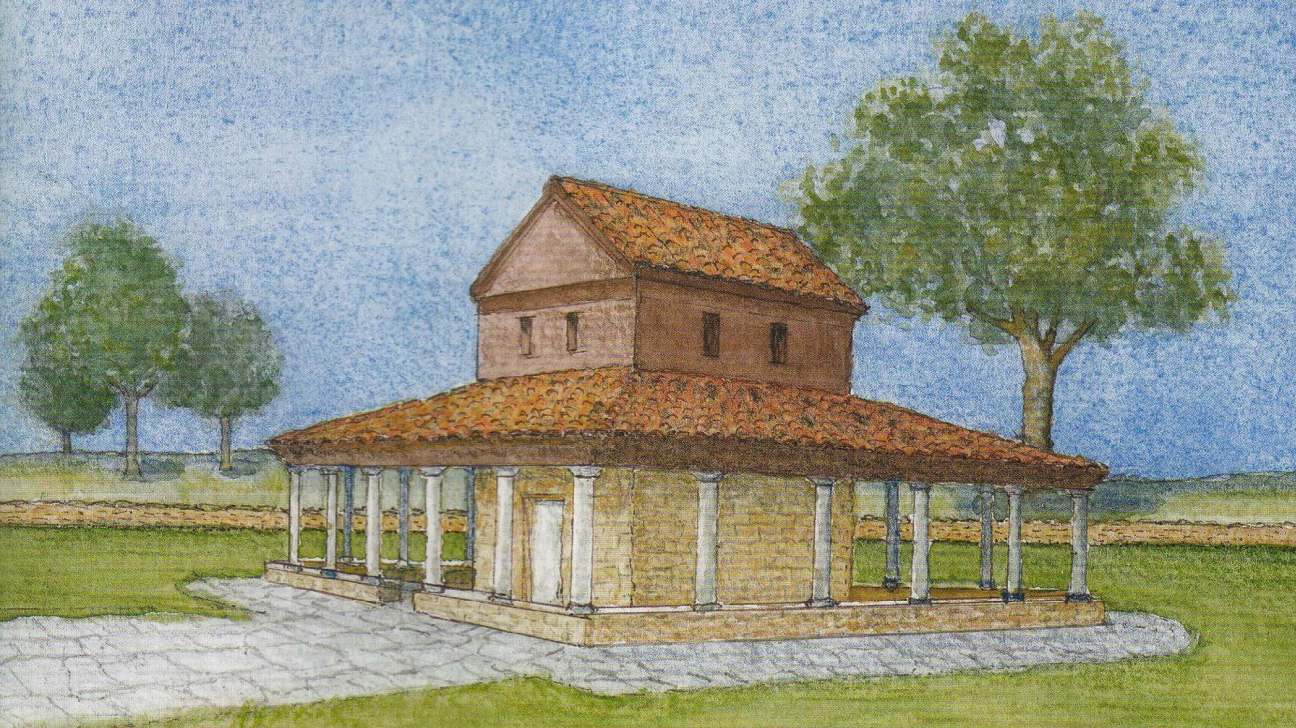


# Gateway to the Gods

## an ancient temple site at Marcham

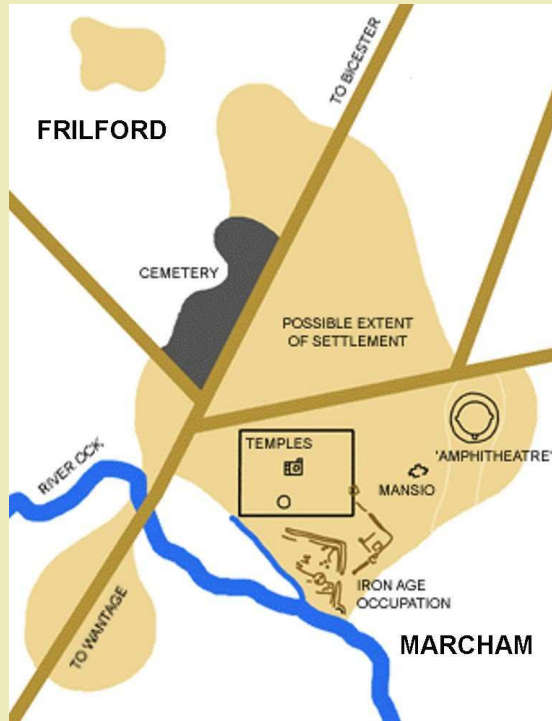


# Trendles Coins 2

Photos by  
Simon Blackmore



# Trendles Coins 2



Coins from 3rd century AD  
found during the Trendles excavations  
on Manor Farm, Marcham

*Photographs by Simon Blackmore*

# Trendles Coins 2

## READING THE ABBREVIATIONS ON THE COINS



**IMP:** IMPERATOR - Emperor.

**AVG:** AUGUSTUS - The name of the first emperor bestowed upon him by the Senate in 27 BC. It became a title for all successive emperors. During the later empire, senior emperors were called the "Augustus" while junior emperors were the "Caesar."

**CAES:** CAESAR - The family name of the first imperial dynasty, it became a title used by later emperors.

**PM:** PONTIFEX MAXIMUS - Highest priest of the Roman religion. This title once conferred was held for life.

**TRP:** TRIBUNICIA POTESTATE - Tribune of the Roman people, literally the representative of the people in the government. This title was held for one year and is often followed by a numeral which indicates which term as Tribune the emperor was then serving.

