

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1983

compiled by EDWARD MARTIN, JUDITH PLOUVIEZ and HILARY ROSS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

This is a selection of the new sites and finds discovered during the year. Information on all the sites on this list has been incorporated into the County's Sites and Monuments Record (maintained by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit); the reference to this is the final number in each entry, preceded by the abbreviation S.A.U. Material for this list has also been contributed by Miss E. Owles of Moyses Hall Museum.

Abbreviations:

G.D.C.	Gorleston Detector Club
H.D.A.G.	Haverhill and District Archaeological Group
I.M.	Ipswich Museum
I.M.D.C.	Ipswich Metal Detector Club
M.H.	Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds
N.A.U.	Norfolk Archaeological Unit
S.A.U.	Suffolk Archaeological Unit, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds

Pa	Palaeolithic	AS	Anglo-Saxon
Me	Mesolithic	MS	Middle Saxon
Ne	Neolithic	LS	Late Saxon
BA	Bronze Age	Md	Medieval
IA	Iron Age	PM	Post-medieval
RB	Romano-British	UN	Period unknown

Assington (TL/9538). **BA**. Stone axe-hammer, *Ashbee* type 1. (Mrs M. Gerrold *per* I.M.; S.A.U. ASN 004).

Barnham (TL/8879). **BA**. Beaker pottery from the edge of a gravel pit. (S.E. West; S.A.U. BNH 029).

Barnham (TL/—). **LS**. Bronze disc brooch with scalloped edge. (C. Marshall; M.H. 1983.95; S.A.U. BNH Misc. L.S. 2).

Benacre (TM/5384). **IA**. Iceni coin, 'Face-Horse' type. (G.D.C. *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. BNC 015).

Great Blakenham (TM/1150). **IA**. Bronze coin (? Trinovantian) and circular enamelled bronze object. (D. Cummings; S.A.U. BLG 004).

Blaxhall (TM/—). **Pa**. Flint hand axe from an old gravel pit. (D. Roberts; M.H. 1983. 75; S.A.U. BLX Misc. Pal. 1).

Bredfield (TM/2652). **LS**. Silver gilt pin with an ornamented head, 9/10th century (Fig. 79a). (R. Green; M.H. 1983.19; S.A.U. BFD 004).

Bury St Edmunds (TL/8764). **Ne**. Flaked flint axe. (W.J. Hatcher; M.H. 1983.12; S.A.U. BSE 053).

Campsey Ash (TM/3255). **RB**. Grey ware sherds. (Mrs Row *per* I.M.; S.A.U. CAA 005).

Capel St Mary (TM/0836). **Ne**. Edge polished flint axe. (Mr Butler *per* I.M.; S.A.U. CSM 012).

Carlton Colville (TM/5189). **RB**. Two 4th-century coins and grey ware sherds. (D. Higgins *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. CAC 007).

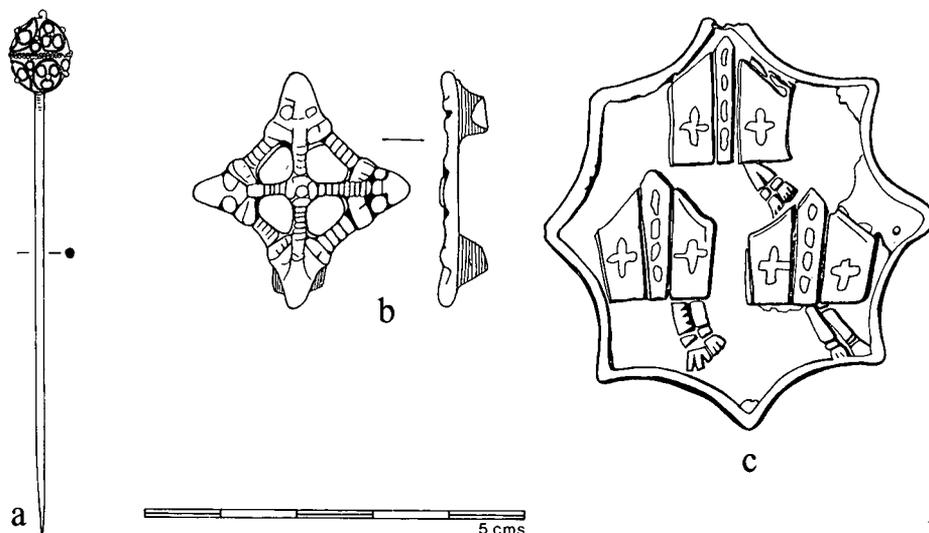


FIG. 79 — Late Saxon silver gilt pin from Bredfield, Viking bronze brooch from Wangford and bronze horse harness mount from Nacton.

Chediston (TM/3279). **Md.** Scatter of 13th – 14th century pottery. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. CHD 042).

Chediston (TM/3278 and 3279). **UN.** Three patches of white heat-crackled flints. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. CHD 043-045).

Chediston (TM/3279). **IA, RB.** Flint-gritted pottery and 2nd – 4th century grey wares, samian ware, roof tiles, coin of Allectus. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. CHD 045).

Coddenham (TM/1354). **Ne.** Polished flint axe. (D. J. Harfitt *per* I.M.; S.A.U. CDD 018).

Culford (TM/8470). **IA.** Scatter of flint-gritted pottery. (M. Taylor; S.A.U. CUL 012).

Dennington (TM/2866). **RB.** Bow brooch and *denarius* of Tiberius. (C. Ware *per* I.M.; S.A.U. DNN 021).

Exning (TL/6265). **AS.** Two inhumation burials, one with an iron spear, shield-boss, knife, stud and small bronze fragments. (Mr & Mrs Lake; S.A.U. EXG 028).

Exning (TL/6163). **IA, AS.** Iceni coin, 'Pattern-Horse' type, and a bronze wrist clasp. (K. Swift; M.H. 1983. 113 B and C; S.A.U. EXG 029).

Great Finborough. (TM/0157). **MS.** Two bronze strap ends with zoomorphic decoration. (Mr Trelford; S.A.U. FNG 007).

Flempton (TL/8169). **LS, Md, PM.** Pottery scatter, including Thetford-type ware. (M. Baker; S.A.U. FMP 009).

Flixton (TM/3086). **UN.** Ring-ditch identified from an aerial photograph. (N.A.U.; S.A.U. FLN 013).

Fornham All Saints (TL/—). **Md.** Silver-gilt plaque with a griffin design, 13th – 14th century. (C. B. Marshall; M. H. 1983. 124 F; S.A.U. FAS Misc. Med. 3).

Framlingham (TM/2861). **Ne.** Small stone axe. (A. W. Stocker *per* I.M.; S.A.U. FML 007).

Freckenham (TL/6774). **BA.** Bronze flat axe. (Fig. 80a). (T. Vale *per* C. Pendleton; S.A.U. FRK 017).

Fressingfield (TM/2675). **UN.** Patch of white heat-crackled flints. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. FSF 022).

Frostenden (TM/4781). **RB**. Two 3rd – 4th century coins and a bronze shield-shaped mount. (G.D.C. *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. FOS 012).

Gisleham (TM/5189). **RB**. Scatter of coins (2nd – 4th century) and pottery. (G.D.C. *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. GSE 012).

Hacheston (TM/—). **RB**. Bronze brooch with polychrome enamel. (C. B. Marshall; M.H. 1983. 124 B; S.A.U. HCH Misc. R.B. 1).

Hasketon (TM/2351). **RB, AS**. Scatter of mid 2nd – 4th century coins and pottery; a few sherds of pagan Saxon pottery and a bronze disc brooch (? made on a Roman coin). (R. Rackham; S.A.U. HSK 009).

Henley (TM/1651). **RB**. Scatter of coins (1st – 4th century), brooches and other bronze objects. (R. Damant; S.A.U. HEN 001).

