

Iron Age Finds from Dùn an Fheurain, Gallanach, Argyll

by J. N. Graham Ritchie

In the course of the preparation by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland of the Lorn volume of the *Inventory of Argyll* a short catalogue has been compiled of the small finds from two excavations undertaken in the 1890s and not fully published. The sites are the midden at Dùn an Fheurain and the dun of Leccamore, or the South Fort, on the island of Luing; in both cases the exact circumstances of the discovery of the objects and their associations remain uncertain.

Dùn an Fheurain, Gallanach (NM 824266; fig 1) is situated some 4.5 km SW of Oban and occupies the summit of an isolated stack of conglomerate, rising to a height of about 15 m above the surrounding ground, and overlooking the S entrance to the Sound of Kerrera. The top of the stack measures about 23 m by 12 m, but the line of the dun wall is indicated only by a short stretch of outer facing-stones on the E side and a slight grass-covered spread of debris round the margin of the summit area. The entrance was almost certainly on the NE where there is the only possible access to the top of the stack (Christison 1889, 389, pl x). Excavations have been conducted on several occasions, not within the dun itself, but in the midden deposit which was discovered on the W side at the base of the stack; the earliest was undertaken by J Patten

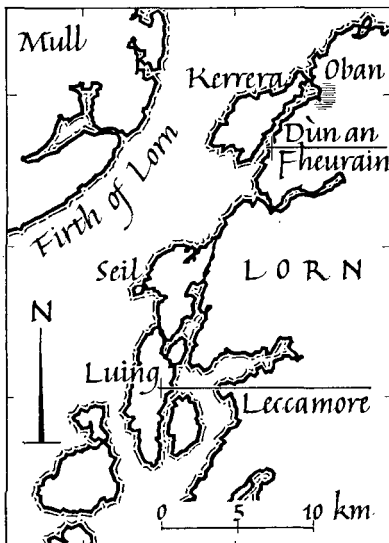


FIG 1

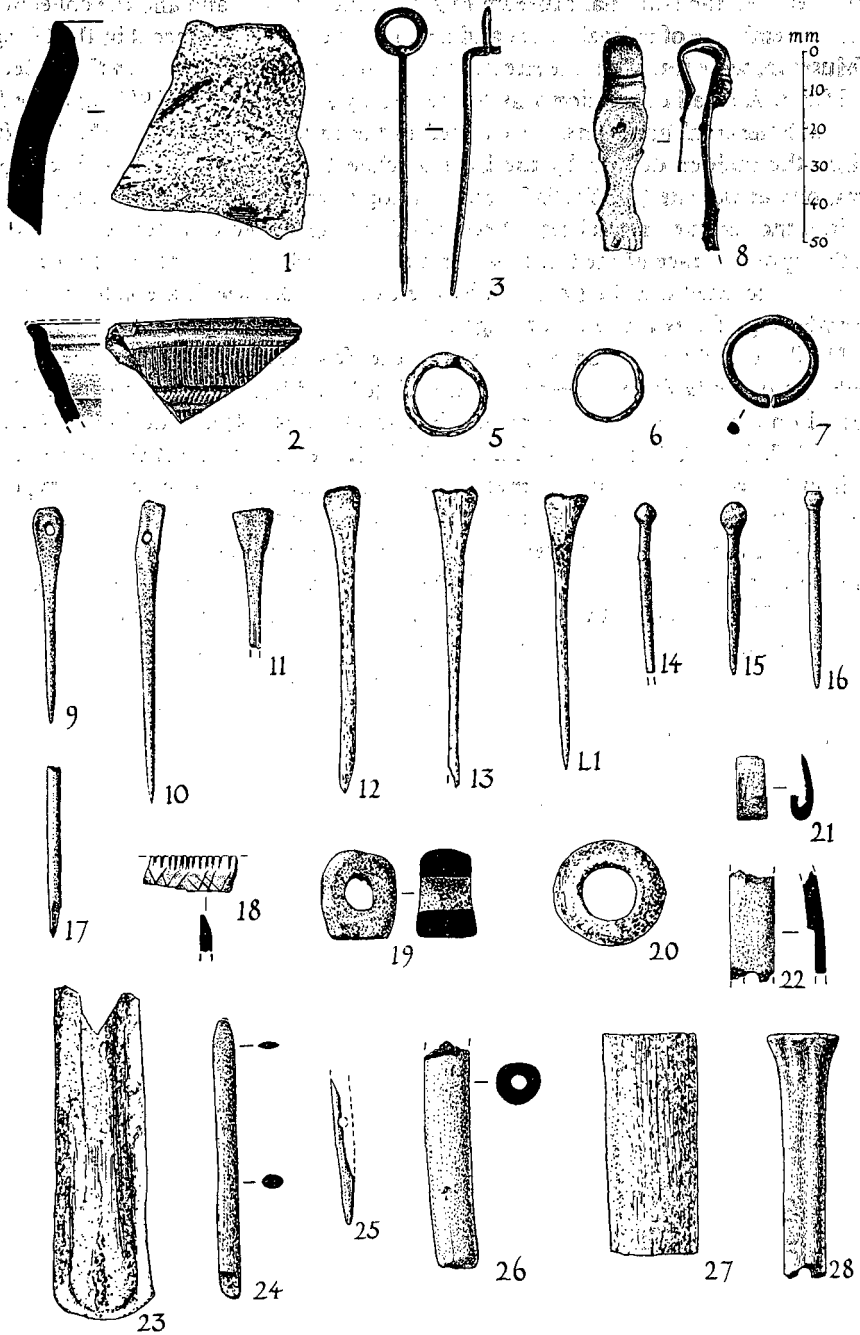


FIG 2 Pottery, bronze and bone objects, Dùn an Fheurain

MacDougall of Gallanach, and the finds, which were described by Joseph Anderson in 1895, are divided between the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and the collection at Gallanach. A small assemblage of animal bones and a single whetstone, at present in the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum, were found on the site in May 1904 and were originally in the collection of Ludovic McL Mann. A small excavation was conducted by A J Murray in 1950, and the finds, consisting of animal bones and bone pins, were added to the collection at Gallanach. Two further trenches, dug into the midden deposit by the Lorn Archaeological Society in 1963, complete the known excavations at the site (*DES* (1963), 8). Nothing is known about the stratigraphy of the midden deposit, although the original report records that it extended to a depth of between '15 and 20 ft from the upper surface of the talus' (4.6 and 6.1 m), and any indication of the span of the occupation of the site must thus be provided by the extant finds, which are listed in the Appendix 2(a); the numbering of this list relates to figs 2-5.

