

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 1987

compiled by EDWARD MARTIN, JUDITH PLOUVIEZ and HILARY FELDMAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

This is a selection of the sites and finds discovered or reported in 1987. 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
S.A.U.	Suffolk Archaeological Unit, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds (tel. Bury St Edmunds 763141 ext. 2023)

Pa	Palaeolithic	Ro	Roman
Me	Mesolithic	Sx	Saxon
Ne	Neolithic	Md	Medieval
BA	Bronze Age	PM	Post-Medieval
IA	Iron Age	UN	Period Unknown

Brandon (TL/7285; BRD054). **Ne**. Fine polished flint axe, 19.2cm long, blade 4.9cm wide and 2.1cm thick, found c. 1975 on a ploughed field. (D. Legge).

Bredfield (TM/2651; BFD006). **IA, Ro**. Scatter of pottery, also Roman 2nd- and 4th-century coins, beaked and Colchester derivative brooches and a simple lead miniature axe. (J. Newman, S.A.U., R. Damant and J. Blow).

Brent Eleigh (BTE005). **IA**. Bronze coin of Cunobelinus, obv. horse to right CAM, rev. winged horse to left, and silver Icenian coin of pattern-horse ANTED type (*Mack* 419-21). (per M.H.).

Chelmondiston (CHL017). **IA**. 'Norfolk Wolf' type stater, a gold plated bronze contemporary forgery. (per I.M.).

Debenham (DBN014). **Ro**. Bronze Colchester-derivative brooch, and fragments of others from nearby. (I.M.D.C.)

Framsden (TM/2259; FRD008). **Md**. Scatter of pottery, probably indicating a house site. (S. Podd).

Freckenham (TL/6671; FRK Misc.). **Md**. Early 14th-century bronze heraldic horse harness pendant. It bears a saltire engraved; only slight traces of the original coloured enamel inlay survive, which appear greenish, probably indicating chemically altered red enamel. These are probably the arms of the Tibetot or Tiptoft family (argent, a saltire engraved gules), who owned land in Nettlestead and Barrow and were summoned to Parliament as Barons

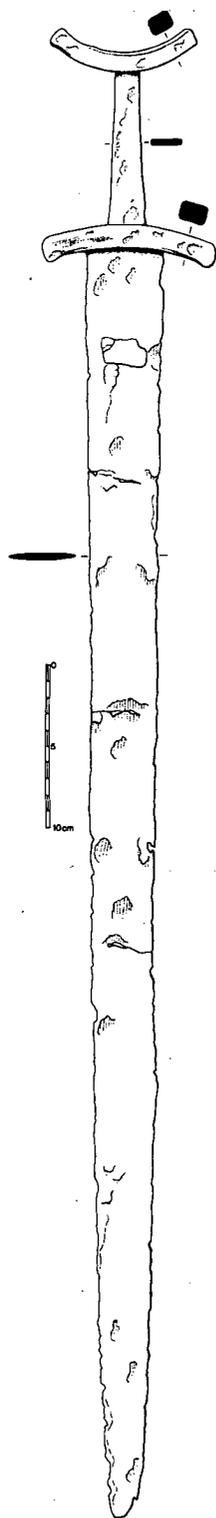


FIG. 49 – Ninth-century iron sword from Ixworth.

in 1308. A very similar pendant, with surviving colour, was recently exhibited in the 'Age of Chivalry' exhibition at the Royal Academy (catalogue no. 162) (Fig. 50 B). (P.T. Baldwin; on loan to M.H.).

Fressingfield (FSF024). **Md.** Scatter of 12th–14th-century pottery, including Hedingham Ware, also a bronze chape and spur, found within the remains of a moated enclosure. (I.M.D.C.).

Glemsford (TL/8248; GFD007). **Me.** Flint tranchet axe, 11.2cm long x 6.2cm wide and 3.8cm thick, found in spoil from a telephone pole hole. (K.J. Strong).

Grundisburgh (GRU Misc.). **Ro.** Bronze pin fragment with a flattened spherical head and triple reel beneath. (I.M.D.C.).

Hepworth (HEP001). **Ro.** Scatter of coins, 2nd–4th-century. (per M.H.).

Hunston (HUN005). **Ro.** Bronze 'dolphin' brooch. (per M.H.).

Ipswich (TM/1347; IPS187). **IA.** Small group of flint-gritted pottery and flint flakes found on a building site. (J. Newman, S.A.U.).

Ipswich (IPS188). **Ro.** Bronze Colchester-derivative brooch (I.M.D.C.).

Ixworth (IXW005). **Ro, Sx.** Finds from the area of a Saxon cemetery first discovered in 1868 include 1st- and 3rd-century coins; a Roman fantail brooch fragment, the foot of a Saxon cruciform brooch, a fragment of a gilt bronze square-headed brooch and an 8th–9th-century lead weight with a gilt bronze head set into the top (weight 90 gm ± 5). The weight has Viking parallels and is now in Moyses Hall Museum. (Plate XIX a). (I.M.D.C.).

