

VESSEL

Unique ID: BERK-B61561

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A copper alloy swivel and suspension ring from a Roman oil flask. The swivel is broadly pelta-shaped with two hooked arms either side of a cylindrical shaft. The hooked arms terminate in expanded rounded terminals while the cylindrical shaft has three cutaways which allows the swivel to sit and manoeuvre inside itself. The swivel mechanism has now corroded and the swivel no longer turns. The cylindrical shaft has flanges front and back and either side next to the hooked arms. The hooked arms would have held a pair of chains for the suspension of the flask. The top of the swivel mechanism terminates in a thick, heavy duty loop through which passes a copper alloy ring for suspension. The ring has a diagonal split through it and does show signs of wear where the swivel hangs from as the ring is worn thinner here than over the rest of the hoop. This suggests movement or friction which would concord with the use of the object, however there does not appear to be any wear to the hooked arms, where the chains that suspended the oil flask would have hung. The ring measures 23.05mm diameter (external) and is 2.94mm thick. The pelta swivel is 28.9mm wide and 22.66mm high. It has a maximum thickness of 10.62mm and weighs 15.4gms.

A similar oil flask swivel was found in Perlethorpe cum Budby (Nottinghamshire) and has been recorded onto the PAS database record no: DENO-54B3D1. Another complete example, also from Oxfordshire, is recorded as SUSS-5B9C35. An illustrated parallel can be seen in Liversage 1968:137, Fig.50.

Find of note status

This has been noted as an interesting find by the recorder.

Class: Oil flask

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN

Period to: ROMAN

Date from: Circa AD 43

Date to: Circa AD 410

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Width: 28.9 mm

Thickness: 10.62 mm

Weight: 15.6 g

Diameter: 23.05 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 2013.879

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [Oxfordshire](#) (County)

District: [West Oxfordshire](#) (District)

Parish or ward: [Standlake](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SP3904

Four figure Latitude: 51.73336151

Four figure longitude: -1.43666967

1:25K map: SP3904

1:10K map: SP30SE

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Other

Liversage, J., 1968. [Britain in the Roman Empire](#) :