

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1997

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object drawings by DONNA WREATHALL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

This is a selection of the new discoveries reported in 1997. Information on all these has been incorporated into the county's Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by the Archaeological 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.C.D.S.	East Cambridgeshire Detector Society
H.D.A.G.	Haverhill and District Archaeological Group
I.D.D.C.	Ipswich and District Detector Club
I.M.	Ipswich Museum
L.A.L.H.S.	Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society
M.D.D.C.	Mildenhall and District Detector Club
M.d.f.	Metal detector find
M.H.	Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds
S.C.C.A.S.	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, 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 (AKE006). **IA**. Fragment of a bronze handle, probably from a mirror, T-shaped terminal has a deep slot containing a sheet of bronze. (Fig.50, H). (I.D.D.C.).

Akenham (AKE015). **BA**. Tip of a bronze spearhead. (I.D.D.C.).

Alderton (ADT003). **BA**. Sherds of flint-tempered pottery and a fragment from a late Bronze Age socketed axe. (I.D.D.C.).

Alderton (ADT038). **IA**, **Ro**. Bronze coin (13mm diam.), corroded, *obv.* indistinct, *rev.* horse to right with pellet mane (? pellet in ring eye), pellet in ring below and in front; possibly a contemporary forgery of a gold quarter *stater* of Addedomaros (? related *Van Arsdell* 1643-1, 1644-1 & 1646-1). Roman brooches (Colchester type, Colchester-derivative rear-hook, double-lug and hinged types, trumpet type); bronze miniature socketed axe; 1st-4th-century coins. (I.D.D.C.).

Alderton (ADT041). **Sx**. Late Saxon bronze hooked tag, circular plate with two holes and decorated with a cross and two arcs. (I.D.D.C.).

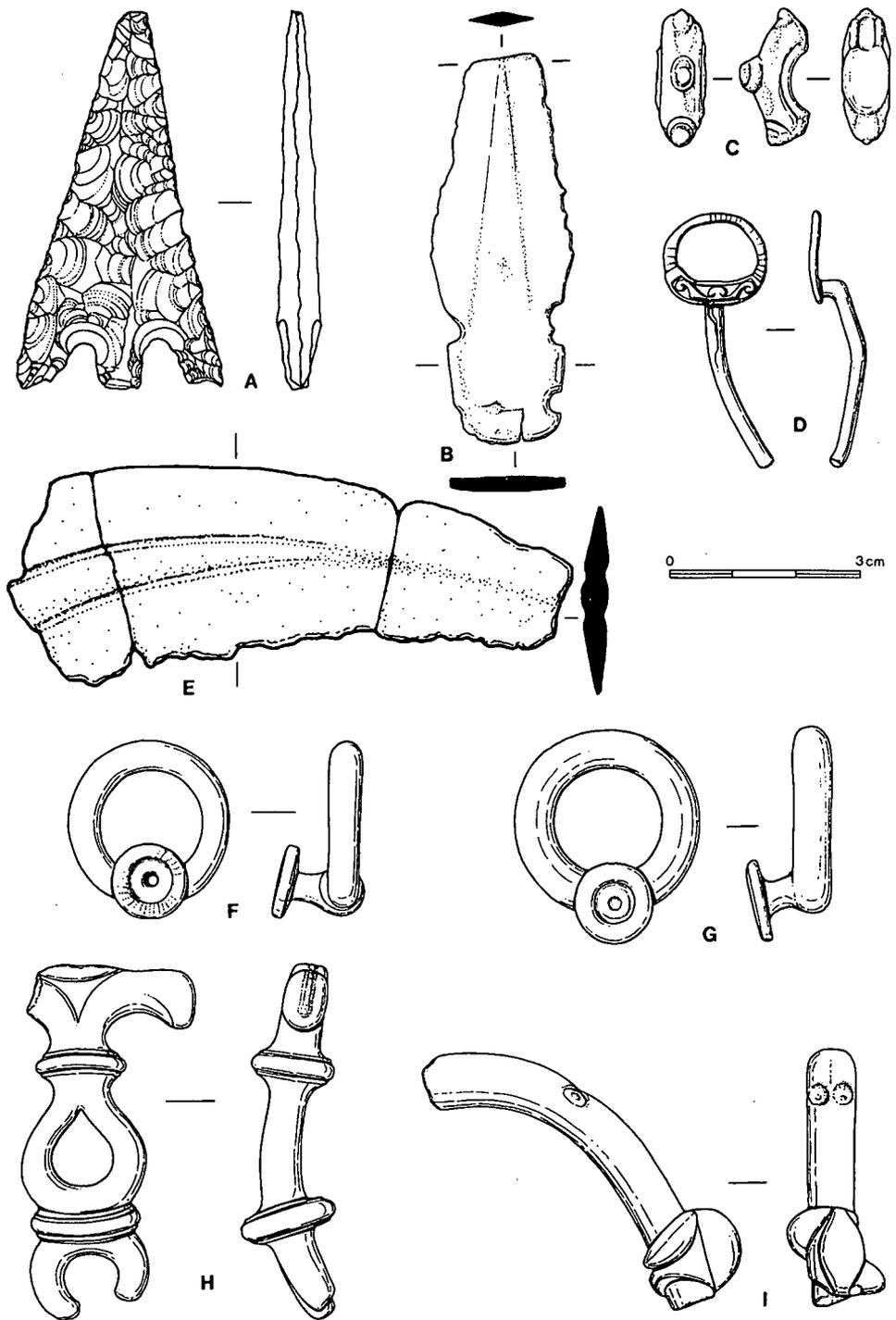


FIG. 50 – Prehistoric objects, A, B and E Bronze Age, the rest Iron Age. (A) flint arrowhead, Ixworth Thorpe; (B) knife, Lakenheath; (C) brooch fragment, Bradfield St George; (D) ring-headed pin, Little Cornard; (E) sickle fragment, Fakenham Magna; (F and G) button-and-loop fasteners, South Elmham St Mary and Mildenhall; (H) mirror handle fragment, Akenham; (I) terret ring fragment, Lawshall. (B–I all bronze).

Assington (TL/9339; ASN018–019). **Un.** Cropmarks of two ring-ditches, one *c.* 15m diameter and the other a double ring *c.* 20m diameter. (E.C.C.).

Badingham (BDG002). **Ro, Sx.** Roman silver spoon; bronze key handle; fragment (two toes) of an almost life-sized human foot in bronze. Saxon bronze wrist clasp with punched dot-and-ring decoration. (I.D.D.C.).

Barking (BRK088). **IA, Ro.** Silver coin of Cunobelinus, *Van Arsdell* 1918–1 (only the fifth recorded – P. de Jersey). Roman brooches: Colchester-derivative double-lug type and hinged type (2), headstud type (2), 3rd–4th-century coins. (I.D.D.C.).

Barnardiston/Great Wharving (BND005). **IA, Ro.** Late Iron Age/early Roman bronze vessel mount in the form of a human head (Fig. 51, D). Fragment of a bronze hollow-cast face, possibly from a vessel mount or handle (Fig. 51, G); bronze brooches (three Colchester type; two Colchester-derivative type with double lug; *Aucissa* type; Langton Down type; fragment of a dragonesque type with traces of red and yellow-brown enamel; plate type in the form of a rabbit with its young, traces of white metal on the surface – uncommon, probably 1st-century Gaulish type (Fig. 51, C); oval plate type with a black ?glass setting); coins (2nd–4th centuries); silver finger ring fragment (Fig. 51, H); bronze strap fitting, high-relief '*trompetenmuster*'-style design with central cruciform boss (Fig. 51, E); 4th-century bronze belt-stiffener, propeller-shaped; two bronze tweezers; two small bronze chisels; jet or shale toggle; part of a pottery face mask from a white-ware narrow-mouthed vessel, probably a Nene Valley product. (M.d.f.).

Little Bealings (BEL015). **Sx.** Part of a cast rectangular bronze plate with excised decoration; a bent strip of bronze has been rivetted to the back to form a crude hook (probably a later modification). Early Saxon. (Fig. 52, C). (I.D.D.C.).

Bedfield (BED014). **IA.** Silver Icenian half unit, Boar-Horse type (*Van Arsdell* 661–1). (I.D.D.C.).

Bedfield (BED015). **Sx.** Silver penny of Æthelred II, Ipswich mint, moneyer Leofrige. (I.D.D.C.).

Benhall (BNL026). **Sx.** Bronze stud with a flat circular head with excised decoration (Style II). Late 6th or early 7th century. (Fig. 52, D). (I.D.D.C.).

Blundeston (BLN024). **BA.** Butt end of a bronze looped palstave. (Tivetshall Detector Club *per* Norfolk Landscape Archaeology).

Bradfield St George (BSG016). **IA.** Fragment of a bronze brooch similar to La Tene II examples from Datchet, Bucks. and Balloch Hill, Argyll (M.R. Hull and C.F.C. Hawkes, *Corpus of Ancient Brooches in Britain*, Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 168, 1987, 148–50 and pl. 43 – type 2Bb). (Fig. 50, C). (M.d.f.).

Brandon (BRD146). **Sx.** Bronze strap-end with stylised decoration, ? 9th century. (Fig. 52, E). (M.d.f.).

Brandon (TL/7783; BRD148–149). **Pr.** Blade end of a narrow flint axehead or chisel and a scatter of worked and burnt flints. (P. Brooker).

Bures St Mary (BSM031). **IA.** Gold quarter *stater* of Cunobelinus ('Plastic A' type), variant of *Van Arsdell* 2017 with a cross rather than the usual CVN[0] below the horse (only 3 or 4 other examples known – P. de Jersey). (I.D.D.C.).

Bury St Edmunds (BSE151). **Md, PM.** Large number of finds from a possible fair site, including a 14th-century gilded bronze harness pendant, circular, bearing a low-relief bird in a tree and the inscription + IE SVI AGILE BER, ? meaning 'I am an agile bird' (Fig. 53, D); coins, Henry II–James II. (M.D.D.C.).

Buxhall (BUX015). **BA, Ro.** Bronze blade fragment, probably from a Middle Bronze Age rapier. Roman bronze phallic pendant (Fig. 51, F). (I.D.D.C.).

Buxhall (BUX016). **Ro, Sx.** Roman cast bronze escutcheon from a vessel. Bronze pin, possibly an Early Saxon link-pin. (I.D.D.C.).

Campsey Ash (CAA016). **Ro, Md.** Roman coins (2nd–4th centuries) and pottery. Gold finger ring with a pale pink ?glass gem (possibly not original); the sides decorated with punched floral

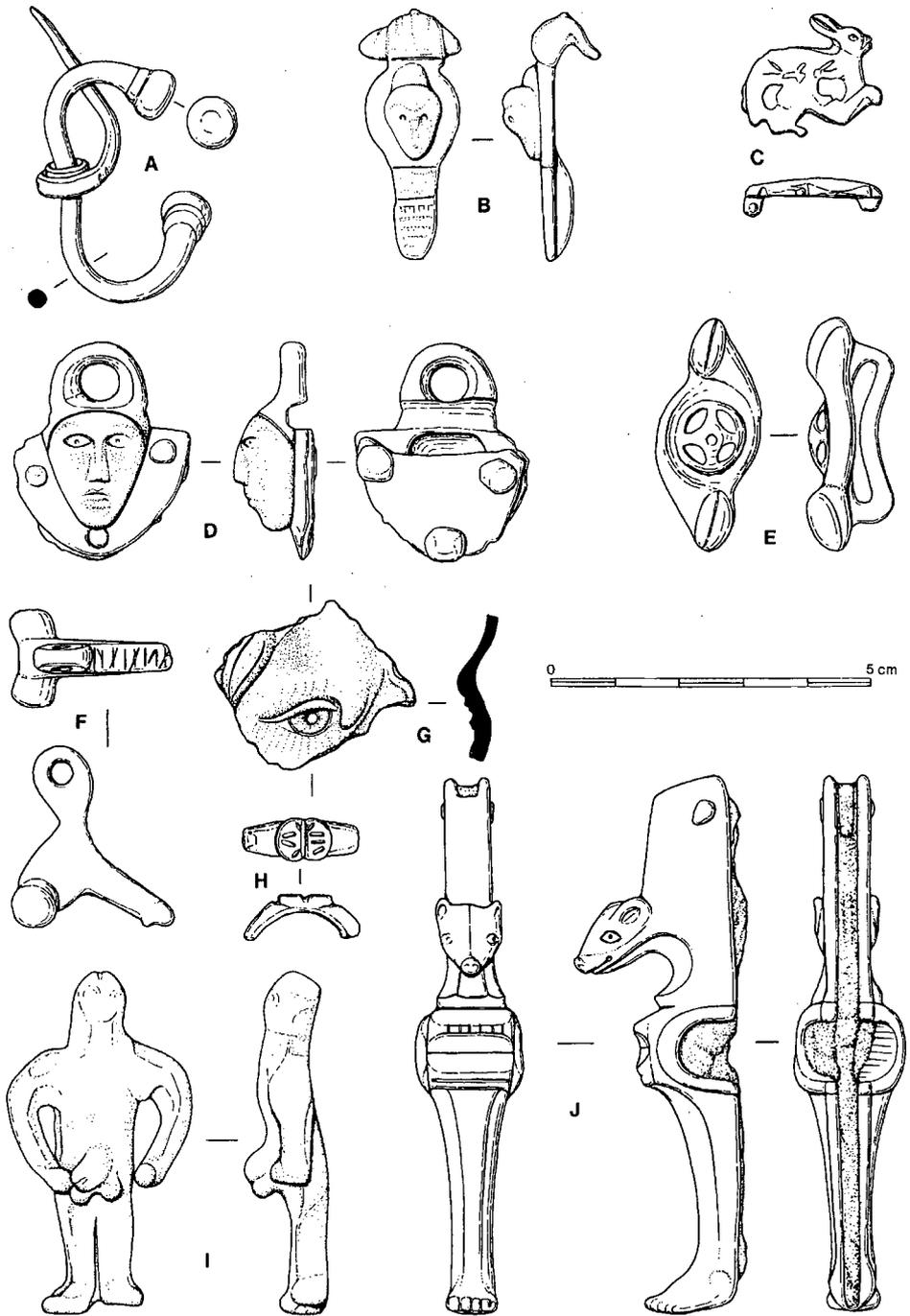


FIG. 51 - Roman objects. (A) penannular brooch, Coddtenham; (B) brooch, Ufford; (C) rabbit brooch, Barnardiston; (D) vessel mount, Barnardiston; (E) strap-fitting, Barnardiston; (F) phallic pendant, Buxhall; (G) fragment of a face, Barnardiston; (H) silver ring, Barnardiston; (I) lead 'Priapus' figure, East Bergholt; (J) folding knife, Charsfield. (All bronze except H and I).

motifs and with incised feather-like designs on the bezel, possibly 13th-century. (I.D.D.C.).

Charsfield (CHA011). **Ro.** Bronze and iron folding knife: the lower part of the handle is in the form of a human leg and the upper has a projecting animal head. (Fig. 51, J). (I.D.D.C.).

Chillesford (CHF013). **Sx.** Bronze animal-headed strap-end, 9th/10th century. (I.D.D.C.).

Claydon (CLY012). **Ro.** An enamelled brooch, hinge-headed, with a triangular plate and a 'snake-head' terminal, probably Continental; disc brooch fragment; circular bronze seal box (enamel missing), bronze cosmetic-grinder pestle. (I.D.D.C.).

Coddenham (CDD017). **Ro.** Bronze penannular brooch (bent), *Fowler* type A (Fig. 51, A); Colchester-derivative brooch (hinged type), coins (1st–4th centuries). (I.D.D.C.).

Coddenham (CDD022). **Ro, Sx.** Roman bronze nail cleaner. Saxon bronze hooked tag with punched ring-and-dot decoration. (I.D.D.C.).

Coddenham (CDD052). **Sx-Md.** Bronze key, rotary type with pierced handle; Saxon or early Medieval. (Fig. 53, A). (I.D.D.C.).

Combs (COM018). **BA.** Blade end of bronze palstave or flanged axe. (M.d.f.).

Combs (COM019). **Sx.** Bronze stirrup mount, *Williams* Group A, 11th century. (Fig. 53, C). (I.D.D.C.).

Combs (COM Misc). **Md.** Gold finger ring, decorated with V-shaped channels and beaded ribs, indecipherable inscription on the interior. (Fig. 53, B) (M.d.f.).

Little Cornard (COL011). **IA.** Bronze ring-headed pin. The head has excised decoration and possible traces of enamel. (Fig. 50, D). (I.D.D.C.).

Covehithe (TM/5281; COV027). **BA.** Cremation burial revealed in the cliff face. Plain bucket urn (rim lost and bottom destroyed by ploughing) inverted over cremated bones of a child (estimated age 11–12 years). (P. Durbidge, L.A.L.H.S.).

Dennington (DNN038). **Sx.** Middle Saxon silver *sceat*, Series E (porcupine/standard), weight 1.16g. (I.D.D.C.).

East Bergholt (EBG025). **?Ro.** Lead figurine, 52mm high, male with prominent genitalia, possibly a simplified representation of Priapus or a local equivalent. (Fig. 51, I). (M.d.f.).

Elmswell (EWL010). **Sx.** Bronze brooch, openwork cross in disc, pin missing; ? Late Saxon. (M.d.f.).

Fakenham Magna (FKM025). **BA.** Fragment of a curved, double-edged, blade, probably from a sickle of Late Bronze Age date – listed last year, illustrated here (Fig. 50, E). (M. Lynch).

Falkenham (TM/2838; FLK020). **Un.** Cropmark of possible broad ring-ditch, circular moat or infilled pit, c.30m diameter with an 'island' c.15m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Falkenham (TM/3238; FLK021). **Un.** Twenty or more timber posts exposed in a 50 yd length of the tidal mud of the River Deben. Possibly the remains of fish traps. (R. Simper).

Great Finborough/Combs (FNG Misc; COM Misc). **Ro.** Bronze and silver pins with spherical heads, fragment of a Colchester-derivative brooch (double-lug type). (M.d.f.).

Fornham All Saints (TL/8367; FAS024–025). **Un.** Two small ring-ditches, c.10m in diameter, part of the complex associated with the Fornham Neolithic cursus. (E.C.C.).

Freckenham (FRK062). **Ro.** Silver and bronze coins (2nd–4th centuries) and 1st-century Colchester and Colchester-derivative brooches. (M.D.D.C.).

Freckenham (FRK063). **BA.** Socket fragment of a small axe, chisel or gouge, Late Bronze Age. (M.D.D.C.).

Freckenham (FRK Misc). **Ro.** Silver finger ring, rectangular bezel with a punched dot in each corner, flat shoulders; *Henig* type VIII, 3rd century. (M.D.D.C.).

Hasketon (HSK Misc). **Sx.** Bronze clip made of wire, probably related to wrist-clasps in function, other examples known from Eriswell, Mildenhall (Holywell Row) and West Stow; possibly 6th century. (I.D.D.C.).

Hemingstone (HMG018). **Sx.** Socket fragment from an iron spearhead; bronze necklet (bent) with pierced and hooked terminals (similar example at West Stow); bronze cruciform brooch (Fig. 52, B) and the head of another (Fig. 52, A); fragment of an annular brooch; bronze buckle

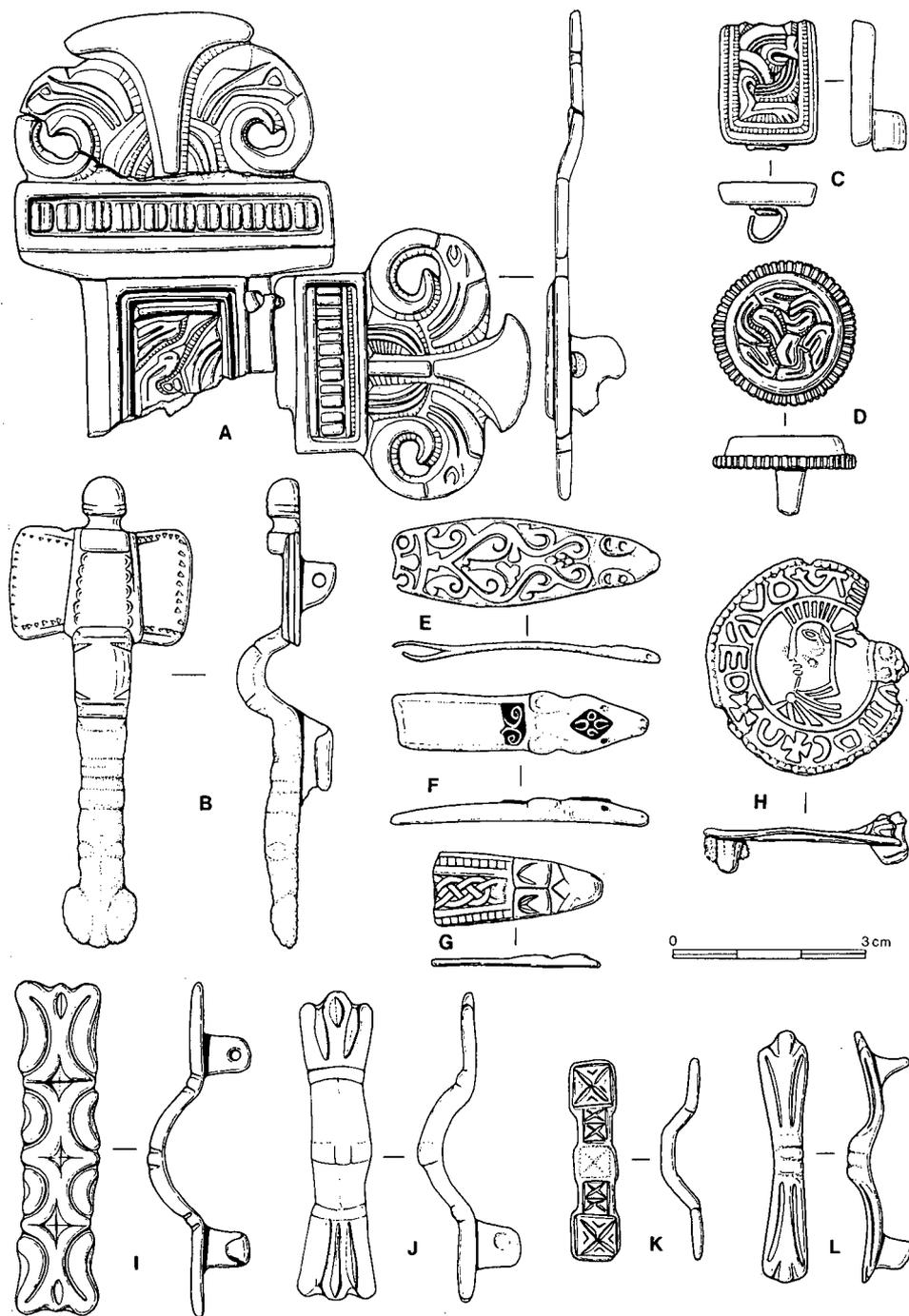


FIG. 52 – Anglo-Saxon objects. (A and B) cruciform brooches, Hemingstone; (C) mount, Little Bealings; (D) stud, Benhall; (E–G) strap-ends, Brandon, Thelnetham and Great Wratting; (H) pewter imitation coin brooch, Great Whelnetham; (I–L) 'caterpillar' brooches, Henley, Ramsholt and Thelnetham. (All bronze except H).

tongue with shield-shaped plate at the end; all Early Saxon. Also two Roman coins perforated for suspension. (I.D.D.C.).

Henley (HEN002). **Sx**. Middle Saxon bronze 'caterpillar' brooch; (Fig. 52, I). (I.D.D.C.).

Hepworth (HEP018). **Md**. Gold ring with an emerald set in a square bezel, 12th/13th century. (M.d.f.).

Hepworth (HEP019). **Sx**. Fragment of an Early Saxon cruciform brooch. (M.d.f.).

Hinderclay (HNY026). **BA**. Bronze palstave, 141mm long, 324g, unlooped, shield-shaped recess with two internal ribs on blade, protruding stop-ridges. Middle Bronze Age or early Late Bronze Age. (M.d.f.).

Ilketshall St John (ISJ006). **Ro, Sx, Md**. Coins of 1st–4th centuries (69–79 to 348–60), including 91 from a probable dispersed hoard (range Gordian III to Postumus, probable deposition during 260s); rear-hook Colchester-derivative brooch, early tinned oval plate brooch, 3rd-century spoked-disc brooch, some pottery. Late Saxon oval loop terminal with side knobs from a harness fitting (for the type, see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1994', fig. 77.F). 14th-century bronze seal matrix bearing the Virgin Mary seated with the infant Christ and the inscription * S'THOME DE KIRKEBI, 'the seal of Thomas de Kirkeby'. (M.d.f.).

Ipswich (TM/1843; IPS281). **Ne**. Flint polished axe, roughly triangular, 128mm long, found in a garden. (S. Adams *per* I.M.).

Ixworth Thorpe (TL/9273; IXT032). **Pr, Ro, Md**. Prehistoric worked flint, small scatter of Roman and medieval pottery. (E. Savery).

Ixworth Thorpe (TL/9173; IXT033). **BA**. Flint arrowhead, 56mm long, of Green's 'Ballyclare C' type – a rare form mainly found in western Britain and Ireland. (Fig. 50, A). (R. Norman).

Lakenheath (LKH184). **BA**. Single-barbed and tanged arrowhead made of honey-coloured flint. (E.C.D.S.).

Lakenheath (TL/7085; LKH198). **Me, BA, Pr**. Scatter of worked flint on a sand ridge in New Fen, including Mesolithic blades and scraper of Early Bronze Age type. (E. Martin, S.C.C.A.S.)

Lakenheath (LKH199). **BA**. Middle Bronze Age small notched-butt knife, 59mm long, 12g weight. (Fig. 50, B). (E.C.D.S.).

Lawshall (LWL Misc). **IA**. Fragment of a bronze terret ring, circular section ring with a pair of circular settings (? for enamel) and a group of projecting flanges. (Fig. 50, I). (M.d.f.).

Lawshall (LWL019). **Ro**. Bronze lion head stud with central iron rivet, possibly a casket fitting. (M.d.f.).

Mildenhall (MNL166). **IA-Ro**. Bronze button-and-loop fastener, the 'button' has a recessed central area which probably originally held a decorative setting (Fig. 50, G). (M.d.f.).

Oakley (OKY Misc). **Ro**. Bronze brooches: Colchester-derivative double-lug type and hinged type, horse-and-rider type with slight traces of blue enamel surviving on the horse; pewter spoon, coins (1st–4th centuries). (I.D.D.C.).

Preston St Mary (PSM010). **Ro, Sx**. Roman Colchester-derivative brooch (double-lug type), plate brooch with central empty recess and enamelled (discoloured yellow-brown) outer band and traces of white metal on the face, coins (3rd–4th centuries). Early Saxon bronze 'supporting-arm' brooch, an uncommon Germanic type of the late 4th or early 5th century. (M.d.f.).

Preston St Mary (PSM027). **Ro**. Lead lion's-head roundel with iron insets on the top and sides; 2nd-century bronze coin. (M.d.f.).

Ramsholt (RMS001). **Ro, Sx**. Roman Colchester-derivative brooch fragment (double lug type). Middle-Saxon bronze brooch, 'caterpillar' type (Fig. 52, J); one sherd of Ipswich ware and small amount of Thetford-type ware. (I.D.D.C.).

Ramsholt (RMS014). **Ro, Sx**. Roman Colchester-derivative brooch (double lug type). Middle or Late Saxon bronze brooch of 'caterpillar' type, decorated with incised Xs in rectangles (Fig. 52, K); Fragment of a bronze stirrup mount with openwork lozenges, 11th century. (I.D.D.C.).

Ramsholt (RMS030). **Sx**. Probable hoard of three silver pennies of Cnut, short cross type

(1030-1035/6), Exeter and Shaftesbury mints, also a silver *sceat*, series R, c.730 (0.96g). (I.D.D.C.).

Ringshall (RGL012). **Ro.** Bronze mount in the form of a cockerel, with a hook attachment on the back; 3rd-4th-century pottery, including Nene Valley and possibly Oxford products, 4th-century coins. (I.D.D.C.).

Shimpling (TL/8552; SPL013). **Un.** Cropmark of a ring-ditch, c.15m in diameter. (E.C.C.).

Shotley (SLY 023). **IA, Ro.** Bronze coin of Dubnovellaunus, new type similar to *Van Arsdell* 181-1, *obv.* boar to left with ring-and-dot, DVBN OV, *rev.* rider on prancing horse, ring-and-dot, DVBN OV (three previously recorded examples of this type: two from Kent and one from Hertfordshire – P. de Jersey). Bronze coin of Cunobelinus, probably *Van Arsdell* 1963. Roman bronze trumpet brooch. (M.d.f. *per* I.M.).

South Elmham St Mary or Homersfield (SEY017). **IA, Ro.** Two silver Icenian coins – Face-Horse type (Allen 102/99) and Pattern-Horse Anted type (Allen 117). Bronze button-and-loop fastener, the 'button' has a recessed central area which probably originally held a decorative setting (Fig. 50, F). Bronze Colchester-derivative brooch (rear hook type); coins (2nd-3rd centuries). (M.d.f.).

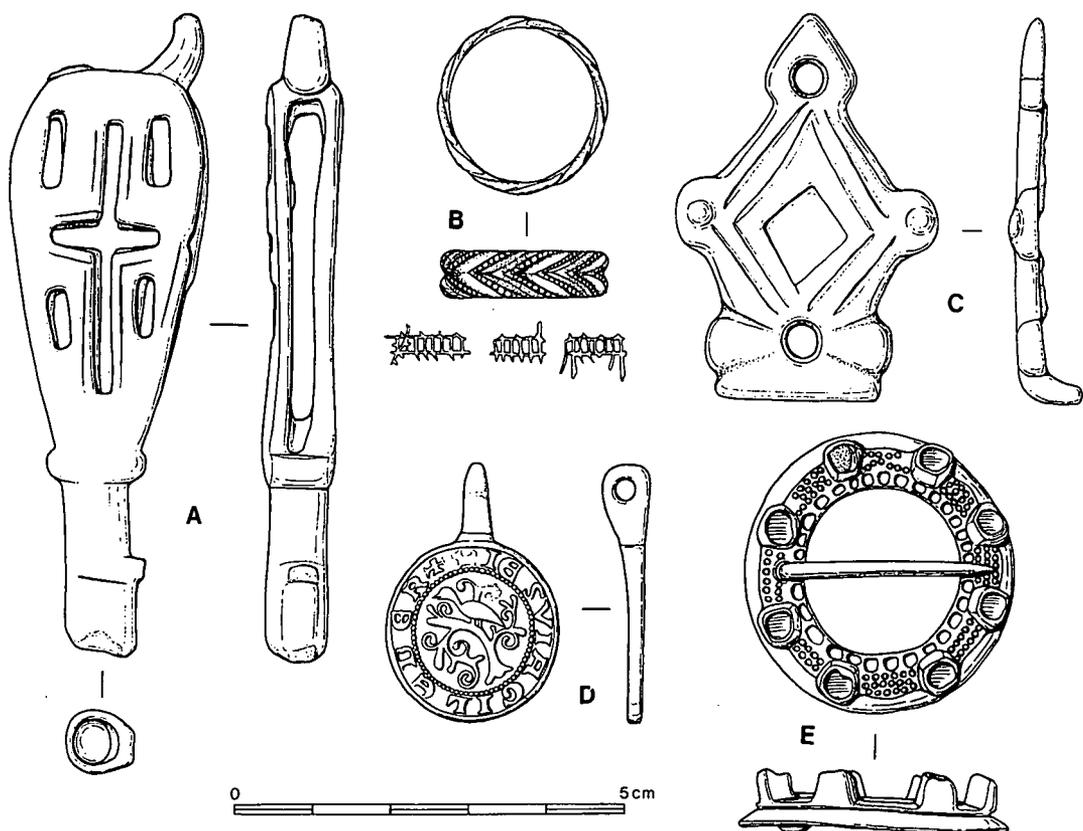


FIG. 53 – Medieval objects. (A) key fragment, Coddtenham; (B) gold ring, Combs; (C) stirrup mount, Combs; (D) harness pendant, Bury St Edmunds; (E) brooch, Little Thurlow. (All bronze except B).