Ixworth (IXW018). **IA, Ro, Sx, Md.** Fragment of a La Tene bronze bow-brooch; Roman brooch fragments, 1st- and 3rd–4th-century coins and pottery; Saxon bronze strap-end and silver penny of Burgred (A.D. 852–74); medieval coins and a St Nicholas (Boy Bishop) token. (I.M.D.C. and J. Plouviez, S.A.U.).

Ixworth (IXW022). **Sx.** 9th-century iron sword of Viking character found close to the Black Bourne, possibly from dredgings. Now in Moyses Hall Museum (Fig. 49). (C. Bott).

Ixworth (IXW023). **IA.** Contemporary forgery of a 'Norfolk Wolf' type stater, bronze with a gold covering. (I.M.D.C.).

Ixworth (IXW028). **Ro, Sx.** Dispersed scatter of mid-4th-century coins, a worn 1st-century one and a Colchester-derivative brooch; Middle Saxon hooked tag (dress hook) with ring and dot decoration. (I.M.D.C.).

Ixworth (IXW Misc.). **Md.** Bronze vesica-shaped seal matrix with the inscription: S' ANGNETIS VXORIS STI' DEHoke[LE?] * ('the seal of Agnes, wife of Stephen of Hoke[le]?' Oakley) around a central feathered star; reverse has a suspension loop and moulded quatrefoil. Probably 13th–14th-century. (I.M.D.C.).

Knettishall (KNE012). **IA, Ro.** 'Norfolk Wolf' type stater, pale gold in colour (? electrum); also Roman coins of 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries. (I.M.D.C.).

Leiston (TM/4361; LCS007). **BA.** Bronze socketed and looped chisel. (Mrs Hope; I.M. 1987.144).

Long Melford (LMD050). **IA, Ro.** Bronze coin of Cunobelinus (*Mack* 222); small scatter of Roman pottery, a coin and a nail-cleaner. (I.M.D.C.).

Mendham (TM/2783; MDM091). **Me.** Double platform flint core. (M.J. Hardy).

Mildenhall (MNL220). **Sx.** Silver gilt pendant made out of a coin of Sven Estridsson of Denmark (1047–74), ?Roskilde mint, by the addition of a rivetted loop. Coins of Sven are most unusual in Britain. This Danish King sent a fleet to attack England in 1069 and in 1070 he sent some of his men to Ely, where 'the English people from all the Fenlands came to them', amongst them Hereward the Wake. The pendant is now in the British Museum (Plate XIXb). (C. Barton).

Pakenham (PKM039). **Ro, Md.** Small scatter of coins, 1st and 4th centuries; lead pilgrim disc badge bearing a crowned virgin and child, with a simple hook fastener on the back. (I.M.D.C.).

Preston St Mary (PSM010). **Ro.** Metal objects found over several years include 52 coins (Nero-Valentinian), several brooches (Langford Down, Colchester-derivative and trumpet types), a mount decorated in late Iron Age style etc. (R. Green).

Rougham (RGH Misc.). **Md.** St Nicholas or 'Boy-Bishop' token, as Rigold's Series IF. (K.C. Sturgeon per M.H.).

Santon Downham (TL/8187; STN019). **Sx.** Large sherd of Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware found in a house foundation trench. (Mr. Walker).

Stanton (SNT010). **Ro.** Bronze bow brooch, 1st century. (per M.H.).

Stanton (SNT011). **Ro.** Scatter of coins 3rd–4th century. (per M.H.).

Stoke Ash (SAS008). **Ro.** Bronze button and loop fastener (Class III, J.P. Wild, *Britannia* I, 1970), of a type commonly found in military contexts. (I.M.D.C.).

Stutton (STU014). **Ro.** Possible coin hoard found on the beach – eight *sestertii* within 10 feet of each other. The coins are in poor condition but the probable range is M. Aurelius – Julia Maesa (A.D. 218–222). A tattered brooch fragment and two unidentifiable coins were also found. (I.M.D.C.).

Thrandeston (TDE006). **Ro.** Fragments of a bronze crossbow brooch. (I.M.D.C.).

Thwaite (THW006). **Ro, Sx.** Scatter of pottery and coins (mainly 3rd–4th century, up to Valentinian at least); fragment probably from a Saxon cruciform brooch. (I.M.D.C.).

Tuddenham St Martin (TDM005). **IA.** Silver coin, 10mm diameter. Probably an Atrebatian issue of Tincommius or Verica; obv. ?bull with long horns to right, possible inscription above, rev. standing figure with a standard on the right side and ?spray of foliage on left, inscribed COMMIF. (I.M.D.C.).

Tunstall (TM/3954; TUN005). **Un.** Small mound 10.5m in diameter, under 50cm in height, centre hollowed. Possibly a barrow. (E.V. Rogers).

Ufford (TM/2752; UFF011). **Ro.** Scatter of pottery, probably 1st–4th century, a Colchester-derivative brooch and a coin of Crispus (A.D. 320–324). (J. Newman, S.A.U., R. Damant and J. Blow).

Ufford (UFF012). **Ro, Sx.** Coins of Hadrian and Victorinus; a Saxon bronze disc brooch, possibly silvered, with ring and dot decoration and a fragment of a 5th–6th-century small-long brooch. (I.M.D.C.).