Hitcham (TL/9954). **Md, PM**. 13th – 15th-century and post-medieval pottery, bricks, peg tiles and lava mill-stone fragments from a moated site at Oak Tree Farm, the site of *Nectons* (a free tenement of the manor of Hitcham), occupied by the Necton family in the 14th and 15th centuries, reoccupied by the Death family in the 17th century. (E. Martin; S.A.U. HTC 005).

Hitcham (TL/9954). **BA**. Bronze socketed axe of Taunton-Hädemarschen type (length 10.6cm, blade 4.4cm wide), a Middle Bronze Age form of axe found in North Germany and Southern Britain, with a slight concentration in Eastern England (three others are known from Suffolk — Icklingham, Mildenhall and Sudbury) and dated to the 12th century B.C. (Fig. 80b). (R. Bull; S.A.U. HTC 014).

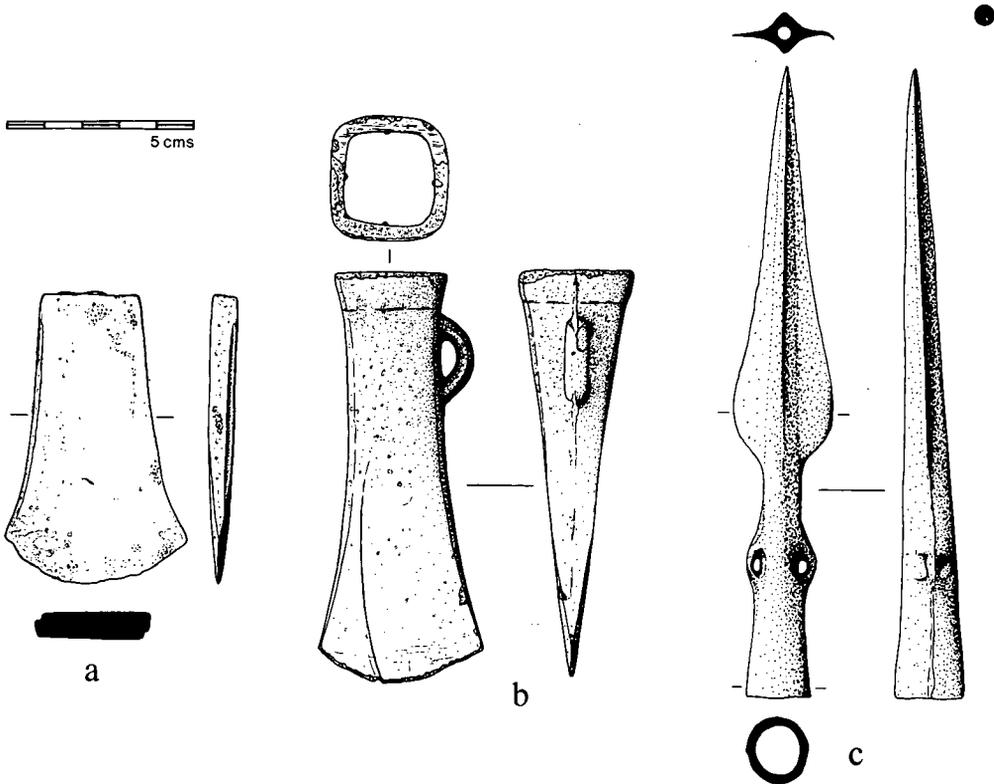


FIG. 80 — Bronze flat axe from Freckenham, socketed axe from Hitcham and spearhead from Mildenhall.

Horringer (TL/86). **BA, AS, Md.** Blade of a bronze socketed axe; a gilt bronze mount with traces of interlace ornament (? 7th century); various bronze items of medieval date. (N.A. Marsh *per* Mrs Simpson and C. B. Marshall; M.H. 1983. 4-7, 23 and 123B; S.A.U. HOR Misc. B.A. 1, Misc. A.S. 1, Misc. Med. 2).

