2024 # Archaeology in Hampshire

Annual Report

FINDS REPORTED TO THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN 2024

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During 2024 a total of 2654 records detailing Hampshire finds were added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). These relate to the following archaeological periods: Palaeolithic to Neolithic (5%), Bronze Age (4%), Iron Age (11%), Roman (30%), early medieval (5%), medieval (22%), post-medieval and modern (22%), and those of uncertain date (1%). The materials from which finds were made are metal (90%), of which copper alloys (52%), ceramics (2%), flint and stone (7%), and glass (<0.5%). The most common artefact types recorded were coins (48%), followed by brooches (6%), and then buckles (5%). Finds examined but not recorded by the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officers are those that post-date 1700 or are missing a findspot/grid reference.

The following artefacts recorded in 2024 are of particular interest. Each description includes the PAS database number (ID), detailed information of the find, colour photographs and dimensions.

Principal Finds

A Lower Palaeolithic (c. 500,000-300,000 BP) flint scraper from Dummer (HAMP-8E834A) (Fig 1)

The object is fairly large and irregular in plan, with a wedge-shaped cross-section, 48.72mm thick at its widest point. It has been worked across most of its surface with hard hammer flakes, with one convex lateral edge further modified with semi-abrupt retouch flakes to form a scraping edge that measures 15.48mm thick. The tool has a light reddish-brown patina. Possibly Lower Paleolithic Mode 2 scraper, similar to Butler 2005, fig 23: 3, p. 65.

Length: 118.22 mm, Width: 99.39 mm, Thickness: 48.72 mm, Weight: 800 g

Fig 1: A Lower Palaeolithic flint scraper from Dummer (HAMP-8E834A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Mesolithic (c. 9000-4000BC) large and crudely made flint tranchet axe or 'Thames Pick' from Beech (SUR-F61BAA) (Fig 2)

The axe is made from a slim and elongated nodule of pale grey flint. The distal end is curved with a triangular or wedge-shaped side profile and oval cross-section, worked on both faces with hard-hammered removals and a possible tranchet removal on one face. There are large patches of light brown cortex remaining, around 60% on the dorsal surface, 30% on the ventral and across the tapering butt end which is largely unworked and retains the form of the original nodule.

Length: 210 mm, Width: 62.3 mm, Thickness: 42.4 mm, Weight: 550 g

Fig 2: A Mesolithic large and crudely made flint tranchet axe or 'Thames pick' from Beech. (SUR-F61BAA) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A complete Mesolithic (c. 10000-4000 BC) flint tranchet axe-head from Kimpton (SUR-CE6934) (Fig 3)

The tool is struck from a light brown flint and is extensively worked on all sides with soft-hammered removals. It has a lenticular cross-section. The cutting edge is rounded with a characteristic wedge-shaped side profile and a tranchet removal on the dorsal face.

Length: 105 mm, Width: 50 mm, Thickness: 25 mm

Fig 3: A complete Mesolithic flint tranchet axe-head from Kimpton (SUR-CE6934) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Neolithic to Bronze Age (c. 4000 - 1000 BC) flint awl or borer from Kingsclere (DOR-FFC968) (Fig 4)
The object is made on a broken piece of probable laurel-leaf knife. Orange-brown flint with lighter mottles and darker patches. The surface has a glossy patina. The knife has snapped across its width. It has been bifacially worked with long, parallel, low-angle pressure flaking which often extends two-thirds of the way across the body. It has subsequently been reworked with an area of abrupt retouch on one edge and notching on either side to create a projecting point for use as an awl or borer. Length: 30.4 mm, Width: 26.0 mm, Thickness 6.5 mm, Weight: 5.44 g

Fig 4: A Neolithic to Bronze Age flint awl or borer from Kingsclere (DOR-FFC968) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig 5: An incomplete flint barbed and tanged arrowhead (c. 2500 BC-1500 BC) from Alton (SUR-4827A9) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An incomplete Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c. 2500-1500 BC) flint barbed and tanged arrowhead from Alton (SUR-4827A9) (Fig 5)

An incomplete flint barbed and tanged arrowhead made from a pale brown flint, 22.2mm in length. The arrowhead is triangular with slightly curved barbs with angled and slightly pointed ends; one is missing. Both faces have covering scaled low angle retouch.

Similar flint barbed and tanged arrowheads are associated with the Beaker phase of the Late/ final Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c.2500 BC-1500 BC). This example fits into the sub-classification of non-fancy barbed and tanged arrowheads, best described as Sutton types (Butler 2005, fig. 68: 10 pp. 162-165).

Length: 22.2 mm, Width: 19.1 mm, Thickness: 4.4 mm, Weight: 1.53 g

A complete early Middle Bronze Age (1900-1600 BC) cast copper alloy long flanged axe-head from Langrish (SUR-8A6591) (Fig 6)

Corresponding to Type Arreton Needham's (1996) Period 3-4 (c 1900-1600 BC) this axe-head is 73mm in length, with a crescentic blade 33mm wide, expanded flanged sides with hammered oblique ridges. There is possibly a very low and insubstantial stop bevel present, but this is not obvious in the images seen. The flanges run from the blade to the butt end, which is 15mm wide and rounded. The side profile and cross-section are lenticular and the surface is corroded with extensive loss. Cf Needhams (1996) Class 5B.

Length: 73 mm, Width: 33 mm, Thickness: 13 mm, Weight: 81.7 g

Fig 6: A complete early Middle Bronze Age cast copper alloy long flanged axe-head from Langrish (SUR-8A6591) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A fragment of the tip of a Bronze Age spearhead, probably dating from the Middle or Late Bronze Age (c. 1550- 800 BC) from Crondall (SUR-4821AD) (Fig 7)

The fragment is narrow and triangular, tapering to the point. It has a pronounced oval midrib that is solid and runs to the point of the spear with narrow wings of the blade to either side. The break is ancient and highly abraded.

Length: 35.3 mm, Width: 12.9 mm, Thickness: 6.5 mm, Weight: 7.61 g

Fig 7: A fragment of the tip of a Bronze Age spearhead from Crondall (SUR-4821AD) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A sub-triangular decorated polychrome glass bead of suspected Iron Age date (potentially Early Iron Age) from Wonston (SUR-F8F548) (Fig 8)

The body is made from bubbly colourless glass that was wrapped around a mandrel. The perforation ends are well formed and were flattened. The holes are circular and measure 2.9mm in diameter. The surface is decorated with three 'eyes' that were placed evenly around the circumference of the bead. These were made from translucent blue glass and applied to a flattened facet on the body. The 'eyes' were surrounded by a ring of glass in another colour, likely originally opaque white, which has since disintegrated leaving three protruding bosses (this has been observed on other Iron Age beads). Overall, the bead is in good condition although the surface is pitted.

Length: 9.8 mm, Width: 10.3 mm, Weight: 1.11 g

Fig 8: A sub-triangular decorated polychrome glass bead of suspected Iron Age date, from Wonston (SUR-F8F548) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A complete uninscribed gold quarter Stater of the Belgae (c. 55-35 BC) from Cheriton (HAMP-48AD7C) (Fig 9)

A complete uninscribed gold quarter Stater of the Belgae dating to c. 55-35 BC. 'Cogwheel Smiler' as ABC 770. Obverse features a stylised boat design with figures separated by line and cogwheel each side, grinning mouth below. Reverse is a horse left, sunburst above, other rings around. Sills 2017 Db2 Class 2a Cheriton Cogwheels.

Weight: 1.1 g, Diameter: 11 mm

Fig 9: A complete uninscribed gold quarter Stater of the Belgae from Cheriton (HAMP-48AD7C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A middle Iron Age (c. 6th - 3rd century BC) cast copper alloy brooch from Alton (SUR-47836C) (Fig 10)
Likely a British late-Hallstatt derivative type (Cf Hull & Hawkes Group L). The brooch has a bulbous hollow 'leech-shaped' boss with two pairs of arms with rounded cross-section which protrude from either end in a wide V-shape. The base of these arms is decorated with a narrow-ridged collar at either end of the bow and they each have rounded hemispherical terminals with narrow-ridged collars. The terminals and bow are hollow on the underside and there is a notch retaining a portion of a hinged iron pin at one end. There is no visible catch plate.
Length: 34.7 mm, Width: 24.7 mm, Thickness: 11.1 mm, Weight: 12.05 g

Fig 10: A middle Iron Age cast copper alloy brooch from Alton (SUR-47836C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A complete Gold Quarter Stater (20BC-1AD) from Mattingley (HAMP-DDD8DA) (Fig 11)
A complete Gold Quarter Stater (20BC-1AD). Eppillus Calleva Ring. Obverse CALLEV, star above and below. Reverse dog or lion right, ring and EPPI above, pellet daisy below. As ABC 1151, CCI-00322, Van Arsdell Type (VA): 408.01, S96.
Thickness: 1.88 mm, Weight: 1.13 g, Diameter: 9.65 mm

Fig 11: A complete Gold Quarter Stater from Mattingley (HAMP-DDD8DA) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An Iron Age copper alloy sword pommel (AD 43-200) from Kingsclere (BERK-1DDAF5) (Fig 12)
The object is in the form of a male head. There is a prominent, continuous brow which connects to the flared nose. Under the brow are lentoid-shaped eyes. The mouth is a single line and surrounding it is a series of curvilinear lines representing a beard. The beard connects to the hairline. On top the hair is a series of wavy lines and on the back of the head these lines are straight. The ears are raised similarly to the brow and nose and are a single curved line. The inside of the head is hollow. There are some traces of lead suggesting this is how it was mounted.
Height: 29.6 mm, Width: 22.9 mm, Thickness: 22.3 mm, Weight: 22.52 g

A gold Roman Aureus of Nero (AD 54-68) dating to the period AD 65-66 from Silchester (BERK-644ED1) (Fig 13)
A gold Roman Aureus of Nero (AD 54-68) dating to the period AD 65-66 (Reece Period 3). SALVS reverse type depicting Salus, draped, seated left, on ornamental throne, holding patera in right hand and resting left hand on side. Mint of Rome. RIC I (2nd ed.), no. 59.
Weight: 7.35 g, Diameter: 19.2 mm

Fig 12: An Iron Age copper alloy sword pommel from Kingsclere (BERK-1DDAF5) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig 13: A gold Roman Aureus of Nero from Silchester (BERK-644ED1) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An early Roman (AD 43-150) anthropomorphic cast copper alloy mount moulded into the form of a facing male head from Owslebury (SUR-2D3D29) (Fig 14)

The features are well defined and executed in an insular Romano-British style with lentoid eyes, thick lips, prominent nose and eyebrows and incised hair and beard. The head has a male pattern baldness with hair confined to arcs around the tops of the ears. The reverse is hollow with an integrally cast square-sectioned attachment shank protruding from the centre.

Possibly a depiction of Silenus, the foster-father of Bacchus and leader of satyrs. He is usually shown as bald-beaded with a snub-nose, pointed ears and a moustache and beard. The style of fitting suggests a function as a casket or furniture mount. For a similar style of anthropomorphic fitting (albeit a depiction of Attis) see Cunliffe (1971) p 117 fig 48 no 124.

Length: 28 mm, Height: 30 mm, Width: 20 mm, Weight: 28.1 g

Fig 14: An early Roman anthropomorphic cast copper alloy mount from Owslebury (SUR-2D3D29) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Roman (c. AD 43-150) incomplete cast copper alloy nail cleaner from Over Wallop (OXON-F19958) (Fig 15)

The nail cleaner comprises a circular suspension loop pierced with a circular hole that has been broken, likely due to wear, and now resembles a crescent. Below this is a moulded collar formed from two transverse beads that mark the junction of the wide curved shoulder of the blade. This in turn is a flattened leaf-shaped plate that tapers to a narrow bifurcate terminal in the shape of a small, forked tail. Both surfaces are corroded and plain with no decoration. The object is a medium to dark green in colour.

Crummy has provided a basic typology of the examples excavated from Roman Colchester (Crummy, 1983, p. 57-58). This example falls loosely into her Type 2a or 2b nail cleaners due to its flat, tapering leaf-shaped blade (Crummy 1983, p. 58, nos. 1872-1874), which she suggests is a developed form that was in use from the mid- to late 1st century AD, probably continuing into the 2nd century AD. See also Eckardt, H and Crummy, N 2008, p. 121, fig. 59. Further examples can be found on the Portable Antiquities database: SF-69E748, NCL-F1C187 and BH-1B2146.

Length: 40.79 mm, Width: 15.14 mm, Thickness: 1.81 mm, Weight: 5.06 g

Fig 15: A Roman incomplete cast copper alloy nail cleaner from Over Wallop (OXON-F19958) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Roman silver siliqua of Valentinian I (AD 364-375) dating to c.AD 364-367, from Micheldever (SUR-E3DA4B) (Fig 16)

A Roman silver siliqua of Valentinian I (AD 364-375) dating to c. AD 364-367. (Reece Period 19). VOT/V/MV•LT/X reverse depicting legend within a wreath. Mint of Rome. RIC IX, p. 118, no. 10a; Hoxne, p. 137, no. 194.

Weight: 2.1 g, Diameter: 19 mm

A curved copper alloy fragment of a Roman copper alloy bracelet, decorated with multiple motifs, dating to c. AD 250-410 from Whitchurch (SUR-061594) (Fig 17)

A curved copper alloy fragment of a Roman copper alloy bracelet, decorated with multiple motifs, dating to c.AD 250-410. The fragment has a plano-convex cross-section and a curved side profile suggesting an original diameter of around 60mm. The exterior surface is decorated with a rectangular panel of incised cross-hatched lines within outer borders of punched annulets and flanked at either end with transverse ridged collars to rounded lobes. These end in old breaks at both ends, the neat and symmetrical nature of the breaks suggesting that the fragment may have been deliberately cut.

Length: 29.9 mm, Width: 7.1 mm, Thickness: 3 mm, Weight: 4.72 g

Fig 16: A Roman silver siliqua of Valentinian I from Micheldever (SUR-E3DA4B) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig 17: A curved copper alloy fragment of a Roman copper alloy bracelet from Whitchurch (SUR-061594) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An early medieval (AD 850-900) gold 'aestel' from Fawley (HAMP-332CA1) (Fig 18)

The dome is constructed of a continuous gold sheet and features a cruciform motif on its upper surface, made up of a central pellet cross and bordered with beaded wire. The outside of this central border is divided into a cross-saltire by four triangular pellet clusters, aligned with the arms of the central cross. This is bordered by another circle of beaded wire spanning the circumference of the dome. The base of the dome, where it is soldered to the back plate and where the head is joined to the socket, is decorated with a continuous beaded wire border, curving over the top of the socket. The field between the middle and basal borders contains seven triangular-shaped pellet clusters. These clusters alternate between larger triangles with seven pellets (aligned with the arms of the central cross), and smaller clusters made up of three pellets spaced halfway between the larger triangles.

The socket is formed from a continuous rolled sheet of gold which is rectangular in plan and semi-circular in section, with aligned vertical rivet holes on both the front and reverse, near its terminal. The edges of the sheet are visible on one side of the socket, running from its opening to the aestel head. The socket opening is decorated with beaded wire. The gold rivet has a slightly domed circular head and a sub-rectangular body that narrows to the flattened terminal. The object has been partially crushed, with the dome, back plate, and socket slightly dented, and the rivet slightly bent as well. The filigree and granulation are fairly worn.

Fig 18: An early medieval gold 'aestel' from Fawley (HAMP-332CA1) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

This item fits well into a group of early medieval Anglo-Saxon manuscript pointers known as 'aestels,' a word associated with Alfred the Great's 890-897 English translation of Pope Gregory the Great's

'Pastoral Care'. Copies of King Alfred's translation were distributed to notable bishops and accompanied by an aestel worth 50 mancuses. Comparison with the Latin word hasta (spear) have led to the suggestion that aestels were book or manuscript pointers, with the decorative head attached to a wood or ivory rod (Webster and Backhouse 1991, pg. 260).

These objects range in quality from elaborate examples possibly owned by powerful members of the clergy or monarchy to more modest examples, probably used by lesser clergy. Whatever the original purpose or owner, aestels as they are known today are linked by common features including domed fronts, flat reverses, and riveted sockets. The largest and most elaborate aestels include the Alfred Jewel (Webster and Backhouse 1991, no. 260) and the Minster Lovell jewel (Webster and Backhouse 1991, No. 259) both of which are encrusted with gold filigree and pellets and contain enamel inlay. This example (2024 T200) bears more similarity to the Bowleaze cove fitting (Webster and Backhouse 1991 no. 258), a more modest piece with a small glass inset and relatively simple granulated cruciform design around.

Length: 20.75 mm, Width: 15.6 mm, Thickness: 7.69 mm, Weight: 4.21 g

An incomplete early medieval (AD 520-570) gilded cast copper alloy bird brooch from Corhampton and Meonstoke (HAMP-59E2D5) (Fig 19)

An incomplete gilded cast copper alloy bird brooch. Profile bird of prey or raven. Chip-carved details include a hooked sub-triangular beak and a large circular eye with a recess for a missing gem. The body of the brooch has a pointed oval wing decorated with a geometric motif. The tail and feet are partially broken off. The reverse of the object retains remnants of a pin and possible catch plate, made of iron.

Fig 19: An incomplete early medieval gilded cast copper alloy bird brooch from Corhampton and Meonstoke (HAMP-59E2D5) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Additional information on these brooches has been provided by Barry Ager, formerly of the British Museum who wrote:

'It was very interesting to see the bird brooch from Corhampton/Meonstoke in Current Archaeology recently (HAMP-59E2D5). As the article notes, it is very similar to Merovingian examples, but the French archaeologist J. Soulat draws a broad distinction between the vertical Merovingian forms and the related Anglo-Saxon ones like Corhampton, which are either standing or crouching (Soulat, 2009, section 2.5, fig. 32). The distinction is not always too clear-cut, but the Anglo-Saxon variants, a few of which have also been found on sites in the north of France with Anglo-Saxon connections, are further defined by Style I motifs (often much simplified) on their bodies and wings. The Merovingian brooches date from c. 520/30 - 560/70. The Anglo-Saxon and Frankish types may originate in Roman bird brooches, but further research is needed.'

