

## Introduction

In the small finds appendix the final section briefly lists all of the unclassified material. What follows here are the categories for which Bliss prepared reports. Her category of small hoop, i.e. non-ferrous metal ring has been included here rather than in the personal equipment section as most of these could have had a variety of different purposes.

## Copper alloy

### *Bindings*

Ninety-three objects were identified as ‘bindings’. They are discussed under the following headings;–

- Shaped pieces
- U-sectioned open tubes (narrow and wide)
- Closed tubular bindings
- Ribbed and/or grooved pieces
- Riveted or perforated strips
- Miscellaneous

#### *Shaped pieces*

Fourteen objects are included in this group (2442-55). They are all flat-sectioned and of various forms and sizes, including rectangular sheets, strips and triangles. None is complete. The majority, probably had an ornamental use on wooden boxes and leather and as such some may be described as ‘flat-backed mounts’. For example, 2445 is a pendant triangular-shaped sheet with a disc head and with a domed-headed rivet still *in situ*. Other strips with disc-shaped terminals have lost their rivets (2447, 2453). Generally the location of the binding on the box cannot be identified but 2446 may have been used on a corner owing to its bent side. 2442, a relatively crude strip which widens towards each end which have disc terminals with the remains of iron rivets, may represent an angle bracket for a large object. Most are very plain and simply finished, but 2453, is the most elaborate piece with a hollow triangular-sectioned strip with a perforated disc terminal with two outward splayed semi-circular extensions at the head.

#### *U-sectioned open tubes (narrow and wide)*

Twenty-four objects are included here. They consist of sheets which are folded over to give a tube which is open along one horizontal length. The group can be sub-divided on the basis of the width of the tube.

Nineteen (2485-2505) have tall and thin ‘U’-sections. Three are further shaped with a pair of perforated semi-circular lugs at one point along their edges, riveted with a dome-headed stud in two cases (2489, 2490, 2499). Similarly shaped pieces are normally thought to be shield bindings. The tubes are normally empty though 2497 and 2499 may contain the corroded remains of their infill. Most are simple plain tubes although 2502 is perforated at one end. 2491-2 may possibly be plated with white metal.

Five tubes (2506-10) have a very shallow and broad ‘U’-section and are about 11 to 20mm wide. In two cases the section is slightly convex rather than straight. 2506 has the remains of lead core and the same may apply to 2508.

#### *Closed tubular bindings*

Eleven objects consist of closed tubes with a circular section or flattened oval section (2511-21). The diameters or widths range from 3 to 9mm. All, except for two examples, basically consist of a tube made from a rolled sheet.

2513 still contain a lead core. 2515 has an iron concretion at one edge. 2516 has a hexagonal washer attached. The washer has a hooded collar and the remains of a lead filled stud are associated. 2519 is more complex and has a notch cut at one end and has a collar of sheeting wrapped around the other to form a socket. There may be the remains of corrosion products here.

#### *Ribbed and/or grooved pieces*

Eleven pieces of sheet are decorated with ribs and/or grooves set in various patterns (2523-33). A frequently recurring pattern is a strip with a central groove and raised edges; another is a reeded one created by alternating raised ribs and grooves. 2529 and 2532 are curved and have keeled backs with a central ridge. Some pieces are silvered or tinned (2523, 2528).

#### *Riveted or perforated strips*

Twenty-four pieces consist of riveted and/or perforated strip of varying size (2456-84). Two pieces appear to be complete. Some are decorated with an incised margin (2472, 2456, 2483, 2466). 2466 is silvered. The rivet holes can be square (2460) or circular. The rivets are of alloy or iron. 2474 is more unusual and consists of an iron core between two alloy strips. 2475 may be covered in leather or textile deposit. This may originally have formed an angle bracket.

#### *Miscellaneous*

Three pieces do not easily fit the above groups. 2536 may be better described as a sleeve and consists of a folded thick sheet to form a rectangle with an applied narrow strip of binding at one end. It is perforated. 2535 is a sub-triangular piece with rivets around its edges. This may represent a corner piece from a box, and be better placed as 'shaped binding'. 2534 consists of a sheet strip folded twice in a concertina fashion with a rivet through two of the three thicknesses.