Icklingham (TL/7872). **BA.** Hoard of four bronze socketed axes (1 complete, 3 broken) and 'many other fragments of axes' (now lost) found in the 1950s. (J. Darkin *per* C. Pendleton; S.A.U. IKL 085).

Icklingham (TL/7772). **BA.** Socketed axe fragment. (J. King *per* C. Pendleton; S.A.U. IKL 086).

Ingham (TL/8470). **Ne, IA.** Scatter of worked flints (scrapers, fabricator etc.) and sherds of flint-gritted pottery. (M. Taylor; S.A.U. ING 011).

Kedington (TL/7144). **BA.** Tip of a bronze spearhead. (H.D.A.G.; S.A.U. KDG 011).

Kedington (TL/6945). **Md.** Moated site at Little Wilsey Farm. (H.D.A.G.; S.A.U. KDG 012).

Lakenheath (TL/7281). **RB, AS, Md.** Roman brooches, Saxon dress-fastener and various medieval bronze objects. (J. Flack; M.H. 1983. 109D/1-3; S.A.U. LKH 103).

Lakenheath (TL/7281). **LS.** Bronze disc brooch with interlace ornament, 11th century. (J. Flack; M.H. 1983. 120A; S.A.U. LKH 104).

Lakenheath (TL/7383). **RB.** Pewter plate. (J. Flack; M.H. 1983. 60; S.A.U. LKH 105).

Linstead Parva (TM/3178). **Md.** Scatter of 14th - 16th-century pottery. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. LDP 001).

Lound (TM/5098). **RB.** Scatter of pottery and three 4th-century coins. (G.D.C. *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. LUD 021).

Metfield (TM/27, 28, 37, 38). **RB, LS (?), Md, PM, UN.** Extensive fieldwalking in 1983 has resulted in the finding of a large number of new sites. Prehistoric activity is probably indicated by twenty-three patches of white heat-crackled flints (? B.A. or I.A. in date). Roman settlement is evidenced by five sites yielding grey ware and a few samian ware sherds. A further six medieval moated sites have been identified (at Fox's Farm, near Tithe Farm, near Valley Farm, at Lambert's Farm, at Rookery Farm, and near Docking Hall), several yielding 13th - 14th-century pottery. Thirteen unmoated medieval sites have been found, one with 11th - 12th-century pottery, five with 13th - 14th-century pottery and seven with 14th - 16th-century pottery. A pottery kiln was discovered at Docking Hall which produced wares dating from c. 1480-1520, and was probably associated with the Sterff family (originally from Weybread). The sites of four post-medieval farmstead sites were located, as was the site of a brick and tile kiln operated by the Godbold family c. 1839-1930. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. MTF 012-062).

Mildenhall (TL/6677). **BA.** Bronze spearhead. (Fig. 80c). (Mrs F. King *per* J. King; S.A.U. MNL 028).

Mildenhall (TL/7177). **Ne.** One piece flint sickle from a field that has previously produced Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery and flints. (J. King; S.A.U. MNL 206).

Mildenhall (TL/7177). **IA.** Sherds of flint-gritted pottery. (C. Pendleton; S.A.U. MNL 207).

Mildenhall (TL/6575). **BA.** Occupation site with a beaker sherd, flint tools, animal bone and burnt flints. (C. Pendleton & E. Martin; S.A.U. MNL 208).

Mildenhall (TL/6575). **UN.** Patch of white heat-crackled flints adjacent to a slight hollow. (Mrs Harrington; S.A.U. MNL 209).

Nacton (TM/1840). **Md.** Bronze horse harness mount bearing the arms of the See of Norwich, 14th/15th century. (Fig. 79c) (M. Seager *per* I.M.D.C.; S.A.U. NAC 026).

Needham Market (TM/0854). **RB.** Grey ware pottery, 1st - 2nd century, found in foundation trenches. (S.A.U. NDM 004).

North Cove (TM/4689). **RB**. Cremation burial in a pot, found in a gas pipe-trench. (Mr Gore *per* N.A.U.; S.A.U. NHC 006).

Norton (TL/9566). **BA**. Blade of a bronze spearhead. (M. Downing *per* P. Platt; S.A.U. NRN 006).

Pakenham (TL/9369). **RB**. Octagonal gold ring with an intaglio depicting a standing Mars. (B. Stutters; M.H. 1983. 3; S.A.U. PKM 036).

Peasenhall (TM/3368). **RB**. Grey ware sherds, brooches, and a belt mount. (C. Ware *per* I.M.; S.A.U. PSH 002).

Playford (TM/2147). **RB**. Scatter of twenty-five 3rd–4th-century coins. (A. Grayston; S.A.U. PLY 008).

Playford (TM/2247). **Md**. Pottery scatter and coin. (M. Seager *per* I.M.D.C.; S.A.U. PLY 009).

Playford (TM/2147). **RB**. Scatter of 2nd–4th-century coins. (A. Grayston & M. Seager *per* I.M.D.C.; S.A.U. PLY 010).

Playford (TM/2048). **AS**. Bronze cruciform brooch, ? 6th century. (M. Seager *per* I.M.D.C.; S.A.U. PLY 011).

Redgrave (TM/0578). **IA, RB**. Gold stater of 'Norfolk Wolf' type, *Mack* 49b, and three 4th-century coins. (Mr Trelford; S.A.U. RGV 015).

Redgrave (TM/0578). **RB**. Bronze brooch, fantail/thistle type. (Mr Trelford; S.A.U. RGV 016).

South Elmham All Saints & St Nicholas (TM/3283 & 3183). **UN**. Two patches of white heat-crackled flints. (J.C. Walpole; S.A.U. SEN 009-010).

South Elmham St James (TM/3180). **Md**. Scatter of pottery, 15th–16th century. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. SEJ 004).

South Elmham St Margaret (TM/3283). **IA**. Top-soil removal revealed a pit (containing flint-gritted pottery), two post-holes and a shallow ditch. (J. C. Walpole; S.A.U. SEM 003).

South Elmham St Margaret (TM/3283). **UN**. Patch of white heat-crackled flints. (J. C. Walpole; S.A.U. SEM 004).

Sweffling (TM/3463). **RB**. Scatter of 3rd–4th-century coins, pottery and brooches. (R. Damant *per* I.M.D.C.; S.A.U. SFF 004).

Sweffling (TM/3562). **Ne**. Polished flint axe. (J. Daniel *per* I.M.; S.A.U. SFF 005).

Thorpe Morieux (TL/9353). **RB**. Fragment of a bronze terret ring, 3rd–4th-century coins and grey ware pottery. (R. Green; M.H. 1983. 18; S.A.U. TMX 008).

Tuddenham St Martin (TM/1848). **LS**. Animal brooch. (P. Finbow *per* I.M.; S.A.U. TDM 004).

Great Waldingfield (TL/9243). **RB**. Fragment of a domed quern made of Hertfordshire puddingstone. (Mrs Kenyon; S.A.U. WFG 011).

Great Waldingfield (TL/9146). **RB**. Scatter of grey ware pottery. (Mrs Kenyon; S.A.U. WFG 017).

Waldringfield (TM/2844). **BA, IA, RB**. Base of a Bronze Age urn, Belgic and Roman sherds found in the churchyard. (Mrs M. Frazer *per* I.M.; S.A.U. WLD 001).

Wangford (TL/7583). **MS, LS, Md**. Late *sceatta* (c. A.D. 725–50), as *B.M.C.* 162 but with a different and possibly unique head on the obverse; Viking diamond shaped bronze brooch with decoration in the Borre style, probably a Scandinavian import (it is virtually identical to one from Birka grave 418), late 9th/early 10th century (Fig. 79b); bronze strap end with an animal mask, 10th century; child's bracelet and other medieval bronze items. (J. Flack; M.H. 1983.106, 107, 109E/1-6; S.A.U. WNG 016).