Length: 20 mm, Width: 10 mm, Weight: 4.06 g

An incomplete early medieval (c. AD 950-1100) gilded copper alloy finger ring from Ellisfield (HAMP-E16FF7) (Fig 20)

The setting is filled with a cloisonné blue glass trefoil with white glass in the three angles. There are raised moulded decorations on the shoulders of the ring, either side of the bezel. These are comprised of raised confronting beasts on either side of the setting, with small lenticular eyes and mouths biting the setting, all within a sub-triangular raised border. The shoulders of the ring taper smoothly from the bezel to the side of the hoop where there is an old break on each side. Most of the band has broken off, but that which remains has a sub-oval section.

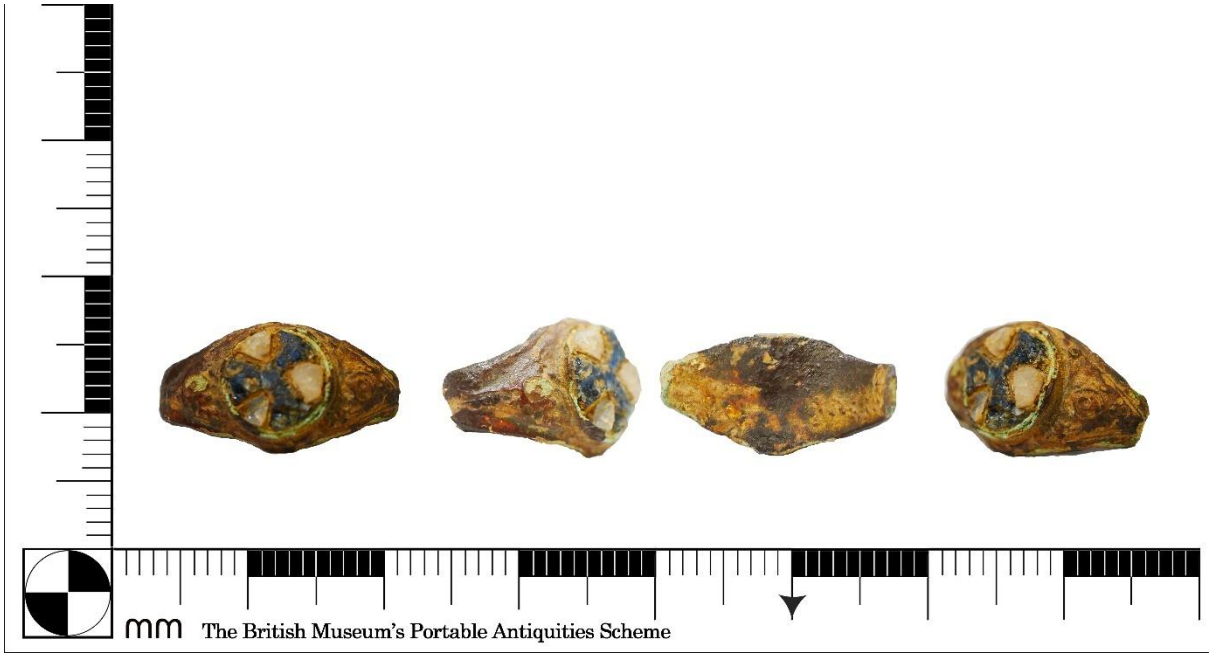

Fig 20: An incomplete early medieval gilded copper alloy finger ring from Ellisfield (HAMP-E16FF7) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

This finger ring fits into a small group of early medieval finger rings with applied cloisonné panels inlaid with enamel, and hoops decorated with filigree and/or granulation. The style of the finger ring is in turn very similar to the cloisonné brooches of the 10th-11th century (Weetch type 20).

