ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 2021

compiled by ABBY ANTROBUS, HANNAH CUTLER, FAYE MINTER
and JAMES ROLFE *with object drawings by* DONNA WREATHALL

THIS IS A selection of the new discoveries reported in 2021. Information on these has been incorporated into the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record), which is maintained by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council at Bury St Edmunds. Where available, the Record number is quoted at the beginning of each entry. The Suffolk Historic Environment Record is now partially accessible online via the Suffolk Heritage Explorer web pages (https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk). Many of the excavation/evaluation reports are also available online via the Archaeological Data Service (http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/greylit/).

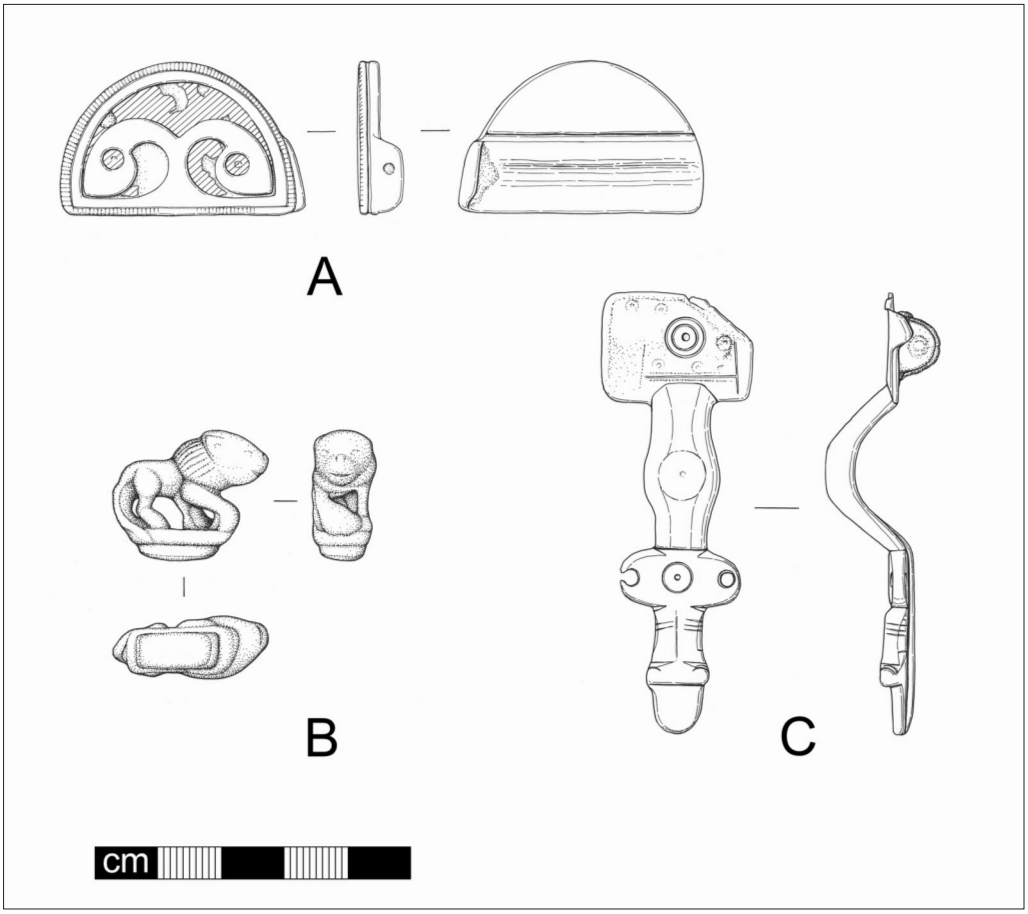
Most of the finds are recorded through the national Portable Antiquities Scheme, the Suffolk part of which is also based in the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council. Further details and images of many of the finds can be found on the Scheme's website (http://finds.org.uk/database) and for many of the finds listed here the PAS reference number is included in the text. During 2021 the PAS finds in Suffolk were recorded by Anna Booth and Phil Hughes. Following requests from metal detector users, we have removed all grid references from entries concerning finds reported by them.

We continue to be grateful to all those who contribute information for this annual list.

Abbreviations:

Mdf	Metal detector find
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme (see above). The Suffolk contact for this national scheme is Anna Booth (tel. 01284 741241; e-mail anna.booth@suffolk.gov.uk).
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Bury Resource Centre, Hollow Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7AY (tel. 01284 741230; e-mail archaeology@suffolk.gov.uk)
SHER	Suffolk Historic Environment Record (see above)

Pa	Palaeolithic	**Ro**	Roman
Me	Mesolithic	**Sx**	Saxon
Ne	Neolithic	**Md**	Medieval
BA	Bronze Age	**PM**	Post-Medieval
IA	Iron Age	**Un**	Period unknown
Pr	Prehistoric		



ABOVE:
FIG. 84 – Iron Age copper-alloy strap fitting from Bedfield (A); Roman copper-alloy miniature lion figurine from Bedfield (B); Saxon copper-alloy small-long brooch from Redgrave (C).

LEFT:
FIG. 85 – Medieval silver brooch from Bradfield St George.

OPPOSITE PAGE:
FIG. 86 – Saxon copper-alloy strap-end with silver rivets from Eye.

INDIVIDUAL FINDS AND DISCOVERIES

Ashfield cum Thorpe (AST 044). **IA. Ro.** Silver unit of the Iceni, VA 80 (SF-A6F9EC), 1st- and 4th-century Roman coinage. (Mdf).

Bacton (BAC 082). **IA.** Gold *stater* of Eastern region (Cunobelin), VA 1931, BMC 1794, pierced with 2 holes (SF-6A9C08). (Mdf).

Bardwell (BAR 149). **PM.** A complete gold bodkin with a maker's mark, the form of which is known in only 2 examples for 17th-century London and becomes much more common from 1700 onwards (SF-A3AE26). (Mdf).

Barham (BRH 027). **IA.** Known site. Gold Gallo-Belgic quarter *stater* of the Morini, VA 69-1 (SF-01F6F7), silver unit of unclear type, probably Iceni Bury or face/horse type, ABC no. 1495ff. (SF-01FD5F). (Mdf).

Bawdsey (BAW 289). **IA.** Copper-alloy *stater* of the East Anglian region/Iceni, VA 610-2 (SF-23901E). (Mdf).

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill (MNL 1165). **Ro. Sx.** 4th-century coinage. Copper-alloy 9th-century openwork cross disc brooch (SF-DAD780). (Mdf).

Bedfield (BED 057). **IA. Ro.** Copper-alloy and red glass inlaid strap fitting (SF-AC4B15) (Fig. 84 A), 1st-century copper-alloy Colchester and Colchester-derivative brooches. Roman greyware sherds, 4th-century coinage, copper-alloy miniature lion figurine (SF-AFB77C) (Fig. 84 B), copper-alloy spoon handle (SF-A0450E), copper-alloy miniature votive axe (SF-9FDD42), copper-alloy lion-headed mount (SF-9FC361), copper-alloy enamelled seal box lid (SF-AC1EDE), copper-alloy enamelled headstud brooch (SF-D01346), copper-alloy continental plate brooch with white metal coating, Mackreth Type 2.b.1, (SF-CF6FEE), copper-alloy enamelled trumpet brooch (SF-C01CE6), 2 copper-alloy enamelled domed boss

FIG. 87 – Bronze Age gold finger ring from Eye.

plate brooches (SF-AC1286 and SF-AC0639). (Mdf).

Bradfield St George (BSG 052). **Md**. Gilded silver annular brooch with snakeshead terminals (SF-46E2CB) (Fig. 85). (Mdf).

Corton (COR 156, COR 157). **Me. Ne. BA**. 176 worked flints including retouched flakes, blades and scrapers and cores.

Dalham (DAL 047). **Md**. Gold finger ring with inset jewel (IOW-9E9D9C). (Mdf).

Debenham (DBN 257). **Md**. Gold finger ring with a pale red cabochon gem setting (SF-B68BE3). (Mdf).

Denham (DEN 030). **Md**. Copper-alloy figurative mount of a reclining knight (IOW-1585C5). (Mdf).

Eye (EYE 082). **Sx**. Copper-alloy strap-end with silver rivets (SF-8516A4) (Fig. 86). (Mdf).

Eye (EYE 242). **BA**. Gold spiral finger ring (SF-6FD899) (Fig. 87). (Mdf).

Felsham (FHM 060). **IA. Ro. Sx**. Copper-alloy Nauheim-derivative brooch (SF-884768). Ceramic building material, greyware, Samian, and colour-coated sherds, 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd- and 4th-century silver and copper-alloy coinage, Colchester and Colchester-derivative and Hod Hill brooches, enamelled disc plate brooch (SF-18BF6A), bracelets (SF-1A3029 and SF-60D6D3), vulvate mount (SF-8B7357), finger rings, 1 with blue glass and 1 with enamel settings (SF-8B693A and SF-8876C2), copper-alloy small-long brooch (SF-196DF4). (Mdf).

Finningham (FNN 041). **IA. Ro**. Hoard of 83 IA coins and 37 Ro coins, dating between 169 BC and AD 54 (SF-BD9934). (Mdf)

Finningham (FNN 042) **Ro**. 3rd- and 4th-century coinage, greyware and Samian ware (SF-17FD4B and SF-013E2D), copper-alloy skirted terret (SF-EBE2D9), ring key (SF-D69415), plate brooch (SF-D932D6). (Mdf).

Helmingham (HLM 050). **IA. Ro**. Hoard of 4 gold *staters* and 10 silver *denarii* (SF-AEA396). (Mdf).

Helmingham (HLM 062). **Sx**. Silver coin of Offa of Mercia, North, vol. I, no.338 (SF-684647), copy of an early medieval Northumbrian *styca* probably derived from the coinage of Aethelred II (SF-FF2868), silver finger ring with Trewhiddle-style beasts (SF-FF2137). (Mdf).

