

BROOCH

Unique ID: SUSS-F65737

Object type certainty: Certain

Workflow status: Published

A 2nd century cast copper alloy plate brooch - native British type. This type of brooch is not a common type; according to Hattatt (via Hull) only six have been recorded from Somerset, Oxon, Leicester, Lincoln, Cambridgeshire and Nr. Hereford.

The brooch is a slightly bowed 'pelta-shaped' plate with 'Celticised' motifs. The brooch is almost hexagonal in shape, but a decorative cut away has removed two of the hexagonal angles. This gives the brooch its characteristic crescent shape. There are three projection knops, which extend out of the crescent. One extends out from the middle and has a circular knopped terminal, the other two extend from the edges of the cut away. Only one of these projections still has its decorative knop surviving, the other has broken off and it is now well worn.

Inside the brooch a border follows the hexagonal circumference. This perimeter has been filled with alternating blue and indeterminate coloured enamelled triangles. The triangles have been marked out with a slightly raised copper alloy cell. In each interior panel, within this perimeter is a Celtic design which 'appears to be an adaptation of the cable motif,' with two bronze dots in each field. There also appears to be traces of enamelling in these fields, the enamelling again being blue, possibly red and an indeterminate colour. A central strip (in alignment with the pin) has alternate red and blue enamel rectangles in individual cells.

The reverse is undecorated. The catchplate survives but it has been broken. There are also the remains of the twin lug with a fragment of the pin still in situ. The pin is missing. The twin lug and the catchplate have been aligned longitudinally across the reverse of the brooch, vertically from the 12 - 6 o'clock position.

The metal is in an extremely good condition but the enamelled surfaces are quite corroded. The metal has a light greyish-green colour. This type of brooch dates from the 2nd century AD. This brooch is similar to examples in Hattatt, 2000, pp356, Fig. 215 and Hattatt, 1985, pp170, ref: 605.

Class: pelta-shaped form

Subsequent actions

Subsequent action after recording: Returned to finder

Chronology

Broad period: ROMAN

Period from: ROMAN

Period to: ROMAN

Date from: Circa AD 100

Date to: Circa AD 200

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Length: 32.22 mm
Width: 31.23 mm
Thickness: 2.02 mm
Weight: 6.06 g

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 1st January 1997 - Saturday 1st January 2000

Personal details

This information is restricted for your access level.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Copper alloy
Secondary material: Enamel
Manufacture method: Cast
Completeness: Incomplete
Surface Treatment: Inlaid with enamel

Spatial metadata

Region: [South East](#) (European Region)
County or Unitary authority: [East Sussex](#) (County)
District: [Wealden](#) (District)
To be known as: Nr. Eastbourne

Spatial coordinates

Grid reference source: From a paper map
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 0.01 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Metal detector
General landuse: Cultivated land
Specific landuse: Character undetermined

Hattatt, R., 2000 [A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches](#) Oxford: Oxbow Books
356 , 605