### *Curved Rods*

Fifteen objects (3585-99) are of very similar form consisting of a curved, circular-sectioned rod which forms a shallow hook, with a straight shaft extension which is slightly bent back in the opposed direction. In the case of 3596 the shaft is also curved. The ends of the rods are treated in a particular and similar fashion. The shaft is pared and almost squared, although 3594 is almost pointed. The hook end is flattened and clipped; there is a slight depression/groove on the inner surface near to the end. The range in length from 25mm to 56mm.

The function of these items is unknown. The curve seems too shallow for them to have functioned as a secure hook. Another possibility is that they were buckle tongues, although they are perhaps too long for this use.

### *Loop*

One closed loop was recovered (2398). It does not fit easily into other classes such as the miscellaneous rings or the chains. It is oval in shape and asymmetrical. It is made of ovate-sectioned rod and has uneven edges. It is 36mm long and 27mm wide. There are no localised points of wear and its use is unknown.

### *Miscellaneous small hoops (Rings)*

Bliss applied the term miscellaneous small hoop (MSH) to the category of find that most people would describe as a ring. They were defined as all hoops with a smaller internal diameter than 40mm. This latter measurement was taken as the smallest measurement appropriate for a bracelet. The rings in this category had no distinguishing features that would allow them to be assigned to a more precise functional category, e.g. a bezel on a finger ring. There were 73 examples in total of which 50 were complete.

There were both annular and penannular examples. The former were continuous hoops. The latter included open rings with a butt joint or overlapping terminals, continuous with an overlap joint either with pared terminals or untreated rod terminals. They had a wide range of section shapes and the majority were of uniform dimensions all around the circumference. Most were plain but 15 examples were decorated in some way. The majority were cast but other manufacturing methods such as curving a strip of metal were observed.

A grouping was achieved by assigning them to annular or penannular categories, and then further subdividing them according to whether they were decorated or plain, and the type of cross-section. Bliss noted that the disparate natures of items within the groups and sub-groups meant they were more groupings of convenience than being natural clusters.

The following groups and sub-groups were defined.

#### Penannular hoops

- Sub-group A: Decorated
- Sub-group B: ‘Smaller’ plain
- Sub-group C: Other plain

#### Aannular hoops

- Sub-group A: Decorated
- Sub-group Bi: Plain with D-section
- Sub-group Bii: Large plain
- Sub-group C: Plain with rectangular section

#### Broken hoops

- Sub-group A: Decorated
- Sub-group B: Plain with strip section
- Sub-group C: Miscellaneous

#### *Penannular Hoops*

There are 30 miscellaneous penannular hoops (3120-35, 3179-93). Three have only one extant terminal, the rest are complete. The hoops are circular or oval and show great diversity. They take almost any section shape including circular, oval, sub-rectangular and D-shaped. There is also great variety in the terminals. Some have one or both terminals tapered or pared, and in some cases the ends are now overlapping. In others they form a side/side overlap joint or are left with an open ring. Some hoops have butt-jointed ends which now form or side/side overlapping joints. In the case of 3128 it is not certain whether the hoop is broken or has penannular ends. Most appear to have been cast.

Four hoops were included in Bliss’s discussion of Sub-group A (decorated – 3120-3), though the database print out assigns 3121 to the earring category. All are very different from each other. One consists of a single twisted wire. Two hoops are grooved. 3121 has a series of transverse grooves at one terminal. 3122 shows a similar motif at both terminals and in addition, shows a design carried out only on the central part of the hoop consisting of opposed rectangular-shaped notches and wedges cut

along both edges leaving a medial ridge. The design is only visible under the microscope. This hoop may also be coated with white metal. The terminal of **3123** may be zoomorphic, but this is only suggested tentatively. Again this feature is only visible under the microscope. It was possibly originally an annular hoop as the terminals appear sheared. The sections are circular apart from that of **3122** which varies from a thin rectangle to a D-shape. The terminals of **3120** form a top/bottom overlap joint; those of **3121** are squared, the extant terminal of **3123** may be zoomorphic and those of **3122** are pared and now overlap for a considerable extent.

The present internal diameters are similar and measure 14.5 x 11mm (**3120**) 11 x 13mm (**3121**) and 12mm (**3123**). The sections of **3121-2** measure 1.75mm, **3123** measures 2mm in diameter and **3120** is more massive and measures 3x3.5mm.

There are 27 examples of Sub-group B (plain). A hoop with a coil of wire around it is also included, and two hoops which may have formed a chain. There are two half hoops and the rest are complete. The sub-group has been further divided.

Sub-group Bi ('small') has 23 examples (**3125-9**, **3141-5**, **3179-91**) including one of silver (**3181**). They are all circular apart from **3128** which is oval. The sections and terminal treatment varies. The majority have butt joints, but some taper and some overlap. It is not certain whether **3128** is broken or has penannular terminals. The present internal diameters range from 6mm (**3184**) to 15 x 12mm (**3124**).

Sub-group Bii has eight members (**3130-35**, **3192-3**). They are very different in form and size both from Sub-group Bi and from each other. The sub-group includes two half hoops which have one expanded and pared terminal. It also includes a modern ring (**3131**) from an RAF pit. **3135** is a circular-shaped hoop with a D-shaped section, and has pared terminals with a side/side overlap joint. **3132** is differentiated from all of the other MSH by a coil of wire around its hoop which is distorted but has a circular section and one pared terminal. The hoop is included here because of this feature, though the ring itself is very similar to those of Sub-group Bi. **3133** is tentatively included here for two reasons: it is not clear that it was penannular and it has lunar-shaped notches on its outer surface which could be either decorative motifs or the results of corrosion. The hoop is rectangular-sectioned.

The internal diameters of the hoops are larger than those of Sub-group Bi and measure 17 x 11mm, 18mm and 19mm. The sections are more varied and range from 1.25mm diameter (**3132**) to 3.5 x 3mm (**3131**, **3135**).

#### *Annular hoops*

There are 17 annular hoops (**3136-51**, **3194**). All are circular and have either D-shaped or thin rectangular-shaped sections.

There are five members of Sub-group A (decorated **3136-40**) though **3139** is only tentatively included. **3138** is the only ring decorated with a motif, an irregular incised medial line around the outer circumference. **3136** is silvered and **3139** may be so. Bliss suggested that there might have been traces of gilding on **3140** and **3137**. The hoops are circular with D-shaped sections in three cases and a more elliptical/thin D-section in the cases of **3137-8**. The hoops have uniform widths around the circumference. The sides of **3137** are not vertical but are inclined. This is also seen on hoop **3150** of Sub-group C.

The internal diameter range from 11mm (**3137**) to 17mm (**3138**). The section vary from tall, thin D-shapes of 4.25 x 2.25mm (**3140**) and 2.75 x 2mm (**3137-8**) to a smaller squat D-shape of 3 x 2.75 (**3136**).

There are five examples of Sub-group Bi (**3141-5**) plain hoops with D-sections. Four have uniform widths but **3143** widens at one place, perhaps at the joint. The internal diameters have a larger range

than those of Sub-group A and vary from 14.5mm (**3141**) to 18mm (**3144**). The sections vary from 3 x 2.25mm (**3144**) to the massive 4.25 x 4mm of **3145**.

There are three examples of Sub-group Bi, the larger heavier examples of the Bi form. Internal diameter range from 23 to 25mm and thicknesses from 5 to 9mm.

There are four examples of Sub-group C (**3149-51, 3194**) which have rectangular sections, though that of 3151 is a rounded rectangle. They are all circular and one has inclined sides. **3150** appears to be thicker on one side where it is heavily corroded. **3149** is thinner and more heavily corroded in one place of its circumference. This could have been by wear or the former existence of a design that is now effaced. **3151** also shows a definite area where the hoop is thinner. The internal diameter of **3149** is comparatively small and measures 13mm, that of **3150** measures 15mm and **3151** 18.5mm. The section of 3149 is 2.5 x 1mm, of **3150** 2.5-3.5 x 2mm and that of **3151** is 4 x 3mm.

#### *Broken hoops*

There are 26 examples where both terminals are broken and it is not possible to be certain of their original form (**3152-68, 3195-3203**). From their finds position numbers **3162-3** could well be from the same piece.

Sub-group A (decorated) has five examples (**3152-6**). In two cases the motif consists of transverse grooves on the outer surface, this is restricted to one end only of **3156**. **3154** is silvered and Bliss suggested **3155** might have been gilded. The hoops are circular. All, apart from **3155** which is elliptical, have circular sections. The internal diameter can be measured in the case of **3154** (14mm) and **3156** (15.5mm). The sections range from 2 x 1.5mm (**3153**) to 2.5mm (**3154**).

There are two examples of Sub-group B (plain with wide strip sections – **3157-8**). They both have small internal diameters of c. 12mm. the widest of the two is **3158** which is 7.75mm wide.

Sub-group C consists of all the plain broken hoops with strip sections. There are 19 of these (**3159-68, 3195-3202**). They are of constant width around the circumference except in the cases of **3168** which expands slightly towards one broken end and **3166** which is pared and tapered to one end. The hoops are circular apart from **3164** and **3167** which are oval. A few are worthy of special note. **3162** and **3163** widen considerably towards the convex outer surface leaving a flat inner flange and may be from the same hoop. **3197** shows a similar section shape and **3166** has a keel. **3160** and **3198** have squared sections. The sub-group also includes hoops with the largest internal diameters; **3162** measures 28mm and **3167** measures 31mm.

#### *Small tools*

Seven objects are included in this class (**2370-76**). They consist of a rod form which has been shaped to varying degrees. Two consist of circular-sectioned rods with pointed and squared ends. A complete rod and a broken rod are ‘awl-like’; they are square sectioned and taper to each end. (Bliss did not identify these by number but they may be **2371-2**). The complete example is 64mm long. **2375** and **2373** have one chisel-shaped end whilst the other end is tapered and squared in the opposite plane to the chisel. They are only 32mm and 34mm long respectively. **2374** is rectangular-sectioned and tapers abruptly to a flat-sectioned point. Bliss noted that Manning (1985) had discussed the use of similar small tools in iron.

## Bone and Antler

### *Objects of uncertain use*

#### *Stud? 227*

It consists of a mitre head with a wide collar below and a wide groove between. It measures 15mm in length. Studs are rare in bone, more commonly being represented in copper alloy. Although Greep includes seven examples in his catalogue (1983, 574), 227 is not similar to these.

#### *Numbered bone plates 228-32*

They are flat-sectioned and diamond-shaped. 231 and 232 have one or two sides numbered with small dots whereas 230 is decorated with a ring and dot motif. The other two examples are plain.

Greep (1983, 482) comments that he does not exactly understand how they could have functioned as dice or gaming pieces. The former function is more easy to dismiss than the latter. Other possible function include toggles or pegs. Similar objects are known from Wanborough in Wiltshire (Greep 1983, 12, 104) which is decorated on all sides with ring and dot motifs with the sides being numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6. A similar object from Verulamium is more square in shape and is numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 while other more oval-shaped. Only one of the Wroxeter examples is from an occupation context which is dated as 375 and later.

#### *Tag 233*

Triangular plate with a perforation at one apex measuring 33 x 26 x 25mm. The only similar object listed by Greep are both from Ware. One is of a similar size and has a hole midway along the longest side (Greep 1983, fig. 354 no. 8). The much larger example has a hole at each apex.

#### *Spatula? 234*

This may represent a spatula since it consists of a rod with a square section or may be a shaft.

#### *Rectangular fragment 238*

Fragment of rectangular-shaped bone (12 x 8, 5 x 3mm) with the remains of a perforation and with notches along one edge. It is blackened. Possibly from a comb cross plate.

#### *Inlay? 239*

? Inlay Type A4. Strip of bone (22.5 x 5 x 2.5mm) which is polished on the thinner edge and also half way long the wider edge. It may represent a piece of border inly.

#### *Inlay? 256*

Trapezoidal-shaped bone with a perforation at one edge and scratched surface.

#### *Veneer? 240*

Five fragment of bone which are highly polished on one side only.