Until recently the dun was one of the few examples which had provided a useful assemblage of finds from a seemingly associated midden, and some of the objects have been discussed on a number of occasions (Christison 1898, 343-4; Childe 1935, 196, 231-3, 237, 239; Piggott 1950, 130; Robertson 1970, 202, 204-5, Table I). An object that is frequently mentioned is an iron 'bow-shaped fibula', sometimes described as a La Tène Ic or II type. The pin which Anderson described as part of this object is now in the National Museum of Antiquities but his interpretation is not now accepted; the other fragment which he mentioned cannot be located, and in view of the poor condition of all the iron from the site it may even have crumbled away completely. The 'fibula' is thus not included in this discussion and it should no longer be included in the distribution maps or lists of this class of object. It should perhaps be noted that there is no evidence to suggest that the site is a 'vitrified fort' although Childe referred to it in this way.

Leccamore, South Fort, Luing (NM 750107; fig 1) is an impressive dun standing at a height of some 85 m OD and situated about 2 km N of Toberonochy (Christison 1889, 405-6, fig 30). In 1890 and 1892, MacNaughton undertook a series of excavations in the interior of the dun, and the objects found, which are listed in Appendix 2(b), were presented to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1893 (1891; 1893).

The datable finds from Dùn an Fheurain may be divided into two main groups, the first comprising objects which belong to the first few centuries AD, and the second those whose chronological span falls about the middle of the first millennium AD and rather later. The samian sherd, the ring-headed pin and the spiral finger-ring are the most certain examples of the earlier group, while the fragment of a bone comb, the potter's stamp and the globular-headed pins belong to the later. A number of objects belong to types too familiar to require further discussion here, and, since the associations of all the objects are unknown, it is not proposed to attempt a detailed assessment of their chronological or cultural significance.

The bronze objects from the midden are among the most frequently mentioned finds from the site, namely the ring-headed pin (no. 3), spiral ring (no. 4), three bronze rings (nos 5-7) and a strap-loop, possibly of Roman origin (no. 8). The bent wire pin with projecting ring-head belongs to a type which Stevenson has suggested belongs to the second century AD (1967, 22), and, while Mrs Fowler would not extend its occurrence much beyond the third century (1963, 122-3), the impressions of such pins on pottery show that the chronological span may be extended both before and after these dates (MacKie 1965a, 270, fig 1, no. 19). The spiral finger-ring (fig 3) seems to belong to the first or second centuries AD although earlier examples are known particularly from SW England (Jope and Wilson 1957, 79-81; Stevenson 1967, 22; Clarke 1971, 25-8); an example with very similar ribbed decoration has recently been discovered in the dun at Kildalloig, Kintyre, associated with the earliest period of its occupation, which is dated to the second century AD by a

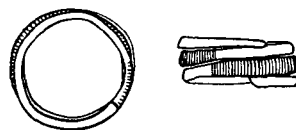


FIG 3 Bronze spiral finger-ring (no. 4), Dùn an Fheurain ($\frac{1}{2}$)

Roman head-stud fibula. It has been suggested that one of the small bronze rings (no. 7) may belong to a simple penannular brooch of Mrs Fowler's type Aa (1960, 172, fig 7). The strap-loop (no. 8) may be compared to an example from Newstead found in the roadway outside the W gateway and, like the Dùn an Fheurain example, the leather strap had been held in position by two iron studs passing through both the leather and bronze (Curle, J 1911, 302, pl LXXIV, 6). The strap-loop, the samian sherd and the native bronzework would seem to suggest that the earliest occupation of the site falls approximately in the first and second centuries AD.

The bone pins belong to two main types, those with flat heads, either rounded or triangular (nos 9–13 and L.1), and those with globular heads (nos 14–16). Both may be found at sites such as Dun Cuier (Barra; Young 1956, 321, fig 14, 27, 34 and 36), à Cheardach Mhor, Phase III (S Uist; Young and Richardson 1960, 168, no. 53, fig 15) Sithean a Phiobaire (S Uist; Lethbridge 1952, 187, figs 5, 7 and 11) and Buston Loch Crannog (Ayrshire; Munro 1882, 36–7, figs 13, 17 and 18). Similar pins come from Norse settlements such as Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956, 125–6, fig 59, 2 and 5) and Freswick, though here they were surface finds (Curle, AO 1939, 98, pl XLVIII, 7–9). It is hardly possible to ascribe any chronological significance to the simple pins with triangular heads, but there seems no reason to date the globular headed examples found on native sites in Scotland before about the middle of the first millennium AD (Stevenson 1955, 283–8; MacKie 1965b, 116–21).

The bone bead (no. 19) is almost identical to a number of pin heads, for example those from the Broch of Burrian (North Ronaldsay) and the Brough of Birsay, although there is no sign on the Dùn an Fheurain example of an iron shank or of any method by which it might be attached to such a stem (Stevenson 1955, 292–3). A miniature example of the notched implement (no. 37), was found in the Freswick Sands Broch (Caithness) and is now in the National Museum of Antiquities (GA 755). A possible function for this object has been suggested by Mr D V Clarke; a taut thong might be tied to the notches, bowing the antler, which could then be used as a scraping implement. This would certainly account for the wear at the notches and also the eventual shearing of the antler across the part bearing the most strain.

