

NOTES

- ¹ M. B. Mackeprang, *De Nordiske Goldbrakteater*, Jysk Arkaeologisk Selskabs Skrifter II (1952), 26–31, pls. 3–4.
² K. Hauck *et al.*, *Die Goldbrakteaten der Völkerwanderungszeit. Ikonographischer Katalog* (Münstersche Mittelalterschriften 24, 3 vols., 1985 ff), no. 47, 2.
³ *Ibid.*, no. 282.
⁴ M. Axboe, 'The Scandinavian gold bracteates', *Acta Archaeologica* 52 (1981), 1–87, esp. 38–41.
⁵ *Ibid.*, Pl. XI, 325a.
⁶ Hauck *et al.*, *op. cit.* in note 2, no. 341.
⁷ J. Hines, *The Scandinavian Character of Anglian England in the pre-Viking Period* (Oxford, British Archaeol. Reports, Brit. Ser. 124, 1984), 202–03.
⁸ Mackeprang, *op. cit.* in note 1, Pl. 23.16–19; O. Voss, 'The Høstentorp Silver Hoard and its Period', *Acta Archaeologica* (1954), 25, 202 and Fig. 19.
⁹ Mackeprang, *op. cit.* in note 1, 1.10.
¹⁰ G. Haseloff, 'Salin's Style I', *Medieval Archaeol.* 18 (1974), 1–17; *id.* *Die Germanische Tierornamentik der Völkerwanderungszeit*, 3 vols. (Berlin, 1981).
¹¹ J. Hines and B. Odenstedt, 'The Undley Bracteate and its runic inscription', *Studien zur Sachsenforschung* 6 (1987), 73–94.
¹² Hines, *op. cit.* in note 7, 209–10.
¹³ S. C. Hawkes and M. Pollard, 'The gold bracteates from sixth-century Anglo-Saxon graves in Kent, in the light of a new find from Finglesham'; *Frühmittelalterliche Studien* 15 (1981), 316–70.
¹⁴ Hines, *op. cit.* in note 7; *id.* 'Philology, Archaeology and the *adventus Saxonum vel Anglorum*', in A. Bammesberger and A. Wollmann (eds.), *Britain 400–600: Language and History* (Heidelberg, 1990), 17–36.
¹⁵ J. Hines, *A New Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches* (London, Society of Antiquaries Research Rep., forthcoming).
¹⁶ L. Hedeager, 'Kingdoms, ethnicity and material culture: Denmark in a European perspective', in M. O. H. Carver (ed.), *The Age of Sutton Hoo* (Woodbridge, 1992), 279–300, esp. 289 ff. and refs.
¹⁷ J. Hines, 'Ritual hoarding in Migration-period Scandinavia: a review of recent interpretation', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 55 (1989), 193–205.
¹⁸ E. T. Leeds, 'Anglo-Saxon remains', *Victoria County History for Oxfordshire*, 1, 346–72, esp. 355–56.
¹⁹ Hines, *op. cit.* in note 17.
²⁰ Unpublished report by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit.

TWO VIKING-AGE SILVER INGOTS FROM DITCHINGHAM AND HINDRINGHAM, NORFOLK: THE FIRST EAST ANGLIAN INGOT FINDS (Figs. 1, 2)

The first stray find of a Viking-Age ingot to be recorded in England was discovered at Easingwold, Yorkshire in 1989.¹ Following the publication of this two further isolated finds of ingots were recognized from Norfolk.

One was found in January 1989 with the aid of a metal detector at Hindringham, c. 10 km NE. of Fakenham (Norfolk SMR no. 25071), on a site which has yielded prolific evidence, in metalwork and pottery, of mid and late Saxon occupation.² The finder, Mr P. West, offered it for identification by the Norfolk Museums Service, but it was unrecognized. After the Ditchingham ingot described below had been given some publicity at the Norwich Detector Club, Mr West resubmitted the Hindringham piece, which was then identified as of Viking-Age origin.