Spexhall (SPX008). **Ro.** Coins (1st–3rd centuries); Colchester-derivative brooches (rear-hook and hinged types); bronze steelyard and lead steelyard weight; tri-lobed bronze key-handle terminal; two lead fragments, possibly of similar key-handle terminals (? patterns for the manufacture of the bronze versions – possibly indicating metal-working on the site). (M.d.f.).

Stonham Aspal (SAL Misc). **Sx.** Gilded bronze axe-shaped pendant with bird-head terminals, three-strand animal-body interlace, three rivets on the back with traces of iron; *c.* 1.1m long. Similar to an example from Mound 17 at Sutton Hoo and late 6th/early 7th-century in date. (M.d.f. *per* I.M.).

Tannington (TNN Misc). **Md.** Bronze seal matrix, pointed oval form, bearing a stylised bird and the inscription S'ThOME REINBALD, 'the seal of Thomas Reinbald'. (I.D.D.C.).

Thelnetham (THE016). **Sx.** Bronze 'caterpillar' brooch (Fig. 52, L). Strap-end with an animal-head terminal with inlaid reddish ?glass insets for the eyes, head and body have decorative panels with inlaid silver wire (Fig. 52, F). Both Middle Saxon. (I.D.D.C.).

Little Thurlow (TUL003 & Misc). **Ro, Md, PM.** Roman coins (2nd–4th centuries), fragment of a disc brooch, enamelled conical type. Two medieval bronze ewer spouts, dog's-head type; bronze annular brooch with eight raised collets (now empty of settings), frame decorated with punch marks (Fig. 53, E); another annular brooch with six raised collets containing white and green paste; two annular brooches, similar with half the frame decorated with a twisted cable design and lines of punched dots, the rest plain, probably 13th-century; 16th-century bronze purse frame – *niello* IHS on one face, rose on the other. (M.d.f.).

Tuddenham (TDD014). **Sx.** Silver *sceat*, porcupine/standard type (as *North* 48). (E.C.D.S.).

Tuddenham (TDD015). **Sx.** Gold and garnet pendant, oval cabochon gem set in a gold collar and backed by a thin gold plate; two beaded wires at the base of the collar, fluted suspension loop set slightly off-centre; 7th or 8th-century. Silver *sceat*, Series E, Æthilred on *rev.* (*North* 155), *c.* 710–30. (M.d.f. *per* Norwich Castle Museum).

Ufford (UFF023). **IA, Ro, Sx.** Fragment of an Iron Age gold *stater*, probably of 'Norfolk Wolf' type, similar to *Van Arsdell* 610–3. Bronze brooch of unusual form, the bow decorated with a human head in relief, typologically related to *Aesica* and wing-and-fanbow' types (Fig. 51, B). Other brooches: gilded and silvered plate brooch with a missing oval central setting; umbonate disc brooch with a central setting with orange, blue and white enamel and eight projections; knee type; Langton Down type; 1st–4th-century coins. Foot fragment of an Early Saxon cruciform brooch with a zoomorphic terminal. 11th-century bronze stirrup-mount decorated with three heads in relief (*Williams* Group B) and a fragment of another with a curvilinear design. (I.D.D.C.).

Walpole (WLP Misc). **Ro.** Bronze phallus, cast, with scars of a suspension loop on the upper side. Probably a pendant or amulet. (M.d.f.).

Wenham Parva (TM/0939; WMP006). **Un.** Cropmark of a sub-rectangular enclosure, *c.* 100m x 50m, parts survived as field boundaries in 1972. (E.C.C.).

West Stow (TL/8175-8275; WSW045 and 046). **Pr.** Scatters of worked flint. (C. Pendleton, S.C.C.A.S. and P. Brooker).

Wheltnetham (WLG016). **Sx.** Pewter disc brooch imitating a coin of Edward the Martyr or Æthelred II. (Fig. 52, H). (M.d.f. *per* M.H.).

Whitton (WHI006). **IA.** Silver Icenian coin, Boar-Horse type, half denomination (as *Van Arsdell* 661–1). (I.D.D.C.).

near Woodbridge (C.R.N. 16593). **IA.** Dispersed coin hoard found on arable land in an area 80m x 60m: two gold *staters* of Gallo-Belgic E type (6.19g and 5.91g), a gold *stater* (6.21g) and two quarter *staters* (1.47g and 1.51g) of 'Clacton' type. Possible deposition date of *c.* 40 BC. (I.D.D.C.).

Great Wratting (WTG014). **Sx, Md.** Middle-Saxon bronze strap-end with interlace decoration and a zoomorphic terminal (Fig. 52, G). Two 14th-century bronze horse-harness pendants: one

with a gilded background with a lion rampant and billets in negative relief (probably originally inlaid with enamel), possibly the arms of the Kychard family; and the other with a red-enamelled cross bearing five pierced mullets, possibly the arms of the Badenham family. 14th/15th-century Bronze finger ring inscribed on the outside *IhESVS:RE:I. 'Jesus King of the Jews'. (M.d.f.).

Yoxford (TM/3969; YOX014). **Un.** Cropmark of an oval (?) enclosure, outside but parallel to a farmyard boundary. (E.C.C.).

FIELD SURVEYS

Debenham, (TM/16 S.E.; DBN088, 091-099): Further fieldwalking has identified a number of medieval sites extending along Gracechurch Street as far out as Debenham Hall (further confirming ideas of medieval ribbon-development on the roads leading out of the town – see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995'). In most cases the pottery comprises unglazed wares of the 12th–14th centuries, with very small amounts of ? later medieval part-glazed pottery. A small amount of Saxo-Norman Thetford-type ware was present on one site (096) near the school. Further north, a site (093) was discovered on the east edge of a roughly triangular piece of overgrown pasture (possibly a relict green) called 'Chittock's Meadow'. The majority of the pottery was unglazed wares of the 13th–14th centuries, but small amounts of Roman, Middle Saxon (Ipswich ware) and Saxo-Norman (Thetford-type and St Neots wares) were also present. A medieval site (061) had previously been found on the west side of Chittock's Meadow, with pottery of 12th–14th-century date. In addition, a medieval site (097) with 13th–14th-century pottery was located on the line of the old way to Ulveston Hall. Two concentrations of burnt flints (? prehistoric) were also identified. (Edward Savery).

Framlingham, Framlingham Mere (TM/2864; FML021): An earthwork survey (Fig. 54) was carried out in advance of a proposal to clean and restore the Mere, with the intention of locating former shorelines and associated archaeological features.

The Mere lies on the west side of Framlingham Castle and is thought to have been created during or soon after the construction of the great stone castle at the end of the 12th century. In the 14th century it was referred to as 'the Great Lake beneath the castle' (Ridgard 1985, 11) and was still functioning as a fishery in the early 17th century (Copinger 1909, 280).

The old shoreline is clearly defined by a single intermittent scarp (a) surviving up to a maximum height of 1m. This defines an elongated kidney-shaped area of 9.38ha (23 acres) which is probably the original extent of the Mere. It appears to be an artificially dug feature.

On the east side, immediately below the lower Court of the Castle, two slight 'platforms' (b and c) project from the old shoreline into the original Mere. Both are considerably abraded and obscured by vegetation. The southern one (b) is irregular in shape and measures 28.2 x 20m and is 0.3m high. The northern one (c) is also irregular, 58.5 x 28.4m and up to 0.5m high. Mid-way along its length there are two slight parallel scarps defining an area 23.1m long by at least 13.5m wide and 0.2m high, possibly marking the site of a structure. This could be the dovecote that is known to have existed somewhere in the Mere by 1386–7 (Ridgard 1985, 11). On the same side, in Glebe Meadow, a slight bank (d), measuring 35.5m by 9.0m and 0.5m high, projects 15m into the original Mere. This may be the remains of a small boat landing or jetty, but it is at an awkward angle to the the old shoreline and appears to overlie it, and 20m of its length lies outside the former Mere.

Also on the east side, the old shoreline deviates from its course around an area of higher ground which protrudes into the former Mere, at a point where a small stream formerly flowed into it and the tongue may in part be alluvial silt. It contains a number of regular and

Framlingham Mere, Framlingham, Suffolk

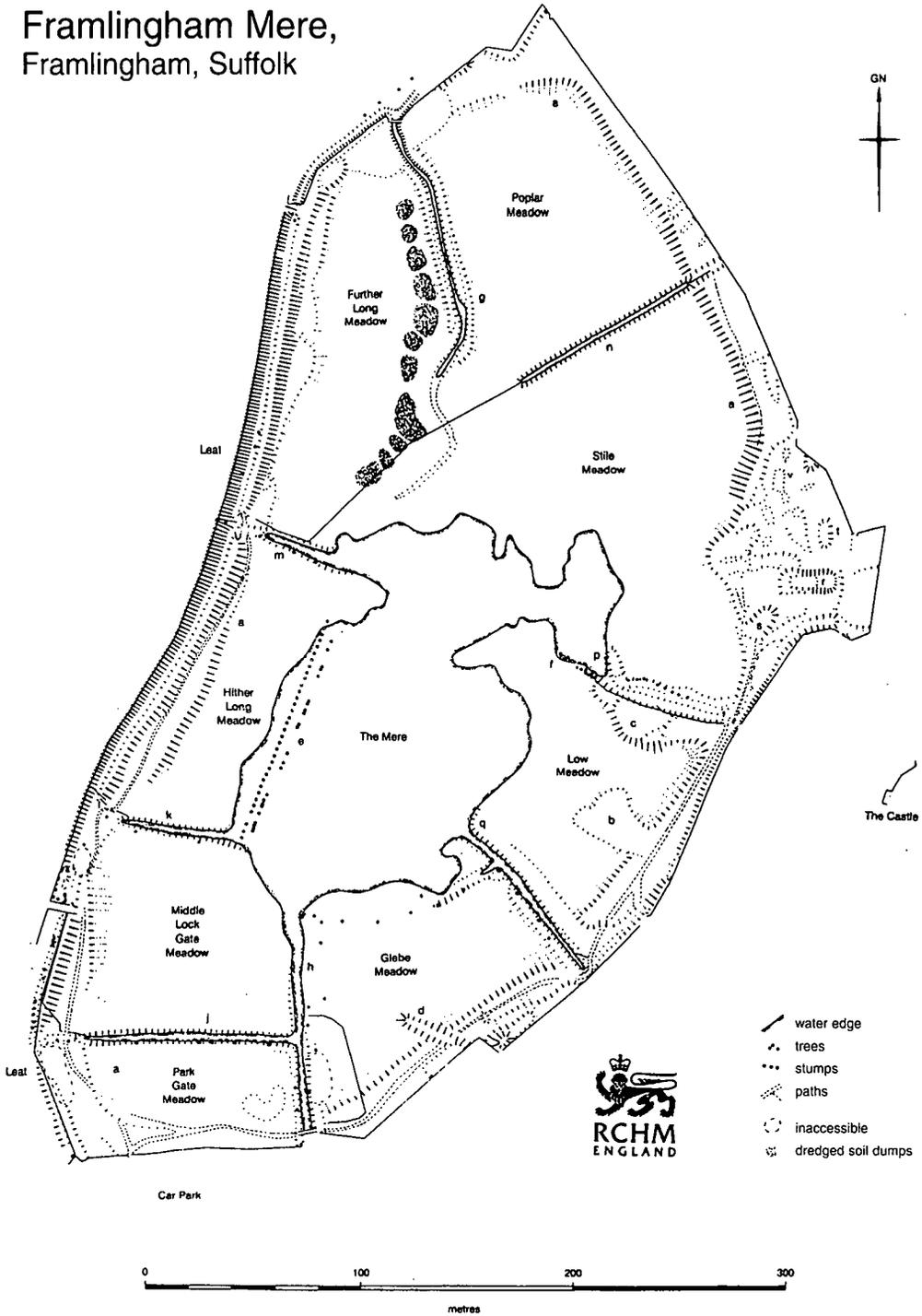


FIG. 54 – Framlingham Mere: earthwork survey (R.C.H.M.E. copyright).

irregular features (r–v) that have undergone some disturbance. The largest of these is a rectilinear fishpond (r) 28.0m by 11.8m by 1.7m deep, with a shallow channel leading to the old shoreline. It is likely that these formed part of a fish-rearing complex of small ponds, channels and robbed-out building foundations, accessible from the Lower Court.

Within the existing Mere, near its western edge, there are two parallel lines of willow stumps (e), that extend for some 108m. These are probably the remains of a revetment to the Mere bank. A second series of willow stumps (f), whose line is continued by existing trees, occurs on the east side of the Mere, running for 24m N.W. from the tip of the northern platform. Though undated, a 19th-century date is likely for both sets.

The area of the former Mere is divided into eight meadows by the river Ore and six other drainage channels. The channels are cut through the old shoreline and were probably originally linked to land drainage features outside the Mere, notably a leat along the west side (see below) and a large ditch at the foot of the castle earthworks. The eastern channels are shown on a partial survey of 1789 (at that stage the Mere had shrunk quite considerably from its original size, but was still about twice its present area). All the ditches are shown on late-19th-century Ordnance Survey maps.

At the point where the River Ore enters the Mere, a leat is taken off it, leading around the western edge of the Mere and continuing south beyond its southern end. The leat consists of a channel 2.8m wide and 0.7m deep with bank, 7.5m wide and 0.9m high on its eastern side to retain the water. The western side of the leat is cut into the scarp, producing a very steep face (2.9m high in the central section). In three places the leat appears to have been linked to the meadow drainage channels by breaches in the bank. In 1789 the leat rejoined the Ore immediately north of Mill Bridge (now in Bridge Street) though all traces are now lost beneath later buildings. The location of the mill is not shown on the 1789 survey but the leat probably provided its power source.

It has long been assumed that the main, and original, function of the Mere was one of defence (Raby and Reynolds 1959, 6), but this is only partially correct. Recent studies have demonstrated that the use of water around castles and other lordly residences was far more complicated and served a variety of purposes. Viewed from rising ground to the west, the castle commands the landscape and this dominance was reinforced by the creation of the Mere in the valley between. While certainly enhancing the defensive capability of the castle, there is also a strong psychological element in the design, a means of both intimidation and of delight. Similar designed landscapes making a powerful use of water are known around Kenilworth, Leeds and Bodiam castles. The ornamental aspect of Framlingham Mere is underscored by the presence, in the 16th century, of a garden in the Lower Court of the castle, overlooking the Mere. It is possible that there was a medieval enclosed garden here as well. From the northern corner of the the lower Court, a gate may have led to the Mere, perhaps that recorded in 1302 as 'the gate towards the fishery' (Raby and Reynolds 1959, 24).

The Mere also had an important economic function for the medieval manor, particularly for its fish. A survey of 1547 refers to fishing of the Mere, which was totally reserved for the use of the lord; small boats are also mentioned (Ridgard 1985, 9 and 12). As late as 1636, the will of Sir Robert Hitcham mentions 'the Mere and all other fishponds' (Copinger 1909, 280). In addition, the Mere lay at the southern end of the park and probably helped to attract waterfowl and animals for hunting and hawking. The manorial dovecote was also sited somewhere in the Mere. Natural silting of the shallow mere had probably decreased its area by the time of the 1547 survey, when there is mention of the fishing of the Mere which lay within the 'Newe' meadow inside the park (Ridgard 1985, 9). The dismantling of the park after 1580 (Ridgard 1985, 9) probably provided further stimulus for change and it is likely to have been divided up into plots of meadow around a smaller body of water by the time it was acquired by Pembroke College in the mid 17th century. By the time of Isaac Johnson's survey of 1789, the Mere covered roughly 3.65ha (9 acres), or 40% of its original area; by 1883 it was down to 2.27ha

(5.6 acres) or 25% of the original area. Today the Mere covers, at best, an area of 1.79ha (4.4 acres), 20% of the extent of the medieval lake.

(M. Brown, P. Pattison and A. Oswald, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England; report TM 26 SE 1).

