

HAMLET WATLING, ARTIST AND SCHOOLMASTER, 1818–1908

by STEVEN J. PLUNKETT

‘It is greatly to be regretted that every neighbourhood does not possess a man like Mr Watling, who has not only investigated and collected the Roman remains of the county, but has at his own expense erected scaffolding and devoted all his spare time to copy accurately the church windows. Specialists are not always sufficiently grateful to such persons who collect facts and preserve relics that only one on the spot can do. Ipswich is especially fortunate in possessing two such as Miss Layard and Mr Watling’ (*Proc.* 1899, 396).

IN THESE WORDS the Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute recorded its appreciation of Hamlet Watling (Fig. 8), an octogenarian Suffolk schoolmaster, self-taught as an antiquary. This was a man noted for his ‘tall, spare, gentlemanly figure and his cheery companionship, with a personality all his own – whose conversation always commanded an audience notwithstanding a certain quaint phraseology and pronunciation which he retained’ (*E.A.D.T.*, 3 Apr. 1908).

The remarks were prompted by an exhibition of Watling’s paintings of stained glass windows, organised by the Ipswich Scientific Society and the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History; the occasion was a *Conversazione* at the High Street Museum and Art Gallery on 27 July 1899, in the week of the R.A.I.’s Annual Meeting, held that year in Ipswich. Two days earlier Miss Nina Layard (an experienced speaker) made her archaeological debut before the Institute in two papers, explaining her excavations on the Carmelite site, and her investigations of Wolsey’s College and St Peter’s; these gave rise to her first archaeological papers, which appeared in the *Archaeological Journal* for 1899. She was received enthusiastically: Sir Talbot Baker said that he had attended the meetings for twenty years, and had never before heard a paper read by a lady. The President¹ said that he hoped Miss Layard would be the founder of a school of archaeologists in Ipswich (*E.A.D.T.*, 26 Jul. 1899).

At forty-five, Miss Layard’s archaeological career was just beginning, whilst at eighty, Hamlet Watling’s life work was already accomplished. The two facts are closely related. Although both had lived in Ipswich for about a decade, they had met only in 1898; and through that meeting Miss Layard came to purchase Watling’s works (to prevent their dispersal) and was fired to begin excavating at Blackfriars. That Miss Layard’s energies found an antiquarian and archaeological focus from this point forwards paid immense dividends for East Anglian research over the next thirty-five years; but in the matter of collecting facts and preserving relics, she had already salvaged an entire chapter to which her own work would form an honourable sequel.

Although Hamlet Watling has been dead for nearly a century, few of his drawings have been published, and his memorials remain scattered and fugitive.² His copious illustrations of mediaeval church antiquities in glowing gouache colours were embellished with manuscript captions and the sheets assembled into one-off folio volumes. This idiom combining antiquarian subjects and Victorian aesthetic has long been superseded for research purposes (but not always bettered) by the puritanism of bare delineation and photographic recording. Yet students are often indebted to such illustrators for their interpretative insights. Watling’s *oeuvre* deserves more serious consideration than an occasional foray in search of images of lost antiquities. Some difficulties of authenticity arise from occasional elements of undifferentiated reconstruction in his drawings, and because some of his paintings were innocently copied from engravings. As was said in his lifetime, ‘What Mr Watling’s collection stands in need of is classification and an interpreter’ (*E.A.D.T.*, 23 Feb. 1899), and this is still true.

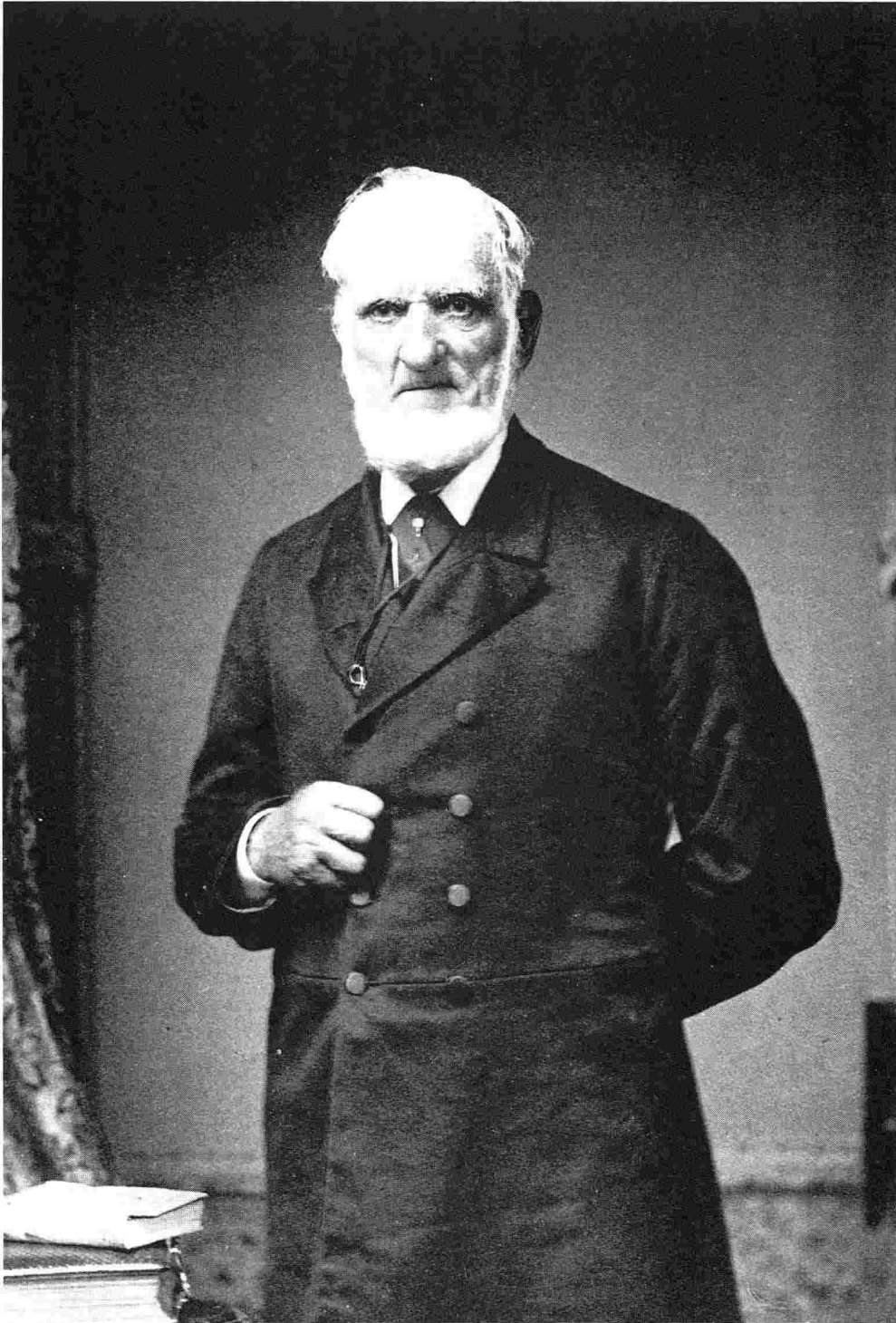


FIG. 3 – Hamlet Watling, artist and antiquary (1818–1908) (*Miss Layard's Collection; by permission of Ipswich Borough Council Museums and Galleries*).

Hamlet Watling was born on 24 July 1818 at the Old Grammar School (now the Teachers' Centre), Kelsale (near Saxmundham), the second son of Henry Watling and Phillis (née Newson).³ His father Henry (c. 1792–1858) was Master of the Endowed School at Kelsale for forty years, and was still in post in 1855. Of those who survived to adulthood, Hamlet was the eldest of four boys and two girls, though others died young. All the boys followed in their father's profession: Edwin (1827–70) was writing master at Cheltenham College from 1852 to 1869,⁴ and Walter (b. 1823) and Llewellyn were assistant masters at Banbury (Oxfordshire). By 1861 Walter had taken over the school at Kelsale, and was still its master in 1891. Their sister Georgiana (b. c. 1821) died aged seventeen, but Laura, the youngest (b. c. 1836), married a man named Ellis, and had two children born at Leckhampton (Gloucestershire), where Edwin Watling lived whilst teaching at Cheltenham. She retired as a widow to Great Yarmouth.

In his own schooldays at Kelsale, Hamlet was taught to write and draw on a shallow trough spread with sand. Not satisfied with the clumsiness of using a finger for a pen, he introduced a skewer to give a finer effect to the work. He recalled that

the sand trough was commonly used to teach adults to write, either in the church or school after Divine Service on Sunday evenings (as in the day time they were employed in agriculture). I have seen twenty or thirty exercising their skill in forming the letters (which was a great amusement to the standers by). A slide was attached by which means the letters were obliterated when required (Watling MS 2).

A celebrated photograph by William Vick shows the sand-trough at Dennington church (Fig. 9). Progressing to the pencil and brush, at the age of eight he took lessons in colouring from a book

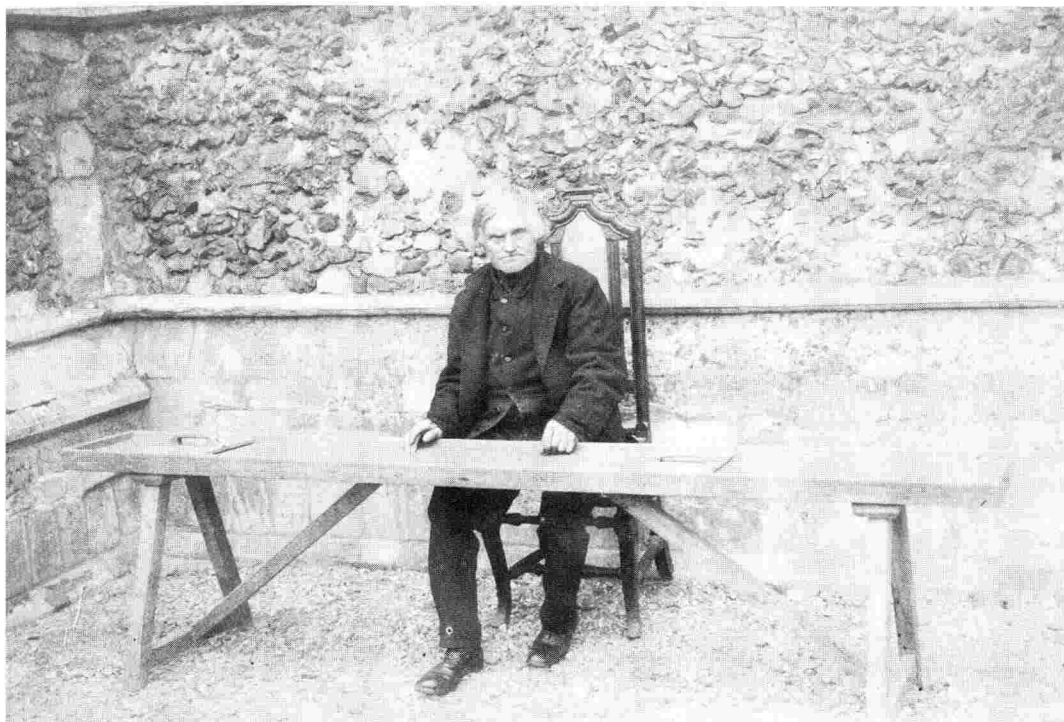


FIG. 9 – The sand-trough at Dennington Church (*photograph by William Vick in the Frank Woolnough Collection; by permission of Suffolk Record Office*).

called *Flowers, Fruits and Shells*, and he amused himself by copying horses, sheep and fowls from old prints (Watling MS 2). Little else is written of Hamlet's childhood, apart from the following note: 'When a boy I spent much of my time in the "Woodlands", as Stradbroke, Wilby, and Worlingworth were then called, and consequently came daily into contact with the "Flet cheese", or, in derision, as it was humorously termed, "Suffolk bang", a name it well deserved' (Watling (c), 25 Jan. 1887).

At the age of sixteen, having developed his talents, he began to take employment as a school-teacher. In 1834 he became assistant master in a school at Aldeburgh, teaching drawing and mapping. From there he moved to the Manor School at Woodbridge as drawing master, and remained for two years before going on in the same capacity to a school at Cavendish. Here, perhaps, he first investigated the antiquities of Long Melford church. His artistic work had already begun, for in 1838 he discovered a page from an illuminated *antiphonarium* in the possession of a gentleman at Clare (who had bought it with scrap paper in a sale at Thetford), and copied from this forlorn fragment a kneeling image of the worthy of North Marston, Master John Schorn. He also took a tracing of another image of Schorn from a panel of painted glass belonging to a gentleman resident in Bury St Edmunds, which was thought to have come from the Abbey (Watling (a), 1869, 260, 269). In 1839 he removed to Ipswich, as writing master in the school of Mr Charles Watson of Berners Street, St Matthew's, but he did not remain there long.

Watling visited Blythburgh church and the priory ruins in 1837 and 1840. The stalls of the Hopton chantry were then still in their original positions, and various notes and drawings which he made at that time record features now lost. (He also points out inaccuracies in Suckling's engraving of the chantry.) The church was then in poor condition, and the glass images in several windows which had survived until the 18th century had been afterwards lost through neglect. His attempts to understand and reconstruct the visual programme of the windows, and to identify the patrons from the surviving heraldry, stimulated his interest in iconography and in the Anglo-Saxon history of East Anglia, for there had been images of the early bishops and royal saints. Perhaps because of its rôle in the early development of his own studies, he had a lifelong affection for this church, and long afterwards wrote of its neglect with passion, as a 'wretched scandal' (Watling (b), 13 Nov. 1875).

His next move was an important one, for by June 1841 he had taken on the running of a private school on his own account at Wangford (near Southwold). At first his responsibilities occupied much of his time, not least because on 26 February 1842 he was married at Wangford to Sarah Ann Wales (an artist's sister), and on 3 July their son Hamlet Henry Watling was baptised there. His antiquarian pursuits now received particular encouragement. He attempted a drawing of an ancient oak chest kept in the priest's chamber over the porch at Southwold church. Jonathan Gooding, F.S.A. (1797–1859) (Fig. 10), 'a thorough archaeologist' (town clerk of Southwold 1836–1854, and also of Dunwich) saw the picture, and employed him to copy all the antiquities in the church, including the bench-ends, piscina and sedilia, etc.

When these were completed I mentioned to him I should try the painted screen, but he only laughed and said that it had been attempted by a lady of considerable ability in painting. The colouring of the figures she completed admirably but when she came to the under-dresses she relinquished the task. For some time I laboured hard at that particular and difficult task, as then there was not a gold paint that would work with water, as now, but had an oily nature. So the floriated which had to be done in water colours would not adhere to the gold but ran off, and it was by a pure accident upon the palette this difficulty was overcome (Watling MS 2).

Delighted with the Southwold work, in 1843 Gooding introduced him to the Revd Samuel Blois Turner (1805–82), 'a great lover and patron of archaeology who engaged me for two years to copy other screens, painted glass, &c, from the churches of Suffolk' (Watling MS 1). A great deal of work was accomplished in this time. Turner, latterly rector of South Elmham All Saints, was forming a



FIG. 10 – Jonathan Gooding, F.S.A. (1797–1859), Town Clerk of Southwold 1836–54 (watercolour by James Pelham, 1844, by courtesy of Southwold Town Council).

collection of art-historical materials which included a fine representative series of casts of classical and mediaeval fictile ivories, which passed to Ipswich Museum in 1882 (*E.A.D.T.*, 9 Dec. 1882). Turner was Hon. Secretary of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology from 1870 to 1882. Through him, Watling met the Suffolk historian Suckling, who used some of his drawings (of Blythburgh bench-ends, and other antiquities) to illustrate the *History* published in 1847. By contact with the Barne family he gained an introduction to Lady Bowater of Sotterley Hall, and was commissioned by her to illustrate the antiquities of both the church and the Hall. Here his labours extended over several months, and the drawings were to be placed in an album given to Lady Bowater by Queen Victoria.

It was also through Barne patronage that in 1849 Watling left Wangford and became schoolmaster at Dunwich, where he was to teach for six years. A considerable group of his paintings of church antiquities relate to the nearby parishes of Kelsale, Stoven, Bramfield, South Cove, Westhall, Bardwell and Wangford itself, and many of these were presumably executed during the fifteen years of his life at Wangford and Dunwich. Drawings now in the Ford Collection in the Suffolk Record Office include items from Blundeston, Oulton (1842) and Huntingfield (1846) made at this time. The extraordinary historical associations of Dunwich led him into romantic pastures of historical research, which resulted in a *History of Dunwich, Ancient and Modern* which was published by Crisp at Beccles in 1853. The entire run of 300 copies sold out within a month: at least one was grangerised by Watling in a large scrapbook into which he pasted paintings of Dunwich, and in 1934 this was in the possession of Ernest Cooper at Dunwich Museum. The topography of the lost city remained a constant interest of Watling's, and a map which he produced, supposedly based on an early mediaeval original, has long been a point of controversy. His vision of the 'Splendid City' was without doubt influenced by the verses of the Yoxford bard, James Bird.

It was at this time (1852) that Hamlet's young brother Edwin, then aged twenty-five, was appointed writing-master at Cheltenham College – a post he was to hold for seventeen years. Hamlet himself, aged thirty-seven, was appointed Master of the Endowed School at Earl Stonham in 1855; he would remain in that post for some thirty-two years until his retirement. (He was certainly – and proudly – aware that the poet Bird had been a native of Earl Stonham.) Evidently there was a certain dynastic pride in these prolonged tenures: when old Henry Watling died in 1858 (aged sixty-six), his gravestone in Kelsale churchyard was boldly inscribed 'He was Master of the Endowed School of this place 40 years.' Walter Watling gave up his position at Banbury to take over the school of his own village, and himself remained there for almost thirty-five years. Father and son ran the Kelsale school from the last years of the Regency until almost the last of Victoria.

The Earl Stonham appointment was in the gift of the Trustees of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and at that time the village schoolroom was in the 'Guildhall Cottages', an ancient structure beside the road on the south side of the churchyard, constructed from the timbers of the mediaeval Guildhall which had stood on or near the site. 'The numerous engagements here for 6 or 7 years prohibited my entering upon my favourite study till one day a gentleman from the "Guild Hall" London called upon me and asked me to copy for him the old glass at Combs. This was the commencement of my extensive labours in painted glass and screen work' (Watling MS 2). The gentleman was John Piggott of Maldon. A number of important works followed, in which Watling firmly established a reputation as a copyist of painted glass windows. The exact dates of many of the visits are unknown. For instance, at Yaxley he copied the Doom mural in 1863; but he also visited in either December 1873 or January 1874 to draw the glass and rood screen, and doubtless returned often to such churches.

The Suffolk Congress of the British Archaeological Association was held in Ipswich on 8–13 August 1864. The attention thus focused upon the region brought Watling's work to a wider scrutiny. In 1865 he refused a commission offered by the Association to copy all the painted glass at Fairford (Gloucestershire) on the grounds that it was too arduous an undertaking. Yet at much the same time he had scaffolding erected at Long Melford and made copies of the windows there. His

series of the Melford portraits of the Clopton family was considered to be amongst his finest work. Here he developed his great interest in the interpretation of heraldry, which is significant in these images, and which he had never neglected in his studies of church decoration. In 1867 he visited Butley Priory to make a detailed study of the heraldry on the old gatehouse. On 15 July of that year he was presented with a Fine Art Medal (Fig. 11) by Rear-Admiral Sir George Broke-Middleton, Bart, for an illustrated account of the church of Stonham Parva (Ipswich Museum 1933.82D.171).

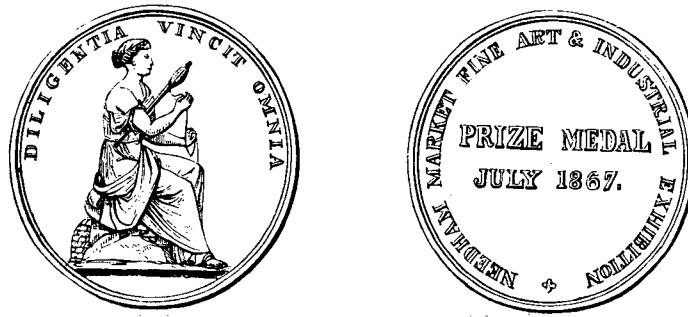


FIG. 11 – Engraving of the Fine Art Medal presented to Hamlet Watling in 1867.

The painted glass at East Harling (Norfolk) next claimed his attention; from this he copied the scenes from the Life of Our Lord which had been preserved from the fury of the iconoclasts by being buried, and rediscovered through an accident:

I wish to note here, it is only those who have copied such work can explain what a difficult and fatiguing work it is, not only in giving the true outline, but the true old tinctures. This was accomplished by laying the paper upon the original in the window and copying it line for line and colour for colour. This was accomplished by standing upon a ladder or scaffold 30 to 40 feet upwards. I mention this because those who look at the paintings imagine that no difficulty or fatigue is encountered in obtaining them (Watling MS 2).

In 1868 he sent three volumes of antiquarian illustrations (including his ‘Stonham Parva’) for the perusal of the British Archaeological Association (Watling (a) 1868, 183). It was soon remarked that he had amassed ‘a very considerable number of tracings from glass windows, as well as from rood-screen panels, in churches in Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex’, as the Revd Sparrow Simpson noted. From this time forth until the early 1890s Watling regularly sent sheets of images for exhibition before the Association, not merely for approval but with an interpretative commentary, so that he in turn could benefit from the observations of the Associates. Simpson and Henry Syer Cumming (Vice-President) found much in his letters to report, discuss, and make use of. Lengthy contributions by Watling appeared under their names in the *Journal* for 1869 and 1877. Of his St Bartholomew (Southwold) the *Journal* remarked ‘As a work of art Mr Watling’s drawing may be pronounced exquisite. Faithful both in colour and contour, it seems like a panel cut from the original screen of the fifteenth century’ (Watling (a) 1868, 271). By 1869 his Suffolk drawings alone included images of antiquities from scores of parishes, among them Stonham Aspal, Hemingstone, Eye, Old Newton (Gipping Chapel), Great Bricett, Herringfleet, Little Saxham, and many others, besides those already mentioned.

