

Section 43 Multi-purpose tools

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Cross-references to Digital Supplement in red
Cross-references to Printed Synthesis in brown

This category includes objects which can be used for a variety of functions and therefore cannot be ascribed to one specific activity. Knives, shears, and scissors have been included here as their uses can range from food preparation and consumption, craft-related activities (shearing and sewing), toiletry and, in the case of knives, defence.

Knives

One hundred and eighty-three iron knives, or portions of, were recovered. This assemblage included whittle and scale tang knives, a knife set, folding knives, as well as one possible partially forged knife or mood. Some 21% of the assemblage were portions of blades only and could not be assigned to a particular knife type (ie whittle or scale tang), while 80 (55.5%) of the 144 typed knives retained too little of the blade to determine the form.

Radiographic examination indicated that one blade [43.04/235] was pattern welded, possessing a single layer of twisted iron forming a zigzag pattern along the back of the blade. Two pattern-welded knife blades from London came from contexts dated to the late 12th century (Cowgill *et al* 1987, cat 4 and 7) while the majority of those from Winchester come from contexts of the 9th to 13th centuries (Goodall 1990c, 835). The La Grava example was from deposits of P5.6.

A related type of decoration can be found on folding knife [43.06/257]. The lower portion of this blade has been prepared with a saw-tooth edge which was then welded to a second piece of iron serving as the blade edge. The join of these two strips of iron has been badly corroded, suggesting that different grades of iron were used (cf Cowgill *et al* 1987, 16). A similarly manufactured blade was found from a late 14th-century context in London (Cowgill *et al* 1987, cat 136). The La Grava example was from phase 6.1 deposits.

The majority of knives were probably in everyday use and employed for domestic, industrial, and defensive purposes. A few examples however would have had a more restricted use due to their decorative nature. Two blades, [43.05/253] and [43.06/260], have inlaid copper decoration in the form of Xs. The use of non-ferrous metals for decorative inlay on knives first appears in the London collection in the mid- to late 13th century (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 15), close parallels for the La Grava examples occur in late 14th-century contexts. The La Grava examples were found in deposits of phases 5.5 and 6.2.

With the formation of craft guilds in the 13th century makers' marks began to make their appearance on knives [43.01]. These marks almost invariably occur on the left side of the blade, known as the mark side. The earliest mark in the London collection is on a blade from a late 13th-century context, while marked blades become increasingly common during the 14th century (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 20). Twenty-nine blades are marked, and the occurrence of marked blades by knife type and phase are presented in [43.02, 43.04] below.

Although the majority of marked blades were inlaid with copper, brass, or tin, eight marks contained no inlay. Although this absence may be due to the inlay

having fallen out, Hayward notes that until about the mid-16th century the mark was customarily inlaid with copper but subsequently the mark was merely struck into the blade (1957, 5). The stratigraphic evidence from La Grava supports this, marked blades without inlay not occurring prior to phase 6.2.

One possible knife mood (Sf 1192 T7 C599) was identified. This was recovered from destruction deposits of S16 in Period 7.

One hundred and fifteen knives could be allocated to structures and, as found with other types of finds, 41% were recovered from deposits within or around S16 (23 knives) and S63 (24 knives). Forty-six of the knives from these structures were of phase 6.2 and Period 7; over half of the two assemblages comprised bolster tang knives.

Knife type	Inlaid maker's mark	Plain maker's mark	Total
whittle tang	4	4	8
scale tang	13		13
bolster whittle tang		3	3
bolster scale tang			0
folding		1	1
blade fragments	4		4
Total	21	8	29

43.02 Occurrence of makers' marks by knife type

Phase	Inlaid makers' mark	Plain makers' mark	Total
5.3	1		1
5.4			0
5.5			0
5.6	3		3
6.1	6		6
6.2	4	2	6
7	7	6	13
Total	21	8	29

43.03 Occurrence of inlaid makers' marks by phase

Whittle tang knives 43.04/235-247

Whittle tang knives have pointed tangs of tapering rectangular section which were inserted into wooden or bone handles; 89 were identified. They are the only type of knife to be found prior to the 13th/14th centuries and continue to be the most popular type until the early 15th century (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 25). Some knives retain metal fittings on their handles such as hilt guards and end plates, eg [43.04/244] and [43.04/247]. During the 16th century iron bolsters were introduced. These were forged in one with the blade and took the place of hilt plates.

