Lead and lead alloy small finds

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A total of 82 lead or lead alloy small finds were recorded. No attempt was made to distinguish lead from lead alloy items. 52 (62%) of the items were indeterminate fragments, most of these relatively small in size. Identifiable objects found included one lead spoon, six weights, five flat discs or counters and seven folded sheets. The majority of lead finds are probably Roman, as there was no medieval or later settlement at the site.

Lead finds were distributed across the site, with a third (27) of the items in MF Trench 40, (the area at the end of the Roman drain), ten items in MF Trench 18 (service buildings at the entrance to the temple *temenos*), eight items in MF Trench 2 (the large rectangular late Roman building), and seven items in MF Trench 24 (in the vicinity of a possible small shrine), with small numbers in the other trenches (Figure 1). These trenches included objects as well as fragments and 'waste'. The significant number of objects in MF Trench 40 are likely to be votive offerings.

The assemblage included a few folded sheet fragments but none of these were good candidates for Roman 'curse tablets'. These included SF1150, a sheet fragment folded over on itself to form a 'rolled rim' from MF Trench 18. Three small wrapped lead sheets where the two sides of lead sheet (approx. 1mm thick) are folded inwards (MF Trenches 26 and 32, MFP Trench 1) are too small to be curse tablets. Two of these have writing on the underside, so are likely to be post-medieval or modern. Three other fragments of folded sheets were found.

24 objects of more recognisable shapes were found (Figure 2), including seven in MF Trench 40, four in MF Trench 2, three in MF trench 24, and single items in the other trenches across the site. An oval shaped spoon, with a broken shaft was found in MF Trench 40. One side of the bowl was folded back on itself. Two small holes were punched through, along the centre of the bowl of the spoon.

Two round steelyard weights with suspension loop at the top were found in MF Trench 2 and a further ball weight in MF Trench 20. Three square weights were found, all of similar size, 1.5cm x 1.5cm and 0.7cm thick, two in MF Trench 24, and one in MF Trench 39.

Fragments of five flat discs or counters were found, as well as two rivets, one ring, a repair plug, a musket ball, a fragment of decorative strip and a fragment of a figurine (Figure 2). Five other items which appear to be fragments of objects were found.

Other fragments, irregular in shape, flat fragments, small fragments of sheets, or oblongs were found but could not be identified further (Figure 1, Figure 3).

