

FINDING THE SAXONS OF WILLOUGHBY



UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
MUSEUM

The University of Nottingham Museum
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Introduction

A Museum in a trunk!

That was our original inspiration when we created **In Search of Margidunum**, our first travelling resource for schools and community groups. Since then we have introduced a prehistory collection, **Looking for Doggerland**.

Finding the Saxons of Willoughby is our third resource in the series. It is an exciting collection of artefacts and costumes that bring to life Anglo-Saxon Nottinghamshire.

At its simplest this is a handling collection but it is also

- ♦ a dressing up box
- ♦ a journey into the past
- ♦ a mini museum

Most of the artefacts and all the posters in the trunk are based on finds made during excavation of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery near Willoughby-on-the-Wold in Nottinghamshire s in the 1960s.

THE RESOURCE

The Trunk

The trunk itself is over 100 years old and has made journeys across the Atlantic and to India. Now it contains an exciting collection of resources based on finds from the Anglo-Saxon cemetery near Willoughby-on-the-Wolds.

In it you will find replicas of artefacts found in the graves, costumes and support materials designed to help you and your pupils explore the early Anglo-Saxon history of the region. Many of the artefacts are based on objects that can be seen at University of Nottingham Museum.



The drawers contain a selection of artefacts which for packing purposes have been grouped together under the following broad headings:

Drawer 1: Crafts & trade

Drawer 2: The woman & child

Drawer 3: Daily life

Drawer 4: The man

You will find suggestions for a variety of thematic approaches to encourage you to explore other ways of looking at the objects within this pack.

The Suitcase contains

- ♦ Magnifying glasses
- ♦ Protective mats
- ♦ Instructions for crafts
- ♦ A variety of support materials

Costumes

There are two sets of costumes on the trunk's original hangers to help your children bring the period to life.

Introduction

The fifth/sixth century clothes would have been worn by the people buried in the cemetery who were **Angles**. The seventh/eighth century costumes reflect the merging of the different cultural groups who we know as the Anglo-Saxons.

THE PORTFOLIO

The portfolio contains -

POSTERS

A2 poster: *An Anglo-Saxon cemetery on The Fosse Way*. A reconstruction of how the cemetery may have looked in the sixth century.

A4 poster: *Reconstruction of a wealthy woman's grave*, based on the original site drawing, photograph and artefacts found in Grave 58.

A4 photo posters

- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: general picture of site, 1960s*
- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: finds from Grave 112*
- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: close of finds in situ*

All of the A4 posters have suggestions for discussion on the reverse

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

The Teacher Pack

This pack contains

- ♦ Ideas for structured use of the resources and general background information.
- ♦ Instructions for safe handling of all the resources

- ♦ Description of posters, information sheets, worksheets etc
- ♦ A thematic breakdown of the resources available and suggested activities

An inventory of all the artefacts included in the resource

CD

You will find downloadable support materials on the accompanying disc including

- ♦ A copy of the teacher pack
- ♦ Photocopiable worksheets
- ♦ An image bank of original artefacts from the Museum's collections
- ♦ Copies of the posters suitable for use on Whiteboards etc.

THE WEBSITE

Downloadable support materials, links to external resources, information about school visits and other activities can be found on the Museum website

www.lakesidearts.org.uk

CD and Website

You will find downloadable support materials on the accompanying disc and the Museum website, including

- ♦ A copy of the teacher pack
- ♦ An image bank of original artefacts from the Museum's collections
- ♦ Copies of the poster, original photographs and drawings suitable for use on Whiteboards etc.

Handling Care

Whilst it is in your possession it is your responsibility to make sure that The Trunk along with its contents, are treated with respect and handled with care.

A full list of contents is given at the back of this pack and a checklist is included in each section of the trunk to encourage your group to take responsibility for packing away the resource.

THE TRUNK

Points to consider:

- ♦ Think carefully when positioning the trunk. Although it is very stable it should be placed where it won't get knocked into.
- ♦ To open the trunk, unscrew the chain first. Make sure the breaks are on the castors and the stabilising foot is down when it isn't in use.