Westerfield (WRF002). **Sx.** Northumbrian *styca* of Eanred, A.D. 810–841; obv. pellet within a circle and 11 small pellets around the edge, rev. 5 pellets. Weight 1.0391g. (I.M.D.C.).

Wetheringsett (WCB016). **IA.** Cast bronze Durotrigian coin, obv. illegible, rev. 6 pellets (as *Mack* 361). Poor condition. (I.M.D.C.).

Wetheringsett (WCB022). **Ro.** Bronze brooch, trumpet type. (I.M.D.C.).

Wetheringsett (WCB023). **Sx.** Silver *sceatta*, 'porcupine' type, weight 1.04gm. (I.M.D.C.).

Wetheringsett (WCB024). **Ro.** Scatter of grey ware pottery, mainly 1st–2nd century, an

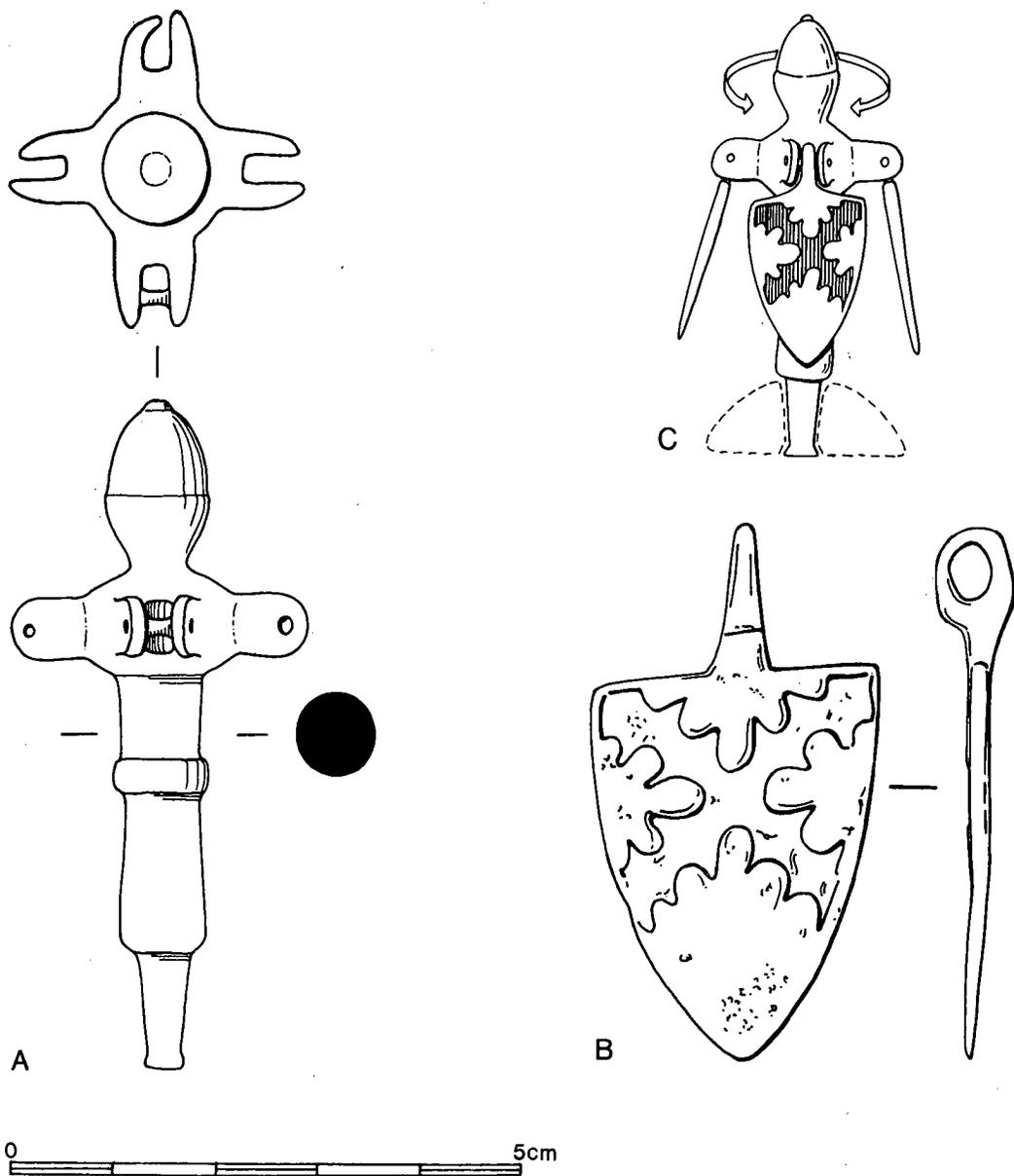


FIG. 50 - (A) Medieval bronze harness stand from Wickham Market; (B) fourteenth-century bronze heraldic horse harness pendant from Freckenham; (C) reconstruction showing how pendants were suspended from harness stands, using those from Freckenham and Wickham as examples.

annular glass bead with marvered red trail and an acorn-shaped bronze mount. (I.M.D.C.).

