

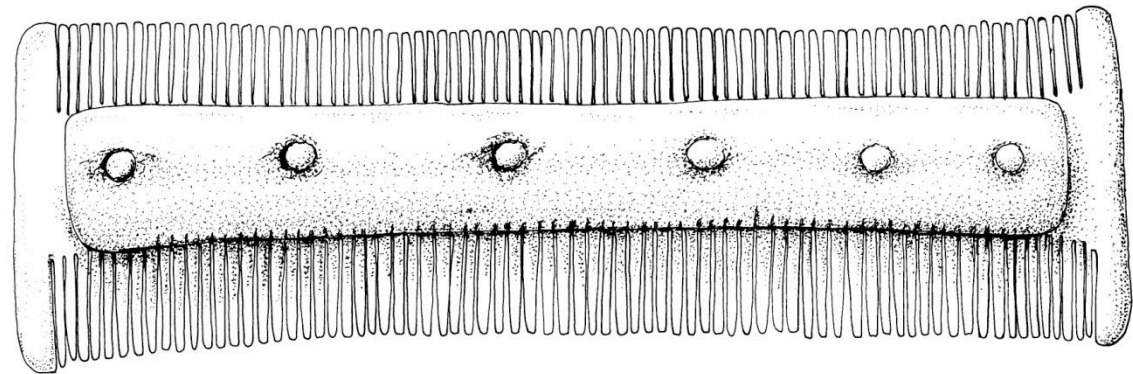
A Typological Guide for the Spot-Identification of Medieval Bone/Antler Combs from the British Isles and Northern Europe

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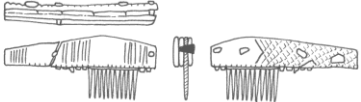
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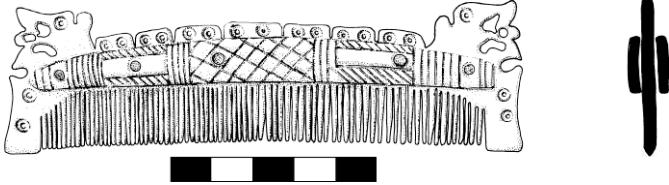
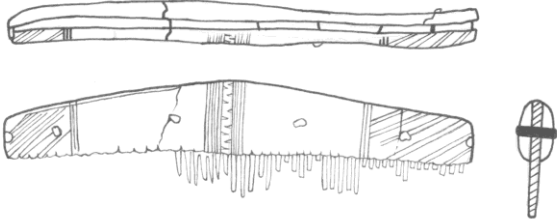
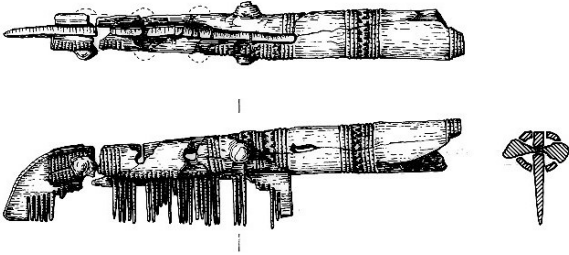
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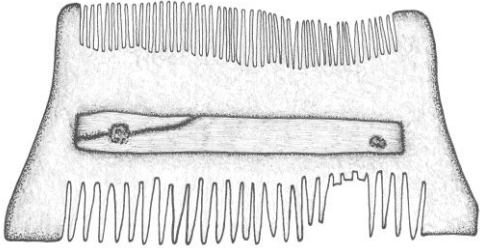
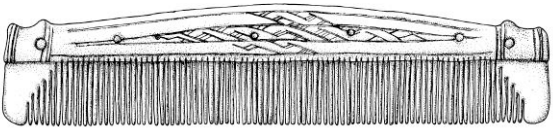
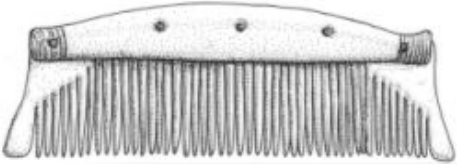

