

TREASURE ACT 1996
SILVER RING FROM LLAWHADEN COMMUNITY, PEMBROKESHIRE
[Treasure Case 20.15]

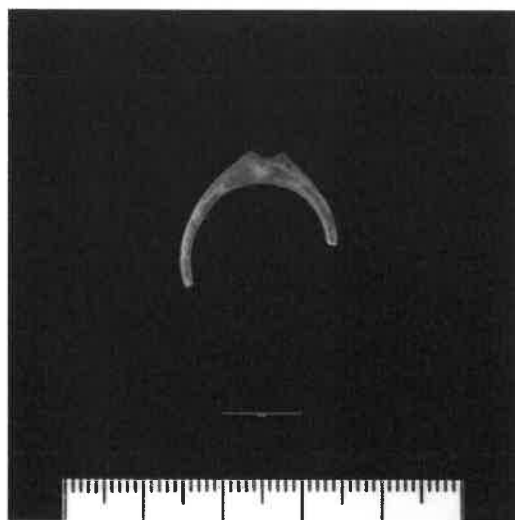
Introduction

A silver ring was found in Llawhaden Community, Pembrokeshire, by Mr J Webster while metal detecting on 6 November 2020. The object was referred to the Department of History & Archaeology, National Museum Cardiff, for identification.

The ring was received by the Department of History & Archaeology on 9 September 2021 and retained on behalf of H. M. Coroner for Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. A treasure receipt was completed and sent to the Coroner on 11th May 2021.

Circumstances and context of discovery

The ring was found with the aid of a metal detector by Mr Webster at a depth of about 7-8" (17-20cm), on a field under pasture (full details of finder, landowner and 10-figure grid reference of findspot are provided on the Treasure Receipt form for this object).



Description

Decorative silver ring fragment, with a small bezel now missing its original cabochon (uncut) setting (a semi-precious stone such as a sapphire). The bezel part of the hoop has a flattened triangular cross-section; the lower part of the hoop is a solid flattened band of quadrangular cross-section, having bevelled edges.

Internal D 17.5mm; bezel height 4.2mm; dimensions of bezel setting 3.5 x 3.8mm; minimum band width 2mm, expanding to 2.8mm; band thickness 1.5mm; weight of ring 1.247g.

Metal Content

To judge from its colour and weight and visual comparison with other silver rings in the collections of the Department of History & Archaeology, the alloy is well in excess than 10% precious metal.

Summary and conclusions

The simple style of the hoop and bezel, which has the appearance of a low stirrup-shaped ring in profile, slender form and diagnostic bevelling indicates a twelfth- or thirteenth-century date. Similar examples include one from Harling Norfolk, with raised bezel (TAR 2002, no. 85). A gold stirrup ring was found at Llanbadoc Community, Monmouthshire (17.03).

Comparative bezel forms include examples in the British Museum (Dalton 1912, no. 1782) and Victoria & Albert Museum (gold with a cabochon sapphire: Oman 1930, no. 251). Comparable examples from Wales include a stirrup ring set with a blue sapphire from Pembroke Community (Amgueddfa Cymru Treasure Case no. 14.04) and a gold ring set with cabochon sapphire found near Cwmbran, Monmouthshire, in 1989 (Cherry and Redknap 1992, fig. 16).

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.

Narberth Museum has expressed an interest in acquiring the item for its collections.

References

Dalton, O.M. 1912, *Catalogue of the Finger rings early Christian, Byzantine, Teutonic, Medieval and Later* (British Museum, London).

Oman, C. C. 1930, *Catalogue of Rings. Victoria and Albert Museum, Department of Metalwork* (London).

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