XI
Notes

1. A LITHIC SCATTER FROM CRAWLEY EDGE, STANHOPE

WHILST visiting the site of the cairnfield at Crawley Edge above Stanhope in Weardale on the 7th and 13th of July 1996, a scatter of flints including a Leaf shaped arrowhead were recovered from a 15 metre stretch of trackway at NZ 0010 3975. The trackway cuts through the heather which is predominant in the area, and passes close to a number of visible cairns. The exposed nature of the recovered flints, their fresh appearance, together with an absence of the signs of burning on their exterior, indicated that they had only recently been weathered from the surrounding peat.

Crawley Edge is situated above the town of Stanhope in Weardale and lies between the Stanhope and Shittlehope Burns, both of which have produced lithic artifacts. The cairnfield and its proximity to the site of the Bronze Age hoard in Heathery Burn Cave (Greenwell 1894), clearly mark this locality as an important Early Bronze Age site.

Artifacts from the area have been recorded by Egglestone (1916) who reports the finding of a micacious sandstone axe on Crawley Edge. Fell & Hildyard (1953) mention the above axe head and assign it to the Bronze Age, noting affinities with similar axes associated with Beaker types A & C. The cairns were first noticed in the 1930s (Young 1992, 27) and the first plan of the area showing 4 cairns was produced soon after.

In the 1970s the area was more intensively investigated with fieldwalking by Young & Fitzpatrick (Young 1980; 1984) and subsequent excavation of two of the identified cairns by Young & Welfare (1977; 1978; 1992). A proposed chronology (Young & Welfare 1992, 39) suggests that the predominant activity at the cairnfield occurs in the Early Bronze Age, based upon radiocarbon dates of 1400 ± 90 bc & 1420 ± 80 bc from the excavated cairns.

A detailed survey of the area was conducted by RCHM (England) in 1984 which has documented some 41 cairns as the present total.

THE FLINT ARTIFACTS

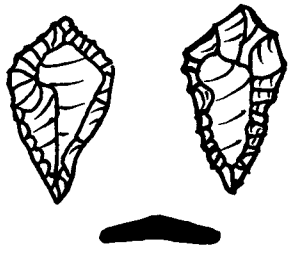
The complete assemblage comprised some 26 pieces, most of which are waste flakes and chippings. Of these 14 were grey flint, 4 were white flint, 3 were brown flint, 2 were brown/grey flint, 2 were black flint and 1 piece was of black chert. Only 5 retained residual cortex, which was either white or grey in colour and always hard and pitted in nature. The 8 utilized flints are illustrated in Fig. 1 and are described below.

Arrowheads

Figure 1.1. A complete example of a Leaf shaped Arrowhead in grey flint with partial incipient white patination and no cortex remaining. Both faces of the flake demonstrate fine pressure flaking at the edges whilst the central area remains unworked. Using Green's (1980) classification this can be ascribed to the 3B type.
Size: 28 × 16 × 3 mm.

Blades

Figure 1.2. A brown flint flake which is broken at the distal end of the line of an internal flaw. The flint demonstrates retouch on both edges at the bulbar end and fine pressure flaking on one edge.



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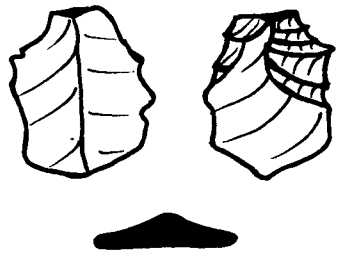

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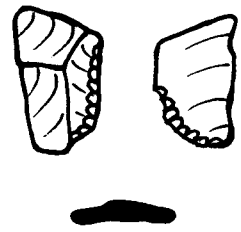

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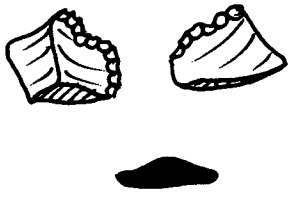

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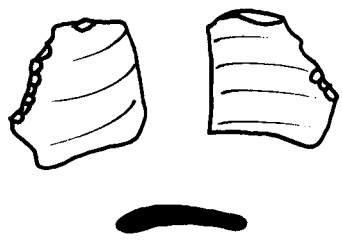

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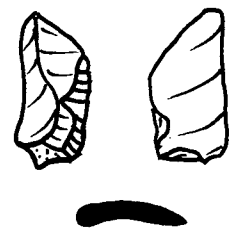

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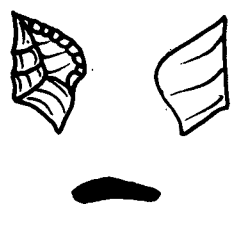

Fig 1:7.

