The Metal Finds
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X.1 Introduction

The entire assemblage consisted of 731 artefacts, the majority of which was of iron, with some lead and copper alloy. The overall flavour of the collection is of a self-sufficient community with a strong element of woodworking. Most tools were connected to woodworking, and the largest group of artefacts was the hand-wrought nails. Some interesting early post-medieval spoons were found and two Jew's harps were recovered. A highly unusual stick pin for an Irish context was the only dress accessory besides two buckles. Overall the material was in fairly good condition, with very few items defying identification. Although most metal finds were identifiable, not all of these were deemed worthy of illustratation.

X.2 Methodology

All objects were measured with a micrometre. The three maximum dimensions of each artefact are recorded with the description and metal type in the accompanying catalogue. The measurements are given in centimetres. The artefacts are grouped according to their phases in the accompanying catalogue. Comparable objects from other sites, when relevant, are referred to in the discussion.

X.3 The Precinct: High Medieval Phases 1–2

There were 158 artefacts from these phases of activity at Bective Abbey. Of these 158 artefacts, the majority were structural iron, a total of 111 of which were nails. Despite the wear from use, the fact that the nails were hand crafted is obvious from the variety of forms and sizes that were recovered, even from a single context: long, short, gently tapered, steeply tapered, round flat heads, domed heads and horseshoe nails, all forged probably on site by the community at Bective (pl. X.1). Hand-wrought nails differed little from the Late Iron Age to the end of the medieval period. They had rectangular sections, and the heads were normally circular, though in the assemblage most had suffered damage. Where complete, this is mentioned in the accompanying catalogue.

There were 12 rivets from Phase 2 (pl. X.1), two hinges (013:007, pl. X.2; H16:005D, not illustrated [hereafter n.i.]), a bracket (J03:006A, pl. X.2) and a wall anchor (021:026, n.i.), which has a large tapered shank with a flattened expanded head. They were driven into the joints of masonry and used for securing woodwork.

Tools

A carpenter's tool was recovered from the kiln in the barn. The gouge bit (014:001, pl. X.2), in the assemblage is broken at the end of the tang, but the functional end survives. It is flattened and widened, and hollowed at one side. A complete example from Winchester (Goodall, 1990d, 275) also dates from the medieval period. A gouge bit has a flatter edge than the more rounded spoon bit type of auger. 'Larger bits were ideal for drilling pegholes in structural timbers, or in the preliminary stages of cutting a mortice, whilst the smaller ones may have been used for furniture, panelling and drilling tool handles prior to the insertion of tang (Goodall 1981, 53). Another possible wood workers tool is the iron rod with a rolled hollow terminal, forming a scoop. The object (P08:003, n.i.) is poorly preserved and is tentatively identified as a spoon bit augur.

Weaponry

A chape (SS10:019, pl. X.3), the metal protector at the tip of a leather scabbard, is complete and has a decorated top. The conical open-ended chape is oval at the top, a feature which differentiates a chape from a lace point or ferrule. There is a tiny rivet hole at the

Pl. X.1 Iron nails and rivets from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

Pl. X.2 Iron hinge (013:007), bracket (J03:006A) and gouge bit (014:001) from from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

rear. The object is decorated with a saw-toothed effect at the top of one side of the chape. Each peak of serration is decorated with incised lines forming decreasingly sized V-shapes. In its outline it is similar to a silver example from Winchester, Hampshire, thought to be residual in its fifteenth-century context due to its similarity to a thirteenth-century example from Wythemail, Northamptonshire (Blunt 1990, 1082, pl. 348, 4043).

Personal Items

 A bone comb (SS10:20, pl. X.4) with a strip of copper alloy attached, now somewhat corroded and detached in parts was found in the paved drain. This was originally attached with tiny rivets, as evidenced by holes near the central panel of the double-sided comb. The strip may have functioned as a patch, but may also have formed a mount or strip to highlight an open-work decorative panel such as those found

Pl. X.3 Copper-alloy chape (SS10:019), from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

in Cork (Hurley 1997, 258, pl. 105, 7) and Waterford (Hurley 1997b, 658, pl. 1732). A possible buckle (016:001, n.i.) is made of iron. It has the partial remains of a semi-circular frame with the straight bar extending outside the frame. The object is incomplete, and does not lend itself to dating.

A stick pin (009:019, pl. X.5) found at Bective is not a common type. The head of the slender pin is split into two strips which are looped into two uneven circles, or spirals. Similar pins found in Anglo-Scandinavian York (also known from Anglo-Saxon contexts, worn in pairs as dress pins, frequently recovered from graves), are described as Type 5 spiral headed dress pins, (Mainman and Rogers 2000, 2647); the head formed by splitting the top of the shank axially, flattening and inwardly spirally each side. Mainman and Rogers write:

> This type has been found previously on middle Saxon sites. It has been suggested that these pins had their floruit in the seventh to

Pl. X.4 Bone comb (SS10:20, pl. X.4) with a strip of copper alloy attached, from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

Pl. X.5 Copper-alloy stick pin (009:019) from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

eighth centuries but examples from York indicate a longer term of use. … all the examples [of spiral headed pins] from Coppergate derive from contexts of the mid ninth to mid eleventh centuries' (Mainman and Rogers 2000, 2578).

Another pin of this type from Fishergate is from an eleventh century to twelfth century grave. Similar but much larger pins are known from thirteenth-century Irish contexts. A spiral headed pin, almost twice the length of the Bective Abbey example was found in Kirwin's Lane in Galway (Scully 2004, 483), in association with thirteenth-century artefacts. These pins are also known as Bifid pins, and there are examples from the ringfort at Garryduff (O'Kelly and Stelfox 1962–4, 53), Carraig Aille II (O'Riordáin 1949, 74) and a cruder example from Deer Park Farm, Co. Antrim (Lynn and McDowell 2011, 273). More recently one has been found in thirteenth-century levels in the Robing Room, Bishops Palace, Kilkenny (11E157, Scully 2013).

Window Lead
Evidence for windows was plentiful within the metal finds. A collection of lead cames and a lead piece with a central groove (H09:001B, n.i.) to fit the window into the stone frame were indubitably associated with windows. Window glass was expensive and 'there is no evidence to date to suggest that window glass was manufactured in Ireland in the medieval period' (Moran 2007, 261). Coloured glass for English churches was imported from the Continent in sheets in the thirteenth century (Ibid., 261). It is likely that the same was the case for Ireland. Lead was also used in windows without glass. Salzman observes that:

The device of the 'fretted slab', mentioned in connection with the first church at York, was chiefly employed in situations where ventilation and the exclusion of birds were more important considerations than light – as in the upper stories of church towers. Sometimes the fretting took the form of a more or less elaborate grille of lead (Salzman 1952, 174).

Window lead was usually gathered and re-used and is not, therefore, as common on sites as would reflect its actual usage. From kiln waste within the barn (H11) a lump of melted lead may have been ready to be formed into cames (the term for lead used between glass panes). Another amorphous lump found in association with lead cames (H16:007A, n.i.) may be representative of such an activity. It was found with three small lengths of window lead (H16:7B–D, n.i.). The strips of lead called cames are H-shaped in cross-section. They are manufactured by a casting process using a two-piece mould. Offcuts from this process were found in a late fifteenth-century context at Wolvesey Palace, Winchester, Hampshire. By the mid sixteenth century a lead mill produced lead cames in a mangle-like operation (Biddle 1990, 96). Later versions of the machine had toothed rollers. None of the cames from this period in Bective Abbey showed evidence of rilling from such a machine, but all of them had the H-shaped profile to fit the glass. The cames were recovered from context H16, a drain running from the barn.

Locks
A small circular barrel padlock from the drain (H16:05A, n.i.) has a circular case with a round terminal. Though the opposite end is damaged from corrosion, an arched arm at the other end is discernible. In this it resembles the casing of a Type D padlock (Goodall 1990b, 1013). These were often attached to hinged shackles. Locks became more elaborate during the late medieval period, having their springs and bolts mounted within the case (Goodall 1990b, 1003). From the same context as the barrel padlock came a roughly circular plate (H16:5A, n.i.) with an aperture suggestive of a keyhole. This is possibly a lock escutcheon.