Amidst all these labours, Watling also took an increasing interest in Roman antiquities, maybe prompted by Irving’s paper to the B.A.A. at Ipswich in 1864 (published in the Association’s *Collectanea Archaeologica* of 1861–71). During the construction of the railway at Gate Ford (Badley Bridge), near Needham Market in 1865, a pot containing coins of Antoninus Pius, a 6th-century bronze

patera (from a Saxon cremation) and the remains of a 7th-century hanging bowl with silver-gilt and enamelled escutcheons were disinterred. Watling drew them at the house of the Quaker banker of Needham Market, Samuel Alexander Maw, believing them all to be Roman. Only the drawings now survive. Another unique survival is Watling's copy of an etching (itself now lost) by John Shepparde dated 1623 – one of a set of twelve bought by Edwin Watling from either Gardner or Ives of Yarmouth before 1870 – showing the standing walls of the long-vanished Roman shore-fort of Walton Castle, Felixstowe. Years later Hamlet wrote to Miss Layard,

I know Mr Laver and Spalding well (the former was a friend of the great Roach Smith, my old friend who wrote many books upon Roman remains: he called me by my second name). I have more of samian ware from Colchester than they possess; and the old pot of hand-made rough paste was found at Sutton containing 500 Roman coins. This pot he borrowed of me but never returned – it is now in the Museum⁵ with this ticket 'Presented by Mr H. Watling'. (Corr. (a))

Thus, when an archaeological discovery was made at Stonham in 1867, he was at once ready to offer his expertise. W. Whincopp of Woodbridge, an experienced antiquary who had made a large contribution to the temporary Museum at Ipswich for the Congress of 1864, in autumn 1867 discovered an unusual variety of flint implements in great abundance in the valley between Little Stonham Hall and Earl Stonham Rectory. Watling wrote,

A farmer was having draining carried out upon the declivity of the hill immediately south of Stonham Hall, and the workmen threw out with the soil fragments of pottery, consisting mostly of the rims of vessels. These fictile portions were picked up by a gentleman in search of geological specimens and shown to me. This convinced me that the locality was once occupied by Romans, and stimulated me to make further investigations on a small plot of ground in the vicinity of the first discovery, and I need not add that this was crowned with success. About 13 inches below the surface I discovered a considerable quantity of fragments of household fictilia of various textures and colour.⁶ The success which followed this excavation prompted me to extend it upon the opposite hill, where I discovered considerable deposits embedded in a debris composed of charcoal and the decomposition of vegetable and animal substances.

Here he also found 'bone pins, skewers, iron instruments, keys, flue-tiles, bricks, flint implements, &c' (Watling (b), 13 July 1878).⁷

'There were also dug up, in situ, British quern stones, mammalian teeth and bones (some of which appear to be extinct), and with these were mingled Roman cinerary urns of the usual type, but few in a perfect state; with tiles, samian ware, &c. These excavations at present extend over several acres; no remains of baths or pavements have presented themselves' (Whincopp 1867). Other finds here included bracelets of copper and bone, iron knives, part of a forfex, an iron needle, staples, brackets and nails. A harp-shaped bronze fibula was found with a plain samian base stamped SEVERI.M. Leaden objects included discs perforated with nail-holes, and a key. Spindle-whorls made from pot-bases were found (in addition to a polished stone example), and there were both lava and puddingstone querns.⁸ Among the plainer buff and red wares were found fragments of Castor and Upchurch Ware, an earthenware mask, pieces of mortaria with sharp inclusions, and sherds of glass vessels. Although no masonry was found there were abundant roof-tiles (both tegula and imbrex), decorated fragments of flue-tiles, and large building-bricks (15in × 11in × 3in), all suggestive of an important structure. One floor-tile bore a dog's paw-print. Several coins were found, which the Revd C. E. Searle (curate of Earl Stonham 1864–70) identified, ranging in date from Alexander Severus (235) to Valens (378) (Watling (b), 20 Jul. 1878).

Watling at once became interested in the possible identification of the Roman road as the IXth Iter of Antoninus, and investigated other likely sites. Going north to Stoke Ash, 'the land on the left is rich indeed with the remains, especially in the valley immediately below the White Horse

Inn. This discovery was made [in 1867] by labourers excavating for stone, and the remains fortunately fell into my possession.' Fragments of two ornamented samian bowls, one with a hunting subject and the name ALBUCCI, pieces of Castor Ware, and an amphora with ENN IVL stamped on the handle, were recovered. On the opposite side of the road 'a plot of ground was evidently devoted to sacrificing purposes, and the vessels in which the ashes of the dead were deposited are coarse and large, and usually discovered in an inverted position resting on a tile' (Watling (b), 26 Oct. 1878). A drawing of one such inverted urn shows it to have been of greyware with a zone of scratched lattice decoration. 'In the bed of the river I discovered an immense quantity of animal bones and fragments of vessels.'

By April 1868, as fresh finds from Stonham were being reported to the B.A.A., it was realised that the ancient deposits were spread over several hundred acres, and would take years to investigate more fully. Over the following years Watling dug at numerous sites.

In the three Stonhams, as well as Crowfield and Mickfield, evident signs of their having been inhabited appears almost in every field. Spots also may be found on which the funeral pyre had been placed and the bodies consumed to ashes and then deposited in urns beneath the surface. In Earl Stonham no fewer than six spots of this description have come under my observation. The spot on which the Guildhall now stands was most extensively used for that purpose, and considerable remains have been discovered. In fact this valley was exclusively devoted to interments (Watling (b), 26 Oct. 1878).

'That the present christian fabric took the place of their pagan temple is evident from the relics discovered and the barrows flanking the edifice on the north and east' (Watling (b), 13 Jul. 1878). An illustration shows three urns, one covered with a tile, 'found near Earl Stonham church', more convincing evidence than the shallow mound beneath the yew tree in Earl Stonham churchyard. Other intensive findspots are shown in the immediate surroundings of Little Stonham Hall, in various places between the churches of Earl Stonham and Stonham Aspal, in Creting, and in Mickfield in the field north-east of the main crossroads.

In July 1869 Searle exhibited flints and Roman pottery from Earl Stonham in the temporary Museum set up for the Royal Archaeological Institute's Annual Meeting held at Bury St Edmunds (*Procs* 1869, 440-41). Two months later another Roman find caused great excitement. Watling wrote to Syer Cuming on 4 October 1869:

An extensive and highly interesting discovery has come to light within the last few days in the parish of Baylham, not far from Ipswich. The Rev. C.E. Searle by accident got into conversation with a farmer at the above named parish, who told him that on his land was apparently an old road, as nothing would grow there. Mr Searle went and inspected the spot, and found that it was evidently the remains of a Roman road, and the very one which passed through the place which to the present day is called 'The Great Road'. He discovered numerous fragments of samian pottery and some pieces of beautiful white ware, painted, besides other remains: also seven coins, among which is a first brass of Hadrian. The farmer has kindly consented to excavations being made, as the field will not be planted next year (Watling (a) 1869, 387-88).

Bronze tweezers, bronze and bone armlets, a knife with bone handle, the head of an iron *pilum*, the bowl of a silver spoon and much pottery were found. 'A paved roadway can be distinctly traced for two or three hundred yards. On each side of this road I discovered the foundations of villas, which suffered by fire'; also 'a drain formed of flanged tile, very thick building tiles, scored flue tiles, flint implements, fictilia in great variety, and further on the route fragments of a sarcophagus &c' (Watling (b), 26 Oct. 1878).

As the various finds were made, Watling prepared coloured drawings of them which he exhibited to the B.A.A. (Watling (a) 1868, 183, 186, 286, 394; 1871, 383-86). These show that much of the pottery was found as small fragments, from which he reconstructed the outline of the vessels by

conjecture and by comparison with known forms. Confusingly, in later reproductions of the drawings he shows them as groups of complete vessels, which could be mistaken for pots found complete. Although it appears that some cinerary urns were found intact, it is difficult to know which, since they appear on the same sheets as the reconstructed groups. These images, together with plans of the principal excavation sites, he drew up into a map entitled 'Plan of the Evident Route of the IXth Iter of Antoninus', in which he showed Baylham as *Combretovium* and Little Stonham as *Sitomagus*. On 11 July 1871, amid pouring rain, the Suffolk Institute made an excursion to Needham Market, the Creeting and the Stonhams, a programme arranged by Watling; and in the new parish schoolroom at Earl Stonham the finds were all laid out for inspection, the new map was exhibited, and the Revd J. Castley read a paper on the subject (*Procs* 1871). The map was exhibited to the B.A.A. in 1874 (Watling (a) 1874, 331).

New commissions for his antiquarian paintings were forthcoming, and around 1870 he illustrated the antiquities of the Charterhouse in London for Dr Brown. The Revd C.E. Searle (Fig. 12) evidently encouraged Watling, for amongst his first communications to the B.A.A. had been drawings of two 'leadens dumps' belonging to Searle, 'exhumed in a piece of land at the back of Pembroke

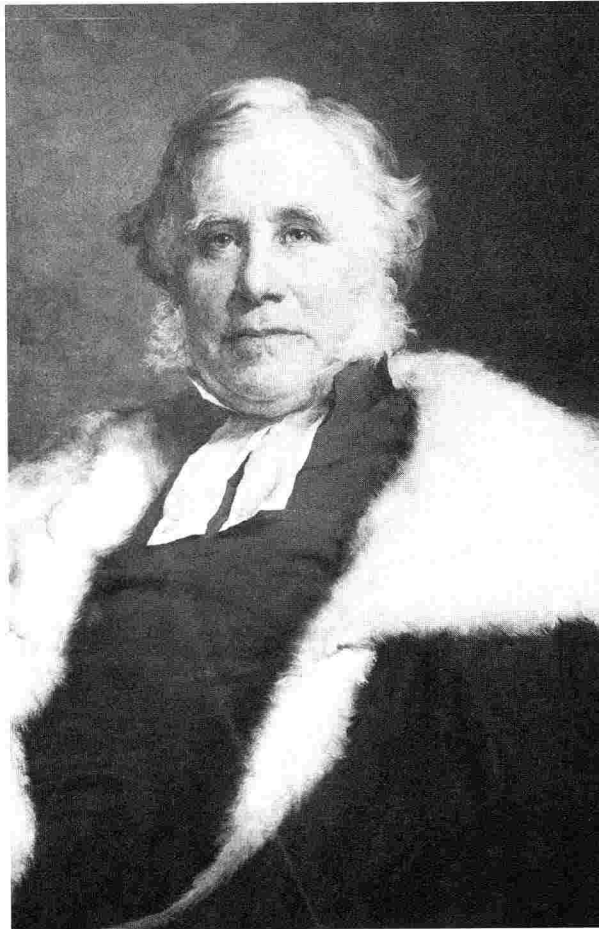


FIG. 12 – The Revd Charles Edward Searle (1828–1902), Curate of Earl Stonham 1864–70 (portrait by W.W. Oules, 1892; by permission of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Cambridge).

College' (Watling (a) 1868, 177). Amongst his works at this time were copies of the antiquities of the castle and church at Odell, Bedfordshire, where Searle had been curate before coming to Earl Stonham. Early in 1870 Watling was tracing and illustrating the religious subjects in the mediaeval glass at the east end of Long Melford church (Fowler 1879, 140–41). When in that year Dr Power became Master of Pembroke, he invited Searle to return to his old college as Tutor,⁹ and also summoned Watling to produce illustrations of the antiquities of the college, and of Framlingham church, for him. His earlier patron, the Revd Samuel Blois Turner, was another Pembroke M.A. The schoolmaster no doubt felt a sense of allegiance to Pembroke College (though he had never attended it), and perhaps it was also through this personal patronage that the new schoolroom was built at Earl Stonham at this same time. Watling himself continued to live in the old Guildhall Cottages for at least a decade, and so had a journey of almost a mile each day to the new Victorian brick-gothic room.

His interests and collections expanded apace. In 1871 he visited Brittany to study megalithic sites and Celtic monuments, writing to the Association, 'Do you understand much about British interments, and the slabs they raised to the memory of their dead? Many are engraved with curious devices . . . much like the Egyptian slabs. Some appear to be Celts fixed in handles, like those found in the lake-dwellings of Switzerland, many of which I possess' (Watling (a) 1872, 72). In May 1872 he forwarded a large sheet of drawings of 'Druidical remains', including megalithic structures, details of their carvings, and of flints and fictilia associated; the sites were 'Butte de Caesar' (a cairn with inscribed prop-stone), Mount Helen (a cromlech), Locmariaker near Vannes (the 'Merchant's Table' cromlech and a prostrate monolith), Carnac (the 'temple') and an unnamed dolmen with broken capstone. In August 1879 he saw and drew the Rollright stones, and it seems likely from his various drawings of Roman pottery from Chipping Warden that he excavated a good deal on the Oxfordshire–Northamptonshire border, presumably whilst taking holidays with his brother Llewellyn at Banbury. Whilst excavating in the Black Lands near Banbury he discovered a Roman hour-glass with supporting columns (Watling (d)¹⁰).

Watling's artistic career spanned the great age of Victorian church restorations with all its evils and benefits, giving a natural interest to his drawings of things now long vanished. But restorations often only completed the ruin begun by years of neglect, and in 1872 Watling inspected the ruinous condition of the antiquities of Letheringham Abbey. He wrote to Syer Cuming that, of the destruction he had seen in churches, he had never met with anything approaching this. The Wingfield and Naunton armour which had hung in the church was long since despoiled. The chest, without lid or bottom, was employed as a chicken-coop at the Abbey Farm, and two kneeling figures from a tomb were set on either side of the farmer's counting-house door. (He later produced a volume on the Wingfields and Letheringham based on the drawings and notes taken at this time.) In 1874 he inspected 'the fine old church of Mendlesham, which has been restored, but in such a way that all the points of interest are either demolished or wear a new face (Watling (a) 1874, 74, 92). In the following year he gave a full account of the church at Debenham, where in the chancel 'desecration and mutilation have reigned unchecked for years. The arch which forms the entrance to the nave is tottering to its fall, and has to be propped up by massive woodwork. The floor is not safe to tread upon . . . The tomb [of Sir Charles Framlingham] is in a very wretched condition' (Watling (a) 1875).

Church restoration, however, gave Watling the chance to make some thrilling discoveries. In 1873 he drew a number of interesting carved fragments found walled up in the old rood stair at Stonham Aspal. The next year he found an entire churchful of murals at Earl Stonham. On the west side of the transept he uncovered a scene with a castle and dragon-slayer.

Opposite this picture, on the east side, is the martyrdom of St Catherine.¹¹ In the north transept I discovered on the east wall the Nativity. Opposite, the wall is filled with heads arranged in semi-circles. . . Below are two perfect figures, one a fiend, the other an ugly

fellow with something in his hand. On scraping the space above the chancel arch I discovered a beautiful fresco (almost perfect) of the Last Judgement. I have been scraping the north wall near the great door, and have found a female in a kneeling posture. All the walls were painted over subsequent to the Reformation and the older pictures hidden from sight, and new texts introduced. This later colouring is a great enemy to the frescoes, as it adheres to them, and in scraping they mostly come off together. A great many pictures have been destroyed here, and I have to work carefully indeed to preserve their remains so as to make full sized tracings of them (Watling (a) 1874, 433).

Of all these frescoes 'lately scraped into sight', only one or two subjects survived the restoration work.

Syer Cuming said of the paintings, 'however repulsive they may be in a religious point of view, they will ever appear as valuable records in the eyes of the archaeologists' (Watling (a) 1874, 433). Of devils upon dooms, Watling wrote, 'my readers, what can be more revolting to the human mind to see such hideous monsters delineated upon the walls of our Christian fabrics?' (Watling (b), 16 Dec. 1876). Elsewhere, the fresco of 'Jews Stabbing the Host' (Friskney, Lincolnshire) was called 'absolutely revolting, but not without a certain significance in these days' (*E.A.D.T.*, 23 Feb. 1899). The religious Victorians were sometimes offended or disgusted by the mediaeval images lurking within their churches; Watling, however, had no qualms at repeating vestiges of mediaeval anti-Semitism.¹²

It was at Moses Hall that a child was caught, called 'Robert' by the Jews and crucified by them in derision of Christ. The same transpired at Norwich, the child's name was William (St). At Loddon in Norfolk and Eye in Suffolk are representations of him. My old friend Dr Beverley of Norwich sent me word they made a search for his body in the cathedral, but was unsuccessful but found the body of a bishop instead (Corr. (a)).

It was in the 1874 issue that Dr J.J. Raven first used Watling's images to illustrate an article for the Suffolk Institute's *Proceedings*. Watling himself reported his discoveries of murals at Earl Stonham both to the B.A.A. and in letters to the *Suffolk Chronicle*. In this weekly journal he found at last the vehicle for his own texts and researches, and in October 1875 he embarked upon a regular column under the title 'The Fine Arts Long Ago'. A period of astonishing literary productivity ensued, extending to no less than 170 separate articles over the next three and a half years. He began with a series describing glass and screens in the Eastern Counties, and from June 1876 to November 1877 dealt weekly with the images, iconography and legends of individual saints, apostles and other holy persons. The literary sources which he quotes suggest a working knowledge of Latin, French and German. Perhaps writing was a refuge, for before February 1876 his first wife, 'a diligent and faithful worker for the cause of Christ', had died.¹³ Many of the texts may have been composed some time previously, for each is a carefully distilled and informative study. Perhaps, too, he was encouraged by James Fowler, F.S.A., a man with specialist knowledge of mediaeval glass and its properties, who laid examples of Watling's work from Herringfleet before the Society of Antiquaries of London in December 1875 (Fowler 1875).

Watling wrote:

The feelings which prompt me in these researches are not merely because they can elucidate the manners and the customs, the arts and the decorations, of a bygone period; these things are, no doubt, interesting in themselves, but they are very secondary to that better sort of antiquarianism, that true archaic feeling, which loves ancient things not merely because they are rare, but because in the contemplation of them can most clearly be detected the spirit of ages gone by; can best be obtained, as it were from the oil wells of the earth, the strongest light to illuminate our future. Man is continually, daily, hourly changing; he leaves behind all that his ancestors have accomplished, and is advancing towards an unknown, infinite future; and it is

because archaeology is the science which enables us to appreciate this progress that it is a noble, an interesting, and an elevating study (Watling (b), 1 Apr. 1876).

From November 1877 to mid-1878 he described all the secular portraits of the Clopton family in the Long Melford glass (and for most of these issues wrote also a second column on another topic). For the Melford studies he drew largely on notes sent to him in March 1870 by Richard Almack, F.S.A., who had repaired and conserved the windows (for his account of Melford Church, see Almack 1855). He had written to Watling: 'It is important that I should see any letter press intended to accompany the portraits. My long continued researches and local knowledge may point out what no other person has taken the trouble to know' (Almack MSS). (It was doubtless this work which inspired Watling in 1870 to embark upon a 'Heraldry of the County of Suffolk' which developed into twelve notebook volumes containing 1,003 pedigrees and 2,026 shields.) Watling explained to his readers, 'The sole object which I have in view in publishing through the inexpensive and extensive medium of the *Suffolk Chronicle*, some of the results of that which has been a costly and arduous task – is simply that all classes may have the advantage of them. I sincerely trust that the effect may be to stimulate in some of my readers the desire to prosecute so interesting a study' (Watling (b), 10 Mar. 1877).

Throughout 1878 and until May 1879 he wrote serial accounts of the Roman excavations at Earl Stonham, the History of Dunwich, Images of Master John Schorn, the Anglo-Saxon History of East Anglia, the Antonine Iters, and sundry accounts and denunciations of church restorations. In all these writings we hear the authentic voice of the schoolmaster and 'typical antiquary' leading us through a maze of historical highways and byways. The writings hold the key to the interpretation of his paintings, both as to the iconography, and in showing how he sought to understand and communicate, not only to copy, what he saw.

Man can scarcely reach any level of social and intellectual development without beginning to feel a longing to know something of his ancestors and of those who have lived before him, and their habits of life. The pride of ancestry and of race is a strong passion, even in the savage, and when society has reached that point at which a priestly or learned class has sprung into existence, it becomes a chief part of the mission of that class to preserve for the benefit of the community the traditional knowledge of the past. But in Suffolk it is painful to relate that this science, and the society which professes to cherish it, are decidedly, in consequence of the phlegmatic nature of the society, on the decline (Watling (b), 15 Jun. 1878).

There are various indications that his column was controversial, perhaps because he pilloried the church restorers. He refers to 'the unthinking remarks which have been made against these antiquarian expositions', and to these he replies that 'they are not marching with the intelligence, with the education, or with the refinement of their day' (Watling (b), 1 Apr. 1876). In resuming his description of the restoration of Stowmarket church, he warns that he will be very explicit in his condemnations: 'The process which has rendered it more trim and slightly in the eyes of the majority of persons has rendered it comparatively useless to the archaeologist and student of history, of art, or of our national antiquities' (Watling (b), 31 Mar. 1877). A month later James Fowler wrote to the *Chronicle* to express 'the cordial esteem and gratitude of all who are competent to appreciate the value of his labours' (Fowler 1877).¹⁴ A less happy note was struck when the Revd W.H. Sewell of Yaxley accused Watling of having plagiarised his paper about Needham Market chapel read on the occasion of the 1871 Stonham excursion. The *Chronicle* published an apologetic disclaimer (16 Nov. 1878); but this was a mean criticism of a man of encyclopaedic interests whose own original work had been so extensively made use of by others. Like Dr Taylor of Ipswich Museum, part of Watling's genius was the calling to share his knowledge and vision with a wide audience.

At Yarmouth in April 1878 Watling married his second wife, Ann Lawrence,¹⁵ in the presence of his brother Walter and sister Laura. As a schoolmistress, the second Mrs Watling became Hamlet's

companion in his work. A year later he brought the newspaper column to a close, and instead resumed his communications to the B.A.A., sending groups of images suggesting particular iconographic themes; these included East Anglian glass with Tyrrell connections, images of Old English saints (images of SS Oswald and Kenelm from the Woodbridge screen, kept in the British Museum), and the emblematic history of St Edmund. In 1881 he collaborated with H.W. Henfrey¹⁶ in an article describing five East Anglian screens, and in 1884 his work on the Melford glass was particularly complimented in the *Journal* (Birch 1884). Soon afterwards he travelled in East Kent, where he saw and copied the St Edmund mural at Cliffe-at-Hoo near Chatham, and took rubbings of brasses at Rainham: 'In Kent I found several [skeletons] with strings of coloured beads, brooches, and some peculiar ornaments of gold' (Corr. (a))—does this mean he *excavated* Anglo-Saxon graves, or merely inspected some finds? Also in the early 1880s he travelled in Lincolnshire: 'On my journey from Boston to Grantham I came upon a piece of ground about 7 acres in which were at least 80 tumuli. This was at Wainfleet' (Corr. (a)). These were no doubt the mediaeval salt workings at Wainfleet Tofts.¹⁷ Probably he was on his way to the next village, Friskney, where the Revd H.J. Cheales discovered murals whilst 'scratting down the walls' in 1879 (Cheales 1885).

By early 1882 a new house, 'Pembroke Cottage', had been built for the schoolmaster near the new school, and the Guildhall was finally relinquished. Watling still penned the occasional letter to the *Suffolk Chronicle*, but from his new home he very soon set forth upon another long antiquarian column, this time for the *East Anglian Daily Times*, under the heading 'Antiquities of Suffolk' and (more rarely) 'Celebrities of Suffolk'. These had particular reference to old halls, families and their pedigrees, and an enormous range of topical, seasonal and personal subjects. The proposed restoration of Combs church prompted him to a lengthy contribution, and debates over the antiquities of St Nicholas's Church, the Chesapeake, and Wolsey's parentage drew him into a published correspondence with William Budden and others. Despite all that he had previously written, he was never at a loss to say more on fresh subjects, or occasionally to recapitulate some earlier writing. In 1887 he produced a series on Peel Castle and the Manx Tynwald, and their links with East Anglian history. That summer he had spent a month on the Isle of Man studying and drawing the standing crosses and similar remains, from which he made an illustrated folio history of the Island (Corr. (a)). The newspaper column appeared frequently until his retirement.

It was in 1888, at the age of seventy, that he retired from Earl Stonham after thirty-two years in the post. With his wife and her invalid sister he moved into a small new house, 'Derby Villas', in Pearce Road, Ipswich, near the Derby Road Station. Free to pursue his interests, in 1889 he secured the future of many of his rood-screen paintings and copies of the Blythburgh glass by disposing of them to the Victoria and Albert Museum. But he also retained much, and from this point forwards he devoted much energy to the production of his large coloured folios. He sent little more to the B.A.A. besides notes on some mediaeval graffiti in St Clement's church, Ipswich; but he continued active with the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, though never a member of it. On an excursion in June 1890 he read two papers to the Institute at Dunwich, to a company which included such worthies as William St John Hope, John Glyde, Henry Prigg, Dr Raven, Prince Duleep Singh, Dr J.E. Taylor, and others. In December a paper on 'the Roman Roads of Suffolk' was read for him to the Ipswich Scientific Society by John Corder. In October 1891 the Institute held a *Conversazione* at Ipswich Town Hall, at which he mounted an exhibition of his work. 'The walls were hung with facsimile coloured drawings of painted glass from Southwold and other churches, and upon the table were laid several volumes beautifully illuminated by Mr Watling. Conspicuous among these were watercolour drawings of Dunwich, the churches of Ipswich, and other places, as well as pedigrees of some of the prominent Suffolk families' (*Procs* 1891, 368). On 27 February 1892 he delivered a long paper to the Ipswich Scientific Society on 'Ipswich in Pre-Historic Ages', considering archaeological evidence from 2,000 B.C. to the Norman Conquest (*E.A.D.T.*, Mar. 1892).

He contributed a description of Blythburgh Priory to the Institute's Excursion of 1894, which brought before the members' eyes a memory of the standing ruins as they had appeared when



FIG. 13 – Hamlet Watling, aged seventy-six: Suffolk Institute of Archaeology excursion, Mellis Chapel, 5 July 1894 (detail) (by permission of Ipswich Borough Council Museums and Galleries).

visited in 1837 and 1840. He was appalled by the depredations and ‘restorations’ which the church had suffered since 1840; the clumsy brick columns raised over the Hopton tomb to support the groined roof occasioned the remark that ‘whatever Sir Arthur was in his lifetime, he was now a firm supporter of the church’ (Saumarez MS). Even in these later years he was still busily attempting new ways of representing the screenwork he so admired:

Recently I have been enabled to entirely complete the figures upon the centre screen of the apostles at Southwold by adding the embossed background which I completed by soaking the paper in hot water and then pressing it upon the raised work which answered admirably: as soon as it was dry I cut out the shape of the embossment, and placed it on each side of the figure, and thus I completed the panel by applying the gold (Watling MS. 2).

During the next two years he published descriptive items on church glass in *East Anglian Notes & Queries*.

Watling could not have failed to take note of the British Association meeting in Ipswich in 1895, and the lamented death of Dr Taylor soon afterwards (Wilson 1895); for both events were landmarks in that busy decade. There were many minor discoveries made in and around Ipswich during the 1890s as service and foundation trenches were opened. But in February 1897 a more substantial find was made. In the Castle Field at Whitton – where a decorated Roman pavement had been found and removed to the Museum in 1854–55 – workmen digging a trench across a meadow discovered a second pavement little more than a foot below the surface. Sundry small finds there had prompted Dr Taylor to say that he should like to buy this particular field and turn it over. In 1895 a large damaged amphora was found there, and the labourers who unearthed it reputedly

abscinded with a mass of coins contained within it (Woolnough 1924). His seventy-nine years notwithstanding, Watling hurried over to Whitton to see the pavement, and found also a large Roman rubbish pit, from which he picked up fragments of roof and floor tiles and of black and grey pottery, among the masses of oyster shells (Watling (d), 18 Feb. 1897). He suggested that a four foot wide trench should be drawn to intersect and locate the wall foundations. Some were dug out (Fig. 14), but after the pavement trench was photographed it was again covered until its investigation and removal in the 1930s.

During 1898, skeletons were frequently brought to light in diggings in Ipswich, and Watling inspected them whenever he could. A whole mass of human bones was found in June in St Peter's Street beneath Mr Raffe's premises, 'some lying north and south, and others huddled together as if no pains had been bestowed upon their burial . . . Those just exhumed are of extraordinary proportions, and evidently point to a gigantic race. All I have seen are not of a low type. Are these emblems of mortality the victims of a plague, or of a battle waged by our Danish foes more than a thousand years ago?' (Watling (d), Jun. 1898). So it was that Miss Nina Layard went to see them



FIG. 14 – Castle Field, Whitton, February–March 1897: the tessellated pavement as originally revealed by trenching (*by permission of Ipswich Borough Council Museums and Galleries*).

for herself. She had been Local Secretary of the Ethnographic Sub-Committee for the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1895, and had then assembled a mass of anthropometric data for Sir Edward Brabrook (*E.A.D.T.*, Sept. 1895). Now she consulted with Brabrook (Corr. (b));¹⁸ a yard rule soon dispelled the illusion of gigantic proportions,¹⁹ and she announced the fact in print, alluding also to skeletons found immured beneath School Street in April 1893 (Layard 1898a).

Watling had already called for a more systematic approach to the recording of Ipswich finds. 'Why do not the Suffolk Society of Archaeology hire rooms in which every month papers could be read and antiquities exhibited, and detach from the Society "Natural History", which has no part with it, and the modern inscriptions upon gravestones in churchyards be left to read their own "epitaphs"?' (Watling (d), Mar. 1897). 'If men employed in excavations, &c, in various parts of the town would carefully preserve what they find, it would prove most interesting to the present generation in learning the habits and customs of their forefathers' (Watling (d), 22 Apr. 1897). He called for a fuller account of the School Street skeletons, which Miss Layard supplied from the witness of the Road Inspector. The complete skeletons had been immured in cavities in the mediaeval wall foundations, not laid out but in positions suggestive of a slight struggle.²⁰ She wrote:

It is not at all a matter for surprise that this tragic discovery was not made public at the time, for the owners of houses in such vicinities are aware that a find of this kind is sufficient to drive away some of the more superstitious inhabitants from the neighbourhood, hence it has become an understood thing among the workmen employed to at once conceal any gruesome remains upon which they may chance (Layard 1898b).

A meeting which was highly influential for both parties, and upon the future of East Anglian archaeology, ensued. 'It is not without some trepidation that I knock at the door of 41 Pearce Road, a small semi-detached house; as I have come to beard an unknown adversary with whom I have had a short battle of words in the *E.A.D.T.*', Miss Layard recalled (Layard MS 1).

I made enquiries of some older resident in Ipswich as to who was responsible for the original description of the skeleton, and was told that Mr Hamlet Watling was an aged man, and an antiquary, and that he might have felt hurt by the correction. When the door was opened – which was promptly – a tall gaunt figure of a man stood before me, his head held high, with an impressive and stern countenance, a fighter's Roman nose, and wearing a skull cap. He did not appear to be too pleased when he heard my name, but ushered me into a small parlour. I felt sorry for any pain caused by my letter, and most anxious to effect a reconciliation. Glancing around the room, I noticed on the walls pictures glowing with beauty of colour and form – water-colour sketches of mediaeval church work, finely executed. I could not help exclaiming in wonder and admiration – and immediately I saw the stern countenance and hawk-like eyes soften and light up with the joy of meeting sympathetic appreciation.

On the floor was a pile of what appeared to be large manuscripts, neatly placed one upon another. They reached at least three to four feet from the ground, for I seem to see him now with his hands upon the heap, saying 'These are my works'. Then slowly he began to turn them over, and you will have some idea of the fascination which held me spellbound while I examined them. We soon became friends, and my visits to Pearce Road continued until a day or two of his death. Every fresh visit revealed new wonders. He had high hopes that his valuable collection would be purchased for the town: more than once he attempted to awaken interest in his work, but without success, and so deeply did he feel the want of appreciation that by the time I first met him I found that he had determined to keep his pictures to himself. He was beginning to feel keenly the burden of old age and infirmity and it went to my heart that, notwithstanding all his previous success, I found him a sad, stern and disappointed man. He was beginning to find it difficult to make two ends meet,

and it was pitiful to know that he was driven to making small copies of his beautiful drawings to sell for a trifle.

Miss Layard began to prepare a map to show the positions of mediaeval buildings in relation to modern Ipswich, and on 27 August 1898 she carried out her own investigations of the Blackfriars site in School Street (Layard 1898c). With these findings she appeared again before the British Association at Bristol in September, and in November opened a correspondence with Sir John Evans and William St John Hope which would influence her career considerably. She also began to assume Watling's mantle as antiquarian correspondent and columnist for the *East Anglian Daily Times*. In January 1899 Watling wrote to her of his drawings,

They will have to be sent out of Suffolk or divided amongst my two daughters, that are far away. As long as I hold them I shall be pleased to show you. I am sorry that should occur as I had hoped to see them in the Museum here, as so many of the old books relating to Suffolk as well as documents are in the British Museum, and I found documents relating to the town of Ipswich actually in the Dover Museum. They can find money enough for fiction which is the ruin of Society, but cannot even purchase so valuable a collection (Corr. (a)).

Miss Layard responded.

Finding that he was in real distress, and at the same time wanting to save his valuable collection from becoming dispersed, I saw no other way to accomplish this but by purchasing it myself. This was a difficult and delicate task. So great was his love for his handiwork, that at first it seemed impossible to get him to part with them. I shall never forget the day when I again found myself at 41 Pearce Road, experiencing even more trepidation than on my first visit. At the door stood a four-wheeled cab, and in my purse was a cheque which, though I considered it a quite inadequate sum for the purchase of the drawings, was considerably more than he had already asked for them elsewhere. I can see him now – at first surprised and gratified at the unexpected prospect of a purchaser, but then pained at the realisation that it meant the removal from his care of the treasures some of which had been in his keeping for over half a century. It took considerably more than one journey backwards and forwards from the house before the whole bulk of the pictures was deposited in the waiting cab, and it was with very mixed feelings that I drove away (Layard MS 1).

In February 1899 Miss Layard mounted an exhibition of the pictures at the Y.M.C.A. rooms in Tavern Street, Ipswich. Lord John Hervey, who had first met Watling almost thirty years previously (at the Earl Stonham excursion of 1871), gave a glowing tribute before a large audience; in the afternoon Watling and Miss Layard went round the collection with parties of visitors, and in the evening Vincent Redstone gave a lecture (*E.A.D.T.*, 25 Feb. 1899). During the Spring Miss Layard made her investigations on the Ipswich Carmelite site, was recruited by Redstone for the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology, and lectured before them at the Bury Athenaeum (*E.A.D.T.*, 26 Apr. 1899). Thus when the Royal Archaeological Institute held its annual excursion at Ipswich in July 1899, she was the principal local speaker (Fig. 15); and it was by the visitors' request that she exhibited Watling's drawings for them at the *Conversazione* in the High Street Art Gallery.

It was a proud day indeed when the President, Sir Henry Howorth, who expressed his admiration of the pictures in no measured terms, was to be seen walking through the gallery with his hand affectionately on the shoulder of the still upright but aged artist. The wish of his heart was at last realised, but on my congratulating him, it was pathetic to hear him say 'If only this had come to me earlier, before I was too old to be able to enjoy it properly' (Layard MS 1).



FIG. 15 – Nina F. Layard with members of the Royal Archaeological Institute, Hadleigh Deanery, 1 August 1899; *back row: centre George E. Fox, right Sir Edward Brabrook (author's collection).*

An immediate outcome of the meeting was that George E. Fox incorporated a good deal of Watling's information into his long paper on Roman Suffolk (Fox 1901), which was again enlarged for the *Victoria County History* article of 1911. An attempt was made to locate and authenticate the missing early etching of Walton Castle. Fox showed Romilly Allen the picture of the Needham Market bowls (which the latter remembered from a B.A.A. meeting twenty years previously), and it was published once it was realised that the vessels themselves were irrecoverably lost (Romilly Allen 1900: Corr. (b)). Watling himself, getting old and infirm, remained vividly alert and wrote often to Miss Layard as if she were his pupil, filling his letters with antiquarian notes and references to support her researches in the robust delivery of the schoolmaster. He wrote opinions on every subject, some frankly wrong, and many reflecting a bygone generation of scholarship. But he was never without fresh insights, and knew that antiquarian fashions were fickle: 'I have examined the last number of the *Suffolk Archaeological Journal*', he wrote in 1900, 'but can see little of archaeology in it, more of history. It is a pity that all the substance of their papers were not published—you see the Secretary is not an Archaeological nor Heraldic learned man, and therefore not at all adapted for the situation he holds, neither was the last as I know by experience . . .' (Corr. (a)).

When weakness confined him to the house, Watling kept busy with the tracings he still possessed, and followed Miss Layard's researches with interest. In December 1901 he wrote to her of progress on plans of Roman Suffolk, a *History of Wolsey*, two volumes of *Suffolk Churches*, and one of scraps of painted glass:

So you can see I have not been idle. I do not care much for what Mr Fox said nor Mr Hope upon the find at Burgh. It was not that station Combretovium. If anything it was at Helmingham²¹ where British interments are numerous, as well as Roman. I have always

reckoned this an important place, and have visited the place many times. I trust I have not offended you as I have seen you but once for so long a time as I have so much to communicate. I am sorry to say Mrs W is still very much indisposed and so lame. I am not well but still keep on the move (Corr. (a)).

The livelier days were at an end, of which Miss Layard noted 'he was a constant visitor to my house, coming to tea with me and to gaze at his pictures, which were so closely placed together on the walls as to give the impression of one large church window' (Layard MS 1). But in March 1902 her palaeolithic flint discoveries at Foxhall Road took her almost daily to within a few yards of his house; and at her invitation he made the special effort to attend the Town Hall meeting of 26 May at which Sir Henry Howorth announced the find (*E.A.D.T.*, 27 May 1902). 'I have been much interested in the find and shall enjoy the seeing of Sir Hy and his expositions upon them' (Corr. (a)).

The Foxhall Road excavations went on until 1905, and they kept regular contact. Watling had notes for her on fonts, paxes and on objects sighted in a hole on the Cornhill, whatever was of relevance to her latest findings. In October 1902 Miss Layard reproduced some of his copies from prints in her book *Seventeen Suffolk Martyrs*. With much gratitude he received from her the photograph of the Abbots' skeletons laid out in the Bury St Edmunds Chapter House, where in January 1903 Miss Layard reinterred the bones of Abbot Samson with her own hands (Layard MS 2; *E.A.D.T.*, 28 Jan. 1903). But the Hadleigh Road Anglo-Saxon discovery of January 1906 was to tax Miss Layard's time and energy to the limit, and Watling heard little from her in that momentous year of the finds which would have interested him so deeply. Frank Woolnough, Curator of Ipswich Museum, invited him to the Town Hall meeting at which she and Sir John Evans were to speak on 12 December 1906. Too ill to attend, Watling wrote 'Whatever is "Nina" thinking about now—and above all Pretyman²² and Evans coming to the meeting to hear about Saxon pottery?' Woolnough sent him some details. 'What does Pretyman know about his Saxon forefathers? He knows more about "Baby Governments" as he called the Ho of Commons in his late speech.' 'I wish I could get out as you know how interested I am in these matters, but poor Hamlet must remain a prisoner at least for a time and although absent shall be with you' (Corr. (c)).

Afterwards, sending some autobiographical notes to Woolnough, he wrote:

I read the account by Nina and what Evans had to say about the vessels etc. Also clever Pretyman who said he had more to do with the 'living than the dead', a Pretty man for a chairman in antiquarian matters – like the Suffolk antiquary in name only – 'Larkeology'. I do not understand the silence of Miss Layard – not that it matters. If you would like the MS of Old Ipswich Churches you may have it at 3£ 10s (Corr. (c)).

With the anxiety of the elderly, Hamlet feared that 'Nina Frances' had turned against him. But as soon as the Hadleigh Road dig ended she visited him: 'I have thought much of it, and could not imagine you had deserted me in my old age', he wrote (Corr. (a)), and their correspondence resumed. She wrote a long tribute to him, 'An Ipswich Celebrity', for the press (Layard 1907), echoing his own column of 'Celebrities of Suffolk' written twenty years earlier. Until this time he had still retained most of his rough original tracings taken from various windows: now Miss Layard took them to London and sold them for him to the Victoria and Albert Museum for £70, where they were added to the collection acquired in 1889.

In July, as she prepared to visit Southwold, he urged her to inspect the church ruins at Covehithe and to look for Roman remains on the beach there. As to the Hadleigh Road finds, 'I am longing to see them all, but I want you to be there to explain them to me'. Soon afterwards he went to Christchurch Mansion to see them; but 'I am sorry to say I grow weaker and weaker every day'. In October he wrote to sympathise over the Borough's treatment of her finds: 'I am ashamed with Bantoft's conduct to you. . . The Read family are now trying for a legacy and want me to do his tomb in Beccles church, but I cannot find my copy (&c)' (Corr. (a)). For Woolnough he had a new

folio of Ely Cathedral and the Life of St Audrey to offer, and he wrote, 'I wish I lived near you. I fear I shall never come down again as I am so shaky and unwell' (Corr. (c)). In February 1908 he was still busy: 'We are about the same but still should like improvement. I am fearfully shaky and do not walk much for fear of falling. I have completed the entire pedigree of the Broke family' (Corr. (d)).

Ann Watling died in March 1908, and her granddaughter Annie Fortescue came to Pearce Road in time also to be present at Hamlet's death eleven days later, on 2 April. She wrote to Miss Layard:

Dear Grandpa passed away most peacefully on Wednesday night at 11 o'clock – I was with him until 10.30, and as there were four watching and we thought he might linger through the night, I left. He went most rapidly at last – he told us in the morning 'Mother would be coming home at night' – he was most affectionate and gentle with all of us during the day – and once he said 'Praise the Lord oh my Soul, and all that is within me praise his Holy name', and Mrs Frost said to him 'He will never leave thee nor forsake thee', and Grandpa said 'I know it, I know it!' And he passed away with words upon his lips to this effect 'beloved Lord' and 'Gracious Lord have mercy' (Corr. (d)).

Many of his works were, and perhaps still are, disposed in private collections. Frank Woolnough obtained a number of folios for Ipswich Museum; these have since passed into the hands of the Suffolk Record Office. Some are still intact in their volumes, and others Woolnough dismembered and pasted into his scrapbooks, which have reached the same destination. Miss Layard attempted first to sell her collection to the British Museum early in 1911, but without success (Corr. (e)); most then remained with her until 1932 when (herself almost eighty) she was obliged by financial constraints to sell them as she moved from Ipswich to East Bergholt. She offered them to the Society of Antiquaries, who declined them. Through the agency of Munro Cautley they were bought for the town by Sir William and Lady Burton on condition that a room at Christchurch Mansion be devoted permanently to their display (*E.A.D.T.*, 2 Jan. 1934). Cautley pointed out that Sir Henry Howorth had called them 'the loveliest and most wonderful drawings of the archaeological kind that he had ever seen in his life', and himself remarked that 'there is no collection in the country to compare with it in its interest to Ecclesiastical Archaeologists' (Corr. (d)). Miss Layard still retained possession of the framed drawings of the East Harling glass (Fig. 16), a fine series which has not been located.

By the beginning of 1934 the room was set up, and in September a special exhibition was mounted in the Wolsey Art Gallery including pictures loaned by Sir Percy Loraine²³ (the Long Melford Clopton portraits) and the Hon. Marion de Saumarez. With Cautley in the chair, Miss Layard in one of her last public appearances told of her meeting with Watling and how she acquired his drawings (*E.A.D.T.*, 29 Sept. 1934). Among her closing remarks she observed:

That amongst his numerous notes and descriptions mistakes may be found to occur is certainly true.²⁴ When these articles were written he was living in the country at Earl Stonham, with no opportunity of consulting reference libraries. The only wonder is that he could glean as much information as he did; and while we can use both his notes and his pictures as a veritable gold-mine in which to search for archaeological nuggets, it is for us to do the sifting who have vastly greater advantages for research, and thus to continue and increase the value of his work (Layard MS 1).

