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RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN
ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & SUFFOLK

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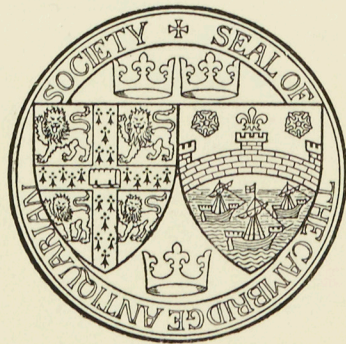
RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN
ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & SUFFOLK

A Report

COMPILED AND ILLUSTRATED

by

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W. R. HAYES



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PREFACE

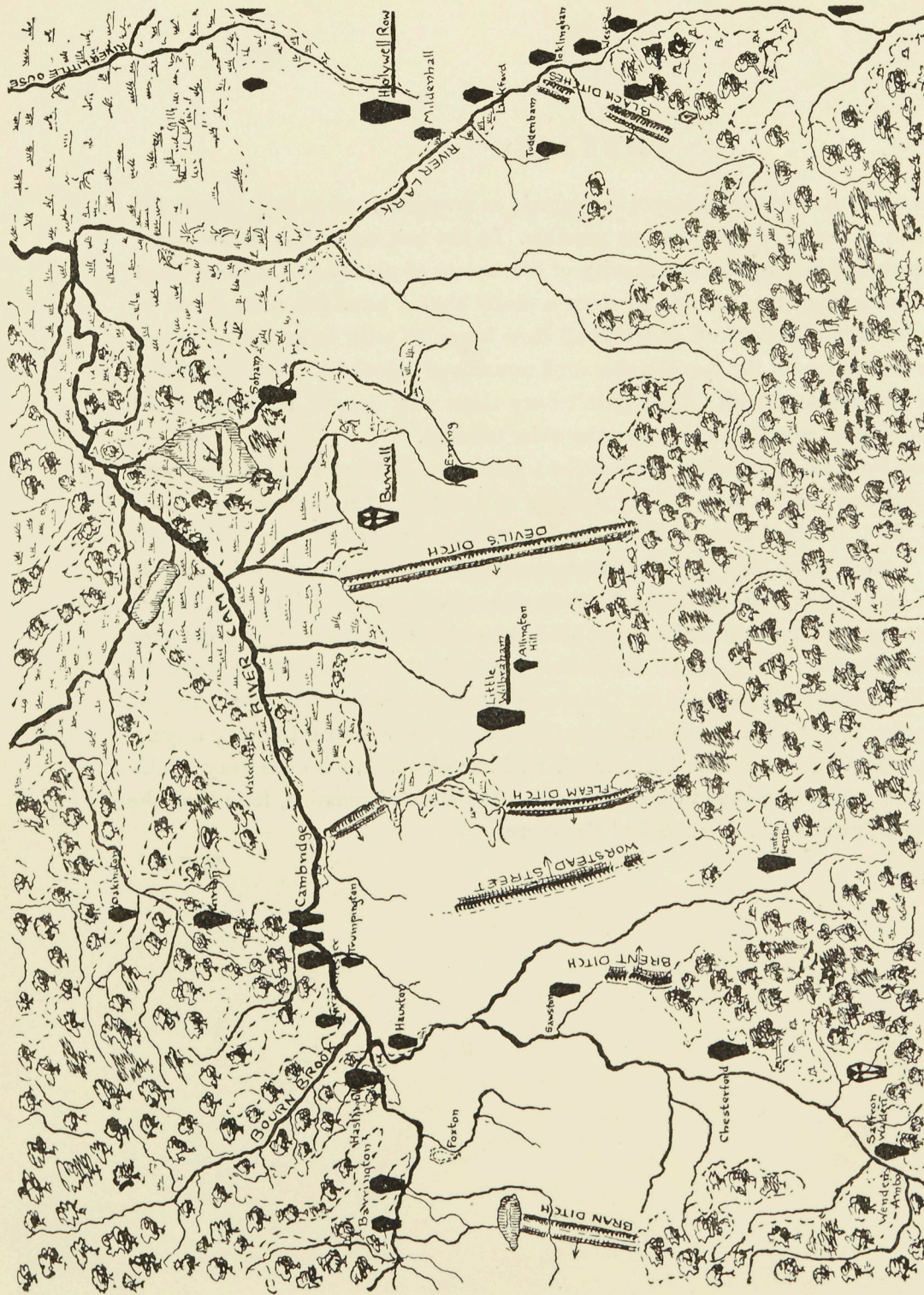
THIS work is nothing more than a Report on certain excavations, and as such follows the modern fashion of being as colourless as possible. In the last century a similar work would have included musings on the brevity of life, scraps of poetry and various other frills. Now archaeology has become so stern a study that I have not even dared to describe our feelings when a skull at Holywell Row began to walk away with a young rabbit inside it or to record the innumerable droll remarks of onlookers. These invariably opened their conversation with "They didn't bury them very deep in those days, did they?" Most readers would surely prefer the older method.

I was very fortunate in having two excellent workmen, William Frost at Holywell Row and John Cook at Burwell, to say nothing of voluntary helpers; of these Lord Cawdor and Mr C. F. Tebbutt should not be forgotten, for their help was invaluable. For the rest, I must thank Miss M. O'Reilly for reading the proofs and for much valuable advice; Mr Louis Clarke, Curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, for his help and interest, and for permission to publish the objects excavated which are preserved in the Museum; Mr T. A. G. Strickland for taking the excellent photographs (Pls. I, II, IV-VI) and the Syndics of the University Press who have produced the Report so satisfactorily. I also wish to thank all my friends who have helped in other ways.

Perhaps I should mention here that Dr W. H. L. Duckworth, who has very kindly undertaken the rather thankless task of examining the skeletal remains, feels that the results would be more useful if published elsewhere.

T. C. L.

December 1930



- Pagan Burials
- Christian Burials
- Lake
- Forest
- Ditch

Plan I
 Sketch map showing relative positions of cemeteries.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY
AT HOLYWELL (OR HOLLYWELL) ROW, SUFFOLK

HOLYWELL ROW (*Six-inch ordnance map*, Suffolk [West], sheet XXI N.W.)

(Site 500 yards to south of Holywell Farm on east side of Holywell-Mildenhall road.)

THIS cemetery was discovered by warreners on the estate of Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart. When it was reported to the owner he very kindly placed the matter in the hands of the Rev. C. Wood, the Dean of Queens' College, and Dr A. B. Cook, who discovered several skeletons there (see Plan 2). I shall not deal with these graves as I was not present when they were found, but their contents showed that the site was a burial ground of the pagan period. The work was then turned over to me and one hundred graves were explored. It is not thought that the cemetery is exhausted but, owing to the scattered distribution of the burials, the necessity for preparing the land for a crop and the distance from Cambridge, it was necessary to conclude the excavation. Here as at Burwell the results obtained by these excavations can be tested at some future date.

Some of the graves were in sand and very hard to distinguish. Others were in chalk and therefore could be found more easily. It is thought that the sand was deliberately chosen for the majority of the graves on account of the greater ease with which they could be dug. Most of the skeletons were very ill preserved.

The site itself is on a small rise immediately adjoining an arm of the fen which is still marshy. It may be thought that the huts of the villagers were not far away. A large pit cuts into the site between it and the road. This may have been originally a swallow hole such as are common in the neighbourhood, but it is known that chalk was formerly quarried here. Many graves must have been destroyed and some of the objects in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology labelled "Mildenhall" and "Eriswell" probably come from them. A large area which was not actually trenched was tested for graves with a probe and this is shown on the plan. I should like to emphasise the usefulness of this instrument, which I had constructed on the lines of that described by Faussett (*Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 87) for discovering any inequalities in chalk or other rock. It is of course useless in sand. Very many graves were found with this implement before they were revealed in the trenches.

In the case of the burials in the sand we were with practice able to distinguish not only the disturbance of the sand itself long before the skeleton was reached, but also whether the corpse had been buried on a wet or dry day by the extra firmness of the sand above it.

The cemetery itself may, I think, be regarded as a typical village graveyard of the East Angles in the pagan period. I can distinguish no marked difference between it and any other East Anglian cemetery where cremation was not practised. This seems to me the only real difference between it and such cemeteries as Little Wilbraham and Girton.

The Cambridge Antiquarian Society is very much indebted to Sir Henry Bunbury for his kindness in letting it undertake the work.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAVES

In these graves all the heads were towards the west with the exceptions of No. 26 to the north-west and No. 43 to the south-west. No account is taken of variations a little to the north or south of west, they were obviously merely due to the gravediggers' lack of a magnetic compass and to the sky being overcast.

No. 1. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand, very much decayed but apparently buried with the knees partially drawn up. Two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 1 A, no. 5) near the head. Above them and near to the remains of the lower jaw which was still visible was a string of seven amber beads, one glass bead, one disc bead, and two spangles of bronze (Fig. 1 A, nos. 2, 4), the whole apparently suspended from two rings of twisted bronze wire (Fig. 1 A, no. 1). At the supposed position of the left hip was a fragmentary ring of iron $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter (Fig. 1 A, no. 6) and a small iron knife $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. A small triangular plate of bronze near the neck has three holes in it, from one of which hangs a spangle on iron wire. The whole probably formed a central pendant.

Annular brooches of this form are very common locally. Little is known as to their date.

Spangles have not been recorded before on necklaces.

Amber beads, small, roughly spherical and of common form.

Glass bead, cylindrical of pale yellow transparent glass.

Iron ring. This may have formed part of the framework of a purse, but more probably was a key ring. (See Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, Pl. LXXXVIII, no. 4.)

No. 2. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. deep in sand. Much decayed. Legs straightened. Pelvis, ribs and vertebrae decayed. A single spherical bead of black and yellow glass by the chin. Probably a woman.

No. 3. Two skeletons 2 ft. deep in chalk. Fairly well preserved. Both apparently males. A, lay on its face with hands up to the chin and legs straight. Fragment of iron buckle under sacrum. B, lay on its back, knees slightly drawn up. One hand on pelvis the other at the chin. An iron stud from a shield lay between the knees. This had certainly come from Grave 4, which had been slightly disturbed by this double burial. It would seem probable that male skeletons without weapons in this cemetery and others of the pagan period are those of slaves.

No. 4. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. Fairly well preserved. Probably a male. He lay on his back, legs straight, hands crossed on pelvis. At his right shoulder lay an iron spear head of typical Anglo-Saxon form, 11 in. long with split socket. Against the right femur lay some fragments of iron hooping and traces of wood, also an iron handle 8 in. in diameter. This was evidently the remains of a small iron-bound bucket lying on its side. A morsel of bone lay amongst the iron. Against the left tibia lay an iron shield boss (like Fig. 21 B, no. 2) 5 in. in diameter and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. high. A small bronze buckle (Fig. 14 E) lay near the lumbar vertebrae and traces of iron, probably a knife, under the left forearm.

Shield. The boss is much more conical in form than is usual in the local cemeteries though not so high as the "Kentish" variety. The grip was a flat bar of iron not $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide at the centre point and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. at either end. The wooden shield must have been slightly more than 2 ft. in diameter as was shown by the hole cut in the chalk to receive it.

Bucket. Remains of wooden buckets bound with bronze are found in most cemeteries. Iron-bound specimens are less frequently recorded, e.g. Barrington.

Buckle, of simple type such as is found in large numbers at Burwell. The form is so constant that I feel there must have been some central point of distribution. This is not the case with the larger buckles.

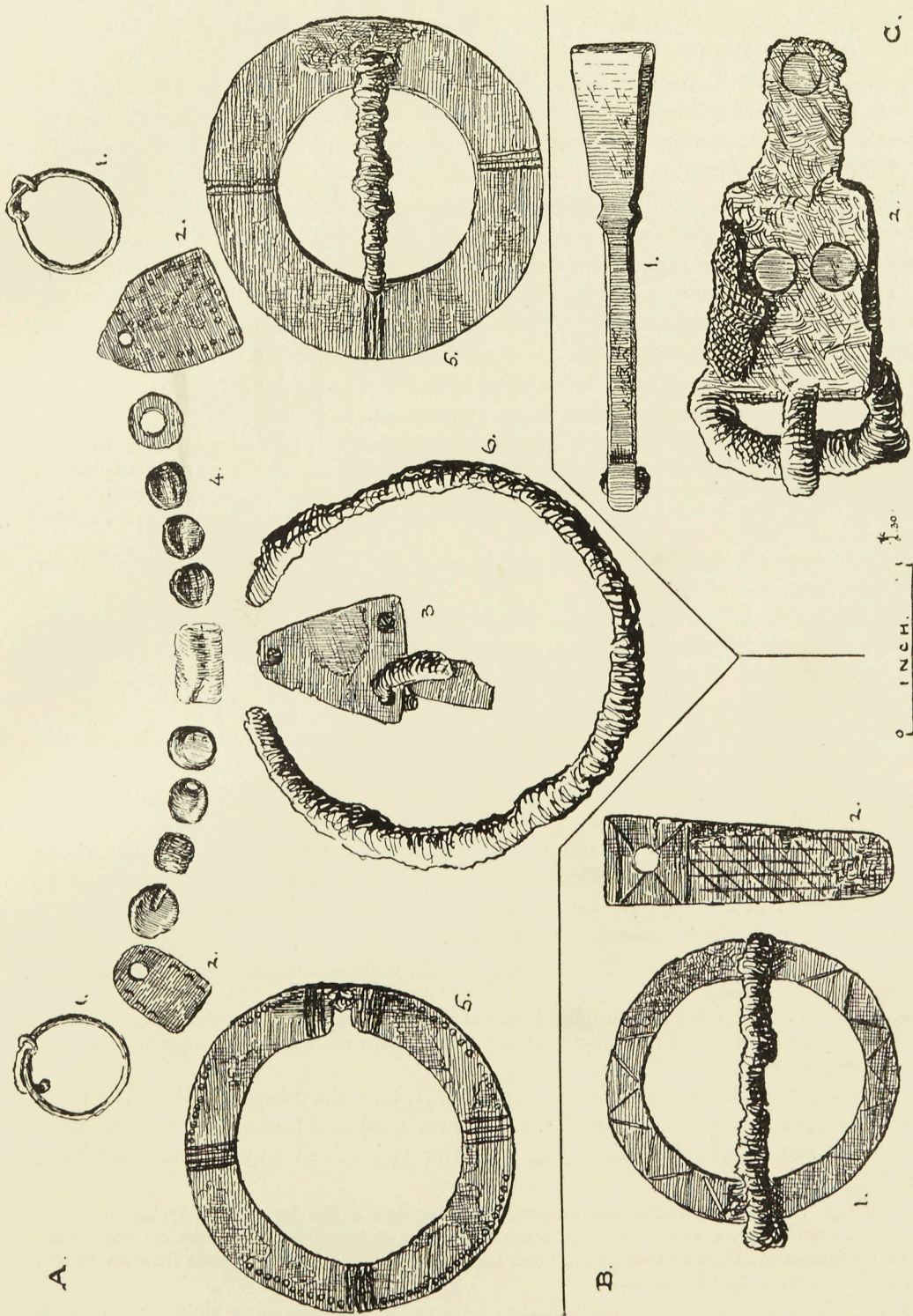


Fig. 1

A. Grave I. 1. Bronze rings. 2. Bronze pendant. 3. Bronze plate and pendant. 4. Beads (1 glass, 1 bronze, 7 amber). 5. Annular brooches. 6. Iron ring. B. Grave 7. 1. Annular brooch. 2. Strap end. C. Grave 9. 1. Tweezers. 2. Iron buckle.

No. 5. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. In pretty fair order. Lying on its back with legs crossed at ankles, left hand lying on pelvis, right extended by its side. Almost certainly a male. No associated objects.

No. 6. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. In pretty fair order. Right arm displaced by rabbits or some other animals, or perhaps humans. Both arms had been extended by the sides and legs straightened. A man as I think. An iron knife on the left hip and a trace of bronze at the right.

No. 7. Skeleton 2 ft. 8 in. deep in sand. Very much decayed. No trace of ribs, vertebrae, pelvis or ends of long bones. No facial bones. Judged to be a woman from the associated objects. Knees slightly drawn up. Arms crossed over the middle of the body. Two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 1 B, no. 1) near the chin and right shoulder. A string of fourteen amber and eight glass beads extended towards the left humerus. An iron knife, an iron ring as with No. 1 and a bronze strap end (Fig. 1 B, no. 2) lay near the head of the left femur. The remains of an iron pin 4 in. long near the throat.

Annular brooches, ornamented with incised chevron ornament.

Amber beads. Fourteen small and roughly spherical, one "annular" $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick.

Glass beads. Five of the blown glass type constricted in several places to form a series of small globes.

They are double shelled and said to contain gold leaf between transparent layers. One pale blue cylindrical bugle. One cylindrical bead of opaque green and red. Lastly, spherical bead of opaque red glass.

Strap end, with incised linear ornament. Common in many cemeteries. (See Mortimer, *Forty Years' Researches*, Figs. 770, 772, 786.)

No. 8. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. Moderate preservation. Thought to be a male. Legs and right arm extended. Left arm crossed over body. A very small iron spear head 4 in. long under skull. A pot (Pl. I) by left side of head. Remains of iron buckle at right hip and iron knife on left hip.

Pot, in very poor condition. The neck is rather taller and narrower than is usually seen in urns used for holding cremated burials.

No. 9. Skeleton 2 ft. 10 in. deep in sand. Not very good state of preservation. Pelvis, etc., wanting. Thought to be a male. Knees slightly bent. Right hand on middle, left arm extended by the side. Between the left arm and the trace of the lumbar vertebrae lay an iron knife $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. A pair of bronze tweezers (Fig. 1 C, no. 1) and a large iron buckle (Fig. 1 C, no. 2) $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. long with three bronze studs on the chape. There is a trace of finely woven cloth preserved in the rust.

Tweezers are frequently found with Anglo-Saxon burials, both in cremation urns and with inhumations.

Buckle. This buckle is not of a type usually found in the local cemeteries but that may be largely due to the material of which it is made. Rusty iron buckles are not likely to be preserved by ordinary labourers in gravel or chalkpits.

No. 10. Some milk teeth in a black deposit 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. With the teeth were two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 18 D, nos. 1, 2) and four amber beads. Some fragments of iron, a speculum ring $\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter and eleven tiny bronze cylindrical objects (Fig. 18 D, no. 3).

Bronze "buckets". These are similar to some from Lakenheath in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, with no record of their discovery. Others from Yorkshire cemeteries are figured by Mortimer, Figs. 802 and 873. Their use is not known. I suggest that they are beads, but see Mortimer, p. 292 footnote.

No. 11. Skeleton 4 ft. 4 in. deep in chalk and sand. Bones almost gone but apparently those of a child. The body had been placed in a wooden coffin of which a large fragment



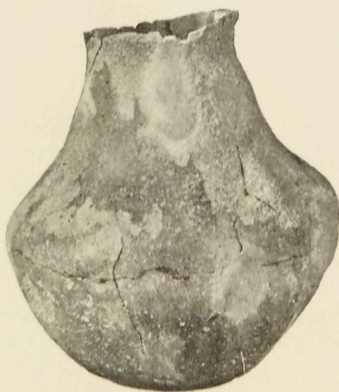
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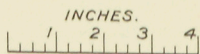
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PLATE I. POTS FROM GRAVES AT HOLYWELL ROW.

remained at the head (Plan 3). A bronze bowl with a flanged and embossed rim had been placed on the coffin. When the wood decayed it had fallen into it and been crushed to pieces by the weight of overlying soil. A second bowl (Fig. 3, no. 1) of more usual form had been apparently placed outside the coffin at the feet, and being filled with sand at the time the grave was filled in was much better preserved. An iron weaving batten (Fig. 3, no. 2) had also been placed outside the coffin, and like the bronze bowl still lay in the slanting position in which it had fallen at the time of the coffin's collapse. Under the first bronze bowl were the remains of the skull but little save teeth could be distinguished. Mixed with the teeth and apparently under the lower jaw was a fine square-headed bronze gilt brooch set with garnets of which only one remains (Fig. 2, no. 1). A few inches to the south were two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 2, no. 2) of unusual form. The square-headed brooch lay with the foot upwards and the ornamented surface uppermost. I think the skull must have been displaced and fallen on top of it when the coffin collapsed. Everything in the coffin however seems to have been jolted considerably before it was placed in the earth. This can be realised by looking at the positions of the strings of amber, jet, crystal and glass beads and of the girdle ornaments as shown on the diagram. On either wrist was a fine spiral bracelet of silver (Fig. 2, no. 3), and on one finger had been a spiral ring of silver also (Fig. 2, no. 6). Amongst the beads were three pendants (Fig. 2, nos. 4, 5). Two are simple discs of silver but the third is a circular silver framework containing three garnets and a piece of green glass set in compartments and cemented on to a silver backing. Near the teeth were several tiny fragments of gold braid which had probably originally formed part of a ribbon. Two very large bronze girdle hangers lay upside down beyond the beads (Fig. 2, no. 7). With them were two bronze strap ends (Fig. 2, no. 8), a bronze buckle with iron pin (Fig. 2, no. 10), an iron knife and strike-a-light and a bronze ring.

Square-headed brooch. This is a very fine example ornamented with "chip carved" zoomorphic figures in Style I and also with spirals. Although some of the animals have been disjoined the majority are complete, and it is improbable that the brooch was made later than the end of the VI century. It is, according to Nils Åberg's typology, a member of a small group (Nils Åberg, *Anglo-Saxons in England*, Figs. 122, 123), mostly found in Kent, although the specimen which resembles ours most nearly comes from Suffolk and is in the Ashmolean. Whether our specimen is a local product or of Kentish manufacture I am not prepared to say, but the triangular punch marks round the raised borders of the panels are very common on "Kentish" objects. The brooch was worn and had lost most of its garnets when it was deposited.

Annular bronze brooches. I do not know a parallel.

Silver pendants. Disc pendants with repoussé ornament have been found at Girton, St John's and Barrington, at Kempston, Beds., and at Burwell. There is no doubt as to their origin for they are numerous in the Kentish cemeteries. (See Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, Pl. XXXIV, no. 8, and Faussett, *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Pl. LIV, nos. 20, 24.) Our specimens are probably of VII or late VI century date. The third pendant is a typical piece of Kentish jewellery and must surely be of VII century date.

Girdle hangers. These are the largest specimens I have ever seen of this type of ornament, which is said to have been taken from the household keys of the Provincial Roman housewife. They are not so elaborate as some specimens and have been broken and patched in antiquity. A few pairs of these objects have been found in all our local cemeteries. These specimens have been pierced and have holes in them as if to sew them on to a purse or something of the sort. They are probably not later than the end of the VI century.

Strike-a-light. These objects have been rather a problem on account of their resemblance to Frankish purse mounts of similar form but of bronze. The explanation is surely that the "purse mount" took its form from the "strike-a-light" which was at times sewn into a little case or bag as in modern Thibet. It would then form the top of a bag in which tinder, etc., could be carried, from which it is but a step to the purse mount itself.

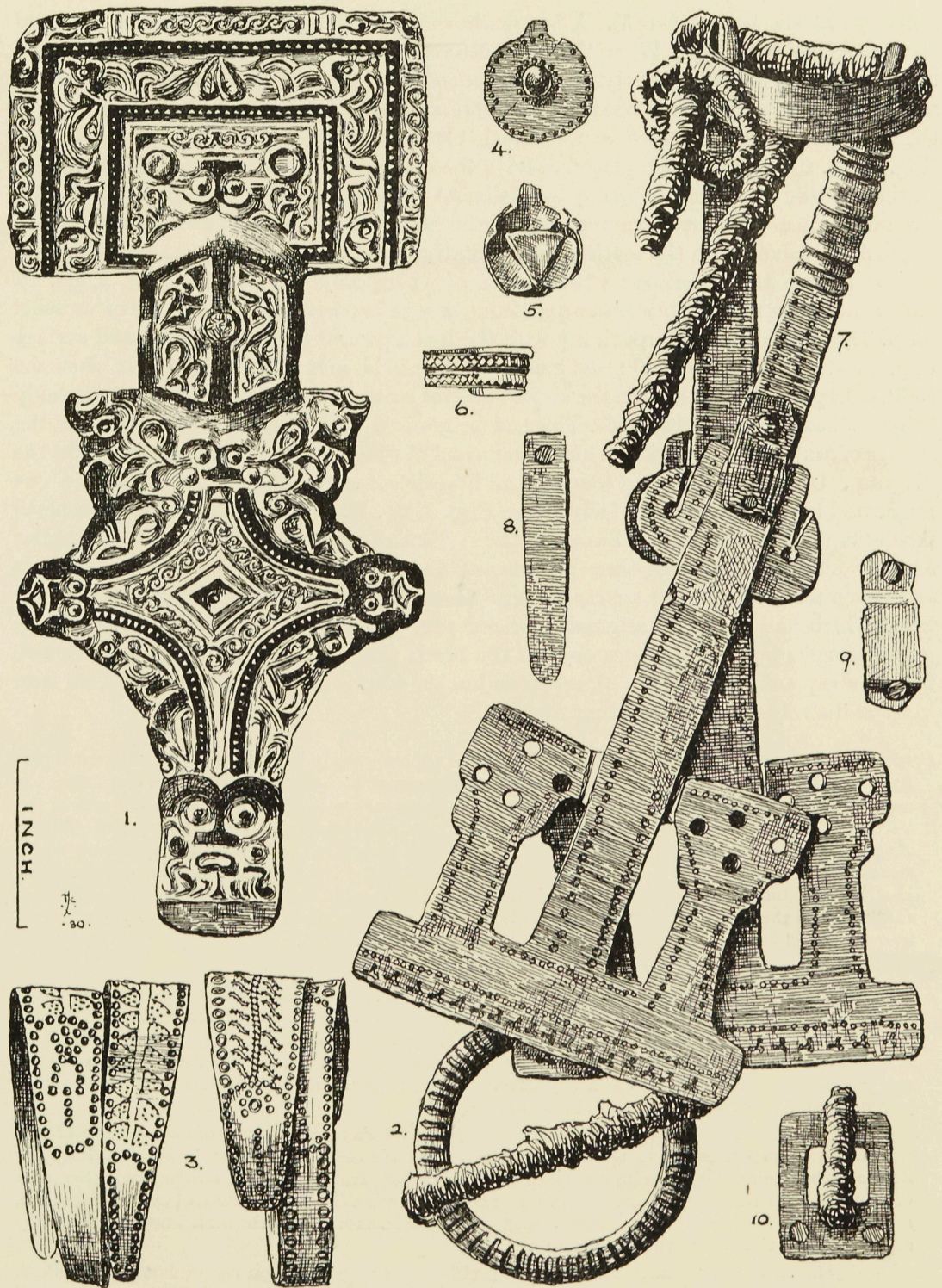
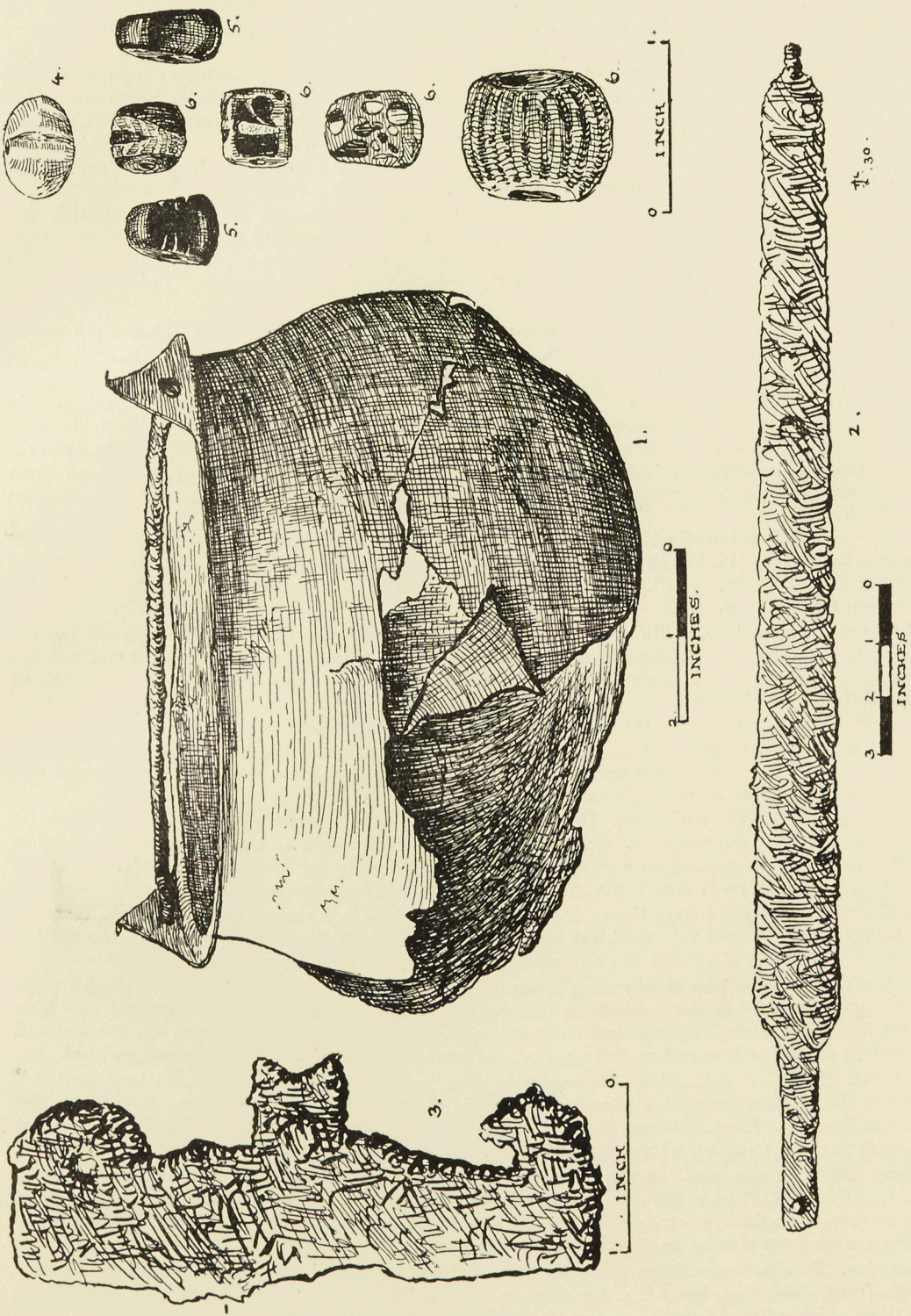


Fig. 2
 Grave 11. 1. Cruciform brooch gilt and with garnets. 2. Annular brooch, one of a pair. 3. Silver armlets.
 4. Silver pendant, one of a pair. 5. Silver pendant with glass and garnets. 6. Silver finger ring. 7. Bronze girdle
 hangers. 8. Strap end. 9. Belt slide. 10. Buckle.



Grave II. 1. Bronze pan. 2. Weaving batten. 3. Strike-a-light. 4. Crystal bead. 5. Jet beads. 6. Glass beads.

Fig. 3

- Silver bracelets.* These are of a well-known but scarce form. There is a fine local pair from Tuddenham from the collection of the late Sir W. Ridgeway found with a late cruciform brooch. A broken specimen from Warren Hill cemetery near ours is figured by Baldwin Brown, Pl. CVIII, no. 6. Fragments from Barrington are not of the same type (see Fox, Pl. XXX, where the grave is dated by him as not earlier than mid VI century, but is probably later), and the same must be said of the specimen labelled with some doubt, from Sandy, Beds. Also specimens in the B.M. from Tonbridge and Long Wittenham. The punched ornament of our specimens is very similar to that on Viking silver and some of the pieces from the Cuerdale hoard (*B.M. Anglo-Saxon Guide*, Fig. 132, no. 3) might almost seem contemporary.
- Silver finger ring.* This is one of the same spiral type as the bracelets and is punched with tiny triangular marks in the "Kentish" manner. Spiral finger rings occur sparingly in many cemeteries, e.g. Little Wilbraham (Neville, Pl. XIII, no. 28), etc., but I do not know an exact parallel to our specimen. It is, I think, later than the so-called "serpent" form and is probably of VII century date.
- Bronze buckle.* The flat bronze buckles with chape and bow in one piece and hinged pin are of continental origin. They are common in Frankish cemeteries such as Herpes. In the Kentish cemeteries they are found also. Ours may be a local imitation.
- Bronze bowls.* The first of these is of an uncommon type and is new to this part of East Anglia. Two similar specimens from Alfriston, Sussex, and Stowting, Kent, are shown on Baldwin Brown's Pl. CXVI, nos. 1, 3. These vessels with the bosses beaten up on the flange of the rim strongly recall the ornamentation of late Provincial Roman plate and pewter. It may be that all three vessels are importations from the continent. At any rate our specimen is probably an importation to this district.
- The second bowl is of a type found in most local cemeteries. Two from Little Wilbraham are figured by Neville (Pl. XVI), one from Croydon, Surrey (Baldwin Brown, Pl. CXVII, no. 3), one from Fairford, Glos., on Pl. VIII of *Fairford Graves*. There is a specimen in the Cambridge Museum from Girton.
- Amber beads.* These are roughly chipped into shape and then polished. Some are spherical, but the majority are mere blocks, some of more or less rectangular cross-section, with each end roughly tapered and ground to a convex apex. There are a hundred and more of them. Some are small but the larger specimens are $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length. There are two well-formed disc beads, the larger $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. It is as yet uncertain where the amber was collected. It is much more common in the later graves, and where it occurs in the earlier necklaces it is usually as a single specimen amid numerous glass ones. It seems to me probable that a lot, if not all of it, was collected on the east coast of England.
- Jet beads.* There are three of these. Disc beads but varying in thickness from top to bottom so as to fit the curve of the necklace. One is ornamented with six cuts on the circumference which in each case has been ground to a roughly rhomboidal shape rather than a true circle. Jet beads occur sparingly in most cemeteries. They are presumably imports from Yorkshire.
- Crystal beads.* There are two of these. Flattened spheres $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick. They are certainly imported into this area, but may have been manufactured in Kent, where the cutting of stone was well understood. In any case the crystal itself is an importation.
- Glass beads.* There are two large melon beads, one $\frac{3}{4}$ in. diameter of typical Romano-British type. These may actually be survivals from Roman times. Two cubes of black, yellow and pale blue glass are uncommon. The remainder are of types well known in local graves, i.e. spheres and cylinders of red, yellow and green; a spherical blue bead spotted with white, green and red.
- Gold braid.* Strips of gold ribbon woven into some brocaded material are found in "Kentish" graves. Enormous quantities were found also in the Taplow barrow and may be seen in the British Museum. They have not as yet been found locally and in this case probably ornamented some little ribbon edging a hood or head-dress. They are probably imported from Kent.
- Weaving batten.* These are not very common in England. Two are shown in Baldwin Brown, Pl. XCIX, nos. 1, 2, from Bifrons, Kent, and Chessel Down, Isle of Wight. These implements are common in Scandinavia, etc., and are still known as "swords" in the handlooms of the north. They are used for closing up the threads.
- Bronze ring.* This had something to do with the girdle hangers and may have formed part of the girdle from which they hung (e.g. the rings in modern "scout" belts). It is probably safe to call all these objects "key rings" (see No. 12 later).
- Strap ends.* These are absolutely plain and of a form common in all local cemeteries. There is also a bronze runner (?) for the belt.

This is a fine collection of objects and gives us a good idea of the finery of a young East Anglian lady towards the close of the pagan period. Taking into consideration the worn and even broken condition of many of the objects, it is improbable that the burial took place earlier than the VII century, and may even be as late as the middle of it.

But a word must be said here on the subject of the dating of all Anglo-Saxon objects. There is only one object to which the latest possible date can be fixed, and that is the jewelled cross found with St Cuthbert's body who died in 687. All dating by gold coins mounted as pendants is guesswork, for a coin of Valens and a barbaric imitation of one of Mauricius can be seen in the *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Pl. IV, in almost identical settings. The coins are only valuable as giving the earliest date at which these objects could have been made, and that is the reign of Valens who died in 378. The whole of the dating of a Saxon object is coloured by the false idea that ornaments ceased to be buried when their owners became Christians.

It appears that trade was brisk, for very many of the things are imported from neighbouring states or even from the continent. True Anglian products are only represented by the girdle hangers, annular brooches, strap ends, etc. The square-headed brooch may be local and so may the bracelets, amber and glass beads and one bronze bowl. The inlaid pendant, gold wire, crystal and jet beads and one bronze bowl are certainly imported.

No. 12. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Much decayed. Judged to be a female from the associated objects. It lay on its back with legs extended and arms probably crossed its on middle. A string of beads went round the neck. A silver wire ring (Fig. 4 A, no. 1) and silver disc pendant (Fig. 4 A, no. 2) were worn at the throat. A small bronze ring (Fig. 4 A, no. 3) was against the remains of the right humerus and may possibly have been worn on a finger as the rest of this arm had vanished. At the right hip was a large moulded bronze ring (Fig. 4 A, no. 6), an iron key, 8 ins. long, a knife and a small iron ring.

Silver pendant. This has been a small disc pendant with central boss and probably closely resembled those found with No. 11 (see Fig. 2, no. 4). It has had a bronze loop for suspension.

Silver ring, which is an elaboration of the "elastic" type, has been found in several cemeteries, especially in Kent (Faversham, *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Fig. 45) and Kingston (Faussett, Pl. XI, no. 13). Locally a specimen was found in Grave 121 at Burwell (see Fig. 36, no. 3) where it was apparently used to fasten a string of silver pendants to the clothing and is of VII century date.

Bronze ring. This is probably merely an elaboration of the plain iron rings found with Nos. 1 and 7 and the simple bronze ring with No. 11. An early Viking specimen, VII century or so, is shown with keys on it by Baldwin Brown, Pl. LXXXVIII, no. 2.

Amber beads. These are mostly roughly spherical, there is however one flat lump perforated in the centre and roughly worked into a disc.

Glass beads. These are small spherical examples of blue and green.

Date. It may be conjectured from the silver ring and pendant and key ring that the burial is not earlier than the end of the VI century and probably of VII century date.

No. 13. Skull of a child with milk teeth 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. One "small long" bronze brooch. Four amber beads, one glass. The upper part of a bronze rectangular girdle hanger (Fig. 4 B).

"Small long" bronze brooch. This (Fig. 4 C) is apparently an ancestor of what I shall call the "horned" type as found with Nos. 37 and 79 (Figs. 9, no. 4; 16, no. 4), if so it probably belongs to the earlier part of the VI century.

Amber beads. Two spherical, two cylindrical.

Glass beads. Cube of blue, white and red glass.

Girdle hanger. Indefinite fragment, probably first half of the VI century.

