

THE IRON OBJECTS (Figs. 33-42) by I.H. Goodall, spurs and spur buckle by B. Ellis

Tools

1. Axe with lugs below the triangular eye, made by wrapping the iron round the eye and welding it against the side of the blade. The butt has been damaged, probably by excessive use as a hammer. SF95, F535, Phase 4/2, Group 19.

2. Bench knife? SF279B, F926/8, Phase 3/1, Group 7.

3. Reamer used to enlarge holes drilled in wood, its tang perforated close to the tip to enable the handle to be firmly secured. SF392, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

4. Broken arm from a pair of dividers. SF40, F139, Phase 3/1, Group 9.

5. Pick, long and slender, tapering equally to both ends. It could be a slater's tool used to make holes in slates, or a mill-pick used to dress millstones; either way it would have fitted into a wooden handle when in use. Arkell¹ illustrates modern slater's tools; see Freese² for tools associated with milling. SF64, F518, Phase 5, Group 23.

6. Awl with flattened bolster between blade and tang. SF468, F1026, Phase 4/2, Group 21.

7. Needle with circular sectioned shank which becomes triangular; tip lost. SF374, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

8. Sickle, blade and tang broken. SF49, F207, Phase 2, Group 3.

Knives, Shears and Scissors

9-Whittle tang knives, 9 and 10 with cutlers' marks, that on 14. 10 inlaid, 11 and 12 with inlaid decoration on the blades consisting on 11 of an enriched running scroll, and on 12 of a series of crosses some now without inlay. Since the inlay is probably the result of a pressure weld rather than one using solder, the loss of individual pieces on 12 and perhaps on 9 is not surprising. Decorative inlay, particularly like that on 11, is rare on knives, and the closest parallel is probably a knife from a 13th to 14th-century context at King's Lynn, Norfolk.³ No. 12 has a decorative bevel known as a swage along its back, and it retains a decorated bone handle (see bone/ivory object No. 8).

9. SF132, F605, Phase 3/1, Group 7.

10. SF359, F120, Phase 4/2, Group 18.

11. SF263, F518, Phase 5, Group 23.

12. SF262, F518, Phase 5, Group 23.

13. SF381, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

14. SF98, F553, Phase 5, Group 23.

15- Scale tang knives; 23-25 are just tang fragments. Nos. 15, 25. 16 and 18 have cutler's marks on their blade, that on 18 inlaid, and 19 has decorative nicks across the back of the blade. Nos. 15 and 16 have riveted shoulder plates, although one is

missing on 15; 22 retains one soldered shoulder plate, 17 the solder alone. The handles of 15, 17 and 21 were held together with iron rivets; on 16, 22, 23 and 25 they are of copper alloy. Nos.22 and 23 also have decorative copper alloy end caps and collars. The iron impregnated remains of wooden handles remain on 15 and 22.

15. SF352, F56, Phase 3/1, Group 10.
16. SF379, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
17. SF373, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
18. SF132, F605, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
19. SF412, F284, Phase 5, Group 23.
20. SF382, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
21. SF349, F90, Phase 4/2, Group 19.
22. SF372, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
23. SF32, F115, Phase 4/2, Group 18.
24. SF445, F600/11 Phase 3/1 to 5, Group 12.
25. SF285, F421, Phase 4/2, Group 17.

26- Knife blade fragments. 27. 26. SF342, F14, Phase 5, Group 23. 27. SF465, F915, U/S.

28. Shears arm, the blade with a cusped top, the bow moulded. SF138, U/S.

29- Scissors, both typologically post-medieval. No. 30 were used 30. for cutting cloth and have the same cutler's mark on each blade, neither inlaid. 29. SF447, F633/1, Phase 3/1-5, Group 13. 30. SF112 U/S.

Building Ironwork and Furniture Fittings

31. Cramp. SF449, F633/1, Phase 3/1-5, Group 13.

32- U-shaped, rectangular and looped staples. 37. 32. SF453, F639, Phase 4/2, Group 10.

33. SF384, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
34. SF436, F573, Phase 4/2, Group 21.
35. SF469, F1107, U/S.
36. SF457, F700, Phase 4/2, Group 21.
37. SF393, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

38. Wallhook. SF156, F629, Phase 5, Group 23.

39- Hinge pivots, all with tapering shanks. 42. 39. SF439, F588, Phase 5, Group 20.

