

## TREASURE ACT 1996

### EARLY MEDIEVAL SILVER INGOT FROM BURTON COMMUNITY, PEMBROKESHIRE [Treasure Case 20.06]

On 24 April 2020 Mr W. Goronwy of Hook found an object within Burton Community, Pembrokeshire. A treasure receipt was completed and sent to H.M. Coroner for Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The object was subsequently received by Adam Gwilt (Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at the National Museum Cardiff for safe-keeping and for treasure reporting.

#### *Circumstances and context of discovery*

The silver ingot was found with the aid of a metal detector by Mr Goronwy in a field used as pasture at the time of discovery, at a depth of about 6 inches (15cm). Details of the grid reference for the findspot, and addresses of finder and landowner are provided on the Treasure Act Receipt Form.



#### *The Object*

The reported object is a complete finger-shaped silver ingot with rounded ends of silvery-grey appearance (a sulphide surface, now polished). One side has a slightly rounded profile, and one small nick and a group of diagonal scratches may be the equivalent of assaying nicks, interventions sometimes undertaken in antiquity to test purity (it is unclear whether two short linear marks on one end are also testing marks). The opposite surface, which is also slightly convex, is indented with faint lines and dots, probably the

impression of textile, which extends over the ends and top. This has occurred on the sulphide corrosion on the surface and may indicate that the object was buried on textile, possibly a bag. The upper surface has two recent nicks near the centre.

*Dimensions:* overall length 59.4mm; maximum width 10.8mm; maximum thickness 7.7mm; weight: 30.891g.

#### *Metal Content*

To judge from its colour and weight and visual comparison with other silver ingots in the collections of the Department of History and Archaeology at Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales, the alloy is well in excess of 10% silver.

The object has not undergone any cleaning or conservation.

#### *Summary and conclusions*

As simple moulds for such ingots are found on sites and in excavations from other periods (such as the stone ingot mould from *Segontium*, Gwynedd (NMW acc. no. 82.22H/9), ingots of this form can be difficult to date with precision. However, comparisons of form and weight indicate that it belongs to the Cambro-Norse early medieval period.

A silver ingot found at Talgarth is smaller (length 43.45; weight 10.2g; 2007.07H) displays similar features (size, shape, and casting technique), consistent with a Viking-period date, as seen in examples from the Viking hoards from Cuerdale, Lancashire (deposited c. AD 905) and Chester (buried c. AD 970; Webster 1953). The silver content of this ingot is 97% silver and 3% copper and the silver content of the Burton Community example is likely to be similar. Further parallels from Wales include early medieval ingots and fragments thereof found during excavations at Llanbedrgoch, Anglesey (ninth or tenth century AD), and a silver ingot of similar size found during the 1976 excavations at Dinorben (length 38mm; weight 18.0g; NMW acc. no. 93.84H).

The length and weight of the ingot from Burton Community are comparable to that of a silver ingot from Trelawnyd & Gwaenysgor community (length 47.1mm; weight 29.01g.; Treasure Case 14.32), and small in comparison with some of over 350 from the Cuerdale hoard (some mould duplicates weighing 254.9-258.8g). The 'Burton' ingot adds a significant findspot to a growing database of isolated ingot finds from across Wales, amplifying the emerging picture of Viking-age finds in Pembrokeshire.

It is my opinion that as an object which has at least 10 per cent by weight precious metal, and which is at least 300 years old, this item is treasure under Section 1 (1) (a) of the Treasure Act 1996.

Milford Haven Maritime and Heritage Museum are interested in acquiring this item for the collections.

## References

Webster, G. 1953, 'A Saxon royal treasure found at Chester, 1950', *Antiquaries Journal* 33, 22-32.

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8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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8th November 2022

national  
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Dear Flick,

I am sending a completed treasure report for Treasure Case 20.06 an Early Medieval Silver Ingot for Burton Community, Pembrokeshire. I have today also sent copies of this report to the Coroner, finder, tenant and landowner. The Coroner will set a date for a treasure hearing for this find, under Course.

Gyda chyfarchion

With compliments With Best wishes

Ad



ADAM GUILT  
TREASURE ADMINISTRATOR

