

## **Bosworth Battlefield Survey Small Finds report**

This report discusses all the finds from the Bosworth Survey which are known or thought to be of medieval date, and seeks to determine which of those objects could be contemporary with 1485 and, as such, could be relics of the Battle of Bosworth.

### **Dating issues**

All of the Bosworth finds have been metal detected from the plough soil and therefore no contextual or stratigraphic dating can be used. Dated parallels have been found for most of the material from the Bosworth Survey, although the date ranges quoted do not limit the use of the objects to those dates, as many styles of objects remained in use for many decades among everyone but the very wealthy. One of the main reference collections for dating medieval small finds is the material excavated on the Thames foreshore, the sequence of which stops, frustratingly, in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Several of the object types are not closely datable within the medieval period, but seem to be in use throughout the 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and, of course, beyond into at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Furthermore, as 1485 is towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there are certain elements of personal adornment which are tending towards the early 16<sup>th</sup> century in style and this makes making a clear distinction between potentially later 15<sup>th</sup> century material and early 16<sup>th</sup> century material particularly difficult.

Beyond the broadly medieval material is a range of objects that appear to have a wide range of dates, including the medieval period.

Crudely cast rings, which have been recovered in some quantity in the survey, are known from various periods and have a multitude of potential uses, but among them are horse harness fittings and belt suspension rings, so they are potentially significant and are therefore discussed (classes as possible harness rings). In addition there are many objects, such as studs, weights, vessel fragments, washers and rivets, which could be medieval, although their form does not preclude them dating from the Roman, post medieval or even modern periods.

## Catalogue

### Buckles

Despite medieval copper alloy buckles being a common find in most landscapes, as the result of losses during harvesting and many other activities, the large number of buckles worn at a medieval battle, their likelihood of being detached during the fighting and the huge number found at Towton, they should be one of the best indicators of medieval military activity over the survey area. To date, the survey has concentrated on retrieving non ferrous objects, which precludes the locating of iron buckles which were commonly used on medieval armour and with horse harness. To date 36 medieval buckles have been found in the survey, some of these have a broad time-span, whilst others can be dated to particular centuries.

#### **89 F149**

Buckle plate for a 25mm belt, with zig-zag incised decoration separated by a double line. Four rivet holes, and broken through pin hole. No fold. Not in Whitehead Similar in form to Egan & Pritchard 502-8 range of **1230-1400** Ottaway and Rogers 14340 **12thC**  
L:51mm x W:25mm x T:1mm.

#### **234 F67**

The central part of a narrow composite buckle with long forked spacer. Circular loop with point. Loop frame triangular with bevel to inside the lower edge. Pin in tact. The prongs of the spacer fork are splayed widely out, presumably post deposition. Whitehead no 215. Date **1350-1450**: Ottaway and Rogers 13338, 14705 & 14310 **15<sup>th</sup> C up to early 16<sup>th</sup>** although associated with 14<sup>th</sup> elsewhere.  
L48.5 x W14mm x T2mm without pin.

#### **253 F174**

Circular buckle of angled elliptical section with a recessed integral pin bar of round section. Pin missing. Whitehead 251-153 **1350-1650**  
mm diam x mm D36mm T4mm; pin bar 23mm long

#### **257 F187**

The bow of a D shaped buckle with moulded pin rest in a slightly swollen round sectioned bow. Whitehead **1250-1500**  
L42mm W19mm T6mm

#### **258 F187**

A D-shaped buckle with short offset strap bar, and a short, rotating cylinder on a recessed bar in the centre of a swollen loop. Plano-convex bow section with cylindrical roller. Whitehead 57 **1250-1500** Egan & Pritchard 270 **1150-1200**  
L20.5mm W16mm T5.5mm Strap bar width c8mm

#### **271 F181**

Broken double buckle. Originally with tall, narrow loops. Whitehead 287 (but without decoration)**1350-1650**  
L48mm x W36.5mm x T3mm

**274 F181**

Part of a long straight buckle with projecting triangular moulded pin rest. Frame of angled ellipse section. Whitehead 69 and 73 **1350-1450**. Egan & Pritchard 311 **1350-1400**  
L50.5mm W 19 T 4.5

**275 F181**

Small D buckle with short rotating cylinder on recessed bar in centre of a swollen loop of flattened ellipse section. Whitehead No 57 & 58 **1250-1500** Egan & Pritchard 270 **1150-1200**  
L20.5 W15.5 T 6.5mm pin/strap bar 10mm

**277 F181**

Gently swollen bow of a plain D-Shaped buckle. Oval section. Whitehead 55 **1250-1500**  
Ottaway and Rogers 12882 similar 12<sup>th</sup> century  
L25mm x W11mm x T3mm

**279 F181**

A D-shaped buckle with integral plate. The pin survives in the oval pin hole. Two rivet holes along the length of the very shallow elliptical sectioned plate. One filled with Cu alloy rivet. The terminal of the plate is oval, but possibly broken at the tip. Whitehead 195-196 **1250-1400** Ottaway and Rogers 13336 **13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>C**  
L47.5mm x W19mm T2mm min T 5.2max on rivet

**295 F24**

A thin sheet buckle plate with remnant of fold with a circular pin hole and four small, crude, triangular rivet holes grouped at the far end.  
L: 29mm W 19mm T .75mm

**317 F69**

A D-shaped buckle of triangular section with recess in the pin bar and an integral strap bar behind the bow. Would fit a strap of 18mm. Whitehead 539 **1350-1450**; Egan and Pritchard 472 (**1400-1450**)  
L34mm W: 29mm T: 3mm

**318 F69**

The pin from an annular buckle, with a ridged panel on the outside edge just below the broken loop round section with flattened sides. Whitehead No 34 -5; **1250-1450** who describes them as waist belt buckles. Ottaway and Rogers 14294 **1350-1450**  
L46mm W8mm T 4.5mm

**898 F26**

An asymmetrical rectangular buckle with pin resting on a swollen frame end. The base of the pin is wide and cylindrical and the broken curve of a locking bar issues from the riveted pin bar. Whitehead 554 **1350-1450**  
L27mm x W28mm x T6.5mm

**1748 F30**

The swollen loop of a D-Shaped buckle with a recessed groove for the pin rest. Circular section. 5mm bow section circular. Similar to Whitehead 80 **1250-1400**  
L28.5 W14mm T7.

