

EXCAVATIONS AT MELLOR

Assemblage of Finds



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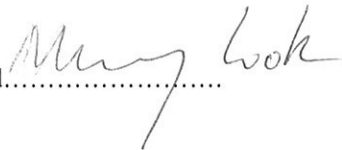
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MELLOR: FINDS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In 2010, Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by Mellor Archaeological Trust to report on a limited range of finds, principally the metalwork, from a succession of excavations at or around the Old Vicarage, Mellor (SJ 982 889). These occurred in seasons, and included work from 2000 to 2009 (Site code OVM). The individual reports are presented below, all in broadly the same format. As many of the finds are effectively unstratified, each catalogue has been ordered by year of excavation, and where relevant, by trench, and context. Where mentioned in the text, catalogue numbers are italicised.

2 COPPER ALLOY

2.1 In all, 40 fragments of copper-alloy objects were examined. These vary considerably in their state of preservation, with the few identified as of Roman date being in very poor condition, whilst medieval and later material is generally in good condition. Most of the objects were unstratified, or were from highly disturbed topsoils, and thus there is little to be gained from a consideration of their stratigraphic position. It is clear that the copper-alloy objects were concentrated within two areas of excavation, namely Trenches 18 (excavated in 2003) and 70 (excavated in 2009), but there do not appear to be any particular trends in the material from these locations (Table 1).

Excavation season	Site sub-division	No objects
OVM (year unspecified)	General unstratified	2
OVM00	General unstratified	2
	Trench 2	1
OVM01	General unstratified	2
	Trench 15	1
OVM02	General unstratified	2
	Trench 1	1
OVM03	General unstratified	5
	Trench 7	1
	Trench 18	9
OVM04	General unstratified	1
OVM06	General unstratified	1
	Trench 43	3
OVM09	Trench 70	9
Total		40

Table 1: Distribution of copper-alloy finds

2.2 **Roman material:** a few fragmentary and highly corroded objects can be assigned a Roman date, two from Trench 18 (24-25), one from Trench 43 (29), and one from Trench 70 (38). Three are small fragments of brooches, all of which are too poorly preserved to be identified with confidence, although it is likely that two of them (29, 38) are from the bows of second-century knee brooches. The third fragment, obviously from the hinge of a bow brooch of

some kind, possibly a trumpet brooch, cannot be more closely identified. The fourth object is a small, spherical-headed pin of a kind probably used in leatherwork, or to decorate wooden objects such as boxes. These are a common type, current throughout the Roman period, and have been found at numerous sites in the North West, for instance the cavalry fort at Ribchester, near Preston (Howard-Davis 2000, fig 63.162). A fifth object (2), in somewhat better condition, is an ornamental strap mount, similar to one recovered from the Roman fort at South Shields (Allason-Jones and Milet 1984, 3.837).

- 2.3 **Medieval and post-medieval material:** the medieval and post-medieval objects fall into three broad groups: personal items associated with dress (such as buttons and buckles); household objects; and items associated with horses and horse-harness. A relatively small, plain D-shaped buckle (39) cannot be dated with any precision, but is probably post-medieval in date. It is small enough to have served as a shoe-buckle, but its plain appearance suggests use elsewhere, perhaps in horse harness. There is, in addition, part of a small square, or rectangular, buckle (8) with a central bar (of iron); whilst clearly decorated, there is little to aid dating, but it is, again, probably post-medieval. Such buckles had a wide range of uses, including as knee and shoe buckles, although the latter were not particularly fashionable until the later seventeenth century (Egan 2005, 37). Two more fragments (19, 27) are probably from square or rectangular buckles, but neither is large enough for confident identification. A plain rectangular plate (9) could be a buckle plate, although, again, this remains a tentative identification.
- 2.4 In all, 11 buttons were examined (1, 11, 14-15, 17, 22, 26, 32-35), which ranged in date from the early post-medieval period to the twentieth century. The earliest is a small domed button, originally with a wire loop to the rear (11), which can be paralleled amongst material from late seventeenth-century London (Egan 2005, fig 32.198). Two large flat, round buttons, again with wire loops to the rear (1, 15), are probably eighteenth century in date. Both are decorated, and there is a suggestion that one is gilded. Their large size might suggest that they served to fasten cloaks or other heavy over-garments. Other buttons from the site probably date to the nineteenth century, except for one, a small stamped-sheet button bearing a maker or retailer's name (14), which is probably from an early twentieth-century undergarment.
- 2.5 There is also a small copper-alloy brooch (23) in the form of a six-pointed star set with faceted paste gems, in imitation of diamonds. The use of paste gems appears to have begun in the late seventeenth century, and was widespread from the Georgian period onwards (Cumming 1991, 54). Such simple designs as this brooch, however, would have remained popular over a long period, and it is probably more recent. A dagger pommel (6) seems most likely to be medieval in date, but no parallels have been found.
- 2.6 The household objects form a disparate group. The cast foot of a cooking vessel, probably a tripod skillet (28), is likely to be medieval or early post-medieval in date, such vessels being produced in England from the thirteenth century onwards (Egan 1998, 158). Both of the keys in the group could be medieval in date, their size suggesting that both were chest or casket keys. The larger of the two (7) has a lozenge-shaped bow, which was relatively common

