

THE BURTON HOARD

CASGLIAD BURTON



The emerging context of a Bronze Age hoard

During 2004, this spectacular group of gold jewellery and bronze tools was discovered by three metal-detectorists near Burton, Wrexham. It was later declared Treasure.

Archaeologists were able to investigate the find-spot, with the help of the finders. It was found in an isolated place within a low-lying field near to the River Allyn.

It is now thought that the group was buried as a 'hoard' within a prehistoric pot, during a ritual ceremony held near the river. Similar hoards were buried at this time across Wales and Britain, probably as gifts of prestige possessions to the gods.

These artefacts provide evidence about the beliefs, style preferences and long-distance contacts held by a wealthy Bronze Age farming community in north-east Wales.



Archaeologists 'steering' in the back-pit, after removing the upper ploughed soil over the hoard find-spot



The Burton Hoard - a spectacular group of gold jewellery and bronze tools buried as a hoard inside a pot

Archaeogwy yn 'glenhau' yn y swall potol, ar ôl tynnu'r pŵll uwchaf ei wrethg uwchben y man canolf

Y cyd-destun sy'n ymddangos o gasgliad yr Oes Efydd

Yn ystod 2004, darganfuwyd y grŵp ysblynydd hwn o emwaith aur a thaclau efydd gan dri datguddiwr metel ger Burton, Wrecsam. Cyhoeddwyd ef yn drysor yn ddiweddarach.

Roedd archeolegwyr yn gallu archwilio'r man lle y canfuwyd y trysor gyda help y rheiny a ddaeth o hyd iddo. Daethpwyd o hyd iddo mewn man arunig mewn cae isel ger yr Afon Alun.

Ystyrir y nawr bod y grŵp wedi ei gladdu fel 'storfa' mewn potyn cyn-hanesyddol yn ystod seremoni ddefodol a gynhaliwyd ger yr afon. Mae'n debyg y claddwyd casgliadau tebyg yn y cyfnod hwn fel rhoddion gwerthfawr i'r duwiau ledled Cymru a Phrydain.

Mae'r gwrthrychau hyn yn dystiolaeth o'r credoau, yr arddulliau a ddeuwyswyd a'r cysylltiadau pellaf yr oedd gan gymuned cyfoethog yn yr Oes Efydd yng ngogledd ddwyrain Cymru.

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First Viewing: the Burton Hoard in three dimensions

Work has begun on the study and analysis of this hoard. It belongs to the Middle Bronze Age, between 3150 and 3300 years ago.

The personal adornments include a neck torc and bracelet (both coiled to fit into the pottery vessel), a pendant, beads and rings, all made of gold. Together with the bronze axes and chisel, they make one of the most important and varied artefact groups of its time.

The bracelet is the first of its style to be found in Britain, and has very few parallels abroad. The pendant is unique.

Careful analysis of these items of jewellery will reveal much about the skills of early gold-workers in Britain.



The gold bracelet. Six thin and twisted gold wires were very carefully aligned and welded together at intervals and enclosed by flat-ended terminals, providing form and structure



Detail of the gold pendant, formed from a six-wire twisted gold wire of bronze shape and fused to a circular gold bead

If finished, six thin wires are drawn over the front in parallel, followed by a horizontal 'X' shaped bar. The final gold wire has been twisted and finished on terms that a crossbar

Golwg Gyntaf: Casgliad Burton mewn tri dimensiwn

Mae'r gwaith wedi dechrau i astudio a dadansoddi'r casgliad hwn. Mae'n perthyn i ganol yr Oes Efydd rhwng 3150 a 3300 mlynedd yn ôl.

Mae'r addumiadau personol yn cynnwys torc i'r gwddf a breichled (y ddau wedi eu rhoio i ffitio yn y potyn), crog dlws, mwclen a modrwyau, aur i gyd. Maent yn un o'r grwpiau o wrthrychau mwyaf amrywiol a phwysig o'r cyfnod hwn gyda'r cynion a'r bwyelli efydd.

Y freichled yw'r gyntaf o'r arddull i'w chanfod yn Mhrydain, ac ychydig iawn o rai tebyg sydd dramor. Mae'r crog dlws yn unigryw.

Bydd dadansoddiad gofalus o'r eitemau hyn o emwaith yn datguddio llawer am sgiliau gweithwyr aur cynnar yn Mhrydain.