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**The Identification of Organic Material Associated with
Metalwork from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Smythes
Corner (Shrublands Quarry), Coddtenham, Suffolk**

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The Identification of Organic Material Associated with Metalwork from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Smythes Corner (Shrublands Quarry), Coddendam, Suffolk

Jacqui Watson

Summary

This report documents the organic material preserved by contact with metal artefacts from this seventh century cemetery. The site had been partially quarried away, but 53 inhumations remained of which 21 graves contained metalwork with mineral preserved organic material and are reported on here. This cemetery is of an early seventh century date, making it a final phase type which is transitional between pagan and Christian burial ritual and few of the burials are accompanied with grave goods. Two of the burials were placed in chambered graves: grave 157 was laid out with weapons and grave 308 contained a dismantled bed. Both these graves are discussed in detail, although the bed reconstruction has been produced as a separate report (Watson, 2006). This report covers the condition of the assemblage from Coddendam, the organic components of the weapons, personal items and the containers placed in these graves; followed by a catalogue of all the material that has been examined along with the results.

Keywords

Iron
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Background

The cemetery was excavated during October 1999, by John Newman of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Dept. The site had been partially quarried away, but 53 inhumations remained of which 21 graves contained metalwork with mineral preserved organic material and are reported on here. This cemetery is of an early seventh century date, making it a final phase type which is transitional between pagan and Christian burial ritual and few of the burials are accompanied with grave goods. Only a few pieces of the jewellery found in the graves were worn on garments. Instead pins and beads were put in bags and placed on the bodies, as in grave 308. Few of the graves are furnished with weapons, and only one, grave 157, contains a seax, shield and spear.

During the excavation two chambered graves were recognised, grave 157 was laid out with weapons and grave 308 contained a dismantled bed. Both these graves are discussed in detail, although the bed reconstruction has been produced as a separate report (Watson, forth).

This report covers the condition of the assemblage from Coddendam, the organic components of the weapons, personal items and the containers placed in these graves; followed by a catalogue of all the material that has been examined along with the results.

Condition of organic material

The organic material has almost exclusively been preserved by iron corrosion products. On copper alloy objects the presumed organic material has often turned out to be just roots. Leather seems to be preserved as either a compact layer of corrosion products or sometimes as a fibrous deposit where elements of the collagen structure can resemble degraded textile (Cameron 2004). It has been possible to identify most of the mineral preserved organic materials by examining the objects with the aid of a low-powered binocular microscope. Although to identify some of the wood species has required taking samples for examination with a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) (Watson, 1988). Where this technique has been used the sample numbers are quoted in the accompanying catalogue and the samples have been kept for further study if required.

Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.) is the main wood identified from this cemetery, being used for the walls of the chambered graves, shield boards and a spearhead; this wood is common in both the wood and macrofossil records for the Anglo-Saxon period in East Anglia (Murphy, 2001).

The other woods used include: alder (*Alnus* sp.) or hazel (*Corylus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.) or poplar (*Populus* sp.), and beech (*Fagus* sp.). This is a very narrow range of wood species with ash being used instead of oak for structural components in the graves, while the spear shafts and handles have been made from young roundwood that could have come from scrubland or

managed coppices. Timber of this type and species range is more commonly seen in hurdle construction at this period (Murphy, 2001, p.20) and it possibly came from the same source where availability was more important than performance!

Weapons

Seaxes

There are two seaxes associated with burials from this site in graves 157 and 446, along with a small seax or long knife from grave 540, but no swords. All three have hilts/handles made from a single piece of horn, and there are the remains of animal skin on the blades. The seax from grave 157 (1026) originally had a leather sheath that was sealed at the blade edge with decorated studs/rivets, only one of which now remains. The knife from grave 540 (1198) has the remains of an animal skin sheath with the hair-side next to the blade.

The seax from grave 157 is possibly a less well preserved version of a seax from Buttermarket, Ipswich (grave 1306) (Watson, 2002). Gale has noted that seax scabbards are normally joined at the blade edge, often with decorated studs, and worn horizontally with the blade uppermost (Gale, 1989). The use of a sheath where the hairy side is next to the blade (540:1198) is similar to a “fleece” lining in a sword scabbard (Cameron, 2000) and it is assumed that this would have protected the blade from rusting.

Spears

There are three spearheads from this site, graves 141, 157, and 171; a *fouchard* in grave 540; a ferrule in grave 187, and a single arrowhead in grave 346.

Two of the spearheads (141:1004; 157:1011) were hafted with alder (*Alnus* sp.) or hazel (*Corylus* sp.), and one (171:1012) with ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). The spear in grave 157 (1011) is unusual in being hafted with a sapling of alder or hazel, as it is more usual for a large spearhead in a rich assemblage to be hafted with ash cut from mature timber. The latter choice would handle better in combat, and spear-shafts made from saplings are usually fitted with smaller spearheads and might have been used for hunting. Ash was certainly available for use and is well represented throughout the cemetery, even for structural timber. The spearhead from grave 141 has grass over the open end of the socket, which could imply that the shaft was broken before it was put in the grave.

In the case of the *fouchard* in grave 540, wood was preserved in the socket but not enough to identify species. The shape of this socket is more suited to a short handle rather than a long shaft like a spear.

