

Brighton, Sussex

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Brighton Museum, Church Street BN1 1UE ☎ 603005

Grid ref .....TQ 31 04

Artifacts, various

Keeper of Archæology 05/07/78: Miss Caroline Dudley

Archæology room

The exhibition covers the development of history (especially in Sussex) from the beginning of time until the end of the Norman era.

Saxon section

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- i Picture of a figurehead from a Viking (sic) ship of C4-5
- ii Writing: The Interregnum 411-430 (drawn from Gildas. Large Roman survival. Vortigern calls for Saxon help ..)
- iii Writing: The Anglicisation of Britain 430-550 (expansion of Saxon territory via wars versus Celts).
- iv Pictures of material from C5 cemetery at Highdown Hill (Sussex): goblet; cone beaker; penannular brooch; bird brooch; 2 long brooches (Kentish style) with lozenge terminals
- v Actual exhibits: They are some of the grave goods (grave 28 at Alfriston) of an old lady. This cemetery came into use in the second half of C5, and may have belonged to one of the original settlement sites of Ælle's Saxons
- 1 Gilt-bronze square-headed brooch with a detached annulated silver wire, which was apparently originally soldered to the back of the brooch foot. Ornamented with stylised animals and foliage, running spirals and human masks. Found on the woman's breast  
 Pair of gilt-bronze saucer brooches, with stylised animal ornament. Found on either side of the square-headed brooch.  
 Pair of bronze swastika brooches (swastika was the ancient sun symbol).  
 Pentagonal rock-crystal bead.  
 Glass and paste beads strung on modern wire. Found at the woman's waist  
 Two elongated glass beads found at the woman's waist  
 Conical bone bead or spindle whorl with

partially polished surface and slight green-staining from contact with bronze. Central perforation; two partial perforations of unknown purpose.

Gilt-bronze finger-ring set with a comelian intaglio engraved with a scorpion. Probably late Roman. Found with the finger bones.  
 Hexagonal finger-ring of silver or electrum with the incised letters I, V, W and N repeated in various combinations, apparently meaninglessly.

Bronze chain with a small curved bronze knife attached. Perhaps a manicure tool, for attachment to a girdle or chatelaine. Found at waist with the beads.

Six bronze rings of varying diameters. Found with the beads.  
 (Three other items were found in this grave, two of which are in the Barbican Museum in Lewes - a bowl of clear, green glass found at the woman's head and a thin bronze bowl found near her feet).

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- i Picture: showing people wearing various Anglo-Saxon clothes.
- ii Writing:  
 The Settlement of Sussex 450-800 (following the Chronicle - exploits of Ælle - size of settlement (Bede): 7000 hides - C5-6 - small independent communities C6-7 - expand into areas near to original settlements C7 onwards - extensive colonisation. by AD 800 - comprehensively settled - partitioned into 9 rapes for administrative purposes - large estates ..)
- iii Map: showing area of Continent from which the Germanic peoples came to settle in England.
- iv Pictures: of the settlement at Bishopstone (Sussex) showing both sunken huts and post-hole halls; photos of reconstructions etc.
- v Actual Exhibits: from Rookery Hill Bishopstone. Teeth from bone combs; parts

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of storage jars; a pottery spindle whorl and similar odds and ends.

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- i Map: showing Saxon cemetery and settlement sites in Sussex.
- ii Pictures: Sutton Hoo helmet; loom in a weaving shed.
- iii Writing: The Saxon Way of Life (agriculture and domestic).
- iv Actual Exhibits:  
Bronze-bound wooden bucket, from Howletts gravel-pit. The wood is yew. The bronze is decorated with punched dots and human masks. C5.  
Two iron shield bosses. One is mounted in a representation of a shield.  
Several cinerary urns.  
Iron spear heads; iron sword; iron axe-head.  
Pottery loom-weights from Old Erringham (hanging on modern warp, from wood).  
A Saxon vessel decorated with bosses, incised lines and chevrons in a simple Buckelumen style.  
Bronze nail-cleaner from Mill Hill, Shoreham.  
Piece of blue glass from Summer Down.

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- i Map: showing Saxon churches in Sussex.
- ii Writing: Religion, Art and Architecture (pagan and Christian).
- iii Pictures: Worth Church – View of Church; and chancel arch  
Sompting Church – View of Church and tower  
Bosham Church – View of Church and tower  
Bishopstone Church – View of Church and door and sundial  
Southeast Church – View of Church and tower.

