2023 **Archaeology in Hampshire**

Annual Report

FINDS REPORTED TO THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN 2023

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During 2023 a total of 2,010 records detailing Hampshire finds were added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). These relate to the following archaeological periods: Palaeolithic to Neolithic (4%), Bronze Age (3%), Iron Age (5%), Roman (27%), early medieval (4%), medieval (30%), post-medieval, modern (26%), and those of uncertain date (1%). The materials from which finds were made are metal (93%), of which copper alloys (57%), ceramics (2%), flint & stone (5%), and glass (<0.5%). The most common artefact types recorded were coins (47%), followed by buckles (7%), and then brooches (6%). 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 2023 are of particular interest. Each description includes the PAS database number (ID), and detailed information of the find, colour photographs and dimensions.

Principal Finds

A Lower Palaeolithic (c. 600,000 - 300,000 BP) flint Cordate (heart-shaped) hand axe of Butler mode 2 type J from New Milton (HAMP- 787113) (Fig 1)

The hand axe has a light reddish-brown colour and a pointed oval section. Both faces are finished by shallow invasive flaking (soft hammer), with the planar face also having almost continuous finer edge retouch, in places giving a step-flaked edge. There is an imperfection in the flint near the base (a hollow filled with crystals) which has been used to create the notch typically seen on Cordate hand axes.

Length: 144.78 mm, Width: 84.17 mm, Thickness: 36.36 mm, Weight: 432 g

Fig 1: A Lower Palaeolithic flint Cordate (heart-shaped) hand axe from New Milton (HAMP- 787113) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A Mesolithic (c. 9000 - 4000 BC) flint tranchet axe/adze from Alton (HAMP-119A3C) (Fig 2)

The adze is made of dark grey nodular flint and has been formed through the removal of large hard hammer flakes with minimal rippling across its dorsal and ventral surfaces. The tool is sub-rectangular in plan, with slightly curving parallel sides, a trapezoidal cross-section at the proximal end and a lenticular cross-section at the distal end. The adze is wedge shaped in profile at the distal end, with a cutting edge formed from hard-hammer removal of large tranchet flakes that have been struck from the lateral edge of the adze near the blade. Some smaller hard-hammer flakes have been removed along both edges, which also look battered indicating possible use (Field, 1989). There is some patina remaining on both the dorsal and ventral surfaces of the adze.

One of four adzes found in the same general area of a field. Brought in for recording along with several other stone tools by the landowner.

Length: 149.81 mm, Width: 56.86 mm, Thickness: 36.8 mm, Weight: 360 g
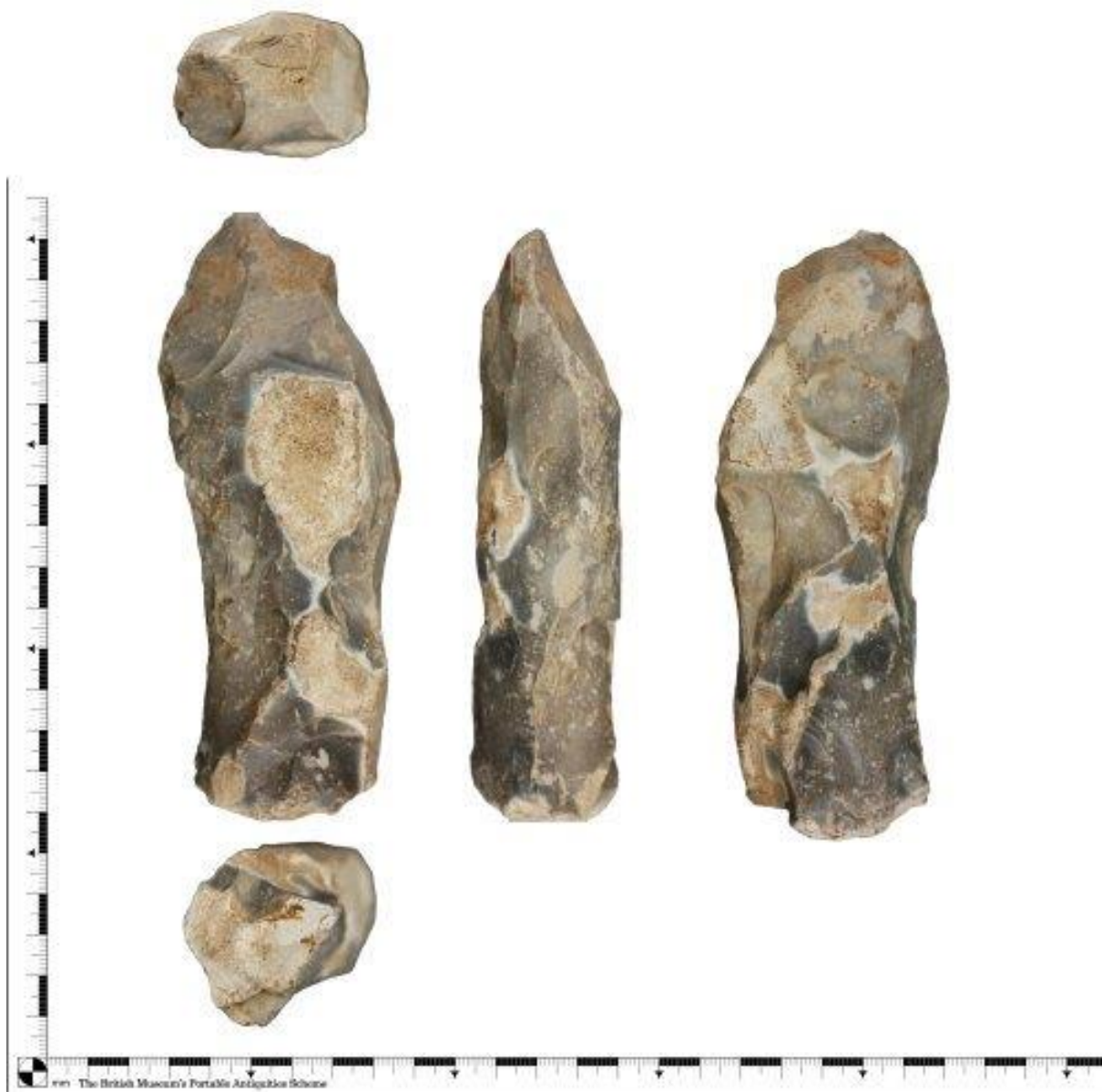

Fig 2: A Mesolithic flint tranchet axe/adze from Alton
(HAMP-119A3C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A probably Neolithic flint combination tool, piercer/borer, from Fareham (HAMP-7CB8AA) (Fig 3)
The object has been manufactured on a large hard-hammer flake and is sub-spatulate in plan and bi-convex in section. This tool has abrupt retouch on the two lateral edges, converging to form a point with a thick triangular cross-section. The left lateral edge hooks inward, much like a hollow scraper. The dorsal surface is convex with three predominant negative scars and corresponding arises. The dorsal right-hand edge has had multiple semi-abrupt retouch flakes removed. It tapers to form a projecting distal spur. The proximal edge is blunted. The ventral surface is slightly convex, shallow ripples of percussion emanating from the distal end. It looks to have broken in an irregular manner indicative of an imperfection in the flint or frost cracking. The lithic retains cortex on the proximal ventral end. The flint is an opaque light grey in colour with cream inclusions. The cortex is light orange and grey.

This is probably a piercer that would have been used in a twisting motion backwards and forwards to create a hole and would have been used on tougher materials than an awl. Piercers are known to be made on a variety of flake sizes from small to very large flakes. Similar to Combination tools on pages 168-169 of Butler's Prehistoric Flintwork, (2005) indicating a possible later Neolithic date.
Length: 105.88 mm, Width: 66.79 mm, Thickness: 19.81 mm, Weight: 154.58 g

Fig 3: A probably Neolithic flint combination tool, piercer/borer, from Fareham
(HAMP-7CB8AA) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Middle Bronze Age (c. 1275 - 1100 BC) rapier fragment, large portion of the blade and tip, probably a Group IV Type, from Little Somborne (OXON-18E967) (Fig 4)

The haft and lower portion of the blade are missing to an old transverse break across the blade. The fragment begins at the transverse break where it is 18.9mm wide and 3.0mm thick. From this point it narrows in a slightly convex curve, almost a straight line, to a dull point which is also slightly truncated by a small break. The blade edge is chipped frequently along its length. The blade has a sub-oval cross-section with slightly crinoline surfaces particularly near the blade edge and becomes more hexagonal with a flattened mid rib towards the break. The fragment is a dark green colour.

