

Toolkit for finds reporting: Roman coinage

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Peter Guest

Dr Peter Guest is an archaeological numismatist with over 30 years' experience as a finds specialist, excavator and researcher. Specialising in the Roman period, Peter is particularly interested in coinage, currency and the imperial economy. He has identified coin assemblages from over 80 excavations in the UK, of which 25 are published.

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Coins are relatively common finds from archaeological fieldwork at Romano-British sites, whether surface collection, watching briefs, evaluations or large-scale excavation. Coins are more common from some parts of Roman Britain than others, while different settlement types produce distinctive patterns of coin loss. Most Roman coins can be dated to an emperor's reign and the absolute dates provided by these objects are the basis for the dating of excavated sites, as well as the typological sequences of many other artefacts.

The new *Toolkit for Finds Reporting: Roman Coinage* provides practical resources and guidance to ensure the reliable and consistent identification, recording and quantification of archaeologically recovered Roman coin assemblages (known as 'site finds'). It is the industry standard, setting out the minimum requirements for Roman coin reports in the UK.

The standardised reporting of finds is necessary for the integrated and informative analysis of archaeological artefacts. Greater focus on the stratigraphic origins of Roman coins, how they were deposited, and with which other artefacts, leads to a better appreciation of when they were deposited at a settlement and under what circumstances, thereby improving understanding of the activities and actors involved in their loss, disposal or deliberate deposition.

The *Toolkit's* resources will be useful for anyone engaged in the planning, commissioning, production or monitoring of a specialist report on Roman coins. It has been designed to be used for the reporting of Roman coin finds at all stages of an archaeological project's life cycle, from initiation and planning, collection, post-excavation assessment and analysis, to preparation of archive reports and publications.

The main part of the *Toolkit* is the downloadable *Roman Coinage Identification Template*, which supports the standard identification and recording of Roman coins. Dropdown lists ensure data consistency and the template is compatible with most content management systems currently in use in the historic

environment sector. Publishable catalogues of Roman coins can be produced from the template.

The *Roman Coinage Identification Template* meets the ADS's metadata standards¹ for the archiving and dissemination of data. It also implements the FAIR Guiding Principles² in the recording of Roman coin identifications (**F**indability, **A**ccessibility, **I**nteroperability, and **R**euse of digital assets).

The *Toolkit for Finds Reporting: Roman Coinage* is available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/roman-coinage-toolkit>

The screenshot shows the CIFA website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'About CIFA', 'Join CIFA', and 'Contact CIFA'. The main header features the CIFA logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are several menu items: 'OUR WORK', 'GROUPS', 'CAREERS', 'PROFESSIONAL REGISTER', and 'EVENTS AND TRAINING'. The main content area is titled 'Toolkit for Finds Reporting: Roman Coinage' and includes an 'Introduction' section. The introduction text states that the toolkit is a nationally recognised guide for anyone engaged in the planning, commissioning, production or monitoring of a specialist report on Roman coins. It also mentions that the toolkit follows the FAIR Guiding Principles and is designed to be used for the reporting of Roman coin finds from all types of archaeological projects. A sidebar on the right lists 'Toolkit sections' including 'Part 1 - Introduction' and 'Part 2 - The Toolkit'.

¹ <https://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/Downloads.xhtml>

² <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>