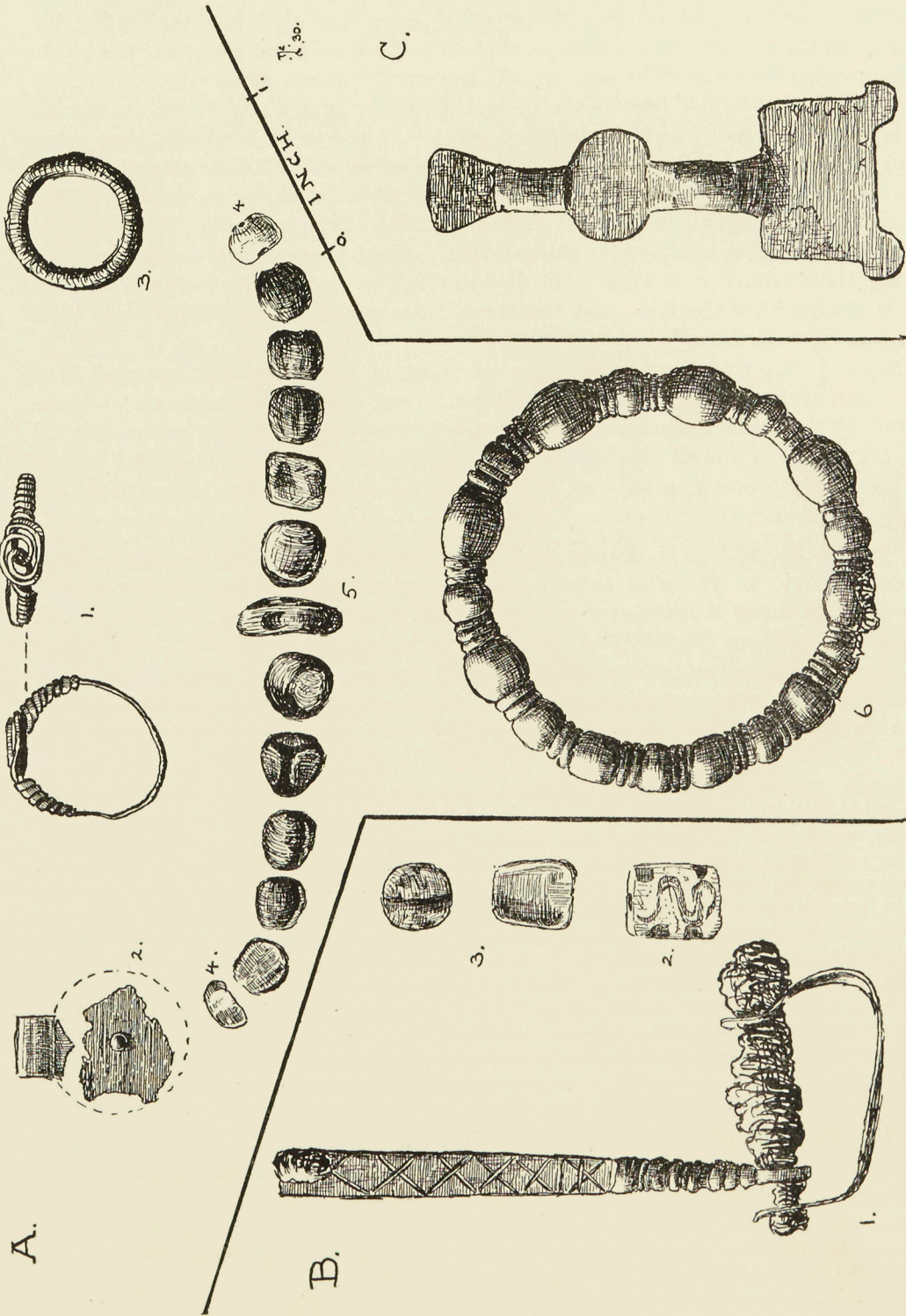


Fig. 4
 A. Grave 12. 1. Silver ring. 2. Silver pendant. 3. Bronze ring. 4. Two glass beads. 5. Amber beads. 6. Bronze ring. B and C. Grave 13. 1. Girdle hanger. 2. Glass bead. 3. Amber bead. 4. Two glass beads. 5. Amber beads. 6. Bronze ring. 7. "Small long" brooch.

No. 14. Skeleton 1 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Bones almost gone. Body probably extended on its back. Knees slightly drawn up. One hand on pelvis, the other at the chin. A fine square-headed bronze brooch (Fig. 5, no. 1) gilded and with silver plating lay

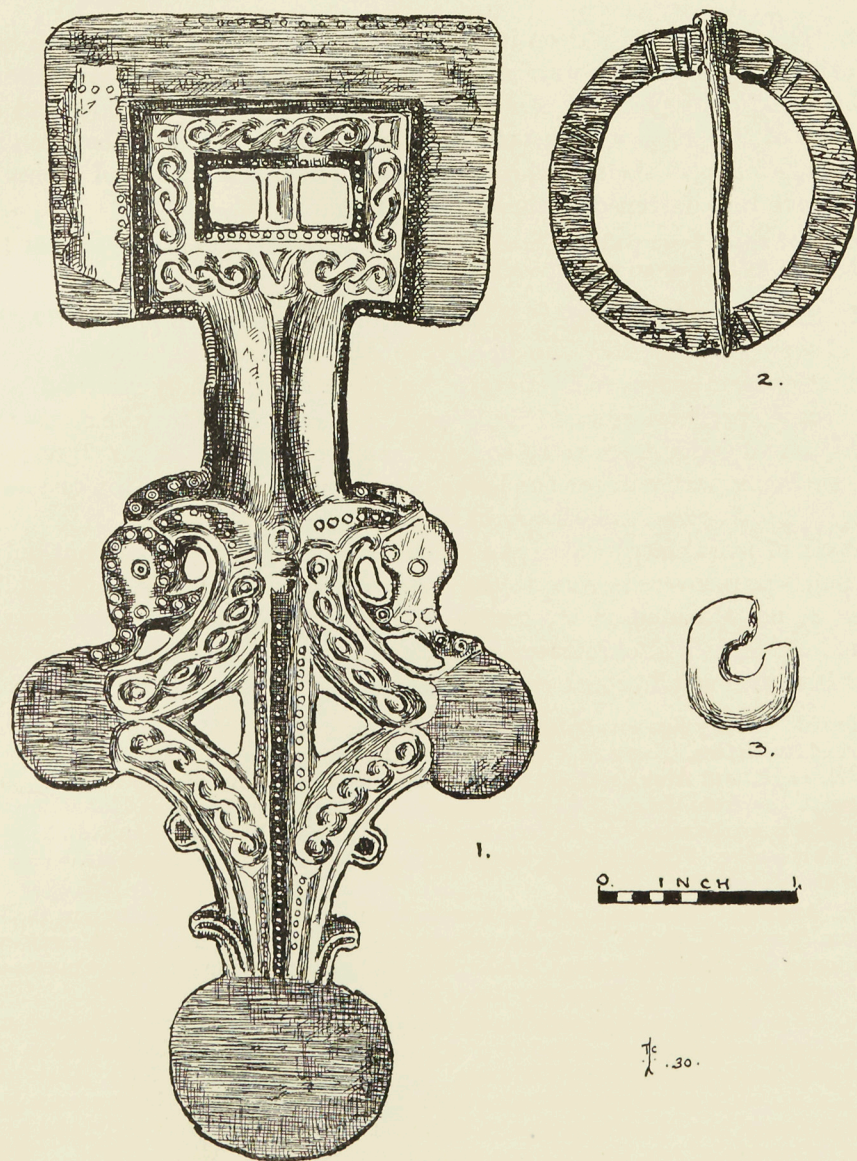


Fig. 5

Grave 14. 1. Square-headed brooch (with gilt and silver). 2. Annular brooch. 3. Amber bead.

beside the skull with foot downwards. At the right hip was an annular bronze brooch with bronze pin (Fig. 5, no. 2). At the other hip a fragment of iron ring, iron knife and small amber bead.

Square-headed brooch. This is a good example of a type which is common in East Anglia and not rare in the country generally. (See Baldwin Brown, Pl. LXIV, no. 2; Nils Åberg, Figs. 112-114; Fox, frontispiece, fig. 5, from Lakenheath.) Nils Åberg would date the earliest English examples to the middle of VI century but this may well be too late. They do not differ to any great extent from the Danish brooches from which they are descended. (See *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Fig. 20.)

Annular brooch. Is not as yet datable.

Amber bead. An irregular-shaped lump with a hole through it.

Date. Until further evidence is collected I feel inclined to place this grave in the first half of the VI century.

No. 15. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Moderate state of preservation but right forearm removed by rabbits or warreners. A male with arms and legs straightened and lying on his back, ankles crossed. An iron spear head at his left shoulder and the iron ferrule at his foot. The bronze mount of a drinking horn (Fig. 14, no. 1) between his skull and the spear, a knife at the right hip, and at the left elbow a piece of bronze plating which may have been fastened to the drinking horn.

Spear. Length of spear from point of head to point of ferrule 6 ft. 9½ in. Spear head 1 ft. long, ferrule shaped like that of an alpenstock 4 in. long.

No. 16. Skeleton 2 ft. 2 in. deep in sand. Not well preserved and partly disturbed by beasts of some kind, possibly human but probably rabbits. The body laid on its back, legs straight, left arm extended by the side but right arm partially removed.

A fine bronze cruciform brooch (Fig. 6, no. 1) 6 in. long lay slantwise across the chest with the foot downwards. Two small equal-armed brooches (Fig. 6, no. 2) rested on the clavicles, one being partly under the lower jaw. A small bronze button or stud with a shank (Fig. 6, no. 5) was above the right shoulder.

A fine pair of wrist clasps was found on the left wrist (Fig. 6, no. 3) but only one of the other pair was recovered owing to the disturbance on the right side. A small bronze object (Fig. 6, no. 4) rested on the centre of the chest. By the left femur was an iron knife 6½ in. long. A necklet of fourteen amber and three glass beads had apparently been suspended from two small bronze rings worn near the shoulders (Fig. 6, no. 6).

Cruciform brooch. A very fine example, still retaining the original gold colour of the metal over a great part of its surface. Fox and Nils Åberg both figure a specimen from Girton, Cambs. (Fox, Pl. XXVII, no. 2, and Åberg, Fig. 78.) This resembles the present specimen but is very nearly identical with one from Grave 79 in our cemetery. The big brooches from Holywell, Graves 16, 37, 58 and 79, must be more or less contemporary in date whilst those from Nos. 21 and 22 are probably a bit earlier. Fox and Åberg agree in placing the Girton specimen a little later than the middle of the VI century.

"Equal-arm" brooches. These are a very uncommon type. Baldwin Brown figures one, Pl. XXXVII, no. 6, from Stapenhill, Staffs. They do not appear to be related to the very early equal-arm brooches found at Little Wilbraham, Haslingfield and Kempston, and Sutton Courtenay. These are Hanoverian forms of late V century date.

Wrist clasps. These are ornamented with human faces and zoomorphic figures. These last are almost identical with the animals on the shoulder of the foot of the square-headed brooch in Grave 11. A similar pair was found at Little Wilbraham (Neville, Grave 133, Pl. XII). There they were associated with two brooches with radiating heads (see Åberg, Fig. 150, who appears to date them about the middle of the VI century; Fox, p. 262, who considers them very early) and a cruciform brooch of rather earlier type than the one found in our grave.

Amber beads. Better made than most and mostly roughly spherical, some with flattened sides.

Glass beads. One cylindrical pale yellow glass as in No. 1, one spherical green and another red, green and yellow.

Bronze button and clip. The use of these objects could not be determined. The clip has a hole at one end and a hook at the other. In the middle is a small piece of bronze piping fastened to it by a sharp nail which goes right through both objects.

Date. The date of the grave as a whole must be that of the wrist clasps or later. They are ornamented in an elaborate stage of Style I, and contemporary with the square-headed brooch of Grave 11. They are probably late in VI century. The cruciform brooch should be earlier by some years according to the present typology. Probably the woman was buried a few years before A.D. 600 but it may well have been later.

No. 17. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Much decayed. No ends of long bones or facial bones remained. Judged to be a woman from the associated objects. Buried with knees much bent, so that heels nearly reached the hips. Right arm across the body, left

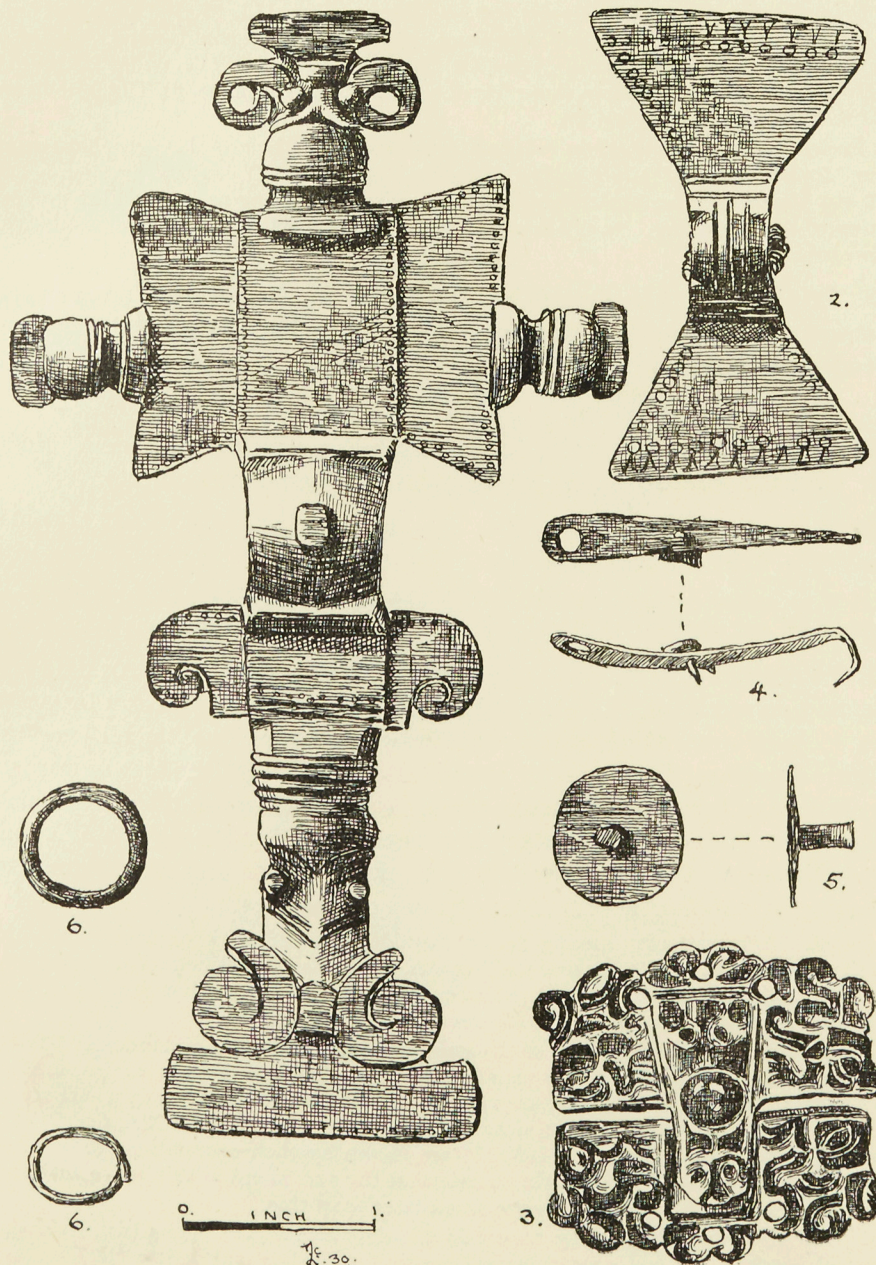


Fig. 6

Grave 16. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. "Equal-arm" brooch. 3. Wrist clasp. 4. Clip. 5. Stud.
6. Rings from ends of necklace.

extended. Two annular bronze brooches on the clavicles, silver wire wrist clasps (Fig. 7 A, no. 2) in black material at the wrists. A knife under the right hip.

Annular brooches (Fig. 7 A, no. 1). These are ribbed and knobbed in a manner recalling the big bronze ring at the hip of No. 12 and on this account I feel inclined to place them late in VI century.

Wrist clasps. These are formed of double spirals of silver twisted into "hook and eye" form. Bronze objects of this form are found in central Europe in the Bronze Age and in Sumatra to this day (*B.M. Guides*). They are, however, single ornaments in these cases. Our specimens appear to be the direct descendants of objects such as are found in Scandinavia in Roman and early Migration times. (See Schetelig, *Vestlandske Graver fra Jernalderen*, Figs. 112, 150.) This spiral form had a long life and is scarcely yet dead as the "hook and eye" is its modern counterpart. It is the ancestor of all the elaborate shell-like wrist clasps (see Baldwin Brown, Pl. LXXVI, no. 4; LXXVIII, no. 9) and so ultimately of such clasps as those found with No. 16 (Fig. 6, no. 3). This "hook and eye" clasp was found in Graves 20 and 79.

Date. It is impossible to do more than emphasise the fact that the annular brooches resemble the "key ring" found with No. 12, and the "key ring" of about VII century date from Denmark. Grave 12 was thought to be late on account of the silver wire ring and silver disc pendant. The resemblance of the "key ring" to a VII century Danish example suggests the possibility of this being the correct dating.

No. 18. Skeleton 1 ft. 8 in. deep in sand on chalk. Much decayed. Young and thought from the absence of ornaments to be a boy. Body laid on back. Right knee slightly bent. Arms extended but left hand on left femur. A plain hand-made pot against left shoulder (Pl. II).

No. 19. Skeleton of a child with some milk teeth, 2 ft. deep in sand. Moderately preserved. On back with arms and legs straight. No associated objects.

No. 20. Skeleton practically gone, 2 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Two pairs of spiral bronze wrist clasps (Fig. 7 B), an iron knife and a key ring.

Wrist clasps. Very similar to those with No. 17. Had certainly been worn on leather as traces of this were visible here and with No. 17. This confirms G. W. Thomas' observations at Sleaford, Lincs.

No. 21. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Moderately preserved. An oldish female, as I think, laid on her back. Legs straight, arms on middle. Cruciform bronze brooch (Fig. 8, no. 1), head upwards, lay slantwise across the body. Two "small long" square-headed bronze brooches (Fig. 8, no. 2) rested on clavicles with the feet upwards. Three glass and six amber beads lay between them. A silvered bronze disc with hole in the middle (Fig. 8, no. 3) and a fragmentary iron buckle were by the right hip. A knife and iron ring as before at the left. The left half of the pelvis and right knee had been burrowed away by rabbits. The skull was bowed on the chest.

Cruciform brooch. Through faulty casting one of the side knobs of this ornament is incomplete. It has been filed flat and tinned to conceal the blemish. The brooch must be rather earlier than those found in Nos. 16, 37, 58 and 79 and probably contemporary with that found in No. 22. The middle of the VI century should not be far wrong.

"Small long" brooches. The earliest form of the square-headed "small long" brooch in England lacks the small wings at the foot of the bow seen in our specimens here. Two of the earlier form were found in Grave 53 and one in 79. These are very like specimens from Schleswig which are probably a little earlier than A.D. 500. (See Fox, note on a pair from Girton, Pl. XXX, fig. 5.) Examples from Little Wilbraham in Graves 53, 143, 173 are shown by their associations to be of early VI century date also. We may then, I think, assume that the pair found in this grave with their little additional wings belong to a date not very much later than this.

Glass beads. Two of these belong to the blown double-shell constricted type which Baldwin Brown considers to be early. One is a large spherical bead of red, green and yellow glass.

Amber beads. These are all very small and roughly spherical.

Date. All the objects in this grave seem to be contemporary and of about the middle of the VI century.

No. 22. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Condition moderate. Laid on back, legs straight, arms crossed on body. A cruciform bronze brooch with no trace of side knobs lay against the skull on the left side head upwards (Fig. 7 C, no. 1). A necklace of two glass and

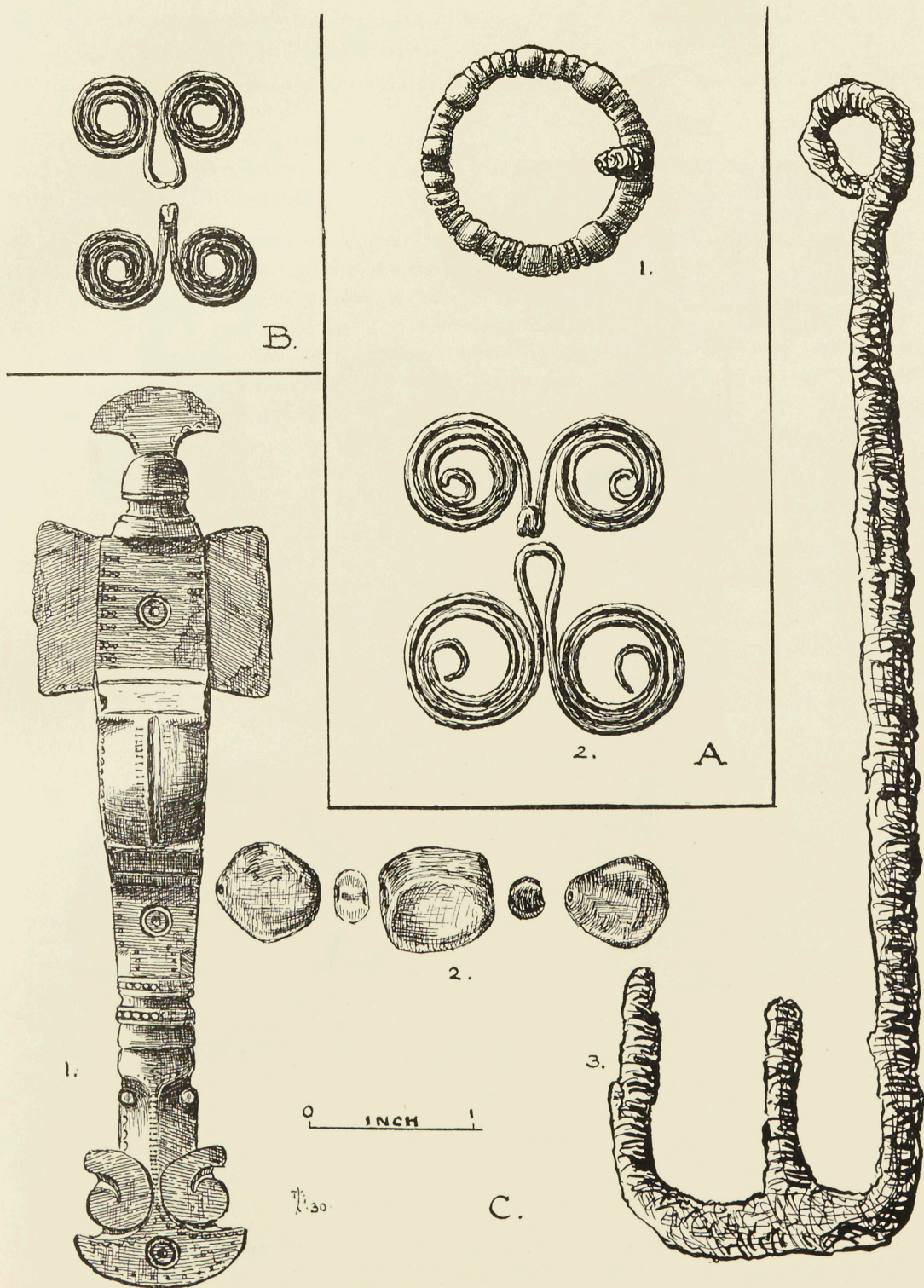
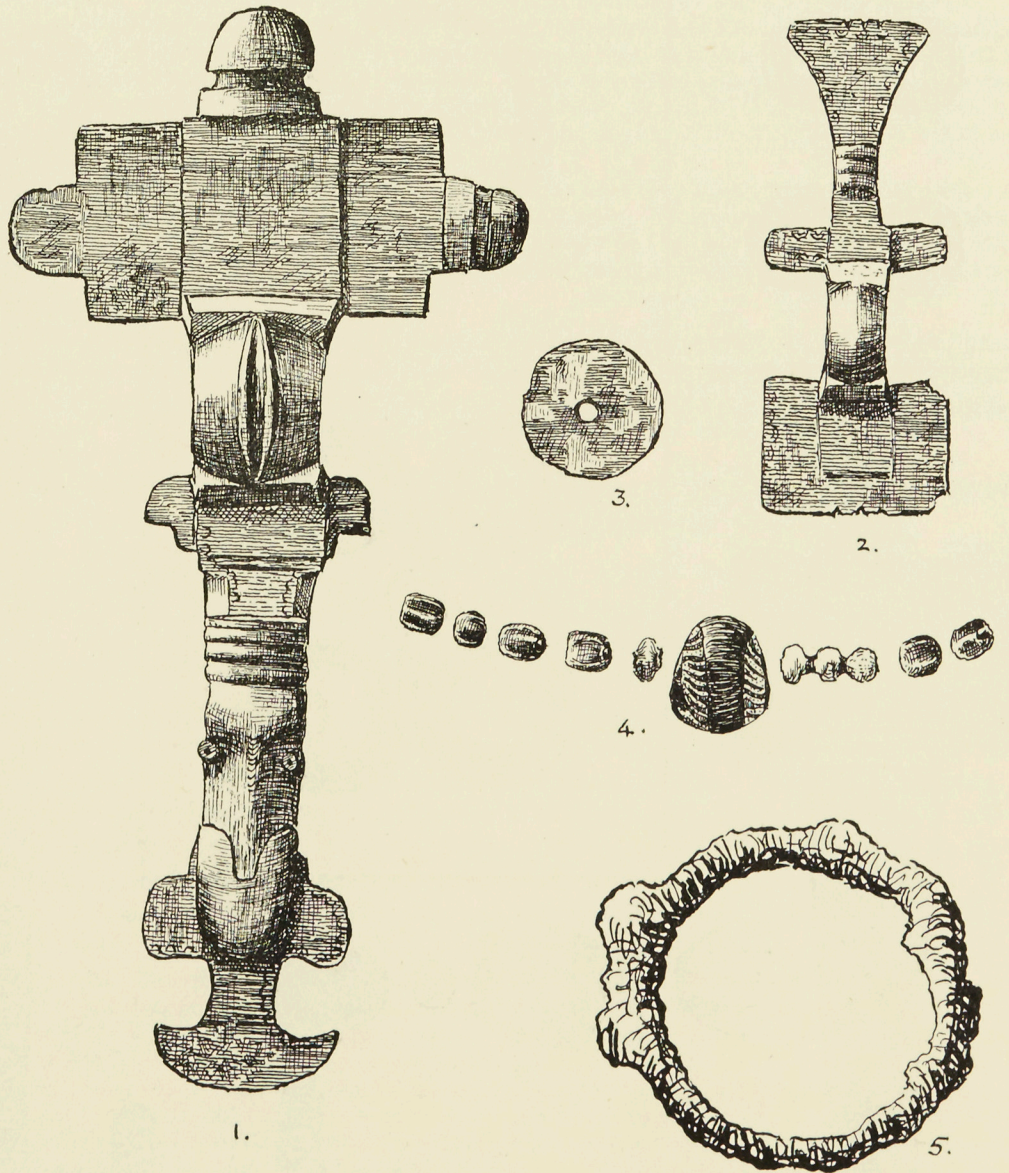


Fig. 7

A. Grave 17. 1. Annular brooch (one of a pair). 2. Silver wrist clasps. B. Grave 20. Wrist clasps. C. Grave 22. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. Two glass beads, three amber beads. 3. Iron key.



INCH

Fig. 8

Grave 21. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. "Small long" brooch. 3. Bronze disc (tinned).
4. Beads (six amber, three glass). 5. Iron ring.

twenty-five amber beads. Two-pronged iron key (Fig. 7 C, no. 3) at right hip. Tiny fragment of bronze on the left humerus.

Cruciform brooch. Had no side knobs at the time it was put in and may never have had any. It is probably of mid VI century date.

Amber beads. Perforated blocks as with No. 11.

Glass beads. One clear spherical pale green. One spherical opaque red.

Date. Probably mid VI century.

No. 23. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Body resting on its back, hands on pelvis, knees bent. Badly decayed. Judged to be a boy from the associated objects, but cannot have been much more than twelve years old. An iron spear 10 in. long in front of the face which was turned to the south. A very fragmentary iron buckle and a knife under the lumbar vertebrae. Two small bronze clips (Fig. 14 J, no. 2), formerly fastened to wood, were on top at the back of the skull. There was a bronze anklet of the "elastic" form round the right ankle (Fig. 14 J, no. 1).

Bronze clips. I have noticed these in graves and cremations at Little Wilbraham (Fig. 39, no. 9).

Also an iron one with one of the Bran Ditch skeletons (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxx, p. 86, Pl. IV). They have always been fastened to wood and are found with both men and women. The usual place for them is against the skull but they do occur in other places in the graves also, e.g. at the hip, No. 7, Bran Ditch; behind the knee, No. 38 here.

Bronze anklet. This is the first case that has come to my notice of Anglo-Saxon anklets. "Elastic" rings of this form are not uncommon on the arm in "Kentish" graves. Presumably this man had his legs and feet bare.

No. 24. Skeleton 1 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Bones almost gone but as the body was straightened and only 3 ft. 9 in. from crown to ankle it can hardly have been a full-grown man. No sign of teeth. An iron spear on the right side of the skull. An iron knife at the left hip.

This and the preceding skeleton seem to show that boys bore arms when in their early teens during the Saxon period. It is common in the Sagas to see references to boys of twelve years old bearing weapons.

No. 25. Skeleton 1 ft. 10 in. deep in sand at the edge of the chalk. Moderately preserved. Laid on the back with legs and right arm straight, left hand on pelvis. Thought to be a man from the large size of the head of the femur. Knife at right hip.

No. 26. Skeleton 1 ft. 10 in. deep in sand. Moderately preserved. Body lay on its face with head to the east. Arms and legs both straight, but the latter crossed at the ankle. An old person judging from the teeth and probably a woman from the pelvis and femur. No associated objects.

The legs of this skeleton lay right in the middle of the trial trench dug for Dr A. B. Cook and the Dean of Queens'. There is something remarkable in the fact that this body was buried upside down and facing exactly the opposite way to the others.

No. 27. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand on chalk. Moderately preserved. A young person. Lay on its side facing north with head to west. Hands up to face, knees bent. No associated objects.

No. 28. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand on chalk. Moderately preserved. It lay on its back in a twisted manner. Left arm on middle, right hand up to face. Knees bent up above body. A young person. Fragmentary iron buckle at left hip.

No. 29. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in sand on chalk. Bones well preserved. Certainly a well-built male. Body lay on its back, right arm and legs straight, the latter crossed at ankle. Left hand on pelvis. An iron sword 31 in. long extended hilt upwards from the right side of the lower jaw to the head of the left femur. Iron shield boss on right shoulder. Under this a fragmentary wooden bucket with three iron hoops and handle. Probably about 9 or 10 in. in diameter. An iron spear head 1 ft. long lay under the bucket. From traces preserved in the rust it appeared that the spear and probably the whole body had lain on a bed of coarse grass or rushes. An iron knife at the left hip. A small piece of bronze plate (Fig. 13 E) doubled over on a curve was found some 8 in. to the west of the shield boss between the skull and the spear head.

Iron sword. This is a typical example of an Anglo-Saxon sword. A flat ribless double-edged blade 2 in. wide and scarcely tapering at all till the point is reached. The guard grip and pommel were of wood. Similar specimens from Barrington B and Little Wilbraham are figured by Fox, Pl. XXXVI, no. 6, and Neville, Pl. XXXIV. Swords are never common in the cemeteries but most of them produce one or two. None was found at Sleaford, Lincs.

Shield. The boss belongs to the rather conical form which is represented also from Graves 4, 56, and 91. The small piece of bronze binding evidently was attached to the rim of the shield at the top to facilitate picking the shield up in a hurry when it lay boss upwards on the ground. From the curve of this piece of binding and an examination of the angle at which the flanges of the shield bosses are set, I am certain that the Anglo-Saxon shield was not a flat wheel-like affair of board like those of Viking times (e.g. found with the Gokstad ship), but was slightly convex. Small bits of bronze binding with wood inside have been found in Grave 93 and Little Wilbraham, my No. 4, in similar positions and serving the same purpose.

No. 30. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. in sand. Not well preserved. Thought to be a male from skull and femur. Lay on its side much hunched up. Legs slightly bent and crossed at the knee. Left hand on right hip. Right hand at face. Small bronze buckle (Fig. 14 D) where pelvis should have been.

Bronze buckle. This is another example of the type found with No. 4, etc., and thought to have a central point of distribution.

No. 31. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. deep in sand. Very badly preserved. Practically nothing visible save fragments of skull and legs. It had lain on the back with legs straight. Four bronze clips containing rotten wood (Fig. 10 B, no. 2) found near the skull on south side. Seventeen glass and two amber beads, a tiny "elastic" bronze wire ring (Fig. 10 B, no. 3) and a fragment of silver ribbon were found, chiefly by sifting. A fine bronze buckle (Fig. 10 B, no. 1) with silver plate on the base of its tongue lay near the right hip.

Bronze clips. Smaller specimens of type described in No. 23. They were found close together and had probably been all fastened to the same object. Perhaps a wooden comb.

Glass beads. One fine spherical bead of opaque red inlaid with white in cheverons, another of yellow inlaid with red. Four spherical brown beads inlaid with pale blue. The remainder of green, yellow, buff and white glass respectively.

Amber beads. These are well-made bi-conical beads a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter.

Bronze buckle. This is an example of the well-known "Kentish" type with triangular chape and a "shield" on the tongue. (See Åberg, Figs. 212-222; Faussett, Pl. VIII, nos. 8, 9 and 12, and IX, nos. 1 and 2.) Local examples: Neville, Grave 28, St John's and one from Burwell from the late Sir W. Ridgeway's collection. Our specimen is almost certainly a VII century importation from Kent. The tiny triangular punch marks so often found on Kentish ornaments and remarked on the square-headed brooch and finger ring from Grave 11, are here also. (See also No. 62.)

Date. The burial can hardly be earlier than early VII century and may well be as late as the middle of it.

Absence of brooches. Attention should be drawn to the lack of brooches in the latest graves and at Burwell. This is thought to be due to a change in dress fashions coming from Kent in the VII century.

No. 32. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. in sand. Bones almost gone. Lay on its back with legs straight. Left arm across middle. Right partially extended by side. A young person (?). No associated objects.

No. 33. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. No trace of any bones above the legs. Feet to the west. An iron spear, point up, about the middle of the grave. A knife also.

No. 34. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. Moderately preserved. A child in its teens as it seemed. It lay partly on its right side facing south. Knees bent, right arm straight, left crossed on pelvis. Small bronze buckle with counter-plate and an eyelet (?) from the belt (Fig. 14 C) lay on the chest. Behind the skull were some fragmentary animal bones.

Bronze buckle, etc. This little set is remarkable for the fine workmanship and for the curious object which may have been an eyelet set in the belt but is probably something quite different.

Animal bones. These are much decayed, but may be the hind leg of a sheep. Certainly put there as food for the next world.

No. 35. Skeleton 2 ft. 11 in. deep in chalk. Moderately preserved. Shown to be a woman by the pelvis and femur and associated objects. It lay on the left side facing north, arms crossed on its middle and legs straight. Two very small annular brooches at the throat (Fig. 11 C, nos. 1, 2). Three small glass beads near them. Fragmentary iron ring as before at right hip.

Annular brooches. Only remarkable for small size and bad workmanship.

Glass beads. One blue bugle, one knobbed pale blue bugle, one double-shelled blown bead as with No. 7.

No. 36. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Not well preserved. Thought to be a young boy in early teens. Lay on right side facing south. Knees slightly drawn up, hands on pelvis. Iron spear in front of face.

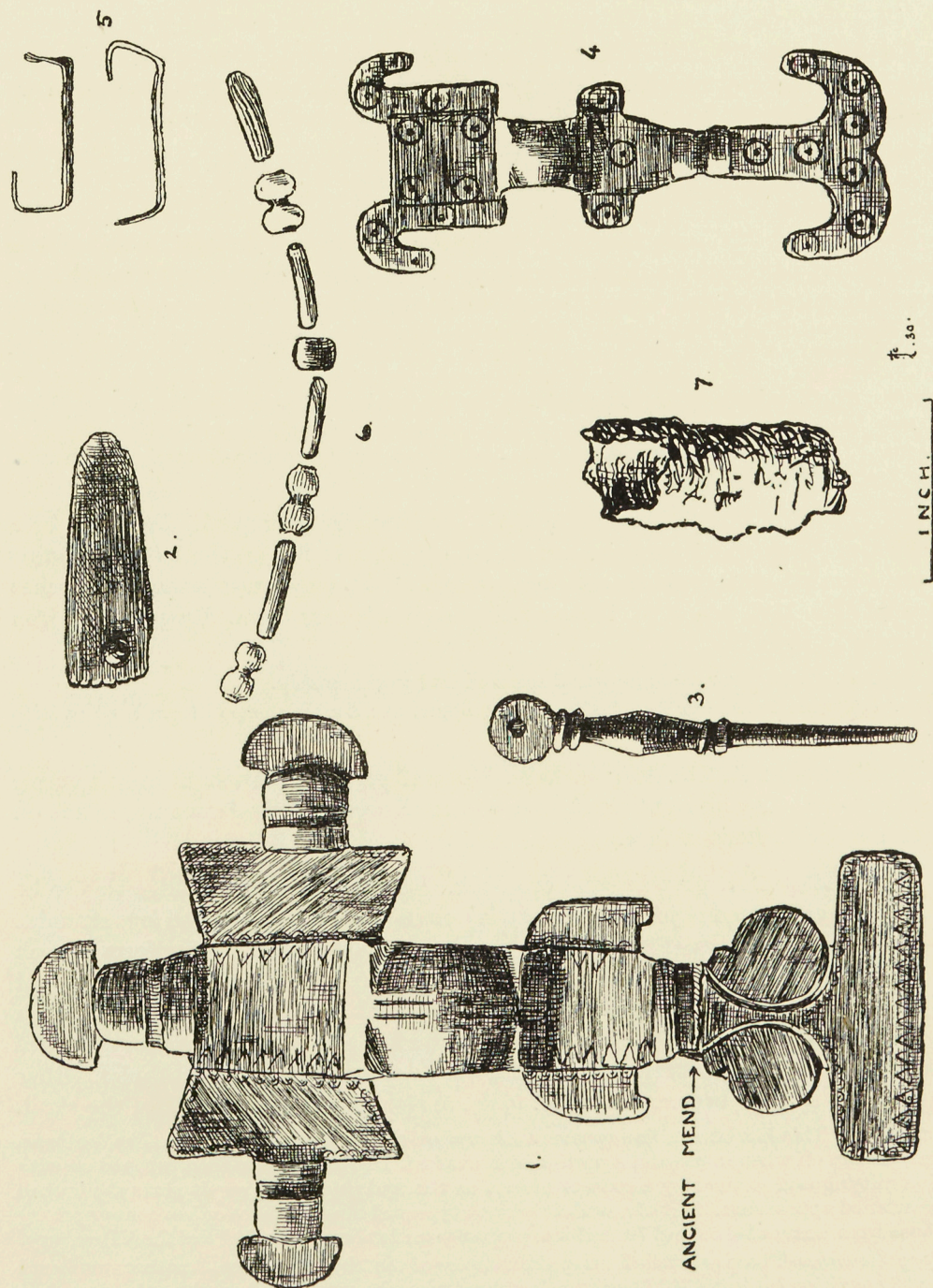
No. 37. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in sand on chalk. Badly preserved. I judge this to be a woman by the associated objects. The body lay on its back with arms and legs straight. Two "small long" brooches (Fig. 9, no. 4) were on the shoulders. A cruciform brooch with foot uppermost lay slantwise across the chest (Fig. 9, no. 1). A string of a hundred and fifty amber and eight glass beads went round the neck and through the bow of each brooch. At the hip was an iron ring, a strap end and knife as before, a small cylindrical iron case (Fig. 9, no. 7) and a bronze pin (Fig. 9, no. 3), or more probably toothpick, either in or just beside it. Two bronze clips (Fig. 9, no. 5) also, one on either side of the skull.

Cruciform brooch. This has been a fine specimen, tinned on the foot and side knobs. The foot was, however, broken off when in use and a portion of it was lost. The brooch was then patched up with a section missing and secured by a strip of bronze on the underside. The result gives the brooch a foreshortened appearance. It is of a well-developed type and must be more or less contemporary with those from Graves 16, 58 and 79, and was probably made about the middle of the VI century.

