

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SUFFOLK 2023

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

THIS IS A selection of the new discoveries reported in 2023. 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 Archaeology 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 2023 the PAS finds in Suffolk were recorded by Anna Booth, Laura Smart and Phil Hughes. Following requests from metal detector users, we have removed all grid references from entries concerning finds reported by them.

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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 (tel. 01284 741241; e-mail sccasfinds@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		

INDIVIDUAL FINDS AND DISCOVERIES

Ashfield cum Thorpe (AST 044). **IA**. Gold Gallo-Belgic quarter *stater* ABC 40 (SF-FB0C59). (Mdf).

Ashfield cum Thorpe (AST 044). **IA**. Gold Gallo-Belgic quarter *stater* ABC 40 (LANCUM-E90B43). (Mdf).

Badley (BAD 046). **BA. IA**. Flat axe (SF-020828), socketed axe (SF-ED1342), two copper-alloy terret rings (SF-EE4EA3, SF-EE24BD). (Mdf).

Badwell Ash (BAA 063). **Sx**. Silver gilt radiate-headed brooch (SF-C51C34) (Fig. 230 B). (Mdf).

Bardwell (BAR 152). **Sx**. Gold and garnet pyramid mount (SF-3A4648) (Fig. 233). (Mdf).

Bawdsey (BAW 299). **Md-PM**. Gilded silver crucifix pendant, a moulded figure of Christ with arms outstretched attached to one face and the robed Virgin Mary holding the infant Christ on the other (SF-81CF7B) (Fig. 234). (Mdf).

Bawdsey (BAW 300). **BA**. Gold tripartite penannular ring (SF-5342CD) (Fig. 232). (Mdf).

Bawdsey (BAW 301). **IA**. Gold quarter *stater* of the North Thames/Catuvellanui region BMC1854 (SF-E07091). (Mdf).

Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill (MNL 769). **Ro**. Copper-alloy cosmetic mortar (SF-E500D2) (Fig. 229 C). (Mdf).

Bedfield (BED 058). **BA. Ro**. Gold tripartite penannular ring (SF-70ECF8). Hoard of four silver Republican *denarii* (SF-1B102E), 2nd- and 3rd-century copper-alloy coinage, and 1st-century brooches. (Mdf).

Bedfield (BED 021). **IA. Sx**. Silver uninscribed *stater* of the Icenii type BMC 3556-3604 (SF-3FA202). Silver *sceat* series F North 1980: 38 (SF-54604F). (Mdf).

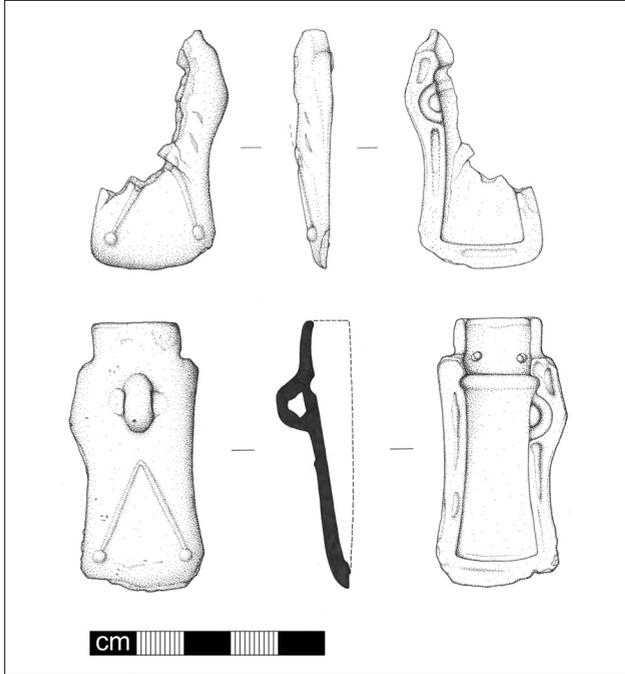


FIG. 228 – Bronze Age copper-alloy valves from a socketed axe mould from Sibton.

Bedfield (BED 059). **IA**. Gold uninscribed *stater* of the Icenii, BMC 217 (SF-3F7568). (Mdf).

Benacre (BNC 174). **Pa**. Four lower Palaeolithic handaxes (SF-AA5824, SF-AA5159, SF-AA40F8, AA327C) (Fig. 231). (Chance finds during metal-detecting).

Bildeston (BIL 006). **Ro**. Copper-alloy coinage 2nd to 4th centuries and possible copper-alloy coin blanks (SF-C5288B). (Mdf).

Cratfield (CRT 066). **Md**. Silver annular brooch (SF-472008). (Mdf).

Debenham (DBN 265). **IA**. Copper-alloy terret (SF-5CAEE3) and cosmetic mortar (SF-5C168D). (Mdf).

Drinkstone (DRK 077) **Sx**. Gold bead (SF-6E1AB2) (Fig. 230 G). (Mdf).

Elmswell (EWL 083) **Sx. Md**.

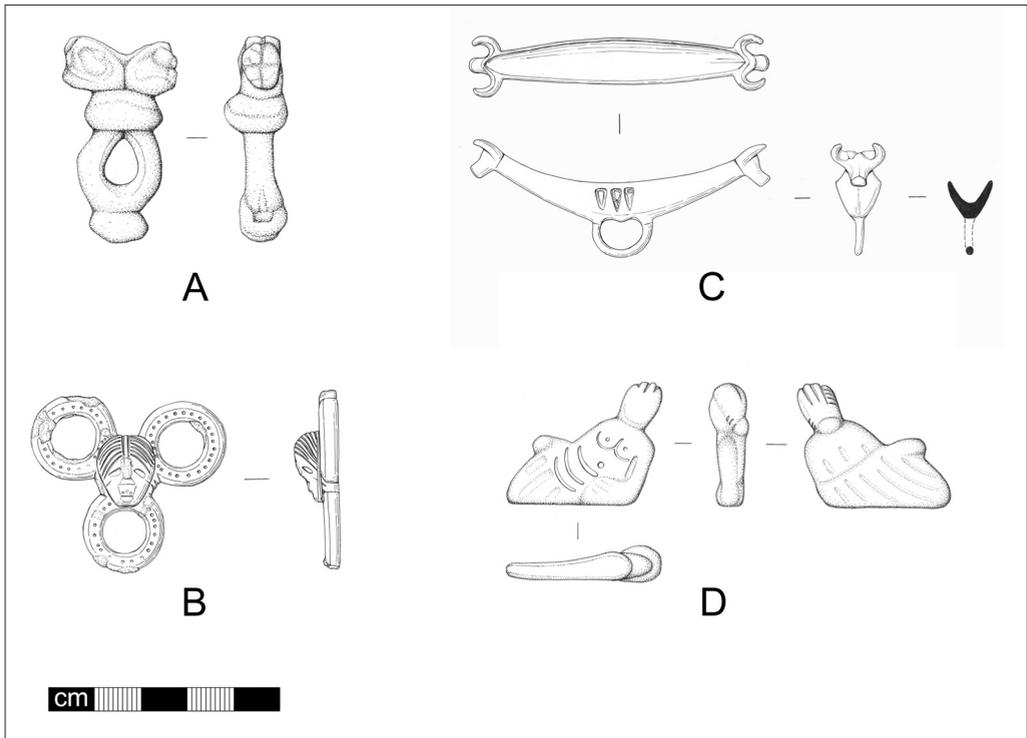


FIG. 229 – Iron Age copper-alloy mirror handle from Gislingham (A); Iron Age to Roman copper-alloy strap distributor from Wordwell (B); cosmetic mortar from Beck Row, Holywell Row and Kenny Hill (C); Roman copper-alloy figurine from Rickingham (D).

Copper-alloy small-long brooches (SF-F346FC, SF-F33F3E), cruciform brooch (SF-F33735), ansate brooch (SF-F34E65). Silver gilt hat badge (SF-B8190D). (Mdf).

Eye (EYE 254). **BA.** Hoard of 14 items (SF-317543). (Mdf).

Eyke (EKE 019). **Sx.** Gilt copper-alloy runic pendant of later 8th- or early 9th-century date. John Hines comments that the runic inscription is an example of a familiar ‘maker’s formula’, but nevertheless contains several details of considerable runological and linguistic significance. It is in two lines, with 29 characters, and is to be transliterated:

A:1–13 b u d h e a r d s e b i l h

B:1–16 e a r d i ŋ þ i s j æ w a r h t t

Edited into ‘normalized’ Old English, this represents ‘Budheard se Bilhearding þis geworhte’ [Budheard the Bilhearding made this]. (SF-DC39C5) (Fig 230 H). (Mdf).

Framlingham (FML 203). **PM.** Gold posy ring, the inside of the hoop is incised with the phrase FOR EVER ORE NEVER (SF-3FCA89). (Mdf).

Gedding (GDD 025). **Ro.** Hoard of four Republican era *denarii* and two Imperial *denarii*, dating 79 BC to AD 73 (SF-179BD5). (Mdf).

Gislingham (GSG 081). **IA. Ro. Sx.** Copper-alloy La Tène brooches (SF-01AF87 and SF-D3D5C4), Birdlip brooch (SF-83C663) and Nauheim derivative brooch (SF-C0A4B0), mirror handle (SF-000596) (Fig. 229 A). Roman copper-alloy nail cleaner (SF-C2F1A1), skirted terret (SF-C03298), and 1st-century bow brooches. Saxon copper-alloy gusset plate (SF-013846), great square-headed brooch (SF-008D4A), disc brooch (SF-FFC8EE) (Fig. 230 E), sleeve clasp