Westley (TL/—). **LS**. Bronze disc brooch with interlace decoration, 11th century. (C. B. Marshall; M.H. 1983. 122; S.A.U. WLY Misc. L.S. 1).

Weybread (TM/2479). **Md.** Scatter of 14th – 16th-century pottery, primarily products of the Weybread kilns. (M. Joyce; S.A.U. WYB 020).

Weybread (TM/2279 & 2580). **UN.** Two patches of white heat-crackled flints. (M. Hardy; S.A.U. WYB 021-022).

Wickham Market (TM/3056). **RB.** Pot containing a hoard of 1,587 coins (*antoniniani*) dating from c. A.D. 270. (Fig. 81). (Suffolk Coastal District Council; S.A.U. WKM 004).

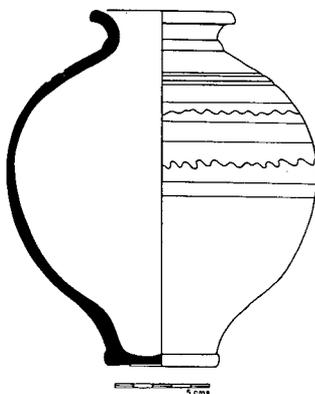


FIG. 81 — Roman pot from Wickham Market.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Barham (TM 1351; S.A.U. BRH 018): Nine areas (6m x 6m) were excavated across this Romano-British and early-middle Anglo-Saxon site. The majority of the features were Romano-British but postholes associated with handmade pottery suggest an early Anglo-Saxon structure in one area.

(K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council and The British Museum).

Brandon, Staunch Meadow (TL/7786; S.A.U. BRD 018): Work on the Middle Saxon settlement continues with c. 1,200 sq m being excavated over the past year. The ground plans of a further four buildings have been uncovered; a second area of burials partially excavated, and part of a presumed wharf located.

The buildings are noticeably different from those previously found; although their structural types are familiar (plank in post-hole and plank in trench) they are all well below the previously encountered size, their average size being 4.5 x 9m. Two of the buildings also have double walls on one long side, producing in effect a corridor c. 1.0m wide along one side of the building.

Circumstances this year have allowed us to excavate the occupation level which overlies the site in a more systematic manner than before. The first results of this are a very striking distribution of finds (notably pottery and bone) which suggests the use of above ground rubbish dumps in back yard areas. There is also evidence that floor areas of both flint and clay are present within the buildings.

A second area of burials has been uncovered with c. 15 burials. This cemetery, like that found in 1982, extends into unexcavated areas. The burials, which are all confined, are of both sexes and mixed ages.

Trial excavation along the northern or riverside margins of the sand island, and into the adjacent peat has located an area of large wooden piles, with brushwood and sand levels around them. This is taken to be the first indication of the anticipated wharf for this island settlement. (R. D. Carr for Suffolk County Council and the Department of the Environment).

Bungay (TM/3389; S.A.U. BUN 018): A trial trench north of Quaves Lane revealed the suspected town ditch, 18m wide and 4m deep, backfilled in the late 13th or 14th century. (K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council).

Bungay (TM/3489; S.A.U. BUN 019): Trial trenching of Annis Hill, just to the south-east of Joyce Road, where early Anglo-Saxon graves were found in 1951, failed to produce evidence of features of any date. (K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council).

Bury St Edmunds, Old Bowling Green (formerly Palace Yard) (TL/8564; S.A.U. BSE 052): A trial trench 5 x 8m was excavated during February 1983 on the site of the proposed Cathedral treasury, to test the theory that, prior to the enlargement of the abbey precinct to its present shape, the main north to south road through Bury St Edmunds linked Northgate and Sparhawk Street, passing directly in front of the west front of the abbey church.

