

SPINDLE WHORL

Unique ID: SWYOR-D84976

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A lead alloy spindle whorl of probably Medieval or Post Medieval date. The whorl is circular and slightly plano-convex but with straight sides. The central hole is 9.07mm in diameter and there is no aperture in the side wall of the hole. The whorl is 29.33mm in diameter. The interesting feature on the whorl is its decoration which consists of a series of symbols cast in relief. One one face reading clockwise is: a large raised square; a possible chevron pointing inwards (damaged); a cross pattee; a heart; one missing due to damage; a comma (?); an H or B; and a letter A. On the other face, reading clockwise round the whorl is: An O with radiating lines; a complicated symbol looking rather like an anchor joined to a semicircle divided into three segments; an arrow, pheon or shuttlecock; a symbol looking like a reverse lower case h; a goblet or hourglass; a symbol consisting of an upward pointing chevron, the left stroke of which continues upwards then bends 90 degrees to the right, with another line extending diagonally downward to the left from the centre of the symbol, terminating with a dot; a diagonal line with a fork at each end; a cross pattee; and finally an naught (0). The symbols do not appear to be lettering or runes, though they could be blundered copying of letters. Other whorls with similar symbols include [NLM-72FFC4](#) which has the inscription [heart] WILLIAM; NLM-5B02D7 which has hearts and pellets; and LVPL-9F9737 which has hearts and other marks. The whorl has a creamy patina. Whorls are very difficult to date but the style of the symbols suggest a late medieval or Post Medieval date.

Of further interest is another whole which has exactly the same design which is PAS record number: SWYOR-D89352. They are certainly the same design, and may be from the same mould; though the parallel is more 'blobby' with the edges of the symbols being more rounded, this could be as a result of the mould becoming worn.

Find of note status

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

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1400

Date to: Circa AD 1600

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Thickness: 6.9 mm
Weight: 29.17 g
Diameter: 29.33 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Saturday 1st January 2000 - Monday 1st January 2001

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.
Recorded by: Ms Amy Downes
Identified by: Ms Amy Downes

Other reference numbers

Other reference: PAS form number 1536

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

County or Unitary authority: [Leeds](#) (Metropolitan District)
District: [Leeds](#) (Metropolitan District)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SE3141
Four figure Latitude: 53.864296
Four figure longitude: -1.530103
1:25K map: SE3141
1:10K map: SE34SW
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 100 metre square.