

ROMAN SUFFOLK.

BY REV. IVAN E. MOORE, M.A., B.D.

It is now thirty-eight years since the last account of Roman Suffolk appeared. This was the chapter on Roman Suffolk in the Victoria County History by G. E. Fox, based on material previously published by him in a paper in the *Archæological Journal*.¹ Since the time Fox wrote his survey the whole science of archæology has undergone a radical change and also much additional evidence of the Roman occupation of Suffolk has come to hand. It is the purpose of what follows to review the evidence that we have for the Roman occupation of Suffolk as a whole and to bring together such additional information as has become available since Fox's pioneer work appeared.

The research for this undertaking was carried out largely between the years 1933-1937; a time when there was much activity in the investigation of Roman Suffolk. Pressure of work and World War 2 have been jointly responsible for the delay in the publication of this work, but I cannot feel that this is altogether to be regretted, for in the interval important papers, having a bearing on the subject, have appeared and these have been of great value in compiling this account.

We may begin this account of Roman Suffolk by taking note of the state of affairs that obtained prior to the Roman invasion. The county then lay within the frontiers of the kingdom of the Iceni. The work of Sir Cyril Fox,² Messrs. Hawkes and Dunning³ and Mr. R. R. Clarke⁴ has enabled us to place these in a zone running N.W. S.E. across the Icknield Way near Newmarket on the west and somewhere between the Stour and the Deben on the south. Study of the distribution of Iron Age objects in East Anglia by Sir Cyril Fox⁵ and a more detailed account of Iron Age Suffolk by Mr. R. R. Clarke⁶ has provided a knowledge of the actual areas occupied within these frontiers when the Romans came upon the scene.

From his distribution map of the second phase of the Early Iron Age Sir Cyril Fox concludes that "evidence of occupation in Norfolk and Suffolk is scanty; the Deben and Orwell estuaries are almost completely disused."⁷ Clarke's more extensive researches led him to conclude that coin distribution "fixes the nucleus of the Icenian kingdom in Breckland" and that in this period East Suffolk "may in the pre-Claudian phase have been largely a depopulated no-man's land."⁸ Clarke has also commented upon the communications that may have existed between the Iceni and their neighbours. He says, "there is little indication of intercourse with the Coritani of the Midlands across the Fens".⁹ Regarding their contact with the Belgic tribes to the south-west and the south, he thinks that this was established "by the time honoured route of the Icknield Way and across the watershed from the Lark to the Stour valleys" but

¹ Arch. J. LVII (1900), 89-165. ² Fox (1923) 103. ³ "The Belgae of Gaul and Britain" Arch. J. LXXXVII. (1930) 86. ⁴ Clarke (1940). ⁵ Fox (1933). ⁶ Clarke (1940). ⁷ Fox (1933) Fig. 7: p. 159. ⁸ Clarke (1940), p. 81. Some modification of this statement may be shortly required. See Clarke, Archaeological News Letter No. 2 (1948), p. 17. ⁹ Clarke (1940), p. 82.

holds that "the exclusiveness of the coin distribution confirms their essential hostility".¹

From the opinions that we have just mentioned, and the evidence upon which they are based, it would seem that on the eve of the Roman invasion the greater part of our county was left uninhabited by the Iceni living in the open country to the west, and no attempt was made at colonisation by the Belgic tribes to the south except for the occupation of the Stour valley in the first decades of the first century. The heavily afforested clay lands of central Suffolk may have been too much for the primitive agricultural methods of the Iceni, and the lighter land of East Suffolk too far from their tribal centre for them to contemplate settlement there. So far as colonisation of this latter area by the Trinobantes is concerned it may well be that the hostility of the Iceni towards them acted as a powerful deterrent.

The map of Roman Suffolk, (Fig.1), indicating the sites of all the major Roman "finds" within the county, reveals the change that took place during this period. The map indicates that now our county came to be fairly well populated compared with the previous era, and also that definite areas were preferred by the new settlers. The old Icenic lands in Breckland are still occupied but now there is an extensive occupation in East Suffolk, particularly in the Ipswich area. Both in East and West Suffolk the river valleys were chiefly selected. It will be noted that in Roman times, as well as in the previous period, no attempt was made to settle the afforested clay lands.²

Having noted in general terms the vast change that came over the county in Roman times we may now proceed to elucidate the stages whereby this overall occupation was attained. Suffolk lacks a completely excavated site from which the various stages of development may be adduced. We shall therefore be compelled to fall back upon such excavation reports as we have, "salvage" material that can be reliably dated and such generalisations from Norfolk sites, where investigation has been more thorough, as it may be safe to apply.

Before proceeding to the examination and discussion of the earliest evidence of a Roman occupation the first dealings of the Iceni with the invader must be mentioned.

It is well known that upon the capitulation of the Trinobantes the Iceni came to terms with Rome and received as the reward of their submission a "partial and patronized freedom".³ It is also equally well known that whatever advantages the tribe may have believed itself to have obtained they proved in a short time to be illusory. The erection of the Fosse Way "limes" cut the Iceni off from their neighbours the Coritani, and when disarmament was enforced upon the Iceni, who had regarded themselves hitherto as "free allies"⁴ of Rome, they revolted. The revolt was quickly put down by Ostorius Scapula in 47 A.D., but though still forced to disarm, they remained a "nominally independent kingdom"⁵ up to 61 A.D.

¹ *Ibid* p. 83. ² A probable villa at Woodrising in Norfolk is in the boulder clay area. (*J.R.S. XXXVIII* (1948), 91). This statement would require revision should a similar site come to light in our county. ³ *Collin* p. 87. ⁴ *Ibid*, p. 92. ⁵ *Ibid*, p. 93.

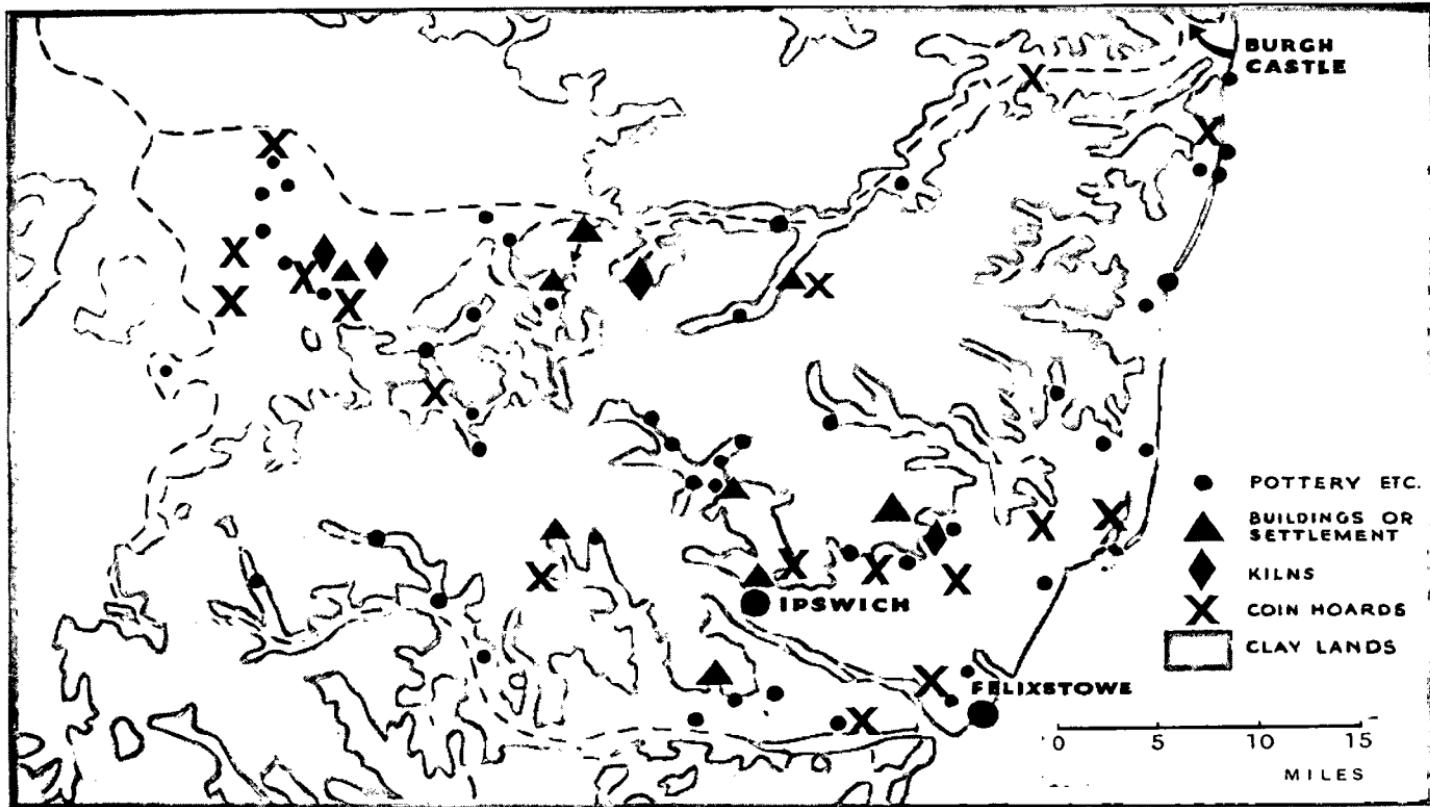


FIG. 1— Distribution Map of Roman Remains in Suffolk.