Introductory Notes


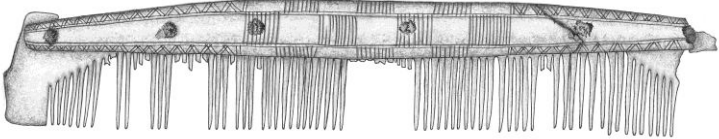
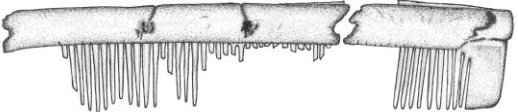
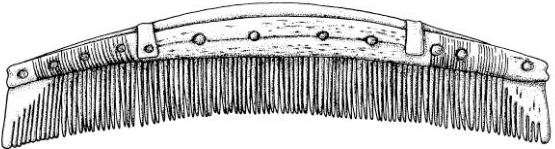
The following table presents a basic overview of the range of forms commonly identified across northern Europe between c. AD 350 and 1600. The typology is based on Ashby 2006 (wherein its origins and statistical basis, as well as the spatial ranges of each type, are discussed in detail), and provides a basic framework for efficient identification of objects. As such it is hoped that this document provides a useful handguide for finds specialists, curators, and excavators alike. Many of the types identified have been subject to typological study in their own right (see for example Wiberg 1987 on Types 9 and 13), while regional specialists may prefer to use region-specific classifications. In such cases the present typology may be used in combination with these more focused studies, but for any large-scale comparison, a broad-based typology such as this is necessary. For further detail on particular types, readers are referred to the list of further reading appended to the present paper.

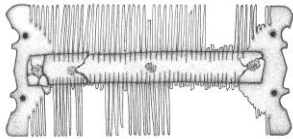
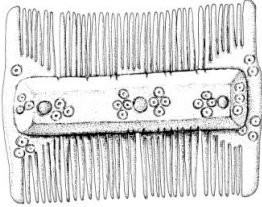
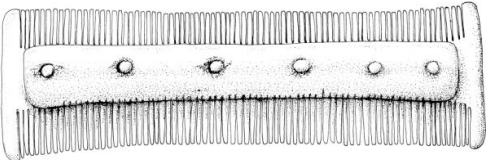
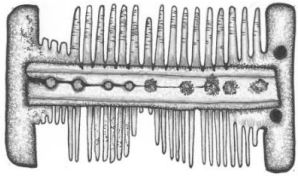
The typology is referred to in a little more detail in Ashby 2006 and 2007, which has been used as the typological basis for all work published by the author to date. It should be noted that this document constitutes a development on those papers (type 2c, for example, is not referred to in Ashby 2006 or 2007). Furthermore, a detailed discussion of the typological framework, together with consideration of the chronological and spatial ranges of the types, and the social and economic implications of any patterning, is in preparation (Ashby *in prep.*).

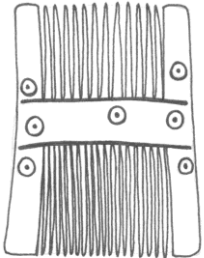
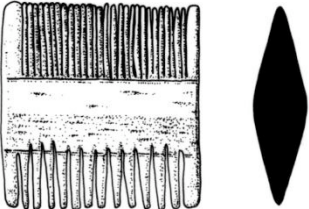
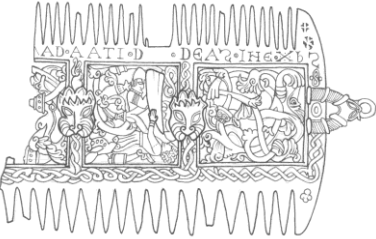
Form	Type (after Ashby 2006, 2007)	Description	Date Range
	1a	Small triangular or round-backed, single-sided combs with iron rivets. Small in size, generally 5-10cm in length.	c. late 4 th -6 th Century
	1b	'Barred' single-sided combs, with 3 or 4 connecting plates. Iron rivets. Variable in size, generally 10-15cm in length.	Late 4 th - 8 th Century
	1c	'High-backed' single-sided composite combs. Short, with toothplates extending beyond the comb back to form a decorative field. Diverse ornament. Iron rivets. Small in size, generally 7-10cm in length.	5 th -8 th Century
	2a	Single-sided composite combs with connecting plates of flattened, rectangular section, usually made of split ribs. Iron rivets. Variable in size, generally between 7 and 15cm in length.	5 th -8 th Century