The arrowhead from grave 346 (1141) has the remains of a shaft made from beech (*Fagus* sp.), which is also an unusual choice as later medieval arrows

are exclusively made with shafts of mature poplar (*Populus* sp.), which handles with greater accuracy.

There is also a ferrule in grave 187 (1194), but with no wood remains in the socket, nor is it associated with a spearhead.

Shields

There are only two shield bosses from this cemetery (141:1001; 157:1010) and both belong in Group 7 (Dickinson 1993), which means they are dated to the early seventh century and onwards. The construction details are presented in table 1.

Both the shields were made from wood, ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), and covered in leather on both sides. In the case of the shield from 157, a thicker skin was used on the reverse than the front (fig.1). This arrangement has been noted on many shield groups, but it is not known what advantage this provides (Watson, 1995). Maybe the leather covering was heat treated to shrink it to fit on the wooden base and harden the surface (Cameron, 1991), in which case a thin leather skin would take up the form of any relief decoration carved into the wood surface, similar to that seen on the sword scabbard from Nydam. Alternately relief decoration could be made from coarse plyed thread, or cord, placed between the wood and the leather in a manner similar to scabbards and book bindings (Cameron, 2000).

On the shield boss from grave 157 the rivets on the flange do not seem to be very robust (fig.2). Possibly with the garnet embellishment as well, this shield may have only been intended for display rather than combat, particularly if decorated as above.

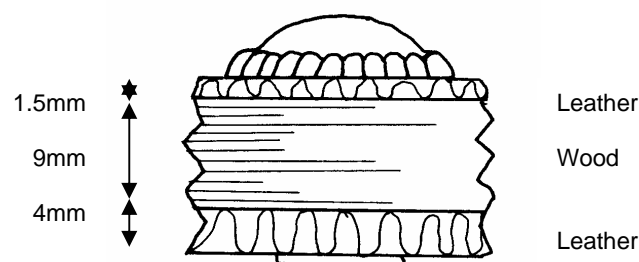


Figure1. Shield stud from 157, illustrating organic layers preserved.

It has not been possible to estimate the diameter of either shield as no soil stains were recorded, nor were the outer rivets of shield 157 marked on the grave plan. In Grave 157 the shield appears to have been placed in the grave on its end or leaning against the chamber wall, or even hanging from a hook/nail (0133) in a similar fashion to objects in the Prittwell chambered

grave (MOLAS, 2004). The shield boss from grave 157 also has two layers of textile preserved on one side.



Figure 2. Shield boss from grave 157.

	group	Organic details	Depth flange	Depth stud
141:1001	7	Very narrow flange on boss, leather 1mm thick between iron and wood. Wood ash, surface TLS.	c. 11mm	-
157:1010	7	5 silver rivets + a rivet with silver mounted cabochon garnet. Wood on grip is probably ash, surface TLS. Leather on front c.1.5mm, and on the back 4mm.	-	14.4mm

Table 1. Construction details of the shields.

Personal Items

Knives

There are seventeen knives and most have traces of mineral preserved organic material. Thirteen were found to have horn handles and on several it was possible to see where the handle extended onto the blade to keep it firmly in position.

Thirteen had traces of leather on their blades, the remains of a leather sheath or tool roll. On some of the knives the leather sheath can clearly be seen to cover part of the handle (Cameron, 2000). Five of the knives are closely associated with a steel or awls, and may in fact have been in the same case, sheath or pouch (graves 177, 213, 446, 453, & 543). The knife blade is positioned alongside the handle of the steel, presumably to protect the blade from rubbing against the steel, and this can be seen in the x-ray image of the side of the group (fig.3). This association resembles some of the tool containers found at Snape, Suffolk (Filmer-Sankey and Pestell, 2001).