ROMAN SUFFOLK

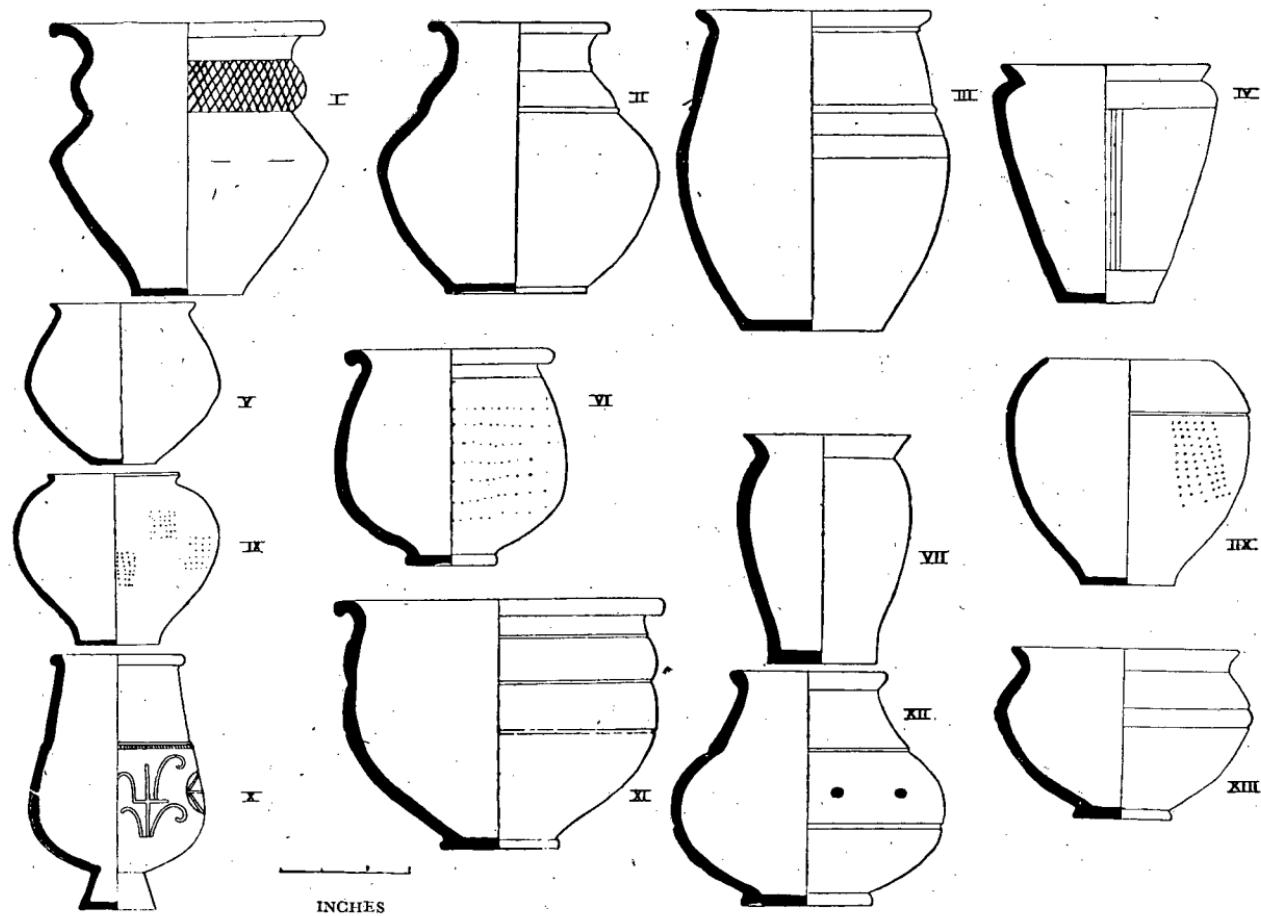


Fig. 2—Pottery from Lattingford, Playford, Exning, Icklingham, Ixworth, Snape Abbey and West Stow.

MID-FIRST CENTURY IN SUFFOLK, (43-61) A.D.

CLAUDIAN POTTERY FROM SUFFOLK.

Creeting. Woolard's Sandpit. Fragments of coarse pottery; grey butt-beaker with incised lines and cordons (broken) Ips M. Pottery from Creeting mentioned V.C.H. 304. *Exning.* Reddish buff butt-beaker with smooth surface (*Fig. 2. III.*). Contained nails and burnt bones. B.M. 53.9.8.15. *Hollesley.* Grey jar with bead rim decorated with scribble design around girth. Found with others B.M. 87.7.13.1 Cf. Clarke (1940). 107. *Ipswich - Burlington Road.* Grey jar with bead rim and cordons, decorated with line and scribble. Found with others East side of Burlington Road. Ips. M 1920-50.21. P.S.I.A. XXI.260. *Dale Hall and Valley Road junction.* Fragments of pottery found 1926. Ips. M 1926-116. P.S.I.A. XXI 259 Fig. 65. *Dales Rd. Sandpit.* Grey jar, wide neck and shoulder with cordons on latter with black lid of different texture; also brown beaker with foot and everted lip and incised scribble decoration on body. Ips. M 1920.—50.13 & 14. P.S.I.A. XI 337-8 (Illustration). P.S.I.A. XXI 258-9. V.C.H. 311. *Playford.* Wide-mouthed dark grey jar with cordons, "found in old fosse". (*Fig. 2. II.*) Cf Cam No. 232. M.H.B. V.C.H. 314. *Snape Abbey.* Buff Beaker with two bands of applied dots alternating plain and brown around body. (*Fig. 2 IX.*) B.M. 90.8.4.1. V.C.H. 316. *Sudbury.* Brundon Pit 1947. Large grey cordinated jar with spreading undercut lip, decorated with minute incised lines in vertical rows and wavy lines on upper and lower cordon respectively. In possession of Mr. Jordon, Sudbury. (Information from Mr. Guy Maynard.) *Tattingstone.* Two-handled flagon with buff coating; two reeded handle. Ips. M. 1920-50.1. V.C.H. 318. *Thurlow, Great.* Terra sigillata 15/17.27.29, 30. Stamp ALBVS (Claudian Nero La Graufesenque). From Refuse pits. Figure of Mercury in clunch. V.C.H. 318-9. Clarke (1940) 110. Fox (1923). Figure of Mercury: Heichelheim, 52-3. (Illustration). *Trimley.* Large grey jar with cordons decorated with lattice and scribble. Found at Broom Hill Farm three feet below surface with burnt bones. Ips. M. 1920-50. 20. V.C.H. 319.

It will be noticed at once that this pottery comes from two distinct areas—the Ipswich district and S.W. Suffolk. The distribution of this pottery has already received attention from Mr. S. Frere,¹ who has studied it in connection with the distribution of Belgic material from Butley, Elvedon, Fakenham, Freckenham and Lakenheath of about the same date. He has observed that "truly romanized pottery is in the main restricted to the sites in the neighbourhood of Ipswich"², and that "it was South Suffolk that chiefly felt the first impact of Rome".³ The occurrence of Claudian pottery at Exning, Sudbury, (not hitherto noted) and Great Thurlow indicate an attempt in this same period to continue the settlement of the upper reaches of the Stour already begun by the Belgæ. No evidence of road building in these areas at this time has been noted, nor is there any indication of building having taken place with the possible exception of Great Thurlow. Whether this penetration took place in the years immediately following the conquest or after the capitulation of the Iceni to Ostorius Scapula is hard to say; the latter is more probable. Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes has remarked upon this and other evidence from Norfolk cited by Frere, "a Prasutagan period in East Anglian Archaeology may now be formulated".⁴ Upon the same evidence Frere has commented "Prasutagus, in fact, lacked sufficient wealth or will to impose romanization on his subjects but what he did do was to open his realm to its diffusion."⁵ We may conclude, then, that between the years 48-61 A.D. there was a definite Roman penetration in the S.E. and S.W. of our county and some attempt was made to settle these areas.

¹ Frere (1941). ² Ibid. 55. ³ Ibid. 55. ⁴ Ibid. 52. ⁵ Ibid. 55.

Such settlement, however, was obviously limited in extent and superficial in character, and to it the revolt of Boudicca, the next event we are to consider, set a period.

The revolt, to which we have just alluded, as regards its causes, course and final outcome for the Iceni, has been so often dealt with that further description here is unnecessary.¹ It is sufficient to note that with a few possible exceptions no trace of this momentous event is to be found within the county. It may be that the bronze head of a statue of Claudius recovered from the Alde at Rendham is rightly regarded as a relic of the booty seized by the Iceni in the sack of Colchester.² Also Clarke may be equally right in interpreting the charcoal and blackened earth associated with the enamelled horse-trappings at Westall, which he thinks were probably concealed in 61 A.D., as the remains of the destruction of the site "at the hands of over zealous Roman troops"³. If, however, evidence of the revolt is lacking, that of its effect is clearly to be found in the years that immediately follow. It is to such evidence of the "revival" of Roman life in Suffolk after the suppression of Boudicca's revolt in 61 A.D. that we shall now give our attention.

LATE FIRST AND SECOND CENTURY IN SUFFOLK

Pottery belonging to the last decades of the first century and the first half of the second century has been noted on a number of sites in the county. On the basis of the presence of such pottery a number of sites may be classified as being occupied during these years.

SITES OCCUPIED DURING THE LAST DECADES OF THE FIRST CENTURY AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE SECOND CENTURY

Barnham. Coarse pottery and Terra sigillata F.33, stamp TITURONI (=Tituro of Lezoux, Antonine). Thetford Museum. C.A.S.C. (1873).

Brandon. Terra sigillata. C.M.A.E.

Capel St. Mary. In a Council House garden at Windmill Hill remains of foundations, window glass, plaster, iron objects and terra sigillata of the second century were noted; also pair of bronze lions attached by two iron bars leaded into hollow underside, the intervening space being filled with a perishable substance. (*Fig. 3*). (Information from and objects in Ips. M.).

Coddenham. (Including neighbouring parishes of Baylham and Barking). The site at Coddenham described in Gentleman's Magazine. V.C.H. 303. Field work has located this in the fields east of the Gipping north and south of Baylham Mill. A road in the field across the Gipping east of Baylham Mill was sectioned in 1935. Width 18 ft. with ramps on each side. Plan of building excavated early last century in this area appears in letter from Sir William Middleton to John Page. (Note from Rev. W. M. Lummis). *Shrubland Park*. Burial group of two jars with cordon on shoulder, containing burnt bones; one asymmetrical, both buff/grey. From field to right of "Sheep Walk" and about half mile up latter coming from Norwich Road end. (Note from Lady de Saumarez). Ips. M. 1941-93 A & B. Mirror Case from Coddenham B.M.G. 68. V.C.H. (Illustrated). *Barking*. Statue of Nero from Barking Hall B.M.G. 87 (Illustration) V.C.H. 300 (illustration). *Baylham*. Fragment of terra sigillata F.29 (Domitian) Ips. M. 1920-50.88. V.C.H. 300.

