

Burrow Hill. There was royal land there in the 10th century, at a site called Kingston (Arnott 1946, 18), but there has been no archaeological investigation in the town.

#### Date

The typology devised above does not fit a neat chronological framework. As S.E. Rigold emphasised for the sceatta series (1977, 24), the coins cannot be considered as evolving in this way. H.E. Pagan dated them on external numismatic evidence to *c.* 770 or later<sup>33</sup> but the Wilred coins were unknown at the time he was writing. This type, with the enigmatic rune used instead of *rex*, might, as suggested above, date to the time when East Anglia was divided with Hun and Alberht, *c.* 749-758, or after *c.* 780 when East Anglia came under Offa's rule. Historical and numismatic evidence give Beonna a reign which may have been as long as Offa's.

#### Significance of Beonna's coinage

It is not surprising to find an East Anglian king putting his name on his coins at about this time. Rulers of other English kingdoms also begin to appear on coinage in the mid-8th century, for example, Eadberht of Northumbria 737-58, Heabert of Kent *c.* 764, Offa *c.* 764 (*BNJ XXXVI*, 221); and archbishops Egberht of York and Jaenberht of Canterbury struck coins with their names on them after 737 and 775 respectively. While Eadberht's coins are to be considered within the sceatta series on grounds of their size, alloy, weight and style (Metcalf 1974, 221 n.25), there are stylistic links between Beonna's coins and those of Northumbria. Beonna's coins differ in size, weight and style from, on the one hand, the ubiquitous East Anglian sceattas that preceded and may have overlapped them, and on the other hand, the broad pennies that reached their maturity in 787 with the portrait coinage of Offa (Blunt 1961, 54). For this reason Beonna's coins have rightly been called by some numismatists "protopennies".

#### The other coins from Burrow Hill, 1980-1981

##### 6 Roman

Copper alloy *minimus*. (Not illustrated)

Obverse: Crude radiate head to right.

Reverse: Standing figure to left.

Weight: 0.373 g. Diameter 8 mm.

SF 73; 10 m<sup>2</sup> 404E240S: unstratified.

A Roman *minimus*, a type of small-denomination coin widely in circulation in Roman Britain from the third quarter of the third century AD.

##### 7 Roman

Copper alloy *Æ 4*. (Not illustrated)

Obverse: Diademmed head to right.

Reverse: Soldier spearing fallen horseman, legend TRI(?).

Weight: 0.770 g. (incomplete). Diameter: 13 mm.

SF 79; 10 m<sup>2</sup> 404E240S: unstratified.

An imitation of the *Fel(icius) Temp(orum) Rep(aratio)* issue of the Emperor Constantius II (AD 337-361).

##### 8 Anglo-Saxon *c.* 690-750

Base silver sceatta. (Fig. 9)

Obverse: Debased head to right with runes in front:

ÞIXRÞÐ

Reverse: Central circle in a square of pellets, a cross pommée off the middle of each side.

Weight: 0.614 g. Diameter 13 mm.

SF 81; 10 m<sup>2</sup> 404E240S: unstratified.

This belongs to Rigold's series of sceattas (R) and is a 'secondary runic' (WIGRÆD) type familiar in East Anglia.

##### 9 Anglo-Saxon *c.* 740-750.

Base silver sceatta. (Fig. 9)

Obverse: Debased head to right with runes in front

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Reverse: Central circle in a square of pellets, a cross pommée off the middle of each side.

Weight: 0.706 g. Diameter: 12 mm.

SF 78; 10 m<sup>2</sup> 404E240S: unstratified.

In the same series as coin 8 with inscription reading upwards SPI (*BNJ XXX*, pl. II). Other examples have come from Caister-on-Sea, near Cambridge and Woodbridge (Rigold and Metcalf 1977, *passim*).

##### 10 Anglo-Saxon *c.* 740-750

Silver sceatta. (Fig. 9)

Obverse: Debased head right; runes: ÞIXRÞÐ pseudo-inscription XXOVO behind head.

Reverse: Standard

Weight: 0.920 g. Diameter: 12-13 mm.

Condition good with little surface wear.

SF 136; m<sup>2</sup> 401E256S: F83.

The runes read *Wigræd*. Obverse and reverse are similar to coin 8 and to *BMC 2b*. Sceatta of the 'secondary runic' type, familiar in East Anglia.

##### 11 Anglo-Saxon *c.* 730-750.

Base silver sceatta. (Fig. 9)

Obverse: Bust right, cross in front of face, in beaded circle.

Reverse: Bifurcated 'celtic' cross within a cross, with