- in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Ward-Perkins 1940, 138). Simple small rotary keys with a hollow shank, such as 30, have a broad date range, from at least the late twelfth to the fourteenth century (Egan 1998, 111).
- 2.7 A thimble (16) is likely to be post-medieval, perhaps seventeenth century, in date. It appears to be stamped from sheet metal rather than cast, a method of manufacture prevalent in the early post-medieval period (Egan 2005, 131). Relatively small in size, it was perhaps intended for a child (*ibid*).
- 2.8 A whistle (13) is probably pewter (rather than copper alloy as originally recorded) and is of late eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date (Noel Hume 1969, 318). The 'pea' is missing, and could well have been made of wood rather than metal. It was probably intended as a toy or for use in games, although a simple whistle can be put to many uses. A similar example is illustrated by Noel Hume (*op cit*, 315, illus 5).
- 2.9 There is, in addition, a small group of relatively well-preserved objects associated with horse harness (3, 4, 31, 37). A large and ornate openwork pendant (3) is almost certainly from high-quality horse harness, which was often highly decorated with pendants and studs, especially on the breastband, browband, and rear strap (Ashley 2002, 4). No obvious parallels have been found for this object, but there is little doubt that it is medieval in date. A small, leaf-shaped stud (4) would also have decorated harness, and although worn, the last remnant of a gilded surface can be seen.
- 2.10 Part of a rowel spur (31) came from the topsoil in Trench 43. Rowel spurs came into use in the thirteenth century (Ellis 1995, 127), but the provision for two spur leathers, seen in the terminal, points to a mid-fourteenth-century or later date. It must be noted that the terminal on this example is of Ward-Perkins' type B (1940, fig 28), which was more current during the fourteenth century, but the same terminal can also be seen in seventeenth-century iron spurs from Beeston Castle (Ellis 1993, fig 114) and also in Civil War contexts at Camber Castle in East Sussex (Scott 2001), and the relatively insubstantial nature of this example seems to point to a post-medieval date.
- 2.11 A small decorative mount (37), with two short prongs to the rear, is also likely to be a decorative element from horse harness, and is in a style that can probably be dated to the period 1690-1770 (Noel Hume 1969, 241). The cap of a domed mount (10) also seems likely to have decorated leatherwork. Two plain cast rings (12, 18) are such simple objects that it is impossible to identify their purpose, although they, too, could have formed part of horse harness. A small washer (5) could have served any number of purposes.
- 2.12 A small solidified spill of molten metal (20) might hint at metal-working on the site, but without corroborative evidence from other classes of finds, this must remain speculation. Finally, there were several unidentifiable fragments, which are included in the catalogue for the sake of completeness, but add nothing to any illustration of activity on the site (21, 36, 40).

2.13 *Catalogue:*

- 1 Large flat round button with loop to rear. Punched or incised decoration. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 33.5 mm; Th: 3 mm
OVM, unstratified, post-medieval
- 2 Small fitting, possibly a strap end. Fair condition, complete.
L: 38.5 mm; W: 13 mm; Th: 4 mm
OVM, unstratified, Romano-British?
- 3 Ornate lozenge-shaped openwork harness pendant. Fair condition, complete.
L: 56 mm; W: 41 mm; Th: 5 mm
OVM00, unstratified, medieval
- 4 Gilded triangular mount. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 28 mm; W: 15 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM00, unstratified, medieval
- 5 Small and irregular washer, cut from thin sheet. Condition, fair, complete.
Ext diam: 10 mm; Th: 1 mm
OVM00, Trench 2, unstratified, SF 68, not closely datable
- 6 Possible dagger pommel comprising a flattener cylinder. Perhaps originally decorated, resembling a bird head? Fair condition, complete.
L: 32.5 mm; W: 30 mm; Th: 13.5 mm
OVM01, unstratified, medieval
- 7 Key with hollow shaft, lozenge-shaped loop, and complex guard. Fair condition, complete.
L: 98 mm; W: 35 mm; Th: 7 mm
OVM01, unstratified, probably medieval
- 8 Small decorated bar with central perforation, possibly part of a square or rectangular buckle. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 32 mm; W: 2.5 mm; Th: 4 mm
OVM01, Trench 15, context 1, probably post-medieval
- 9 Rectangular plate. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 38 mm; W: 25 mm; Th: 1 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 10 Plain domed mount with small central perforation. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 19 mm; Th: 7 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 11 Button with solid domed head, rising to a slight point in centre. Loop to rear now absent. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 12 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM02, Trench 1, context 1, late seventeenth century
- 12 Insubstantial ring. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 31 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM03, unstratified, not closely datable

- 13 Cast cylindrical whistle with small suspension loop. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 17 mm; L: 46 mm
OVM03, unstratified, probably late eighteenth or nineteenth century
- 14 Stamped button. Maker's name illegible. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 13 mm
OVM03, unstratified, modern, probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century
- 15 Flat round button with simple punched decoration and possibly gilded (extensive traces to rear). Loop to rear now missing. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 22.5 mm; Th: 1 mm
OVM03, unstratified, post-medieval
- 16 Full thimble. Round pits, probably drilled, appear to spiral from the crown. Good condition, complete but deformed.
Ext diam: 14 mm; Ht: 16 mm
OVM03, Trench 1, unstratified, seventeenth or eighteenth century
- 17 Flat round, probably hollow, button with loop to rear. Upper surface possibly a white metal cap, incised with concentric circles. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 18; Th: 11.5 mm
OVM03, Trench 7, context 1, probably post-medieval
- 18 Complete ring with oval cross-section. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 26 mm; Th: 3 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, unstratified, not closely datable
- 19 Part of plain buckle. D-shaped section. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 32.5 mm; W: 4.5 mm; Th: 2.5 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, unstratified, SF 111, not closely datable
- 20 Solidified spill. Good condition, complete.
L: 13 mm; W: 10 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 21 Square-sectioned strip. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 32 mm; W: 4.5 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 22 Small fragment with possible decorative edge, possibly a button cap. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 19 mm; W: 7 mm; Th: 2.5 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, SF 112, probably post-medieval
- 23 Small star-shaped brooch with worn faceted-glass 'gems'. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 23 mm; W: 16 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 305, SF67, post-medieval or later
- 24 Small spherical-headed pin with square sectioned-shaft, now largely missing. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 6 mm; L: 7.5 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 305, SF48, Romano-British?
- 25 Bow brooch, head only. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 23 mm; W: 12 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 305, Romano-British

- 26 Flat round button with loop to rear. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 16 mm; Th: 3 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 305, SF 61, post-medieval?
- 27 Fragment of round-section rod, reminiscent of buckle frame. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 3 mm; L: 32 mm
OVM04, unstratified, not closely datable
- 28 Plain cast foot of a tripod skillet. It appears to have been fixed onto vessel with an iron rivet, perhaps suggesting a repair. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 70 mm; W: 42 mm; Th: 25 mm
OVM06, unstratified, medieval?
- 29 Bow fragment from bow brooch? Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 18 mm; W: 7 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, unstratified, Romano-British?
- 30 Rotary key, loop incomplete. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 34 mm; W: 14 mm; Th: 5 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, unstratified, post-medieval or later
- 31 Approximately half of a cast rowel, broken at the rowel box. It has horizontally straight sides with a flattened D-section, widest at the wearer's heel and tapering towards the terminal. The neck is slender, with a flattened oval section, and the rowel box is bent down. The small rowel is missing. Good condition, incomplete.
L: 80 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, context 1, medieval
- 32 Plain domed button with white-metal-coated surfaces. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 14 mm; Th: 1.5 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, post-medieval
- 33 Flat round button with white-metal-coated surface. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 14 mm; Th: 1.5 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, post-medieval or later
- 34 Flat, octagonal button with loop to rear missing. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 12 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, post-medieval or later
- 35 Flat round button with white-metal-coated surface. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 17.5 mm; Th: 4 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, post-medieval or later
- 36 Poorly preserved fragment of sheet. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 21.5 mm; W: 17 mm; Th: 1 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, not closely datable
- 37 Decorative mount with two short prongs to rear. Fair condition, complete.
L: 29 mm; W: 11.5 mm; Th: 1 mm
OVM09, Trench 1, context 1, post-medieval, probably 1690-1770
- 38 Bow brooch, bow only, possibly from a knee brooch. Little of the original surface remains. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 32 mm; W: 15 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, Romano-British, second century AD

- 39 D-shaped buckle with central bar, coated with white metal. Possibly from harness. Good condition, complete.
L: 34 mm; W: 28.5 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, post-medieval?
- 40 Unidentifiable fragment. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 26 mm; W: 10 mm; Th: 10 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, not closely datable

3 IRONWORK

- 3.1 Only 27 fragments of ironwork were recovered, and all are in poor condition. Their identification was for the most part hampered by thick layers of corrosion products, and the unavailability of x-radiographs. Many of the objects were stratified, and there seems to be an emphasis on Trenches 18 (excavated in 2003) and 43 (excavated in 2006; Table 2), but whether this is a genuine concentration, or an artefact of selective collection cannot be determined.

Excavation season	Site sub-division	No objects
OVM00	Trench 3	3
OVM03	Trench 2	1
	Trench 3	1
	Trench 18	9
OVM04	Trench 26	1
OVM05	Trench 33	1
OVM06	Trench 43	8
OVM09	Trench 70	2
	Trench 71	1
Total		27

Table 2: Distribution of the ironwork

- 3.2 Most of the ironwork comprised nails, and, where it could be determined, the square cross-section of the majority of the shanks identified them as having been hand-forged, and therefore effectively undatable, as such simple technology persisted for an extremely long period of time. A single nail from Trench 43 (13) is clearly a drawn wire nail and thus likely to be modern.
- 3.3 Other objects included a small, plain ring (4) probably from horse harness, and a small fragment that bears a resemblance to a finger ring (1), but could not be further identified. A fragment of narrow strip (3) could have derived from a number of objects, for instance a stave-built vessel such as a barrel, or a structural object such as a hinge, but, again, it cannot be further identified.
- 3.4 Although unconserved, an object from Trench 70, context 2 (20), is a substantial square-sectioned bar, its size suggesting that it could have been part of a tool such as a punch. Finally, there are fragments of two horseshoes (18, 21). Although their form is not clear, the relatively broad web seems to suggest a late medieval or early post-medieval date.

3.5 *Catalogue:*

- 1 Small fragment of corroded ironwork. Shape suggests that it is possibly a finger-ring. Poor condition, complete.
L: 14 mm
OVM00, Trench 3, unstratified, SF 16, not closely datable
- 2 Two fragments, possibly not from artefacts. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM00, Trench 3, context 3002, not closely datable
- 3 Fragment of narrow strip. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 39 mm; W: 4 mm
OVM03, Trench 2, unstratified, not closely datable
- 4 Small iron ring. Poor condition, complete.
Ext diam: 25 mm; Th: 2.5 mm
OVM03, Trench 3, context 1, not closely datable
- 5 Well-preserved nail with L-shaped head. Fair condition, complete.
L: 44 mm; W: 8 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 6 Shattered iron object. Poor condition, fragmentary.
No relevant dimensions
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 7 Three amorphous fragments, possibly with rectangular section. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 8 Small amorphous fragment. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 9 Three amorphous fragments. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 10 Two joining fragments of a single small hand-forged nail. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 34 mm; Diam head: 13 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 304, not closely datable
- 11 Possibly a nail, head missing. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 50 mm
OVM04, Trench 26, unstratified, not closely datable
- 12 Large nail with square head. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 55 mm; Diam head: 23 mm
OVM05, Trench 33, context 13, not closely datable
- 13 Round wire nail. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 104 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, unstratified, modern
- 14 Nail. Very poor condition, complete?
L: 43 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, context 10, SF 74, not closely datable

