Costume in the Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Saltwood, Kent

Part 3 Weaving batten and Bibliography

Penelope Walton Rogers
The Anglo-Saxon Laboratory

This text was first published in 2006 by Oxford-Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture (OWA) and Channel Tunnel Rail Link London & Continental Railways (CTRL). It is reproduced here, with additional illustrations, by kind permission of the project manager, Stuart Foreman, OWA and CTRL. *This version was prepared at The Anglo-Saxon Laboratory in 2014. The figures have been renumbered, but no attempt has been made to update the content.*

Weaving batten

An iron weaving batten, or sword-beater, *ON 2048*, was recovered from Western cemetery grave C3762. To judge from the position of teeth, beads and buckle in relation to the batten, it must have lain, point down, to the right of the woman's waist. The batten is 523mm long, of which 100 mm is the pointed tang for the handle and 15 mm the incomplete remains of a tongue-like projection at the tip. The tang has remains of the wooden handle. The blade is heavily corroded but Brian Gilmour has identified it as of composite construction and made from a cut-down sword (Gilmour this volume).

These battens were used to beat up the weft when weaving on the warp-weighted loom. The sword-shaped form with tang handle and an extension on the tip is typical of East Kent, where there have been 12 similar finds, and another from Chessell Down, Isle of Wight, belongs in the same group (reviewed in Walton Rogers forthcoming). There are also five examples from graves in the East Midlands and East Anglia and a sixth from the settlement at West Stow, Suffolk. This distribution continues into the Continent, where a related form of beater has been found mostly North and East of the Rhine (*ibid.*). These sword-shaped beaters contrast with the spear-shaped form with socketed handle of northern England, which has its closest links with Norwegian beaters (Walton Rogers 1998, 292-4).
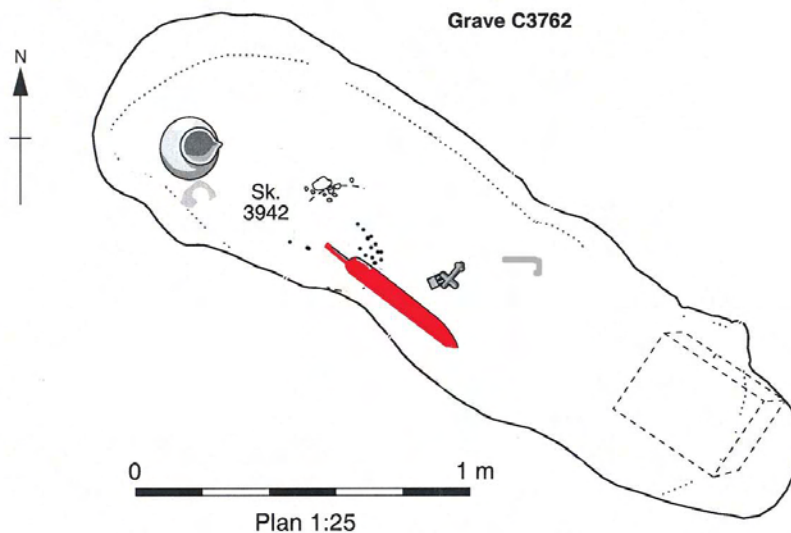

Fig.23: Grave C3762 with the weaving batten marked in red.

The Saltwood batten comes from a particularly well furnished burial (Fig.23) and the other Kent battens also come from graves of women with jewellery and accessories indicative of rank.

Battens made of wood would also have been in use, but it is probable that the owner of the iron batten was a senior member of the household who was responsible for overseeing cloth production (Chadwick 1969, 21; Walton Rogers forthcoming).

Sword-beaters first appeared in graves in the early-mid 6th century. There is a steady lengthening of the blade from 376 mm in the earliest from Buckland I G20, which has recently been re-dated to the early part of Buckland Phase 2, 510/30-550/60 (Brugmann forthcoming); to 765 mm in the Final Phase bed burial at Edix Hill G18 (Malim and Hines 1998, 52, 219, 234, 282-7). The Saltwood example, which before breakage of the tip was probably 530-540 mm long, fits the Phase 3 date provided by the Kentish disc brooch and the late variant of Costume Style IV.

Bibliography

Åberg, N, 1926 *The Anglo-Saxons in England during the Early Centuries after the Invasion*. Uppsala: Almqvist and Wiksells.

Adams, N, forthcoming: The intaglios in Parfitt and Anderson forthcoming, *q.v.*

Aldsworth, F, 1979 Droxford Anglo-Saxon cemetery, Soberton, Hampshire, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society* **35**, 93-182

Appleyard, H M, 1978 *Guide to the Identification of Animal Fibres*. Leeds: WIRA.

Arnold, C J, 1982 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of the Isle of Wight 400-c.700*. London: British Museum.

Arrhenius, B, 1985 *Merovingian Garnet Jewellery, Emergence and Social Implications*. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell.

Avent, R, 1975 *Anglo-Saxon Disc and Composite Brooches*, BAR **11** (2 vols). Oxford: BAR.

Avent, R, and Evison, V I, 1982 Anglo-Saxon button brooches, *Archaeologia*, **107**, 77-124.

Avent, R, and Leigh, D, 1977 A study of cross-hatched gold foils in Anglo-Saxon jewellery, *Med. Arch.* **21**, 1-46.

Baldwin Brown, G, 1915 *The Arts in Early England* (4 vols). London.

Bartel, A, and Knöchlein, R, 1993 Zu einem Frauengrab des sechsten Jahrhunderts aus Waging am See, Lkr.Traunstein, Oberbayern, *Germania*, **71**, 419-439.

Bender Jørgensen, L, 1992 *North European Textiles until AD 1000*. Aarhus (Denmark): Aarhus University Press.

Blair, J, 2005 *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

Boyle, A, Dodd, A, Miles, D, and Mudd, A, 1995 *Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries: Berinsfield and Didcot*, Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph **8**. Oxford: Oxford Archaeological Unit

Brugmann, B, 1997 Typology and dating, pp32-93, and contributions on chronology, pp94-124, in K. Parfitt & B. Brugmann, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery on Mill Hill, Deal, Kent* (*Soc Med Arch Monograph Series* **14**). London: Society for Medieval Archaeology

Brugmann, B, 1999 The role of continental artefact-types in sixth-century Kentish chronology in J Hines, K Høilund Nielsen and F Siegmund (eds), *The Pace of Change: Studies in Early-Medieval Chronology*, 37-64. Oxford: Oxbow

Brugmann, B, 2004 *Glass Beads from Early Anglo-Saxon Graves (a Study of the Provenance and Chronology of Glass Beads from Early Anglo-Saxon Graves, Based on Visual Examination)*. Oxford: Oxbow

Brugmann, B, forthcoming: in Parfitt and Anderson forthcoming, *q.v.*

Cameron, E, this volume: Sheaths of knives in I Riddler, E Cameron and S Marzinzik, Early Anglo-Saxon personal equipment and structural ironwork from Saltwood Tunnel, Kent. ADS Collection: 335; Collection **doi**:10.5284/1000230.

Chadwick, S E, 1958 The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Finglesham, Kent: a reconsideration, *Medieval Archaeology*, 2, 1-71.

Chadwick Hawkes, S, 1969 Iron weaving sword, pp17-22 in L Millard, S Jarman and S Chadwick Hawkes, Anglo-Saxon burials near the Lord of the Manor, Ramsgate: new light on the site of Ozengell, *Archaeologia Cantiana,* **84**, 9-30.

Chadwick Hawkes, S, 1990 The Anglo-Saxon necklace from Lower Brook Street, in M Biddle (ed), *Object and Economy in Medieval Winchester, Winchester Studies* **7 ii,** 621-7.

Chadwick Hawkes, S E, 2000 The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bifrons, in the parish of Patrixbourne, East Kent', *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History*, **11**, 1-94.

Chadwick Hawkes, S, and Grainger, G, 2006 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Finglesham, Kent*, *Oxford University School of Archaeology Monograph* 64.

Coatsworth, E, and Pinder, M, 2002 *The Art of the Anglo-Saxon Goldsmith.* Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer.

Crowfoot, E, 1967 Appendix 1: The textiles, in H R E Davidson & L Webster, The Anglo-Saxon burial at Coombe (Woodnesborough), Kent*, Med Archaeol,* **11**, 37-39.

Crowfoot, E, 1983 The textiles in R Bruce-Mitford, *The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial*, **3**, I, 409-479.

Crowfoot, E, 1987a The textiles, in V I Evison, *Dover: The Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery,* HBMC Archaeol Rep, **3**, 190-195.

Crowfoot, E, 1987b Textiles, in B Green, A Rogerson & S G White, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Morning Thorpe, Norfolk,* 1: Catalogue East Anglian Archaeology Rep, **36/1**, 171-188.

Crowfoot, E, 1989 The textiles, in B Adams & D Jackson, The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Wakerley, Northamptonshire, *Northants Archeol,* **22**, 69-178.

Crowfoot, E, 1990 Textile fragments from 'relic-boxes' in Anglo-Saxon graves, in P Walton & J P Wild (eds), *Textiles in Northern Archaeology,* NESAT III: Textile Symposium in York, 52-54 London: Archetype.

Crowfoot, E, & Chadwick Hawkes, S, 1967 Early Anglo-Saxon gold braids, *Medieval Archaeol,* **2**, 42-86, 209-210

Dickinson, T M, 1976 *The Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites of the Upper Thames Region, and their Bearing on the History of Wessex, circa AD 400-700*, D.Phil thesis, Oxford, October 1976.

Down, A, & Welch, M, 1984 A Jutlandic square-headed brooch from Apple Down, West Sussex, *Antiq.J.* **64**, 408-413, plate IV.

Down, A, & Welch, M, 1990 *Chichester Excavations* **7**: *Apple Down and The Mardens*, Chichester: Chichester District Council

Drinkall, G, & Foreman, M, 1998 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber,* Sheffield Excavation Reports, **6**. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.

Evans, A C, 1991 Metalwork and sculpture, pp21-34 in Webster and Backhouse (eds) 1991.

Evison, V I, 1987 *Dover: The Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery* HBMC Archaeological report No.3. London: HBMC.

Faussett, B, 1856 *Inventorium Sepulchrale: An Account of Some Antiquities dug up at Gilton, Kingston, Sibertswold, Barfriston, Beakesbourne, Chartham, and Crundale, in the County of Kent, from AD 1757 to AD 1773*. London.

Filmer-Sankey, W, & Pestell, T, 2001 *Snape Anglo-Saxon Cemetery: Excavations and Surveys 1824-1992*, East Anglian Archaeology 95. Ipswich: Suffolk CC.

Geake, H, 1997 *The Use of Grave Goods in Conversion-Period England, c.600-c.850* (BAR British Series 261). Oxford: BAR.

Gilmour, B, this volume: Metallurgical analyses on Early Anglo-Saxon grave goods from Saltwood Tunnel, CTRL specialist report series.

Harris, A, 2003 *Byzantium, Britain and the West: The Archaeology of Cultural Identity AD 400-650*. Stroud: Tempus

Haseloff, G, 1981 *Die germanische Tierornamentik der Völkerwanderungszeit: Studien zu Salin's Stil I* (3 vols). Berlin/New York: de Gruyter.

Henig, M, 1974 *A Corpus of Roman Engraved Gemstones from British Sites* (2 vols), BAR 8, Oxford: BAR.

Henig, M, and MacGregor, A, 1996 Three Alsen-Gems in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, *JBAA* **149**, 89-92.

Hines, J, 1995 Cultural change and social organisation in early Anglo-Saxon England in G Ausenda (ed) *After Empire; Towards and Ethnology of Europe's Barbarians*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 75-93.

Hines, J, 1997 *A New Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Great Square-Headed Brooches* Reports of Research Committee of Soc Antiq **51**. London: Society of Antiquaries.

Hinton, D A, 2000 *A Smith in Lindsey: The Anglo-Saxon Grave at Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire* (The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph Series **16**). London: Soc Med.

Hirst, S M, 1985 *An Anglo-Saxon Inhumation Cemetery*, York University Archaeological Publications 4. York: York UP.

Hirst, S, this volume: Beads in P Walton Rogers, M Henig, S Hirst, I Riddler and S Marzinzik, Early Anglo-Saxon dress accessories from Saltwood Tunnel, Kent. CTRL Specialist Report Series. Collection **doi:**10.5284/1000230.

Ierusalimskaja, A A, & Borkopp, B B, 1996 *Von China nach Byzanz: Frühmittelalterliche Seiden aus der Staatlichen Ermitage Sankt Petersburg*. Munich: Bayerischen Nationalmuseum und Staatlichen Ermitage.

Hyslop, M, 1963 Two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Chamberlains Barn, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, *Archaeol. J,* **120**, 161-200

Koch, A., 1998 *Bügelfibeln der Merowingerzeit im Westlichen Frankenreich* 2 vols, Mainz: Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums

Koch, U, 2001 *Das Alamannisch-fränkisch Gräberfeld bei Pleidelsheim*. Stuttgart: Konrad Theiss/Landesmalamt Baden-Württemberg

Kornbluth, G., 1995 *Engraved Gems of the Carolingian Empire*, Pennsylvania, US: Pennsylvania State University Press

Kühn, H., 1965 *Die Germanischen Bügelfibeln der Völkerwanderungszeit in der Rheinprovinz*, Graz (Austria): Akademische Druck

Leeds, E T, 1945 The distribution of the Angles and Saxons archaeologically considered, *Archaeologia* **91**, 1-106

Leigh, D, 1980 *The Square-headed Brooches of Sixth Century Kent* (2 vols) PhD thesis University of Cardiff

Lethbridge, T C, 1936 *A Cemetery at Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire: Report of the Excavation of a Cemetery of the Christian Anglo-Saxon Period in 1933*. Cambridge: Cambridge Antiquarian Society

Malim, T, and Hines, J, 1998 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Edix Hill (Barrington A), Cambridgeshire*, CBA Research Report **112.**

Mango, C, 2000 Constantinople as Theotokoupolis, in Vassilaki (ed) 2000, *q.v.,*17-25.

Martin, M, 1991 Tradition und Wandel der Fibelschmückten frühmittelalterlichen Frauenkleidung, *Jahrbuch des Romisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums* **38**, 629-680.

Martin, M, 1997 Kleider machen Leute. Tracht und Bewaffnung in fränkischer Zeit, *Die Alamannen*, 349-58. Stuttgart: Theiss.

Marzinzik, S, 2003 *Early Anglo-Saxon Belt Buckles (late 5th to early 8th centuries AD): their Classification and Context* (*BAR British Series* 357). Oxford:BAR

Marzinzik, S, this volume: Buckles and belt equipment in P Walton Rogers, M Henig, S Hirst, I Riddler and S Marzinzik, Early Anglo-Saxon dress accessories from Saltwood Tunnel, Kent. CTRL Specialist Report Series. Collection **doi:**10.5284/1000230.

Mortimer, C, and Anheuser, K, 1998 'Non-ferrous metalwork', in T Malim and J Hines, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Edix Hill (Barrington A), Cambridgeshire* (*CBA Research Report* 112), 247-252.

O'Brien, E, 1999 *Post-Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England: Burial Practices Reviewed* (*BAR British Series* 289). Oxford: BAR.

Penn, K, 2000 *Norwich Southern Bypass, Part II: Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Harford Farm, Caistor St Edmund* (*East Anglian Archaeology* 92), Gressenhall

K Parfitt and T Anderson, forthcoming, *Buckland Anglo-Saxon Cemetery, Dover Excavations 1994*, The Archaeology of Canterbury New Series Volume VI. Canterbury: Canterbury Archaeological Trust. [Now published, 2012]

Pilet, C, 1994 *La Nécropole de Saint-Martin-de-Fontenay (Calvados).* Paris: CNRS Editions

Pinder, M, 1995 Anglo-Saxon garnet cloisonné composite disc brooches: some aspects of their construction *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, **148**, 7-28

Riddler, I D, and Trevarthen, M, (Mckinley, J, ed), 2006 *The Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Funerary Landscape at Saltwood Tunnel, Kent*, CTRL Integrated Site Report Series. **doi**: 10.5284/1008823

Smith, R A, 1918 On prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon remains discovered by Capt. L.Moysey at Howletts, near Bridge, Kent, *Proc Soc Antiquaries* 30, 102-113

Spier, J in press *Late Antique and Early Christian gems*. Wiesbaden: Reichert. [now published, 2007]

Stoodley, N, 1999 *The Spindle and the Spear: A Critical Enquiry into the Construction and Meaning of Gender in the Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Rite,* BAR British Series **288**. Oxford: BAR

Stupperich, R, 1986 *Antiken der Sammlung W.W.VIII. Gemmen* (*Boreas*: *Münstersche Beitrage zu Archäologie* 9). Münster : Landschaftsverb.

Suzuki, S, in prep, *Anglo-Saxon Button Brooches: Typology, Genealogy, Chronology* [now published, 2008]

Timby, J R, 1996 *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Empingham II, Rutland* (Oxbow Monograph **70**), Oxford: Oxbow.

Tsironis, N, 2000 The Mother of God in the Iconoclastic Controversy, pp27-39 in Vassilaki (ed) 2000 *q.v.*, 27-39.

Vassilaki, M, ed, 2000 '*Mother of God': Representations of the Virgin in Byzantine Art*. Milan: Skira; Athens: Benaki Museum.

Vogelsang-Eastwood, G M, 2004 Sasanian 'riding-coats': the Iranian evidence, in C Fluck and G M Vogelsang-Eastwood (eds), *Riding Costume in Egypt: Origin and Appearance*, 209-230. Leiden: Brill.

Walton Rogers P, 1998 Textiles and Clothing in, 274-279, in Foreman, M, and Drinkall, G, *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber* (*Sheffield Excavation Reports* 6). Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press.

Walton Rogers, P, 1999 The textiles in C.Haughton and D.Powlesland, *West Heslerton, The Anglian Cemetery* vol. I, *The Excavation and Discussion of the Evidence*, 143-171. Yedingham, N.Yorks: The Landscape Research Centre.

Walton Rogers, P, forthcoming: Costume and textiles in Parfitt and Anderson forthcoming, *q.v.*

Walton Rogers in press: *Cloth and Clothing in Early Anglo-Saxon England, AD450-700.* York: CBA. [now published, 2007]

Warhurst, A, 1955 The Jutish cemetery at Lyminge, *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 69, 1-40.

Webster, L, and Backhouse, J, eds, 1991 *The Making of England: Anglo-Saxon Art and Culture AD 600-900.* London: British Museum.