

must have continued throughout the post-Roman centuries'.³² This increased dependency on pastoral farming may help to explain the very tentative evidence for the relationships between Early Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemeteries and these large open areas of pasture.

The evidence from South Cambridgeshire suggests that excavations of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement need to be placed in a more secure topographic context, in order to establish whether the physical relationships hinted at in the local evidence have any wider basis in 'Midland' England.

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SUSAN OOSTHUIZEN

TWO LATE SAXON SPUR FRAGMENTS FROM SUSSEX AND HAMPSHIRE (Fig. 3)

The increase in metal-detecting has added considerably to our knowledge of Late Saxon horse-harness metalwork and other riding equipment and has expanded in great measure the number of artefacts, or records of artefacts, available for study. Although much work remains to be done, particularly in bringing this material together, recent studies amply demonstrate the wide range of artefact-type associated with riding gear, and their decorative treatment.³³ Among the items of metalwork commonly found are strap-mounts and terminals from stirrups, bridle cheekpieces, and harness links with their distinctive tri-lobed apertures. Most of these artefacts exhibit decoration directly inspired by Late Viking art styles together with a certain amount of decoration of indigenous or unknown origin. A series of zoomorphic harness pendants with adorsed beasts (the decoration on which is similar to that found on stirrup-strap mounts of Class A, Type 1) has also recently been identified,³⁴ and no doubt there remain to be identified other harness-related artefacts such as decorative studs.

Amongst this wealth of Late Saxon material the dearth of fragments which could be identified as parts of spurs has been notable. This note draws attention to two recent metal-detecting finds of composite objects of copper alloy and iron from the South of England which may convincingly be identified as zoomorphic spur-necks of a type not previously recorded.

The first object (Fig. 3a) was found in or about 1990 at Race Hill, Lewes, East Sussex, and submitted by the finder, Mr Isted, to Barbican House Museum, Lewes, for identification and recording (1990/46). This object measures 56 mm in length and takes the form of the head and neck of a beast. Through the length of the object runs an iron rod which protrudes from the beast's mouth as well as from the opposite end. The original form of the rod is no longer clear and internal corrosion has caused a split approximately 33 mm long to appear along the right-hand side of the head extending back into the neck,

³² T. Williamson, 'Settlement chronology and regional landscapes: the evidence from the claylands of East Anglia and Essex', 153–75 in D. Hooke (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Settlement* (Oxford, 1988), p. 171.

³³ E.g. J. Graham-Campbell, 'Anglo-Scandinavian equestrian equipment in 11th century England', *Anglo-Norman Stud.*, 14 (1991), 77–89; D. Williams, 'Late Saxon stirrup-strap mounts, a classification and catalogue', (CBA Res. Rep. 111, York, 1998); D. Williams, 'Stirrup terminals', *Finds Research Group 700–1700, Datasheet 24* (1999).

³⁴ Graham-Campbell, *op. cit.* in note 1, figs. 7–9.

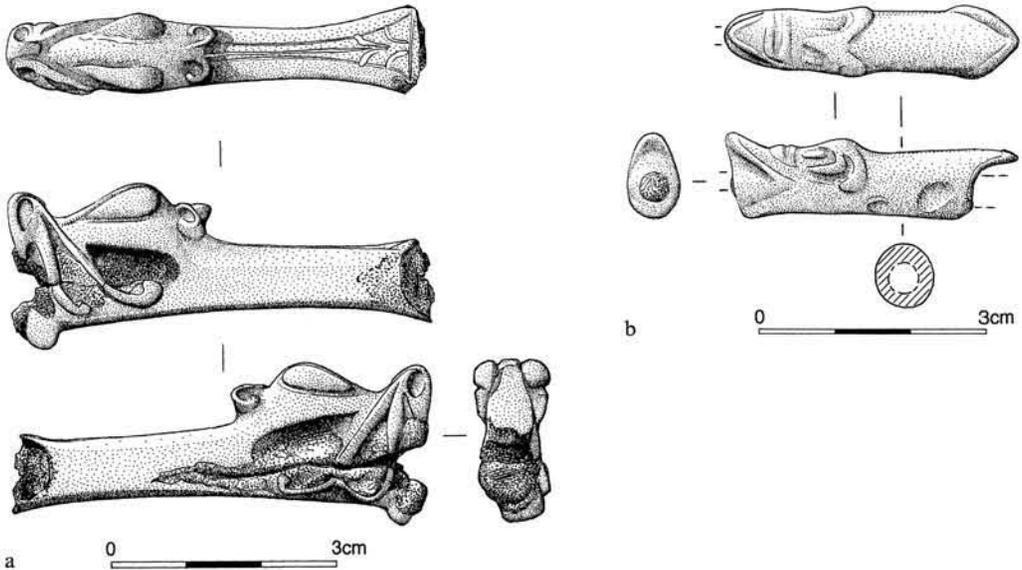


FIG. 3

(a) Spur neck from Race Hill, Lewes, East Sussex. (b) Spur neck from Soberton, Hants. Scale 1:1.

obscuring some details as a result. The head itself takes the form of an open-jawed beast, of fierce aspect, with flaring nostrils from which extend pairs of narrow tendrils which end in curling lobes. The head has a high forehead in which are set large bulging eyes in the form of pointed ovals. Set at the back of the head is a pair of small curling ears. Below the eyes, on both sides of the head, are large cavities which may be intended to represent the corners of the open mouth. The neck itself is of rounded rectangular section; it is waisted in plan and expands, both in plan and elevation, to terminate in a concavity which is only visible in the side view. The upper surface of the neck is decorated with a series of straight and curving lines, and curving shapes of vaguely vegetal form. These lines now stand slightly proud of the surface.

The second, smaller, object (Fig. 3b) was found at Soberton, Hants, by Mr P. Hayter who informed the writer directly. This object is 39 mm long and is less well modelled than the Lewes example, but is considered to be of similar purpose. The object is again in the form of an open-mouthed beast although the details are more debased; it is circular in section and expands slightly outwards to end in a concave terminal bordered with a raised collar. An iron shaft of circular section protrudes from either end and presumably extends the length of the object.

Two earlier discoveries of spurs from Britain, of uncertain but undoubtedly early medieval date and of somewhat different form, each have the goad protruding from the mouth of a beast. These were found at Pakenham, Suffolk,³⁵ and in excavations at High Street, Perth.³⁶

³⁵ Ashmolean Museum 1909.452: D. A. Hinton, *A Catalogue of Anglo-Saxon Ornamental Metalwork 700-1100 in the Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum* (Oxford, 1974), 55; H. de S. Shortt, 'A provincial Roman spur from Longstock, Hants, and other spurs from Roman Britain', *Antiq. J.*, 39 (1959), fig. 2 and pl. 15. Shortt originally proposed a 1st-century A.D. date for the Pakenham spur and also the example from Icklingham, below.

³⁶ N. Q. Bogdan, and J. W. Wordsworth, *The Medieval Excavations at the High Street, Perth 1975-6*, Interim Rep. (1978).

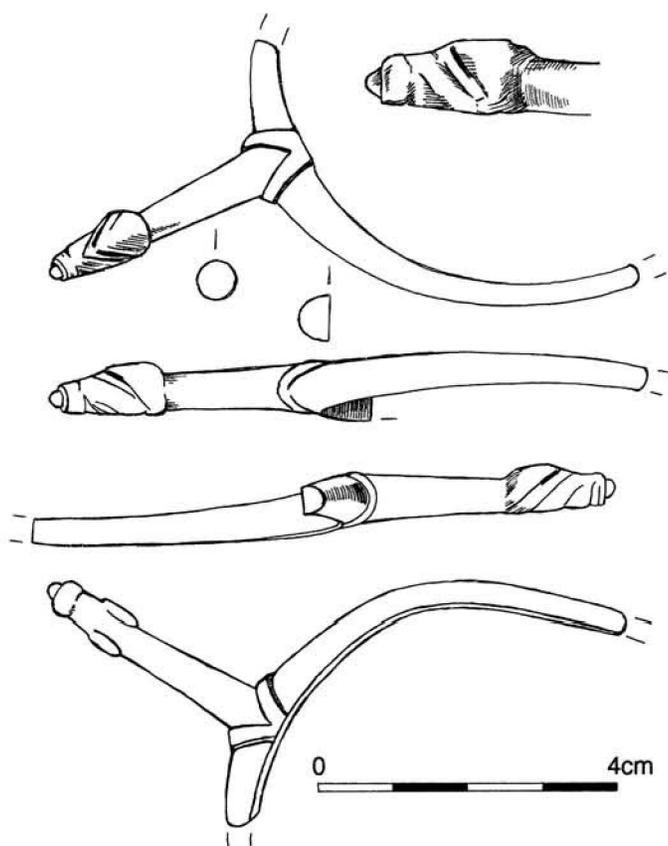


FIG. 4
Spur from Marnhull, Dorset.
Drawn by B. Ellis. Scale 1:1.

