8. Catalogue

Catalogue entries: format

Number. Provenance, County.
Length mm. Weight g.
Loop type, mortar/pestle, sub-type, patina and condition. Description.
Circumstances of discovery.
Context date.
Published references.
Present location.

1. Alderford, Norfolk
L. 66 mm. Wt. 21.3 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with strongly-curved bow, low, plain, convex walls and bulbous knobbed terminals. The broken loop assembly, mounted on a low keel, probably comprised a strutted ring surmounting a triangular aperture.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

2. Alderford, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 24 mm. Wt. 6.5 g.
?Centre-looped mortar fragment, comprising one end of the bow with coiled terminal knob.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

3. Alderton, Suffolk
L. 57.5 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, very abraded, with lightly-curved bow, plain, steeply-sloping walls, worn-down rims and U-sectioned groove. The terminals are in the form of a stylized head, probably a bird head. They are similar but not identical. Only the stub of the loop survives.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

4. Aldworth, Berks
L. 73 mm. Wt. 44.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with olive green and mid-green patina. A heavy casting, quite heavily worn which has erased some details of the incuse decoration. The crescentic bow has convex walls with inturned rim. Traces of a lightly incised line below the rim are preserved at each end of the bow, more clearly at the smaller terminal. On the walls adjacent to the larger terminal is an arrangement of punched dots, progressively more worn towards the centre of the bow. The broad U-sectioned groove is capacious, with a broad basal wear facet. It runs over both terminals. The larger terminal is in the form of a bull’s head, with inturned horns (the tip of one broken), a long blunt-ended muzzle, and a dewlap formed by extending the underside of the bow. The eyes are rendered with a punched circle and a further three circles occupy the flat space between brow and muzzle tip. The smaller terminal appears to be an unhorned bovid (?cow) or a dog. The short muzzle is tapered, lightly hollowed and ridged, with a rounded end. The ears are low and the eyes are rendered with a small
punched circle. There is no dewlap. The centre-loop was mounted on a low keeled plate. It is broken across the circular eye but was probably of plain discoidal form.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999.0802.1

5. Amersham, Bucks
L. c. 41 mm.

End-looped mortar, fragmentary, lacking the terminal and much of the bow. The remaining part of the bow shows little curvature and has apparently plain walls and a narrow groove. The ring-like loop has a sub-circular eye.

From archaeological investigations, 1983–9, of Roman site at Mantles Green (I, U/S, SF 1997).

Records of Buckinghamshire 34, 1992, 160, fig. 29, no. 10.

6. Ashby Folville, Leics
L. c. 70 mm.

End-looped mortar, with crescentic bow, apparently plain convex walls, knobbed terminal and rounded V-sectioned groove. The elaborate loop is based on a tendril and volute motif, giving the impression of a highly stylized bird’s head, with the tip of the dished everted bill scrolled back onto the prominent crown.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

7. Ashill, Norfolk
L. 52.5 mm. (orig. c. 60 mm.) Wt. 5.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid-grey-green patina, the surface denuded in places. A large well-made example. The rod, with rounded keel, is broken at both ends. The large collar-like D-shaped loop is also broken across its circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

8. Ashill, Norfolk
L. 31 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. A very small example, with short, stout, circular-sectioned rod, one tip seemingly broken. The D-shaped loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

9. Ashwell, Herts
L. 51.5 mm. Wt. 10.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with green-grey patina. A small example, with crescentic bow, angular keel, plain steeply-convex walls, a globular knobbed terminal with neat neck-moulding, and a shallow U-sectioned groove, with wear polish on base and sides, that runs over the loop. The loop is in the form of a neatly-rendered stylized bird’s head, with dished bill and circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

10. Ashwell, Herts
L. 55.7 mm. Wt. 7.8 g.

End-looped pestle, with lightly-pitted orange-brown (ferrous) patina. An elegant, well-finished example. The elliptical circular-sectioned rod swells towards the up-turned tip, which has a marked wear-facet on its underside. The slender loop, in the form of a stylized bird’s head with prominent brow and everted bill, has a large tear-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
11. nr. Ashwell, Herts
L. 75 mm.

End-looped mortar, with dark brown-black patina, lacking only the terminal. A well-finished example with an elliptical bow, angled keel, steeply-sloping, lightly-convex, plain walls, and a shallow U-sectioned groove. The projecting terminal is broken, and its original form cannot be predicted. The proportionately large slender loop is in the form of a highly-stylized bird’s head, with a large tear-shaped eye and a nearly-everted, prominent, everted bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

12. Ashwicken, Norfolk
L. 75 mm.

End-looped pestle, with dull metallic brown patina (cleaned). A long example, with tapered, crescentic, lentoid-sectioned rod demarcated from the oval-sectioned ‘handle’ by a simple ring moulding. There is a second ring moulding at the junction of the handle and loop. Wear polish is present in the circular eye and on the convex face of the rod. For the moulded bipartite form of the rod see no. 603, and for the ‘latch-lifter’ profile see nos 207 and 387.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.


13. Attlebridge, Norfolk
L. 38.5 mm. Wt. 16.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-green pitted patina. A small, very short, but heavy casting. The bow has deep plain convex walls with virtually straight rim. The deep U-sectioned groove has a high wear polish. Its asymmetric wear facet has encroached on the rim at either end. The terminals are plain. The plump D-shaped loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

14. Badingham, Suffolk
L. 37 mm.

End-looped mortar, broken at both ends. The bow has low plain walls, a smoothly-rounded keel, and a shallow U-sectioned groove partly blocked with a ferrous soil concretion.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
15. **Badingham, Suffolk**
L. c. 29 mm. (orig. c. 40 mm.)

Centre-looped pestle, with large ovoid suspension loop. The rod, of round cross-section, is broken at one end.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

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16. **Baldock, Herts**
L. 68 mm. Wt. 17.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J variant, with broad, thin-walled bow. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is a line of three sub-triangular cells, their apex pointing towards the loop. They are filled with coloured enamel, red flanked by light turquoise in both cases. The groove is deep and broad, its squared-off V-section the result of a basal wear facet. The terminals comprise two small bovid heads, with protuberant horns. One has a blunt-ended muzzle with slit mouth, the other has a small pointed muzzle with slightly gaping mouth. The collar-like D-shaped loop has a large heart-shaped eye.

From excavation, 1970, of Iron Age and Roman settlement. Area A1, western enclosure ditch of Building V.

Context date c. AD 180–220.

Jackson 1985, no. 73; I.M. Stead and V. Rigby, 1986, Baldock 136–8, fig. 60, no. 377.

Letchworth Museum

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17. **Barham, Suffolk**
L. c. 62 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, of idiosyncratic form. The bow has near-vertical walls, with only gently curving rim. The carination of both walls and the angular keel are flanked by two rows of dot punched decoration which extends onto one of the terminals. The groove is quite deep and of narrow U-shaped cross-section. It is open at one end, where it passes through the square spout-like terminal. The other terminal is pointed and down-turned. The loop, a near circular ring, is very large.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

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18. **Barham, Suffolk**
L. c. 31 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. A small example, with short stumpy arms, only slightly curved, and a high projecting loop plate, broken at the top across the tiny eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
19. Barking, Suffolk
L. c. 47 mm, (orig. c. 67 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, lacking one end of the bow. The near-vertical walls are plain, but the angular keel is decorated with a series of short cross-cuts. The groove is shallow, of broad U-shaped cross-section. The remaining terminal is knobbed, with an incuse rayed design. The loop is large, nearly circular, and of diamond-shaped cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

20. Bawburgh, Norfolk
L. 19.8 mm. Wt. 4 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with lightly-pitted and accreted olive-green patina. A fragment, comprising the central zone of the lightly-curved twin-tapered rod and the lower part of the elongated loop-plate, which is relatively narrow with bevelled edges.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

21. Baylham, Suffolk
L. c. 45 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. The circular-sectioned rod is thin, and one of the tapered arms is distorted. The loop, which surmounts a short pedestal, has a large circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

22. Beckford, Heref. and Worcs
L. mortar c. 72 mm. pestle c. 66 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. The mortar has a plain, thin-walled bow, with angular keel, capacious, broad V-sectioned groove and a knobbed terminal. The chunky loop, almost identical to that of the pestle, is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with prominent brow and everted bill. Both show signs of wear in the ovoid eye. The pestle has a very stout rod of pear-shaped cross-section, which clearly complements the profile of the groove in the mortar. Its reported ‘silvered’ finish is probably a surface tin-enrichment.

From a Late Iron Age burial, in excavations, 1975–9, of Iron Age settlements, by J. Wills. J.D. Hurst in J. Wills and J.L. Dinn (eds.), Excavations at Beckford, Worcester, 1972–9, CBA Research Report, forthcoming. The mortar was found close to the upper chest of an adult female skeleton which had been inhumed in a partially in-filled boundary ditch without a visible grave. The pestle was found just 15 cm apart in a disturbed layer above the inhumation. No other objects were found with the burial.

Metal analysis of the two components by Peter Northover (Northover in Wills and Dinn forthcoming) yielded the following results (in percent):
Mortar: 94.8 Cu; 4.39 Sn; tr.Zn; 0.04 Ni; 0.25 As; 0.43 Sb; 0.07 Ag; 0.02 Bi
Pestle: 84.9 Cu; 13.81 Sn; 0.12 Pb; 0.03 Zn; 0.59 Fe; 0.09 Ni; 0.21 As; 0.11 Sb; 0.08 Ag; 0.02 Bi.
Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain

23. Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk

L. 91 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. The smooth, dark brown, slightly tin-enriched surface is extensively overlain with sand-encrusted corrosion products, but where they are absent, notably on the keel, the original fine file-finishing marks are visible. The long, slender elliptical bow has a flat keel, low, plain carinated walls and knobbed terminals with neatly-cut mouldings. Viewed from above the narrow, relatively shallow groove the bow tapers from one end to the other, a size differential also reflected in the terminal knobs. The loop is a small D-shaped plate with a tiny unworn circular eye.

From archaeological excavation, 1999, of Late Iron Age to Roman rural site, at Beck Row, Mildenhall, by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

Unstratified.

E. Bales, 2004, A Roman maltings at Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 20, 30–1, fig. 21, 16.

24. Beddington, Surrey

L. c. 71 mm.

End-looped pestle, with an atypically elongated neck. The crescentic, tapered rod has an upturned faceted tip of lentoid cross-section. The plate-like loop has a circular eye.

From excavations, 1981–7, of Roman villa site, by L. and R.A. Adkins. Rubble layer, period 6, late 2nd–late 3rd cent. AD.


25. Beeston, Norfolk

L. 35.3 mm. Wt. 7.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mixed green-grey patina, lacking most of the original surface. A small light example, with deep, blunt-tipped, unusually flat, twin-tapered rod, and a D-shaped ring with circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

26. Besthorpe, Norfolk

L. 41 mm. (orig. c. 57 mm.) Wt. 10.9 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with flaking olive-grey patina, lightly encrusted on one face with a pale brown ferrous deposit. One arm of the lightly elliptical rod is broken, the other has a plump D-shaped cross-section and a blunted tip. The loop, a large ring with a circular eye, surmounts a stout pedestal-like stem. Both loop and pedestal have neatly chamfered angles.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

27. Billingford, Norfolk

L. 42 mm. Wt. 9.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type I, with light green-grey patina. Both terminals and part of the loop are lacking (all ancient fractures). The bow has an angular keel, plain, thin, sloping walls and a capacious groove of broad, deep, rounded V-shaped cross-section. The thin rims are intact but both terminals are broken. The fragmentary loop is a slender D-shaped ring with a large heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
28. **Blakeney, Norfolk**  
Ht. 12 mm. Wt. 5.1 g.

Mortar fragment, with fine mid-green patina. Form uncertain, but more probably centre-looped than end-looped. Only one terminal and a short stretch of the adjacent bow survive. The bow has a marked keel, is relatively thin-walled, and has an asymmetric, rounded V-sectioned groove, which runs over the terminal. The terminal is a medium-sized, well-modelled bovid head. The ears are unusually clearly-rendered, the horns are small with rounded tips; the face is carefully wrought, though without any indication of eyes; and the tapered muzzle is slightly bulbous.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

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29. **Blyth, Notts**  
L. 39.6 mm. Wt. 9.8 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a mid-green patina, though lacking most of the original surface. A small, heavy boat-shaped example with V-sectioned rod and an ornate suspension loop with scrolled ends and a small arched eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it acquired the spurious provenance of Owmby, Lincs.

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30. **Boughton Monchelsea, Kent**  
L. 71 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type L variant. The deep sloping bow walls are decorated with an incuse triple chevron motif, slightly irregularly applied. The capacious groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section and signs of a longitudinal wear facet. The terminals are knobbed, and the plate-like D-shaped loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find in the area of the Roman bath-house at Brishing.

*Archaeologia Cantiana* 105, 1988, 305–7. fig. 6.3.

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31. **Bourne, Lincs**  
L. 40 mm (orig. c. 42 mm.) Wt. 5.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with mid-green smooth patina. The maximum and marked swelling of the circular-sectioned rod is set a little beyond the midpoint towards the fragmentary tip. The circular loop, set above the end of the rod, would originally have been larger: corrosion has removed the original surface.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

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32. **Bower Chalke, Wilts**  
L. c. 73 mm. (orig. c. 80 mm.)

End-looped mortar, with plain low-walled bow, slender groove, and simple knobbed terminal. The slender broken loop is in the form of a very devolved bird’s head, with everted bill.

Metal detector find from an extensive area of Roman settlement. The site has yielded a diverse range of finds dating from the Late Iron Age to the Late Roman period. In private hands.
### 33. Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield, Suffolk

L. 39 mm. Wt. 4.63 g.

End-looped mortar, lacking the loop and part of the bow. The low-walled, plain, lightly-elliptical bow has a worn and corroded rim, a broad, shallow, U-sectioned groove, a rounded keel and a simple blunt-pointed terminal.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 34. Brampton, Norfolk

L. 64.5 mm. Wt. 31.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar with green patina. The relatively short bow has a shallow, and only lightly-curved, broad, U-sectioned groove. The two bovid terminals vary a little in detail. Both are horned, with ears, eyes, nostrils and mouth depicted as well as elongated stylized dewlaps, which extend to the slightly asymmetrically-placed D-shaped loop plate with circular eye. The rather irregularly-incised decoration on the walls and dewlaps may have been intended as a simplified depiction of the animals' coat.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 35. Brampton, Norfolk

L. 28.9 mm. Wt. 5.9 g.

(?) Centre-looped mortar, fragment only, with mid-green patina, lightly accreted with pale brown soil. All that survives is one terminal and a short section of the adjacent bow. The zoomorphic terminal is in the form of a stylized bovid, with triangular head, tapered muzzle, in-turned horns (one tip broken), and prominent everted ears. On both walls of the bow is a series of deeply-incuse hatched lines, perhaps intended to represent the stylized shaggy coat of the animal. The groove, which runs over the head, has a capacious U-shaped cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
36. Brampton, Norfolk
L. 71 mm. Wt. 45.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type E, with strongly-curved plump bow. The apparently plain convex walls have an in-turned rim. The groove is comparatively slender, of modest capacity and of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The terminals are zoomorphic, presumably very devolved bovids, with bulbous head, tapered face and flared, flat-ended muzzle. One terminal has a small raised dot on each side of the head giving the appearance of an eye. Each terminal is joined to the centre loop by an indented openwork strut, which begins at the muzzle and ended on the now broken lower perimeter of the large crescent-shaped loop. Both struts are fragmentary but their form is clearly the same as those of no. 213. Unlike that one, however, the openwork panels are all perforate. Nevertheless, the form, size and weight of these two mortars are so similar that they could have been made from the same mould. Such differences as there are reflect the type and degree of cold working after casting.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999.0802.2.

37. Brampton, Norfolk
L. 47.1 mm. Wt. 7.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with pitted and ferrous-encrusted pale green patina. Both terminals, part of the bow and much of one wall rim are lacking, as also the loop. The crescentic bow has a rounded keel ridge and thin convex walls with chipped rim. At the centre of both walls, adjacent to the loop base, is an arc of incuse tiny triangular cells, their apex pointing towards the loop: three cells on one wall, four narrower cells on the other wall. One of the three appears to have held green enamel, but all other cells are either empty or of indeterminate colour. The relatively capacious groove has a broad U-shaped cross-section. The loop base appears to have been re-worked following breakage of the loop. It has been filed smooth to a sort of low plinth and four incuse lines marked on it.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

38. Brampton, Norfolk
L. 60 mm.

End-looped mortar, with dark green smooth patina. The bow has plain, sloping, slender-rimmed walls and a capacious V-sectioned groove. The terminal is a small knob with a neck moulding. The loop is a stylized bird’s head with elongated bill.

From excavation, 1970, of Roman settlement site. Found in a disturbed level during excavation of the bath house.


On loan to Norwich Castle Museum, L1975.16.
39. Brandon, Suffolk
L. 69 mm. Wt. 29.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar. Cleaning of the exterior has revealed the golden brown colour of the body metal beneath a pale grey-green and patchy liver-red patina. The lightly-encrusted whitish-green corrosion products remain intact in the groove. An atypical and ornate example with a broad and deep crescentic bow, rounded angular keel and convex walls, with a symmetrical moulded decor. The tiny, ambiguous zoomorphic terminals, with hollowed eyes, prominent brow and upturned pointed bill were probably intended as highly-stylized aquatic birds' heads, and the same is probably true of the two adjoining ends of the D-shaped loop, which have a marked brow ridge and dished bill. The broad, very capacious groove has a deep V-shaped cross-section, with a light, axially asymmetric, basal wear facet which runs onto the terminals.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.3.

40. Brandon, Suffolk
L. 61 mm. Wt. 32.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with surface-depleted, irregular, variable green, oiled patina. A rather heavy inelegant casting, with lightly elliptical bow, flattened keel, plain, lightly-convex walls, and chipped rims. The U-sectioned groove has a marked basal facet and wear polish which runs onto the bulbous, neck-moulded terminals. The large, thick, ovoid loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.4.

41. Brandon, Suffolk
L. 59 mm. Wt. 5.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with metallic green-grey (tin-enriched) patina. Both arms of the slender, softened diamond-sectioned rod are distorted. There is a little wear on the underside at the centre. The neatly formed D-shaped loop has a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


42. Brandon, Suffolk
L. 39.3 mm. Wt. 14.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid-green dusty patina. A large example of ‘rocking-horse’ type, with plump, lightly curved rod and tall prominent struts supporting a discoid loop with small circular eye. There was little post-casting work, and quite rough filed facetting is visible, especially on the margins of the triangular aperture.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.7.
43. Brandon, Suffolk  
L. c. 54 mm.

End-looped mortar. An elegant design, with plain sloping walls, a lightly flattened keel, a broad, U-sectioned groove and a small knobbed terminal. The fine loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird's head, with a pronounced ridged everted bill. The eye is ovoid, possibly due to wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

44. Brandon, Suffolk  
L. 61. 5 mm.

End-looped mortar, with smooth olive-brown patina. A heavy, competent casting. The bow has plain sloping walls and a flattened keel. The capacious squared V-sectioned groove ends with a neatly formed pouring lip. There is wear in the eye of the circular loop, which has a squarish cross-section.

Metal detector find, donated to Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds, no. 1985–35A.

45. Brandon, Suffolk  
L. 56.6 mm. Wt. 8.5 g.

End-looped pestle, with smooth grey (tin-enriched) patina, lightly-pocked and encrusted in a few places, notably at the tip. The lightly-elliptical rod is swollen just beyond its midpoint and has a wear facet on the two lower sides of the upturned tip. The collar-like loop, with tubular eye, has a neatly-cut rim-moulding on both sides.


46. ?Brandon, Suffolk  
L. 71.2 mm. (orig. c. 80 mm.) Wt. 12 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with pale mottled grey-green patina. The crescentic bow has an angular keel, thin sloping walls and a capacious groove of broad V-shaped cross-section with a marked basal wear facet. One terminal is lacking. The survivor is a tiny simple knob. The loop is a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye. On both walls adjacent to the loop is an arc of four tiny triangular cells, their apex pointing away from the loop. Remains of the enamel inlay are present in most of the cells. The colour cannot now be determined but the residue has a uniform appearance implying that all were filled with the same colour.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. The given provenance is suspect because a mortar acquired from the dealer on the same occasion, and also said by him to come from Brandon, was actually from Melton Mowbray (no. 340). Other examples from the same dealer also proved to be falsely provenanced (nos 211, 481, 485).

British Museum, 1999,0802.5

47. nr. Breamore, Hants  
L. 52 mm.

End-looped mortar, of atypical form. A very diminutive example, with near-straight, very thin, plain, low-walled bow, very slender V-sectioned groove, plain blunt terminal, and a suspension loop formed by a tiny circular perforation. Above the perforation is a short zone of fine, crimped, 'pie-crust' decoration, similar to that sometimes seen on Late Iron Age metalwork.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
48. Brecon, Powys  
L. c. 71 mm.

End-looped pestle. A large example, with strongly curved D-sectioned stem. The centrally mounted circular loop is separated from the stem by a series of neat ring mouldings.

From excavations, 1924–5, of the Roman fort. Found to the north of the fort.

Jackson 1985, no. 44; R.E.M. Wheeler, 1926, The Roman Fort near Brecon 116, fig. 58, no. 11.

Cardiff, National Museum of Wales.

49. Brecon, Powys  
L. 56 mm.

End-looped pestle. A simple, unadorned, roughly-made example. The turned-over loop has a free end. The lower stem has a lightly curved facet on its convex edge. The tip is broken.

From excavations, 1924–5, of the Roman fort. Unstratified. Fort floruit c. AD 70–120.

Jackson 1985, no. 54; R.E.M. Wheeler, 1926, The Roman Fort near Brecon 116, fig. 58, no. 12.

Cardiff, National Museum of Wales.

50. Brenley Corner, Kent  
L. 97.8 mm. Wt. 46.9 g.

End-looped mortar, of distinctive, idiosyncratic, form, with a good mid-green patina. A heavy casting with lightly-elliptical bow and an axially asymmetric, angular, keel. The sloping thin-rimmed walls (cf. no. 292) are decorated with an incuse linear design, comprising an irregular zig-zag motif with a near-central X framed by a pair of verticals. The broad, shallow V-sectioned groove, with marked basal wear facet, runs onto the loop and over the terminal. The terminal is a large stylized bovid head, with very prominent strongly-inturned horns, their tips knobbed, and a broad, flattened, angular face with chamfered muzzle and incuse mouth and nostrils. The loop is a shouldered D-shaped plate which, like no. 73, is set, atypically, in a different plane to the bow walls. There is a little wear in the circular eye.

From excavation, 1972, of Roman roadside settlement on Watling Street, at Brenley Corner, near Faversham, by Frank Jenkins, for Canterbury Excavation Committee and the Dept. of the Environment. Remains included a possible shrine, with a range of votives – dea nutrix type seated mother goddess figurine, pottery face urn, two ‘triple vases’, and a high concentration of coins ranging in date from the 2nd century to later 4th century AD.

Royal Museum, Canterbury. BC 73.141.
51. Brettenham, Norfolk
L. 77 mm. Wt. 11.3 g.
End-looped mortar, with smooth dark green patina. A light example with only gently curved low, thin-walled bow, plain except for a pair of incised lines which run along the lightly flattened keel; and a single incised line which runs round the lower edge of the terminal pouring lip. The bow is lightly distorted axially, and is distinctly asymmetric to the loop. The U-sectioned groove is capacious, with a distinct basal wear facet and an open end. The loop is of turned-over form, the tip butted against the underside of the bow, and is elaborately decorated with a pair of deeply-incised lines running around the perimeter to the point where they meet a deeply-moulded four-leaf design, which is rather reminiscent of the zoomorphic terminals of some penannular brooches.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

52. Brigg, Humberside
L. 42 mm. Wt. 11.7 g.
End-looped mortar, ‘cleaned’ and with an artificially induced (green-painted) patina. A simple, very idiosyncratic, example, with short straight bow, rounded angular keel, plain sloping walls and lightly-convex rim. The groove, of relatively capacious U-shaped cross-section with basal facet, runs out of the plain open-spouted terminal. The loop is no more than a tiny roughly-countersunk hole passing through the wedge-shaped end.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

53. Brigstock, Northants
L. c. 75 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, Type F, of heavy ornate form. The bow walls are sharply carinated. Their upper section is near-vertical and is decorated with a central incised ridged moulding flanked by a raised ring-and-dot motif and a raised rib. The lower sloping section is plain, but the angular keel is incised with a line of chevrons. The rounded V-sectioned groove is relatively shallow. The terminals are bovids with strongly moulded muzzles and inturned horns. The appreciable difference in size and shape of the heads may have been a deliberate feature intended to show the twinning of bull and cow. The loop is a circular ring, the pedestal base of which is integrated with the central moulding. For a near-identical example, see no. 158.

From surface collection, Brigstock temple site. In private hands.


54. Brisley/ Stanfield, Norfolk
L. 57.5 mm. Wt. 7.55 g.
End-looped pestle, with slender, strongly-angled rod and simple loop with tiny, circular, countersunk eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
55. Bromeswell, Suffolk
L. c. 47 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, badly corroded. The bow is a simple crescent, with apparently plain walls and plain terminals. Corrosion and surface depletion may have destroyed the rim of the walls, but the U-sectioned groove must always have been shallow. The suspension loop is broken, but the projecting plate, on which it was mounted, remains. It is a low rectangle and is set back slightly from the keel of the bow, giving the object a distinct asymmetry.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

56. Broome, Norfolk
L. 73 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, badly corroded. The bow has plain sloping walls and a rounded V-sectioned groove. One of the terminals is knobbed, the other lipped. The loop is a large ring with circular eye.

Jackson 1985, no. 84; Trett 1983, no. 25.

57. near Brough, Nottinghamshire
L. 31.2 mm. Wt. 6.6 g.

Mortar fragment, with exposed green corrosion products beneath a dark brown patina. The fragment comprises one end of the bow, with a rounded keel, plain sloping walls, a small knobbed terminal, and a relatively broad shallow groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with a marked basal wear facet.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

58. Burgh Castle, Suffolk
L. 65 mm. Wt. 12.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type I, badly damaged, with mid-green patina, black-green (tin-enriched?) in places. The strongly curved bow has an angular keel, and sloping, plain, thin walls, their rims chipped and broken. The broad U-sectioned groove is capacious and worn. Both terminals are broken, but this distinctive mortar type had two varieties of terminal, small knobs or small bovid heads. In this case, since one of the terminals is broken very close to the tip, we can confidently predict that they must have been of the knobbed variety rather than the slightly thicker-necked bovid form. Only the stub of the loop survives, but sufficient to show that it was a slender D-shaped ring, with large heart-shaped eye. It is set at a distinct angle to the keel of the bow.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
59. Burgh Castle, Suffolk
L. 45.3 mm. Wt. 11.2 g.

Un-looped mortar, with dark grey-black patina. A diminutive neatly-made example with relatively broad crescentic bow, chamfered keel, plain sloping walls, carinated below the in-turned rim, a shallow U-sectioned groove with wear polish, and zoomorphic terminals apparently in the form of 1) a highly stylized bird’s head, with dished, everted, broad-ended bill, 2) a ?very devolved bovid head, the tip of its muzzle damaged. In place of a loop is a small central plinth with flat tongue-like projection with which the mortar is very readily held between thumb and forefinger.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999.0802.9

60. Burlingham, Norfolk
L. 57 mm. Wt. 10.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with green patina, the original surface preserved only in the groove. The bow is slender, with plain, low, sloping walls and inturned rim. The capacious U-sectioned groove runs over the terminals. Wear polish is visible on the basal facet, and the distinct axial asymmetry of the groove may also be a product of wear. The prominent spherical knobbed terminals have a simple neck moulding. The loop is broken, but the angle of the remaining stumps, and their extended keel-like junction with the bow, suggest that the loop was originally strutted.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

61. Buxhall, Suffolk
L. 62 mm. Wt. 8.26 g.

A large example, with long crescentic rod of circular cross-section turning to a thick lentoid section towards the tip. The eye of the circular loop is blocked with ferrous corrosion products.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

62. Caerleon, Gwent
L. mortar c. 45 mm, pestle c. 35–45 mm.

Set, comprising a centre-looped pestle corroded in the groove of a centre-looped mortar. This set, now missing, was recorded in 1986. From the record sketch it is evident that both components were small. No decoration was noted (nor is visible) on the mortar (but corrosion could easily have hidden any incised ornament on the walls), and the terminals appear plain and simple. The simple loop has a circular eye. The pestle has a relatively large D-shaped or heart-shaped loop.

From excavations, 1984–6, of Roman fortress extra-mural settlement, at Mill Street, Cambria House site, by Dr. Edith Evans for Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

From an abandonment/demolition phase of the site in a context which produced a coin of Victorinus (AD 269–271), but little else. That the coin date may be meaningful is implied by the nearby discovery in a drain of a hoard of 51 coins, the latest of which are also issues of Victorinus. Besly dated the hoard to AD 269 (E. Besly in R. Bland (ed.), 1992, Coin Hoards from Roman Britain, vol. IX, 101–3).

63. Caerleon, Gwent
L.c. 38 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking both terminals and much of the bow and loop. The bow walls are plain, the groove capacious U-sectioned, and the loop in the form of a flat D-shaped plate with small ovoid eye.

From excavations, 1984–6, of Roman fortress extra-mural settlement, at Mill Street, Allotments site, by Dr. Edith Evans for Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Unstratified.


64. Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk
L. 49 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. The small, short bow has plain sloping walls and a capacious V-sectioned groove, with marked basal facet. One terminal is moulded (bird-headed?), the other is in the form of a small lipped spout. The loop, mounted on a simple projecting pedestal, is a large ring with ovoid eye.

Found on the Roman fort site, 1936, with material of mainly 3rd- and 4th-century, but also 2nd-century date, together with stone building debris.

Journal of Roman Studies 26, 1936, 253 fig. 27; Jackson 1985, no. 85;

Norwich Castle Museum, 155.948.

65. Caistor St Edmund, Norfolk
L. 61 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type E variant, with remnants of the pale green patina which has mostly been removed to reveal the dull golden brown metal surface. An elegant and very finely crafted example. The plump bow has convex walls, plain except for an arc of punched inverted crescents below the thin upright rim. The shallow U-sectioned groove, completely encircled by the rim, has a slightly faceted base. The identical terminals are in the form of a stylized downturned swan’s head, with pronounced bill. A very slender sinuous strut links the tip of each bill to the centre loop via the keel of the bow. They have a neat ridge-and-groove moulding on their underside at the point of contact with the bow, and continue as a slender ridge moulding round the lower perimeter of the large circular loop.


Norwich Castle Museum 152.929.

66. Cambridge, Cambs
L.c. 61 mm.

End-looped mortar, with crescentic bow, rounded keel, low plain walls, shallow, rounded, V-sectioned groove and plain blunt-pointed terminal. The loop is coiled.

From archaeological excavations, 1956–1988, on Castle Hill. RGS Ia, 109 45 Pit.

67. Cambridge area
L. 69.4 mm. Wt. 15.2 g.

Centre-looped mortar. The mid-green patina has suffered badly from recent cleaning. The bow has thin, sloping walls, with damage to one rim. There is an engraved elliptical line adjacent to the loop, and another flanks the junctions of loop and bow. The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, is deep and capacious, with a basal facet. Both terminals are plain, one a little damaged. The large D-shaped loop is roughly-formed and appears to have been cast-on to the completed bow. A casting blemish on the interior was probably a result of incorrect heat control in this process.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.10.

68. Cambridgeshire, south, unprovenanced
L. 37.9 mm. (orig. c. 39 mm.) Wt. 8.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brown patina. The twin-tapered rod is short, elliptical and quite stout, of plump, chamfered, D-shaped cross-section, and lacks one tip (probably recent damage). The loop is a large circular ring surmounting a double-moulded pedestal. The relatively thick patina precludes an assessment of wear on the rod.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


69. Cambridgeshire, unprovenanced
L. 66.6 mm. Wt. 15.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with pitted and eroded olive-green patina. A large example with quite thick rod of lentoid cross-section. Its markedly angular 'heel' demarcates the end of the working face. The disproportionately bulky loop, though badly denuded of its surface in several places, was evidently in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with projecting brow and everted bill. The eye is small and circular.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.12

70. Cambridgeshire, unprovenanced
L. 56 mm. Wt. 9.1 g.

End-looped pestle, with lightly pocked and flaked olive-green patina. A well-proportioned and well-finished example, with crescentic rod, of plump lentoid cross-section, which swells near the upturned blunt tip. The neatly-wrought loop, with tear-shaped eye, is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with everted dished bill. A wear facet is visible on the convex face of the swollen section of the rod.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.11.
71. Cambridgeshire, unprovenanced
L. 55.2 mm. Wt. 5.6 g.

End-looped pestle, with fine brown patina and underlying golden-coloured metal. A simple elegant pestle with slender, circular-sectioned, elliptical rod, lightly wear-polished on the ‘belly’. The simple ovoid loop has a little wear polish in the oval eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


72. Campsey Ash, Suffolk
L. c. 70 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with steeply-sloping walls, a U-sectioned groove and zoomorphic terminals in the form of stylized bovid heads, both slightly different, with muzzle, eyes and ears/ horns quite simply rendered. The idiosyncratic large loop plate, now partly broken, had at least three small circular perforations.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

73. Canterbury, Kent
L. mortar 87.2 mm, pestle 66.1 mm. Combined Wt. 54.3 g.

Set, in fine condition, with lightly-encrusted, smooth, olive to mid-green patina, comprising an end-looped pestle corroded in the groove of an end-looped mortar. The mortar has a strongly-curved, very narrow bow with lightly-rounded keel and deep, plain, near-vertical walls. The groove, as far as can be discerned, is of very narrow V-shaped cross-section, and runs onto the loop and the large spherical knobbed terminal. The simple plate-like loop, divided from the bow by a band of four crudely executed incuse lines, is set, exceptionally, in a different plane to the bow. It has a small circular eye, slightly off-centre. Both these features recur on the pestle, which also has a band of incuse mouldings at either side of the loop/rod junction and a further band on top of the loop plate. The rod itself, to judge from optical examination and radiography, is of blunt knife-like form and fits snugly into the groove of the mortar. It is markedly curved, slender and very deep, with a thin triangular cross-section and sharply-pointed, upturned tip. Both the tip and loop, as viewed from above the concave edge, are skewed to one side, perhaps to aid grinding. A slight amount of wear is visible in the eye of both loops.


Context date, late 1st or 2nd century AD.


Canterbury Museum, CBR IV: 713.
Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking one terminal, and a centre-looped pestle, Type O, lacking one tip. Both components have been heavily stripped, revealing the dull brown-golden metal at the expense, in most places, of the original surface. Thus, the loops, mortar walls and terminal, and one pestle tip are attenuated, split and eroded, and the mortar, in particular, has suffered some loss in weight. The strongly-curved bow has an angular keel and thin steep walls, with an arc of six hollow-based triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, are completely devoid of enamel inlay or its remains. The broad, capacious groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section with basal wear facet. The remaining emaciated terminal is a simple small knob. The slender, ring-like, D-shaped loop has a relatively small heart-shaped eye. The large, ornate pestle has a rhomboid-sectioned rod with remains of a light, slightly asymmetric wear-facet on the keel. The two non-functional (concave) faces of the rod are decorated with two arcs of three small triangular cells flanking the junction of loop and rod. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, are now empty. The large loop is a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye. For a near-identical pestle see no. 586.

This set, from the Brent Collection, was seen by Reginald Smith in Oct./Nov. 1918, when his paper was at proof stage. He regarded the components as two separate pendants and inserted a reference (but no illustration) to the mortar only (Smith 1918, 60, Fn.1). As the photograph that Smith had made at the British Museum (PRB Dept. neg. no. SUB.5.44) shows, the set was then un-cleaned and lightly encrusted, and Smith seems to have been unaware of the enamel inlay cells. Thus, he likened it to a knobbled example from Colchester (no. 116). His correspondence on the objects with Mr. Mead of the Royal Museum, Canterbury, on 2nd October and 15th November 1918, is preserved in the archives of that Museum.

Jackson 1985, no. 92.

Royal Museum, Canterbury, 2247 and 2248.

End-looped mortar, badly crushed and distorted, with mid-green patina. The bow was slender and lightly-curved with low, convex walls, a smoothly rounded keel, and a plain blunt-pointed terminal. The walls are decorated with incuse lines which follow the curvature of the bow, one line immediately beneath each rim, one along the keel, and a pair in between. What is visible of the groove shows it to have been of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with wear-polish in the base. The crook-like loop with tapered, scrolled tip and small circular eye, may have been intended as a stylized bird’s head.

Royal Museum, Canterbury, 6948.

End-looped mortar, with only very lightly elliptical parallel-sided bow, very low, plain, sloping walls, a rounded keel, and a broad rounded V-sectioned groove, which runs through the simple open, spout-like terminal. The broken loop appears to have been a simple circular ring.

From excavation, 1990, of Longmarket site by Canterbury Archaeological Trust. 1990–11. SF 5368. From Context 6103, an occupation deposit on a large spread of flint and pot metalling flanking the south-western side of the major Roman road running from Westgate to near Burgate.

Context date, c. AD 50–130.
77. Carleton Rode, Norfolk
L. 45 mm. Wt. 8.9 g.
End-looped mortar, with brown and green pitted and puffy patina. A small example, broken at both ends. The short elliptical bow has plain walls with nearly straight rim, a rounded keel, and a U-sectioned groove partially blocked with corrosion. The broken terminal was probably plain, and the broken loop probably large and simple.

Metal detector find.
Norwich Castle Museum, 378.985 (402).

78. Carleton Rode, Norfolk
L. 32.5 mm. Wt. 5 g.
Centre-looped pestle, with pitted olive-brown patina, partially covered with a brown accretion. A small simple example, with slender twin-tapered rod (tips eroded), elongated loop plate and small circular eye, now blocked by corrosion products.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

79. Carlisle, Cumbria
L. 39 mm. (orig. c. 58 mm.)
Centre-looped pestle. A large example lacking one end of the rod and part of the loop. The surviving arm is slender with an ovoid cross-section. The loop is a D-shaped ring.

From excavations at the Lanes site, by Carlisle Archaeological Unit. Context KLA D 81.

Context date, late Roman, probably 4th century AD.

80. Castleford, West Yorkshire
L. 80 mm.
End-looped mortar, with plain deep walls, rounded keel, relatively capacious groove, and a plump knobbed terminal. The loop is neatly crafted, with a sub-circular eye, slightly elongated by wear facets. A simple rim-moulding embellishes the upper and outer edges of the loop and, in conjunction with a cross-moulding at the junction with the groove, forms a reserved, plain, cambered triangular field on the perimeter of the loop.

From excavations by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service. Trench N (15V), context N1145, gravel/midden.

Context date, Phase Ic = c. AD 71/4–c. AD 86 (Fort I).


The results of Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence (EDXRF) analysis of the mortar (by David Dungworth) are included in Cool and Philo 1998, table 18, p. 119, no. 421, where they are expressed as Cu 84.55, Zn 0.37, Pb 4.79, Sn 10.20, Fe 0.09, Ni nd, Mn nd, As nd, and the alloy characterised as leaded bronze.

