Introduction

The small finds appendix (Barker *et al* 1997, 252) organised this section by industry. That pattern will be followed here. Most of the items are made of iron. The typology used was that of Manning (1985) but there was no further discussion.

Agricultural tools

Hoe

Two incomplete antler hoes were recovered. An antler hoe consists of a lower section of an antler beam (with or without the crown) and the closest two or three tines. The handle is commonly of wood and is attached via a square, rectangular or, more rarely, circular hole cut into the beam.

One of the Wroxeter hoes was an example of the Rees (1979, 314-8) Type I hoe (**535**). These are a squat form, commonly between 150mm long and 150mm wide between the tines. The tines are *c.* 100mm long and are sawn off to equal lengths. The tines are further shaped by slicing the ends to produce chisel terminals. The second hoe was too incomplete for it to be placed in a type (**534**). It had a rectangular hole.

There is one iron hoe (**6555**) but the database print-out suggests it was of modern date.

Reaping hook

The small find appendix listed one example in iron. The database print-out has two records for the blades of possible reaping hooks (**6553-4**).

Spade shoe

There are two examples (**6556-7**). Both belong to Manning Type 2 – the round mouthed form (Manning 1985, 44). Sufficient survived of **6557** for it to be assigned to Type 2b where the arms have lugs which grasp the blade.

Shears

There are four record for shears. **6562** is described as the blade of a Manning Type 2, i.e. from a set of shears of medium length (a blade of more than 80mm in length). **6561** and **6563** are described as belonging to Type 3, i.e. the small shears that could be used both for domestic purposes and for personal use.

Sickle

The database print-out records **6566** as being from the blade of a sickle of uncertain type.

Goads

There are eight records of goads. **4558-9** and **4561-3** are described as coiled strips. Of these **4563** is illustrated and is clearly an example of a Rees Type I where there is a spiral coil before the spike (Rees 1979, 76). Presumably all of the others belong to this Type as well. The illustration of the fragmentary **4565** indicates it is from a Rees Type II where the attachment ferrule is a penannular flat plate.

Cleaver

The small find appendix lists a single cleaver in this category (**6545**). It is an example of a Manning Type 1B – slightly hollow-backed with the convex edge curving up to the point (Manning 1985, 120). Functionally such a tool could have been used in many situations and not just within an agricultural one.

Fishing Tackle

Fish hooks

Three copper alloy fish hooks were recovered, one is complete and is single barbed (**2394**). **2392** and **2393** have lost their barbs but are identified by their characteristic spatulate ends for attachment to the line. In some cases the end is perforated. That form may be represented at Wroxeter by **2710** with its barb flattened against the shaft. Bliss noted that it was catalogued as a possible brooch pin, though it appears in the database print-out as a possible buckle.

Three iron fish-hooks are also recorded (**4627-8 4691**). **4627** is clearly barbed from the illustration and **4691** is also described as barbed.

Net-sinkers

In the database print out **7621, 7629, 7640, 7669, 7671, 7714, 7716, 7876** and **7937** are all described as lead alloy net-sinkers, the small find appendix states there were 13. They are rectangular strips of lead sheet bent into narrow tubes around the short axis.

Building tools

The only items listed in this category are three iron picks (**6542-4**) of which the first two were described as mason's picks and two plaster's trowels (**6559**, **6565**).

Carpentry tools

The small find appendix groups a variety of tools under this heading, some of which would be more normally associated with other crafts and industries.

Awls

The small find appendix places all of the awls in this category of tool though it may be noted that awls are more normally associated with leather-working (Manning 1985, 39). There is one example of the long carrot-shaped Manning Type 1 (**6530**) and one of the Manning Type 2 with diamond head and tang for handle (**6533**). The commonest form was the Manning Type 3 which is similar to Type 3 but lacks the tang for a handle. **6535** was an example of the carefully made Type 3A, whilst **6527** and **6574** were assigned to Type 3B which have more roughly shaped heads. **6529** was also a Type 3 awl. Type 4 awls are slender and tanged. **6528** and **6534** were Type 4a where the tang is pyramidal shaped, **6531** was a Type 4b where the tang is tapering and square-section. Two other items were also identified as iron awls but were not assigned to a type.