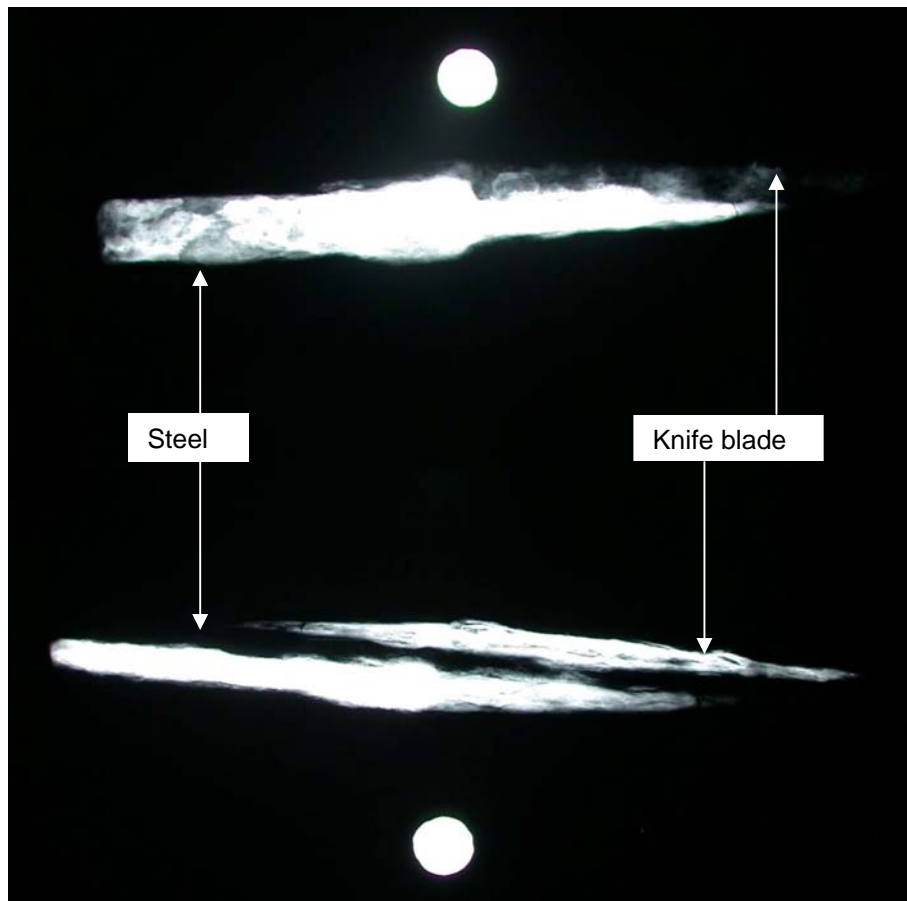


Figure 3. X-radiographs of knife and steel in the soil block, note that their positions suggest that they were in a close fitting container.

Buckles

The twelve buckles found in this cemetery come in a variety of sizes, from the very small for use on purses or as shoe buckles to large inlaid belt buckles, one buckle even has a double tongue (213:1043b) and is associated with a knife and steel. Nearly all have traces of leather preserved on them, and in some cases it has been possible to say how they were worn. It has not been possible to identify the type of leather that was used as the surfaces were too worn to retain the diagnostic grain pattern, but there are at least two examples of the use of a skin over 5mm thick which could only be of cattle(192:1025; 213:1043b).

Iron shoe buckles from graves 308 and 157 (fig.4), are very like the examples from Prittlewell, Essex. In the sixth century burial of Queen Aregonde at St. Denis, Paris, the body was buried fully clothed including her shoes. These have been reconstructed in the publication and this give some idea of how the shoes worn in the various burials at Coddenham might have looked (Fleury, 1979).

The belt buckle from grave157 (1033), has leather over the top of the tongue and part of the loop (fig.5), which suggests that the belt was threaded through the loop and then pulled back over the loop and possibly back under the belt (see fig. 6). This arrangement allows the silvered rivets to be visible in a similar manner to the buckle from Buttermarket, Ipswich (Watson, 2002).

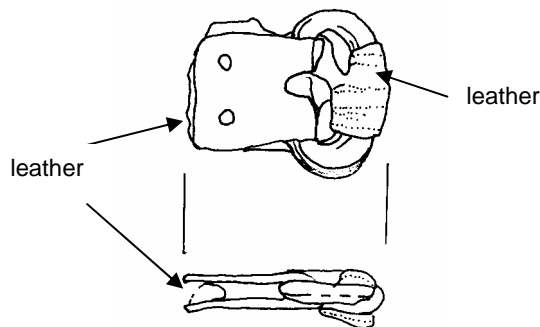


Figure 4. Shoe buckle from grave 308.



Figure 5. Iron buckle with silver-headed rivets from grave 157.

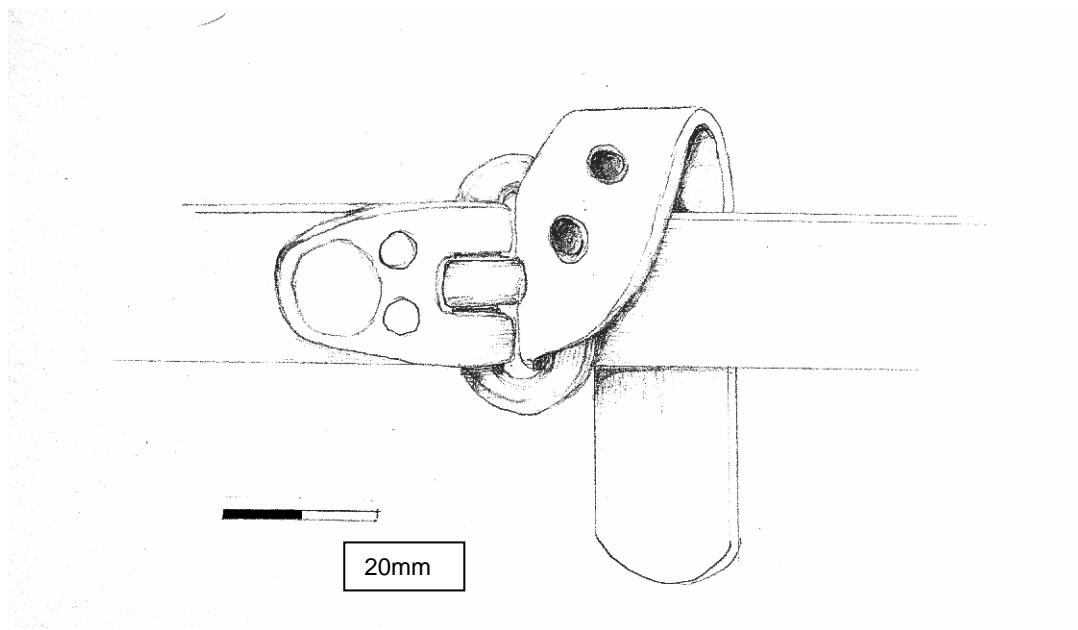


Figure 6. Reconstruction as to how the belt may have been worn.