40. SF421, F507, Phase 5, Group 23.
41. SF444, F599, Phase 5, Group 23.
42. SF460, F847, Phase 1, Group 1.

43. Hinge with nailed U-shaped eye and simply shaped strap. SF353, F14, Phase 5, Group 23.

44- Pinned hinges, 44 and 45 with non-ferrous plating. 46. 44. SF233, F784, Phase 3/1-5, Group 13.

45. SF67, F520, Phase 5, Group 23.

46. SF406, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

47- Hinge straps retaining shaped terminals. No. 47 is part of 51. a serpent head terminal found on such 12th-century church doors as the south door at Stillingfleet, North Yorkshire.⁴ The other terminals are simpler, 48 and 49 resembling that of strap hinge 44.

47. SF272, F174, Phase 2, Group 3.

48. SF414, F284, Phase 5, Group 23.

49. SF276, F434, Phase 0.

50. SF390, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

51. SF423, F512, Phase 5, Group 23.

52- Broken lengths of strap, all plain. Most are probably from 66. doors or chests, but some, including the broader and heavier pieces, might be from carts. In the dimensions given below, length precedes width:-

52. SF246, F825, Phase 4/2, Group 10, 65 x 25 mm.

53. SF354, F14, Phase 5, Group 23, 115 x 25 mm.

54. SF258, F921, Phase 0, 58 x 26 mm.

55. SF399, F186, Phase 5, Group 23, 148 x 26 mm.

56. SF228, F763, Phase 3/1, Group 7, 31 x 29 mm.

57. SF244, F825, Phase 4/2, Group 10, 55 x 29 mm.

58. SF428, F527, Phase 5, Group 23, 71 x 29 mm., slightly curved in cross-section.

59. SF448, F633/1 Phase 3/1-5, Group 13, 159 x 32 mm.

60. SF425, F518, Phase 5, Group 23, 72 x 33 mm.

61. SF346, F? (RT for F36), Phase 5, Group 23, 108 x 35 mm.

62. SF419, F354, Phase 3/1, Group 7, 197 x 38 mm.

63. SF383, F186, Phase 5, Group 23, 58 x 40 mm.

64. SF244, F825, Phase 4/2, Group 10, 84 x 40 mm., the edges downturned.

65. SF288, F418, Phase 5, Group 22, 141 x 50 mm., as 64.

66. SF294, F593, Phase 4/2, Group 20, 205 x 51 mm., two separate pieces forged together, section as 64.

67- Binding straps; Nos. 67-68 are U-shaped, 69 and 70 are angle 70. binding.

67. SF234, F347, Phase 5, Group 23.

68. " ""

69. SF422, F512, Phase 5, Group 23.

70. SF350, F101, U/S.

71- Sheet fragments, all with nails or holes for them. 73. 71. SF234, F347, Phase 5, Group 23.

72. SF287, F421, Phase 4/2, Group 17.

73. SF160, F629, Phase 5, Group 23.

74- Casket binding, variously moulded and shaped, all incomplete 78. and with non-ferrous plating. Surviving caskets frequently have bindings of gilt bronze or silver,⁵ and the plating on these fragments was intended to simulate this.

74. SF311, F1068, Phase 3/2, Group 5.

75. SF195, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

76. SF237, F518, Phase 5, Group 23.

77. SF431, F541, Phase 5, Group 23.
 78. SF375, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
- 79- Strips, all incomplete.
 81. 79. SF417, F342, U/S, 121 x 12 mm.
 80. SF270, F923, Phase 4/2, Group 10, 124 x 14 mm.
 81. SF388, F186, Phase 5, Group 23, 111 x 17 mm.
82. Pinned stapled hasp, the pin lost as well as the tip.SF357, F119, Phase 5, Group 23.
- 83- Figure-of-eight hasps, stapled in position or held by 84. chains.
 83. SF324, F353, Phase 2, Group 3.
 84. SF325, "" "
85. Looped hook. SF115, F586, Phase 5, Group 23.
86. Latch rest. SF255, F700, Phase 4/2, Group 21.
87. Spike. SF57, F515, Phase 5, Group 23.

