

ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT IXWORTH.

[READ JUNE 14, 1849.]

Wishing to do all in my power to promote the objects of the Society on the occasion of their visit to Ixworth, I have drawn up a short account of the antiquities which have been found in this parish and its immediate neighbourhood.

In laying this account before the members of the Institute, I beg also to draw their attention to the Map of the district which I have had made, in order that they may see the relative situation of those places at which objects of interest have been discovered.

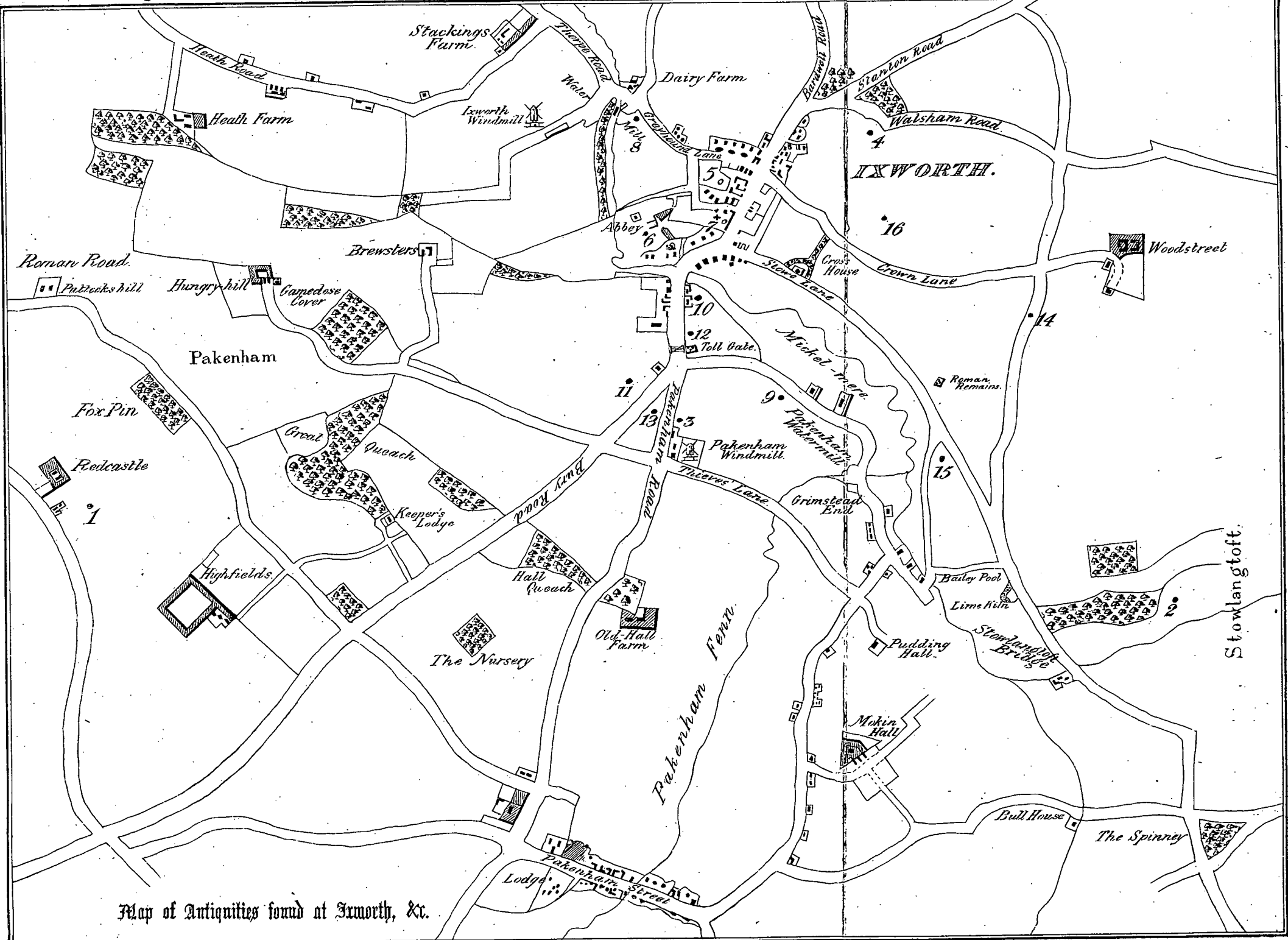
Mention is made by Mr. Shoberl (in the *Beauties of England and Wales*, County of Suffolk, page 191) of a tessellated pavement found at Pakenham, and a pot of Roman coins found in the year 1764 at Stowlangtoft.

