GAMING PIECE

Unique ID: ESS-B06B18

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An Early Medieval lead alloy gaming piece, probably dating AD 700 - 1050. The object is in the shape of a hollow dome, with five pellets on top. The pellets are arranged with one in the centre and four around. The metal is a mid-light grey colour.

A similar example is recorded on the PAS database (SWYOR-DAF61B) and notes: Objects like this are often described as gaming pieces but there are few excavated examples with which to compare them. They can also be interpreted as weights. Similar sized and shaped objects but made from chalk were recovered from Anglo-Scandinavian building contexts in York and have been identified as Hnefatafl pieces (Mainman and Rodgers, 2000). Hnefatafl was a game rather like chess. However, there are none made of lead. Possible gaming pieces that are made of lead are illustrated in 'Lead Weights' by Biggs and Withers (2000), but it is pointed out that similar objects have been found associated with Viking weights, especially examples with a square base and four peaks. The possibility that the object functioned as a weight cannot be ruled out. Compare SWYOR-69EB78 (with five pellets on the top) NCL-CFFFC7 (three pellets),WMID-669380 (solid, decorated base), and LIN-7D8F62 (solid).

Dimensions: height: 14.01 mm; diameter: 14.71 mm; weight: 8.75g.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: EARLY MEDIEVAL Period from: EARLY MEDIEVAL Period to: EARLY MEDIEVAL Date from: Circa AD 700 Date to: Circa AD 1050

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Height: 14.01 mm Weight: 8.75 g Diameter: 14.71 mm

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead Alloy Manufacture method: Cast Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

Region: <u>Eastern</u> (European Region)

County or Unitary authority: Suffolk (County)

District: Suffolk Coastal (District)

Parish or ward: **Badingham** (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TM3068

Four figure Latitude: 52.26204106 Four figure longitude: 1.36897995

1:25K map: TM3068 1:10K map: TM36NW

Grid reference source: Centred on field

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector General landuse: Cultivated land

Specific landuse: Character undetermined