	2b	Hogbacked combs, with connecting plates of shallow convex section and concavo-convex profile, often with 'winged' or ornamental endplates. Iron rivets. Generally between 10 and 20cm in length.	5 th -8 th Century
	2c	Long, triangular, single-sided composite combs. Iron rivets. Generally between 10 and 15cm in length.	c. 8 th – 9 th Century
	3	Handled and asymmetric combs, with either an uncut toothplate billet forming a handhold, or a handle formed from a slotted antler tine, or a pair of bone plates. Iron rivets. Variable in size, generally between 10 and 20cm in length.	8 th -11 th Century

	4	<p>Crudely manufactured, straight, flat mounts with 2, 3, or 4 widely-spaced iron rivets (MacGregor's 'riveted mounts'). Most examples have connecting plates between 10 and 15cm long, though length appears to vary in relation to the number of rivets.</p>	10th-12th century
	5	<p>Long single-sided combs with iron rivets and shallow connecting plates (Ambrosiani A). Large in size, generally 15-25 cm in length.</p>	9th-mid-10th century
	6	<p>Short single-sided combs with iron or copper-alloy rivets, and deep connecting plates (Ambrosiani B). Small in size, generally 10-15cm in length.</p>	10th-11th century
	7	<p>Long, irregular single-sided combs with iron rivets and deep connecting plates. Variable size; examples are known up to 32cm in length.</p>	10th-11th century

	8a	Long and short single-sided combs with iron rivets and connecting plates of triangular cross-section. Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.	10th-12th century
	8b	Long and short single-sided combs with iron rivets and connecting plates of trapezoidal cross-section. Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.	10th-12th century
	8c	Long and short, straight, undecorated single-sided combs, with iron rivets and connecting plates of hemispherical cross-section. Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.	11th-13th century
	9	Long and short single-sided combs with copper-alloy rivets and/or plating. Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.	late 10th – 13th century

	10	<p>Usually short, double-sided combs with denticulate endplate-profiles, iron or bronze rivets, and differentiated, graduated teeth.</p> <p>Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.</p>	4 th - 5 th Century
	11	<p>Short, tall double-sided combs with iron rivets and undifferentiated, graduated teeth.</p> <p>Variable size, generally 10-15cm in length.</p>	6 th -8 th Century
	12	<p>Long, narrow double-sided combs with iron rivets and undifferentiated, ungraduated teeth. Variable size, generally 10-20cm in length.</p>	6 th -9 th Century
	13	<p>Finely-cut double-sided combs of diverse form, with copper-alloy rivets and differentiated teeth. Very variable in size, between 5 an 15cm in length.</p>	12 th -15 th Century

	14a	<p>One-piece double-sided combs, often produced in ivory or elk antler, and featuring a limited range of ornament (may be undecorated). Usually c.5 -7cm in height, but some examples are over 10cm. Their relationship with outlying, larger ‘special purpose’ examples, such as the comb from the tomb of St Cuthbert, is unclear.</p>	11 th – early 15 th Century
	14b	<p>One-piece, double-sided combs with differentiated teeth and minimal decoration, usually with a lentoid or lozengiform section. Generally small, 4-7cm in length.</p>	15 th -18 th Century
	14c	<p>Variable in size and form, but always displaying elaborate (figural, vegetal or zoomorphic) ornament. Frequently in the Romanesque style.</p>	c.11 th -13th Century

Credits and Acknowledgements

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