

Mellor Smallfinds Report Nick Herepath March 2003

LEAD

1. OVM 02, [6], unstratified.
?SPINDLE WHORL
Max. diam. 28mm, T 6mm, Wt. 19.43g.
Perforated object, flat, sub-circular, irregular and crudely made.
2. OVM 02 [4] unstratified.
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 26mm, T 10mm, Wt. 26.71g.
Truncated cone with convex base, circular, centrally perforated, uneven and crudely made. Slight trace of moulded pattern on upper surface.
Medieval.
3. MC 98, unstratified.
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 22mm, T 6mm, Wt. 11.62g.
Convex, perforated disc.
4. OVM 00, K, unstratified.
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 23mm, T 5mm, Wt. 11.46g.
Flat perforated disc.
5. OVM 00, L, unstratified.
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 20mm, T 8mm, Wt. 16.04g.
Convex perforated disc.
6. OVM 00, O, unstratified.
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 29mm, T 9mm, Wt. 33.99g.
Bi-convex perforated disc.
Medieval.
7. Unstratified
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 29mm, T 6mm, Wt. 21.38g.
Bi-convex perforated disc with slightly raised outer rim
Medieval.
8. Unstratified
SPINDLE WHORL
Diam. 25mm, T 8mm, Wt. 23.66g.
Bi-convex perforated disc.
Medieval.
9. Unstratified

SPINDLE WHORL

Diam. 27mm, T 8mm, Wt. 23.96g.

Bi-convex perforated disc with slightly raised outer rim. Worn moulded pattern on both surfaces.

Medieval

10. Unstratified

SPINDLE WHORL

Diam. 23mm, T 9mm, Wt. 31.05g.

Rectangular sectioned perforated flat disc.

11. Unstratified

SPINDLE WHORL

Diam. 22mm, T 9mm, Wt. 23.37g.

Sub-rectangular sectioned perforated disc, countersunk around hole on both surfaces.

12. MC98, J, unstratified

?SPINDLE WHORL

Diam. 22mm, T 6mm, Wt. 9.97

Irregular lead perforated disc, portion missing.

Discussion.

Perforated lead discs of various forms have been published in excavation reports of sites in this country dating from the Roman period onwards and are often described as spindle whorls or possible spindle whorls (for the spinning of wool thread). They are also common stray finds made by metal detector users. Due to their simplicity of construction they cannot be accurately dated by their shape or size. The exception being the larger regularly executed specimens that are often decorated which are usually assigned a general 'medieval' date. An example of which retaining its oak spindle was recovered from a medieval context in Leicester (Clay, P. in Mellor & Pearce 1981, 139-40, no 70, fig 51). Nos. 2, and 6-9 are almost certainly of medieval date. Small, often crudely made pierced lead discs may well have been used as spindle whorls (Egan, G. 1998, p. 258) but other possible functions cannot be ruled out. For example, perforated lead discs found at South Shields Roman Fort (Allason-Jones, L. and Miket, R 1984, nos. 8.92-94.) are described as caulking, as are crudely made pierced conical lead discs from excavations in medieval Winchester (Biddle M. 1990, nos. 4343-4, fig. 368). All of the examples here are from unstratified contexts and none can be said to be of definite Roman date based on their form and size. However, as similarly small and crude examples have been found in Roman contexts such as the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British settlement site at Camerton, Somerset (Jackson, R. 1990, nos. 193-197, pl. 17) and at Roman Aldborough (Bishop, M.C. 1996, nos. 171, 172, fig. 18), the possibility of a Roman date cannot be dismissed completely.

13. OVM 02, [3]

?WEIGHT

Irregular cone with central perforation.

L 23mm, Max. diam. 20mm, Wt. 42.18g

?Roman

(Jackson, R. 1990 no. 190, pl. 17; Cracknell, S. & Mahany, C. 1994 no. 3, fig. 100)

14. MC98, J, unstratified

UNIDENTIFIED

L. 42mm, W. 10mm, Wt. 10.96g

Lead bar, slightly curving, rounded ends, tapering in thickness, keeled in section.

15. MC98, J, unstratified

WASTE

Wt. 17.55g

rphous lead casting waste.

