

### Description

The neck of the animal is engraved with tendrils, representing the mane, as is the projecting lobe or 'ear'. The eye and open jaw are also shown with engraved lines. The base is worn and it is difficult to be sure if it was broken in antiquity or if it is complete.

### Discussion

A similar mount in the form of an animal head with a mane of tendrils was excavated at St. Martin-at-Palace Plain in Norwich in 1981 (Ayers forthcoming). Both mounts may be compared with the fragment from Cambridgeshire, thought to be part of the side piece of a horse's bit (Shetelig 1940, Fig. 40, p. 68). The two new mounts may also have been associated with horse-harness, as both are fairly heavy-duty. It is likely that they were soldered in place (perhaps to a base plate which in turn was riveted to leather), as there is no evidence of any other means of attachment.

This is an important addition to the growing corpus of Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork found in Norfolk. A number of other objects decorated with the Ringerike-style have come to light recently, including several box-mounts (Margeson 1986, 323-327, nos. 2, 5 and 12).

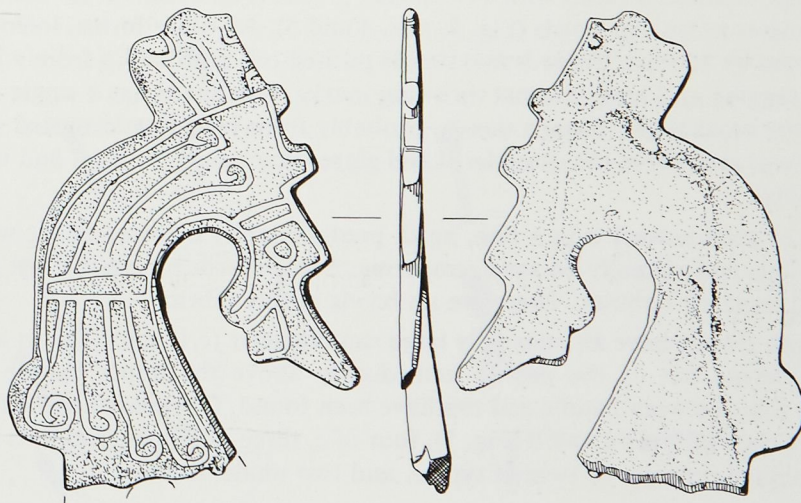


Fig. 4

A mount from Stoke Holy Cross. Scale 1:1. Drawing by Kenneth Penn.

### Bibliography

- Ayers, B. forthcoming, *Excavations at St. Martin-at-Palace Plain, Norwich 1981* (E. Anglian Archaeol., 37).  
 Margeson, S., 1986 'A Group of Late Saxon Mounts from Norfolk', *Norfolk Archaeol.* XXXIX, 323-7.  
 Shetelig, H., 1940 *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland Part IV* (Oslo).

### A Medieval Pottery Production Site at Barton Bendish (Fig. 5)

by Andrew Rogerson

During the course of an archaeological survey of Barton Bendish a dense surface concentration of medieval pottery, including wasters and misfired sherds, was found in

January 1985 at TF 7122 0582 (Co. No. 21066). Two further visits were made to gather additional material. Because excavation of the site is unlikely in the near future, its discovery and the main characteristics of its products seem worthy of a brief note, while the results of the parish survey will appear in *East Anglian Archaeology*. I am grateful to Sarah Jennings for her helpful advice and to Stephen Ashley who prepared the illustrations.

The site lies 150m north of the main street of the medieval village, and 350m south of a stream. The subsoil is chalk and the nearest source of clay (boulder clay) is c.1 km to the east-south-east where there is still a large pit. The 300 sq.m. area of the site available for examination is quadrant-shaped and lies in the corner of an arable field; the remainder is sealed beneath a modern housing development.

11.36 kg. (960 sherds) of wheel-turned pottery, apparently discards from production, were collected, as well as 0.9 kg. of fired clay, perhaps derived from a kiln. The fabric of 96.7% of the pottery is sandy with rare chalk, flint and iron ore inclusions. The texture varies from harsh pimply to slightly coarse. Of this fabric 81% by weight was reduced grey, and the rest oxidised to a pale red, often with buff surfaces. 85 rims are of large bowls, average diameter 38 cm., with a consistent profile (Fig. 5, nos. 1-3), while there are only 12 examples of smaller bowls (Fig. 5, nos. 4 and 5). All other forms, including jugs, are represented by 25 rims. There is one simple pushed-out pouring lip from a jug. Bases are slightly sagging and have internal throwing marks. One sherd has a single finger impression at the basal angle. Sixteen sherds, probably from jugs, are decorated with up to three horizontal grooves at the shoulder. Lead glaze occurs only on jugs, and is a patchy greenish yellow.

3.3% of the total pottery is in a fine, hard, predominantly oxidised fabric with sparse chalk inclusions and virtually no sand tempering. Some sherds have a distinct laminated fracture and large air bubbles. There are no bowls in this fabric.

Jugs in both fabrics have an unusually large rim diameter (c.14 cm). This is apparently due to the flaring out of the profile immediately above the upper handle junction, although no joins between handle and rim have been found. Of twenty handle fragments, there are five each of types a and b (Fig. 5), four of c, three of d (including two in the fine fabric), a solitary example of twisted type e, and two unidentifiable.

Fig. 5 Nos. 1 and 2, bowls, oxidised; No. 3, bowl, reduced; No. 4, bowl, oxidised; No. 5, bowl, reduced; No. 6, probable bowl, oxidised; No. 7, jug, oxidised, internal and external glaze; No. 8, jug, oxidised, patches of external glaze; Nos. 9 and 10, jugs, fine fabric, oxidised, internal and external glaze; No. 11, ?jar, fine fabric, reduced, fragment of applied element, possible handle scar; No. 12, uncertain form, pinkish grey; Nos. 13 and 14, uncertain forms, reduced; No. 15, bowl, diameter uncertain, applied thumbled strip, oxidised. Sections of handles, types a-e.

Detailed fieldwalking has again produced surface evidence of medieval pottery production (Rogerson and Ashley 1985, 187) and has shown the small-scale and local nature of the industry. Closely comparable pottery has been found in the survey throughout the parish, but it is not very common. Unglazed bowls with flat-topped out-turned rims are frequent in west Norfolk and are probably later medieval. Excavations in 1986 at Pott Row, Grimston, 16 km north of Barton Bendish (Site 22954) have indicated that unglazed bowls of similar form were manufactured in small quantities probably in the fourteenth century along with glazed wares. Grimston was the main source of pottery in medieval



Fig. 5  
Pottery from Barton Bendish. Scale 1:4.  
*Drawings by Stephen Ashley.*

Barton Bendish, and it is likely that the minor industry described here was a short-lived (and futile) attempt to compete with this near-monopoly, probably in the fourteenth century.

*Bibliography*

Rogerson, A., and Ashley, S. J., 1985 'A medieval pottery production site at Blackborough End, Middleton', *Norfolk Archaeol.* XXXIX, 181-9.