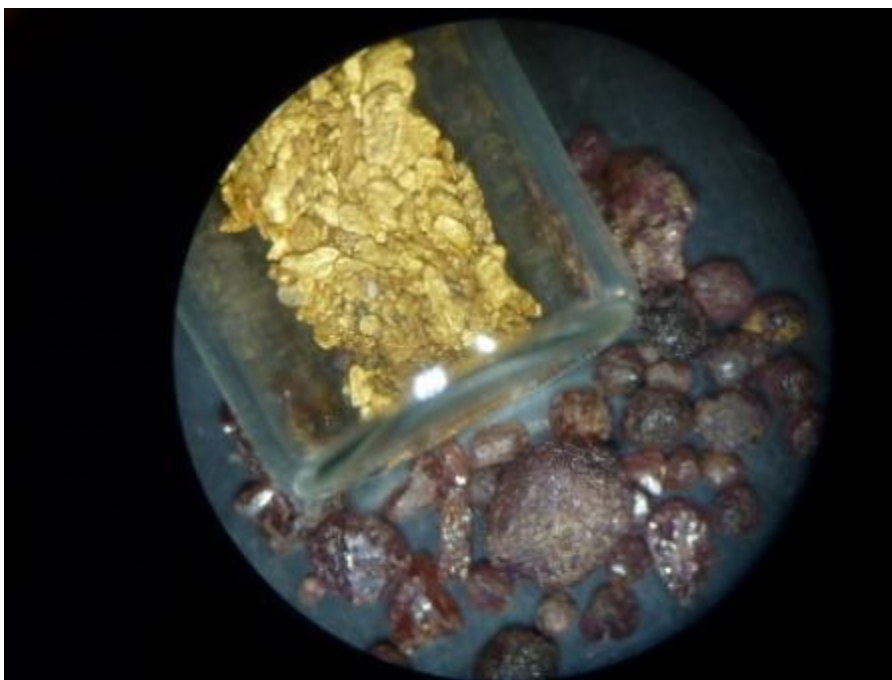


# ANGLO-SAXON CSI: SITTINGBOURNE (CONSERVATION SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS)

July 29, 2011 Dana Goodburn-Brown Anglo-Saxon, Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology  
2011, Finds Abrasives, Abu Dhabi, Anglo-Saxons, Bani Yas  
Island, Chemistry, Copenhagen, Facebook, Garnet, Gemstones, Gold, Governor, Historical Metallurgy  
Society, <http://>Janice Monday, Manufacturing, Pat Horne, Scotland, World Wide Web, X-ray



*CSI Volunteer Richard Senior's raw gold and garnets*



*Investigative conservation of Anglo-Saxon grave goods*



*The X-ray radiograph shows copper, iron and bone - decorations sewn onto a tunic perhaps?*



*Conservation volunteer Pat at the microscope*

Today I have been supervising some of my volunteers and speaking to visitors at our shopping mall conservation lab. We have been running for nearly two years and have just reached 5,000 volunteer hours for investigative conservation of several hundred artefacts from 65 graves. We are on the last grave for this project – but there is still the finds from the other half of the cemetery to be worked on. Tomorrow we close our doors for fundraising for that project. fingers crossed that we'll be open again soon! For general info on our community conservation project see a great video made on our opening day. and/or visit our website – you can also 'befriend' us if you like as we just set up a facebook page too. Volunteer Pat Horne says: " Today I am working on an object that is really perplexing. It is a 'blocklifted' assemblage of finds from a woman's grave. I am trying to discern the different materials it is made from (we have found mineral preserved bone and textile, possibly leather iron and copper alloy). It has become very fragile, so I am repackaging it to make it more secure before continuing to work on it. this artefact has to be looked at along with others in this grave. There are several with the same

‘figure 8’ copper alloy shapes. so imagination is working overtime trying to puzzle it out – great



stuff!”

Janice Monday is also working on a find from a woman’s grave: “I am working on a small object which, from the X-ray, appears to be minute thin pieces of wire bundled through a loop possibly of bone. there are three more baffling pieces associated with the main part.”

Both Pat and Janice have been volunteering at CSI: Sittingbourne since we began in Oct. 2009 (2 and 1 days per week). We have recently begun training a new group of volunteers (there were 80 on our waiting list!) – one of our new recruits has just returned from panning for gold in Northern Scotland... he popped in to show me some of the gold and garnets he came back with. I didn’t know that garnets were sometimes found alongside gold, when panning – we decided we should look out what is known about the sources of gold and garnets in the Anglo-Saxon period and I encouraged Richard to join the Historical Metallurgy Society to find out more about those iron age camps located at his ‘gold hot spots’ that he was wondering about. We also discussed him posting up his photos to our facebook page and staying in contact while we are closed for fundraising.

– Another day draws to a close at CSI, now on to other tasks, like writing a reference for a past conservation student intern and submitting a paper for publication in the proceedings from PARIS4, Copenhagen... that’s about my conservation work on an early Christian monastery on Sir Bani Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, but that’s another story...