

# Archaeology in Hampshire



## Annual Report 2011

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Annual Report of Archaeology in Hampshire for 2011. Up until 2003 Hampshire County Council published an Annual Report of Archaeology in Hampshire. The first volume was published in 1977 (for the year 1976) and for over a quarter of a century it proved to be a valuable resource bringing together in summary fashion archaeological work carried out in a particular year, whether it was by professional organization, academic institution or local society. The report ensured that knowledge of such work was easily and conveniently available to all interested parties. The final report of this 'first series' was published in 2004 (for 2003). Following a hiatus of several years, The Hampshire Field Club (HFC) was invited to produce a new series of reports and began with a round-up of the 'missing' years. These can be downloaded from the Hampshire Field Club website. From 2008 the report has been published annually and copies are available for download from the HFC [website](#).

Developments in technology have forced a re-think about the most efficient way to go about the publication of interim statements and it was decided that an electronic format (i.e. a PDF document) provided a convenient and cost-effective solution. It also offers the option of printing only what is required.

### **The structure and content of the report**

The report is organized by District and then alphabetically by location. Individual entries consist of a location that includes a grid reference. This is followed by an identifier, usually a *Site UID*, which links it to a record held in [The Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record](#) (AHBR) database for Hampshire. The record for Southampton has also provided information about work carried out in this city and identifiers that relate to their respective databases are given. It is through the identifier that further information about a particular project can be acquired.

In addition to archaeological fieldwork the report includes records of building surveys. Survey projects that encompass a number of sites, for example by Souterrain Archaeological Services at Butsa, are also included.

### **THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME (PAS)**

A number of local societies already publish a selection of the finds recorded on the PAS database for their county. Rob Webley, the Finds Liaison Officer for Hampshire, has kindly agreed to compile a selection for 2011 showcasing some of the most interesting and important finds. These range in date from prehistory through to late medieval times and include a variety of different materials.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The data for each year was assembled and edited by Nick Stoodley, but it would not have been possible to produce this work without the assistance of numerous individuals and organizations. Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Field Club are acknowledged for financial assistance. I am particularly indebted to the Archaeology staff at the Environment Department (HCC), especially David Hopkins, Alex Godden, and Charlotte Malone for providing information from the AHBR database, in addition to proof reading and other assistance during the preparation of the report. I am grateful to the various archaeological organisations, both amateur and professional who have provided information (in no particular order): Ingrid Peckham (Southampton City Council), and Dr Andy Russel (Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit), Prof. Mike Fulford and Amanda Clarke (University of Reading: Silchester), Dr Simon Roffey (University of Winchester: St Mary Magdalen Leper Hospital), David Graham, Edward Roberts, Nicola Bettley (Archaeology South East), Sam Driscoll (Absolute Archaeology), Dr Julie Gardiner (Wessex Archaeology), Richard Tabor (Context One) Tiziana Vitali (Pre-Construct Archaeology), Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA), Martin Wilson (Souterrain Archaeological Services), Dick Selwood (WARG St Elizabeth's College, Winchester), Steve Preston (Thames Valley Archaeological Services), Diana King (Foundations Archaeology), and Melissa Melikian (AOC Archaeology Group). Finally, thanks have to be extended to Rob Webley for bringing together so admirably the selections of PAS finds.

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Front cover      Volunteers from Kirton Farm Nurseries taking part in the excavation at Kirton Farm, Stockbridge, under the supervision of Souterrain Archaeology



## FINDS REPORTED TO THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN 2011

By Rob Webley

During 2011 a total of 2,180 Hampshire finds were added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database in 2,005 database records.

- The finds were from all periods from the Palaeolithic to c. 1800 AD, with the following breakdown: Stone Age (2%), Bronze Age (1%), Iron Age (2%), Roman (46%), Early-medieval (2%), medieval (23%), Post-medieval and modern (23%), Uncertain (1%).
- They were made from a range of materials: metal (96%, of which copper alloys, 74%), pottery (2%), and worked stone (2%).
- Most finds were discovered whilst metal-detecting (98%), some as 'eyes only' surface finds; the others were found through a variety of means including agricultural work and fieldwalking (2%).

