

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

Edited by John Naylor¹

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological finds discovered by members of the public in England and Wales.² Many come from places that have been damaged or eroded, usually by agriculture, leaving the objects as the only evidence of past activity; others are of interest in their own right. By end of 2023 the PAS database contained 44,652 records (65,197 finds) of early medieval date (c 410–c 1066) and 260,763 records (310,755 finds) of high and later medieval date (c 1066–c 1500).³ A proportion of these are subject to the Treasure Act 1996 which gives museums the right to acquire them; in 2023, there were 1,360 Treasure cases in total from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.⁴

In 2023, 78,238 finds (50,418 records) were recorded,⁵ of which 16,790 were of medieval date including 3,430 pre-Conquest finds and 13,360 post-Conquest finds. Stray finds of coinage accounted for 5,520 finds, 389 of pre-Conquest date, and 5,131 post-Conquest coins.⁶

This round-up of finds and research from the last year includes summaries of interesting and important finds plus a short research note.⁷ This re-examines a pilgrim's badge recorded by the PAS, suggesting a revised attribution for the saint it represents.

FOCUS ON COINAGE IN 2023

Early Medieval

A copper-alloy half *follis* of Justinian I (527–65) found 'near Redruth' (Cornwall; CORN-EA8B63; Fig 1a) is one of three early Byzantine coins recorded from the north Cornish coast.⁸ These finds were probably related to the same networks of exchange which brought Mediterranean ceramics into western Britain during this period (Moorhead 2009, 266, table 1; Duggan 2018). A gold *solidus* of Chlothar II (584–629), converted into a pendant by the addition of a loop soldered onto the coin, is an important find. Discovered at Middle Aston (Oxfordshire; OXON-0EB7C3; Fig 1b), it was struck in Marseille (France) between c AD 613–29, and is only the fifth example to be recorded from Britain (see Abdy and Williams 2006, 16–17, 27, hoard no 9, single finds nos 31–3). All of these have been modified into pendants, as is also the case with *solidi* of Sigebert III (636–59) found in Britain (Naylor 2016), suggesting the *solidi* may have

circulated and been considered differently to the smaller *tremisses* which are found in larger numbers, the vast majority unmodified.

Finds of early silver pennies (often known as *sceattas*) continue to be the most abundant group of early medieval coins recorded by the PAS with 139 added in 2023, including a number of interesting examples. A mid-Secondary phase ‘Victory’ type found at Yarmouth (Isle of Wight; IOW-7F7630; Fig 1c) is a good example of the complex, often Christian, iconography seen these coins. The obverse design shows winged Victory – a common motif on Late Roman coinage which continued to be used – wearing a long tunic facing to the right, the reverse another winged figure, this time facing with a cross either side and stood within a curved lunette. The two designs may combine to form a representation of the Annunciation, the winged figure the Archangel Gabriel, the other figure Mary, the lunette a metaphor for the Church (Gannon 2015, 220; 2003, 90). An early penny struck very late in their production, probably in the 740s in SE England, was found ‘near Barkston’ (Lincolnshire; LIN-5E53C9; Fig 1d). Belonging to Series T and one of only five recorded by the PAS,⁹ it is illustrative of the regular borrowing of designs across issues seen in the early pennies. Here the reverse design copies (with a little embellishment) the abstract porcupine-like motif seen on the issues of Series E, struck in large numbers in the Netherlands and the most commonly found group in Britain.

Northumbrian silver coinage developed slightly differently, although also used the small, thick module of the early silver pennies. Unlike the coinage of the southern kingdoms, almost all issues attributed to the kingdom include the name of the king or archbishop of York, sometimes both. The earliest coins are in the name of Aldfrith (685–704) and include the motif of a quadruped, possibly a lion, which was used on royal issues for a century (Naismith 2017, 96). Known in only small numbers, 15 have been recorded by the PAS with three in 2023 alone, including a fine example from Scrayingham (North Yorkshire; LVPL-F0135B; Fig 1e).¹⁰ Joint issues between king and archbishop were also struck during the 8th century, beginning with Eadberht (737–58) and his brother Archbishop Ecgberht of York (734–66), one side giving the inscription EOTBEREhTV, the other ECGBERhT next to a standing figure, probably representing the bishop, holding two crosses. An example found ‘near Pockington’ (East Riding of Yorkshire; NLM-079A64; Fig 1f) is a one of only 13 finds recorded by the PAS which cluster in eastern Yorkshire. Another coin, found at Bainton (East Riding of Yorkshire; YORYM-540ED4; Fig 1g), is in the name of Æthelred I (second reign; 790–6) and Archbishop Eanbald I

of York (779/80–96), highlighting the continued importance of the relationship between king and Church.