Chisels

6536-8 were identified as paring chisels. The other chisels were **6539-41, 6571** and **6579**.

Drill bit

6572 was identified as a drill bit and tentatively assigned to the spoon bit category.

Gouges

6558 and **6570** were identified as gouges, the identification of the latter was not secure.

Hammers

6546-7 were identified as hand hammers. The third hammer **6575** was unclassified.

Punches

These are the tool of a blacksmith rather than a carpenter, though telling the difference between them and carpenters' chisels can be a problem (Manning 1985, 8). The database print-out specifically notes that **6549** was a metal-working punch. Other items identified as punches are **6550-52**, **6569** and **6576**.

Saws

6564 is a fragment of a saw blade and **6766** may be.

Wedges

The entries in the database with this name are **6548** and **6621-51**.

Other tools

Stone

The stone whetstones and worked flints are catalogued in the database under the numbers **8497-8517** and **8518-26** respectively.

Bone

Bliss prepared a report on 19 bone points, though there are now 24 in the database (**318, 536-45, 547-9, 553-60, 563-4).** The increase probably reflects items that emerged during the processing of the animal bone. She noted various different forms were present.

The commonest (13 examples **536-45, 556, 560, 564**) consisted of almost unworked ? metapodials with one end intact or slightly trimmed, and the other end cut away along one or both ends to form a rough 'point'. In some cases the medullary canal is exposed.

In the literature 'points' or 'gouges' have a specific form and consist of ovicaprid tibiae and metacarpi with the side cut away exposing the medullary canal, and some have rivet holes at the untrimmed or slightly trimmed end (see Greep, 1983, 159 for discussion). Though they have been ascribed a variety of function, a favoured one is that they functioned as pin beaters in weaving. It is uncertain whether the Wroxeter examples could have functioned in this way owing to their relatively crude working and their much shorter length.

A group of four items are also described as points but show considerably more working. They are essentially shafts with a chisel or asymmetrically cut point.

Finally, a further two objects are included here. **558** consists of a broken piece of bone. The top is now missing and the shaft is heavily shaped to form a point with flat surfaces. **559** also does not have the end present and the shaft is faceted.

Bliss further noted that some items in miscellaneous (?peg) could also have been assigned here.

Knives

The knives were recorded as follows:-

Manning Type 1 – straight and relatively narrow blade, edge and back parallel. **4795-9** with the last-mentioned suggested to be Type 1B with paired bone plates as handles.

Manning Type 4 – long slender blade, possibly a razor. **4800**.

Manning Type 5 - slender leaf-shaped blade. **4801** and **4802**, and possibly **4803** and **4804**.

Manning Type 7 – straight blade with down-turned and curved edge. **4805.**

Manning Type 9 **–** a more sinuous version of Type 7 with wider blade. **4806** and possibly **4807**.

Manning Type 11 – back continuing line of handle and straight edge rising to point. **4809** and possibly **4808** and **4812**. **4813** may be Type 11A, i.e. the form with tanged handles. **4810** and possible **4811** are Type 11B with rod handles finishing in a loop.

Manning Type 12 – back continuing line of handle, wide blade and convex straight edge rising to point. **4814-20**.

Manning Type 13 – broad blade, back continuing line of handle and falls to tip, edge stepped down from tang and is straight or slightly convex. **4821-4** and possibly **4825**.

Manning Type 14 – tang on midline; straight blade, back level or slightly arched before dropping to tip. **4826**.

Manning Type 15 - tang set below back and blade symmetrical about line of tang. **4827-31**.

Manning Type 16 – triangular blade with back and edge straight, tang on midline of blade. **4832-3, 4835-7** and possibly **4864**.

Manning Type 17 – long blade with back and edge parallel with back dropping at tip, back continues line of back. **4839** and possibly **4838.**

Manning Type 19 **–** straight edge, back dips slightly before dropping through concave curve to tip, tang approximately on mid-point. It was suggested that **4840** might belong to this type.

Manning Type 20 – short wide blade, back sloping up from handle and running straight or concave curve to tip where it drops down to strongly convex edge. Tang set below line of back. **4841**.

Manning Type 21 – short wide blade, edge and back straight and both curve to tip, tang on midline. **4842.**

Manning Type 23 – back of blade curves up from tang to point which is normally higher than tang, edge stepped down from point and curves up to tip. **4843**.