- 15 Three small fragments. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM06, Trench 43, context 12, not closely datable
- 16 Amorphous corroded fragment. Poor condition, complete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM06, Trench 43, context 36, SF 70, not closely datable
- 17 Nail. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 43 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, context 36, not closely datable
- 18 Small fragment of horseshoe, with three rectangular nail holes remaining. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 70 mm; W: 22 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, context 44, SF 68, not closely datable
- 19 Large nail with round head, point missing. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 50 mm; Diam head: 33.5 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, unstratified, not closely datable
- 20 Unconserved object. Square section suggests a punch or similar tool. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 52 mm; W: 9 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 2, not closely datable
- 21 Unconserved horseshoe. No indication of nails. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 94 mm; W: 90 mm
OVM09, Trench 71, context 1, not closely datable

4 LEAD AND PEWTER

- 4.1 Some 140 fragments of lead and three of pewter were recovered. Again, their condition varied considerably, but most of the lead was in good condition, covered in only a thin layer of white corrosion products. Most of the objects were unstratified, or from highly disturbed topsoils (Table 3), and thus there is little to be gained from a consideration of their stratigraphic position.

Excavation season	Site sub-division	No objects
OVM (year unspecified)	General unstratified	21
OVM98	General unstratified	3
OVM99	Trench 1	2
	Trench 3	1
	Trench 8	1
OVM00	General unstratified	2
	Trench 1	1
OVM01	Unspecified Trench	1
	Trench 15	3
OVM02	General unstratified	32
	Trench 18	1
	Trench 21	2
	Trench 26	1
OVM03	General unstratified	1
	Trench 7	2
	Trench 18	11
OVM04	General unstratified	4

	Trench 18	1
	Trench 26	32
OVM05	Trench 33	2
	Trench 35	1
OVM06	Trench 43	2
	Trench 47	2
OVM09	General unstratified	1
	Trench 70	10
	Trench 71	3
Total		143

Table 3: Distribution of lead and pewter

- 4.2 An unusually large number of spindle whorls came from the site. In all, there were 17 examples (1-8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 29, 45, 46, 58, 61), most of which were cast biconical types, some with simple decoration. Only a few were of other shapes, including one bun-shaped example and two cylindrical ones. The decorated biconical types are difficult to date, but can often be attributed to the medieval period, and Egan (1998, 261) has speculated that they are most common in the late medieval period, coinciding with the increased production of thicker yarns.
- 4.3 There were, in addition, two small lead weights (28, 42), comparable in size to the whorls, which could have served a number of purposes about the household. Five small rolls of lead sheet were noted (44, 48). These are common finds, and would seem to be *ad hoc* weights, perhaps for fishing nets, or to seal the bases of net bags, as is still seen today (*pers obs*).
- 4.4 Eleven musket balls and a single lead bullet were noted (10, 55, 64, 65). The musket balls are between *c* 10 mm and *c* 18 mm in diameter, and are similar in size to examples from Beeston Castle in Cheshire (Courtney 1993), Sandal Castle in West Yorkshire (Credland 1983), and Camber Castle in East Sussex (Scott 2001), where they are regarded as appropriate for use in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century firearms.
- 4.5 The two objects of pewter are both probably cutlery, one (53), in very poor condition (two joining fragments), probably the bowl of a spoon, its almost triangular shape suggesting an early post-medieval date. The other (57) is the terminal of a fork or spoon decorated with a shell motif, possibly in 'Britannia metal' rather than pewter. Such designs were appearing in the late eighteenth century, from about 1770 (Moore 1995, 24), and continued in vogue to the present day. Britannia metal, an alloy of tin and antimony rather than lead, appeared about the same time, and was regarded as effectively an improved version of pewter; it was often silvered (Weinstein 1989, 41). Numerous small fragments of scrap lead, including offcuts of sheet metal, and solidified spills, testify to the widespread use of lead around the site, mainly as a small-scale building material.