Fig 1:8.

Fig. 1 Flints from Crawley Edge, Stanhope. (Scale 1:1).

Size: 24 × 21 × 2 mm.
Figure 1.3. A grey flint blade which has fine denticulations on one edge only. The bulbar end of the flake is missing.
Size: 20 × 11 × 1 mm.
Figure 1.4. A grey flint blade, broken transversely at the distal end. The blade displays fine retouch near its base on both faces, where the flint has been nibbled to form a notch.
Size: 14 × 15 × 3 mm.

Scrapers & Utilized flakes

Figure 1.5. A grey flint flake possessing a hinge fracture which has been finely retouched on both faces of one edge.
Size: 26 × 20 × 2 mm.
Figure 1.6. A grey flint retaining a small area of cortex which shows secondary working on one face and fine working along one edge. Demonstrates an area of hard grey cortex at the bulbar end.
Size: 23 × 12 × 2 mm.
Figure 1.7. A grey brown flint, possibly a burin or graver, which is worked on both edges of one face to form a point.
Size: 16 × 11 × 1 mm.
Figure 1.8. A light grey flint retaining a small area of cortex at the bulbar end. The flint demonstrates retouch on one face with fine pressure flaking at the distal end. Clearly manufactured to form either a scraper or a point.
Size: 17 × 12 × 1 mm.

Waste Flakes

This formed the largest component of the scatter, comprising of some 18 pieces which are not illustrated. It included 2 flakes demonstrating hinge fractures, 1 piece with a brown cortex, 1 small piece of black chert and only 4 complete small flint flakes.

DISCUSSION

The previous excavations at Crawley Edge have suggested that the cairnfield is potentially the product of Early Bronze Age field clearance prior to cultivation, which also fulfils the purpose of a religious focus as some cairns contain burials (Young & Welfare 1992). It is probable that the survey by the RCHME does not record all the existing cairns in the area and further examples are to be found with field work.

The flint scatter being situated reasonably close to the excavated cairns above, and limited in its spread to a small area, suggests the existence of a now destroyed cairn. Further fieldwalking in the area of the flint scatter, after the heather is burnt to promote new growth or precipitation has been sufficiently heavy to cause further erosion, is likely to be fruitful.

C. Huff

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2. COUPLAND: THE EARLIEST HENGE-TYPE MONUMENT IN BRITAIN

The so-called "Coupland Henge" is situated on the Milfield Plain to the south of Milfield village at NT 94053308. Preserved as an upstanding earthwork visible on the ground 30 years ago, its surface remains are now almost totally ploughed out. Only faint traces of the banks on the western side are visible when the sun is low in the sky and the crop is off. Excavations on the north entrance of the Coupland enclosure took place during early September 1995 as part of the author's "Milfield Archaeological Landscape Project" in order to:

1. test the hypothesis that this monument complex dates to the earlier Neolithic and functioned in association with the exploitation of the sandstone fells, and the cup and ring marked outcrops there situated, as part of a pastoral herding regime.
2. assess the level of damage and state of preservation of the monument in order to gauge what archaeological residues were still preserved together with an estimate of how much longer they would last if the present intensive cultivation regime continued on this site.

The excavation took in the ditch terminals on either side of the north entrance together with the linear "droveway" ditches which run through this causeway. Although the droveway is structurally later than the enclosure (cf. Harding 1981, 91) the two features functioned contemporaneously as part of the same monument complex. This was demonstrated by the two substantial post holes for circular timbers, interpreted as gateposts, which were situated so as to respect both the sides of the droveway and the position of the ditch terminals, thus uniting the two features in a common use.

