

## Section 47 Agriculture and horticulture; military and hunting

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

### Category 10 Agriculture and horticulture

The artefactual evidence for medieval agricultural activity at La Grava is limited, but good when compared with other sites. Over half the implements in this category were from deposits of phase 6.2 and Period 7.

### Sickles 47.01/378-379

Two iron sickles of Goodall's Type 1 (1980a, 74-5) were found. This type is characterised by a fairly narrow blade which curves sharply away from the end of the tang before straightening out. The cutting edge begins at, or near to, the angle between the tang and blade. Parallels range in date from the 12th to 16th centuries, the form being long lived. [47.01/378] retains a cutler mark and clenched tang, while [47.01/379] has a thickened back rib. Goodall warns that the latter characteristic is not certainly of medieval date. Both objects were found in topsoil deposits of phases 6.2-7.

#### 47.01/378

Sf 76 T13 C1 [P6.2-7]

Sickle, Goodall's type 1, clenched tang. Blade triangular in section, point missing. Cutler mark in shape of an S with dot overhead. Lth 245mm

#### 47.01/379

Sf 2064 T30 C1 [P6.2-7]

Sickle, Goodall's type 1 with thickened back rib. Blade sub-triangular in section, tip folded over. Lth 362mm

### Weed hooks 47.01/380-381

Tanged weed hooks are the most common medieval form, the majority dating from the 12th to 14th centuries. Flanged weed hooks gained greater popularity in the late medieval period (Goodall 1980a, 71-2). Three tanged weed hooks were found, two with evenly-curved, crescent-shaped blades eg [47.01/380] and one with a wedge-shaped blade and almost straight cutting edge [47.01/381]. Crescentic blades were probably used for surface cutting of weeds, while the more robust wedge-shaped blades may have been used for cutting the stems of weeds just below the ground surface. Weed hooks may also on occasion have been used as pruning hooks. The three examples identified came from deposits of phases 5.2, 5.4 and 6.1. All catalogued examples are iron.

47.01/380

Sf 1555 T13 C1326/5 [P5.2 S21A]

Tanged weed hook, hooked crescentic blade. Mineralised wood particles on tang. Lth 82.9mm

47.01/381

Sf 2166 T30 C117 [P5.4-6.1 S56]

Tanged weed hook, wedge-shaped blade, incomplete. Lth 94.8mm

### Spade irons 47.01/382

Medieval spades were commonly made of wood with an iron edging to prevent wear on the blade. One example of a spade iron was found of Goodall's Type 3 (1980a, 64-7). Type 3 spade irons are straight mouthed, the base of the mouth grooved. The side arms are straight and terminate in perforated lugs which gripped the wooden blade and were nailed through it from front to back.

[47.01/382] appears to be from a symmetrical, rectangular spade. Rectangular-shaped blades are shown less commonly in early medieval manuscripts; excavated examples coming mainly from 14th century and later.

47.01/382

Sf 727 T13 C196 [P6.1 S63]

Spade iron, incomplete, Goodall's type 3, flange damaged on surviving arm. Ht. 120mm, Lth 129mm

### Pitchforks 47.01/383

Pitchforks were used to move bound sheaves of corn and bundles of hay, thatching straw and reeds; the size of the pitchfork used varying with the task required. There was little variation in form from Roman to post-medieval times and therefore typological dating evidence is limited. Four pitchforks, plus one detached tine, were recovered; all had perforated tangs, eg [47.01/383], and lozenge- or rectangular-sectioned tines. All the examples were from Period 7; and where associations with buildings could be made, three instances, all were either associated or in destruction deposits of S16. All catalogued examples are iron.

47.01/383

Sf 1500 T7 C518 [P7 S16]

Tanged pitchfork, tip of tang missing but retaining half a perforation. Tines lozenge-shaped in section. Lth 202mm

### Rake teeth 47.01/384-387

Thirty-five iron rake or harrow teeth were tentatively identified. Two forms were present. Form 1 (34 examples) has a tapering stem, sometimes slightly curved, of rectangular section, which is topped by a tapering tang which has a distinct step on one side at its junction with the stem [47.01/384-386]. If complete, the tip of the tang is frequently clenched. It is impossible to distinguish between large rake and small harrow teeth. Incomplete examples can be confused with

reamers (cf Goodall 1980a, 34 and fig 34). Due to the manorial nature of the site it seems probable that all the examples from La Grava were rake/harrow teeth.

This form of tooth or prong has altered very little through time (cf Manning 1985, 59 and pl 25) and is consequently difficult to date closely. Excavated examples from medieval sites date from the 13th to 16th centuries (Goodall 1980a, vol 2 52). Examples of this form first occurred at La Grava in deposits of phase 5.4 (two examples) with a continuing presence throughout succeeding periods. Eighteen occurred in phase 6.2 and Period 7, with concentrations in destruction and associated deposits of **S16** and **S63**. All six prongs of phase 6.1 were associated with **S65**, four from the fill of a well **CF16** (T30 C645). There appeared to be no pattern to the distribution of prongs from the earlier phases, examples occurring, for the most part, singly in structures associated with roadways (**S33**, **S53**) and with the central complex of buildings (**S16A**, **S19A/S27A**).

The second form of rake tooth or prong has an asymmetrical blade of triangular cross-section and a clenched tang [**47.01/387**]. This form is characteristic of post-medieval examples from Cheddar (Goodall 1979, fig 92.126) and colonial sites in Virginia (Hume 1966, 21 and fig 13.1-2), dating from the late 17th and 18th centuries.

**47.01/384**

Sf 488 T13 C163 [P6.2 **S63D**]

Rake tooth, rectangular-sectioned tang and stem, tang clenched, stem bent at tip. Lth 69mm

**47.01/385**

Sf 637 T13 C132 [P5.5 **S16A**]

Rake tooth, rectangular-sectioned tang and stem, tang curved but incomplete. Lth 125.7mm

**47.01/386**

Sf 2218 T30 C120 [P6.2 **S33D**]

Rake tooth, rectangular-sectioned tang and stem, tang incomplete, tip blunted. Lth 90.7mm

**47.01/387**

Sf 2372 T30 C1 [P6.2-7]

Rake tooth, triangular-sectioned blade with clenched tang. Lth 82.2mm

## Category 11 Military and hunting implements

Category 11 comprises objects associated with both self-defence and warfare, and procurement of non-domesticated foodstuffs (meat and fish). Although quite differing activities, some of the objects, for example arrowheads, could have been used for both purposes.

### Arrowheads

Amongst the 24 iron arrowheads recovered a variety of forms could be discerned; 21 arrowheads were complete enough to classify into five categories based upon blade form. It must be stressed that this classification is a descriptive one and not chronological. As Borg states (1991, 79) in absence of firm archaeological evidence, arrowheads cannot be dated.

Four triangular/lozenge-shaped blades of relatively flat cross-section Form A were found, one tanged [47.02/390], the rest socketed [47.02/388-389]. The earliest phase in which this form occurred was 5.4, the remaining examples being found in phase 6.1 (2) or Period 7 (1).

Two forms are represented by single examples only, both socketed. A long, slender head of tapering lozenge cross-section, Form B, [47.02/391] was found in a phase 6.1 context, while a shorter, triangular-sectioned blade Form C with a comparatively long socket [47.02/392] was recovered from phase 6.2 to Period 7.

Form D blades were barbed and all eight examples were socketed. Barbs varied both in length cf [47.02/393 and [47.02/395] and curvature cf [47.02/394]. Two examples (Sf 1581 T30 C1083 S53A; Sf 1599 T13 C605 S29) of this form had a marked medial ridge or spine, while a further three, although damaged, appeared to possess the remains of one. It has been suggested by Borg (1991, 80) that this feature dates from the 15th and 16th centuries. Arrowheads lacking a medial ridge were found from phase 5.4 and later. Those possessing a ridge came from contexts phased 5.6 and later.

Seven Form E, conical with side fins [47.02/396-397], were found. Four were recovered from contexts spanning two or more phases, but it appears that the earliest occurrence of this form is in phase 5.3.

Although it seems probable that there was a correlation between form and function, it is not always possible to attribute precise use or rigid rules (Borg 1991, 79; Goodall 1990e, 1070). Form A was equally appropriate for hunting and military use. Forms B, C and E had greater penetrative power and have been shown capable of piercing steel armour (Borg 1991, 80). It seems probable that Form D was utilised in hunting. Where present, the medial ridge gave added strength while the barbs made removal without additional damage extremely difficult. The larger examples cf [47.02/395) were most likely used for hunting large game such as deer.