A proportion of finds examined by the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer and colleagues were not recorded – generally finds that post-date 1700 AD. The artefacts described below are considered to be particularly interesting examples reported to the Scheme during 2011. The PAS database number (Find ID) is included in each description. The public online [database](#) contains detailed information and colour photographs for each object recorded by the Scheme, including those below.

### Principal finds

*Bronze Age axe from Bishops Waltham CP (SUR-1BE003)*



This butt of a copper-alloy flat axe with long flanges measures 101.2mm by 41.8mm and weighs 24.9g. It has broken where the blade begins to splay, and much of the original surface has been lost to corrosion and pitting. Nevertheless, areas of decoration can be seen on both surfaces, adjacent to the break. On the better preserved side the decoration appears as three narrow transverse bands of saltires with wide bands of chevrons between. The decoration may have continued onto the blade. In any case, what is now visible would have been covered by the haft when in use. The axe is probably of the Arreton Down type and dates to the early second millennium BC.

*Bronze Age penannular ring from Headbourne Worthy CP (HAMP-471843 / 2010 T145)*



This gold-plated ring measures 16.6mm by 15.8mm by 7.7mm and weighs 5.92g. It is penannular with a deliberate gap or slot, presumably for attachment. It is bi-partite, with two C-shaped rings stacked one on top of the other. The core of the ring is in copper alloy, shown by the corrosion product penetrating the gold plating at various points. Although modern-day Hampshire would seem to be a focus for these Late Bronze Age penannular rings (Portable Antiquities and Treasure Annual Report 2007, 40), this bi-partite form is rare. This item is being acquired by Winchester Museums Service.

*Bronze Age/Iron Age hoard from Whitchurch CP (HAMP-8A11A7 / 2011 T152)*



This group of 16 objects found in close proximity span a period from the Middle Bronze Age to at least the Late Iron Age, that is, over a millennium. The finds included three Middle-Late Bronze Age objects: a gold lock-ring of composite construction (83% gold), a gold composite ring fragment and a copper-alloy spear tip. However, the remaining 13 objects date to the Iron Age or later, and include a silver torc fragment, a lump of silver, six copper-alloy fragments, including binding strips, and five

miniature bronze axe heads. Two or three separate hoards are probably involved here, the first consisting of the Middle-Late Bronze Age material. Secondly, the Iron Age torc, and probable binding strips from shields, with other fragments, may be similar to a group known from Snettisham, Norfolk (Clarke 1954, plate XIII). The miniature axes are of Robinson's Type IV (1995, 61, 64-67) and may be Late Bronze Age and thus associated with the first group, or a discrete group in their own right. Hampshire County Museums Service hopes to acquire this hoard.

*Iron Age pin from Bishops Waltham CP (HAMP-338A41)*



This head from a broken cast copper-alloy pin measures 33.2mm by 22.1mm by 4.2mm and weighs 9.89g. It comes from an Iron Age swan's neck pin and has broken at the weak S-shaped curve at the beginning of the shaft. The head is solid and circular with a central perforation 3.8mm in diameter. Both sides are decorated with a circular band just inside the circumference defined by a pair of incised lines. Between them the zone is decorated with fine transverse nicks to give a ropework effect. This decoration is repeated for one half of the rim, starting to one side of the integral shaft. Traces of tinning survive on both surfaces.

*Iron Age figurine from Owslebury CP (HAMP-8F0C57)*



A zoomorphic figurine cast in copper alloy measuring 32.1mm by 18.3mm by 15.7mm and weighing 12.14g. It takes the form of a well moulded dog lying down on its right side with head erect. The head, legs and tail all protrude at right angles to the body. The head has a pointed, faceted muzzle and prominent ears. The eyes are formed of a drilled circular hole going through the head. The base is flat around its perimeter with a hollowed out section in the middle to allow the figurine to be stuck to a flat surface. The same treatment to the base can be seen on a reindeer figurine from Milber Down, Devon (Jope 2000, 270, plate 181).

