

## FINDS REPORTED TO THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN 2015

By Katie Hinds

During 2015 a total of 2,716 Hampshire finds were added to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database in 2,658 records.

The finds were from all periods from the Palaeolithic to c.1800, with the following breakdown: Stone Age (1.5%), Bronze Age (1%), Iron Age (4%), Roman (45%), early Medieval (4%), Medieval (25%), Post-Medieval and Modern (19%), Uncertain (0.5%).

They were made from a range of materials: metal (98%, of which copper alloys, 77%), ceramics (0.5%), and worked stone (1.5%).

Most finds were discovered whilst metal-detecting (99%), some as 'eyes only' surface finds; the others were found through a variety of means including gardening and chance finding (1%).

A proportion of finds examined by the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer and colleagues were not recorded – generally finds that post-date 1700. The artefacts described below are considered to be particularly interesting examples reported to the Scheme during 2015. 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: see [www.finds.org.uk/database](http://www.finds.org.uk/database)



Fig. 16 Lower Palaeolithic handaxe from Fawley

### Principal finds

#### *A Lower Palaeolithic handaxe from Fawley (HAMP-95A6F1) (Fig. 16)*

An elongated-ovate/cordate flint handaxe dating to c.500,000 – 180,000 BC), bifacially-worked with the butt-end being wider than the cutting-end. One face is slightly more convex in profile than the other, which retains two natural features - a circular flint fossil proud of the surface and a smaller hole beyond. The handaxe measures 176.0mm in length, 90.4mm in max.width and 42.5mm in max.thickness, weighing 622g (to the nearest 2 grams).



Fig. 17 Re-worked Neolithic polished axehead from Hurstbourne Tarrant



Fig. 19 A middle to late Bronze Age saw fragment from Hordean

*A re-worked Neolithic polished axehead from Hurstbourne Tarrant (SUR-C54AEF) (Fig. 17)*

Struck from light grey mottled flint, this polished axehead appears to have been reworked at a later date presumably for a more specific function and perhaps as a result of the axehead suffering damage. The re-worked object has a profound asymmetric curve and the surface of one side of the polished blade is slightly concave. It measures 131 mm in length, 55 mm in width, 25 mm in thickness and weighs 151 g.

*Two Chalcolithic gold 'basket ornaments' from Whitchurch (BERK-F548E6) (Fig. 18)*

These two very rare sheet-gold objects date from the earliest phase of the Bronze Age (c.2400-2220 BC), products of the earliest phase of metallurgy in Britain. They were found folded one inside the other, likely a deliberate act, but have since been flattened out. Ornament 1 has a folded rectangular tang projecting from one long edge and is decorated on one side only with simple incised lines and several small punched dots. The terminal is incomplete and about 25% of the 'body' is missing. It measures 35.9mm in length and weighs 1.1g. Ornament 2, which was folded inside ornament 1, is complete and relatively undamaged. A short, rounded, pierced tab projects from one edge. The decoration is similar to that on Ornament 1, though some incised lines are not well executed and it may have been reused and reshaped. It measures 32mm in length and weighs 1.1g. The basket ornaments were declared Treasure under the Treasure Act (1996) and have subsequently been donated to the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Such objects are variously referred to as 'basket ornaments', 'basket earrings', or 'hair rings'. They are in any case personal ornaments found in pairs in graves of the early Beaker period. Whether worn on hair, ears or utilised as items of costume, they were rolled into a basket shape. These examples may have been associated with a Beaker-period grave and further investigation is intended. Very similar ornaments were found in Beaker burials at Chilbolton, Hants (Russell 1986) and Radley 4a, Oxfordshire (Kinnes 1994); their decoration places them in Needham's Atlantic Group B (ii) (Needham 2011).



Fig. 18 Two Chalcolithic gold 'basket ornaments' from Whitchurch

*A middle to late Bronze Age saw fragment from Hordean (HAMP-1ED162) (Fig. 19)*

Dating to between 1400 and 900 BC, this is a fragment of a rare copper alloy saw; in fact it is the first to be recorded on the PAS database. It was broken in antiquity transversely across the blade and both complete and incomplete rivet holes are present along the opposite edge. The long sides are parallel, one exhibits deliberately cut denticulate notches. The object measures 36.6mm in length, 16.9mm in width, 2.2mm in max.thickness and weighs 5.44g. Leclercq (2013) discusses examples from Europe, while Rowlands (1976, 46) has studied

saws from Southern England. A comparable saw to the Horndean example comes from Grimes Graves (Norfolk) and can be found in the British Museum's online collections (object WG.2015).



