COPPER ALLOY

OVM03 T18 42/304
BOW BROOCH
Trumpet type
X-ray 2+3
L 62mm, W 14mm, Wt. 17.37g
Oval head denuded through corrosion. A pierced lug at the back of the head supports the axis bar around which is coiled the spring. The chord of the spring is internal, looping beneath the spring. The pin is missing. The head of the bow is turned sharply backwards. No decoration visible on the head. The bow is oval in section. The waist moulding between the bow and the leg comprises a large flattened central bead sandwiched between two smaller flattened beads. Milled decoration immediately above and below the central bead. The bottom bead has milling around its centre, the top bead is badly corroded. The waist moulding does not continue around the back of the bow (Collingwood sub-group Riii). The leg of the bow is badly corroded. Its front face forms a sharply defined ridge. The leg terminates in a badly corroded foot knob. The catchplate is mostly missing. **Fig. 1**
Reference: R. G. Collingwood, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, London, 1930.

OVM 03 T18 46/304
BOW BROOCH
Polden Hill type variant
X-ray 2a+b, 3a+b
L 25mm, W 23mm, Wt. 7.67g
Head and part of bow only. Semi-cylindrical wings with rounded lugs at each end. Spring gear and pin missing. Lacks the characteristic oval mouldings to ether side of the head but retains the bulge beneath the head. The head of the bow is squared-off at the top and what remains has a convex front and slightly hollowed at the back. The bow is curving. Trace of median rib and groove on the bow. Late 1st century AD. **Fig. 2**
This brooch is a variant of the Polden Hill type as it displays some of the characteristics of this type. The Portable Antiquities database shows that this is the most common type of Roman bow brooch found in Cheshire and Greater Manchester.

OVM 03 T18 51/305
BOW BROOCH
Polden Hill type variant
X-ray 2a+b, 3a+b
L 42.4mm, W 17.6mm, W 7.30g
Complete bow brooch. Semi-tubular wings with rounded lugs at either end which are defined by a groove. The lugs are pierced to the rear by the axis of the spring. The copper alloy spring is six and a half turns. The chord is missing but would have been held by the rearward-facing lug at the top of the head. Approximately a third of the pin is missing. The bow is humped and has the characteristic oval mouldings to either side. The bulge beneath the head is restrained. The head of the bow is decorated with a pair of grooved

ridges that converge to a pair of petal shaped mouldings. The space between the ridges is decorated with a pattern of punched circles. Immediately beneath the petal moulding is a circular socket which has a lipped bottom edge. At the centre of the socket are the remains of a pin (iron?) which would have held a stud – probably of coloured glass or enamel. The tapering bow is plano-convex in section and terminates with a flat round foot defined by a circumscribing ridge and groove. The catchplate has two triangular piercings. Traces of white metal coating are visible on the surface of the brooch. **Fig. 3a & 3b**
This brooch displays characteristics of both the Polden Hill type and the Headstud type of the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

OVM03 T18 106/303 (unstrat.)
BOW BROOCH
Polden Hill type variant
X-ray 2a+b, 3a+b
L 20mm, W 13.5mm, Wt 1.98g
Head and part of bow only. Incomplete semi-tubular wings hold remains of copper alloy spring gear. The pin is missing. Five turns of the spring remain as does a fragment of the chord, which passes over the spring and is held in position with a rearward-facing hook that projects from the top of the head. The head is squared off at the top. A pair of incised lines at either edge defines the moulded bulge beneath the head. Only a short section of the bow remains. It is plain, circular in section and gently curving. Late 1st century AD. **Fig. 4**

OVM03 T18 305
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 3a+b
L 21.5mm, W 15.5mm, Wt. 5.44
Piece of very corroded copper alloy. Could possibly be the head of a Roman bow brooch.

OVM03 T18 48/305
PIN
X-ray 3a+3b
L 9mm, D 6mm, Wt. 0.78g
Plain globular head of a pin with small portion of the shank. Slightly corroded and pitted. Likely to be the head of a Cool Group 1 Roman hairpin.
Reference: H. E. M. Cool, *Roman Metal Hairpins from Southern Britain,* Archaeological Journal 147 (1990), 148-182

OVM 03 T18 unstrat
RING
X-ray 3a+b
D 27mm, W 4.7mm, T 3.1mm Wt. 4.66g
Cast ring with chamfered faces. File marks visible. Function and date uncertain. Possibly part of harness.

