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ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST

Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act

A further short selection of small finds of heraldic or related interest recently reported under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 or the Portable Antiquities Scheme. All the objects were found by metal-detectorists; all have a unique PAS number. Objects submitted to H.M. Coroner as potential treasure have a T number prefixed by the year in which they were submitted.

Figure 1: post-medieval copper-alloy belt or harness mount from Oxborough in Norfolk. Scale 2:1.



NORFOLK: OXBOROUGH

PAS NMS-C749F5. See **Figure 1**.

Post-medieval copper-alloy belt or harness mount, cast in the form of an openwork armorial crest, depicting an elephant standing on a torse or crest-wreath, with four integral round-sectioned attachment spikes (two surviving as stubs only) on the flat reverse. Details on the front face are carefully moulded in low relief. Length 32mm; width 22mm. Sixteenth or seventeenth century. Found 11 March 2009.

Several families bore a simple crest of an elephant passant or statant in the relevant period, the most prominent being the Knollys family, of Greys in Oxfordshire (recorded e.g. CA record Ms C18/47, Visn. of Berkshire 1623). But at least two less well known families have Norfolk associations: the Cobbs of Adderbury in Oxfordshire, formerly of Sandringham in Norfolk, were recorded with this crest in the 1634 Oxfordshire Visitation (CA record Ms C29/26); while an ermine elephant was granted to William Whiple of Dickleborough in Norfolk by Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of Arms, in 1576 (CA record Ms Misc. Grants 1/148v).

Steven Ashley

STAFFORDSHIRE: LONGDON

PAS WMID-E61573. See **Plate 3b**.

An incomplete medieval enamelled copper-alloy heraldic harness fitting in the shape of a shield; the field is divided into six pallets, three of them red, and an ermine can-

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ton. The reverse of the fitting is plain and undecorated, with an integrally cast circular sectioned attachment spike in the centre. The harness fitting is a mid to dark green colour with an even surface patina. Abrasion, caused by movement whilst within the ploughsoil, has resulted in a loss of some of the original surface detail and enamel. Length 36.9mm; width 29.7mm; thickness 3.0mm; length of spike 13.0 mm; weight 12.6g. Thirteenth or fourteenth century.

The arms regularly recorded for the Bassetts of Drayton and other lines are *Or three piles meeting in base gules a canton ermine*; see *Rolls of Arms: Henry III (Aspilogia 2: London 1967)*, pp. 139-40. From an early date the red piles on a gold show a tendency to become pales or to transmute into a paly field.

Teresa Gilmore and Clive Cheesman

WORCESTERSHIRE: QUEENHILL

PAS WAW-4C0421. See **Plate 4a**.

A medieval cast copper-alloy harness pendant in the form of a lozenge with a perforated lug protruding from the upper corner. The suspension loop has been twisted. The face has a heraldic design with three lions on a bend; above the bend, the field contained at least one and probably three fleurs-de-lys; the condition of the lower field is poor but it is quite likely that it contained three more. Traces of gilding remain on the bend and on the visible fleur-de-lys; the field appears to have contained red enamel. The reverse is undecorated. The surface is abraded and corroded. The lower corner is slightly upturned. Length 44.33mm; width 34.22mm; thickness at loop 4.36mm; weight 11.8g. Thirteenth or fourteenth century. Found late 2013 or early 2014.

For three lions (either rampant or passant – the distinction is not always clear due to their orientation) on a bend, see *DBA 2*, pp. 4-6. However, depending on the number of fleurs-de-lys in the field, it is quite likely that the design is allusive to the medieval royal arms of England (i.e. France and England quarterly).

Angie Bolton

WORCESTERSHIRE: WYRE PIDDLE

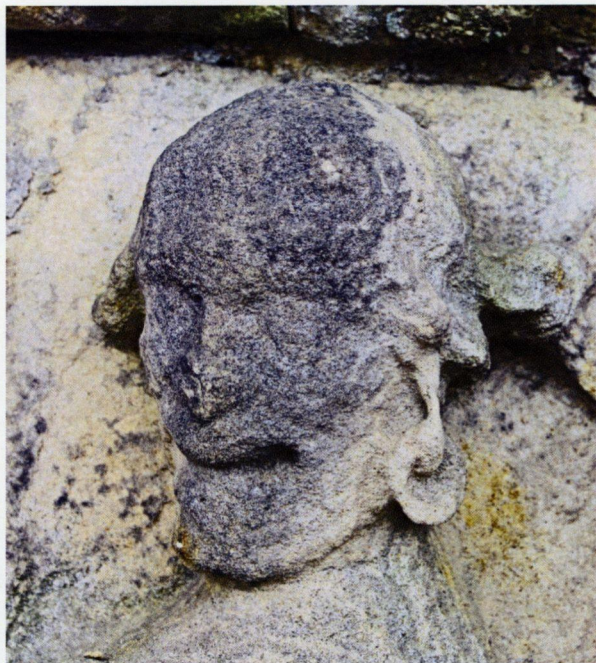
PAS WAW-379F16. See **Plate 4b**.

A medieval cast copper-alloy heraldic mount in the form of a shield. Both faces are decorated with a cross moline and three leopard heads on a chief. The original colour of the enamelled field and the leopard heads is uncertain; they are now a decayed cream or pale yellow. The cross has traces of gilding, and the chief contains red enamel. The lower tip of the mount is indented forming an offset straight edge which is not broken, or at least is not broken recently. Length 30.35mm; width 23.39mm; thickness 2.95mm; weight 11.6g. Thirteenth or fourteenth century. Found 2013 or early 2014.

See Papworth, p. 625 for *Or a cross moline on a chief sable three leopards heads or*, ascribed to 'Molyne, co. Leicester'. The design is not in *DBA*.

Angie Bolton

PLATE 3



Above (a), Saracen's head crest of Carnaby, carved at Hexham Abbey House. *See pages 29-30.*

Below (b), medieval copper-alloy harness mount from Longdon in Staffordshire. *Scale 2:1. See page 35.*



PLATE 4



Medieval copper-alloy heraldic ornaments from Worcestershire.
Top (a), lozenge-shaped harness pendant from Queenhill. Bottom (b), double-sided
shield-shaped mount from Wyre Piddle. Both scale 2:1. *See page 36.*