I will begin by pointing out on the map the spots where these discoveries were made, and stating the particulars which have come to my knowledge concerning them.

A few years ago an old gentleman was living in Ixworth, whose father had occupied the Redcastle Farm (marked No. 1 on the map), where the pavement was found. He was himself but a boy when the discovery was made; and though he remembered the circumstance, he could not describe the pavement to me. All he knew was, that it was thought very handsome, and gentlemen came many miles to see it; that it was in a pasture near the farm-house, and a fence was put up to protect it from the cows; but that on one occasion the gate of the enclosure was not secured, and in the night the cows got in and broke it up. Judging from this person's age, I should think the pavement must have been found about 80 years ago.

Having heard of a Roman road near Redcastle, I was induced a few days since to visit the spot, where I find it very conspicuous across three fields at the back of cottages at Puttocks hill, and I think it most likely to be the same road that is laid down in the Map of Ancient Britain, published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

With respect to the Roman coins found at Stowlangtoft, the late Mr. C. T. Mathew of that place told me he had



Map of Antiquities found at Ixworth, &c.

heard from an old inhabitant that they were found at a spot (No. 2) lying to the north of the church, and a little way over the river that runs from the Hall to Stowlangtoft bridge. He was unable to give me any further information. But I have in my possession a copper coin of Tetricus, which formerly belonged to the Rev. George Boldero, of Ixworth, and was given to me by his widow. When it came into my hands it was wrapped in a paper on which was written a description of the coin, followed by the words, "Where this coin was found I know not, but many perfectly like it were lately found at Stowlangtoft." This may be an allusion to the pot-full spoken of by Shoberl; but whether that be so or not, it shows that several coins of Tetricus had at some time or other been discovered at Stowlangtoft.

The next thing I have to mention is a Roman burial place, for such I suppose it to have been, discovered about forty years ago near Pakenham windmill (No. 3) by a man digging brick earth to make bricks for the house near the mill. This man, who is still living, told me there was a square place full of pots set in rows. He could not tell the exact number of pots, but there were a great many. They were of a dark colour. Mr. H. Sharpe, of Ixworth, who also saw them, has told me that several of them had covers. No care was taken to preserve them.

What follows I can speak of with more certainty, as the articles which I mention have all passed through my hands, and many of them are still in my possession. The figures refer as before to the places on the map where the articles were discovered.

No. 4. A small British silver coin of Cunobelinus, very rare, having on the obverse CUNO in a wreath, and on the reverse Pegasus with CAMU below. It was found in 1826 by a man putting down a tree near the chalk pit on the right hand side of the road to Walsham, and is now in the British Museum.

No. 5. A Roman fibula in bronze with a silver coin of Septimius Severus. The fibula is of a circular form with a convex surface, very perfect and ornamented with glass or enamel, set in a concentric zigzag circles. It was found in 1834. A Saxon coin of Edmund I., with a head (Ruding, pl. 8, fig. 2). The coin is a rare one, and this specimen is

very perfect. It is now in the collection of the Rev. E. J. Shepherd, Luddesdown Rectory, near Gravesend. It was found in 1840. A few Roman brass coins have also been found at this spot.

