

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT EXCAVATIONS, 1978

contributed by Edward A. Martin

Barnham (BNH 009): The site consists of a trapezium-shaped, double-ditched enclosure which was discovered from the air by Dr St. Joseph of Cambridge. The north side of the enclosure measures approximately 86m, the east side 96m, the south side 76m and the west side 74m. There is, possibly, an entrance on the east side.

In August 1978 an area of approximately 900sqm was opened up over the north-east corner of the enclosure. Both enclosure ditches were located, the outer being 7.2m wide by 2.9m deep; and the inner 7.2m wide by 2.8m deep. Slight remains of an inner bank were also discovered. No evidence, however, was found of palisading or of internal features. A small clay-lined pit was found at the tail of, or under, the inner bank; and near the inside lip of the inner ditch a pit was discovered which contained an articulated human leg.

The pottery from the site was not very abundant and consisted largely of Iron Age coarse wares. There were, however, a few sherds with cabled rims, resembling sherds from West Harling, Norfolk and West Stow, Suffolk. One sherd of 'Belgic' butt beaker was also recovered. Traces of a much earlier, Bronze Age, occupation of the site were also found in the form of flintwork and Beaker pottery.

Samples for Carbon-14 dating were taken from the enclosure ditches and an interim date of 100 ± 80 b.c. has been obtained from charcoal at the base of the inner ditch. Samples for seed and snail analysis were also taken; these revealed the presence of wheat and barley grains and fragments of hazelnut shells and also indicated that the enclosure, during the Iron Age, existed in an open-country environment, probably grassland.
(E. A. Martin & J. H. Plouviez, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Eye (EYE 018): Prior to the redevelopment of the inner bailey with housing a trial section was excavated at right angles to the perimeter and contractor's test holes were observed. These showed that the natural hill had been first surrounded by a bank, presumably upcast from the bailey ditch, and then the whole interior had been raised with layers of imported soil (2.1-3.2m thick).

A construction date of 1066-71 is suggested by documentary evidence and an Early Medieval Ware cooking pot rim was found in one of the bank layers.
(K. Wade, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Ipswich, 8-10 Prince's Street (IAS 2701): The foundation for a new rear extension produced Ipswich ware and Thetford-type ware pottery as well as medieval sherds. A trench in the existing basement revealed that there was over 3m of build-up over the area with rubbish pits cutting down to below the present ground surface.

Ipswich, School Street (IAS 4801): Three trenches were excavated south of School Street in the hope of locating walls belonging to the north-east range, cloister and frater of the Blackfriars. None of the walls was located, possibly because of modern disturbance, which was encountered in all three trenches.

Ipswich, site of Turret Lane school (IAS 4302): A sample area (8m by 6m) was excavated, revealing a 3m depth of post-medieval build-up, underlain by a complex of features, mainly rubbish pits. A well was the only feature of Middle Saxon date. The majority of the features were Saxo-Norman, with a few medieval and post-medieval pits. The earliest Late Saxon

activity included a pottery kiln, producing Thetford-type ware, of which the only parts to have survived were most of the stoke-pit, the flue arch and the start of the oven walls. None of the pits produced evidence of any activity other than residential occupation; nearly all were sampled for environmental evidence.

Ipswich, Tooley's Almshouses, Foundation Street (IAS 5601): The rebuilding of the gable end walls revealed a massive medieval flint and mortar wall belonging to the Blackfriars in the northerly foundation trench. Trenches for the southern gable of the north wing found natural sand containing one posthole at 1.4m below ground. The lower 20cm of this trench produced sherds of Thetford-type ware.

Ipswich, Great Whip Street (IAS 7403): Construction of a new warehouse in Sept. 1978 on land between Great Whip Street and Gower Street involved cutting into the hillside by up to 2.5m in the south-west corner. Only at this point, however, did the formation level for the floor cut into the natural sand. The surface was cleaned up but no features other than modern were revealed. Sherds of Ipswich ware were found, however, in the lower topsoil remaining to the north and further pottery (Ipswich ware, Thetford-type ware, and Early Medieval Ware) was found in foundation trenches and service trenches over the rest of the site.

