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# Unearthing a copper-alloy object at High Hunsley: Hypotheses and implications

Sara Hamaguchi

## Abstract

The aim of this paper is to determine the dating and primary function of a copper alloy object found during the archaeological excavation in the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of High Hunsley, East Yorkshire, England. The paper will propose a function and date for object 1090 by conducting a comparative typological analysis. I suggest that object 1090 is an Early Modern decorative mount. This discovery, coupled with the presence of various pottery and animal bone fragments, provides further evidence as to the presence of a structure hosting sustained economic activities within the village of High Hunsley, such as a hostelry or a workshop. A thorough understanding of the material culture of High Hunsley, to which this study aims to contribute, is key to the study of DMVs in Eastern Yorkshire and England, as the study of individual villages is crucial in painting a vivid picture of rural life in the Medieval and Early Modern periods.

## Keywords

Excavation, High Hunsley, East Riding, Yorkshire, Medieval, Early Modern, Deserted Medieval Villages (DMVs), metallurgy, copper-alloy, metal tools, decorative objects, mount

## Introduction

In 2022, the archaeological excavation project started in the Deserted Medieval Village in High Hunsley, the East Riding of Yorkshire (Figure 1). In August 2023, during the second season of excavations on the site, a copper-alloy object was unearthed (Figure 2). Although the function and date of the object were discussed among the archaeologists and volunteers of the project, these questions remained unanswered and its purpose unclear. Therefore, this paper attempts to identify the function and date of object 1090 by conducting a formal comparative typological analysis. Ultimately, I will suggest that the primary function of the object was a decorative mount, and it is likely to have been produced and used between the 14th and 16th centuries CE. The main aim of the project in 2023 was to reveal the economic and social realities of the site when the village had been occupied, the activities that the population had engaged in, and why the village was abandoned (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*; BBC, 2022b). Therefore, the implications of such a discovery for the High Hunsley Deserted Medieval Village excavation

would be providing further evidence that there was a presence of a structure built out of more elaborate materials.



Figure 1: The aerial image of the High Hunsley site in the summer of 2023 (Barr, 2023)

## Methodology

Comparative typological analysis was employed in this investigation to identify the date and function of object 1090. Similar artefacts were chosen from catalogued artefacts, such as from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and various publications. A range of comparanda was selected on the basis of material, form, and contextual age (Appendix 1).

The material of which object 1090 is made is assumed to be copper alloy. Laboratory-based scientific investigation of the material was not possible, but visual patina analysis and the surface texture allowed the educated assumption that the artefact was made of copper alloy (Figure 3). Additionally, there were several stray copper alloy fragments, such as strap ends and personal clothing-related objects, and small pieces of jewellery

found on site (Coates et al., 2022; Corneille-Cowell, 2024). However, the exact composition of object 1090 would need to be determined through a more definitive compositional analysis, such as X-ray fluorescence. This would help determine, among other things, the origin of the raw materials and the workshop from which the object was produced.

Object 1090 was uncovered from “trench 2” (Figure 4), about 1m behind the remnants from a medieval wall in context number 214 (Samuel, 2023b). The depth at which the object was found was the deepest of the trench, about 27cm to 34cm below



Figure 2: Object 1090 (Coates, 2023)

ground level. Unfortunately, further study on soil depth, composition and layer analysis was not available. Therefore, the date of object 1090 was approximated to the 11th to 16th centuries (later medieval), which is the preliminary estimated time period for the site based on the ceramic assemblage (Corneille-Cowell, 2024). This paper also aims to propose a more informed hypothesis for the date of object 1090 by comparing it with similar artefacts from a range of time periods, from Anglo-Saxon, Early Medieval to Post-Medieval. On the other hand, for more accurate and precise dating, additional stratigraphic analysis of the trench or dating methods, such as radiocarbon and thermoluminescence dating on material culture from the same area and depth, should be done for the assemblage in future studies (Orton and Hughes, 2013).

**Project Background**

**Brief background regarding the High Hunsley Deserted Medieval Village project**

The earthwork survey of the deserted settlement in High Hunsley, East Yorkshire, was undertaken by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services LTD (EDAS), which eventually revealed the complex developments that characterised the area throughout the post-Conquest period into the early 16th century (Denison and Richardson, 2022).



Figure 3: Object 1090 (colour focused) (Authors own)

The excavations were informed by the magnetometer survey commissioned by Ethos Heritage (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*). The primary source attesting to the presence of a Medieval settlement on the plot of land in question is the current landowner, whose husband’s ancestors bought the land a hundred years ago (Landowner, 2023 *per comms*). Oral accounts passed down to her affirmed the existence of a Medieval village on the land (Landowner, 2023 *per comms*). The team’s main aim has been to reveal the economic and social realities that governed the village between the 12th and 16th centuries (Samuel, 2023*per comms*), what activities the population engaged in, and the reasons behind the subsequent desertion of the village (BBC, 2022b).

**Previous surveys**

EDAS secured a grant from the East Riding Archaeological Society (ERAS) in January 2020 to undertake the fieldwork that covered 4.63 hectares located between High Hunsley farm and High Hunsley Hall from February to March 2020. In addition, ERAS/Richard Coates, the Flimer, Fridaythorpe and Wetwang Archaeology Project (FFWAP), and James Lyall (geophiz.biz) and Ethos Heritage conducted several recent geophysical surveys.

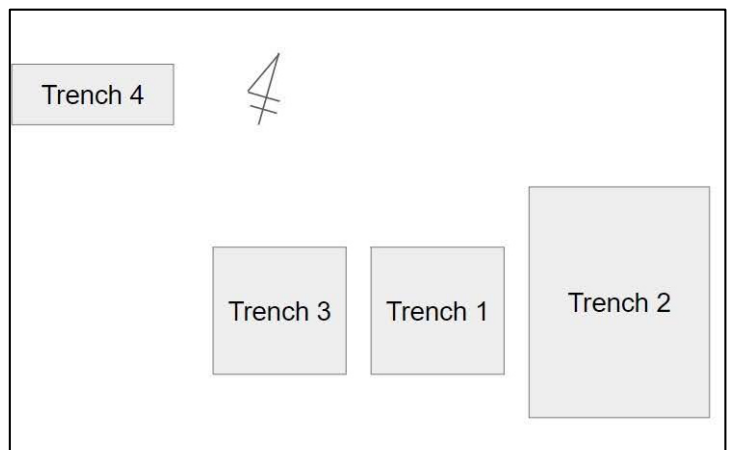
**Geographical and Geological background**

The site at High Hunsley is strategically located at the southern end of the East Yorkshire Wolds, making it an ideal spot for a signal station. It is also conveniently located only a few hundred metres east of the original location of the Hunsley Beacon site, which was used as a muster point during the 1536 Pilgrimage of Grace. The highest point on the site is 154 metres above sea level, and the soil drains well. Additionally, it contains natural chalk and flint (Coates et al., 2022).

**Topographical context**

Object 1090 was uncovered approximately 2-3 meters behind the remnants of a medieval wall, which came to light during last year's

Figure 4: Site overview diagram of trench layout (Authors own)



excavation at the southwest end of trench 5 in 2022 (Coates, Samuel and Walshe, 2022). The precise function of this wall remains uncertain, even after both last year's and this year's excavations. However, it was tentatively dated to an earlier medieval period compared to other sections of the site, primarily due to the pottery discovered in its vicinity (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*; Corneille-Cowell, 2024).

Reviewing the plans from last year's excavations, we can observe the presence of two east-to-west beam slots within trench 1 (Figure 3) (Coates, 2023 *per comms*). One of these slots occupies the northern portion of the trench, while the other runs parallel to it a few meters to the south. This year's excavation further confirmed the existence of these beam slots, suggesting the possibility of a structure in this area. It is reasonable to assume that these slots extend into trench 2 (Coates, 2023 *per comms*). Notably, the presence of floor tiles, roof tiles, and lead window fittings discovered both last year and this year suggests that this building likely held a high-status significance (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*). An alternative hypothesis is that the building served as a non-domestic utility building, such as a workshop or a stable (Corneille-Cowell, 2024).

Moreover, the discovery of a considerable number of jug handles last year, coupled with the careful handling of sheep and cow bones found in abundance, leads to the intriguing hypothesis that this building might have functioned as a public house or a hostelry (BBC, 2022a).

### ***Historical background***

In rural industries, metallurgy was used for a large part of the Medieval period (Swanson, 1980). In this period, York was the second-largest city in England and the most important city in the northern part of the country (Cassels, 2013). The wool and cloth trade brought York's prosperity, and goods were exported through Hull to the continent (Cassels, 2013). Although this research could not find evidence of metalworking specific to the East Riding of Yorkshire, the excavations such as at the Bedem Foundry site in 1973-80 and in St Andrewgate showed evidence of copper-alloy metalworking in Yorkshire in the 12th-16th centuries and 14th-16th centuries respectively (Cassels, 2013). It is possible that the material was locally produced and obtained, but it could have also been imported from other parts of England or even internationally since the international metal trade was shown by Kershaw and Merkel (2023), for example.

Medieval goldsmiths in England primarily worked with gold, silver, copper, and copper alloy when making decorative pieces (Kiely, 2022). The material properties and aesthetic qualities of copper alloy made it a material of choice for various categories of metalwork: artillery, brass wire in the paper industry, coinage, jewellery and other ornamental objects (Bork et al., 2017). Copper alloy products are essential to Medieval material history because they provide the most complete information about metalworking and metal supply at that time (www.iiconservation.org, 2013; Blakelock et al, 2022). It is also known that compositional analysis of the assemblages of copper alloy products helps reveal the regional and interregional imports and uncover the broader metal economy (Blakelock, Martín-Torres and Scull, 2022). Additionally, copper alloys were mainly used by lesser rulers and church senior hierarchy, so many of the surviving art metalwork from the Medieval period have religious context (Brownsword, 2021). Unlike other precious metals, copper alloy artefacts have a spectrum from the finest applied artwork to functional objects, such as ewers and skillets (Brownsword, 2021). Therefore, the analysis of the function of a copper-alloy artefact needs to consider a range of possibilities.

In terms of decorative artefacts, copper alloy objects, which were frequently produced between the 5th and 15th centuries, included mounts, buckles, and harness pendants. The Portable Antiquities Scheme by the British Museum describes many types of mounts, including boxes, furniture, harnesses and so on, but most are dress mounts (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). In the Roman period, mounts tended to be rather thick. However, they became simpler and thinner from the 5th to 6th centuries on (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). In the early modern period, patterns found on mounts and the mounts themselves were often intricate (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). There was even a mount in a heart shape dated in the 17th to 18th century, with three cast hooked attachment rivets (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024e).

These metal works, particularly copper alloy objects, not only reflect the economic status of the city or a village because copper-alloy works are presumed to be indicative of a relatively prosperous economy, but also reflect the artistic practices of the local community, such as painting and goldsmithing at that time (Finds Recording Guides, 2016a). Therefore, object 1090 could contribute to the analysis of the functions and status of the village.

### ***Defining circumstances***

#### **Circumstances of the Discovery**

I began excavating "trench 2" two weeks into joining the High Hunsley dig. This trench had remnants from a medieval wall (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*), and our main aim was to identify the nature of the original structure that this wall was a part of (Coates et al., 2022).

About 1m behind the wall, in context number 214, a green, shiny object was found. The depth of object 1090 was at the deepest of the trench, about 27cm to 34cm below ground level. The object is around 39mm long, 21.64mm wide, 0.51mm thick, and weighs 2g (Coates, 2023 *per comms*). From its colour, stain patterns and overall appearance of the material, it was considered to be made from copper alloy.

## Initial observations

Upon my initial examination, it became evident that the object in question was an incomplete copper alloy item due to its green hue and surface texture. One of its elongated sides displayed a dented longitudinal pattern, while the opposite side was straight. There is a smooth-edged indentation on one of the shorter sides where vertical and horizontal edges intersect. Conversely, the corner of the other short end and the straight line misses the edge. As all the corners of the serration on the long end and especially the short end with the missing edge lack sharpness and are rounded, presumably due to oxidation and patination while it had been buried, it is difficult to determine if the lack of the edge is either damage or deliberate for the function of the object. My hypothesis was either a saw blade or a mount (Barr, 2023b *per comms*), and it will be discussed further in a later section.

## Comparative analysis

In this section, object 1090 is formally compared, and a typological approach will be taken to determine the function and date of object 1090. The criteria for comparison include the date of production and utilisation, distance from the High Hunsley site, the presence and type of decoration, the presence of rivet holes, and the thickness of comparanda and object 1090. Based on the number of similarities and historical context of medieval England, the most likely hypothesis is object 1090 is a decorative mount. This section will hence display the comparative studies between object 1090 and various copper-alloy artefacts found in England - a saw fragment, curry comb and several types of mount (Table).

## Saw blade hypothesis

Based on the visual similarity, the middle to late Bronze Age saw fragment (Figure 5) recorded as HAMP-1ED162 in the Portable Antiquities Scheme was chosen as the first comparanda (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2015a). This saw fragment will be called object 1 for the purpose of this paper. The first similarity is that both objects are made of copper alloy. This can be inferred from the green patina and the brownish surface colour of both objects. The objects are similar in that both display “V-shaped notches”, the feature that could support the saw fragment hypothesis for object 1090 (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2015a). The presence of an incomplete rivet hole on object 1 suggests the semi-circular indentation on one of the shorter edges on object 1090 could also be a rivet hole, as seen in other fragmented objects categorised as such for the same time period.

On the other hand, there are some notable differences between the two. The most obvious difference is the date - object 1090 is from the DMV site, which has been tentatively dated to the period spanning the 12th to 16th centuries, whereas object 2 was determined to be from the middle to late Bronze Age, approximately between 2400 and 800 B.C. (Hinds, 2015b). While the dating of object 1090 is tentative, it can be assumed that object 1090 was at least roughly produced in the Medieval period, which is the date of the site. This is hugely different from the date of object 1. Secondly, object 1 is 2.2mm in thickness, which is compared to object 1090 with only 0.51mm (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2015a). Combined, these criteria point to two possibilities: either the technological advancement over a couple of thousands of years made it possible to create a thinner, presumably more functional, saw blade, or the two objects had completely different primary functions. In search for other comparable copper-alloy saw blades, only two were found that were repositories on the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Both had highly curved edges with teeth, so the shape was quite different from object 1090. In addition, the two are dated around the Roman period, weakening the possibility to support the “saw blade” hypothesis of object 1090. My research has only led me to a few examples of copper-alloy saw blades throughout the history of Europe, and even these examples were from earlier time periods than the period of which object 1090 is tentatively dated.

Hence, despite the similarities in material and indentation shape, the saw blade hypothesis was cast aside. Additionally, in the Medieval period, iron and steel were the major raw materials used for curing tools like saws and knives (Blakelock and McDonnell, 2021; Hartnell, 2017). Plus, if the indentation on object 1090 were a saw tooth, the indentations should have been quite sharp, but in reality, they are rounded. It could be because of time-related erosion and damages while it had been buried, but considering the fact that the serrations display relatively intact edges, there is less possibility that they were scrapped and rounded. For all these reasons, it is more likely that object 1090 was a decorative mount rather than a saw blade.

## Curry comb hypothesis

Another possibility is that object 1090 was produced and utilised as a curry comb (Barr, 2023 *per comms*). This hypothesis was supported by the typological similarities between object 1090 and object 2 (Figure 6). The thickness of object 9 is 1.3mm, which is more than twice as much as that of object 1090 (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024g). Nevertheless, the use of copper alloy and green patina on the surface, as well as the serration on the long end, sufficiently supports the hypothesis. Additionally, the fact that both objects are from the East Riding of Yorkshire



Fig. 19 A middle to late Bronze Age saw fragment from Hordean

Figure 5: A middle to late Bronze Age saw fragment from Hordean (object 1) (Hinds, 2015a)

and the overlap between the date given to object 2 (1400-1900 A.D.) and the site's date of which object 1090 originates (1000-1600 A.D.) strengthen this claim.

However, a lack of further evidence of the presence of copper-alloy curry combs in the Post-Medieval period and the fact that Ashby (2013) states that the main raw materials used to make combs were animal hard tissues such as bones and antlers, could not corroborate this hypothesis. In fact, the PAS page for object 2 describes that there were “no diagnostic features” of a curry comb that remained and that it also resembles iron saw blades (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024g). Its object type certainty, which is “Possibly” in this case, indicates the identification of the primary function of object 2 is not rigorous and remains ambiguous. Therefore, it is more likely that object 1090 was a decorative mount rather than any type of functional tool.

### Mount hypothesis

Since the hypotheses of object 1090 as a tool like a saw blade and a curry comb were cast aside, an alternative hypothesis is that object 1090 was a decorative object. Copper alloy objects frequently produced between the 5th and 15th centuries included mounts, buckles, and harness pendants. The Portable Antiquities Scheme by the British Museum describes many types of mounts, including boxes, furniture, harnesses and so on, but most are dress mounts (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). In the Roman period, mounts tended to be rather thick. However, they became simpler and thinner from the 5th to 6th centuries (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). In the early modern period, patterns found on mounts and the mounts themselves were often intricate (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). There was even a mount in a heart shape dated in the 17th to 18th century, with three cast hooked attachment rivets (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024e).

The possibility of object 1090 being a mount was supported by a number of similarities with object 3 (Figure 7). Object 3 is a copper-alloy mount dated between 410 and 850 A.D., which was found in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Firstly, both objects were made of the same material, which is a copper alloy (Foreman, 2024). Copper alloys are more rigid than pure copper, and they are malleable, so they are easy to work with and form during manufacturing (Leskovets, 2022). In the case of object 1090, copper was alloyed with tin, zinc or lead to make it stronger for daily use (Barr, 2023a). On the surface scratches of object 3, white powder can be identified. Similar white traces can also be seen on object 1090, which presumably correspond to marks left by natural chalk, indicating that both objects were found at sites with a similar type of natural rocks. There is a similarity in their width since object 1090 is 21.64mm and object 3 is 18.2mm (Coates, 2023 *per comms*; Foreman, 2024). Object 3 is described as a “flat sheet metal plate” with a thickness of 0.5mm. This characteristic can also be applied to describe object 1090, which is also 0.51mm thick (Foreman, 2024). The crenellated side of object 1090 seems similar to what it is on object 3. Three decorative sides can be seen on object 3, and they are considered to be “cut with a serrated blade or shears”



Figure 6: Post-Medieval Curry Comb (object 2) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024d)

(Foreman, 2024). Object 3 has “Drilled holes” in each corner (Foreman, 2024). Although object 1090 does not have a complete hole, there is a semicircular indentation where a vertical side intersects with a horizontal side. It can be considered that the indentation was arguably made with a similar drill, or at least, the similar technology was applied to both.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme is useful for understanding the prevalence of styles such as openwork or interlace designs in the early Medieval period (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). They tended to have a small rivet on the back or rivet holes, and the iron rivet may still be in place. During the 10th to 15th centuries, the most common were shield-shape mounts, bar-shape mounts and suspension mounts, and they can also have rivet holes or integral rivets (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024a). Since object 1090 has no pattern on the surface and decoration can only be found on the edge of a long side, it cannot determine the exact mount style. However, assuming the object is a Medieval mount may explain the function of the semicircular indentation. Thus, the indentation could have originally been a rivet hole. This hypothesis cannot be determined since the object is incomplete and arguably misses the part connected to the opposite short side. However, if there were one more indentation on the other side, these would be enough to attach the tiny object, even if these are incomplete holes. Also, a large number of iron nails were discovered near the point where object 1090 was found, which indicates the ability of people living in the village in the 12th to 16th centuries to gain and use iron as a material (Corneille-Cowell, 2024). Moreover, these iron nails could have served as rivets to attach the mount, corroborating the mount hypothesis. Referring back to the comparison between objects 1090 and 2, numerous similarities exist between them, and since they are both found in the same

specific county and acknowledging all the evidence above, it can be concluded that there are sufficient reasons to form my hypothesis that object 1090 was a mount.

Object 4 (Figure 8) displays a couple of features that are common to object 1090, other than the material of both objects, which is copper alloy. Firstly, the two have “saw-like serrations” (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024c). Secondly, the thickness of the two is close - object 1090 is 0.51mm while object 4 is 0.5mm. On the other hand, one obvious difference is the presence of the front decoration on object 4, which does not exist on object 1090. Plus, although the indentation on the short side of both objects looks similar, a hole breaking through object 4 does not exist on object 1090. However, despite acknowledging some differences, the first two similarities are sufficient to suggest that object 1090 was a mount, specifically from the 15th to 16th centuries, the period that overlaps with the site’s date.

The exact typology of mount object 1090 is still in question. Considering the other archaeological evidence from the site, such as bones of horses and iron horseshoes, it is possible that the mount was for a horse harness. Harness mounts had a decorative function on horses to make them look impressive. Baker (2017) states that Medieval harness mounts could reveal information about families, places, activities, and even identifiable individuals (Baker, 2024). Therefore, if object 1090 was a harness mount, its potential implication might be to connect the High Hunsley site with a historical event or figure.



Figure 7: Early medieval copper-alloy (object 3) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme,

Although object 1090 is made of copper alloy, which was a common feature of harness mounts or pendants during the Early to Post-Medieval periods, there is hardly any typological agreement between object 1090 and other examples of harness mounts. Figures 9-11 show examples of harness mounts/pendants (objects 5-7, respectively) from Early Medieval and Medieval. One difference between object 1090 and these harness mounts/pendants is the thickness. Object 1090 is only 0.51mm thick, compared to object 5 with 1.0mm, object 6 with 1.6mm and object 7 with 12.7mm thick. To fulfill its function as a decorative object attached to a horse, the thickness was probably important, as object 1090, which is relatively thin, would have harmed a horse or damaged the clothes. Another point is artistry and aesthetic aspects. Object 1090 has indentations on one of the longest sides, which were presumably decorative. However, object 5 has a zoomorphic decoration and objects 6 and 7, with moulded decorations, should have required more time and technology to produce than object 1090. Thus, for these reasons, the “harness mount/pendant” hypothesis is rejected.

## Mount hypothesis

Another possible hypothesis as to the function of object 1090 is that it might be a furniture mount - a decorative mount attached to furniture. The combination of an oblong body and what could be interpreted as an incomplete rivet hole suggests that the ability to be attached and stay in the fixed position is not enough for a dressing or harness mount. Therefore, object 1090 might have worked better as a mount with an external rivet on furniture than on a more unstable base. However, my research could not find any example of a copper-alloy furniture mount from any period. This makes conducting a comparative study impossible, and it needs to be concluded that the possibility of object 1090 being created and used as a furniture mount was very limited due to the lack of examples and literature on furniture mounts.

## Dating object 1090

The date of production and use of object 1090 has been tentatively assigned to the 11th to 16th century. For a more precise date, I propose that object 1090 was most likely to have been produced between the 14th and 16th centuries. One reason is that there is more evidence to support copper-alloy production in Yorkshire in the 14th to 16th centuries (refer to the Historical background section; Cassels, 2013). Additionally, the comparative analysis showed that object 1090 had stylistic and technological features in common with Post-Medieval artefacts. Object 2, a curry comb (c. 1400-1900 A.D.), and object 4, a mount (c. 1400-1600 A.D.), have particularly similar serrations to that of object 1090. This suggests that the style of the indentation and technology applied to create this shape might have been prevalent in



Figure 8: Post-Medieval Mount (object 4) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024c)

England in the Post-Medieval period. The fact that object 2 is also from the East Riding of Yorkshire, the same as object 1090, corroborates this hypothesis. Plus, although object 4 is from Norfolk, which is not particularly close to High Hunsley, it is possible to consider that artistic style and technology circulated and imported to the region because Hull, also located in the East Riding of Yorkshire, was where British products were collected and exported to the continent (Cassels, 2013). The main focus of the export was wool, cloth and lead (Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre, 2017). Nonetheless, the evidence for the presence of a communication network between the East Riding of Yorkshire and different regions in England can support the interregional exchange of styles and technologies. Hence, this research suggests that object 1090 was most likely to have been produced between the 14th and 16th centuries.