No. 6. A large round vase, slightly ornamented. It was found near the north front of the Abbey, and is still in the possession of R. N. Cartwright, Esq. I am unable to say whether it is Roman or British.

No. 7. Some pieces of Roman pottery. They were found in 1838, in digging the foundations of the Parsonage. Two of the most perfect specimens are preserved at the Abbey.

No. 8. Two iron prick spurs. They are good specimens, but not a pair. One of them was found in 1842, in deepening the river by Ixworth watermill; the other about twelve months afterwards near the same place, together with the jaw and tusks of a boar.

No. 9. Two perfect skeletons; several fragments of Roman pottery; portions of two Roman spoons; some bone and bronze hair-pins; a stylus; a bronze handle; a piece of the horn of a stag; and an iron implement. All these were found in 1844. The bronze handle is of fine workmanship. It is flattened by wear on both sides; from which circumstance, as well as from some fragments of wood found with it, I conclude that it belonged to the top of a box containing some of the above articles. I am unable to give a name to the iron implement. Perhaps it served the purpose of a weapon, for it would have made a very effective one.

No. 10. Some Roman pottery; an iron spear; a bronze armlet. These were found in 1845, and Roman brass coins have often been picked up here.

No. 11. In 1846, some fragments of Roman pottery; a small piece of a glass vessel; a boar's tusk and the skull of an ox, with the slugs of the horns remaining on it.

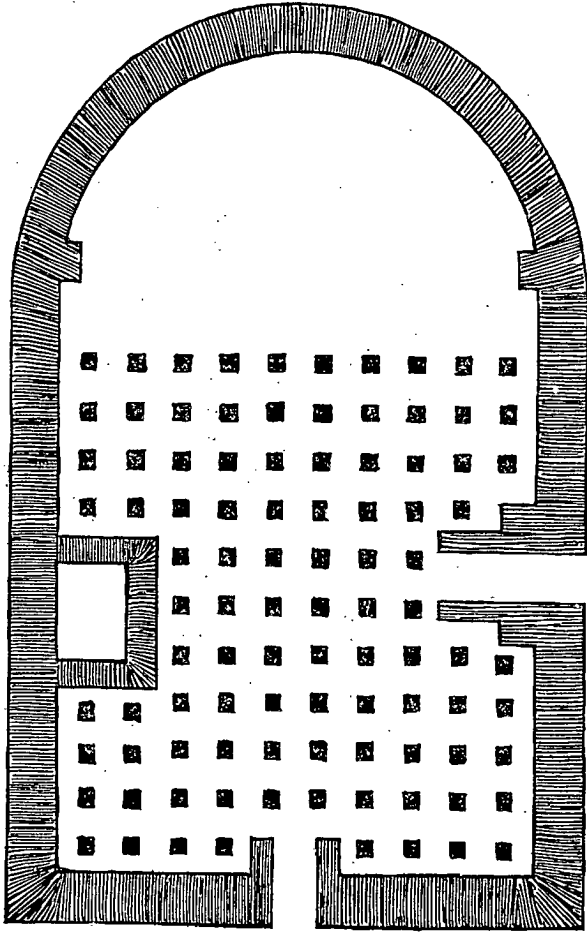
Nos. 9, 10, and 11 are on the property of Jas. Mathew, Esq., in whose possession is some of the pottery here mentioned.

No. 12. Roman coins occasionally.

No. 13. Ditto.

No. 14. A silver coin of Caligula.

No. 15. Roman coins occasionally.



Roman Hypocaust, at Exmouth.

No. 16. Portions of two bronze celts and a Roman key.

