APPENDIX 9
THE BONE AND ANTLER (J)
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The assemblage of bone and antler artefacts from the northern Lanes sites (Padley 2010), although within the two assemblages, the functional groups and their relative proportions are similar. The largest functional groups are personalia and items connected with recreation; each comprises 27.5% of the total classifiable assemblage (for comparison, at the southern Lanes, these groups comprised 32.1% and 21.4% respectively). Tools and objects associated with industry form 25% of the assemblage (compared with 28.6% at the southern Lanes). Objects associated with religion, absent from the assemblage (compared with 28.6% at the southern Lanes), are represented here by an amulet in the shape of a dolphin (J37).

The personalia consist entirely of pins and, following Nina Crummy’s typology (1983), they can be divided into four types. Her type 1 (1983, 20), which dates from the pre-Flavian period to c AD 200 (op cit, 91, fig A74, nos 2226-63), with seven examples (J13-19), from contexts from Period 8B to Period 15A (post-Roman). There are also three type 2 counters (op cit, 91, fig A74, nos 2268-77); these (J20-2) were all recovered from Period 10A-11B to Period 11D-12. Graffiti are found on the underside of five of the counters, both type 1 and type 2 (J13, J17, J19-21). There is also a counter (J23) belonging to Crummy’s type 4 (op cit, 91, fig A74, no 2282). There is no noticeable difference in chronological distribution between the types.

The bone objects connected with tools and industry were probably domestic in origin. Two needles were recovered (J24-5), both of Crummy’s type 2 (op cit, 65). One (J25) came from a post-Roman context (Period 13), but is included here because it resembles other Roman needles, and there is circumstantial evidence for this dating, in that 89% of the pottery from the context is residual Roman. There are three handle fragments, all of bone, each of which may have belonged to tools; the first (J26) is from a cylindrical object, decorated on the exterior with a pattern of incised lines. This is probably part of a handle, but it could equally be part of a bridle cheek-piece, of the type recovered from Cirencester (Webster 1982, 109, fig 35, no 95). As the fragment is small, it is not closely datable; although it came from a feature where 95% of the pottery is medieval, the actual spit from which it was recovered had 44% Roman pottery. Thus the piece is included here, with the proviso that it might be medieval. The other two handle fragments are equally undatable, though they come from late Roman contexts (Periods 11A and 11B); one is for a scale-tang blade (J27), and the other is a side plate for the handle of a whittle-tang blade (J28).

The rest of the tools comprise utilised antler and bone. One (J29) was recovered from the fill (232) of late Roman stone-lined well 226 (Period 11D; Ch 4, p 119). It is made from the upper part of an antler; the space between the three tines has been trimmed. A handle would have been fitted through the rectangular hole cut at their junction, and so would have been set at right-angles to them. The wear is more pronounced on the concave face of the antler, suggesting that it was used as a rake or hoe. The implement falls into the second type described by MacGregor (1985, 178-9,
fig A75a), who says that all dated examples fall within the Roman period, but that they represent a ‘native’ type of implement.

There are also three scoops, made from modified cattle scapulae (J30-2; Periods 7-8B). This type of implement is well known from Roman sites, in Carlisle (Padley 1991c, 194-6, nos 741-4, fig 167; Howard-Davis 2009d, fig 524.3) and elsewhere (MacGregor 1985, 179-80). It is suggested by MacGregor that the scoops had a domestic purpose, for instance, for handling dry goods, such as flour.

The final item in this group is a rough-out for a bone pin (J33), from the late Roman period (Period 11E). Bone pin-making was undoubtedly carried out at a local, possibly domestic, level (MacGregor 1985, 115). The rough-out is not finished enough to say what type of pin was being made.

Household equipment is represented by a single piece of inlay from a box or furniture (J12), which was unstratified, but is included with the Roman finds because of its similarity to inlays from dated contexts elsewhere, for instance, from Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig 87, 82) and York (Cool 1995, 1590, fig 751, no 6420). The fasteners and fittings category is represented by three toggles. The first is a rectangular-sectioned block with a sub-rectangular hole through it (J34), recovered from Period 11B. This could easily be a clothes fastener. The other two were made from animal bones with a transverse perforation (J35-6); the second of these has been modified at the proximal end. This type of object has been interpreted variously as a clothes fastener, a bobbin for winding thread, or a plaything. These particular examples were recovered from post-Roman contexts, so they could be medieval in date, as toggles of this type are found on sites ranging from the Iron Age to the medieval period (MacGregor 1985, 102-3, fig 59), but they are catalogued here as they have been recovered from Roman contexts in other parts of Carlisle (Padley 1991c, 200, fig 174, nos 761-3).

