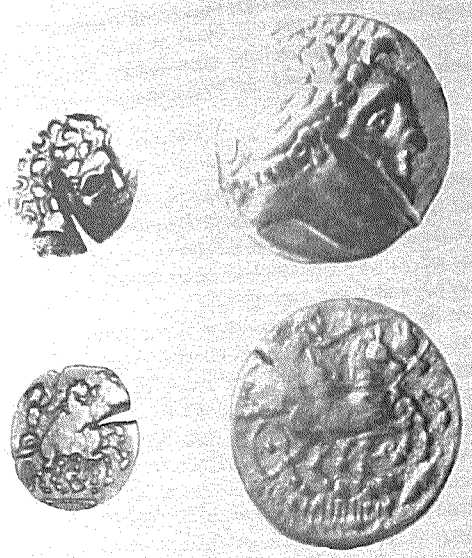

Fig. 7: Examples of early imported gold coins with cut marks (scale 2:1).
Left: Toutencourt type quarter stater, CCI 99.0528 (John Sills).
Right: Philippus stater imitation, CCI 95.3023 (David Holman).

recorded for any of the other Dobunnic or Durotrigan coins from the same site, although the records are admittedly very confused.[14]

It is difficult to identify any other particularly significant groups amongst the non-Durotrigan cut coins. However, it is worth noting the presence of four Gallo-Belgic large flan staters, two later Gallo-Belgic staters and three uninscribed early British issues (in addition to the staters from Mount Batten). In total more than 75 % of the cut coins belong to the period before about 40 BC, while the subsequent huge output of indigenous British coinage up to AD 43 furnishes a mere seven coins (21 %). From a slightly different perspective, just over half of the cut coins are imports, again far out of proportion to their volume in relation to the total of Iron Age coinage found in Britain.

The exact nature of the cut marks on these coins (other than the early Philippus types) varies. There seems to be little preference for either obverse or reverse (ten and nine coins respectively); four coins are cut on both sides. Unlike the majority of the Durotrigan staters discussed above, there is no generally preferred orientation or position for the cuts, although it is noticeable that cutting into the

14 Sellwood (note 12).

edge of the coin rather than across the flan is not a popular option, used only on a Gallo-Belgic large flan stater, and on three coins from Hayling Island.[15] Several coins have been treated in particularly distinctive ways: a stater, possibly plated, of Tincomaros with a relatively large cut down the length of the horseman on the reverse;[16] a plated stater of Anted, with a cross carefully carved into the obverse;[17] and a Whaddon Chase (British LB) stater with one thin cut across part of the obverse wreath, and multiple cuts across the reverse (Fig. 8).[18] This treatment may perhaps imply some sort of meaning to this action over and above the simple act of testing the alloy.

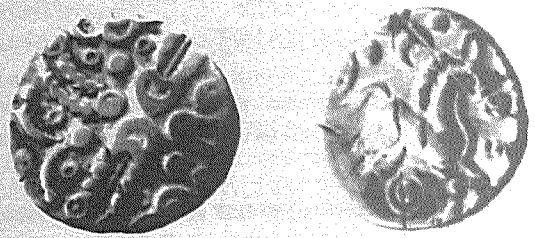

Fig. 8: Whaddon Chase (British LB) stater with multiple cut marks (scale 2:1). (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford).

Coins deliberately broken

This category of defacement presents considerable problems in identification. There are well over one hundred coins in the CCI which have been broken, but most of them are unlikely to have been deliberately broken in the late Iron Age. Many have been damaged by the plough, or have simply cracked and fractured in the soil over the past two thousand years; others have been broken during recovery, or following ill-advised attempts at cleaning. The handful of coins listed in Table 2 – which excludes cast bronzes, about which more below – thus represents a minimum size sample drawn from the records of the CCI, featuring only those coins where there seems to be a good chance that their broken condition was both caused deliberately and occurred in the Iron Age or Romano-British periods.

15 D. Briggs/C. Haselgrove/C.E. King, Iron Age and Roman coins from Hayling Island temple. *British Num. Journal* 62, 1992, 1-62 nos. 39, 94 and 124.
16 Coin Register. *British Num. Journal* 64, 1994, pl. 15.42.
17 C. Rudd, *List* 46, 1999 no. 23.
18 CCI 66.0294, unprovenanced. There is one further possible addition to the list: in his report on the 1911-12 excavations at Hengistbury Head, Bushe-Fox illustrates what appears to be a quarter stater with a deeply incised cross on the reverse. However, the coin – if that is what it is – is unusually small, with a diameter of only 8 mm, and it is not possible to identify its type from the images available. It might perhaps be better regarded as a coin-shaped piece of bullion. See J.P. Bushe-Fox, *Excavations at Hengistbury Head, Hampshire in 1911-12*. Soc. Ant. Research Report 3 (Oxford 1915) pl. XXXII.23.