Bone was the commonest surviving material used for whittle tanged handles at La Grava perhaps due to the soil conditions. In London however, wooden handles were more common (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 25). Whittle tanged handles are infrequently decorated, of the *in situ* surviving handles only one, of bone, was decorated with ring and dot ornament [43.04/245]. In addition this handle had two pairs of copper-alloy discs, each sandwiching a thin disc of horn, between the bolster and the handle. Between the pairs of discs are remains of fibrous woody stems.

Moulded iron handles were current on the Continent during the first half of the 17th century (Moorhouse 1971, 38); [43.04/246] retains a covering of gold leaf. Sf 227, a French fruit knife of the 17th century, had an ornate iron and jet handle with overlaid silver wire decorating the iron portions of the handle [9.06, 43.04/239]. This knife appears from x-ray to have had a short tang which was riveted to the handle.

From the 37 complete or near-complete whittle tang knives, five blade forms were recognised.

Type 1 Blade back flat and straight before angling down to tip

All blades could be phased; the earliest occurrence was in P5.6 but the remainder were from phase 6.2 and Period 7. Two of this blade form had bolster tangs.

43.04/235

Sf 2781 T13 C1258/03 [P5.6 S27]

Knife, tang and tip of blade broken. Pattern welded. Lth 57mm

43.04/236

Sf 1938 T7 C567 [P7 S16A]

Knife, blade edge damaged, thickened junction between blade and tang (?bolster). Lth 164mm

Type 2 Blade back and cutting edge parallel before both taper to tip

These blades are thought to remain in use throughout the medieval period, being most common in the 12th and 13th centuries (Goodall 1980a, 80–82). All five examples from La Grava, three with bolsters, were from phase 6.2 and Period 7.

43.04/237

Sf 263 T13 C47 [P6.2 S63D]

Knife with bolster. Lth 136.5mm

43.04/238

Sf 1760 T 23 C13 [P6.1–6.2 S23D]

Knife, blade edge damaged, tang clenched. Lth 332mm

43.04/239, 9.06

Sf 227 T13 C70/2 [P6.2–7 S63A/64A]

Knife, iron, overlaid with silver wire in the form of petalled flowers and Xs, and jet handle. Blade riveted to iron handle. Lth 118.9mm

Type 3 Blade back and cutting edge taper more or less equally to tip

This was the most common form found (thirteen). It would appear to be a long-lived type, a single example occurring in a Period 3 deposit (Sf 2662 T30 C726 S4D), while the remaining examples spanned from phase 5.2 to Period 7, the bolstered examples of this form restricted to phase 6.2 and later.

43.04/240

Sf 254 T13 F64 [P5.3 S28D]

Knife, complete. Lth 240mm

43.04/241

Sf 679 T13 C352 [P5.2-6.1 S17A]
Knife, tang incomplete. Maker's mark inlaid with tin. Lth 153mm

Type 4 Cutting edge of blade rises to meet tip of straight back

All twelve knives occurring in deposits of phase 6.1 to Period 7 were of this type. Six of these knives had bolster tangs. This was the second most popular blade form recovered.

43.04/242
Sf 1044 T7 C538 [P7 S16D]
Knife with bolster, blade damaged. Marker's mark, not inlaid. Bone handle *in situ*. Lth 200mm

Type 5 Blade back curved to meet straight cutting edge

This final form was represented by a single knife from phase 6.2.

43.04/243
Sf 2704 T30 C398 [P6.1-6.2 S38D]
Knife, tang incomplete. Lth 129mm

Unclassified whittle tang knives 43.04/244-247

43.04/244
Sf 1451 T7 C502 [P7 S16D]
Knife, blade incomplete. Maker's mark, not inlaid. Copper alloy? Hilt guard found associated. Lth 85mm

43.04/245
Sf 1191 T7 C518 [P7 S16A]
Knife with bolster, blade incomplete. Between bolster and bone handle are pairs of grouped discs of copper alloy and horn with remains of woody fibrous material between. Handle decorated with ring and dot. Lth 75mm

43.04/246
Sf 1955 T 25 C5
Knife, blade incomplete. Solid iron moulded handle with traces of gold leaf. Lth 108mm