4.6 *Catalogue:*

- 1 Biconical spindle whorl with simple decoration of raised pellets on both surfaces.
Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 28 mm; Ht: 11.5 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 2 Biconical spindle whorl with pellet-type decoration. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 24 mm; Ht: 7 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 3 Biconical spindle whorl with simple decoration of raised pellets on both surfaces.
Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 28 mm; Th: 11.5 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 4 Biconical spindle whorl, undecorated. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 27 mm; Ht: 7.5 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 5 Plain spindle whorl with triangular section. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 24 mm; Ht: 7 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 6 Plain cylindrical spindle whorl with slightly rebated top and bottom. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 21 mm; Ht: 8 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 7 Plain cast spindle whorl with low triangular section. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 29 mm; Ht: 5 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 8 Small, plain, bun-shaped spindle whorl. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 20 mm; Ht: 7.5 mm
OVM, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 9 Worn fragment which resembles a thickened vessel rim, but this could be fortuitous.
Fair condition, complete.
L: 41 mm; W: 9.5 mm; Th: 4.5 mm
OVM, unstratified, not closely datable
- 10 Seven pistol shot and one bullet. It is likely that the large balls have been fired, the smaller ones retain casting sprues. Fair condition, complete.
Diam shot: 18 mm, 15 mm, 16 mm, 16 mm, 14 mm, 11 mm, 10 mm
Diam bullet: 16 mm; L: 9 mm
OVM, unstratified, early post-medieval
- 11 Two small solidified spills. Only dimensions of the larger fragment are given. Fair condition, complete?
L: 23.5 mm; W: 17 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM, unstratified, not closely datable
- 12 Solidified spill. Fair condition, complete.
L: 48 mm; W: 24 mm; Th: 11 mm
OVM, unstratified, not closely datable

- 13 Large deep ferrule or cap, originally round but now distorted to oval. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 42 mm; Th: 24 mm
OVM, unstratified, not closely datable
- 14 Small irregularly made spindle whorl with triangular cross-section. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 21 mm; Ht: 6 mm
OVM98, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 15 Small, irregularly made spindle whorl. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 21.5 mm; Ht: 4 mm
OVM98, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 16 Triangular lead object with iron shank. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 100 mm; W: 48 mm; Th: 10 mm
OVM98, unstratified, not closely datable
- 17 Folded fragment of very thin sheet; one side has been struck several times with a narrow-bladed tool. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 38 mm; W: 32 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM99, Trench 1, unstratified, not closely datable
- 18 Unidentifiable object, probably lead. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM99, Trench 1, unstratified, not closely datable
- 19 Small fragment of rod with section slightly flattened. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 36 mm; W: 4.5 mm; Th: 4.5 mm
OVM99, Trench 3, context 3011, SF 40, not closely datable
- 20 Small disc. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 22 mm; Th: 2.5 mm
OVM99, Trench 8, context 8002, not closely datable
- 21 Plain cast spindle whorl. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 22 mm; Ht: 3.5 mm
OVM00, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 22 Low plain biconical spindle whorl. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 29.5 mm; Ht: 7.5 mm
OVM00, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 23 Roll of thick sheet. Fair condition, complete.
L: 22 mm; W: 15 mm; Th: 14 mm
OVM00, Trench 1, unstratified, not closely datable
- 24 Small incomplete nail or rivet with irregular oval head. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 8 mm; Diam head: 7.5 mm
OVM01, Unspecified trench, context 2, not closely datable
- 25 Small solidified spill. Fair condition, complete.
L: 18 mm
OVM01, Trench 15, context 1, not closely datable
- 26 Small solidified spill, or possibly vessel plug. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 31 mm; W: 18 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM01, Trench 15, context 1, not closely datable

