

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SUFFOLK, 1980

contributed by Edward A. Martin

Brandon, Staunch Meadow (TL 7786; S.A.U. BRD 018): Following the trial work last summer c. 3,000 sq.m. were excavated between mid-March and mid-June. Preliminary conclusions are that the area excavated (part of the sand ridge running east-west) was divided into at least five parts by north-south ditches; the first part contained post-holes and two ovens (probably two phases of a single structure), the second was largely covered by shallow pits, the third was small and complicated by many re-cuttings of the ditches but had a series of post-holes sufficient to indicate a structure, the fourth and fifth each had a post-hole structure and an oven. The buildings are not yet fully understood but one at least appears to be c. 5.5 × 10m. A common feature appears to be a substantially built clay-lined oven, the best preserved of which was c. 2 × 0.5m internally, and has been interpreted as a bread oven. All the structures are presumed to be domestic.

In a second area of excavation on the south side of the ridge a further three (at least) post built structures were found.

There was little domestic refuse in either pits or ditches; it is presumed that the nearby river was the main dumping ground. There was a shallow occupation debris layer over most of the site but this was perforce removed by machine. All the pottery was Ipswich-type ware.

The only other occupation of the ridge was represented by a series of gullies and small pits with Iron Age pottery, probably of the 3rd – 1st century B.C.
(R. D. Carr for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Bury St Edmunds, the Abbey (TL 8564): A third season of excavation took place.
(A. J. Fleming for the Department of the Environment).

Butley, Burrow Hill (TM 3948; S.A.U. BUT 001): In 1980 a third season of excavation took place on the summit of the hill in advance of gravel extraction. An inhumation cemetery, for an early phase of which a radiocarbon date of 1170 ± 80 years B.P. (a.d. 780) had been obtained, was further examined and found to include unassociated orientated inhumations in monoxylous coffins of boat and bath-tub form. To the south of the cemetery a concentration of post-holes was evidence of at least two phases of occupation, the earlier dated to the mid-8th century by a coin of Beonna. There was further evidence of iron-working. Cemetery and settlement appear to have been enclosed by V-shaped ditches which this season were sectioned on the south side and found to be full of food debris. The work was conducted by Valerie Fenwick as part of her research on Anglo-Saxon East Suffolk, with assistance from Paul McCulloch, Elizabeth Nichols, Jeremy Oetgen and Catlin Rhodes of the Institute of Archaeology, members of the Suffolk Institute and the Butley Excavation Group.
(Valerie Fenwick)

North Cove, St Peter's Church, Worlingham Parva (TM 4589; S.A.U. NHC 004): Twenty burials, lying east-west, were found in a pipe trench adjacent to the new Beccles By-Pass. An area on the road line was stripped to reveal the 'lost' church. The church fabric had been removed down to footing level; no architectural fragments were preserved. The footings were of unmortared flint, 30 – 40cm deep and 1m wide; they show that the church had a round tower with an external diameter of 4.6m, apparently built as-one with a nave of 5.7m external, 3.7m internal width. The length is uncertain but a single cell structure only 10 – 11m long is suspected. Documentary dates are not yet available; unstratified pottery ranges from Thetford-type to c. 15th century.
(R. D. Carr for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Ipswich, Great Whip Street (S.A.U. IAS 7404): An area of 280 sq.m. was excavated revealing a sequence of features, mainly pits, dating from the Middle Saxon period to the 19th century. No buildings of any period were found; a clay oven (? for bread) was of late medieval/early post-medieval date.

(K. Wade for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Ipswich, Little Whip Street (S.A.U. IAS 7404): An area of 200 sq.m. was excavated revealing eight Middle Saxon pits and one slot, three pits and one post-hole of Late Saxon date, five pits of 11th – 12th-century date and two pits and an oven of medieval date.