The work of sifting had already begun, for in 1927 the Revd H.A. Harris used Watling's drawings to illustrate the lost Earl Stonham murals, and the Revd C. Woodforde in 1933 similarly illustrated the Blythburgh glass from Miss Layard's collection for the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology's *Proceedings*. W.W. Lillie, on the other hand, wrote his lengthy study of Suffolk screenwork at that time without any reference to Watling's work at all. In September 1934 Harris and Woodforde were discussing with Miss Layard a sequel to the article on the Blythburgh glass. Harris was otherwise occupied: 'We are now celebrating the obsequies of St Partridge,²⁵ and these over-ride all other



FIG. 16 – Miss Layard (right) and Miss Outram at Hill House, East Bergholt, January 1933. Watling's copies of the East Harling glass are displayed on the walls; their location is now unknown. Part of Miss Layard's private museum is visible in the background (*author's collection*).

engagements in country life' (Corr. (b)). In December Harris asked Miss Layard to prepare her biographical paper on Hamlet Watling for the *Proceedings*, as Woodforde had been obliged to abandon his projects; but Miss Layard herself died in August 1935 and the opportunity was lost. Sixty years on, it is largely thanks to the materials preserved by Miss Layard that it is possible to give the present account of one of Suffolk's authentic personalities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The portrait of the Revd C.E. Searle by W.W. Oules is reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Cambridge. I wish to thank Miss Ringrose, F.S.A. and Mrs Judd of Pembroke College for their assistance. Letters from the British Museum were researched by Miss Deirdre LeFaye and are listed by courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum. The portrait of Jonathan Gooding is reproduced by the kindness of Mrs Jenny Hursell and by courtesy of Southwold Town Council. I also wish to thank Douglas Atfield (photographer), Morgan Keynes (Dunwich Museum), Mr G. Bumstead and Mrs Brouwett (Southwold Museum), Mrs D.E. Watling (Old Catton), Mr Terry Watling (Harlow), Mrs Marion Lloyd (Sotterley), Dr J. Blatchly, S.J. Catney (Lincolnshire S.M.R.), Mr E. Button (Bury St Edmunds) and my colleagues at Ipswich Borough Museums and the Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich).

APPENDIX

COLLECTIONS OF HAMLET WATLING'S DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS

1 VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

(a) 1889 Accession

Glass: Blythburgh.

Screens: Bramfield, Cawston (Norfolk), Eye, Gately (Norfolk), Southwold, Sudbury St Gregory, Westhall St Mary Magdalene.

Vellum: John Schorn image.

(b) 1907 Accession

Bardwell (3); Beaumont le Roger (place-name unidentified) (1); Combs (26); Credenhill (Herefordshire); Dewsbury (Yorkshire); East Harling (Norfolk) (1); Gipping (3); Hereford Cathedral (2); Herringfleet (2); Leicester, Mayor's Parlour; Long Melford (44); Ringland (Norfolk) (1); Wangford (2); Warehorne (Kent) (3); Wrentham (1); York Minster (2); Yaxley (7); Great Bricett (4); Ipswich St Lawrence (1); Norwich St Stephen (1); Norwich St Andrew (1); Sotterley (3); Blythburgh (1); Selby Abbey (Yorkshire) (1); Canterbury Cathedral (5); Brandeston (2); Little Saxham (1); Stonham Aspal (6, and 7 drawings of stonework).

(c) 1910 Accession

18 sheets of details of carving in stone from Suffolk churches.
St Thomas of Canterbury, Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford.

2 IPSWICH BOROUGH MUSEUM

1924.24	Bronze bowls from Needham Market.
1933.82, A-E	Ecclesiastical Antiquities, c. 600 items.
1933.101	Folios etc:

	A Painted glass	E Paintings of the Middle Ages
	B Rood screens	F Southwold Church
	C Castles in Suffolk	G Press cuttings album
	D Suffolk monasteries	H-J Archaeological drawings.
Also:	1933.104; 1934.161; 1935.188 (Amev Coll.); 1937.34; 1938.203; 1947.143; 1950.163; 1951.26; 1957.135; 1982.59; 1986.41; 1988.53; 1988.67. 12 albums, 'Heraldry of Suffolk'. De Saumarez Collection: Blythburgh Church; Earl Stonham Church; Stonham Parva Church.	

3(a) SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE, IPSWICH BRANCH

HD 475	Folios etc.
	1 Antiquities of Suffolk and their Expositions.
	2 Suffolk Monumental Brasses.
	3 Antiquities of Bury St Edmunds.
	4 History and Architecture of Gipping Chapel.
	5 St Lawrence Church, Ipswich.
	6 Old Houses in Ipswich.
	7 The Wingfields and Letheringham.
FB 23/A1/2, 7	The Antiquities of Earl Stonham, 1903 (2 versions).
FB 22/A6/8	The Antiquities of Stonham Aspal, 1908.
HD 472	Ford Collection (<i>passim</i>): <i>Items from:</i> Ashfield; Bacton (3); Belton (4); Blundeston; Blythburgh (3); Burgh Castle; Coddendam; Debenham; Drinkstone; Dunwich; Eye; Finborough; Framlingham; Fritton; Frostenden; Hadleigh; Halesworth; Huntingfield; Kel- sale; Long Melford; Old Newton; Oulton; Monk Soham; Southwold; Stonham Earl; Wordwell; Wrentham.
HD 480	Fitch Collection of Suffolk Illustrations (<i>passim</i>).
qS 9	Woolnough Collections (vols 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 21, 37, 41, 42, 43, 45, 74, 99).
S2/3/1-5	Layard Collection (correspondence and loose drawings).

3(b) SUFFOLK RECORD OFFICE, BURY ST EDMUNDS BRANCH

FL 509/5/75	About 30 paintings of portraits in Long Melford Church.
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4 OTHER MUSEUMS

Dunwich Museum; Southwold Museum.

5 CURRENTLY UNTRACED

East Harling glass.
Illustrated History of the Isle of Man (1887 etc).
Antiquities of Ely Cathedral.
Antiquities of Pembroke College.
Sotterley Church and Hall.
Antiquities of the Guild Hall, London.
Odell Church and Castle, Bedfordshire.
Antiquities of the Charter House, London.
Life and Images of Cardinal Wolsey.
History of Dunwich (4 vols) etc.

NOTES

- 1 It is unclear whether this remark was made by the President of the meeting (the Earl of Stradbroke) or by the President of the R.A.I. (Sir Henry Howorth).
- 2 Ephemeral sources employed in this paper, including all the correspondence, are reproduced and listed in four volumes deposited by the author in the Suffolk Record Office (Plunkett MS).
- 3 The biographical outline in this paper draws mainly on two published obituaries, two autobiographical manuscripts (Watling MSS 1 and 2), a short published profile (Layard 1907) and Miss Layard's lecture script of 1934 (Layard MS 1). Some dates of births, etc., were researched by Mrs D.E. Watling and Mr Terry Watling.
- 4 I am grateful to Mr Proctor of Cheltenham College for dates (pers. comm.).
- 5 I.e. Colchester Museum (See *Archaeol. J.*, xxviii, 34ff). The pot is now in Ipswich Museum (R1964.122.10).
- 6 Watling reported in June 1868, 'At first, the general depth of excavation at Stonham was about 22 inches; but the soil being very black, and abounding in charcoal, it was determined to dig deeper, and at about 4 feet 6 inches below the surface earth the virgin gravel has been reached. There are now four distinct strata exposed to view – 1st, Vegetable mould; 2nd, a bed of clay; 3rd, dark soil in which the chief deposits of the ancient remains occur; 4th, another dark soil resting on the gravel, and containing various large bones, portions of gigantic antlers, flint implements of the earliest types, &c.' (Watling (a) 1868, 286).
- 7 Watling took a great interest in the flint implements found at Stonham, and both drew and described them. His descriptions of blade-polished celts, leaf-shaped spear- and arrow-tips, thumb-scrappers and serrated blades indicate a Neolithic occupation (Watling (b), 7 Sept. 1878). Some drawings also suggest palaeolithic handaxes. Whincopp's aim was to show their human manufacture: he took their position and association to indicate a fluvial deposit, and 'proof that the real antiquity of the rude flints cannot be ascribed to a period earlier than about two thousand years before the Roman occupation' (Whincopp 1867, 301). Worn flints found in gravel river-beds were sometimes explained at this date as having been placed there for storage by early Britons.
- 8 Among the bronze finds, Watling described (but has not drawn) 'a fragment of armour, floriated and perforated, with indented lines running over it as an outline to its flowering' (Watling (b), 20 July 1878). There is a strong possibility that this should be identified with the late Celtic openwork mount in Ipswich Museum (R1920.90.2), from the Layard Collection, marked only 'Suffolk' (Fox 1958, 127, Fig. 77). Watling's ornamented samian fragments also reached Ipswich Museum (see R1920.50 (reaccession), extensions 84, 85, 87, 90, 92 and possibly 102), and (also through the Layard Collection) a Romano-British spindle-whorl from Stoke Ash (R1920.74.26).
- 9 Charles Edward Searle (1828–1902) almost single-handedly reconstructed Pembroke College during his Mastership. I am grateful to Miss Ringrose, F.S.A., Pembroke College Archivist, for having recognised Watling's accomplice.
- 10 See 'Hour-glasses in Suffolk', an undated cutting from *E.A.D.T.*, no. 1,367 of 'East Anglian Miscellany'.
- 11 Evidently the scene of St Catharine had originated as a Martyrdom of Thomas à Becket, and had been modified owing to the prohibition of the latter iconography.
- 12 Victorian opinion of the character of mediaeval Jewry in Bury St Edmunds was strongly coloured by Rokewood's (1840) edition of Jocelyn de Brakelonde, and the elaborations made upon it by Carlyle in *Past and Present* (1843). Carlyle was widely re-read during the Bury excavations of 1902–03, notably by Nina Layard in the train from Ipswich to Bury in January 1903, on her way to attend the re-interment of the Abbots' skeletons (Layard MS 2).
- 13 Watling touchingly refers to a pane of glass with the dove of the Holy Spirit in Earl Stonham church as 'the gift of my lamented wife, raised from the proceeds of a working basket, in which she greatly delighted' (Watling (b), 5 Feb. 1876).
- 14 Fowler later expressed to the Society of Antiquaries his 'admiration of the marvellous collection of beautiful and most faithful tracings made by Mr Watling . . . Many of the originals of Mr Watling's drawings have entirely disappeared. On revisiting the churches and enquiring for the fine old glass they formerly contained the usual reply is that when the church was "restored", "the architect took all the old painted glass away with him", or "it was sent to London"; the term "restoration" in this, as in so many other instances, seeming to be used as a kind of *lucus a non lucendo*, to indicate that everything has been taken away (that was movable) and nothing brought back' (Fowler 1879, 141–42).
- 15 Ann Lawrence (née Palmer), a Norfolk woman, was a widow with two children, Thomas and Ann. The daughter married Charles Fortescue (solicitor) of Banbury. In addition to his son, Hamlet also had two daughters from his first marriage, namely Laura Jane, and (Mrs) Eugenie (Frost) (see Registered Wills for 1908, S.R.O.I., IC/AA2/178/118, 161). Laura, born c. 1854, became a governess. All three of his own children were still living in 1908.
- 16 Henry William Henfrey, author of a popular *Guide to British Coins* (1870).
- 17 I am grateful to S.J. Catney of the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record for information relating to the Wainfleet mounds (pers. comm.).
- 18 Brabrook wrote: 'I am not surprised at the result of careful measurement as compared with the loose statements in the paper. I have often observed the delusion as to the great size of bones when first looked at' (Corr. (b)).
- 19 Watling made similar observations when describing discoveries at Stowupland: 'Relics of a bloody encounter were discovered in excavating for stone at the east end of the barrow in the valley of the Gipping, immediately below Columbine Hall, and in the vicinity of Stone Bridge. This barrow is of considerable magnitude . . . at the depth of about four feet were discovered, in a black stratum of earth, bones of horses intermingled with those of men of gigantic proportions. With these were found spurs without rowels, pieces of swords of great width, fragments of spears, portions of armour, horses' shoes of great breadth, which appear to have nearly covered the entire hoof; also nails and rivets,

- all of which are mixed together. The human jaw-bones are of great magnitude and fitted completely over the faces of the excavators. Below these relics the men discovered what appeared to be a paved road. A considerable distance is still left unexplored, and the remains appear to be more abundant as you proceed towards the centre of the barrow' (Watling (b), 1 Mar. 1879).
- 20 Brabrook remarked, 'The number of the skeletons seems to negative any connection with the old superstition of sacrificing a life in the erection of a building or bridge;—and leaves one to conjecture whether we have here a relic of the procedure described in *Mamion*' (Corr. (b)).
- 21 Watling's awareness of Helmingham antiquities doubtless arose from the sites and discoveries shown to the B.A.A. by the Revd G. Cardew at their Proceedings in 1864 (see also *Ipswich Journal*, 26 Mar. 1864). By 'British' Watling refers to all prehistoric pottery, including beakers and collared urns.
- 22 Rt Hon. E.G. Pretyman (1859–1931), Vice-President of the Suffolk Institute, inherited the Orwell Park estate from his uncle Col. Tomline, who was President at the B.A.A. meeting at Ipswich in 1864. In 1906 Pretyman temporarily lost his parliamentary seat (Woodbridge division) in the Liberal landslide.
- 23 Sir Percy Loraine of Kirkharle (1880–1961), of Bramford Hall, professional diplomat. Miss Layard and Miss Loraine had visited Ireland together in 1908.
- 24 Sending scrapbooks of Watling's press cuttings to Cautley in November 1932, Miss Layard wrote, 'In some cases the accuracy of Hamlet Watling's descriptions of antiquities may be open to criticism. He was a learner himself, and tried to interest others in the hobby he loved so devotedly. I should have been sorry to place them in any other hands than yours, because I have no doubt that ignorant people whose one object so often is to detract rather than to admire, might find scope for amusing themselves in this way. But I know you are sympathetic and will recognise the industry of this unlearned village schoolmaster, and not only the industry, but the passionate love of the beautiful and antique that inspired his beautiful drawing' (Corr. (d)).
- 25 A reference to the game-shooting season.

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- E.A.D.T.* *East Anglian Daily Times*
- 9 Dec. 1882 ‘Recent Donations to the Ipswich Museum’.
- Oct. 1891 ‘Suffolk Institute of Archaeology – Conversazione at Ipswich’ (undated cutting).
- Mar. 1892 ‘Ipswich in Pre-historic Ages’ (undated cutting).
- Sept. 1895 ‘British Association Meeting’ (undated cutting).
- Jun. 1898 ‘Giants in Ipswich – Discovery of Human Skeletons’ (undated cutting).
- 23 Feb. 1899 ‘East Anglian Antiquities – Mr Hamlet Watling’s Collection of Drawings’.
- 25 Feb. 1899 ‘East Anglian Antiquities – Exhibition of Mr Watling’s Pictures at Ipswich’.
- 28 Apr. 1899 ‘Suffolk Institute of Archaeology – the Carmelite Priory at Ipswich’.
- 26 Jul. 1899 ‘Royal Archaeological Institute – the Visit to Suffolk – Reception at the Town Hall’.
- 27 May 1902 ‘Suffolk Archaeological Institute – Lecture by Sir Henry Howorth, M.P.’.
- 28 Jan. 1903 ‘Bury St Edmunds Abbey Excavations – Reinterment of the Abbots’ Remains’.
- 3 Apr. 1908 ‘Veteran Archaeologist – Death of Mr Hamlet Watling’.
- 2 Jan. 1934 ‘Enriching a Town’s Treasure-House – Gifts to Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich – Sir William and Lady Burton’s Generosity’.
- 29 Sept. 1934 ‘Mr Hamlet Watling – Suffolk Artist & Antiquarian – Pictures at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich’.
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- 1899 ‘Royal Archaeological Institute Annual Meeting at Ipswich, July 25th–August 1st 1899’, *Archaeol. J.*, lvi (2nd Ser., vi), 388–405.

Abbreviations for MSS

- Almack MSS R. Almack, Manuscript notes on the secular portraits in glass at Long Melford church (Ipswich Museum, 1934.1.6).
- Corr. (a) Letters of Hamlet Watling to Nina Layard, 1898–1908, Layard Collections (S.R.O.I., S2/3/3).
- Corr. (b) Letters to Nina Layard, 1889–1935, Layard Collections (S.R.O.I., S2/3/3 etc.).
- Corr. (c) Letters of Hamlet Watling to Frank Woolnough, 1906–08, Woolnough Collections (S.R.O.I., qS 9 – mainly vol. 74).
- Corr. (d) Correspondence in History Files (Ipswich Museum, R 1934.1.6).
- Corr. (e) Letters of Nina Layard to Department of British and Mediaeval Antiquities, British Museum.
- Layard MS 1 ‘Hamlet Watling – Lecture given at Ch. Ch. Mansion Ipswich by NFL Friday Sep. 28th 1934’ (S.R.O.I., S2/3/2).
- Layard MS 2 Notes on Bury discoveries, 1903 (S.R.O.I., S2/3/2).
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- S.R.O.I. Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch.
- Watling MS 1 Autobiographical pencil notes in Watling’s hand, on a handbill dated 12 Dec. 1906, with letter to F. Woolnough, Woolnough Collection (S.R.O.I., qS 9, vol. 37).
- Watling MS 2 Autobiographical text in pencil in Watling’s hand, compiled for Miss Layard, in the form of a small booklet (Ipswich Museum, R 1934.1.6).

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1996

compiled by EDWARD MARTIN, COLIN PENDLETON and JUDITH PLOUVIEZ
object drawings by DONNA WREATHALL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

This is a selection of the new discoveries reported in 1996. Information on all these has been incorporated into the county's Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by the Archaeology Service of Suffolk County Council at Bury St Edmunds; the Record number is quoted at the beginning of each entry. Following requests from metal detector users, we have removed all grid references from entries concerning finds reported by them. We continue to be grateful to all those who contribute information for this annual list.

Abbreviations:

E.C.C.	Aerial reconnaissance funded by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and carried out by D. Strachen, Essex County Council
E.D.A.R.G.	Ely and District Artefact Recovery Group
H.D.A.G.	Haverhill and District Archaeological Group
I.D.D.C.	Ipswich and District Detector Club
L.A.L.H.S.	Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society
M.d.f.	Metal detector find
M.H.	Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds
S.C.C.	Archaeology Service, Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR (tel. 01284 352443)

Pa	Palaeolithic	Ro	Roman
Me	Mesolithic	Sx	Saxon
Ne	Neolithic	Md	Medieval
BA	Bronze Age	PM	Post-Medieval
IA	Iron Age	Un	Period unknown
Pr	Prehistoric		

Akenham (AKE003). **Md**. Bronze figurine of a crowned woman praying, 54mm high. Possibly a representation of the Virgin Mary. 13th–14th century. (Fig. 18, I). (I.D.D.C.).

Akenham (AKE006). **Ro**. Bronze terminal in the form of a bust, with a 9mm diameter socket in the base (Fig. 18, C). (I.D.D.C.).

Akenham (AKE013). **Sx**. Silver penny of Offa of Mercia (A.D. 757–96). (M.d.f.).

Alderton (ADT003). **Ro**. Coins, 12 brooches (Colchester-derivative, trumpet, Hod Hill and plate types), 4 lock pin terminals. (I.D.D.C.).

Alderton (ADT021). **Sx**. Middle Saxon (?) bronze pin head and a Late Saxon folding balance fragment. (I.D.D.C.).

Alderton (ADT038). **IA, Ro**. Iron Age bronze coin, no obvious parallel: *obv.* very corroded, rectangular tablet (?) with beaded margin, *rev.* horse with 'beaked' head to left, ring or horseshoe-shape(s) above, pellet below head and below legs; probably a Trinovantian issue. 1st-century Roman brooches (Hod Hill, Colchester-derivative and *Aucissa* types); 3rd-century coins. (I.D.D.C.).

Ashbocking (ABK001). **IA, Ro, Sx**. Late Iron Age/Early Roman bronze roundel (3.9cm diameter), one face bearing a star-shaped pattern decorated with triangles inlaid, alternately, with red and yellow enamel. Roman coins (2nd–end of 4th century), at least 15 1st-century brooches, a head-stud

brooch, a running hare plate brooch, a bronze lion figure (3.5cm long), and a possible fragment of a 4th-century buckle of 'soldiers and settlers' type. Early Saxon bronze wrist-clasp and 8th/9th-century dress hook fragment. (I.D.D.C.).

Ashby (TM/4999; ASY003). **Pr.** Scatter of worked flint, including scrapers and an unfinished barbed-and-tanged arrowhead. (L.A.L.H.S.).

Bacton (TM/0567; BAC021). **Md, PM.** Pottery, lava quern fragments, animal bones etc. found in a drainage trench opposite the church. (E. and S. Barker).

Barham (BRH025). **IA.** Silver coin, *obv.* a diademed head to the right, *rev.* horse to left with pellet in ring below and two (?) pellets in front. Similar to *Van Arsdell* 80-1, early Iceni type (Bury A). (I.D.D.C.).

Barham (BRH027). **IA.** Gold fractional stater, Atrebatian 'abstract type', as *Van Arsdell* 220-30. Bronze harness fitting resembling a small cheekpiece (Fig. 17, F). (I.D.D.C.).

Barham (TM/1250; BRH037). **Un.** Earthworks, mainly ditches at right-angles to the Norwich Road, possibly medieval toft boundaries. (K. Wade, S.C.C.).

Barnardiston (BND003). **Ro.** Bronze terret ring (Fig. 18, A); bronze coins (1st-4th centuries - to Magnentius 350-3); fragments of two Colchester-derivative brooches (double lug type) and of a trumpet brooch. (M.d.f.).

Barningham (BNG009). **Me.** Flint tranchet axe, 15cm long, 239gm. (J. Dovey *per* M.H.).

Bedfield (TM/2266; BED013). **Md.** Scatter of 12th- to 14th-century pottery in an area fronting Church Lane. (C. Corner).

Boxted (TL/8051; BXT022). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, 30m diameter (E.C.C.).

Great Bradley (TL/6653; BYG018). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.30m in diameter (E.C.C.).

Brandon (BRD132). **BA.** Blade fragment of a flanged axe, late Early Bronze Age. (E.D.A.R.G.).

Brandon (TL/7984; BRD134). **PM.** Group of gunflint mine shafts in woodland. (C. Pendleton, S.C.C.).

Bucklesham (TM/2541; BUC049-53). **Un.** Cropmarks of three ring-ditches, c.19 and 25m (2) in diameter, an oval enclosure c. 20x40m and a rectangular enclosure c. 30x50m. (E.C.C.).

Bucklesham (TM/2542; BUC054). **Un.** Cropmark of a causewayed (?) ring-ditch, c. 25m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Bures St Mary (TL/8935; BSM026-7). **Un.** Cropmarks of two ring-ditches, one c.15m in diameter and the other c.5m. (E.C.C.).

Buxhall (BUX013). **Sx.** 11th-century bronze stirrup mount, corroded, decoration unclear. (I.D.D.C.).

Buxhall (BUX Misc). **Md, PM.** Lead seal matrix, circular, bearing a pig or boar and the inscription SIGIL. ODonis Fil. SAWLE, 'the seal of Odo the son of Sawle'; 13th-century. Bronze seal matrix, pointed oval form, bearing a bird with a raised wing holding a forked stick with a fleur-de-lys at the top, and the inscription + S' ADE. FIL'. WILL'I SVRTMOD, 'the seal of Adam the son of William Surtmod?'; 14th-century. Miniature bronze tripod cauldron, height 30mm; a 16th/17th-century toy. (I.D.D.C.).