The trunk should only be opened and closed by the adult responsible for the group.

- ♦ **Do not attempt to lift the trunk.**

♦ **THE ARTEFACTS**

- ♦ When handling the artefacts make sure everyone is sitting down; don't pass artefacts whilst moving round the room, always pass them across a desk, that way if they are dropped they have less distance to fall!
- ♦ Use the protective mats, particularly when handling pottery and fragile items.
- ♦ Don't leave artefacts unsupervised.
- ♦ Take care when handling brooches and metal tools as they may have pointed ends and sharp edges. Although knife edges have been blunted, they still need handling with care.
- ♦ Use the magnifying glasses to look at the details.
- ♦ Most items are in their own labelled box or packet. Make sure they are packed away at the end of each session, that way they are less like to get lost.

The most important thing is that the resources are there to be used and for everyone to ENJOY!

The Site

The Anglo-Saxon site known as Broughton Lodge lies south east of Nottingham and beneath the junction of the A46 and roads leading to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds and Upper Broughton.

The A46 follows the route of *The Fosse Way* a major Roman road linking Lincoln to Exeter which in turn follows the line of a prehistoric trackway that extends further northwards.

WHAT IS IT?

- An early **Anglian** cemetery dating from the late fifth to seventh centuries, which on its eastern side abuts to *The Fosse Way*.
- The cemetery lies on top of the Romano-British settlement of *Vernemetum*. *Vernemetum* is south of *Margidunum*, the focus of our Roman resource for schools, **In Search of Margidunum**.
- Excavations in the 1960s in advance of road construction uncovered upwards of 120 inhumations, ie burials rather than cremations, along with burials of four horses.

WHO WERE THEY?

To date little is known about early post-Roman Nottinghamshire but *Vernemetum* was ruinous by the late fifth century AD and some of the burials were placed on top of the road surface of *The Fosse Way*, suggesting that this stretch of it was no longer in use.



- ♦ Amongst the graves there may be some that belonged to the resident Romano-British population.
- ♦ The incomers were obviously aware of the abandoned Roman town as some of them were buried with Roman objects, including broken brooches which seem to have been reused as pendants.
- ♦ The horse burials are unusual when compared with other burials from the region, for example, cremation burials are the norm in nearby Newark, which suggests that this was a particular group of people who came from the same region.
- ♦ Dress items and the way in which they were buried appear to indicate that many of them were **Angles** whose homeland was modern day Denmark and the Schleswig-Holstein region of Germany.
- ♦ Other evidence from the region suggests that the earliest settlers travelled along the River Trent and settled in the Trent Valley.

- ♦ The earliest people worshipped the old Scandinavian gods but the people buried in the seventh century could have been Christian.

WHERE WAS THE SETTLEMENT?

The simple answer is, we don't know.

There is no evidence that the Roman town survived into the fourth century although it seems that the surrounding land continued to be farmed.

The field adjacent to the site glimpsed through the wooden fence on some of the site photos seems a likely possibility. However, it has been under pasture for many years and so far nothing has been found there.

WHAT WAS ANGLO-SAXON NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIKE?

The area surrounding the Trent Valley continued to be occupied after the Roman withdrawal. Although the towns were abandoned there is evidence for nearby Bingham and the local area that the farming continued so the early Anglian arrivals would have encountered local people. Nottinghamshire was border country, occupying the space between Northumbria and Mercia.

Fifth/sixth century AD

By the mid fifth century two distinctive regions had emerged.

- ♦ Elmet, a British kingdom to the north and east of the River Trent which bordered on the northern kingdom of Deira.
- ♦ Lindsey, which seems to have originally been a Roman British kingdom centred in Lincoln to the South and East. By the late fifth century this was ruled by incoming

Anglians who may have had long standing connections with the region through mercenary groups brought in to defend the city in the fourth century.