(K. Wade and T. Loader for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Stowmarket (TM 0657; S.A.U. SKT 011): Half of a rectangular moated site, 32m × 34m, was excavated revealing two buildings, indicated by clay spreads. An entrance on the east side opened into an outer ditched enclosure. Further earthworks include a hollow way. On pottery evidence the moated site was occupied for a short period in the late 12th or early 13th century.

A series of features, probably prehistoric in date, was found cut into the natural subsoil beneath the mound of the moated site. These included a small pit which contained sizeable fragments of a poorly fired Neolithic pot and charcoal (a sample of the latter has been sent for radiocarbon dating). The pot has a vertically pierced lug and is ornamented with two rows of finger tip impressions on the shoulder.

(S. Harding and S. Wright for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Wherstead (S.A.U. WHR 008, 027 and 028): Three ring-ditches, probably representing ploughed-out round barrows, were excavated from September to October 1980 with the aid of a Youth Opportunities Programme. The three sites form a loose group spread over 1km and were discovered from the air by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. All three lay on mixed sand and gravel sub-soils with some superficial loess deposits. The site of WHR 008 is to be developed as allotment gardens for Ipswich; WHR 027 and 028 lay on the route of the proposed Ipswich Southern By-Pass.

WHR 008 (TM 1441): This ring-ditch was discovered in 1976 and lay on a slight terrace on a north-east facing slope at 25ft O.D. The Belstead Brook is about 140m to the north of the site, and 40m to the east is a small stream. The large circular ditch was 48m in diameter, 7m wide and 2.24m deep. Samples for radiocarbon dating were taken from the bottom of the ditch. A thin scatter of pottery sherds was found, but no burials were identified. The pottery consisted mainly of thinnish burnt-flint gritted wares with red exteriors and black cores; one small sherd bears coarse comb-stamped decoration (? Beaker).

WHR 027 (TM 1540): Discovered in 1977 this small ring-ditch lay on a plateau at the top of Bourne Hill, at 125ft O.D. It consisted of a ditch about 16m in diameter, 3m wide and 1.47m deep. No burials were located. A small pit containing abraded Iron Age sherds was found outside the ring, as was a scatter of pottery, mostly Iron Age in date. The ditch contained burnt-flint gritted wares similar to those from WHR 008.

WHR 028 (TM 1540): Lying on flat land at the top of a hill, at a height of 125ft O.D., this ring-ditch, which was discovered in 1977, was still visible at ground level as a slight mound. The ditch proved to be 30m in diameter, 6m wide and 2.16m deep. A pit 2m long, 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep was found towards the centre of the ring; no signs of a burial were, however, discovered. Samples were taken for phosphate analysis. A scatter of pottery was found within the ring, including several sherds of Grooved Ware. Iron Age and Roman sherds were recovered from the upper silts of the ditch.

(E. A. Martin for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

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1980

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EXCURSIONS 1980

Report and notes on some findings

3 May. *Celia Jennings*

East Bergholt. Domesday Book confirmed place-name, 'hill-wood'; recorded enough wood to feed 1,000 swine. Hilly site of great manor and church rises over 100ft from Stour and tributaries, then flattens out into heath. Heath encircled by road, confusing to strangers. Small settlements round edge, mostly called 'Ends', as in Essex. Late-medieval and early-Tudor houses. Good example of clothier's house at Gaston End: *Chaplins*, still named after merchant. In the Street, *Gothics*, an open-hall house with later cross-wings. *Lambe School* lately restored, building probably earlier than 1594 when school opened. At *Gaston End*, triangular green shows signs of common use, ponds suggest clay-pits or saw-pits; smithy and wheelwright adjacent.

Church, described by J. F. Elam. S. chapel was 'new chapel' referred to in will of Robert Hegge, 1442: he wished to be buried 'in novo latere', opposite the window of the Seven Sacraments. S. aisle looks about a generation later: flint-facing meant to cover all the rubble walling of the chapel; break suggests money ran out. Mullet decoration of N. rood-turret implies under-writing by John de Vere, 14th Earl of Oxford, 1513–26. Documents hint John Barber (Ipswich mason with yard next to St Lawrence's chantry) responsible for building N. aisle and clerestory: he sued Thomas Gryth, Philip Hill and Thomas Reynold for alleged non-payment, c. 1540, when church partly un-roofed.

