

The Coat of Arms

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THE COAT OF ARMS

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ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST

Including items reported under the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Treasure Act

A further short selection of small finds of heraldic or related interest. Most are items found by metal detectorists and recently reported under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 or the Portable Antiquities Scheme. All these 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. One item listed was found during archaeological excavation; it is now in the custody of a county museums service.

2022.1 HAMPSHIRE: WEST TYTHERLEY DOR-1363A3. See **Figure 1**.

A medieval silver pedestal matrix with an oval bezel. The handle terminates in an open-work trefoil through the top of which passes a suspension loop with circular terminals



Figure 1: seal of Joan de Estcote (d.1316).

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containing a separate rivet. On the face of the seal is a shield with the arms *A fess fretty* (or possibly *charged with three saltires*) *between three mullets of six points pierced*. The legend reads S' IOHANNE DE ESTCOTE. Dividing the legend and the internal border of dots at 3, 9 and 12 o'clock, are three escallops, the one at 12 o'clock larger than the other two. The seal is 31.18 mm high; the dimensions of the face are 19.95 mm x 16.67 mm. Weight: 13.89g. Found 29 September 2020.

This is evidently the seal of Joan de Estcote (d. 1316: *CIPM Ed. II*, vol. 2, no. 24), wife of Hugh de Estcote (m. 1280) and heir to Walter de Langford (her father) and Roger de Langford (her uncle). Joan inherited her father's land at West Tytherley, where this seal was found: see *VCH Hants* 4, p. 519. Hugh de Estcote's arms were *Sable six escallops or* (*DBA* vol. 3, pp. 261–2) or *Sable semy of escallops or* (G. J. Brault, *The Rolls of Arms of Edward I (Aspilogia 3: Woodbridge, 1997)*, vol. 2, p. 155) and were presumably the source of the escallops used in the border here. Joan's paternal arms were not previously known, though other medieval families of the name of Langford are recorded as using pierced mullets (*DBA* 4, p. 257). The style of the seal and the engraving is consistent with an early-fourteenth-century date.

Ciorstaidh Hayward-Trevarthen

2022.2 KENT: OLD ROMNEY

KENT-9E270E. See Figure 2.

A medieval cast copper-alloy seal matrix with an unusually squat tapering, faceted handle terminating in a ring. The face of the die is circular and engraved with central device of a triple-towered castle dimidiating a fleur-de-lys, with a fish below. Encircling the device is a beaded border outside which is the legend +S' STEPH'I DE POISSIACO. CL'I. Diameter 19.98mm; height 19.04mm; weight 8.83g.

The legend identifies the owner as a Stephen or Étienne de Poissy, clerk. For the central device of a castle dimidiated with a fleur-de-lys on a counter-seal used by the castellany of Poissy in Île-de-France, see Douët d'Arcq no. 5050 (on an act of 1413) = www.sigilla.org/sceau-type/chatellenie-poissy-contre-sceau-64896. The fish, a further canting reference to Poissy, appears on a seal of the commune: www.sigilla.org/sceau-type/commune-poissy-sceau-74726. It is doubtful whether the Étienne de Poissy can be the fourteenth-century prelate of the same name who was cardinal and bishop of Paris (d. 1373) and was known in England as the negotiator of the release of John II of France after the Treaty of Brétigny in 1360.

Jo Ahmet

ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST



Figure 2: seal of Stephen de Poissy, clerk.

2022.3 LANCASHIRE: OVER KELLET

LANCUM-C9773E. 2020 T774. See **Figure 3**.

A complete medieval cast silver pointed-oval seal matrix of the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century. There is an integrally cast suspension loop and vertical rib on the reverse; this loop has been broken at some point. On the face of the matrix is a shield with a star and crescent moon above within an inscription apparently reading '+SIGILL' ADE FILA D DRELL. The consecutive Ds appear to be joined by a short horizontal line; this may be a fracture or could be a form of abbreviation or ligature for DE (as

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interpreted here). The letters FIL in FIL(I)A(E) seem to be oriented differently from the rest of the text, the right way up but back-to-front. Dimensions of face 30.95mm x 21.63mm; thickness 2.66mm in thickness (5.92mm including the raised transverse bar; 7.22mm at the suspension loop); weight 13.22g. Found February 2020.

