

Table 5.04 Northumbrian Periodization

<u>Period</u>	<u>Northumbrian phasing</u>	<u>CE</u>	<u>Justification for distinguishing separate period</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Southumbrian phasing</u>
1	Sub-Roman coinage	to c. 470	Roman gold and silver coinage in urban areas circulated for at least sixty years after the departure of Roman forces as demonstrated by the Patching (West Sussex) hoard, which also included hacksilver, indicative of a decline into a bullion economy.	S1	As Northumbrian phasing.
2	Post-Roman coinage	c. 470 - c. 570	Though there is very likely to have been an absence of coinage for most of this century, imported pseudo-Imperial <i>Victory</i> tremisses, competently emulated by the so-called barbarian tribes invading the Western Roman Empire, circulated among the English élite. Several hundred finds have been made in England, including a small number converted to pendants.	S2	As Northumbrian phasing.
3a	Imported Merovingian gold	c. 570 - c. 670	The Merovingian 'National Series' superseded the <i>Victory</i> tremissis. This is a substantial and diverse group, naming numerous mints and/or moneyers. The gold content decline gradually until at 30% the coinage was withdrawn and replaced by silver deniers. The Merovingian gold tremissis predates the Anglo-Saxon gold shilling. The purse hoard from the Sutton Hoo burial (probably of Rædwald, c. 624) consists of 37 different gold tremisses.	S3a	As Northumbrian phasing.
3b	Anglo-Saxon gold shilling	c. 620 - c. 670	The candidate's research demonstrates that the native gold shilling was contemporary with Sutton Hoo, not 10-20 years later as previously believed. The York gold shilling, issued by Paulinus, was at the forefront of English coinage, possibly with the emissions of Eadbald of Kent. Southumbrian shillings were used in the north but their declining purity led to a transition, via the pale-gold shilling, to the silver early penny or <i>sceat</i> in the 670s. The number and style of recent finds have displaced Crondall as the primary point of reference.	S3b	As Northumbrian phasing.
3c	Southumbrian pale-gold shilling	c. 670s	For a brief period, named moneyers managed the transition from gold to silver, emulating the Continental precedent.	S3c	As Northumbrian phasing.

4	Primary silver sceats	c. 670s - c. 710	The replacement of gold by silver in the 670s facilitated a concerted expansion of the volume of coinage, now produced in a more organised fashion. The primary phase was constrained in its types, designs and mints.	S4	As Northumbrian phasing.
4a	Northumbria	685-704	Aldfrith was the first monarch to be named on the silver early penny, thus continuing a northern tradition of literacy, despite a considerable lapse since the York shilling.		
4b	Southumbria	c. 670s - c. 710	Spreading from the south-east, relatively conservative early pennies, of consistent iconography, were issued in significant volumes.		
4c	Imported Continental	c. 685s - c. 710	Around 20% of the volume of coinage in circulation in England (more in sheep-breeding uplands) was from the Low Countries, where Dorestad and Domburg were the economic drivers of the North Sea trading area. It has been estimated that tens of millions of sceats of Series D and E were produced.		
4d	Merovingian silver denier	c. 670 - c. 710	Deniers were interchangeable with sceats in the North Sea area. Up to 600 Frankish mints and 1,600 moneyers participated in the Merovingian issues.		
5	Secondary sceats	c. 710-750s	The secondary phase is characterized by a profusion of types often with remarkable iconography. There is a mix of regal and mercantile trading issues and ecclesiastical coins displaying Conversion Period propaganda. Purity is variable but declines over time.	S5/6	As Northumbrian phasing.
5a	Putative Northumbrian	c. 710-750s	Types with putative attribution to the north include elements of Series J (varieties of which may have been issued both north and south of the Humber) and the very rare 'fledgling type'.		
5b	Southumbrian	c. 710-750s	To alleviate shortage of northern coinage during Aldfrith's incompetent succession, Southumbrian and Continental sceats circulated in the north.		
5c	Imported Continental	c. 710-750s			
[5d	Merovingian silver denier	c. 710 - c. 750s	It is not possible to distinguish between earlier and later deniers. Finds are attributed to Period 4d].		
N06	Eadberht's <i>renovatio</i>	737-780s	Eadberht renovated the 'fantastic animal' coinage and his successors emulated this. Emissions were competent, voluminous and literate, even though the third quarter of the eighth century showed a decline in economic activity in both Northumbria and Mercia.		
N07	Joint issues of periods N6&8	737-96	Distinctive regal and archiepiscopal joint issues cover a number of reigns and tenures. Though these ran parallel to regal issues they are here distinguished as a separate 'period'.	S7	Sceats of Beonna & Offa
N08	Inscriptional reverse	780s-800s	Ælfwald I, replaced the 'fantastic animal' reverse, with its Pagan connotations, with a type which put the onus for the integrity of the coinage on the moneyer, a wealthy court official (not the engraver). The southern move to a slightly broader, thinner, flan may not have been sufficiently distinctive to emulate in the north, especially at a time when trade seems to have been depressed. This marks the first point of departure.	S8	Broad penny, 2nd half C8th
N09-11	Ninth century issues	c. 820s?-866/7 & 894-	Following the 793 Viking raid on Lindisfarne, catastrophic for commercial confidence, the coinage collapsed for two to three decades.		
N09	silver-alloy emissions	before 829?	Eanred & Eanbald II, using eleven 'Group A' moneyers, attempted to revive the silver early penny. This emissions may have been curtailed by submission to Wessex at Dore in 829. This is a second, perhaps more intentional, point of departure from the south	S9	Broad penny, C9th

N10	<u>Stycas</u>	after 835	Base coinage was issued in volume by twenty-six moneyers during the reigns of four monarchs and two archbishops. Significantly, the denomination had fallen to the point where everyday transactions could be settled in cash and church fees paid, a contrast to the south.	
N10a		brass 837?-850s	Issuers: Eanred, Aethelred II (incl. irregular), Redwulf, Archbishop Wigmund. Hexham hoard deposited.	
N10b		bronze earlier 850s?	Osberht and Archbishop Wulfhere replaced zinc with tin to enhance the coinage temporarily.	
N10c		blundered mid-late 850s?-867	Chaotic mint organisation characterized the final period of stycra production. Spurious die links are attributable to promiscuous use of dies. Production ceased in 867, when substantial hoards were deposited. The Vikings are known to have copied coins elsewhere (e.g. the tremisses of Louis the Pious) and may plausibly have prolonged issue of the stycra.	
N11	<u>Broad penny</u>	894-	Viking issues of the broad penny with cruciform elements commence from c.894	
12	Saxon pennies C10th to c. 973.		Edgar reformed the coinage c. 973.	As Northumbrian phasing.
13	Saxon pennies from c. 973.			As Northumbrian phasing.

Source: Chapter 5