

Case 13

Metal detectorist finds, declared as Treasure Trove and allocated to Elgin Museum by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (KLTR), January 2024

1. TT 177/23 Roman Trumpet brooch

Find-site: north side of Duffus Village

Small copper alloy Roman trumpet brooch, missing the foot and pin, and in worn condition. A 2nd Century AD date is suggested. Although the findspot is not directly associated with any known settlement activity, whether local or Roman military in nature, the broader landscape of northern Moray has a number of known or suspected sites. e.g. Birnie where a similar brooch was found,

2. TT 189/23 An incomplete copper alloy pin, a hair or dress pin

Find-site: north side of Alves Village.

The collar places this pin most likely into the Early Medieval period, as an Anglo-Saxon type c.650-850 AD. Three of the faces of the head have an X decoration.

3. TT. 190/23 A complete silver cruciform pendant of likely Late Medieval date, c.1200-1400CE.

Find-site: Another find on the north side of Alves Village

The pendant is a cast *croix - pommée in plan, with arms of slightly varying length and thickness, and a transverse suspension loop extending from one arm. The pendant is flat in section, with the knob at the end of each arm slightly expanded into a circular plan. The knob is the apple-shape, 'pommée'.

The cross features a flat, circular centre featuring, on one face, "Ihc" in Lombardic script in niello or black enamel, likely representing the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek ("IHCOYC") and/or the words "Iesus hominum salvator" ("Jesus, saviour of humanity"), while the other face features "XR", also in Lombardic script in niello or black enamel, likely representing "Christus Rex" ("Christ the king"). On both faces, there is also a small, incuse (hammered or stamped) line running around the rim of the central circle.

The pendant is unparalleled in the TTU database.

4. TT 191/23 Zoomorphic harness pendant

Find-site: near Longhillock Farm which is close to the original location of the Altyre Ogham stone.

An incomplete copper-alloy zoomorphic harness pendant of likely Late Medieval date, c.1200-1400 AD The convex face takes the form of a cast head of a horned bovid, with raised ears, nose and eyebrows facing; the eyes take the form of raised circular dots in broadly lozengiform recesses. There are traces of gilding. This is the only cast bovid head harness pendant to have been found in Scotland according to Treasure Trove records.

5. TT 213/23 Three silver coins,

Find-site: Duffus Castle, outwith the scheduled area

Three hammered Late Medieval coins whose dates relate to the period of the Castle's occupation.

/1 (top) Silver penny of William I The Lion, minor wear

/2 (middle) Silver billon penny of Queen Mary, very worn

/3 (lower) Silver threepence of Elizabeth I, minor wear.

The coins are all relatively common types and are found across Scotland, though the Mary billon penny is slightly rarer.

Duffus Castle was erected as a motte and bailey castle during the reign of David I (1124 – 1153) during his resettlement of Moray. The castle was later re-built in stone in the fourteenth century and was continually occupied until the late seventeenth century.