Beneath a 1.5m thick layer of topsoil was found a courtyard surface, probably part of the Palace Yard of the abbey. Beneath this, and extending out 1.8m from the eastern edge of the excavation, were a series of cobbled surfaces, built up on a base of rammed sand and bounded on the west by a substantial north to south ditch, which had been recut at least once. Although the surfaces were not of very heavy construction and we do not know how far east they extended, the alignment of the road and the ditches correspond with the projection of Northgate Street. The road cannot be precisely dated, but its position suggests that the route is an ancient one, at least pre-Norman, though there is nothing to suggest a Roman origin. The pottery recovered from the ditches, as well as from associated occupation layers, a pit and a possible beam slot, was Thetford and St Neots ware. Two residual sherds of Iron Age pottery were also found.

(W. Filmer-Sankey for Suffolk County Council).

Butley, Burrow Hill (TM/3948; S.A.U. BUT 001): A sixth season of excavation on this 18ha. former island produced further closely-dated Middle Saxon contexts. Occupation of the summit occurred during the 7th century B.C. (Little Waltham period II pottery) and the late 7th to mid 9th centuries. A kiln of coralline crag was dated archaeomagnetically to c. 830 A.D. by D. H. Tarling (Newcastle University) and a replica was built and fired to 800-1000° by E. Rowe. (Valerie Fenwick and Butley Excavation Group).

Ipswich (TM/1644; S.A.U. IAS 8804): An area of 100sq m was excavated adjacent to St Helen's Street, on the fringe of the Anglo-Saxon pottery industry. Intensive medieval occupation had removed most of the middle and late Saxon deposits. A small fragment of a kiln wall remained *in situ*.

(K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council).

Ipswich (TM/1644; S.A.U. IAS 4801): The northern half of the Blackfriars monastery and underlying Anglo-Saxon deposits is under excavation at School Street. The Friary Church, Sacristy and Refectory have been examined. An area spanning the town defences has revealed the first town bank and ditch, probably of Danish construction (pre 917). Beneath the first bank

lay an undisturbed ninth-century metalled street with two phases of building either side of it. Excavation continues.

(K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council and the Department of the Environment).

Mildenhall, West Row Fen (TL/6576; S.A.U. MNL 165): A further 900sq m of this Bronze Age occupation site were excavated in the second season of work. As before, the site was cleared in one-metre squares and all finds of pottery and flint or bone tools were individually recorded.

Several pits and post-holes were located, but no recognizable structures were identified. On the east side of the site the occupation deposits tailed off in the vicinity of a damper low-lying area which had considerable amounts of animal bone and flint-knapping debris around its margins, possibly indicating the dumping of waste material.

Traces of earlier occupation on the sand ridge were found in the form of artefacts of Mesolithic (microliths and a broken pebble macehead) and Neolithic (plain pottery, laurel-leaf points and a chip from a polished flint axe) date. The Bronze Age finds included two small jet toggles, various bone artefacts (beads, spatula, tanged knife, pins, pressure-flaking tools) and items of stone (quern fragments, a broken macehead, whetstone) and flint (arrowheads, knives, scrapers etc.) as well as pottery.

The radiocarbon dates obtained so far for the site seem to indicate a main occupation of the sand ridge *c.* 1400-1550 b.c., with evidence of earlier occupiers making charcoal *c.* 2000 b.c. and of possible woodland clearance *c.* 1700 b.c.

It is hoped that the excavations will continue in 1985.

(E. A. Martin for Suffolk County Council and the Department of the Environment).

Pakenham (TL/9369; S.A.U. PKM 027): Trial excavations of an unploughed area in a field to the north-west of the Roman fort and north of a probable road with associated settlement showed that this area was on the edge of the area of occupation with only a few Roman features present.

A trench was also opened at the northern end of the field to obtain environmental samples at the edge of the former Mickle Mere; preliminary results show an occupation horizon above peat formation and beneath a possible flood horizon and hillwash deposits.

(J. Plouviez for Suffolk County Council and the Department of the Environment).

Purdis Farm (TM/2042; S.A.U. PFM 001): Trial trenching of Warren Heath around the recorded findspot of Ipswich Ware sherds (1965) prior to development, failed to produce any features, other than second World War trenches.

(K. R. Wade for Suffolk County Council and J. Sainsbury PLC).