

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

# **EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY**

**REPORT NO. 1.**

**SUFFOLK.**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**1975**

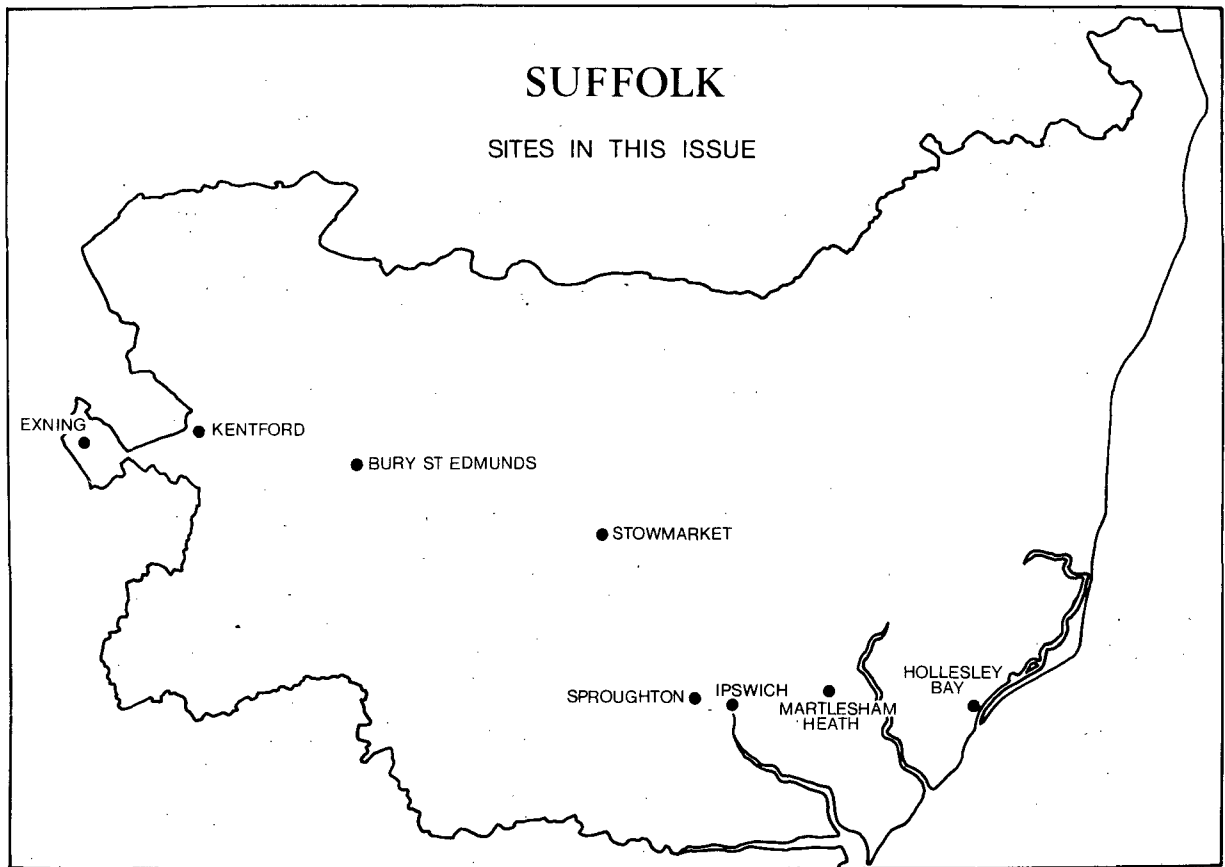
## PREFACE

With the establishment of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, the Norwich Survey, and the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, the all important problem of the publication of the results of excavations and fieldwork will soon outstrip the capacity of the available journals. Furthermore the recognition of the entity of Suffolk and Norfolk archaeologically, as shown by the composition of the Scolt Committee, the Regional Advisory Board and the new grouping of the Council for British Archaeology, emphasises the need for a regional approach to publication. Accordingly, it is proposed that the three Archaeological Units each publish their results in a new series entitled East Anglian Archaeology; using the same format and general style of printing. The issues will be numbered consecutively, irrespective of their origin; the intention being to present, as rapidly as possible, the results of field-work and excavation and, from time to time, to air particular problems within the Region.

It is intended that the publications will be concerned mainly with the work of the Unit members, but notes or reports by other authors on related topics will also be included.

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# Two barbed points from Devil's Wood Pit, Sproughton

by J.J. WYMER, M.A., F.S.A.

**B**arbed points of antler and bone were used as hunting weapons by Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people. The first ones to be discovered in England were from Skipsea and Hornsea in Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup> Two broken fragments have been dredged from the bed of the River Thames at Wandsworth and Battersea<sup>2</sup> and others have been found in the Brandesburton area of Yorkshire.<sup>3</sup> One was dredged from the North Sea in 1932, between the Leman and Ower Banks off the Norfolk Coast.<sup>4</sup> Another is said to come from Royston in Hertfordshire<sup>5</sup> but R.M. Jacobi (pers.comm.) doubts this provenance. It was not until the Star Carr Mesolithic site in Yorkshire was excavated by Prof. J.G.D. Clark that a large number of barbed points, mainly made of antler, were found under controlled conditions in satisfactory contexts that enabled them to be dated to Zone IV (Pre-boreal stage) of the early Post-glacial period, with an associated radiocarbon date of  $7358 \pm 350$  B.C.<sup>6</sup> More recently two other barbed points of bone were found in Lancashire at Poulton-le-Fylde, embedded in the skeleton of an elk.<sup>7</sup> Pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating has shown these two points to be considerably earlier than the Star Carr examples, for they belong to Zone II of the Late Glacial period, c.10,000 B.C.

Mesolithic sites are not uncommon in East Anglia, although it is rare for any organic material to have survived. Barbed points would be expected to have been included in the hunting equipment of these Mesolithic people, whose presence is indicated solely by the flints which have remained. Thus it is very satisfactory to record the discovery of two barbed points at Sproughton, one of antler and one of bone. They are not only the first ones to be found in East Anglia, but come from a context which enables them to be dated.

The finds were both made by Mr. Russell Game, the driver of the mechanical excavator working in the pit, during the normal course of gravel extraction. In each case, he spotted them protruding from the fresh face of the gravel as he worked the bucket and he left the machine to extract them by hand. The first discovery, (FIG.1, no.1), he described as "deep in the gravel, fifteen feet from the surface." The whole area in this vicinity had been dug away before the object was seen by Mr. E. Martin and myself and identified as a near-complete barbed point of bone. The second barbed point of antler, (FIG.1, no.2), was found in September 1974, two days prior to making a routine call on the pit. Mr. Game said he had dug very little away from where it was found and pointed to a lens of fine shingle in the cross-bedded sediments about 0.80m. from the top of the gravel, the truncation of which would have corresponded with the base of the overlying soil and marsh clay removed

<sup>1</sup> L.A. Armstrong, 'The Maglemose Remains of Holderness and their Baltic counterparts', *Proc. Prehist. Soc. East Anglia*, 4, (1923), 57-70.

<sup>2</sup> A.D. Lacaille, 'Mesolithic facies in the Transpontine Fringes', *Surrey Archaeol. Coll.*, 63 (1966) 1-43.

<sup>3</sup> J.G.D. Clark and H. Godwin, 'A Maglemosian site at Brandesburton, Holderness, Yorkshire', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 22, (1956), 6-22. J. Radley, 'A note on four Maglemosian Bone Points from Brandesburton, and a flint site at Brigham, Yorkshire', *Antiq. J.*, 49 (2), 1969, 377-378.

<sup>4</sup> H. and M.E. Dowin, 'British Maglemosian Harpoon Sites', *Antiquity*, 7, (1933), 36-48.

<sup>5</sup> Clark and Godwin, 1956.

<sup>6</sup> J.G.D. Clark, *Excavations at Star Carr*, (1971).

<sup>7</sup> J.S. Hallam, B.J.N. Edwards, B. Barnes and A.J. Stuart, 'The remains of a Late Glacial Elk associated with barbed points from High Furlong, near Blackpool, Lancashire', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 39, (1973), 100-128.



prior to gravel-digging. Examination of this shingle, adjacent lenses and nearby fallen material failed to produce any further bone or antler fragments or flint artifacts.

The only other possible associated find was a skull and articulated cervical vertebrae of a horse found in a very sandy part of the deposit, 15-20 m. distant and at about 1-2 m. greater depth. Previous and later searching of the sands and gravels had failed to find any flint artifacts other than one small rolled hand-axe made on a flake and of bout coupé form, picked up in tipped gravel by Mr. Paul Ashbee, and one fresh flake from a prismatic core found in a disturbed black, flint shingle at the base of the sands and gravels, overlying chalk mud and organic silts. Unfortunately, this was not in situ and may have slipped from the top where such flakes are common in the peaty sediments at the base of the more recent Gipping deposits.

Devil's Wood Pit is worked by Brush Aggregates, Ltd. and is situated on the Flood Plain of the River Gipping, within a meander loop. The barbed points were found at TM 133443 (no. 1) and TM 134444 (no.2) in gravel which filled this part of the buried channel of River Gipping. The gravel in this area of the pit has now all been quarried away.

The River Gipping is, at this point, about 2 kilometres above Ipswich, where it becomes tidal and is known as the Orwell. Prehistoric activity on the Flood Plain at Sproughton appears to have ceased through inundation after the Late Neolithic period. Nothing more recent than a Late Middle Bronze Age dirk and the base of a pot of Bronze/Iron Age fabric has been found in this part of the valley<sup>8</sup> and this may be the time when the land became too soggy for occupation. It probably remained in this condition until historical times. A metre or more of marsh clay formed on the original land surface and, nearer the river, peat, shelly sands and silts were deposited. A rich Mesolithic site was discovered and investigated by Mr. J.V. Todd on slightly higher ground to the north, at TM 130499.<sup>9</sup>

The existence of a buried channel of the River Gipping near Ipswich is well known<sup>10</sup> from wells and trial borings, but the recent workings in Devil's Wood Pit have given a unique opportunity for studying the filling of this channel in section, under dry conditions, for pumps have been employed to drain the pit as it was dug. The marsh clays and other sediments overlying the exploited gravel were scraped mechanically to the side, where they formed a continuous rampart fringing the greater part of the meander loop and along an artificial cut between the east and west sides. The extraction of gravel formed an imposing pit up to 12 metres deep and afforded the opportunity for the detailed investigation on the sediments by Mr. J. Rose. Frequent visits were also made by Mr. J.V. Todd of Ipswich who was responsible for the discovery of a long blade flint industry on a sandy surface at the top of the gravel which contained the barbed points. He also discovered a Neolithic site which was investigated by Mr. Edward Martin in the Spring of 1974 on behalf of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. A rescue excavation of the long blade industry was made in December 1972, in conjunction with Ipswich Museum and numerous local helpers including the boys of Ipswich School. A report on this industry is in the press. Although it is stratified above the two barbed points, it is concluded that only a short time may separate them and that a similar industry may have been contemporary with them, for there are early finds from the Hadleigh Road Pit, Ipswich, preserved

<sup>8</sup>E. Owles, 'Archaeology in Suffolk', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., 32, (1972), 289, Figure 54.

<sup>9</sup>E. Owles, 'Archaeology in Suffolk', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., 32, 1, (1970), 104.

<sup>10</sup>W. Whitaker and W.H. Dalton, 'The Geology of the Country around Ipswich, Hadleigh and Felixstowe', Mem. Geol. Survey (1885).

P.G.H. Boswell, 'On the age of the Suffolk Valleys; with notes on the Buried Channels of Drift', Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., 69, (1913), 581-620 H.E.P. Spencer, 'A contribution to the Geological History of Suffolk:

3, The Glacial Epochs', Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc. 13, (6), (1967), 366-389.

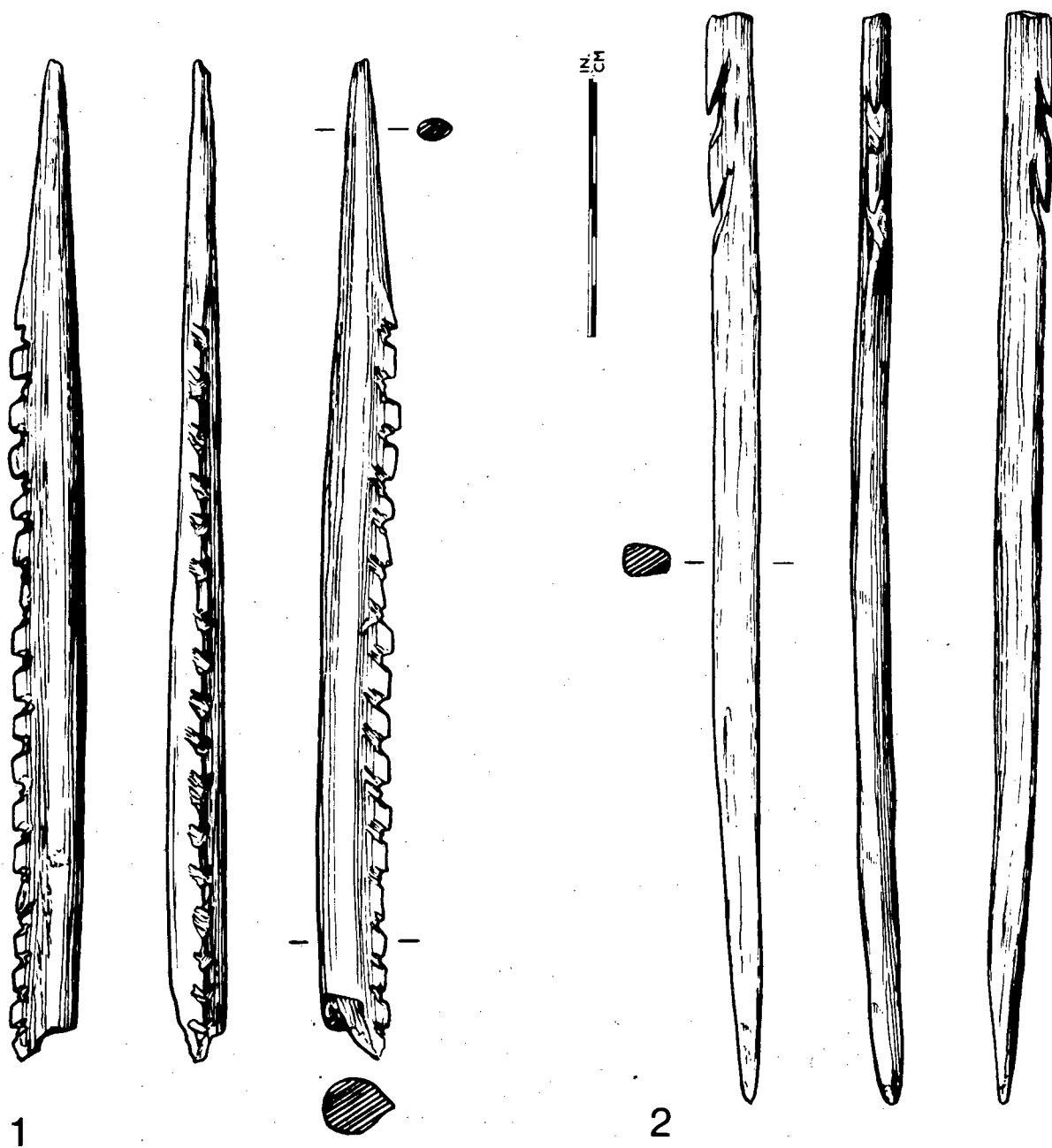


FIG.1 SPROUGHTON. Bone and antler points

in the Ipswich Museum, which indicate that cores and blades, identical to those from Sproughton, were found in the gravel there. It seems very likely that the gravel at Sproughton and Hadleigh Road are the same filling of the Gipping buried channel, so this implies that a long blade industry was present in the valley at the same time as the barbed points.

A detailed account of the stratigraphy and dating evidence has been prepared by Mr. J. Rose of Birkbeck College, London (in press). He has shown that up to 10 m. of gravel accumulated in this buried channel of the River Gipping at Sproughton between about 9750 and 8000 B.C., during Zone III of the Late Glacial period, perhaps just into Zone IV (Pre-boreal stage) of the Post-glacial. This dating is based on pollen analysis from rafts of peat within the gravel, and radiocarbon dates from the same material. Both the barbed points must therefore date to this period or be earlier. The latter seems very unlikely for, although they are broken, they are otherwise in very good condition and could hardly have been rolled far if at all in the gravel. They may owe their position in mid-stream to having drifted there embedded in the carcasses of wounded animals that drowned in attempting to escape from hunters.

#### Details of the barbed points

Fig. 1, no.1 Made of bone, 19.5 cm. remaining of the total length, which was likely to have been about 26 cm. None of the tang remains and the break was an ancient one. Seventeen barbs are present, although two are truncated by ancient fractures. The bone is in fine condition, dark brown and lustrous. All the surface has been carefully polished, although traces of whittling remain at the pointed end and there are faint chatter-marks on the surface, mainly nearer the base. The barbs have been separated by criss-cross sawing or cutting, presumably with a sharp flint. One side appears to have been notched out first, probably along the whole length, (right side of dorsal view), and the barbs finished by further cuts at right angles from the opposite side.

Fig. 1, no.2 Made from a splinter of antler. No trace remains of the natural grooving of the antler, but both the exterior and interior surfaces of the splinter are rough in comparison to the highly smoothed and rounded edges produced by the cutting which detached the splinter from the beam. It is in good condition although the forepart is missing, being an ancient fracture. Only two barbs remain but it is unlikely there were many more. The type approximates to Star Carr Group C<sup>11</sup> with medium barbs and pointed tangs, but the tang is exceptionally long, being 16.5 cm. The barbs have been well-shaped and neatly cut out by deep paring, so that the forepart of the barb presents a facet.

Location: Both barbed points have been placed in the Ipswich Museum through the generosity of Mr. R. Game, Brush Aggregates Ltd. and the owners of the land, the British Sugar Corporation.

<sup>11</sup>Clark, 1971.

# The excavation of Barrow I, Martlesham Heath

Edward A. Martin, B.A.

## SUMMARY

This flattened barrow was excavated in June and July 1974. No trace of a ditch or graves was found. However a small pit, 6m. in diameter and 0.4m. deep, containing Bronze Age pottery, was discovered, together with a scatter of early Bronze Age pottery. In all 120 sherds of pottery, a flint scraper, a denticulated flint and a microlith point were recovered.

## INTRODUCTION

Four barrows on Martlesham Heath were investigated by the writer, on behalf of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, and financed by the Department of the Environment, in the summer of 1974. Barrow I (TM 24584570; Ordnance Survey No. TM 24 NW 27) is marked on the Ordnance Survey map as a 'Tumulus - site of'; the barrow is reported to have been destroyed in 1917 when Martlesham Airfield was constructed. Before excavation no sign of the barrow was visible at ground-level, neither did the barrow show on aerial photographs of the area. The site of the barrow lay on levelled ground to the east of the main airfield runway, under heathland grass with a sand sub-soil, and lay between the 15 m. and 30m. (50ft. and 100ft.) contours. The site of the barrow was threatened with destruction by the new Ipswich to Felixstowe road, and after the excavation the site was destroyed by the road-works in the Autumn of 1974.