Fig. 20 A continental Iron Age coin from Crawley

*A continental Iron*

*Age coin from Crawley (HAMP-F489F6) (Fig. 20)*

This potin (cast bronze coin) was struck by the Suessiones tribe, who inhabited the region between the Oise and the Mare in western Belgium, during the 1st century BC (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suessiones>) and examples of their coinage are starting to turn up with some frequency in Britain, mainly in the south and east. The coin depicts two confronted goats with a pellet between them on the obverse, and a wolf and boar, again confronted with a pellet-in-ring between them, to the reverse. Diameter: 21.2mm; weight: 4.48g. The Crawley example is an unusual type and is only the second of its kind to be recorded on the PAS database. For reference see: Delestree & Tache 2002, vol.1, p.61, no. 210.

*A middle Iron Age brooch from the Itchen Valley (BERK-4BA073) (Fig. 21)*

This is an unusual copper alloy brooch that probably dates to the 3rd century BC. It has an arched bow expanding at either end into sub-rectangular areas, each with a circular recess for a (missing) insert and an arm, with multiple moulded ribs to either side. To the reverse are the remains of a lug and catchplate for a (missing) pin. It measures 36.5 mm in length, 27.4 mm in width and weighs 12.4 g. It is likely this was locally made, or perhaps was a continental import.

*A late Iron Age or early Roman zoomorphic brooch from Nether Wallop (SUR-EA49AD) (Fig. 22)*

Dating from the mid 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD, this brooch is in the form of a fully-modelled hare. The animal has a rectangular head with a transverse groove for a mouth, two projecting rounded eyes, and a pair of long conjoined ears which slope back at an angle from the head. The back arches to a short tail, which is now apparently truncated. The legs are joined together in pairs and both are now truncated. The front pair bears a groove for a hinged pin, while the edge of a catchplate is visible on the rear legs. Worn punched decoration, comprising a line of crescents, is present along either side of the body. It measures 24.23 mm in length, 15.76 mm in height, 7.81 mm in width and weighs 7.71 g. While flat plate brooches that depict animals, including hares, are well known, fully-modelled animals, such as this example, are rare and parallels for this brooch are hard to find.

*A late Iron Age/early Roman fob from Steep (HAMP-FB341A) (Fig. 23)*

An incomplete copper alloy and enamelled object of late Iron Age or early Roman date (100 BC – AD 100), probably a so-called 'dangler'. The object consists of a solid circular face, very worn but decorated with inset



Fig. 21 A middle Iron Age brooch from the Itchen Valley



Fig. 22 A late Iron Age or early Roman zoomorphic brooch from Nether Wallop

squares and lozenges of yellow enamel that appear to be arranged in a chequerboard pattern. To the reverse is an incomplete circular-sectioned projection. It measures 33.2mm in diameter, 14.3mm in height and weighs 37.56g. These artefacts were probably decorative accessories and one of three discovered in Kingsholm (Gloucestershire) was still attached to a hook and probable casket binding, which gives rise to the suggestion that they were the handles for a casket; other examples were hung from chatelaines (Jope 2000, 285, pl.225h). Such objects date to the last century of pre-Roman Celtic independence, or even into the Roman period (Jope 2000, 285). However, an earlier tradition of openwork discs does not rule out the possibility that some were made in the intervening centuries.



Fig. 23 A late Iron Age/early Roman fob from Steep

*A Roman coin from West Meon (HAMP-023519) (Fig. 24)*

A Roman 'barbarous radiate', a contemporary copy of a coin struck in the third century and dubbed a 'radiate' after the spikey crown on the obverse. It measures 23mm in diameter and weighs 5.18 g. In Britain, barbarous radiates are common finds and while many are poorly executed, probably made by local communities to supplement their coinage, some, such as this example, are rather better made, presumably intended to be passed off as official coinage. This particular barbarous radiate is copying a coin minted at London of Carausius (AD 287-93). The reverse depicts Pax standing, head left, holding a branch in right hand and long vertical sceptre in left hand. The legend reads IAIII II II G (perhaps LAETITIA AVG). This coin has been included in Sam Moorhead's corpus of Roman Imperial Coinage (*forthcoming*).



