

BEAD

Unique ID: GLO-46CA05

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

Middle Bronze Age circular gold bead that is biconical profile. The interior is hollow with the walls made of thin sheets (less than a millimetre thick at the aperture). The inner face slightly rough suggesting the bead may have been cast.

The following discussion has been taken from record NMS-AEC678 written by Dr Andrew Rogerson (Norfolk Senior Historic Environment Officer (Finds)) and Mr Neil Wilkin (Bronze Age Curator British Museum)

The gold bead is likely to date to the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500-1100 BC) based on several close comparanda. The three biconical gold beads from the Burton, Wrexham, hoard are similar in form, size and weight to the Salthouse bead (PAS-5B1745; Gwilt et al. in Barton 2011). The Burton hoard comprised of several typo-chronologically distinctive artefacts (including bronze palstaves) that allow it to be dated to c.1300-1150 BC (Ibid.). The bead is also similar to those from Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire and Harlow, Essex, the former from a stratified Middle Bronze Age context (Varndell 2000, 12, no.1; 2005/6, 17, 270, no.6), and Buriton, Hampshire (HAMP-72E451).

Middle Bronze Age gold beads are a relatively rare find (Murgia et al. forthcoming) and can be contextualised with reference to the so-called 'ornament horizon(s)', which see a proliferation of bronze and gold ornaments in Southern England and Britain (respectively) during the period c.1400-1100 BC (Smith 1959; Roberts 2007).

Notes:

In terms of age and as the object contains a minimum of 10% precious metal it qualifies as Treasure under the stipulations of the Treasure Act 1996.

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: The British Museum

Subsequent action after recording: Acquired by museum after being declared Treasure

Treasure details

Treasure case tracking number: 2014T358

Chronology

Broad period: BRONZE AGE

Subperiod from: Middle

Period from: BRONZE AGE

Period to: BRONZE AGE

Date from: Circa 1500 BC

Date to: Circa 1100 BC

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Height: 4.5 mm

Weight: 0.45 g

Diameter: 10 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 16th February 2014

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Recorded by: Mr Kurt Adams

Identified by: Mr Kurt Adams

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 48458

Treasure case number: 2014T358

Materials and construction

Primary material: Gold

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

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

District: [Forest of Dean](#) (District)

To be known as: Newent

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Current location: The British Museum

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined