TOP TREASURE

Find this at

BRADING
ROMAN VILLA

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Questions

- What do you think it is?
- Can you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What is it made from?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Ploughshare

What is it?

A ploughshare. This is the point of a plough, hard enough to cut the soil. The rest of the plough was made of wood. Wood rots under the ground, so it has not survived. However, there are plenty of drawings of ploughs from this period so we know what the whole thing would have looked like.

Basic facts

Size: 150mm long , 35mm diameter.

Weight: 100g

How old is it?

From the beginning the villa was a farm. So, it could be as early as 60 AD or as late as 410 AD.

What is it made from?

A type of metal called Iron. Iron was used for tools because it is harder than bronze.

Significance

The villa was a farm that produced food to eat. Selling the food was what gave the owner the money to build the mosaics. The Roman Empire had lots of cities. Even today people living in cities cannot grow their own food, they need to buy their food. So, farms like Brading made a lot of money from growing more food than they needed and selling the surplus. Law and order was strong in the Roman Empire, so trade flourished.

This is not a rare find. Nevertheless, it tells us important facts about how the people here lived.

Other facts

We think that the metal part was made in what we now call Hampshire. The wooden part may have been made locally. Because the metal part is small and would have been easy to transport. The wooden part was large, heavy and so more difficult to transport.

The plough shows that this site was a farm in Roman times. It had been a farm in since the Bronze Age, a thousand years before the Romans. It was a farm when the plough was rediscovered 1500 years after the Romans. There is farmland round the Brading Roman Villa today. So, although there was lot of change, there was also lots of continuity. It has always been a farm.

Why don't you?

- Can you make an exciting display label for the plough using the information from the fact file above?
- Why do you think there would have been a plough at Brading Roman Villa?
- Use the internet to find out about what ploughs are like in different parts of the world
- When you visit other museums look for examples of ploughs they have.

TOP TREASURE

The Isle of Wight Museums and Schools programme is supported by Arts Council England, funded through the Department for Education.

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education | ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

4787 NBH 2/21 LF