Brantham. St Michael's church (first visit), mother-church of E. Bergholt. Both early given to Battle Abbey. Fine Purbeck slab with indent for floriated cross, probably, according to the President, for Roger Braham, c. 1340. P. Northeast's transcripts of the local wills enabled picture to be formed of interior from 1375 to Reformation. Wills also showed local name Moptid/Maptid (cf case of 'Scandalous' Aldeburgh curate: SRS, 13, 1970, pp. 115–119) derived from Maupetit. Nave broad enough for altars N. and S. of chancel arch. Fabric not totally Victorianised. Tower-arch, N. aisle arcade, and W. window all look genuine Decorated, also some restored S. nave windows. Like lychgate, pulpit is carved in Arts and Crafts manner. Court Farm on site of Sandford White House (1826): possible ancient meeting-place of Samford Hundred.

19 May. *Brian Charge and Norman Scarfe*

Haverhill Hall. Small late-Elizabethan manor-house remote from town, standing outside double enclosure-moat: examined 1976–7 by Haverhill Archaeological Field Group. Originally only single enclosure (1737). Survey revealed complex ditch-system in pasture to S.E. Knapped flint cobbling beneath pond, ? for waggon-cleaning. Field-walking 100m N.E. of moat had yielded much 2nd/3rd-cent. Romano-British pottery, probably dredged from moat-arm. *D. Gurteen and Sons Ltd* cloth-weaving factory, mainly 19th-cent., still producing heavy twills. Family settled in 17th cent. from Flanders: delightful small museum: 'Caroline', endearing 19th-cent. steam-engine with 5m-diameter fly-wheel, on show, still working with original cylinder-liners, and providing glimpse of final stage in East Anglian textile industry.

Little Bradley church, All Saints, presented severe problems. The Taylors (*Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, 1, 1965, p. 90) suggest a late Anglo-Saxon nave and W. end of chancel, then early-Norman extension of chancel, and round W. tower of same period. They give reason for thinking W. tower later than A-S W. wall of nave: the two were not bonded together: 'straight joint between them runs N. and S. against the original outer W. face of W. wall.' (This is no

longer easily determinable.) Furthermore, 'imposts of tower-arch, returned on W. face of W. wall, have been partially covered by the curved walls of the tower.' In 1455, Thomas Hamvyl left 6s. 8d. to the emendation of the tower, a bequest relating presumably to the octagonal top:

Why would a tower-arch precede a tower? Does this imply the existence of an earlier tower — perhaps of wood? In general, access to Viking-age towers is thought to have been at an upper level only: the tower-arch implies a period of security, with no need of tower for defence. Another question relates to Domesday Book. There are five references to Bradley: 'Parva' appears only in 1199. But the only church recorded in 1086 is part of much the biggest holding in 'Bradley': difficult to square with the fact that Parva now has the A-S fabric.

Great Bradley church (St Mary: first visit) has a tall late-Norman doorway with carved corbel-heads supporting a lintel, as at Kirtling just across in Cambs. Fine early Perpendicular tower: its buttresses have limestone set-offs carved mostly with lions passant, but E. buttress on S. side of tower bears a *saltire engrailed*, the shield of Botetourt (Corder, 439). This provides a lead in the dating of the tower: the first of them here, John Lord Botetourt, died in 1385, and his granddaughter and sole heiress, Joyce Burnell, died childless in 1407.

28 June. *Peter Northeast and Sylvia Colman*

Tostock church (first visit). Nave rebuilt 15th-cent. Perpendicular (and lower 7ft of tower reclad) all at one go: a beautiful fabric of flint evenly speckled with freestone. Nave 27ft wide, no aisles (*pace* Pevsner!). Bells being bought 1462. Chancel-arch trans. Early English/Decorated, also admirable. Bequest towards candlebeam, 1507.

