

EXCAVATIONS AT TAN-Y-CASTELL (THE FIRST CASTLE OF ABERYSTWYTH) PART 3: PRE-MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL NON-POTTERY FINDS

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INTRODUCTION

This third, and last, in a series of papers describing the results of excavations at Tan-y-Castell gives a basic inventory of the pre-medieval lithic and pottery finds and the medieval 'small finds' recovered, along with selective discussions of them. Wherever resources have permitted the objects are illustrated with line drawings, sketches, photographs or X-ray scans. The principal compiler is very grateful to the colleagues who have contributed to this report, and to other persons listed in the acknowledgements to Part 2. It is hoped that this presentation will make clear to other researchers the nature of the material available for further study which is in Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. The documentary material is retained in the National Monuments Record of Wales.

David Browne, perforce, has limited his parallel research to the stage it had reached in c.2012 and resource and health issues prevent further efforts in this area.

Part 3 lists figures that were intended to accompany the report. The preparation of these figures has as yet (February 2023) not taken place. Therefore, in text, alongside the numbers of the hopefully forthcoming figures, is given the number of the document in the collection of the Tan-y-Castell excavation records in the National Monuments Record of Wales on which the figure would be based. Along with these are given, where relevant, the reference numbers of illustrative material such as photographs available on *Coflein*, RCAHMW's online database. The documents are designated D with accompanying number.

This report supercedes all previous statements issued. These earlier writings always had the status of 'work in progress'.

REPORTS

PRE-MEDIEVAL ARTEFACTS

LITHIC ARTEFACTS

Identification and description kindly provided by Elizabeth A. Walker, Curator of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Archaeology, Amgueddfa Cymru- National Museum Wales

All recorded finds were residual (DMB).

1. Period Uncertain (E13.6). Cortical Later Prehistoric flint flake of grey unpatinated flint with

a very smooth, water-rolled flint pebble cortex.

2. Period Uncertain (E3.17). A hinge fractured Later Prehistoric flint flake with a cortical dorsal surface. The flint has a creamy white patination and the cortex is water-rolled.

3. Period Uncertain (116). A cortical Later Prehistoric flint flake. The flake has a grey staining to it and the dorsal surface is entirely covered in a water-rolled smooth cortex.

4. Intermediate Period 1 (Fl 309b). A sharp, freshly fractured Later Prehistoric flint flake. The flint is of a brownish-grey colour and is unpatinated. The dorsal surface and the side and distal end have cortex along them. The cortex is smooth and is water-rolled. There is some damage at the butt where there is a bulb of percussion.

5. Period C (F1 207). A sharp, freshly fractured piece of black unpatinated flint. This is possibly a flake fragment, otherwise a piece of possible knapping debitage. The cortex is rougher and has a less water-rolled appearance to it than the other flints in this assemblage. (Perhaps this is the remnants of medieval knapping- DMB).

6. Period C (Fl 208). A distal fragment of a Later Prehistoric flint flake. Made on a honey coloured flint, it is unpatinated. There is some cortex on its edge which shows it was struck from a very smooth, water-rolled flint pebble.

A Prehistoric Pottery sherd from Aberystwyth Castle (D62)

by Jody Deacon

These two fragments join to form approximately 10% of the rim of an open bowl form with a diameter of around 200mm. The vessel is hand built and made from a soft fabric containing moderate quantities of sub-rounded grog (0.5-4mm across), sparse crushed rock fragments (0.5-2mm across) and sparse flecks of burnt organic material. The sherds have a 'soapy' texture due to the addition of grog to the clay. Grog and crushed rock inclusions are frequently found, either individually or mixed, in the fabrics of Early Bronze Age pots in Wales.

Both internal and external surfaces are oxidised to a buff/orange colour and the core is mid-grey. The breaks are all old and the edges considerably rounded and abraded, suggesting that the sherds were not freshly broken when deposited.

The vessel has a flattened rim, slightly expanded externally, with occasional lipping on the internal edge. The neck is tall with a slight concavity and the lower surviving edge of the profile suggests the presence of a slight carination at the shoulder. The closest parallels for this rim form are probably to be found within the repertoire of Early Bronze Age food vessels, specifically the vase and vase urns forms as defined by Brindley (2007), although it is possible that it may represent a short collar on a small collared urn.