Wetheringsett (WCB Misc). **Ro.** Fragment of an enamelled trumpet brooch (Collingwood Group Riv). (I.M.D.C.).

Weybread (TM/2581; WYB026). **Me, IA.** Sherd of flint-gritted pottery found to north of a small scatter of worked flint, some of which may be Mesolithic. (M.J. Hardy).

Wherstead (WHR Misc). **Ro.** Blue melon-shaped glass bead. (I.M.D.C.).

Wickham Market (WKM005). **Ro, Sx, Md.** Small bronze figurine of Mercury with winged hat, *caduceus* (?) in left arm, right hand broken (Plate XIXc), also an animal-shaped (?) plate brooch and a fragment of a head-stud brooch; the head of a 6th-century small-long brooch; and a bronze harness stand – a pivoted mount with four projections for the suspension of pendants (Fig. 50A; C shows a re-construction with the pendant from Freckenham). (I.M.D.C.).

Wickham Skeith (TM/0869; WKS003). **Ro.** Scatter of pottery (including some samian, Nene Valley colour coated ware and 4th-century Wattisfield type flanged bowls) and tile (box and roofing). (N. Goodwin).

Wixoe (TL/7043; WIX003). **IA, Sx.** Silver coin of Cunobelinus (as *Mack* 214), obv. coiled ?animal with horns with interlaced border, rev. Pegasus to left, CVNO beneath. Also two bronze coins, possibly Iron Age, with ?horse reverses, very worn. Saxon bronze girdlehanger, with an iron ? mending rivet, and a decorated bronze strap end. (A. Allen, H.D.A.G.).

Woodbridge (TM/2647; WBG024). **Ro.** Group of tile fragments, including *tegulae*, *imbrices*, box and plain flat types. Over half the roof and flat tiles have been heavily burnt, but not the box tiles. (R. Bradlaugh per Woodbridge Museum).

Woolverstone (WLV015). **Ro.** Bronze brooch, Colchester derivative type (I.M.D.C.).

Worlington (TL/6874; WGN008). **UN.** Bone dagger with a perforated butt, still retaining a removable bone pin, found in river dredgings. Possibly Bronze Age. (J. King per C. Pendleton).

FIELD SURVEYS

Helmingham (TM15NE; HLM010–014): A number of medieval sites have been identified on arable land on the western side of the parish. Notable amongst these is the faint cropmark of a moated site, enclosing about half an acre, associated with a scatter of medieval pottery. This is probably the site of Oliver's manor; a John Oliver is recorded in 1297 and Benedict Oliver in 1327 and 1333. A linear spread of pottery in nearby fields possibly suggests a small medieval settlement aligned on a street. (Stephen Podd).

Icklingham (TL7871; IKL063): A systematic metal detecting survey was begun after ploughing on part of this large Roman site. Permission to do this on the scheduled site was given to the Archaeological Unit by the Secretary of State for the Environment; the detecting was mostly by members of the Ipswich and District Detector Users Club. Over 900 bronze items were found, the vast majority being coins of the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. It is hoped that we can continue the project to give a picture of variations in use and date across this large site.

(Judith Plouviez for Suffolk County Council).

Lakenheath and Mildenhall – Fenland Survey (TL67,68): The fieldwalking of the available fenland in Mildenhall is now complete and work has started on Lakenheath. The results have still to be fully processed.

(Edward Martin and Mike Hardy for Suffolk County Council and English Heritage).

Preston St Mary, Priory Farm (TL9350; PSM003–8): Observation and fieldwork over the past fifteen years has identified sites ranging from Iron Age to post-Medieval in date, all on clay soils in upland situations.

A large Roman site has produced hand-made Iron Age pottery and Roman wares dating from 1st to 4th century, including samian, amphora, Colchester colour-coated, Nene Valley mortaria, Oxford ware, shell-gritted and one piece of 4th-century Mayen ware. One other Roman site comprises grey ware sherds only covering a smaller area.

Four Medieval pottery scatters have been found, all alongside existing roads or tracks. One has produced a sherd of Ipswich ware and Thetford type wares as well as later material; another includes a piece of St Neots ware. The bulk of the material is 13th- and 14th-century and later.

(Adrian Thorpe).

South East Suffolk Field Survey: Over the last year fieldwork has continued to the west of the Deben and along the Fynn valley with the aim of beginning to link up the areas covered in previous years. Now that over 80 sq. km. have been systematically covered, settlement patterns for all periods are becoming much clearer and work over the winter of 1987/88 should see the end of this initial phase of fieldwork in the area.

For the earlier prehistoric periods the main settlement evidence comes in the form of numerous small flint scatters on the lighter soils of the Sandlings, and on the sand and gravel deposits exposed in the river valleys cutting the boulder clay plateau to the north west. The distinction between Neolithic and Bronze Age is often hard to make as diagnostic artefacts are relatively rare and the pottery has usually been destroyed by ploughing and frost action. The most notable recent discovery is an extensive flint scatter near Seckford Hall which appears to be associated with a small Neolithic and Iron Age site excavated in advance of quarrying in 1986. Evidence for Iron Age settlement in the area has come from various small pottery scatters in Great Bealings, Pettistree and Shottisham. The Bealings site also produced Roman pottery – this continued use of a site from the later prehistoric into the Roman period being common in the area. Other scatters of Roman pottery were found in Hemley parish, near the Melton/Ufford parish boundary and in the southern part of Pettistree parish.

