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Denarius of Carausius from Witcombe

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Notes

A DENARIUS OF CARAUSIUS FROM WITCOMBE

THE DENARIII of Carausius are very rare, and of those extant, only one-fifth have a provenance. The discovery of a specimen near the late 3rd-century villa at Witcombe is, therefore, of considerable importance. This coin was discovered in 1965 in a field behind Witcombe Farm Cottage, Great Witcombe; a spot lying between the site of the villa and the line of the nearby Roman road.

(o) IMP CARAUSIUS P AUG bust right, laureate, draped and cuirassed.

(r) ADVEN[TUS AUG] $\frac{\text{I}}{\text{RSR}}$ Emperor riding left, captive before.

↓ 3.3 gm. 18 mm. R.I.C. —

Find spot: SO 905162. Present whereabouts: Gloucester Museum, N3178.

This is the tenth known RSR denarius of the ADVENTUS type. As it shares neither obverse nor reverse with any of the other nine coins, nor, in the case of the obverse, with any other denarius at all, it provides us with two new dies. The new reverse die supports the current impression that this particular type was originally struck in some quantity, as one would expect the repetition of known dies in the case of a newly discovered coin from a very limited series. The coin was almost certainly struck early in the reign with the legend referring to Carausius' coming to Britain.

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A ROMAN GLAZED VESSEL

During the summer of 1973 a watch was kept on the construction of a water pipeline from Churchdown Hill reservoir to a new reservoir above Stonehouse. This passed through the Romano-British site in the parish of Upton St Leonards, discovered during the construction of the M5 motorway.¹

In September the clearance of soil for the pipe revealed a small trench containing many sherds of Romano-British pottery about 80 metres south-west of Commelines Cottages at SO 86631588. Together with several mugs of 2nd-century type and a two-handled jug, all in local ware, there were several sherds of glazed ware. These were in a light grey fabric and were parts of two vessels. One sherd was a small base about which nothing can be said except that the glaze and fabric are similar to the second vessel. There were sufficient sherds to reconstruct the latter as shown in the accompanying drawing. The shape appears to be an attempt to copy samian form 30, though the wall slopes out more and the footstand is not so high, giving it some of the attributes of a form 37. This 'hybrid copy' is typical of other glazed vessels which are shadow copies of samian forms. As they are distinct from local vessels (though they may be made locally), did they have a special use?

1. P. J. Fowler and C. V. Walthew, *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, XC (1971), 44-9.