Fig. 24 A Roman coin from West Meon



Fig. 25 A Roman coin from Crondall



Fig. 27 A Roman plumb bob from Whitchurch

*A Roman coin from Crondall (HAMP-474144) (Fig. 25)*

Roman gold coins are very rare finds; indeed out of 19,200 Hampshire Roman coins on the PAS database this is only the seventh gold coin to be recorded. It is a quinarius of Septimius Severus (AD 193-211) depicting Victory to the reverse, advancing left holding a wreath and palm. It was minted in Rome and as yet has no parallel in gold, the closest being a silver coin bearing the same reverse and minted in Rome between AD 202-210 (RIC volume IV part 1, p.123 no.258). It measures 14.7mm in diameter and weighs 3.57g.

*A Roman knife handle from Alresford (HAMP-8C8E54) (Fig. 26)*

This handle is all that remains of a folding knife of Roman date. It is copper alloy while the blade would have been made of iron but has long since corroded away. The handle has openwork decoration in the form of the popular 'hare and hound' motif, but is missing an end (behind the hound) where the blade would have attached. The snout of the hound touches the hare's tail as it chases after it. To the underside of the handle is a grooved slot for the missing blade. The handle measures 57.4mm long and 15.5mm wide, with a thickness of 3.8mm. It weighs 10.2g.



Fig. 26 A Roman knife handle from Alresford

*A Roman plumb bob from Whitchurch (HAMP-AFD5C8) (Fig. 27)*

This probable Roman plumb bob is an unusual find. It was fashioned from copper alloy and is bi-conical in shape with a circular collar at the centre of the flat surface, from which extends the remains of a separate iron shank. The edge of the flat surface is rounded and in one place is a deep V-sectioned groove which extends along its whole length. It measures 24.5mm in length/ height, 26.8mm in diameter and weighs 46.87g. The plumb bob may have been part of a *groma*, the main Roman surveying instrument, which was of a very simple design consisting of four arms that rested on a bracket attached to a vertical pole. Attached to each of the arms by a cord was a plumb bob (Appels & Laycock 2007, 142).

*An early Medieval harness mount from Cheriton (HAMP-330073) (Fig. 28)*

A 6th-century gilt copper alloy cruciform harness mount missing one of its terminals. It would have been one of a pair of, perhaps four, mounts in a two-way strap junction fitting that belonged to the head-harness of a horse. The central body of the mount is decorated with a chip-carved lozenge-shaped border, within which is a simple raised cross with a raised pellet in each corner. The same design is also present in each of the three remaining terminals, one of which has a central rivet to the reverse. The terminals to either side have a crude, probably secondary, rivet hole, which may have been an attempt to repair the item, but most likely they point to re-use, perhaps as a woman's dress ornament. This view is supported by the numbers of strap-junction fittings found in women's graves and reused as brooches (Dickinson *et al.* 2006, 256). The object measures 30.90mm by 22.59, is approx. 1.7mm thick and weighs 2.56g. The circular terminals have a diameter of approx. 8mm.

*An early Medieval coin from Odiham (HAMP-162F22) (Fig. 29)*

This silver-plated copper-alloy coin is a contemporary imitation of a silver sceat of Secondary Phase Series E, dating to around 720-60. It depicts a quilled crescent to the obverse and a standard of strokes and pellets to the reverse. It measures 11mm in diameter and weighs 0.83g. Such coins are notoriously diverse and while this does not copy any particular coin, it does imitate the general design of the series. Series E coins mostly likely derive from the Rhine area or Frisia, but a forgery such as this may equally come from England or elsewhere on the North Sea coast. Contemporary imitations in this period are far less numerous than in the Roman period.



Fig. 28 An early Medieval harness mount from Cheriton



Fig. 30 An early Medieval, Carolingian, mount from Micheldever



Fig. 29 An early Medieval coin from Odiham

*An early Medieval, Carolingian, mount from Micheldever (HAMP-F22C4B) (Fig. 30)*

Two objects of Carolingian (modern day France and Belgium) metalwork were recorded in Hampshire during 2015 (the other being a strap-end, HAMP-9E6A09). This object, a chunky copper alloy mount, has silvering and gilding to front and sides and devolved acanthus decoration, features associated with Carolingian art and metalwork during the late 8th and 9th century. The underside of the object is concave with an integral projection at either end, presumably for mounting. There is also a patch of iron corrosion. The size (56.3mm in length, 23.4mm in width, 11.3mm in depth) and weight (47.18g) of the object suggests it was mounted on a large or heavy object. Its presence in Wessex is probably due to the close cultural and religious contacts between the kingdom and the Carolingian world during the latter part of the 9th century.