# Trendles Coins 2

**PP:** PATER PATRIAE - Father of his country

**COS:** CONSUL - The consul was the chief magistrates of the Roman government. Two were appointed each year. This title is often followed by a numeral which indicates the number of times the emperor had held this position.

**CENS:** CENSOR - A title often held for life. The Censor determined the size of the Senate.

**GERM, BRIT,** etc: GERMANICUS, BRITANNICUS etc - Conqueror of the Germans, Britons et cetera.

**DN:** DOMINUS NOSTER - Our Lord.

**NOB:** NOBILISSIMUS - Noble.

**IVN:** JUNIOR - The younger.

**PIVS, PF:** PIUS FELIX - Dutiful, patriotic.

**FIL:** FILIUS - Son of...

**OPT:** OPTIMO PRINCIPI - The greatest ruler.

**VC:** VIR CLARISSIMUS - The most illustrious ruler.

**SC:** SENATUS CONSULTO - Usually appears on the reverse of bronze coins of the early empire. Bronze coins were issued under the authority of the Senate while gold and silver was issued under imperial authority.

# Trendles Coins 2

## Allegories and divinities

The reverse of third century coins often shows a Roman deity (such as Jupiter or Venus), animals or a personification of a virtue (such as Aequitas meaning 'fair-dealing') or something symbolic (such as military or religious symbols).

The Personification of Victoria (Victory) for example is often associated with wings, a wreath and a palm branch. Pax (Peace) on the other hand usually is shown carrying an olive branch, a sceptre or a cornucopia (a horn of plenty).



*Coins of the Emperor Gallienus: Victoria (left)\* and Pax (right)\**

### Some personifications present on 3rd century coins:-

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Abundantia :</b> | abundance               |
| <b>Aequitas :</b>   | equity                  |
| <b>Aeternitas :</b> | eternity, stability     |
| <b>Annona :</b>     | annona, the grain dole  |
| <b>Clementia :</b>  | clemency, generosity    |
| <b>Concordia :</b>  | concord, unity          |
| <b>Constantia :</b> | constancy, perseverance |

## Trendles Coins 2

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Fecunditas :</b>         | fertility, plenty       |
| <b>Felicitas :</b>          | felicity, prosperity    |
| <b>Fides :</b>              | loyalty, confidence     |
| <b>Fides Militum:</b>       | loyalty of the soldiers |
| <b>Fortuna :</b>            | fortune, luck           |
| <b>Genius :</b>             | genius, inspiration     |
| <b>Hilaritas :</b>          | allegress, happiness    |
| <b>Honos :</b>              | honour                  |
| <b>Indulgentia :</b>        | indulgence, charity     |
| <b>Iusticia :</b>           | justice                 |
| <b>Iuventas, Iuventus :</b> | youth                   |
| <b>Iucunditas :</b>         | pleasure                |
| <b>Laetitia :</b>           | joy                     |
| <b>Liberalitas :</b>        | liberality, free will   |
| <b>Libertas :</b>           | freedom                 |
| <b>Moneta :</b>             | money                   |
| <b>Nobilitas :</b>          | nobility                |
| <b>Ops :</b>                | opulence                |
| <b>Patientia :</b>          | patience, tolerance     |
| <b>Pax :</b>                | peace                   |
| <b>Pietas :</b>             | piety, obedience        |
| <b>Providentia :</b>        | providence, foresight   |
| <b>Pudicitia :</b>          | chastity, modesty       |
| <b>Salus :</b>              | health, well-being      |
| <b>Securitas :</b>          | security, safety        |
| <b>Spes :</b>               | hope                    |
| <b>Uberitas, Ubertas :</b>  | fertility, abundance    |
| <b>Victoria :</b>           | victory                 |
| <b>Virtus :</b>             | virtue, courage         |

## The Third Century Crisis

The Roman Empire during the Third Century is characterised by military anarchy and the Imperial Crisis (235–284 AD) was a period in which the Empire nearly collapsed under the combined pressures of barbarian invasions and migrations into the Roman territory, civil wars, peasant rebellions, political instability (with multiple usurpers competing for power), plague, debasement of currency, and economic depression. The Roman Empire relied on barbarian mercenaries known as 'foederati' and commanders nominally working for Rome (but who became increasingly independent).

The crisis began with the assassination of Emperor Severus Alexander by his own troops in 235 AD. This initiated a 50-year period during which there were at least 26 claimants to the title of emperor, mostly prominent Roman army generals, who assumed imperial power over all or part of the Empire.

By 268 AD, the empire had split into three competing states: the Gallic Empire (including the Roman provinces of Gaul, Britannia and, briefly, Hispania); the Palmyrene Empire (including the eastern provinces of Syria Palaestina and Aegyptus); and, between them, the Italian-centred independent Roman Empire proper. Later, Aurelian (270–275 AD) reunited the empire. The crisis ended with the ascension of Diocletian and his implementation of reforms in 284.

### Decentralised Economy

One of the most profound and lasting effects of the Crisis of the Third Century was the disruption of Rome's extensive internal trade network. Ever since the Pax Romana, starting with Augustus, the empire's economy had depended in large part on trade between Mediterranean ports and across the extensive road systems to the Empire's interior. Merchants could travel from one end of the empire to the other in relative safety within a few weeks, moving agricultural goods produced in the provinces to the cities, and manufactured goods produced by the great cities of the East to the more rural provinces.

