

# AMPULLA

**Unique ID:** SOM-36CAC6

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A complete medieval ampulla. The object survives in relatively good condition, though flattened. It has the common 'amphora' shape, with two lugs either side of the neck forming very small handles. One face is decorated with a scallop shell design on the body, with a cross-hatched design above. The scallop shell was an emblem associated with St James the Greater and one that was so popular from the 11th century onwards that it eventually became a generic emblem for the act of pilgrimage itself (Spencer, 1998, 41). Canterbury first adopted the design as its emblem on earlier ampullae. However, it was later used at a number of other shrines too (Spencer 1998, 41). The other face is decorated with a raised circle divided into four sections with a small dash in each one, surmounted by a cross with two 'V' shapes either side. Spencer (1998, 3) suggests that ampullae were popular in England from the second half of the 12th century until the early 14th century, when they were largely replaced by badges as the most popular type of pilgrimage memento. The metal is greyish-white in colour and slightly pitted. Length:47.4mm, width:36.3mm, thickness:5.5mm Weight:34.5g

## Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1150

Date to: Circa AD 1350

## Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 47.5 mm

Width: 36.3 mm

Thickness: 5.5 mm

Weight: 34.5 g

## Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 25th November 2008

## Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

## Other reference numbers

Other reference: Entry 020357

## Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Complete

## Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [Somerset](#) (County)

District: [Sedgemoor](#) (District)

To be known as: Near Bawdrip

## Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 100 metre square.

## Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Spencer, B., 1998 [Pilgrim Souvenirs and Secular Badges](#) London: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 7 3,41 ,