Copper Alloy Finds

Sheila Raven

Introduction

This report is only a summary one, largely just discussing the incidence and significance of different types of copper alloy items across the three zones of the site. Due to a lack of funding, it has not been possible to study and individually catalogue all of the nearly 1,000 items in the assemblage. All of them are listed briefly in the accompanying spreadsheets (MF, MFNA, MFP), which includes all types of small finds, as published on this website. Also included on this website are very basic archive photos of the larger and more recognisable fragments, as done by the Trendles Project Lottery community volunteers. These photos are of very variable quality and not meant for publication or any detailed study purposes. The archive photos are intended only as a useful supplement to this summary report, particularly as it was not possible to do the usual detailed quantification an assemblage like this would normally have. The copper-alloy brooches (as a subgroup) have, however, been subject to very detailed analysis and discussion, and the full report and catalogue of these can be found on this website. The brooches are also included in the statistical breakdown of various categories of copper-alloy finds across the site in this general report on the whole assemblage.

The site produced approximately 950 copper-alloy finds in total, excluding all copper alloy coins and the copper alloy slag fragments. It is not surprising that the bulk of these items (867) came from the larger MF zone of the site with its 39 trenches, many of which were largely areas of Roman activity, Figure 1. The MFNA zone produced only 34 copper-alloy items and the MFP zone produced 48. Though it is impossible to prove exactly how many of these copper-alloy items and fragments were deliberate depositions for votive purposes, it is very likely that many of them were offerings to the gods in some form, including the more domestic and apparently practical and mundane objects like sheet, rod/wire, and fitting fragments etc. Copper-alloy votive offerings are discussed in the Votive Finds Report on this website, while objects of other materials like bone and glass etc were also commonly used as offerings. Jewellery items, grooming implements, and very decorative objects may well have been selected as special offerings to the gods. However, poorer people might only be able to offer scraps of metal sheet or fittings, very cheaply made pieces like trinket rings, or the smallest of minim coins.

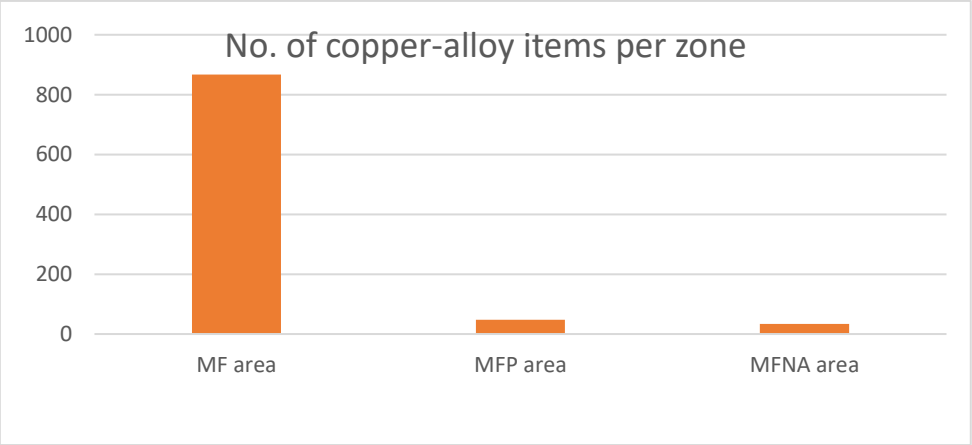


Figure 1. Distribution of copper-alloy items across all three site zones

In all three zones, the bulk of the copper-alloy objects falls into the category of the more mundane with various fittings and fragments of sheet, strip, wire or rod. Some of these fragments of course might well be part of more decorative and significant objects. Just as the larger MF zone produced the majority of all copper-alloy items, the MF zone trenches produced the largest proportion of personal or decorative items like jewellery (222 definite pieces plus *c.* 77 probable jewellery fittings/fragments of some sort) and toilet/grooming implements (52 definite items and 17 probable toilet item fragments) as opposed to the MFNA trenches (seven definite jewellery items and two toilet/grooming items) and the MFP trenches (eight definite jewellery items and three toilet/grooming items). In order to focus more closely on which parts of the site and which trenches show higher incidences of certain types of copper-alloy objects or interesting clusters, the more detailed discussion will be under each of the three separate zones of the site.