With the onset of the Crisis of the Third Century, however, this vast internal trade network broke down. The widespread civil unrest made it no longer safe for merchants to travel as they once had, and the financial crisis that struck made exchange very difficult with the debased currency. This produced profound changes that, in many ways, foreshadowed the very decentralised economic character of the coming Middle Ages.

## The Coinage

This disruption is reflected in the money that is found to be in use in Britain during these troubled times – the coinage of certain emperors is not represented at all in the archaeological record. Of some thirty emperors in Rome between Septimus Severus (193-211 AD) and Maximian (286-305 AD) only a handful are represented at Marcham. During the Gallic Empire where Britain was isolated from the rest of the empire, five local emperors feature on the coinage: Postumus, Victorinus, Tetricus, Carausius and Allectus.

The ‘Antoninianus’ or pre-reform ‘Radiate’ was a new coin introduced in the third century thought to have been valued at 2 denarii. It was initially silver, but was slowly debased to bronze with a minimal silver content. The coin was introduced by Caracalla in early 215 AD. It was silver, similar to the denarius except that it was slightly larger and featured the emperor wearing a radiate crown, indicating it was a double denomination.

Even at its introduction, the silver content of the ‘Antoninianus’ was only equal to 1.5 denarii. This created inflation. Silver bullion supplies began running short because the Roman Empire was no longer conquering new territory, the Iberian silver mines had been exhausted, and a series of soldier emperors and usurpers needed coin to pay their troops and buy their loyalty. Each new issue of the Antoninianus thus had less silver in it than the last, and thus contributed to ever-increasing inflation.

## The rapid decline in silver purity of the Antoninianus.



# Trendles Coins 2

## 3rd Century Emperors

(Emperors with coins found at Trendles are printed in **bold**)

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Septimius Severus             | (193–211 AD)                        |
| <b>Caracalla</b>              | <b>(198–217 AD)</b>                 |
| <b>Publius Septimius Geta</b> | <b>(209–211 AD)</b>                 |
| Macrinus                      | (217–218 AD)                        |
| <b>Elagabalus</b>             | <b>(218–222 AD)</b>                 |
| <b>Severus Alexander</b>      | <b>(222–235 AD)</b>                 |
| Maximinus                     | (235–238 AD)                        |
| Gordian I                     | (238 AD March–April)                |
| Gordian II                    | (238 AD March–April)                |
| Pupienus Maximus              | (238 AD April 22–July)              |
| Balbinus                      | (238 AD April 22–July)              |
| <b>Gordian III</b>            | <b>(238–244 AD)</b>                 |
| Philip                        | (244–249 AD)                        |
| Decius                        | (249–251 AD)                        |
| Hostilian                     | (251 AD)                            |
| Gallus                        | (251–253 AD)                        |
| Aemilian                      | (253 AD)                            |
| Valerian                      | (253–260 AD)                        |
| <b>Gallienus</b>              | <b>(253–268 AD)</b>                 |
| <b>Claudius II Gothicus</b>   | <b>(268–270 AD)</b>                 |
| Quintillus                    | (270 AD)                            |
| <b>Aurelian</b>               | <b>(270–275 AD)</b>                 |
| Tacitus                       | (275–276 AD)                        |
| Florian                       | (276 AD June–September)             |
| <b>Probus</b>                 | <b>(276–282 AD)</b>                 |
| Carus                         | (282–283 AD)                        |
| Numerian                      | (283–284 AD)                        |
| Carinus                       | (283–285 AD)                        |
| Diocletian                    | (284–305 AD) Eastern Emperor        |
| <b>Maximian</b>               | <b>(286–305 AD) Western Emperor</b> |

## Trendles Coins 2



**PLAUTILLA (wife of CARACALLA) (obv)**

Copy of a similar coin found  
by Bradford and Goodchild in 1939\*



**VENUS VICTRIX (rev)**

Copy of a similar coin found  
by Bradford and Goodchild in 1939\*



**MFNA04, 18156, SF 2844 (obv)**

P SEPTIMIVS GETA CAES  
(Geta, under Septimus Severus - 209 AD)



**MFNA04, 18156, SF 2844 (rev)**

PONTIF COS II S-C  
Minerva seated feeding a snake

# Trendles Coins 2



**MF03, 18127, SF 2429 (obv)**  
**IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG**  
 (Marcus Aurelius Antoninus 218-222 AD)



**MF03, 18127, SF 2429 (rev)**  
 Also known as Egabalus (218-222 AD)



**MF06, 24072, SF 4351 (obv)**  
**IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG**  
 (Severus Alexander 222 AD) Denarius



**MF06, 24072, SF 4351 (rev)**  
**P M TR P COS PP**  
 Salus seated left by an altar feeding a serpent

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF02, 18003, SF 1564 (obv)**  
IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG  
(Severus Alexander 227 AD) Denarius



**MF02, 18003, SF 1564 (rev)**  
PM TR P VI COS II PP  
Aequitas with scales and cornucopiae



**MF06, 24002, SF 4496 (obv)**  
IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG  
(Severus Alexander 227 AD) Denarius



