

BOOK FITTING

Unique ID: NMS-A664F2

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

Part of an elaborate medieval copper alloy book clasp, comprising an openwork oval plate formed by two confronted wyverns (slightly hollowed on reverse), both with a dog-like head gripping the end of a narrowed bar for a strap. The wyverns both have wings molded on their backs, and the legs intertwined with pelleted (possible) tails around a central hole which would have fitted over a pin set into the wooden book cover. A stylised animal-head with a perforation through the snout forms a terminal loop, through which a cord would have been threaded. Length 49mm. Width 25mm. Thickness of body 3.5mm, of terminal head 5.5mm. Weight 14.45g.

Cf. an even more elaborate book-clasp of related form and date, also with interlaced wyverns, from Quidenham, Norfolk (HER 35413), illustrated in Ashley 2016 'Anglo-Norman Elite Objects from Castle and Countryside', fig. 18.5, no. 25. For later examples of similar book clasps see Egan (1998) Medieval Household, fig.214.

This clasp probably fits best into Howsam's type A.1.3.

Find of note status

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

Class: clasp **Sub class:** Howsam type A.1.3

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1100

Date to: Circa AD 1200

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 49 mm

Width: 25 mm

Thickness: 5.5 mm

Weight: 14.45 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Thursday 13th November 2014 - Wednesday 10th December 2014

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

SMR reference number: 45326

Other reference: AMD122014

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

District: [Broadland](#) (District)

To be known as: Marsham

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Ashley, S., 2016 [Anglo-Norman elite objects from castle and countryside](#) Oxford: Oxbow 267 , 25