**1835 F30**

Half of a Cu alloy D-shaped buckle with off set strap bar. Plano-convex – oval sectioned pin bar. Whitehead 63 **1250-1500** Egan and Pritchard **1200-1400** Ottaway and Rogers 14302 **early 15thC** L17.5 W 21mm T 2.5mm oval section bow

**1842 F30**

The integral Cu alloy buckle plate of a one piece buckle with two rivet holes and a broken Cu alloy pin. Plano convex section. Egan and Pritchard **Early 14<sup>th</sup> C** Whitehead **1250-1400** L30.5 W11.5 T 4mm

**2221 F403**

Small D shaped Cu alloy buckle with short offset strap bar. Remnants of pin. Whitehead 53, 59 & 63 **1250-1500** Egan & Pritchard 274 **1270-1350** L18mm W 18mm incl pin T3mm w/o pin 4.5 with pin.

**2344 F569**

A broken double-looped buckle with an accentuated 'spectacle'-shape formed by a short, recessed pin bar and a slight point to the outside of the one surviving loop. Not in Whitehead . Similar Fe form in Mills 1999 NM21 **15thC** Egan & Pritchard similar form 347 **1350-1400**

L: 32mm W: 33mm Max T: 3.5mm Pin bar 10mm Long, 3mm Diam (roundish-section).

**2360 F414**

A circular buckle with bevelled edges and integral pin bar. ring D-sectioned, pin bar rectangular section. Whitehead 252-3 **1350-1650**;

D: 41mm T 4mm pin bar 30mm long 2.5 wide

**2713 F187**

Fragment of a forked spacer plate buckle with slender trapezoidal bow section.

Whitehead 211-14 **1350-1450** Egan & Pritchard 322 – 330 **1350-1450**

L17mm W15mm T3.5mm

**3366 F402**

A small double oval-looped buckle which has been bent to take a strap in a fashion consistent with use on a spur. Could be late medieval or post medieval.

L25.7mm W18.3mm T2mm

**4029 F69**

A small oval looped double buckle, slightly irregular frame with angled rounded rectangular section. Pin bar with round section strap width 12mm. Whitehead 310 **1500-1650** 299; Exeter 73 **late 14<sup>th</sup>-15th century**; Egan & Pritchard similar to 332-3, 337-9 **1350-1450**

L21mm W17mm T2mm

**4220 F80**

A small slightly asymmetrical double buckle. Central integral pin slightly bent and rather worn by the missing pin. One end of the pin bar is slightly extended. One loop is oval and the other D-shaped. Whitehead 310 similar **1450 – 1550**

L22.5mm x W17mm x T1.5mm

**4462 F735**

A Cu alloy doubled looped buckle with narrow D-shaped loops and a suggestion of moulded decoration on the loop frames. The frame section is triangular and the pin bar section is circular. The pin bar is 11mm long. The loops have been bent upwards.

Whitehead 310 **1500-1650**

28mm x 20mm x 2mm

**4506 F46**

Wide open work buckle plate with hinge and broad pin slot. The central bar of the open work design survives. Not in Whitehead **13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century? PAS?**

35mm x 34mm x 6mm

**4509 F46**

Small double buckle with proud oval loops and remnants of iron pin. Pin bar very corroded. Whitehead 294 1350-1650; Egan & Pritchard 337-339 **1400-1450**; Ottaway and Rogers 14328 w/o moulded decoration possibly a shoe buckle. **15thC**

L21.5mm W18mm T3mm

**4575 F46**

Cast Cu alloy pin from an annular buckle. No pronounced moulding below the loop. D-shaped section Whitehead 34 and 37 **1250 – 1450** Egan & Pritchard 31-32 **1350-1400**

L: 49mm W: 7.5mm T: 4.5mm

**4709 F59**

Elongated D-shaped buckle with full round knob at the D end. Remnants of iron pin and possibly of Cu alloy buckle plate on the pin bar. Pin bar length 8.5mm MOELS 622, 625, 626 633 **late 14thC**; Whitehead 85 **1250 – 1400** Egan & Pritchard 421 **1350-1400**

L23 (excl pin) W14 T3mm (excl pin)

**4752 F399**

Fragment of Cu alloy forked spacer buckle with remnant of pin. Egan & Pritchard p81 329 330 **1400-1450**.

13mm x 13mm x 3mm excl pin

**4830 F542**

Heavily corroded Fe rectangular buckle with pin intact. Style consistent with medieval horse harness buckles but could be post medieval.

L50mm W45mm T13mm

**5142 F548**

Cu alloy double buckle with D shaped loops one missing. Remains of Fe pin and Cu alloy buckle plate survive in Fe corrosion. Cf Egan & Pritchard double buckles with plates 1270-1400

L22.9mm W21.4mm T5.6mm

**5220 F548**

Cu alloy sub rectangular buckle – probably one half of a double buckle. The corroded and damaged knobs on the nodes of the pin bar may have continued into the second loop. Could be a late medieval or early post medieval spur or armour buckle.

L18.6mm W15.2mm T2.7mm

**5465 F547**

The socketed strap-end style plate of a Pb alloy buckle with cross hatch decoration and two dome-headed Pb alloy rivets. Loop and pin missing.