**MF06, 24002, SF 4496 (rev)**  
P M TR P VI COS II PP  
Alexander sacrificing out of patera over altar

## Trendles Coins 2



**MFo6, 24002, SF 4498 (obv)**  
IVLIA MAMAEA AVGVSTAE  
(Mother of Severus Alexander 232 AD)



**MFo6, 24002, SF 4498 (rev)**  
FECVND AVGVSTAE  
Fecunditas seated left reaching out to a child



**MFo6, 31002, SF 4633 (obv)**  
IMP ALEXANDER PIVS AVGVSTVS  
(Severus Alexander 222-235 AD) Denarius



**MFo6, 31002, SF 4633 (rev)**  
PERPETVITATI AVGVSTAE  
Perpetuitas with globe and sceptre

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF07, 21000, SF 5366 (obv)**  
IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG  
(Gordian III 241-243 AD)



**MF07, 21000, SF 5366 (rev)**  
MARS PROPVGNAT S-C  
Mars holding spear, shield on left arm



**MF04, 18025, SF 2571\* (obv)**  
IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG  
(Gordian III 241-243 AD) Antoninianus



**MF04, 18025, SF 2571\* (rev)**  
IOVI STATORI  
Jupiter with sceptre & thunderbolt

# Trendles Coins 2

*The reigns of the next six Roman emperors were short  
None of their coins are represented at Trendles*

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Philip    | (244–249 AD) |
| Decius    | (249–251 AD) |
| Hostilian | (251 AD)     |
| Gallus    | (251–253 AD) |
| Aemilian  | (253 AD)     |
| Valerian  | (253–260 AD) |

## **'Gallienus' (253–268 AD)**

Gallienus was Roman emperor with his father Valerian from 22 October 253 AD to spring 260 AD and alone from spring 260 to September 268. He ruled during the Crisis of the Third Century that nearly caused the collapse of the empire. While he won a number of military victories, he was unable to prevent the secession of important provinces. His fifteen year reign was the longest in half a century.

The defeat and capture of the Emperor Valerian at Edessa in Southern Turkey in 260 AD by the Sasanian Empire threw the Roman Empire into the chaos of civil war. Control of the whole empire then passed to Gallienus.

He defeated the eastern usurpers Macrianus Major and Lucius Mussius Aemilianus in 261–262 AD but he failed to stop the formation of the breakaway Gallic Empire, formed under general Postumus, who murdered Gallienus' son Saloninus in Cologne.

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF01, 2000 , SF 16 (obv)**  
**IMP GALLIENVS P AVG**  
 (Gallienus 253-260 AD) joint reign



**MF01, 2000 , SF 16 (rev)**  
**SALVS AVGG**  
 Salus feeding snake held in her arms



**MF03, 18127 , SF 2428 (obv)**  
**GALLIENVS AVG**  
 (Gallienus 253-268 AD) sole reign



**MF03, 18127 , SF 2428 (rev)**  
**DIANAE CONS AVG**  
 Antelope walking left

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 15081, SF 3369 (obv)**  
**GALLIENVS AVG**  
(Gallienus 263 AD) sole reign



**MF05, 15081, SF 3369 (rev)**  
**MARTI PACIFERO**  
Mars holding olive-branch, spear and shield



**MF05, 24002, SF 3749 (obv)**  
**GALLIENVS AVG**  
(Gallienus 253-268 AD) sole reign



**MF05, 24002, SF 3749 (rev)**  
**DIANA CONSERVATRIX AVGVSTI**  
Diana Conservatrix Augusti - Stag walking left

## Trendles Coins 2



**MFo6, 26000, SF 4206 (obv)**  
GALLIENVS AVG  
(Gallienus 253-268 AD) sole reign



**MFo6, 26000, SF 4206 (rev)**  
DIANAE CONS AVG  
Doe walking right, looking backwards



**MFP11, 6083, SF 471 (obv)**  
GALLIENVS AVG  
(Gallienus 253-268 AD) sole reign



**MFP11, 6083, SF 471 (rev)**  
VBERITAS AVG  
Uberitas holding purse and cornucopiae

## Trendles Coins 2



**MFo8, 36067, SF 5742 (obv)**  
GALLIENVS AVG  
(Gallienus 265 AD) Sole reign



**MFo8, 36067, SF 5742 (rev)**  
MINERVA AVG  
Minerva holding spear hand on shield.



**MFo7, 29027, SF 5569 (obv)**  
SALONINA AVG  
(Salonina, wife of Gallienus 253-268 AD)



**MFo7, 29027, SF 5569 (rev)**  
AVGVSTA IN PACE  
Pax, seated left, holding olive branch

## Trendles Coins 2

This arch, a gate in the Servian Walls of Rome, was dedicated to both Gallienus and SALONINAE SANCTISSIMAE AVG, "*to Salonina, most holy Augusta*"



**Julia Cornelia Salonina** married Gallienus about ten years before his accession to the throne. When her husband became joint-emperor with his father Valerian in 253, Cornelia Salonina was named Augusta.

Cornelia was the mother of three princes, Valerian II, Saloninus and Marinianus. Her fate after Gallienus was murdered during the siege of Mediolanum (Milan) in 268 AD is unknown. One theory is that her life was spared; another is that she was executed together with other members of her family, at the orders of the Senate, which is more likely!

Her name is reported on coins with Latin legend as Cornelia Salonina; however, from the Greek coinage come the names *Iulia Cornelia Salonina*, *Publia Licinia Cornelia Salonina*, and also *Salonina Chrysogona* (attribute that means "begotten of gold").

# Trendles Coins 2

## 'Gallic Empire'

260 - 274 AD

The Gallic Empire was a breakaway part of the Roman Empire that functioned de facto as a separate state from 260 AD to 274 AD. It originated during the Crisis of the Third Century, when a series of Roman military leaders and aristocrats declared themselves emperors and took control of Gaul and adjacent provinces independent of the central Roman administration.