43.04/247
Sf 2079 T30 C1 [P6.2-7]
Knife with bolster, blade incomplete. Bone and copper-alloy end plate *in situ*. Lth 107mm

Scale tang knives 43.05/248-255

Scale tang knives have flat rectangular-sectioned tangs onto which separate scales, usually organic, were riveted to form a composite handle; 48 examples were identified. This form of knife is not thought to have been in use before the 13th century (Goodall 1980a, 82), and in London were not found before the mid-14th century (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 26). The earliest phase in which scale tang knives occurred at La Grava, with the exception of an intrusive example in Period 3, was phase 5.3 (three examples), becoming more common in phase 5.5 and later.

Scale tang knives sometimes had shoulder and end plates of non-ferrous metal (eg [43.05/248-249, 252] and [43.05/254]). The shoulder plates were plain and

either brazed or riveted in place. The surviving shoulder plates at La Grava were of copper alloy and silver.

Ten knives retained their scale plates, five of wood, two of bone and two of alternate horn and bone. The majority of scale tang knives have the scales in the same plane as the blade although on three knives the scales are riveted to the top and bottom of the tang [43.05/255]. Most scale tang handles are plain, although a few are decorated with false rivets set between functional rivets [43.05/249] and [43.05/255]. It has been suggested that this form of decoration was intended to mislead buyers that the handle was more firmly affixed than it actually was (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 27).

Four blade forms were identified from 22 complete examples (see catalogue for type descriptions). Type 6 (2) and Type 8 (1), current elsewhere between the 13th and 16th centuries, only occurred in phase 6.2 and Period 7. Eight knives (including two forming part of the knife set discussed below) had Type 7 blades; only one with bolster tang. Generally scale tang knives did not appear in deposits prior to phase 5.5. The sole exception to this (Sf 2712 T30 C806 S4D), derived from a Period 3 context and whilst this may be intrusive, it is also possible that this represents the remains of a residual Roman knife, bearing many similarities to Manning's type 1 (1985, 108 and fig 28). Other instances of Roman knife forms from deposits within Saxon sunken-featured buildings are known from Stratton, Bedfordshire. Type 9 blades, of which twelve were identified, were mainly found in deposits of phase 5.5 and later. A single example, bearing a maker's mark, comes from a deposit phased 3–5.3 (Sf 2740 T30 C757 S41A). This knife itself could be no earlier than phase 5.3 as both makers' marks and scale tangs did not appear until the 13th century.

Type 6 Shoulders between blade and tang, blade back and cutting edge taper equally to tip

43.05/248

Sf 2538 T30 C1 [P6.2-7]

Knife, blade damaged. Scale plates do not survive, four iron rivets *in situ* plus copper-alloy end plate. Lth 239mm

Type 7 Back of blade and tang in line, blade back and cutting edge parallel before both taper to tip

43.05/249

Sf 2800 T30 C360 [P5.5 S38]

Knife (fragmented), remains of copper-alloy shoulder plate, wood scales with decorative copper-alloy rivets and copper-alloy end plate. Lth 213mm

Type 8 Back of blade and scale tang in line, blade back and cutting edge taper equally to tip

43.05/250

Sf 184/05 T13 C78 [P6.2-7]

Knife, blade and tang incomplete. Lth 97mm

Type 9 Back of blade and scale tang in line, cutting edge rises to meet tip

43.05/251

Sf 499 T13 C145 [P6.1 S27A]

Knife, tip and cutting edge of blade damaged. Maker's mark inlaid with brass, traces of brazing for shoulder plate, bone scales held *in situ* by three iron rivets. Lth 204mm

43.05/252

Sf 900 T1 C2 [P7.0 S16D]

Knife, blade tip and cutting edge damaged. Maker's mark inlaid, silver shoulder plate and end plate, scales do not survive, three of four iron rivets *in situ*. Lth 156mm

Unclassified scale tang knives 43.05/253-255

43.05/253

Sf 2710 T30 C377 [P6.2 S38D]

Knife, portion of blade and tang only, one iron rivet *in situ*. Blade decorated with two rows of Xs, inlaid with copper alloy. Lth 88mm

43.05/254

Sf 675 T13 C356 [P5.6 S27D]

Knife, blade incomplete. Maker's mark inlaid with brass, copper-alloy shoulder plate and end plate; traces of mineralised wood scales with four copper-alloy rivets *in situ*. Lth 130mm

43.05/255

Sf 159 T13 C70 [P6.2-7 S63A/64A]

Knife with bolster, blade incomplete. Bone scales *in situ* decorated with non-functional rivets. Copper-alloy end plate in shape of flower. Lth 112mm

Knife set 9.07, 43.05/256

One knife set in a compartmentalised, decorated box scabbard was found [9.07, 43.05/256]. This set consisted of two identical iron knives and a small set of iron shears.