The heraldry is currently unidentified. The arms seem to be *Two bars wavy and a canton with a label of four points over all*. It is possible that the two deep horizontal lines across the middle of the shield are a deliberate defacement in order to put the seal out of action, or, if made by a herald, to declare the heraldry unlawful. Ada daughter of Drell, if that is how the legend is to be interpreted, is likewise as yet unidentified. The findspot is in the manor of Carnforth, inherited from the Lancaster family in the thirteenth century by the Lindsays; Ada, widow of William Lindsay and sister of John Baliol, King of Scots, was sued in her own right over property in the manor in 1292; *VCH Lancs* 8, p. 169 n. 41. It is possible that Ada was a name used by other women in the area in subsequent generations.

Ian Bass



Figure 3: seal of Ada fil(i)a d(e) Drell (?).

2022.4 NORFOLK: ACLE

NMS-001D36. NHER 42590. See **Figure 4**.

Medieval enamelled copper-alloy elaborate armorial quatrefoil stud from harness, worn and corroded, and now missing the surface treatment of the metal (tinning or gilding). There is a short integral spike for attachment on the reverse (length 8mm). Although damaged, much of the enamelled decoration survives. The arms can be blazoned *Azure*

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three bends or (or argent) on a chief gules three fleurs-de-lys or (or argent). Dimensions 34 x 34mm; weight 11.18g. 14th-15th century.

The arms have not been identified and are not listed in *DBA*.

Steven Ashley

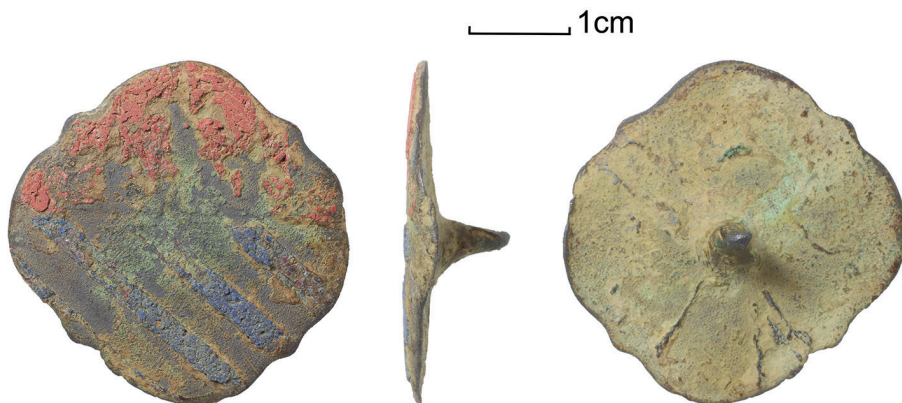


Figure 4: unidentified armorial harness stud.

2022.5 NORFOLK: ROYDON

NMS-71554C. NHER 61456. 2020 T841. See Figure 5.

A small gold signet finger-ring, probably sixteenth or early-seventeenth century in date. The hoop is D-shaped in cross-section, with the interior flat or very slightly convex and the exterior more strongly convex. The bezel is oval and flat and is set longitudinally; it is engraved with a quartered coat of arms on a lozenge, set within a fine border of tiny stamped double crescents. The hoop flares from a minimum of 2.85mm wide and 1.4mm thick at the back of the hoop, to vertical shoulders. Length from the top of the bezel to the back of the hoop, 16.25mm. External width of the ring, 18.8mm. Internal width, 15.4mm. The bezel measures 17 x 14.7mm. Weight 8.22g.