It was established during Gallienus' reign by Postumus in 260 AD in the wake of barbarian invasions and instability in Rome. At its height included the territories of Germania, Gallia, Britannia, and then for a time Hispania.

After Postumus' assassination in 269 AD it lost much of its territory, but continued under a number of emperors and usurpers. It was retaken by Roman emperor Aurelian after the Battle of Châlons in 274 AD.

**Postumus (260-269 AD)**

Marius (269 AD)

**Victorinus (268-270 AD)**

**Tetricus I (270-274 AD)**

**Tetricus II (274 AD)**

(Emperors with coins found at Trendles are printed in **bold**)

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 24002, SF 3497 (obv)**  
IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG  
(Postumus 260-269 AD)



**MF05, 24002, SF 3497 (rev)**  
VIRTVS AVG  
Virtus holding spear and shield



**MFNA09, 7004, SF 204 (obv)**  
IMP C POSTVMVS PF AVG  
(Postumus 260-269 AD)



**MFNA09, 7004, SF 204 (rev)**  
VBERITAS  
Fertility holding purse and cornucopiae

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 15081, SF 3469 (obv)**  
IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG  
(Victorinus 268-270 AD)



**MF05, 15081, SF 3469 (rev)**  
SALVS AVG  
Salus feeding serpent in arms



**MF06, 26000, SF 4207 (obv)**  
IMP C VICTORINVS PF AVG  
(Victorinus 268-270 AD)



**MF06, 26000, SF 4207 (rev)**  
INVICTVS  
Sol holding whip, chlamys in two folds

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 15000, SF 3279 (obv)**  
IMP TETRICVS PF AVG  
(Tetricus I 270-274 AD)



**MF05, 15000, SF 3279 (rev)**  
LAETITIA AVG N  
Laetitia holding wreath and anchor



**MF05, 15081, SF 3672 (obv)**  
IMP TETRICVS PF AVG  
(Tetricus I 270-274 AD)



**MF05, 15081, SF 3672 (rev)**  
VIRTVS AVGG  
Virtus with shield and spear

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF06, 26000, SF 4212 (obv)**  
C P TETRICVS CAES  
(Tetricus II 274 AD)



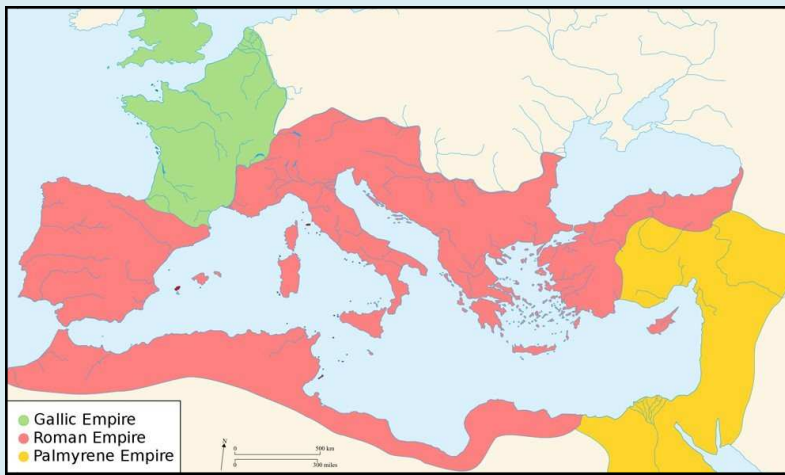
**MF06, 26000, SF 4212 (rev)**  
SPES AVGG  
Spes holding flower and raising hem of robe



**MF06, 15002, SF 4772 (obv)**  
C P E TETRICVS CAES  
(Tetricus II 274 AD)



**MF06, 15002, SF 4772 (rev)**  
PIETAS AVGVSTOR  
Priestly implements, sprinkler jug and lituus



### **The Roman Empire in 268 AD under Claudius Gothicus**

Gallienus was killed in the summer of 268 AD, and Claudius was chosen by the army outside of Milan to succeed him. At the time of Claudius' accession, the Roman Empire was in serious danger from several incursions, both within and outside its borders. At the Battle of Naissus, Claudius and his legions routed a huge Gothic army. The victory earned Claudius his surname of "*Gothicus*" (conqueror of the Goths), and that is how he is known to this day. More importantly, the Goths were soon driven back across the Danube River by Aurelian, and nearly a century passed before they again posed a serious threat to the empire.

He then turned on the Gallic Empire, ruled by a pretender for the past eight years and encompassing Britain, Gaul, and the Iberian Peninsula. He won several victories and soon regained control of Hispania and the Rhone river valley of Gaul. This set the stage for the ultimate destruction of the Gallic Empire under Aurelian, Claudius's calvary commander.

Claudius did not live long enough to fulfil his goal of reuniting all the lost territories of the empire. Late in 269 AD, he fell victim to the Plague of Cyprian (possibly smallpox), and died early in January 270 AD.

