9. THE SMALL FINDS

Lindsay Allason-Jones (based on an original catalogue by Ruth Leary)

9.1 Catalogue

9.1.1 Stone

Sandstones and shales are available within the immediate vicinity and in the Kilsyth Hills. The unfinished architectural pieces and the mason's pick from the 1933 excavation (National Museums of Scotland code FR 461) testify to stone working being carried out on site.

▸ S1: HAR 1 upper fill of large pit within land divisions, Area H (Illus 9.1 and 9.4)
Damaged sandstone altar plinth (Keppie 1998: 29). Smooth shoulders contrast with chisel-scored sides.
L: 515mm, W: 425mm, H: 145mm

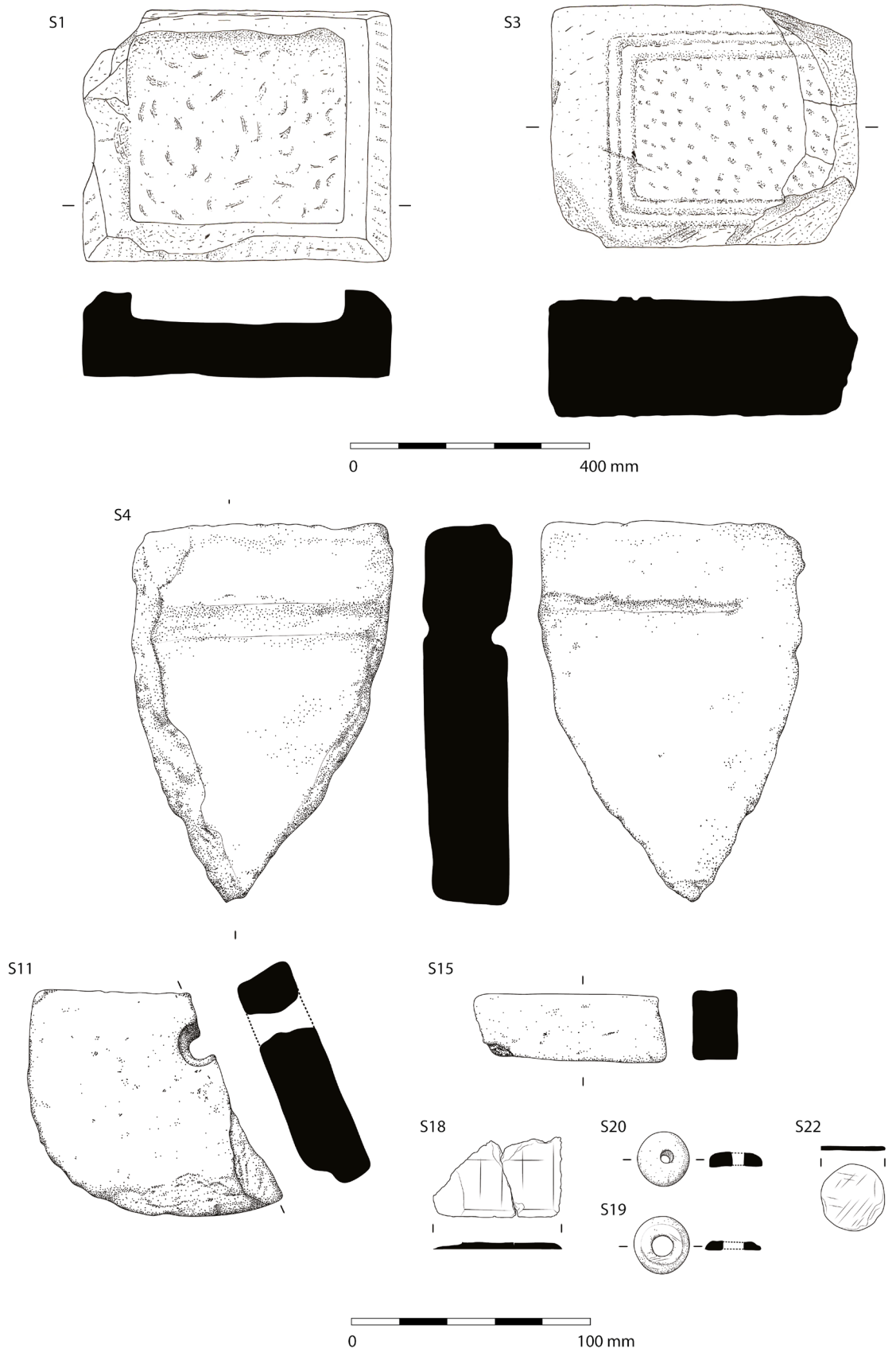
Illus 9.1 Damaged altar plinth from fill of pit, HAR

▸ S2: GAM 1 upper fill of furnace/pottery kiln within land divisions, Area G (Illus 9.2)
Sandstone altar plinth in two pieces, similar to S1. The larger piece (found facing upwards at the top of the fill) was the more damaged.
L: *c* 510mm, W: *c* 450mm, H: 190mm

Illus 9.2 Broken altar plinth from fill of furnace, GAM

▸ S3: GAM fill of furnace/pottery kiln within land divisions, Area G (Illus 9.3 and 9.4)
Damaged, rectangular sandstone block. The panel is plainly dressed but with a double cable border, so possibly intended to bear an inscription. A score across the left-hand cable border may be the reason for its apparently unfinished state, or it may simply be plough damage.
L: 510mm, W: 410mm, H: 195mm

Illus 9.3 Broken inscription blank from fill of furnace, GAM



Illus 9.4 Stone artefacts

▸ S4: LBO 1 upper fill of drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.4)
Unfinished, buff, micaceous sandstone block. Tool marks indicate an attempt to fashion a chamfered edge. The partially chiselled border channel on one face is replicated by another attempt on the reverse side. The appearance of both channels and chamfer suggest the piece was never finished or was a practice piece.
L: 155mm, W: 107mm, Th: 34mm

▸ S11: LBM drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.4)
Fragment of a sandstone slab pierced by a circular hole, drilled from both sides. The surviving edge has been trimmed to a rounded corner but the slab appears to have been rectangular rather than circular. Not enough survives to ascertain whether the hole was in the centre.
L: 91mm, W: *c* 106mm, Diam of hole (min): 9mm

▸ S12: Topsoil, *vicus*
Fragment of a quern of Mayan-Niedermendig lava from the Eifel Hills in Germany. This type of stone is particularly hard and querns cut from it were imported into Britain by the Roman army throughout their occupation. Several examples have been found on sites in Scotland, eg Newstead (Curle 1911: 145).
No measurements possible.