"Small long" brooches. These are well-developed examples of the "horned" type. Another was found in "mint" condition in Grave 79. They were less worn than the cruciform brooch at the time they were buried.

Amber beads. These are all small roughly shaped lumps, some more or less spherical, others cylindrical.

Glass beads. Four of these are blue bugles, one a small spherical red bead. The others are the double-shelled constricted type.



Grave 37. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. Strap end. 3. Pin. 4. "Small long" brooch. 5. Clips. 6. Glass beads. 7. Pin case (?).
 Fig. 9

Bronze pin and iron case. This is a fine moulded pin which looks as if it had started life as something else. It was surely carried in the iron case and used as a toothpick.

Date. Judging from the worn and broken condition of the big brooch, the burial must have taken place some years after it was made, possibly late in the VI century.

No. 38. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Moderately preserved. The body, which was certainly a male, had been laid on its back with knees slightly drawn up. Right arm across the body, left arm straight. Under the right elbow was a hole in the chalk with a minute fragment of bone in it. A spear head 14 in. long was found beside the man's face on the north side. The pointed iron ferrule was also found upside down 4 ft. from the point of the spear. A shield boss rested on the base of the skull, a potsherd on the lower ribs, and a knife on the left hip. Two bronze clips with wood in them as before were found behind the right knee.

Shield boss. This is of the more usual carinated local form, but lacks the button at the apex.

Spear. The discovery of the ferrule upside down and 4 ft. only from the point has been explained as being caused by the breaking of the shaft which was too long for the grave.

Hole in the chalk. These have been noted in Graves 11 (under the weaving batten), 24 (at the feet), 49 (under lumbar region and at the feet), and 72 (at right shoulder). They are usually from 6 to 10 in. in diameter and contain nothing but dark soil. In this case a tiny piece of bone was noted but it may have been detached from the pelvis and carried down by worms. I have no explanation for them.

No. 39. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Probably a female. Skull displaced 2 ft. from lower jaw and rest of body which probably lay on the back with knees bent. By the lower jaw were two "small long" bronze brooches (Fig. 10 A, nos. 1, 2), with feet upwards and a double row (single string?) of glass beads and perforated Roman coins (Fig. 10 A, no. 4) extended for about 6 in. downwards. At the end was a very fine large blue and white bead (Fig. 10 A, no. 7), either worn as a pendant or a toggle for securing her belt. A penannular bronze brooch with iron pin (Fig. 10 A, no. 3) lay near this. A knife lay lower down.

Beads. The big blue and white glass bead is of a well-known type found sparingly in many cemeteries. A fine local specimen was found at Little Wilbraham (see Neville, Grave 96) with a man wearing a sword. There it must have served as a toggle. There are also forty-five spherical beads of blue, twenty-six of red, nine of green, white and buff glass, respectively; one small melon bead of green opaque glass; two cylindrical beads of red, white and blue; one flat disc bead of white opaque glass with blue glass spiral on the flat surface; two spherical beads of red, white and blue and red and yellow respectively; one tiny globular bead of amber; eight Roman coins with holes in them (two are "third brass" of Constantians and a third belongs to Constantius II, remainder illegible); the bronze loop, which was probably fastened to a pendant, and the cast of a fossil shell with a hole through the middle.

"Small long" brooches. One of these is square-headed (see Grave 21) and must be of a date early in the VI century. The form of the head, according to continental ideas, is more primitive than the plainest square-head as found with No. 53. The head of the one found with No. 99 (Fig. 20, no. 4) ought to be a still earlier form. One doubts whether this really explains the evolution of our English types. The other is almost a pair to one found in Grave 89 with another so-called early "small long" brooch, but is a popular type occurring all through the VI century. One practically identical was found in 1926 with a "Frankish" buckle of late VI century date at Little Wilbraham (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. XXIX, p. 95). This brooch is very similar to V century examples from Schleswig. For a discussion on the origin and development of the "small long" brooch see Salin (*Die altgermanische Thierornamentik*), p. 73. Plettke (*Ursprung und Ausbreitung der Angeln und Sachsen*), writing in 1921, nearly twenty years later, contents himself with quoting Salin's remarks. One cannot help noting, however, that some of the forms which Salin placed early in the series are found in England with late cruciform brooches and other ornaments (e.g. Maltese cross headed brooches from Grave 82 Barrington B—Fox, Pl. XXIX, no. 1).

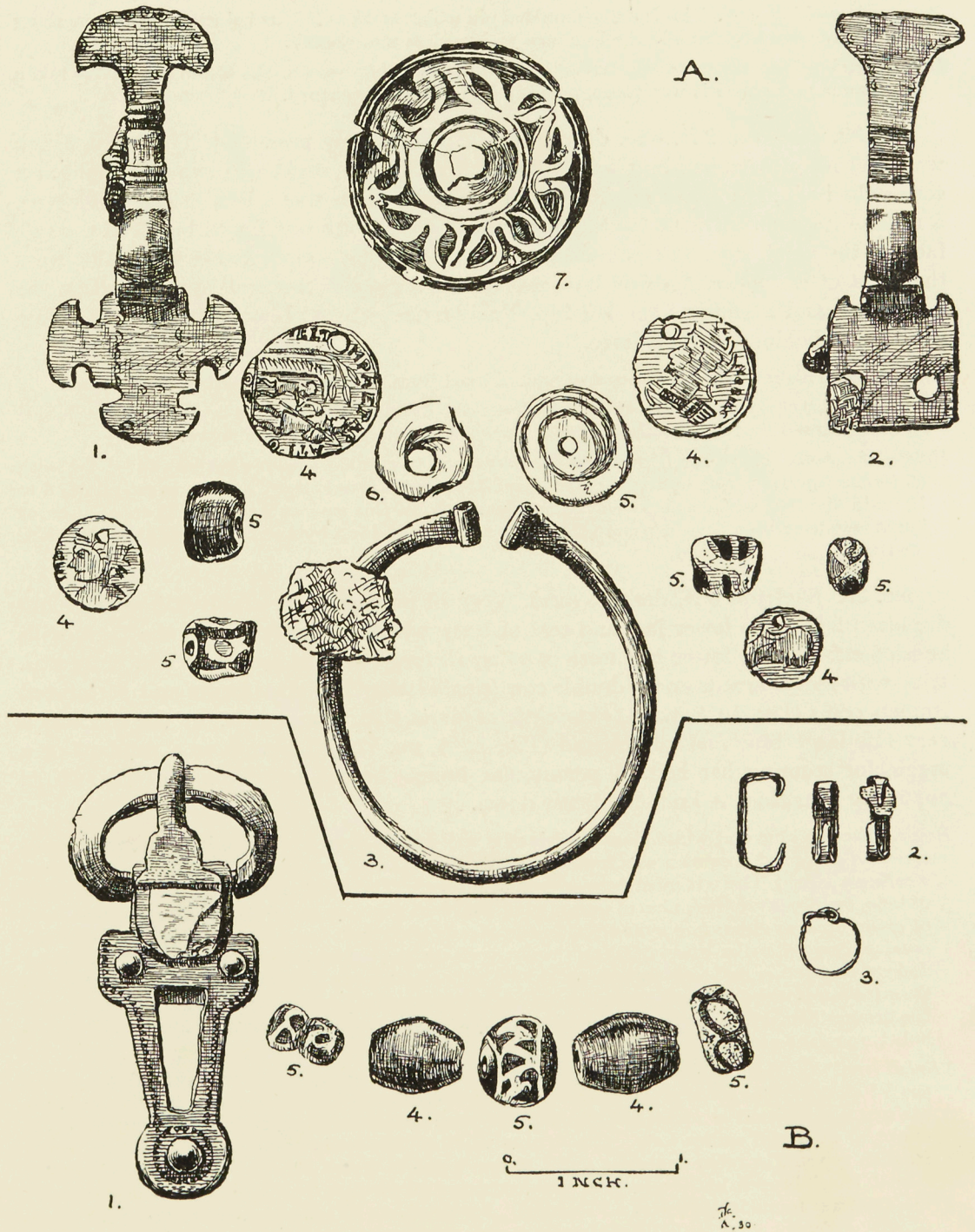


Fig. 10

A. Grave 39. 1, 2. "Small long" brooches. 3. Penannular brooch. 4. Four Roman coins. 5. Five glass beads. 6. Fossil used as bead. 7. Blue and white glass toggle. B. Grave 31. 1. Buckle with silver plate. 2. Clips. 3. Ring. 4. Amber beads. 5. Glass beads.

Penannular brooch. This has had an iron pin and a fragment of coarse woven material is preserved in the rust. Little is known as yet about Anglo-Saxon brooches of this form. Two smaller ones were found in Grave 83.

Date. It is probable that these objects were buried in the first half of the VI century.

No. 40. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Trace of skull, one arm and legs only visible. Probably lay on side with legs crossed at knee and slightly bent. The foot of a small bronze brooch (Fig. 11 B) broken and patched in antiquity lay against its skull. Careful exploration of a rabbit hole, which passed through the grave and out at either end, failed to reveal the rest of the brooch.

Brooch. This is of a type shown by Baldwin Brown from Alfriston, Sussex (Pl. XXXVII, no. 5). A specimen somewhat similar from Edix Hill, Barrington, is in the Cambridge Museum and specimens from Little Wilbraham of the same general type as those figured by Neville, Pl. II, from Graves 68 and 10. They are probably importations into our district and rather late in the period.

No. 41. Skeleton 3 ft. 7 in. deep in sand. Had been in a wood coffin. Ill preserved. On back, legs straight, elbows slightly bent. Hands on pelvis. A knife at left hip.

No. 42. Skeleton of a child in coffin. 3 ft. deep in sand. Little bone remained but body apparently straightened and on its back. Fragments of pots beside skull.

Potsherds. One is of typical Anglo-Saxon ware and the other "Castor ware" beaker.

No. 43. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in chalk. Head to south. Very ill preserved. Apparently a young woman. Hands crossed on pelvis, knees slightly bent. Body on its back. An annular bronze brooch on each clavicle and another on the right side of the lower jaw (Fig. 13 A, nos. 1, 2, 3). A single large lump of amber (Fig. 13 A, no. 4) evidently worn as a pendant was against the chin. A string of ninety amber beads had hung from the two brooches on the shoulders. Just below the brooch on the left shoulder was an iron buckle (Fig. 13 A, no. 6) with no chape. At the left hip was a set of three iron keys lying on a large ivory ring about 6 in. in diameter. A tiny bronze gilt object (Fig. 13 A, no. 5) set with a garnet was beside the ivory ring.

Ivory ring. This was almost completely decayed but is of a well-known type. (See Baldwin Brown, Pl. XCII, from Woodyates, Dorset.) There is a specimen from Barrington in the Cambridge Museum. They certainly bear the same relationship to the keys as do the iron and bronze rings with Nos. 1, 7, 11, 12, etc.

Bronze object. This little gilt ornament is provided with three rivets at the back and a socket at the top. It may be a strap end or have been a connecting link between the girdle and the ivory ring. I do not know of another example. The form suggests a relationship with the VII century Kentish buckles with triangular chape.

Amber beads. These resemble those found with No. 11 but are on the whole smaller. The big pendant bead is a flat roughly circular lump $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter with central perforation much worn by the thread.

Date. It is quite impossible to date this grave till something more is known about either annular brooches, ivory rings or the bronze object with the garnet in it. The quantity of amber, the imported ivory, and the garnet work all seem to me to suggest a late date in the period.

No. 44. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. The grave had been dug through an apparently natural layer of chalk. A male, I think. Bones in fair condition. Body lay on its back. Arms and legs carefully straightened. Fragment of small iron buckle at right hip.

No. 45. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Moderately preserved. Judged to be a woman from the bones and associated objects. Body lay on its back, legs straight but crossed at knee. Left hand on shoulder and elbow raised (probably done when lowering the

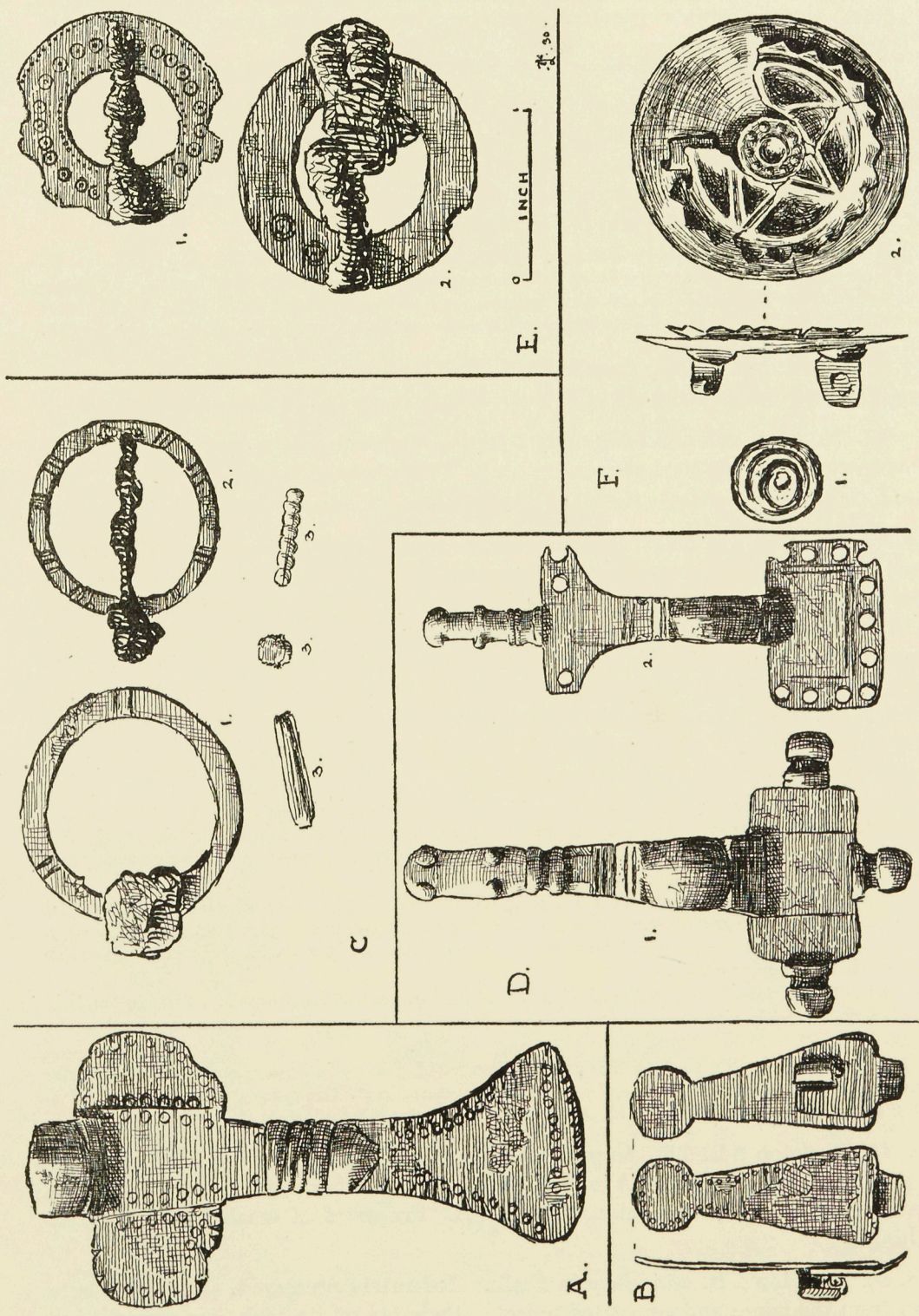


Fig. 11
 A. Surface, Cruciform brooch. B. Grave 40. Foot of brooch. C. Grave 35. 1, 2. Annular brooches, 3 glass beads, 3 glass beads. D. Grave 69. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. "Small long" brooch. E. Grave 47. 1. Glass bead. 2. Saucer brooch ("applied"). F. Grave 45. 1, 2. Annular brooches.

body into the grave). Right hand on pelvis. Two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 11 E) and traces of leather at the clavicles. An extra pair of ribs in the neck.

Annular brooches. The smaller of the two is probably of very early date, possibly V century.

No. 46. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Ill preserved. Body lay on left side facing north. Hands up to face, knees drawn up to chest, right not so high. Two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 13 C, no. 1) at shoulders. A pair of wrist clasps on either wrist (Fig. 13 C, no. 2).

No. 47. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Very ill preserved. Presumably a female from associated objects. Body lay on its back with legs straight, hands on pelvis and elbows rather far from the body. At the chin was a single glass bead and a bronze saucer brooch of the "applied" form (Fig. 11 F, no. 2).

Bronze brooch. This is a shallow saucer-shaped bronze plate tinned round the edge of the upper surface, with a bronze plate of smaller diameter fastened on top of it. The "applied" plate is ornamented with a star, circle and knobs in repoussé work and has its circumference cut to form a many-pointed star. I regard this brooch as a rather early example of the type but Dr Roeder, who has made a special study of the type, does not, as I think, agree (Fritz Roeder, *Die sächsische Schalenfibel der Völkerwanderungszeit*). This is the only saucer brooch from the cemetery.

Glass bead. Simple disc bead of white glass with blue spiral inlay.

No. 48. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. in sand. Very ill preserved. Lay on its back, knees slightly bent. Right arm across body, left extended by the side. A woman, surely. There were four cruciform brooches on the chest (Fig. 12, nos. 1-4), the upper two on the clavicles were smaller than the others and had the feet upwards. The lower two, which were rather more to the sides of the body and on the middle ribs, had the feet downwards. A necklace of a hundred and thirty glass, two amber, one jet and four bronze beads reached from the back of the neck below the left elbow. There was a pair of clasps (Fig. 12, no. 5) on either wrist. At the left hip was a big three-pronged iron key. An iron ring as with Nos. 1 and 7, etc., a knife and a small iron ring as with No. 12. The shoulder blade of a sheep or goat lay against the skull.

Cruciform brooches. The four brooches are all of early forms. Two have detachable side knobs and two have not, but this I think is no great matter. The two smaller specimens (Nos. 3 and 4) are almost a pair, and one can hardly believe that the one with fixed knobs is later on that account when brooches like that with No. 58 are found with no knobs at all and evidently made fifty years and more after the ones from this grave. Fox and Baldwin Brown are agreed in dating brooches of this kind about A.D. 500. (See Baldwin Brown, Pl. XLI, no. 4; Fox, Pl. XXXIV, no. 1, and Pl. XXXIII, no. 6.) Personally I think this date on the early side. The brooch with flat side knobs (No. 1) must be, one would think, a good deal later than the other three. The fine speculum specimen (No. 2) is a rarity.

Wrist clasps. These are very similar to those shown by Fox, Pl. XXXIV, no. 1, from Girton, with a brooch of the type of those found here. (Another very similar grave group was found at Girton, No. 39, and figured in the published account of that cemetery by Hollingworth and O'Reilly.)

Glass beads. There are eighty-nine blue beads of the commonest type; ten cylindrical beads of red, green and yellow; three melon beads of clear green glass, one red inside (Fig. 12, no. 7); one melon bead yellow; two rods of blue glass; two cylindrical beads much decayed, with red ends and bound spirally with blue glass ribbon; six "dumb-bell" beads of opaque yellow and clear green; two spherical beads of green glass with red and white eyes; four beads of decayed clear green glass (?); three others variously decayed; a little jug of clear dark blue glass; two small beads of green and two of brown. There is a large cigar-shaped bead of dark blue glass wound spirally with white. Three small blue beads have been strung on silver or iron wires. The jug bead is of a Roman type but the glass seems identical with the commonest Anglo-Saxon blue.

Amber beads. The amber beads are discs very roughly shaped.

Jet bead. The single bead of this material is almost certainly a Romano-British specimen.

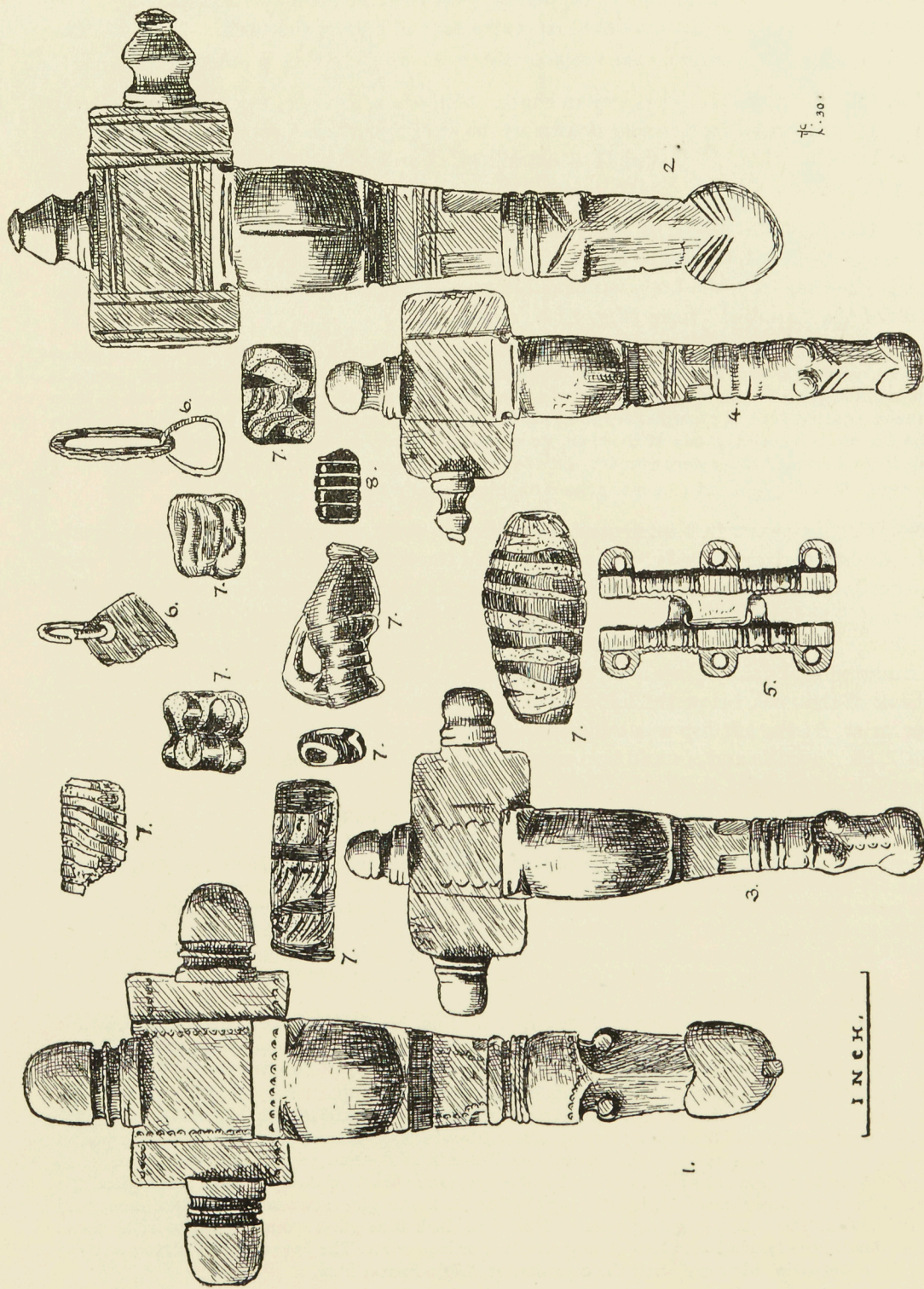


Fig. 12
Grave 48. 1, 2, 3, 4. Cruciform brooches. 5. Wrist clasp. 6. Bronze pendants. 7. Glass beads. 8. Jet bead.

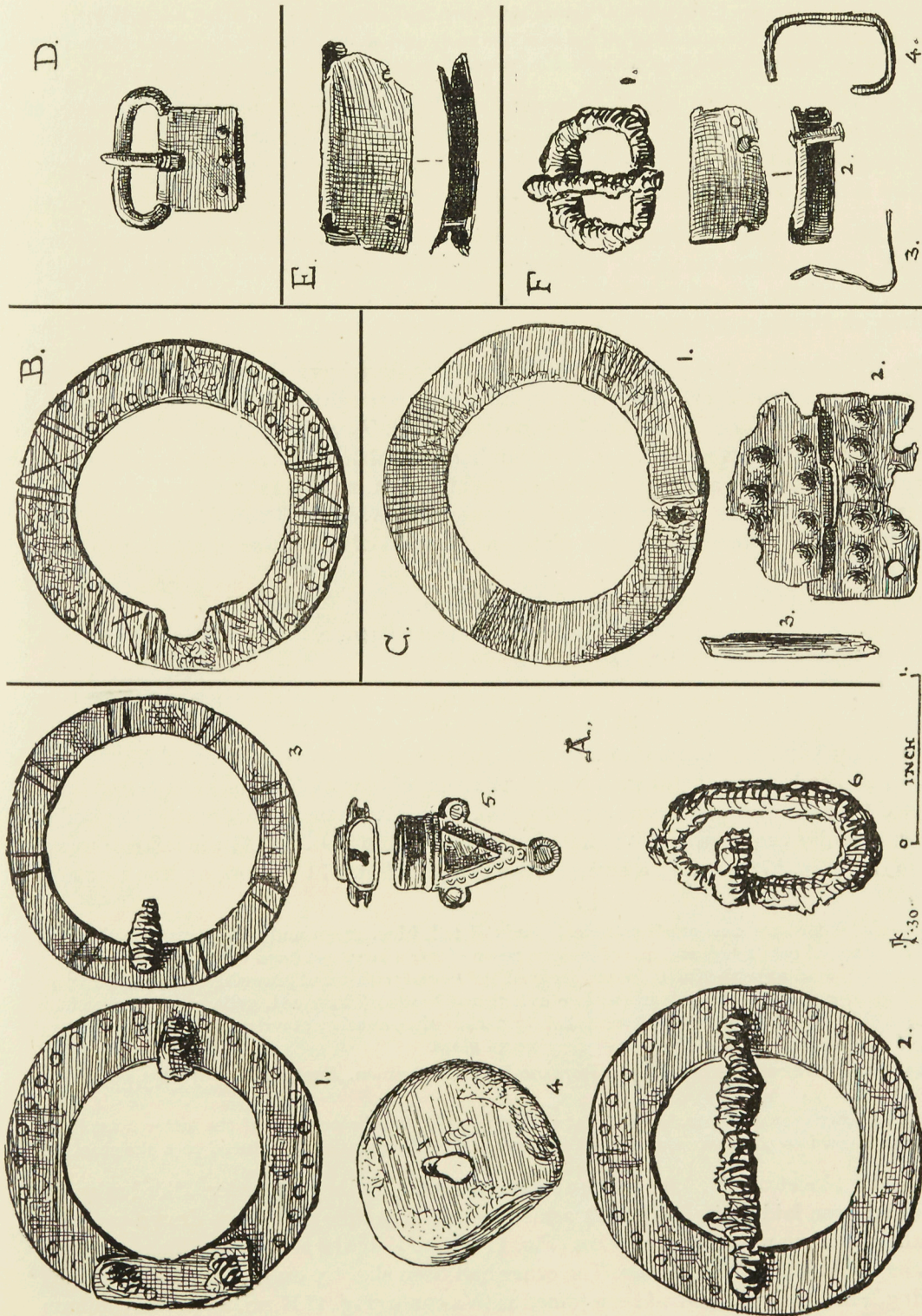


Fig. 13

A. Grave 43. 1, 2, 3. Annular brooches. 4. Amber pendant. 5. Gilt strap end set with garnet. 6. Iron buckle. B. Grave 49. Annular brooch. C. Grave 46. 1. Annular brooch. 2. Wrist clasp. 3. Bone pin (49). D. Grave 56. Bronze buckle. E. Grave 29. Shield binding. F. Grave 93. 1. Iron buckle. 2. Shield binding. 3, 4. Clips.

Bronze beads. These are little tubes of bronze with pendant rings, some of which are now lost.

Date, etc. This is an exceptionally rich grave of the early period. It probably represents the gear of a well-to-do farmer's wife buried about 525, possibly earlier.

No. 49. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand on chalk. Not well preserved. Probably a woman. Body lay on its back with arms and legs straight. An annular bronze brooch on each shoulder (Fig. 13 B). A hole in the chalk under lumbar region and one at feet. I doubt if these were made by human agency.

No. 50. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Very rotten. Sex uncertain, possibly male. Lay on back, hands crossed on pelvis, knees slightly bent. Big iron buckle (Fig. 14 F, no. 1) with square chape on pelvis. Pair of bronze tweezers and ear-pick (Fig. 14 F, no. 2) together on bronze wire ring at right hip. An iron knife also.

No. 51. Skeleton 2 ft. 4 in. deep in sand. Very ill preserved and skull completely destroyed by shield boss. Body lay on back, legs straight, hands crossed on chest. Shield boss lay on face. Spear head to south of head. Two studs from shield on collar bone. Bronze buckle (Fig. 14 A, no. 1) on lumbar vertebrae, a belt plate (Fig. 14 A, no. 2) facing it on south side and a pair of tweezers (Fig. 14 A, no. 3) and knife on north side. The trace of the leather belt could be clearly seen in the soil. The bow of the buckle was $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the near end of the belt plate and the end of the chape of the buckle 3 in. from the tweezers.

Shield boss. Of typical local type with large stud on apex.

Buckle plate, etc. These are of Frankish form and are probably importations. (See specimens from Herpes, Charente, in the British Museum; see also No. 62.)

No. 52. Skeleton of a child 1 ft. 2 in. deep in sand. Very slight traces of bones but seemed to have lain on back with legs and arms straight. When this grave was dug the skull of No. 53 and part of its shoulder were displaced, a cervical vertebra of No. 53 and three of its beads being found with No. 52. A string of twenty-five glass beads had been fastened to two strips of bronze (Fig. 17 C, no. 1) and sewn on to the front of the body. An iron annular brooch was at the left shoulder (Fig. 17 C, no. 2). At the left hip was a bronze key (Fig. 17 C, no. 5), a bronze strap end gilt (Fig. 17 C, no. 4), an iron ring and knife.

Glass beads. There are nine small spherical beads of red, blue, green and white respectively; two melon beads of pale green and one of opaque green glass; a large red bead with eyes of green and white; one bead as with No. 48, much decayed but bound with spiral blue ribbon; one cylindrical bead of light red, yellow and green; two cylindrical beads of dark red, yellow and green; four spherical beads of pale blue inlaid with slightly darker blue, another of red with green and yellow; a cylinder of dull buff and another of clear green glass.

Bronze key. This is almost certainly a Romano-British specimen. Another case of keys associated with rings.

Date. This grave must be considerably later than No. 53, for the position of the latter must have been unknown to the gravediggers and the enclosed body completely reduced to a skeleton.

No. 53. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand on chalk. Not in good order. Skull missing. Body had been laid on its back with arms crossed on middle and knees drawn up. Two "small long" square-headed brooches (Fig. 17 B, no. 1) at the shoulders. The one on the left was in place with the foot up. The other had been slightly displaced when Grave 52 was dug. The two brooches had been joined with a chain (Fig. 17 B, no. 2), as was common in Romano-British times, and beads had hung between them in festoons. This was proved by the little beads stuck to the head of one in rows. A collection of small bronze

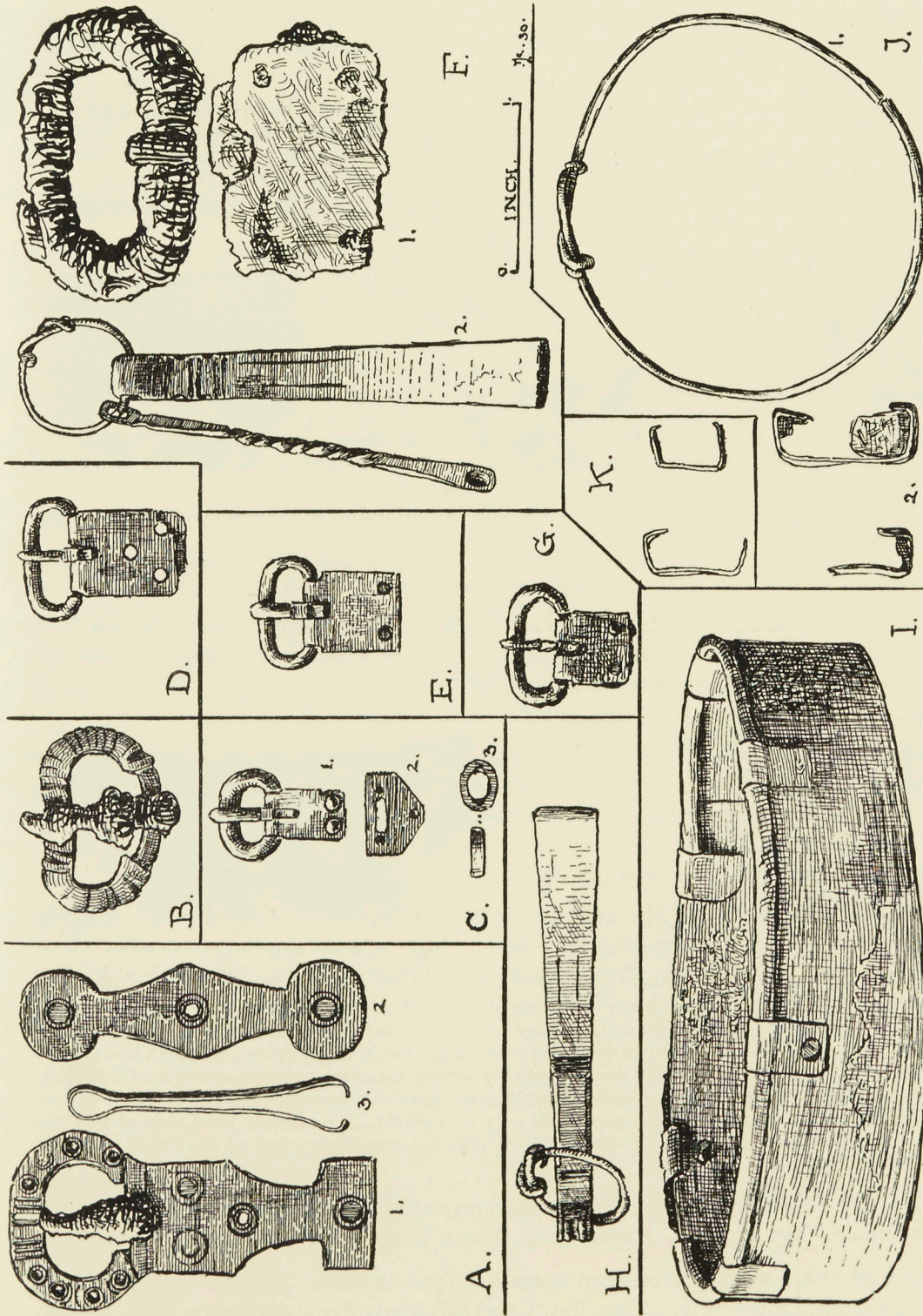


Fig. 14

A. Grave 51. 1. Bronze buckle. 2. Bronze buckle. 3. Tweezers. B. Grave 62. Bronze buckle. C. Grave 34. 1. Bronze buckle. 2. Bronze belt plate. 3. Bronze eyelet. D. Grave 30. Bronze buckle. E. Grave 4. Bronze buckle. F. Grave 50. 1. Iron buckle. 2. Bronze tweezers and ear-pick. G. Grave 91. Bronze buckle. H. Grave 63. Bronze tweezers. I. Grave 15. Drinking horn mount. J. Grave 23. 1. Bronze anklet. 2. Bronze clips. K. Grave 38. Bronze clips.

plates (Fig. 17 B, no. 3) with rivets in some of them and others joined together with string (which is still visible) lay against the left humerus. A knife was at the end of them and also portions of two wrist clasps (Fig. 17 B, no. 5).

"Small long" brooches. These belong to a type found in Schleswig in use before the Conquest and presumably mid V century in date. See specimens from Barrington and Girton, Fox, Pl. XXX, no. 5. Ours ought not to be much if any later and of V or very early VI century date, but primitive forms of "small long" brooches had a long life in our district (see Fox, p. 270).

Bronze plates. These must have formed part of a belt of some sort. Similar objects were found with No. 79.

Glass beads. It seems from a study of the rows on the back of one of the brooches that the beads had been worn in three festoons. A little triangular bronze object (Fig. 17 B, no. 4) had possibly been worn between them as a pendant. Beside the little globular beads of black glass there are some minute blown specimens which seem to be coated with gold leaf. There are twenty-seven blue glass beads of ordinary type though the two largest are double; four large cylindrical beads of the usual red, green and yellow and four spherical ones of the same materials (a bead of this form was found in the Roman fort of Newstead); two spherical yellow beads; two white with blue and red inlay; six similar inlaid with blue only; nine melon beads of clear green glass; one spherical white bead inlaid with pink, another yellow inlaid with red; six unrecognisable; nine small spherical clear green or brownish; two clear darker green; one disc very pale green; one cube red inlaid green and white eyes.

Amber bead. Roughly spherical. Attention has already been drawn to the scarcity of amber in early necklaces in this cemetery.

Date. This burial should, on the strength of the "small long" brooches, be among the earliest in the cemetery and probably in the neighbourhood of A.D. 500.

No. 54. Skeleton 1 ft. 6 in. deep in chalk. Not well preserved. Body, thought to be female on account of associated beads, lay on its back with hands crossed on chest and legs straight. Small glass beads at left shoulder beside skull.

Beads. All of glass, small and of common types. Blue, red and green spherical.

No. 55. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Condition moderate. One of its knees was against the skull of No. 56 but there was no sign of disturbance. Body, thought to be a male, lay on back, knees strongly bent, left arm across body, right arm straight. Broken bowl against back of skull.

Bowl. Of typical Anglo-Saxon ware (Pl. II).

No. 56. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Condition bad. Body lay on back with legs and arms straight. Legs crossed at ankle. Spear against skull at south side. Shield boss and four studs on chest. Bronze buckle on lumbar vertebrae. Iron knife at left hip.

Shield boss (Fig. 21 B, no. 2). This is of the conical type. The little button at the apex has a silver plate on it and one of the studs on the flange opposite those holding the grip is so also. The large iron studs in pairs fastened on to the woodwork of the shield recall those on Indian and African bucklers. The silver stud on the flange probably served the same purpose as the bindings at the rims of Nos. 29 and 93, i.e. to facilitate picking up the shield in a hurry when it was lying boss upwards and the position of the grip could only be guessed. The angle of the flange of this boss and the shanks of the loose iron studs suggest that the wooden portion of the shield was quite conical.

No. 57. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. deep in sand on chalk. Pretty ill preserved. Thought to be a female. Lay on back. Hands up to throat, knees bent. Nothing found here.