The fragment of a cross-bar of a composite bone comb (no. 18) is a representative of a class whose method of manufacture has been fully discussed by Alcock, and the vertical cuts along the edge of the fragment were probably made at the same time as the sawing of the teeth (1963, 154–6). Staining in a broken perforation on the inner edge of the fragment shows that the various bone components were held in position by iron rivets. The decoration of the cross-pieces of such combs seems to fall into two groups, one based mainly on dot-and-circle and the other on linear motifs. The Dùn an Fheurain fragment belongs to the latter type and may be compared to combs from à Cheardach Mhor (Young and Richardson 1960, 158, 168, no. 51) and Dinas Powys, and Alcock (1963, 159, no. 23) likens the fragment at the latter site to tenth-century combs from Ireland; fragmentary combs with criss-cross decoration may also be noted from Leacanabaile (Co. Kerry) and Cahercommaun (Co. Clare) (Ó Ríordáin and Foy 1941, 93, fig 1, 8; Hencken 1938, 42–3, fig 26, 10), though here there is no indication of date. A comb with a cross-bar decorated with pairs of diagonal incised lines comes from Bachda-Mor, Vallay (North Uist)

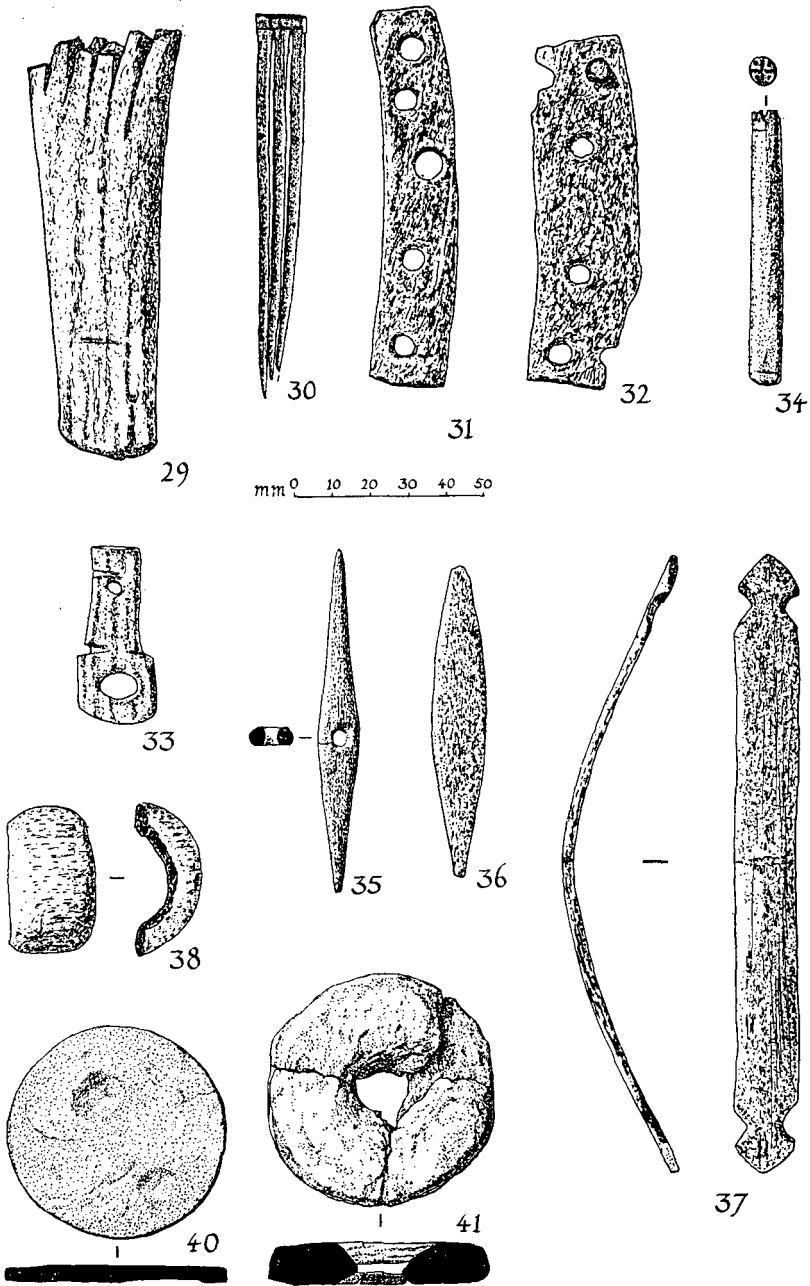


FIG 4 Antler and stone objects, Dún an Fheurain

(NMA GT 178), and a fragmentary composite bone comb from Freswick Sands Broch (Caithness) is decorated with incised saltires divided by pairs of upright strokes (NMA GA 763-5).

The small antler object (no. 34) was submitted to Dr J N L Myres at the suggestion of Professor Piggott, and Myres identified it as an Anglo-Saxon potter's stamp, probably of sixth-century date (1970). Similar, but not identical, stamps have been found on West Stow Heath (Suffolk) and Shakenoak Farm, Wilcote (Oxfordshire) (Myres 1969, 133-4, pl 86). The design which the stamp would produce, a relief cross with a raised dot in the centre of each quadrant contained within an impressed circle, has been recorded by Myres in his *Corpus Vasorum Anglo-Saxonicorum* at Caistor-by-Norwich (Potter IX) and possibly North Elmham (both Norfolk), Loveden Hill, Hough-on-the-Hill (Lincolnshire), Girton (Cambridge), Mowbray (Leicestershire), Longbridge (Warwickshire) and Newark (Nottinghamshire). A date within the sixth century AD seems to be the most probable for this piece. An antler stamp which produces an impression identical in pattern, though rather larger than the Dùn an Fheurain piece, is illustrated by Roes in her discussion of the bone and antler work from Frisian terp-mounds (1963, 40, pl xxxix, 9, fig 12). A stamp of cetacean bone with a simple incised cross from Bac Mhic Connain (N Uist) provides a rather closer geographical parallel (Beveridge and Callander 1932, 59, fig 15, 4).

The curved antler object with five perforations (no. 31) might be compared with the curving plaque found at Dinorben (Denbighshire), and it has been suggested that this is a wrest-plank of a stringed instrument, possibly a lyre (Gardner and Savory 1964, 169-70, pl xxxiv, b, fig 26, 3). The Dùn an Fheurain example is, however, rather smaller than the Dinorben piece and, particularly when compared to the wrest-plank of the lyre from Abingdon (Berkshire; pl 17, b), the lack of equal spacing and uniformity in the size of the holes makes this possibility less likely, unless, as Megaw suggests in Appendix 1, two such pieces were set side by side.