The external surface of the pot is decorated with lightly incised lines forming two horizontal panels of zig-zag or wave-like motifs divided by a single continuous horizontal line around the mid-point of the neck. While there does not appear to be a good Welsh parallel for this decorative scheme, the use of zoning is common on Early Bronze Age ceramics, and irregular incised motifs do occur on, for example, the vase urns from Whitford, Flintshire and Welsh St Donats, Vale of Glamorgan (Savory 1980, nos. 328:3 & 392.2) and is combined with a flattened rim amongst several of the Irish Vase urns catalogued by Brindley (2007, 353-360, nos. 5, 27, 58, 75 & 86).

References

Brindley, A. (2007) *The Dating of Food Vessels and Urns in Ireland*. Bronze Age Studies 7. National University of Ireland: Galway.

Savory, H. (1980) *Guide Catalogue of the Bronze Age Collections*. National Museum of Wales: Cardiff.

MEDIEVAL ARTEFACTS

Spindle whorls

Researchers should consult three drawings of specimens in Ceredigion Museum. They were found at the Gateway on the surface of context MGII: 37, below the paving context MGII: 35. MGII: 37 was material used in Period C to raise the level of the gate-passage.

For stone spindle whorls in the form of truncated cones and 'tall loaf' from London, see Pritchard 1984, 67, fig. 18, nos. 14-16.

Also found were the following (fig. f; D91):

4. Regularly perforated stone disc with trimmed and smoothed edges. Fine-grained, possibly non-local stone. Both sides have a shallow, incised, radiating linear pattern. Rock-cut Pit, Period C, but with rubbish from earlier period (Fl. 104).

5. Perforated stone disc with trimmed and smoothed edges, made from a local thin rock pebble. Rock-cut Pit, Period C, but with rubbish from earlier period (Fl. 104).

IRONWORK

There are sketches of the better-preserved ironwork in the site finds notebooks (e.g. D57); however, it would be misleading to present finished drawings of most of this in the present report in the absence of cross-checks against the original material. A series of X-rays of most of the ironwork are included in D63.

Carpentry nails

1. From Trench MBI in the vicinity of context 4 (MBI.2). A nail with a large round head, of 24mm diameter, which can be compared with Type A nails at Capel Maelog, Radnorshire (Britnell 1990, 68, fig. 16, no. 89). Not illustrated.

2. From Trench MBI context 5 (MBI.5). Two tapering nails with no heads, at least 45mm long and 6 and 8mm wide at the top, respectively. For similar objects see the Type C nails from Boteler's Castle, Alcester (Jones, Eyre-Morgan, Palmer & Palmer 1997, fig. 22); also possibly similar objects, designated type D, from Rattray, Aberdeenshire, in Murray & Murray 1993, 179 & 180, fig. 34, no. 80. Not illustrated.

3. From Trench E21. Nail E21.1 is similar to those designated Type A1 at Carmarthen Greyfriars (James 1997, 187, fig. 38); compare with Caldwell, Ewart & Triscott 1998, 62-3, Illus. 26, no. 74, possibly residual in a late-thirteenth- or early-fourteenth-century context.

For medieval carpentry nails see, for example, Type A at Rattray, Aberdeenshire in Murray & Murray 1993, 179 & 180, fig. 34, nos. 75-6; late eleventh to mid twelfth century at Durham in Carver 1979, 23, fig. 13, no. 19/1574; for twelfth-century timber nails with broad flat tops at Ascot Doilly, see Jope & Threlfall 1959, 266-7, fig. 20, no. 7, and for rectangular-sectioned nails from the same site, see *ibid.*, 266-7, fig. 20, nos. 9-11; c.1200-1230 at Weoley Castle in Oswald 1962-3, 130 & 131, fig. 51, nos. 26, 28; 'Type A' at Hen Domen in Goodall & Goodall 2000, 94, fig. 5.3, no. 6a; for further nails/spikes at Hen Domen, see Higham & Rouillard 2000, 102, fig. 5.5, nos. 87-90; for nails at Auldhill, Portencross, see Caldwell, Ewart & Triscott 1998, 62, Illus. 26.

For carpentry nails for building and coffin use at Carmarthen, see James 1997, 187, fig. 38, and at Ripon, see Hall & Whyman 1996, 113-114.

Wacher noted the longevity of nail types at Riplingham, East Yorkshire (1963-6, 654, fig. 20, nos. 1-11); similarly nails 'occurred in most layers' at Loughor, from the twelfth century to post-castle deposits (Lewis 1993, 148-9, fig. 22, nos. 17-24)

Staples(?)