Other examples of finger rings in this style include LVPL500, which is of similar design but uses different colours. It too is gilded copper alloy. LON-A2FD02 is also broadly similar, but has a square bezel and there are more granulation pellets affixed to the shoulders. Compare also BH-C726E1. Precious metal examples are also known, for example FAKL-6C1815 and LON-3478C7. This decorative scheme was also used on the Minster Lovell Jewel (Hinton, 2008, 30-32). The range of colours used matches well with Weetch Type 20 brooches, such as YORYM-606C51 (which could be from a brooch or finger ring) and SWYOR-BCFF31. Compare also SF-16D477 which has similar T-shaped cells.
Length: 17.71 mm, Height: 9.22 mm, Thickness: 2.66 mm, Weight: 1.13 g

An early medieval (AD 475-570) flat gilded cast copper alloy harness pendant from Quarley (SUR-7B6EBA) (Fig 21)
The pendant is richly decorated with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic moulded ornament in Salin's Style I. The plate is crescent-shaped with flanking bird heads curving out and back towards one end of the plate, with a facing anthropomorphic mask between. The mask has round eyes, a triangular nose and a small circular mouth and bifurcating beard beneath, with flanking tendrils to either side of the head which frame it and connect to the undersides of the flanking bird heads. These bird heads have lenticular eyes with ridged brows, pairs of curved lines representing cheeks, short curled tendrils running back from the brow and projecting curled beaks which extend to the pointed corners of the lower edge of the plate. There are also small round projecting knops from the edges of the plate on the crest of the brows; the one on the right-hand side has broken off. The beak of the right-side head is also lost to an old break across the plate. Linking the back of the flanking beast heads is an arched border running across the top of the plate which is plain with punched dot borders. A double-lugged suspension loop projects from the top of the plate, perpendicular to the plane of the plate. The reverse of the plate is flat and undecorated.

Fig 21: An early medieval flat gilded cast copper alloy harness pendant from Quarley (SUR-7B6EBA) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A similar composition of bearded anthropomorphic mask, flanked by downward- pointing bird or beast heads, can be seen in a number of other examples of pendants such as DOR-110E95, YORYM-D3F6A6, NLM-F2F7C2, SF-2B80FC and also an example from Oxfordshire in the Ashmolean collection

(MacGregor and Bolick 1993, p 163 number 25.9). This combination of motifs can perhaps be best interpreted as a representation of Woden (Odin) with his two ravens (Huginn and Muninn) or his two wolves (Geri and Freki). Pairs of bird heads on pendants, with or without accompanying anthropomorphic elements, are also sometimes interpreted as representations of eagles.
Length: 38.7 mm, Width: 39.2 mm, Thickness: 5.7 mm, Weight: 11.39 g

An incomplete medieval (c. AD 1100 - 1400) copper alloy zoomorphic barrel lock or padlock in the shape of a horse from East Meon (HAMP-17FFA4) (Fig 22)
The object is hollow and is missing several elements including the locking mechanism and the horse's head. The remaining sections include a sub-rectangular body that features a saddle. There are four small and now incomplete legs. The chest of the animal has an opening for the key. The rear of the animal has an opening for the bolt holding the shackle arm, which would have curved around to enter the hole on the back of the horse's head to emerge from the hole in the horse's mouth (see LANCUM-CB2F97 and DENO-EFE719 for complete examples).

Fig 22: An incomplete medieval copper alloy zoomorphic barrel lock or padlock from East Meon (HAMP-17FFA4) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

This form of padlock would probably have secured small caskets. A similar example was found during excavations at Winchester in a 12th to mid-13th century context (Goodall in Biddle 1990, 1011, fig. 313, no. 3665). Goodall illustrates a similar style padlock, no. 3665, found in a 12th to early 13th century context, but comments these Type C padlocks continue into the 16th century. See also SF-89AAB2, SF-FE54A7, WAW-6FD3F4, LON-F8C4AC, SF-89AAB2, LIN-9283A5, WAW-565B1A, PUBLIC-48959D, SOM-0510EF, DENO-EFE719.
Length: 37.35 mm, Width: 29.06 mm, Thickness: 11.49 mm, Weight: 12.47 g

A medieval (AD 1150-1350) gold gem-set finger ring of 'stirrup' type from Worldham (HAMP-2D6B38) (Fig 23)

The hoop is D-shaped in cross-section and expands to a thickened triangular bezel with a recessed oval setting for a gem, now missing. There is a severe dent in the side of the hoop, where it has been bent inwards. This damage is likely to have occurred post-deposition. The external diameter is difficult to measure owing to the damage.

Stirrup-shaped finger rings were in use from the mid-12th to the 15th century (c. AD 1150 - c.1450), but were probably most common in the first half of this date range (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 326-327). Parallels to this style of ring are published by Charles Oman (1974, Plate 15B, p.93) dated to the 13th century, and in Egan and Pritchard (2002: 326), No. 1609, dated from the 12th-13th centuries.