Containers

Purses and pouches

The jewellery from Grave 308 was placed on the neck/chest area in a leather purse. It contained beads, silver rings and amulets, along with toilet implements (fig.7). Other purses/tool rolls/pouches containing a knife and a steel or awls have also been noted (see above).



Figure 7. Silver jewellery and glass beads inside a leather purse from grave 308.

Buckets

There is only one stave-built bucket among the grave goods from this cemetery, and this is a large iron-bound one with oak staves. At the handle the stave is 6-7mm thick with a radial surface (fig.8), but as the bands have been badly damaged it has not been possible to estimate the diameter or height of the bucket. A similar bucket was recovered from the main ship burial at Sutton Hoo. The fittings and handle are also very like the example from grave 18B at Barrington, Cambridgeshire, which was found in the same grave as a bed (Malim & Hines 1998).

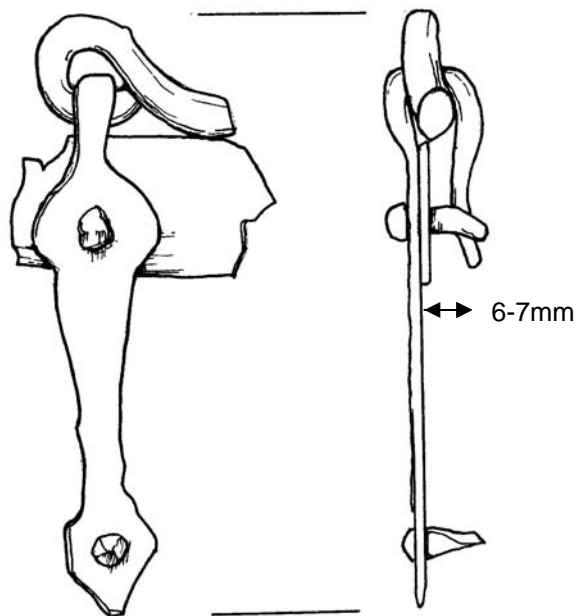


Figure 8. Attachment for bucket handle.

Copper alloy bowls

There are three copper alloy bowls placed in graves 141, 157, and 308; made from thin sheet metal and wrapped in textile. The bowl in grave 157 was quite large with a heavily leaded footring and drop handles.

All the bowls appear to have been wrapped in textile before being placed in the graves, and this has been noted in other cemeteries such as Snape, Suffolk (Crowfoot, 1973) and Blacknall Field, Wiltshire (Crowfoot, 2005).

Drinking Horn

In grave 157, a decorated copper alloy clip, originally mounted on the rim of a large cow horn, are all that remains of a drinking horn (fig.9). As the clip was located near the bucket rather than the seax hilt, which is also made from horn, they have to belong with a separate horn object and a drinking horn seems the most likely explanation.

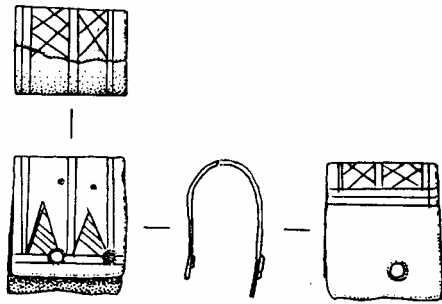


Figure 9. Decorated copper alloy mount, probably from a drinking horn in grave 157. (drawn 2:1, J.Gibbons, Suffolk C.C)

Grave structures

Both graves 157 and 308 have been identified as chambered graves, and they both contain a pair of large iron brackets located in the middle of the graves and on top of the skeletons (fig.10). These objects don't appear to be part of anything placed within the grave, and are more likely to have been attached to the chamber roof/cover possibly to secure poles to aid the placing of the cover on the grave (fig.11). The complexity of the grave cover from 308 would mean that it had to be constructed offsite and then placed in position. In the case of grave 157, it could have been partially constructed, placed in position, and the last planks laid on top of the cross pieces. It is impossible to confirm from the remaining evidence whether either of these grave covers extended over the whole grave or just the body.

In grave 157 even though only the lower half, or two thirds remain, the grave also contains quite large items including a shield, iron bound bucket, copper alloy bowl, a seax and a possible drinking horn (figs.12, 13, and front cover), which makes it similar, but on a smaller scale, to the recent burial from Prittlewell, Essex (MOLAS, 2004). In grave 308 the chambered grave has to have been substantial enough to accommodate a bed, albeit dismantled, as well as other grave goods (figs.14 & 15; Watson, 2006).



Figure 10. Large bracket from grave 157.

