

ARCHÆOLOGY IN SUFFOLK

1954-1955

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The standards of present-day archaeology demand that excavation should be carried out only for very good reasons; in some cases, it is possible to arrange for the full-scale excavation of a site in pursuit of a particular problem, but for most of us, excavation is something which must be done as a matter of expediency, and often of urgency, because otherwise the evidence which a site may yield will be irretrievably lost. In all cases, it is laid down that digging inevitably entails publication of results; this is undoubtedly a sound principle, but one difficult of achievement in these days of high printing costs, and especially so in the case of a small local Society which, in a limited space, must cater for a variety of interests.

It has therefore been decided that, whilst full publication is in the end not only desirable, but essential to the proper conduct of archaeological investigation, periodic interim reports shall be offered containing summaries of active work which has been carried out, and also brief notes on small finds and new sites brought to light in this area, often by ploughing, or by commercial operations, or public works such as the laying of water-mains, sewers, etc. The present notes cover the years 1954 and 1955, and it is hoped that something in the nature of an annual report will be possible in years to come; they are based largely on information gathered together for inclusion in the *Suffolk Review*, the organ of the Suffolk Local History Council, and the *Bulletin* of the Council for British Archæology (Group 7). Neither of these publications appears in printed form, and it is highly desirable that this information should be available in an established archæological journal. There will inevitably be omissions, as completeness depends on information being sent in from a number of sources, and most of those who are sufficiently interested to occupy themselves with such matters as archæology are also so busy that it is not easy to find the time to send in yet one more report, even if one remembers to do so. It would seem reasonable, however, that these notes should be compiled in the Ipswich Museum, where an attempt has been made for a number of years to compile an index of Suffolk archæological sites and material, and where so much of that material is housed.

So many sites in Suffolk are complex in nature, and so many readers of the notes may be expected to take a special interest in material which comes from the area in which they live, that it has been decided to list the information geographically rather

than chronologically. Wherever possible, finds have been accurately measured in, and grid references are shown. Notes contributed by members of the staff of the Ipswich Museum, (N. Smedley, S. E. West, or B. Brown), are marked (I.M.).

1954

Ashfield. Fragments of Roman (including Samian) and mediæval pottery, with human remains, have from time to time been found near the ruins of the old church, now standing in the grounds of Thorpe Hall. Mr. H. M. Youngman has now handed these in to the Ipswich Museum, together with a fine example of a 17th century glass phial, practically undamaged.

A polished flint axe-head (Neolithic) came from a neighbouring field. (I.M.).

Bucklesham (TM/244416). Sherds of Romano-British pottery and tiles of the 2nd century were recovered from a new housing site. (I.M.).

Boxford (TL/967404). A fragment of a lava quern of Romano-British Age was recovered during excavations for the purpose of road-widening. (I.M.).

Bury St. Edmunds, Northumberland Avenue, Mildenhall Road Estate (TL/846658). Trenching for a gas main revealed the presence of two 4th century Roman inhumation burials lying together in a shallow grave. Associated finds were a bronze spoon, bodkin, wire bracelet, ear-scoop, blue bead, and a silver ring. (A. R. Edwardson).

Butley (TM/374507). Part of a Late Bronze Age socketed bronze axe from a field on Neutral Farm probably belonged to the hoard of that period found there in 1949. (Sir Peter Greenwell).

Chillesford (TM/374528). A round barrow, probably of Saxon date, additional to and adjoining the one marked on the O.S. Map, was observed. (J. H. Kembell).

Coombs. A denarius of Antoninus Pius (M. & S. 415a) was dug up in a garden on a Council Estate. (C. Southgate).

Coddenham, Baylham Mill, (TM/113530). Work carried out by members of the Ipswich School Barclay Head Society, under the direction of Mr. J. E. Young, assisted by Mr. S. E. West, of the staff of the Ipswich Museum, was continued during 1954. The Roman road at this point has a width of 22-26 feet, and is of rammed sand and gravel 1 foot 6 inches thick. Samian ware of Claudian date was found in a pit below the road, and a coin of A.D. 77-8 was stratified in the road make-up. The owner of the land, Mr. G. Ravenshear, has been most co-operative both in allowing excavation, and in permitting the deposition of the material in the Ipswich Museum. (I.M.).

Dunwich. Mediæval pottery sherds recovered from the topsoil of the cliff-face were deposited in the Ipswich Museum by Mr. R. Rainbird Clarke. (I.M.).

Eriswell, Blacksmith Landpit (TL/739775). Ploughing revealed a patch of black soil with sherds of Beaker ware (including 'B' Beaker), bones, pot-boilers, and a flint scraper. (Lady Briscoe).

Eriswell, Spark's Farm (TL/713798). Ploughing revealed Bronze Age bronze hoard in patch of black soil packed with small flints fractured by fire. The hoard consisted of a sword (intermediate in type between sword and rapier, two rapiers, and an awl. Two yards away were a tangled mass of sheet bronze and a heavy pointed bronze hook. At a distance of 50 yards, on the surface, was found a broken rapier point. (Lady Briscoe). (Since published in *Ant. Journ.*, xxxv, 218-9).