Table 2: Deliberately broken coins (excluding Kentish cast bronzes).

CCI	*Type*	*Details*
Gold staters		
99.1798	Gallo-Belgic A	Snettisham hoard, Norfolk, within torc; halved
99.0909	Gallo-Belgic E	Orsett, Essex; halved
98.0187	*Namnetes*?	Barton on Sea hoard, Hants.; halved
91.0489	British B, VA1205	Hayling Island; quartered
91.0555	British LB, VA1493	Hayling Island; halved; plated
Gold quarter staters		
91.0456	British O, VA143	Hayling Island; halved
Billon stater		
91.0475	*Baiocasses* boar type	Hayling Island; halved
Silver units		
91.0572	Andecom, LT 6342	Hayling Island; halved; plated
73.0098	*Corieltauvi*, VA889	Thistleton, Leics.; cut on two axes, about one third removed
Bronze unit		
73.0323	Cunobelin?	Colchester, Essex; halved, effectively unidentifiable

The most striking feature of the deliberately broken coins is that five out of the ten listed come from the Hayling Island temple, including three imported types. The site is renowned for its atypical assemblage of Iron Age coinage, and the significance of this aspect will be considered in the concluding discussion. Of the remaining coins, the most interesting is perhaps the Gallo-Belgic large flan stater found within one of the Snettisham torcs in Hoard F. Otherwise there is little to be said, except that on the basis of current evidence, struck Iron Age coins were only very rarely deliberately broken.

Broken cast bronze coins – specifically the potin coinages of north-east Kent – are particularly problematic. They are presumably rather easier to break than struck bronze, and again it is often difficult if not impossible to distinguish accidental breakage from deliberate. Some varieties of the Kentish flat linear potins do seem, however, to have the distinction of being the only British Iron Age coinage which

may have been halved or quartered to produce a coin of a lower denomination.[19] This treatment is rare among the smaller and/or dumpier coins, both at the beginning (the 'Thurrock' or Kentish primary potins) and the end (class II flat linear potins) of the potin series, and occurs mostly on the larger class I issues. One particular hoard, from Boxley Warren, Kent[20] contained at least thirteen broken coins (of a total of 19 or 20), but it remains a moot point whether these coins were broken so that they could serve as objects of lesser value, or whether there were other reasons behind this treatment.

Bent and folded coins

Like broken coins, there is some difficulty in identifying which coins were bent or folded deliberately during the late Iron Age or Roman period. Folding – but not breaking – Iron Age coins cannot have been easy, and not surprisingly only three clear examples have been identified. One is the silver *quinarius* of Ateula Ulatos from Hayling Island, which also has a cut defacing the head on the obverse.[21] The others are a Normal Face/Horse silver unit of the *Iceni* (VA 790, CCI 97.0856), of uncertain provenance, and a silver unit of the *Corieltauvi* (perhaps VA 887, CCI 94.0080), excavated at Walls Field, Baldock in 1983.[22] There is little that can be said on the basis of such a tiny sample.

Bent coins are also problematic, and again it is very difficult to distinguish which coins may have been bent in antiquity. Briggs *et al.*, for example, included a bent southern British silver unit in their table of deliberately damaged coins from Hayling Island,[23] but the coin is a surface or unstratified find and there must be some doubt as to the circumstances and period of its damage. The most significant group of bent coins is undoubtedly the part of the Hampshire hoard, discussed above, consisting of worn and battered Durotrigan quarter staters (principally VA 1260). As with the defaced staters from this hoard, it is presently impossible to establish just how many quarter staters were treated in this way, and what proportion they formed in comparison with the coins which were not bent. It does seems absolutely certain, however, that many of the quarter staters were deliberately bent – probably as a result of being scored across the obverse – before this hoard was buried.

19 C. Haselgrove, The archaeology of British potin coinage. *Arch. Journal* 145, 1988, 99-122 esp. 118.
20 C. Haselgrove, *Iron Age coinage in south-east England: the archaeological context*. BAR 174 (Oxford 1987) 279.
21 Briggs *et al.* (note 15) 17 no. 132.
22 C. Haselgrove, Celtic coins found in Britain 1982-1987. *Bull. Inst. Arch. London* 26, 1989, 1-75 esp. 58.
23 Briggs *et al.* (note 15) Table 1; 7 no. 12.

Pierced coins

Piercing represents a rather different form of defacement to the other types of mutilation discussed here, since it appears to have a uniquely functional purpose. As with most other types of defacement, however, it is relatively rare. The Celtic Coin Index includes records of at least 42 Iron Age coins which have been pierced at some point in the past (Appendix 2).[24] There is a clear bias towards the choice of visually more impressive material: just under half (18) are gold staters, the remaining 24 coins consisting of a Danubian tetradrachm, two quarter staters, 12 silver units, six struck and three cast bronze (or potin) units.