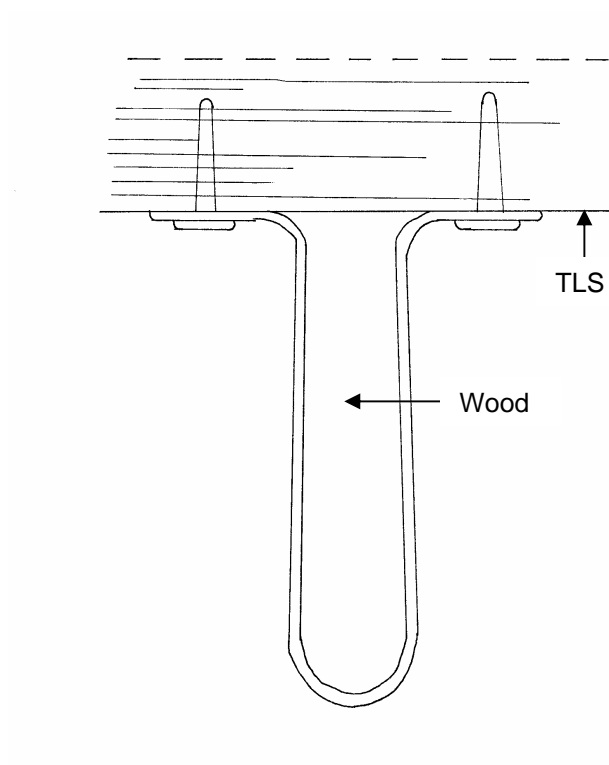


Figure 11. Wood preserved on large bracket.

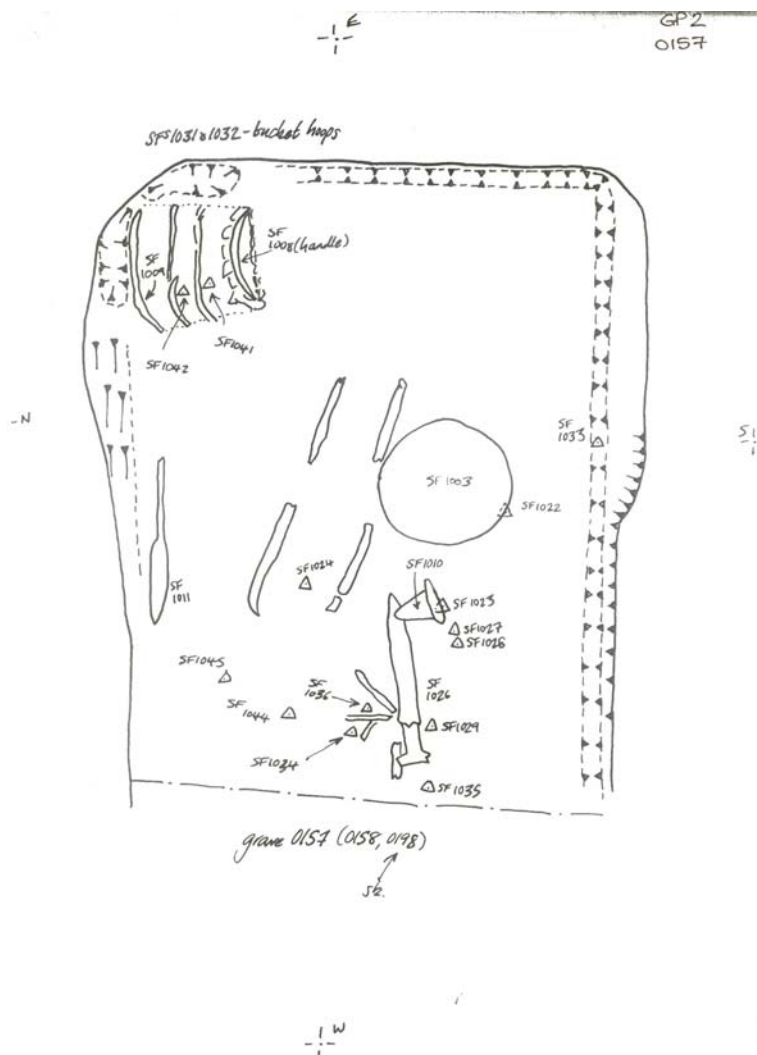


Figure 12. Plan of grave 157.

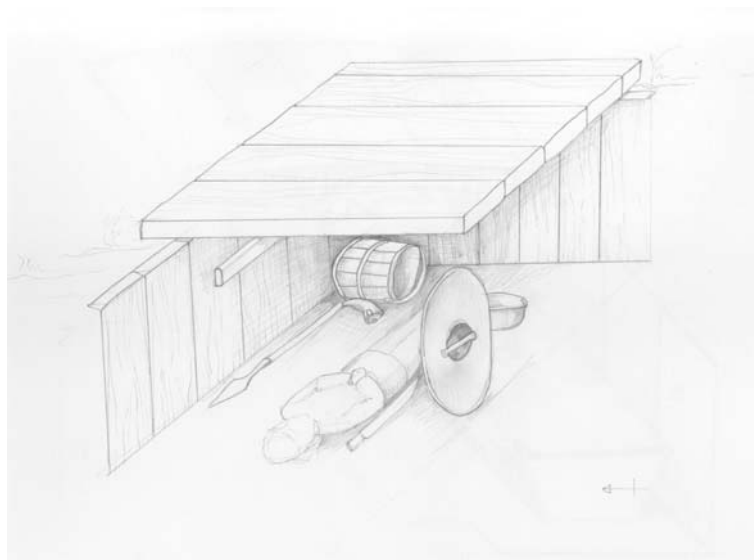


Figure 13. Reconstruction of grave 157.