Wakefield Museum, cat.no. 1719, S.F. 824.
81. nr. Catterick, North Yorkshire
L. 72.8 mm. Wt. 16.9 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with very irregular green patina. A poorly-preserved example which has suffered recent heavy abrasion/attrition of the corrosion products (‘cleaning’) and extensive re-colouring of the resulting highly uneven surface. The bow is slender and near parallel-sided, with angular keel, steeply-sloping walls, damaged rims and narrow, relatively shallow, V-sectioned groove, which runs over both terminals. One terminal is in the form of a zoomorphic head, probably a highly-stylized bovid, with low horns/ears, simply-rendered eyes, and a tapered, slender, blunt-ended muzzle. The other terminal, which is tapered and down-turned and lacks its tip, may have been intended to represent the beast’s tail. Only the corroded stub of the centre loop remains.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


British Museum, 1999,0802.15.

82. nr. Catterick, North Yorkshire
L. 55.4 mm. (orig. c. 66 mm.) Wt. 13.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with irregular green patina, poorly-preserved and incautiously ‘cleaned’, with some re-colouring of the resulting uneven surface. The elliptical bow, markedly swollen at the centre and tapered near the terminals, has a rounded keel, convex walls, damage-flattened rims and a partially-cleaned corrosion-blocked groove, the profile and capacity of which cannot be ascertained. The complete terminal is a prominent domed knob; the other, undoubtedly its pair, is broken at the slender neck. Only very vestigial remains of the centre loop, or, more probably, a low-ridged strut-and-loop assembly, survive, having been apparently ground away recently.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


British Museum, 1999,0802.16.

83. Charsfield, Suffolk
L. c. 46 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking both terminals and part of the loop. The bow has thin sloping walls with an arc of three hollow based triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both walls. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, contain traces of their enamel inlay, but the colour cannot be determined. The deep, capacious groove has a broad U-shaped cross-section. The loop was a large D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

84. Charsfield, Suffolk
L. 46.5 mm (orig. c. 68 mm).

Centre-looped pestle, lacking one arm. A large example with slender rod of rhomboid cross-section and a large ring-like D-shaped loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
85. Charsfield, Suffolk
L. 50.7 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with asymmetric twin-tapered rod of plump D-shaped cross-section. Only the stub of the loop remains.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

86. Charsfield, Suffolk
L. 41 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with short, stout, strongly-curved twin-tapered rod of rounded bi-conical cross-section. The small basal-moulded loop is broken across its circular eye, and the rod tips are eroded.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

87. Chediston, Suffolk
L. 51.3 mm. Ht. 44 mm. Wt. 22.9 g.

Centre-looped mortar, of most unusual form, completely adapted to the shape of a stylized bird. Thus, the bow is short and deeply hollowed, and the terminals stand much higher than normal. The bow walls are plain. The groove is short and shallow with a broad U-shaped cross-section. One terminal is in the form of a bird's head with short pointed bill, the other comprises the tail, which is slightly fanned. The loop is a comparatively large near-circular plate with a medium-sized round eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

88. Chelsham, Surrey
L. 71 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A, with light green corroded surface (most of the original surface now lacking). The long, slender, elliptical bow has an angular keel, steeply-sloping walls and a shallow U-sectioned groove. The remnants of surviving original surface at the terminal and near the loop demonstrate that the walls were originally ornamented with an incuse double zig-zag motif. The terminal is in the form of a very devolved bovid head, with tapered muzzle, prominent brow and vestigial horns. The loop, with sub-triangular eye, lies beneath the end of the bow. It was probably intended to give the appearance both of the beast's folded tail and of the stylized head of a water bird.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

89. Chessell Down, Isle of Wight
L. 71 mm.

End-looped mortar. Very slender bow, with low, convex, plain walls, broad, gently rounded keel, and very shallow groove of squared U-shaped cross-section. The terminal is plain and pointed, the loop a slender ring with large circular eye.

An un-contexted find from 19th-century excavations at the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (5th–6th century AD) on Chessell Down. Probably a grave good, perhaps a curio in a 'bag collection'. There is a Roman villa at Rock, some 2.5 km. to the S.E. of the site.

G. Baldwin Brown, 1915, *The arts in early England*, vol. IV, 419, pl. XCIX:3; Smith 1918, 57–8, fig. 7; C.J. Arnold, 1982, *The Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of the Isle of Wight*, 41, 68, fig. 27, no. 26 (a 1:2 drawing, where the size is wrongly given as 3.6 cm); Jackson 1985, no. 23.

British Museum, 1867,0729.125.
90. Chester, Cheshire
L. c. 65 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D variant, with partial surface erosion and encrustation. The convex walls are plain except for an incuse line below the rim. The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section is quite capacious. The moulded terminals, which may be very devolved bovid heads, are linked to the loop by gently curved struts. The loop is a circular ring mounted on a tall, tapered pedestal.

From excavation, 1989, at Priory Place.

Context date, mid-2nd–3rd century AD.

Chester, Grosvenor Museum.

91. Chester, Cheshire
L. 68.5 mm.

Mortar, with both centre loop and end loop. The bow has plain, steep, lightly-carinated walls, an angular keel, and a V-sectioned groove. The knobbed terminal has a lightly engraved line at its base. Both loops are of similar size with a tiny circular eye.

From excavation, 1977, of Bedward Row site. From the cemetery area, ditch fill.

Context date 3rd century AD.

Jackson 1985, no. 98.

Chester, Grosvenor Museum.

92. Chichester, West Sussex
L. mortar c. 78 mm. pestle c. c. 62 mm.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar, Type J, and a centre-looped pestle. The mortar has a rounded keel, and thin convex walls, with an arc of six small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells, whose apex points towards the loop, are now devoid of the coloured enamel inlay they once contained. The capacious groove is of broad, deep, U-shaped cross-section. The terminals are in the form of small highly stylized bovid heads with lightly inturned horns and blunt-ended muzzles. The loop is a D-shaped ring. The pestle is a slender twin-tapered rod with faceted tips and a D-shaped loop.

From excavation, 1965, of St Pancras Roman cemetery, Trench E, Burial Group 228, box burial, cremation. The associated finds, mostly items of personal adornment, include brooches, beads, ring, ligula, needles, glass vessels, Antonine samian and coarse ware pottery. The finds are suggestive of a female burial, but, unfortunately, the cremated bones were not examined.

Context date, late 2nd/early 3rd century AD.

A. Down and M. Rule, 1971, Chichester I, 115, fig. 5.18; Jackson 1985, no. 57.

93. Chichester, West Sussex
L. 62 mm. Wt. 10.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar. The deep bow has plain steeply-sloping walls, an angular keel, and a rounded V-sectioned groove, partially blocked with corrosion. The terminals are enigmatic in appearance. Though the initial impression is of small, simple bovid heads, the prominent point above the muzzle and between the horns/ears is only with difficulty explained as the brow ridge. There is no trace of the centre-loop, perhaps a casualty to damage, corrosion and heavy cleaning, though it is not impossible that one of the terminals is a broken end-loop.
From excavation, 1981, of the Cattlemarket site. From a rectangular timber slot (A34) for a timber tank.

Context date, late 3rd–late 4th century AD, but probably residual.

Jackson 1985, no. 66. A. Down, 1989, *Chichester* 6, 200–1, fig. 27.5, no. 72.

### 94. Chichester, West Sussex

L. 66 mm.

End-looped mortar. A fractured, distorted and corroded example with slender elliptical bow. The convex walls appear to have been plain and the keel flattened, and there is a marked basal facet in the V-sectioned groove. The knobbed terminal appears to have had a neck and girth moulding. The loop, partially worn through in antiquity or corroded away in the ground, has an angular stepped junction with the bow, perhaps intended as the bill of a very devolved bird’s head.

From the garden of Mr. Frederick Sadler, Little London, Chichester.

Jackson 1985, no. 15, where it was unavailable for study. Re-located in 1993.

Chichester District Museum, CHCDM 2034.

### 95. Chichester, West Sussex

L. 54 mm. (orig. c. 57 mm.)

End-looped pestle. The oval-sectioned stem has a facet on the swollen, upturned, tapered tip. The broken loop was a circular ring.

From excavations, 1968–75, of N.W. Quadrant, Area 2 (Not Area 5, as stated in Down 1978), J84.

Context date, Flavian–late 1st century AD.

A. Down, 1978, *Chichester* 3, 293, fig. 10.32, no. 36; Jackson 1985, no. 45.

### 96. near Chichester, West Sussex

L. 50 mm. Wt. 6.2 g.

End-looped pestle, with pitted grey (tin-enriched?) patina. An elegant example with a lightly sinuous rod. The underside of its swollen upturned tip bears a marked wear facet. The quite large loop is cast in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with prominent brow and everted bill, the tip of which is broken. Wear marks are visible in the near-circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Said to have been found in 1993, from the South Downs a little to the north of Chichester.

Donated to the British Museum, 1994,0701.1.

### 97. near Chichester, West Sussex.

L. 47.5 mm. Wt. 7.1 g.

End-looped pestle, with a mid-olive-green shiny patina. The small rod has an upturned tip, a projecting spur, and a large ovoid suspension loop. The original surface, as preserved by the shiny patina, is very irregular, and this is evidently not a product of post-depositional agencies. It would appear that this was a casting that underwent no finishing work, and this might account for the spur, which could then be interpreted as a sprue on the uncleaned, possibly failed/rejected casting. Alternatively, though less likely, the spur may have been a simple decorative feature, akin, perhaps, to the struts on some mortars, for it would not have impeded use of the tip.

Purchased on the antiquity market, and donated to the British Museum, 1995,0502.1.
8. Catalogue

98. Chipstead, Surrey
L. c. 65 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, evidently quite badly corroded with apparent loss of surface. The crescentic bow is slender, with ridged keel, steeply-sloping plain walls, unusually pronounced rim projection, plain blunt-tipped terminals and a narrow shallow groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The loop, now broken, is also of unusual form: its large, apparently circular, eye is deeply recessed into the bow, which is notched either side of the ring-like loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands.


99. Church End, nr. Saffron Walden, Essex
L. 70.5 mm. Wt. 11.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with olive and green patina. A slender, light example with crescentic bow, angled keel, thin steeply-sloping walls, fine rim, relatively capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section with basal wear facet, and simple, small knobbed terminals. On both walls is a panel of five tiny triangular cells, placed symmetrically either side of the loop, their apex pointing towards the keel. No trace of the enamel inlay survives. The loop is a relatively large D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

100. Cirencester, Glos
L. 66 mm.

End-looped mortar, forming a set with no. 101. An elegant well-made example, with slender elliptical bow. The low convex walls are plain; the groove is of V-shaped cross-section with a basal facet, and the terminal is a simple tapered point. The loop has a large circular eye and a ‘stepped’ junction with the bow, perhaps a version of the devolved bird’s head seen on other examples.

In 1985 attention was drawn to the possibility that nos 100 and 101 comprised a set (Jackson 1985, nos 24 and 43). A careful examination of the pieces subsequently, together with a more general consideration, permits greater certainty: the pestle fits snugly in the groove of the mortar, and both profiles, as well as the distinctive stepped loop, match so closely that it may be considered virtually certain that the two were made as a set.

From excavations, 1974–7, at St Michael’s Field. Robber trench, i.e. within town, southern half, Insula VI, shops, but also within the Leaholme fort or its annexe.


Cirencester, Corinium Museum.

101. Cirencester, Glos
L. 57 mm.

End-looped pestle, forming a set with no. 100. A simple well-cast example with a curved wear facet on the convex edge of the upturned tip. The stepped loop may have been intended as a highly devolved bird’s head. There is wear in the ovoid eye. So similar to no. 100 that there is little doubt that they were made as a set.

From the Cripps Collection.

Jackson 1985, no. 43.

Cirencester, Corinium Museum, C46.
### Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain

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<td>Cirencester, Glos</td>
<td>46.5 mm.</td>
<td>Mortar, with smooth dark grey patina. The anomalous suspension device comprises a crescentic strut in place of a loop. A small example with plain sloping walls, angular keel, and a relatively capacious V-sectioned groove with marked wear polish. The plain terminals and slender strut, like the bow, appear quite rudimentarily made, with little post-casting work. From the Barton Gravel Pits, i.e. from the site of the Barton Farm Roman villa. Jackson 1985, no. 99. Cirencester, Corinium Museum, B433.</td>
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<td>104</td>
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<td>Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking both terminals, part of the bow, the top of one wall, and most of the loop. A small example, with an angular keel, and low, sloping, thin walls decorated with an arc of four triangular cells adjacent to the loop. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, contain traces of their enamel inlay, which has discoloured to a pale green. The capacious groove has a deep V-shaped cross-section. Only the stub of the D-shaped loop remains. Metal detector find. In private hands.</td>
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107. Coddenham, Suffolk
L. c. 73 mm. (orig. c. 76 mm.)

End-looped mortar, with slender, lightly-curved bow, plain low walls, a comparatively capacious groove and a simple terminal. The loop, though broken, was clearly in the form of a devolved bird’s head, and the slightly everted bill terminal remains. The eye would have been large and tear-shaped.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

108. Codsall Wood, Staffordshire
L. c. 47 mm.

Centre-looped mortar with apparently plain walls and terminals and a small D-shaped loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

109. Colchester, Essex
L. 96 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type E variant. A large, very heavy and elaborate example. The strongly curved bow has deep plain convex walls with an upright rim, and a broad, shallow groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The bovid-head terminals have long everted horns and a blunt-ended muzzle with slit mouth. A stout strut links the throat of each head to the side of the suspension loop, the end closest to the throat, with incuse and notched decoration, giving the appearance of dewlaps. The loop, a large thick ring with circular eye, shows no sign of wear.

From the garden of 13, Rawstorn Road, i.e. within the Roman cemetery area outside the Balkerne Gate.

Colchester Museum Report 1930, 42, pl. XII no. 5; Jackson 1985, no. 61.

Colchester Museum, 446.29.
110. Colchester, Essex
L. 55 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type G, heavily cleaned, revealing a golden brown pitted patina. The bow has steep, lightly convex walls, plain except for a pair of incuse lines at each end. The U-sectioned groove is narrow and extremely shallow. Both zoomorphic terminals are small and simplified. One has a triangular head, with pointed muzzle and low horns or ears, and was probably intended as a bovid. The other has a narrow head with rounded blunt muzzle and a single projecting ?horn. The incuse lines could be construed as neck halters or collars, cf. no. 241. The loop is a large circular ring.

Found in Colchester, 1856.

Colchester Museum Report 1930, 43, pl. I, fig 2; Jackson 1985, no. 67.

111. Colchester, Essex
L. 65 mm. (orig. c. 92 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with metallic grey (tin-enriched) patina, lacking one end of the bow and most of the loop. A large example, with an angular keel, thin sloping walls and an arc of triangular cells adjacent to the loop. Corrosion at the broken end obscures some detail, but on one face there are at least three cells filled with ?red enamel, on the other face probably five cells, of which the outer two on one side bear traces of ?green enamel and the centre one a different colour enamel, perhaps red or orange. The apex of the cells points towards the loop. The capacious groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section with basal wear facet. The remaining terminal is a small simple knob. Only the stub of the large D-shaped loop remains.

Joslin Collection.

Smith 1918, 60–61, fig 14. Colchester Museum Report 1930, 43, no. 3, pl. XII, no. 2; Jackson 1985, no. 75.

112. Colchester, Essex
L. 65 mm. (orig. c. 75 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with a light coating of green corrosion over the olive patina, lacking one terminal. The bow is slender and strongly-curved, with an angular keel, low, sloping, thin walls and a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. Corrosion partially obscures the bow, but there is an arc of at least three small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both walls. Their apex points away from the loop and they retain their ?green enamel inlay. The remaining terminal is a tiny simple knob. The loop is a D-shaped ring with a lightly heart-shaped eye.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

Jackson 1985, no. 76.

Colchester Museum.
113. Colchester, Essex.
L 69 mm

Centre-looped mortar, Type L variant, of markedly asymmetric design. The lightly-curved bow has a rounded keel, and convex walls with a rather roughly-applied incuse diagonal triple line motif flanking the loop on both faces. The groove is very capacious, of deep, U-shaped cross-section. The loop, a D-shaped plate with off-centre sub-circular eye, is set well to one side of the centre point. The quite crudely-modelled terminals comprise a highly stylized bovid head and a bulbous knob, both with neck grooves. This may have been a conscious attempt to twin a bull’s head with a phallus.

From excavations, 1976–9, of the Butt Road Roman cemetery.

Context date, Periods 1–2, = 2nd–mid-5th century ad.


Colchester Museum.

114. Colchester, Essex
L. 42 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type L, with mid-green encrusted corrosion over an olive patina. The slender bow, with angular keel, is corroded and distorted and both terminals are broken. The low sloping walls are decorated with an incuse diagonal triple line motif flanking the loop, and part of a repeat of this motif at one broken end. The groove is narrow, with a V-shaped cross-section. The loop is in the form of a flat D-shaped plate with an off-centre circular eye, almost worn through.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

Colchester Museum Report 1930, 43, no. 5; Jackson 1985, no. 80.

Colchester Museum, 405.29.

115. Colchester, Essex
L. 69 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, cleaned, with dull, golden brown, corrosion-pitted patina. The slender, lightly-curved bow has a rounded keel, low, plain walls, a deep U-sectioned groove with marked basal wear facet, and knobbed terminals with a simple neck moulding. The small, plate-like, D-shaped loop, quite crudely-made, is unworn.

From Sheepen, Region 3, sand-pit, i.e. native industrial settlement. Finds from the sand-pit are mostly of 1st century bc–1st century ad date.


Colchester Museum, 145.31.

116. Colchester, Essex
L. 66 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with pitted and encrusted green patina. The bow has plain, sloping walls (one dented and broken), a gently angled keel, a deep groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with slight basal facet, and simple, compressed knobbed terminals. The ring-like loop has a slightly worn sub-circular eye.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

Smith 1918, 60, fig. 12; Colchester Museum Report 1930, 41, no. 2, pl. XII, no. 3; Jackson 1985, no. 83.

Colchester Museum, Jos. 1057.
117. Colchester, Essex
L. 38.7 mm. (orig. c. 52 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar. A small example, further reduced by corrosion and heavy cleaning. The slender, strongly curved bow has an angular keel and low, sloping, plain walls, lacking their rim. The groove, of shallow V-shaped cross-section, runs over the remaining terminal which is a simple knob. The thin, ring-like loop, mounted on a short keel plate, is broken across its ovoid eye.

From 'The Union', i.e. within the Roman cemetery area outside the Balkerne Gate.

Jackson 1985, no. 86.

Colchester Museum, 237.02.

118. Colchester, Essex
L. 61.5 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. The slender, twin-tapered rod has a low D-shaped loop with tiny circular eye.

From excavations, 1973–6, in Balkerne Lane.

Context date, Period 5, a and b = c. AD 100/125–250.


119. Colchester, Essex
L. 75 mm.

End-looped mortar, with smooth green-brown patina. A very heavy casting with a very broad bow and large, flat, button-like knobbed terminals. The lightly convex thick-rimmed walls are decorated with an incuse zig-zag motif, heavily worn near the centre. The broad U-sectioned groove displays wear polish. The relatively small loop is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with everted bill and circular eye. It is mounted on a squared keel ridge with other cast projections.

Provenance as no. 117.

Colchester Museum Report 1930, 43, no. 7, pl. XII, no. 4; Jackson 1985, no. 8.

Colchester Museum, 735.30.

120. Colchester, Essex
L. 60 mm. (orig. c. 62 mm.)

End-looped mortar, with lightly encrusted green patina. The strongly curved bow has plain sloping walls, a rounded keel, and a very small lightly-knobbed terminal. The groove, of deep V-shaped cross-section with basal wear facet, has a marked axial asymmetry, probably a product of wear. The slender ring-like loop is broken across its small circular eye.

From the ‘Bowling Green in Castle Park’.

Colchester Museum Report 1937, pl. XIII, 8; Jackson 1985, no. 17.

Colchester Museum, 621.35.
8. Catalogue

121. Colchester, Essex
L. 64 mm. (orig. c. 68 mm.)
End-looped mortar, with encrusted green patina. The lightly-curved bow has low, plain, gently carinated convex walls, a large, spherical, knobbed terminal, and a V-sectioned groove. Only the broken stub of the apparently simple loop remains.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

Smith 1918, 58–9, fig. 8; Colchester Museum Report 1930, 41, no. 1; Jackson 1985, no. 11.
Colchester Museum.

122. Colchester, Essex (Unillustrated)
L. 56 mm.
(?) End-looped mortar. A fragment, consisting of one knobbed terminal and part of the very lightly-curved, plain, low-walled bow. This is probably the missing part of no. 123.

From Culver Street, 1936, i.e. within fortress, and colonia.

Jackson 1985, no. 38.
Colchester Museum, 1175.36

123. Colchester, Essex
L. 30.5 mm.
End-looped mortar, with dull metallic brown (cleaned) patina. A fragment, comprising the damaged loop and part of the bow. The almost straight bow has low, plain, sloping walls, a rounded, asymmetric keel, and a capacious, rounded V-sectioned groove, which runs over the loop. The loop, a simple, tapered ring, is broken across (or worn through) its circular eye. This is probably the missing part of no. 122.

Provenance as no. 122.
Jackson 1985, no. 39.
Colchester Museum, 1174.36.

124. Colchester, Essex
L. 48 mm. (orig. c. 50 mm.)
End-looped mortar, with lightly-encrusted green patina. The bow is short, with a virtually straight rim, plain sloping walls, and an asymmetric rounded keel. The broad deep groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section and deep basal wear slot. The terminal is plain. The loop, an apparently simple ring, is broken across the circular eye.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

Colchester Museum Report 1930, 43, no. 4, pl. XII, no. 1.
Jackson 1985, no. 36.
Colchester Museum, 683.29.

125. Colchester, Essex
L. 59 mm.
End-looped pestle. A strongly-curved tapered rod with a curved facet on the convex edge of its upturned tip. The loop has a tiny circular eye and a slender bill-like extension, giving the impression of an aquatic bird’s head.

Provenance as no. 120.

Colchester Museum Report 1937, pl. XIII, 10 (where provenance and register number have been transposed with those of no. 126); Jackson 1985, no. 41.
Colchester Museum, 622.35.
126. Colchester, Essex
L. 64 mm. (orig. c. 66 mm.)

End-looped pestle. A large example, with curved facet on the convex edge of the upturned tip, the end of which is broken. The plain ring-like loop has an ovoid eye.

Provenance as no. 117.

Colchester Museum Report 1937, pl. XIII, 9 (where provenance and register number have been transposed with those of no. 125); Jackson 1985, no. 48.

Colchester Museum, 515.36.

127. Colchester, Essex
L. 76.3 mm. Wt. 25.1 g.

End-looped pestle, with a lightly-encrusted metallic green-grey (tin-enriched) patina. An atypical example in the form of a miniature latch-lifter (as no. 133). The rod comprises two distinct parts, a straight handle stem of lightly-chamfered rectangular cross-section and a strongly-curved working end, of sub-hexagonal cross-section, with upturned tapered tip. A simple incuse moulding frames both ends of the handle, while the loop rim is ornamented with small incuse triangles. There is a little wear in the circular eye and on the convex edge of the tip of the rod.

Circumstances of discovery unknown.

British Museum, Pollexfen Collection, 1870,0402.250.

128. Colchester, Essex
L. 65.9 mm. Wt. 5.9 g.

End-looped pestle, with fine dark green matt patina. Both rod and loop are a little distorted and the tip of the rod slightly chipped. This pestle, with its long, chamfered, square-sectioned rod and ‘shepherd’s crook’ coiled loop, has been worked from a rod, not cast – a working seam/striation is visible along the underside at the tip, near the centre and at the loop. The end of the rod is heavily worn through use, so much so that the thin tip is almost worn away. The slightly-distorted coiled loop has a rectangular cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

129. (?) near Colchester, Essex
L. 75.3 mm. Wt. 16.0 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with lacquered, lightly-pitted dark green patina. The strongly-curved bow has steeply-sloping walls and an angular keel. The walls, one thinner than the other, are decorated with an arc of enamel-inlaid small triangular cells, which extend almost to the terminals. Their apex points towards the loop. Three colours of enamel are used, red, light green and blue, in 20 cells on each wall, with a similar but not identical, and not quite symmetrical arrangement. The fine preservation of one wall reveals, from left to right, 2 blue, 2 green, 2 blue, 2 green, 3 red (centre), 3 green, 2 blue, 2 green, 2 blue. On the other wall the surviving traces reveal (left to right): 1 blue, 3 green, 2 blue, 2 green, 3 red, 2 green, 2 blue, 2 green, 2 blue.

The capacious V-sectioned groove has wear polish, a basal wear slot and a wear ‘ledge’, on the thicker wall. The small, neatly-formed, bovid head terminals have inturned horns and a ridged, lightly-bulbous muzzle. The loop is a slender D-shaped ring with a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands via the antiquity market. Thought to have been found in the Colchester region, this mortar and pestle no. 130 were spuriously described as a set on the antiquity market, by which time, also, their provenance had been overlooked.
130. (?) near Colchester, Essex
L. 56.8 mm. Wt. 6.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with lacquered green patina. A slightly asymmetric, crescentic, twin-tapered rod of rhomboid cross-section, with a D-shaped loop. There is an off-centre wear facet on the keel near one tip.

Metal detector find. In private hands via the antiquity market. For further details see mortar no. 129.

131. Coleshill, West Midlands
L. 57 mm. (orig. c. 60 mm.)

End-looped mortar. The strongly-curved bow has plain convex walls, a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, and a tiny knobbed terminal. The large ring-like loop is broken across its circular eye.

From excavation, 1979, of the Romano-Celtic temple and settlement at Grimstock Hill, by J. Magilton. From context A4 1284, SF 618, a 4th century AD temple demolition layer.


Warwick, Warwickshire Museum, A7617.

132. Coleshill, West Midlands
L. 39 mm.

End-looped pestle. A small example, of blunt knife-like form, with deep, slender, rectangular-sectioned stem and upturned tapered tip. The loop has a tiny eye and a bill-like projection, giving the appearance of an aquatic bird’s head.

Provenance as no. 131. A US, SF 95, unstratified.

Jackson 1985, no. 42; J. Magilton (publication reference as no. 131), fig. 71, no. 63.

Warwick, Warwickshire Museum, A7618.

133. Colkirk, Norfolk
L. 45 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking both ends of the low-walled elliptical bow and most of the loop. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of five (originally six) triangular cells, their apex pointing away from the loop, containing decayed greenish-coloured enamel inlay. The fragmentary loop was a D-shaped ring with a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

134. Congham, Norfolk
L. 34.6, 34.5 and 34.1 mm. Wt. 21.7 g.

Triple mortar, Type M, with central triangular aperture. In some places the metallic grey (?tin-enriched) patina is blistered and pitted with corrosion. All three units are virtually identical, with plain rounded terminals, smoothly convex plain walls and keel, and thin rims. The grooves, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, all display wear polish. The points of contact of the three units are neatly finished. It is hard to see that there would be any advantage in the provision of three mortars, and the design may be regarded as a novelty, though there was probably significance in the religious and magical power of the number three. Perhaps from the same mould as no. 139.

Metal detector find, 1994, from the area of the Congham Roman villa. In private hands.
135. Corpusty, Norfolk
L. 57 mm. (orig. c. 60 mm.) Wt. 6.7 g.

End-looped mortar, with pale green patina. The lightly-elliptical bow is exceptionally slender, with a rounded keel, very low plain sloping walls, and a simple tapered blunt point. The groove is extremely shallow, really only a light depression which runs from loop to tip. The proportionately slender loop is broken across its tear-shaped eye. It appears to have taken the form of a highly-devolved bird’s head with elongated bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

136. Cossington, Leics
L. 61 mm.

Mortar fragment, probably centre-looped, consisting of one end of the bow with large bovid terminal. The walls are steep and apparently plain, but the lightly flattened keel in the region of the terminal has an incuse design comprising a line of tiny lozenges – perhaps a stylized representation of the bull’s dewlap. The groove is deep, of narrow V-shaped cross-section. It runs onto the bull’s brow, terminating in an open ‘spout’ between the beast’s horns. The head is large and striking, with prominent inturned horns (one broken). A line of incuse zig-zag decoration runs down the centre of the neatly-modelled face, from brow to muzzle. Projecting from the muzzle tip is a small circular ring, now partly broken. In view of its relatively diminutive size and atypical plane it is unlikely to have been the suspension loop, and it is tempting to regard it as a depiction of the bull’s nose-ring. Another novel feature is the hollow-cast head with flat base and perforated circular eyes. It is possible that the hollow underside and eyes were filled with a packing material that contrasted with the colour of the metal. A zoomorphic terminal of this size and elaboration is more likely to have been one of a pair on a centre-looped mortar than a singleton on an end-looped mortar.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

137. Costessey, Norfolk
L. 48 mm. Wt. 2.13 g.

End-looped pestle. A slender example with simple circular loop, set on the mid-line of the rod, and strongly-angled tip.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

138. Cranwich, Norfolk
L. 60 mm. (orig. c. 70 mm.) Wt. 9.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with crescentic low-walled bow. One terminal is broken, the other has a gently swollen knob. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of three triangular cells, their apex pointing away from the loop. No trace of their enamel inlay survives. The loop is a D-shaped ring with D-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
139. Cranworth, Norfolk
L. 41, 40 and 39 mm. Wt. 19.6 g.

Triple mortar, Type M, with central triangular aperture. The smooth dark brown/black patina is pitted in a few places. The three units are very similar in form, and the slight variation in size is probably fortuitous. All have plain pointed terminals, lightly carinated walls, and very thin rims. The grooves, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, are capacious, with a high wear-polish in their base. The points of contact of the three units are less neatly finished than those of no. 134.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

140. Darenth, Kent
L. 70.5 mm. Wt. 19.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, recently cleaned, in consequence of which little of the original surface survives. Thus, although the steep, lightly-convex walls appear plain, the incuse triple neck moulding behind the small spherical knobbed terminals may be the remnants of a once more extensive engraved design. The narrow groove has a shallow U-shaped cross-section. The ring-like D-shaped loop has a circular eye with signs of wear.

Metal detector find, 1989 or 1990, at Old Mill Farm. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it had become divorced from its full provenance.


141. Deal/Canterbury, Kent
L. 47.6 mm. Wt. 24.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a smooth dark green patina which preserves most of the original surface. A small, heavy example with a deep-bellied bow. The plain, sloping walls have a gently-inturned, thick, rounded rim. The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, has wear polish and a marked basal wear facet. It runs over the terminals, which are in the form of small, flattened, button-like knobs. The atypical loop comprises a tiny circular eye within a slight expansion at the centre of the angular keeled bow.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

142. Debenham, Suffolk
L. 57 mm.

End-looped mortar, lacking the terminal end. The lightly-elliptical bow has an angular keel, steep convex plain walls, and a groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The loop is in the form of the stylized head of a water bird, with elongated dished bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
143. **Denton, Norfolk**
L. 32.4 mm. Wt. 4.5 g.

(?) End-looped mortar, fragment only, with badly-pitted dark grey-brown patina. What survives is one end of the slender elliptical bow, with flattened keel, plain steep walls, and a proportionately deep V-sectioned groove with basal facet, partially blocked with a ferrous concretion. The terminal is a small plain knob with slight neck constriction. Breakage of the bow appears recent.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

144. **Diss, Norfolk**
L. 57.6 mm. Wt. 16.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a lightly-pocked smooth brown patina. An elegant casting, with strongly-curved crescentic bow, rounded keel, plain lightly-convex walls, gently-inturned rims, tiny plain terminal knobs, and a U-sectioned groove with markedly asymmetric basal wear facet, which has worn away the wall at diagonally opposite ends. The loop is omega-shaped, with a worn circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


145. **Diss, Norfolk**
L. 34.3 mm. (orig. c. 57 mm.) Wt. 6.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with irregular dark brown patina, revealing underlying green corrosion products where chipped. Part of the loop and almost half of the bow are missing. The slender crescentic bow has an angular keel, plain sloping walls with chipped rims, and a U-sectioned groove with marked wear polish. The remaining blunt-pointed terminal is chipped but may once have been lightly knobbed. The loop is a small D-shaped ring broken across its circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

146. **Ditchingham, Norfolk**
L. 34 mm. Wt. 7.25 g.

Centre-looped pestle, small, with short deep crescentic rod (both tips missing) and D-shaped loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

147. **near Ditchingham, Norfolk**
L. 57.5 mm. (orig. c. 66 mm.) Wt. 7.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with a smooth green-grey patina, which preserves the original surface in most places. One terminal, most of the loop, and much of one wall are broken, the latter also distorted. The lightly curved bow has an angular keel and thin convex walls, with an arc of six small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on the complete wall. The tips of just four of the cells remain on the broken wall. The cells, whose apex points towards the loop, retain remnants of their enamel inlay, but the colour is now indeterminate. The base of the capacious V-sectioned groove is set a little to one side of the longitudinal axis. The surviving zoomorphic terminal is a small, highly-devolved horned bovid, with only the blunt-ended rhomboid muzzle and simplified crescent-shaped horns rendered. Only the stub of the large, thin, D-shaped loop survives.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, from ‘a Roman/Saxon site between Bungay and Ditchingham’. Formerly on the antiquity market.

148. Doncaster, South Yorkshire
L. 52 mm.
Centre-looped pestle, with a strongly-curved, stout circular-sectioned, twin-tapered rod, its tips broken. The loop is a simple ovoid ring.

From rescue excavations, 1966, at Frenchgate, site DG. Unstratified.


149. Dorset, unprovenanced
L. 55 mm. (orig. c. 63 mm.) Wt. 9.7 g.
End-looped mortar, with slightly pitted olive-brown patina, lightly coated in places with a mid-green encrustation. A small example with only gently-curved slender bow. The convex walls are plain and very low with inturned rim, the keel smoothly-rounded. The groove, of U-shaped cross-section has wear polish on the basal facet. The terminal has a small, flat-ended, button-shaped knob. The loop is broken but appears to have been simple, undecorated and circular.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


150. Dorset, unprovenanced (Unillustrated)
L. c. 60–70 mm.
End-looped mortar, with apparently low plain walls, large knobbed terminal, and a simple loop.

Seen on antiquity market, but not available for study. Present whereabouts unknown.

151. Dorset, unprovenanced
L. 81 mm. Wt. 16.4 g.
End-looped pestle. A very large example, with smooth green patina. The neatly-formed ring-like loop is circular, of rounded square cross-section, with a large round eye, at the back of which suspension wear is very evident, both as a distinct shine and as a rounding-off of the angle. The rod is very long, with a pillow-sectioned proximal end and an expanded, keeled, distal end. The keel displays wear polish and a single facet a short distance before the raised tip. Recent damage, comprising a dent and two scrapes, has bent the tip sideways and caused stress marks in the patina around the point of impact. The profile is probably little changed, but the sideways turn seen in the top view may be entirely due to the damage.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1994,0405.4.

152. Dorset, unprovenanced
L. 57 mm. Wt. 16.9 g.
End-looped pestle, with slightly pitted brown-black surface revealed by recent cleaning. The rod is of deep-bellied, blunt, knife-like form with a flattened top, near-vertical sides, and thin V-shaped cross-section. Removal of the patina has destroyed any trace of wear on the rod, but wear polish is visible on the remnants of green patina in the elongated eye of the simple discoidal loop.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1994,0405.3.
153. Dorset, unprovenanced
L. 68.5 mm. Wt. 15 g.

End-looped pestle, with extensively-pitted, light grey-green patina, the original surface preserved in only a few places. A large thick, relatively straight rod of sub-lentoid cross-section, with upturned blunt-ended tip, and an ovoid ring-like loop, with worn ovoid eye, set on the mid-line of the rod.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


154. Dragonby, Humberside
L. mortar c. 79 mm, pestle c. 75 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. Both are plain, with a circular, ring-like loop. The mortar has plain, steeply-sloping walls, a rounded keel, plain, slightly constricted terminal, and a V-sectioned groove with pronounced basal flattening. The long pestle has a circular-sectioned rod swollen towards the tip.

From excavations, 1964–73. DR 66 CZ, from Site 2, lower topsoil west of the East Road (F229).

J. May, 1996, Dragonby. Report on Excavations at an Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement in North Lincolnshire, Volume 1, 276, 278, fig. 11.25, no. 77.

Analysis, by EDXRF (May 1996, 288, Table 11.1) yielded the following results, mortar: Cu 97.55, Pb 1.19, Sn 0.65, Fe 0.04, As 0.12. pestle: Cu 96.35, Pb 2.18, Sn 0.87, Fe 0.14, As 0.11.

155. Dragonby, Humberside
L. c. 48 mm.

End-looped pestle, with an oval-sectioned rod and an ovoid ring-like loop, its eye elongated through wear.

From excavations, 1964–73. DR67 PA, from Site 1, lower topsoil south of Romano-British Building 6.

J. May (publication reference as no. 154), 276, 278, fig. 11.15, no. 78.

Analysis, by ED XRF (May 1996, 288, Table 11.1) yielded the following result: Cu 99.62, Pb 0.32, Fe 0.06.

156. Dungworth, South Yorkshire.
L. 75 mm

End-looped mortar, with plain sloping walls, smoothly-rounded keel and capacious groove of broad V-shaped cross-section. The terminal may have been vestigially-knobbed though this may simply be a consequence of the damaged rim in that region. The loop is a circular ring with large ovoid eye.

Found 1921, at Hall Broom reservoir, in clay, 5 ft below surface level. Donated by finder.

Sheffield City Museum, L.1921.79.
157. **Durham County, unprovenanced**
L. 55 mm. Wt. 27.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with patchy green corrosion over a dark brown patina. A heavy, rather rudimentarily-made example. The asymmetric bow has a rounded V-shaped keel, steeply-sloped plain walls with virtually straight rims (one damaged in antiquity), a V-sectioned groove, and tiny knobbed terminals. The sub-triangular loop, slightly asymmetric to the axis of the bow, has a lentoid knop at its apex.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

158. **East Anglia, unprovenanced**
L. c. 75 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type F, of heavy ornate form. The sharply carinated bow walls are decorated with ridged mouldings, the terminals are bovids with strongly moulded muzzles and prominent horns, and the loop is a projecting circular ring, the pedestal base of which is integrated with the central moulding. Its circular eye is markedly off-centre.

Although varying slightly in details and finish this example is so similar to no. 53 that it is quite probable that both emanate from the same archetype if not the same mould.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

Unavailable for study, but a single photographed view (with scale) was illustrated in *Treasure Hunting* magazine, for May 1992, p. 7, pic. 13, where it is misleadingly referred to as a ‘Celtic woad grinder’.

159. **East Anglia, unprovenanced**
L. c. 87 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with long elliptical bow, apparently plain convex walls, simple pointed terminals, and a small D-shaped loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

Unavailable for study, but a single photographed view (with scale) was illustrated in *Treasure Hunting* magazine, for May 1992, p. 7, pic 12, where it is misleadingly juxtaposed with a centre-looped pestle (no. 160) (the two are not a set) and described as a ‘Celtic bronze woad applicator’.