Finningham, Green Farm (TM/067694). A jug of 14th/15th century date, of red ware with light cream glaze, was found during alterations to farm buildings. (Mrs. F. E. Tibbenham).

Fressingfield, Tithe Farm (TM/269770). A mediæval dagger and bullock-shoe were found. (David Smith).

Hadleigh, Town House Fruit Farm (TM/044411). During excavations by boys of Woolverstone L.C.C. School on a Roman building, one room and remains of a hypocaust were uncovered. (I. Richardson).

Ipswich, Gainsborough Estate (TM/182420). The laying of a drain revealed a 13th/14th century sword pommel bearing on both sides the arms of England.

Ipswich, Chantry Estate (TM/137435). Trenching for a gas main disclosed the presence of sherds of mediæval pottery, and excavation of the site by members of the Museum staff resulted in the recovery of the greater part of a fine 13th/14th century jug with bracketed spout and handle with twist decoration, and bearing a human face on either side of the rim.

From Naples Close, nearby, came a *sestertius* of Marcus Aurelius of date A.D. 176-7. (M. & S. 1190). (I.M.).

Kenton, near Suddon Hall (TM/199650). Cutting of a field drain on the farm of Mr. C. E. Rose brought to light a considerable spread of Romano-British pottery of 3rd/4th century date. (I.M.).

Lakenheath, Bramwell Meadow (TL/716843). Ploughing revealed heaps of large stones, fired flints, and half-baked clay, mingled with Iron Age pottery. (Lady Briscoe).

Lakenheath, 'The Roman Field' (TL/729835). Ploughing at the end of 1953 revealed patches of black soil, large stones, and much Iron Age 'A' pottery, with rounded shoulders, flat-topped rims, and finger-print decoration on rim and shoulder. Seventeen patches were excavated. (Lady Briscoe).

Laxfield, Street Farm (TM/295719). A perforated stone axe-head of the Beaker Period was found by Mr. H. W. Damant, and presented to the Ipswich Museum. (I.M.).

Mildenhall, Hurst Fen (TL/726767). Excavations on site previously known, by the Department of Archæology, Cambridge University, revealed dark patches of soil with much Neolithic 'A2' pottery and flint industry. (Professor J. G. D. Clark).

Pakenham, Grimstone End (TL/935692). A complete account of the excavations so far carried out on this site (a barrow of the Early Bronze Age with primary cremation and Food-Vessel, secondary Roman cremations, and a Pagan Saxon occupation with the making of pottery and clay loom-weights) has been published in *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxvi, 188-207. (I.M.).

Rendham (TM/349643). Heaps of dredged material on the bank of the River Alde have been examined, and portions of two stone mortars, one Roman, and the other mediæval, recovered. This is of particular interest in view of the fact that it is near this spot that the bronze head of Claudius, believed to be spoil from the Boudiccan revolt and sack of Colchester, was discovered.

(Mrs. Margaret Goddard).

Rickingham, Kiln Farm (TM/038744). A Roman kiln, of pedestal type, was exposed by ploughing, and excavated by the staff of the Ipswich Museum. (I.M.).

Wattisfield (TM/020746). A Roman pottery kiln, excavated some years ago, was removed complete by Mr. F. J. Watson, assisted by Mr. B. Brown of the Ipswich Museum staff, in order to prevent its destruction by deep ploughing, and re-erected at the Wattisfield Potteries. (I.M.).

Wattisfield, Hall Farm (TM/003737). A Roman pottery kiln, partly excavated previously, was re-exposed to allow of the taking of samples for dating by the magnetic variation method. A complete waster was found in the channel round the pedestal.

Wattisfield, Calke Wood (TM/023748). A replica, 3/4 -scale, of a Roman pottery kiln of updraught pedestal type, was constructed by Mr. Basil Brown, of the Ipswich Museum staff. Experiments were then conducted by the Museum staff, in co-operation with Miss Mavis Bimson, of the British Museum Research Laboratory, and Mr. F. J. Watson. Over 200 pots were fired, with complete success; further experiments are contemplated in order to elucidate the problem of effecting the degree of reduction necessary to produce the grey colour usually associated with coarse ware of the period. (I.M.).

Wattisfield, Grundle Farm (TM/013733). Building operations disclosed quantities of mediæval pottery sherds including wasters in a deep ditch flanking an apparent road section. Nearby, beside the former course of the Grundle, may be seen the disturbed debris

of a small kiln complex. As these lie near the site of a tile-kiln of the same period, the site should repay further investigation. (I.M.).

