

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 2013

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*object drawings by* DONNA WREATHALL

THIS IS A selection of the new discoveries reported in 2013. Information on these has been incorporated into the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record), which is maintained by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council at Bury St Edmunds. Where available, the Record number is quoted at the beginning of each entry. The Suffolk Historic Environment Record is now partially accessible online via the Heritage Gateway website ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)) and most of the excavation/evaluation reports are now also available online via the Archaeological Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/>).

A high proportion of the finds is now being recorded through the national Portable Antiquities Scheme, the Suffolk part of which is also based in the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council. Further details and images of many of the finds can be found on the Scheme's website (<http://finds.org.uk/database>) and for many of the finds listed here the PAS reference number is included in the text. During 2013 the PAS finds in Suffolk were recorded by Andrew Brown, Faye Minter, Andrew Woods and Gemma Stewart. Following requests from metal detector users, we have removed all grid references from entries concerning finds reported by them.

We continue to be grateful to all those who contribute information for this annual list.

### *Abbreviations:*

- Mdf Metal detector find  
 PAS Portable Antiquities Scheme (see above). The Suffolk contact for this national scheme is Andrew Brown (tel. 01284 741236; e-mail [andrew.brown2@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.brown2@suffolk.gov.uk))  
 SCCAS Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, 9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds IP33 1RX (tel. 01284 741230; e-mail [archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk))  
 SHER Suffolk Historic Environment Record (see above)

<b>Pa</b>	Palaeolithic	<b>Ro</b>	Roman
<b>Me</b>	Mesolithic	<b>Sx</b>	Saxon
<b>Ne</b>	Neolithic	<b>Md</b>	Medieval
<b>BA</b>	Bronze Age	<b>PM</b>	Post-Medieval
<b>IA</b>	Iron Age	<b>Un</b>	Period unknown
<b>Pr</b>	Prehistoric		

## INDIVIDUAL FINDS AND DISCOVERIES

*Alderton* (ADT 018). **Sx.** Two copper-alloy brooches, small-long types, (SF-825BD8, SF-81CBA7) and a hooked tag (SF-8140E0) found close to previously recorded early Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds. (Mdf).

*Alderton* (ADT 024). **Sx.** Contemporary copy of a silver coin, a Series R sceatta with copper-alloy core, c. 710–65 (SF-9C4823). (Mdf).

*Bacton* (BAC 034). **Me.** Heavily patinated complete flint tranchet axe (SF-8EEBD6). (M. Clark).

*Badingham* (BDG 012). **Ro, Md.** Pottery including Roman grey wares, samian, Oxford colour-coated and medieval coarse wares, a tessera cut from tile, copper-alloy cosmetic mortar (SF-9EA2B3) and 1st- to 4th-century coins. (Mdf).

*Bedfield* (BED 019). **Ro.** Pottery including samian, 3rd- and 4th-century coins, copper-alloy bracelet fragment (SF-6307B6), spoon fragment (SF-623961) and a lead steelyard weight. (Mdf).

*Beyton* (BEY 017). **Sx.** Two fragments of a copper-alloy equal-armed brooch of 5th century date (SF-770321). (Mdf).

*Braiseworth* (BRA 006). **Sx.** Coins: a Series Quid sceatta, c. 725–45 (SF-BD55C1), pennies of Eadwald c. 796–98 (SF-BCA6B5) and Aethelstan, c. 827–50 (SF-BE27D7, SF-BE4435) and a silver denier of Charles the Bald, King of the West Franks, c. 840–77 (SF-BD9681). (Mdf).

*Brockley* (BKY 032). **BA.** An incomplete copper-alloy Middle Bronze Age small side-looped socketed spearhead of Rowland (1976) Group 2 (SF-044416). (Mdf).

*Brome and Oakley* (BRM 017). **Md.** Circular lead seal matrix, + SIGILL' GILEBRTI ANGEL (seal of Gilbert Angel) (NMS-B08D51). (Mdf).

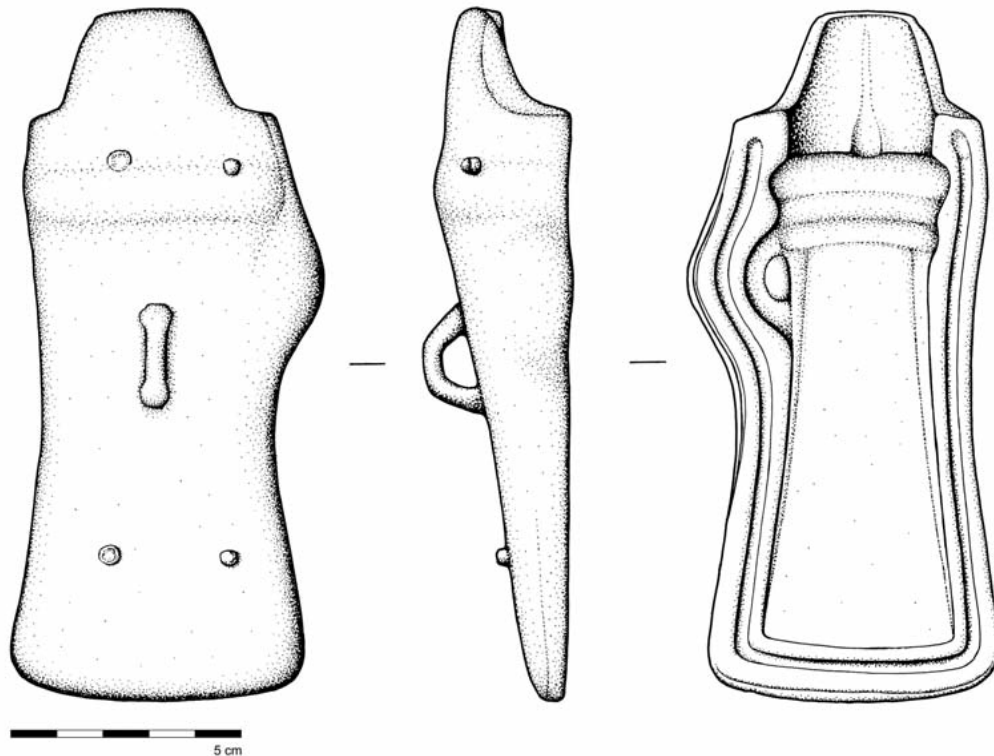


FIG. 118 – Bronze Age copper-alloy mould for socketed axe from Sutton.

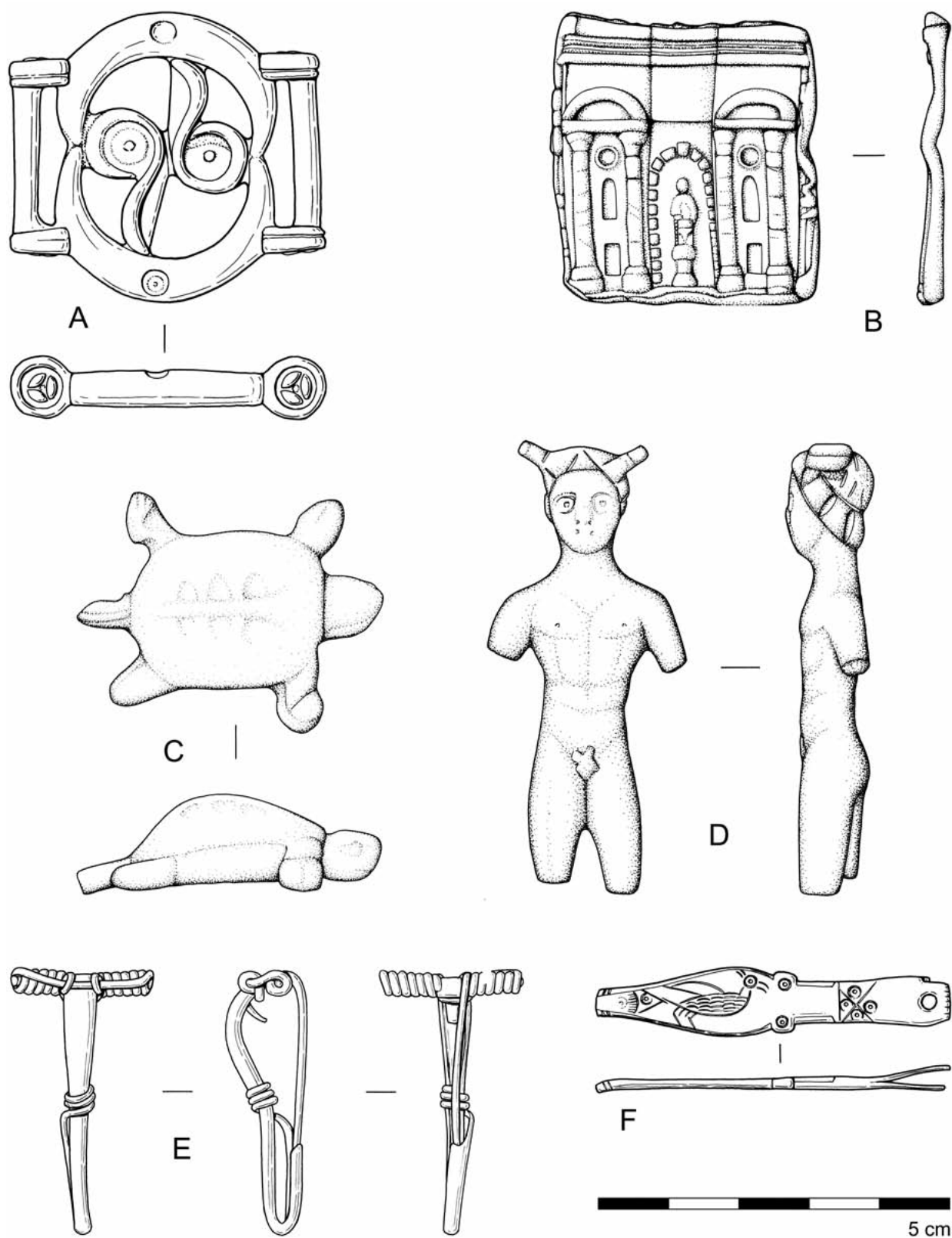


FIG. 119 – Iron Age copper-alloy strap union from Fressingfield (A); Roman lead plaque from Clare (B); copper-alloy figurines from Little Blakenham (C) and Great Barton (D); brooch from Redgrave (E) and strap end from Sutton (F).

*Bromeswell* (BML 041). Ne. Complete polished flint axe (SF-E339C8). (Marc Osborne).

*Burgate* (BUR 036). Sx. Copper-alloy 5th-century cruciform brooch, (SF-205BF7) and a wrist clasp, *Hines* form B18f (SF-20A577) (Fig. 120, A, C). Two fragments of copper-alloy Borre-style disc brooches, 10th century, (SF-1EF0D3, SF-1EE304). (Mdf).

*Burstall* (BUS 009). Sx, Md. Pottery including Ipswich and Thetford-type wares. Lead seal matrix, pointed oval shape, SIGILLV SE[C?]R, presumably 'secret seal' (SF-4711F3). (Mdf).

*Bury St Edmunds* (BSE 452). Ro. Copper-alloy enamelled brooch in the form of a sitting cockerel (SF-731AF5). (Colin Pendleton).

*Cavenham* (CAM 061). Ne. A small but complete polished stone axehead of a basic igneous rock, almost black, probably an olivine with diorites (SF-238B75). (George Goddard).

*Cavenham* (CAM 062). Sx. Silver coin, sceatta, Primary Series A, probably A2, c 680–700 (SF-776106). (Mdf).

*Clare* (CLA 066). Sx. Copper-alloy link with a gilded front decorated with an interlace design, probably 8th century (SF-31F506) (Fig. 120, B). (Mdf).

*Clare* (CLA 083). Ro. Lead plaque with a relief design depicting a statue in a tripartite building, perhaps a temple (SF-301791) (Fig. 119, B). (Mdf).

