

SEAL MATRIX

Unique ID: SOM-865FB7

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An oval (or vesica) lead Medieval personal seal matrix. The impression features a central fleur de lis within a slightly raised border surrounded by the inscription + S' ALISIE DEVIRE. (Seal of Alice Devire) with a further raised, oval border around the outside of this.

The reverse is undecorated with a small semi-circular suspension loop in the centre to one end. Length: 37.59mm, Width: 21.51mm, Thickness: 8.68, Weight: 19.20g.

Harvey and McGuiness (1996, p.79) suggest that this type of oval seal became popular in the early 13th century, particularly with women. The fleur de lis was also a particularly common design on this type of seal (ibid. p.80). There was a change in styles of seals at the end of the 13th century, with the owner's name often being omitted in favour of a phrase or motto (ibid. p.88), so this matrix is likely to predate this.

It is just possible that this surname may relate to the de Vere family.

Class: personal **Sub class:** woman

Inscription: + S' ALISIE DEVIRE.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: AD 1200

Date to: AD 1300

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 37.59 mm

Width: 21.51 mm

Thickness: 8.68 mm

Weight: 19.2 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 5th October 2009

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: Entry 020505

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Manufacture method: Cast

Spatial metadata

Region: [South West](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Wiltshire](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Wiltshire](#) (Unitary Authority)

To be known as: Urchfont

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Harvey, P.D.A. and McGuinness, A., 1996 [A Guide to British Medieval Seals](#) London: British Library and Public Record Office 79-88 ,