MF Zone

There are a large number of trenches in the MF zone, encompassing part of the temenos precinct for the main Roman-Celtic temple and the buildings and features around the temenos entrance; the Roman arena and the long stone drain extending from it to the river; the large rectangular 'shrine' and small square shrine in the centre of the site; other small shrines and structures in the centre of the site; and the stone drain end and surrounding layers near the river. So, it is not surprising that this zone produced a much larger copper-alloy assemblage than the two other zones, namely 867 copper-alloy small finds. Looking at all types of copper-alloy finds there are clear *foci* in the MF zone, as seen in Figure 2. The largest quantities were found in the small trenches 24 and 8B, followed by the two trenches 15 and 18 in the area of the temenos entrance and finally by the large structure in trench 2. The main reason for these clear concentrations of material is probably down to areas of votive and religious activity and this is dealt with in the Votive Finds Report on this website. The finding of certain categories of copper-alloy finds in some trenches like Trench 15 and Trench 18 may alternatively be down to commercial activity, as this area by the temenos entrance is traditionally where many stalls selling trinkets and goods to visitors were often situated.

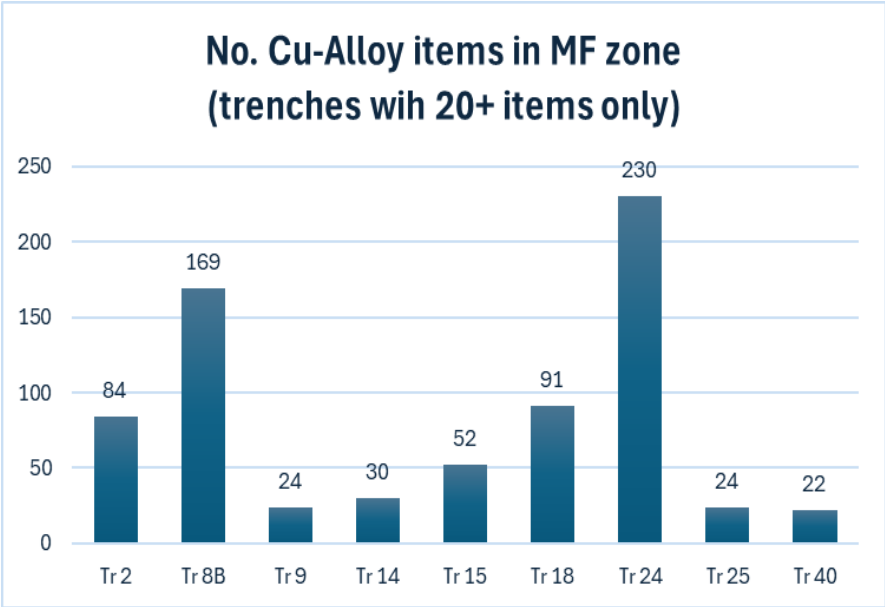


Figure 2. Key concentrations of copper-alloy finds in the MF zone trenches

Looking at the quantities of different general 'type groups' of cu-alloy items across the whole MF zone, we can see how it breaks down in Figure 3. For the purposes of statistical analysis, the copper-alloy assemblage is broken down into 7 general 'type-groups'. These are (in quantity order): general fragmentary fittings, plus sheet, wire, and rod fragments etc (*c.* 338); all jewellery types including very incomplete but probable jewellery fittings like small links, loops and possible brooch pins (*c.* 301); fragments of either pin or needle points without the identifying head (97); toilet or grooming implements such as tweezers, nail cleaners, ligula/ear scoops, spatula-probes, and probable fragments of grooming/toilet implements (73); dress accessories such as buckles, buttons, strap ends and lace tags (26); definite needles (21); and finally, custom made 'divine' items, such as sheet 'alphabet letters' and votive miniature items (*c.* 11).