(K. Wade, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Ipswich (IPS 031): A mound approximately 0.64m high and 36m in diameter and thought possibly to be a round barrow was investigated prior to its destruction for the proposed Ipswich Southern By-Pass. A 1.5m wide trench was cut by machine across the mound to establish whether an encircling ditch existed, but no such evidence was found. A larger area was opened up in the centre of the mound to check for burials. None were found but there was a scatter of Bronze Age pottery sherds, including some of Beaker type.

(Linden Elmhirst, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)

Levington (LVT 023-026): The excavation of three ring-ditches or ploughed-out round barrows and a mound was carried out in Sept.-Dec. 1978 in advance of their being destroyed by the construction of the proposed Ipswich Southern By-Pass. Magnetometer and resistivity surveys were carried out on the sites by the Geophysics Section of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, Dept of the Environment, but due to poor conditions the results did not give any extra information on the sites.

LVT 023: This ring ditch was located on a slight rise of land and was discovered by aerial photography. It consisted of a circular ditch 26m in diameter, *c.* 4m wide and 1.5m deep. In the centre was a burnt area of sand *c.* 1m in diameter which may represent the site of a ploughed-out cremation. Samples were taken from this area for phosphate analysis. Also in the central area were sherds of Bronze Age pottery, mainly of Collared Urn type, including one rim sherd. Similar sherds were found in the ditch sections and a burnt area, *in situ*, was found in the east ditch section. Iron Age and Romano-British sherds were also found in the upper levels of the ditch. There was a cremation outside the ditch, *c.* 4m to the east.

Samples for Carbon-14 dating were taken from the site.

LVT 024: Another ring ditch located by aerial photography. This was 26.5m in diameter, 3.5m wide and 2m deep. This ditch was cut by a later boundary ditch, 3m wide and 3.5m deep, on its north side. Around the central area of the barrow there was a thin scatter of

Bronze Age pottery, including rusticated pieces and a few possible Beaker sherds, and a large sherd of a Darmsden-type Iron Age vessel. No burials or cremations were found.

LVT 025: Aerial photography revealed a single ring-ditch which on excavation proved to be 35m in diameter, 4.5m wide and 2m deep. Excavation also revealed an inner depression 17m in diameter, 3m wide and 0.5m deep. In the centre of the barrow, lying just below the plough level, was the remains of a cremation under an inverted Collared Urn. The urn was rimless, probably due to a firing mishap, and was also lacking its base due to plough damage. Areas of charcoal were found in the north and south sections of the ditch and samples for Carbon-14 dating were taken.

LVT 026: This appeared on aerial photographs as a dark patch and was visible from the ground as a slight rise. Excavation showed it to be a natural mound. (Linden Elmhirst, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit).

Orford (ORF 011): Contractors' excavations for new housing in the grounds of Castle House produced medieval pottery (mainly coarse ware of Hollesley type). The west end of the site, nearest the castle, was barren of finds or features; all the material came from the Munday's Lane frontage. Here there were also features, mainly pits, but including two burnt clay floors, probably ovens. A deep earthwork feature cutting across the south-west corner of the site, and in-filled by the contractors, was probably part of the outer moat of the castle.

Orford (ORF 013): Two areas fronting Castle Lane were excavated prior to development. Area A (67m sq) produced a series of features of medieval, late medieval and post-medieval date. The medieval features, associated with Hollesley-type medieval coarse ware, included pits, postholes, slots and a wide shallow feature filled with oyster shells and gravel. Area B (64m sq) produced one medieval feature only (also shallow and oyster- and gravel-filled) together with late medieval and post-medieval ditches and pits. (K. Wade, for the Suffolk Archaeological Unit)