Horse Equipment
There were surprisingly few horseshoes from a site with such a long history. Of the whole assemblage only one mule or donkey shoe and parts of four horseshoes were found. A part of a horseshoe (H05:003, pl. X.6 top) is one of only two shoes from the high medieval phase of the site. It is feathered, that is tapered at the inner heel. This is sometimes done to accommodate the gait of a horse 'to prevent it cutting the inside of the opposite leg if the horse is prone to 'brushing'' (Clark 1986, 3). The largest part of a horseshoe from Bective Abbey excavations (009:020, n.i.), has an arched toe, one incomplete and one complete branch with a slight calkin. The arched profile indicates it was used to shoe a hind hoof. The web (width of the branch) is relatively wide and the calkin formed from folding over the heel. The outline of the shoe is even. It is a Type 3 shoe, which Goodall and Clark agree to it having been introduced in the

Pl. X.6 Top – Part of an iron horseshoe (H05:003) from High Medieval Phases 1–2. Bottom – Mule or donkey shoe (103:015) from the Pre-Dissolution Phases 3–7.

Pl. X.7 Whittle-tanged iron knife (H16:005B), from High Medieval Phases 1–2.

thirteenth century in London and Winchester (Clark 1986, 96) continuing in use into the fourteenth century. There was only one fiddle-key type horseshoe nail from the site (009:009, n.i.). These large headed nails belong to an earlier type of shoe, Type 2 (formerly 'Norman'), according to Clark (1995, 86). These shoes had countersunk holes for the nails causing a widening around the nail hole which resulted in a wavy or lobate outline to the shoe. Type 2 shoes were current in the twelfth century.

Knives
Two knives from the earliest levels of the excavations at Bective Abbey were whittle-tanged iron examples (H16:5B, pl. X.7; P08:1, n.i.). The first is complete and approximates to a Type E knife 'with curved back and variously shaped cutting edge' (Goodall 1990b, 850). The date range for this type of knife is wide, they are known from the tenth century to as late as the fifteenth century. The second knife from the high medieval phase at Bective is a Type D, which occurs from the tenth century but was widely used in the later medieval period as well. Whilst typologies can be useful, they are by no means a hard and fast method of dating. The local blacksmith would have

created a knife that was most useful and convenient to make. It would be nonsensical to think the local blacksmith was conforming to trends or typologies. The tapered whittle tang was easily hafted into wood or bone handles.

Domestic Objects
Domestic artefacts from the earliest levels include two fragments of vessels; a part of a rim (029:035, n.i.) and part of a vessel base (016:017, n.i.) most probably represent cooking vessels. While the earliest Atlantic cauldrons date 'to the last quarter of the second millennium B.C.' (Gerloff 1986, 107), and some stunning riveted cauldrons appear in Later Bronze Age such as that from Castlederg, Co. Tyrone, (Cahill 2002), casting of 'bronze' vessels for domestic purposes is a later development which seems not to begin before the fourteenth or possibly the thirteenth century', (Biddle 1990, 951). A larger vessel fragment from Bective Abbey was made of iron (009:013, n.i.). This piece has a flared rim with part of a rounded body.

X.4   Stratified Medieval Garden deposits
Nails
15 iron hand-wrought nails were recovered from Phase 1 of the garden features.

Horse equipment
A horseshoe nail and 2 incomplete horseshoes were the only remaining metal finds from the stratified contexts of the garden. One horseshoe consists only of the heel, it is tapered and does not have a 'calkin' – the thickened upturn to prevent slipping. The other shoe (205:017A, n.i.) is only a fragment yet the outline appears wavy, which is an indication of an early, Norman type that first appears in the archaeological record in the mid- to late-eleventh century and was still being used in the mid-thirteenth century (Clark 1986, 2). It was found in the upper fill of the medieval boundary fosse.

X.5   The Precinct: Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7
There are 137 artefacts from the pre-dissolution phase of the Abbey.

Pl. X.8 Tangle of window lead (SS13:22–32) from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7.

Nails
As in the earliest levels, most of the metal finds are nails, of which 94 come from these combined phases. All were rectangular shafted hand wrought variety.

Window Lead
Several tangles of leads (128:001, n.i.; SS13:22–32, pl. X.8) and other lengths (L03:005B, n.i.) are further remains of window lead.

Weaponry
Although ensconced within the Pale, Bective Abbey needed to defend itself. This is testified to by the presence of an arrowhead in the pre-dissolution deposits. The armour-piercing arrowhead is a socketed example, with a slight narrowing at the centre and the rectangular blade tapers to a point (H10:008, pl. X.9). It is a large arrowhead and one used in military activities rather than hunting. This is a Type 7 arrowhead, a socketed bodkin blade (Halpin 2008, 121) which was the most common type in use in Dublin from the mid tenth to the thirteenth century.