Two radiocarbon dates from charcoal recovered from a lower fill of the western droveway ditch, and sealed completely by an upper fill provided complimentary determinations of 3000 ± 70 bc and 3090 ± 70 bc. These dates calibrate to give a calendar date of approximately 3800 B.C. These determinations date the construction of the droveway. However, as the droveway is structurally later than, though functioned contemporaneously with, the enclosure, it predicates that the enclosure must be at least as old as the droveway, that is *c.* 3800 B.C. As such, the dates from this lower droveway fill provide a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of the enclosure.

Given this early date for the enclosure and the suggested use of one of its functions as a stock kraal (cf. Waddington 1996), it is no longer apt to label this monument as a "henge" in the traditional sense. Rather, although it probably served a multiplicity of purposes from calving to ceremonial rites and community gatherings, this enclosure should be considered as possessing some of the morphological characteristics associated with the henge tradition (i.e. outer bank, inner ditch and opposed entrances), but with a set of structural associations, dates and probably functions which are not usually associated with henges. Important contrasts with the "true" henge complex of the Milfield Plain include the lack of any evidence of internal settings of posts or standing stones which are associated with the other Milfield henges (Harding 1981), the slightly flattened, non-circular shape of the Coupland enclosure, the direct association of the Coupland site with a fenced droveway which passes through it, and most starkly, the fact that the Coupland enclosure covers an area on average 16 times larger than any of the other Milfield henges which all conform to roughly equal dimensions.

The implications of these results are far reaching. Firstly, the Coupland enclosure is not a henge in the traditional sense. Secondly, as the Coupland enclosure shares important similarities with the henge tradition on the basis of its equinality of form, it is possible that it is in such monuments as the Coupland site that the henge tradition may have at least its morphological antecedents. Thirdly, whether or not a "henge" in the commonly accepted sense, the Coupland enclosure is now, on the basis of the present corpus of knowledge, the earliest henge-type monument in Britain. The questions arising from this discovery demand

attention to be placed on northern England and southern Scotland as a region critical for the development of Neolithic Britain, a concept which the still pervading "out-of-Wessex" and "out-of-Orkney" mentalities obstruct with their misleading stance.

The excavation also revealed an earlier Neolithic phase of settlement occupation on the site, probably of a temporary nature, for which radiocarbon dates are awaited. An interim report on the excavation has been published (Waddington 1996), though it is intended to produce the full report in the near future together with results from any further work which is still under negotiation between English Heritage, the landowner and the author. Subsequent to the publication of the interim report it has been realized that the phosphate analysis results were skewed by the occurrence of later buildings constructed over the sampling transect. These features only came to light when newly acquired aerial photographs were analysed, and their presence has undoubtedly affected the results. However, a second attempt on an undisturbed section of droveway is planned, and this should help clarify the function of this feature.

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3. A NEWLY DISCOVERED PROMONTORY FORT IN THE TYNE VALLEY

In 1989 the earthworks of an irregular enclosure (fig. 1) were discovered in the Tyne Valley during a survey of ancient woodland. The survey was undertaken as part of a programme of research, now completed (Tolan-Smith 1995 and 1997a and b). The enclosure is situated within Horsley Wood, 12 km west of Newcastle upon Tyne at NZ 104648. It is at 35 m OD on a steep promontory above the Howdene Burn, close to its confluence with the River Tyne. It was discovered during a brief episode of clear felling before replanting and has now again retreated under a dense cover of trees.

The remains consist of a substantial bank 13 m wide and 1·25 m high above the bottom of a broad external ditch. The ditch measures on average 9 m wide and has a slight counterscarp bank. There is an internal quarry ditch which measures a maximum of 5 m wide. A modern causeway carrying a track across the southern end of the earthworks may occupy the site of an original entrance 6 to 7 m wide. The earthworks have been placed across the neck of a narrow promontory to form an irregular enclosure 90 m by 93 m, bounded on the three other sides by steep natural slopes. The remains suggest that they are those of a previously unknown promontory fort of probable Iron Age date. Before the construction of the weir at Wylam, 1·5 km downstream, the fort was situated close to the contemporary tidal limit where it could have commanded the valley of the River Tyne.