*Roman cart fitting from Rockbourne CP (WILT-7AFAC1)*



This damaged cast copper-alloy Roman terminal in the form of an eagle's head measures 49.5mm by 47.2mm by 22.2mm and weighs 66.22g. Apart from the eagle's solid gaping beak the object is hollow and has suffered losses to the thin socket as a result of old damage. The head of the eagle is moulded with incisions delineating feathers now very worn; a spherical pellet is held within the beak. A butterfly clasp projects internally from the top of the head presumably for attachment. The head emerges from a sleeve of three petals, itself emerging from a double collar at the top of the socket of hexagonal cross-section externally, circular internally. Similar objects published in the literature and recorded by the PAS are described as cart fittings to which the reins were tied when the vehicle was stationary (Down 1978, 296, 297; ref. 47). Examples for which the body element is complete suggest that the socket would have had a hooked projection, probably in the form of a swan's head (Crummy 1983, 106; ref. 2545; Webster 1960, 71; fig. 3, ref. 37). These fittings seem to have a relatively standardised design, characterised by the sphere within the eagle's beak; the number of petals and the form of the socket - circular, hexagonal, heptagonal, octagonal - would seem to be variable. The distribution and date of similar pieces might suggest a military connection and a 1<sup>st</sup>-century date (Webster 1960, 75).

*Roman denarius hoard from Newton Valence CP (HAMP-9BD6B6 / 2011 T371)*



A small group consisting of eight Roman imperial denarii, starting with Trajan (98-117 AD) (see example illustrated above) and ending with Faustina II under Antoninus Pius (161 AD). All of the coins have an encrustation of copper corrosion product, but no copper-alloy coins or other artefacts were reported with the hoard. Along with three coins of Trajan there were two of Hadrian, two of Diva Faustina I and one of Faustina II under Pius. This group is a typical representation of the range of silver currency which circulated at the time. The joint reign of Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus (161-169 AD) is known as one of upheaval in the surviving primary sources (Robertson 1974, 31).

*Roman coin from Silchester CP (SUR-E9D2B6)*



This corroded and incomplete copper-alloy sestertius of Elagabalus (218-222 AD) measures up to 29.4mm across and weighs 15.07g (Mattingly et al. 1938, 58; ref. 372). While the obverse shows the emperor, the reverse shows a personification of Salus standing right feeding a snake held in her arms. Salus personified well-being and cared for the sacred snakes of her father, the god of medicine Aesculapius. The reverse legend 'SALVS ANTONINI AVG, S C' refers to the well-being of the dynasty in general. The coin was issued in the opening few years of Elagabalus' reign and he is echoing his Severan predecessors who also linked themselves on their coins to the preceding Antonines. This is the first sestertius of Elagabalus recorded on the PAS database.

*Roman vessel from Twyford CP (HAMP-FE1374)*



This cast copper-alloy base or pedestal measures 39.5mm by 38.0mm by 2.3mm and weighs 36.53g (Worrell 2012, forthcoming). This object is circular in plan view (38.0mm in diameter) with a central circular aperture (9.5mm in diameter) through the object. It has a bowl shaped upper body (20.8mm in height) on a flared, conical base, with a waist between, and stands on three globular feet (originally four). The upper edge of the object is formed of four raised triangular peaks topped with globular knops, with semicircular gaps between, three of which have been since folded in on themselves. The exterior of the upper bowl has been decorated with a detailed foliate pattern in relief. On each of the raised peaks is an inverted heart-shaped border within which is a simplified fleur-de-lis with an elongated central point; this is attached at the base of the heart to a curved vine scroll which leads to a vine shaped leaf in the centre of the space between the triangular peaks. Below this is a small twisted rope band (the effect formed by fine, diagonal nicks) and a lower ridge above the waist. The conical base (c. 29mm in

diameter) is decorated with narrow triangular cells forming a sunburst pattern; some red enamel is retained within the cells. This decoration is similar to a potential candlestick base from Aldborough, Suffolk (Bishop 1996, 94-95; ref. 605).

