

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1986

compiled by EDWARD MARTIN, JUDITH PLOUVIEZ and HILARY FELDMAN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

This is a selection of the sites and finds discovered or reported in 1986. Information on all these has been incorporated into Suffolk County Council's Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit at Bury St Edmunds. This Record number follows the grid reference in each entry. Following requests by members of the Ipswich Metal Detector Club, 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:

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 (tel. Bury St Edmunds 63141 ex.2023).

<b>Pa</b>	Palaeolithic	<b>RO</b>	Roman
<b>Me</b>	Mesolithic	<b>Sx</b>	Saxon
<b>Ne</b>	Neolithic	<b>Md</b>	Medieval
<b>BA</b>	Bronze Age	<b>PM</b>	Post-Medieval
<b>IA</b>	Iron Age	<b>UN</b>	Period Unknown

*Bardwell* (TL/9473; BAR030) **Md**. 13th-century sherds recovered from a garden in Low Street. (S.Hill).

*Barham* (BRH019). **Ro**. Scatter of pottery, including Oxford ware and shell-gritted, a brooch and coins of the 2nd and 4th centuries. (I.M.D.C.).

*Barsham* (TM/4091; BRS004). **Sx**. Hoard of coins of Æthelred II (978–1016) found partly contained within a folded silver disc brooch. Hoard dated to 1002–1003. An iron claw hammer also apparently found at the same location. (Mr Remblance).

*Bawdsey* (BAW014). **Md**. Dense scatter of 13th–14th-century sherds. (I.M.D.C.).

*Baylham* (TM/0951; BAY013). **Ro**. Ten 3rd- and 4th-century coins. (D. Bowen per I.M.).

*Great Bealings* BEG011). **Ro, Sx**. Scatter of grey ware pottery and coins, mostly 4th-century (terminating with Julian, 360–63) but including a *denarius* of Geta, 198–211. Also the arm of a Late Saxon bronze folding balance. (I.M.D.C.).

*Little Bealings* (BEL017). **Sx**. Decorated bronze strap-end. (I.M.D.C.).

*Bramford* (BRF026). **Ro**. Scatter of pottery, coins (mainly 3rd–4th-century, but also a *denarius* of Tiberius) and a Colchester-derivative brooch fragment. (I.M.D.C.).

*Brent Eleigh* (BTE005). **IA, Ro**. Bronze Iron Age coin in poor condition, horse on reverse, also scatter of Roman pottery, coins (3rd–4th-century) and brooches. (I.M.D.C.).

*Bromeswell* (BML009). **BA**. Bronze spearhead tip. (I.M.D.C.).

*Buckleham* (BUC020). **BA**. Small bronze socketed axe, loop missing through an old break. (Fig. 38A). (I.M.D.C.).

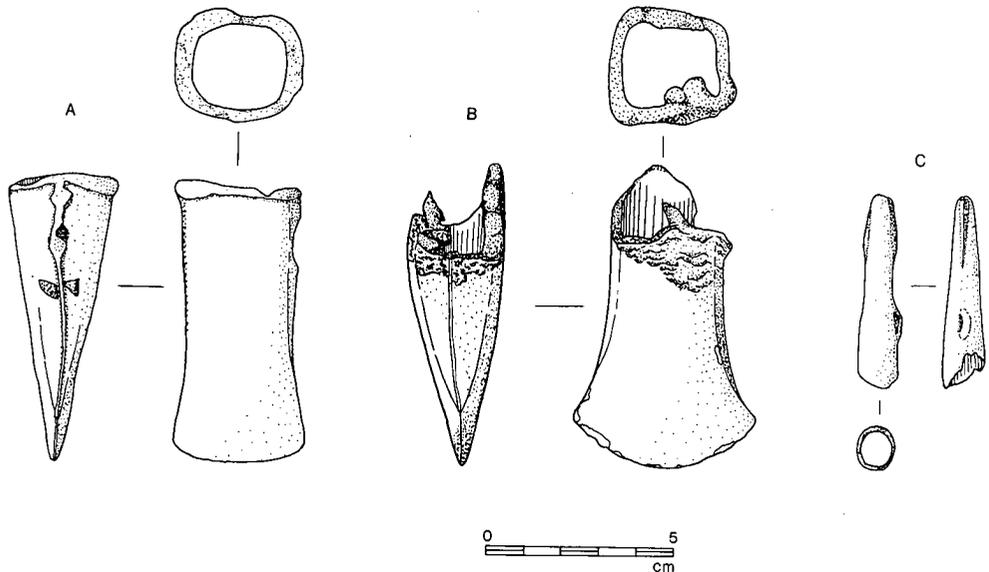


FIG. 38 – (A) Bronze socketed axe from Bucklesham, (B, C) fragmentary bronze socketed axe and a rare arrowhead from Wetheringsett.

*Bury St Edmunds* (BSE057). **IA, Ro, Md, PM.** Silver Iceni coin, 'Boar-Horse' type C, also Roman coins (mainly 3rd–4th-century, but including a *denarius* of Vespasian (69–79), iron nails and oyster shells. Other finds included coins of the 15th–17th centuries, a bronze seal matrix with a hare or rabbit riding a hound and blowing a trumpet, inscribed 'IRIDE', and a lead St Nicholas ('Boy Bishop') token. (R. Nobbs).

*Bury St Edmunds* (BSE Misc). **Md.** Bronze seal matrix, circular with a single loop on the reverse, the obverse has a bridled horse's head surrounded by an inscription – S'ThOME. NAVED'BOXTET ('seal of Thomas Nave of Boxted'). 13th–14th-century in date. (R. Nobbs).

*Bury St Edmunds* (TL/8565; BSE Misc). **Md.** Papal *bulle* of Urban IV found in a garden near St Saviours Hospital. (Mr Boughton per M.H.).

*Butley* (BUT002). **Ro.** Bronze brooch fragment (I.M.D.C.).

*Capel St Andrew* (TM/3548; CSA010). **UN.** Circular mound, 30–35m in diameter and about 1.4m high, on the corner of a plantation – possibly a round barrow (J. Newman, S.A.U.).

*Charsfield* (TM/2356; CHA005). **Ro.** Scatter of metalwork, pottery and tile. Finds include 1st–4th-century coins (one appears to be a plated forgery of a *denarius*), enamelled plate brooches and Colchester-derivative brooches, also a small sheet bronze face in low relief, silvered – possibly from a figurine (Fig. 39A). (P. Driver).

*Chediston* (TM/3677; CHD050). **Ne.** Edge-polished flint axe. (G. Burroughes)

*Chediston* (TM/3577; CHD051). **Ro.** Upper stone of quern made of a fairly hard shelly limestone. (G. Burroughes).

*Chelsworth* (CHW Misc.). **Md.** Bronze finger ring, oval setting for stone rising from two fish-like creatures on the band. (I.M.D.C.).

