

HARNESS FITTING

Unique ID: BH-6A1323

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A copper-alloy horse harness link of 11th century date. Anglo-Scandinavian horse harness fittings are discussed by Williams (2007), who illustrates a similar example to this piece (p. 5, (b)), from Soberton, Hampshire. Several parallels are also recorded on the PAS database - see, for example, BH-D36F23 and SOMDOR-E14156.

At the centre of the double-ended link is a moulded boss which takes the form of a forward-facing zoomorphic head. Each of the two eyes is depicted with a single raised pellet. The nose consists of a vertical ridge between the eyes which forks at the bottom, the ridge becoming the animal's upper lip. Protruding from the mouth is an inverted v-shaped moulding which gives the appearance of fangs. The ears are set on top of the head and point upwards. The top of the head also bears moulded grooves and ridges. Extending outwards from each side of the central boss is a short 'arm' of semi-circular section. The left hand terminal is intact and comprises a lozengiform loop with an oval central aperture and three projecting lobes around the outside. The right hand loop is incomplete but appears to originally have been of the same form. The underside of the boss is hollow and contains an unidentified white infill.

The artefact is very corroded. It measures 62.9mm long, 19.6mm wide and 11.3mm thick. The weight is 21.13g.

Class: Double-ended link

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Late

Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Subperiod to: Early

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1000

Date to: Circa AD 1100

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 62.9 mm

Width: 19.6 mm

Thickness: 11.3 mm

Weight: 21.13 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 10th March 2009

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: Luton 0291 - 1

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [Eastern](#) (European Region)

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

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

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TL0424

Four figure Latitude: 51.904842

Four figure longitude: -0.489694

1:25K map: TL0424

1:10K map: TL02SW

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Williams, D., 2007 [Anglo-Scandinavian Horse Harness Fittings \(FRG Datasheet 39\)](#) Lincolnshire:
Finds Research Group AD700-1700 ,