The military metalwork and spurs

David Caldwell, Blanche Ellis and the late N Q Bogdan

The weapons

David Caldwell with the late N Q Bogdan

Spearheads

Parallels for spearhead Cat No 11 are provided in the British Isles by several finds of spearheads from London and Dublin which have often been classified as of Petersen's Viking type K (Wheeler 1927, Figures 12:4 and 12:5; Guildhall Museum Catalogue, Plate LIII, no 7; Bjørn and Shetelig 1940, 84-5; Bøe 1940, 27, Figures 8, 9; Petersen 1919, 31, 33). Wheeler has dated some of the London examples found in the Thames near Old London Bridge to the early years of the 11th century when there were Viking raids on the town, but this is by no means a conclusive association. It is likely that spearheads of this type remained in use later, and possibly centuries later. One is shown on the graveslab, dating to about 1360, of John Drummond at Inchmahome Priory (Caldwell 1981, 257). As yet, there has been little definition of types and dates of medieval spears and works such as Ellehaughe's (1948) suggest that close dating of many types of spearhead may only be done, if at all, after a great deal more research.

Spearhead Cat No 14 was probably similar in form. Also catalogued here is a small corroded fragment (Cat No 13) that has tentatively been identified as part of the blade of another spearhead of different type.

Sword hilt

Although only a badly corroded fragment, the sword hilt (Cat No 1) from these excavations is of peculiar interest because of the discrepancy between its supposed date on typological grounds and the date provided by its archaeological context.

In 1919 the Norwegian scholar Jan Petersen published a typological and chronological study of Viking swords from Norway, largely based on changes in their pommels, and this still serves today as a convenient way of classifying earlier medieval swords from the whole of Europe. Petersen distinguished 25 different types which he labelled A–I, K–Z and Æ. Type U consists of those swords which have straight quillons and tripartite pommels which are comparatively low and narrow, the lobes not being well-pronounced, for which Petersen suggested a tenth century date (1919, 153–154, Figure 122). The Perth sword compares most closely with swords of Petersen's type U. A study of Viking Age swords by Pierce contains a useful analysis of Petersen's scheme and illustrations of key type U swords (Pierce 2002, 16–21, 110–13).

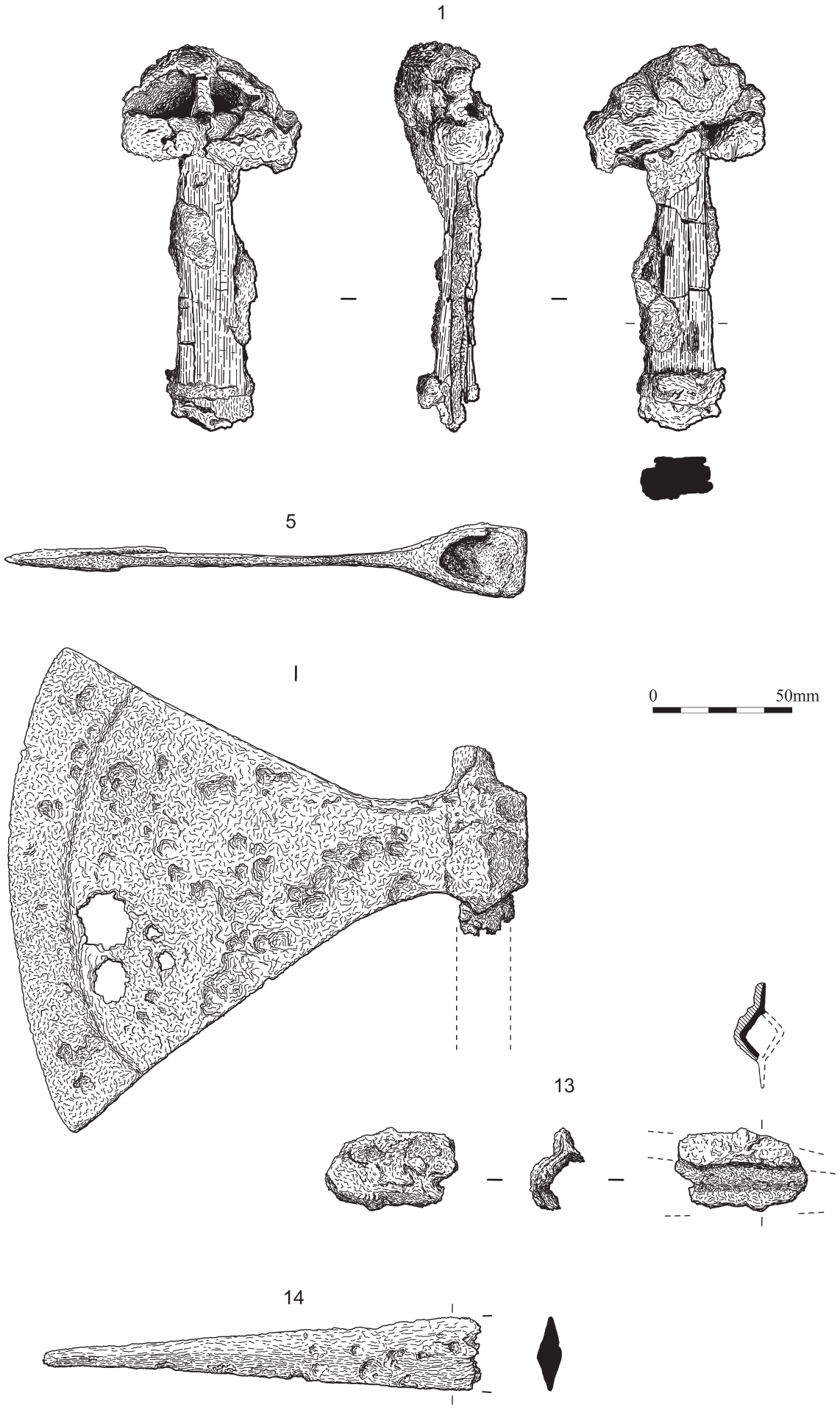
Several more recent studies have used or modified Petersen's classification to a greater or lesser extent. A simplification worthy of note here since it has been much used by British scholars is that published in 1927 by Wheeler. He distinguished seven types, with Petersen's type U best being considered as transitional between his type III swords with straight guards and three or five lobed pommels, the central lobe always being markedly the longest; and his type VII swords with semicircular pommels, often with shallow grooves or beaded lines dividing the surface into three parts. The former type he noted as being normal in north-western Europe during the 9th and 10th centuries, the latter he dated to the 10th century (Wheeler 1927, 29–37).

