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ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST

Reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act

A further 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 were found by metal-detectorists and 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. Norfolk objects also have a Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) number.

2015.08 HAMPSHIRE: BURITON

HAMP-38D344; 2015 T736. See **Plate 7a**.

A well preserved post-medieval silver seal matrix with an oval face, the handle hexagonally faceted and extending into a fleur-de-lys terminal, the central lobe having a small knob and the other two lobes curled ends. A hexagonally faceted band of three ribs divides the fleur-de-lys terminal from the die. The die shows a full coat of arms with shield, helmet, crest and mantling. There is a small area of damage on the edge below with evidence of tooling marks. Face of die 19.5mm x 17.0mm; height 27.4mm; weight 11.39g. 17th century. Found 6 September 2015.

The arms (*Or on a chevron between three demi lions rampant gu. three trefoils or*) and crest (*a bull's head caboshed ar. guty sa.*) are those confirmed to Edward Layfield or Leyfield, Archdeacon of Essex, in 1639; *Grantees of Arms*, p. 152. Almost identical arms and crest had previously been used by a family called Leyfield or Lyfield residing at Stoke D'Abernon in Surrey (confirmed by Dethick in 1560: *Grantees of Arms*, p. 160). The prominent crescent seen here in the chief of the shield, and less prominently on the crest, is the distinguishing feature of the version confirmed in 1639. On Edward Layfield's family (his mother was Archbishop Laud's half sister) see J. B. Whitmore, *N&Q* 147 (1924), pp. 30-2, with pedigree. A mid-17th-century date for the object is stylistically appropriate, but the findspot in Hampshire may suggest it was last used by Edward Layfield's son Charles, a resident prebendary of Winchester Cathedral who died in 1715 (leaving a quarter of his estate to the poor inhabitants of four places, including Winchester and Chilbolton, also Hants; *Sixteenth Report of the Charity Commissioners 1826-7*, vol. 9, p. 327-8).

Katie Hinds and Clive Cheesman

2015.09 HUNTINGDONSHIRE: LITTLE PAXTON

PAS PUBLIC-FD3F37. See **Plate 7b**.

Medieval copper-alloy shield-shaped harness pendant with an integral suspension loop. The face of the shield bears three roundels, all originally filled with red enamel although the enamel in the lower roundel has almost completely been lost and only a few small patches remain. The upper two roundels are partly obscured by the tabs of a three-tabbed 'label' which runs across the shield 1.3mm below its upper edge and is infilled with a dark blue enamel. The suspension loop emerges from the centre of the top of the shield and projects forwards, so the reverse surface remains in the same

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plane as the body of the pendant. Overall length (including suspension loop) 43.5mm; shield length 33.8mm; width 27.4mm; thickness 3.5mm; weight 14.49g. 13th-14th century. Found 2014.

The arms are those of the Courtenays, Earls of Devon; see *DBA* 4, pp. 340-3 for recorded variations on the basic theme of *Or three roundels gu. and a label az.* as seen here.

Louisa Rooks

2015.10 NORFOLK: ICKBURGH

PAS NMS-02BA55, NHER 59860. See **Plate 8a**.

Incomplete medieval copper-alloy mount for the suspension of a pendant, pitted and corroded. Cruciform, two short D-sectioned horizontal arms end in perforated flattened fleur-de-lys terminals with engraved detail, one containing the corroded remains of an iron rivet. The slightly longer upper arm is broken across a perforation and part of the terminal is missing. The arms spring from a central disk with an enamelled shield set within engraved decoration. The shield bears *Quarterly 1 and 4 Barry (of 8 and 10) or and azure, 2 and 3 Gules a trident or*; the enamelled bars are alternately of dark blue and light blue enamel. An integral slotted projection springs from the base and is folded onto the reverse to form twin suspension-loops, containing a corroded iron spindle for suspension of the missing pendant. Extant height 55mm; width 61mm; thickness of central disk 3mm. 13th-14th century.

The arms are as yet unidentified; there is nothing similar in *DBA*.

Steven Ashley

2015.11 NORFOLK: SCOULTON

PAS NMS-912274, NHER 59823. See **Figure 1a**.

