

# THIMBLE

**Unique ID:** BERK-5B7252

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A cast lead leather worker's palm guard. This palm guard is sub-oval in plan. One surface is flat with a rough surface and the other face is slightly domed. There is a circular hole that appears to have been punched through or even cast into the object. This hole is stepped. It has been suggested that these items were open cast in a fresh water mussel or oyster shells. Leather workers' palm guards are discussed in Bailey (Bailey, G. 1993 Detector Finds 2 pages 64-5) and described as being made of lead, or lead alloy. The final product, when made, was said to be enclosed in a thin leather pouch or wrapped in cloth. The palm guard was then strapped to the hand and would give protection when forcing needles through tough material. The dating of these finds is very difficult, although the earliest examples, according to Bailey (1993) date from the 17th century AD, they may have been in use right through to the 20th century.

## Notes:

This find was recovered at a Weekend Wanderers one day metal detecting rally held near Thatcham on 11/02/07. Identification made from photo only therefore this record may fall below our usual standard.

**Class:** palm guard

## Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Retained by Finder

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1600

Date to: Circa AD 1950

## Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 79.6 mm

Width: 42.1 mm

Thickness: 8.1 mm

## Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 8th April 2007

## Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

## Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Manufacture method: Cast

## Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [West Berkshire](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [West Berkshire](#) (Unitary Authority)

Parish or ward: [Thatcham](#) (Civil Parish)

## Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SU5165

Four figure Latitude: 51.381766

Four figure longitude: -1.268564

1:25K map: SU5165

1:10K map: SU56NW

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 10 metre square.

## Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Discovery circumstances: Weekend Wanderers Rally

Current location: Retained by Finder

Bailey, G., 1995 [Detector Finds](#) Chelmsford: Greenlight Publishing 64-65 ,