A single item is probably connected with personal religious belief. This is a small carving of a dolphin, pierced longitudinally so that it could be worn as an amulet (J37); this was found residually in a medieval context. Dolphins were seen as guides to the dead, and so became a symbol of rebirth into the afterlife (Dixon 1990, 17-18). There are three worked-bone objects which have no readily identifiable function. The first is a point made from a sheep or goat tibia (J38), which is not intrinsically datable. It could be medieval as it came from a medieval context; as most of the pottery from the context is Roman, however, and as all Roman sites excavated in Carlisle to date have produced points of this type, it is catalogued here. The second item is an arrow-shaped piece of thin bone (J39) from Period 11D-12, which was made so that only one side was intended to be seen; this is either a pointer of some kind, or a piece of inlay. Finally, there is a turned piece (J40), which may be part of a composite handle, but this is not certain; it is not closely phased, however, and so may not be Roman.

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**Catalogue**

**Personalia**

| J1 | Complete pin of Crummy (1983) type 1 (Fig 236). The tapering faceted shaft has a flat end. | L: 88 mm; Diam (max): 4 mm |
| J2 | Pin of Crumpy (1983) type 1; a short part of the shaft and the point are missing. The low irregular domed head is not separated from the round-sectioned tapering shaft. | L: 85 mm; Diam (max): 5 mm |
| J3 | Complete pin of Crummy (1983) type 1 (Fig 236). The roughly conical head is not separated from the circular-sectioned shaft, which tapers evenly to the point. | L: 90 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm |
| J4 | Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 236). The roughly conical head is separated from the shaft by a single transverse groove. The point is missing. | L: 78 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm |
| J5 | Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2. There is a small chip on the head, and part of the shaft is missing. The originally conical head is separated from the shaft by two transverse grooves. | L: 43 mm; Diam: 3 mm |
| J6 | Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2. The point and part of the shaft are missing. The conical head is separated from the shaft by two closely spaced transverse grooves. | L: 50 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm |
| J7 | Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 236). The head is damaged, and the point and part of the shaft are missing. The conical head is separated from the circular-sectioned shaft by two transverse grooves. | L: 38 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm |
Figure 236: Bone pins, inlay, and counters
J8  Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2. The point and part of the shaft are missing. There are two transverse grooves separating the roughly conical head from the round-sectioned shaft.
L: 44 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm
LAL D 759, B 22, Period 11B

J9  Pin of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 236). Part of the shaft and the point are missing. The conical head is separated from the round-sectioned shaft by two transverse grooves.
L: 61 mm; Diam (max): 3 mm
LAL D 686, B 13, Period 11E

J10 Pin of Crummy (1983) type 6, complete except for a small amount of damage to one side of the head (Fig 236). The head consists of an almost spherical bead, flanked top and bottom by reels, which have their sloping surfaces flanking the bead. The round-sectioned shaft swells by 0.5 mm towards the middle. There is a marked facet to one side of the point and a small circular depression in the centre of the top of the head. The whole surface has been polished.
L: 80 mm; Diam (head): 6 mm; Diam (shaft, max): 4 mm
KLA D 13, B 2, Period 14A (Post-Roman)

J11 Pin? There is slight damage to the head, and part of the shaft is missing (Fig 236). The head is made up of a ring, flanked to top and bottom by rectangular plaques; the lower plaque is larger. Each plaque is decorated with parallel V-sectioned grooves, two on the upper one and four on the lower. The rear is undecorated. The round-sectioned shaft protrudes from the centre of the lower edge of the lower plaque, and does not taper. The whole has a polished finish.
L (overall): 90 mm; W (head): 13 mm; Diam (shaft): 4 mm
KLA B 830, B 2924, Period 11A

Household utensils and furniture

J12 Box inlay (Fig 236). This consists of a thin, narrow, strip of bone, with the upper surface decorated. The decoration consists of two shallow grooves, a row of roughly conical depressions, a single groove, and another row of depressions. The lines are all parallel to one another, but the two lines of depressions are slightly offset.
L: 35 mm; W: 15 mm; Diam (depressions): 4 mm
KLA B, B 917, unstratified