Smaller version of Egan & Pritchard 481 (plus parallel) unstratified but **1400 – 1450**  
L18.2mm W11.3mm T3.6mm

**5477 F547**

The cast Cu alloy pin of an annular brooch. The loop is missing and there is a single raised ridge below the stub of the loop. Parallel

L42.5mm x W6mm x T7mm

**5541 F403**

Broken Cu alloy double buckle with D shaped loops of section and a strong pin bar of section and with projecting ends. Post med? Egan & Pritchard 285 **1350-1400**

L39mm x W24mm x T3.5mm

**5569 F553**

Cu alloy buckle in the form of a Lombardic C Egan & Pritchard 285 **1350-1400**

Whitehead **1300-1400**

L37mm W31.6mm T2mm

**5692 F702**

A slender Cu alloy buckle loop of oval section. One end is broken just as it starts to taper while the other has tapered significantly and appears to have turned to form the pin bar.

The pin rest is offset towards the narrow end of the loop. Given this strange configuration this may be a harness buckle.

L45mm x W23mm x T4mm

**5988 F550**

The loop of a Cu alloy buckle, with a plano-convex section and a pronounced pointed swelling at the centre point of the loop. The pin bar and its terminals are missing.

Probably 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century

L45.3mm W25mm T4mm

**Possible medieval buckles****881 F30**

Rectangular Cu alloy frame with oval sections. No decoration, pin recess or evidence of pin.? Whitehead 126 – 132 **1300-1500** but could be much later too.

L26 W17mm T 3mm

**2666 F187**

A corroded roughly D shaped asymmetrical penannular frame with one thin, straight section – possibly a pin bar, and both terminals incomplete. The terminal of the straight section remains slim and is slightly inverted (excentuated by a break) towards the terminal of the curved section, which appears to have been conjoined with a another curving section. The original shape may have been a B therefore. Although unparalleled thus far, this could represent a buckle or part of a horse harness. Given the condition a medieval date seems highly probable.

L34mm W34.5mm T5.27mm

## Possible buckle plates

### 368 F297

A fragment of thin sheet with an oval hole punched through.  
L25 W 24mm T 2mm

### 537 F81

A fragment of thin sheet with two irregular holes punched through.  
L26 W 18 T .75mm

### 272 a & b F181

Two sheet fragments with rivet holes, possibly from a buckle plate.  
a L 21mm W 13.5 max T 3.5mm min T 1mm  
b L 17mm W 8.5mm T .75

## Strap ends

### 263 F181

A composite Cu alloy strap end, made of three soldered sheets, the middle sheet being most robust. The knob is fleur de lys shaped. DA 605 Phase 11 p131265 DA 676-80 p144 1350-1450; York 14371(if with spacer plate),  
L: 42.2mm W (of body): 12.4mm W (knop): 8.1mm T: 3.2mm T (single layer of the three): 0.4mm

### 264 F181

Composite Cu alloy strap end with cast forked spacer plate. The upper half of the front sheet is decorated with punched decoration forming four Xs divided by straight lines. There is a rivet on the broken upper edge. The flat knob is roughly acorn-shaped but the front sheet is missing here, while the middle and rear sheets are riveted together. Egan and Pritchard 605 **1350-1400**  
L: 52.8mm W (body at widest): 16.2mm W (knop): 7.8mm T: 5mm L of knop: 14.8mm

### 265 F181

A Cu alloy composite strap end with a central forked spacer plate with a full round, collared biconical knob. The outer sheets are both shorter than the cast spacer plate at the terminal end and are riveted to the spacer at the top and bottom. Reverse/obverse face sheet detached. Egan and Pritchard 676-80 p144; Ottaway and Rogers 14371, 14711-2 **14<sup>th</sup>** but in **15<sup>th</sup>** -17<sup>th</sup> C context. L42.5 16mm thickness complete 4.5mm

### 266 F181

A cast Cu alloy spherical ended strap end with a short thin bifurcated strap fitting with a single rivet hole now broken off. PAS  
L (total): 26.8mm L (ball): 13mm W (ball): 15mm T (ball): 12.2mm W (arms): 4.8mm

### 334 F181

A cast Cu alloy spherical-ended strap end with a short thin bifurcated strap fitting with a single rivet at the very top of the fitting. PAS  
L: 27mm D: 15mm

**802 F30**

Parallel-sided sheet plate with a single rivet at one end. Both ends are broken giving no indication of original form. Possibly a covering sheet from a composite strap end or buckle. (Or possibly a pm pen knife)

802 L: 20.8mm T: 1mm W: 10mm

**1497 F69**

The cast Cu alloy spacer plate from a composite strap end of circular form, with a full round, collared knob. Evidence of solder on both faces. Dress Acc 648-651 Phase 9 and 11 pp140-1:York 14372 p2901

L: 49mm W: 20mm max W (at top of spacer fork): 12mm T: 3.5mm

**3576 F103**

Parallel sided Cu alloy sheet with one end straight and the other rounded with a rivet hole. Possibly a strap end over plate. 3576 L: 18mm W: 11mm T: 1.3mm

**4514 F46**

The full round knob and part of the spacer plate of a circular form Cu alloy strap end. Egan and Pritchard 648, 650, 651 1350-1400 Ottaway and Rogers 14437

L28mm x W22mm x T4mm

**5262 F547**

Cu alloy folded strap end with parallel sides slightly tapering towards the fold. There is an incised horizontal line traversing the width of the strap end just above the fold. The rivet end is badly mangled.

L34mm W9mm T2.5mm

**Possible medieval strap ends****5286 F398**

A flat Cu alloy terminal, with a collared knob at one end and a break at the other. There is iron staining on the back and no sign of rivets or a back plate. Possibly a post medieval mount.

L32mm W12mm T 4mm

**5650 F547**

A Pb alloy parallel sided fragmentary object with a cast ?foliate decorated front and a recessed back. Possibly the front face of a two part strap end. Could be post medieval.