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- i Map: Saxon mint sites and burhs in Sussex.
- ii Writing: Towns, Trade and Currency: salt, iron, fish, wool, cheese and slaves; traded for wine, jewellery and fine glass and silver-ware.  
From C7, domestic trade, markets and currency.

Sceattas/pennies/control of dies and moneys. Mints: Growth of towns, many fortified by Alfred. Burghal Hideage mentions Chichester, Lewes, Hastings and Bramber.

### Mints

Chichester from time of Æþelstan –  
and Lewes Norman Conquest  
Hastings c. 985–91 – Norman Conquest  
Cissbury 1009–17, 1023 – Norman Conquest  
Steyning ??1017 or 1023 – Norman Conquest  
There was no mint at Bramber in the Anglo-Saxon period.

iii Writing: about the mints at Lewes; Chichester; Hastings; Cissbury; Steyning and Pevensey.

iv Coins exhibited (on mirror so that reverse is also visible).

Silver sceat c. 700.

Sceat of Eanred, King of Northumbria 810–841

Silver penny of Offa of Mercia 757–796

Viking silver penny struck at York c. 897

Pennies of:

Burgred of Mercia

Alfred the Great

Æðelstan

Edgar (reform type 973–5)

Æðelræd II: first hand, helmet and long cross types

Cnut: pointed helmet, short cross, quatrefoil types

Harold I: jewel cross

Edward the Confessor: hammer cross, sovereign, expanding cross types

Harold II: pax type

A cut halfpenny of Harold II.

From Æðelstan's penny onwards, they were all produced at Sussex mints

### Human Bones

R 1152 Fragments of human jaws and part of a skull from Anglo-Saxon graves at Peppering, Arundel, Sussex.

R 1168 Photograph of Anglo-Saxon skull showing clean cut, a portion of which with lower jaw was presented with R 1152. Found near Peppering, Arundel. Also: fragments of Iron objects were found with the skeletons.

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- R 1639 Remains of a human skeleton: adult, female. Found in October 1915, two feet deep in a shallow grave, whilst digging at bayonet trench at Shoreham Camp; in Sussex.
- R 1860 6 Skeletons were found during the construction of an amphitheatre on the eastern slope of Mill Hill, at Shoreham Camp in January 1918.  
/1: skull of second skeleton (female)  
/2: bones of sixth skeleton (with which was found nail-cleaner, c.f. "Bronze", 1860/3).  
Full details in the Museum Register.
- R 1904 Skull, bones and 3 iron nails, found on 15/04/1918, in a shallow grave about three feet below the surface. The find was in a space 18" square on the bottom of an irregular grave, which is situated on the edge of the amphitheatre at Shoreham Camp, Sussex, in line with, and forming a western extension to, the other Saxon graves at R 1860.
- R 2315 Human skeleton (?Beaker or Saxon) found in Ditchling Road, Brighton, Sussex, south of Old Boat Corner, when widening the east side of the road in July 1921. It is the skeleton of a girl, about 17 years old, and about 5' tall, with a round head (brachycephalic). It was fully extended north-south in a narrow grave (about 1' wide and just over 2' deep) cut down into the chalk. c.f. Sussex Daily News, 13/07/1921, also Arthur Keith's report on p. 172 of the Museum Register.
- R 2408 Cremation remains and charcoal found at four spots in March and April 1922, when widening the London Road, at points 530, 660 and 680 feet respectively north of the Pyecombe-Patcham boundary in Sussex. Full details in Museum Register.
- R 2460 Skull and two human bones (imperfect) from the Saxon interments discovered in 1884 near Port Hall, Dyke Road, Brighton, Sussex.
- R 2574 Remains of a contracted human skeleton, restored, found when digging a trench for electric main between Main Road and the South Front of the East Brighton Golf House, on 31/03/1924. The site is shown on the Ordnance Survey map number LXVI SE in the Brighton and Hove Archæological Society's bound survey maps.
- The bones include those of a very small child (possibly foetal). The find is on pp. 36 & 214 of the Museum Register.
- R 3016 A female skeleton (crouched burial) was found on 07/05/1928, in the garden of "Maycroft", Surrenden Road, Brighton, Sussex. The grave was 2' 6" deep from the surface into solid chalk, with a diameter of about three feet, being roughly circular. The orientation was SE/NW with the head in the SE corner. cf. Register pp. 134 & 214 for further details.
- R 3706 Skull and skeleton discovered in Crescent Drive, Woodingdean, Sussex, when digging a trench by the side of a new house called "Marxiam" on the southern side of the Avenue, on 15/01/1934. Surrounding the skeleton was a low dry wall of flint nodules and burnt flints, and the bones were covered with a layer of flint nodules. In the grave were also a few flint flakes. The skeleton was lying face downwards.  
cf. The Register for a full report Brighton and Hove Herald, 03/02/1934  
The site is marked on the library copy of the 25" OS sheet LXVI 12; and on the B&H Arch. Soc. bound copy of the 6" OS map, LXVI SE.
- R 3848 Human skeleton found on Long Hill, Ovingdean, Sussex, on 08/02/1935; with head to south and feet to north, in a grave 2' 6" below the surface in chalk. It was a male, height 5' 5½". A spearhead was found between his right arm and body (c.f. "Iron", R 3848). The grave was situated c. 530 yds east of Ovingdean church, cf. plan in Register.
- R 4459 Human skeleton (probably Saxon) found a few feet north of Tower Mill, Clayton, Sussex, in October 1938. It was a young man, aged 19 or 20, who was buried at a depth of approximately 3', lying extended on his back, with his feet to the east, and his wrists brought together in front of his pelvis.
- R 4708 Three Saxon skulls found when digging a trench for a gas main at the junction of Church Road, St Andrews Road and St Nicholas Road, Portslade, Sussex, on 13-14 January 1949.