Redgrave (TM/07 NE & NW): Fieldwalking has continued. (Redgrave Fieldwalking Group).

Winston, (TM/16 S.E.; WNT027–037): Fieldwalking around the margins of Winston Green has identified five medieval sites (027, 029, 030, 031, 034). All had unglazed 12th–14th-century wares, with very small amounts of ? later medieval part-glazed pottery. A site (035) on the approach road from Debenham had 13th–14th-century pottery. Pottery of the same date was also found 100m to the south of Winston Hall. This, together with a previous discovery (019), suggests the former existence of a medieval hamlet to accompany the existing hall+church complex. Three concentrations of (? prehistoric) burnt flints were also recorded. (Edward Savery).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Great Barton, The Park (TL/8867; BRG015): An excavation was carried out in the grounds of the former Great Barton Hall where a group of small pits and two narrow linear features were identified. The large collection of Iron Age pottery, mainly from topsoil within 19th-century garden features, included fine wheel-made 'Belgic' forms. The pottery was in large unabraded sherds and suggests an occupation of the site during the Iron Age and particularly the 1st century B.C. or early 1st century A.D. (David Gill, S.C.C.A.S. for Mr Springs).

Bromeswell, Sutton Hoo Visitors Centre (TM/2949; BML018): An evaluation was carried out in advance of the proposed re-development of the Coach House, following a geophysical survey undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, University of York, which identified a concentration of linear anomalies.

The anomalies were shown to be ditches, containing Iron Age and Roman pottery, and were interpreted as the remnants of an Iron Age field system which may have continued in use into the Roman period. In addition, a scatter of pits and post-holes were revealed, plus a curvilinear feature, c. 10m in diameter, from which Iron Age pottery was recovered, which was interpreted as a possible round-house.

(Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for The National Trust. Report no. 97/11).

Bury St Edmunds, St Mary's Square (TL/8563; BSE117): Monitoring of the footing trenches for two new buildings in a plot of land off St Mary's Square revealed evidence of medieval occupation. Numerous medieval pits and an oven were found, all probably representing activity taking place behind houses fronting on to Southgate Street. An area of post-medieval pits, together with two probable flint-and-mortar-lined wells, were found in the north of the site. Residual Middle Saxon Ipswich ware and Iron Age flint-gritted pottery was also recovered. (Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for Fenner Builders).

Bury St Edmunds, Town Ditch, Tayfen Road (TL/8564; BSE137): A large trench was excavated from north to south across the site of the former Pickford's Depot following demolition of a 19th-century warehouse. Previous work on this site and surrounding area had indicated the presence of the medieval town defences along the line of Tayfen Road. Sections of bank up to 11m wide and standing to 0.8m were recorded. Two large displaced blocks of

flint-and-mortar walling exposed within the backfill of the now buried ancient watercourse, Tayfen Water, are interpreted as remains of the original medieval walling. Both blocks had one smooth surface and one unfinished rough surface, suggesting that the wall was built against the face, rather than on top, of the bank and that it acted, in part, as a retaining wall rather than being structurally separate. This may however simply reflect the modest scale of the structure, or it may even have been robbed. Absolute dating of the wall is made difficult as it was divorced from its original stratigraphy. The best evidence for construction is the fabric itself and the historical record. It was constructed of a medieval-type pale yellow lime mortar with flint, there were no fragments of brick or tile either in the blocks or in the lower fill of the gully, and neither section showed any sign of repair. These characteristics strongly suggest the remains are medieval and probably part of the wall constructed by the Sacrist Hervey for Abbot Anselm in the 12th century. Pottery in the fill lying close to the slope of the bank was dated to the 12th–13th century.

(Andrew Tester, S.C.C.A.S. for St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Report no. 97/55).

Bury St Edmunds, 51–52 Churchgate Street (TL/8564; BSE150): An evaluation and subsequent excavation revealed three phases of cellared buildings close to the street front. The later phases were probably late medieval or post-medieval and Victorian. The earliest phase had been largely removed by these later excavations, but enough remained of the earliest to show that it was a cellared building in the early medieval urban tradition. The feature consisted of a chalk-edged pit *c.*1.8m deep which was lined with the remains of wooden planking supported by small posts. Larger postholes in the centre were probably for central supporting posts and suggested that the building measured 3.6m from north to south. It was located about 5m from the present street frontage. Large quantities of pottery were recovered from the infill of the cellar, suggesting a date for abandonment in the 12th or early 13th century.

(Sue Anderson, S.C.C.A.S. for Baker Construction. Report nos. 97/23 and 98/23).

Bury St Edmunds, 98A–100 Risbygate Street (TL/8564; BSE153): Excavations during the renovation of the former Bowers Motorcycle shop discovered a floor surface of rammed chalk at the rear of the building, contemporary with the 16th-century timber-framed building. A rubbish pit excavated beneath the floor produced late-15th-century and early-16th-century pottery, but a hearth and two post-holes containing 12th-century pottery indicate there had been an earlier building on this site. Engineering test-holes showed that there had been extensive cellars at the front of the property and that the original medieval floor-level over these was *c.*1m above the street.

(David Gill, S.C.C.A.S. for Bury St Edmunds Town Trust).

Carlton Colville, The Mardle (TM/5189; CAC015): An evaluation was carried out of a feature known as 'The Mardle', which although now levelled, is shown as a circular ditch *c.*45m in diameter, with an raised central mound, on Ordnance Survey maps down to the 1920s. This revealed that sand and gravel had been extracted from the site to a depth of over 1.9m, prior to infilling with builders' rubble in the mid-1960s. This had effectively removed all evidence for The Mardle.

(Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for Oldman: Routledge. Report no. 97/74).

Chilton, County Farm (TL/8842; CHT009): The final phase of investigations was carried out in May and June (for the previous work see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1996'). Although this involved the excavation of about 2ha, only the N.W. and N.E. sides of the Iron Age enclosure ditch were revealed (Fig. 55). The ditch was V-shaped, *c.*3.3m wide and 1.3m deep, and contained flint-tempered handmade pottery. Two entrances were identified in the N.W. arm of

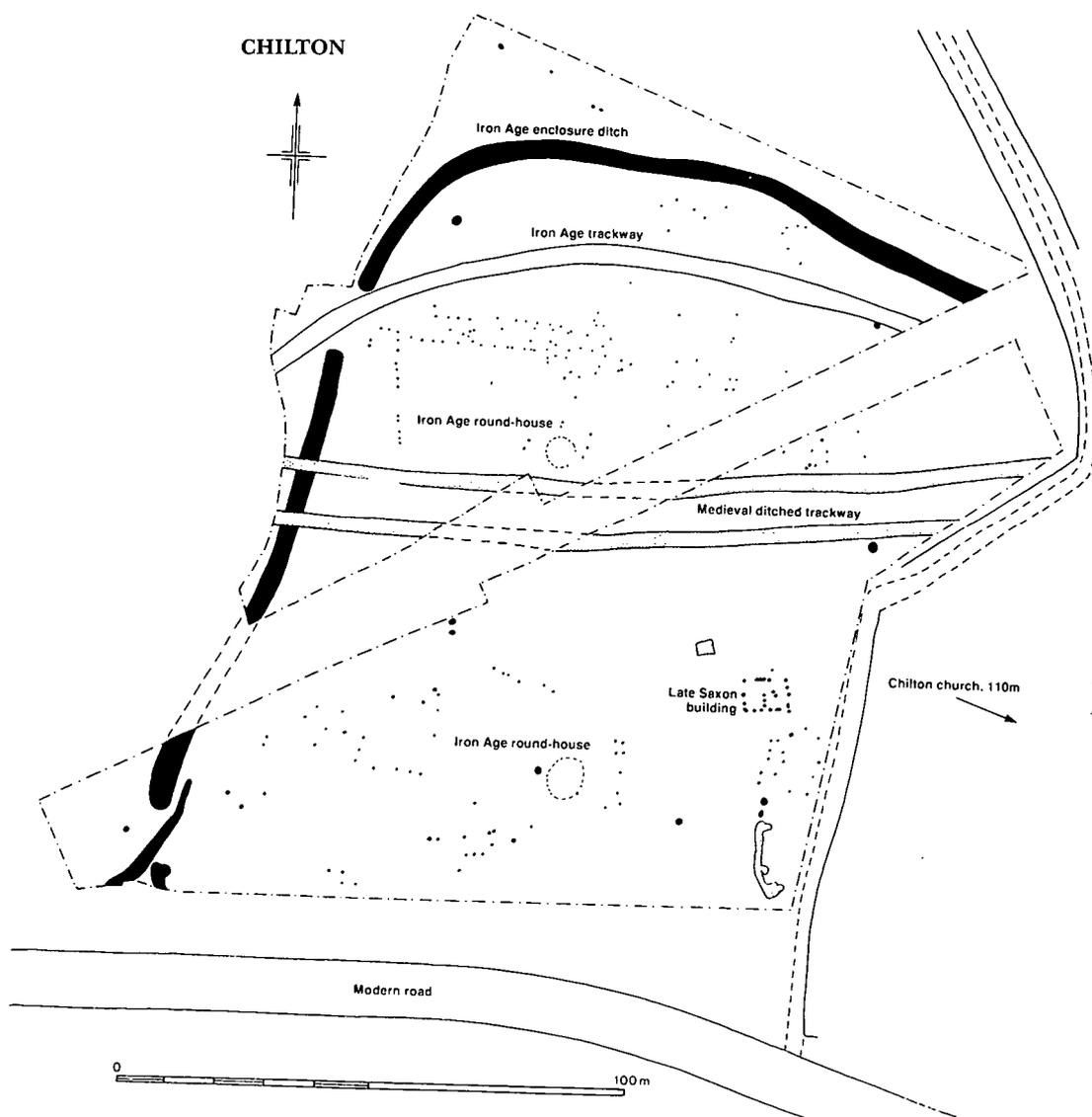


FIG. 55 – Chilton: plan of the Iron Age enclosure.

the ditch, the northernmost being interpreted as the main entrance, through which ran an Iron Age track, complete with wheel ruts a constant 1m apart (measured from the inside edges).

The majority of the features within the enclosure were post-holes, forming at least one round-house *c.* 6m in diameter (in addition to that identified in the previous evaluation). Many of the post-holes appeared to be in linear arrangements, including a double line, *c.* 35m long, aligned on the main entrance. The post-holes immediately adjacent to the entrance diverge

slightly, appearing to mark the entry point to this 'structure'. The trackway respects the position of this alignment by skirting around to the north of it.

Further evidence for the Late Saxon/Early Medieval settlement associated with the nearby St Mary's church was also identified, in the form of a double-roomed rectangular building (approximately 10 x 6m) in the S.E. part of the site. (Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for Suffolk County Council).

Clare, former Charrington's Coal Yard (TL/7645; CLA031): Evaluation and subsequent monitoring of this site revealed some evidence of medieval occupation surviving as scattered pits although much of the site had been truncated. Soil layers surviving at the rear of the plot near the remains of the town ditch, where the ground level appeared intact, were interpreted as possible medieval layers contemporary with the ditch and bank. (Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for Land Charter Ltd).

Clare, Sigors House, High Street (TL/7645; CLA032): Monitoring of trenches associated with the refurbishment of the former rectory and the addition of new outbuildings and garden features, produced evidence of medieval occupation consistent with the date of the existing building. The distribution of intrusive features was limited to the rear of the building, but a concentration of late medieval features was observed in new garage footings c.35m from the street front. The evidence appears consistent with that recovered from the former Charrington's Coal Yard site, directly to the north, and suggests that this part of Clare was not occupied before the late 11th–12th century, when pits associated with buildings fronting the High Street were excavated at the rear of the properties. (Tom Loader, S.C.C.A.S. for Mr and Mrs P. Samuelson).

Coddenham, Valley Farm (TM/1512; CDD019): Further work was carried out on this site (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1996'). Working at week-ends has meant slow progress, nevertheless the ditch excavation has been extended to its butt end, which may indicate the presence of an entrance. The fill has contained the usual varied finds: a samian vessel of form Dr.37 (potter Cricero, A.D. 140–80), a costrel, a small grey-ware beaker and several other reconstructable pots. A mass of oyster shells at the base could be sorted into matched pairs, indicating quick dumping. The soil overlying the ditch area has produced many hobnails and a complete sickle blade. Only one coin (a *dupondius* of Antoninus Pius, A.D. 154–55) was recovered, but numerous animal bones, including a whole piglet, another dog and the teeth of an old horse. (John Fulcher and the Coddenham Village History Club).

Debenham (TM/1768; DBN090): An evaluation carried out in advance of tree-planting, as part of a community woodland scheme, recovered evidence of Roman occupation of 1st–4th-century date in the lowest part of the field. (Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. Report no. 97/64).

Dunwich, Greyfriars (TM/4770; DUN023 and 024): Three small trenches were dug to answer specific questions about the Greyfriars Precinct. The results confirmed the interpretation put forward by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1993') that the present area of the precinct includes a southward extension to its 14th-century predecessor. However, rather than following the line of a shallow bank running from N.W. to S.E. from the western precinct wall, the southern wall was orientated W.N.W. to E.S.E. following the line of a linear anomaly clearly represented on an English Heritage resistivity survey plot (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1994'). A section excavated through the anomaly revealed a feature with similar dimensions to the footing previously excavated in 1992 beneath the N.W. corner of the existing precinct wall. A parallel linear feature to the south was

interpreted as a ditch following the southern edge of a road/track which itself ran externally to the precinct wall. Both features produced ceramic evidence consistent with a medieval date.

In addition, a small trench was manually excavated on the line of the present east precinct wall, about 10m from the S.E. corner of the precinct. The evidence suggested that this section of the wall was a rebuild of 19th- or 20th-century date, which had been constructed on the line of an earlier footing relating to the southern expansion of the precinct. A continuous layer of sandy loam, recorded below the wall, was demonstrably different to the present topsoil and was interpreted as the possible remnant of the bank associated with the town bank immediately to the west.

A further trench failed to locate the western edge of the town ditch but recorded a dipping off to the east of the surface of the naturally-occurring sand subsoil and an increase in the thickness of topsoil towards the eastern end of the precinct. This corresponded well with an amorphous anomaly on the resistivity plot and was tentatively interpreted as being related to an extra-mural road/track following the line of the town ditch and pre-dating the construction of the friary.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. Report no. 97/42).

Elough, Elough Airfield/Potters Farm (TM/4587; ELO004): An evaluation carried out in December 1996 revealed indications of medieval occupation immediately west of Potters Farm on the west side of Warrens Lane (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1996'), as a result a small follow-up excavation (30 x 34m) was carried out in January 1997. The excavation revealed features, principally ditches, and a layer representing activity between the 12th and the 14th centuries. Although no buildings were identified, the quantity of artefacts suggested occupation in the immediate vicinity. In addition, features dating between the 15th and the 20th centuries, including a brick kiln, suggested continuous occupation on and around the site from as early as the 12th century through to the mid 20th century.

The kiln (Fig. 56) had a rectangular firing-chamber to the west and an elongated stoke pit to the east, joined by a constriction that marked the entrance to the two fire tunnels. This is a fairly standard configuration for a type of updraught kiln known as a 'Suffolk Kiln'. The firing-chamber (2.5 x 3.5m internally) was built of brick, though only the kiln bar arches were mortared together, elsewhere the bricks were simply set against the edge of the kiln pit or packed with clay and crushed brick. Due to the height of the water-table, it was not possible to excavate down to the bottom of the kiln, but probing indicated a solid floor (? brick) at a depth of 1.25m below the excavated surface. Each side of the kiln had nine bars, separated by c.0.1m gaps. In some places the surface of the kiln had an almost vitrified look, possibly the result of using the 'flash method' of salt-glazing (P. Minter, pers. comm.). Probing indicated that the unlined stoke pit was of the same depth as the firing-chamber, with a sloped east end for access. Copious charcoal and an absence of coal suggests that the kiln was wood-fired.