Thirty silver pennies of the 8th–9th-century kingdoms of southern England were recorded last year, 16 in the names of Mercian rulers, all struck in London, Kent or East Anglia, regions over which Mercia exerted their control. A penny of Ludica (825–7) found at Metfield (Suffolk; NMS-37E208; Fig 1h) represents one of the final Mercian coinages struck in East Anglia, probably at the port of Ipswich, an exceptionally rare find and only the fourth of its type known.¹¹ The reverse gives the name of the moneyer, Werbold, in three lines, a design also used for Ludica's predecessors Ceolwulf I (821–3) and Beornwulf (823–5) highlighting continuity in design and the careers of moneyers. The rise of Wessex from the 820s saw the mints in Kent, and for a time London, fall out of Mercian control. Coins struck at Rochester are the least common and only one was recorded, a damaged penny of Ecgberht of Wessex (802–39) found at Upton Grey (Hampshire; SUR-2215C9; Fig 1i) which was probably struck in the late 820s. It is a significant find as the first of its type recorded which does not name Dunn as moneyer, instead probably being struck by Æthelmod. From the mid-850s one of the main issues from Kentish mints is a type known as the 'inscribed cross' where the moneyer's name is located within the cross itself, produced for both the king and archbishop of Canterbury. An 'inscribed cross' penny of Archbishop Ceolnoth of Canterbury (833–70) found at Long Bennington (Lincolnshire; DENO-BFBAC6; Fig 1j) is one of just three recorded by the PAS. Naismith (2011b, 224–9) has illustrated the comparative rarity of stray finds in the middle decades of the 9th century with most coins known from hoards, and so any stray finds are important. Around 85 stray finds dating from c 840–75 have now been recorded by the PAS, highlighting the importance of long-term recording, and these show a widespread if patchy distribution of coinage across eastern England.

Ninety-two coins, all pennies or their fractions, dating from the c880–1066 were recorded in 2023, 85 belong to the period from Edgar's (959–75) reforms of c 973. Finds of early-medieval coins from Wales tend to be very rare in general and only two were recorded. Both are pennies of Cnut's (1016–35) 'pointed helmet' type dating to the 1020s, one from the mint at London found in Caerwent (Monmouthshire; NMGW-6A67E5; Fig 1k), the other struck at York and found at Coychurch (Bridgend (NMGW-7F876B)). The latter coin joins a group of Late Saxon coin finds spread out between Cardiff and Bridgend dating from Æthelred II (978–1016)

to Edward the Confessor's (1042–66) first substantive issue, the 'Pacx' type. Two other finds of note are pennies of Edward the Confessor. A 'small flan' type, dating to the late 1040s and struck at Bedwyn (Wiltshire), a mint with a single moneyer located on a royal estate and in operation only during Edward's reign (Naismith 2017, 239; Grassi 2002, 266). Found at Over Wallop (Hampshire; SUR-45B905; Fig 11), this find highlights that mints were not confined to urban centres, with their provision complex and not necessarily related to economic need (Naismith 2023, 379). A 'facing bust' type from late in Edward's reign, found at Crawley (Oxfordshire; OXON-59D0D6; Fig 1m), was struck at Derby and is only the third post-Reform penny from the mint to be recorded by the PAS, and fourth overall, a small return from a mint which operated sporadically from Athelstan (924–39) to Edgar, then regularly until the Norman Conquest (Naismith 2017, 340).

A German *pfennig* of Heinrich II (1002–24) found at Litton Cheney (Dorset; DOR-BF679A; Fig 1n) is one of only four 10th–11th-century German coins recorded by the PAS. Struck at Worms (Germany), the simple design names Henry and shows a cross with pellets in each angle on its obverse, with an outline church building with a large pellet in its centre and the name of the mint on the reverse; Leimus (1993, 120–1, table 2) has shown that these coins circulated widely in continental Europe in the 11th century. The low levels of finds of German coinage in Britain probably reflects of the efficient removal of foreign coin from the circulating currency, and its re-coinage into English coin, rather than a lack of coin entering the country. Cook (1999, 237) has suggested German coinage was, in fact, probably an important source of silver in Late Saxon England.

High and Later Medieval

There were 155 Norman and Plantagenet (1066–1180) coins recorded in 2023, all silver pennies or their cut fractions. A penny of William I's (1066–87) 'two sceptres' type found at Grimley (Worcestershire; WAW-23491A; Fig 2a) is an important find, only the ninth PAS-recorded coin of William from the West Midlands, and the most westerly. The reverse of the coin, giving the names of the moneyer and mint place, is not easy to read but the moneyer appears to be named Wininc who struck coins of William's first two types at the mint in Worcester (Allen 2022, 184); this coin is the first of its type recorded for this moneyer. A 'lozenge fleury and annulets' type penny of Stephen (1135–54) found at Heckington

(Lincolnshire; WMID-9976BE; Fig 2b) is an interesting example of regional, independent minting during his difficult reign. Alongside four official issues for the king, numerous other types were also issued, both by Stephen's supporters and his opponents with the 'lozenge fleury and annulets' type struck at Lincoln and Nottingham by local earls in the king's name (Blackburn 1994, 180–1). The coin from Heckington is only the second recorded by the PAS,¹² and the distribution of stray finds is tightly bound to the region, almost all found in Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire.¹³ The subsequent 'cross and crosslets' issues of Henry II (1154–89) brought some stability back to the coinage, and the same design was used throughout at all mints. An example belonging to Class E, dating to the early 1170s, found at Hartburn (Northumberland; NCL-909622; Fig 2c) was struck in Newcastle by the moneyer Willelm and is a rare discovery from north of the River Tyne.