L 29mm W13mm T 3.5mm

**5655 F546**

A Cu alloy cast object with parallel sides and a rounded terminal beneath a double grooved shoulder. One side is flat, the other has a series of raised motifs, possibly lettering, along its centre. Possibly a strap end given its shape.

L28mm W13mm T3mm



## Strap fittings

17 medieval and possibly medieval strap fittings (and possibly harness strap fittings) have been found in the survey. They are all very plausibly medieval, but all also have parallels outside the period.

### 267 F181

Cast Cu alloy bar mount with central circular hole in a raised polygonal surround with bevelled edges. One arm of the bar is missing and the other is missing its terminal and rivet. Egan and Pritchard 11157 **1270-1350**; B Read 143 p23 Ottaway and Rogers 14437 **14<sup>th</sup>-early 15<sup>th</sup>C** L:18.4mm W:8.9mm T: 2.8mm

### 280 F181

Cu alloy cinquefoil domed mount with two integral attachment spikes on rear. Very similar in form to sexfoil mount in Ottaway and Rogers 13370 and 13372 but without the separate rivets. (**late 15<sup>th</sup> C** and U/s) D22mm x T27mm

### 333 F181

A hollow backed, cast Cu alloy elliptical domed mount with a single square sectioned integral rivet off centre on the reverse side.

L: 24mm W: 12mm T: 5mm

### 338 F181

As 333 L: 22mm W: 12mm T: 7mm

### 348 F329

As 333 L: 21mm W: 12mm T: 7mm

### 1324 F188

As 333 L: 24mm W: 12mm T: 4mm

### 1493 F95

A large cast Cu alloy mount in the form of a rose. The central hole is irregular and probably damaged. There are six small petals around the central hole, six larger ones around those and six large petals around the outside edge. Two small holes have been worn through the mount. The reverse of the object shows some of the reverse of the obverse pattern. This could be a later furniture escutcheon. Similar decorative style to Egan and Pritchard 947 **1400-1450** and Ottaway and Rogers 14426 **14<sup>th</sup>C**  
D: 29mm T: 2mm Irregular central hole: 4mm

### 1515 F30

Large rectangular mount of gilded Cu alloy sheet. Each scalloped corner has a Cu alloy rivet. There are vestigial signs of an incised double line border and internal decoration on one surface. The piece is bent and partially folded. L: 42mm W: 42mm T: 1mm

### 2232 F181

A wide flat Cu alloy sheet with two small iron rivets along the straight edge. The other edges are ragged with two irregular open work holes. Ottaway and Rogers 12892 residual in 17<sup>th</sup>C context. L:36mm W 30mm T 1mm

**3561 F103**

A tinned cast Cu alloy domed mount subdivided into 12 segments or petals. It has a single square sectioned integral rivet near centre on the slightly hollowed reverse.

D: 26mm T of dome: 4.5mm T (total): 6mm

**3575 F103**

A thin broken Cu alloy mount with off centre punched hole. Two arms survive of what was presumably once a cruciform. L: 16mm W: 16mm T: 1mm

**4635 F82**

A slim Cu alloy belt mount, almost certainly originally with a hooked terminal. There are two integral rivets on the reverse. Heavy patina with deep corrosion. Parallels from the medieval and more commonly Tudor contexts are known. L28.5 x W11 x T 6mm

**5478 F547**

A short, broad Cu alloy belt or strap mount, almost certainly originally with a hooked terminal, but the original direction of the curve is uncertain. There are two integral rivets on the reverse. Heavy patina with deep corrosion. A good parallel from London (Egan and Pritchard p155-6 728 is dated to 1270-1350. Similar mounts, but with a recurved hook, from the Isle of White (PAS IOW-7184a4) and Derbyshire, are suggested as 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century but with no firm basis (Read 2008 p225). L W T

**5486 F547**

A heavily eroded Cu alloy strap fitting which tapers gently towards one broken end and sharply at the other into what was probably a hook. There is a long Cu alloy rivet through the centre of the fitting just before the shoulders of the hook. There are remnants of original surface on both sides of the fitting adjoining the rivet. The upper surface has traces of gilding. Could be medieval or Tudor L30mm x W7.5mm x T7mm

**5577 F547**

Cast Cu alloy strap fitting in the form of an acorn. There are two integral round rivets issuing from the concave reverse. Possibly post medieval.

L24mm x W15mm x T4mm

**5594 F546**

A small Cu alloy domed mount with a bent central spike of square section (now snapped). There are traces of silver or tinning on the dome.

D: 14.5mm T:7mm

**5753 F547**

A Cu alloy cast subcircular mount in the form of a rose

D: 30.7mm T:3.27mm

## **Badges**

### **124 F80**

Silver gilt openwork badge, cast in the form of a bird of prey with wings spread and, unusually in medieval heraldry, its head looking right. The plain reverse has a solid oval-sectioned bar soldered horizontally to it. Both ends of the rod are broken. Recorded as late 15<sup>th</sup> or very early 16<sup>th</sup> century by BM.

L: 15mm W: 12.5 T: 3mm

### **5227 F542**

A silver badge in the form of a boar, with well defined features and traces of gilding behind the head on the back bristles. All the feet are missing. A single scar at the centre of the reverse suggests a vertical pin attachment, but it has now broken off.

Many of these badges were produced at Richard's coronation in 1483 and again at his son's investiture and would have been worn by most of his richer supporters at the battle. Only two other silver boar badges are known. One from Chiddingly in West Sussex, the other is in a book of detector finds, but is unprovenanced.

L:27.5mm W:17.2mm T:2.4mm

### **3971 F82**

A cast lead object with undulating central surfaces on both sides between which issue radiating protrusions. Very likely to be the Sun in Splendour badge worn by the Yorkists. One of the smooth faces (perhaps the reverse) is larger than the other and has a broken flat bar attached to it centrally. Geoff Egan thought the Yorkist badge idea likely.

