

## SHORTER CONTRIBUTIONS

### A NEW IRON AGE TERRET FROM WEYBREAD

by Edward A. Martin

The Weybread terret was found in the back garden of Rookery Cottage, Weybread (TM/25467930; Fig. 18) several years ago, but was first reported by Mr R. D. Webster of Rookery Cottage in 1976. The terret has now been purchased by the Ipswich Museum.

The terret (Fig. 19) is made of bronze and is 83mm high, 96mm wide and weighs 210gm. It consists of a cast ring with a 'saddle'-type attachment bar set between two large circular stops. At the base of each stop there is a groove. The inner edge of the ring is formed by a ridge which tapers from the sides towards the top. Outside this is a crescentic flange bearing identical ornamentation on both its faces. The decoration consists of an inner crescent with a central palmette-derivative design with flanking scrolls (Fox, 1958, 147) set against a field of red champlevé enamel (or, more correctly, opaque red glass, cf. Hughes, 1972). The design is outlined by feint lines, probably executed with a scribe (Lowry *et al.*, 1971), and highlighted by areas of fine punched dots. The enamel was laid in vertical-sided recesses. This inner crescent is surrounded, both above and below, by a series of small pendent triangles enfilled with fine punched dots. The rim of the flange has two parallel longitudinal grooves, and the ridge between them is transversely nicked at approximately 0.5mm intervals, giving a milled appearance. The terret is in very good condition, except for the enamel which only survives as residues at the base of the recesses.

There are two wear facets on the upper, internal faces of each of the stops. There are also slight traces of wear on the lower, internal portion of the inner ridge of the ring. The attachment bar exhibits signs of wear on the edges of the underside, and slight traces on the upper side of the bar.

The Weybread terret is very similar to one of the terrets found at Westhall in Suffolk (14km or 9 miles distant from Weybread) in 1855, and which is now in the British Museum (B.M.P.R.B. 1855.5-19.1; Clarke, 1940, 68, Pl. XVII, 9; Brailsford, 1953, 62, Pl. XI, 4; Spratling, 1972, 407, Fig. 22, 72). The only differences between the two are that the Weybread example is slightly smaller (83mm compared with 95mm high); the stops are at different angles, those on the Weybread terret are at approximately 7° from the horizontal, whilst those on the Westhall example are inclined at angles of 20° and 25°; and the attachment bars are slightly different in shape. There are also slight differences in the pattern; and the Weybread terret has a row of triangles above the enamelled crescent which is missing from the Westhall example. Otherwise the two are so close in design and shape that it is very likely that they were made in the same workshop.

The terret from Weybread, because of its similarity to the Westhall example, falls into Spratling's *Sub-group VIIIA: Westhall terrets*, a sub-division of his *Group VIII: Flat-ringed terrets*, the distinguishing features being a crescentic flange bearing champlevé enamel ornamentation, with a ridge along its inner edge which diminishes as the flange increases in width (Spratling, 1972, 31). This group is found mainly in Eastern England, from Kent to Yorkshire, with outliers in Scotland and at Hofheim im Taunus in Germany. The main dating evidence is provided by the example found in the Claudio-Neronian *Erdkastell* at Hofheim, and now that the Roman bronze lamp, formerly thought to be part of the Westhall hoard, can be shown to have been found separately, there is no reason to believe that the pieces in the Westhall hoard are not of a like date, i.e. mid-1st century A.D. (Spratling, 1972, 307). A similar date must therefore be assumed for the Weybread terret.

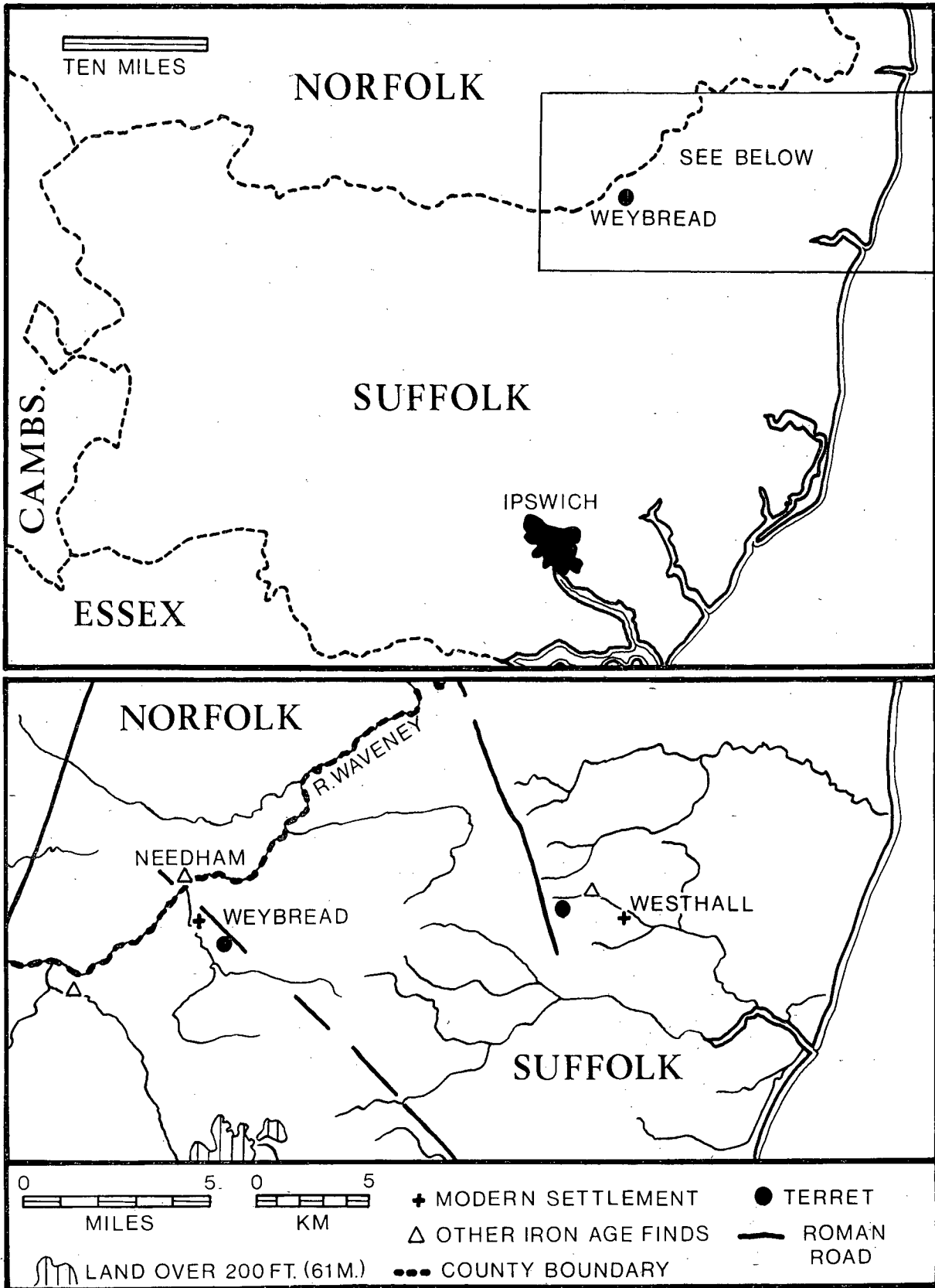


FIG. 18—Find-spots of Weybread and Westhall terrets.