The fragmentary object made from a sheep metatarsal (no. 28) might be interpreted as a bobbin for winding wool for weaving; they occur on many broch sites and also at Dun Bahn (Barra; Young 1956, 292, fig 2, 9) and à Cheardach Mhor (Young and Richardson 1960, 168, no. 53). Bone bobbins have been found at Jarlshof and Clickhimin, both broadly in wheel-house contexts (Hamilton 1956, 79, fig 36, 6; 1968, 139, fig 60, 1); at the latter site, a cut bone tube of a

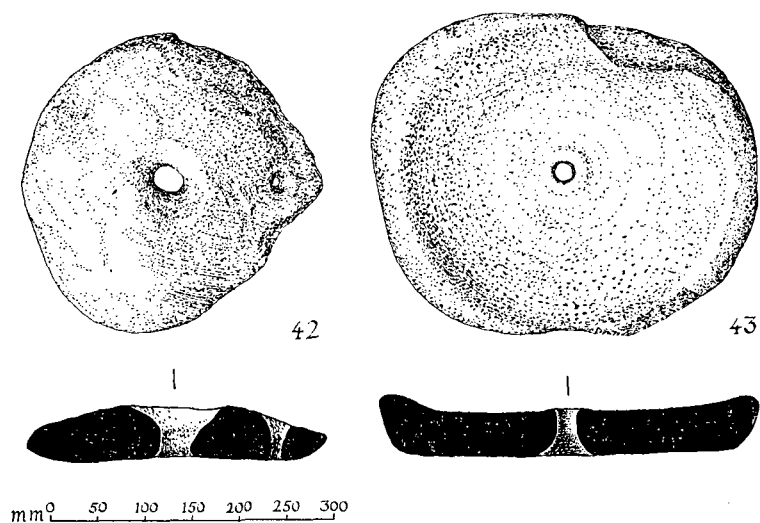


FIG 5 Querns, Dùn an Fheurain

similar type to nos 26 and 27 was discovered, and was tentatively interpreted as a handle for a metal awl (Hamilton 1968, 133, 139, fig 60, 8). The other bone and antler objects, although providing some information about the way of life of the inhabitants of Dùn an Fheurain, or of squatters at the base of the stack, are not sufficiently distinctive to provide any indication of date.

Rotary querns are represented both at Dùn an Fheurain and Leccamore; several stones were discovered at the former site, and, although only an upper and lower stone (nos 42-3) are now extant, a fragmentary quern, which had been re-used as a mould, was described in sufficient detail to be included in the catalogue (no. 44). A model or miniature quern was found at Leccamore (no. L. 3) as well as a 'tracked-stone' or strike-light (no. L. 2) of a type found mainly in brochs, duns and wheel-houses (Childe 1936). At this site the bone pin (no. L. 1) and the antler fragment with sawn ends are probably secondary to the construction of the dun as they were both found in the debris filling the entrance passage associated with a hearth (MacNaughton 1891, 480); the context of the other finds is not precisely recorded. The animal remains from Dùn an Fheurain suggest that both stock-breeding and hunting were undertaken, while agriculture is attested not only by the querns but also perhaps by pounding or grinding stones. The evidence of salmon and mackerel bones indicates that fishing was practised at some stage in the occupation, though it is disappointing that no tackle is present amongst the finds. Salmon and mackerel may both be caught near the shore and need not involve the use of boats. The local working of iron is suggested, not only by the finding of slag at Leccamore, but also by the mould at Dùn an Fheurain (no. 44) which was described by Anderson as 'a blacksmith's mould for fashioning a triangular crusie' (1895, 279).

The chronological span of the Dùn an Fheurain midden depends on the stress placed on the early objects from the site, namely the samian sherd, the ring-headed pin and finger ring. It seems most likely that these should be taken to represent the earliest phase of occupation of the site, probably including the building of the dun and dating to the later first or second centuries AD. The globular-headed pins, the pottery stamp and the comb fragment suggest subsequent periods of occupation continuing from about the middle of the first millennium AD.

APPENDIX 1

The possible wrest-plank from Dùn an Fheurain

by J. V. S. Megaw

The antler plaque which is the subject of this appendix (fig 2, no. 31; pl 17, a) has already been briefly described; here we are concerned only with its possible use. The suggestion, made initially by Professor Stuart Piggott, that it may have formed part of a simple lyre, is certainly far from unsupported by what scanty organological evidence there is for such instruments in NW Europe. The most recent and complete discussion of the earliest extant so-called 'Nordic' lyres is that concerned with the new reconstruction of the famous Sutton Hoo 'harp' (Bruce-Mitford 1970). This reconstruction demonstrates that Sutton Hoo and the contemporary seventh-century AD Taplow fragments must represent the type of lyre with yoke and sound box constructed as one oval with a circular opening across which the fan of the strings contracts down to the heel. This type is well evidenced on the continent from at least the sixth century and in Britain even earlier judging from the wrest-plank facings of bone from a fifth-century immigrant's grave found at Abingdon, Berks. (pl 17, b) (Leeds and Harden 1936, 38-9, pl ix, b; Bruce-Mitford 1970, 8, pl v, a). This, *pace* the Bruce-Mitfords, is not the earliest known lyre in Europe even if one excludes such purely iconographical representations as those of the early Iron Age *situlae* and related pieces (Megaw 1968, 351, fig 77, 2 and 3, pl xiv, b). From the third-century BC occupation of a hut found beneath the ramparts of the Dinorben, Denbighshire, hill-fort comes a curved antler plaque with nine perforations first suggested as part of a lyre by no less an expert than Dr Carl Dolmetsch (pl 17, c)

(Gardner and Savory 1964, 169–70, fig 26, 3, pl xxxiv, b; Megaw 1968, 351–2, fig 76, 3); it was of course Dr Dolmetsch's father who was associated with the early stages of the work on the Sutton Hoo instrument. The Dinorben fragment is in fact a key piece since apart from somewhat ambiguous symbols on coins, it is at the moment the only physical piece of evidence which suggests the use of the lyre by latter-day Celts in the British Isles (Megaw 1968) – the introduction of the asymmetrical Celtic harp is, thankfully, not our concern here and is in any case an event which does not seem to ante-date the ninth or tenth centuries AD.