*Chillesford* (CHF005). **Ro.** Scatter of grey ware pottery and metalwork, including brooches (Colchester-derivative, head-stud, Hod Hill and Langton Down types, also a fragment of a duck-shaped brooch), coins (late 2nd–mid 4th-century), a flat-backed bronze mount with a

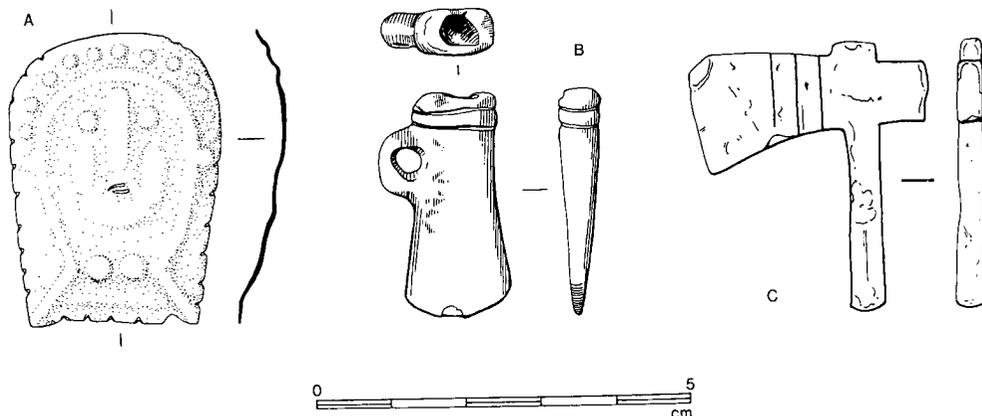


FIG. 39 - (A) Silvered bronze face from Charsfield, (B) bronze votive axe from Chillesford, (C) bronze votive axe from Wetheringsett. All Roman.

bull's head, and a bronze votive object copying, apparently, a Bronze Age socketed axe – a similar miniature socketed axe has also been found at Lackford (Fig. 39B). (I.M.D.C.).

*Claydon* (TM/1349; CLY008). **BA.** Bronze socketed axe (Mr Head; I.M. 1986.13).

*Clopton* (TM/2253; CLO006). **Ro.** Langton Down brooch and coin of Julia Domna (d.217). (Mrs J. Basham per I.M.).

*Copdock* (TM/1040; COP006). **Ne.** Polished axe and the butt end of a polished axe. (W. Gardiner per I.M.).

*Easton Bavents* (TM/5179; EBV004). **Sx.** An oak steering board washed up on the beach following a storm. The board is 4.36m long and has a feathered lower half. A date range of the 10th–13th century is likely, as is the probability that the board comes from a disintegrating wreck off the coast (Fig. 40). (N. Hatton; National Maritime Museum).

*Edwardstone* (TL/9541; EDN005). **Ro, Sx, PM.** A scatter of Roman grey ware pottery, coins (2nd–mid 4th-century), a fragment of a bronze head-stud brooch and other bronze items. Two silver *sceattas*, one belongs to the intermediate group of Series B (B.M.C. 27), c. A.D. 700, the other to the secondary series 'Porcupine' type A (var.), early 8th century. Also seven base silver *klippings* of Christian II of Denmark (1513–23), struck at Malmo from 1518, and a silver double *fanum* of Madras in India, c.1764–1807 – this odd collection of coins might represent a thrown-out coin collection or losses by a traveller. (K. Jarmin).

*Eriswell* (TL/7179; ERL052). **Ne.** Part polished stone axe. (R. Brunning per M.H.).

*Flixton* (TM/3185; FLN014). **Md.** Scatter of 15th–16th-century pottery and lava mill-stone fragments found adjacent to a pond. (M. Hardy).

*Flixton* (TM/3185; FLN015). **Ro.** Several concentrations of tile fragments, including

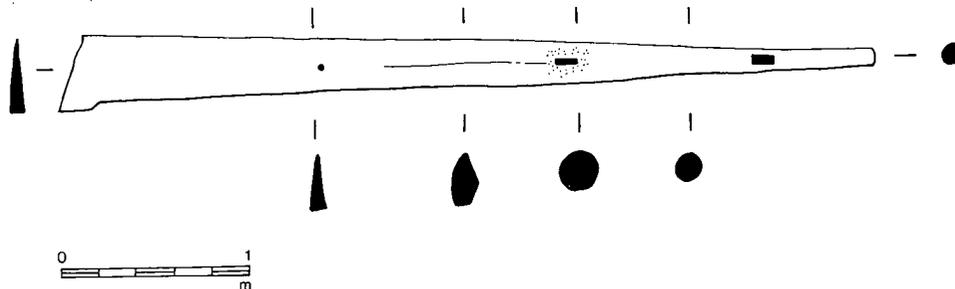


FIG. 40 - 10th–13th-century oak steering board from Easton Bavents.

wasters and possible kiln furniture, found in two adjacent fields, probably indicating a tile-making site. Tiles include floor, roof and box types. (M. Hardy).

*Framlingham* (TM/2861; FML008). **IA, Ro.** A small scale excavation revealed a dark layer containing flint-gritted Iron Age sherds, overlain by plough soil containing abraded Roman grey ware sherds. (J.M. Flemming).

*Groton* (TL/9541; GRT004). **Ne.** Butt end of a small flaked flint axe of thin section found in a field. A flint scraper, cores and flakes were found in the same area (K.W. Jarmin).

*Groton* (TL/9541; GRT005). **Pa.** Acheulian flint hand axe of sub-cordate form. White patination, fresh condition. Found on the surface of a field. (K.W. Jarmin).

*Grundisburgh* (TM/2250; GRU003). **Ro.** Gold coin of Faustina (d.141), *B.M.C.* 310. (Mr. Thorpe per I.M.).

*Henley* (HEN002). **Ro.** Scatter of pottery, including a fragment of an Oxford ware mortarium, coins (late 3rd-Valentinian), a blue glass melon bead. (I.M.D.C.).

*Hoo* (TM/2357; H00 004). **Md.** Pottery scatter. (P. Driver).

*Hoxne* (TM/1876; HXN015). **PM.** Group of 14 coins, dating from the end of Elizabeth's reign, perhaps the late 1590s, found in a field and believed to be a chance loss, not a hoard. (C. Marshall).

*Icklingham* (TL/7674; IKL Misc). **Md.** Lead seal matrix with the inscription: S'STEPH AMI\*, around a central six-rayed star. Probably 14th-century. (Mr & Mrs Kinealy per J. King).

*Icklingham* (TL/77; IKL Misc). **Sx.** Iron spearhead 38.7cm long, open socket with traces of parallel line decoration, found in dredging from River Lark. (M. Wiseman per J. King).

