Cambourne New Settlement

Iron Age and Romano-British settlement
on the clay uplands of west Cambridgeshire

Volume 2: Specialist Appendices

Web Report 4
Metalwork, *by Kayt Brown*

Cambourne New Settlement
Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement
on the Clay Uplands of West Cambridgeshire

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Part 1. Artefacts
Part 2. Ecofacts

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Metalwork
By Kayt Brown

Introduction

A total of 1038 metal objects was recovered, of which 956 have been assigned individual object numbers (ON). The remaining 82 items (either nails or unidentified fragments) were recorded as bulk finds and are not discussed further within this report. The metalwork has been grouped into categories following Crummy (1983) and is discussed below by category and broad chronological period. Only two sites produced significant quantities of metalwork: Lower Cambourne and Jeavons Lane, with a large proportion of the Lower Cambourne material recovered through the use of metal detectors. Objects are generally in poor condition, deriving principally from ditch deposits. The majority of the assemblage can be assigned to the Romano-British period, although there is a very small but significant number of Saxon objects and a few medieval and post-medieval items.

All objects are Romano-British and made of copper alloy unless otherwise indicated.

Personal objects

A total of 134 items of personal adornment or dress were identified, including brooches, pins, bracelets or armlets, finger rings, buckles, and belt fittings.

Brooches

The 22 copper alloy brooches recovered were from Lower Cambourne, six of which are complete. A single fragment of an iron brooch is unidentifiable to type. All are early Romano-British in date.

An incomplete example of a one-piece Nauheim type (ON559) from ditch group 1151, and part of a Langton Down type (**Fig. 40**, 1) from the latest recut of enclosure ditch 5401, could date to the first half of the 1st century AD, although their occurrence in later 1st century deposits elsewhere in Britain means they do not necessarily represent pre-Conquest activity (Taylor 1985, 22). A complete Colchester one-piece brooch (ON719, **Fig. 40**, 3) and the bow fragment of a second brooch (ON143) were both unstratified finds. Two further incomplete examples of this brooch type (ON90; ON537) came from ditch fills.

Hod Hill types comprise the largest group, with six examples, all from ditch fills. ON569 (**Fig. 40**, 5) is complete, has side lugs, vertical ribs on the upper bow, and horizontal mouldings above a plain section tapering to a moulded foot. The solid catch plate and pin are intact. ON376 (**Fig. 40**, 4) and ON293 are similar in design, as are two further incomplete brooches (ON751, ON742). A sixth Hod Hill brooch (ON434, **Fig. 40**, 2) lacks side lugs, and has a narrow, decorated panel on the upper bow which tapers to a point. The catchplate is incomplete and the pin missing.

A complete trumpet brooch (ON71, **Fig. 40**, 6), from pit 2680, has a bow decorated with blue enamel curvilinear zones on either side of the head and yellow enamel triangles at either end of the head; there is elaborated petalled moulding in the centre

of the bow, which is almost flat at the back; the narrow lower bow has lozenge decoration either side of a central vertical raised rib. The bow ends in a moulded foot knob. An almost identical brooch from Nijmegen, cemetery 'S', is dated to the Neronain-Flavian period (Boon and Savory, 1975, 52, pl. xiiic).

Two penannular brooches, both from unphased deposits can be assigned to Fowler's classification (1960). The smaller brooch (**Fig. 40**, 9) is a type D, while the larger example probably a Fowler type C and likely to date to the 1st century AD.

Zoomorphic brooch (**Fig. 40**, 7)

A plate brooch shaped to represent a horse and rider. The rider has a triangular body and slightly concave shaped head with a nick beneath the nose. The rider's hair is marked by a series of nicks on the rear of the head. The horse has a long face, with the mane marked in the same way as the rider's hair along the back of the neck and extending part-way down the front of the horse's face. The horse's legs and rider's foot are corroded. There are five panels of now corroded green enamel, possibly originally red, on the riders body (three small panels above two larger panels), and five panels of blue enamel on the horse's body. Similar brooches have been found at Lode, Cambridgeshire (Taylor 1985, fig. 12, 172), and from Norfolk and Suffolk (Hattatt 2000, 359, fig. 218, nos 158, 1174, and 1175). Of all the zoomorphic brooches the horse and rider design is one of the most common, although few are from securely dated contexts (Taylor 1985, 29). There is some suggestion that these brooches were associated with religious sites (Henig 1984).

Pins

Four metal pins were identified, two of which comprised lengths of the pin shaft minus the head and so cannot be assigned to type (ON 491, ON704). Of the two complete examples, one from Jeavons Lane (ON81150, **Fig. 41**, 10, unstratified) has a hemispherical head with grooves arranged to form a vague cross pattern; its swelling part way down the shaft is a feature with a wide distribution but concentrating in East Anglia. The pin can best be described as a hybrid of Cool types 1E and 25 which only allows dating it as broadly Roman (Cool 1990, 151–4; 170). A complete pin from Mill Farm (ON 2312, **Fig. 41**, 11) is a Crummy type 2 pin, with bead, reel and spool motif datable from the early 2nd –3rd centuries (Crummy 1983, 29 fig. 27).

Bracelets and finger rings

The five bracelet or armlet fragments from Lower Cambourne were all decorated with hatching, transverse grooves and/or punched dot decoration. Although bracelets are known from the 1st century AD onwards (Swift 2000, 24), all the Cambourne examples are likely to be 3rd or 4th century in date. One fragment (ON118, **Fig. 41**, 13) from ditch fill 1001, is crenellated, with toothing between the crenellations, comparable to examples from Cambridge (Gardiner *et al*. 1999, pl x, no. 88), Bottisham, Cambridgeshire (Taylor 1985, fig. 10, no. 56), and Butt Road, Colchester, the latter from a 4th century grave deposit (Crummy 1983, 40, fig. 43, 1659).

Eleven finger rings were identified. Two rings from Jeavons Lane were both from grave 80299; they comprised a complete plain ring with D-shaped section (ON

81103) and a second, more fragmentary ring in two sections, one with a circular bezel, and a pale blue glass intaglio (ON81102, **Fig. 41**, 16). Depressions on the intaglio suggest it may have been decorated. A fragmentary plain copper alloy ring (ON50) was recovered from grave 01018 at Lower Cambourne. A further seven rings from Lower Cambourne are predominately plain, but include one example where each end has been twisted to form three running loops (ON156 **Fig. 41**, 15). The latter belongs to Guiraud's (1989, 193) type 6c, common in Central Gaul and the Rhinelands throughout the Roman period. An example with the same number of loops comes from London (Liversidge 1973, 143, fig. 56e); other examples with four to eight loops are known form southern and south-eastern Britain (Hooley 2001, 92). Another (ON 84, context 1077) may be re-shaped from an armlet fragment, and a ring with transverse grooves (ON577, context 2323), from ditch segment 3018, is paralleled at Colchester (Crummy 1983, 49, fig. 50, 1770). Two complete iron rings, not necessarily finger rings, were also identified from Lower Cambourne and Knapwell Plantation, with internal diameters of 12 mm and 17 mm respectively (ON270, ON61035).

