

# Catalogue

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## A. Artefacts

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## (a) Prehistoric Artefacts



(fig. 1) Braithwaite (reproduced half actual size)

### 1 Braithwaite, South Yorkshire: Early Bronze Age gold crescent (P&EE 88) (fig. 1)

**Date:** About 2500–2000 BC

**Finders:** Mr P B Williams and Mr R I Smith

**Date of discovery:** 31 March 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with metal-detectors.

**Description:** A strip of very flimsy sheet gold describing an even crescentic shape, broadest in the middle and tapering gently to the ends. The terminals are expanded a little to form oval tabs, each with a central perforation, although one tab is broken across the perforation. This loss evidently occurred in antiquity, for there is a secondary perforation in the neck of the terminal. The edges of the crescent, including the tabs, are entirely outlined with closely set punched dots. The dots are about 0.9mm across, protrude beyond the surface by about 0.2mm and number 6–7 per centimetre.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Present length: 264mm; maximum breadth: 11.7mm; thickness: approximately 0.1mm; weight: 2.9g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 90 per cent.

**Note:** When found the object was folded up into a small parcel, about one inch (2.5cm) across. The finder unravelled it to reveal a sheet-gold ornament, but the

folding has left numerous transverse creases, some sharp. The Treasure Valuation Committee recommended to the Secretary of State that the finder's reward be reduced by 10 per cent on the grounds of 'significant damage done recklessly to the object' (see Treasure Act Code of Practice, para. 79 (viii)), which included the unfolding and cleaning of it.

**Discussion:** The precise form of this ornament is new, but it can be related stylistically to the earliest goldwork in Britain and Western Europe. Although recalling to mind the gold lunulae most often found in Ireland, the Braithwaite piece is much less substantial and elaborate. Neither does it have the strong curvature of lunulae. It is an important addition to the repertoire of primary beaker goldwork from Britain.

**Disposition:** British Museum hopes to acquire.

S P NEEDHAM

### 2. Ringlemere, Sandwich, Kent: Early Bronze Age gold cup (2001 T5) (fig. 2)

**Date:** About 1700–1500 BC

**Finder:** Mr C E Bradshaw

**Date of discovery:** 4 November 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Cup with conical body tapering to an omphalos base; the rim is flaring; a riveted strap

handle links the rim and upper body. The rivet plates are lozenge shaped and the handle has decorative ridges parallel with its edges. The rim bears a row of dots punched from the outer surface and is otherwise plain; between this plain zone and a further plain zone at the base the cup is corrugated.

The cup has been crushed, particularly on one side; this might have resulted from a single blow from agricultural machinery.

**Discussion:** This is a highly significant find for East Kent, not least because the cup is one of only two found in Britain. A small number of exotic cups (in gold, silver, amber and shale) are known from the later part of the Early Bronze Age in north-west Europe, some of them from graves. A very few amber and shale cups have been found

with Wessex Culture burials in southern Britain. These sometimes richly furnished graves have clear connections within a wider European context, where ideas and goods travelled over long distances. After further excavations at the Ringlemere site it is becoming clear that this was a place of Early Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial activity which can now be placed within this context.

**Dimensions and metal content:** In present condition: maximum height (excluding handle): 112mm; maximum width: 105mm; thickness at rim: a little under 1mm; weight: 183.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 82 per cent.

**Disposition:** British Museum.

G VARNDELL



(fig. 2) Ringlemere, near Sandwich (reproduced actual size)



(fig. 3) Cantley (reproduced two thirds actual size)

### 3 Cantley, South Yorkshire: Gold torc (1), Middle Bronze Age bronze spearhead fragment (2) and bronze instrument (3) (2001 T43) (fig. 3)

**Date:** 1. Possibly Bronze Age

2. 1500–1100 BC

3. Post Bronze Age

**Finders:** Mr Peter Jones and Mr Malcolm Hibberd

**Date of discovery:** 30 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with metal-detectors.

**Description:** 1. An undecorated gold torc, or neckring, made from a thin rod of gold tapering towards either terminal. One terminal is intact and is hooked.

2. Much of the blade of a small socketed copper alloy spearhead. Although fine surface features have been lost due to surface deterioration in the soil, the midrib was almost certainly of lozenge section.

3. Copper alloy object with an intact asymmetrically triangular end, unsharpened. The narrow end leads

into a tang of curved section, perhaps originally a narrow socket.

**Dimensions and metal content:** 1. Maximum diameter: 155mm; maximum thickness: 3.4mm; thickness of the intact terminal end: 0.5mm; weight: 36.1g.

2. Extant length: 53.3mm; maximum width: 22.4mm; maximum breadth: 10.0mm.

3. Extant length: 46.6mm; maximum width: 15.0mm; extant width of narrow end: 3.9mm; maximum thickness: 3.5mm.

X-ray fluorescence analysis of the torc conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 81 per cent.

**Note:** These three objects were found within a radius of about 20 metres and it was thought possible they may originally have been associated. However, study suggests that they are not all contemporary.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finders.



(fig. 4) Exton

#### 4 Exton, Hampshire: Middle Bronze Age gold ring (P&EE 96) (fig. 4)

**Date:** About 1300–1100 BC

**Finder:** Mr Keith Hutchings

**Date of discovery:** 7 May 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The object comprises two round-sectioned penannular rings joined together. The presence of solder could not be detected by analysis but this does not preclude the use of the technique. The flat-faced ends show slight central dimples.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum diameter: 15mm; maximum width: 7mm, width of gap: 1mm; weight: 10.59g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 79 per cent.

**Disposition:** Winchester Museums Service.

G VARNDELL

#### 5 Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (1): Late Bronze Age penannular gold-covered ring (P&EE 103) (fig. 5)

**Date:** 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr Robert Laight

**Date of discovery:** Before 23 July 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small penannular ring of fat 'D' section, the flatter face facing inwards. The object appears to be made by folding sheet gold over a core of another material, probably of copper. Exterior surfaces are relatively well smoothed, but the interior and the terminal faces are less well finished, such that folds and crimps remain clear.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Diameter: 15.2 × 13.9mm; weight: 4.4g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 78 per cent for the cover.

**Disposition:** Warwickshire Museum.

S P NEEDHAM



(fig. 5) Bidford-on-Avon

#### 6 Moulsoford, Oxfordshire: Late Bronze Age gold neckring (2002 T2) (fig. 6)

**Date:** About 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr Colin Hennell

**Date of discovery:** Before 3 January 2002

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The neckring is made from a heavy, thick bar of oval cross-section, which is thickest in the middle and tapers towards both ends. The terminals are finished off as flat oval surfaces. The object appears to have had a good surface finish prior to damage and it has been left entirely plain.

The original curvature of the ornament has been distorted asymmetrically so that one arm is more



(fig. 6) Moulsoford (reproduced one third actual size)

extended than the other. The middle of the bar bears deep 'cuts' across both faces apparently having been formed by ancient chisel strikes

**Discussion:** This is the third find of this rare type of neckring since 1999 (*Treasure Annual Report 1998-99*, no. 7; *Treasure Annual Report 2000*, no. 5); previously only two examples had been recorded from Britain. The location at Moulsoford lay not far from the findspot of a complex twisted torc of Final Middle Bronze Age date (found 1960).

