

Appendix . The Textiles

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Catalogue (table)Discussion

It is clear that the textiles in this cemetery were of good quality, but unfortunately they survive only in very deteriorated condition. Fibres could be identified in four cases, one weave (Grave 1) probably flax, and three unwoven threads, one bast, possibly flax (Grave 44), and two of animal fibres, likely here to be sheep's wool (Graves 41, 48). Even where weave fragments have been preserved by the replacement of their fibres by metal oxides, appearances often suggest that the threads had started to decay before this occurred. The surfaces of some pieces are covered by a "skin", which has to be removed before the weave can be clearly seen, a feature noted on other sites; sometimes this seems to have preserved the reticular marking of human skin, in other cases it suggests leather. The latter effect can be produced by the crushing of textile fibres by the weight of earth in a grave; fibrous fragments with a convincing leather-like appearance found under a bronze bowl at Snape, Suffolk, proved to be made up entirely of broken down flax fibres from the cloth wrapping the bowl (1).

The twill weaves, as far as can be judged from small fragments found in nine graves, are all Z-spun four-shed (2/2) constructions of good workmanship. The use of Z spinning in warp and weft suggests these were probably simple diagonal twills; until ~~probably~~ after the 7th century the more decorative twill weaves, lozenges and chevrons, normally have Z-spun warp and S-spun weft, when woven in wool, and the appearance of the replaced twills from Portway East, their coarse to medium counts, and position in the graves, suggest wool rather than flax.

The tabby (plain) weaves, five in number, are more variable. In two cases the rather uneven appearance of the threads suggests flax; in one (Grave 54.1. Pl. ) the variation is so marked as to suggest a deliberate self-stripe, or occasional throw of coarser thread which may perhaps have been coloured.

An indication that the quality of textiles in the settlement was good is provided by the tablet-woven braids found in brooches from four women's graves (Graves 1, 25, 38, 52), possibly decorating the neckline of the overgown; in two cases these were certainly patterned.

Evidence from other English and Scandinavian sites indicates that these more decorative tablet-weaves were not made as borders during the weaving of the cloth, but as separate braids, sewn to the neckline, wrists and hems of the garments (2). The type of diagonal pattern weave recognisable here in Grave 1, of which fragments have been found in England at Mucking, Bergh Apton and Fonaby (3), is related to well-preserved Scandinavian braids published by Björn Hougen and Hans Dedekam (4). To make the patterns effective these braids must have been coloured, and traces of blue, purple or red, and possibly yellow, can still be seen in fragments of braids from Mucking and Fonaby.

#### Appendix . Fibres

A fragment from the tabby weave (c) on brooch 2, Grave 1, in which the fibres were still unreplaced was examined by H.M.Appleyard, F.T.I. who wrote: This is certainly a bast fibre, in which it is possible in parts to see sieve plates; it agrees generally with flax.

Three fragments of thread were later identified by J.W.Hedges:  
Grave 41.1. Brooch. Animal fibre.  
Grave 44.1. Toilet set. Vegetable, bast fibre.  
Grave 48.112. Needle case. Animal fibre.

#### Notes

- 1 Crowfoot, E. Appendix A, Textile, in S.E.West & E.Owles, "Anglo-Saxon cremation burials from Snape" Proc.Suffolk Inst.Arch.XXXIII.1 (1973) 53.
- 2 Mucking, Grave 814; Finglesham, Grave 203.  
Hougen, B. Snartemofunnene (1935) pls.XII,XVI-XVIII.
- 3 Crowfoot, E. VI.The Textiles, in B.Green & A.Rogerson, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Bergh Apton, Norfolk East Anglian Arch.no.7(1978) 101,106;  
Crowfoot, E. IV.The Textiles, in A.M.Cook, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Fonaby, Lincolnshire Occ.Papers in Lincs.Hist & Arch.no.6(1981) 98-99.
- 4 Hougen (1935) Pls.X.6,XI.1,XIII.1,2,XIV,XV.  
Dedekam, H. "To tekstilfund fra folkevandringstiden" Bergens Museums Arbok (1924-25) 6-14, figs.1-4,23, Pls.1,II,VI,VII.  
Mucking, Graves 609,622,843,935,936.