Buckle / belt fittings

Four buckles were identified. A D-shaped buckle with fixed plate (ON100, **Fig. 41**, 17) from a ditch fill at Lower Cambourne is probably late Romano-British in date. A Hawkes and Dunning Type IIA buckle loop (1961, 50, fig. 18), from ditch fill 1151, is formed of two confronted dolphins with punched dot eyes and a pellet between open jaws; the tail survives of one dolphin forming an involuted terminal (ON183, **Fig. 41**, 18). Buckles of this type are rare on the continent; in Britain they have been found in a number of late 4th century contexts, and possibly continued in use into the 5th century (Hawkes and Dunning 1961, 27). Two further fragments of D-shaped buckles may also be Romano-British in date.

Hobnails

A total of 62 hobnails were identified, 43 from four contexts at Jeavons Lane, including one set from grave 80299 (ON81097 to 81101) included with the deceased. The remains of at least one nailed boot or shoe were also found in large rectangular pit 80189. A further 15 hobnails were recovered from nine contexts at Lower Cambourne.

Personal objects (Saxon, medieval and post-medieval)

The most significant find in this category is part of a 6th century copper-alloy girdle hanger (**Pl. 26**), recovered from the upper fill of ditch 20723 at The Grange. These objects are frequently found in funerary contexts (Malim and Hines, 1998, fig. 3.66, no. 37). Nine fragments of rectangular or square buckles are also post Roman in date.

Toilet implements

A small number of items related to personal grooming were identified. These included one complete and one partially complete set of tweezers (ON435, **Fig. 41**, 20, ON431); the complete set had flat blades ending in square tips, one of which is broken. A spoon probe from hollow 80111 associated with buildings A and B at

Jeavons Lane (ON81010, **Fig. 41**, 19) was almost complete with just the tip of the spoon missing. Spoon probes may have had a number of purposes, one of which could have been the extraction of cosmetics or medical ointments from small containers with the spoon end and their application to the face with the probe (Crummy 1983, 60).

Household items

Of the 16 copper alloy, iron, and pewter items associated with the household, a lead pot mend (ON81007) and spoon bowl (ON81006) were recovered from Jeavons Lane, with the remaining finds all from Lower Cambourne. These included a further four lead pot mends, fragments of three copper alloy spoon bowls and a spoon handle fragment. The handle has a round cross-section and is flat with moulded decoration where the bowl would have joined. Two spoon bowls (ON81006, ON448) are Crummy type 1 spoons, of mid-1st–2nd century date, and probably used in the eating of eggs, shellfish, and snails (Crummy 1983, 69, fig. 73, 2008). Two other fragments (ON113, ON449) are from pear-shaped spoon bowls (Crummy type 2), dated to the first half of the 2nd century.

The arm of an iron cauldron hanger (ON720, **Fig. 46**, 24, unstratified), is complete and of a type known to be widespread in Europe in the Iron Age and into the Romano-British period (Manning 1985, 100–1, fig. 27, pl. 45, P9).

At Lower Cambourne three pewter vessels comprising a large circular plate (ON746, **Fig. 45**, 21), an octagonal plate (ON745, **Fig. 45**, 22), and a smaller, deeper circular dish (ON744, **Fig. 45**, 23) formed a deliberately placed deposit within pit 5139, which also contained late Romano-British pottery. A possible pewter rim fragment was also identified (context 01325). The large circular plate (ON746) measured 350 mm in diameter, with a broad flat rim, upturned at the outer edge, with a groove at the inner junction of rim and body. Two similar examples are known from Essex (Portable Antiquities Scheme ESS-A66FE2), and also at *Verulamium* where a large circular plate is one of three vessels representing votive offerings found stratified in late Romano-British bog mud (*c*. AD 375–400; Frere 1984, fig. 27, 243). Most Romano-British pewter vessels are known from hoards deposited towards the end of the 4th century (Beagrie 1989, 175), and the deliberate deposition of the Cambourne vessels is in keeping with this pattern. There is a concentration of pewter vessels, and particularly pewter hoards, in the fens around Cambridge and in the area of the Mendip Hills (Beagrie 1989. fig 3). The discovery of a platter to the north of the Cambourne development area (Duncan 2008) is a recent addition to this distribution.

Objects associated with weighing

Five objects associated with weighing were identified; three lead weights (ONs 150, 513, and 1504) weighing 145 g, 23 g, and 50 g respectively, were all unstratified finds (**Fig. 46**, 27–9). A conical weight with possible evidence of an iron suspension loop was recovered from a late Romano-British ditch fill (ON120, **Fig. 46**, 26). An iron steelyard (ON294, **Fig. 46**, 25) had two pierced holes for suspension hooks. No markings were visible along the length of the beam.

Writing implements

The spatulate end of a single iron stylus (ON1084), from hollow 80111 associated with buildings A and B at Jeavons Lane, was the only item associated with written communications. Styli would have been used to scratch messages into wax writing tablets, with the spatulate end used as an eraser.

Items associated with textile working

All are medieval or post-medieval. A lead cloth seal from Lower Cambourne (ON131) is part of a two-piece seal, a type used throughout the medieval period as a means of quality control. One side of the seal has the remains of the rivet attached, while the other side appears to be stamped with an ornate letter 'F', a mark used from 1464 to indicate faulty cloths (Egan 1992, 1, fig. 5c). A brass sewing ring (ON432) recovered from the same context is conical in shape with indentations on the body. Sewing rings of this type are generally known in Britain from the mid 15th century (Holmes 1985), although one example from London has been identified from a mid-14th century context (Egan 1998, 265).