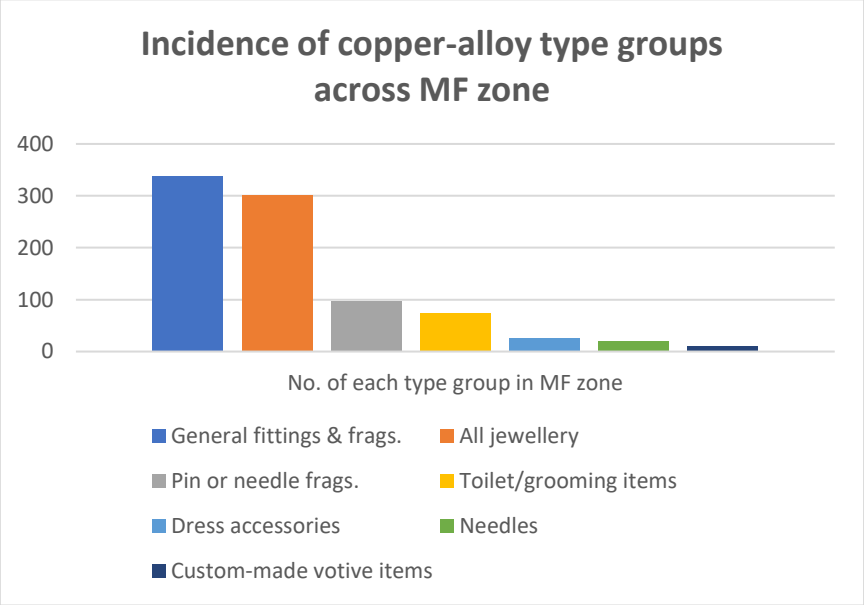


Figure 3. Quantities of different copper-alloy type groups in the MF zone

The broad 'general fittings and fragments' group is made up of many fragments which may have come from all sorts of objects like jewellery or tools or vessels etc, but not enough remains to be defined. This groups also includes many sheet and rod and wire fragments that may either be from a metalworker's 'stock' or again be fragments from finished objects. However, included in this very general category are some specific functional objects like styli for writing on wax tablets. The MF copper-alloy assemblage includes *c*. 7 probable styli (SF 3750, SF 4117, SF4152, SF 4512, SF 4526, SF 4626, SF6286), but of course there may be many more where only the pin end survives so they cannot be identified. There are also *c.* 7 possible iron styli in the iron assemblage. Four of the six copper-alloy styli were found in Trench 24. These are all plain with simple pointed scribing ends and splayed eraser ends and two examples are very small. Though they may just be items used on the site which were lost or discarded, they could be votive offerings. Some examples like SF 4526 are so delicate, that they do not seem robust enough to use on wax tablets and a possible classification as miniature votives might also be considered. Also, a single seal box fragment found on the site (SF 3758 from context 18191), is worth a mention, and gives us more evidence of literacy on the site. The use of these Roman anti-tampering items for parcels and packages is generally associated with military or administrative officials, so its loss or deliberate deposition can be

linked to higher status groups. The Marcham example is diamond shaped with three piercings for attaching to a package and consists of the bottom half only. Finally, it is worth mentioning three pieces associated with the military. There are two small sections of Roman scale armour, SF 4046 from context 24035 and SF 4039 from context 24038. They are both examples of '*lorica squamata'* scale armour. SF 4046 is the largest of these fragments, being made up of five joining flat rectangular scales with double perforations on each of the four sides of the scales and with some remaining wires lacing the pieces together. Each scale measures *c*. 25mm x 7mm. The second fragment (SF 4039) consists of three separate pieces of scale, also flat and rectangular and also measuring *c*. 25mm x 7mm. The perforations however differ on this find, with two perforations on each long side, but only one at the two short sides. So clearly, they are each from a different set of armour, however similar. Both have scales narrower than many examples of *'lorica squamata',* but this style of armour shows a great variety of both scale shapes and perforation positions. The third 'military' find is a harness fitting SF 4698 from context 8564. This has a lozenge shaped flat section, perforated for attachment to a leather belt or harness strap, suspended from which is a large sub rectangular flat plate (also perforated for attachment to leather) and this ends in a large outward turning hook. The hook presumably had a pendant of some sort hanging from it. This was either from a soldier's body harness or from a military horse harness. It seems probable that these three pieces were votive offerings by soldiers or ex-soldiers, possibly to the warrior god Mars, though this is by no means certain.

After the more amorphous general fittings and fragments category, the next largest category of copper-alloy finds in the MF zone is jewellery, often a very common offering at many Romano-British temple sites and not just at Marcham. Sometimes it is the exact type of jewellery i.e. brooches or bracelets etc, that has specific association with a deity or type of cult or with a chronological phase (see the Votive Finds Report on this website). The proportions of different categories of jewellery in the MF zone can be seen in Figure 4. Marcham has a higher percentage of copper-alloy brooches than other type of jewellery (*c*. 97), which is made up of 61 partial or near complete brooches and *c.* 36 fragments of brooch pin or sprung brooch coils. This choice of items for votive deposition can often be due to chronological reasons as much as religious reasons, as brooches were mostly in fashion in the1st and 2nd centuries and were less popular in the later Roman period. The assemblage includes a lot of 1st century AD or earlier brooches, mostly of the Nauheim-derivative type, which attests to a focus of early Roman religious activity in different areas of the site, but with an evident concentration in the area in the centre of the site and south of the arena (see Figure1 in the Brooch Report on this website). Indeed, the largest concentration of brooches and probable brooch fragments is in the area of Trench 24 (39) and Trench 8B (45) and to a lesser extent the two trenches by the temenos entrance, trenches 15 and 18 (9 jointly). See the full brooch report for details of the range of brooch types and their significance (on this website).