Hoffmeyer, in 1954, devised yet another simplification of Petersen's classification. He divided the material into three main groups: swords with pyramidal or triangular pommels; swords with lobated pommels; and swords with pommel-bars with no pommel-caps (Hoffmeyer 1954, 27–34). The Perth sword hilt would thus fit into Hoffmeyer's second group of Viking Age swords. Hoffmeyer also considered that type U swords were influential in the development of the characteristic medieval swords of the 12th century with brazil-nut pommels (ibid, 34).

Only one other sword of Petersen's type U is known from Scotland. It was found in a rich Viking grave at Kiloran Bay on Colonsay and is now in the National Museum of Scotland (Grieg 1940, 48–50, Fig 26). Included amongst the grave goods were three coins, one of which was not identified and is now lost. The other two are Northumbrian coins of the 9th century; one of Aethelred, the other of Wigmund (Stevenson 1966).

The presence of a sword hilt, of a type generally considered to date to the 10th century, in the medieval burgh of Perth poses some problems. An obvious explanation is that the sword is residual, already a shattered, rusty, remnant when redeposited in Perth in the third quarter of the 12th century. Alternatively, it might be suggested that it was a valued heirloom (perhaps more so for swords than other items), already a couple of hundred years old when it came to be lost or thrown out by someone who did not value its traditions. A third possibility worthy of serious consideration is that some swords hitherto considered to belong solely to the Viking Age were manufactured and used in Scotland and perhaps elsewhere considerably later than hitherto imagined.

Very few Scottish medieval swords survive and we therefore have to rely heavily on carvings on tomb slabs



Illus 151 *Weapons. Sword hilt Cat No 1. Axe Cat No 5. Spearheads Cat Nos 13, 14.*

Illus 152 *Spearhead Cat No 11.*

and sculptured effigies for evidence of what they were like. These suggest that swords with lobated pommels were known in Scotland, certainly as late as the 14th century, and in the West Highlands as late as the 16th century (Steer and Bannerman 1977, 167–9). On the basis of the carvings many of the pommels could be classified as examples of Petersen's type L (Wheeler's type V), pommels of the 9th or 10th century with a high central lobe and sharply curved pommel base. Swords with pommels of this type, looking overall like those carved in medieval West Highland sculpture, have been found in Norway and England (Pierce 2002, 74–6). At Inchmahome Priory in the Lake of Menteith there is a 14th-century effigy of a knight (?Walter Menteith of Rusky) grasping a sword with a pommel, now broken, but apparently consisting of a straight bar and five lobes similar to Petersen's type O, dated to the 10th century.

This persistence of Viking Age swords with lobated pommels into the later medieval period in Britain and Scandinavia has already been documented by others (for example Smith 1936 and 1939; Ward-Perkins 1941; Hunt 1950). It may also be useful at this juncture to anticipate our discussion on axes and point out that a Viking type of battleaxe is also known to have remained in use in Scotland in the 16th century.

In Perth Museum there are the remains of another sword (PM 147), said to have been found in the Watergate, Perth, which has also been considered to be Viking in origin. It is in three pieces – an iron guard 123mm long and a section of blade which joins with its tang to give an overall length of 535mm. The guard is slightly curved towards the blade and has a rectangular elevation and narrow oval plan. The blade is broad (40mm) and double edged, tapering slightly towards the point, and has a pattern-welded core. The tang is rectangular in section and tapers towards the top. The main reason for assigning it a date in the Viking Age is the fact that it has a pattern-welded blade and the manufacture of such blades is thought to have been on the decline by the 9th century (Davidson 1962, 32).

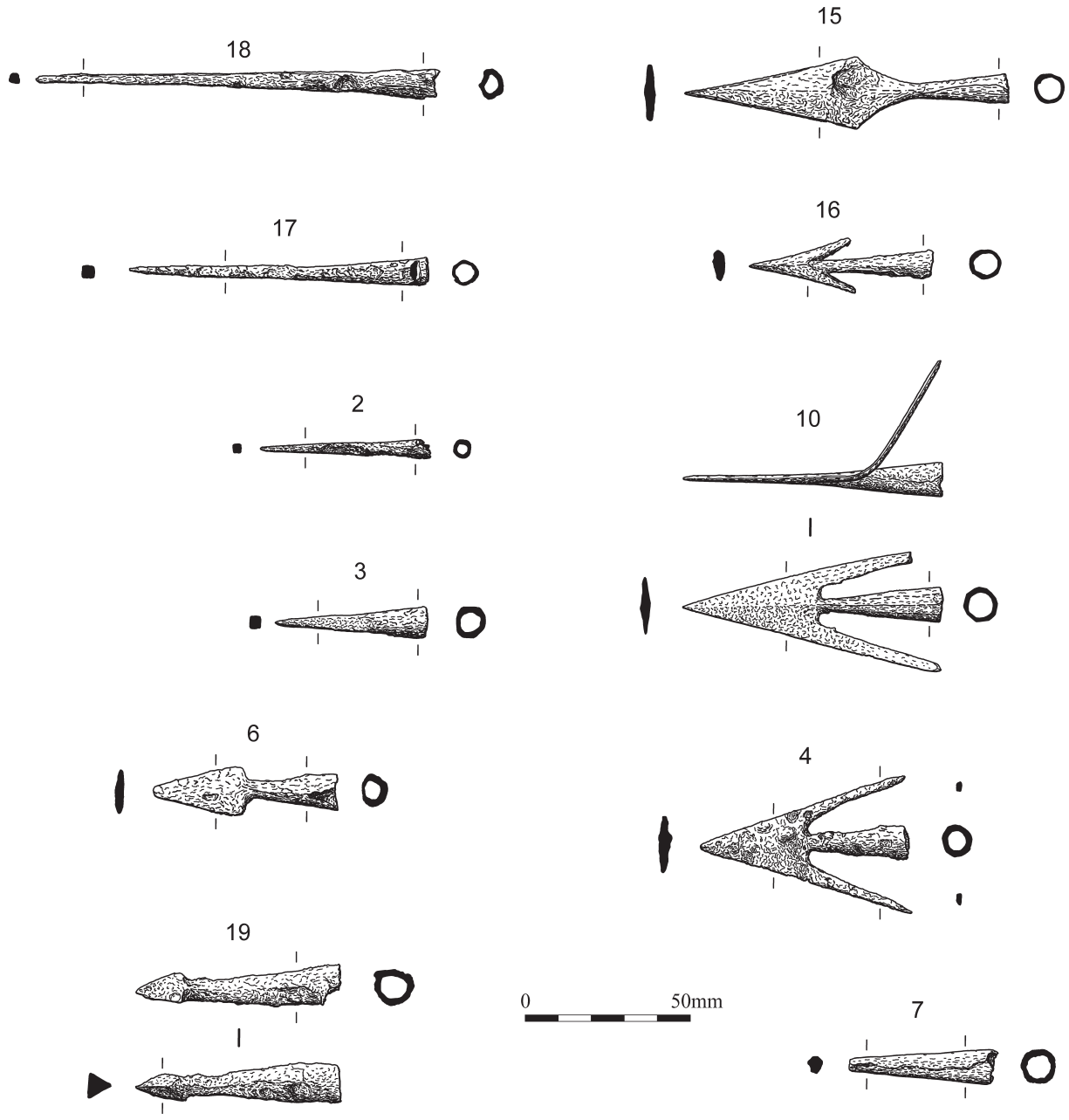
Neither of these swords from Perth offer definitive evidence for a re-dating and new understanding of swords in medieval Scotland but they do at least provide opportunities for more detailed studies in the future.

Battle-axe

A few other axes like Cat No 5, type M in a classification devised by Petersen (1919) and form A in a scheme for Scottish axes (Caldwell 1981, 261), have been recovered from Scotland, including a similar one in Dumfries Museum dated to the 11th century (Scott 1966, 117–20). It was found on the farm of Kilblain, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire. There is another, similar, axe from Rescobie Loch, Angus, in Dundee Museum. The narrow necks of these axes is probably an early feature and in the case of Continental type M axes, a broadening of the neck has been noted as a later development (Paulsen 1956, 19). In Scotland, documentary and pictorial evidence suggests the use of these broad axes, or Danish axes as they are sometimes called, as late as the 16th century, at least in the Highland area, and there are other type M axes, for instance one from a dug-out canoe near Loch Doon Castle in Ayrshire, now in Kirkcudbright Museum, and another in Kinross Museum, both of which have well developed blade fore-tips. A similar axe is also shown on the mid-15th-century cross of Alexander MacMillan at Kilmory in Argyll (Steer and Bannerman 1977, 57, 151–2). Although a particular type of broad axe with narrow neck is depicted on a West Highland grave slab of the 15th century, also at Kilmory (ibid, plate 41B), axes like that from the High Street may have been used no later than the 14th century and at the earliest in the 11th century. They were possibly an alternative to spears for a considerable proportion of Scottish foot soldiers. For a more detailed discussion of these axes see Caldwell 1981.

