

MEDIAEVAL OBJECTS FROM BALLYSHEEHAN

By R. Wyse Jackson

Between 1950 and 1955 Mr. George Keyes, of Ballysheehan House, Cashel (some three miles north of Cashel, and within sight of the Rock) has been collecting objects in the immediate neighbourhood of the mote and bailey and of the adjoining early English church on his land. This note is to list those objects, now in the possession of Mr. Keyes. They have been inspected by Mr. O'Kelly of the Cork Museum and by Mr. De Paor, to each of whom the writer owes his indebtedness for any suggestions here tentatively made about them. The site is clearly mediæval, and the objects appear to date from the thirteenth century and onwards.

(1) (Fig. A). Iron spearhead, mediæval.

(2) (Figs. B to F). Horseshoes of the mediæval period. The nail (D), though not found in place as shown, fits in such a way as to form a "cocking."

(3) (Fig. G). Hook for tackling with remains of nail-holes—this could be of any period.

(4) (Fig. H). Spike with hole (indicated by arrow) filled with rust. Perhaps hardly identifiable, but may be a small pick.

(5) Two iron ferrules. The whole area shows quantities of charcoal, and fragments of slag and of unsmelted iron ore have been recovered, showing that ironworking was done on the settlement—a substantial one, judging by the widespread marks of disturbance of the land.

(6) (Fig. I). Bronze pin, of the mediæval period.

(7) (Figs. M and N). Two stone spindle-whorls.

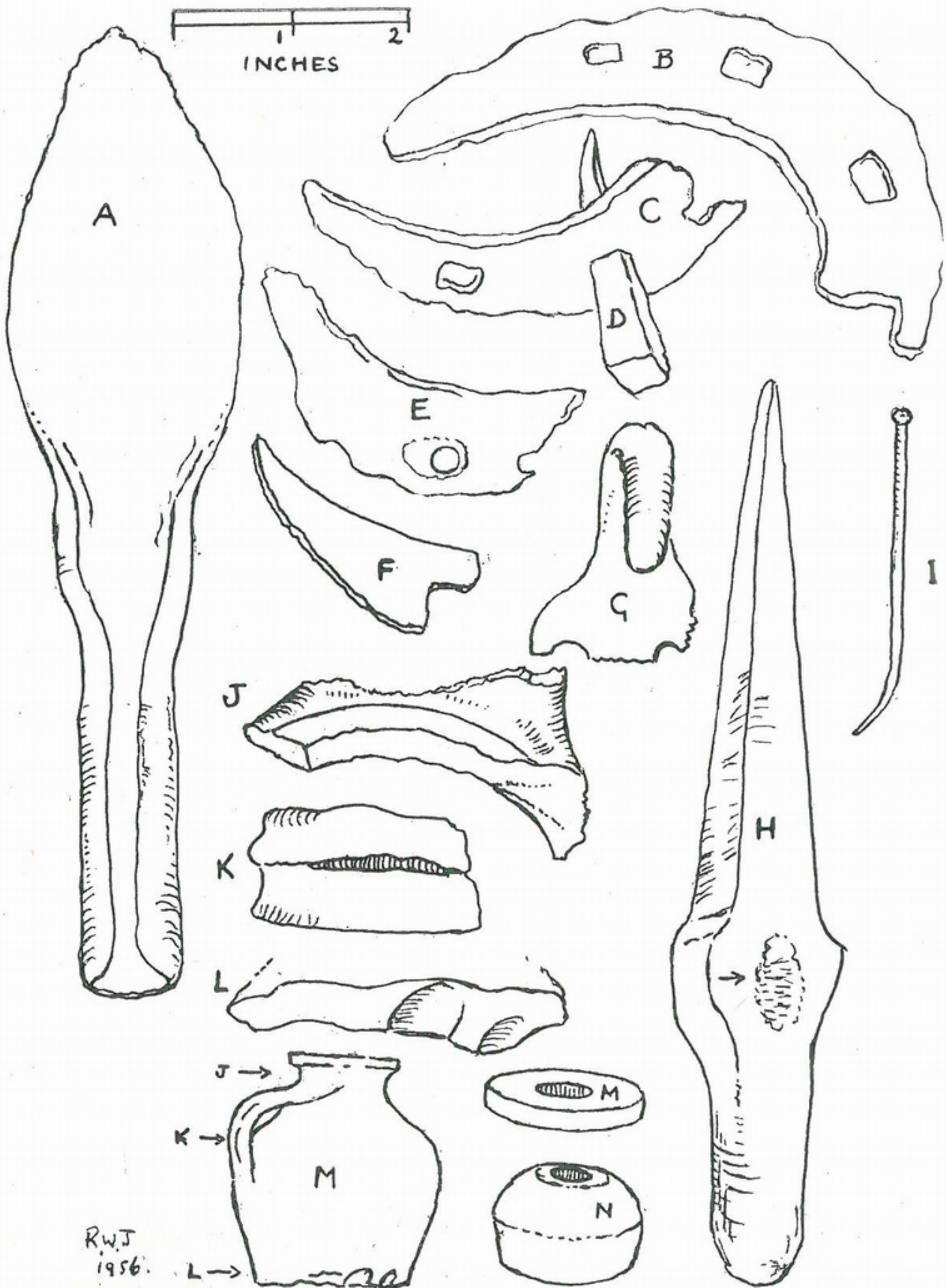
(8) Pottery. Numerous shards of mediæval fragments, glazed with orange, yellow and green. Three identifiable fragments of thick brick-red pottery appear (Figs. J, K, and L). These have been tentatively shown in Fig. M, in the sketch of a strap-handled jug. (J) is part of the green glazed rim, neck, and shoulder of a handle. (K) is a fragment of a handle. (L) is part of a base, thumb marked. For similar pottery see M. J. O'Kelly's paper on the Carrigtohill shell midden (Journal Cork H. and A. Socy., Vol. LX, 1955) in which Mr. De Paor has shown that similar fragments were of the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries.

(9) Elaborate large iron key.

(10) Part of foot of glass bottle, probably early eighteenth century.

(11) Two tobacco pipe stems, perhaps seventeenth-eighteenth century.

This is an important site which would probably give valuable results to further research.



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