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum dimension (distorted): 203mm; maximum width of bar: 16mm; maximum thickness of bar: 12.5mm; weight: 769.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 85 per cent.

**Disposition:** Reading Museums Service hopes to acquire.

S P NEEDHAM

## 7 Woodbridge area, Suffolk (1): Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring (2001 T38) (fig. 7)

**Date:** About 1150–750 BC

**Finder:** Mr B Warren

**Date of discovery:** 30 September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A penannular ring of slightly sub-rectangular cross-section, the terminals very close together. The surface is worn, and flattened on both faces near the terminals; there are traces of hammer-marks which give an irregular appearance to the surface. The internal surface has traces of paler gold banding which has been worn off the external surface. There is green corrosion internally, across both terminals and opposite them; this probably derives from the base metal core (see below). There is damage to the surface near one terminal and a small area of the gold wrapping is absent; there is some lifting of the wrapping especially at the terminal surfaces. The construction is of gold sheet wrapped over a bronze core.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum external diameter: 15.5mm; maximum internal diameter: 6mm; thickness: 6mm; weight: 6.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content for the wrapping of 77 per cent.

**Disposition:** Ipswich Museum.

G VARDELL



(fig. 7) Woodbridge

## (b) Roman Artefacts

### (i) Finger-rings (chronological order)

#### 8 Fring, Norfolk: Roman silver finger-ring (2002 T84)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr John Bocking

**Date of discovery:** 2001

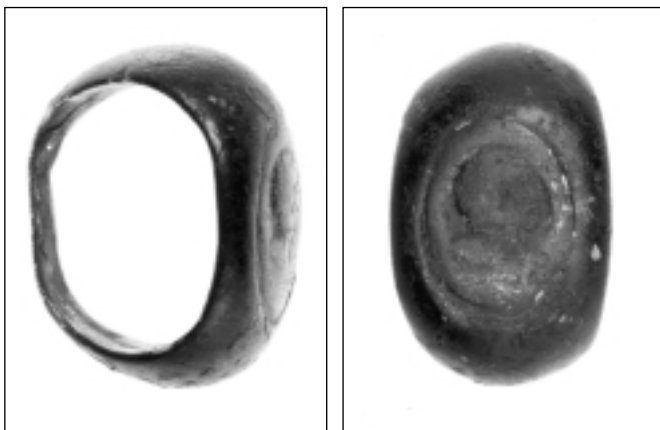
**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The plain tapered hoop has a swollen bezel with a shallow oval setting, now empty.

Dimensions: Internal 15–17mm; weight: 3.6g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

R P J JACKSON



(fig. 9) Middleton

#### 9 Middleton, Norfolk: Roman silver finger-ring (2001 T16) (fig. 9)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Kevin Boldero

**Date of discovery:** January 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small silver finger-ring with an integral bezel showing a male head facing right.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal 17.4 × 13.6mm; weight: 10g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 95 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

R P J JACKSON

#### 10 Wickham Market, Suffolk: Roman silver finger-ring (2002 T50)

**Date:** 1st or 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Ian Humphrey

**Date of discovery:** 8 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A fragmentary and distorted silver finger-ring, comprising approximately half of the bezel and one shoulder. Part of the oval setting, of orange glass or enamel, remains in the surviving part of the bezel.

**Dimensions:** Width at bezel: 12mm; weight: 2.24g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

R P J JACKSON

#### 11 Wrotham, Kent: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 85)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Nigel Betts

**Date of discovery:** 27 January 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A standard Roman gem-set ring of Henig Type II, with slight faceting of the hoop. The engraved cornelian gem, now detached from its setting, shows the figure of a dolphin.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal diameter: 18 × 14mm; weight: ring 6.1g, gem 0.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 98 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON



(fig. 12) Kelstern

### 12 Kelstern, Lincolnshire: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 108) (fig. 12)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Stephen Wilkinson

**Date of discovery:** 24 September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The plain tapered hoop has flattened shoulders and a swollen bezel with an oval setting now lacking its gem.

**Dimensions:** Internal diameter: 17 × 20mm; weight: 9.1g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON

### 13 Scotton, Lincolnshire: Fragment of Roman silver snake finger-ring (2002 T132)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Grenville Shuttleworth

**Date of discovery:** 14 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** Whilst searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Fragment of a silver snake finger-ring with half of hoop and part of bezel intact. The hoop is faceted, rough oval in profile and the missing section has snapped away at the bottom. Two pellets survive on top of the bezel and filigree decoration on one side

of the hoop. It probably had recurved snake heads originally, but these are now missing.

**Dimensions:** External height (top of bezel to bottom of hoop): 21mm; internal height: 13mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

R HOBBS

### 14 Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Norfolk (1): Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 90)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr D G Woollestone

**Date of discovery:** 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A very thin and slight hoop, quite heavily corroded, with a shallow oval setting. It was set with a small cornelian gem, now detached from the ring, engraved with the motif of a dolphin and trident.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal dimensions: 17 × 14mm; weight: ring 2.4g; gem 0.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 98 per cent.

**Note:** The ring is of a type similar to those in the Snettisham Roman jeweller's hoard.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

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### 15 Snettisham, Norfolk: Roman silver snake finger-ring (2002 T7) (fig. 15)

**Date:** 2nd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Glen Tucker

**Date of discovery:** 17 September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** Found during work on a building site.

**Description:** A silver finger-ring with ball and beaded wire decoration on the top of the hoop and recurved snake's head terminals. The decoration on the bezel consists of a central and two smaller balls to either side, separated by two smaller pellets. Each ball has a



(Fig. 15) Snettisham

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wire support running underneath it. Both snake heads are intact but detached, and one has part of the neck missing. There is also a roundel which probably sat originally on top of one of the snake's neck – the other is missing. The ring is a variant of Johns Type Biv.

**Dimensions:** Internal dimensions: width: 19mm; height: 18.3mm; external dimensions: width: 23mm; height: 22mm (to top of hoop); 26.5mm (to top of beaded decoration); weight: 10.99g.

**Disposition:** The British Museum had intended to acquire, but subsequently withdrew; returned to finder.

R HOBBS



(Fig. 16) Feltwell

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## 16 Feltwell, Norfolk: Roman silver finger-ring (2002 T94) (fig.16)

**Date:** 3rd century AD

**Finder:** Mr D G Woollestone

**Date of discovery:** 6 June 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** An undecorated octagonal silver finger-ring, Henig type IX.

**Dimensions:** Internal diameter: 19mm; weight: 3.06g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

R HOBBS



(fig. 17) East Lutton

## 17 East Lutton, North Yorkshire: Roman silver finger-ring (2001 T10) (fig.17)

**Date:** 3rd century AD

**Finder:** Mr K Umpleby

**Date of discovery:** 23 August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small, keeled silver finger-ring, set

with a translucent red cornelian engraved with the figure of a reclining wolf.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal diameter: 17.2 × 14mm; weight: 4.4g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 88 per cent.