D: 26.5mm T: 6mm

## **Sword Fragment**

### **5604 F547**

Tapering Cu alloy object with heavy gilding on all original surfaces, it has a diamond shaped section but the central ridge of one face is decorated with a roped moulding. This is part of the cross-guard of a high status sword.

There are a number of fighting/ practical fighting swords that have copper alloy hilts. The Royal Armouries have examples from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. There is no reason to think that the blade that accompanied this hilt would have been anything less than fighting standard. [The wearer] may have, perhaps, not expected to actually engage in combat, but if the needs arose would be perfectly capable and have the tools for the job. I do not think it part of 'Dress' sword but do recognise its 'bling' factor. Bob Savage - Royal Armouries.

L38mm x W15mm x T9mm

## **Scabbard fitting**

### **294 F24**

Dagger chape made of thin folded Cu alloy sheet. Pointed terminal with sheet cut and folded in. Oval in section. Single surviving rivet hole on one edge. V shaped nick at the top edge of the better preserved face, perhaps a decorative feature. Cf Ottaway and Rogers (but smaller) 12891 – 12891, 13359, 14393, 14395 & 15202 all **mid 14<sup>th</sup> – 15thC**  
L: 25mm Maximum W: 13mm Maximum T: 9.5mm Roughly rounded-triangular section (flat at the back).

**504 F199**

Slightly tapering, thinly cast Cu alloy object with two broken return edges on the long sides of the interior surface. There is the suggestion of parallel lines traversing the face at the narrower end of the piece.

L:39mm W14.6 T:1.6mm

**4755 F399**

Cast Cu alloy U-shaped sword scabbard chape with iron corroded groove on the inside edge. The centre of the chape is swollen, but has no lower knop, which are typically seen on medieval chapes, and the thickness tapers off toward the terminals. Difficult to assess original extent of edges as heavily corroded. Could also be Roman. Parallel  
L36mm x W26mm x T10mm

**5222 F548**

The triangular bottom fragment of a cast Pb alloy sword scabbard chape. Pb alloy is unusual for this sort of equipment but several are recorded in Egan and Pritchard.

L18.5mm x W10mm x T11mm

**5430 F547**

Cast Pb alloy sword scabbard chape. Deep, parallel sided socket, now broken and somewhat distorted, it has a stepped narrowing towards a semi-circular knop issuing from an oval terminal.

L27mm x W22mm x T11mm

**Possible dagger chape****2235 F93**

Long slim cone of rolled Cu alloy sheet with Fe core throughout entire length.

L74mm x W15mm x T8mm

**Possible dagger fitting or mount****496 F800**

Tin rich Cu alloy flat disc with a chamfered edge on one side and a rectangular central hole. Possible a dagger rondel. May be post medieval/modern.

D32mm T3mm

**3591 F95**

A heavy Cu alloy mount with central irregular hole. It is in the form of a stylised flower with eight raised pellets surrounding the hole, then eight raised 'petals' made of four parallel ribs between which on the outside edge were originally eight small circular protrusions. Possibly from a rondell dagger, however all parallels for design are so far post medieval so as likely to be a furniture escutcheon.

D: 33.5mm T: 3mm Central hole: 5.5mm

## Knife fittings

### 3491 F197

A bifurcating ?double hoof knife handle with iron tang visible set into underside. Date Parallel L: 16mm T: 7mm W: 12mm including iron.

### 4131 F58

An oval Copper alloy knife or dagger handle plate with central rectangular hole to take the tang. Date possibly medieval Parallel.  
L29mm x W28mm x T2.5mm

## Spurs

Only two likely and two possible fragments of medieval spur have been recorded in the Survey. The likely spur fragments are a six pointed rowel from Field 80 and a pointed rowel from Field 547. Given the similarity in form, a Civil War date cannot be ruled out for either rowel.

### 4175 F80

Six pointed rowel with bevelled edges and circular hole slightly off centre. Traces of tinning.  
Medieval Horse and its Equipment No 329 1300-1340 and No 341 1360-1400  
D: 25mm T: 3mm Central hole D: 4.5mm

### 5761 F547

An eight spiked Cu alloy spur rowel with central circular hole. Good parallels for 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> century spurs.  
D:29.1mm T:3.20mm

## Possible spur fragments

### 175 F178

Curving Cast Cu alloy strip of near oval section, with gilding. Possibly part of a spur arm, or a purse bar fragment, now bent and misshapen. Once-oval section?  
W: 6.6mm widest part. Distance between ends: 55.2mm

## Harness pendants

There is some debate about the dating of horse harness pendants and therefore their relevance to Bosworth. They are generally regarded in published articles as being a 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon, however there are several recorded at Towton battlefield and as they very rarely shown on medieval images of any century, it is possible that they are still in use in the civil war battles of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. One pendant, found to the north of the survey area is paralleled with the Wake family, a member of whom fought at Bosworth, giving further evidence to their significance.

**179 F185**

A quatrefoil pendant with a central circular hole suspended within a wreath shaped frame, itself with a now broken suspension loop. PAS parallel LIN-EF2662 – 1300 – 1499AD L42 W28 T body 3mm loop 7mm

**249 F24**

A large, now leaf shaped harness pendant. No evidence of decoration surviving other than gilding. The suspension loop is complete. PAS parallel IHS-646B70 “likely late 13thC date”. 249 L (loop to point): 46.8mm W (at shoulders): 36.1mm T: 0.9mm D (of loop hole): 2.3mm L (of loop): 10.5mm

**281 F181**

A scutiform pendant with a chevron between three birds. Paralleled (in heraldic form at least) with Rhys ap Thomas Argent a chevron between three Cornish choughs sable (a black chevron between three black birds on a silver shield) (Lanc). Suspension loop broken. L (loop to point): 36.2mm L (shield): 27.6mm W (at shoulders): 22.8mm D (of broken hole): 2.2mm T: 2mm