Textiles. Portway East, Andover

Note: The abbreviation "replaced" is used for "fibres replaced by metal oxides". The spinning direction of yarns is indicated by the letters S and Z, the probable warp thread being placed first. Overall measurements of best fragments are given in cms, and weave counts in threads per cm, except where otherwise stated.

<u>grave</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Fibre</u>	<u>Spin</u>	<u>Weave</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Comments</u>
(F)	1.	Ae disc brooch, front (a) (r. clavicle)	back, above, (b) & under pin	replaced	-	-	-	-	fibres, ?unspun, possibly only deteriorated textile
				replaced	Z/Z, Sply	tablet, 4-hole, diagonal pattern	10(8 mm)/ 12 p.cm	4.0 X 2.5	"skinned" over (?); braid, border 1.2 wide one side, twists 3S, 2Z, 1S, 1Z, 1S, 1Z, 1S, then deteriorated; clear area later, diagonal pattern 1 cm wide; traces other border.
	2.	Ae disc brooch	front, & (c) lump back edge	bast, ?flax	Z/Z	tabby	16(8,5mm) /14	1.1 X 0.7	spin fairly even, finer in ?warp (App. )
			back of lump (b)	replaced	Z/ ?	tablet	-	c.1.2 X 0.7	remains tablet twists, lying S, Z, S, Z(4 mm) and deteriorated pattern
(F)	2.	Fe belt buckle	buckle & chape	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 diagonal twill	12-13/12	2.9 X 1.8	spinning and weaving even
	3.	Buckle plate		replaced	Z/Z	?twill	-	0.5 X 0.4	all probably same twill
	4.	triangular fitting	both sides	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	13-14/11-12	1.0 X 1.0 1.3 X 1.0	other traces detached
(? M)	2.	Fe buckle	over top of chape onto ring	replaced	Z/Z	tabby	18/18	3.0 X 2.2	(Pl. )spin variable, giving ridged effect, probably flax; weave even
(M)	4.	Shield boss	on iron	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 diagonal twill	14/12	1.0 X 1.2	in double layer or fold; yarn in ?warp finer than ?weft
(F)	1.	Fe pin	head & pin	replaced	Z/Z	?twill	-	-	deteriorated
(Ch. F)	1.	Ae disc brooch	head & pin	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 diagonal twill	8/7-8	c.2.5 X 2.5	fairly coarse
	14.	Roman coin from	both sides	replaced	-	?tabby	-	-	dark matter & replaced fibres, broken up as if in tabby
			lying across	replaced	Z	thread	-	-	coarse, lightly spun
(F)	4.	Fe pin	over pin & head	replaced	Z/Z	twill	-	-	deteriorated