Manning Type 24 – back of blade and tang have S-shaped profile, edge curves up. **4844-5**, **4874** and possibly **4846**.

The unclassified knives were **4847-65 4869-77, 4879-4889** and **6757**.

Handles of knives, tools and weapons

The 18 bone and antler handles from Wroxeter are classified according to the typology offered by Greep which is based on the methods of construction and hafting (Greep 1983, 377-420). Type A handles are single piece and Type B are composite.

A1 – Antler handles.
There are four plain antler handles made from tines (A1.1 – **502, 504, 506, 551**) and one example decorated with incised lines (A1.2 - **507**). Two have *in situ* tangs (**507** and **504**), the latter is probably complete. Three handles are made from tines, the surfaces are roughly and partially worked and show knife cuts and notches. A further handle appears to be made of a beam, which though unusual does occur at Newstead where saws were hafted by two iron rivets. The Wroxeter handle does not show any evidence for riveting. On one side of the beam there is an incised star shape cross. The type A1.2 handle consists not only of incised line decoration but also has dots and crossed lines on the very end.

A2 – bone handles.
There is possibly a plain example (A2.1 - not noted in database), three examples decorated with longitudinal grooves and ribs (A2.2 – **499, 500, 509**) and one decorated with trellis work (A2.4 - **504**).

One handle of this type still has a tang *in situ* (**499**). Like the A1 handles A2 handles were used to haft simple knives and awls. The grooves on the A2.2 handles were sometimes lathe-turned but it was not possible to identify whether this was the case at Wroxeter.

A3 – ovicaprid metapodia.
There is one plain example (A3.1 - **510**), two decorated with ring and dot motifs (A3.2 – **498, 505**), and one decorated with 'other' decoration (A3.3 - **508**). In each case the distal end is sawn off and the shaft is carefully or roughly squared. The ring and dot patterns of the two examples at Wroxeter are different to one another, but represent two common arrangements – widely spaced or closely grouped ring and dots. This decoration is probably applied using a central drill bit. **508** classed as 'other', is rather unusual in that it is perforated at the centre of the proximal end and is crudely decorated with widely spaced trellis in a band in the centre of the shaft. The object is similar to the perforated metapodia recognised as being used in textile manufacture (see here Section 9), but was identified as a handle by Greep. The perforation at the end may have been for a ring for suspension.

A12 – small flattish sub-rectangular handles with plain sides, waisted end and suspended by a ring.
The type is subdivided according to the decorative motif and the shape. That from Wroxeter is A12.2 (**503**) decorated by multiple grooves. Since its end is waisted the tang may have been hafted by a spring clip device.

There are another two pieces of handle which are from single piece handles but their type is uncertain. **497** consists of a long bone decorated with longitudinal grooves and so may be of types 5 or 8 depending on its original cross section shape, **496** is a fragment decorated with two closely spaced longitudinal ridges. It could be a variant of type A5 since it does not easily match type A10.3

B1 – two D-sectioned plates with two or three rivets.
There is an antler example of a variant of Type B1.3 handles (**562**). Unusually these consist of plates with both outer zones decorated with trellis work and with the centre flanked by an inverted V or curved lines which are placed either side of a plain zone. The example from Wroxeter has a central section decorated with acute-angled lines. It is complete with an iron tang; suspension loop and two rivets. It is 80mm long in total and has a maximum width of 24mm. The antler part of the handle measures 64mm in length.

There is also one example of a type B1.4a handle (**511**). The plates have outer trellised zones and a similarly decorated band in the centre placed longitudinally. Either side of this, and on both sides of

the fixing rivets, there are small ring and dot motifs. There are the remains of a tang. Unlike most members of this group, there are no signs that it was suspended. It is 52cm long.

A single broken plate from a handle is placed in B1.6 (**512**), unattributed pieces, owing to its unusual arrangement of the decorative motifs. There are three plain central zones and these are flanked by a zone of shallow V incised lines.

In addition there is a further example of a composite handle which does not fit easily into any of Greep's types, except B4 'others'. It consists of the suspension loop and part of the shaft which is plain , flat-sectioned and which tapers. There are three rivets around the loop and there is the remains of a tang (**550**).