No. 58. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand and just in chalk. Bones almost gone. Very fine cruciform brooch (Fig. 15, no. 2) with no side knobs lay slantwise on chest, foot upwards. Two annular bronze brooches (Fig. 15, no. 1) at where the shoulders must have been. From them extended a string of twenty-three amber, seven glass and four crystal



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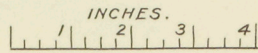
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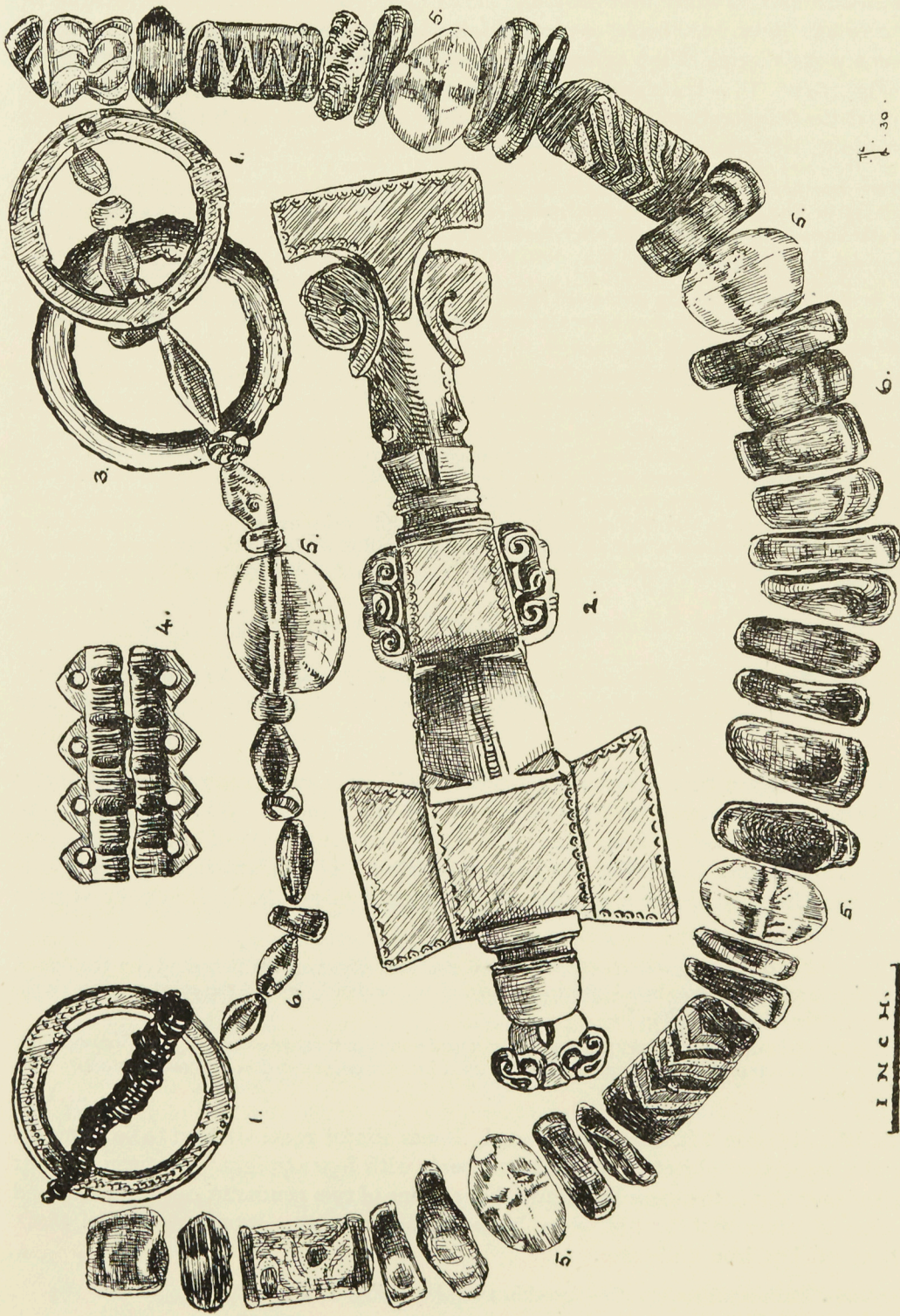


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PLATE II. POTS FROM GRAVES AT HOLYWELL ROW.



Grave 58. 1. Annular brooch. 2. Cruciform brooch. 3. Bronze ring. 4. Wrist clasp. 5. Crystal beads. 6. Amber (33).

Fig. 15

beads, which had certainly been fastened to the brooches, and could be collected in the correct order. Round the neck, or possibly attached to the brooches on a shorter string, had been worn a string of ten amber, five glass and one crystal. There was also a bronze ring (Fig. 15, no. 3), a knife and a pair of wrist clasps (Fig. 15, no. 4). From their positions and the fragments of bone it was determined that the body lay on its back with legs straight, left arm crossed on pelvis and right arm by the side.

Cruciform brooch. This is a fine example, in many ways intermediate between that found in No. 79 and that in No. 16 (see note on the latter). The wings are ornamented with good animal heads in Style I, and the date must be after the middle of the VI century.

Annular brooches. Of unusual type.

Amber beads. Those in the big string are large flat lumps some 1 in. in diameter. The amber is in good condition and the whole necklace is very fine. The beads in the shorter string are biconical, small and carefully worked.

Crystal beads. The four of these from the big string are spheres. That from the small string is flat beneath and convex on top, perforated longitudinally and badly bored. They are of fine dark quartz and in good order.

Glass beads. There is one "dumb-bell" bead of opaque yellow and clear green glass as with No. 48. Two large biconical disc beads of blue glass. Two big cylindrical beads with red ends ornamented in zigzags with yellow, green and red bands, and one brick red cube with yellow zigzag inlay. These are in the big string. In the smaller string are five small spherical beads, two of violet glass, one of white inlaid with blue, one of yellow and green and one white. The big string strongly recalls one from a grave at Chatham Lines, Kent, and figured by Leeds, Fig. 20, belonging to the second half of the VI century.

Date. The grave must date well into the second half of the VI century.

No. 59. Skeleton 1 ft. 8 in. deep in sand. Bones very rotten. Thought to be a male. Body laid on back, arms and legs straight. Fragmentary iron buckle and knife at right hip.

No. 60. Skeleton 2 ft. 9 in. deep in sand on chalk. Not well preserved. Body lay on back, knees slightly drawn up, shoulders hunched and hands on pelvis. Judged to be a male from associated objects. A pot (Pl. I) by the south side of skull. Iron spear against left shoulder. Shield boss on right lower ribs. Two straight-sided strips of iron $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, 3 in. from the boss near top and bottom of shield (?). An iron knife at right hip.

Shield boss. Of carinated type with silvered apical stud and silver on the four studs on the flange. Very ill preserved. The two iron strips mentioned above evidently served the same purpose as the circular studs found with No. 56.

Pot. This has raised bosses round its greatest circumference and is ornamented with incised lines and stamped patterns. It is a type frequently used for cremations and in this case probably contained food.

No. 61. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Judged to be a woman from the associated objects. Had lain on back with legs straight. Two iron annular brooches near skull. Six glass beads and the remains of two pendants, one of bronze and the other of silver with bronze loops, between the brooches. Bronze ring (Fig. 19 D, no. 4) at left hip, iron knife also.

Amber beads. Perforated lumps. One bored in two places (Fig. 19 D, no. 2).

Bronze ring. As with No. 58.

Pendants. Very fragmentary. The silver one had probably resembled that from No. 12.

No. 62. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Ill preserved. Body lay on back with legs and arms straight. Thought to be a man. Iron spear at right shoulder. Shield boss on left humerus. Iron knife at left hip. Bronze buckle (Fig. 14 B) on pelvis.

Shield boss. Of usual carinated type.

Bronze buckle. This is of a new type locally and appears to be either of Frankish workmanship or a close copy (see specimens from Herpes in the British Museum). This is the third or possibly the fourth case of large imported buckles in this cemetery. It would almost appear that the East Angles did not make many ornamental buckles. For in Little Wilbraham cemetery the only ornamental buckle found by Neville (Grave 28) is of Kentish workmanship, and the one found in 1926 (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. XXIX, p. 95, Fig. 1) is probably Frankish; also St John's Cemetery, Cambridge (Fox, Pl. XXXIV, no. 9), produced a cell-work buckle similar to the last and a "Kentish" specimen of the type of that from our Grave 31. As against these, however, the set from Girton (Fox, Pl. XXXV) looks like "Anglian" work.

No. 63. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Body lay on left side facing north. Arms straight by sides, knees slightly bent. At the hip was a black mass, apparently rotten leather. In it was a chipped flint, a lump of iron which may have been either a knife or strike-a-light and a pair of bronze tweezers (Fig. 14 H).

There was evidently a pouch here containing "flint and steel".

No. 64. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep, head in chalk, legs in sand. Bones almost gone. Thought to be a male from associated objects. Spear head at south side of skull. Shield boss on chest. Iron knife and fragmentary iron buckle at right hip. Knees slightly bent, body on its back.

Shield boss. Of usual carinated type.

No. 65. Skeleton 2 ft. 8 in. deep in sand. Not well preserved. Thought to be a female. Buried on back, knees drawn up to south. Right hand on right knee, left crossed over body. Nothing at all with it.

No. 66. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Body on back, knees bent. Nothing with it.

No. 67. Traces of skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. An iron knife.

No. 68. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. Moderately preserved. A large male as I think. Laid on back with legs straight, body slightly twisted and right hand on left shoulder. Left arm straight. Shield boss against south side of skull. On the north side of the skull was the remains of a wooden bucket with four metal hoops, the lower three of iron and the top one of bronze (Fig. 21 A, no. 1). Handle of iron. On the lower ribs lay two iron plates some 3 in. long by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide. A third on the pelvis. They are much rusted and may have been fastened to a belt. A bronze strap end at the right hip (Fig. 21 A, no. 2). No sign of knife or spear. By the right hip was a hole in the chalk as before, 5 in. wide and 6 in. deep.

Shield boss. Of usual carinated type.

Bucket. This belongs to the class of object often called "situlae" (see also No. 4). They are found with both men and women in other cemeteries.

Strap end. See No. 7.

No. 69. Skeleton of a child 2 ft. deep in chalk. Very ill preserved. The body apparently lay on its left side facing north. No legs left. In front of the face was a pot (Pls. I, V) and against the lower jaw two bronze brooches (Fig. 11 D), one is cruciform,

the other a "small long". Fragmentary wrist clasps showed the position of the arms, which must have been straight. An iron ring as before and an iron pin (?).

Pot. This, which is of a common type, contained the shells of several duck's eggs.

Brooches. The cruciform specimen is very similar to the two smaller specimens found with No. 48 (q.v.) and should be of early VI century date. The other brooch is quite abnormal and seems to be a mixture of a very early "small long" brooch with the addition of the foot of an early cruciform.

Date. This must be an early burial, probably not much later than A.D. 500.

No. 70. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Very badly preserved. The body, which was presumably a woman, lay on its back with arms and legs straight. A bronze pin (Fig. 18 A, no. 2), with loose wire ring head, lay crosswise on the right clavicle, just below it were three glass beads. At the left hip was an iron knife and links of iron chain extended to the knees. Amongst them were several awl-like pieces of iron, two scraps of bronze plate (Fig. 18 A, no. 6) with holes in them, and finally (Fig. 18 A, no. 3) a little bronze loop which had been riveted on to some other object. On top of all these lay a piece of thin bronze ribbon, some $\frac{1}{4}$ in. deep, which had evidently bound the lip of some wood or leather vessel about 6 in. in diameter.

Bronze pin. This is of a type associated with the "Kentish" culture.

Glass beads. All spherical. Two of opaque green glass. The third much decayed of blue glass set with spots of green and red.

Chatelaine. This is of a type frequently found at Burwell (see Figs. 32, 33) and occurred in numerous "Kentish" graves opened by Faussett at Kingston, Gilton, etc. The bronze object at the bottom (Fig. 18 A, no. 3) is quite typical of the Burwell graves.

Date. This must be a very late grave. Certainly in the VII century and probably about the middle of it. The fashion for wearing brooches has quite gone out and chatelaines have taken their place.

No. 71. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in chalk. Not well preserved. Thought to be a male both from bones and associated weapon. Body lay on back, hands crossed on pelvis, legs crossed at ankle. Left knee bent. Lower jaw quite detached from skull and displaced 6 in. or so. Spear head at right shoulder.

No. 72. Skeleton 2 ft. 5 in. deep in chalk. Ill preserved and skull ruined by shield boss which lay on it. Certainly a man. Lay on back, legs straight, right arm crossed over body. Hole in chalk as before at right shoulder. Spear at left shoulder. Knife and fragmentary iron buckle at left hip. Remains of simple bowl in fragments near left hip.

Shield boss. Of usual carinated type.

No. 73. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Body had probably lain on left side facing north. Knees up. A knife was with it.

No. 74. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Body apparently lay on its right side facing south. In front of the face were some fragments of iron and wood which may have been a bucket as with Nos. 4, 29, and 68, or possibly a box. Sticking out of the remains was an iron key. Fragmentary silver ring at the throat possibly a pendant. Iron knife at hip. Possibly a woman.

Date. Possibly a late grave.

No. 75. Skeleton of a child 2 ft. deep in sand. Ill preserved, lying on back, legs and arms straight. Nothing with it.

No. 76. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Not well preserved. Sex uncertain. Body lay on back, legs and right arm straight, left hand on pelvis. A broken bowl lay at a depth of 1 ft. 6 in. from the surface above the feet (Pl. II, see No. 69).

Bowl. This is an ordinary domestic vessel, fragments of which are found in the huts.

No. 77. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Thought to be a man. Body seemed to lie on its back, legs straight. Left arm on pelvis. At the left shoulder was a spear. At the left hip the remains of leather with some bronze fragments on it, and also a knife.

The leather and bronze probably formed part of a pouch.

No. 78. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Moderately preserved. Body lay on its back. Legs and right arm straight, left arm crossed over body. Possibly a man. Nothing with it.

No. 79. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. From position and character of associated objects it appears that the body was that of an old woman laid on her back with legs straight and both hands up to the face. Some very worn teeth showed where the skull had been, on the south side of them were some bronze objects (Fig. 16, no. 11), one of which is apparently a buckle; on the north side were plates (Fig. 16, no. 10) apparently off a belt. Closer to the teeth and somewhat lower down were two "small long" brooches (Fig. 16, nos. 4, 5), the square-headed one with foot downwards, the other foot upwards. Close to these was a fine cruciform bronze brooch (Fig. 16, no. 1) lying straight across the body, and below this two cruciform brooches with detached knobs (Fig. 16, nos. 2, 3), heads upwards. At the head of the big cruciform brooch which was to the south were the remains of three spiral wire wrist clasps (Fig. 16, no. 8), one cast example (Fig. 16, no. 9), and an ear-pick (Fig. 16, no. 12). At the left hip were the ends of two dissimilar bronze rectangular-shaped girdle hangers (Fig. 16, nos. 6, 7) evidently broken in antiquity, also an iron knife, another fragment and a roll of thin bronze ribbon. On the lumbar region was a bronze strap end. Some 18 in. from the right ankle was a small pot (Pl. I, see No. 69) covered with the lower jaw (one side) of an ox.

Large cruciform brooch. This is almost identical with one from the Girton cemetery in the Cambridge Museum (Fox, Pl. XXVII, no. 2). Both Fox and Åberg agree in dating this a little after the middle of the VI century. (See also No. 16.)

Cruciform brooches with loose knobs. See Åberg, figs. 64 and 65 for examples like my No. 3. These brooches must be fairly early in the VI century, at any rate older than my No. 3.

"Small long" brooches. One of these, No. 5, is of the early square-headed type (see No. 21) and should be early in the VI century. The other is a fully developed "horned" type (see Nos. 13 and 37). It was apparently brand new when it was put in and was the latest object in the grave, all the other brooches were very worn. It ought, therefore, to be considerably later than mid VI century.

Girdle hangers. These were certainly put in broken. They belong to forms of the ornaments found with Grave 11 (q.v.). They are, however, rather unusual in several ways. They are not a pair. One has eyelets at the bottom like continental specimens. The other has apparently been worked with birds' heads facing inwards at the top like the handle ornament from the bucket in Grave 68. They would seem to belong to the middle of the VI century or rather later.

Wrist clasps. The spiral examples are rather ill-made specimens of the type found in Graves 17 and 20 (see No. 17). The other resembles the clasps found with No. 58.

Absence of beads. It is rather unusual to find a rich grave with no beads.

Pot. This is of a type often found associated with inhumations. It is possibly an ordinary domestic pot. Perhaps it may have had honey or some such thing in it when it was buried.

Ox jaw. I am told that the meat off this joint makes an excellent stew.

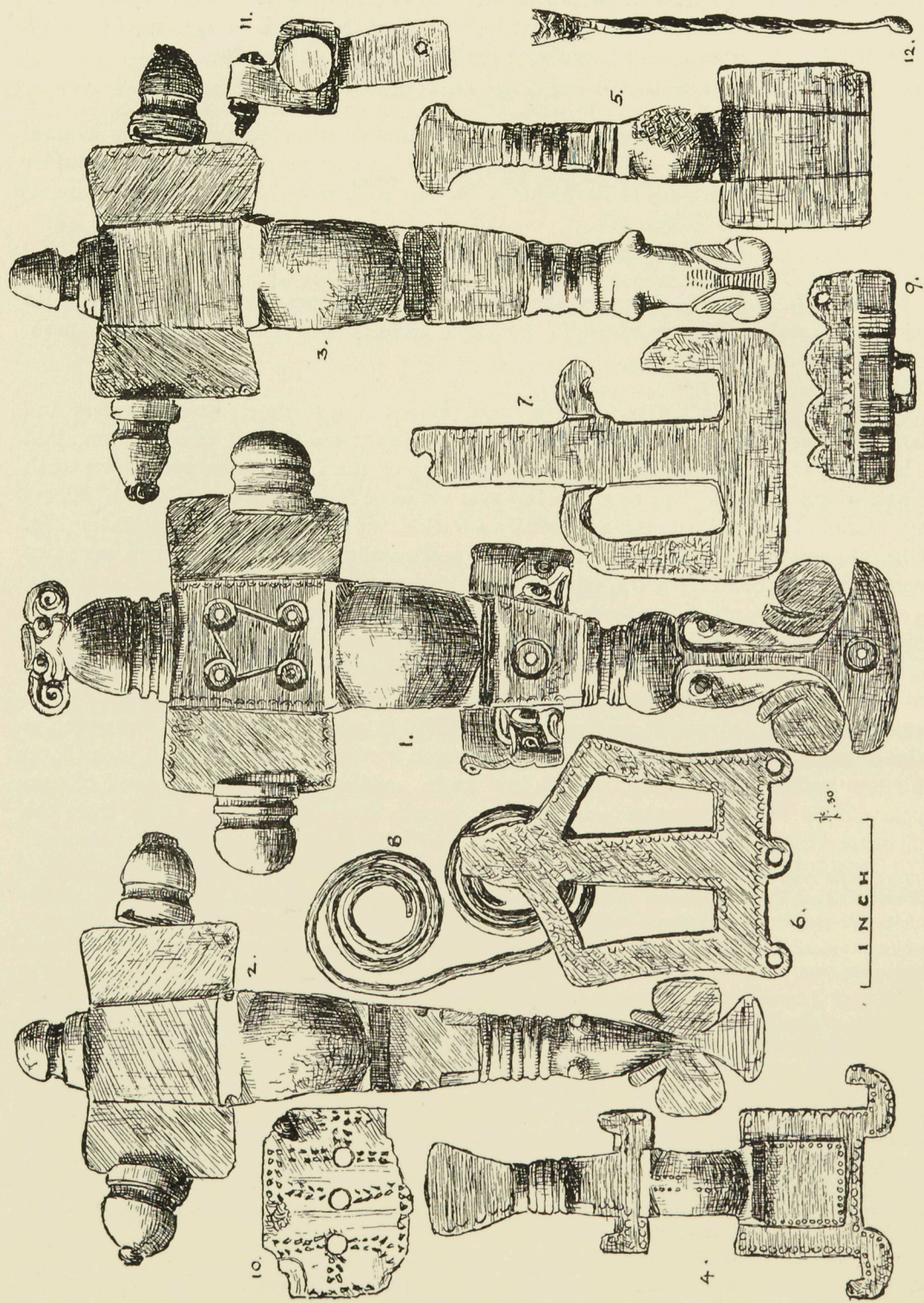


Fig. 16

Grave 79. 1, 2, 3. Cruciform brooches. 4, 5. "Small long" brooches. 6, 7. Girdle hangers. 8, 9. Wrist clasps. 10. Belt plate. 11. Buckle. 12. Ear-pick.

Belt ornaments. The discovery of belt ornaments near the head and shoulders in this grave, No. 53, and Burwell graves, Nos. 24 and 76, suggests that belts may have been used to lower some bodies into the grave.

Date. According to the accepted chronology the objects found in this grave seem to range in date over a period of not less than fifty and probably more like seventy years. This may be accounted for by the worn condition of the woman's teeth. In my opinion the body was buried well after the middle of the VI century and probably nearer its close.

No. 80. Skeleton 1 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Ill preserved and much disturbed. Body apparently lay on its back with arms crossed on middle and knees drawn up. A knife was the only thing found.

No. 81. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Moderately preserved. Judged to be a male. Lay on its back, arms straight, knees drawn up. Nothing was found here.

No. 82. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Very ill preserved. Thought to be a young woman. Two bronze brooches (Fig. 17 A, no. 1) with feet uppermost rested on the clavicles and a string of seventy glass beads had hung between them. This was proved by the last beads adhering to the rust of the pins of the brooches. Body lay on back. Knees appear to have been bent.

Brooches. A very similar brooch from Newnham, Cambs., is figured by Fox (Pl. XXXIV, no. 2). He dates it in the second half of the VI century. This is borne out by the wrist clasp associated with it and similar to those found with No. 58 in this cemetery. A pair of brooches almost identical with ours was found at Little Wilbraham by Neville (Grave 9, Pl. IX) associated with a "small long" square-headed brooch almost exactly like those found in our Grave 21 (q.v.). So on various counts they may be dated somewhere in the middle of the VI century.

Glass beads. There are forty-five beads of the typical Anglo-Saxon "small blue" type: five cylindrical, three spherical and one disc of red, green and yellow; four melon beads of clear green glass; three spherical white inlaid with green and red; two dull blue spotted red; one disc white inlaid blue and spotted red; one spherical yellow inlaid green, red spots; two plain opaque red discs; one large clear blue disc inlaid opaque white in waves; one black disc lacking white (?) wavy inlay.

Date. Presumably a mid VI century burial or later.

No. 83. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Not well preserved. Surely a woman from associated objects. Laid on back. Hands on pelvis, knees partly drawn up. A penannular brooch (Fig. 19 A, nos. 3, 4) on each clavicle, fifteen amber beads presumably hung from them. An amber pendant lay slightly higher up. Wrist clasps (Fig. 19 A, no. 1) on either wrist.

Penannular brooches. One of these is not unlike some Romano-British examples. The other appears to be a copy of it with an iron pin.

Amber beads. Four of these are small and roughly spherical. The remaining eleven are well made bi-conical beads about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long by less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide. The pendant is a disc bead $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter.

Date. The only other bi-conical amber beads from the cemetery have been from Graves 31 and 58, both of which are later than mid VI century.

No. 84. Skeleton 3 ft. deep in sand. Fairly well preserved. Thought possibly to be a woman. Laid on back with arms folded over body and knees slightly bent. Two pots-herds of typical unornamented Anglo-Saxon ware laid on chest. Knife at left hip.

No. 85. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Ill preserved. Thought to be a woman from associated objects. Body laid on back with arms and legs straight. At the left hip was a small collection of objects mixed with rotten wood, namely, an iron knife, a strike-a-light (Fig. 18 B, no. 1), a piece of iron pyrites, two bronze hasps (Fig. 18 B, nos. 4, 5), a bronze loop (Fig. 18 B, no. 3) and a big glass bead (Fig. 18 B, no. 2).

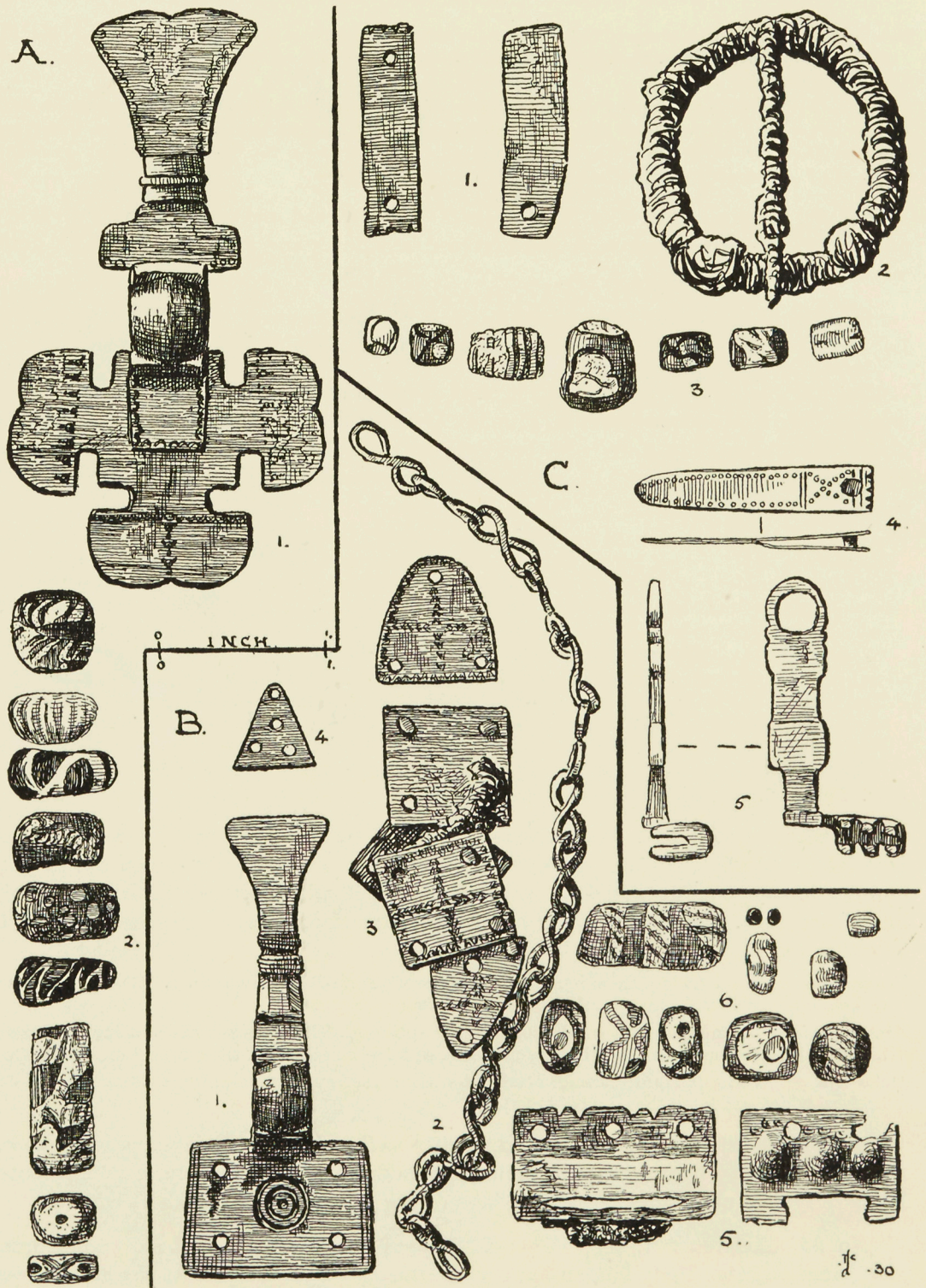


Fig. 17

A. Grave 82. 1. Cruciform brooch. 2. Glass beads. B. Grave 53. 1. "Small long" brooch. 2. Bronze chain. 3. Bronze plates. 4. Bronze pendant (?). 5. Bronze wrist clasps. 6. Glass beads. C. Grave 52. 1. Bronze tabs. 2. Iron brooch. 3. Glass beads. 4. Gilt bronze strap end. 5. Bronze key.

Glass bead. This doubtless served the purpose of a toggle, for fastening the belt (see p. 76). It is a disc bead of clear greyish glass inlaid with a rosette of red and yellow.

Hasps, loop, etc. These are typical of the Burwell graves (e.g. Nos. 3, 6, 24, 83, 97) and formed part of the fittings of a leather case. This case certainly contained a strike-a-light and pyrites. Whether the rotten wood formed a backing to the case or was put in to provide firing is uncertain, but when it was washed a flea was found in it. This flea has been identified as *Ceratophyllus gallinae*, a bird parasite sometimes found under bark, and so it seems probable that it was introduced into the pouch with tinder.

Date. This is a very late grave comparable with several at Burwell. I should think that it is well on towards the middle of the VII century. Note lack of brooches.

No. 86. Traces of bone 2 ft. deep in sand. Presumably an infant's skeleton. With it was the simple pot (Pl. II, see No. 69). This presumably contained food.

No. 87. Traces of bone, etc., 2 ft. deep in sand. Evidently the burial of an infant. Some milk teeth. Five glass beads.

No. 88. Traces of a burial 2 ft. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Seems to have lain on back. Three fragmentary iron pins (?) and perforated piece of amber.

No. 89. Skeleton 1 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. All except head and shoulders disturbed by warreners. Near the skull were two "small long" brooches (Fig. 18 C, nos. 1, 2) and eighteen glass beads. In the disturbed soil was a fragmentary iron buckle (Fig. 18 C, no. 3) with square bronze chape and a fragment of closely woven material on it. Also an object of bone (ivory ?) resembling the broken handle of a tooth brush; this may not belong to the grave.

Bronze brooches. One of these is almost identical with the one found in Grave 39 (q.v.). The other appears to be an early form of square-headed "small long" with two pieces cut out at the angles of the head. But a very similar brooch from Northwold, in the British Museum, appears to have been found with a mid VI century cruciform brooch (see our Grave 99).

Glass beads. There are ten of the typical "small blue". One melon of pale transparent blue. Spherical beads of white, yellow and green respectively, another of red, green and yellow, and a fifth of red inlaid with white. A cylindrical bead inlaid with red and green and another, longer, of opaque green glass inlaid with thin ropes of twisted white and red glass.

Date. This is probably an early grave but more information is needed about the "small long" square-headed brooch.

No. 90. Traces of bone and milk teeth 2 ft. deep in sand. Nothing was found at all.

No. 91. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Presumably a man laid on his back, legs straight, hands on pelvis. Shield boss 6 in. above head on north side, a decayed piece of animal bone at back of skull. Spear head on left shoulder. Bronze buckle and knife with other iron fragments on pelvis.

Shield boss. Of conical form as in Graves 4, 29 and 56.

Bronze buckle. With square chape as in Grave 4 (q.v.).

No. 92. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Bones almost gone but feet well preserved. Body presumably a woman. Two annular bronze brooches by skull, small amber beads also. Above the skull to south was a curious triangular piece of wood enclosed by two bronze plates. A bronze ring on chest probably fastened to beads.

Annular brooches. As with Nos. 1, 7, etc.

Amber beads. Very small and roughly spherical as with Nos. 1, 7, etc.

Bronze object enclosing wood.

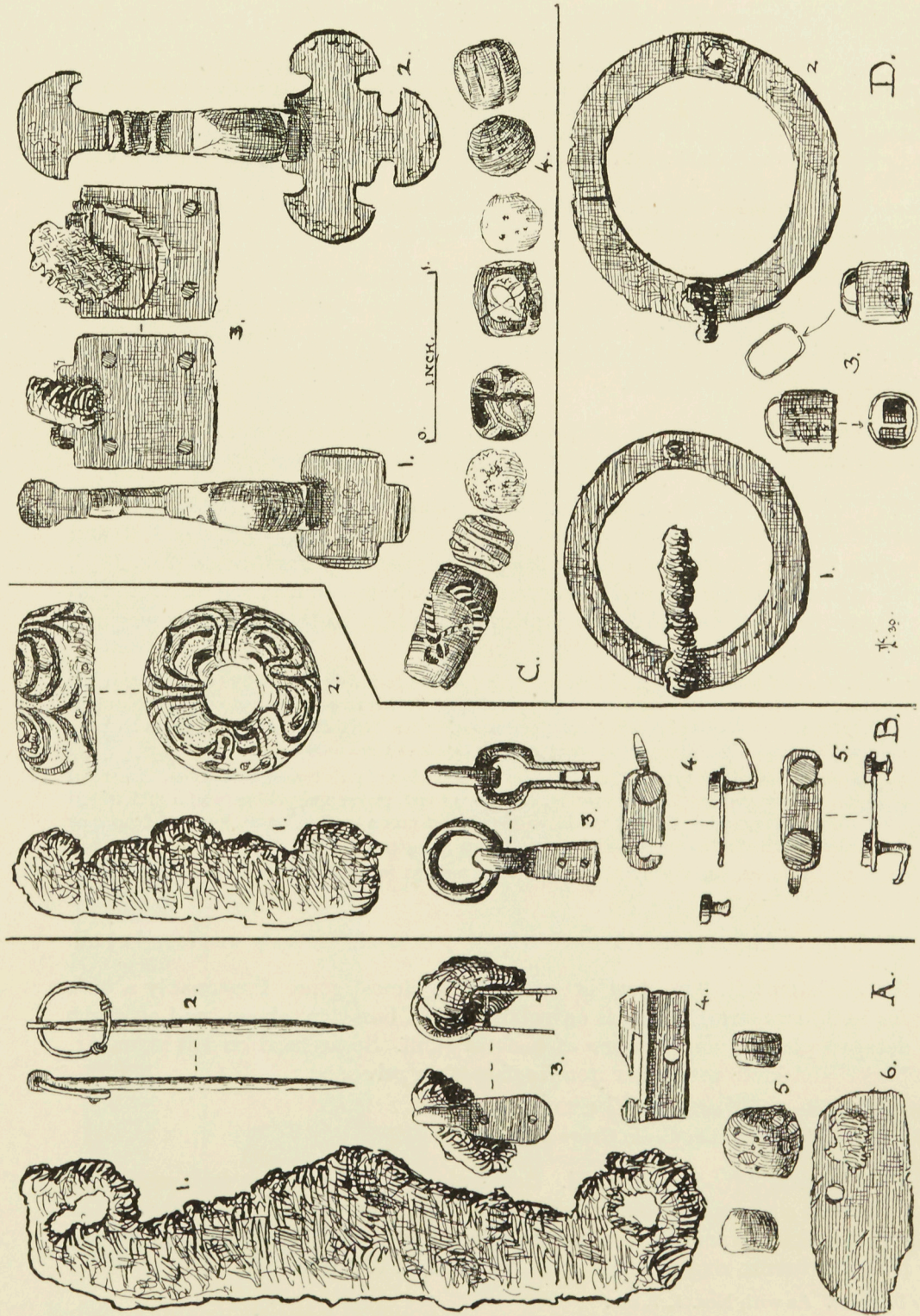


Fig. 18

A. Grave 70. 1. Strike-a-light. 2. Bronze pin. 3. Bronze loop. 4. Wrist clasp. 5. Glass beads. 6. Bronze plate. B. Grave 85. 1. Strike-a-light. 2. Glass toggle. 3. Bronze loop. 4, 5. Bronze hasps. C. Grave 89. 1, 2. "Small long" brooches. 3. Buckle. 4. Glass beads. D. Grave 10. 1, 2. Annular brooches. 3. Bronze "buckets" beads (?).

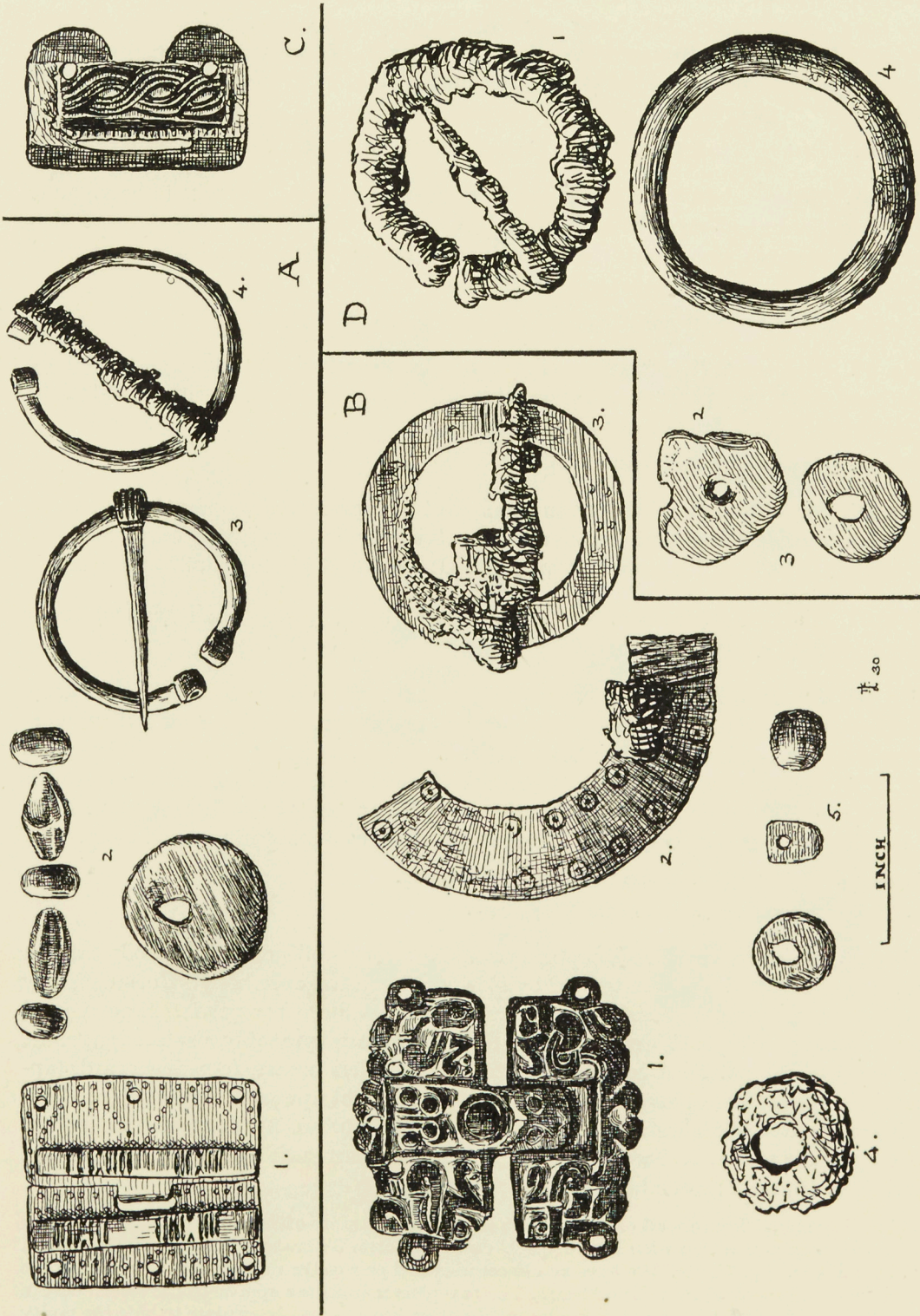


Fig. 19

A. Grave 83. 1. Wrist clasps. 2. Amber beads. 3. 4. Penannular brooches. B. Grave 98. 1. Wrist clasps. 2, 3. Annular brooches. 4. Chalk bead. 5. Amber beads. C. Surface. Wrist clasp. D. Grave 61. 1. Penannular iron brooch. 2, 3. Amber beads. 4. Bronze ring.

No. 93. Skeleton 2 ft. 3 in. deep in chalk. Badly preserved. Presumably a man laid on his back. Knees bent. Left hand on pelvis. Right arm by side. Shield boss on face. Spear at left shoulder. Bronze clips (Fig. 13 F, nos. 3, 4) on skull. Piece of bronze binding (Fig. 13 F, no. 2) behind skull. Iron buckle (Fig. 13 F, no. 1) at left hip, knife at right.

Shield boss. Usual carinated form. Bronze binding as with No. 29 (q.v.).

No. 94. Skeleton 1 ft. 9 in. deep in sand. Bones almost gone. Thought to be a young girl laid on back, legs straight and crossed at ankle. Small string of beads and tiny bronze wire ring (as with No. 16), which evidently formed one end and was sewn on to clothing.