Hemingstone (HMG 059). **Sx**. Copper-alloy hooked tag (SF-D5CF33), key (SF-D5C4BB), silver coin of Aethelred II, North vol. I, no.768 (SF-D59171). (Mdf).

Henley (HEN 035) **IA**. Gold *stater*, Talbot Type B, sub-Type A2, BMC 218-78 (SF-1DC380). (Mdf).

FIG. 88 – Mesolithic flint axehead from Heveningham.

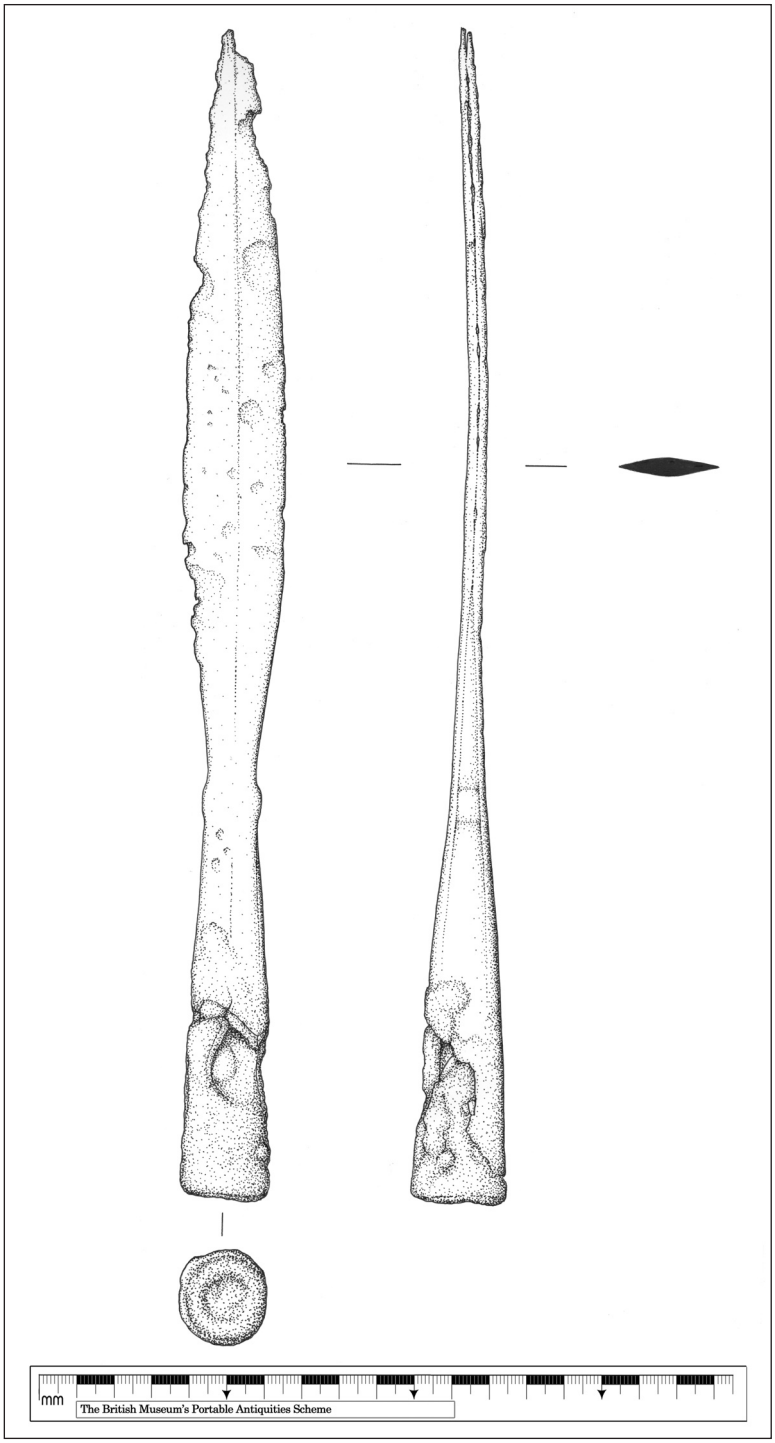


FIG. 89 – Saxon iron spearhead from Ixworth.

Heveningham (HEV 037). **Me**. Flint tranchet axehead (SF-619158) (Fig. 88). (Mdf).

Higham (HGM 037). **BA**. Hoard of 14 objects (SF-B34E3C). (Mdf).

Hinderclay (HNY 078). **BA**. Hoard of 21 objects and casting waste (SF-E55329). (Mdf).

Hitcham (HTC 139). **Sx**. Silver hooked tag (SF-E7C704). (Mdf).

Ixworth (IXW 196). **Sx**. Iron spearhead (SF-58DAE2) (Fig. 89). (Chance find).

Long Melford (LMD 363). **IA**. **Ro**. Iron Age silver unit of Cunobelin (NMS-2DE41B), cast copper-alloy potin South Thames, so-called Cantii type (NMS-2E0085), handmade Iron Age pottery sherds, 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-century coinage, Roman greyware sherds, silver finger ring (NMS-CF7FEE), copper-alloy amphora-shaped strap-end fragment (NMS-FF443F), copper-alloy bracelets (NMS-268C20, NMS-C14D27, NMS-C0AFDD), copper-alloy votive axehead (NMS-F90CE9). (Mdf).

Monk Soham (MKS 038). **IA**. Silver East Anglian/Iceni unit, VA 740 (SF-ABF3C8). (Mdf).

Redgrave (RGV 094). **Sx**. Copper-alloy small-long brooch (SF-B04E3E) (Fig. 84 C). (Mdf).

Shimpling (SPL 041). **IA**. **Ro**. Copper-alloy tankard handle (SF-CF9446), cosmetic pestle (SF-F64126). Copper-alloy 1st- to 4th-century coinage.

Sudbury (SUY 216). **Mes**. **Ne**. **BA**. 123 worked flints and debitage, the majority of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date with a smaller amount of Mesolithic or early Neolithic material (SF-C5233B). (Fieldwalking).

Yaxley (YAX 068). **BA**. **Ro**. **Sx**. **Md**. 737 pottery sherds of later prehistoric, Roman, early medieval and medieval pottery (SF-06FF36). (Fieldwalking).

SURVEYS

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham (TM/3353; RLM 044). A fieldwalking survey was carried out by a team of volunteers, with training from Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia, as part of the Rendlesham Revealed project led by SCCAS and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Material was recovered from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period. Many struck flints were collected, mostly simple flakes and a well-made arrowhead. A thin scatter of abraded Roman pottery and medieval pottery was recovered, indicating that the fields were under cultivation during these periods. Small concentrations of unworn early medieval pottery sherds were also collected. Material from the 16th–19th centuries included pottery, clay pipe stems and bottle fragments, as well as large quantities of post-medieval brick and tile recovered, indicating intense manuring and cultivation by the farm lying to the N.

Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project.

Rendlesham, Land in the river valley flood plain (TM/3253; RLM 109). Geoarchaeological fieldwork was conducted by a team of volunteers led by Professor Charles French and Dr Sean Taylor, University of Cambridge. This work is part of the Rendlesham Revealed project, led by SCCAS and funded by the National Lottery Heritage fund. The fieldwork aimed to investigate and record the soil/sedimentary sequence across the Deben valley floodplain floor to the N of the early medieval settlement site at Rendlesham, and to prospect for wet/waterlogged archive deposits. This study aimed to provide stratigraphic, vegetational and chronological data on the past vegetational development of the valley and human impacts upon it during the last 10,000 years.

A series of 85 hand auger holes were made in 10 transects. This was accompanied by 4 targeted machine-drilled boreholes made into the former Deben palaeochannel deposits to

retrieve intact cores for palynological and stratigraphic studies. At least 3 palaeochannels were identified. The main one was *c.*2.5m to 3.6m deep, well preserved and waterlogged, dating from at least the late 5th millennium BC into the medieval period. The palaeochannel splits into 2 main channels. Radiocarbon-dating is underway to identify whether the channel was open in the early medieval period. 2 more shallow channels were seen: 1 is a former stream *c.*1–1.5m deep infilled with organic silt and peat; the other contained possible tidal beach sand and silt deposits.

Preliminary results from further pollen analysis showed that in the river valley, the vegetation was mainly wet grass/sedge fen habitat, which slowly became more acidic due to soil erosion from the higher ground as a result of intensifying agricultural impact. Following this, the floodplain developed into grassland meadows, probably caused by human exploitation of the wetland vegetation, opening up the landscape. Lime, ash and beech were growing close to the palaeochannel, with alder likely growing in small stands on the wetter fringes, and in the wider areas there was a mixed deciduous woodland with oak and hazel.

Further analysis is underway to understand in more detail the Roman-Saxon and early medieval agricultural development of this landscape, and to determine whether the river Deben was still navigable and within the tidal reach of the sea at these times.

Professor Charles French, University of Cambridge,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project.

Sutton, Land at Sutton (TM/3045; SUT 022). Volunteers from the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group (SAFG) undertook magnetometry survey of a large multiperiod site within the Deben valley as part of the Rendlesham Revealed project led by SCCAS and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The site, which was known to be active from the Iron Age to the 5th century, was found to contain extensive features, including likely Roman and Iron Age structures, along with some industrial activity (Fig. 90).

John Rainer, Suffolk Archaeological Field Group,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project.