Objects associated with transport

One almost complete and one possible hipposandal were identified from Jeavons Lane, both of iron and from unphased deposits. The former (ON81082, **Fig. 46**, 30) is of Manning type 2 (1985, 65, pl. 27, H5–6) with a rounded front, hooked heel, and incomplete wings which slope forward and may have joined. The second example comprises a fragment with rivet holes which could be the remains of a hipposandal plate (ON81042). Hipposandals were temporary horseshoes, used when unshod animals were brought onto metalled roads. The only other objects in this category comprise a jointed snaffle bit (ON61065, **Fig. 46**, 31) and a bit link (ON225) from Knapwell Plantation and Lower Cambourne respectively.

A post-medieval, iron rowel spur, probably 19th century in date, was D-shaped in section, wider and flattened near the rowel, with missing terminals. A round-section neck projects slightly downwards with incomplete rowel. A fragment of a horseshoe was also recovered from an unstratified context.

Buildings and services

Tools

A small number of iron tools are present: two socketed tools of unidentified type (ON81002, **Fig. 47**, 43; ON81001) both from ditch segments at Jeavons Lane, a drill bit with pyramidal head (ON1530, **Fig. 46**, 34), a possible chisel (ON588, **Fig. 46**, 35) and a tapering fragment of unknown tool type (ON122).

Three knives were identified in the assemblage, all from unphased deposits. An uncommon early Romano-British knife form, a Manning type 8 (Manning 1985, 113) (ON718), has a sharply angled blade with bands of decoration along the length of the tang (**Fig. 46**, 33). ON 459 (**Fig. 46**, 32) comprises the blade and incomplete tang of a Manning type 17 knife, a form present, but not common, throughout the Romano-

British period (Manning 1985, 116). A large blade and partial tang (ON2003) may be part of a cleaver. The blade edge is slightly convex, with a notch in the edge before the tip. Two rivets/nails are visible roughly midway along the blade.

Fasteners and fittings

This is the largest category of identifiable objects within the Cambourne assemblage, totalling 591 objects, of which 575 are of iron, nine of lead and seven copper alloy. The poor condition of many of the iron objects precludes positive identification of type beyond a broad type group.

Unsurprisingly the iron fittings are dominated by nails, comprising 515 objects (Manning 1985). In many instances these are incomplete where the shank has broken, but complete lengths up to 105 mm were recorded. Nail head diameters are typically in the region of 12–20 mm, although two large nails have head diameters of 40 mm and 50 mm (ONs 405 and 392 respectively). Nineteen coffin nails (ONs 61004–61020), two with wood (oak) attached were recovered from grave 60292, that of a mature adult female, at Knapwell Plantation. A discrete group of nails (ONs 289, 291, 293, and 306) may represent the remains of a wooden box as they occurred alongside a flat fragment of iron (ON460), possibly a box fitting. This fragment is slightly curved, with a definite upper edge; the lower edge has a lobe decorated with concentric rings and traces of a possible second perforated lobe. A pair of copper alloy tweezers (ON431) was also found with this group.

Twenty iron structural fittings comprise strip fragments, some with nail/rivet holes, flat fragments and an iron collar (ON41016). In addition to this material there are 13 loop-headed spikes, seven hooks, a hinge, a handle, and a possible binding fragment. A large proportion of this material is unphased or unstratified, but of that which could be assigned to phase there is a slight increase in the late Romano-British period. Much of the material from Jeavons Lane was recovered from deposits associated with hollow 80111 associated with buildings A and B.

Five keys were identified. Two examples from Jeavons Lane, a barb spring padlock key and L-shaped lift key (ON81148, ON81056, **Fig. 47**, 38), were recovered from hollow 80111, with an additional barb spring padlock key (ON81052) from a possible droveway (80078). Two lift keys were recorded from Lower Cambourne; ON654 was recovered from a spread of domestic material, ON584 was unstratified (**Fig. 47**, 36–7).

Copper alloy fittings comprised a flat oval fragment (ON24004), two fragments with perforations (ON380, ON603), both unstratified, a small S-shaped hook (ON93) and a hinge (ON596). Two key plates may both be post-Roman in date; ON61054 has three cut out areas, including the upper section of the plate in the shape of a cockerel. A second plain keyplate (ON1507) was unstratified.

Lead and lead alloy fittings comprised a hook (ON479), a nail, two rivets and miscellaneous strap fragments.

Objects associated with agriculture and animal husbandry

Six iron objects were positively identified within this category; a ferrule (ON300) and fragment of a sickle (ON1526) both unstratified finds, a set of Manning type 2 medium shears (ON81005, **Fig. 47**, 39), probably used for tasks such as shearing sheep and cutting cloth (Manning 1985, 34), a ploughshare fragment (ON81158), a tanged bar share (ON711), and coulter (ON714).

The coulter (ON714) and tanged bar share (ON711) (**Fig. 47**, 40–1) were found together at Lower Cambourne, in the base of ditch 5402, positioned parallel to the line of the ditch. Both items were complete and it is likely that they represent a deliberately placed deposit. Parallels can be found for both the coulter (eg, Manning (1985, 44, pl.18, F6 and F7; Rees 1979, 59–61, figs 69 and 70) and the tanged bar share (Rees 1979, 57–9, fig. 49, type 2a). As such objects are often found in equal numbers it would imply that they were used together; coulters cut the sod vertically, in advance of the share which cut it horizontally (Rees 1979, 66). Of the 28 coulters listed by Rees (*ibid.*, 59–61, 287–93) 14 were found in hoards and the possible religious significance of such deposits has recently been reviewed by Hingley (2006). Although not common finds, these objects have a predominately East Anglian and south-eastern distribution (*ibid.*, 70, map 4) and most known examples are of 4th century date. A recent discovery of a single coulter during excavation at Site 5 of the A428 Caxton to Hardwick Improvement scheme (Duncan 2008) to the north of Cambourne may be further evidence for structured deposition of these objects in the area.

Military equipment

An iron, split-socketed Saxon spearhead (ON716, **Fig. 47**, 42) was recovered from context 5721 at Lower Cambourne. It can be paralleled with Swanton's type E4 (1973, 87, fig. 29) dated to the 6th–7th centuries.

Miscellaneous

A total of 172 undiagnostic or unidentifiable metalwork objects was recorded within this category, 117 iron, 29 copper alloy, 23 lead, 1 lead alloy, and 2 indeterminate.

Catalogue of illustrated material

Personal adornment or dress
Fig. 40
<u>Brooches</u>
1. ON717, context 5447. Copper alloy. Langton Down type. Incomplete.
2. ON434, context 3016. Copper alloy. Bow of Hod Hill type. Cross mouldings at top of straight tapering bow and at junction with catchplate (incomplete). Poor condition, measurable length 44mm.
3. ON719, context 5488. Copper alloy. Complete Colchester one-piece brooch, 33 mm in length. Plain tapering bow with moulded foot. Spring of ten turns protected by small crossbar with transverse moulding. Catchplate has two perforations; a small circle below a larger square perforation 1st century AD.
4. ON376, context 1077. Copper alloy. Bow of Hod Hill type with lateral lugs, measuring 29 mm in length. Vertical cross ribs on upper bow, horizontal cross ribs on lower section. Moulded foot, solid triangular catchplate.
5. ON569, context 2631. Copper alloy. Complete Hod Hill brooch. Vertical ribs on upper bow and lateral lugs which have moulded out-turned lugs (one missing). Band of transverse grooves above flattened lower section tapering to moulded foot. Harp-shaped solid catchplate. Bow measures 45 mm in length, pin 33 mm.
6. ON71, context 2680. Copper-alloy. Trumpet brooch, comparable with Hattatt 1528 (2000, fig. 186). 1st–2nd century, enamelled blue, yellow, and possibly originally red (now corroded green) decoration. Complete with pin. Length 51 mm excluding head loop.
7. ON? unstratified. Copper alloy. Zoomorphic plate brooch, in form of horse and rider. Yellow, blue and possibly red enamelling. Complete with catchplate and remains of pin. Maximum dimensions 28 x 23 mm.
8. ON17, context 586. Copper alloy. Penannular brooch, diameter 32 mm. Complete with pin. Lozenge-shaped cross-section with two grooves on each of four faces and rolled back terminals. Pin with central groove down centre. Fowler (1960) type C.
9. ON580, context 3016. Copperalloy. Small penannular brooch, diameter 20mm. Plain ring with round section. Turned back, ?decorated terminals have deep central longtitudinal groove. Complete with pin. Fowler (1960) type D.

Fig. 41
<u>Pins</u>
10. ON81150, context 80206. Copper alloy. Complete, 106mm in length. Lenticular head with possible moulded decoration and swelling part way down the shaft.
11. ON2312, context 23108. Copper alloy. Upper section and head, with bead, reel and spool motif surmounted by flattened sphere – flattened sphere and lower bead notched; Crummy type 2 (Crummy 1983, 28, fig. 27). Surviving length 66 mm, shaft thickness 2 mm.

<u>Bracelets</u>
12. ON463, context 1886. Copper alloy fragment. D-shaped section, 5 mm in height, 1 mm thick. Transverse grooves. Surviving length 40 mm.
13. ON118, context 1001. Copper alloy fragment. Crenellated with toothing between crenellations. Lap joint, square section, 2–3 mm in height. Surviving length *c.* 45 mm.
14. ON81047, context 80431. Copper alloy, approximately half surviving, 60 mm diameter. Round section 3 mm across flattening into strip section approximately 48 mm in length and 1 mm thick, returning to round section. Flat strip appears to be decorated.

<u>Finger rings</u>
15. ON156, context 3016. Copper alloy. Plain with decorative clasp. 20 mm internal diameter. Complete ring slightly distorted, circular section 1 mm across. Each end is twisted into three running loops. Guiraud (1989) type 6c.
16. ON81102, context 80365. Copper alloy. Gass setting. Two fragments and intaglio. Bezel would have contained the intaglio of pale blue glass and has decorative mouldings either side. Slightly distorted. Internal diameter 19 mm. Band tapers from 4 mm to 2 mm, bezel *c.* 7 mm diameter.

<u>Buckles</u>
17. ON100, context 1001. Copper alloy. D-shaped with fixed plate (all one object), decorated.
18. ON183, context 1151. Copper alloy. Hawkes and Dunning type IIA (1961) buckle loop formed of two confronted dolphins with punched dot eyes and pellet between open jaws; tail survives of one dolphin forming involuted terminal. Late Romano-British, mid–late 4th century.

Toilet implements
19. ON81010, context 80205. Copper alloy. Spoon probe. Part of spoon end has decayed and broken away. Remaining V-shaped section 10 mm wide. Immediately above spoon is short section of moulding. Probe is 4 mm in diameter and 10 mm in length.
20. ON435, context 3016. Copper alloy. Tweezers, 65 mm long, flat blades, almost parallel sided, 5 mm wide. Tip of one blade slightly damaged. (cf Crummy 1983, 59, fig. 63)

Fig. 45
Household

21. ON744, context 5140. Lead alloy. Small, circular dish with broad rim, grooved and slightly upturned at edge, probably originally flat. Low footring with central boss. Rim damaged on one side, otherwise in good condition.
22. ON745, context 5140. Lead alloy. Octagonal plate with broad flat rim and low footring base. Bowl area 272–6 mm diameter. Slight damage.
23. ON746, context 5140. Lead alloy. Large circular plate with a broad flat rim, upturned at edge and with a groove at inner rim/bowl junction. 350 mm diameter, slight footring. Some damage.

Fig. 46

24.	ON720, context 5485. Iron. Cauldron hanger, bent, spirally twisted rod with eye at top and ?rectangular sectioned pointed hook at bottom.

Weighing and measuring

25.	ON294, context 1234. Iron. Steelyard. Surviving length 118 mm. Square sectioned beam. The head is flattened with two pierced holes for suspension hooks, one above and one below and a further partial hole at the end.
26.	ON120, context 1001. Lead. Conical weight. Possible evidence of iron suspension loop. Weight 141 g.
27.	ON150, context 3016. Lead. Spherical weight. Possible evidence of suspension loop. Weight 14 5g.
28.	ON513, context 3016. Lead. Biconical weight with central perforation 8mm diameter. Weight 23 g.
29.	ON1504, context 9999. Lead. Conical weight. No evidence of suspension loop so presumably used with pan balance. Weight 50 g.

Transport

30.	ON81082, context 80192. Iron. Hipposandal. Surviving length 180 mm. The wings are incomplete but slope forward and may have joined. The front is rounded, the heel is hooked.
31.	ON61055, context 60764. Iron. Jointed snaffle bridle bit mid-1st century AD (Manning 1985, 66–7, pl. 29, H11 and H14). Bits are approximately 65 mm long, joined by linking loops formed by rolling one end. At the distal end of each is a tubular loop to take cheek pieces.