While the fragment is incomplete the long narrow body suggests this came from a thrusting weapon that may have extended longer than 350mm. The difference between rapiers and dirks is suggested by Burgess and Gerloff (1981: 5) to be around this point, although these same authors note the arbitrary nature of this. However, its cross-section is the same as that defined by Burgess and Gerloff (1981, p. 62) as included on Group IV examples (for examples see the blade fragments on plate 59). These are suggested to date in southern Britain to the Penard phase c. 1275-1100 cal BC (ibid: 106-109)

Length: 114.3 mm, Width: 18.9 mm, Thickness: 3 mm, Weight: 25.64 g

Fig 2: A Middle Bronze Age rapier fragment from Little Somborne
(OXON-18E967) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

41

A Middle Bronze Age (probably Penard phase, c. 1300 - 1100 BC) flange- or bar-twisted gold torc fragment from Horndean (BERK-CDCA77) (Fig 5)

The fragment is straight with breaks at either end. The torc has an X-shaped cross-section with four flanges, although they twist in such a way as to give a circular cross-section around the flanges. The breaks are quite sharp, suggesting they could be quite recent. The bend is not quite at the centre of the object.

Length: 41.1 mm, Weight: 7.45 g, Diameter: 6.8 mm

Fig 3: A Middle Bronze Age flange- or bar-twisted gold torc fragment from Horndean
(BERK-CDCA77) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Late Bronze Age damaged cast copper alloy socketed axe head from Martin (HAMP-819328) (Fig 6)

The socketed axe head is broadly rectangular in plan, flaring in width towards the crescentic and enclosed cutting edge. At the other end to the cutting edge the socket has been bent inwards. This gives the axe head a flat rectangular profile. The mouth of the socket has one large, moulded transverse rib. The sides of the outer edge of the axe have vertical casting seams on them. A small integrally cast D-shaped loop is fixed on to the side and extends from just below the moulded rib on one side of the axe. The socketed end of the axe head has suffered damage and has been folded in on itself. The axe head has a mid-green patina with paler green patination in the many pits and abrasions covering the surface.

Fig 6: A Late Bronze Age damaged cast copper alloy socketed axe head from Martin
(HAMP-819328) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An Iron Age (c. 55 – 45 BC) early uninscribed gold stater of the Regni and Atrebates from Portchester West (HAMP-5375B1) (Fig 7)

A Selsey Rings gold stater of Atrebatic Abstract Type. Obverse shows an abstracted head of Apollo right with a series of small rings scattered within hair and spiked ornament or wreath with three pellets or pellet-in-ring motifs. Reverse shows disjointed triple-tailed horse (right) with pellet terminals and six-spoked wheel below and charioteer's arms above. The horses' ears are made up of two curves forming an oval. ABC 494, SPINK 212-1 (van Arsdell, 1989, pp. 113-114).

Weight: 5.35 g, Diameter: 18.91 mm

Fig 7: An Iron Age early uninscribed gold stater of the Regni and Atrebates from Portchester West
(HAMP-5375B1) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An Iron Age (c. 150 BC - AD 50) cast copper alloy and enamel domed stud from Andover (HAMP-34677B) (Fig 8)

The stud is circular in shape and semi-circular in profile. The stud has a concave base and is missing its pin. The head has a circular perforation through the top centre. The stud is decorated with multiple red enamel-filled pointed oval-shaped voids that are arranged in a design that looks floral. A La Tene style stud, possibly a continental import.

Thickness: 12 mm, Weight: 13.3 g, Diameter: 12 mm

Fig 8: An Iron Age cast copper alloy and enamel domed stud from Andover (HAMP-34677B) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An early Iron Age to Roman (800 BC - AD 410) miniature cast copper alloy socketed Axe Pendant from Winslade (SUR-00BB6A) (Fig 9)

The axe head has a narrow body which widens to a slightly curved blade edge. The socket is sub-rectangular with a decorative ridge around it and is hollow down to around a third of the length of the object. There are pierced holes on either face of the axe near the socket and a notch on one edge next to them. There are also wear marks across the line of both holes which suggest that the axe head may originally have been hafted onto a small handle, now lost.

Miniature socketed axe heads can be dated from the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition through to the Roman period, though a date towards the earlier end of the spectrum is more likely. They

44

probably functioned as amulets or votive offerings and are particularly associated with the sites of shrines, where they were either deposited or acquired as votive items.