Beads. Commonest types of small blue, red and green glass.

No. 95. Skeleton 2 ft. 2 in. in sand. Condition very bad and skull destroyed by shield boss which lay right on it. Presumably a man laid on his back with legs straight and hands on pelvis. Spear head at left shoulder.

Shield boss. Of usual carinated form.

No. 96. Skeleton 2 ft. 6 in. deep in sand. Not well preserved. Body thought to be a man laid on back, legs straight, hands on pelvis. Knife at left hip. Very small unornamented bowl 2 in. diameter and high (Pl. II, see No. 69) beside skull to north.

No. 97. Skeleton 18 in. deep in chalk. Bones almost gone. Small heap of burnt stones and ashes about the place where the pelvis should have been.

No. 98. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. The body had been laid on its left side with arms extended towards the knees which were slightly drawn up. Partly disturbed by warreners. A chalk bead, five amber beads (Fig. 19 B, no. 5) and two annular brooches (Fig. 19 B, nos. 2, 3) at the throat. One of the brooches was broken and the end of a cartridge case had somehow fallen on to the skull. Wrist clasps at each wrist (Fig. 19 B, no. 1). Traces of leather very clear about them. Iron ring and knife at right hip.

Wrist clasps. Very similar to those with No. 16 but gilded.

Date. Probably towards the end of the VI century.

No. 99. Skeleton 1 ft. 9 in. deep in chalk. Not very well preserved. Body laid on back, legs straight, left arm extended by side, right crossed over body. Burial slightly disturbed by rabbit hole which passed from right shoulder over pelvis. Fragment of ornamented pot near skull. Cruciform brooch foot upwards (probably displaced) at right shoulder (Fig. 20, no. 2). A second (Fig. 20, no. 1) on left breast, foot downwards (apparently *in situ*). "Small long" brooch (Fig. 20, no. 4) (foot upwards) against chin. Glass beads scattered about chest. Cruciform brooch (Fig. 20, no. 3) (displaced) on pelvis, evidently a pair to No. 2. Two iron rings, an iron key and knife at left hip, also bronze object (Fig. 20, no. 6) resembling modern latch key.

Cruciform brooches. These are all of similar type representing a state of development slightly earlier than such examples as that with No. 16 (q.v.). Compare Little Wilbraham Grave No. 171 (Neville, Pl. IV); Åberg, Fig. 71, etc. We have an almost identical pair to the more ornate specimen in the Museum (two brooches) from Lakenheath. The two plainer brooches appear to have been cast in a faulty mould. One has no upper knob and the other has an extra head plate to hide the faulty casting. All have detachable side knobs.

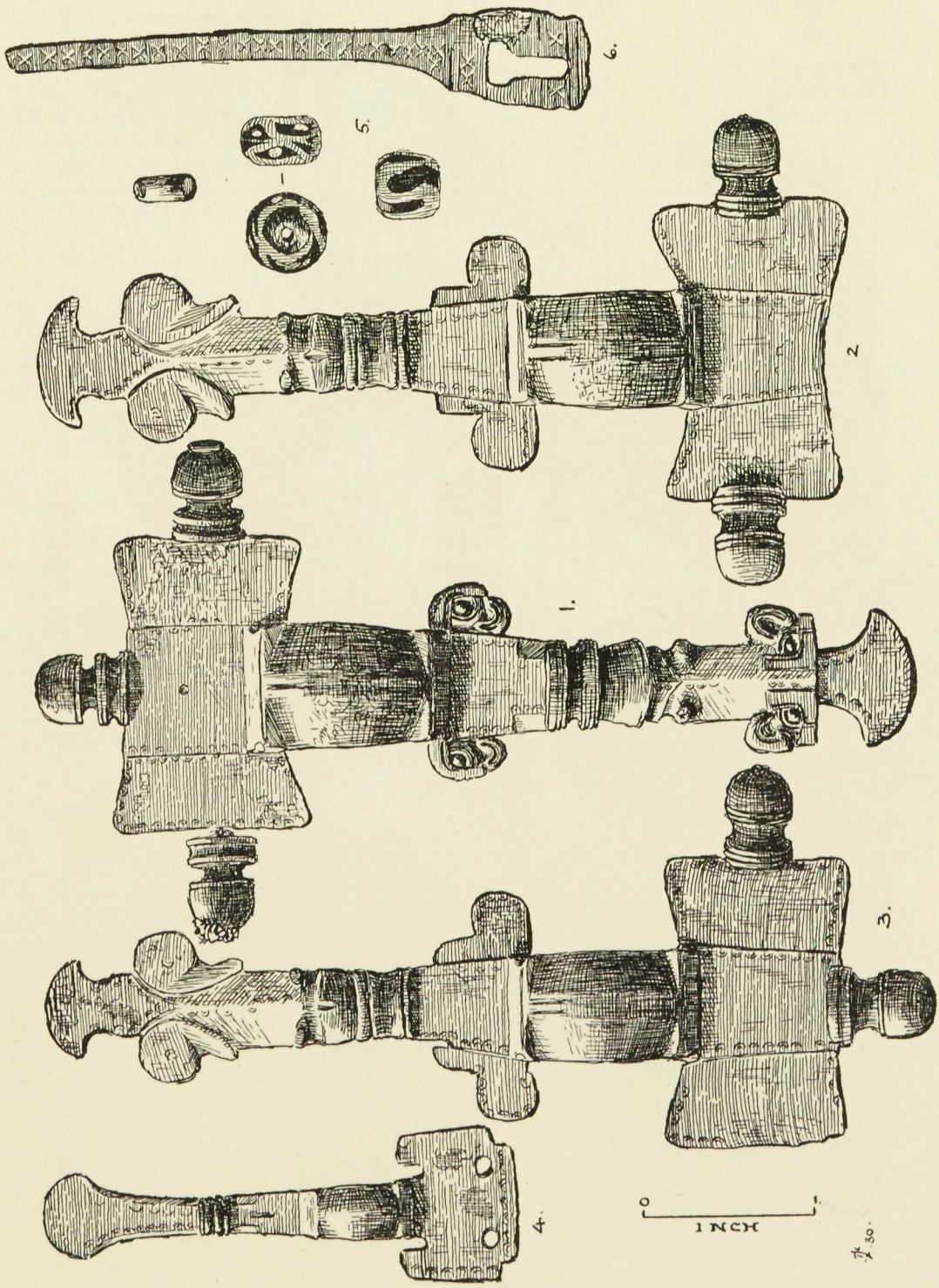


Fig. 20
 Grave 99. 1, 2, 3. Cruciform brooches. 4. "Small long" brooch. 5. Glass beads. 6. Bronze key.

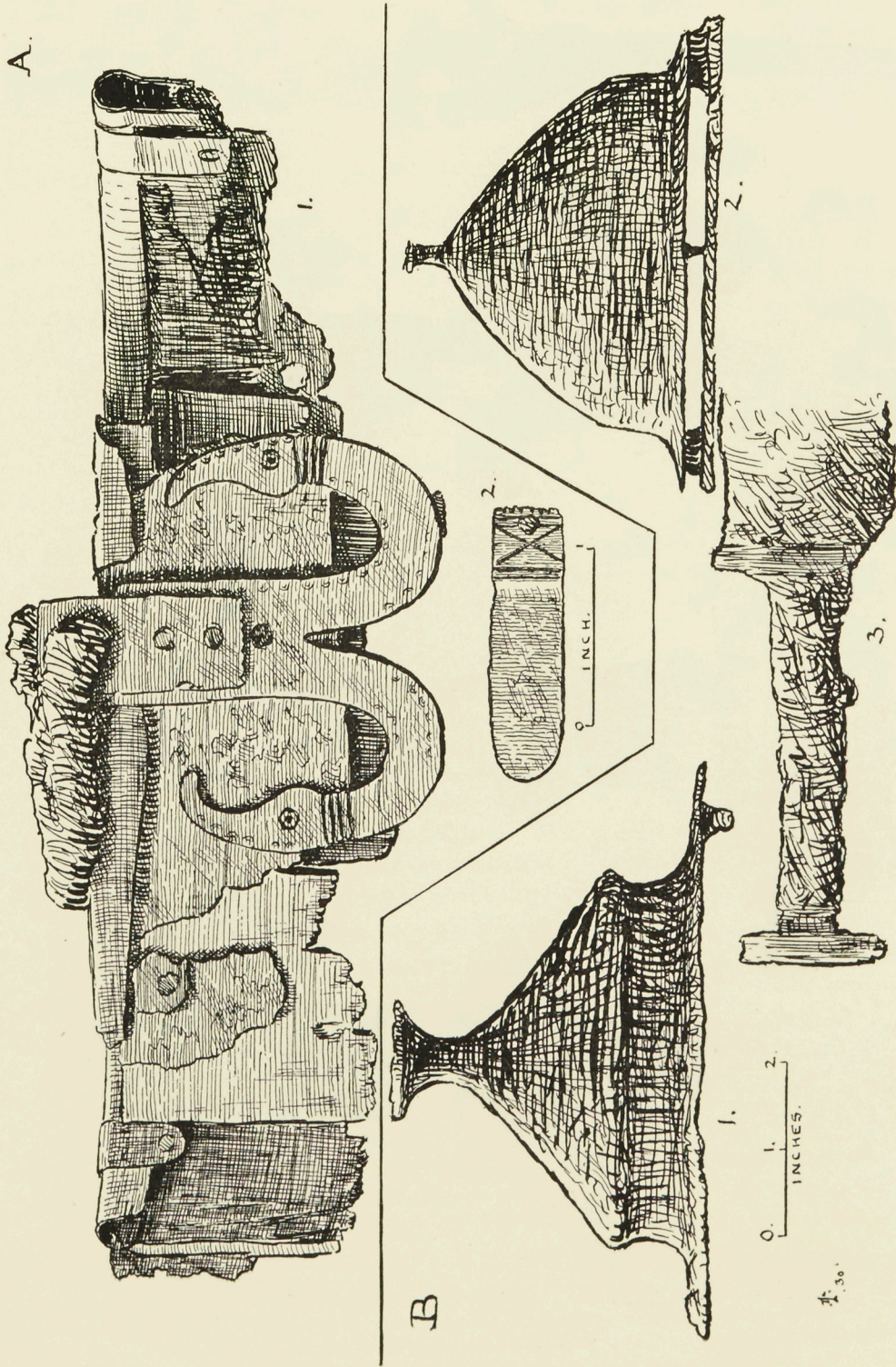


Fig. 21
 A. Grave 68, 1. Bronze bucket mount, 2. Strap end, B. 1. Grave 51, Shield boss, 2. Grave 56, Shield boss, 3. Grave 29, Sword.

"Small long" brooch. This is one of the common forms, being found in most of the local cemeteries. It is probably contemporary with the cruciform brooches. On the other hand, continental typologists would place it before such specimens as those found with No. 53 on account of the shape of the head.

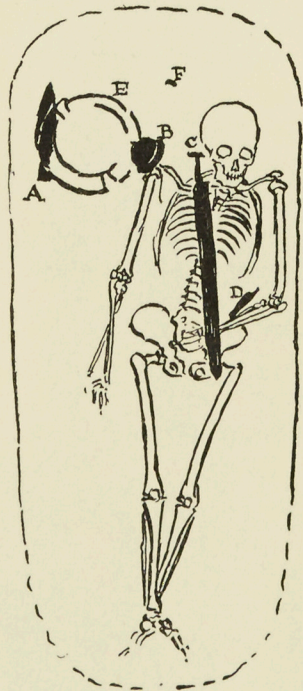
Bronze key. I do not as yet know of an exact parallel to this object but it appears to be a barbarous copy of the Roman lifting type.

Glass beads. Twelve small blue annular; two double of the same form; one disc opaque red; one disc opaque green with red eyes; one disc clear olive green inlaid opaque red twists and opaque yellow eyes; one drum olive glass inlaid opaque red wavy line; two double spherical blue spotted red, green and white; one decayed spherical with red, white and blue eyes; one drum-shaped opaque yellow.

Date. Probably about the middle of the VI century.

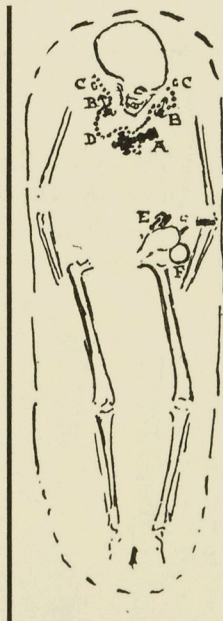
No. 100. Skeleton 2 ft. deep in sand. Much decayed. Buried in a roughly circular hole, apparently under a fire. Knees slightly drawn up. No associated objects.

This body seems to have been buried in a pit which was used as a fireplace. It was buried among and under the ashes but was not burnt. Probably just shot into a cooking hole for convenience.



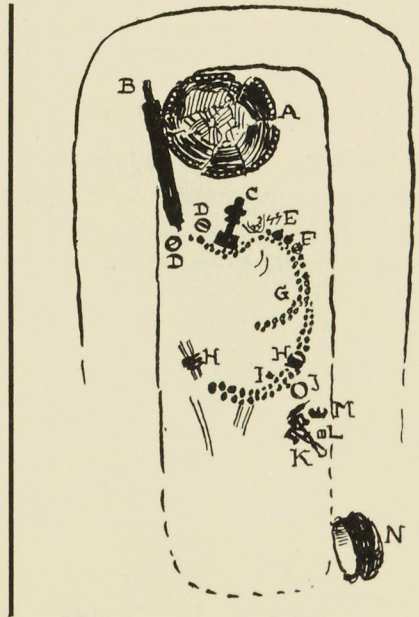
- A Spear
- B Shield-boss
- C Sword
- D Knife
- E Bucket
- F Shield-binding

29.



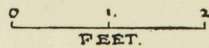
- A 'Cruciform' Brooch.
- B 'Small-long' Brooches.
- C Clips.
- D Beads
- E Ring, Knife Etc.
- F Iron Ring

37.



- A Bowl.
- B Weaving-batten.
- C Square-head Brooch.
- D Annular Brooches.
- E Braid.
- F Pendants.
- G Beads.
- H Armlets.
- I Index-ring.
- J Ring
- K Girdle-hangers.
- L Buckle.
- M Strike-a-light
- N Bowl.

11.



* 30.

Plan 3

Diagrams of typical graves, Holywell Row.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

BURWELL (*Six-inch ordnance map*, Cambridgeshire, sheet xxxv S.E.)

(Site marches directly with the South side of the Victoria Lime Pits)

THE graveyard at Burwell was discovered in 1884 during the working of the Victoria Lime Pits. Fourteen skeletons are said to have been found in these pits and objects from the graves are in the Cambridge Museum. The owner of the land adjoining the pits on the west, Dr Charles Lucas, was most anxious that his ground should be explored for further graves, and accordingly the Society undertook the work. This could only be carried out during the early spring, as the ground was being farmed by allotment holders. After five such seasons 125 graves have been discovered, and it is probable that more could be found outside the area explored.

The character of the objects already in the Museum is remarkable, for the ornaments are all of Kentish workmanship. They appear to have come from three different graves.

1. A gold disc pendant ornamented with two concentric rows of more or less rectangular compartments with flat garnets in them and with a central flat disc of "shell" set in the middle with a tiny cabuchon garnet. The date of this ornament cannot be fixed but it may be compared with the Wilton cross (*B.M. Guide*, A.-S. Pl. IV, no. 3).

2. A bronze buckle with triangular chape and shield on the tongue of the buckle. The shield is inlaid with shell and set with a circular flat garnet, while there is a rectangular socket in the chape containing a flat garnet on gold foil. This buckle has been broken in antiquity and patched with a rough strip of bronze. It is of VII century type but may have been buried years after it was made.

3. A silver disc with repoussé knobs (Fox, Pl. XXXLV, no. 8), a silver wire ring with two toothpicks and a tiny perforated spoon of the same metal, several glass and shell beads and a beaver's tooth set in a bronze ring. These objects are known to have been found together in a woman's grave with the skeleton of an infant in it also. They are probably all of VII century date.

In spite of the Kentish character of these objects, I was under the impression that the cemetery would prove to be of much the same character as those at Girton, Little Wilbraham, etc., which had already been excavated and described. As time went on, however, it became obvious that we were dealing with something of quite a different character. No cruciform or other brooches, so common in the pagan cemeteries, turned up, and when we found a well-furnished grave, of which there were less than half-a-dozen out of a hundred and twenty-five, the objects in it were invariably of Kentish and not local types. Not only were the objects Kentish in character, but they all belonged to types recognised as coming at the end of the pagan period and thought to be of VII century date.

It may be thought that the explanation was staring one in the face, but it was not till I had nearly completed the excavations in the cemetery at Holywell Row that I came to the conclusion that Burwell was undoubtedly a Christian and not a pagan cemetery.

Briefly stated the reasons for this view are these:

1. An ancient church is known to have stood against the site.
2. No object of typical pagan form has been found with the possible exception of two annular brooches re-used on chatelaines and a few Roman coins treasured as curiosities.
3. The cemetery appears to date from the time when the ordinary pagan cemeteries close.
4. Most of the bodies are unaccompanied by any grave goods. To my mind it is in the highest degree probable that this new cemetery formed in the VII century is a Christian one laid out away from the "burial mounds of the heathen" as the Church commanded.

We are very much indebted to Dr Lucas for his kindness in letting us dig, housing our tools and the bones and helping the work in every way.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRAVES

No. 1. Under the skull was a small bronze fastener for a cloak, or perhaps a shroud (Fig. 22, no. 1), and a fragmentary iron buckle on the right hip. The cloak fastener bears a strong resemblance to certain examples thought to be mediaeval. I do not know of any other specimen from a grave.

No. 2. This contained two bodies with their heads to the north. Both skeletons apparently female.

Skeleton A. Two iron knives with points upwards on the left side at the waist, a stone bead or whorl on the left hip, and a little annular blue glass bead on a crumbling piece of silver wire, probably an earring, below the left ear. The bead is of the commonest Anglo-Saxon dark blue glass.

Skeleton B. A little bronze buckle (Fig. 22, no. 2), patched with a thin strip of bronze, lay on the left lower ribs, the trace of the decayed leather strap which it had fastened was plainly visible in the chalky soil. A knife and a pair of shears (Fig. 22, no. 8) had been stuck in this belt and lay under the ribs.

No. 3. At the left hip of this skeleton, apparently a woman, hung, or rather lay, a pair of iron girdle hangers connected by an iron chain (Fig. 22, no. 10). To this chain had also been attached a strip of bronze bent over one link and riveted on to some flat object by two iron rivets (Fig. 22, no. 5), a tiny gilded bronze hasp (Fig. 22, no. 3) was found a few inches away in the crook of the left arm. A similar hasp of silver of about the same size was found with the hinges of a small box in the rich grave at Kingston and is figured by Baldwin Brown, Pl. XCVII, no. 7. Perhaps some little wooden case originally hung from the girdle by the bronze strip and may have held a comb or similar object.

No. 4. On the left forearm had been placed a pair of iron knives.



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PLATE III. WORK-BOX, FROM BURWELL CEMETERY.

No. 6. On the left breast of this body was a small bronze pin (Fig. 22, no. 7) or toothpick, which probably secured a shroud. On the pelvis lay an iron knife and near it was a hasp similar to that found with No. 3 (Fig. 22, no. 4), also another bronze object

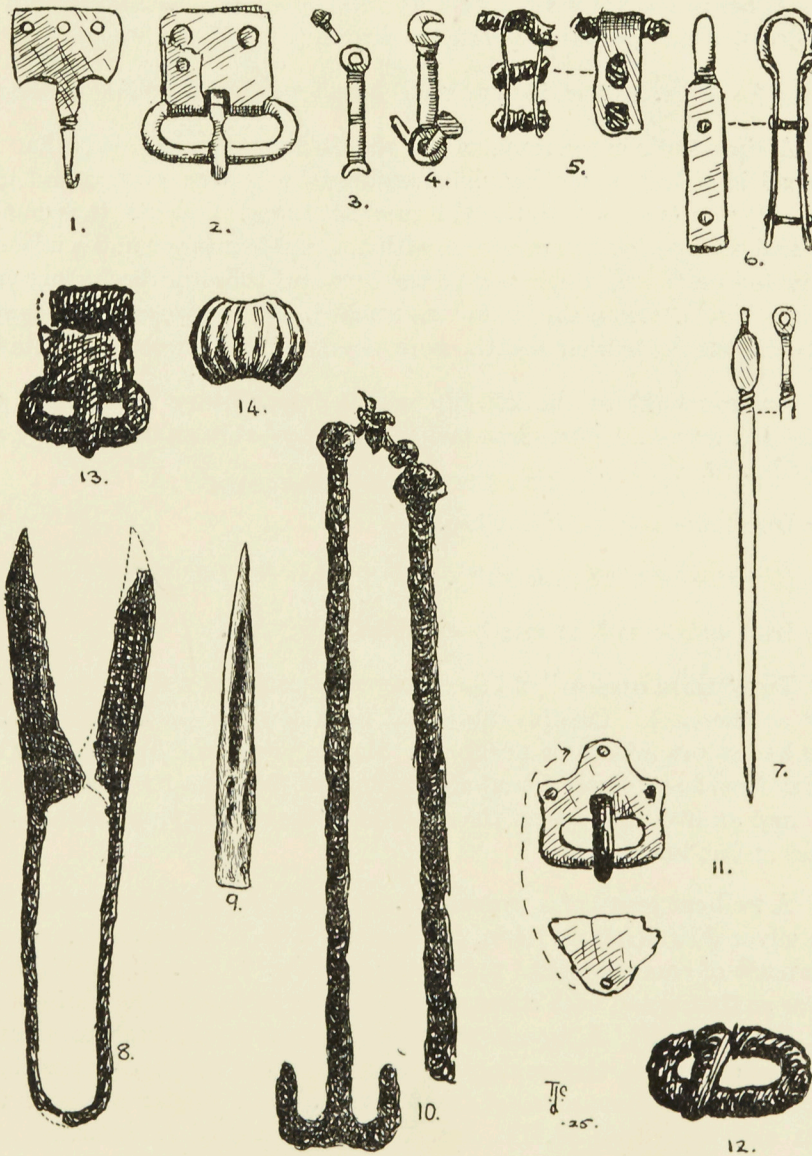


Fig. 22

1. Grave 1. Bronze cloak fastener. 2. Grave 2. Bronze buckle. 3. Grave 3. Gilt bronze hasp. 4. Grave 6. Bronze hasp. 5. Grave 3. Bronze fitting. 6. Grave 6. Bronze fitting. 7. Grave 6. Bronze pin. 8. Grave 2. Iron shears. 9. Grave 7. Bone pin. 10. Grave 3. Iron girdle hangers. 11. Grave 16. Bronze and iron buckle. 12. Grave 9. Iron Buckle. 13. Grave 14. Iron buckle. 14. Grave 17. Paste melon bead. All $\times \frac{1}{2}$ except nos. 8, 9, 10 which are $\times \frac{1}{3}$.

(Fig. 22, no. 6) similar to the strip of bronze on the chain of No. 3, but with the bend worked into a more serviceable loop; an iron pin or toothpick lay between the two bronze fittings and it seems probable that it had been enclosed in a case which they secured. Compare Holywell Row, Graves 70 and 85, Fig. 18.

No. 7. Head to the south. At the left hip was a rusted mass of iron, probably a strike-a-light and a key. Secured by rust to this mass was a "third brass", possibly of Constantius II, a tiny bronze washer and a stone whorl; on the pelvis lay a long iron knife and over the bones of the left wrist lay a very rude bone pin, recalling Bronze and Early Iron Age objects, which probably secured a shroud (Fig. 22, no. 9).

Nos. 9 and 14 (Figs. 12 and 13) had each a knife and iron buckle at the hip.

No. 16. An iron knife in the remains of a sheath lay at the left hip; it had hung from or been placed in a belt which had been secured by a little bronze and iron buckle (Fig. 22, no. 11) of a type new to the Museum but found in Kent. It is composed of a bronze bow and back plate all in one piece with a movable iron pin and a triangular plate of bronze riveted on to the under side of the belt and through the leather to the back plate with iron rivets. When the knife was washed, the pupa cases of maggots, which had been feeding on the leather sheath, were clearly visible, preserved in rust.

No. 17. An iron knife at the left hip with a fragmentary iron buckle or annular brooch at the left breast. A blue glass melon bead, probably an earring, lay among the neck bones (Fig. 22, no. 14).

No. 18. Iron knife and buckle at hip.

No. 21. Remains of knife at left hip.

No. 22. Iron buckle with bronze back plate at left hip.

No. 24. Two "third brasses" of IV century emperors and not pierced for suspension were found at the neck. Possibly they had been sewn on to a cloth without being pierced and had so ornamented a neckband. Half of one of the bronze loops with rivets as found with Nos. 3 and 6 was found at the point of the chin. An iron knife, part of an iron buckle and an iron ring lay on the shoulders, the body lay on its face, and a stone toggle rested on the lower ribs.

No. 25. A well-cut grave of a woman (?). Beneath the chin and broken by pressure was a thin silver disc pendant 1.4 in. in diameter with a hammered central boss and dotted ornament of concentric and radial pattern (Fig. 23, no. 1). It is almost exactly the same size as that found with a female skeleton on the site of the Victoria Pits about 1887 (Fox, Pl. XXXIV). Although this has a bronze back, five bosses and slightly different dotted ornament, the technique is so similar that it is hardly possible to doubt that they are from the same place of manufacture. Three similar pendants were found by Faussett and figured on Pl. IV, nos. 20, 22 and 24, of *Inventorium Sepulchrale*. A thin ring of silver wire had passed through the loop of this pendant, but only fragments remained. The silver was very impure. On the right femur, some inches from the pelvis, lay a small iron knife. The right hand rested on the head of the femur and near it lay a stone toggle or whorl.

No. 26. A well-cut grave having definite shoulders. The skeleton was apparently that of a male. In the angle formed by the collar bones lay a green glass bead about one inch in diameter and a quarter of an inch thick (Fig. 24). The bead was inlaid with ropes of mosaic glass forming a rosette pattern. These ropes were chiefly blue and white glass but some were yellow and green. It was suspended in a "hitch" of silver wire.

Directly beneath and touching the bead was a silver wire ring about 1 in. in diameter and of the "elastic" type. This ring had probably been fastened on to the wire mentioned above and the whole had formed a pendant. (See Faussett, Pl. VII, no. 3.)

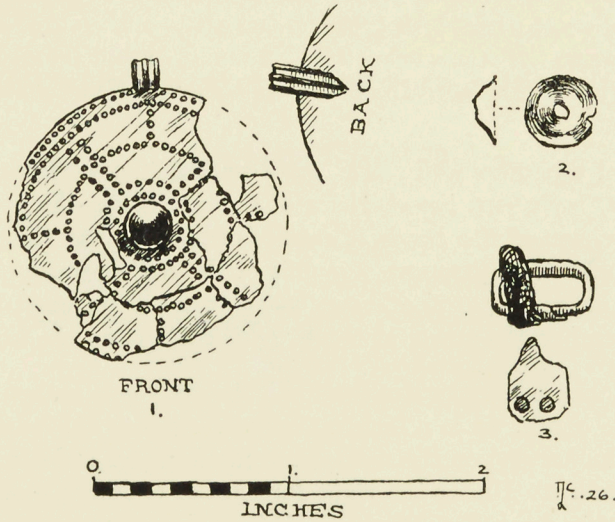


Fig. 23

1. Grave 25. Silver pendant. 2. Grave 30. Bronze boss. 3. Grave 34. Bronze buckle.

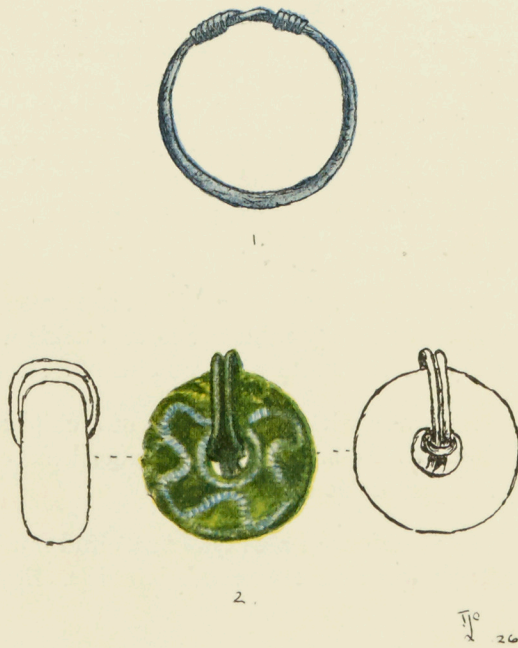


Fig. 24

Pendant from Grave 26. 1. Silver ring. 2. Glass bead with mosaic glass inlay.

Beads of this type inlaid with mosaic glass are uncommon. Mr Reginald Smith figures one (*Proc. Soc. Ant.* vol. XVIII, p. 254) from near Leatherhead. Two more are figured in Roach Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. II, from Sittingbourne. Three more are figured in *Inventorium Sepulchrale* from Sibertswold, Barfriston, Gilton or Kingston

(Pls. V and VI). The method of suspension of beads as pendants on silver or gold wire is to be seen in *Inventorium Sepulchrale* from several Kentish cemeteries.

No. 27. This large grave contained the skeletons of a man and a child. Beneath the left ribs of the man was a small iron knife.

No. 28. With this skeleton, whose head lay to the east end of the grave, was a small iron knife.

No. 30. A set of five glass and paste beads with a tiny perforated, hollow, bronze boss (Fig. 23, no. 2) lay about the clavicles of this skeleton, which rested on the right side. From the position of the beads it seemed probable that they had been secured to some form of neckband by means of a pair of the little bronze objects, only one of which remains. I suggest that the bosses were enclosed between two thicknesses of cloth, one at each end of the string of beads, thus concealing the knots¹.

No. 32. In this case the grave was well and squarely cut, rather above the average depth of 1 ft. in the chalk. In it a female skeleton lay with the bones of a very young child. The child's skull rested on the woman's right shoulder and her left arm lay across the body as if to hold it. Under the right forearm of the female skeleton was a large curved bone comb, 6 in. long (Fig. 25, no. 1). It is made in three sections riveted together by seven rivets (one now lost) and ornamented with five sets of transverse cuts and two rows of rings and dots. The back is not ornamented. The comb is of late type². (Baldwin Brown, vol. iv, Pl. LXXXVI, no. 1; Mortimer, Fig. 671; *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Pl. XIII, no. 2. For an earlier example see *Saxon Obsequies*, Pl. XXIII.) Under the chin of the skeleton and so covered by it that they could not possibly have fallen from the ear, were five small glass and paste beads with two silver wire rings of the "elastic" type, one of which is ornamented with incised lines. The lower jaw was stained in two places close together by the rings, and the beads were between them. I have no doubt that the rings were sewn on to the clothes or neckband and the beads were strung with a ring at each end (Fig. 25, no. 2).

No. 34. Another well-cut and deep grave containing, as it seemed, a male skeleton. In the crook of the right elbow was a very minute bronze buckle with an iron pin (Fig. 23, no. 3). At the right hip lay an iron knife with remains of a sheath on it.

No. 35. A north and south grave with the skeleton of a child at either end. At the throat of the one with the head to the south was an amber bead of rectangular shape, rather thin and with a central perforation.

No. 36. This contained the skeletons of a woman and child much cramped for space and very shallow. An iron knife was at the woman's left side. Both heads were to the south.

No. 37. Here a middle-aged male (?) had been buried in a very narrow grave. At his feet was a large iron knife, almost a miniature scramasax, $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. An iron buckle with a long iron chape was with the knife.

¹ Since the above was first published in 1927 a pair of these bosses has been found at Luton, Beds., with a festoon of beads, see *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. VIII, Pl. XXXIII, no. 3.

² Combs derived from this form become very common in graves of the Viking Age and are found wherever Viking remains are discovered in any quantity. They are not found fully developed in the pagan Anglo-Saxon graves.

No. 38. The head of this grave lay to the south-west. The legs were right under the pigsty and could not be cleared. At the right hip was a small iron knife and three small fragmentary awl-like objects of iron with wooden handles.

No. 39. At the feet of this skeleton, whose head was to the south, were two iron knives overlaying a much abraded piece of thick green glass. The glass may be a fragment of a Roman jug or cinerary urn. One of the knives was in a sheath.

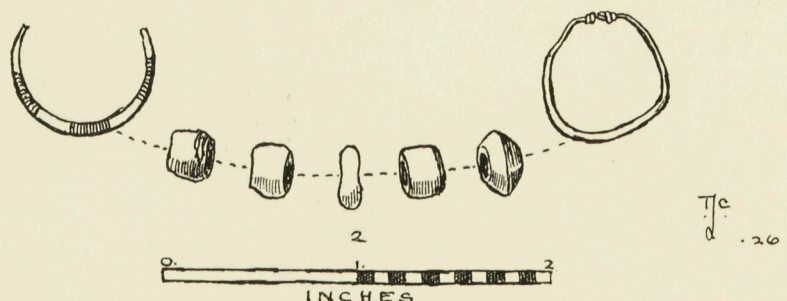
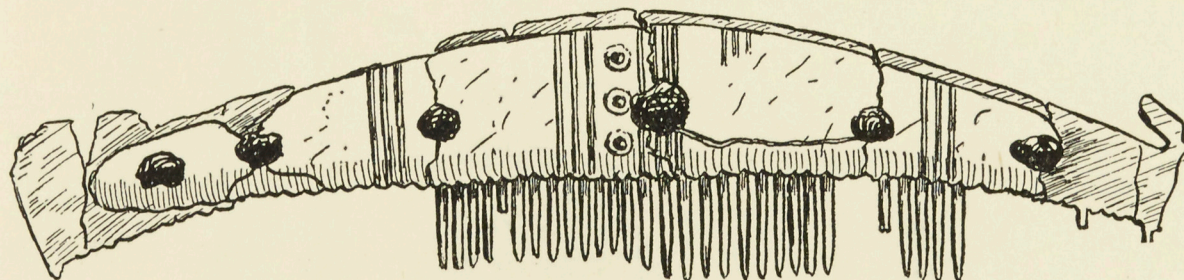


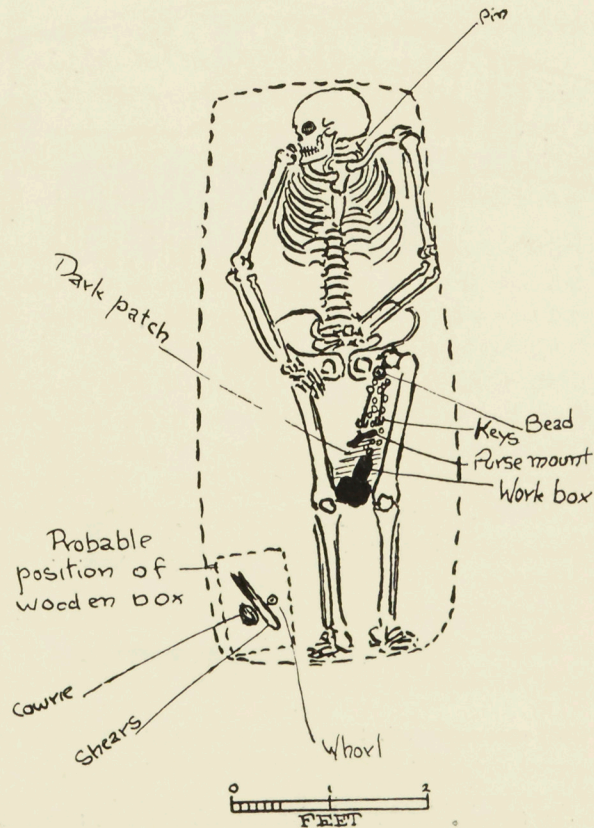
Fig. 25

Grave 32. 1. Bone comb (back unornamented). 2. Necklace as worn (?), silver rings with paste and glass beads (red, green, blue, green and red).

No. 40. Head to the south. An iron knife lay at the left armpit.

No. 42. This was perhaps the most remarkable burial so far discovered at Burwell. The grave was 6 ft. long and 2 ft. 8 in. wide at the knees, narrowing slightly towards the head. The enclosed skeleton, which as it lay, was more than 5 ft. 6 in. long, was apparently that of a woman. At the east end of the grave between the right leg and the side of it were traces of a small wooden box or chest (Fig. 26). From the positions of the four angle irons and the space available it seems that this little chest was about 1 ft. long by 8 in. broad. (These are the dimensions given by Faussett for a chest in Grave 26 at Kingston; see *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 48.) What this box had originally contained is a matter of conjecture. We may be not far from the truth if we assume that it answered the purpose of a sailor's "ditty" box. At any rate the three articles left undecayed are the sort of oddments one might expect to find in a box of that kind in female possession. They were a large pair of iron shears (Fig. 27, no. 3), a chalk bead, toggle, or spindle whorl (Fig. 27, no. 4) and a large oriental cowrie shell which seems to be *Cypraea panterina* (Fig. 27, no. 2). As far as I can discover this is the ninth of these

large cowries to be found in an Anglo-Saxon grave. Of these seven have been found in Kent and the other was found on a necklace of beads at Haslingfield in our area (Baldwin Brown, vol. iv, Pl. CVII, no. 1). Their introduction, according to Nils Åberg, would seem to coincide with the best period of the Kentish goldsmiths' work at the end of the VI and beginning of the VII century. I do not propose to deal here with the question of how these shells reached England from the East or whether they represent fertility charms as they are said to do to this day in parts of Italy.



BURWELL GRAVE . 42 .

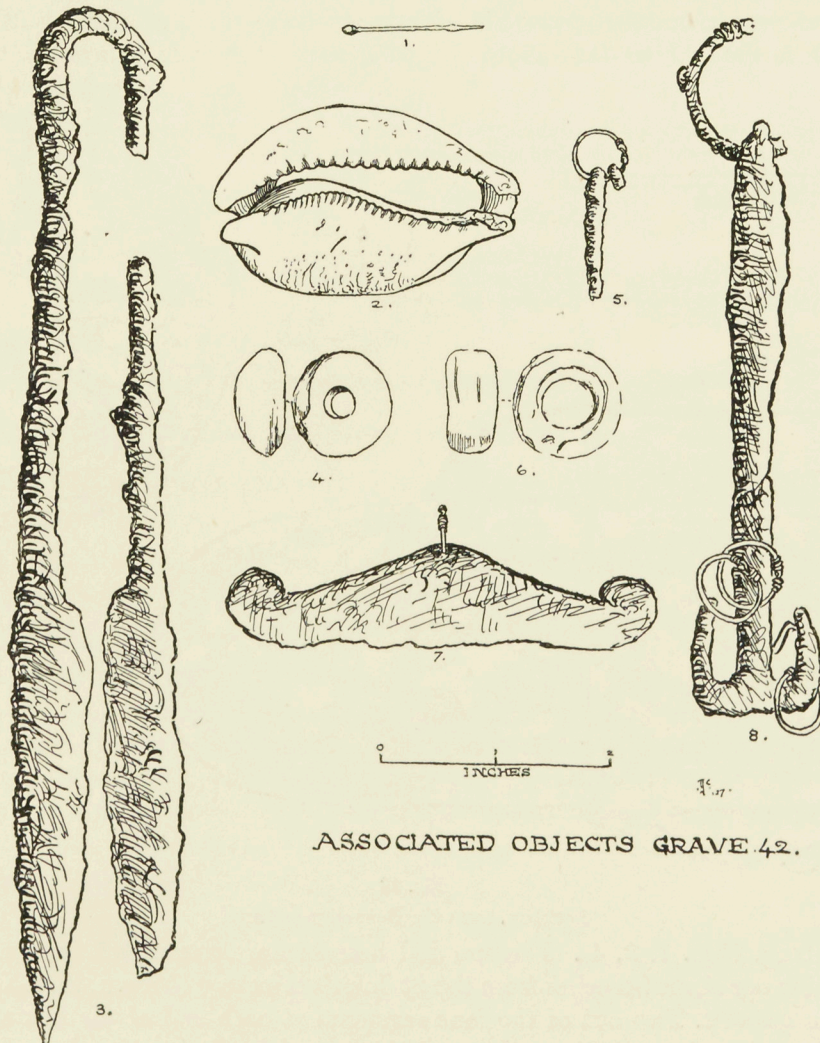
Fig. 26

Fig. 26

Just above the left clavicle was a small bronze pin (Fig. 27, no. 1); as the soil was rather darker than usual round the skull and neck it is conceivable that this fastened some veil or shroud, it seems too small for a hairpin.