Cavendish (TL/8146; CAV040). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.20-25m diameter. One of a group of ten. (E.C.C.).

Chedburgh (TL/7958; CHB004). **Un.** Cropmark of a sub-square enclosure, c.57m across. (E.C.C.).

Chediston (TM/3578; CHD062). **Md.** Scatter of 13th- to 16th-century pottery on the edge of the former Chediston Green. (G. Burroughes).

Cockfield (COK029). **Ro, Sx.** Roman Republican *denarius* of 90-89 B.C. Saxon bronze hooked tag decorated with punched ring-and-dot decoration. (M.d.f.).

Combs (TM/0258; COM017). **Ne.** Fragment of a small partly-polished flint axe. (A. Smith).

Copdock (COP007). **Ne.** Partly-polished flint axe, 11.5cm long, 253gm. (I.M.D.C.).

Great Cornard (TL/9039; COG Misc). **Md.** Three stone architectural fragments, ?14th-century, from the grounds of Great Greys. (M. Matthews).

Little Cornard (COL020). **Sx**. Silver penny of Æthelred II (978–1016), *crux* type, Thetford mint. (I.D.D.C.).

Little Cornard (COL021). **IA, Md**. Trinovantian gold quarter *stater*, Dubnovellaunus-in-Essex type, similar to *Van Arsdell* 1660–1, but with the solid horse's head of *Van Arsdell* 1655–9. Medieval bronze chape, 38mm long × 13mm wide, with blue and white enamelled decoration, based on fleurs and 'commas', on both faces. Acorn-shaped terminal knob. (I.D.D.C.).

Little Cornard (COL022). **IA, Ro**. Trinovantian bronze coin of Cunobelinus, as *Van Arsdell* 1977–1. Roman knee-type brooch, mid 2nd–3rd century. (I.D.D.C.).

Creeping St Mary (CRM035). **IA, Ro**. Trinovantian gold quarter *stater*, early Cunobelinus type (similar to *Van Arsdell* (1913–1). 1st- and 4th-century Roman coins. (I.D.D.C.).

Dalham (TL/7261; DAL023). **Un**. Cropmark of a ring-ditch, *c.*30m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Darsham (DAR017). **Ro, Sx**. *Sestertius* of Maximin I (A.D. 235–8) and Early Saxon 'small-long' brooch. (M.d.f.).

Debenham (DBN076). **Pr, IA**. Quartzite macehead, 8.6cm in diameter and 2.9cm thick, with an hour-glass perforation. Slightly polished. Date range is Mesolithic through to Early Bronze Age (Fig. 17, B). Late Iron Age bronze horse-harness cheekpiece with red enamelled decoration (Fig. 17, E). (M.d.f.).

Debenham (DBN086). **Ro**. Scatter of pottery. (M.d.f.).

Debenham (DBN087). **Md**. Metalwork and coins, including a bronze mirror case with punched line decoration and a 14th-century enamelled bronze heraldic stud. The arms depicted on the stud are a bend cotised between two lions rampant (upper one almost worn away), all on a blue-enamelled background. These are probably a simplified version of the arms of the de Bohun family, Earls of Northampton and Essex. (M.d.f.).

Debenham (DBN088). **Md, PM**. Scatter of 13th- to 16th-century pottery, tile and metalwork adjacent to Esther's Moat (M.d.f.).

Debenham (DBN089). **Ro**. Scatter of pottery, 2nd-century enamelled umbonate disc brooch and *antoninianus* of Gallienus (A.D. 260–8). (M.d.f.).

Denston (TL/7653; DNT008). **Un**. Cropmark of a ring-ditch, *c.*20m in diameter, with an entrance facing the road – possibly a post-mill site. (E.C.C.).

Depden (TL/7856; DEP007–8). **Un**. Cropmarks of a trackway leading to an irregular enclosure, 130m × 150m, containing a ring-ditch approximately 50m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Depden (TL/7857; DEP009). **Un**. Cropmark of an irregular enclosure, approximately 110m × 90m. A field system still in existence in 1904 appears to be connected to it. (E.C.C.).

Depden (TL/7856; DEP010–14). **Un**. Complex of cropmarks around the former 2nd World War airfield – field boundaries; 15m-diameter ring-ditch; small ovoid enclosure/ring-ditch, 15m × 25m; circular enclosure/large ring-ditch 50m in diameter; irregular enclosure. (E.C.C.).

Elmsett (ELM009). **Ro**. 3rd- and 4th-century coins and bronze phallic mount. (I.D.D.C.).

Eye (EYE051). **Sx**. Head of an Early Saxon 'small-long' brooch. (I.D.D.C.).

Eye (EYE052). **Sx**. Early Saxon 'small-long' brooch. (I.D.D.C.).

Eye (EYE053). **Sx**. Fragment of an Early Saxon cruciform (?) brooch, possibly unfinished. (I.D.D.C.).

Eyke (EKE010). **Sx, Md**. Middle/Late Saxon disc-headed pin fragment with a whitish paste or enamel in the quadrants (Fig. 18, G). Medieval bronze shield-shaped stud bearing three gilded lions passant on a red enamelled background, within a blue-enamelled bordure set with fleurs-de-lys. These arms were granted by Richard II to his half-brother John Holland, Duke of Exeter (*c.* 1355–1400). Probably late 14th century. (I.D.D.C.).

Eyke (EKE014). **Ro, Sx**. Roman bronze cosmetic mortar, centre loop type. Saxon gilded bronze fragment, probably from a brooch. (I.D.D.C.).

Eyke (EKE015). **BA, Ro**. Middle Bronze Age knife, 6.9cm long, peaked hilt plate with one surviving rivet notch (*Rowlands* Class 3). Roman coins (2nd-century), bronze terret ring, silver finger

ring fragment, Colchester-derivative rear-hook-type brooch. Early Saxon (?) brooch fragment, possibly from a cruciform type. (I.D.D.C.).

Fakenham Magna (TL/9175; FKM025). **BA, Ro.** Fragments of a Late Bronze Age double-edged sickle blade. Roman pottery, including samian and colour-coated wares, 3rd- and 4th-century coins, animal bones and burnt flints. (M. Lynch).

Falkenham (FLK002). **Md.** Bronze seal matrix, circular, with an inserted thin triangular bronze shield bearing a stamped garb of sheaf of corn. The surrounding inscription reads; + SIGILL' WALTERI CVMIN, 'the seal of Walter Cumin'. The arms on the shield would appear to be a variant of those of the Comyn family, Lords of Badenoch etc, who bore three 3 garbs. Probably 13th-century. (I.D.D.C.).

Flowton (FLW005). **Ro.** Bronze plate brooch, lozenge-shaped with four projecting lugs containing blue enamel. At the centre there is a raised oval with a human head in moulded relief. (I.D.D.C.).

Freckenham (FRK038). **IA.** Scatter of flint-tempered pottery. (M.d.f.).

Freckenham (FRK041, 042). **Me.** Two large assemblages of worked flint. (M.d.f.).

Freckenham (FRK046). **Ro.** Roman silver ring with *intaglio* (illegible), bronze bracelet fragment and pin. (M.d.f.).

Freckenham (FRK051). **Ro.** Coins of the 2nd to 4th centuries, bronze 'thistle' brooch and pottery. (M.d.f.).

Freckenham (TL/6772; FRK060). **Un.** Human jaw, probably of some antiquity, found in a garden. (Suffolk Constabulary).

Freston (TM/1639; FRT037). **Un.** Small field with possible ridge-and-furrow, orientated N-S, c.4m spacing. (K. Wade, S.C.C.).

Gisleham (TM/5388; GSE032-3). **Md.** Pits revealed by falls, Pakefield Cliffs, 150m apart. (P. Durbidge, L.A.L.H.S.).

Gisleham (TM/5388; GSE034). **Ro.** Pit exposed by cliff collapse contained a roofing tile and pottery, including samian. (P. Durbidge, L.A.L.H.S.).

Little Glemham (GLL016). **Sx.** Silver *sceat*, Series E. (M.d.f.).

Glemsford (TL/8246; GFD014). **Un.** Ring-ditch, c.20-25m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Glemsford (TL/8149; GFD015). **Un.** Cropmarks of two sub-rectangular conjoined enclosures, each approximately 60x80m and containing large rectangular pits/ponds. Connected to an irregular field system that survives in part. (E.C.C.).

Glemsford (TL/8446; GFD017-8). **Un.** Cropmarks of a small ring-ditch, c. 10m diameter, and a small square enclosure, 10m across. (E.C.C.).

Hargrave (TL/7559; HRG006 & TL/7659; HRG007). **Un.** Cropmarks of two sub-rectangular enclosures, one containing buildings in 1837. (E.C.C.).

Harkstead (TM/1935; HRK050-51). **Un.** Raised platform, c.100ft square, surrounded by a stream-fed ditch, situated at the S. end of Pond Wood. Possible further earthworks in meadow to S. (S. Laverton and J. Buxton).

Hartest (TL/8252; HRT013). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.20m diameter. (E.C.C.).

Hasketon (HSK009). **IA.** Bronze brooch with the remains of an iron pin held between two pierced lugs. Possibly related to Late Hallstatt types, e.g. *Hawkes and Hull* (1987) Group L. (Fig. 17, D). (I.D.D.C.).

Hasketon (HSK022). **IA, Ro, Sx, Md.** Icenian silver coin, 'pattern-horse' Anted type. Four Roman coins (mid 1st to 4th centuries). Fragments of an Early Saxon cruciform-type brooch and of a silver St Edmund Memorial penny of c. A.D. 890-910. Blank lead seal matrix, pointed oval form, with lightly-scratched marking-out lines. (I.D.D.C.).

Hawkedon (TL7953; HWN013). **Un.** Cropmark of an oval enclosure, c.80 x 120m, on the crest of a hill. (E.C.C.).

Hawkedon (TL/7954; HWN014). **Un.** Cropmark of open-sided rectangular enclosure, c.60 x 25m. (E.C.C.).

Hawkedon (TL/7952; HWN015). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.35m diameter. (E.C.C.).

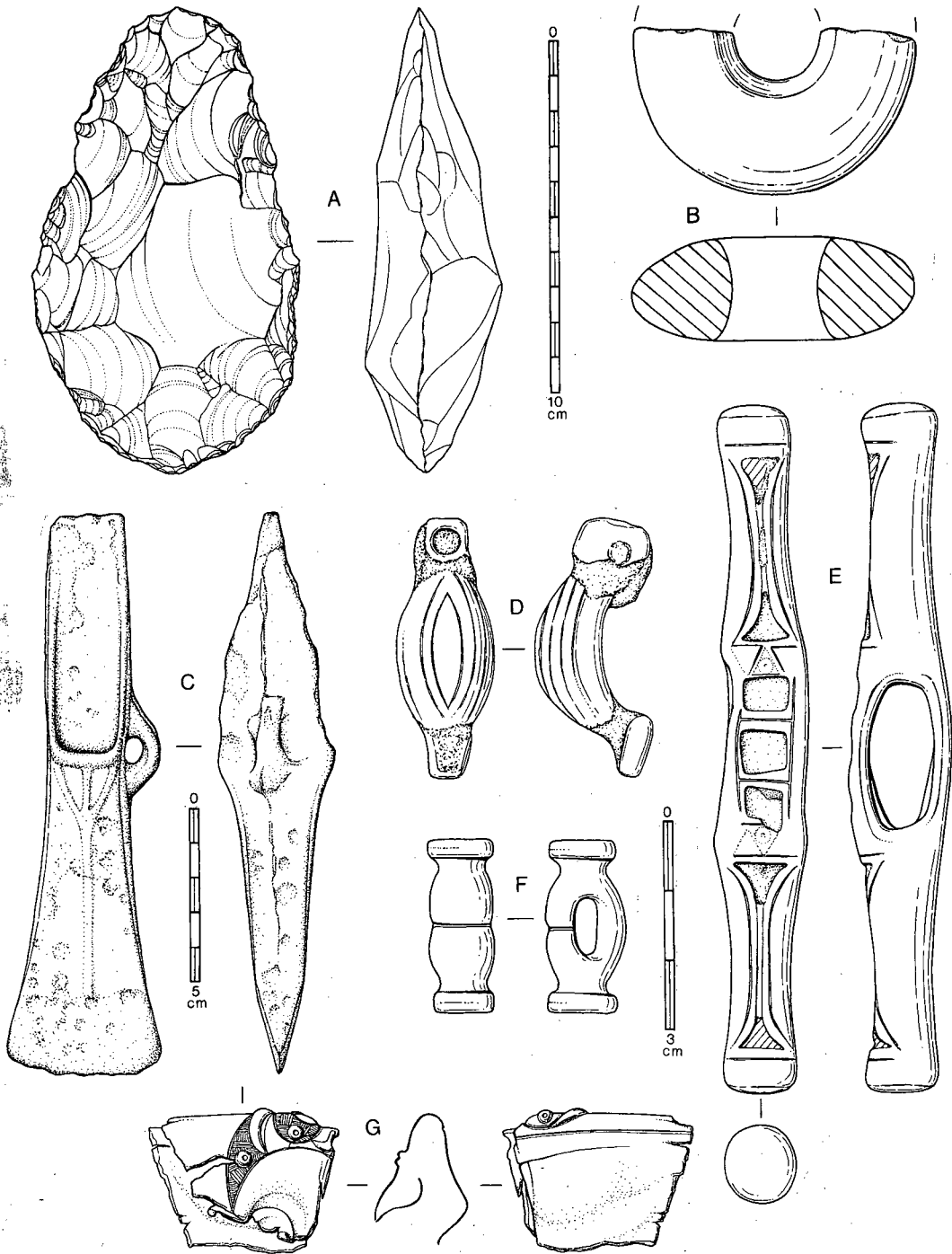


FIG. 17 – (A) Palaeolithic hand-axe from Kesgrave; (B) prehistoric stone macehead from Debenham; (C) Bronze Age palstave from Whitton; (D) Iron Age brooch from Hasketon; (E) Iron Age cheekpiece from Debenham; (F) Iron Age harness fitting from Barham; (G) Iron Age gold torc fragment from Mid Suffolk.

Hawkedon (TL/7952; HWN016–17). **Un.** Cropmarks of two ring-ditches, each c.20m diameter. (E.C.C.).

Hemingstone (HMG015). **Sx.** Bronze plate brooch with similarities to Middle/Late Saxon ‘caterpillar’ brooches. (I.D.D.C.).

Hemingstone (HMG016). **Ro, Sx.** Roman coins, fragments of a Colchester-derivative brooch and an umbonate plate brooch. Fragment of a 5th-century ‘supporting-arm’ brooch. (I.D.D.C.).

Hemingstone (HMG017). **Md.** Metalwork (coins 13th–15th centuries) and pottery (1 Thetford-type ware rim, 25 other sherds) from the N.W. edge of the former Olivers Green. (I.D.D.C.).

Hepworth (HEP017). **Sx, Md.** Early Saxon disc brooch decorated with punched dot-and-ring motifs and an incised zigzag line. Two 13th-century lead seal matrices inscribed + SIG’MARGAR-ETE:FIL’GALF’, ‘the seal of Margaret the daughter of Geoffrey’ and +:S’AMOR’, ‘the seal of love’ or ‘the seal of Amori/Amalric’ (M.d.f.).

Hessett (TL/9361; HTT010). **Un.** Cropmark of an irregular/sub-rectangular enclosure, c.120m–80m. (E.C.C.).

Hitcham (HTC002). **Ro, Md.** Roman coins (1st–4th centuries) plate brooch with a running hound, enriched with yellow enamel; two bronze lock pin terminals; two Colchester type brooches; three Colchester-derivative brooches (2 double lug type, 1 Polden Hill variant); Langton Down type brooch; dragonsque brooch with traces of blue enamel; rosette brooch; bronze ring; bronze seal box, lozenge-shaped with an enamelled flower design (blue and ? white) and the lid of an almost identical box (white and ? red enamel); bronze cosmetic mortar, probably originally enamelled; bronze peltate mount. Medieval bronze dagger chape (15th/16th century). (M.d.f.).

Hitcham (HTC007). **Sx, Md.** Middle Saxon strap-end fragment with an animal head terminal. Gilded bronze shield-shaped mount bearing the dimidiated arms (in negative relief, probably originally infilled with enamel) of Ralph de Monthermer, Earl of Gloucester and his second wife, Isabelle Despencer, and therefore dating between c.1313 and 1325 (the Earl had control of the de Clare lands, including the manor of Stanstead in Hitcham and Brettenham). (M.d.f.).

Hitcham (HTC051). **Un, Sx.** Bronze chisel, plain, straight-sided, 41mm long, blade 17.5mm wide, 26gm in weight, top expanded through hammering (Bronze Age or later). Early Saxon bronze wrist-clasp; Middle Saxon bronze strap-end with a worn animal head terminal. (M.d.f.).

Hundon (TL/7346; HUD016). **Un.** Cropmark of a double concentric ring-ditch, outer ring 35m diameter, inner 15m. (E.C.C.).

Hundon (TL/7347; HUD017–19). **Un.** Cropmarks of three possible ring-ditches, all small (two c.10m in diameter and one c.15m across). (E.C.C.).

Hundon (HUD021). **Ro.** Parch-marks of a rectangular structure, c.23–14m, subdivided into six rooms. Small section across one of the internal lines revealed a mortared flint foundation c.60m wide. Tile, including one *tegula*, and 1st–4th-century pottery (including a *mortarium* rim stamped SOLLVSF, the mark of a late-1st-century Verulamium potter). (J. Harding and D. Mizon).

Hundon (TL/7249; HUD022). **Md.** Scatter of 12th- and 13th-century pottery and building debris. (J. Harding and D. Mizon).

Ilketshall St John (ISJ005). **Ro.** Coins (2nd–4th centuries, up to Gratian), Colchester-derivative brooch (hinged type), plate brooches, bronze cosmetic-grinder pestle, teardrop-shaped button-and-loop fastener (? 1st–2nd century, mainly military), spoon fragment. (I.D.D.C.).

Kentford (KTD Misc). **Sx.** Late Saxon ‘backward-looking-beast’ disc brooch. (M.d.f.).

Kesgrave (TM/2145; KSG014). **Pa.** Pointed hand-axe, 13cm long, fresh condition, white spots on one face but otherwise unpatinated (Fig. 17, A). Found in a pipe trench. (T. Carver).

Kettlebaston (TL/9551; KBA008). **Un.** Faint cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.20m diameter. (E.C.C.).

Knettishall (TL/9680; KNE028). **Sx.** Gilt bronze decorative terminal (?) with areas of iron corrosion on one side of a flattish base with lead corrosion. Probably part of composite Early Viking sword pommel (Fig. 18, E). (I.D.D.C.).

Lakenheath (LKH188). **Sx.** Foot of an Early Saxon 'small-long' brooch. Previous Roman finds. (E.D.A.R.G.).

Lakenheath (LKH189). **BA.** Fragment of a Late Bronze Age socketed axe blade. (E.D.A.R.G.).

Lakenheath (LKH195). **Sx.** Ornate bronze buckle and plate in Urnes Style, 11th-century (Fig. 18, H). (M.d.f.).

Lidgate (TL/7258; LDG010). **Md.** Earthworks of possible burgrave plots within the outer bailey of the castle. A weekly market existed here between the 13th and the 15th centuries, even though there is no record of an actual market grant. Manorial records refer to 'burgesses' and 'burgage tenure', some at least at or in 'le Baille'. (M. Bailey).

Long Melford (LMD076). **Ro.** Solid cast figurine, bronze, of a lizard or newt. (Fig. 18, B). (M.d.f.).

Long Melford (TL/8644; LMD111-112). **Un.** Cropmarks of a ring-ditch c.20m diameter, and a possible rectangular enclosure. (E.C.C.).

Lowestoft (TM/5391; LWT Misc). **Ne.** Flint axe 14.3cm long, unpolished, found during pipe-laying c.1986. (M. Banks).

Mendham (TM/2882; MDM102). **Ne.** Blade half of a large partially-polished flint axe. (M. Hardy).

Newbourn (TM/2543; NBN022). **Un.** Cropmark of two concentric ring-ditches, the outer one c.30m in diameter. Three other ring-ditches previously recorded in the same field. (E.C.C.).

Orford (ORF023). **Md.** Decorated semi-circular bronze padlock. (M.d.f.).

Otley (OTY024). **Ro.** Coins (1st-4th centuries), *Aesica* brooch with crescent; plate brooch in the form of a seated hare/rabbit, with *niello* inlay (possibly 1st-century and Gaulish in origin); Langton Down brooch; Colchester-derivative brooch (double-lug type); bronze peltate mount with two rivets; samian pottery (South, Central and East Gaulish). (I.D.D.C.).

Pettaugh (TM/1659; PAU007). **Md.** Scatter of 12th- to 14th-century pottery. (E. Savery).

Preston St Mary (PSM009). **IA.** Silver coin, 14mm diameter, *obv.* 2 horses facing with a boar to right below, pellets-and-rings under the horses heads and pellets between and below them; *rev.* horse to right (? with double tail), 6-spoked wheel below, row of ? pellets above. Unknown type, possibly related to *Mack* 87 and 87a, possibly Continental. (I.D.D.C.).

Preston St Mary (PSM026). **Ro.** Fragment of a Colchester-derivative brooch, double lug type, and blue glass gaming-piece. (M.d.f.).

Preston St Mary (TL/9351; PSM027). **Ro, Md.** Scatter of pottery. (A. Thorpe).

Ramsholt (RMS011). **Sx.** Fragment of bronze pin with a faceted head. (I.D.D.C.).

Rougham (TL/9062; RGH029). **Un.** Cropmark of a possible ring-ditch, c.20-25m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Santon Downham (TL/8086-7; STN043 & 047). **Un.** Two possible round barrows in forestry plantations. (C. Pendleton, S.C.C.).

Santon Downham (TL/8086; STN052-0533). **Un.** Long low mound, c.80×20m, defined on either side by a ditch, crossed at its N.E. end by a linear bank almost at right-angles. In a forestry plantation. (C. Pendleton, S.C.C.).

Santon Downham (TL/8085; STN058). **Un.** Circular bank and ditch, c.110m in diameter, around a probable natural mere called Horseshoe Pit. (C. Pendleton, S.C.C.).