Length: 25.5 mm, Width: 12.3 mm, Thickness: 5.9 mm, Weight: 5.5 g

Fig 9: An early Iron Age to Roman miniature cast copper alloy socketed Axe Pendant from Winslade (SUR-00BB6A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A possibly late Iron Age to Roman cast copper alloy figurine of a bull or cow from Micheldever (HAMP-036D4F) (Fig 10)

The bull has two broad upward curving horns with slightly rounded tips, behind which are pointed oval-shaped ears that project from the side of the head. The bull has a sub-rectangular face with faint features including eyes and a mouth. The body is sub-rectangular in form, and tapers to the tail, which is oval in section and turns downward towards the bull's feet. The legs of the bull are chunky sub-rectangular shapes that curve outward slightly from the body, and have cloven hoofs and hocks present. There are possible udders visible between the animal's legs, though this could be male anatomy.

Length: 60.1 mm, Height: 27 mm, Width: 29 mm, Weight: 50 g

Fig 10: A late Iron Age to Roman cast copper alloy figurine of a bull or cow from Micheldever (HAMP-036D4F) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Romano-British (c. AD 25-70) Colchester Type one-piece brooch from Warsash (HAMP-F5D10B) (Fig 11)

A Romano-British Colchester Type one-piece brooch (Hattatt, 1985, pp. 26-29). The brooch has short wings and a forward-facing hook on its head. Three coiled springs remain on one side, but the springs on the other side are missing, as is the pin. The front of the brooch is narrow and tapers from the head to the tip. It is decorated with a zig-zag line in sunk relief down the length of its face. The profile of the brooch is characterised by a bow-like continuous single curve to a vertical catch-plate about one-third down. The triangular-shaped catch plate has two circular perforations that are arranged vertically. The bow has a flattened oval section, curves gently from top to bottom and narrows to a plain foot. Sub class: Colchester, Mackreth, 2011, 4.b. decorated bow, Chapter 2, Part 3, C 4.b.

Length: 69.92 mm, Width: 16.68 mm, Thickness: 2.92 mm, Weight: 9.52 g

Fig 11: A Romano-British Colchester Type one-piece brooch from Warsash
(HAMP-F5D10B) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A probable later Iron Age to early Roman incomplete cast copper alloy strap fitting, or strap union junction, from Baghurst (HAMP-E7A084) (Fig 12)

The object is formed from four loops joined at a central boss decorated with a stylised human head in relief. The head depicts the facial features beneath a pronounced brow ridge which may indicate a hairline. The nose is quite pronounced and tapers down from beneath the brow. The eyes are sunken and sit quite close to the nose. The mouth is represented by two pressed lips which take the shape of two raised parallel ridges. Beneath this the chin extends outwardly slightly before sharply coming in to meet a loop at the bottom which has broken off. The other three loops sit to the left, right, and above the face. Simply executed: a narrow-raised ridge for the nose with simple small round holes for eyes and a slit for the mouth. What may be the brow or fringe is depicted by a straight line with several thin raised ridges extending back over the top of the head, possibly representing hair. The three loops are all intact and one shows signs of wear on one edge.

These objects are thought to be strap junctions, possibly for harnesses or bridles and date to the Late Iron Age, c. 100 BC to c. AD 43. Similar objects depicting stylised human faces are noted from Suffolk (SF-4428F7) and Northamptonshire (NARC-565894), and Hampshire (HAMP-7794C4). Strap distributors or junctions formed from three rings are known in the later Iron Age and early Roman periods, and Hutcheson publishes a similar example with human face from Fring, Norfolk noting less elaborate parallels at Camerton (Hutcheson, 2011, p. 108, no. 38). They may have been used on horse

47

harnesses or alternatively on human dress fittings or accessories. They are dated to the 1st century BC/AD.
Height: 22.1 mm, Width: 35.3 mm, Thickness: 7.2 mm, Weight: 9.17 g

Fig 12: A late Iron Age to early Roman incomplete cast copper alloy strap fitting or strap union junction from Baghurst (HAMP-E7A084) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A Roman cast copper alloy enamelled bow brooch of continental type from Chilcomb (SUR-05E56A) (Fig 13)

A Roman copper alloy enamelled bow brooch (cf. Mackreth type PL CONT 2.a). The wings are short and cylindrical, encompassing an iron axis bar for a hinge copper alloy pin, a portion of which is retained. The head is sharply angled to the bow, which is flat tapering slightly to the foot, and comprises a single large, recessed field containing five oblong blocks of millefiori enamel in white, red and blue. The central panel has a blue spiral on a white field, the other panels have blue and white checks. Each panel and the whole design is surrounded by a fine border of alternating white and red. The foot has a rounded lobed terminal with a small catch plate beneath.

