

# PILGRIM BADGE

**Unique ID:** IOW-B00471

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

An almost complete late medieval cast copper-alloy Saint Barbara pilgrim badge (c. 1400-c. 1500). The badge is in moulded relief at the front and largely flat at the rear. At the front the moulded design depicts a nimbed and draped Saint Barbara standing beside the tower in which she was imprisoned and holding in her left hand a palm branch symbolising her martyrdom. She holds a sacramental wafer in her right hand. The rear face of the badge is flat and has the remains of a soldered copper-alloy loop for attachment to a garment. A patina has not survived and some of the surfaces are covered in drab green copper-alloy corrosion products. Where the metal is visible it is a dull reddish colour. 24.8 x 18.9 x 7.5mm. Weight: 2.99g. A similar pilgrim badge has been recorded from Calbourne Parish, Isle of Wight. See Portable Antiquities Scheme find: IOW-2A0A40. Other similar finds on the database include: GLO-D4BD11, SUR-7865B6, NARC-B9F6E5, and SWYOR-7707F7.

This badge has been published by Lewis (2014, 34; 2016, 287, fig. 10.10).

## Notes:

The Oxford Dictionary of Saints has the following description. '[St Barbara] was shut up in a tower by her father Dioscorus, so that no man should see her. None the less princes sought her hand in marriage. She became a Christian while her father was away and decided to live as a hermit in a bath-house he had built. Here she made the workman add a third window in honour of the Holy Trinity. In his fury at her becoming a Christian, he nearly killed her, but she was handed over to a judge who condemned her to death. Her father was struck by lightning and died. This was the basis of her patronage of those in danger of sudden death, first by lightning, and then by subsiding mines or cannon-balls. Hence, her patronage of miners and gunners. The first known representation of her is an 8th-century fresco at S. Maria Antiqua, Rome; she is found, often with the equally mythical Margaret of Antioch, on late medieval English screens and stained glass. Her usual emblem is a tower. The painting of her by Jan van Eyck in the museum at Antwerp is probably the most famous representation' (Farmer, D. H. 1978, 28 'The Oxford Dictionary of Saints'. Oxford: Clarendon Press).

## Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: County / local importance

**Class:** St Barbara

## Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Late  
Period from: MEDIEVAL  
Subperiod to: Late  
Period to: MEDIEVAL  
Date from: Circa AD 1400  
Date to: Circa AD 1500

### **Dimensions and weight**

Quantity: 1  
Length: 24.8 mm  
Width: 18.9 mm  
Thickness: 7.5 mm  
Weight: 2.99 g

### **Discovery dates**

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 21st November 2010

### **Personal details**

This information is restricted for your access level.

### **Other reference numbers**

Other reference: IOW2010-1-706

### **Materials and construction**

Primary material: Copper alloy  
Manufacture method: Cast  
Completeness: Incomplete

### **Spatial metadata**

Region: [South East](#) (European Region)  
County or Unitary authority: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)  
District: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)  
To be known as: Isle of Wight

### **Spatial coordinates**

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)  
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

### **Discovery metadata**

Method of discovery: Metal detector  
Discovery circumstances: Club rally  
General landuse: Cultivated land  
Specific landuse: Operations to a depth greater than 0.25m

Lewis, M., 2016 [\*Life \(and after-life\) insurance in the medieval period\*](#) Abingdon: Routledge 287 , 10.10

finds.org.uk