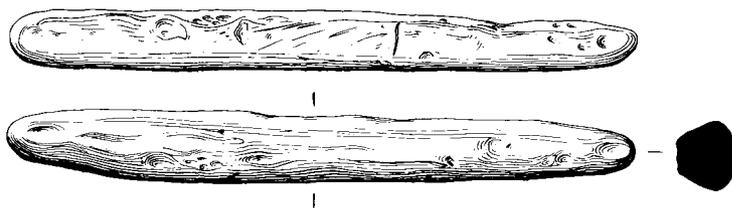


FIG. 1

The Hindringham ingot. Scale 1:1

The Hindringham ingot (Fig. 1) measures 10 mm long, 8 mm wide and 82.5 mm deep (maximum dimensions). Its weight is 38.12 g. In cross-section it resembles a triangle with the peak cut off and with rounded corners. The broad base was presumably uppermost in the casting mould, although it is convex and one might expect it to have been either flat or slightly concave due to shrinkage of the metal on cooling. The ingot does not appear to have been deliberately worked after casting, but there are shallow abrasions, particularly on the base, as if it had been moved over a rough surface, and there are a number of dents that could be the result of accidental knocks. Two cuts with a sharp instrument (a knife?) into the rounded edges on each side of the base seem to be deliberate 'pecks' (or 'nicks'), i.e. test marks that are often found on metalwork from Scandinavian or Anglo-Scandinavian finds of the Viking Age.

The Hindringham ingot is similar in character to that from Easingwold and others which have been found in Britain in, for example, the mixed coin and silver hoards from Cuerdale (deposited *c.* 905), Scotby (*c.* 935) and Chester 1950 (*c.* 970) and in the 10th-century hoard, mainly of ingots, from Bowes Moor.³ There is considerable variety in their size and shape, but a triangular or, as here, squared triangular cross-section is commonly found. The weight of the Hindringham ingot (38.12 g) falls well within the general range of this type of ingot, although it does not fit conveniently into any of the weight standards postulated for this period.⁴

The second specimen was found in February 1991 by Mr M. Bone while metal-detecting on a ploughed field at Ditchingham, 2 km N. of Bungay in S. Norfolk (Norfolk SMR no. 11674). It was reported by the finder to the Norfolk Museums Service. Crop-marks, suggesting enclosures of uncertain date, have been photographed in this field. To date only one other artefact has been recovered, a sherd of Ipswich ware of the mid 7th to late 9th centuries.

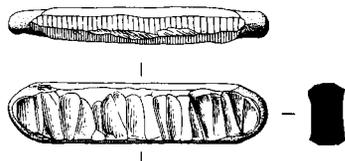


FIG. 2

The Ditchingham ingot. Scale 1:1

The ingot (Fig. 2) is rectangular in cross-section, measuring 35 mm long, 7 mm wide, and 5 mm deep (maximum dimensions), and weighing 8.81 g. It differs from the Hindringham ingot in that on its upper surface it has a series of transverse lines created by hammering, and on each long side it has been hammered to produce three smooth facets. The base as illustrated was probably the upper surface during casting, for it is slightly concave due in part to contraction of the metal as it cooled in the mould and in part to the hammering of the sides. The surfaces of the base and the two rounded ends do not appear to have been hammered, and are indeed somewhat pitted from the casting process. No 'pecks' or other test marks are evident.

Ingots with similar transverse hammering are common in Scandinavian hoards from the mid 10th century onwards, and they are the dominant type during the late 10th and 11th centuries. In Britain they are found in as early a context as the Cuerdale hoard (dep. *c.* 905), but they are rare. Kruse has noted only fourteen examples out of almost 500 ingots from England; twelve from Cuerdale and two from the Chester 1950 hoard.⁵ Transverse hammered ingots are also known from late Roman/Migration Period hoards, notably from Scandinavia, but not so far as we know from Britain. However, an ingot of this size, found in the Danelaw, is very likely to have been lost during the later 9th or early 10th centuries. The

weight of 8.81 g accords moderately well with a one-third division of the 25 g/26 g unit suggested by a number of classes of Viking-Age ingots and weights.