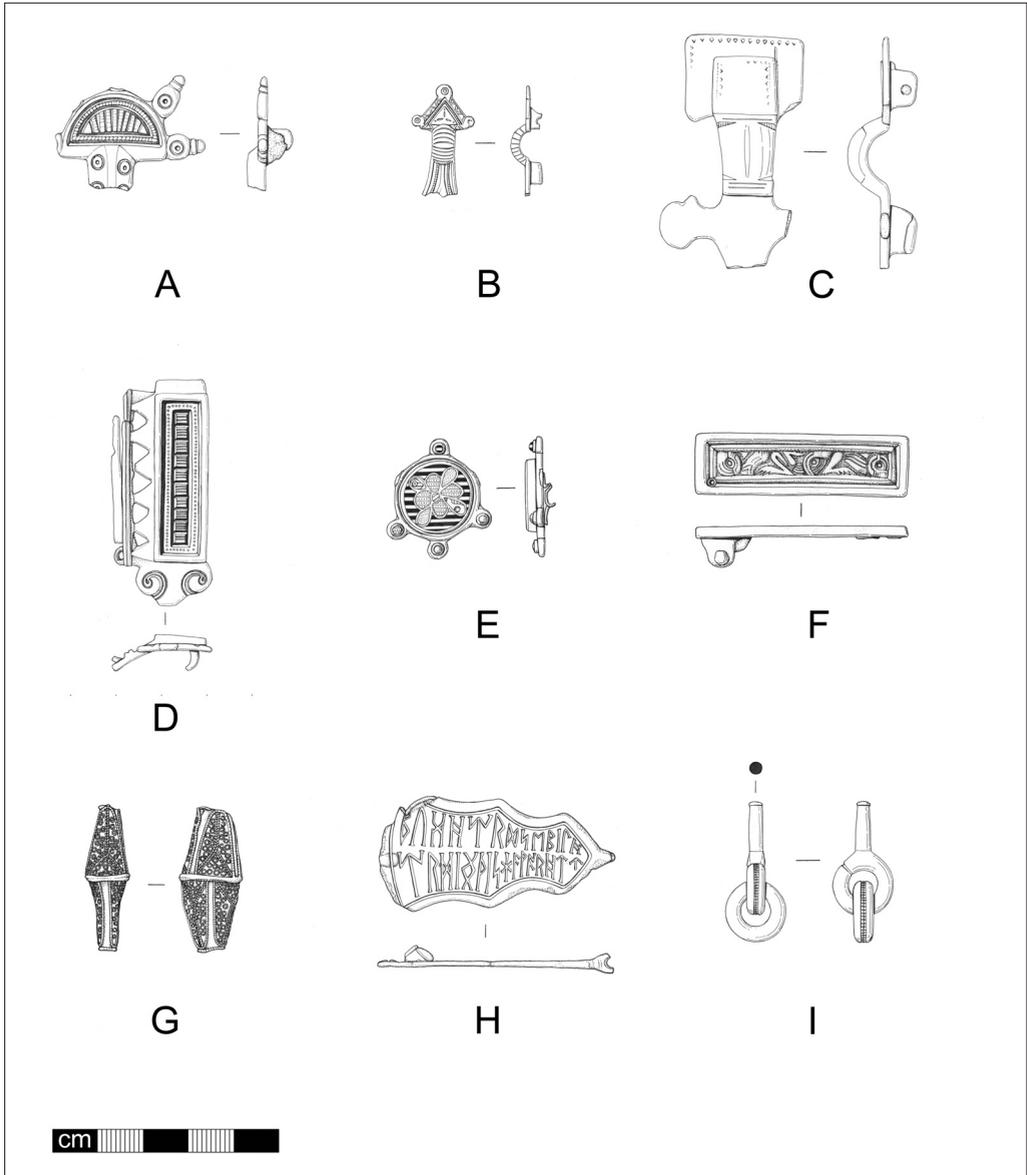


FIG. 230 – Saxon copper-alloy and silver radiate brooches from Langham (A) and Badwell Ash (B); copper-alloy small-long (C) and sleeve clasp (D) from Langham; disc brooch (E) and mount (F) from Gisleingham; gold bead from Drinkstone (G); copper-alloy gilt runic pendant from Eyke (H); and silver and gold sword pommel fitting from Hacheston (I).

(SF-D8F395), cruciform brooch (SF-C4B7D8) and mount (SF-00D229) (Fig. 230 F). (Mdf).
Hacheston (HCH 030). **Sx.** Gilded silver and gold sword pommel fitting consisting of two ring-shaped components (SF-FE9C6F) (Fig. 230 I). (Mdf).
Hadleigh (HAD 272). **BA.** Hoard consisting of sword blade and chisel (SF-DE27CF). (Mdf).
Helmingham (HLM 065). **IA.** Gold-plated copper-alloy *stater* of the Iceni, BMC 218-78. (SF-

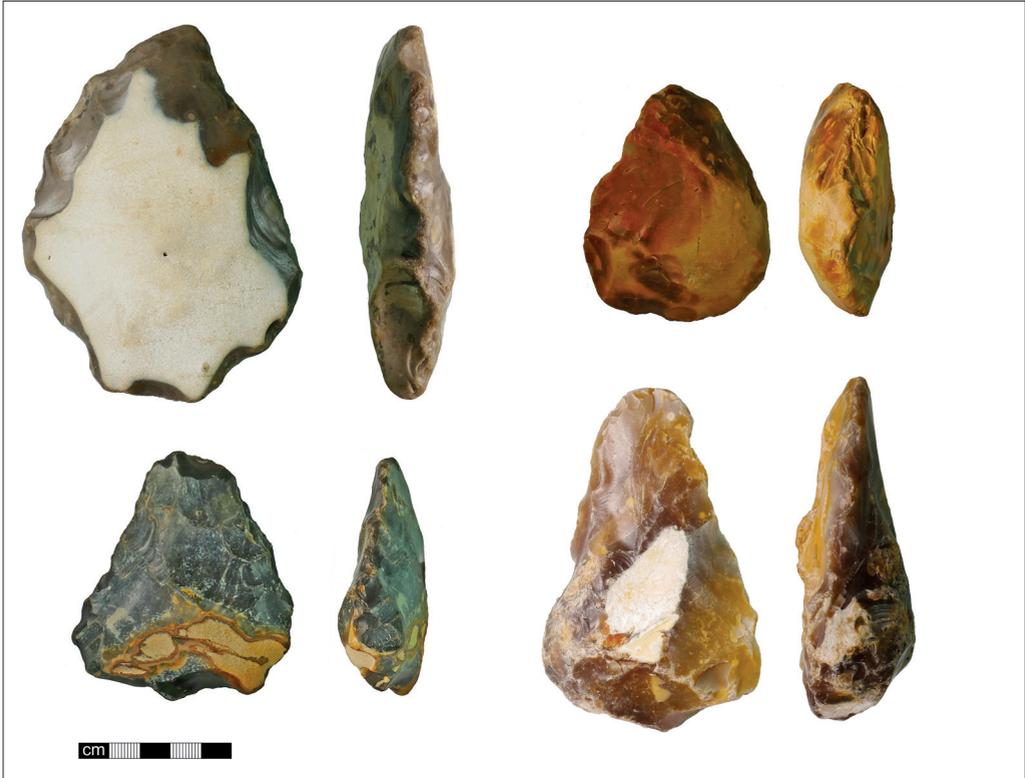


FIG. 231 – Palaeolithic handaxes from Benacre.

DE52F4). (Mdf).

Hinderclay (HNY 081). IA. Gold Gallo-Belgic Aa imported broad flan *stater* VA 10-1/10-2 (SF-A44593). (Mdf).

Hinderclay (HNY 078). BA. Hoard of 21 objects and casting waste (SF-B7DC21). (Mdf).

Langham (LGH 011). Ro. Sx. Copper-alloy 3rd- and 4th-century coinage. Saxon copper-alloy sleeve clasps (SF-ADC7C7, SF-ADC3B6, SF-ADBFC8 (Fig. 230 D), SF-ADBA24, SF-ADB54A, SF-AD9EB2, SF-AD8AF1, SF-AD8603), annular brooches (SF-AD75B0, SF-AD71E4, SF-AD6E69, SF-AD691B, SF-AD647C, SF-AD60BC, SF-AD5CE6), small-long brooches (SF-AD5258, SF-AD4D63, SF-AD3D15, SF-AD3858, SF-AD3435 (Fig. 230 C), SF-AD0EF8), girdle hanger (SF-AD467A), radiate headed brooch (SF-AD41EE) (Fig. 230 A), cruciform brooch (SF-ADCC04), buckle (SF-551506), silver *sceat* series R EMC 2024.0109 (SF-543D01), continental *sceat* series E Abramson E800 EMC 2024.0201 (SF-544992). (Mdf).

Leiston (LCS 383). Sx. Gold ball-headed pin (SF-670ABF). (Mdf).

Mendham (MDM 188). IA. Ro. Sx. Md. Silver unit of Iceni BMC no. 3763-3766 (SF-6B9FB8). Roman cosmetic pestle (SF-D9014E), 1st- and 2nd-century coinage and bow brooches. Saxon copper-alloy finger ring (SF-6BF242), small-long brooch (SF-6BC701), pin (SF-6BBC67), stirrup strap mount (SF-6B85E5). Medieval copper-alloy oval-shaped seal matrix: die is engraved with a bird/eagle facing, wings partially stretched, its head turned to the left, flanked by what appear to be three stars above and one to either side of the head and a fleur-de-lis below. Inscription: IOhS: INTPRETA-VR : GRACIA DEI; [perhaps John ?interpreter?



TOP:

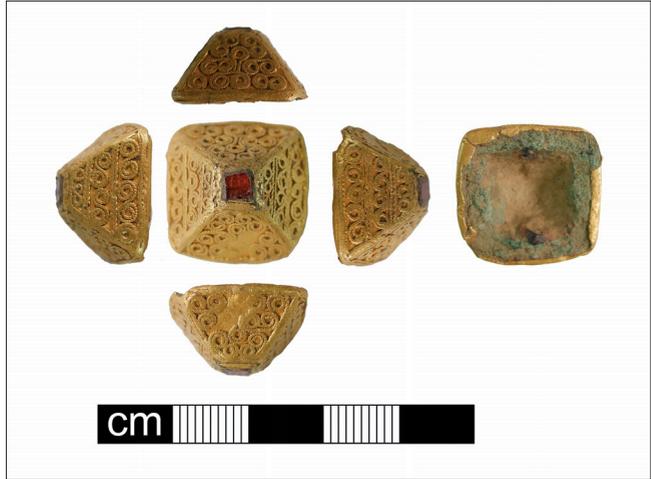
FIG. 232 – Bronze Age gold tripartite penannular ring from Bawdsey.

TOP RIGHT:

FIG. 233 – Saxon gold and garnet pyramid mount from Bardwell.

RIGHT:

FIG. 234 – Late medieval to early post medieval gilded silver crucifix pendant from Bawdsey.



by the grace of God], may refer to St John the Evangelist, whose symbol is typically an eagle depicted in this manner (SF-6B95FD). (Mdf).

Metfield (MTF 224). **Md.** Silver annular brooch frame and pin (NMS-7078E7). (Mdf).

Metfield (MTF 225). **Sx.** Silver penny of Ludica of Mercia (c.825–7), North 398, from the same obverse die as a coin from Bradenham, Norfolk (EMC1994.0183) (NMS-37E208). (Mdf).

Moulton (MUN 074). **Ro. Sx.** Late Roman copper-alloy nail cleaner (SF-D3C65B) and gilded plate brooch (SF-D3AC01). Saxon copper-alloy sleeve clasp (SF-D3B076) and cruciform brooch (SF-D3955D). (Mdf).

Nacton (NAC 152). **Md.** Six pewter pilgrim badges, three depict St Thomas of Canterbury (SF-A81B35, SF-F9E846, SF-F97024, SF-4341AB, SF-071A38, SF-791B92). (Mdf).

Old Newton (ONW 069). **Ro. Sx.** Copper-alloy mount of the *trompetenmuster* style (SF-EAE1C9), button and loop fastener (SF-EA24F6). Silver *sceat*, series D North 1975: 43 (SF-ECED18), copper-alloy pin (SF-EB4492). (Mdf).

Pettaugh (PAU 028). **IA.** Gold unscripted *stater* of Icenii ‘Norfolk Wolf’ type VA 610-613 (SF-68ADE9). (Mdf).

Ramsholt (RMS 087). **Sx.** Silver penny of Cnut North no. 129 (SF-73B4A6). (Mdf).

Rickinghall (RKN 074). **Ro.** Copper-alloy figurine of a reclining woman (SF-7E1F81) (Fig. 229 D). (Mdf).

Sibton (SBT 081). **BA.** Two copper-alloy valves from a mould for a south-eastern type socketed axe (Ewart Park Phase c.1000–800BC) (SF-90078F) (Fig. 228). (Mdf).

