

The Metalwork by I.R. Scott¹

Copper Alloy

- 1 Oval sheet, with a slight lip around the edge, and a rectangular cut-out in the centre. Probably from a sword or *gladius*, it would have served as a washer between the blade and the wood or bone hilt guard, with the tang passed through the rectangular hole. Bent double. Length (extant) 50mm. (Unstratified).

Probably first century in date. There is an example from the Augustan fortress at Dangstetten (Fingerlin 1972, Abb. 13.6), and a number of examples from Vindonissa Museum, Brugg, A.G., one which was reused as a hilt guard for a dagger (see Fellmann 1966, Abb. 4.1). The latter is probably copying a form of dagger of second century and later date, which had a decorated copper alloy hilt guard (see Oldenstein 1976, 87-9, Taf. 9.1-2).

- 2 Belt plate, with open-work decoration. Length 41mm. (E1 SF5 Phase VI).

Parallels for this form of decorative treatment have been found on belt plates and related pieces from Zwammerdam (Haalebos 1977, 220, Abb. 18.39), Straubing (Walke 1965, Taf. 99.1, 7-8) and South Shields (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 230-1, no. 3.811). See also the discussion by Oldenstein (1976, 193-7, Taf. 62-4). Late second or early third century in date².

- 3 Possible harness buckle, cast. The leather would have been sandwiched between the two metal strips that originally formed the buckle strap, and would have been secured by two decorative rivets or nails. The holes for the rivets are clearly seen on the front of the buckle strap. The second strip

¹ This report was written soon after the excavations and not revised during the 1996 phase of post excavation work.

² See now the discussion in connection with those from the 'Roman Gates' site (Webster, J, 1992, 123-4), other examples published from Caerleon since this report was written include three from the Fortress Bath drain deposit dated to AD 160-230 (Brewer 1986, 176 nos. 36-8 citing other unpublished dated examples) and an example from the *canabae* (Lloyd-Morgan 2000, 374 no. 144). Chapman (2005, 109-111) catalogues all the examples from Caerleon in the National Museum of Wales, both published and unpublished.

at the back is missing; only a stump remains to mark its existence. The tongue and loop of the buckle are both secured by an iron pin. Length 68mm. (D7 SF78 Phase II).

No exact parallel for the complete buckle can be cited. However, both the general form of the buckle loop and pin, and of the strap can be paralleled, but on separate items. The loop and pin are comparable to examples from Colchester (Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl. CII.6, 8; Crummy 1983, 51, fig. 55.1813) and from Heddenheim (Fischer 1973, 88, Abb. 17.2-3). The strap is reminiscent of certain harness fittings; in particular, the detail of the strap is comparable to that found on strap loops used to connect two or more harness leathers together onto a ring. See the examples from Heddenheim (Fischer 1973, 86, Abb. 16.12), Straubing (Walke 1965, Taf. 99.4-5), Hüfingen (Fabricus *et al* 1937, Taf. XI: 49-50, 52, 54, 57-8) and Colchester (Crummy 1983, 132, fig. 149.4199-201). Buckles do not seem to be usually associated with sets of harnesses; see for example the set of first century fittings from Xanten (Jenkins 1985). This must raise doubts as to whether this item is from a set of harness.

- 4 Disc of sheet copper alloy with embossed border and small shank on the back. No decoration on the face. Diameter 20mm. (C3 SF129 Phase IV).

These are common objects from Roman military sites. There are a large number from the forts at Rheingonheim (Ulbert 1969, Taf. 29.32, 34, 36) and Oberstimm (Schönberger 1978, Taf. 25.B234-47).

- 5 Disc of sheet copper alloy, similar to the above. The shank is flattened, at the back. Diameter c. 20mm. (E1 SF13 Phase VI).
- 6 Needle, flattened into a spatulate shape at the eye-end. The shank is circular in cross-section, and tapers to the point. Length 117mm. (D7 SF68 Phase II).