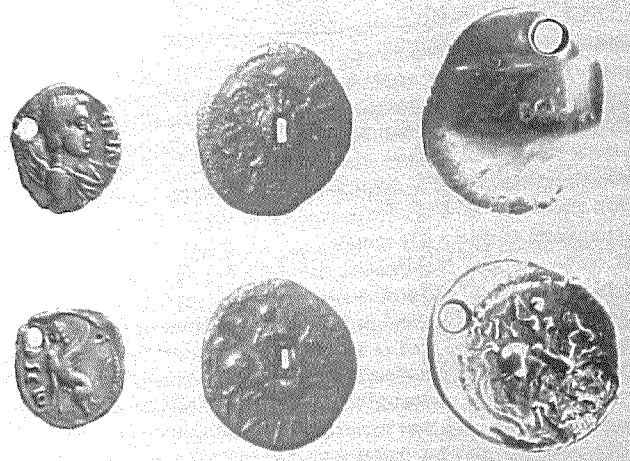

Fig. 9: Examples of pierced coins (scale 2:1).
Left: silver unit of Cunobelin, VA 2057 (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford).
Centre: bronze unit of Cunobelin, VA 1981 (David Holman).
Right: gold stater of Verica, VA 500 (Institute of Archaeology, Oxford).

On 36 of these 42 coins a single hole has been placed near the edge of the flan – typically between 1 mm and 2.5 mm distant – and in some cases the hole has

24 The precise figure is difficult to establish, since there are several coins which appear from the images in the CCI to be pierced, but which are not available for examination to confirm the fact. Others are problematic even when available: it is not always clear whether damage to the edge of the flan might be the result of an attempt to pierce the coin. The identification of deliberately pierced cast bronzes is particularly problematic, since holes can occasionally occur as a result of imperfections in the casting process (see for example BM 703 and BM 710), but of the three cited in Appendix 2 at least two (CCI 61.0541, from one of the Snettisham hoards, and CCI 68.1040, BM 684) can be fairly confidently included in this sample.

evidently been carefully placed to avoid some element of the design, or to focus attention on a particular aspect of it (Fig. 9). The hole itself usually varies between 1 mm and 2.5 mm in diameter. There can be little doubt that these piercings served as suspension holes, so that the coin could serve either for personal ornament, or perhaps as decoration on some other object. In terms of the preferred orientation of the coin, there appears to be a clear bias towards presenting the reverse the right way up to the viewer (Fig. 10).

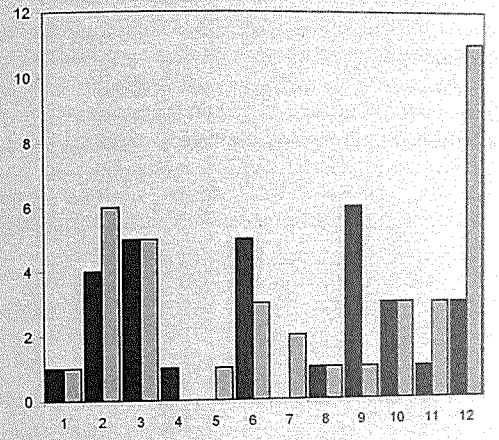

Fig. 10: Preferred orientation of pierced coins. Black: obverse; grey: reverse.
The figures 1-12 on the bottom axis represent each side of the coin in terms of a clock-face.

A similar, decorative use may be suggested for the two (perhaps three) coins which have been pierced centrally. One is a Corieltauvian scyphate quarter stater, which to judge from the illustration available[25] has been pierced from the reverse through to the obverse, since there is a lip of metal extruded around the hole on the obverse. Scyphate quarter staters are notoriously thin and fragile items,[26] and this would seem to be an unusual choice of coin for this type of treatment.

The second centrally pierced coin is a bronze unit of Cunobelin (VA 1981), found at Worth Hill in Kent in the 1980s (Fig. 9). In this case a rectangular slot has been cut into each face (1.75 x 3.25 mm on the obverse, 2.5 x 4.25 mm on the reverse), and a smaller, irregular hole forced through within the slot, apparently from obverse to reverse. The coin might perhaps have been nailed to a post or some other structure, although it is unclear why such care has been taken to form the rectangular slot on each side.

25 *Classical Numismatic Group mail bid sale* XXXIII, 15.3.1995 lot 1686.
26 J. May, The earliest gold coinages of the Corieltauvi? In: Mays (note 3) 113-121 esp. 114.