Sudbury (SUY 193). **IA.** Gold Gallo-Belgic E type *stater* attributed to the Ambiani tribe as VA no. 52-1 (LVPL-34FE36). (Mdf).

Wenhaston with Mells Hamlet (WMH 086). **BA.** Hoard consisting of a socketed axe and spearhead (SF-453B33). (Mdf).

Westleton (WLN 150). **BA.** Hoard of two copper-alloy palstave axeheads (SF-2DEEFA). (Mdf).

Winston (WNT 077). **IA.** Gold *stater* of Icenic type BMC 3790 (SF-2B05CC). (Mdf).

Wordwell (WRW 106). **IA-Ro.** Copper-alloy strap distributor with human head in its centre (SF-A64622) (Fig. 229 B). (Mdf).

Yaxley (YAX 070). **PM.** Hoard of three silver coins: a shilling and two sixpences of Elizabeth I 1560–74 (SF-6F336B). (Mdf).

SURVEYS

Freston, Potash Farm, scheduled monument 1005982 (TM/1637; FRT 070). A magnetometry survey of the SW quadrant of Freston causewayed enclosure was carried out both prior to and during a dig at the site by the Freston Archaeological Research Mission directed by Professor Tristan Carter (see below). The survey confirmed the location of several of the causewayed pits, previously known only via cropmarks. There were also additional features found with no known cropmarks and a possible circular feature *c.*50–55m in diameter that appears to have shorter ditch sections concentric with its perimeter segments within the main. Given its form and size, this feature may be traces of a henge. While such monuments span the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, this example might be of the latter date given the recovery of Beaker pottery and diagnostic lithics such as barbed-and-tanged arrowheads and thumbnail scrapers from the site.

John Rainer, Suffolk Archaeological Field Group,
for Freston Archaeological Research Mission.

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham, (TM/3353; RLM 071). A magnetometer survey was carried out by volunteers from the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group. The survey was undertaken as part of the Rendlesham Revealed community archaeology project, led by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The results included circular responses likely to be pits that are consistent with those beneath sunken featured buildings as seen in the field NW of the area. Multiple linear features could represent multiperiod ditches and ditched enclosures. There is a large 30m circular feature which is also visible as a cropmark on aerial photography. A square-shaped response 11m by 11m and adjacent magnetic noise consistent with demolition debris could indicate a possible structure. This is in an area of Roman finds. The results also suggest other structures and a possible post-hole building on the field.

John Rainer, Suffolk Archaeological Field Group,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project, on behalf of SCCAS.

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham, (TM/3353; RLM 071). A fieldwalking survey was conducted by a team of volunteers following magnetometry survey. The survey was undertaken as part of the Rendlesham Revealed community archaeology project, led by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Prehistoric worked flint was found scattered across the area, including waste flakes, blades and scrapers, along with burned flint. Three fragments of later prehistoric pottery were found. A thin scatter

of Roman and medieval material, with a distinct concentration in the E of the site, suggests that the field was likely cultivated in these periods. The Roman material included a small quantity of ceramic building material and a larger assemblage of pottery, mostly greywares, some Oxford ware and Horningsea-type ware. The medieval pottery mostly dates to the 12th–14th centuries. The majority of material recovered dated to the post-medieval period, including a high quantity of ceramic building material and some pottery dating from the 16th to 20th centuries, likely derived from manuring and cultivation.

Tom Cox and Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project, on behalf of SCCAS.

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham, (TM/3252; RLM 014). A fieldwalking survey was conducted by volunteers and students from University College London as part of the Rendlesham Revealed community archaeology project, led by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Later Prehistoric activity was represented by an even scatter of struck flint and burned flint across the survey area, with slight concentrations in the SE and W of the field. Roman activity was represented by an assemblage of greyware pottery and a large ceramic fragment which appeared to have been drilled for reuse, likely as a spindle whorl. Early medieval pottery was recovered including fragments of Ipswich ware and Thetford ware in the W of the field, close to the excavation trenches that identified early medieval features. The Thetford ware may represent occupation around the margins of Rendlesham Green. The medieval period was represented by a significant scatter of coarseware pottery. Dense concentrations of material in the W of the survey area are suggestive of continued occupation surrounding Rendlesham Green. The scatter of material to the E of the green is likely the result of manuring, suggesting that the field was brought under cultivation for the first time since the Roman period, which continued into the post-medieval period.

Tom Cox and Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project, on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

Rendlesham, Land at Rendlesham, (TM/3151; RLM 013). A fieldwalking survey was undertaken over two seasons, in 2022 and 2023. The interim results from 2022 were published in the *Proceedings*.¹ The surveys were conducted by volunteers from the local community, including local primary schools, Suffolk Family Carers, Suffolk Mind and the general public. The survey was part of the Rendlesham Revealed community archaeology project, led by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Later prehistoric worked flint and burned flint and possible Iron Age pottery sherds are suggestive of intense activity, perhaps periodic settlement. The identification of prehistoric pits and a 'D'-shaped enclosure here during excavation in 2013–14, 2022 and 2023 adds further weight to this interpretation. A thin spread of Roman material was seen in the E of the site, likely deriving from manuring, and is possibly associated with a rectilinear field system identified in previous geophysical survey conducted in 2008. Another concentration of Roman material was seen in the SE of the field, possibly representing the margins of a settlement outside the survey area. Early medieval material was widely scattered across the site, likely from settlement features and the refuse disposal area identified by excavation in 2022 and 2023. This included early handmade pottery fragments, Ipswich ware and Thetford ware. Animal bone and oyster shell was also recovered, while this was abraded and undated, it is likely to also have come from this refuse disposal area. A large assemblage of medieval material was recovered, likely representative of manuring on the site for the first time since the Roman period, possibly waste disposal from settlement surrounding Rendlesham Green. The post-medieval assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material is large and spatially diverse,

representing manuring and waste disposal from nearby settlement and farmsteads.

Tom Cox and Professor Tom Williamson, University of East Anglia,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project, on behalf of SCCAS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Badwell Ash, Land W of Richer Road (TL/9968; BAA 061). A 0.15ha excavation was undertaken prior to residential development. A Lower to Middle Palaeolithic probable handaxe or biface tool was recovered from the stripped surface of the site's Anglian stage glacial till. The earliest *in-situ* evidence for human activity was a small pit containing an assemblage of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic struck flint. The pit was sealed by a buried soil layer that had accumulated in a large, natural hollow, apparently during the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. This buried soil was subsequently cut by a large, deep pit, possibly a waterhole, and by a smaller extraction pit. No further activity was evident until the later Iron Age, when a large, shallow pit was excavated in the N part of the excavation area. This feature was subsequently backfilled with burnt material, including a sherd of Late Iron Age pottery; a four-post structure to the SE of this feature is probably contemporary.

Thomas Lucking and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Mr Brian Sutton.

Barnham, East Farm (TL/8778; BNH 013). Ongoing excavations have been investigating the Lower Palaeolithic site contained within the sediments of the old clay pit to the S of the farm.² The site is one of several in the Breckland that date to the Hoxnian interglacial (*c.*400,000 years ago) and that collectively are making a major contribution to the understanding of human occupation in Europe during this period.³ This work has shown that the clay pit is composed of Pleistocene deposits that occupy a small basin, formed as a glacial channel cut into chalk bedrock during the Anglian glaciation (*c.*450,000 years ago). The glacial sediments (units 1–3) are overlain by interglacial sediments which, at the edge of the basin (Areas I, IV(4) and VI), are decalcified and formed of a coarse lag gravel (unit 4), a thin grey silt (unit 5e) with a palaeosol (unit 6). Towards the middle of the basin, the grey silt thickens to over 5m in depth (Area III), where it contains rich organic remains, including pollen, molluscs, and vertebrates. Together they suggest that the basin is formed of a small pond, fed by an ephemeral stream or springs, surrounded by grass and deciduous woodland. As the basin became choked with sediment at the peak of the interglacial, the pond dried out, vegetation encroached and the palaeosol formed across the basin, which was then gradually overlain by a thick sequence of colluvial brown silty-clay (unit 7, 'brickearth'). The site was occupied by two successive human groups, the first represented by a simple assemblage of cores, flakes and flake tools from the top of the lag gravel and grey silt, while the second assemblage from the palaeosol includes handaxes and flakes from their manufacture. This change in human occupation of the site seems to have occurred at the peak of the interglacial and may be part of a more regional signal as a similar succession of lithic assemblages has been identified at Devereux's Pit, near Icklingham, 10km to the SW (see IKL 043, below). More broadly this pattern can be seen in Thames Valley at Swanscombe.

Since 2021 the excavations have completed the work to support this interpretation, but have also focused on the evidence of burning. Previously, concentrations of burnt flint were found in Area VI, with occasional charcoal found in Areas I and III. The aim has been to try and distinguish human from natural fire, which at this age range is complex, and with the problems of post-depositional movement of flint and charcoal. However, a new area to the E of Area I was identified in 2021, where there is an isolated patch of reddened clay within the palaeosol,

which appears to be burnt sediment, indicative of an *in-situ* fire. Geochemical analyses are underway to test whether the sediment is actually burnt, the likely duration of the fire, and what sort of temperatures were attained; more sustained burning with high temperatures is more likely to indicate human fire use, rather than a forest fire. The new excavated area has also revealed occasional burnt flints, including a heat-shattered handaxe. If the analyses support human fire use, then this would be one of several sites in Europe, including the nearby site of Beeches Pit, with earliest evidence of this technology at *c.*400,000 years ago. Excavations in 2024 will resume to try and complete this work.

We would like to thank Euston Estate and David, Edward and Richard Heading for permission to excavate and for their continuing support. We would also like to thank David Switzer for logistical support and the many colleagues, volunteers and students who have helped with the excavations. The work was carried out as part of the Pathways to Ancient Britain project, funded by the Calleva Foundation, and the Breckland Palaeolithic Project, funded by a Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant.

Nick Ashton, British Museum; Rob Davis, British Museum; Marcus Hatch, QMUL;
Simon Lewis, QMUL; Claire Lucas, British Museum; Simon O'Connor, Ely;
Simon Parfitt, NHM, UCL.

Barham, Barham quarry new phases 3 and 4 (TM/1351; BRH 101 and 102). Prehistoric and Roman activity was recorded across the two new excavation areas, in each case demonstrating continuation of features identified during previous phases of fieldwork. Within the strip across the N edge of the quarry (site BRH 102) four closely grouped buildings were recorded, comprising two rectangular beam-slot constructions, a post-hole circular building and a four-post structure. These represent Roman and earlier activity close to a previously recorded Roman ladder settlement. Along the S edge of the quarry (site BRH 101), away from the Roman occupation area, the disturbed base of a wood-lined Roman well (Fig. 235) was recorded close to the lowest point of the surrounding natural topography and where deep colluvial deposits corresponded with an extensive NE–SW palaeochannel. This comprised a series of jointed oak planks forming a square lining, supported and reinforced by driven roundwood stakes. The original construction cut had some evidence for a wattle lining, probably to shore up the sides where it cut through loose, sandy gravel deposits, made more unstable by permeating ground water associated with a spring line. Scattered patches of dense heat-altered flint were present within the colluvial deposits immediately around the well. These may relate to small-scale industrial processes being carried out where there was good access to water, but the possible presence of a burnt mound feature beyond the limit of excavation cannot be ruled out. Two small cremation groups were identified, one in each excavation area. A cluster of four cremations in BRH 102 may be Roman given their proximity to a pit of that date, whilst five more scattered examples in BRH 101 are likely to be from the later prehistoric period.

Linzi Everett, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Andrew Josephs, on behalf of Brett Aggregates.

Bildeston, Artliss Close (TL/9949; BIL 059). Excavation was undertaken across three discrete areas. Recorded features included prehistoric pit groups, a large circular post-hole structure (probably a roundhouse), Roman boundary ditches on the same alignment as those reported from the earlier phases of work, and post-medieval features associated with the agricultural use of the land, specifically boundary ditches documented on 19th-century tithe maps. Spot-dating of pottery recovered from the post-hole structure indicated an Iron Age date, which is some of the first documented evidence of Iron Age activity in the local area.

Emily Wright, OA Cambridge, for RPS Group.



FIG. 235 – Roman well, Barham (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

Bramford, Land S of Fitzgerald Road (TM/1246; BRF 158). Excavation of three areas totalling 1.78ha was carried out prior to residential development. Evidence for Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity was encountered, there was a large, steep-sided pit that contained a sizeable assemblage of flint-working debris. A Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery was located on a slight rise in the sand and gravel substrate. It consisted of five ring-ditches and an accumulation of mound material, from which were recovered 21 cremation burials contained in urns of Ardleigh/Deverel–Rimbury type (Fig. 236), in addition to approximately 30 unurned cremations. The cremated skeletal remains belong to *c.*53 individuals. Another cluster of unurned cremation burials was found *c.*150m NE of the main cemetery site.

In the Late Saxon period a ditch system, probably field boundary ditches, was established in the SE part of the site. Pottery from these ditches dates from the late 9th to 11th centuries. Two pits containing pottery of similar date were also recorded. In around the late 11th century, the arrangement of land boundaries was reorganised with a regular, rectilinear enclosure and ditch system being established and lasting until the 13th century. There was some evidence for domestic ‘backyard’ activity in the N part of the site, adjacent to Fitzgerald Road; this consisted of a complex of small ditches and pits and an oven housed either behind a windbreak or within a small post-built structure. In the later 13th century there was a further reorganisation of land boundaries, with successive rectilinear enclosures being established in the N part of the site and a working area, consisting of a stone-lined well, oven and post-built structure, being constructed. In the latest enclosure there was a wide spread of material, interpreted as the bottom of a midden, which contained sherds of late 13th- to 14th-century pottery and four partial animal skeletons, probably either butchery waste or the carcasses of diseased livestock.

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



FIG. 236 –Middle Bronze Age cremation mid-excavation, Bramford (© *Pre-Construct Archaeology*).

Bramford, Land N of Tye Lane (TM/1147; BRF 185). Archaeological evaluation consisting of 53 trenches. Four concentrations of archaeological features were identified, referred to here as Areas A to D, with further features recorded in the minimal trenching away from these foci. The archaeological remains in Area A comprised a Romano-British metallised trackway with flanking ditches. Area B identified an area of settlement that was likely occupied from the mid-to late Iron Age through to the end of the 1st century AD. The archaeological remains comprised of enclosure ditches, pits, post-holes, possible trackways and a possible ring-gully. Area C revealed Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains. Within Area D there was some evidence to tentatively suggest that there was an unenclosed, middle Iron Age phase of activity and residual Transition Period material was also found. However, most of the enclosure ditches, pits, post-holes, occupation layers and trackways dated to the 1st century AD. A small assemblage of 2nd-century AD finds, including Samian ware and Roman tile, was recovered from some features including from within a kiln/furnace base. Environmental samples taken from the kiln suggest that the kiln was not for drying grain and was more likely employed in food production, perhaps baking bread. Occupation of settlement in Area D appears to have continued beyond the abandonment of the settlement in Area B.

Barry Cosham and Phil Weston, Red River Archaeology Ltd,
commissioned by Orion Heritage, for Engena Ltd.

Brandon, 15 Victoria Avenue, (TL/7886; BRD 417). Evaluation ahead of the construction of a single dwelling and detached garage. Two phases of activity were observed at the site. Phase I has been identified as medieval (10th–14th centuries) and includes two sets of double ditches running parallel to each other on a NW to SE alignment. Phase II relates to the undated post-holes, which it is highly likely are related to Phase I. The assemblage highlights a typical range of activities in the area associated with domestic activity.

Alice Schute, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for Anglian Designs.

Bury St Edmunds, Land S of Rougham Hill (TL/8663; BSE 718). Excavation of three areas targeting prehistoric features identified by an earlier evaluation. Area 1 contained several prehistoric pits. Area 2 was centred on a Neolithic pit uncovered during the evaluation; several potential pits in this area were tested, some proving to be significant Neolithic features containing Late Neolithic pottery, struck flint tools and knapping debris, and others were natural hollows. Area 3 targeted a pair of parallel ditches containing Late Iron Age pottery, which may have formed a boundary or narrow trackway.

Laura Desrosiers-Whalley and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of Denbury Homes Ltd.

Clare, 18 High Street (TL/7645; CLA 150). Continuous archaeological monitoring of the foundations of a new dwelling. Finds retrieved from an unidentifiable feature within a test pit consisted of animal bone, horn cores and pottery. Most of the pottery dated between the 12th and 14th centuries. The site also revealed a brick floor with a hearth dating to the late medieval to post-medieval period.

Dennis Payne, Archaeoserv, for Alison Cavener.

Corton, Broadland Sands Holiday Park (TM/5398; COR 108). A two-phased evaluation was conducted. Phase 1 comprised of 23 trenches and Phase 2 comprised of 48 trenches. Phase 1 identified activity of likely Early Iron Age date in the form of two ditches and a pit, all containing ceramics identified as Post-Deverel–Rimbury pottery. Worked lithics of prehistoric date were also recovered. During Phase 2, features similarly contained artefacts of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. Most of these features were ditches, with some pits, concentrated in the central area of the field, except for a single ditch located slightly further to the S.

Issica Baron and Colm Maloney, Red River Archaeology Ltd,
for Armour Heritage.

Eriswell, RAF Lakenheath, old athletics track (TL/7280; ERL 323). A previous evaluation identified a high degree of truncation in the S and W of the site and archaeological features comprising gullies and ditches were only identified in the N and E areas where original soil levels were preserved. The watching brief largely confirmed the evaluation, demonstrating the continuation of linear features across the site's E side. Notably, no evidence for the westward continuation of the Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at ERL 104 was encountered in the area investigated. The work did, however, reveal evidence of earlier activity, comprising two Iron Age pits, one of which contained a discrete deposit of butchered animal bone. The pits also yielded some of the best Iron Age palaeoenvironmental evidence from RAF Lakenheath. At least three pockets of buried soil, likely filling hollows, were identified, which can be paralleled by a buried soil cut by the cemetery to the E. The hollows were cut by predominantly N–S and E–W aligned ditches forming part of a more extensive field system also recorded to the E and probably extending S towards previously excavated rectilinear/coaxial fields. These features lacked secure dating evidence, but are likely to have been in active use during the early medieval period. Roman pottery recovered from two ditches in the preceding evaluation, however, suggests possible earlier origins, with residual flint of probable Bronze Age date suggesting activity in the deeper past.

Alexander Portch and Michael Green, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Eye, Paddock House, Church Street (TM/1473, EYE 248). An archaeological evaluation established the survival of a former subsoil overlying an archaeological horizon which consisted

of 15 features, mainly pits and two ditches of early medieval to post-medieval date and a post-medieval well. Residual finds evidence indicated activity in the broader area from the Late Saxon period onwards. The archaeological evidence likely relates to backyard activity such as rubbish pits associated with former settlement on the Church Street frontage.

Pete Thompson, Wardell Armstrong LLP,
for Richard Utting Associates.

Fakenham Magna, Land N of RAF Honington Euston Road (TL/8876, FKM 088). There were three main phases of works, the first was an archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising 126 evaluation trenches. A series of linear features, most likely relating to agricultural activity, and a number of isolated pits were identified within 11 trenches. A number of these pits contained prehistoric worked flint, including two pits that contained identifiable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint flakes. A cremation was found in a pit containing a single individual under 18 years of age, along with several burnt and worked prehistoric flints and a possible Early Mesolithic crested blade. The second phase of work comprised archaeological monitoring which yielded seven features (five linear ditches and two pits) in proximity to a known Bronze Age barrow cemetery (BNH 120). The third phase of mitigation works was excavations and yielded a series of curvilinear ditches, a multitude of pits, post-holes, and cremation burials. Artefactual evidence dated most of the activity to the Bronze Age with finds including a Late Bronze Age sword tip.

Adrian Arenas Alvarez, for GHC Archaeology & Heritage,
on behalf of Building Partnerships, in turn on behalf of Island Green Power.

Freston, Potash Farm, scheduled monument 1005982 (TM/1637; FRT 070). With permission from Historic England and the landowners, the Freston Archaeological Research Mission (FARM) carried out a six-week excavation in the SW quadrant of the Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure (FRT 005). A small team from Canada and the Suffolk Archaeology Field Group excavated in two areas of the quadrant. Trench II was established in the field's SE corner (18m by 3.5m, E–W) to examine one of the artefact 'hotspots' documented by the previous year's pedestrian survey and to investigate the bank at the field's SE edge.⁴ This linear earthwork is situated approximately where one of the Neolithic enclosure's banks should have run when considering the monument's outline from the aerial photography. Trench III (21m by 13.5m, E–W) was opened over the enclosure's W circuit, with the aim being to contrast the stratigraphic sequence and the depositional practices of the two ditch termini with the ditch termini excavated in the site's SE quadrant in 2019–21 (Trench I, FRT 063).⁵ Trench II represents the first time that FARM has investigated an area within the interior of the monument, which revealed eight circular pits of Early Neolithic date, typical in form, size (c.0.5–2m in diameter) and content to those excavated at several other broadly contemporary sites in the county, including Mildenhall and Reydon Farm. These pits were dug specifically to receive material culture, such as broken pottery, flaked and ground stone tools, charcoal, as well as food remains. Initially these pits were left open for a short time, as indicated by the sandy slump from the edges that accumulated at their base. After this, people gathered objects together (possibly collected from a surface midden) to be dumped into the pits, which were then covered and backfilled. While the reason for digging these Early Neolithic pits is still somewhat enigmatic, some believe that with settlement being impermanent during this time, pits may have acted as markers of those times of the year when people came together at the causewayed enclosure. The pots found in these pits were all highly fragmented, with none of the sherds comprising complete vessels. The pottery consisted almost entirely of Plainware vessels that are named for their lack of decoration. Each pit also produced lithics, not

insignificant quantities of carbon, a few hazelnut shells, and even two small pieces of calcined bone, the first time such material has been recovered from Freston as the soil acidity is not conducive to the survival of organics, unless burnt. The rich worked flint assemblages provide evidence for on-site tool blade production, with entire knapping sequences represented, from cores and cortical debris, to preformed and/or broken implements such as leaf-shaped and laurel leaf points, plus end products in the form of numerous blades and retouched scrapers. A few quartzite cobble tools were also recovered, some likely to have been used as hammerstones for flint-working.