## THE EXCAVATION

As no trace of the barrow survived, the site of the barrow was pin-pointed by surveying from points on the runways. A trench c. 1.9 m. wide, removing only top-soil, was first dug across the presumed site of the barrow with a mechanical excavator (JCB). This trench was 33.4 m. long but no trace of a ditch was observable within it. The area opened was then extended, again with a mechanical excavator, and two rectangles, approximately 8.3 m. north-south x 10.7 m. east-west (northern), and 7.5 m. north-south x 10.7 m. east-west, (southern) were cleared adjoining the initial trench. The top-soil, a layer 0.20 - 0.25 m. thick of humus and light, powdery purple heathland sand was removed mechanically to just above the natural, a compact light-brown sand, and the surface was then shovelled clean.

Two trial trenches 0.65 m. deep were dug at either end of the main trench to check possible indications of a ditch, but both proved negative. After the initial clearance of the two rectangles, both areas were trowelled clean. Two concentrations of Bronze Age pottery were discovered. It was also discovered that much of the central area of the southern rectangle had been disturbed by extensive rabbit activity - the barrow mound, whilst it existed, was probably very attractive to rabbits as a site for their warren; Barrow IV Martlesham Heath, which is still standing, likewise showed signs of extensive rabbit disturbance. After trowelling, the base of the excavated level was approximately 0.30 m. below the existing surface. The areas of the pottery concentrations were then taken down a further 0.15 m. to check whether they were the sites of graves which were not apparent at the higher level. However, in neither area were graves found, but a small pit was revealed in the area of the pottery concentration in the northern rectangle (FIG.3).

The pit was roughly circular, 0.6 m. in diameter and c.0.4 m. deep, and the fill consisted of a fine dark khaki sand which was relatively stone-free. Mixed in with the fill of the pit were sherds of Bronze Age pottery. Some of the sherds from the pit were very eroded and soft, e.g. sherds 79 and 111, and

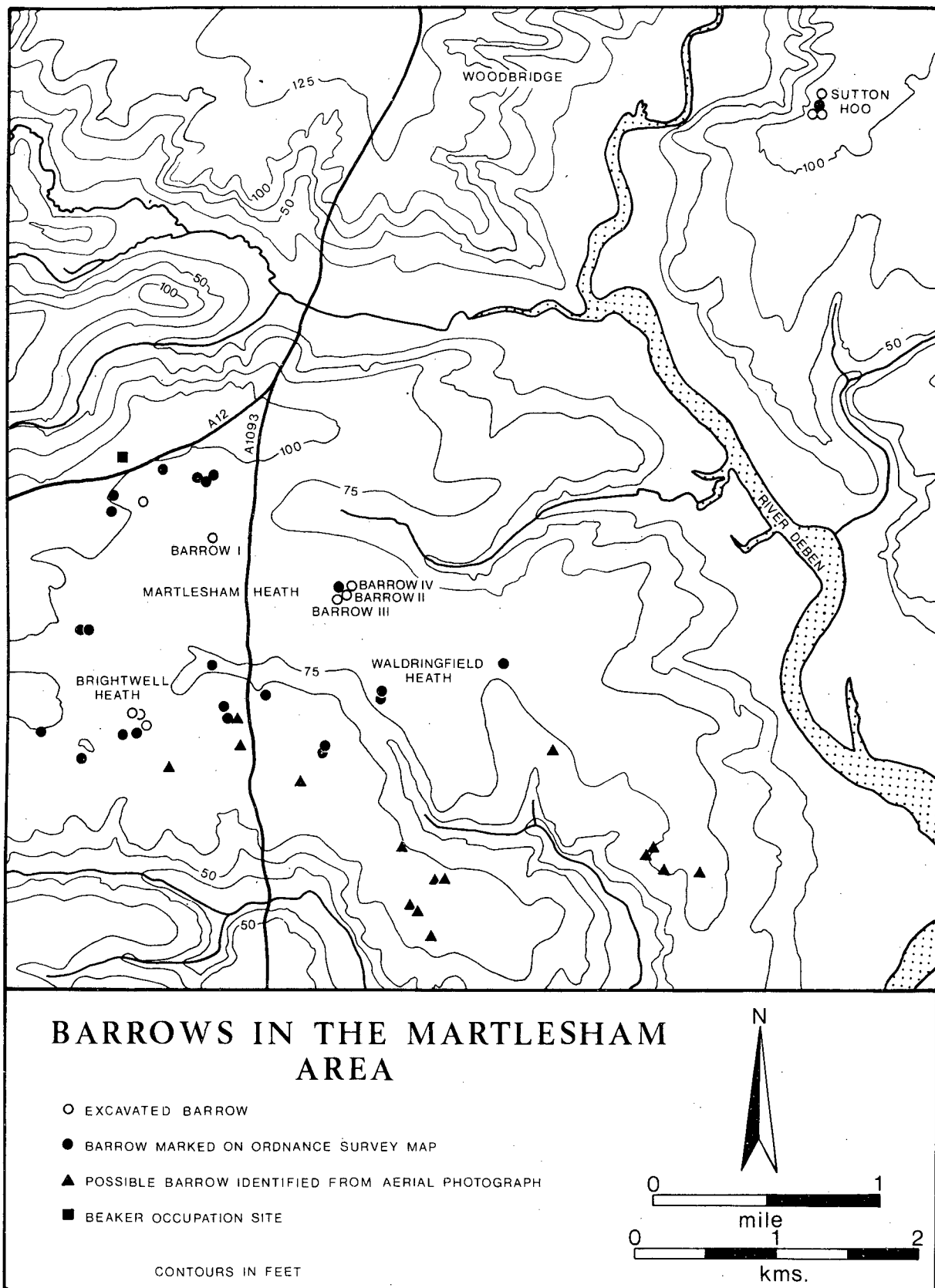
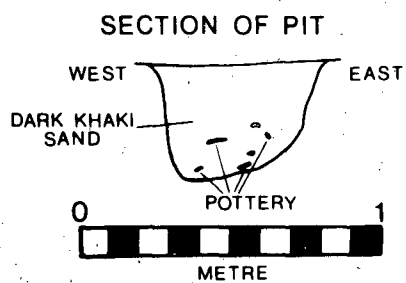
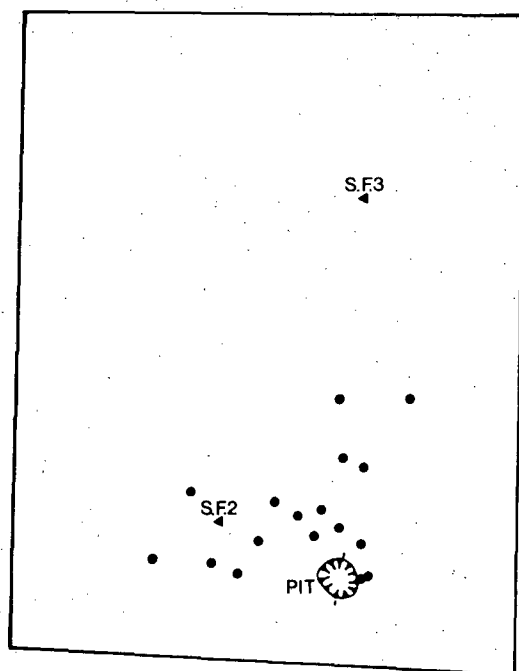


FIG. 2.

# BARROW I MARTLESHAM HEATH 1974



• POTTERY  
▲ FLINT

core 3 core 2  
core 1

N

0 5  
METRES

FIG. 3. MARTLESHAM.

Plan of the excavation

yet others were unweathered and hard, e.g. sherd 87. One of the sherds from the pit, no.99, joined with a sherd from the pottery cluster in the southern rectangle, no.24, suggesting that the pit and the pottery scatter were contemporary.

## POTTERY

Pottery cluster, Northern Rectangle - 1 possible 'barbed-wire' (thread-wound stamp) ornamented sherd

- 3 finger-nail ornamented sherds
- 13 plain sherds
- 1 possible handle sherd

Pottery cluster, Southern Rectangle - 5 'barbed-wire' ornamented sherds

- 9 finger-nail ornamented sherds
- 30 plain sherds

Pottery from the pit in the Northern-1 'barbed-wire' ornamented sherd

Rectangle

- 1 fine, unweathered, finger-nail ornamented sherd
- 6 fine, finger-nail ornamented sherds
- 9 medium, finger-nail ornamented sherds
- 1 thick, finger-nail ornamented sherd
- 7 soft, red, weathered sherds
- 1 soft red, weathered sherd with an out-turned rim
- 14 sherds of a small coarse vessel
- 18 plain sherds

In the more detailed description of the decorated pottery and the rim sherds that follows, the numbers in brackets refer to the recorded find-spots of the sherds shown on the plan (FIG.3).

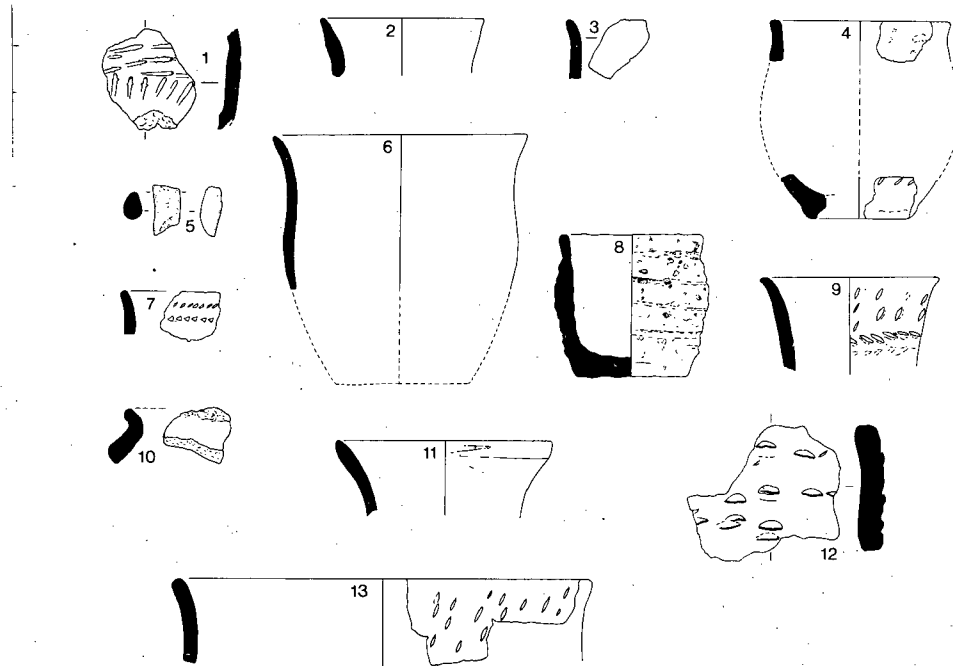


FIGURE 4. MARTLESHAM. The Pottery. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$

FIGURE 4, nos. 1-12

1. Body-herd from near the base of a 'barbed-wire' ornamented vessel of a reddish-brown fabric with flint and grog (crushed pottery) as fillers. The 'barbed-wire' impressions are not very distinct, only one or two threads being visible, and the impressions are deeper at one end. From the pottery cluster in the southern rectangle (3).

2. Rim sherd of a beaker possibly of Clarke's Shape IV,<sup>1</sup> in a slightly reddish-brown fabric with sand and grog as fillers, and is unornamented. From the pottery cluster in the southern rectangle (4).
3. Rim sherd of a beaker of a soft, reddish-brown fabric with sand as a filler. The sherd is unornamented and insufficient survives of the rim to give an idea of the inclination of the sherd. From the pottery cluster in the southern rectangle (28).
4. Rim and base sherds of a small beaker possibly of Clarke's Shape III, in a light, very slightly reddish-brown fabric with burnt flint and grog as fillers. Finger-nail ornamented. From the pottery cluster in the southern rectangle (43 and 44).
5. Possibly part of a handle, of red-brown fabric. From the pottery cluster in the northern rectangle (50).
6. Large sherds, including part of the rim, of a beaker of Clarke's Shape II, of a soft, red fabric with a very eroded outer surface. The outer surface may once have borne finger-nail impressed ornamentation, but the surface is now too weathered to make out anything certain. The fabric is tempered with burnt flint, some pieces being quite large, up to 4mm., and grog. From the pit in the northern rectangle (79/11).
7. Rim sherd of a beaker with a reddish-brown fabric with flint and sand as fillers. The exterior bears finger-nail and impressed cuneiform ornamentation. The interior is very eroded. From the pit (80).
8. Small coarse vessel with a reddish-brown fabric with flint and grog as fillers. The pot is coil built and the coils have only been partially smoothed externally, leaving a rough, slightly corrugated surface. From the pit (86/89/90).
9. Rim sherd of a beaker, possibly of Clarke's Shape IV, with a red-brown fabric with sand as a filler. It has a hard, unweathered, semi-smooth surface bearing finger-nail ornamentation. From the pit (87).
10. Out-turned rim sherd in a soft red, fabric with flint as a filler. The sherd is very weathered and no ornamentation is visible. From the pit (94).
11. Rim sherd of a beaker of Clarke's Shape IV with a hard red fabric, with sand and grog as fillers. It has a plain, semi-smoothed, unweathered surface and the exterior edge of the rim is almost bevelled. From the pit (96).
12. Body-herd of a thick walled vessel with a rough red exterior and a black interior, with burnt flint as a filler. It bears large finger-nail impressed ornamentation. From the pit (114).
13. Rim sherd of a vessel with a light brown-red fabric with relatively large and abundant pieces of burnt flint, up to 5 mm., as a filler. The outer surface is quite weathered and the gritting stands out quite prominently. The sherd bears finger-nail ornamentation. In view of the large rim diameter of this vessel it is possible that it is a bowl (121).

The pottery from this site, in view of the high proportion of finger-nail ornamented and plain undecorated sherds, together with the presence of coarse vessels, gives every appearance of being a domestic assemblage. This is further re-inforced by the fact that none of the pottery, except perhaps for sherds 87 and 96, gives the impression of being highly finished or well-fired. As most of the classification of beakers is based on the highly ornamented funerary beakers, the classification of these domestic beakers is not very easy.

Fig. 6 (79/111) in shape resembles some beakers of Clarke's Wessex/Middle Rhine group.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> D.L. Clarke, Beaker Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland (1970).



However, the pot is so weathered that no ornamentation, if any ever existed, survives. Likewise, most of the surface has disappeared.

In Fig. 4 sherds 43 and 44 have been tentatively restored to form a beaker which in shape resembles Clarke's East Anglian group, with its globular body and short rim. Likewise sherd 94 with its everted rim is probably from a beaker of East Anglian type.

Sherds 87, 96 and 4 (FIG. nos. 9, 11 and 2) probably come from beakers of Clarke's Primary Northern/Dutch (N1/D) or Developed Northern British (N2) groups, with their flaring necks and, though there is no evidence for them, probably sharp neck bends.

Thus, according to Clarke's classification, a whole series of beaker groups are possibly represented here, W/MR, E. Ang., BW, N1/D or N2, the pit itself containing the whole range. However in terms of shape, sherds 43 and 44, 79/111 and 94 (FIG. nos. 4, 5 6 and 10) come within Lanting and Van der Waals's 3rd Step of British beaker development<sup>2</sup>, and the rest fall within the 4th Step of development. So in Lanting and Van der Waals's terms this group of beakers is more or less chronologically compatible. Lanting and Van der Waals have attempted tentative chronological framework for their steps of British beaker development, and in this they give dates of c. 1900-1800 B.C. for the 3rd step and c. 1850-1750 B.C. for the 4th step (dates in radio-carbon years).

#### FLINT FIGURES

Only three flint tools were found during excavation:

SF 1. Thumb-nail scraper on a flake with much cortex still remaining on the dorsal surface. From the southern rectangle.

SF 2. Denticulated flake, the teeth having been produced by pressure from the bulbar face. From the northern rectangle.

SF 3. Microlith point with reworked spine, probably a Mesolithic survival. From the northern rectangle.

In the southern rectangle three flint cores, with a few flakes of similar flint nearby (no joining flakes) were found. (Not illustrated).

Core 1. Rough, irregular core, c. 4.5 x 2.5 cm.

Core 2. Small core, c. 5 x 1.5 cm.

Core 3. Large, irregular core, c. 7.5 x 5 cm., same type of flint as Core 1.

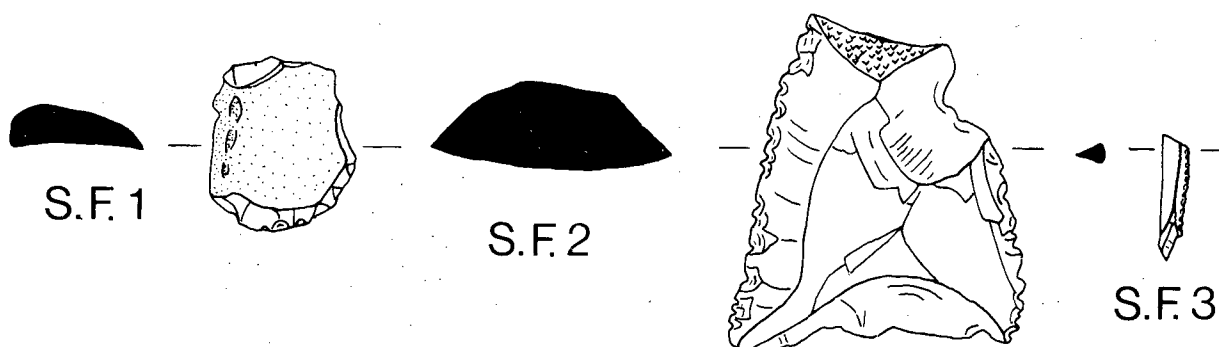


FIGURE 5. MARTLESHAM. The Flints Scale  $\frac{1}{1}$

#### DISCUSSION

No evidence of a barrow ditch or graves was found during the excavation of the site of Barrow I. However, this is paralleled by Barrow II, Martlesham Heath, (excavated by the writer in 1974, report in preparation), TM 2551 4530, where again no ditch or graves were found though a

<sup>2</sup>J.N. Lanting, and J.D. Van der Waals, 'British Beakers as seen from the Continent', *Helinium* XII, (1972), 20-46.

large amount of domestic beaker pottery was recovered. Similarly the Martlesham tumulus excavated in 1942.<sup>3</sup> on the other side of the run-way to Barrow I, TM 24074596, lacked a ditch and had no graves underneath it. However two pockets of cremated bone were found cut into the fabric of the mound, which then stood to a height of about five feet.

It therefore seems likely that here on Martlesham Heath were a number of ditchless barrows, the material for the mound being merely scraped together, a task which would have been quite easy on the sand sub-soil of this area.

As to burial practices the body may have been laid on the old ground surface and the mound built over it; subsequent removal of the mound and ploughing, together with an acid sub-soil, having removed all trace of the burial. Alternatively there may have been no primary burial beneath the mound, all the burials may have been inserted into the fabric of the mound after its construction. The evidence from the barrow excavated by Maynard and Spencer would seem to support this second theory, two pockets of cremated bones having been found inserted into the fabric of the mound. If this was the mode of burial adopted, the removal of the mounds of Barrows I & II would have destroyed all evidence of the burials.

The domestic pottery under the barrow needs some explanation. P. Ashbee lists a number of barrows where domestic refuse has apparently been deliberately incorporated in the building of the barrow, and which presumably had some ritual significance.

It is therefore possible that the domestic pottery from Barrow I is the remains of a deliberate deposit of domestic refuse under or in the fabric of the mound. However the presence of the pit does perhaps suggest that the barrow was built over a domestic site, though whether the settlement beneath the barrow ante-dated it by a short span of time or by centuries is impossible to say.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Bradford Property Trust Ltd., and their agents, Bidwells of Martlesham Aerodrome, for allowing the excavation to take place and for very generously providing accommodation. I would also like to thank Mr. G. Moss my assistant and also Miss L. Elmhirst, Mrs. M. Ponting, Miss S. Ritchie and Messrs. O. Elmhirst, T. Elmhirst, R. McLarty and K. Robins for their help during the excavation. Finally I would like to thank Mr. S.E. West for his help and advice.