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 18000, SF 3871 (obv)**  
IMP CLAVDIVS AVG  
(Claudius Gothicus 268–270 AD)



**MF05, 18000, SF 3871 (rev)**  
GENIVS AVG ?  
Genius sacrificing from patera over altar



**MF05, 25002, SF 3780 (obv)**  
IMP CLAVDIVS AVG  
(Claudius Gothicus 268–270 AD)



**MF05, 25002, SF 3780 (rev)**  
MARS VLTOR  
Mars holding spear and trophy

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF07, 29101, SF 5354 (obv)**  
**IMP CLAVDIVS AVG**  
(Claudius Gothicus 268–270 AD)



**MF07, 29101, SF 5354 (rev)**  
**VIRTVS AVG**  
Soldier leaning on shield, holding spear



**MF06, 15218, SF 4803 (obv)**  
**IMP CLAVDIVS AVG**  
(Claudius Gothicus 268–270 AD)



**MF06, 15218, SF 4803 (rev)**  
**ANNONA AVG**  
Annona foot on prow with corn ears

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF06, 22079, SF 4477 (obv)**  
DIVO CLAVDIO  
(Claudius Gothicus 270 AD) Posthumous



**MF06, 22079, SF 4477 (rev)**  
CONSECRATIO  
Eagle standing left, head right



**MF05, 24001, SF 3229 (obv)**  
IMP AVRELIANVS AVG  
(Aurelian 270-75 AD)



**MF05, 24001, SF 3229 (rev)**  
VIRTVS MILITVM  
Emperor receiving Victory from soldier

## **Partial Reunification of the Empire by Aurelian**

On the death of Claudius Gothicus, the first actions of the new Emperor Aurelian were aimed at strengthening his own position in his territories. Late in 270 AD, Aurelian campaigned in northern Italy against the Vandals, expelling them from Roman territory.

Aurelian, being an experienced commander, was aware of the importance of the army, and his propaganda, known through his coinage, shows he wanted the support of the legions.

However, the menace of the Germanic people and a Germanic invasion was still perceived by the Romans as likely, so Aurelian resolved to build a new system of walls around Rome that became known as the Aurelian Walls.

In 272 AD, Aurelian turned his attention to the lost eastern provinces of the empire, the Palmyrene Empire, ruled by Queen Zenobia from the city of Palmyra. Eventually Zenobia and her son were captured and made to walk on the streets of Rome in his triumph, the woman in golden chains. With the grain stores once again being shipped to Rome, Aurelian's soldiers handed out free bread to the citizens of the city, and the Emperor was hailed a hero by his subjects.

In 274 AD, the victorious emperor turned his attention to the west, and the Gallic Empire which had already been reduced in size by Claudius II.

Aurelian returned to Rome and won his last honorific from the Senate – Restitutor Orbis ("Restorer of the World").

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF06, 29027, SF 4443 (obv)**  
IMP C PROBVS PF AVG  
(Probus 276-282 AD)



**MF06, 29027, SF 4443 (rev)**  
PIETAS AVG  
Pietas standing left by altar



**MF01, 9003, SF 597 (obv)**  
IMP MAXIMIANVS AVG  
(Maximianus 286-305 AD)



**MF01, 9003, SF 597 (rev)**  
IOVI AVGG  
Jupiter holding Victory on globe. eagle at feet

## **PROBUS (276-282 AD)**

Marcus Aurelius Probus was an active and successful general as well as a conscientious administrator, and in his reign of six years he secured prosperity for the inner provinces while withstanding repeated invasions of barbarian tribes on almost every sector of the frontier.

Upon defeating the Germans, Probus re-erected the ancient fortifications of emperor Hadrian between the Rhine and Danube rivers. Despite his widespread popularity, Probus was killed in a mutiny of the soldiers while in the middle of preparations for the Persian war.

## **MAXIMIANUS (286-305 AD)**

Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maximianus was 'Caesar' from 285 AD to 286 AD, then 'Augustus' from 286 AD to 305 AD. He shared the latter title with his co-emperor and superior, Diocletian. Maximian established his residence at Trier but spent most of his time on campaign. From 285 AD to 288 AD, he fought against Germanic tribes along the Rhine frontier.

The man he appointed to police the Channel shores, Carausius, rebelled in 286 AD, causing the secession of Britain and north western Gaul. Maximian failed to oust Carausius, and his invasion fleet was destroyed by storms in 289 AD or 290 AD. Maximian's subordinate and 'Caesar', Constantius, campaigned against Carausius' successor, Allectus, while Maximian held the Rhine frontier.

# Trendles Coins 2

## 'BRITANNIA'

286 - 296 AD

**Carausius (286-293 AD)**

**Allectus (293-296 AD)**

The Carausian revolt was an episode during which a Roman naval commander, Carausius, was appointed by Maximian (Emperor in the West) to the naval command at Bononia (Boulogne) and was tasked with clearing the English Channel of Frankish and Saxon raiders.

However Carausius declared himself emperor over Britain and northern Gaul. His forces comprised of his fleet and the three legions stationed in Britain, plus a legion he had seized in Gaul, a number of foreign auxiliary units, a levy of Gaulish merchant ships, and barbarian mercenaries attracted by the prospect of booty.

He minted his own coins and brought their value into line with Roman issues as well as acknowledging and even honouring the two emperors Maximian and Diocletian. He appears to have appealed to native British dissatisfaction with Roman rule as he issued coins with legends such as *Restitutor Britanniae* (Restorer of Britain) and *Genius Britanniae* (Spirit of Britain).

In 293 AD his Gallic territories were retaken by Maximian's 'Caesar', Constantius Chlorus, following which Carausius was assassinated by his subordinate Allectus. Allectus then, in his turn, was defeated by Constantius and the province of Britain was brought back into the Empire in 296 AD.

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF03, 8505, SF 2005 (obv)**  
IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG  
(Carausius 286-293 AD)



**MF03, 8505, SF 2005 (rev)**  
PAX AVG  
Pax holding olive branch and sceptre



**MF05, 1284, SF 3604 (obv)**  
IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG  
(Carausius 286-293 AD)



**MF05, 1284, SF 3604 (rev)**  
VICTORIA  
Victory holding wreath and palm branch

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF05, 25007, SF 4082 (obv)**  
IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG  
(Carausius 286-293 AD)



**MF05, 25007, SF 4082 (rev)**  
VICTORIA  
Victory holding wreath and palm branch



**MF07, 29002, SF 5502 (obv)**  
VIRTVS CARAVSI  
(Carausius 286-293 AD)



**MF07, 29002, SF 5502 (rev)**  
PAX AVG MLXXI B-E  
Pax standing left

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF02, 1138, SF 1642 (obv)**  
IMP C ALLECTVS PF AVG  
(Allectus 293-296 AD)



**MF02, 1138, SF 1642 (rev)**  
VIRTVS AVG Q-C  
Galley rowing left.



**MF05, 25004, SF 3850 (obv)**  
IMP C ALLECTVS PF AVG  
(Allectus 293-296 AD)



**MF05, 25004, SF 3850 (rev)**  
PROVID AVG  
Providentia holding globe and cornucopiae

## Trendles Coins 2



**MF06, 31000, SF 4399 (obv)**  
IMP C ALLECTVS PF AVG  
(Allectus 293-296 AD)



**MF06, 31000, SF 4399 (rev)**  
LAETITIA AVG S-A  
Laetitia holding wreath and anchor



**MF06, 26003, SF 4422 (obv)**  
IMP C ALLECTVS PF AVG  
(Allectus 293-296 AD)



**MF06, 26003, SF 4422 (rev)**  
PROVIDENTIA AVG S-P  
Providentia holding globe and sceptre



**FL VAL CONSTANTIVS NOBIL CAES REDDITOR LVCIS AETERNAE**  
*The Arras Medallion - British Museum Reference: 11477\**

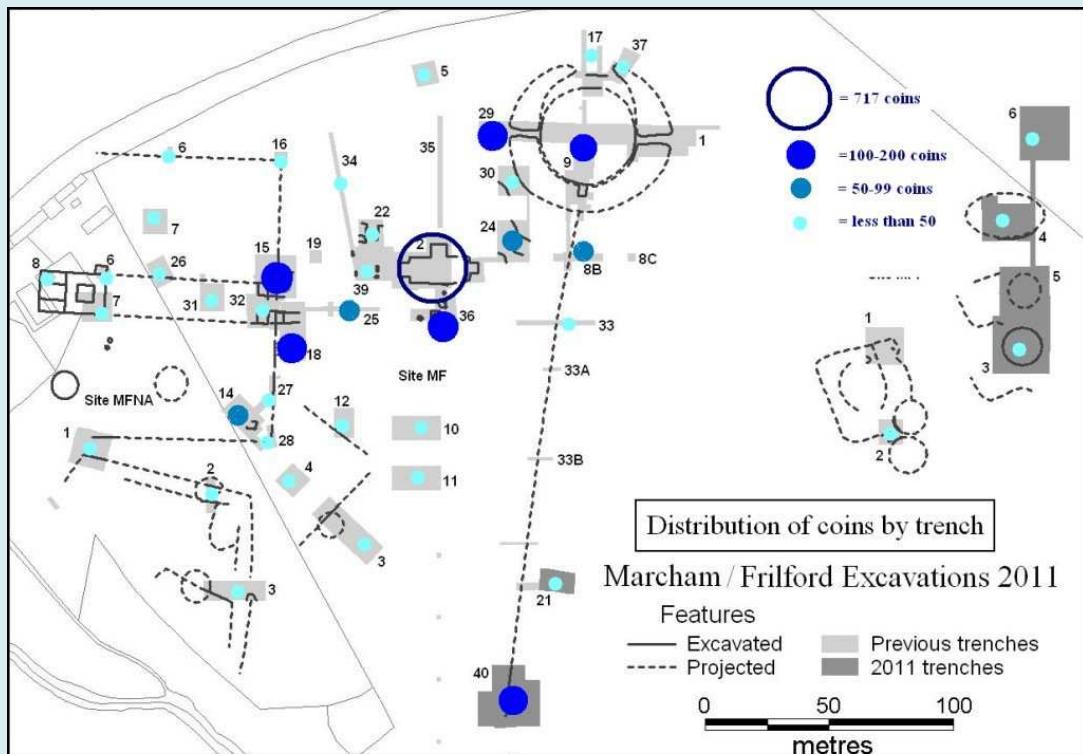
The break away empire of Carausius and Allectus came to an end in September 296 AD when Constantius Chlorus, also known as Constantius I, invaded Britain and brought it back into the Roman empire. Constantius did not mint any coins related to Britain, but he did mint a set of gold medallions that were found in 1922 at Beaurains near Arras in France.

Above is the most famous of the medallions. It shows Constantius, armed with a spear, approaching the walls of London on horseback. We know that it is London because it helpfully says "LON". Before him, a female figure (perhaps Britannia) kneels in supplication. There is a galley full of troops below Constantius to commemorate the two fleets that made the daring raid under the cover of fog.