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- /1 Cranium and right half of lower jaw, probably female, age 30-40.  
 /2 Cranium with portion of left-side of lower jaw, and portion of right side of face, with part of orbit and 3 upper molars. Male, probably over 60.  
 /3 Part of cranium with right spherical and upper portion of left orbit. Male, fully mature, but age uncertain. In the parietal bone are several small pits (interior) apparently due to disease. The skulls were from graves apparently aligned from E to W, with skulls at west end. The rest of the graves lay under the surface of the road and could not be excavated. Iron spearheads etc. found on same site c. 1898, in S A C Lewes. See Register for plan of site.

### Pottery

- AE 16 Small, restored pot of smooth ware with "tarmac" surface, body almost globular, with huge, slightly everted rim, and flat base. Irregular profile at base, with slight incurved effect, perhaps due to faulty restoration. Large incised cross on side. Height 141mm, greatest diameter 137mm. Acquired by museum before 1890, possibly from the Preston area in Brighton, Sussex. It may be early iron age or Saxon.
- R 499 (AE 619) 2 cinerary urns, either Bronze-age or Saxon, found in association with Roman pottery at Hassocks Gate in Sussex. They contain fragments of bone.
- A 595 Pottery found in Stonepound sandpit, between Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint  
 /b1. A craggan-shaped Saxon urn, 5½" tall.  
 /b3 Basin shaped pot, ¾" high  
 /b2 Craggan-shaped pot, 4½" high  
 /b4 Two fragments of Saxon pot
- R 619/3 Two earthenware pots dredged c. 16 miles off the coast of Brighton, Dec 1904.
- R 675 Pottery, probably Saxon, from Stonepound Sandpit, near Hassocks, Sussex.  
 /114 Small, hand-made, craggan-shaped, Saxon urn; globular with prominent everted rim and flat base. Dark buff ware with burnished surface. Height 14.1cm; max diam: 13.6cm.  
 /115 Small, craggan-shaped urn, acquired Nov 1905  
 /116 Two fragments of a hand-made drinking cup  
 /117 Three fragments of hand-made pottery.
- R 1278/1&2 Fragments of two urns, found by Brighton and Hove Arch. Club in a chalk pit between tumuli on Summer Down, Saddlescombe, Sussex, during the club's excursion on 05/10/1912. cf. report in *Sussex Daily News*, 07/10/1912; *Sussex Arch. Colls.*, vol. LVII, p219.
- R2481 Cinerary urn from Moulscroomb, Brighton, Sussex, found when excavating 98 feet east of the easternmost corner of Lower Moulscroomb Farm on 15/06/1923. It is a pottery vessel, nearly globular in shape, with a flat base, decorated with vertical bands of fine lines. Height 145mm; greatest diameter: 159mm; diameter of mouth: 89mm; diameter of base: 75mm. It contained fragments of bone, skull and teeth, which appear to indicate a child or immature person. cf. Register for section of site; and B&H Arch. Soc. bound copy of OS sheet LXVI is marked with the site.
- R 4768/10 Plain, blackish-brown urn, c. AD 600, height 16.2cm, found at Pensthorpe, near Fakenham, Norfolk.
- R 4022 Finds from Howletts gravel pit in the parish of Bekesbourne, near Canterbury, Kent (see also finds of "Iron" and "Bronze") including  
 /4 Fragments of a Saxon pot with incised decoration; and  
 /5 Sherds of a Saxon pot with incised decoration.
- R 4768/11 A decorated, blackish-brown Saxon urn, c. AD 700. Height 20.6cm. Similar to one from Sancton, Yorkshire in the Ashmolean Museum.
- Loan Bk p153 Old Erringham, in Sussex, Grid Ref. TQ 205 077, excavated in February 1964, and the property of the Sussex Archaeological Soc. who have lent them to Brighton Museum since July 1965.  
 /3 Diameter: 13cm; thickness: 4cm; diameter of hole: 4.6cm  
 /14 Diameter: 13.3cm; thickness: 4.6cm; diameter of hole: 4.8cm.  
 Associated finds are in Worthing and Lewes Museums. Both weights are of the

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"intermediate type" as classified in  
*Mediaeval Archæology* III, p24.

Iron

- R 675 Finds from Stonepound Sandpit, near Hassocks, Sussex (see also "Pottery" [x 2])  
/137 Saxon iron axe-head. Length: 103mm; greatest breadth: 69mm  
/138 Four iron spearheads  
/139 Two iron shield-bosses.
- R 1575 Iron spearhead found at Southwick, Sussex.
- R 2719 Remains of a small, iron instrument were found 8" below the surface with a Saxon skeleton, between the two barrows on Summer Down, in making the new road to the Dyke from Saddlescombe, Sussex, in February 1901.
- R 3848 Saxon iron spearhead, found in connection with a Saxon skeleton, on Long Hill, Ovingdean, Sussex. (see also "Bones").
- R 4022 Finds from Howletts gravel pit in the parish of Bekesbourne, near Canterbury in Kent (see also "Pottery" and "Bronze").  
/2 Iron boss of Saxon shield, and separate silver-topped iron stud of shield boss, found in 22/04/1918  
/3 Iron knife.
- R 136 (AE 560-5)  
AE 564, 565 Two skulls  
AE 560 Circular iron shield-boss  
AE 561 Spearhead c. 8" long  
AE 562 Knife blade  
AE 563 Small knife  
found at about 4' deep in Stafford Road, Brighton, Sussex. The site consisted of two skeletons, one having one shield and spear and the other having the knife blade and little knife.  
(see *Brighton Herald*, 19/04/1884.
- R 2518 Saxon iron sword and human bone, ploughed out in July 1923, by Sidney Tanswell of Manor Farm Cottages, South Heighton, Sussex. The site is marked on the B&H Arch. Soc. bound copy of the OS map, sheet LXVII SE. It was a chalk burial, and the bone appears to be part of the shaft of a humerus. The overall length of the sword is 32½", but part of the handle end is missing. A small piece of iron found with the sword appears to be part of the handle

end, and this has a brass or bronze. round-headed rivet head of a rivet nearly ¾" in diameter.

AE 403 Shield boss

AE 404 Stud of shield

AE 405 Spearheads. The last three items found in a Saxon grave when digging for foundations near Porthall, Brighton, in 1884.

Bronze

- R 1860/3 Bronze nail-cleaner (imperfect), associated with the bones of the C6 skeleton from the Mill Hill, Shoreham, Sussex site, (see also "Bones"). More details in the Register; and in John Ward *Roman Era in Britain*, p. 247, fig. 70.
- R 3316 Bronze brooches from the Isle of Gotland, Sweden, comprising  
Two box brooches of bronze. Diameters 53mm and 46mm  
Two boar's head brooches of bronze. Lengths: 53mm and 49mm. See also *British Museum Guide to Anglo-Saxon Antiquities* p166-7, 1923 edition.
- R 4002/1 Decorative bronze handle of wooden bucket, in two halves, with wood adhering to the sides, and various small pieces. Jutish influence. Restored and remounted 1973-4. Comes from the Howletts site near Canterbury in Kent (see also "Iron" and "Pottery")
- Beads
- R 1680 A blue glass bead, greatest diameter 12.5mm, found in a chalk pit on Summer Down, Saddlescombe, Sussex, close to the spot where the Saxon Urn (R 1278/1) had been found. Bead found July 1916.
- R 3132 Eighteen Saxon beads, of glass etc., found in the Fen Country.