Coinage
The oldest coin from the site is a silver penny (L05:000, pl. X.10) from the reign of Henry III (reigned 1207–1272). Henry III established a mint in Dublin, but this coin does not have the 'head-in-triangle' which defined the Dublin coinage. This example is an English long cross penny, which is

Pl. X.9 Medieval armour-piercing arrowhead (H10:008), from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7.

Pl. X.10 English long cross penny, 1247–72 (L05:000), from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7. Left – obverse, right – reverse

Pl. X.11 Iron buckle (102:012), from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7.

from the later part of his reign, between 1247 and 1272. A comparable coin was the earliest coinage in a hoard of 135 coins from Warminster, Wiltshire (Blunt 1991, 140, pl. 4, 66).

Dress
An iron buckle (102:012, pl. X.11) has a roller bar at one side of its frame to facilitate tightening the strap. It also has the remains of an attachment plate on the opposite side of the frame. In this case the roller is a sheet cylinder wrapped around the bar, as opposed to a revolving bar. These buckles in larger sizes are usually associated with horse tack, but the buckle from Bective Abbey is quite small, the aperture for the strap being less that 3cm, (an aperture of 5cm or more is deemed to qualify for horse equipment. The form lasted for several centuries (Egan 1995, 55).

Horse and Donkey/Mule Equipment
Only one horseshoe fragment (SS02:010, n.i.), was recovered from the period encompassed by phases 3 to 7. The single branch of the shoe had no late features. It was rounded for a front hoof. Four horseshoe nails were also recovered, two of which had quite large blocky heads. These may represent the type of nail which fitted the transitional type of

shoe, the nails of which combined expanded head with ears which sat in countersunk slots. The shoe is an elongated U-shape, with almost parallel sides. This form of shoe is 'typical of the second half of the thirteenth century and the early years of the fourteenth century, (Clarke, 1986, 3). Perhaps the presence of this mule or donkey shoe (103:015, pl. X.6) explains the dearth of horseshoes. Donkeys and mules do not necessarily have to be shod, needing only rocky ground to curb the growth of the hooves.

Leather-working Equipment

A knife (102:001, pl. X.12) from this period has a rounded raised ridge between the tang and the blade. This is referred to as a bolster, usually a post-medieval feature. The blade has a straight end, i.e. it is not pointed. A somewhat similar knife from York, but not an exact parallel, is described as a curriers knife (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2730). These specialist leather workers knives have straight blade backs and straight blade ends. Another example from York (pl. 1340) has a similar small tapered tang with a thickened shoulder before flattening for the blade. These are a post conquest introduction, and the aforementioned example is dated between the twelfth to as late as the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries

Pl. X.12   Iron leather-working knife (102:001), from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7.

Pl. X.13 Left – Copper-alloy needle from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7 (SN01:001). Right – Copper-alloy pin with decoration at its head (SS06:004).

**Pl. X.14**   Iron key (109:006) from Pre-dissolution Phases 3–7.

(Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2732). Perhaps also used in the leather trade, is a copper-alloy needle, which is complete although bent to a right angle (SN01:001, pl. X.13). The eye is punched through, and a groove for the thread extends below the aperture. It is quite thick and may have been used to stitch leather, after it had been punched.

Key

The only key from this period is one for a mounted lock. The key (109:006, pl. X.14) has a D-shaped bow, is rectangular in section, and has a solid circular-sectioned stem with its bit at the same plane as the bow. The stem does not extend beyond bit and there is one V-shaped ward cut at the upper side of the bit. Though not as ornate as most of the examples from medieval Winchester, it approximates to Goodall's Type 6, which were 'more numerous and continued for a longer period' than the Type 5, which are only found in contexts from the eleventh to the thirteenth century (Goodall 1990b, 1007).