Shimpling (TL/8851; SPL012). **Un.** Cropmark of a small ring-ditch, c.20m diameter, possibly slightly angular in outline. (E.C.C.).

Shotley (TM/2336; SLY034). **Ro.** Pottery scatter. (V. Scott, J. Buxton and S. Laverton).

Shotley (TM/2434; SLY059). **Un.** Cropmark of an ovoid enclosure, c.20×15m, with an entrance to the S.E. (E.C.C.).

Somerton (SMT004). **BA, Md.** Fragment of the butt of a Middle Bronze Age palstave. Fragment of a medieval bronze vessel. A circular lead seal matrix bearing a star/flower and the inscription [S] DVRANTIFABER, '[the seal of] Durant Faber/the smith, 13th-century. (M.d.f.).

Stansfield (TL/7853; STF007). **Md/PM.** Cropmarks of small tofts and field boundaries adjoining the east side of the former Purton Green. (E.C.C.).

Stansfield (TL/7751; STF008). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.20m diameter, with a wide causeway on the N.W. side. Possibly a windmill site. (E.C.C.).

Stansfield (TL/7855; STF010). **Un.** Cropmarks of a trackway leading to an irregular enclosure, approximately 90m–50m.

Stoke-by-Clare (TL/7344; SBC028). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.20m in diameter, with another possible one nearby. (E.C.C.).

Stoke-by-Clare (TL/7343; SBC029). **PM.** Earthworks of rectilinear blocks of parallel ditches approximately 6m apart, close to the River Stour. Probably floated water meadows of c.1800. (E.C.C.).

Stoke-by-Nayland (TL/9835; SBN077–078). **Un.** Cropmarks of a sub-square enclosure with sides c.70m long, with straight trackway nearby. (E.C.C.).

Stowupland (TM/0560; SUP015). **Un.** Cropmark of a sub-rectangular/sub-oval enclosure, c.50m×30m. (E.C.C.).

Thorington (TM/4374; TNG026). **Md.** Pottery and iron-working slag found in building trenches. (M. Curteis).

Great Thurlow (TUG013). **IA.** Trinovantian gold *stater* of Addedomarus (second coinage) – *obv.* six-armed spiral, *rev.* horse to right. (M.d.f.).

Little Thurlow (TUL013). **IA.** Gold *stater*, Gallo-Belgic A (Ambiani), *obv.* face to left. (M.d.f.).

Trimley St Martin (TYN058). **Sx.** Gold pendant with an openwork centre made up of two sheet gold discs stamped with an identical pattern and held apart by a double border of beaded wire (Fig. 18, F). Probably 6th-century. There is a possible parallel at Hüfingen in S. Germany, itself thought to be an Italian import. (I.D.D.C.).

Great Waldingfield (WFG027). **Sx, Md.** Saxon bronze tweezers with trapezoidal blades and a narrow handle, held closed by a folded bronze strip. Medieval bronze harness pendant in the form of a lozenge-shaped box bearing a 4-petalled flower design with a central perforation. Two 13th-century lead seal matrices, one lozenge-shaped inscribed S' ALYC FIL'E. . . , 'the seal of Alice the daughter of E. . .'; the other circular and inscribed S: IOhAN BRIha[N?], 'the seal of John Brihan'. Two 14th-century bronze seal matrices, one with the sacred monogram IHC beneath a canopy and the inscription * EST ADIOR DIEI; the other bears a hare and the hunting cry * SOV hOV SCOVt, 'Souhou run'. (M.d.f.).

Great Waldingfield (WFG028). **IA, Ro, Sx, Md.** Iron Age bronze near-cylindrical rod, 22mm long, bearing curvilinear decoration in relief, with perforations in each end. Roman bronze bracelet fragment, glass bowl fragment and pottery (S. Gaulish samian, Colchester colour-coated ware). Late Saxon/medieval bronze strap-end. Medieval lead *ampulla* with a plain scallop shell design on one face, the other bears a ? simplified crown over a bisected circle. (M.d.f.).

Little Waldingfield (WFL010). **Sx.** Two Early Saxon 'small-long' brooches. (M.d.f.).

West Stow (TL/8173; WSW Misc). **Ne.** Small stone axe, straight-sided wedge-shaped form with a broad butt bearing percussion marks. Only 5cm long and 65gm in weight, polished all over. Made of a hard fine-grained igneous rock, greenish-black with prominent white veins. The squared form and small size is unusual – it is possible that it is a copy of a metal flat axe. (M. Huntridge).

Whitton (WHI005). **BA.** Middle Bronze Age palstave with side loop, 16.0cm long and 478gm in weight, *Rowlands* 'Developed Shield Pattern' (trident decoration) type, group 2/3 (Fig. 17, C). (I.D.D.C.).

Wickhambrook (TL/7654; WKB017). **Un.** Cropmark of a double, concentric, ring-ditch – outer ditch faint and c.50–60m diameter, outer ring very broad and c.25–30m across. (E.C.C.).

Wickhambrook (TL/7654; WKB018). **Un.** Cropmark of a small ring-ditch, c.15m across, with an entrance to the S. situated on the parish boundary and possibly the site of a windmill. (E.C.C.).

Wickhambrook (TL/7558; WKB019). **Un.** Cropmark of an irregular enclosure, c.50×50m, with a trackway running along the W. edge, entering at the N.W. corner. (E.C.C.).

Wickhambrook (TL/7555; WKB020–1). **Un.** Cropmark of an irregular, but approximately polygonal enclosure, c. 130m×110m, containing a ring-ditch, c.20m in diameter. (E.C.C.).



FIG. 18 - (A) Roman terret ring from Barnardiston; (B) Roman bronze lizard from Long Melford; (C) Roman bust from Akenham; (D) Roman brooch from Worlington; (E) ? Viking sword pommel fitting from Knettishall; (F) Saxon pendant from Trimley St Martin; (G) Saxon pin head from Eyke; (H) Saxon buckle from Lakenheath; (I) Medieval figurine from Akenham.

Wickhambrook (TL/7555; WKB022). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.25m in diameter. (E.C.C.).
Wickhambrook (TL/7555; WKB023–4). **Un.** Cropmarks of two ring-ditches, c.20m and 25m in diameter, 50m apart. (E.C.C.).

Withersfield (TL/6548; WTH024). **Ne.** Leaf-shaped flint arrowhead. (A. Allen).

Witnesham (WYN010). **IA, Ro.** Icenian silver coin, Face-Horse B type. Roman Colchester-derivative brooch (hinged type) and silver *denarius*. (I.D.D.C.).

Witnesham (WTN018). **IA.** Silver Icenian coin, 'Bury' type A (*Van Arsdell* 80–1). (I.D.D.C.).

Worlington (WGN021). **Ro.** Finds from a sand-hill include an unusual bow brooch with a flat semi-circular plate head, with small headloop, D-shaped part-enamelled bow with two projecting flanges and zoomorphic foot – probably Continental and 2nd-century (Fig. 18, D). Also a *mortarium* rim fragment with a herringbone stamp. (M.d.f.).

Great Wrating (WTG Misc). **IA, Ro, Md.** Trinovantian bronze coin of Rues (*Van Arsdell* 1895–1); Roman coins (1st–3rd centuries), Colchester-type brooches, Nauheim-derivative brooch, oval plate brooch. Middle/Late Saxon strap-end with an animal head terminal. Medieval rectangular bronze plate with an enamelled shield bearing a green lion on a red background; enamelled bronze horse-harness pendant bearing the arms of the de Bohun family, Earls of Northampton and Essex; bronze 8-lobed horse harness pendant with traces of blue enamel etc. (M.d.f.).

Mid Suffolk. **IA.** Fragment of a sheet gold ring-terminal from a torc, probably of Ipswich rather than Snettisham type. Bears a crescentic area decorated with cross-hatching and raised circles and curved lines, all cold-worked with punches. The edges of the fragment appear to be roughly cut (Fig. 17, G). (I.D.D.C.).

North Suffolk. **Ro.** Hoard of 160 silver-plated bronze contemporary forgeries of *denarii* of Claudius I, struck between A.D. 46 and 51. Numerous die links. (M.d.f.).

North-West Suffolk. **Sx.** Saxon inscribed *scæt*, EPA (*North* no. 157). Lead fragment of a ? 'pattern' for an Early Saxon brooch (perhaps a small-long type with side lappets below the bow). Coin of Baldred of Kent c.823–25 (as *Seaby* 1995, 880). Coin of Beonna of East Anglia (c.758), moneyer Efe. (M.d.f.).

FIELD SURVEYS

Great Bradley (TL/6753–6755; BYG005, 008, 009, 011, 019–025): Between 1991 and 1993 the following pieces of fieldwork were carried out:

1. Surveys of a moated site and other linear earthworks on the margins of Ever Green.
2. Fieldwalking around the margins of the former Long Acre Green, which produced several scatters of medieval pottery.

The results of these surveys are given in Charge 1996.

Brandon. Lingheath Farm (TL/7985; BRD066): An earthwork survey was carried out on a complex of post-medieval flint mines connected with the gun-flint industry of Brandon. The main period of activity was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when Brandon was the chief supplier of gun-flints to the British army. The termination of this army contract in 1838, following the introduction of percussion-fired weapons led to a decline of the industry, but mining continued on a reduced level until the 1930s.

The complex is now in an area of mixed woodland, totalling about 26ha, but was once much more extensive, for at least 22ha of mine pits have been levelled and converted to arable land since the last war (these infilled pits can be clearly seen on aerial photographs taken in 1946). Although only about 10% of the area was examined in detail, the survey established the limits of the surviving mining earthworks and explored the variations in shaft layout and form that occur at the site. The visible remains fall within a boundary earthwork marking the 116-acre land holding of the Lingheath Trust, as apportioned by an Enclosure Act of 1807 (map 1809, S.R.O.B., Q/R18). Altogether, it is estimated that there were about 2,000 mine shafts on Lingheath.

The principal form of earthwork is the 'horse-shoe'-shaped spoil heap of chalk rubble and occasional blocks of flint, 0.5m–1m high and up to 5m in diameter, surrounding two or three sides of a hollow that marks the position of an infilled shaft. The shafts are usually 10m to 15m apart, though in the S.W. corner of the site they are less than 5m apart. There is clear evidence that over much of the site, particularly the southern half, the shafts were laid out in rows aligned both east-west and north-south, implying some organisation of the mining work, also implied by the existence of routways through the mines complex. An area of shallow pitting in the N.W. corner of the site contrasts markedly with the more wide-spread 'horse-shoe'-shaped type. These pits are more randomly placed, are closer together and have less visible spoil heaps which are not so clearly composed of chalk as elsewhere on the site. These could relate to an earlier phase of mining (two 'horse-shoe' pits overlie several of the shallow pits), or are perhaps the result of digging for clay, sand or gravel.

Copies of the full report (TL 78 NE 81 and 82) have been deposited in the archive of the R.C.H.M.E. at the National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ. (Trevor Pearson and Alastair Oswald for the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England).

Breckland Archaeological Survey: Field survey work in the Breckland Environmentally Sensitive Area, as part of the two-year Breckland Archaeological Survey, was completed in early 1996. The final stages of the project concentrated on the production of a report containing the results of the survey, a characterisation of the archaeology and historic landscape and recommendations for the management of archaeological sites within the area.

The total number of new sites found by the survey was 164, including: ninety new earthworks sites; eighteen archaeological cropmarks; twenty 20th-century military sites; thirty sites identified solely from documentary sources; and six 'meaningful' artefact scatters recovered through fieldwalking. The main periods represented were: 'undated' (primarily earthworks) 40%; post-medieval 34%; medieval 14%; and Bronze Age 8%. Broken down into categories of sites, the earthworks included: five barrows; twenty-three enclosures; thirty-six linear banks; two deserted/shrunken villages; eight moats; three floated water meadows; two areas of ridge-and-furrow; three groups of flint mines; and eight miscellaneous sites. Compared to the number of earthworks in the county Sites and Monuments Record at the start of the survey, the largest increase was in the number of linear banks and earthwork enclosures, many of which appear to be linked with 18th- and 19th-century rabbit warrens and agricultural improvements.

Thetford Forest emerged as one of the areas of highest potential for the survival of earthworks. These had been preserved in the forest mainly because of the minimal ground disturbance that took place when the original heathland was planted up with coniferous trees. Over 20% of the total number of new earthworks recorded in the whole of Breckland were located in the forest. Taking into consideration the comparatively small area surveyed, the potential for many more features yet to be discovered is high. The Stanford Training Area (STANTA) is another area of great potential for the survival of earthworks due to the lack of modern farming operations in a substantial part of the area.

The characterisation of the archaeology and history of Breckland showed that access to water was a crucial factor in determining the location and distribution of domestic sites in this dry and sandy environment. A very high proportion of settlements in all periods were located within a kilometre of a principal watercourse, an isolated mere or the fen-edge. The areas with good water resources show a long and rich history of settlement from Neolithic times through to the present day. Most of the existing villages in Breckland are in the river valleys, on the sites of Saxon and probably earlier settlements. In the prehistoric and Roman periods, these areas were also a focus for religious/ritual activity.

The drier parts of the central plateau of 'High Breckland' were the core areas of heathland and were always marginal in strict agricultural terms. However, specialised farming strategies were

developed to exploit them, based on sheep-pasturing supplemented, from early medieval times onwards, by extensive rabbit warrens. Areas of short-term arable intake from the heaths were known as 'brecks', hence the name of the region. In the 18th and 19th centuries, numerous 'shooting estates' were established to exploit the game animals and birds on the heaths and poor lands. In the same period, agricultural improvements, often directly linked to parliamentary enclosure, led to the planting of shelter belts of trees and 'pine line' hedges. Since the 1920s, extensive coniferous plantations have become an important part of the landscape, following the founding of the Forestry Commission, which bought up derelict estates and created Thetford Forest.

Flint mining was an important activity in High Breckland at two widely separated periods. In the Neolithic, good quality flint for tools was mined at Grimes Graves; and the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries similar quality flint was mined around Brandon for gunflints (for the mechanisms of flintlock guns) and for a short time this area was the principal supplier of gunflints to the British army. In the Bronze Age, High Breckland also had an important funerary use, as is shown by the distribution of round barrows. In the 20th century, the area has also played an important part in national defence, with the establishment of numerous air bases and the development of the STANTA training area. Some of the defensive sites are still in use, but others, including many World War II airfields, anti-glider ditches and pillboxes, are now derelict.

Copies of the report, *The Breckland Archaeological Survey* (Suffolk County Council, 1996), have been distributed to the major bodies concerned with conservation in Breckland. (Kate Sussams for English Heritage, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service).

Debenham (TM/1563; DBN081-084): Continuing fieldwalking has revealed a scatter of 13th/14th-century pottery and three concentrations of burnt flints, of probable prehistoric date, all to the south of Stony Lane. (Edward Savery).

Herringfleet (TM/4797-4897; HRF009-010): Fieldwalking has revealed two sites. First, an area of burnt flints, with a light scatter of prehistoric flintwork in the same field. Secondly, a scatter of prehistoric flintwork in conjunction with a scatter of medieval pottery, a fragment of possible imported Siegburg stoneware, a dagger-chape fragment and a concentration of partly-glazed pin-tiles. (D. Cummings, P. Durbidge and the Field Group of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Badwell Ash, Shackerland Hall Quarry (TL/9868; BAA013): Monitoring of soil-stripping at the quarry revealed a dense spread of charcoal containing worked flints and flint-gritted pottery. This was situated at the base of a steep S.W.-facing hillside and had been masked by over 1m of overlying colluvium. The charcoal covered a curving feature 7.75m long and 50cm deep. The quality of the flintwork recovered suggests a possible Neolithic date and the pottery, whilst not particularly diagnostic, does not contradict this.

A separate finds scatter was located about 20m to the east, and down slope, from the first. The finds consisted of struck flint, similar to those from the charcoal spread, and a sherd of undiagnostic pottery/burnt clay. Deep peat and clay deposits recorded at the bottom of the slope were suggestive of a possible ancient water course. (David Gill for Suffolk County Council. Report no. 96/52).

Little Bealings, Firecrest Nursery (TM/2346; BEL024): A second phase of evaluation recovered isolated groups of Neolithic and Iron Age features, in addition to the Early Bronze Age (Beaker) and Early Saxon occupation traces previously identified.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Ready Mixed Concrete (UK) Ltd. Report no. 96/75).

Brandon/Santon Downham (TL/8084; STN042): A section was cut through the westernmost of a series of three linear banks that form the boundaries of Brandon and Santon Downham parishes and their respective rabbit warrens (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995' for an account of the sections across the two eastern banks). This bank was about 4m wide and stood to a maximum height of 0.58m. It was composed of grey sand that was almost stone-free, with no sign of a buried soil or of a turf-stack at its core. The upper surface was scored by plough-furrows associated with tree-planting earlier this century. It is thought that this bank represents the eastern boundary of Brandon Warren. (Kate Sussams and Edward Martin for Suffolk County Council and Forest Enterprise).

Bury St Edmunds, St Andrews Street South (TL/8564): The ongoing replacement of the storm drains within the town (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1994') offered an opportunity to record a section across the town ditch, but unfortunately by the time the works were notified the best trench had been backfilled. However the contractors reported a dark soil with animal bones and oyster shells running along the eastern side of the street. When the pipe along St Andrews St North was excavated the town ditch was not identified, though there the drain ran along the western side of the street, avoiding its likely course. (Andrew Tester for Suffolk County Council).

Bury St Edmunds, St Saviour's Hospital (TL/8565; BSE013): A record was made of the elevations of the standing ruin of the chapel, prior to renovation work. An additional minor excavation was undertaken around the footings exposed during the previous excavations (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1989, 1990 and 1994'). The new excavation produced a large quantity of medieval stained glass, presumably from one of the chapel windows, and it is hoped that some reconstruction of the designs may be possible. (Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Tesco Stores Ltd.).

Bury St Edmunds, St Edmund's Hospital (TL/8563; BSE127): Excavations in advance of building work provided evidence for activity at the site in the Mesolithic, Late Neolithic and Early Saxon periods, but occupation only intensified during the Middle Saxon period, when a boundary ditch was dug across the south of the excavated area. Most of the Middle Saxon features were close to the ditch, and it seems likely that any major occupation in the area would have been concentrated to the south of this ditch. Some Late Saxon pottery was found, and one large rubbish pit could date from the end of this period. However, the suggestion that this area formed the main focus of settlement in the pre-Abbey town of *Bedericsworth* has not been substantiated.

The site seems to have flourished during the medieval period, although most of the features, which include a possible structure and a grain-dryer, were probably of late 12th- or 13th-century date. Later medieval features suggest that the area formed back gardens and allotments for the houses fronting Southgate Street. Their distance from this road was probably the cause of a decline in usage by the 15th century, although other factors, such as a shift in population away from the centre of town, may also be involved. (Sue Anderson for Suffolk County Council and St Edmund's Hospital and Nursing Home Ltd. Report no. 96/31).

Bury St Edmunds, Thingoe Hill (TL/8565; BSE129): A small area of surviving medieval archaeology – mostly post-holes – was found near the top of Thingoe Hill during evaluation work on the site of the old maltings. (Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and Bidwells).

Bury St Edmunds, Powke House, Angel Lane (TL/8564; BSE133): Archaeological excavation and monitoring work was carried out at the rear of Powke House. Two trenches revealed 12th- to 14th-century features, including pits and a well, which were set back from the Angel Lane frontage. Many later features were in the same area. Closer to the road there was evidence of a continuous 17th-century street frontage. The 17th-century floor levels were located approximately 1m below the present ground surface resting on natural chalk.
(Andrew Tester for Suffolk County Council and Baker Construction. Report no. 96/24).

Bury St Edmunds, Batt House (TL/8563; BSE135): Archaeological monitoring work prior to the extension of this property revealed twelve pits, of which eight were medieval (two early medieval). An unexcavated flint-and-mortar lined well may have been of similar date. There were also three post-medieval wells and part of a cellar associated with a post-medieval malting. A gap in the pits close to the street front may indicate the site of a building.
(Andrew Tester for Suffolk County Council and the Y.M.C.A. Report no. 96/37).

Bury St Edmunds, Town Ditch, Tayfen Road (TL/8564; BSE137): Three trial trenches were machine-dug in the yard of the former Pickford's Depot. Combined evidence from these suggests that the town ditch may have been over 10m wide at the top and up to 3m deep at this point. The presence of a natural slope in the gravel at the base of the ditch fills may suggest that it was cut on the line of a natural watercourse. The upper fills were clearly of 17th–18th-century date, but the lack of finds from the lowest fills makes dating the original cut impossible at present. One sherd of Early Medieval Ware from the 'outer slope' suggests that it is probably 11th-century or earlier, but further work is required to confirm this.
(Sue Anderson for Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Report no. 96/10).

Bury St Edmunds, 47 Raingate Street (TL/8563; BSE144): Excavations were carried out on the street frontage in advance of housing construction. Evidence was found for activity on the site in the Late Saxon period, in the form of linear ditches running parallel with the street front. Occupation intensified during the later medieval period when a building was constructed on the street front, over one of the earlier ditches. The full extent of this building was not determined, but it probably survived for two to three hundred years.

The excavation provided evidence for the narrowing of the street, as successive phases of boundary and then construction encroached on the road. It also confirmed that the alignment of the street has been unaltered since at least the 10th century, suggesting that Raingate Street was part of the original town layout.
(Sue Anderson for Suffolk County Council and Baker Construction Ltd. Report no. 96/69).

Bury St Edmunds, Cinema Garage (TL/8564; BSE148): Evaluation and excavation work in the plot adjacent to site BSE133 (see above) showed that much of it had been destroyed, but that a small area of medieval occupation survived at the rear of the plot, in the form of pits and an oven. No additional evidence was found about the Angel Lane frontage.
(Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and Mothersole Builders Ltd. Report no. 96/60).

Carlton Colville, Bloodmoor Hill (TM/5189; CAC014): A 5.5ha area was evaluated in advance of a housing-development proposal. Documentary research indicated that the area had been open rough grazing until the end of the 18th century, when it was enclosed. The enclosure field boundaries survived until the mid-20th century and some were located during trial-trenching. Also located were ditches associated with the former Carlton Colville/Pakefield parish boundary and a metalled surface which is thought to represent Bloodmoor Lane.

The trial-trenching indicated that the Early Saxon cemetery on Bloodmoor Hill did not extend

southwards into the evaluation area, and neither did the Roman and Early Saxon occupation deposits identified to the east of this area in an earlier evaluation. However, towards the S.W. corner of the site, significant quantities of Neolithic and Iron Age pottery were recovered in association with shallow features, including post-holes, ditches, burnt flint scatters and pits. This occupation evidence covered 0.5ha and may continue out of the survey area to the west.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and R.G. Meadows. Report no. 96/4).

