

Leather carding comb
<335>, [1034]; period 803, S109

Incomplete; Overall L 230mm; W 134mm; Th 3.7mm; Dimensions of spiked panel L 212mm; W 115mm; Dimensions of additional strips W 8.0mm; Th 2.1mm; Dimensions of corner tack L 10.2mm; head diam 4.5mm; Dimensions staples L one spike c 10mm; W across reverse c4.7mm; Diam wire c0.5mm. Carding comb; rectangular piece of leather with flesh side upper most; long thin strip of leather;

Additional details:

Carding comb; rectangular piece of leather with grain side to the interior; reverse would have been attached to ?wooden base probably including an integral handle;

reverse shows incised lines marking out narrow boarder around a central rectangle; perforation holes of two sizes visible with the border; at least 15 in most complete side; central area filled with iron staples oriented longitudinally; staples arranged in approx. 48 lines across the rectangle with average 43 in each line;

front side shows long thin strip of leather fixed along the border around the central rectangle; additional strips loose in box assumed to have become detached during burial; where still attached strips are on the opposite orientation to the backing with grain side on the exterior; two iron tacks in complete corner attached this additional strip to main piece and probably the wooden back as well; spikes of each staple project through from the reverse; almost all are now bent and bent in the same direction (towards most complete side); fragment of plant material caught among the spikes has been identified by Karen Stewart as *Medicago* (Fig 1)



Fig 1 Plant material caught in teeth of carding comb <335>

Comparative material includes a comb from Brooks Wharf, MOL 2005.152. Also object from social history collected of West Highland Museum, WHM 1991 13 B7. See

<http://carmichaelwatson.blogspot.co.uk/2012/11/objects-in-focus-wool-carding-combs.html>