

Table 3: Wasperton, Warks: additions to E Crowfoot catalogue (archive version)

Note: E Crowfoot records Graves 8 and 11

Grave 13

1247/1 cu/a small-long brooch

Now detached from brooch, but incorporating remains of the brooch pin, 7 x 6 mm of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 16/Z x 16/Z per cm; fibre flax/hemp. In folds pierced by fe pin.

Fibre identified from smooth profile, visible lumen and frequent cross-markings.

Grave 15 [Female gender, Phase 2c]

1257/7D fe fire-steel

Remains of textile were recorded all along one face and lapping on to the edge. Seem to be at least two different textiles present.

(i) On one terminal, at outside edge, 8 x 7 mm of textile woven in twill, probably 2/2 twill, 12/Z x ?/S per cm; probably a kempy wool.

Fibre identified at low magnification, without destructive testing, from presence of coarse kemp-like fibres (kemp are flat fibres over 100 microns diameter and therefore visible at low magnification).

(ii) On one face of same terminal, 10 x 10 mm of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 12/Z x ?/Z per cm; fibre not identified.

(iii) Further along same face as (i), patches 15 x 9 mm, 15 x 8 mm, etc, of textile woven in 2/2 twill, probably 2/2 diamond twill; fibre probably wool.

Fibre examined at high magnification and identified as probably wool from the range of diameters and the ‘wood-grain’ appearance often seen in decayed wool.

Note: E Crowfoot records for other items Grave 15

Note: E Crowfoot records Graves 17 and 22

Grave 23 [male gender, Phase 2d]

1221/5 fe shield fittings

(i) Across grip and probably originally binding it, regular cording made up of two types of cord, (a) loose multi-strand Z-ply, 1.8 mm diameter and (b) tight 2-ply S-sply (probably Z2S), 1.0 mm diameter.

(ii) At one end of the side of the grip facing away from the shield, 18 x 18 mm of textile woven in some form of twill (2/1 or 2/2), c.12/Z x 12/Z per cm; fibre not identified.

Note: E Crowfoot records for other items Grave 23

Grave 24

1230/4 great square-headed brooch

Textile recorded by E Crowfoot as wool 2/2 ZZ broken twill, 12-14/Z x 12-14/Z per cm, has been revised by PWR to (i) a linen 2/2 ZZ broken twill, 10-12/Z x 10-12/Z per cm, overlying (ii) a brown wool twill of 14/Z x 14/Z per cm, now slightly felted and possibly originally napped.

Fibres (i) identified as flax/hemp from fine diameters, 10-17 microns diameter, fine lumen, cross-markings and nodes; (ii) as wool from general appearance at low magnification and from range of diameters at high magnification.

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 39

Grave 43

1324/1 great square-headed brooch

E Crowfoot's records may be updated as follows.

- (a) E Cr's ?tabby is definitely tabby and the fibre is well-preserved flax/hemp: this textile is closest to the brooch back.
- (b)i. The smooth layer of 2/2 twill with human skin adhering (ECr's phrase 'skinned over') is flax/hemp. PWR makes the count 10-12 x 10-12 per cm and it should be distinguished from a third textile, (b)ii, c.9/Z x 9/Z per cm which is a broken diamond 2/2 twill in folds on the back of the head and which proves to be an animal fibre, possibly goat-hair. It would appear that ECr, not having fibre identification available, has drawn these together into one, as '(b) Z/Z, 2/2 twill with reverses, 10-11 x 9-10 per cm'.

In addition, there are further obscure areas which may be the same as the ?goat hair textile, (b)ii, between the two linens (a) and (b)i at the pin hinge and on its own in the pin catch: this is difficult to study but it is distinguished by a change of colour which probably indicates a different fibre-type.

Fibres identified as follows.

- (a) Smooth fine fibres with central lumen and cross-markings: flax/hemp.
- (b)i Smooth fine fibres with central lumen and cross-markings, 10-17 microns: flax/hemp.
- (b)ii Fine, medium and coarse fibres, 10-12 microns, around 25 microns and 50-75 microns. The fine are relatively numerous and non-pigmented, the medium almost always have a central medulla and are densely pigmented; and the coarse are fine kemp, with latticed medulla. Some mountain breeds of sheep have some of these characteristics, but the medullas in the medium fibres and the quantity at 10-12 microns is closer to goat hair.

1324/2 small-long brooch

Samples of fibres from E Cr's textile (b) suggests that here, too, there are two different textiles, one linen and the other wool or goathair.

Grave 44

Fe 6 shield fittings

On shield grip on side facing away from shield, 15 x 10 mm of textile woven in 2/2 diamond twill, 16/Z x 16/Z per cm; flax/hemp, almost certainly flax. Not clear whether binding the grip or simply laid against it.

Fibre identified from smooth profile, very clear thin lumen and fine diameter, 8-9 microns.

On same side of shield grip over area 20 x 7 mm, cords, ?S-ply, 0.8 mm diameter, run across the grip (probably a binding).

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 47

Grave 48

1344/5 fe knife

On a detached fragment of corrosion, 10 x 8 mm of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 9/Z x 8/Z per cm; fibre not identified.

Note: E Crowfoot records Graves 50 and 55

Grave 57

1442/2+3 fe bucket fittings

On outer face of lower band, in intermittent patches:

- (i) textile woven in ?2/2 twill, 10/Z x 10/Z per cm; fibre not identified.
- (ii) a much coarser Z x S textile of uncertain weave, in which the S-spun yarns, 1.5-2.5 mm thick, mostly cover the Z-spun threads; fibre not identified.

