

BROOCH

Unique ID: SOM-E37FD6

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Awaiting validation

An incomplete Roman copper alloy Aesica brooch, probably a Hook Norton or related type, dating to c. AD 44-100. The brooch is almost complete, missing only its spring mechanism and the corners of its foot-plate.

At the head of the brooch the wings survive to a width of 23.9mm; these are C-shaped in cross section, although they are abraded, and it is unclear whether or not they originally terminated in wing caps. Below the head, the bow is cast in high relief into an elaborately decorated boss. A central longitudinal corded ridge divides the boss along the median line, and continues to form a perforated crest surmounting the wings, although now incomplete. To either side of this median ridge the boss is cast into a point, the points facing down and out, and with a further corded ridge extending from the head, over these points and then looping down below the median ridge in a symmetrical arrangement. In the spaces defined by this corded decoration is a raised extended piriform feature, with a recessed circular field containing a raised pellet at the rounded end. The reverse of the boss is concave. The boss is 22.4mm wide, 9.7mm thick and 14.8mm high.

Below the boss the bow narrows and then expands into a triangular 'fan-tail' foot plate, surviving to 18.1mm wide at its base. This is similarly decorated in relief, with a central triangle, cast in relief, with a central recessed circular field with a central pellet, and with a crescentic knop at its apex (curved side-down). The entire brooch has a corded edge. An incomplete catchplate projects from the reverse of the foot.

Overall dimensions: length 30.3mm; width 23.9mm; thickness 12.9mm; weight 15.35g.

Although no exact parallel for this brooch has been found, it is probably of Hook Norton or a related type, described by Bayley & Butcher (2004: 150-151) as imitating continental rosette brooches and dated to the second half of the first century. Although of different construction, the brooch strongly resembles Aesica brooches in its general form (cf. SOM-66F973), and can be compared to other brooches recorded on this database: e.g. LEIC-5CDECA, LIN-2070A6. It is likely that the recessed ring and dot motifs originally held an enamel inlay.

Find of note status

This has been noted as an interesting find by the recorder.

Class: Aesica **Sub class:** Hook Norton/related type

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN
Period to: ROMAN
Date from: Circa AD 50
Date to: Circa AD 100

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 30.3 mm
Width: 23.9 mm
Thickness: 12.9 mm
Weight: 15.35 g

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: SCC receipt: 019498

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Completeness: Incomplete

Spatial metadata

Region: [South West](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [Somerset](#) (County)
District: [South Somerset](#) (District)
Parish or ward: [Misterton](#) (Civil Parish)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: ST4408
Four figure Latitude: 50.86877657
Four figure longitude: -2.79717523
1:25K map: ST4408
1:10K map: ST40NW
Grid reference source: Centred on field
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.

Bayley, J. and Butcher, S., 2004. [Roman Brooches in Britain: A Technological and Typological Study Based on the Richborough Collection](#) London : The Society of Antiquaries 68