Dating of the kiln is problematic, due to relatively unchanging technology between the medieval period and the 18th century. The kiln cut a ditch containing a coin of Henry IV (1399–1413). Finds from the kiln included two sherds of medieval pottery (12th–14th centuries) in the clay-lining, and a further six sherds of 14th/15th-century pottery from backfill layers. These finds could be residual, as Peter Minter (of the Bulmer Brick and Tile Co. Ltd) has examined two complete bricks from the kiln structure and fragments from the backfill layers and has suggested a 16th-century date for the kiln (with possible earlier phases). (Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Bernard Matthews PLC. Report no. 96/79).

Elveden, Brickyard Pit (TL/8080; ELV006): Excavation of the Lower Palaeolithic industries continued in this disused clay-pit for four weeks during August (Fig. 57). Work over the last two seasons (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk' 1995 and 1996) has established that the geological sequence at the site consists of Lowestoft Till at the base, attributable to the Anglian cold stage,

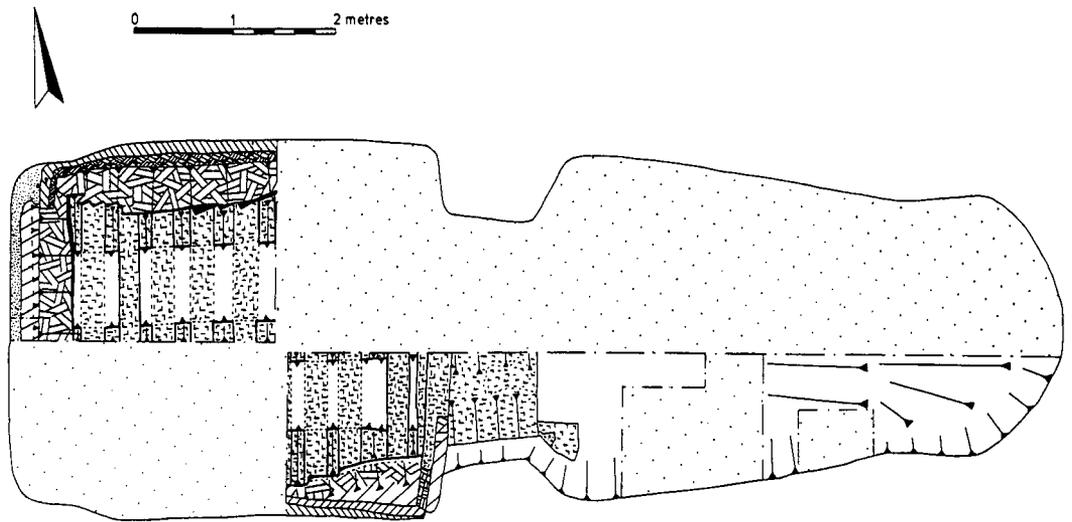


FIG. 56 – Ellough: plan of the 16th(?)-century tile kiln.

some 450,000 years ago. The surface of the till forms a depression, which is infilled with 6m of grey and black lacustrine clays deposited during the following warm period, some 400,000 years ago. These lake beds are in turn overlain by a 4m sequence of fluviially deposited brown sandy clays, intermixed with colluvium, probably laid down during the same warm phase. At the edges of these channel deposits, a single horizon of gravel (probably a lag) lies towards the base of the brown sandy clays, and it is within, on and in the metre of sediment above this gravel that the flint artefacts occur.

Geological and Palaeoenvironmental work. Further work on the geology has confirmed the relationship between the units. In particular the expansion of Section 3 (now Area IV) and Section 7 has exposed larger areas of Lowestoft Till at opposite edges of the depression, overlain in both sections by the feather-edge of the grey lake clays.

In test-pit 1 a powered auger was used to extract complete sediment columns, particularly from the dark, organic lake clays for the extraction of further pollen. Initial work on the pollen by Rob Scaife (University of Southampton) and Gill Thomas (Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education) has revealed a spectrum dominated by birch, suggestive of a cool climate towards the beginning of an interglacial.

Grey clays, above the dark, organic clays, and towards the top of the lake sediments preserve fragmentary shells. Study of these by David Keen (Coventry University) has identified fifteen species, predominantly *Bythinia*, *Pisidium* and *Valvata*, which collectively indicate slow moving water in a temperate climate. A new section, cut midway between Section 2 and Section 7, revealed grey clays at the base overlain by brown sandy clays. Within the brown sandy clays, a distinct dark grey horizon was noted, which has provisionally been interpreted as a palaeosol. This horizon could be traced in Section 7 and Area I, where it immediately overlies the gravel layer. In the new section three flint artefacts in very fresh condition were noted lying at the base of the dark grey horizon. Because of the potential for uncovering an *in situ* knapping surface, the area was expanded and excavated horizontally (see Area III below).

Attempts to expose the geological sediments on the north side of the pit failed due to extensive modern tipping along this edge.

ELVEDEN 1997

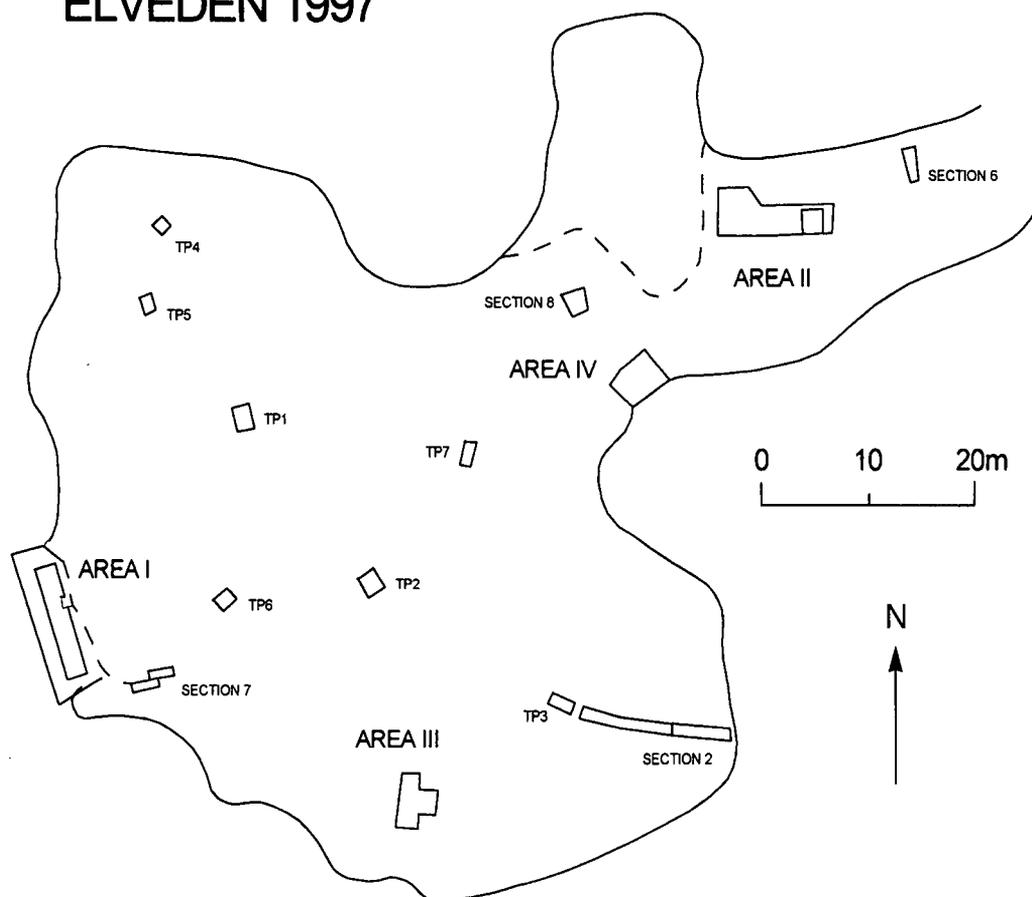


FIG. 57 – Brickyard Pit, Elveden: Plan of the 1997 excavations.

Archaeological work. Area I. This area was expanded to form a 10 x 2m trench, which was excavated through the metre of sediment above the gravel layer, and in most areas down to the gravel layer surface. Although the artefacts were thinly distributed throughout the sediment a total of 538 pieces, including one biface, were recovered. The majority of these are in fresh condition, although they have probably moved a short distance since they were discarded. Refitting promises to help to interpret how far the artefacts have moved and from what deposit they originally derive. A small amount of work is needed to complete this area.

Area III. A small test area (c.1 x 3m) was excavated through the probable palaeosol to reveal an undulating, sloping surface on which 290 artefacts were recorded. All the flint is black and in pristine condition, with no evidence of post-depositional movement. It is hoped to expand this area to the south next season, where the deposit should flatten out and reveal *in situ* knapping scatters. Post-excavation work on refitting has already indicated the potential of this area.

Area IV. Area IV was created by expanding Section 3 (see above). The stratigraphy in this area has been truncated by clay digging to within 10cm of the gravel layer. An area 2 x 3m was excavated producing 179 artefacts together with the butt of a biface. The artefacts varied in

condition, although many had sustained some edge abrasion. The excavation of this area is now complete.

Raw material. The flint artefacts appear to have been made of raw material from the site, in particular nodules from the gravel layer in Areas I and IV. Although much of this has probably travelled some distance, a proportion has been derived from the Chalk nearby. A low Chalk cliff was clearly exposed in Area II in 1996 with large nodules of fresh flint eroding out, and becoming incorporated into the gravel within that area. Similar processes may have contributed to the gravel in Areas I and IV.

Elveden and Barnham: Fieldwork was also undertaken outside the confines of the clay pit. In particular, a string of probable clay pits between Elveden and Barnham were examined on the ground to find out whether they were suitable for geological section cutting and/or augering. A total of twelve pits were inspected, of which seven are still accessible and suitable for more detailed work. It is planned to undertake this next season.

Through this work, it is hoped to relate the sequence at Barnham to the sequence at Elveden. The alignment of the pits suggests that the two sites might be part of the same ancient river channel. If this can be demonstrated, then the human use of a landscape can be recreated, in particular the use of raw material resources, and the effect that their variation has on the stone tool industries assessed. In addition, the rich faunal assemblage from Barnham could contribute to our understanding of the environment at Elveden, and help in the reconstruction of the landscape and the resources it supported.

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank the British Museum, British Academy and Society of Antiquaries for funding the project, Johan Bolling and his staff at Center Parcs for continual encouragement and for permission to excavate, and David and Margaret Heading for providing camping facilities.

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

Eriswell, Peacekeeper Park, RAF Lakenheath, environmental survey (TL/7280; ERL 093): An assessment of the information which might be gained from analysing the peat deposits around Caudle Head was carried out on a column of peat removed from the mere. The existence of a well-developed peat close to several important archaeological sites offered an opportunity to paint a detailed picture of the environmental history of the area and in particular provide the environmental setting for the many excavations which have occurred and are still occurring on the airbase. There were three elements to the assessment: analysis of palynological (pollen) evidence, interpretation of the sedimentology (including study of microfossils), and radiocarbon dating.

The results revealed a well-developed growth of peat in a good state of preservation and the radiocarbon dating proved that it dates back at least to the Middle Bronze Age. The pollen analysis showed that it will be possible to determine, by further sampling, changes in local climate and land use through the successive periods of settlement. Areas of particular interest highlighted by the pollen report were the evidence for probable primary clearance of local forests in the Early Bronze Age, a later date than was previously suspected, and changes in agricultural economy and land use through the prehistoric to Roman, and Roman to Anglo-Saxon periods. In the Roman period there was a reduction in woodland, with subsequent regeneration in the Early Saxon period. The report also suggested that the site may have experienced fluctuating local climatic conditions, with increased wetness suggesting a possible climatic decline in the medieval or early post-medieval period. With a refined analysis these changes may prove particularly interesting when considered alongside the evidence for late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlement around the watercourse. Analysis would also serve a broader purpose in helping to fill a gap in the evidence for the environment of the landscape of the Breckland.

(Andrew Tester, S.C.C.A.S. for the Ministry of Defence, based on environmental archaeology reports by Patricia E. Wiltshire and Peter Murphy. Report no. 97/50).

Eriswell, Peacekeeper Park, RAF Lakenheath (TL/7280; ERL 103): Monitoring of works to upgrade facilities to provide a park for base personnel allowed examination of the ancient soil profile during replacement of the Caudle Head weir. Sections up to 1.2m deep showed horizontal layers of peat and sand-with-peat. Machining produced a collection of animal bones which were thought to derive from a single horizon towards the base of the peat. The bones represent between two and five cows, one horse and a large deer, all showing signs of defleshing following butchery, possibly carried out with flint rather than metal tools. The tight grouping of the bones might also suggest that they had been processed or dumped next to the stream. The evidence suggests a prehistoric date for the lowest exposed peat layer, although verification must await more reliable dating.

(Andrew Tester and Sue Anderson, S.C.C.A.S. for the Ministry of Defence. Report no. 97/27).

Eriswell, RAF Lakenheath, Anglo-Saxon Cemetery (TL/7280; ERL104): Five months of excavation on a previously unknown Early Saxon cemetery was carried out in advance of the construction of a large dormitory complex covering 2.1ha on a site previously levelled for a baseball field (Fig. 58).

The site lies 150m to the west of another Early Saxon cemetery discovered in the late 1950s during the construction of the base hospital. Thirty-two burials were excavated then but the limits of this cemetery were not identified and numerous small evaluations mainly to the south and west of it had failed to locate further graves. In 1981 a small group of burials (possibly representing up to six individuals) was found 75m to the S.W. of the first cemetery (and 100m S.E. of ERL 104) and rumour has it that burials were found during the digging of the nearby swimming pool in the 1960s.

The new cemetery was generally well preserved with few modern intrusions. The burial depth varied but the majority were 50–75cm below the stripped surface, so few had been damaged by the levelling operations. A single sewer trench was the only other disturbance, and, as the cemetery was previously unknown, there was no sign of modern robbing. Fortunately, once it had been discovered, the full might of the USAF security ensured that none of the normal problems of protecting such a site were encountered. This had the added benefit of allowing publicity; during the excavation over 2,000 people visited the site on formal site tours and there were two media open days.

