

WEIGHT

Unique ID: LVPL-BBE3D4

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A complete cast lead or lead alloy weight, of probable Medieval dating (1300 to 1550 AD).

The weight is an irregular cone in plan, and triangular in profile / cross section. A length of thick iron wire has been inserted into the top of the weight (the flat surface of the cone), probably as a method of suspension. Iron corrosion products present have obscured the original shape of the probable suspension loop.

No decoration is present on the weight. It is a light to mid grey colour, with an even surface patina.

It measures 31.88mm tall, and has a diameter of 17.67mm at the top. It weighs 44.1 grams (1.55 oz).

Weights of this style are frequently encountered, and commonly thought to be of Medieval dating. The iron suspension loop would have aided safe-keeping and storage. Similar weights with iron suspension loops have been dated to the medieval period (Biggs, 1992). A similar weight was published as #76 in Biggs & Withers (2000, p32), although it is more cylindrical in shape. They have identified it as a probable steelyard poise. However a similar weight with a copper alloy suspension loop was found on the Isle of Man in association with a balance. This example was dated to 8th or 9th Centuries AD (Skinner & Bruce-Mitford, 1940, fig XV), and it was suggested it would have converted the equal arm balance into a form of steelyard.

Lead weights, due to be a functional artefact, do change little in style over time, and as such can be hard to date accurately. Little study has been done to date on typological studies to confirm the dating of different styles. However it is reasonable to assume that this weight is probably Medieval in dating.

Reference:

Biggs, N. 1992 'English Weights - an illustrated survey' p40-41

Biggs, N. & Withers, P. 2000. Lead Weights: The David Rogers Collection. The English Weights Series - 6. White House Publications & Galata Print Ltd. Llanfyllin.

Skinner, F.G. & Bruce-Mitford, R.L.S. 1940. A Celtic Balance-beam of the Christian Period. Antiquaries Journal, 20. pp86-102.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1300

Date to: Circa AD 1550

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Height: 31.88 mm

Weight: 44.1 g

Diameter: 17.67 mm

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Recorded by: Miss Teresa Gilmore

Identified by: Miss Teresa Gilmore

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy

Secondary material: Iron

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [Yorkshire and the Humber](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [North Yorkshire](#) (County)

District: [Ryedale](#) (District)

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

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SE6374

Four figure Latitude: 54.157957

Four figure longitude: -1.03675

1:25K map: SE6374

1:10K map: SE67SW

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 100 metre square.