**Disposition:** Yorkshire Museum.

R P J JACKSON

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### 18 Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire: Roman silver finger-ring (P&EE 104)

**Date:** Probably 3rd century AD

**Finder:** Mr Williams

**Date of discovery:** 5 September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The ring is of polygonal faceted form. The long bezel facet is set with a small oval cornelian with a flat table, bearing an engraved hare crouching to the left.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal diameter: 13 × 17mm; weight: 5.2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 91 per cent.

**Disposition:** University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON

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### 19 Offchurch, Warwickshire: Roman silver finger-ring fragment (P&EE 95)

**Date:** 3rd or 4th century AD

**Finder:** Mr Stephen A Wright

**Date of discovery:** January 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The bezel and shoulders of a silver finger-ring with a plain, raised circular bezel and tapering shoulders with a deep outline groove.

**Dimensions:** Length: 18mm; weight: 3.3g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

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### 20 Eye area, Suffolk: Silver finger-ring (P&EE 98)

**Date:** Undated, but probably modern

**Finder:** Mr John French

**Date of discovery:** February 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The hoop tapers evenly from the bezel at the front to a narrower back, and the form is a very regular circle. The bezel is demarcated by double incised lines with oblique transverse lines echoing the shape of a narrow raised lozenge set crosswise in the centre of the bezel.

**Dimensions:** Internal diameter: 19mm; weight: 2.5g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON

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### (ii) Other objects

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#### 21 Calne, Wiltshire: Gold ring attached to miniature bronze axe amulet (2001 T32) (fig.21)

**Date:** Probably Roman

**Finder:** Mr K A Dorman

**Date of discovery:** September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A miniature socketed bronze axe attached to a ring of gold wire.

Miniature models of socketed axes in bronze are a well known type of object. They appear to be particularly common in Wiltshire and surrounding counties. Although a small number are known to have been made in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age, the majority date to the Roman period. They are usually interpreted as votive models or amulets. Analysis of the gold from which the ring was made suggests it is a Roman object.

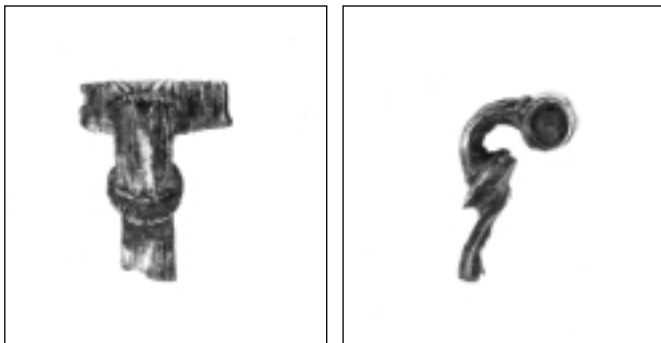


(fig. 21) Calne

**Dimensions and metal content:** Axe: length: 19mm; width across blade: 9mm. Ring: 11mm × 8mm, made from wire 1.5mm thick. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content for the ring of 77 per cent.

**Disposition:** Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes.

J D HILL



(fig. 22) Corhampton

## 22 Corhampton, Hampshire: Roman silver brooch (2001 T21) (fig.22)

**Date:** 1st century AD

**Finder:** Mr Ken Ross

**Date of discovery:** October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A miniature thistle-type brooch, of mercury gilt silver, lacking the lower bow, catch-plate

and pin. It has finely-applied incuse linear decoration on the bar and bow.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum length: 13.2mm; maximum width: 9.8mm; weight: 1.3g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 98 per cent.

**Disposition:** Winchester Museums Service.

R P J JACKSON

## 23 Head Street, Colchester, Essex: Roman silver buckle and finger-ring (P&EE 94)

**Date:** Buckle: 1st century AD; ring: 2nd or 3rd century AD

**Finder:** Colchester Archaeological Trust

**Date of discovery:** July/August 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** Found during archaeological excavations.

**Description:** Buckle: cast silver belt buckle of early Roman military type. It has the typical oval shield-shaped design with an additional bar ending in scrolls framing the inner side. One scroll is missing. The axis bar of the solid tubular hinge is also silver. Ring: silver finger-ring, broken in three pieces, with an incised palm frond on its narrow bezel.

**Dimensions:** Buckle: length: 20mm; weight: 6.69g.

Ring: internal diameter: 18mm; weight: 1.54g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

P J WISE AND R P J JACKSON

## 24 Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Roman spoon bowl (P&EE 101)

**Date:** Roman

**Finder:** Mr Mark Weston

**Date of discovery:** 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** This object, a damaged and incomplete spoon bowl, was submitted as a potential treasure case. Visual examination was confirmed by scientific

analysis, that the object is made of tin-plated bronze. It does not, therefore, come under the provisions of the Treasure Act.

**Dimensions:** Length: 48mm; weight: 6g.

**Disposition:** Not treasure; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON

## 25 Mattishall, Norfolk: Roman silver vessel fragment (P&EE 105)

**Date:** Roman

**Finder:** Dr A Carter

**Date of discovery:** August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** This very small object is a fragment from a small vessel, of cup or bowl shape. In section there is a clear angle, suggesting a more or less vertical and decorated rim or upper body, and a carination below which the plain body tapers inwards. The decoration is a simply engraved series of pointed ovules, possibly alternating in direction. No trace of inlay can be seen. The style of the decoration and the quality of the metal make a Roman date very likely. The vessel is not closely datable within the Roman period, but an early- or middle-Empire date seems more likely than a late-Roman one.

**Dimensions and metal content:** 22 × 16 × about 1mm; weight: 3.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 98 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON

## 26 Peckleton, Leicestershire: Roman gold ear-ring (P&EE 109) (fig.26)

**Date:** 1st to 4th centuries AD

**Finder:** Mr Kenny Dorman

**Date of discovery:** September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.



(fig. 26) Peckleton

**Description:** A small, plain, slightly distorted circular ear-ring made from a thin gold wire of circular cross-section, its ends crossed and twisted round.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum external dimensions: 15.5 × 12.7mm; weight: 0.79g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 84 per cent.

**Disposition:** Leicestershire Heritage Service.

R P J JACKSON



(Fig. 27) Hockwold-cum-Wilton (reproduced actual size)

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## 27 Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Norfolk (2): Roman silver bracelet (2001 T9) (fig.27)

**Date:** 1st to 4th centuries AD

**Finder:** Mr Derek Woollestone

**Date of discovery:** 19 October 2001

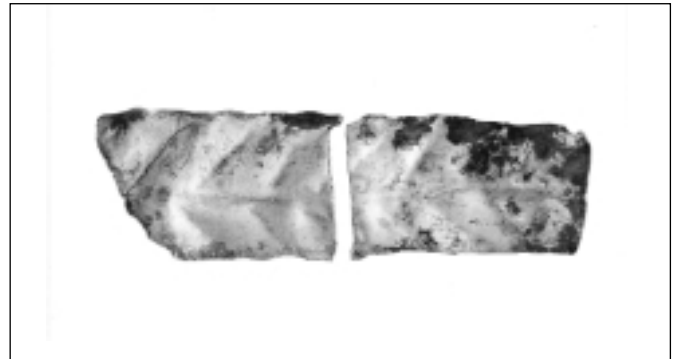
**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small distorted penannular silver bracelet, made from a plain narrow rod, tapered to a blunt-pointed terminal at each end.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Present maximum length: 73mm; weight: 6.4g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 93 per cent.