Extending from the pelvis to the knees were the remains of a chatelaine. The object nearest to the pelvis was a large green glass bead (Fig. 27, no. 6). As there was no buckle I feel certain that this was used as a toggle for fastening the girdle, and it confirms my suggestion that stone beads found in this position are not spindle whorls but belt fastenings. Stretching downwards from this bead were numerous rings of the "elastic" type. Some were of iron, about 1 in. in diameter, and others bronze, of half that size, but it was

not possible to tell whether they were parts of one chain or of several. My impression is that from the iron rings hung a pair of iron "keys" (Fig. 27, no. 8)¹, while the bronze rings were joined to a "purse mount" (Fig. 27, no. 7) and a set of "toothpicks" (Fig. 27, no. 5). These "purse mounts" are certainly "strike-a-lights" (see Holywell Graves 70



ASSOCIATED OBJECTS GRAVE 42.

Fig. 27

Grave 42. 1. Bronze pin. 2. Cowrie. 3. Shears. 4. Stone whorl. (2-4 from the wooden box.) 5. Iron "toothpicks" on bronze ring. 6. Green glass bead. 7. Iron "purse mount" (strike-a-light). 8. Iron key and bronze rings.

and 85 and Burwell Graves 90 and 123). The last object, which lay between the knees of the skeleton, was a much worn and crushed bronze "workbox" (Pl. III, and Fig. 28). Although three bronze rings rested on the handle of this box they were not attached to it, and I fancy that it was contained in a purse, for traces of dark material extended from the "keys" to the knees. The repoussé ornamentation of this box, which is

¹ It is possible that these so-called keys and the girdle hangers (Figs. 2, 39) of pagan times really formed the suspensory portion of a purse.

apparently unique¹, is in Style II² which it is thought began very early in the VII century. It is noteworthy, however, that Style II does not seem to occur in our local cemeteries of the pagan period. As these cemeteries must have persisted at least to the middle of the VII century (see note on Dating, p. 82), it seems probable that Style II was not employed here before the mid VII century. The ornament on the barrel of the box is of advanced character, more comparable with that of the Book of Durrow (Åberg, Fig. 313), which is thought to date about A.D. 700, than with such things as the Taplow

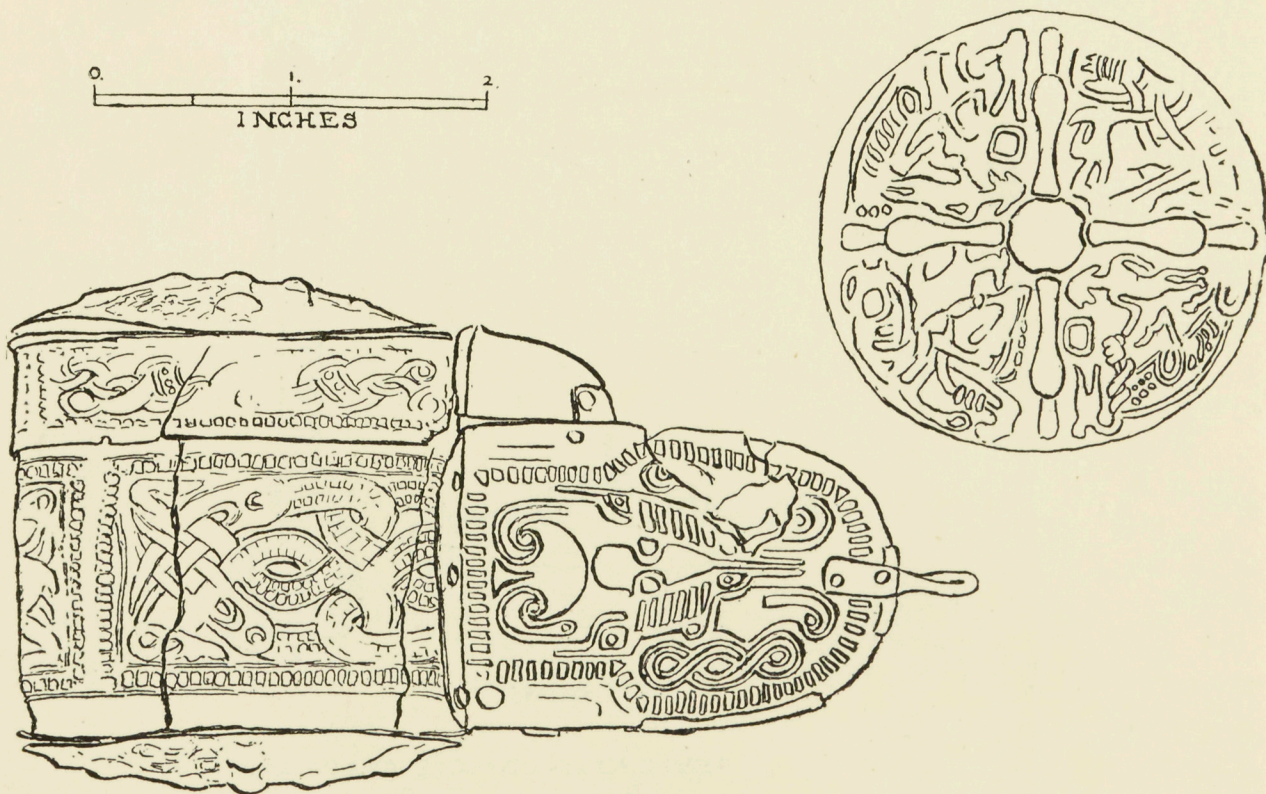


Fig. 28

Workbox, from the Burwell cemetery.

mounts (Åberg, Figs. 1, 2, 4). The top and bottom are ornamented in a naturalistic style to which our silver brooches from the St John's cemetery (Brown, Pl. LXIII, no. 5) may offer a parallel. Two out of the four segments at each end of the box apparently show a man in the act of killing a dragon. This is perhaps Beowulf and the Dragon, or Sigurd slaying Fafnir. I know of no case of northern mythical scenes represented in Anglo-Saxon work of the pagan period, but Christian subjects stamped in a similar manner occur on bronze mounts for drinking vessels from Strood (Baldwin Brown, Pl. X, no. 1) and Long Wittenham (*B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Fig. 78). They are thought to be Frankish³. We may I think be certain that the bronze box was already many years

¹ A workbox of a simpler type, with dotted ornament only, was found in Grave 121. (See also Baldwin Brown, Pls. XCVI, XCVII; *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Pl. XIII; *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Fig. 83; etc.) They are usually ascribed to the VII century. This box is almost certainly an elaboration of these and presumably later.

² Called by Åberg "Kentish Style II" to distinguish it from the continental variants.

³ Prof. Baldwin Brown dates the Strood mount in the IV century on the strength of its undoubted resemblance to certain objects from the early cemetery at Vermand (Franco-Roman). The Burwell box cannot be earlier than the close of the VI century unless there is some enormous error in the dating of Style II. The Burwell cemetery is, however, almost certainly a Christian one, and mythological scenes are carved on the Franks Casket (*B.M. A.-S.*

old at the time of its deposition. In places the pattern is so worn as to be hardly visible. If Style II was not introduced here much before the middle of the VII century, then it is very unlikely that this box was buried before 650. I am quite prepared, however, to believe that it was later than this.

The closest parallels to this burial are to be found in Kent, and the following cases, described in Faussett's *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, may be noted, as each was accompanied by a wooden box:

Kingston. Grave 26	Box 12 in. × 8 in.	Empty.
" " 121	" 6 in. × 4 in.	Part of a comb.
" " 142	" 14 in. × 14 in.	Comb, bronze and ivory armlets, whorls, cypraea shell, various pendants on elastic rings, buckle, knife, shears, ivory bead, key and other iron fragments, etc.
" " 169	" "	Box behind skull empty.
" " 185	" 6 in. × 4 in.	Near head. Two hollow gilt points.
" " 205	" "	Uncertain.
" " 222	" 12 in. × 12 in.	Roman bronze armlet and key.
" " 299	" 10 in. × 6 in.	Silver keystone brooch, cypraea shell, two whorls, round pebble, ivory disc, comb, square plaque, iron bell, silver and glass pendant, bronze buckle, etc.
Sibertswold. Graves 10, 12, 56, 69 (?), 100, 138, 151		Empty boxes.
Sibertswold. Grave 180		Cowrie, rotten leather with silver hasps, links of iron.

No. 43. Two knives at left hip. Body not laid out.

No. 45. This body rested in a very twisted manner on its right side. Under the right knee was an iron knife.

No. 46. The grave of a very young child. A single flat blue and white glass disc bead was at or near the throat. Head to the south. Disc beads of this form with spiral inlay of blue glass are found in graves of the pagan period (see Fig. 10 A, no. 5).

No. 47. This grave was 6 ft. 8 in. long. In it lay the skeleton of a tall man not straightened for burial. Behind the skull was a scramasax, 13 in. long, with the remains of a "wooden" hilt bound with brass (Fig. 29, no. 5). There was also a small iron fitting (Fig. 29, no. 4) which apparently formed part of the scabbard attachment. The scramasax had been bent to fit it into the space available. At the right hip almost in the bones of the right hand was a small thick knife (Fig. 29, no. 6). This is the first and only occurrence of a weapon in the cemetery.

No. 48. The grave of another very young child. Near the throat, as at No. 46, was a single bead of amber. This is the third case of very young children with a single bead at the throat. An amber bead was found in Grave 35. The skull of No. 48 was to the south.

No. 50. Another young person. Some milk teeth in the jaws. A knife at the pelvis.

No. 51. Also a child. Not laid out. A knife at the left hip. Other traces of iron.

No. 53. A knife placed on the right humerus. This is the second case of knives placed on the arm. Two knives were found with No. 4. This must be the survival of a purely pagan custom.

Guide, Pl. VIII) which may not be so very many years later than our Burwell box. If the correct date for the Franks Casket and the Book of Durrow is about 700, that of our box may be conjectured to be round about 675. It is, however, possible that the Book of Durrow was made earlier than 700. If, as I think probable, the Allington Hill burial (Brown, Pl. LXIII, no. 1; Fox, frontispiece, no. 2) is that of a man killed in the Mercian invasion of East Anglia in 654, then the date of our Burwell box, with its similar ornamentation, may well be about 650. This is the date which I favour.

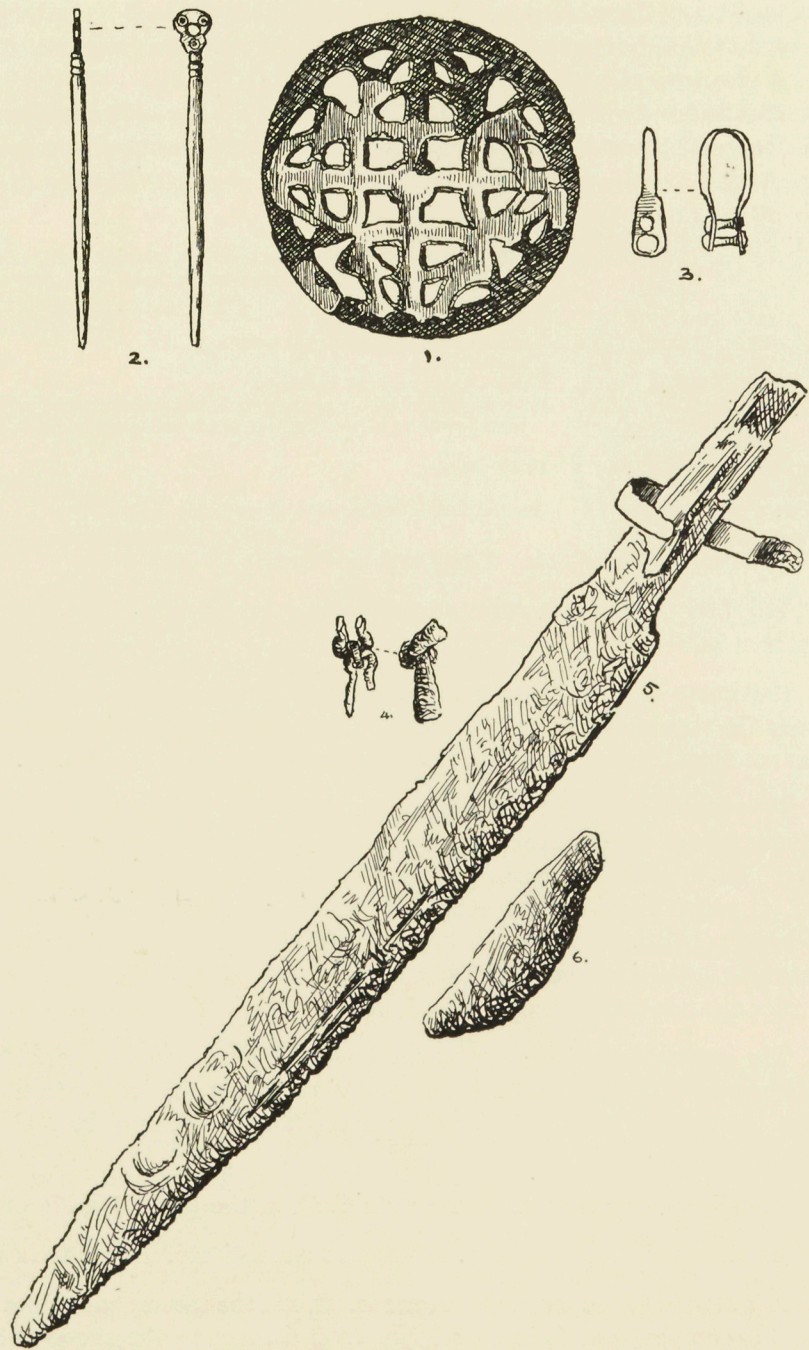


Fig. 29

1. Grave 55. Silver plated bronze girdle hanger. 2. Grave 61. Bronze pin. 3. Grave 61. Bronze fitting. 4. Grave 47. Iron scabbard (?) fitting. 5. Grave 47. Iron sax. 6. Grave 47. Iron knife. 1, 2 and 3 $\times \frac{1}{4}$; 4, 5 and 6 $\times \frac{1}{2}$.

No. 55. A child buried in a broad grave with the head to the south. At the head of the left femur and close against it was an openwork bronze disc (Fig. 29, no. 1) with silver on its outer surface (this surface is here called the "outer" because the "inner" was against the thigh bone).

This disc, which is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, has affinities both with Kentish, Frankish and Swiss girdle hangers. That this specimen also was a girdle hanger is probable for two iron "keys" were just below it, i.e. nearer the knee. The object is ornamented with four pairs of confronted animals' heads with gaping jaws. It is possible that this is a very debased example of the favourite Merovingian motif of Daniel and the lions. It is hard to decide whether it was imported from the continent or was made in Kent. No exactly similar object occurs anywhere as far as I know. The number of openwork objects found in Kent is, however, quite considerable (see *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Pl. IX, nos. 7, 8, 13, 14; Pl. X, no. 7; and *Arch. Cantiana*, vol. III, pp. 45, 61 E), and among them openwork discs are not unknown. Other specimens occur as importations at Kempston, Beds. (*B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Fig. 86), etc. Traces of dark material were visible about the thigh of this skeleton. Possibly these discs were fastened to the front of a pouch.

No. 57 is noteworthy on account of its size and depth. It was 9 ft. long, 3 ft. broad at the foot, and 2 ft. 4 in. at the head. In it a smallish individual was buried at a depth of 3 ft. 7 in. and entirely covered with chalk. The body was very carefully laid out and possibly a male. Nothing accompanied this remarkable burial. It has been noticed that graves in which chalk only was put in on the body are invariably lacking in grave goods. (The numbers of these graves are 11, 12, 41, 57, 64, 66.) The graves are always deeper than usual and east to west. It is possible that there is some significance in the white chalk being put next to the body for ordinarily the surface soil was put in first. Conceivably some Christian idea of purity influenced the custom.

No. 61. A very neatly disposed skeleton exactly fitting the grave. There were hardly any teeth left in the jaws and the body was probably that of an old woman. On the right collar bone or near it was a small bronze pin (Fig. 29, no. 2), for which an almost exact parallel can be seen from Kingston Grave 183 (*Inventorium Sepulchrale*, Pl. XII, no. 17). Lying across the lumbar vertebrae were a large iron buckle and a knife, while on the pelvis was another of the bronze loops (Fig. 29, no. 3) as found with Nos. 6 and 23 (see Fig. 21, no. 6). It is noted that the loop at the end of the handle of the bronze workbox found with No. 42 is exactly similar, and I venture to think that these little bronze fittings may have belonged to similar boxes of wood, leather or perhaps horn which have entirely decayed.

No. 63. A small bronze buckle on the lumbar vertebrae and bronze fragments on the right humerus. Body disposed with care. A young person.

No. 64. The skull of the male skeleton buried here had two cuts suggesting that death may have been due to blows from a sword (see also *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 147, Grave 7).

No. 67. Iron buckle at right hip, iron knives obviously once stuck in a belt on the pelvis. Very cramped burial. A male (?).

No. 72. At the left hip of this skeleton, which may have been that of a young woman, was a bronze buckle (Fig. 30, no. 1). Ornamentation is supplied by the clipping out of small circles of metal from the chape in the manner in which holes are punched in

leather straps, or railway tickets ornamented by the ticket collector. I have not as yet been able to find an exact parallel to this unusual buckle. The belt which it had secured seems to have been of woven material of which faint traces remain inside the chape

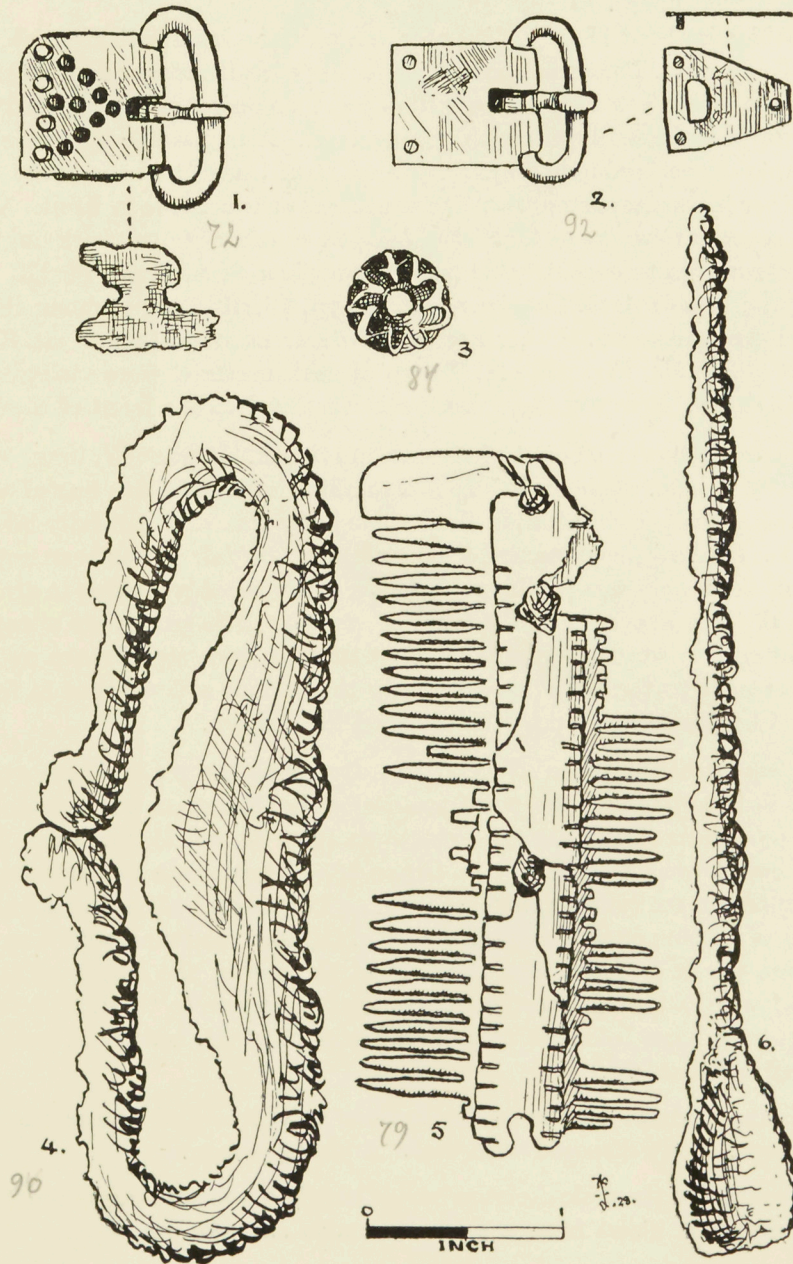


Fig. 30

Objects from Graves 72, 92, 84, 90 and 79.

(doubtless it was brightly coloured and showed through the punched ornament of the chape), but the tongue had certainly been of leather and a fair-sized portion remained on the pin of the buckle. Behind the neck lay a small iron knife.

No. 73. Iron knife at left hip.

No. 75. This skeleton seems to have been disturbed during agricultural operations; only legs, ribs and part of the skull being still in place.

No. 76. I guess this skeleton to have been that of a young girl (Fig. 31 A). At the

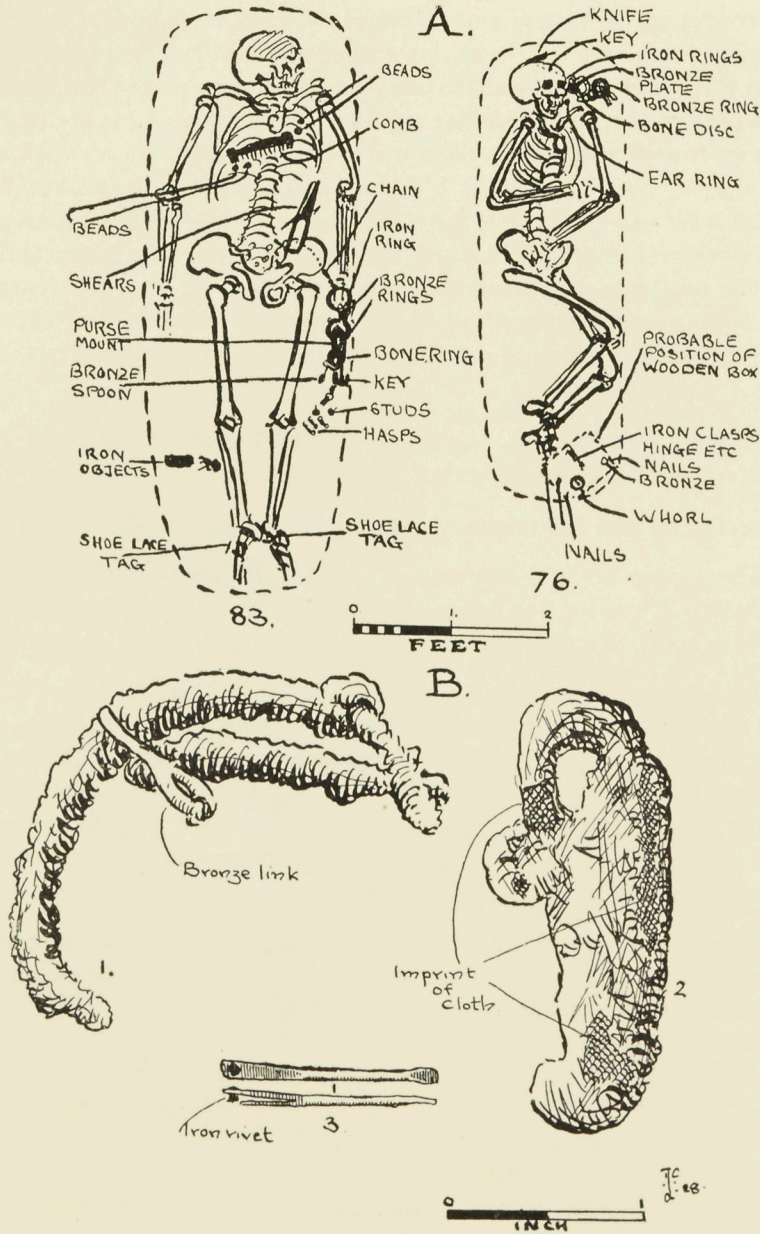


Fig. 31

A. Diagrams of Graves 83 and 76. B. Objects from Grave 83.

feet were the iron fittings of a wooden casket similar to that found with No. 42. This box, judging by the space available, must have been some 8 in. by 6 in. The only traces remaining of its original contents were a whorl of the usual type and two minute scraps of thin bronze plate.

Beside and partly under the skull were the remains of what must have been either a chatelaine or satchel. Some objects of iron, probably "keys", lay uppermost (Fig. 32, no. 5), beneath these was a cast bronze ring with an iron pin (Fig. 32, no. 4). Although this is apparently an annular brooch it probably served some other purpose here. Close beside these were rings of bronze and iron and an openwork bone disc (Fig. 32, no. 6) ornamented with "ring and dot" pattern and suspended from an iron ring by an iron clasp. On this was lying a flat pear-shaped piece of bronze plate (Fig. 32, no. 1) with a square central perforation and a circular one at its narrower end. It lay on the bone ring and beneath two fragmentary rings of iron wire, but I could not see that either passed through it. Beneath the skull lay an iron key and a knife (Fig. 32, no. 3). Traces of woven material were clearly visible on all the iron objects of this group and it seems probable that some were enclosed in a bag while others formed its frame and ornamentation. Against the skull was a small earring of silver wire (Fig. 32, no. 2), carefully incised to give a beaded appearance, and joined by thread to a small, flat, thin bronze disc which has a rude pattern punched out of its centre. The grave was of rather more than average depth, being 3 ft. 1 in.

No. 77. Iron knife at left hip. Remains of iron buckle at right hip. A large male skeleton. (Cut noted on left humerus but possibly modern.)

No. 78. Iron knife and fragmentary iron buckle on left pelvis.

No. 79. A large iron hook or key was at the left side and under the arm of this old woman (?). Beside it was an iron knife and opposite the crook of the left elbow lay a double-sided bone comb (Fig. 30, no. 5) of a type common in Saxon and mediaeval times.

No. 80. This grave was beautifully cut and 3 ft. 10 in. deep. The feet of the enclosed male skeleton were at the north end and by them lay the skull. The headless body seemed to have been decently arranged with arms folded across the chest. The skull, however, showed numerous signs of mutilation. The point of the chin had been cut off, as had also the hinder parts of both rami of the lower jaw, and one cut seems to have passed through the lower part of the face more or less removing the upper jaw. The injuries suggest the wanton mutilation of the body of a fallen foe.

No. 83. A shallow grave rather roughly dug. The enclosed skeleton was scarcely in the chalk. There was, however, plenty of room for the skeleton, which was apparently that of a middle-aged woman. Between the right tibia and the side of the grave were some fragments of iron, one of which bore some resemblance to the iron binding of a chest. It is possible that there had been another of the little chests here, such as were found with Nos. 42 and 76. On the left side of the body, above the pelvis, was a pair of iron shears (Fig. 31 A) and an awl-like object. Below these and extending from the pelvis to the knee was the remains of an elaborate chatelaine. The upper part of this was composed of alternate lengths of bronze and iron chain. The iron links appear to have been straight lengths of iron wire some 2 in. in length with a loop at either end. These loops passed through those of the bronze links which were castings of figure-of-eight form some $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. There must have been about 8 in. of this chain before it was fastened to a large iron wire ring, 2 in. in diameter (Fig. 31 B, no. 1). The decayed condition of the iron made correct observation of the position of the things very difficult, but apparently one object was threaded directly on this iron ring, namely a large iron key (Fig. 33, no. 2), 7 in. long, with a movable cast bronze ring head showing signs of

much wear. A flat bronze ring, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter (Fig. 33, no. 3), which is apparently an annular brooch without its pin, lay above this key, and it is possible that it was strung on the iron ring also. (This interesting object should be compared with Fig. 13 B.) Some

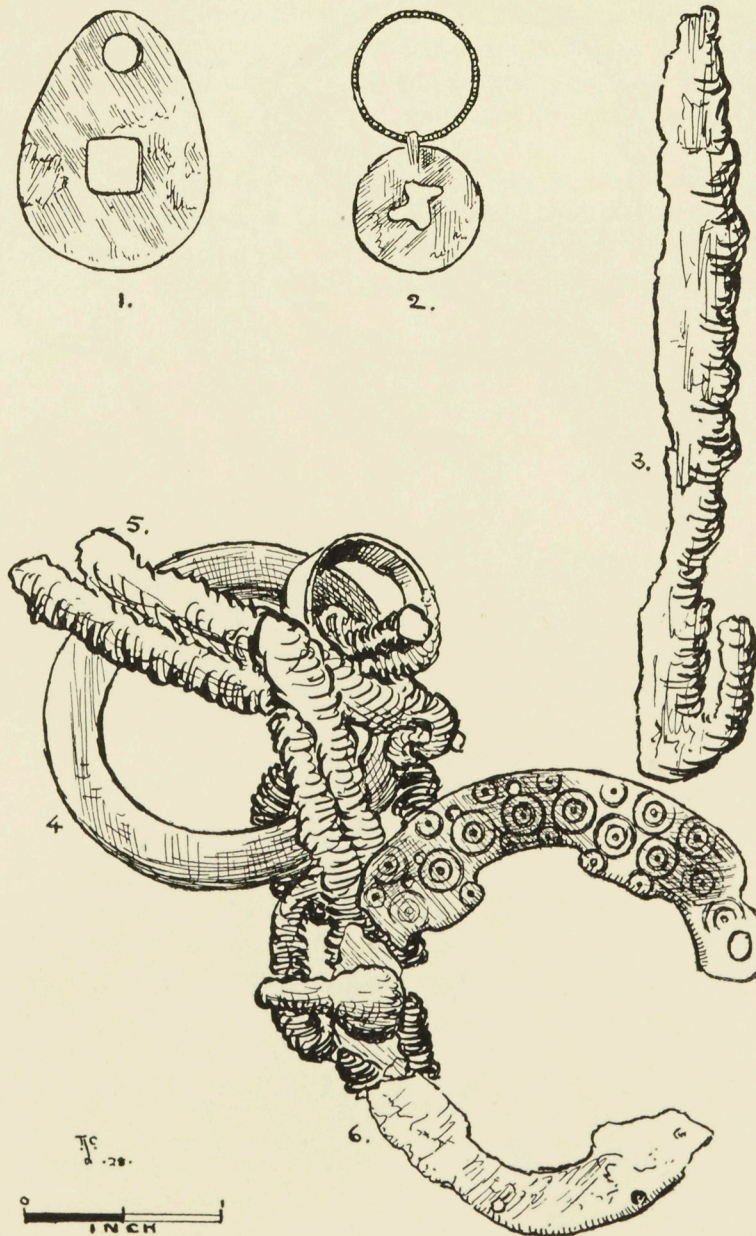


Fig. 32
Objects from Grave 76.

more links of chain fastened the iron ring to one of similar size made of bronze wire (Fig. 33, no. 1). (The "hook and eye" fastening of this and the iron ring should be compared with Faussett, Pl. XVI, no. 11.) Threaded on this bronze ring was an iron spoon, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, with a movable bronze ring head, and above it lay a strike-a-light. The

present specimen is $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. long (Fig. 31 B, no. 2), and lacks the bronze ring of that found with No. 42.

A flat disc of bone, $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter (Fig. 33, no. 4), was probably not attached to

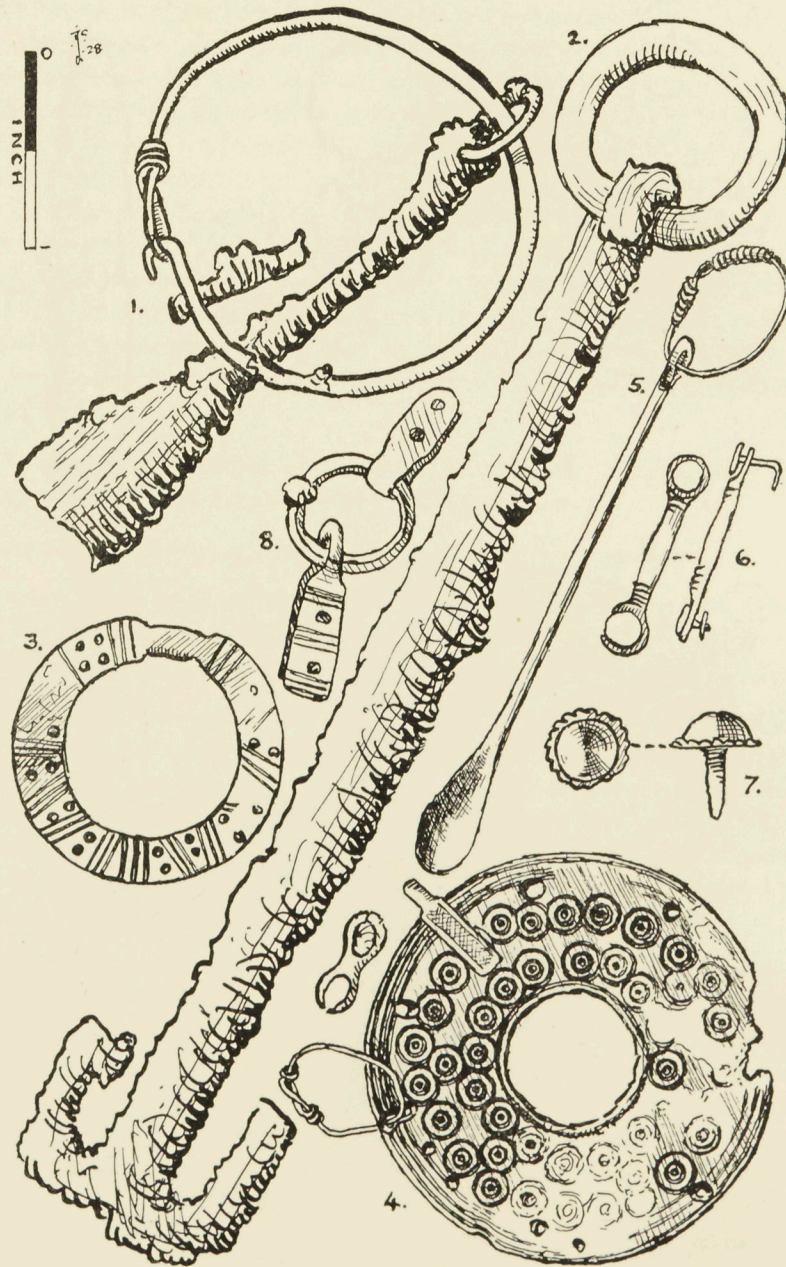


Fig. 33
Objects from Grave 83.

the bronze ring; it is ornamented with ring and dot patterns and has a central circular perforation. There are several holes round its circumference, most of which show signs of much wear. In one hole there still remains a bronze wire ring of the "elastic" type. When found the bowl of a tiny bronze spoon (Fig. 33, no. 5), 3 in. long, was jammed

through this ring. The head of the spoon is strung on another wire ring of "elastic" type, which may possibly have been forced out of the broken hole at the other side of the bone disc. The bronze clasp which provided the loop for the suspension of the bone disc is ornamented with minute criss-cross scratches. It had almost certainly been attached to a figure-of-eight link of bronze which lay near it, and we must imagine the bone disc hanging independently from the chatelaine and with numerous little objects dangling from it. The bone disc was, in fact, a girdle hanger, swinging loose among keys, spoons, etc., from the chain. We are then, I think, quite safe in assuming that the bone disc found with No. 76 was worn in the same manner.

Lastly, a pair of loops on a bronze ring (Fig. 33, no. 8), three hasps (Fig. 33, no. 6) like those found with Nos. 3 and 6 (Fig. 21, nos. 3, 6), and two bronze studs (Fig. 33, no. 7) with milled edges, appear to have formed the fittings of some small wood or, probably, leather case. Faussett, p. 152, figures a piece of openwork doubled leather

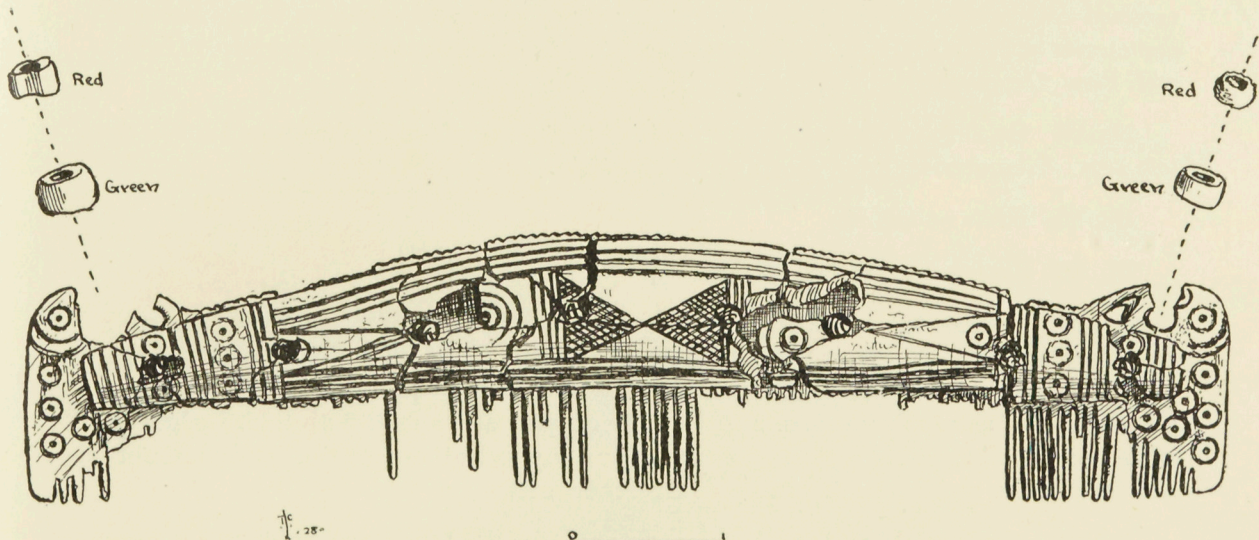


Fig. 34
Bone comb and beads from Grave 83.

from Beakesbourne, now in the Liverpool Museum; one similar hasp is still attached to this, and we may, I think, be certain that our Burwell specimens were attached to something of a like nature.

On the chest of the skeleton was a very fine bone comb, 8 in. long (Fig. 34), ornamented with incised lines, circles, etc. The back is cut in a manner recalling the hogging of a horse's mane. The holes at either end were obviously for the attachment of a cord which went round the neck of the wearer. This is borne out by the presence of a green and red bead at both ends of the comb which were evidently strung on this cord also. This comb is an elaborate example of the type of which a specimen was found with No. 32.

On the ankle bones of each leg was a minute bronze object, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. long. These little things consist of a cylinder of thin bronze plate flattened to a chisel point at one end and left open and split at the other. They are obviously the tags of shoelaces or garters and were kept on the lace by a minute iron rivet (Fig. 31 B, no. 3). I have not yet succeeded in finding a parallel to these modern-looking objects among the Saxon objects published or preserved in museums.