*Ipswich* (IPS185). **IA.** Fragment of a Belgic bowl found on a building site. (I.M.D.C.).

*Ixworth Thorpe* (IXT006). **IA, Ro.** Gold coin of Cunobelinus and a Roman gold finger ring with a silver bezel said to have been found by illicit metal detecting.

*Knettishall* (KNE011). **Ro.** Bronze disc brooch (possibly heptagonal outline) with trace of silvering, also two late Roman bronze coins. (R. Nobbs).

*Lakenheath* (TL/7283; LKH113). **Sx.** Silver penny of Harthacnut (1040-1042), Colchester mint, moneyer . . . WINE. (R. Morley).

*Long Melford* (LMD048). **Ro.** Scatter of pottery (some samian), coins (3rd-mid 4th-century, including *denarius* of Elagabalus, 218-222), three mid 1st-century bronze brooches and other metalwork. (I.M.D.C.).

*Long Melford* (LMD049). **Ro.** Scatter of pottery (including samian and Oxford ware) and tile fragments, also 3rd-mid 4th-century coins. (I.M.D.C.).

*Martlesham* (MRM031). **IA.** Gold quarter stater of Cunobelinus, obv. CAMV divided by ear of corn, rev. horse prancing to right, palm branch above CV[NO] below. As Mack 204, but size of Mack 205. (I.M.D.C.).

*Mendham* (TM/2782; MDM098). **Sx.** Late Saxon bronze hooked tag (dress hook) found on a field. (M. Hardy).

*Mildenhall* (TL/7474; MNL214). **BA, Sx.** Pottery sherds and worked flints - barbed and tanged arrowhead, scrapers, knives etc. Also sherds of Early Saxon pottery. (L.T. Harrison).

*Mildenhall* (TL/7474, MNL215). **Pa.** Flint cleaver, slightly rolled with many small percussion marks, 10.5cm long. From Warren Hill. (L.T. Harrison).

*Mildenhall* (TL/7474; MNL216). **Ne.** Large flint knife with blunted back. (L.T. Harrison).

*Nacton* (NAC030). **BA.** Fragment of a parallel sided blade, 26mm wide, possibly from a Middle Bronze Age rapier. (I.M.D.C.).

*Pakenham* (PKM026). **IA, Ro.** Silver Iceni coin, 'Boar-Horse B' type. Also Roman coins (1st-4th-century), brooches, pottery and tile fragments (I.M.D.C.).

*Pakenham* (PKM Misc.). **Md.** Lead seal-matrix, circular, bearing an eagle displayed with the surrounding inscription – S IOhANIS FIL WILELM CLERICI ('the seal of John fitz William, cleric'). (I.M.D.C.).

*Rushmere St. Andrew* (RMA009). **Ro.** Fragment of a bronze Hod Hill type brooch and a buckle. (I.M.D.C.).

*Little Saxham* (SXL004). **Sx.** Fragment of an Early Saxon decorated cruciform brooch. (R. Nobbs).

*Shotley* (SLY019). **BA.** Fragment of a bronze blade, possibly from a Middle Bronze Age dirk or rapier. (I.M.D.C.).

*Shottisham* (TM/34; STT Misc). **Ne.** Flaked flint axe found in a garden. (Museum of London per I.M.).

*Stoke Ash* (SAS Misc). **Md.** Lead St Nicholas ('Boy Bishop') token, groat size, pierced for suspension. Rigold series VI or IX. (I.M.D.C.).

*Stonham Aspal* (SAL009). **IA, Ro.** Silver Iceni coin, inscribed 'Pattern-Horse' series of ANTED type. Also scatter of Roman pottery, coins (mid 2nd–mid 4th-century) and brooches. (I.M.D.C.).

*Stuston* (TM/1273; SUS007). **Ro, Md.** Scatter of mainly 13th–14th-century pottery found within the area of a rectangular enclosure, showing as a cropmark, abutting Stuston Common. Also two sherds of Roman pottery (M. Hardy).

*Stuston* (TM/1378; SUS011). **Md.** Small scatter of 14th-century pottery. (M. Hardy).

*Tunstall* (TM/3856; TUN004). **UN.** Sub-circular mound, about 15m in diameter and 1.5m high on the edge of Blaxhall Heath. Possibly a round barrow (E.V. Rogers per J. Newman, S.A.U.).

*Waldringfield* (WLD012). **Ro.** 4th-century bronze coins (Constantinian – Valentinian) and a bronze knob. (I.M.D.C.).

*Wattisfield* (TM/0173; WSF006). **Ro.** Three 4th-century coins (V.R. Miller per M.H.).

*West Stow* (TL/8171; WSW Misc). **Ro.** Bronze brooch, Colchester derivative type.

*West Stow* (TL/7971; WSW009). **Sx.** Ipswich ware sherds (A. Armer).

*Westhorpe* (TM/0469; WTP Misc). **Md.** 13th-century lead seal matrix, inscribed S'ThOM' STOTEVILE around a central star. The 1327 Subsidy records a William de Stotevyle not far away in Thornham Magna. (Mr Payne per M.H.).

*Wetheringsett* (WCB010). **Sx.** Middle Saxon bronze disc brooch, decorated but badly corroded, a silver penny of Harold I (1035–1040), Ipswich mint, moneyer LIFINC and a cut halfpenny of Harthacnut (1040–1042). (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringsett* (WCB014). **Ro.** Bronze harness fitting or collar mount with an attachment ring below angled flanges, above which is a crescent-shaped crest, possibly the remains of a ring. Similar to a broken terret from Monks Eleigh. Also a bronze disc brooch. (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringsett* (WCB015). **BA.** Bronze items found within 20ft of each other and possibly indicating a dispersed hoard: (a) the blade half of a socketed axe (?broken since deposition); (b) two fragments, possibly from another socketed axe; (c) the socket and remains of the blade and side loops of an arrowhead, resembling the form of Middle Bronze Age spearheads. The surviving fragment is 48mm long, the socket being 10mm in diameter; (d) a mouth fragment of a bronze cylinder 24mm in diameter, with a prominent moulding on one side. Possibly not Bronze Age; (e) a flat piece of bronze, possibly part of a blade; (f) a piece of bronze header waste (Fig. 38 B and C). (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringsett* (WCB016). **Ro, Sx, Md.** Scatter of Roman metalwork, comprising a bronze *ligula* type spoon with suspension hole, brooches, (fantail, crossbow, head-stud, plate, Colchester-derivative, Hod Hill, Langton Down types and a disc brooch with millefiori enamel), a spherical bronze pin head, coins (2nd to mid 4th-century) and grey ware

pottery. Also Middle and Late Saxon metalwork: bronze caterpillar brooch, several decorated hooked tags (dress hooks), a faceted bronze pin head, a bronze animal headed strap-end, a silver *sceatta* (porcupine series), cut silver halfpennies of Æthelred II (978–1016) and Cnut (1016–1035), and a sherd of Ipswich ware with a ring stamp. Also some medieval metalwork and 13th–14th-century pottery sherds. (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringssett* (WCB017). **Ro, Md.** Scatter of Roman metal objects – enamelled bronze disc brooch, miniature bronze axe, 3rd-century coin. Also medieval items – bronze stopper or finial with an animal head on a hollow cylindrical shaft. (Fig. 39C). (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringssett* (WCB018). **Ro.** Two brooches, one a Colchester derivative and the other possibly an *Aucissa* type, and two coins.

