

THE COAT OF ARMS

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HERALDIC ARTEFACTS

Reported under the Treasure Act and the Portable Antiquities Scheme

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 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.

2019.1 HERTFORDSHIRE: MAPLE CROSS

BH-B75880. 2018 T198. See **Figure 1**.

Post-medieval gold signet ring, probably dating to the seventeenth century. The ring has a flat oval bezel engraved with a shield with an ermine field and a fess between three horses courant or possibly salient. The area around the coat of arms is plain with a circumferential punched linear border. The tapering shoulders of the ring and hoop are D-shaped in section and undecorated. Length 25.5mm; width 18mm; height 24.5mm; diameter of bezel 20mm; weight 25.26g.

The arms (*Ermine a fess between three horses courant sable*) are those of the Colt(e) family of the Rickmansworth manor of Woodwicks, on whom see *VCH Herts.* vol. 2, pp.



Figure 1: Scale 1:1.

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383–4. The site of the manor was at Woodoaks (= Woodwicks) Farm in Maple Cross. For these arms ascribed to them see *VCH Herts Families* p. 261 and CAMS I.16/130 (funeral certificate of Miles Sandys of Latimers, Bucks., 1601, whose wife Mary was daughter of Robert Colte of Woodwicks). See also Adrienne Jacques, *Rickmansworth Historical Society Newsletter* 90 (1952), online at www.rickmansworthhistoricalsociety.btck.co.uk/Newsletter/WoodwickformerlyWoodoaksFarm.

Matt Fittock and Ian Richardson



Figure 2a: Wax impression of seal.

2019.2 KENT: CHILHAM

KENT-AC2124. See **Figures 2a and 2b.**

Medieval copper-alloy pedestal seal matrix. The conical handle of the matrix is hexagonal in section and separated by a collar of three ridges from a drilled trifoliate suspension loop. An orientation mark consisting of four punched pellets is on the base of the shaft. On the circular face of the matrix is a shield with a chevron (possibly chequy, square-fretty, or simply hatched) between in chief two swans and in base a rose. The shield is framed by tracery in the form of six arches, the four lateral ones each enclosing a pair of

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Figure 2b: Scale 2:1

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annulets. The inscription reads +SIGILLVM.WALTERI.ODIhA'. The notably dark grey colour and weight of the object suggest a high lead content. Fourteenth century. Height 30.33mm; width at collar 9.57mm; diameter of face 28.44mm; weight 19.22g.

Similar arms appear on a seal impression inscribed S WALTER DE ODYHAM on a grant of a tenement in the London parish of St Mary Woolchurch, 1360 (TNA E329/31); the grantors are Walter de Odyham, Rector of St John's Walbrook, and Richard Sauvage, Rector of St Michael's Cornhill. *DBA* 2, p. 299, describes the arms on the seal impression as a chevron between in chief two swans and in base a 'pot of lilies', with a query as to whether the latter is actually a heart.

Jo Ahmet

2019.3 KENT: EGERTON

KENT-FF3C2C. See **Figure 3**.

A worn and bent composite medieval gilt copper-alloy mount consisting of a thin circular backplate with a heraldic design executed in champlevé enamel and gilding, *Bendy of six or and azure (or Or three bendlets azure) a bordure gules*; the enamel of the border is mostly missing. There is a flat attachment lug projecting from the upper edge of the plate. A full outer gilded flange doubtless surrounded the plate but now survives only at the top near the remaining lug; there was probably at least one other lug. Riveted to the front of the plate is a three-quarter-length or seated female figure, cast in relief, with arms shown crossing the body and possibly holding something. The figure is apparently dressed in a long robe or dress, possibly beneath a 'cyclas' or sleeveless surcoat. The headgear is better preserved



Figure 3: Scale 1:1

and consists of a barbette roughly shown with a crenelated fillet or a crown. The reverse of the plate is undecorated and distinguished only by the rivet retaining the figure. Both elements were gilded before the figurative element was rivetted to the backplate as can be seen by gilding and enamel behind the figurative element and the enamel clearly wrapping the figure, particularly visible around the lug which has been bent backwards. Much of the surface of the object shows heavy historic wear with much of the gilding and enamel

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now missing. There is some recent scratching. Thirteenth or fourteenth century. Length 39.81mm; width 30.35mm; thickness 7.14mm; weight 15.55g.