Arrowheads and crossbow bolt

One crossbow bolt (Cat No 19) and 12 arrowheads were recovered from the excavation. The arrowheads mainly came from deposits which had been laid down during the second half of the 13th century, or in the case of Cat No 16 very shortly thereafter. The arrowheads with long barbs (Cat Nos 4 and 10) are types specifically associated with hunting and they have been recovered from a number of Scottish sites including the writer's excavations at Finlaggan on the island of Islay and Kindrochit Castle in Aberdeenshire (now in the National Museum of Scotland). Those with slender points, three of them long like bodkins, (Cat Nos 2, 3, 17 and 18) would have been ideal for penetrating armour. They are known from Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness (Samson 1983, nos 10–30, fig 2) and Caerlaverock Castle in Dumfriesshire (MacIvor and Gallagher 1999, nos 100–105). The others would have served well for a variety of targets. There is also an Early Bronze Age flint arrowhead (Cat No 34) which



Illus 153 *Weapons. Arrowheads Cat Nos 2–4, 6, 7, 10, 15–18. Crossbow bolt Cat No 19.*

was redeposited in the foundations of Building B18 (Phase 1b) shortly after 1250 on dendrochronological evidence (see Fascicule 4, The flint, 139, for further details).

A typology for medieval arrowheads was published in the London Museum Medieval Catalogue in 1940 *LMMC*, 65–73) and has been much used by finds specialists ever since. It has to a large extent been superseded by an up-dated typology, excluding crossbow bolts, by Oliver Jessop (1996). Where appropriate, references in the catalogue are given to both. Both *LMMC* and Jessop provide dating evidence which, in the opinion of the writer, is either too broad to be of use in dating the Perth examples, or is suspiciously tight. It has seemed best, until we have more knowledge of Scottish arrowheads, to be cautious in the matter of dating.

1 (**118**) **Sword hilt** Fe, Cu alloy and wood
The badly corroded grip and iron pommel of a sword. The pommel consists of a hollow horizontal pommel-bar with straight ends. In plan it has an elongated vesica outline. The low pommel-cap of thin beaten iron is heavily encrusted with corrosion deposits on one side and almost lacking on the other, thus making its original shape difficult to discern. A careful study, however, of it internally indicates that it was of trilobe form. The tang of the sword blade passes up through the pommel-bar to the top of the pommel-cap and X-ray photographs suggest the presence of two bronze rivets caught up in the corrosion on the outside. Below the pommel there are slivers of compressed wood (c1-2mm thick) adhering to either side of the tang, evidently the remains of the sword's grip. Overall length 138mm; pommel 39.5mm by 65.5mm by 23mm.
A11698; L1038; X054m; D188, DX045; C3884–1; MC065; Phase IIa–IIc; Rig VI
Illus 151

2 (**311**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with spike head (Jessop (1996) type M7). Much of the socket is missing. Length 51.5mm, width of head 4mm.
A04-0595; L1175; C9440–9; P8.1b; Phase IIIc; Rig VII
Illus 153

3 (**387**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with short spike head (Jessop (1996) type M5). Wide socket relative to head. Length 46mm, width of head 5mm.
A8848b; L1473; X113m; DX094; C2528–3; Phase IVa; Rig V
Illus 153

4 (**409**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed with long barbs (Jessop (1996) type H3). Overall length 62mm, width (from barb to barb) 44mm.
A5191; X090m; D050, DX079; C2215–4; MC156; Phase IVaa; Rig V
Illus 153

5 (**425**) **Battle-axe** Fe, Cu alloy and wood
Iron Broad or Danish axe of Petersen's type M (Petersen, 1919, 46–7, Figs 44–5), Caldwell's form A (Caldwell 1981, 261). It has a broad curved cutting edge 175mm long and measures 188mm from end to end. Its body is only about 2mm thick and over twice that (5mm) near the cutting edge in order to give strength where it is most needed and an edge for grinding (cf Scott 1966). Surface appearance and X-ray photographs indicate that the edge has been fire-welded onto the rest of the blade giving it a steel like finish. The shaft-hole has been formed by bending the back of the blade over and welding the ends together. Spurs are provided top and bottom for holding the shaft more securely and there are remains of wood in the shaft-hole with two small pieces of bronze adhering, possibly remains of a sheath. It has a narrow neck (35mm) and a fairly straight upper edge from blade tip to neck. 11th–14th centuries.
A4707; X040m, X105m; DX185; C2813–2; B26, Floor/Occupation (12b); Phase IIg–IVaa; Rig V
Illus 151

6 (**430**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed with triangular blade (Jessop (1996) type MP 3). Overall length 55mm.
A04–0673; L2133; X235m; C7358–7; MC130; Phase <IIIc–IVaa; Rig VII
Illus 153

7 (**436**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Probably a socketed arrowhead, the socket only surviving. Overall length 45mm.
A04–0700; L2155; X233m; C7363–7; MC130; Phase <IIIc–IVaa; Rig VII
Illus 153

8 (**451**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with spike blade (Jessop (1996) type M7), not located at time of writing this report. Overall length 44mm.
A8357; L0922; C2516–3; B2, Floor (2a); Phase IVa,IVaa; Rig VI
Not illustrated