The arms are *Quarterly 1 a fess engrailed between three fleurs-de-lis, 2 on a fess between two chevrons a crescent, 3 a chevron between three covered cups, 4 fretty on a chief a lion passant guardant*; at fess point, over all the quarters, is a pierced mullet. There are traces of pecking or stippling on the fess in the first quarter, on the field in the second quarter and on the chevron in the third quarter. The quarters stand for 1 Ashfield, 2 Tendring, 3 Butler, 4 Mapershall, and are the arms of the Ashfields of Stowlangtoft in Suffolk; subsequently, having sold the Stowlangtoft estate to the D'Ewes family in 1614, they were of Nether Hall in Harkstead, in the south of the same county, and were created baronets in 1626. John Ashfield (lived in the time of Edward IV according to a pedigree recorded in the 1634 Visitation of London: CA MS 2.C24/535) married Florence daughter and heir of John Butler whose mother was a Mapershall heiress; the elder son of this marriage was John Ashfield of Stowlangtoft who died 1499. The Tendring quartering stands for the elder John's stepmother, Cecilia, eldest daughter and co-heiress of John Tendring of Brockdish in Norfolk. The ring was presumably made for a daughter of a third son of this family, perhaps daughter of Edward third son of the

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latter John, or of Thomas third son of Robert Ashfield of Stowlangtoft, High Sheriff of Suffolk 1577. For a pedigree of the family see W. J. Corbett and T. Tindal Methold, 'The rise and devolution of the manors in Hepworth, Suffolk' (part 2), *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History* 10.2 (1899), pp. 125–43 with pedigree on p. 130.

Steven Ashley



Figure 5: signet ring for a female member of the Ashfield family.

2022.6 NORFOLK: SUSTEAD NMS-62FBFB. NHER 64307. See Figure 6.

Worn and corroded medieval copper alloy horse harness pendant, shield-shaped with suspension-loop. Red and blue enamel and a fragment of tinning at the base of the suspension-loop. The armorial decoration on the face is *Barry of twelve argent*

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and azure an orle of six martlets gules. Height 43mm; width 25mm; weight 10.89g. Mid-13th to mid-fourteenth century.

The arms are those of Valence, Earls of Pembroke (*Barry argent and azure an orle of martlets gules*).

Steven Ashley



Figure 6: horse harness pendant with the arms of Valence.

2022.7 NORFOLK: SWANNINGTON

NMS-E248A4. NHER 41137. See **Figure 7**.

Post-medieval silver hawk ring or vervel of Lewis and Richardson type C.i, narrow D-sectioned band applied with shield (8.5 x 10mm) bearing the engraved arms *Three annulets* (2 and 1) within an incised bordering line. The band is set horizontally on the reverse of the shield and bears an inscription around the flat outer face: **John Riches**. Internal diameter of band 5.5mm. Weight 1.01g. 17th century.

The family of Riches is recorded with these arms in the sixteenth century: W. B. Bannerman, *The Visitations of Kent taken in the Years 1530–1, and 1574*, vol. 2 (Harl. Soc. vol. 75: London 1924), p. 23.

Reference: M. Lewis and I. Richardson, *Inscribed Vervels* (BAR British series 648: Oxford 2019).

Steven Ashley

THE COAT OF ARMS



Figure 7: hawk ring of John Riches.

2022.8 OXFORDSHIRE: EYNHAM

Oxfordshire Museums Service OXCMS 1995.342.sf1198. See **Figure 8**.

A medieval cast copper-alloy shield-shaped harness pendant with a slightly bent integral suspension loop. The shield is *Gyronny of twelve pieces*, alternately showing traces of red enamel and gilding. The reverse is undecorated. Dimensions of shield 48mm x 28mm; weight 15g.

The pendant was uncovered during archaeological excavations at Eynsham Abbey, for which see A. Hardy et al., *Ælfric's Abbey: Excavations at Eynsham Abbey, Oxfordshire, 1989–92* (Oxford Archaeology, Thames Valley Landscapes 16: 2003). It was excavated from early post-medieval deposits and was thought to have been disturbed from earlier deposits. The arms *Gyronny of twelve or and gules* are likely to be those of the Bassingbourne family (*DBA* 4, pp. 117–18) whose principal estates were at Badlingham, Cambs., but also held property further west. One line of the name is found at Lillingstone Lovell in north Bucks., 30–35 miles from Eynsham. Nicholas Bassingbourn married Alice Lisors, heiress of Richard Engaine (the Domesday proprietor of Lillingstone and an estate focussed in and around Northants) and was lord of Lillingstone *c.*1235. Nicholas' and Alice's son Humphrey Bassingbourn d. 1280: . *CIPM Edward I* vol. 2 p. 199; *VCH Bucks* 4, pp. 191–7.