*Roman vessel from Hyde CP (HAMP-0C24F1)*



This reconstructed ceramic beaker measures 180mm by 100mm, is 79.2mm in diameter at the rim, and weighs 448g. This example of New Forest fine ware is an indented type with six concave indentations in the main body. It can be classified as Fulford's Type 27 (1975, 50, 52-53) which dates it from the mid-/late-3<sup>rd</sup> century to around the mid-4<sup>th</sup> century AD. It is likely that the pot is a waster, as it was found at a known kiln site and the slip is patchy, being dark brown in places and brownish orange in others. The slip is also patchily absent from one half of the pot. It is probable the pot was discarded as found, and never used. The vessel was found at Sloden Inclosure in the 1950s prior to the kiln site being afforded statutory protection.

*Early-medieval scabbard chape from Micheldever CP (HAMP-4CBF82)*

A cast copper-alloy openwork Frankish scabbard chape of 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>-century date of Menghin's Type 3a (1983, 126-128, 351-353). The object measures 38.8mm by 25.4mm by 10.3mm and weighs 11.99g. It consists of a sub-trefoil front plate that curves back at the base into a thin back prong riveted to the front plate and the scabbard through small perforated loops at the apex of both. At the base is a flat biconical knob with collar above. The upper half of the front plate comprises a human head, with ring-and-dot eyes and moulded hair zone above with finely incised hairs. The moulded wide mouth is below a long trapezoidal nose. At the side of each front plate, starting below the head, project arms ending in beaked bird-like heads. Each has a ring-and-dot eye; the closed beaks about the person's cheeks. The lower half of the chape has bevelled sides with a longitudinal row of punched ring-and-dot motifs running down the centre. This is a particularly fine example; a less well preserved chape has been published locally from Greywell CP (Webley 2009, 18-20).



*Early-medieval brooch from Twyford CP (HAMP-5F30D6)*

This 6<sup>th</sup>-century equal-armed brooch cast in copper alloy measures 48.9mm by 16mm by up to 9.6mm and weighs 3.51g. It has flat, broadly T-shaped ends with the cross arms adjoining the bow and the long element tapering to terminate in fine knobs with ridged collars. The tapering sections are decorated with a very finely incised double line. The faceted bow curves in a shallowly raised arc with an oval indent on the back. The pin, or axis bar, only survives as an iron encrustation on the lower surface; the brooch otherwise survives well with an even patina. This is a fine example of an early Saxon type, many simpler examples of which have been recorded on the PAS database from Kent, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

*Early-medieval finger-ring from Ropley CP (HAMP-C25EF3 / 2011 T625)*



This rare cast silver finger-ring of approximately 9<sup>th</sup>-century date measures 24.2mm by 22.4mm by 2.55mm and weighs 4.59g. Within a thinned pointed oval bezel is zoomorphic engraved decoration framed top and bottom by a border of finely punched dots. The beast has a curved body with rearward facing head and defined rear leg. It is flanked by possible leaf motif in the points of the bezel. The hoop thickens at double ridged collars at the shoulders, continuing with a flat internal surface. The animal is in the Trehwiddle style which was popular in the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD; a similar example can be found illustrated in Webster and Backhouse (eds.) (1991, 237-238; ref. 204).



*Late early-medieval/medieval strap-fitting from Crondall CP (BH-DC8795)*

This probable harness fitting measures 102.6mm by 21.1mm high by 11.7mm and weighs 56.3g. It is cast in copper alloy and consists of two parallel bars, one retained by a sleeve in the other. The main bar is oval in cross-section with a rectangular loop at one end and, at the opposite end, a moulded zoomorphic head with an integral sleeve attached to its base. The second bar is threaded through the sleeve and also has a rectangular loop at one end with a moulded baluster knob at the other. This second bar is now fixed by corrosion but seems likely to have originally slid freely, allowing the fitting to be extended or shortened, the knob preventing the second bar from sliding out of the sleeve entirely. The animal head is characteristically well moulded in the Romanesque style suggesting an 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-century date. No direct parallel has been found for this fitting but the corpus of contemporary horse equipment is being expanded by

stray finds recorded through the PAS.