Combs. Terra sigillata F 18/31. Ips. M. 1920-50.70. V.C.H. 303.

¹ Collin, 99-104; Clarke (1940), 87. Spence *Boadicea* (London 1937). Tacitus Annals ,XIV, 31-38 Note Prasutagus was king of the Iceni at the time of the rebellion in 47 A.D. and reigned till 61 A.D.

² P.S.I.A. XIII. p. 225. Antiquary XLV. p. 235. J.R.S. XVI. p. 4ff. Spence, *Boadicea*. p. 123. ³ Clarke. (1940), p. 69.

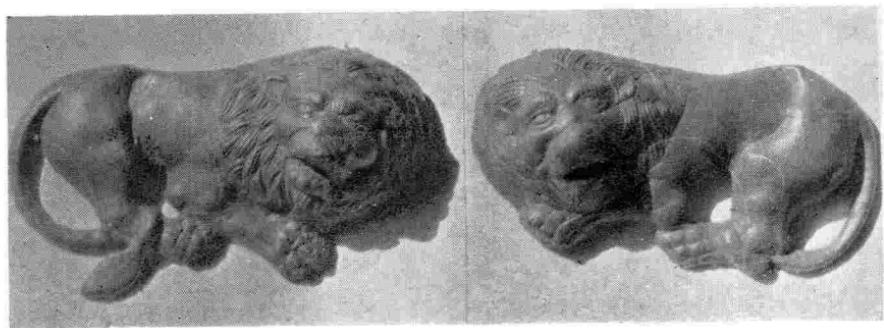


Fig. 3—Bronze Lions from Capel St. Mary. (*Photo Ipswich Museum*)

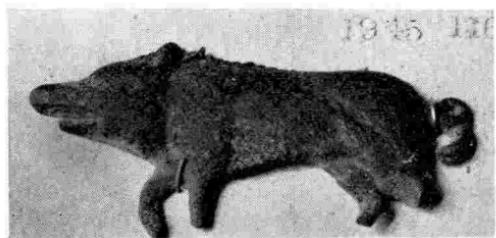


Fig. 5—Bronze Boar from Wattisfield. (*Photo Ipswich Museum*)



Fig. 4—Rotary Querns from Darnsden. (*Photo. Ipswich Museum*)

Darmsden. Stone Pit. Pottery:—Ovoid beaker with everted lip Ips. M. 1930-49. Jar with lip on shoulder with eleven rows of stabbing on body Ips. M. 1944-50. Both early to middle 2nd cent. Rotary quern, vesicular lava. Ips. M. 1943-111. (Fig. 4).

Exning. Dark grey ovoid beaker with roll rim and foot ring decorated with dots; Contained burnt bones and nails. B.M. 53.8.8.15. (Fig. 2, VI.). Blackish-brown thumb indented beaker containing burnt bones, (3rd cent.) Ips. M. 1920-50.13. Also V.C.H. 304. Coins:—Trajan; Maximian.

Hazelwood. Refuse pits excavated at Barber's point on south bank of Alde in 1907. Sundry finds including terra sigillata F.27, stamp Quintus (La Graufesenque, 1st cent.), F. 18, stamp Tasc (Tascilli, Lezoux Domitian-Hadrian). Coarse Ware. This was not studied at the time of excavation but preserved in Aldeburgh Museum and consists of fragments of jars with cordons and incised decoration imitating Gallo-Belgic forms. V.C.H. 307-8,

Hitcham. Refuse pits at Brickhouse Farm. Trackway 84 ft. long extended from foundations of building to refuse pits. Terra sigillata F.18, Stamp-XMIN. F.29. ALBU (Albus South Gaul). F.18 Stamp LITTERA. F. (Lezoux Flavian). Coarse Ware. Fragments of dishes and large fragment of grey bowl with thickened spreading rim, high girth with incised line. (Cf. Caistor S.19. 140 A.D.). Coins: Trajan (97-117) Maximianus (235-238). P.S.I.A. vol. XVIII. J.R.S. vol. XV. 235; XVI. 279. Pottery Ips. M. 1930-207.

Holbrook. Greenwich Royal Hospital. When excavating for swimming bath in 1929 the mechanical grab brought up fragments of coarse pottery, small jug, terra sigillata F.18 (135-200 A.D.), two coins unidentified, from depth of 6-8 ft. Pottery at and information from Greenwich Royal Hospital Estate Office, Holbrook. Pottery examined by Mr. M. R. Hull.

Ipswich:—Gyppeswick Park. Fragments terra sigillata. Antiquary. XXII.16, *Kelly Road*, Crane Hill. Buff jug and grey dish. P.S.I.A. XXI.260. Ips. M. 1925-45. *St. Matthews' Parish.* Brooches found together with pottery. Collectanea Antiqua III. 154. N.C.M. 727.76.94. 728. 76.94. 729.76.94. Late first, early second cent. *Whitton.* Black cordoned bowl with scribble design, from Wattisfield kilns. P.S.I.A. XXI.248 Fig. 8. "Burial Shafts" excavated by late Mr. Reid Moir at Bolton's brickfields perhaps also of this period. P.S.I.A. XXII. 141-9.

Ixworth (Including Pakenham) *Priory Farm.* Fragments terra sigillata and coarse ware dishes, cordoned bowls and jars. Fragment decorated terra sigillata Vespasian-Domitian, South Gaul. *Duck Farm* (Pakenham). Fragments terra sigillata, fragment F.36 Antonine. Coarse ware as above. (Notes made when inspecting pottery in the possession of Major G. Kilner). *Other Pottery.* Decorated terra sigillata bowl F.37 (Antonine). Ash.M. R. 294. Coarse ware:—grey bowl with cordons from Pickerel Inn. (Fig. 2, XI). Ash.M. 1907. R 215. Small grey bowl with everted lip and cordon around girth (Fig. 2, XIII) from Pakenham. Ash.M. Also dark grey beaker with everted lip on shoulder, polished zone on shoulder and at base with incised vertical lines in groups between (Fig. 2, IV) Ash. M. R. 212. All three similar fabric to Wattisfield kilns.

Kirton. Grey pot of rough texture with incised lines on shoulder, and undercut lip. Found with burnt bones. Ips.M. 1920-50.43. V.C.H. 312 Cf Caistor Kilns B.4.

Lakenheath. At foot of Maid's Cross Hill, close to meeting place of chalk and fen. Many Roman objects obtained from this site including coins, Philippus-Honorius. About 200 yds. from this site remains discovered in 1945. Patches of black sand noted. Terra sigillata:—sherds including F.18/31 & 33 and stamps TITRONIS, SEDATI, AUCELLIA, SATV. (Lezoux-Antonine). Coarse ware:—quantity of sherds. Some pots reconstructed including beaker with everted lip (cf Fig. 2, IV), small black ovoid undecorated jar and large grey cooking pot. Two latter said to be "reminiscent of Iron Age ware both in shape and technique". C.A.S.C. XLI. 67-70 Pl. XIII-XVII. Iron objects from Lakenheath in B.M.

Lattingford. Quantity of pottery found in 1927 when constructing new bypass road at junction of old road with new road N.E. of Lattingford Bridge. Terra sigillata F.18. Stamp M CCO (? Mecco of Rheinzabern, Hadrian Antonine), F. 18 Stamp SALBO.F. (Sextus Albanus La Graufesenque, Claudius Nero). Bases with stamps PATERNI & CRUCUR and F.33 two specimens. Coarse Ware. Dark grey carinated bowl with incised lattice decoration (Cf Cam 104). (Fig. 2, I). Coarse grey beaker with short

necked rim (Cf Cam 104). (*Fig. 2, V*). Coarse bottle. E.A.D.T. 10/5/35. Also E.A.D.T. 27/12/27. Pottery Ips. M. 1927-33. 1-7. On top of opposite hill S.W. of Lattingford Bridge pottery including terra sigillata, perhaps building. (Note from Mr. Guy Maynard).

Melford, Long. Pottery and coins, Vespasian (69-79 A.D.) and Hadrian (117-138 A.D.) "three hundred yards from Stour" V.C.H. 312-313. St. Katherine's Road, between Stour and village pottery and glass including Terra sigillata F.18, F.27 Stamp QVC. Coarse ware, two dishes, grey pedestal beaker decorated with incised vertical lines and reddish flask. Human skeletons. P.S.I.A. XV. 267 (Illustrations) Ips. M. 1931. 228. 1-6. When excavating for brewery, fragments of terra sigillata, coarse ware including carinated bowl in black smooth ware and brooches were found. (Note from Mr. Guy Maynard, seen at Brewery House 1936; in possession proprietor). Decorated Terra sigillata Ips. M. 1920-50.83 (Middle second cent.) Ips. M. 1920-50.88. F.29 (Claudian).

Reydon Smere. Building material found in plantation. Small dark grey bowl. Note from Dr. H. D. Collings. Bowl in Southwold Museum.

Wattisfield. Pottery Kilns. Foxledge Common P.S.I.A. XXII. 179-197. (plan of site, and kiln, drawings of pottery). Kiln at Ips. M.. Bandle Field, Wattisfield Hall. Kilns also noted at Botesdale and Rickinghall and Hinderclay Wood (neighbouring parishes). All sites determined by belt of good potting clay. (Note from Mr. Basil Brown who has also noted a spread of fragments of pottery throughout district). Bronze Boar, hollow underside, length approx $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. extreme width $\frac{1}{2}$ " found in land draining on field adjoining Foxledge Common kiln site. Hallstatt pottery from same site. Ips. M. R 1943-126. (*Fig. 5*). Cf Bronze Boars by Rev. E. L. Bamwell, "Early Antiquities of Montgomeryshire."

Welnetham, Great. Refuse pits. Coins; Faustina (147-76). Severus Alexander (222-235 A.D.) Pottery including Terra Sigillata. Stamps. BELINNICI.M. (Trajan-Antonine, Lezoux) AELIANUS. M. (Hadrian-Antonine, Lezoux). DIVIXTUS (Trajan-Antonine, Lezoux). V.C.H. 319.