160. **East Anglia, unprovenanced**
L. c. 61 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with stout twin-tapered rod and ornate loop, in the form of a prominent neatly moulded plate with circular eye.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

Unavailable for study, but a single photographed view (with scale) was illustrated in *Treasure Hunting* magazine for May 1992, p. 7, pic 12, where it is misleadingly juxtaposed with a centre-looped mortar (no. 159) (the two are not a set) and described as a ‘Celtic bronze woad applicator’.
161. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 34.2 mm. Wt. 6.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with light grey-green patina. 'Anchor' type, with neatly-form ed twin-tapered rod, and crisply-angled loop, with circular eye, surmounting a tall pedestal, the edges of which are neatly chamfered.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

162. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 43.8 mm. Wt. 10.9 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with partial mid-brown patina eroded in many places disclosing the underlying pitted porous pale green corrosion products. The twin-tapered crescentic rod has a plump lentoid cross-section. Corrosion has removed the tips and most of the underside surface. The large loop has a tear-shaped eye, scrolled terminals (also lacking their tip) and a small triangular piercing, now blocked with a ferrous concretion.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.22.

163. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 92 mm. Wt. 27.8 g.

End-looped mortar, Type A variant, damaged, with dark brown and green encrusted patina, the original surface visible in only a few restricted areas. The bow is very long and gently curved, with low convex walls, which appear to have been plain, and an angular keel. The capacious groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section is partially blocked with corrosion products. The bovid terminal is large, and, though corroded, was clearly finely-modelled. There are upturned horns (both fragmentary), a naturalistically depicted face with well-rendered eyes, and a tapered muzzle with bulbous end, on which was shown the mouth and, probably, the nostrils. Beneath the head is a marked dewlap. Fragmentary thin struts occupy the space between the dewlap and the loop. Most of the loop is broken away, but it was evidently of the type which lay below the end of the bow, with an elongation giving the appearance both of the bull's folded tail and of a stylized bird's head (cf. nos 236, 325, 380, 394, 422, 495 and 558).

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1992,1201.2.
8. Catalogue

164. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 58.7 mm. Wt. 14.5 g.

End-looped mortar, heavily cleaned, revealing a pitted, dull golden-coloured metal surface. The surface of the groove is better preserved. A smallish example, with lightly elliptical bow, rounded keel, plain convex walls, a simple, plain, blunt-pointed terminal, and a relatively capacious U-sectioned groove with wear-polished surface. The chunky loop is in the form of a bird’s head, with marked brow ridge and dished bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. Purported to be a ‘pair’ with no. 167 by the trade vendor, but unlikely to be so.


165. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 83.7 mm. Wt. 33.1 g.

End-looped mortar, with quite extensively-pitted mid-green patina. A relatively heavy casting, with lightly curved bow, rounded keel, plain convex walls, thick rims, a simple projecting round-knobbed terminal, and a capacious groove of broad, slightly asymmetric, V-shaped cross-section. The loop was evidently originally a large ring with circular or sub-circular eye, but after breakage and/or heavy wear at the distal end the upper part of the ring was roughly cut and hammered down to close the break and permit continued suspension. In that way the size of the loop was reduced and the shape of the eye changed to its present sub-pear shape.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

166. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 43.6 mm. Wt. 6.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with brownish patina, very heavily abraded and facetted through insensitive cleaning. The tip, apparently plain, may once have been longer. Only the stub of the apparently simple end loop survives. A small simple example, with angular keel, steep, apparently plain, walls, chipped rims, and a groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section with wear shine and a slightly asymmetric wear facet.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

167. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 70.2 mm. Wt. 9.9 g.

End-looped pestle, with grey-green patina, rather pitted at the loop. A large, very finely-made example. The long sinuous rod has a marked centre ridge and side carinations and swells towards the tip. The underside of the swelling displays wear polish which extends as far as the tip. The loop is very elegantly formed in the shape of a bird’s head, with marked brow ridge and everted ridged bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. Although the pestle would fit in the groove of mortar no. 164 there is neither close similarity nor other intrinsic reason to indicate that they were made or used as a pair, despite the claim of the trade vendor.

168. East Anglia, unprovenanced
L. 41.4 mm. Wt. 2.3 g.
End-looped pestle, with smooth mid-green patina. A tiny, light example, with slender elliptical rod, upturned tip, and a very small, partially-fractured, loop with tiny circular eye. There is slight wear polish and a wear facet on the base of the swollen area of the rod near the tip.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

169. East Anglia or Cambridgeshire, unprovenanced
L. 81 mm. Wt. 21.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with olive-brown patina pitted and encrusted in many places with active corrosion. The crescentic bow has plain, steeply-sloping, lightly-convex walls, an angular keel, thick rims, and a U-sectioned groove, which runs onto the moulded, knobbed terminals. Only the stub of the loop survives, and corrosion obscures the adjacent wall area on both faces of the bow which appear to have been decorated with an engraved (or enamelled?) inverted V-shaped motif or large triangular cell.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.25.

170. East Anglia or Cambridgeshire, unprovenanced
L. 65.2 mm. Wt. 9.8 g.
End-looped mortar, with cleaned, very extensively and heavily pitted mixed green patina. A simple, elegant example with quite strongly-curved, slender parallel-sided bow, angular keel, low, apparently plain, lightly-convex sloping walls, thin badly chipped rims, a narrow, relatively capacious U-sectioned groove with basal wear facet, and a very small understated knobbed terminal. The corrosion-emaciated, simple, ring-like loop has a large circular eye.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

171. East Bilney/ Stanfield borders, Norfolk
L. 49.3 mm. (orig. c. 58 mm.) Wt. 4.9 g.
Centre-looped pestle, with pale brown-green patina. An example of very standard form, with elliptical twin-tapered rod (one tip broken), of D-shaped cross-section, and a large ring-like loop with ovoid eye, much of which is broken.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

172. Edwardstone, Suffolk
L. c. 68 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, with lightly curved bow, plain sloping walls, smoothly-rounded keel and capacious U-sectioned groove. The knobbed terminals are neatly formed, with a triple-groove neck moulding. The loop is a simple sub-rectangular plate with a small circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.
173. Edwardstone, Suffolk
L. c. 52 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. A small example with strongly-curved bow, plain steep walls, and a narrow U-sectioned groove. The terminal knobs are simple and quite rudimentarily finished. The loop is a discoidal plate with a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

174. Elm, Cambs
L. 73 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type F, badly corroded and damaged. The bow walls are thin and sharply carinated, with a near-vertical upper section. Remains of a central ridged moulding and a flanking rib can be discerned. The deep U-sectioned groove is very capacious. As on no. 53, the two bovid terminals appear to differ slightly in size and form. They seem less well rendered, but that may be a consequence of corrosion. The broken loop was evidently a circular ring on a pedestal base linked to the central moulding.

Found 1945, at Laddus Grove, apparently in association with a burial ("...on the arm of a skeleton...").

Trett 1983, no. 4; Jackson 1985, no. 65.

Donated to Wisbech Museum.

175. Elmton, Derbyshire
L. 69 mm.

End-looped mortar, with plain, convex walls, smoothly-rounded keel, capacious groove of broad U-shaped cross-section, simple knobbed terminal, and ring-like loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find, 1986. Donated by finder.

Sheffield City Museum, 1986.47.

176. Ely, Cambs
L. 60.4 mm. (orig. c. 78 mm.) Wt. 12.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with a mottled mid-to dark-green smooth patina, covered in places with a light coating of pale brown soil. One terminal and most of the loop are lacking and both walls and the loop are distorted, all of which appears to be ancient damage. The strongly-curved bow has thin lightly-convex walls with an arc of three small elongated triangular cells on each face adjacent to the loop. Their apex points towards the loop and they retain their decayed enamel inlay, though the original colour is now indeterminate. The groove is capacious, of slightly asymmetric rounded V-shaped cross-section. The surviving terminal is a small neat knob on the end of the finely-tapered bow. The loop was evidently of the heart-shaped variety.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.27.
177. Enderby, Leics
L. c. 90 mm.

End-looped mortar, with long elliptical bow, angular keel, steeply-convex, apparently plain walls, a bulbous knobbed terminal, and a narrow, deep, V-sectioned groove. The large loop is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with marked brow and elongated everted bill. The form and size are very similar to those of the pestle from Normanton-le-Heath (no. 391).

Metal detector find from a rally, on a site that appears to be exclusively of 1st–2nd century AD date. In private hands.

178. Essex, unprovenanced
L. 58.2 mm. Wt. 17.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with recently cleaned brown patina. The very lightly curved, near parallel-sided bow has low, plain, steeply-sloping walls, with quite thick rim, and a rounded V-sectioned groove, which runs over the terminals. The rounded terminals have a pair of tiny knobs, one projecting from each side. If other than abstract they are marginally more phallic than zoomorphic! The proportionately large discoidal loop has a lemon-shaped eye, elongated by wear.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.28.

179. Essex, unprovenanced
L. 58 mm. Wt. 14.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with smooth grey-green patina. The stout, twin-tapered rod has a lozenge-shaped cross-section, chamfered at the sides adjacent to the loop, and worn on the keel. The arms are markedly unequal and one appears to have been intentionally truncated in antiquity. Both have blunt tips. The comparatively large collar-like loop has a plump D-shaped eye and a sharply moulded base.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1986,0802.2.

180. Essex, unprovenanced
L. 47 mm. Wt. 9.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with strongly-curved twin-tapered rod. The keeled edge shows signs of wear, especially near the centre. The small circular loop has a sharply moulded plinth.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

8. Catalogue

181. Essex, unprovenanced
L. 67.5 mm. Wt. 19 g.

End-looped mortar. A finely crafted example with smooth green patina. The gently elliptical bow has low, plain, carinated walls, a flattened keel, a simple shouldered knob terminal, and a shallow groove, of broad U-shaped cross-section with an asymmetric wear facet. The finely cast and finished loop is in the form of an aquatic bird’s head, with ridged everted bill and prominent brow. A little wear is visible in the circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.


182. Essex, unprovenanced
L. 53.3 mm. Wt. 4.6 g.

End-looped pestle, with mid-green patina. A slender, elegant, crescentic rod of round cross-section, with swollen, sub-lentoid-sectioned working zone and tapered up-turned tip. The slender loop is now broken across its apparently small eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.29.

183. Eyke, Suffolk
L. 50.1 mm. Wt. 26.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-olive-green patina gouged and abraded in many places. A heavy casting, with plump elliptical bow, plain convex walls, shallow, flattened U-sectioned groove, and simple down-turned terminals, which form a rib and merge with the now broken strutted loop. The terminals were doubtless intended as very devolved bird heads with elongated bills.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, by means of which it acquired the erroneous and spurious provenance of ‘from Norfolk, ??Brandon area’!!


184. Faversham, Kent
L. 55 mm. Wt. 7.7 g.

End-looped mortar, with encrusted green patina, lacking the loop and part of the bow. The remaining part of the bow has low, plain, sloping walls, a narrow V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet, and a simple pointed terminal.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From the Gibbs Collection, most of which came from the King’s Field. In addition to the rich Anglo-Saxon cemetery Roman burials are known in the area.

C. Roach Smith, 1871, A Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon and Other Antiquities Discovered at Faversham..., (London), 16, where it is described as ‘the end of a strigil; or part of the case of some curved instrument’; Smith 1918, 58–9; Jackson 1985, no. 27.

British Museum, 1260.70 (Gibbs Bequest).
185. (?) Felixstowe, Suffolk
L. 64 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with smooth dark grey patina. The bow has carinated walls, their upper part near-vertical. Rim and carination are marked by a simple dot-punched line. The shallow groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section. The stylized zoomorphic terminals depict two different animals; the larger one a bovid, with ears, inturned horns and blunt-ended muzzle; the other, with dot-punched decoration on the pointed muzzle, slighter, and without horns, perhaps intended as a cow to complement the bull. The loop, a thin plate, with dot-punched border and circular eye, is markedly asymmetric.

A 19th-century find in the Fitch Collection.

Trett 1983, no. 2; Jackson 1985, no. 64.
Norwich Castle Museum, 76.94 (698).

186. Felthorpe, Norfolk
L. 55.6 mm. Wt. 10.5 g.

End-looped mortar, with heavily-lacquered brown and green patina. A small example with only very lightly curved bow, plain, very low, near-vertical walls, a broad lightly rounded keel, and a shallow V-sectioned groove, with basal facet, which runs over the plain, blunt-pointed terminal. Atypically, the loop is a coil of rather irregular gauge wire, originally tucked below the end of the bow, but now distorted out of position.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

187. Fengate, Cambs
L. mortar 61 mm. pestle 61 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. The mortar has plain convex walls, a smoothly-rounded keel, a simple pointed terminal, and a capacious, very broad U-sectioned groove. The loop is a thin circular ring with ovoid eye and a neat grooved moulding at the junction with the bow. The pestle has a long, sinuous stem with wear on the convex face of the swollen upturned tip. The simple ovoid loop has a lemon-shaped eye.

From excavation, 1989, of the Power Station site, by F. Pryor. The context, originally thought to pre-date 200 BC, proved to be problematic, and the set is more likely to belong with the small number of Late Iron Age and Roman finds than to any earlier period. In the final report (Pryor 2001) Coombs gives the context for both components as ‘from spoil heap’.

D. Coombs, 1992, ‘Flag Fen platform and Fengate Power Station post alignment – the metalwork’, Antiquity 66, 514–15, fig. 8, no. 14; F. Pryor, 1994, ‘Flag Fen’, Current Archaeology 137, 179–84; F. Pryor, 2001, The Flag Fen basin: archaeology and environment of a Fenland landscape, English Heritage Archaeological Reports, 281, fig. 10.11, nos 274–5, 282 (where the metal analysis is mistakenly placed with the entry for the pestle, no. 275, rather than the mortar, no. 274 – see 304, table 10.2, penultimate entry), 294, 299, fig. 10.20, 301. The given analysis (by Peter Northover) for the mortar is Fe 0.07, Co 0.01, Ni 0.21, Cu 97.98, Zn 0.00, As 0.00, Sb 0.16, Sn 1.35, Ag 0.00, Bi 0.07, Pb 0.07, Au 0.00, S 0.02. The low tin content is noteworthy.
### 188. Fincham, Norfolk

L. 33.7 mm. Wt 4.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J variant, fragment, with slightly friable green patina over paler green powdery corrosion products. Only one terminal and part of the adjacent bow survives. The curved bow has a ridged asymmetric keel and thin, lightly-convex, steeply-sloping walls with chipped rims. Both walls are decorated with a long arc of enamel-inlaid, slender, incuse cells in the form of an ornate floral (?highly-stylized lotus bud) motif, their apex pointing towards the keel. On one wall are six cells filled with blue enamel, the seventh with red enamel and the eighth, of which part survives at the break, retaining a trace of red enamel, too. On the other wall are seven cells filled with blue enamel and part of an eighth cell at the break, now devoid of inlay. The relatively capacious groove is of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The remaining terminal is a (for this type) relatively large bovid head, with long, ridged, flaring, square-ended muzzle and tiny ears/horns (one broken).

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 189. Fincham, Norfolk

L. 38.1 mm. Wt 7.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with pale grey-green patina. A neatly-made example, with an equal-armed rod of plump D-shaped cross-section and a tall-stemmed round suspension loop with a small circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 190. Fincham, Norfolk

L. 39.2 mm. Wt. 9.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with pale green-grey dusty, slightly uneven patina, retaining soil traces in crevices. A lightly elliptical twin-tapered rod with a circular loop mounted on a tall pedestal and integral swag-like struts linking the tips of the rod to the junction of loop and pedestal. Extensive flashing remains in the eye of the loop, in the two sub-triangular apertures flanking the pedestal, and on the outer edges of the struts – clear evidence that no finishing work took place after casting. Although the loop shows no sign of use it is not possible to ascertain whether or not the grinding face of the rod is worn.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 191. Fishbourne, West Sussex

L. 80 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type L. The slender, gently-curved bow has a narrow V-shaped groove and low, sloping, thin walls, which are decorated with an incuse diagonal triple line motif flanking the loop. The shouldered knob terminals and neck mouldings are neatly-formed. The D-shaped loop plate has a small circular eye.

From excavation of villa complex. Ploughsoil.

B. Cunliffe, 1971, *Fishbourne II*, 121, fig. 50, 141; Jackson 1985, no. 79.
192. *Fishtoft, Lincs*

L. mortar c. 88 mm. pestle c. 61 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. The elaborate mortar has a strongly-curved, near parallel-sided bow, with convex walls and a deep, narrow, V-sectioned groove. The walls are decorated with a simple linear dot-punched motif. The large bovid terminal is finely— and quite naturalistically-moulded, with prominent inturned horns, upturned ears, deep-sOCKETED round eyes, and a broad, flared blunt-ended muzzle with slightly gaping mouth. The large loop, with lemon-shaped eye, has a bill-like extension and was probably intended both as the bull’s tail and as a stylized aquatic bird’s head, the small projecting knob perhaps representing some form of crest or plumage. The neatly moulded stud at the centre of the convex underside of the bow was probably held to steady the mortar when in use. The pestle is a slender crescentic rod of blunt knife-like form, with pronounced side facets on the upturned end. Its simple ring-like loop has a circular eye.

This set, which was submitted to an auction house in 1977 (Christies Sale Catalogue, Fine Antiquities, Tues. 12 July 1977. Lot 208, plate 54), but was withdrawn before the sale, was then stated only to have come from Lincolnshire (Jackson 1985, no. 4). Some years subsequently it was discovered to have come from excavations in 1970 on a site at Fishtoft, near Boston, Lincs., by Mr. G. Bullivant. Unfortunately, the notice of the excavation (*Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 6, 1971, 7, fig. II, 8) did not include a reference to the context of the find; nor is it known how the set came to be on the antiquity market. Sadly, its whereabouts is still unknown. The site yielded a rectangular wattle-and-daub building with a hearth and oven. The finds included coins of the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, an iron plough coulter, and objects of worked jet and bone (*Britannia* 6,1975,244; 7,1976,324; 8,1977,388).

Jackson 1985, no. 4.

193. *Fornsett, Norfolk*

L. c. 62 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type K, lacking one terminal, part of the bow and most of the loop. The lightly-crescentic bow has a rounded angular keel, sloping plain walls and a capacious V-sectioned groove. The remaining terminal is a stylized bovid head with prominent everted horns and a slender angular muzzle with grooved mouth. What remains of the loop suggests it was a D-shaped ring with large eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
194. Foulden, Norfolk
L. 69.8 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with brown patina. The bow is very slender, with low, parallel-sided, steeply-sloping walls (the rim of one a little lower than the other), decorated with an incuse paired-V motif either side of the loop. The very shallow U-sectioned groove, partially blocked with a ferrous encrustation, runs over the terminals. The stylized bovid-head terminals are near-identical, with only the everted horns, ears and tapered muzzle depicted. The D-shaped loop is broken across its circular eye.

Metal detector find, donated to Kings Lynn Museum.

Trett 1983, no. 5; Jackson 1985, no. 63.
Kings Lynn Museum, KL 75.981 (A1626).

195. Fressingfield, Suffolk
L. 58 mm.

End-looped mortar, its exterior surface destroyed by ruthless post-discovery 'cleaning' (abrasion). Only the groove and terminal knob are as found. The elliptical bow has a rounded keel, apparently plain convex walls, a moulded, flat-ended, terminal knob, and a very shallow groove of broad U-shaped cross-section. The badly-damaged loop was apparently plain, with an ovoid eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

196. Fring, Norfolk
L. 33 mm. Wt. 9.5 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid-green patina. An anchor-shaped example, slightly asymmetric and rather rudimentarily made with little finishing after casting. The strongly curved rod has a rounded keel. The flat circular loop is supported on a pedestal with simple step-moulding.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

197. Garboldisham, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 45 mm. Wt. 8.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with triangular-sectioned, elliptical, twin-tapered rod and thin-walled collar-like loop with large sub-circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

198. Gate Burton, Lincs
L. 55 mm. Wt. 12.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brown patina. A stout example, with wear facet on the keeled rod, most noticeably at the centre. The large, thin, flat ring-like loop has only a vestigial stem. There is wear in the circular eye.

Metal detector find, from the north side of the Roman road half a mile east of Littleborough (Segelocum). In private hands.
199. Gisleham, Suffolk
L. 54 mm. Wt. 11.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with recently abraded pocked green patina, the original surface surviving in only a few places. The bow is very strongly-curved, with plain steeply-sloping walls and prow-like, small simple knobbled terminals. The V-sectioned groove, with basal wear facet, has been almost worn through the wall at diagonally opposed ends. Only the stub of the D-shaped loop survives, with an arc of the circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

200. Gloucestershire area
L. 42.2 mm. Wt. 8.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with light green patina and mid-orange-brown soil accretion in the mouldings and eye. A small, stout example, the thick curved, circular-sectioned rod of which swells and turns lightly to one side near the blunt tip. There is a wear facet beneath the tip and a small casting blemish to one side. The D-shaped loop with circular eye is elaborately moulded, and has the appearance of a stylized aquatic bird’s head with prominent brow and everted bill. Working marks are clearly visible, but not obtrusive, both on the rod and loop.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


201. Gloucestershire area
L. 52.6 mm. Wt. 9.9 g.

End-looped pestle, with patchy olive and dark grey patina. The oval-sectioned elliptical rod is markedly worn on the keel of its mid-section and, less so, on the convex face of the upturned tip. The small loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with marked brow and everted bill. There is wear in the sub-circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.32.

202. Godstone, Surrey
L. 27.2 mm. Wt. 8.6 g.

End-looped pestle, lacking most of the rod, with light olive-green patina, the original surface surviving only inside the loop and on concave curves. The rounded-rectangular-sectioned rod has a looped terminal in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with tear-shaped eye and everted bill.

Metal detector find during field survey.

203. Gosbecks, Essex
L. 70 mm. (orig. c. 73 mm).

End-looped mortar, with green patina. The bow has steeply-sloping plain walls, an angular keel, and a broad, shallow, V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet, partly obscured by corrosion. The broken terminal was probably a plain point. The large loop is in the form of a stylized bird’s head with everted bill. There is wear at the back of the circular eye.

From excavation 1967, of Roman theatre. Turf of cavea-mound, Trench 18, Phase 2.

Context date, AD 150–250.


Colchester Museum.
8. Catalogue

204. Grandford, Cambs
L. 71 mm. Wt. 18.8 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with corroded light brown patina, retaining some soil coating. The bow has plain, convex walls, an angular keel, a groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, simple knobbed terminals, and a very small ring-like loop broken across its tiny circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

205. Grandford, Cambs
L. 68 mm.
Centre-looped mortar. The crescent-shaped bow has plain, convex walls, an angular keel, a U-sectioned groove, simple pointed terminals, and a ring-like loop with small circular eye.
Metal detector find 'on the west side of the line of a Roman road'.
Trett 1983. no. 6; Jackson 1985. no. 90.

206. probably Grandford, Cambs
L. 53.1 mm.
End-looped mortar, with mid-green patina, lightly accreted with pale brown soil and corrosion products. The gently curved bow, broken at one end, has a rounded angular keel, plain, sloping walls, and a deep, capacious, V-sectioned groove with slightly asymmetric basal facet. The unusual 'pinched', prow-like terminal, which reinforces the boat-like appearance of the bow, has a chipped end and may once have been more elaborate. It seems unlikely that it was the loop plate, which was probably at the broken end.
Metal detector find.

207. probably Grandford, Cambs
L. 57.5 mm.
End-looped pestle, with mid-green patina, lightly accreted with pale brown soil, which also blocks the eye of the loop. An atypical example in the form of a miniature latch-lifter. Thus, the rod comprises two distinct parts, a straight handle stem of chamfered rectangular cross-section, and a strongly-curved working end of sub-oval cross-section with upturned tapered tip. The loop plate, which is in a different plane to normal, has a sub-circular eye, elongated through wear, and a pair of simple, neatly-wrought mouldings at the junction with the handle stem. For the bipartite form, cf. nos 12 and 387; and for the atypical loop plane, cf. nos 73 and 473.
Metal detector find.
208. Great Chesterford, Essex
L. c. 74 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H. The broad, strongly-curved bow has an angular keel and low, thin, carinated walls with two arcs of six contiguous, small triangular cells flanking the loop on both faces. Their apex points towards the loop. The capacious groove has a broad U-shaped cross-section. The terminals are small simple knobs. The ring-like loop is large, with a D-shaped eye.

From excavations in advance of gravel extraction, 1948–9, at the northern end of the Roman walled town, by Major J.G.S. Brinson.


Cambridge, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

209. Great Chesterford, Essex
L. c. 62 mm.

End-looped mortar. The broad, lightly-curved bow has plain walls, broad groove, simple pointed terminal, and simple loop with circular eye.

From the excavations of Lord Braybrooke (R.C. Neville) between c. 1845–1860.

A. Way, 1869, 'Bronze relics of the late Celtic period', Archaeological Journal, XXVI, 77; Smith 1918, 59; Jackson 1985, no. 29.

In 1950 Neville’s collection was transferred from Audley End to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

210. nr. Great Chesterford, Essex
L. 69.9 mm. Wt. 18.2 g.

End-looped mortar, with a mid-green patina, heavily abraded on the exterior but preserving the original surface in the groove. The bow is simple, with a rounded keel, apparently plain gently-sloping walls, thick rims and a plain rounded terminal. The very capacious groove is broad and deep with a U-shaped cross-section, slight basal wear facet, and marked wear polish. Too little of the loop survives to indicate its form.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

211. Great Cornard, Suffolk
L. 64.7 mm. Wt. 38.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with brown-olive patina. The tips of most of the projecting parts lack their patina and are reduced to a corroded green metal giving those parts a misleadingly emaciated or spindly appearance. A heavy example with short, lightly-curved bow, plain convex walls, a flattened keel and a broad, deep, capacious V-sectioned groove, with marked basal wear facet. The large bovid terminals are not identical. Both have prominent inturned horns (one with a bulbous tip) and simply rendered muzzles, but one is slightly less sturdy than the other, with a triangular muzzle and a more slender neck, and it seems probable that a pairing of bull and cow was intended. The D-shaped loop, heavily attenuated by corrosion, is flanked by a pair of short stubby struts, and a further pair of knobs project from the wall rims adjacent to the loop. Their purpose/significance is unclear, but the arrangement is not dissimilar to that on no. 261.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it acquired the spurious provenance of ‘Stonea’.

212. Great Sturton, Lincs
L. 70 mm. Wt. 15 g.
End-looped mortar, with dark grey-green patina. The lightly-curved bow has low, plain, sloping walls, with thin rim, an angular, slightly asymmetric, keel, a large spherical knobbled terminal, and a moderately deep and capacious V-sectioned groove, with basal wear facet, which encroaches on the loop and terminal. The small, tapered loop has a tiny circular eye, slightly elongated through wear.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly in private hands.


213. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 67 mm. Wt. 40.3 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type E, with black-brown patina extensively encrusted with mid-green, bright green and maroon corrosion. The modest-sized bow and groove are strongly-curved. The bow walls are plain with an inturned rim. The rounded V-sectioned groove is partly filled and obscured by corrosion products. The large crescent-shaped loop has a circular eye. It is flanked by indented openwork struts, which link the loop to the two zoomorphic terminals. If intended as specific animals, rather than mythical or fabulous beasts, the terminals are probably bovid, though heavily stylized. They have vestigial horns/ears, with a distinctive crest between, a marked brow ridge, tapered face with bulbous muzzle, and dewlaps formed by the end of the sinuous strut, the openwork panel of which is here imperforate. Corrosion has obscured and degraded the surface preventing a proper appreciation, but this looks like a fine piece of casting and craftsmanship. For a near-identical mortar see no. 36.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

214. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 92 mm. Wt. 43.3 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with recently cleaned brown-green patina. A large example with very long, slender bow, plain, convex walls, a smoothly-rounded keel, V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet, and a large plain ring-like loop with circular eye. One terminal is a neatly-formed shouldered knob; the other is a stylized bovid head with simply rendered short horns (one broken), ears (one damaged), brow ridge, and slightly flared, flat-ended muzzle with slit mouth.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
215. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 49 mm. (orig. c. 82 mm) Wt. 8.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with smooth pale grey-green patina, lightly coated with light brown soil on the terminal and in the groove. The bow is broken to one side of the loop, of which only the stub survives. The strongly-curved bow has steeply-sloping, thin walls and a rounded keel. Eight of the original 12 small elongated triangular cells remain on both faces, in an arc adjacent to the loop. Their apex points towards the loop, and all are now devoid of their enamel inlay. The capacious, broad, V-sectioned groove has a marked, slightly asymmetric, longitudinal wear-facet near the base of one wall. The small, highly-stylized bovid terminal has tiny everted horns and a thick, ridged, blunt-ended muzzle. The broken loop was evidently a D-shaped ring.

Metal detector find, reputedly near to no. 220. In private hands.

216. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 43 mm. (orig. c. 73 mm) Wt. 27.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with pale grey-green patina, lightly accreted with pale buff soil in the groove and crevices. The bow is broken to one side of the loop, of which only the stub survives. A very bulky casting with deep, very lightly-curved bow, plain, carinated, inturned walls, a rounded keel and a narrow groove of asymmetric V-shaped cross-section, probably a product of wear. The remaining terminal knob is a lightly-domed button with volute-type neck-mouldings. The broken, probably ring-like, loop was mounted on an asymmetrically orientated low oval plinth.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

217. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 50 mm. Wt. 6.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with thin, dark-green patina. The crescent-shaped rod has a triangular cross-section, with a wear-polished facet along the full length of the keel, but slightly more marked at the tips, where the sides and end also display wear marks. The upper face of the rod retains file-finishing marks. The loop is a D-shaped, thin-walled collar, with a large sub-circular eye. The distinct narrowing of its upper part is probably a product of wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

218. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. c. 61 mm. Wt. 11.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with broad lightly-elliptical bow, rounded keel, convex walls, an incuse line-and-dot-punched moulding beneath the rim, a capacious V-sectioned groove (partially filled with corrosion products), a small knobbed terminal with simple neck moulding, and a ring-like loop (fractured at the top) with a large circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

219. Great Walsingham, Norfolk
L. 47 mm. Wt. 5.9 g.

End-looped pestle. A simple, well-cast example with grey (tin-enriched) patina. The strongly-curved rod, of rounded rectangular cross-section is very heavily worn, with a marked 23 mm long polished wear facet on the convex edge of the attenuated upturned tip. The plain ring-like loop has a simple junction with the rod. Its lemon-shaped eye is elongated through wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>220.</td>
<td>Great Walsingham, Norfolk</td>
<td>End-looped pestle, with smooth pale grey patina. The circular-sectioned rod is extremely short, but was undoubtedly originally longer, probably much longer. The oblique truncation of the tip and three wear facets on its underside attest to long and heavy usage. The neatly-made tapered ring-like loop has a sub-circular eye elongated through wear. Metal detector find, reputedly near to no. 215. In private hands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221.</td>
<td>Great Yarmouth, Norfolk</td>
<td>Centre-looped pestle, with mid-brown patina, chipped at one rod tip revealing underlying powdery light blue corrosion. A small example, with relatively stout, short, twin-tapered rod and large ring-like loop with circular eye. Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. British Museum, 1999.0802.34.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222.</td>
<td>near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk</td>
<td>End-looped mortar, recently over-cleaned and re-patinated with a light coat of blacking. A small example, with a slender, sinuous bow, low, plain, lightly-carinated walls (their thin rim abraded away in the cleaning process), a smoothly-rounded keel, and a very shallow, broad V-sectioned groove. The plain, downturned loop has a circular eye. Uniquely, the everted terminal is in the form of a small solid, curved platform. It is possible that this was used to break up the substance coarsely before reduction to a powder in the groove using the pestle. Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223.</td>
<td>Great Yeldham, Essex</td>
<td>Centre-looped pestle, lacking one arm and part of the ring-like D-shaped loop. The rod, of modified rhomboid cross-section, has a rounded keel. Metal detector find. In private hands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224.</td>
<td>Grimsby, Humberside</td>
<td>Centre-looped mortar, with rough brown-green patina. A heavy, robust casting, with short, very strongly-curved bow, profiled walls, angular keel and V-sectioned groove. The two very stylized zoomorphic terminals appears to be: 1) a bird’s head, with open beak – the down-turned upper bill suggests a corvid (crow or raven); 2) a goat’s head or the head of a fabulous beast, with pointed muzzle and single, central, back-swept horn. Alternatively, it may be a crested bird or fowl. The D-shaped, plate-like loop, with circular eye, is markedly off-centre. For metal composition see Scientific Analyses. Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market. British Museum, 1990.0702.3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
225. Grundisburgh, Suffolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 42 mm.

End-looped mortar, lacking about half of the bow, with apparently plain walls and a loop apparently set beneath the end of the bow. Few details available.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

226. Gussage All Saints, Dorset
L. 59 mm.

End-looped pestle, with very lightly curved stem, upturned tip, and simple loop with circular eye.

From excavation, 1972, of Iron Age enclosed settlement. Found in Pit 348, near the centre of the enclosure.

Context date (Phase 3), 1st century BC–1st century AD.

G. Wainwright, 1979, Gussage All Saints 111–13, fig. 87, no. 3051.

Dorchester, Dorset County Museum, 1985.30. SF 3051.

227. Hacheston, Suffolk
L. 29 mm. Wt. 20.9 g.

Mortar fragment, with smooth dark green patina. One terminal and the end of the bow of a large, heavy, highly-ornamented mortar, broken and gashed in antiquity. The bow is deep and markedly V-sectioned with, at this point, a slender, shallow U-sectioned groove. The terminal is in the form of a bovid head, with inturned horns (the tip of one broken) and clearly-depicted eyes, nostrils and mouth. The head and muzzle are quite naturalistically portrayed, as are the rippled dewlap (keel) and the shaggy, curly coat, which is rendered by modelling and by punching with a multiple overlapping ring-and-dot motif, both on the brow and on the neck (bow walls). The lower-most punched motif on the beast’s face is a ring without a central dot. Other than the eyes this is the only such example on the surviving fragment and suggests it was intended to depict a pendant disc or ring rather than a hairlock or curl.


228. Hacheston, Suffolk
L. 68.5 mm. Wt. 18.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, stripped and lacquered, revealing a good casting, with smooth surface, now golden-brown in appearance. The bow is fractured and glued, the rims are chipped, and the plumper terminal has suffered from partial surface erosion and lacks its tip. The strongly-curved bow has plain, sloping, lightly-convex walls and a capacious, deep, rounded V-sectioned groove, which runs onto the terminals and has a marked basal wear facet. The walls are subtly asymmetric, both in depth and contour, to complement the respective terminals – the plumper terminal has a slightly deeper flanking bow (= neck). Both terminals appear to have been intended as stylized birds’ heads. The plumper one, with simple pointed bill, is of uncertain family or order; the other, with a ridged, dished, blunt-ended bill looks like a water-bird. The D-shaped ring-like loop had a circular eye, now elongated through wear.

Provenance as no. 227. Unstratified. Field 1 south. SF 2608.

Publication as no. 227: 119–20, fig. 79, no. 116.
229. Hacheston, Suffolk
L. 71.9 mm. (orig. c. 85.4 mm.?) Wt. 22.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a mid-green patina, slightly pocked and flaking in places. In its present form, a distinctly asymmetric and rather heavy, ungainly example, but it is very probable that it was broken and re-worked in antiquity. The bow is slender with plain, low, convex walls. Near the knobbed terminal is a casting flaw – a partial fissure. The D-shaped, plate-like loop, with small circular eye, merges into the raised rib, which runs along the keel of the bow. To the knobbed terminal side the rib appears plain, but to the other side it has an incuse herring-bone motif. The knobbed terminal is lightly downturned and, in combination with the raised rib, gives a distinctly phallic appearance to that end of the bow. The other terminal is formed by a filed ledge on the underside, which truncates the ridged keel. Other indications that this end is re-worked are the ground-away wall and rim on one side and the strong asymmetry of overall design. It is possible that the breakage occurred at a casting blemish similar to that at the other end of the bow. That the mortar was, nevertheless, well used is indicated by the very distinct wear polish and basal facet in the V-sectioned groove.

Provenance as no. 227. Unstratified. Field 1 south. SF 2310.

Publication as no. 227: 119–20, fig. 79, no. 117.

230. Haddiscoe, Norfolk
L. 68 mm. Wt. 7.4 g.

Centre-looped pestle. A large example, with smooth mid-brown patina. The slender rod is ridged on the concave edge and rounded on the functional convex edge, where there is a distinct wear-polish in the central zone. The large ring-like D-shaped loop is broken.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1993,0901.2.

231. Ham Hill, Somerset
L. 69 mm.

End-looped mortar. The elliptical bow is unusually parallel-sided, with plain, low, sloping walls, a flattened keel, and a broad, capacious groove with flattened V-shaped cross-section and a squared end. The simple knobbed terminal is also square-ended when viewed from above. The loop, with large sub-circular eye, is neatly undercut at its junction with the bow, and was evidently intended as a stylized bird's head with everted bill.

From excavations, 1930, by H. St George Gray. Find no. E.43 in cutting XVII, on 'the top of black layer'. Described by Gray as a 'heavy bronze ear-dropper'.

Taunton, Somerset County Museum, H.H. 1930, E.43.

232. Harleston, Norfolk
L. 51.5 mm. Wt. 8 g.

Centre-looped pestle, Type O variant, with partially pitted and iron-stained grey-green patina. An ornate example, with large, chunky, circular loop and rhomboid-sectioned twin-tapered rod, inset with a panel of contiguous small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. One face is poorly-preserved, but the other reveals a row of eight cells, their apex pointing towards the loop, with traces of the red enamel they once contained. There is wear polish and a light wear facet on the keel of the rod.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.35.
233. Harlow, Essex  
L. 56 mm. Wt. 8.2 g.

Centre-looped mortar, quite heavily encrusted with mid-green corrosion. A small example, with low, plain, convex walls, knobbed terminals, and a capacious rounded V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet which, as so often, is slightly diagonal to the axis. In consequence the rim of both walls is worn down at one diagonally opposite end. The small loop, mounted on a short, low, nearly moulded keel plate, is broken across its tiny circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

234. Harlow, Essex  
L. c. 63 mm.

End-looped pestle, a large, heavy, idiosyncratic example. The very stout, strongly-curved rod has a rounded keel, shield-shaped cross-section and up-turned pointed tip. The large, coiled loop, with sub-circular eye, has incuse linear decoration on its outer edge.

From excavation, 1993, at Old House, Harlow. The site, which comprised pits, ditches and surfaces, was thought to be part of a larger, probably agricultural, settlement. The pestle was found in a late 3rd–4th century AD ditch context but may have been residual.

235. Harpenden, Herts  
L. 61 mm. Wt. 13.4 g.

End-looped mortar, with green-grey patina. The strongly-curved bow has plain, steeply-sloping walls, a lightly-rounded keel, V-sectioned groove and simple blunt-tipped terminal. The loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with everted bill. On the forward zone of the keel is a very marked wear facet as though this part of the mortar had been used (or re-used) for burnishing.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands.