K Webster writes:

The knives are of the scale tang variety, but of an unusual construction. The iron blades (Type 7) are both stamped with a maker's mark in the shape of a fleur-de-lys inlaid with a tin-based alloy. The short iron tang is secured by one rivet in a slot in the gunmetal tang. The organic scales, consisting of alternate plates of horn and bone, are set at right angles to the blades. The tang end has a perforated lug possibly for the attachment of an end plate or cord. The handle is decorated with non-functional rivets.

A small set of shears, badly damaged and incomplete, is located in the leather compartment above the knives. The shears are thought to be suitable for making single exact cuts and it is suggested that these may represent the development of needlepoint or sewing shears.

Although the condition of the box scabbard is very poor, it is possible to discern that the grain side of the leather is on the outside and that it consisted of three compartments. The mouth of the scabbard has been shaped to allow the end of the knife handles and the shears bow to project. The decoration of incised diagonal lines was confined to the shears compartment. No stitching was visible due to damage. J Cowgill suggests that the scabbard may have been painted.

Although no exact parallels for this knife and shears set exist, the general style and construction of the knives strongly suggest a late 14th-century date. The construction of the scale tang indicated that the knives were inherently weak. The overall impression of the set is of a highly decorative nature which may have been used by a woman for cosmetic or toiletry use.

43.05/256, 9.07

Sf 697 T13 C390/03 [P6.2 S63]

Decorated compartmentalised leather scabbard, three compartments, one containing shears, two containing scale tang knives. Riveted knife tangs, alternating bone and horn

scales on gunmetal base with decorative copper-alloy rivets. Maker's mark inlaid with tin-based alloy

Folding knives 43.06/257-259

Examples of iron folding knives which pivoted on an iron rivet and were housed in organic handles have been recovered from late 13th- and late 14th-century deposits in London (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 106). These knives bear many similarities in form to [43.06/258]. Folding blades held in sprung handles with metal side plates, such as [43.06/259], are thought to be a further post-medieval development of this knife form (Goodall 1990c, 839). A 17th-century example was found at Ardingly Fulling Mill (Goodall 1976, fig 9a no 7), whilst an example from Winchester (Goodall 1990c, fig 258 no 2861), thought to date to the 18th to 19th centuries, closely parallels the shape of [43.06/259]. The five stratified pocket knives from La Grava are all from deposits of phases 6.1 and later.

43.06/257

Sf 2115 T30 C66 [P6.1 S59D]

Blade, incomplete, rivet *in situ*. Blade formed from two strips of iron welded together. Lth 59mm

43.06/258

Sf 2096 T30 C1 [P6.2-7]

Blade, cutting edge and tip damaged, iron rivet *in situ* with copper-alloy washer. Maker's mark stamped on both sides of the blades, no inlay. Lth 111mm

43.06/259

Sf 36 T13 C1 [P6.2-7]

Shaped handle and portion of blade, three rivets *in situ*. Lth 109mm

Unclassified blades 43.06/260

43.06/260

Sf 592 T13 F246 [P5.4-5.5 S30A]

Blade, incomplete, decorated with inlaid Xs. Lth 80mm

Hilt and end plates 43.06/261-262

Whittle and scale tang knife handles sometimes had hilt and end plates. Those which remain *in situ* on knives were noted above, eg [43.04/247, 43.05/248-249, 43.05/252, 43.05/254-255]; detached examples are catalogued below.

None of the whittle tang knives possessed *in situ* hilt plates, only [43.04/244] having a band of copper alloy associated which is thought to have served as a form of hilt plate.

