

PIN

Unique ID: SUSS-593350

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A complete Post Medieval silver gilt dress pin with hollow-cast spherical head, c. 16th century AD. The pin has been drawn from a thick silver wire 2.40 mm in diameter and the shaft measures approximately 72 mm long (including the section through the head) with a 90-degree bend about one third of the length up from the point. Such bends are a common feature of these pins and it appears to be purposeful, perhaps due to use. The pin tapers gradually to a point at one end and ends flat at the other. The flat end seems to have been pushed through and soldered into a highly-decorative head. Only a very small circular end of the pin protrudes from the top of the spherical head.

The cast hollow spherical head measures 10.54 mm in diameter and has filigree and applied knop decoration. It has been divided by a raised border of possibly twisted wire filigree, the surface of which has been flattened, into two hemispheres. The lower hemisphere has been decorated with three circles of twisted wire filigree each containing three smaller circles of twisted wire with an applied knop in the centre of each, one of which is now missing. There are small circles of twisted wire forming a base for applied knops in each of the three spandrels between the circles and the upper band. One smaller circle is missing its knop and may have been made of plain instead of twisted wire.

The upper hemisphere is decorated with three twisted wire circles surrounding the central protruding pin top; each of the circles contains a small one made of twisted wire and placed centrally, serving as a base for a knop. One of the knops is missing. Similar to the other hemisphere, there are small circles of twisted wire forming a base for applied knops in each of the three spandrels between the circles and the lower band.

At the junction of the head and shaft is a soldered silver loop, which is intact. The entire pin-head retains traces of gilding, with a pale golden surface colour in recessed areas and silver raised filigree areas.

Spherical-headed dress pins were used by women to secure dress or hair during the sixteenth century. This pin is of a type that is frequently reported as Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996. The addition of a loop below the head is not common on these pins but other examples are known e.g. SUSS-C10BD8 (2010T64), ESS-FE0D98 (2008T166) and NMGW-AEBC43.

Notes:

In terms of age and as the object contains a minimum of 10% precious metal it qualifies as Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2012T159

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1500

Date to: Circa AD 1600

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 72 mm

Weight: 4.7 g

Diameter: 10.5 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 17th October 2011

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Treasure case number: 2012T159

Materials and construction

Primary material: Silver

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [West Sussex](#) (County)

District: [Chichester](#) (District)

To be known as: Near Chichester

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

finds.org.uk