Grave	Number	Object	Position	Fibre	Spin	Weave	Count	Measurement	Comments
25.(F)	1.	small long brooch	back pin-head(a) against plate(b)	-	Z/Z	2/2 twill	-	-	surface & fibre deteriorated
				-	Z/?	tablet, 4-hole	5 twists/ 6 on 5 mm	0.7 X 1.3	twists lie S,Z,S,S,S
	3.	brooch(waist)	pin head (c)	-	Z,Sply	?tablet	-	-	tiny scrap, deteriorated
	4.	Fe pin	all over ?(a)	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	6/6 on 5 mm	0.6 X 0.5	replaced threads from this also on chalk round brooch
	7.	Fe buckle	on 2 pieces (d)	replaced	Z/Z	?tabby	10(5 on 5mm) /7	2.0 X 0.9	other smaller scraps; open weave
31.(F)	1.	small long brooch	round pin spring	replaced	Z	thread	-	-	wound tightly round spring
				replaced	Z/Z	-	-	-	tiny fragment textile
33.(M)	11.	Fe fragment	-	replaced	Z/Z	tabby	8/6 on 5mm	0.5 X 0.4	lump textile, small area clear
35.(F)	1.	Fe saucer brooch	pinhead	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	6-7/6-7	2.2 X 1.7	surface deteriorated, part clear
				replaced	S	thread	-	-	one coarse thread lying across
38.(F)	1.	disc brooch	round pinhead(a) top of pin (b)	replaced	Z/Z	twill	-	-	very deteriorated fragments
				replaced	Z/Z	tablet, 4-hole	10twists/10	1.2 X 1.3	twists in chevrons, S,Z,S,Z clear count taken on 4/5 mm clear
	2.	disc brooch	back of disc (a)	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	6/5 on 5mm	c.2.0 X 1.4	one fragment pulled diagonally, but probably the same twill
41.(F)	1.	saucer brooch	back pinhead (a) under pinhead(b)	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	c.11/10	1.0 X 1.5	surface poor
				animal	Z	threads	-	-	twist of threads (App. )
	2.	saucer brooch	back pinhead (a) end of pinhead(b)	replaced	Z/Z	twill	-	-	as on 1, deteriorated
				animal	Z	knot	-	0.6-0.7 across finger knot, coarse, ?bead thread	
42.(F)	1.	disc brooch	round pin & head	replaced	Z	threads	-	-	plied thread under pinhead, 5-6; mass Z threads round pin, some ?interlace, ends plied, possibly fringe pinned by brooch
44.(F)	1-3.	toilet set	ring of ear-pick	vegetable	Z	thread	-	-	loose spin (App. )
48.(F)	1,2.	pair saucer	back, pierced pin on 2	replaced	Z/Z	twill	-	-	broken threads in weave
	6.	Fe pin	-	-	Z	-	-	-	fibres damaged, weave unidentified
	112.	Needle case	round end near loop	animal	Z,Sply	thread	-	area 4.5 cm	loosely spun thread, wound round ring, 2 cm actual thread present (App. ).

<u>grave</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Fibre</u>	<u>Spin</u>	<u>Weave</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Comments</u>
51.(F)	3.	buckle	plate (a)	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill, diagonal	c.14/12	1.5 X 1.5, 1.5 X 1.2	regular spin and weave
	4.	chatelaine group	buckle ring(a)	replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	12/12	1.8 X 1.3	lying in fold, round the curve
	one loop (a)		replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	c.12/12	1.5 X 1.2	most of surface, one clear area	
	second loop(a)		replaced	Z/Z	2/2 twill	-	-	remains one side	
	(b)		replaced	Z/Z	tabby	6/5 on 5 mm	0.9 X 0.8	on other side	
		large ring (b)	replaced	Z/Z	tabby	-	1.3 X 1.5, 1.5 X 0.8	remains, clearly of same tabby	
		& other pieces							
52.(F)	1,2.	disc brooches	pin head & pin pierced pin	replaced	Z/	tablet, 4-hole patterned	-	c.1.4 X 1.1	some S twists clear on brooch 1 over and under pin; lie of twists indicates diagonal pattern
54.(F)	1.	wooden bucket	on handle	replaced	Z/Z	tabby	10/10	c.5.0 X 1.5	(Pl. ) yarns uneven, but some very thick threads probably intentional, ?colour, or self- stripe
59.(F)	1.	small long brooch	pin head (a) (b)	replaced replaced	Z/Z Z	- thread	- -	- -	layers, surface deteriorated thicker, ? bead thread
61.(F)	19.	chatelaine	Ae strip	-	Z/Z	twill	-	0.8 X 0.5	too deteriorated for identification
67.(F)	8.	Ae fragments	on loop	replaced	Z,Sply	threads	-	-	3 lying side by side round loop