PENDANT

Unique ID: KENT-F5A964

Object type certainty: Certain Workflow status: Published

CURATOR'S REPORT

Gold Anglo-Saxon pendant.

Description of find

Round, openwork, gold pendant with damaged attachment loop. The pendant is formed by a coiled length of beaded gold wire which is soldered together. The innermost coil was left plain in two sections, for decorative effect and the outermost ring has separated from the next one at some length. The attachment loop resembles the tubular loops on bracteates, but is torn and squashed. A small, flattened, gold globule is placed where the attachment loop sits on the ?front of the pendant.. The loop is more abraded on the other side and there are traces of wear around the edge of the object.

Discussion

The closest parallels to this object come from south-east Suffolk (SF-0646A8) and the 7th-century grave 391B at Buckland Dover (Parfitt and Anderson 2012), both made from concentric rings of beaded wire with a circular hole at the centre. Similar but slightly more elaborate and larger pendants, which in addition had a cross set into the openwork centre, were found in 7th-century graves at Harford Farm, Norfolk, gr. 28 (Penn 2000, fig. 93, pl. XVIII) and at Gilton gr. 27 (Geake 1997, Fig. 4.4), Chartham Downs and Faversham, all Kent. Such cross-in-circle pendants are also known from Scandinavia and France, where about a dozen examples have been found (Penn 2000, 51; e.g. Merowingerzeit cat. nos. V.3.4.3 and V.3.6.2 with images). Circular pendants were popular parts of female necklaces in the Anglo-Saxon period, especially in the late 6th and 7th centuries. They were often set with gem stones, but there is no trace of the present object every having had a setting and/or backing plate.

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Returned to finder after museum withdrew from aquisition Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2007T502

Chronology

Broad period: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Early

Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Ascribed Culture: Anglo-Saxon style

Date from: Circa AD 600 Date to: Circa AD 700

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1 Length: 16 mm Width: 13 mm Weight: 2.5 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 9th September 2007

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 2007/T502 Treasure case number: 2007T502

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: South East (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: Kent (County)

District: Thanet (District)
To be known as: Ramsgate

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Current location: Returned to finder after museum withdrew from aguisition

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Penn, K., 2000 Norwich Southern Bypass Part II: Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Harford Farm, Caistor St

Edmund Dereham: Norfolk Museums Service