The next largest group of jewellery types in the MF Zone is finger rings (74), most of which were either very plain or with simple engraved designs or of the cheaper flimsy 'trinket' type with bezels containing paste or enamel. The latter are a well-known type of ring on Roman temple sites, and many may have been made at the temple specifically to sell to worshippers as votive offerings at a temenos shop or stall as at Uley (Woodward and Leach 1993: 174). At the Uley temple site and other British temple sites, the 'trinket rings' are mostly from 3rd and

4th century contexts. The main areas of concentration of the finger rings at Marcham is broadly similar to that of the Roman brooches. Again, trenches 8b (22) and 24 (17) have large concentrations, but in contrast with the brooch distribution the joint temenos entrance trenches of 15 and 18 also show large numbers (22 jointly). In this area just outside a temenos precinct where it was common to have stalls selling small items for votive offerings to worshippers, perhaps these fairly modest rings were being sold. The range of finger ring types at Marcham includes plain and simple engraved strip types, various bezel types with glass or enamel (and some stone settings), wire rings of various types, and flimsier 'trinket rings' with constricted shoulders and paste/glass settings. Most of these rings probably date to the 2nd and 3rd centuries but the 'trinket rings' are generally mostly 3rd to 4th century in date. A rarer faceted octagonal ring (SF 5120 from context 36004) and a ring with expanding hoop bearing a glass intaglio with a satyr in the bezel (SF 3334 from context 18191 (see the Intaglio report by M. Henig, this website) are also probably 2nd to 3rd century. Three other loose gemstone intaglios were also found on the site in Trench 9 and 18 and 24. These must also have originally been in finger rings and rings of a higher quality and status than most found at Marcham.

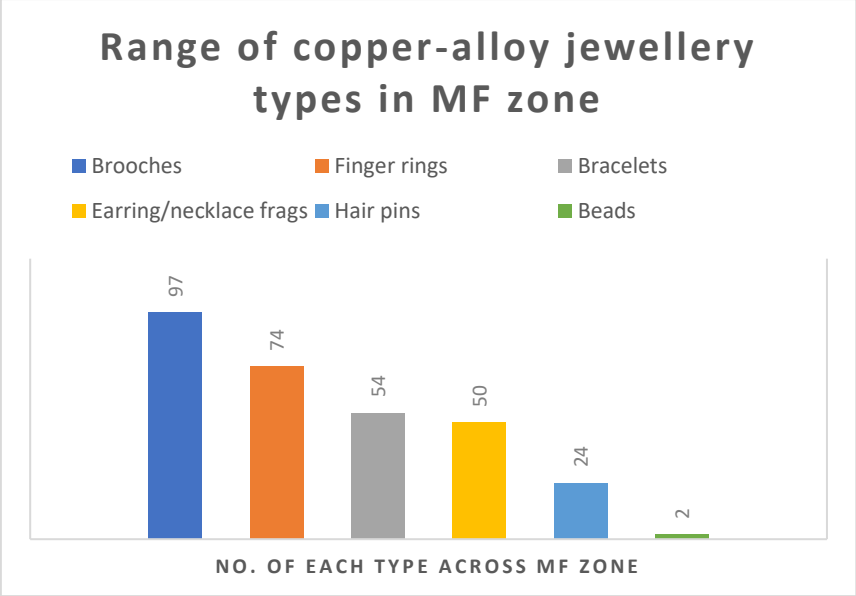


Figure. 4. Quantities of different jewellery types in the MF zone

The distribution of Roman bracelets also shows a contrast with that of the brooches on site. There are *c*. 54 bracelet fragments from the MF zone, including several fragments which are probable bracelet fragments but too fragmentary to be completely certain. The biggest groups are from the joint temenos entrance trenches 15 and 18 (*c.* 13), and the large rectangular shrine structure in Trench 2 (*c*. 10). Trench 24 only produced five possible bracelet fragments by contrast. Interestingly Trench 15 also produced a large number of shale bracelet fragments (*c.* 10). The next much smaller clusters are found in Trench 8b (*c*. 7), and Trench 40 (*c.* 4). The remainder are scattered in ones or twos across a number of MF trenches. The majority of the bracelets found in the MF zone at Marcham range from plain and cogwheel/notched types to strip bracelets with a selection of stamped and incised decoration (including the more elaborate 'multi-motif' types) to simple wire adjustable types. All of these are common

products of the mid to late Roman period, most with a date range from *c*. 250-400 A.D. Besides this there a few fragments of simple 'snake' bracelets (less precisely dateable but can be found from 50-400 A.D.) and cable bracelets (again found throughout the Roman period).