The two adjacent causewayed enclosure ditch termini (inner and outer) excavated in Trench III were narrower, shallower, less stratigraphically complex, and artefact-poorer compared to those investigated in Trench I. The inner ditch (Feature #054) was dug to natural at a depth of ~2 m, with its fill comprising a series of carbon-rich anthropogenic dumps interspersed with waterlogged deposits that likely accumulated during periods of abandonment. There was also one clear instance where the ditch had been recut, followed by renewed dumping activity, before the site (or this part of the monument) finally went out of use, with the ditch then being gradually infilled by windblown deposits.

The outer ditch (Feature #061) was shallower still, at 1.4 m deep, and its anthropogenic fills producing smaller quantities of finds. The enclosure ditches' ceramic assemblages are notably different from those of the pits in Trench II; here not only find Plainware bowl fragments were found, but also a not insignificant amount of finely made decorated pots, i.e. Mildenhall ware, the decorated bowl tradition of Early Neolithic East Anglia. The pots from the ditches comprise the residue from feasting and other activities at the enclosure (*i.e.* more socially meaningful acts than reflected in the pit deposits), which would have included vessels of various sizes for cooking and serving, as well as small cups to consume beverages. As to the contents of these bowls and cups, microscopic and isotopic analyses of food crusts are currently being conducted at the British Museum (by Professor Carl Heron) and York University (by Dr Lara González Carretero). Once again, no complete pots were recovered; this is quite typical at Freston and other causewayed enclosures. It is tempting to imagine Neolithic feasts that involved the making, using and breaking of pots as people gathered at the enclosure to commemorate special moments or people to the community. It is believed that those pots central to socially significant gatherings were withdrawn from circulation immediately post use and deliberately broken, with fragments of the vessel then shared amongst the participants as mnemonic devices, with the rest of the sherds then being buried across the site or taken elsewhere.

Between the inner and outer ditches ran another segment of palisade trench, though here there was much less evidence for the timbers having been burnt (unlike those in one stretch in Trench I), aside from one large, carbonised terminus post that marked the entrance way. Interestingly, unlike in other parts of the monument where the palisade seems to have been established to visually block certain causeways (the entrances can still be accessed, however, by simply walking around the ends of the intermediary fence), the palisade in Trench II seems to frame, or emphasize, this access into the monument. While there was no evidence for Early Bronze Age reuse of the ditches (in contrast to those in Trench I), a Beaker sherd was recovered from a penannular ditch dug in front of — and largely blocking — the inner causeway, which either represents a very late alteration of the monument, or perhaps relates to what might be an important Early Bronze Age feature defined by geophysical survey this summer within the Neolithic monument (see above).

Arguably the major discovery from Trench III comprised nine pits of later Mesolithic date based on the hundreds of flint artefacts recovered from them, with numerous retouched pieces, many being microlithic in character. The largest pit measured some 1.25m in diameter, and 0.55m in depth, and at least three had post-pipes in section. It is tentatively suggested that these

might have been markers for cremations based on comparisons with a site in Ireland (Hermitage) and Langford in nearby Essex. To test this hypothesis the aim is to send burnt stone from these features to be tested for human fats, while carbonised twigs from three of these pits have been sent for radiocarbon dating. More generally, Mesolithic flintwork was found everywhere across Trench III, the material percolating down into the natural gravels (as evidenced by four small test pits, and that every Neolithic feature contained residual Mesolithic finds), a glacial outwash layer that optically stimulated luminescence dates indicate were deposited between 400,000–500,000 years ago. This is the first clear evidence from the site of a pre-Neolithic heritage; residual Mesolithic material was also found in most of the Trench II pits, within the natural gravels (as evidenced by two small test pits), and a 1m² test pit within the central spring.

One of FARM's major research questions has been to consider why this locale was chosen for the Early Neolithic monument's creation. The central spring likely afforded both practical (potable water) and symbolic significance, but there are many springs on the Shotley peninsula. Might there have been an existing importance accorded this locale, relating to indigenous hunter-gatherer traditions and cosmologies, or was this virgin territory attractive for other reasons? The evidence for major Mesolithic activity at the site, possibly including an ancestral burial ground, is tantalising, with the Early Neolithic settlers from mainland northern Europe arguably appropriating an existing sacred landscape and building their enclosure to envelop the space — a hypothesis that might also help to explain why the monument is so large. The excavation was funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada – Insight Development Grant.

Tristan Carter and Rose Moir, McMaster University.

Great Cornard, Bures Road and land rear of 158 to 188 (TL/8839; COG 090). An excavation recovered a large assemblage of mostly residual Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flint, representing the earliest activity within the excavation area. Most of the assemblage likely dates to the Early Neolithic period and comprises small blade cores, fine flakes and tools. Some of the tree-throw holes contained crude assemblages of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flint which are likely associated with contemporary activity. Additionally, several of the tree-throw holes contained large quantities of microdebitage suggesting tool production and knapping was being undertaken on site and the waste material was discarded within the tree-throw holes. Other prehistoric activity comprised a small number of pits which were dispersed across the excavation area. A possible roundhouse comprised a circular arrangement of 12 evenly spaced post-holes, which defined an area approximately 17m in diameter. A small assemblage of worked flints recovered from four of the post-holes included a Neolithic blade and a Neolithic to Bronze Age hammer-struck flake, suggesting a broad possible date range for the structure. There was little evidence for internal activity which comprised three pits or post-holes.

Grace Griffith, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Ian Ward, North Avenue Development Company Ltd.

Grundisburgh, Lord Cranworth Farms Reservoir, Manor Farm Lane (TM/2149; GRU 096). A trial trench evaluation was carried out following geophysical survey. The evaluation identified elements of a field system broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. The periphery of a possible Early Iron Age farmstead or settlement was also discovered at the S edge of the site. A medieval farmstead was identified at the N end of the site, adjacent to the road from Grundisburgh to Culpho. A scatter of 13th- to 14th-century pottery had previously been recorded in this area in the Suffolk HER, and a ditched enclosure was identified by the

geophysics. Pottery from the ditches and pits excavated in the evaluation trenches indicates some 12th- to 13th-century activity, but most of the assemblage is consistent with a main 13- to 14th-century phase of occupation. Evidence for agricultural land use continued during the post-medieval period, with ditched field divisions later being superseded by a modern system of larger fields. A post-medieval pig burial was also identified.

Jonathan House and Peter Crawley, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Ceres Rural.

Icklingham, Devereux's Pit (TL/7972; IKL 043). Devereux's Pit is a Lower Palaeolithic site located in a disused clay pit 2.5km SE of Icklingham, and just 500m W of the internationally significant Lower Palaeolithic site at Beeches Pit, West Stow. Ongoing field investigations at the site since 2021 have identified a sequence of glacial and interglacial sediments that date to between 450,000 and 400,000 years ago (450–400 ka). The glacial sediments consist of till and gravels deposited during the Anglian glaciation (Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 12; *c.*450 ka). The interglacial sediments infill a basin formed in the surface of the glacial deposits and are therefore likely to date to MIS 11 (*c.*400ka), the period of warm climatic conditions that succeeded the Anglian. The lower part of the interglacial sequence consists of sands and silts, which reflect a fluctuating depositional environment, from still or sluggish water to a more energetic stream. These are overlain by clays that indicate a final phase of sedimentation in a still water environment. The sequence is capped by sand and clay 'brickearth', formed by a combination of slope processes and wind-blown deposition, probably under cold climatic conditions. In places the interglacial sediments are calcareous and preserve faunal remains. A preliminary assessment of the record based on samples from boreholes has identified a variety of species of aquatic molluscs, fish, amphibians, small mammals and large mammals. Identifiable species include pike, tench, water vole, wood mouse and red or fallow deer. Together, these indicate a temperate climate with deposition in a water body surrounded by a mix of open grassland and denser vegetation. The presence of the mollusc *Bithynia tentaculata* has enabled the use of the dating technique amino acid racemisation (AAR), which provided confirmation that the interglacial sediments were deposited during MIS 11. The main excavation area (Area I) is located at the edge of the pit and near the margin of the Pleistocene water body. The basic stratigraphy here is the same as seen in boreholes located nearer to the centre of the basin, but with additional inputs from slope processes, with stonier deposits representing downslope movement of bankside sediments. Evidence for human occupation is provided by stone tool assemblages that occur throughout the interglacial sequence in Area I. These were likely discarded in activity areas along the edge of the water body and subsequently reworked into the Area I sediments via slope processes, probably over just a few metres. The artefacts are all related to the knapping of local flint cobbles and are typically in fresh condition. All the assemblages include products from core and flake technology, where hard stone hammers were used to knap flint cores to produce large flakes, some of which had the edges modified by retouch to produce notches, denticulates and scrapers. This is the only technology present in the lower part of the sequence, but the assemblages from the upper deposits also include products from the manufacture of handaxes. In these assemblages, approximately 30 per cent of the flakes have been produced using bone or antler hammers. Soft hammer flakes are completely absent from the lower part of the sequence. Devereux's Pit is the third locality in Britain after the nearby site of Barnham (see above) and Swanscombe where MIS 11 sediments contain these two distinct industries, separated stratigraphically. They are the clearest examples of a wider pattern of human occupation of Britain during the early part of MIS 11c (Hoxnian interglacial) characterised by a core and flake industry, followed later but during the same interglacial by a separate industry characterised by handaxe manufacture. At Devereux's Pit, the changeover appears to be relatively rapid, supporting the notion that these industries

represent two distinct human groups with differing traditions of stone tool manufacture, rather than a gradual development of handaxe technology from the earlier core and flake industry.

Robert Davis, British Museum; Simon Lewis, QMUL; Marcus Hatch, QMUL;
Claire Lucas, British Museum; Nick Ashton, British Museum.

Ilketshall St Lawrence, Land W of Halesworth Road, (TM/3783; ISL 038). Evaluation revealed surviving medieval activity within the W portion of the site; this activity may have extended across the site, but has been truncated by later post-medieval and modern disturbance in the E portion of the site. Multiple ditches and gullies on a N-S alignment and a single pit represent the earliest phase of activity, dating from the 11th–14th centuries. The second phase found dates to the 15th–16th centuries and is represented by a metallised surface. This surface overlays a gully and ditch, which seemed to represent a reworking of the area in the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

Alice Schute, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for East Suffolk Council.

Ipswich, Henley Gate 3rd Phase Mitigation (TM/1647; IPS 881). Archaeological remains of similar type and date to those of the Phase 1 investigations were recorded, with the addition of some Bronze Age and Saxon features. Neolithic and Bronze Age features were sparse, limited to small pit groups. Early Iron Age remains were more numerous, with evidence supplementing remains previously found in the Phase 1 excavation areas and demonstrating the presence of an extensive and developed landscape formed of multiple dispersed structures and boundaries. Within the SE area of the Country Park was an enclosed Iron Age settlement, with internal roundhouse structures and pit clusters indicative of occupation. There was a noticeable absence of Iron Age features between the two defined areas of occupation in the W and E of the site. Early Roman remains were limited, with remains suggestive of a continuation of the ditched field systems previously investigated in the Phase 1 mitigation areas. There was a noticeable absence of Roman material in most of the excavation areas, with small-scale remains in the SE area also indicative of agricultural use, though perhaps with some structured pottery deposition evident. Anglo-Saxon features were confined to the E of the development site, with several ditches defining land divisions. The lack of other associated features suggests that these ditched boundaries represent agricultural use of the landscape. Recorded medieval land use remains primarily relate to agricultural use, consistent with the Phase 1 results. Part of a rural roadside settlement was also uncovered in the SW, alongside Henley Road. Outlying ditches positioned perpendicular and parallel to the road likely define associated fields or paddocks adjacent to it. Evidence for post-medieval land use was limited to a single field boundary ditch in the very SW of site.

Angus Forshaw, Archaeology South East, for RPS Group.

Ipswich, Land at Europa Way (TM/1345; IPS 2121). Excavation revealed features dating from the later prehistoric to modern periods, with the focus comprising a Late Bronze Age settlement, field/boundary system and small cremation cemetery. The settlement, represented by two post-built roundhouses, numerous four- and six-post structures, post-hole groups, two ring-gullies, and several pits, extended across the excavation area. The field system was aligned on a NE to SW axis, with the small (unurned) cremation cemetery positioned in a discrete location to the SE of the settlement. A significant assemblage of Post-Deverel–Rimbury ceramics was recovered from features associated with the settlement, alongside occasional sherds of earlier and later date. The Late Bronze Age assemblage includes potential evidence for pottery manufacture on or near to the site. Other finds of note include fired clay weights, a clay spindle whorl, worked flint including a rare example of a flint quern, and a copper-alloy pin.

Marcus Headifen, OA Cambridge, for Suffolk County Council.

Ipswich, St Stephen's church (TM/1644; IPS 277). Archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the conversion of the church into a music venue. The excavation by contractors of a trench for new drainpipes along the S side of the church revealed cemetery soil underneath the current footpath and also allowed for the examination of the foundations of the 15th-century Rush Chapel. The foundations were found to be composed of flint and mortar, but with occasional nodules of septaria, perhaps *spolia* from earlier church fabric, and a large nodule of gneiss, possibly imported as a glacial erratic or ship ballast. No early floors were seen to survive under the modern concrete flooring of the Rush Chapel, although earlier cemetery soil was encountered beneath it. On the N side of the church, a 19th-century stone wall, partially constructed of reused medieval and later material, was removed. A 14th- or 15th-century carved stone head, originally part of an interior corbel or label stop, was among the early stonework that had been incorporated into the wall. Beneath the wall, the top of a brick vaulted structure, perhaps a domed cap over a well or burial vault, was uncovered. An 18th- or 19th-century brick burial vault with a whitewashed interior was also encountered just N of the church. Although outside the scope of the present work, previously unrecorded historical graffiti was identified by chance discovery in the stairwell of the W tower.

Preston Boyles, Cotswold Archaeology, for Mixbrow Construction.

Lakenheath, Land at Eriswell Road (TL/7181; LKH 361). A second phase of trial-trenching further investigated a possible palaeochannel that had been identified during previous evaluation. Undated pits and post-medieval features, the latter most likely associated with land drainage, were recorded. A small assemblage of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age flint tools was found in the possible palaeochannel and residually within later features. Geotechnical assessment of column samples confirmed that rather than being a channel, the prehistoric wetland features were a series of pools close to the contemporary fen edge. A large fragment of cattle bone found in the base of one of the pools suggests pastoral activity in the surrounding landscape. The column sample assessment also showed that a considerable drying out of the landscape took place after the prehistoric period, leading to poor preservation of materials and low potential for further investigation.

Charlotte Lockwood and Christiane Meckseper, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for RPS Group.

Lakenheath, RAF Lakenheath, airfield lighting vault (TL/7381; LKH 644). Excavation revealed ditches, pits and burials sealed beneath a rich mixed layer of occupation debris.

Most of the ditches were dated to the Late Roman period. The discrete pits on the site dated to the later Iron Age and Roman periods and Saxon pottery was also recovered as intrusive finds from layers and features on the site. The two burials uncovered were dated to the Late Iron Age and Late Roman periods. The Late Iron Age burial was a fully articulated crouched type infant burial and was recovered from a large pit, no grave goods were present. The Late Roman burial was a supine female, but was heavily truncated by modern disturbance and no grave goods were present.

Michael Green, Cotswold Archaeology, for Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Lakenheath, RAF Lakenheath, service life extension programme (TL/7482; LKH 645). Watching brief and excavation revealed a 'burnt mound' deposit of Early Bronze Age date associated with a small number of prehistoric pits, post-holes and finds. Elsewhere, wind-blown sand layers were encountered, likely dating to the prehistoric and medieval periods. The burnt mound measured c.20m in diameter and was composed of dark stained layers containing heat-altered flint within a slight hollow. These deposits sealed two associated 'troughs' (potential

water-filled pits or tanks). One of the troughs had the remains of a possible clay lining. The finds assemblage was relatively large for a feature of this type, including 742 struck flints and hammerstones and 244 small, fragmented sherds of pottery. The majority of the finds were recovered from the heat-altered flint layers. Across the top of the burnt mound deposits was revealed a pattern of criss-crossing ard marks. Although undated, these were likely to be of later prehistoric date, possibly belonging to the Iron Age.

Michael Green and Jez Meredith, Cotswold Archaeology,
for Defence Infrastructure Organisation.

Lawshall, Land between 1 Swanfield and Fox Cottage, The Street (TL/8654, LWL 081). Evaluation revealed post-holes and ditches of medieval or late post-medieval to modern date, with one ditch undated.

Pete Thompson, Wardell Armstrong LLP, for Mr. Steven Holt.

Leiston, MDS3 Area B (TM/4564; LCS 284). This site revealed evidence for an extensive spread of Early Neolithic features, a Bronze Age ditch system and for Anglo-Saxon occupation. Early Neolithic features included a large pit (2.4m wide by 1.8m deep) (Fig. 237), and up to 200 smaller pits, some concentrated into clusters. There were a small number of Early Bronze Age pits and elements of a field system of probable Middle Bronze Age date. A single isolated cremation might be contemporary with the Middle Bronze Age system. During the Middle Anglo-Saxon period, a post-hole hall structure and a sunken featured building (SFB) were constructed. These structures were within a 'D'-shaped ditched enclosure and a single inhumation might also belong to this period. After the abandonment of the SFB, a clay oven was inserted into one corner (Fig. 238). The edge of a second enclosure was revealed across the N edge of the site and this had been recut during the Late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval period. A rectilinear field system to the S of this enclosure was likely to be contemporary with the later recuts.

Jez Meredith and Richard Mortimer, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA),
for SZC Co.



FIG. 237 – The large Early Neolithic pit under excavation, Leiston (© Oxford Cotswold Archaeology).



FIG. 238 – Anglo-Saxon Sunken-Featured Building with clay oven inserted into the far corner, Leiston (© Oxford Cotswold Archaeology).

Leiston, MDS4 Area B Wetland Habitat Creation Area (TM/4665; LCS 321). Located to the S of the Minsmere saltmarsh, this site would have been close to tidal deposits before land reclamation during the medieval and subsequent periods. The archaeological stratigraphy and finds indicate key phases of activity in the Beaker (Early Bronze Age), Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval to post-medieval periods. Three Beaker pit groups were located across the site with 29 pits and post-holes recorded. Beaker pottery, worked flint and charred hazelnut shells were recovered from these features, while some showed evidence of *in situ* burning. The Beaker pits could suggest episodic and transient occupation, possibly for seasonal exploitation of the local wetland habitat. Other prehistoric activity includes a horseshoe-shaped feature and a small ring-ditch with a central undated pit. Two roundhouse structures indicate habitation in the Middle Iron Age and were associated with post-holes, potential floor deposits and possible hearths. Two pit groups were contemporary and were associated with pottery and loom weight fragments. The Roman archaeology took the form of a saltern complex (manufacturing salt) and related ‘red hill’ deposits. The saltern comprised a hearth and a clay-lined settling tank (Fig. 239). Briquetage fragments (broken up clay evaporation pans) were spread throughout the reddish soil, as was charcoal. Other possible red hills (spreads of briquetage/fired clay) are known in the area. The presence of the saltern shows that this area was at the high tide mark during the Roman period. Multiple enclosure and other boundary ditches are believed to be medieval to post-medieval in date. These probably marked the N limit of grazed farmland up against the Minsmere marsh. In the medieval period, the site lay between the first and second Leiston Abbey sites and was probably within the historic landholding of the abbey.

Chris Fern and Steve Manthorpe, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA), for SZC Co.



FIG. 239 – Roman saltern, comprising a hearth and possible settling tank, Leiston
(© Oxford Cotswold Archaeology).

Leiston, MDS4 Area D Wetland Habitat Creation Area (TM/4665; LCS 322). This site was within a stretch of land close to saltmarsh *c.*100m to the E. Minsmere marsh would have been more extensive than what survives today, before medieval and post-medieval reclamation of the saltmarsh. The archaeological stratigraphy and finds indicate activity dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Early Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The spot-dating provided by the stratified pottery shows that most of the archaeological remains were the result of land use in the medieval period, probably with a focus from the *c.*12th to *c.*14th centuries. Prehistoric activity included small pit groups and single features of Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age date. Roman pits were also encountered, and Roman material was found residually across the site, whilst Early Anglo-Saxon features and 50 sherds (one vessel) were found in one section of a medieval ditch. There was a small concentration of Early Anglo-Saxon occupation activity in the S portion of the site. The main features were five sunken featured buildings (SFBs). As well as pottery, finds from the fills included spindle whorls, glass beads, an unfired loom weight, iron objects and animal bone. There were also pits, and a number of undated hearth-like features with heat-altered stone and fired clay lay in proximity to the SFBs. The medieval archaeology was dominated by multiple large ditched enclosures on a prevailing N–NW/S–SE alignment (running with the contours). A number of the ditch fills demonstrated repeated recuts with medieval pottery found sporadically throughout the fills. In all, over 460 ditch cuts/recuts were recorded. The distribution of medieval pottery and the presence of around 70 pits suggests that domestic waste was periodically disposed of at the site. The site lay between the two sites of Leiston Abbey: the first foundation (*c.*1182) was *c.*1km to the E within the marsh at Minsmere; the second abbey (*c.*1363) was *c.*2km to the SW. Given this location, it is very likely that the site lay within the 12th- to 14th-century landholdings of the abbey.

Chris Fern and Ines Glover, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA), for SZC Co.



FIG. 240 – Medieval beam-slot building with post-hole annexes at each end, Leiston
(© Oxford Cotswold Archaeology).

Leiston, Broom Walk Areas 11 and 12 (TM/4564; LCS 326). Two large areas were excavated across the S half of Broom Field (Area 11 to the E and Area 12 to the W; 1.4ha and 1.15ha respectively). Stratigraphic and artefact evidence for Beaker (Early Bronze Age), Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity was recorded. The main focus of Beaker activity was within Area 12 with a series of shallow hollows (possibly pits or even hut floors) filled with midden material and containing abundant quantities of pottery and struck flint. Flint scrapers were particularly common. Other pit groups were identified, many containing the highly decorated comb-impressed pottery distinctive of this period. Other finds included a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead and a fragment of stone mace head. Small pit groups of both Early and Middle Iron Age date were recognised, and occasional residual quantities of Roman pottery were found in later features. A possible Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building (SFB) was revealed in Area 11. A large circular oven base defined by flint cobbles set in clay had been inserted into one corner of the SFB and the remains of a second oven were also revealed. Both ovens were associated with medieval pottery of 11th- to 14th-century date. Potential post-hole buildings and a series of enclosure ditches were other medieval features encountered within Area 11. The medieval period was the most prominent phase of activity in Area 12, comprising an enclosure system situated on the N side of a droveway. Buildings, ovens, large pits and a post-hole alignment were situated within the enclosures. The structures displayed different building styles, but were all clustered in the S half of the enclosures and were aligned parallel or perpendicular to the adjacent droveway. The droveway alignment is preserved in the existing Sandlings track to the S of the site. The largest and earliest structure within Area 12 was a substantial building measuring 21.5m in length and 5.7m wide. The central part of the building was rectangular and defined by a beam-slot. Sitting either end of this were two rectangular arrangements of post-holes, which may have been possible extensions (Fig. 240). This building was within an enclosure ditch and four other structures were

revealed in the same enclosure. Differences of construction type included combinations of clay floors, beam-slots, post-holes, post-pads, traces of clay cob walls and potential evidence for ‘studwork’ as revealed by lines of stake-holes.