#### *Veneer? 250*

The fragment has a wedge section and a rounded edge. It is decorated in curved incised lines although these may be intrinsic since they are on both surfaces. It is rough on one side and is highly polished on the other.

*Rectangular strip 243*

Tapering rectangular strip with T extension as one end resembling a sword shape. It is highly polished. It is decorated with edge V notches along the long sides and with transverse grooves. It looks like a sword sheath and may be a child's toy or it could be an ornament.

*Peg or rivet 242*

A teardrop shaped head of bone with a whittled down shaft. ? Rough for a pin.

*Knucklebones or waste? 247 244*

Cow seismoids are highly polished in places which may suggest that they have been handled. 'Knucklebone' used as jacks in games are normally the astraphalus, but there seems no reason why seismoids could not have been used in a similar way. On the other hand these may represent butchery waste. The polish may be as a result of post-excavation handling (Bev Meddins *pers comm.*).

*Perforated block 245*

Decorated and longitudinally perforated rectangular block (26 x 10 x 8mm) made from ovicaprid bone. All the surfaces are decorated with widely spaced continuous transverse grooves with two cross hatches on one side only. Possible handle following evidence from York or bead. This example is from a constructional ? context in the nave, which is from a phase dated to AD 346+.

*Antler tine 248*

An antler tine, smoothed and polished with a rectangular notch cut on one side. It is not perforated longitudinally. There are signs of wear in the centre. A parallel exists at Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943, 308, fig. 105) from a mid-Iron Age context. The author proposes it may have been used as a shuttle, or a drill rotated by means of a wound cord.

*Antler tine 308*

Another example of a notched and perforated antler tine discussed as a group by Greep (1983, 485). The notch is cut at the base of the tine and a short hole is perforated longitudinally at from the base. The surface shows ridges but is smooth through handling. The function is not known although Greep had noted that they had been identified variously as cheek pieces in harness equipment and that Curle (1911, 314) had suggested that an example from Newstead was used to wind rope and tighten it.

*Peg? 249*

A perforated and worked tine. Parallels exist at Shakenoak where the authors gave it no function describing it as drilled antler tine (Brodrribb *et al* 1973, fig. 72), and at Canterbury (Frere and Stow 1983, fig. 63 no. 25) where a similar looking object is described as a ?peg, however this had a perforations in the top and in one side.

*Handle? 236*

Antler beam with roughly worked surface which has become highly polished, presumably owing to its handling. There is a large perforation at one end which is drilled and may have held a suspension loop.

*Handle? 246*

Handle of Greep (1983) type A1.1? Antler tine with slivers removed from its surface for almost its complete length. The tip has been removed and a thin sub rectangular perforation made in this end. The perforation is incomplete and does not extend for its whole length. Some areas of the surface are polished. It could have functioned as a handle; the cut surface aiding grip or it may be an unfinished example.

*Peg or handle ? 255*

Peg or handle? Antler cut into a head shape with a perforation and a thick shaft. Crudely worked with clear knife cuts.

*Miscellaneous cylinders 2076-9, 2082-6, 2088, 2091, 2092*

Greep recognises as a group of miscellaneous cylinders which includes turned examples with lateral grooves; plain examples, and those decorated with motifs, ring and dot in the case of 2092. They may represent handles (the decorated examples – types A14 and A 2.1) or sleeves (the plainer examples). 2088 is a metapodial with knife cut slivers and may represent an unfinished object.

*Hinge segments? 2080 and 2081*

Possibly end hinge segment for a hinge. Cylinders with slightly splayed ends and with V-shaped grooves at either end.

*Miscellaneous cylinder 251*

Miscellaneous cylinder, possible furniture fitting or handle possibly of type A41. It consists of turned cylinder split longitudinally which is decorated with transverse grooves and with convex-shaped collars. The grooves may have been filled with black inlay as seen on plaques of type C used to decorate furniture. It is 51mm long and 27mm wide.

*Miscellaneous cylinder, binding? 252*

The piece is decorated with a series of thin collars created by grooves. The surface is not flat but is slightly ‘dented’. The piece has two intact ends which are sawn and polished. It is 14mm long.