The identity of the figure is uncertain although certainly represents a woman of high status, with the headdress being of a type in fashion at least from the middle of the 13th century with crenellated/plated type fillets being popular at the end of the century. Because of the wear on the upper body it is not clear if the figure is meant to represent the Madonna and child; many 12th- and 13th- century representations of women have their arms crossed across the body in a similar manner. The heraldry closely resembles the coat of arms of the Counts of Ponthieu or (down to c. 1361) the Dukes of Burgundy. For the same arms on a heraldic harness mount, see 2014.18 in *CoA 10* (2014), p. 122 (Chaddesley Corbett, Worcs.).

Jo Ahmet

2019.4 LEICESTERSHIRE: PECKLETON

LEIC-8AEB09. 2018 T424. See **Figure 4a and 4b**.

Post medieval silver pedestal seal matrix, the handle ending in a tri-lobed terminal with a knop at its apex and small projections at the side. It sits upon a raised collar of three bands which has a short hexagonal tapering shaft below. This expands to form an oval face which is engraved with a coat of arms set in a recessed beaded border. The shield is *Quarterly 1 and 4 On a chevron between three cock's (?) heads erased a mullet between two crescents, 2 and 3 Two bars*. There is a helm with ornate mantling and a crest of what appears to be a demi ram. There is a crescent for difference in the centre of the quartered shield and on the crest. Dimensions of matrix face 23mm x 19mm; thickness (at matrix) 16mm; weight 7.72g. Found 7 April 2018.

Despite the distinctive heraldry no satisfactory identification has yet been made of the coat of arms. A family of Barcroft is regularly ascribed arms like those in the first quarter here, with wolf heads; it seems hard to interpret the heads seen here as lupine,



Figure 4a: Scale 3:1

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and the crest does not match. A demi ram is the crest of various families called Vincent as well as of the Vermuyden family of Hatfield Chase. It is possible that the mullet and crescents were added at some date later than the original engraving; they appear to be too big for the chevron they sit on.

Wendy Scott and Ian Richardson



Figure 4b: Impression of seal

2019.5 NORFOLK: LONG STRATTON

NMS-89692D. NHER 14115. **See Figure 5.**

A medieval gilt copper-alloy harness fitting, a strap distributor, comprising a circular plate with open base with four regularly spaced projections around the outer edge, attaching an integral circular-sectioned ring to form four apertures in the sides. Through these apertures are looped four almost identical one-piece strap-ends, each with a slightly convex rounded terminal with an integral round-sectioned rivet, inserted into a perforation in the terminal of the reverse part to form a loop (three of the strap-ends retain scraps of the cloth strap). The four looped elements and the central element are still articulated and movable, though the whole object is corroded and worn. The face of each of the loop terminals has corroded traces of an elaborate engraved sexfoil, the outline standing proud of the corroded and eroded surface. Diameter of plate 25mm; height 14mm; length of strap-ends 18mm-19mm; width at loops 4mm-5mm; width at terminals 8.5mm-10.5mm; length of rivets 7mm; weight 21.27g. 13th-14th century. Found July 2016.

The face of the plate carries the decayed and corroded remains of enamelled armorial decoration, comprising: [*?Or/?Argent*] *two bars between eight (or an orle of) birds* [*?*]. The arms may be those of Paynel, *Argent two bars between eight martlets azure (or gules)* or *Or two bars azure an orle of martlets gules*; see *DBA* 1, pp.50-1.

Steven Ashley

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Figure 5: Scale 2:1

2019.6 NORFOLK: ROLLESBY

NMS-E82398. NHER 56259. See Figure 6.