The past year has seen some success in the location of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites, with pottery scatters found in Martlesham and Shottisham, both being sites with just one period of occupation. Close to the Martlesham site the Domesday Book vill of Preiston has also been located, the presence of a few sherds of Ipswich ware on the site indicating a 9th-century foundation date. Similarly the vills of Bing, near the Pettistree/Ufford parish boundary, and Stockerland in Sutton parish have been located and appear also to be 9th-century foundations, it being impossible to date such sites earlier than that as the quantities of Ipswich ware on them are very small.

These small quantities of Ipswich ware on all Middle Saxon sites in the area are raising questions as to their status, function and relationship with the nearby production centre and port of Ipswich.

As in previous years numerous Medieval pottery scatters have been located reinforcing the impression of a very dispersed settlement pattern with few of these small farm or

cottage sites surviving beyond the 14th century. This supports the view that East Anglia had a high population in the 12th and 13th centuries, before the climatic deterioration and Black Death in the 14th century.

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

South Elmham St Michael and St Peter (TM38; SEL001–025, SEP001–018): These are two small parishes, only 857 and 571 acres respectively, situated on either side of a stream called The Beck. Much of St Michael's is an upland clay plateau, over 40m o.d.; St Peter's consists largely of a spur of land between two streams.

There are signs of prehistoric activity near The Beck, at the western end of St Peter's, where a Neolithic flint oblique arrowhead, a core made from a fragment of a flint quern and waste flakes have been found. Nearby there is a patch of burnt flints, possibly also prehistoric.

Five Roman sites were found. Two, including the largest, are within a quarter of a mile of a water course, the others fall within a quarter and half a mile. The spacing between the sites is still roughly half a mile, which is in keeping with the findings from elsewhere in the South Elmhams.

A small amount of Early Medieval Ware (?11th century) was found at the western end of St Peter's parish, on either side of the road leading to St Margaret's. St Peter's Church contains Norman elements, but does not seem to have been a major focus for settlement. There is a tiny Common a quarter of a mile to the south of the church, bordering The Beck, but this seems only to have had three small tenements along its northern edge. Medieval sites, in fact, seem to be fairly evenly distributed over the parish. Most of them were established by the 13th century, with very small amounts of possible 12th-century pottery on five of the sites. Lava millstone fragments have also been found on five of the medieval sites (?do these indicate free tenement sites). The dominant place in the parish is St Peter's Hall, which is situated within a fragmentary moat. This was originally a tenement called Tolls or Tollys, named after its 14th- and early 15th-century holders, the Toll family. The existing house is a remarkable structure, with stone walls, flush-work panels and three-light Gothic windows of ecclesiastical type. The most likely explanation is that it was rebuilt using material from the dissolved Flixton Priory in the first half of the 16th century (see N. Evans, 'The Tasburghs of South Elmham' in the *Proceedings* vol. xxxiv, pt. 4, 1980).

By contrast, the medieval pattern in St Michael's is dominated by a central green, with houses and the church grouped around its margin. In addition there is a linear group of sites along The Beck in the southern part of the parish. Again most of the sites were established by the 13th century, with hints of 12th-century material on four sites, three on the green and one in the south. Lava millstone fragments were found on six sites, two of them on the green. The church contains Norman work and seems to pre-date the settlements around the green and probably the green itself.

The different development of the two parishes is perhaps due to the presence of a dominant tenement in St Peter's, even though the Hall seems not to have been an independent manor, but a subsidiary part of the great ecclesiastical manor of South Elmham. St Peter's Hall occupies the most likely site for a green. The Tithe Map of 1840 shows a large field, called Cartshed Meadow, adjoining the north side of the Hall. Two deserted medieval sites (both with millstone fragments) are also near the margins of this field. Taken together this suggests that there may have been a small green here which was lost through the growth of the Hall tenement.

The 1842 Tithe Map of St Michael's parish shows a strongly co-axial landscape of field boundaries: numerous long narrow rectangular fields, each following a slightly sinuous

