



Hunter, Fraser (2017) *The shale bangle fragments. In: Cook, Martin, Lawson, John A and McLaren, Dawn, 'Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexe, 1976 to 1990'.*

Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports (74). pp. 55-57. ISSN e2056-7421

DOI: 10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2017.74

<http://repository.nms.ac.uk/2008>

Deposited on: 19 February 2018



Society of Antiquaries
of **Scotland**

SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERNET REPORTS

e-ISSN: 2056-7421

Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexes, 1976 to 1990

How to cite:

Cook, M, Lawson, J A & McLaren, D 2017 'Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexes, 1976 to 1990' *Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports* 74

<https://doi.org/10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2017.74>

Visit <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sair> to see the journal homepage

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Excavations and Interventions in and around Cramond Roman Fort and Annexe, 1976 to 1990

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Funding

Historic Environment Scotland

e-ISSN: 2056-7421

<https://doi.org/10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2017.74>

Published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland with the
Archaeology Data Service archaeologydataservice.ac.uk.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF
United Kingdom

Managing editor: Catherine Aitken
Copy-editor: Susan Milligan
Production: Raspberry Creative Type, Edinburgh

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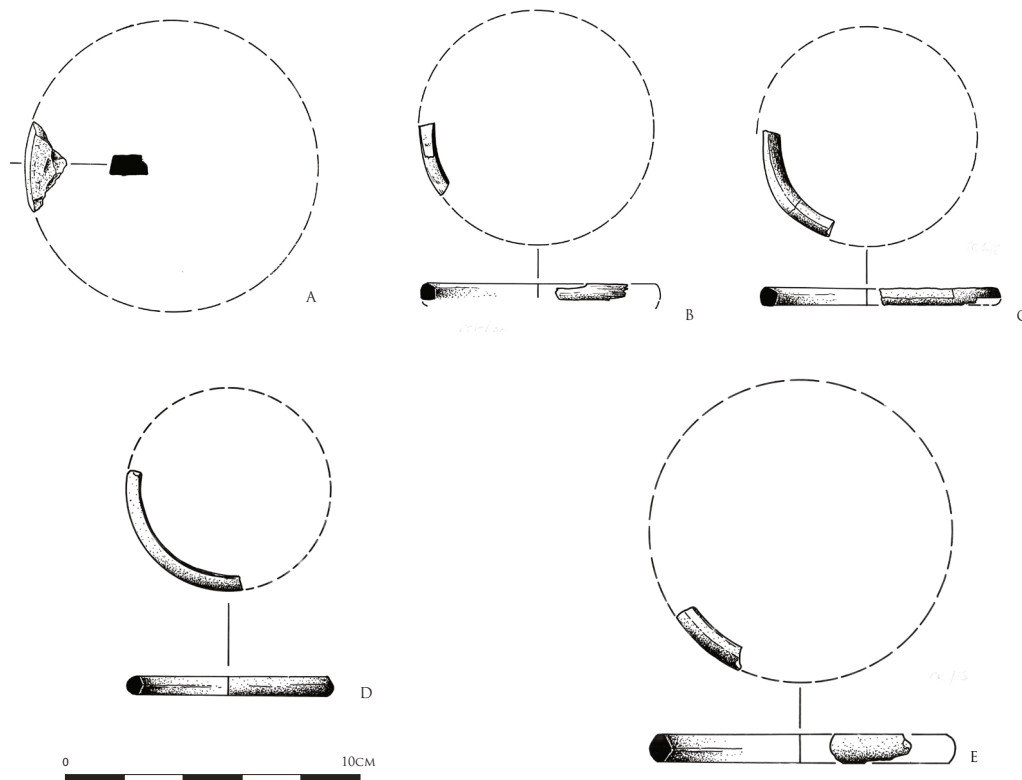
14. THE SHALE BANGLE FRAGMENTS

Fraser Hunter

Five bangles and one roughout came from the Hoy excavations (Illus 42). Four are lathe-turned bangles of Kimmeridge shale, the main production centre being on the Dorset coast. This is the same area where Black Burnished 1 pottery and other material (such as stone items of Purbeck marble) were produced, and they probably came north with the trading contacts which brought BB1 to