Medieval enamelled and gilt copper-alloy shield-shaped mount, abraded and distorted into a tapering tube. All the enamel has been lost and only a few specks of gilding are extant. Blazon: [?] *a cross engrailed or*. No means of attachment remains. Height c.65mm; width c.52mm; thickness 0.7mm. 13th-14th century. Found 2014.

The object was probably soldered to another metal object of some sort or held within a leather frame on a casket or harness. Known medieval English arms consisting of an engrailed cross on a plain field are listed in *DBA* 3, pp. 111-20.

Andrew Rogerson and Steven Ashley

2015.12 NORFOLK: SHIPDHAM

PAS NMS-4D310A, NHER 36283. See **Plate 7c**.

Medieval gilt copper-alloy shield-shaped harness pendant with inlaid enamel. The suspension loop is filled with the remains of an iron spindle. The shield is *Lozengy or and sable*. Height 35.4mm; width 20.6mm. 13th-14th century. Found February/March 2015.

The arms are likely to be those of Bland or Creketot, both of Suffolk; see J. Corder, *A Dictionary of Suffolk Arms* (Suffolk Records Soc. vol. 7: Ipswich 1965), col. 401; *DBA* 4, p. 215.

Andrew Rogerson and Steven Ashley

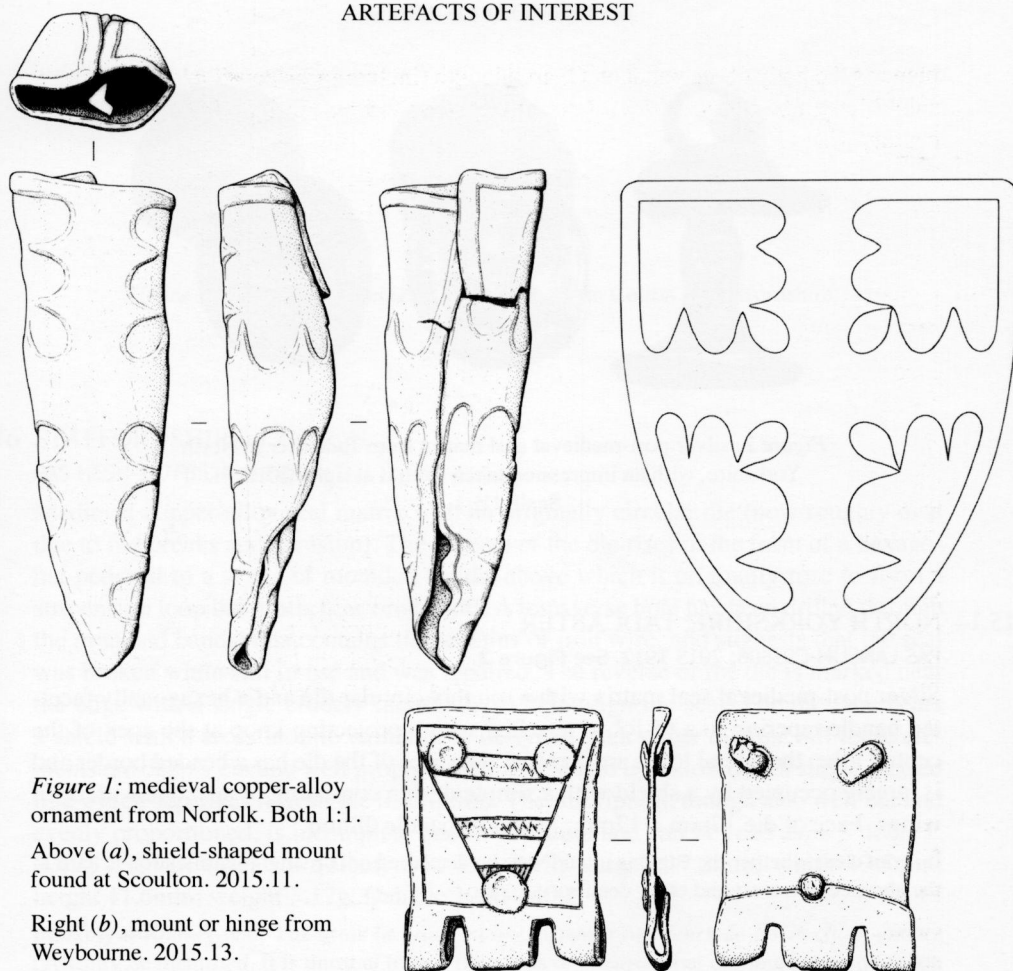


Figure 1: medieval copper-alloy ornament from Norfolk. Both 1:1.
Above (a), shield-shaped mount found at Scoulton. 2015.11.