*Wetheringssett* (WCB019). **Ro, Sx, Md.** *Denarius* of Domitian (81–96); silver penny of Cnut (1016–1035), mint – Wilton in Wiltshire, moneyer – Elfstan; also coins of Henry III to Edward VI, including a forgery of halfpenny of Henry V. (I.M.D.C.).

*Wetheringssett* (WCB021). **Md.** Scatter of 13th–14th-century pottery found on the edge of Blacksmith's Green. Also a bronze bell (I.M.D.C.).

*Weybread* (TM/2581; WYB025). **Md.** Spread of 15th–16th-century pottery, including kiln wasters, possibly a kiln site or a dump from a kiln. Green glazed wares, some with underglaze black patterns, and some purpley-black glazed wares; forms include pancheons and jugs, some with frilled bases. (M. Hardy).

*Wickhambrook* (TL/7675; WKB Misc.). **Ne.** Polished flint axe ploughed up in a field. (Mrs S. Grainger per M.H.).

*Winston* (TM/1660; WNT010). **Ro.** *Denarius* of Otho, A.D. 69. (G.K. Farnish per I.M.).

*Wissett* (TM/3779; WSS011). **Ro.** Area of Roman tiles found in digging a water-pipe trench. Comprise two complete *tegulae*, parts of others, a few fragments of box tile and grey ware pottery. (G. Burroughes).

*Withersfield* (TL/6547; WTH004). **Ro, Md.** Scatter of Roman pottery and metalwork, latter comprise coins (range Hadrian-Valentinian), five brooches (Colchester-derivative and Langton Down types), a phallic bronze belt-fitting, a needle, a ring fragment, an acorn shaped terminal and a lead weight. Also medieval finds from the site of Mill Farm, including coins of Edward I and Henry VI.

*Woodbridge* (TM/2648; WBG013). **IA.** Iceni coin, 'boar-horse' type, *Mack* 409. (R. Greening per I.M.).

*Woolpit* (TL/9760; WPT013). **Md.** Scatter of 13th–14th-century pottery found to the north of Clopton Green. (E. Cockayne).

## FIELD SURVEYS

*Corton* (TM/59 N.W.; COR006, 009–011): Fieldwalking has revealed an extensive spread of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork in fields to the west of the village – finds include a leaf-shaped arrowhead, two barbed and tanged arrowheads, scrapers, a broken polished chisel and a fragment of a polished axe. In the same area there was a scatter of Roman grey ware sherds, one sherd of samian and one of flint-gritted pottery, probably Iron Age in date. In part of the scatter area there is the incomplete cropmark of a rectangular enclosure and a road/track. A sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware, and a Late Saxon Thetford-type ware sherd, were found on the eastern edge of the area.

Pottery, brick and tile fragments were recovered from an area to the east of St

Bartholomew's Church, where the remains of the medieval village are being eroded away by the sea. Further south, near the holiday camp, a sherd of Belgic pottery was found. (D. Butcher).

*Mildenhall-Fenland Survey* (TL67): Due to a delay in funding no fieldwalking could be undertaken in the autumn of 1986; however work will continue in Spring 1987. (Edward Martin for Suffolk County Council and English Heritage).

*South East Suffolk Field Survey*: This winter fieldwork has covered parts of the parishes of Great and Little Bealings, Bredfield, Grundisburgh, Hasketon and Playford with the aim of beginning to link up those areas covered in previous years. Though work still continues the following preliminary summary can be given:

**Prehistoric:** As noted before there is only a very thin scatter of flint finds on boulder clay areas and more extensive scatters on sand and gravel derived soils in the Fynn Valley. Greater exploitation of clay areas in the Iron Age is again exhibited with the location of small pottery scatters in Bredfield and Culpho parishes as well as on lighter land in Great and Little Bealings, Hasketon and Playford parishes. Given the very fragile nature of this pottery and the intensive use of the land all of these small scatters are potential settlement sites demonstrating that by the late prehistoric period much, if not all, of the landscape was being exploited.

**Roman:** As in previous years Roman pottery scatters continue to be located at fairly regular intervals across the landscape. On the boulder clay areas there is a density of one scatter every square kilometre and a half and on the sands and gravels one every three square kilometres. Recently discovered grey ware scatters are in the southern side of Burgh parish, near Seckford Hall, two in Bredfield parish and another on the Bredfield/Ufford parish boundary. The lack of fine wares or much building tile on such sites points to a dispersed pattern of many small farms or hamlets across the countryside.

**Early Saxon:** No significant finds.

**Middle Saxon:** The presence of an Ipswich ware scatter close to Culpho church was confirmed and other, smaller scatters were located near Playford Church, on the eastern and western edges of Grundisburgh village, on the Culpho/Grundisburgh parish boundary and around Seckford Hall. A pattern appears to be emerging of the larger and probably earlier Middle Saxon settlements being located close to the parish churches in the area and the smaller scatters being adjacent to parish boundaries. The latter sites are taken to be secondary due to their low density of Ipswich ware and peripheral location in the parish. Recent metalwork finds on the Wilford *vill* site in Bromeswell parish tend to support this idea as they include an Edgar penny fragment, a caterpillar brooch and a Late Saxon decorative box mount but nothing that has to be earlier than the 9th century. However it should also be pointed out that this Wilford site is complicated by the presence of the Hundred meeting place nearby from which these metalwork finds may have come.