An unidentified silver unit from Hayling Island temple may be a third example of a centrally pierced coin.[27] The coin was recovered in fragments, which when reassembled appear to show a roughly square hole positioned slightly off-centre. This coin too may perhaps have been attached to another object.

Three other coins differ from the norm. A very worn disc from Wanborough temple which might be an Iron Age silver unit, has been pierced twice, the holes just off-centre and actually overlapping the edge of the flan.[28] This coin seems most likely to have formed some object of personal decoration. The same can be said of a silver unit of Epaticcus in the Fitzwilliam Museum which has two holes, one just within the edge of the flan and one overlapping the opposite edge.[29]

The purpose of drilling, or attempting to drill, at least four holes through a plated South Ferriby stater is less clear (Fig. 11). It appears as though at least three attempts have been made to drill through the coin, in each case apparently starting from both faces, rather than drilling through completely from one side; none of these pairs of holes quite correspond, but a fourth pair does extend right through

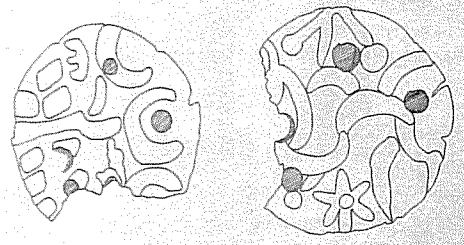

Fig. 11: Plated South Ferriby stater with multiple piercings (scale 2:1).

the coin. Speculation on the reason behind this curious treatment is probably fruitless.

It is unfortunate that few of the 42 pierced Iron Age coins are accompanied by very significant contextual information. Appendix 2 lists details associated with 17 of the coins; the remaining 25 can be assumed to have no relevant contextual details whatsoever.

A few significant points may be drawn from this information. The presence of several pierced coins in hoards, including Whaddon Chase, Birchington, Joist Fen and Snettisham, could be interpreted to imply that these particular coins served some kind of secondary function – perhaps as personal ornament – while other coins of the same type retained their primary monetary function. In other words,

27 Briggs *et al.* (note 15) 7 no. 14.
28 C.E.A. Cheesman, The coins. In: M.G. O'Connell/J. Bird, *The Roman temple at Wanborough excavation, 1985-1986*. Surrey Arch. Collect. 82, 1994, 31-92 no. 971.
29 P. Grierson, *Sylloge of coins of the British Isles 1. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Part I. Ancient British and Anglo-Saxon coins* (London 1958) no. 130.

they were pierced while that type of coinage was still in circulation (whatever form that circulation took). Their presence in these hoards also implies that the coins were pierced in the late Iron Age, rather than at a later date, although strictly speaking we cannot assume that the hoards were deposited when the coinage was still current.

In most cases there is little way of telling precisely when any of these coins were pierced, although it is possible that close examination of the holes might reveal technological details which could shed some light on this matter. The case of a Gallo-Belgic C stater, perhaps found in Oxfordshire in the late nineteenth century, serves as a useful warning of the problems inherent in dating this type of defacement. A note on the CCI index card records that the coin was bought "in an Oxford Pub for 1 sovereign when [the contributor's father] was an undergraduate: it was seen on the 'Albert' [watch-chain] of a local resident." This particular defacement is thus likely to have occurred only comparatively recently, and the same might be true of other coins listed here; Burnett suggests as much for the pierced Cunobelin stater allegedly from the Chippenham hoard.[30]

The presence of a few examples on Roman sites probably does indicate the use of these coins as decorative objects in the Romano-British period; although there is no hard evidence in this sample of a similar function at later periods, it is worth noting the discovery of a holed Gallo-Belgic uniface stater in a Merovingian cemetery near Dieppe, Seine-Maritime.[31]

Other types of defacement

Briggs *et al.* identified a southern British silver coin from the Hayling Island temple which appears to have been struck by a hammer on one edge, and another which as well as having a notch removed from the edge has also been hammered.[32] This type of defacement is extremely difficult to identify from the photographic records of the CCI and there may well be other examples which have gone unrecorded here.

Two more Iron Age coins, both imports, have distinctive types of defacement. A plated *quinarius* of Kaletedou (BMC II, 319; LT 8178) found in West Sussex has been punched in the centre of the reverse.[33] This might conceivably represent an unsuccessful attempt at piercing the coin, although it seems more likely to be a particularly crude means of testing the alloy and deliberately damaging the coin. A Gallo-Belgic E stater, reportedly found on a Roman site at Walsingham in Norfolk, appears to have been ground between two stones, removing the higher parts of each side of the flan.[34] This seems most unlikely to be the result of chance, and as such represents a bizarre and so far unparalleled treatment of a good gold stater.

