

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1956

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The publication of information on archaeological finds in Suffolk for 1954/55¹ was welcomed in many quarters; the 1956 list is given below. Once again it should be emphasised that, desirable though it is that a list of new finds and sites should be made available in this form, this does not constitute a satisfactory record, particularly of sites where excavation has taken place. It must remain the aim and duty of all those who have accepted responsibility for archaeological investigations in the county to ensure adequate publication, with illustrations of sections and material, as soon as possible. The difficulties, largely financial, of achieving this aim, make all the more imperative a sense of responsibility in undertaking excavation. Where a site is doomed to destruction, undoubtedly something must be done to make it yield its evidence before this takes place. Where it is not so threatened, it may be difficult but essential for the enthusiast to curb his impatience. It is after all only right that we should leave something for posterity, whose methods may be as much in advance of ours as those of today surpass in efficiency the 'treasure-hunts' of the 19th century.

The compilers of these notes are indebted to all who have sent in information, and particularly to Lady Briscoe and to Mr. A. R. Edwardson of Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

Thanks are also especially due to those, particularly farmers and land-owners, surveyors and other officers of local authorities, and to contractors engaged in operations, such as quarrying, which may disclose sites of archaeological interest. Not infrequently they put themselves to considerable inconvenience and delay by calling in the archaeologist. Without such co-operation much valuable information about the past would be lost.

Names in brackets are of those who have reported finds. As before, notes contributed by members (past and present) of the staff of the Ipswich Museum (N. Smedley, S. E. West, G. W. P. Jarvis, or B. W. J. Brown), are marked (I.M.).

Finds which are in the Ipswich Museum are marked I.M. 956- . . .; those in Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds are marked M.H.

¹ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxvii (1955), p. 41.

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Barnham, Broomfield Pit (TL/888793). Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. (P. E. Smith). (I.M. 956-153).

Blythburgh. Neolithic chipped flint axehead. (Dr. N. B. Eastwood).

Brandon (TL/795868). Spear-head, 5" in length, with side-loops, Middle Bronze Age, recovered from mud of Little Ouse River. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Bromeswell (TM/505303). Rim sherd (13th century) and fragments of burnt clay from trench for water main to The Hollow, Bromeswell. (R. J. Sage). (I.M. 956-124).

Burgate (TM/08257560). Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery including one rim in 3' bank surrounding churchyard of St. Mary's Church. (I.M.).

Burgh Castle (TG/474045). Collection of potsherds from the ploughed surface inside the walls of the Roman fort included, in addition to late Roman wares, a characteristic sherd of Middle Saxon 'Ipswich Ware'. (C. Green).

Burgh Castle (TG/474045). Bronze coin of Constantius II. (Col. M. Castle).

Bury St. Edmunds, Gainsborough Road (TL/836642). In blackened pit dug in chalky yellow boulder clay, charred fragments of skull, 10 flint flakes including one with secondary working, 4 sherds of Beaker pottery, and 31 sherds of rusticated ware showing three zones of decoration. (See *ante*, p. 89). (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Cavenham Heath (TL/750710-770730). Iron spear-head, of (probable La Tène) Iron Age, 8" long with re-entrant blade and unsplit socket, with socket-pin in place. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Coddenham, Baylham Mill (TM/113530). Further excavation of the Roman settlement at this point resulted in the find of two Roman gold coins (aurei).

1. NERO—aureus (A.D. 63-68).

Obv.: NERO CAESAR AUGUSTUS

Laureate head, right.

Rev.: IANUM . CLUSIT . PACE . P . R . TERRA .
MARIQ . PARTA.

Closed door of the temple of Janus.

(M. & S. 44).

2. VESPASIAN—aureus (A.D. 72-3).

Obv.: IMP . CAES . VESPAS . AUG . P . M . TR . P .
IIII . COS . IIII.

Laureate head, right.

Rev.: PACI . AUGUSTI.

Nemesis advancing right, holding caduceus; in front of her, a snake.