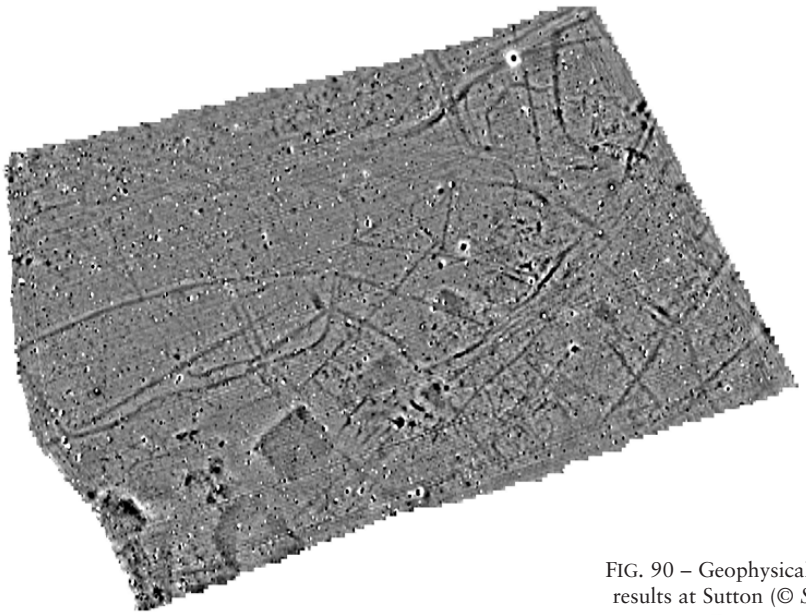


FIG. 90 – Geophysical survey results at Sutton (© *SAFG*).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Bacton, Land S of Pretyman Avenue (TM/0566; BAC 050). Excavation confirmed the presence of an enclosed farmstead dating from the Early Romano-British period. Only the W part was revealed, with a settlement boundary ditch continuing beyond the E edge of excavation. Dating evidence suggests a peak in activity during the mid-1st century AD with the farmstead probably abandoned in the early 2nd century. Remains included 4 subcircular roundhouse dwellings with the vestiges of post settings and hearths, along with some pits. A pit within 1 of the roundhouses contained a complete Neolithic handaxe in good condition, an item which may have been deliberately curated. Truncation of at least 1 of the roundhouses by a later ditch and the presence of other intercutting linear and discrete features suggest that not all these dwellings were contemporary, with the domestic focus of the settlement likely shifting episodically. Evidence for possible ritual activity associated with such shifts was discovered; 1 of the roundhouse gullies was truncated by a pit that produced a group of pottery indicative of special deposition, including a complete vessel containing a copper-alloy brooch.

Graeme Clarke, OA East, for RPS Consulting.

Barking, Gallows Hill, Gipping Valley (TM/1053; BRK 104). Excavation between 2011 and 2020 revealed multiperiod occupation related to prolonged utilisation of the riverine landscape of the site. Prehistoric remains included Mesolithic struck flint, which was mainly present as residual or unstratified material, a small group of Early Neolithic cut features, a small number of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features which may attest to seasonal or episodic occupation, and a single Iron Age feature. The site appears to have formed part of the undeveloped, possibly agricultural, hinterland of the Roman settlement of *Combretovium*. Extensive dispersed Anglo-Saxon activity was recorded with 8 sunken-featured buildings, complemented by a further 4 recorded during the previous excavation phases, several associated features and an unusual figure-of-eight ditch arrangement (Fig. 91). Several undated post-hole structures may be associated with this activity. Subsequently, there appeared to be a decline in activity at this location in the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods.

Andrew A.S. Newton, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Lafarge Aggregates Ltd.

Barton Mills, Sunnica East Sites A and B (TL 6673 and TL 69 72; BTM 093-94). See below, *Freckenham, Worlington and Barton Mills*.

Beck Row, Land adjacent to 1 St John's Street (TL/6977; MNL 1160). Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age struck flints were recovered from pits during evaluation, although some could be residual. 4 features (ditches and pits) were tentatively dated to the medieval period and included a copper-alloy composite strap-end, *c*.AD 1270–1400. Medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were fragmentary, but of note was a sherd of a Saintonge polychrome jug, indicating an affluent household in the vicinity. The remaining wares were local Fenland and Bury-type coarsewares. Animal bones included domesticates as well as an accumulation of frog/toad bones, which were likely associated with old ponds.

Romy McIntosh and Mark Hinman, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Consulting on behalf of Tilia Homes.

Bramford, Land adjacent to Clarice House (TM/1346; BRF 181). Evaluation identified a focus of 11th/12th-century activity close to the junction of Bramford Lane and Bramford

FIG. 91 – Anglo-Saxon features at Gallows Hill, Barking (© *Wardell Armstrong*).

Road, yielding 43 sherds of early medieval pottery, a small collection of fired clay, and shell fragments from ditches, a pit, and a quarry feature.

Martin Cuthbert, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Artisan Planning and Property Services on behalf of Helmingham Holdings Ltd.

Bramford, Land adjacent to Clarice House, Bramford Road (TM/1346; BRF 181). Following the evaluation noted above, 3 areas were excavated between service trenches. 1 revealed a ditch seen in evaluation, a pair of medieval pits, and a large irregular feature of probable natural origin, with the whole indicating a back-plot area for a small, low-status 11th/12th to 14th-century settlement at the junction of 2 historic routeways.

John Newman Archaeological Services,
for Artisan Planning and Property Services, on behalf of Helmingham Holdings Ltd.

Brantham, Land S of Slough Road (TM/1034; BNT 102). 22 trenches were excavated across 2.5ha. Acidic soils had impacted preservation, limiting some classes of material such as animal bone. A small assemblage of Post-Deverel–Rimbury pottery, most likely dating to the Later Bronze Age, included a sherd from the shoulder of an angular-shouldered jar and a coarse base angle sherd with a rare crushed flint-dusted bottom. Evidence of enclosure ditches, pits and hearths with traces of *in situ* burning and abundant charcoal denote a settlement site.

Tom Revell and Christiane Meckseper, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for Rainier Developments Ltd.

Bungay, Land off St John's Road (TM/3488; BUN 196). Evaluation and excavation established the presence of an Iron Age boundary ditch, along with smaller enclosure ditches and large and small pits. No specific zone of ironworking was clear, although the recovery of both slag and hammerscale suggest that ironworking happened nearby. Evidence of domestic occupation was also lacking, but various contexts yielded a small assemblage of largely Middle Iron Age pottery. The site appears to have been abandoned after the Iron Age, with

no further evidence of use until the post-medieval period when further ditches were created.

Fabian Danielsson and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Cripps Developments Ltd.

Burstall and Somersham, Land E of The Channel, Burstall and S of Church Farm, Somersham (TM/0846 and TM/0847; BUS 019 and SSH 041). 175 trenches were excavated across 7 targeted areas, revealing evidence for an extensive early to high medieval agricultural landscape with some limited indication of earlier (Bronze and Iron Age to Roman) and later activity. The Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon periods were poorly represented, with just a few sherds recovered, almost entirely residual material.

Evidence for the medieval occupation and utility of the landscape comprised field boundaries, enclosures and associated occupation features. Most activity appears to have its origins in the Late Anglo-Saxon period, with subsequent predominant evidence from throughout the high medieval period (11th–14th centuries) suggestive of the presence of a number of small to moderately sized farmsteads. There was evidence for crop processing and small-scale industrial activity/metalworking. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig faunal remains, marine shells, nutshells and berry seeds were encountered in moderate quantities, suggesting some dietary variation and the exploitation of a variety of food sources, both local and those presumably traded from the coast.

After the 14th century, activity appears to have been scaled back, coinciding with a wider trend during this period of settlement shrinkage and abandonment. Limited areas provided evidence suggestive of continuing habitation as opposed to ongoing agricultural management of the landscape, with the recovery of animal bone indicative of the initial stages of butchery and carcass processing recovered from features of post-medieval date that is also indicative of an ongoing pastoral element to landscape use.

Anna Wolf, Cotswold Archaeology, for Enso Energy Ltd.

Bury St Edmunds, 81 Guildhall Street, (TL/8564; BSE 703). Evaluation and monitoring encountered the town ditch with its associated bank, of which little remained in relation to the projected depth of the ditch and volume of upcast, suggesting that the bank material was removed from the site for use elsewhere as either building material, or for lime production. A full profile of the ditch could not be gleaned due to health and safety concerns, but it was observed to run on the alignment projected from earlier nearby investigations (BSE 179, BSE 295 and BSE 363). The earliest dumping/silting fill encountered produced abraded pottery dating to the 15th–16th centuries and evidence of animal butchery, possibly for horn production nearby. Later fills show the ditch going into disuse, with no maintenance and deliberate backfilling, suggestive of the expansion of the adjacent St Andrew's Street within the post-medieval period. This area of the town became wealthy at this time (particularly associated with the wool trade), with the extant house fronting onto Guildhall Street to the E originating in the 18th century, owned by the merchant and banker James Oakes. Buildings associated with yarn production within the site during the post-medieval period were demolished by James' son, Henry, to provide 81 Guildhall Street with a more pleasant view of the nearby park to the W of St Andrew's Street, and to make room for stabling. These yarn production structures or stables likely explain traces of a post-medieval structure.

A buried topsoil and subsoil predated the town ditch and bank, likely resulting from early medieval agricultural practices located on the periphery of the town. 2 smaller areas monitored directly N and S of 81 Guildhall Street suggested that the area had been heavily landscaped during its construction and expansion.

Daniel McConnell, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for Mothersole Builders.

Bury St Edmunds, The Weymed Site (Area B), Honey Hill (TL/8563; BSE 376). Saxon and medieval deposits were uncovered during the 2011 evaluation of the S part of the proposed development site, and evaluation of this N part identified a main phase of medieval activity (11th–14th centuries) correlating with the most intense phase of activity identified previously.

A number of undated post-holes are likely to represent (an) ancillary structure(s) related to the buildings identified to the S.

Eva M. Gonzalez-Suarez, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for Murfet Group.

Capel St Mary, Land adjacent to Longfield Road (TM/0938; CSM 047). Excavation of 3 adjacent areas in the S of the site (combined area of 0.44ha) followed geophysical survey and evaluation. Single sherds of pottery (possibly residual) found in a couple of small pits and residual flint flakes represented Middle Bronze Age and Late Iron Age activity. Various ditches, pits, and a large, partially ditched enclosure represented Roman occupation. Features within the enclosure suggested limited activity, with no evidence present for buildings or structures. Other ditches possibly defined part of a track or an irregular field system. A short-lived medieval farmstead/settlement was represented by a sequence of intercutting ditches and scatters of small pits and possible post-holes, dated by pottery as 12th–early 13th century. Field boundary ditches and a former track running along the S boundary of the site represented late medieval and post-medieval agricultural land use.