Close parallels come from London (Wheeler 1946, 105, pl. XLII.4), from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 120, fig.52.175) and from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 65-7, fig. 70.1976-

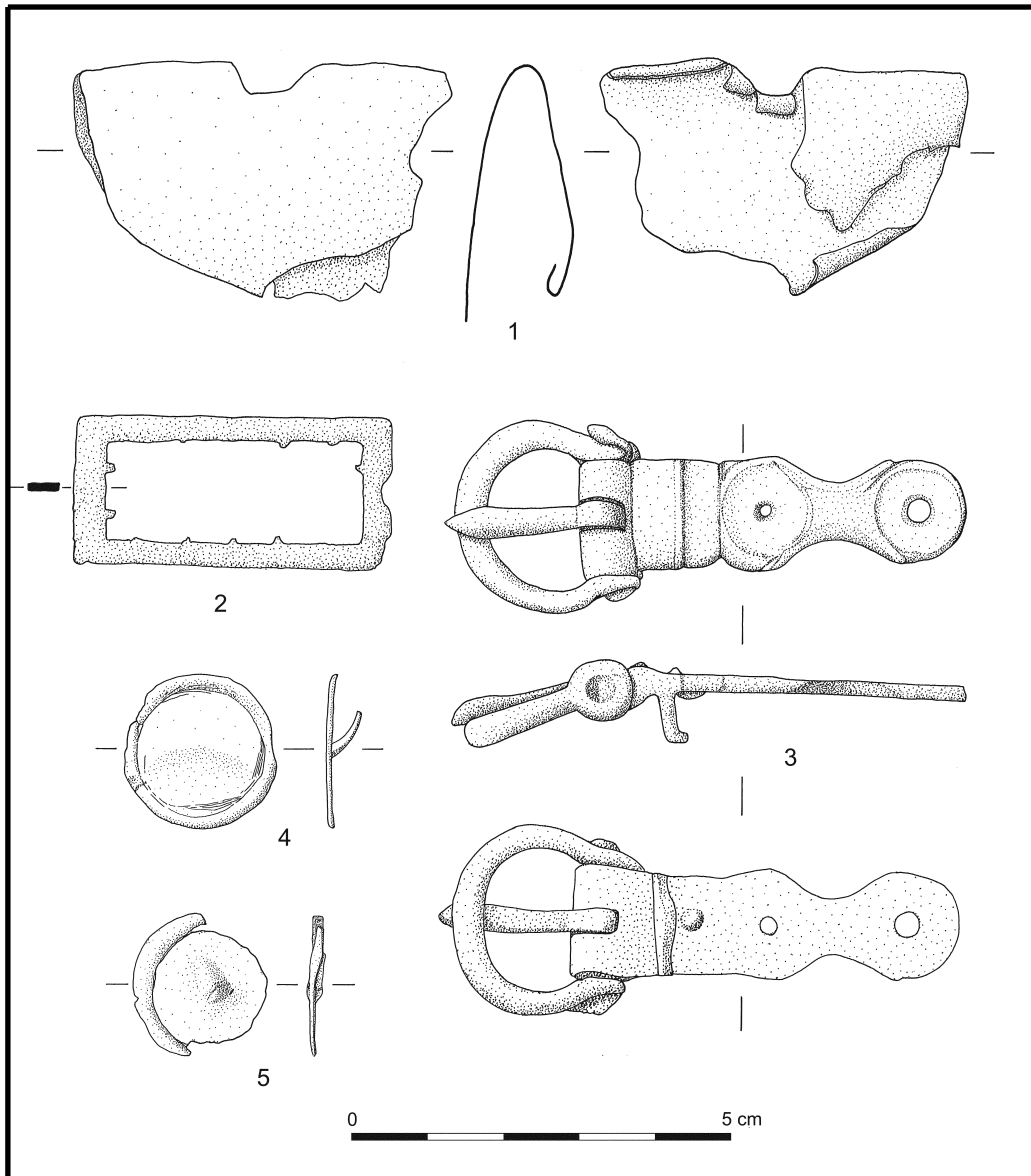


Fig. 48: Copper Alloy artefacts

7). There is an example with a very pronounced spatulate head from Neatham, Hampshire (Redknap 1985, 110, fig. 73.111).

7 Spoon, with oval bowl, incomplete. The handle is decorated with grooving, and a small knob where the line of the handle breaks to join the bowl. Silvered or tinned. Length 39mm. (Unstratified).

See examples from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, 112, fig. 47.123), New Fresh Wharf, London (Chapman 1986, 236, no. 14.5) and

discussion (Crummy 1983, 69)¹.