Personal Items

A simple tweezers (110:001, pl. X.15) was formed by bending a circular-sectioned bar. Forming a looped
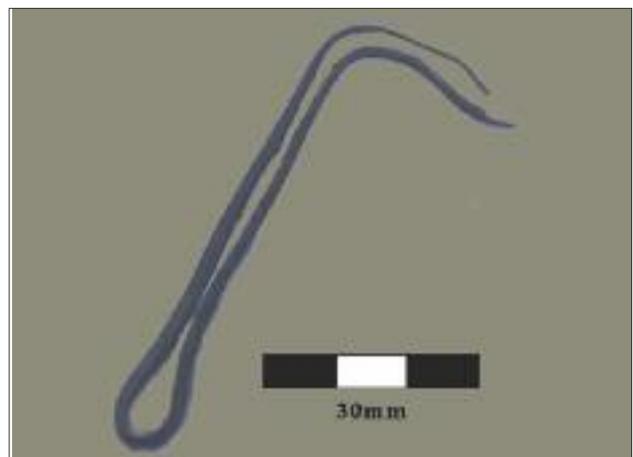
Pl. X.15 Late- or post-medieval copper-alloy tweezers (110:001).

top with parallel arms and flattened terminals. The tweezers has a smooth patina and was obviously much used. Medieval tweezers usually employ a slider to join the arms together, creating a grip. The arms of medieval objects are also flattened almost to the neck. The example from Bective Abbey does not flatten out until the terminals and is either a later-medieval or post-medieval artefact.

X.6   The Precinct Phases 8–9
The post-dissolution phases at Bective Abbey yielded 246 metal artefacts.

Nails
The majority of the metal artefacts from the post-dissolution phase were nails. There were 154 of these. There were also several examples of a larger type of nail, generally over 8cm long, known as a spike. There were 48 of these in the entire assemblage, 36 of which came from the post dissolution period of the abbey. Two of these were gutter spikes, curved to support a horizontal gutter. Spikes were used extensively as a cheap means of fixing timbers together. They had to be hammered in with great force (Mitchell 1911, 205). The objects have only a very gentle taper and the examples in this assemblage did not usually retain a point. The heads show signs of hammering, and are rarely complete, but when they survive they are round. These heavy fasteners, used to connect heavy timber beams are evidence for the extensive re-building of the monastic range with roofs of large timbers. Also used in this capacity are 'timber dogs'. These are pieces of wrought iron, bent at their ends. These members are specially pointed and hammered in to secure timbers that butt against each other, ensuring that the timbers are drawn tightly together. 'Timber dogs' are especially used in shoring, rough stagings and temporary structures (Mitchell, 1911, 209). They were also used for securing logs to the

frame over a sawing pit. (Goodall 1990c, 328). There are three such items at Bective Abbey (P06:48, pl.X.16; 001:8A, pl. X.16; SS04:25, n.i.), albeit from the late medieval phases 3–7.

Leather-working tools
Further evidence for hand crafts was found in the form of an awl (H02:019, n.i.). This artefact is a leather-working tool. Though bent in the centre, the artefact is tapered both ways from the centre-point. One side would have formed the tang and the other end was used to pierce holes in leather. The thicker central part formed a stop for the handle to press against.

Tools
Although not very well preserved, an iron object (002:90, n.i.) is likely to be a chisel. The tool is tanged and the working end is flattened and slightly splayed. It is paralleled with a woodworking chisel identified in excavations in Perth (Holdsworth 1987, 134).

Tenter Hooks
Fitting finds from a monastic setting, albeit the post dissolution phase, were the two tenter hooks, (H14:07A, n.i.; H02:019B, pl. X.17). These right-angled iron objects are tapered to a point at either end. After it had been fulled, woven cloth was then stretched. This was done on a tenter-rack (fig. X.1). These were arranged on sets of rails (A) between upright posts (B), the hooks pointing upwards in the upper rail and downwards in the lower rail. Cloth

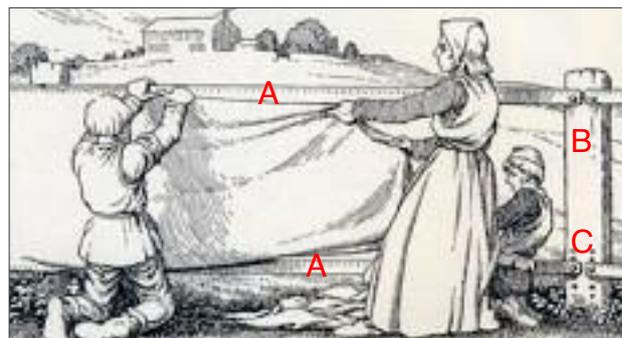**Pl. X.17**   Tenter hook from the post-dissolution phase (H02:019B).