Chilton, County Farm (TL/8842; CHT009): Four phases of archaeological work were carried out in advance of a development proposal. Documentary research showed that the basis of the present field system was likely to be medieval in origin, with some of the elements now only showing as cropmarks. Fieldwalking revealed a scatter of prehistoric artefacts, suggestive of some form of occupation. Two phases of trial-trenching with a machine revealed the presence of some medieval field boundary ditches and trackways, but also the ditch of an Iron Age enclosure. Two sides of this enclosure were identified, delineating an area in the S.E. corner of the field. There were suggestions of a bank on the inner side of the ditch and a low density of settlement remains within the enclosure. Also within the enclosure were features containing Late Saxon/Early Medieval pottery, suggesting that the settlement around Chilton Church once extended into this area.

(Catherine Abbott for Suffolk County Council. Reports nos. 96/3, 23, 63 and 76).

Clare, Stoke Ferry Road (TL/7644; CLA029): Monitoring of the construction of a housing estate revealed two large Roman ditches, probably forming the corner of a Roman enclosure. The presence of numerous abraded Roman brick and tile fragments in the base of the subsoil may suggest the presence of at least one building within the enclosure.

(Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and Persimmon Homes).

Clare, former Charrington's Coal Yard (TL/7645; CLA031): An evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of this site in the heart of the medieval town revealed that although possible medieval soil layers survived at the rear of the yard, near the site of the town ditch, the remainder of the site had been largely destroyed. Three medieval pits were identified, but the hoped for evidence of medieval tenements was not found.

(Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and Land Charter Ltd.).

Clopton, St Mary's Church (TM/2252; CLO038): Monitoring of ground-lowering and drainage works adjacent to the nave and chancel revealed a single feature of archaeological interest: a mortared-flint wall stub and associated footings (alternate layers of mortar and unconsolidated flints) in a drain trench to the N.E. of the chancel. The present chancel is a rebuild of 1883, replacing alterations of the early 19th century. It is relatively short in relation to the length of the nave and the wall stub almost certainly relates to an earlier, probably medieval, chancel that would have been more in proportion to the nave. The angle of the wall stub suggests that it was not the north or east wall of the earlier chancel, but perhaps a diagonal buttress on the N.E. corner of a chancel that was 4m longer than the present one.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council. Report no. 96/46).

Coddenham. Valley Farm (TM/1512; CDD019): Further work was carried out on the Roman ditch system (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995'). Two of the ditches curve together to form a wider and deeper ditch. This has a later layer worked into and across its top, containing Midlands shell-tempered and Oxford colour-coated wares. The lower fill contained Dr20 *amphorae* sherds of c. A.D.100. Sporadic dog remains (teeth) occur, together with more abundant pig, sheep/goat and cattle bones. Other finds include three coins of Carausius, an *Aucissa* brooch, glass, stamped samian and West Stow wares. Brick and tile continue to occur, as does fired clay, which is often found with iron slag, perhaps indicating iron working. Prehistoric flint arrowheads of leaf, transverse

and barbed-and-tanged forms, have also been recovered, presumably residual. A second (probably newly-born) infant's grave was found dug into the side of the ditch. (John Fulcher for the Coddendam Village History Club).

Coddendam, Shrubland Park Estate (TM/1253; CDD050): An area of c.22ha was evaluated by trial-trenching. A Late Iron Age/Early Roman occupation site covering about 2ha was identified towards the north end of the site. The density of features was relatively low, but they did include pits, ditches, post-holes and post-pads. The presence of metal-working slag suggests that some industrial activity was also taking place. A contemporary field system surrounding the settlement was suggested by a number of similarly orientated ditches elsewhere in the survey area. (Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Wilding and Smith Ltd. Report no. 96/73).

Dunwich, Dunwich Cliffs (TM4770; DUN021): Recording work was carried out following notification by Mr Baker of Colchester of a pit in the cliff face. A total of three pits and two road surfaces were identified, all sealed beneath a c.1m-thick layer of topsoil. In addition, a large ditch was recorded in the cliff immediately behind the fishermen's huts. This was orientated approximately N.E.-S.W. and almost certainly represents a part of the defensive ditch around the medieval town, which elsewhere is known as Pales Dyke. (Stuart Boulter and Tom Loader for Suffolk County Council).

Ellough, Ellough Airfield (TM/4587; ELO003-004): An area of c.9.5ha was evaluated prior to development. Documentary research indicated that the site straddled the former edge of Ellough Moor (enclosed under an Act of 1797) and included the sites of Warrens Lane and Potters Farm, both in existence prior to 1797.

Trial-trenching showed that the southern half of the site had been truncated during the construction of the airfield, with the material being dumped to the south of the southernmost taxi-way. The majority of the features identified were ditches or field-drains associated with the layout of Potters Farm, as shown on the 1845 Tithe Map. A water feature immediately to the north of the farm site, that was initially suspected to be a vestigial part of a moat, was shown not to extend beyond the outline shown on Ordnance Survey maps. However, a quantity of 13th- and 14th-century pottery sherds was recovered from a series of shallow ditch-like features and a brick kiln to the west of, but immediately opposite Potters Farm, on the other side of Warrens Lane. Further excavations are planned to deduce the nature of this medieval occupation.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Bernard Matthews PLC. Report no. 96/79).

Elveden, Brickyard Pit (TL/8080; ELV006): Excavations continued at this Lower Palaeolithic site for four weeks during August 1996. The current project was initiated in 1995 (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995'). This season's work had two main aims, first to open two archaeological areas for the recovery of *in situ* flint artefacts, and second to establish the geological and environmental context of those artefacts.

Geological and environmental work. The six geological sections and one test-pit cut in 1995 were widened and deepened this season, and two further sections and seven test-pits were also opened (Fig. 19).

Test-Pits 1-8. These test-pits, in the base of the brick-pit, have allowed the geometry of the Pleistocene deposits to be assessed. They were all excavated down to approximately 2m depth and then hand augered at their base. They indicated that a basin-like depression, over 7m in depth and some 40m across, lies beneath the floor of the pit. This depression is found in chalky till, a product of glaciation during the Anglian cold stage. This till has been identified on all sides of the brick-pit. The basin is largely filled with calcareous grey clays which in the upper part contain shells and, in one area, bone. In Test-Pit 1 at a depth of 3.9m below the base of the clay-pit, and below the grey clays, are 3.3m of dark organic clays which contain abundant pollen. The test-pits towards the

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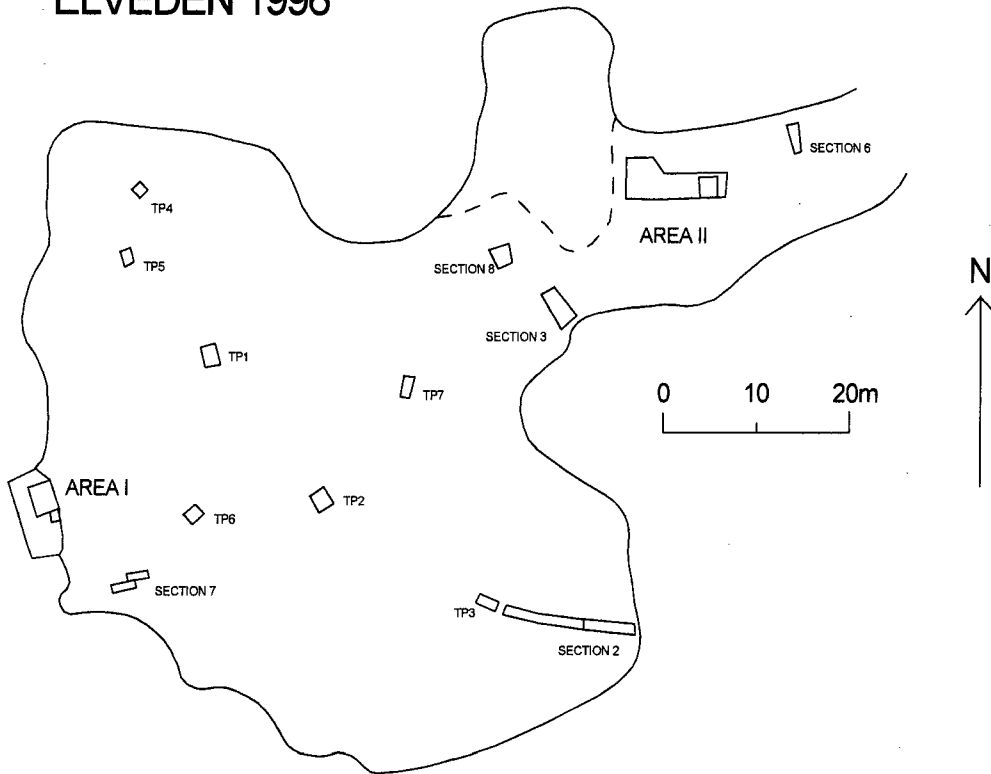


FIG. 19 – Brickyard Pit, Elveden: plan of the excavations.

edges of the clay-pit showed the till rising towards the land-surface, indicating the limits of the basin. No artefacts were recovered from the test-pits.

Area II, Sections 3, 6 and 8. Sections 4 and 5 from 1995 in the former tramway cutting were joined to form Area II. They showed that chalk rises sharply to the east to form a small ‘cliff’. At the base of the cliff, chalk is overlain by till, in part decalcified, and in turn by gravelly clay, interpreted as a solifluction deposit. Within the solifluction deposit are large, fresh flint nodules which have clearly been eroded out from the chalk cliff and have undergone only slight transport prior to their incorporation into the deposit. The surface of the solifluction has been considerably scoured, most probably by fluvial activity. This has formed scour-hollows up to 50cm across and at least 50cm in depth. This undulating surface was mantled by a thin layer of coarse gravel and in turn overlain by 2m of water-lain sand. Further disturbance appears to have been caused by solution of the underlying chalk, so that the deposits within this area have been lowered by up to 2m. The western edge of the solution hollow can be identified by the presence of till at the base of Sections 6 and 8, which is in turn overlain by 1.5m of fluvial sands and sandy clays. Halfway up the fluvial sediments lies a thin horizon of coarse gravel. Flint artefacts were recovered from within the solifluction deposit, from the base of the fluvial sequence in Area II, and from within and above the gravel horizon in Section 3.

Area I, Sections 2 and 7. Section 1 from 1995 was widened by 6m to form Area I. In this area and in the adjacent Section 7, till lies at the base of the sequence. The surface of the till rises towards the west, and is overlain by up to 4m of sands and sandy clays. At about 1.5m above the till lies a

single horizon of coarse gravel, made up of flint cobbles and pebbles. Immediately beneath Area I, Paterson (1940) noted grey clays lying above till and below fluvial sands and sandy clays. So far this has not been seen in section. In section 2 a similar sequence can be seen, with till at the base, overlain by grey clays and in turn by sands and sandy clays. The only apparent difference is the absence of a coarse gravel horizon within the fluvial sequence. Artefacts were found within, on and in the metre of sediments above the gravel horizon, both in Area I and Section 7. None were found in Section 2.

Fauna and Flora. Shells have been recovered from the grey clays in several of the test-pits, and in particular from the base of Section 2. Initial work has identified freshwater species, including *Bythinia* and *Pisidium*, all indicative of temperate, slow or still-water conditions (David Keen, pers. comm.). From samples taken in 1995 pike and tench teeth have also been recovered which reflect similar conditions (Simon Parfitt, pers. comm.). Pollen samples have been taken from the organic clays beneath the grey clays in Test-pit 1, which from initial work indicate cool lacustrine conditions probably at the beginning of a temperate phase (Rob Scaife, pers. comm.).

Palaeo-environmental reconstruction. The till at the base of the sequence can be attributed to the Anglian cold stage, which is currently thought to date to about 450,000 years ago. A large hollow in the surface of the till filled up with organic lake muds and grey clays presumably during the earlier part of the following interglacial, approximately 400,000 years ago. The chronological relationship between the cutting of the chalk 'cliff' (with subsequent covering by the solifluction deposit) and the infilling of the basin is currently not clear, although both appear to predate the establishment of a fluvial channel. This channel filled up with sands, sandy clays and a thin horizon of gravel at the edges of the channel. It is within, on and above this gravel that the evidence of human activity is principally found, but also within the underlying solifluction deposit.

The flint assemblages. Two main archaeological areas were opened up, a 9 sq.m. area on the west edge of the pit (Area I), and a 13 sq.m. area beneath the chalk cliff halfway up the tramway cutting on the eastern side of the pit (Area II). In addition, artefacts were also recovered from Section 3 and Section 7. There was no evidence of human activity within the lake deposits, or from within fluvial sediments in the middle of the channel.

Area I and Section 7. A total of 382 flint artefacts were recovered from Area I and the adjacent Section 7, principally from within and on the coarse gravel horizon, but also a thin scattering within the metre of sandy clay above the gravel. The artefacts are mainly in a fresh to slightly rolled condition, and appear to be broadly in primary context. The flint from within the sandy clay may have been derived from a higher exposure of the gravel horizon, but this needs to be examined through refitting. The artefacts consist of one biface, biface manufacturing flakes, cores, hard hammer flakes and occasional flake tools. The raw material source is probably the coarse gravel horizon. This area was only half finished this season, but will be expanded and continued in 1997.

Area II. This area produced 137 artefacts, of which 91 came from the solifluction unit, 46 from the coarse gravel on the surface of the solifluction, and 41 from the overlying sand. Again the artefacts are in mainly fresh condition, but may all have derived from the solifluction. Whether they have moved with the solifluction, or were deposited as the solifluction was actively forming, needs to be addressed. The artefacts here also consist of biface manufacturing flakes, cores and hard hammer flakes, and additionally one biface and two biface roughouts. The raw material source again appears to be the gravel within and on the solifluction, which in some instances is composed of large flint nodules, freshly eroded from the chalk cliff. The area was completed this season.

Section 3. A total of 23 artefacts were recovered from within and on the gravel horizon and included biface manufacturing and hard hammer flakes. It is intended to complete this area next season. The context of the artefacts appears to be similar to Area I. How the gravel horizon relates to the solifluction in Area II, is not yet clear, but it is possible that they are broadly contemporary.

Conclusions. The human activity was concentrated around the edges of a water body that formed in the warm period after the Anglian glaciation, some 400,000 years ago. Nodules of flint, some eroded freshly from the nearby chalk, were used to make flakes and flake tools from cores, and the

larger nodules to manufacture bifaces. Previous collections and excavated assemblages contain a similar industry, and it is now possible to suggest a more secure context for this material.

One of the broader aims of the project is to look at the effect that the quality and quantity of raw material have on the flint assemblage. At the contemporary site of Barnham, poor quality raw material led to the manufacture of primarily cores and flake tools, with only the occasional biface. At Elveden, much better raw material seems to have led to the production of good quality bifaces with additional flakes and flake tools.

Work in the future will also look at the relationship between the sequence at Elveden with that at Barnham (Ashton *et al.* 1994). Being only 8 km apart, it is an intriguing possibility that they lie within the same drainage network. By relating the two sites, the broader landscape and human use of that landscape can be reconstructed, leading to a more detailed picture of human behaviour during this period.

Acknowledgements: thanks are due to the British Museum, the British Academy and the Society of Antiquaries for funding the project, to Johan Bolling, General Manager at Center Parcs, for his continual encouragement and permission to excavate, to Mick Chamberlain and the ground staff at Center Parcs for their help and support, to David and Margaret Heading for providing camping facilities, and not least to Wendy Grove for the catering.

(Nick Ashton, Dept. Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, and Simon Lewis, Dept. Geography and Geology, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education).

Eye, Eye Castle (TM/1473; EYE031): A small excavation was carried out on the motte of the castle to deduce the relationship between the curtain walls and the motte and keep. Removal of vegetation and topsoil revealed the ends of both the internal and the external walls at a point 0.4m short of the western side of the cutting which provides access to the 19th-century folly 'keep'. Further excavation into the fabric of the motte confirmed that the curtain walls ended at this point, were not truncated and did not appear, at this level, to have adjoined any other structure than the motte. It seems likely, therefore, that the curtain walls were connected to the keep at a higher level by some form of bridge structure. A further possibility is that the height of the western side of the motte has been reduced, perhaps in conjunction with the excavation of the cutting. Prior to this the curtain walls would have adjoined the motte at the point recorded in the excavation and access would have been gained *via* a continuous walkway running above the chambers in the walls and on to the motte itself.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council. Report no. 96/17).

Felixstowe, Felixstowe College (TM/3135; FEX094 & 095): An evaluation was carried out as part of a planning brief for future development. Archaeological features were found in two discrete areas: in the gardens behind Tyndale House (FEX094) and the S.W. corner of the playing fields (FEX095). In the first area, features containing prehistoric pottery were found, providing the first evidence for pre-Roman activity in this part of Felixstowe. In the second area, a rubbish pit containing medieval pottery and a ditch interpreted as part of a medieval strip-field system were recorded, together with two parallel ditches that may represent a pre-medieval field layout.

(Catherine Abbott for Suffolk County Council and Felixstowe College Ltd. Report no. 96/11).

Flempton, Lackford Quarry (TL/8070; FMP018): An archaeological evaluation was carried out on a narrow strip of land alongside the southern edge of the Culford stream. This revealed what was once an uneven topography of channels and sand ridges. On the largest sand ridge, a group of four small Bronze Age pits, containing under-fired pottery, a flint arrowhead, scrapers and flakes, were excavated. The height of the ridge was accentuated by deeper channels running down its sides; these were filled with thick layers of peat, sandwiched between water-lain deposits of gravel (a series of thin graded laminations of silts and gravel, some exhibiting ripple marks). Burnt flints

and animal bones, including a probable aurochs (*bos primigenius*) vertebra, were also recovered from the lowest layer of the peat.

(David Gill for Suffolk County Council and R.M.C. Atlas Aggregates Ltd. Report no. 96/16).

Flixton, Flixton Park Quarry (TM/3086; FLN013): *Phase 1*: A ring-ditch known from aerial photographs and geophysical surveying was excavated in advance of quarrying. The ring was 20m in diameter and within its circuit there was a single un-urned cremation, with an associated group of post-holes which may represent a structure in some way related to the burial. The ring-ditch appears to have been dug through a group of pits and post-holes containing Late Neolithic Grooved Ware, worked flint and burnt flint. The dating of the ring-ditch is problematic as all the dateable artefacts recovered from it were derived from cut Neolithic features. The ring-ditch is therefore clearly later than some of the Neolithic pits. It could belong to the Early Bronze Age, when ring-ditches are most common, though a Late Neolithic date is also possible, as ring-ditches of this period are known (e.g. at West Stow). It is hoped that radiocarbon dating of the cremation will clarify this issue.

Phase 2: The monitoring of topsoil-stripping to the north-west of the excavated ring-ditch revealed a continuation of the Neolithic pits and post-holes previously identified. These were found to form a sub-circular enclosure about 20m in diameter with a 3m-wide entrance to the north-west. A sub-rectangular post-hole structure, measuring about 2x5m, was recorded in the centre of the enclosure, with its long axis aligned with the entrance. As before, the pottery associated with these features was Grooved Ware. This post-hole circle was cut by the later ring-ditch. As yet, the function of the circle is unclear; however samples were taken for phosphate analysis.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and RMC Atlas Aggregates Ltd. Reports nos. 93/13 and 65).

Fornham St Genevieve, Ingham Quarry (TL/8468; FSG012–014): An evaluation was carried out on a proposed 26ha extension to the quarry. This consisted of 23 machine-cut trenches that examined 6,792 sq.m. (2.6%) of the site. At least three archaeological sites and a post-medieval earthwork bank were identified.

FSG013: Nineteen features were recorded in an area of about 12,000 sq.m. These were mainly small pits, but a narrow steep-sided ditch and a large sub-rectangular feature were also found. All the pottery collected from these features was Early Iron Age in date and flint-gritted.

FSG014: A concentration of features were found on the west side of the site, mostly within 50m of the Culford road. They consisted of large shallow pits, a ditch and small curving gullies. The pits were 1.5–2m in diameter and 30–50cm deep, filled with charcoal and burnt flint. All contained flint-gritted hand-made pottery, similar to that found in FSG013. The ditch had a similar charcoally fill and finds to the pits, but also produced a large amount of fired clay and daub. The gullies initially looked like glacial features, but one contained 50gm of pottery. Overall, the pottery assemblage consists mainly of flint-gritted wares of Early Iron Age date, but some Iron Age sand-tempered wares and Darmsden-type fine wares are also found, along with two spindle whorls and loomweight fragments. Worked flint, including scrapers, from the site suggest an earlier prehistoric settlement in the area.

FSG012: A single cremation burial was discovered away from the other sites. It consisted of a circular patch of charcoal in which fragments of burnt bone (adult human) were clearly visible. There were no associated finds or grave goods. It is presumed to be contemporary with the Iron Age settlement, though no direct dating evidence was discovered.

A low earth bank running transversely across the southern end of the area coincided with the position of an open-field trackway/headland shown on an estate map of 1769 (S.R.O.B., 373).

(David Gill for Suffolk County Council and Tarmac Quarry Products (Southern) Ltd. Report no. 96/74).

Foxhall and Kesgrave, Dobbs Corner (TM/2143; FXL018): Monitoring of soil-stripping in connection with a water-main revealed only one area of archaeological interest: a probable ditch, 2m wide,

which yielded late-12th- to 14th-century pottery. This lay close to a previously recorded Roman and medieval pottery scatter. The ditch coincided with an existing fence line along the northern edge of the meadows beside The Mill River, suggesting continuity between the present field boundaries and their medieval predecessors.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water Ltd. Report no. 96/39).

Freckenham, Village Hall (TL/6671; FRK0..): This lay within 100m of a known Iron Age site and evaluation trenching revealed a N.–S. running ditch, at the southern end of the site. This was 1.3m wide and 0.64m deep, and contained sherds of Iron Age flint-gritted pottery. Along the road frontage, a large ditch with three possible re-cuts and containing 13th–14th-century pottery was discovered.

(David Gill for Suffolk County Council and Freckenham Village Hall Committee. Report no. 96/29).

