Recent finds: Old English Runic Objects

1. BACONSTHORPE PAGETURNER/PAGEHOLDER
Find year: 2009
Date: AD 750–800 [Hines 2011:291]

Publications (in chronological order):
• Bammesberger, Alfred (2012), "The Sequence <bœu> in the Baconsthorpe Runic"
• Pestell, Tim (forthcoming), "Runic Finds from the Kingdom of East Anglia and Their Archaeological Contexts", eds. G. Waxenberger & K. Kazzazi, *Old English Runes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Approaches and Methodologies*, Berlin: de Gruyter.

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2. BINHAM BRACATEATES (3 B-Bracteates)
Present location: Norwich Castle Museum
Find years: 2005-2015
Date: ca. AD 475–525
Runic Inscription: B-Bracteates
Autopsy by RuneS: Gaby Waxenberger (preliminary autopsy; second autopsy planned for autumn 2018)

Publications (in chronological order):
• Pestell, Tim, (forthc.), "Runic Finds from the Kingdom of East Anglia and Their Archaeological Contexts", eds. G. Waxenberger & K. Kazzazi, *Old English Runes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Approaches and Methodologies*, Berlin: de Gruyter.
3. EYE FRAGMENT
Present location: Suffolk Archaeology, Needham Market, identification no. EYE 083 SF 1118
Find year: 2007
Date: see below excerpt

Autopsy by RuneS: Gaby Waxenberger: see below for excerpt from the RuneS Edition of the Pre-Old English Runes Inscriptions [not yet published].

© Suffolk Archaeology, Needham Market
Excerpt from: Gaby Waxenberger, *Edition of the Pre-Old English Runes Inscriptions*

**OBJECT**
The object is a "strip of copper alloy" (Find Report Summary 2015:4), "possibly from a belt plate, which includes a faint Runic inscription" (Ian Riddler, Find Report Summary 2015:8); the measurements are: "16mm (length), 12mm (width) and it weighs 1.01g" (email from Richenda Goffin, Suffolk Archaeology, of April 1, 2015.)

**DATE**
The object has not yet been dated, as the archaeological context makes dating difficult: "The main dating evidence comes from the Anglo-Saxon small finds and pottery, often difficult to date accurately, which suggest occupation from the 5th to 7th centuries, but with the most intense activity in the 5th and 6th centuries. However, absolute dating techniques will be critical in determining the phasing and development of the Hartismere settlement." [Find Report Summary 2015:3]

If the last rune is a bind-rune, consisting of þ + i, this may indicate a dating before 650 on linguistic grounds (see below **READING**)

**INSCRIPTION**
The inscription consists of three, possibly four runes.

**RUNES**
According to John Hines (email June 3, 2011), the three runes are "perfectly clear"; however, he finds the third "a bit unusual", but thinks it may well be "just an elaborated version" of the rune þ.

**DESCRIPTION OF RUNES**
Rune 1: g

Rune 2: u narrow type. A second line starts slightly below the top of the rune at the right main stave, meeting the left main stave approx. halfway. A second short line can also be seen parallel to the lower part of the right main stave.

Rune 3: þ with a pointed pocket. Possibly the last rune is actually a bind-rune, consisting of þ + i, with the latter being marked by a descender to the left of the main stave of þ.

**TEXT**

**TRANSLITERATION**
]guþ[

If Rune 3 is bind-rune:

]guþi[

**NARROW TRANSCRIPTION**
[guːθ] or possibly [gyːðr]
READING
According to John Hines (email to Richenda Goffin, June 3, 2011), the three runes "could well be the beginning of a masculine personal name (for instance like Guthlac), although the syllable can occur in the middle of a few words, and the word 'gūþ' exists as a simple noun, meaning 'battle'."

gūþ 'hostile encounter' \[DOE online (2016:s.v. gūþ no. 1)\] and also 'as an element in personal and tribal names' \[DOE online (2016:s.v. gūþ no. 2)\].

In the case of a bind-rune, it would be as follows:
gūþi (< *gunþjō [Müller 1901:§74])
This interpretation, however, has a significant effect on the dating, since the umlaut-inducing -i would still be there and the spelling for allophonic [y] would be <u>. This would suggest a dating clearly before 650 (= phonemicization of i-umlaut: see Waxenberger (forthc.)).

BIBLIOGRAPHY
• \[DOE online = Dictionary of Old English online: see diPaolo Healey, A.\]
• Müller, R. (1901), Untersuchungen über die Namen des nordhumbrischen Liber Vitae, Palaestra 9, Berlin.
Publications (in chronological order):
• Pestell, Tim (forthc.), "Runic Finds from the Kingdom of East Anglia and Their Archaeological Contexts", eds. G. Waxenberger & K. Kazzazi, Old English Runes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Approaches and Methodologies, Berlin: de Gruyter.