(M. & S. 302). (J. E. Young, Barclay Head Society).

Corton, Jex Farm (TM/529990). Part of stone axehammer ploughed up. (J. Watson). (Drawing at Norwich Museum).

Dunwich. Pottery sherds of 13th century found with cod bones in rubbish pit in cliff face. (C. Smith). (I.M. 956-121).

Exning (TL/628649). Roman wells found. (E. Higgs, Department of Archaeology, Cambridge).

Felixstowe (TM/294347). Polished flint implement (Neolithic) dug up at a depth of 2' during construction of a playing field. (L. Missen). (I.M. 956-139).

Felixstowe, Foxgrove Lane (TM/314353). Light grey poppy-head beaker and two sand-cast beakers of early 2nd century date and one sherd of 13th century ware from foundations of house. (J. A. Reeve). (I.M. 956-31).

Felixstowe, corner of Church Road and Cliff Road (TM/31463541). Pottery sherds of 2nd and 4th centuries from new building site. (S. White). (I.M. 956-123).

Great Barton (TL/899700). Late Bronze Age spear-head, 6½" long, ploughed up in field. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Hadleigh (TM/023442). Fragment of rim (Iron Age?) and flint flakes, probably Neolithic, from new gravel pit east of station. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-162).

Hepworth (TL/976744 & TL/995754). Tile fragments, pottery sherds (including large sherd from Samian F37 bowl) and kiln wrappings. The site is approximately 1 mile due east of that of the Stanton Roman Villa, and may be presumed to have manufactured tiles used in its construction. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-140).

Hollesley, Woodford. Fragment of rim of mediaeval pottery vessel in hard gray ware with finger-tip ornamentation under rim. (R. R. Clarke). (I.M. 956-148).

Hollesley (TM/35254475). A large cremation urn of unusual form and decoration was found at a depth of 5 ft. inverted over the cremated remains of an infant and young adult. The circumstances point to the use of an urn of Middle Bronze Age type in an urn-field burial of Late Bronze Age character. This appears to be confirmed by the later discovery, at a distance of 10 ft., and a depth of 2 ft., of a smaller, upright overhanging-rim urn containing a cremation. Thanks are due to the finder, Mr. G. Stammers, and the owner of the pit, Mr. F. W. Mills, who promptly informed the Ipswich Museum. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-128).

Homersfield (TM/285854). Neck of large jar (Roman) found east of church. (R. R. Clarke). (I.M. 956-147).

Horington, Hall Farm (TL/895745). A Neolithic axe head of grey flint, entirely polished, $4\frac{3}{4}$ " long. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Hopton (TM/528995). Two barbed and tanged arrowheads—five scrapers all of flint. (H. E. Jenner).

Icklingham (TL/799754). A hoard of Roman pewter, and two iron implements (a narrow-bladed saw and a bar-lock key), were recovered as the result of the activities of a bomb disposal unit. Three bowls were found, and six dishes, one of which was lozenge-shaped, with the incised pattern of a fish. The dimensions were as follows:—

5 dishes of diameter: 13", 5.5", 5.7", 6.5", 6.5"

Dish with fish decoration: 8.5"

Bowl: 4.7" diam., 2.5" high.

Base of bowl: 2.7" diam., 1.4" high.

Pedestal bowl: 5.6" diam., 2.8" high.

In the possession of the Earl of Iveagh. (Lady Briscoe and A. R. Edwardson). *Joan Livesidge 'A new hoard of R.-B. pewter from I.', Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc. LII (1959) 6-10*

Ipswich, Gt. Whip Street (TM/16524375). From excavations by the Ipswich Malting Co.—sherds of Saxon, 10th-13th century, and 16th century pottery, and 17th century clay pipe. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-50).

Ipswich, 22 Queen Street (TM/16234446). From foundations of old gabled house, formerly a beer-house, one complete wine-bottle and two necks, and a number of clay pipes (18th century). (I.M.). (I.M. 956-117).