30 A.M. Burnett, Chippenham, near Ely, Treasure Trove. In: A.M. Burnett/R.F. Bland (eds.), *Coin Hoards from Roman Britain 6*. British Mus. Occ. Paper 58 (London 1986) 1-4 esp. 1.
31 E. Lambert, *Essai sur la numismatique gauloise du nord-ouest de la France* (Paris 1864) pl. VI.8.
32 Briggs *et al.* (note 15) no. 8; no. 39.
33 De Jersey (note 1).
34 C. Rudd, *List* 59, 2001 no. 17.

Discussion

The evidence detailed here should make it obvious that, apart from in one or two spatially and temporally isolated instances, some form of defacement was not a typical event in the 'life' of a coin, or indeed a typical end to its life.[35] Were it not for the existence of the two Durotrigan hoards from Hampshire, the number of coins with any form of defacement would scarcely total 170, or less than 0.5% of the coinage recorded in the Celtic Coin Index. We are not dealing, therefore, with a practice which can in any way be said to have been a normal aspect of the circulation of coinage in most of Iron Age Britain.

However, there do seem to be two important exceptions to this, and several less clear instances of behaviour other than the norm. Although it might appear that the piercing of Iron Age coins can be dispensed with relatively rapidly, since unlike the other forms of defacement discussed here it has an obvious functional purpose, it is intriguing that pierced coins have been found alongside undamaged coins of the same types in several hoards. This might suggest – perhaps not surprisingly – that these fine objects could occasionally serve a decorative purpose alongside the more familiar usage.

One of the more important exceptions to the general lack of defacement is the treatment of the earliest stratum of imported coinage, arriving in Britain probably in the third and early second centuries BC. Most examples of these heavy gold staters, half and quarter staters have been deeply scored or gouged, in some cases completely through the flan. This destructive treatment simply does not occur on later classes of coinage, either imported or indigenous. Why should this be the case? Was there something in the very unfamiliarity of these coins which caused them to be treated in this way? As 'foreign' objects, might it perhaps have been necessary or important to ritually destroy them before they were buried? Because that is surely what the defacement represents: it cannot simply be test cutting, for the damage done is both excessive and apparently focused on the human head on the obverse of each coin (as with the Durotrigan staters, see below).

Thus far, coins defaced in this fashion have been restricted almost entirely to Essex and Kent, with a possible outlier in East Anglia. It will be interesting to see whether further examples are recorded from other coin-using regions, suggesting that the practice extended across geographically quite distant areas, or whether not only the practice of defacement but also the very earliest coinage itself were very largely restricted to the extreme south-east.

The second major exception is of course the treatment of Durotrigan staters and quarter staters, particularly in the two Hampshire hoards discovered in the mid-1990s. Here what might be called the test cut question is more complicated, since the coins are renowned for their varying quantities of silver, and the existence of many plated examples. Might the scoring visible on these coins be nothing more than test cutting?

35 Again, based on the evidence of coins which were lost or deposited rather than recalled and melted down.

This seems unlikely, principally because of the care which has gone into the action of defacement, at least on the staters. If the sole purpose of this defacement is to test the metal of the coin, why not simply cut the edge – where the plating is likely to be thinnest – at the first, most convenient point to hand? Why go to the not inconsiderable trouble of picking the coin up, turning the obverse upwards, orienting the coin correctly to place one or more cuts across the spike and more or less parallel to the wreath – and then, in many cases, not make the cut deep enough to effectively test the metal? The primary purpose of these cuts surely cannot be for testing the alloy, but instead must be a means of somehow destroying or 'killing' the coin. There must be significance in the choice of the spike across the hair for this treatment: it is after all the head which is being ritually mutilated, however stylized or abstracted a representation it may be.

Green has recently drawn attention to the substitution of inanimate objects with some resemblance to the human form – notably amphorae, and perhaps some anthropomorphic swords – for human sacrificial victims in the late Iron Age and Gallo-Roman periods.[36] It must surely be possible that these coins, with the human face deliberately mutilated, represent another aspect of this ritual process. The importance of attacking the 'head' side of the coin is confirmed by the treatment of the quarter staters, since they too are almost exclusively defaced on the obverse, regardless of the fact that they do not actually bear a representation of a human head.

It is worth stressing here the differences between this treatment and the defacement of a recognisable human profile, where one can argue that the authority represented by the human face is the particular target of attack: one of the clearest examples of this must be the Port Haliguen, Morbihan hoard, probably deposited in the last decade of the first century BC.[37] It contained five Gaulish and c. 445 Roman coins, the latter mostly Augustan bronzes, nearly all of which bear cut marks across the effigy of the Emperor – but in a relatively unstructured and random pattern in comparison to the Durotrigan staters.