**310 F334**

A scutiform pendant with *Argent two bars gules in chief three torteaux* (a gold shield with two horizontal red bars below three red balls in a horizontal line.) Paralleled to the Wake coat-of-arms. Roger Wake (1452-1503) fought at Bosworth and this coat-of-arms is on his tomb. L: 40mm W: 24mm T (of shield): 3mm T (of loop): 6mm

**1496 F69**

A gilded Cu alloy fleur de lys harness pendant with single riveted attachment mount. The front of the fleur de lys has ridges along the petals. PAS parallels HAMP-FBEBB6 FDL (1200-1400AD) BH-56D172 (1300-1500AD) L: 42mm W: 19mm T: 11mm

**1499 F69**

Small square Cu alloy harness pendant. Corroded so no sign of decoration. Suspension loop broken. PAS and record these small simple pendants as 12<sup>th</sup> century. L: 26mm W: 18mm T (loop): 4mm T (square): 2mm

**3592 F181**

Small circular pendant with the motto around a red cross on a bronze? shield on a blue field. PAS parallels IHS-6F1E82, IHS-6F7105, and DENO-F5F2C5. The Yorkshire FLO asserts that these pendants represented the Knights Templar, who were closed down in 1314. Best example is 7018F5 Barnby Moor East Riding L32 W20 Tbody 2mm loop 3mm

**4836 F542**

A broken Cu alloy loop. Possibly a suspension fitting from a horse harness pendant. L25mm x W34mm x T7mm

**5645 F547**

A broken openwork harness pendant frame – similar in form to **179**. L33mm W24.5 T6.5mm

## **Possible harness bell.**

### **319 F69**

The upper half of a sheet Copper alloy rumbler bell with squashed and broken flat sheet suspension loop riveted through. There are no sounder holes on the upper hemisphere. D:3mm x H:32 mm

### **2973 F706**

A cast copper alloy rumbler bell with sounder holes at either end of the slit on the lower hemisphere but no holes on the upper hemisphere. The join of the two halves is not clear on the external surface. The integral loop is rounded arched with a 6mm diam circular suspension hole. L: 42.5mm x W: 44mm 22.5mm

## **Finger Rings**

### **4324 F81**

A gold finger ring with an oval bezel decorated with a scalloped motif on the upper surface of a carinated profile. The bezel contains a compacted brown substance but presumably once held a stone or glass mount. The slim but sturdy loop is of D – shaped section. No marks or inscription.

The British Museum were unable to date it. Although it could be post medieval, it is most likely to be Roman or medieval and should therefore not be discounted from the discussions.

Loop Max external D 23mm internal D20mm W 3mm T 1.5mm bezel W 12mm L14.5mm

### **4745 F339**

A small gold wire finger ring. It is a now bent, thin wire ring of 1mm round section and as such is again undatable. Original internal diameter approx 14mm so very unlikely to be worn by man. Given its proximity to both the late medieval roundshot and the Roman scatter it could be of either period.

Distorted L17.5mm T1mm

## **Medieval coinage**

37 medieval coins have been found in the Survey, of which only six demonstrably date from between 1460 and 1485. These are three double patards of Charles The Bold of Burgundy (both Flemish and Dutch issue) a groat, a half groat and a penny of Edward IV.

The Burgundian coinage should not necessarily be regarded as an exotic coin brought in by foreign mercenaries, as it was legal tender in England from 1477 until the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century following a trade Agreement between Edward IV and Charles the Bold.

Another Burgundian patard was recorded at Sheepy Parva in 2005, a gold half noble of Edward IV was found in field 81 and a gold Ryal (Rose noble) of Edward IV was found in field 569, but both before the Survey started. A penny of Richard III is said to have been found near Fenny Drayton.

Evidence from the closely datable stratigraphy of the Thames foreshore and from a number of medieval coin hoards shows that some coins, particularly pennies, were staying in circulation for hundreds of years. It is quite possible that a penny of Edward I (who standardised the size and weight of the penny) was still in use in 1485.

**116 F68**

Long cross penny of an Edward  
D:19.6mm T:0.6mm

**373 F196**

Long cross penny of Edward III 1356-1361  
D:18.7 T 0.6mm

**456 F51**

Cut short cross halfpenny. Possibly of John 1180 -1217  
D:19.26 T 0.5mm

**595 F54**

Long cross penny of Edward III 1356-1361  
D:14mm T 0.7mm

**634 F53**

Long cross penny of Henry III 1247-1272  
D:17.8 T 0.6mm

**878 F30**

Long cross penny of Edward I 1272 - 1307  
D:16.3 T 0.6mm

**1174 F67**

Long cross penny of Edward III 1356-1361  
D: 16.9mm T 0.7mm

**1320 F188**

Long cross penny of an Edward (1272 – 1483)  
D:19.5 T 0.5mm

**1326 F188**

Cut voided long cross penny of Henry III (1247-1272)  
D: 16.1 T 0.5mm

**1634 F30**

Long cross penny of a Henry  
D:20mm T 1mm

**2358 F414**

Long cross penny with illegible obverse (1247 – 14??)  
D:19mm T 0.5mm

**2385 F403**

Long cross penny with blank obverse (1247 – 14??)  
D:15.8 T 0.5mm



**2665 F187**

Fragmentary long cross penny of an Edward (1272 – 1483)  
Original D:20mm T 0.6mm

**2977 F571**

Very worn and folded penny. Pellets and cross bar just visible on reverse.  
D16mm T 0.6mm

**3556 F103**

Very worn and fragmentary long cross penny with distinct blank rim on both sides.  
D18mm T 0.6mm

**4184 F79**

Half groat, possibly of Edward IV 1461 -1483 Obverse rather worn and bent. Legend clipped.  
D23mm T 1mm