1. From Trench E11 (E11.10). A 'hooked' piece of metal which was probably the remnant of a staple with a square to rectangular cross-section, 8.5 by 8.5 mm to 8 by 7mm; the longer, intact arm about 0.05m long. Not illustrated.

Staples with square sections from Cumnor and St Ebbe's, Oxon, are illustrated in Allen 1994, 375, fig. 91, nos. 136, 137 and Hassall, Halpin & Mellor 1989, 229, fig. 64, no. 52. For a staple from Coventry, see Wright 1982, 96, fig. 53, no. 1; for an undated staple from Shrewsbury Abbey, see Baker 2002, 115, fig. 68, no. 4; for staples from Loughor, dated from the second half of the twelfth century onwards, see Lewis 1993, 148, fig. 22, nos. 26-30; for staples from Castle Acre Castle, dated mid-later twelfth century, see Coad & Streeten 1982, 228 & 231, fig. 39, nos. 37, 39; for a staple from York in a twelfth- to thirteenth-century context, see Addyman & Priestley 1977, 138 & 143, fig. 10, no. 18; for a thirteenth-century example from Rattray, Aberdeenshire, see Murray & Murray 1993, 179 & 180, fig. 34, no. 51; for an example from Rumney, see Lightfoot 1992, 136 & 140, fig. 17, no. 44; a staple from Weoley Castle is dated to c.1200-1230 (Oswald 1962-3, 130 & 131, fig. 51, no. 7); for a staple at Lismahon, Co. Down, dated thirteenth to fourteenth century, see Waterman 1959, 162 & 163, fig. 61, no. 4; for staples at Hen Domen, see Higham & Rouillard 2000, 101, fig. 5.5, nos. 85-6; a staple from Beaumaris came from a feature containing thirteenth- to fifteenth-century pottery, see Hopewell 1997, 13 & 35, fig. 14; for a staple from Bramber Castle, probably fourteenth century, see Barton & Holden 1977, 65-6, fig. 20, no. 16.

Horseshoe nails

Horseshoe nails of fiddle-key type, with heads varying from semi-circular to round, between 14 and 21 mm wide, were found in several contexts: Trench MGI, context 13 (1956 MGI 6); Trench E1 (E1.1, E1.3, E1.5); Trench E3 (E3.5, E3.14, E3.16); Trench E5 (E5.15); Trench

E11 (E11.4, E11.6, E11.8, E11.9, E11.18, E11.25, E11.35, E11.39, E11.51). Not illustrated.

A fiddle-key nail of the same type as found at Old Aberystwyth is figured in a report of excavations at Dundrum Castle, Co. Down, the early bank of which dates to the last quarter of the twelfth century (Waterman 1958, 65, no. 14).

For comparable specimens from Northolt Manor, see Hurst 1961, 288 & 290, fig. 76, no. 2, dated 1050-1150; from Durham, see Carver 1979, 23, fig. 13, no. 98/1627, no. 99/1627, late eleventh to mid-twelfth century; from Warwick, see Cracknell and Bishop 1991-2, 28, fig. 14, no. 16; from twelfth-century deposits at Ascot Doilly, see Jope & Threlfall 1959, 266-7, fig. 20, no. 6; from Brandon Castle, Warwickshire, see Chatwin 1955, 82, fig. 12, no. 3a; from Castle Acre Castle, mid-later twelfth century, see Coad & Streeten 1982, 234, fig. 41, nos. 131-3; from Loughor, see Lewis 1993, 148, fig. 22, nos. 8-10, from the late twelfth century onwards; for twelfth- to early-thirteenth-century horseshoe nails from Penmaen, see Alcock 1966, 198, fig. 9, nos. 3-4; for twelfth- to thirteenth-century examples at York, see Addyman & Priestley 1977, 138 & 144, fig. 10, nos. 57-58; for thirteenth- to fourteenth-century examples from Rattray, Aberdeenshire, see Murray & Murray 1993, 185 & 186, fig. 38, nos. 163-5; from Hen Domen, see Goodall & Goodall 2000, 95, fig. 5.3, no. 16 ('Type A'); from Auldhill, Portencross, see Caldwell, Ewart & Triscott 1998, 62, Illus. 26, no. 67; for fiddle-key nails in thirteenth- to fourteenth-century deposits at Bramber Castle, see Barton & Holden 1977, 64-5, fig. 20; for an undated example from Brixworth, see Everson 1977, 94, fig. 9, no. 18; from a medieval site at Barry, see Thomas & Davies 1974, 16, fig. 6, no. 10; see also *Archaeologia* xlvii (1883), 450.

