BRIDLE FITTING

Unique ID: SF-0CA225

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete cast copper-alloy bridle fitting or cheekpiece of late Early-Medieval date. A fragment from one corner of the fitting survives, the remainder now missing due to old breaks. It is roughly rectangular in form with an incomplete rectangular projection or arm to one side, short incomplete triangular projection to the top(?) and incomplete lower edge. The one complete side has a semicircular moulding at the base of the fragment, with a triangular projection above, while the opposite side of the plate has curving edges that suggest it originally had openwork (circular?) perforations or decoration. The back face is flat and undecorated, while the front face has incised decoration that is perhaps zoomrphic in nature. This comprises a incised border with a spiral that is oval at its centre towards the semi-circular moulding at the complete edge of the plate. Pairs of grooves fill the remaining areas of the front face extending onto the incomplete rectangular arm. It measures 22.19mm in length, 24.38mm in width, 3.98mm in thickness and 8.52g in weight.

This cheekpiece fragment is of Early-Medieval date and demonstrates decoration and form that is of Anglo-Scandinavian influence. The decoration on the front face probably depicts an animal or beast of some kind, however not enough of the cheekpiece survives intact to allow for an accurate reconstruction or identification of what this may have been. The current example finds its closest parallel with Williams' Type 1 cheekpieces, suggesting a date in the 11th century AD.

Class: cheekpiece Sub class: Williams Type 1

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: EARLY MEDIEVAL Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL Period to: EARLY MEDIEVAL

Ascribed Culture: Anglo-Scandinavian style

Date from: Circa AD 1000 Date to: Circa AD 1100

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 22.19 mm Width: 24.38 mm Thickness: 3.98 mm Weight: 8.52 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 1st October 2013

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

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

Spatial metadata

Region: Eastern (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Suffolk (County)

District: <u>Ipswich</u> (District) To be known as: Ipswich

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined