

KEY (LOCKING)

Unique ID: LVPL-ED45D1

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A copper alloy key of medieval date. The object consists of a lozenge shaped bow, a stem and a bit. The edges of the bow are rounded and worn probably due to abrasion from within the plough soil. There is some damage to the end of the shank which is hollow. The bit is sub rectangular in plan and cross section. The clefts consist of one small rectangular length of the bit while projecting at a right angle from the side of the bit is another smaller bit with a small rectangular cleft removed. The object has a smooth olive green patina in places however most of the surface is light green and abraded.

From the size of the key and the presence of a hollow shank it is likely that the key would have been used to lock a casket or chest rather than a door. Door locks tend to have a solid shank and are larger. The keys illustrated in Egan (1998, 111-119) are all dated from the late 12th - to late 14th centuries (AD 1150 - AD 1400). Therefore a similar date is suggested here for this example.

Dimensions: 85mm in length, 25mm in width, 6mm thick, 35.8g.

Notes:

Reference:

Egan, G. Security Equipment in Egan 1998

Egan, G. 1998 The Medieval Household Daily Living c.1150-c.1450. Medieval finds from Excavations in London 6. London. Museum of London / The Stationery Office.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1150

Date to: Circa AD 1400

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 85 mm

Width: 25 mm

Thickness: 6 mm

Weight: 35.8 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Tuesday 1st April 2014 - Wednesday 30th April 2014

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

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

County or Unitary authority: [Cheshire West and Chester](#) (Unitary Authority)

District: [Cheshire West and Chester](#) (Unitary Authority)

To be known as: Rushton

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: Generated from computer mapping software

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Egan, G., 1998 [The Medieval Household: Daily Living c.1150-c.1450 \(Medieval Finds from Excavations in London\)](#) London: The Stationery Office