

BRONZE ARTEFACTS FROM DÚN AONGHASA [92E102]

Catalogue of Bronze Artefacts (C. Cotter) [Appendix 1.13 in Vol. 3]

Old Finds

Find no.	Feature	Description	Dimensions
1911.6	Old find	Incomplete. Ring of bronze pin retaining slight remains of wrap-over pin. The ring is annular and shouldered with slight expansions on either side of the head. It is decorated with a cast ribbing and has a stud-setting with a central hole on the lower side. According to Colley March (1894, 224-8), traces of red enamel were still visible in the setting at the end of the nineteenth century.	D. 21mm; W. 4mm; T. 1.5mm; Setting D.6mm
P776 OC36:17	Old find	Incomplete. Bronze fibula, rod-bow type. The pin and most of the coiled spring are now missing; a riveted repair on the bow indicates that the brooch also broke in antiquity. The bow has a gentle curve and a flattened rounded cross-section at its foot end. It is decorated with fine milling terminating at birds head modelling at the junction with the foot (Raftery 1984, Pl. 47, no. 1; Harbison 1988, 125, fig. 121). The foot is relatively large and has a simple turned-over leaf on the base of the catchplate.	L.81mm.

Bronze artefacts of late Bronze Age or likely late Bronze Age date

Weapons, Tools & Implements

Find No.	Feature	Description	Dimensions
43	6	Incomplete. Tip of bronze blade. Curved blade fragment with traces of tapering midrib. Blade edges sharp but chipped and blunt tip. Fragment is bent longitudinally towards point of breakage. Lozenge-shaped in section. Bronze disease at breaks. Comparanda: Eogan 1983; Raftery 1983; O'Riordain 1954, 383, fig.31.	L.23.5mm; W.14mm; T.3.5mm
1528	106	Incomplete. Cutting edge fragment of an axe blade. Highly corroded. No diagnostic features preserved.	L.28mm; W.28mm; T.17mm
941	209	Complete. Tweezers made from a single bent-over strip with looped grip (D.10mm). Edges of strip are slightly bent upwards at the top of the loop, giving the head a concave surface. Strip narrows (5mm) below head before widening out (<8mm) towards the ends. Ends are slightly rounded and are chipped and worn. 8mm splay between ends. Some surface corrosion. Comparanda: Eogan 1983, 36, fig.10.15 (Bishopsland); 89, fig.44B.1; 151, fig.84.1. Raftery 1983, 198, fig.152.539. O'Kelly 1962, 38, fig.3.56.	L.67.5mm; W.7.5mm; T.1.5mm

204	47	Incomplete. Chisel or rivet/peg fragment. Upper part of piece survives. This is square in section and slightly concave on two surfaces. The top of the object has been hammered. Tapers slightly from 4mm to 3mm. The fragment may be from a small chisel of similar size to 1038, but is lighter and less well made than the latter. Alternatively it may have been part of a peg similar to no. 2369.	L.20mm; W.3.5mm; T.3.5mm
1038	217	Incomplete. Chisel fragment. Working end of small finely made chisel. Square-sectioned; tapers in thickness from 3.5mm to 2mm towards working end. Blade rounded off; 3mm wide.	L.21mm; W.4mm; T.3mm
1395	220	Complete. Chisel. Very fine, well-made tool. Straight in profile. Rectangular in section, thins out now to form a blade-like edge at both ends, no signs of having been hammered. Traces of wear at both ends, one end slightly chipped. Slight surface corrosion.	L.30mm; W.3mm; T.2mm
1493	239	Complete. Chisel. Small finely-made implement with chisel-like blade at one end. Shank is very fine, curved to form irregular 'S' shaped profile, rectangular in section. The lower 18mm or so is expanded and rounded off to form "blade" and there is a slight triangular-shaped nick out of one side. The opposite end is flattened and thins out to a straight edge 3mm wide by 0.5mm thick. The curved profile allows the piece to be securely gripped between finger and thumb.	L.27mm; W.5mm; T.3.5mm

Bronze rings

544	98	Complete. Ring, flattened oval in section, small and well-made with casting seam surviving on inner edge. Thickness of the ring has worn down along one side. Cross-section suggests it was not a finger ring and it may have been a loop attachment, link etc.	D.21.5mm; H.3mm; T.4mm
1004	82	Incomplete. Ring, small fine, open-ended, possibly a finger-ring. One end is smooth and rounded off while the other appears broken or possibly cut. Rectangular in section and heavy for its size. Slight surface corrosion.	D.21mm x 20mm; H.3mm; T.2mm
1203	255	Complete. Ring. Solid, flat and oval in section. Sharp casting seam evident on interior. Thins towards one side where there is also considerably more corrosion evident. Too large to be finger ring and probably a link.	D.28.5mm; H.3mm; T.4mm

Hollow bronze rings

Complete. Four transversely perforated rings with lateral buffer-shaped projections. All are elliptical in section with flat upper and lower faces and hour-glass centres. They have prominent casting seams on interior and exterior.

2823a	1204	Undecorated. Unexpanded buffers with two sets of worn threads; buffers 5mm long with external diam. 11mm by 10mm. Wear around buffer ends evidenced by thinning of metal. One side of ring is patched on upper and lower surfaces. Casting seams are sharp on interior. Inner ends of perforations of irregular oval	D.41mm (including buffers) by 32mm; H.9mm;
-------	------	--	--

		shape.	T.11.5mm
2823b	1204	Undecorated. Unexpanded buffers 5mm long, external diam. 10mm with two sets of threads. Patched in four places, three of which are above internal casting seam. Evidence of wear around buffers; on both short sides of one buffer and lower side of opposite buffer. Inner ends of transeverse perforation are irregular oval-rectangular and show signs of corresponding wear.	D.41mm (including buffers) by 32mm; H.9mm; T.11mm
2823c	1204	Decorated with two concentric lines on both faces – decoration shows more wear on one surface. Unexpanded buffers - external diam. 12mm by 10mm, 5mm long with two sets of threads. Casting seams are sharp on interior and inner ends of perforations are roughly circular in shape. Buffers and ring not as worn as either (a) or (b).	D.41.5mm (including buffers) by 34mm; H.8.5mm; T.11mm
2823d	1204	Decorated with one to two concentric lines on both faces. Unexpanded buffers - external diam. 12mm by 10mm, 4.5mm long - with two sets of threads. Wear similar to c) above but decoration less sharp. Inner ends of perforations roughly circular in outline.	D.41mm (including buffers) by 34.5mm; H.8mm; T.11mm

Bronze artefacts of possible late Bronze Age date

Ornamental Objects

10	1	Complete. Bracelet (child's?). Slightly misshapen and break now on one side. Very faint traces of what may be file marks at intervals along edges. Rectangular to D-shaped in section. Fits clay mould pieces for bracelet and therefore possibly made on site. However similar bracelets known from Early Medieval contexts. Found in sod layer.	D.53mm; W.2.5mm; H.3mm
----	---	---	------------------------------

Rings

1524	106	Incomplete. Ring. Two-thirds of small, hollow ring 'C'-shaped in section, made from hammered-over strip. One end is worn and rounded and other is clearly broken. Originally penannular? Laminar corrosion and bronze disease. Seems too small to have been a finger ring. Comparanda: Raftery 1983, 278, fig.147.864	D.16mm; W.4mm; T.6mm
------	-----	---	----------------------------

Pins

203	41	Incomplete. Cup-headed? pin. Circular head (D.5mm; H.3.5mm) formed by expansion of shank; hollow 1.5mm deep in top. Shank is in two fragments but was straight and roughly circular in section. Broadens out now from 3.5mm to 4mm towards broken end due to splitting of the metal. Surfaces have a 'whittled', unfinished appearance. Slight bronze disease. Comparanda: O'Kelly 1962, 35, fig.2.375 (possible finished example).	L.59mm; D.3.5mm
564	41	Incomplete. Nail-headed pin. Finely made with head formed by a slight expansion of shank (D.3mm). Top is oval in shape and flat. The shank is smooth, circular to oval in section and straight in profile. It tapers from 3mm to 2mm wide at the point of breakage.	L.45mm; D.2mm
2629	918	Incomplete. ?Pin shank. Thirteen scraps, all very misshapen due to corrosion but some conjoin. Largest piece preserves shape of what may be a flattened circular shank, 2.5mm in diameter.	Largest; L.14mm; W.7mm; T.4mm

Pegs

2026	52 (eroded 1204)	Complete. Small, fine well-made rivet or peg. Head is flat, approximately square, measuring 2.5mm by 2.5mm. 'Overhangs' on one side, appears hammered. The shank is rectangular in section and straight in profile. Tapers from 2.5mm by 2mm to 1.5mm, to blunt point. Very slight groove in one side of object, just below the head. Excellent condition.	L.16mm; W.2.5mm; T.2mm.
2369	269	Complete. Short-rod like piece with circular section. Curves slightly in profile; traces of what may be filed down casting ridges evident. Both ends are worn, one appears hammered.	L.26mm; D.4.5mm

Bronze artefacts of Iron Age date

Weapons, tools and ornaments

2405	269	Complete. Section of a scabbard chape? Longitudinally curved binding with a 'C' shaped section terminating at one end in a circular clamp (D.11.5mm). This has an unperforated and slightly convex centre on the front and has a flat back. The piece ends abruptly in a smooth edge at the lower end. On the reverse side the upper edge expands slightly (c. 1mm) and the metal also thins out very slightly but there is no definite trace of any breakage.	L.50mm; W.4.5mm; T.6mm
------	-----	--	------------------------------

Ornamental Objects

119	14	Complete. Necklace clasp. Excellent condition. Consisting of an 'S'-shaped strip with decorative tightly coiled ends. Two sets of faint incisions, resembling nicks, on the central stem may also be decorative features.	L.31mm; W.3mm; T.1.5mm
-----	----	---	------------------------------

Bronze and mixed metal artefacts of early medieval date

Pins

7	6	Incomplete. Pin shank. Head missing. Upper end flattened and curved over. Tapering shank is rectangular in section with pointed tip now very worn and blunt. Heavy laminar corrosion and also some bronze disease. Dimensions and curved head suggest that the shank belongs to the ring-pin (1911:6) found at the fort in the nineteenth century (see Old Finds).	L.70mm; W.4-2mm; T.3-2mm
---	---	--	--------------------------------

Bosses

75	14	Incomplete. Stud Dome-shaped boss, possibly bronze over ?tin. Hollow centre with some highly corroded iron adhering to interior. Similar to 92E102:00218. Laminar corrosion, some bronze disease.	D.15mm; H.7.5mm; T.2mm
218	14	Complete. Stud Dome-shaped boss, similar to 92E102:0075. Semi-circular in section, centre hollow. Exterior is decorated with incised lines dividing the surface into radial segments. Highly corroded iron adhering to interior fills half the hollow centre – an iron nail head here would measure <i>ca.</i> 9mm in diameter.	D.17mm; H.8.5mm; T.3mm

Undated bronze artefacts

Bindings & Strips

8	6	Incomplete. Strip. Two fragments of a corroded strip or sheet object. Some bronze disease and surface corrosion.	a) L.16mm; W.10mm; T.9-5mm and b)L.19mm, W.15mm, T.6-3mm
46	6	Incomplete. Binding. Cut from thin sheet of bronze. Rectangular strip, now slightly bent with both ends broken. Surface corroded.	L.29mm; W.7mm; T.1mm
172	14	Incomplete. Narrow strip broken at both ends. Lozenge shaped in section. Bent at right angles and flattens out towards one end. Slight bronze disease and surface corrosion. Comparanda: O'Riordain 1954, 362, fig.28.9; 411; fig.43.1	L.37.5mm; W.3mm; T.2mm
2724	1204	Incomplete. Two thin, flat, narrow conjoining fragments. Broken at ends, slightly bent at one. Retains original width. Also three tiny scraps.	L.8mm; W.4mm; T.1mm

Rods & Pegs

660	70	Incomplete. Rod? Narrow bent fragment, oval in section and slightly curved to form an irregular 'S' shape. One end is broken. The other end is blunt - may be original or broken and reworked. Slight bronze disease and surface corrosion. Comparanda: Raftery 1983, 281; fig.154.872. O'Kelly, 1963, 41, fig.3.343.	L.32mm; D.3mm
-----	----	---	------------------

Scraps & Fragments

49	6	Incomplete. Irregular rod-like fragment. Approximately oval in section. Has longitudinal splits; broken at both ends. Laminar corrosion. Probably a waste fragment.	L.25.5mm; W.5mm; T.4mm
595	41	Incomplete. Small indistinctive scrap. Heavily corroded with bronze disease.	L.7mm; W.5mm; T.3mm
655	73	Incomplete. Small flat triangular-shaped scrap. Come corrosion.	L.8mm; W.5mm; T.1.5mm
666	41	Incomplete. Small indistinctive scrap. Heavily corroded with bronze disease.	L.6.5mm; W.6mm; T.2mm
1526	106	Incomplete. Bronze fragment, very corroded but could be part of blade. Heavy for size. Comparanda: Raftery 1984, 284.	L.22mm; W.14mm; T.5mm
2834	1207	Incomplete. Small undiagnostic scrap. Heavily corroded.	L.6mm; W.4.5mm; T.2mm
2869	1226	Incomplete. Small chip of bronze, semi-circular in section. The surfaces are rough; appears filed in places. Some corrosion.	L.13mm; W.5mm; T.3mm
4000	401	Complete. Copper alloy clothing pin. Rounded head now corroded. The shank is extremely thin, circular in section and slightly bent towards head. Tapers to a sharp point. Resembles a dressmaker's pin or shroud pin. Probably relatively modern.	L.32mm; D.1mm