*Counter or inlay 253*

Counter (type 4) or inlay? Circle of bone with a domed top. Diameter 11.5 x 11mm and height 6mm.

*Counter? 254*

Type 4 counter? Domed piece with a groove in the top (natural?) Diameter 27mm, height 17mm.

*Spatula or peg? 257*

A round shaft which thickens at one end and is squared off to form a head.

*Pin, stylus or awl? 284-5*

Fibula bone gradually expanding at one end with a flat head and with a broken shaft. 285 has a point and an uneven expanded head.

*Spoon or stylus ? 290*

Type B2 spoon or a type 1 stylus or small tool. Rod with two pared ends and is highly polished. The problem with the cosmetic spoon function is that all those in Greep’s *corpus* have grooved bowls. It is similar to his type 1 stylus, a plain tapering stem with a thin pared end although there is not a clear point. Finally it may perhaps represent a small modelling tool

*Spatula or stylus end? 293*

Flat-sectioned spatulate shaped piece. It does not have a groove like other B2 spoons.

*Roundel 274*

Roundel which is grooved on three faces. It may be part of a peg.

*Inlay 234*

Border inlay? Furniture mount A4. The rod of bone has a tall D-shape section with oblique notches cut into the curved face which is polished and the underside and lower part is less so. Most D-sectioned border inlays catalogued by Greep are waisted with grooves.

*Terminal? 261*

Terminal? From a ?handle. Shaft with triangular-shaped head. With a central perforation. Width 13mm, length 11mm

*Antler strip 311*

Antler strip with rounded end. Flat-backed and with a copper alloy attached to the squared end. The cap has two collars and is attached by a rivet. Use unknown.

*Rod 292*

Long square-sectioned rod with a wide longitudinal groove on open side. It is polished and blackened. Similar to a shuttle. Length 167mm, section 10mm.

*Shaft 323*

Shaft with rectangular cross section and point. Lost.

*Shaft 288*

Shaft fragment which tapers markedly at one point to continue at a smaller diameter. Lost.

*Pin or spoon? 315*

Pin or spoon? Flat-sectioned disc head on a pointed shaft. Plain bowl. Shaft is swollen waisted.

*Pin? 286*

Pin? Swollen waisted shaft without a head and broken point. Now lost.

*Pin? 289*

Pin? Shaft with expanded flat sectioned head with notch cut at one side. Missing in 1986.

*Peg or point? 309*

Piece of bone used as a peg or perhaps as a toggle. Missing in 1986.

*Peg or pin? 310*

Stout example with a roughly chiselled head. Missing in 1986.

*Pin or peg? 316*

Shaft fragment? Missing in 1986.

*Pin or peg? 317*

Shaft fragment? Diameter 7mm. Missing in 1986.

*Object 318*

Missing and without drawing. Description reads ‘rough pointed implement made from end of long bone’. Length 57mm.

*Antler tines 319-22*

Antler tines which may represent waste or may have been used as points. 319 is burnt and polished black. All missing in 1986.

*Indeterminate fragmentary pieces*

Forty objects are included under this heading.

*Decorated fragments*

Eight fragments are decorated with transverse grooves, radial grooves, cross hatching. One is a rib (**270**).

*Perforated pieces*

This includes a perforated phalange, a cow caudal vertebra perforated on only one side, a strip with a pointed end, and a semi-circular plate with two perforations along the straight edge.

*Worked bone, objects or waste?*

Twenty-five pieces are included here. The amount of working varies. The group includes sawn long bones and antler beams which may have been used or destined for use as handles. They could also represent waste pieces. No **279** may be bird bone and as such may not represent a small find. Nos. **282** and **2058** are also hollow tubes which could be natural. No. **314** consists of a straight point with a groove around its missing base. No **313** consists of a strip with one transverse and one straight edge (missing). This may be waste from inlay? No. **312** (missing) is part of a rib. There are three sawn phalanges with squared off ends which could be crude draughtsmen or waste. There is a long bone with a slot perforation; an antler tine with a square perforation and rough notching down the side; and the end of a long bone with saw marks through it.