Kieron Heard, Archaeology South-East, for RPS Consultation Services.

Clare, Clare Castle Country Park (TL/7745; CLA 008). Following the hiatus caused by Covid, which delayed the 2020 season, the final stage of this 3-year community excavation took place in 2021 within the inner bailey. The results have been rewarding with some stunning highlights. The project expanded on trenches opened in 2019 and reopened a hand-dug trench located in the woods against the S bailey bank that was first examined in 2013 (Fig. 92). In addition, test pits were also excavated to answer specific questions; an ongoing aim has been to define the extent of the pre-Norman cemetery, and we can now see that it covers at least 3000m^2, with burials on its W edge cut away by the moat.

Digging in Trench 6 revealed the presence of large post-holes that seem to represent an aisled timber building probably, from its style, 12th/13th century in date, which would be consistent with the majority of pottery recovered in this area. Other finds included an iron arrowhead, a padlock key and a copper-alloy couching needle.

The reopened trench by the S bailey bank had been started in 2013 and it had been tentatively suggested that the bonded remains of flint and mortar footings might survive quite close to the surface. On further investigation, this material all appears to be significant dumps of redeposited masonry, possibly deliberately cleared up to the bank in the medieval (or early post-medieval) period in order to reuse the land, perhaps for gardens. Impressive here was the large amount of high-quality decorative building material recovered including painted window glass fragments and glazed tiles. The contrasting absence of worked building stone suggests a structure that was demolished quickly, with the readily useable elements salvaged and the trickier material dumped. Amongst the material were 2 fragments of an intricately carved, double-sided ivory comb of 11th/12th-century date, made from African elephant ivory (Fig, 93). 1 side panel depicts the hind legs of a beast that could be a griffin, set amidst foliage. The other side is decorated with a lion; one of a possible pair with the second now missing. The teeth and sides of the comb are absent. It appears that at some point the object may have suffered lamination, causing the teeth to fail, and rather than discarding such a fine object, the teeth were neatly sawn away leaving the decorative panels to be reused. Ivory combs of this form have been described as 'liturgical' combs, thought to be used by bishops and priests

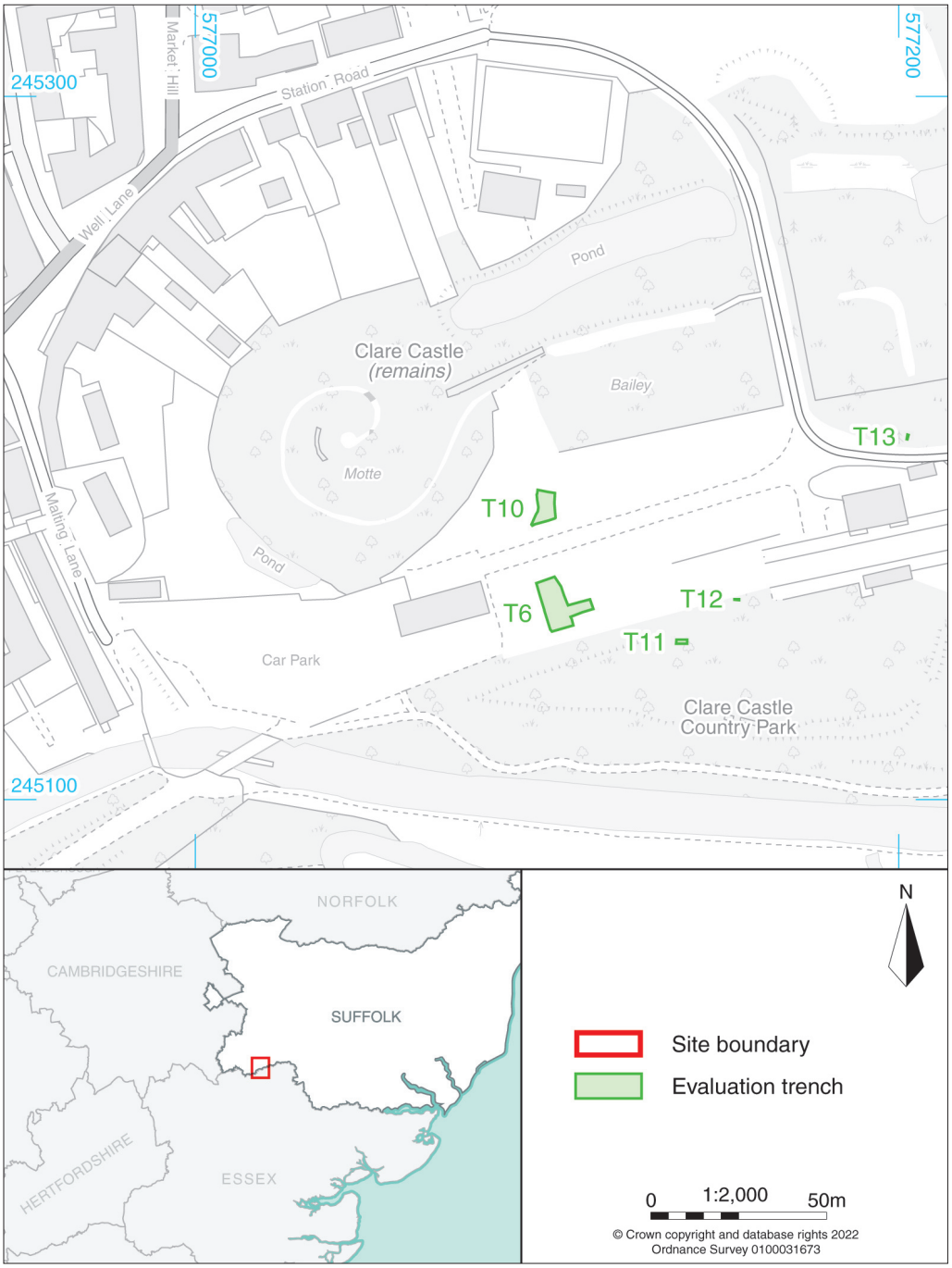


FIG. 92 – Plan of trenches at Clare Castle (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

FIG. 93 – Double-sided ivory comb of 11th- to 12th-century date from Clare Castle (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

before and during the mass. However, some scholars feel that they would have had a more secular use as luxury items, and are perhaps better identified as Byzantine combs, reflecting their point of origin in Egypt, Syria, or just possibly Constantinople. This appears to be the first example of an ivory Byzantine comb excavated this century and in Britain these combs are scarce. There are only 3 known examples, 1 each in the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum, both of which are old finds without decent provenances, and a third fragment from a stratified context under York Minster.

Jo Caruth and Ruth Beveridge, Cotswold Archaeology (with information from Ian Riddler), for Clare Castle Country Park Trust.

Coddenham, Shrubland Quarry (TM/1253; CDD 136). A 0.86ha area was excavated in advance of the final phase of the main quarry identifying a small concentration of features in the SW, including a boundary ditch and a large pit (both Bronze Age), with several small undated features. 2 small, isolated pits to the E were also Bronze Age.

Becca Smart, Cotswold Archaeology, for Andrew Josephs Associates, on behalf of Brett Aggregates.

Combs, Land adjacent to 2 Oak Thatch, Park Road (TM/0356; COM 091). Evaluation for a development on the N edge of what is mapped on Hodskinson's 1783 map as 'Trickers Green' revealed one shallow post-medieval ditch and a small scatter of medieval pottery sherds. A large ditch on the road frontage is the likely edge of the green and this will be preserved in the development. An extensive scatter of small aluminium fragments also confirmed the area as the site of a WW2 aircraft crash in 1940, which destroyed a farm.

John Newman Archaeological Services, for Smith & Co. Properties Ltd.

Darsham, Land S of Darsham station (TM/4069; DAR 061). Evaluation revealed 25 ditches, 23 pits, 7 post-holes, 6 gullies, a charcoal-rich pit and a ditch or pit. Prehistoric remains were found, but the main period of activity was medieval (12th–14th centuries), relating to a small, low-status domestic settlement. Post-medieval and modern features were likely associated with agricultural activity.

E. Hicks, Colchester Archaeological Trust, for M. Scott Properties Ltd.

East Bergholt, Land S of Heath Road (TM/0835; EBG 060). Excavation recorded a heavily robbed, 3-flued brick kiln surviving only as footings, and fronted by a large rake-out pit. There were 2 brick types in the kiln structure; unfrogged early 19th-century types, and frogged examples of the mid-19th century. The kiln is absent on both the 1838 tithe map and the 1st-edition Ordnance Survey sheet of 1887. Evidence therefore suggests it was originally constructed *c.*1840, repaired in frogged brick *c.*1850–60, and abandoned and infilled before the 1876–84 survey for the OS map.

B. Holloway, H. Brooks and M. Loughton,
Colchester Archaeological Trust, for Hills Residential.

Elmswell, Land E of Ashfield Road (TL/9964; EWL 039). Excavations were undertaken on a medieval settlement site. A level of activity was indicated by a copper-alloy hooked tag probably dating to the 8th/9th centuries, but the earliest evidence for settlement and agricultural activity dates to the 10th–11th centuries AD, with Late Saxon pottery recovered from 2 boundary ditches. An extensive field system was developed in the late 11th century and occasionally altered over the next 100 years. A series of ditches formed small enclosures that were used to manage livestock, probably sheep.