These appear to be the first ingots recorded from East Anglia; indeed any ornamental silver or hack-silver is rarely found in East Anglian hoards.⁶ Yet it is not surprising that they should occur since 'foreign' coins — Carolingian, Islamic, and West Saxon/English Mercian — do occur as stray finds and as minor elements in some of the late 9th- or early 10th-century hoards. None the less, it seems clear that from as early as the 880s the currency of the southern Danelaw was dominated by locally produced coins struck to a controlled weight standard which was comparable to the former Anglian one.⁷ A bullion economy, exemplified by these ingot finds, does not seem to have been employed extensively in East Anglia or to have survived for long after the initial Scandinavian conquest and settlement of the later 9th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Mr M. Bone and Mr P. West for making these finds available for study, to Dr Susan Kruse for expert advice, and to Sue White for preparing the drawings published here.

M. A. S. BLACKBURN and A. ROGERSON

NOTES

¹ M. A. S. Blackburn and M. J. Bonser, 'A Viking-Age silver ingot from near Easingwold, Yorks.', *Medieval Archaeol.* 34 (1990), 149–50.

² Coins from the site include a cut half of a plated forgery of an imitative gold solidus of Louis the Pious, dating from the second half of the 9th century; M. A. S. Blackburn, M. J. Bonser and D. Chick, 'Single-finds of Anglo-Saxon and Norman coins — 4', in M. A. S. Blackburn and D. M. Metcalf (eds.), *Anglo-Saxon Productive Sites* (Oxford, British Archaeol. Repts., forthcoming).

³ E. Hawkins, 'An account of coins and treasure trove found at Cuerdale', *Archaeol. J.* 4 (1847), 112–30, 189–99; S. E. Kruse, 'The Viking-Age silver hoard from Scotby: the non-numismatic element', *Trans. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiq. and Archaeol. Soc.* 86 (1986), 79–83; G. Webster, R. H. Dolley and G. C. Dunning, 'A Saxon treasure hoard found at Chester, 1950', *Antiq. J.* 33 (1953), 22–32; B. J. N. Edwards, 'Viking silver ingots from Bowes Moor, Yorkshire', *Antiq. J.* 65 (1985), 457–59.

⁴ S. E. Kruse, 'Ingots and weight units in Viking Age silver hoards', *World Archaeology* 20 (1988), 285–301.

⁵ S. E. Kruse, *Viking-Age Silver Ingots from England and Wales and their Economic Implications* (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1988), 41–42.

⁶ The only mixed hoard is that from Laxfield, Suffolk (1819), which is said to have been found near a silver ring; R. H. M. Dolley and K. F. Morrison, 'Finds of Carolingian coins from Great Britain and Ireland', *British Numismatic J.* 32 (1963), 75–87, at 79.

⁷ M. A. S. Blackburn, 'The Ashdon (Essex) hoard and the currency of the Southern Danelaw in the late ninth century', *British Numismatic J.* 59 (1989), 13–38.

A TENTH-CENTURY BELL-PIT AND BELL-MOULD FROM ST OSWALD'S PRIORY, GLOUCESTER (Figs. 3–10; Pl. v)

St Oswald's Priory, Gloucester, is represented by a ruined wall situated north-west of Gloucester Cathedral on the fringe of the medieval town (Fig. 3). The priory has its origins as an Anglo-Saxon minster founded c. 900 by Æthelflæd, Lady of the Mercians and the eldest child of Alfred the Great, and her husband Æthelred, Earl of Mercia. The ruin incorporates several phases of Anglo-Saxon fabric, the earliest of which probably dates to the original foundation; and excavations from 1974 to 1981 established the plan of the Anglo-Saxon church and enabled a reconstruction to be made (Fig. 4).¹

The earliest phase of the building had no floor levels; the earliest surviving floors, located in patches, could only be assigned a *terminus ante quem* of the early 11th century. However, immediately above the construction levels and scaffolding pits of the earliest church (Period 1A) and beneath the earliest surviving floors, there was evidence of industrial