▸ S14: RBA gully/fence line, *vicus*
Fragment of a sandstone pebble with one rounded end and two longitudinal striations on one face. The material precludes use as an efficient whetstone but may have been a rubber.
L: 90mm, W: 44mm, Th: 15mm

▸ S15: CCA 5 pre-fort enclosure ditch (Illus 9.4)
Brown grey sandstone whetstone of rectangular section with metallic traces and score marks at the edges.
L: 79mm, W: 26mm, Th: 18mm

▸ S16: LAA topsoil, *vicus*
Fragment of buff, micaceous sandstone whetstone with no surviving edges.
L: 78mm, W: 80mm, Th: 21mm

▸ S17: LBB 1 upper fill of recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Buff sandstone fragment with two parallel lines scored across one of the well-dressed faces.
L: 56mm, W: 45mm, Th: 22mm

▸ S18: PAA topsoil over south rampart of fort (Illus 9.4)
Two joining slate fragments with chamfered edges. On one face there are lines scored to form a fine chequerboard; on the other face there is one line scored parallel to and 25mm from the edge.

The chamfered edges suggest that this was a palette with the chamfered edge intended to slide into a metal frame (Milne 1970: 171; Crummy 1983: 57). It would, however, be unusual for a palette to have score designs on its surface so it is possible that it was a very small gaming board of the sort used to play *ludus latrunculorum*; the gaming counters found on the site are too big to have been used on such a small board (Bell 1960).
L: 52mm, Th: 3mm

▸ S19: BBB topsoil over pre-fort enclosure (Illus 9.4)
Disc of slate with rounded edges and a central circular hole. The hole is too small for this to be a spindlewhorl; possibly a lid.
D: 23mm, Th: 4mm, Diam of hole: 8mm

▸ S20: RAA topsoil immediately south of bypass road ditch, RAH, south of *vicus* (Illus 9.4)
Disc of slate of varying thickness with a circular central hole drilled through at a slight angle.
D: 21mm, Th: 6mm, Diam of hole: 5mm

▸ S21: RBV 1 bypass road ditch, south of *vicus*
?Shale bead or pendant roughout. Thin, flat, irregular, incomplete disc with central biconical perforation. Edges and faces abraded; double marking-out line on one face (Hunter 2014: fig 19.4, 154 and 164).
D: 23mm, Th: 5mm

▸ S22: HAR 10 bottom fill of large pit within land divisions, Area H (Illus 9.4)
Disc of shale. Gaming counter?
D: 25.5mm, Th: 2mm

▸ S23: RAA topsoil, *vicus*, Area R
Fragment of a buff micaceous sandstone with five parallel lines scored across one face. There are faint

traces of other lines crossing at right angles. Possibly a gaming counter.
W: 95mm, L: 82mm, Th: 15mm

▸ S24: RBT bypass road ditch, south of *vicus*
Rectangle of buff, micaceous sandstone with oblique chisel marks along one edge, suggesting an attempt at chamfering. One face is well-dressed.
L: 92mm, W: 110mm, Th: 27mm

▸ S25: CCS road surface, east of pre-fort enclosure
Rectangular slab of buff, micaceous sandstone with a shallow channel chipped along one broken edge.
L: 122mm, W: 115mm, Th: 28mm

▸ S26: LAB 2, drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of very hard, micaceous yellow sandstone with one surviving edge. This is not local stone and too little survives to suggest why it was imported.
L: 78mm, W: 65mm, Th: 7mm

9.1.2 Bronze

▸ B1: LBB recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5)
Triangular loop from a button-and-loop fastener. Such loops can be found on fasteners of Wild's Type III, IV, V, VI and VII (1970: figs 1 and 2) but with no trace of the 'button' it is not possible to assign this example more precisely; all the possible types have produced examples in 2nd-century AD contexts.
L: 20mm, W: 16mm

▸ B2: LBM 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5)
Copper alloy tie-ring, with three small square-sectioned projections, from *lorica segmentata.* There are traces of gilding. Such ties plates were in use from the Antonine period (Bishop & Coulston 2006: fig 85, nos 7, 8, 10) to the 3rd century AD (ibid: fig 110, nos 5–8).
L: 22mm, W: 18mm, Th: 3.0mm

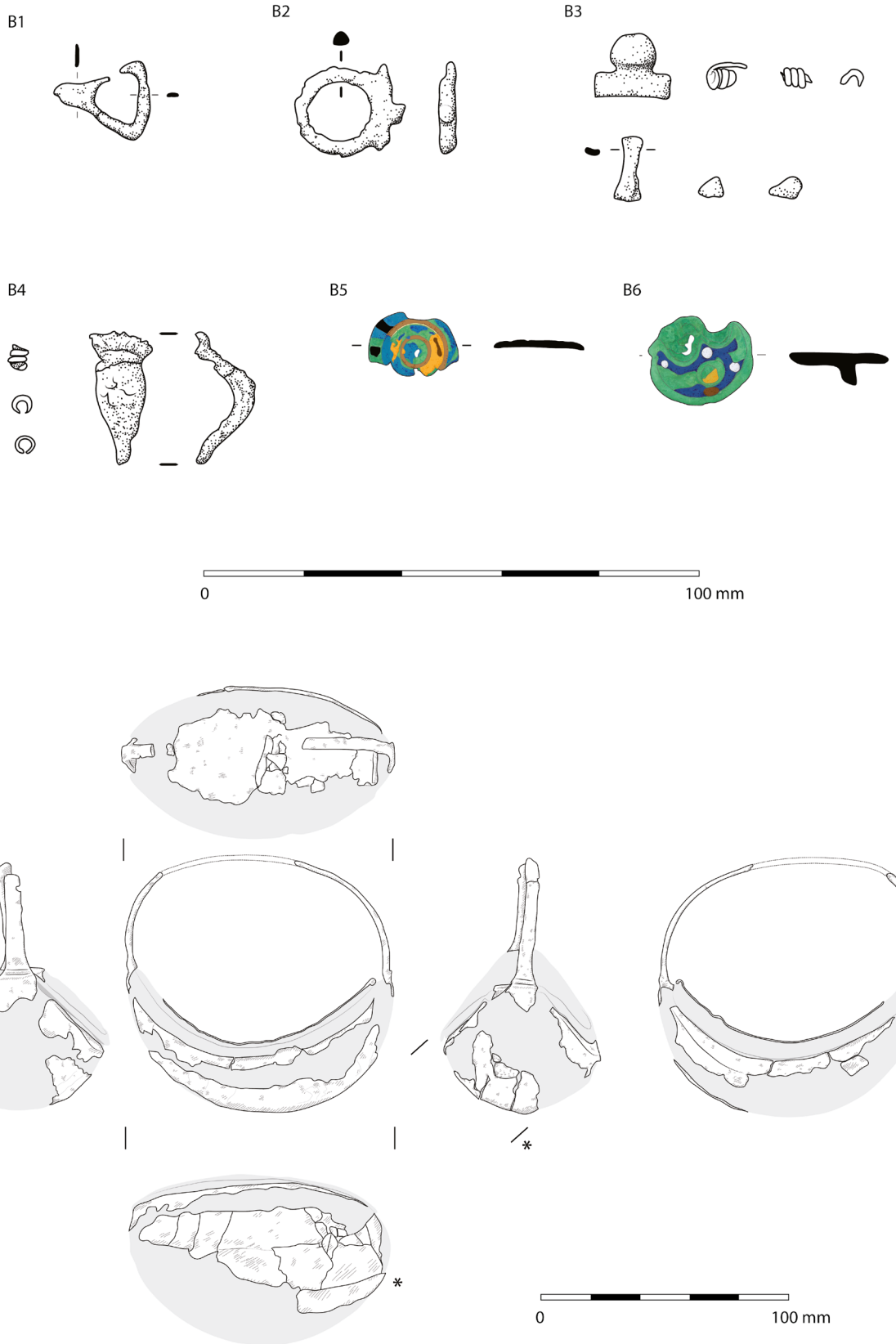
▸ B3: LBL 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5)
Fragments of a 'knee brooch', consisting of a tubular head, upper hollow bow, narrow splayed foot and very small catchplate. The copper alloy spring is coiled around an iron pin.