Occupation intensified between the 13th and 14th centuries, with at least 3 buildings constructed in the central part of the site. These bordered a trackway that led towards the common land to the W at Button Haugh Green, and associated new ditches also seem to be related to livestock management. A large assemblage of pottery and small objects were recovered from features, confirming that the buildings were domestic in nature and occupied by a relatively wealthy, farming family. Occupation appears to have ceased in the late 15th or early 16th centuries, with the land reverting back to pasture/arable. Reoccupation of the site occurred in the late 18th/early 19th centuries, when a small cottage was built and the land was subdivided by 2 field boundary ditches, as shown on historic mapping.

Laura Desrosiers-Whalley and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group on behalf of Matthew Homes Ltd.

Euston and Fakenham Magna, Land N of RAF Honington, Euston Estate Solar Farm (TL/8876; EUN 075-6, FKM 085). Evaluation was undertaken across 3 areas. Widely distributed pits, found both as apparently isolated features and in small clusters, were associated with Beaker pottery and flintwork, and a probable Early Bronze Age 'pit-pyre' cremation burial was identified. Ditches recorded were found to belong to an extensive complex of Middle Bronze Age enclosures and boundaries. At least 4 major ditched enclosures, bounded by substantial ditches, were revealed.

Evidence for later activity was limited, but included a probable Romano-British boundary ditch and 2 pits producing single sherds of Roman pottery. Post-medieval finds were concentrated adjacent to the known site of a 19th-century farmstead, and the base of a concrete structure representing part of the infrastructure of the WW2 airfield at RAF Honington was revealed.

Lawrence Billington, OA East, for Island Green Power.

Fakenham Magna, Land N of RAF Honington, Euston Estate Solar Farm (TL/8876; FKM 085). See above, *Euston and Fakenham Magna.*

Felixstowe, Walton High Street (TM/2936; FEX 299). A 3ha site was excavated. 2 large pits, more than 2m in diameter and 80cm deep, had beautifully layered fills containing carinated bowl and Mildenhall ware ceramics, dated to the earliest Neolithic. There were 3 groups of

Beaker pits across the same area of the site, towards the N edge of a slight promontory with the land falling away to the N and W into shallow valleys.

6 barrows, ranging from 5m to 30m in diameter, occupied the edges of the promontory, 1 of which contained a central cremation burial within an upturned Early Bronze Age urn. Middle Bronze Age field systems covered large parts of the site on 2 slightly different alignments looking NE and SW. There was evidence for settlement activity through the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages, and a thousand years of cremation burial from the Early Bronze Age through to the Early Iron Age. At the latter end of this sequence was a cemetery group of 22 cremations and cremation-related deposits arranged in a semicircle some 6.5m in diameter (Fig. 94), though with additional pits at the W and S. None of the initial pits contained any intrinsically datable material, but while they held no urns some had been 'burnt out' prior to the deposition of the cremated material. The burning was sufficiently intense to fire the edges of the pit an inch or two into the surrounding natural, almost creating *in situ* pottery vessels.

At the centre of the group was a slightly larger, deeper pit containing an intact vessel thought to be earliest Iron Age. The pot was upturned with a smooth, domed (unworked) stone placed on the base (Fig. 95). The pit truncated 2 earlier features in the group. The vessel is approximately 35cm tall and wide with fingertip decoration around the shoulder and a piecrust rim. Visible fabric is dark grey/black with few obvious inclusions. The Radiography Department at the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds agreed to CT scan the vessel. The sequence within the pot appears relatively simple, with 3 bands of (presumably) pyre material tipped in from 1 side with the cremated bone, in large pieces, placed on top, around the level of the shoulder. The top of the pot has then been filled with regular-sized pieces of flint gravel, perhaps a hundred in all, rammed deep under the lip of the pot to a good depth and both enclosing and sealing the cremated bone.

Richard Mortimer and Linzi Everett, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Orion Heritage, on behalf of Bloor Homes.

FIG. 94 – Semi-circular pit group containing cremation deposits at Walton, Felixstowe (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

FIG. 95 – Pit containing an inverted vessel with an unworked stone placed on its base at Walton, Felixstowe (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

Flixton, Flixton Park Quarry, N of Flixton Road (TM/3187; FLN 112). Evaluation was undertaken ahead of 'Buck Land Extension' to Flixton Park Quarry. 100 trenches were excavated, with archaeological interest in 83. 360 features were recorded, of which 210 were ditches and 145 were discrete pits, including several possible post-holes that may represent structural remains. Also identified were 4 possible clay surfaces, which may be the remnants of floors, along with a similar sand deposit and a small group of flint cobbles, loosely bonded with lime mortar.

The frequency of ditches suggests the presence of a palimpsest of field systems and possible enclosures with artefactual evidence indicating that these date predominantly from the Roman and medieval periods, with discrete pits and possible post-holes associated with both periods. These were set against a background of characteristically dispersed prehistoric activity and overlain by post-medieval field boundaries.

Preservation of the archaeological level across the site was generally good, although some possible modern intrusion was identified towards the floodplain to the N where the water table was occasionally visible. A prominent ridge of slightly higher ground was visible running roughly centrally through the site from its W edge, and the identified archaeological deposits were more concentrated along this ridge and running off it towards the floodplain of the river Waveney bounding the site to the N. Remains were recorded across the site, although were less frequent along the S edge of the evaluated area.

Simon Picard, Cotswold Archaeology, for Breedon Group.

Fornham St Genevieve, Fornham Park (TL/5950; FSG 036). Excavations recorded multiperiod occupation with a significant prehistoric presence. 3 loose clusters of post-holes and pits, containing Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, appeared to represent 3 domestic settings, as part of a dispersed settlement. Landscaping at the park may have removed traces of the buildings themselves and the more superficial post-holes, leaving only the deeper post-holes and waste pits, however, evidence for later Bronze Age buildings is frequently ephemeral and the evidence from Fornham Park appears to confirm this characteristic.

Evidence for later periods was restricted to ditches and pits associated with the post-medieval parkland. The battle of Fornham is reputed to have been fought within the bounds of the park in AD 1173, however, there were no finds or features relating to this event unearthed during the current project. Similarly, the park was used as a military training camp during both WW1 and WW2, and although previous metal-detecting finds had indicated this use, no further traces of this were found during the current excavation.

Jonathan House and Peter Crawley, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Lifestyle Homes N. Ireland Ltd.

Freckenham, Worlington and Barton Mills, Sunnica East Sites A and B (TL 6673 and TL 69 72; FRK 195-211, WGN 086-95, BTM 093-94). Evaluation was undertaken on land proposed for the Sunnica East solar farm across Freckenham, Isleham (in Cambridgeshire), Barton Mills and Worlington. Remains dated from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period, including Bronze Age barrows and features containing Beaker pottery, areas of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, marling ditches and the line of a former railway cutting.

Timothy Lewis, OA East, for Sunnica Ltd.

Freston, Potash Farm, scheduled monument 1005982 (TM/1637, FRT 063). Research excavation over 6 weeks within the SE quadrant of the interrupted ditch system (FRT 005) was funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council – Insight Development Grant (Canada) and a Prehistoric Society Research Grant (UK). The aim of the project is to date the scheduled monument, characterise its use and help update Historic England's management plan. The 2021 season reopened and slightly expanded E the trench stripped in 2019, with 12 anthropogenic features excavated, targeting the 2 outer ditch termini, plus a segment of the palisade that runs between the 2 ditch systems. The outer circuit again produced quantities of Mildenhall ware pottery (including 1 burnt foundation deposit), and diagnostic Early Neolithic stone tools, albeit in far smaller relative quantities to that recovered from the inner ditches. Early Bronze Age pottery and stone tools of the Beaker culture were retrieved from 1 uppermost ditch fill. The central spring was cored for environmental data, with organic samples sent for radiocarbon-dating.

Tristan Carter, McMaster University.

Hadleigh, Land off Ellen Aldous Avenue (TM/0342; HAD 208). Following evaluation by Archaeology South East, excavation identified occupation that started during the Iron Age, but with most material of 2nd-century AD date. A series of enclosures were recorded, with post-holes relating to structures between them. Midden-like deposits, possibly related to light industrial activity, were identified within the centre of the excavation area along with 2 kilns. This suggests that the excavated area was beyond the core of settlement, which may have been located further to the S. A single burial was excavated, with Early Roman pottery recovered from the grave backfill.

Malgorzata Kwiatkowska, OA East, for RPS Consulting.

Hawstead, (TL/8659; HWS 061). 4 test trenches of varying sizes were excavated by the local community and project archaeologists as part of a crowdfunded field school to teach participants how to excavate. All 4 trenches contained evidence of pits and post-holes, with ring ditches being associated with the post-holes in 3 of the trenches, and all produced flint lithics dating to the Bronze Age. 1 trench produced Bronze Age pottery.

Rupert Birtwistle and Hazel Taylor, Past to Present Archaeology.

Hoxne, Land E of Abbey Hill (TM/1876; HXN 127). Evaluation identified a 12th–14th century and an undated phase of activity. It is likely that during the 12th–14th centuries a reasonably substantial post-built structure was located running alongside Abbey Hill. The presence of cooking pot fragments and charred grain and oak branch fragments within the environmental sample suggest this could have been domestic. It is probable that this structure was severely truncated during either road expansion, or during the construction of a nearby water main running parallel to the road. An undated probable field boundary running EW appears to represent an earlier field subdivision pre-dating the 1842 tithe map. The small finds

discovered within topsoil N of this boundary ditch suggest differing uses for the fields N and S of it.

Daniel McConnell, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for Danny Ward Builders.

Ipswich, Boss Hall Road (TM/1445; IPS 2120). Following evaluation in 2014, 0.63ha was excavated at the former dairy. A circular enclosure, probably of prehistoric date and possibly of henge or hengiform type, was located in the SE corner. It comprised a large ditch, with a causewayed entrance on the E side, that encircled an area approximately 20m in diameter containing a circle of substantial post settings. A circular gulley, approximately 4.3m in diameter, around a central post-hole or small pit was also present although these may be later. No datable artefacts were recovered, but scientific dating techniques are proposed to help phase the various components that make up this monument. It has tentatively been attributed to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age by its form alone.