## Conclusions

Based on the comparative analysis, I propose that the primary function of object 1090 is most likely to be a decorative mount. The function of object 1090 as a tool, such as a saw blade or a curry comb, was deemed less likely because of the lack of typological similarities and the supporting evidence to corroborate this. Also, the serration on the edge of object 1090 was considered more likely to be decorative rather than functional based on the comparative analyses. Further comparative analysis of object 1090 with two examples of a mount displayed a number of similarities, supporting the hypothesis that object 1090



Figure 8: Post-Medieval Mount (object 4) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024c)



Figure 10: Example of Medieval harness pendant (c 1300-1400 A.D.) (object 6) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2024b)



Figure 11: Example of Medieval harness pendant (c 1250-1400 A.D.) (object 7) (The Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2019)

was decorative and, more specifically, a mount. However, it was not possible to determine the exact type of mount that object 1090 was produced as. This is because examples of harness mounts and literature did not show many similarities with object 1090, and the furniture mount hypothesis was also rejected due to the absence of comparative examples and sources of information. Therefore, it is only possible to determine that object 1090 was a mount of some type.

In regards to the date of object 1090, I suggest that it was produced between the 14th and 16th centuries. This is because there is sufficient evidence of copper-alloy production in Yorkshire in this period and formal similarities of the serrations on object 1090 between objects 2 and 4, which are from the post-Medieval period.

## Potential Implications for Deserted Medieval Villages in England

The study of Deserted Medieval Villages is naturally crucial to deepening scholarly understanding of the lives of rural communities. Eastern Yorkshire is a particularly important area in the studies of DMV, as there are a number of sites and studying individual sites can broaden the research (Foster, 2013). More specifically, by integrating the discoveries from the site, we can successfully reveal the function of the part of the village, meaning as a village itself, and eventually, it contributes to the study of Deserted Medieval Villages in England. In particular, in this paper, the copper alloy object 1090 from the High Hunsley Deserted Medieval Village site was closely observed, and if it was a decorative mount, it also provides us with a better insight into the village's relatively high economic status. Due to its value and speciality as an ornamented metal object, its possibilities for contribution to the further development of the hypothesis on the village were found. This finding could support the hypothesis of the presence of a high-status building or a metal workshop on the site, which is proposed by the wall remnant and jug handles (Corneille-Cowell, 2024). This could then be contributed to determining the function of the village.

At the same time, this research raises further questions about the assemblage and the site. Especially since other copper alloy objects have been found in the excavations, the types of crafts that the town was engaged in are questioned. Moreover, we should ask what evidence the use of copper alloy as a raw material, alongside the production technology employed by the smiths and the potential presence of a high-status structure or a workshop, can reveal about the economic power of the town (Samuel, 2023 *per comms*; Corneille-Cowell, 2024). Hence, in order to paint a clearer picture of the High Hunsley in the Medieval period, future excavations would have to address other portions of the site, such as trench 4 with a church-like structure or a deeper layer of the soil which might contain copper-alloy objects, and ascertain the dating by the use of scientific methods of analysis.

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**Appendix 1: All PAS finds mentioned**

Type	Figure	Material	Date	Location	Decoration	Rivet hole	Thickness
Object 1 ( <a href="#">saw fragment</a> )	Figure 5	Copper-alloy	Late Bronze Age (2400-800 B.C.)	Hampshire	“V-shaped notches”	Yes	2.2mm
Object 2 ( <a href="#">curry comb</a> )	Figure 6	Copper-alloy	Post-Medieval (c. 1400-1900 A.D.)	Yorkshire and Humber, East Riding of Yorkshire	Serration resembles either a comb or iron saw blade	No	1.3mm
Object 3 ( <a href="#">mount</a> )	Figure 7	Copper-alloy	Early Medieval (410-850 A.D.)	Yorkshire and Humber, East Riding of Yorkshire	“The fringed edge” “decorative effect”	Yes	0.5mm
Object 4 ( <a href="#">mount</a> )	Figure 8	Copper-alloy	Post-Medieval (c. 1400-1600 A.D.)	Norfolk	“Saw-like serrations”	Yes	0.5mm
Object 5 ( <a href="#">horse harness</a> )	Figure 9	Copper-alloy	Early medieval (8th century)	Hampshire	Zoo morphic decoration	Yes	
Object 6 ( <a href="#">harness pendant</a> )	Figure 10	Copper-alloy	Medieval (c. 1300-1400 A.D.)	Yorkshire and Humber, North Lincolnshire	Pattern	Yes	
Object 7 ( <a href="#">harness pendant</a> )	Figure 11	Copper-alloy	Medieval (c. 1250-1400 A.D.)	Wiltshire	Pattern	Yes	



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