9 (**557**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with triangular head (Jessop (1996) type MP3). Overall length 69mm, thickness 2mm.
A04–0438; L0631; C9267–9; B18(Phase 1/2); Phase IVaa,IVb; Rig VII
Not illustrated

10 (**601**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed with long barbs, one bent out of alignment, the other missing its tip (Jessop (1996) type H3). The blade is worked to a ridge and there are signs of the drill holes made at the base of the barbs to aid in cutting them out. Overall length 79mm; length (from tip to end of complete barb) 96mm.
A04–0663; L2123; X236m; C7354–7; P8.2b, Levelling; Phase IVb; Rig VII
Illus 153

11 (**619**) **Spearhead** Fe
Spearhead with slender, pointed leaf-shaped blade (cf Petersen's Viking type K). The socket has two pairs of rivet holes with one rivet still in place for securing it to its shaft. Overall length 335mm, width 27.5mm, thickness 8mm. cf Wheeler 1927, Figures 12:4 and 12:5; Petersen 1919, 31, 33. 11th century or later. This spearhead was not located at the time of writing this report but it has been previously published (Caldwell 1981, 256–7, Figure 136).
A04–0563; L1062, L4814; X227m; DX169; C7306–7; B18 (Phase 2a), North Room and Hall–Construction (2); Phase IVb; Rig VII
Illus 152

12 (**708**) **Mail** Fe
Not located at the time of writing this report.
A04–0555a; L1210; X218m; DX165; C7299–7; B18 (Phase 2b), North Room, Hall and Hall South–Occupation (10); Phase IVb; Rig VII
Not illustrated

13 (**724**) **Spearhead?** Fe
Corroded lump, apparently including part of a tapering socket and blade, tentatively identified as part of a spearhead. Length 55mm.
A04–0256; L4209; X206m; DX154; C9095–9; B18 (Phase 2b), Hall and Hall South–Occupation (12a); Phase IVb; Rig VII
Illus 151

14 (**804**) **Spearhead** Fe
Tip of spear blade with lozenge shaped cross-section. Length (to break) 164mm.
cf Wheeler 1927, Figures 12:4 and 12:5; Petersen 1919, 31, 33 (Viking type K). 11th century or later.
A5517; X036m, X083m; DX029, DX072; C2473–3; M1.4g; Phase IVb,IVcc; Rig V
Illus 151

15 (**822**) **Arrowhead** Fe and Sn
Socketed with long, pointed leaf-shaped blade with pronounced shoulders and considerable remains of tin coating (*LMMC* Figure 16, type 1). Overall length 99mm.
A4324; L5638; X022m, X090m; D038, DX018; C2462A–3; M1.4c; Phase IIIa–IVcc; Rigs V and VI
Illus 153

16 (**1103**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed with small barbed head (Jessop (1996) type MP8). Overall length 56mm; width (from barb to barb) 17mm.
A04–0423; L0617; C7185–7; P8.4; Phase Va; Rig VII
Illus 153

17 (**1735**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with long spike head (Jessop (1996) type M7). Round socket with squared head. Length 90mm, width of head 4mm.
A04–0022; L3972; X164; D006; C7000–7–10; Unstratified; Rigs VI–VIII
Illus 153

18 (**1979**) **Arrowhead** Fe
Socketed arrowhead with long spike head (Jessop (1996) type M7). Length 121mm; width of head 6mm.
A3922; L0165; C1066–6; T1066; Phase H (North Sector)
Illus 153

19 (**2061**) **Crossbow Bolt** Fe
Socketed crossbow bolt with squat triangular head (*LMMC* Figure 16, type 11). Length 62mm, width of head 10mm.
A0578; L0239; C0070–5&A; Tumble; Phase 6–12(c) (North Sector)
Illus 153

The spurs

Blanche Ellis with the late N Q Bogdan

Parts of five spurs were recovered. Of these, two (Cat Nos 20 and 22) were virtually complete. Fragments only were discovered of the other three. Two of the spurs (Cat Nos 20 and 21) came from Rig VI, one came from Rig VII, while the remaining examples cannot be assigned to a single rig. Cat No 22 was recovered from a 'reconstruction' layer within B18 (Phase 2), perhaps the most elaborate timber structure excavated. Despite its backland position, it appears that this building, a (single) aisled hall including at least three rooms, was of fairly high status (see Fascicule 1, The buildings).

More surprising was the recovery of Cat No 20 from within the construction layers of B4, a relatively modest backland structure dating from shortly after 1150 and lying within Rig VI. Attached to the south gable of this small rectangular wattle building was what has been interpreted as a 'byre' (see Fascicule 1, The buildings). Despite this, the spur recovered from it was not only the earliest, but also the most elaborate. The gilding on it showed that it was made for a person of rank, for gilded spurs were the prerogative of knighthood during the Middle Ages. It combines a form of terminal which was becoming uncommon by the mid-12th century with a zoomorphic head which seems to be a development of earlier Saxon examples, while its general proportions are more typical of the 12th century when for the first time spur sides were sometimes made to curve under the wearer's ankles, as they do slightly on this specimen. It may possibly have been made in Perth, for it is recorded that a presumed Fleming, Baldwin the Lorimer, who was the lorimer (harness and horse furniture maker) of David I (1124-1153) owned a booth near the excavation site where this spur was found (*RRS,* ii, no 28; see also Fascicule 1, Historical background, 7). Thus it is possible that this fine spur was a product of his workshop, but of course it is impossible to be certain of this. His presence does indicate that bits, and probably also spurs, fit for a king were being made in Perth by the middle of the 12th century.

