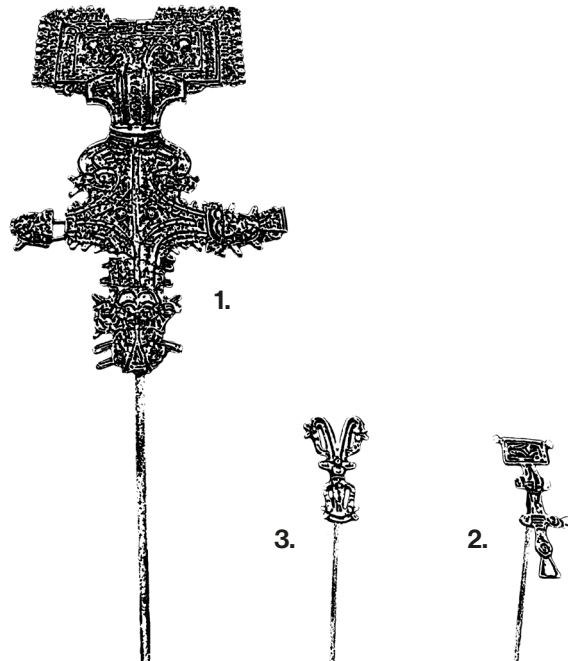




4.



8. The woman from Dalem

Around the middle of the 500s AD, a woman was buried on the Dalem farm in Trøndelag. She was placed in her grave wearing many pieces of her jewellery. A relief brooch – one of the largest of its kind in Scandinavia, was used to fasten a cape. The sleeves of her blouse were fastened with golden clasps. Three gold medallions, called bracteates, hung on her chest. The jewellery are all covered with animal and human figures. Was it for protection or power or both?

The relief brooch was so large that it would have been impractical for daily wear. It was probably only worn on special occasions, for celebrations, processions and ceremonies. The Dalem woman must have played a very important role in her community.

In the case

Grave find from Dalem, Steinkjer, Trøndelag (Nord-Trøndelag)

1. The large relief brooch of silver and gold is 25 cm long, and over 15 cm from "arm to arm". C4816
2. A small relief brooch. C4817
3. A gusset plate reinforced the cuffs of her blouse. It was made in the same style as the large brooch, and is covered with small animal faces in profile. C4822
4. Golden medallions, *bracteates*, gleamed at her breast. They show a mounted rider; maybe the god Odin and his horse, Sleipnir. C4565-67.