Knee brooches are known on the German *limes* as *soldatenfibeln* but can be found in more diverse contexts in Britain. The type with a cylindrical head is common on the *limes* in the period AD 150–200. As well as examples from Newstead (Curle 1911: pl LXXXVII, nos 28, 30–1), there are also several examples from Scottish sites, eg Camelon (Anderson 1901: fig 40; Maxfield forthcoming), Traprain Law (Burley 1956: 159–60, nos 37, 39, 40, 41) and Strageath (Frere & Wilkes 1989: fig 76, no. 54)
L: 30mm, W: 15mm

▸ B4: LAK 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5)
Two fragments of a possible Hod Hill-derivative brooch with incised vertical lines on the head. The hollow bow tapers markedly to the broken end and has two vertical ribs on the face. There is no trace of tinning.

The Hod Hill brooch was introduced to Britain from the continent at the time of the conquest and is 'unlikely to have remained in general use after about AD 70' (Bayley & Butcher 2004: 153). However, examples have been found on sites along the Tyne–Solway frontier so clearly they continued to be worn as personal ornaments long after they were fashionable (Snape 1993: 13, Type 1.8). Cf Bayley & Butcher 2004: fig 55, nos 118 and 120.
H: 28mm, W: 16mm

▸ B5: CCH 2 pre-fort enclosure ditch (Illus 9.5 and 9.6)
Fragment of a disc stud with concentric circles of reserved metal containing enamel. The colour of the enamel in the central disc is unidentifiable; the surrounding ring has orange enamel; the outer ring contains alternately black and white or green wedges of enamel. There is no trace of a shank or other attachment. Found with a fragment of leather. This type is common on sites in the Military Zone in the 2nd century AD, eg Barburgh Mill (Breeze 1974: 162, fig 8, no. 41), Camelon (Anderson 1901: pl A.3 and fig 38), Mumrills (Macdonald & Curle 1929: 555, fig 115, 9) and Newstead (Curle 1911: 331, pl LXXXIX, no. 4).
Est diam: 19mm



Illus 9.5 Bronze artefacts

Illus 9.6 Enamelled bronze disc stud from pre-fort enclosure ditch (CCH) (© Amanda Clydesdale)

▸ B6: LAB 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5 and 9.7)
Peltate enamelled stud with traces of fibre, probably leather, encircling the shank. The main field of blue enamel has four spots of white arranged around a central orange cell. A comparable stud is known from Kenninghall, Norfolk (Portable Antiquities Scheme NMS-EOFB22), while Bateson illustrates a similarly shaped and decorated pendant from an apron strap or horse harness (1981: fig C iii; no provenance given). Mackreth refers to similarly shaped and decorated brooches from Northumberland and Cumbria (2011: 167) and suggests a mid to late 2nd-century AD date which is compatible with the few studs which are known.
W: 20mm, L: 17mm

▸ B7: LBD drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of the catchplate of bow brooch.
L: 10mm, W: 5mm

▸ B8: LBB 4 recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragments of bronze disc.
D: 16mm

▸ B9: LCK 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of a circular-sectioned bronze pin or needle shank.
L: 11mm, Th: 2mm

▸ B10: LDH 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Terminal or stud with a solid conical head and a thick, circular-sectioned shank.
Diam of head: 14mm, Total H: 25mm, T of shank: 4.5mm

Illus 9.7 Bronze peltate stud from trackway ditch (LAB 4): left: front; right: back (© Amanda Clydesdale)

▸ B11: LCK 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Flattened rim of a bronze vessel. Not enough survives to attribute this to a particular form but it may come from a late 1st-century *patera* (cf den Boesterd 1956: pl II, no. 32).
L: 42mm. No diameter measurement possible

▸ B12: LCT 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Small oval terminal with a central circular hole and a rectangular shank whose edges are at a right angle to the face of the terminal.
L: 25mm, W: 12mm

▸ B13: LDH 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of a stud with a flat disc head and a short shank.
No measurements possible.

▸ B14: RAV 2 hillwash over bypass road ditch RCC, south of *vicus*
Strip pierced by two bronze rivets. No original edges survive but it appears to have been rectangular with a slight taper to one end. There are a number of incised lines on one face that may have been decorative.
L: 40mm, W: 17mm, Th: 1mm

▸ B15: LAA topsoil over hillwash, *vicus*
Iron disc stud with traces of a bronze head, which has been attached using a lead-tin alloy. Square-sectioned shank.
D: 28mm

▸ B16: RAX hillwash, Area R
Iron disc stud with traces of a bronze head which has been attached using a lead-tin alloy. Square-sectioned shank. Similar to B15 above.
D: 27mm

▸ B17: LAK 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragments of iron with bronze adhering, probably from a disc stud such as B15/B16 above.
No measurements possible.

▸ B18: LAK 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragmentary iron disc stud with fragments surviving of its bronze head. Cf B15/B16/B17 above.
No measurements possible.

▸ B19: BBB topsoil over pre-fort enclosure
Fragments of bronze.
No measurements possible.

▸ B20: LAB 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragments of bronze.
No measurements possible.

▸ B21: LCQ 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.5 and 9.8)
Fragments of the lid and body of a bronze arm-purse; the hinge and spring tongue do not survive but the catch loop is still in situ. There is a decorative double rib across the handle as it merges with the body at each end. Arm-purses divide into those with a rigid handle, such as this example, and those with an expanding handle (Birley 1963: 8). Most arm-purses from Britain and the *limes* have been found in military contexts and are presumed to have been worn by soldiers, particularly legionaries. Four examples have been found on the Tyne–Solway frontier: two at Birdoswald, one from Thorngrafton and one at Corbridge; the example from South Shields consists only of the lid. Two are believed to come from Lowland Scotland, both from Dumfriesshire (Birley 1963); this is the first to be identified on the Antonine Wall.
L: 110mm, H: 116mm, Max W: 66mm

Illus 9.8 Bronze arm-purse from drainage ditch, LCQ (© Hunterian Museum)

9.1.3 Ironwork

Ironwork from the site was quite fragile and heavily corroded. As a result most of the drawings provide only outlines and some estimation of the original shape.

9.1.3.1 Weapons

▸ F1: LBD 8 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Socketed spearhead Manning Type II. Probably a throwing spear (Manning 1976: 18–19; Curle 1911: 188).