Recreation

J13 Counter of Crummy (1983) type 1, with a small chip missing from the underside (Fig 236). The upper surface is undecorated except for the central depression. The outer edge is bevelled. The underside is flat and has the remains of a graffito scratched on it.
Diam: 16 mm; Th: 5 mm
KLA D 464.01, B 9, Period 8B

J14 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1. The upper surface is undecorated except for the central depression. The outer edge is bevelled and the underside is flat.
Diam: 18 mm; Th: 2 mm
KLA B 952, B 3008, Period 10C

J15 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1 (Fig 236). The upper surface is undecorated, except for the central depression. The outer edge is bevelled and the underside is flat.
Diam (max): 23 mm; Th: 3 mm
KLA B 1028, B 3190, Period 10C

J16 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1. The upper surface is undecorated, except for the central depression. The edge is bevelled and the underside is flat.
Diam: 17 mm; Th: 3 mm
KLA B 827, B 2762, Period 10C

J17 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1 (Fig 236). There are two irregular lines on the upper surface, which surround the central depression. The edge of the counter is bevelled. There is a graffito on the underside in the shape of a six-point star.
Diam: 18 mm; Th: 2 mm
LAL D 874, B 18, Period 11A

J18 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1. The upper surface is undecorated, except for the central depression. The underside is flat, but the surface of the bone is uneven, giving it a ‘pecked’ texture.
Diam: 18 mm; Th: 2 mm
LAL D 232.17, B 20, Period 11D

J19 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 1 (Fig 236), with some minor damage. The upper surface is dished, with a dot-and-ring motif at its centre. There is a single groove halfway down the outside edge. The underside is plain except for an incised ‘H’. The counter has been distorted by burning.
Diam: 13 mm; Th: 4 mm
KLA B 490, B 1394, Period 15A (Post-Roman)

J20 Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 236), with a small chip missing from the top edge. The upper surface has a central
depression surrounded by five concentric grooves, which are cut obliquely into the surface. The edge is bevelled towards the underside, which is plain except for a graffito, possibly reading ‘WP’.

Diam: 20 mm; Th: 2 mm

KLA C 1073, B 4, Period 10A-11B

**J21** Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 236). The upper surface has a central depression, surrounded by four grooves cut obliquely into the surface. The outer edge is bevelled, and there is an elaborate graffito on the otherwise plain underside.

Diam: 18 mm; Th: 3 mm

LAL C 83, B 5, Period 11C

**J22** Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 2, but markedly oval. The upper surface has a central depression, surrounded by five concentric grooves cut obliquely into the surface. The edge is bevelled and the underside plain.

Diam: 20 x 22 mm; Th: 3 mm

KLA B 706, B 2098, Period 11D-12

**J23** Complete counter of Crummy (1983) type 4 (Fig 236). The upper surface is concave, with a central raised knop. The edge is circled by two grooves cut obliquely into the surface, and the outer edge is notched irregularly. The edge is bevelled, and the underside plain.

Diam: 22 mm; Th: 3 mm

KLA D 47, B 3, Period 11D-12

**Tools and industry**

**J24** Needle, of Crummy (1983) type 2 (Fig 237); part of the shaft and the point are missing. The head has a flat end and is oval in cross-section. The eye is sub-rectangular, with a curved top. The shaft has a circular cross-section.

L: 67 mm; Diam (shaft, max): 4 mm; L (eye): 5 mm; W (eye): 2 mm

KLA D 177, B 10, Period 11B

**J25** Needle of Crummy (1983) type 2; the point and part of the head and shaft are missing. The eye was made by drilling two holes and removing the piece between them. The head has a flattened oval cross-section, while the shaft has a circular one.

L: 44 mm; Diam (shaft): 5 mm; Diam (holes for eye): 2 mm

KLA B 669, B 1964, Period 13 (Post-Roman)

**J26** Handle or bridle cheekpiece (Fig 237). This is a fragment of an originally cylindrical object. The outer surface is decorated with a pattern made up of incised lines. The object has been burnt.

L 17 mm; W: 16 mm; Th (max): 5 mm

KLAB 641.04, B 1844, Period 14B (Post-Roman)

**J27** Tool (Fig 237). This is a handle plate from a scale-tang blade; one end is broken. It has a roughly D-shaped cross-section and was originally pierced by two circular rivet (?) holes.