<sup>3</sup>Maynard, G., & Spencer, 'Report on the removal of a tumulus on Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, May-June 1942', Proc. Suffolk Inst. of Arch. XXIV, (1949).

# The excavation of two round-barrows at Meddler Stud, Kentford

By Edward A.Martin, B.A.

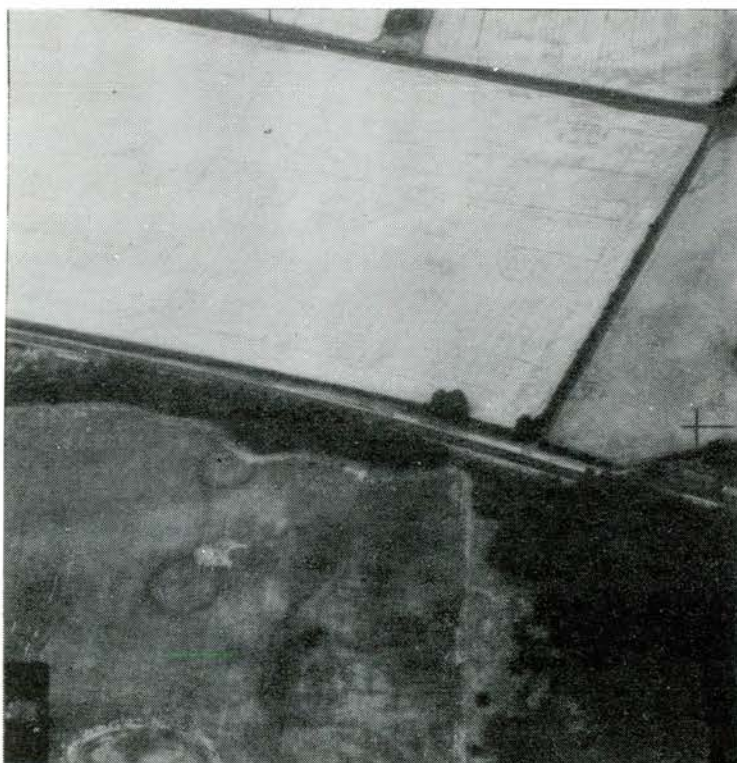
## SUMMARY

Two ploughed-out barrows were investigated in a short rescue excavation. One barrow had one, or possibly two, central inhumation graves, both empty, due to the acid sub-soil. The other barrow had a small central grave, empty except for a small food-vessel.

## INTRODUCTION

In August 1973 the barrows were threatened with imminent destruction by a gravel quarry connected with the Newmarket By-Pass. The writer was then acting as archaeological field-officer for the construction of the Newmarket By-Pass and was able to arrange a short excavation (FIG.6).

The barrows lay in a slightly sloping ploughed field to the south of the A45 Newmarket to Bury St. Edmunds road, (at that point the Icknield Way), on the eastern side of the village of Kentford. Both barrows were completely ploughed-out and were indistinguishable at ground-level, their existence only being revealed by an aerial photograph taken by Dr. J.K.S. St. Joseph,<sup>1</sup> which showed two circular crop-marks in the field (PL.I).



PL.1. KENTFORD  
Aerial photograph  
of barrows.

## BARROW I (T1 71336673)

This barrow lay at the edge of the field, about 40 m. south of the A45 road. A trench was cut across the barrow with a mechanical excavator to pick up the ditches of the barrow. In addition a rectangle approximately 11 m. east-west x 7 m. north-south was cleared at the centre of the barrow (FIG.7).

<sup>1</sup> Cambridge University Collection, Photograph No. ADS 71

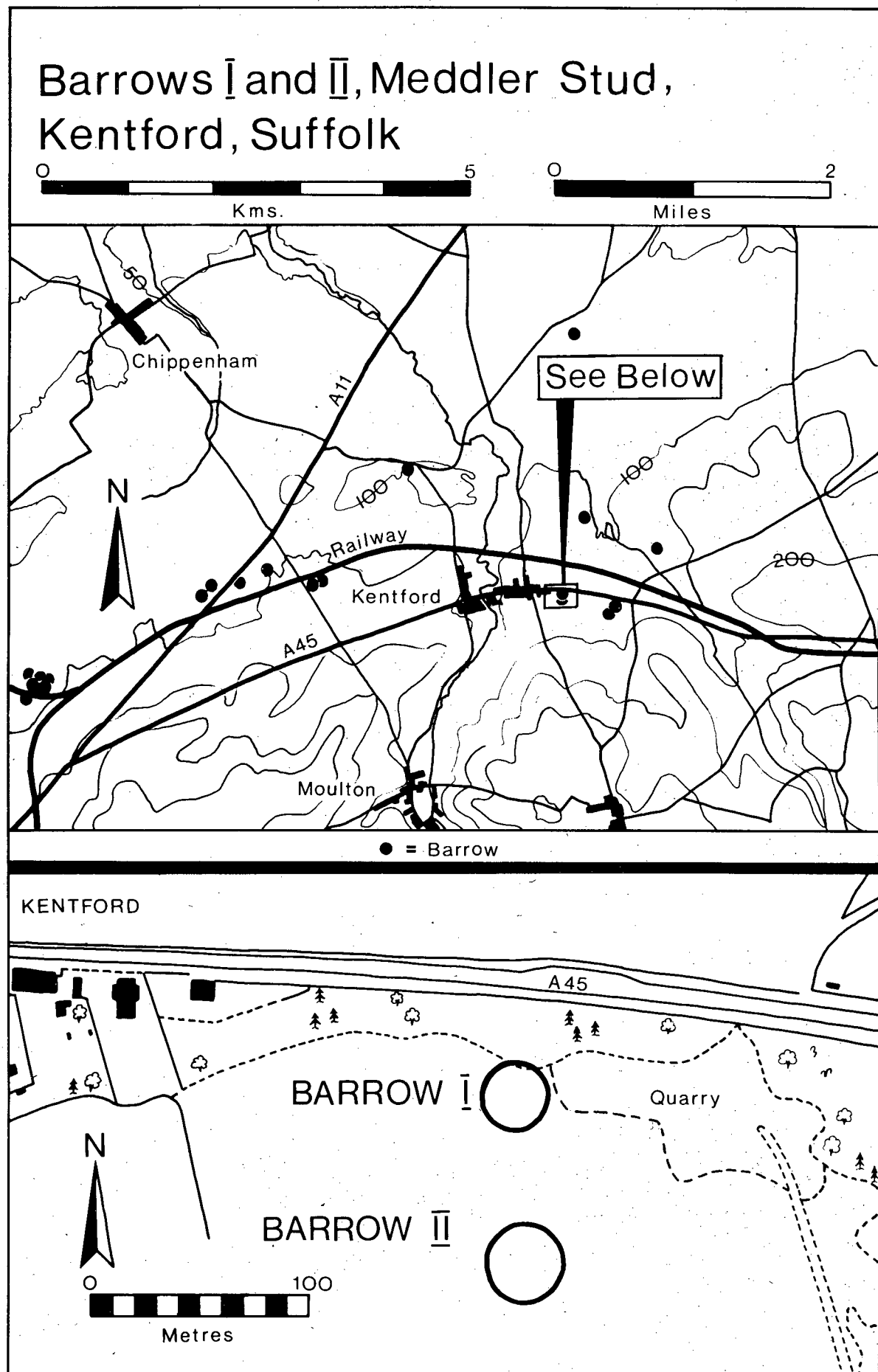


FIG. 6. KENTFORD. Location maps of barrows

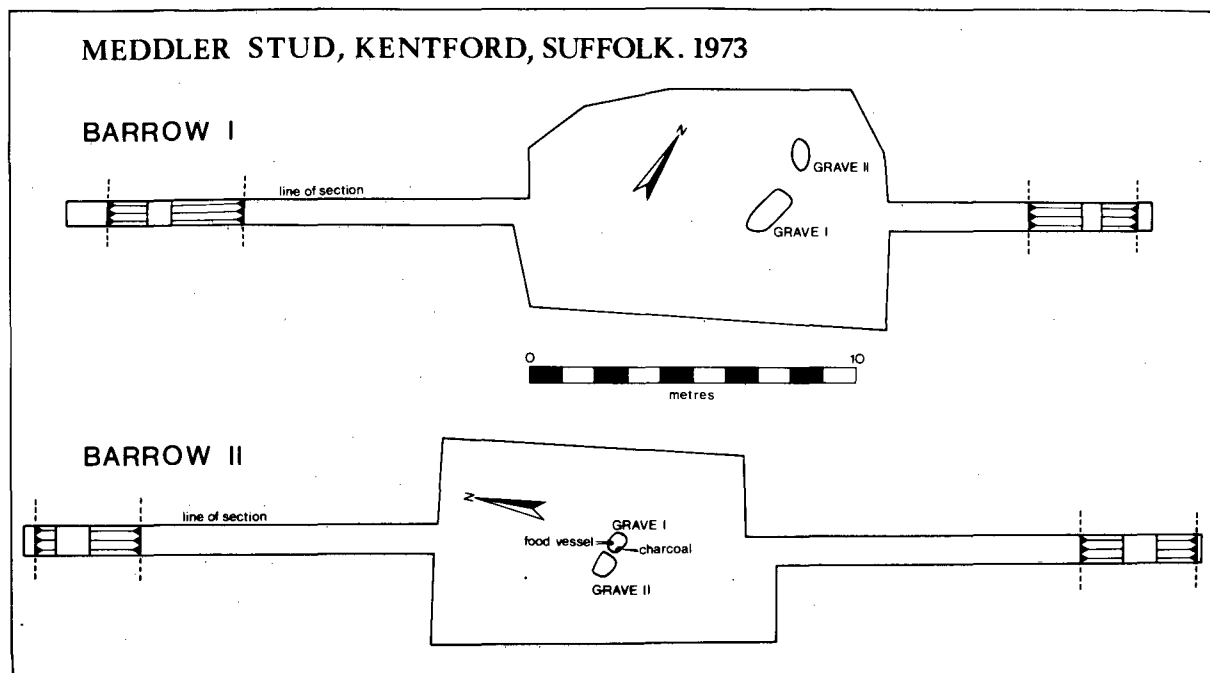


FIG. 7. KENTFORD. Plans of Barrows I and II

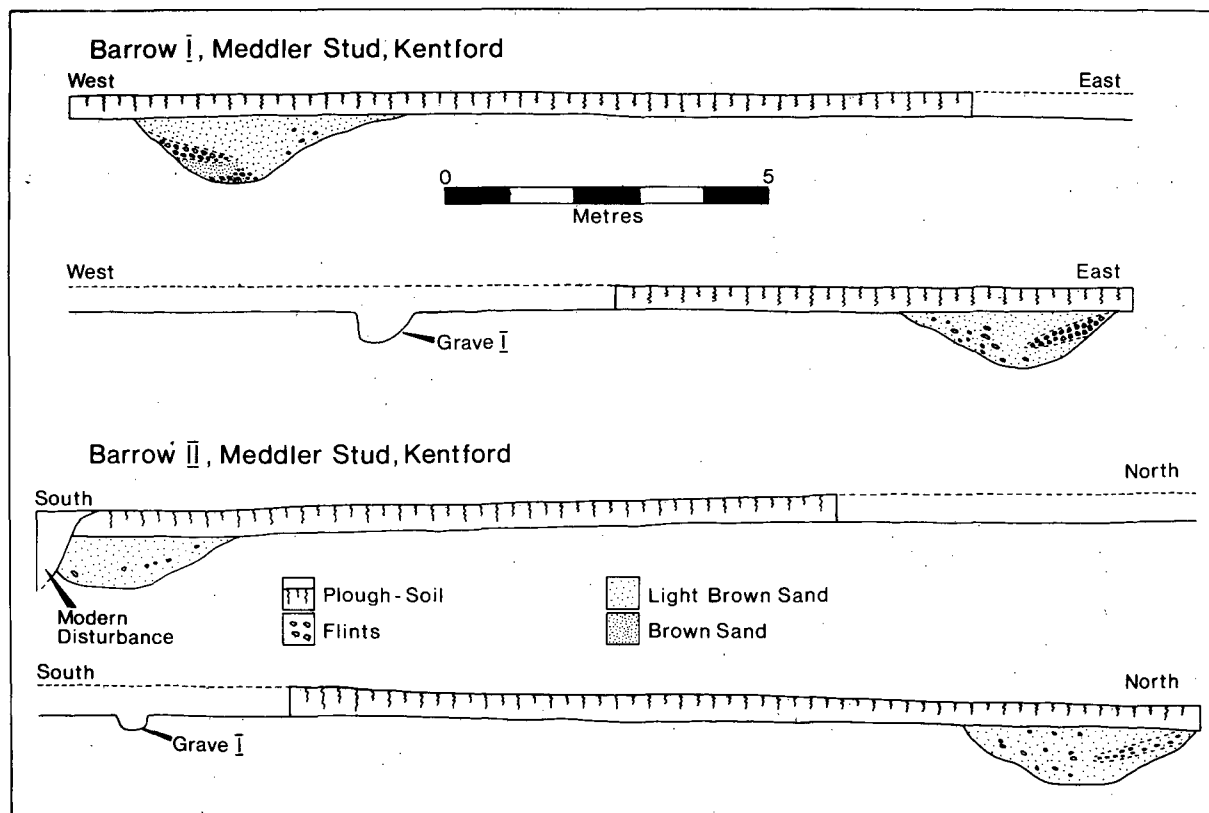


FIG.8. KENTFORD. Sections of Barrows I and II

The barrow was found to have a diameter of 31.75 m. across the outside of the ditch. The ditch itself was 3.30 m. wide and 1.25 m. deep, (below the present surface), in the eastern cutting and 4.2 m. wide and 1.35 m. deep in the western. The fill of the ditch was brown sand, rich in flints towards the bottom. Both ditch sections revealed a very flinty layer coming down from the outside edge of the ditch, possibly representing the slip from an external bank to the barrow (FIG.8).

The cleared rectangle at the centre of the barrow revealed one definite grave (Grave I) and one possible grave (Grave II). Grave I was aligned north-south and was c. 1.55 m. long x 0.70 m. wide and 0.45 m. deep. No trace of a body was however found in the grave, due to the very acid gravel sub-soil which would have dissolved away all organic matter. No body-stain was observed. It is likely that the grave held a crouched inhumation. No grave-goods were found.

To the north of this grave was a second, possible grave. This was more or less oval in shape and c. 1 m. long x 0.55 m. wide and c. 0.30 m. deep. In view of its size the grave could only have held a child's body or possibly a cremation. No trace of a body or grave-goods were found; however the fill of the grave was similar to the fill of Grave I, a darkish brown sand.

The only finds from this barrow were five flint flakes from the western ditch section.

## BARROW II (TL 7136665)

Barrow II lay towards the centre of the field, about 120 m. south of the A45 road and c. 40 m. south of Barrow I. This barrow was also investigated with the aid of a mechanical excavator, a trench being cut across the diameter of the barrow, and a rectangle c. 6 m. east-west and 10 m. north-south was cleared at the centre of the barrow (FIG. 7).

The barrow had a diameter of 36 m. across the outside of the ditch. The ditch was c. 3.10 m. wide x 1.20 m. deep (below the present surface) in the south, and 3.60 m. wide x 1.20 m. deep in the north. The ditch fill consisted of light brown silt. The northern ditch section revealed a flint-rich lens coming down from the outside edge of the ditch; however no similar lens was found in the admittedly damaged southern ditch section. The evidence for an external bank around this barrow is thus debatable (FIG.8).

The cleared area at the centre of the barrow revealed one definite grave (Grave I) and also one possible grave (Grave II). Grave I was c. 0.60 m. north-west to south-east x 0.50 m. north-east to south-west, and 0.23 m. deep. Again, there was no trace of a body; however a small food-vessel was found, mouth upwards, against the north-west corner of the grave. Charcoal was found along the southern edge of the grave, especially in the south-west corner. In view of the size of the grave it could only have held a child or a cremation.

Grave II adjoined Grave I to the west and was relatively ill-defined, being approximately 0.75 m. north-west to south-east x 0.60 m. north-east to south-west, and about 0.30 m. deep. Again there was no trace of a body; however two flint-flakes were found in this grave.

## FINDS (BARROW II)

Seven flint-flakes were found in the fill of the southern ditch section, and a further two flakes were found in Grave II.

The food-vessel from Grave I is 6 cm. high with a rim and shoulder diameter of 7 cm., the base diameter being 4 cm. (FIG.9). The pot is of the Vase Food-Vessel form, having a body of inverted truncated cone shape, a concave neck, with a relatively sharp shoulder, and an internally bevelled rim. The pot is unornamented, the fabric being reddish-brown externally, brownish-black internally, and shows signs of burnishing. The food-vessel is similar, though smaller, to the food-vessel found with a primary cremation in a saucer barrow at Collingbourne Kingston, Wilts., and to the food-

vessel found with a primary cremation in a bowl barrow at Winterbourne Stoke, Wilts.<sup>2</sup> Although it is unusually small, the Kentford food-vessel is probably of T.G. Manby's Type 3 iv of Yorkshire type food-vessels, having no shoulder grooves but having a concave neck and an unmoulded rim with an internal bevel.<sup>3</sup> In C. Burgess's more recent and less minute classification of food-vessels,<sup>4</sup> the Kentford vessel fits quite neatly into his Bipartite Vase - Basic group.

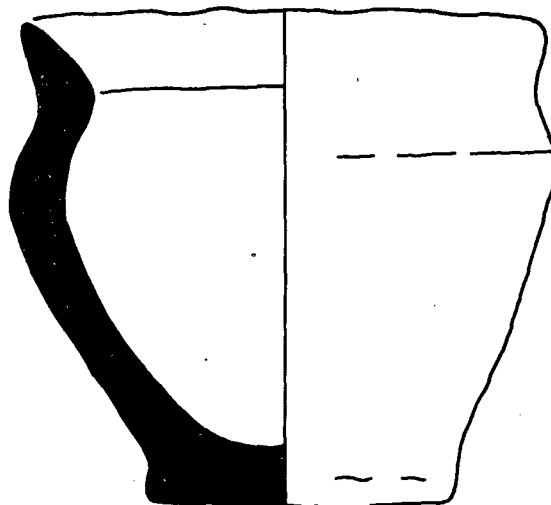


FIG.9. KENTFORD. Food vessel from Grave I, Barrow II. Scale  $\frac{1}{1}$

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Mr. W.B. Leach of Meddler Stud, (the landowner), and Allen Newport Gravel Extractors, (the contractors), for allowing the excavation to take place, and the Department of the Environment for financial assistance. I would like to thank Messrs. J. Kirkman and K. Robins for their help during the excavation.

Mr. W.B. Leach has generously donated the food-vessel from Barrow II to the Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

<sup>2</sup>F.K. Annable and D.D.A. Simpson, Catalogue of Neolithic and Bronze Age Collections, Devizes Museum (1964), nos.492 and 495.

<sup>3</sup>T.G. Manby, 'Food Vessels of the Peak District', Derbyshire Archaeol. and Nat. History Society Journ., 78 (1958)

<sup>4</sup>C. Burgess, 'The Bronze Age' in C. Renfrew (ed.), British Prehistory (1974).

# The Hollesley Bay Romano-British rural settlement

By R.J.C. Mowat, M.A.