The Pakenham spur is of short-armed form with animal heads also forming the arm terminals. On this spur the copper alloy goad protrudes from the mouth of the head of a beast with flaring nostrils and large ears set behind the head. The head itself protrudes immediately from the body of the spur, having no neck. Each of the three heads originally had two blue glass eyes. The spur from Perth was found beneath a building dating from the mid to second half of the 12th century and may be of 11th- or 12th-century date.³⁷ The goad of this spur is also in the form of a stylised animal head, also with ears set at the back of the head. Some doubt has been cast on the identification of the Pakenham object as a spur,³⁸ however, there are similarities between it and the spur from Perth, a later discovery, for this doubt to be set aside. Blanche Ellis has also drawn my attention to a very recent find of a copper alloy spur from Marnhull, Dorset (Fig. 4), which has a zoomorphic goad at the termination of a long neck of circular section.³⁹ The junction of the neck with the sides of this spur is defined by a raised V-shaped moulding. Each of these three spurs is cast in one piece.

Another spur from Icklingham, Suffolk, is of similar form to that from Pakenham except that there is no animal head forming the goad, although there may once have

³⁷ Pers. comm. B. Ellis, who inclines towards an 11th-century date.

³⁸ Hinton, *op. cit.* in note 3.

³⁹ Length of neck with goad 35 mm; overall length now 75 mm (measured along the neck to a point level with the longest side).

been.⁴⁰ However, this spur has the remains of an iron goad riveted on to a hemispherical boss cast integrally with the body of the spur.

From the near continent three parallels, none close, will suffice: a pair of encrusted spurs from grave 2 at Nørre Longelse, Denmark, with terminals in the form of stylised zoomorphic faces;⁴¹ and a prick spur of 11th-century date in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum,⁴² whose goad, of uncertain form, projects from the mouth of a zoomorphic face set at the junction of sides and neck. There are also two faces on the straight sides. There is finally a copper alloy spur acquired by the Engel collection from Paderborn, Germany, with goad formed as a bearded head with ears above and beard forming the goad point.⁴³

The concave terminal of the neck on the Lewes find suggests that this object was intended to protrude horizontally from another object of semi-circular or curving profile; such a description as would fit the body of a spur. The decoration on the neck suggests that the object is primarily intended to be visible from above, which again would suit a spur. This finely modelled head, with its bulging pointed oval eyes and curling tendrils points to the Urnes Style of Late Viking art, and clearly places the object within the 11th century and probably within its first half. The Soberton object is likely to have had a similar function and to be of similar date, although of less high quality. The V-shaped collar is clearly reminiscent of the moulding at the junction of neck and sides on the Marnhull spur.

It is concluded that both objects are the necks of spurs of composite construction and that both date to the 11th century. The Lewes neck in particular is a well modelled, high-quality casting and is likely to have formed part of a pair of spurs of similar high quality. It is hoped that this note will bring other hitherto unrecognised examples of Late Saxon spurs to light.

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DAVID WILLIAMS

TWO ADJUSTABLE CANDLEHOLDERS FROM WARWICKSHIRE (Fig. 5)

Two medieval adjustable candleholders of a very unusual type were reported to the Warwickshire Museum in the mid-1990s. The first was found at Ditchford Frary, a deserted medieval village in South Warwickshire, by Mr E. J. Warren in 1996, and this was followed a year later by a second example from Churchover in the east of the county found by Mr M. Miles.⁴⁴ Taken together these candleholders provide evidence for the first detailed description of this artefact-type.

These candleholders are made of copper alloy rather than iron which was the more commonly used material in the Middle Ages. Each candleholder consists of two main parts, a stem and an arm, which are connected by a swivel pin. The stem is formed of a

⁴⁰ Ipswich Museum 1936.278: H. de S. Shortt, 'Another spur of the first century AD from Suffolk', *Antiq. J.*, 44 (1964), 60, fig. 1.

⁴¹ J. Graham-Campbell, *Viking Artefacts* (London, 1980), 82, no. 291.

⁴² No. W3262, labelled 'Bodenfund aus Leicester bei Bamberg'.

⁴³ *Zeitschrift für Historische Waffenkunde*, VI (Dresden, 1912-14), 327.

⁴⁴ Full details of findspots are recorded in the Warwickshire Sites and Monuments Record.