Evidence for Iron Age settlement is not extensive in the Tyne Valley; research on first millennium Northumberland has understandably been focused on the well-preserved settlements north of the River Coquet. Hitherto, only four hillforts were known in the Tyne Valley, all situated on its northern side in prominent locations (fig. 2). These consist of the large multivallate hillfort on Warden Hill (Jobey 1965, 62 no. 60, McCord 1984 375–6), and the smaller univallate hillforts on Wall Hill (Jobey 1965, 63 no. 117), Shildon Hill (Jobey 1965, 63 no. 124) and Horsley Hill (Challis and Harding 1975, 51). In addition, a putative parallel for the newly discovered site described in this note may be provided by the

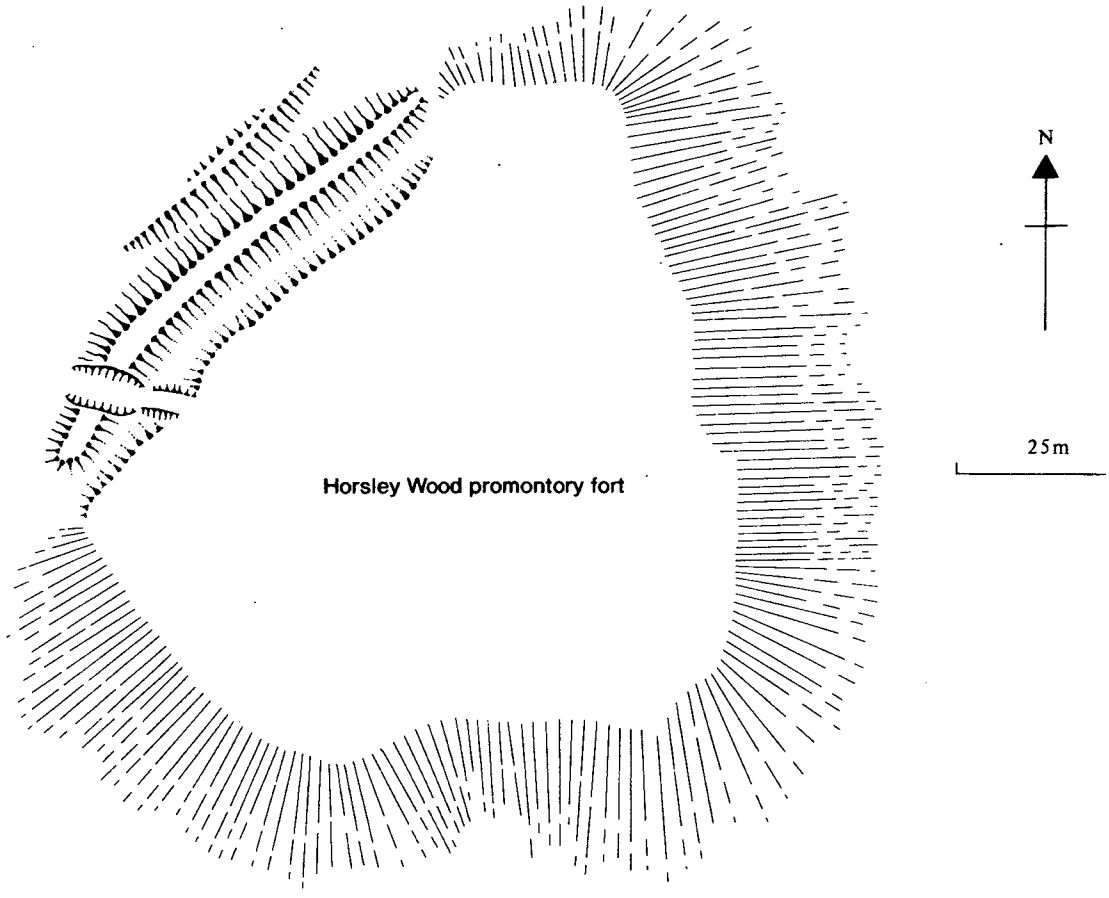

Fig. 1 Horsley Wood promontory fort.

earliest prehistoric remains identified on the headland at Tynemouth, where the excavation of a large prehistoric round house was taken as evidence for the site of a possible promontory fort (Jobey 1967).