OVM 02 T1 01
BUTTON
X-ray 3a+b
D 12.4mm, T 7.2mm. Wt. 3.53g
Solid cast domed button with raised nipple at its centre. Trace of iron loop on the back. Mid 17th century

OVM 7 I
BUTTON
X-ray 3a+b
D 11.5mm, T 6mm, Wt. 2.17g
Solid cast domed button with raised nipple at its centre. Trace of iron loop on the back. Mid 17th century

OVM 03 T18 303 unstratified
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 3a+b
L 33.9mm, W 5mm, T 2.3mm, Wt. 1.44g
Cast copper alloy strip, incomplete.

OVM 03 T18 303 unstratified
CASTING WASTE
X-ray 3a+b
Wt. 2.14g
Amorphous copper alloy fragment, possible casting waste.

OVM 03 T18 303 unstratified
BUTTON
X-ray 3a+b
D 28.5mm, Wt. 7.37
Button fashioned out of a halfpenny of George II. Pierced twice off-centre. In worn condition. Post 1727.

OVM03 T.18, unstratified, 303, 112
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 2a+b
L. 19mm, W. 8mm, T 3mm, Wt. 1.25g
Fragment of cast bronze object, domed with striations at its edge.

Peter's Field
MOUNT
L 27mm, W 15.8mm, T 2.5mm, Wt. 4.01g
Cordate flat mount with two integral pointed lugs on the back. Front decorated with punched annulets and crescents. Traces of gilding remain on the front surface. 17th century. **Fig. 5**
Read (1995), records a number of post-medieval mounts with their characteristic pointed lugs including six cordate shaped examples. Punched and engraved decoration is common on these mounts. However, a parallel for the gilding has not been found.
Reference: B. Read, *History Beneath Our Feet*, 1995

OVM 02 14/4/02
P Hogson's Field
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 3a+b
L 38.9mm, W 24.9mm, T 0.9mm, Wt. 3.93g
Rectangular copper alloy sheet. Flat, slightly curved at one end.

Metal detector find
COOKING VESSEL
L 78mm, W 42mm, T 30mm, Wt. 167.5g
Solid cast cauldron or skillet leg. Curved fluted front, tapering to rounded end. Sloping oval face where it was attached to the body of the vessel. 14th-18th century.
Reference: R Butler and C Green*, English Bronze Cooking Vessels and Their Founders 1350-1830*, 2003.

COINS

OVM 02 Field unstratified
HALFPENNY
X-ray 3a+b
2x halfpennies, illegible.

UNIDENTIFIED
Thin, denuded copper alloy disc. No visible decoration or design. Possible coin. Date uncertain but appears to be too thin to be a Roman coin.

LEAD

OVM 03 T18 303 unstratified

SCRAP
Wt. 3.03g

SCRAP
Wt. 3.25g

POINT
L 18.5mm, D (max.) 6mm, Wt. 3.35g
Lead point, circular in section.

SCRAP
L 19mm, W 5.8mm Wt. 2.91g
Lead strip, plano-convex in section, folded in half.

UNIDENTIFIED
L 11.3mm, W 9.3mm, Wt. 1.96g
Oval, bun-shaped with flat base, pitted at the top. Date uncertain. Possibly a small pan weight.

WEIGHT
Ht. 20mm, D (max.) 17.2mm, Wt. 31.25g
Domed with slight waist and flat base. Appears to be have been perforated through its centre, the void being filled with a white material.

OVM 03 T18 305/303
SCRAP
Wt. 5.07g

SCRAP
Rolled sheet
L 28.5mm, Wt. 7.12g

SCRAP
Rolled sheet
L 17mm, Wt. 6.57g

SCRAP
Rolled sheet
L 41mm, Wt. 15.16

OVM 02 Between find spots 3/4/5, 7/4/02
SCRAP
13 pieces. Total Wt. 141.46g

UNIDENTIFIED
L 26mm, D 14.7mm, Wt. 28.0g.
Roughly cylindrical with rounded ends.

OVM 03 301
SCRAP
2 pieces. Total Wt. 43.65g

OVM 02 E Found in field
SCRAP
2 pieces. Total Wt. 38.19g

OVM 02 North Field unstratified?
SCRAP
11 pieces. Total Wt. 66.42

UNIDENTIFIED
L 21.5mm, W 11.2mm, T 3.6mm, Wt. 4.15g
Rectangular folded sheet, pierced towards one end.

UNIDENTIFIED
L 15mm, W 10.6mm, T2.2mm, Wt. 2.14g
Fragment of rectangular lead sheet that had been pierced. Broken at hole.

OVM 03 TT.7 319/303
WASTE
Wt. 1.08g

LEAD ALLOY

OVM 03 305/61
STUD?
X-ray 3a+b
D 16mm, Wt. 0.44g.
Thin disc with integral central lug on one side. Pair of concentric circles around the lug, plain on other side. Probable decorative stud or the back of a two-piece button. Post-medieval.

IRON

Measurements were taken from the x-rays where possible. The weights do not reflect the original weight of the object as this will have been distorted by corrosion.

OVM 03 TR24 01
TUBE
X-ray 1a+1b
L 95mm, D 15, Wt. 21.84g
Iron tube. Seam running its length.
Modern.

OVM 03 T18 Unstratified 303
X-ray 1a

1. **SCREW**. Modern. L.19mm, W 6mm, Wt. 4.77g
2. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 40mm, W 17mm, T 11mm Wt. 11.10g
3. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 25mm, 17mm, T 15mm, Wt. 9.16g
4. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 32.5mm, W 21mm, T 14mm, Wt. 6.86
5. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 19.5mm, 15.5mm, 12.2mm, Wt. 3.08g
6. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 27mm, W 15mm, T 11mm, Wt. 4.68g
7. **UNIDENTIFIED.** L 19mm, M 13mm, T 4.5mm, Wt. 2.68g
8. **NAIL.** Rectangular shank, offset head. L 44.3mm. Head L 8.4mm, W 7mm, Wt. 5.66g
9. **SCISSORS.** X-ray shows fragment of a pair of scissors comprising short sections of the blades with part of the finger loops crossing. Wt. Length of longest blade 38mm, Width 13mm, Wt. 22.05g. Date uncertain.
   Scissors came into common use in England in the late 13th-14th centuries. They did not have a specific use, shears being more commonly used. However, they may have been preferred where more precise cutting was necessary (de Neergaard in J. Cowgill, M. de Neergaard, and N. Griffiths *Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 1 Knives and Scabbards.* HMSO, 1987, p.60)

OVM 03 T18 314/303/79
IRON RING
X-ray 2a+b
D 30mm, T 4mm, Wt. 15.03g.
Corroded. Probable harness ring.

OVM 03 T18 307/303
NAIL.
L 56mm, Diameter of head 9mm, Wt. 6.30g
Corroded. Flat round head.

OVM 03 T18 303/305
NAILS
X-ray 1a+b
Total weight 97.21g
23 nails and nail fragments. 6 unidentified.

UNIDENTIFIED
L 40.7mm, W 23mm, T 7mm, Wt.7.81g
Sub-triangular object with slight bifurcation.

NAIL
L. 50mm, W. 5mm
Probable shank of nail.

SLAG
Copper alloy? Wt.?

SLAG
Copper alloy? Wt.?

NAIL
L 33mm, W 6mm, Wt. 3.97g
Square shank, head missing.

Box2
OVM 03 T18, Unstratified , 303
STUD
X-ray 2a+b
D. 9mm, L. 12mm. Wt. 1.50g
Domed head, curving shank. Uncertain if shank is complete.

NAIL
X-ray 2a+b
Shank only
L. 20mm, D. 3mm. Wt. 0.84g

UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 3a+b
L. 39mm, W. 17mm, T. 11mm, Wt. 6.27

OVM 03 T18 , 305, 62
KNIFE ?
X-ray 2a+b
L. 32mm, W. 20mm, Wt. 4.97g
Possible segment of knife blade. The ‘tip’ appears from the x-ray to be formed by the corners being folded inwards.

