

## FURTHER EXAMPLES OF RADIATE AND RELATED BROOCHES FROM NORFOLK

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Amongst a number of Norfolk finds of Continental brooches of the early Anglo-Saxon period presented in a series of recent notes in this journal, brooch feet have been seriously underrepresented (Penn and Rogerson 1989; Ashley *et al.* 1990; Ashley and Rogerson 1992; Ager *et al.* 1993). The purpose of this note is to correct this imbalance to a small degree.

Firstly, a note must be made of a gilded copper alloy probable brooch foot from Hillington, a drawing of which has already appeared in this journal (Gurney 1994, fig. 3 no. 1). Barry Ager, who has kindly examined the illustration, regards this unusual piece as more likely Continental rather than Anglo-Saxon, and perhaps Merovingian.

All the examples illustrated here are of copper alloy. The centrally divided feet of nos. 1 and 2 are of the type indicated by an example from Heacham (Ashley and Rogerson 1992, no. 1), while no. 3 is a rather rough imitation of the same form. The lozengiform foot (no. 4) is rather reminiscent of many examples of Continental brooches with similarly shaped lower parts, while the head of no. 5 appears to be another example of the influence of radiate heads on the forms of small-long brooches (cf. Ashley and Rogerson 1992, no. 4).

1: Lower bow and foot of radiate brooch; longitudinal grooves on bow and a row of zig-zag in counter relief along each edge of foot; short and deep catchplate. Found in Burnham Norton parish (County Number 25918).

2: Part of foot of radiate brooch, terminal missing; slight scar of catchplate attachment on reverse; decoration as no. 1 but with median row of five punched ring-and-dots. Found in Tasburgh parish (County Number 16838).

3: Lower bow and foot of radiate brooch; transverse mouldings on bow and row of incised zig-zag decoration along each edge of foot; damaged catchplate. Found in North Creake parish (County Number 30986).

4: Distorted foot of ? radiate brooch; double grooves along edges; three punched ring-and-dots including one in rounded terminal; slightly damaged catchplate. Found in Burnham Market parish (County Number 18496).

5: Headplate of small-long brooch; multiple transverse grooves incised on integrally cast knobs; double pin-lug with traces of iron pin. Found in Swainsthorpe parish (County Number 9724).

Although merely forming another presentation of imported jewellery of the Early Saxon period and its derivatives, only one minor theme amongst so many that could be pursued, the humble pieces presented here show once again the value of recording metal-detector finds in the County, an achievement recently recognised in a national survey (Dobinson and Denison 1995). These finds indicate that the variety of sixth-century East Anglian material culture was greater than the evidence of cemetery excavations has so far indicated. Continuing associations with the Continent, whether through formal trade or casual contact, and with or without a Kentish intermediary, seem to have remained a reality in Norfolk in the period between the large-scale migrations of the 5th century and the readmission of England into mainstream European culture in the 7th and 8th.

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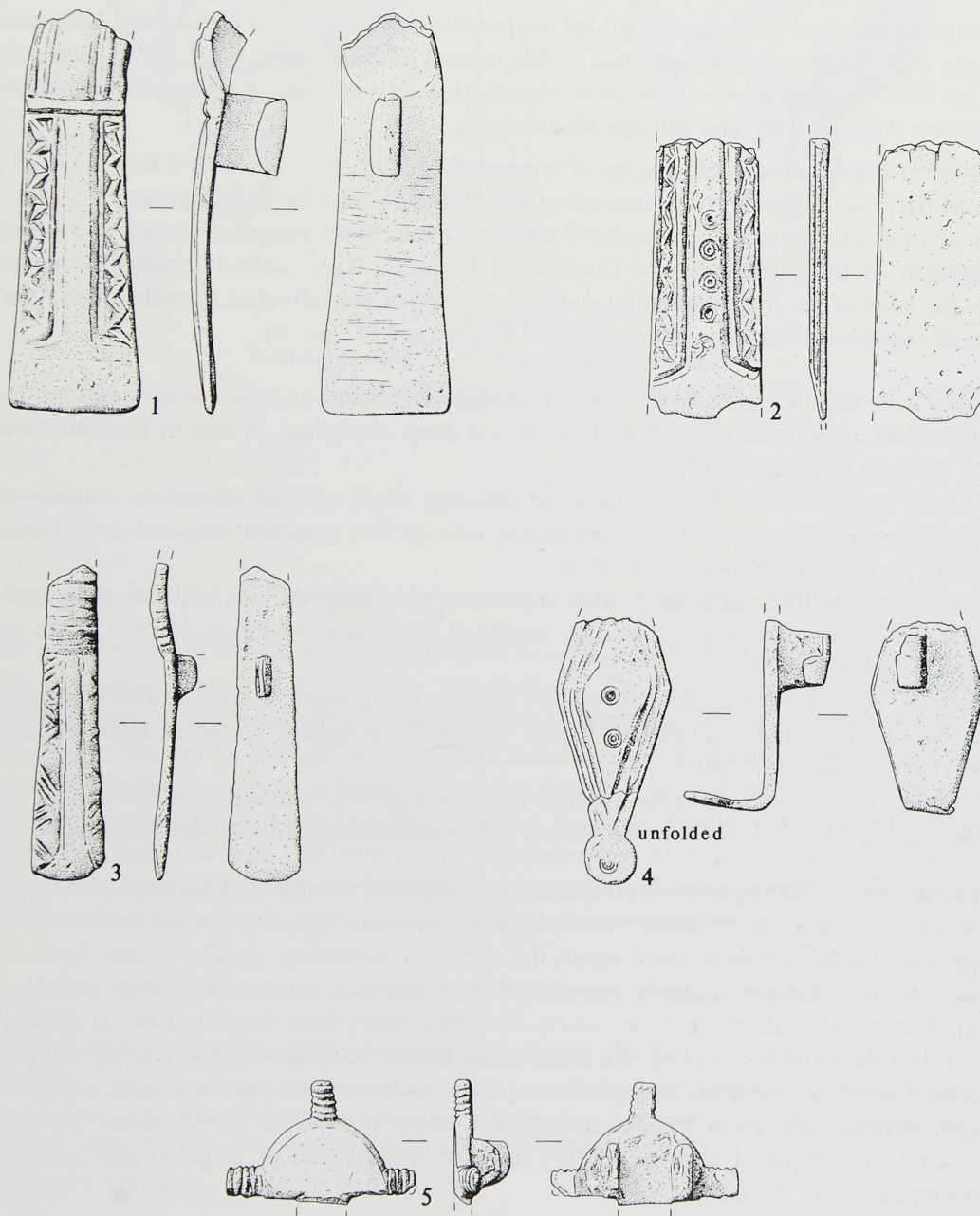


Fig. 1  
Early Saxon period brooch fragments. Scale 1:1