The result of multi-period research in the area surrounding Horsley Wood has shown that the promontory fort occupied an agriculturally well developed landscape during the Iron Age (Tolan-Smith 1995 and 1997b). It should therefore not be seen as an isolated feature but very much part of a contemporary enclosed landscape. The Tyne Valley has previously been seen as a possible frontier zone between major Iron Age groupings (Higham 1986, 146–7). In this context the discovery of an additional defensive site on the north bank of the River Tyne is a significant contribution to our knowledge of the period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Basil Butcher and Gordon Barclay for help in surveying the earthworks and to Christopher Tolan-Smith for reading a draft of this note.

M. Tolan-Smith

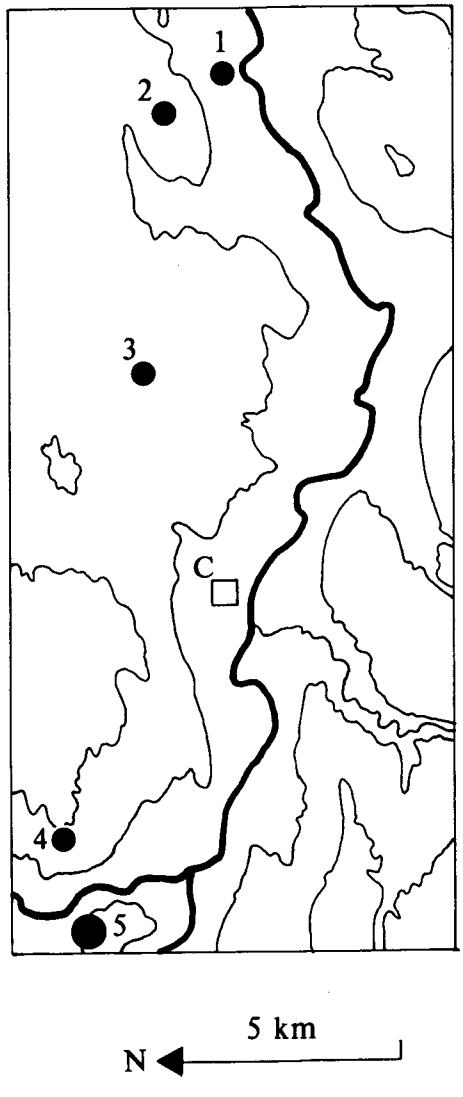

Fig. 2 Hillforts in the Tyne Valley 1 Horsley Wood, 2 Horsley Hill, 3 Shildon Hill, 4 Wall Hill, 5 Warden Hill. The location of the Roman site at Corstopitum *is also shown (C). Contours at 100 m and 200 m OD.*

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4. ANTIQUITIES FROM NORTHUMBERLAND IN WEST MIDLANDS MUSEUMS

The following note is a result of a survey of archaeological collections in West Midlands museums carried out by the West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit under the auspices of the West Midlands Area Museums Service. All museums in the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire were included in the survey, but not private collections or material currently under study at Field Units. One of the aims of the project was to make awareness of the collections more widely known, especially artefacts

of non-local origin, through a series of short notes in relevant county and specialist journals. This method of disseminating information was thought preferable to the compilation of a single catalogue which would be so disparate as to be of little appeal to the researchers we are trying to reach.

Four West Midlands museums have antiquities from Northumberland (post 1974 boundaries) from the prehistoric and Roman periods; no later artefacts were identified during the survey. Resources have not allowed the compilation of full catalogue details or extensive trawls through documentation and literature. As the primary intention of the listing is to give researchers an idea of the type and quantity of material held in West Midlands museums it is hoped that this brevity will be forgiven.

The following abbreviations have been used when citing museum accession numbers: Bir = Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery; Lap = Birmingham University, School of Earth Sciences, Lapworth Museum; War = Warwickshire Museum; Wos = Worcester City Museum Service.

PREHISTORIC—P. J. WATSON

Newbiggin(-by-the-Sea) [NZ3087]

Two microblades and several waste flakes (Lap D85).