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Appendix - Analysis of data

Figure 1: Total number of small finds

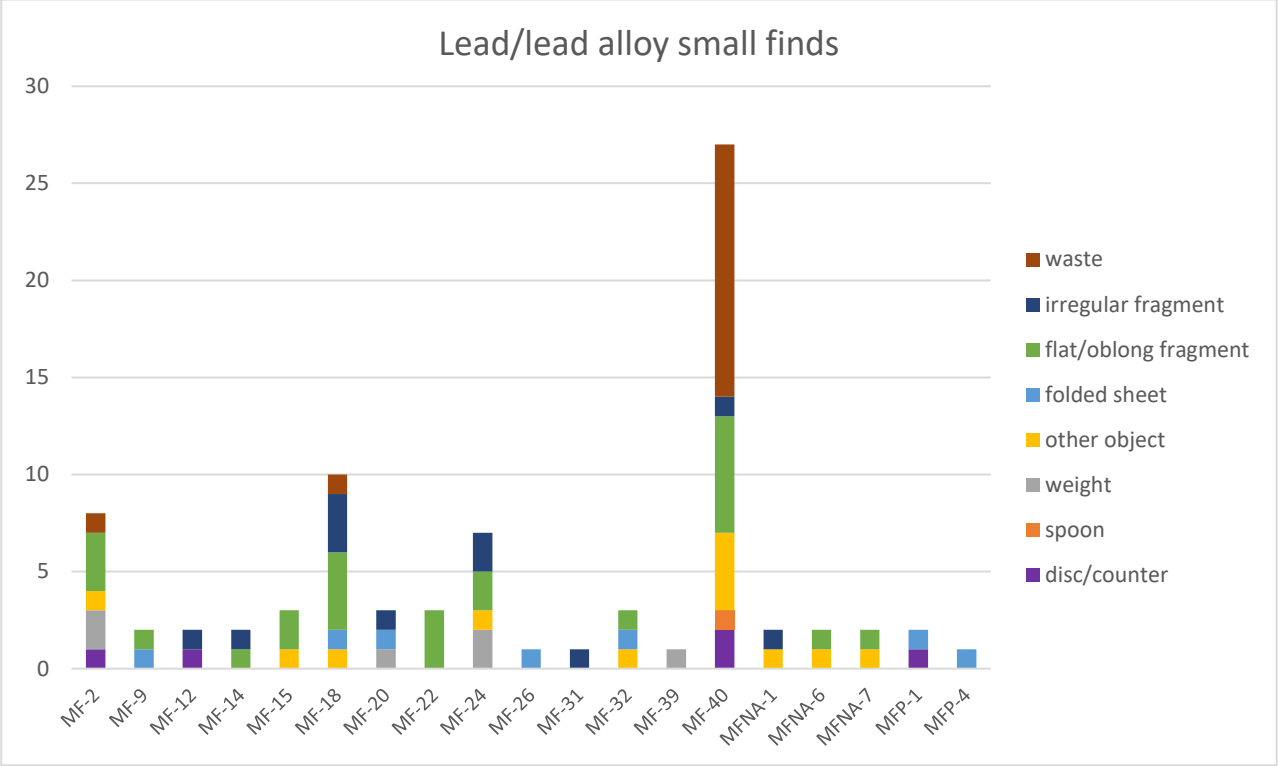


Figure 2: Lead/lead alloy objects

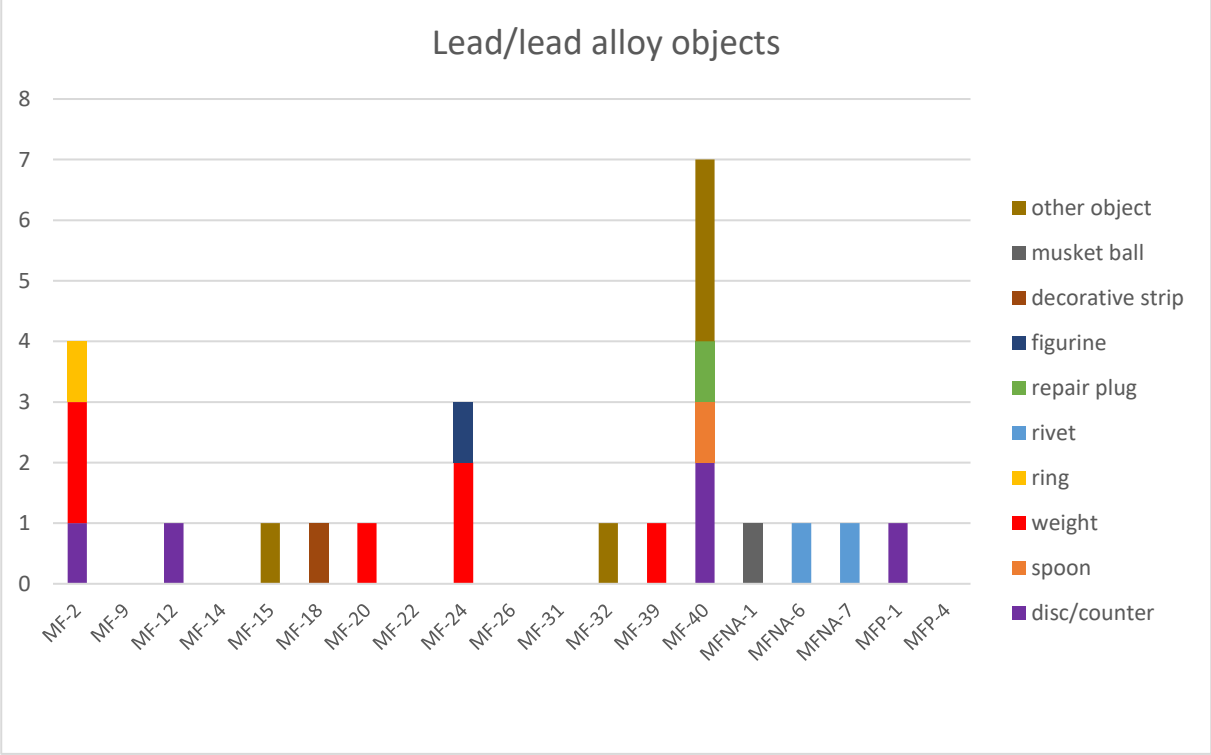


Figure 3: Lead/lead alloy small finds

Trench	Disc/ counter	Spoon	Weight	Ring	Rivet	Repair plug	Figurine	Decorative strip	Musket ball	Other object	Folded sheet	Flat fragment	Oblong fragment	Sheet fragment	Thick sheet	Irregular fragment	Waste	Grand Total
MF-2	1		2	1								2	1				1	**8**
MF-9											1				1			**2**
MF-12	1															1		**2**
MF-14												1				1		**2**
MF-15										1		1			1			**3**
MF-18								1			1		1	3		3	1	**10**
MF-20			1								1					1		**3**
MF-22													1	2				**3**
MF-24			2				1							1	1	2		**7**
MF-26											1							**1**
MF-31																1		**1**
MF-32										1	1			1				**3**
MF-39			1															**1**
MF-40	2	1				1				3		3	1	2		1	13	**27**
MFNA-1									1							1		**2**
MFNA-6					1									1				**2**
MFNA-7					1								1					**2**
MFP-1	1										1							**2**
MFP-4											1							**1**
Grand Total	**5**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**5**	**7**	**7**	**5**	**10**	**3**	**11**	**15**	**82**