**Late Saxon/Medieval:** Once established in the Middle Saxon period continued occupation on all the sites mentioned in the previous section is demonstrated by the presence of Thetford ware and Medieval coarse wares. In Bredfield parish the earliest post-Roman settlement is represented by Thetford ware in one of the pottery scatters recently located, all the other scatters being made up exclusively of Medieval coarse wares except one which has produced a few glazed sherds. This latter site in the south of the parish has also produced large amounts of pin tile, lava quernstone and a plain, glazed floor tile denoting a building of relatively high status, possibly a manorial site. Over the rest of the survey area numerous small Medieval coarse ware scatters have been located reinforcing the impres-

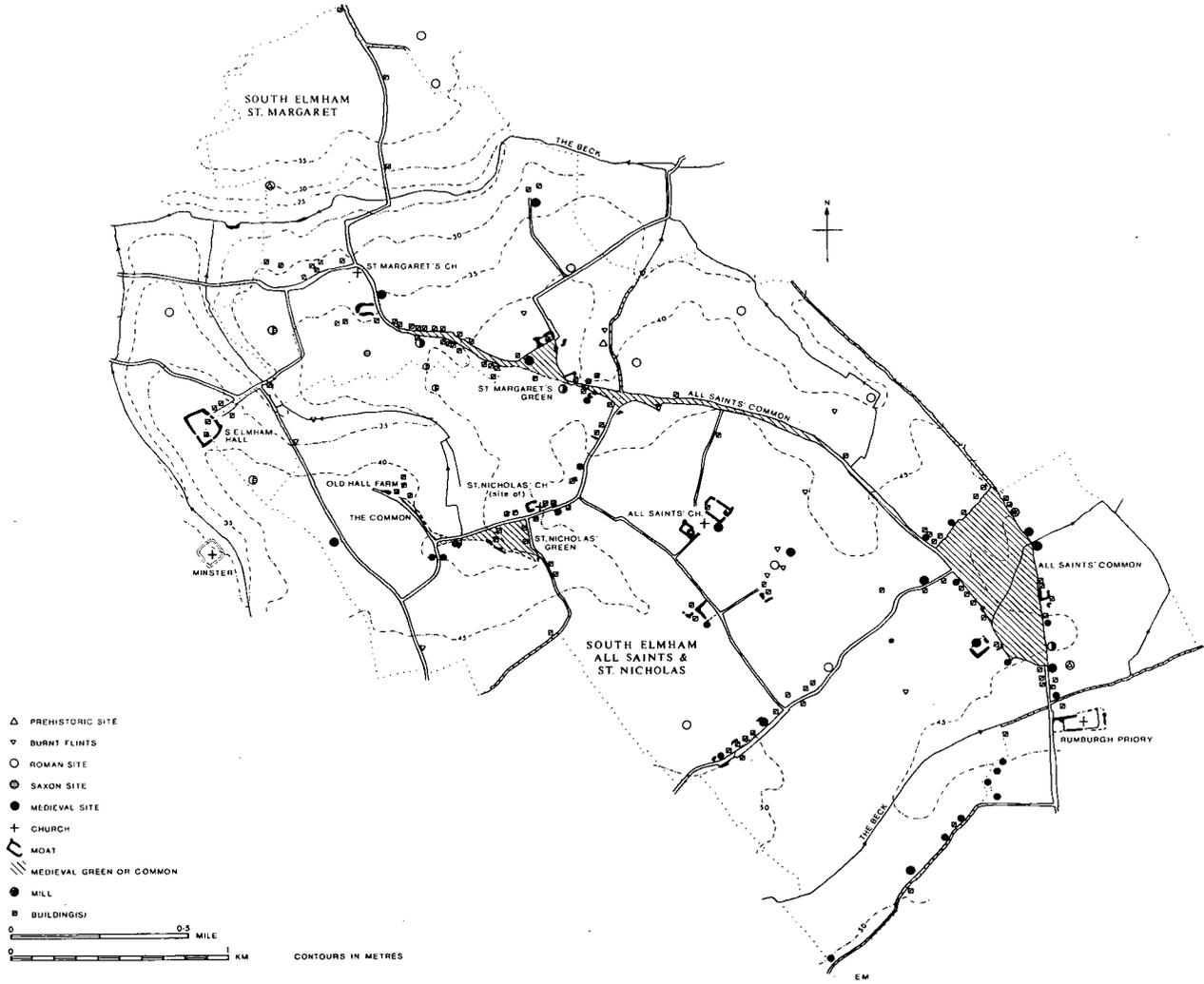


FIG. 41 - Archaeological sites in South Elmham St Margaret, All Saints and St Nicholas.

sion already gained of a large rural population producing a dispersed settlement pattern which shrank drastically in the 14th century.

Over the last few winters it has been possible to examine those areas the Forestry Commission is re-planting thanks to the co-operation of their local officers. Last winter a large area to the north and north west of Tangham Farm was available for survey in Capel St Andrew parish and four pottery scatters were located. These were one of Iron Age and Roman date, one probably of 9th- to 14th-century date with Ipswich and Thetford wares represented and two of Medieval date. Stray sherds indicative of manuring were also found pointing to at least intermittent cultivation of these poor heathland soils at times of population pressure such as in the late Roman period or in the 13th and early 14th centuries.

(John Newman for Suffolk County Council and Sutton Hoo Research Trust).

*South Elmham St Margaret* (TM38; SEM001–018; Fig. 41): The available arable land of this parish has now been field walked. Excavations for a lake near St Margaret's Green have produced the earliest evidence for settlement in this area, for they exposed a few post-holes and a pit containing flint-gritted Iron Age pottery. Iron Age sherds have also been found on the northern slope of The Beck. Both sites are very close to existing water courses.

Six Roman sites have been identified, most of which are within a quarter of a mile of a water course, often occupying positions on the hill tops and sides overlooking the streams. Settlements, on average, seem to be about half a mile apart and appear at times to be in paired positions on either side of streams.

Saxon material has been found on four sites. The two main sites lie on the west side of the parish. The northern site had a small amount of handmade ?Early Saxon pottery, Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware and a small amount of Late Saxon Thetford-type Ware, admixed with some Roman pottery. To the south, close to South Elmham Hall, another group of Saxon material consisted mainly of Ipswich Ware together with a smaller amount of Thetford-type Ware, with Roman pottery again being present. Also found was a piece of possible Middle Saxon window glass with a grozed edge and a cane impression. Interestingly this site lies within a small, almost detached, extension of the parish. Two much smaller groups of Ipswich Ware were found close to the border with the parish of St Nicholas and one just over the border – two of these sites also produced small amounts of Roman pottery. This is the first time that Middle Saxon pottery has been found in the fieldwalking survey of the Elmhams and it may be more than coincidental that the parish of St Margaret's occupies a central place in the South Elmham group of parishes. The ragged boundary between St Margaret's and St Nicholas's suggests a late division of the land around existing field boundaries, this means that the Saxon material may have been more central to an earlier territorial block. However it is clear that the small sites are peripheral to the two main sites near South Elmham Hall.

The closeness of the southern Saxon sites to the Minster and South Elmham Hall (formerly a country seat of the Bishops of Norwich) inevitably suggests that this might be the site of the Middle Saxon Bishopric of Elmham. The inclusion of the site within the curious appendage to St Margaret's parish might suggest that there was some deliberate intention in retaining the site within that central parish.

