

## TREASURE ACT 1996

### FIND OF ROMAN COINS AND METALWORK, ANGLE COMMUNITY [PWLLCROCHAN] (Wales 15.02)

The finding of Roman coins and other objects in Angle Community near Pwllcrochan, Pembrokeshire, was reported to Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales in March 2015. The finds were delivered to AC-NMW on 13 March for report to H.M. Senior Coroner for Pembrokeshire as potential treasure under the 1996 Act. Further discoveries reported in November 2015 were delivered to AC-NMW in November-December 2015.

#### *Circumstances of discovery*

The first coins and objects were found by Mr Stephen Witts on 28 February 2015, using a metal detector on cultivated ground at edge of a field owned by NPower Ltd near Pwllcrochan in the Community of Angle. The NGR of the find and addresses of the land occupier and owner are given on the Treasure Receipt Form. The finds are reported to have come from an area approximately 25 x 6m, adjacent to a spring. Repeated visits to the site yielded further coins and objects.

#### *Description of find*

One hundred and five Roman coins of the third century A.D., with a date range c. 255-286. The coins have not been cleaned: for the most part they are corroded and cannot be catalogued in full detail. The coins are all of the type known today as 'radiates' (from the form of headgear of the imperial portraits). A summary list by reign is appended.

#### *Metal content*

'Radiates' were double-denarii of silver alloys, which were progressively debased during the third century. Apart from the earliest coin, those found at Pwllcrochan are of types known from modern analyses to contain less than ten per cent of silver.

#### *Associated objects*

Several other objects submitted by the finder were all found in the same general area. These have been examined by Mr Evan Chapman of AC-NMW (see appended report). The copper-alloy vessel appears to have been placed in the ground upside-down, surviving only as the rim and upper body, the bulk of its body having presumably been removed by subsequent agricultural activity.

#### *Discussion*

The coins reported by Mr Witts are typical examples of the Roman currency of the mid-late third century A.D. Numerous coin hoards are known from the period; the reigns represented and their relative numbers are similar to those of other late-third century British hoards.

The objects found in the same general area were initially thought by the finder, in part, to represent the remains of a container. The subsequent discovery of the inverted copper-alloy vessel and the fact they derive from several different objects makes this unlikely. Items 1-4 could represent items of scrap metal associated with the coins in a single deposit covered by the vessel. It is also possible that the coins themselves represented copper-alloy scrap metal

by the time they were deposited. Other explanations are possible, however: for instance that the metal fragments derive from an occupation site, perhaps deposited over a considerable period of time. A late 1<sup>st</sup>-early 2<sup>nd</sup> century copper-alloy brooch and a single fourth-century coin have also been found in the general area, underlining the possibility of an extended period of settlement here. However, the metal items would form an unusual assemblage from a settlement site and their association in a single deposit appears to be more likely.

The site of the discovery forms raised ground overlooking the Milford Haven Estuary.

#### *Conclusion*

The finding of one hundred and five Roman coins in a limited area and their coherent date range suggests strongly that these were originally a single associated group, but were subsequently disturbed, presumably by agricultural activity. It is my opinion that the find reported by Mr Witts comprising one hundred and five base metal coins, over three hundred years old when found and originally associated in the ground, qualifies as treasure under Section 1 (1) (a) (iii) of the Treasure Act 1996.

The other objects submitted for examination may well, on balance of probability, have been associated with the coins; in my opinion they qualify as treasure under section 1 (1) (d) of the Treasure Act 1996.

Milford Haven Maritime and Heritage Museum has expressed an interest in acquiring the coins and associated metalwork.

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