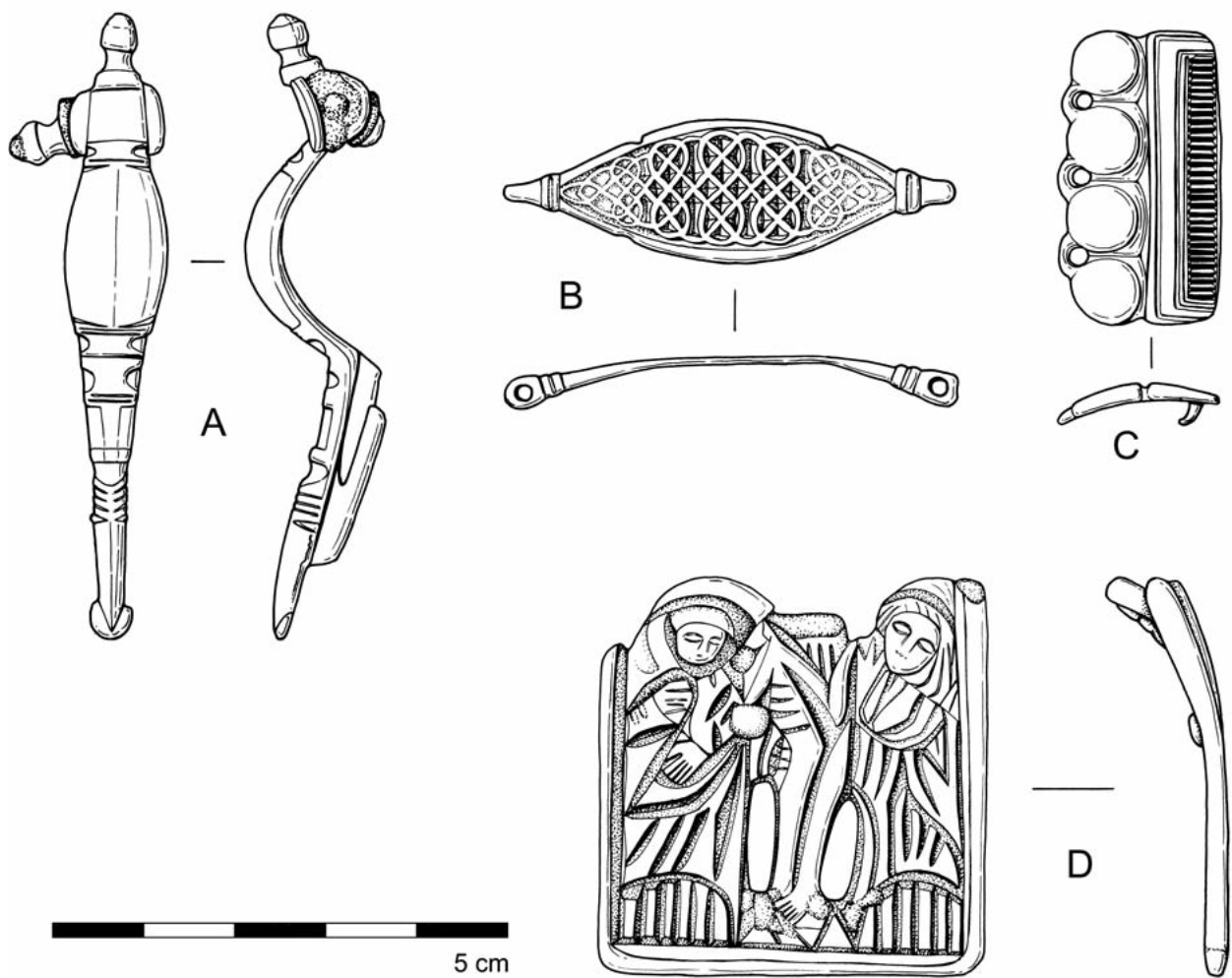


FIG. 120 – Anglo-Saxon brooch and wrist clasp from Burgate (A, C); link from Clare (B) and medieval plaque from Wetheringsett (D).

*Creting St Mary* (CRM 048). **Ro.** Fragment of a 4th-century copper-alloy crossbow brooch (SF-A65EF0) and 3rd- and 4th-century coins. (Mdf).

*East Bergholt* (BNT 067). **BA.** A small Late Bronze Age ‘founder’s’ hoard consisting of a fragment of a socketed copper-alloy axe head, an amorphous fragment of copper-alloy metal-working debris and a fragment of a copper-alloy tanged and collared leather working tool (SF-A786E1). This may be one of several hoards deposited in close proximity. (Mdf).

*Foxhall* (FXL 064). **IA.** Silver unit of the Icenic, Early Face/Horse series Bury type, as *Hobbs* nos 3524-3527 (SF-0B5123). (Mdf).

*Fressingfield* (FSF 074). **IA.** Copper-alloy strap union with figure-of-eight plate and vertical bars (SF-0A04F3) (Fig. 119, A). (Mdf).

*Gisleham* (GSE 088). **Sx.** Silver penny of Aethelstan of East Anglia, *North* 437, c. 827 (NMS-8F80A4). (Mdf).

*Great Barton* (BRG 047). **Ro.** Incomplete copper-alloy figurine depicting Mercury with winged cap (SF-FBCE78) (Fig. 119, D). (Mdf).

*Great Finborough* (FNG 041). **Ne.** An incomplete polished flint axe head, missing the butt end, of mottled grey flint (SF-9ADC83). (P. Smith).

*Great Glemham* (GLG 036). **Sx.** An incomplete silver sceatta, Series E, Primary phase and possibly variety G3 (SF-0637D8). (Mdf).

*Hessett* (HTT 037). **Me.** A complete tranche-type axehead of slightly patinated mottled grey/black flint (SF-7DC110). (K. Brett).

*Hollesley* (HLY 119). **IA.** Copper-alloy core from a plated copy of a British J (‘Norfolk Wolf’) gold stater, similar to *Van Arsdell* 610-5 (SF-15F597). (Mdf).

*Hoxne* (HXN 077). **Sx.** A Series E (‘Porcupine’ type) sceatta, probably Secondary phase c. 715–50 (SF-69EE53). (C. McGregor).

*Lavenham* (LVM 100). **IA.** Gold stater of Cunobelin, Classic Series A, as *Hobbs* no. 1829 (SF-813F85). (Mdf).

*Little Blakenham* (BLL 016). **Ro, Sx, Md.** Copper-alloy figurine of a turtle or tortoise, perhaps associated with the god Mercury (SF-35D186) (Fig. 119, C). Fragment of an early Anglo-Saxon small-long brooch (SF-363528). Circular lead seal matrix, missing part of the legend due to crushing, ]IUH’ISL’FRAVN (reverse barred)CE[. This may have been [S’]JOH[ANN]ISL[E]FRAUNCE, John the Frenchman. (SF-2550D2). (Mdf).

*Mickfield* (MCK 018). **Sx.** A worn and corroded silver sceatta, probably of Series R8 type, c. 710–65 (SF-57D1A5). (Mdf).

*Mildenhall* (MNL 142). **IA.** An incomplete copper-alloy La Tene I brooch, type IBc, of 4th to 3rd century BC (SF-A56522). (Mdf).

*Nettlestead* (NTT 017). **IA.** A silver coin of the Icenic, boar/horse type, *Van Arsdell* 659 (SF-2E7147). (Mdf).

*Nettlestead* (NTT 018). **Md.** A circular lead seal matrix reading \*S’ROBI:DEDENE, (seal of Robert Dedene or de Dene). A Robert Den was taxed 10d in Nettlestead in 1327 (SF-8DF2A4). (Mdf).

*Newmarket* (EXG 103). **IA.** Gold Gallo-Belgic E stater of the Ambiani, as *Van Arsdell* 52-1 (SF-CD2551). (Mdf).

*Newmarket* (NKT 051). **IA.** A copper-alloy core from a plated stater of Early Freckenham type as *Talbot and Leins* 2010, pls 5–6; (SF-CDCCC7). (Mdf).

*Old Newton with Dagworth* (ONW 028). **Md.** Circular lead seal matrix, + SIGIL’ SEGALLI (Seal of ?Segar or ?Sewall, perhaps a variant or muddled version of either) (NMS-5DE0D7). (Mdf).

*Ousden* (OUS 015). **Md.** Circular lead seal matrix that reads S’TOME WARD, (seal of Thomas Ward) (SF-91EA23). (Mdf).

*Poslingford* (PSG 021). **Sx.** A worn silver sceatta, Series R8, c. 710–65 (SF-68DEB2). (Mdf).

*Redgrave* (RGV 058). **Ro.** Coins of 1st to 4th century; copper-alloy P-shaped brooch with iron axis bar, spring and pin, of a form more commonly found in eastern and northern Europe, probably 2nd or 3rd century (SF-06BE61) (Fig. 119, E). (Mdf).

*Shottisham* (STT 051). **Md.** Circular lead seal matrix +SIGILL' ROB' EmELE[JA[S?], the letter m being Lombardic and the Es all reversed, presumably a personal seal for a Robert but the surname remains uncertain (SF-124126). (Mdf).

*St Andrew Ilketshall* (ISA 013). **Md.** Circular lead seal matrix, + S' hELLE FILII RICARDI PERES (Seal of Ellis son of Richard Peres) (NMS-5C19C1). (Mdf).

*Sutton* (SUT 022). **Ro.** Incomplete copper-alloy strap end missing the terminal, which may have been bifurcated for use as a nail cleaner, and decorated with an incised bird, probably intended to represent a peacock, and punched dot and circle motifs, probably 4th century (SF-82ED06) (Fig. 119, F). (Mdf).

*Sutton* (SUT 224). **BA.** One valve from a two-piece copper-alloy socketed axe mould, Late Bronze Age (SF-839555) (Fig. 118). (Mdf).

*Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet* (WMH 005). **Ro.** Silver finger-ring of Henig's Type XI with a D-shaped hoop and broad, flat, sub-rectangular bezel with engraved letters APL, perhaps the initials of a classical three-part individual's name (SF-2E8658). Also copper-alloy brooches including an enamelled bird with open wings and a hooked beak (SF-4B3854) and a rabbit with two small enamelled cells in the shape of rabbits facing each other, probably to represent her young (SF-4AA7C4). (Mdf).

*Wetheringsett cum Brockford* (WCB 073). **Sx.** A gold Merovingian tremissis of Dutta/Wicus, c. 600–75 (SF-F3F683) and four silver sceatta: a primary Series C1inv, c. 695–710 (SF-43E7C4), a primary Series F, c. 695–710 (SF-42EEB4), a primary Saroaldo Series, c. 705–15 (SF-437647) and a secondary phase Series E ('Porcupine' type) c. 710–50 (SF-444285). (Mdf).

*Wetheringsett cum Brockford* (WCB 074). **Md.** Incomplete copper-alloy decorative plaque depicting the crucifixion with the Virgin Mary and St John (SF-EADF13) (Fig. 120, D). (Mdf).

*Withersfield* (WTH 038). **Sx.** An assemblage of 35 objects, probably from an early Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial, recovered whilst metal detecting on a development site; the objects were found together as a group on a spoil heap. The group consists of two copper-alloy cruciform brooches with four detached side knobs; an incomplete iron girdle hanger; a copper-alloy ring; a decorated bone spindle whorl; an amber bead and 21 glass beads of various colours; an iron blade fragment; and another iron fragment (SF-731C54). (Mdf).

*Wordwell* (WRW 003). **Md.** A pointed-oval lead seal reading +S'SABINE GILB'T with a bifurcated floral motif after the letter T (seal of Sabina Gilbert) (SF-57F441). (Mdf).

*Worlingworth* (WGW 029). **Sx.** A very worn silver sceatta, Continental Series D, Type 2C, c. 700–15 (SF-CD39B7). (Mdf).

## SURVEY

*Rendlesham*, Naunton Hall Estate (TM/3253; EKE 019-022, RLM 012-014, 036-046, 048-053, 056-058). Metal detecting survey and geophysics (magnetometry) was initiated in 2008 after the landowner reported regular looting of arable fields on the estate. After an initial season it became clear that both techniques were producing good results and the project was extended to 2014 to cover the whole estate, with minimum publicity in order to protect the sites and the landowner's privacy.

The total area covered by the metal detecting survey is around 160ha on the E side of the

Deben valley. Cataloguing and recording is not yet fully complete but a general breakdown is possible. A low density of prehistoric finds (65 pieces including pottery, flint implements and occasional metalwork) was followed by several sites spanning the Roman period (around 990 finds); in some areas however the Roman objects are likely to be pieces reused by the Anglo-Saxons. A further 990 items are attributed to the Anglo-Saxon period; the range and quality of this material, particularly in the 6th to 8th centuries, leaves no doubt that this is the *vicus regius*, a royal settlement as mentioned by Bede in his *Historia Ecclesiastica* in about 660. The early Anglo-Saxon activity covers a large area, perhaps up to 50ha, and includes evidence for burial (both cremations and inhumations) as well as a range of activities such as precious metal working and trade associated with the settlement. Over 200 coins is an exceptional assemblage for the period; other outstanding finds include a gold with garnet pyramid-shaped sword fitting, gold jewellery, and pieces with close decorative links to the Sutton Hoo assemblages. Although the status of the area declines in the later Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, the 800 finds indicate at least one previously unknown settlement and provide an unusually well recorded assemblage for future study.

Magnetometry survey has focused on the areas of Anglo-Saxon finds to cover some 46 ha. There is a good correlation between areas with a low density of finds and fewer potential features in the magnetometry results. A series of small evaluation trenches has confirmed the validity of the results and provided some dating evidence, including a late Iron Age enclosure, early Anglo-Saxon sunken featured buildings and linear systems of early or middle Anglo-Saxon, late Anglo-Saxon and medieval date.

Jude Plouviez and Faye Minter, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service,  
with support from English Heritage, Sutton Hoo Society,  
Society of Antiquaries of London, Royal Archaeological Institute  
and Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

*Barrow*, Land Adjacent to The Green (TL/7663; BRR 054). An archaeological evaluation and excavation conducted ahead of redevelopment. Previous evaluation recorded ditches in the E of the site containing artefacts of Romano-British date with the presence of daub, faunal remains, charcoal and a small quantity of ceramics suggesting nearby occupation. A second phase of evaluation was carried out following clearance of standing buildings from the site on its S boundary. This revealed very truncated structural remains of Middle or Late Iron Age date.

The excavation of an area 30m by 30m located in the NE of the site recorded features seen in previous evaluation works with a further undated ditch also revealed. Small quantities of lava quern from one of the ditches as well as charred grains of oats, barley and wheat recovered by environmental sampling suggest cereal processing occurred at the site during this period. Cattle remains from meat consumption were also present. Two undated post-holes or pits might belong to this period. These ditches and artefacts are thought to represent agrarian settlement of Romano-British date, perhaps at the periphery of a small farmstead which went out of use in the 2nd century AD. The retrieval of a single sherd of Middle or Late Bronze Age pottery hints at possible earlier activity at the site. The influence of Roman agricultural practice is hinted at by the occurrence of cereal species such as bread wheat.

David Adams, NPS Archaeology, for Hopkins Homes Ltd; report no 2014/1208.

*Bury St Edmunds*, The Clock House, 109 Northgate Street (TL/8564; BSE 432). Monitoring of footing trenches for a small extension to the rear of the Clock House (a late Georgian

building located within the core of the medieval town), found a concentration of archaeological features that predated the current building. The features included a well, possible malting oven, pits and post-holes. The features were not closely dated but probably relate to occupation activity on the site during the medieval and post-medieval periods and are typical of urban backyards of that period.

David Gill, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Mr and Mrs M. Dobel; report no 2013/110.

*Bury St Edmunds*, Manson House (TL/8564; BSE 381). Further excavation and monitoring, continuing the works carried out in 2012 during residential development, identified a series of medieval pits and two probable malting ovens of clay construction dating to the 12th–14th centuries. A small assemblage of early medieval material hinted at an earlier phase of activity. The W end of the site had been heavily disturbed by gravel quarrying with large pits backfilled with dark soil in the post-medieval period.

Andrew Tester, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Kier Construction; report no. 2013/070

*Campsea Ashe*, Land at Ullswater Road (TM/3255; CAA 032). Three areas were investigated in advance of a residential development, revealing a number of archaeological features. Evidence for Early Bronze Age activity on the site was represented by the fragmentary remains of an urned cremation that was recovered during the preceding evaluation. A small assemblage of prehistoric flint was recovered as residual finds in later features. Two separate phases of Iron Age pottery were also recovered, mostly from later features. The majority of the dated features are from the 1st and 2nd centuries and consist of boundary ditches forming part of a rectilinear system. A number of pits and post-holes are also present. No buildings were positively identified although the quantities of pottery recovered from both the pits and ditches would indicate occupation in the immediate vicinity. A series of eight complete or near complete animal burials, consisting of a horse, a pig or boar, and six cows, were recovered from a line of individual pits, mostly under a ditch. Dating evidence is sparse, with only occasional fragments of prehistoric pottery in the pit fills, but seven of the burials are sealed beneath ditch fill dated to the 1st to early 2nd century. There is no indication of a cause of death but it is quite possible that these are sacrifices; alternatively, they may simply be farm stock considered unfit for consumption, and buried along a boundary.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Flagship Housing Group.

*Cavenham*, Marston Pit Quarry (TL/7672; CAM 058). Archaeological investigation was conducted on the 3.3ha site following evaluation trenching, and revealed evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval inhabitation.

Prehistoric activity was largely contained within the N half of the site, with the earliest human presence represented by seventeen worked flints dating between the Early Neolithic and Early Iron Age recovered from the subsoil and as residual items within later features. Two pairs of pits contained refitting pottery sherds and organic midden waste and could be dated to the second half of the Early Iron Age. These possibly represent settlement margins from a timeline that has hitherto been absent from the broader landscape picture. Twenty-five additional pits and post-holes could not be assigned to period, although eighteen of these contained fills with burnt flint in proximity to the paired pits, and may also be prehistoric.

Historic-era evidence consisted of two ditches that appear to have bounded a 19th-century oak plantation, perhaps in response to soil reduction resulting from long-term intensive rabbit



burrowing evident across the site. Lastly, wartime activities were illustrated by two large pits that contained clearance debris including fragments of mortar rounds.

Marcus Brittain, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, for Allen Newport Ltd.

*Clare*, Clare Castle Country Park (TL/7745; CLA 080). Five trenches were excavated by local volunteers as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Managing a Masterpiece project. All the trenches produced preserved archaeological deposits, despite the presence of extensive engineering works and buildings of 19th and 20th century date associated with the railway. These removed some of the later medieval layers across part of the inner bailey, but earlier deposits did survive intact beneath them, overlain by thick layers of modern ballast and hardcore.

The medieval archaeological remains revealed by the excavations included a large ditch or pit containing domestic refuse dating to the late 12th to 14th century (near the entrance linking the inner and outer castle baileys); five graves dating to the mid 11th to late 13th centuries (in the centre of the inner bailey), one of which was complete with the head resting on a pillow stone; plus fragmentary human remains from a pit. A stone building was also found, originally part of the first phase of the castle in the 11th–12th centuries, but refurbished with decorated tile and glass in the 13th/14th century while Elizabeth de Burgh was resident, and demolished in the later 15th or early 16th century. A number of post-holes and remains of mortar are indicative of an earlier structure on site, possibly the remains of the original chapel in use prior to the construction of the priory. A Roman ditch was also recorded running parallel with the River Stour (between the motte and the railway line).

Carenza Lewis and Catherine Ranson, Access Cambridge Archaeology.

*Clare*, Land E of The Granary (TL/7645; CLA 079). Excavation fieldwork was carried out following an evaluation and geophysical survey in 2009 (Fig. 121). Significant quantities of Mesolithic and Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint were recovered from the site, and were probably produced close by. Only small amounts of prehistoric pottery were recovered. The main phase of occupation appears to date from the 12th century into the early post-medieval period, with activity becoming more intensive towards the street. Large-scale quarrying of clay and an associated 16th-century brick and tile kiln (Fig. 122) were uncovered, along with four later medieval/early post-medieval houses with boundary ditches, with backyard post-hole structures and frequent large pits. An earlier large channel was recorded running the width of the site along the street frontage, and this may represent both quarrying of river terrace deposits for the construction of Stoke Road and an attempt to drain this lower-lying part of the excavation area.

The finds recovered from this main period of activity include large quantities of pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material, as well as iron utensils and fixings, imported lava millstone fragments, and over one hundred small finds, consisting mainly of coins, two medieval keys, brooches, knives, trade tokens and garment fixings. In the NW part of the site agricultural activity and low levels of quarrying were recorded in the form of stock enclosures, and there were also several very deep medieval quarry pits. In this area later post-medieval quarrying on a large scale was also recorded, as well as what appeared to be mechanically dug test pit strips running off to the E. There was scant evidence for earlier features on the site, with one candidate being a stratigraphically early ditch, although this may represent a short-lived medieval cut prior to the site's more intensive occupation. A limited number of Roman and Saxon small finds were recovered during metal-detection of the excavation area.

Rob Brooks, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Charles Church.



FIG. 121 – Clare, Land east of The Granary (CLA 079). Site plan.



FIG. 122 – Clare, Land east of The Granary (CLA 079). Archaeomagnetic dating in progress on the 16th-century brick and tile kiln (photo: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team).

Coddenham, Shrubland Park Quarry (TM/1253; CDD 070). Further investigations were completed in 2013 to fully reveal the Iron Age occupation previously examined in 2010 and 2012. An arterial drove-way, consisting of ditches spaced *c.* 5m apart, curved across the site with large areas of clay extraction pits on either side. A large circular structure with a diameter of 13m was located near one of the extraction pit areas. No internal posts were found, so a circular enclosure or activity area is suspected rather than a roofed building. Other informal

circular and sub-square post and stake-hole settings adjacent might also indicate specialist activity areas. Nine four-post structures were recognised and these were widely spaced across the site.

A number of medium to large sized pits were cut into the underlying clay and many of these were rich in artefacts. Perhaps the most interesting find was an antler whistle (Fig. 123). This is the first Iron Age whistle found in England,



FIG. 123 – Coddenham, Shrubland Park Quarry (CDD 070). Iron Age antler whistle (photo: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team).

the closest other example coming from the Isle of Bute in Scotland. Other antler whistles of a similar period have been found across Europe.

The large amounts of clay extracted from across the site could have been used for a variety of purposes, such as daub for buildings. The large quantities of pottery and frequent ceramic loomweights recovered however might suggest that these were being manufactured on site.

A separate area to the N of the main Iron Age activity was also investigated and a number of ditches, possibly of Roman date, were encountered. Four Saxon graves were unexpectedly encountered in this area, three of them with iron blades. These graves are *c.* 450m away from the main Saxon cemetery CDD 050 to the NW and are thus likely to be part of a small separate cemetery, rather than outliers from this other large and high status burial ground.

Jezz Meredith, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Brett's Aggregates.

*Debenham*, Cherry Tree Inn (TM/1762; DBN 132). A second phase of archaeological monitoring revealed the presence of 4 un-urned and one urned cremations of Middle Bronze Age date. These remains can be added to those found during monitoring works in 2012 (5 urned cremations containing the remains of 7 individuals and 7 unurned cremations containing remains from 15 individuals) and the initial evaluation in 2010 (one urned and one unurned cremation, both of single individuals). The cremation burial site now occupies an area measuring some 30m by 70m with the likelihood that it extends still further.

Simon Cass, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Highland Ltd; report no. 2013/077

*Elveden*, Elveden Bypass, A11 Fiveways to Thetford Road Improvement Scheme (TL/8179; ELV 085 and ELV 086). Excavations on the route of the new Elveden Bypass revealed extensive evidence for Iron Age and Roman rural settlement in an area of the Breckland landscape where there has previously been little opportunity for large-scale archaeological investigation.

The earliest features were a group of pits containing Early Iron Age (*c.* 700–300 BC) pottery, one of which also contained a large assemblage of butchered animal bone, possibly feasting waste. By the later Iron Age (*c.* 300 BC to AD 43) the area was occupied by scattered small subsistence farmsteads set within a landscape of ditch-defined fields and tracks, and predominantly dependent on pastoral farming. Each farmstead comprised one or two roundhouses with associated storage and rubbish pits; a watering hole and a group of pits containing deliberately placed deposits were also identified. At least two such settlements were identified within the limits of the stripped road corridor, with other groups of pits containing domestic debris likely to relate to additional roundhouses just outside the excavation area.