The Minster ruins in the neighbouring parish of St Cross may then be regarded as an expression of the medieval occupation of the area, long after the disappearance of the putative wooden cathedral on the neighbouring hill-top. The medieval references to the Minster, found by Dr Ridgard (above, pp. 196–201), call it 'le Mentre' in Norman-French or 'Monasterium' in Latin, names which strongly imply a monastery. Dr Ridgard has also

found references to cloister(s) on the Hall site in the 14th century. No monastery is however recorded here. The answer may be provided by examining Bishop Herbert Losinga's activities at his other Suffolk seat in Hoxne. Here he founded, c. 1100, a cell of the Cathedral Priory of Norwich (which he also founded) which was totally dependant on the mother house; only later gifts to the Hoxne foundation gave it some semblance of independence. The charter which records Hoxne also records the gift of property at South Elmham to the Cathedral Priory. There is therefore more than a possibility that Herbert founded another cell of the Priory at his South Elmham seat. The 'Minster' may have been built to house this monastic cell; if so the active life of the Minster must have been short and references to flooding near the Minster found by Dr Ridgard may provide a clue as to why the site was abandoned. With the construction of the moated site on the hill above the Minster in the 12th–13th century, the cell may have been transferred there, thus explaining the references to cloister(s) on the Hall site. Its lack of independence from the Cathedral Priory and its close personal links with the Bishop may explain why the cell fails to appear in medieval records as a separate foundation. The intention behind these cells seems to have been to provide the Bishop with a sort of chapter and cathedral service on his country seats (see Blomefield's *Norfolk* III, 607) and a monastic environment would probably have been of especial importance to Bishop Herbert, who was himself a monk.

The position of St Margaret's Church in the valley of The Beck closely echoes that of St George's Church in St Cross and both are now relatively isolated. The moated site to the south probably marks the site of a medieval moated parsonage. The present village is concentrated on the approach to St Margaret's Green known as The Street and there are hints that some of the sites may have medieval origins. St Margaret's Green itself has the remains of at least one small moated enclosure around its margins and a windmill mound near the western end. The parish of St Nicholas bounds the southern side of the green. The small parish of St Margaret's shows signs of close links with the neighbouring parishes of St Nicholas and All Saints and the medieval settlement pattern will be discussed in more detail under those parishes.

(M.J. Hardy with E.A. Martin).

*South Elmham All Saints and St Nicholas* (TM 38; SEN001–051; Fig. 41): This was formerly two parishes, united in 1557 and finally consolidated in 1737.

Fieldwalking has shown few definite traces of prehistoric activity, with the exception of isolated Iron Age sherds from near All Saints' Church and from near the southern end of All Saints' Common. However about ten concentrations of heat-crackled flints have been observed, which may also indicate prehistoric activity, especially those in low-lying positions close to water courses. Some of the concentrations though have a close relationship with field boundaries and a more recent agricultural explanation is likely for some of these, particularly those in upland situations.

The Roman sites in the north of the parish continue the pattern already observed in St Margaret's. In the upland southern end of the parish the distance from water-courses increases to about half a mile and sites are less closely spaced. This lowland/upland dichotomy matches the results from the fieldwalking of the neighbouring parishes of St Cross and St James (see the *Proceedings* for 1986).

The division of the area into lowland and upland elements also helps to explain the medieval settlement pattern. At the northern, lowland, end the parish of St Margaret and the former parish of St Nicholas were near mirror images of each other, with their main settlement grouped around similarly sized and shaped greens. As suggested above, the ragged boundary between the two parishes suggests that they were divided at a relatively

late date, leading to anomalies like one edge of St Margaret's Green being in St Nicholas. Both greens are on the eastern edges of their parishes, suggesting a medieval settlement shift away from the known Middle Saxon sites near the western edges of the parishes, though both greens seem to have drove-way extensions pointing towards South Elmham Hall, the apparent successor to the Saxon sites.

St. Nicholas' Green is now enclosed and its church has disappeared – it is said to have gone into decay about 1620 and by 1844 only a small portion of a wall was still standing, now even that has gone. The small moat adjoining the church site may mark the site of the parsonage. Pottery finds from the edge of the green suggest that it was in existence by the 13th century. Finds from the southern edge of St Margaret's Green suggest a broadly similar date. One cluster of finds from the east end suggests the presence of a pottery kiln producing Glazed Red Earthenware of the 16th-17th centuries.

The parish of All Saints is, by contrast, largely an upland area with a different settlement pattern. The church of All Saints is situated in a plateau position flanked on one side by a small moat (now flattened) which probably accommodated the parsonage, and by a larger moat on the other which is reputed to be the site of the manor house. There are few signs that there were ever any more houses in the close vicinity. The main settlement is grouped around a large green called All Saints Common on the south-east edge of the parish. Pottery from around the perimeter suggests that this green was in existence by the 13th century. The green-side sites include two small moats. All Saints Common is linked by a broad drove-way of the same name, to St Margaret's Green, a circumstance which suggests shared commoning rights by these parishes. Just to the south of All Saints Common and lying within a moated enclosure is the church of Rumburgh Priory, founded *c.*1164–70 by Bishop Ethelmar and Abbot Thurstan of St Benet's at Holme and listed under Wissett in Domesday Book.

In addition to the green settlement there are isolated moats in the centre of the parish at Meen's Farm and probably at The Elms. Finds from Meen's Farm suggest settlement there as early as the 12th century, whilst north-east of The Elms there is a scatter of 14th–16th-century pottery.

The road system in these parishes shows two main elements – a spinal drove road running from All Saints Common to St Margarets and eventually the River Waveney, which is paired with a parallel road running to St Nicholas's Green. Then running at right angles to these across the high land at the southern end of the parish is another road, which is paired with a road running along the southern boundary of the parish. The two latter roads both appear to have had linear settlements along them, parts of which still survive. Once again the pottery evidence points to a 13th–14th-century date for these settlements. The land bordering The Beck which lies between these two roads is very heavy clay; this combined with the paucity of settlement sites of any period suggests that this might have been an area of longstanding woodland.

The southern part of the parish was formerly an area of co-axial field boundaries and backways, most of which seem to have taken their alignment from the All Saints Common drove road. The inclusion of the largely barren, heavy land bordering The Beck in the south of the parish within this co-axial landscape suggests that this is not an ancient feature of prehistoric or even Roman origin but is related to the medieval exploitation of wood-pasture in the upland portion of the South Elmhams.

(M.J. Hardy with E.A. Martin)

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

*Great Bealings* (TM/2448; BEG010): In September 1986 sand and gravel workings for the Martlesham By-Pass revealed two rings of dark soil, 4m apart. With the co-operation of the quarry contractors, a short excavation was carried out to investigate these marks. The larger of the two circles was partially destroyed and only about half could be recorded. This had a diameter of 13.5m and consisted of a trench 45cm wide and 14cm deep. The smaller ring was complete, 5.5m in diameter, with a trench 40cm wide and 14cm deep. The fill of the rings contained sherds of flint and sand-gritted Iron Age pottery, as did three small pits within the larger ring. Also within the larger ring were four small pits containing Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery and worked flints. Two of these pits were cut by the ring-trench. Joining sherds from two of the pits suggests that some of these were in use simultaneously.