8 Seal box lid, from a circular seal box. Length 22mm. (D6 SF66 Phase III).

See the examples from Verulamium (Waugh and Goodburn 1972, 122, fig. 34.65-6; Goodburn and Grew 1984, 37, fid. 13.99-100), Heddenheim (Fischer 1973, 107, Abb. 26.6) Straubing (Walke 1965, Taf. 111.29-

¹ For spoons from Caerleon, including examples of bowls of this form, published since this report was written see Lloyd-Morgan 2000, 348-50.

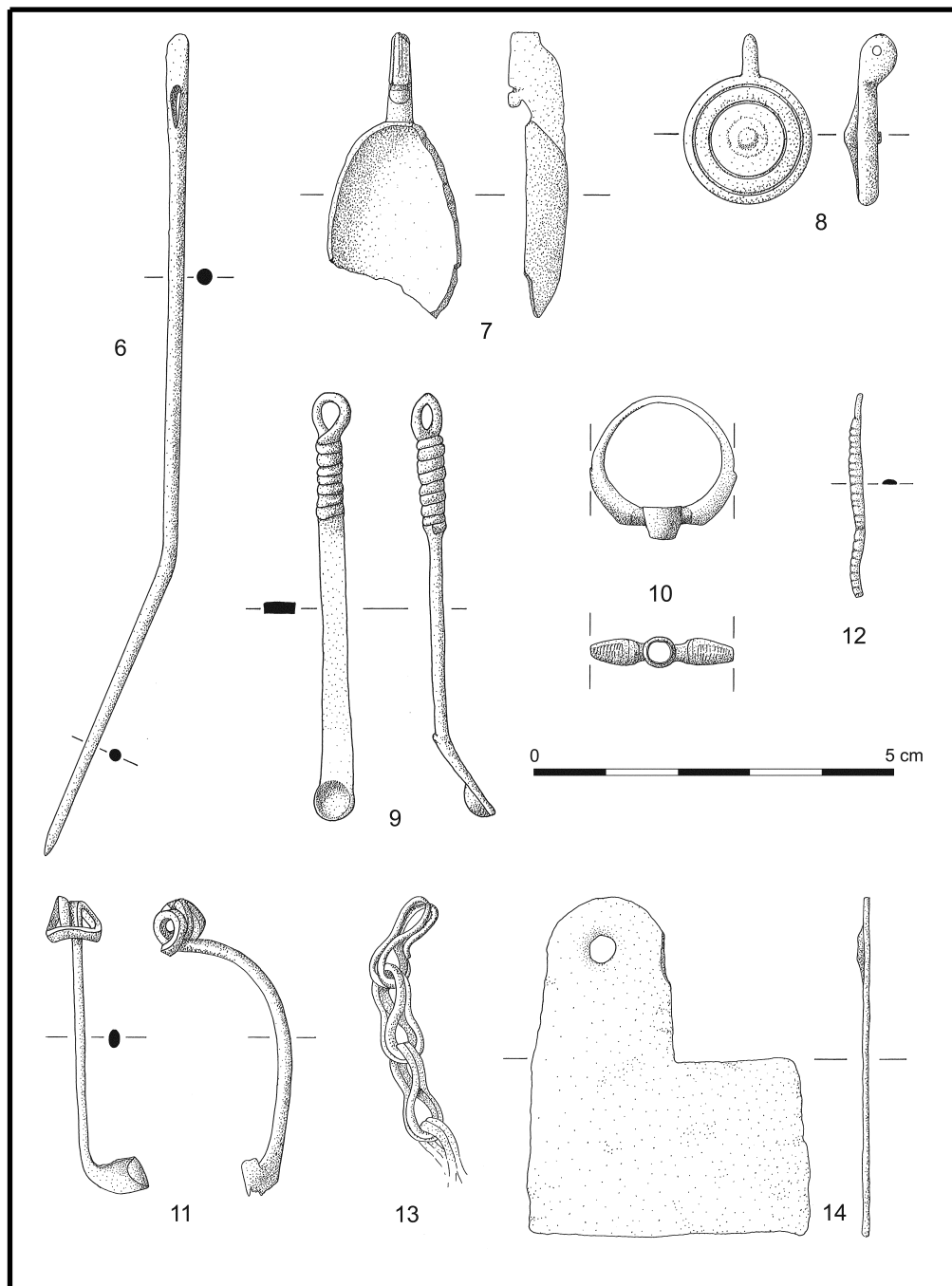


Fig. 49: Copper alloy artefacts

30) and Colchester (Crummy 1983, 103, fig. 103.2521). See also (Wheeler 1946, 108, fig. 33)¹.

