

DIRK

Unique ID: NMS-C7EEF3

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

Middle Bronze Age ceremonial dirk, the second recorded from Norfolk. The first was recovered from Oxborough in 1988 found point down in peaty deposits (Needham 1990; Collins 2013, 52).

The landowner was said to have observed the second dirk being ploughed up, it then remained in the farm office for some years, occasionally being used to prop the door open. It was suggested that the object could be old and was then bought to Gressenhall for identification, causing more than a little surprise to the FLO and other staff of the finds department.

Remarkably, the provenances of the four other known examples of this spectacular type all lie in continental Europe, Plougrescant in Brittany, Beaune in Burgundy, and Ommerschans and Jutphaas in the Netherlands. All six are very similar, though there are slight differences in the elaboration of cross-sections and lengths and may well be produced in one workshop and distributed to fulfill their ceremonial duties. All lack rivet holes for the attachment of handles, and have intentionally blunt edges, but they are well finished in other respects.

See Rogerson and Ashley, Norfolk Archaeology XLVII (2014), 104-106.

Length (straightened) 685mm. Maximum width (straightened) 175mm. Thickness 8mm. Weight 1.916kg.

Find of note status

This is a find of note and has been designated: National importance

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: Norfolk Museums Service Norwich Castle Museum

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by a museum - not a Treasure case

Chronology

Broad period: BRONZE AGE

Subperiod from: Middle

Period from: BRONZE AGE

Subperiod to: Middle

Period to: BRONZE AGE

Date from: Circa 1500 BC

Date to: Circa 1350 BC

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 685 mm

Width: 175 mm
Thickness: 8 mm
Weight: 1916 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 1st January 2003 - Wednesday 31st December 2003

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 58407
Other reference: IND19032013ED
Museum accession number: 2014.101

Materials and construction

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

Spatial metadata

Region: [Eastern](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Norfolk](#) (County)
District: [King's Lynn and West Norfolk](#) (District)
To be known as: East Rudham

Spatial coordinates

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Agricultural or drainage work
Current location: Norfolk Museums Service Norwich Castle Museum