2 OVM 99, T8, 8002

UNIDENTIFIED

Diam. 22mm, T. 4mm, Wt. 12.27

Lead disc of tapering thickness.

16. Q, unstratified

?CONTAINER

Diam 45mm, H. 27mm. Wt ?

Crudely cast, straight sided, shallow container. Slight vertical grooves on the outside, narrow vertical striations on the inside. Function uncertain.

17. MC 98, OVM T8, unstratified

UNIDENTIFIED

L. 74mm, W. 47mm, T14mm

Crudely cast shield-shaped object, curved sides, corroded iron projection from 'top'.

18. C, unstratified

AMMUNITION (17th-19th century)

.38 calibre lead shot with visible casting seam and prominent sprue

.50 calibre lead shot with prominent sprue

.55 calibre lead shot without sprue

.55 calibre lead shot with sprue scar

.55 calibre lead shot with sprue scar

.50 calibre lead shot with sprue scar

.35 calibre lead cone shaped bullet, mid 19th century

OVM 02, Metal detected, 3/4/02

.35 calibre lead cone-shaped bullet, mid 19th century

LEAD ALLOY

1. OVM

WHISTLE

L. 47mm, diam. 18mm.

Cast pewter whistle with suspension loop, possibly used for hawking, 18th-19th century.

2. OVM, I

Domed pewter button with central nipple, loop missing. Traces of iron corrosion on the back suggests the loop was iron. 17th - 18th century.

COPPER ALLOY

1. OVM 00, F

DAGGER POMMEL

L. 34mm, W. 29mm, D. 16mm

Hollow-cast copper alloy, oval in section. Small circular perforation in the top, wide mouth at the base. Worn protrusions at the shoulders of the pommel. In generally worn condition with some original surface patina remaining. Slight damage to the base. Likely to be of the quillon type dagger of the 13th-14th century. (Ref. Ward-Perkins, 1940.)

2. N

MOUNT

L. 37mm, W. 13mm, T. 5mm

Decorative cast copper alloy mount, asymmetrical with hemispherical section. Transverse ridge and groove decoration across the convex face. Trace of mounting rivet on the back. 18th century.

3. N

DECORATION

L. 98mm, W. 47mm, T. 3mm

Fragment of cast copper alloy decorative metalwork, possibly furniture or door decoration. Traces of mounting rivets on the back. 18th-19th century.

4. N

DECORATION

L. 70mm

Fragment of pressed sheet copper alloy decoration. Curved with folded outer edge and wavy inside edge. Copper alloy rivets spaced evenly around the inside edge. On the back are traces of corroded iron. Probably a decorative rim. 18th-19th century.

5. N

BUTTON

Diam. 17mm

Copper alloy three-piece button with scrolled initials CC in relief. The back is decorated with a meander pattern. Wire loop fastening. 19th century.

6. OVM 02, TR2, unstratified, [9], metal detector

LIGHTING

Crushed wick holder and regulator from gas lamp. 19th century.

7. OVM, G

STUD

Diam. 19.6mm, H. 6mm

Domed stud with central hole where shank (now missing) would have been attached. Roman. (Ref. Bishop, 1996, cf. 383-400).

Such studs are common finds on Roman sites and would have been used for various decorative purposes including harness.

8. OVM, H

BOW BROOCH

Polden Hill type

Length 37mm, W. 13mm

Very corroded head and bow. The corroded remains of the spring is partially enclosed by the head, The head is squared-off and the wings are missing. The slightly tapering bow is gently curving, trace of catchplate remains. Late 1st to 2nd century AD.

9. A

MOUNT

L. 56mm, W. 41.5mm

Lozenge-shaped cast copper alloy mount, openwork of four trefoils around a central hollow-backed lozenge-shaped boss; integral suspension loop. On the back are four attachment hooks, two of which retain fragments of leather. Horse harness decoration from which a pendent decoration was suspended. 17th century. Ref.: Read, 2001, No. 340.