Northumberland, no exact provenance

A bone point (Bir 1946A4.3) and an antler point (Bir 1973A124); although from different donors both bear the same type of label with the same writing which reads "from rock shelter near the Tyne".

ROMAN—T. BRIDGES AND P. J. WISE

Haltwhistle [NY7064]

A small bronze enamelled "stud" or button described as being from the "station on the Roman Wall near Haltwhistle". It is decorated with a flower pattern in red and white enamel. There is a loop on the reverse. Di 22. (War A1544). (fig. 1).

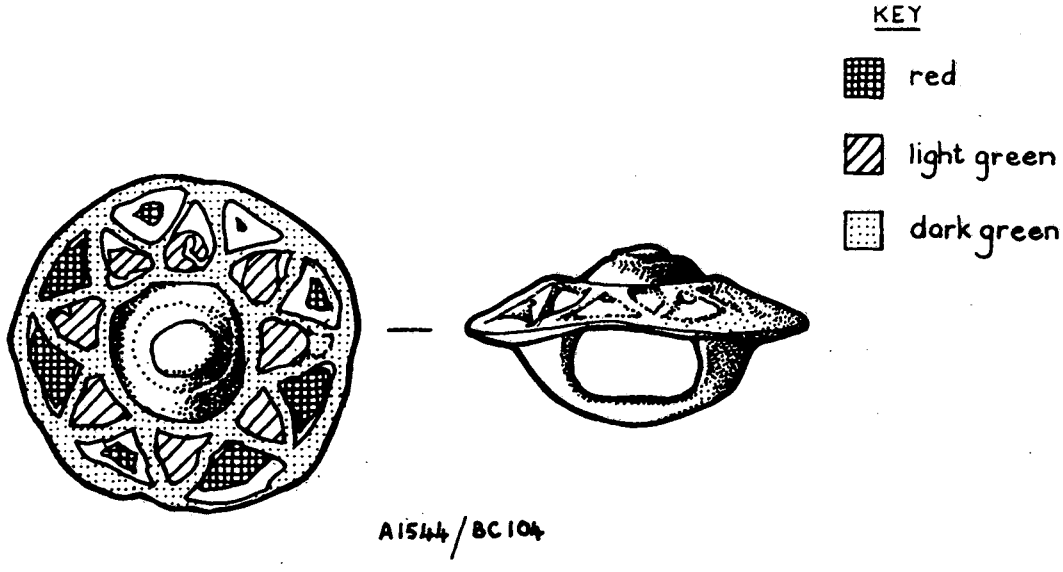

Fig. 1 The enamelled Roman stud from Haltwhistle.

Housesteads

Fragments of unworked bone (Wos).

5. A ROMANO-BRITISH CHATELAINE BROOCH FROM HARRATON, TYNE AND WEAR

INTRODUCTION

In November 1996 Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Robinson of Harraton, Tyne and Wear, brought an unusual Roman-British brooch to Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum for identification. It had been discovered by Mr. Robinson while digging his garden. The findspot (NZ 299 538 SE) lies just within Tyne and Wear, close to the boundary of County Durham. The find (fig. 1) is a châtelaine brooch; originally a small toilet set, consisting of tweezers, nail cleaner and ear scoop, it would have been suspended from a bar along its lower edge. This is now missing, but the main part of the brooch, decorated with three colours of enamel, is in good condition. Brooches of this type are dated to the second century A.D. They are extremely rare, just fifteen other examples are known, only one of which was found in the North. Two of the fifteen, classed as the "geometric" type, closely resemble the Harraton brooch; these two come from East Anglia.

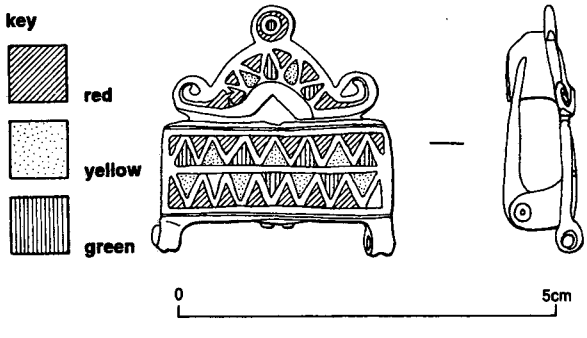

Fig. 1 Romano-British châtelaine brooch of Hattatt's 'geometric type,' from Harraton, Tyne and Wear. Scale 1:1.