About 20m away from the rings three more Iron Age pits were found. Other Iron Age pottery recovered from the site includes a fragment of a fine-ware bowl of possible Darmsden type and a jar with crude finger-tip impressions on the rim. Triangular loom-weight fragments were also found.

The rings probably represent the sites of Iron Age round houses, for even though no actual traces of timber uprights were found, there is accumulating evidence to suggest that continuous ring-trenches, apparently without breaks for doors, were a feature of house plans of that date in eastern England.

(Edward Martin for Suffolk County Council).

*Brandon, Staunch Meadow* (TL/7786; BRD018): An area over 500 sq.m was opened to the north of the cemetery discovered in 1982 with the intention of completing its excavation. Within the occupation layer a patchy floor level of crushed chalk was found and the excavated area extended to 900 sq.m to include the whole area of the suspected building. The building is now fully exposed as a soil mark and part excavated; it is of 3 cells aligned east-west and located on the north edge of the cemetery. Only nine further burials were excavated to complete the cemetery which is now seen to respect the building line. The interpretation of the building as a church is inescapable.

There are two building phases, one (probably the earliest) is a single cell structure 14 × 16m which combines plank in trench and plank in post-hole building techniques. The second building is the 3 cell structure consisting of a large central room 13.75 × 6m with 4 × 5m cells built on to the east and west ends. These employ both building techniques. Impressions of planks are visible in all the walls excavated so far. A large east/west boundary ditch cuts through the eastern cell disturbing the only grave within the structure. The skeleton is semi-articulated, suggesting the burial was disturbed before the body had completely decomposed.

Other features from the excavated area include another large east-west boundary ditch, a palisade trench which borders the west side of the road from the causeway and cuts through the church building, and a well. The well is c.2m deep with basket work surviving from the base. Finds from the whole area are generally unexceptional.

(R.D. Carr for Suffolk County Council and English Heritage)

*Chediston* (TM/3578; CHD052): A trench 4 × 4m was excavated in the area of a concentration of pottery found during gardening. This revealed a very large quantity of kiln wasters and fragments from a kiln (mainly the dome). On the north side of the trench a ditch 1m deep was discovered, containing similar material. The pottery was predominantly

*Late Medieval and Transitional Ware* of the 15th-16th centuries, similar to the products of kiln sites in the Waveney Valley (notably in Weybread, Mendham and Metfield). Forms include jugs and pancheons and some of the sherds show evidence of underglaze black line decoration.

(M. Titchener, M. Hardy and G. Burroughes).

*Hacheston*, Gallows Hill (TM/3056, HCH013): During archaeological watching of the extension of an old gravel quarry at Gallows Hill Roman and Saxon features were identified and a short excavation of the threatened area was mounted with the co-operation of the contractors, D.G. Banham and Sons.

The main Roman features were a group of cremation burials. Many of them were unassociated burials in small pits but two were in grey ware pots, one of which had two small accompanying pots. The site overlooks the large Roman settlement at Fiveways, Hacheston and the burials presumably relate to this.

During gravel extraction following the excavation a complete small pottery bottle with an applied face on the neck, similar to a late Roman flagon type, was recovered.

On the edge of the threatened area was an Early Saxon sunken featured building 4m × 3m with two posts; finds included Roman and Early Saxon pottery, animal bone and several lead objects (?weights). Adjacent to the building was a 1.5m deep grave which contained no visible trace of bone (due to the acidity of the subsoil) but a stain in the sand indicating a wooden coffin. There were also no grave goods. Around the grave was a small ring ditch containing Roman and possibly Saxon pottery sherds. Burials with small enclosing ditches (and so probably a low mound) such as this can be paralleled at several Saxon cemeteries in East Anglia.

Further sherds of Early and Middle Saxon pottery were found elsewhere in the excavated area but no other structures, suggesting that this was the edge of the settlement.

This is one of very few early Saxon sunken featured buildings to be identified in east Suffolk. The location of the settlement on the fringes of a large Roman market centre is of interest, particularly as the name Wickham Market just to the south of the river Deben has been noted by Margaret Gelling as a possible early Saxon reference to a Roman settlement (*vicus*).

(Judith Plouviez for Suffolk County Council).

*Ipswich*, St Peter's Street/Greyfriars Road (TM/1644): An area of 970 sq. m was excavated, prior to development, approximately seventy metres behind the Middle Saxon waterfront. The earliest occupation, comprising two sunken-featured buildings, a timber lined well, and rubbish pits, is provisionally dated to the early 7th century on the basis of associated hand-made and imported pottery.

Middle Saxon features included pits, a well, a ditch, and numerous postholes, which are presumed to be the traces of buildings. During the late Saxon period five 'cellared' buildings were constructed on the site, one of which had burnt down.

During the late 9th or early 10th century an antler worker was clearly established in the vicinity making principally combs. Large quantities of waste antler offcuts were found together with artefacts left half finished or broken during manufacture. During the same period eight inhumations were buried to the rear of the cellared buildings.

(K. Wade for Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council and English Heritage).

*Martlesham* (TM/2547; MRM030): Road works for the new Martlesham By-Pass exposed a number of prehistoric pits and, with the co-operation of the road contractors, these were

excavated in September. A group of four small pits, each about a metre long and 30cm deep, were found to contain substantial amounts of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery and worked flints. The fill of the pits consisted of dark brown/black sand with considerable numbers of burnt flints.

A similarly sized pit, about 20m from the first group, was found to contain Iron Age sherds and much fewer burnt flints. Another pit, about 130m away from the first group was observed, but was destroyed before it could be excavated. Sherds of heavily flint-gritted pottery were found in this pit and a sherd of comb-stamped Beaker pottery was found in the vicinity.

(Edward Martin for Suffolk County Council).

*Mildenhall*, Swales Fen (MNL204; TL6575): Excavations in connection with the development of Isleham Marina in July 1986 brought to light a perforated stone axe-hammer. This was found adjacent to a dense concentration of burnt flint and charcoal. This was first noted in 1982 in a drainage cutting but was now more fully exposed. With the co-operation of the owners, Mr and Mrs Harrington, a short excavation was carried out on the burnt flint area.

This revealed a pit with a central withy-lined area  $0.9 \times 1\text{m}$  in size and 1.2m deep. The lining was inter-woven around vertical withies and the pit was floored with seven split logs (?alder). The fill of the pit consisted of burnt flints, charcoal, charred wood and peat in its upper levels. Due to its low-lying position on what is now an island between the old and the canalised courses of the River Lark, the pit filled naturally with ground water.