Beyton Green Manor House, Tudor, 3-cell, contains two fireplaces constructed from Norman masonry, including short columns: probably brought from Bury Abbey at the time of its destruction, 1540.

Beyton church (first visit). Nave with N. aisle rebuilt 1854 by John Johnson of Bury, with very convincing Perpendicular details and scale.

Rougham church (first visit!). Noble building deserving full descriptive article in light of P. Northeast's will-evidence and the inscriptions. The tower inscriptions, invariably mis-quoted, were read by the President as follows:

South side: R and T in flushwork roundels, on either side of: *Pray for The sowle Of roger Tillot* (capital letters mark start of new line).

North side: R and T in flushwork roundels as on S. side, on either side of the single word *Remembyr*. But on this side, a misguided attempt seems to have been made to convert the first R into a D, and to add the word *Drury* beneath *Remembyr*. This may have been done by a restorer, knowing of the Drury connexion but nothing of Roger Tillot's bequest, in 1458, 'to the building of Rougham church tower 50 marks and as much more as is possible, to be built from new'.

West side: There are shields of Drury in stone, and a canted shield with engrailed cross: Drury is not canted and looks wrong.

In Rougham, *Layers Breck Farmhouse* (Wealden) and *Eastlow Hill Farmhouse* (medieval 3-cell, one end extended in 16th cent., one in 18th) were described and shown by Sylvia Colman.

Bradfield Combust church (first visit). The reasons why George III conceived himself more indebted to Arthur Young 'than to any man in my dominions', and why the duke of Bedford found Young 'breakfasting at Bradfield surrounded by pupils from Russia, France, America, Naples, Poland, Sicily, and Portugal' were outlined by N. Scarfe, who also noted that the fine St George painted on the N. wall of the church was dated to c. 1400 by its style, and wears a fine

crest of peacock's feathers. At 28, in 1394, John, Lord de Roos, who was lord of this manor, went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and died at Paphos, in Cyprus, 'of the ill air', presumably malaria. Lord de Roos's crest was a peacock's tail, end-on, so this dating by style may be thought remarkably accurate and the painting may be regarded as a memorial to this lord de Roos by his Bradfield tenants.

17 July. Rosemary Bowden-Smith

Hacheston church (first visit). Aisle 'well-begun', 1505 (P. Northeast, Wills), confirms Cautley's dating. Stone slab in chancel commemorates members of Bull family who lived at Glevering Old Hall, 16th and 17th cents. 18th- and 19th-cent. memorials to Arcedekne family, builders and occupiers of Glevering New Hall. Chancel E. window is war memorial, by Kempe and Tower, c. 1920. Two ship graffiti: medieval one near W. doorway, other late-18th-cent. collier in vestry (former N. porch).

Glevering Hall. Distinguished grey-brick house with stables and orangery. Architect, John White, 1792–95, with extensive alterations by Decimus Burton, 1834–36, particularly to the interior. Orangery by Burton, same date. Park and garden landscaped by Repton c. 1792, his work mostly destroyed, 1937. Formerly home of Arcedeknes and Haywards. Troops in during war, then grain store, and poor state of preservation. Restoration begun by present owners, Mr and Mrs Michael Hurlock. R.B.-S. is preparing a fully-documented study of the house.

Parham church. Some difficulties of dating unresolved. Graffiti in W. archway, 15th-cent. ships (according to N. Maritime Museum), also harps etc. Extensive repairs to nave roof and 14th-cent. bell-frame completed in 1980.

Parham Moat Hall, former home of the Willoughbys, beautifully picturesque. Mr J. Gray, who lives here and works the surrounding farm, outlined its history and his family's connexions.