Length: 24.16 mm, Width: 16.88 mm, Thickness: 2.03 mm, Weight: 1.35 g

Fig 23: A medieval gold gem-set finger ring of 'stirrup' type from Worldham (HAMP-2D6B38) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A medieval (c. AD 1250-1400) cast copper alloy openwork teardrop-shaped brooch from Chilcomb (SUR-FF9E38) (Fig 24)

The brooch has six raised oval collets, which are filled with a white paste. Between the collets, the frame has a plano-convex cross-section, 3.7mm wide and 2.5mm thick, decorated with two rows of small, punched annulets and with a stepped rim around the outside edge. There is a pin constriction on one side retaining the articulation loop of an incomplete copper alloy wire pin. Circa late 13th-14th century.

Length: 25.1 mm, Thickness: 4.1 mm, Weight: 3.73 g

Fig 24: A medieval cast copper alloy openwork teardrop-shaped brooch from Chilcomb (SUR-FF9E38) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A medieval (c. AD 1200-1400) copper alloy annular brooch from Fyfield (BERK-495468) (Fig 25)
The brooch has six collets, evenly spaced around the upper side of the frame. Each collet is a raised circular projection with a dished interior which contains a white paste that would have mounted a stone. One has a remaining blue stone. There is a constriction in the frame for the pin, The pin is copper alloy with a penannular attachment loop that is wrapped around the frame.
Thickness: 4.9 mm, Weight: 3.61 g, Diameter: 25.1 mm

Fig 25: A medieval copper alloy annular brooch from Fyfield (BERK-495468) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A late medieval or early post-medieval (c. AD 1400-1600) cast copper alloy signet ring from Itchen Valley (HAMP-ABBE4A) (Fig 26)

The bezel is circular, 12.65mm in diameter and raised from the line of the hoop. It has a merchant's mark engraved within a concentric groove. The mark comprises a central lower-case Lombardic 'h' with an ear of wheat to the right and three dashes to the left. The band is sub-circular with a plano-convex section and the shoulders widen slightly at the bezel. Similar signet rings believed to have belong to merchants are illustrated in Salisbury Museum Medieval Catalogue and are generally given a date c. 15th - 16th century (see figures 20-23, page 46).

Length: 26.37 mm, Height: 11.68 mm, Width: 24.21 mm, Thickness: 3.67 mm, Weight: 5.83 g

Fig 26: A late medieval or early post-medieval cast copper alloy signet ring from Itchen Valley (HAMP-ABBE4A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A post-medieval (c.AD 1500-1600) cast copper alloy dress fastener (dress hook) from Ropley (HAMP-10A58C) (Fig 27)

The main plate is an openwork trefoil knot design with a D-shaped section. Two parallel scrolls meet at the centre of the object in a coiled motif. Beneath this is a quatrefoil design which then extends out to an integral flat hook at one end, separated from the main plate by a slightly widened collar. The hook is blunt and formed of a flat rectangular tongue bent backwards against the plate. The object has a light grey patina.

These are classified as dress fasteners as they are used in pairs with a corresponding eye. A similar clasp is in Read (2008), p.177, no. 669; together with a parallel eye section, no. 670. Similar examples can be found on the PAS database under BERK-340F4C, LIN-91780D, LIN-B70798, WAW-F3766F, SUSS-B494C1, and SUSS-356092.

Length: 41 mm, Width: 24.5 mm, Weight: 7.6 g

Fig 27: A post-medieval cast copper alloy dress fastener (dress hook) from Ropley (HAMP-10A58C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A complete post-medieval (AD 1660-1800) pedestal-style silver personal seal matrix from Amport (SUR-111A7A) (Fig 28)

The die is oval and depicts a coat of arms with two chevrons and (possibly) a label above in a lozenge-shaped shield, with helm and crest of a couped boar's head above and surrounded by garniture. The handle has a circular cross-section with a baluster-shaped handle terminating in a round suspension loop which has a light trefoil or slightly lyre-shaped profile. There is no legend, maker's mark or hallmark.