Right (b), mount or hinge from Weybourne. 2015.13.

2015.13 NORFOLK: WEYBOURNE

PAS NMS-AB9BAB, NHER 60330. See **Figure 1b**.

Incomplete medieval armorial gilt copper-alloy mount or hinge. Rectangular sheet (1mm thick) folded widthways and shortened on the reverse, with two rectangular slots cut into the fold. The face of the plate, oriented vertically with the fold at the base, is decorated with an engraved triangular shield bearing *Three bars*, each bar containing engraved rocker-arm to differentiate it from the plain field, set within a bordering line. Three rivet-holes pierce the shield, one at each angle, with the discoidal head of each copper alloy rivet partly obscuring the engraving, including the lower edge of the bar in base. Height 35mm; width 26.5mm. 13th century. Found November 2014.

The mount is unlikely to have been used for the suspension of bells or pendants as the space between the slots is too narrow. It may be part of a hinge.

Steven Ashley



Figure 2: silver post-medieval seal matrix from Tadcaster in North Yorkshire, with an impression taken from it at right. 2015.14. Scale 1½:1.

2015.14 NORTH YORKSHIRE: TADCASTER

PAS LANCUM-C55606; 2015 T912. See **Figure 2**.

Silver post-medieval seal matrix with a roughly circular die and a hexagonally faceted handle tapering to a tri-lobed terminal with a projecting knob at the apex of the central lobe; the lateral lobes are scrolled. The face of the die has a beaded border and is largely occupied by a shield with a simple design consisting of an eagle with open wings. Face of die 17mm x 17mm; height of handle 28mm.

It is not clear whether the eagle is intended to be displayed or is rising. Identification is hard in the absence of a crest and other details.

Stuart Noon

2015.15 SOMERSET: PITMINSTER

PAS SOM-A9F568. See **Plate 8b**.

A post-medieval copper-alloy heraldic boss from a dish or basin, displaying the full coat of arms of James I and VI (1603-25) or James II and VII (1688-9). The mount is circular and convex, and was originally enamelled in the correct heraldic colours. White enamel appears between the shield and the Garter, while the rest of the field of the boss was black. Traces of gilding can be seen on the crowned lion in the crest. Either side of the crest are the initials 'I' and 'R' (IACOBUS REX). The enamel field is surrounded by a raised metal reserve around the edge of the boss. The reverse is undecorated. Diameter 57.40mm; thickness 2.20mm; weight 31.65g.

This boss may have been placed centrally inside a dish or basin and may have been a royal gift rather than belonging to the royal household. It would probably have been used for display or as a rosewater dish for washing hands, rather than for the service of food; cf J. D. Davis, *Pewter at Colonial Williamsburg* (Williamsburg 2003), p.32; H. Cotterell, *Old Pewter: Its Makers and Marks* (London 1929), p.121, fig. C.

Denise Wliding

ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST



Figure 3: copper-alloy medieval seal matrix from Colton in Staffordshire.
2015.16.
Scale 1½:1.

2015.16 STAFFORDSHIRE: COLTON

PAS HESH-187FB5. See **Figure 3**.

Medieval copper-alloy seal matrix with an originally circular die (now roughly oval due to old breaks and abrasion). The reverse of the die rises in the form of a hexagonal pedestal to a series of moulded bands, above which it originally rose to form a suspension loop but this is now broken off. A transverse hole has been drilled through the moulded bands; this contains the remains of iron wire, and suggests that the seal was broken while still in use and was repaired. The reverse of the die is marked near the edge with a single crudely incised X, to help align the seal. The die face bears a shield with a cross moline with a fleur-de-lys in each upper quarter. All these elements are deeply cut and well proportioned. The shield is enclosed by a single incised line which separates it from the inscription. The inscription, though also well cut and evenly proportioned, is incomplete due to abrasion, and can be read as: + S' ROB'T. ?O[...] ESQVIR ('Seal of Robert O... Esquire'). Length 17.2mm; width 17.5mm; height 11.6mm; weight 3.17g. Datable 1200-1400.

