

SIR ROBERT WYNDE'S HAWK-RING

by Steven Ashley and Andrew Rogerson

A silver hawk-ring or vervel was found in West Bradenham by Peter Rilings while using a metal-detector in 1996 (Co. no. 31689). Flat, annular and weighing 0.66 grams, it is inscribed on one face 'SIR ROBOT WINDE' with the *R* in 'Sir' and the *E* in 'Winde' in lower case, and on the other 'ASHELL IN NORFO' with the *E* in 'Ashell' in lower case (Fig.1).

Four other hawk-rings with Norfolk provenances have been recorded in this journal (Gaimster and Margeson 1989; Margeson 1994). Somewhat remarkably, two of these were found very close together in the parish of Ashill, only 5.5km (3.4 miles) from the present example. One antedates 1598 and the other is of 1612. The ring under discussion here was made, and presumably lost, between 1603 and 1627. Such a concentration of finds strongly suggests that this part of the county, the western edge of the Boulder Clay, was highly favoured in late Elizabethan and Jacobean times for the pursuit of hawking.

Robert Wynde (or Winde) was son of Thomas Wynde, lord of the manor of South Wootton, who was buried in June 1603. Robert was probably Thomas' eldest son and may have been born before 1575 when the baptism of another of Thomas' children is first entered in the South Wootton parish register (NRO MF 783/3). Robert Wynde 'of Norfolk' was knighted at Whitehall in July 1603, and unspecified lands held in chief and formerly held by his father were granted to him by letters patent in 1605 (NRO BL FF1 (22)).

Wynde was a Norfolk landowner of some importance who, along with his wife Elizabeth, had alienated Ferrer's manor in West Rudham in 1615 (Blomefield 1807, 159). According to Walter Rye, Sir Robert had sold his (unspecified) lands in 1627 (Rye 1913, 1011). Blomefield states that the purchaser was the Earl of Northampton, and that the sale included properties in Ashill, South Pickenham and Swaffham (Blomefield 1808, 190). However, Wynde still held South Wootton and other lands on his death in December 1652. The estate late of Sir Robert Wynde of Terrington was then forfeited to the Commonwealth Commission for Delinquents in March 1652 (3). Sir Robert was buried in 'the body' of the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields (NRO BL Xd/4).

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Fig. 1

Silver Vervel from Bradenham, Scale 1:1.

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