Fig 28: A complete post-medieval pedestal-style silver personal seal matrix from Amport (SUR-111A7A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

This seal matrix would have acted as a personal seal for the closing and authorisation of letters and correspondence, the device identifying the sender. In this case, the lozenge-shaped escutcheon of the shield suggests the owner was female. Without details of the tincture however, the arms cannot conclusively be identified. Comparable silver pedestal-style matrices with familial coats of arms of similar style and treatment and presented in a similar way without mottos or legends, include: HESH-AF0B20 (2022 T984); and OXON-27F409 (2020T240). All are dated to the 17th century, however this style of seal matrix is also common into the mid to late 18th century, for example see Pateman (2008, p110-111). The lyre-shaped profile of the suspension loop also suggests a slightly later date.
Length: 15.1 mm, Height: 19.9 mm, Width: 14 mm, Weight: 7.14 g

A complete post-medieval (c. 1680-1720) gold Memento Mori (mourning) ring from Petersfield (HAMP-B98CD0) (Fig 29)
The ring has panels of scrolled foliate decoration on each shoulder that are filled with black enamel. The bezel is oval in shape and is comprised of three sections: the backing which is integral with the band, the rock crystal setting, and a strip of gold decorated with zig-zag pattern at the front which forms a flange or lip over the stone to hold it in place. The flange appears to have been soldered to the back section of the bezel and there is a groove where the two halves meet. The zig-zag decoration is evident above this groove. The bezel contains a clear faceted rock crystal or glass setting, through which is visible an interwoven frame of gold thread, surrounding a possible portrait, or illegible monogram, also made of gold thread. The reverse of the bezel is decorated by two rows, cells or flutes filled with black enamel, with a small white enamel dot near the central end of each cell. There are 11 of these cells on one side of the bezel and 12 on the other side (total of 23). There is no inscription or maker's mark.

Fig 29: A complete post-medieval gold Memento Mori (mourning) ring from Petersfield (HAMP-B98CD0) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Mourning rings became popular mementos of deceased loved ones in Britain in the 17th century, worn by family and friends for up to a year following the death. They served to commemorate specific individuals and often included compartments underneath the bezel for locks of the individual's hair, sometimes decoratively woven and braided in a practice called hairwork (Scarisbrick et al, 2003, p.66). Oman (1974, p.73) notes that by the 17th century mourning rings had become something of a "status symbol", with late century rings (often set with crystal) being among the better executed examples.
External diameter of band: 19.37mm, Depth of setting: 6.12mm, Thickness of band: 0.80mm, Width of band: 2.29mm, Stone: 11.92mm long x 11.07mm wide

A post-medieval (1500-1600) copper alloy and iron object, possibly a knife handle, from Headbourne Worthy (HAMP-AD863E) (Fig 30)
The handle is sub-rectangular in plan and in section. One end is pointed and the other is flat. The flat end is slightly bevelled and has iron staining. The handle in inscribed with Lombardic lettering on both sides. One side reads POVLET. The other side reads GYLES +.

According to Malcolm Jones, it is possible this knife belonged to the Gyles Poulet/Paulet who was the fourth son of William Paulet, 1st Marquis of Winchester. Giles was born after 1521 and died in 1580, so if this is his knife handle it must be of mid-16th century date. This particular Gyles Lord Poulet is so spelled in a document of 1575 in the NA, and was admitted to the Drapers Company in 1558. According to vol 3, p.4213 of the 2003 edition of Burke's Peerage he lived at Cokels in Wiltshire.
Length: 22.62 mm, Width: 9.54 mm, Thickness: 6.08 mm, Weight: 7.64 g

Fig 30: A post-medieval copper alloy and iron object, possibly a knife handle, from Headbourne Worthy (HAMP-AD863E) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A complete post-medieval (AD 1550-1750) copper alloy strap fitting from St. Mary Bourne (BERK-25E1F9) (Fig 31)

The object is a zoomorphic belt hook and is S-shaped with an oval cross-section. A zoomorphic, or animal head, terminal is present at either end, depicting a dragon or serpent's head with a brow ridge and crest, pointed nose and open jaw, an oval eye is also visible. At the centre of the S is a 'waisted' area comprising a central flower design, consisting of a moulded collar with three knops, flanked by grooves and leaves from either side.

Read has published a similar belt fitting as #822 (Read, 2008, p.230) which he has dated to c. mid-16th to early 17th century, possibly from a sword belt. However, the style is a relatively long-lived one, persisting into the 20th century. The earliest snake-form fasteners appear on portraits of the early post-medieval period, often in association with sword-belts. Bailey (1997, p.20) states that the 'snake form belt hooks' became popular during the 16th century, where an example can be seen in the portrait of Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, c. 1575. The fastener was part of a sword belt and was used in place of the normal buckle. It is likely that these strap fittings would have been tinned or gilded. The snake belt hook would seem to have fallen from fashion by the 17th century and remained so until the end of the 18th century, when it was favoured by the military.

Fig 31: A complete post-medieval copper alloy strap fitting from St. Mary Bourne (BERK-25E1F9) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

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