Horseshoes (fig. g = fig. A-B = D86; fig. h = fig. I-J = D83)

1. Complete example, (D86), found at the Gateway on the surface of context MGII: 37 and below context MGII: 34 (Period C).

Compare with an example from Alcester, Warwickshire, said to be a 'typical 12th/13th type' with countersunk nail holes (Jones, Eyre-Morgan, Palmer & Palmer 1997, 59, fig. 23, no. 42); also London Museum 1940, 113, fig. 36, no. 7, attributed to the late twelfth century; Loughor, dated 1215 to c. 1302 (Lewis 1993, 148, fig. 22, no. 7); Rumney, assigned to the twelfth century (Lightfoot 1992, 136 & 138, fig. 15, no. 22); from Castle Acre Castle, mid-later twelfth century, see Coad & Streeten 1982, 234, fig. 41, 126-130; for horseshoes in deposits at Bramber Castle, dated between the late eleventh century and fourteenth century, see Barton & Holden 1977, 62-3, fig. 19, nos. 17-23; for a horseshoe from York in a twelfth- to thirteenth-century context, see Addyman & Priestley 1977, 138 & 143, fig. 10, no. 52; for a fragment from York, assigned to the mid-twelfth century, see Richardson 1959, 100-1, fig. 28, no. 8; for horseshoes assigned to the twelfth to thirteenth centuries at Hen Blas, see Leach 1960, 32-3 & 35, fig. 13, nos. 1-4; compare, from Hadleigh Castle, Drewett 1975, 140-1, fig. 28, no. 342; compare from Saxilby, Whitwell 1969, 141-2, fig. 6, nos. 49 & 50, assigned to c.1300, although no. 50 has a noticeably wavy outline; for a fragment assigned to the late twelfth century, from Dover, see Rigold 1967, 108-9, fig. 9, no. Fe5; another from Dover, assigned mid-thirteenth century, *ibid*, 108-9, fig. 9, no. Fe6.

2. Partial example of similar type to no. 1. Provenance given as F1.203, but probably F2.203. (D83)

Other parallels, dated to the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries are found at Salford Priors, Warwickshire: *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society* 103 (1999), 145, fig. 61, no. 22; at Brandon Castle, Warwickshire similar horseshoes are dated to the thirteenth century, though some were possibly earlier (Chatwin 1955, 82, fig. 12, nos. 1-6); for thirteenth- to fourteenth- century examples at Wintringham, see Beresford 1977, 258 & 276, fig. 46, nos. 76-7; for an example from Rickmansworth, dated 1250-1300, see Biddle, Barfield & Millard 1959, 183-4, fig. 19, no. 28.

For medieval horseshoes in general, see London Museum 1940, 112-117, and Clark, J (ed.) 1995. *The medieval horse and its equipment c.1150-1450. Medieval finds from excavations in London 5*, London: HMSO.

Bit?(fig. i = D84)

Among the illustrated ironwork, but unprovenanced, is what might have been a fragment of a horse bit. See E on photocopy of drawings. (fig. i)

Pricket candlestick?(fig. j = D85)

Among the illustrated ironwork, but unprovenanced, is what might possibly have been part of a candlestick. See D on photocopy of drawings. (fig. j.)

Manacle and chain (fig. k = fig. C-D = D81; fig. l = fig. C-D = D82)

Context uncertain.

Designed with three interlocking loops so that it could not be opened whilst the further end of the chain was secured. In correspondence D. Renn raised the possibility that may it have been used to hobble ponies. He also suggested that the chain was made by a blacksmith, who forged it from bar iron. He believes that if it had been made by an armourer it would have been made by the chain-mail technique, i.e. by riveting loops of drawn wire.

For double manacles displayed on the arms of the Johnson family of Suffolk, Slater 2002, 83; for a picture of a 'prisoner' in irons, see Williams 1956, pl. 1; for shackles of earlier eras, see Thompson, H. 1993; also see *Archaeological Journal* XIII pl. II; *ibid* LXXXIX pl. II; *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* XXVI (1914), 116.

Object with D-ring (fig. m = fig. E-F = D79; fig. n = fig. E-F = D80)

Context uncertain.

Derek Renn accepted it might have been a door hasp, the D-ring being a handle; but he doubted E. T. Price's suggested fitting as a 'rather difficult' construction. See archive correspondence.