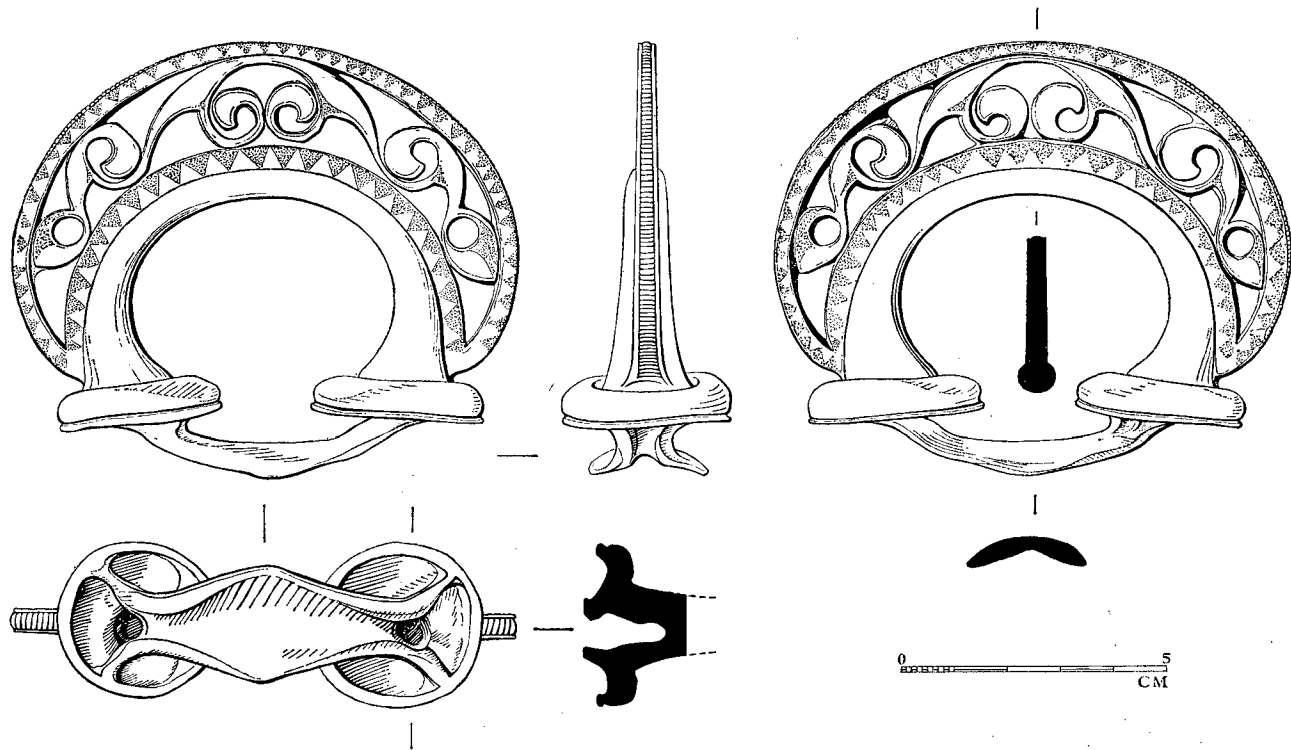


FIG. 19—The Weybread terret (2:3)

No artifacts were found associated with the Weybread terret, unlike the Westhall example which was part of a hoard which included eight *Group VIIIA* terrets, a pair of quadrilobate strap unions, baluster ferrules, etc. (the hoard is illustrated in Clarke, 1940, Pl. XVI-XVIII). Roman remains are also recorded from the same field as the hoard (TM/397806). Sherds of a Belgic shale vessel were also found in Westhall parish, at TM/40928161 (Rudolf, 1962).

Both the Westhall and the Weybread terrets were found close to Roman roads (Fig. 18): the find-spot of the Westhall hoard is near Stone Street, Margary's Road 36 (Margary, 1973, 269-70), and the Weybread terret was found in the garden of a house that lies on Margary's Road 35 (Margary, 1973, 268-9). At the point where Margary's Road 35 crosses the river Waveney, at Needham in Norfolk, there is evidence of a settlement which has yielded pottery of Claudian date, including samian, Belgic pottery and local wares. The finds also included a fragment of a baked clay mould, probably used for making the blanks for Iron Age coins (Frere, 1941). This site is only 3.5km (2 miles) from the find-spot of the Weybread terret, and the proximity of a site yielding Claudian pottery and evidence of coin-making to the location where a mid-1st century art object was found is, perhaps, not coincidental.

#### *Acknowledgements*

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