Tools

32.	ON459, context 3016. Iron. Blade and incomplete tang of Manning (1985) type 17 knife. Long blade with parallel back and edge which meet to form snout-like point. Tang continues along line of back. Surviving length 157 mm, blade 125 mm long and 30 mm wide.
33.	ON718, context 5488. Iron. Fragment of a Manning (1985) type 8 knife. Sharply angled blade. Tang has bands of decoration along length. Surviving length 68 mm.
34.	ON1530, context 9999. Iron. Drill-bit. Pyramidal head.
35.	ON588, context 02833. Iron. ?mortise chisel. Conical socket into flattened and slightly splayed blade. Surviving length 117 mm.

Fig. 46

Fasteners and fittings

36.	ON584, context 3016. Iron. L-shaped lift key. Complete. Length 115 mm. Handle rectangular in section with rolled bow and two teeth on the bit.
37.	ON654, context 01532. Iron. L-shaped lift key. Complete. Length 152 mm. Rectangular section with rolled bow and three teeth on the bit. Comparable to example catalogued by Manning (1985, pl. 40, O34).
38.	ON81056, context 80205. Iron. L-shaped lift key (cf. Manning 1985, 92, pl. 41 O39–44). Short handle ending in eye. Two teeth present, may have originally been three. Surviving length 58 mm.
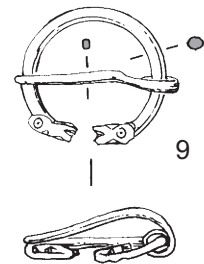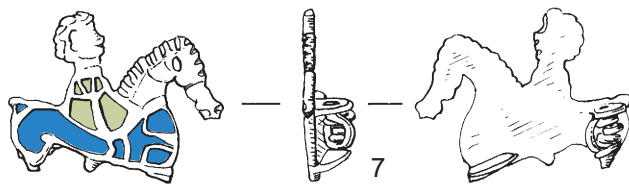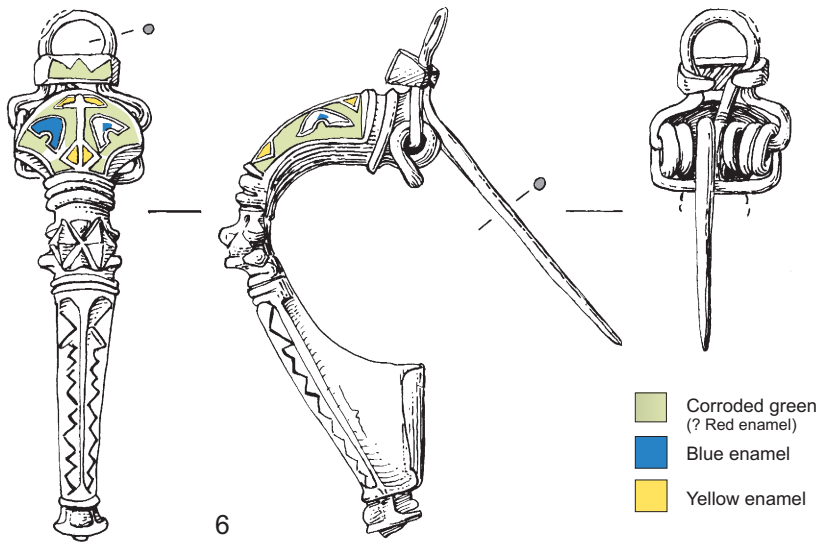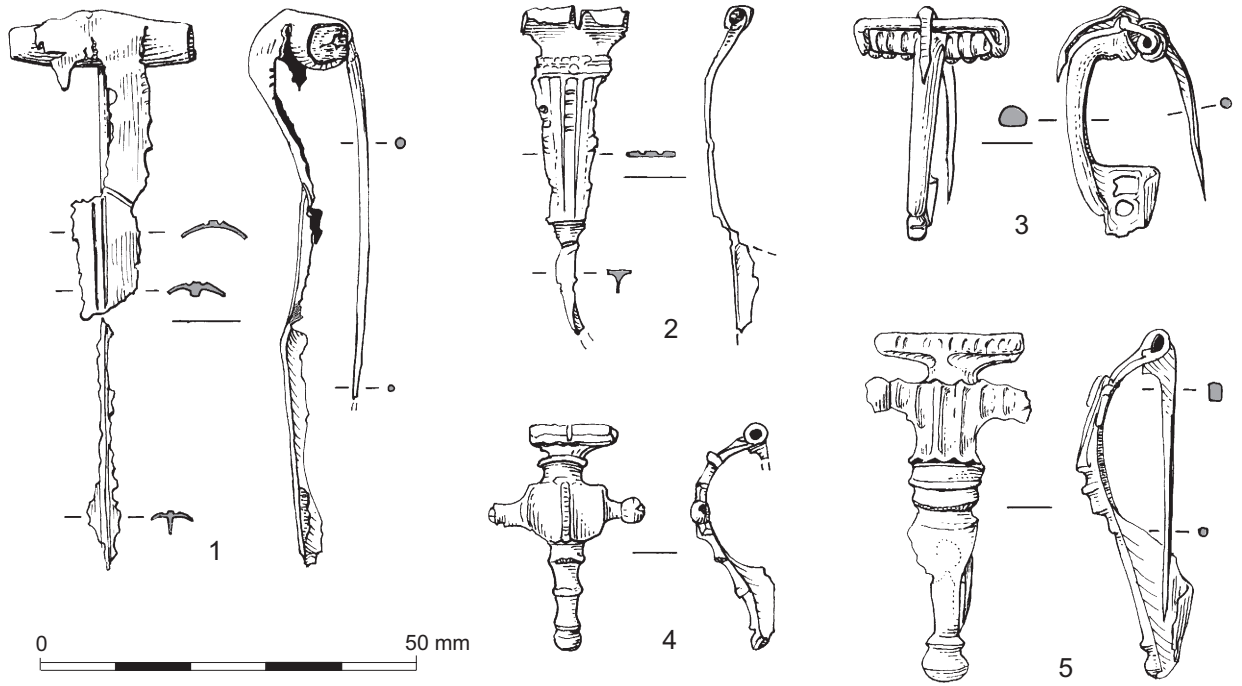
Agriculture
39.   ON81005, context 80861. Iron. Shears, Manning (1985) type 2, with looped spring. Blade is 91 mm long, has slightly arched back and straight edge. The tip of this blade, the whole other arm and most of the looped spring are missing.
40.   ON711, context 9999. Iron. Tanged bar share, Rees (1979) type 2a. Found with coulter. Probably 4th century.
41.   ON714, context 9999. Iron. Plough coulter, circular in section with triangular blade, 328mm long. Found with tanged bar share, probably 4th century.

