

## EXCAVATION OF PAGAN BURIAL MOUNDS AT INGLEBY.

### Second Report.

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By CAMDEN CLARKE, WILLIAM FRASER  
and F. W. MUNSLOW.

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THE report of the excavation of a number of burial mounds in a Pagan Cemetery at Ingleby<sup>1</sup> aroused considerable interest, and the importance of the site was generally recognised. In his paper, "Early Scandinavian Settlement in Derbyshire,"<sup>2</sup> Dr. F. T. Wainwright stated that "the Ingleby cemetery is of great importance," and also "from the mounds still unexcavated we may expect to learn many new details of the earliest phase of Danish settlement in England."

Encouraged by the reception of their first report, the writers recommenced excavation in the autumn of 1948 in an attempt to obtain further evidence. A mound was selected a few yards to the west of Mound 6 (see plan accompanying first report). When cleared of undergrowth this mound (Mound 7) measured approximately 28 feet in diameter and 36 inches in height near the centre.

From the south-west side a trench seven feet wide was driven towards the centre of the mound. The first twelve feet excavated was mainly marl and gravel, with thinly distributed small pieces of sandstone. At approximately twelve feet from the south-west edge of the mound larger

<sup>1</sup> *D.A.J.*, Vol. LXVI (1946), pp. 1 to 23.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Vol. LXVII (1947), pp. 96 to 119.

pieces of sandstone was encountered, and at this point a very thin layer of charcoal, interspersed with calcined bone fragments, were located. The trench was extended and widened to reveal the whole area of the charcoal hearth, and it was found to lie well away from the centre of the mound in a north-westerly direction—in fact it reached to within two feet of the north-west extremity of the mound. The charcoal area was appreciably larger than in any of the mounds previously uncovered, being of an irregular oval shape, 10 feet long by 8 feet wide.

Distributed throughout the charcoal were innumerable fragments of bone, all shewing signs of fire and much fissured and warped by the heat. There had been considerable disturbance by root action and by burrowing animals.

The most important find was the lower part of a sword blade measuring  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and 2 inches across at its widest point. The blade differs from that recovered from Mound 1 in that it is not channelled. At a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the blade was a fragment of iron with rounded ends, measuring five inches long and seven-tenth inches wide, which Mr. E. T. Leeds describes as the lower guard of a sword (see his report).

Nearly two dozen iron rivets or nails were recovered, scattered irregularly about the hearth. This is many more than were discovered in any other single mound. Many had the shank clenched over, and one had a smaller rivet attachment. Several larger pieces of iron were found, one being apparently a nail or a buckle prong, but the others were too much distorted by fire for their character to be determined.

The excavation carried out to date has sufficiently revealed the interesting possibilities of the cemetery, but it is clear that further operations should preferably be carried out by a scientific party with full equipment and adequate labour. Such an interesting and important

site has strong claims to be scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

The writers are once again greatly indebted to Mr. E. Thurlow Leeds, M.A., F.S.A., for giving so much time and thought to his examination of the finds and for his valued report.

In addition to the writers, the labour of excavation was shared by H. Barlow, D. Hulme, K. H. Mantell, M.A., and K. G. Smith.

### **Second Report.**

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By E. THURLOW LEEDS, M.A., F.S.A.

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I was interested to see that, as before, you only recovered part of the blade of the sword. It seems to me that two alternative explanations could be offered: (1) that the sword was deliberately mutilated before cremation, which I find hard to believe, or, (2) that the end of the blade was as it were ejected from the pyre by the heat of the fire, for judging from the first report the pyre was not of great size . . . I do not feel that there is a great deal to build upon. Of the sword with only the lower guard preserved, all I can say is that the guard is of a shape common to several varieties of Viking swords as classified by Jan Petersen, but in particular to his type H, which has an upper guard of similar shape with a triangular pommel atop. In his opinion the type ranges in date from 800-950 A.D. and must therefore have been too common to be able to say that it has any special English affinities.

For the nails, the only idea I can offer is that they

are studs riveted through the leather and wood of a shield. It is a pity you did not come across some iron fragment that could be identified as part of a shield-boss. The length of the nails and the depth of the turnover of the best preserved example is, I think, in favour of the above interpretation.