In the early Romano-British period (*c.* AD 43–150), the landscape was transformed by the establishment of an ordered system of rectilinear land divisions forming fields, boundaries and a network of trackways. The overall picture is of more intensive management of the landscape, possibly connected with a shift away from the subsistence-level pastoralism that had characterised the later Iron Age and towards the production of tradable agricultural surpluses. Nevertheless, the continuation of earlier boundary alignments, the retention of a division of the farmland into core infield and less intensively used outfield areas, and the location of the main domestic 'zone' of the farm indicate that there was not a complete break with the past. This Roman farm and associated agricultural landscape were maintained and developed over the next three centuries, with evidence recovered for numerous ancillary buildings, storage and rubbish pits, ovens, several burials and large assemblages of pottery and animal bone. Although the main domestic building was not located within the site, there

is evidence that it was close by; a very large quarry pit in the core of the estate was probably dug to extract flint nodules for use in its construction.

By the late Roman period (*c.* AD 250–400), the economy of the estate had shifted to a pronounced emphasis on arable production, indicated by six well-preserved corn driers (Fig. 124), a sizeable post-built granary and adjacent aisled barn, and a shift in the alignment of trackways to facilitate import and export of goods. Plant macrofossils suggest that the site was a ‘processing hub’, receiving batches of semi-processed grain for drying and processing from agricultural areas in the surrounding river valleys. An unusual pit containing high-status artefacts including fourteen coins, a glass bead and a jet bead, as well as articulated animal remains, also contained possibly the latest artefact from the site: a coin of Valentinian (AD 364–75).

The Elveden Bypass excavations offer the first opportunity to study the agricultural economy of this distinctive landscape, characterised by its thin soils and lack of water, during the Iron Age and Roman periods. Contrary to expectations, the area does not appear to have been marginal in agricultural terms.

Nick Pankhurst and Matt Lees, Pre-Construct Archaeology,  
for Birse Civils on behalf of the Highways Agency.

*Elveden*, A11 Fiveways to Thetford Road Improvement Scheme (TL/8078; ELV 088). A further watching brief during topsoil stripping recorded two cremation burials, one of which was associated with sherds of a semi-complete grog-tempered Middle Bronze Age vessel with fingertip-impressed decoration on the rim top and a series of knobs pinched out of the vessel wall below the rim.

Karl Hanson, Pre-Construct Archaeology,  
for Birse Civils on behalf of the Highways Agency.

*Felixstowe*, South Seafront and Martello Tower P (TM/2933; FEX 294). An archaeological investigation was carried out in an area of land lying between Langer Road and the sea wall to the S of the town of Felixstowe in advance of land improvements associated with a

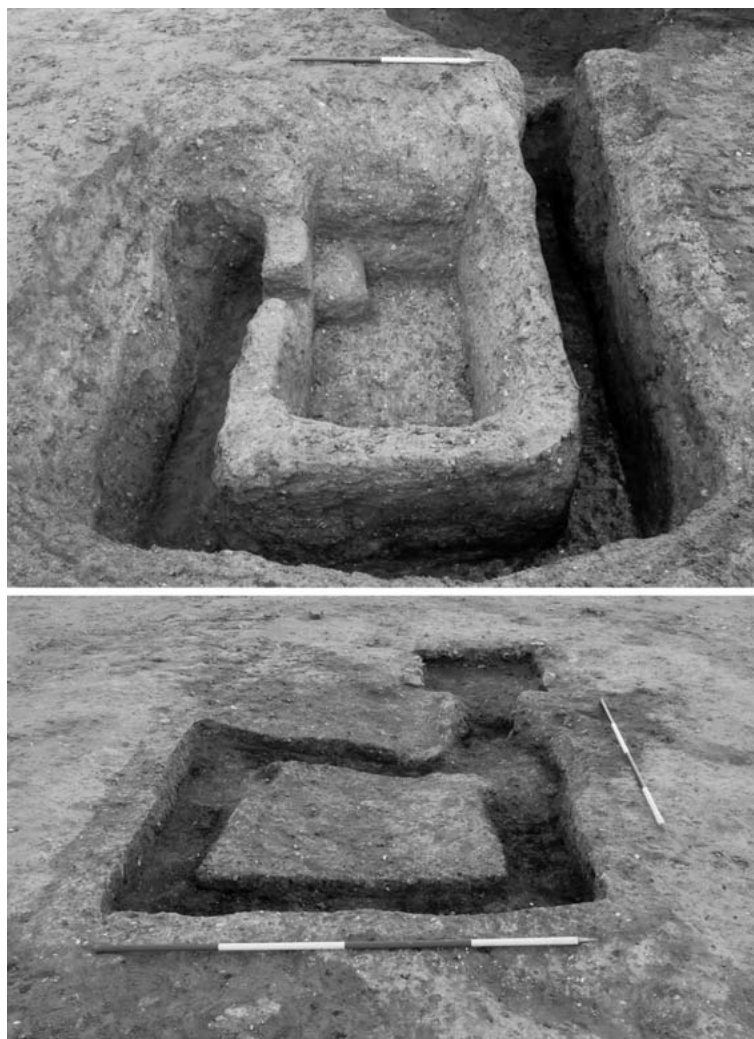


FIG. 124 – Elveden, A11 Fiveways to Thetford Road Improvement Scheme (ELV 085 and ELV 086). Roman corn driers (*photo: Pre-Construct Archaeology*).

residential development. The investigation comprised a series of small excavations intended to establish the extent of a large ditch encountered during a trenched evaluation of the site. The ditch was exposed and found to run roughly parallel with the nearby sea-wall before terminating close to the junction of Manor Road and Manor Terrace. It has been interpreted as a defensive ditch excavated to hinder an invasion force from getting inland from the beach. It is thought to date from WWII although no conclusive dating evidence was recovered.

In conjunction with the investigation, an English Heritage Level 2 recording of a series of concrete pads located within the military compound surrounding the nearby Martello Tower was undertaken. The majority of these concrete blocks are the anchor points for guide wires and stays that formerly supported masts and antennas mounted on the roof of the tower during its use as a Wireless Telegraphy Station in the early part of the 20th century.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for J.S. Bloor (Sudbury) Ltd; report no 2013/083

*Flixton*, Flixton Park Quarry (TM/3086; FLN 091). The continuing expansion of the working area at Flixton Park Quarry involved soil-stripping over an area of *c.* 3ha during 2013 (Fig. 125). Features relating to a number of archaeological periods were recorded. While only preliminary post-excavation work has been undertaken at this juncture, the principal periods represented are as follows:

**Early Neolithic:** A rectilinear ‘long-enclosure’ measuring *c.* 108m NE–SW and *c.* 20m NW–SE with two entrances: one towards the N of the E end and the second towards the W end of the N side. While no detailed finds work has been undertaken, a moderate assemblage of ceramic finds and worked flint was recovered and will help to provide secure dating. Inclusion in this phase is currently based purely on typology and the presence in an earlier

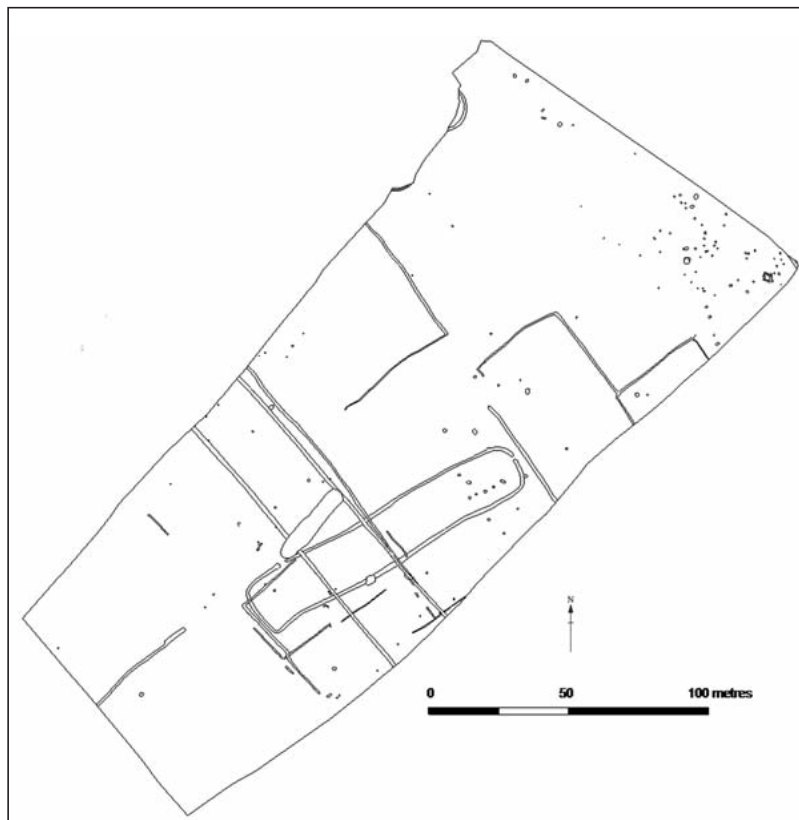


FIG. 125 – Flixton, Flixton Park Quarry (FLN 091). Site plan.

phase of the quarry (*c.* 125m to the NW) of a long barrow associated with Mildenhall Ware pottery with which the enclosure may be broadly contemporary and forming part of an integrated funerary landscape.

**Later Neolithic:** A significant assemblage of later Neolithic Grooved Ware was recovered from a pit, mostly from a single tub-shaped vessel.

**Early Bronze Age:** A cluster of small pits produced Beaker pottery and worked flint consistent with deposits elsewhere in the quarry which have been interpreted as domestic in character.

**Post-medieval:** Features included two ditches forming part of a drove-way known from a late 18th-century estate

map to link the former Homersfield to Flixton road to the N with the clayland pastures to the S. Other post-medieval features included isolated pits, probably tree-holes and a large, 30m long by 8.5m wide, trough marking where the stumps from the removal of a stand of trees were buried in the second half of the 20th century (information from the present tenant farmer).

Undated: Features remaining undated included pits, post-holes and ditches, the latter including a series of rectilinear fields/enclosures which represent the continuation of previously recorded boundaries to the N. While artefactual evidence was sparse, it is thought that a later Iron Age to early Roman date is the most likely scenario.

Stuart Boulter, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Cemex UK Materials Ltd.

*Fornham All Saints*, Land to the NW of Bury St Edmunds (TL/8367; FAS 050). A two-phase evaluation consisting of 276 trenches was conducted at land to the NW of Bury St Edmunds, located close to the S edge of the large multi-phased prehistoric monument complex that includes the Fornham Cursus (FAS 004).

Relatively concentrated archaeological horizons were identified in the N and S portions of proposed development area, whilst further activity was recorded sparsely across the remainder of the site. A collection of circular Iron Age pits of a form seen elsewhere along the Lark Valley (e.g. ERL 147, ERL 222, FSG 017) dominated the N portion of the site, although a number of ditches possibly relating to an earlier prehistoric landscape or later medieval field system were also recorded.

A single large pit was investigated towards the central–N portion of the site and produced an inverse arrowhead of Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age date.

In the S central part of the site the evaluation revealed a boundary system that produced a good assemblage of Roman pottery and a number of undated ditches that appeared to be spatially related. Ditches to the W of this area appear to form a fragmented boundary system containing occasional Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery. The close proximity of an urned Bronze Age cremation and an unurned cremation deposit containing fragments of Iron Age pottery indicate that an extended period of prehistoric activity is encompassed within the site.

Andy Beverton, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Countryside Properties; report nos. 2013/035 and 117

*Foxhall*, Felixstowe Road (TM/2241; FXL 061). Excavation (1.25ha) prior to the construction of an irrigation reservoir revealed finds and features dating from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval period. Significant features were limited to three principal phases of activity however, dated to the later Neolithic to early Iron Age, the early Iron Age and the later Iron Age.

The earliest significant remains indicate that during the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age, or possibly the early Iron Age, a rectilinear enclosure was established at the site. Little of the enclosure survived to be excavated and the only finds recovered from the enclosure ditches were two flint flakes typologically consistent with a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age origin and a single small sherd of pottery of early Iron Age date. A sample of charred grain submitted for radiocarbon dating was found to contain insufficient carbon to produce a date.

Following abandonment of the enclosure, a NE–SW orientated track or drove-way was established at the site, cutting through the earlier enclosure. It was defined by parallel ditches and had at least one enclosure appended to it. Access to and from the enclosure, and movement along the route itself, was possibly regulated by gates or barriers, the locations of which were represented by a series of post-holes. Finds from the ditches were limited, but in

total nine sherds of early Iron Age pottery along with a small assemblage of worked flint were recovered. The pottery compares well with a single radiocarbon determination at two sigma of 726–397 cal. BC (SUERC-43727) obtained from charcoal within the E ditch.