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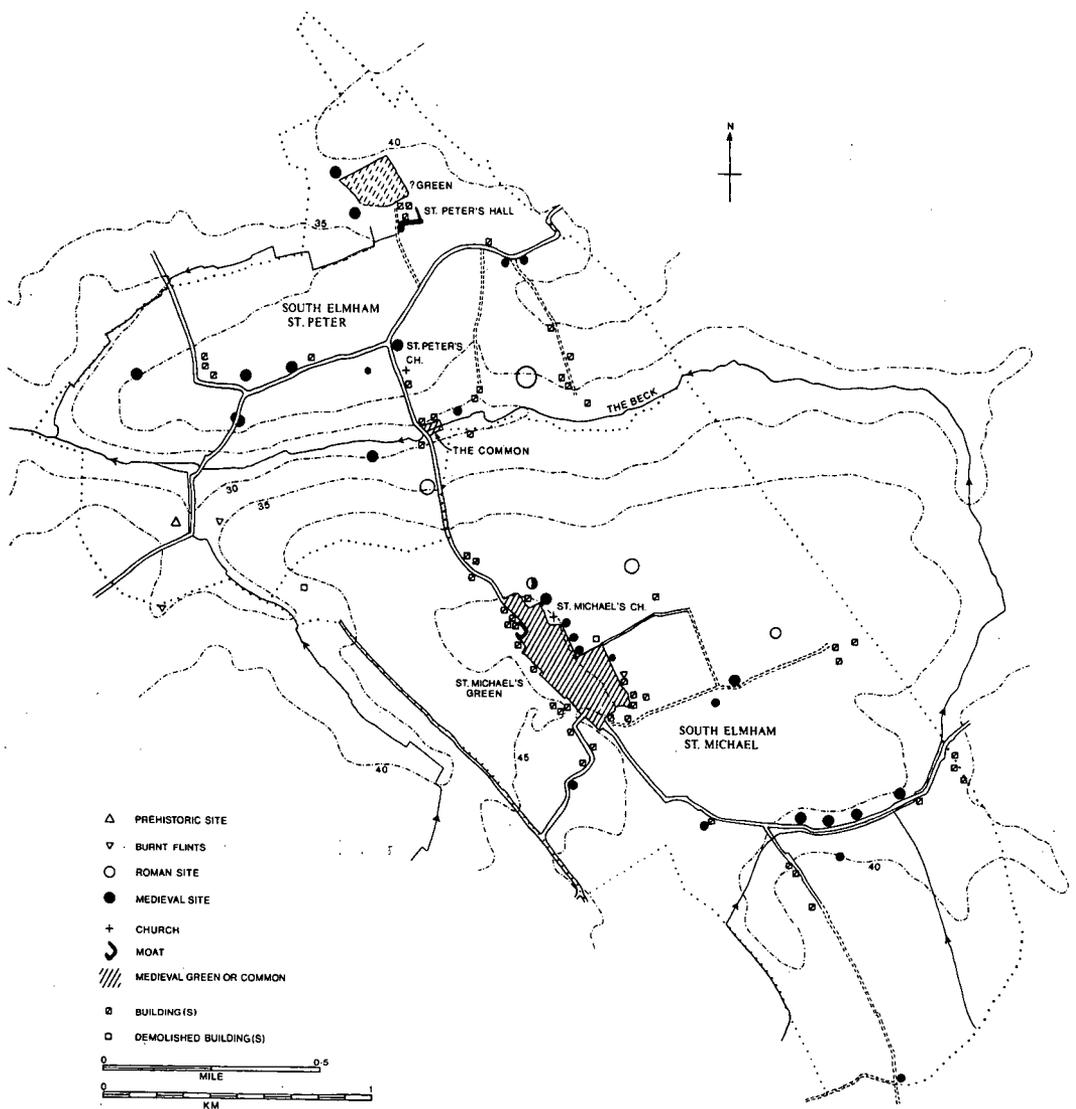


FIG. 51 – Archaeological sites in South Elmham St Michael and St Peter.

alignment running roughly north to south. These appear to be set off from the west to east flowing Beck and run across the parish to the upland area in the south, where the parish backs on to Rumburgh Wood. The most logical explanation is that they refer to the allotment of land in the medieval period.

An unusual find from a medieval site immediately to the south-east of St Michael's Church was part of one half of a small stone mould for the production of heraldic pendants. On one face is an indent for a shield-shaped pendant, 2.6cm wide, possibly bearing the arms of the le Blund family – lozengy (or masculy) or and sable. The other face has indents for one complete and two fragmentary circular pendants, 2.5cm in diameter; one appears to bear three trefoils and a chief or canton, another bears either a bend sinister or a saltire. (Mike Hardy with Edward Martin).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Brandon, Staunch Meadow (TL/7786; BRD018): An area of 500 sq.m. was excavated to the north of the church identified last year. Evidence for five buildings of two occupation phases was recorded, but three of these extended beyond the limits of the excavation. The buildings were all built with the plank-in-post technique, and good plank stains were recorded.

The only building completely within the excavated area was a single-roomed structure (13.4 x 6.7m) aligned north-south. Unusually it had three entrances: the normal opposed doorways central to the long walls, and a third in the north gable wall. A well preserved rectangular hearth (2.5 x 1.5m) based on flint nodules set in crushed chalk lay in the southern half of the building.

Of the partially excavated buildings one was notable for its preserved clay floor pad, and another for a flint based hearth. Evidence was also found for a gravel path linking two buildings.