Worlington, Swales's Tumulus (TL/699714). Owing to partial destruction by bull-dozer, excavation of the site was undertaken by the Mildenhall Archæological Society. A small mound was probably made first, with large fire containing remains of bones and numerous Neolithic 'A' sherds. A Bronze Age cremation with Food Vessel was inserted in the side of this mound. A much larger mound was then raised over the small one, and a chalk revetment built round the base, derived from a well-marked ditch. Another cremation, covered with thin planks, came from outside the revetment. (Lady Briscoe).

Worlington, Rectory Farm (TL/684739). Ploughing revealed large hoard of Roman iron agricultural implements and a small bronze head, possibly a Celtic divinity. (Lady Briscoe).

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Alderton Marshes (TM/352406). Sherds of unglazed pottery of the 12th century were found on the surface. (I.M.).

Battisford, Hascot Hill Valley. A small Acheulean flint hand-axe, found near the bridge, was presented to the Ipswich Museum by Mr. R. G. Woodard. (I.M.).

Benacre, Hall Farm (TM/521846). Draining of marshes and use of the cultivator revealed a scatter of bricks, mostly $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 2 in., with rush-marks, probably 14th century. The site lies on a sandy knoll rising above the peat. Excavation revealed no sign of any building; probably a brick-making site. (I.M.).

Brantham, Hall Farm. A saddle-quern of the Beaker Period was recovered by Mr. J. Keeble, and given to the Museum. (I.M.).

Brantham, Hall Farm (TM/125338). The Museum also received a Neolithic stone axe, found by Mr. Arthur Studd. (I.M.).

Bury St. Edmunds (TL/836642). Extremity of Gainsborough Road, on field verge. Two cinerary urns containing fragments of calcined bones were found, together with a small unguent pot, and sherds of five varieties of pottery (black ware), at a depth of 32 inches. Measurements were as follows:—

Urn 1. Diam. 4.9 ins.—Ht. 6.9 ins. Plain.

Urn 2. Diam. 6.7 ins.—Ht. 6.4 ins. Cordoned.

Unguent Pot. Diam. 1.4 ins.—Ht. 1.6 ins.

1st, or early 2nd, century sherds of 3 types of buff ware also present at depth of 2 ft. 6 ins. (A. R. Edwardson).

Bury St. Edmunds, Mildenhall Road housing estate (TL/846658). An Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial was found in a grave dug in chalk at a depth of 3 ft. 6 ins. A skeleton with skull and mandible intact was associated with a conical iron shield boss, an iron spear-head, an iron grip, and rivets. (A. R. Edwardson).

Lakenheath (TL/755855). In the New Fen was found a silver Republican denarius of Appius Claudius and Titus Mallius (c. 91 B.C.). (Lady Briscoe).

Lakenheath (TL/728834). Deep ploughing produced Romano-British pottery, with sherd of black pot with 'rusticated' decoration. (Lady Briscoe).

Lowestoft (TM/53769409). A polished axehead of ochreous flint was found in clay sub-soil on a new housing site, on 7 Feb. 1956 and deposited with the Borough Librarian. (G. A. M. Gentry, Borough Engineer).

Mildenhall, Wild Street (TL/705775). Scatter of sherds and building material. (Lady Briscoe).

Mildenhall, West Row (TL/675747). A bronze rapier-like dagger in fine condition, 11 inches long, with two rivets and mid-rib (Middle Bronze Age) was taken from dredgings on the south bank of the River Lark, near Judes Ferry. (J. Norman).

Stoke-by-Clare (TL/732447). Belgic sherds and daub were found in the chalk-pit near Burnthouse Farm. (R. V. Edmunds).

Wangford (TL/755836). Deep ploughing disclosed an area of black occupation soil with numerous Romano-British sherds, pieces of quern, and a clay structure with daub and wattle burnt by fire, probably the remains of a burnt-out hut. On the edge of the settlement, patches of black soil contained numerous sherds of Early Iron Age 'A' pottery with finger-printed rims. (Lady Briscoe).

West Stow, gravel pit (TL/820708). Two-thirds of a pot of Iron Age 'A' were found, the rim decorated with shallow cog decoration, at a depth of four feet. Diam. $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. Ht. 8 in. (A. R. Edwardson).

Wixoe (TL/708433). The levelling and filling of a depression in a field about 100 yards from the River Stour exposed a large spread of oyster-shells, with a sprinkling of pottery, and roof- and flue-tiles. A number of coins were also found, mostly of the 1st—2nd centuries, though two barbarous radiates and one *minimus* were also present. The pottery, which included a number of sherds of Samian, gives a similar picture of date, and there was a bronze brooch of the late 1st century, bone pins, nails, iron knives, and some iron waste and slag.

Fragments of glassware, beads, and what appear to be scraps of window-glass, *tesserae* and scraps of wall-plaster, complete the evidence for considering this a villa-site. The material already recovered, mostly from the surface, and displaced by bull-dozers, merits more detailed publication, and the site should repay thorough and controlled excavation.

There are previous records of Samian (Fox, *Archæology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 207), and coins and other finds (Walford, *Archæologia*, xiv). (R. V. Edmunds).