# **BOOK FITTING**

**Unique ID:** SWYOR-ECF507

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete medieval copper alloy hinged plate-and-loop type book clasp (Howsam type A.1.1) dating from the late 14th or early 15th century. The object has a folded tapering rectangular plate which is folded around a bar, which also articulates with the remains of the main part of the book clasp. There is a small fragment of one loop from the clasp remaining articulating with one side of the bar. The majority of the clasp element is lost to antiquity leading to speculation as to the design of the loop.

The sheet plate has two copper alloy rivets in situ at the open end, positioned side by side, and has signs of breakage around the rivets on the backplate. The plate has recessed shoulders to accommodate the clasp hinge loops. There is an overall brown and green patina with no visible decoration. Dimensions: 21.9mm long, 8mm wide and 2.9mm thick. 1.14g.

Book clasps found in archaeological contexts seem to cluster in the late 14th and 15th centuries in London (Egan 1998, 277-80) and in early to mid 16th-century contexts elsewhere (Howsam 2016, 24-26). Howsam points out that many old books were destroyed at the Reformation, leading many old book fittings to be found in 16th-century contexts. The date of the context is not the same as the date of manufacture of the book fitting. See <a href="https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/book-clasps/">https://finds.org.uk/counties/findsrecordingguides/book-clasps/</a>. Comparisons from the database include LVPL-7BFF03, SWYOR-EABA94 and WAW-CC2E93.

Class: clasp Sub class: Howsam A.1.1

## **Subsequent actions**

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

### Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL Period from: MEDIEVAL Period to: MEDIEVAL Date from: Circa AD 1350 Date to: Circa AD 1500

#### **Dimensions and weight**

Quantity: 1 Length: 21.9 mm

Length: 21.9 mm Width: 8 mm

Thickness: 2.9 mm Weight: 1.14 g

### **Discovery dates**

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 1st December 2019 - Friday 31st January 2020

### **Personal details**

This information is restricted for your access level.

#### Other reference numbers

Other reference: PAS form number 3597

#### **Materials and construction**

Primary material: Copper alloy Manufacture method: Hand made

Completeness: Incomplete

## **Spatial metadata**

Region: Yorkshire and the Humber (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Wakefield (Metropolitan District)

District: Wakefield (Metropolitan District)

Parish or ward: Pontefract North (Metropolitan District Ward)

## **Spatial coordinates**

4 Figure: SE4623

Four figure Latitude: 53.70141555 Four figure longitude: -1.30471014

1:25K map: SE4623 1:10K map: SE42SE

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

## **Discovery metadata**

Method of discovery: Metal detector General landuse: Cultivated land

Howsam, C.L., 2016 Book Fastenings and Furnishings: An archaeology of late Medieval books

Sheffield: Unpulished PhD Thesis pages 24-26