St Albans, Verulamium Museum.

236. Hasketon, Suffolk  
L. c. 70 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A. The long, deep, parallel-sided bow has an angular keel, a narrow U-sectioned groove and steep, thin-rimmed walls with incuse quadruple zig-zag decoration. The terminal is in the form of a very devolved bovid head, with blunt-ended muzzle, grooved mouth, slit-like eyes and simply-rendered horns (one broken). The loop, with circular eye, lies beneath the end of the bow. It has an elongation and was probably intended to give the appearance both of the beast’s folded tail and of a stylized bird’s head.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
8. Catalogue

237. Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex
L. 48.5 mm Wt. 9.3 g.
End-looped mortar, with oiled, pocked, corroded, rather poorly-preserved mortled green patina, with a spot of active corrosion. A small example with lightly-elliptical bow, rounded angular keel, and low, plain, convex walls, each of which has a poorly-preserved, corroded, small projecting knob near its mid-point. The very shallow groove is of broad, flat V-shaped cross-section; the terminal is a plain blunt point; and the loop, set at a right-angle to the normal plane, is a simple round ring broken across the circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.36.

238. Helperby, North Yorkshire
L. c. 65 mm.
End-looped mortar, with lightly-curved elliptical bow and apparently plain walls. The broken tip may once have terminated in a knob. An unusually long neck extends between the bow and the simple sub-circular loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

239. Henham, Essex
L. 55 mm. (orig. c. 62 mm.) Wt. 16. 9 g.
End-looped mortar, recently cleaned, with dark green-grey surface beneath patchy, pale green-buff patina. The lightly-curved bow has low, plain sloping walls, a rounded keel, and a rounded V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet. The broken terminal was probably plain. The neatly-formed ovoid loop has an off-centre, wear-elongated eye and a simple moulding. This was not a perfect casting, and flaws are visible within the groove near the broken end, on one rim at the angle change, and in the incompletely tidied grooved flash on the keel at the junction with the loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

240. Henley, Suffolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 50 mm.
Mortar fragment, unavailable for study. The Suffolk County Council Sites and Monuments Record photo shows part of the bow with a knobbed terminal. The missing terminal was probably an end loop as no trace of a central one is visible.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

241. Henstead (with Hulver Street), Suffolk
L. 53.3 mm. Wt. 14.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type G, with lightly-pitted smooth metallic grey (tin-enriched) patina. A small, quite heavy example, with slender bow, plain, steep, convex walls, an angular keel, and a narrow V-sectioned groove, with basal wear-polish, which runs over the small zoomorphic terminals. Axial asymmetry of the wear in the groove has resulted in attrition of the rim at one end of each wall at diagonally opposite ends. One terminal is a stylized bovid or dog’s head, with dished, tapered muzzle (the tip eroded), ‘pin-point’ eyes, and eroded horns/ears. The other is less well preserved, but was evidently different, with a bulbous, shield-shaped head, eroded ears, and ‘pin-point’ eyes quite low on the muzzle. It looks somewhat feline. Both terminals are separated from the bow by a pair of incuse lines, which might be construed as the animals’ collar or halter, cf. no. 110. Only the stub of the ring-like circular loop remains.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
242. Henstead, Suffolk
L. c. 40 mm.
Centre-looped pestle, with lightly-curved, plump, twin-tapered rod and ring-like D-shaped loop with circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

243. Hertfordshire, unprovenanced
L. c. 49 mm.
End-looped mortar, a small example with short elliptical bow, plain walls, plain blunt-pointed terminal, and a relatively broad groove. Only the stub of the thin ring-like loop survives. It has a large circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

244. Hevingham, Norfolk
L. 64.2 mm. Wt. 33.05 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with good pale buff-green patina, lightly abraded at projecting points. A heavy casting, with only very lightly elliptical, parallel-sided bow, angular keel, steeply sloping walls lightly inturned at the rims (one rim markedly thicker than the other), and a broad U-sectioned groove, with basal facet, which runs onto the zoomorphic terminals. Each terminal is in the form of a bovid head, with prominent horns, blunt-ended muzzle and deep-socketed circular eyes. The loop is a projecting sub-rectangular plate, with small circular eye. Although the heads are hardly differentiated in type, it is very probable that they were intended to represent the twinning (union) of bull and cow, since the neck of one is markedly deeper than the other, and its brow rather more prominent (thick-set bull). A hint of further realism is revealed by a close inspection of the wall-preserved patina, which shows very lightly incised hatched ‘texturing’ of the walls (neck of the beasts) adjacent to the terminals.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

245. Hevingham, Norfolk
L. 66 mm.
Centre-looped mortar. A heavy example with elliptical bow, thick, plain, sloping walls, a U-sectioned groove, and two similar zoomorphic terminals. The animal type is enigmatic – one head has a pointed muzzle, the other a flat muzzle, and only the eyes are depicted. There is no sign of horns. Above each head is an incuse line. The loop is a large thick disc with circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.
### 246. Heybridge, Essex

L. 45.7 mm. Wt. 7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with lightly-pitted olive-brown patina overlying light green corrosion products. The twin-tapered elliptical rod has a sub-triangular cross-section with a light wear facet along the keel. The loop is a large ring with circular eye.

From excavation, 1994, of the Romano-British 'small town' at Elms Farm, Heybridge, by M. Atkinson for Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group. The settlement spanned the period from the Late Iron Age to early Anglo-Saxon times but appears to have had its heyday in the 1st century BC to 1st century AD. The focus appears to have been a temple complex.

Un-dated context (11000) on the east half of the site, SF 2872.


### 247. Heybridge, Essex

L. 46.4 mm. Wt. 11 g.

End-looped mortar, with lightly-pitted green patina. A small example, with short elliptical bow, angular keel, plain, steep, lightly-convex walls, shallow U-sectioned groove, and flattened knob terminal with ring moulding. The broken end-loop was evidently in the form of a stylized bird’s head, of which only the everted bill remains.

Provenance as no. 246. Area A, un-dated context (4000) on the west half of the site, SF 1050.

### 248. Heybridge, Essex

L. 23.9 mm. Wt. 3 g.

End-looped mortar, fragment, with pitted grey-green patina. Only the loop and a small section of the adjacent bow survive. The bow has a rounded keel and a U-sectioned groove. The loop, in the form of a neatly-wrought stylized bird’s head with circular eye and dished bill, is enhanced by a moulded rib that runs around the perimeter from the back of the head/loop to the brow above the bill. There is wear polish inside the eye.

Provenance as no. 246. Area A, un-dated context (4000) on the west half of the site, SF 1867.

### 249. Heybridge, Essex

L. 37.8 mm. Wt. 7 g.

End-looped mortar, with pitted mid-green patina. A broken fragment comprising the greater part of the bow. The keel is rounded, the walls plain, steep and lightly convex, the narrow U-sectioned groove deep and capacious with a narrow basal wear facet, and the terminal simple, with a plain blunt point chipped at the tip.

Provenance as no. 246. Area D, prepared surface, context 9645, SF 4917.

Context date (Period III B): early–mid-2nd century AD.

### 250. Heybridge, Essex

L. 55.7 mm. Wt. 5 g.

End-looped pestle, with pale green patina. The long, slender, elliptical rod is of ovoid cross-section tapering to a lentoid cross-section on the up-turned tip. The underside of the tip is worn and polished through use. The tiny loop has a D-shaped eye and a neat ring-moulding at the junction with the rod.

Provenance as no. 246. Area G, make-up layer, context 7636, SF 2443.

Context date (Period III–IV): later 1st–mid-3rd century AD.
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251. Heybridge, Essex
L. 48.1 mm. Wt. 4 g.
End-looped pestle, with mid-green shiny patina. The lightly-curved, slender, circular-sectioned rod swells beneath the up-turned lentoid-sectioned tip. The loop is tiny and simple, with a tear-shaped eye.
Provenance as no. 246. Area L, well 14984, context 14985, SF 7345.
Context date (Period IV–V): later 2nd–mid-4th century AD.

252. Heybridge, Essex
L. 30.9 mm. Wt. 6 g.
(?) End-looped pestle, with brittle olive-green patina overlying powdery bright green corrosion products. The strongly-curved D-sectioned rod is unusually short and broad. Its collar-like loop preserves the remains of incuse decoration. The object is probably a pestle, though it may be a buckle pin.
Provenance as no. 246. Area D, un-dated context (9403) on the west side of the site, SF 3276.

253. Hillington, Norfolk
L. c. 47 mm.
Centre-looped pestle, with slightly asymmetric twin-tapered rod and tall D-shaped loop with circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

254. Hinderclay, Suffolk
L. 47 mm.
End-looped mortar, with badly corroded exterior surface. The lightly-curved bow has a rounded angular keel, apparently plain convex walls, chipped rims, a capacious U-sectioned groove, and a broken circular end-loop. The damaged terminal was probably a simple blunt point.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

255. Hindringham, Norfolk
L. 84 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, of novel design, in the form of a stylized fish/dolphin. The smoothly-curved, quite slender, bow has convex walls and a narrow groove. The tapered, rounded head terminal has horizontal slit mouth, tiny ovoid eyes, and gills depicted, together with stylized scales on the underside of the neck. The other terminal is a flattened plate with profiled edge (now chipped), which represented the creature’s tail fin, with small punched circles, presumably intended as scales, on the underside. The loop, an asymmetric plate with tiny circular eye, is also adapted to the creature’s anatomy, in this case the ventral fin.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

256. Hintlesham, Suffolk
L. c. 48 mm (orig. c. 60 mm).
Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking one end of the bow and most of one wall. The crescentic bow has thin, steeply-sloping walls decorated with an arc of small triangular cells, five on each wall, their apex pointing towards the loop. Some contain traces of orange enamel. The U-sectioned groove is capacious; the surviving terminal appears to have been a plain rounded point; and the D-shaped loop, now distorted, has a heart-shaped eye.
Metal detector find, 1996, from a site which has yielded a metalwork scatter including 1st century brooches and 2nd–4th century coins. In private hands.
257. Hitcham, Suffolk
L. 63.5 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, plain convex walls, U-sectioned groove and simple knobbed terminals. The loop-plate, mounted on a low keel, has a small circular eye.


258. Hitcham, Suffolk
L. c. 35 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, fragment only, lacking both terminals and the loop. The remaining part of the bow has thin, steeply-sloping, lightly convex walls and a capacious broad U-sectioned groove. The central zone of both walls is decorated by a row of three hollow-based triangular cells, their apex pointing away from the loop. All of the cells are now empty. The remaining straight basal ridge of the loop suggests it was of the D-shaped ring-like form rather than the heart-shaped type.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

259. Hitcham, Suffolk
L. 56 mm. Wt. 11.64 g.

End-looped mortar, worn, with crescentic bow, angular keel, apparently plain steep walls, a shallow narrow groove, broken loop and simple blunt terminal, possibly originally with incised decoration.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
260. Hockwold, Norfolk
L. mortar 106 mm. pestle 70 mm. Wt. mortar 62.4 g. pestle 9 g.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar and a centre-looped pestle. Both components have been stripped and are now light golden brown in colour, except the groove which is shiny and golden. A few small remnants of the original dark green patina survive. The mortar is a very large and heavy casting. Its deep bow has an angular keel, steep convex walls, decorated with an incuse paired chevron motif adjacent to the loop, and large, bulbous knobbled terminals. The U-sectioned groove is polished smooth through wear and runs deeply over the terminals. The large collar-like loop has a circular eye. The pestle, a crescentic twin-tapered rod, with collar-like D-shaped loop, has a wear facet on the convex edge, most distinctly in the central zone.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.


Trett 1983, no. 26; Jackson 1985, no. 58.


261. Hockwold, Norfolk
L. 103 mm. Wt. 80.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with green patina. A large, elaborate and finely crafted example, with strongly-curved bow, large heart-shaped loop and two large, sensitively-modelled zoomorphic terminals. The greater one is a bovid head with stout inturmed horns, their tips knobbed, prominent ridged brow, raised lentoid eyes, and a lightly bulbous muzzle with mouth and nostrils depicted. The smaller terminal is a bird’s head, almost certainly a duck, with high crown, small raised lentoid eyes, and a long dished bill with lightly upturned tip. The intricate cast and incuse decoration of the bow, deceptively asymmetric, is finely integrated with the zoomorphic terminals, representing in part the neck of the respective animals. The V-sectioned groove has a flattened base, probably a longitudinal wear-facet, though light corrosion inhibits examination.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Jackson 1985, no. 59.

British Museum, 1977,0403.1

262. Hockwold, Norfolk
L. 79.1 mm. Wt. 27.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with smooth olive-brown patina and partial light ferrous accretion. The slender lightly-elliptical bow has an angular keel and convex walls, one markedly lower than the other. Beneath each rim is a dot-punched incuse linear moulding which encircles the terminals. Beneath each terminal the bow is decorated with three moulded projections, which may have been intended to be seen as devolved bird heads. Similar mouldings flank the projecting keel-like loop-plate, which has a small circular eye. The long slender groove, of U-shaped cross-section, runs over the terminals.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

263. Hockwold, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 57 mm.

(?) Centre-looped mortar, in brittle condition, about half surviving. The heavily-corroded broad groove terminates above the prominent bovid terminal, the long curved horns of which are distorted.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

264. Hockwold, Norfolk
L. c. 50 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with asymmetric, circular-sectioned, strongly-tapered arms and a small D-shaped loop with circular eye on a tall, narrow pedestal.

Metal detector find, ‘near Black Dyke’ (probably Blackdyke Farm). In private hands.

265. Hockwold, Norfolk
L. 55 mm.

End-looped mortar, with pale green-brown patina. A small finely-made example, with an excessively slender, lightly elliptical bow, very low, finely carinated walls with thin rims, a flattened keel, and a proportionately large U-sectioned groove with a slight wear-polish. The tiny terminal knob has a neat neck-moulding. The loop is lightly ‘coiled’ with a circular eye.

Metal detector find from Leylands Farm. Lent by finder to Moyses Hall Museum.


266. Hockwold, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. 40 mm. Wt. 8.55 g.

(?) End-looped mortar fragment, comprising part of the plain-walled elliptical bow. The groove is partially blocked with corrosion products. The terminal is a neatly-formed, flattened, bulbous knob.

Metal detector find/ field-walking survey. In private hands.
267. Hockwold, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. 77 mm. Wt. 22.5 g.

End-looped pestle. A large and heavy example, with a long, deep, elliptical rod of thick knife-like form. The loop may have been intended as a highly-stylized bird's head.

Metal detector find/ field-walking survey. In private hands.

268. Hod Hill, Dorset
L. 62 mm. Wt. 6.1 g.

End-looped pestle, with smooth green patina. The upturned tip of the lightly elliptical rod has a very distinct asymmetric wear-facet on its convex face. The very large, flat ring-like loop has an ovoid eye,

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavations, 1951–8, of Roman fort; from foundation trench of Building A (?Stabling/veterinary quarters?).

Fort dated c. AD 45–55.

I. Richmond, 1968, Hod Hill II 113, fig. 56, no. 6; Jackson 1985, no. 51.

British Museum, 1960,0405.466

269. Holme Hale, Norfolk
L. c. 27 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. Fragment only, from central part, comprising part of the steep, thin-walled bow and the stub of the loop. The damaged walls nowhere preserve their rim, but the U-sectioned groove was evidently capacious. The loop, apparently of large discoidal form (though possibly more complex), is mounted on a low pedestal.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

270. Holt, Norfolk
L. 32 mm. Wt. 2.17 g.

?End-looped pestle. A small example with relatively large loop. Possibly a buckle pin.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

271. Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk
L. 55 mm.

End-looped pestle, with pale green-brown patina. The distal end of the elliptical rod is atypically turned to one side as viewed from above. This appears to have been an intentional feature, rather than damage, and may have facilitated the grinding process. There is a marked wear facet on the convex face of the upturned tip. The simple ovoid loop with small circular eye saw little finishing work after casting.

Metal detector find from Valley Farm, with other objects of 1st–9th century AD date. In private hands.

272. Horsham St Faith, Norfolk
L. 32 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with shiny dark-green patina on the inner face of the loop and concave face of the rod; elsewhere light-green soft corrosion products. A short example, with relatively large sub-circular loop and short twin-tapered rod (one tip broken) of rounded triangular cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
8. Catalogue

**273. Horton Kirby, Kent**
L. c. 74 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with slender plain-walled bow, spherical knobbed terminals and D-shaped loop plate with circular eye.

From Anglo-Saxon grave (no. 69), in a female bag collection. There is a nearby Roman villa, from whence the mortar may have derived.

Grave dated early 6th century AD.


**274. Humberside, unprovenanced**
L. 65.4 mm. Wt. 21.5 g.

End-looped mortar, with pale to mid-green lightly pocked patina. A simple example, with small lightly-elliptical bow, plain sloping walls, chamfered keel, shallow, broad U-sectioned groove with light wear-polish, and plain terminal with lightly-upturned, square-ended tip. The relatively large loop is a simple, thick ovoid disc with a circular, lightly-worn eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


**275. Hunsbury, Northants**
L. 62.6 mm. Wt. 6.9 g.

End-looped mortar, with smooth brown-green patina. A very light, simple example, with virtually straight bow, apparently hammered out from a single rod of metal. The sloping walls and rim are very thin and plain, the rounded keel markedly off-centre, and the terminal plain with an upturned base and simple rounded end. The asymmetry of the capacious groove corresponds to that of the keel. The thin circular loop is quite crudely made. It is flattened, has a free end, and is asymmetric to the bow.

From hillfort, finds made without proper record at the end of the 19th century during ironstone-quarrying. The large collection of metalwork, pottery etc. spans the whole of the La Tène Iron Age but contains almost no Roman material.

Smith 1918, 57, fig. 3; C. Fell, 1936, ‘The Hunsbury Hillfort, Northants’, Archaeological Journal XCIII, 57–100, esp. 65, pl. 1, no. 2; Jackson 1985, no. 33.

The analysis of a drilled sample from the loop (using a CAMEBAX automated electron probe micro-analyser in the Dept. of Metallurgy and Science of Materials, University of Oxford) is given in I. Barnes, 1985, ‘The Non-Ferrous Metalwork from Hunsbury Hillfort, Northants.’ (Univ. of Leicester, Post-graduate Diploma in Post-exca vation Studies, 1984/5, p.32, cat.no. 40), where the elemental composition is expressed thus: 98.6% Cu; 0.95% Sn; 0.06% As; 0.13% Sb; 0.05% Pb; – Co; 0.04% Ni; 0.04% Fe; 0.07% Ag; – Au; t Zn; 0.04% Bi.


**276. Hunston, Suffolk**
L. 50 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. A modest-sized example, with gently-curved bow, low, plain, convex walls, ridged keel, a relatively deep groove of keeled U-shaped cross-section, and simple rounded terminals. The loop, mounted on a projection of the keel ridge, is broken. For its probable form see no. 299.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
277. nr. Huntingdon, Cambs
L. 51.3 mm. Wt. 8.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with slightly uneven mid-green patina. A simple, quite rudimentary example, with crescentic tapered rod of plump triangular cross-section, and a simple oval loop with sub-circular eye. Viewed from above, the loop is offset to one side of the rod.

Metal detector find, from a ‘meadow towards M11’, south-east of Huntingdon. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


278. Icklingham, Suffolk
L. 78 mm. Wt. 18.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with smooth, light green patina. The strongly-curved bow has steeply-sloping walls and an angular keel. The walls are decorated with an arc of enamel-inlaid small triangular cells, which extend almost to the terminals. Their apex points towards the loop. Two colours of enamel are used, red and light blue, in 26 cells on each wall, with a similar, but not identical, arrangement. On one wall five central blue cells are flanked by two pairs of red cells and a further eight blue cells on one side nine on the other. On the second wall there are six central blue cells, flanked by two pairs of red cells and a further eight blue cells. The broad V-sectioned groove has a basal wear-slot towards one terminal. The small bovid-head terminals have inturned horns and a ridged, lightly bulbous muzzle. The loop is a simple D-shaped ring.

For enamel and metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Found 1947, on field surface, north of Canada Belt. Donated by finder to British Museum.

Jackson 1985, no. 71.


279. Icklingham, Suffolk
L. c. 53 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. The small, lightly elliptical bow has plain walls and simple, shouldered, knobbed terminals. The loop is an elaborate, disproportionately large, keeled and strutted plate, with a triangular opening and tiny circular eye.

Formerly in the Warren collection. Smith based his record on a pencil drawing, with details, in one of Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks’ sketch books, (Drawings, Book A, p. 13) but the object was not available, and its whereabouts is still unknown.

Smith 1918, 61, fig. 15; Jackson 1985, no. 87.

280. Ilketshall St John, Suffolk
L. 30 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with crescentic rod, incomplete at one end, and an arched loop with ovoid eye, beneath which are two voids. A poor or failed casting, which may, nevertheless, have been used, in view of the apparent wear facet at the end of the longer surviving arm of the rod.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
281. Ilketshall St Margaret, Suffolk  
L. 39.3 mm. Wt. 6.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with unstable brown patina. A fragment only, comprising some two-thirds of the bow, with the stub of the broken loop, but lacking both terminals. The elliptical bow has an angular keel and steeply-sloping walls with badly-chipped and eroded rims. The walls are decorated with a continuous arc of small triangular cells, their apex pointed towards the keel. Sixteen survive on one wall, 15 on the other, from which it can be calculated that the original number on each wall totalled at least 24 and probably 25 cells. Just four retain remains of their enamel inlay – an adjacent pair on one wall filled with blue enamel, and single examples with traces of red enamel and light turquoise enamel separated by an empty cell on the other wall. These are sufficient to indicate an arrangement identical or similar to that on cat. nos 578 and 278, namely five central turquoise cells flanked by two red cells and a further eight blue cells. It is probable that the missing terminals were small stylized bovid heads, as on nos 578 and 278. The rounded V-sectioned groove is lightly encrusted with corrosion products. Only the stub of the D-shaped loop remains.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

282. Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk  
L. 29 mm. Wt. 5.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with brown and pale green dusty patina. The apparently plain bow, with straight-rimmed walls, was always tiny, the U-sectioned groove shallow and the capacity very small, but the original dimensions cannot now be ascertained exactly owing to the severely denuded and chipped surface. The merest stub of the loop survives.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

283. Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk  
L. 43 mm. Wt. 7.8 g.

End-looped mortar, with grey-green patina. The terminal and parts of the bow and loop are missing. The bow has plain, steep, thin walls, a rounded keel, and a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with a slight basal wear facet. The loop, now broken and distorted, appears to have been large, circular and neatly ‘coiled’.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

284. Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk (Unillustrated)  
L. 82 mm. Wt. 21.7 g.

End-looped mortar, in poor condition (corrosion-eaten), lacking part of the loop, the terminal and the wall rims. The elliptical bow appears to have been plain and the loop of simple form, turned downward.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

285. Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk  
L. 56.8 mm. Wt. 10.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with poorly-preserved green-grey heavily pitted patina (cleaned and lacquered). The slender crescentic rod, of blunt knife-like form, has a markedly swollen upturned end with pronounced side-facets. The simple thick ring-like loop has a small circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain

Jackson

286. Itteringham, Norfolk
L. mortar 96 mm. pestle 55 mm. Wt. mortar 82 g. pestle 9 g.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. The large and ornate heavy mortar has a crescentic bow, angular keel, steeply-sloping walls with in-turned rims, and prominent zoomorphic terminals. There is a line of punched decoration beneath each rim and on either side of the keel. The terminals are large and well-modelled, one in the form of a stylized bull’s head, with in-turned horns, ears, eyes, muzzle and mouth rendered, the other in the form of a stylized ram’s head, with out-turned horns, eyes and muzzle depicted. The groove, which runs over both terminals, displays a little sign of wear. The circular loop, the eye of which is slightly worn, projects from a large moulded plinth, in one side of which are two small casting flaws. The pestle, a variant of the ‘latch-lifter’ type, has a small circular loop, set on the midline of the straight circular-sectioned stem, and a strongly-curved rod of lentoid cross-section, its tip recently chipped. The end of the rod is precisely adapted to the size and profile of the groove in the mortar.

Metal detector find. Part of a Treasure hoard, which also comprised a second cosmetic set (no. 287), 2 silver finger-rings, a base silver ring, a copper-alloy key, 62 silver denarii, 42 copper-alloy coins, and parts of 3 pottery vessels

The finger-rings, coins and pottery indicate a date of deposition of the hoard in the 2nd century AD (latest coin: AD 141–161).


287. Itteringham, Norfolk
L. mortar 60 mm. pestle 51 mm. Wt. mortar 27 g. pestle 12 g.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar and a centre-looped pestle. The mortar has a crescentic bow, angular keel, lightly-convex, steeply-sloping, plain walls, thick rims, and simple knobbed terminals. The relatively capacious groove is of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with basal wear and an asymmetric wear facet near one terminal. The distinctive loop is large and D-shaped. It is rather rudimentarily finished and shows no sign of wear. The pestle has a crescentic twin-tapered rod, with a lightly-worn keel and blunt-pointed tips. The distinctive large D-shaped loop is virtually identical to that of the mortar, and they were evidently made as a matching set.

Metal detector find. Provenance, date and publication details as no. 286.

British Museum, 2001,0801.3-4.
288. Kelling, Norfolk
L. 51 mm, Wt. 11.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with green patina, the surface eroded and chipped in some places. The slender, slightly asymmetric bow has plain, steep walls (the rim of one broken), a capacious groove of slender U-shaped cross-section, and simple rounded terminals. An asymmetric basal wear facet slightly across the axis of the groove has worn away the rim of both walls at diagonally opposite ends. The large, plump, D-shaped loop has a worn circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

289. Kenninghall, Norfolk
L. 58.8 mm. (orig. c. 70 mm.) Wt. 11.6 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with sparsely pitted and lightly abraded dark green patina, lacking the loop and one terminal. The elliptical bow has an angular keel and thin, quite deep, steeply-sloping walls decorated with an arc of enamel-inlaid elongated triangular cells adjacent to the loop. The symmetrical arrangement of nine cells (their apex pointing towards the loop) is the same on both walls: The three central cells, filled with red enamel, are flanked by three cells with blue enamel. The colours are still quite vivid, and only a few tiny fragments are missing. The capacious V-sectioned groove has a light basal wear facet. The surviving terminal is a small, well-formed and neatly-finished bovid head, with ridged, flat-ended muzzle, a slight brow-ridge and in-turned horns, the tips damaged. Only the base of the loop remains.
Metal detector find. Donated by finder to the British Museum.

290. Kent, unprovenanced
L. 52.1 mm. Wt 26.6 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with fine brown patina. A carefully-finished, relatively heavy, example in good condition. The crescentic bow has a flat keel, plain carinated walls with neatly-moulded rims, and flattened knobbed terminals, also neatly moulded. The relatively capacious, broad U-sectioned groove, with marked wear polish and broad basal wear facet, runs over both terminals. The small loop has a circular eye.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

291. Kent, unprovenanced
L. c. 36 mm.
Centre-looped pestle. A small example, with stout, twin-tapered rod and plump D-shaped loop with circular eye.
292. **Keston, Kent**
L. 65 mm. Wt. 26.1 g.

End-looped mortar, with smooth brown metallic patina, the surface badly pitted in places. The short elliptical bow has plain convex walls with sharp rim (like no. 50), a lightly angular keel and a V-sectioned groove, partly obscured by corrosion. The bovid head terminal has inturned horns, small button-like ears, and a ridged tapered muzzle with bulbous end, on which the mouth is depicted. The shape and angle of the adjacent part of the bow were accommodated to the form of the beast’s neck. The ovoid loop has suffered badly from corrosion, but may also have been blemished in the casting process.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

British Museum Accessions Register records that it was ‘Found near Roman remains at Keston, Kent’, but no further details are known.

Jackson 1985, no. 5.

293. **Keswick, Norfolk**
L. 65 mm. Wt. 12.86 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking both terminals and most of the loop. The slender elliptical bow has an angular keel, sloping walls (the rims chipped), and a deep groove of broad V-shaped cross-section. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of four hollow-based triangular cells, their apex pointing away from the loop, inlaid with black enamel. The fragmentary loop was a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

294. **Keswick, Norfolk (Unillustrated)**
L. 28 mm. Wt. 3.18 g.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking much of the bow and most of the loop. The walls appear plain.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

295. **Kingsholm, Glos**
L. c. 56 mm.

End-looped mortar, with virtually straight-rimmed bow, apparently plain walls, small knobbed terminal, and thick ovoid loop with tiny circular eye and a grooved moulding centrally recessed around the perimeter. The groove was not drawn or described in the published account, and the object was unavailable for study in 1991.

From excavations, 1972, at 72 Deans Way; from layer II, 7 = general layer = phase 4.1 = 2nd–4th century AD.

H.R. Hurst, 1985, Kingsholm, 102, fig. 36, no. 6.

Gloucester Museum.

296. **King’s Lynn, Norfolk**
L. 54 mm. Wt. 13.4 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a smooth grey (tin-enriched), patina. A quite large, well-made and ornate example. The neatly crescentic rod has a plump D-shaped cross-section. One tip is a little blunter than the other. Asymmetric wear facets are present on the convex face of the rod near both tips, more strongly-marked at the blunter tip. The discoidal loop, which projects from a tapered pedestal, is surmounted by a tiny cone-like finial. There is a little wear in the circular eye, which is intentionally set a little above centre of the loop.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.41.
297. King’s Lynn, Norfolk  
L. 27 mm. Wt. 6.73 g.

Centre-looped pestle, Type N. The loop plate, in the form of a stylized sitting or swimming water bird, above a rectangular perforation, is placed centrally on the concave edge of a short crescentic rod with blunt-pointed tips.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

298. King’s Lynn region, Norfolk  
L. 58 mm. Wt. 19.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with traces of green patina in angles and crevices and in the groove. Elsewhere recent ruthless cleaning has removed the original surface with the patina, revealing the rather pitted copper-looking body metal. The slender bow has apparently plain, low, lightly-carinated walls, an angular keel, and a V-sectioned groove with a slight basal facet. The terminals are large bulbous knobs which, in conjunction with two further globular protuberances from the keel, give the object a distinctive and phallic appearance. The small loop, with its tiny off-centre eye, is more correctly comma-like than circular. What appears to be a fracture or butted join is probably a casting flaw.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


299. Kirby Cane, Suffolk  
L. 60 mm. Wt. 18.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with dark green-black, rather pitted surface, recently waxed or oiled. The slender bow has low, plain, near-vertical, lightly convex walls with inturned rim, a ridged keel, a shallow U-sectioned groove with very marked wear polish, and simple rounded terminals. The ovoid loop, which projects from the keel ridge, has a simple notched moulding (worn) and a small circular eye. The casting and workmanship appear quite rudimentary.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

300. Kirkby Thore, Cumbria  
L. 52 mm.

End-looped pestle. The strongly-curved rod has a deep, thick, blunt, knife-like upturned tip and a small loop with a tiny circular eye.

The Roman fort and vicus at Kirkby Thore flourished 1st-4th century AD.

Jackson 1985, no. 55.

Carlisle, Tullie House Museum, 63.1951 (Cumpston Bequest).
Centre-looped mortar, cleaned and conserved, with olive-green patina and localized areas of green and livery-red corrosion products. The largest and most elaborate example yet known, complete, except for the upper part of the stag’s antlers. An unblemished casting with extensive subsequent working, this is a small masterpiece of design and manufacture. There is a fine sense of balanced asymmetry between the two zoomorphic terminals which extends to a subtle distinction between the necks of the animals – the bull has a deep, stolid neck and stylized dewlap, while the very slightly more acute upward curve of the opposite end of the bow gives to the stag’s neck an appropriately more delicate, graceful form. The bow is large and elliptical with a sharp carination on both walls. Above this carination the walls are plain, with a thin rim; below they are decorated with an arc of slightly irregularly-disposed incuse ring-and-dot motifs, nine on each wall. The flattened keel is also decorated with this motif, three on the stag’s side of the centre-loop, but just two closely-spaced examples on the bull’s side, where the greater part of the keel is occupied by the beast’s dewlap. Both of the angled edges of the keel are ornamented with a closely-spaced V-punched motif, the line of which continues along the sides of the dewlap, and the same punch was used to highlight the lower margin of the dewlap, and the underside of the bull’s muzzle. The U-sectioned groove is relatively shallow and slender.

Both zoomorphic terminals are sensitively modelled in the round, and in their combination of naturalism and stylisation they encapsulate the essence of the animals depicted. The bovid head is the heavier, bulkier terminal (though the size and bulk of the stag’s head would originally have been greatly enhanced by the complete antlers). Viewed from the front, the bulls’ head is skewed slightly downwards to the right, and there is a similarly marked asymmetry to ears, horns, and eyes all of which are a little out of alignment with their partner. The horns are pointed, but not sharp, the ears large, elongated and neatly hollowed, the almond-shaped eyes in relief, with incised rim, and the head and muzzle sensitively contoured, with incised mouth and nostrils on the flattened muzzle end. The stag is altogether more delicate, with smaller ears (though of the same form), a smaller head, and a finely-rendered, tapered muzzle, with mouth and nostrils on the rounded end. As with the bovid head there is a distinct asymmetry to the ears and eyes, and the basal tines of the antlers are also awry. Both antlers are broken above the second tine. The incuse dot-and-ring eyes give the animal an appropriately startled expression. The suspension loop takes the form of an ornate plate projecting from the keel. There is a relatively small circular eye, and a zig-zag row of five incuse ring-and-dot motifs, on each face.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavation, 1993, of Roman rural settlement at RAF Lakenheath, by A. Tester for Suffolk County Council. Found in an upper layer of a 1st/2nd century AD well.

Context date, 4th century AD.

Bury St Edmunds, Moyses Hall Museum, on loan from RAF.
8. Catalogue

**302. Lakenheath, Suffolk**
L. 71 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with a smooth green-grey (tin-enriched) patina. The lightly-elliptical bow has an angular keel and thin, steep walls, with an arc of seven small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells, whose apex points towards the loop, are filled with red enamel. The capacious, rounded V-sectioned groove runs over the stylized bovid-head terminals. They are small, with short flattened muzzles and prominent everted horns. The loop is a slender D-shaped ring.

Found in or before 1965 during ploughing. Donated by finder to Moyses Hall Museum.

Trett 1983, no. 3; Jackson 1985, no. 72.


**303. Lakenheath, Suffolk**
L. 55.5 mm.

End-looped pestle, with smooth grey-green patina. A fine casting. The slender, circular-sectioned rod has a strongly-curved tip with marked facet on the convex face. The eye of the simple circular loop is elongated through wear.

Metal detector find from ‘Roman field’.

Bury St Edmunds, Moyses Hall Museum, 1982-363.2, on loan from finder.

**304. Laughterton, Lincs**
L. 50.5 mm. Wt. 9.5 g.

End-looped mortar, with green-brown patina. A small, elegantly-cast example, with slender strongly-curved bow, plain, near-vertical walls, a smoothly rounded keel, small, bulbous knobbed terminal, and very shallow U-sectioned groove with marked wear-polish. The carefully profiled loop has a heart-shaped eye, with traces of wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

**305. Leicester, Leics**
L. 43 mm. (orig. c. 55 mm.)

Centre-looped pestle, encrusted with green and light brown corrosion products. One arm of the slender, twin-tapered rod is broken. The other, complete except for the tip, has a lozenge-shaped cross-section, but the corrosion is too severe to determine whether or not there are wear-facets. Only the stub of the D-shaped loop survives.

From excavations, 1963–4, on the west wing and south-west corner of the Roman forum, at St Nicholas Street.


**306. Leiston, Suffolk**
L. 62 mm. Wt. 15.2 g.

Centre-looped mortar. The elliptical bow has steep plain walls, a worn U-sectioned groove, and simple, worn, blunt terminals, perhaps originally lightly knobbed. The worn D-shaped loop is broken across its circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
307. Lillingstone Dayrell, Bucks
L. c. 85 mm.
End-looped mortar. A large example, with apparently plain, carinated walls, an angular keel and a knobbed terminal. The loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with prominent brow and elongated bill. The groove was not visible in the single photograph available.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

308. Lincoln, Lincs
L. 61 mm. Wt. 8.5 g.
End-looped mortar, cleaned and conserved, with mid-green-brown corrosion-pitted patina. A simple, light example, with virtually straight bow, low, plain, convex walls, a lightly-angular keel and a rounded V-sectioned groove with basal facet. The groove runs over the slender, pointed, lightly-drooped, spout-like terminal. The loop is a sub-circular ring with ovoid eye.

From excavations, 1970–2, in the colonia, site of west gate, at the Park. P 70, small find Ae 133, from the earliest rampart levels.

Context date, late 2nd or early 3rd century AD.


Lincoln, City and County Museum.

309. Lincolnshire, unprovenanced
L. 70 mm. Wt. 13.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type K, with dark brown-grey patina, a little damaged and distorted at a recently repaired fracture midway between one terminal and the loop. An elegant, well-proportioned casting, with low, plain, thin sloping walls, an angular keel, and a deep, capacious bowed V-sectioned groove, with a distinct narrow basal wear facet, which runs over the terminals. The terminals are simple, stylized, well-made bovid heads, comprising broad inturned horns and a flat triangular head, one with a slightly more pointed muzzle than the other. Neither eyes nor mouth are depicted. The loop is a simple D-shaped ring with a circular eye set a little off-centre.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly in the collection of Richard Hattatt. Ostensibly found with no. 310, and the two are described as a set by Hattatt. (R. Hattatt, 1989, *Ancient Brooches and Other Artefacts* 448, 451, fig. 19, no. 122.) However, their form and patina mitigate against this. They were evidently not made as a set and probably were not even used together. More likely is either that they were found in the same general vicinity, or that the finder/former owner simply put together two stray finds as a ‘set’.


310. Lincolnshire, unprovenanced
L. 43 mm. Wt. 9 g.
Centre-looped pestle, with pale grey patina. The keeled crescentic rod has a slight wear-facet near the tip of one arm; the other is obscured by a casting flaw. The loop is plate-like, with a small knobbed finial set a little off-centre, and a tiny ovoid eye. The loop plate is rather rudimentarily made, and file-finishing marks are visible in most places.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Circumstances of discovery unknown – see no. 309.

British Museum, 1990,0502.2.
8. Catalogue

311. Lincolnshire, unprovenanced
L. 82 mm. Wt. 14.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with lightly-pitted green corrosion where the olive-brown patina is lacking. The crescentic bow has an angular keel, low thin convex walls, a deep capacious V-sectioned groove with basal wear slot, and small knobbed terminals. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of three tiny triangular cells, their apex pointing towards the loop. All six retain their orange enamel inlay. The surviving stub of the loop reveals that it was a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

312. Lincolnshire/East Yorkshire
L. 65.4 mm. Wt. 14.1 g.

End-looped mortar, with pocked grey-green patina lacking most of the original surface (except in the groove). The bow is only lightly elliptical, with a flattened keel, very low carinated plain walls, a large plain terminal knob, and a U-sectioned groove with wear polish and basal wear facet. The loop, in the form of a devolved aquatic bird’s head with elongated bill, is broken across the eye, damage which probably occurred in antiquity.

