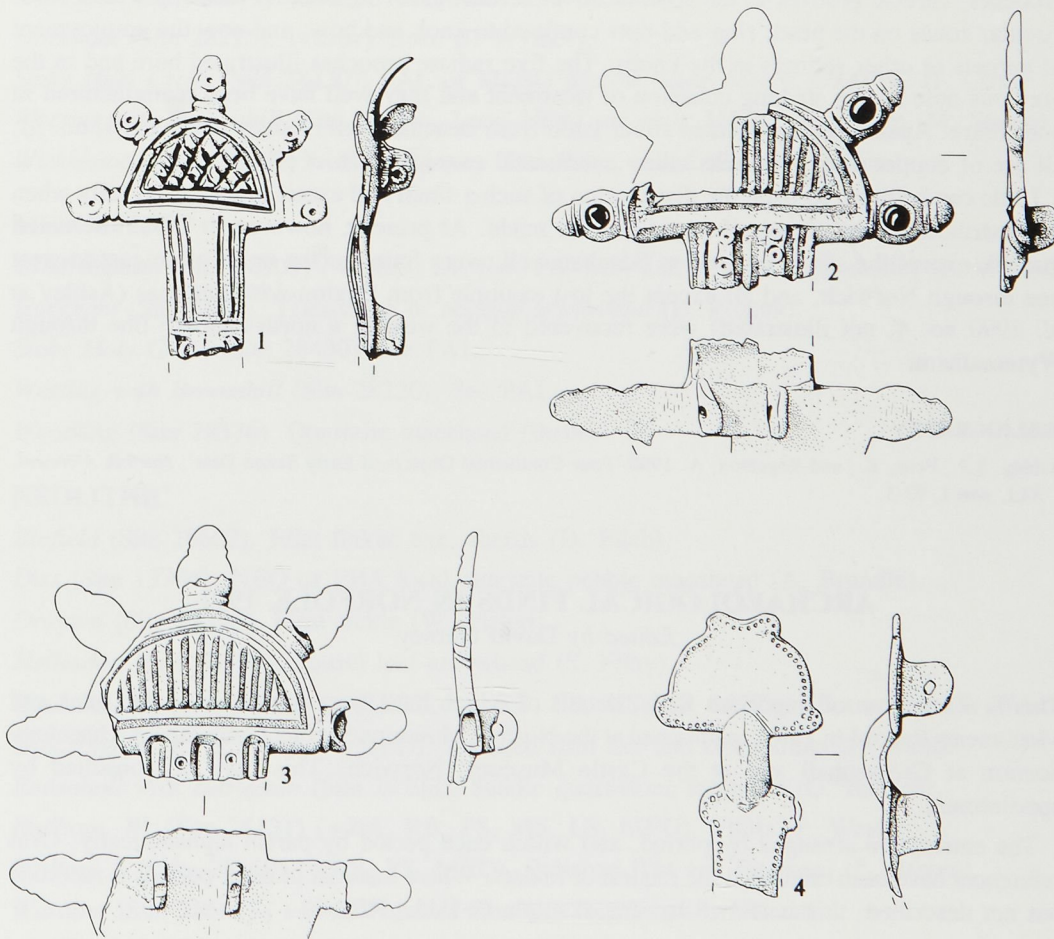


RECENT ARCHAEOLOGY

THREE RADIATE BROOCHES AND A SMALL-LONG BROOCH FROM NORFOLK

by Steven Ashley and Andrew Rogerson

Amongst the steady stream of Early Saxon artefacts found with the use of metal detectors and recorded in the Norfolk SMR, there occurs a trickle of unusual objects that serve to show that the material culture of the county in the sixth century was more varied than the normal run of Anglian metalwork would suggest. Those earlier sixth-century radiate brooches of Frankish origin recently published in this journal (Ashley *et al.* 1990) can now be supplemented by three further examples and by a small-long brooch probably of local manufacture which attempts to copy, in a simplified way, the distinctive form of the radiate head.



Three radiate brooches and a small-long brooch. Scale 1:1.

- 1: Radiate brooch, foot missing, five integrally cast knobs; cross-hatched decoration on partly distorted head outlined by double groove; ring-and-dot ornament on knobs and below bow; single pin-lug on reverse with traces of iron spring. Found in Heacham parish (County Number 28503).
- 2: Fragment of head-plate and bow of radiate brooch with three surviving integrally cast knobs, each set with a garnet; vertically grooved decoration on head outlined by double groove; ring-and-dot ornament and multiple grooves on bow; double pin-lug on reverse. Found in Burnham Thorpe parish (County Number 28127).
- 3: Fragment of head-plate and bow of radiate brooch with decoration similar to No. 2; double pin-lug on reverse and traces of iron spring bar; three surviving incomplete knobs with deeply set, now empty, cells. Found in West Acre parish (County Number 16841).
- 4: Small-long brooch, lower foot missing; row of punched dots around edges of head and foot; single pin lug on reverse. The semi-circular head with its four small excrescences seems to echo the general form of the radiate brooch. However the foot, which is broader than the bow and which is flanked by slight swellings similar to lappets, makes no reference to the normally straight-sided foot of the radiate brooch. Found in Grimston parish (County Number 13800).

These new finds serve to define more closely the range of decoration on this small class of brooches; vertical grooves on the bow; close-set vertical grooving or cross-hatching within semi-circular zones on the head; ring-and-dots confined to knob and bow; and now the employment of garnets or other settings in the knobs. The five radiate brooches illustrated here and in the previous note bear a striking cohesion of treatment and may well have been manufactured in one centre. Apart from an isolated silver knob from Beachamwell (Ashley *et al.* 1990, no. 3), all are of copper alloy, whereas many continental examples are of silver.

Little can be inferred from the distribution of such a small and exotic group, especially when the distribution may change if new finds are made. At present, however, it should be noted that all, except the silver knob from Beachamwell, were found to the north of an east-to-west line through Norwich, and all except the lost example from Buxton-with-Lammas (Ashley *et al.* 1990 no. 4, not illustrated) were recovered to the west of a north-to-south line through Wymondham.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN NORFOLK 1991

Edited by David Gurney

This is a selection of important finds, details of which have been entered onto the Sites and Monuments Record in 1991, maintained at the Norfolk Museums Service Landscape Archaeology Section at Gressenhall and at the Castle Museum, Norwich. This may be consulted by appointment.

The entries are arranged by period, and within each period by parish alphabetically. Grid references have been omitted at the request of finders. Where material of other periods is recorded but not described, this is shown by, for example (+PAL, RB).

Period abbreviations are as follows: PREHIS prehistoric; PAL/UPAL/LPAL Palaeolithic/Upper/Lower; MESO Mesolithic; NEO Neolithic; BKR Beaker; BA/EBA/MBA/LBA Bronze