Though the metal hair pin group is quite small at 24 pieces, once again we see a familiar concentration in the two central trenches of 24 (10) and 8b (4) and the temenos entrance trench of 18 (3). Though defining these decorative long pins as 'hair pins' does not preclude their use as dress pins, Nina Crummy (Crummy 1979) made a very strong case (based on burial evidence of finding such metal and bone long pins by the skulls of female inhumations) for their main function being pins for hair. Many of the metal hair pins are fairly simple, some with decorative 'baluster' styles with narrow grooves and collars. One more elaborate example (SF 3538 from context 25003) has a flared cuboid head and an inset glass bead similar to Roman examples at Uley (Woodward and Leach 1993:16, Fig. 131 nos 5 and 8 found in later contexts). When we look at the distribution of joint earring and/or necklace fragments, the pattern is more dispersed. Where they occur, it is usually just in ones and twos, except for Trench 8B, where there may be up to 16 finds. The category of earring/necklace fragments is a difficult one to be specific about, either in terms of exact numbers or whether the pieces are specifically from earrings or from necklaces, as the evidence is often in the form of only one or two small links which could come from either type or from something else entirely. The figures used for this group (*c*. 49 items) includes definite earring or necklace fittings and fittings that are most probably from this type of jewellery. There may well be other small fitting fragments that did originate from earrings or necklaces, but which are too uncertain to include in this jewellery group. Lastly there are two small metal beads in the assemblage.

After the 'general fittings and fragments' group and the 'all jewellery' group, the next largest group in the copper-alloy assemblage is the less defined 'pin/needles' group (97). Without either the decorative pin head or the perforated needle head, we cannot be sure which category these fragments belong to. As the finds assemblage at Marcham does contain a large number of antler or bone hairpins (see Paula Levick's Worked Bone Report on this website) and hairpins of any material type are a common offering at a number of major Roman temple sites (Woodward 1992: 66 – 80) perhaps more of these fragments come from hairpins than needles. As we shall see in the discussion about the whole range of votive material on the site (see the Votive Finds Report, this website) the deposition of pins is seen to be connected to healing cults at sites like Lydney, Gloucestershire (Wheeler, 1932). Though there is not much discussion about the significance of needle finds in reports on major British temple sites, perhaps their use in the Roman medical kit links them to healing, and therefore may explain the use of them as offerings to healing cults? The Marcham assemblage produced 21 metal needles (plus more bone needles), a relatively large number for any domestic site. The large temple site of Uley with its well evidenced link to Mercury worship and a subsidiary cult of Mars, only produced two or three bone needles and no definite metal needles. So, perhaps the deposition of both hairpins and needles is linked to healing cults and possibly specifically female healing cults.

Roman temple sites often produce quantities of toilet/grooming items and Marcham is no exception with its assemblage of potentially 73 examples, a significant number when compared to large shrine complexes like Uley which produced only six (Woodward and Leach 1993: 177). This contrast in quantities of specific items like this from one temple site

to another may well be down to the specific cults or deities worshipped at the site (see the report on Votive Objects on this website). The largest category in the Marcham grooming/toilet implements assemblage is that of ligula or ear scoops at *c*. 20. This group includes small spoons which are alternatively angled or flat plus fragments of small spoons lacking their long handle. The next most prolific type are the nail cleaners at 16. Most are very plain and simply made of strip metal, though some are of a heavier and more decorative cast type (SF 2463 from 18130; SF 2468 from 18013 with an unusual cast herringbone design; and SF 4247 from 29005). The latter examples may be late Roman. Following this are 16 tweezers fragments, again most rather plain and simple. Spatula probes are the smallest group at only *c.* 10 examples and for some of these we only have either the probe end or the long spoon or spatula end. This group however includes some very decorative examples of these with fine barley twist handles (SF 1109 from 6000, and SF 3342 from 18191). Finally, there is the group of fragmentary small handle fragments, often perforated, which in all probability are grooming/toilet implements of some type (11). Looking at the distribution of the whole group of grooming/toilet items across the site, once again the focus is on Trench 24 (*c*. 31 items), followed by Trench 8B (*c*. 16 items) and then Trench 18 (*c.* 10) with only two or three pieces deriving from trenches 2, 9,14, 15 and 40 and finally single examples from a few other trenches. At the Roman temple site of Woodeaton in Oxfordshire (Goodchild and Kirk 1955; Kirk 1949), indications of a secondary religious cult focused on Venus and her son Cupid, have been connected to the deposition there of large quantities of grooming/toilet implements and also miniature bracelets. Such objects have been seen to suggest a cult connected to female healing and feminine fecundity on this site. The same may be true of the deposition of such objects at Marcham (see the Votive Finds Report on this website).

