KEY (LOCKING)

Unique ID: NMGW-742C5C

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

Roman copper alloy key handle

The copper alloy handle is complete but the iron key is missing (with a surviving length of 38.6mm and a weight of 15.7g). The bow of the handle is of openwork trefoil form (with a width of 29.0mm and a thickness of 5mm). The outside edge is enhanced with six lipped projections and at the apex is a longer ribbed moulding. On the interior is a projection at the base with a slight bifurcation and two angular projections near the top. It is possible that these three projections were originally joined. At the base of the handle bow is a square collar (11.6mm square). All four sides of the collar are enhanced with grooves defining ribs. There is now a sub-rectangular void (4.7mm x 3.9mm and 9.8mm deep) at the base of the collar. The surface is corroded with a pale-green patina and with areas of adhering iron corrosion around the base.

Notes:

The handle may be seen as a variation of the more pronounced trefoil motif, similar to the example excavated at Colchester (Crummy, 1983 p 126, no. 4161) from a 4th century context. The type has been shown to date to post AD150 (ibid.).

1. Crummy, N.; 1983, The Roman Small Finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-9; Colchester Archaeological Report 2

Class: key handle

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN Period from: ROMAN Period to: ROMAN

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 38.6 mm Width: 29 mm Thickness: 5 mm Weight: 15.7 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: NMWPA 2014.168.1

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Decoration style: Other Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: Wales (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Newport (Unitary Authority)

District: Newport (Unitary Authority)
Parish or ward: Langstone (Community)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: ST3891

Four figure Latitude: 51.61439755 Four figure longitude: -2.89682967

1:25K map: ST3891 1:10K map: ST39SE

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.