Fig 13: A Roman cast copper alloy enamelled bow brooch of continental type from Chilcomb (SUR-05E56A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A Roman (3rd - 4th century AD) pedestal base of a colour-coated New Forest Ware indented necked beaker from Bishops Waltham (HAMP-4A691B) (Fig 14)

The fragment has a brownish grey surface with sections of light reddish brown. The fabric is fine and sandy with no visible inclusions. The base is circular in plan and flares out from the body of the pot, which is V-shaped in profile and extends upwards at about a 45-degree angle. The body is decorated with a groove that extends around its diameter, above which is a series of indented decorations. The base of the pot is present and presents a nodule with concentric indents that indicates the pot has been wheel-thrown. The fragment likely dates to the period AD 270-340.

Length: 51.3 mm, Height: 55.71 mm, Thickness: 5.55 mm, Weight: 64.37 g, Diameter: 59.09 mm

Fig 14: Base of a colour-coated New Forest Ware indented necked beaker from Bishops Waltham (HAMP-4A691B) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Roman (c. AD 43-410) incomplete cast copper alloy folding knife handle in the shape of a boar from West Meon (HAMP-A17F52) (Fig 15)

The fragment is broadly rectangular in plan and cross-section and is broken on one end. The head and upper part of the boar's back and sides are well moulded. The knife handle depicts a boar that has an elongated snout with slightly larger heart-shaped nose at the tip that is distinctive from the lower jaw area and separated by a horizontal slot. This horizontal slot is itself divided in half by a vertical slot that extends through the end of the jaw. This vertical slot contains remnants of the iron knife blade which has broken off and was probably folded into the body of the boar, which has a horizontal linear moulded groove on the underside of this base to accommodate the edge of the knife blade when folded. The groove is 17.91mm deep. There are small circular perforations on both of the boar's cheeks that align with the horizontal groove of the boar's mouth. These perforations appear to be for a pin that would have allowed the knife to fold. The boar's face features a sub-oval eye on either side of the head and small vertical lines on the lower parts of the cheeks to represent hair. There are two forward-pointing rounded ears with convex inner sections that are on either side of a triangular crest that runs from the top of the head and down the centre of the back, where it terminates at the broken end.

Length: 43.75 mm, Width: 27.11 mm, Thickness: 8.36 mm, Weight: 21.67 g

Fig 15: A Roman incomplete cast copper alloy folding knife handle in the shape of a boar from West Meon (HAMP-A17F52) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A Roman (c. 2nd century AD) incomplete cast copper alloy chatelaine (toilet set hanger) from Crondall (SUR-F01416) (Fig 16)

The object is 33.5mm long and 44.6mm wide. It has flanking horse heads either side of a narrow projecting arm which terminates in a small round suspension loop. The loop has broken through wear. The horse heads are simply moulded, with details of ears, eyes, snout, mouth and jawline rendered in the casting and faintly visible. The broad, flat sides of the object have two parallel decorative bands, each of two rows of punched dots, which run across the width. The lower edge is flat with two projecting circular loops. These would have held a separate copper alloy bar upon which was likely suspended a toilet set (comprised of tweezers and nail cleaner).
Length: 33.5 mm, Width: 44.6 mm, Thickness: 6.5 mm, Weight: 19.61 g

Fig 16: A Roman incomplete cast copper alloy chatelaine (toilet set hanger) from Crondall (SUR-F01416) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

An early medieval (c. AD 720 - 30) silver penny (sceat) from East Meon (HAMP-6A61CE) (Fig 17)

A silver sceat of Series E, Secondary Phase sub-variety 'a', dating to c. AD 720 – 30, probably minted in the Netherlands. On the obverse is depicted a quilled crescent, coiled right, triangular head enclosing pellet eye, three bars below. On the reverse, a beaded square standard with central annulet surrounded by a ring of pellets.