Metal detector find. In private hands via the antiquity market.

313. Lincolnshire/Leicestershire, unprovenanced
L. 49 mm. Wt. 13.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-green dusty patina, heavily abraded at the rim and around the eye of the suspension loop. The small, lightly-curved bow is slightly asymmetric. It has plain, low, convex walls, a shallow groove of broad V-shaped cross-section with a basal wear facet, and plain rounded terminals. The loop comprises a thick pear-shaped projection with small circular eye, now partially blocked with soil. The wall/loop junction is marked by an incised cross on both faces.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999.0802.42.

314. Linton, Cambs
L. 36.4 mm. Wt. 11.9 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with smooth pale green-grey patina. A very small but heavy example with short, broad bow, steep, lightly-convex plain walls with straight rim, and plain terminals. The terminals may once have been more elaborate (and there is a trace of ribbing or moulding at one end), but they have been truncated by very considerable wear in antiquity. This wear has partially flattened the rims and has produced a deep straight narrow, U-sectioned groove, which has worn through the base of the original broad shallow groove. The D-shaped loop, broken in antiquity, has a circular eye elongated through wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

315. Little Finborough, Suffolk
L. c. 35 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, fragment, comprising part of the bow. Both terminals, part of the bow and the centre loop are missing. The thin-walled bow has sloping walls and a rounded V-sectioned groove, evidently originally capacious. Both walls retain four triangular incuse cells, their apex pointing away from the loop. Only slight traces of their enamel inlay survives, its colour indeterminate. It would appear that four cells on each wall was the likely original full complement.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
316. Little Finborough, Suffolk
L. 77.5 mm.

End-looped mortar. The elliptical bow has a rounded keel, seemingly plain steeply-sloping walls with narrow rim, a broad U-sectioned groove, and a probably plain blunt-ended terminal (its tip now lacking). The simple loop has an ovoid eye.

Metal detector find, said to have been found in association with a lock bolt and a sherd of Antonine samian. In private hands.

317. Little Houghton, Northants
L. 51.9 mm. (orig. c. 70 mm).

Centre-looped mortar, heavily corroded, with irregular mid-green patina. One terminal and part of the narrow bow, are lacking, the loop is broken and one wall is dented. The steep-sided walls have a moulded vertical rib between the terminal and the loop. The companion rib is in the missing section. The keel is angular and the groove deep, of narrow V-shaped cross-section. The remaining terminal is poorly-preserved but was evidently a rounded knob with a pair of recessed pelletted mouldings around its girth. The relatively small, broken, D-shaped loop had a circular eye.

From Pylon Field, circumstances of discovery unknown. For the location – Site 9 or 10, Iron Age and Roman buildings and kilns, part of the East Houghton Iron Age and Roman complex – see *RCHM Northampton vol. II*, 1979, 85–9, and fig. 80.

Jackson 1985, no 82.


318. London
L. 81 mm. (undistorted, 98 mm.) Wt. 72.3 g.

Archetype, for Type A end-looped mortar(s), made of lead or lead alloy, with a brown-cream patina. The bow has been bent out of shape and there are several scrapes and dents in the soft metal, but the original surface detail is generally well-preserved in the patina. The long, slender elliptical bow has deep, plain, carinated walls, an angular keel, and a narrow, shallow, rounded V-sectioned groove, which retains its manufacturing score marks and runs over both terminals. The loop, positioned below its plain tapered terminal, is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with prominent brow and elongated, lightly everted, bill, but it was also probably intended to represent the folded tail of the bull at the other terminal. The small circular eye is completely unworn. The zoomorphic terminal is a very rudimentarily-finished bovid head, with working facets and file marks especially noticeable on the brow, upper muzzle and horns. As on the bow and the loop, additional detail and decoration were undoubtedly to be worked into the copper-alloy castings. For example, the muzzle may then have been filed flatter, the horns modified, and eyes, nostrils, dewlap detail, and bow-engraving added. For the products of this type of archetype, perhaps cast in a ‘lost lead’ process, see nos 88, 236, 325, 380, 394, 422, 495 and 558.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavations, 1988, by Dept. of Greater London Archaeology, at Skipton Street, near the Elephant and Castle. Site 90, open area, period 8; found in the upper fill of the probable boundary Ditch 340 (Small find 60, context 338. Trench XI, Grid 115/220, Area B. Site archive, text section 35). No significant associated finds.

Context date 3rd century AD.
8. Catalogue

Museum of London.

319. London
L. mortar 64 mm. pestle 63 mm. Wt. mortar 18.5 g. pestle 3.7 g.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar, Type C, and an end-looped pestle, both rather badly corroded, with a pitted mid-green patina, the original surface lacking in some places. The mortar has a lightly-elliptical bow and steeply-sloping walls, their upper part decorated with two series of incuse, irregularly-hatched lines centred upon a vertical line at the loop, and bordered by a line which follows the contour of the keel. The capacious, rounded V-sectioned groove, with signs of wear in the base, runs onto both terminals. One is a small simple knob, its surface now denuded. The other is a neatly-formed bovid head, with prominent horns, marked brow-ridge, pointed muzzle and simply-rendered mouth. The D-shaped plate-like loop has a small circular eye partly blocked with corrosion. For very similar mortars see nos 357 and 438. The broken-tipped pestle is a slender, sinuous rod with an atypical swelling adjacent to the plate-like circular loop. It fits comfortably in the groove of the mortar.

From excavation, 1955, of a timber and clay house at Blossoms Inn, near the Cheapside Roman baths, by W.F. Grimes. Found in an iron-pan concretion, fused together with a small looped tweezers and a looped nail cleaner (WFG 41, context 63, site acc. no. 51), all no doubt originally strung together on the same cord or thong.

Context date (pottery) c. AD 100–120.


Museum of London.

320. London
L. c. 64 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type L, with small knobbed terminals, D-shaped plate-like loop and incuse multiple chevron motif on walls.

From excavations, 1996, at No. 1. Poultry, Cheapside, by MoLAS. ONE 94 <3142> [12229].

Period 3, phase 1, Flavian redevelopment AD 65–95, from roadside drain (Road 1).


Museum of London.

321. London
L. c. 62 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with large knobbed terminals, D-shaped ring-like loop, and apparently plain, near-vertical walls.

From excavations, 1996, at No. 1. Poultry, Cheapside, by MoLAS. ONE 94 <3492> [17661].

Period 6, phase 4, 4th century robbing, from Open Area 58, a much disturbed area which contained significant quantities of residual material, including 1st-century coins.


Museum of London.
322. London
L. 40 mm

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, badly corroded, with broken terminals and damaged D-shaped loop. There is an arc of six small enamel-inlaid triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces, the apex of the cells pointing towards the loop.

From excavations, 1995, at Borough High Street, Southwark (Jubilee Line Extension site), by MoLAS. BGH 95 <950> [3308].

Period 6, AD 120–160, from an alley surface.


Museum of London.

323. London
L. c. 45 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking one end. The complete end has a knobbed terminal. Full details not available at time of writing, but X-radiography appears to show the object in direct association with an iron slide key, as though the two had been strung together when deposited and had been fused together, loop to loop, by the corrosion products.

From excavations, 1989, at 179–91 Borough High Street, Southwark, by MoLAS. 179 BHS 89 <909> [390].

Period 4 dump (Open Area 3), (Flavian expansion) AD 70–100.


Museum of London.

324. London, River Thames
L. 54 mm. Wt. 7.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brown-black Thames patina, and some concretion, especially in the eye of the loop. The lightly crescentic rod has D-sectioned arms of markedly unequal length, and a large nearly-made ring-like D-shaped loop with a heart-shaped eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Part of a collection of objects from the River Thames, acquired in 1851. The other objects include bronze coins, needle, stylus, hairpin and ring, but there is no stated association.

British Museum, 1851,0228.7.

325. London
L. 74 mm. Wt. 19 g.

End-looped mortar, Type A, heavily corroded. The elliptical bow has an angular keel, steep convex walls, with part of the original incuse and dot-punched zig-zag decoration still visible, and a U-sectioned groove. The zoomorphic terminal is a devolved bovid head, with prominent horns, angled blunt-ended muzzle and slightly gaping mouth. The loop, set beneath the opposite plain terminal, is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, which was probably also intended to represent the tail of the bull.

From excavation, 2001, of site at 60–63 Fenchurch Street, by Wessex Archaeology. Excav. code FNE 01, [1794], SF 3569.

Context 1794, Building 11, Period 5, c. AD 100–140.

[A fragment of another (plain) end-looped mortar was a residual find in a medieval pit (Context 1248, Pit 1136, Open Area 16, Period 8, 11th-12th century AD].]

Museum of London.

### 326. London. L. 70 mm

End-looped pestle. A large example with long, lightly curved rod, characteristically swollen towards the upturned, plump D-sectioned tip, which has a marked facet on its convex face. The simple ring-like loop is worn through.

From London Wall. It appears to have a 'Walbrook patina' and is therefore probably of 1st–2nd-century AD date.

Jackson 1985, no. 49.

Museum of London, 3983.

### 327. London

L. 50 mm.

End-looped pestle. The slender, lightly curved rod has an upturned tip of plump D-shaped cross-section, with a curved facet on its convex face. The small, circular, ring-like loop is centrally-set on the end of the rod.

Found during redevelopment of Bucklersbury House, Walbrook. The 'Walbrook patina' is indicative of a 1st- to 2nd-century AD date.

Jackson 1985, no. 46.

Museum of London, 20770.

### 327a. London (unillustrated)

L. 54 mm.

End-looped pestle. Of near identical form and size to no, 327.

From excavations at Courage's Brewery site. COSE84 <515> [1469].

Period 3, building 15.2, 3rd-century AD dump.


Museum of London.

### 328. London

L. 51 mm.

End-looped pestle. The circular-sectioned rod expands to a plump D-sectioned working zone (its surface obscured by an accretion of soil and corrosion products) and terminates in a strongly-upturned, blunt-pointed tip. The small, ovoid plate-like loop has a tiny, worn, circular eye.

From excavation, 1988, of Gresham Street site, by the Dept. of Urban Archaeology. LSO 88, context 23.

Context date, probably late 2nd/3rd century AD.

Museum of London.

### 328a. London (unillustrated)

L. 45.5 mm.

End-looped pestle. The elliptical rod is comparatively short and broad, with a D-shaped cross-section and an up-turned blunt tip. The loop is slender with a circular eye.

From excavations at Lloyds Register, Fenchurch Street. FCC95 <575> [1332].

Open area 10 – dump. Period 3, AD 100–150.


Museum of London.
329. Long Bennington, Lincs
L. 65 mm. Wt. 23.7 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with mid-green patina. The very lightly-curved, parallel-sided bow has near-vertical, plain, carinated walls. One side is smoother than the other indicating the usual suspension position. The lower wall and squared-off keel still display quite coarse file-finishing marks, which may have had a decorative intent as the angled striations are symmetrical about the suspension loop. The broad, deep groove is very capacious, of V-shaped cross-section, with a very broad basal wear facet. A casting blemish at one end evidently did not impede its use. The neatly-knobbed terminals – a low compressed dome with a slender ring moulding – have a slightly phallic appearance. The D-shaped loop is faceted and has a circular eye.
Metal detector find.
Lincoln, City and County Museum, LM 97-74.

330. Long Melford, Suffolk
L. 51 mm. Wt. 17.6 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, steep walls, broad, worn, U-sectioned groove, and plump knobbed terminals, one larger than the other. Traces of incuse cross-hatched decoration survive in places on the walls. The thick ovoid loop has a slightly off-centre circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

331. Lound, Suffolk
L. 59 mm. Wt. 16.91 g.
End-looped mortar, quite heavily corroded. The deep elliptical bow has plain walls, a prominent knobbed terminal with flanking moulded discs, and a simple round loop with circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

332. Lydney Park, Glos
L. c. 77 mm.
End-looped mortar. The slender bow has deep, plain, steeply-angled walls and a lightly-chamfered keel. Its end is tapered and up-turned, with a large, button-like, knobbed terminal. The groove is narrow and V-sectioned. The loop, divided from the bow by a pair of mouldings, has an elongated, ovoid, eye and a prominent, everted bill-like extension giving the appearance of an aquatic bird's head.
From ‘earlier excavations’, before 1819. Thus not known whether from the hillfort, ironworking or temple complex.
S. Lysons, 1819, Reliquiae Britannico-Romanae Vol. II, pl. XXX, no. 6; Revd W.H. Bathurst, 1879, Roman Antiquities at Lydney Park, Glos., pl. XXI, no. 8; Smith 1918, 58–9, fig. 10; R.E.M. and T.V. Wheeler, 1932, Lydney, 83, fig. 18, no. 65 (scale 1:2, not 1:1 as stated); Jackson 1985, no. 9.
**333. Lynford, Norfolk**

L. 58 mm. Wt. 14.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with green-flecked mid-brown patina. The slender, strongly-angled bow has low, carinated walls, with traces of a lightly-incuse ‘ribbed’ decoration following the contours of the bow. The small, slender, V-sectioned groove has a basal wear facet. The neat, sub-spherical knobbed terminals have a simple neck moulding. Only the stub of the loop survives. It appears to have been large and mounted on a keeled plate.

Metal detector find.

Norwich Castle Museum, 216.986.

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**334. Magiovinium, Bletchley, Bucks**

L. 76 mm.

End-looped mortar. The straight bow, now a little damaged and distorted, has plain, convex walls, a rounded V-sectioned groove, and a bulbous knobbed terminal with simple neck moulding. A pair of incuse lines flanking the angular keel link the terminal to the loop, which is elegantly-modelled in the form of an aquatic bird’s head, probably a swan, with long, curved neck, small ring-and-dot eyes, a prominent crown and long, dished bill.

Metal detector find.


Present location unknown.

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**335. Magiovinium, Bletchley, Bucks**

L. 71 mm.

End-looped mortar, with a broad curved bow, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a capacious, rounded V-sectioned groove, a plain, blunt-pointed terminal, now distorted to one side, and an angular keel with plate-like expansion of enigmatic ‘bird-like’ shape. The thick disc-like loop has a central incuse line around its perimeter. The eye is elongated through wear.


Context date, early 2nd century AD.

Jackson 1985, no. 32. Publication details as no. 334, 45–6, fig. 24, no. 41.

Aylesbury, Bucks. County Museum.

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**336. Magiovinium, Bletchley, Bucks**

L. 53 mm.

End-looped pestle. The strongly-curved, plump, circular-sectioned rod has an upturned, blunt tip, and a ring-like loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find.

Jackson 1985, no. 53. Publication details as no. 334, 45–6, fig. 24, no. 42.

Present location unknown.
### 337. Maldon, Essex

L. 75.8 mm. Wt. 30.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with dark-green patina. The strongly-curved bow has plain, steep, lightly-convex walls with a thick rim, and a deep, capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. Wear in the groove was slightly oblique to the main axis, as evidenced by the rims. The slender terminals have a neatly-formed bulbous knob, somewhat phallic in appearance. Only the stub of the ring-like D-shaped loop remains. Metal detector find, said to have come from the northern outskirts of Maldon, a description that does not exclude the possibility that it was from the Roman site at Elms Farm, Heybridge.

In private hands, via the antiquity market.

### 338. near March, Cambs

L. 48 mm. Wt. 13.9 g

Centre-looped pestle, with a dark brown (iron-stained) patina, lightly flaked and pitted. A heavy example with a stout crescentic rod of sub-circular cross-section at the centre. At the tapered ends, one of which has lost its tip, wear facets have modified the cross-section to a plump lentoid shape. The chunky loop, rather irregularly finished, has an asymmetric circular eye. Surface casting irregularities and filed finishing marks are present in several places, especially on the loop and on the rod at its junction with the loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

### 339. Marsham, Norfolk

L. c. 50 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. Not available for study, but the photograph shows a short deep lightly-curved bow with plain walls, simple, blunt-pointed terminals, a capacious groove, and a ring-like D-shaped loop expanded at its junction with the keel of the bow.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 340. Melton Mowbray, Leics

L. 86.7 mm. Wt. 24.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with dark brown/ black patina, partially flaked away at the terminals and on the rims. The strongly-curved deep bow has an angular keel, steep plain walls with badly damaged rims, and a rounded V-sectioned groove with basal wear polish. The terminals have an elaborate and prominent baluster moulding. The damaged, plate-like, D-shaped loop, with small circular eye, is divided from the bow by a simple groove-and-ridge moulding.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, by means of which it acquired the false provenance of 'Brandon'.

British Museum, 1999,0802.43.
8. Catalogue

341. Meols, Cheshire
L. 45 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. A slender example, with asymmetric, crescentic rod, of ovoid cross-section at the centre, and a neat circular ring-like loop.

One of several hundred Roman objects found on this part of the north Wirral coast in the 19th century.


342. Metfield, Suffolk
L. 70 mm. Wt. 32.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with strongly-curved bow, plain walls, zoomorphic terminals, worn groove, and large ring-like loop with circular eye. The terminals are worn highly-stylized animal heads, probably intended as bovids, with flattened muzzles and drilled eyes. The difference in size is likely to have been intended to depict the twinning of a male and female animal.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

343. Metfield, Suffolk
L. 44 mm. Wt. 9.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking one terminal. The crescentic bow has low, plain, steep walls and a shallow, worn, U-sectioned groove. The surviving terminal is a worn oval knob, with a pair of slanting incuse lines at its junction with the bow. At the centre of the keel is a small triangular plate, perhaps part of a loop assembly.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

344. Middleton, Norfolk
L. c. 56 mm.

End-looped mortar, with stout, lightly-curved bow, plain, steep, carinated walls, flattened keel, capacious U-sectioned groove, simple blunt-pointed terminal, and D-shaped down-turned loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

345. Mileham, Norfolk
L. 71.2 mm. Wt. 26.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with light grey-green dusty patina, lacking virtually the entire original surface except in the groove where it is mostly intact—a smooth dark green-black patina. Despite the surface depletion this was evidently a well-made example, with elliptical bow, apparently plain, steeply-sloping walls, lightly-inturned rims, a rounded angular keel, and well-formed, plump knobbed terminals with a simple ring moulding. The U-sectioned groove has wear polish and a basal wear facet which runs over the terminals. In the base of the groove are three symmetrically-placed small circular pits, one of which retains its silver-coloured metal inlay, its surface smoothed by the wear facet. The loop, a large circular ring, is broken across the eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.44.
346. Mileham, Norfolk
L. 51.4 mm. Wt. 16.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-grey patina. A simple plain example with
mis-shaped bow, apparently a flawed casting. The plain sloping walls have
eroded rims, and the simple, tapered, blunt-pointed terminals have eroded
tips. The wear facet and wear polish in the rounded V-sectioned groove
are asymmetric as a result of the casting flaw. The D-shaped loop is broken
across its eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

347. Mileham, Norfolk
L. c. 41 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with crescentic, circular-sectioned, twin-tapered rod (one tip
broken), and D-shaped plate-like loop with circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

348. Minster-in-Sheppey, Kent
L. 91.5 mm. Wt. 64.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with
partially abraded and iron-stained
green and brown patina. The long,
strongly-curved bow has plain
bulbous walls, with upright lightly-
hatched rims, a rounded keel, and
a shallow U-sectioned groove,
which runs over both terminals.
The large bovid-headed terminal
is well-modelled, with horns (both
broken), ears, eyes and nostrils
clearly depicted. There may
originally have been more detail on
the flared muzzle, but the patina
is badly eroded in this region. The
dewlap is complete, though a little
chipped at the edges. The second
terminal, also badly eroded, is a
simple, ridged sub-rectangular
knob. The loop is broken, but
sufficient survives to show that
it was originally a large, stout
D-shaped plate with circular eye.

For metal composition see
Scientific Analyses.

Beach find, probably as a
consequence of coast erosion.

Donated by finder to British Museum; 1987,1004.1.

349. Morningthorpe, Norfolk
L. 71 mm. (orig. c. 80 mm.) Wt. 7.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type L. A very light example, with pale green
patina. One terminal is lacking, the loop is broken, the rims are
chipped and the original surface is poorly-preserved in the central
region. The bow is lightly-curved, with thin, steeply-angled walls
and a capacious, deep V-sectioned groove, which retains low casting
flashes at one end. The small, down-turned, knobbed terminal has
a triple-grooved neck-moulding. The incuse hatched design on the
walls adjacent to the loop is very irregular – two-and-two on one wall
two-and-three on the other. The small, thin, plate-like loop, probably
originally D-shaped, is broken across its circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
8. Catalogue

350. Morton, Lincs
L. 78 mm. Wt. 64.5 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with green-speckled mid-brown patina. A heavy example, with stout, strongly-curved bow, deep, plain, steep, convex walls, lightly-inturned rim, an angular keel, and a broad V-sectioned groove with basal wear facet. The large bovid-head terminal is finely and naturalistically modelled, with inturned horns, projecting simple ears, a broad flat brow, moulded eyes, a tapered, lightly rounded blunt-ended muzzle with slit mouth, and a simple plate-like dewlap which merges with the keel of the bow. The second terminal, smaller and much more highly-stylized, is in the form of a bird's head, rendered very simply, with a flattened crown and tapered, lightly-dished, blunt, round-ended bill. The small, plump, D-shaped loop has a circular hourglass eye with little sign of wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

351. Morton, Lincs
L. 46 mm. Wg. 15 g.
End-looped mortar, with a mid-green patina. A small, light, well-made example, of very atypical form and proportion, the design of which combines utility with elegant decoration in miniature. The knife-shaped bow is very lightly domed and exceedingly narrow, with very thin, near-vertical walls and a rounded keel. The walls are plain except for a single incised line just above the keel. The straight, very slender, U-sectioned groove is relatively capacious and has a marked basal facet. It runs over the plain terminal, where the rim of one wall is partially worn away. Unusually, it is the end-loop, rather than the terminal or bow, that is the major decorative component. It comprises a highly-stylized, beautifully-rendered boar’s head, optimally viewed with the object suspended by its loop or held with the groove upside down. For, to incorporate the suspension loop, which also comprised the grip, the head is turned below the groove. In consequence the animal’s neck is ‘stretched’ to an elegant but unrealistic slender form. Nevertheless, it incorporates a stylized version of the characteristic bristle ridge, rendered by a pair of incised lines, flanking a low, slender, cross-cut ridge. The head itself has upright ears, a dished brow, and an upturned flattened muzzle with very lightly incised nostrils above the incised slit mouth. Two incised lines on top of the muzzle may be wrinkles or, less probably, very devolved tusks. A simple ball moulding fills the gap between the creature’s chin and the underside of the bow and gives the eye of the loop a plump, comma-like shape. This is a common Roman device for the provision of zoomorphic looped terminals and may be compared, for example, with a bird-headed looped vehicle fitting from Trier (H. Menzel, 1966, *Die römischen Bronzen aus Deutschland II: Trier*, (Mainz), 111, no. 271, Taf. 82, 271).

Metal detector find. In private hands.

352. Mundham, Norfolk
L. 66.7 mm. Wt. 30.8 g.
End-looped mortar, with partially-pitted, smooth, grey-green patina, preserving much of the original surface. A well-made, stout, heavy casting, with short, deep, elliptical bow, rounded angular keel, steep, convex, plain walls, a rounded V-sectioned groove with basal facet, and a small, ovoid, knobbed terminal. A single curved incuse line on each wall divides the bow from the large ovoid loop, which is in the form of a stylized swan’s head, with strongly-curved neck, prominent crown and forehead, and long dished bill with everted tip.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
353. Newark-on-Trent area, Notts
L. 42.2 mm. Wt. 12.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with lightly-pitted, smooth, olive-green patina. A small un-elaborate example, with short broad bow, rounded ridged keel, plain, lightly-carinated, convex walls, simple blunt-pointed terminals, and a very capacious, broad, deep, rounded V-sectioned groove, which retains a greyish lump in the base and a little more adhering to the sides. The ring-like loop was worn through in antiquity.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.45.

354. Newport, Gwent
L. 64 mm.

End-looped mortar, lacking one end of the bow and part of the loop. The bow has low, plain, convex walls, and a rounded keel with central, ridged expansion, which is plated with a white metal, probably tin. Remains of a similar coating are present in the broad, shallow U-sectioned groove, which has a basal facet and a marked ledge on one side, presumably products of wear. The loop appears to have been a simple, circular ring.

From quarrying at Liswerry, 1910. Apparently found in association with human burials and coins, brooches and other finds of late 1st-late 3rd century AD date.

V.E. Nash-Williams, 1924, 'Miscellanea', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 79, 389, no. 7; Jackson 1985, no. 37.

Cardiff, National Museum of Wales.

355. Newton Kyme, N. Yorkshire (Unillustrated)

Mortar, type and form unknown. Object not available for study. Neither illustration nor further written details forthcoming.

Probable metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

356. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 52.2 mm. Wt. 17.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type G, with light-green patina, lacking most of the original surface. A small example, with slender crescentic bow, apparently plain steeply-sloping walls, with in-turned rim, and a narrow, shallow, rounded V-sectioned groove, with basal wear polish. One terminal is in the form of a very stylized bovid head, with tiny horns, triangular face and pointed muzzle. The other terminal, also zoomorphic, is smaller and more enigmatic: the head is narrow, with a rounded blunt muzzle and a pair of tiny upright ears (or horns?). The loop is a large D-shaped ring with circular eye.

Probable metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1997,0101.3.
8. Catalogue

357. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 66.1 mm. Wt. 22.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type C, lacking the entirety of its original surface (except in the base of the groove) as a consequence of cleaning by the finder. The resulting lightly-pitted dark grey surface with sparse green patches thus preserves little evidence of the original surface treatment, but the last vestiges of incuse hatched lines are visible on the keel to either side of the loop. It is likely that the original bow decor was closely similar to that on mortar nos 319 and 438, since the form of bow, terminals and loop is also very closely paralleled by those mortars. The bow is lightly elliptical with a marked central swelling, a rounded angular keel, steeply sloping walls and a capacious V-sectioned groove with basal slot which runs onto the terminals. One terminal is in the form of a highly-stylized, quite roughly-rendered bovid head, with upright horns/ears, grooved brow-ridge and pointed muzzle. The other terminal was in the form of a tiny vestigial knob marked only by a very slight waisting of the tip. The D-shaped loop with circular eye was worn through in antiquity.

Metal detector find, said to be from the Norwich region. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.46.

358. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 67.7 mm. Wt. 21.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type E variant, with light green-grey patina. A formerly ornate but presently very worn and damaged example, lacking its loop and strutting. Chafing on both walls is recent, but other damage may have occurred before deposition. The lightly-elliptical plump bow has convex, apparently plain, walls with a thin raised rim emphasized by an incuse line at its base. The rim completely encircles the U-sectioned groove, which has a basal facet and wear polish. Axially asymmetric wear has abraded diagonally opposite ends of the walls. The matching terminals are in the form of a stylized down-turned bird’s head, now eroded, but evidently always slender-billed. On the adjacent part of the keel are the broken remains of a slender sinuous strut, which originally encircled the missing loop and linked it to the tip of the birds’ bills via the keel.

Probable metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.


359. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 49.8 mm. Wt. 19.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with fine green patina, lightly encrusted at one end of the bow. A small, heavy casting with short, narrow, elliptical bow, angular keel, very deep, plain facetted walls and a shallow U-sectioned, wear-polished groove which runs onto the terminals. The quite simply formed down-turned terminals appear to have been intended as stylized birds heads, though a purely abstract design is equally feasible. The ring-like loop was broken across its circular eye in antiquity.

Metal detector find, said to be from the Norwich region. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.47.
Jackson

360. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 61 mm. (orig. c. 72 mm). Wt. 8.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with olive-brown patina. One end of the bow is lacking and there is abrasion on one wall and rim. The slender, crescentic bow has an angular keel and low, thin, convex walls with an arc of three tiny triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, are now devoid of their enamel inlay. The capacious groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, has a slight basal wear facet. The surviving terminal is a tiny sub-spherical knob. The very slender D-shaped ring-like loop has a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

361. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 46.6 mm. Wt. 6.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with yellow-brown patina and underlying bright green corrosion products, lacking both terminals and most of the loop. The lightly-curved bow has an angular keel and thin convex walls, with an arc of six small triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both walls. The cells, whose apex points towards the loop, retain their enamel inlay, green in every case. The capacious groove, partially blocked with a ferrous concretion, has a broad V-shaped cross-section with basal wear facet. By comparison with more complete examples with a similar arrangement of inlaid cells, the missing terminals are likely to have been bovid rather than knobbed. Only the stub of the D-shaped loop survives.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


362. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 66 mm. Wt. 20.2 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with greyish patina. The slender elliptical bow has convex walls with a heavily-worn, incuse zig-zag motif below the rim. The narrow U-sectioned groove with pronounced basal wear facet, runs onto the terminals, which are in the form of neat sub-spherical knobs. The elegant, slender strutted loop, possibly intended as opposed stylized dolphins, has a triangular piercing and a small circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market. Said to have been found about 20 years prior to 1986 ’with’ no. 372.

8. Catalogue

363. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 75.8 mm. Wt. 34.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with dark green-black patina, which is eroded on most of the exterior, revealing underlying pitted green corrosion. The groove preserves a shiny green patina. A relatively heavy example, with elliptical bow, rounded angular keel, plain steeply-convex walls with thick rim, and a broad, deep, capacious, U-sectioned groove, with marked wear polish and an axially asymmetric wear slot, which has worn down the rim at one diagonally opposite end of each wall. The groove runs onto the two large, bulbous, knobbled terminals. Between each terminal and the loop another smaller knob hangs from the keel of the bow. In combination with the upward curve of the bow and the large terminal knobs these lesser knobs appear distinctly testicular, and there can be little doubt that a double-phallic motif was intended. The loop is a thick D-shaped ring with D-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


364. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 88.7 mm. Wt. 35.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a dark grey-black patina. A large example, with long, slender, deep, crescentic bow, angular keel, very steeply-sloping walls, and a narrow, very shallow, U-sectioned groove. The walls are plain except for an incuse double hatched motif adjacent to the loop. The terminals comprise a prominent domed knob, one distinctly larger than the other and with grooved mouldings at the neck and round the girth. The slighter end was evidently re-worked in antiquity, the keel having been filed back and given a ridged, saw-like edge by the application of a series of cross-cuts. The ridging appears more functional than decorative. The D-shaped ring-like loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.49.

365. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 44.5 mm. Wt. 11.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with irregular, brown (iron-stained) patina, lightly accreted in places, and partially flaking to reveal the underlying pale green corrosion products. A small, rather poorly-preserved example, with short, lightly elliptical bow, apparently plain steeply-sloping walls (one higher than the other), a flattened keel, plain, blunt-pointed terminals, and a relatively capacious U-sectioned groove with axially asymmetric basal wear facet which runs over the terminals. The large disc-like D-shaped loop, with sub-circular eye, is markedly asymmetric to the longitudinal axis of the bow.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.50.
366. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 48.2 mm. Wt. 12.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, Type N, with green-grey patina. A finely-wrought example, in good condition, with crescentic twin-tapered rod (one tip chipped) of rounded lozenge-shaped cross-section. On top of the slightly asymmetric, ovoid, ring-like loop, with circular eye, is the figure of a sitting (or swimming) duck, with bulbous head, projecting bill and folded wings, the feathers rendered in stylized form by simple incuse hatching.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.52.

367. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 50.6 mm. Wt. 5.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with light, metallic, green-grey patina. The slender, elliptical, twin-tapered rod has a shield-shaped cross-section and blunt-pointed tips. The D-shaped ring-like loop has a large eye. There is a distinct wear shine over the whole of the convex lower face of the rod.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

368. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 49.9 mm. Wt. 6.0 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a stable, quite smooth, mottled pale green and brown patina. Recent in-ground disturbance has broken away the D-shaped loop and badly distorted the crescentic rod. The rod has a rounded triangular cross-section and a slight wear facet on its keel. It was always asymmetric, with one arm markedly longer than the other.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.56.

369. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 34.9 mm. Wt. 7.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid- to dark-green patina. In places a blackish patina seals the green corrosion products, beneath which the liver-coloured metal is partially revealed. This distinctive sequence recurs on mortar no. 377, with which this pestle was acquired, and the two may have been used as a set. A small, neatly-made example with short, lightly-curved rod of plump triangular cross-section. The large, round ring-like loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

370. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 30.8 mm. Wt. 6.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brittle, dark grey-green patina, mostly flaked away to reveal underlying irregular green corroded metal. A tiny example, with lightly-crescentic, short, stubby, twin-tapered rod, the corroded tips broken. The tiny corrosion-depleted loop, with circular eye, is mounted on a pair of angled struts which enclose a small triangular aperture.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.54.
8. Catalogue

371. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 30 mm. Wt. 5.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with pale green patina. Both ends of the rod are broken, and the loop lacks most of its original surface. The strongly-curved plump rod has a sub-circular cross-section and preserves a distinct wear shine on its convex lower face, especially near the centre. The large ring-like loop has a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.57.

372. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 34 mm. Wt. 8 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brown, sand-accreted patina. A small, quite crudely-made example, with short, slender, strongly-curved arms and a prominent loop, comprising a long tongue-shaped plate with tiny circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market. Said to have been found about 20 years prior to 1986, ‘with’ no. 362.

British Museum, 1986,0801.2.

373. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 84.7 mm. Wt. 31.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with mid-grey-green smooth patina, lightly pitted in places, but preserving most of the original surface. A large flamboyant example, distinctly asymmetric, and quite rudimentarily-finished in places. The large, broad, crescentic bow has gently-carinated plain walls (one higher than the other) and a very capacious, broad, deep, rounded V-sectioned groove, with marked wear polish and basal facet, which runs over the loop and terminal. The angular keel is off-centre and lightly sinuous, apparently the result of grinding away a casting blemish. The terminal is a large bovid head, with very broad, in-turned asymmetric horns (one distorted), modelled head, round, empty, hollow-socketed eyes (perhaps originally inlaid with glass), and a lightly-flared rounded muzzle. The thick sub-discoid loop, with circular eye, is axially asymmetric.

Probable metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

374. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 60.7 mm. (orig. c. 65 mm.) Wt. 28.7 g.

End-looped mortar, with pale green pitted and corroded metallic grey (tin-enriched) patina. A heavy example, with broad bow. The plump walls are plain, but the squared keel is raised and decorated with facets and with incuse chevron patterns below the terminal and the loop. The engraved line which edges the keel runs onto the imperforate terminal to end in a simple eyed scroll, and a pair of converging engraved marginal lines further embellish the perimeter of the terminal. The loop is too damaged to reveal its form which was, however, more than a simple ring. Both the terminal and the loop have the appearance of a stylized aquatic bird’s head. The shallow groove, of broad, rounded V-shaped cross-section, has a marked wear-polish.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.60.

375. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 70.7 mm. Wt. 13 g.

End-looped mortar, with smooth mid-green patina, very lightly pitted on the loop and bow and more extensively corroded on the terminal knob. A finely-crafted, elegantly-designed example, with slender, elliptical, low-walled bow, ridged keel, plain steeply-convex walls, thin rims (now chipped), a knobbed terminal, and a slender, rounded, V-sectioned groove with marked wear polish. The loop is finely wrought in the form of a bird’s head, with circular eye, brow ridge, and ridged everted bill. A neat moulding divides it from the bow, and a further slender channelled moulding runs around the perimeter of one side of the loop. There appears not to have been one on the other side.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


376. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 68.2 mm. Wt. 21.2 g.

End-looped mortar, with orange-brown iron-stained patina, chipped on one rim. The crescentic bow has an angular keel, plain convex walls with lightly in-turned rim, a knobbed terminal, and a V-sectioned groove with axially asymmetric wear facet. The loop is a slender ring in the form of a very stylized bird’s head, with worn brow ridge and elongated dished bill, which extends onto, and merges into, the keel of the bow. The eye is elongated through wear.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.69.

377. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 54 mm. Wt. 9.7 g.

End-looped mortar, with patina/corrosion products as pestle no. 369. The pestle fits snugly in the groove of the mortar and, although not described as such by the vendor, the two may have been used as a set. The bow is simple and short, with an angular keel, plain sloping walls, almost straight rims and a plain blunt-pointed terminal. Both walls have been dented by recent damage near their mid-point. The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, is relatively capacious. The large loop, with pear-shaped eye, is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with marked brow ridge and elongated bill. It had worn through in antiquity.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.61.
8. Catalogue

378. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 61 mm. Wt. 16 g.

End-looped mortar, with very fine, smooth, mottled brown-olive patina. A plain, simple, well-finished casting, with rounded keel, plain steeply-convex walls, a U-sectioned groove, with wear polish and basal facet, which runs onto the loop and terminal, and a plain blunt-pointed terminal. The loop is a simple chunky disc with sub-circular eye.

Probable metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1997,0101.2.

379. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. c. 60 mm.

End-looped mortar, lightly-elliptical, with apparently plain-walled bow, lightly-knobbed terminal, and simple loop, the sub-circular eye elongated, perhaps through wear.

On the antiquity market. Not available for study.

See Benet’s artefacts of England & the United Kingdom, current values (Cambridge 2000), p. 47, no. 114 – 0104, where the object is wrongly scaled, juxtaposed with a non-matching pestle (no. 385), erroneously classed as ‘Celtic’ and described as a ‘woad-grinding set’.

380. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. unknown.

End-looped mortar, Type A. Not available for study, this example was illustrated with a small, unscaled, photo in an antiquity sale catalogue in 1993. It is evidently of the type of archetype no. 318, and I have enlarged and redrawn the photo with reference to no. 558, which it most closely resembles. The long bow has carinated walls, a zoomorphic (probably bovid) terminal, and a loop apparently in the form of a stylized tail/bird’s head.

Antiquity market/private hands. Probably a metal detector find.

381. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 81 mm. Wt. 11 g.

End-looped pestle, with a smooth mid-brown patina. Recent impact damage, probably at, or shortly before, the time of discovery, has distorted the rod just off-centre towards the loop and flaked away part of the patina. A very long, elegant, well-made, and well-finished example, comprising a long circular-sectioned rod, with up-turned, plump, D-sectioned, blunt-pointed tip, and a large slender loop in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with large tear-shaped eye and elongated dished bill. There are distinct wear striations and wear polish on the convex underside of the tip.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


382. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 40.8 mm. Wt. 4.4 g.

End-looped pestle, with lightly-pitted and -accreted green patina. A small example, with a lightly-elliptical rod and a marked, unusually flat wear facet, which has probably truncated the original end. The neatly-made loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with small circular eye and strongly everted bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.65.
383. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 42.8 mm. Wt. 4.2 g.
End-looped pestle, with sparsely pitted smooth brown metallic patina. A small example, heavily worn, with a marked oblique wear facet, well to one side of the end of the rod, which probably truncated the tip. The slender loop, with large, lightly ovoid eye, is in the form of a very stylized aquatic bird’s head with everted bill. Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.64.

384. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 59.5 mm. Wt. 13.3 g.
End-looped pestle, lacking its original surface everywhere except a small area beneath the rod at the junction with the loop, where the dark green patina preserves traces of a simple ring moulding. The elliptical rod has a plump lentoid cross-section and a blunt-pointed up-turned tip. The circular eye of the chunky loop is positioned markedly off-centre. Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.66.

385. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. c. 55 mm.
End-looped pestle, strongly curved, with circular loop, moulded stem, and knife-like rod with pointed tip.
On the antiquity market. Not available for study.
See Benet’ artefacts of England & the United Kingdom, current values (Cambridge 2000), p. 47, no. 114 – 0104, where the object is wrongly scaled, juxtaposed with a non-matching mortar (no. 379), and erroneously classed as ‘Celtic’ and described as a ‘woad-grinding set’.

386. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 58.3 mm. Wt. 17.6 g.
End-looped pestle, with partially-pitted grey-green patina. A fine, quite heavy example, with deep angular rod of knife-like form, a lightly-rounded angular keel, and wear polish on both sides of the tip. The slightly scrolled loop has a neatly-cut rib between flanking grooves running all the way round its perimeter. It has a near-circular eye, with a little wear polish. Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

387. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. c. 60 mm.
End-looped pestle, with long, sinuous, strongly-curved rod and neatly-moulded shouldered D-shaped loop with circular eye. Metal detector find. In private hands.
8. Catalogue

388. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 49 mm. Wt. 13.6 g.
End-looped pestle, with partially corroded dark grey patina. A short, heavy, very strongly-curved example. The form is simple and the manufacture quite rudimentary, notably in the angular turn of the sub-circular loop, but the bar-like rod has been carefully finished on all its faces and at its blunt tip, on the convex face of which is a wear facet.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

389. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 69 mm. Wt. 20.3 g.
Mortar, unlooped. The strongly-curved bow has low, plain, convex walls, an angular keel, with central projecting knob, and a shallow V-sectioned groove with a slight basal wear facet. One terminal has a bulbous, shouldered knob, the other, more steeply upturned, is a plain blunt point. The latter may have been re-worked after breakage of an end-loop, but there is no conclusive evidence for this. [For a broken and re-worked loop see no. 392].
For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.
Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

390. Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 63.7 mm. Wt. 29.2 g.
Un-looped mortar, with waxed dark brown-black patina, partially flaked revealing underlying dark green corrosion. A heavy casting, with short, deep, broad bow, rounded keel, convex walls, with simple incuse decoration at each end, and thick rims, which completely encircle the broad V-sectioned groove with basal facet and marked wear polish. At each end of the bow a large domed knob is mounted on a keel-like extension. The end of the knobs is decorated with an incuse six-rayed star motif, one badly affected by corrosion. There is no sign of any former attachment for a centre loop. A slight wear polish on the neck of the more prominent knobbed terminal is suggestive of attachment at that point.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.68.

391. Normanton-le-Heath, Leics
L. 69 mm.
End-looped pestle. A large and heavy example, lacking the tip of its ovoid-sectioned, bar-like rod. The large loop is in the form of an aquatic bird’s head, with elongated dished bill.
From excavation of Iron Age and Romano-British enclosure system.
Context date, Phase 3a (1088), apparently a pre-conquest context, possibly no later than the mid-1st century BC.
In view of the proximity of the sites, shared Late Iron Age ceramic traditions and overall chronology (S. Elsdon in Thorpe et al. 1994, 38), it is interesting to note the similarity in form and size between the Normanton pestle and the mortar from Enderby (no. 177), even though the latter is not from the excavated site at Enderby.
Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service Acc. no. A159.1990:901.
392. Northampton area  
L. 80 mm. Wt. 22.1 g.

End-looped mortar, with mid-brown patina. The tapered, elliptical bow has plain convex walls, with lightly inturned rim, and a rounded keel. The groove, of U-shaped cross-section is capacious and unusually deep, in part a product of long and heavy wear. As is often the case the wear has caused a degree of asymmetry in the walls (one now lower than the other) and in the shape and alignment of the groove. The sub-spherical terminal knob is simple and plain. The loop, in the form of a devolved bird’s head, with strongly-everted bill, was once circular, with a large eye, but it was worn through in antiquity and a simple repair effected by hammering together the fractured ends, filing down one face of the loop adjacent to the butted join and adding a metal repair patch or collar. The latter, now lost, is evidenced by the silver-grey remains of solder. In addition to this repair and the wear in the groove, prolonged usage is demonstrated by wear polish on knob, bill and loop.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.  
British Museum, 1999,0802.70.

393. North Creake, Norfolk  
L. 78 mm. Wt. 45.3 g.

End-looped mortar, with a smooth green-grey patina, a little pitted and chipped in places. A large, heavy, ornate example, markedly imbalanced, with a very large, deep zoomorphic terminal and a small, narrow loop. The lightly-curved, strongly tapered bow is slender, with an angular keel and steep, lightly convex walls, which are decorated with an incuse zig-zag design supplemented by lines of punched dots and by a punched dot-in-ring motif, the latter arranged, generally, as one per triangular compartment of the zig-zag. All elements of the incuse decoration are rather imprecisely applied and occasionally bungled. The narrow groove, which runs over the terminal, has an asymmetric V-shaped cross-section with basal facet, probably a product of wear. The bovid-head terminal is broad and well-modelled, with a marked brow ridge, everted horns (both ends broken), ears, small dimpled eyes and nostrils and a slit mouth in the tapered muzzle. The extreme depth of the adjacent keel was probably intended as the beast’s dewlap. The understated loop is a small circular eye in a slight expansion of the tapered end.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

394. North Creake, Norfolk  
L. c. 28 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A, lacking the loop and part of the bow. The steeply-sloped walls are decorated with an incuse triple zig-zag; the keel is angular; and the groove has a U-shaped cross-section. The zoomorphic terminal is highly stylized and rudimentarily formed, with upright horns and a heavy ridged muzzle with down-pointed end. It resembles very closely the terminal of no. 318.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
### 395. North Ferriby, Humberside

L. 48 mm.

End-looped mortar. A small slender example with only lightly-elliptical bow, low, apparently plain, convex walls, a rounded keel, a U-sectioned groove and a rather square-ended plain terminal. The loop is broken.

Metal detector find from a site on the north foreshore of the Humber. In private hands.

### 396. Norton Subcourse, Norfolk

L. 42 mm. Wt. 13.19 g.

Centre-looped mortar. The short bow has deep plain walls, with a virtually straight rim, plain blunt-pointed terminals, a broad shallow groove, and a prominent loop with a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 397. Norton Subcourse, Norfolk

L. 57 mm. Wt. 22.4 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with slightly pitted mid-grey-green metallic (tin-enriched) patina, retaining pale brown soil in crevices. A large, heavy example with stout, slightly asymmetric, strongly-curved rod and large plump D-shaped loop. The rod has wear facets on the centre keel and near one tip. Both rod and loop display file-finished faceting.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 398. Nottinghamshire, unprovenanced

L. 58.6 mm. Wt. 19.8 g.

End-looped mortar, with occasional large and deep corrosion pitting in a dark brown shiny patina, a product of heavy-handed recent cleaning. The strongly-curved bow has a lightly squared keel, steep, plain, convex walls, and a rounded V-sectioned groove which retains the original mid-brown ferrous patina. The terminal is a small simple bovid head with thick muzzle (the tip damaged), horns, and ears (also lacking their tips). The loop is simply-wrought, with a tiny circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

### 399. Oakley, Suffolk

L. 61 mm. Wt. 24.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a smooth metallic grey (tin-enriched) patina, a little pitted on the smaller terminal. The bow is smoothly curved and the walls have a rounded carination. They are plain except for an incuse (probably punched) crescent, one per wall, to the right of the junction with the loop. The groove has a broad U-shaped cross-section. The terminals are knobbed, with a moulded base, quite worn in places. The better preserved, larger, terminal has an acorn/glans-like appearance. The large D-shaped ring-like loop has a circular eye with some wear polish. The vestigial asymmetric wall markings are intriguing and are certainly the full extent of the wall decoration – nothing else has worn away. Notwithstanding the relative simplicity of the form, this mortar is so similar in dimensions and detail to no. 584 that both are likely to have derived from the same archetype, if not the same mould.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavation, by Suffolk Archaeological Unit, at Oakley, in advance of construction work for the Scole by-pass.

Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain

**400. Ogof-yr-Esgyrn, (The Bone Cave), Dan-yr-Ogof, Powys**

L. 73 mm.

End-looped pestle, with smooth green-brown patina, revealing the golden-coloured metal surface in places. A large, decorative, finely-made example. The long, strongly-curved rod changes from a sub-rectangular cross-section near the loop, through a circular section to a D-shaped section at the upturned tip, which has a wear facet on the convex face. The loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird's head with carefully faceted elongated bill. A pair of incuse lines flank a low ridge on the perimeter of the loop and terminate in a slightly worn cross-moulding on the upper edge of the rod. Wear is visible in the slightly elongated eye.

From excavations, 1938–50, of cave deposit; from square N/p = adjacent to 'grave' area of inhumations, probably associated with 2nd century AD occupation debris.


Cardiff, National Museum of Wales.

**401. Old Hunstanton, Norfolk**

L. 55.7 mm. Wt. 12.0 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with fine stable lacquered grey-green patina. The twin-tapered rod has a lozenge-shaped cross-section worn on the keel; the slightly asymmetric and unequal arms have blunt tips; and the large, carefully-wrought loop has a tapered profile, circular eye and sharply-moulded base.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

**402. Old Hunstanton, Norfolk (Unillustrated)**

L. c. 45 mm. Wt. 7.9 g.

End-looped pestle, with short stout rod, markedly swollen towards the asymmetrically-worn, up-turned, pointed tip. The broken loop appears to have been large and, perhaps, ornate.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

**403. Otford, Kent**

L. 59 mm. Wt. 22.3 g.

Multiple-looped mortar, with pitted, light green-grey (tin-enriched) patina. A very idiosyncratic example, with fancy scrolled strutting, atypical lightly-convex bow, low, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a squared keel and a shallow U-sectioned groove with very marked basal wear facet, which has resulted in the formation of a 'ledge' on one side. One wall is markedly lower than the other, probably through wear and damage (the rim is extensively chipped), but it may always have been slightly asymmetric as the scrolled strutting is also slightly out of alignment with the bow. Wear in the D-shaped eye of the loop at the end of the scrollwork demonstrates that it was suspended as an end-looped mortar.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly in private hands.

8. Catalogue

404. Owmsby Cliff, Lincs
L. 56.2 mm. (orig. c. 60 mm.) Wt. 13.7 g.
End-looped mortar, with very smooth metallic grey-green (tin-enriched) patina, lightly pocked and accreted at the bow/loop junction and at the terminal. The bow is short, broad and only lightly curved, with plain, convex walls, a rounded, slightly asymmetric keel, and a capacious, broad U-sectioned groove. The lightly down-turned terminal, now chipped, was always plain, and, apparently, open-ended, so that it may have functioned as a spout. The eye of the large circular loop, now broken, was filled with a simple spurred or scrolled openwork design.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.

405. Oxborough, Norfolk
L. 34.3 mm. Wt. 6.2 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type K, with fine pale green patina (sparsely encrusted with a creamy deposit), which preserves the original smooth surface. Both ends of the bow are lacking. The remaining part of the elliptical bow has an angular keel, thin, plain, sloping walls, and a capacious groove of broad V-shaped cross-section with basal facet. The loop is a rather irregularly-shaped ring with an unworn circular eye. In view of the close correspondence to nos 309 and 579 this mortar probably originally had bovid terminals.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

406. Pembridge, Herefordshire
L. c. 98 mm.
End-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, apparently plain sloping walls, a relatively broad groove, and a small, simple, knobbed terminal. The loop, worn through in antiquity, is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with marked brow and pronounced everted bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

407. Postwick, Norfolk
L. 52 mm. Wt. 23.4 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, plain walls, a broad shallow groove, and large knobbed terminals, one flattened, the other distinctly and overtly phallic. The centre-loop, with small countersunk eye, has a knobbed finial, possibly intended as a profile of testicles/ scrotum, in view of the juxtaposition with the phallic terminal.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

408. Postwick, Norfolk
L. c. 31 mm.
Centre-looped pestle. A small, quite crudely-finished example, with a large circular loop on a tall pedestal flanked by a pair of struts, which enclose sub-triangular apertures. Dot-punched decoration on the loop, pedestal and struts encircles the eye and apertures. The twin-tapered rod is short, with slightly blunt tips.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
409. Postwick, Norfolk
L. 58.4 mm. Wt. 23.9 g.
End-looped mortar, with heavily-pitted and corroded metallic grey patina. The relatively slender, deep, elliptical bow has a flattened keel, near-vertical plain walls with thick rims, a plain blunt-ended terminal, and a slender groove (partially blocked with soil and corrosion products), which stops short of the terminal but runs onto the top of the loop, where it displays slight wear polish. The sub-circular loop has a tiny circular eye. In several places the surface of this mortar is broken by hollows or perforations, some irregular, some less so. It is impossible to determine whether these are intentional or accidental features, and whether they occurred at manufacture or subsequent to main usage. Whatever the case, the wear at the back of the groove demonstrates that the mortar was finished and used.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

410. Preston St Mary, Suffolk
L. 19.5 mm.
Centre-looped pestle fragment, comprising the large circular centre-loop and the stub of each end of the rod.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

411. Quidenham, Norfolk
L. 55 mm. Wt. 7.7 g.
End-looped mortar, with shiny brown patina. A light example, with slender, parallel-sided, strongly-curved bow, plain, steeply-sloped walls, their thin rims chipped and partially broken, an angular keel, a narrow, deep, capacious V-sectioned groove and a plain, round, up-turned terminal. The simple sub-circular loop has a large eye much elongated through wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

412. Quidenham, Norfolk
L. 55.2 mm. Wt. 8.6 g.
End-looped pestle, with mid-green patina. A simple, elegant example, with circular-sectioned rod, the underside of which is flattened towards the upturned tip. No wear is discernible there, nor in the circular eye of the neatly-formed loop.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

413. Reading area
L. 68 mm. Wt. 8.8 g.
Centre-looped pestle, with grey-green patina. A long slender example with keeled, twin-tapered rod, the two arms of which are markedly asymmetric. The small loop is in the form of a low, slender rectangular plate with circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


414. Repton, Derbyshire (Unillustrated)
L. 51 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, unavailable for study, with knobbed terminals, a broad V-shaped groove with basal wear slot, a broken loop, and, perhaps, incuse decoration on the bow, though corrosion inhibits inspection.

From excavations, 1985, by Professor Martin Biddle. A residual find in a Saxon or later feature.

N. Wickenden in M. Biddle, publication forthcoming.
8. Catalogue

415. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 40 mm.

Mortar, probably centre-looped. Fragment of a very large example comprising part of the bow with large zoomorphic terminal. The walls are plain and steep, the keel is angular, and the groove is of slender V-shaped cross-section. The head has upright ears (or horns), prominent round bulbous eyes and simple incuse mouth and nostrils on the tapered round-ended muzzle. These features, and the overall shape of the head, give it more the appearance of a horse than a bovid, but certainty is not possible. The size of the head is comparable to the terminals on nos 261, 301 and 348, and, as zoomorphic terminals are much less common on end-looped mortars, it is probable that the present example is from a centre-looped mortar and was very likely balanced by a second zoomorphic terminal. A conservative reconstruction gives a length in excess of 100 mm: in reality it was probably much longer.

From excavations, 1931–8, diagonal Trench II, 100 ft. along. Effectively unstratified, but apparently from the central row of Claudian granaries, and in the same general area as no. 418, below.

B. Cunliffe, 1968, Richborough V, 97, pl. XXXIX, no. 143; Jackson 1985, no. 62.

English Heritage Acc. no. 7351429.

416. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 67 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with robust, crescentic, twin-tapered rod, of lozenge-shaped cross-section, and slender, ring-like, D-shaped loop with heart-shaped eye.

From excavations, 1922–3, Site 1, within the N.W. quadrant of the shore fort.

J.P. Bushe-Fox, 1926, Richborough I, 47, pl. XV, no. 32; Jackson 1985, no. 93.

English Heritage Acc. no. 96001769.

417. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 46 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with slender, crescentic, twin-tapered rod, of D-shaped cross-section, and circular ring-like loop.

From excavation, Winter 1924–5, original Finds no. 385.

Context date c. AD 280–400.+

English Heritage Acc. no. 7350256.

418. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 80 mm.

End-looped mortar, with strongly curved bow, plain, steeply-sloping walls, an angular keel, and a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The terminal knob is very large and elaborate, with neck moulding and incuse, rayed ribbing. The perimeter of the very neatly-wrought loop has a low ridge flanked by a pair of incuse lines, which, with the bill-like projection of the tip of the loop, give the appearance of an aquatic bird’s head, very similar in style to pestle no. 400, above.

From excavations, 1931–8, Trial Trench IV, Pit 258. Second century AD. This is within Area XVII, inside the stone fort, a little to the south of the west gate. Pit 258 cut one of the foundation trenches of one of the Claudian granaries (H). In the S.W. quadrant of the fort were several burials of later 2nd century date, and it is possible that the mortar originally derived from a disturbed burial.

B. Cunliffe, 1968, Richborough V, 97, pl. XXXIX, no. 142; Jackson 1985, no. 7.

English Heritage Acc. no. 96001770.
419. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 78 mm.

End-looped mortar, with strongly curved, tapered bow, apparently plain, thin, steeply-sloping walls, a capacious groove, of deep V-shaped cross-section with basal wear-slot, a cheese-shaped knobbed terminal, and a large circular loop.

From excavation, Winter 1924–5, original Finds no. 378.

Context date c. AD 280–400+. English Heritage Acc. no. 7351530.

420. Richborough, Kent
L. c. 53 mm.

End-looped mortar, with short, strongly curved bow, apparently plain walls, a large bulbous knobbed terminal, and a large circular loop, seemingly worn through.


Present whereabouts unknown.

421. Ringshall, Suffolk
L. 33.2 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking one end of the bow, the other badly distorted. The bow has an angular keel, apparently plain (though corroded) convex walls, a capacious U-sectioned groove, and a bulbous knobbed terminal. The D-shaped loop is of ‘cup-handle’ form.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

422. near River Mole, Surrey
L. c. 72 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A, not available for study. The bow has an angular keel, steep, lightly convex walls decorated with an incuse triple zig-zag, and a slender V-sectioned groove, which appears to run over the loop. The zoomorphic terminal, with upright horns/ears and tapered, blunt-ended muzzle, is probably a stylized bovid. The loop, set beneath the other end, was doubtless intended to represent the animal’s tail.

This example was illustrated with a small, unscaled, slightly obliquely-drawn sketch, with cross-section, in a reader’s letter in Treasure Hunting magazine, January 1984, p. 69 (where its dimensions were mistakenly expressed in inches not millimeters). It was said to have been found ‘in woodland in Surrey, near the River Mole’.

Present whereabouts unknown, presumably in private hands.

423. Rochester, Kent
L. 53.5 mm. Wt. 7.9 g.

End-looped mortar, with irregular mid-green corrosion-pitted patina. A light, simple example, with a virtually straight bow, plain sloping walls (one rim badly chipped), a rounded keel, and a deep V-sectioned groove with wear polish and an asymmetric basal wear facet. The plain open-ended terminal is more probably an original feature than a product of corrosion/damage. The loop, perhaps a very devolved bird’s head, is bent slightly to one side and has a pear-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands via the antiquity market.
8. Catalogue

424. Rocklands, Norfolk
L. 61 mm. Wt. 8.9 g.

End-looped mortar, with a lacquered pale green patina. A small light example, with slender, lightly curved bow, low, plain, sloping walls, a rounded angular keel and a vestigially-knobbed terminal. The groove, of V-shaped cross-section, has a marked wear-polish and wear-facets on the walls. The narrow basal wear-facet deviates from the longitudinal axis of the groove causing attrition of one rim at the looped end. The slender ring-like loop, with large ovoid eye, is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with a dished, lightly everted bill. The end of the loop appears to have been worn through in antiquity.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

425. nr. Ross-on-Wye/Gloucester
L. 41.1 mm. Wt. 15.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with stable, pale olive green and light brown patina. A compact, heavy example, with a short, deep, crescentic, angular-keeled rod and a D-shaped plate-like loop with small circular eye. A smoothed, but nevertheless clear junction line in the rod beneath one end of the loop coincides with the change in colour of the patina from light olive to light brown, and there can be little doubt that the light brown tip was a cast-on repair at the manufacture stage.

‘Found at metal detector rally, 27/1/1996, 12 mls. outside Ross towards Gloucester’. In private hands via the antiquity market.

426. Roudham, Norfolk
L. 56.9 mm. Wt. 11.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with fine olive-grey patina. The lightly-crescentic twin-tapered rod has a sub-triangular cross-section, marked keel, and blunt tips. Its steeply-sloping sides display wear polish. The ring-like loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it was falsely attributed the provenance ‘Stonea’.

British Museum, 1999,0802.72.

427. Rushall Down, Wilts
L. 74 mm. Wt. 22.4 g.

End-looped mortar, cleaned, with dull golden metal surface and remaining brown-black patina in the groove and on the loop. A relatively heavy example, distinctly axially asymmetric, with an idiosyncratic sinuous bow – the groove is set at one end, and the loop is separated from it by a solid sub-oval-sectioned stem. The walls are low, plain and convex, the keel is rounded, the groove is of shallow U-shaped cross-section, with slight wear polish, and the terminal is a simple low-domed knob. The rather heavy, ungainly loop is tapered, with an ovoid eye, elongated through wear. A thick, collar-like moulding, also worn, separates the loop from the stem.

Rushall Down, west of Casterley Camp, has yielded material of 1st-4th century AD date.


Devizes Museum, 361.
428. **Ruskington, Lincs**
L. c. 84 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, comprising two joining fragments. The large crescentic bow has low thin walls, simple, small, knobbed terminals, and a broad capacious groove. Adjacent to the loop, exceptionally on one wall only, is a row of three tiny triangular cells, inlaid with blue enamel, their apex pointing towards the loop. Only the stub of the broken loop – D-shaped or lightly heart-shaped – remains.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

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429. **Saham Toney, Norfolk**
L. 66.8 mm. Wt. 31.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D, with a fine, smooth, light brown patina overlying pale green corrosion products. In two joining pieces, the breakage appearing recent, probably in-ground plough damage. A well-cast, finely-finished example, with crescentic bow, angular keel, steep, lightly-carinated, plain walls, markedly-flattened, thick rims, and a narrow, V-sectioned groove (partially blocked with a ferrous concretion), with wear polish and narrow basal facet which runs onto the terminals. The low-domed, cushion-like terminal knobs have an elegant neck moulding. A symmetrically-set, diamond-sectioned strut, with neatly-scrolled perforate ends, encloses the very large circular loop (also of diamond cross-section), which has wear polish in the eye.

Metal detector find, from same site as no. 433. In private hands.

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430. **Saham Toney, Norfolk**
L. c. 72 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D, with strongly-curved, slender bow, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a sharply-angular keel, deep V-sectioned groove, and bulbous knobbed terminals. The very large ring-like loop is encircled by a thin strut, which engages with the bow ends.

Metal detector find from the Woodcock Hall site. For the site see R.A. Brown, 1986, *The Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk*, *Britannia* 17, 1–58.

Private hands/antiquity market.

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431. **Saham Toney, Norfolk**
L. 63.4 mm. Wt. 19.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with cleaned mid-grey-green patina, lacking most of the original surface. A medium-sized, quite heavy, example, with strongly-curved bow, and plain, convex, thick-rimmed walls, which taper sharply towards the small, simple, round-knobbed terminals. The groove, of shallow V-shaped cross-section, has a basal wear facet and is axially asymmetric, probably through use. The D-shaped ring-like loop has a circular eye.

Circumstances of discovery as no. 430.

Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it had acquired the spurious provenance of ‘King’s Lynn or Norfolk’.

British Museum, 1999,0802.73.
432. Saham Toney, Norfolk
L. 33 mm. Wt. 5.73 g.

Centre-looped mortar, fragment, lacking both terminals, much of the bow, most of the loop and one rim. The elliptical bow has an angular keel, plain sloping walls and a groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The fragmentary loop appears to have been of elongated form, perhaps with a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

433. Saham Toney, Norfolk
L. 33.1 mm. Wt. 3.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with lightly-accreted green-grey patina. A diminutive, light example, of ‘rocking-horse’ type, with a slender, elliptical, twin-tapered rod of plump, sub-lentoid cross-section. The ring-like loop, broken across its circular eye, is supported on two slender struts, which frame a triangular aperture.

Metal detector find, from same site as no. 429. In private hands.

434. Saham Toney, Norfolk
L. 45.2 mm. Wt. 8.3 g.

End-looped mortar, with cleaned mid- to dark-brown patina. A tiny, well-made, example with strongly-curved bow, plain, carinated walls, a chamfered keel, and a neatly-formed, bulbous knobbed terminal. The groove, of V-shaped cross-section with basal facet, is partially blocked with corrosion products. The carefully-profiled sub-circular loop, part of which has broken away, has a tiny round eye.

Circumstances of discovery as no. 430.

Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market, through which it had acquired the spurious provenance of ‘King’s Lynn or Norfolk’.

British Museum, 1999,0802.74.

435. Saham Toney, Norfolk
L. 75 mm. Wt. 13.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with smooth dark green-black patina. An elegant, well-made example, with lightly elliptical bow, and plain, convex walls with thin rims. The smooth curvature of the keel gives way to a neat faceting towards the loop. The capacious groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, has an axial wear polish. The terminal is a small, neat, button-shaped knob. The loop is elegantly cast in the form of a stylized bird’s head with everted bill. Its comma-shaped eye has a wear facet in the normal position.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
436. St Albans, Herts
L. mortar 83 mm. pestle 62 mm. Wt. mortar 25.7 g. pestle 5.4 g.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar, and an end-looped pestle, both cleaned, revealing the dull golden-brown metallic surface. Both are finely-finished castings, and their axial asymmetry may have been intentional. The mortar has a broad elliptical bow, quite low, plain, convex walls, a partially flattened keel, a very capacious broad V-sectioned groove with off-centre basal wear slot, and a bulbous knobbed terminal with nearly-wrought neck moulding. Its slender ring-like loop, with large circular eye and simple neck moulding, is out of alignment with the bow as seen from above the groove. The pestle, which fits snugly in the groove of the mortar, has a slender circular-sectioned rod, plumpest towards its upturned tip, which is turned slightly to one side and has a wear facet on the convex face. The circular ring-like loop with its simple neck moulding mirrors that of the mortar.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavations, 1966–8, of late Iron Age and Roman cemetery, King Harry Lane, grave no. 203 (SB 40), a cremation in a pottery flagon. Unlike the associated iron toilet set, the cosmetic set had not been burnt. The cremated bone was the remains of an adult, possibly a male.

The grave was assigned to Phase 3, dated AD 40–60.

Jackson 1985, no. 1; I.M. Stead and V. Rigby 1989, Verulamium: the King Harry Lane site, English Heritage Archaeological Report 12, 96, 104, 324, fig. 126, 4–5, 326.


437. St Albans, Herts
L.mortar 67.8 mm. pestle 65.8 mm. Wt. mortar 32 g. pestle 16 g.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle, both with a smooth green-grey patina. The mortar is a simple, heavy casting, with lightly-elliptical bow, angular keel, plain, sloping walls, and V-sectioned groove, with marked basal wear facet and polish, which runs over the bulbous, rather phallic, knobbed terminals. The loop is a thick circular disc, with very small cylindrical eye. The pestle is a simple, stout example, with strongly-curved, circular-sectioned rod, which swells towards the upturned tip, on the convex face of which is a marked wear facet and polish. The loop complements that on the mortar — a thick, sub-circular disc, with very small cylindrical eye. It is evident, both from the close stylistic similarity of the loops and from the general appearance of the two components, that they were made together as a set.

From excavations, 1984–6, of the St Stephens (Halsmede) Roman cemetery, by A. Havercroft. Found in a cremation burial (Grave 251 (AKD), together with a glass flask, apparently inside a wooden casket embellished with copper-alloy rings and lion-headed studs.

Context date, late 1st or early 2nd century AD.

The urned cremation, beside the casket, was partially destroyed by early 20th century house footings and proved impossible to sex. However, Ros Niblett has observed (in litt.) that where it has been possible to sex the cremated remains found with other lion-headed stud caskets in the cemetery they have all proved to be female. The casket and contents were unburnt, but no traces of pigment were found. A sample taken from inside the base of the glass flask and subjected to Fourier Transform InfraRed spectroscopic analysis (FTIR) in the British Museum Research Laboratory in 1995 (Project 6610) unfortunately yielded no clue as to the former contents. For the site see Britannia 16, 1985,293 and Britannia 18, 1987,328–30.

St Albans, Verulamium Museum, SABMS 90.985.
8. Catalogue

**438. St Albans, Herts**
L. 63.5 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type C, corroded, with broad, lightly-elliptical bow and steeply-sloping walls, decorated with two series of incuse irregularly-hatched lines centred on a group of three vertical lines at the loop. Two further series of hatched lines embellish the margins of the angular keel. The capacious V-sectioned groove runs onto the terminals. One is a small, stylized bovid head, rather poorly-preserved, with upright (damaged) horns, a marked brow-ridge, and an abraded pointed muzzle. The other, perhaps intended as the beast’s tail, is a tiny, simple knob. The D-shaped, plate-like, loop has a circular eye. Closely similar to, and perhaps from the same archetype or workshop as, mortar no. 319. See also no. 357.

From excavation, 1986, within Verulamium, Insula II, by W.H. Manning, R. Niblett and C. Saunders. D86 AL, SF8, in same context as pestle no. 439: Phase 2, early to mid-2nd century AD. Clay levelling under hearth. Although there was no direct association in a closed context it is very probable that the two components had been used together as a set. For the same combination of centre-looped mortar and end-looped pestle see sets nos 319 and 437.


St Albans, Verulamium Museum.

**439. St Albans, Herts**
L. 64.5 mm.

End-looped pestle, with stout, strongly-curved rod, of plump D-shaped cross-section, and simple, circular, discoid loop centrally-set on the end of the rod. Although the eye is rather larger the form and dimensions of this pestle are very close to those of no. 437.

Circumstances of discovery as no. 438.

St Albans, Verulamium Museum.

**440. St Albans, Herts**
L. 92.5 mm. (orig. c. 95 mm.)

Triple-looped mortar. A large, finely-made, ornate example of idiosyncratic form. The long, slender, elliptical bow has an angular keel and steeply-sloping walls with incuse, closely-hatched, triangular and diagonal motifs, symmetrically arranged about the centre loop. A further decorative motif – an incuse zig-zag – occupies the margin of the quite thick, inturned rim. The fairly capacious groove has a rounded V-shaped cross-section. The centre-loop is a large neatly-formed, heart-shaped ring (cf. no. 261), bent slightly to one side, and there is an identical but smaller version (one now broken) beneath the two simple terminals.

Found, pre-1941, ‘... in digging out a tree stump west of hypocausted annex. ?Ins. XXIV. Probably a cremation (found associated with a jug).’

St Albans, Verulamium Museum, 79.2156.
441. St Albans, Herts
L. 51 mm. Wt. 17.8 g.

End-looped mortar, with a lightly sand-accreted green patina. A small, well-made, comparatively heavy example, with short, strongly-curved bow, plain convex walls, inturned sharp rim, rounded keel and short, narrow groove of truncated V-shaped cross-section. The terminal is a very precisely-profiled and neatly-moulded knob with a dimpled ‘eye’ on both sides, and a channelled groove round the circumference. It is mirrored by the knobbed finial of the large loop, which may have been intended as a highly-stylized bird’s head.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1986,0402.1.

442. St Mary South Elmham, Suffolk
L. 42 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with large circular loop and crescentic twin-tapered rod with blunt-pointed tips.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

443. St Mary South Elmham, Suffolk
L. 28 mm. Wt. 4.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with large circular loop and short elliptical rod with blunt tips.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

444. Saintes, Charente-Maritime, France
L. c. 25 mm.

End-looped pestle?, with green patina. A tiny well-made example, with a short, strongly curved rod. The upturned tip appears complete though perhaps slightly worn. The loop, with small circular eye, may have been intended as a highly-stylized bird’s head. The drawing has been sketched from a slide.

From a rich female inhumation in a stone sarcophagus. The grave goods, including a mirror beneath the head, comprised over 80 objects found inside and outside the coffin. Glass objects at feet; toilet articles next to body. The glass includes a ‘stirring rod’ and perfume bottles.

Context date c. AD 40–50.

Musée Nationale, St Germain-en-Laye.

445. Sall, Norfolk
L. 57.5 mm. Wt. 22.5 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with brown patina, its surface extensively and severely flaked and eroded revealing pitted bright and pale green corrosion products. The elliptical bow has a rounded keel, steeply-sloping plain convex walls with lightly-in-turned rims, now extensively chipped, and a shallow U-sectioned groove, with very marked wear polish, which runs over both terminals. The terminals are in the form of slightly phallic knobs, with incuse radiating grooves, most blocked with a ferrous substance. The form of the broken loop, mounted on a keel plate, cannot be determined, though the opening was evidently not circular and would appear to have been triangular.

Metal detector find, ‘from Sall rally site, Sept. ’99’. In private hands.
446. Saxlingham Nethergate, Norfolk
L. 36 mm. Wt. 14 g.

Mortar fragment, comprising one terminal and part of the bow, badly pitted by corrosion and with little of the original surface remaining. In consequence the zoomorphic terminal is rather ‘fuzzy’, but it was evidently a bovid head, with tapered muzzle, horns, ?ears and eyes depicted. In addition, there are remains of what may have been the dewlap and/or strutting along the keel. The bow walls are seemingly plain and convex, the keel lightly rounded, and the groove of asymmetric U-shaped cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

447. Saxlingham Nethergate, Norfolk
L. 38 mm. Wt. 15.5 g.

Centre-looped pestle. A small example with a short, stubby twin-tapered rod and a D-shaped loop with arched eye. On the top of the loop and on the keeled face of the rod there are what appear to be un-cleaned casting flashes, and there is a further blemish on the side of one arm. Such flaws would have precluded use and it is therefore likely that this was a failed casting, jettisoned but never re-melted.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

448. Saxtead, Suffolk
L. 49 mm.

End-looped mortar, heavily corroded, except in the groove. A relatively small heavy example, with elliptical bow, angled keel, plain sloping walls with thick rounded rims, and a rounded V-sectioned groove. The apparently simple loop is broken across its eye. The balancing terminal is neatly-moulded, perhaps intended as a very devolved bird’s head.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

449. Scole, Norfolk
L. 51.4 mm. Wt. 4.3 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with smooth, light grey-green patina. A slender, twin-tapered rod of sub-lozenge-shaped cross-section, with a D-shaped slender ring-like loop. Wear polish is present on the keel, and there are wear facets near both tips, especially so near the shorter tip. It is possible that the distinct asymmetry of the rod is a result of the shortening of that arm through wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

450. Scole, Norfolk
L. 40 mm. Wt. 2.6 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with light green patina. A large example (originally well in excess of 50 mm), now lacking both ends of the slender, diamond-sectioned rod, which has a flattened keel beneath the loop. The large ring-like loop has a flattened heart-shaped eye.

From Waterloo, near Scole.


Norwich Castle Museum, 590.962.
451. Shelford, Cambs
L. 76.8 mm. Wt. 18.2 g.

End-looped mortar, with smooth olive-green patina. An elegant example with slender gently-curved bow, plain convex walls, an angular keel, thin rims, a rounded V-sectioned groove, with basal wear facet, and a small, neatly-formed, domed knob with neck moulding. The loop, slender with an ovoid eye, is in the form of a carefully-wrought aquatic bird’s head (probably a swan), with thin curved neck, raised brow-ridge, elongated dished bill with everted tip, and neatly-rendered circular eye hollows. There is a pair of incised lines near the tip of the bill, and similar decoration may once have extended along the now slightly eroded neck from the brow ridge. A simple incised line beneath the rim at the end of the groove serves to separate it from the bird’s head. The form of the loop is very similar to that on no. 334, while the knob closely parallels that on the end-looped mortar of set no. 436.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.75.

452. Shelton, Norfolk
L. 49.5 mm. (orig. c. 75 mm.) Wt. 9 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with a smooth dark olive-brown patina, preserving most of the original surface. A well-finished example lacking one terminal and part of the bow. The strongly-curved bow has an angular keel and thin steeply-sloping walls decorated with an arc of enamel-inlaid, small, triangular cells, which extend almost to the terminal. Fourteen survive on each wall, their enamel in good condition, and they reveal an identical symmetrical arrangement, originally comprising 19 cells per wall, their apex pointing towards the keel. Three colours of enamel are used. Starting from the terminal end the arrangement is three blue, four light green/ turquoise, five black, two light green/ turquoise. The sequence would have continued with a further two light green/ turquoise and three blue. The capacious V-sectioned groove has a basal facet. The small, very neatly-formed, bovid head terminal has in-turned horns (one broken) and a ridged, lightly-flared, flat-ended muzzle. The loop is a slender D-shaped ring with a heart-shaped eye. In form and size virtually identical to no. 129.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

453. Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, Bucks
L. c. 44 mm.

End-looped mortar, badly corroded and chipped, and lacking the looped end. The bow is slender, with lightly-angular keel, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a rounded V-sectioned groove, and a plain, simple, pointed terminal.

Metal detector find, ‘on building site which produced a variety of Roman finds’. In private hands.

454. Shillington, Beds
L. 53 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with deep elliptical bow, angular keel, neatly-moulded thick walls, low-domed terminal knobs and a broad, deep, V-sectioned groove. The loop, now fractured and distorted, was a D-shaped ring with large circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
8. Catalogue

455. Shimpling, Suffolk
L. 38 mm. (orig. c. 70 mm.) Wt. 5.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, lacking about half of the bow, and with a recent dent near the surviving terminal. The crescentic bow has an angular keel, steeply-sloping thin walls, and a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of five slender, elongated, triangular cells (probably originally nine), their apex pointing towards the loop. They are now devoid of any inlay. The surviving small zoomorphic terminal is in the form of a highly-stylized bovid head, with tapered blunt muzzle and vestigial horns. Only the stub of one side of the ring-like loop remains.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

456. Shipdham, Norfolk
L. 64.1 mm. Wt. 14.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with dark brown-black patina. A light casting, with slender crescentic bow, rounded keel, low, plain, convex walls, a relatively capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with basal facet, and small pellet-shaped terminal knobs set below each end of the bow. The ring-like loop has a plump D-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

457. Shipdham, Norfolk
L. 65 mm. Wt. 14.93 g.

End-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, plain walls, broad U-sectioned groove, and simple sub-circular loop. The terminal is a bulbous knob with basal ring-moulding.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

458. Shouldham, Norfolk
L. 62.4 mm. Wt. 26.9 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with lightly-pitted olive-brown patina. A medium-sized, relatively heavy example. The lightly-curved, crisply-facetted bow has a flattened keel, plain carinated walls with quite thick rims, neatly-formed, simple, knobbed terminals, and a V-sectioned groove with basal facet. The circular plate-like loop has a round eye.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market, through which its provenance had been reduced to 'from Norfolk'.