(R.D. Carr for Suffolk County Council)

Eye, Eye Castle (TM1473; EYE023): Following the demolition of the Victorian school buildings, the standing walls on the north-east side of the inner bailey were cleared of vegetation and post-medieval soil build-up. This work revealed a range of narrow chambers built against the inside of the northern curtain wall and probably directly related to the standing masonry already known to exist on the north-west side of the motte. At the western end of this range there is what appears to be a small tower with no indication of the curtain wall continuing around the rest of the inner bailey. Between this small tower and the motte are a long, narrow chamber which has well preserved walls, a small chamber which is badly disturbed by a Victorian soakaway and at the foot of the mound the massive foundations of a large tower which has a small central chamber. Hopefully further work in 1988 will reveal more of this tower and investigate the edge of the motte in this area. An area of 80 sq.m. was also examined in the inner bailey adjacent to this range of chambers. This revealed that the top 1.60m (removed by machine) was post-medieval dumped soil, below this was a relatively thick destruction level consisting of much flint rubble, discarded stone mouldings and a mass of daub and charcoal with a provisional pottery date in the 14th century. Traces of clay flooring were located below this with the old ground surface being two metres down.

(John Newman for Suffolk County Council and the Manpower Services Commission).

Framlingham (TM/2861; FML008): Small-scale excavation of an Iron Age site on top of a spur of land overlooking the River Ore has continued. The site has produced 327 sherds of flint-gritted Iron Age sherds and a clay spindle whorl; 99 Roman sherds were also recovered. Work is to continue in 1988.
(Joan Flemming).

Ipswich, Boss Hall (TM/1445; IPS100): A transect, 38m long and 6m wide, was excavated across this moated manor site prior to development. The moat had been constructed in the 14th century sealing 13th-century occupation beside the River Gipping. Traces of medieval septaria walls survived, badly damaged by the foundations of post medieval buildings.
(Keith Wade for Suffolk County Council and the Manpower Services Commission).

Ipswich, Buttermarket (TM/16304445): The first phase of excavation began prior to a large scale town centre redevelopment. Geographically the area is the Anglo-Saxon town centre and corresponds to the precincts of the medieval Carmelite Friary. Excavation has so far revealed a metalled lane, 3m wide, abandoned in the later 9th century, five Anglo-Saxon buildings, and the north cloister range of the Friary.
(Keith Wade for Suffolk County Council and Legal and General Assurance Society Ltd).

Lakenheath (TL/7380; LKH114): A short excavation was arranged after a human skeleton was found during building work on the U.S.A.F. base at Lakenheath. Two inhumations had been inserted into the upper fill of a small Roman ditch, which was one of several located, the whole complex probably being a field-system of 1st- or 2nd-century date. There was no indication that this was a formal cemetery area. The site lies within a broad area of Roman finds around Caudle Head lake. Earlier occupation was indicated by a large Iron Age pit of grain storage type. Permission to excavate during construction work was given by the Department of the Environment Property Services Agency, with the co-operation of French Kier.
(Judith Plouviez for Suffolk County Council).

Snape (TM/4059; SNP007): The examination of an area of about 340 sq.m. immediately adjacent to the presumed site of the 1862 ship burial, begun in 1986, was continued. A further two pagan Anglo-Saxon cremation burials and nine inhumation burials were excavated. As previously noted, the soil conditions had reduced all skeletons to 'sand-silhouettes', but, on the basis of the accompanying grave goods, three of the inhumations could be identified as male and four as female graves. Grave goods included cruciform, small-long and annular brooches, wrist clasps, glass, amber and crystal beads, shield bosses, spear heads and a small bronze-bound horn cup. Preservation of organic remains proved to be good and most metal objects were associated with well preserved textiles.

Sufficient graves have now been excavated to allow preliminary analyses of grave orientation and chronology, as well as of burial practices. Among the latter would appear to be the deposition in the grave of pieces of charred wood. Three graves contained one or two pieces, probably planks, while a fourth had been filled with burnt branches, up to 21.5m in length. One coffin had been charred before burial. The sandy, relatively stone-free soil conditions at Snape allow unusually accurate definition and recording of ephemeral features such as soil stains and thus offer the potential of much new information on pagan Anglo-Saxon burial rite.

In addition to those fully excavated, a further ten graves were either partially excavated or left unexcavated. Among the most intriguing was one of unusual length (3.7m x 0.8m),

with a V-shaped soil-stain at one end, which indicates that it may contain a small boat burial. It is hoped that it will be possible to excavate this and the other graves during 1988, since the evidence of the excavation continues to indicate that the site is being gradually destroyed by ploughing.

(William Filmer-Sankey for the Snape Historical Trust and Suffolk County Council).

Sutton, Sutton Hoo (TM/2848): Excavation has continued throughout the year on Sector 2, the first area of the scheduled monument to be investigated in the present campaign.

By the end of 1987 the platforms of buried soil under Mounds 2 and 5 had been revealed, beside them and beneath them were pits, palisade trenches and ditches probably of prehistoric date. These features have yet to be excavated.

Mound 2 was made of yellow sand, decayed turf and topsoil, much disturbed by rabbits and overlain by the upcast from previous diggings. Much if not all of the material had originally been quarried from a broad irregular ditch surrounding the mound. There are 'causeways' on the north, east, south and west sides, and the ditch had silted up before being ploughed over, probably in the late Middle Ages. The mound had spread into the ditch, and would originally have been higher and steeper-sided. Rabbit burrows, a couple of World War II weapon-pits, Basil Brown's trench and an earlier robbing were the only features cut into Mound 2.