The expansion of the currency in the century following the introduction of the 'short cross' coinage of 1180 was substantial (Allen 2012, 322–6). It is mirrored in number of finds of 'short cross' (struck 1180–1247) and 'long cross' (struck 1180–1279) recorded, with almost 1,900 added to the PAS database last year. In 1205, during John's reign (1199–1216), coins which had been clipped were prohibited, and the recoinage of these and others which were underweight was started. The process lasted until 1207 during which time new mints were opened expressly for this purpose (Allen 2012, 54–6). Inevitably the coins from these short-lived recoinage mints are found in lower numbers than from large mints such as London or Canterbury. A cut halfpenny found at Runcton Holme (Norfolk; NMS-AFFB68; Fig 2d) is one of five coins struck at the mint at Kings Lynn recorded last year, its findspot only c 10 km south of the mint town. Five coins each were also recorded from the mints at Ipswich and Oxford, including a penny found 'near Dean' (Cumbria; LANCUM-0F0A3D; Fig 2e) from the former, and a penny found at West Dalling (Norfolk; NMS-4AC24D; Fig 2f) struck at the latter. The mixing of the currency and its movement around the country is highlighted in the similar distributions of PAS-recorded finds from each of these mints although their core circulation encompasses East Anglia and the Midlands north into North Yorkshire and the East Riding with few finds further south.

A further 2,700 coins dating from Edward I's reforms of 1279 to the death of Henry VII were recorded, most belonging to the period covering the reigns of Edward I–III (1279–1377). It was a period which saw the re-introduction of gold coinage during Edward III's reign, almost a

century after Henry III's failed attempt in 1257. They are found in far smaller numbers than silver coins; fewer than 50 recorded last year, including a number of interesting examples. Two coins of Edward III's 'Treaty Period' coinage of 1361–9 reflect the Treaty of Bretigny signed in 1360 in which Edward III's claim to the French crown was surrendered, and the coins of this period lack that title. A half noble found at Llanystumdwy (Gwynedd; GAT-3D53A0) is the first of this denomination recorded by the PAS from Wales and joins a small number of contemporary gold issues discovered in North Wales.¹⁴ A quarter noble found in Blagdon (North Somerset; SOM-86824D; Fig 2g) is only the second gold medieval coin recorded from the county,¹⁵ its findspot on the northern edge of an area where virtually no coins of Edward III have been recorded stretching south to the River Parrett and which encompasses the wetlands managed and exploited by Glastonbury Abbey during this period (Rippon 2004).

Coins struck in Ireland in the name of English kings are regularly recorded by the PAS but minting was not continuous with little produced from Edward III to Henry VI's first reign (1327–1460). In 1460, however, minting resumed following the accession of Edward IV (1461–83), producing coinage struck at a weight standard of three-quarters of the English standard to discourage its export (Skingley 2015, 143–4). Finds of Edward IV's Irish issues are, though, relatively common in England and Wales. Most are of the 'cross and pellets' issues of the 1470–83, its design mirroring English coins, as seen on a penny from St Columb Major (Cornwall; CORN-110051; Fig 2h) which has been heavily clipped. The earliest issues under Edward IV, anonymous coins struck from c 1460–3, are extremely rare in England, however, the usual crowned bust replaced by a crown and the inscription simply gives the name of the mint meaning they could not pass as English coins. Two were recorded last year, both struck at Dublin. One, a halfpenny found at Llanddyfnan (Isle of Anglesey; GAT-C2BF4E), is the first of this denomination recorded by the PAS, while a penny found at Berrick Salome (Oxfordshire; OXON-A5DDE1; Fig 2i) carries an untidy piercing, perhaps intended to demonetise the coin.

A total of 318 non-English coins were recorded last year, mostly struck in Scotland (155 coins dating up to 1488), the Low Countries and Venice. An important find from the first is a gold Lion of James II of Scotland (1437–60) found at Longframlington (Northumberland; NCL-02F6D5; Fig 2j), the first medieval Scottish gold coin recorded by the PAS. The coin has been pierced, although this is located well within the coin's flan so its purpose is somewhat uncertain but the strong iconography of the reverse image showing the martyrdom of St Andrew may be a

factor. Another unusual gold coin recorded last year is a *maravedi* of Alfonso VIII of the kingdom of Castile (1158–1214) struck at Toledo and found at Peasemore (West Berkshire; SUSS-B026B8; Fig 2k). Coinage from Iberia of this date is rarely found in Britain, Archibald (2014, 396) listing only eight examples including a plated imitation which has been mounted. The Peasemore find fits well into this group, all of which were struck within the period 1069–1184, their distribution focused on the area encompassing southern East Anglia to the Thames Valley in Oxfordshire (Archibald 2014, fig 16.2). The coin itself has an Islamic appearance, with inscriptions across the coin’s field as well as in the outer circle in Arabic, and it is possible that the coin came to Britain as *oboli de musc*, the documented import of Islamic gold coins from the late 12th–13th centuries (Archibald 2014, 388–90).¹⁶

Venetian *soldini*, nicknamed ‘galylhalpens’ (galley halfpennies) in England, continue to be relatively common finds but examples for Doges dating earlier than Michele Steno (1400–13) are rare (Daubney 2009, 186–7, table 1). An example found ‘near Welbourn’ (Lincolnshire; LIN-40E261; Fig 2l) for Andrea Contarini (1367–82) is a significant discovery, and only the third recorded by the PAS for this doge. Motifs on the coin give an indication of the organisation of the mint in Venice with a star and the letter F flanking the image of the kneeling doge. These marks are for the mintmaster Filippo Barbarigo and enable the coin’s production to be dated to 1370–2. Medieval coinage from other parts of Italy is rarer, a damaged *grosso da 2 soldi* of Filippo Maria Visconti, Duke of Milan (1412–47) found at Cosgrove (Northamptonshire; SUR-36E2EE; Fig 2m) only the fifth Milanese coin recorded by the PAS and second for this issuer.