Ipswich (TM/161447). At rear of Ipswich Wireless Co.'s premises, Westgate Street, four clay pipes (17th century). (A. Adcock). (I.M. 956-100).

Lakenheath, Bramwell Meadow (TL/716843). Deep ploughing exposed three kiln sites, with numerous sherds of pink gritted ware, all of one type. A deposit of red clay lies in close proximity. In a neighbouring field, a rim sherd of the same fabric, with fully-flanged rim bearing cursive decoration was found. (Lady Briscoe).

Lakenheath, New Fen (TL/697856). A large portion of a flat bowl, rim diameter 16", depth $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", of the same fabric as the sherds from Bramwell Meadow, was recovered. The exterior is rilled all over, and there is a wide flange with bold cursive decoration. (Lady Briscoe).

Little Livermere (TL/865745). A late Bronze Age socketed chisel, $3\frac{1}{4}$ " long, the socket having a square section, cutting edge $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, was recovered as a result of ploughing. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Lound (TM/518996). Four leaf and one barbed and tanged flint arrowheads; one scraper. (F. S. Banthorpe).

Lound (TM/518997). Base of small Roman jar. (F. S. Banthorpe).

Mildenhall (TL/710741). On ploughed land close to Mildenhall Bridge, was found a perfect stone celt of greenish mottled colour, $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long, $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, sides flattened, cutting edge markedly oblique. It almost certainly originates in the Lake District.

Portions of two other greenstone celts from this district have lately been determined by analysis as deriving from the Great Langdale factories. (Lady Briscoe).

Mildenhall (TL/645775). Middle Bronze Age bronze palstave. (A. R. Edwardson). Additional to palstave from 52/655774.

Mutford (TM/48838930). Mesolithic "tranchet" axe found in 1956 on perimeter of Mutford Big Wood. (A. Cross and B. Baker). (I.M. 957-11).

Mutford (TM/488894). Chipped flint axehead with tranchet edge. (I.M. from A. Cross and B. Baker).

Pakenham, Grimstone End (TM/936693). A Romano-British kiln of late 2nd century date was revealed by drag-line operations in November 1955. The contractors, Messrs. Allen Newport Ltd., immediately ceased operations and by-passed the site in order to allow of systematic excavation which revealed a floored kiln with complicated draught system producing specialised pottery including small indented red ware with rouletting. There was evidence of repair and modification of the kiln. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-48).

Ramsholt. Neolithic polished axe of grey flint. (S. Spall). (I.M. 956-81).

Shadingfield (TM/443841). Neolithic axe of chipped flint in ploughed field formerly permanent pasture. (R. W. Knights).

Shadingfield (TM/443842). Roman and 13th/14th Century sherds. (R. W. Knights).

Shotley. Barbed and tanged flint arrow-head (Beaker Period) on beach of River Stour. (S. Good).

Stuston (TM/146785). Point of crossing of River Waveney by Roman road—pottery sherds of 2nd and 3rd centuries brought up from river bed. (E.S.C.C. Roads and Bridges Department). (I.M. 956-52).

Sudbourne, East of Sudbourne Hall (TM/412511). Pottery sherds of 11th/14th centuries and two Tudor bricks. A female skeleton of uncertain date was also found but was probably a reburial, according to local information. The site is near that of the former St. Leonard's Hospital. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-60).

Sweffling (TM/34856385). Dug up in Rectory garden—two coins of Vespasian (As), too defaced for exact determination. (G. Pearson).

Thurston, Sheep Lane (TL/916666). Evidences of occupation but without datable material were found during excavations for gravel. (I.M.).

Trimley, Alston Hall (TM/264365). Sherds of buff-brown undecorated pottery of Late Iron Age (non-Belgic) at depth of 3'. (Air Commodore J. S. Chick). (I.M. 956-146).

Wangford (TL/755836). Excavation of the daub and wattle 4th century hut discovered last year was completed. A heap of charred grain lay upon one corner of the floor. This was examined by Hans Helbaek who reports "exclusively hulled barley; the sample is full of seeds of weeds, some of which have not been found before in ancient Britain". (Lady Briscoe).