Metcalf and Op den Velde (2009, pp. 41-42) argue that sub-variety 'a' belongs at the beginning of the Secondary Phase as suggested by its neat, heavily die-linked examples and forms only a small group. The corpus of 35 coins listed in Metcalf and Op den Velde (2009-10, 320-1) includes 14 from the Kloster Barthe hoard and two from the De Meern hoard; those of the same sub-type as this find (nos 720-25) include three from Kloster Barthe and only one find from outside the Netherlands, listed with a findspot of 'England?'. This new find is an interesting addition to the corpus.
Width: 1.69 mm, Weight: 1.02 g, Diameter: 12.27 mm

Fig 17: An early medieval silver penny (sceat) from East Meon
(HAMP-6A61CE) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Fig 18: An Anglo-Scandinavian Viking copper alloy stirrup-strap mount from Hampshire
(SUR-197F5C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An Anglo-Scandinavian Viking (c. AD 1000 - 1100) copper alloy stirrup-strap mount from Hampshire (SUR-197F5C) (Fig 18)

A copper alloy Anglo-Scandinavian Viking stirrup-strap mount of Williams Class A, Type 16 (Williams, 1997), dating to c. AD 1000 - 1100. The shape of the mount is sub-rectangular with a zoomorphic mask, possibly a deer's head, with a pointed nose and large flanking ears. A pair of antlers rise from the top of the head to frame a pierced attachment lug at the apex of the object. Below the head are interlaced tendrils flaring from a narrow stalk or body, at the base of which are three flared projections which run into the base of the object and the lower corners. The lower margin of the object has two incomplete rivet holes and an old break. Traces of silver inlay strips decorate the front, set within grooves along the midpoint of the tendrils and moulded features. These in turn are decorated with incised s-lines along their centre. Traces of iron remain on the back of the object, which is concave. This is a rare type, and the first example recorded from Hampshire.

Length: 51.2 mm, Width: 35.4 mm, Thickness: 7.2 mm, Weight: 25.57 g

An early medieval (c. AD 985 - 991) incomplete copper alloy and silver imitation of a silver penny of Æthelred II (AD 978-1016) from Houghton (WILT-C8C11C) (Fig 19)

Second Hand type, North 768 (North, 1994, p. 158), dating to c. AD 985-991, mint and moneyer uncertain owing to the condition of the coin. The coin is an imitation rather than an official issue, comprising a thin silver layer over a base metal core, probably of copper alloy. The silver on the reverse of the coin is now missing removing any design and inscription which it once held. The style and execution of the coin's design is comparable to known finds and it is probable that the find is a contemporary imitation, although it remains possible that it may be more modern.

In support of the interpretation of this find as a contemporary imitation is an example found in Much Hadham (Hertfordshire) of an Intermediate Small Cross type produced in a very similar fashion using two very thin sheets of silver or silver alloy around a base metal core, in this case a lead or lead alloy (Dolley, 1955, pp. 186-187). Dolley noted the rarity of evidence for such forgery and this present find appears to be the first plated Late Saxon coin recorded by the PAS.

Diameter: 20.2 mm, Weight: 1.26 g

An Anglo-Saxon (AD 450 - 550) complete gilded copper alloy saucer brooch from West Meon (HAMP-21FF5B) (Fig 20)

The brooch is circular in shape with an upturned rim that is angled outward at an approximate 45-degree angle. The interior of the saucer is gilded and is decorated with a triple stranded floriate cross design within two concentric rings which are borders to the brooch and design. In the corner of each corner there are asymmetrical pellets. This is surrounded by a single ring, followed by a ring of stramped roundels that borders the central design. On the reverse, the catch plate and pin both remain intact.

Thickness: 2.02 mm, Weight: 9.65 g, Diameter: 33.21 mm

Fig 19: A copper alloy and silver imitation of an early medieval silver penny of Æthelred II from Houghton (WILT-C8C11C) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig 20: An Anglo-Saxon gilded copper alloy saucer brooch from West Meon (HAMP-21FF5B) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

An early medieval (c. AD 800 - 900) cast lead gaming piece or weight from Petersfield (HAMP-BA1404) (Fig 21)

The object is broadly conical, facetted with pronounced concave sides and a sub-circular base that has an indent in its centre. The apex is pointed.

It is difficult to determine the difference between lead weights and gaming pieces. At Torksey (Lincs), the Viking camp/settlement, solid lead pieces were classed as weights and hollow examples as gaming pieces, the hollow shape allowed them to be stacked and at least one example was found inside another (Hadley and Richards 2016, p.48, note 79, fig. 26). It is thought that these gaming pieces were used in the board game of hnefatafl.

