

MEDIA UPDATE

12th November 2012

Bronze Age pot reveals its treasures

The Bronze Age pot containing tools and weapons was X Rayed at Jersey Airport on Wednesday (7 Nov) – more socketed axes were visible within the pot. (*Images available*)

Excavation of the pot on Thursday has revealed 21 more axe heads – all seem to be of a similar style.

It would appear they were tightly backed together inside the pot. The many air pockets between the axes indicate that the soil has fallen in at a later date perhaps when a lid or cover was broken or rotted away.

A trial X Ray Fluorescence scan was carried out by staff from Cranfield University, on the first two axes that Ken Rive had removed and this shows that they contain a very high lead content – almost 55%. This throws some doubt on whether these axes were actually functional tools, as that amount of lead would not have given the axe a very sharp edge. Maybe therefore they were objects of prestige, something to own and show off!

Jersey Heritage will now remove the 21 axes and examine all 23 (total) carefully to learn more about them and life in Jersey 3,000 years ago.

Olga Finch, Curator of Archaeology, Jersey Heritage
Neil Mahrer, Conservator, Jersey Heritage

For further information:

Please contact Allan at Orchid Communications

T: 01534 888994 M: 07797 734735 E: allan@orchid.je

Notes to Editors

The Late Bronze Age Hoard was discovered by metal detectorist Ken Rive on 7 October 2012.

It was excavated by Jersey Heritage staff Olga Finch and Neil Mahrer, and Robert Waterhouse of the Société Jersiaise, between 8-10 October 2012.

Upon excavation it was understood that a damaged Late Bronze Age pot containing at least two socketed axeheads, had been discovered.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OLGA FINCH AND NEIL MAHRER, AND TO OBTAIN UPDATED IMAGES THIS THURSDAY AT 9.30 AM AT JERSEY ARCHIVE.

[PLEASE REPLY TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS BRIEFING](#)