Medieval copper-alloy shield-shaped harness stud with an integral circular-sectioned spike on the upper part of the reverse, slightly offset from mid-point. Red and blue enamel survive on the face, surface treatment of metal missing. Blazon: *Gules a cross moline or or argent over all a bendlet azure*. Height 32mm; width 26mm; thickness 3mm; length

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Figure 6: Scale 2:1.

of shank 11mm. Later 13th–14th century. Found October/November 2016. The arms are probably those of Sir Robert de Benhale (d.1362) of Benhall in Suffolk who bore these arms with the cross argent. See GEC vol 2 pp.115–6; *DBA* 3 p.172.

Steven Ashley

2019.7 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: GOTHAM

DENO-1B14FE. See **Figure 7a and 7b**.

Medieval copper-alloy circular seal matrix with a rib on the reverse terminating in a pierced semi-circular lug at the upper end. On the face is a shield bearing the design *Ten roundels (4, 3, 2, 1) and over all a label* within a trilobate frame. The circumferential inscription reads + LE SEEL DE LA PREVOSTE DE SAIN(T) OV(h)n. Diameter 32.9 mm; thickness 2.4 mm; thickness of rib 5.3 to 2.6mm; weight 16.9g. Found 7 August 2018.

Possible identifications for the arms are Babington (*Argent ten roundels gules and in chief a label of three points azure*) or a differenced version of Zouche (*Gules ten bezants*). The seal may be that of a *prévôté* in Lancastrian France – a junior administrative post roughly equivalent to an English shrievalty – presumably held by a Babington or Zouche.¹

Alastair Willis

¹ Thanks to John Cherry (personal communication 23 Nov. 2018) for this suggestion

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Top Figure 7a, Scale 1.5:1: Bottom, Figure 7b, impression of seal.

2019.8 SOMERSET: ASH PRIORS

SOM-7DB8A7. See Figure 8.

A modified silver 'Gothic' type B florin of Queen Victoria. The coin is dated 1860; at some subsequent date the central area of the obverse has been defaced with multiple randomly placed and crudely made incisions, all of a similar length and breadth (c. 5 x 0.5mm) and sometimes crossing. The reverse has been polished smooth and engraved with three heraldic crests: 1 (top centre) *Issuant from a crown vallary enflamed an eagle's head erased holding in the beak an olive branch*; 2 (bottom left) *An owl guardant charged on the breast with three mullets*; 3 (bottom right) *A lion's head erased charged on the neck with three cross crosslets fitchy (2 and 1)*. Diameter 29.9mm; thickness 1.2mm; weight 6.60g.

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Figure 8: Scale 2:1.

The crests are those of Charles Alfred Onley Savill-Onley of The Priory, Ash Priors, a property he purchased in 1900; see Fairbairn, p. 493; A. W. Baynham, *Memorials of Ash Priors* (Exeter 1908), p. 69. Savill-Onley's original surname was Marsham and he adopted the name and arms of Savill-Onley, with these three crests, by Royal Licence in 1891 (CA record MS Grants 66/123). He died without issue in 1909; his widow lived on at The Priory until her death in December 1949 (Burke's *LG* 1937; National Probate Calendar 1950). The object was therefore probably engraved between 1891 and 1949 (if not 1909), and lost after 1900. The crests are well engraved in a style typical of nineteenth century heraldic work. The combination of fine engraving and reuse of a coin might suggest 'trench art', or more generally work done by sailors, prisoners, or other groups with time and skill but limited access to objects to work on; but discovery so close to the residence of the individual referred to by the heraldry is perhaps more consistent with manufacture and loss on the spot, perhaps by a hobbyist engraver, or by a professional as a trial for a more permanent job.