Height: 19.42 mm, Weight: 8.5 g

Fig 21: An early medieval cast lead gaming piece or weight from Petersfield
(HAMP-BA1404) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A medieval cast copper alloy annular figurative brooch from Bishops Sutton (SUR-B5CACB) (Fig 22)

The frame is moulded into a depiction of a male figure standing on the left, with a beast on the right which is most likely a dragon. The figure's left arm is outstretched to form a bar for a copper alloy wire pin, which remains in place, and joins to the head of the beast. The feet of the figure merge into the end of the beast's tail which curves up and around to the left on the lower edge of the frame. Moulded facial details on the figure and depictions of eyes and scales on the beast are visible. The figure appears to be wearing a simple tunic and may be holding a sword in the right hand, although wear has made the details difficult to see. There are small openwork holes at the beast's head and tail. Those near the

head appear to define a pair of front limbs flanking a narrowed neck, with the one near the tail possibly defining a rear limb which also acts as a pin rest.

The brooch most likely depicts St George and the dragon as an allegorical representation of the power of good over evil. A similar example in silver was found at Bennington, Herts. (Alexander & Binski, 1987, 483, no. 641).

Length: 19.4 mm, Width: 18.9 mm, Thickness: 3.8 mm, Weight: 3.18 g

Fig 22: A medieval cast copper alloy annular figurative brooch from Bishops Sutton (SUR-B5CACB) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A medieval (c. AD 1200 - 1400) silver Seal Matrix Pendant with an inlaid Roman intaglio from Winchfield (HAMP-572D35) (Fig 23)

The seal matrix is an oval with a large circular lug for attachment that is set on the top edge of the reverse of the matrix. The reverse has a deep bevelled edge, presumably to accommodate the depth of the bezel, and a flat central panel. The bevelled edge appears to be made from silver sheet; there is a clear line between it and the central panel. The lug is comprised of three ridges that are circular in section and are bent around to form a loop.

The front of the seal matrix features a reused Roman intaglio of probable 2nd century date; made of red stone (possibly jasper, carnelian, or sard gem) with an engraving of a young satyr running to the left (right on the impression), with another, smaller satyr with a tail and horns kneeling on his shoulders. The oval intaglio is set in the centre of the matrix within a grooved oval border which also frames the base of the surrounding inscription which reads: + CREDE . SOLVM. ET . EST. SATIS translation: 'Believe only and it is enough/sufficient'. The inscription is engraved in reverse letters, with the starting point marked by a cross potent with a dot between each arm. Each word is separated by a dot. The inscription is bordered above and below by a grooved oval border.

Martin Henig (1974) discusses the re-use of ancient intaglios in medieval seals and states that such objects were often employed as privy or counterseals by officials and were more intimate and personal in nature than their official counterparts. The seal matrix likely dates between 1200-1400 AD and contains a re-used Roman intaglio of 2nd century date. The National Museum of Wales

equally has a red jasper intaglio that was found during excavations at Caerleon Fortress Baths, Caerleon (Zienkiewicz, 1986).

Length: 29.66 mm, Width: 23.07 mm, Thickness: 5.43 mm, Weight: 5.53 g

Fig 23: A medieval silver Seal Matrix Pendant with an inlaid Roman intaglio from Winchfield (HAMP-572D35) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A medieval (c. AD 1400 - 1500) gold posy ring with internal inscription and external decoration from Breamore (WILT-BD6556) (Fig 24)

The ring is circular in plan, although slightly flattened, and rectangular in cross-section. The hoop is of even width throughout, and the exterior is decorated with neatly engraved ornament, worn in places, consisting of six-petalled flowers between three-sprigged branches. The gold is yellow and bright, indicating high purity. The inner surface is engraved with two parallel lines running partway round, between which is a short motto inscribed in Gothic or black-letter script. There are four words written in English – remember my lady dere – with a four-pointed star between each word. No maker's mark is discernible.