▸ F2: LBL 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Missile head? Probably an arrowhead with a simple triangular blade and square-sectioned tang (Manning 1976: 22–3, fig 14, nos 37–45).

▸ F3: MAF 1 hillwash, Area M
Missile tip? Form obscured by corrosion activity, leaving shell.

9.1.3.2 Domestic items

▸ Knives
Classified according to Manning (1976: 37):

I – Tanged knife with the back of the blade slightly arched, the edge straight or convex, the tip pointed or rounded and the tang set on the mid-line of the blade. This type varies in size and is the commonest of all Romano-British forms.

II – The back of the blade of this type is straight and continuous. The line of the tang or socket subdivisions can be made on the grounds of edge form.

a) Convex curve
b) Straight

But this division is blurred since constant whetting can wear away the convexity of IIa.

▸ F4: LBD drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Knife blade of Type IIa.

▸ F5: LBD drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Pointed tip of knife.

▸ F6: LAB 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragmentary blade and tang of knife. Tang is similar to Type II, but blade more like Type I.

▸ F7: LAH 3 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Blade and part of tang of Type IIa.

▸ F8: LBK 4 recut drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
?Tang of Type II knife.

▸ F9: LAB 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Blade and tang of knife Type I.

▸ F10: LBL 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Two fragments of knife or strip.

▸ F11: LBK 1 recut drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Fragment of knife with tip bent back.

▸ F12: LCK 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Knife tip or strip.

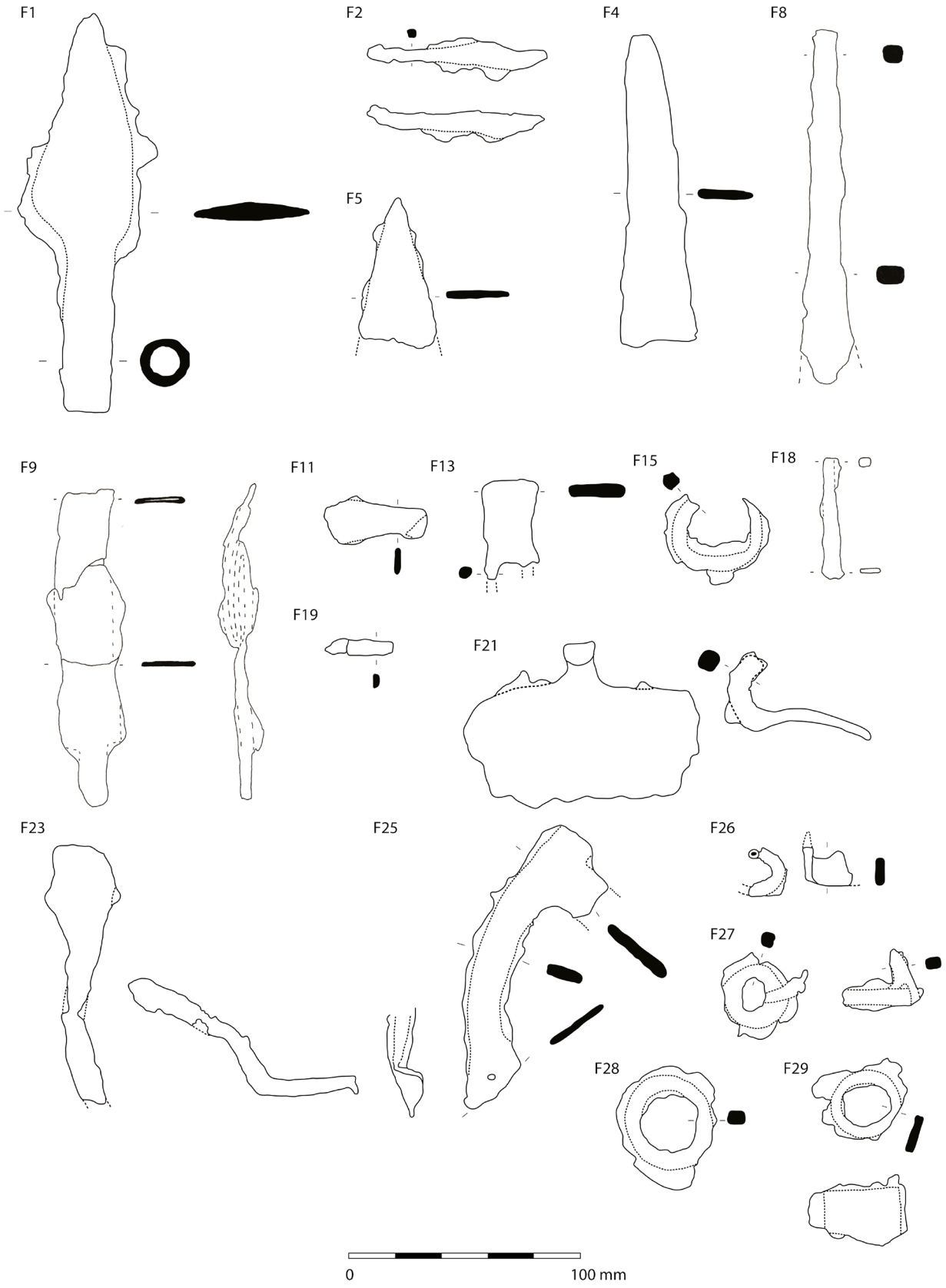
▸ F13: LAB 7 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Broken bucket handle mount or a T-staple (cf Frere 1972: 178, fig 66, nos 53–4 and 184, fig 68, no. 83).

▸ F14: LAK 2 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
As F13 above.

▸ F15: QAF 1 south ditch of fortlet (Illus 9.9)
Small simple buckle (cf Cunliffe 1975: 247, fig 131, no. 254).

▸ F16: LAA topsoil, *vicus*
?Broken buckle similar to above or small staple (cf Cunliffe 1975: 242, fig 129, no. 229).

▸ F 17: LBB 2 recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fine iron pin or needle, broken at tip. Iron pins were used to secure fibula springs (Smythe 1938)



Illus 9.9 Iron artefacts (F1–29)

or as hairpins or clothes fasteners (Manning 1976: 36, fig 21, no. 118).

9.1.3.3 Tools

▸ F18: LCQ 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Fragment of iron punch for delicate work, or part of a stylus (cf Frere 1972: 176, no. 49) or ligula (cf Richmond 1968: fig 59 B4).

▸ F19: LBN 2 recut drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Iron stylus with collar (cf iron stylus from Traprain Law (Curle 1920: 74)). Collar decoration is closely paralleled at Aldborough (Bishop 1996: 34, fig 19).

▸ F20: LCQ 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Tip of punch or bit (cf Frere 1972: 164; Richmond 1968: 115, fig 59).

9.1.3.4 Transport

▸ F21: LBD 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Rear section of hipposandal: heel with base of rear hook. Similar fragments of dissociated heels have been found at Verulamium (Frere 1972: 172, fig 63, no. 29), London (Guildhall Museum) and in the Blackburn Mill Hoard (Piggott 1953: 45, fig 12, nos B20 and B21), and their frequency seems to be due to the weakness introduced by the bent form of the heel.

