

KNIFE

Unique ID: LON-D9DD43

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete late post medieval to modern composite knife. The knife has an iron core with bone and copper alloy handle scales (plates). The scales are fixed to the iron core by three in-situ copper alloy rivets. The blade has broken away next to the bolster so none survives. The bolster itself is copper alloy and decorated with horizontal incised lines. Part of the iron core protrudes from between the handle scales; it is unclear whether this was intentional or caused by corrosion. The handle is an elongated teardrop; the bone panels are incased in copper alloy borders. On one panel is a central copper alloy insert with the inscribed initials 'TB'. The insert is surrounded by an etched design of a bullrush-style plant with long leaves on it's stem. Between the bullrush and the terminal of the handle is an etched swan surrounded by reeds. The details are emphasised by parallel lines. On the other plate are more etching but of a lesser quality. On the terminal tip is a plant, and in the central is a prawn or lobster with the initials 'TB' and two abstract shapes in a row towards the bolster. It is probable that the two sets of decorations were made by different people; possibly with one copying the other. The knife now measures 79.8mm (length) x 13.9mm (width) x 8.3mm (thickness) and weighs 28.46g.

The construction of the knife and the shape of the handle suggests it is from the late 18th century AD.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MODERN

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: MODERN

Date from: Circa AD 1780

Date to: Circa AD 1800

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 79.8 mm

Width: 13.9 mm

Thickness: 8.3 mm

Weight: 28.46 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Iron

Secondary material: Animal skeletal material

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [London](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Greater London Authority](#) (Greater London Authority)

District: [Southwark](#) (London Borough)

Parish or ward: [Cathedrals](#) (London Borough Ward)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ3180

Four figure Latitude: 51.50376

Four figure longitude: -0.113954

1:25K map: TQ3180

1:10K map: TQ38SW

Grid reference source: GPS (From FLO)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Discovery circumstances: Found on the Thames foreshore

General landuse: Open fresh water

Specific landuse: Running water