Angie Bolton and Clive Cheesman

ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST



1cm

Figure 8: horse harness pendant with gyronny arms, probably those of Bassingbourne.

2022.9 OXFORDSHIRE: WOODSTOCK

BERK-EF3022. See Figure 9.

A medieval cast copper-alloy shield-shaped horse harness pendant with attachment loop at the top. The face of the pendant presents a red enamelled field, the enamel being cracked and missing in places, in which are three charges apparently chess rooks. There are traces of gilding present on all surfaces, as well as small patches of pale green patina. Length 29.97mm; width 15.81mm; thickness 4.95mm; weight 5.01g. Late 12th to 14th century. See *DBA* vol. 2, pp. 258–9, for shields of this design. St George's Roll (c. 1285/1480) ascribes *Gules three chessrooks uninctured* to Simon le fiz Simon; the Parliamentary Roll of c. 1312 gives 'de goules a iiii roks de argent' for Sire Richard Walsingham.

Angie Bolton and Clive Cheesman

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Figure 9: horse harness pendant with probable chessrooks.

2022.10 STAFFORDSHIRE: SHENSTONE

WMID-1885E1. 2021 T160. See **Figure 10**.

An incomplete early modern silver seal matrix, of the pedestal/pendant type. The faceted oval base survives, the handle having broken off. The bezel has a ropework border and shows a shield with arms that might be blazoned either *Barry of six on a chief three cinquefoils* or *Three bars and in chief three cinquefoils*. A cadency mark of a crescent just overlaps the chief. Height of surviving part of seal: 7.9 mm. Dimensions of face: 15.9 mm x 13.4 mm. Weight: 3.7 g. Found by Scott Bevan, 21 March 2021.

The heraldry is difficult to ascribe. Possibilities include the Kent family of Filmer (*Sable three bars and in chief three cinquefoils or*). If the number of bars on the shield is not reliable there are many further possibilities, including Denton (*Argent two bars gules and in chief three cinquefoils sable*). No obvious local associations appear.

Teresa Gilmore

ARTEFACTS OF INTEREST



Figure 10: broken pedestal seal matrix with unattributed arms.

2022.11 SUFFOLK: MONKS ELEIGH
PUBLIC-00B9AA. See Figure 11.

A complete medieval copper-alloy shield-shaped harness pendant with integral suspension loop: late thirteenth to early fourteenth century. The face shows the arms *Ermine two chevrons gules in chief a label of three points azure*. There are stray traces of red enamel in the upper left of the shield. Length 43mm; width 26mm; thickness 4mm; weight 11.6g. Found by Emma Pierce 1 November 2020.

The arms are those of the Suffolk family of Seymour (St Maur): *DBA 2*, p. 504.

Jo Ahmet

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Figure 11: horse harness pendant with arms of Seymour.

2022.12 WILTSHIRE: WROUGHTON

OXON-46EAA2. See Figure 12.

Medieval copper-alloy cast harness pendant in the form of a shield, with an integral perforated lug. The design appears to be simply a chevron in a plain field; traces of gilding and enamel suggest the chevron was *Or* and the field *Gules*. Length 44.04mm; width 25.7mm; thickness at loop 8.71mm; weight 13.83g. Thirteenth-fourteenth century.

The design is hard to attribute, although *Gules a chevron or* is relatively rare for such a simple design, and there are no stand-out candidates. *DBA* vol. 2, p 265, offers attributions to individuals of the names of John Champernoun (Dering Roll, c. 1275), Fulford (Devon: Peter Le Neve's Book, 1480–1500), Phelip de Kyme (Heralds' Roll, Fitzwilliam Version: 15th cent.), and Thomas de Verres (Sir William Le Neve's Book, c. 1500). There are also two unattributed or anonymous instances.

Angie Bolton

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Figure 12: horse harness pendant with unattributed arms found in Wiltshire.