The majority of arrowheads occurred singly in deposits associated with structures in the central complex. Two concentrations were noted however. Four arrowheads were found, one within and three in destruction levels, of S29, while three arrowheads were found in deposits associated with, or destruction deposits of S23.

47.02/388

Sf 1682 T21 C8 [P6.1]

Socketed, flat bladed arrowhead, triangular in plan, damaged Form A. Lth 58mm

47.02/389

Sf 1501 T13 C1035 [P6.1 S30A/53A]

Socketed, flat bladed arrowhead, leaf-shaped in plan, damaged Form A. Lth 55.5mm

47.02/390

Sf 2838 T30 C226 [P5.3-5.4 S38]

Tanged arrowhead with flat, triangular-shaped blade, Form A. Lth 50mm

47.02/391

Sf 2809 T23 L15 [P6.1 S23D]

Socketed, long slender head, lozenge-shaped in section, Form B. Lth 88.1 mm

47.02/392

Sf 924 T1 C9 [P6.2-7 S63D]

Socketed, triangular-sectioned head, Form C. Lth 62.8mm

47.02/393

Sf 853 T13 C926 [P6.1-6.2 S27A]

Socketed, barbed arrowhead, mineralised wood remains, Form D. Lth 59mm

47.02/394

Sf 686 T13 C464 [P5.4 S17A]

Socketed arrowhead with elongated, curved barbs, damaged, Form D. Lth 82mm

47.02/395

Sf 759 T13 C250 [P5.6-6.1 S17D]

Socketed arrowhead with barbs at 45° angle to socket, damaged, Form D. Lth 123mm

47.02/396

Sf 2247 T30 C16 [P6.2 S50D]

Socketed arrowhead, conical in shape with narrow fins or barbs held close to socket, damaged, Form E. Lth 47mm

47.02/397

Sf 2779 T13 C98 [P6.2 S29]

Socketed arrowhead, conical in shape, with narrow fins or barbs held close to socket, damaged, Form E. Lth 35.3mm

## Chain mail

Three portions of iron chain mail were recovered. The links are of circular-sectioned wire and are oval in plan. No rivets are apparent from the x-rays so it is possible, although unusual, that the links are butted. Ian Eaves comments that 'the size of the links indicates a date of mid- to late 16th century for all three fragments. It is possible that these fragments formed portions of chain mail sleeves commonly worn at this period.'

Chain mail may not necessarily indicate warfare, as travellers frequently wore mail under their clothing as protection against attacks by footpads. All the chain mail was recovered from phases 6.1 and 6.2 in destruction deposits of S19.

398

Not illus

Sf 1153 T6 C33 [P6.1 S19D]

Chain mail, oval links (7.5mm by 6.2mm), no sign of riveting, possibly butted mail

### Quillons 47.02/399-400

Quillons of the medieval period gradually lengthened from the short Viking prototypes to become longer and more slender in the 15th century. In the mid-15th century quillons were either fairly straight with a sharp projection upwards or curved upwards with a sharp hook at the ends (Ward Perkins 1940, 26-28). [47.02/399] is fairly straight with expanded ends, similar in appearance to a late 13th quillon from London (Ward Perkins 1940, fig 4.2). The more elaborate quillon [47.02/400], with its shell-shaped knuckle guard, is most likely from a late 16th- or 17th-century fencing sword (J Cherry, pers comm).

47.02/399

Sf 2628 T30 C487 [P5.4 S43]

Cast copper-alloy quillon, incomplete, fairly straight with expanded ends. Lth 94.5mm

47.02/400

Sf 412 T13 C47 [P6.2 S63D]

Iron fencing quillon, shell-shaped knuckle guard and one upswept and one down-swept arm. Lth 60mm

### Chapes 47.02/401-403

Four chapes, probably for dagger scabbards, were identified; all were made from copper-alloy sheet which was rolled into a tapering cylinder and one end pinched or folded in [47.02/401-403]. Excavated parallels indicate a date from the late 13th to the late 15th/early 16th centuries (A Goodall 1987, fig 117. 204-06; Ward Perkins 1940 fig 88.2-4, 6). With the exception of one chape [47.02/401], found in Period 7 demolition deposits of S63, the chapes were found in deposits of phases 5.3 and 5.4.

