

BELL

Unique ID: WMID-30FA81

Object type certainty: Possibly

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An complete cast copper alloy crotal or rumbler bell of probable Post Medieval dating (16th to 17th Centuries AD).

The bell is sub circular in plan and profile, with an integrally cast sub rectangular suspension loop attached to the top. The edges of the rectangular suspension loop have been bevelled. The base of the bell is semi circular, with a rectangular slot across the base, with circular ends. The Iron 'pea' is still present inside the bell.

The bell was cast in one piece, using two opposing moulds. This casting method is indicated by the present of two 'sound holes' (internal diameter 6.9 mm) which are primarily to assist the positioning of the sand core. This sand core to allow the bell to be cast in one piece as opposed to cast in two separate halves and soldered together. These two part moulds are split at the central girth rib, and no vertical mould lines are present. The central girth rib performs a useful purpose of accommodating any minor misalignments between the two halves, along with strengthening the bell and preserving the original appearance.

The bell is a mid green colour, with an uneven surface patina. Abrasion, caused by movement whilst within the plough soil, has resulted in a loss of some of the original surface detail and patina. Where the surface patina has flaked away, there are areas of a lighter green colour. These areas should be monitored for signs of active copper corrosion occurring (a bright green, powdery residue). To reduce the risk of this happening, the bell should be stored in a sealed, air tight, dry box, such as a tupperware box, lined with silica gel and acid free tissue paper.

It measures 45.84 mm in length, with a diameter of 35.71 mm. It weighs 39.7 grams.

Crotal or rumbler bells in this style and method of construction date from 16th to 17th Centuries AD. However the style continues in use until the late 18th Century, so the bell could be of any date from within that timeframe. Several similar examples have been recorded on the PAS database including HESH-FE94C0 from Shifnal, Shropshire and IOW-90D071 from the Isle of Wight.

Class: crotal

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: POST MEDIEVAL

Period from: POST MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1500

Date to: Circa AD 1700

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 45.84 mm
Weight: 39.7 g
Diameter: 35.71 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Secondary material: Iron
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: [West Midlands](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Staffordshire](#) (County)
District: [Stafford](#) (District)
Parish or ward: [Eccleshall](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SJ8228
Four figure Latitude: 52.849196
Four figure longitude: -2.26872
1:25K map: SJ8228
1:10K map: SJ82NW
Grid reference source: Centred on field
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
Discovery circumstances: Found whilst metal detecting