- 27 Thin sheet. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 46 mm; W: 30 mm; Th: 1.5 mm
OVM01, Trench 15, context 1, not closely datable
- 28 Small pear-shaped weight with central perforation. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 17 mm; Ht: 21 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 29 Small, irregularly made spindle whorl. Deep cuts on one surface perhaps suggest reuse.
Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 26 mm; Ht: 5.5 mm
OVM02, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 30 Solidified spill. Fair condition, complete.
L: 28 mm; W: 20 mm; Th: 14 mm
OVM02, unstratified
- 31 Battered lump of lead with some cut marks. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 21 mm; W: 18 mm; Th: 12 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 32 Four solidified spills and nine other small fragments. Fair condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 33 Four solidified spills and 10 other small fragments, including a cylindrical weight.
Only the dimensions of the weight are given. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 12 mm; Ht: 24 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 34 Solidified spill. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 33 mm; W: 21 mm; Th: 12 mm
OVM02, unstratified, not closely datable
- 35 Amorphous lump. Fair condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM02, Trench 18, context 148, SF 22, not closely datable
- 36 One large square gallet and one small irregular fragment of sheet. Fair condition, complete.
L: 37 mm; W: 30 mm; Th: 11.5 mm
OVM02, Trench 21, context 1, not closely datable
- 37 Solidified spill. Fair condition, complete.
L: 20 mm; W: 12 mm; Th: 2.5 mm
OVM02, Trench 26, unstratified, not closely datable
- 38 Large fragment of thick sheet, folded in half to form a triangle. Fair condition, complete.
L: 121 mm; W: 32 mm; Th: 4.5 mm
OVM03, unstratified, not closely datable
- 39 Small lead collar with rivet visible within. The outer surface appears to have cross-hatching. Good condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: 11 mm; Th: 11 mm
OVM03, Trench 7, context 1, not closely datable
- 40 Solidified spill? Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 17 mm; W: 6 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM03, Trench 7, context 319, not closely datable

- 41 Solidified spill. Fair condition, complete.
L: 22 mm; W: 14 mm; Th: 7 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 301, not closely datable
- 42 Small cylindrical or conical weight? Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 15 mm; Ht: 18 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 43 Five small solidified spills. Fair condition, complete.
No relevant dimensions
OVM03, Trench 18, context 303, not closely datable
- 44 Four rolled ties. Fair condition, complete.
L: 38 mm, 28 mm, 17 mm, 15 mm
OVM03, Trench 18, context 305, not closely datable
- 45 Irregular biconical spindle whorl, possibly decorated but not now clear. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 26 mm; Ht: 10 mm
OVM04, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 46 Plain cylindrical spindle whorl. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 23 mm; Ht: 8 mm
OVM04, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 47 Two solidified spills. Fair condition, complete?
L: 74 mm; W: 68 mm; Th: 8 mm
L: 30 mm; W: 14 mm; Th: 3 mm
OVM04, unstratified, not closely datable
- 48 Rolled tie, one end flattened. Fair condition, complete.
L: 34 mm; W: 12.5 mm; Th: 8 mm
OVM04, Trench 18, context 305, not closely datable
- 49 Semi-circular fragment of cast sheet, possibly originally circular or oval. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 32 mm; W: 30 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM04, Trench 26, unstratified, not closely datable
- 50 Two folded fragments of sheet. Fair condition, complete.
L: 43 mm; W: 25 mm; Th: 5 mm
L: 27 mm; W: 9 mm; Th: 2 mm
OVM04, Trench 26, unstratified, not closely datable
- 51 Twenty-nine small solidified spills. Fair condition, complete.
No relevant dimensions.
OVM04, Trench 26, context 700, not closely datable
- 52 Folded fragment of thin sheet. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 19 mm; W: 11 mm; Th: 4 mm
OVM05, Trench 33, unstratified, not closely datable
- 53 Possibly the bowl of a pewter spoon. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 49 mm; W: 30 mm
OVM05, Trench 33, unstratified, post-medieval
- 54 Possibly a small cast plug of the kind used in pottery. Fair condition, incomplete.
L: 16 mm; W: 12 mm; Th: 6 mm
OVM05, Trench 35, unstratified, not closely datable