47.02/401

Sf 905 T1 C11 [P6.2-7 S63D]

Copper-alloy chape formed by folding over sheet and pinching in base. Two rivet holes, one each side of chape. Lth 38mm

47.02/402

Sf 1862 T23 F160 [P5.3 S76D]

Copper-alloy chape, incomplete, only upper portion surviving. Decorated with border of diagonal hatching above two rivet holes. Lth 29mm

47.02/403

Sf 2620 T30 C227 [P5.3-5.4 S38A]

Copper-alloy chape formed by folding over sheet, tapers to base, sheet folded back. Two rivet holes on each face. Lth 68.2mm

## Fish hooks 47.03/404

Most medieval fish hooks are made of metal, either copper alloy, or more frequently iron. Five fish hooks have been identified, four iron and one copper alloy. Only one is complete, retaining both barbed hook and the eye [47.03/404], the remaining examples having suffered damage at the tip and the eye. Although the majority are incomplete, these hooks appear to have been smaller than examples found at Great Yarmouth, York, and London (Steane and Foreman 1988, 146). Four of the hooks were from phased deposits; the single copper-alloy hook phased to 5.5 (S54), and two iron from phase 6.2 (S63D). The final example was from a long-lived deposit phased between 5.2 and 6.1 (S23A).

47.03/404

Sf 510 T13 C169 [P6.2 S63D]

Iron barbed fish hook with looped eye, circular in section. Lth 22mm

## Fishing weights

Evidence for line and net fishing comes in the form of sixteen weights of lead and two of stone. Lead was widely used in the medieval period for angling, hand line, and net fishing. The weights can take numerous forms as evidenced from the examples from London (Steane and Foreman 1988, 153–56, 162, figs 9–10, 15). The La Grava stone weights were found in an agricultural building (S59) and in destruction deposits of a well house (S50). Neither structure was distant from the fishponds but it is possible that they may have had a more general use. The majority of the lead weights were recovered from phase 5.6 and later, only cast and rolled sheet tubes occurring earlier (phases 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4). The weights were not concentrated in any particular structure although six were found in buildings situated close to the fishpond area (S18, S23, S27, S28, S29).

Two stone weights of roughly oval shape with central perforations were found [47.03/411–412]. Similar objects have been recovered from dredging rivers or along riverbanks (cf White 1984, figs 2 and 3; Mynard 1979, fig 7.46) and occasionally from excavations (Coad and Streeten 1982, fig 52.34; Beresford 1977, fig 37.7). Examples found associated with riverine deposits are thought to have been net sinkers or fishing basket weights, while those from domestic contexts are presumed to be loom weights.

Six forms were found at La Grava:

Form 1 perforated circular discs [47.03/405]

Form 2 globular with perforation [47.03/406]

Form 3 triangular with perforation at narrow end [47.03/407]

Form 4 truncated cone with suspension tab [47.03/408]

Form 5 cast tubes [47.03/409]

Form 6 rolled sheet tubes [47.03/410]

Forms 1–4 may have been used as either line or net weights, while forms 5–6 were net weights which were threaded onto the foot rope (Steane and Foreman 1988, 162).

Line and net weights, and sinkers 47.03/410–412

47.03/405

Sf 1073 T6 F55 [P6.1 S19D]

Cast, circular lead disc with off-centre perforation. Form 1. Wt 77g

47.03/406

Sf 331 T13 C77 [P6.2 S63D]

Globular lead weight with central perforation. Form 2. Wt 19g

47.03/407

Sf 1354 T7 C580 [unph S16]

Cast, triangular lead weight, perforation at narrowed end. Form 3. Wt 45g

47.03/408

Sf 1971 T23 C134/6 [P5.6 S27]

Cast, truncated conical lead weight with perforated suspension tab. Form 4. Wt 32g

47.03/409

Sf 403 T13 F19 [P5.3 S28D]

Cast, cylindrical tube forming lead weight. Form 5. Wt 278g

47.03/410

Sf 1945 T23 C130/1 [P5.4 S23]

Lead weight formed from sheet rolled into tube. Form 6. Wt 35g

47.03/411

Sf 2497 T30 C69/3 [P6.2 S50D]

Roughly oval stone weight of Niedermendig lava, incomplete, with off-centre perforation.  
Lth 102mm

47.03/412

Sf 2259 T30 C10 [P5.5–6.1 S59]

Water-worn quartzite pebble with drilled hour-glass perforation. Possible fishing weight.  
Lth 77mm