

Find of the month 2006

December 2006 The stone crucible or mortar was recovered from the fill of a pit dating to the middle part of the 13th century on the Bath St/Gaol St site. The pit contained, in addition to 164 sherds of pottery, a considerable quantity of horn cores, strongly suggesting that an industrial process such as tanning or horn-working took place in the immediate area during the early to middle 13th century. Whether the crucible or mortar itself was associated with this process it was not possible to tell.

November 2006 This coin was found during the construction of the entrance for a new ASDA store in Hereford. The site lies just outside the defended suburb of St Martins on the south side of the river. This location, where the roads from Ross-on-Wye and Abergavenny meet, appears to have been a busy industrial enclave based on the substantial evidence for smithing and pottery manufacture recovered during work on the associated road scheme for the superstore. The coin itself is of Henry II and was minted between 1180-1189 AD. It is a Short-cross design and must have been lost before 1247 AD as that is when coins of this type were called in and replaced by the Long-cross type. The coin was minted in Worcester by Osbern. For those coin buffs amongst you the following inscriptions have been transcribed (capitals are the letters that were legible):
OBVERSE: (heNRI)CVS.R(ex)
REVERSE: OSBeR.ON.WIRRIC - i.e. Osber(n) on Worcester

October 2006

During excavations on Bath St/Gaol Street in Hereford a tuning peg from a medieval stringed instrument was discovered. This is the best part of 700 years old and yet it looks very similar to its modern day counterparts. It is a very rare find and will be of great interest to musical historians and archaeologists alike.

Part of a medieval stringed instrument