459. Shouldham, Norfolk
L. 41.4 mm. Wt. 7.3 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with pale- to mid-green patina. An idiosyncratic, light example, with a strongly re-curved twin-tapered rod, which has the appearance of a pair of bull’s horns. The tall trapezoidal loop plate has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
460. Shoulham/Fincham, Norfolk
L. 55.3 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with lacquered green patina, in places denuded to the underlying liver-red coloured metal. A short, heavy example, of idiosyncratic form, with broad, lightly-elliptical bow, deep, plain, convex walls, and slender, U-sectioned groove with basal facet. The large terminal is a highly-stylized zoomorphic head, perhaps a boar/pig rather than a bovid, with upright ears, pointed snout/muzzle and deeply-folded dewlap. The smaller terminal was clearly intended as the beast’s tail. The D-shaped loop has a small circular eye.

Metal detector find, 1982, near Shoulham/Fincham parish boundary.

Trett 1983, no. 1; Jackson 1985, no. 68.

Donated to King’s Lynn Museum, KL 112.982 (A1685).

461. Shropham, Norfolk
L. 64.7 mm.

End-looped mortar, with shiny green patina. A heavy example with lightly-elliptical, very broad bow, plain, sloping walls, angular keel, wide, shallow, V-sectioned groove, and simple, plain, blunt-pointed terminal. The slender loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with circular eye and bill-like extension. Wear polish and basal facets are visible in the groove.

Found prior to 1974.

Trett 1983, no. 12; Jackson 1985, no. 28.

Donated to King’s Lynn Museum, KL 6.974 (A1002).

462. Silchester, Hants
L. 72.1 mm.

End-looped mortar, with smooth dark green patina. The elegantly curved bow has an angular keel, steep, lightly-convex, quite thin, plain walls, a simple, blunt-pointed terminal, and a capacious groove, the V-shaped cross-section of which has a deep, axially asymmetric, basal wear slot. The slender loop, with ornate inturned scroll, has a wear-elongated heart-shaped eye.

Smith 1918, 56, 58, fig. 4; Jackson 1985, no. 31.

Reading Museum, unregistered, but thought to be almost certainly from Silchester.

463. Silchester, Hants
L. 62.8 mm.

End-looped mortar, with grey (tin-enriched) patina, encrusted with mid-green corrosion in many places. A small example with only lightly-elliptical bow, low, plain, convex walls, a lightly-angular keel, quite thick rim, a plain, square-ended, lightly-upturned terminal, and a groove of U-shaped cross-section. The fragmentary loop has a rounded, everted bill-like junction with the underside of the bow.

Smith 1918, 57–8, fig. 6; Jackson 1985, no. 35.

Reading Museum, unregistered, but thought to be almost certainly from Silchester.
464. Skeffington, Leics
L. c. 52 mm.
End-looped mortar, apparently badly corroded and lacking its loop. The crescentic bow has a rounded keel, low, seemingly plain, convex walls, a plain blunt-pointed terminal, and a relatively capacious U-sectioned groove. Only the broken necked junction of the loop remains.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

465. Sleaford, Lincs
L. 76 mm. Wt. 18.7 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with olive-brown patina, extensively pitted and eroded (especially at the terminals), revealing the irregular green corroded metal beneath. The elliptical bow has a lightly-facetted keel, low, apparently plain, convex walls, and a V-sectioned groove, with marked wear-scoring and basal wear facet, which runs over the terminals. Both of the small zoomorphic terminals are badly corroded. They have sub-triangular faces, and ears, and may have been intended as stylized bovid heads. The D-shaped loop, with small circular eye, is mounted on a low plinth.
Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.76.

466. Soham, Cambs (Unillustrated)
L. c. 85 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, Type L. The elliptical bow is decorated with an incuse triple line motif and has small knobbed terminals and a D-shaped loop plate with small circular eye.
On the antiquity market. Not available for study.

467. Somersham, Suffolk
L. c. 60 mm.
End-looped mortar. The bow has a raised axial rib on both walls and another along the keel. They are linked to a transverse neck-moulding at the junction with the large bulbous terminal knob. The deep V-sectioned groove has a distinct wear facet at its base. The thick, neatly-moulded loop has a small, slightly ovoid, eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

468. South Creake, Norfolk (Unillustrated)
L. 45.5 mm. Wt. 5.3 g.
End-looped pestle, with lightly-curved rod, which swells towards the up-turned pointed tip. The simple sub-circular loop is set below the axis of the rod.
Metal detector find. In private hands.
469. South Ferriby, Humberside
L. 78 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H. The elliptical bow has an angular keel and low, thin, sloping walls with two arcs of six contiguous, small, triangular cells flanking the loop on both faces. The cells retain traces of red enamel, and their apex points towards the loop. The groove is capacious and the terminals are tiny, simple knobs. The large ring-like D-shaped loop has a heart-shaped eye.

Found on a prolific site on the south foreshore of the Humber.


Hull City Museums, KINCM: 883.1942.

470. South Kyme, Lincs
L. c. 39 mm (orig. c. 65 mm.)

Centre-looped pestle. A large example lacking one end of the long, crescentic, keeled, tapered rod. The broken end appears to have been smoothed off in antiquity. The large, slender, collar-like loop has an ovoid eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

471. Spexhall, Suffolk (Unillustrated)
L. c. 30 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, unavailable for study. A small example, with tall-stemmed, small loop, apparently similar in form to no. 544.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

472. Springhead, Kent
L. 80 mm. (orig. c. 100 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking one terminal and part of the bow and loop. The slender, elliptical bow has an angular keel, and low, thin walls, with an arc of four small hollow-based triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells retain traces of red enamel, and their apex points away from the loop. The capacious V-sectioned groove has a slight basal facet; the remaining knobbed terminal is small and simple; and the fragmentary loop was a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye.

From excavations of the religious centre, surface find, SF 2314.


473. Springhead, Kent
L. 62 mm.

End-looped pestle. The curved, sub-circular-sectioned rod is swollen near the upturned, tapered tip. The usual curving facet on the convex face of the tip produces a D-shaped cross-section. Atypically, the simple turned-over loop is set in a different plane to that normally encountered, but see nos 50 and 73.

From excavations of the religious centre, Pit 139, SF 1665.

Context dated mid-late 2nd century AD.

Jackson 1985, no. 56. Site references as no. 472.
8. Catalogue

474. Stanway, Essex
L. 38 mm. Wt. 23.8 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with a dark grey-green patina. An idiosyncratic example with short bow and long loop plate. The bow is parallel-sided, with virtually no curvature. It has steep, convex, plain walls, a rounded keel, and a shallow groove, of broad U-shaped cross-section, which runs over the terminals. A simple grooved moulding beneath each terminal gives the impression of a vestigial knob, upon the end of which is further incuse decoration, now very eroded. The long, spatulate loop plate has a tiny roughly-cast eye which shows little sign of wear. Instead, suspension may have been by means of the plate itself on which there is very considerable wear, which has erased some of the incuse decoration. The latter comprises notched incisions on the edges, horizontal grooves, and a roughly-cut cross on each face next to the eye.

Metal detector find from Stanway Hall, in general vicinity of Gosbecks temple site and the rich Iron Age burials. No associated objects.

In private hands.

475. Stanwick (Ringstead), Northants
L. 67 mm.
End-looped mortar, with elliptical bow, rounded keel, low, sloping, plain walls, a broad, shallow, U-sectioned groove and a plain, blunt-pointed terminal. The slender ring-like loop has an ovoid eye elongated through wear.

Found during fieldwalking for the Raunds Area Project survey. Publication forthcoming.

476. Stevenage, Herts
L. 75 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, Type L, with slender, lightly-elliptical bow, rounded angular keel, low, thin, sloping walls, a relatively capacious V-sectioned groove, and neck-moulded, shouldered, terminal knobs, which are distinctly phallic in appearance. The walls are decorated with an incuse diagonal-lined motif flanking the loop, which is a thin, flat, D-shaped plate with small circular eye.

From excavation of a Romano-British farmstead at Lobs Hole, Stevenage, by J. Hunn. LHS – 2’96, 569, SF 4070. Un-dated context.


477. Stevenage, Herts
L. 33.5 mm.
(?) End-looped mortar fragment, lacking the loop and part of the bow. The elliptical bow has a flattened keel, low carinated walls, sharp, inturned rims, and a rounded V-sectioned groove. The terminal is a prominent moulded knob. Probably, but not certainly, an end-looped example.

From excavation of Late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Boxfield Farm, Chells Manor, by J. Hunn, for Herts Archaeological Trust. HAT 37 CAA SF 196, an unstratified find from the South Area in the vicinity of a large well, cut in the 1st century AD and backfilled in the 2nd century.


478. Stoke Holy Cross, Norfolk
L. 42 mm. Wt. 9.12 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type I, with U-sectioned groove, lacking both ends of its elliptical, plain-walled bow. The broken loop was a D-shaped ring with a heart-shaped eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
479. Stonea, Cambs
L. 75 mm. Wt. 49 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with extensive brown iron-staining over a green patina. A heavy, elaborate casting with a deep, elliptical bow. The incuse decoration of the steep convex walls comprises a pair of bellied lines, with a thin band of zig-zag between the upper line and the rim. The relatively shallow groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, runs through the horns of the zoomorphic terminal. This is a large and detailed bovid head, with prominent inturned horns, large everted ears, a short, flat-ended muzzle, with mouth and nostrils depicted, and deep, round eye-sockets, which were probably inset with coloured glass eyeballs, though neither survives. The other terminal is in the form of a moulded knob. The relatively small D-shaped loop has a circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, prior to 1980, from the ploughsoil around Stonea Grange Farm.


British Museum, 1982,0602.3.

480. Stonea, Cambs
L. 52.5 mm. Wt. 3.5 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with smooth grey-green metallic patina. The slender crescentic, sub-circular-sectioned rod has an asymmetric grinding facet on the convex face of one of the upturned tips. The loop is a simple D-shaped ring.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From excavation, 1982, of Roman site at Stonea Grange Farm. ST 82 AAG, SF 291. Topsoil/cleaning unit, Blocks 5 and 5a, effectively unstratified.


British Museum, 1985,0201.251.

481. ‘Stonea, Cambs’
L. 34 mm. Wt. 4.7 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a mid-green patina. A small example with short, slender, lightly-curved, asymmetric arms of D-shaped cross-section, and a comparatively large round loop, its eye blocked with a ferrous concretion.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands via the antiquity market. In view of the fact that it was acquired with mortar no. 211, subsequently shown to have been spuriously provenanced Stonea, the veracity of the provenance of this example cannot be vouchsafed.

British Museum, 1999,0802.79.
482. Stonea, Cambs
L. 67.5 mm. Wt. 27.5 g.
End-looped mortar, with smooth mid-green patina. The virtually straight bow has a flattened keel, and low steeply-curved walls decorated with incuse paired zig-zag lines. The groove, which runs over the plain terminal, has a distinct wear polish and basal wear facet giving it a markedly asymmetric cross-section. The large turned-over loop has a pear-shaped eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Circumstances of discovery as no. 479.


British Museum, 1982,0602.4.

483. Stonea, Cambs
L. 85.2 mm. Wt. 42.3 g.
End-looped mortar, Type B, with metallic grey to brown patina. A heavy casting, the detailed surface treatment of which is difficult to discern because of 1) a thick encrustation of corrosion products everywhere except the groove, and 2) gross over-cleaning of the encrustation in several places on both walls, which has removed both the corrosion products and the original surface. Nevertheless, it is possible to see that the surface of the walls, rim, keel and loop was tin-enriched. The large, strongly-curved bow has flared walls with a sharp carination just below the rim. There is a row of 13 incuse ring-and-dot motifs on each wall, extending from tip to tip of the bow. An area of damage on one wall has been filled (recently) with a hard grey substance. The keel is unusually elaborate, with a herring-bone rib within an axial slot. The terminal is simple and plain. The groove, which runs over both ends, has a U-shaped cross-section and preserves a wear-polish over its full extent. The loop, corroded and over-cleaned, is set beneath the end, in a similar way to that on Type A mortars. It is relatively small, with a circular-eye and a slight extension along the keel.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.77.

484. Stonea, Cambs
L. 50.5 mm. Wt. 14.3 g.
End-looped mortar, heavily corroded, lacking most of the loop, the tip of the terminal, and most of the original surface. The bow is lightly-curved, with a rounded angular keel, apparently plain, sloping walls, extensively chipped rims, and a relatively capacious groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with a deep ‘ledged’, basal wear slot. The simple terminal has a broken tip. Only the stub of the loop remains.

From excavation, 1960, of the Golden Lion Roman settlement site, 2nd–3rd century AD.


British Museum, 1985,0503,1911.
485. *Stonea, Cambs*
L. 77.1 cm. Wt. 22.3 g.

End-looped mortar, with lightly-pitted dark green-grey patina. A finely-made, elegantly-designed example, with slender elliptical bow, lightly-rounded flat keel, carinated plain walls, thin rims, and a relatively capacious, wear-polished, U-sectioned groove, which runs onto the loop and over the terminal. The terminal is a well-formed knob with crisply-cut neck moulding. The loop is in the form of a stylized waterbird’s head, with near-circular eye and a prominent, crisply-cut, everted bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. The given provenance of Stonea is suspect because a pestle acquired from the dealer on the same occasion, and also said by him to come from Stonea, was actually from Roudham (no. 426). Other examples from the same dealer also proved to be falsely provenanced (nos 211, 340, 481).

British Museum, 1999,0802.78.

486. *Stratton Strawless, Norfolk*
L. 52 mm. Wt. 21.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-green pitted patina, lacking the original surface everywhere except in the groove. The bow, only lightly curved, has apparently plain convex walls, and a rounded keel, extended at the centre to accommodate the suspension loop. The shallow, narrow, U-sectioned groove is polished through wear; the terminals are plain and very slightly bulbous; and the loop is broken across its small circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

487. *Suffolk, unprovenanced*
L. 64 mm. Wt. 8.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with olive green patina. A small, light example. The elliptical bow has an angular keel, and low, thin, sloping walls, with a panel of four contiguous, small, triangular cells either side of the loop on both faces, their apex pointing away from the loop. The cells still contain their enamel inlay, which appears to be yellow in every case, but this may be due to degradation. The terminal knobs are tiny; the capacious V-sectioned groove has a basal wear facet; and the loop is a slender D-shaped ring.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.80.

488. *Suffolk, unprovenanced*
L. 52.7 mm. Wt. 13.3 g.

End-looped mortar, with a mid-green patina, partially accreted with a light coating of pale brown soil. A small, well made example, with plain, finely-carinated walls, rounded keel, and relatively capacious U-sectioned groove, which runs over the terminals. Both terminals are in the form of a simple but elegantly scrolled circular loop, which splays at the junction with the bow.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.83.
489. Suffolk, unprovenanced
L. 72 mm. (orig. c. 77 mm.) Wt. 14.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with a lightly-encrusted green-brown patina. The elliptical bow has a rounded keel, low, plain, convex walls, with a thin rim, a nearly-formed, flat-ended terminal knob, and a deep groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section. Its asymmetric basal wear facet has encroached on the rim at diagonally opposite ends. The suspension loop, worn through, or broken, in antiquity, is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with marked brow and pronounced everted bill. The latter has a deeply-incised vertical groove when viewed end-on.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.81.

490. (?) Suffolk, unprovenanced
L. 54 mm. (orig. c. 58 mm.) Wt. 11.9 g.

End-looped mortar, lacking most of the loop and chipped on rims and keel, with a smooth, lacquered, mid-green patina. The deep, bellied bow is quite short, with only lightly-curved rims, but a strongly-curved angular keel. The steep, lightly-convex walls are plain. The shallow groove, of broad U-shaped cross-section, has wear polish and a slight, off-centre, basal wear facet which runs over the loop. The terminal is a tiny knob. Only the stub of the loop remains, but it appears to have been plain and relatively flat.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.
British Museum, 1999,0802.82.

491. (?) Suffolk, unprovenanced
L. c. 61 mm.

End-looped pestle. A long example with a large loop in the form of a bird’s head with lightly-everted bill. The eye is ovoid, and the upturned tip flattened, both probably worn through use.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

492. Suffolk/Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 66 mm. Wt. 22.3 g.

End-looped mortar, with a thick, green-brown patina. A heavy, simple example lacking most of the suspension loop. The bow is only slightly elliptical with very thick-rimmed, plain, sloping walls, and a rounded keel, which is markedly asymmetric to the long axis. The V-sectioned groove, with distinct basal wear facet, runs over the plain terminal to form a pouring spout. The broken loop appears to have been a simple circular ring.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

This mortar was acquired with pestle no. 493. The similarity of their patina, soil coating and corrosion products, together with the form of the groove, make it very probable that the two pieces were used as a set in antiquity, even if not originally made as such.

British Museum, 1993,0901.4.
Cosmetic Sets of Late Iron Age and Roman Britain

493. Suffolk/Norfolk, unprovenanced
L. 57 mm. Wt. 9.9 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a thick, green-brown patina. A relatively heavy example, with a collar-like, D-shaped suspension loop and a triangular-sectioned rod. The keeled working face is lightly faceted through use.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

This pestle fits snugly in the groove of mortar no. 492. In view of the fact that the two share a common patina/soil coating/corrosion products, the vendor’s assertion that they were a set is feasible, if incapable of proof. For certain finds of non-matching components used as sets see nos 319 and 437.

British Museum, 1993,0901.3.

494. Surlingham, Norfolk
L. 63.4 mm. Wt. 15.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with mid-green patina lacking the original surface except in the groove and in the angles of the loop assembly. The strongly-curved slender bow has low, plain, convex walls (with abraded rim), a rounded keel, a very shallow U-sectioned groove with wear polish, and sub-spherical terminals, one preserving the last vestiges of a neck moulding. The loop assembly, mounted on a low keel, is broken. It probably comprised a strutted ring surmounting a triangular aperture, as nos 279, 362 and 571. For a near-identical example, but with more capacious groove, see no. 60.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

495. Sutton, Suffolk
L. c. 43 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A, lacking the terminal and part of the bow. The remaining part of the lightly-curved bow is distorted and corroded, with high, steeply-sloping walls, an angular keel, and a narrow groove which runs over the loop. The walls are decorated with incuse lines, in groups of three or four, probably in a zig-zag arrangement. The loop, which lies beneath the end of the bow, is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with prominent brow and elongated bill. If, as is probable, the missing terminal was a bovid head, then the loop may also have been intended to represent the beast’s tail. In form and dimensions virtually identical to mortar no. 236.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

496. Syderstone, Norfolk
L. 69.7 mm. Wt. 38.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type E, with abraded and lightly-pitted grey-green patina. The plump, strongly-curved bow has plain convex walls with a thin upright rim, which is flanked by a line of small punched dots. The slender groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, is partially blocked with soil and corrosion products. The heavily stylized zoomorphic terminals, one slightly larger than the other, and perhaps devolved bovids, have a bulbous head, tapered face and flared, lightly-domed muzzle. Each terminal is joined to the centre loop by a sinuous, slender openwork strut (one now broken), which begins as the dewlap beneath the terminal and merges with the lower perimeter arc of the large crescent-shaped loop. The overall form of the mortar compares closely with no. 213 and nos 36 and 510, while the form of the strutwork is midway between that of those examples and no. 430, and the treatment of the rim is closely paralleled by no. 65. Like nos 36, 213 and 510, there is a distinct asymmetry of the mortar walls and of the vertical axis of the bow and loop, suggesting, perhaps, a common origin or ancestry for all four examples.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.84.
8. Catalogue

497. Tacolneston, Norfolk
L. 60 mm. (orig. c. 80 mm.) Wt. 9.66 g.
Centre-looped mortar, Type H, lacking one terminal and most of the loop.. the crescentic bow has thin sloping walls and a capacious groove of broad, rounded V-shaped cross-section. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is an arc of three thin triangular cells, their apex pointing towards the loop. No trace of their enamel inlay survives. The remaining terminal is in the form of a small knob. The fragmentary loop was a D-shaped ring with a heart-shaped eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

498. Tattingstone, Suffolk
L. c. 55 mm.
End-looped mortar. An apparently plain, simple example, with low, thick-rimmed walls, a square keel, and a blunt-pointed terminal. The asymmetric U-shaped cross-section of the groove may be a product of wear. The loop has a circular eye and runs some distance along the keel.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

499. Tattingstone, Suffolk
L. 71 mm.
End-looped mortar, corroded, with a lightly-elliptical bow, a flattened keel, and plain, low, convex walls. The relatively capacious broad groove has been deepened by considerable wear, resulting in a distinct 'ledging' of the inner wall faces and a very thin base. The groove runs over the plain terminal, which is in the form of a simple spout. The original form of the broken loop is indeterminate.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

500. Thelnetham, Suffolk
L. 37.4 mm. Wt. 9.9 g.
A tiny ornate combined brooch and end-looped mortar, with an olive-green patina. The original surface is extensively preserved, but is eroded on the muzzle of the bovid head (giving the false impression that the muzzle is a face, with the nostrils appearing to be eyes), on its horn tips, on the crown of the bird, and on the central convex 'belly', with the scrolled decoration. The solid terminal depicts a highly-stylized ox-head, with prominent drooped muzzle, drilled nostrils and projecting horns. On top of the head is a pair of pierced lugs which retain the axis bar for the hinged brooch pin. The looped terminal is in the form of a fine stylized bird's head, with slender, strongly-curved neck, drilled eyes, and a very prominent, large, elongated, up-turned bill. At the back of the neck is the cast flanged catch-plate for the brooch pin. Worn as a brooch, both terminals would be viewed to good effect, although the bull's head would be inverted. Most prominent of all would be the incised scrolled decoration on the bellied bow. The interior of the bow forms a small grooved mortar of normal form, with broad U-shaped cross-section. Cleaning by the finder has removed any evidence for wear traces in the groove. However, wear polish is visible in two other places: within the looped eye; and under the muzzle of the bovid. It is conceivable that the bird's eyes and the bovid's nostrils were once filled with inlay. While it is very likely that this object functioned both as a brooch and a cosmetic grinder, it is in any case clear that it was at least intended to be seen as a combination of the two. It parallels closely, therefore, the chatelaine type brooch, which was similarly enigmatic in its precise role/roles.
Metal detector find.
501. Thérouanne, Pas-de-Calais, France
L. mortar c. 100 mm. pestle c. 70 mm.

Set, comprising a centre-looped mortar, Type J variant, and a centre-looped pestle. The mortar has an elliptical bow, with a rounded keel, thin convex walls, and a capacious U-sectioned groove. Adjacent to the loop on both walls is a symmetrical arrangement consisting of an outer arc of four linked lunate cells enclosing an inner pair flanking the loop. All retain their enamel inlay, blue, red, red, blue in the linked arc, red in the inner pairs. The terminals are in the form of small stylized bovid heads, with lightly-flared blunt muzzles and prominent horns. The D-shaped ring-like loop has a heart-shaped eye. The pestle has a very slender twin-tapered rod, of plump D-shaped cross-section, with pointed tips. The loop is a large D-shaped ring.

From excavation, 1994, of one of the Gallo-Roman cemeteries of Tarvenna, the capital of the Civitas Morinorum, by Freddy Thuillier, for Association pour les Fouilles Archéologiques Nationales. Found in grave ST. 17, with an urned cremation, three pottery vessels (two flagons and a patera), and two glass vessels (a handled cylindrical bottle and a small flagon base stamped with an image of Mercury). Context date (from vessels), late 2nd century AD.


Musée Archéologique, Therouanne.

502. Thetford, Norfolk
L. 55 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking both terminals and most of the loop. The strongly-curved bow has plain, steep, lightly-convex walls, an angular keel, and a capacious, deep, rounded V-sectioned groove. Only the stub of the heart-shaped loop survives.

Found 1982, near Gallows Hill.

Trett 1983, no. 24; Jackson 1985, no. 91.

Present whereabouts unknown. Presumably in private hands.

503. Thetford, Norfolk
L. 32.5 mm. Wt. 5.4 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a shiny mid-green patina and extensive light pitting. A small, light example of 'rocking-horse' type, quite roughly cast/finished. There is a light facet and wear polish on the base of the elliptical rod, and a more distinct facet on the side of one of the tips, both of which are chipped. The A-shaped suspension loop comprises a tiny circular eye in a flat ovoid plate, which is joined to the rod by two tall struts. There is wear polish in the eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.


504. Thetford, Norfolk
L. 57 mm. Wt. 21.4 g.

End-looped mortar, with a mid-brown pitted patina. Recent 'cleaning' has scoured away the original surface from everywhere except the groove. The bow is short, deep-bellied, and quite strongly curved, with an angular keel, steep, convex, apparently plain walls, and a shallow U-sectioned groove with wear-polished surface. The terminal knob is small, simple and flat-ended. The elegantly decorative loop is in the form of a strongly re-curved head and neck of a water-bird, its large, ridged, everted bill resting on the keel of the bow. In consequence, the loop has a comma-shaped eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

505. Thetford, Norfolk
L. 80 mm.
End-looped pestle. A very large example, with a circular ring-like loop and a long, circular-sectioned rod, lacking the end of its upturned tip.


506. Thistleton, Leics
L. 69 mm.
End-looped mortar, with low plain walls, small knobbed terminal, and a narrow loop in the form of a bird’s head, with bill-like extension.

From excavation, THV 1960, Site 4, Area XXXIV, Layer 1, i.e. ploughsoil within Building 6, an area of ‘ovens’ and infant burials. Building 6 lies south of the temple, just outside the precinct. The Building 6 coin list ranges from Trajan to House of Theodosius (AD 104–402).


507. Threxton, Norfolk
L. 84 mm. Wt. 33.8 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with smooth olive-green-brown patina. A large example, with gently-curved bow, angular keel, and steep, lightly-convex walls. The ornate wall decoration comprises interspersed convex and concave angled mouldings, heavily worn at the bow’s broadest point adjacent to the loop. The broad, capacious, V-sectioned groove has an axially asymmetric basal wear facet, and the rim of the walls is worn down at diagonally opposite ends. The groove runs over the simple domed terminal knobs. The loop is a large D-shaped ring with wear polish in its heart-shaped eye.

A mid-19th century find, part of the Tom Barton Collection. Trett (1983, 299 no. 9) suggests it is probably from the Saham Toney/Little Cressingham Roman settlement site.

Jackson 1985, no. 78.

Norwich Castle Museum, 179.950 (6).

508. Tilbury, Essex
L. 66 mm. Wt. 21 g.
End-looped mortar, with dark green to black patina lightly accreted with cream to green corrosion products. The slender elliptical bow has an angular keel, plain carinated walls with a thin rim, a shallow groove of broad U-shaped cross-section, with a marked basal wear facet, and a small plain ovoid knob, which is little more than a slight swelling of the bow tip. The end loop is remarkable. Of large circular form, it swells to form a bird’s head, which can only be properly appreciated when viewed along the keel of the bow with the mortar held upside down. The eyes are formed by two circular cells, which probably originally held glass or enamel inlays, while the beak, formed by the arc of the loop as it meets the underside of the bow, is strongly-ridged. The resulting face is very striking, and in contrast to the normal stylized aquatic bird’s head. Considerable wear has elongated the loop’s ovoid eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

509. Tivetshall St Mary, Norfolk
L. 38 mm. (orig. c. 47 mm.) Wt. 8.5 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a pitted pale and mid-green patina. One end of the crescentic lozenge-sectioned rod is broken. Slight signs of wear are present on the convex face of the surviving end. The tall projecting loop plate has chamfered edges and a small hourglass eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

510. Toftrees, Norfolk
L. 49 mm. (orig. c. 70 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, Type E, with lightly-pitted pale green-grey metallic patina. The strongly-curved bow, one end of which is lacking, has plain convex walls, a narrow V-sectioned groove with high wear polish, and a very highly-stylized zoomorphic terminal. At three points on the keel are the remnants of the indented strutwork and the large heavy loop. Although incomplete this mortar was evidently very similar in form to nos 36 and 213.

Found 1981/2 and donated to Kings Lynn Museum.

Trett 1983, no. 8; Jackson 1985, no. 89.

Kings Lynn Museum, KL 78.982 (A1678).

511. Tong, Shropshire
L. c. 68 mm.

End-looped mortar, with strongly-curved bow, apparently plain convex walls, a plump knobbed terminal, and a circular, ring-like loop, with large circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

512. Undley, Suffolk
L. 45 mm.

End-looped mortar. A small simple example. The short, lightly-elliptical bow has a rounded keel, plain, sloping walls, a shallow groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, and a plain blunt-pointed terminal. The neatly-formed ring-like loop displays wear in the large circular eye.

Cambridge, University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1898.222.

513. Walsoken, Cambs (unillustrated)
L. c. 20 mm.

?Centre-looped pestle, if so, of idiosyncratic form, comprising a short plump rod, of olive-stone shape, with twin ‘spectacle’ type loops surmounting a tall pedestal. For type, see 593.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

514. Walton-le-Dale, Lancs
L. mortar c. 53 mm. pestle c. 44 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle. The small mortar has a slender elliptical bow with low plain walls. The thin rims are chipped and the terminal is broken. The ovoid loop, with small circular eye, is slightly constricted at the junction with the bow. The pestle has a plump D-sectioned rod, its upturned tip slightly damaged, and a slender ovoid loop with apparently worn circular eye. Like the mortar loop there is a distinct ‘waisting’ at the junction of loop and rod. Although not from a sealed context, the form, dimensions and general context of these two pieces leaves little room for doubt that they were made and used as a set.

515. Walton-le-Dale, Lancs
L. c. 60 mm.

End-looped mortar, lacking the tip of the bow and part of the loop. A finely-made example with slender elliptical bow, thin, plain walls, and a V-sectioned groove. The slight down-curve of the broken terminal suggests it was originally knobbed or spouted. The loop, though damaged, was clearly in the form of a stylized aquatic bird's head, with sharply-cut everted bill and an elegant, neatly-moulded head. The eye is sub-circular.


Context date, early to mid-3rd century AD.

For site references see no. 514.

516. Walton-le-Dale, Lancs
L. c. 45 mm.

End-looped pestle, with strongly-keeled, blunt knife-like rod and discoidal loop with circular eye. There is a marked step at the junction of rod and loop.


For site references see no. 514.

517. Wanborough, Wilts
L. mortar 73 mm. pestle 58 mm.

Set, comprising an end-looped mortar and an end-looped pestle, both quite simply made and rudimentarily finished. The mortar has a broad, slightly asymmetric bow, with rounded keel, plain convex walls, a short, broad, V-sectioned groove, and a large, prominent, low-domed terminal knob. The thick, discoidal loop, with sub-circular eye, is, like that of the pestle, inelegant and surprisingly roughly-finished. The pestle has a plump, sub-circular-sectioned rod, with strongly-upturned tip, which fits snugly in the groove of the mortar.

Found, during watching-brief by Swindon Archaeological Society, in an area of disturbed Roman cemetery, of probable later 2nd/early 3rd century AD date. Although unstratified the two pieces are clearly a set, and their survival together is undoubtedly accounted for by their original deposition in a grave.

Jackson 1985, no. 2.


518. Warlingham, Surrey
L. 43 mm. Wt. 12.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with grey (tin-enriched) patina. A small example with severely eroded terminals, badly chipped rims and broken loop. The short bow has steep, lightly-convex walls, beneath the virtually straight rim of which is a low cambered ridge defined by a pair of lightly-incuse lines and a discontinuous row of punched dots. The groove, of broad, very shallow U-shaped cross-section, is wear-polished. The terminals were probably plain, but surface erosion prevents certainty. The broken loop was apparently D-shaped, with a large circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, 1983, from Warlingham Court Farm. Donated by finder to British Museum.

519. Warwickshire, unprovenanced (Unillustrated)
  L. c. 48 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. The elliptical plain-walled bow has a ridged rim, knobbed terminals, and a circular loop.

On the antiquity market. Not available for study.

520. near The Wash, Lincs
  L. 48.9 mm. Wt. 7.3 g.

End-looped pestle, with smooth green patina. A well-preserved, neatly-formed example, with a slender, blunt, knife-like rod, worn on the sides and edge. The elongated loop is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with everted bill and large ovoid eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


521. Wendover, Bucks
  L. 34 mm.

End-looped mortar, fragment, comprising the broken loop and part of the bow. The steeply-sloping convex walls appear plain, as does the remains of the loop, which appears to have had a large tear-shaped eye. At the point of breakage the keel is rounded angular, and the groove is relatively shallow and of asymmetric (?worn) V-shaped cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

522. Wenhaston, Suffolk
  L. c. 67 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, of unique form. The lightly-elliptical bow has an angular keel, plain, sloping walls and a comparatively narrow groove which, like the bow, tapers slightly away from the zoomorphic terminal. Only an arc of the broken loop remains. The terminals are remarkable. One is a stylized, bovid head, with horns, brow ridge and a pointed muzzle. The other is, seemingly, anthropomorphic, the only known example to date with a human face. Unfortunately, most of the surface (and, therefore, the detail) has been lost to corrosion, but the remaining fragment appears to preserve parts of the eyes, nose and ?fringe or ?cowl. From the profile it would appear likely that the head was bearded. A further unique feature of this example is that the figured terminals have been inverted, that is to say they have been designed to be seen in an upright position when the mortar was suspended, not when it was in use, as was the norm (Compare, e.g. no. 523).

Metal detector find, from the site of the Roman ‘small town’. In private hands.
523. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. c. 54 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, Type G, with plain, convex walls, thin inturned rims, and a relatively broad U-sectioned groove which runs onto the terminals. The better preserved terminal is a stylized bovid head, with well-rendered horns, ridged brow and lightly-upturned, ridged muzzle. The second terminal is considerably less well preserved. It, too, appears to have been zoomorphic—small, plump, and slightly heart-shaped, with the hint of ears and muzzle. The large, slender, ring-like loop is distorted.

Metal detector find, 1992, from a low-lying/wet location near to the site of the Roman ‘small town’. In private hands.

524. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. 64 mm. Wt. 28.9 g.
Centre-looped mortar, with a smooth, greyish, (tin-enriched) patina, mostly intact, but with a few corrosion patches and a casting blemish near one terminal. A heavy example, with strongly-curved bow, squared-off keel, and plain, steep, lightly convex walls, with an inturned, nearly-formed, thin rim, which continues unbroken around both ends completely encircling the groove. (for a similar feature see mortar no. 65). The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, has a distinct wear polish. The near-identical terminals are in the form of a small bird’s head, with a markedly ridged and lightly dished bill. The circular ring-like loop has a round eye with wear in the usual position.

Metal detector find, 1993. In private hands.

525. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. c. 40 mm.
Centre-looped pestle, with lightly-elliptical, twin-tapered, circular-sectioned, blunt-ended rod. The simple strutted loop, of sub-rectangular cross-section, has a tear-shaped eye and a small triangular piercing.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

526. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. 50 mm. Wt. 13.9 g.
Centre-looped pestle, with light-green matt patina. A stout example, with twin-tapered, blunt-tipped, crescentic rod, of sub-trapezoid cross-section, and a tall D-shaped loop with circular eye. There is wear in the eye, as also on the convex face of the rod, where it is most pronounced at the centre and does not extend quite to the tips.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

527. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. c. 33 mm.
Centre-looped pestle. A comparatively small example, with short, plump, twin-tapered rod and a circular disc-like loop.

Metal detector find, 1990, from same site as no. 522. In private hands.
### 528. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. 42.5 mm. Wt. 6.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with smooth green-grey patina. A nearly-made example with strongly-curved, slightly asymmetric, twin-tapered rod, of plump triangular cross-section. The D-shaped loop is proportionately large.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, 1989, from same site as no. 522. Subsequently on antiquity market, provenanced only as 'East Anglia'.


### 529. Wenhaston, Suffolk
L. c. 47 mm.

End-looped pestle, with grey patina, lacking the end of the rod and part of the loop. The strongly-curved rod has a plump oval cross-section which becomes lentoid towards the upturned tip. The loop was evidently a simple ring with circular eye.

Metal detector find, 1991, from same site as no. 522. In private hands.

### 530. Wereham, Norfolk
L. 61 mm. Wt. 10.2 g.

End-looped mortar. A simple example, with low-walled elliptical bow, and a tiny terminal knob, now damaged. The loop has a worn eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 531. West Rudham, Norfolk
L. 55 mm. Wt. 8.91 g.

End-looped mortar, with pitted corrosion, lacking its terminal. The plain bow has a deep, broad, rounded V-sectioned groove. The simple loop has a circular eye with considerable wear.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

### 532. Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford, Suffolk
L. 33 mm.

Zoomorphic terminal and part of the bow from a large ornate mortar. The surviving part of the bow has an angular keel, steeply-sloping walls, and a V-sectioned groove with basal facet and wear polish. The large terminal is in the form of a bovid head, with prominent in-turned horns (the tips lost to corrosion), marked brow ridge, triangular face, bulbous lentoid eyes, flattened muzzle, drilled nostrils, and part-open mouth. The junction of the back of the beast’s head with the groove is marked with a triple incuse moulding, which runs down onto both walls of the bow. It may have been part of a more extensive incuse décor or was perhaps intended to represent the beast’s shaggy mane.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
533. Weybourne, Norfolk
L. 58 mm. Wt. 23.6 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with black patina, abraded to underlying green corrosion products in places. ‘Oiled’ by finder. A relatively heavy example, with short bow, deep, plain, steeply-sloping walls, thick rims, and bulbous, rather phallic, knobbed terminals with ring moulding. The capacious U-sectioned groove, which runs over the terminals, is deep and very heavily worn, asymmetrically, so that one diagonally opposite end of each wall is worn away. The loop is plump, with a small moulded keel plate at the junction with the bow. Its small circular eye is heavily worn.

Metal detector find, 1992. In private hands.

534. Whissonsett, Norfolk
L. c. 57 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, broken at both ends of the bow. The crescentic bow has a bevelled keel, apparently plain carinated walls, and a relatively shallow, rounded V-sectioned groove. Both terminals are lacking. The loop, mounted on a short plinth, has a circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

535. nr. Whitchurch, Shropshire
L. c. 52 mm.

End-looped pestle, with pitted and accreted corrosion. The strongly-curved, circular-sectioned rod has an upturned pointed tip. The large loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with long everted bill, marked brow, and tear-shaped eye.

Unstratified find, from excavation, 1972, by Andrew Rogerson, of Romano-British domestic and industrial (ironworking) site, occupied late 1st-3rd century AD.

Shropshire Museums Service.

536. Whitton, S. Glamorgan
L. 74 mm.

End-looped mortar. A large, simple example, with long elliptical bow, plain, sloping walls, a chamfered keel, plain, blunt-pointed terminal, and a broad U-sectioned groove. The ring-like loop has a large ovoid eye.

From excavations, 1965–70, of Iron Age and Roman farmstead. Unstratified. The 10 structural phases at Whitton are dated c. AD 30–340.


537. Wickford, Essex
L. c. 60 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. A large example, with long, asymmetric, twin-tapered rod, of modified lozenge-shaped cross-section near the upturned tips, and a large D-shaped loop with circular eye.