*Medieval coin from Wherwell CP (HAMP-1A2EC5)*



This damaged and incomplete debased silver coin of Edward III measures 15.2mm by 14.6mm by 0.5mm and weighs 0.43g. It is an Irish halfpenny struck at Dublin in 1339 or 1340 AD. Coming from a short-lived issue of only those two years it is contemporary with Edward's second coinage in England, the so-called 'star marked' coinage (1335-1343 AD). This coin bears a star after the 'CIVITAS' on the reverse legend. Few examples are known of this Irish issue (North 1997, 18); this is the first example to be recorded on the PAS database.

*Medieval jetton from Exton CP (HAMP-C9F7A2)*

This 14<sup>th</sup>-century English copper-alloy jetton measures 21.45mm by 20.95mm by 0.9mm and weighs 1.64g. The obverse shows a lion rampant within an elaborate ten lobed border. On the reverse is a cross fleury within the inner circle with an eagle displayed in each quarter. Around it is a legend that is hard to decipher, so much so that on published jettons with this reverse the inscription has been dismissed as either fictitious or a pseudo-legend (Barnard 1981, 101; ref. 37; Mitchiner 1988, 122; ref. 273). However, despite the wear and corrosion on all three examples they can now be compared to show that the legend on such jettons clearly derives from the 'AMOR VINCIT OMNIA' ('Love conquers all') inscription found on many contemporary artefacts, for example finger-rings (Evans 1931, 1), and known on lead tokens (Mitchiner and Skinner 1983, 54; refs. A1, A2).



*Medieval mount from Heckfield CP (BERK-F58E08)*

This composite medieval mount consists of an enamelled roundel set in a gilded cast copper-alloy circular frame. The frame measures 49.6mm by 6.4mm, while the roundel is 36.4mm in diameter; together they weigh 41.4g. The flat roundel is very finely decorated and shows an eagle standing right with wings outstretched in white champlevé enamel, with details of feathers, claws and beak picked out in black, possibly using niello. The ground around the eagle is unevenly cross-hatched, then gilded. The roundel sits within the frame and would

have been secured into it by hammering down a thin lip that runs around the internal circumference. The lower edge of the frame is angled and has a pair of ridges running around it. The underside is hollowed with four equally spaced projecting rivets and a probable later rivet repair in iron. A number of armorial mounts of this quality are known, although the Hampshire mount is smaller than most other examples; these can be dated by their arms to the late 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 181-184; ref. 933). A number of uses for such mounts have been suggested in both the secular and religious spheres, in both cases in high status contexts.

*Medieval strap-end from Heckfield CP (SUR-330251)*

A two-piece medieval strap-end in copper alloy measuring 41.1mm by 32.3mm and weighing 25.09g. Two separate plates, trapezoidal in form with a slightly wider attachment end, are connected by six rivets; the plain back plate has integral tapered flanges that form the strap-end's sides. The rivets in the lower corners and halfway up the sides are in copper alloy, with iron rivets in the upper corners. The front plate has a detailed, though now worn, cast image with additional engraving which cuts across the rivet heads. The image shows the standing figure of St Christopher with staff crossing a river carrying

the Christ child on his shoulders. The arms of the child are raised and he appears to be holding something in one hand, probably an orb. The field is filled with a closely-spaced mass of criss-crossing lines. To either side is a vertical letter in gothic script above a bush; both appear to be the letter 'I'. The attachment end of the front plate is bordered with three transverse ridges. St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, was invoked against sudden death.



*Post-medieval vervel from Micheldever CP (HAMP-039157 / 2011 T275)*

This small silver vervel, or hawking ring, measures 13.5mm by 0.7mm and weighs 0.65g. Vervels were tied to a bird's leg straps to attach it to a perch. The exterior of the hoop bears the following inscription in italic script, divided over both faces: 'Mr Will Russell of Stratton / in Hampshire'. William Russell, Lord Russell (1639-1683), inherited the manor of East Stratton in 1667, and took the title 'Lord Russell' in 1679; the vervel must therefore date between 1667 and 1679. William Russell was executed in 1683 for his part in the Rye House Plot against Charles II (Page 1908, 299). The object is being acquired by Winchester Museums Service, as is a further vervel found in the vicinity originally from near Reading (PAS database ref. SUR-D32343 / 2012 T290).



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