Joe Molton, Tara Schug and Steve Manthorpe, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA), for SZC Co.

Leiston, Areas 20, 21 and 22 (TM/4564; LCS 327). Three large excavation areas were located to the N of the Sizewell Belts. Area 20 was the largest excavation area (2.2ha) located to the W of the three excavations. It contained two substantial structures with ditched enclosures and field boundaries and an intense area of quarry pitting, of medieval date. Area 21 was the smaller central area (1.3ha) containing an Early Bronze Age cremation deposit. Area 22 was the smallest excavation area (0.6ha) and was located to the E. Two Early Neolithic pits, a medieval oven and field boundaries were revealed here. The pair of Early Neolithic pits in Area 22 were located towards the E end of the site and were quite substantial features (both were c.1.5m across and up to c.0.5m deep). In Area 21 an Early Bronze Age cremation deposit associated with collared urn fragments (from a highly truncated urn) was found centrally within a circular area of discoloured natural variation c.19m in diameter which may have corresponded to a natural feature that influenced the position of the cremation deposit. Two adjacent four-post structures were found in the SW part of the site; these did not produce any finds and no later Bronze Age or Iron Age pottery was discovered from these areas, but these features might be of later prehistoric date. The greatest concentration of medieval features was across Area 20 to the W. The central rectangular building comprised a sequence of buried layers and a series of post-holes (covering an area c.20m by 12m). The finds reflect industrial and domestic items of 11th–14th-century date. Of particular note was the presence of iron woolcomb nails. The eastern building was 15m by 13m and consisted of two distinct phases of post-holes and a beam-slot. Internal pits produced a near complete Hollesley-type ware large jar with lug handles and applied thumbed strip decoration, of late 13th–14th-century date (Fig. 241). All three areas revealed evidence for medieval field systems, with a series of ditched enclosures evident in Area 20 (the central building was within its own enclosure). Nearby a small rectangular enclosure had been almost completely excavated away with quarry pits during the medieval period. These pits targeted a deposit of natural clay and it is likely that the clay extraction occurring here supplied material for nearby structures. In Area 22 to the E two medieval ovens were identified. The central oven was built within a rectangular sunken construction cut 3.5m long, 3m wide and 0.4m deep. The second oven in the N part of the area was 5m long and 4m wide and appeared to cut a driveway ditch.

Alex Davies and John Carne, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology (OCA), for SZC Co.

Long Melford, Land known as Stoneylands (TL/86454; LMD 367). Follows community test-pitting in 2014 and the discovery of a possible floor surface. The small open area excavation revealed a deposit of Roman material representing 1st to 4th-century occupation. This covered a flat chalk/gravel yard surface and a building floor of rammed chalk divided by a straight 10m robber trench. An excavation extension exposed a wide threshold doorway with evidence of a large burnt door post. On sectioning and removal of the trench fill, it was found to consist of exclusively Late Iron Age large pottery sherds along with a Cunobelin coin. As well as evidence of burning, the skull of a dog was retrieved from the trench bottom. Recent geophysical surveys and research have indicated the possible existence of an early Roman vexillation fort occupying this general area. It is possible that the rectilinear Late Iron Age building was burnt and demolished in a clearance operation to make way for the fort.

Kenneth Dodd, Long Melford Heritage Trust.



FIG. 241 – Medieval Hollesley-type ware large jar, Leiston (© Oxford Cotswold Archaeology).

Mendlesham, Land off Old Station Road and Glebe Way (TM/1065; MDS 255). Evaluation identified Middle Iron Age activity on the higher ground in the W part of the site. The remains consist of ditches and pits together containing a moderate-sized assemblage of predominantly Middle Iron Age pottery. Other features revealed in the trenches consisted of a row of post-holes, possibly of Roman date, and field boundary ditches, most of which are depicted on late 19th- and 20th-century maps. Modern features alongside the route of the former light railway were also investigated.

Thomas Lucking and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for Lanpro Services Ltd, on behalf of Denbury Homes Ltd.

Monks Eleigh, Monks Eleigh Controlled School (TL/9647; MKE 051). Of the nine trenches opened, six contained features and deposits of archaeological significance, with all containing finds indicating a Romano-British date. The identified features were concentrated in the W half of the field and comprised gullies, ditches and a pit. Subsequent excavation revealed peripheral evidence for Romano-British settlement activity likely relating to the presumed high-status structure, potentially a villa, identified to the E of the site in the 1940s.

The ceramic evidence dated activity to the Late Iron Age and mid- to late 1st/early 2nd centuries AD. Artefactual evidence included a fragment of *tessera* and pieces of hypocaust, other ceramic building material and three examples of copper-alloy tweezers. Concentrations of dumped oyster shell and faunal remains implied a settlement with an established agrarian and trade economy, while the palaeoenvironmental analysis indicated a mixed grassland environment that was mostly dry with damp and shaded ditches close to an area of human activity. No structural remains were encountered, but the formation of the ditches and pits coupled with the character of the artefactual and faunal assemblages suggested this had remained an area very much on the periphery of domestic settlement. The lack of evidence for

activity would appear to suggest a shift or cessation of settlement after the beginning of the 2nd century.

Joe France, *Border Archaeology*.

Old Newton, Land S of Church Road (TM/0562; ONW 067). Two areas with a combined area of 0.24 hectares were excavated. In Area 1, behind the Greenacres residences, a ditch was found on a NE–SW orientation (running parallel with Stowmarket Road) that was intercut with several gullies and pits. Other pits and post-holes were sited to its E. Finds of Roman pottery from the fills of the ditch and these features suggests a focus for this activity in the Mid-Roman period (2nd to 3rd centuries). Area 2 was approximately 200m E of Area 1 at the rear of properties on the S side of Church Lane. The main discovery was of a small pit containing two whole pottery vessels dated to the Late Roman period. The vessels were without contents and in a sandy greyware fabric: a dropped flange bowl (Suffolk Form 6.17, Cam 305); and a slack-shouldered jar (Suffolk form 4.5). The jar can be broadly dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries. The dropped flange bowl is a form of the mid-3rd to 4th centuries. The deposition of whole pottery vessels without associated funerary remains appears to have been rare in the Roman period, but parallels from Suffolk include examples from the environs of Wixoe. Several gully and other pit features were close by, but all were undated.

Chris Fern and Georgina Palmer, *Cotswold Archaeology*, for Keepmoat Homes.

Oulton, Area A, Trenches 20–30, site off Lime Avenue and Church Lane (TM/5194, OUL 052). Evaluation revealed a series of N–S oriented post-medieval strip field boundary ditches, which form a continuation of the field system recorded in the S field in 2022. A modern field boundary present on the 1842 tithe map was also exposed in two adjacent trenches.

Kerrie Bull and Lindsay Lloyd-Smith, *Wardell Armstrong LLP*,
for Persimmon Homes Anglia.

Rendlesham, *Rendlesham Revealed* project, Naunton Hall (TM/3253; RLM 013 and TM/3252 RLM 014). The final season of archaeological excavation on the site of the 5th- to 8th-century settlement complex at Rendlesham was undertaken as part of the community archaeology project *Rendlesham Revealed* (Fig. 242). The project is funded by The National Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Two trenches (Trenches 15 and 16) were opened in RLM 013, and one (Trench 17) in RLM 014. Trench 15 showed that a ditch at the base of slope close to the flood plain of the river Deben, running parallel to the early medieval perimeter ditch, contained 13th- to 14th-century pottery and so was not part of the early medieval settlement complex. It was found to cut earlier inhumations, which were radiocarbon-dated to between the late 7th and late 8th centuries. In Trench 16, a sequence of features from the Neolithic to the Late Iron Age was recorded, and elements of the Early Roman enclosure system recorded in 2022 in Trench 14. The latest archaeology encountered was the foundation of a WW2 searchlight emplacement, part of a searchlight battery shown on USAF aerial photography from December 1943. The ditch of a ‘D’-shaped enclosure known from remote sensing, and sampled in 2013, was confirmed as Late Iron Age. Early medieval features were small pits containing burnt material, the perimeter ditch (which was sectioned in three places), the foundations of three or possibly four timber buildings (Fig. 243) and a possible *Sunken Featured Building*. The sequence of perimeter ditch fills was as recorded in Trench 14, with the difference that there was less animal bone and that a significance assemblage of metalworking debris was recovered. A narrow shallow recut was identified along the E side of the ditch. None of the excavated early medieval buildings had been identified by magnetometry or aerial photography. The timber buildings included a row



TOP:

FIG. 242 – Volunteers excavating at Rendlesham (© SCCAS).

BOTTOM:

FIG. 243 – Aerial image of the excavations, Rendlesham. (*photo: Jim Pullen; © SCCAS*)

of post-holes *c.*10m long, the long wall of a rectangular building. No corresponding wall was identified, but if it belonged to a building *c.*10m by *c.*5m, conforming to the early medieval two-square module, then its counterpart to the W would fall within the cut of the perimeter ditch, suggesting that this structure predates the enclosure of the promontory. The second structure is a foundation trench of rectangular plan, with some ghosts of timber settings in the base. Its configuration and the absence of door openings suggests a rectangular structure aligned broadly N–S and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. If constructed to the two-square module, then it would be 15/16m by 7.5m. The third structure is the foundation of a rectangular building *c.*10m by 5m, orientated roughly W–E with opposed entrances in the long walls. There are traces of timber settings in the base of the foundation trench, and, unusually, four internal post-holes. The foundation trench is particularly large for a building of this size, 0.80m–1.12m wide and up to 1m deep from the modern ground surface which, with the internal posts, may suggest a more robust construction and/or greater height than normal. Finally, the fourth structure, an alignment of post-holes and a possible foundation trench, may represent a further building on a N–S alignment extending beyond the E limit of excavation. Trench 16 was located in an area where metal-detecting had identified a concentration of early medieval metalworking debris in the ploughsoil. Although no features were identified that can be securely linked to metalworking, the retrieval of waste and debris from excavated contexts confirms that this was an area where non-ferrous metalworking took place during the later 6th and 7th centuries. The assemblage includes mould and crucible fragments, casting waste, discarded sprues and discarded unfinished items and failed castings. Trench 17 was located to investigate settlement activity on the E side of the promontory and, in particular, to test whether a linear feature known from magnetometry and aerial photography was the E counterpart of the perimeter ditch excavated in RLM 013. There was a shallow prehistoric ditch running NE–SW through the middle of the trench and a modern machine trench that was not investigated. Otherwise, apart from two small shallow pits at W end, one of which contained Thetford ware, all features were in the E third of the excavated area. The putative boundary ditch was found to be very similar in size and profile to that in Trenches 14 and 16, but was cut into a clay subsoil. Ipswich ware and oyster shell were recovered from the very base of the ditch, suggesting that it began to silt up around the same time as its counterpart to the W was backfilled, and strongly suggesting that they are part of the same perimeter feature. These were overlain by finds-free clay fills representing subsequent erosion and infilling, and above these was an oven base built within the partially infilled ditch, associated with a series of heat-altered clay and charcoal-rich layers deriving from its use and eventual demolition. Thetford wares date this phase of activity, which is stratigraphically distinct from the excavation and initial silting of the ditch, to the end of the 9th and 10th centuries, and small post-holes and gullies immediately adjacent on the E side of the ditch are probably contemporary.