The 'dress accessories' assemblage is quite small at *c*. 26 items many of which come from topsoil and subsoil contexts, so may well not be Roman. The group consists of buttons, buckles, lace tags and strap ends. Simple fittings like lace tags are not very diagnostic in terms of date, so while most of *c.* 12 examples in the assemblage probably are Roman, some may be post-medieval intrusions. There is only one definite decorative strap end in the assemblage, SF 3461 from Trench 25 a Roman amphora type, usually dated to the later Roman period. The four potential buckle fragments may all be post-medieval. The five buttons are a mix of flat and domed, all with looped shanks at the back. Though domed buttons with looped shanks have not been officially designated as Roman in most Roman excavation reports, the evidence from statues suggests they did exist in this period, so some of the Marcham buttons may be Roman. Unfortunately, simple buttons with a looped shank at the back are a standard type also found in the medieval and post-medieval periods, so it is probable that some of these are much later than Roman. Finally, there is another group of fittings which have not been included in this definite 'dress accessories' category but which might be a form of dress accessory in some cases. These are the copper-alloy short shank studs (*c*. 19) that would probably have been attached to a leather item of some sort. Some are domed, some are more decorative (e.g. one is flower-shaped) and some are flatter and plainer. A number of these might have been belt fittings or embellishments, sometimes part of military dress but not always. Equally they could be part of horse harness fittings or even be attached to small wooden boxes.

The last and smallest category in our general 'type groups' is that of 'custom-made divine items'. The Marcham copper-alloy assemblage shows a distinct lack in this category, unlike many other excavated Romano-British temple sites. There are only 11 copper-alloy items which we can confidently, or in some cases only tentatively, be put in this category. For Roman temple sites this category can include in terms of metalwork specifically: lead curse tablets; small copper-alloy figurines of gods or of their associated animal; sheet votive plaques depicting gods or bearing votive inscriptions; copper-alloy or iron miniature tools or weapons; sheet alphabet shapes; sheet body parts connected to health cults; sheet leaf and feather votive plaques; non-functional custom made flat metal rings symbolising 'ring money'; and finally some items of jewellery like finger rings with intaglios bearing the figure of gods or items like 'key' rings with projections which represent '*caducei'a* symbolic serpent headed staff associated with Mercury. The temple site at Marcham, has produced no small bronze figurines, no obvious sheet votive plaques, no body parts or votive shapes like leaves or feathers, and no lead curse tablets. The possible reasons for this paucity of custom-made divine objects, including religious items made out of iron, stone, and other materials, is dealt with in the Votive Finds Report on this Website. There are three possible copper-alloy votive miniature weapons or tools from the site, namely a miniature spearhead (SF 3108 from context 18000); a possible miniature axe (SF 2286 from 14178, now lost); and a miniature knife or blade (SF 4449 from context 29002). Such votive tools or weapons generally date to the earlier Roman period and were a carry-over from the Iron Age custom of depositing real weapons and tools, often to martial gods. Very fine examples of a late Iron Age miniature sword and shield were found at Marcham in the early twentieth century excavations close to the main Roman-Celtic temple within the temenos (Bradford and Goodchild 1939; Bagnall Smith 1995: 198-200).

Copper-alloy alphabet shapes when found on religious sites have been seen as votives either spelling out the whole name of a favoured god or just their initials. There are four possible examples of these rather flimsy copper-alloy sheet objects, all fragmentary, so it is impossible to be absolutely certain that they are alphabet letters and which letters they are. These are SF 2046 (context 2220), SF 2185 (context 8512), SF 2570 (context 18025), and SF 4213 (context 2600). Other possible votive 'miniatures' are a miniature pelta or crescent moon shape (SF 435 from context 1000) and three probable miniature bracelets. These are SF 18 from context 2000, with a diameter of *c.* 30mm; SF 4335 from context 24002 with a diameter of *c.* 25mm and decorated with engraved vertical lines; and possibly SF 5016 from 24002. The latter with a diameter of only 10mm, could be a child's ring or a miniature bracelet. Furthermore, a finger ring (SF 2586 from context 18000) with a crude oval bezel and a central raised oval panel seems to depict an eye. This could be a protective eye amulet, which might be seen as a votive item, or at least one evoking protection from the gods. It should also be mentioned that the three stone or moulded glass loose intaglios depicting Ceres, Achilles, and Bonus Eventus were probably originally housed in copper-alloy (or possibly even gold) finger rings and were also 'divine' items even though they were not specifically made to be deposited at a temple. The same applies to another intaglio with a satyr, in this case still housed in a copper-alloy ring (SF 3334 in context 18191) and to the moulded glass intaglio with a standing figure set in a copper-alloy trinket ring (SF 4744 in context 8564). These are all discussed in Martin Henig's report on the Marcham Intaglios on this website.