## SUMMARY

An excavation carried out by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit on a site threatened by the building of an extension to HM Borstal, Hollesley Bay Colony (TM 373456) produced evidence of occupation from the 1st-4th centuries A.D. Observation of building trenches indicated Iron Age occupation in the same area.

## INTRODUCTION

The areas excavated lie to the south of an extensive cropmark site discovered during aerial photography by Dr. St. Joseph.<sup>1</sup> The whole complex comprises a series of linear ditches, enclosures and pits in a strip 250 m. wide and 1 km. long along the 50 ft. contour bordering the coastal marshes (FIG.10). It should be remembered that the form of the present coastline is greatly influenced by the relatively recent feature of Orford Ness. We have no evidence for the position of the coast prior to the 16th century, and since the coast here is highly unstable we have no indication of the relative positions of the sea and the site at the period of occupation.

The soils of the area are characteristic of the 'Sandlings' region of Suffolk, being chiefly late and post-glacial sands, over crag deposits. These drain well and are easily cultivated, both very attractive features for settlers of all periods.

Throughout this article the abbreviations IA and RB are used for the terms Iron Age and Romano-British.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Various chance finds have been made from the immediate area of the site. These include a storage jar of IA/RB type and other unspecified pottery,<sup>2</sup> five RB vessels in association including an early 'bead-rim' type with a cremation<sup>3</sup> and a RB but otherwise undateable pot 'of micaceous fabric' found about 800 m. south-west of St. Andrew's House.<sup>4</sup>

Prior to the excavation Mr. Henry Ferguson kept a watch on the building work adjacent to the cropmark site. He has recorded the features exposed and collected both stratified and unstratified pottery and flints.

The pottery recovered comprises EIA sherds of coarse black gritty fabric, body sherds of a hard, red, shell-tempered ware which are of pre-RB type, fragments of a transitional IA/RB storage jar and 1st to mid 2nd century pottery.

The bulk of the pottery indicates an IA/RB occupation until the mid-2nd century. There are however three sherds of colour-coated wares and two rims of flange-rimmed bowls which indicate some use of the area until the 4th century. In the later phases occupation could well have moved to another area of the site.

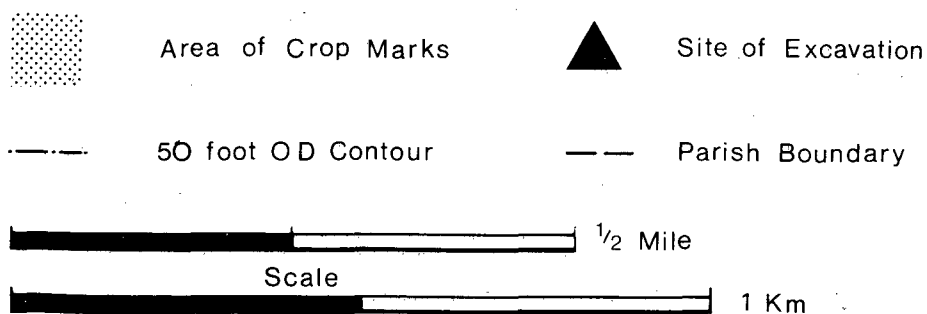
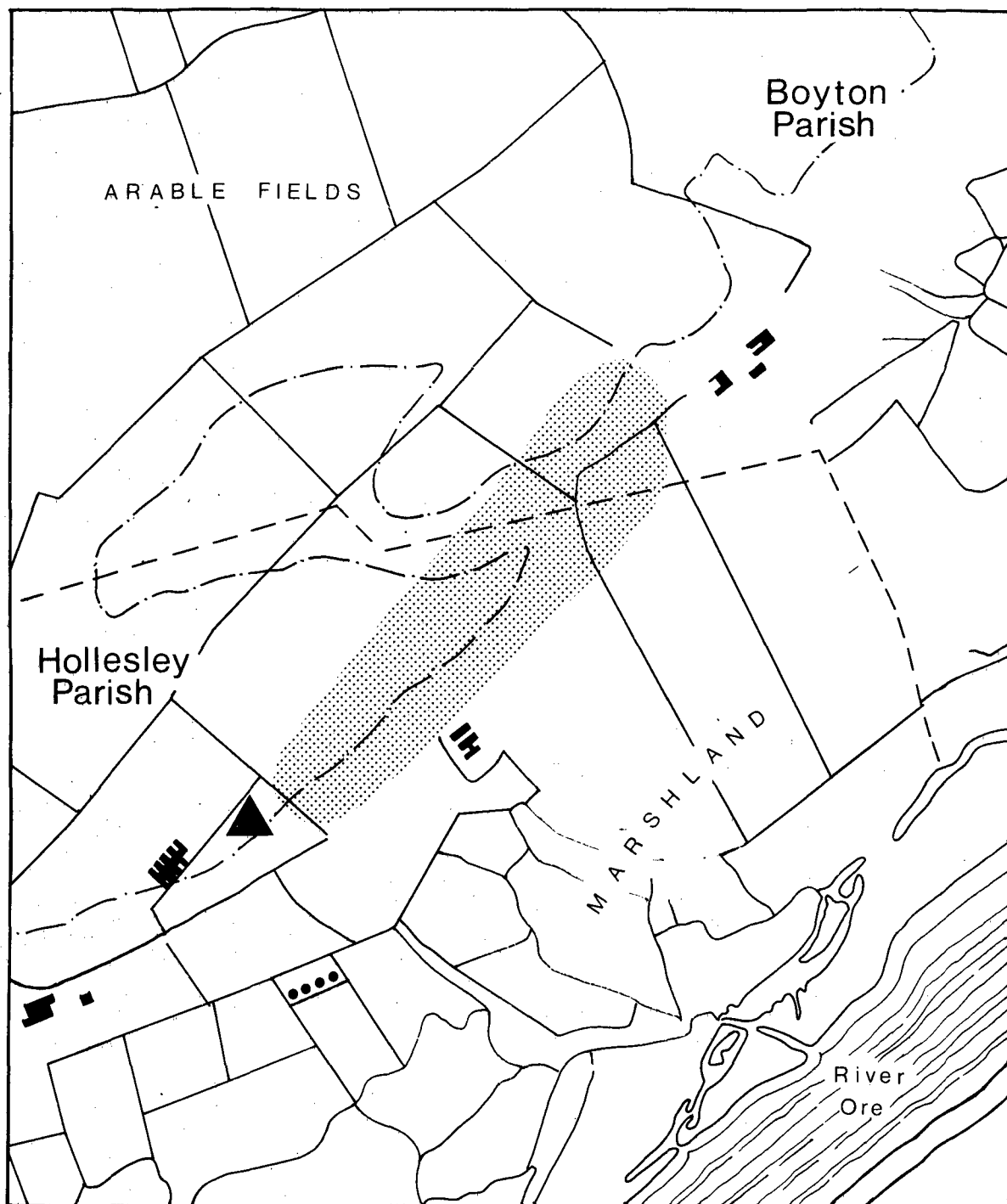
<sup>1</sup>The following air photographs by Dr. J.K.S. St. Joseph show parts of the site; ADK 16, ASK 13, BU/32, BU/33, HCO39, HCO40, HCO43, HCO44, OE65, SW19, YJ59, Y160, Y162, Y164.

<sup>2</sup>R.R. Clarke, 'The Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk' *Arc. J.* 96 (1940). 1-113 and 223-5.  
H.F.C. Hawkes, 'Iron Age Sites in Suffolk' *Ant. J.* 17 (1937), 195-6.

<sup>3</sup>British Museum Accession Number: 87-7-13-1.

<sup>4</sup>E.J. Owles, and N. Smedley, 'Archaeology in Suffolk, 1963', *PSIA* 29.3 (1963), 350.





## Location Map of the Hollesley Settlement

FIG. 10.

## THE EXCAVATIONS

Two areas which showed a greater density of surface finds and were threatened by building were selected for excavation (FIG 11). Since the area had been much disturbed by ploughing, the topsoil was removed by machine to uncover the natural yellow sand which sloped across the site, being found at a depth of 25 cm. in the north-west corner and at a depth of 70 cm. in the south-east. The features cut into the natural were then excavated except where this would interfere with the building operations in which case the features were planned as soil marks and are shown in the drawings without hachures.

In trench 'A' the major features were a series of V- and U-shaped ditches cutting into natural to a depth of up to 45 cm. and running both N-S and E-W (FIG.12). The fill of the ditches was usually light or medium brown with a sandy primary silting except that ditch 107 had a darker fill and was also distinguished by the large quantity of pot and shell found. The area exposed was too limited to allow any interpretation of the ditches except that the pottery in the fill of 22, 72, 73 and 122 was first century and that in 104, 106, 107, 110, 117 and 119 was second century.

In addition to the ditches there was a scatter of post holes over the area, from which one group on the western edge may be separated. This clearly represents one corner of a structure which could not, unfortunately, be fully excavated under the circumstances. There was no dating evidence for this structure except for a single sherd of RB pottery in one of the post holes.

Trench 'C' was basically similar to area 'A' but suffered from considerable modern disturbance. Those features which were dateable were all RB but no diagnostic pottery was found (FIG.13).

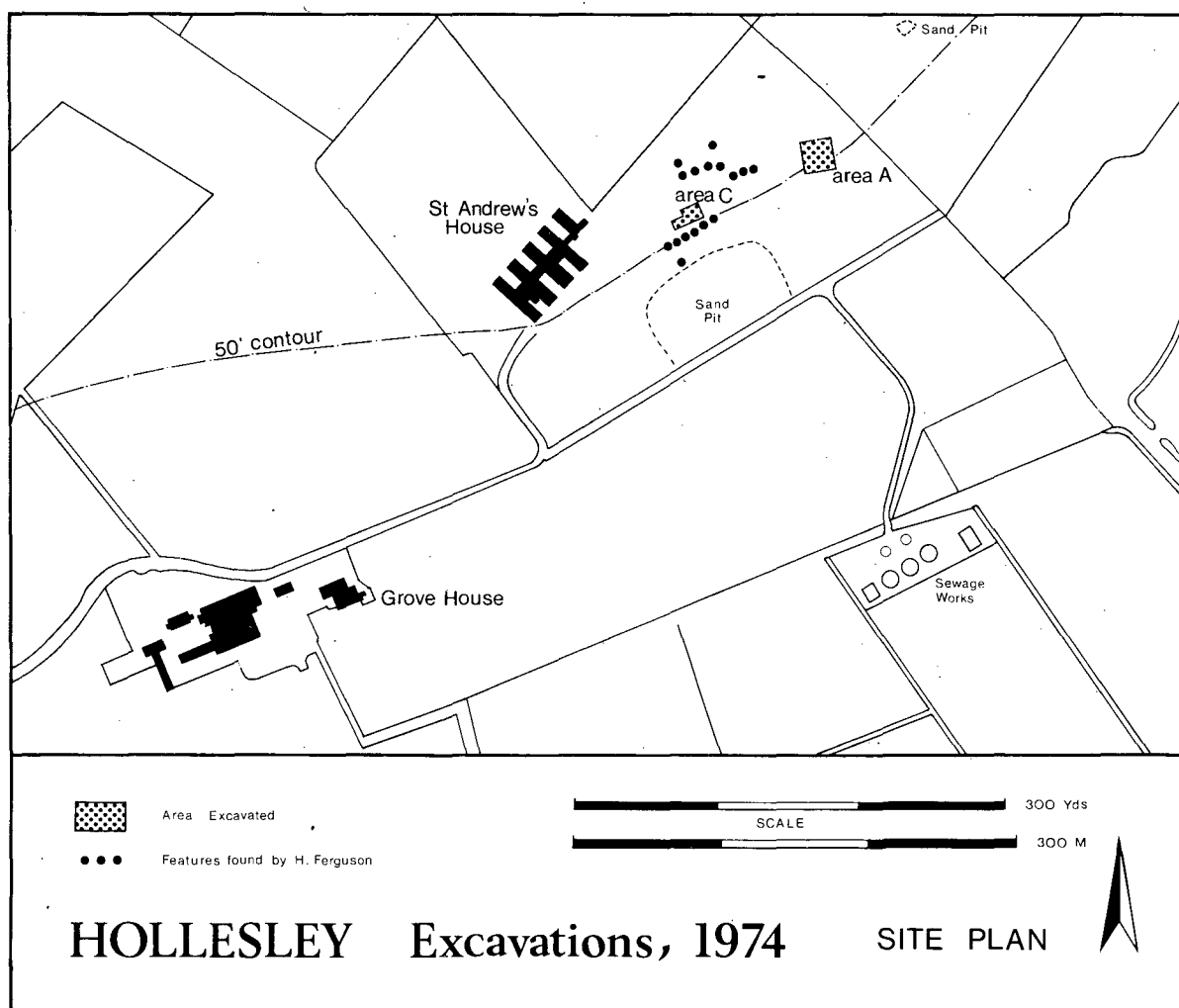


FIG. 11.

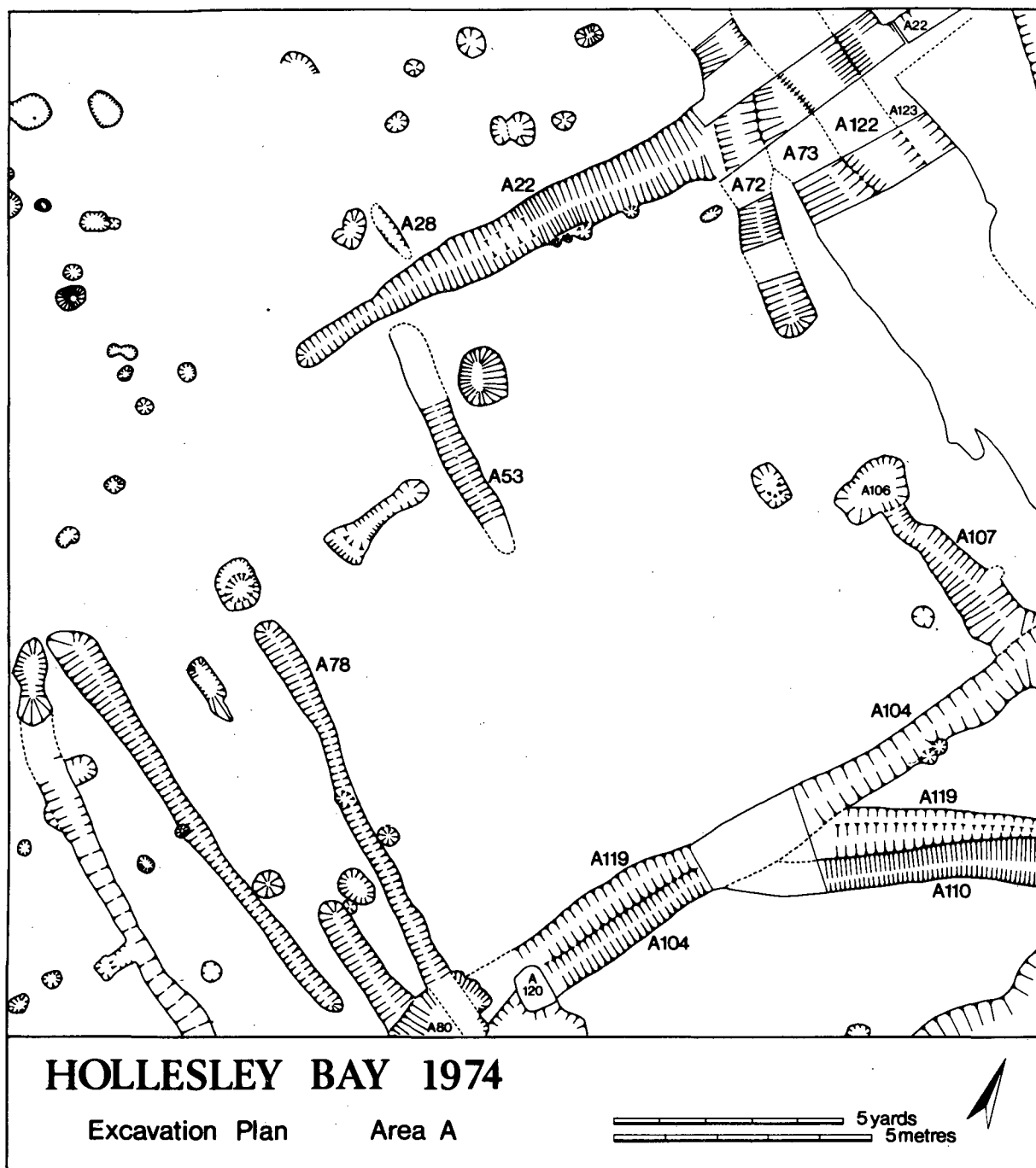


FIG.12.

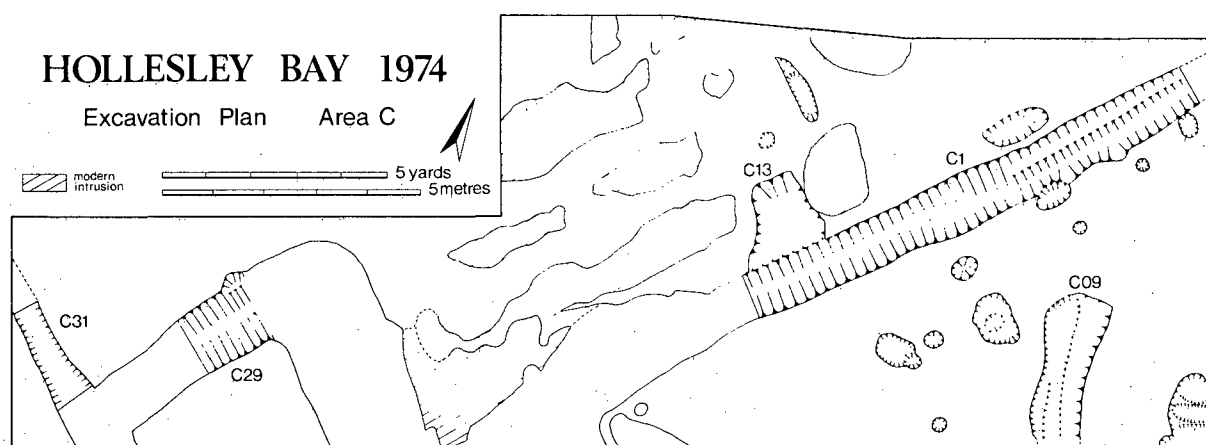


FIG. 13.