Wattisfield, Cottage Field (TM/022746). On parish boundary between Wattisfield and Rickingham, deep ploughing and use of the cultivator revealed black patches with pottery sherds of the Beaker Period and flint flakes, some showing secondary working. The pottery included handles of both round and strap shape. Subsequent excavation (by kind permission of Mr. F. W. Barker) revealed a shaft resembling that found some years ago in Calke Wood nearby. Excavation is in progress. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-125).

Wattisfield, Pear Tree Farm (TM/013728). Trenching for field drainage disclosed evidences of occupation. Excavation (kindly permitted by Mr. Calton, the owner) revealed a basin-shaped pit with entry trench and indications of firing, sherds of coarse hand-made wares and a spindle-whorl of bone with ornament of incised concentric circles; bones of horse and ox were also found. There are two other patches in the same field. Opinions on the date differ, but it seems probable that the most accurate assessment is Iron Age "A". If this is so, it is of course unusual to find evidence of occupation by such people on clay land. The most probable explanation is that they were potters and not farmers. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-163).

West Row, Haylands Drove (TL/654773). Three barbed flint arrowheads, one very fine, 2" long, with re-entrant edges. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

West Row, Gravel Farm (TL/668754). From sandy patches on black fen field were recovered a series of forty implements of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, representing 15 types, including polished axes and barbed arrowheads, all with reticulated yellow patination on grey flint. (A. R. Edwardson). (M.H.).

Wetherden (TL/99486243). Spread of Neolithic flakes in new gravel pit on the side of main Bury road. (I.M.). (I.M. 956-99).

Wetherden, Fox Farm (TM/009652). 13th/14th century pottery sherds and quern fragments. (J. E. S. Ellis). (I.M. 956-122).

Worlington (TL/690743). Dredged from River Lark—a perfect pot of black ware, pear-shaped, probably 3rd century. (Lady Briscoe).

Worham. The following references strictly belong to the 1955 list from which they appear to have been omitted.

(TM/089785). Trenching for pipe-lines disclosed clay foundations for walls possibly indicating the site of the former church of Worham Everard. Sherds of Roman pottery came from the same site.

(TM/091785). Continuation of the same trench cut through section of Roman road presumably on the line of March Lane.

(TM/093785). Further extension of the trench exposed a scatter of pottery sherds (Iron Age) and some possibly Saxon. (I.M.).

No report on the year's work would be complete without reference to the fact that further work has been carried out on the *Hoxne* Palaeolithic site by Dr. R. G. West and Dr. C. M. B. McBurney of the University of Cambridge, the results of which will be published elsewhere.

Work on the dating of kilns by the magnetic variation method has also been continued by Mr. J. C. Belshé of the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics of the University of Cambridge. Mr. Belshé also participated in the repetition of firing of the experimental Roman kiln in Calke Wood near *Wattisfield*. This experiment was again conducted by Miss Mavis Bimson of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum in co-operation with Mr. F. J. Watson of the Wattisfield Potteries and Mr. Basil Brown of the staff of the Ipswich Museum. Mrs. E. S. Eames of the Department of British and Mediaeval Antiquities of the British Museum also took part in this series of tests. The object of the earlier experiment had been to reproduce the conditions in which pottery was made during the Roman period, and success had been achieved except for the fact that full reduction was not obtained and the pottery was therefore red and not grey in colour. The 1956 experiment produced the desired results by the regulation of draught in the later stages of firing. Investigation of the complex site in Calke Wood was carried a stage further when Mr. J. S. Wachter, of the staff of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works, carried out excavation of an area in the wood, revealing

an occupation datable to the Iron Age. There were also indications of yet another deep shaft probably dating back to the Beaker Period.

The co-operation of all interested in the archaeology of the county is once again sought in making this record, and the archaeological index which is being compiled in the Ipswich Museum, as complete as possible, and brief notes, if possible accompanied by grid references, will be welcomed by the compilers.