In the Early Anglo-Saxon period the area was used for human burials, primarily inhumations, although a small number of urned cremations were also recovered. The numbers and density of the burials suggest the area was used as a formal cemetery between the 6th and 8th centuries AD, undoubtedly a continuation of the previously identified Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Boss Hall, which was discovered and partly excavated in 1990 on land immediately to the W. A Bronze Age ring ditch lies *c.*150m to the SW of the site and it is possible that (with the possible henge) these monuments may have acted as a focus for burial.

Later features comprised post-medieval field boundaries and occasional pits that probably relate to 18th–19th century agriculture. During this period the area was acquired by the Co-Operative Society for use as a nursery and was later the site of a large factory-scale dairy, much of which was demolished in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, although occasional footings were evident. The broken remains of a WW2 air raid shelter recorded during the excavation would have been for employees of the dairy.

Mark Sommers, Cotswold Archaeology,
for David Clarke and Associates on behalf of East of England Co-Operative.

Ipswich, Europa Way (TM/1345; IPS 2121). 15 of 21 evaluation trenches revealed features comprising ditches, gullies, pits, ring gullies and a cremation. Most features were dated to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age by Post-Deverel–Rimbury type pottery (PDR). Other dated features included a ditch containing Roman pottery, and a pit with a possible medieval sherd. The distribution of features suggests a potential Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement across most of the land parcel. 1 of 2 potential ring gullies (which could represent drip gullies) produced substantial amounts of PDR pottery. These remains indicate occupation, possibly associated with cremations. Later Roman and medieval finds were scarce and likely to represent activity taking place in the vicinity as opposed to within the site itself.

Alice Crush, Cotswold Archaeology, for Suffolk County Council.

Ipswich, 85–87 Fore Street (TM/1644; IPS 585). Following evaluation in September 2007, excavation was carried out in 2008 by SCCAS, but post-excavation work was unfunded.[1] New work was required in 2021 to fulfil planning requirements. Previous excavations in 1990 had revealed Late Saxon occupation to the S end of the site, and further evidence for activity of this date was found in 2008, comprising the bases of sunken-featured (cellared) buildings. In the N part, the earliest major land use was as a cemetery, presumed to relate to the nearby church. The 13 individuals buried there included a high proportion of young adult males, 1 of whom had met death by violence. The exact date at which the graveyard boundary was moved to its current position to the N of St Clement's Church Lane is uncertain, but

FIG. 96 – Some of the more complete post-medieval vessels from cess pits at 85–87 Fore Street: a Dutch redware cauldron; a local redware jug; a small Frechen stoneware jug; and an unusual find for England, a Frechen stoneware chamber pot (*photo: Sue Anderson*).

documentary evidence suggests that it must have occurred by the 16th century. The graves were cut by pits and other features which have been broadly dated to the 15th to 17th centuries, a few with finds which suggest that they were not completely filled in until the 18th century. Several large, early post-medieval cess pits were identified, presumably relating to contemporary buildings in the S half of the site. Several near-complete pottery vessels of this date range were recovered, along with the contemporary vestigial remains of a chalk-walled oven (Fig. 96). An unusual structure was uncovered, also cutting 2 of the graves, which comprised a 0.5m deep subrectangular cut (3.5m+ x 1.5m) with 11 post-settings cut into the base, later infilled with building rubble which included carpenters' tools; this has been interpreted as a possible late medieval or early post-medieval sawpit. During the 19th century the site was redeveloped and a stable was constructed in the back yard of no. 85 (W half of the site); at least one circular brick-built sump was associated with this construction work, and another brick structure with a similar function was identified further to the S.

Sue Anderson, Spoilheap Archaeology, for Landex Ltd.

Ipswich, Henley Gate, Suffolk (TM/1647; IPS 881). Following geophysical survey and previous evaluation and excavations across a large development site for Ipswich Northern Fringe, 54 trial trenches were excavated. A low-density scatter of pits dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Early/Middle Iron Age features were sparsely distributed across the middle of the area, mostly comprising pits but also some ditches. A significant Iron Age boundary ditch was the continuation of a boundary encountered in a previous excavation of settlement to the W. Early Roman activity was indicated by pits and ditches, with some evidence for metalworking, likely outliers of a focus of Roman activity possibly located to the

W, in the SW part of the site. A few features dated to the Middle Saxon period may suggest occupation that extended E. A small number of post-medieval to modern ditches and pits relate to the agricultural use of the site. Many of the undated features can be linked to the prehistoric and Roman period occupation. Others show relationships with features discovered in previous excavations, many of which are posited to be of a medieval date.

15 more evaluation trenches were investigated for a subphase of development, 10 of which contained a low incidence of features. A single pit, possibly of Iron Age date, and 2 post-medieval field ditches were recorded, along with other undated ditches, pits and a gully.

Angus Forshaw, Archaeology South-East, for RPS Consulting Services Ltd.

Ipswich, Portman Road car park (TM/1544; IPS 2075). Geoarchaeological investigation revealed extensive deposits of organic rich sediments of varied palaeoenvironmental potential. An interrupted pollen sequence revealed a basal zone (a possible basal palaeosoil) of early Holocene/Mesolithic date, with upper dated pollen assemblages spanning later prehistoric periods through to the medieval period. The emerging picture is of a relatively stable riverine environment supporting an open wet fen environment on the surrounding floodplain. Channel activity from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age was identified to the W of the historical position of a now culverted watercourse.

John Summers, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Ipswich Borough Council.

Ixworth, Land E of Ixworth (TL/9470 to TL/9670; IXW 194). A watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil strip of the easement for the proposed Stanton Link Main. 2 post-medieval brick kilns were identified. 1 was fully excavated, whilst the other was preserved *in situ*. The kilns were Suffolk types, dating to the 19th century and making bricks, roof-tiles and clay drainpipes, probably for local farms.

Earlier evidence was restricted to mixed date finds from tree throws and later features, a single undated (but possibly prehistoric) pit with a charcoal/fire-cracked flint fill, an undated gully, and an Iron Age pit. 2 extensive areas of colluvium were not removed as part of the easement works, but trenches were excavated to determine the extent of surviving archaeology underneath and to sample it, which showed it to be masking features similar in character to those seen across the rest of the strip.

Nathan Griggs, Cotswold Archaeology, for Anglian Water.

Lakenheath, RAF Lakenheath, The Hooch (TL/7381; LKH 637). Excavation in advance of re-laying of a car park exposed an area of multiperiod activity adjacent to areas previously investigated under site codes LKH 207, LKH 225, LKH 365, and outside of a boundary with multiple cuts deemed to represent the formal boundary of the Roman settlement. The majority of features identified were intercutting ditches oriented NS and EW, dated to the Middle to Later Iron Age. 2 probable graves were recorded based on their shape and fill, but bone was too poorly preserved to confirm that they were burials. Closely spaced stake-holes in the bottom of 2 of the steeper-sided ditches showed these to be palisades with a wooden fence. Consistent with the location outside the core of Roman settlement, the intensity of activity appeared to lessen during the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, with only small quantities of material datable to these periods recovered (including some Middle Saxon Ipswich ware and a 9th–11th-century copper hairpin). The most significant individual find was an Iron Age coin, a silver unit of Ecen, AD 10–45.

Michael Green, Cotswold Archaeology, for Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Laxfield, Land S of Framlingham Road (TM/2972; LXD 135). Evaluation and excavation

recorded a Bronze Age 'burnt mound' along the N edge of the development area, including a well and troughs, along with a deposit of heat-altered flint mixed within the ploughsoil. The remnants of the heat-altered flint mixed within the ploughsoil suggested the burnt mound had likely been plough damaged and this was indeed the case. The well was only partially hand-excavated due to the wet ground conditions, and was machine augered to a depth of 3.5m.

A probable Bronze Age field system extended across the central higher part of the site, and features and artefacts dating to the Middle Iron Age were identified at the centre. 3 penannular gullies of this date were identified within 2 earlier enclosure ditches that had been completely or partially infilled by the time of their construction. The enclosure ditches were dated by finds that are in the process of being analysed and are presumed to be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. The larger of the 3 penannular gullies produced a large assemblage of finds suggesting it formed the remnant of a roundhouse. Other features included a small number of pits associated with the Middle Iron Age settlement, 3 smaller medieval ditches, and several undated ditches that were equally spaced apart, and most likely relate to medieval or post-medieval drainage.

Martin Cuthbert, Cotswold Archaeology, for RPS Ltd, on behalf of Denbury Homes.

Leiston, Land at the rear of St Margaret's Crescent (TM/4362; LCS 220). Evaluation followed geophysical survey. Early/Middle Iron Age activity was represented by ditches at right angles to each other that may form part of a small field system. Most other dated features appear to be of medieval date, including a circular oven with adjacent rake-out deposits. A large ditch in the centre of the site, in accordance with geophysical survey, seems to be a part of a circular enclosure of unknown function. Post-medieval features were also present. A large irregular quarry/pond, partially overlain by a patch of flint cobbles and truncated by a large pit, was associated with the medieval period due to the similarities of the fill and its contents with that of the oven.

Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East, for Lovell Partnerships.

Little Cornard, land E of the river Stour/St Edmund's Hill (TL/8936; COL111). Within 1 evaluation trench a cluster of fragments of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were noted within a colluvium layer. A post-medieval field boundary and a probable 19th-century brick kiln were encountered, along with a small number of late post-medieval/modern disturbances. 1 particularly large example probably comprised the source of clay for the kiln.

Mark Sommers, Cotswold Archaeology, for National Grid.

Little Wratting, Boyton Meadows, Anne Suckling Lane (TL/6746; HVH 135). Excavation identified distinct phases of activity, including a single feature of Bronze Age to Iron Age date, a small number of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British features, but mainly 2 phases of activity dating to the 11th–13th centuries AD which appeared to represent direct and continual chronological development of enclosures associated with, but on the periphery of, domestic habitation.