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FOCUS ON NON-NUMISMATIC FINDS IN 2023

In 2023, the PAS recorded 11,240 medieval objects (excluding stray and hoard finds of coinage), encompassing a wide variety of object types and materials that shed light on everyday life. Some highlights and insights into our dataset are outlined below.

Early Medieval

Two fragmentary but identical copper-alloy gilded small square-headed brooches found at Ebrington (Gloucestershire; GLO-B9DC5E/GLO-D70D27 and GLO-B9E5E1/GLO-D6BDB4; Fig 3a) are interesting finds in their own right while also highlighting problems caused by plough

damage to sites. Both brooches are damaged and survive in two pieces, each piece found and recorded separately. They are broken at the bow, with only GLO-B9DC5E/GLO-D70D27 complete (GLO-B9E5E1/GLO-D6BDB4 missing parts of its foot plate), its overall length can be reconstructed at c 55 mm. The brooches are typical examples of the type with rectangular headplates and a short bow. The footplate has axe-shaped protrusions on each side with lozenge-shaped central panel. The headplates have three concentric zones of relief decoration in a devolved Style I, the footplate panel with a quatrefoil-like interlace decoration. Small square-headed brooches are more commonly found in Kent, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (McLean and Richardson 2010, 170) but long-term PAS recording now shows a widespread, if dispersed, distribution across central and eastern England. These new finds are important additions as the first examples from Gloucestershire. More broadly, the brooches are part of a larger assemblage of late 5th–late 6th-century material which suggests the presence of a plough-damaged cemetery. Finds include a sword pommel along with disc, small long and saucer brooches including one (GLO-2C9994) belonging to a particular group of larger, late saucer brooches which may come from the same workshop (Naylor and Adams 2023). Meaney (1964, 91) cites 19th-century excavations on a possible cemetery in the parish, the new data providing more complete dating evidence for its use and an indication of its current state owing to plough damage (see Daubney 2018 for discussion of issues surrounding objects recovered from such cemeteries).

A gilded copper-alloy harness mount found at Dunkerton (Bath and North-East Somerset; GLO-267BD4; Fig 3b) is an interesting addition to the relatively small corpus of 5th–7th-century material discovered in the counties to the west of Wiltshire and Dorset. A disc-shaped plate with peltaic (axe-shaped) protrusion, the surface is gilded and decorated in Style II interlace while the four sizeable projecting studs on the plain reverse of the object enabled firm attachment to a harness. Although the form is common for later 6th–mid-7th-century harness mounts, including the notable examples from Sutton Hoo mound 17 (Evans 2005, figs 111–2), the disc and pelta are more commonly formed of two separate pieces; the integral nature of the Dunkerton example is unusual. Fern (2005, 53, fig 5.15) has suggested that this is a later development, the pelta often joined by other arms protruding from the mount, although there is no evidence for such additions on this find. A second disc mount found outside of its core area of use was found at Maple North (Stockport; LVPL-90E818; Fig 3c). It is now badly damaged missing much of the outer edge and its centre, with no evidence for attachments seen on the reverse. Decorated with two rings of

Style II interlace, it is paralleled by a mount of similar size found at Spelsbury (Oxfordshire; Fern 2005, fig 5.15 no 3).

A largely complete copper-alloy hanging bowl of Bruce-Mitford's (2005, 11) type C bowls, found containing four animal bones (probably from a sheep) was discovered in the Weaverthorpe area (North Yorkshire; YORYM-59523A; Fig 3d–f).¹⁷ Probably dating from the mid/late 7th-century into the 8th century, the bowl is shallow with a countersunk base and everted type B/C rim; its diameter is 195 mm, although there is some damage which means its shape is now distorted. Three equally spaced long, bird-shaped escutcheons, all with surviving circular suspension rings, are riveted to the bowl, a method of attachment most typical of bowls dating after c 650. These have elongate loops stretching from the top of the frame, holding the rings in place, and internal decoration of a double scroll motif above a triquetra. A circular basal disc within the bowl comprises a frame and enamelled central panel with decoration in the form of a repeating pattern of linked pelta and lyre loops around a central roundel. The bowl can be paralleled by a type C bowl found in a late 7th-century grave at Hadleigh Road, Ipswich (Suffolk) which was noted for its atypical shallow bowl and bird-shaped escutcheons riveted into place (Bruce-Mitford 2005, 251–4, no 86). Around 200 hanging bowl elements have been recorded by the PAS, almost all in the form of escutcheons or basal discs with bowls rarely recovered, and this is by far the most complete example (see, however, GLO-9C07B3, SWYOR-9C315A and KENT-6C4523 for parts of bowls). Its completeness is due to it, unfortunately, having been taken from a sealed context below the ploughsoil, most likely deposited as part of a burial assemblage. Recovery was undertaken by the finder via a hole dug directly over the bowl and the surrounding area remains undisturbed.