If these Durotrigan staters and quarter staters are being ritually 'killed' by these cuts, why is the same treatment not meted out to every coin in the two Hampshire hoards? There does not seem to be an obvious selection process at work, either in terms of particular dies, or some other aspect of their appearance, or a concentration on a particular weight or (presumably estimated) alloy content. Perhaps it was necessary to treat only a certain proportion of the coins in this fashion, just as in the votive hoards of an earlier period where only some of the contents are deliberately damaged.[38]

Still more uncertain is the reason why these particular hoards should have been singled out for this treatment. It may be significant that most of the Durotrigan

36 M. Green, *Dying for the gods* (Stroud 2001) 139-140.

37 J.-B. Giard, Le trésor de Port-Haliguen. Contribution à l'étude du monnayage d'Auguste. *Rev. Num.* ser. 6, 9, 1967, 119-139.

38 For example, for late Bronze Age hoards in southern Germany, see L. Nebelsick, Rent asunder: ritual violence in Late Bronze Age hoards. In: C.F.E. Pare (ed.), *Metals make the world go round.* (Oxford 2000) 160-175 esp. 163.

coins so defaced have been found either in the east of their territory, or actually beyond, in the Atrebatic region, or perhaps even in some kind of liminal zone between the two tribes; the suitability of the latter for deliberate deposition is well attested.[39]

The identification of the person or persons doing the defacing would seem to be crucial to any explanation of the process, since the likelihood that it is being done outside the usual area of circulation must influence the possible reasons behind the decision to deface the coinage. It might, for example, be a normal and rational treatment for 'foreign' coinage entering the neighbouring territory – at least in this small area of late Iron Age Britain, and perhaps at this particular time. The defaced Dobunnic coins from Mount Batten, far distant from their usual area of circulation, may provide another hint that it was the foreignness of the coins which contributed significantly to the decision to deface.

The existence of several apparently isolated Durotrigan coins, beyond the usual region of circulation, which have undergone the same treatment might further support this interpretation, although on the other hand there are of course far more coins which have not been defaced in the same way. Unfortunately, we can do nothing but speculate on some of the questions which might help to resolve this point, such as the identity of the defacers, and whether they considered themselves as Durotrigan, Atrebatic or something else entirely, and how they perceived the 'ownership' of the territory in which the coins were buried; and whether in any case the defacement took place where the coins were buried, or elsewhere.

The contextual evidence for these hoards, and for the various other locations where cut Durotrigan coinage has been found, is generally not of sufficient quality to identify any pattern to the local circumstances of burial, for example in a watery context.[40] There is no obvious association with temple sites either, although interestingly the site at Hayling Island arguably provides one of the other, more minor exceptions to the norm of no defacement. The presence of several deliberately halved or quartered coins, and a cut and folded continental silver *quinarius*, should be considered alongside the unusually high proportion of plated coins from the site[41] which distinguishes it from other late Iron Age temple sites in Britain.

While many aspects of the Hayling Island temple have clear links to sites with a similar function in northern Gaul,[42] there does not appear to be a strong tradition in Belgica or elsewhere in Gaul of the defacement of coinage at these sites,[43] although Wigg-Wolf has identified two significant episodes of 'chopmarks' on coins

39 R.J. Bradley, *The passage of arms* (Cambridge 1990) 179-180.
40 Bradley (note 39).
41 Briggs *et al.* (note 15) 3; A. King/G. Soffe, Internal organisation and deposition at the Iron Age temple on Hayling Island, Hampshire. In: J. Collis (ed.), *Society and settlement in Iron Age Europe* (Sheffield 2001) 111-124 esp. 115.
42 King/Soffe (note 41) 120.
43 In his contribution to this volume, L.-P. Delestrée comments on the extreme rarity of cut marks or other forms of defacement on the many thousands of Iron Age coins that he has examined from sanctuaries in Picardy. No examples are noted by the contributors to J.-L. Brunaux/K. Gruel (eds.), *Monnaies gauloises découvertes en fouilles*. Dossiers Protohist. 1 (Paris 1987).

deposited at certain temple sites in the territory of the *Treveri*.[44] Analysis of the range of defacement throughout Gaulish coinage is beyond the scope of this paper, but it would be a logical next step in attempting to place the evidence for ritual defacement of British Iron Age coinage in a clearer context.

44 See Wigg-Wolf this volume.

Appendix 1: Details of non-Durotrigan coins in the CCI with cuts on one or both faces

CCI	*Type*	*Details*	*Provenance*
Gold (staters unless otherwise noted)			
92.0318	Philippus imit.	wide gouge cut through from obv., 2 mm at edge and narrowing slightly to centre, less pronounced on rev.	Deal, Kent
95.3023	Philippus imit.	obv., wide gouge from edge below chin, 11 mm to centre; start of gouge penetrates through to rev.	Alkham, Kent
99.0526	Philippus imit.	obv., wide gouge from bottom of flan 8 mm to centre, penetrating through to rev. (half stater)	Orsett hoard, Essex (1999)
99.0527	Scheers 3	obv., 6 mm cut from ear to nose (quarter stater)	Orsett hoard, Essex (1999)
99.0528	Toutencourt type	obv., wide gouge from bottom of flan 11 mm up to hair; area of eye gouged out; main gouge penetrates to rev. (quarter stater)	Orsett hoard, Essex (1999)
99.0676	early Normandy type	obv., wide cut narrowing from 2 mm at edge to point above eye; rev., thin cut across flan from top left to bottom right (half stater)	East Anglia?
00.0485	Scheers 2	broken along wide obv. cut, 13 mm from edge to point in front of ear (half stater)	Orsett, Essex
66.0208	Gallo-Belgic AB1	obv., three light cuts (2 mm, 4 mm, 7 mm) from cheek to upper edge; cut right through flan at top of hair penetrates 4-5 mm into design	Carn Brea hoard, Cornwall (1749)
79.0040	Gallo-Belgic AB1	rev., thin cut top to bottom	no details
96.2378	Gallo-Belgic AB1	obv., thin 5 mm cut on hair; rev., thin 7 mm cut and two short (2 mm) parallel cuts above horse's rump and across back legs	Little Thurlow, Suffolk
98.1513	Gallo-Belgic AB1	rev., two thin cuts (10 mm and 7 mm), roughly central	hoard in Essex, uncertain location (1997)

CCI	*Type*	*Details*	*Provenance*
99.0346	Gallo-Belgic C	rev., thin 11 mm cut right of centre on bronze core	Worth, Kent, in area of Roman temple
94.1136	Gallo-Belgic E	obv., 8 mm cut near edge	Essex; no further details
91.0335	CRICIRV (Scheers 27)	triangular cut 1 mm wide at edge, penetrating 1 mm; plated	Hayling Island, Hants.; phase II/IV or VII
66.0294	British LB (VA1493)	obv., thin 8 mm cut across wreath; rev., four intermittent thin cuts across most or all of flan	no details
78.0061	British NA (VA620-7)	obv., 5 short (2-5 mm) cuts irregularly placed	Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk
93.0282	British NA (VA620-4)	obv., 4 or 5 thin cuts, rev. 3 thin cuts	Coddenham, Suffolk
64.0096	British RA (VA1005)	obv., very thin 8 mm cut (BM 2937)	Mount Batten hoard, Devon (c. 1830)
69.0530	British RA (VA1005)	rev., thin cut in two sections (total 13 mm) from edge to neck of horse (BM 2939)	Mount Batten hoard, Devon (c. 1830)
69.0532	British RA (VA1005)	rev., three thin cuts, two (11 mm and 5 mm) from opposite edges nearly meeting at centre (BM 2938)	no details (perhaps Mount Batten?)
96.1686	*Corieltauvi* L (VA829-4)	obv., thin 7 mm cut (in two sections), roughly central	Spalding, Lincs.
71.0016	IISVP RASV (VA920)	obv., two thin 8 mm cuts at centre; rev. thin cut edge to edge	Owmby, Lincs.
98.0643	*Iceni* ANTED (VA705)	obv., two thin cuts in cross across entire flan; plated	West Rudham, Norfolk
68.0339	Dubnovellaunos (VA1650)	obv., seven very thin cuts (scratches?) (BM2440)	Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex
68.0343	Dubnovellaunos (VA1650)	obv., thin 3.5 mm cut in from edge (BM 2437)	near Colchester, Essex
94.0009	Tincomaros (VA375)	rev., 11 mm cut down body and leg of horseman; plated?	Funtington, West Sussex

CCI	*Type*	*Details*	*Provenance*
Silver			
61.0006	*Dobunni* A (VA1020)	obv., two parallel thin cuts (6 mm and 2 mm) from edge to lips	Mount Batten, Devon (c. 1917), exc. Find
91.0331	*Dobunni* A (VA1020)	irregular cut 3.5 mm wide at edge, penetrating 2 mm; plated	Hayling Island, Hants., phase III/IV (late C1 AD or later)
91.0446	S British (VA -)	triangular cut 1.5 mm wide at edge, penetrating 2.5 mm	Hayling Island, Hants., phase II/IV (before mid C1 AD)
92.0992	Verica (VA510)	rev., thin 5 mm cut across boar	No details (perhaps Wanborough?)
95.3584	*Coriosolitae* (cl. VI)	rev., centre to bottom, thin 9 mm cut	'on the Sussex coast'; perhaps Selsey?
91.0579	ATEVLA VLATOS (Scheers 41)	obv., 6 mm cut across face; also folded; plated	Hayling Island, Hants., surface find
91.0578	ΚΑΛΕΤΕΔΟΥ (BMC II, 304)	rev., thin 11 mm cut across top part of flan; plated	Hayling Island, Hants., surface find

Appendix 2: Details of pierced coins in the CCI

The 'position' column records the placing of the hole on each side in terms of a clock face.