## THE FINDS

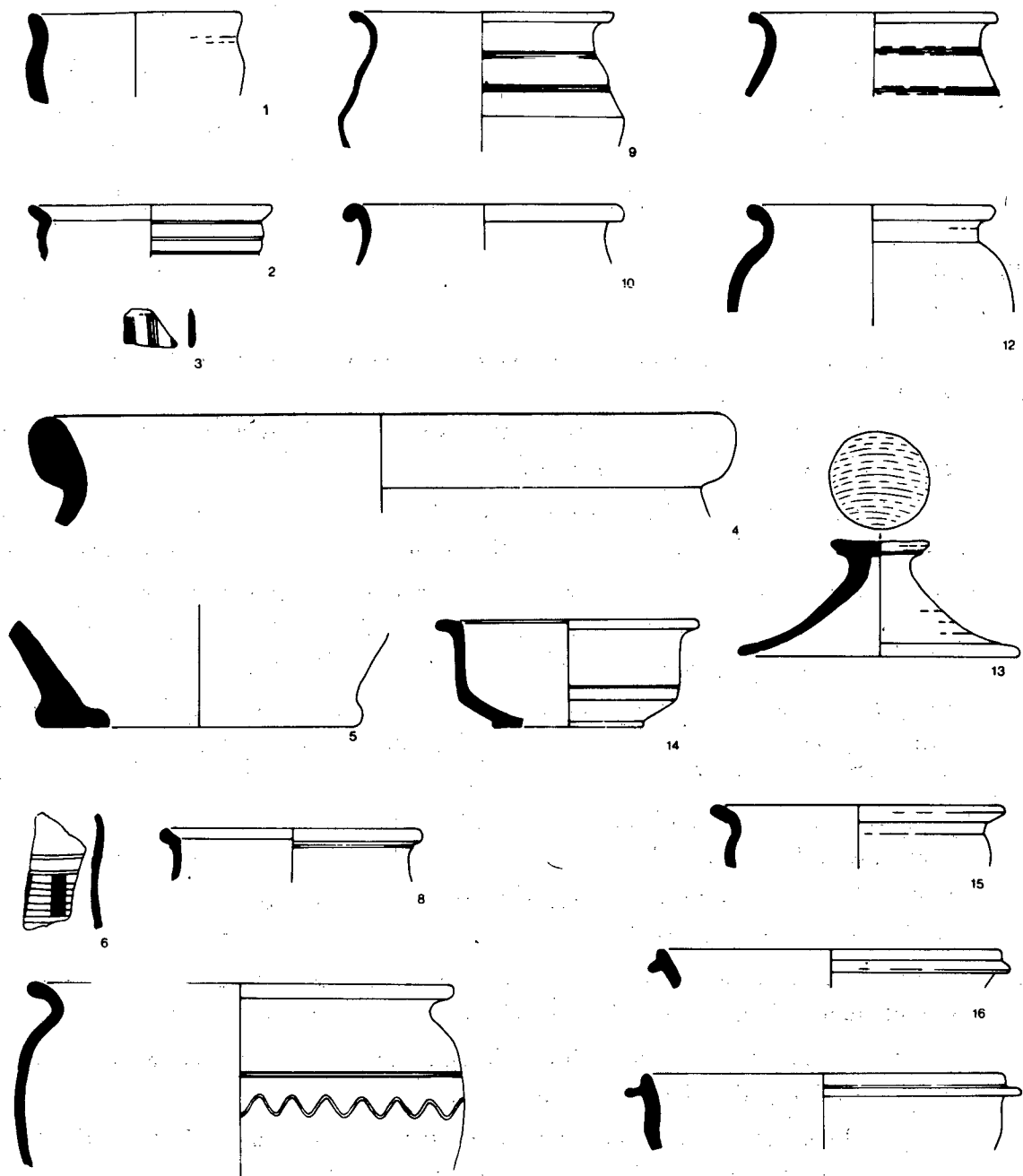
### POTTERY

The significant pottery from both fieldwork and excavation is illustrated in Figure 14 and described below.

1. Rim of EIA bowl in burnished black fabric with some coarse grits. Probably fragment of carinated bowl. Diameter 13 cm. Unstratified.
2. Rim fragment of Gallo-Belgic girth beaker of Camulodunum form 84A,<sup>5</sup> dated A.D. 10-48. This fragment is of T.R. fabric 3 and is possibly an import. Diameter 15 cm. From ditch A.122.
3. Small body sherd of girth beaker with vertical stroked decoration. Possibly Camulodunum form 82 or 85B of A.D. 10-61. Fabric is T.R. of British manufacture. Fragment too small to ascertain diameter. From ditch A.78.<sup>6</sup>
4. Rim of Iron Age/Roman transitional storage jar of form Camulodunum 271 of A.D. 10-68. Light grey body with black coating and some small grits. Diameter 43 cm. Found in feature destroyed in building.
5. Base of Iron Age/Roman transitional storage vessel. Unusual in having flat base with protruding foot. Light grey fabric with brown surface. Found in feature destroyed in building.
6. Body sherd of butt beaker in red fabric with grey-brown micaceous coat. Camulodunum form 119B of A.D. 43-61. Unstratified.
7. Rim of cooking pot in thin grey fabric with burnished zones and wavy line decoration. Form Camulodunum 267B dated A.D. 43-90. Diameter 26 cm. From lower fill of large pit A.55.
8. Rim of girth beaker in light grey fabric with light orange coat. Form is near to Camulodunum 85D of A.D. 49-61. Diameter 16 cm. From ditch A.73.
9. Rim of double-cordoned carinated bowl of form Camulodunum 218A. Thin dark grey fabric. Dated to A.D. 10-100. Diameter 16 cm. Found in ditch A.73.
10. Rim of cooking pot form Camulodunum 266A in fine dark grey fabric without filler. A.D. 10-117. Diameter 17 cm. From ditch A.73.
11. Rim of double-cordoned bowl of light grey ware with oxidised red interior and dark grey exterior. Form Camulodunum 266 dated to A.D. 10-117 but this example is probably late in the range because of its extensively polished exterior. Diameter 15 cm. From ditch A.78.

<sup>5</sup> M.R. Hull, Roman Colchester, *Soc. Antiq. Research Rep.* No. XX, 1958.

<sup>6</sup> C.F.C. Hawkes, and M.R. Hull Camulodunum, *Soc. Antiq. Research Rep.* No. XIV, 1947.



# **HOLLESLEY 1974**

POTTERY FROM SURFACE COLLECTION AND EXCAVATION (1/4)

FIG. 14.

12. Rim of black cooking pot. A near parallel in Roman Colchester form 279 of early 2nd century.<sup>7</sup>
13. Lid in light grey fabric with no filler. No parallel in references cited. Found in 2nd century context in ditch A.107. Upper diameter 6 cm. Lower diameter 17 cm.
14. Reeded-rim bowl in dense grey ware. Similar to Camulodunum form 246 but more angular carination. 2nd century, Diameter 16 cm. Found in ditch A.107.
15. Medium-grey everted rim. Nearest parallel is Gillam type 141<sup>7</sup> cooking pot of A.D.160-230. Diameter 18 cm. Found in feature destroyed in building.
16. Flanged rim of bowl with red gritted interior and black exterior. Form Colchester 305 of 350-400 A.D. Diameter 24 cm. Found in feature destroyed in building.
17. Flanged rim in mica-gritted fabric with brick-red exterior and light grey interior. Best parallel is Colchester form 305 of 350-400 A.D. Diameter 24 cm. Found in feature destroyed in building.

## FLINTS

A total of 360 worked flints were found including twenty-one tools.

1 Mesolithic tranchet axe fragment	6 side scrapers	3 rough scrapers
9 end scrapers	2 thumbnail scrapers	

The high acidity of the soil was not conducive to the preservation of organic material or metalwork. A small number of animal bones, oyster and mussel shells and snails were found but these cannot be regarded as a representative sample. The only feature to produce large quantities of shells was A.107 in which over 150 oysters shells were found as well as mussel and whelk. Two shells of the edible mollusc *Helix Aspersa* were found in ditch A.119. The only ironwork found was eleven iron nails. No bronzework was found. Fragments of brick, daub and slag were found but not in significant quantities.

## CONCLUSION:

The techniques of field work and limited excavation have been combined to demonstrate a continuous occupation of this large and complex site from the IA to the late RB period. All the indications are that this site on the extreme east coast is comparable to a class of settlement complexes known elsewhere in the county, which have the same outward appearance of ditches, post-holes, pits and enclosures sprawling across a wide area of the countryside. The long date range at Hollesley would seem fairly typical.

It was unfortunate that the area available for excavation lay on the extreme southern fringe of the site, where occupation was scarce, although aerial photography had suggested that the site could be expected to continue in this direction.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr. Henry Ferguson whose recording and collection of material from building trenches provided a highly significant body of information. Also to the Governor and staff of HM Borstal, Hollesley Bay Colony for their help and co-operation throughout the excavation. I am grateful to Mr. E.A. Martin, my co-director on the excavation and to Mr. G.I. Moss, Site Assistant. I am indebted to Mr. C.F. Pendleton for the mollusc identification and to Mr. J. Todd who drew the plans.

<sup>7</sup> J.P. Gillam, Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain 3rd. ed. (1970).

# The excavation of a moat at Exning

By Edward A. Martin, B.A.

## SUMMARY

The site consisted of a rectangular moated mound, being in all, c.52 m. north to south x 37 m. east to west. No trace of any buildings was found on the mound. From the pottery the moat would seem to date from the 13th-14th century. Underneath the mound and outside the area of the moat traces of a middle and late Saxon settlement were discovered.

## INTRODUCTION

The Moat at Exning (TL 62206523) known as The Island, was excavated in May-June 1973, in advance of its destruction by road-works for the Newmarket By-Pass, by the writer on behalf of the Department of the Environment (FIG.15).

The moat lay in a meadow at the southern end of Exning village, about 30 m. (200ft.) east of the New River and 235 m. south of Exning church. Up to the time of excavation the site was densely covered with trees, including some one to two-hundred year old English poplars, and elder scrub. The sub-soil of the area is chalk.

## THE MOAT

The moat consisted of a rectangular moated mound, c. 27 m. N.-S. x 12 m. E.-W., surrounded by a ditch, approximately 15 m. from crest to crest, and c. 2.5 m. deep, the whole complex being about 52 m. N.-S. x 37 m. E.-W. (FIG.16).

A rectangle 20 x 10 m. was cleared on the surface of the mound; however an area approximately 3.5 m. square at the centre of the mound could not be cleared due to the presence of a large tree-stump and associated roots. The surface thus revealed was more or less flat, except for the south-west corner where there was a slope. The top surface of the mound was much disturbed by the roots of the trees that had been growing on it. No trace of any post-holes, beam-slots or other evidence of buildings was discovered on the surface of the mound. However the surface of the mound was covered with a layer of chalk rubble, which was thickest at the northern end, thinning out considerably towards the southern end, and was especially compact in an area just to the north of the centre. In view of the disturbed state of the surface it is just possible, though not very likely, that part of this chalk rubble was really the broken-down remains of a 'clunch' (chalk block) foundation wall for a timber building. It is perhaps more likely that the chalk rubble was laid down to provide a firm foundation for a timber building resting on sill-beams. Such a building need not have had deep-set foundations, the beams could have been laid directly on the surface, hence leaving little or no trace. Whatever sort of building, if any, may have crowned the mound, no trace of any hearths or ovens was found. It is, however, just possible that there might have been a hearth under the tree-stump at the mound. Thus the only evidence for the occupation of the mound is the pottery and other refuse.

Two trenches were cut through the mound to discover its structure. These showed that the mound was artificial, its surface being 1.80 m. above the surface of the natural chalk. At the northern end the section revealed that the mound has been constructed by first laying down about 70 cm. of grey topsoil with domestic refuse on top of the old land surface, and then by capping this with approximately 1m. of chalk rubble. A scoop to the east of the moat most probably marks the area from which the grey topsoil was derived. The chalk rubble must have come from the ditch that surrounds the mound. The old land surface revealed under the mound was found to be rich in charcoal, animal bones and pottery (mainly Saxo-Norman Thetford and St. Neot's type wares) (FIG.17).

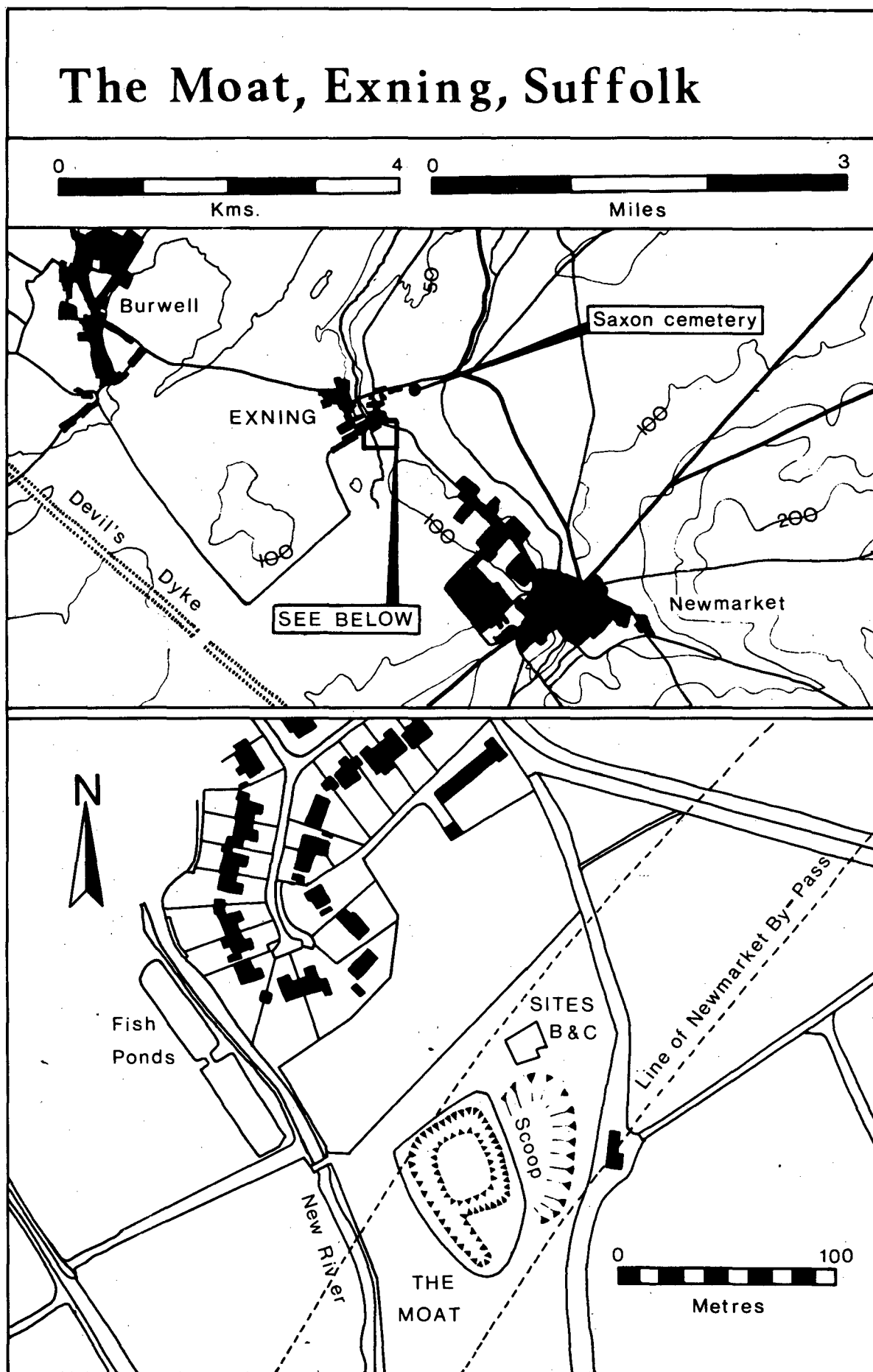


FIG.15. EXNING. Location maps.



# THE MOAT EXNING SUFFOLK



SITE A

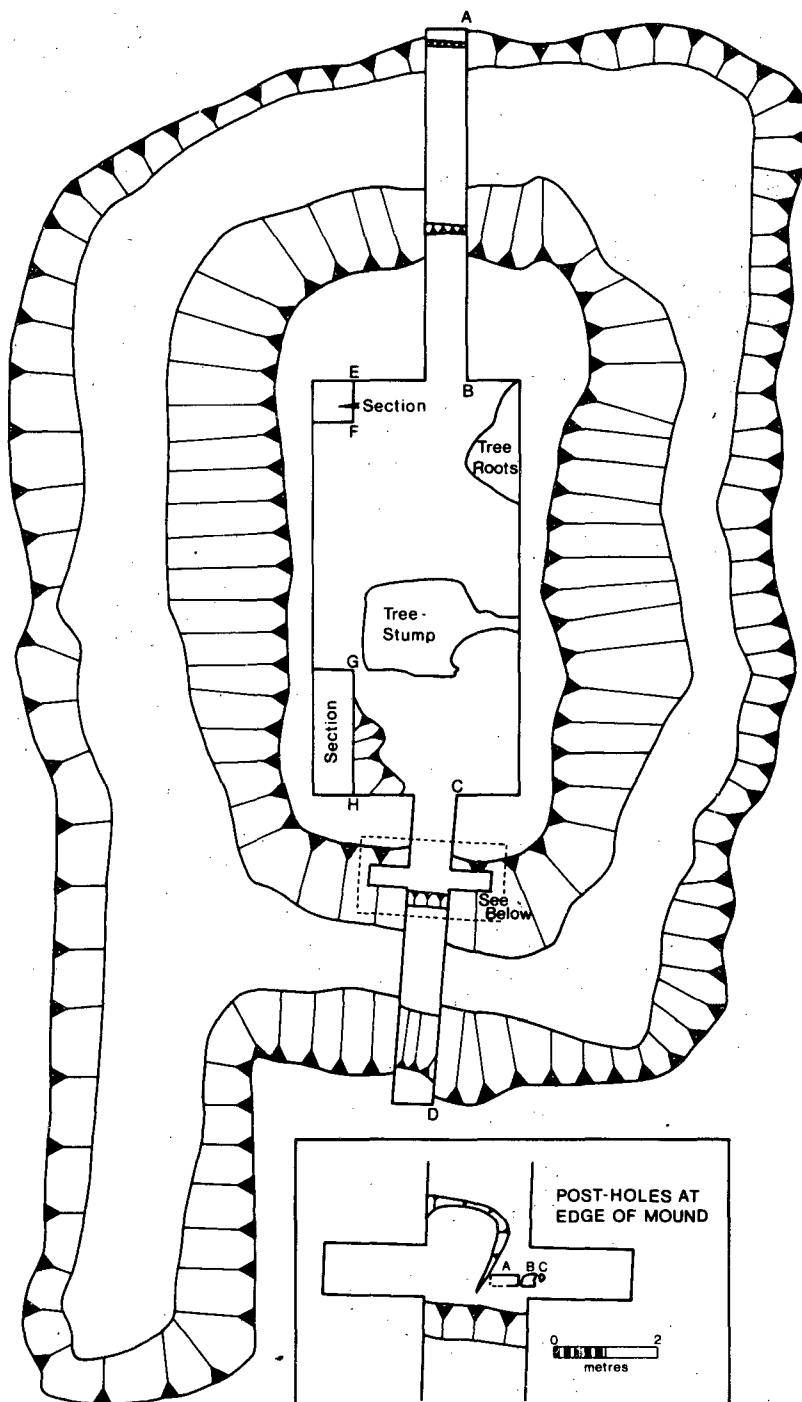


FIG.16. EXNING. Plan of the moat.