One of the most commonly found object types of 7th–11th-century date recorded by the PAS are hooked tags. They are formed of an upper plate, generally of roughly circular or triangular shape perforated with two or three holes, and a hook protruding from the bottom of the object. Their function was probably varied, although none would have been particularly strong. Thomas (2009, 17) cites burial evidence suggesting their use as clothes fasteners and potential use as closures for bags. The PAS has recorded around 1,500 to date and 62 were added in 2023. Most can only be broadly dated, especially as stray finds, and one from Rocklands (Norfolk; NMS-908BEF; Fig 3g) is a typical example. Its sub-triangular plate has two unevenly located holes and is decorated with ten ring-and-dot motifs, although these do not form any discernible

pattern. The attachment holes are drilled through three of these highlighting, perhaps, the cheap, utilitarian nature of the object. Other examples, however, include elements which suggest greater care in production, and can help with dating and identifying regions of production. An elaborate example from near Hadleigh (Suffolk; SF-8B334A; Fig 3h) is sub-oval in shape with two protruding pierced lugs for attachment and moulded decoration around a central niello panel with an incised floral design which was probably once highlighted in silver wire. Such decoration is paralleled on 9th-century strap ends (eg LVPL-47E42C, found in Norfolk), with both strap ends and hooked tags clustering in East Anglia – mostly in Norfolk – highlighting its distinct regional style (Thomas 1996). Another possible regional style is seen on a hooked tag from Whittlesford (Cambridgeshire; ESS-1966D2; Fig 3i). In this case, incised decoration forms a Y-shaped motif enclosing transverse lines to form a ladder-like pattern. Cross designs are also seen and together these are most common from Oxfordshire eastwards to Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Some have Trewhiddle-style decoration in the arms of the cross/Y again suggesting a 9th-century date (Naylor 2022, 152–3).

A number of interesting finds relating to Viking activity and the Scandinavian influence on later 9th–11th-century culture were recorded last year. A lead weight found at Great Langton (North Yorkshire; DUR-1CC929; Fig 3j) is set with a decorative metalwork fragment, one of the typical forms of Viking weight where a coin or piece of metalwork is set into the top of the object. On this example a cut-down rectangular fragment of a larger, roughly square object has been utilised. This comprises an outer border inside which is a recessed panel of relief interlace around a rectangular central boss which is now empty. Its shape and decorative style suggests it may have originally belonged on an Irish house-shaped shrine of 8th-century date (cf. Youngs 1989, no 129; Heen-Pettersen 2021, section 2, fig 2). At 17.67 g, its current weight is approximately three-quarters of an øre, the standard Scandinavian ounce at c 25 g (Kershaw 2022, 133). However, given that the weight is in a relatively poor state of preservation it is impossible to be sure of its original mass and whether it should be considered to be a fraction or whole øre. Weights such as this one were used within a silver-based bullion economy comprising whole or fragmented coins and other objects. Two items recorded last year provide useful examples. A silver ingot found at Eye (Suffolk; NMS-09EC59; Fig 3k) is of a typical form for this period with its elongate, somewhat irregular form with rounded ends. Cast in simple moulds, weights often cluster around the standard or its fraction/multiple (Kershaw 2022, 119), although

this example comes in a little high for an øre at 29.36 g. The other object is a fragment of a broad-band arm-ring, dating c 880–930, found at Flint (Flintshire; WREX-CDD85E; Fig 3l) its findspot within a core area for the circulation of Viking-age silver in Wales (Sheehan 2009, 61, 67, fig 7.7; Redknap 2009, fig 4.1). Of Hiberno-Scandinavian type, the Flint arm-ring tapers towards one end and has a rectangular cross section with one surface decorated in transverse lines of punched sub-oval shapes; the other side is undecorated. Only surviving as a fragment broken at both ends, it appears to have been flattened in a similar manner to those found in the Huxley (Cheshire) hoard, its decoration also paralleled by one of the rings in that deposit (Sheehan 2009, 68–9, fig 7.3 no 6).

A partially gilded later 9th–10th-century silver rectangular mount found at Quidenham (Norfolk; NMS-B0FF45; Fig 3m) is a good example of Carolingian material culture found in Britain. A hollow, dome-shaped mount, it is decorated with a large saltire, each arm ending in a boss and leaf motif including niello-inlaid side leaves. Within the arms of the saltire are trefoil leaf motifs from which double bars run to the edge of the mount. Holes on either side of the bars produce openwork elements to the design. There is no evidence for attachments on the back of the object and it is possible that there was once a side flange which formed provided a method of attachment (see, for example, NARC-10F5B2). Thomas (2012, 488–91, 496–99) has suggested that mounts such as this one were part of the paraphernalia of martial attire, used on equestrian harnesses, waist belts and baldrics. He further notes their distinct distribution in eastern counties of Britain. Indeed, all PAS-recorded examples of silver Carolingian objects come from Kent, East Anglia, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire. It is difficult to untangle whether this relates to commercial, political or religious connections between English kingdoms and Frankish regions or whether it was imported via Scandinavia into the Danelaw (Thomas 2012, 501–2).