The definitive study of hipposandals was published by Aubert (1929) and his classification is widely accepted (for a description of types, see Frere 1972). Since all types include a hooked heel, it is impossible to classify this piece.

▸ F22: QAE 1 ditch of fortlet
Base of front hook of hipposandal (?) Type 1 (cf Frere 1972: 171, fig 63, no. 25–6) with long hooked or looped vertical rod at front, wings at side and a hooked heel.

▸ F23: LAB 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Part of frontal loop of a hipposandal Type 1.

▸ F24: LAL 1 early linear gully, *vicus*
Iron bar in 'half horseshoe' shape splayed, upturned and perforated at one end. Possibly a half-finished ?ox shoe, two of which would be used to shoe a cloven hoof (cf Boon 1957: 210). The fragmentary nature of the piece advises against certain interpretation.

▸ F25: LBB 2 recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
?Small lynch pin (cf Boon 1957: 184, fig 36, no. 2).

▸ F26: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Spiral of iron rod. Similar artefacts have been identified as ox goads and this example could be attributed to Type II (Rees 1979: 179). However, Rees has expressed doubt as to whether farmers would go to the trouble of making an iron goad point when a sharply pointed stick would be equally effective (Rees 2011: 96). An alternative identification of pen nibs has been offered for the many examples found at Vindolanda (Birley 1999: 17–27); this has been doubted by Bowman and Thomas (2003: 13) and Tomlin (2001: 148) on the grounds that the Vindolanda writing tablets were clearly written with a split nib.

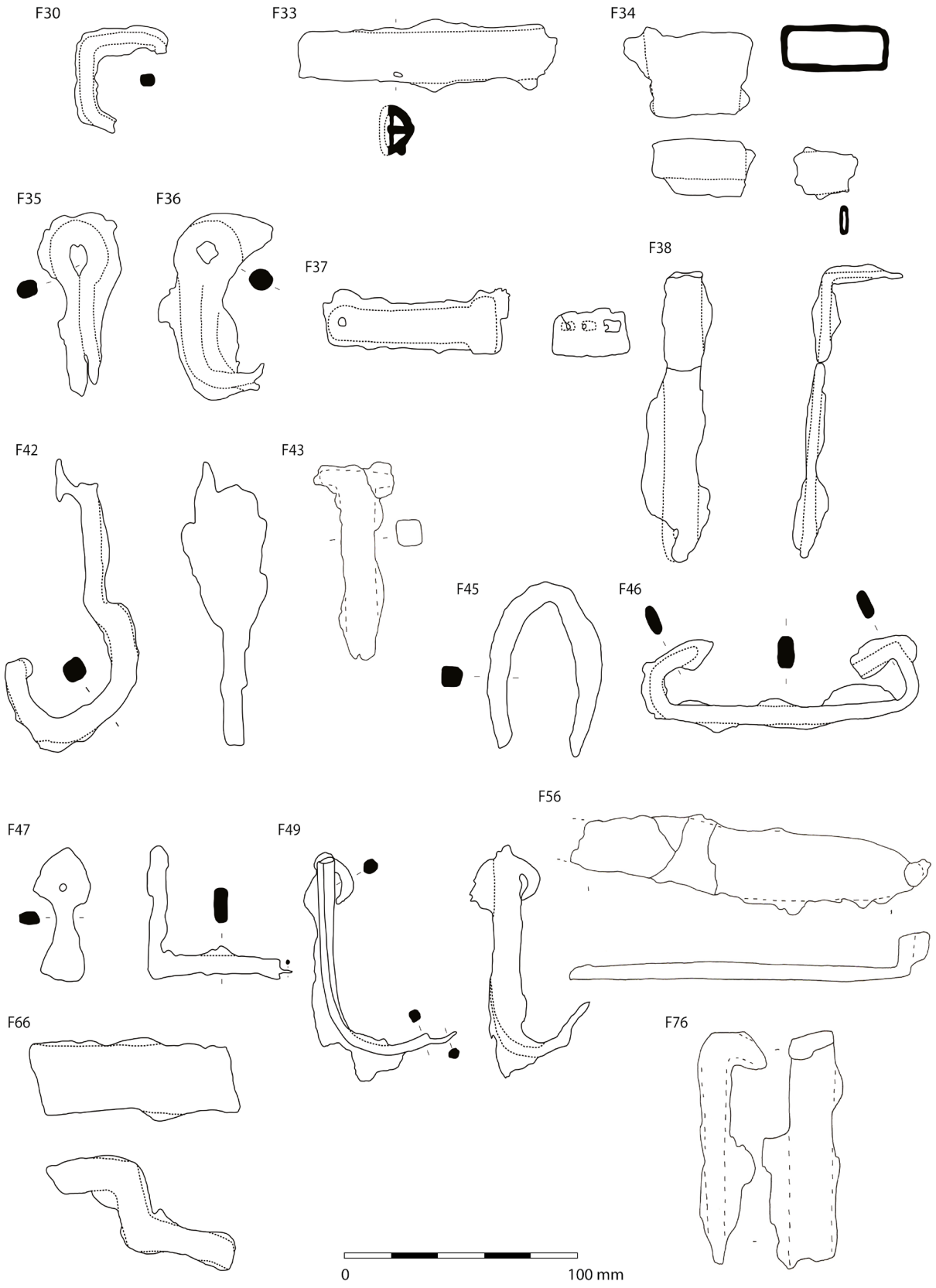
▸ F27: QAR ditch of fortlet (Illus 9.9)
Ring with wire twisted round to form a spike, similar to F26 above.

▸ F28: LBL 2 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Ring. Part of a bit? (cf Robertson et al 1975: 111, fig 38, nos 61–2) or simply one of the group of rings common in most collections used for multitudinous purposes (Manning 1976: 43, fig 28, nos 184–5).

▸ F29: LDK shallow natural depression, *vicus* (Illus 9.9)
Ring with protrusion. ?Ox goad with broken spike.

▸ F30: LAB 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Half of ferrule binding (cf Frere 1972: 188, fig 69, no. 123). A ubiquitous class of binding used to prevent the ends of wooden sticks, spear shafts, pitchforks and so on from splitting.

▸ F31: LAH 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Half of ferrule binding.



Illus 9.10 Iron artefacts (F30–76)

▸ F32: LBD 6 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Part of circular collar or binding (cf Frere 1972: 188, fig 69, nos 125–6; Robertson et al 1975: 108, fig 37, no. 46).

▸ F33: CCT bypass road ditch east of pre-fort enclosure (Illus 9.10)
?Ferrule with remains of wood shaft within, secured by rivet. Probably intended to protect the end of a shaft. However, if it is incomplete it was probably originally of the same type as those from Verulamium (cf Frere 1972: 188, fig 69, nos 120–2).

▸ F34: LBX hillwash over bypass road ditch, LBY, south of *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Rectangular sectioned ferrule to protect the end of wooden poles etc. Normally such ferrules have perforations for attachment. An alternative interpretation is a plough share tip (cf Rees 1979: fig 55, no. 160), but these normally taper.