**4326 F81**

Groat of Edward III 1327-1377  
D25mm T 1mm

**4329 F81**

Long cross penny, possibly of Edward III 1327-1377  
D T 1mm

**4398 F82**

Long cross penny of an Edward (1272 – 1483)  
D:17.7 T: 0.5mm

**4479 F46**

Long cross penny of Edward I (1272-1307)  
D: T 1mm

**4484 F46**

Long cross penny of Edward I or II (1272-1314)  
D T 1mm

**4659 F59**

Charles the Bold Double Patard. Flemish/Dutch issue. 1467-77. Rampant lion in centre of reverse cross rather than usual fleur-de-lys  
D27mm T0.5mm

**4688 F397**

Cut long cross halfpenny  
D T 1mm

**4730 F398**

Farthing, possibly of Edward III  
D T 1mm

**4801 F399**

Long cross penny of an Edward  
D T 1mm

**4825 F542**

Groat of Edward IV  
D T 1mm

**4883 F399**

D T 1mm

**4918 F30**

Fragmentary double patard

**4919 F30**

Fragmentary double patard

**5209 F30**

Long cross penny

**5296 F542**

Long cross penny  
D T 1mm

**5522 F540**

Half groat of Henry VII  
D T 1mm

**5597 F546**

Long cross penny of an Edward

**5610 F547**

Long cross penny of an Edward  
D:18.2mm T:0.9mm

**5683 F702**

Long cross penny of an Edward  
D:17.9mm T:0.7mm

**5706 F554**

Long cross penny of an Edward  
D:16.55 T:0.8mm

**5806 F542**

Long cross penny of unknown king

**5876 F30**

Short cross cut half penny of Henry II?  
D:18.8 T:0.7mm

**5903 F542**

Long cross penny of  
D:19mm T:0.5

**5943 F30**

Long cross penny of  
D:15mm T:0.65

**Buttons**

Late medieval buttons are not common finds as most people would fasten their clothing with laces. However a group of 11 plausibly late medieval or Tudor buttons has been recovered which should be considered.

**82**

Slightly domed, circular, cast lead button, with swirl decoration and iron loop (now missing but visible on both sides). Date Parallel mm x mm x mm  
0082 D: 17mm T (total): 5.5mm T (face): 3.5mm

**219**

Undecorated? Slightly domed, circular cast lead button or mount with mm central, round sectioned shank with casting flash either side on the reverse. Date Parallel mm x mm x mm  
219 D: 15.8mm T (face and stud): 6.3mm T (face): 4.2mm

**260**

A gently domed cast lead button decorated with raised a four petalled flower . The integral attachment loop is roughly rectangular and intact with a small circular hole close to the reverse of the button. Date Parallel mm x mm x mm  
260 D: 22.1mm T (face and loop): 10.8mm T (face): 6.1mm D (of loop hole): 1.1mm

**262**

Small cast copper alloy solid ball button with broken integral loop on stalk.  
Max D: 9.5mm T (total): 9mm T (face): 7mm Shank: 3mm wide

**339**

Flat cast lead alloy? Disc with evidence of a central shank on one side. Probably an early button.  
D: 21mm T: 3.9mm

**958**

Slightly domed cast lead alloy button with coiled rope design and integral circular loop.  
D: 17mm T with loop 7mm T 3.5 w/o loop

**1332**

Small cast Copper alloy globular with rectangular sectioned loop shank, broken at the loop. D: 11mm T (total): 9.11mm T (face): 6mm Shank: 5mm Wide

**1421**

Gently domed cast lead alloy button with evidence of loop showing on both surfaces..  
D: 11mm T (total): 4mm T (face): 3mm

**3337**

Gently domed cast lead alloy button or stud with possible sexfoil shape and a circular central shank on the reverse. Date Parallel  
D: 16mm T (total): 7mm T (face): 4mm

**3492**

Globular cast copper alloy button with integral large loop on a short shank.  
Date Parallel

**4157**

Small hemispherical cast copper alloy button or stud or pin head with no decoration but an incised rim on the reverse side and evidence of a broad ?iron central shank 4157  
D8.5mm T:5mm

**4240**

A flat cast lead alloy button with rounded edges and integral loop.  
D: 17.5mm T including broken loop: 7.5mm T without loop: 4.5mm

**Discussion of domestic medieval artefacts**

To determine the significance of the distribution of the medieval material which may relate to the battle, it is helpful look at the medieval artefacts which are of purely domestic function. Although it is possible that domestic items might have been damaged and lost in the military camps prior to and after the battle, these are more likely to reflect refuse from the local population during the medieval period.

**Seal matrices****341 F530**

An almost oval elliptical Cu alloy seal matrix. Heavily corroded and legend and device illegible. Suspension loop on reverse is missing.  
L24mm x W21mm x T4.5mm

**647 F53**

An elliptical shaped Pb alloy or Pb rich Cu alloy vessica style seal matrix in remarkably good condition, complete with Cu alloy ring. The central motif is a standing figure while the legend is in Latin written with a Lombardic style script. It's condition may suggest it is either a modern copy of a medieval matrix or a modern seal in the medieval style. It could however still be well preserved and medieval.

**5442 F**

A pyramidal pendant seal of hexagonal form with a simple suspension loop with iron fill. The seal is corroded and indistinct; the legend is mostly missing and illegible. The material appears to be a lead alloy with pale green accretion, but it could be copper alloy.  
L26mm x D18mm

## **Spoons**

The handles and bowls of 3 lead alloy and 1 copper alloy spoons of probable medieval date have been found. A further 5 are too fragmentary to date, and could be post medieval as well as medieval.

## **Vessel Fragments**

Vessel fragments make up a considerable proportion of the medieval and possible medieval assemblages from the Survey. 98 have been found in total, although as copper alloy cooking and eating vessels remain in use from Roman through to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, close dating of unstratified fragments is virtually impossible. One would perhaps expect such artefacts to be found in close proximity to sites in which they were used, but their spread appears to be very random around the survey area. The majority of vessel fragments are rims and bodysherds. A much smaller proportion are Cu alloy legs, which could be from vessels or candlesticks. The concentration in the south west corner may be a product of the Roman site.

