BOTTLE

Unique ID: MAS-F100103

Object type certainty: Certain
Workflow status: Published

This flat-based Hamilton, or 'torpedo' bottle stands 240 mm high, with a 64-mm wide base and is approximately 90 mm wide at the waist. It has a 'bottle logo' embossed on its base. There are possibly other text/numerals that have since worn away. The bottle shows moulding scars on the base and sides. It has a crown top finish.

The egg-shaped bottle was first patented by William Francis Hamilton in 1814, the idea being that the bottle had to be stored on its side to keep the cork wet and ensuring a good seal on the reusable bottle. In around 1870, the flat based egg or Hamilton bottle was introduced. Following the 'blob top' finish being replaced by the crown top and cork sometime after 1892, when this cap design was patented, the design became more popular. This was because the bottles could now be reliably stored upright without cork shrinkage and a leaky seal causing loss of the carbonated gas. This is recognisable on this bottle by the beaded rim that the metal cap fitted over. These are also generally *c.*25mm in diameter. The cap would have been metal with a cork lining. This, however, lead to the decline in the popularity of torpedo bottles as it made them no longer necessary (Lucas, 2010).

The mould scar travels up the neck to the lip of the bottle and this would suggest that it was manufactured around 1910 on a semi or fully automated bottle making machine, near to the end of their popularity. The 'bottle logo' on the base is probably the manufactures logo, however, several manufacturers used the same logo as their mark and therefore it has not now been possible to isolate its exact point of manufacture. The bottles were extensively exported from the U.K. and are therefore found around the world, but particularly in the former colonies and North America.

Class: BOTTLE **Sub class:** Food and liquid storage container

Subsequent actions

Current location of find: With finder
Subsequent action after recording: Submitted as wreck to the Receiver of Wreck

Chronology

Broad period: MODERN
Period from: MODERN
Period to: MODERN

Dimensions and weight

Quantity: 1
Height: 240 mm
Diameter: 90 mm

Discovery dates

Date(s) of discovery: Wednesday 23rd August 2017

Personal details

Found by: This information is restricted for your login.

Materials and construction

Primary material: Glass
Manufacture method: Moulded
Completeness: Complete

Spatial metadata

County or Unitary authority: East Sussex (County)

Spatial coordinates

4 Figure: TQ4400
Four figure Latitude: 50.78170298
Four figure longitude: 0.04126088
1:25K map: TQ4400
1:10K map: TQ40SW
Display four figure position on What3Words
Unmasked grid reference accurate to a 1 metre square.

Discovery metadata

Method of discovery: Fishing
Current location: With finder

Lucas, V.,, 2010 *Hightown, Castleford, West Yorkshire. An Assessment of Bottle Glass from the Hightown Glasshouse.* Portsmouth : English Heritage, ,

marinefinds.org.uk