MFNA Zone

Within the total of 37 copper-alloy small finds found in this zone there are only a small number of recognisable or almost complete objects. The four brooches from the area are all early Roman, *c.* 1st century AD in date (see the Brooch Report on this website for full descriptions). There is also one brooch pin. The only other jewellery finds are a simple wire finger ring (SF 552, context 7015) which is probably Roman; a strip bracelet fragment with diagonal notches (SF 394, context 7027) which is late Roman; and a chatelaine pendant with simple enamelled decoration (SF 2, context 2000) which may be 2nd century AD or a little later in date. Besides the jewellery there are a few other types of 'personal' items. These include a small D-shaped buckle with lobed decoration which may be medieval or later (SF 3, context 2000); two recognisable Roman grooming/toilet implements from the area (SF 392, probably a tweezer fragment; and SF 443, a complete *ligula* or 'toilet' spoon); three small globular headed pins from the MFNA zone (which may all be post-medieval dress-making pins rather than decorative hair or dress pins); and a simple lozenge-shaped strap end (SF 15, context 1000 or topsoil).

Besides this, the remaining copper-alloy items consist of various sheet, strip, rod, partial pins, and fitting fragments. Most of these are probably Roman but they are not dateable pieces. This is not a very distinguished collection of metal objects and fragments, especially compared to the assemblage from the MF zone trenches. The largest numbers come from Trench MFNA 1 (on the south edge of the temenos enclosure; and trenches MFNA 6 and 7 (in the vicinty of the temple walls). Although four of the six MFNA trenches fall within the area of the main temple and its temenos enclosure where you might expect many more votive offerings – they do not encompass a large area of the temple and its surrounds. Indeed, much of the temenos precinct area was explored in various MF trenches. However, a larger assemblage of potential votive copper-alloy finds might be expected in the crucial areas around the main temple. As seen with other types of artefacts, it is often areas well away from the main temple precinct that have produced the largest quantity of potential 'votive' material. Perhaps the main temple and its temenos precinct were subject to much more religious 'housekeeping' than other parts of the site, in terms of cleaning up and moving accumulations of varied votive offerings from the public?

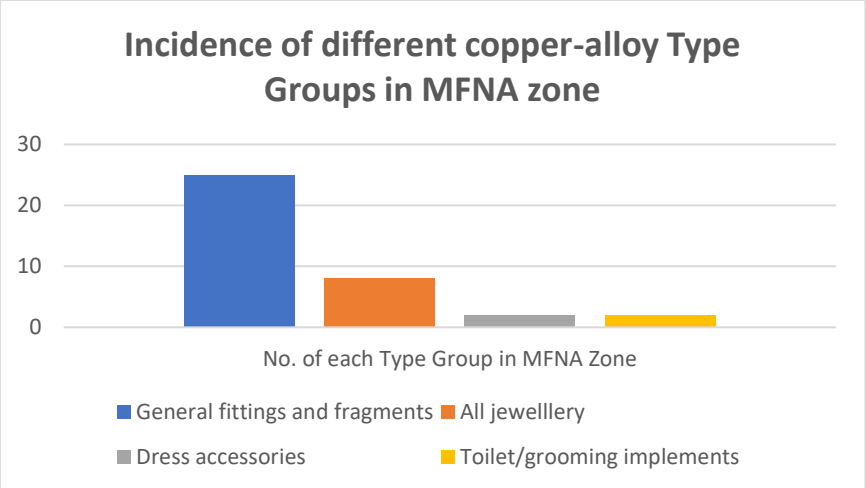


Figure 5. Quantities of different copper-alloy type groups in MFNA zone

MFP Zone

The total of forty-eight copper-alloy items is largely made up of undiagnostic fragments of sheet, strip, wire, rod and small fragments of fittings. Which does not mean that some or many of these scraps and fragments were not deposited as votive offerings. The MFP zone trenches are all well away from the recognised Roman temple and smaller Roman shrines to the west, and the features in them are largely prehistoric enclosures, ditches and pits. Which probably explains the small numbers of diagnostically Roman metalwork finds here. There is however a spread of Roman material in some of the layers above these Iron Age features. It seems very probable that there was also a ritual aspect to many of the prehistoric cut features in this area, even though they are not in the form of a recognisable shrine. Therefore, a proportion of the small amount of copper alloy fragments found in this zone could well represent ritual offerings made in the prehistoric era in the same way finds from the Roman period and Roman features can be evidence of ritual activity.