¹ For circular seal boxes from Caerleon published since this report was written see Brewer 1986, 183 no. 136 (Fortress Baths), Webster 1992, 157 no. 369a ('Roman Gates') and Lloyd-Morgan 2000, 3355 nos. 44-6 (*canabae*). See also Brewer 2002, especially fig. 13.2.

9 Cosmetic spoon or 'ear scoop', formed from a tapering copper alloy sheet. The handle or suspension loop, has been formed by doubling back and twisting the tapered end of the utensil. Length 59mm. (Unstratified).

Possibly from a chatelaine. The form and construction of the suspension loop is paralleled by the implements from a damaged

chatelaine, comprising a nail-cleaner, spoon and tweezers, from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 62, fig. 67.1943) and by a nail cleaner from Hayton (Johnson 1978, 80, fig. 15.2). There is a more elaborate complete chatelaine from London Wall (Wheeler 1946, 83, pl. XXXIX)¹.

- 10 Finger ring, with circular possibly enamel setting, flanked by raised triangles decorated with herring bone hatching, or fronds. Diameter 20mm. (D6 SF71 Phase III).

There are comparable rings from South Shields (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 124-5, nos. 192, 194). See also rings from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 49, fig. 50.1777-86)².

- 11 Fibula, formed from one piece of wire. The spring is now lost. Length 44mm. (Unstratified).

Nauheim derivative, of pre-Roman to pre-Flavian date. There are good parallels from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 8, fig. 2.9) and Portchester (Webster 1975, 198, fig. 109.1). See also the brooches from Verulamium (Goodburn 1984, 21, fig. 5.10-1) and from Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986, 109, fig. 41).

- 12 Possible bracelet fragment. Formed of a strip of half round section, with cable pattern chased into rounded face. Length 28mm (D5 SF35 Phase III).

If this was a bracelet it is less elaborately decorated than the examples from Colchester (Crummy 1983, 37-45, figs. 41-6), Portchester (Webster 1975, 203-9, figs. 111-2) and from Baldock (Stead and Rigby 1986, figs. 52-3).

- 13 Chain consisting of fourteen links (only four

¹ For the type see Eckardt and Crummy 2008, 146 who date them to the late first to second centuries. There is increasing evidence emerging that cosmetic sets with this style of tool may have been especially favoured within the late first century military community in the north and west (Cool unpublished report on the finds from Delamere Street, Chester for Birmingham Archaeology, submitted 2009). The recovery of this example adds to this pattern. Another examples from Caerleon published since this report was written came from the Fortress Baths (Brewer 1986, 183 no. 139)

² This is an example of my finger ring group XIII A (Cool 1983, 251). These were current in the first half of the second century. The herringbone pattern on the shoulders is typical of examples found in the south west

illustrated). Length 160mm. (D4 Sf22 Phase III).

There are similar chains from a number of sites, including Verulamium (Vaugh and Goodburn 1972, 124, fig. 36.77-80), South Shields (Allason-Jones and Miket 1974, 253-4, no. 3.1086), Colchester (Crummy 1983, 161, fig. 197.4444), Mainz (Behrens and Brenner 1911, 111, Abb. 26.170, 172; Behrens 1912, 90, Abb. 5.53), Ribtissen (Ulbert 1970, 42, Taf. 24.373) and Weissenburg (Fabricus *et al* 1937, Taf. VI.19).