Possibly a counter-seal. The arms (*a cross moline between two feurs-de-lys in chief*) cannot presently be identified. It is unusual to find the status or occupational designation 'esquire' on such a seal.

*Peter Reavill**

2015.17 SUFFOLK: NEAR BURY ST EDMUNDS

PAS SF-9CEAEE; 2014 T480. See **Figure 4**, over.

Post-medieval silver seal matrix of 'chess pawn' type with an oval die bearing a coat of arms. The shield is broad-based and has a fess between six six-pointed mullets. The crest is a pair of wings emerging from a crest coronet, each with three six-pointed mullets. The helmet has a closed visor; ornate mantling flows out from it on either side. The terminal of the matrix is oval and pierced with part of a figure-of-eight silver chain link still passing through the hole. Length 19.28mm; face of die 16.92 x 16.17mm; weight 6.63 g.

The style of the heraldic engraving is clearly seventeenth-century in style. The six-pointed mullets and the partial repetition of the shield design on the wings in the crest are suggestive

* With thanks to John Cherry for comment and assistance.

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Figure 4: post-medieval silver seal matrix found near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. 2015.17.
Scale 1½:1.

of Continental, perhaps German, heraldry. The closest design found so far is that ascribed to a Meissner family (Prussia, 15th century): *Ar. a fess between six 6-pointed mullets az.*; see G.A. von Mülverstedt (ed.), *Siebmacher's grosses und allgemeines Wappenbuch*, vol. 6.4: *Abgestorbener Preussischer Adel: Provinz Preussen* (Nuremberg 1874), p. 48 with table 35. However the wings in the Meissner crest repeat the entire shield design and do not emerge from a coronet.

Faye Minter

2015.18 WORCESTERSHIRE: PERSHORE

PAS WAW-287356. See **Plate 8c**.

Medieval copper-alloy harness pendant in elaborate quatrefoil form with a perforated integral suspension loop protruding from the upper lobe; this retains a trace of an iron pin. The face of the pendant bears the royal arms of England, with substantial remains of red enamel in the field of the shield; the three lions passant guardant have lost any gilding. Other decoration outside the shield, on the leaves of the quatrefoil, can be detected but is largely undecipherable due to corrosion. The reverse of the pendant is undecorated. Length 42.95mm; width 32.63mm; diameter of suspension loop 7.36mm; weight 14.97g.

For similar shaped pendants see S. Ashley, *Medieval Armorial Horse Furniture in Norfolk* (East Anglian Archaeology 101: Dereham 2002), Fig. 21, nos 207-215, where the quatrefoil form is classified as a later development. The royal arms were France and England quarterly from 1340 but instances of the unquartered arms of England are not uncommon at a later date; harness pendants often in any case allude to rather than fully depict the royal arms, and pendants showing the lions of England may have been used together with others showing the French fleurs-de-lys.

Angie Bolton

PLATE 7



Right (a), post-medieval silver seal matrix (with impression above) found at Buriton in Hampshire, showing the arms of Layfield. 2015.08. Scale (matrix) 1:1, (impression) 1½:1.
See page 175.



Above (b), medieval copper-alloy harness pendant from Little Paxton in Huntingdonshire, showing the arms of Courtenay. 2015.09. Scale 1:1.
See pages 175-6.

Right (c), medieval copper-alloy harness pendant from Shipdham in Norfolk, showing lozengy arms. 2015.12. Scale 1:1.
See page 176.



PLATE 8



Top (a), medieval copper-alloy mount for the suspension of a pendant, from Ickburgh in Norfolk. 2015.10. Scale 1:1.
See page 176.

Middle (b), post-medieval copper-alloy heraldic boss, perhaps from a dish or basin, found at Pitminster in Somerset. 2015.15. Scale 1:1.
See page 178.

Right (c), medieval quatrefoil-form copper-alloy harness pendant from Pershore in Worcestershire. 2015.18. Scale 1:1.
See page 180.