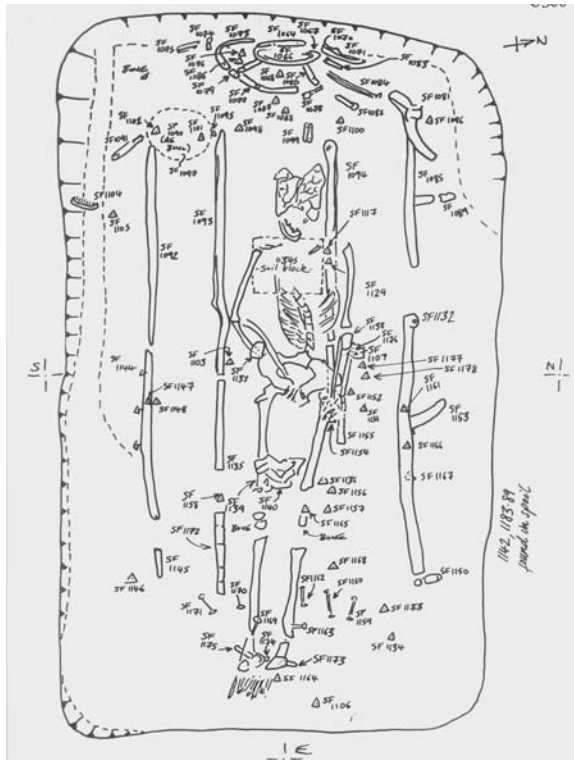


Figure 14. Plan of grave 308.

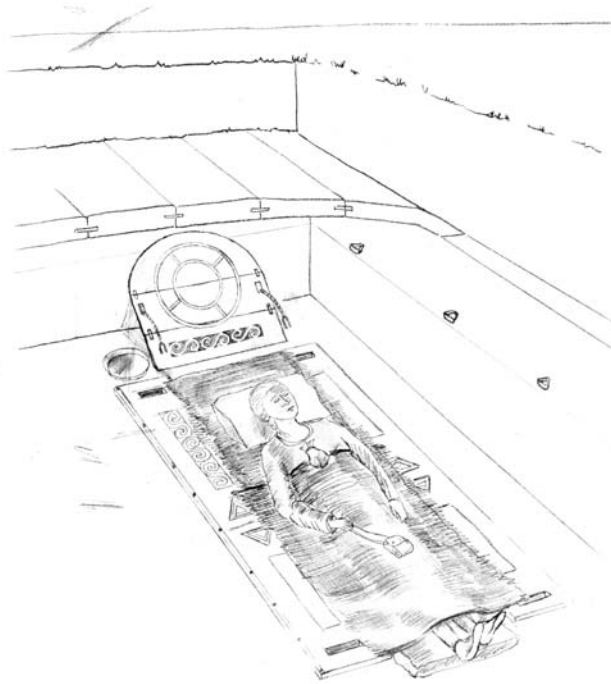


Figure 15. Reconstruction of grave 308 (drawn by C.Evans).

Summary

Although few of the graves from this cemetery were accompanied with grave goods, and on those objects few had significant traces of preserved organic materials, it has still been possible to identify and reconstruct some of the organic objects and structures that have not survived burial. Most of the information recorded in this report centres around just two rich burials in chambered graves, grave 157 and grave 308. Some of the materials that have been identified, and discussed above, are inconsistent with similar studies on other Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and therefore should add new information in the study of burial practice at this period of transition.

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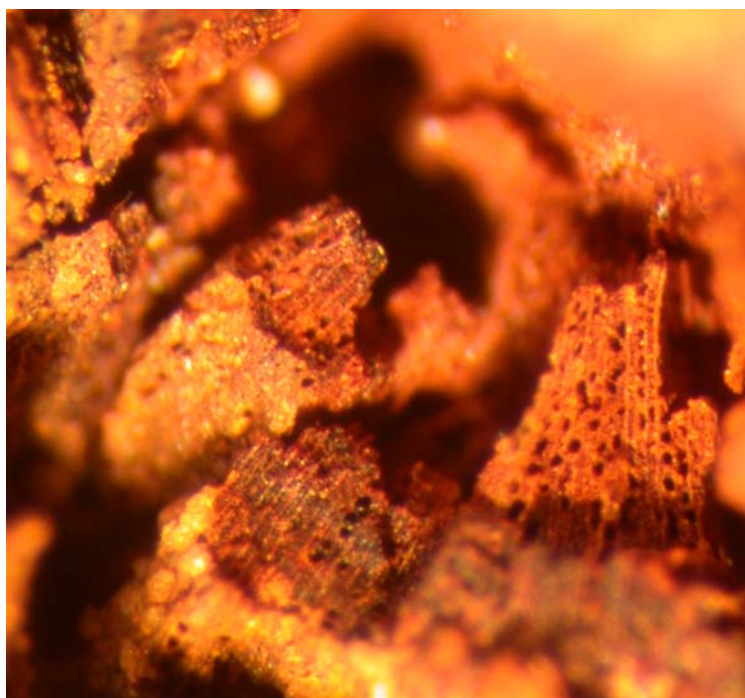
"The examination and reconstruction of a bed burial from Smythes Corner (Shrublands quarry), Coddendam, Suffolk", Research Department Report Series

Catalogue of examined material

* sample taken

Grave 141

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1001	200008959	Shield boss and grip, but no outer studs. Narrow flange with little preserved organic material. The shield appears to have been made from ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.) and covered in leather at least on the front.
1002	200008960	Samples from the copper alloy bowl are fragments of a fine weave tabby with both systems Z-spun. Leather retrieved from under the bowl is inn fact plant material that may be some form of woven matting.
1004	200008962	Barbed spearhead with fragments of stems, possibly grass, preserved on the blade and over the mouth of the socket – maybe this spearhead was not hafted at the time of burial although there appears to be wood preserved in the socket, but not enough to sample for identification. From micrographs taken of the cross section, the wood is likely to be <i>Alnus</i> sp. (alder) or <i>Corylus</i> sp. (hazel), although it had previously been identified as <i>Salix</i> sp. (willow) or <i>Populus</i> sp. (poplar). As pith is present this must have been fashioned from young wood such as a sapling.
1006	200008964	Copper alloy buckle



5. Cross section of wood in socket of spearhead 141.

Grave 157

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1008	200008966	Iron bound bucket with a wide top band of c.23mm, middle band is D-shaped and c.10mm wide. The iron handle is part twisted and was attached to the top band. One of the attachments for the handle remain, this gives the thickness of the stave at this point as 6 – 7mm, of oak with a RLS. The bands have been badly damaged so unable to estimate the diameter or height of the bucket. X –radiograph P244
1009	200008967	
1010	200008968	Shield boss with silver mounted garnet on flange.
1011	200008969	Spearhead with mineral preserved wood* in socket, made from a sapling or coppiced wood of only 1-2 years growth, and pith present. Wood: <i>Alnus</i> sp. (<i>alder</i>) or <i>Corylus</i> sp. (<i>hazel</i>). SEM B838
1026	200008984	Iron seax with single piece horn hilt. On the blade are the remains of the leather sheath, which superficially appeared to be decorated but on closer examination this was due to surface cracking.
1033	200008991	Iron buckle with remains of leather belt, 2.5mm thick, passing through loop. Plate decorated with 3 copper alloy rivets with silver overlay.
1035	200008993	2 large iron brackets almost identical in form and position in grave to 2 iron brackets in grave 308. They appear to be above the waist and on top of the burial, and may have been attached to the grave cover. Both were originally mounted onto planks, possibly <i>Fraxinus</i> sp. (<i>ash</i>) with surfaces of TLS and oblique RLS, but no organic material remains in the loop.
1036	200008994	Leather fragment is in fact a piece of mineral preserved horn and its position in the grave could indicate that it is part of the seax.
1042	200009000	Copper alloy decorated vessel clips are associated with fragments of horn. These could be all that remains of a drinking horn placed in or on the iron bound bucket.

Grave 163

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1005	200008963	Iron knife with traces of leather on blade.

Grave 171

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1012	200008970	Spearhead with mineral preserved wood in the socket; <i>Fraxinus</i> sp. (<i>ash</i>) fashioned from mature timber,

1013	200008971	Iron knife with slight traces of horn on tang. On the blade are pupae cases and a compact layer of iron corrosion which may be all that remains of leather sheath. There are also areas of crushed textile on one side and plant stems on the other.
1014	200008972	Very small copper alloy buckle and plate with mineral preserved textile.
1015	200008973	Small copper alloy buckle and plate with leather between the plates, c.2mm thick.

Grave 177

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1019	200008977	Iron knife and steel corroded together. Knife has a horn handle only just visible in places along the tang. The structure of the handle for the steel is not distinct enough to identify. There are areas on both objects that may be the remains of leather, and both objects may be in the same leather container.
1020	200008978	
1021	200008979	Wooden box – not box fittings but a group of small tools and small iron buckle possibly in a leather purse/bag on the left side of the grave. The buckle has a strip of leather passing through the loop c. 8mm wide and 1.5mm thick. Two small tools, probably awls, each with a rectangular tang, and the remains of a wooden* handle. Awl 2, also has a plyed thread wrapped or tied round the point just below handle. X-radiograph P254. Awl 1: SEM B839 Possibly <i>Corylus</i> sp. (hazel). Awl 2: SEM B840 <i>Salix</i> sp. (willow), <i>Populus</i> sp. (poplar), <i>Alnus</i> sp. (alder) or <i>Corylus</i> sp. (hazel).

Grave 187

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1194	200009149	Ferrule with no wood remains in socket.

Grave 192

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1025b	200009180	Iron buckle and plate in fragments. Leather is preserved between the long iron plates, c.5mm thick so most likely to be cattle.

Grave 193

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1025	200008983	Iron knife with horn handle that extends onto blade, the end of which can be seen clearly on both sides. Remains of the leather

sheath on the blade with an abraded and fibrous surface.

Grave 204

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1039	200008997	Iron knife with horn handle and patches of compacted iron corrosion that may be leather remains.
1040	200008998	Copper alloy buckle with no mineral preserved organic material other than a few roots between the buckle plates.

Grave 213

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1043	200009001	Iron knife with traces of horn handle on tang. Possible leather remains on blade and tip, textile also preserved on tip. On the blade edge of the tip are the remains of possible stitching, but the two sides of the sheath may have been joined with a leather strip as there is a small fragment remaining.
1043b	200009181	Iron steel found in the same block as the knife and a large buckle with two tongues. The handle of the steel is in a very poor condition, but might be bone or antler. Large areas of an even weave Z-spun tabby on the reverse. Leather between the buckle plates, c.5mm thick so could be cattle. The group was placed by the right arm and may represent a pouch or tool roll. X-radiograph P256.

Grave 221

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1048	200009006	Iron knife with horn handle and traces of leather on one side of the blade.

Grave 276

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1053	200009011	Iron knife with horn handle. Possible traces of leather on blade, some threads along blade edge but these may be part of the textile on top of the sheath rather than stitches.
1056	200009014	
1054	200009012	Iron knife in 2 pieces with horn handle and leather sheath. Textile on both sides of broken tip (GE).
1054b		Copper alloy ring with no recognisable organic remains.
1055	200009013	Iron latchlifters with patches of very degraded textile.
1057	200009015	Fragment of an iron ring with a few threads of textile preserved on it.

Grave 297

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1062		Knife with traces of horn handle on end of tang. Possible remains of leather sheath, but very indistinct.
1063	200009021	Copper alloy buckle with mineral preserved organic material that appears to be loose threads between the plates but are in fact roots, and on the buckle loop a pupae case. Otherwise nothing to suggest a belt.
1065	200009023	Very small copper alloy buckle, possibly from a purse as it was found on the pelvis. No extant organic material has been preserved but in some areas the copper corrosion has taken up the form of the flesh side of leather.

Grave 308

The metalwork associated with the bed and grave structure is discussed in a separate report.

1140	Soil block containing purse and contents. The copper alloy mounts are attached to leather c.5-6mm thick. The copper alloy Roman coin found inside the purse was very worn with little remaining detail.	P636
1151	Small iron knife, c.48mm from broken tip to the end of the tang. Remains of leather sheath on blade, along with pupae cases.	P264
1155	Possible broken cleat, and one side has a twisted shank. This group were positioned in the middle of one of the sides. Possibly fragments of girdle-hangers as they were at the waist.	
1173	Possible shoe buckle found at left ankle.	
1174 1164	Found at the right ankle a possible buckle plate and covered in mineral preserved leather, attached with three rivets – probably belongs with small buckle SF 1164, to make a matching pair with SF 1175.	P263 P264
1175	Small shoe buckle and strap end found at right ankle.	
1177	Twisted wire, probably section of girdle hanger suspension ring, with fragments of copper alloy chain.	P263
1137	Large folded piece of iron sheet of uncertain use. The grave plan indicates that it was found on top of the skeleton's right arm, so it may have been attached to the grave cover.	
1138	Joins with 1107	
1107	Large folded piece of iron sheet of uncertain use. The grave plan indicates that it was found on top of the skeleton's left arm, so it may have been attached to the grave cover.	

Grave 312

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1072	200009030	Iron knife in several pieces. Horn is preserved on the separate section of tang. On the middle section of the blade the edge of the handle is clearly visible as a line across the blade. Patches of compact iron corrosion possibly represent the original leather sheath.

Grave 346

Sf No.	CfA No	Comments
1141	200008097	Iron arrowhead with mineral preserved wood in socket*. The shaft has been made from a sapling of 1-2 years growth; probably <i>Fagus</i> sp. (beech). SEM B841
1143	200009099	Iron knife with horn handle extending over shoulder, and where it stops can clearly be seen on one side. Possible leather preserved on both sides of blade.

Grave 446

1181	200009136	Iron seax with a single piece of horn for the hilt/handle. Originally it probably had a leather sheath, but the iron corrosion along the blade no longer retains any structure to confirm this.
1216	200009171	Iron mount with only slight traces of the material it was originally attached to remaining – possibly horn c.6mm thick.
1219	200009174	Iron knife with leather on the blade and extending to the top of the tang (separate piece). The handle is not well enough preserved to identify. Possibly a steel rather than a knife, as in other examples.
1220	200009175	Iron knife with slight traces of horn on tang and leather on blade.

Grave 453

1182	200009137	Iron knife and fragments of iron tools/mounts. Knife has traces of horn handle and a possible leather sheath. The other pieces are also covered in leather – may have been in a bag together.
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Grave 540

- 1195 *Fouchard* with a thin layer of wood* in the socket, but not well enough preserved to identify species. The haft original had an oval cross section c. 40 x 25mm not unlike a modern axe handle. A very large area of textile has been preserved on one side of the blade.
- 1197 200009152 Copper alloy buckle with open weave tabby on reverse, both systems are Z-spun. Fragments of crushed leather are preserved between the buckle plates.
- 1198 200009153 Iron knife or small seax with a horn handle that extends onto blade, 7mm, below the shoulder, and the edge is clearly visible on one side. On the blade several layers of organic material can be identified, a pelt scabbard with the hairs next to the blade and on top of this textile is preserved on both sides.

Grave 543

- 1203 200009158 Iron pin/awl with crushed threads wrapped around it.
- 1210 200009165 Iron knife and sharpening tool corroded together. The knife has a horn handle, the end of which can be seen as a line extending on to the blade. There are traces of mineral preserved organic material that may relate to the tool handle, but the structure is too indistinct to identify the material. Both objects are covered in material that could be the remains of leather, possibly a pelt/fleece with the hairs on the inside. This may represent a double sheath or bag containing the knife and steel.
- 1211 200009166 Pin(s) in fragments covered in folds of textile.

Grave 565

- 1224 200009179 Fragment of iron sheet with possible rivet/attachment hole visible on X-radiograph P258. On one side is a large area of fairly coarse but abraded textile.