L: 57 mm; W: 16-21 mm; Th (max): 6 mm; Diam (hole): 5 mm

KLA B 830, B 3334, Period 11A

**J28** Tool (Fig 237). It comprises the incomplete handle for a whittle-tanged blade or other tool, now broken at one end, created from a short length of gently curving bone, which has had its outer surface smoothed. The surviving

Figure 237: Bone needle and possible handles
original end shows signs of working and there is a central sub-rectangular perforation.
L: 59 mm; Diam: 19-23 mm; L (socket): 8 mm; W (socket): 7 mm
KLA D 137, B 11, Period 11B

J29 Complete antler rake (Fig 238). The rake is made from the upper part of a (?) red deer antler. There are three tines, and the space between two of them has been trimmed. At the base of the tines is a sub-rectangular hole, cut transversely through the antler. Assuming this is for the handle, it would have been approximately at right-angles to the tines. The wear on the object is more pronounced on the concave face.
L (overall): 240 mm; W (across tines): 233 mm
LAL D 232.18, B 21, Period 11D

J30 Tool. This is a scoop made from a bovine scapula, which has been modified by trimming at the broad end and along one side. One edge and the narrow end are broken.
L: 136 mm; W: 77 mm; Th (max): 17 mm
KLA C 1876, B 13, Period 7

J31 Tool. This is a scoop made from a bovine scapula, which has been modified by having the broad end trimmed straight, and the spina scapula removed. The articular end has been left to form a handle. One corner between the wide end and the edge is broken.
L (max): 169 mm; W (max): 77 mm; Th (max): 27 mm
KLA C 1851, B 14, Period 8A

J32 Tool. This is a scoop made from a bovine scapula, which has been modified by trimming the original broad end, one edge, and the spina scapula. The other edges are broken and only a fragment of the blade survives.
L: 79 mm; W: 47 mm; Th: 4 mm
KLA D 456.03, B 12, Period 8B

J33 Pin rough-out (Fig 239). This is a fragment of longbone, at one end of which is a lump, which has been roughly trimmed to shape in order to form the pin head; the shaft has been roughly shaped but the point may have broken off. Presumably the break is the reason for its discard.
L: 64 mm; W (shaft): 6 mm; Th (shaft): 7 mm
LAL C 97, B 10, Period 11E

Fasteners and fittings

J34 Toggle (Fig 239). This is a complete rectangular-sectioned block, with a sub-rectangular hole through it.
L: 27 mm; W: 10 mm; Th: 7 mm; L (hole): 6 mm; W (hole): 5 mm
KLA B 797, B 2693, Period 11B

J35 Complete toggle (Fig 239), with a transverse hole cut through it.
L: 62 mm; L (hole): 5 mm; W (hole): 5 mm
LAL C 58, B 9, Period 13 (Post-Roman)
J36  Toggle (Fig 239), made from a complete pig metatarsal (right), which has been modified by having a protruding piece of bone removed from the proximal end, and a transverse hole cut through it.
L: 64 mm; L (hole): 5 mm; W (hole): 3 mm
KLA C 536, B 2, Period 15B (Post-Roman)

J37  Amulet (Fig 239), complete dolphin-shaped pendant. The eye is indicated by a single ring-and-dot motif, and other details are indicated by grooves. There is also a pair of grooves running across the middle of the piece. It is pierced by an oval transverse hole just behind the dorsal fin. It has been burnt.
L: 35 mm; W (max): 16 mm; Th: 5 mm; Diam (hole): 3-4 mm
KLA C 601, B 1748, Period 14B (Post-Roman)

Religion

J38  Point (Fig 239). The object is made from the distal shaft of a sheep or goat tibia. One end is broken, but the surviving end has been worked to a point.
L: 38 mm; W: 10 mm; Th: 13 mm
KLA B 601, B 1748, Period 15B (Post-Roman)

J39  Arrow-shaped object (Fig 239). This is a thin strip of bone which has been carved into an arrow or spear. The shaft has a rectangular cross-section, and one end is broken. The triangular head has the suggestion of barbs. The upper surface is polished, while the other surfaces still show the marks from working.
L: 44 mm
KLA B 706, B 2090, Period 11D-12

J40  Cylindrical, turned, slightly tapering unidentified object, with five decorative elements (Fig 239); there are two wide convex mouldings, with a narrow raised rectangular cordon at each end, and a plain band at one end. Some chips are missing from the surface.
L: 19 mm; Diam: 28-32 mm; Th: 7 mm
KLA G 324, B 1, not closely phased

Figure 239: Bone toggles, amulet, and other objects