The object bears some resemblance to an object identified as a barrel padlock at St Ebbe's, Oxon (Hassall, Halpin & Mellor 1989, fig. 65, no. 143, with discussion on pp. 228, 230).

Keys (D64; fig. q = D88)

1. Provenance uncertain. The object in the photograph resembles one identified as a possible handle of a barrel padlock key found at Capel Maelog, Radnorshire (Britnell 1990, fig. 14, no. 56); see also an object from Caergwrle Castle in Manley 1994, 112 & 113, fig. 15, nos. 2, 3; it also resembles what has been interpreted as part of a latch-lifter (Johnstone 1999, 280-1, fig. 19, I.5); for barrel padlock keys at Hen Domen, see Higham & Rouillard 2000, 101, fig. 5.5, nos. 80-3. D64
2. Found in Trench E21 in 1956. The object might have formed part of a barrel padlock hasp; see Britnell 1990, fig. 14, no. 54, but the apparently integral hook and flanged haft of the Old Aberystwyth example set it apart. D64
3. Found in Trench E5, but no specific context given (E5.14). D88

A form of 'Type II' key in the London Museum catalogue (1940, 135-6, fig. 42), attributed to the late eleventh to thirteenth centuries or even later. For comparison, from York, see Richardson 1959, 82-3, fig. 18, nos. 13 & 14, described as Anglo-Danish. The key resembles an example with mid-thirteenth- to early-fourteenth-century parallels from Burton-in-Lonsdale, Yorkshire (Moorhouse 1971, 94, fig. 3, no.1); for a comparable handle from Hen Domen, see Goodall & Goodall 2000, 94, fig. 5.3, no. 8; for a general comparison, see Coad & Streeten 1982, 232, fig. 40, no. 103, undated from Castle Acre Castle;

COPPER ALLOY

Cruciform pendant (a line drawing is available in Ceredigion Museum)

Found in Trench E11.

The pendant is a piece of horse furniture hung from a fitting attached to a harness strap (London Museum 1940, 118). An illustration of a piece in the Musée de Cluny in the London Museum catalogue (1940, 119, fig. 39) shows how it would have fitted.

Houlder suggested that the cross-hatching might have provided a key for a paste; the piece in the Musée de Cluny has dark red enamel on the hatched surfaces. H. N. Savory of the then National Museum of Wales noted that one of the cupped terminals had been broken off and reattached in antiquity.

There is a close parallel to this pendant from Hadleigh Castle, Essex; it was found in the top of a foundation trench of the Phase III solar, dated to the end of the thirteenth century or early fourteenth century; see Drewett 1975, 140 & 142, fig. 28, no. 344.

According to the London Museum catalogue (1940, 119) the type was not common in England, but a similar type of pendant was recovered from disturbed levels at the Jewry Wall site, Leicester (Kenyon 1948, 255-6).

For another type of horse harness pendant in the form of a shield see Manley 1994, 114 & 113,

fig. 15, no. 12; for a fourteenth- to fifteenth-century harness pendant from Rattray, Aberdeenshire, see Murray & Murray 1993, 192 & 193, fig. 42, no. 207; for a gilt harness pendant with four roundels, but an open centre, from Castle Acre Castle, see Coad & Streeten 1982, 238, fig. 44, no. 35, c.1140s.

Ring: silver-gilt (fig. s = D90)

The silver-gilt finger ring from Aberystwyth Castle

by Mark Redknap

While many examples of medieval jewellery have been reported over the last thirty years through the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996, examples from excavations are less common. Their association with known site types, sometimes with their own documented histories and phasing, enhances their significance. The assemblage from the excavations at Aberystwyth Castle includes a silver gilt finger ring. Its precise archaeological context is uncertain.

Description

The decorative silver-gilt finger ring is of stirrup-shaped form. It has a small bezel for a now missing *en cabochon* gemstone, and a hoop of flattened oval cross-section (D-shaped cross-section in parts). Traces of very fine parallel incised lines following the junction of hoop side and shoulders are evident on the hoop where the gilding has been preserved, but heavy surface corrosion has removed any traces nearer the bezel. Houlder speculated that the markings might be related to the winding of fine wire around the main hoop, or that they might simply reflect corrosion. As the amalgam gilding is uneven and lumpy in places (particularly around the bezel), it seems likely that these lines would have been invisible to the naked eye once the ring had been completed. It seems likely that they reflect the finishing process on the silver casting prior to gilding. XRF analysis by Mary Davis established that the ring was composed of fairly pure silver, with a small amount of copper and amalgam gilding (XRF 291; M Davis, pers. comm.).