But what in fact is the status of the Dùn an Fheurain fragment when compared with those from Abingdon and Dinorben? Clearly even with its vague dating, if it is really part of a lyre, it might help to bridge a present chronological gap between the pre-Roman Celtic and post-Roman Germanic contexts. All three fragments have a flat back and convex face. The following are the key statistics:

	<i>Length</i>	<i>Breadth</i>	<i>No. of holes* (possible peg holes in brackets)</i>	<i>Diam. of holes*</i>	<i>Separation*</i>
Dùn an Fheurain	100 mm	18 mm	5 (?)	5–8 mm	8, 10, 17, 17 mm
Abingdon	168 (max)	18 (max)	9 (7)	7	7, 10, 20, 8, 8, 19
Dinorben	135	18	9 (?)	4–6	c 10

* On the Sutton Hoo lyre there are six peg holes of c 6 mm diameter set 10–12 mm apart.

From the above figures there seems little reason not to accept Dinorben as a lyre, the only doubt being the number of strings since it is not entirely clear how the antler facing piece would have been attached to the peg-board or wrest-plank. What seems to argue against a similar interpretation for Dùn an Fheurain is its comparatively short length and the subsequent small number of putative peg holes no less than their somewhat irregular setting, though this is not so telling a factor when compared with both Dinorben and Abingdon. Certainly with its curvature and cross-section, no less than the very comparable spacing, it seems hard to find any other explanation for the Dùn an Fheurain piece, and it may tentatively be suggested that, if a maximum of five strings should seem too few, one might postulate *two* such pieces set side by side allowing for some 8–10 peg holes. A more definite conclusion must await further discoveries or re-discoveries in our museum collections no less than excavations.

APPENDIX 2

Catalogue of Finds

Abbreviations: GAGM – Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum; NMA – National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh; OM – Oban Museum; the other subjects are in the collection at Gallanach.

(a) DÙN AN FHEURAIN, GALLANACH

Pottery

1. Rim sherd of reddish buff ware, fine texture with medium grits, marks of grass-impression both inside and out, pinched rim with slight outer bevel; 46 by 51 mm, wall 8 mm thick (NMA HD 414).
 2. Triangular fragment from rim of samian bowl, Form 29, the lip shows signs of abrasion; 28 by 50 mm, wall 5 mm thick.
- Five small fragments of fire hardened clay, some of rather sandy texture (OM).

Bronze

3. Ring-headed pin of bent wire; the wire of the projecting head is oval in section, the stem has a more angular section (1.5 by 2 mm) and is slightly bent back. Overall length 75 mm.
4. Spiral finger-ring, three coils of bronze wire with the central loop decorated. The ends of the wire are oval in section, the decorated central part has a flattened back and bevelled front with vertical

incisions forming a ribbed pattern. Ring 16 mm diam., wire 1 mm in thickness at the ends and 2 mm thick at the centre (NMA HD 410).

5. Ring, with a thickening at one point; 22 mm diam., flat band 1 by 2 mm thick, thickening 4 mm diam. (NMA HD 408).
 6. Ring, oval section, rather flattened internally, 19 mm diam., band 1 by 2.5 mm thick (NMA HD 409).
 7. Penannular ring of bronze wire; a thickening of bronze on either side of the opening, possibly a brooch, 24 by 25 mm diam., round section 2 to 3 mm diam.
 8. Strap-loop, 55 mm long, comprising thin plate to which strap would be attached by two iron rivets, traces of which still survive, and a thicker loop with a ribbed band between.
- Wire, 185 mm long, round section 1.5 mm diam.

Iron. All the iron objects are rusty and fragmentary.

- Point, described as a 'fish spearhead', 78 mm long; 6-18 mm broad.
- Point, or nail, square section, 56 mm long, *c* 4 mm thick.
- Point, 38 mm long, 3 by 4 mm in section.
- Nail, 25 mm long, 5 mm diam., head 10 by 12 mm.
- Point, 73 mm long, *c* 6 mm diam.

While this paper was going through the press two unregistered pieces of iron came to light in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland; these had been cleaned of their rust and were in a better state of preservation than the other iron objects from the site.

- Fragments of a pin; the shank measuring 70 mm long, 5 mm in max. diam., tapering to a point; the fragmentary remains of the twisted- or ring-headed, some 10 mm in length projecting at a slight angle to the shank. This is the pin described by Anderson (1895, 282) but there is insufficient evidence to show that it is part of a fibula and it can better be explained as a fragmentary ring-headed pin. As all the objects are unstratified, however, no conclusions should be, perhaps, drawn from this piece.
- A twisted strip of iron, 80 mm long, 10 mm broad and up to 6 mm thick; function not known.

Bone

9. Pin, flat rounded head, with central perforation, 57 mm long.
 10. Pin, flat head, with central perforation, 80 mm long.
 11. Pin, stem broken, 37 mm long.
 12. Pin, 80 mm long, head 10 mm broad (NMA HD 404).
 13. Pin, broken, 80 mm long, head 12 mm broad (NMA HD 403).
 14. Pin, round head 5 by 6 mm, broken stem, 45 mm long.
 15. Pin, round head 7 by 8 mm, pointed stem, 45 mm long.
 16. Pin, round head, flat top, with a slight beading at top and bottom, head 4 by 5.5 mm, total length 52 mm.
 17. Pin stem, broken, 45 mm long, round section 4 mm diam.
 18. Fragment of a cross-bar of a composite bone comb, 10 by 24 mm and 3 mm thick, the outer edge decorated with incised vertical strokes, and the surface with incised cross-hatched lines (OM).
 19. Bead, 19 by 22 mm and 14 mm thick, perforated by a hole 7 by 9 mm diam., the sides through which the perforation passes have been flattened, all other faces but one are rounded (OM).
 20. Ring, worn edges, 27 mm diam., 3 mm thick, central perforation 13 mm diam. (NMA HD 398).
 21. Haft, 8 by 18 mm, groove along one edge.
 22. Handle, or binding strip, fragmentary, 12 by 28 mm, broken perforation *c* 3.5 mm diam.
 23. Chisel, burnt, smooth on underside and on upper surface of cutting edge, 27 by 88 mm (NMA HD 395).
 24. Spatula, one end broken, the other tapering to a smooth flat face on both sides, 75 mm long by 6 mm broad and 4 mm thick.
 25. Broken needle, 39 mm long, 3 mm broad, with a broken perforation 2 mm diam.
 26. Rounded bone, one end broken, perforated lengthwise along bone, 58 mm long, 10 by 12 mm diam. perforation 3-4 mm diam.
 27. Perforated bone, 58 mm long, 15-20 mm diam., central perforation lengthwise along bone 8-12 mm diam. (NMA HD 400).
 28. Bone bobbin fragment 64 mm long with smooth sides, one end flattened, the other end broken, with remains of lateral perforation 3 mm diam.
- Points or splinters of bone, 40, 55, 63, 85, 87 mm long.