Laura Burnett and Clive Cheesman

2019.9 STAFFORDSHIRE: ILAM

DENO-B87439. 2018 T311. **See Figure 9.**

Post-Medieval gold signet or seal ring dating to the period *circa* 1600–1650. The bezel is large, flat and oval. The setting is engraved with a design showing the capital letters G and L interspersed with three candlesticks, the central one larger than the others, but all three stylistically the same, with a flat base, two large collars and five smaller collars. A punched border surrounds the design. The hoop of the ring is bent out of shape. The tapering shoulders of the hoop, D-shaped in cross-section, are decorated with floral motifs. Dimensions of hoop 29.3 x 16.7mm; thickness of hoop 2.9mm, internal diameter 24.2mm, diameter of bezel 20.4mm, weight 17.90g. Found 24 February 2018.

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Figure 9: Scale 1:1.

Attempts to identify the owner of the ring on the basis of the non- (or para-)heraldic design and initials have not been successful. Dating to the first half of the seventeenth century is on stylistic grounds.

Ian Richardson

2019.10 WARWICKSHIRE: WELLESBOURNE
WAW-272639. **See Figure 10.**

Medieval copper-alloy shield-shaped heraldic mount. The face of the shield shows two or three bendlets and a canton with three ermine spots. One of the bendlets shows traces

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Figure 10: Scale 2:1

of blue enamel, and some white metal alloy remains in the canton. The reverse has a small square-sectioned stud position towards the top right-hand corner. The stud is bent over. The surface of the mount shows patches of a mid-green patina. Dimensions of face 33.8 x 25.5mm; thickness 7.5mm; weight 14.09g. Found in the first six months of 2017.

See *DBA* 2, pp. 227–8, for *Bendy or and azure a canton ermine*, recorded with equal frequency as the arms of Hugh Fitz Otes and of members of the Bishop(s)tone (Bishopsden) family. Bishopton, the latter's principal manor, lies about eight miles away from the findspot, in the vicinity of Stratford-upon-Avon. A Robert Fitz Otho (= Fitz Otes) is recorded as twelfth-century lord of Loxley, also near Stratford, but the patronymic 'fitz Otes' was naturally widespread and this Robert is not obviously related to the Hugh Fitz Otes named in the medieval armories, on whom see G. J. Brault, *Aspilogia* 3.2, p. 187.

Angie Bolton

2019.11 WILTSHIRE: WEST TISBURY

WILT-7B29D4. 2017 T1225. See **Figure 11**.

A silver post-medieval seal matrix, of the late 17th to 18th century. The conical handle (hexagonally faceted) ends in an openwork trefoil terminal with three inverted drop-shaped apertures, topped by a small, rounded knop. The face of the seal matrix is oval, and is engraved with a full coat of arms with helmet, crest and mantling within a stippled or annulet border. The shield is *Quarterly 1 and 4 a lion rampant crowned, 2 and 3 a saltire*. The saltire is stippled, perhaps the conventional hatching for *or*. The crest is a panache of five ostrich feathers. Overall length 22.71mm; diameter of face 14.64mm; weight 6.28g.

The coat of arms has resisted identification.

Fiona Johnstone and Richard Henry



Figure 11: Scale 2.5:1

2019.12 WORCESTERSHIRE: RIPPLE

WAW-2641F5. See **Figure 12**.

Medieval copper-alloy quatrefoil-shaped mount. On the face is a red shield with ten roundels, arranged 4, 3, 2 and 1. A blue enamelled fleur-de-lys issues from each outer edge of the shield. On the reverse is an integral, centrally placed stud. The surface of the mount is has a slightly abraded dark brown patina. Thirteenth / fourteenth century. Dimensions of face 33.01mm x 33.26mm; thickness 11.14mm; weight 17.23g. Found June 2018.

Almost certainly *Gules ten bezants*, the arms of Zouche. By the mid fourteenth century members of the Zouche family held property widely distributed across many counties of the Midlands and southern England, though little in Worcestershire itself (e.g. *CIPM* vol. 10, no 147).

Angie Bolton

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Figure 12: Scale 1.5:1