12 September. Norman Scarfe

Heveningham Hall. Charles Shepherd spoke of its recent history. Rooms and setting looked especially delightful in sunlight of fine morning.

Heveningham church (possibly first visit). C. 1198–1511 rectors presented by Benedictine priory of St Neots. Clerestory lights fine hammerbeam roof. Original carved figures in wallposts, glorious company of the apostles. Provisional identification, *north side*, from W.: 2nd, Philip with loaf; 3rd, Jude with boat; 4th, James minor with club or Simon with sword; 5th, Matthias with halberd; 6th, Andrew; 7th, kneeling donor. *South side*, from E.: kneeling figure (? donor's father); 2nd, Peter with key; 3rd, John the Evangelist with dragon in chalice; 4th, Matthew with money-bag; 5th, Paul with sword and book; 6th, book; 7th, scroll. Crowns and roses carved prominently in lateral cornice. Roof timbers of ? 15th-cent. S. aisle have Elizabethan or Jacobean carved brackets. Will of Sir John de Heveningham, 1500, illuminated by *Chorography* and Suckling. Wills of 1522–1540 suggest substantial rebuilding, ending with the brick clerestory: P. Northeast observes that this is one of only three or four churches in Suffolk where rebuilding of nave came as late as 1540. Mural verses in chancel for Samuel Fairclough (1625–91), minister, son of the celebrated pious pastor of Kedington.

The Earls Way. From Heveningham, members followed stretches of the line of the Earls Way. As usual, Domesday Book supplies the clue, in this case to the identity of the earl in question. Running so close to Framlingham, the Way looked at first sight like that of the Bigods. But it was obviously directed towards Bramfield Castle Yards, which belonged not to the Bigods, but to the Earls of Richmondshire and Brittany. In Domesday Book, Earl Alan of Richmond and Brittany

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not only held Bramfield, but also had a *caput* of his manor at Kettleburgh, presumably at the great moated site, OS 265607. The Earls Way was clearly the road between Kettleburgh and Bramfield Castle Yards, and its careful routing just within, and parallel to, the south boundary of Heveningham, and thus clear of the boundary of Peasenhall, one of the prosperous Bigod farms, strongly supports this identification.

Castle Yards, now a ditched and hedged square enclosure, is sited high and defensibly above the surrounding country and approached across an adjoining field by a causeway. The construction of this causeway would be worth determining by section. In the light of the part played by the local earls in the 'Anarchy' of 1135–54, members were agreed that the likely explanation of Bramfield Castle Yards was that it was the remains of another of the series of 'Adulterine' castles in Suffolk, three of which we visited in July 1976.

Bramfield church. The idea that the detached round tower ever had a church attached to it (Pevsner), was easily rebutted. The rich screen and the monuments were inspected and appraised.

Norman Scarfe,
Hon. Excursions Secretary

LECTURES

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|----------|----|--|
| February | 9 | At Ipswich: 'Norwich brasses', by Mr J. R. Greenwood, F.S.A. |
| March | 8 | At Bury St Edmunds: 'Timber-framed buildings in Suffolk', by Mrs S. Colman, B.SC.(ECON.). |
| October | 11 | At Ipswich: 'Church building in late medieval Suffolk', by Mr P. Northeast, F.S.A. |
| November | 22 | At Bury St Edmunds: 'The origin and development of the gunflint industry', by Mr S. de Lotbinière. |
| December | 6 | At Ipswich: 'The royal graves of Sutton Hoo', by Dr. R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, M.A., F.S.A., F.B.A. |