Antler

29. 'Weaving comb', handle complete but the teeth broken, the stumps of six teeth remain and the saw cuts by which they have been shaped are visible; 112 mm long, handle 16 by 30 mm thick (NMA HD 393).
 30. Three teeth (at present glued together) possibly originally part of a heckle or comb, 102 mm long, 13 mm broad, the teeth are worn except for the upper 20 mm; the original report suggests that they had been fixed into a wooden haft.
 31. Handle or haft, 18 by 100 mm and 10 mm thick, the back and ends cut straight, five perforations 5 to 8 mm diam. (NMA HD 401); possible wrest-plank, see Appendix 1.
 32. Haft, 28 by 92 mm and 4 mm thick at the centre, three complete holes 5–6 mm diam., two broken holes at corner; one antler pin remains in position 27 mm long, head 6 mm diam., round section 5 mm in diam. (NMA HD 402).
 33. Handle, 21 by 47 mm and 6 mm thick, two perforations 3 and 9 mm diam. (NMA HD 396).
 34. Pottery stamp, 70 mm long, rounded section *c* 9 mm diam., one end cut flat, the other end quartered by cross cuts with a drilled circle in the centre of each quarter, slight traces of a groove 5 mm from decorated end.
 35. Implement, curved, pointed at both ends, central perforation 3 mm diam., 92 mm long.
 36. Point, sharpened at both ends, 83 mm long, 15 mm broad and 12 mm thick, rectangular section at one end, smoothed and more rounded at the other (NMA HD 397).
 37. Curved antler implement, with rounded outer and flat inner surfaces; two opposing triangular cuts at each end with indications of wear in the nicks, 163 mm long, 17 mm broad (NMA HD 394).
 38. Curved fragment perhaps originally part of a ring, 40 mm long, 7 mm thick (NMA HD 399).
 39. Fragment of red-deer antler, 268 mm long. Y-shaped piece of main stem and tine, two of the ends are broken but the third has a sawn edge. A slot, 55 mm long, has been cut to make it into a haft, or handle; possibly part of a hand-reel; the slot has an oval centre and a rectangular tongue at either end (NMA HD 416) (pl 16a).
- Antler fragment, 129 mm long, it has been sawn and pared but used as a source of material rather than an object in itself (NMA HD 415).
- Points and awls, 63 mm long (NMA HD 405); 64, 85, 91, 115 mm long.

Stone

40. Disc of shale, smoothed on both faces, 57 mm diam., 2–4 mm thick.
 41. Perforated disc of micaceous schist, fragmentary, 60 mm diam., central hour-glass perforation *c* 9 mm diam., 11 mm thick.
 42. Upper stone of a rotary quern of garnet Muscovite gneiss with quartz veining, 306 by 330 mm in diam., 65 mm thick, convex upper surface, flat grinding surface, central perforation narrowing from *c* 90 mm to 40 mm internally. The handle-socket which completely perforates the stone is situated in a slight expansion at one edge.
 43. Lower stone of rotary quern of garnet Muscovite gneiss, 335 by 420 mm, smoothed grinding area about 350 mm diam., slightly raised area around central perforation, 20 mm diam.
 44. Broken upper quern-stone described by Anderson and no longer extant (1895, 279). Quern formed from a rounded boulder of greenish chloritic rock 13·5 in (343 mm) in diam., and 3·75 in (96 mm) in thickness; the central perforation was funnel-shaped, narrowing from 4 in (102 mm) to 1·25 in (33 mm); the flat grinding surface had been re-used and a flat-bottomed mould, possibly for a triangular crusic, hollowed out. This measured 6·75 in (172 mm) long, 2·25 in (57 mm) broad and 0·75 in (19 mm) in depth. The quern is said to have been presented (along with other objects) to the Oban Scientific and Literary Association, but cannot now be found.
- Whetstones; two types may be distinguished, the first are made of shaley- and micaceous-siltstone and are rectangular in section; examples measure, 19 by 95 and 11 mm thick; 17 by 74 and 6 mm thick; 15 by 71 and 11 mm thick; 7 by 71 and 6 mm thick; 12 by 83 and 8 mm thick (NMA HD 413).
- Whetstones of the second group have two flattish surfaces and rounded corners, 28 by 152 and 12 mm thick; 25 by 70 and 12 mm thick; 25 by 52 and 14 mm thick; 47 by 183 and 12 mm thick (GAGM '55–96); 43 by 118 and 18 mm thick, both ends broken, Mrs Beaton, Kerrera.
- Whorl made from a pebble, 52 by 53 mm, 7 mm thick, central hour-glass perforation 4 mm diam. (NMA HD 411).
- Whorl made from a flat pebble, 50 by 52 mm, rough perforation 7 mm diam. (NMA HD 412).

Animal, bird, and fish bones

The bone material is mostly in the collections of the Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum and at Gallanach; GAGM material includes bovine metatarsal and molars, pig *maxilla*, sheep molar and possible horse and deer bones; bone material at Gallanach consists of remains of bovine, sheep or goat, pig, horse, possibly dog, and antler of both red and roe deer. There are two pig lower canine teeth in the NMA (HD 406 and 408) and a number of pig teeth, both canines and incisors, at Gallanach. The National Collection also holds a bovine horn core 105 mm long, 165 mm circumference (NMA HD 417); pig *maxilla*, female over three years old (NMA HD 418) and the hindquarters or *synsacrum* of a crane (*Grus grus*) (NMA HD 419). The fish bones, all of them vertebrae, represent mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) and salmon (*Salmo salar*).