The pit was probably used for cooking – hot flints being shovelled in from a fire nearby until the pit was a steaming mass of hot water, flints, charcoal and, presumably, food. A few animal bones, probably cattle, were recovered from the trough; however the soil samples taken at the time of excavation have yet to be processed and these could contain other bones, such as those of fish or eel.

Large numbers of these burnt flint areas have been identified in the fens, but this is the first time that an associated cooking trough has been found and excavated. Nearly all of the burnt flint areas are in low lying positions, often a little way from the main settlement sites. This suggests that these are not everyday cooking sites but may be associated with special feasting activities.

From dates gained from burnt flint areas elsewhere in the fens we might infer a date of about 1800 b.c. (2,160 B. C.) for the trough, putting it into the Early Bronze Age. This date would also fit for the stone axe-hammer and it is likely that it and the trough are associated. (Edward Martin for Suffolk County Council).

*Mildenhall*, West Row Fen (MNL 165; TL/6576): In the final season of work on this Prehistoric settlement site a further 900 sq.m were excavated, bringing the total excavated in the four seasons to 3,700 sq.m (41% of the estimated settlement area of 9,000 sq.m). The results from the 1986 season indicate that this part was on the eastern fringe of the Early Bronze Age settlement, but was more central to the preceding Neolithic occupation.

The 'ditch' discovered on the edge of the 1983 site turned out to be only 5.7m long. This feature, aligned east-west, was 1.7m wide and 57cm deep, with a stony basal layer containing flecks of charcoal. Another short length of 'ditch', aligned north-south, was found on the northern edge of the 1986 site. This was at least 4m long, 1.4m wide and 30cm deep. A further linear feature consisted of a line of 14 shallow, interconnected, hollows that ran for a distance of 10m, on an east-west alignment.

An oval Neolithic pit,  $1.8 \times 1.2\text{m}$  and 40cm deep, contained a cattle skull and a group of

interlinked small pits and hollows yielded a substantial portion of a Grimston Ware pot, amongst other pottery and flintwork. An area of red sand, 80 × 60cm, was associated with a spread of burnt flints and indicated a hearth site. In the low-lying north-west corner of the site a surface layer, 13cm thick at its maximum, contained much animal bone and struck flint. From the edge of this area four joining fragments of human skull were found admixed with the animal bone.

Flintwork from the site as a whole included fragments of polished flint axes (including one reworked into a scraper), many arrowheads (fourteen leaf-shaped, three barbed and tanged and one oblique) as well as a range of knives, saws, scrapers and fabricators. Most of the pottery recovered consisted of Neolithic plain wares, together with some Early Bronze Age Collared Urn and few Beaker sherds. A round jet bead was also found, as were three bone awl fragments (bringing the total of these from the whole site to about sixty). An underlying Mesolithic presence was expressed in the form of four microliths and knapping waste.

(E.A. Martin for Suffolk County Council and English Heritage).

*Snape* (TM/4059 SNP007): Following the discovery of an Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial at the close of last year's excavation, an area of 17 × 16m was excavated during September. The aim of the excavation was to locate further inhumations and cremations and thereby to gain a better understanding of the character of the cemetery.

Seven cremations were excavated, five of them urned. All but one, however, were severely damaged by ploughing. Among the grave goods from the cremations were burnt bone comb fragments and glass beads. As well as these cremations, a number of possible inhumation graves were located, but time allowed the full excavation of only two. As at Sutton Hoo, the acid sand had dissolved the skeletons entirely, leaving only 'sand-silhouettes'. The first inhumation excavated was that discovered last year (*Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* xxxvi, 155). Two cremation burials came from the very top of the grave. A spear-head and a knife accompanied the body, which had been placed in a coffin. The second grave was surrounded by a small ring-ditch and was thus presumably once covered by a tumulus. The accounts of the 1862 excavation mention several small tumuli, 'some no more than six or seven feet in diameter'. The body was also in a coffin and was accompanied by two small tin plaques, probably once mounted on a belt. At this preliminary stage dating is difficult, but the cremations appear to span 6th and 7th centuries and the two graves to be 6th- and 7th-century respectively.

As a result of the excavation, we can say that the Snape cemetery, or at least this area of it, is a mixed inhumation/cremation cemetery. The excavation also demonstrated that the site, our most important point of comparison with Sutton Hoo, is being damaged by ploughing and by tree and gorse roots. We still have no idea of the extent of the cemetery, but hope to establish this during future seasons.

(William Filmer-Sanke, freelance archaeologist, for Suffolk County Council).

*Sutton*, Sutton Hoo (TM2848): Three years of site evaluation have been completed, and a strategy for researching the site carefully worked out. The area to be excavated will include 1.3 hectares of flat ground and six barrows – a viable sample of the scheduled monument.

Mounds 2 and 5 are in the first sector to be excavated. Work has continued throughout the winter, and the sector should be completed by April 1988. Both mounds have been divided up by a grid of running sections, and the method of excavation will allow complete sections through the mounds to be recorded without having to keep them standing several metres high, when they would be in danger of collapsing. In this way Mound 2 and Mound

5 will be completely excavated, together, and it may be possible to establish which one was constructed first.

Expectations from the work done so far on Mound 2 are that the remains of a ship comparable in size to that discovered in 1939 may be found. Half of the top surface of the sector has been removed to date, and Basil Brown's trench shows as an area of particularly disturbed soil. Several ship-rivets have been found which must have been disturbed by him, although a greater number have come from wartime weapons pits on the western side of the mound. Displaced natural, possibly upcast from a ship trench, can be seen in places around the base of Mound 2; and a buried soil and possible palisade trench are visible around Mound 5. The backfill has been removed from Longworth's 1970 excavations, and the box protecting a burial discovered then has been located.

A spoil-pound has been designed and constructed, and the 750 tons of material which constitute Mound 2 are being sieved. The finds are mostly displaced from earlier periods (Neolithic, Bronze Age and so on). They will be plotted 3-dimensionally using soft-ware now being tested, and this work may reveal the provenance of different parts of the Mound.

Excavation out in the field continued during the summer with the excavation of a second 16 × 24m area; and the eastern limit of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery was endorsed. Among new features this year 'tree-pits' – i.e. the holes left by trees which have been blown down – were defined. They are undated as yet, and could be prehistoric, or perhaps a grove associated with the Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

Three more graves were found, one of them containing two bodies buried face down. The deepest grave revealed traces of a body in a flexed position contained in a wooden box or barrel. Moulds were made of some of the excavated burials in order to produce fibreglass replicas for public display. These will lie alongside those created last year, which have proved so popular with visitors.

(Professor M.O.H. Carver, Research Director: Sutton Hoo Research Trust).

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