Pl. X.16   Iron 'timber dogs'.

Fig. X.1   Tentering wool.

Pl. X.18 A very large iron key for a mounted lock with a symmetrical bit and D-shaped bow, dating between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries (P05:001).

was attached to the hooks and tension adjusted by moving the rails up or down in the housings in the upright posts (C) (Goodall 1990e, 234).

Lock and Key

A flat rectangular object that has a rectangular bite out of one corner, is possibly part of a bolt for a mounted lock (104:012, n.i.). Though incomplete, the nearest comparable find is a bolt from an eighteenth-century stock lock. Chamber's dictionary states that locks placed on outer doors were called stock-locks. The cheapest and most common was the plain stock-lock, often known as the Banbury lock (Noël-Hume 1991, 247, pl. 77a, no. 3). A very large iron key for a mounted lock (P05:001, pl. X.18) would have been used in a substantial door. The bit is symmetrical, which allowed the lock to be opened from either side of the door. The bow is D-shaped and the solid circular stem does not extend beyond the bit. The wards are central to the bit forming a cruciform central opening. It is a Type 6 key according to Goodall's typology and from the eleventh to the thirteenth century, as discussed in the previous section.

Horse Equipment

The evidence for use of the horse is greater in the post-dissolution phases at Bective Abbey, with three fragments of horseshoe and ten horseshoe nails. None show any the characteristics of early, medieval, types. One shoe has a groove, known as a fuller, on the

Pl. X.19 Post-medieval iron horse shoe fragment (001:026).

underside to accommodate the nail heads (001:026. pl. X.19). This is a post-medieval innovation.

Coinage

A badly worn coin was found from the latter end of these phases (201:015, n.i.). The diameter of the coin is 24.5mm. The obverse is not discernible, but the central figure of St Patrick can just be made out on the reverse, though extremely worn. A double-cross crozier can be seen over his left shoulder. There were several types of these coins issued, the most common type had a hooked crozier rather than the cross over the left shoulder. In better-preserved examples, the saint can be seen to hold a shamrock in the right hand. The obverse of these coins shows St David playing the harp. Known to collectors now as St Patrick's money, they were struck in the city of Dublin in 1674–5 (University of Notre Dame Libraries)

A seventeenth-century coin was uncovered in mixed deposits in the upper levels of cutting 1. The well-preserved, albeit worn, copper-alloy coin was a 1683 halfpenny (110:002, n.i.), 26.6mm in diameter. The obverse represents King Charles II (*Caralvs II Dei Gratia Mag Br Fra Et Hib Rex* [king of Great Britain France and Ireland). On the reverse is the date, split by a crowned harp.

Personal Items

An iron buckle (H02:018, pl. X.20), similar to that discussed in period 3-7, has a cylindrical sheet wrapped around one side of the frame to act as a roller for the strap. A small buckle (001:019, pl. X.20) has an oval frame with possible remnants of tinning or paint. The frame has a central bar with two small prongs for pins. This is most closely paralleled with a lead-tin example from London dated from 1400 to 1450, (Egan 1991, 88/9), though that example does not have the double prongs on the central bar. The example from Bective Abbey is likely to be later. It may originally have been from a shoe. Shoe buckles were common in the first half of the sixteenth century and the fashion was revived prior to the arrival of

Pl. X.20 Post-medieval iron buckles.

Pl. X.21 Copper-alloy (brass?) button front (left) and rear (right) (P06:001).

William III into England in 1689. Shoes with buckles remained fashionable up to the French revolution in 1789, but they finally became extinct before the close of the eighteenth century (Noël-Hume 1991, 86). A small copper alloy (brass?) button with a central circular lug at the reverse has a stamped pattern of woven wavy lines on the obverse (P06:001, pl. X.21). The eye of the attachment is well soldered. This would probably date to the latter part of the 18th century, and as such is intrusive in the period.

Jew's Harps

Three Jew's harps were found in the excavation, (001:027, pl. X.22 left; 002:089, pl. X.22 left; 201:013, n.i.). The history of these portable instruments dates back to at least as far as the crusades. Seven Jew's harps were found in Kells Priory (Scully 2007, 375). One of those was from a fourteenth-century context. Another fourteenth-century example was found at Trim Castle (Sweetman 1978, 178). They became very popular from the late sixteenth century.