DESCRIPTION

The total length is 29 mm, depth 8 mm and width of base 32 mm. It is of copper alloy, cast as a solid plate; the upper part is semi-circular, its outer band decorated with triangular cells of enamel, the colours alternately red, yellow and now green (although the latter may be the result of staining by corrosion products). The raised centre is unenamelled and has a triangular notch in it. There are three projecting lugs. The upper is circular and decorated with a red enamel ring surrounding a yellow dot; the lower two lugs are more curvilinear and each is decorated with a red enamel cell. The lower portion of the brooch is rectangular with a groove at top and bottom. There are two rows of opposed triangular cells of enamel, the colours as on the upper band. At each end of the base is a cast loop for the bar which held the toilet set. The loops have a central groove, as if representing a coiled wire. On the reverse are two pierced plates to hold the hinged pin, which is complete. The catchplate is present, although most of the turnover is missing.

ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

The precursor of the châtelaine brooch is the enamelled umbonate brooch (fig. 2a), a type originating in Britain and having a distribution mainly in south-east England (Hattatt 1987, 180, fig. 58), although a few examples have been found in the north. The châtelaine is much rarer. They have been described by Richard Hattatt (ibid., 194–6) and the fifteen examples he lists are divided into three types. The "umbonate" type (fig. 2b) closely resembles its precursor, especially in having a raised centre with a sunburst pattern, and is simply widened at the base to accommodate the bar for the toilet set. Hattatt's "geometric" type, of which the Harraton brooch (fig. 1) is an example, is a simpler variant having a rectangular base with a more formal geometric pattern of cells. Finally Hattatt cites a single example (not illustrated here) of a brooch reduced to a simple rectangular plate.

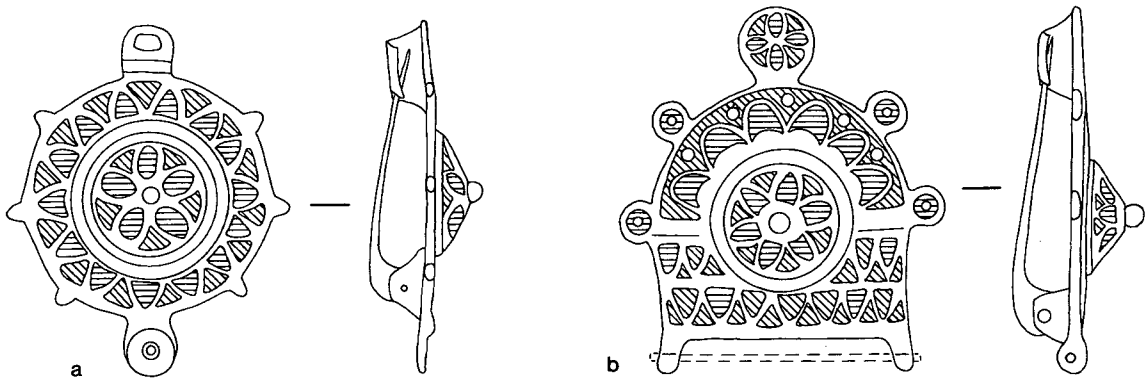

Fig. 2 (a) Umbonate brooch (after Hattatt 1987, Fig. 59 no. 1064). Scale 1:1. (b). 'Umbonate type' châtelaine brooch (after Hattatt 1987, Fig. 62 no. 1082). Scale 1:1.

DISTRIBUTION AND PARALLELS

The distribution of these brooches is almost entirely southern. There are twelve examples of the "umbonate" châtelaine, mainly from south-east and south-west England, with one example from the North. The single rectangular brooch is from London. The two "geometric" examples are from Suffolk (ibid., 196 no. 1083) and Northamptonshire (Collingwood and Richmond 1969, fig. 106, no. 107). These two are not identical, having slight variations in the pattern of enamelling. Both have a central perforation; the Harraton brooch is slightly simpler, having only a notch. It is however, typical in size; in all known examples the width of the base falls in the range 28 mm to 36 mm (Hattatt 1987, 195).