After the drove-way fell out of use at least thirty-seven rectangular and circular pits were dug across the site. These were filled with charcoal-rich deposits and have been interpreted as the remains of charcoal clamps or other features related to charcoal production. Identifiable charcoal within the pits predominantly originated from oak heartwood, with lesser concentrations of round wood and only small amounts of other species, namely hazel and ash. Finds from the features were sparse and were limited to seven flint flakes and a tested flint nodule, a sherd of late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (recovered during the evaluation of the site), a piece of modern glass which is presumed to be intrusive, and fourteen pottery sherds from a later Iron Age storage jar. Three charcoal samples were submitted for radiocarbon dating. Two returned later Iron Age dates of 350 to 56 cal. BC (SUERC-43726) and 52 cal. BC to 66 cal. AD (SUERC-43723) at two sigma, whilst the third somewhat surprisingly returned a date in the Saxon period of 724–946 cal. AD (SUERC-43724). It seems unlikely that the construction of the pits spanned the period from the later Iron Age to the Saxon period, especially given the similarity of their form and their fills. On balance it seems most likely that the Saxon date originates from intrusive material or contamination of the sample.

Gavin Glover, Allen Archaeology Limited, For Prime Irritation Limited.

*Friston*, Barbers Point (TM/4357; FRS 001). This was the fourth and final season of excavations at Barber's Point, a promontory on the N bank of the River Alde. Previous investigations (2004, 2006 and 2010) had shown that the site had originally been an island and had been occupied in the Roman and Middle Saxon periods.

The 2013 excavations revealed a further 8 graves belonging to the Saxon settlement of probable 7th or 8th century date. Both male and female individuals were recognised, and interestingly all 9 were young: 3 infants, 1 child and 5 teenagers or young adults.

Unlike in previous seasons, three of the graves appeared to contain grave goods. One infant was associated with a pierced Roman coin and a child of about 9 years old was buried with a blade, now highly corroded. Another individual, of about 16 years, unsexed but likely to be female, was accompanied by a group of intriguing objects likely to have been held in a wooden box or casket. Initial observation suggests that this assemblage includes a miniature Iron Age terret ring, fragments of Roman glass, iron hoops with glass beads attached, a spindle whorl, a lump of amber, a fossil and a number of items not yet identified. The largest object, and perhaps the most interesting, was a cowrie shell possibly originating from the Red Sea.

All the graves were orientated W–E and were closely spaced side by side running in a line NE–SE. This line is parallel to the inner of three phases of large enclosure ditches identified. The likely 7th or 8th century date of the individuals and their location within the settlement point to this being an early Christian community.

The Saxon features were cut through thick deposits containing abundant quantities of Roman finds; particularly pottery and salt-working debris (briquetage). No features belonging to this period, however, were identified. A large pit of probable prehistoric date was cut by one of the graves.

Jezz Meredith, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society  
and the Heritage Lottery funded 'Touching the Tide' project.

*Gislingham*, Oak House Farm, Mill Street (TM/0771; GSG 041). An archaeological excavation was conducted ahead of the construction of new dwellings. Previous evaluation



recorded two ditches that may have formed parts of two medieval enclosures fronting onto Mill Street. The results of the investigations suggest a large NW–SE aligned ditch was probably maintained until the 15th–16th centuries, filling up during the 17th–18th centuries when maintenance seems to have ceased. A clay extraction pit and pond (which may originally have been an extraction pit) appeared to have been excavated sometime in the 15th–16th centuries. This date appears to coincide with abandonment of the NW–SE aligned ditch and therefore may identify land-use change from perhaps stock keeping to quarrying and waste disposal.

Peter Eric Crawley, NPS Archaeology,  
for Orchard Developments (East Anglia) Limited; report 3098.

*Glensford*, Land N of Lion Road, (TL/8248; GFD 044). Excavation of an area *c.* 0.25ha in extent, and monitoring were carried out in advance of the construction of a sports field. A large assemblage of Roman pottery dating from the mid 1st to the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries was produced by a series of pits and ditches and a small amount of Roman ceramic building material was recovered from the ditches.

The N of the site was bounded by two post-medieval ditches which demarcated a field boundary shown on the First Edition OS map of 1885. Immediately to the S of this field boundary was a post-hole structure. This was made up 85 post-holes arranged in two double rows and was interpreted as being a tenter frame or drying rack associated with the local textile industry.

Simon Picard, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Suffolk County Council.

*Haverhill*, Land to the N of Ann Suckling Road (Boyton Hall) (TL/6746; HVH 065). A small excavation adjacent to Boyton Hall (Plot 1) revealed part of a Late Iron Age to Roman settlement dating to the *c.* 1st century BC to *c.* 1st century AD, with three phases of activity identified. Features comprised part of a probable Late Iron Age roundhouse, an enclosure and an early Roman boundary ditch. Within the latter there was a seemingly primary assemblage of domestic waste including a quantity of fine locally-made coarse ware pottery and animal bone. The only other features within the site were two probable medieval or post-medieval boundary ditches.

Rob Atkins, Oxford Archaeology East; report no.1533.

*Haverhill*, Land to the N of Ann Suckling Road (Boyton Hall) (TL/6746; HVH 083). A small excavation adjacent to Boyton Hall (Plot 2) revealed a continuation of the Late Iron Age to early Roman activity identified in Plot 1 (HVH 065). Features comprised part of a polygonal enclosure, a possible trackway and a small boundary ditch. Also within the site were three medieval boundary ditches believed to be part of a field system.

Helen Stocks-Morgan, Oxford Archaeology East; report no.1558.

*Hoxne*, ‘Story of Hoxne’ Test Pit event (TM/1976; HXN 062). An archaeological community event, consisting of the excavation of 29 test pits by local residents and volunteers, took place in Hoxne in July 2013. The event was preceded in May 2013 by the excavation of another two test pits by local schoolchildren.

The principal archaeological achievement of the event has been in providing, in many places, the first real investigation into the archaeological potential of the settlement cores. The test pits frequently demonstrated that preserved archaeological layers were present, and eleven pits were issued an individual HER code. The test pits showed a wide variety of results, from

clean undisturbed soil profiles in areas evidently outside of the medieval and post-medieval settlement, to thick occupation soils rich with post-medieval to modern material. Several pits contained archaeological soil horizons, at times deeply stratified, appearing to date back as far as the early medieval period.

The earliest pottery, recovered from two test pits, dates to the early medieval period, *c.* 11th–12th century. Medieval ceramics of *c.* 12th–14th century date were found in eight test pits while Late Medieval Transitional wares and other 15th–16th century ceramics were collected from twelve.

Most of the test pits contained post-medieval and modern material, the quantities generally reflecting the location of each site in relation to the established post-medieval settlement. Post-medieval ceramics, including imported vessels and a wide range of industrially produced wares and other 20th-century ceramics, were present in 25 of the test pits and offer a snapshot of the everyday ceramics in use by the inhabitants of the village during this period. Ceramic building material, *i.e.* brick and tile, was recovered from 28 pits, fragments of clay pipe from 24, pieces of glass from 27, metalwork including iron nails and other objects from 24, and organic material such as animal bone and oyster shell from 22.

The event has shown that there is high potential for future fieldwork or documentary research to add to and enhance our knowledge of the life of the village and its development, particularly from the early medieval period.

John Craven, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Hoxne Heritage Group and ‘The Story of Hoxne’ project; report no. 2013/118.

*Icklingham*, A11 Fiveways to Thetford Road Improvement Scheme (TL/7776; IKL 194). A watching brief during the construction of two bridge abutments and excavation of a ‘borrow pit’ identified surface scatters of struck flint, predominantly of Late Neolithic date, with some Mesolithic and some later components. A small pit, containing burnt flint and a Mesolithic to Early Neolithic prismatic blade and flake core, was also found.

Alexander Pullen, Pre-Construct Archaeology,  
for Birse Civils on behalf of the Highways Agency.

*Ipswich*, Nacton Road (TM/1941; IPS 715, IPS718 & IPS719). Archaeological excavation of a 1.0ha area between Nacton Road and Alnesbourn Crescent was carried out in three parts. The earliest features revealed were a pit containing Beaker pottery dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age; a pit containing burnt flint, and another pit containing two flint flakes and a probable hammerstone, both of which may be Late Neolithic or Bronze Age in date. A number of pits without datable finds may also be contemporary. These remains probably relate to Neolithic/Bronze Age settlement recorded to the N of the site and a barrow cemetery to the S. Four prehistoric field boundary ditches probably dating to the Middle or Late Bronze Age were also identified, adding to the growing body of excavated evidence for large-scale Bronze Age rectilinear field systems in Suffolk and Norfolk.

A subsequent phase of activity was represented by a pair of parallel ditches forming a drove-way at right angles to Nacton Road. These ditches, which date to the Late Iron Age or Roman period, were also recorded during excavations at the N end of the site in 2000 (IPS 404). The drove-way also aligns with Late Iron Age and Roman field boundary ditches found during the 1999–2000 Ipswich Airport excavations to the SW (IPS 405 and IPS 406).

Thirty-nine small charcoal-filled pits with evidence of *in situ* burning are likely to have had an industrial purpose, such as charcoal burning. Small amounts of hammerscale within their fills suggest that the charcoal (identified as predominantly oak heartwood) may have been burnt for the purposes of iron smelting or smithing. Five of these pits have been radiocarbon-

dated to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period and it is likely that the remainder of the pits are contemporary, or perhaps carried on in use into the medieval period.

Two post-medieval ditches were also identified that correlate with boundaries shown on historic maps. Linear marks on the E half of the site, parallel to Nacton Road, may relate to the WWII airfield or the civilian airport, or may be plough or scarification marks.

Kate Clover, Oxford Archaeology East; report nos. 1464 and 1507.

*Ipswich*, Land adjacent to Alnesbourn Crescent, Ravenswood (TM/1941; IPS 725). An open area excavation was carried out in connection with the construction of a new care home. The excavation identified an Early Bronze Age pit containing placed deposits of approximately half a Beaker vessel and a flint knife; these finds are likely to have been grave goods accompanying a crouched inhumation burial but no trace of bone survived in the site's acidic soil. The Beaker burial was located very close to the projected centre of a cropmark ring-ditch which was thought to exist on site prior to the excavation. However, in the event no ring-ditch or burial mound was found. Instead, the burial was enclosed on three sides by natural channels, possibly the bases of hedges or root disturbance around the edges of a now-lost barrow. Later land use was represented by successive field boundary ditches. Despite excavating at least half of each ditch, few finds were present. However, based on shared alignments with field boundaries excavated at other sites in the vicinity, the ditches are likely to be Bronze Age and Iron Age to Romano-British in date. They formed part of a wider prehistoric and Roman agricultural landscape which has been revealed at other sites on the SE outskirts of Ipswich and on the Trimley Peninsula. Numerous undated small burnt pits were also scattered across the excavation area; post-excavation analysis will aim to ascertain their date and function.

Tom Woolhouse, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Castleoak Group.

*Ipswich*, Former Thomas Wolsey Special School, 642 Old Norwich Road (TM/1447; IPS 664). An archaeological excavation was carried out in advance of a residential development. An area of 560m<sup>2</sup> was opened revealing a single pit type feature containing sherds of Iron Age pottery. This is the second Iron Age feature identified on this site, which comprises an area of high ground overlooking the Gipping Valley.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Persimmon Homes.

*Ipswich*, Holywells Park (TM/1743; IPS 063). A small scale excavation on the suspected location of an icehouse within the park was undertaken by members of the Friends of Holywells Park. The main aim was to confirm if an icehouse was present on this site and, if discovered, make a basic assessment of its current condition with a view to possible restoration. Two roughly rectangular test pits were excavated which revealed a circular brick structure, approximately 4m in diameter, parts of a covering brick dome and a short brick-built tunnel, all of which are undoubtedly parts of a 19th-century icehouse. The structure appears to be complete and in relatively good condition, although a hole has been broken through the roof and the interior filled with soil.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Ipswich Borough Council.

*Ipswich*, Former Fire Station Colchester Road (TM/1846; IPS 722). An excavation over c. 1500m<sup>2</sup> was conducted in advance of residential development. Sparse finds of worked flint and prehistoric pottery attest to the earliest activity at the site. Though little can usefully be

deduced, such artefacts at least identify a presence at this time.