- ♦ There is regional evidence of Christian practice during the Roman period and this may have continued alongside pagan beliefs. If it did then it seems that burial practices differed little between the two groups.

The Seventh century onwards

The kingdoms of Elmet and Lindsey continued to be a buffer zone between Deira and Mercia.

- ♦ In the mid seventh century both Elmet and Lindsey are subsumed into the new kingdom of Northumbria.
- ♦ Christian missions by Augustine (C6thAD) and Paulinus (C7thAD) has huge cultural impact obvious in the archaeological record. People are no longer buried with grave goods and their bodies are aligned east – West, facing the rising sun.
- ♦ The decision taken at the Synod of Whitby to align the Church with Rome expanded trade routes into southern Europe and Byzantium which gave access exotic luxury goods like silk and spices.
- ♦ Trade with the Franks and the Low Countries led to changes in fashion, increased ceramic production and churches became the first stone buildings built since the Roman era.

Support Materials

THE POSTERS

A2 poster: *An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery of the Fosse way*, a reconstruction of a burial. In background are the buried remains of *Vernemetum*; *The Fosse Way* is becoming enveloped in vegetation.

A4 poster: *Reconstruction of a wealthy woman's grave*, based on the original site drawing, photograph and artefacts found in Grave 58. The site plan of the grave is on the reverse along with a list of objects found with her.

A4 photo posters

- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: general picture of site, 1960s*
- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: finds from Grave 112*
- ♦ *Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: close of finds in situ*

Suggestions for discussion are on the reverse of all A4 posters.

INFORMATION SHEETS

Each theme has a card(s) with images of related artefacts from the collection accompanied by a brief description of the object and its function.

WORK SHEETS

Who Lives Here?

Think like an archaeologist!

- ♦ Divide the class into small groups; give each group a selection of everyday rubbish. Using clues from the items ask them to discuss and answer the questions on the sheet.
- ♦ Repeat the activity using groups of artefacts from the trunk

COSTUMES

Two sets of costumes reflect the influence of new trade routes.

- ♦ Fifth/sixth century pre-Christian Scandinavian influenced costumes with tablet woven decorative cuffs and simple shapes.
- ♦ Seventh/eighth century Frankish influenced costumes. Closer fitting with elaborate silk embroidery.

COSTUME LIST

Fifth/sixth century Anglian woman

Linen under tunic
Woollen peplos with beads
Linen snood
Bucket necklace
Tablet woven belt
Leather pouch
Leather 'turn shoes'

Fifth/sixth century Anglian man

Woollen tunic
Woollen trousers
Woollen leg bindings (*winingas*)
Leather cap
Fur cape
Leather belt, leather pouch
Leather 'turn shoes'
Disc brooches

Fifth/sixth century Anglian child)

Woollen tunic
Woollen trousers
Plaited leather belt

Seventh/ninth century Anglo-Saxon woman

Linen under tunic
Hand embroidered woollen over tunic
Embroidered linen head band & head covering
Leather belt

Seventh/ninth century Anglo-Saxon man)

Woollen cloak
Linen under tunic
Woollen over tunic with hand embroidery
Leather belt, leather & linen pouch
Woollen Trousers

The Cemetery

ARTEFACTS IN TRUNK: DRAWER 2

Grave 1: The Woman

Treske Ornament

Knife in sheath

Bucket necklace

Bucket

Iron buckle

Disc brooches x 2

Grave 2: The Child

Small decorated Anglo-Saxon bowl

Small knife in sheath

Swastika brooch

ARTEFACTS IN TRUNK: DRAWER 3

Grave 1: The Woman

Disc brooches x 2

Grave 3: The Man

Disc brooches x 2

ARTEFACTS IN TRUNK: DRAWER 4

Grave 3: The Man

Bone comb

Spear head

Cruciform brooch

ON COSTUMES

The Woman

Glass beads

Wrist clasps

IMAGES ON DISC

Original photographs from 1960s excavations

General view of site

Excavating the Fosse Way

Burial with spear

Burial with horse head

Horse burial

Close up of burial showing brooches

Artefacts from grave 112 in finds tray

Artefacts

Silver bucket beads

Swastika brooch

Treske ornament

Cruciform brooch

Spear head

POSTERS

A2 Poster

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the Fosse Way

A4 posters@

Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: general picture of site, 1960s

Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: finds from Grave 112

Excavations at Willoughby on the Wolds: close of finds in situ

Burial of the woman

@3 copies of each

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Dressing up and role play

Equipment:

Costumes *

Artefacts *

* included

Crafts & Trade

ARTEFACTS IN TRUNK: DRAWER 1

Crafts

Tablets for tablet weaving x 2 sets
Tablet woven belt
Lucets x 6
Stick weaving sets x 6
Loom weight
Metal punches & wooden pads x 6
Pottery stamps x 16 in pouch
Disc brooches
Wrist clasps (on costumes)

Trade

Pouch with coins
Scales

IMAGES ON DISC

Silver coin (sceat) x 2
Beads made of amber from the Baltic
Mammoth ivory ring from top of a bag

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Stick weaving

Equipment:
Stick weaving sticks*
Yarn
Instructions*

Making cords

Equipment:
Lucets*
Instructions*

Making a disc brooch

Equipment:
Metal punches & wooden pads*
Thin copper sheet (may be included)
Safety pins
Double-sided tape
Scissors
Pencil
Hammers

Draw a 4-5cms circle on a piece of copper. Cut out carefully with scissors, the metal edges could be sharp.

Stamp a design with the metal stamps.

Attach a safety pin to the back with tape.

Make a decorated coil pot

Equipment:

Clay
Pottery stamps*

Roll clay to make tin sausages; coil to make a pot.

Smooth the sides. Decorate using the pottery stamps.

Tip. Use a small smooth ball to mould the bottom of the pot

* included

Daily Life 1: Personal Care

DRAWER 2

Chatelaine with tools
Small bow brooch
Copper safety pins x 4
Wrist clasps
Wimple pins x 4
Cosmetic brush
Wooden comb

Costume items

(C5TH/6TH)
Tablet woven belt
Plaited leather belt
Shoes
Leather pouch
Linen snood

DRAWER 3

Disc brooches x 8

DRAWER 4 FRONT

Hairstyling head & clamp
Leather thong ties
Bone comb

DRAWER 4 REAR

Cruciform brooch

Costume items

Shoes
Leather cap
Leather belt with pouch
Woollen winingas

COSTUMES

Hanger 1 (5th/6th Century Anglian woman)

Linen under tunic

Woollen peplos

Hanger 2 (5th/6th Century Anglian man)

Woollen tunic
Woollen trousers
Fur cape

Hanger 3 (5th/6th Century Anglian child)

Woollen tunic
Woollen trousers

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Dressing up and role play

Equipment:

Costumes *

Hairstyle book*

Artefacts *

Tablet weaving

Weaving tablets*

Yarn (cotton works best)

Instructions*

* included

Daily Life 2: At Home

ARTEFACTS IN TRUNK

FEASTING & DRINKING: DRAWER 2

Wooden stave bucket

Large knife in sheath

Small knife in sheath

DRAWER 3

Wooden bowls x 2

Horn spoons x 3

Horn tankard

Small pottery cup

Glass claw beaker

DRAWER 4

Drinking horn & belt hanger

GAMES: DRAWER 4

Tafle & counters in pouch

Knuckle bones in pouch

OTHER

Rushlight holder

Fire steel

Small Southwell Saxon Urn

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Dressing up and role play

Equipment:

Costumes *

Artefacts *

* included

Make a Tafle board

Equipment:

Pieces of cloth approximately 30cms square (old plain sheets would do)

Quick drying clay

Draw a grid, 11 x 11 squares, on a piece of plain cloth or paper

Colour the corner and centre squares

Make counters out of quick drying clay. Paint them when they are dry

Play the game.

