

AMPULLA

Unique ID: SOM-761DA2

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

Incomplete Medieval cast lead-alloy flask shaped ampulla (pilgrim souvenir). It has a sub-circular body, with a trapezoid neck extending from one end. There are stubs of small handles on each side at the junction of the body and neck. Originally hollow inside, both faces have now been crushed together. One side of the neck is damaged with about a half to a third torn away with an irregular break, possibly from tearing it open to use the holy water held within. The tear extends down into the body on one side. The remaining part of the upper edge of the neck appears to be open. The metal is greyish-white in colour and slightly pitted with some new areas of damage showing as grey. Both faces appear to be plain although one is bent inwards more and may have had a shallow central design, obscured by damage. It is now 51.7mm long, 30.8mm wide and 5.8mm thick; it weighs 33.02 g.

Spencer (1998: 3) suggests that ampulla were popular in England from the second half of the 12th century until the early 14th century, when they were largely replaced by badges as the most popular type of pilgrimage memento.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1150

Date to: Circa AD 1350

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 51.7 mm

Width: 30.8 mm

Thickness: 5.8 mm

Weight: 33.02 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 1st November 2011

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: SCC receipt 20895

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [South West](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Somerset](#) (County)

District: [South Somerset](#) (District)

To be known as: Ilchester

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Spencer, B., 1998 [Medieval finds from excavations in London: 7. Pilgrim souvenirs and secular badges](#) London: Museum of London, The Stationary Office 3