High and Later Medieval

An unusual Urnes-style openwork bird-shaped brooch found at Glentham (Lincolnshire; NLM-28C37D; Fig 4a) is probably the product of a Scandinavian workshop. The bird has a prominent head with a large circular eye, curving beak and a three-part comb; its long, narrow neck and body curve in a reversed-S shape to a fantail which is incomplete, although appears to have been smoothed to mask the break. Transverse lines across the body may represent wings,

other elements in the design suggest plant ornament. The reverse of the brooch is plain with the remains of pin gear in the form of two damaged lugs and a loop for suspension, a feature typical of Scandinavian brooches of 10th and 11th-century date (Anne Pedersen, pers comm in record; Margeson 1997, 21). Pedersen (2001, 20–1, 62, figs 1–2) discussed two very similar silver brooches, one from Toftegård (Funen, Denmark), the other found in a hoard coin-dated to the late 11th century at Gressli (Norway). She suggested that these brooches – and other bird-shaped brooches of similar date – can be symbolically related to the spread of Christianity across Scandinavia.

A copper-alloy candle holder found at Great Bedwyn (Wiltshire; SUR-47F21D; Fig 4b) is an unusually complete example. It is formed of three parts: a circular base into which is fitted a standing dog on whose back is a conical socket for a candle. The dog wears a collar, its head and ears raised and alert, with a short stub of a tail also lifted. Socketed (or cupped) candle holders tend to date from the later 13th century onwards, a form which appears to have become popular as cheaper tallow candles increased in availability (Lewis 2016, 175). Zoomorphic types form a small subset of the overall PAS corpus, less than 10% of around 350 recorded, the standing dog being the most common, all being very similar in design.¹⁸ Other animals represented in examples of cockerels (eg WAW-86E32D) and lions (eg NMS-11D931), and two in the form of stags were found in London (Egan 1998, 147–9, fig 116).

A small silver annular brooch found in 2021 at Arthog (Gwynedd; WREX-F251E0; Fig 4c) and reported under the Treasure Act 1996 belongs to a type whose distribution is focused on Wales. Dating to the later 13th or 14th century, it is typical of its type, the frame is decorated with three groups of transverse, niello-filled grooves separated by chevron grooves, also filled with niello. Unlike most brooches, this group does not include a pin constriction to stop movement of the pin around the frame but the object is still considered a brooch rather than a buckle (Redknap 1994, 92). The pin has a diamond-shaped section, a zig-zag patterned decoration and large stirrups protruding just below the loop which give it a sword-like appearance. At 15.3 mm in diameter, it can be placed in the mid-range of size overall which tends to range from c 11–20mm. An example found at Llandysul Community (Ceredigion; NMGW-21C823), also reported as potential Treasure in 2021, is a good example at the smaller end, with a diameter of just 12 mm. The PAS has recorded 29 brooches with this type of frame and decoration,¹⁹ of which 17 were found in Wales and six in adjacent areas strengthening a

Welsh attribution for production. Of these, all but four include pins, eight with elongate stirrups – seven from Wales – 15 with bars, including five from central and eastern regions of England suggesting variation within corpus.

The repurposing of objects is a regular if minor element of finds recorded by the PAS. The adaptation of silver coins into brooches or badges is well known (eg Kelleher 2012, 184–9, fig 1), but these are not the only form of numismatica to be utilised with adapted copper-alloy jettons – counters used in account keeping – also known. The PAS has recorded c 5,500 jettons of which around 1% have been converted into a brooch/badge. These mostly comprise English jettons dating to the late 13th–mid-14th centuries, contemporary with the apogee of coin brooch production. A good example of the typical types used was found at Aldbourne (Wiltshire; SUR-2135D1; Fig 4d) with a large cross-shaped design exhibited, the attachments applied to the other side of the object, again mirroring the adaptation seen on coin brooches. Occasionally, gilding is applied, as seen on a damaged example from Bruton (Somerset; WILT-871508; Fig 4e). In both cases, the type used also shows stars and crescents in the arms of the cross and, although not seen on all jetton brooches, it is common. Marsden (2014, 93) has highlighted this feature, estimating that it is seen on around 70% of examples. He suggested that while it might simply relate to the availability of jetton types in workshops where they were converted, that the use of jettons showing a cross and stars/crescents could also show the wearer’s allegiance to both Church and State, the latter motifs emblems of the Plantagenets.

Another re-purposed object recorded last year is a papal bulla of Pope Innocent VI (1352–62) found at Wilton (Redcar and Cleveland; DUR-4E896C; Fig 4f). The bulla has been modified with a large hole cut from its centre, its size approximately a third of the overall diameter of the object. It is likely the bulla was re-used as a spindle whorl. The PAS has recorded only a small number of bullae treated in this way, with four other examples having similar, large perforations (HESH-422BFE, WREX-55AF7A, SWYOR-F52016 and HESH-1517A7), and two with a smaller perforations (LIN-E39DF1 and WMID-82FF84); Standley (2016, 285) notes another found in Dunkeld (Perth and Kinross, Scotland). The latter is the earliest example, issued by Pope Innocent IV (1243–54). PAS-recorded examples all belonging to the ‘long’ 14th century, utilising bullae from Boniface VIII (1294–1303) to antipope John XXIII (1410–15) except for LIN-E39DF1, a later bulla of Innocent VIII (1484–92). A peak in the 14th century corresponds to the dating of a small number of lead spindle whorls which include inscriptions to

Mary or Christ supporting the idea that the re-use of a bulla was not simply expedient but was deliberately symbolic (Standley 2016, 283–5). An unmodified bulla found at St Columb Major (Cornwall; CORN-7EBC7A; Fig 4g) is also an interesting find. It is only the sixth example of a bulla issued by Martin V (1417–31) to be recorded by the PAS from a total of over 650 discoveries, and only the eighth of any pope reported from Cornwall.