Linzi Everett, Cotswold Archaeology, and Professor Christopher Scull,
for the Rendlesham Revealed project, on behalf of SCCAS.

Rougham, Land opposite Kingshall Farmhouse (TL/9161; RGH 158). Evaluation uncovered a medieval ditched field boundary, tentatively dated to the 11th to 13th centuries. A larger contemporary ditch shared the same N–NW to S–SW alignment as the nearby Kingshall Road and was possibly an earlier iteration of the routeway leading into the centre of Rougham. This feature was associated with several probable quarry pits, which also dated to the medieval period.

Rona Booth, OA Cambridge, for Barley Homes.

Rougham, Suffolk Business Park (Zone 1), land N of General Castle Way (TL/8963; RGH 157). A 0.32ha excavation targeted two Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age features identified by

previous trial-trenching. It revealed a scatter of generally shallow features cut into the sandy substrate: two short lengths of ditch, 14 pits (including the two from the evaluation) and three naturally formed hollows. Dating evidence was sparse, although one pit contained a small assemblage of worked flint of Early Neolithic date and four other pits produced small assemblages of probable Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. The features had no coherent arrangement to indicate the nature of the activities undertaken at the site during the prehistoric period, other than to suggest small-scale or transient occupation.

Laura Desrosiers-Whalley and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group, on behalf of Churchmanor Estates.

Stonham Aspal, Land S of The Street (TM/1459; SAL 092). A c.2.5ha area was excavated in advance of residential development. This revealed 11 Late Iron Age to Roman roundhouses, some of which showed evidence of at least one phase of rebuilding during their use. The roundhouses were occupied at varying times, the earliest being Late Iron Age (perhaps as early as c.50 BC), others being occupied up to the middle of the second century AD. The latest identifiable Roman coin from the site was struck in AD 163. A multiphase ditched field and enclosure systems attests to the shifting focus of occupation around the site. A system of cultivation beds in the N part of the site suggests arable farming during at least one phase, while two ditches in the central part of the site appeared to form a livestock funnel from a more open area to the N. In some cases, certain phases of field/enclosure boundaries truncated earlier roundhouse remains. Almost all the Romano-British features produced finds, typically pottery, animal bone, tile and fired clay fragments (probably from oven structures), with other finds including shards of window and vessel glass, fragments of quern stones, and bulk metalwork such as iron nails. Other notable finds include a 1st-century copper-alloy vessel recovered from a roundhouse ditch, a 2nd-century Samian ware vessel decorated with chickens, and enameled zoomorphic brooches. Other objects, including an iron axe, whetstone, a key and a copper-alloy spoon, reflect more everyday life in a farming settlement.

After this intensive activity, the site appears to have fallen out of use until it became part of the agricultural landscape surrounding Stonham Aspal village. Medieval (c.11th to 15th century) features were restricted to the E end of site and appeared to be on the periphery of an area of occupation around a small green to the N and E of the site. Metal-detecting of the site's subsoil prior to its removal produced an assemblage of medieval and post-medieval metalwork that is typical of domestic rubbish scattered on arable fields during manuring. The assemblage includes approximately 50 medieval coins, a silver brooch and a late medieval gold ring that had unfortunately been severely damaged by ploughing, as well as buckles, harness fittings and other objects typical of medieval and post-medieval rural life.

Thomas Lucking and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group, on behalf of Orbit Homes Ltd.

Stowupland, Diaper Farm (TM/5594; SKT 131). Evaluation and subsequent excavation uncovered evidence for a Romano-British field system and pastoral enclosures, possibly associated with a nearby settlement or farmstead. Most features dated to the Early Roman period, with evidence for several phases of activity during the 1st to early 2nd centuries AD. A large central rectangular enclosure, measuring c.1.1ha in extent, was respected by a system of cultivation channels around its exterior. The enclosure contained subdivisions that were redefined over time; there was also evidence for several small post-built structures, as well as fence lines and small pit groups, but no sign of substantial buildings. In the later Roman period several large midden layers accumulated in the central part of the enclosure. The layers covered an area c.70m long and up to 15m wide and were c.0.2–0.3m thick. The deposits contained

4th-century coins, a set of shears and other metalwork, mainly in the form of mount fragments. Of particular interest is a pit which produced a cast copper-alloy mount depicting the face of a god (possibly Pan) and a jet dress pin, alongside pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material. Features preceding the Roman activity consisted of two small Bronze Age pits in the NW corner of the site. The site was in agricultural use during the medieval period, when field boundaries followed the alignment of the Roman ditches. The layout of the landscape altered slightly in the post-medieval period, with one large boundary positioned parallel to the modern Stowupland Road.

Romy McIntosh, Rita Pedro and Christiane Meckseper, Pre-Construct Archaeology,
for RPS Group.

Sudbury, Chilton Woods (TL/8843; CHT 037 and CHT 039). Further excavation work was carried out across two areas. Area 1a uncovered the N half of a farmstead which was occupied in the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods, up until the 3rd century AD. Features from at least three phases of development included pits, ditches and post-built structures. The focus of Area 3d was a large rectangular enclosure containing a probable medieval farmstead. Dating from the 11th to 14th centuries, features included a cluster of large deep pits and an internal enclosure with two phases of development. This appears to have been one of several such farmsteads running alongside the length of Acton Lane, with the lane itself having probable medieval origins.

Steven Graham, OA Cambridge,
for RPS Group, on behalf of Taylor Wimpey East London.

Trimley St Martin, Land adjacent to Reeve Lodge, High Road (TM/2737; TYN 173). Excavation uncovered an extensive complex of rectilinear Middle Bronze Age enclosures interpreted as corrals and paddocks for livestock. These enclosures were largely defined by double ditches, whose intermittent circuits resulted in entranceways at their corners. The double ditches also defined possible trackways/routes along the limits of the enclosures, to provide access for livestock. Two large ring-gullies — possibly animal shelters — were revealed within the enclosures. Smaller ring-gullies might represent shelters for shepherds/cowherds or possibly hayricks. Interestingly, an assemblage of saltmaking briquetage was recovered, including diagnostic fragments of pans/containers. The Middle Bronze Age enclosures appeared to have fallen out of use prior to the establishment of a ditched trackway and associated field boundaries in the Late Iron Age. A small number of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pits were also encountered.

Anne-Laure Bollen, OA Cambridge, for RPS Group.

Witnesham, Land E of Mow Hill (TM/1850; WTN 064). A 0.21ha excavation prior to residential development further investigated prehistoric features identified during evaluation. In the Middle Bronze Age, a NE to SW aligned boundary was established, the fills of which contained a small assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery. An undated, parallel ditch to the N may be contemporary. It is uncertain whether the ditches formed part of a field system or were outlying elements of a Middle Bronze Age settlement on the high ground to the N and E. A small pit contained a sparse assemblage of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery, the only feature to date to this period. Nearby settlement appears to have continued in some form into the Middle Iron Age, as a cluster of four pits and a more dispersed scatter of smaller pits were dug in the central and N parts of the site. The Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage is the largest by period recovered during the excavation, with part of the assemblage possibly spanning the transition from the Early Iron Age. Most of this assemblage was recovered from

the four larger pits. Trackway 1, which consisted of two parallel ditches spaced *c.*5m apart, dates to the Late Iron Age. It led up the slope from the valley of the river Fynn to the SW, from the approximate direction of the contemporary settlement at Jack's Field, to the higher ground above the valley to the NE.

Thomas Lucking, Thomas Revell and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for RPS Group, on behalf of Denbury Homes Ltd.

Wortham, Land at Howards Close (TM/0877; WTM103). Excavation revealed activity of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date and consists of two ditches and two pits. The ditches appear to form a boundary line in the S area of the site and likely indicate a purposeful land division. The pits are likely common domestic waste pits located close to the edge of settlement activity, the centre of which appears to have been located to the S.

Martin Brook, Britannia Archaeology Ltd, for The Broadleaf Group Ltd.

Wyverstone, Former Bacton Middle School site, Wyverstone Road (TM/0467; WYV 050). Evaluation confirmed that known archaeological remains of Late Iron Age and Roman date immediately to the S of the site continue N. The remains consisted of a ditched field system, a possible pond, and some evidence for agricultural buildings and associated activity in the E part of the site. These remains probably formed part of the estate of a farmstead or villa located in the fields E of the site. Finds of predominantly mid-1st- to 2nd-century date were sparsely distributed throughout the excavated features. Slight evidence, in the form of two small pits, was also identified for Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity. Close to Wyverstone Road, a ditch or elongated pit was found to contain a moderate assemblage of 13th- to 14th-century pottery.

Brenna McIntosh and Simon Carlyle, Pre-Construct Archaeology, for GHC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd, on behalf of Edmundham Developments LLP.

Yaxley, Land off Leys Lane (TM/1174; YAX 069). Evaluation followed non-intrusive investigations comprising desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. Excavations revealed an E–W aligned boundary ditch corresponding with a geophysical anomaly and likely representing a field boundary depicted on historic mapping from at least the time of the 1839 tithe map. An undated NE–SW aligned gully was also recorded. A small finds assemblage was recovered principally through metal-detecting, including post-medieval buttons, pistol shot and buckle fragments, two medieval coins and five Roman coins.

Emily Danielsson, Allen Archaeology, for Conrad Energy.

BUILDING RECORDING

Hadleigh, Former Babergh Council offices, Corks Lane (TM/0242; HAD 244). Archaeological standing building recording was carried out to Historic England/RCHME Level 3. The recording focused on five listed buildings within the complex of former council offices, broadly ranging in date from the late 17th century to the early 19th century. The five listed structures represent a good example of a complex of historic buildings with strong connections to the brewing industry comprising a 17th-century inn (No. 21 Bridge Street); The Cottage, an 18th-century 'maltster's cottage'; two late 18th-/early 19th-century residences both built for wealthy maltsters (River View and No. 23 Bridge Street); and a well-preserved, substantial 19th-century malthouse range (The Maltings).

Stephen Priestley and George Children, Border Archaeology.

NOTES

- 1 See 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2022' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **45**, 535.
- 2 See 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2015' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **43**, 617–19; 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2017' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **44**, 282–3; 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2019' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **43**, 675–6.
- 3 Ashton *et al.* 1998, 2016; Davis and Ashton 2019; Ashton and Davis 2021.
- 4 See 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2022' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **45**, 545.
- 5 See 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2019' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **44**, 682; 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2021' in *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, **45**, 318.

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