**Disposition:** Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

R P J JACKSON



(fig. 29) Hockwold-cum-Wilton (reproduced actual size)

### 28 Surlingham, Norfolk: Roman silver bracelet fragment (P&EE 91)

**Date:** Late Roman, probably 4th century AD

**Finder:** Mr J Scanlon

**Date of discovery:** 21 February 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Short, distorted length of silver, almost certainly from a bracelet. It has an astragalus pattern in relief in a 'chip-carved' technique – alternating square and lozenge panels, two of each surviving.

**Dimensions:** Length: 24mm; weight: 1.9g.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed, returned to finder.

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### 29 Hockwold-cum-Wilton, Norfolk (3): Roman silver plaque (2001 T8) (fig.29)

**Date:** 3rd or 4th century AD

**Finder:** Mr Derek Woollestone

**Date of discovery:** 15 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Two joining fragments of a silver votive leaf plaque, with repoussé ribbed decoration.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Length: 61.5mm; width: 16.5–19.5mm; weight: 6.4g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 99 per cent.

**Disposition:** Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire.

R P J JACKSON



(fig. 30.1) Stow



(fig. 30.2) Stow

### 30 Stow, Lincolnshire: Roman silver mount (2002 T71) (fig.30)

**Date:** Probably 3rd or 4th century AD

**Finder:** Mr Michael Wilson

**Date of discovery:** August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A broken Roman silver mount in the form of an eagle, with hollow body and solid head. There are remains of black (niello) inlay on the body and head and traces of mercury gilding on the head and neck. The bird's tail and most of one outspread wing are broken away.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Length: 29.8mm; weight: 9.9g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 90 per cent.

**Disposition:** City and County Museum, Lincoln.

R P J JACKSON

### 31 Towthorpe, East Yorkshire: Silver handle, possibly Roman (2001 T14)

**Date:** Probably Roman

**Finder:** Mr Maurice Jenkinson

**Date of discovery:** September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A twisted silver fragment, perhaps a broken handle or toilet implement.

**Dimensions:** Maximum length: 58.2mm; maximum diameter of stem: 3.5mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

R P J JACKSON

### 32 Newnham, Hampshire: Late- or post-Roman silver brooch (2001 T20)

**Date:** Late-Roman or post-Roman

**Finder:** Mr D Wood

**Date of discovery:** September 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small penannular brooch made from a sub-oval-sectioned silver rod, now slightly distorted.

One face is plain, the other ribbed, with spiral-engraved, flat discoidal terminals.

**Dimensions:** Maximum external dimensions: 28.3 × 22.5mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

R P J JACKSON

## (c) Early Medieval Artefacts

### (i) Brooches (chronological order)

#### 33 Breamore, Hampshire: Anglo-Saxon square-headed brooch fragment (M&ME 438) (fig.33)

**Date:** 6th century

**Finder:** Mr S Bolger

**Date of discovery:** 28 September 1999

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The fragment forms part of the foot-plate of an Anglo-Saxon miniature square-headed brooch. The terminal is broken off and the opposite end rises slightly to an old break across the end of the bow of the brooch. On the back is the projecting stub of a pin-catch. In the centre of the plate is a plain, flat lozenge enclosed by a narrow rib, and the whole is bordered by



(Fig. 33) Breamore

a raised flat frame decorated with small nielloed triangles; there is a plain lobe at either side. In the angle between each of these lobes and the end of the bow is a stylised animal motif in Salin's Style I consisting of its head, represented mainly by an eye, and a single, S-shaped limb.

This type of brooch occurs mainly in Kent, the Isle of Wight and Saxon-settled areas in northern France; they were generally worn in pairs and can be dated to about AD 530/40–560/70 (K Parfitt and B Brugmann, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery on Mill Hill, Deal, Kent*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology, monograph series, no. 14 (1997), pp. 37–9; 98, fig. 23). Finer examples have a garnet setting in place of the plain central lozenge, e.g. a series in the British Museum said to be from Herpes, France, although the provenance must be regarded as somewhat uncertain (D Kidd and B Ager, 'Herpes, commune de Courbillac (Charente). Collections du British Museum, Londres', in J-Y Marin (ed.), *Les Barbares et la Mer* (Caen, 1992), pp. 83–96, figs. 1–5). The fragment from Breamore is probably from an Anglo-Saxon grave destroyed by ploughing, as other 6th-century artefacts found nearby and the breaks suggest.

**Dimensions:** Height: 25mm; width: 21mm; weight: 5.6g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 88 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

B AGER

### 34 Lympne, Kent: Early Anglo-Saxon silver keystone garnet disc brooch (2002 T53) (fig.34)

**Date:** 6th century

**Finder:** Mr Peter Welsh

**Date of discovery:** June 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Keystone garnet disc brooch, Avent, Class 2.1. The brooch is small with a narrow border of



(fig. 34) Lympne

impressed triangles placed apex to base to form a pattern of zig-zag impressions which are inlaid with niello. Lying inside and against the border is a finely beaded gilt frame and within this the field is divided into gilded zones by three sub-rectangular cells lying against a circular central cell. The three cells are filled with plate garnets set over waffle-patterned gold foil, the central cell is empty. Each of the three gilded fields is entirely filled with a single, highly stylised Style I zoomorph consisting of a head and back leg only. The back of the brooch is plain with the catch-plate and broken pin fastening still soldered in position.

**Discussion:** Small keystone garnet disc brooches are well known from Kentish cemeteries and date from the 6th century. This example can be compared to very similar brooches from, for example, the cemeteries of Bifrons, Dover, Howletts, Gilton and Faversham (Richard Avent, *Anglo-Saxon Disc and Composite Brooches*, British Archaeological Reports 11, Oxford, 1975).

**Dimensions:** Diameter: 27mm.

**Disposition:** Maidstone Museum had intended to acquire but was unable to raise the money; returned to finder.

A C EVANS



(fig. 35) Boxford

### 35 Boxford, Berkshire: White metal radiate-headed brooch fragment (2001 T1) (fig.35)

**Date:** Early to mid-6th century

**Finder:** Mr J Calow

**Date of discovery:** After autumn 1999

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The fragment comprises the bow and part of the semi-circular head-plate of a Frankish radiate-headed brooch. It is cast in white metal, which has not been analysed but is possibly silver, and three of the original five plain knobs round the head remain. The head is decorated with an arc of repeating scrolls and the bow has a median rib which develops into a raised ovoid 'disc' on the top. The border rib of the head and the mid-rib of the bow are decorated with small punched triangles. There are traces of a support for the pin-spring on the back of the head-plate. The foot-plate is missing, but would probably have been of the common, straight-sided form with either a square or, possibly, an animal-headed terminal, similar to

Rhineland examples from Andernach and Bonn, Germany (H Kühn, *Die germanischen Bügelfibeln der Völkerwanderungszeit in der Rheinprovinz* (Bonn, 1940), Taf. 67: 6,3; 6,5; 6,6). However, a more ovoid form ending in an animal head is not impossible. The raised 'disc' on the bow is unusual, but may imitate a gem or glass setting, as on a brooch of unknown provenance (*ibid.*, Taf. 72: 6,98). Kühn's map is rather out of date, but shows the general distribution of the type, mainly in the Rhineland/Upper Danube and northern French regions, including a couple of findspots from Anglo-Saxon contexts such as Howletts in Kent. Examples of other types of Frankish radiate-headed brooches from England are also recorded.

**Dimensions:** Length: 35mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

B AGER

### 36 Kilverstone, Norfolk: Frankish gilded silver brooch fragment (2002 T6) (fig.36)

**Date:** Middle quarters of the 6th century

**Finder:** Mr J Harvey

**Date of discovery:** November 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The object consists of the terminal and lower end of the foot-plate of a Frankish rectangular-headed bow brooch. The terminal is in the form of an animal head with lentoid eyes, the upper half of each of which is sunken. The rectangular snout is decorated with four transverse grooves above which the vertically ribbed cheeks are divided by a broader raised rib decorated with small, punched, interlocking triangles that bifurcates to form the frame of the foot-plate. The underside is deeply concave.

This type of Frankish female brooch (designated the 'Worms' type by German scholars) occurs mainly in the middle and lower Rhineland and upper Danube areas of Germany and occasionally in northern France (A Koch, *Bügelfibeln der Merowingerzeit im westlichen*



(fig. 36) Kilverstone

© Identification and Recording Service, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

*Frankenreich* (Mainz, 1998), pp. 275–279, map 20).

There is a very close parallel to the Kilverstone find from Nordendorf, Germany, with similar eyes and ribbing on the terminal (H Kühn, *Die germanischen Bügelfibeln der Völkerwanderungszeit in der Rheinprovinz* (Bonn, 1940), pl. 97: 30,10). The Kilverstone brooch clearly, therefore, represents an example of a Continental ‘import’ into Anglo-Saxon England in the early medieval period. Such ‘imports’, mainly of jewellery, are most common in Kent, although they do also occur more sporadically in other parts of the country, including one or two recent finds from Norfolk.

**Dimensions:** Height: 40mm; width: 22mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 81 per cent. The fragment weighs 6g.

**Disposition:** Norwich Castle Museum hopes to acquire this find.



(fig. 37) Great Mongeham

### 37 Great Mongeham, Kent: Frankish gilded silver brooch fragment (2002 T81) (fig.37)

**Date:** Late 6th or early 7th century

**Finder:** Mr W Martin

**Date of discovery:** August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The object consists of the gilded silver terminal and stubs of the ends of the raised frame round the foot-plate of a Frankish rectangular, or semicircular-headed, bow brooch. The terminal is in the form of an animal head with slanting, lentoid eyes, divided by a Y-shaped rib pointing to a broad, transverse band above two narrow, transverse ribs above the damaged, flat, semicircular end. There are also two narrow, V-shaped ribs above the Y, giving a ‘furrowed brow’ appearance. The terminal finds its closest parallels in Frankish female brooches of either the late 6th to early 7th-century, rectangular-headed Rommersheim type, which occurs mainly in the middle Rhineland region of Germany, or the mid to late

6th-century, semicircular-headed Müngersdorf type, found both in this region and in north-eastern France (compare brooches from Herpes and Friedberg illustrated in H Kühn, *Die germanischen Bügelfibeln der Völkerwanderungszeit in der Rheinprovinz* (Bonn, 1940), pl. 94: 28,5 and 28,13; and from Köln-Müngersdorf, *ibid.*, pl. 95: 29,9). For the dating see comparable brooches of types V.2.1.4 and IV.2.1.1 in A Koch, *Bügel fibeln der Merowingerzeit im westlichen Frankenreich* (Mainz, 1998), Typentafel 3,4 and 2,16. The Great Mongeham brooch represents an example of a Continental 'import' into Anglo-Saxon England in the early medieval period. Such 'imports', mainly of jewellery, are most common in Kent, although they do also occur more sporadically in other parts of the country, including one or two recent finds from Norfolk.

**Dimensions:** Height: 35mm; width: 22mm.

**Disposition:** Dover Museum.

B AGER

### 38 Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (2): Anglo-Saxon gold brooch setting (2001 T4) (fig.38)

**Date:** 7th century

**Finder:** Mr Robert Laight

**Date of discovery:** September 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Setting from the centre of a plated disc brooch or composite brooch. The setting, which is heavily worn and damaged, consists of a crumpled set of cell walls, within a circular frame. The frame is encircled by a collar made up of two strands of beaded filigree wire flanking a flattened Z-twisted beaded filigree rope. The central field, now empty of its settings, contains the remains of a single cruciform cell with short dividing walls radiating from it to the circular retaining wall.

**Discussion:** Although the setting is badly damaged, the elements of its design can be reconstructed. The



(fig. 38) Bidford-on-Avon

central elements of both plated and composite disc brooches are typically set with a small cabochon garnet surrounded by a calcitic collar, eg the class 6 plated disc brooch from Dover (Avent 163; Richard Avent, *Anglo-Saxon Disc and Composite Brooches*, British Archaeological Reports 11, 1975). However there are a small number of brooches with a central setting built up of cloisonné cellwork, eg a plated disc brooch from Faversham (class 1, Avent 147), which has a central setting built up of four M-shaped garnet filled cells enclosing a small square plate garnet. A second plated disc brooch from Faversham (class 3, Avent 160) has a central setting containing 3 M-shaped plate garnets interlocking with a small triangular plate garnet, while the magnificent composite brooch from Kingston Down, Kent, (class 3.2, Avent 179) has a central element filled cloisonné garnet cellwork in an elegant and complex design. The disc brooch, from which the Bidford setting comes, must have been broadly equivalent to one of these examples.

**Dimensions:** Diameter: 13mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

A C EVANS

### 39 Rocklands, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon pewter brooch (M&ME 308)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr M Bone

**Date of discovery:** October 2000

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Ansate (caterpillar) brooch with transverse ribbing on the bow and remains of an iron pin. This is a local version of Carolingian type.

**Metal content:** X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated that the metal was tin with lead and copper alloy containing less than 1 per cent silver.

**Disposition:** Found not to be treasure; returned to finder.

S M YOUNGS

#### 40 Woodbridge area, Suffolk (2): Anglo-Saxon copper alloy plate brooch fragment (M&ME 414)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr R Damant

**Date of discovery:** April 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Under half of a rectangular plate brooch which has simple geometric ornament in relief and the corners cut obliquely. There is an integral catch plate on the back. The form is related to contemporary Carolingian plate brooches.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Length: 15mm; width: 14mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated a copper, lead, tin alloy.

