

Assessment of Finds from Malham, North Yorkshire (OSA00 EV10)

Alan Vince

Eight finds from an evaluation at Malham, North Yorkshire, were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code OSA00 EV10)). They consisted of two copper alloy artefacts, three iron artefacts, one lead alloy artefact and two items of stone.

Description

Copper Alloy

Two copper alloy artefacts are identified as a strap end (T20) and a possible fragment of a vessel (T18). The strap end is of a type, made from sheet metal with cut-out or traced decoration, which is common in the later medieval and early post-medieval periods. The fragment from T18 soil is probably part of a cast copper alloy cauldron. These vessels are also in the main of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

T20	STRAP END	THIN SHEET WITH TWO RIVET HOLES AT ONE END AND OPENWORK CIRCLE; TRACED DECORATION; OFFWHITE DEPOSIT ON UNDERSIDE MAY BE TRACES OF STRAP? POSSIBLY SNAPPED AT END
T18	SPOIL VESS?	THIN SHEET WITH RAISED FLANGE AT ONE SIDE; ROUNDED LIP; BLACK DEPOSIT ON UNDERSIDE

Iron

The three iron artefacts consist of a horseshoe from T19, (192), a composite spherical button from T21 and a fragment of sheet iron with countersunk nail or screw holes. The horseshoe is not closely datable since it neither has features which would date it to the earlier medieval period nor any which would date it to the late medieval or later period. It could therefore be of any date from the high medieval period to the present day. The button is probably of 19th or 20th-century date and the sheet metal appears to be modern.

T19 192	HORSESHOE	TIP OF SMALL HORSESHOE WITH ONE NAIL; NAIL NOT COUNTERSUNK, HOWEVER AND STANDS PROUD BY C.10MM
T21	BUTTON	BUTTON MADE IN TWO HALVES WITH CIRCULAR WIRE LOOP; UPPER HALF IS GUNMETAL WITH INCISED DECORATION; BOTTOM HALF IS IRON; LOOP APPEARS TO BE TINNED IRON
T20 2002	OBJECT	THIN SHEET WITH TWO CIRCULAR COUNTERSUNK NAIL/SCREW HOLES; LOOKS MODERN

Lead Alloy

A lead alloy button was found in T17. It has traces of gilding and traces of a design and maker's name. It is probably of 19th or 20th-century date.

T17	GILDED BUTTON CIRCULAR FLAT BUTTON WITH STAMPED DESIGN ON TOP FACE AND MAKERS NAME OR SIMILAR ON BACK. SCAR FROM ADDED LOOP ON BACK;GILDING ON BOTH SIDES	CORRODED
-----	---	----------

Stone

Two collections of stone were submitted. Neither appears to be humanly worked.

T17	1701 FINEGRAINED FLAT 5 5 GREY SST	FRAGMENTS OF THIN FLAT PEBBLES, SOME ROUNDING AROUND SOME EDGES SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE NATURAL RATHER THAN TILE OR FLAGS
T17	1701 FINEGRAINED HONE? 1 1 GRY SST	PROBABLY UNWORKED ROCK CHIP;THREE FLATTISH FACES, TRIANGULAR SECTIONED

Assessment

It is likely that some of these artefacts are of late medieval or early post-medieval date whilst the remainder are probably relatively recent. Unless they come from stratified archaeological contexts there is little to be gained from further study or recording.