

BRIDLE BIT

Unique ID: BERK-91C0F5

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete cast copper alloy openwork harness fitting, a probable cheek piece from a bridle fitting of the late Early-medieval period (11th century AD). The object is Anglo-Scandinavian in design and is a fragment of a larger fitting. This is likely to be one half of the cheek piece, the other side of the plate was probably symmetrical with a central hole and a projecting arm for the attachment to the leather harness strap (Williams 2007:2). The plate is faintly decorated in what is probably Jelling Style, with a curled beast apparently consuming its own tail. This was a common decorative theme during this period. This example is probably a Williams (2007) Type 1. Similar examples recorded on this database include SF-BC3504, SUSS-2D5753 and ESS-C06D96, BERK-801C92.

Notes:

Thanks to the finder for providing the images. Find not seen in person by FLO.

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

Date from: Circa AD 1000

Date to: Circa AD 1100

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 40 mm

Width: 26 mm

Weight: 15.15 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Sunday 22nd December 2013

Rally details.

This object was found at [Metal Detectives at Bolnhurst \(nr Wilden\), Beds 22.12.13](#)

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Recorded by: Miss Anni Byard

Identified by: Miss Anni Byard

Other reference numbers

Other reference: 2014.190

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Decoration style: Zoomorphic

Completeness: Fragment

Spatial metadata

Region: [Eastern](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [Bedford](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Bedford](#) (Unitary Authority)

Parish or ward: [Bolnhurst and Keysoe](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TL0758

Four figure Latitude: 52.2098423

Four figure longitude: -0.43546528

1:25K map: TL0758

1:10K map: TL05NE

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.