Early Anglo-Saxon Brooches in southern England

The contribution of the Portable Antiquities Scheme

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• Types of brooches and artefact life-cycle
• Excavated brooches
• Metal detected brooches
• Distribution of PAS brooches
Origins of the Anglo-Saxon brooch project

Comparison: Brooch types recorded by PAS in southern England vs types from Kentish Burials
Artefact lifecycle
Brooches recorded by the PAS 1997-2006

Cruciform 27%
Small-long 19%
Square-headed 5%
Button 3%
Disc 8%
Saucer 2%
Other 36%
Brooch types
Excavated brooches: distribution patterns

After Lucy (2000)
Cruciform, Small Long and Small Square-Headed Brooches

Cruciform
Small Long
Small/Kentish Square-headed
Strong contrast between detector finds & excavated finds with *some* classes of brooches.

- Contrast represents genuine pattern: some brooch types less likely to be selected as grave goods, others more likely to occur as casual losses.
- PAS data suggests several broad zones of brooch use (and production?) in southern England.