This type of ring is known as a posy ring, derived from the French 'poesy' (poetry). Posy rings were plain hoops inscribed with mottoes or sayings to express faith, friendship, commemoration and love. It was an especially popular type of ring in the fifteenth century. This particular inscription has not been found elsewhere, but short inscriptions of this type, often written in French, were common in 15th century rings engraved either on their outside or, if this was decorated, on the inside. Similar mottoes in English were also engraved on rings. Occasionally French and English were combined on

one ring (Evans, 1931, pp. xiv-xv). Black letter script was widely used during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Thickness: 1.2 mm, Weight: 5.28 g, Diameter: 20.1 mm

Fig 24: A medieval gold posy ring with internal inscription and external decoration from Breamore (WILT-BD6556) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A medieval small oval cast silver seal matrix from Havant (HAMP-66E73D) (Fig 25)

The seal matrix is missing its oval central section. It is flat with a round lug at the top which looks to have been bent into shape and forms a broken circle. The legend, which reads clockwise when imprinted, reads SIGILL' SECRETI, meaning secret seal. A cross marks the point at which the legend starts. The seal matrix is in good condition with a clear legend, but the centre is missing and could have contained a small Roman intaglio, as has been seen with similar matrix seals from the time.

Length: 23.04 mm, Width: 14.65 mm, Thickness: 1.86 mm, Weight: 1.64 g

A post-medieval flattened conical copper alloy sheet metal chape, probably from a scabbard, from Whitchurch (SUR-6FA0F1) (Fig 26)

The chape is 28.6mm long, with a rounded terminal. The sides are covered with stamped or pressed decoration in relief depicting vine scrolls, flowers and leaves. The profile is slightly asymmetrical and curved suggesting that the scabbard was for a small dagger or knife with a curved single-edged blade.

Width – 14mm, Length – 28.6mm, Thickness 7mm, Weight – 3.21g

Fig 25: A medieval small oval cast silver seal matrix from Havant
(HAMP-66E73D) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

Fig 26: A post-medieval flattened conical copper alloy sheet metal chape from Whitchurch
(SUR-6FA0F1) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A post-medieval (AD 1550 - 1700) sword belt fitting from Bishops Waltham (OXON-3BE528) (Fig 27)
A copper alloy hooked mount which comprises a sub-triangular plate with moulded curvilinear edges. The upper edge has a sub-trefoil shaped terminal, and the lower edge an expanded collar. The plate has a rivet hole at the upper and lower terminal, both filled with the remains of an iron rivet. The lower terminal extends into a circular-sectioned upturned hook whose terminal is bulbous. On the hook there is a separate undecorated plate with an oval-shaped void and a broken lower edge. The plate is decorated with a floriated design radiating from the vertical axis. The reverse is flat and undecorated. The surface of the mount has a matte mottled dark green patina.

The hook would have been attached to a mount on a belt and the hooks would be attached to a plate on the sword scabbard (for a more complete example see HAMP-2F32E8). They date to the mid-16th to 17th centuries.
Length – 50.62, Width – 20.76, Weight – 9.85g

Fig 27: A post-medieval sword belt fitting from Bishops Waltham
(OXON-3BE528) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A post-medieval gold half-guinea of George I (1714-1727) from Dummer (HAMP-4704C9) (Fig 28)

A post medieval gold half-guinea of George I (1714-1727), minted in London in 1719.

Obverse: Laureate head right. Legend: GEORGIVS DG M BR FR ET HIB REX F D.

Reverse: Crowned cruciform shields with sceptres in angles. Legend: 1719 BRVN ET L DVX SR IA TH ET EL.

Milled edge. In good condition, with some minor wear and blemishes. As Spink no: 3635.

Thickness: 0.92 mm, Weight: 4.12 g, Diameter: 20.43 mm

Fig 28: A post medieval gold half-guinea of George I found in Dummer
(HAMP-4704C9) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme

A post-medieval (c. AD 1500-1600) incomplete cast copper alloy knife end-stop from Corhampton and Meonstoke (HAMP-23946A) (Fig 29)

The object is in the form of a horse's hoof, curved inside profile with curved grooves along the body of the cap to delineate the horse's hoof and fetlock and a circumferential groove to depict a horseshoe at the terminal. Part of the tang is retained within the cap. The object has a dark brown matte patina. A similar example of this type of knife end-stop was excavated from a late 15th - early 16th century context (Egan, 2005, p. 93, ref: 398). For another example, see (Read, 2016, p. 661).

Length: 25.13 mm, Width: 12.08 mm, Thickness: 9.75 mm, Weight: 10.6 g

Fig 29 – A post-medieval incomplete cast copper alloy knife end-stop from Corhampton and Meonstoke (HAMP-23946A) ©Portable Antiquities Scheme.

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