

# FINGER RING

**Unique ID:** DEV-F85BB4

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

A copper alloy finger ring of medieval to post medieval date (c. AD 1300 - 1700). The ring has an oval seal matrix bezel 13.36mm wide and 15.85mm long. The bezel has an incised design of the letter R with a wedged tail surmounted by a bifoliate crown and with branches or ears of wheat either side, all within incised oval border. The shoulders narrow from 10.37mm in width into the loop and taper to 3.11mm at the bottom of the loop. The finger ring has a diameter of 27.27mm (internal 22.35mm).

A finger ring bearing an identical design, but with a square bezel has been recorded in Wiltshire (WILT-F67EF2). Other similar examples include SF-951CA0, SOM-0169B4, SUSS-D1CD32 & LON-2B8E94.

It has been suggested that such rings were worn by representatives of a group or organisation rather than the initial relating to an individual whose name started with R. However, Harvey and McGuinness (1996, p.93) describe rings with these seal matrices, with a variety of initials, becoming increasingly popular and common from the fifteenth century onwards. It does not seem likely that the letter is the initial of a monarch, however, as has been suggested elsewhere, since at least one example is the letter V (SWYOR-5B2226) and another, the letter P ( a silver example from Surrey). It has been suggested that these rings with single initials were bought ready made and used for simple seals, e.g. on letters.

## Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

## Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1300

Date to: Circa AD 1700

## Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Length: 27.3 mm

Width: 13.36 mm

Thickness: 4.06 mm

Weight: 9.95 g

Diameter: 27.27 mm

## **Personal details**

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Recorded by: Miss Julie Shoemark

Identified by: Miss Julie Shoemark

## **Materials and construction**

Primary material: Copper alloy

Completeness: Complete

## **Spatial metadata**

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

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

District: [South Hams](#) (District)

To be known as: Kingsbridge

## **Spatial coordinates**

Grid reference source: GPS (from the finder)

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.