End plates in the form of oval or rectangular discs or decorative mounts eg [43.05/255] were more common. Three such plates/mounts were found on whittle tangs, two of copper alloy and one of bone. Six scale tang knives possessed end caps, five of copper alloy and one of silver. Four detached end caps were found, three of a larger size than normal [43.06/261-262]. These may have been from larger daggers and are paralleled from post-medieval contexts at Chelmsford (A Goodall 1985, fig 28.37). As Biddle notes (1990, 860), whittle tang knives could be fixed to their handles by clenching the end of the tang without the use of an end plate. Scale tang knives could not have been so easily affixed. All the detached end plates were from phase 6.2 and Period 7.

43.06/261

Sf 1813 T23 C97/02 [P7 CF33]

Copper-alloy end plate, pentagonal in plan, roughly central oval perforation. Lth 37.4mm

43.06/262

Sf 1352 T7 C502 [P7 S16D]

Copper-alloy end plate, octagonal in plan, central circular perforation. Lth 22.6mm

Handles 43.06/263-266

The majority of handles recovered from La Grava were intended for use on knives although some were equally serviceable as tool handles, for example on awls. In addition to the fifteen detached handles, a further twenty-two handles were found *in situ* on knives, catalogued above. Bone was the most common material used for whittle tang handles, whereas scale tang handles more frequently retained traces of mineralised wooden plates. Three detached handles, all bone, were decorated; two with ring and dot ornament [43.06/263-264] and one with a floral pattern [43.06/265]. The decoration on [43.06/264] is closely paralleled by a handle fragment from Winchester dated to the 11th to 12th century (Hinton 1990c, fig 261. 2903). The pistol grip and form of decoration on [43.06/265] indicates a post-medieval date. [43.06/266], due to its size, is more likely to have been from a larger tool.

43.06/263

Sf 483 T13 C164 [P6.2 S63D]

Bone handle, split lengthwise, decorated with ring and dot ornament. Lth 34.5mm

43.06/264

Sf 2309 T30 C124 [P5.2-5.5 S59A, S9A]

Bone handle, split lengthwise, lathe turned, decorated with ring and dot, curving lines and straight line borders. Lth 85mm

43.06/265

Sf 2851 T1 C7 [P6.2 S19D]

Bone handle, pistol grip, decorated with incised floral motif, non-functional copper-alloy rivets and bone inlay. Iron tang *in situ*. Lth 81.3mm

43.06/266

Sf 2856 T13 C254 [P5.3-6.2 S30]

Bone handle, hollowed. End worked, opposite broken, ovoid in section. Lth 115.3mm

Shears 43.07/267-272

Twenty-one iron shears, or portions of, were recovered from the excavations; eighteen could be assigned to types. The majority of these are incomplete, breakage commonly occurring on the bow due to repeated opening and closing of the blades. The form of shears remains fairly consistent throughout the medieval period, slight differences occurring mainly at the junction of the arm and blade. The upper blade can be either straight cut or curved and/or sloping. Recesses, formed by the addition of one or more decorative cusps, became popular in the 13th to 14th centuries and continue into the late medieval period.

Most shears cannot be assigned to a particular purpose; the size of the blades and handle being the main criterion for determining use. Long, relatively slender blades were appropriate for accurate and continuous cutting, while the smaller,

hand-held shears were suitable for single exact cuts. Long bladed shears were most likely used for cloth cutting and sheep shearing, while the smaller shears were suitable for domestic uses such as thread trimming and hair cutting (Cowgill *et al* 1987, 58). The majority of La Grava shears are small, and were most likely domestic shears. [43.07/272] has fairly long narrow blades and may have been used for a continuous cutting action. [43.07/269] is the largest example of shears; the blades have a pronounced triangular shape. These may have been sheep shears.

Goodall (1980a, 96–7) identified three types of shears of which two occur at La Grava. Type 2 shears have a looped bow and a plain junction between blade and handle. Type 2a has a curved or slanted blade top [43.07/267] while Type 2b has a straight cut blade top more or less at right angles to the handle [43.07/268–269]. This is a common type of shears and was used throughout the medieval period. Ten examples of Type 2 shears were identified; all occurred between phase 6.1 and Period 7.

Type 3 shears have a looped bow and one or more cusps at the junction of the blade and arm. Three subdivisions of this type exist of which Type 3a, single cusp with curved or sloping blade top [43.07/270–271] and Type 3b, single cusp with straight cut top [43.07/272], were present. Type 3 shears are most common in the 13th to 14th centuries (Goodall 1980a, 97). Eight examples of Type 3 shears have been identified; five Type 3a and three Type 3b. This form first appeared in phase 5.5. All are of a size suggestive of domestic use. A further pair of shears formed part of the knife set [43.05/256]. These were too incomplete to determine form, but it is suggested that they were small sewing shears (see more detailed reconstruction in [9.07]).

Only thirteen shears could be allocated to structures, the remainder coming from topsoil deposits. Four shears came from destruction deposits of S63, while two examples each were found associated with S16, S19, and S50.

43.07/267

Sf 1825 T23 C42 [P5.3–6.1 S 23A]

Type 2a shears, bow incomplete and one blade missing. Lth 73mm

43.07/268

Sf 546 T13 C149 [P6.1–6.2 S63D]

Type 2b shears. Lth 94mm

43.07/269

Sf 1841 T24 C1

Type 2b shears, bow and one blade missing. Lth 255mm

43.07/270

Sf 902 T1 C3 [P7 S16A]

Type 3a shears, bow broken and one blade damaged. Lth 107.2mm

43.07/271

Sf 282 T13 C47 [P6.2 S63D]

Type 3a shears, one blade only, moulded tang. Lth 91mm

43.07/272

Sf 2082 T30 C1 [P6.2–7]

Type 3b shears, bow incomplete and one blade missing. Lth 142mm

Scissors 43.07/273-276

Eighteen pairs of iron scissors were recovered. Scissors, although known from Dark Age contexts, did not come into common use until the 13th and 14th centuries (Ward Perkins 1940, 150; Cowgill *et al* 1987, 60). Shears were preferred to scissors in the medieval period and it has been suggested that scissors may have been more frequently used by tradesmen and craftsmen. In the later medieval period scissors again lost their popularity and did not become established for domestic use until the 16th century (Ward Perkins 1940, 151). A few shears have decorative notching on the arms, eg [43.07/276] which is suggestive of a post-medieval date. The form of scissors is functional and although classification based upon the positioning of the finger loops has been used, there appears to be no typological significance.

The majority of scissors from La Grava came from phase 6.1 to Period 7, although a single example was from phase 5.6. Deposits associated with S63 and S16 yielded the majority of scissors, S16 producing eight.

43.07/273

Sf 1288 T7 C1 [P7 S16D]

Scissors, loops centrally set, tips of blades missing. Lth 139mm

43.07/274

Sf 244 T13 F8 [P6.2 S63D]

Large, ?cloth-cutting scissors with elongated pivot. Loops centrally set. Lth 287mm

43.07/275

Sf 1314/01 T7 C538 [P7 S16D]

Scissors, loops asymmetrically set. Lth 122mm

43.07/276

Sf 492 T13 C112 [P6.2]

Scissors, loops asymmetrically set, arms decoratively notched. Lth 112mm

Whetstones

A single concentration of seven whetstones was noted mainly from destruction deposits of S16. Agricultural buildings accounted for twelve of the whetstones, while a further twenty were associated with service structures. A total of 47 portions of hones were identified; all underwent a detailed macroscopic examination, together with selective thin sectioning, carried out by D F Williams. Five stone types were recognised.

Whetstones 43.08/277-285

Norwegian ragstone

Thirty-four hones were assigned to this type. The rock is made up principally of quartz, muscovite, calcite, chlorite, and iron ore, with a well defined foliation. This is Norwegian Ragstone of Ellis' Type 1A(1) originating from Eidsborge, Telemark in central southern Norway (Ellis 1969). The two common facies, the blue-grey hardstein schist and the silver-grey blautstein schist, are both present in equal numbers.

Many of the ragstone hones display signs of dishing, either along their edges or on the flat faces [43.08/277-279], whilst some retained V-shaped grooves indicating use as point sharpeners. The majority show a considerable amount of wear, some tapering almost to a point. Only two of these stones were perforated [43.08/280-281].

Norwegian ragstone is found in some numbers on many sites of the late Saxon and early medieval period in England (Moore 1978). Evidence from the sites of Yarmouth and King's Lynn indicates a marked preponderance of these imports in the 12th and 13th centuries and a decline thereafter (Davey and Hodges 1983, 9). Inland towns, such as Northampton and Oxford, saw the continued use of Eidsborg stones in the 15th century (Davey and Hodges 1983), while at Winchester these imports predominated throughout the later 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries (Ellis and Moore 1990, 283).

The earliest occurrence of Norwegian ragstone at La Grava is in phase 5.1, with a total of eight hones from deposits phased between 5.1 and 5.6. A further seven examples were recovered from phase 6.1 deposits. This reflects the pattern of usage at other inland sites. However, half the Norwegian ragstone hones were recovered from deposits of phase 6.2 and Period 7.

43.08/277

Sf 126 T13 F78 [P6.2-7]

Whetstone, incomplete, of hardstein Norwegian ragstone. Surfaces worn, one end tapering to a point. Mullion of rectangular section. Lth 142mm

43.08/278

Sf 703 T13 C466 [P5.2-5.3 S20D]

Whetstone, incomplete, of blautstein Norwegian ragstone. Mullion of circular section, tapering at both ends. Lth 85mm

43.08/279

Sf 1200 T7 C559 [P7 S16D]

Whetstone, incomplete, of hardstein Norwegian ragstone. Rectangular in section, sides taper towards one end. Lth 61.5mm

43.08/280

Sf 1550 T13 C1177 [P4.0-5.2 S7/20]

Whetstone, incomplete, of blautstein Norwegian ragstone. Perforated, rectangular in section. Lth 77.6mm

43.08/281

Sf 1595 T13 C1545 [P4-5.1 S26A]

Whetstone, incomplete, of blautstein Norwegian ragstone. Perforated, rectangular in section, tapering to one end. Lth 67.8mm

Pennant Grit

Pennant Grit [43.08/282-283] has been quarried for a considerable time and was widely used in the 19th century for building stone (Moore 1978, 69). Use of this type of stone does not occur at La Grava prior to phase 6.2.

43.08/282

Sf 1056/01 T7 C546 [P7 S16D]

Whetstone, incomplete, of Pennant grit. Rectangular in plan and section with one sharpening groove. Lth 47.4mm

43.08/283

Sf 1056/02 T7 C546 [P7 S16D]

Whetstone, incomplete, of Pennant grit. Rectangular in plan, circular in section. Lth 49mm.

Quartz sandstone

Only one example of a light coloured quartz sandstone, origin unknown, was recovered. It is a shaped rectangular block displaying many signs of use; worn surfaces, dishing and sharpening grooves [43.08/284]. This was from a phase 5.5 context.

43.08/284

Sf 692 T13 F370 [P5.5 S54D]

Whetstone of quartz sandstone. Rectangular in plan, surfaces worn and one dished. Two sharpening grooves, one on each face. Lth 95.6mm

Indurated mudstone

Five hones of a dark-grey indurated mudstone were recovered [43.08/285]. These possibly originate from Devonian or Carboniferous layers from south-west England. All surfaces of the hones are worn, some displaying dishing, and one retaining a number of shallow sharpening grooves. They are the earliest type at La Grava, first occurring in Period 3. Five hones were associated with a Saxon sunken-featured building. It would appear that Norwegian ragstone quickly gained popularity over this stone type from about phase 5.1 onwards.

43.08/285

Sf 1397 T8 F436 [P3.0 S1]

Whetstone, incomplete, of indurated mudstone. Rectangular in section, dishing evident on both faces. Lth 75.6mm

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T8 F436 [P3 S1]

Not illustrated 5 hones, Indurated mudstone

Micaceous sandstone

Six examples were identified of this type consisting of dark-grey, medium-grained sandstone containing quartz and micaceous grits. This is probably Pennant sandstone from the base of the Upper Coal Series of the Bristol, Forest of Dean, and south Wales region. All of the examples have been shaped, and all have worn surfaces. Dishing is evident on some examples. Only one hone retains a V-shaped sharpening groove.

Greywacke

One example of this stone was identified (Sf 1189 T7 us), unstratified. It is a thick, heavy piece which has not been shaped and is most likely a secondary hone (Moore 1978, 65). It may have originated from the same source as the mudstone. This comes from an unstratified context.