Andrew A.S. Newton, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Freshwater Estates Ltd.

Mildenhall, Land at Rookery Drove, Beck Row (TL/6878; MNL 1157). 44 trenches targeted several geophysical anomalies and earthworks identified on LiDAR data. Most features identified during the evaluation corresponded poorly with the geophysical results, likely due to the nature of the geology. Gullies, ditches, pits and cremations were recorded. Most of the features are undated, but a broad early prehistoric phase is suggested by an Early Mesolithic robust blade and Neolithic axehead, with a larger assemblage of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze

Age date. A Mid to Late Bronze Age phase is suggested by the C14 dates from 2 cremations. There were some fragments of Roman pottery and some post-medieval agricultural features. Trial-trenching confirmed the presence of an undisturbed ancient fluvial-lacustrine environment characterised by infilled basins low in the landscape and still visible as earthworks on the ground surface. These could represent collapsed pingos or collapsed and infilled dolines, with vegetation around the margins of the resulting depressions that may have been favourable for early activity.

Debora Moretti, Archaeological Services WYAS,
for Lanpro Services on behalf of Land Allocation Ltd.

Monks Eleigh, Former Rushbrooks Nursery, The Street (TL/9647; MKE 054). 2 trenches were excavated, with 1 subsequently extended. 6 similarly aligned ditches from which large assemblages of pottery were recovered probably represent elements of a field system or property boundaries associated with high medieval roadside occupation. The size and quantity of the assemblage, from 2 concentrations, may suggest continuous occupation from the early medieval period, but not extending beyond the 14th century. 3 pairs of post-holes formed a double row along a similar NE to SW alignment to the observed ditches, post-dating 2 backfilled ditches assigned a medieval date.

Linzi Everett, Cotswold Archaeology, for P. Jones and P. Riach.

Orford, Castle Green, Orford (TM/4249; ORF 261). Monitoring revealed a series of pits and linear features dating to between the 13th and 15th centuries. The medieval ditches appeared to be coaxial and likely formed part of a wider system of enclosures. The finds assemblage was small, but indicative of rubbish and cess pits outside of the castle ditch, which may reflect activity associated with the nearby Orford Castle. The notably varied faunal assemblage is in keeping with other animal bone assemblages associated with castles. Nevertheless, the Hollesley ware pottery recovered at this site probably dates to after the mid-13th century, when the castle passed from royal jurisdiction into private hands and began to decline. Following an apparent hiatus of activity on the site, a series of relatively large pits were excavated, and a red brick-lined pit was constructed on the site between the 19th and mid-20th centuries.

Pete Thompson, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Mr and Mrs Pearce.

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham (TM/3325; RLM 036 and RLM 044). The first of 3 years of excavation was carried out in 2 fields at Rendlesham. The work is part of the Rendlesham Revealed: Anglo-Saxon Life in South-East Suffolk project led by SCCAS and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, following a pilot survey from 2008–17. The excavations were undertaken by local volunteers under the guidance of a small expert team co-ordinated by SCCAS and staff from the Suffolk office of Cotswold Archaeology, with academic direction from Professor Christopher Scull. Over the course of the 6 weeks of excavation over 200 individuals volunteered, including members of the general public, people from local societies, Suffolk Mind and Suffolk Family Carers, as well as young people from local primary schools.

This first season saw excavation of 5 trenches, between 5m x 10m and 15m x 30m in size, in 2 fields on opposite sides of a small dry valley, targeting potential features identified on previous magnetometry surveys. The remains of 9 sunken-featured buildings (SFB) and pits were found in the 4 largest trenches (Fig. 97). The results suggest occupation from the late 5th to the late 7th centuries across a large area, indicative of an extensive area of settlement, whose inhabitants were engaged in farming and craftworking. Evidence of this includes bones from butchered cattle, sheep and pigs; items associated with spinning and weaving, including

FIG. 97 – Excavation of a sunken-featured building at Rendlesham.

spindle whorls and loom weights; melted metal fragments and slag, indicating smithing and manufacture of copper-alloy objects; fragments of pottery vessels used for cooking and storage; items of dress including a copper-alloy brooch and buckle. Earlier prehistoric features were also excavated in 3 of the trenches, including an Iron Age ditched enclosure and prehistoric pits and a boundary ditch.

Surprisingly, a WW1 military practice trench was also revealed in 1 of the trenches, probably dug by a battalion of the Territorial Force in 1914 or early 1915; this was cutting an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building. In the fifth trench, a layer of buried soil 10–20cm deep was revealed overlying and preserving the archaeology; this was not excavated.

Jo Caruth and Linzi Everett, Cotswold Archaeology,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project.

Somersham, Land S of Church Farm (TM/0847; SSH 041). See above, *Burstall and Somersham*.

Sproughton, Wolsey Grange, Phase 1 Field 2 (TM/1243; SPT 053). Either side of Poplar Lane, 83 evaluation trenches determined the locations of 5 excavation areas totalling *c*.0.76ha and *c*.0.74ha in 2 fields. A small quantity of residual worked flint of broadly earlier prehistoric date (Mesolithic to Neolithic) from across the areas provides evidence of a limited and likely transitory presence in the landscape prior to the Bronze Age. A small assemblage of tentatively dated Neolithic pottery recovered from a small number of scattered pits may attest to a slightly more significant presence towards the end of this period. Nondescript pit and post-hole clusters, including several structured deposits, a series of quarry pits and a possible structure, represent a significant increase in land use in the Early Bronze Age to earliest Iron

Age (2100–500BC) and are posited to constitute occupation activity peripheral to the prehistoric settlement site recorded *c.*1km to the N (SPT 001).

Land use was most intense during the medieval period, with a concentrated area of remains. 2 large boundary ditches enclose the medieval activity which includes several iterations of NW–SE and NE–SW field-system ditches (interpreted as defining fields or enclosure plots), a large natural hollow utilised as a pond, 2 ovens and a low intensity of pits. No direct evidence for settlement (i.e. buildings) was recovered. However, these remains are considered to be part of a farmstead and to be representative of agricultural activity and food production/processing in the immediate vicinity of a settlement, presumably the former Felchurch hamlet.

Post-medieval remains comprised primarily field-boundary ditches that are recorded on historic mapping. 2 neonatal calf burials and a series of several possible quarry pits represent sporadic activity within these agricultural fields. The remains are collectively indicative of the continued agricultural management and use of the landscape.

Rob Cullum, Archaeology South-East, for RPS Consulting Services Ltd.

Stanton, Land at Shepherds Grove (TL/9873; SNT 090). 8 of 99 evaluation trenches revealed archaeological features. Finds recovered across the site were generally low density, with most features devoid of datable material. A probable burnt mound feature was identified in the NE corner, with 4 pits nearby. A post-medieval enclosure ditch was identified across the N of the site. 3 undated pits appeared to survive within small pockets of preservation across the previous airfield, but most of the site was severely impacted with very little of the archaeological horizon intact in the S, with the N area far less impacted by modern disturbance.

Becca Smart, Cotswold Archaeology, for RPS on behalf of Jaynic Suffolk Park Ltd.

Stowmarket, Cedars Park (TM/0658; SKT 140). Geophysical survey of the site suggested few features within the site, but features dating to the Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval periods were identified within 6 of 20 evaluation trenches, including a pit cluster dating to the Early/Middle Iron Age. A mitigation area of 15m^2 was centred on this which revealed its full extent and no further remains. The cluster is most likely associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British site found to the N of the site during the Cedars Park Phase 3 works. A single ditch was the only Romano-British feature. A likely post-medieval track, comprising wheel-rutting and a probable trackside ditch, and a large boundary ditch were identified in the geophysical survey and the historic mapping.

Peter Capps and Dudley Staniforth, Wessex Archaeology,
for RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd.

Stowmarket, Mill Lane, land between the A1120 and the A14, Gateway 14 (Area C) (TM/0657; STK 141). An evaluation identified 3 features. An isolated pit, elliptical in plan, contained densely packed burnt flint pieces and 2 sherds of possible Bronze Age pottery. Similar to a pit found in a nearby evaluations to the NW (ASE 2014), it is reminiscent of features associated with burnt mounds. A medieval to post-medieval boundary ditch was located in the S part of the central portion of site, which seems to have been a long-lived boundary.

Alison Telfer, MOLA, for Jaynic on behalf of Gateway 14.

Stowupland, Gipping Road (TM/0760; SUP 050). Evaluation and excavation exposed part of an 11th- to 13th-century farmstead, which extended investigation of features discovered in previous works to the W (SUP 025). The farmstead included a series of enclosures and associated field systems, within which were the remnants of 3 rectangular structures. 2 distinct phases of enclosure existed, 1 on a NW to SE alignment in the 11th–12th centuries, overlain

by an E–W-aligned system in the 13th century. A further set of ditches and a possible N–S aligned trackway were constructed through the existing farmstead during the 14th century.

Nicholas Cox, OA East, for RPS Consulting.

Thorndon, Castle Hill Farm, (TM/1569; THD 074). Evaluation encountered 6 phases of activity within the mid and E areas of the site, all directly N of a large NW–SE-aligned paleochannel within the far S portion of the site. It is likely that domestic enclosures dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age were established directly N of the paleochannel present within the dry valley. This activity seems to have spread slightly E during the Iron Age, and further N upslope during the early Romano-British period with possible ladder settlements becoming established, and further concreting of activity on into the Roman period. This spread of activity focussed from the paleochannel may represent a period of waterlogging of the S portion of the site, necessitating the move to the slightly higher ground to its N. The absence of Saxon and medieval finds and features may be indicative of the area becoming agricultural in nature, with later post-medieval activity evidenced by a 19th-century field boundary. Post-medieval/modern agricultural activity has truncated several features within the higher elevated N bounds of the site, with several coins spanning the Roman period being recovered (including one minted in Egypt during Julius Caesar's reign), and pottery fragments of a reasonably high status.

Dan McConnell, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for CE Davidson Ltd.

