

VESSEL

Unique ID: SUSS-46A290

Object type certainty: Possibly

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete cast copper alloy zoomorphic object, possibly an incomplete vessel mount or related object dating to the Roman period. The mount has been moulded on the outer face in the shape of a snake's head and has a cusped or concave reverse, possibly to fit the decoration to a vessel or other curved object. The object consists of a cylindrical lug at the top, through which a cylindrical aperture runs; below this, the snake's head is divided into two symmetrical halves by means of a deep central groove running from the mouth to the back of its head. On each side, there is a domed irregularly shaped segment indicating the face, cheek and snout of the snake, with lightly visible incised lentoid eyes near to the top of the head at the side. In between the eyes of the snake, a series of three or possibly four raised diagonal lines emanate from the central groove and this mirrors a more regularly spaced set of diagonal raised lines covering the outer surface of the cylindrical bar mentioned above. The underside of the head is concaved and plain. The entire object has a dark green patina, with areas around the edges of damage and lighter corrosion. The mount measures 29.1mm long, 23.7mm wide, 7.1mm thick and weighs 20.08 grams.

Although a parallel for this object has not been identified, the similarity of the decorative style to Roman snake-headed rings is clear.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN

Period to: ROMAN

Date from: Circa AD 43

Date to: Circa AD 410

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 29.1 mm

Width: 23.7 mm

Thickness: 7.1 mm

Weight: 20.08 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Thursday 19th February 2015 - Saturday 13th December 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: [South East](#) (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: [West Sussex](#) (County)

District: [Chichester](#) (District)

Parish or ward: [Petworth](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SU9918

Four figure Latitude: 50.95293955

Four figure longitude: -0.59194258

1:25K map: SU9918

1:10K map: SU91NE

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector

Discovery circumstances: Date is that first reported and recorded

General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined