

PROJECTING RING-HEADED PINS AND SPIRAL RINGS FROM NORTH UIST

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Since the publication of lists of projecting ring-headed pins and spiral rings (Clarke, 1971, 45-54), the examples detailed below have come to my notice. As they form at present part of a large private collection, and are not, therefore, readily available for study it seems desirable to publish them in more detail than was attempted for other Scottish finds. The provenance of this material is a little uncertain; a manuscript list accompanying the collection gives the following selection of find-spots. In North Uist: Bealach-Ban, Boreray, Caolis Newton, Heisker, Scolpaig and Udal; and in Harris: Maolbhan, in Bernera. The addition of five new examples of projecting ring-headed pins to the finds from the Hebrides serves only to emphasise the remarkable preponderance in that area of pins of this type (Clarke, 1971, 31, fig. 4). More importance may perhaps attach to the two spiral rings, deriving as they do from an area not previously rich in finds of this sort. The lack of a precise context for these rings, however, precludes them from having much value in any discussion of their significance in the Atlantic Province.

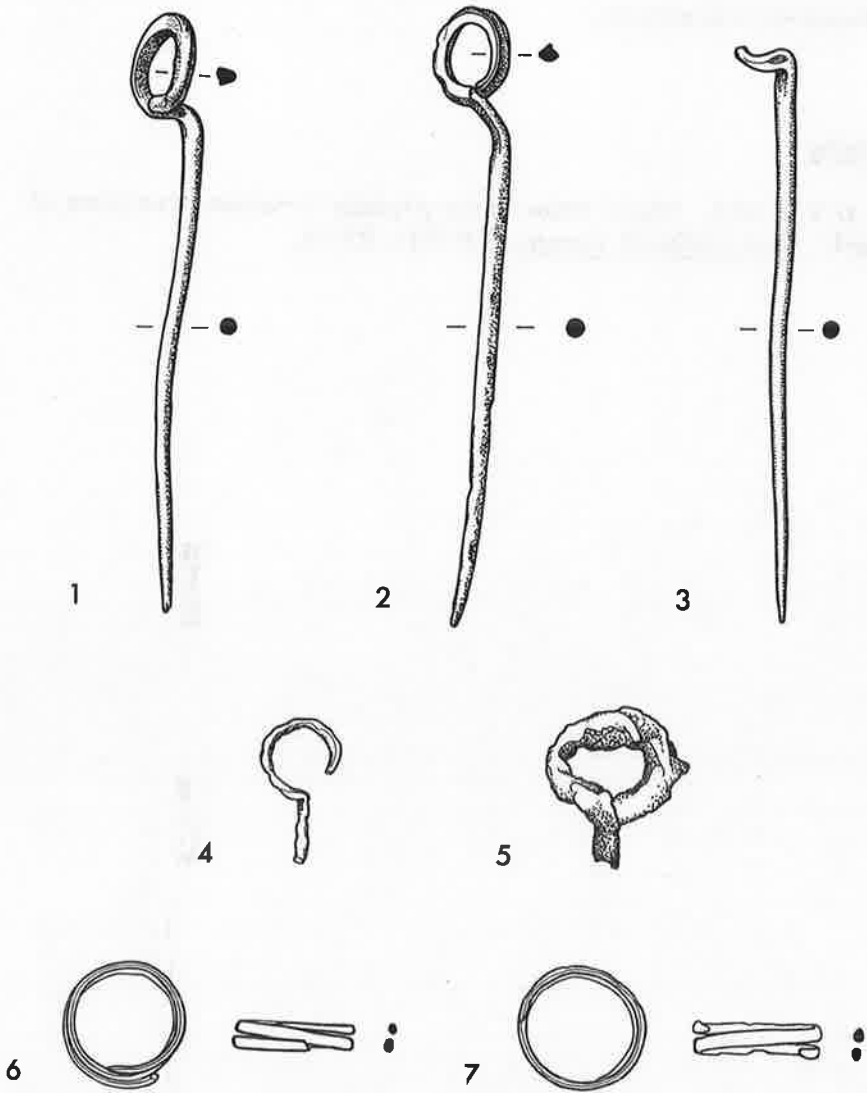
Catalogue (Numbers correspond with those on Fig. 1)

Projecting Ring-Headed Pins

1. Bronze; length 78 mm; ext. diam. of head 14 mm; thickness 2 mm. The pin is round in section, but the head has a markedly triangular section.
2. Bronze; length 81 mm; ext. diam. of head 13 mm; thickness 3 mm. The pin is round in section, but the head has a diamond section.
3. Bronze, lacking most of the head; length of frag. 76 mm; thickness 2 mm. Pin is round in section.
4. Bronze wire, lacking most of the pin and part of the head. Ext. diam. of head 11 mm; thickness 2 mm. Both pin, as far as it survives, and head have very irregular sections.
5. Iron, heavily corroded and lacking most of the pin. Ext. diam. of head 19 mm; thickness 3 mm. Apparently circular in section.

Spiral Rings

6. Bronze, having two twists. One end tapered and the other broken. Ext. diam. 16 mm. The wire is a flattened-oval in section.
7. Bronze, having one and a half twists. Both ends apparently undamaged,



0 5 cm

Figure 1.

but one more heavily tapered than the other. Ext. diam. 17 mm. The wire is a flattened-oval in section.

Bibliography

Clarke, D.V., 1971. 'Small Finds in the Atlantic Province: Problems of Approach', Scot Archaeol Forum, 3 (1971), 22-54.