## **Lead weights**

Like the vessel fragments homemade lead weights are very difficult to date closely, but can also be used to demonstrate proximity to medieval settlement and commercial activity. Of the 89 total weights recovered, 28 are thought to be medieval.

## **Spindle whorls**

Nine lead spindle whorls of medieval date have been located. These finds are not thought to have any significance to the battle.

The majority of spindle whorls from the survey are flat or shallow bun-shaped and are more likely to be Roman. A concentration of these types in the south west corner of the survey area is likely to relate to a Roman site, which also yielded lead steelyard weights.

## **Objects of possible medieval date**

A significant number of finds have been recorded which are difficult to date, due to damage or a lack of good parallels from good contexts, but could date from the medieval period. However in most cases their relevance can never be proven. Although this document focuses on the irrefutably medieval material, these other finds should be mentioned.

## **Unidentified objects of possible medieval date**

### **238 F67**

Two fragments of sheet Cu alloy, all edges broken.

1. L13mm W12mm

2. L14mm W8mm

T of both 1mm

**309 F81**

Cu alloy bar of flattened oval section, slightly tapering with a broken rivet hole at the wider end.

L47mm W11mm T3mm

**311 F362**

Cu alloy domed mount with beaded rim with a probably circular iron shank issues from underneath.

L20mm D 14mm

**505 F199**

Corroded Cu alloy object now broken and twisted, but originally a triangular loop, of elliptical section, issuing from a flat plate which widens out towards a brake.

L60mm W34mm T5mm

**545 F69**

Thin Cu alloy sheet forming half a cylinder with one small square hole towards one end, all edges appear damaged.

L41mm W11mm T 5mm

**546 F69**

As 545 but with one end more damaged and without square hole.

L44mm W 12mm T 4mm

**626 F65**

Cu alloy sheet one original edge surviving and a raised band close to one broken edge running the length of the fragment.

L27mm W29mm T1.5mm

**1211 F66**

Cast Cu alloy chunk of heavy rim of rectangular form from relatively thick walled object or vessel.

L23.5mm W13mm T13mm

**2200 F13**

Fe fragment of gently curving sheet with a single iron rivet through the middle close to one end, no original edges survive.

L58mm W25mm T8.5mm

**2261 F93**

Pb alloy terminal, it is flat with rounded corners and parallel sides with a single hole offset at the complete end.

L22mm W18mm T2mm

**2483 F181**

Cu alloy rectangular sectioned object tapering to a point, the broken wider end has half of a tapering hole evident.

L39mm W17mm T11mm

**2490 F181**

Cu alloy rectangular section bar segment. Heavy patina and could be Roman.  
L34mm W9mm T6.5mm

**2546 F181**

Curving Cu alloy sheet pierced with iron rivet, possibly a bell fragment.  
L25mm W16mm T4mm

**2666 F187**

An asymmetrical buckle or loop, with a gap, but both terminals are incomplete. Perhaps a sword hanger? CF p214 Brian Read Hooked-Clasps and Eyes.  
L: 34mm W: 35mm T: 6mm

**4311 F81**

Very thin Cu alloy sheet with parallel sides with the rounded end pierced by a single hole. The broken flat end has been pierced by a larger round hole which is now incomplete.  
L27.5mm W19mm T0.5mm

**4721 F398**

A curving piece of cu alloy sheet – perhaps once part of a flat ring. Appears to have been hammered flat.

**4815 F542**

A cast Cu alloy hook with a single rivet hole at the upper end, within a flattened circular terminal. The point of the hook is triangular in profile. It has a dark patina with corrosion through it. Possibly a medieval sword belt or possibly harness fitting. Equally possibly Roman. L42mm x W9mm x T16mm

**5150 F548**

Small Cu alloy domed rivet cap with Fe shank below. L9mm D8mm

**5151 F548**

As 5150

**5162 F548**

Cu alloy knob with a curving narrow protrusion, probably a hook, at one end. The other end is rounded and appears to be complete. Possibly part of a composite swivel.  
L39mm D13mm

**5372 F458**

One half of a composite, cast Cu alloy, hollow backed terminal with a rivet hole set through the complete rounded end into an internal platform. The other end is roughly broken.

**5406 F403**

A rectangular Cu alloy object of trapezium section with a rounded broken end possibly once continuing as a rod. The other end has a rectangular sectioned protrusion, which curves to one side. The underside of the rectangular part has a lip just before the curved protrusion. L36mm W10mm T7mm

**5511 F547**

A fragment of heavily gilded copper alloy ring or loop, with bevelled inner edge, similar to a counter sunk washer. High status object. **Possibly of high significance to the battle.**  
L19mm x W10mm x T4mm

**5630 F547**

Cast Cu alloy mount in the form of a flower with a bent stem. No obvious means of attachment, but there are several indentations around the edges, which could be remnant stitching or rivet holes.  
L31mm W22mm T3mm

**Cast bronze rings**

Crudely cast and filed bronze rings (usually of hexagonal section) are a common detector find in most landscapes. Some have been found (on other sites) with Cu alloy strap attachments connected to them, suggesting a horse harness or equipment suspension use. Of the 27 rings found in the survey there is a particular concentration in the fields next to Fenn Lane. Assuming all of these rings are from horse harnesses, they could of course be agricultural as well as military.

**Studs**

Cu alloy studs of possible medieval date

The survey has produced 62 in total copper alloy studs of indeterminate date and nature, of these 40 could be medieval. The size of these studs varies from mm to mm. Medieval parallels can be found for all these types of stud, identified as belt and strap decoration as well as box, door and furniture fittings, although similar items are found in assemblages from most periods including the modern era. As a result these objects can only be used as a possible indicator of medieval activity.