A damaged heraldic mount in the form of a horse and rider found at Litton Cheney (Dorset; DOR-1790D0; Fig 4h) is one of only a small number known. If complete, the mount would have shown a knight on horseback holding a shield in front of his body and sword horizontally above his head, the shield enclosing heraldic arms which may also be seen on the horse's trapper, as visible from PAS-recorded example from Hertfordshire (BH-1AA2D3; Lewis 2018, 20). The find from Litton Cheney now lacks the rider's head and sword and the horse's legs but it remains an important discovery. These unusual and rare mounts are known from western Europe but Continental examples have a French focus (Bon and Pérès 2021). Attachment holes are located on the horse's head and legs, and they were probably intended for use on a chest or casket (Lewis 2018, 20; Bon and Pérès 2021, fig 37).

In excess of 900 medieval pilgrim badges have now been recorded by the PAS with 72 added last year. A badge for St Edmund, the last king of East Anglia killed by the Vikings in 869, was found at Wyfold (Oxfordshire; PUBLIC-731EA7; Fig 4i) is an important addition to the overall corpus of pilgrim badges. Dating to the late 15th–early 16th centuries, the badge shows Edmund's martyrdom, depicting him standing with his hands behind his back and wearing only a loincloth with a curve above his head, probably representing a halo. He stands in front of a tree, the canopy above the curved motif; archers stand either side joined to the tree by its branches. Robinson (1989, 68) argued that the overall shape of the badge may have been intended to represent an anchor, an allusion to miracles of St Edmund in which he comes to the aid of seafarers in distress but, as Lewis (2020, 17–19) has shown, such tripartite, anchor-like designs are not unique to badges of St Edmund and that its shape was not intended to be symbolic. This badge is only the seventh recorded by the PAS,²⁰ and the ninth overall. St Edmund's shrine at Bury St Edmunds was the focal point of his cult and four of the badges of this type recorded to date come from the broad region – Norfolk (NMS906, NMS-8A823C), Cambridgeshire (BH-589BA2) or Bedfordshire (BH-CB9BB7) – with two others from further west – this find and one from Hailes Abbey (Gloucestershire; *ibid*, 66) – another from London

(ibid, 66) and two from north of the Humber (DUR-022964, YORYM-F0F226), illustrating the broad appeal of pilgrimage to his shrine.

(*J Naylor*)

RESEARCH REPORT

A rare pilgrim badge of St John Lateran, Rome

The Portable Antiquities Scheme database offers an ever-increasing repository of pilgrim badges, and other devotional badges, that now total well over one thousand records. A significant strength of the database's online presence and accessibility is that its records can be continually appraised and updated with new information. This short note presents a rare medieval pilgrim badge that has been fully identified six years after its initial discovery and recording.

In 2018 the isolated discovery of a lead-alloy lozengiform object was made in the parish of Hundon (Suffolk; KENT-C4B36C; Fig 5). Clearly broken at all of its apexes, enough of the object survived for Jo Ahmet, then PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Kent, to identify it as a medieval pilgrim badge.²¹ At the time of its recording the central device was taken to be a bishop shown standing and holding a transverse crozier. The figure is set within a border and surrounded by an inscription that travels all the way round the badge's edge, but this legend was tantalisingly incomplete and, in places, obscured.

Reappraisal of the badge occurred during data preparation undertaken by the author for the 'Medieval Ritual Landscape' project (MeRit).²² Once a key parallel was found via the Kunera database (object no 03488),²³ the inscription could be interpreted as: '[SA]NCTVS IOHA[NNIS D]E LATERA[NO]'. The badge can thus be associated with the basilica of St John Lateran in Rome and dated to around the 13th century. As with other known badges from this cult centre, the central figure is considered to be a draped apostle, holding what appears to be an early form of crosier with a Tau head. The breaks at the apexes have removed all four original sewing loops; such loops are visible on the parallel alluded to above, from Billingsgate, London (Spencer 1998, 250, 252–253, no 254d). Attachment via sewing loops – as opposed to via an integral pin – is characteristic of continental and Scottish pilgrim badges (Prosser and Webley 2021, 46–47).

This is a rare survival from this cult centre, the first recorded by the PAS, and one of only three so far traced in England. The Kunera database currently details a total of only four

examples from St John Lateran from across northern and eastern Europe, including that found at Billingsgate.²⁴ Further to these, Brian Spencer (1998, 253) noted two other badges, while speculating a third. One of the first two, found in Toulouse, has since been attributed to St Paul, and comes from the basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, near St John Lateran in Rome.²⁵ Spencer's other example was purportedly found at Wolverton, Buckinghamshire, but differs from the PAS and Billingsgate examples in having an abbreviated legend that is located within the field.