With the exception of No. 42, this is by far the most interesting grave so far discovered at Burwell.

No. 84. Young child. Head to south. Black bead with white inlay (Fig. 30, no. 3) at throat. This is the fourth example of this practice of a young child wearing a single bead round its neck (cf. Nos. 35, 46 and 48).

No. 85. Old male. Head to south. Crouched position. Knife at left hip.

No. 90. A young person. Beside the left hip was a large strike-a-light (Fig. 30, no. 4) and an iron spoon (Fig. 30, no. 6).

No. 92. All this skeleton, save the head, shoulders and right arm, had been dug away, probably during agricultural operations. By good fortune the bronze buckle and counter-plate (Fig. 30, no. 2) and an iron knife had been lying against the right arm and escaped destruction. Back plates similar to this one are not uncommon in the Kentish cemeteries (Faussett, p. 153, no. 6, p. 61, no. 1, etc.); an example occurred also at Holywell Row, Grave 34 (Fig. 14 C, no. 2).

No. 94. Head to the north-west. Child. Fragments of small shears or knives on left arm. Fragmentary iron buckle on left clavicle.

No. 95. Knife at left hip.

No. 96. Bronze buckle bow at right hip.

No. 97. Apparently an elderly woman. At the left hip was a collection of small bronze objects (Fig. 35): (1) a loop as found with Nos. 6, 23, 61, 83 but with a hole at the top through which doubtless a lanyard passed and was made fast with a knot to act as a swivel, (2) a hasp as with Nos. 3, 6, 83; (3) two pins and a stud with milled edges as with No. 83. All these had certainly been fastened on to leather (see No. 83) and doubtless formed the more durable fittings of a leather case.

No. 99. A young child. At its head was a pot (Pl. IV) of the usual Anglo-Saxon grey gritted ware. It is an ordinary domestic pot unornamented in any way. Fragments of similar pots occur in great profusion in dwellings of the period. It is significant that the only pot so far discovered in these excavations should be of the commonest local type and shows no affinity with the bottle vases of the Kentish area. A knife was found here also.

No. 100. As I judge an elderly woman. She had evidently worn a belt giving her a high waist, for the simple bow of a bronze buckle was well above the elbow of the right arm. A bone comb of the common double-sided form (see No. 79, Fig. 30, no. 5) and a knife had been stuck in this belt. Head south-west.

No. 102. Two breaks occur in the vertebral column of this, as I think, male skeleton. Two of the lumbar vertebrae were displaced considerably. As there was no evidence of cramping the body in the grave, I suppose that the disorganisation was due to an accident during life. A ball of iron pyrites on the left pelvis. Head south.

No. 103. A child's grave of abnormal form, being 2 ft. 3 in. wide at the head and tapering sharply to barely 1 ft. at the feet. I take it that a pillow had been placed at the head which was to the south.



PLATE IV. FOOD VESSEL, GRAVE 99 BURWELL.

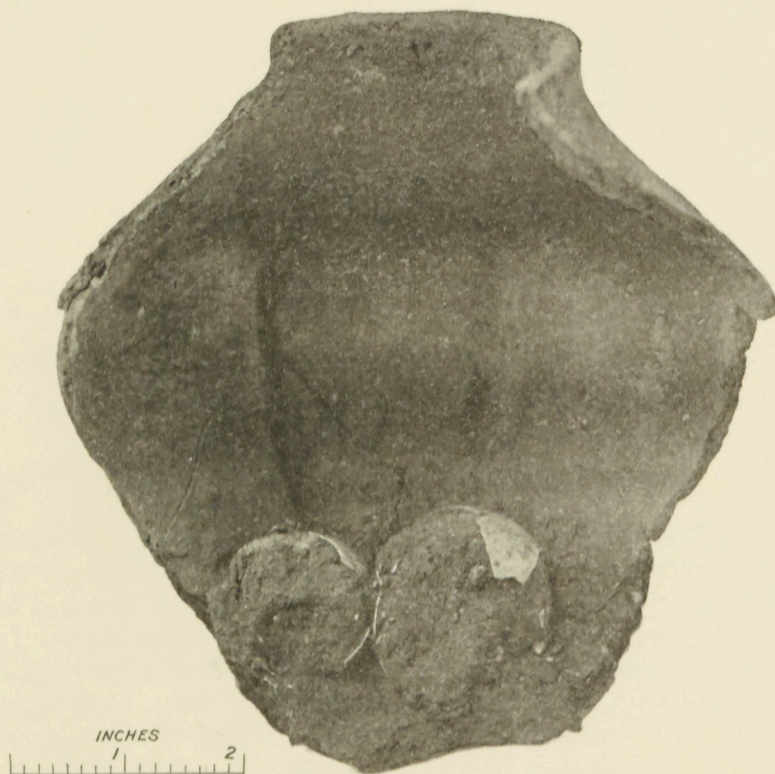


PLATE V. EGGS IN POT FOUND WITH N^o 69 HOLYWELL ROW.

No. 104. A roughly dug hole, some 3 ft. long by 2 ft. broad, contained portions of a female skeleton. The bones were not in sequence and many were missing. There was no pelvis, the chin was missing and there were few small bones of any kind. The bones must have been put in after the flesh was off them.

No. 106. Iron knife, buckle and key (as with No. 3) at right hip. Head south-west. Knees drawn up above the level of the skeleton.

No. 111. A large grave 7 ft. long and 4 ft. deep. The actual grave was 1 ft. 10 in. wide, but there was a shelf cut in the chalk on each side of it giving a total width of 3 ft. I suppose this shelf to have supported some kind of covering above the body.

No. 115. An oldish male as I think. One side of the lower jaw of an ox rested on the right hip and a ball of iron pyrites lay near it (Fig. 37 B).

This is a clear case of association of food with the burials. A fragment of animal bone was found at the foot of No. 112.

Pyrites balls have been noted at the hips of Nos. 64, 102; they were certainly placed there intentionally, presumably to provide means of making fire in the next world.

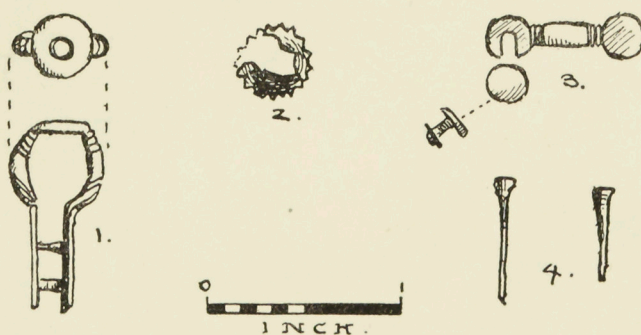
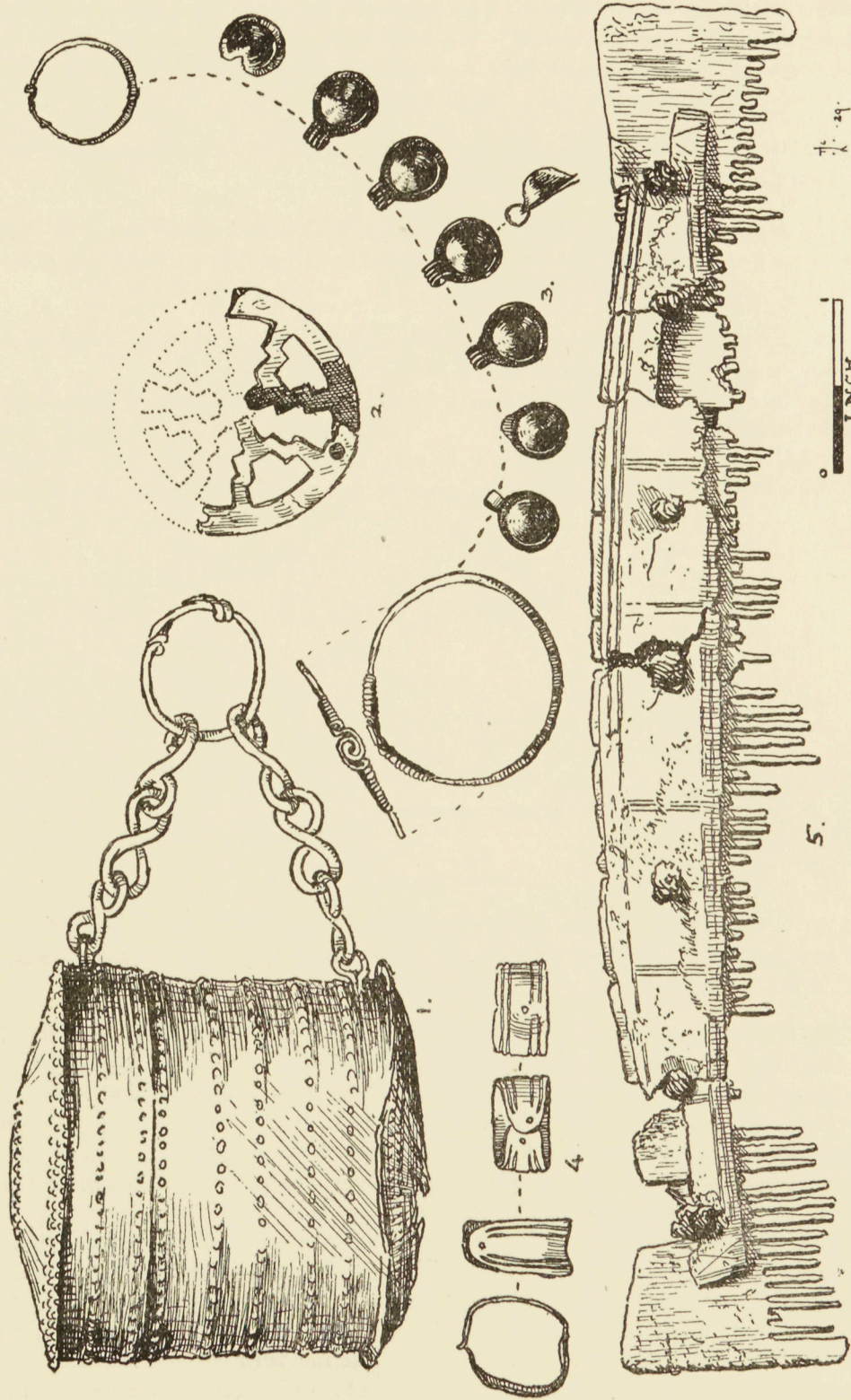


Fig. 35
Objects from Grave 97.

No. 119. A female (?) skeleton slightly disturbed by mice whose bones were found. A small annular dark blue glass bead of the commonest type occurred at the back of the skull. A knife at the sacrum.

No. 121. This interesting grave is to be compared with No. 42 (Fig. 26) and Nos. 76 and 83 (Fig. 31). The grave was long and narrow, 6 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 8 in., and enclosed a female skeleton which was not straightened for burial. As with Nos. 42 and 76 it was evident that a small chest had rested at the feet. In this case the box had been placed actually on the feet (Fig. 37 B). It had probably been about 16 in. long by 12 in. wide. The contents were of the same general character as those found in the Kentish cemeteries (see the list with No. 42). There was a fine bone comb, 8 in. long (Fig. 36, no. 5); three chalk whorls, apparently turned on a lathe and painted red and black (Fig. 37 A); two shapeless fragments of bronze plate; an iron object resembling a marline spike, some 7 in. long; this has had a wooden handle, and may well have been a steel for sharpening knives; a lump of pyrites; lastly fragments of a silver-plated disc girdle hanger (Fig. 36, no. 2) of similar character to that found with No. 55 (Fig. 29). This girdle hanger had been placed in the box in fragments, and these when fitted together



Grave 121. 1. Bronze workbox. 2. Silver-plated girdle hanger. 3. Silver necklace. 4. Bronze ring. 5. Bone comb.

only comprise half the object. Enough remains, however, to show its openwork ornamentation, which resembles that found on many Kentish buckles more closely than the other specimen. A stud on the circumference at the back shows that this object had been

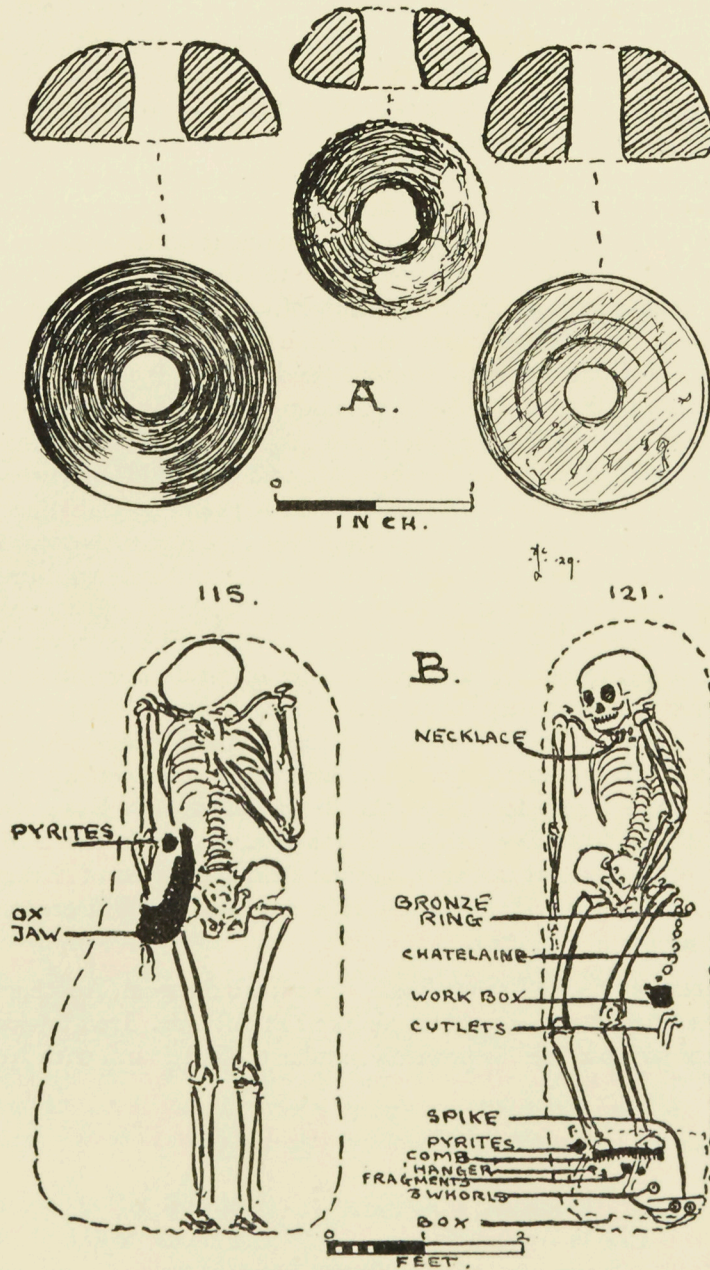


Fig. 37

A. Grave 121. Three painted chalk whorls. B. Diagrams of Graves 115 and 121.

attached to something 0.17 in. thick. Pitt Rivers' *Excavations in Cranbourne Chase*, vol. II, Anglo-Saxon cemetery, Winklebury Hill Grave 9, shows two discs closely resembling our specimens. They are made of silver-plated bronze and were found together

at the hip of a skeleton. He judged that they had been fastened on to a disc-shaped wooden object covered with cloth. (The lack of brooches, etc., in the Winklebury Hill cemetery suggests that it like Burwell may have been the burial ground of Christians.) Some links of iron were attached as with my No. 55. The mixture of oddments found in these boxes shows clearly that they were used for housing any little useful things that might be handy at some time or other as well as trinkets and household utensils. They were, as I said above, "ditty" boxes, only they belonged to Anglo-Saxon housewives and not to sailors in the fore-castle.

Near the left knee of the skeleton were some ribs of sheep or goat, cutlets as I suppose. Close to these bones was a bronze "workbox" in good preservation (Fig. 36, no. 1). It is of the usual VII century type with dotted ornament on top, bottom and sides. The top can be completely detached and is secured to the drum by links of chain which also form the means of suspending it from the chatelaine. There was nothing inside it when it was found. The box was fastened to a chatelaine of iron wire "elastic" rings about an inch in diameter. Nothing else remained suspended from it save a small bronze ring (Fig. 36, no. 4). This has had two holes at the open side and one at the bottom. It is not a finger ring, but its use could not be determined. A somewhat similar ring occurred with No. 76. It is possible that they formed bands round the middles of wooden toggles.

At the front of the neck were two rings of silver wire and seven little silver pendants, "bullae" as they were called by Faussett (Fig. 36, no. 3). From the way they lay it was quite certain that the whole formed a necklace and that the rings were not earrings. This method of hanging beads from rings sewn on to the clothing is common at Holywell Row (see Holywell, Nos. 1, 16, etc.). Probably the rings were sewn on to either side of a garment open at the throat. At any rate strings of beads were hung in this position from brooches, rings and even strips of metal at Holywell Row, although the true necklace also occurs. The "bullae" pendants are new to the Cambridge region but are well known in the Kentish area. (See Faussett, pp. 91, 122, and with a glass setting, p. 154. Precisely similar examples from Kempston are in the British Museum.) Examples in gold were found on the necklace from Desborough, Northants., shown in the *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Pl. IV. In spite of the somewhat vague method there employed of dating one grave by the contents of a neighbour, there can be little doubt of the VII century date of this form of ornament.

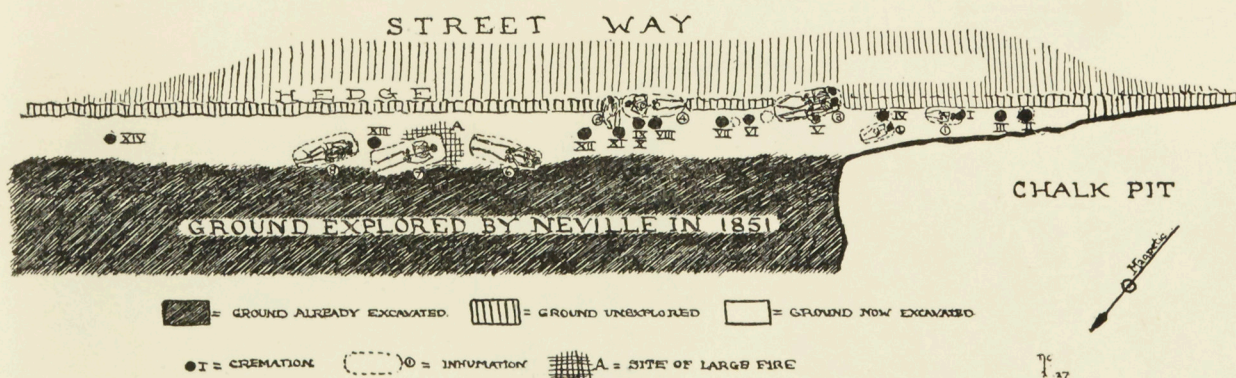
No. 123. Skeleton of a well-grown male, or so it would seem. Another ball of pyrites on the left pelvis. Iron strike-a-light under skull at left side. Iron buckle and knife on left shoulder. The strike-a-light is precisely similar to that found with No. 90 (Fig. 30).

THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT LITTLE WILBRAHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

THE well-known cemetery on Street Way Hill at Little Wilbraham was published by Neville, its original explorer, in *Saxon Obsequies*, which is too well known to need further comment.

In the spring of 1926, Mr H. G. Carter discovered an undisturbed skeleton under the hedge at the lower end of the Street Way Hill Chalk Pit (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxix, p. 95). This discovery showed that the cemetery had not been completely excavated by Neville and it was possible that other graves might be destroyed by workmen in the chalk pit. Permission was therefore obtained from the owner, Captain R. S. Hicks, for trial excavations by the C.A.S.

The following account is reprinted from the report published after the excavations had been concluded.



PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS 1926/1927

Plan 5

Trenches beside the hedge and parallel to the Street Way soon showed that Neville's excavations had stopped about two yards from the hedge in an irregular line. Probably his trenches had run at right angles to the hedge and ended at different distances from it. We have not indicated on the plan the various rifled graves discovered in our efforts. Some of them projected slightly into the white area of the plan (Plan 5). A space about 4 ft. wide seemed to have been always left against the hedge in the earlier excavations. Burials both cremated and inhumed were numerous in this narrow strip at our disposal. Eight graves were found containing eleven skeletons. Fourteen cremations were also discovered.

At a point between Graves 6 and 7 we came upon the site of a large fire. As far as we could judge this had been about 4 ft. in diameter, but a great deal of it may have been dug away during Neville's excavations. In this burnt area was found a piece of bronze gilt (Fig. 38, no. 1) which is possibly the mouth ornament of a small knife sheath. Grave 7 had been dug before this area was burned, but as it contained nothing beyond the skeleton it is of no value as evidence on the duration of cremation burial in this cemetery. There is, we think, little doubt that this burnt area was the site of a funeral pyre.

CREMATIONS

Nothing of importance was found in any of the urns. A few burnt beads (Fig. 38, no. 5), two fragments of bone combs (Fig. 38, no. 6), some unrecognisable fragments of bronze and a Roman "third brass" of Constans complete the list. Most of the urns were in a very fragmentary state. This was in most cases due to pressure, but some had been destroyed by the Anglo-Saxon gravediggers.

The urns seem to have been placed more or less in a straight line parallel to the Street Way. In many cases little pits seem to have been dug in the chalk to hold them, but in

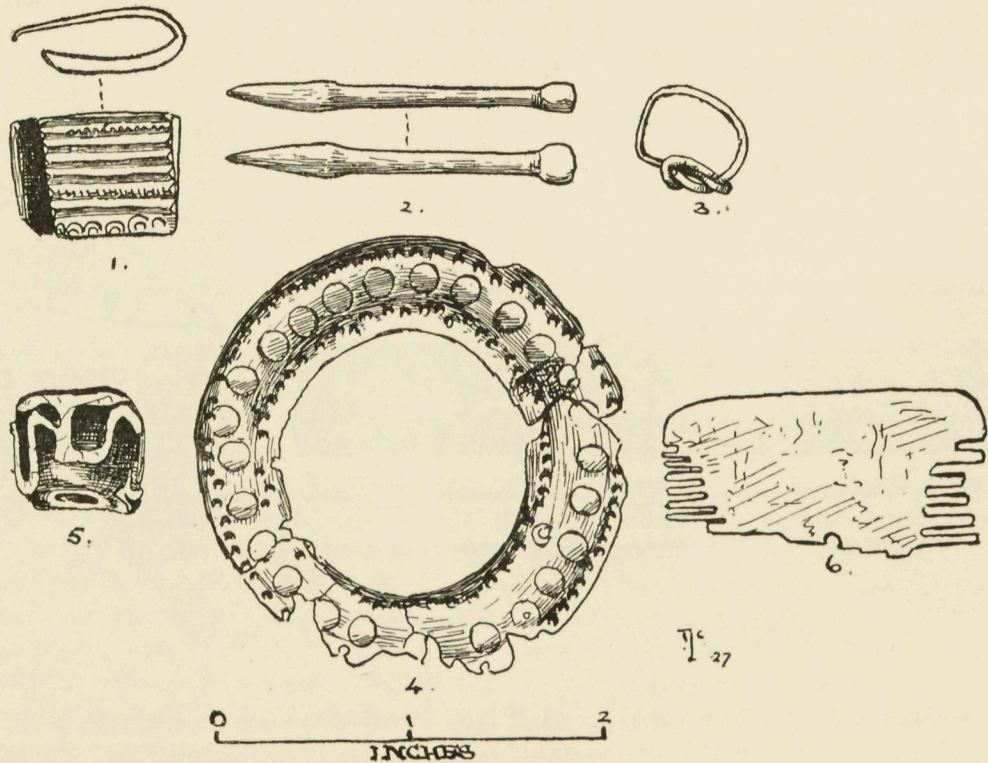


Fig. 38

1. Site of pyre. Gilt mount. 2. Grave 5. Bone pin. 3. Grave 5. Bronze ring. 4. Grave 6. Bronze brooch. 5. Urn 1. Purple and yellow bead. 6. Urn 6. Bone comb.

spite of this Nos. VI and VII had been put in beside their holes (see Plan). This may be due to the unhandiness of the people engaged in the ceremony as the result of the funeral ale. Urn No. 2 was enclosed in a very neat circular pit in the chalk and so could be taken out in an unbroken state. The illustrations of the pots, Pl. VI, speak for themselves. They are nearly all represented by fragments of domestic pottery found in the huts on the bank of the Car Dyke at Waterbeach (*Ant. Journal*, April 1927, vol. VII, no. 2) and are presumably ordinary cooking pots. We see no reason to think that the remainder were specially made for holding the ashes of the dead, since fragments of ornamental pottery did occur sparingly in the Waterbeach huts. The urn (Pl. VI, no. 7) which has a piece of lead in the bottom, is unusual. A specimen of lead in the bottom of an Anglo-Saxon urn was found at Mannington in Norfolk and is figured in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia*, vol. II, part 1, p. 152.



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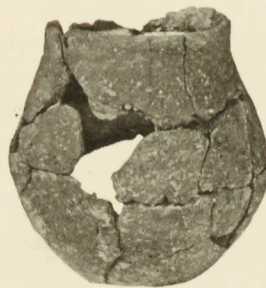
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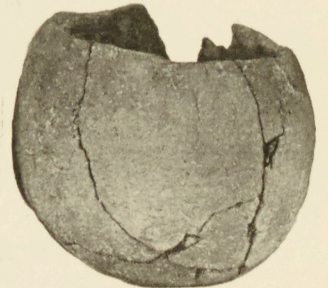
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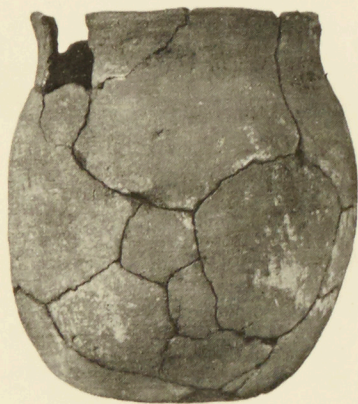
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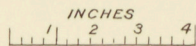
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John Bale Sons & Danielsson, 134 London.

PLATE VI, CREMATION URNS FROM LITTLE WILBRAHAM.

INHUMATIONS

The burials found in our trenches were not particularly remarkable. Nos. 1, 2 and 5 were those of children. No. 5 was accompanied by a necklace of small coloured glass beads, a bronze "earring" and a bone pin (Fig. 38, nos. 2, 3). Another, burial 4, was that of a young fighting man. At his right side and at the head of the grave lay the remains of his spear head, his left hand was still inside the boss of his shield, while a buckle and a knife at his middle showed that he had worn the usual belt. Rather less usual was the presence of a complete shoulder and foreleg of sheep or goat lying on his chest. This had obviously been put in with the meat on it for the bones were in their natural positions. Doubtless this was intended as a supply of food for the next world. Similar cases are frequently recorded in Mortimer's *Forty Years' Researches in Burial Mounds of East Yorkshire, etc.*

Grave 3 contained, as we judged, the bodies of three females. They had all been interred at the same time, and it was a matter of some difficulty to decide the ownership of the various associated objects. The distribution of ornaments appears to have been as follows: A. had no ornaments and was apparently an old person. B., who seems to have been a middle-aged woman, had two brass clips (Fig. 39, no. 9)¹, one on each side of the skull. These were possibly fastened on to plaits of hair. At the left hip was a set of objects forming a kind of chatelaine (Fig. 39, nos. 1-3). They were a pair of bronze girdle hangers with punched ornament probably of the VI century, the blade of an iron knife, the bowl of a bronze spoon and a "wooden" egg-shaped object about 1¼ in. long enclosed in two bronze hoops with an iron bolt running through it longitudinally. The purpose of this curious object is at present a mystery², but its association with the spoon suggests a possible connexion with the crystal balls found with spoons in Kentish and other cemeteries. The spoon in this case is apparently part of a Romano-British specimen. Against and under the lumbar vertebrae were three Roman coins pierced for suspension (Nos. 4-6, "third brasses" of (1) Constantius (330-333), rev. Gloria Exercitus with two soldiers, (2) Constans or Constantius, (3) illegible), and another pendant (No. 7) which was originally a hanging ornament on one of the wooden buckets with bronze hoops often found in Saxon cemeteries. (*Saxon Obsequies*, Pl. XVI, shows two buckets from this cemetery. For these hanging ornaments, see *B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Figs. 75, 76.) There was a knife here also. The four pendants were probably sewn on to the girdle from which the hangers, etc., depended. C., a child, had a pair of very simple annular brooches on the collar bones (Fig. 39, no. 8).

In Grave 6 another woman had been buried with two annular brooches of unusual type (Fig. 38, no. 4) and a string of about thirty amber beads round the neck. The repoussé ornament on these fragmentary brooches can be matched on wrist clasps from Grave 107, Barrington B. This woman had also a girdle buckle.

In Grave 8 a body had been put in on top of a warrior armed with a spear and a knife carried in a belt, of which the iron buckle was found. The bodies were separated by a layer of soil, but there was no disturbance of the lower skeleton. We judged the upper body to be that of a woman.

¹ In the recent *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia*, vol. v, part 2, p. 174, a skeleton is described with a similar clip on the right hip. Since another of these clips occurred in the filling of Grave 6 and among the bones of Cremation I, they must be regarded as not infrequent objects of Anglo-Saxon dress. There are other specimens in the Cambridge Museum from local graves.

² It is just possible that some superstitious veneration for wood of a certain tree may account for this ball and the bronze clips so often found in the pagan burials.

Although our excavations have added little to our knowledge of the Street Way Hill cemetery, it is something to know that the urns and skeletons thus discovered have escaped destruction at the hands of labourers as the chalk pit advanced. It is hoped that

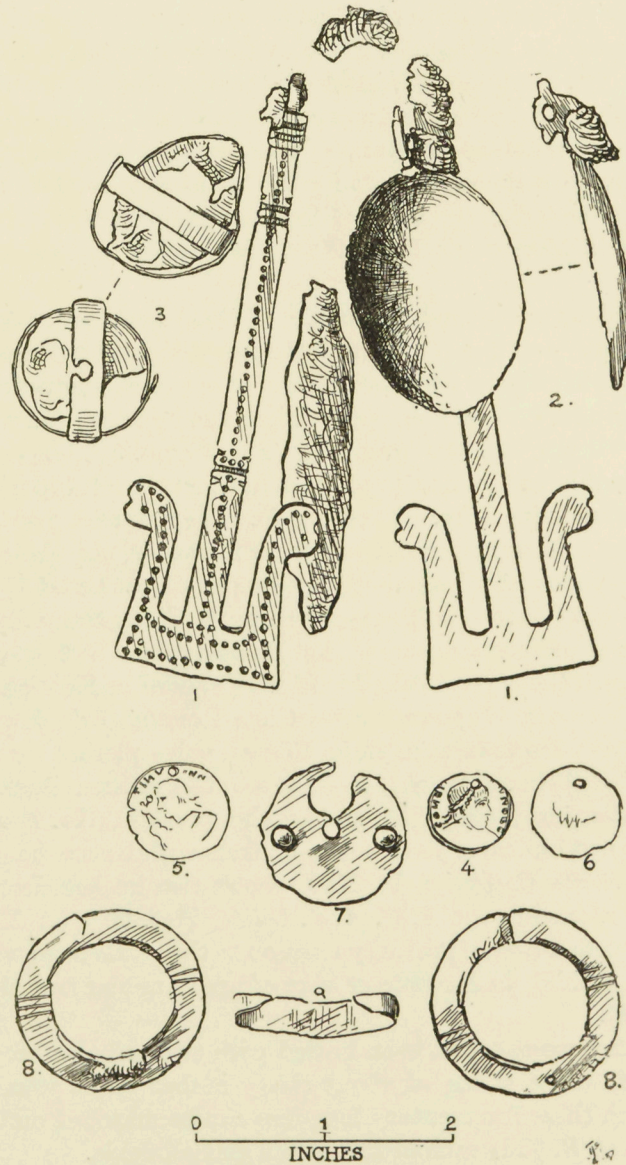


Fig. 39

Grave 3. 1. Girdle hangers. 2. Brass spoon. 3. Ball. 4, 5, 6. Roman "third brasses." 7. Bronze pendant. 8. Annular brooches. 9. Bronze clip.

some day the land on the other side of the Street Way may be tested for further graves. A short trial trench on the side of Street Way itself seemed to indicate that burial stopped short in a line bordering the road more or less under the modern hedge. Even if this is the case and the Way was confined to its present limits at that remote time it is quite possible that bodies may have been buried on the other side of it.

GENERAL NOTES

AMBER

It is generally assumed that most of the amber found in Anglo-Saxon graves is of Baltic origin (Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, vol. iv, p. 437). It seems worth while to examine the matter a little without going deeply into the subject. At Holywell Row, graves which are thought to belong to the first half of the VI century, and some possibly even earlier, are provided with strings of beads in the following proportions:

Grave	Glass	Amber	Jet
39	54	1	—
48	126	2	1
53	115	1	—
89	18	—	—

No. 83, belonging to about the middle of the VI century has 70 glass only.

In graves which belong to the second half of the VI century or later the numbers are:

Grave	Glass	Amber	Jet	Crystal
11	16	100	3	2
37	8	150	—	—
13	2	20	—	—
58	12	33	—	5
16	3	14	—	—
22	2	20	—	—

While in the latest grave to have a necklace, No. 31, associated with a VII century Kentish buckle, the order is seventeen glass and two amber beads.

It would therefore appear that in this cemetery at any rate amber is scarce in the early graves and common in the later ones. If the amber was of Baltic origin one would expect that the early settlers would have brought plenty of it over with them, and it would be scarcer in the later graves when it had to be imported. If, on the other hand, the stuff is of North Sea (our east coast) origin the case is quite different. It is now fairly certain that most of our East and Middle Anglian settlements must have been founded by the immigrants coming into the country by way of the rivers flowing into the Wash. Hence the centre of the area was probably in occupation long before settlements reached the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk. It has even been suggested by recent writers (C. Fox, *Arch. Camb. Region*) that the Roman forts of the Saxon Shore may have held out for a little while after the country to the west of them was in Anglo-Saxon hands. In either case it is quite possible that the amber on the east coast was not discovered till the VI century was well advanced. The Southwold amber supplies are quite sufficient to this day to supply the demands of the tourist, and it is more than probable that much of the amber beds on the sea floor have been washed away since Anglo-Saxon times. The amber found on our east coast may have been quite sufficient to supply the whole of England in those days, and perhaps some of the continent as well. It even seems possible that there may have been an accumulation of amber above the tide mark which would be worked off after a few years of studious collecting by beachcombers. For the latest grave to contain a necklace, No. 31, has seventeen glass beads and two of amber. I do not put this theory forward with any feeling of certainty, but it appears to me to be worth some consideration as giving a possible medium of exchange for the numerous foreign objects imported into East Anglia.

It would be interesting to know whether the right of collecting amber from the foreshore was originally vested in the King of East Anglia, and, if so, whether it was granted to his favourites in the manner that the Kings of Norway granted a monopoly of trade with the Finns to their friends.

BEADS, TOGGLES AND WHORLS

Methods of wearing beads

The beads found at Sleaford, Lincs. (*Archaeologia*, vol. L, p. 385), are stated to have been always worn in festoons. In the cemeteries I have investigated, necklaces as well as festoons were worn. At Little Wilbraham, my Grave 6 had a necklace of amber beads going right round the neck, although there were two annular brooches on the shoulders from which they could have been suspended. At Holywell Row, Graves 12 and 37 had strings going round the neck, which, in the case of 37, were kept from swinging by passing under the bows of three brooches. Graves 1, 7, 16 had strings of beads evidently sewn on to small bronze rings as festoons. The same applies to the very small strings of beads or pendants at Burwell, Graves 30, 32 and 121, which were either attached to a small ring at either end or in the case of Grave 30 to little bronze bosses. In Graves 21, 22, 39 at Holywell, festoons of beads were apparently sewn directly on the front of the dress, while in Grave 43 they were certainly fastened to a pair of annular brooches worn on the shoulders, in Grave 82 to two long brooches, and in Grave 83 to two penannular brooches.

No clasps for the end of a string of beads occurred, but this is hardly to be wondered at, for I find on examining the celebrated clasps from Barrington (Baldwin Brown, Pl. CV, no. 9) that these are a coupling from the middle of a strap or belt formerly riveted on to leather or cloth and only separated by the joining link becoming worn through. As these seem to be the only pair ever claimed as ends of a necklace of the period, it is to be presumed that such things did not exist.

Toggles

Both at Burwell and Holywell Row I have found single large beads at the hips or middles of skeletons. Some of those at Burwell, i.e. Graves 2, 7, 24, 25, are simple discs of chalk flat on the one side and convex on the other. They are objects which when found with household débris are unhesitatingly described as "spindle whorls", and in many cases this is probably correct. When, however, they occur singly with a skeleton in the manner described above, I am certain that they answer a different purpose. They are invariably found with bodies unprovided with a belt buckle, and I am positive that they were used as toggles to fasten the girdle. This is borne out by finding single large glass beads in Grave 42 at Burwell, where a girdle and chate-laine were certainly worn and no buckle found, and also in Graves 39 and 85 at Holywell Row in similar circumstances. Neville records single large glass beads from Graves 44 and 96 at Little Wilbraham.

In case anyone should doubt the suitability of a disc for use as a toggle, I can only say that they were in frequent use at sea for securing ropes together (see Paul Hasluck, *Knotting and Splicing Ropes and Cordage*, Fig. 132). The chalk beads are found in the remains of the little chests in Burwell Graves 42, 76, 121; and Faussett records examples from Kentish graves (*Inventorium Sepulchrale*, p. 87, etc.). In these cases it may be that the boxes amongst other things contained spare girdles. True spindle whorls of baked clay from the Anglo-Saxon huts at Waterbeach are shown (*Antiquaries Journal*, vol. VII, no. 2, p. 144).

BOUNDARY BETWEEN EAST AND MIDDLE ANGLIA

Recent excavations in the Cambridgeshire Dykes have shown that the principal ones are of post-Roman date and one, the Bran Ditch, has been shown to be Anglo-Saxon (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxx, p. 97).

It may be inferred that the most primitive one is the earliest, and this is the Bran Ditch. It seems probable that this ditch represents the frontier between East and Middle Anglia at an early period of the wars between the two (the numerous beheaded skeletons found at it testify to its unpeaceful character). Broadly speaking all cemeteries to the north-east of this work are very similar in character. They are East Anglian. To this group also belong the cemeteries close to Cambridge, Girton, Newnham and St John's, but to the south-west of these across the Bourn Brook we find a marked difference. The cemeteries of Haslingfield, Barrington, etc., are rich in "saucer" and "applied" brooches, and the "small long" brooches resemble much more

those found at Kempston, Beds., etc., than they do those of Little Wilbraham, Holywell Row, etc. I would suggest, therefore, that the East Angles held the bridgehead of Cambridge including Girton, as far west perhaps as the Bourn Brook and that at some period they occupied the south bank of the Cam as far as the Bran Ditch. I cannot include the Cambridge cemeteries in the Middle Anglian group. An occasional pair of applied brooches occurs in these cemeteries but they are exceptions. At Barrington and Haslingfield they are pretty well as numerous as at Kempston. The Cambridge, Little Wilbraham and Holywell (Lark Valley) groups appear to me to be quite uniform, many brooches from all three being practically identical. The occurrence of cremation in some cemeteries seems to have no definite bearing on the case.