5. ST. BENET LEAD PLATE
Present location: Norwich Castle Museum; accession no. NCM 2003.54.
Find year: 2003
Date: ?

Autopsy by RuneS: Gaby Waxenberger (preliminary autopsy; second autopsy planned for autumn 2018)
6. BILLESLEY COPPER ALLOY FRAGMENT, WARWICKSHIRE
Present Location: ?
Find year: 2006
Date: EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD 850 - AD 1066)


7. IPSWICH BELT BUCKLE / STOKE QUAY BELT BUCKLE
Present location: Pre-Construct Archaeology, London, identification no. IPS-683 (5266) SF5039
Find year: 2012
Date: ?

Left Piece  Right Piece

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Publications:
• Pestell, Tim (forthc.), "Runic Finds from the Kingdom of East Anglia and Their Archaeological Contexts", eds. G. Waxenberger & K. Kazzazi, Old English Runes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Approaches and Methodologies, Berlin: de Gruyter.

8. IPSWICH WHALEBONE FRAGMENT / GREYFRIARS ROAD WHALEBONE FRAGMENT
Present location: ?
Find year: before 1994, but runic inscription not discovered until recently
Date: see below: excerpt from the RuneS Edition of the Old English Runes Inscriptions

Autopsy: RuneS Gaby Waxenberger: see below for excerpt from the RuneS Edition of the Old English Runes Inscriptions [not yet published].

No photograph available at present.
OBJECT

PROVENANCE
"The Greyfriars Road whale bone piece comes from a context of c 870 - 950 and MAY have been cut in the settlement, but that is also the period at which a reasonable amount of Scandinavian material has also been found in Ipswich (some of it from Greyfriars Road) and that makes things even more interesting..." (personal communication: Email from Ian Riddler 10.9.2012)

MEASUREMENTS
Minimum length: ca. 2.3 cm; maximum length ca. 4.9 cm; width: ca. 2.0 cm; thickness: ca. 0.6 cm
Side A = side with runes
The object is a fragment of a mount made of whalebone. It has two holes, one on each of the long sides; around the hole on the longer side there is a cavity caused by fragmentation. The piece is broken off on both shorter sides in a slant, the result being a trapeze. The two longer sides are smooth and show no signs of fracture.

RUNES
There are two or three runes located on Side A right at the top edge of the longer side, where the piece is broken off.

Rune 1: þ
The lower part of the main stave of the þ has been truncated by the fragmentation. The pocket must have been in the middle, judging by rune 3, and is pointed.

Rune 2:
The second sign may be an i, although the incision is thinner and possibly a little shorter than runes no. 1 and no. 3.

Rune 3:
s type 3 (cf. Waxenberger 2010).
Rune s type 3 was used between the 7th and 9th centuries which may be diagnostic for the dating of this object by its rune-forms and fits the archeological dating well.

TRANSLITERATION
þô s
or
þô i s

READING
þis
OE (demonstr. pronoun nom./acc. neuter sg.)

TRANSLATION
'this'
Publications:
• Pestell, Tim (forthc.), "Runic Finds from the Kingdom of East Anglia and Their Archaeological Contexts", eds. G. Waxenberger & K. Kazzazi, Old English Runes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Approaches and Methodologies, Berlin: de Gruyter.

9. HONINGTON TWEEZERS
Present location: The Collection Museum, Lincoln
Find year: 2011
Date: The inscription is "very likely of the period A.D. 750–800" [Hines 2015:268]

Publications (in chronological order):

No photograph available at present.

10. ROUGHTON DISC
Present location: on loan at Norwich Castle Museum, accession no. 2016.468
Find year: no information available yet
Date: ?

Expertise: G. Waxenberger for Portable Antiquity Scheme (not yet in the database)

No photograph available at present.

11. DUNTON LEAD PLAQUE
Present location: returned to finder
Find year: 2015
Date: Middle Saxon to Late Saxon [Portable Antiquities Scheme no: NMS-63179C]

Publications:

For photograph see Portable Antiquities Scheme no: NMS-63179C
12. SEDGEFORD RUNIC HANDLE/LADLE
Present location: ?Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Find year: 2017
Date: AD 8th to the 10th century (cf. Waxenberger 2017a:627); AD 8th – 9th (John Hines: private communication)

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Publications (in chronological order):