*A Medieval seal matrix for stamping cloth seals from Buriton (SUR-AB43CB) (Fig. 31)*

While 110 cloths seals (lead alloy artefacts attached to individual cloths as part of a system of industrial regulation and quality control (Egan 1994; vii)), are recorded on the Hampshire PAS, very few of the actual seal matrices, which were used to produce them, are known. This example is 15.35 mm in length, 11.05mm in diameter and weighs 28.01g. Such seals date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, the latter being more common, and based on its style this matrix may have a late 14th/early 15th-century date. It would have been attached to a now missing wooden handle and comprises an overlapping sheet collar soldered to the circular matrix. Its design consists of a crown above a rose, a fleur-de-lys, and a possible spur rowel. The letters **SH** appear one on each side. The surrounding legend, in Lombardic lettering, reads **S'VLNAG PANNOR' IN COM' SVTH 'T'**, which translates as **Seal of Ulnage for Cloth in the County of Southampton**. Because no cloth seal of this design has so far been discovered it is postulated that at this time wax was used more commonly as a sealing medium, which by its very nature is far less likely to survive.

*A Medieval seal-matrix from Alresford (HAMP-0672FA) (Fig. 32)*

Non-heraldic personal seal matrices were in common use by the late 12th century, the central device often demonstrating the individual's trade, but at other times being a play on the name inscribed (Harvey & McGuinness 1996, ff.77). This example depicts a double-barred cross pattée (known variously as the Cross of Lorraine, an archiepiscopal cross, a patriarchal cross and a symbol of the Crusades) clutched in a hand that extends from a sleeve and is set at right angles to the vertical section of the cross. Surrounding this is the inscription \* S ' S V T h A M T E S Y R', which translates as the seal of SVThAMTESYR', perhaps a garbled spelling of Southampton. The central device may indicate ownership by an archbishop, churchman or perhaps crusader. Although the



Fig. 31 *A Medieval seal matrix for stamping cloth seals from Buriton*



Fig. 32 A Medieval seal-matrix from Alresford inscription does not quite fit, it is intriguing that there was a Templar preceptory at Southington. The seal matrix measures 25.9mm in diameter, 8.3mm in max. depth and weighs 8.20g.

*A Medieval ampulla from Overton (HAMP-B62E17) (Fig. 33)*

Many of the PAS finds are discovered by metal detector users, but the scheme records chance finds and this medieval lead alloy ampulla was found during gardening. It has suffered only slight damage and the metal has developed a dark brown smooth patina. The rounded end of one face depicts a scallop shell above which is a possible representation of the mitred head of St Thomas Becket. On the opposite face is a five-petalled flower, between this and the short ribs that define the base is a raised *cross fourchée*. The ampulla measures 58.3mm in length, 32.2mm across the rounded bottom and 26.8mm across the open end, 12.9mm in max.thickness and weighs 62.84g

Ampullae were vessels that contained holy water, probably acquired at pilgrimage sites. A thong would have been threaded through the side lugs so that the object could have been worn around the neck. The open end is crimped shut to keep the holy water inside. Ampullae date from the late 12th century to the end of the 15th century, but were gradually replaced by pilgrim badges in the early 14th century.

*A Post-Medieval badge from Cheriton (HAMP-F041E0) (Fig. 34)*

This lead clansman's badge dates to the 17th or early 18th century and bears in high relief the crest and motto of Leslie, Lord Lindores. It measures 51.50mm in length, is 42.68mm wide and 15.49mm in max.depth. It



Fig. 33 *A Medieval ampulla from Overton*



Fig. 34 *A Post-Medieval badge from Cheriton*

weighs 49.06g. This Scottish peerage title was created for Patrick Leslie in 1600 and became dormant on the death of the eighth Lord Lindores in 1813. The badge consists of a crest, a winged demi-angel on a crest wreath, holding in the right hand a beaked griffin's head, within a buckled strap and bears the motto 'STAT PRO [MI]SSA FIDES', 'the promised faith abides'. To the reverse is an integral rivet for attachment. A clansman's badge would have been used by household servants and other followers and it is therefore likely that this belonged to a supporter of the Lords Lindores.

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