9.1.3.5 Structural fittings

▸ F35: LBL 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Split pin broken at the end (cf Robertson et al 1975: 96, fig 31, no. 1).

▸ F36: LBD 9 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Split pin.

▸ F37: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Small loop hinge strap? Such hinges consist of two straps ending in interlinking loops (cf Frere 1972: 180, fig 66, nos 60 and 62).

▸ F38: LAB 2 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Tumbler lock slide key with toothed bit and pierced handle. Similar forms known from Verulamium (Frere 1972: 182, fig 68, no. 77).

▸ F40: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of hook (cf Manning 1976: 43, fig 26, nos 187–9).

F41: LBK 2 recut drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Small hook.

▸ F42: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Hook ending in flat plate fragment for attachment to wood (cf Manning 1976: 43, fig 26, no. 187).

▸ F43: LCT 1 drainage ditch, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Small T-staple (cf Manning 1976: 41, fig 25, no. 163).

▸ F44: LAA topsoil, *vicus*
?T-staple (cf Frere 1972: fig 68, no. 83).

▸ F45: LBB 1 recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
U-staple.

9.1.3.6 Strips and bars

These pieces are usually interpreted as bindings of various types used in structures, from barracks to carts. The junction is rarely certain and some may be simply scrap.

▸ F46: LAK 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Rectangular-sectioned rod hooked at either end as if binding two elements together or functioning as a collar.

▸ F47: LAK 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
L-shaped strip with a rivet hole broken at one end.

▸ F48: LAH 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
L-shaped strip.

▸ F49: LBD 9 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Hooked strip terminating in spike at either end.

▸ F50: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
D-sectioned curved bar. A similar bar with a rivet from Hod Hill was interpreted as a shield binding (Richmond 1968: 115, fig 58, A4).

▸ F51: LCQ 3 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*

Two fragments of D-sectioned strip widening at the rounded end, pierced by rivet hole. The size of the rivet hole suggests the strip had a protective rather than binding function (cf Frere 1972: 188).

▸ F52: LBR 2 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of D-sectioned strip hammered round at either end. ?Joiner's dog (cf Frere 1972: 184, fig 68, nos 84–5).

▸ F53: QAR 1/2 ditch of fortlet
Fragment of D-sectioned strip. ?Joiner's dog.

▸ F54: LDK natural depression, *vicus*
D-sectioned strip. Wood replacement corrosion suggests structural function.

▸ F55: LCT 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
As F54 above.

▸ F56: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
?Protective strip with broken spike set at right angles at one end.

▸ F57: LBD 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of plate or binding.

▸ F58: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
As F57 above.

▸ F59: LAH 3, drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
As F57 above.

▸ F60: LBD 6 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
As F57 above.

▸ F61: LCE hillwash, Area L
As F57 above.

▸ F62: LCS 3 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Two fragments of strip with wood replacement corrosion product suggesting structural function.

▸ F63: LCQ 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
As F62 above.

▸ F64: LCK 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
As F62 above, with burnt wood.

▸ F65: LBS 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Strip.

▸ F66: LBO 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
Two shaped strips with wood replacement corrosion and associated plaster, indicating a structural function.

9.1.3.7 Scrap

▸ F67: LCO bypass road ditch, south of *vicus*
Four fragments of strips.

▸ F68: LAA topsoil, *vicus*
Two fragments of badly corroded strip.

▸ F69: LAK 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
L-shaped strip.

▸ F70: LAB 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragmentary plate.

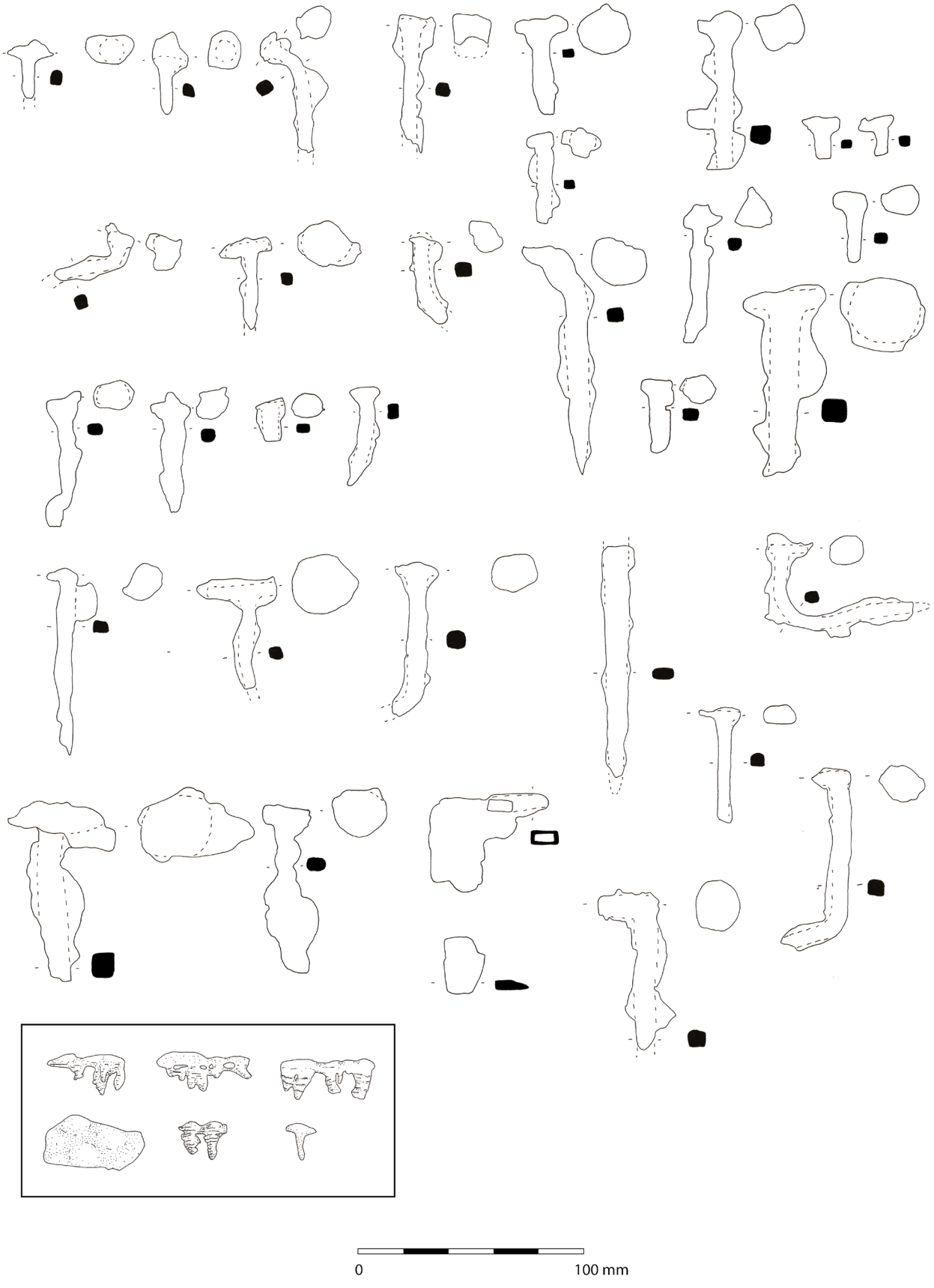
▸ F71: LBB 2 recut drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Circular-sectioned rod splitting into two prongs adhering to a piece of orange coarse pottery.