DUN, LECCAMORE, LUING

(b) *Bronze*

- Bronze stem with T-shaped head, 90 mm long, square cross-section *c* 2.5 by 3 mm (NMA HR 487).

Iron

- Blade fragment, 65 mm long, 29 mm broad, *c* 2 mm thick, remains of wood still adhere to one side (NMA HR 489).
- Lump of iron slag (NMA HR 491).

Bone

- L.1. Pin, square-ended head, flat, 72 mm long (NMA HR 486).
- Point, 96 mm long, 27 mm broad (NMA HR 488).

Antler

- Fragment with sawn ends 43 mm long, 25-27 mm diam., longitudinal perforation 12 mm diam. (NMA HR 490).

Stone (pl 16 b)

- L.2. 'Tracked stone', pebble with a single groove on both faces, 70 by 92 and 38 mm thick (NMA HR 479).
- Pebbles with faces worn by pounding (NMA HR 480-3).
- L.3. Small slate quern, approx. 130 mm diam. The upper stone has been more regularly shaped than the lower; it is *c* 16 mm thick with a central hour-glass perforation, 15 mm diam., and a second perforation, now broken, for the handle *c* 12 mm diam., smooth under surface. The lower stone is less regularly shaped and is about 130 mm in diameter, smooth upper surface (NMA HR 484-5).

Animal Bones

MacNaughton's reports contain examinations of the bone material (1891, 478-9; 1893, 378-9); red deer, roe deer, pig, ox and seal were represented.

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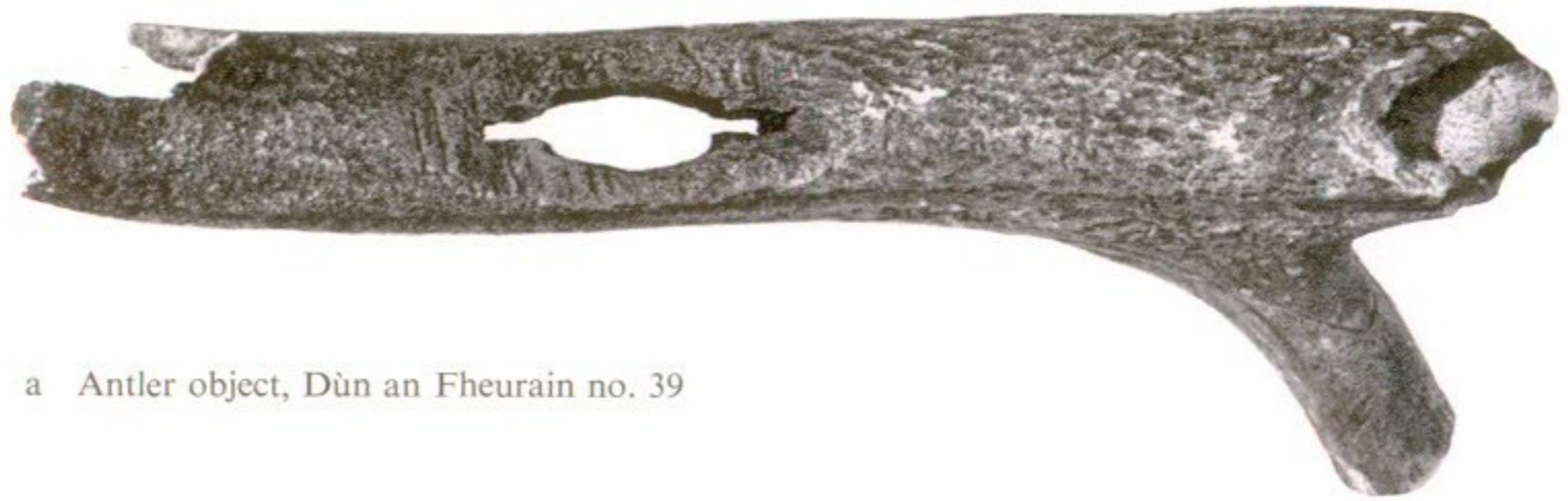
individual objects; Mr G H Collins, Institute of Geological Sciences, identified the stone work. The animal, bird and fish bones were examined respectively by Miss B Noddle, Department of Anatomy, University College, Cardiff, Mr D Bramwell, and Mr A Wheeler, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History) and their detailed reports have been incorporated into the catalogue. The drawings have been prepared by Miss Helen Jackson, Mr I G Scott and the writer in collaboration with the photographic staff of the Commission.