The largest percentages of copper-alloy finds came from MFP Trench 2 (19 finds or *c*. 40%) and MFP Trench 4 (15 finds or *c.* 31%). Only five copper-alloy finds came from MFP Trench 1; seven from MFP Trench 3; none from MFP Trench 5; and two from MFP Trench 6. MFP Trench 4 contained hundreds of pits producing a rich Iron Age pottery assemblage, some of which contained surviving prehistoric inhumations, and may well be a prehistoric cemetery with ritual activity. Therefore, it is perhaps not surprising that a larger quantity of MFP copper-alloy finds came from this area. As most of the main features in the MFP zone are prehistoric rather than Roman, it is worth looking at the date of the contexts in which such finds were discovered. Looking at the provisional pottery dates for these contexts, at least 16 of the 25 contexts containing any copper-alloy finds are most probably of Iron Age date. The remaining contexts are either Roman, mixed Prehistoric and Roman (e.g. disturbed), or topsoil contexts. Interestingly the finger ring fragments, the 'possible' finger ring fragments, and the single bracelet fragment come from largely Iron Age contexts. Copper alloy finds are much rarer in the prehistoric period than the Roman, so the finding of even small numbers of them in and around prehistoric features may be significant.

In terms of personal items like jewellery, there are only seven definite pieces, plus three possible pieces. There are three brooches (see the Brooch Report on this Website for full descriptions), all Nauheim-Derivative sprung types with a date range of 1st century BC to 1st century AD. The three definite finger rings found in this zone were all plain and one (SF 527 in grave cut [4272], fill 4273) was of a secure Iron Age date being directly associated with an Iron Age inhumation burial. A second complete and plain ring (SF 9) came from topsoil, so may be Roman and the third very fragmentary example (SF 255 from context 1081) is from a probable Iron Age ditch terminus. Interestingly a fragment of what is probably a plain bracelet (SF 315) was found in this same Iron Age fill. Two of the three other probable finger ring fragments came from two fills in the same Iron Age pit (SF 179 in context 4041 and SF 191 in context 4114) and a third (SF 490, context 3284) came from the bottom of an Iron Age enclosure ditch. The three fragments of stylistically Roman toilet/grooming implements, namely two nail cleaners and a tweezer fragment (SF 16, 227 and 116), come from probable Roman or IA/Roman mixed contexts. This constitutes the extent of definable copper-alloy personal items or decorative items from this zone although there are also a few iron brooches and an iron pin (see the Iron Finds report on this website).

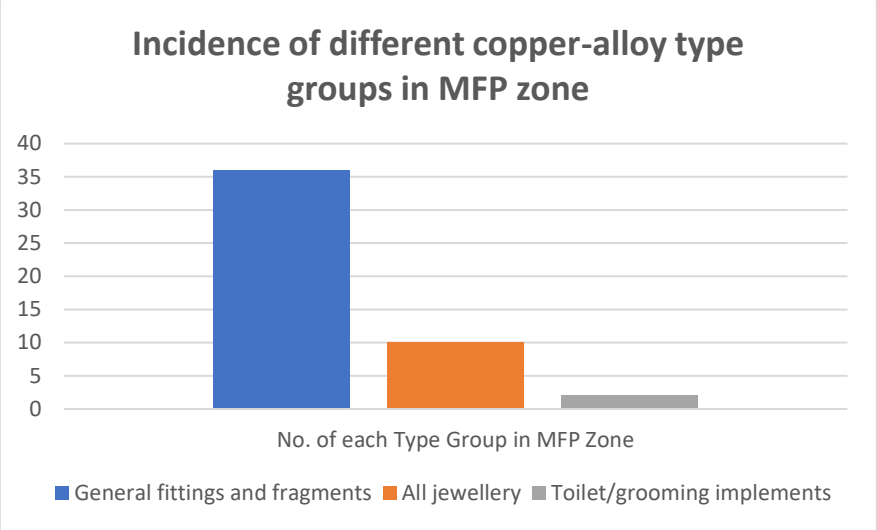


Figure 6. Quantities of different copper-alloy type groups in MFP zone

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