A total of 261 graves was found (the number of individuals represented is still to be calculated as a few were multiple burials, some graves were 'empty' and there were also some disarticulated remains). It is thought that this represents roughly 90 per cent or more of the cemetery and it appears that about half the burials are of children or juveniles. Bone preservation was varied as the subsoil was a patchy combination of sand and chalk, which dramatically affected survival even within individual graves. The type and number of grave goods varied from a single iron knife to the wealth of the well-publicised horse burial. The majority of the burials appear to belong to the 6th century but more precise start and end dates have not yet been established. All but one of the graves were aligned E.–W. (one baby was N.–S.) and all but three had their heads at the west end. Cataloguing has just started but a general picture is emerging. The finds include numerous annular and cruciform brooches, over 1,100 beads, seventy-six spears, slightly fewer shields, and iron knives in virtually every burial. Of the rarer burial forms, the most notable was that of a man with a sword in a coffin, with his horse (with its harness still on its head) and a sheep in the same grave pit, all within a sub-square surrounding ditch. Two other males were also buried with swords. There were also at least three cases of small children buried with spears and one woman buried in her beads and brooches but also with a spear and dagger. One male was buried with a quiver of five

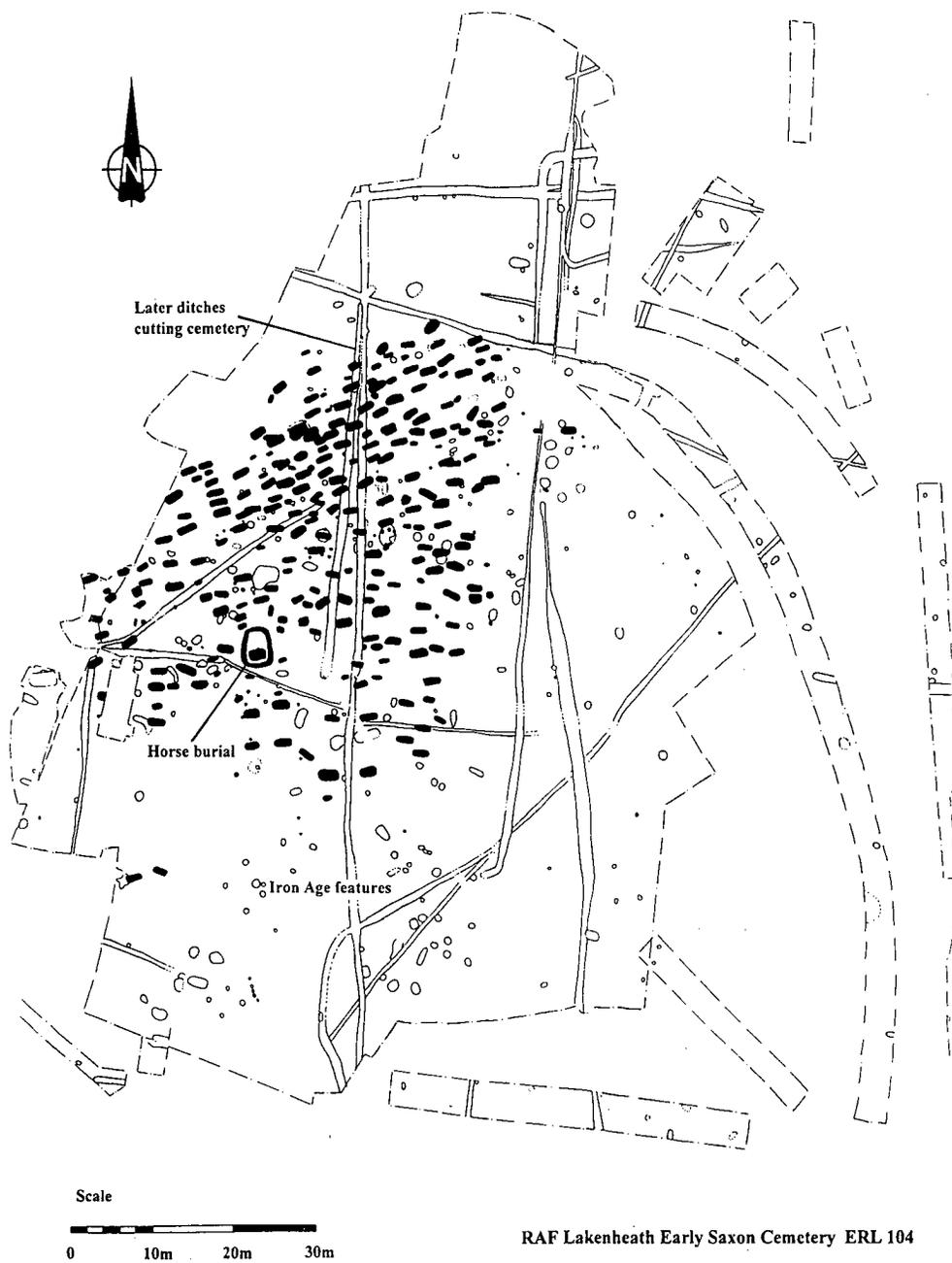


FIG. 58 – Eriswell, RAF Lakenheath: plan of the Early Saxon cemetery. Saxon graves are indicated by solid black shapes.

arrows; although no organic material survived, the quiver was indicated by three of the iron arrowheads being found *in situ*, point down, in a group beside his thigh. Early indications suggest that there will be some good textile and organic preservation on the metalwork. A number of burials show evidence of coffins, mostly indicated by rectangular stains. A small number of discrete cremations, mostly unurned, were also found within the cemetery and a few of the burials had cremated remains in the top of the grave fills.

The north, east and south edges of the cemetery were found and at the end of the excavation it was felt that the west edge was close. The shape of the cemetery was an E.-W. aligned irregular oval and seemed to be roughly bounded by natural chalk on the east, south and part of the west edges although there were some burials cut into this chalk, particularly on the south side where it was patchy. The north edge finished suddenly still in sand; initial speculation is that these may be the latest burials before the cemetery was abandoned. The main density of burials were cut into an oval of grey sand up to 25cm deep, probably an ancient topsoil. The survival of this soil in the centre despite the modern levelling of the site indicates the presence of a natural sand-filled hollow bounded on three sides by a chalk ridge. Interestingly, initial impressions seem to show that the higher status burials tended to be cut into the chalk, possibly to make these more prominent.

Excavation of the areas around the cemetery revealed a network of undated small ditches and a concentration of Iron Age features in a small area to the south. On the whole the undated ditches in the surrounding areas did not cross the cemetery area, perhaps suggesting a contemporary field system on the slightly higher ground around. One pair of ditches cut the graves but there was insufficient material to suggest at what date. Interestingly it was clear that when, in antiquity, the ditch diggers encountered and recognised a grave they took the opportunity to enlarge their excavation and rob it.

The archaeologists received an enormous amount of help during the excavations. M.O.D. representatives were quick to see the importance of the archaeology and made great efforts to ensure that things progressed smoothly and to offer all possible assistance. The Americans were very interested and provided some wonderful bonuses, e.g. the use of the fire service extending ladder, security fencing, support from the History Office and Environmental Services and the support and advice of the Public Affairs Office who were much more experienced at dealing with the avalanche of media interest than the excavators! There was also a continuous supply of interested volunteers some of whom worked on the site for weeks and all of whom made a valuable contribution to the work. (Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for the Ministry of Defence).

Euston, Pipeline (TL/9080; EUN026): Monitoring of pipe-laying between Euston and Brettenham (Norfolk) resulted in the discovery of two areas of Roman occupation between the Rushford road and the Little Ouse. The first was on the edge of the flood-plain where three inter-related linear ditches were found under a substantial deposit of what appeared to be wind-blown and rabbit-disturbed sand. These ditches lay at variance to the natural topography, suggesting that they were part of a field system that had been imposed on the natural landscape.

The second area was 100m from the edge of the flood-plain and consisted of an interrupted ditch and a slight hollow with charcoal and Roman pottery. Two interpretations are possible: the finds may indicate the site of a round-house which has left no 'footprint' in the sand, or they may simply be the remains of a midden. Whatever is the case, the finds indicate settlement in the close vicinity.

The finds from both sites included 4th-century pottery and coins; however a single coin of Domitian suggests an earlier presence. The adjoining fields were examined for surface finds, and a pottery scatter was found to extend for at least 200m along the edge of the flood-plain, mainly to the east of the excavations.

A burnt flint mound was discovered beneath the peat alongside the Little Ouse during monitoring. Both burnt and worked flints were widespread in the adjoining fields and in the trenches. This suggests that significant prehistoric deposits are preserved beneath the valley peat.

(Andrew Tester, S.C.C.A.S. for the Cambridge Water Company. Report no. 98/10).

Exning, former Newmarket Isolation Hospital, Fordham Road (TL/6366; EXG074): An excavation was carried out in the grounds of the former hospital prior to new construction on the site. This revealed a series of ditches running either down or across an east-facing slope. One ditch which ran down the slope appeared to have been recut at least four or five times and probably represented a long-lived property boundary. Pottery recovered from the ditches dates from the Late Iron Age through to the 4th century A.D. No actual structures were identified, but Roman building materials (roof tile, etc.) were recovered from some of the ditches. These ditches may be associated with a complex of ditches and a possible building recorded on aerial photographs in the adjacent field to the north.

(Mark Sommers, S.C.C.A.S. for Design and Build Ltd).

Exning, Burwell–Exning Pipeline (TL/6264; EXN075): The monitoring of topsoil-removal work revealed evidence of a previously unknown prehistoric site at Exning. This consisted of a scattering of post-holes with charcoal, burnt flint, pottery and animal bone, indicative of domestic settlement. There were at least two periods of occupation, represented by a dark occupation layer towards the base of the section and a later post-hole which was cut through it. The finds include patinated flints of likely Mesolithic date, as well as flints and pottery of Neolithic or Iron Age date, indicating a lengthy occupation.

(Andrew Tester, S.C.C.A.S. for Anglian Water Services Ltd. Report no. 97/58).

Flempton, The Greyhound (TL/8169; FMP020): Evaluation trenches alongside the Greyhound Inn revealed a wide N.–S. ditch and a buried topsoil. A documentary search showed that a road ran along the eastern side of the site until c. 1830 and that the ditch parallel to the road was probably the original eastern edge of the medieval green. The ditch fill and absence of finds suggest that this was backfilled before the road went out of use.

A small group of finds was recovered from unstratified contexts and consisted of a flint scraper, a patinated struck flake and three large, unabraded sherds of hand-made Early Saxon pottery including a fine burnished rim.

(David Gill, S.C.C.A.S. for Baker Construction).

Flixton, Flixton Park Quarry (TM/3086; FLN053): A continued programme of monitoring of soil-stripping associated with an extension to the quarry, revealed a number of widely-dispersed features (predominantly post-holes and small pits). Artefactual evidence proved that the low concentration of prehistoric (Neolithic or Late Bronze Age) features previously recorded nearby (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1996', site FLN013) continued into this area. In addition, a cluster of features was identified towards the southern end of the stripped area. Two of these features, both pits, produced a significant quantity of ceramic evidence which suggested mid 1st-century, Roman, occupation in the vicinity.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for RMC Atlas Aggregates Ltd. Report no. 97/46).

Fornham All Saints, Fornham Golf Club (TL/8467; FAS 022): A small archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a site just to the east of the south end of the Fornham Neolithic cursus (FAS 004) and 400m west of the River Lark. A single N.–S. aligned Bronze Age ditch was found, with the possibility of the remains of a sand bank on the west side. These could be interpreted as a single ancient earthwork related to the cursus. Only a very low level of finds was identified

suggesting that this was not an area of high intensity occupation. (Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for Messenger Leisure Ltd).

Fornham St Genevieve, Ingham Quarry (TL/8468; FSG013): Excavation work in advance of an extension to a quarry revealed Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation. The features were mainly small groups of pits and dispersed human cremations; one Bronze Age pit was lined with large sherds of pottery and there was a group of large sand-filled pits at the north end of the site. A single butt-ended Roman ditch was also found. Post-excavation work is still continuing and it is hoped that scientific analysis of the soil samples will yield information about the natural environment during these periods and that thermoluminescence and radiocarbon analyses will help clarify the dating. (Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for Tarmac).

Hadleigh, 44–50 High Street (TM/0242; HAD054). An evaluation was carried out to the rear of the standing buildings. The buildings are timber-framed and pre-date the earliest cartographic evidence available, which shows that until relatively recently the yards behind the High Street frontage backed on to open fields and meadows. However the earliest map showing more than buildings on the main street is the tithe map of 1839, which shows a range of buildings along the north side of the yard, in the area trenched during the evaluation. This range is still shown on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map, but seems to be absent on the 1957 edition (but this is by no means clear as the scale of the map makes the area very congested). Trial-trenching revealed the footings of these buildings, one of which was cellared. A considerable depth of overburden, c.1.4m, was encountered above the natural sandy gravel subsoil. Only two other features were identified: a ditch that probably marked the rear of the medieval tenement plots (later extended) and a pit of post-medieval date. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the upcast spoil. (Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for East Anglian Renovations. Report no. 97/38).

Haverhill, Crowland Road (TL/6645; HVH005): Excavations confirmed the presence of part of a substantial medieval churchyard associated with the earliest parish church of Haverhill (originally dedicated to St Mary). The excavation removed all graveyard deposits within the footprints of two new buildings. Additional inhumations were excavated in advance of sinking a deep soakaway outside the building footprints. The church lay outside the area of excavation, but was almost certainly of Norman or earlier date, becoming redundant in the 16th century (*Calendar of Patent Rolls* 1551), and demolished shortly afterwards. The redundancy was caused by the growth of the market place chapel which developed into the present parish church of St Mary. The site is known locally as 'St Botolph's' or 'Button Church Yard', likely a corruption of its earlier description as *Bovetownechurch*. The church had been excavated by Boreham in 1855, though the exact location was unrecorded. A small excavation was undertaken by the H.D.A.G. in 1975, followed by an evaluation by S.C.C.A.S. in 1991. During the 1997 excavation, c.355 human burials were excavated from the two areas (c.475 sq m), with evidence of 'pillow stones', coffins and metalwork. Four successive boundary ditches (aligned E.-W.) were identified. No grave markers or churchyard structures were revealed. The cemetery continued beyond the limits of excavation on all sides except to the north east.

Phase I: A few residual prehistoric struck flints and tools (including a fine leaf-shaped arrowhead) were retrieved from the grave fills. A pit in the eastern part of the site possibly also dated to the prehistoric period.

Phase II: Small quantities of residual Iron Age flint-tempered pottery and Roman grey wares were retrieved from the grave fills.

Phase III: A large number of graves contained 'pillow stones', and may date from the late

Saxon or early medieval periods. A ditch, aligned N.-S., in the eastern part of the site, was sealed by all the cemetery deposits within Area 2. It probably also dates to this phase and represents the early east boundary of the churchyard. Finds from the ditch suggest an 11th-century date for the backfilling. The Late Saxon pottery includes mainly St Neots Ware, but also Thetford-type and Stamford Wares. Early medieval pottery comprises hard sandy handmade wares, and a very coarse chalky ware with other coarse inclusions (shell, flint and quartz).

Phase IV: The majority of burials were medieval, probably continuing until the church went out of use in the mid 16th century. Two double burials were excavated, and iron bracelets and a copper-alloy buckle were found in association with three burials. Four parallel ditches, aligned E.-W., indicate the northward migration of the churchyard boundary, with finds from their fills broadly dating from the 12th-14th centuries. Pottery styles included Hedingham coarse and fine ware (predominantly the latter).

Phase V: The churchyard deposits were sealed by up to 0.75m of post-medieval and modern overburden, consisting of levelling deposits and dumped refuse.
(Jon Murray, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust for Suffolk Housing Association. HAT 245).

Haverhill, Burton End and Puddlebrook (TL/6545; HVH035-037): Evaluation of an area proposed for development identified four separate areas of interest: an area of Iron Age occupation (HVH036); two areas of medieval occupation (HVH035) which appear to be associated with some form of industrial activity involving horse remains; and a fourth area which contained a cobbled surface probably associated with an 18th-century cottage site (HVH037) previously located from documentary evidence; some Roman features were also located.

(Mark Sommers, S.C.C.A.S. for J.S. Bloor (Services) Ltd. Report no. 97/73).

Ipswich, Handford Road (TM/1544; IPS280/IAS9609): An evaluation was carried out of the c. 1ha former Firmin site, situated in an area of previous Roman finds. Two trial-trenches were excavated within the footprints of proposed buildings and test-pits were also dug in the S.W. corner of the site. The results indicated that the archaeological deposits were remarkably well-preserved, with little damage having been caused by the recent semi-industrial activity on the site. The overburden varied from as little as 0.4m up to 0.96m. The lowermost 0.2m of this produced the majority of the unstratified finds and was thought to represent a preserved Roman topsoil/occupation layer which had only been subjected to limited later re-working.

The evidence indicates activity on the site through the whole Roman period. The majority of the ditches, pits and post-holes contained finds of early Roman date, but the bulk of the later Roman material (including eleven coins) came from the preserved topsoil/occupation layer. Although no Roman buildings were identified (the post-holes were all shallow and produced some medieval and post-medieval artefacts), the finds included roof-tile and hypocaust-tile, suggesting substantial buildings in the vicinity. In addition, the pottery included high-quality imported fine-wares, which suggest a site of relatively high status.

The small quantities of later material (Saxon, medieval and post-medieval) recovered probably represent no more than manuring scatters or casual losses.
(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Jackson Projects Ltd. Report no. 97/25).

Ipswich, Goddard Road (TM/1347; IPS282): Two rubbish pits and a ditch, all probably dating to the 1st century A.D., were found on a development during an archaeological evaluation and in subsequent monitoring of the contractor's ground works. Finds from one of the pits included a badly fragmented Gallo-Belgic beaker.

(Tom Loader, S.C.C.A.S. for Nestron Ltd. Report no. 97/59).

Ipswich, Lovetofts Drive (TM/1346; IPS283): The evaluation of a 7.7ha site to the west of Lovetofts Drive revealed a linear ditch and a penannular ditch, both containing Iron Age pottery. While the penannular ditch is reminiscent of an Iron Age round-house, some 11m in diameter, pottery sherds recovered from within the incomplete circle were from a single pot of probable Bronze Age date and therefore must cast some doubt on this interpretation. (Tom Loader and Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for Ipswich Borough Council. Report no. 97/57).

Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe, Ixworth Pipeline (TL/9271; IXW043-044, and TL/9172; IXT031): Monitoring work resulted in small-scale excavations at three sites along the route. Both of the Ixworth sites were along the western edge of the former Easter Green and had previously been identified as medieval pottery scatters by Edward Savery (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1993'). At the most northerly of the two (IXW043) there was a possible Early Medieval building. Ditches found at the southern site (IXW044) may represent a single boundary which was continually replaced, resulting in encroachment to one side or the other of the original, but the presence of two very similar ditches approximately 8m apart suggests the possibility that these may have delineated a strip field or possibly a small tenement in the medieval period. An isolated Iron Age pit was also found in this part of the trench.

The Ixworth Thorpe site (IXT031) was close to the Norman church. This suggests that the area was close to the focus of the original settlement (Savery identified a Saxo-Norman pottery scatter on the other side of the road) but there was little evidence for medieval activity in the excavated area. The site was under woodland by the 18th century, which could account for the disturbed nature of the features. The remaining medieval features, although ephemeral, could be related to settlement in the area. The most interesting feature at this site, however, is a Roman ditch which runs at right angles to the present road line and which could be evidence for the existence of a road or track on the same alignment in the 1st century A.D. (Sue Anderson, S.C.C.A.S. for Anglian Water Services Ltd. Report no. 97/35).

Kedington, former Risbridge Home (TL/7046; KDG019): An evaluation previously carried out (see 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1993') identified an area of intact archaeology to the south of the standing building and, as a consequence, a follow-up excavation was carried out prior to the development of the site. It soon became clear that the eastern end of the site had been partially truncated as part of the landscaping associated with the workhouse gardens. However, some archaeology had survived, principally ditches belonging to the first half of the 1st century A.D. One of the ditches produced an unusually large quantity of pottery (whole vessels represented) while another, the largest, butt-ended within the excavation area and was tentatively interpreted as an enclosure ditch which had its associated bank on the north side. Metal-detector finds included brooches, coins and a large number of iron nails and rivets, the last mainly recovered from the fill of the enclosure ditch. (Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Jaygate PLC).

Kesgrave, off Wright's Lane (TM/2245; KSG015): An evaluation was carried out on 0.9ha of land off Wright's Lane. A documentary survey suggested that the area was heath or open grazing land in historic times, with enclosure and conversion to arable in the 17th or 18th century. Two phases of activity were identified in the trial-trenching: the most recent related to the previous use of the site as a builder's yard, while the earlier phase was represented by a number of shallow ditches. The fill of these ditches appeared continuous with a sand layer found immediately below the topsoil, which was interpreted as an earlier heathland soil. The dating of these earlier features was problematic: the leached fills and the complete lack of artefacts suggested that they might be prehistoric, but their configuration suggested long thin strips of land orientated north to south, an arrangement more in keeping with medieval

agricultural practices. The orientation of these strips differs markedly from that of the existing land plots, which can be related directly to the enclosure field boundaries of 17th- or 18th-century date.

The only find recovered in the whole evaluation was a single sherd of 12th- to 14th-century pottery.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Alfred McAlpine Homes East Ltd. Report no. 97/18).

Lackford, Lackford Quarry (TL/7970; LKD038): An evaluation was carried out on a c.4ha site adjacent to the quarry, south of the River Lark. The site lies within 1km of West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, but on the opposite side of the river. An Early Saxon sunken-featured building and a series of three ditches were found, together with a pit which contained Neolithic Grooved Ware. The features were all situated within a small area on the edge of the river's flood plain.

The Saxon building comprised a shallow, rectangular, flat-bottomed pit, measuring 3m x 2m, with a posthole on the pit edge at the mid-point of each of the long sides. The fill of the pit contained Early Saxon pottery. The building was sited just above the slope on the edge of the floodplain of the river. The three parallel ditches along the north edge of the site were in the lowest part of the site and may have acted as flood protection.

Unstratified flint flakes, burnt flint and a small fragment of flint-gritted Iron Age pottery were recovered from the rest of the site.

(David Gill, S.C.C.A.S. for R.M.C. Atlas Aggregates Ltd).

Lakenheath, RAF Lakenheath, Flightline Access Road (TL/7380; LKH200): Archaeological monitoring of the construction of a new road revealed a light scatter of features, pits and ditches, one of which can be dated to the Bronze Age. Although this cannot be claimed to represent settlement occupation, it indicates prehistoric activity in the immediate area and may suggest the presence of settlement nearby.

(Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for The Ministry of Defence).

Levington, Home Farm (TM/2340; LVT036): An evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a farm reservoir. Trial-trenches produced dating evidence for some elements of a known cropmark complex (LVT030). Medieval pottery (12th–15th centuries) was recovered from a series of ditches towards the S.W. corner of the site, suggesting occupation of that date in the immediate vicinity. In addition, part of a copper-alloy rowel-spur of 13th-century date was located by metal-detector in the upcast spoil from one of the trenches.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Orwell Settlement Trustees. Report no. 97/75).

Long Melford, formerly Gardener's Garage, Little St Mary's (TL/8645; LMD115): An archaeological evaluation in January 1997 positively identified two Roman burials and, possibly, the edge of a third. One of these, initially encountered by the developer in a test-pit, was interred in a stone coffin.

A follow-up excavation was carried out in February to clear all the burials from the area of the building. This revealed only seven burials: six adults and one new-born child, widely spaced and all with their heads to the west (Fig. 59). Preliminary examination of the finds suggests a 4th-century date, as three coins of A.D. 330–35 were recovered from the fill of one grave (? thrown in as an offering). A further indication of a relatively late date in the Roman period was provided by the nature of the burial in the stone coffin (Fig. 60): the adult male had been encased in a plaster-like material, a practice which was usually, but not exclusively, used by Roman Christians. The west-east orientation of the graves also suggests a Christian influence. The possible coin offering in one grave may, however, indicate that other traditions were still respected. The coffin was cut from a single block of shelly oolitic limestone, the

nearest likely source being Barnack near Peterborough, from whence it must have been transported by road and, where possible, by water.

A considerable amount of evidence of Roman activity on the site in the 1st–3rd centuries was also recorded : 79kg of pottery, 69kg of tile and brick, 40kg of animal bone, 22kg of oyster shell and numerous brooches and coins. Analysis so far suggests that activity started in the middle of the 1st century and may, in some form, have been continuous throughout the Roman period. Although no buildings were identified, the large amounts of domestic rubbish recovered from the pits and ditches must indicate that there were houses close by. Furthermore, the presence of painted wall plaster, roof-tile and significant amounts of fine-ware pottery suggests that the occupants were of high status.

The use of a previously occupied site for burial suggests a shrinkage in the size of the settlement, as Roman law did not allow burial within urban areas and this would probably also apply to a small town such as Roman Long Melford.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Tony Heighes, Acorn Properties).

Mildenhall, RAF Mildenhall, parking lots (TL/6877; MNL491): An area of 5,100sq m was opened up prior to the building of a carpark. The site was situated on the fen edge close to a Roman settlement (MNL479 – see ‘Archaeology in Suffolk 1995’). The limited depth of disturbance of the development meant that only the highest parts of the site were under threat and excavation was confined to two sand ridges above the peat. Two groups of burials, five graves in all, and a series of large pits were found. Two of the burials were Roman, one adult and one child aged about eight years. Nails found in position within the grave showed that the child was buried in a coffin. The other three burials occurred close together on the other ridge. These were all adults buried in a crouched position and are probably Bronze Age; samples for radiocarbon dating were taken to confirm this date and the results are awaited. A mixed collection of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon pottery was found.

(David Gill, S.C.C.A.S. for the Ministry of Defence).

Mildenhall, RAF Mildenhall, new dormitories (TL/7077; MNL492): Archaeological evaluation of this site revealed the presence of natural peat-filled hollows similar to those found nearby on the ‘30 Acre Field’ (MNL490). There were no finds from any of the trenches and the only feature was a single undated gully. Trenching was impeded by the presence of buildings, concrete paths and cable runs. Archaeological monitoring of the development following the results of the evaluation revealed that the subsoil and the layers immediately above it survived largely intact under the buildings and a second archaeological feature was identified at the north end of the site. Although the archaeology identified was limited it was informative to record the peat hollows and to build up a picture of the ancient landscape here.

(Joanna Caruth, S.C.C.A.S. for the Ministry of Defence).

Newmarket, Palace House Mansion (TL/6463; NKT005): As part of the restoration of the surviving portion of Charles II’s palace in Newmarket (built c.1670) the former front garden of Palace House Mansion (a Victorian house incorporating one suite of royal apartments) was to be lowered to provide garden features and access to the restored building. Excavations carried out prior to any work revealed the existence of at least two phases of brick-built drainage culverts associated with the palace. Various chalk and cobbled surfaces were identified but all were cut by the culverts and therefore predated the palace; evidence from early maps suggests that it is likely that this area was a surfaced yard during the palace phase, but no traces were seen. A small structure, probably an oven and dated to the late 17th century, was also revealed, although extensively damaged by one of the culverts and the substantial foundations of a Victorian staircase. There was no evidence of any medieval structures on the site.

(Mark Sommers, S.C.C.A.S. for Forest Heath District Council).

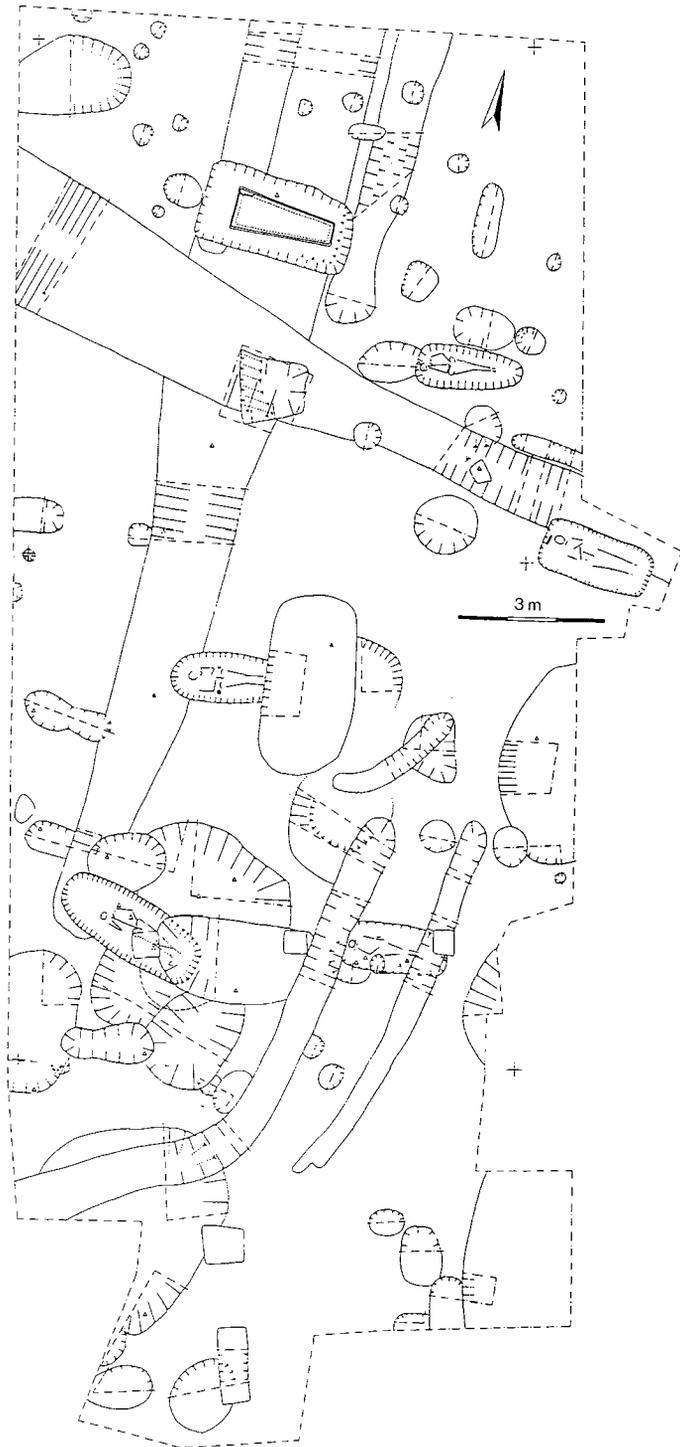


FIG. 59 – Long Melford: plan of the Roman cemetery. The stone coffin is at the north end.

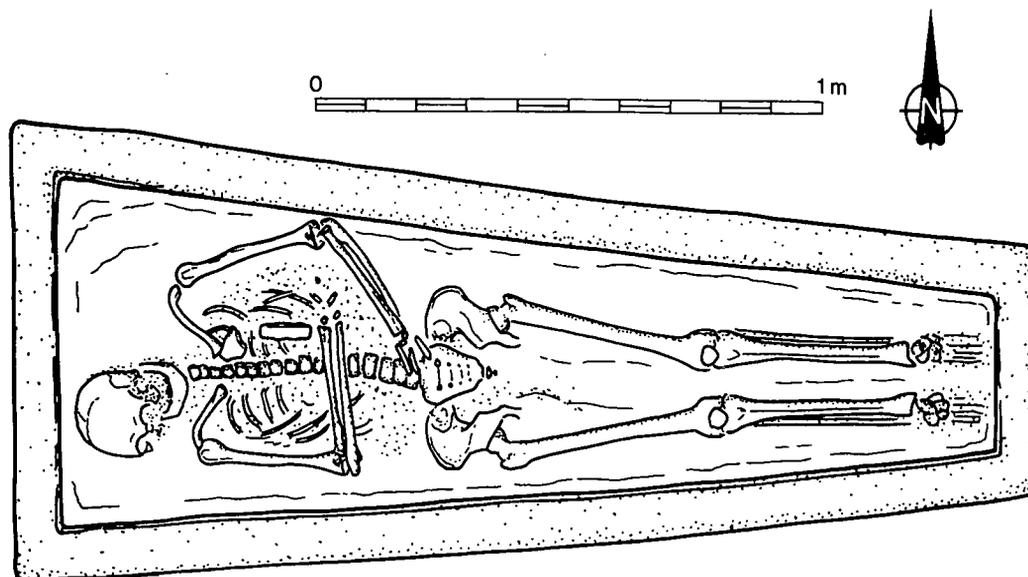


FIG. 60 – Long Melford: Roman stone coffin containing an adult male skeleton.

Stanningfield, Coldham Hall (TL/8655; SNN007): A programme of archaeological investigations failed to identify any archaeological deposits or artefacts earlier than the Hall itself. Consequently, the most likely interpretation of the ditched and banked enclosure to the rear of the Hall is that it represents the remains of a formal garden of late-17th- or early-18th-century date. The presence of a walkway on top of the bank, for viewing the garden, was not positively proven, although a metallised surface identified in a trench close to the Hall may have continued on towards the southern arm of the bank. In addition, the existence of a summer house or other structure on a projection of the south-east corner of the bank could not be substantiated.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Jens Pilo. Report no. 97/54).

Stratford St Mary, Stratford St Mary to East Bergholt Pipeline (TM/0634; SSM001): Work on the water main between Stratford St Mary and Lattinford Bridge gave an opportunity to investigate a known and extensive cropmark site (SSM001). The majority of the features identified were concentrated in a 25m length of the pipeline trench cut through a gravel 'island' at the highest point of the field. Although no direct evidence of any settlement was identified within the trench, the relatively large number of Iron Age pottery sherds recovered suggest that there was one in the immediate vicinity. Roman pottery sherds and a late-1st/2nd-century button-and-loop fastener (of a type often associated with military sites) indicate that activity continued into that period. Little appears to have happened between the Roman and the medieval periods, but there are at least three phases of activity dating from between the 11th and the 14th centuries, represented by ditches which have been interpreted as field boundaries.

(Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for Tendring Hundred Water Services Ltd. Report no. 97/48).

Sudbury, Stour Street (TL/8741; SUY046): Monitoring visits made during the excavation of a new swimming pool revealed a Late Saxon pit and a sequence of later features of late-medieval and post-medieval date.