NB An exact parallel of this mount was found at by a metal detectorist at Wickenby, Lincolnshire in 1999 (Portable Antiquities No. LVPL 1733)

10. OVM 01, TR 15, Subsoil (002), [1]

SHOE BUCKLE SPINDLE

L. 31mm, W. 4mm, T.3mm

Slightly curved cast copper alloy bar, pierced longitudinally at centre to hold buckle pin, grooved upper surface. 18th century.

11. OVM 00, TRII b, [58]

WASHER

Cast copper alloy washer.

12. MC 98, unstratified

BUTTON

Diam. 34mm

Cast copper alloy button, flat disc with traces of decoration remains of loop on the back. 18th century.

13. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

UNIDENTIFIED

D. 11mm, H. 13mm

Cast copper alloy truncated cone with concave base.

14. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

L. 36mm, W. 20mm.

LATCH

Incomplete cast copper alloy thumb latch. Post-medieval.

15. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

BUTTON

D. 15mm

Plain three-part copper alloy button with copper wire loop. Modern.

16. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

UNIDENTIFIED

L. 67mm, W. 3mm

Square sectioned cast copper alloy bar, rounded end perforated. Incomplete and bent. Date and function unknown

17. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

UNIDENTIFIED

L. 39mm, W. 8mm. T. 2.5mm

Cast copper alloy flat sectioned bar, incomplete, pierced at break. Date and function unknown.

18. OVM 02, Metal Detected, 3/4/02

UNIDENTIFIED

L. 38mm, W. 19mm

Piece of folded sheet copper alloy. Date and function unknown.

19. OVM 02, unstratified, 8/9/02

UNIDENTIFIED

D. 20mm

Coroded piece of thin copper alloy, irregular roughly circular outline. Possible coin.

20. OVM 02 TR1 (+)

THIMBLE

H. 20mm.

Fragment of cast copper alloy thimble. Worn condition. Straight sided, domed top. Post-medieval.

COINS

Roman

1. B. Roman silver denarius of Vespasian (AD 69-79). Obverse: laureate bust right. Reverse: standing female figure, right arm outstretched. Poor.
2. C2. As of Vespasian (AD 69-79). Obverse: bust right. Reverse: standing figure, right arm outstretched, S [C]. Poor
3. C4. Antoninianus of Claudius II (AD 268-70). Obverse: radiate bust right [IMP CL]LAVDIVS[AVG]. Reverse: Hilaritas with long palm and cornucopiae [HILA]RIT[AS] AVG[G].
4. C7. Very worn and much denuded Roman bronze coin. Obverse: bust right. Reverse: illegible. 1st or 2nd century AD?
5. Church site, metal detector, [5a]
Sestertius of Faustina Snr. (posthumous issue AD176-180). Obverse: bust right, DIVA FAV[STI]N[A PIA]. Reverse: Faustina seated on peacock flying right. [CO]N[SECRATIO] S [C]. Fair. (Ref.: RIC No. 1702)
6. D. 4th century AE4, illegible.

Post-Medieval

1. C8. Charles II threepence, dated 1679. Fine. (Ref.: Seaby No. 1970)
2. C5. Elizabeth I shilling, escalop initial mark, 1584/5-87. Fair. (Ref.: North No. 2014)
3. C6. Sixpence. Worn and shows evidence of having been bent into a Z shape but has subsequently been straightened. The practice of presenting bent coins, particularly sixpences and shillings, as 'love tokens' was common in the 17th century, particularly during the reign of William III.
4. C1. Very worn, illegible halfpenny.
5. OVM 02, Metal detected, 3/4/02. 2 copper halfpennies, illegible.

Tokens

1. C3. Coventry halfpenny, 1792. Obverse: Lady Godiva on horseback. PRO BONO PUBLICO, date in exergue. Reverse: Elephant and Castle (the arms of the city). COVENTRY HALFPENNY. (Ref.: Dalton & Hamer p.285-6)

STONE

1. OVM 02 T.3

SLINGSTONE(?)

Max. diam. 22.5mm, T. 19mm

Fine grained silt stone with traces of iron on the surface. Oval shaped.

2. OVM 02 T.3

SLINGSTONE(?)

Max. diam. 18mm, T. 15mm

Fine grained silt stone with traces of iron on the surface. Oval shaped.

Such silt stone nodules occur naturally within sandstone but may have been selected for use as slingstone

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