

# THIMBLE

**Unique ID:** IOW-A9A877

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A post-Medieval to Modern cast lead leather workers' palm guard situated within an oyster shell in which it has been cast (c. 1600-c. 1900).

This irregular shaped guard has been cast in an oyster shell, now incomplete. The beak (or umbo) of the shell at the anterior end is complete and the posterior end is largely missing.

The lead protrudes through a sub-circular hole on the outer face of the shell.

Length: 62.94mm; width: 49.50m; thickness: 14.98mm. Weight: 88.89g.

Leather workers' palm guards are discussed in an article in Gordon Bailey's 'Detector Finds 2', 1993, pages 64-65. Originally identified by W. Wyman of London, most of the examples are made of lead, although some have the addition of tin, which was used to produce a harder metal. The final product, when made, was enclosed in a thin leather pouch or wrapped in cloth which would have a hole going through it to match a depression in the lead. The whole was then strapped to the hand and would give protection when forcing needles through tough material.

Dating of these artefacts is very difficult, although the earliest examples seem to date from the 17th century AD, although they may have been in use right through to the 20th century (Bailey, page 64).

**Class:** Palm guard **Sub class:** Oyster shell

## Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Finder

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Early

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: MODERN

Date from: Circa AD 1600

Date to: Circa AD 1900

## Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 62.94 mm

Width: 49.5 mm

Thickness: 14.98 mm

Weight: 88.89 g

## Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 18th November 2012

## Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

## Other reference numbers

Other reference: IOW2012-1-573

## Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Secondary material: Other

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

## Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Isle of Wight](#) (Unitary Authority)

To be known as: Isle of Wight

## Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

## Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Discovery circumstances: Club rally

Current location: Finder

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Operations to a depth greater than 0.25m

Bailey, G., 1995 [Detector Finds](#) Chelmsford: Greenlight Publishing 64-65