

TOKEN

Unique ID: FAKL-8EF204

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

Lead token of Medieval to Post Medieval date (1300-1750), the face bears, in deep relief, a cross in the arms of which are set four pellets, the arrangement seen on Medieval silver coins. The back is plain and slightly convex suggesting that it has been cast in an open mould. Diameter 20.4mm, Thickness 3.6mm, Mass 7.49g.

With some justification, Ivor Noel Hume described lead tokens as 'that least understood item in the numismatic field' (Artifacts of Colonial America, 1969, 173). He was able to quote examples ranging in date from a piece bearing the arms of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) to one bearing a date of 1714. That said, other examples come from Medieval contexts, at Trigg Lane, London finds came from deposits of 13th to 15th century date (Milne and Milne, Medieval Waterfront Development at Trigg Lane, London, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Special paper No 5, 1982, 102-106, fig.64-64, pl. 73-76,77). The function of these tokens is also unknown, some resemble coins, but most do not, suggesting that they were not intended to represent money. They appear to have been used along waterfronts (London and Dublin) and it has been suggested that they may have been used as tallies given to workers for each load carried and exchanged for money at the end of the day. They could also have been used as taven tokens so that the bar staff did not get to handle cash.

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: MEDIEVAL

Subperiod from: Middle

Period from: MEDIEVAL

Subperiod to: Late

Period to: POST MEDIEVAL

Date from: Circa AD 1300

Date to: Circa AD 1750

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1

Thickness: 3.6 mm

Weight: 7.49 g

Diameter: 20.4 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Monday 1st January 2018 - Thursday 1st March 2018

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Other reference numbers

Other reference: Birm 559

Materials and construction

Primary material: Lead

Manufacture method: Cast

Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

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

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

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

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

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: SJ8504

Four figure Latitude: 52.63354099

Four figure longitude: -2.22306851

1:25K map: SJ8504

1:10K map: SJ80SE

Grid reference source: From finder

Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1000 metre square.