Daily Life 3: The Warrior

ARTEFACTS IN THE TRUNK

DRAWER 4: REAR

Weapons

Spear head

Saex & sheath

Shield boss

Drinking horn & belt hanger

Shoes

Tafl game

Knuckle bones

BELOW COSTUMES

Helmet

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Design a round shield

Thick card

Coloured paper

paint

The Seventh/Ninth Century

ARTEFACTS IN THE TRUNK

The Woman

Wimple & embroidered head band

Wimple pins x 4

Leather belt with buckle

The Man

Leather & linen pouch

Leather belt with buckle

Other

Pottery stamps x 16 in pouch

Cremation urn from Southwell

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

Compare the two sets of costumes

Equipment needed:

Costumes

Have a go at embroidery

COSTUMES

Hanger 4 (7th/8th Century Anglo-Saxon woman)

Linen under tunic

Woollen over tunic with hand embroidery

Hanger 5 (7th/8th Century Anglo-Saxon man)

Woollen cloak

Linen under tunic

Woollen over tunic with hand embroidery

Woollen Trousers

Resource Contents

LEFT HAND SIDE

COSTUMES

Hanger 1 (5th/6th Century Anglian woman)

Linen under tunic

Woollen peplos

Hanger 2 (5th/6th Century Anglian man)

Woollen tunic

Woollen trousers

Fur cape

Hanger 3 (5th/6th Century Anglian child)

Woollen tunic

Woollen trousers

Hanger 4 (7th/9th Century Anglo-Saxon woman)

Linen under tunic

Woollen over tunic with hand embroidery

Hanger 5 (7th/9th Century Anglo-Saxon man)

Woollen cloak

Linen under tunic

Woollen over tunic with hand embroidery

Woollen Trousers

DRAWER 1: CRAFTS & TRADE

Metal punches x 6

Wooden pads for metal punching x 6

Tablets for tablet weaving x 2 sets

Lucets x 6

Stick weaving sets x 6

Pottery stamps in leather pouch x 16

Loom weight

Coins in leather

Scales

DRAWER 2: THE WOMAN & CHILD

The Woman

Girdle hanger with tools

Treske ornament

Copper safety pins x 4

Wooden comb

Knife in sheath

Bucket necklace

Bucket

Iron buckle

Wrist clasps

Wimple pins x 4

Cosmetic brush

Costume items

Shoes

(C5TH/6TH)

Linen snood

Tablet woven belt

Leather pouch

C7TH/9TH)

Leather belt with buckle

Head covering with decorative band

The Child

Small decorated Anglo-Saxon bowl

Swastika brooch

Small knife in sheath

DRAWER 3: DAILY LIFE

Disc brooches x 8

Small Saxon cremation urn

Wooden bowls x 2

Horn spoons x 3

Horn tankard

Small pottery cup

Drinking horn & belt hanger

Glass claw beaker

Rush light holder

Fire steel

DRAWER 4: THE MAN

FRONT

Hairstyling head & clamp

Leather thongs for tying hair

Bone comb

Cruciform brooch

REAR

Spear head

Saex & sheath

Shield boss

Leather board for tafl game 7
wooden pieces in leather pouch

Knuckle bones

Costume items

Shoes

(C5TH/6TH)

Leather cap

Leather belt with pouch

Woollen winingas

(C7TH/9TH)

Leather & linen pouch

Leather belt with buckle

THE SUITCASE

PUPIL RESOURCES

Protective mats for handling x 12

Magnifying glasses x 6

TEACHER RESOURCES

Teacher Pack & CD

THE PORTFOLIO

A2 poster x 1

A4 posters in plastic wallet x 4 – site
photo, close up of grave goods,
artefacts in finds tray,
reconstruction of woman's grave

Artefact information sheets in
plastic wallet

Acknowledgements

To find more information about the University of Nottingham Museum visit
www.lakesidearts.org.uk

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