- 14 Plate, of approximately L-shape. One arm has rounded end and is pierced with a hole. Possibly a pivot plate for a door of a box or similar. Length 47mm. (A7 SF126 Phase VI).
- 15 Sheet, very thin, originally circular or oval. A small part of the original edge survives. Indeterminate embossed shape in the centre. Length 39mm. (D9 SF98 Phase III).
- 16 Tapering point, with flattened and pierced end. Function uncertain. Length 72mm. (D6 SF53 Phase III).
- 17 Nail or tack. Length 10mm. (E1 SF10 Phase VI).
- 18 Ring, of sub-rectangular cross-section. Diameter 19mm. (Unstratified).
- 19 Ring, of circular cross-section. Diameter 19mm. (D17 SF121? Phase II).
- 20 Ring, of circular cross-section. Diameter 18mm. (D17 SF121? Phase II).
- 21 Ring, of oval cross-section. Diameter 17mm. (D7 SF75 Phase II).
- 22 Bar, or broken ring, of irregular oval cross-section. Length 40mm. (Unstratified).
- 23 Possible ring fragment, of square cross-section. Length 20mm. (Unstratified).
- 24 Edge binding of thin sheet, embossed. Length 20mm. (E1 SF15 Phase VI).
- 25 Edge binding of V-shaped cross-section. Length 40mm. (D11 SF25 Phase V). (Unillustrated).
- 26 Strip bent double, with two nail holes. One nail *in situ*. Length 18mm. (A15 Phase IV).
- 27 Strip, tapering and of sub-rectangular cross-section. Broader end has an expansion with nail or rivet through it. Length 38mm. (E4 SF6 Phase VII).