Military
42.   ON716, context 5721. Iron. Spearhead. Complete but in three fragments, 330 mm total length. Long, narrow leaf-shaped blade with curving shoulders. Open flanged socket with rivet hole. Diamond-shaped cross section. Swanton's (1973) type E4 dated to the 6th–7th centuries.

Unknown
43.   ON81002, context 80861. Iron. Long, socketed ?tool, possibly twisted but in poor condition. Surviving length measures 390 mm.
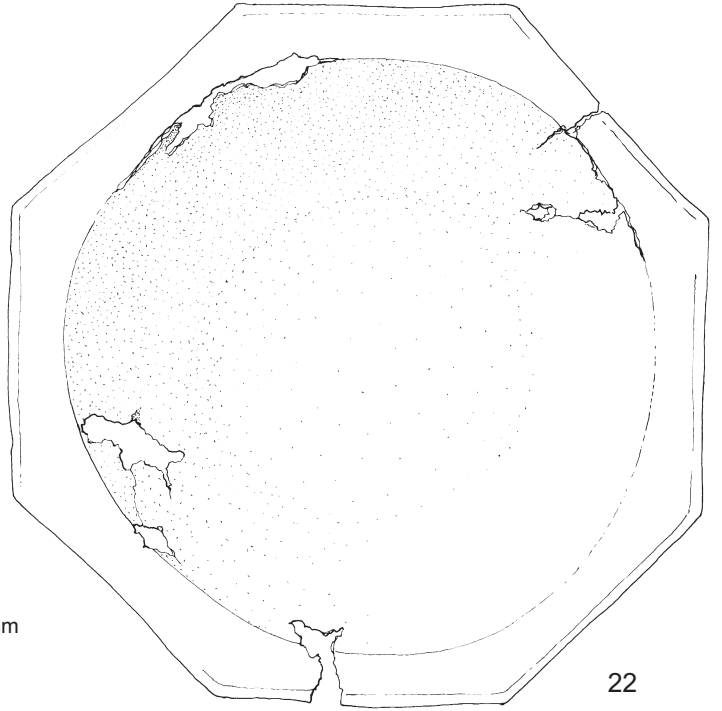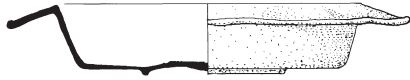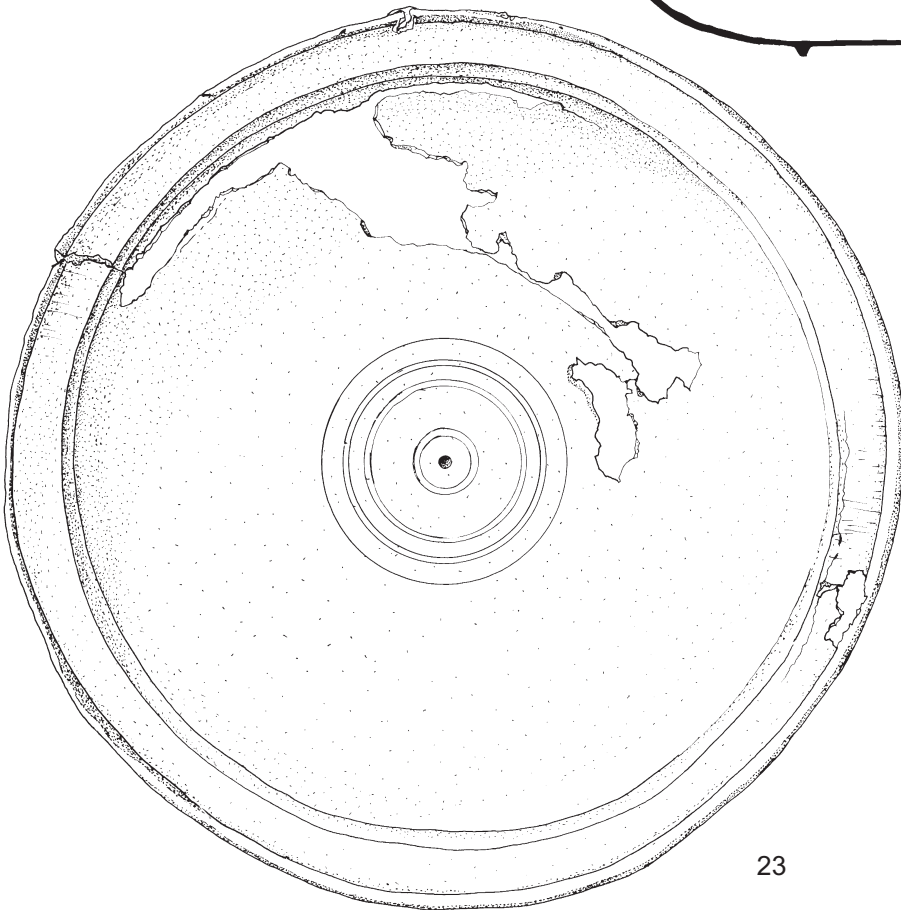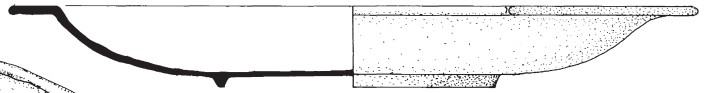
0   50 mm

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Corroded green
(? Red enamel)