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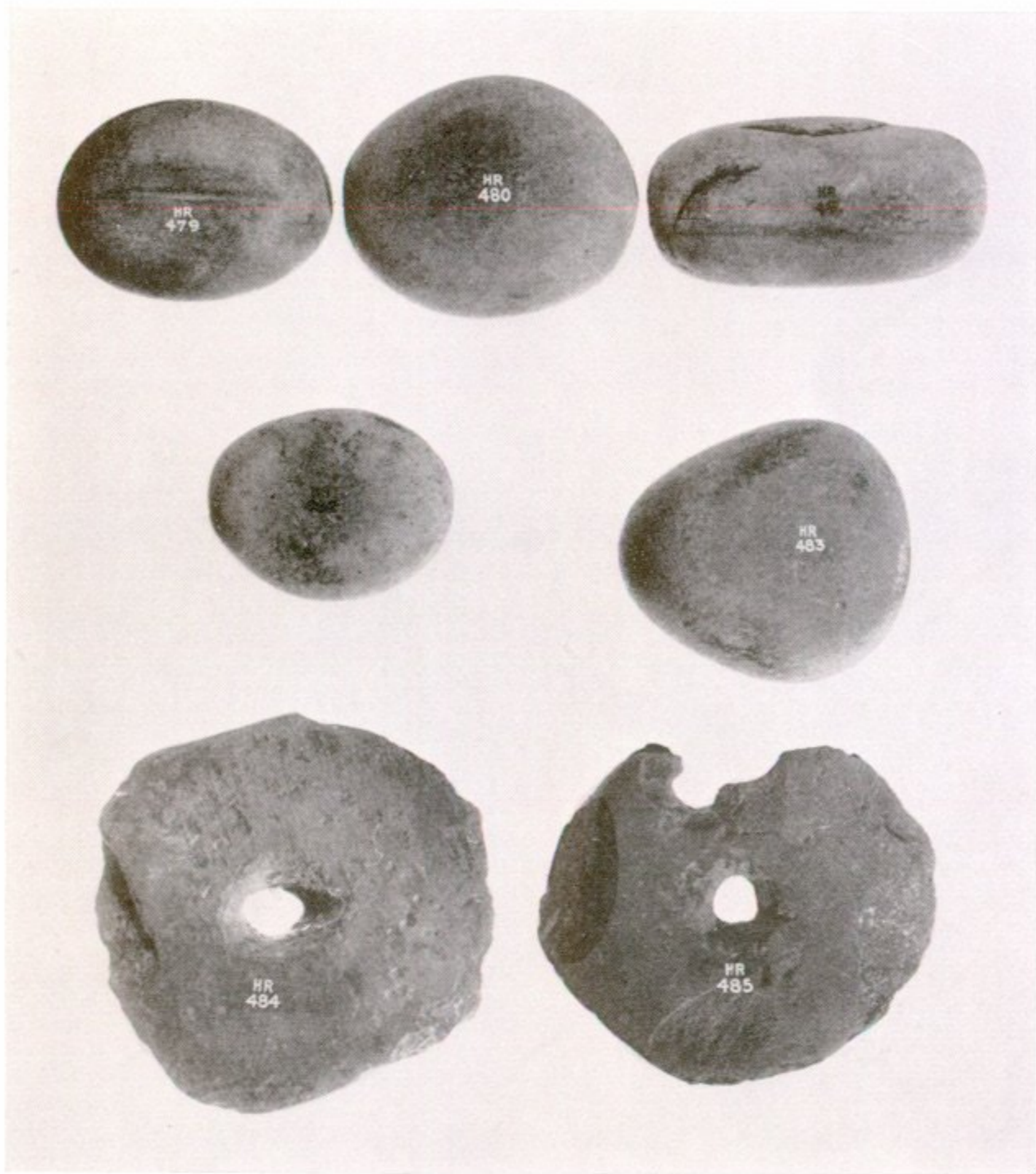
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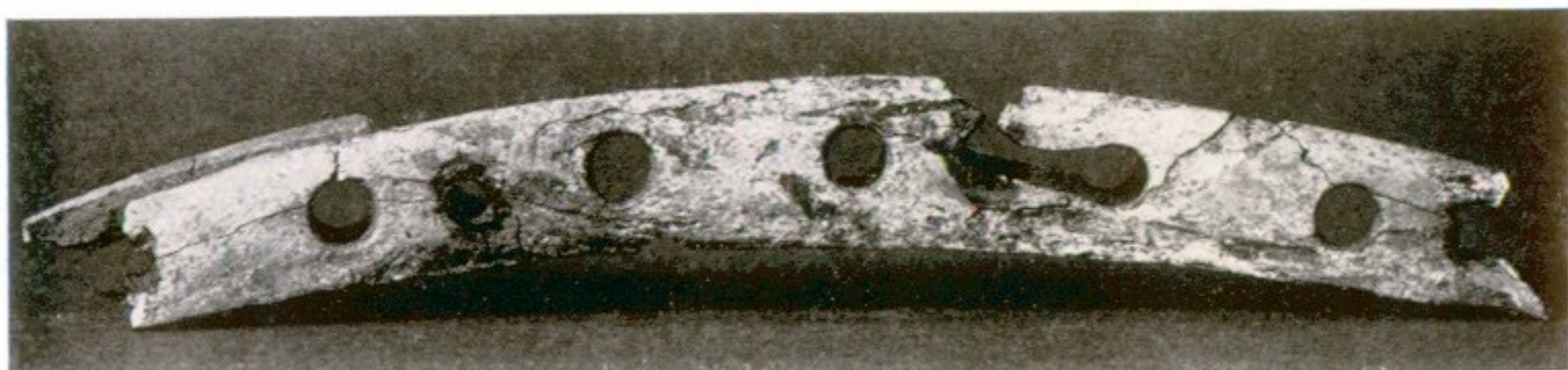
a Antler object, Dùn an Fheurain no. 39



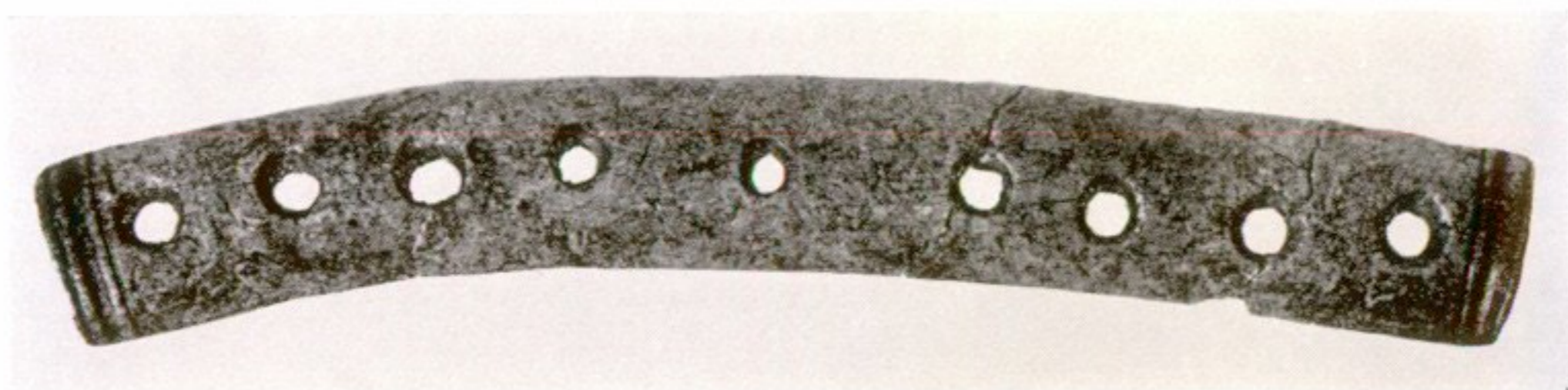
b Stone objects, Leccamore Dun



a



b



c

Wrest planks; a, Dùn an Fheurain; b, Abingdon, Berks; c, Dinorben, Denbighshire