Trimley St Martin, Land at Reeve Lodge (TM/2737; TYN 173). Evaluation provided evidence for a prehistoric trackway and field system, probably established during the Bronze Age, corresponding to cropmarks recorded within the surrounding fields. Numerous alterations and reworkings of this field system were revealed, with several discrete parts of the site identified as potential settlement areas. Occupation appeared to continue into the Iron Age, although there was possibly a hiatus in the later Iron Age and Roman periods. Low level activity, predominantly agricultural in nature, resumed during the medieval period, with a new system of fields respecting the alignment of High Road that links the villages of Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin.

Andrew Greef, OA East, for Pigeon Investment Management Ltd.

Trimley St Martin, Land S of High Road (TM/2737; TYN 183). Evaluation trenches targeted cropmarks. 19 of the 24 produced archaeological remains. Probable prehistoric use of the land was represented by a shifting boundary or trackway in the form of a complex of closely spaced, parallel ditches. A single worn Roman coin was recovered from topsoil. Medieval/early post-medieval and late post-medieval use of the land was suggested by elements of 2 possible ditched field systems. Most of the recorded features were undated. These comprise further ditches, a gully, pits and possible post-holes scattered across the site, some of which may be contemporary with the probable prehistoric boundary/trackway.

Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East, for RPS Consulting Services.

Wherstead, Land N of Junction 56 of A14 (TM/1541; WHR 134). Evaluation and excavation uncovered evidence of predominantly prehistoric activity across 2 areas. A small assemblage of Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery was recovered from a group of 4 pits. Part of a field system, possibly of Middle Bronze Age date, extended across the 2 excavation areas and included ditches and discrete features, and a possible trackway and ditched boundaries. 2 pits, which truncated the possible trackway, contained the remains of a pyre or possible cremation.

Malgorzata Kwiatkowska, OA East, for RPS Consulting on behalf of Pigeon Wherstead Ltd.

Whitton, Land at Old Norwich Road (TM/1348; WHI 020). 4 excavated areas revealed multiperiod occupation. A Bronze Age barrow was located in the N part of the site with evidence for continued occupation from the Late Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. Remains associated with this phase include a large enclosure ditch, at least 1 roundhouse, and a number of pits containing substantial assemblages of pottery and worked flint. Agricultural use of the site continued into the Early Roman period, as evidenced by a field system of cultivation channels. A hiatus in activity was then followed by a post-medieval agricultural boundary.

Laura Desrosiers-Whalley and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group on behalf of Bellway Homes (Essex) Ltd.

Wickham Market, Land off Chapel Lane (TM/3055; PTR 070). Evaluation and excavation revealed a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age field system. Further sparse pottery sherds were recovered from the Early to Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, later Iron Age, and medieval and post-medieval periods. Struck flints likewise covered a range of periods and demonstrated that flintworking activities occurred at the site during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic periods, as well as during the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age, although concentrations were low. Despite the quantities, the assemblage provides evidence for long-lived prehistoric activity at the site, which may contribute to a wider appreciation of landscape use.

Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group on behalf of Hopkins Homes.

Worlington, Sunnica East Sites A and B (TL/6673 and TL/6972; WGN 086-95). See above, *Freckenham, Worlington and Barton Mills.*

Wrentham, Land at Chapel Road (TM/4982; WRE 079). Evaluation was undertaken across 4.82ha. A series of ditches and pits yielded struck flint, pottery sherds, building materials and fired clay. Few animal bones were recovered, although this was likely due to the acidic soils. Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity is signalled by a series of struck flints, including blades, flakes and spalls. The flints are accompanied by a series of prehistoric pottery sherds which largely date to the Early Neolithic, with further sherds dating to the Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age. Evidence of Roman use of the site is present but scarce, with more intensive use evident in the Early Anglo-Saxon period, where 4 pits contained sherds of domestic pottery along with a loom weight, suggesting the presence of a settlement nearby. Sparse pottery sherds, together with an account from the Domesday Book, provide evidence for a long-lived Saxon settlement in the area. Concentrations of pottery dating to the 11th–16th centuries reflect an intensive presence and provide evidence for the medieval settlement at Wrentham, about which little is currently known. Numerous ditches are associated with post-medieval agricultural activities, with some corresponding well with field boundaries noted on the 1883 Ordnance Survey map.

Antonio Pavez and Mark Hinman, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for Cripps Developments Ltd.

BUILDING RECORDING

Lowestoft, Lowestoft Tidal Walls Flood Scheme (TM/5492; LWT 415). Recording at Lowestoft's Outer Harbour investigated the remains of the Lowestoft to Norwich railway line, the Inner North Pier and Inner South Pier, and the South Pier, demonstrating that the harbour was extensively altered and developed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The structures have played a significant role in the commerce of Lowestoft and the town's tourist industry. Construction of a link from the sea to Norwich, via Lake Lothing and a series of canals, began in 1821, and some 3 years later the Inner North Pier and Inner South Pier were completed. They were originally constructed using iron and timber piling and have since been significantly redeveloped. Remains of a timber-framed substructure are, however, retained at the W end of the Inner North Pier. The current iterations of the piers comprise a series of reinforced concrete cross-braced bents, supporting promenades that retain heavy mooring installations. The Inner North Pier, in association with the North Pier, formed the first trawler basin. Most of the railway lines that extended along the Inner North Pier, primarily used to transport fishing and freight wagons, have since been removed. Nonetheless, a small section of the Lowestoft to Lowestoft North railway line is preserved. Despite its utilisation as a promenade with the architectural paraphernalia of a pleasure pier, the South Pier is better described as a solid concrete harbour breakwater, although it has been a central tourist attraction in the town and has witnessed numerous phases of development and changes in function.

Liam Podbury, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Balfour Beatty.

CHURCH RECORDING

Beccles, St Michael's church (TM/4290; BCC 013). The remains of a flint-bonded wall and the footings of a large tomb or memorial were found below the floor during work to reorder the nave. The wall probably represented the W end of an earlier church, and had been partly cut away when the foundations of the present building were laid during the second half of the 14th century. It was 1.5m thick and spanned the full width of the central nave between the 2 arcades, but did not extend into the area of the N aisle. Building materials that had been salvaged from the demolition of the earlier church, including fragments of dressed stone and Purbeck marble paviours, were recycled into the foundations of the present one.

The base for what would have been a large altar tomb or monument above ground had been truncated just a few centimetres below the current floor level. It comprised a large rectangular block of bonded flint, solidly formed with brick corner quoins, orientated E–W and built into the space between the second and third columns of the S arcade; it measured 2.45m x 1.02m (8ft ½in x 3ft 4in) and almost filled the interval between the piers, suggesting that the memorial had been grandiose. The brick size (10¼in x 4¾in x 2in) implies that the base was constructed around the 15th century, or just as the present church was being completed. It was positioned directly above the N wall of the brick-vaulted crypt beneath the S aisle and the similarity in the brick sizes between the crypt (which has since been converted into a WC) and the tomb base suggests the two funerary features could be related.

A second flint- and brick-built consolidated pad was partially uncovered close to the nave's W door, within a trench excavated for a new drain. The pad measured 2.82m (9ft 3in) across and its construction combined Purbeck paviours, recycled from a medieval floor, with later bricks and floor-tiles. It was thought to be a base for the organ (built in 1757), which is known to have stood at this end of the church until the mid-19th century. The positions of 5

(unmarked) brick-vaulted tombs, dating from the *c*.18th–19th centuries, plus 2 undated graves were also recorded.

David Gill, for the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Michael's and St Luke's, Beccles.

Chillesford, St Peter's church (TM/3852; CHF 009). Excavations to renew the storm drains and soakaways in the churchyard cut into the upper backfills of numerous unmarked graves, although across most of the site the depth was too shallow to disturb articulated human remains.

Intensive sand (and/or crag) extraction in antiquity (possibly commencing pre-1700) created 2 vast quarry pits bordering the N and S edges of the churchyard. That to the N lies within 10m of the church and the proximity of a working pit seems to have precipitated the demise of the NE part of the churchyard as a burial site; the nave's N door was bricked up during the 16th or 17th centuries and there are no grave markers on this side of the church. This apparent decline in use was reflected in the low density of graves recorded in the trench in this area and burials that did occur were shallow (individuals lying within 0.5m of the current surface) and uncoffined. This suggests that they were relatively early, but had avoided being disturbed by subsequent deep grave-digging more typical of the Victorian and later periods; the results seemed to suggest that this part of the graveyard had been used infrequently in the past, and not at all for quite some time. By contrast, the graveyard S of the church showed a greater occurrence of intercutting and deeper burials and is still in use today.

David Gill, for the Chillesford Parochial Church Council.

Monks Eleigh, St Peter's church (TL/9647; MKE 007). Evidence of an earlier church was found during the monitoring of groundworks. Bonded flint remains, truncated just below floor level, showed the positions of the nave's N and W walls before the church was remodelled and enlarged during the 15th century.

The floor level of the earlier church was lower than that of the present one, and had been built up with a thick layer (200–300mm) of lime mortar with flint as part of the foundations of the later church. There were no post-medieval burials inside the nave cutting through these formation layers (within the monitored areas), and evidence of how the steeply sloping site had been engineered for the present building was well preserved.

An alignment of 4 post-medieval 'crucible' pits were recorded beneath the Victorian tiled floor within the tower; the pits were temporary features used to melt down the lead strips from windows that were being dismantled for repair or replacement. The use of the pits was not closely dated, but 1 produced 3 sherds of an iron-glazed blackware tankard indicating that they were no earlier than the 16th century. The crucible pits were cut into the top of a sequence of alternating bands of clay and mortar rubble, these layers formed part of the 15th-century tower's foundations and infilled its entire floor area. The infill covered the vestigial remains of bonded medieval flintwork, which could possibly be interpreted as evidence of the church's former tower.

David Gill, for the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's, Monks Eleigh.

NOTES

1 See 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2008' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **42**, 75–6.