Basil Brown's trench was emptied of its backfill (including an old pair of steel roller-skates), and his boat-shaped pit (first defined in 1938) was fully defined. The large robber pit was then exposed: it contained many fragments of metal (silver, gold and bronze) from objects found in the burial deposit, together with many iron rivets from a boat. No secure date can be given for this robbing, but the finding of a rubber loop suggests it was late – perhaps 19th or early 20th century. It became clear that Basil Brown had not in fact discovered the full extent of the burial chamber. The boat-shape of the burial pit was real enough at the top – but at the bottom, shoulders of rain washed sand-silt (looking very like natural sand) were removed to reveal a rectangular pit lined with wood – the remains of a chamber grave. The chamber was constructed of overlapping planks, set on edge in a narrow trench, and perhaps held in place by a ring-beam, with horizontal struts across the chamber.

Over 300 ship rivets were found scattered in backfill or upcast, which indicate that a small boat (about 15ft long), or part of a large boat, was used to roof the chamber grave. Other such burials have been found in North Germany and Denmark, although they are rather later in date (9th century A.D.).

Five other graves were excavated in Sector 2, including one located by Ian Longworth in 1970. Four of the graves lie around Mound 5; and the fifth lies to the south east, surrounded by a shallow ring ditch. In it was a coffin containing the fragile remains of a child, with grave goods; an iron spearhead and a tiny bronze buckle. This find suggests that status at Sutton Hoo could be inherited.

Of the other four graves, one contained two bodies, another contained an individual who had been buried face down, with the head bent back at 90 degrees, and a third contained a body with a head detached and replaced upside down. None of these graves contained grave goods. They are interpreted, like those examined in the eastern sector (Int. 32), as examples of ritual killing.

(Martin Carver for the Sutton Hoo Research Trust).

Sutton (SUT041): A hoard of Roman silver coins was identified from surface finds by metal detector users. Having contacted the Archaeological Unit a small area of ploughsoil

was turned over and the main group of coins and the bottom half of a pot excavated. A total of 204 *denarii* were found comprising 92 Republican (2nd–1st century B.C.), 1 Juba of Numidia (60–46 B.C.), 25 Mark Anthony (32–31 B.C.), 33 Augustus (31 B.C.–A.D. 14), 50 Tiberius (A.D. 14–37) and 1 Caligula (A.D. 37–41). As *denarii* were very scarce in the period A.D. 37–64 the hoard was almost certainly post Conquest and might have been hidden at the time of the Boudican revolt (A.D. 60). The associated pot is a wheel thrown grey ware jar. The hoard was buried in the upper fill of a ditch containing hand-made Iron Age pottery and a second Iron Age ditch was identified nearly parallel to the first.

(Judith Plouviez for Suffolk County Council; coins identified by Andrew Burnett, Dept. of Coins and Medals, British Museum).

Westhorpe, Westhorpe Hall (TM/0469, WTP002): This excavation was promoted by the discovery of a 16th-century survey of the house of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk at Westhorpe (P.R.O. SC12/37/16 mm. 6–8). This supplements the account, by the antiquary Thomas Martin, of the destruction of the house in the 18th century (for further details of these see S.J. Gunn and P.G. Lindley, 'Charles Brandon's Westhorpe: an early Tudor courtyard house', *Archaeol.J.*, forthcoming). A trial excavation was undertaken in September to determine the possibility of full scale work in 1988. There were two main aims in this first season. First to establish the accuracy of the measurements given in the survey, principally by examining the gatehouse. Secondly it was hoped to verify the statement in the demolition account that Brandon made extensive use of terracotta decorations.

Part of the moat surrounding the original house still survives, entered by a bridge on the western side. Trenches were excavated on the inner edge of the moat adjacent to this bridge. These revealed the walls of the southern half of the gatehouse, which appeared to be 22ft square. This contrasts with the dimensions given in the 16th-century survey of 65ft x 37ft for the gatehouse as a whole. The walls varied from 60 to 90cm in width and were built up on three courses of brick footings. This building was bonded into the moat wall.

Another trench was dug next to the southern arm of the moat, with the main intention of finding the eastern wall of the outer court. The moat wall was located and at its eastern end it was built over by several later walls. At its west end the moat wall formed a straight join with a wall made of re-used Tudor building materials – terracotta, glazed floor-tile and brick.

Most of the pottery recovered was early to mid 18th-century, coinciding with the last phase of occupation, although a few Tudor sherds were found. Enormous amounts of roof tiles and two sizes of brick were also found. Amongst these were fragments of moulded bricks, including a moulded mullion. Green-glazed floor-tile was found in the gatehouse and red-glazed ones were re-built into a later wall. Much terracotta was discovered, confirming the extensive use of terracotta decorations as described in the demolition account. Several fine pieces, including a panel and a capital, were found in the gatehouse area; elsewhere a large fragment of a window mullion was recovered and many small fragments of roll mouldings and panel were found.

Further excavation is proposed in 1988 and it is hoped that this will reveal the dimensions of the ranges around the outer court and more about the eastern lodgings. It is also hoped that the bridge might be cleared to facilitate a proper examination of its form and decoration.

(Simon Thurley).

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