Blue enamel

Yellow enamel

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

0   50 mm

21

0   100   200 mm

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32 From X-ray

33

34

35

0   50   100 mm

36

38

37

39

40

41

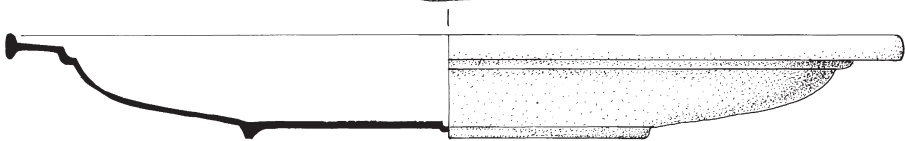42

43

Nos 40 & 41 only:
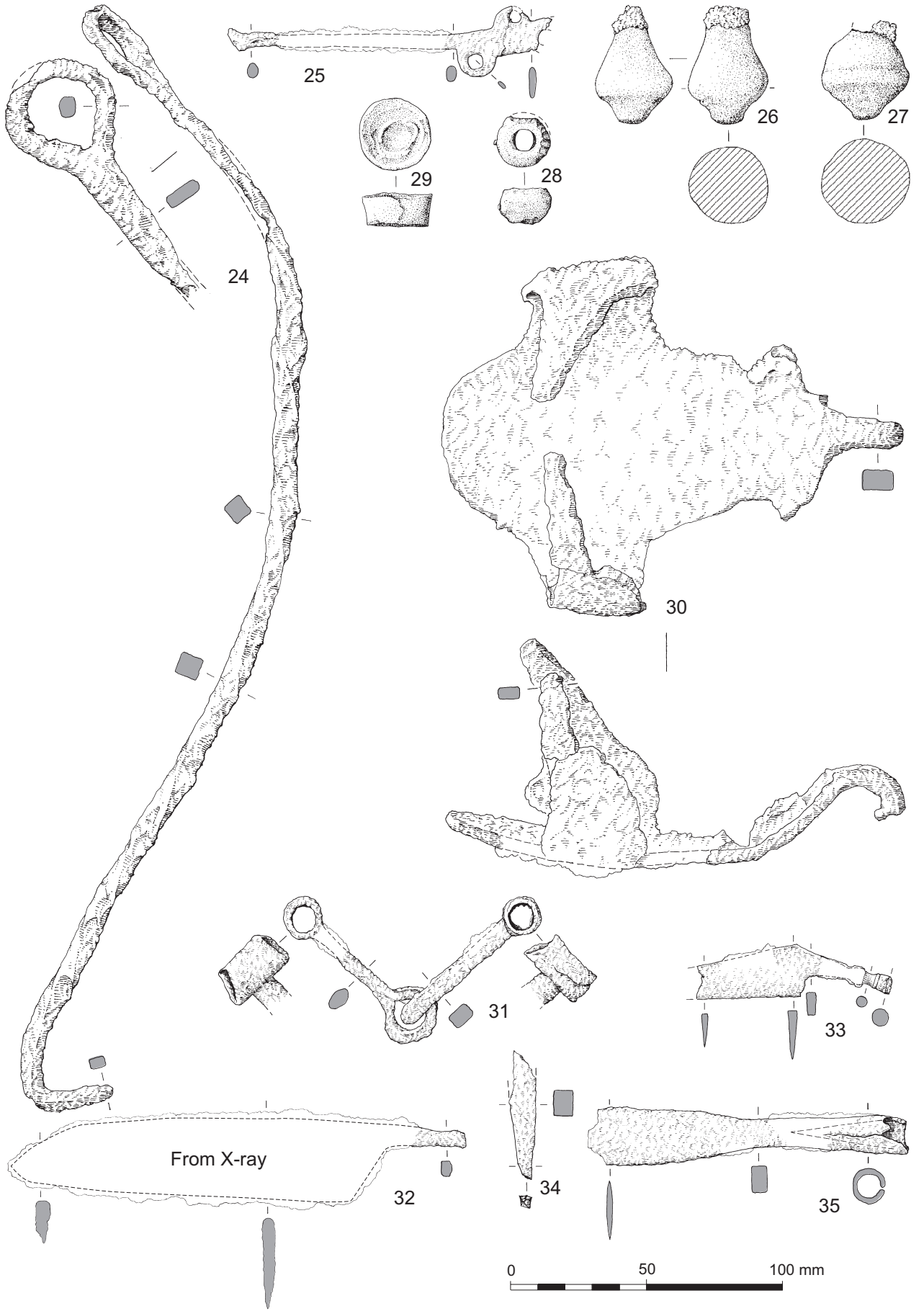
0   100 mm

0   50   100 mm
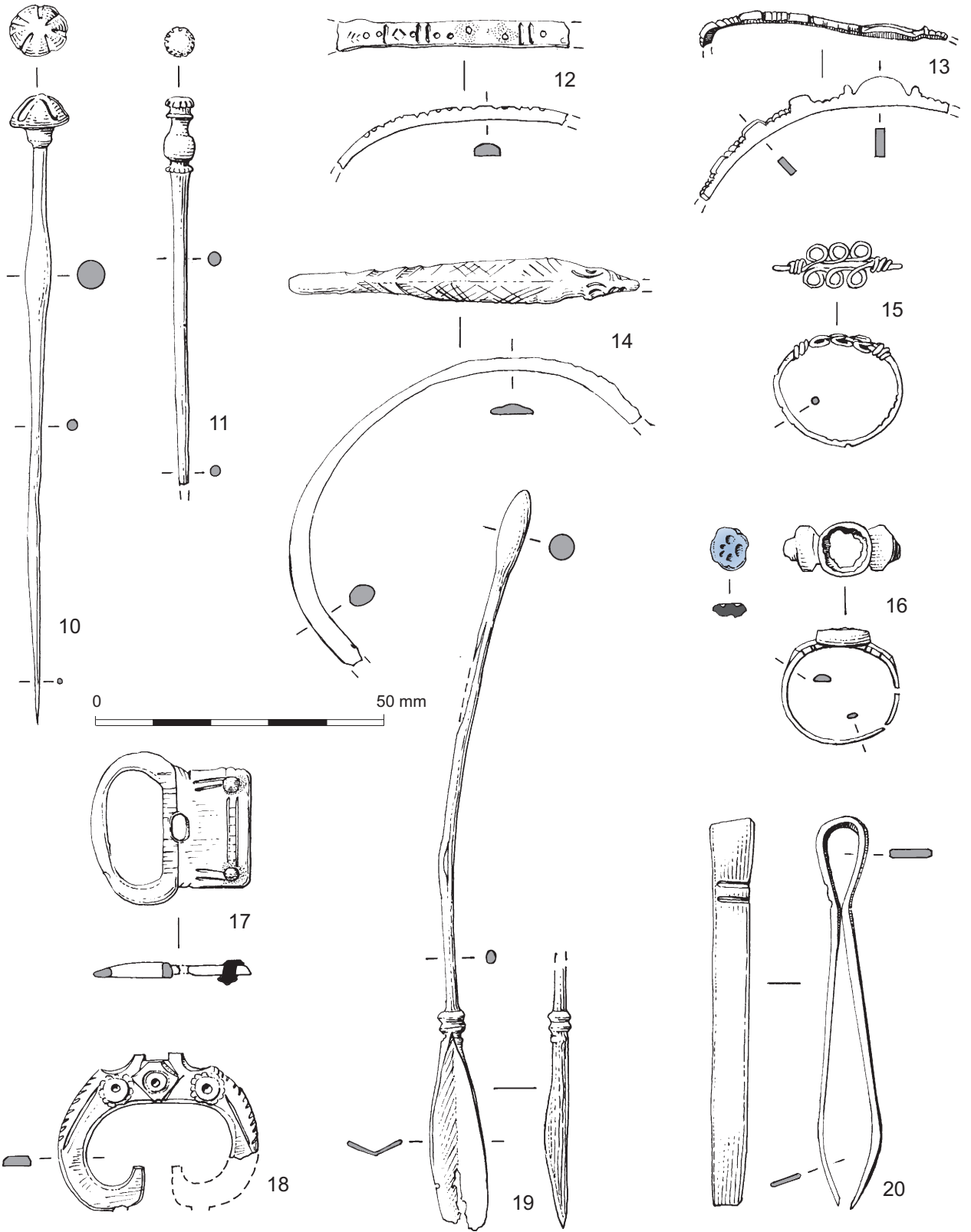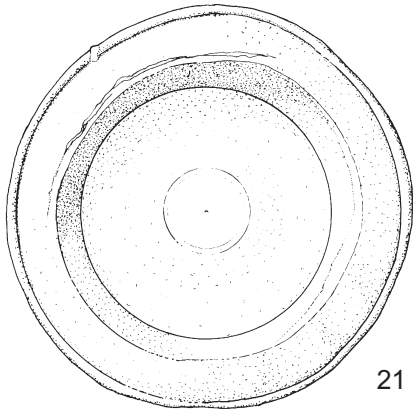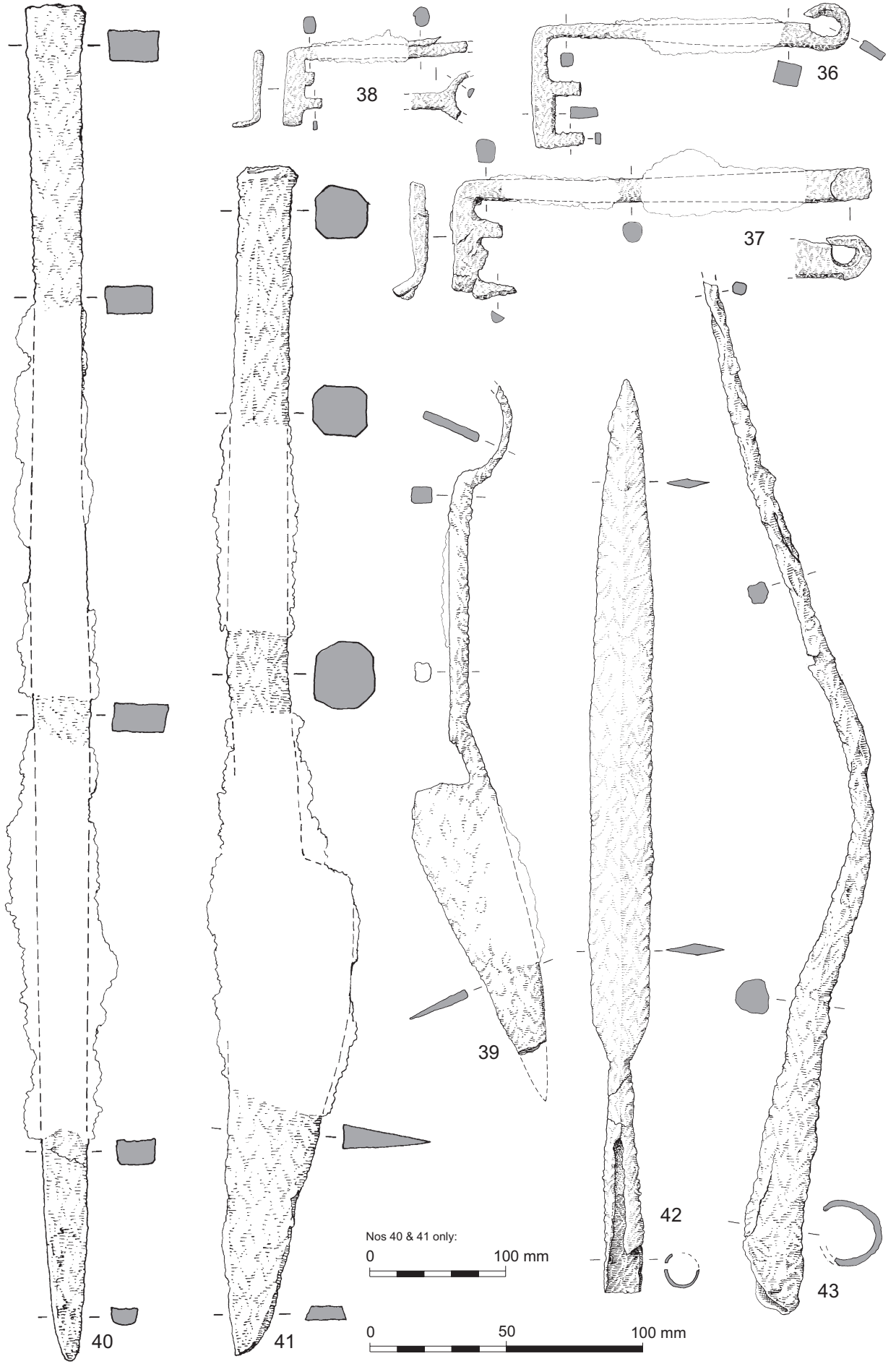
Twelve excavations were carried out by Wessex Archaeology within the Cambourne Development Area. Situated on the clay uplands west of Cambridge, which have seen little previous archaeological investigation, the results presented here are important in demonstrating the ebb and flow of occupation according to population or agricultural pressure.

Short-lived Bronze Age occupation was followed in the Middle Iron Age by small farming communities with an economy based on stock-raising and some arable cultivation. The Late Iron Age seems to have seen a recession, perhaps partly due to increased waterlogging making farming less viable.

From the mid-1st century AD new settlements began to emerge, possibly partly stimulated by the presence of Ermine Street, and within a century the area was relatively densely occupied. Several farmsteads were remodelled in the later Romano-British period, though none seems to have been very prosperous.

Dispersed occupation may have continued into the early 5th century at least, followed by a hiatus until the 12th/13th century when the entire area was taken into arable cultivation, leaving the ubiquitous traces of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.
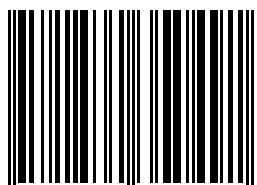
CAMBOURNE
TaylorWimpey
BOVIS HOMES

Wessex Archaeology