

PILGRIM BADGE

Unique ID: NMGW-EB4B2C

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

~~Medieval lead alloy pilgrim's badge probably of 15th or early 16th century date

The badge is in the form of a letter 'B' in Lombardic script and appears to be near-complete (with a length of 22.0mm, a width of 17.4mm, a thickness of 1.0mm and a weight of 1.8g). The front face would have been flat and is now a little distorted. The letter has a straight upward bar with serifs projecting to the rear. The letter widens slightly at the curving outside end and is narrowest at the middle central bar. The face has no further decoration. The rear face is less finished and has the stubs of the two attachment spikes (with a diameter of 3mm and giving a maximum depth of 3.3mm) positioned on each side of the central bar. The surface has a dark-grey corrosion.

~~Single letter mounts with one or two attachment spikes are known to have been used as pilgrim souvenirs and is likely to represent the initial letter of a saint's name such as St Barbara, St Blaise, St Bridget and others, or a place name with a shrine. A more elaborate letter 'B' including an integral depiction of St John within the letter has been recorded from the Thames near Queenhithe (Spencer, 1998; no. 2080, p 195-6) associated with the shrine of St John of Bridlington.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Late

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Subperiod to: Early

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1400

Date to: Circa AD 1550

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 22 mm

Height: 3.3 mm

Width: 17.4 mm

Thickness: 1 mm

Weight: 1.8 g

Diameter: 3 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Friday 15th August 2014

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: NMWPA 2015.1.5

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

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

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

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

To be known as: off Uplands

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Coastland

Spencer, B., 1998 [Medieval finds from excavations in London: 7, Pilgrim souvenirs and secular badges](#) London: Museum of London, The Stationary Office