Locks and Keys

- 88- Padlock keys, No. 88 with a hooked terminal, that of 89 89. originally looped.
 88. SF196, F284, Phase 5, Group 23.
 89. SF343, ubble over F23, Phase 5, Group 23.
90. Lock with flat, hollow sided lockplate and near complete mechanism comprising an S-shaped tumbler, a toothed bolt, semicircular collar, a single ward and the ends of the mount in which the key tip was formerly located. The mechanism compares closely with that in a lock from Oxford Castle.6 SF401A, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
91. Latch with rectangular backplate. SF401B, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
92. Part of broken lock tumbler? SF356, F119, Phase 5, Group 23.
- 93- Keys. Nos. 93-95 have bits rolled in one with the hollow 102. stem; the bit of 96 is separately applied. Nos. 97-102 have solid stems. Nos. 93, 96 and 97 have non-ferrous plating or brazing metal. Nos. 100 and 102 are typologically post-medieval, all others medieval.
93. SF314, F983, Phase 2, Group 3.
 94. SF186, F633, Phase 3/1-5, Group 13.
 95. SF23 U/S.
 96. SF18, U/S.
 97. SF127, F600/1, Phase 3/1-5, Group 12.
 98. SF129, U/S.
 99. SF19, U/S.
 100. SF189, U/S.
 101. SF92, F518, Phase 5, Group 23.
 102. SF251, U/S.

Household Ironwork

- 103- Socketed candleholders. 105. 103. SF279A, F926/8, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
104. SF378, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
105. SF370, F189, Phase 5, Group 23.
- 106- Two lengths of chain, one with a hook, and an oval link. 108. 106. SF130, F581, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
107. SF380, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
108. SF467, F1007, Phase 3/3, Group ?8
109. Swivel hook. SF398, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
110. Loop.SF368, F176, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
- 111- Rings. 113. 111. SF222, F639, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
112. SF376, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.24 mm. diam.
113. SF377, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.30 mm. diam.
114. Fitting. SF304, F1026, Phase 4/2, Group 21.

Buckles and Personal Fittings.

- 115- Buckles. Nos. 115-22 are D-shaped, 123-26 circular, 127-132. rectangular and 128 T-shaped. Nos. 129-31 have revolving pin arms in rectangular or trapezoidal frames. No. 132 is a double looped buckle with a buckle plate. A number of the buckles are moulded or decorated with incised lines which retain non-ferrous plating; plating is detectable on
- 115, 116, 119-20, 122, 124, 128-32.
115. SF174, F633, Phase 3/1-5, Group 13.
116. SF74, F145, Phase 4/1, Group 18.
117. SF245, F825, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
118. SF309, F423, Phase 5, Group 17.
119. SF194, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
120. SF188, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
121. SF371, U/S.
122. SF340, F1, U/S.
123. SF205, F319, Phase 3-4, Group 14.
124. SF271, F923, Phase 4/2, Group 10.
125. SF150, F621, Phase 4/2, Group 19.
126. SF120, F584, Phase 5, Group 23.
127. SF273, F118, Phase 3/1, Group 4.
128. SF46, F174, Phase 2, Group 3.
129. SF391, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.
130. SF229, F581, Phase 3/1, Group 7.
131. SF252, F3, Phase 4/2, Group 19.
132. SF316, F561, Phase 4/2, Group 21.

133. Spur buckle. B. Ellis writes: Flat buckle, its top edge curved to form the frame below which is a central hole into which the buckle pin is looped. The lower part of the buckle is elongated, terminating in an open ring loop which attached it to the terminal of a spur side. The pin is flanked by some incised line decoration, and the whole has non-ferrous plating which may be tin or silver; medieval iron spurs were often plated with tin.⁷ This buckle is typical of spur buckles of the late medieval period, such as that on a cabled iron rowel spur of about 1400 in the Museum of London.⁸ SF81, F512, Phase 5, Group 23.

134. Probable strap loop with non-ferrous plating; the object resembles late Saxon hooked fasteners, which are occasionally made of iron, but it is larger than most. SF208, F700, Phase 4/2, Group 21.

135. Jews harp. SF310, F432, Phase 2, Group 4.

136. Heel iron of post-medieval date. SF397, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

Horse Equipment

137- Horseshoes. No. 137 is an arm and 138-39 are tips with 153. countersunk nailholes. Nos. 140-53 have rectangular nailholes, and are of the type which succeeded 137-39 during the 13th century. No. 154 is a horseshoe tip, 155 probably an oxshoe.

137. SF264, F911, U/S.

138. SF247, F355, Phase 2, Group 3.

139. SF366, F119, Phase 5, Group 23.

140. SF363, F150, Phase 3/1, Group 9.

141. SF410, F267, Phase 4/2, Group 18.

142. SF455, F639, Phase 4/2, Group 10.

143. SF402, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

144. SF403, "" "

145. SF404, " " "

146. SF405, " " "

147. SF396, " " "

148. SF369, F189, " "

149. SF418, F347, " "

150. SF389, F186, " "

151. SF76, F512, " "

152. SF75, F512, " "

153. SF437, F582, " "

154. SF470, F1129, U/S.

155. SF334, F118, Phase 3/1, Group 4.

156. Fiddle-key horseshoe nail. SF209, F702, Phase 5, Group 23.

157. Part of a bridle bit, including a mouthpiece link. Non-ferrous plating. SF257, F207, Phase 2, Group 3.

158. Mouthpiece link from bridle bit. SF278, U/S.

159. Terminal from currycoat handle arm. SF400, F186, Phase 5, Group 23.

Spurs by B. Ellis

160. Rowel Spur of iron. The slender sides are broken, their terminals gone. They plunge downwards from their junction with the neck and the more complete one bends at about 140 degrees under the wearer's ankle. An x-ray shows thin double diagonal lines and a vertical line, perhaps mouldings, flanking this bend. The sides appear to have been of round section but their surfaces, and those of the short straight neck, are badly pitted with rust. The rowel originally had about seven separated points, all but one of which are now damaged. Overall length now about 80 mm. Length of neck 22 mm. Diameter of rowel originally about 22 mm. Typological date: mid 13th to mid 14th century. The earliest rowel spurs were slender with deeply curved or bent sides, features which continued throughout this period and it is not possible to date this incomplete spur more closely. SF53, F503, Phase 5, Group 23.

161. Rowel Spur of iron, of long-necked type. Its rowel-box is now bent to one side while its sides have become compressed together. The D-sectioned sides lay horizontally around the wearer's heel with their front ends curving upwards to become vertical, supporting small horizontal figure-of-eight terminals. There is a flange above the junction of sides and neck which may have been the base of a pointed crest. Beneath it projects the low-seat neck which is round and slender. The rowel-bosses are conical and quite prominent. Rowel of eight separated points. The terminals retain three hook attachments for the spur leathers, their centres formed as oval discs, their hooks are now broken. The position left vacant by the missing buckle shows that the spur was worn on the right foot, as buckles were worn on the outside. There are surface traces of non-ferrous plating which is most likely to have been tin.⁹ Overall length (as now distorted and including rowel) 172 mm. Length of neck 74 mm. Diameter of rowel 35 mm. Typological date: mid to second half of the 15th century. (See also spur buckle 133 above). SF214, U/S.

Arrowheads

162- Arrowheads of various types, all socketed. 167. 162. SF344, F23, Phase 4/2, Group 19.

163. SF462, F862, Phase 4/2, Group 20.

164. SF207, F267, Phase 4/2, Group 18.

165. SF338, F1, U/S.

166. SF52, F224, Phase 5, Group 23.

167. SF11, F19, Phase 5, Group 23.

168. Broken socket with decorative grooves, perhaps from a spearhead. SF361, F135, Phase 5, Group 23.

Notes

1.W.J. Arkell, *Oxford Stone* (1947), 133-5, 148, figs.22, 25.

2.S. Freese, *Windmills and Millwrighting* (1957), 102-7, pl.28b, c.

3.I.H. Goodall in H. Clarke and A. Carter, *Excavations in King's Lynn 1963-1970*, *Soc. Medieval Archaeol. Monogr. ser. no. 7* (1977), 293, fig.133, 29, pl.V,D.

- 4.P.V. Addyman and I.H. Goodall, 'The Norman Church and Door at Stillingfleet, North Yorkshire', *Archaeologia* cvi (1979), 75-105.
- 5.R.H. Pinder-Wilson and C.N.C. Brooke, 'The Reliquary of St. Petroc and the Ivories of Norman Sicily', *Archaeologia* civ (1973), 261-305; J. Cherry, 'The Talbot Casket and related late medieval leather caskets', *Archaeologia* cvii (1982), 131-40.
- 6.I.H. Goodall in T.G. Hassall, 'Excavations at Oxford Castle, 1965-1973', *Oxoniensia* xli (1976), 300, fig.28.59.
- 7.E.M. Jope, 'The Tinning of Iron Spurs: A Continuous Practice from the Tenth to the Seventeenth Century', *Oxoniensia* xxi (1956), 35-42.
- 8.Catalogue of the Collection of London Antiquities in the Guildhall Museum (1908 edn.), 266, no. 40, pl.lxxxii, 6. Since publication the spur has been renumbered 7373, and the Guildhall Museum Collection now forms part of the Museum of London.
- 9.Jope op. cit. 35-42.