It does not seem necessary to spend much time here dealing with the problem of the "saucer" and "applied" brooches and their relation to Saxon and Angle, but I am inclined to agree with Leeds (*Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements*) that the Middle Angles were a mixture of Saxon and Angle tribes whilst the East Angles were not. The pocket of saucer brooch cemeteries at Barrington suggests that this area was colonised from the south-west and not by way of the Cam, for the Cambridge cemeteries are early, and the few applied brooches in them (presumably traded from Barrington) of later date.

BROOCHES

Methods of wearing brooches

In every case at Holywell Row when it has proved possible to make sure of the positions in which the brooches had been worn on the dress it has been found that *large cruciform* brooches were worn slantwise across the body and "*small long*" brooches were worn with the foot upwards, and on or near the collar bones. This applies to the cases when three brooches were worn. In the two cases when four or more brooches were found (Nos. 48 and 79), the arrangement was as follows: No. 48, two small cruciform brooches on collar bones, feet upwards, two larger cruciform brooches below and outside them, feet downwards; No. 79, two "small long" brooches on collar bones (?), one foot upwards, the other upside down and head upwards, apparently displaced. Large cruciform brooch slantwise over body. Two medium-sized cruciform brooches lower down and outside it, feet downwards.

In two cases it could be proved that a string, or strings, of beads had hung from "small long" brooches, as beads were still sticking to the rust of the pin at the hinge end (Nos. 53, 82). In both these cases the "small long" brooches were worn as usual with the feet upwards. I fancy that this was merely because it was easier to slip the loop at the end of the string of beads over the pin and put it on that way up than it would be if they were put on with the head upwards. In the case of No. 53 the brooches had been joined by a chain also, like some Roman examples.

Annular brooches with one exception were worn on the clavicles. This one (No. 14) was found near the hip. In Nos. 58 and 43 festoons of beads had certainly been attached to them, and probably in Nos. 11, 83.

The big square-headed brooches were both lying against the skull. In No. 11 anyhow I do not think it was connected with a shroud, and was probably worn on a hood. The same applies to a cruciform with No. 22 and an annular with No. 43.

Numbers

The proportion of annular brooches at Holywell Row is very large, thirty-one bronze and three iron examples were found. There are three penannular brooches, two large square-headed, one saucer (applied) brooch, nineteen "small long" brooches, sixteen cruciform (a fragment also from the surface), and half a brooch of indefinite type. It is interesting to note that out of seventy-six specimens there is only one of the saucer type. In fact they do not seem to belong naturally to the east of the Fleam Ditch. One may perhaps imagine that they were popular with the Middle Angles, but thought vulgar by the East Angles. The occasional specimens at Little Wilbraham and other East Anglian cemeteries may well be due to intermarriage.

In numbers of brooches for the number of graves Holywell and Little Wilbraham seem about equally wealthy.

In the nine graves I opened at Little Wilbraham there were four annular brooches and no others.

At Burwell there are no brooches. As I have said before, this is, I think, due to the change in fashion of dress observable in the VII century, and has nothing to do with the conversion of the people to Christianity. Two objects from Burwell Graves 76 and 83 seem to have started life as annular brooches and been used later as parts of chatelaines.

Where were they made?

It is a pity that we have as yet no idea where the ornaments of the Anglo-Saxons were made. In Scotland, recent excavations (*Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* vol. XLVIII, p. 144; vol. L, p. 125) have shown that ornaments were made there in Roman and Viking times amid very humble surroundings; and it is probable that here many objects were cast in the villages. Some of the more elaborate brooches, however, must be the work of experts, possibly travelling craftsmen journeying from village to village, as has been suggested by Baldwin Brown. At any rate, when one has seen the miserable character of the dwellings of the time, one is not surprised that the Anglo-Saxon women should like something to flash and glitter in the gloom of the huts.

BUCKLES

It is a noticeable fact that all the larger buckles from Holywell Row appear to be importations either from Kent or the continent. No. 9 (Fig. 1 C) is a stranger with a Kentish look about it. No. 31 is Kentish (Fig. 10 B). No. 51 (Fig. 14 A) is either Frankish or a Kentish copy. No. 62 (Fig. 14 B) seems to be a Frankish type. Nos. 43, 50 are simple buckles which might have come from anywhere. On investigation I find a similar state of things from:

Barrington: big tinned buckle with iron chape and shoe-shaped rivets. (*C.A.S. Proc.* vol. v, no. XI, Pl. 11, no. 5, Kentish or Frankish.)

Little Wilbraham: (1) Grave 28 (Neville, Pl. XII) Kentish triangular chape. (2) *C.A.S. Proc.* vol. XXIX, p. 95, Fig. 1. (?) Frankish.

St John's: (1) A Kentish buckle with triangular chape. (2) (?) Frankish (Fox, Pl. XXXIV, no. 9).

Burwell: Kentish buckle triangular chape set with garnets. Sir W. Ridgeway's collection.

The list could probably be extended to most cemeteries, i.e. tinned bronze buckle from Luton, *Antiquaries Journal*, vol. VIII, Pl. XXXV, no. 18.

There are also numerous small buckles with square chape and little rectangular stops on the tongue, as with Holywell Nos. 4, 30, 91, Burwell Nos. 2, 92, which seem to be found in all local cemeteries, and are so alike as to suggest distribution from a centre in this district. Many of the fragments of iron buckles seem to have been of this form (Burwell No. 13). Whereas small buckles from Holywell No. 11 and Burwell No. 16 have a foreign look.

Apparently, therefore, the East Angles did not make many elaborate buckles. One from Girton (Fox, Pl. XXXV, no. 1) seems to be an exception to the rule; but I can hardly believe their craftsmen could have resisted ornamenting them in Style I if there was any great quantity turned out. Probably the foreign specimens came back on the waists of seamen and merchants.

CLASPS

Wrist clasps

The evolution of wrist clasps does not seem to have attracted much notice from archaeologists. It appears, from a consideration of the contents of the earlier graves, that the Anglo-Saxons brought over with them two distinct forms of wrist clasp: (1) what I might term the *Straight* type, (2) the *Spiral* type.

Straight type

When we first notice the *Straight* type in our local cemeteries it consists of a pair of plates of bronze, one with a loop, and the other with a hook which engages with it. In its simplest form it consists of nothing but two strips of bronze; one with a slot cut in it, and the other with

a curved projection to hook into the slot. Each plate is provided with two or more holes for sewing on to the clothing. These simple objects persist right through the period and cannot be used for dating purposes. A pair was found in the early grave Holywell Row No. 69, and another in the very late No. 70. They are often ornamented with punched and repoussé work, as with Holywell Row No. 46 (Fig. 13 C).

These were, however, no new-fangled ideas when the early settlers came over, for in early graves, like Holywell No. 48, we see the plate already cut into shape (Fig. 12, no. 5) with six projections with holes in them for sewing on to the clothes; and also a moulded bar soldered on to the top by way of ornament. Later, it would seem, this applied moulding became cast in one piece with the plate (as in Holywell Row Nos. 58 and 79) which possibly shows the stage reached by about the middle of the VI century. Shortly after this they develop rapidly and are covered with ornamentation in Style I (see Baldwin Brown, Pl. LXXIX, nos. 1, 2), but this form is not found at Holywell.

Spiral form

This type (Fig. 7 B, A) has been widely spread all over the world, and even persisted till recent years as the "hook and eye". It was worn singly in Bronze Age times in central Europe (*B.M. Bronze Age Guide*) and is still worn as an ear ornament in Sumatra (*B.M. Ethnological Guide*). Our clasps, however, seem to be the direct descendants of clasps worn in Scandinavian countries in the early centuries of our era; and also in migration times (see Schetelig, *Vestlandske Graver fra Jernalderen*, Figs. 112 and 150, etc.). It is probable that they, too, persisted in their simplest form right through the period, for they are found with a single specimen of the straight type in Grave 79 Holywell Row (Fig. 16, no. 8), and those from Grave 17 may not be early either (Fig. 7 A, no. 2). On the other hand, these clasps are undoubtedly the ancestors of a very widespread type of clasp of cast bronze (Baldwin Brown, Pl. LXXVII, nos. 6-9, etc.) which ultimately lost all trace of the spiral, and became decorated with elaborate animals and figures in Style I, such as were found in Holywell Row Graves 16 and 98 (Fig. 6, no. 3, and 19 B, no. 1).

This development of the spiral type appears peculiar to England, but the straight type continued to develop in Scandinavia.

Both types seem to have gone out of use in the VII century.

Mr Thomas, the explorer of the Sleaford cemetery, was of the opinion that clasps were usually worn on leather wristlets. Mr Leeds has opposed this view (*Northants. N.H.S. Journal*, vol. xv, p. 93). I am quite certain that the majority of clasps found at Holywell Row were sewn on to leather cuffs, for the traces of these were clearly visible. No doubt the leather was sewn on to the sleeves of tweed coats as it is to this day to prevent fraying. It was probably too thin to stand riveting. One does not have the buckle of one's wrist-watch strap riveted on or buttons riveted on to a leather waistcoat.

CLIPS

Bent strip clips

In most cemeteries which have been published in any detail these little objects (Fig. 9, no. 5) seem to have been found. They are to be seen from Faussett's Kentish graves in *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, pp. 60, 65, etc.; in Mortimer (Figs. 666, etc.), and so on. That they have not been recorded in more recent publications is probably due to lack of space therein. There are specimens in the Cambridge Museum from Barrington.

These little objects are seldom more than an inch long, and often less than half an inch. They are usually found in pairs, often against the skull or hip in the graves of both men and women. I have found specimens of bronze and also of iron in cremation urns at Little Wilbraham. Bronze specimens in my Graves 3 and 7 at Little Wilbraham, and many examples in the graves at Holywell Row. They have always been bent round wooden objects. Perhaps the triangular bronze object from near the skull of No. 92 is of the same character as it contained wood. It is possible that they formed part of the backing of wooden combs, but one would not expect such things with men.

[It might seem to be unnecessary even to mention these trivial things were it not for the fact that the only skeleton (No. 7) at the Bran Ditch with associated objects had an iron clip, formerly fastened on to wood of this precise type and a typical Anglo-Saxon knife at his hip

(*C.A.S. Comm.* vol. xxx, p. 86, Pl. IV, nos. 1, 2). Since this skeleton was older than the vallum of that ditch—being underneath it—it follows that the earthwork cannot be earlier than Anglo-Saxon times.] Although it may seem far fetched, I would like to draw attention to the wooden ball in bronze slings (Fig. 39) from my Grave 3 at Little Wilbraham. It is just possible that there is some connexion between all these enigmatical objects. The practice of "Touching wood" is not yet extinct.

CLOTHES

Traces of woven material occur in several graves preserved either in rust or verdigris. They are of various qualities, varying from about the texture of a modern flannel shirt to that of Harris tweed. It has not proved possible to form much idea of the shape of the garments. In the cases where wrist clasps were worn, the dresses seem to have been bound at the wrists with leather after the manner of the cuffs of old tweed coats nowadays. Thomas in his report on the Sleaford cemetery (*Archaeologia*, vol. L) notes similar traces of leather at the wrists. The large cruciform brooches worn slantwise were evidently used to fasten the front of some garment cut like a shirt or blouse. Whether the smaller brooches served any purpose other than ornament and securing festoons of beads could not be decided.

In the case of the men there is very little to go on, for although traces of cloth are often visible in the rust of weapons, these are usually placed too far from the body for the cloth to have formed part of the garments. From the fact that one boy (No. 23, Holywell) wore a bronze anklet we may infer that the legs were often bare.

CRYSTAL

Quartz crystal is not found locally except as an occasional erratic in the glacial gravels, and then never in a state from which beads could be made. It is, therefore, certain that the beads found in Graves 11 and 58 are importations.

In five cases only in the Cambridge Museum crystal beads are preserved together with the other objects found in their respective graves. They are:

Barrington B, No. 75. One crystal bead in a string of amber associated with late VI century wrist clasps and saucer brooches (Fox, Pl. XXX).

Barrington B, No. 82. Two crystal beads in a string of amber and glass beads associated with late VI century cruciform brooch (Fox, Pl. XXIX, no. 1) and wrist clasps of the type of my Fig. 19 C.

Barrington B, No. 110. One crystal bead in a string of amber beads associated with two brooches like those found with my No. 82 and thought to be mid VI century.

St John's. Group 1. One crystal bead in a string of amber and a few glass beads associated with a mid VI century cruciform brooch (Fox, Pl. XXVIII, no. 1).

Little Wilbraham. A grave group with little information about its discovery. Two crystal beads, four amber and three perforated Romano-British coins and several glass beads associated with girdle hangers of mid VI century (Fox, Pl. XXXIII).

Examples occur in most, if not all, cemeteries of the period in this country. The commonest form being that found in No. 11 Holywell Row. The similar shape of the long bead from No. 58, and amethyst beads found in many cemeteries, suggested that both were imported from the same district.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANGLO-SAXON SETTLEMENT

No student of the archaeology of eastern England can afford to neglect the maps in Dr C. Fox's book (*Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*). From them it will be seen at once that contrary to the attractive theory proposed by Mr R. G. Collingwood in *Antiquity*, September, 1929, p. 273: "There was no dispossession partly because the Saxons wanted a different kind of land. They did not deprive the Britons of their villages and fields. They chose sites of their own, sites where no Briton would live", all the pagan Anglo-Saxon settlements in our district are in areas already occupied by the Romano-Britons. They seem in fact to have often made

their settlements where the older population had been thickest. The immediate neighbourhood of Cambridge was densely populated in Romano-British times, and in pagan Saxon times there were several villages on the site of the modern town. The same is true of the Mildenhall, Linton and Chesterford areas. Other facts are also noticeable which show clearly that in many ways Mr Collingwood's article does not apply with regard to our area, however much it may do so in the north and west.

I had intended to deal with these facts at some length, but the article has been so completely "shot to shreds" by Mr H. J. Randall in the last number of *Antiquity* (vol. iv, no. 13) that this seems no longer necessary. It seems as well, however, to summarise the evidence we hold at present, from maps, excavations, etc., in our part of England: (1) No Romano-British village was occupied in the VI century and probably none in the late V. (2) The Anglo-Saxons had so displaced the Romano-Britons that they could plant their few villages wherever they liked and often seem to have chosen the areas which were most favoured by their predecessors. (3) Agriculture did not increase for years. The fens returned to swamp. The population was too small to need more than the pick of the land already under cultivation. (4) Some Britons were doubtless kept as thralls. We may possibly see their remains in the graves of males who are buried without spears in the pagan cemeteries. (5) By the date of the Norman Conquest a larger area than ever was under cultivation, but in the meanwhile there had been an invasion and settlement of the area by the keenest agriculturalists of the time, namely the Danes and Northmen. (One has only to read the Sagas to see this. They were experimenters also as is shown by the south-eastern European character of the barley found in Orkney, etc.) To say nothing of the influence of those Monastic Orders which specialised in work on the land. (6) There is surely no evidence whatever that the early Anglo-Saxons were more skilled in agriculture than the Romano-British population.

The few agricultural implements such as ploughshares that have come down to us are practically identical with those of Early Iron Age and Romano-British times.

The Anglo-Saxon had however one great pull over his predecessor, he was fighting and working for his own hand, and had no fear of the result of his efforts being taken as in Roman and modern times for the enrichment of partial or total strangers.

SEAFARING AND TRADE

The Anglo-Saxon pirates were one of the great scourges of the Roman Empire of the West. They were certainly the most renowned seamen of those days. Yet we are told by Professor Chadwick (*Origin of the English Nation*, p. 19), and it seems to be generally thought, that when once they were settled in England they ceased to use the sea. They became farmers! It is hard to believe that all the descendants of these old North Sea "shellbacks" would take so readily to the one calling that a seaman despises above all others. I cannot think that the old ships would have lain mouldering by the water's edge at almost every village without some of the lads there taking to the old adventurous calling. There is evidence that they did. Not only is there an historical account of a maritime adventure on a large scale (Procopius, *Goth.* iv, 20), but as one comes to examine the contents of the graves in our local cemeteries it becomes obvious that there are many imported objects in those of the later half of the VI century onwards. Schetelig's study of the cruciform brooches serves to show that although there are brooches resembling Scandinavian ones in some of the earlier VI century graves there are none in the later ones. This has been taken to indicate a decline in seamanship and foreign adventure. On the other hand from mid VI century onwards our graves are found frequently with silver, crystal, glass and other objects often imported from very distant lands. Probably the connexion with Scandinavia lasted only as long as there were relatives and friends to be visited on either side of the North Sea. When a couple of generations had died this connexion was not kept up as there was nothing of value to be got out of it. (The case is not parallel with the connexion in later times between Iceland and Norway, for the Icelanders had to fetch many things such as timber from the mother country which could not be obtained in the new land.) The Anglo-Saxon then turned his attention to the richer lands to southward. This would account for the Norwegian character of the cruciform brooches in their early stages. As the middle of the VI century approached the resemblance to Norwegian forms decreased, but the importation of silver began. Then in VII century graves such things as German glass, Indian Ocean shells,

Egyptian bronzes, amethysts and crystal probably from the eastern Mediterranean, etc., are found. Foreign belt buckles occur in most of our cemeteries (see note on Buckles) and in many other ways it becomes apparent that the descendants of the men who used to visit Norway and Denmark were now plying a profitable trade with richer lands. The numerous objects of Kentish workmanship in the East Anglian cemeteries are ascribed by Fox (p. 295) to King Redwald's influence. Whether this is the case or not they were certainly brought by sea, for we do not find them so commonly as we go westwards. It has been suggested that all the merchandise was brought in Frisian ships, though why this should be the case I do not know. The few "Frisian" ornaments from our cemeteries date from the early period and might well have belonged to actual settlers from that country. Early Frankish objects such as the radiating brooches (Neville, *Saxon Obsequies*, Little Wilbraham, Grave 133) may well have been brought over by actual settlers also. It seems to me unnecessary to belittle the enterprise of our forefathers unless some weighty argument can be brought forward on behalf of that of the "Dutchman". We are told that in the early VII century the commerce of the North Sea was certainly in the hands of the Frisians (see Fox, p. 240, for a summary of Chadwick, etc.), but is it reasonable to believe that the Frisians sent vessels to Kent to bring merchandise from there to East Anglia when they could have brought cargoes of Frankish products? The commerce of the North Sea has never been in the hands of any one people and never will be. No one in the VII century had sufficient general knowledge to say with truth that he knew there were no Anglo-Saxon vessels trading abroad.

We are told in nearly every book on the subject (e.g. Leeds, p. 64) that for generations no intercourse was possible between the Anglian and Saxon tribes. This might have been true in tropical jungles, but it is certainly misleading when applied to England. The plotting of the distribution of such things as saucer brooches and wrist clasps is enough to demonstrate this, for isolated specimens occur in districts far removed from their centres of manufacture (e.g. typical Anglian clasps in Kent, Sussex, Warwickshire, etc.). Communications were certainly better than in the Early Iron Age, for not only were rivers and downland tracks available, but long lengths of Roman road were still in use.

DATING

Students of the Anglo-Saxon period such as Reginald Smith, Baldwin Brown and Schetelig, following on the earlier works of Salin, etc., have produced a typology of brooches, etc., which will probably never be upset. The cruciform brooches are shown to go through a long stage of evolution until they become coarse, florid, debased and finally disappear. This disappearance is thought to coincide with the conversion of the people to Christianity when, it is supposed, the custom of depositing grave goods with the body was discontinued. It thus comes about that the whole dating of our Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and objects in them depends on the supposition that they extend in time from the settlement of the country to the conversion to Christianity. There are various cross bearings given by imported objects such as bracteates but in the main the facts are as I have said. Now the result of this arrangement is to leave us with a gap of over a century during which period nothing seems to have been made save a few tombstones. In our area two cemeteries have been excavated which do not conform to the ordinary Anglo-Saxon pagan type. One of these at Saffron Walden is described by Baldwin Brown (p. 601), and Fox (p. 266) says "Were it not for the late burial referred to I should be tempted to suggest that the cemetery was that of Christian Romano-Britons who continued to occupy the site for some time after the conquest of the district as a whole was completed". The second cemetery, at Burwell, is described in this book. Both Fox and Brown appear to me to have failed to grasp the true character of the former cemetery. I am convinced from the results I have obtained at Burwell that both cemeteries are those of Christian Anglo-Saxons which were formed away from "the burial mounds of the heathen". When once it is realised that the Christian Saxons, like their contemporaries across the Channel, did not by any means give up burying their dead in their best clothes and sometimes putting in food and other objects as well, we shall I think find it possible to bridge the gap in our chronology. Let us take stock of the character of Burwell cemetery.

1. Nothing has ever been found there which could be dated with confidence earlier than the VII century, with the exception of a few Roman coins worn as ornaments, etc. Nearly all

the objects found there—excluding knives and the like—are in a worn condition. It is unlikely that any of them were buried before the middle of the VII century.

2. Most of the skeletons have no ornaments with them. The deepest and best dug graves always contain skeletons entirely unadorned.

3. Food and the means of making fire are found associated with a few burials but these are quite exceptional.

4. Several of the female skeletons are accompanied by remains of chatelaine fittings which resemble those found with graves at Holywell Row in which the body is unaccompanied by brooches and thought to be very late.

5. Practically without exception the ornaments found are similar or identical with objects from "Kentish" graves which are thought at present to be of VII century date. Chatelaines are frequent and conform to the Kentish type so often described in Faussett's notes. No brooches are found, except two annular examples (Figs. 32, 33) re-used on chatelaines.

6. Most of the bodies were buried with head to the west but as this is the rule in the undoubted pagan cemetery at Holywell Row no store can be set by it.

7. We know that a church earlier than the present parish one stood on the margin of the burial ground, for it is mentioned by the Brougham Commissioners.

When this list is considered it becomes obvious that we are dealing with a cemetery founded at about the time that ordinary cemeteries of the pagan period came to an end. It can hardly be a coincidence. This cemetery must surely be one of the new Christian cemeteries founded away from the old pagan site.

The Saffron Walden cemetery would probably have furnished even more convincing data had it not been mixed up with some older material. At any rate a burial of undoubted Viking date and Kentish objects of a date not earlier than the VII century were found in it. There was nothing to distinguish the burial with the Viking ornaments (see Brown, Pl. XVI, no. 2 and p. 171) from any of its neighbours, and it seems practically certain that it formed one of an orderly series, dating from the original conversion of the district down to the Viking period or later.

Cemeteries of this character have probably been frequently overlooked, for their contents are comparatively so poor that few workmen would trouble to collect them if the graves were, as is often the case, opened in the course of gravel or chalk digging. Many more must exist but the probability is that they are usually in the modern churchyard. Most of the pagan cemeteries in this district such as Holywell Row and Little Wilbraham seem to have ended at the conversion, but some such as Soham and North Runcton are in the modern churchyard. In other words the newly formed Christian community usually founded a new cemetery, but occasionally the clergy were unable to convince the villagers of the necessity for doing this.

The question now arises as to what is the true character and date of some of the Kentish cemeteries explored by Faussett and others and some of the Yorkshire examples excavated by Mortimer. Faussett's cemeteries, if we exclude the Romano-British burials, are all of the same character. They are richer editions of Burwell. There are practically no square-headed brooches so characteristic of the earlier Kentish cemeteries such as Sarre and Bifrons. On the other hand there is a silver buckle chape (Faussett, Pl. VIII, no. 7; Brøndsted, Fig. 75, etc.) which Brøndsted definitely affirms to be of VIII century date. With this buckle there was found amongst other things a barbarous imitation of a gold coin of Justinian (527-565), a small silver brooch with four keystone garnets, etc. As Roach Smith says in a footnote on page 16 of *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, the coin and burial cannot be earlier than 527. On the other hand it is a barbarous imitation, has been worn as a pendant, and is an importation.

To my mind these coins worked up as ornaments are of no more value in fixing the latest date of an ornament or burial than the earlier Roman coins worn on necklaces. Take for example the gold coins of Valens and Mauricius (a barbarous copy) (*B.M. A.-S. Guide*, pp. 61-62, and Pl. IV, nos. 1, 2), mounted as pendants with garnet settings, the "Wilton cross" with a coin of Heraclius, etc. No one attempts to say they must be nearly contemporary with Valens as that would be absurd, but they do not hesitate to date them within a few years of Mauricius (590-602) or Heraclius. I believe that a gold coin to an early Anglo-Saxon jeweller conveyed no more than a florin to an Abor tribesman of to-day. It was just a handy medium of exchange

or something to work up into a nice ornament. It did not matter to him whose face was on it, they might be kings, apes, saints or gods for all he cared. There is one object only, as far as I know, to which a time limit is fixed. This is the cross found on St Cuthbert's body. He died in 687. This cross is not certainly a Kentish product and in some ways resembles Alemannic workmanship. At any rate, even supposing it was made in Kent in the middle of the VII century, there is no reason to suppose that such things as the big Kentish garnet inlaid brooches were necessarily buried with pagans for Christianity was well established in the early VII century. If once the Christian character of these cemeteries be accepted the latest date of some of the objects becomes uncertain and particularly ornaments in Style II. Let us now return to our own area where paganism was dominant for nearly half a century after the conversion of Kent. Take for example the box from Burwell Grave 42 (Pl. III and fig. 28) and the gilt discs from Allington Hill (Brown, Pl. LXIII, no. 1, and Fox, frontispiece, no. 2), these are surely as late as the middle of the VII century for they are but little removed in style from such works as the Book of Durrow (Åberg, Fig. 313) which is, I believe, thought to belong to the early years of the VIII century. (It is quite probable that the Allington Hill ornaments were buried with a man of rank, killed at the storming of the Cambridge Dykes by the Mercians either in 635 or more probably 654.)

We know that the first East Anglian bishopric was established in 631. Let us imagine, then, that by 650 or so Christianity was fairly established and Burwell cemetery founded. There would still be obstinate pagans burying their dead in the old graveyards. The latest burials at Holywell and Little Wilbraham are probably quite as near the end of the VII century as its beginning, yet there is no ornament in Style II from either cemetery. It seems, then, that Style II in our area probably lasted from about the middle of the VII century right into the VIII when it became merged in the more complex style which Brøndsted calls the "South English Style" to which such objects as the Witham pins (*B.M. A.-S. Guide*, Pl. IX) belong.

HOUSES

When Mr Thurlow Leeds published his *Archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon Settlements* in 1913 the dwellings of the Anglo-Saxons were entirely unknown. Since then he has excavated the greater part of a complete West Saxon village at Sutton Courtenay in Berkshire (see *Archaeologia*, vol. LXXIII). In East Anglia three similar villages have been found recently. One, near Peterborough, has been examined by Mr Wyman Abbott; a second at St Neots was found by Mr C. F. Tebbutt in 1928, and has produced objects of the Christian Saxon period; the third I myself found by chance when trying to dig a section across the Car Dyke in my own garden at Waterbeach. Our East Anglian villages differ only in detail one from the other. They are all built on gravel and close to water. The character of the houses is the same as that of the Sutton Courtenay Saxon ones, and also of German examples (see one from Stade (Dr Willi Wegewitz, "Die Ausgrabung eines sächsischen Hauses in Klethen", *Staden-Archiv*, 1926)). They consist of one or more small rooms, with the floors sunk a foot or more below the ground level on, or into, the gravel subsoil.

The Waterbeach examples (*Antiquaries Journal*, vol. VII, no. 2, p. 141) seem to have been built entirely of wattles and must, one would think, have been thatched all over. I am very doubtful whether there was any framework of wood other than two uprights supporting a ridge pole. Primitive buildings of this type existed in the Fens until quite recently. Although I have not seen one personally, Dr Fox tells me that they were comparatively comfortable. (I have seen a modern black-house in North Uist with a sunken floor.) The state of the houses inside, and presumably of the tenants also, can be well imagined, when we see that potsherds and splintered bones were found all over the floors. A dead dog was buried in the middle of one room; while at Sutton Courtenay, Leeds found a human burial occupying a similar position. It is interesting to note that objects which were presumably of some value to their owners, such as needles, whorls and beads, were chiefly found round the edges of the huts in the dark corners. The huts must have been very dark inside, and one can easily understand why the gilded "chip carving" ornamentation of bronze objects should have been so popular with the Anglo-Saxons. The big, square-headed brooches of the period must have glittered and winked like fireflies in the smoky gloom of these filthy little dens.

The Waterbeach village was apparently built when the Car Dyke had silted up considerably. Some of the huts were certainly flooded at times, for river shells were common on the mud of the floors, but it is probable that settlers could have worked their vessels right up to the site. One does not know the size of their ships, still it is unlikely that they would have been as big as a Norfolk wherry which does not draw more than 2½ ft. of water when laden. We have no exact evidence of the date of the formation of the settlement, but it may be presumed to date from the early occupation.

Romano-British vessels of pottery and glass were certainly used at the same time as the typical Anglo-Saxon wares, and it is unlikely that a supply of these could have been still obtained fifty years after the Conquest was over.

FOOD ASSOCIATED WITH BURIALS

In each of the three cemeteries considered here food has been found in association with the bodies. The practice, which was common in the pagan period, evidently continued in a lesser degree into Christian times and is not yet completely extinct. Animal remains in the graves have been recorded by most observers; but I doubt if any case has been quite as striking as that of Grave 59, where the shells of several duck's eggs were found at the bottom of a pot (Pl. V) associated with a female skeleton of the VI century. I am of the opinion that all pots found with these burials, and all the buckets also, formerly held food or drink for the dead. In the case of Holywell Grave 79 an ox jaw was found covering a small pot (Pl. I) associated with a female burial of about mid VI century date. The pot is so small that as in the case of No. 96 one surmises that it held some such thing as honey.

In Grave 4 at Holywell a small fragment of animal bone lay in the remains of a bucket. There are numerous other cases where food was provided for the dead, of which the most important were Grave 4 at Little Wilbraham, where I found the complete bones of the fore leg of a sheep or goat beneath the warrior's shield, and Burwell No. 115 where another ox jaw was found, and also a ball of iron pyrites to provide means of kindling a fire to cook it. It would be imagined that an ox jaw was poor fare for the traveller; but I am told that it makes an excellent stew. Only one pot was found at Burwell; so we may presume that the rite was dying out.

THE KENTISH CULTURE

In almost every local cemetery one finds objects which may be described without hesitation as being the work of Kentish craftsmen. Various explanations have been given for their occurrence. Leeds (p. 82) suggests that it was due to Ethelbert's influence, and ceased at his death. Fox (pp. 239 and 295) believes it to be due to the overlordship of Redwald of East Anglia. The influence of these Kings may have had something to do with it; but whatever the cause may have been, the excavations at Holywell and Burwell have convinced me that a complete change in women's fashions spread from Kent to East Anglia in the VII century. The wearing of numerous big brooches died out completely before the conversion to Christianity, and the Kentish fashion of chatelaines and pendants took their place. It is interesting to note that the spread of this fashion in the VII century can be noted in the Christian graves at Burwell and the pagan graves at Kempston. Silver pendants, such as were found with Grave 121 at Burwell (Fig. 36), and objects such as Fig. 32, no. 1, from Burwell Grave 76, are found in the pagan cemetery at Kempston; for Middle Anglia was still under the sway of the old pagan Penda for some years after the conversion of the East Anglian Court. That the fashion spread right over Anglian districts is attested by Kentish objects in the Yorkshire graves (Mortimer, Figs. 222, 664, 672, etc.).

POTTERY

The pottery of the pagan period is discussed by Fox (p. 267), and it does not seem to me necessary to say much on this score. Excavations in the dwellings of the pagan period show that ornamented pottery similar to the vessels used for cremation urns was used for domestic purposes. The variety of sherds from the Waterbeach huts show that bottles, bowls and cups

were used, in addition to dishes and glass jugs of Romano-British make, which were doubtless collected from the kilns after the Conquest.

The chronology and typology of Anglo-Saxon pottery has yet to be worked out, and it is questionable whether it will ever be possible to date it with the same precision as that of other periods. A purely domestic art like this primitive pottery making, probably confined to the women, was bound to be very conservative, and vessels like those found with Nos. 59 and 79 at Holywell show little variation from continental examples or even from some pots of the Early Iron Age.

PURSE MOUNTS, STRIKE-A-LIGHTS AND GIRDLE HANGERS

Baldwin Brown treats at length, pp. 408-411, on the apparent difficulty of deciding whether a given object is a purse mount or a strike-a-light. I may say at once that I believe them both to have originated from the same object. In Thibet the strike-a-light to this day forms part of the framework of the "tinder-pouch", and the same is obviously true of many of our Anglo-Saxon specimens. The strike-a-light was sewn into the top of a little purse containing tinder. Examples like that from Burwell Grave 42 (Fig. 27) and Holywell Grave 11 (Fig. 3) had rings in the top for suspension. When in use the flap of the purse was turned back to expose the striking edge. The Frankish purse mount (Brown, Pl. XCIV, 3) evolved quite naturally from the iron strike-a-light when the pleasing shape of the latter attracted the attention of the jeweller.

Purse Rings. At the hip of most of the female skeletons at Holywell Row (e.g. nos. 11, 12, 43) a single ring of iron, bronze or ivory was found. Outstanding examples such as that from Grave 12 (Fig. 4) are moulded. These rings, which are usually at least 2 in. in diameter, are generally found lying with several little pieces of iron and often with keys. I am inclined to think that they formed a mount for the mouth of a bag such as one sometimes sees to-day.

Disc Girdle Hangers. These objects (see Burwell Graves 55, 76, 83, 121) do not seem to have served the same purpose as the purse rings. The silver-plated bronze ones (Figs. 29, 36) were apparently riveted to a pouch, whilst the bone ones (Figs. 32, 33) either hung free or were sewn on to one. I consider that they are later than anything found at Holywell Row. Compare Alemannic examples illustrated in the *Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Zürich Museum* (1927), Pl. V.

SHIELD, SPEAR AND SWORD

All the shields at Holywell Row and the one from Little Wilbraham appear to have been circular and about 2 ft. 6 in. in diameter. They were made of wood, and there is no indication of their having been covered with leather. They do not appear to have been flat like the Viking shields from the Gokstad ship, or the earlier ones from the Danish bogs. If one may judge from the angle of the flanges on the bosses, the curve on some little pieces of bronze binding, and the pictures on the early manuscripts, they were slightly conical.

Marks were evidently placed on the shields to simplify the finding of the grip in a hurry when the shield was lying on the ground. In the case of No. 55 Holywell one of the rivet-heads on the flange is silvered, while Little Wilbraham No. 4 and Holywell Nos. 29 and 93 have each a tiny piece of bronze plate turned over the rim at the top.

Two kinds of bosses occur (Fig. 21 B, nos. 1, 2), the "conical" and the "carinated". I do not like the term "carinated", which I use here in default of a better. As yet there is little to date them. Brown deduces that the carinated form with a tall central projection is an early one.

Spears. Little information has been obtained with regard to these weapons. That found with No. 15 was 6 ft. 9½ in. from point to butt. This is probably about the average length. No man was provided with more than one. A scheme of typology is yet to be devised, and would be of doubtful value in such objects turned out probably by the village blacksmith.

Sword. The single sword was of the plainest type and had had a wooden guard and grip. It was interesting to note that it was found with the skeleton of a sturdy male who should have been well able to wield it.

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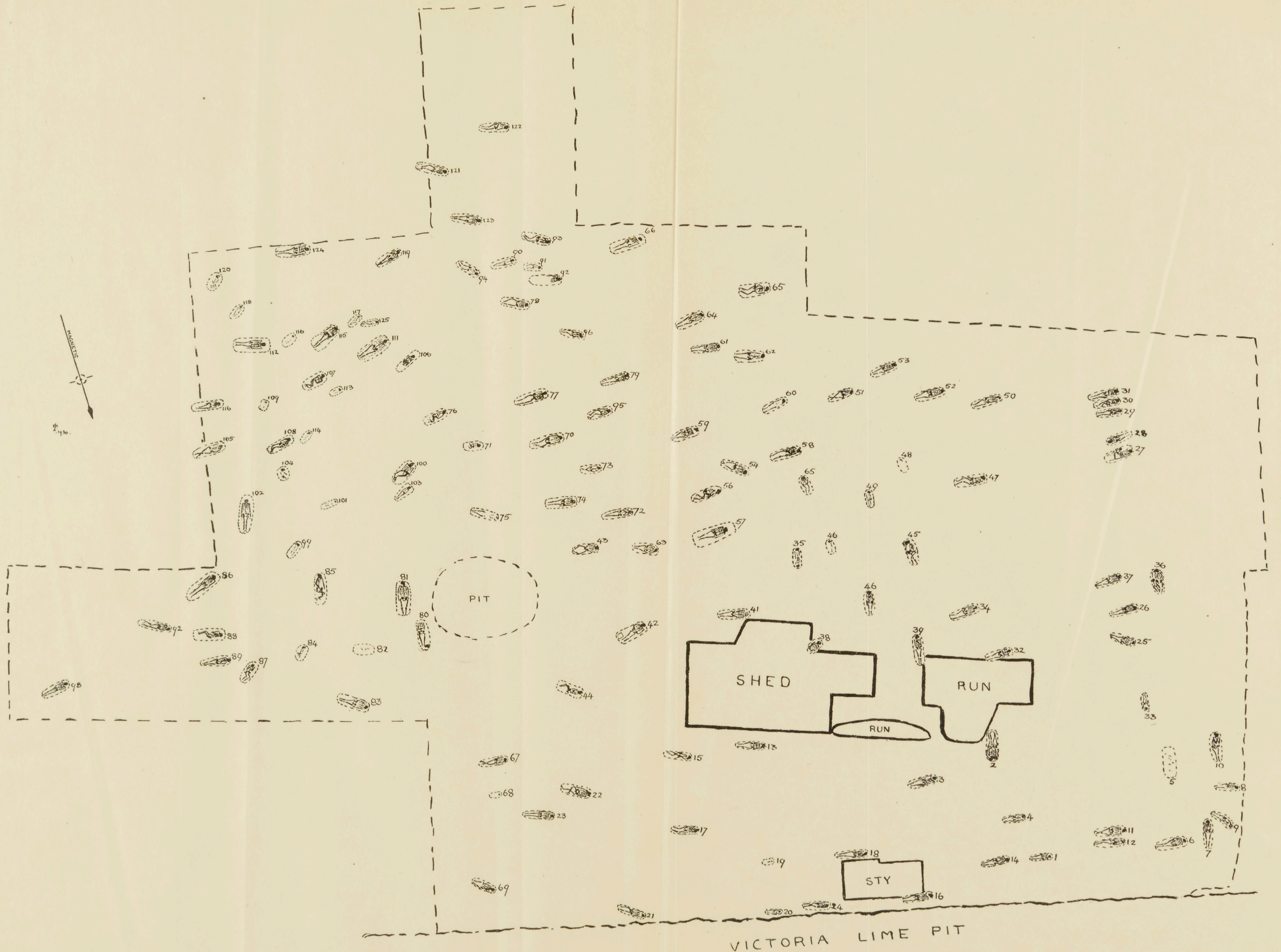
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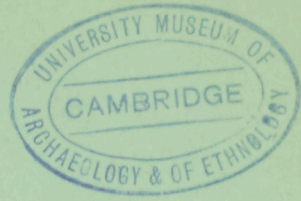
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Plan 2
 Plan of the excavations in the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Holywell Row.



Plan 4. Excavations in the Burwell Cemetery.



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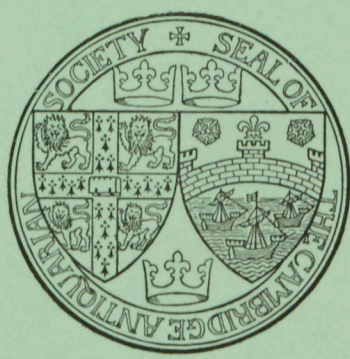
RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN
ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & SUFFOLK

A Report

COMPILED AND ILLUSTRATED

by

T. C. LETHBRIDGE, F.S.A.



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