# THE MOAT, EXNING - Sections through the mound

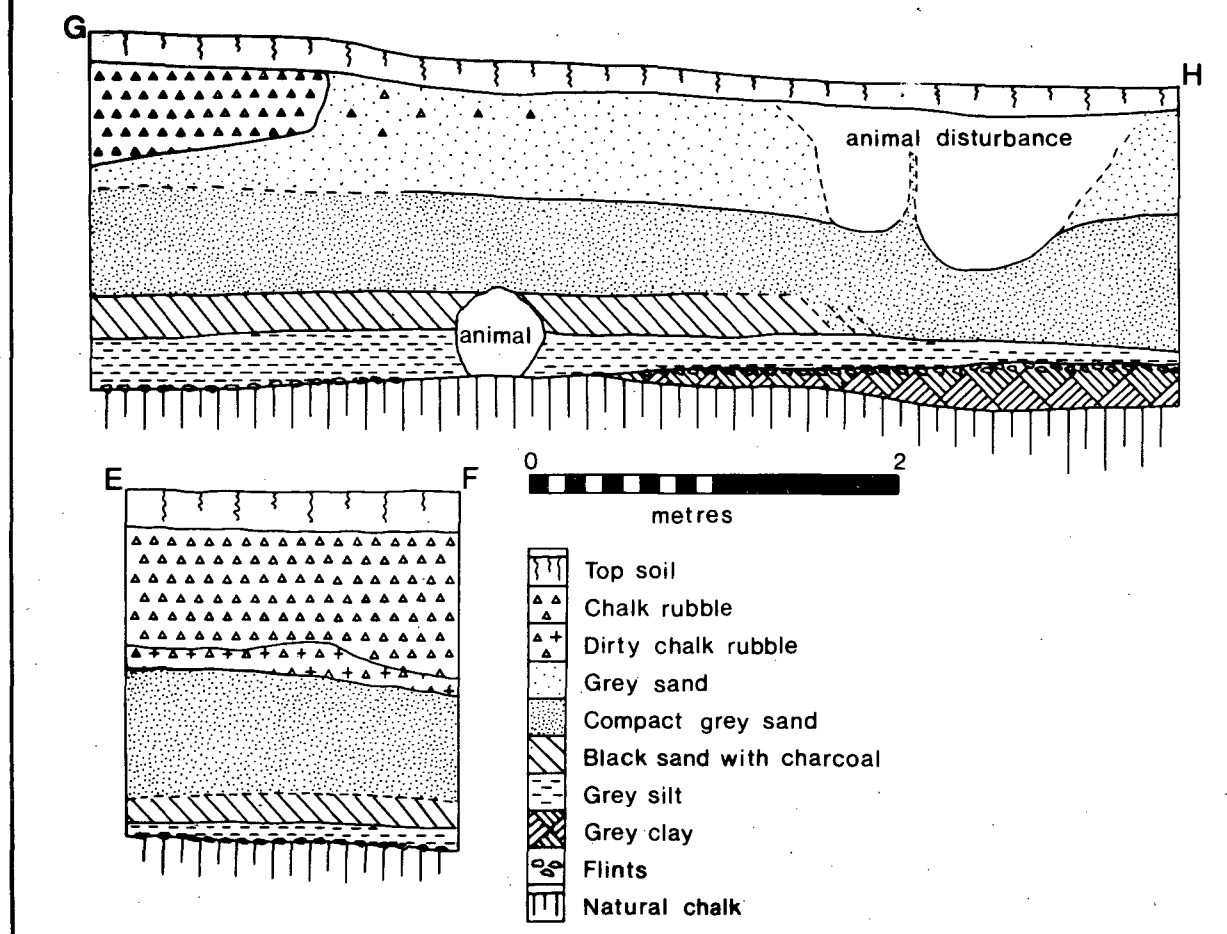
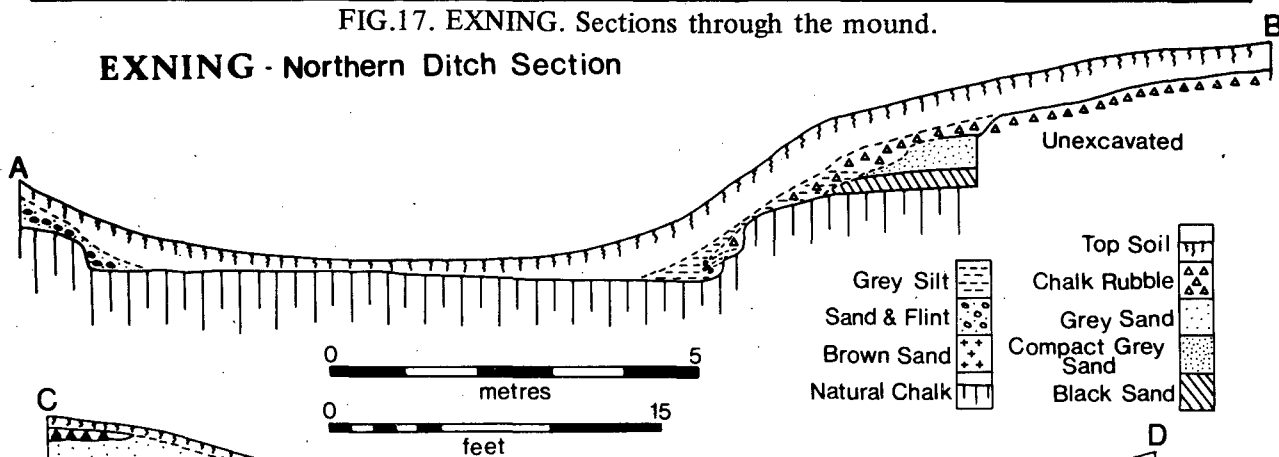


FIG.17. EXNING. Sections through the mound.

## EXNING - Northern Ditch Section



## Post Holes - Southern Ditch Section

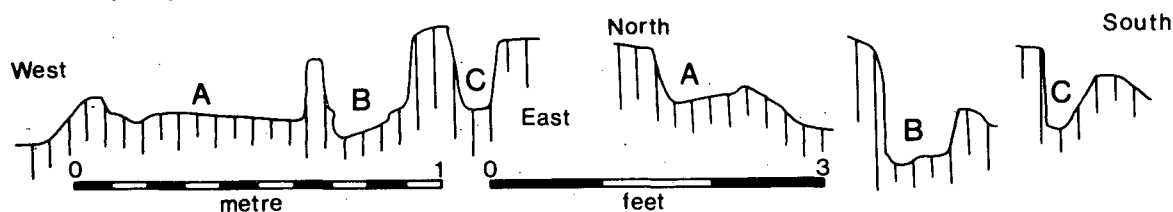


FIG.18. EXNING. Sections.

The mound was surrounded by a flat-bottomed ditch, approximately 15 m. wide from crest to crest, and about 2.5 m. deep. The southern ditch-section revealed that the ditch contained only 50 cm. of sediment, whilst the northern ditch section contained only 20 cm. of sediment. However, this part of the ditch had been used as a late Victorian-early twentieth century rubbish dump. The ditch was steepest on the northern, eastern and southern sides; to the west the outside slope of the ditch was very gradual (FIG.18).

The southern ditch section revealed three post-holes cut into the edge of the mound. They ran in a straight line about 50 cm. from the edge of the mound, and altogether they covered a distance of 1.10 m. The western most post-hole was 55 cm. long x 22 cm. wide x 15 cm. deep; the middle post-hole was 25 cm. long x 20 cm. wide x 35 cm. deep; the easternmost post-hole was 13 cm. in diameter x 24 cm. deep. No further post-holes were found, even though the cutting was extended on both sides. Their precise function remains unknown; it is possible that they represent some sort of revetting for the mound, but the fact that they stand alone argues against this. Alternatively it is possible that they may be connected with a bridge across the ditch or some form of entrance to the mound, as no other evidence of a bridging point or an entrance was found. Thirdly, as they were not noticed until the bed-rock was reached it is possible that they relate to a structure of the pre-moat Saxon settlement. No similar post-holes were discovered in the northern ditch section.

#### SITE A

No evidence of any structures was found in the parts of the old ground surface cleared in the cuttings through the mound, so in an attempt to learn more about the pre-moat Saxon settlement an area c. 9.5 m. long x 3 m. wide was mechanically cleared on the western edge of the moat. The old ground surface was known to exist here as it had been found in the course of digging a refuse pit and was buried beneath 25 cm. of top-soil and 40 cm. of grey, clayey silt, probably of riverine origin. However, although pottery, bones and other refuse were found on that surface no structures were discovered in the area cleared.

#### SITE B AND SITE C

In addition to site A, an area to the north-east of the moat was also cleared in the search for more evidence of the Saxon settlement (FIGS.19,20). Site B was approximately 17 m. long x 7 m. wide at its western end, and 11.5 m. wide at its eastern end. This area was cleared mechanically, the surface of the chalk lying beneath c. 20 cm. of top-soil. This revealed two parallel timber-slots, running more or less east to west. Timber-slot 1 consisted of two parts, the eastern half being 6.3 m. long x 50 cm. wide and 35 cm. deep. The western half was 3.8 m. long x 50 cm. wide and 23 cm. deep. The two halves were separated by a gap of 2.2 m. Two metres to the north of this lay timber-slot 2. The excavated portion of this slot was c. 8 m. long x 25 cm. wide and 10 cm. deep. The eastern end of this slot appeared to terminate in two small post-holes, the northern one having a diameter of 15 cm. and a depth of 8 cm. whilst the southern one had a diameter of 23 cm. and a depth of 10 cm.

Also at the eastern end of slot 2 was a curious curved feature (Feature 2) which was 3.6 m. long of variable width, and about 15 cm. deep. Nearby were two post-holes, Post-hole 1 being 44 cm. in diameter and 15 cm. deep; Post-hole 2 being 58 cm. in diameter and 19 cm. deep. About 1 m. north of timber-slot 2 lay Feature 1. This was a circular trench, approximately 1.9 m. in diameter, the trench itself being 65 cm. wide x 24 cm. deep, with an 'island' c. 6 cm. wide at the centre. The trench fill was brown sand with small stones. It is possible that this feature was of animal origin.

After the formal completion of the excavation the contractors permitted an area to be opened adjacent to Site B. This, Site C, was approximately 11.5 m. long and 5 m. wide and was also cleared mechanically, revealing a third timber-slot. Timber-slot 3 was in two parts, of which the shorter eastern portion was 3.7 m. long x 4.6 m. wide and 10 cm. deep. The longer western portion was not completely uncovered; however, the excavated portion was 8.5 m. long x 50 cm. wide and 80

# EXNING - SITES B & C

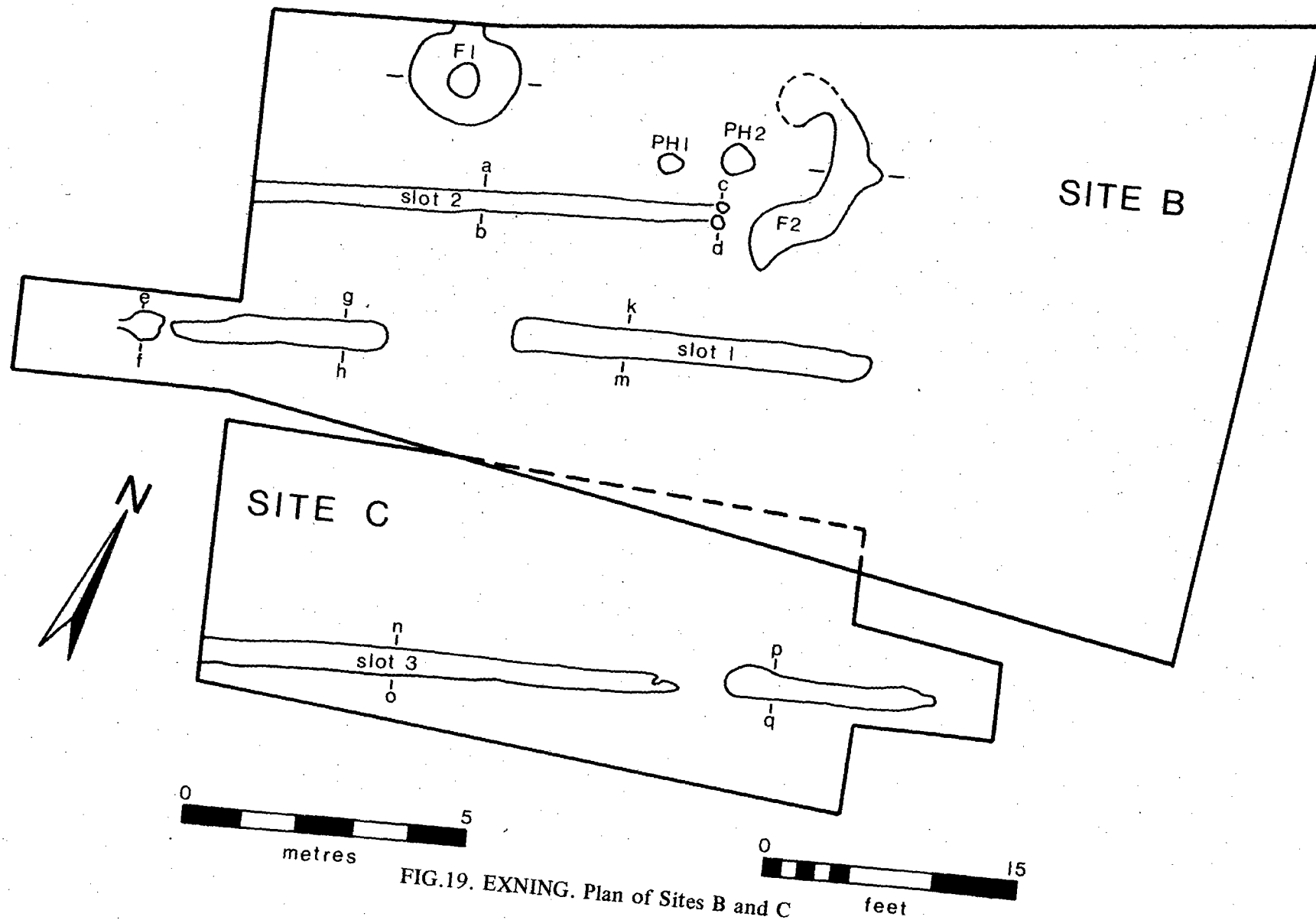


FIG.19. EXNING. Plan of Sites B and C

cm. deep. The two portions were separated by a gap of 80 cm. This gap does not align with the gap in the timber-slot. Timber-slot 3 lay c. 5.5 m. to the south of timber-slot 1, and was parallel to it.

Timber-slots 1 and 3 are comparable in terms of the size of the slot and perhaps belong to the same building. If so the building appears to have consisted of a hall about 12.5 m. long and 6.5 m. wide with a main entrance in its northern wall, and a smaller entrance in the southern wall. No evidence for end-walls or internal partitions was found.

Timber-slot 2, in view of its smaller size, perhaps belonged to another building, possibly associated with Feature 2 and Post-holes 1 and 2.

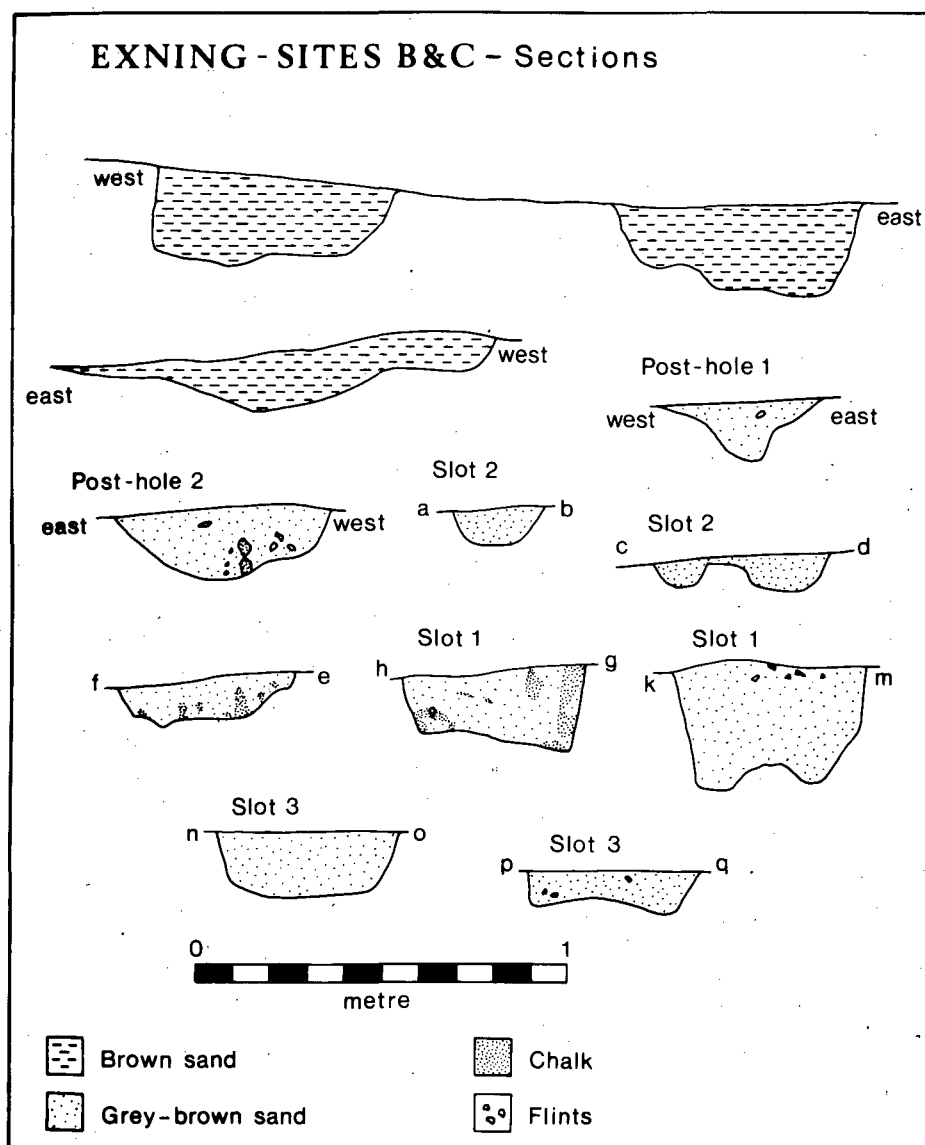


FIG.20 EXNING. Sections, Sites B and C.

## POTTERY

### Roman

Samian fragments were found in the buried soil under the mound; one fragment on Site A, and another in slot 1, Site B. A colour-coated base was found also on the old ground surface in the northern ditch section. A rim of hard, red, slightly sandy ware, partially burnished (FIG.1) was found on the edge of slot 3 in Site C, and is probably Roman.

In view of these Roman sherds it is possible that Roman grey wares and shell-tempered wares have become confused with the later Thetford and St. Neot's ware respectively.

## Pagan Saxon

Two sherds of shell-tempered pottery were found, both body sherds. One was found in slot 3, Site C, and the other in the buried soil beneath the mound (FIG.21, no.2). Rim of hard, black ware with external burnishing. The fabric contains crystals of iron pyrites. The sherd has an unabraded appearance. From slot 3, Site C.