CONTEXT

The brooch was found in dark soil, probably the upcast from the construction of a house extension built some years ago. However, as Mr. Robinson is not aware of any make-up material or topsoil ever having been brought into the garden, there is no indication of the brooch having been imported from elsewhere in modern times. On present evidence, therefore, it originated in Harraton, which is some distance from any known Roman site. The fort of Chester-le-Street lies *c.* 3·5 km (2·2 miles) to the south-west. Picktree, *c.* 2 km (1·3 miles) to the south-west of Harraton, has been suggested as a possible Roman site (Selkirk 1983, 44; Bidwell and Speak 1994, 11–12). The Roman road running north through Chester-le-Street passes 2·9 km (1·8 miles) to the west of Harraton.

At present it is difficult to explain how such a well-made and unusual brooch came to be deposited in this location. One possible suggestion might be the presence of an as yet undiscovered, isolated site such as a rural shrine, in the vicinity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tyne and Wear Museums are grateful to Mr. Robinson for kindly providing details of the discovery and allowing the brooch to be drawn for publication, to Samantha Middleton, Assistant Archaeological Officer for County Durham for providing the grid reference, and to the following people for their co-operation;

Niall Hammond, Durham County Archaeologist, David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist and Ian Ayris, Tyne and Wear County Industrial Archaeologist. Alexandra Croom of Tyne and Wear Museums examined details of the enamelling. Figure 1 was drawn by Ray McBride and Fig. 2 by Dave Whitworth.

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Tyne & Wear Museums

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6. A WATER-COLOUR OF A CULVERT THROUGH HADRIAN'S WALL AT WEST DENTON, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Lack of space caused the omission of an illustration from the report on the excavation of Hadrian's Wall at Denton which was published in last year's *Archaeologia Aeliana* (Bidwell and Watson 1996). Figure 4 in that report was an engraving of the south side of the culvert taking the Sugley Burn through the base of the Wall, first published on page 55 of J. C. Bruce's *The Wallet-Book of the Roman Wall* (1863). The water-colour (fig. 1) from which the engraving was made is bound into Bruce's interleaved copy of his third edition of *The Roman Wall* (1867), part of the J. C. Bruce Collection now housed at South Shields Museum and Art Gallery. The artist was probably David Mossman: the style is more typical of his work than that of Henry Burdon Richardson, who also illustrated Bruce's books.

Fig. 1 Water-colour of culvert taking the Sugley Burn through the base of Hadrian's Wall, with eighteenth-century culvert above. Reproduced by permission of Tyne and Wear Museums.

When the water-colour was engraved, some details of the original were altered, particularly the facing stones which are shown with a substantial width not visible in the original. The appearance of the culvert is also different: in the water-colour it seems to be passing through the Wall at a diagonal, while the engraving gives the impression that the face of the Wall was set outwards west of the culvert. The mis-shaped stone forming the west side of the culvert in the engraving turns out to have been two or possibly three stones; the engraver was confused by two streams of water flowing from the later culvert over the edge of the Wall, the western obvious enough (shown directly under the west side of the later culvert), but the eastern only lightly indicated. The stone forming the west side of the Roman culvert is a slab set on edge. This conforms to Bruce's description in the *Wallet-Book*: 'Each side of the channel is formed of a series of massive stones, set on edge; others, lying flat, form the covering. The passage is two feet [0.61m] wide, and the same in height.' In the light of the dimensions given by Bruce, the large sizes of the four stones east of the culvert are notable: they are up to 1.2 m in length.

The upper arch was associated with the Military Road ('turnpike road' in the caption). By September 1864 the culverts had been buried beneath ballast laid down as a foundation for a drive leading to West Denton Hall (Bruce 1865). Bruce confused the Denton and Sugley Burns in the third edition of *The Roman Wall* (1867, 95), but this was corrected in later editions of the *Handbook*.

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