The most informative archaeological remains date to the early Roman period when an apparent *de novo* settlement with enclosed farmsteads appears to have been occupied over two distinct phases. In Phase 1, dating from perhaps the mid 1st to early 2nd century, remains of two overlying circular structures and a rectilinear enclosure aligned on a broadly NW–SE axis were present. Fills of the circular structures contained fragments of storage jar but little else, and whether these are wholly domestic or utilitarian structures is unclear. Their form would seem to demonstrate the continuity of a ‘native’ building style into the early Roman period. The cultivation of the surrounding heavy land for wheat is hinted at by the environmental evidence, and a surface with remains of spelt wheat, a small hearth/oven and lava quern fragments is interpreted as a grain processing area. A small number of other structural features, perhaps of agricultural purpose, and a small number of pits also belong to this phase.

In the early 2nd century a recasting of boundaries occurred with enclosure ditches now arranged on uniform N–S to E–W alignments. This second phase of Roman activity might relate to the posited early 2nd-century construction of a villa at Castle Hill. Two foci of activity in this phase were identified, one centred on a possible square or rectangular structure in the NE, and a second in the SW, its presence inferred by cultural material recovered from enclosure ditches. Fragments of fired clay loomweight from the site suggest weaving as a craft activity, and possible structured deposits were also present.

Soil impoverishment due to cultivation might be one factor in the decline of the site from the mid 2nd century, when ceramic evidence indicates activity ceased.

David Adams, NPS Archaeology, for Hopkins Homes Ltd; report no. 2014/1234.

*Lavenham*, Land at Laneham Yard Church Street (TL/9149; LVM 063). Continuous archaeological recording was carried out in advance of the erection of a new dwelling. During the excavation of foundation trenches and levelling of the site, a number of features were encountered. These included pits from quarrying with reuse as cesspits, a brick floor and a cobbled surface, representing backyard activity, buildings and waste disposal dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods.

Dennis Payne, Archaeoserv, for Mr P. Barnes.

*Lavenham*, The Swan Hotel (TL/9149; LVM 080). Evaluation and excavation at land to the rear of the Swan Hotel uncovered a series of 13th–19th-century deposits. The earliest features were a series of large pits, presumably used for quarrying and then refuse disposal. On top of these, a range of several rooms was built extending from the rear of the street frontage. These contained a number of furnaces associated with the textile dyeing industry and are probably 14th- or 15th-century. Pottery, animal bone, tile and brick were the most common finds, although coins, a continental jetton, a Boy Bishop token and several brooches were also recovered. Several large channels on the adjoining plot were possibly used for rinsing fabrics or cold dyeing and are dated between the 15th and 17th centuries. A series of 17th–19th-century pits and post-holes was also uncovered, with some contexts producing an impressive assemblage of high quality pottery.

Rob Brooks, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for TA Hotel Collection.

*Leiston*, Leiston Abbey (TM/4462; LCS 176). A crowdfunded community-based survey and field evaluation focused on three defined areas at Leiston Abbey, aiming to contribute to the future management and presentation of the site, and make recommendations for further work.

The main focus of the investigation was on the unscheduled area to the NW of the surviving monastic complex, with four small evaluation trenches preceded by a geophysical and topographic survey. Two ditches and a small number of discrete post-hole features were identified in this area, potentially relating to an earlier, prehistoric, phase of activity. The numerous banks and channels visible as upstanding earthworks in this area are likely to relate to the monastic phase of the site. A Lidar survey has demonstrated how these earthworks helped to direct water away from the abbey buildings to avoid flooding or towards industrial activities that potentially took place further downslope.

This was supplemented with a non-invasive survey and small-scale interventions at the edge and inside the scheduled area, aiming to identify missing monastic buildings (such as the precinct wall and gatehouse), and an earlier phase of settlement presumed to predate the abbey construction in the 14th century. Substantial extant drainage ditches, interpreted as the remnants of a moated settlement site, represent this earlier phase of activity. A trench was targeted across one of these features, which proved to be substantially deeper than previously considered. This was consistent with its interpretation as a moated feature, although logistical constraints meant that it was not possible to reach basal sediments or recover dating evidence.

Two further trenches were excavated inside the scheduled area, one in the car park to the N of the main claustral complex, and one to the S. Both trenches were targeted on the basis of non-invasive survey results, including magnetometry, resistance and ground-penetrating radar, to help determine the function of any potential sub-surface building remains. The shallow foundations for a small circular structure were identified in the car park trench, associated with a cobbled surface and early modern artefacts dating to the later agricultural phase of the site.

The final trench was positioned to the S of the main monastic complex, where geophysical results had indicated a substantial quantity of building rubble and potential wall foundations. The upper layers of this trench comprised 19th- and 20th-century rubble and levelling deposits associated with adjacent allotments and the later agricultural phase of the site. Below this, in the monastic levels, a small quantity of late medieval pottery and painted window glass was recovered. Of what little was visible of the original structure of the building, it was not possible to determine its function, but its location in relation to other upstanding buildings suggests that it was likely to be the kitchen.

Brendon Wilkins, DigVentures, in association with English Heritage and Procorda.

*Little Waldingfield*, Test Pit Excavations (TL/9245). Five test pits were excavated in the village. The results were limited but varied, with pottery found dating from the Late Saxon period through to the present day. A small number of generally undiagnostic flint flakes were also found which are likely Later Neolithic to Later Bronze Age in date. This suggests that there was potentially a small settlement or area of activity at this time around where the River Box rises. A more permanent settlement was recorded in the Domesday Book, and the Saxon settlement of Little Waldingfield may have been focused on the T-junction at the centre of the village today and close to the present church, which developed further into the medieval period. The village had a sole reliance on livestock species, with no evidence so far found for the use of any wild fauna. The limited evidence for butchery marks on the bone perhaps also suggests that the meat processing was being undertaken elsewhere in the village, away from the core of the settlement. There was little expansion of the village during the post-medieval period, so it did not benefit greatly from the wealth of the broadcloth industry.

Carenza Lewis and Catherine Ranson, Access Cambridge Archaeology for the Heritage Lottery funded Managing a Masterpiece project.

*Long Melford*, Test Pit Excavations (TL/8645). Nine test pits were excavated in the N half of Long Melford by school students and local volunteers as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme and Cambridge University's Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) research into the development of rural communities and settlements in the past. The 2013 excavations followed on from those undertaken in Long Melford in 2011. The 2013 results yielded evidence for Late Bronze Age activity on Windmill Hill, the first to be identified through test pitting in the village. Further evidence for Roman occupation was recorded at the Football Ground, which is part of the main area through the S of the village so far identified for Roman occupation in the village through test pitting. The first evidence for Late Saxon activity around the church in the N of the village was also recorded, along with a post-hole on the green in front of the hospital, suggesting there was originally occupation on the green at that time. There was little change through the medieval period and later as the village slowly grew, so Long Melford appeared to prosper and did also not seem to be too greatly affected by the Black Death.

Carenza Lewis and Catherine Ranson, Access Cambridge Archaeology.

*Long Melford*, Long Melford Reservoir to Bull Lane (TL/8746; LMD194). Archaeological monitoring and excavation took place during groundworks associated with installation of a replacement main through historic landscaped parkland attached to Kentwell Hall. A group of ditches dating from the Mid-Late Iron Age to the mid 2nd century AD contained a relatively high proportion of artefacts, suggesting intensive manuring of arable fields and a farming settlement in the immediate area. Arable use did not appear to last beyond the mid 2nd century. Elements of the Roman field system appear to still be evident in the modern landscape, suggesting that after the mid 2nd century land use reverted to stock rearing until the post-medieval period.

Steve Hickling, NPS Archaeology, for Anglian Water Services Limited; report no. 2798.

*Lowestoft*, Compass Street (TM/5593; LWT 183). Archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring were conducted ahead of redevelopment. The plot was initially evaluated with three trenches, all of which contained archaeological features. Trench 1 in the NE corner of the site revealed late medieval/early post-medieval pits and a cobbled surface, the latter probably the surface of a post-medieval market place. Deposits in Trench 2 were affected by large modern utility trenches, however a layer of dumped material survived at the base of the sequence here. Trench 3 contained several post-holes and pits of probable late medieval/early post-medieval date.

The excavation area was located to the S of the site where a series of mostly small pits/post-holes and patches of clay (probably clay footings) were recorded. Several post-holes formed structural arrangements that, with the clay footings, appeared to represent traces of a timber-framed building, perhaps dismantled in the later medieval or early post-medieval period. A small annexe of this building seemed to be situated in the SE of the site. Metal working debris in small pits located within this annexe perhaps indicated a forge or specialised metal craft area.

Monitoring of drainage trenches and a large soakaway at the centre recorded part of an 18th/19th-century cellar in the NE area of the site.

Mick Boyle and Peter Eric Crawley, NPS Archaeology, for Dove Jeffery Homes Ltd; report no. 3055.

*Mildenhall*, 16 Mill Street (TL 7100 7452; MNL 674). An excavation was carried out in advance of a housing development, following a trenched evaluation in 2012. Significant

activity on this site did not occur until the medieval period. A substantial boundary ditch was dug into the natural chalk at the N end of the site, parallel with Mill Street. It produced small amounts of 12th–13th century pottery in association with charred cereal remains. The ditch might have been associated with a former bailey, since this part of Mill Street was known as ‘Le Bayle’ in the 15th–16th centuries. Other medieval evidence consisted of a much smaller but parallel ditch and a few pits containing 12th–14th century pottery.

Medieval features were sealed by thick deposits of worked soil, which were truncated by post-medieval cess/refuse pits. A large rectangular pit close to the N edge of the site might have been the cellar of a late medieval building fronting on the churchyard to the N. It was backfilled in the 16th–17th century and a sequence of three buildings was constructed on the same plot. The remains of these buildings were heavily truncated and their forms and functions are unknown.

In the 19th century several large outbuildings were constructed around a yard to the rear of 16 Mill Street.

Kieron Heard, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for SEH French Ltd; report no. 2013/051.

*Moulton*, Moulton Paddocks Starting Track (TL/6765; MUN 051). Excavation revealed a series of tree throws with no associated finds, along with a small area of colluvial soil which contained prehistoric struck flint. The colluvium was found within a large natural hollow at a low point in the central area of the field, and was overlain by recent made ground.

Michael Green, Oxford Archaeology East; report no.1561.

*Moulton*, Moulton Paddocks (TL/6765; MUN 049). An archaeological excavation was undertaken prior to construction of a new stamina track. The investigation recorded a modern quarry pit and 16 undated post-holes, a ditch and a gully. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pot sherd and a struck flint were found within the topsoil.

Gareth Barlow, Archaeological Solutions,  
for Godolphin Management Company Ltd; report no. 4229.

*Rede*, Church Field (TL/8055; RDE 016): An archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footings for two houses. The excavations revealed a ditch parallel to the main road, suggestive of a medieval boundary and possible drainage ditch behind housing plots. There were also two minor E–W ditches, which had also appeared in the evaluation where they were found to be medieval, and several pits. These were all quite similar in general appearance, although varying in size, and may have been close in date. It is likely that they were dug for the extraction of clay for brickmaking, which is historically recorded in the area. Only one of the pits offered dating evidence, suggesting they were either late medieval or post-medieval.

Andrew Tester, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Alistair Smith.

*Reydon*, Reydon Farm, Quay Lane (TM/4877; REY 072). An evaluation and subsequent watching brief were carried out in association with a solar farm development. The Neolithic period was represented by a relatively high density of human activity. A total of 26 pits, many of which contained Early Neolithic domestic material, were recorded at three locations in the E, SE and NW of the site. The pits and their assemblages suggest temporality of settlement, occupation and deposition. A large number of ditches were also recorded during the course of the trial trench evaluation and, despite remaining undated, are likely to be post-medieval in origin.

Gareth Chaffey, Wessex Archaeology, for AEE Renewables UK29.

*Shottisham*, Saxon House, Church Lane (TM/3245; STT 060). Excavation of an area of 125sq m revealed a single ditch-type feature. No finds were recovered from the fill of this ditch although it is possibly part of a field system of probable Bronze Age date recorded in the vicinity. The site is within an area of numerous ring ditches and a possible henge monument that are visible on aerial photographs, but no further monuments were recorded within the excavation area.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Mr P. Bouscarle.

*Snape*, Blyth Houses, Church Row (TM/3958; SNP 103). An archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a residential development. Three main phases of occupation were represented: Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, early Roman and Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon, although a small amount of struck flint and a Neolithic arrowhead were also recovered, and the fill of a single pit also contained six Early Bronze Age thumbnail scrapers.

The earliest main phase feature was a pit containing 36 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, but the earlier Iron Age features were generally less coherent and did not provide a clear picture of prehistoric activity at the site. Significant Romano-British features included an enclosure system, a possible trackway, and a pottery kiln, and ephemeral evidence for Romano-British post-built structures was also encountered. Three Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) and a contemporary post-built structure were present in the third main phase. The finds from one SFB were indicative of textile manufacture. Two burnt flint pits were also of probable Anglo-Saxon date. Limited evidence of later medieval, post-medieval and modern activity was also encountered.

Laszlo Lichtenstein, Archaeological Solutions, for Hopkins Homes Ltd;  
report no. 4234.

*Sudbourne*, Lodge Farm (TM/4251; SUE 113). An area of *c.* 1ha was excavated prior to the construction of a farm reservoir. The earliest evidence was a single pit containing sherds from a long-necked rusticated Beaker of Early Bronze Age date. Two further Bronze Age sherds were recovered from contexts of a later date. Early Iron Age activity was represented by small ditches and a pit which contained over 200 sherds of pottery likely to be derived from a domestic context. Loomweight fragments recovered from a further pit and a gully, albeit possibly residual in the latter, provide more evidence of Iron Age occupation in the vicinity. The most intensive activity revealed by the excavation consisted of a sequence of large medieval extraction pits and a series of ditches dated to the 11th–13th century.

Linzi Everett, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Andrew Hawes; report no. 2013/133.

*Sudbury*, 1 Bulmer Road (TL/8640; SUY 133). Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of footing trenches on land previously called ‘Chapel Field’. Interest in the site is focused on locating Ballingdon Chapel, founded during the 12th century possibly as part of the pilgrims’ way to the shrine of St Edmund in Bury, for which no physical remains have yet been found.

The earliest evidence from the site was a series of large wide pits that were probably dug to extract sand for building. The pits were well consolidated and produced a small collection of finds suggesting a date from the 12th–14th centuries. Structural evidence above this included a well lined with tile, and wall footings built of tile and mortar. There was also some solid mortar with flint and limestone blocks. The tiles appear to have been mid–late medieval and



it is possible that these are fragmentary remains of buildings added to the Chapel complex in the later medieval period.

Simon Picard, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team;  
report no, 2013/056.

*Walberswick*, Test Pit Excavations (TM/4874). Nine test pits were excavated by Walberswick school students as part of the Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) programme and Cambridge University's Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) research into the development of rural communities and settlements in the past. The results yielded evidence for activity from the Roman period through to the present day. A cluster of Roman activity was recorded in the S of the village on the limit of the current settlement on Stocks Lane and overlooking the coast. It is known that the village was likely established in the Saxon period, particularly given the suffix 'wic' at the end of the village name and its location on the River Blyth. However, only a single sherd of Late Saxon pottery was recorded from the test pitting, in the NE of the village along Leverett's Lane. The results also suggest that the village continued to grow through the medieval period and was not affected to any great extent by the Black Death in the 14th century. Only a slight decline was noted from the 16th century, when the village likely started to take on the characteristics of the small fishing village that is still seen today.

Carenza Lewis and Catherine Ranson, Access Cambridge Archaeology.

*Wangford with Henham*, Land adjacent to Little Priory, Church Street (TM/4679; WNF 028). A programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring took place following two stages of evaluation. The fieldwork identified further evidence of 12th–14th century medieval settlement contemporary with Wangford Priory, but suggests that the site lies to the S of the priory precinct and its buildings, and to the W of any medieval settlement that may have lain along the frontage of Church Street.

During the medieval period the site showed limited evidence of being used for sand or gravel extraction, and for subsequent rubbish disposal in these extraction pits, but appears to have been generally agricultural in its nature, located on the outskirts of the medieval settlement. Two large ditches of apparent medieval date are likely to represent a broader system of boundaries around the priory precinct but they are at odds with the presumed spatial layout of the priory and village in the medieval period. The proximity of the priory to the site, and its relatively small size and wealth, are reflected in elements of the finds assemblage. Local wares dominate the medieval pottery and there is a high proportion of fish remains in the faunal assemblage which may reflect religious dietary patterns.

Following the Dissolution and the closure of the adjacent priory the site appears to have retained a similar usage throughout the late medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

John Craven, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for T. and S. Clarke; report no. 2014/002.

*Worlington*, Worlington Quarry (TL/6970; WGN 047). A further programme of monitoring was carried out at the quarry. The current stage revealed the presence of eleven undated pits, one possible posthole/pit, and a hearth. These produced no finds and environmental samples from the hearth and two pits contained limited plant macrofossil evidence.

Rob Brooks, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Frimstone Ltd; report no. 2013/053.

## BUILDING AND STRUCTURE RECORDING

*Denham*, Land at RAF Horham (TM/1873; DEN 011). An English Heritage Level 2 building recording was undertaken of a pair of single-storey buildings off Low Road. They once formed part of an accommodation area for airmen and officers of the 336th squadron, part of the 95th Bomb Group based at RAF Horham. Both structures appeared to be ablution blocks that formerly contained showers and washrooms. Text painted on two of the doors to the larger building indicated that it was for use by sergeants and airmen. A trio of 'Stanton' type air raid shelters were also recorded.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Nicola Albrow.

*Newmarket*, Palace House Stables (TL/6463; NKT 056). Historic building survey was carried out on all of the stable buildings associated with the Palace House. The survey comprised nine separate buildings arranged around two yards: King's Yard constructed on a former stable yard built by Baron de Rothschild between 1857 and 1860; and Rothschild's Yard constructed on the E side of King's Yard in 1903. In addition there are another three buildings within a paddock on the E side of Rothschild's Yard which include buildings dated to 1908 and 1912. Survey of the fabric of the buildings, combined with documentary evidence including architect's plans, revealed that the layout of both yards has changed very little since their original construction in the mid 19th and early 20th century. Almost all of the stable boxes accessed contained original interior fixtures and fittings, while the Trainer's House also retained a small number of original windows and fireplaces. A number of original fireplaces, ceiling cornices, skirting boards and chair rails have also been stored for future reinstatement.

Taleyna Fletcher, Oxford Archaeology East; report no.1532.

*Somerleyton, Ashby and Herringfleet*, Land S of Fritton Lake (TM/4899; SOL 029). Fritton Lake and the surrounding land was used by the 79th Armoured Division as a training and experimental site from 1943–47. It was used to secretly develop techniques and instruct tank crews in the operation of amphibious tanks known as Duplex Drive Tanks. It consisted of an accommodation area; workshop and maintenance buildings; dummy landing craft slipways; specific training structures; a large tank park; and numerous tracks and roadways linking the various components. Following its decommissioning the site was cleared and the majority of above ground structures demolished. A survey and description of all the known extant remains was undertaken. The survey demonstrated that significant evidence is preserved at this site in the form of foundations, floor slabs, trackways, and areas of hard-standing as well as the structural remains of landing craft slipways. There is also at least one extant building with significant portions of a second standing nearby. Many of these remains are relatively slight and are in danger of being destroyed or simply lost.

Stuart Burgess and Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Field Team, for European Interreg IV Project.

## CHURCH RECORDING

*Bungay*, St Mary's Church (TM/3389; BUN 101). Archaeological monitoring of the ground works for construction of a meeting room and toilets at St Mary's Church produced evidence of a flint footing for the E wall of a previous version of the building together with an earlier clay floor. Burials that may predate the existing nave were also found, along with evidence of

the remedial work carried out on the church after the great fire of Bungay in 1688. The burials suggest that the current church encroached over part of the graveyard when it was rebuilt in the 15th century.

In the graveyard an earlier perimeter wall built just inside the current boundary was found. The earlier wall constructed in *c.* 15th century was built over an existing burial without disturbing the skeletal remains and demonstrates how the graveyard edge has fluctuated over time.

David Gill, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Friends of St Mary's; report no. 2013/054.

*Harkstead*, St Mary's Church (TM/1935; HRK 041). Monitoring of works at the church revealed one adult burial of unknown sex, likely to be pre-19th century in date. This was recorded to the N of the church, but no other features were disturbed. Removal of the material blocking the N door suggested that internal moulding around the doorway had been removed.

Linzi Everett, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Nicholas Jacob Architects; report no. 2013/72.

*Horringer*, St Mary's Church, Ickworth Park (TL/8161; IKW 006). Monitoring of the ground works revealed a shallow sequence of deposits in the area of the N porch which included a recently infilled hollow path, cemetery soils and possible natural sandy-clay geology. Gently sloping deposits on the W side of the curtilage wall included natural clay below a possible archaic subsoil, buried below late post-medieval make-up. Two prehistoric flints in fresh condition were collected from the subsoil, which include a small scraper of possible Mesolithic date. Three sherds of medieval pottery were collected as residual finds in later soils which date from the 12th–14th century. Other finds amount to two musket balls and a 1953 threepence.

Giles Emery, Norvic Archaeology, for Freeland Rees Roberts Architects  
on behalf of Ickworth Church Conservation Trust; report no. 31.

*Hoxne*, Church of St Peter and St Paul (TM/1877; HXN 074). Two test holes exposed the W end of a brick, barrel-vaulted tomb in the N aisle and showed that any evidence of the medieval floor had been removed from this part of the church. The tomb was unmarked but aligned with floor slabs arranged on each side of the aisle at the E end. Whilst the discovered tomb probably postdates the 17th century, the graves at the E end of the aisle (and now set in concrete) are likely to be medieval. The provision for (now missing) monumental brasses would indicate a date of between the early 14th and late 16th century and the richness of the tombs (at least one is a polished Purbeck marble) help characterise the N aisle as the long-time burial place of the parish's elite.

David Gill, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Field Team,  
for Hoxne PCC; report no. 2013/118.

*Ipswich*, St Mary-le-Tower churchyard (TM/1644; IPS 729). Two test pits were hand excavated in advance of the creation of a proposed garden of remembrance. The main aim of the fieldwork was to check if any *in situ* human burials existed within the top 0.7m of the footprint of the proposed garden. No such burials were encountered, although a large amount of disarticulated bone along with post-medieval brick and tile and other debris was noted. A small amount of pottery was recovered, which has been dated to the Middle Anglo-Saxon period and the early medieval period.

Mark Sommers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for St Mary-le-Tower PCC.

*Mettingham*, All Saints Church (TM/3689; MTT 045). An opportunity to study the S porch was afforded by repairs to reconnect the gable wall which had become detached and was falling away. The main body of the porch was added during the 15th century to the 14th century S aisle, but the gable wall, including the external door, was completely rebuilt as part of an extensive refurbishment of the church in 1898. The porch has unusually long, narrow proportions and the internal door into the church that it encloses is small, suggesting that the porch may once have had another function. This question could not be resolved, but indications were that the church has been much altered, prompting speculation that the priority of the church entrances may have changed from the S to the current N door.

David Gill, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team,  
for Mettingham PCC; report no. 2013/124.

*Woodbridge*, Woodbridge Quay Church (TM/2748; WBG 086). A Level 1 Historic building survey and archaeological monitoring was conducted ahead of the demolition of the organ loft and ground reduction for an extension to the church. As part of these works the condition and location of gravestones was recorded. Following their removal, ground levels were reduced to formation height. Masonry tombs exposed by this reduction were recorded with burials remaining *in situ* except for one example which was lifted, and the bones interred in another grave at the site. A further grave was backfilled with rubble as it had become unstable. Previously unknown graves and steps leading into a possible cellar were also recorded.

Rachel Cruse and Steve Hickling, NPS Archaeology,  
for Woodbridge Quay Church; report no 2959.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Decline of Serfdom in Late Medieval England: From Bondage to Freedom.*

By Mark Bailey. ix + 373 pp., figures, maps, bibliography, index. Woodbridge:

The Boydell Press, 2014. ISBN 9781843838906. Price: £60 hb.

Mark Bailey, Professor of Late Medieval History at UEA, makes a bold, even revolutionary, statement about the economic and social history of the late medieval period. In doing so he has drawn on his deep and extensive knowledge of court rolls and accounts including those of twenty-five Suffolk manors.

In 1300 there were two million serfs in England, in 1400 fewer than a million, and in 1500 only a few thousand. Serfs were unfree. They had to perform menial tasks for, and make degrading payments to, their lord. They needed, and were charged for, his permission to move off the manor, get married, be educated, enter an apprenticeship, or take holy orders. They were the object of scorn. Their children were labelled not as 'heirs', but as 'brood'. The prioress of Redlingfield took such a dim view of them that, although readily admitting to breaking her vows of celibacy by having an amorous affair, she strenuously denied that her lover was a serf.

The decline of serfdom in the late Middle Ages was of 'overriding importance' in the history of pre-industrial England, and a prerequisite for agrarian capitalism and the transition to the modern world. The orthodox view is that serfdom declined slowly after the Black Death in 1349. Despite the economic forces unleashed by demographic collapse, lords reacted swiftly to maintain land values, high prices and low wages, and so enjoyed an Indian Summer in the third quarter of the fourteenth century. Only after the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 did they wake up to the reality of a new order, and did the pace of change quicken.

Bailey's central tenet is that the Black Death constituted a 'profound economic shock of direct and lasting impact' which triggered 'immediate economic and social change'. The value of land fell dramatically between the 1340s and 1360s, so forcing lords to offer their tenants new forms of tenure, and abandon demands for labour services and other servile dues. If prices temporarily remained high, this was due to poor harvests and the inward flow of bullion. If there ever was an Indian Summer it was a very turbulent one. If there was a seigniorial reaction, it was sporadic, and occurred in the years 1385 to 1410, in conjunction with parliamentary efforts to control labour, rather than earlier. So, in seeking causes of the Peasants' Revolt, historians must look elsewhere.

His conclusions are based on a 'forensic assessment' of the contents and language of the records from manors in East Anglia, Oxfordshire and western Buckinghamshire. In studying them, he seeks more 'precision in the chronology and causes of decline' of serfdom. These manors comprise a truly representative sample. Some were large, but most, as was typical, were small. In some villeinage was prominent, in others not. Some belonged to great ecclesiastical and lay magnates, such as the abbot of Bury St Edmunds and the duke of Norfolk, and others to minor lords such as the prior of Ixworth. In the aftermath of the Black Death, manors were managed in different ways, some in a more co-ordinated manner than others, but the outcome was generally the same everywhere. Villein tenure disappeared between 1350 and 1380 and, as an inevitable consequence, personal servility did so between 1380 and 1400. Serfdom became 'virtually irrelevant in fifteenth-century England'.

While eschewing any 'prime mover explanation' for the decline of serfdom, Bailey downplays manumission (i.e. purchase of freedom), peasant resistance or migration, and stresses the importance of economic forces which tipped the balance of power in favour of

tenants. Most lords were pragmatic and realistic, accepting that it was better to earn a cash rent from their land, and forego services, than to have no tenants at all. When they were unable to find takers for large holdings on villein tenure, they offered smaller plots for fixed terms, and thus copyholds and leaseholds soon emerged. If they hesitated in doing so, then their neighbours beat them to it, causing a domino effect. This trend was accelerated when lords withdrew from direct husbandry and leased out their demesnes. By an evolutionary process, which Bailey carefully explains, *copyholds of inheritance* became predominant in East Anglia, while more precarious *copyholds for a term* became the norm in the south Midlands. This precariousness did not matter to tenants so much in the fifteenth century, but, with the return of land hunger in the sixteenth, it certainly did. In time successful agriculturalists would create larger, more compact and more rational farming units which, in turn, rendered farm improvements, such as proper hedging and ditching, more likely.

Bailey revisits the ‘Transition Debate’, which rocked the academic world in the 1980s and 1990s, and in which medievalists sought an explanation for the decline of serfdom in England and its survival in eastern Europe. He identifies key factors which pre-existed the Black Death. Villeinage was uneven in the obligations it imposed and the frequency with which it did so. English lords never enjoyed significant or arbitrary powers of ‘extra-economic’ compulsion, and were always limited by a combination of custom and common law. It was simply not worth their while clinging to, or restoring, the old order.

On isolated manors, such as those of the duke of Norfolk, the lord used serf genealogies to tag and track his serfs, and demanded modest payments of chevage from any who moved away. Those who continued to pay such chevage often had their own reasons for maintaining a toehold in their home manor, such as property interests or a wish to keep the protection of a powerful lord. In the different economic climate of the sixteenth century, a few lords were able to profit from the imposition of a ‘second serfdom’ by extorting payment from their serfs in return for the grant of personal freedom.

Bailey’s arguments are carefully constructed and powerfully put, and are bound to spark lively debate within the academic community. This makes his book one of the most important contributions to late medieval historiography for many years.

NICHOLAS R. AMOR

*Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare (1295–1360). Household and other records.* (Suffolk Records Society vol. 57). Edited by Jennifer Ward. 186 pp., 4 plates. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2014. ISBN 978-1-84383-891-3. Price £25 hb.

Elizabeth de Burgh was one of the great ladies of medieval England – a granddaughter of King Edward I, the widow of the son and heir of the earl of Ulster (and, in fairly rapid succession, of two subsequent husbands), a sister and co-heiress to the last de Clare earl of Gloucester and Hertford, a founder of a Cambridge college, and, most importantly for historians, the head of a household at Clare Castle that generated a huge amount of written records that have thankfully survived in the nation’s archives.

Jennifer Ward has used her long and deep knowledge of these records to make a selection to illustrate various aspects of Elizabeth de Burgh’s life, her household and its activities. After an introduction that sets her life into its historical context, there are chapters entitled Elizabeth de Burgh and Clare, Autumn 1326; The Wardrobe and Household Accounts 1339– to 40; Clare Castle; Food, Hospitality and Travel; Estates and Lordship; Patronage and Influence; and finally, The Will of Elizabeth de Burgh, 1355. Although she has tried to group the

material, the nature of the records means that they are by no means in watertight compartments, and so if you are interested in the castle, for instance, you will also need to trawl through the other chapters for significant entries. The chapters present a dense mass of data that can reveal gems of information, but you do have to do a lot of your own mining. For instance, just one item of 1324–25 almost paints a picture of the castle and its great diversity of buildings and features: ‘the gutter between the Hall and the Lady’s Great Chamber ... tiling between the Hall and the Lady’s Great Chamber ... the porch at the door of the Lady’s Great Chamber ... the ridge-pieces of the cloister between the Hall and Chapel ... 6,000 tiles purchased ... 200 tiles purchased for the ridge-pieces ... 20 iron bars bought for the Chapel windows ... glazing the small windows of the Chapel ... plastering and whitewashing the Hall ... plastering, pargeting and whitewashing the cloister ... plastering and whitewashing the part of the wall outside the cloister ... lock bought for the door of the Granary ... lock bought for the door of the chamber under the Lady’s Great Chamber ... lock bought for the door of the little Larder ... thatcher’s pay making repairs over the Old Hall ... key bought for the little chamber near the Herber [garden] ... key for the door of the clerks’ office ... key for the door of Margaret de Courteney’s [Elizabeth’s cousin, another granddaughter of Edward I] chamber ... key for the Lady’s Chamber ... key for the door of the Buttery ... roofing above Henry de Colingham’s [one of Elizabeth’s esquires] chamber and the cook’s chamber and pargeting the little Chapel and the chamber behind the Hall ... 120 blue stones bought for the Lady’s garden ... hinge bought for the castle gate ... 2 hooks and 2 hinges bought for the door of the Poultry ... 1 hinge bought for a chamber window ... 4 hinges with hooks bought for William de Burgh’s [Elizabeth’s son] chamber ... 1 lock bought for the gate of the Herber ... the chamber next to the Dernegate ... John the mason’s pay for making an oven in the castle ... a partition in the cellar and a wall between William de Burgh’s chamber and the Constable’s [Robert de Pentrich] chamber ... 30,000 tiles for laying over the Kitchen, part of the Esquires’ Chamber and the pentice, for the paths of the Herber, over the enclosure next to the Kitchen and divers other places in the castle ... a new gutter between the Kitchen and the dresser.’

There is a very useful glossary to help explain the often unusual words in the main text, but unfortunately no explanatory listing of the places and names that occur and re-occur in the entries. Overall, this is a wonderful source book, a window on to what these records contain – hopefully there will be more offerings from these really great records of a great lady.

EDWARD MARTIN

*Where is St Edmund? The Search for East Anglia’s Martyr King.* By Francis Young. 82 pp. + unpaginated notes and index. Ely: East Anglian Catholic History Centre. ISBN 978-0-9926404-1-5. Price: £7.99 pb.

The discovery of King Richard III’s body has sparked a wave of enthusiasm for finding the remains of lost kings – people have excitedly waved an assumed pelvis of King Alfred at Winchester and now in this slim paperback Dr Young reviews the troubled evidence for the whereabouts of the tenth-century East Anglian king whose body was once the centrepiece of the abbey at Bury St Edmunds. There is no contemporary account that tells us what happened to the saint’s remains within its magnificent shrine – or even whether there was actually anything within the shrine. There was a strong tradition that the remains should not be viewed, which was perhaps advantageous for the body of a decapitated king whose head had miraculously re-attached itself to the body, a body which had also survived several moves and two fires in the abbey. When the shrine of the great Welsh saint, David, was opened in 1538

it was found to contain only ‘two heedes of sylver plate enclosing two rotten skulles stuffed with putrified clowtes ... two arme bones, and a worm eaten boke covered with sylver plate’.<sup>1</sup> Who knows what remained of St Edmund!

Dr Young’s main new contribution to the debate is some material contained within the writings of Dom Ralph Bennet Weldon (1647–1713), a monk at the Roman Catholic Priory of St Edmund in Paris (an offshoot of the priory at Douai). Around 1697–1701 Weldon was speaking to another monk about the alleged remains of St Edmund then in the Basilica of Saint-Sernin at Toulouse<sup>2</sup> and was told that ‘it was a fake story, th[a]t F. Hitchcock’s Grandfather or Great Grandfather has seen H[is – i.e Edmund’s] Body put into an Iron Chest at the fall of Religion in England & knew w[he]re it was put’. Father William Hitchcock alias Nedam (1617–1711) was then prior of St Edmund’s, but Weldon does not seem to have pursued the matter until 1710 when the aged Hitchcock was at Douai. When he did, he got back this reply: ‘whatever he [Hitchcock] might formerly [have said], [he] remembers not a syllable of it now, nor is it any wonder, his memory being quite lost & gone, to th[a]t degree th[a]t he retains not the least notion of any person or thing th[a]t he actually sees not w[i]th his eyes’. A reply that does little to encourage much of a belief in Hitchcock’s iron chest story. In fact one has doubts about the sanity of both Hitchcock and Weldon, for elsewhere Weldon enthusiastically reports that the aged Father Joseph Frere ‘when the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar was given him, for his Viaticum; wherefore being troubled with phlegm and going to evacuate it, contrary to his expectation the Holy Eucharist came along with it on the floor; and R.F. William Hitchcock, a devout old monk ... with an heroical courage, a lively faith, and flaming charity most reverently took it up and overcoming all repugnancy swallowed it spittle and all; a glorious and venerable example worthy of eternal memory’.<sup>3</sup> That said, one of the pensioned-off monks of Bury Abbey at its dissolution was called Robert Nedhm alias Bronyon<sup>4</sup> – could he be Hitchcock alias Nedam’s ancestor, and could there be, after all, a grain of truth in the story?

Young’s conclusion is that it ‘can be asserted beyond reasonable doubt that the body of St Edmund still lies, unknown and unrevered, somewhere in the town that bears his name’. I suspect that the truthful answer to the question posed in the book’s title is that it is (to paraphrase an inscription found on many World War I gravestones) something known only to God.

EDWARD MARTIN

#### NOTES

- 1 Wright, T. (ed.), 1843. *Three Chapters of Letters relating to the Suppression of Monasteries*, 184. London.
- 2 For these remains, now in the FitzAlan Chapel at Arundel Castle in Sussex, see N. Scarfe, ‘The Body of St Edmund. An Essay in Necrobiology’, *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, 31, 1969, 303–17.
- 3 Weldon, B., 1709 (published 1881). *Chronological Notes containing the Rise, Growth and Present State of the English Congregation of the Order of St Benedict*, 234–35. London.
- 4 Dugdale, W. 1846. *Monasticon Anglicanum*, 5, 171. London.