Hadleigh, Duke Street (TM/0242; HAD051): An evaluation was carried out on a 0.45ha former industrial site (silk-throwing, coir-mat making and, most recently, a carpet warehouse). Factory buildings had caused considerable disturbance, but a limited area of archaeological deposits survived in the S.W. corner, fronting Duke Street. Two pits, one of 13th/14th-century date and one of the 14th/15th-century, were identified, together with a later ditch and three undated post-holes/post-pads. The post-holes formed a N.W.–S.E. alignment and were thought to represent either a fence line or the wall of a building fronting on to Duke Street.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and DWL Construction Company. Report no. 96/71).

Hessett, St Ethelbert's Church (TL/9361; HTT004): An archaeological investigation was carried out when the chancel stalls were removed for restoration. Study of the architectural details showed that the nave was later than the chancel and that the rood screen was of a different date to the chancel and chancel stalls. The excavation revealed that the chancel floor had been lowered and that the rood screen and stalls had been reset at this time. At the base of the chancel arch, the moulded stops had been hacked away to insert the screen. This had been done crudely, suggesting that it was done later than the nave rebuild, when skilled masons would have been on site.

(David Gill for Suffolk County Council and English Heritage).

Ipswich, 19 Queen Street (TM/1644; IAS3006): During underpinning, as a part of a refurbishment of a cellar, a short length of medieval mortared-flint walling was found preserved behind the later brickwork. A maximum length of only 1.2m of the wall was exposed and examination of it suggested that it either comprised the outside face of the wall of a cellar, lying directly to the south, or the outside face of a well. An attempt by the builders to establish the thickness of the wall by excavating a small hole through the fabric, had been abandoned after 50cm. The composition of the wall changed with depth, revealing a rendered face down to c.2m. below the present ground level. Below this, a 0.3m thick layer of coursed flints and peg-tile fragments gave way to rough flints in a creamy mortar matrix. The wall was traceable to c.3.1m below the present street level and continued downwards below the depth of the adjacent underpinning trench.

Associated with the underpinning of the cellar was a reduction in floor level. With the cellar already cut to subsoil level, it nevertheless seemed probable that the bases of rubbish pits might still survive. While lowering to a new reduced level had already been carried out by the contractor at the eastern end of the cellar, and a quantity of Saxo-Norman Thetford-ware pottery sherds recovered, the area adjacent to the street frontage was still untouched. The bases of four pits were excavated as a result, which produced Late Saxon and Early Medieval pottery assemblages.

(Tom Loader for Suffolk County Council).

Kesgrave, Wainwright Way (TM/2245; KSG011): An area of 1.2ha was evaluated in connection with a development proposal. Previous fieldwalking had located a thin scatter of worked flint and a sherd of possible Iron Age pottery. Documentary research suggested that the area had been a heath or open grazing land until it was enclosed in the 17th or 18th centuries. Trial-trenching with a machine located three undated features (a ditch and two shallow gullies) and, more importantly, a group of sherds from one pottery vessel. These were from a Middle Bronze Age globular urn of Ardeleigh type. Urns of this sort are usually found in flat cremation cemeteries, but in this case there was no trace of cremated bone and subsequent monitoring of the development failed to locate any further vessels or archaeological deposits.
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council, Avebury Projects and Housing 21. Report no. 96/38).

Kirton and Falkenham. Falkenham Road (TM/2939; KIR019): Monitoring of a water pipe-line revealed a scatter of prehistoric artefacts adjacent to a known cropmark complex (KIR019), but no visible features. No other significant archaeological deposits were encountered.
(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water Ltd. Report no. 95/56).

Lakenheath and Eriswell, R.A.F. Lakenheath, Heating main replacement project. During the laying of high pressure water pipes a number of archaeological finds were made.

LKH190 (TL/7381): The construction of a new road 150m north of Caudle Head uncovered a ditch and a scatter of features although the site was badly disturbed. The ditch was aligned on a N.N.W.–S.S.E. axis and contained a concentration of animal bone and hand-made Saxon pottery.

LKH191 (TL/7380): The excavation of 90m of trenching approximately 125m to the N.E. of Caudle Head revealed further evidence for the Roman settlement (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk' 1992 and 1994). Numerous ditches were recorded, on two alignments, at right-angles to each other. Post-holes cut into a platform of natural chalk may indicate the site of a Roman building.

LKH192 (TL/7381): A further 100m of trenching approximately 300m N.E. of Caudle Head was monitored as part of the replacement water pipe scheme. The concentration of features, mostly ditches, was quite low, as were the number of Roman finds, which suggests the site was close to the edge of the Roman settlement.

LKH193 (TL/7380): 15m to the north of LKH191, a small trench (1.5m×1m) excavated by British Telecom uncovered a number of features including a human skeleton. The burial was into the backfill of an E.–W. running ditch. Finds of Roman pottery suggest that this is all part of the settlement associated with Caudle Head.

ERL089 (TL/7280): Workmen excavating trenches behind the police station uncovered an articulated skeleton. A grave had been scraped into the top of the natural chalk and the body was in a crouched position. There were no finds and the remains are undated.

ERL101 (TL/7380): A series of trenches 350m to the S.S.E. of Caudle Head exposed sixteen features; many contained large quantities of charcoal, and there were small amounts of Roman and hand-made pottery which could be Iron Age or Saxon. The most substantial features were two ditches which were aligned N.N.E.–S.S.W. Fragments of an articulated skeleton were also recovered from a disturbed context.

(Andrew Tester, Joanna Caruth and Sue Anderson for Suffolk County Council and the Ministry of Defence. Report no. 96/59).

Mildenhall. R.A.F. Mildenhall, Thirty Acre Field (TL/6877; MNL490): An evaluation was carried out in advance of proposed development. There was little surviving archaeology across most of the surveyed area. Peat growth up to 55cm deep had filled a series of low-lying areas. The peat contained animal long bones (cow and possibly deer); all were scratched and defleshed, some were smashed to extract the marrow. Beneath the peat traces of human occupation were found, consisting of a layer of grey sand containing burnt and worked flints. Three pits were excavated. In the bottom of one there was a cluster of four large burnt flints, over which were laid two animal long bones

(one deer, one ? cow) – these were laid parallel to each other in what appeared to be a deliberate fashion. A sherd of coarse flint-tempered pottery of Bronze Age date was also found. (David Gill for Suffolk County Council and the Ministry of Defence. Report no. 96/36).

Mildenhall, R.A.F. Mildenhall (TL/6877; MNL491): An evaluation was undertaken on an area c.300m south of the extensive Iron Age and Roman site (MNL479) excavated last year (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995'). This revealed dispersed ditches, pits and post-holes, indicating Iron Age and, possibly, Roman and Saxon occupation. A single burial, probably Roman, was also found. The subsoil surface was uneven and ploughing had destroyed the archaeology on the higher ground, but it survived in the lower-lying areas. (Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and the Ministry of Defence. Report no. 96/64).

Newmarket, Palace House Mansion (TL/6463; NKT005): A small excavation in advance of construction work, in connection with the restoration of Charles II's palace, identified the remains of a late-medieval timber-framed house, apparently destroyed by fire in the 16th or 17th century, prior to the construction of the palace in the 1680s. (Joanna Caruth for Suffolk County Council and Forest Heath District Council).

Preston St Mary, Priory Farm (TL/9350; PSM007): Work continued on the medieval site to the present farmstead. An archive report has been produced on the work carried out from 1992 to 1995. (Adrian Thorpe and the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group).

Ramsholt, Shottisham Hall Farm Reservoir (TM/3142; RMS027): A watching brief on the construction of a farm reservoir on the Ramsholt/Shottisham boundary revealed probable evidence for Early Bronze Age activity and some indication of an Iron Age or Early Saxon presence in the area. One small pit containing twenty sherds of probable Early Bronze Age pottery was located during earth-moving operations. (John Newman for Suffolk County Council).

Rickingham Inferior, West Street (TM/0273; RKN030): A late-medieval pottery kiln and associated building remains were excavated during water-mains replacement. A large quantity of pottery was recovered from the kiln and a nearby pit. This belongs to the Late Medieval and Transitional tradition which has been recognised at other sites in the Waveney and Little Ouse valleys, and the products identified in Norwich (Jennings 1981). A more detailed report is forthcoming in *Medieval Ceramics*, vol. 20. Earlier medieval ditches were also found, which appeared to indicate an enclosure pre-dating the road-line of West Street. (Joanna Caruth and Sue Anderson for Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water Ltd. Report no. 96/28).

Rougham, Layers Farmhouse (TL/9015): An evaluation was carried out as a result of an application to extend this early-15th-century timber-framed 'wealden' house (listed 2*). The proposed extension was on the site of the missing upper end of the main range. Three hand-dug trenches located the foundations of the original front and back walls, but the end wall was not found, nor were any internal floor surfaces. (David Gill for Suffolk County Council and Mr Starr. Report no. 96/33).

Trimley St Martin (TM/2763–2938; TYN059–064): Monitoring of a water renewal scheme from Capel Hall Lane, Trimley, to Everett's Corner, Kirton, revealed several areas of archaeological interest. These included four scatters of medieval pottery along the northern side of Capel Hall Lane (TYN059–062), which are probably indicative of house sites; a scatter of Iron Age pottery to

the south of The Wilderness and overlooking Falkenham Brook (TYN064); and stray finds of various dates from around the southern edge of a known cropmark complex (TYN031–032). As the soil strip did not go deep enough to seriously disturb the subsoil deposits or reveal any archaeological features, no excavation work was undertaken.

(John Newman for Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water Ltd. Report no. 96/53).

Trimley St Mary, Parker Avenue (TM/2734; TYY021): An evaluation of a 6ha development site revealed medieval deposits towards its S.W. end. An area of 2,500 sq.m. was subsequently stripped under archaeological supervision and more detailed excavation was carried out on 500 sq.m. within that area. This revealed three main phases of activity, dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries. Significant quantities of pottery were recovered from shallow ditches which appeared to respect the edges of a 10×14m sub-rectangular gravelled surface, with a gravel pathway leading off to the N.W. and a gap in the surrounding ditch. The gravelled surface was curbed with septaria blocks on one side and had been re-metalled in the 14th century. There was no structural evidence for any buildings on the site and it seems likely that the surface formed a storage area on the edge of the Byle Fleet, a tidal water-course which would have been periodically navigable by small vessels.

(Stuart Boulter for Suffolk County Council, Jackson Civil Engineering Ltd and Trinity College, Cambridge. Report no. 96/66).

Washbrook, Copdock Mill Interchange (TM/1242; WSH012): An evaluation was carried out in advance of extensive development. Documentary research had indicated that the fields in this area had remained remarkably intact since at least the end of the 16th century through to the mid-20th century, but there had been no buildings there until the construction of Hill House Farm at the beginning of this century. A field evaluation and subsequent excavation confirmed an agricultural use for the area since medieval times, but indicated occupation in the Middle and Late Saxon periods. The N.E. corner of an enclosure ditch was located, containing sherds of both Ipswich and Thetford-type wares, animal bones and lava quern fragments. A number of post-holes were also found, but these had been badly damaged by ploughing and no structures were identified. Overall, the artefacts indicated small-scale occupation in the 9th–11th centuries, with perhaps a peak in the 10th century.

(Catherine Abbott for Suffolk County Council and Equity Estates. Report no. 96/43).

West Stow. Beeches Pit (TL/7971; WSW009): In July and August, Phase 2 of the excavations began on a larger scale on this well-preserved Middle Pleistocene site, one of very few British Lower Palaeolithic sites which document unequivocally the presence of early humans – by inference archaic *Homo sapiens/Homo heidelbergensis* – in horizons which belong to the fully temperate part of the interglacial sequence. The interglacial represented here post-dates the Anglian glaciation, and probably dates to between 300,000 and 400,000 years before present. In 1996 a much greater area of the horizons on this Acheulian site was uncovered. Signs of burning on the site, including a baked patch, suggest that it may have major importance in studying early fire-history in Europe.

A first phase of excavations began in 1992, prompted by a multidisciplinary investigation carried out by Preece *et al.* 1991. Further progress is described in Bridgland *et al.* 1994, and the archaeological approaches in Andresen *et al.* 1996. The former brick-pit is roughly 50m N.–S. and 70m E.–W. and appears to represent a complete transect of a former channel aligned E.–W. This channel or creek is cut into chalk bedrock and glacially-deposited clay. It was initiated in fluvio-glacial conditions and silted up during an ensuing glaciation (Bridgland *et al.* 1994). The two principal archaeological localities, separated by about 20m, are on the north flank of the channel and are incorporated in tufaceous sediments or in clays overlying these. In Britain, interglacial tufa is known from only one other locality, Hitchen in Hertfordshire, which appears to be of the same age (Preece *et al.* 1991).

Geological trenches dug in the west flank of the pit had revealed the steeply angled face of the tufaceous sediment, which was uncovered, but largely unmodified by the 19th-century clay diggers. The western archaeological trench (AF) confirmed that this sediment is mantled by silty clays, which have yielded both faunal and archaeological material. It was initially considered that at least some of these clays might have been deposited contemporaneously with the tufaceous material, but they are now thought to post-date it. These silty clays rest on top of a chalky diamicton which is considered to be glacial in origin (Bridgland *et al.* 1994). Clarifying these stratigraphic relationships is important, as the two main areas of archaeological interest (AF and AH) now appear to occur in distinct units, providing the opportunity to investigate separate phases of hominid activities on the site.

A primary aim of the 1996 season was to extend the trenches in both excavation areas. This was done in conjunction with further geological work by D. Bridgland and S. Lewis. Area AF was extended from the top, by mechanical excavator, through layers of coversands and clay with flints, which had been verified as sterile through manual excavation. The extension allows much better access to Unit 4, which contains burnt material. The overburden around Area AH was also removed.

Artefact distribution in AH. The excavations have revealed numerous artefacts, mainly representing various stages of debitage. The eastern locality, AH, was opened up in 1996 to c. 70–80sq.m. It was known from previous years that the artefacts extend through a band of less than 50cm vertically. They appear to be in a lensed distribution that may slope gently down towards the channel edge (but see Fig. 20). At least fifty refits have been found with pair-distances of less than 2m, indicating very limited assemblage sorting, as is also witnessed by the size distributions. A dense find distribution continues through the extended area. In one zone, large flint blocks from the primary stages of knapping appear to have been dropped approximately where they were worked. They show clearly that cores were not worked out on the site: there appears to have been an abundance of raw material. Although the trench is sited in tufaceous deposits, many of the artefacts are associated with darker lenses of silty clay, with some organic content. We had thought that these were primary, but they may, in part, be infills of secondary solution features, that have sometimes formed around artefact clusters. The 3D conformation of the artefact scatters, and distributions of refits, will assist in determining how far visible stratigraphy is helpful or misleading (Fig. 20). Further study will also give a better idea of how many knapping episodes are represented. In 1996 one bifacial piece was recovered, probably abandoned in manufacture. A hand-axe was found in two halves in 1993/4.

Area AF: combustion zone. The western locality, AF, provided the best view of overall stratigraphy. Here is a steep edge of tufaceous clay, mantled by further clay layers. These preserve large and small flint debitage, probably the edge of a distribution originating higher on the channel bank. The flints include a number of burnt specimens. In 1996 localised baked sediment was also discovered, which will be studied further in 1997. Faunal remains found in the lower sediments at this locality include elements of a large deer, and microfauna (reported by S. Parfit in Preece *et al.* 1991).

The burnt material is of importance, in the study of European fire-history, whether or not it proves to be human in origin. Fire evidence is absent at the earlier site of Boxgrove, and no hearths of this age appear to be accepted elsewhere in Europe. There are three immediate hypotheses: (1) that the fire evidence represents natural occurrences; (2) that the burned flints and baked patch are incidental features of hominid fire-use; (3) that the baked patch is a hearth feature indicating controlled fire-use.

Theoretical grounds do not incline us to one or other hypothesis, but it is evident that many flints on both parts of the site have been burnt; and this broad distribution contrasts with the discrete nature of the baked patch, which is about 1m across. A programme of work has begun aimed at providing objective answers. These may lie partly in assessing all burning evidence on the site, particularly the distribution of burnt flints. Magnetic studies started by Sue Haritou and Alf Latham may be especially helpful, and have already suggested that some flints may have been burnt more than once. Other analytical work is being begun by S. Siegl of Tübingen, who will determine whether siliceous residues can be used to provide information about plant materials.

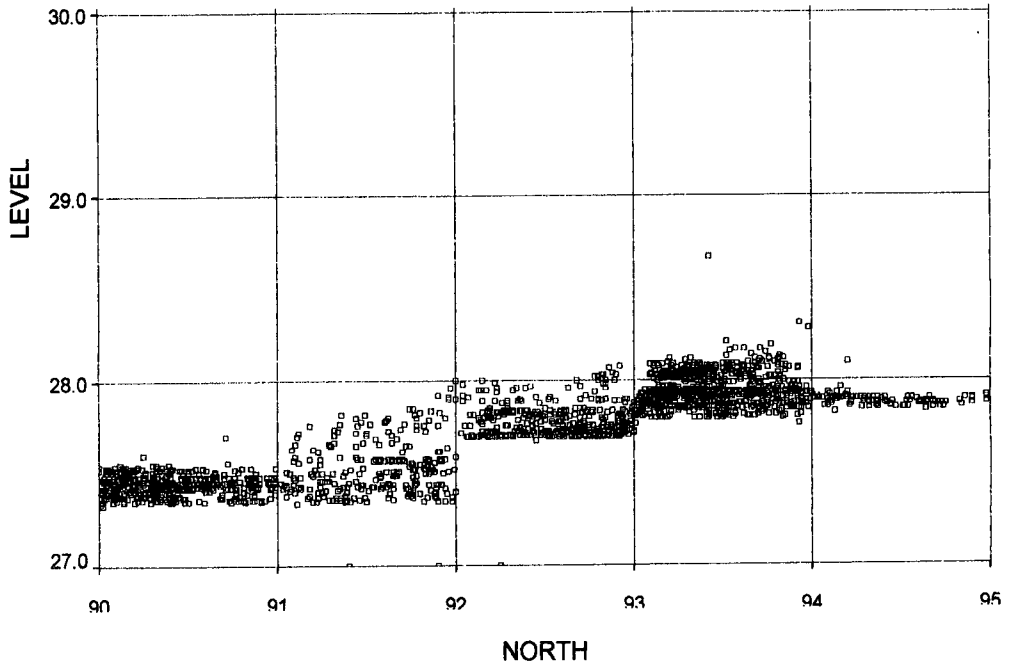


FIG. 20 – Beeches Pit, West Stow: preliminary plot of all finds, including natural stones, from an N-S slice of AH excavation, in the metre-strip 78–79 E. It appears that there may be two artefact horizons, but artefact refits raise the possibility that a single horizon has become distorted vertically.

Chronology. Current dating studies include thermoluminescence (N. Debenham) and Uranium-Series (P. Roe and T. Atkinson). Beeches Pit is a rare British site where occupation can be attributed directly to an interglacial period. This follows the Anglian glaciation, and is likely to be isotope stage 11. Funds were awarded by the British Academy in 1996 for more detailed thermoluminescence work by Dr Debenham, who visited the excavation so as to take numbers of additional background measurements, and collected burnt flint samples for dating.

Post-excavation work. The computer catalogue of finds from all seasons was completed recently, allowing full sorting and manipulation of data. Further attributes are being taken from all existing finds (task about 90% achieved), and mock-ups will be made of the two key areas (the baked zone and the densest area of the eastern trench), with the hope that this will aid in refitting studies. Post-excavation analyses carried out at Liverpool include metrical and refitting studies (principally by J. Hallos, J. Chambers, S. Andresen and T.R.J. Pumphrey). The number and distribution of refits suggest that the artefacts are in a primary context, although slightly disturbed by post-depositional processes.

Analyses of the fauna have extended the initial interglacial inventory to include Bear (*Ursus sp.*) and a large *Bos sp.* Stratigraphic and small mammal analyses have demonstrated that at least one of the hominid activity/occupation events occurred during full interglacial conditions.

Archaeological interpretation. The archaeological occurrences probably represent repeated sporadic hominid visits to a south-facing channel bank, where springs may have served as a focus for various activities, including flint knapping from a local source.

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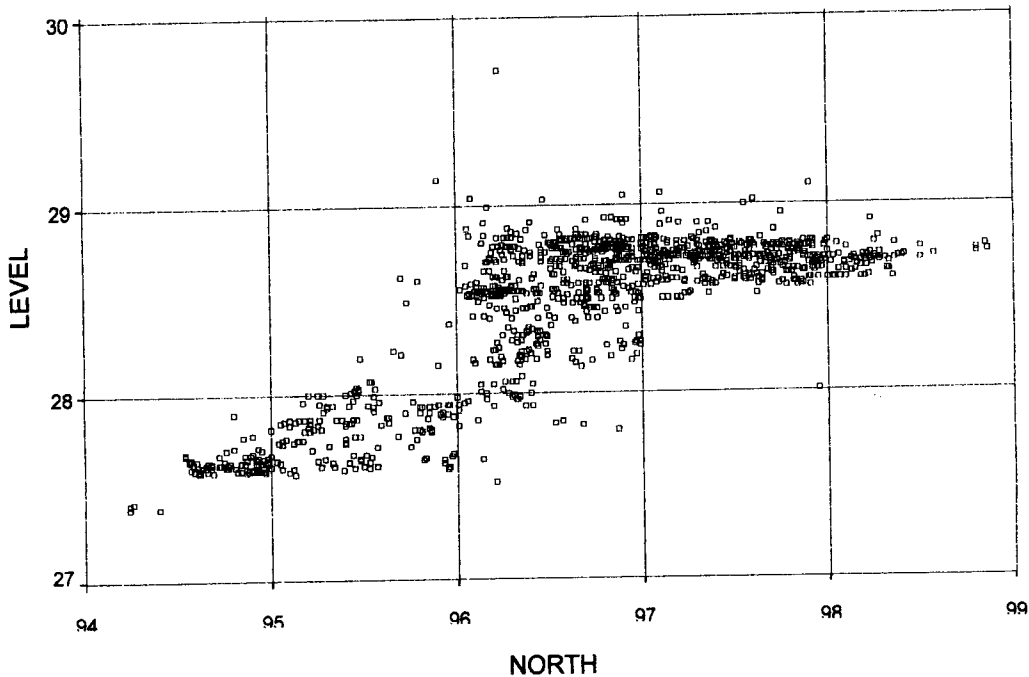


FIG. 21 – Beeches Pit, West Stow: preliminary plot of all finds, including natural stones, from a N–S slice of AF excavation, in the metre-strip 53–54 E, showing how finds are distributed through about a metre of the clays overlaying the tufaceous sediment.

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