### Ipswich Ware (FIG.21, nos.3-5)

3. Heavy rim of hard, grey, sandy ware. Size of vessel unknown. From the buried soil beneath the mound.
4. Rim of hard, grey-black, sandy ware. Sherds slightly abraded. Comes from Site A.
5. Spout of hard, grey, sandy ware. From buried soil beneath the mound. Similar to the Ipswich ware U-spouts from Cowells, Falcon Street, Ipswich.<sup>1</sup>

### St. Neot's Ware (FIG.21, nos.6-14)

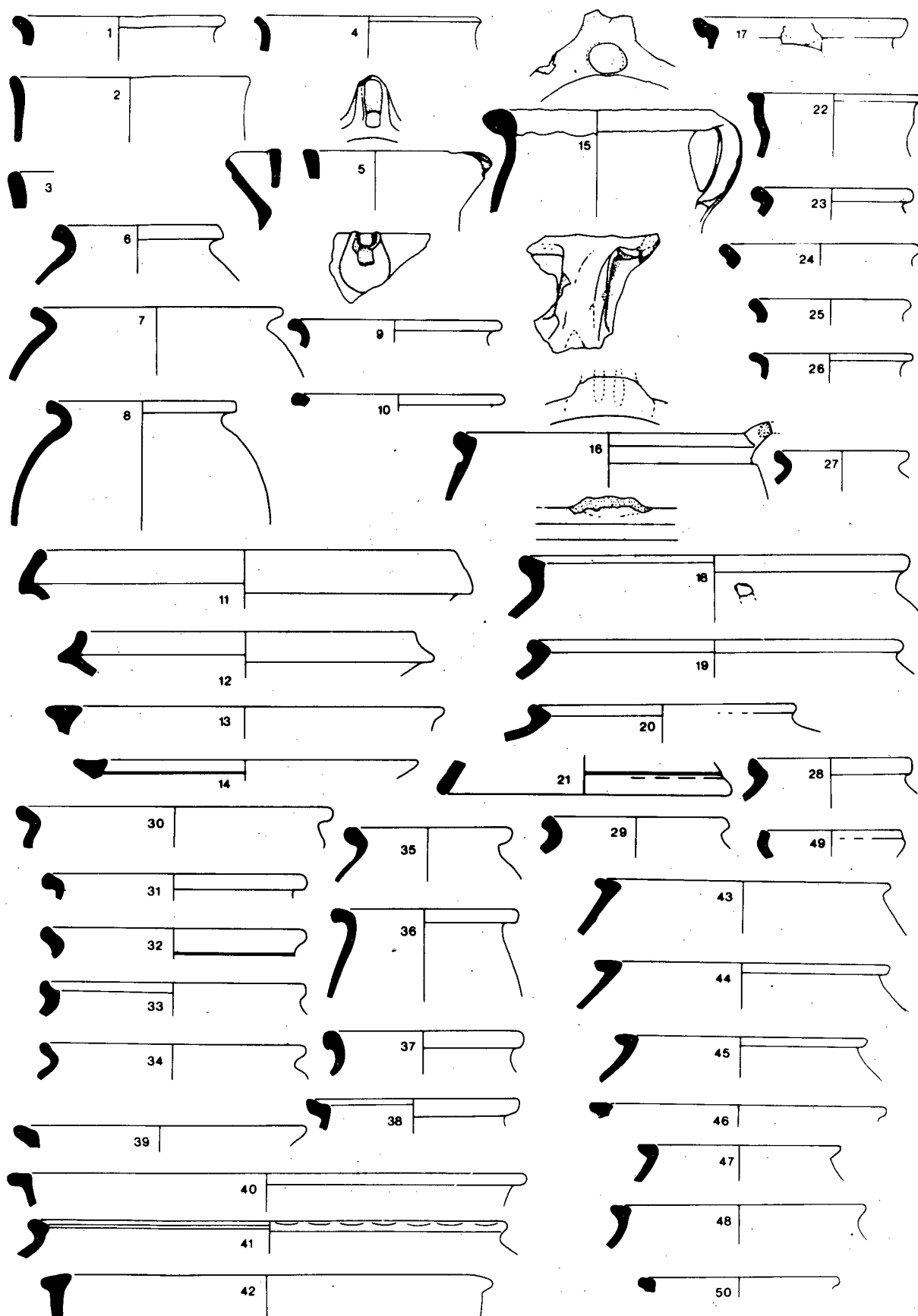
6. Cooking-pot of purplish-brown/black, shell-tempered ware, with externally square rim. From the mound make-up. Compares with a pot from St. Neots.<sup>2</sup>
7. Cooking-pot of black shell tempered ware, with plain everted rim. From the northern ditch section. Compares with a pot from Paxton, Hunts., (Hurst, fig. 7.1).
8. Cooking-pot of brown/black shell-tempered ware, rim slightly more squared than no.7. From the buried soil under the mound.
9. Cooking-pot of brown-black shell-tempered ware. From the make-up of the mound.
10. Cooking-pot of brown-black shell-tempered ware. From the northern ditch section.
11. Flanged bowl in purple-brown shell-tempered ware. From the northern ditch section. Compares with a similar bowl from Paxton (Hurst, fig. 7.6).
12. Flanged bowl in brown shell-tempered ware. From the northern ditch section. Compares to a similar bowl from Paxton (Hurst, fig. 7.7).
13. Hammer-headed bowl in purple-brown shell-tempered ware. From the surface of the mound. Similar to a bowl from Paxton (Hurst, fig. 7.9).
14. Bowl (?) of purplish-brown ware with slightly concave topped rim. From Site A.

### Thetford Ware (FIG.21, nos. 15-38)

15. Handled vessel of hard, grey sandy ware. The vessel is badly finished and rough. There is a roughly oval depression on the rim above the handle. From the make-up of the mound.
16. Handled vessel of hard, grey sandy ware. Unlike no.15 this vessel is well finished and smooth.
17. Spouted vessel in hard, grey sandy fabric. The spout itself is missing, all that survives is the hole cut through the side of the vessel, and the smoothed back flap. From the mound make-up.
18. Large vessel of light brownish-grey, sandy fabric. There is the beginning of an applied vertical strip below the rim. From the northern ditch section.

<sup>1</sup> J.G. Hurst and S.E. West, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in East Anglia, II', *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, L, (1957), fig. 3, nos. 3 & 11

<sup>2</sup> J.G. Hurst, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in East Anglia', *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, XLIX, (1956) fig.8.1. Hereafter referred to as Hurst (1956).



# EXNING

POTTERY FROM THE EXCAVATIONS (1/4)

FIG.21.

19. Large vessel of hard, sandy ware with a light-brown exterior and a grey interior. From the northern ditch section.
20. Flat-shouldered vessel in hard brown-grey sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
21. Lid in hard, grey sandy ware, grooved near the rim. From the buried soil beneath the mound.
22. Bowl in hard, grey sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
23. Small pot of hard, grey sandy ware with a slight metallic sheen. From the northern ditch section.
24. Small pot of hard, black-grey sandy ware. From Site A.
25. Small pot of hard brownish-light grey sandy ware. From Site A.
26. Small pot of hard, grey sandy ware with everted rim. From slot 3, Site C.
27. Small pot of hard, grey-brown sandy ware. From the buried soil beneath the mound.
28. Small pot of hard grey, sandy ware, with externally squared rim. From the buried soil beneath the mound.
29. Cooking-pot of hard, grey-black sandy ware. From Site A.
30. Cooking-pot with everted rim in hard, grey-black, sandy ware, with a metallic sheen. The back of the rim is abraded. From Site A.
31. Cooking-pot in hard, cream-grey, sandy ware. From Site A.
32. Cooking-pot in hard, black, sandy ware. Grooved below the rim. From Site A.
33. Cooking-pot in hard, black, sandy ware, with hollowed rim. From Site A.
34. Cooking-pot in hard, grey-black, sandy ware with a metallic sheen. Abraded, especially at the back of the rim. From Site A.
36. Cooking-pot in hard, grey-black, sandy ware with a metallic sheen. Simple squared-off everted rim. From Site A.
37. Cooking-pot in hard, dark-grey, sandy ware with thick, square rim. From the surface of the mound.
38. Cooking-pot of hard greyish-buff, sandy ware, with hollowed rim. From the northern ditch section.

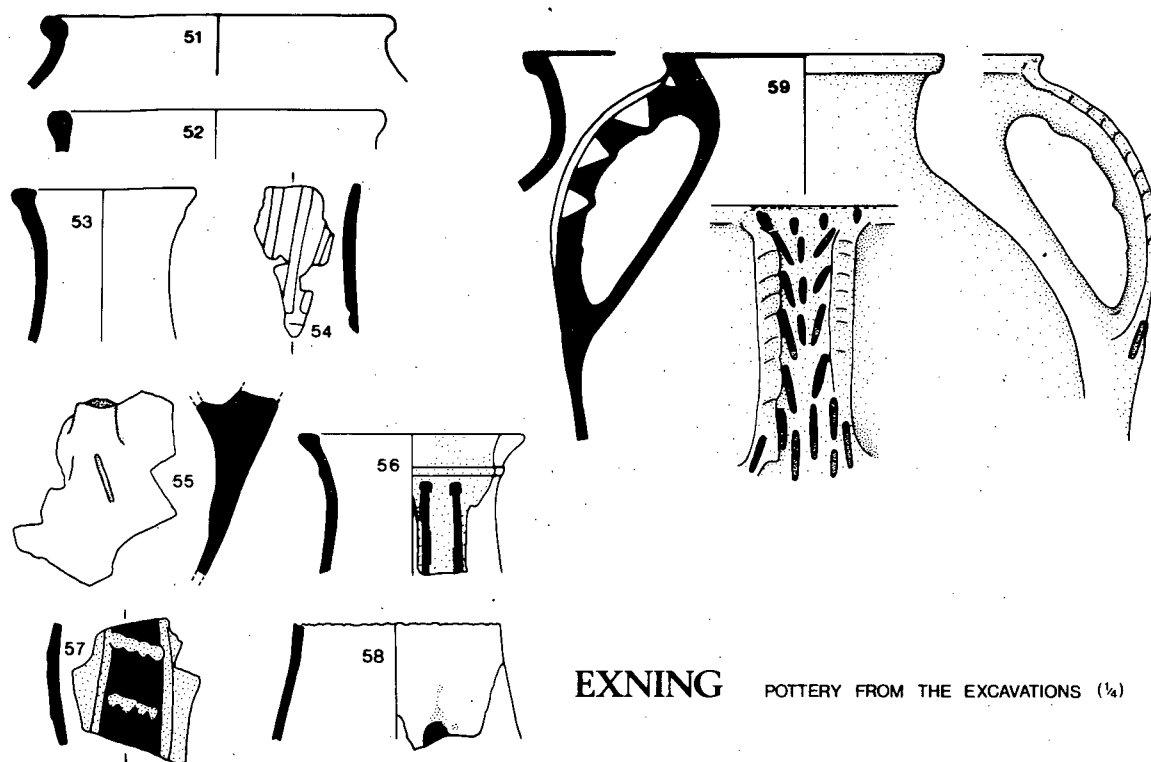
#### Saxon Imported Wares

Three body sherds of fine white-buff or white-grey, hard wares were found, two from the surface of the mound, and the other from the northern ditch section. All three are from different vessels. The sherds come from imported Pingsdorf or possibly Badorf-type vessels.

13th-14th Century Ware (FIG.22, nos.39-52,59).

39. Pot of hard, buff, sandy ware. From the surface of the mound.
40. Large vessel of hard, brown, sandy ware. From the northern ditch section. Of the Cambridge-shire flat-topped rim type of 14th century date, (see material from Chesterton in Cambridge Museum).
41. Large vessel of reddish-brown, hard, sandy ware. Thumb impressed scalloping on the rim. From the northern ditch section.
42. Large flat-topped rim vessel of hard, reddish-buff, sandy ware. From the surface of the mound.
43. Flat-topped rim cooking-pot in hard, brown, sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
44. Flat-topped rim cooking-pot in hard, grey sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.





EXNING POTTERY FROM THE EXCAVATIONS (1/4)

FIG. 22

45. Flat-topped rim cooking-pot in hard, grey, sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
46. Vessel in a soft, crumbling, purplish-brown fabric with a hammer-headed rim. From the northern ditch section.
47. Cooking-pot in brown, hard, sandy ware with a flat-topped rim. From the northern ditch section.
48. Cooking-pot in hard, brown, sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
49. Small vessel with a brown surface and a red core, medium hard and sandy. From the surface of the mound.
50. Cooking-pot in black, medium hard, sandy ware. From the northern ditch section.
51. Cooking-pot with a dark grey exterior, a purplish-brown interior and a reddish-brown core. Fabric is medium hard and sandy. Has a thickened rim. From the northern ditch section.
52. Cooking-pot of hard, buff-brown, sandy ware with a thick, upright rim. From the northern ditch section.
59. Jug of reddish-buff, hard, sandy with a slightly hollowed rim and a deeply slashed handle, with finger ornamented strips down the sides of the handle. From the northern ditch section, (a body sherd of an identical fabric was found in the buried soil beneath the mound). This jug is similar to local Cambridgeshire 13th century jugs with strap handles with irregular slashing down the centre and fingered bands down the edge.

Glazed Wares (FIG.22, nos. 53-58).

53. Vessel of hard, red, sandy ware covered by a mottled green glaze unevenly applied. From the northern ditch section. Possibly from the Hedingham Kilns in Essex, 14th century.
54. Body sherd of hard, red, sandy fabric, covered externally with a dark green glaze. Ornamented with raised vertical bands. Probably from the Hedingham Kilns. From the northern ditch section.
55. Base of a cylindrical handle in a red, hard, sandy fabric, unevenly covered by a green, mottled glaze. From the northern ditch section. Probably made in the Hedingham Kilns.

56. Vessel of a hard, reddish-brown fabric with a grey centre to its core. This is covered by a cream coloured slip, very imperfect and untidily applied on the interior. On the exterior this slip is covered by a light yellow glaze. The exterior is ornamented with applied bands which have been impressed to give a cross-hatched appearance and are green in colour. In the illustration the areas of yellow glaze are stippled. From the northern ditch section. Possibly an imported vessel of London type, in imitation of Rouen wares.
57. Body-sherd probably from the same vessel as no.56. The fabric is identical as is the glaze. The ornamentation in this case consists of a black area bounded by raised bands and ornamented with applied wavy outlined strips. Again the areas of yellow glaze are shown stippled in the illustration. From the northern ditch section.
58. Vessel of identical fabric to nos. 56 & 57. The cream slip, however, is lacking, and the surviving ornamentation consists merely of a small area of black with a little yellow glaze surrounding it. The rim appears to have been chipped off, presumably where glaze stuck to another pot. From the northern ditch section.

Post-medieval activity on the mound is witnessed by a clay-pipe bowl and pieces of stem.

J.G. Hurst has suggested a 10th - 11th century date for some of the Thetford-type ware sherds, whilst the St. Neots-type ware sherds are best paralleled by the material from Paxton, Hunts., which has been dated to the Conquest period. The Thetford and St. Neots-type wares were ubiquitous over the site, being present in the buried soil under the mound and also in the top-soil utilised in the building of the mound, and from there they have weathered out, hence their presence in the ditch sections and even on the mound surface.

#### GLASS

Two fragments of light bluish-green glass found in the buried soil beneath the mound are probably of Roman date.

From the surface of the mound came the neck of a hand-made vessel of pale green glass, with a diameter at the mouth of 2 cm., the glass being 2 mm. thick.

#### TILE

No complete tiles were found. The fragments that were found represent a large number of different types of tile. It is more than probable that some Roman tile is mixed in with the Medieval material.

#### LAVA MILL-STONE

##### Site A:

3 fragments of a mill-stone 2.5 cm. thick.

##### Buried soil beneath the mound:

7 fragments of a mill-stone 2.5 cm. thick.

##### Northern ditch section:

1 fragment of a mill-stone 3.3 cm. thick, and another fragment from a mill-stone 2.2 cm. thick.

##### Southern ditch section:

1 fragment of indeterminate thickness.

#### IRON SLAG

Pieces of iron slag were found in the buried soil beneath the mound and also in the make-up of the mound.

## METALWORK

The only metalwork from the site came from the surface of the mound and the northern ditch section and represents rubbish of post-moat occupation date. This applies particularly to that from the northern ditch section, which was used as an early 20th century rubbish dump. From the surface of the mound came an iron button covered with a copper alloy, and ornamented with four hearts arranged in a crucifix pattern, which is probably of 18th or 19th century date.

## ANIMAL-BONE AND SHELL

In view of the fact that none of the layers can be regarded as sealed or as containing material of one period only, the analysis of the animal bone and shell has been restricted to identifying the different species present.

Site A - Ox, sheep, pig, dog, red deer and bird.

Buried soil beneath the mound - Ox, sheep, pig, horse, oysters.

Mound make-up - Ox, sheep, pig, dog, red deer, bird, oysters.

Ditch sections - Ox, sheep, pig, horse, pysters, mussels.

Surface of the mound - Ox, sheep, pig, horse, dog, bird.

In quantative terms ox was everywhere in the majority, followed by sheep and pig.

## DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The place-name Exning, (Esselinga, c.1080, *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis*; Essellinge, Domesday Book; Exningis, 1158, Pipe Roll; Ixninges, 1158, Red Book of the Exchequer, 1218, Close Roll), is derived from the Old English \*Gyxeningas, meaning 'Gixa's people'.<sup>3</sup> The -ingas suffix to the name implies a relatively early Saxon settlement at Exning, though probably not of the earliest or immigration phase of the Saxon settlement.<sup>4</sup> A 6th century Pagan Saxon cemetery is known to have existed on the site of a gravel pit on the south side on the road on Windmill Hill, on the eastern edge of Exning village (TL 625658).<sup>5</sup> There is, however, no proof that this cemetery relates to a Pagan Saxon village on the site of the present village of Exning.

The East Anglian princess St. Etheldreda, (otherwise called Ethelthryth or Audrey), the daughter of King Anna of the East Angles, was born at Exning c.630.<sup>6</sup> There is therefore a possibility that Exning was a 'royal seat' of the Wuffingas, the East Anglian dynasty. At the very least it demonstrates the existence of a settlement at Exning in middle Saxon times. In connection with the 'royal seat' idea it is of interest that W.A. Coppinger says that there was some sort of royal residence at Exning as late as 1200.<sup>7</sup>

In 1066 the manor of Exning was held by Edith the Fair, Edward the Confessor's queen, and the daughter of Earl Godwine. The manor had 15 hides of land, 13½ of which passed to Godric, who held them c.1080 'at the King's farm'; the other 1½ hides, which Alfsi, Edith's man, had held in 1066, passed to Wihummar, Count Alan's steward.

The text of the *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis*,<sup>8</sup> (c.1080), gives us the following information.

<sup>3</sup> E. Ekwall, *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*, (4th. edition 1960).

<sup>4</sup> J. McN. Dogson, 'The significance of the distribution of the English place-name in -ingas, -inga- in south-east England', *Med. Arch.*, X, (1966).

<sup>5</sup> A. Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites*, (1964), p.227.

<sup>6</sup> A life of St. Etheldreda appears in Thomas of Ely's *Historia Eliensis*.

<sup>7</sup> W.A. Coppinger, *The Manors of Suffolk*, vol. IV, (1909), p.156-161.

<sup>8</sup> *Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire*, vol. I, p.400.

### Staplefo [Staploe] Hundred

In this Hundred Esselinga [Exning] was assessed at 15 hides T.R.E. and now is at 10. Of these 15 hides Wihummar, Count Alan's steward holds 1½ hides. [There are] 2 ploughs on the demesne and 3 villein [ploughs]; 4 villeins, 8 serfs, 1 mill worth 5s. and 4d., 1,200 eels, meadow for 2 ploughs, and pasture for the cattle of the vill. The cattle in the demesne are 11 head of cattle, 160 sheep [and] 30 pigs. In all it is worth 50s., when received [it was worth] 50s. and T.R.E. 60s. Alfsi, the man of Ediva, held this land T.R.E. and could give it to whom he would. And of these 15 hides King William holds 13½ hides. There is land here for 34 ploughs. [There are] 7 ploughs on the demesne and there might be 3 more, [and] 24 villein-ploughs. [There are] 35 villeins and 34 bordars, 7 serfs and 3 mills worth 20s., 7,000 eels from a fishery [and] meadow for 4 ploughs. The cattle on the demesne are 19 head of cattle, 200 sheep less 13, 34 pigs [and] 13 horses. In all it is worth £52, when received [it was worth £12, T.R.E. £56. Ediva the Fair [bella] held the manor T.R.E. and now Godric holds it at the King's farm and there were in this manor 7 sokemen, the men of Ediva, they would give their land to whom they would T.R.E. [and] Ediva held their soke. And each of them provided a horse for carrying-service of 8d. yearly, or watch and ward for the King's service [ministerio].