West Stow. Five kilns found on West Stow Heath in 1878 & 1890. Coin of Constantius in kiln 5. Beaker with everted lip on shoulder from kiln 2 (*Fig. 2, VII*). V.C.H. 317 ff. Beaker at M.H.B. Further two kilns on ridge north of river Lark and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Lackford Church, east of Icknield Way on West Stow Heath. Kilns up-draught type. Pottery. Jugs first cent. type and coarse ware imitating terra sigillata F. 37 (Cf Needham types 36, 62, 63.N.A. XXVIII). Fragment 4th cent. jug. J.R.S. XXXIV. 1944. 80. Also notes from Mr. Basil Brown; report forthcoming.

COIN HOARDS.

Benacre. 920 coins in pot. V.C.H. 300. *Archæologia LIV.* (1895). 489. Sutherland 156. Deposit Marcus Aurelius.

Lavenham. In field near Lavenham Lodge. 1874. 197 silver coins of which 183 saved. V.C.H. 312. Deposit Trajan. Sutherland 20 & 155.

From the study of the distribution of these sites and the characteristics of the pottery upon which the classification has been based much light is thrown upon what took place in the county in the years that follow Boudicca's revolt.

DISTRIBUTION

The Roman sites at Capel St. Mary, Coddenham, Darmsden, Hazlewood, Lattingford and Reydon Smere, and the finds of pottery at Combs, Ipswich and Kirton, in East Suffolk, together with the site at Long Melford in the Stour Valley and the pottery from Exning, demonstrate that the occupation of the areas commenced in Prasutagan times was continued. That new areas were also occupied now is shown by the finds at Great Welnetham, Hitcham, Ixworth and the Wattisfield district. It will be noted that the river valleys are still preferred and the clay lands

avoided. The absence of any considerable finds in Breckland, apart from the kilns at West Stow and the pottery from Lakenheath, is puzzling. It may be that the archaeological record is at fault. Perhaps the nucleus of the Iceni kingdom was slower to recover from the destruction of Suetonius Paulinus than the outlying areas.

CHARACTER OF THE OCCUPATION

The classification of these sites upon the basis of the pottery produced has already been mentioned. Since much of this is salvage material and in some instances consists of fragments only it would be hazardous to place much reliance upon it did it not display features that have been noted in that from the more systematically excavated sites in Norfolk (Caistor-by-Norwich, Gayton Thorpe, Needham, Scole and Runceton Holme) and Wattisfield. Prof. Atkinson noted both at Gayton Thorpe and Caistor-by-Norwich that backwardness seemed to be an East Anglian characteristic and observed a "lagging tendency" in the coarse ware, types not to be expected after 120 A.D. appearing with terra sigillata of the Antonine Age.¹ Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes found that the Runceton Holme pottery confirmed Prof. Atkinson's conclusions and remarked upon the influence of Gallo-Belgic forms upon the work of local potters and the absence of pieces common in the Flavian period.² The pottery from Needham,³ Scole⁴ and Wattisfield⁵ displayed the same features. The coarse ware available for study from Darmsden, Exning, Hazlewood, Hitcham, Ixworth, Kirton, Lakenheath, Lattingford, Long Melford and Reydon Smere is of a piece with that from the Norfolk sites and Wattisfield.

The hypothesis put forward by Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes to account for the backwardness of the pottery from the Norfolk sites may now with good reason be applied to that from Suffolk. Prof. Hawkes holds that "provincial civilization seems to have made but little headway among the Iceni until the second century had well begun" and accounts for this by the ruthless treatment that was meted out to the Iceni after the revolt of Boudicca.⁶ We may therefore conclude that the "revival" of the Roman life in Suffolk cannot have commenced much before the end of the first century and did not flourish to any appreciable extent till well on into the second century.

Though buildings have been noted at Capel St. Mary, Coddenham, Hitcham, Lattingford and Reydon Smere not enough is known about them to make their history clear. That they had their beginnings in the second century is certain, and it is almost equally certain that they were not occupied later than the first decade of the third century. It is probable, however, that they were deserted at an even earlier date. Since there was a more extensive occupation of our county in the third and fourth centuries the discussion of the demise of these buildings will be deferred to the latter part of this account when the evidence of the occupation for these centuries has been presented.

¹ P.S.S.E.A., Vol. VII, 237. ² Ibid, 237 and 243. ³ N.A. XXVIII, 187-216. ⁴ P.S.I.A., XXII. (1937), 263-286. ⁵ P.S.I.A., XXII, 178-197. ⁶ P.P.S.E.A., Vol. VII, p. 237.

ROMAN BARROWS

In 1843-4 four Roman barrows, within 250 yards of remains of buildings, were investigated at Rougham.¹ The second contained among other objects terra sigillata belonging to the first half of the second century; a fourth at Eastlow Hill contained a small chamber in which was found a leaden coffin with a skeleton within. Other Roman barrows in Suffolk have been noted at Blaxhall² and Stonham.³ The Rougham barrows were interpreted by Sir Cyril Fox⁴ as a survival of a La Tène custom in our area, while the absence of grave furniture in the fourth at Eastlow Hill he held to indicate a "Christian burial" probably of the fourth century. Messrs. Dunning and Jessop⁵ in a more extended survey of Roman barrows concluded that no barrow was built later than the second century though Eastlow Hill was regarded as a possible exception. On the ground that outside Britain Roman barrows are found to be concentrated in Eastern Belgium, these writers reached the conclusion that the custom was introduced into Britain by merchants from Rhineland who participated in its commercial development.

COMMUNICATIONS

It has already been noted that no road making was undertaken in our county before 61 A.D. and that access was obtained by routes not yet discovered, with the exception of the Icknield Way. Roman roads however, are recorded for our county on the O.S. map of Roman Britain and the evidence for them is discussed by Codrington.⁶ Our purpose here will not be to set out again the evidence for the Roman roads in our county but to bring together such additional knowledge about them as has become available since the publication of the latter work.

The chief Roman road passing through our county is that from Colchester to Caistor-by-Norwich, to be identified with Iter IX in the Antonine Itinerary, and known to antiquaries as the "Pye Road". Entering Suffolk at Stratford St. Mary it proceeds, by way of Capel St. Mary, to cross the Gipping at Baylham Mill and thence to Scole along the main Ipswich-Norwich Road. A branch leaves this road north of Coddenham and goes via Pettaugh and Earl Soham to Peasenhall, where it makes an angle with another which runs through Weybread possibly to join the former road at Pulham, Norfolk. Nothing is known of this route beyond Peasenhall apart from alleged tracks across the heath at Dunwich. Clarke regards the Colchester-Caistor road as having been constructed "just before or soon after the cantonal capital of the Iceni at Caistor" about 70 A.D., and the Weybread-Peasenhall road as "contemporary or later."⁷ Frere, writing later, put the Weybread-Peasenhall road "not earlier than the second century"⁸. Sections were cut across the Colchester-Caistor road at Coddenham in 1935 and showed it to be 18 ft. in diameter buttressed with ramps and ditches. In the latter fragments of late first and early second century pottery were found. At Stratford St. Mary, where the road is presumed to have crossed the Stour, old piles of a bridge at the end of a road leading from Colchester, a coin

¹ V.C.H. 315. ² V.C.H. 301. ³ V.C.H. 317. ⁴ Fox (1923) 199. ⁵ Ant. Vol. X, 37-51. ⁶ Roman Roads in Britain 3rd edition, (1918). ⁷ N.A. XXVI, pp. 161-2. ⁸ N.A. XXVIII, p. 190.

of Antoninus Pius,¹ and an amphora,² have been found.

Another road has been shown to enter our county at Bungay, parallel with the Weybread-Peasenhall road, and then to follow the line of Stone Street. (Ilketstall St. John to Halesworth).³ A spread of coins, mostly third century have been noted at Bungay,⁴ a coin of Postumus from Ilketstall St. John.⁵ A statuette of Venus is recorded as from Blyford Bridge⁶ in which direction the road is supposed to have proceeded upon reaching Halesworth. No trace of the road has been discovered beyond Halesworth though suggestions as to the possible route have been forthcoming.

In West Suffolk there is little trace of road building. Attention has, however, been directed to the Peddars' Way. Clarke regards any attempt to trace its route across the heavy clay lands of central Suffolk as unconvincing but suggests, wherever its route may lie, that it was "part of a line of communication constructed after the repression of Boudicca's rebellion, to impress the disgruntled rebels with the might of Rome."⁷ Fox has made the suggestion that there may have been a route from Colchester through Haverhill to Cambridge and Godmanchester passing the head of the Stour valley in the vicinity of Great Thurlow.⁸ In Roman times the Icknield Way still presumably performed its ancient function of linking Norfolk across N.W. Suffolk with southern England. A section of a road running in an east-west direction has been noted at Hitcham.⁹ Another in the same direction along the Waveney valley has also been supposed, by Frere.¹⁰

Upon the foregoing account, derived from recent work on the Roman roads in our county we may now comment. It is now evident that the construction of the Colchester-Caistor road may be dated to 70 A.D. or thereabouts and this indicates that it must have been used to develop Roman life in Suffolk. Indeed it provided a means of easy access to Colchester on the south and Caistor in the north and its branches enabled settlers to penetrate into the north-east. If Clarke's suggestions regarding the Peddars' Way be accepted we shall see that some attempt was made to establish a direct contact with West Suffolk ; and furthermore, should we accept the view that there was a route along the Waveney Valley contact now was made between East and West Suffolk thereby. It may, therefore, be supposed that by the second century a system of communications was in operation. When it is recalled that Capel St. Mary, Cottenham and Lattingford lie on the Colchester-Caistor route and that Hitcham was in the vicinity of the Peddars' Way, and also the Wattisfield kiln sites would have adjoined the Waveney route the impetus that these roads gave to the settlement of the county cannot be in doubt. Moreover, presumably their construction made for unity in the life of our area in this period.

¹ J.R.S. XVII, p. 203. ² Cam. No. 183c. ³ See R. R. Clarke "Roman Norfolk". N.A. XXX. ⁴ VCH 301. ⁵ Ibid. 310. ⁶ Ibid. 301. Heichelheim 62. ⁷ N.A. XXVI, pp. 155 and 159. ⁸ Fox (1923), 169. ⁹ O.S. Roman Britain Map. ¹⁰ N.A. XXVIII, 190.

THE THIRD AND FOURTH CENTURIES IN SUFFOLK.

To enable us to consider these centuries it will be necessary first to list the sites occupied and also to furnish a separate list of coin hoards belonging to the period.

THIRD AND FOURTH CENTURY SITES

Burgh Castle. This site may be treated summarily as it has been the subject of comprehensive study in these Proceedings. The author concludes that "the Saxon Shore fort was probably built in the late 3rd or early 4th century, and the occupation seems to have reached its peak during the reign of Constantine I. It was occupied continuously down to the time of Honorius, at the beginning of the 5th century, at which time the Anglo-Saxons may have commenced to settle in the neighbourhood". P.S.I.A. XXIV. p. 120.

Burgh Nr. Woodbridge. Excavations carried out in 1900 in Castle Field, near Church within rectangle of bank and ditches 225 X 200 yards yielded building material, nails, pins, and terra sigillata F.30 and 29/27 (Domitian). Coarse ware discarded. Coin Valentinian (364-375). Report "Woodbridge Field Club" in Ipswich Public Library. Objects Ips. M. V.C.H. 301. Though regarded by G. E. Fox as military site, this view no longer seems tenable. Further investigations proceeding.

Eye. On east side of town, where stream joins Dove, remains of hypocaust. V.C.H. 305 Haverfield mentions having seen drawing of hypocaust at Eye in Campfield (1857). Haverfield Notes, Haverfield Library, Oxford.

Eriswell. Dale Hole Middens. Terra sigillata, Castor Ware and Horningsea. Third brasses of Carausius and Claudius II. J.R.S. XV (1926) C.A.S.C. XXVIII (1927). 3.

Felixstowe. The site is on the top of the cliffs a mile south of the river Deben extending inland and has suffered badly through coastal erosion. Various accounts are given of a Saxon Shore Fort existing here in the 18th century. V.C.H. 287-291. East Anglian Miscellany 9083. The Saxon Shore, Mothersole. 251. Haverfield, Real Encyclopædia Der classischen Altertumswissenschaft 327-334. Archaeology of Roman Britain, Collingwood. 51. Old Felixstowe, L. P. Thompson, 11-14. Rubbish pits have been excavated here. 1/ 1843 "sort of kitchen midden" Antiquary XLII.283. Red bottle Ips. M. 1920-50.4 (as Fig. 7. V.) 2/ Arbuthnot 1897. Woolnough Notes, Ipswich Public Library. Pottery Ips. M. (Fig. 6, IV, VI, IX, XI) Found with coin of Caracalla (198-217). No note as to stratification. 3/ Hopwood "four feet deep". Cross bow brooch c. 300 A.D., coin Tetricus (270-273), ashes, bones. Note Ips. M. Miscellaneous objects described in V.C.H. 305-7. Sundry objects at Ips. M.; C.M.A.E.; N.C.M.; M.H.B. Pottery:—Indented beaker described Arch. J. XXXI.53. Terra sigillata bowl with stamp PER-VINCUS (Rheinzabern-Antonine) Ant., J. 1924.154-5. Terra sigillata vase B.M.G. 109. Pl XI.9. also illustrated V.C.H. Amphora Ips. M. 1920.50.27. Dark grey bottle, with darker polished bands B.M. 53.8.15.15. Large grey storage jar with stabbing beneath rim B.M. 53.8.15.2.

Figure 6.

- I. Indented beaker. Light brick red colour. "Found when excavating for sewage plant at depth of 20 ft." Ips. M. 1920-50.9.
- II. Small red jar. Saxon ornamentation B.M. 53.8.15.7.
- III. Coarse grey jar with four faintly incised lines on shoulder Ips. M. 1920-50.12.
- IV. Castor beaker, reddish brown. Ips. M. 1920-50.3.
- V. Grey dish, angular flange B.M. 53.8.15.6.
- VI. Black bowl with flange. Ips. M. 1920-50.7.
- VII. Indented pedestal beaker with graffiti. Ips. M. 1920-50.15.
- VIII. Grey "poppy head" beaker, thin fabric decorated with zones of dark dots. B.M. 83.8.15.14.
- IX. Black cooking pot with oversailing rim Ips. M. 1920-50.44.
- X. Small black Castor beaker, "found 1843". M.H.B.
- XI. Grey bowl with out-turned lip on shoulder. Ips. M.

ROMAN SUFFOLK

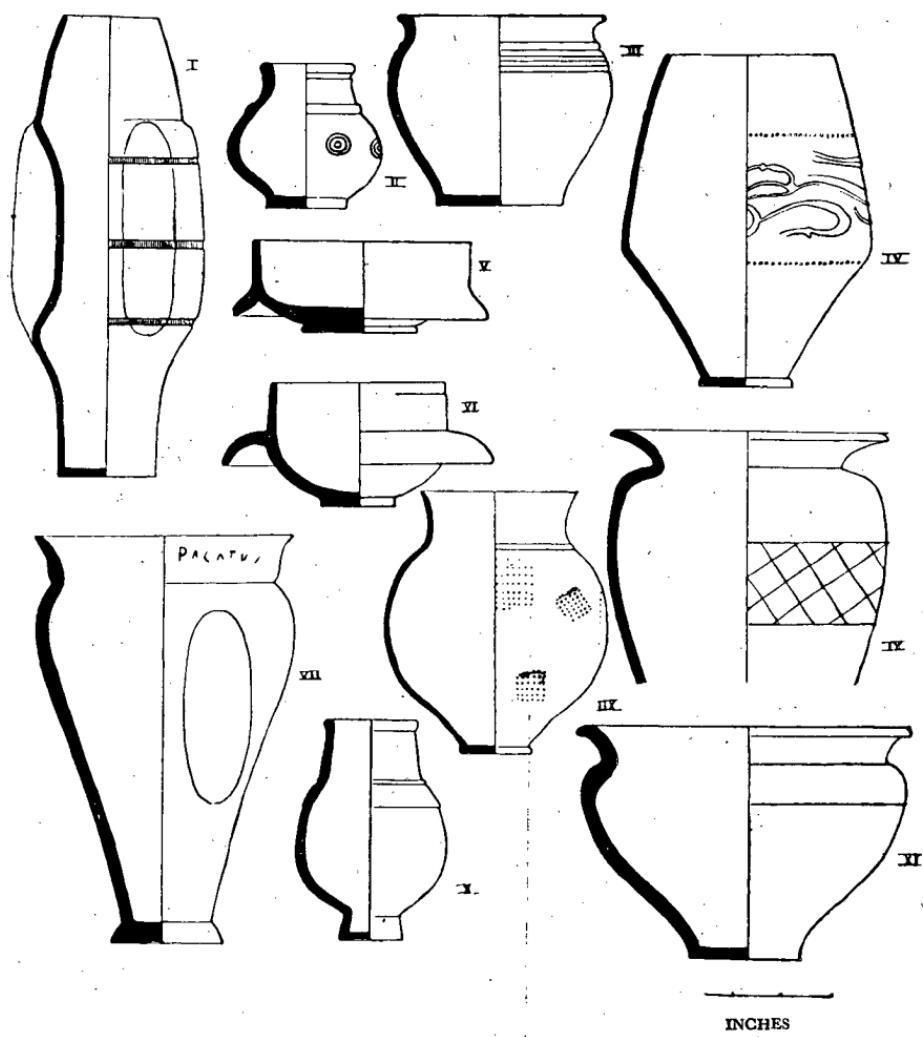
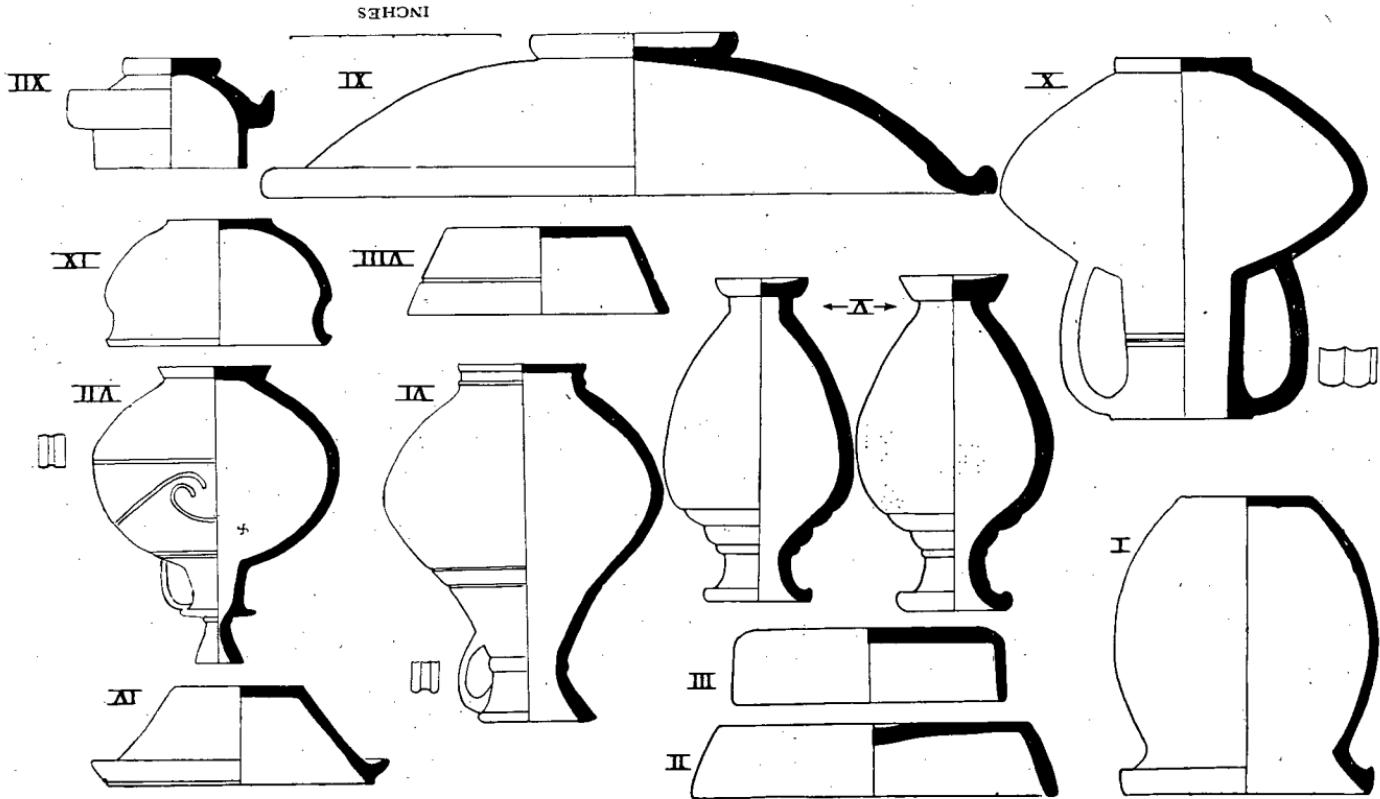


Fig. 6—Pottery from Felixstowe.

ROMAN SUFFOLK

Fig. 7.—Pottery from Icklingham.



Coins.

Collection Rev. Wm. Myers. 3, BC.; 23, 1st cent; 55, 2nd cent; 99, 3rd cent; 240, 4th cent. Total 420. V.C.H. 306. E.A.M. Vol. 4. (August 1939). Collection of Mr. S. D. Wall. 1st-4th cent., *ibid* and Mr. S. D. Wall's Note book Ips. M. Cf. J.R.S. VI.

Roman Finds.

(1935-38). North of High Road between Exeter Road and Beatrice Avenue. Five jars, some containing burnt bones and bone pin with carved eagle head. E.A.M. Vol. 4. (April 1939) 346-8. Illustrations and plan.

Foxgrove Gardens, (Cul de Sac) Fragments of pottery in garden.

Jarrah Gates. Two urn burials in garden. (Notes from Mr. G. Maynard).

Icklingham. Buildings partially excavated in 1877 at Horselands. Coins Magna Urbica (282-5) & Carausius (286-93). V.C.H. 309. Pewter dishes from same site (in B.M.). Brooches, pins, bracelets etc. in Ash M. & B.M. Lead cistern 2 ft. 8 in. by 13 ft. with ten panels and twisted rope ornament round rim with the Christian monogram on central panels. Found 150 yds. from building mentioned with hybrid coin of Maximus. Ant. J. XXII p. 219. (at B.M.) Another lead cistern found in 18th cent. described in V.C.H. 309. Kilns discovered in 1937 in field adjoining that of buildings; Wattisfield type, probably 3rd cent. (N.A. XXVIII p. 213).

Pottery.

1/ Jar (12½ ins. high). Upper part glazed black, lower buff coloured. Decoration of two incised lines and two wavy lines above black band around girth. M. H. B.

2/ Globular jar (12½ ins. high). Dark grey in colour, decorated with band of wavy lines, rim missing. M. H. B. Cf P.S.I.A. 1 p. 250, 343.

3/ Grey wide-mouthed jar (9½ ins. high). M. H. B.

Fig. 7.

- I. Red bell-mouthed jar. M. H. B.
- II. Black Dish, polished surface, mica content, central kick B.M. 54.4.12.18.
- III. Yellowish white dish with reddish grey slip. Ash M 1907. R 231.
- IV. Light grey flanged dish. Ash M 1907 R 194.
- V. Bottle with stepped shoulder, hollow foot, red ware. M. H. B. (Two specimens)
- VI. Flagon with spout, foot and two reeded handle. M. H. B.
- VII. Funnel necked flagon, blackish with painted decoration two reeded handle. Ash M. 1907 R 230.
- VIII. Black dish with tooled girth line. Ash M. 1927 R 3347.
- IX. Red carinated bowl. Ash M. 1907 R 26.
- X. Two handled flagon, buff coloured with incised band round neck, reeded handle. B.M. 54.4.12.16.
- XI. Dish with mortaria-shaped rim, hollow foot. Red ware imitating Terra sigillata F.36. B.M. 65.4.8.1.
- XII. Bowl with flange. Red, turning grey in one place. Imitating Terra sigillata F. 38. Ash M.R 233.

Fig. 2

- X. Brown indented castor beaker. White decoration. Ash. M. 1908. R.228. Another similar. Ash. M. 1908. R.229.
- XII. Cordon jar with foot, black/brown polished surface with eight small bosses encircling pot on central cordon (Saxon ornamentation) from Mitchell's Hill. Ash M. 1930, 413. For another from same site Cf Fox (1923) p. 97. Here stated Iron Age but now regarded 4th cent. Cf Fox "Reflections on the Archaeology of the Cambridgeshire Region" Cambridge Historical Journal IX (1947), p. 12 (footnote).

Ipswich. (*Castle Hill, Whittton*). Site explored in 1927. Buildings revealed and sundry objects recovered. Pottery 2nd-4th Century (at Ips. M.). Coins 119-378 A.D. P.S.I.A. Vol. XXI. Investigations proceeding 1949. Inhumation cemetery attached at Messrs. Bolton & Co. Ltd. brickfields. P.S.I.A. Vol. XXI. Tesselated pavements from site at Ips. M. also amphora. V.C.H. 319 (Pavement found 1854 illustrated.)

Ixworth. Apsidal building with hypocaust discovered on Stowlangtoft road in 1834 and excavated for Suffolk Institute of Archaeology in 1849. Coin of Constantine I and "Face Urn" discovered in building. V.C.H. 311. P.S.I.A. Vol. I. pp. 77-8 (plan given). Pavement discovered at Red Castle Farm, Pakenham V.C.H. 314. Villa investigated on Mr. G. Reeve's farm, May, 1948. Apsidal bath house. Pottery:—terra sigillata, Castor Ware and Coarse Ware. Coin of Constantine I "in mint condition". Traces of Anglo-Saxon occupation noted. E.A.D.T. 1/5/48.

Mildenhall. Sundry objects recorded. V.C.H. 313-4. Brooches C.M.A.E. 1904. 265-270. Large black Castor ware jug with white decoration. B.M. 87.10.12.1. C.A.S.C Vol. V (1883) Appendix 1. LXXI from West Row. Thistley Green, West Row. Hoard of 4th cent. silver; dishes, and spoons bearing inscriptions and Christian monogram. (B.M. Handbook, Mildenhall Treasure). Two-roomed building excavated 1932. Hypocaust. Fragments 4th cent. pottery. J.R.S. XXXVII (1947) 172.

Stanton Chare. Buildings in field adjoining Stanton Chare Farm, discovered in 1933 by Mr. B. Brown and excavated periodically 1934-1939. Building No. 1 with two apses connected with Building No. 2 (Bath House) by corridor. Building material found in quantity. Coins:—Marcus Aurelius, Faustina, Senior & junior, Gallienus, Victorinus, Claudius II, Constantine I, Constantius Chlorus, Eugenius (393 A.D.). P.S.I.A. J.R.S. Vol. XXX. p. 171 (plan given). Full report forthcoming. Plans and materials, Ips. M.

Stoke Ash. Site stated to be in fields east and west of main Norwich-Ipswich road at "White Horse Inn." Amphora with stamp ENNIV L. Fragment of terra sigillata, stamp ALBVCI (Hadrian Domitian). Coins including Crispus (317-26) V.C.H. 316.

Stonham. Numerous Roman objects from Little and Earl Stonham noted by Hamlet Watling. Site described as "in valley intersecting two parishes of Earl Stonham and Little Stonham". Pottery, one fragment with mark on base G/ F A F. Terra sigillata stamp SEVERI (Trajan-Antonine). Coins:—Claudius II, Diocletian, Carausius, Constantius, Constantine II, Magnentius, Valens. V.C.H. 317. See also Hamlet Watling Map at Ips. M. Skulls from here examined and stated to be Icenic J.R.S. XXV p. 46.

Earl Stonham. Fragments of 3rd and 4th cent. Mortaria. Ips. M. 1920-50. 30 & 31.

COIN HOARDS

Hoards of coins without precise details noted from Ickworth (V.C.H., 310); Lakenheath (*Ibid.*, 312); Bungay, 1,000 minimi (*Ibid.*, 301 and Sutherland, 102); Bury St. Edmunds, "The Tetrici" (Sutherland, 160; plate X, 2 & 3; XI, 22. "radiate minimi").

Brandon. (Wangford Heath). 3,000 silver and bronze coins of Gallienus (253-268) found in grey jar with slight cordon on shoulder. Jar, M.H.B. Coins missing.

Bealings, Little. 500 coins, mostly Theodosius (379-395), Magnus Maximus (383-388) Arcadius (395-408), Honorius (393-423). E.A.D.T. 28/8/34. N.C. Vol. XV (1935) 49-53. Sutherland, 167. Described as from Woodbridge. Hill says deposited c 400 A.D. Coins at Ips. M. & Southwold.

Butley. Small jar with few coins, Hellena (293-306) Fausta (306-337) Constantius. Ips. M. 1930-176. Theodosian Hoard mentioned from Butley (Arch. J. XCII (1935) 74. (footnote).

Eye. From Clint Farm upwards 600 gold coins in leaden cist including Valentinian, Senior & Junior (364-392), Gratian (375-83) Theodosius (379-95), Arcadius (395-408), Honorius (395-423) V.C.H. 305. Sutherland 92. adds "600 solidi" apparently closing with Constantine III. *Ibid* 168.

Frekenham. 595 bronze coins in "jar . . . of grey unglazed pottery without ornament except for few horizontal lines." Licinius I (307-323) Constantine I (306-337), Constantius (317-337), Constans (333-350) Constantius II (337-361) Magnentius (350) Decentius (351). E.A.M. Vol. 7 (July 1948) 596-598. C. M. A. E. Bury. Free Press 24/6/49.

Holbrook.— Large quantity of large brass coins Diocletian (284-305) to Constantius II (324-361). V.C.H. 308. Sutherland 164.

Icklingham. Four hoards. 1/ Found 1877 Dix's Charity Land Constantius II-Honorius. V.C.H. 308. N.C. 1908. 215. 1936 257. 2/ Found 1902 Gallienus-Honorius. N.C. (1929) 319-327 N.C. 1933. 159. and 1938. 59-61. Hill regards as deposited 410 A.D. 3/ About 12 radiate minimi at M.H.B. N.C. 1934.94. 4/ Found 1906 Claudius II—Valentinian I. N.C. 1934.262-266. Hill regards deposited c470 A.D. See Sutherland 167 for 1 and 2 and 116 for 3 and 4. Ant. Vol. XI. 41. Arch.J. XC. 282ff.

Levington. Hoard including Gordian (238-244), Postumus (258-67) Maximus (383-88) Gentleman's Magazine 1801. 17.

Mildenhall. Two jars containing coins. (Near by glass vase with inscription in relief). Claudius II (268-280), Gallienus (253-268), Victorinus (268-70). V.C.H. 314. Coins in pot M.H.B. Thirteen siliquæ found some years ago at Mildenhall examined by Mr. J. W. E. Pearce Constantius II, Julian, Valens, Gratian, Valentinian II, Magnus Maximus, Arcadius, Honorius, suggested deposited 407 A.D. J.R.S. XXXIV. 80. N.C. (1942) 105ff.

Orfordness. Coin hoard containing Theodosius (379-395), Arcadius (395-408) and Honorius (393-423). Oxoniensia Vol. I (1936) 73. Sutherland 183 & Plate XII. 24. V.C.H. 300 mentions coins of "Lower Empire in large quantities between Aldeburgh and Orford."

Sutton. Close to Sutton Hall two jars containing nearly a bushel of coins. Helena (293-306), Constantine I (306-337), Crispus (317), Constans (333-50), Theodosius (379-95). V.C.H. 318. Arch. J. XXVIII (1871) 34. Sutherland 165 where described as from Woodbridge.

Tuddenham St. Martin. 114 siliquæ with gold ring found in pot in sandpit c 1938-9. Declared treasure trove 1942.

Constantius II—Honorius. Buried 410 A.D. N.C. 1946. 169 ff. J.R.S. XXXVIII. (1948). 91.

Undley. Three coins, part of contents of jar, Maximian, 2nd brass. (286-305). Urbs Roma, 3rd brass. Valens, 3rd brass (364-78). C.A.S.C. V (1883) LXVII.

The above sites, and the objects from them, together with the coin hoards provide the material for the consideration of the third and fourth centuries in our county. Haverfield wrote:—"Despite the ill name that attaches to the third and fourth centuries they were for Britain, as for part of Gaul, a period of progressive prosperity. Certainly the number of British farms and country houses inhabited during the years 280-350 must have been large. Prosperity culminated in the Constantinian Age."¹ Although it is known that this statement must now be modified, particularly with regard to Romano-British towns,² it does in fact adequately represent the condition of Roman life in Suffolk in these centuries.

The third and fourth centuries in our county present two features that call for separate consideration. In the first place there is an occupation in East Suffolk of a military character, and in the second there is evidence of extensive buildings.

THE MILITARY OCCUPATION

Burgh Castle has long been recognised as one of the Saxon Shore Forts listed in the *Notitia Dignitatum* and has been equated with Garianonum. The fort, standing on Breydon Water, has recently been the subject of an illuminating study and further description is unnecessary.

¹ Romanization of Britain, 57. ² Collin, 216.

Another such fort has been presumed by previous writers to have existed at Felixstowe (referred to as Walton Castle). This claim must now be examined.

The existence of an extensive Roman settlement on the cliffs at Felixstowe, a mile south of the mouth of the river Deben and extending inland, is well established from the quantity of Roman objects that have come to light, many of which have been preserved. Whether a Saxon Shore Fort, of a type comparable to Burgh Castle ever existed here is open to question. The evidence, upon which the claim has been made comprises, (1) the opinions regarding the remains of masonry seen on the cliff tops in the 18th century and now fallen into the sea, (2) drawings of the same period of a fort of a Saxon Shore type. That much of the site has fallen into the sea is beyond doubt, but whether these 18th century accounts are to be accepted as accurate descriptions of what was to be seen then is far from certain. There is a discrepancy of eighty-seven yards between the measurements of the wall remaining as given by Knight and Kirby respectively. Also it is not clear whether the drawings are reproductions of the actual ruins or an artistic creation.¹ Further the attempt to assign the name "Portus Adurni" to Felixstowe by Fox does not commend itself.² In view of the unreliable character of the evidence available the claim for the existence of a Roman Saxon Shore Fort at Felixstowe can hardly be substantiated. It seems better to regard Felixstowe as the site of an extensive commercial settlement and port though the possibility of its having received a small garrison, or indeed having been a base for a naval detachment cannot be ruled out. A date for the founding of this settlement is on the present evidence unobtainable; that it flourished during the third and fourth centuries and continued to the end of the Roman occupation of our island seems certain.

OTHER COASTAL SITES

Between Burgh Castle and Felixstowe, Roman sites have been noted at Corton,³ Covehithe,⁴ Easton Bavents⁵ and Dunwich,⁶ while some pottery has been found at Kessingland⁷ and a bronze stewpan at Herringfleet.⁸ Pottery and coin hoards have also been found in the Bawdsey area.⁹ The discoveries at Covehithe and Easton Bavents were regarded as "wells" and a coin of Constantine is recorded for the former site.¹⁰ The site at Corton was more accurately surveyed and the remains of a building 25 yards square recorded. Roman objects from Dunwich appear in museum collections but no site is known.

Close dating of these sites is impossible but there is evidence for a fourth century occupation at Covehithe and the Bawdsey area, and it seems likely that the other sites are of the same date. In seeking to give some account of Burgh Castle's communications, Morris remarks "there must have been some method of communication between this fort and the neighbouring Saxon Shore Forts, and a tentative suggestion may be put forward that a series of signal stations were situated along the coast".

¹ Cf "Old Felixstowe", L. P. Thompson. ² V.C.H. 291. ³ *Eastern Daily Press*, 12/4/1933. ⁴ V.C.H., 93. ⁵ V.C.H., 304. ⁶ V.C.H., 304, C.M.A.E. M.H.B. ⁷ N.C.M. ⁸ V.C.H., 308. ⁹ Butler & Sutton see above. Small Jar in B.M. from Sudbourne V.C.H., 318. ¹⁰ Haverfield Notes, Haverfield Library Oxford.

He adds "there is little to support this suggestion at the moment" but calls attention to the find at Corton already mentioned, and some other remains at Caister-on-Sea.¹ When the present evidence is added to that already cited by Morris it is apparent that there is ample ground for envisaging such a series of signal stations along the Suffolk coast. A more certain dating of the sites mentioned here would greatly enhance the theory. The suggestion is now advanced that there may have been in existence in the third and fourth centuries some "defence plan" for our area which included Burgh Castle, Felixstowe and the coastal sites in its scope.

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

In the first and second centuries traces of buildings are rare in our county but in the third and fourth centuries there is ample evidence of them. Buildings of this date are to be found in S.E. Suffolk at Burgh, Nr. Woodbridge, and Whitton. In the N.E. of the county there is an isolated example at Eye and settlements of an undefined character at Stonham and Stoke Ash. By far the greater concentration is to be found in West Suffolk, at Icklingham, Ixworth, Mildenhall and Stanton Chare. These buildings may be rightly regarded as "villas"; the term being interpreted to mean the headquarters of some local magnate engaged in agriculture and its associated industries.

It will be recalled that the account of the first and second centuries in our county ended with noting the "dying out" of sites occupied in that period and the desertion of buildings erected in that period. The appearance of this extended occupation of the third and fourth centuries now calls for discussion in the light of the previous observations.

In seeking an explanation three facts about Romano British life may be noted at the outset, (1). With regard to the Romanization of native villages Collingwood writes "a native village may obtain its pottery and implements from a civilised world without using them in a particularly civilized way".² (2). Collingwood also regards the decay of village life in Roman Britain as due to "a deliberate transplantation of village dwellers to serve the policy of capitalistic landlords".³ 3. Collingwood further notes a general movement from the town to the country estate in the third and fourth centuries.⁴ Taking these considerations into account a theory to account for the development of Roman life in our county may now be put forward.

While scattered finds were noted for our county during the first and second centuries building was confined to the south and south-east district with the exception of the outlying example of Reydon Smere. It is now suggested that the Roman pottery noted in districts where building did not take place was used by the native who had escaped destruction after Boudicca's rebellion and its use by him indicates the infiltration of Roman culture into our area to a greater extent than in Claudian times. The desertion of the buildings of the first and second century and their replacement in the third and fourth centuries by a more elaborate building

¹ P.S.I.A. XXIV (1948), 102. ² Collin, 222. ³ Ibid, 223. ⁴ Ibid, 215-6.

programme may be due to the appearance of magnates in our county seeking a better investment for their funds and also an outlet for their dissatisfaction with town life. An impetus to what was a general movement throughout Britain may perhaps be found in our county in another consideration.

It has been suggested that the presence of Roman armies in Gaul and Britain gave an impetus to agricultural operations as they provided a ready market for the produce.¹ May not the presence of troops in the coastal belt, at Burgh Castle, other presumed coastal signal stations and also the settlement at Felixstowe have encouraged the agricultural development of the county and particularly in the more secure area to the west.

The presence of extensive building in this period may account for the appearance of the "Tile Works"² at Melton and it is to be presumed that the potting industry which clings "to the wooded boulder clay areas or areas where the clay is thinly masked by sand or gravel" also received fresh stimulus. It has been held that they served a "local market" but whether the West Suffolk kilns served the east of the county is by no means clear.³ No kilns, however, have been noted in East Suffolk. The history of the potting industry in our county in the third and fourth centuries is unfortunately by no means certain.

Beyond noting the rural character of the Roman occupation of our county no general account can be given of daily life in the period. Heichelheim has called attention to the distribution of statuettes of Mercury, Hercules and Venus as being located in specific areas in Suffolk.⁴ A jet plaque of a figure wearing a Phrygian cap found at Whitton has been interpreted as indicating the presence of the cult of Mithras.⁵ The Christian monogram, has been noted on a leaden cistern from Icklingham and on spoons of the Mildenhall treasure. The religions of the Roman world, it may be concluded, were represented. Furthermore, remains of two small Roman structures, perhaps temples⁶, which appear to have been destroyed "at a period which is likely to fall within Anglo-Saxon time" have been noted on Mill Heath, Cavenham, where bronze crowns of Roman date were previously found.⁷ The report of the discovery of the temples adds "whether this was the work of the pagans or of their Christian successors is not clear."

THE END OF THE OCCUPATION.

Some attempt must now be made to describe the close of the Roman occupation of our county. First it will be noted that coin hoards appear in our county in the fourth century with great frequency. This, it is suggested, indicates that life was becoming unsettled through presumably the Saxon raids for which the century is notable. Further it is to be observed that several of them are dated to the fifth century. (Little Bealings,

¹ Cambridge Economic History, Vol. 1, 103. ² V.C.H. 313. ³ N.A. XXVIII, 215. ⁴ *Mercury*. Clare, Cowlinge, Felixstowe, Icklingham, Great Thurlow. *Hercules*. Cowlinge, Icklingham/Cavenham, Wickham-brook. *Venus*. Blyford, Hawkdon. *Cupid*. Cotton. For details, references and general account, see Heichelheim. ⁵ P.S.I.A. XXI, 254. Fig. 55. ⁶ Ant. XXI (1947) 212. ⁷ Ant. J. V. and Archaeology in England and Wales, 1914-1931. Kendrick and Hawkes 258-265.

c 400 A.D.; Eye, after 410 A.D.; Icklingham 2, c 410 A.D.; 4, c. 470 A.D.; Mildenhall, c 407 A.D.; Tuddenham St. Martin, c. 410 A.D.). Secondly, Roman pottery with Saxon ornament has been found at Burgh Castle, Icklingham and Felixstowe; and traces of Anglo-Saxon occupation of Roman sites at Cavenham, Ixworth and Great Fakenham.¹ May it not be that the end of Roman life in our county came about by the gradual submergence of Roman ways among the local population by the rising tide of Anglo-Saxon culture. When the Roman troops were withdrawn from the area, possibly by Constantine III, the wealthier inhabitants deposited their savings and fled, never to return; the poorer remained, soon to be lost among the newcomers whose ways, as the pottery shows,² they were quick to learn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

In conclusion acknowledgment must be made to those who have made this account of Roman Suffolk possible. To the authorities of the Aldeburgh, Ashmolean, British, Cambridge (Archæology and Ethnology), Ipswich, Southwold and Thetford Museums acknowledgment is made for the facilities afforded for examining and recording pottery and objects in their possession. Mr. Basil Brown has afforded me much information about sites of which he has an unparalleled knowledge, and I am indebted to him. Mr. M. R. Hull, F.S.A. has helped me with opinions on pottery. Many others have answered my queries and to them I express appreciation. To Mr. Guy Maynard, F.R.A.I. I owe much. He encouraged this work from its inception and has made available to me his own notes. Mr. Maynard also furnished me with the photographs that accompany this article (kindly taken by Mr. F. M. Cullum) and secured reproductions of my pottery drawings. Mr. R. R. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A. has assisted me by supplying references to publications and giving me helpful suggestions upon the composition of the article which he read in its initial stages. To Mr. Maynard and Mr. Clarke I express my appreciation for help freely given.

¹ For Cavenham & Ixworth, see above. Great Fakenham, Ips. M. ² The possibility that the Saxon ornamentation on the Roman pottery at Burgh Castle and Felixstowe was due to the presence of Saxon mercenaries should not be overlooked.

APPENDIX

SITES AND ANTIQUITIES NOT REFERRED TO IN TEXT.

1. Parishes listed in V.C.H. for which there is no additional information.
Ashbocking, Bardwell, Barrow, Barsham, Belton, Bergholt (East), Blythborough, Brandon, Cavendish, Clare, Cockfield, Debenham, Easton, Fritton, Glemsford, Grundisburgh, Ickworth, Ingham, Kelsale, Kesgrave, Mellis, Mickfield, Nowton, Poslingford, Sotterley, Stowmarket, Stowlangtoft, Stratford St. Andrew, Southwold, Thorington, Wainford, Wingfield, Woolpit, Worlingworth and Wrating (Great).

2. Parishes additional to V.C.H. and those yielding further objects.

Akenham. Sard Intaglio. Figure of Mercury. Larinus Orientalis Rubrius. Ips. M., 1926.96
Blakenham, Great. Coin of Constans. Fragments of pottery found in Taylor's pit, Ips. M., 1942.114. (Information from Mr. G. Maynard).

Brettenham. Site near Money Field (Mr. Basil Brown, 1945).

Bromeswell. Much Roman debris found in making bunker near last "tee" on Woodbridge end of Golf Course.

Bury St. Edmunds Claudian Brooch. Ant.J (1945) Vol. 25. 155.-

Between Bury St. Edmunds and Thetford. Light grey pot with broken rim, decorated with dots in zones. Contained earth and burnt bones (Fig. 2. IIX). N.C.M. 128.12.

Fakenham, Great. Earthwork of uncertain age, Burnthall Plantation. C.A.S.C. IX (1896). 93, section given. Clarke (1940) 107, where other references given. Gouge and fragments of pottery, Thetford Museum. Finds from hut site, Ips. M.

Martlesham. Base of statue with inscription, Mars Corotiacus. V.C.H. 312 (Illustration). B.M.G. 90. Fragments of jug and bronze two-handled vessel found with burnt bones in garden of St. Mary's, Ips. M. 1932-79.

Mendham. Grey jar, rim with undercut lip on slight shoulder. N.C.M. 22.928.

Newton, Old. Glass amphora, transparent green with two heavy handles, doubled and attached to body at three points. Glass jug transparent green, body cylindrical, flat lip with broad fluted handle. Contained burnt bones. Glass jug olive green, narrow cylindrical neck lobed body on foot, broad handle. Small glass bottle, greenish, clear. Fragments of coarse pot. B.M. 1912. 5.28.1-5. Found with these were 2 bronze handles, 3 beads, 5 bronze pins, bronze spear head, 10 glass counters. P.S.I.A. XIII.255.

Occold. Urns reported found here in filling up pond in 1945. (Note from Mr. G. Maynard).

Stowupland. Park Farm. Horse shoes with fragments of Terra Sigillata. Ips. M. 1930-210.

Stuston. Flint foundations of wooden hut on Stuston Common. Fragments of 1st-3rd century coarse pottery. Coins Claudio to Tetricus. P.S.I.A. XXII.

Sweffling. Castle Hill Field. Fragments of coarse pottery. P.S.I.A. XIII. 367.

Wangford. (Nr. Brandon). V.C.H. 319. Between Icklingham and Lakenheath on Brandon Warren $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Wangford, bones terra sigillata, Castor and coarse pottery and pieces of metal. Coins:—Claudius 11—Valentinian. Revealed by wind removing sand. Arch.J. X. 353. Fragments of pottery Thetford Museum.

Wattisham. Area of Roman debris found during construction of aerodrome. Sheet of drawings prepared by resident engineer at Ips. M. (Information from Mr. G. Maynard).

Westleton. V.C.H. 319. Two silver denarii of Antoninus Pius from Scotts Farm. (Note from Mr. Guy Maynard).

Wherstead. V.C.H. 319. Fragments of pottery from Gippeswick Hall. Ips. M.

Winston. Barley Farm. Circular pewter dish. c 13 ins. diameter with beaded edge. Flange tile. Found 1947. (Information from Mr. Guy Maynard).

ABBREVIATIONS

- Ant=Antiquity.
 Ant. J.=Antiquaries Journal.
 Arch. J.=Archæological Journal.
 Ash. M.=Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
 B.M.=British Museum.
 B.M.G.=British Museum. A Guide to the Antiquities of Roman Britain.
 C.A.S.C.=Cambridge Antiquarian Society's Communications. (Proceedings).
 Caistor=Donald Atkinson, Roman Pottery from Caistor-next-Norwich. N.A. Vol. XXVI. pp. 197-230.
 Caistor Kilns= Donald Atkinson, Three Caistor Pottery Kilns. J.R.S. Vol. XXII. pp. 33-46.
 Cam.=Camulodunum. First Report on Excavations at Colchester. C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull.
 Clarke (1940)=R. R. Clarke, The Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk Arch. J. XCVI. pp. 1-113.
 C.M.A.E.=Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.
 Collin=R. G. Collingwood and J. N. L. Myres, Roman Britain and the English Settlement.
 E.A.D.T.=East Anglian Daily Times.
 E.A.M.=East Anglian Magazine.
 Fox (1923)=Sir Cyril Fox, The Archaeology of the Cambridgeshire Region.
 Fox (1933)=Sir Cyril Fox, The Distribution of Man in East Anglia. P.P.S.E.A. Vol. VII. pp. 149-164.
 Frere (1941)=Sheppard Frere, A Claudian Site at Needham, Norfolk. Ant J. Vol. XXI, pp. 40-55.
 Heichelheim=Fritz. M. Heichelheim, On some unpublished Roman Bronze Statuettes in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. C. A. S. Proceedings Vol. XXXVII, pp. 52-67.
 Hill=P. V. Hill, American Numismatic Society. New York 1949.
 Ips. M.=Ipswich Corporation Museum.
 J.R.S.=Journal of Roman Studies.
 M.H.B.=Moyse's Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.
 N.A.=Norfolk Archaeology.
 N.C.M.=Norwich Castle Museum.
 N.C.=Numismatic Chronicle.
 P.P.S.E.A.=Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia.
 P.S.I.A.=Proceedings of Suffolk Institute of Archaeology.
 Sutherland=C. H. V. Sutherland, Coinage and Currency in Roman Britain.
 V.C.H.=Victoria County History (Suffolk).