

## TREASURE ACT 1996

### SILVER BROOCH FROM CILGERRAN COMMUNITY, PEMBROKESHIRE [Treasure Case 21.20]

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Mr Lee Evans discovered a medieval brooch in Cilgerran Community, Pembrokeshire (full grid reference and details of finder and landowner are supplied on the Treasure Receipt Form). The brooch was received on 9th September 2021 by Adam Gwilt of National Museum Cardiff and has been retained by the Department of History & Archaeology, National Museum Cardiff, for reporting, on behalf of H. M. Coroner for Pembrokeshire. A treasure receipt was completed and sent to the Coroner on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

#### *Circumstances and context of discovery*

The brooch was found with the aid of a metal detector, at a depth of 6-8" in a field of pasture.



#### *Description*

The reported object is a silver annular brooch. The frame, which is of circular cross-section, is decorated on one side with herringbone decoration, and on the opposite side with transverse grooves, all inlaid with black niello. The pin is of diamond cross-section with four facets; the wrap-around head is hammer welded to the back of the pin, and finely engraved with vertical line decoration.

The external frame diameter is 33.6mm; overall pin length 32.4mm; hoop thickness 2.3 x 3.0mm; weight 5.57g.

The object has not undergone any cleaning or conservation; the pin head has detached from the top of the pin shaft, and both pin and frame are covered with corrosion product

that obscure areas of the decoration.

### *Metal Content*

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

### *Summary and conclusions*

In terms of size and form, the brooch is of 13th- or early 14th-century date.

A number of brooches of this type with similarly decorated frames, have been found in Wales. Examples include Kidwelly Castle and near Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan (Redknap 1994, nos 11, 13) and a smaller example from Llantilio Pertholey, Monmouthshire (NMGW Treasure Case 2006.12).

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, it is Treasure under Section 1 (1) (a) of the Treasure Act 1996.

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

### *References*

Redknap, M. 1994, 'Some medieval brooches, pendants and moulds from Wales: a short survey', *Archaeologia Cambrensis* CXLIII, 92-138.

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