**Disposition:** Found not to be treasure; returned to finder.

S M YOUNGS

#### 41 Aldborough, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt disc brooch (2002 T31) (fig.41)

**Date:** Probably late 9th or early 10th century

**Finder:** Mr Mike Frolo

**Date of discovery:** 12 August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Fragment of silver-gilt Anglo-Saxon disc brooch, with detached dome-headed rivet. On the main



(fig. 41) Aldborough

fragment there is one complete silver-gilt lentoid field, about half of a second and the border of a third flanking a panel with a silver decoration emerging from an incised background filled with niello. The lentoid fields have a notched inner border and are decorated with vegetation motifs: three triangular leaves of increasing size, notched, develop from a tendril to fill the shape. The main field of the brooch is also decorated with a vegetation motif, this time apparently (but not quite) symmetrical, with fleshy, acanthus-like leaves, also notched, flanking a 'bud' from which emerges a trefoil shape that fills the remaining corners of the field. The rivet is dome-headed, and attached to it the sheared-off body of the brooch, of which three small protruding parts remain beyond its neck.

**Discussion:** The disc brooch fragment can be compared in its general shape to a number of silver and niello disc brooches with rivets, ranging from the eighth to the eleven century. The design is based on four overlapping circles intersecting to form lentoid fields riveted together: we can envisage that the brooch may have looked like that found at Beeston Tor Cave, Staffordshire, for example, which is dated to the end of the 9th century. However, the decoration on the fragment from Aldborough is exceptional, as other brooches usually present zoomorphic or geometric designs. Here we find a classical-looking plant, formal,

yet loose. The acanthus scroll, commonly found in Carolingian art, is not often associated with Anglo-Saxon pieces, yet this brooch testifies to its confident handling on what must have been an important and innovative piece.

One might suggest a date to the end of the ninth or the beginning of the tenth century and consider the vegetation motifs on the embroidered stole of St Cuthbert (donated in 934) as a good parallel for the treatment of the acanthus leaves. See L Webster and J Backhouse (eds.), *The Making of England* (London, 1991), no. 245b and J Backhouse, D H Turner and L Webster (eds.), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art* (London, 1984), plate III.

**Dimensions and metal content:** The fragment from the body of the brooch measures 34mm × 21mm, with a thickness of 1mm; the rivet is 8mm in diameter and 5mm high; weight: 4.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 96 per cent.

**Disposition:** The British Museum hopes to acquire this find.

A GANNON

#### 42 Holberrow Green, Worcestershire: Late Saxon or Ottonian gold fragment, possibly of a brooch (M&ME 362) (fig.42)

**Date:** Late 10th to early 11th century

**Finder:** Mr B R Melly

**Date of discovery:** 28 January 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Gold disc, originally flat, and with an empty rectangular collared setting at its centre, surrounded by four small subsidiary collared settings, each of which contains a round semi-opaque greyish glass cabochon, perhaps intended to imitate pearls. Each collared setting is encircled with beaded wire, as is the outer edge of the disc. From the corners of the central setting, four radiating strips of flattened



(fig. 42) Holberrow Green

beaded wire, set edge-on, divide the disc into four segments; within each segment, the glass cabochons are flanked by stylized foliate plant sprays executed in the same edge-on beaded filigree wire. The back of the disc is undecorated; it either originally had a separately attached back plate or was attached directly to some larger object. The disc is bent and distorted, whether by ancient or recent damage is impossible to tell.

**Discussion:** The disc's function is uncertain, but it is most likely to have come from a brooch, in which case the pin and catch would have been on a missing back plate. An alternative possibility, that it was one of a series of settings on, e.g., a book cover or an altar cross, is less likely. The distinctive type of filigree wire, and the stylized foliate ornament both point to a date in the late 10th or early 11th century, as does the mixture of rectangular and small round settings, the latter often containing pearls, which the pale grey glass cabochons seem to imitate. Foliate filigree of this type can be found on some 10th-century Anglo-Saxon objects, such as the King's School, Canterbury disc brooch; but it is more commonly seen on late 10th- and early 11th-century Ottonian metalwork, such as the Lothair and Mathilde altar crosses.

Filigree-enriched round brooches, sometimes set with gems and/or enamel, were produced in both Anglo-Saxon England and Ottonian Germany during the late 10th and first half of the 11th centuries; they are rarer in Anglo-Saxon contexts, but this is as likely

to be an accident of survival as a reflection of reality. It is not possible to determine the origin of this piece more closely.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum diameter: 23mm; weight: 2.2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 80 per cent.

**Disposition:** British Museum (Worcestershire County Museum had originally intended to acquire but subsequently withdrew its interest and the British Museum stepped in).

L WEBSTER

### 43 Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire: Late Saxon coin brooch

**Date:** Mid-11th century

**Finder:** Mr Andrew Day

**Date of discovery:** 19 April 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Anglo-Saxon silver coin which has been modified into a brooch by the addition of a pin and catch-plate. The coin itself is a silver penny of Edward the Confessor (1042–66), of the so called Sovereign Eagles type (*British Museum Catalogue* type *ix*), dating from the late 1050s. It was issued at the mint of London in the name of the moneyer Ælfsige.

The coin has had the reverse gilded, and has had a hinged pin and catch-plate riveted to the obverse with two rivets each, although the pin itself is missing. The effect is thus to show the reverse of the coin (which features a cross design) as the front of the brooch. This type of coin-brooch seems to have been particularly popular in the 1050s. For another example of a coin-brooch of the Expanding Cross type (dating from the early 1050s), issued by the moneyer Godwine of London see *British Numismatic Journal* 1994, Coin Register no. 22 and for a further example of the same type, issued by the moneyer Brand of Winchester and discovered near Winchester see *Treasure Annual Report 2000*, no. 39. Photographs of a third coin-brooch of the Expanding

Cross type, issued by the moneyer Edwig of London, were sent to the British Museum in 2000. A brooch of the same general pattern, but utilising a coin of the subsequent Pointed Helmet type from the mint of Oxford, appears as lot 231 in the Bonham's sale catalogue of 12 September 1996, in which it is mistakenly attributed to the mint of Taunton (subsequently acquired by the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge).

All four of the other brooches were mounted with the cross side showing, and three out of the four show evidence of gilding, so the find from Great Bedwyn is consistent with the general pattern.

**Dimensions:** Weight: 1.79g (a normal weight for a coin of this type would be 1.25–1.4g).

**Disposition:** British Museum.

G WILLIAMS

### (ii) Finger-rings



(fig. 44) Colchester area

### 44 Colchester area, Essex: Post-Roman gold finger-ring (P&EE 106) (fig.44)

**Date:** Post-Roman, perhaps 5th century AD

**Finder:** Mr C Behn

**Date of discovery:** 1 May 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** The ring has a flat, tapered hoop with a plain bezel area set with two small cabochon stones. The shoulders feature ribbed patterning including two

rows of small raised beads. The workmanship is fairly perfunctory; the external grooves and ridges can be seen on the interior of the band. The surface is extensively scratched and damaged. The garnets are of a purplish hue, unlike the garnets normally seen in classical jewellery.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Internal diameter: 15mm; width of hoop at bezel: 11mm; weight: 4.8g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 96 per cent. The stones are almandine garnets.

**Disposition:** Colchester Museums Service.

C M JOHNS AND R P J JACKSON



(fig. 45) Bolton

#### 45 Bolton, East Yorkshire: Viking silver finger-ring (M&ME 381) (fig.45)

**Date:** Late 9th or early 10th century

**Finder:** Mr P S Birkett

**Date of discovery:** 8 May 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Silver ring constructed from a convex band of metal tapering at both ends to flattened wires which join together in a spiral knot, their extremities tightly wound round the hoop on either side of this. The band is impressed with two opposing rows of identical triangular stamps enclosing three pellets in relief, 19 in

all; the apex of a 20th impression is also present.

**Discussion:** The ring is of Viking manufacture, and represents a miniature version of similarly constructed silver so-called 'ribbon' arm-rings, such as that found in the not-far-distant Bossall-Flaxton hoard, which was deposited about 925, and in the great Cuerdale, Lancashire hoard, buried about 905. The finger-ring is thus to be dated to the late 9th or early 10th century.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum diameter: 21.5mm; maximum width: 10mm; weight: 2.1g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 98 per cent.

**Disposition:** British Museum.

L WEBSTER



(fig. 46) Warwick

#### 46 Warwick, Warwickshire (1): Ottonian enamelled gold finger-ring (2001 T11) (fig.46)

**Date:** Late 10th century

**Finder:** Mr J Cahill

**Date of discovery:** 11 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Gold Finger-ring with gold cloisonné enamel bezel, filigree and granules. The hoop is a flat band of metal which expands to form a back-plate for the bezel and for the decoration at the shoulder. There is marked median line on the band as though it had been forged by folding in the edges of a strip.

Although slightly damaged the ring appears to be D-shaped in plan and on each shoulder carries a deep strip of gold defining a triangular field filled with large granules of gold, several of which are missing. This ornament is finished by further granules at the outer ends of the strips. It has all been quite carelessly applied and it is noticeable that the 'V' of gold strip is made from flattened beaded gold wire, set on edge.

The notched edges are most clear where it sits on the shoulder of the hoop. The bezel is a separate piece held by a deep plain collar with a band of spirally-beaded wire outside masking the join with the hoop plate. This gold wire is crudely and unevenly beaded. This workmanship contrasts with that of the bezel itself which is a separate gold-walled disc filled with four fine-walled cells of opaque white enamel petals against a semi-translucent green glass background.

The quality of the cloisonné enamel is high, equivalent to pieces mounted on ecclesiastical treasures such as the St Andrew's sandal reliquary of Egbert at Trier. This element, by analogy with this and other continental enamels may well be a product of an Ottonian workshop in the Rhineland area and date from the last quarter of the 10th century. Fine enamels were also being made in England from the time of Alfred well into the 11th century, but not enough is known about these yet to distinguish them. Green glass of this type was favoured by goldsmiths of the period on the Continent and in England. The ring itself is not easy to parallel and was certainly not made in the workshop of the enamel, to judge from the bold and relatively crude gold ornament made from relatively pure gold. It is probably also continental, supporting an Ottonian origin for the enamel and making the whole piece an import, a gift or purchase from overseas.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Diameter: 22mm approximately; hoop depth: 3.3mm. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 93 per cent.

**Disposition:** Warwickshire Museum hopes to acquire.

S M YOUNGS



(fig. 47) Rotherby

#### 47 Rotherby, Leicestershire: Continental gold finger-ring (2002 T25) (fig.47)

**Date:** 10th or 11th century

**Finder:** Mr J Palmer

**Date of discovery:** 15 December 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Gold finger ring with large oval bezel plate made from a hoop of circular section which has a lapped joint at the back. The large plate carries a border of beaded gold wire and at the centre has a plain circular collar for a setting (now empty, internal diameter 8mm). The outside of this collar is decorated by two bands of beaded wire, the upper one of finer wire. Springing from the shoulders is a roughly symmetrical pattern of loose scrolls made from ribbons of flattened beaded wire on edge and ending in small granules of gold. Small curls of beaded wire with granules lie above and below the setting. The hoop is distorted with some damage to the applied decoration. Granules and wire are missing.

The overall effect is striking although the formal layout and granulation are quite coarse. Three grades of

beaded wire were used including ribbon made from beaded wire, all of which suggests a date just before the millennium although the filigree work lacks the binding clips typical of some gold work of this period. There are no close parallels in the varied late Anglo-Saxon repertoire of rings. While it is also true that no close parallel to this ring form has been found in the small number of published Ottonian finger rings, the loose flowing style of the ornament is seen on the Lothar cross at Aachen for example, indicates a continental source in the 10th century. With a gem in the central setting this will have been a spectacular piece.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Maximum dimensions: 30 × 16mm; weight: 11.5g. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated an approximate gold content of 84 per cent.

**Disposition:** Leicestershire Heritage Service.

S M YOUNGS



(fig. 48) St Nicholas at Wade

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**48 St Nicholas at Wade, Kent (1): Possibly Late-Saxon or Viking gold finger-ring (M&ME 433) (fig.48)**

**Date:** Possibly 10th or 11th century

**Finder:** Mr C E Bradshaw

**Date of discovery:** Late 1970s

**Circumstances of discovery:** Found while searching with a metal-detector in backsoil supplied for a garden.

**Description:** This item is possibly of Late-Saxon or Viking origin, and if so, dates to the 10th or 11th century.

**Disposition:** Not Treasure Trove; returned to finder.

L WEBSTER

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**49 Buxton with Lammas, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon? silver fragment (M&ME 456)**

**Date:** Possibly Anglo-Saxon

**Finder:** Mr N Paul

**Date of discovery:** 2 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Possibly an Anglo-Saxon ring bezel composed of interlacing plain and twisted wire elements.

**Dimensions:** Length: 17mm; width: 9mm.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; returned to finder.

L WEBSTER

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**50 Uncertain location, Sussex: Copper-alloy finger-ring fragment (M&ME 437)**

**Finder:** Mr S Andersen

**Date of discovery:** August 2001

**Disposition:** On examination at the British Museum found to be copper-alloy and thus not treasure; returned to finder.

L WEBSTER

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**(iii) Strap-ends (chronological order)**

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**51 Crawley, Hampshire: Anglo-Saxon silver strap-end (M&ME 439) (fig.51)**

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr T Austin

**Date of discovery:** 4 August 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** An Anglo-Saxon silver strap-end with long narrow plate split at the top with two attachment



(fig. 51) Crawley

holes, while the opposite end is cast as a flat animal mask with large rounded ears. The main field carries one animal in profile, much elongated with the head curved back and biting the etiolated body. The hindquarters end in a regular leg but the forequarters are obscure and part of the field is filled with a large pointed leaf. Worn or heavily cleaned, it may originally have been inlaid with niello. The back is plain. The style of the animal is typical of 9th century Anglo-Saxon fine metalwork, known as Trehwiddle after a coin-dated hoard in the style from Trehwiddle in Cornwall. Used for fine straps or braids and a relatively common dress element in this period.

**Dimensions:** Length: 41mm; weight: 3.8g. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 93 per cent.

**Disposition:** Winchester Museums Service.

S M YOUNGS



(fig. 52) Woodnesborough

rivet is missing, as is the top of the front plate. The central panel is filled with a contorted animal which was originally set against a background of black niello inlay, since lost. The animal's head turns over its body with lolling tongue. Forelegs are depicted but the lower torso tapers into a complex knot. The shape of the strap-end is datable to the 9th century by analogy with finds from datable contexts and its ornament is a variant of the main decorative style of the period, called after a major group of decorated silver items found at Trehwiddle in Cornwall. The back is plain. Unusually the style of this piece is a variant of the dominant Trehwiddle type, having affinities with contemporary sculpture and manuscript decoration of the Mercian school.

**Dimensions:** Length: 36.4mm; weight: 2.2g.

**Disposition:** British Museum.

S M YOUNGS

## 52 Woodnesborough, Kent: Anglo-Saxon silver strap-end (2001 T6) (fig.52)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr C E Bradshaw

**Date of discovery:** 30 October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** A small silver Anglo-Saxon strap-end of sub-triangular form terminating in a stylised animal mask with comma shaped ears and split at the other end for attachment to a narrow strap by one rivet. The

## 53 Caunton, Nottinghamshire: Anglo-Saxon silver strap-end (2002 T21) (fig.53)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr J Inslipp

**Date of discovery:** October–November 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Large silver strap-end split at the narrow end for two rivets with one still in position. Below lies a semicircular field decorated with a simple chevron, while the main field is incised with six panels of ribbon



(fig. 53) Caunton

knot work divided by curved laddered frames. These borders spring from two central concentric circles at the top and bottom. The terminal is a blunt-nosed animal mask with rounded ears. The design is bold and freely applied. This is a typical 9th-century Anglo-Saxon piece both in form and decoration, with a terminal mask of the type seen on strap-ends from southern England. The large size is noteworthy and it matches in length, but not weight, two groups of strap-ends from Yorkshire from a northern school thought to be centred in York. The interlace panels are distinctive and are reminiscent of contemporary manuscript illumination, while the border is common to the Trewhiddle style which dominates small

metalwork pieces at this period. Despite these unusual features, the execution while competent is not of the highest quality suggesting it is an imitative workshop piece.

**Dimensions:** Length: 63.3mm; width: 20mm; weight: 11.5g. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 96 per cent.

**Disposition:** Brewhouse Yard Museum, Nottingham.

S M YOUNGS

#### 54 York area: Two Anglo-Saxon silver strap-ends (2001 T2) (fig.54)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Name withheld at the request of finder.

**Date of discovery:** 13th October 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Two silver and niello strap-ends, roughly oval with moulded details top and bottom. Similar, but not identical strap-ends with an animal mask at the apex in low relief with protruding eyes and comma-shaped ears, the mask on the shorter strap-end is larger. On each strap-end the top of the piece is split to accommodate a strap and has holes for two rivets, three of which are in situ. The rivet holes flank a pendant semi-circular panel with a looped vegetal motif in low relief, one with a pronounced central arrow head. The flat central panels are not clean but appear to have different patterns of stylized animals with interlace against black niello inlay. Many details vary between the pieces but they are of almost identical weight.

These pieces by their form, their distinctive animal ornament and the use of niello are readily identifiable as large strap-ends of mid-Saxon date. The animal ornament is in the Trewhiddle style, distinguished by the head and ear type, the use of contouring nicks and body spotting. This style is dated by the coins of the Trewhiddle hoard, deposited in about AD 868, and the



(fig. 54) York area

strap-ends therefore date from around the mid 9th century. The pendant loops at the top are characteristic of pieces made in Northumbria, possibly the York area (G Thomas 'Strap-ends and the Identification of Regional Patterns' in 'Late Anglo-Saxon and Viking Age England', in M Redknap et al. (eds.), *Pattern and Purpose in Insular Art*, forthcoming, 49). These strap-ends appear to be part of a dispersed deposit from the same field now comprising a broken pendant frame and six other strap-ends.

**Dimensions:** (1) Length: 57.7mm; weight: 20.8g; (2) length: 56.0mm; weight: 20.9g.

**Note:** Part of a dispersed hoard from which six other strap-ends and other items have been recorded (see *Treasure Annual Report 1998–99*, nos. 76–77 and *Treasure Annual Report 2000*, no. 35).

**Disposition:** Yorkshire Museum.

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#### (iv) Hooked tags (chronological order)

**Note:** Hooked tags are commonly found in Anglo-Saxon England and served a variety of purposes, from attaching garters to acting as fasteners for purses. They were produced between the seventh century and the late medieval period. See L Webster and J Backhouse (eds.), *The Making of England* (London, 1991), nos. 196–200.

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#### 55 Eynsham, Oxfordshire: Anglo-Saxon silver hooked tag (2002 T62)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr Clive Gordon

**Date of discovery:** September 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Anglo-Saxon silver hooked tag, fragment missing. The piece is of sheet metal, with twin attachment lugs at one end and a hook at the other. It has a sub-circular plate, with a plain border widening to form a plain collar for the hook. The decoration consists of a Trehiddle-style backward-looking animal, with typical notches on its body. From the open mouth there is a bifurcated tongue which works as space-filler. The main forelimb is quite heavy and wedge-shaped. It slants forward, bends and thins to create a strand of interlace which enmeshes with that from the deeply notched hind leg, to fill the lower part of the field. To the right of the animal another strand of interlace is enmeshed with another forelimb.

**Discussion:** The decoration on this piece puts it clearly in the ninth century.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Width: 20mm; length: 20.9mm; weight: 2.2g. X-ray fluorescence analysis conducted at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 95 per cent.

**Disposition:** Disclaimed; to be returned to finder.

A GANNON

## 56 Lyminge, Kent: Anglo-Saxon silver hooked tag (M&ME 382) (fig.56)

**Date:** 9th century

**Finder:** Mr M Jennings

**Date of discovery:** Before May 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Silver hooked tag with circular plate boldly decorated with a symmetrical pattern of eight pointed hollow segments forming a circle against a recessed background; the hook tip detached and part of plate with attachment loop missing. The background is keyed for black niello inlay.

**Discussion:** The use of niello, form and style of ornament confirm that this is an Anglo-Saxon dress tag of late 9th-century date. This roundel of formal stylised vegetable pattern is matched by one on the



(fig. 56) Lyminge

border of the great 'Fuller Brooch' where three other versions of the pattern are also employed (J Backhouse, D H Turner and L Webster (eds), *The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art* (London, 1994), no.11). Such hooks could be used for leggings, veils and purse fastenings and are not uncommon finds, with two main types having either circular or triangular plates. It is noteworthy that this piece is linked by style and quality of execution to a major piece of the period.

**Dimensions and metal content:** Length: 26mm; disc diameter: 14.5mm; weight: 1.7g. X-ray fluorescence analysis at the British Museum indicated an approximate silver content of 99 per cent.

**Disposition:** British Museum.

S M YOUNGS

## 57 Whissonsett, Norfolk: Anglo-Saxon silver-gilt hooked tag (M&ME 436) (fig.57)

**Date:** 10th century

**Finder:** Mr J Linton

**Date of discovery:** 12 May 2001

**Circumstances of discovery:** While searching with a metal-detector.

**Description:** Silver hooked tag with circular plate, incomplete with hook and one attachment lug missing. The main plate is circular with an incised ring making a border and framing a cross of arcs with a large gilt domed stud in the centre. The arms of the cross are speckled and the background areas between each have incised a pair of leaves sitting on a semi-circle. Black niello inlay remains in some incised areas.