The legend translates to "Restorer of the Eternal Light" and celebrates Constantius bringing the province out of the darkness and back to the blessings of Roman civilisation.

"PTR" is the Mint Mark which shows the medallion was made in Trier.

# Trendles Coins 2



## The distribution of all Roman coins by location

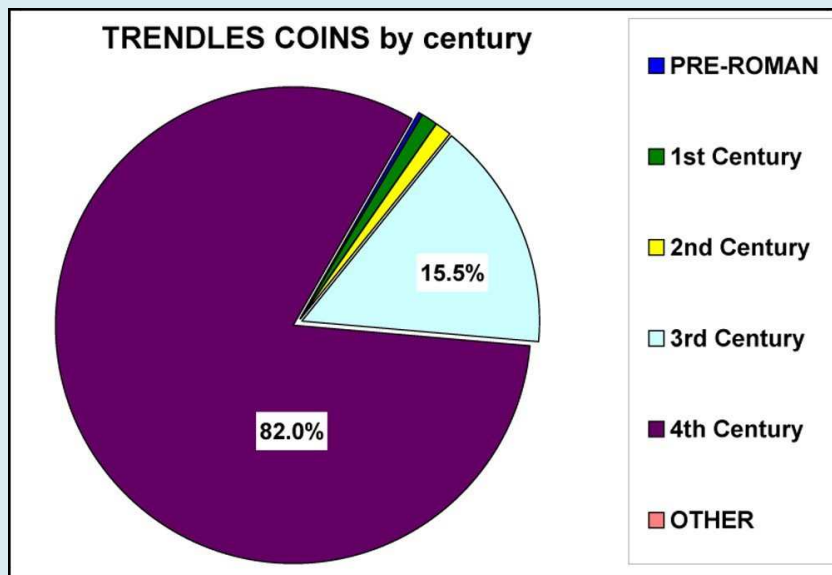
'MFNA' (left) = Marcham Frilford Noah's Ark    'MF' (middle) = Marcham Frilford  
'MFP' (right) = Marcham Frilford Prehistoric

Each coin is recorded by site, year of excavation, context (which includes the trench number) and its small find number: eg **MF03, 2000, SF 1858**

'SF' shows the Small Find number on the Trendles register.

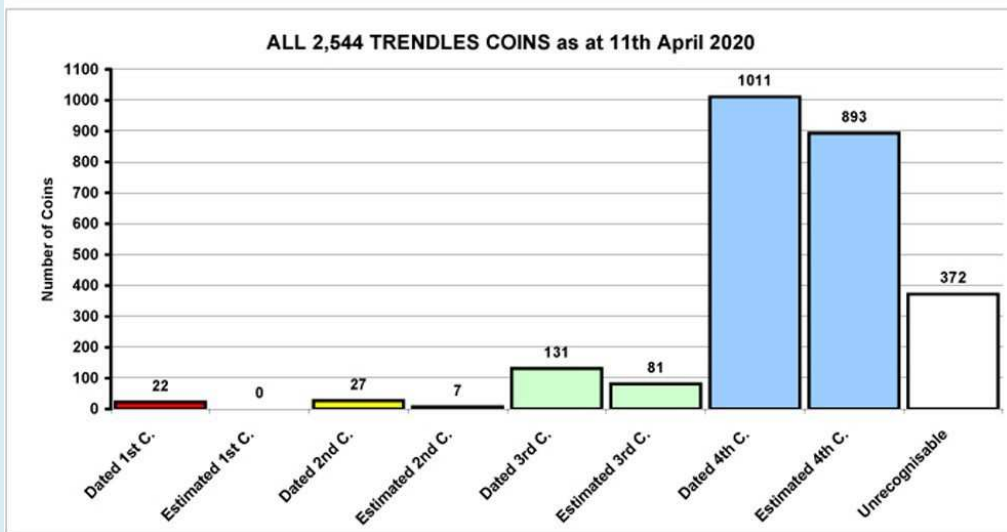
'obv' = obverse (the front of a coin)    'rev' = reverse (the back of the same coin)

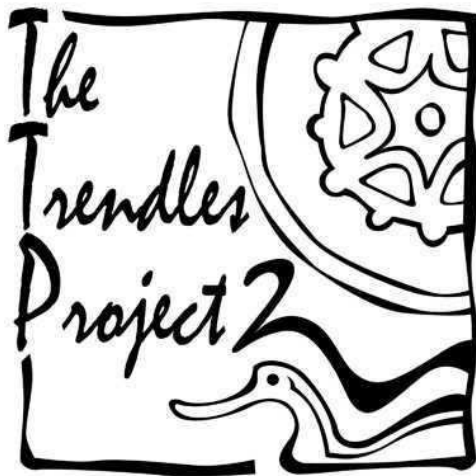
\* denotes that the photo is a sample and not actually a Trendles coin



## Proportion of all Roman coins across the Trendles site by period

| Dated 1st C. | Estimated 1st C. | Dated 2nd C. | Estimated 2nd C. | Dated 3rd C. | Estimated 3rd C. | Dated 4th C. | Estimated 4th C. | Unrecognisable | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| 22           | 0                | 27           | 7                | 131          | 81               | 1011         | 893              | 372            | 2544  |





[www.trendlesproject.com](http://www.trendlesproject.com)  
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# Gateway to the Gods

The Ancient Temple Site at Marcham

An exhibition of previously unseen finds from the excavations at Marcham 2001-2011

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Admission Free



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