1442/5 fe knife

On one face of blade, 12 x 11 mm of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 10/Z x 10-12/Z per cm; probably wool.

Fe 9

(i) Flat curving metal plate from bucket

On one face, largest area 30 x 20 mm, of textile woven in 2/2 twill, possibly chevron or diamond twill, 8/Z x 10/S per cm; wool. In one area the surface is matted as if from repeated rubbing.

(ii) Narrow flat iron bands

(a) On one face, largest area 20 x 10 mm, textile woven in 2/2 twill, 10/Z x 10/Z per cm; fibre not identified. The remains curl away from the object and probably represent soft folds lightly touching it.

(b) On same face parallel to (a), but not over- or under-lying it, more of ZS twill textile (i). Wool fibres tentatively identified by range of fibre diameters.

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 59

Grave 72

2334/1,2,3 very small small-long in three fragments, with cu/a pin

(i) Two cords run across pin, just below pin hinge on back of brooch. They are both plied Z2S and they are 0.6 mm diameter; fibre flax/hemp. Possibly tying pin to pin-support.

(ii) Traces of fine textile, possibly woven in 2/2 twill, Z x ?, closer to brooch

Grave 73

2402/1 shield grip

On one face, 15 x 10 mm of textile woven in some form of twill, 8/Z x 8/?Z per cm; probably wool.

Grave 75

Fe 16 shield fittings

(i) On one side of grip, facing away from wood; square to metal, possibly part of a binding; 20 x 7 mm and smaller patches, textile woven in ?twill, 14 x 14 per cm, spin not clear; probably wool.

(ii) Diagonal to grip outside (i), 15 x 10 mm of tabby repp, 20/?Z x 12/? per cm; flax/hemp.

Fibre identification

- (i) Wool identified from range of diameters, 12-50 microns.
- (ii) Flax/hemp identified from fine diameter, 7-15 microns, smooth profile, fine lumen occasional 'knee-joint'.

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 77

Grave 80

2410/8 fe buckle

Between tabby repp noted by E Crowfoot and buckle is a folded layer of textile woven in some form of twill, 15/Z x ?; fibre not identified.

The fibre of the tabby repp is flax/hemp, probably flax, identified from the uniform nature of the fibre diameters, 17 microns diameter, narrow lumen and well-spaced cross-markings.

Note: E Crowfoot records Graves 80, 88 and 89

Grave 90

Fe 17 shield fittings

On once side of grip, facing away from wood, casts of a Z x S textile; no further details possible.

3134/6 knife

Fibrous remains could be fleece lining of sheath.

Grave 91

Fe 18 shield fittings

On one face of grip, 20 x 12 mm and 10 x 7 mm, of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 8/Z x 8/Z per cm; wool.

Wool identified from range of diameters, fine , medium and coarse, and the presence of a kemp c.100 microns wide.

Grave 92

3155/6 knife

On one face of blade a fold of organic remains with texture of twill, but no further details possible.

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 102

Grave 103

Shield fittings

In association with grip, 20 x 12 mm and smaller patches, of textile woven in 2/2 twill, 8/Z x 8/Z per cm; ?wool.

Also on grip two flat strips of leather/hide, c.12 mm wide, crossing grip, slightly on the diagonal (possibly binding the grip). Possibly some sewing yarn in association

A sample crushed on to a microscope slide and viewed at x 400-640 magnification, showed the following features: a thin layer with a mesh-like surface resembling skin; and second layer of (i) fine fibrils, often 5 microns diameter, and (ii) thicker fibres which spread out, branch and fork. Identified from these features as the collagen layer and epidermis of leather.

Grave 111

Small cruciform has two cords across lateral knobs; and tangle of cords on back; prob for the attachment of the pin fixing: Z2S 1.5 mm diameter; fibre not identified. *NB this object in box with Grave 167 – obviously swapped by mistake. J Sch's inventory and drawings seem to be correct.*

Note: E Crowfoot records Graves 111, 114, 115, 116, 126

Grave 145

3431/17A small-long

- (i) On back of head 18 x 12 mm of textile woven in twill, ?2/2 twill, 10/Z x 10/S per cm; wool.
Remains of human skin above.
- (ii) Between brooch and (i) at edge of brooch, Z x Z; ?wool; no further details possible.

Note: E Crowfoot records Z x Z ?twill on 3431/17B

Grave 146

Fe 22 shield fittings

Poor organics, nothing decipherable.

Grave 155

3484/6 knife

- (i) Along spine and on one face, largest area 15 x 10 mm, twill probably 2/2 twill, 10-12/Z x ?; ?wool.
- (ii) Detached, 8 x 7 mm, fine twill, one system covers other; c.20/Z x 16/?; fibre not identified.

Note: E Crowfoot records Grave 161

Grave 163

3559/10 fe pin with loop or crook pin

Textile twisting around pin, possibly fastened by it; texture of medium-fine ?twill, Z x ?; no further details possible.

Grave 167

22 and 23 matching cruciform brooches

See E Crowfoot records

Brooch 1 has 2/2 twill around pin hinge and on back of catch: fibre possibly flax/hemp.

Fibre tentatively identified as flax/hemp from narrow range of diameters, 10-20 microns, but very poorly preserved.

Not a grave

8159/16 fe buckle

Texture of fine weaves front and back, but no further details possible.