The rarity of this badge from St John Lateran may be contrasted with those depicting SS Peter and Paul from St Peter's basilica, Rome, of which there are now a dozen examples on the PAS database alone.²⁶ However, a shared characteristic of many of these broadly 13th-century badges is that they have lost their attachment loops; this extends to many other continental badges found in England (Fig 6a). The frequency of loss of (some or all of) the loops suggests both a weakness in design, and at the same time a practice or approach to the objects that seems to have included special curation, as demonstrated by deliberate, and often careful, removal of the loops. The 'badges' use without loops suggests that, even in this plaque-like form, they were considered no less efficacious as 'quasi-relics' (Gilchrist 2019, 386), and were retained for apotropaic reasons. Many badges bear further evidence of having been attached to buildings or furniture items (Prosser and Webley 2021, 45-46, ill 1a; Søvstø 2023, 423, fig 13) via secondary perforations at their corners (Fig 6b), or towards their centre (Fig 6c), sometimes with iron corrosion product presumably from the nail used (Fig 6d). Perhaps the best example of the continuing perceived potency of such badges, even once broken or damaged, is a fragmentary example originating from St Peter's basilica found on the breast of an adult male in the grounds of the hospital at St Giles by Brompton Bridge (North Yorkshire) alongside a badge of the Holy Face of Lucca (Cardwell 1995, 134, 201, ill 43, nos 5, 6). But as with the present example, neither of these objects that were taken to the grave retained any of their sewing loops.

(R Webley)²⁷

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² Full details of all finds recorded by PAS can be found at: <https://finds.org.uk/database>.

³ Date accessed: 25 June 2024.

⁴ Finds reported via the Treasure Act 1996 are now included on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PASD). PAS and Treasure Annual Reports are free to download (<http://finds.org.uk/publications>).

⁵ As of 31 December 2023 (data correct as of 25 June 2024). Figures include finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996.

⁶ Coin finds include all medieval rulers up to and including Henry VII (1485–1509). Date accessed: 25 June 2024.

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⁸ The other two coins were found at Padstow (CORN-72D1D7) and Perranzabuloe (CORN-1C01E3).

⁹ See also NARC-E313DA, ESS-57B496, LON-F932D8 and SUSS-ECFFC3.

¹⁰ The other finds are NLM-0A084C ('near Pocklington', East Riding of Yorkshire), DUR-F0CB9E (Allerthorpe, East Riding of Yorkshire).

¹¹ See Naismith 2011a, nos E28a and E28b; EMC2013.0228 (<<https://emc.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/full-record/20130228>> [access date 8 June 2024])

¹² The other is LIN-467513.

¹³ Thirty-two are listed on the Corpus of Early Medieval Coin Finds, 26 with a findspot noted, all falling with these two counties. < <https://emc.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>> [accessed 24 June 2024]

¹⁴ See: GAT-CF592B, PUBLIC-F94899 and PUBLIC-48CECC and CPAT-360756.

¹⁵ The other is an Angel of Edward IV (SOM-A010CF).

¹⁶ Eg SF-9EB484.

¹⁷ With thanks to Rebecca Griffiths (PAS Finds Liaison Officer for North and East Yorkshire) for discussing the bowl and its recovery.

¹⁸ Eg NARC-6F6352, LVPL-05B5E4 and YORYM-395444.

¹⁹ Access date 19 June 2024; 24 are publicly-available records, the rest will become public in due course.

²⁰ PAS recorded finds: BH-CB9BB7, BH-589BA2, DUR-022964, NMS906, NMS-8A823C, YORYM-F0F226.

²¹ See < <https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/902097>> [access date: May 2024]

²² The University of Reading and British Museum's joint research project 'The Medieval Ritual Landscape: Archaeology, Material Culture and Lived Religion'd (MeRit) started in 2023. It is funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (grant number AH/X004929/1) and is investigating the deep history of ritual practices in medieval England (c.1000–1600 CE) [<https://research.reading.ac.uk/medieval-ritual-landscape/>].

²² A repository of pan-European pilgrim signs founded at Radboud University, Nijmegen, in 1998 <<https://kunera.nl/>>.

²³ A repository of pan-European pilgrim signs founded at Radboud University, Nijmegen, in 1998 <<https://kunera.nl/>> [accessed: 11 June 2024]

²⁴ Kunera object nos 03488 (Billingsgate, London – noted above), 14379 and 14380 (both Rome), 26446 (Stralsund, Germany).

²⁵ Attribution by Kunera (object no 16635); originally published by G. Démians d'Archimbaud *et al.* 1981, 114, no 609.

²⁶ Find IDs: type as per Spencer (1998, 248–251) no 251: KENT-914F11, SWYOR-FE334D, LVPL-F19DFC (Fig. 2b), NMS-66BC25 (Fig. 2d), CAM-C571E7, SF-EED552, NMS-B99FA5, SF8205; type as per Spencer (1998, 248–251) no 252: NMS-D08520, OXON-0C414B, WILT-7D60E8 (Fig. 2c), NMS-5506C6.

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