From excavation, 1971, of Iron Age and Romano-British farmstead, at Beauchamps Farm, by W.J. Rodwell. Found in later Roman subsoil clearance level. N. Wickenden in Rodwell, publication forthcoming.
538. Wickford, Essex
L. 66.7 mm. Wt. 5 g.

End-looped mortar, with corrosion-pitted, dark grey-brown patina, the underlying metal core revealed in places. A very light and simple example, with an extremely slender elliptical bow, rounded keel, very low plain walls, simple pointed terminal, and shallow, broad, V-sectioned groove. The ovoid loop is simply made, with a free end, and has a relatively large tear-shaped eye. It is asymmetrical to the bow. The object could have been worked from a slender rod of rounded rectangular cross-section (c.f. no. 275).

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999.0802.86.

539. Wickham Skeith, Suffolk
L. 18 mm. Wt. 2.93 g.

End-looped mortar, fragment, comprising the end-loop and the stub of the bow, with the beginning of the groove. The loop is in the form of the stylized head of a water-bird, with long curved neck, prominent crown, and elongated dished bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

540. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 63 mm. Wt. 21.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with green patina rather encrusted with a creamy brown deposit. A very finely-made example, with plump, strongly-curved bow, plain, convex walls with inturned rim, and a shallow V-sectioned groove with light basal facet. The prominent knobbed terminals are well-formed spheres with slightly flattened ends. Each has three incuse lines around the girth. The missing loop was connected to a neatly-tapered keel ridge which increases the phallic appearance of the terminal knobs.

Metal detector find from the Crowanthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.

Norwich Castle Museum, 380.985.

541. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. c. 60 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D, with elliptical plain-walled bow and knobbed terminals. The prominent loop and scrolled strut assembly is mounted on a low plinth.


Benet’s artefacts of England and the United Kingdom, current values (Cambridge, 2000), 47, no. 114–003, where it is wrongly sized, spuriously juxtaposed with a non-belonging pestle, and erroneously termed ‘woad grinding set’.

542. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 55 mm. Wt. 13.7 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D variant, with dusty pale green patina over brownish metallic surface. A light example, with slender, only very gently curved, bow, plain sloping walls, an angular keel, plain, blunt-pointed terminals and a relatively deep groove, of narrow V-shaped cross-section, with an axially asymmetric basal wear facet. The fragmentary, thin circular loop was encircled by a slender strut running onto its lower edge from each terminal.

Metal detector find from the Crowanthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.

Trett 1983, no. 7; Jackson 1985, no. 88.

Norwich Castle Museum, 43.982.
543. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 34 mm. (orig. c. 39 mm.)

Centre-looped pestle, Type N. The loop plate, in the form of a sitting or swimming duck above a tiny circular eye, is placed centrally on the concave edge of a crescentic, twin-tapered rod, one end of which is broken.

From the Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site.

Norwich Castle Museum, 43.983.

544. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 34 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with a short, crescentic, twin-tapered rod and a small, circular loop mounted on a slender pedestal.

From the Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site.

Trett 1983, no. 22; Jackson 1985, no. 96.
Norwich Castle Museum, 43.983.

545. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 38 mm. Wt. 12.3 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid-grey-green patina, recently abraded on the keel, very probably from an ill-considered demonstration of its function. The blunt-tipped, twin-tapered rod is a short, stout, relatively heavy crescent, quite rudimentarily made and finished. The loop, now lacking, was set on a tall slender plinth of sub-rectangular cross-section.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

546. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 37 mm. Wt. 7.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a brown, partially accreted, patina. A small, stout, example, with a crescentic, twin-tapered rod, and a large circular loop mounted on a faceted pedestal. A wear facet is present on the convex face of both ends of the rod.

Metal detector find from the Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.
Norwich Castle Museum, 45.989.

547. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 41 mm. (orig. c. 58 mm.)

Centre-looped pestle, with light green-brown patina. A large example lacking one end of the long, crescentic, twin-tapered, modified lozenge-sectioned rod. The large D-shaped loop has a circular eye.

Metal detector find from the Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.
Norwich Castle Museum, 45.989.

548. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 46 mm. Wt. 11.4 g.

End-looped mortar, with a partially pitted dark brown to black patina. A small, finely-made example with a short, plump, strongly-curved bow, a flattened keel, crisply-carinated walls, with a thin rim, a neat, flat-ended, 'button' type knobbed terminal, and a short, broad U-sectioned groove with a high wear polish. The loop is elegantly curled and profiled, and splayed onto the underside of the bow, giving the appearance of a highly-stylized bird's head. There are signs of wear in the small eye.

Metal detector find from the Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.
Norwich Castle Museum, 45.989.
549. Wicklewood, Norfolk
L. 30 mm. Wt. 7.2 g.

(?) End-looped mortar fragment, comprising one terminal and part of the bow. The surface of the mid-green patina, is rather denuded except in the groove. The walls are sloping and plain, the keel rounded, and the terminal knob a small, flat-ended ‘button’. The surviving end of the groove is shallow and U-sectioned, and it has a marked wear polish.

Metal detector find from the Crowthorpe Romano-Celtic temple site. Formerly in private hands.

Norwich Castle Museum, 380.985.

550. Wilderspool, Cheshire
L. c. 76 mm.

End-looped mortar, with lightly curved bow, plain convex walls, an angular keel, a shallow groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section, and a moulded, flat-ended terminal knob. The loop, with its bill-like extension, has the appearance of a stylized aquatic bird’s head.

From excavations, 1901–4, on the Romano-British ‘industrial’ site. Found beneath a hearth, ‘in the vicinity of the bronze-founder’s and enameller’s workshop’.


Warrington Museum.

551. Willersey, Glos
L. 78 mm. Wt. 37.9 g.

End-looped mortar, with a smooth, light green-grey metallic (tin-enriched) patina. A heavy but elegant example, with lightly-curved bow, plain vertical walls, nearly-faceted at their junction with the flattened keel, thick rims, and a narrow, exceptionally shallow, U-sectioned groove, with distinct wear polish, which runs over the loop. The small, low-domed, knob terminal is very regular, with a neat ring-moulding. The loop is large and finely-wrought into the form of an aquatic bird’s head, with prominent everted and ridged bill. There is wear-polish at the back of the tear-shaped eye. A further zone of wear polish, on one face of the loop and the adjacent wall of the bow, was probably caused by chafing when the mortar was suspended.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

552. Winchester, nr. Claverley, Shropshire
L. 46 mm. Wt. 11.7 g.

(?) Centre-looped mortar, with brittle, light to olive green patina, extensively destroyed at the terminals and partially flaked away on the walls. The small, crescentic bow has plain carinated walls and an angular keel, which still retains a casting seam. The slender groove, of U-shaped cross-section, has a very marked basal wear facet and correspondingly high wear polish. At the base of the groove, just off-centre, is a negative casting flaw, which evidently did not hinder use. The blunt-pointed terminals were probably always plain. The remains of the struts beneath the bow indicate a central triangular piercing flanked by a pair of rings. It seems probable, in view of this symmetry, that the struts culminated in a central circular suspension loop. The surviving surface remains suggest that the object was finished quite rudimentarily.

Metal detector find. In private hands.
553. Wingham, Kent
L. 43 mm. Wt. 9.65 g.
Centre-looped mortar, deeply-pitted by corrosion. A small example, with apparently plain bow, virtually straight rims, and plain blunt-pointed terminals. The loop, formed by a downward extension of the keeled bow, has a circular eye.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

554. Wingham, Kent
L. c. 66 mm.
End-looped mortar, with slender, crescentic bow, low, plain walls, a small knobbed terminal with ring-moulding, and a slightly ‘coiled’, sub-circular loop with ovoid eye.
Metal detector find, from Crockshard Farm. The finder showed the object to Mrs. Pan Garrard (Canterbury Archaeological Trust), to whom I am most grateful for the pencil sketch from which my drawing was made. By January 1992 the object was no longer in the finder’s possession, and it is virtually certain that no. 601, an unprovenanced example which was on the antiquity market in 1993, is one and the same mortar. Its form and dimensions are identical in every respect.

555. Wisbech, Cambs (Unillustrated)
L. c. 75 mm.
Centre-looped mortar, Type F, of heavy ornate form with zoomorphic terminals. The walls are decorated with three ridged mouldings which run from rim to keel. The larger terminal is in the form of a bovid head, with blunt muzzle, mouth, eyes, horns and ears rendered. The opposing, smaller, terminal is a highly-stylized animal head, perhaps a cow to complement the horned bull. The stub of the broken loop is present at the base of the central ridged moulding.
On the antiquity market. Not available for study – sketch and photos seen. Veracity of provenance uncertain. In a subsequent re-appearance on the antiquity market the provenance was given as ‘probably Norfolk’.

556. Withersfield, Suffolk
L. 59.4 mm. Wt. 16.5 g.
End-looped mortar, with olive patina, half of which has flaked away revealing light green corrosion products beneath. There is slight damage (or a casting flaw) to one rim. The lightly-elliptical bow has a rounded angular keel, plain sloping walls, one preserving a neatly-formed channelled moulding beneath the rim, a bulbous knobbed terminal, and a capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section. The small loop is in the form of a stylized aquatic bird’s head, with tiny eye and prominent everted bill.
Metal detector find. In private hands.

557. Witnesham, Suffolk
L. c. 55 mm.
(? End-looped mortar, very corroded, lacking the loop and part of the bow. The surviving part of the bow is lightly-curved, with an angular keel, low, plain, sloping walls, a simple pointed terminal, and a shallow groove. The expanded end may be the beginning of the loop.
558. Wixoe, Suffolk
L. c. 63 mm.

End-looped mortar, Type A. The slender, crescentic bow has a sharp-angled keel, and steeply-sloping thin walls, which preserve a pair of incuse angled lines near the loop, probably the last vestige of a more extensive zig-zag motif, as on nos 236, 495 etc. The groove is capacious, of narrow and deep V-shaped cross-section. The zoomorphic terminal is probably a very devolved bovid head, with prominent horns (or ears), a marked brow ridge, cursorily-rendered eyes, and a long, tapered, ridged and dished muzzle. The loop, set beneath the opposite, plain, terminal is in the form of a stylized bird’s head and was probably also intended to represent the tail of the bovid.

Metal detector find, from the site of a large Roman ‘small town’. In private hands.

559. Woodbridge, Suffolk
L. 76 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, Type K, with mid-green patina. A slender, light example with crescentic bow, angular keel and low, lightly-convex walls, which are decorated with an incuse paired inverted V motif adjacent to the loop. The capacious groove, of broad U-shaped cross-section, has a marked basal wear facet, which runs a little obliquely to the longitudinal axis, resulting in wear loss to the rim of diagonally opposing ends of the bow. The groove runs over the terminals, which are in the form of tiny, stylized bovid heads, with only horns and tapered muzzle depicted. The D-shaped, disc-like loop has a large circular eye.

Found, 1977, with coins of 1st–4th century AD date. Other finds included a bronze figurine of Mercury/Cupid.
Trett 1983, no. 13; Jackson 1985, no. 70.

560. Woodeaton, Oxon
L. 71 mm.

End-looped mortar, with smooth grey-brown patina. The gently-curved, parallel-sided bow has low, plain, sloping walls, a chamfered keel, a simple, atypically square-ended, plain terminal, with faceted underside, and a groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with wear-polish in the central zone. The loop is finely-wrought in the form of an aquatic bird’s head with a carefully-profiled, elongated bill. There is some wear at the back of the ovoid eye.

Found before 1900. In addition to the Romano-Celtic temple, of 1st to early 2nd century AD date, the site yielded evidence of relatively intense Iron Age activity.

561. Wormegay, Norfolk
L. 69.2 mm. Wt. 25.9 g.
End-looped mortar, with heavily-pitted, smooth, mid-green patina. The plump elliptical bow has an angular keel, plain convex walls, a small button terminal, and a relatively capacious groove of rounded V-shaped cross-section with marked wear polish. The loop is large and ornate, with an openwork trumpet scroll, the thinnest part of which is distorted and broken. The surviving part is wear-polished on its inner face.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

562. Wroxeter, Shropshire
L. 44 mm. Wt. 19.7 g.
End-looped mortar, with a mid-green patina. The terminal and part of the bow are lacking, and the surface, including the point of breakage, is extremely worn and eroded. The lightly-curved bow has a rounded keel, apparently plain, convex walls, and a U-sectioned groove with marked basal wear-slot. The heavy loop, although very worn, was evidently in the form of an aquatic bird’s head, with everted bill. The circular eye is slightly elongated through wear. There are two deep, deliberately-made, notches on one rim, one on the other rim, another at the broken end, and two more on one wall near the broken end. Their function is not clear, but they were evidently secondary and may have been applied when the broken object was re-used, as an amulet?

Shrewsbury, Rowley’s House Museum, Wroxeter Coll., no Acc. no.

563. Wroxeter, Shropshire
L. 51 mm. Wt. 15.2 g.
End-looped mortar, in poor condition, with heavy emerald green and light blue corrosion, mineralized, brittle, splitting, laminating and flaking. The terminal and part of the bow are lacking. The near-straight bow has a rounded keel, steep, lightly-convex, apparently plain walls, and a rounded V-sectioned groove. The circular loop is apparently plain, with a circular eye.

Found 23/9/1926.

564. Wroxeter, Shropshire
L. 63 mm. Wt. 23.2 g.
End-looped pestle, with smooth, dark-green patina. A large, heavy example. The thick, blunt, knife-like rod has a deep, upturned tip, with asymmetric wear-faceting on the convex edge. The large ‘coiled’ loop has a circular eye.

565. Wylde Camp, Wilts
L. c. 79 mm.

End-looped mortar, with a deep-bellied bow, plain, steeply-sloping walls, an angular keel, a rounded V-sectioned groove, a large, low-domed terminal knob, and a simple, thick, ring-like loop with ovoid eye.

Smith 1918, 59, fig. 9; Jackson 1985, no. 13.

Salisbury Museum.

566. Wymondham, Norfolk
L. 33.7 mm. Wt. 4.8 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with brown patina. A diminutive boat-shaped example, with crescentic, smooth-keeled rod. The ornate loop-plate has neatly-made mouldings and a small circular eye, elongated through wear.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Subsequently on the antiquity market, when its provenance was given only as 'East Anglia'.


567. Wymondham, Norfolk
L. 52.8 mm. (orig. c. 63 mm.) Wt. 8 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with slightly eroded, dusty, light-green patina. A large example, with strongly-curved twin-tapered rod, one tip missing, and a D-shaped collar-like loop with a large circular eye.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

568. Wymondham, Norfolk
L. 23.8 mm. Wt. 2.2 g.

End-looped pestle, lacking most of the rod, with grey-green patina, extensively eroded round the loop. What remains is a short length of the slender, sub-circular-sectioned rod, which terminates in a ring-like loop with large circular eye. Atypically, the loop is set above the line of the rod.

Metal detector find. In private hands.

569. York, N. Yorkshire
L. 63.3 mm. Wt. 19 g.

End-looped mortar, with mid-green patina. The elliptical bow has a ribbed rim and a curving rib flanking the keel. Traces of incuse cabled patterning are preserved in places on the lower rib, with punching in the grooves that flank the rib. No incised decoration is visible on the rim rib. The terminal is a simple blunt point. The groove is of rounded V-shaped cross-section and is separated from the loop. The loop, with small ovoid eye, is in the form of a finely-modelled stylized bird's head, with marked crest and forehead and a strongly-dished bill.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.
8. Catalogue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>570. York, N. Yorkshire</th>
<th>L. 60 mm.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End-looped pestle, with a stout, lightly-elliptical rod and a finely-wrought loop, in the form of an aquatic bird’s head, with a moulded crest and brow, an elongated tapered bill, and a circular eye.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From excavations, 1989–90, of Roman extra-mural site, at 35–41 Blossom Street, south-east of the approach road from Tadcaster. The site revealed ditched enclosures, a sequence of burials and mausolea and a phase of rubbish dumping. Found in ditch fill (part of a site levelling phase).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Context date (pottery), mid-2nd century AD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>York Archaeological Trust 19th Annual Report 1990–91 (1991), 16–17 (where the date is wrongly given as 1st century AD).</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>571. York area, N. Yorkshire</th>
<th>L. 38 mm. Wt. 12 g.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre-looped mortar, with a smooth, dark-green patina in the groove and flanking the keel, but elsewhere corroded/cleaned away, revealing the uneven metallic surface. A small example with short, elliptical bow, apparently plain, convex walls, a shallow, U-sectioned groove with wear-polish, and plain, blunt-pointed terminals. The small round loop with circular eye surmounts a Y-shaped strut set on a low keel plate. Corrosion has given the loop a deceptively emaciated appearance.</td>
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<td>Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.</td>
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<tr>
<th>572. York area, N. Yorkshire</th>
<th>L. 53.7 mm. Wt. 14.9 g.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End-looped mortar, with rather pocked, heavy, mid-green patina. The slender, elliptical bow has a rounded keel, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a narrow, shallow, U-sectioned groove, with wear-polish, and a plain, blunt-pointed terminal, now slightly chipped. The broken loop was large and probably ring-like.</td>
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<td>Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.</td>
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<tr>
<th>573. Yorkshire, unprovenanced</th>
<th>L. 65.3 mm. Wt. 25.3 g.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End-looped mortar, with pale olive-green patina, preserving most of the original surface. An unparalleled, idiosyncratic, example, with deep, slender elliptical bow, bevelled keel, and plain, near-vertical walls, with a central, vertical, low, moulded rib. The very narrow groove, of slender U-shaped cross-section, with wear-polish and marked basal facet, runs over the terminals. Both terminals are in the form of a devolved duck’s head, with a tall crown, marked forehead, and deeply-hollowed bill with elongated, everted, trumpet-like tip. The larger terminal has a pierced, small, circular eye for suspension, while the eye of the other terminal is rendered, on one face only, by a shallow punched hollow. Both heads are ornamented with delicately-incised cross-hatching on the crown and incised and dot-punched motifs on the marginal zone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of a collection of nine cosmetic mortars sold at auction: Bonhams, December 12th 1996, Lot 19. The provenance is uncertain, according to the vendor.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Museum, 1997,0101.5.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
574. Yorkshire, unprovenanced
L. 64.2 mm. Wt. 17.6 g.

End-looped mortar, with fine, very smooth (wear-polished), light- to mid-green patina, preserving most of the original surface. A finely-cast and finished, unparalleled, elegant example, with smooth elliptical bow, axially-asymmetric neatly-ribbed keel, convex plain walls (one higher than the other), a U-sectioned groove with wear polish and basal facet, and a simple knobbed terminal. The elaborate loop is based on a tendril-and-volute motif, with a heavily-worn incised line running around the margin. This arrangement gives the impression of a highly-stylized bird’s head, with the tip of the dished everted bill scrolled back onto the prominent crown, on the perimeter of which is a neatly-recessed grooved moulding. There is wear in the eye.

Part of a collection of nine cosmetic mortars sold at auction: Bonhams, 12 December 1996, Lot 19. The provenance is uncertain, according to the vendor.


575. Yorkshire, unprovenanced
L. 63.1 mm. Wt. 13.4 g.

End-looped mortar, with a smooth silver-grey patina. A fine casting, well-finished, and of elegant form. The crescentic bow has a rounded keel, plain, steeply-convex walls with narrow rim, a U-sectioned groove with wear polish and basal facet, and a domed-knob terminal. The neatly-made loop is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, with large, worn, ovoid eye, prominent crown, and dished, strongly-everted bill.

Part of a collection of nine cosmetic mortars sold at auction: Bonhams, 12 December 1996, Lot 19. The provenance is uncertain, according to the vendor.


576. Unprovenanced (Unillustrated)
L. c. 75 mm.

Multiple-looped mortar, apparently in fine condition, with a long, only lightly-elliptical bow. The walls appear plain, except for a moulding above the triple-perforated central loop plate. There is a further circular ring-like loop at each end of the bow. One is set below the bow in order not to impede the pouring of the contents from the open spout-like end of the groove. The ring at the opposite end was probably the suspension loop.

Metal detector find, provenance not divulged. See Treasure Hunting, April 1996, 10–16, esp.11 (photo and text), where the length is given as 7.5 cm.

577. Unprovenanced
L. 93.4 mm. Wt. 26.3 g.

Centre-looped mortar, lacking its loop, with dark olive-green patina. An unusually long, slender, ornate example, which evidently saw long use: the centre-loop, broken in antiquity, had its base ground away (file marks still visible); the groove is very worn; and the incuse decoration on the walls is also heavily worn. The long elliptical bow has very slender ends, a deep centre, and a capacious, deep U-sectioned groove, with heavy wear polish and marked basal facet, which runs over both terminals. One terminal is in the form of a bovid head, with short moulded horns, circular hollow-pitted eyes, an angular-profiled face, and a tapered muzzle. The other terminal, a moulded knob, was evidently intended to represent the beast’s tail. The carefully-profiled carinated walls have an angular keel to the head side of the loop and a flat-faceted keel to the tail side. Their upper zone – from rim to carination – is ornamented with a dot-punched zig-zag motif. The lower zone at the head end (the beast’s neck) is textured with three parallel lines of punched dashes, terminated at the loop by a pair of dot-punched lines at right angles. The lower zone at the tail end is embellished with a line of dot-and-ring punched motifs, while the basal facet has a row of dot-punched cross-in-panel motifs. All of these zones display considerable wear. At the head end the wall rims are very thin.

Part of a collection of nine cosmetic mortars sold at auction: Bonhams, 12 December 1996, Lot 19. This example from a private collection in Sussex, according to the vendor.

8. Catalogue

578. Unprovenanced
L. 65 mm. (orig. c. 78 mm.)

Centre-looped mortar, Type J, with smooth, dark grey-green patina, lacking one terminal, and with recent abrasion on one wall. The crescentic bow has an angular keel and thin, steep walls, with an arc of tiny, narrow triangular cells, their apex pointed towards the loop, 25 on one wall and 24 on the other. The missing cell may have been a casualty of breakage, though the 25th cell is very small, and absolute regularity of size, shape and number of cells was evidently not considered vital. Though much of the enamel inlay is missing, enough survives to disclose the original arrangement: eight blue, two red, five turquoise, two red, eight blue. The deep, capacious, rounded U-sectioned groove runs onto the surviving terminal, which is in the form of a small, stylized, bovid head, very neatly-modelled, with inturned horns, ridged brow, and flared, flat-ended muzzle. The ring-like, squat, D-shaped loop has wear in the eye.

For enamel and metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1990,0702.7.

579. Unprovenanced
L. 71 mm. Wt. 10.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type K, with light green-brown patina. A light, well-made example, with crescentic bow, low, thin, plain, sloping walls, an angular keel, and a broad, capacious, truncated V-sectioned groove, with clear basal wear facet, which runs over the two terminals. These are small, neatly-modelled, highly-stylized bovid heads. Each has a prominent pair of inturned horns and an elongated, flat triangular head, the better preserved of which retains its grooved mouth. The simple, ring-like loop, slightly asymmetrically cast, has an unworn circular eye. Like the bovid terminals, it retains casting and working marks.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.


580. Unprovenanced
L. 85 mm. Wt. 14.1 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type H, with pale grey-brown patina. The crescentic bow, slightly distorted and fissured near one terminal, has low, thin, lightly-convex, sloping walls, with an arc of four small, deep triangular cells adjacent to the loop on both faces. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, are now devoid of inlay. The capacious groove, of broad, rounded V-shaped cross-section, with basal wear facet, stops short of the small, simple knobbed terminals. The large, ring-like, D-shaped loop has a heart-shaped eye.

For enamel and metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market. No credence need be given to the vendor’s comment that this mortar was said to have been ‘found together’ with pestle no. 591.

581. Unprovenanced
L. 84 mm. Wt. 68.8 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D variant, with smooth grey patina. A large, very heavy, and idiosyncratic example, with an atypical off-set bow of plano-convex cross-section, and a large rectangular loop plate linked to the ends of the bow by a pair of sturdy, rectangular-sectioned struts. The rim of the bow walls is emphasised by a groove below its lip, while its upper edge is decorated with incuse hatching. All other main surfaces, except the curved zone of the convex wall, are decorated with a free, and rather irregular arrangement utilising a much-repeated small stamped S or Z motif, evidently applied with a single punch. The groove is relatively shallow, with a broad U-shaped cross-section. The terminal knobs are large, simple and globular. One has a flat, slightly roughened end, probably a casting flaw. There are two small circular perforations in the loop plate, the outer, slightly larger one of which was probably used for suspension. Small casting blemishes and file-finishing marks are particularly visible on the surfaces within the triangular apertures enclosed by the bow, loop plate and struts; while wear can be discerned especially on the punched decoration near the centre of both walls of the bow.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1990,0702.4.

582. Unprovenanced
L. 67 mm. Wt. 44.2 g.

Centre-looped mortar, Type D, with a shiny grey-black patina. A rather ill-proportioned, poorly-cast and rudimentarily-finished example, with a casting flaw above one terminal and on one strut (scroll eye blocked), and an asymmetric and poorly-formed loop and strut assembly. The elliptical bow has plain, steep, convex walls with flattened rims of unequal width, and a deep, narrow, V-sectioned groove, with marked basal wear-facet, which runs over one of the plain, flat-ended terminal knobs. The sub-circular suspension loop, framed by scrolled struts, is disproportionately large.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1990,0702.5.

583. Unprovenanced
L. 75 mm.

Centre-looped mortar. A well-made example, with elliptical bow, plain, convex, quite thin walls, a deep, capacious groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, with a marked basal wear slot, and worn, triple ring-moulded terminal knobs. The bow dips deeply down to the broken loop, which was probably a D-shaped ring.

Metal detector find. In private hands, via the antiquity market.
8. Catalogue

584. Unprovenanced
L. 60 mm. Wt. 22.4 g.

Centre-looped mortar, with a lightly-pitted olive-green patina, which retains a light covering of soil in many places, particularly in the groove. The smoothly-curved, plump crescentic bow has plain, convex walls, a broad, U-sectioned groove, and distinctly phallic knobbed terminals with lightly-incuse base moulding. The loop is an engaged D-shaped ring with large circular eye. Virtually identical to mortar no. 399, and probably from the same mould.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. The purchaser was informed by the dealer that this mortar and pestles nos 590, 603 and 605 had been acquired as a collection from someone in the Cambridge area. While that provenance might relate to the collector it does not necessarily apply to the cosmetic grinders.

British Museum, 1999.0802.87.

585. Unprovenanced
L. c. 74 mm.

Centre-looped mortar, with an apparently plain-walled elliptical bow. Beneath both terminals is a low-domed knob. The large D-shaped loop with circular eye has a moulded bar-like junction with the keel of the bow.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

Unavailable for study, but a single photographed view (with scale) was illustrated in *Treasure Hunting* magazine for Dec. 1992, p. 19. From site referred to only as 'Rubbish Field', no provenance given.

586. Unprovenanced
L. 80.7 mm. Wt. 13.9 g.

Centre-looped pestle, Type O, with smooth mid-green patina. A very large and ornate example, lacking only the tip of one arm. The rod is of rhomboid cross-section with a very light wear facet on the keel. The two non-functional (concave) faces of the rod are decorated with two arcs of three small triangular cells, flanking the junction of loop and rod. The cells, whose apex points away from the loop, contain traces of their degraded enamel inlay, but it is not possible to identify the colour(s) (though one or more appears to have contained green). The large loop is a D-shaped ring with heart-shaped eye. It has been twisted or set slightly obliquely to the rod. So similar to the pestle of set no. 74 as to be probably from the same mould or archetype.

Sold at auction, Bonhams Antiquities, Tues. 25 April 1995, part of Lot 126 (unillustrated). Subsequently application was made for an export licence.

587. Unprovenanced
L. 60 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with mid-green patina. The crescentic, twin-tapered, rhomboid-sectioned rod has arms of markedly unequal length. There is a little wear on the keel, especially near the centre, but none is visible in the eye of the D-shaped loop.

Metal detector find, donated to Moyses Hall Museum.


588. Unprovenanced
L. 50.7 mm. Wt. 6.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with metallic grey patina. A slender, twin-tapered crescentic rod, slightly asymmetric, of sub-lozenge-shaped cross-section, with a slender D-shaped ring-like loop. Wear polish is visible on the keel and sides of the rod, one tip of which is shorter than the other.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. Its provenance was said to be 'Midlands, a local (Birmingham area) find'.

British Museum, 1999.0802.89.
589. Unprovenanced  
L. 53.2 mm. Wt. 5.4 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with pale olive to mid-brown patina. The elliptical twin-tapered rod has blunt-pointed tips and a rhomboid cross-section, softened on the lower face through wear. The D-shaped loop has a circular eye, which is also lightly worn on the upper face.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.90.

590. Unprovenanced  
L. 37 mm. Wt. 6.2 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a smooth grey-green patina. A small example of elegant design, though quite roughly-finished. The crescentic, twin-tapered, D-sectioned rod has a little wear on the keel. The prominent strutted loop has a large tear-shaped eye and a small triangular piercing (similar to the loop on mortar no. 362). Wear is visible in the eye, but, more noticeably, around the waist of the strutted loop as though it had been tied and chafed in this region. For a similar wear pattern see mortar no. 474.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. See no. 584 for acquisition details.


591. Unprovenanced  
L. 47 mm. Wt. 12.1 g.

Centre-looped pestle, with a pocked and pitted grey-brown patina. A rather poor, flawed casting, not very carefully finished. The thick, heavy crescentic rod, with plump D-shaped cross-section and blunt-pointed tips, has a lightly-filed facet on the sides. The rather irregularly-finished loop is mounted on a low plinth. There is little sign of wear in its circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find, formerly on the antiquity market. Said to have been ‘found together’ with mortar no. 580, but the statement is incapable of proof, and the two objects were evidently not made as a set.

British Museum, 1990,0702.9.

592. Unprovenanced  
L. 29 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, Type N, with brown patina. An ornate, atypical example, complete, with a strongly-curved, blunt-ended crescentic rod surmounted by a neatly-modelled sitting or swimming bird. The loop is in the form of a central ‘keyhole’ perforation.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market.

593. Unprovenanced  
L. 21.5 mm. Wt. 6.6 g.

?Centre-looped pestle, if so, of idiosyncratic form, with a dark green-black patina. A quite indifferently-finished object, which retains much of the as-cast surface, including small flaws. The short, plump, olive-stone-shaped rod is markedly asymmetric, possibly due to the wear on its keel. The twin ‘spectacle’ type loops are mounted on a tall slender pedestal. See also 513.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. Labelled ‘North east England. Lincs./ Yorks.’.

British Museum, 1999,0802.58.
594. Unprovenanced (unillustrated)
L. c. 64 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, unavailable for study.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market. Advertised for sale, unillustrated, in antiquity catalogue, described as ‘solid crescent boat shaped. Centre fastening loop missing’.

595. Unprovenanced
L. c. 84 mm.

End-looped mortar, corroded, with a long, low-walled bow and large bovid terminal. The loop, beneath the end of the bow, has a circular eye and is in the form of a stylized bird’s head, or the bovid’s folded tail, or both.

Unavailable for study, but a single photographed view (with scale) was illustrated in The Searcher magazine for April 1995, p. 22, where its provenance was given only as ‘from a Roman site’.

596. Unprovenanced
L. 85 mm. Wt. 23.4 g.

End-looped mortar, with a mid-brown to olive patina, retaining traces of light brown soil in many places. The long, crescentic bow has a chamfered keel, and lightly-carinated, thin-rimmed walls. A tiny mushroom-headed stud projects from one wall and a swelling at the same point on the opposite wall signals the former presence of its partner, which evidently broke away and was smoothed down in antiquity. Near the centre of the keel is another tiny stud, and there are the remains of two further studs, one either side of, and equidistant from, it. They also appear to have been broken and smoothed down in antiquity. One wall has a large gash in it, and the smoothed edges suggest that part of this damage may also have occurred in antiquity. The groove, of rounded V-shaped cross-section, is very capacious, with a marked basal wear facet. The terminal is an ornate moulded knob, with a nipple-like projection. The loop is highly stylized, but undoubtedly zoomorphic. Viewed end-on, its pair of mushroom-like studs give the appearance more of a ram’s head than a bovid. From the side the impression is rather of a duck’s head, and it may be that such a combination was intentional. There are slight traces of wear in the countersunk circular eye.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.91.
597. Unprovenanced
L. 84.4 mm. Wt. 49.5 g.

End-looped mortar, Type B, with a fine pale green-grey patina preserving all of the original surface. A finely-wrought and -finished heavy casting, with strongly-curved bow, and sharply-carinated walls, each decorated with an arc of eight incuse ring-and-dot motifs which extend from tip to tip of the bow. Adjacent to the loop on one wall the ring-and-dot has been double struck, the first impression being poorly-placed. Both decorated faces display a considerable wear polish. The elaborate keel comprises a herring-bone rib recessed in an axial slot. The groove, which runs onto both terminals, has a broad, rounded V-shaped cross-section with basal facet and a marked wear polish. Both terminals are simple and plain. Beneath one is the relatively small loop, with a circular eye and neatly-formed dished moulding, giving the impression of a highly-stylized bird’s head.


598. Unprovenanced
L. 61.3 mm. Wt. 11.1 g.

End-looped mortar, with a lightly-pitted brown patina, incautiously cleaned. A smallish but quite heavy example, comprising a slender, low-walled, elliptical bow, with rounded keel, plain steeply-sloping walls, a slender groove of shallow, rounded V-shaped cross-section, and a small, simple, knobbed terminal. The loop is in the form of a highly-stylized bird’s head, with small circular eye and simply-moulded dished bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.


599. Unprovenanced
L. 59.7 mm. Wt. 15.5 g.

End-looped mortar, with mid-grey-green patina, extensively pitted and flaked, especially at the rims. The bow, only lightly elliptical, has a rounded angular keel, plain, steeply-sloping walls, and a U-sectioned groove with highly wear-polished surface. The terminal has broken away – not recent damage. The loop is in the form of a highly-stylized bird’s head, with a wear-polished circular eye and a dished bill.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.93.

600. Unprovenanced
L. 68 mm. Wt. 12.5 g.

End-looped mortar, with lightly pitted cleaned metallic surface. The slender, lightly-elliptical bow has a broad, gently-curved keel, low, plain, near-vertical walls, a U-sectioned groove, and a tiny, vestigial, terminal knob. The carefully-profiled, ring-like, circular loop has neatly-applied incuse linear ornament around the circumference and at the junction with the groove.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

From the Ransom Collection; no provenance is given for the object, but much of the collection was formed in and around Hitchin, in Bedfordshire, and in London.

Smith 1918, 55, fig. 2; Jackson 1985, no. 21, where the provenance ‘Hitchin’ was incautiously given.

British Museum, 1915,1208.128.
**601. Unprovenanced (but see no. 554)**
L. 67 mm. Wt. 17 g.

End-looped mortar, with lightly pitted dark-green to black patina. The crescentic bow is slender, with low, plain, convex walls, one of which has recent damage to the rim, though it was evidently lower than its partner even before the damage occurred. The groove, also, is slightly asymmetric, probably as a result of wear. It is of rounded V-shaped cross-section and runs onto the loop. The small knobbed terminal has a ring moulding. The nearly-formed, slightly 'coiled' loop is sub-circular and tapers from top to bottom. It has an ovoid eye elongated through wear.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market in 1993. While it is impossible to prove, it seems virtually certain that this is the mortar found at Wingham (no. 554 above), which subsequently 'lost' its provenance on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1994,0405.2.

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**602. Unprovenanced**
L. 57.8 mm. Wt. 14.8 g.

End-looped mortar, with a dark green-black patina. The bow is only lightly elliptical, with a rounded angular keel, plain, steeply-sloping walls, a capacious U-sectioned groove, and a simple open-ended spout. The simple loop has an ovoid eye elongated through wear.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1999,0802.94.

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**603. Unprovenanced**
L. 66 mm. Wt. 10.6 g.

End-looped pestle, with a smooth green patina. A large, elegant, strongly-curved example. A collar-like expansion with lightly-incuse mouldings divides the rod into a handle and a functional end. The latter has a marked wear facet on the underside of its upturned tip, which is of lentoid cross-section. The handle, of ovoid cross-section, terminates in a large coiled loop with a sub-circular eye, in which are traces of wear-polish. The very worn sides of the moulded collar attest, in any case, considerable wear from suspension.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. See no. 584 for acquisition details.

British Museum, 1999,0802.95.

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**604. Unprovenanced**
L. 57.5 mm. Wt. 9.1 g.

End-looped pestle, with a rather uneven mid-green patina and light brown soil accretion in places. The elliptical rod has a plump oval cross-section and swells just before the blunt-pointed tip. The loop is round, with a small circular eye.

For metal composition see Scientific Analyses.

Metal detector find. Formerly on the antiquity market.

British Museum, 1994,0405.5.
**605. Unprovenanced**
L. 52 mm. Wt. 11.5 g.

End-looped pestle, with a dark brown (iron-stained) patina over mid-green corrosion products. The rod, of rounded rectangular cross-section at its looped end, is strongly curved towards the tip, which is complete. The concave face is as-cast, but the angular convex face is a product of extremely heavy and/or prolonged usage, which has virtually worn through the rod. Several angle facets are visible. The loop, of crude, heavy form, is set, atypically, above the concave curve. Its eye appears never to have been worked after casting, shows absolutely no wear (in stark contrast to the rod), and cannot ever have been used for suspension.

Metal detector find. Formerly in private hands, via the antiquity market. See no. 584 for acquisition details.


**606. Unprovenanced (unillustrated)**
L. c. 57 mm.

End-looped pestle, unavailable for study.

Metal detector find. On the antiquity market. Advertised for sale, unillustrated, in antiquity catalogue, described as ‘solid boat shaped with large end suspension loop. Complete.’

**Uncertain examples**

**607. Amersham, Bucks**
L. 35 mm.

End-looped mortar. The excessively short, deep crescentic bow has plain walls, a U-sectioned groove, and a large bovid terminal with straight horns, long tapered face, and a bulbous, flat-ended muzzle. It seems that a loop may have broken away from the other end of the bow. If this is a cosmetic grinder it is a most atypical example.

From archaeological investigation, 1983–9, of Roman site at Mantles Green.


**608. Ashtead, Surrey**
L. c. 63 mm.

Centre-looped pestle, with barely discernible curvature of the rod, and a large D-shaped loop with circular eye.

From excavations, 1924–7, of Roman villa and bath house.

A.W.G. Lowther, 1927, ‘Excavations at Ashtead, Surrey’, *Surrey Archaeological Collections* 37, 144ff, fig. 2, no. 12.

**609. The Caburn, E. Sussex**
L. c. 28 mm.

Centre-looped pestle. A diminutive example, with blunt-ended, lightly curved rod, and an arched loop.

From excavation, 1925, of the Iron Age hillfort. Found in Pit 95 at 15 inches.


**610. Little Waldingfield, Suffolk**
L. 44 mm.

End-looped pestle. The crescentic, circular-sectioned rod has the normal tapered, upturned tip, but the loop, a simple flattening of the opposite end of the rod, with tiny circular eye, is atypically understated.

Metal detector find. In private hands.