

GOLD OBJECTS

Elms Farm, Heybridge

Two gold objects were found during the excavations, in addition to six Iron Age coins. It is likely that more gold was present on site, but lost to elicit metal-detectorists during frequent overnight raids on the site.

A ring was recovered from an undated machining layer in Area R (12257), while a small bar was collected during metal detecting of Area A3, which was never subject to excavation beyond the stripping of topsoil and planning of the exposed surface. Therefore both are essentially unstratified, though their precise location is recorded. The latter is probably an offcut, bearing cut marks at either end and evidence that gold working was perhaps being undertaken on site. This is reinforced by the identification of traces of gold on a crucible fragment from a context (11343), with late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD, pottery in Area N. Whether one offcut and one crucible sherd are really adequate evidence for gold working is doubtful.

Catalogue of illustrated Gold

Function Code 1

1. The finger ring is plain with an internal diameter of 19.3mm. SF 5739, Machining Layer, 12257, Area R, Not dated.

Function Code 15

2. A 1.6mm thick rectangle 7mm by 14mm with two cut edges. This is probably an offcut; bearing cut marks at either end. SF 6565, 17000, Area A3. Not dated.