CCI	Type	Position	Diameter (mm)	Distance from edge (mm)	Comments	Provenance
gold staters						
68.0588	VA12	3/8	2	0.75	–	
64.0085	VA46	6/1	2.5	1.5	modern piercing?	bought in Oxfordshire pub; modern piercing? (see text)
62.0050	VA50ff	–/11	3-3.5	2	–	
96.2371	VA56	–/5	1.75	1.5	–	
68.0056	VA214	8/3	1-2	2.5	–	
64.0042	VA500	1/10	2.5	1	placed to avoid reverse design	
61.0168	VA500	9/6	1.75	2.5	placed at head of obv. legend?	
94.0155	VA610	4/3	1.75	1.5	–	
94.0186	VA620	–/2	1-2	1.5	irregular hole	Fincham, Norfolk hoard
67.0026	VA800	2/12	2	2.5	–	
69.0123	VA804	12/7	3-3.5	2.5	–	
90.0806	VA809	11/2	1.5	1	placed outside obv. design?	
97.1833	VA811	–	c. 2	–	four+ pairs of holes (see text)	poss. found at Ancaster, Lincs., on Roman site?
61.0406	VA1476	–/12	1.5	1	–	Whaddon Chase hoard, Bucks.
68.0357	VA2010	3/6	2	0.5	–	
71.0033	VA2010	10/12	3.5	4	nearly central	

CCI	Type	Position	Diameter (mm)	Distance from edge (mm)	Comments	Provenance
81.0070	VA2010	–/11	2.25	1.5	obv. heavily scratched	poss. Chippenham, Cambs. hoard
75.0025	VA2025	12/12	2-2.5	1.5	–	
gold quarter staters						
93.0539	VA228	2/2	1.25	1.25	placed to avoid designs	
95.0521	scyph.	central	1.75	6.5	placed centrally	
silver units						
72.0554	BMC II 5283	2/12	1	2.5	–	excavated at Sheepen, Colchester, 1937
61.0181	VA580	6/2	1	0.5	another hole in edge of flan opposite	
68.1217	VA752	–/12	2	2	–	
61.1555	VA780	9/7	0.75	1	unusually small hole	Joist Fen hoard, Suffolk
63.0093	VA860	6/11	c. 2	c. 1.5	partially drilled hole on obv.	
63.0095	VA875	3/12	1.5	1	drilled from rev., avoiding design	
68.0445	VA2057	10/10	2	1	placed to avoid obverse design	bought at Cambridge modern piercing?[45]
68.0455	VA2065	9/2	2	c. 0.75	piercing has broken coin	
99.0587	S. Brit.	12/10	2	1	placed to avoid obverse design	
91.0458	unc.	central?	c. 2.5	3.5+	central? square hole?	Hayling Island temple, phase IV (late C1 AD or after)

45 P. de Jersey, Cunobelin's silver. *Britannia* 32, 2001, 1-44 esp. 25 n.73.

CCI	Type	Postition	Diameter (mm)	Distance from edge (mm)	Comments	Provenance
96.0971	unc.	–	1.5	2.25/–	two holes, one roughly central, one touching edge	Wanborough temple, Surrey
69.0563	unc.	10/3	2-2.5	2.5	–	
struck bronze units						
91.0540	Scheers 80f.	9/3	1.5	1.5	–	Silchester basilica, period 5, c. AD 80 at earliest
69.0448	VA187	9/3	1-1.5	2	–	
94.0270	VA1981	central	1.5-4	5+	roughly central, rectangular hole	found near Worth temple complex, Kent
98.1337	VA2091	6/9	c. 2	c. 3	–	said to have been found on 'a Roman site near Oxford'
00.0410	VA2093	3/6	2.5	2	very worn	
cast bronze units						
91.0580	unc.	–/12	2.5	1	very worn	surface find at Hayling Island temple
68.1032	VA114	3/12	0.5-1	1.5	apparently not a casting flaw?	Quex Park hoard, Birchington, Kent (BMC 700)
68.1040	VA115	2/2	1	2.5	apparently not a casting flaw	Quex Park hoard, Birchington, Kent (BMC 684)
61.0541	VA129	9/12	1	2.5	placed to avoid designs?	Snettisham hoard C
silver tetradrachm						
96.1687	BMC I 144	6/12	1.5	1.5	modern?	Latchingdon, Essex; traces of smelting