SUFFOLK INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1980

<i>Receipts</i>				£	£	<i>Payments</i>				£	£
Cash at Bank, 31 December 1979	...	...	...	...	4,738.33	<i>Proceedings:</i> Vol. xxxiv, part 3:	...	...	...	2,045.70	
Subscriptions, Nett	...	...	...	...	2,060.65	Printing	...	...	...	53.28	
Life Membership Compositions	...	...	...	...	140.00	Postage	...	...	...
Excursions Receipts	...	...	...	...	15.50	Vol. xxxiv, part 4:	...	...	...
Lectures Receipts	...	...	...	...	5.50	Editorial Expenses	...	...	...	18.44	
Bequest (L. Dow)	...	...	...	...	100.00	Wrappers	...	...	...	43.70	
Investment Income:						Purchase of back numbers	...	...	...	85.50	
British Savings Bonds, 9½ %	...	...	...	...	95.00						2,246.62
Life Membership Fund	...	...	...	...	138.30	Excursions Expenses	...	...	...		49.00
Bank Interest	...	...	...	...	423.44	Lectures Expenses	...	...	...		155.13
					656.74	Newsletter: Duplicating and Postage	...	...	...		196.52
<i>Proceedings:</i>						General Printing and Stationery	...	...	...		100.94
Sales	...	...	...	...	160.74	Subscriptions and Donations to Kindred Societies	...	...	...		91.00
Publication Grants:						Insurance	...	...	...		20.00
Anonymous	...	...	...	...	200.00	Office Expenses, Postage, etc.	...	...	...		146.49
Anonymous	...	...	...	...	15.00	Life Membership Fund	...	...	...		140.00
					375.74	Cash at Bank, 31 December 1980:					
						Current Account	...	...	...	87.72	
						Deposit Account	...	...	...	1,119.49	
						Trustee Savings Bank	...	...	...	2,739.55	
						British Savings Bonds, 9½ %	...	...	...	1,000.00	
											4,946.76
											<u>£8,092.46</u>

£8,092.46

I have audited the accounts and books of the Institute and, in my opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Institute's affairs as at 31st December 1980.

24 March 1981

(signed) D. E. COLYER, *Honorary Auditor*

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				£	£					£	£
Balance at 31 December 1979	533.57	Balance at Bank 31 December 1980	650.06	
Grant: Borough of Ipswich	50.00						
Bank Interest	...	...	...	...	66.49						
					<u>£650.06</u>						<u>£650.06</u>

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

				£	£					£	£
Balance at 31 December 1979	...	...	...	...	765.00	To General Account (Investment Interest)	...	...	...	138.30	
Subscriptions	...	...	...	...	140.00	Balance at 31 December 1980:					
Interest:						Suffolk Coastal District Council					
S.C.D.C. Bonds	...	...	...	...	94.15	13% Bonds, 7 years	...	...	...	680.00	
Income Tax refund	...	...	...	...	26.52	9½ % British Savings Bonds	...	...	...	85.00	
9½ % Savings Bonds	8.06	Trustee Savings Bank	140.00	
Trustee Savings Bank	9.57						
					<u>138.30</u>						
					<u>£1,043.30</u>						<u>£1,043.30</u>

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1980

Robinson, Mr and Mrs J. G., 8 Badgers Bank, Ipswich.
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Willis, P. W., Wycombe, Cattsfield, Stutton, Ipswich.
Wykes-Sneyd, Capt. and Mrs, Whitehouse Farm, Wissett, Halesworth.

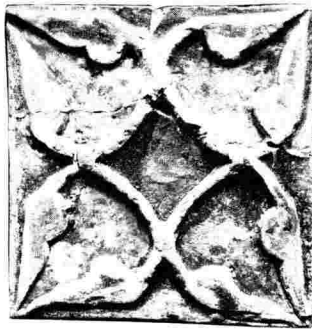
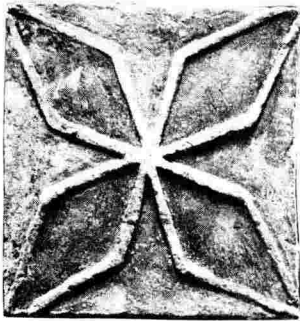
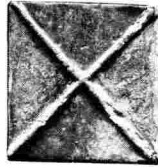
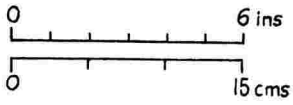
PLATE I



Polychrome relief tiles from St Edmund's Abbey.