(Tom Loader, S.C.C.A.S. for Mr P. Hoyes).

Sudbury, Stour Street (TL/8741; SUY047): Monitoring of strip foundations for a new extension revealed pits of Early Saxon, late medieval and post-medieval date. (Tom Loader, S.C.C.A.S. for Dr B. Hayhow).

Trimley St Martin, Water Mains Diversion, Levington Link Road (TM/2539; TYN029): To lay this new water main a 10m-wide strip of topsoil had to be removed along its length. As the route impinged on a known cropmark (a presumed Early Bronze Age ring-ditch) a small-scale excavation was carried out to record the feature prior to the insertion of the pipe.

Most of the northern half of the ring-ditch was revealed within the stripped area (Fig. 61). This was 1.5m deep and 3.2m wide, with an external diameter of *c.*30m. No burial was identified, but this was not altogether surprising as the central area lay under the spoil along the side of the trench. Artefactual evidence was limited to five pottery sherds of probable Iron Age date, five sherds of Early Bronze Age date and two flint scrapers, also of Early Bronze Age date, and a number of undiagnostic struck flints. With the exception of the ?Iron Age sherds, all the finds were directly associated with the ring-ditch. Other features recorded included a pit (cut by the ring-ditch) and a line of post-holes which had no discernible stratigraphic relationship with the ring-ditch and produced no dateable artefacts. However charcoal from one of the post-holes produced a radiocarbon date of 2500 ± 60 BP Wk-5764 (cal.BC 790-520

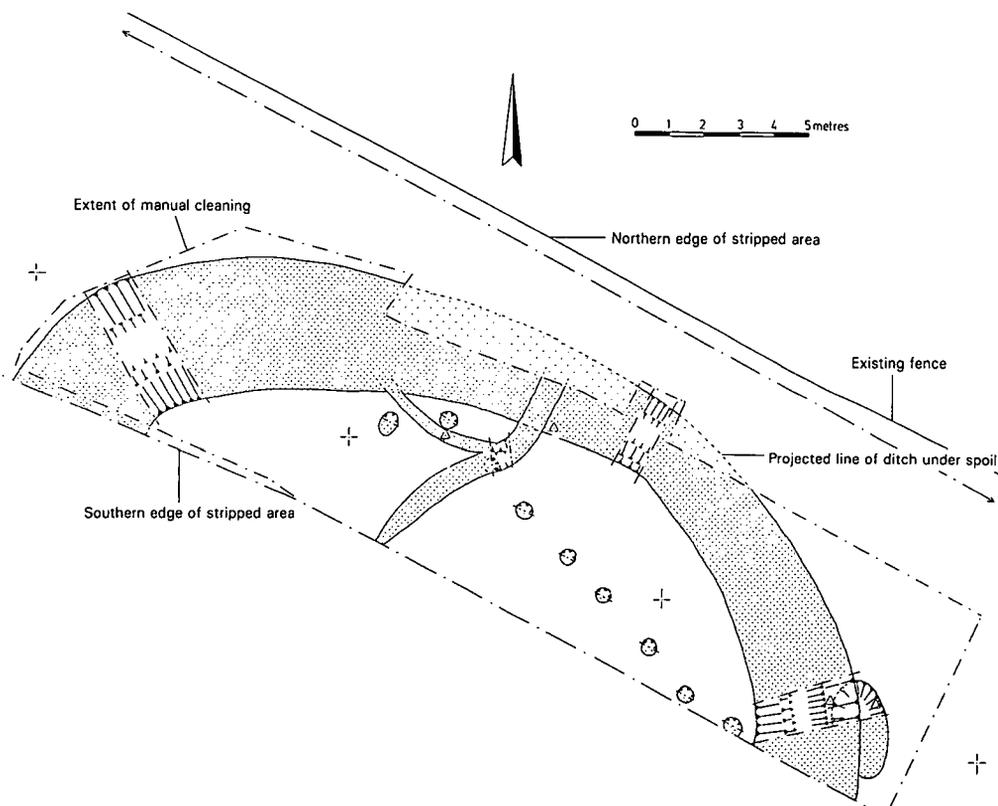


FIG. 61 – Trimley St Martin: plan of the prehistoric ring-ditch and post-holes.

at 1σ, cal. BC 800-400 at 2σ), which seems to indicate a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date for the post-holes. While this was not considered to be an ideal sample for dating, due to the possibility that the charcoal was intrusive, no other dating evidence was available. If this is the true date of the post-holes, it implies that the Early Bronze Age barrow mound within the ring-ditch had been flattened by the end of the Bronze Age. This conclusion is strengthened by the presence of Iron Age pottery in the upper fill of the ditch.
(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Anglian Water Services Ltd. (Report no. 98/4).

Tuddenham, 2 The Green (TL/7371; TDD Misc): A watching brief was carried out during building work at the junction between the High Street and the Green. Evidence was seen for a possible hard clay surface below a layer of sandy loam, above which a layer of solid crushed chalk may have been part of another floor or wall. The title map of 1839 shows a number of buildings on the plot. Pottery from above the clay layer included a 13th–14th-century jug handle and a small piece of a glazed jug of high to late medieval date. This suggests the possibility of a well-sealed medieval building.
(Andrew Tester, S.C.C.A.S.).

Great Wenham, Tudor Cottage (TM/0737; WMM006): Monitoring of footing trenches for a new bungalow and garage on the site of a recently demolished timber-framed house revealed ditches and pits cut into the natural subsoil. The features identified were almost certainly of medieval date (11th–12th century), with the ditches representing tenement or field boundaries and the pits representing domestic occupation in the near vicinity. It is not surprising to find features of this period on this site, given its proximity to the medieval church, which is likely to have been at the centre of the early settlement. These boundaries had become redundant prior to the construction of Tudor Cottage, as they underlie the demolished building. The presence of residual, though relatively fresh-looking, Late Iron Age and Roman material in the features indicates that there had been much earlier settlement in this area; tile fragments possibly indicating a high-status building. A Roman burial (WMM002) has previously been recorded in this area.
(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Passport (UK) Ltd. Report no. 97/77).

West Stow, Beeches Pit (TL/7971; WSW009): Excavations on this Lower Palaeolithic site have continued.
(J.A.J. Gowlett, Department of Archaeology, University of Liverpool).

Woodbridge, 34 The Thoroughfare (TM/2749; WBG025): Pottery sherds recovered from a watching brief on redevelopment work indicated that urban expansion along this main street was underway by the 14th century, even though the site is some 300m from the probable centre of the medieval town around St Mary's Church.
(John Newman, S.C.C.A.S.).

Little Wrating, Boyton Hall Tower to Great Wrating Pipeline (TL/6847; WTL005): Monitoring work revealed evidence of medieval occupation c.500m S.W. of Little Wrating. Limited archaeological investigation indicated maximum activity between the 11th and the 14th centuries, when spreads of material, probably representing yard-surfaces associated with domestic or agricultural buildings, were deposited. A number of heat-affected pits, interpreted as hearths, seem to indicate that some kind of small-scale industrial activity was also taking place, before the area was put to agricultural use. The most recent activity was represented by a number of spreads containing modern material, in the immediate vicinity of a building shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1891.

In addition, the remains of a complete 1st-century A.D. pottery jar of 'Belgic' type was

located close to the western limits of Little Wratting village. The base was set upright on the subsoil surface, but the top part had been ploughed off and deposited in fragments. Although no cremated bones were recovered, the circumstances possibly suggest a burial. (Catherine Abbott, S.C.C.A.S. for Anglian Water. Report no. 97/24).

CHURCH RECORDING

Great Ashfield, All Saints' Church (TL/9967; ASG009): An evaluation and subsequent monitoring were carried out as a result of a proposal to provide a kitchen and toilet in the base of the tower. The evaluation involved the excavation of a 0.4m square in the centre of the tower floor, the depth not exceeding the contractor's formation level. The removal of the floor bricks and associated bedding layers revealed heat-altered sand which was found to vary in thickness and to be continuous with a layer of fine brown sand which continued below the contractor's formation level. As a consequence, the contractors were asked to lower the floor in stages, halting at the upper surface of the sand so that further investigations could be carried out.

The heat-altered sand was found to be limited to the centre of the tower floor. The evidence suggested that it was caused by a single phase of activity and only a moderate degree of heat (the layer being relatively thin). There does not appear to be any obvious cause; it may pre-date the tower or represent some form of heating (? a brazier) for the tower and adjacent nave. A similar feature was identified in the centre of the tower floor of Onehouse church (Boulter 1996).

The removal of the floor did, however, reveal another feature of archaeological interest. In addition to the base of the west tower wall (which could be seen to continue below the door threshold), an area of consolidated flint, clay and mortar was seen towards the N.E. corner of the excavated area. It was not possible to uncover the full extent of this feature because of the depth limitations, but the general footing-like character of the deposit was deduced from a small test-hole, while its irregular shape was ascertained by probing with a steel rod. It is difficult to interpret but may belong to an earlier (pre-14th-century) phase of the church's nave or tower.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Great Ashfield Parochial Church Council. Report no. 97/29).

Boxford, St Mary's Church (TL/9640; BXF008): A major programme of consolidation works to the church's 14th-century west tower provided an opportunity to record details of the exterior wall fabric. In the limited time available, a measured drawing was produced of the frieze over the west doorway and a monochrome photographic record was made of the fabric. In addition, observations were made and recorded on copies of the architect's plans.

The frieze flanked the bottom 1.8m of the Perpendicular window above the door and consisted of a canopied niche (with integral image stool) on each side, with two accompanying flushwork panels to the north and south. Three building materials – knapped flint, a fine-grained shelly limestone and clunch – had been used in its construction and it was the severe deterioration of the last of these that made it necessary to carry out this recording.

At the base of the frieze, a moulded drip-course ran the full length of the wall and joined a similar course running at an angle down the side of the tower's angle buttress. The basal concave element was decorated with three different forms of carved stud: a lion's head and two roses appear on the masonry blocks adjacent to the diagonal buttresses, while the remaining nine bear fleurons. These studs were positioned equidistant from one another, with the exception of the third to fifth studs from the southern end, which were closer together and possibly represented an error by the medieval masons.

The flushwork panels were faced with black flint that had been knapped into various sizes of regular squares and rectangles. The panels were 1.2m high and 0.4m wide, with a three-lobed shape at the top, and were separated from each other by 0.1m wide clunch strips. The small three-lobed flushwork panels at the tops were particularly badly eroded and only one was intact. The northernmost and southernmost panels had filled-in putlock holes at their centres, which were likely to be contemporary with the tower's construction.

Of the two niches, the southernmost was the most severely eroded. The canopy, sides and surmounting panel were all made of clunch and had no surviving original surfaces. The northernmost niche was in better condition, with the interlaced decoration inside the canopy still surviving, together with a small amount of detail at the top of the northern side. The image stools were the best-preserved elements, both being carved from fine-grained shelly limestone. The decoration included a foiled pedestal flanked by small pilaster-like features which would have continued up the sides of the niches into the clunch blocks.

The only other features of note were the two grotesque masks at the top north and south corners of the frieze, both of which were carved from better-preserved fine-grained shelly limestone. No attempt was made to draw the detail of these features.

The tower appeared to be of one build up to a point about 3m from the top of the parapet. From this point, marked by a distinct irregularity in the flint-and-mortar fabric, the tower had been rebuilt, although the Barnack-limestone masonry of the parapet and the uppermost drip-course appeared to be original but re-set. Most of the south and west faces had been repointed relatively recently, although original surface treatment survived in a small area on the west face, comparing well with that on the east face. The original surface treatment comprised gritty lime mortar (identical with that of the wall core) with common pebble-sized flint inclusions and ran flush with the face of the limestone quoins. It was clear that the coursed flint cobbles of the wall face were not originally exposed.

The facing towards the bottom of the tower wall exhibited a number of elements which suggested a degree of patching and repair. Putlock holes were recorded, occurring in pairs and usually covered by a roof-tile, although some slabs of limestone and clunch were also used. The putlock holes were recorded at intervals of about 1.2m and generally appeared to coincide with 'lift-lines' in the fabric, which chronicle stages in the construction of the tower. The lift-lines had been partially obscured by the latest phase of re-pointing, but were often visible as discontinuous courses of roof-tile or limestone fragments.

The belfry windows on the west, east and south sides are oolitic-limestone replacements (probably Victorian) and are faithful copies of the original clunch windows. This can be construed from the north belfry window, which, though badly weathered, is an original feature and has formed a model for the tracery decoration of the replacements.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. for Boxford Parochial Church Council. Report no. 97/28).

Campsey Ash, Church of St John the Baptist (TM/3255; CAA009): Recording work was carried out in connection with alterations to the existing underground drainage system.

In the churchyard on the south side of the nave a brick floor was exposed *c.*2m to the east of the existing porch, which appeared to represent the floor of an earlier porch. The fabric of the nave wall, particularly where it adjoined the present porch, exhibited prominent horizontal courses of flint and lift-lines, which are usually considered to be indicative of Norman work (11th/12th century). However, there was also evidence of extensive alterations to this original wall fabric. The earliest of these appears to have involved the heightening of the nave wall (possibly contemporaneous with a shallowing of the pitch of the roof, as indicated by a gable-end scar on the east face of the tower) and the insertion of taller windows (possibly in 1792, from a dated masonry block in the wall fabric). These windows have since been altered again and their original vertical extent survives only as fabric changes on the external face of the wall and cracks in the plaster on the internal face. External window scars were only visible above the

easternmost two of the existing windows, but the internal wall face above the present south doorway revealed that this had also once been the site of a similar tall window. This suggested that the south doorway and porch had been relocated from their original position. The lack of a scar above the window immediately to the east of the existing porch indicated that this was the site of the earlier doorway.

This interpretation was confirmed when the base of the nave wall was examined in the trench which had been dug along its length. A break in the wall fabric could be clearly seen, along with a shaped limestone block representing the eastern jamb of the original doorway. In addition, the bases of two projecting walls, c.0.3m thick, were recorded, which abutted the brick floor and must therefore be the last vestiges of the earlier porch walls. The brick floor suggested that the earlier porch measured 2.25m x 4.5m internally. The building of the new porch must post-date the heightening of the nave wall (?1792) and is most likely to have taken place in the 19th century, when the continuous brick-topped plinth was added to the south nave wall and the present windows were inserted. Further evidence for the earlier porch was also visible in the churchyard, where the line of a path could clearly be seen heading towards its location. The masonry of the existing south doorway does, however, look genuinely 14th-century; therefore it must be the original doorway reset in a new position (as happened at Nacton and other churches).

Despite the extensive alterations in the 18th, 19th and possibly 20th centuries, it appears that more of the early church has survived than is generally thought; indeed, if the identification of Norman wall fabric is correct, the foundation date of the church is earlier than that suggested in the Church Guide. Furthermore, the 14th-century door must represent a replacement of an earlier Norman one, an event that was probably contemporaneous with the construction of the tower and may represent a wholesale refurbishment at that time.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S. Report no. 97/79).

Nacton, Church of St Martin (TM/2139; NAC024): Scaffolding erected to facilitate repair work to the crumbling tower provided access for archaeological recording. The repair work included the removal of the rendering and loose wall fabric from a large area of the tower. Archaeological recording confirmed that the tower (with the exception of the brick parapet) represented a single build of late-14th- or 15th-century date.

The walls themselves had been constructed principally from locally-derived septaria mudstone, although flint and other more 'exotic' stone was also represented. The exotic stone was concentrated towards the top of the tower and comprised well-rounded-cobble- to small-boulder-sized pieces. The types of stone present (granites, limestones and metamorphic rock such as gneiss) do not outcrop in East Anglia, and, if locally derived, must be glacial erratics. However, given the location of the church close to a river navigable by sea-going ships, it has been suggested that this stone may have arrived as ships' ballast. The structure of the wall was of better quality towards the bottom, with distinct courses and successive stages of construction clearly visible. The only features (other than those associated with relatively recent repairs) identified were pairs of putlock holes. Examination of original quoins and their relationship to the wall core suggested that the tower had always been rendered, although none of the original render was positively identified.

(Stuart Boulter, S.C.C.A.S.)

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