Knives

A post-medieval knife (001:008C, n.i.) with an incomplete blade was found in the upper levels of

the excavation. It had a straight blade back, is whittle-tanged, and the incomplete blade edge appears to have sloped upwards to the point, though wear can influence this shape. It has a raised ridge between the tang and the blade known as a 'bolster'. These are a post-medieval innovation and are more often seen on scale-tanged knives. The bolster was first introduced during the sixteenth century (Goodall 1990a, 839). Twelve knives with bolsters, eleven of which were whittle-tanged were found in Kells Priory Co. Kilkenny, all from post-medieval contexts (Scully 2007, 367).

Domestic Items

Two spoons found at Bective Abbey were made of different metals. One (011:008, pl. X.23) was made of copper alloy. This bowl, unfortunately incomplete, appears to be pear-shaped. The stem however, is complete and terminates with a decorated knop. Spoons like this are known as 'seal top' spoons, and dated examples range from 1494 to 1699 (Noël Hume 1991, 181). The second spoon (J01:011, pl. X.23), also has an incomplete bowl. What survives of the bowl appears more likely to have been pear-shaped than leaf-shaped. It is fashioned from lead or lead alloy. The stem is flat at the back and rounded at the front, with a slight kink which, if used by a right-handed

Pl. X.22 Iron Jews harps.

Pl. X.23 Right – Copper-alloy 'seal top' spoon (011:008). Left – Lead or lead alloy spoon with a .pear-shaped bowl (J01:011).

Pl. X.24 Both sides of a late seventeenth/early eighteenth century decorated knife handle (Q01:024).

person, would accommodate the thumb. It is well worn. The terminal is flattened and slightly splayed. Metal spoons were rare in the medieval period, wooden or bone spoons being more common. This example is likely to date to the later seventeenth century when the bowl became broader and the stem became a little wider and was square cut at the end. This improvement eliminated the need to thicken the shaft towards the terminal to permit the angular cut of the slipped end. The new shape is known as 'Puritan'. It was soon replaced by spoons with a spatula-like terminal (Noël Hume 1991, 183). A handle (Q01:024, pl. X.24) of skeletal material, either antler or bone, with cross-hatch decoration on both sides, bordered by parallel lines, has at its centre a scale tang for a knife. The tang is broader at its terminal and is fastened to the handle with three small iron rivets. It is of a type popular in the late seventeenth/early eighteenth century (Noël Hume 1991, pl. 63, 2–4).

X.7 Unstratified Finds,
Coins
Other than nails or rivets, unstratified finds include three coins (P01:053A–C, n.i.) from the topsoil of the precinct area. The detail is obscure but it appears to be a George II halfpenny, with the king to the left on the obverse and the inscription DEI GRATIA visible and what appears to be a crown over a harp on the obverse. George II reigned from 1727 to 1760. In the top soil of Cutting S North three coins were found that tell the story of modern Irish coinage; a British penny from 1916, a Free State 1/2 penny from 1928 and a punt from 1990.

Domestic Items
A copper-alloy sewing pin with a large head was

Pl. X.25 Tip of an iron trowel (201:016).

found in an unstratified context. This dates from a pre-industrialised period. The wire shank is complete and retains a sharp point (009:019, n.i.). The head is formed by winding more wire around the top of the shank. It is a Type A, spiral-wound pin, the most common type of pin found. These have thirteenth-century origins but were still in use in the nineteenth century (Tylecote 1990, 131). Brass pins were recovered from securely dated thirteenth-century contexts in Dublin Castle (Scully 1989). An unstratified find from the garden area may be the remains of a trowel (201:016, pl. X.25).

Peronal Items
An ornate double buckle came from the topsoil of the precinct area (P01:055, fig. X.26). A little over half the object survives. The surviving half is oval, with a central bar. The edge of the frame is formed with expanded foliate lobes, each of which is decorated; the lobed section incised with crescent shaped lines and the ring and dot decoration on the frame. The oval frame with ornate outside edges 'with all its variety, was a long-lasting fashion in use from the late twelfth to the fourteenth centuries' (Egan 1991, 76).

Pl. X.26 Ornate, copper-alloy, medieval double buckle (P01:055).

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