Zoomorphic heads, such as that on Cat No 20, have occasionally been used to decorate spurs at various times in their history and became moderately popular with Anglo-Saxon spurriers. Some late Saxon spurs have a decorative boss about half way along each of their sides and these often took the form of beasts' heads, as on the spur fragment from Gloucester described below. The particular style of head which holds the goad of the earliest Perth spur (Cat No 20) is found on spurs and other metalwork from the Romanesque period. There is a strong similarity of style on the head of this spur with its goad projecting from the mouth, with sculptured stone beak-heads such as those decorating the main doorway of Lincoln Cathedral, c1145 (Zarnecki 1953, Figure 54).

A bronze spur, with animal head neck and terminals, was found in a field at Pakenham, Suffolk in 1843 and is now in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (Hinton 1974; Ashmolean Cat 29). The Pakenham spur is very small with short sides and the controversy over its date has been summarised by Hinton (1974, 55-6) who also lists its considerable bibliography. The Pakenham and Perth spurs both have conical pointed goads protruding from a beast's mouth, the Pakenham goad being shorter than the Perth example. The undersurfaces of these heads

are flat, that of the Perth spur being diagonally cross-hatched while that of the Pakenham one is very smooth with the slightest hint of scratches. The ears of both heads overlap the junction of neck and sides, the Perth beast has pointed ears, the Pakenham more rounded ones with raised rims and lunate hollows. The eyes of the Perth head are modelled in rounded relief while the eye sockets of the Pakenham animal are drilled for the setting of its blue glass eyes. The Pakenham spur sides are not like those of the Perth spur and are extremely short. In section they have rounded outer surfaces, the inner flat against the wearer's foot, and smooth flat undersides with the exception of their zoomorphic head terminals which are modelled in full relief. The terminal heads match the slightly larger goad head and are positioned facing forward with their chins against the sides of the wearer's heel. Only one has a blue glass eye remaining. These beast head terminals have open slot mouths, drilled to hold a single rivet in each case; one of these bronze rivets remaining. The measurements of this tiny Pakenham spur are length of neck 20mm, (24mm, including overlapped ears); length of goad point 7mm; span between terminals 68mm. Hinton suggested a 9th-century date for this spur, 'with reservations' (1974, 56). Another bronze spur from Icklingham, Suffolk (Ipswich Museum; R 1936 278) is of the same type as that from Pakenham. It has less crisply formed zoomorphic head terminals, but the goad is an iron point set into a conical boss (Shortt 1964, 60). The Pakenham and Icklingham spurs are so similar to the Perth spur as to be relevant to it, and it is also a valuable addition to the material available for comparison with them. Beyond the fact that they are Saxon their close date remains uncertain. The similar features which the Perth spur (Cat No 20) combines with its terminals of mainly 10th–11th-century type suggests that while it is a later development of their style, the Pakenham and Icklingham spurs are most unlikely to be earlier than the suggested 9th-century date and may in fact be later.

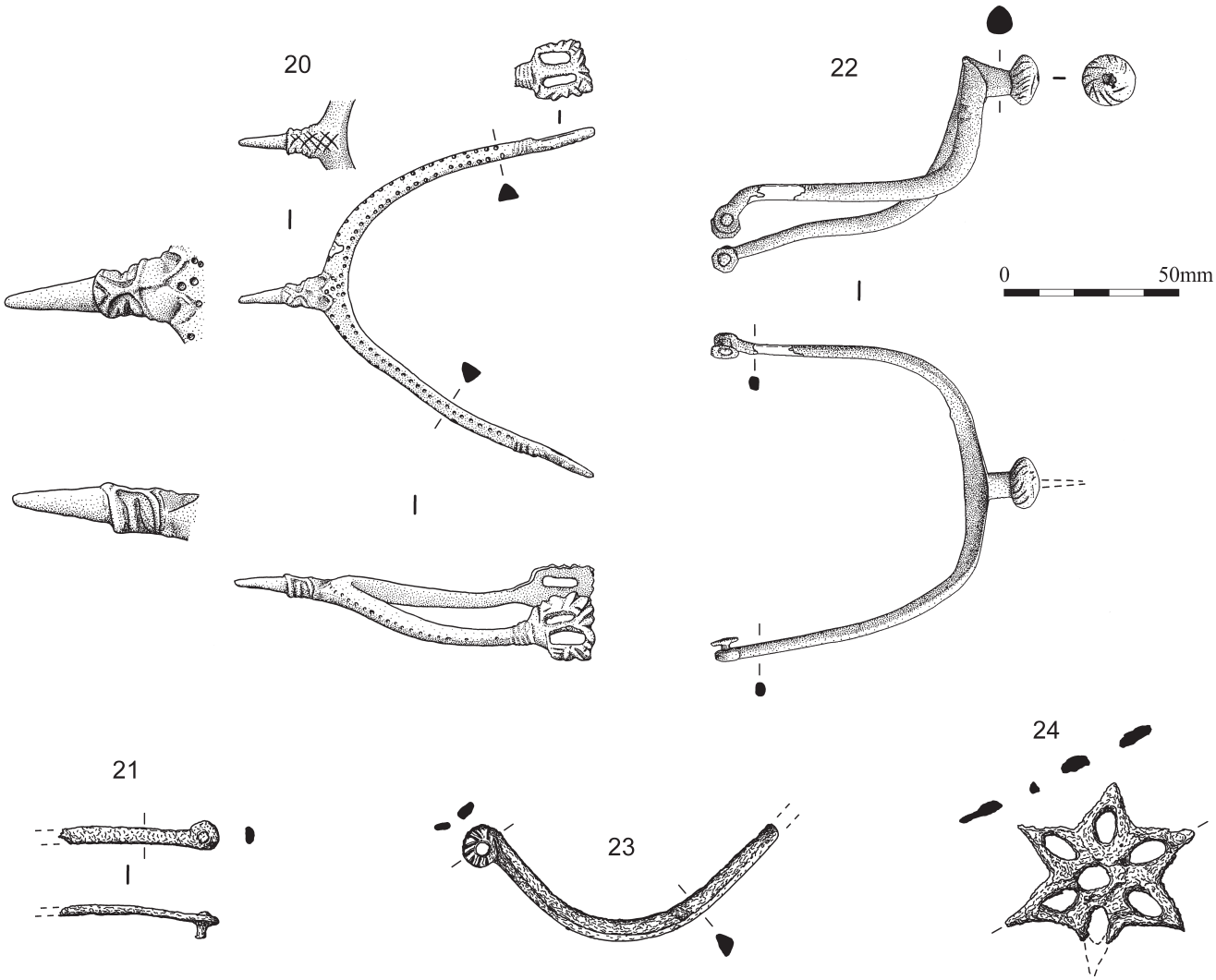
A copper alloy spur known to the authors only from an illustration (*Zeitschrift für historische Waffenkunde* VI (1912–14), 327), which does not show whether its sides are straight or curved, has triangular section sides and is of similar proportions to the Perth spur (Cat No 20). Its terminals differ in being of rivet type and its entire goad is formed in the round as a zoomorphic head. When published it was in the Engel collection.

A fragment of an iron spur from Gloucester (Gloucester City Excavation Unit SF72) of 10th-early 11th-century date consists of a straight, triangular section spur side bearing a small zoomorphic face (mentioned above). Its typically Saxon single slot, rectangular buckle terminal is unusual in being cusped, ridged and fluted on its outer surface in a manner not unlike the terminals of Cat No 20. Spur terminals are generally undecorated. The straight, triangular section side of another iron spur (Ellis 1984, no 274) from Thetford, Norfolk had a plain horizontal rectangular double slot terminal. It dates from the 10th-11th-centuries. Another plain double slot rectangular terminal remains on a 10th-11th-century spur from Canning Town, London (*LMMC* Cat No 1 1927, 40-1). This spur has long, straight sides of triangular section and a long straight neck with moulded goad. The surfaces of neck and sides but not the terminals are decorated with inlaid brass lines and scrolls.

Thus it appears that Cat No 20 combines a form of terminal which was becoming uncommon by the mid-12th-century, with the general proportions more typical of that century when for the first time spur sides were sometimes made to curve under the wearer's ankles, as they do slightly on this specimen. Iron spurs with strongly curved sides (cf Cat No 22) were found at Castle Acre Castle (Coad and Streeten 1982) in a sealed context which dates from no later than the 1140s, while a tympanum of St George and the Dragon dated c1160 at Brinsop Church, Herefordshire shows a spur similar to Cat No 22 with a curved side and a 'ball and spike' goad. Although these are early examples, it is clear that by the 13th century most spurs had deeply curved sides, including the newly introduced rowel spurs worn contemporarily with prick spurs as they gradually gained popularity over them, so that by the mid-14th century prick spurs had become uncommon. The deeply curved sides and the downward set neck of Cat No 22 are typical of the later prick spurs. The attachment of the spur leather by rivets, a common method on medieval prick spurs, was rarely used on rowel spurs which had their leathers held by hook attachments to their terminals. The term 'spur leathers' was used for leathers made of other materials such as woven fabric, as well as leather.

The forward bend of one terminal of Cat No 22 is an uncommon feature found on one or both sides of a few, apparently unconnected, prick and rowel spurs of the 13th and 14th centuries. It is shown on the inner sides of the spurs on the freestone effigy in Westminster Abbey of Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke who died in 1324 (Stothard 1817, 46, Plate 48). The effigy was made in London and set up in 1326 but probably shows spurs fashionable in the later 13th century. The effigy's spurs are worn with narrow spur leathers. The effigy of Aymer de Valence was a little old fashioned when it was set up in 1326; the sculptors of effigies were often somewhat behind the very latest court fashions. Christopher Wilson (in a lecture 'English Royal Tomb Design and Architectural Innovation 1300–1350' given to the International Society for the Study of Church Monuments Symposium 1980) described it as a conservative tomb, a reduced version of the nearby tomb of Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, who died in 1296, with some modernisation of detail. The spur necks are missing. Coincidentally Aymer de Valence, as Lieutenant in Scotland for Edward I and Edward II, frequently visited Perth while carrying on campaigns against Robert I (the Bruce) whom he defeated at Methven near Perth in 1306 (Barrow 1965, 216, 296, 327, 331).

A contemporary iron prick spur (ML36) in the National Museum of Scotland has a longer neck



Illus 154 *Spurs Cat Nos 20–24.*

than Cat No 22, with a longer quadrangular goad point. Its D-section sides curve under the ankles but there is no extra bend at the terminals; the latter are similar to those of Cat No 22 but their inner retaining plates attached to the rivets are made of copper alloy. Unfortunately its provenance is unknown but it is probably from Scotland.

An iron prick spur (Farquharson Bequest; provenance unknown, M755-1927) in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London has a short neck projecting downwards with a round ball and small spike goad, the ball decorated with incised lines as is that of Cat No 22 from Perth. The sides of M755-1927 curve under the ankles and the large, rounded double horizontal slot terminals are more reminiscent of those on the earliest Perth spur (Cat No 20); they would be an uncommon terminal form by the 13th century. It provides a link in the development of style represented by the two virtually complete Perth spurs (Cat Nos 20 and 22) from the High Street excavation, combining as it does the older form of terminals (as on Cat No 20) with the more strongly curved sides and more humane goad (cf Cat No 22). The purpose of the ball or broad-based goad was to provide some resistance in use so that there was less damage to the horse than a longer spike was liable to do.

An earlier copper alloy spur from Icklingham with an iron goad has already been mentioned (see above) in comparison with the earliest of the Perth spurs (Cat No 20). A medieval iron prick spur with straight sides from Baile Hill York (Addyman and Priestley 1978, 138, 140; Yorkshire Museum no 1977-51) has a broad round goad base with a small central hole. Its missing goad point is shown by an X-radiograph to have been an extremely small one made separately and inserted into the hole, as is likely in the case of Cat No 22.

As has already been stated in relation to the earliest Perth spur (Cat No 20) the gilding with which Cat No 22 was also covered indicates an owner of wealth and rank who was probably a knight. Perhaps significantly chain mail (Cat No 12), two spearheads (Cat Nos 11 and 13), and other weapons were also recovered from within Building 18 (Phase 2).

20 (**122**) **Spur** Cu alloy (see Fascicule 4, 7, Illus 6 and 7)
Copper alloy prick spur of slender proportions with considerable traces of gilding. The tapered sides, of triangular section, curve slightly under the wearer's ankle; their upper outside surfaces indented with a row of dots along both edges with extra dots above the neck; next to their terminals the sides are thickened by four slight vertical ridges. The terminals are roughly rectangular with deeply cusped outer edges and some incised line decoration. Both are pierced with two horizontal slots. Behind the wearer's heel the straight neck is formed as an animal's head in relief, the ears overlapping the sides at their junction with the neck, its flat underside decorated with incised cross-hatching. A long, plain tapered point of round section issues from the mouth of this head.
Overall length 105mm. Length of neck 24mm; length of goad point only 15mm. Span (now distorted) 100mm, probably originally c75-85mm.
A11316; C5014–3; B4, Construction; Phase IIc; Rig VI
Illus 154

21 (**582**) **Spur** Fe
Dimensions 58mm by 8mm by 3mm.
A04-0610; L1162; X226m; DX173; C7326-7; M1.4f; Phase IVc; Rig VI
Illus 154

22 (**703**) **Spur** Cu alloy (see Fascicule 4, 7, Illus 8)
Copper alloy prick spur with traces of gilding. Slender sides of rounded D-section taper towards the terminals; both sides plunge deeply to curve under wearer's ankles. One side bends or turns forward immediately behind its terminal, giving the entire side an elongated S-shape. Some slight incised line decoration on one side and suggestion of similar on other side. The second side curves under the ankle. Its forward end, despite having been pressed downward slightly during burial was clearly originally straight, lacking the forward bend of the terminal bend of the opposite side. Round disc terminals with a central rivet in each, both retaining a thin octagonal inner plate which held the missing spur leather on to the rivets. Behind the heel the junction of sides and neck forms a point. The neck, of rounded triangular section, projects at a downward angle and tapers towards the flattened ball of the goad. Goad is decorated with diagonal incised lines; in its centre is a small roughly square hole from which the small goad point is missing. Very occasionally prick spurs were fitted with iron goads and it is just possible that corrosion may be responsible for the absence of the point.
Overall length c110mm. Length of neck and goad 16mm. Span: terminal to terminal 87mm; inner plate to inner plate 80mm. Diameter of goad ball 15mm. Sides taper from 15mm deep behind heel to 4mm behind terminals. Of British, probably Scottish origin and 13th-century date.
A04-0551; C7299-7; B18 (Phase 2b), North Room, Hall and Hall South-Occupation (10); Phase IVb; Rig VII
Illus 154

23 (**1270**) **Spur** Fe
Bent and corroded. Length from tip to tip 90mm.
A04-0388; L0595; C7169-7; M1.5b; Phase Vaa; Rigs VI and VII
Illus 154

24 (**1772**) **Spur** Fe
Spur rowel. Height 65mm, width 57mm.
A04-0144; L4086; X213m; D064/1/2, DX161; C7000-7-10; Unstratified; Rig VI-VIII
Illus 154

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