Crown copyright
R. GEM AND L. KEEN

PLATE II



Polychrome relief tiles from All Saints, Pavement, York.

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R. GEM AND L. KEEN

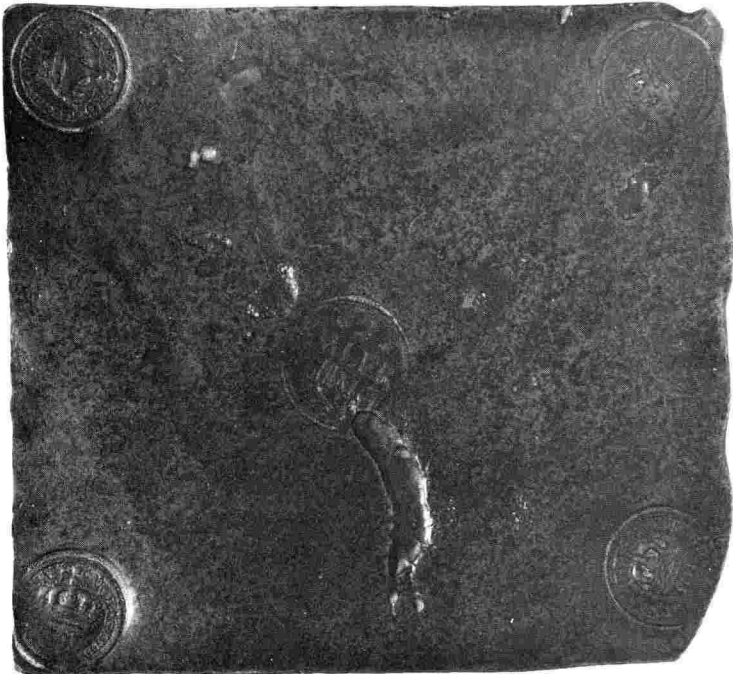
PLATE IIIa



Hill Farm, Laxfield from the north, May 1975. One end of the backhouse can be seen on the left.

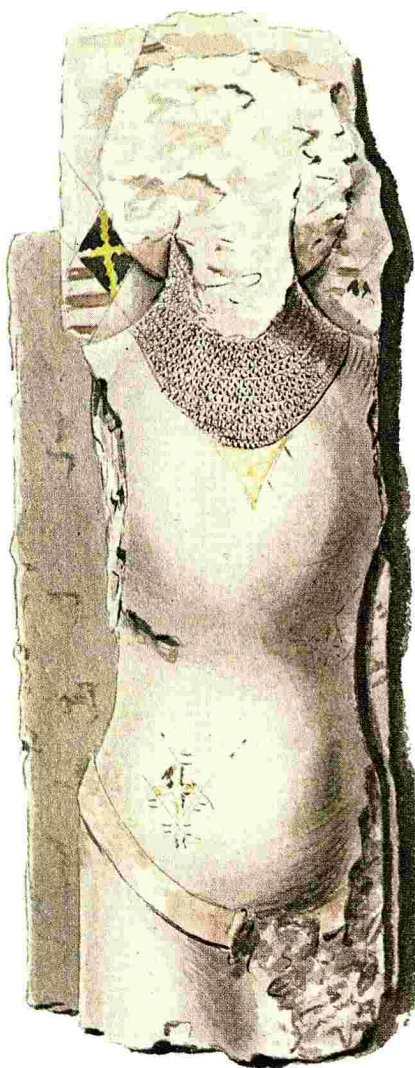
I. JOHNSON

PLATE IIIb



Swedish platemoney from Orfordness (scale approximately 1:2).

Crown copyright
D. SHERLOCK



Johnson Del.

Monumental Figures, dug up in Rendlesham Church. 1786.

J. BLATCHLY