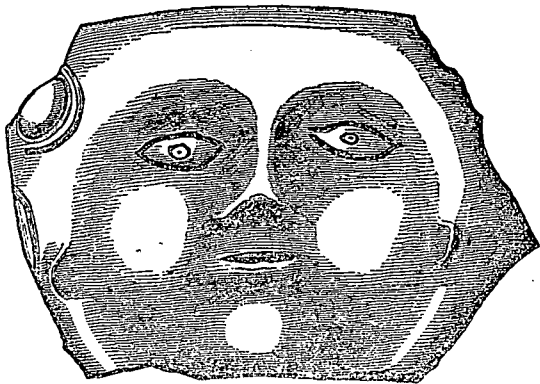
About half a mile to the south of Ixworth, on the road to Stowlangtoft, the foundations of a Roman hypocaust have been found. I think it was in November or December, 1834, that these remains, the situation of which is shown in the map, were first noticed by a person, ploughing in the field, meeting with some obstruction. A partial clearing away of the soil proved it to be the foundation of a building. As soon as I heard of it I went to look at it, and had no doubt of its being a Roman work, though at that time I was quite unacquainted with such remains, except from reading. At this visit I found a few fragments of pottery, a piece of mortar with a very fine coat of plaster, ornamented with two red lines very neatly painted, and a quantity of oyster shells and bones of animals.

In the spring of 1835 I directed attention to the spot through the medium of the local press, but nothing more was done with it till a few weeks before this meeting, when Mr. H. Sharpe, the proprietor, hearing of the proposed visit of the Institute, had the whole of the earth within the walls carefully taken out. It was now clearly ascertained to be the hypocaust of a sudatorium (or hot chamber) and caldarium (or warm bath) belonging to a villa of magnitude, or to the public baths of a municipium or station. A plan of the building, on a scale of $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to the foot, is annexed. It consists of a parallelogram with a semicircular apse, running nearly east and west; the semicircular end pointing a little to the south of west. The walls, built of flints and pebbles, with an occasional admixture of tiles, are two feet thick; and the dimensions of the apartment within the walls are 33 ft. long by 20 ft. wide. In the centre of the east wall is an aperture, probably for the furnace; and on the north wall, near the east end, is another aperture 2 feet wide, which may have been another fire-place or a doorway. Charred wood, &c., were found at both apertures. Against the south wall, to the east, is a rectangular enclosure, 3 ft. by 4 ft. inner dimensions, formed by a wall a foot thick on three sides. This was probably the cistern for heating water. The whole of the interior was occupied by pillars, about 14 in. high, formed of flat tiles $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. square, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. The pillars were uniformly disposed, and distant

from each other about 14 inches. They were in a ruinous state, showing that the building must have been utterly demolished before it was covered over. No part of the floor of the sudatorium remained on the piers; but small portions of a concrete of powdered brick and mortar, 3 or 4 in. thick, and painted, were found among the rubbish. Some red tesserae, each about 3 in. long and 1 in. square, similar to those used in rude mosaic pavements, were also found, with small fragments of talc, black fictile vessels, striated flue tiles, &c. A piece of a vase, more curious than the rest,

was ornamented with a masque or human face.

It is here engraved one-half the size of the original. There were also a number of dovetail-shaped tiles 16 in. in length, and 12 in. in width at the larger and 10 in. at the smaller



extremity, with a flange on each side, and a hole for a plug or nail at one end. How they were used is uncertain. The nail holes would lead to the inference that they were roof tiles; but similar tiles have been found at Wheatley, in Oxfordshire [Archl. Journal, ii., 354] and elsewhere, as foundations for walls; and Mr. C. Roach Smith [Journal of Brit. Arch. Assoc., iv., 372] says that they are found in all situations. On some of these tiles are impressed footmarks of the hound and other animals, produced by the animals running over them when in a plastic state; and on one was the perfect mould of a small leaf. There are other foundations to the south-east of this apartment, but they appear to have been disturbed before. A small copper coin of Constantine, and a silver one, the inscription on which is illegible, have been picked up in the same field.

These are the principal antiquities which I have met with in Ixworth and its neighbourhood, since I came to reside here in 1818.

J. WARREN.