Table 8 Summary of Cramond chipped stone assemblage

Type	Chert	Flint	Agate	Total
Flake	4	0	0	4
Chunk	1	1	1	3
Platform core remnant	0	1	0	1
Bipolar core remnant	1	0	0	1
Nodule	0	1	0	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>



Illus 42 Shale bangle fragments: (a) CR/88/365; (b) CR/2/90; (c) CR/84/2; (d) CR/84/172; (e) CR/85/261. Illustration by Alan Braby

the northern frontier. Kimmeridge products are well-represented in Scotland, comprising at least 20–30% of Scottish bangle finds (Hunter 2014: 153). The fifth bangle is probably a cannel coal, which could have a more local source. The final item is a disc-shaped roughout, perhaps for a counter or ring, and also most likely of cannel coal. This is the first evidence for on-site working, which is attested at other Roman military sites (ibid: 159). Similar black shiny jewellery has been recovered from other excavations at Cramond, with three further bangles and a ring-pendant known (ibid: 164).

Bangles are the most common black jewellery item found on Scottish Roman sites. The large diameter of two of them fits the wider Scottish pattern: bangles from northern military sites tend to be larger than average, indicating they were worn by soldiers (Hunter 2014: 153). The other two are smaller and are more likely female ornaments.

14.1 Catalogue

► CR/84/2

Lathe-turned shale bangle fragment; exterior rounded; narrow facets on the faces (more

pronounced on one); interior carinated from lathe turning. Grey laminar character indicates it is Kimmeridge shale. Internal diam: 55–60mm (22% survives); L: 41mm; W: 6mm; H: 6mm. Cramond Road I (Site 2); Illus 42c.

► CR/84/172

Lathe-turned bangle fragment with rounded D-section; near-flat interior with bevel from core removal. Well-finished. Grey oil shale. Internal diam: 60–65mm (28% survives); L: 55.5mm; W: 5.2mm; H: 6.1mm. Cramond Road I (Site 2), area west of road, from stony feature spread. Illus 42d.

► CR/85/261

D-sectioned lathe-turned bangle fragment, with bevel on internal face from core removal. Damage to one edge; some use-wear. Grey oil shale. Internal diam: 70–75mm (11% survives); L: 27.5mm; W: 7mm; H: 9.7mm. Cramond Road I (Site 2), area west of road, from stony feature spread. Illus 42e.

► CR/88/365

Probable bangle fragment, faces spalled off and inner edge lost. Triangular fragment of dark material

with conchoidal fracture, probably cannel coal; the surviving outer section is sloping and well finished, with no tool traces but some wear marks. L: 31mm; W: 13.5mm; H: 6mm. External diam: 90–95mm (giving an estimated internal diam around 60mm). Cramond Road II (Site 3), Trench 4. Illus 42a.

► **CR/2/90**

Shale bangle fragment, split horizontally but preserving just over half the narrow section with rounded top and exterior; a slight facet on the near-flat interior indicates it was lathe-turned. Its grey, laminar character is consistent with Kimmeridge shale. Internal diam: 70–75mm (10% preserved); L: 23mm; W: 5mm; H: 6mm (originally *c* 9mm). Cramond Road II (Site 3); Extn NW, from soil and cobble mix below stone drain and kerb of road 2. Illus 42b.

► **CR/83/217**

Discoidal prepared roughout, broken in half. Faces naturally flat, one with abrasion scars; around half the circumference survives; in places it is natural, elsewhere it has been flaked to shape. Tapering in section. Size suggests use as a counter or, perhaps, finger ring. Probably cannel coal. Diam: 32mm; W: 20mm; H: 8mm. Cramond Road I (Site 2).

There are also four finds not located within the archive, listed in Charlie Hoy's finds registers just as 'jet' (Site 1: Cramond Tower East, 80/CT/437; Site 2: Cramond Road I, CR/83/446, CR/83/612, CR/83/708). In the absence of any further description, they could be misidentifications of other material, but if nondescript they may well have been working debris. Their absence is tantalising and frustrating.