The internal hoop diameter is 16 x 17 mm (very slightly misshapen, and broken at one point, but complete); overall height 20.8mm; minimum hoop width 1.3 mm; bezel hollow length 2.95mm; width 2.4mm. Weight 1.5g.

Discussion

The elegant form of this decorative, stirrup-shaped ring existed in France by the mid-twelfth century, though the ring type is absent from the Lark Hill hoard of coins and jewellery, buried near Worcester about 1173-4 (Akerman 1855-6, 200-202), and was very popular during the thirteenth century. Examples are known from unidentified bishops' tombs at Chichester (one incorrectly attributed to Bishop Hilary of Chichester who died in 1169; Stratford 1984, 291), as well as within museum collections (for example, a gold stirrup-shaped set with a sapphire in the medieval collections of the British Museum; MLA 1885, 6-15, 1; Dalton 1782). A fine, slender stirrup-shaped ring was found in 2004 at Tawelan Brook, Carmarthenshire (TAR 2004, no. 496); a larger example found near Cwmbran in 1989 weighed 9.84g (Cherry and Redknap 1992, 127). The bezel of a stirrup-shaped ring from Llancarfan (Treasure case 6.16) still retains a small red semi-precious stone, *en cabochon* (probably garnet), while one from Bargoed, Caerphilly, is set with a blue sapphire (Treasure case 17.22).

Decorative rings of this type have a fairly widespread distribution, and the choice of stone was often influenced by the belief in their apotropaic properties. Sapphires were thought to protect the body, soothe headaches, ulcers and excessive sweating, and were good for the eyes and for curing stammers (Campbell 2009, 33). Stirrup rings set with sapphires from beyond Wales include one

found at West Lindsay, Lincolnshire (TAR 1998-99, no. 110), and one found in the vicinity of the Chapel Royal, Windsor (Oman 1930, plate X no. 251). The stirrup-shaped ring from Aberystwyth Castle, which is probably of thirteenth-century date, reminds us not only of the the status of some of those staying there, but also of the finesse and care they took with personal appearance.

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DAL 41818



DAL 41817

Coin

According to correspondence of 16 August 1961 between Houlder and Stuart Rigold the coin was found at the top of 'a late rubbish layer ... It must have been derived to its place of discovery from the motte bank at the time of a late slighting'. Its label records it as from MBIV 511 which belongs to Houlder's Period II and it was, therefore, clearly residual by about 80 years.

Stuart Rigold described the coin as follows:

Henry I group X, WULGAR ON LUND i.e. London, from the same dies as *BMC, Norman Kings*, No. 66. This type is the third commonest of Hen[ry] I's, but still quite scarce, the rarity being of course due to the accident of finds of hoards or absence of them. Date *c.* 1121-4 ... and should be obsolete within a year or two of issue.

LEAD

(fig. w = D78)

(fig. v = D77)

1. Lead weight, probably a spindle whorl. Eroded. Diameter 2.5 em. Illustration: F12. 104.

D78

2. Lead drop, 2.7 em long. Eroded. F12. 104. D77

3. Undated piece of lead sheet (identification kindly by Evan Chapman, Curatorial Officer,

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales). Period A, MBI.5. D63

GLASS

Undated piece of blue glass manufacturing waste (identification kindly by Evan Chapman, Curatorial Officer, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales). Period C. MBI.4

STONE (fig. u = D76; fig. t = D87)

1. A probable whetstone, judging from what seem to be its artificially flattened edges. Probably local stone from the river bed or beach. E23.5

2. A whetstone is recorded from trench E15, but the stones in the collection are unconvincing as artefacts. Illustrated whetstone is from feature Fl 208. It has a groove on each of the flatter, broader sides and is made of a rounded local pebble derived from the nearby beach or river bed.

It is suggested that the grooves on a whetstone found at St Ebbe's, Oxon, were formed in sharpening needles (Hassall, Halpin & Mellor 1989, 238-9. Aileen Fox (1939, 188-9 & pl. vii, no. 3) illustrates a sharpening stone of different shape from a medieval house context on Gelligaer Common, dated thirteenth to fourteenth century.

ORGANIC REMAINS

Charred wheat and oat grains. The oat grains belong to a variety that was previously not thought (late 1950s) to have been introduced before the sixteenth century. No resources for further analysis have been available and the material is in the National Museum, Wales.

Charcoal is also in the museum collection awaiting analysis.

For bone see D63

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