- 55 Two similar pistol shots, one retains a casting sprue. Good condition, complete.
Diam both: 10 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, unstratified, early post-medieval
- 56 Two small solidified spills. Fair condition, complete?
L: 25 mm; W: 10 mm; Th: 3.5 mm
L: 15 mm; W: 15 mm; Th: 3 mm
OVM06, Trench 47, unstratified, not closely datable
- 57 Terminal of the handle of a pewter spoon or fork, with shell-motif. Maker's stamp to rear, where the surface is distinctively rippled, as if hammered. Good condition, incomplete.
L: 63mm; W: 17 mm; Th: 1.5 mm
OVM07, Trench 70, context 1, late seventeenth or eighteenth century
- 58 Small plain, bun-shaped cast spindle whorl. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 20 mm; Ht: 7.5 mm
OVM09, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 59 Cylindrical spindle whorl, undecorated. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 22 mm; Ht: 10.5 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, unstratified, medieval or early post-medieval
- 60 Four small scraps. Poor condition, incomplete.
No relevant dimensions.
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, not closely datable
- 61 Three small scraps. Poor condition, incomplete,
No relevant dimensions
OVM09, Trench 70, context 1, not closely datable
- 62 Small, badly corroded scrap. Condition poor, incomplete.
L: 13 mm; W: 11 mm
OVM09, Trench 70, context 2, SF 53, not closely datable
- 63 One small scrap. Poor condition, incomplete.
L: 15.5 mm; W: 10 mm
OVM09, Trench 71, unstratified, not closely datable
- 64 Musket or pistol shot. Fair condition, complete.
Diam: 14 mm
OVM09, Trench 71, context 1, early post-medieval
- 65 Musket or pistol shot. Fair condition, complete.
Ext diam: 16 mm
OVM09, Trench 71, context 1, early post-medieval

5 THE GLASS BEADS

- 5.1 Six small glass beads were examined. A relatively poorly made segmented bead (2), in a bubbly turquoise glass with several visible impurities, came from context 304 in Trench 31. Tapering segmented beads such as this example are a common type and were probably current throughout the Roman period, remaining in use well into the post-Roman period at sites such as Yeavinger in Northumberland (Guido 1978, 93). Three fragments of a large annular bead in natural greenish glass came from the subsoil in Trench 26 (1). These are again a long-lived type, appearing in the late Iron Age and

continuing well into the post-Roman period (*op cit*, 66), and may well have been made from reused glass on a relatively casual basis (Birley 2006, 26). There are three small globular or cylindrical examples (4-6) in opaque turquoise glass. These cannot be dated with any precision, being easy to make and thus a very long-lived type (Guido 1978, 71). A fourth globular example in bright orange-red glass (3) is, again, difficult to date, although similar examples have been dated to the late Iron Age (*ibid*), and others are known from Vindolanda (Birley 2006, 32), where they were present throughout the archaeological succession.

5.2 *Catalogue:*

- 1 Three joining fragments of a large annular bead in natural greenish glass, wound. Fair condition, incomplete.
Ext diam: c 22 mm; Ht: 12.5 mm
OVM04, Trench 26, unstratified, SF 122, Romano-British?
- 2 Tapering segmented bead, poor-quality turquoise glass. Good condition, almost complete.
Ext diam: 4.5 mm; L: 13 mm
OVM04, Trench 31, context 304, SF 128, Romano-British?
- 3 Small globular bead, bright orange-red. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 4 mm; L: 3.5 mm
OVM06, Trench 43, context 151, SF 46, Romano-British?
- 4 Small oblate or barrel-shaped bead, opaque turquoise. Good condition, almost complete.
Ext diam: 5 mm; Ht: 6 mm
OVM07, Trench 52, context 1, not closely datable
- 5 Small cylindrical bead, opaque blue. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 3 mm; Ht: 2.5 mm
OVM08, Trench 65, context 2, not closely datable
- 6 Small globular bead, opaque turquoise. Good condition, complete.
Ext diam: 3.5 mm; Ht: 1.5 mm
OVM09, Unspecified trench, context 83, SF 34, not closely datable

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