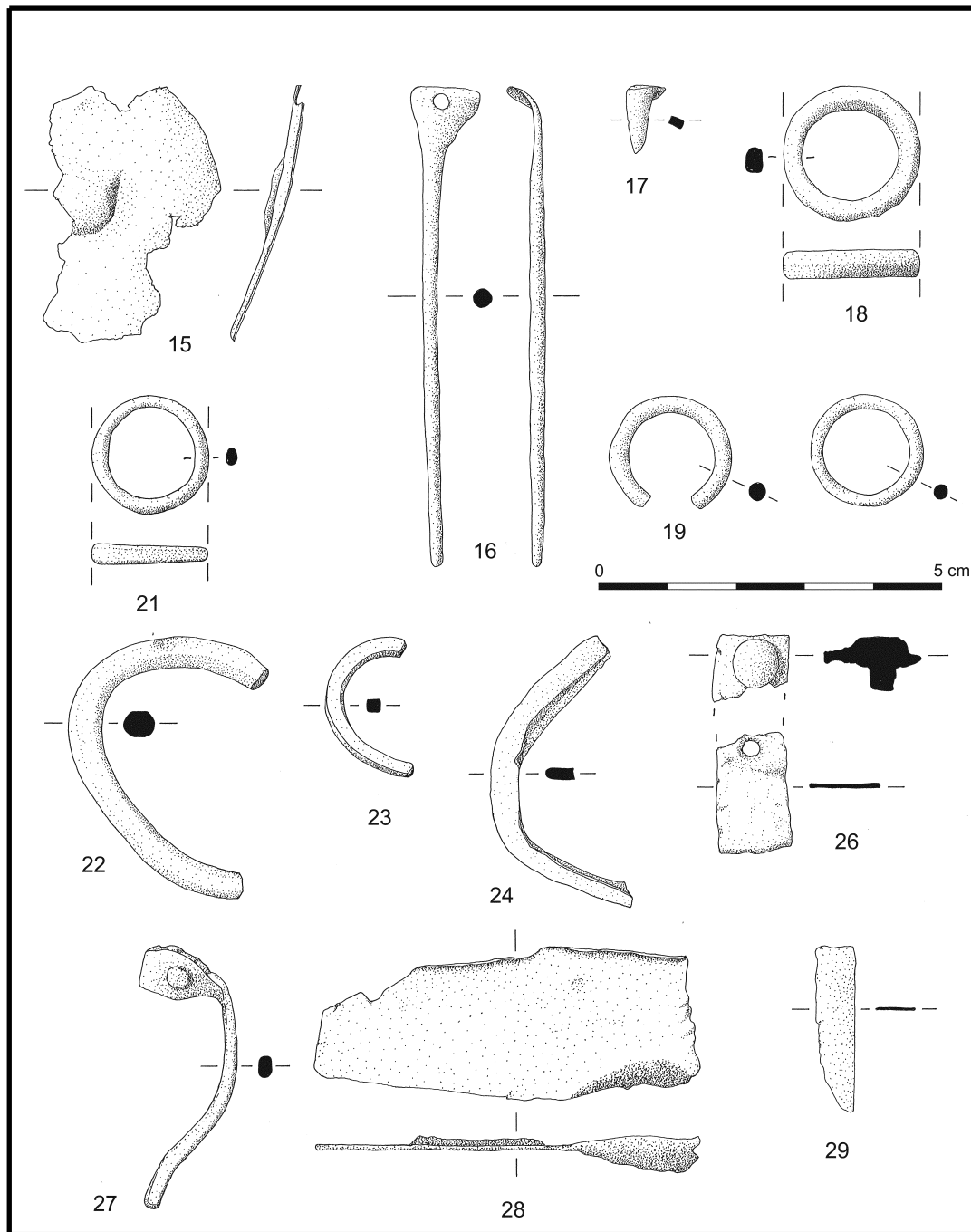


Fig. 50: Copper alloy artefacts

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| <p>28 Sheet, fragment, bent along on edge. Length 56mm. (D2 SF16 Phase VII).</p> <p>29 Scrap, or offcut. Length 24mm. (D5 SF44 Phase III).</p> <p>30 Scrap, or offcut. Length 32mm. (D4 SF85 Phase III). (Unillustrated).</p> | <p>31 Scrap, or offcut. Length 35mm. (Unstratified). (Unillustrated).</p> <p>32 Scrap, or offcut. Length 36mm. (A17 SF128 Phase II). (Unillustrated).</p> |
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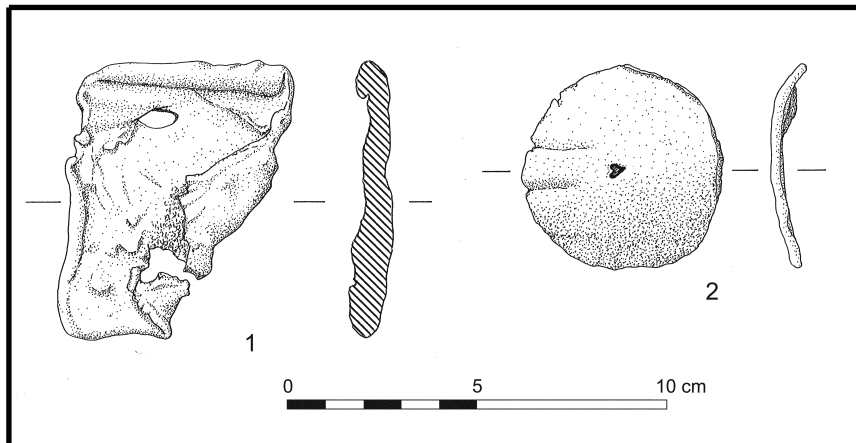


Fig. 51: Lead alloy artefacts

Iron

- 1 Ferrule, of pyramidal form. Length 70mm. (E12 Phase IV). (Unillustrated).

Ferrules of square cross-section are far less common than conical ones. Examples have been found at the Saalburg (Jacobi 1897, Taf. XXXX.15) and at Vindonissa (unpublished – Vindonissa Museum, Brugg A.G., acc. no. 43.359).

- 2 Possible poker. Much corroded bar of square cross-section with terminal knob. Length 135mm. (E1 Phase VI). (Unillustrated).

Compare the pokers from Frocester Court, Gloucestershire (Gracie and Price 1980, 31, fig. 13.1) and Whitton (Manning 1981b, 190, fig. 75.4). See Manning 1985, 12 for discussion.

The only other ironwork recovered from the excavations were nails. Few were well enough preserved to allow reliable estimates of either their number or their lengths. The majority were recovered from the Phase III dump deposits from the interval turret (D4-6). Smaller numbers were found on the floor level of the interval turret (D7 Phase II), in the Phase VI levelling deposits (E1-2) and the Phase IV rampart wall rebuild (E12). Where recognition was possible all of the nails were of a Type 1 form (Manning 1985, 134-5).

Lead Alloy

- 1 Sheet, with two holes punched through it. Edges rolled over. Length 73mm. (D6 SF70 Phase III).
- 2 Disc, with small hole through centre. Diameter 53mm. (D6 SF67 Phase III).
- 3 Scrap. Length 40mm. (D5 SF36 Phase III). (Unillustrated).
- 4 Scrap. Length 28mm. (D4 Phase III). (Unillustrated).