▸ F72: CCN 3 pre-fort enclosure ditch
L-shaped rod, possibly part of a door hinge.

▸ F73: CCC topsoil over pre-fort enclosure
Amorphous lump.

▸ F74: LCQ 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Amorphous lump.

▸ F75: LAA topsoil, *vicus*
Bar of varying thickness folded into a squashed C-shape.



Illus 9.11 Miscellaneous nails and hobnails

▸ F76: LBD drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.10)
L-shaped strip.

▸ F77: CCT bypass road ditch, east of pre-fort enclosure
Amorphous lump.

▸ F78: LBM 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Amorphous lump.

▸ F79: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Amorphous lump.

▸ F80: LBD 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Amorphous lump.

▸ F81: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragments of blade or bar.

▸ F82: LBD 1 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragment of iron bar.

9.1.3.8 Nails
The nails from Croy Hill can be divided into two main types: dome or flathead structural nails and hobnails. Manning has noted the standardisation of Roman nails (Manning 1976: 41) and outlines a widely applicable classification adopted here. All the Croy Hill nails are of Type I, with no certain examples of Type Ia recognised, although some heavier shanks may have belonged here. The numbers and findspots are tabulated below (Table 9.1) and complete examples illustrated (Illus 9.11).

Around 1,500 hobnails and 50 fragments of ghost soles (ie layers of corrosion product with associated hobnails) were found on site, some in situ (eg Illus 9.12). If each cluster of hobnails represents one shoe, a total of 50 or 60 would be a conservative estimate.

Illus 9.12 Hobnails in shoe group from trackway ditch section, LAB

9.1.4 Lead

Lead sheeting was found at:
DBL spread of occupation/midden material north of land divisions, Area D.
PAA, topsoil over south rampart of fort.

9.1.5 Pottery

▸ P2: LBK 1 recut drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.13 and 9.14)
Mould-made lamp with broken nozzle and handle. The profile is carinated with a central flat, sunken, circular discus with five short decorative lugs projecting from the discus' outer edge. The filling hole is off-centre, next to the nozzle. There is a shallow ribbed channel along the nozzle from the discus to the wick hole. The orange clay is blackened by smoke or heat. Similar lamps are known from Balmuildy (Miller 1922: pl LII) and Mumrills (Macdonald & Curle 1929: 546, fig 111).
L: 80mm, W: 51mm, Th: 20mm

▸ P3: LAH 4 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Plain lamp discus fragment of blue-grey clay with orange slip and signs of soot and burning.
No measurements possible.

▸ P4: RAF construction trench, *vicus*
Fragment of lamp of fire orange clay, possibly wheel thrown.
No measurements possible.

▸ P7: LBK 5 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus* (Illus 9.13)
Fragment of a clay plaque with a brown slip on both faces. The front is moulded to represent the lower part of a female figure with one naked right leg projecting from flowing drapery; the left leg is

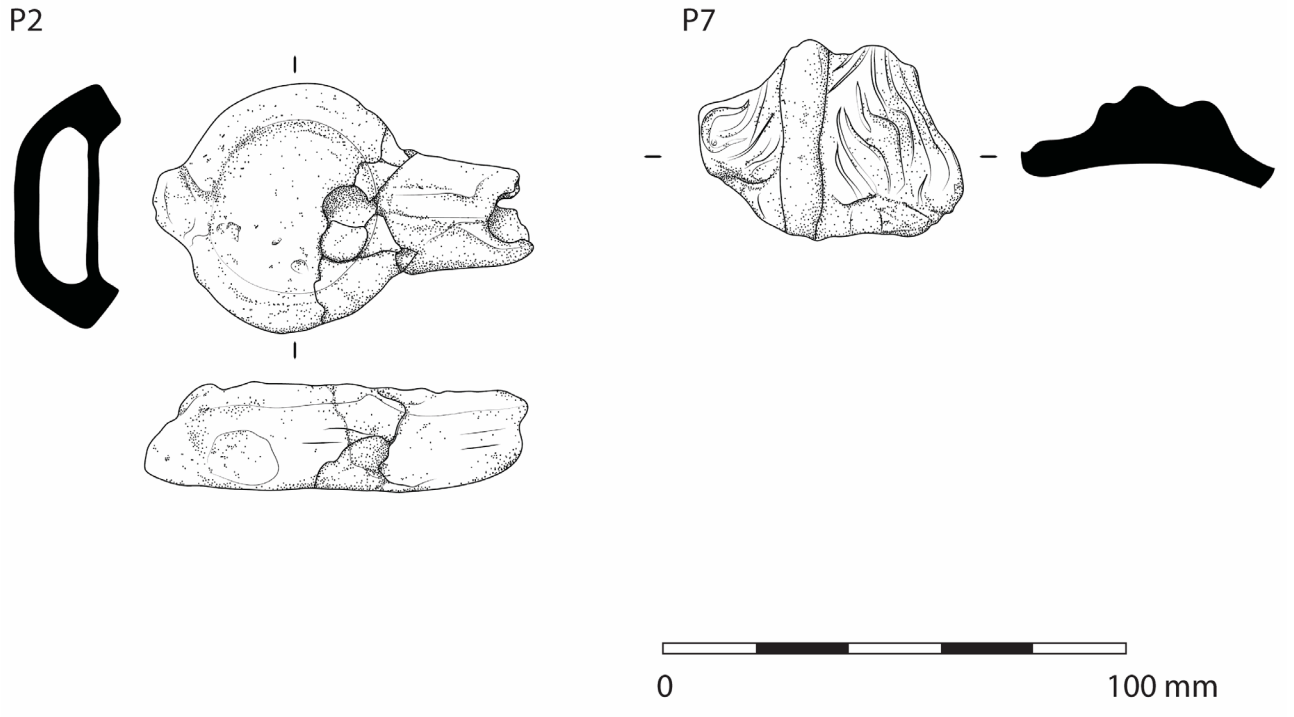
Table 9.1 Nails and hobnails

Context	Type I nails	Hobnails
AAA		7
BBB	2	1
BBP	1	1
BBQ	1	
BBS		2
CAC	1	7
CCC		2
CCH		3
CCN 1		5
CCN 3		2
CCR		1
CCS		1
CCT +		2
CCY 1		1
CCZ 1		1
DBL 1		1
EAB		1
EAN		23
EAY		1
GAB		3
HAA		2
LAA	5	6
LAB	2	3
LAB 1	6	
LAB 4	2	shoe group
LAB 5		shoe group
LAB 6		shoe group
LAH		2
LAH 1	4	24
LAH 2		4
LAH 3	1	4 + shoe group
LAH 4	7	shoe group
LAH 5		8
LAK	2	16
LAK 1		4
LAK 2		20
LAK 3		27
LAK 4	1	22

Context	Type I nails	Hobnails
LAK 5	1	3
LAK 6		2
LAL 1	1	
LBB		8
LBB 1	1	7
LBB 2	1	shoe group
LBB 3		2
LBB 4		13
LBD		3
LBD 1		shoe group
LBD 2	1	2
LBD 3	1	shoe group
LBD 4		8
LBD 5	1	5
LBD 6	4	shoe group
LBD 7		3
LBD 8		2
LBD 9		1
LBF		4
LBF 1		5
LBH 1		23
LBK		1
LBK 1	2	6
LBK 2		22
LBK 3		11
LBK 4		68
LBK 5		43
LBK 6		13
LBK 7	1	9
LBL		1
LBL 1	11	27
LBL 2	1	5
LBM 1	1	42
LBM 2	3	9
LBN 1	1	7
LBO 1	4	16
LBO 2	2	20
LBR 1	1	15
LBR 2	2	30

Context	Type I nails	Hobnails
LBR 3		4
LBS		11
LBT 1	2	49
LBW 1	1	
LBX		2
LCG	1	12
LBB 1	1	
LCK 1	2	89
LCK 5		50
LCQ 1	5	shoe group
LCQ 2		26
LCQ 3	1	20
LCQ 4		8
LCQ 5		3
LCQ 6	1	1
LCQ 7		1
LCR 1		67
LCR 2		7
LCS		17
LCS 3	1	1
LCT 1	1	3
LCT 2	8	37
LDB 1	1	9
LDE 1	4	
LDE 2		1
LDG 1		1
LDH		14
LDH 1		3
LDH 2	1	
LDQ		1
LDS 1		1
LDX 2	2	2
LDY 2	2	38
LEA		2
LEA 1		13
LEE	1	13
MAE 1		1
QAA		2
QAP 1	2	14

Context	Type I nails	Hobnails
QAR	1	
RAA	1	2
RAF	2	16
RAG		2
RAO		4
RAX		1
RAY	1	1
RAZ	1	
RBK	1	1
RBP	1	1
RBT		2
RBX		4



Illus 9.13 Pottery artefacts (P2–9)

covered to the knee. The back is hollowed and was clearly not intended to be seen while in use. The figure may represent a maenad (cf the Mildenhall silver dish) (Strong & Brown 1976: col pl 1) or a deity, such as Aphrodite *pudica* as depicted on a Roman copy of a Greek statue in the National Museum in Athens (Havelock 1995).
H: 42mm, W: 60mm

▸ P10: LDB 1 drainage ditch, east side of trackway, *vicus*
Projecting base of an object made from a very fine pale orange clay. Possibly the base of a small statuette.
H: 20mm, W: 25mm

9.1.6 Leather

▸ L1: LCQ 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Fragments of leather and wood associated with the arm-purse (B21).
No measurements possible.

▸ L2: LCT 2 drainage ditch, west side of trackway, *vicus*
Several fragments of very fine leather.
No measurements possible.

9.2 Discussion

There is much diversity in the quantity and quality of the small finds from Scottish forts. While the average fort in England will produce a predictable range of objects in reasonably predictable amounts, those in Scotland produce either large assemblages or hardly anything at all. This makes it difficult to put the assemblage from Croy Hill into a context, although a loose pattern seems to be emerging of the forts on the Antonine Wall producing limited numbers of artefacts while those set away from the Wall tend to larger and more diverse assemblages. This may reflect the length of occupation of the sites; it appears to have little to do with the scale or timing of the excavations.

Among the sites producing large assemblages are Elginhaugh, Camelon, Strageath and Newstead, while those that have produced little include Duntocher, Old Kilpatrick, Balmuildy, Carpow and Inchtuthil. The assemblage at Croy Hill falls into the larger category but is biased towards ironwork, although the ironwork has not survived well. While the acid conditions on the site would account for the complete lack of bone objects, the paucity of copper alloy artefacts is worthy of remark.

Extensive assemblages, such as those from Camelon and Strageath, tend to include a large number of vessel fragments or vessel fittings. Croy Hill has produced only a single fragment of a bronze vessel rim (B11) and two iron bucket mounts (F13, F14). The Camelon and Elginhaugh assemblages also include appreciable amounts of jewellery, particularly finger rings and brooches as one might expect of a military establishment, but there are only two brooches from Croy Hill (B3 and B4) and no other items of jewellery, although there are two enamelled studs (B5 and B6). This interest in enamelled work can also be seen at Strageath and Camelon and may indicate a native element amongst the troops or reflect the flashy taste of the military.

Few of the Scottish fort sites produce much weaponry, the Strageath spears and the ballista fittings at Elginhaugh being the exception. In this regard, Croy Hill is notable as it has produced a spearhead (F1), two projectile heads that may be ballista bolts (F2, F3) and a fragment of shield binding (F50), as well as a number of ferrules which may have come from spears (F30–4). While it might be presumed that excavations at a Roman fort would produce weapons and armour, in practice very few military items are usually to be found, probably because soldiers were accountable for their kit or because the artefacts represented useful amounts of recyclable metal (Allason-Jones 2011; Bishop 2011).

At Camelon, Strageath and Elginhaugh there is a bias towards exotic items: with panthers, openwork chapes and scalpels from Camelon, griffin mounts from Strageath and furniture mounts, candelabra and large cavalry pendants from Elginhaugh. At Croy Hill the clay mask (P6–8) and the terracotta plaque (P7) are very unusual finds on a military site and the significance of their presence is open to debate. The bronze arm-purse (B21) would also be an unusual find at any Roman site in Britain. The discovery of three hipposandals (F21–3), used as temporary protection for the feet of draught animals while on metalled roads, is also unusual.

There are examples from Mumrills (Macdonald & Curle 1929: fig 120), Newstead (Manning 1985: 65) as well as in the Blackburn Mill Hoard (Piggott 1953: 45, fig 12, B21) but they are not common finds in the north of Britain, being more usually found on town sites and at villas (Manning 1985: 63). The large numbers of hobnails and 'ghost soles' may suggest footwear was being discarded when no longer of use. The quantity of building and furniture nails, on the other hand, is not extensive and does not suggest the regular use of wooden partitions, although mortice-and-tenon joints or the use of wooden pegs may have been preferred.

The area in which Croy Hill stands out amongst Scottish sites, indeed amongst sites anywhere in Britain, is in the instances of unfinished stonework, which suggests that there was a stone mason working on the site, preparing altar bases and inscription panels. Unfortunately, not enough of his work survives to indicate authorship of the inscriptions already known from the site. However, they may indicate the presence of religious activity which is not otherwise noticeable through the small finds, although the face mask and terracotta plaque may both fall into this category.

On the whole, the date range of the assemblage fits firmly into the Antonine date of the site with only a few artefacts, such as the possible Hod Hill-derivative brooch (B4), being of any great age when they arrived there.

Illus 9.14 Pottery lamp from recut trackway ditch section, LBK