OVM 03 T18 , 305, 63
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 2a+b
L. 23mm, W. 15mm, Wt. 4.68g
Rectangular with slanting notch in one of the long sides. The notch measures 4mm x 4mm. The notch appears to be too large for a saw blade.

OVM 03 T18 , 305, 71
KNIFE?
X-ray 2a+b
L. 45mm, W. 10mm, Wt. 4.91g
Possible knife blade. Curving edge (blade) with straight back which curves upward towards the tip. The tip is formed by a sharp backwards return towards the back, although this may also be a break.

OVM 03 T18, 303, unstratified (spoil)
Handle / Hanger
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 120mm, W. 5mm, Wt. 41.21g
Part of the stem is spirally twisted. Bent at one end with a hooked terminal.

Partly twisted iron handles of Roman date have been found at Colchester (N. Crummy, The Roman Small Finds from Excavation in Colchester 1971-9, CAT 1983, No. 2979) and at the Carrawburgh Mithraeum. The latter is interpreted as a fire-shovel (W.H. Manning, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne*, 1976).
Other types of Iron Age/Romano-British objects that comprise similar twists rods include lamp hangers (W.H. Manning, *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fitting and Weapons in the British Museum*, 1985, P6), and cauldron hangers (*ibid*. P9). Both have a hooked end. The Great Chesterford type of cauldron hanger (S. Piggott*, Three metalwork hoards of the Roman period from Southern Scotland*. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 16, 1953, 1-50) has a hooked that is bend but the hook faces in the opposite direction to the bend unlike this object where the hook follows the same direction as the bend.

BOW BROOCH
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 56mm, Wt. 18.28g
The X-ray shows a rounded head with traces of the spring gear and pin. The head is bent sharply backwards. The curving bow gives way to an inward curving leg which terminates in a foot knob.
Possibly a trumpet or trumpet derivative brooch of the later 1st century AD. Iron brooches are far less common than copper alloy partly as a consequence of preservation.

ROD
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 100mm, W. 7mm, Wt. 35.18g
Rectangular in section.

UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 85mm, W. 11mm
Heavy cast object, rectangular or square in section with right angle return at one end.

UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 1a+1b
Wt.
Piece of amorphous corroded iron.

STUD
X-ray 1a+1b
D. 15mm, L. 25mm
Dome headed stud with part of shank (14mm). Uncertain whether shank is complete.

The following nails were identified from the x-ray. They could not be identified individually due to corrosion. Therefore they were not weighed.

NAIL
X-ray 1a+1b
Flat head
Diameter 13mm, L. 26mm

NAIL
X-ray 1a+1b
Flat head
D. 14mm, L. 32

NAIL
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 25mm
Shank only

NAIL
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 21mm, W. 6mm
Possible shank of nail

NAIL
X-ray 1a+1b
L. 27mm, W. 6mm
Possible shank of nail

OVM 03 T18 307, 303
UNIDENTIFIED
X-ray 2a+2b
L. 70mm, W. 43mm. Wt. 22.89g
Flat, roughly triangular-shaped object.

OTHER

OVM 03 TR24 01
FOSSIL?
Shale?
L 47mm, W 43mm, T 18mm, Wt. 30.48g

Discussion on iron nails
Nails might be classed according to the thickness of the shank *as fine, lantard* and *strong*. The sectional shape of the nail might be *round*, *square flat* etc. Nail points can be classed as *sharp*, *flat* and *spear*. With some nails (brads, clinch nails) there is no point. The head of nail might be *square* or *countersunk*. Most important, for purposes of description, is the shape of the head seen from above.
Describing the nails from Mellor is problematical due to the corrosion products that surround them and, in many cases, they're fragmentary nature. Also, the x-rays do not show the shape of the head as seen from above or the sectional shape of the shank. The conclusion that can be drawn mainly from the x-rays is that a variety of nails are present here, none of which can be identified with a particular function. The dome headed studs, however, are likely to have had a decorative function as well as a practical one. The visible characteristics of the Mellor nails and studs give no clues as to their age.