

SEAL MATRIX

Unique ID: SUR-B74173

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A large medieval cast copper alloy monastic seal matrix of pointed oval form. The seal is probably of 13th century date.

The matrix depicts the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus on her left knee. The child holds a book in his left hand and appears to be pointing upwards with his right. Mary holds a flower in her right hand. There is no handle or suspension loop on the back although there is a short tapering flat ridge running from the upper point.

The seal is very well preserved although there is a small amount of surface concretion.

The inscription around the seal reads:

+S'ECCE SCE MARIE ET SCI W(V)LFADI MARTIRIS DE STANIS

The Seal of the Church of Saint Mary and Saint Wulfade, Martyr of Stone.

The name WVLADI is difficult to read and the V appears to be missing.

This is the seal of the Augustinian Priory at Stone in Staffordshire. The Priory church was dedicated to Mary and a local 7th century martyr Saint Wulfhade. There is at present no known connection between Stone and the findspot in Cobham, Surrey.

The seal is identical to the one used to create an impression (now in plaster, made in the 19th century) of a wax seal of Stone Priory, in the collections of the British Library. See Walter de Gray Birch, *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum*, vol. 1 (1887), p. 759, no. 4108 (catalogue entry and photograph of cast pictured). A direct comparison between the seal and the cast of the impression by David Williams confirms that there is no doubt that the Cobham matrix is the original used.

Notes:

The seal is presently (2013) on display in Stone church.

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: Include in MedArch

Inscription: +S'ECCE SCE MARIE ET SCI W(V)LFADI MARTIRIS DE STANIS

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL
Period from: MEDIEVAL
Date from: Circa AD 1200
Date to: Circa AD 1300

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 73.45 mm
Width: 44.28 mm
Thickness: 6.26 mm
Weight: 84 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 22nd August 2011

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 11-1180

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [South East](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Surrey](#) (County)
District: [Elmbridge](#) (District)
Parish or ward: [Cobham and Downside](#) (District Ward)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ1059
Four figure Latitude: 51.319482
Four figure longitude: -0.422893
1:25K map: TQ1059
1:10K map: TQ15NW
Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Birch, W. de G., 1887 [Catalogue of seals in the British Museum](#) London: The British Museum , no. 4108