The sensational drop in value of the manor from £56 in the time of Edward the Confessor to £12 'when Godric [the Sheriff] received it', later recovering to £52, needs some explanation. The explanation may lie in the Revolt of the Earls in 1075. The revolt was hatched at the wedding-feast of Ralph de Gael, Earl of Norfolk, which took place at Exning in 1075. Ralph married the daughter of William fitz-Osbern and the plot drew in Roger of Breteuil, Earl of Hereford, (second son of William fitz-Osbern), and Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland. It is possible that Exning was ravaged and seized into the King's hands in connection with the putting down of that revolt.

In 1158 the Count of Flanders held land worth £65 at Exning.<sup>9</sup> In 1162 Danegeld of 26s. (13 hides) was pardoned on the King's demesne of Exning, Co. Cambs. In the same year William the king's brother held land worth £65 in Exning.<sup>9</sup>

King Henry II (1154-1189) granted the manor of Exning to Matthew, Count of Boulogne.<sup>7</sup> In 1189 Arnulf de Kemeseke, Derekin de Acra and other knights of the count of Boulogne held £63 of land in Exning.<sup>9</sup> About this period Exning ceased to be part of Cambridgeshire and became part of Suffolk. In 1212 the Close Rolls contain the following entry, 'The sheriff of Suffolk is to deliver the manor Ixning to Reginald de Danmartin, count of Boulogne.' In 1227 the manor was held by Robert de Danmartin. In 1258 the manor was held by William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke (hence the name of the manor, Exning Valence). On his death in 1296 the manor passed to his son Aylmer de Valence, and on his death in 1323 the manor passed to Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Richard, Lord Talbot, and the daughter of Aylmer's sister Joan. Her son Sir Gilbert, Lord Talbot granted the manor to John Kingsfield in 1377. On his death in 1381 the manor was divided between his three sisters, Alicia, the wife of Thomas Aldrich, Agnes Wolf and John Ashfield, the son of Isabella Ashfield the third sister. In 1390 Geoffrey Michel held two parts of the manor and John Ashfield held one part.

A small manor in the parish, known as Exning Well Hall alias Coggeshall's, was held in the time of Edward I, by Edward or Edmunds de Kemesech, presumably a descendant of Arnulf de Kemeseke, one of the knights of the Count of Boulogne in 1189. On de Kemeseke's death in 1288 the manor passed to his daughter Isabella, the wife of Philip de Welle. Philip de Welle died in 1332 and his estate is found to have been a capital messuage, with a dovecote, a garden, 20 acres of land, 6 acres of pasture and 18s. of rent from assizes in the parish, held by service of ½ a knight's fee, William de Welle being his son and heir. From the fact of the service being ½ a knight's fee it would seem as if

<sup>9</sup> W. Farrer, Feudal Cambridgeshire (1920).

Edward de Kemeseke's estate here had been divided between two daughters. William de Welle died in 1349 when the manor passed to his daughter Joan, married to Sir Henry Coggeshall of Crowe Hall in Stutton, Suffolk. On Sir Henry's death in 1375 the manor passed to his widow Joan, and on her death in the same month the manor was vested in her son Sir William Coggeshall, who died in 1424, leaving four daughters and co-heirs.

## DISCUSSION

From the documentary evidence we see that a Saxon settlement existed at Exning from at least middle Saxon times. In the archaeological record this is confirmed at the moat site by the occurrence of Middle Saxon Ipswich ware sherds. The building(s) in Sites B and C cause some problems in dating, for although one of the slots contained a grass-tempered sherd and a rim of probable Pagan Saxon date, the slots also contained body sherds of either Ipswich or Thetford-type wares (the fabric of the two, at Exning at least, being very similar). The style of building with slots would also seem to favour a middle Saxon date at the earliest.<sup>10</sup> However the paucity of remains of middle Saxon date and the overwhelming majority of late Saxon material would seem to favour a late Saxon date for the occupation of the Saxon settlement at the moat site. Possibly the moat site was on the edge of the original settlement site, perhaps centred on the existing village of Exning, and with the expansion of the settlement in the late Saxon period the settlement expanded into the moat site area. The part of the settlement that lay in the moat site area may have been abandoned c.1075 following the putative ravaging of Exning in the tail of the Revolt of the Earls.

The next stage in the history of the site comes in the 13th century with the construction of the moat. The piece of 13th century jug fabric from the old ground surface beneath the mound and the fragments of a similar jug from the northern ditch section would seem to suggest a 13th century date for the construction of the mound. The 13th-14th century material from the moat is not very extensive and perhaps hints at a relatively short occupation, perhaps ending in the mid-14th century.

The owners of the main Exning manor, Exning Valence, seem to have been too important in the 13th to mid 14th century to have lived on a small moat like the Exning one. However, the owners of the small manor of Exning Well Hall would seem to have been of the right rank to have lived on such a moat. Philip de Welle had a capital messuage in Exning at the time of his death in 1332, and as he only held half a knight's fee he could not have been over wealthy, but perhaps wealthy enough to want the prestige of a small moated manor house.

Thus it is possible that the Exning moat was built by either Edward de Kemeseke or Philip de Welle at the latter end of the 13th century; and then perhaps abandoned after the death of William de Welle in 1349, when his daughter carried the manor to the Coggeshall family of Crowe Hall in Stutton.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Newmarket Estates and Property Co. Ltd., the then owners of the site, for allowing the excavation to take place. I would also like to thank Mr. S.E. West for all his help before, during and after the excavation. I would also like to thank Mr. J.G. Hurst for his advice on some of the pottery from the site.

<sup>10</sup>

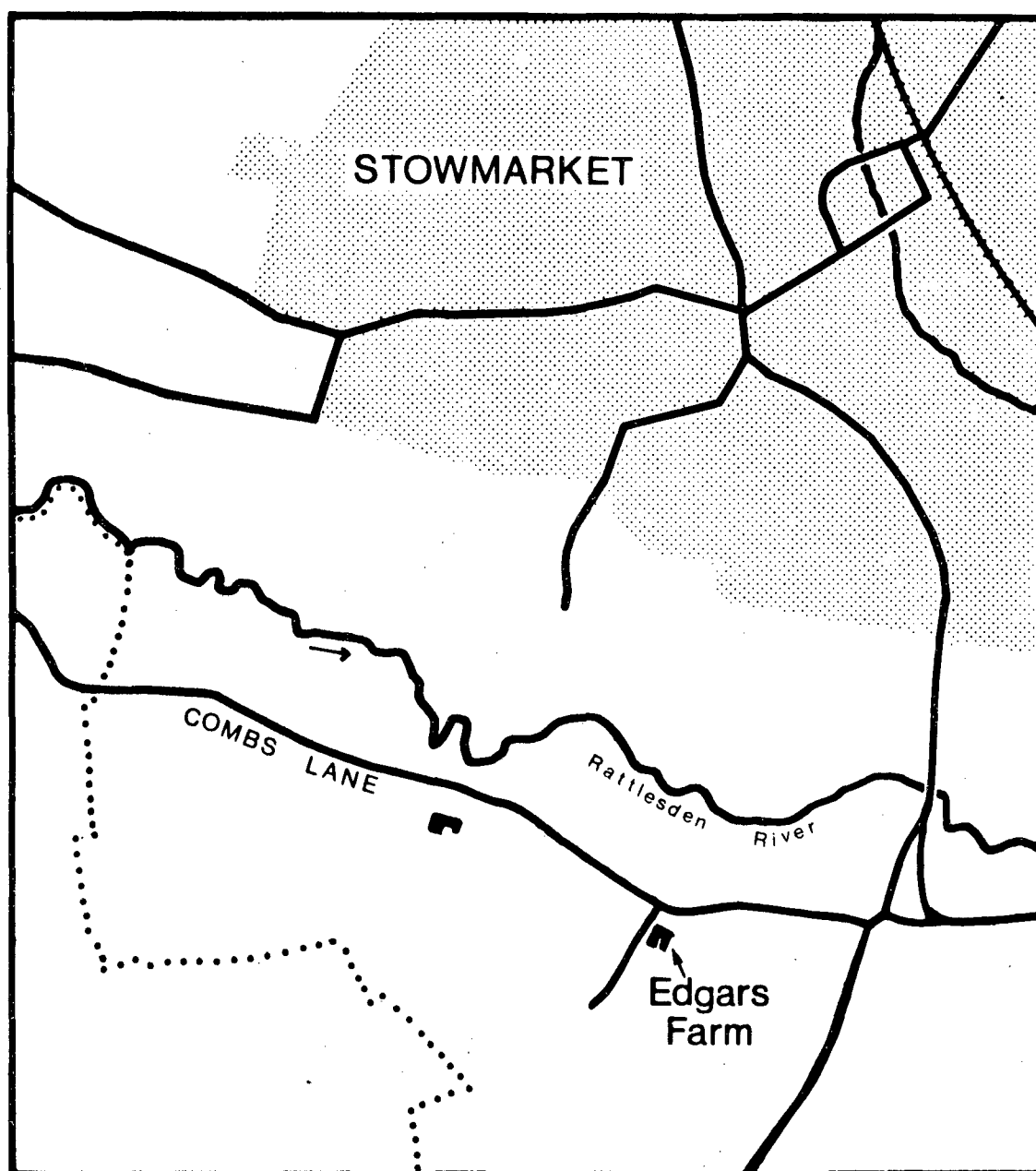
P.V. Addyman, 'The Anglo-Saxon house: a new review', in P. Clemoes (ed.) Anglo-Saxon England I, (1972).

# Edgar's Farm, Stowmarket : a reappraisal

By Sylvia Colman, B.Sc. (Econ.), and Stanley E. West, M.A., F.S.A.

## INTRODUCTION

The excavation of the site of Edgar's Farm and the structural analysis of the timber framed building during the course of its removal provided an unusual opportunity for the detailed examination of a Medieval site, with highly instructive results for both the below ground archaeology and the otherwise hidden aspects of the structure itself and its succeeding phases.



## Edgars Farm Stowmarket

Scale 0 1 Km

FIG.23 EDGAR'S FARM, STOWMARKET. Location map.

## PART I: THE EXCAVATION

Edgar's Farm was initially examined in 1958 by J.T. Smith of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments while the building was still occupied and many of the features obscured.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, in 1971, the medieval superstructure was removed to the Museum of Rural Life in East Anglia at Stowmarket and the opportunity was taken at that time to examine part of the site by excavation before development.

The site lies to the south of Stowmarket (TM 04695770), just above the flood plain of the small stream which flows east to join the Gipping below the town. The whole area has now been developed as a residential estate (FIG.23). In the time that was available it was only possible to open a trench down the centre of the structure and to examine the sites of the arcade posts forming the aisled hall. The floor area of the late 16th century wing at the north end of the aisled hall was also examined for traces of the third bay as suggested by Smith<sup>2</sup> (FIG.24). The excavation showed that the site had an earlier Medieval occupation with a number of shallow pits under the whole length of the structure, pottery ranging from the 12th to the early 14th centuries. These pits were found to be sealed in the area of the open hall with a layer of heavy clay 40 cm. thick and subsequently with a single layer of 19th century bricks.

The sites of the great arcade posts were, however, marked by pads of chalky blue clay, 6 in. thick. These pads were incorporated into the sealing layer of yellow clay over the earlier pits and it was this contrast in colour which enabled the sites of the missing posts to be determined. Post 4, and by inference, Post 8, were postulated by the remains of a clay pad in line with posts 1, 2 and 3 although the spacing is a little shorter. This lengthens the original building beyond the south wall shown in Smith's plan of the structure, which, incidentally, does not include the small outhouse shown on the

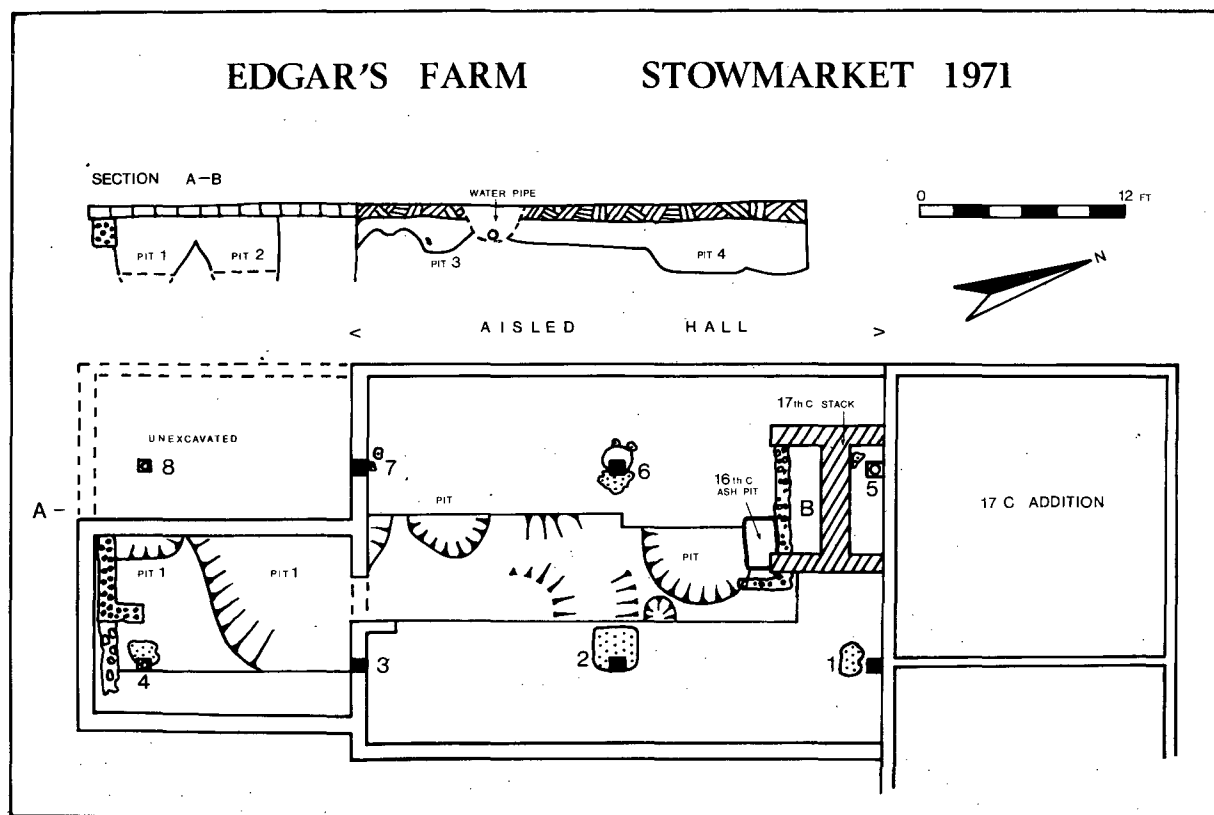


FIG.24. EDGAR'S FARM, STOWMARKET: Ground plan.

<sup>1</sup>J.T. Smith, 'A 14th Century Aisled House: Edgar's Farm, Stowmarket', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.*, Vol. XXVIII, Pt.1., (1959) pp.54-61.

<sup>2</sup>Smith, p.54.

photograph.<sup>3</sup> The significance of this is discussed in Part II of this article. Substantial rebuilding of this area is further indicated by the discovery of an end wall just beyond the site of Post 4, made of mortared flint, together with the base of a chimney of considerable size. This foundation with the chimney base, is inside the footing of the outhouse and must represent a modification of the original structure. Posts 3 and 7 had been underpinned by the brick foundation of the modified end of the building, but fragments of blue clay were found close to the site of no. 7. Post 6 had apparently been underpinned with an inserted mortar base, but large pieces of the original clay pad still survived. Post 5 had been removed at the time of the insertion of the 17th century chimney stack, but one fragment of blue clay still marked the approximate position of the post. The complete pad for Post 2 was roughly 2ft. 6in. square, bowl-shaped in section and 7 in. thick at the deepest point.

The pad for Post 1 had been damaged by the erection of the late 16th century wing but was still substantially there. The floor of this wing was removed, but no evidence was found for any continuation of the earlier building in that direction.

The excavation did not reveal any trace of a central hearth, although this could have been obscured by the flint foundation and ash-pit of a hearth and stack pre-dating the repositioned 17th century stack. This hearth and ash-pit were sited roughly in the centre of the first bay, but the extension of the footing of the rear wall to the west suggests an opening at least 8ft. wide, with the hearth central to the hall, but not to the base of the chimney. The ash-pit contained a fragment of 16th century Raeren stoneware and was filled with yellow clay contiguous with that covering the rest of the floor of the hall. The clay layer must therefore postdate the blue clay pads; the floor of the original hall being simply of trodden earth, levelled and clayed over when the 17th century stack was inserted. The dating of the clay floor may also indicate that the extension of the original building to the south, as shown by Posts 4 and 8, had already been modified by the 17th century, as the clay floor does not extend beyond Posts 3 and 7.

The dating of the structure within the 14th century has been broadly confirmed by the archaeological evidence from the excavated trench. Although scanty, the pottery from the site suggests an occupation at least as early as 1200 A.D.

## PART II: THE TIMBER FRAMED STRUCTURE

In the proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology for 1957, a short article by Mr. J.T. Smith made known the existence, in Edgar's Farmhouse, Stowmarket, of an aisled ground plan not hitherto found in Suffolk. The purpose of Mr. Smith's paper was not simply to draw attention to this important fact, but principally to deal in detail with the unusual hybrid nature of the house's roof-structure, in which long, passing braces, of the type already known to exist in 13th century aisled buildings, were combined with an arched-braced tie-beam, crown-post and collar purlin (FIG. 25). Not only was this, at that time, an unknown combination, but the passing braces themselves were doubled in a way only otherwise known at Fyfield Hall in Essex.

Because the roof-structure has already been dealt with so fully it would be superfluous repetition to describe it at further length here: but the stripping down and dismantling of the frame, prior to the re-erection of the two-bay hall of the house at the Abbot's Hall Museum in Stowmarket, and the subsequent excavation of the site on which it stood, provided an opportunity to assess other aspects of the structure which were previously concealed. This is the only instance so far in Suffolk where removal of a building has been followed by excavation of what lay below it.

The house as it stood immediately prior to dismantling was in three bays, with an inserted chimney-stack with two back-to-back hearths heating a parlour at the north end and a one-bay hall

<sup>3</sup>Note, the photograph of the exterior, in Smith, 1959. Pl. XV, opposite p. 54 is published in reverse.



to the south. The southernmost bay had been divided off to form a larder and a kitchen, heated by a stack on the end wall, and beyond them was a single-storey outhouse, not shown on any ground plans, and apparently of 19th century date. The open truss of the original two-bay hall, with its combined passing braces and crown-post, had become the dividing wall between the hall and kitchen on the ground floor, and between two bedrooms above. It was thought at that time that all three bays of the structure were aisled; but excavation provided no evidence that the north parlour end had ever formed part of the original house. It seemed simply to have been a 17th century extension, built in conjunction with the insertion of the chimney stack and the ceiling over the hall.

From the completely unaltered nature of the open truss it was clear that no realignment of the outer walls (a not uncommon occurrence in aisled buildings) had ever taken place; but the stripping down of the frame revealed such a high degree of replacement and alteration of its components that they provided less evidence than had been hoped of the basic layout of the hall. It was not possible to establish with certainty, the position of the hall windows, or of the doorways for the cross-entry. The remaining small sections of the original wallplates, and the few studs associated with them, indicated that the walling had had the characteristic multiple curved bracing and widely spaced studding of the 14th century. There had been considerable removal and replacement of rafters, especially of those over the aisles, where dormer windows had been inserted. The tops of the aisle rafters had been laid against the outer sides of the arcade plates without any jointing or pegging, and so were particularly easy to remove. The extent of alteration elsewhere made the unchanged state of the open truss itself all the more remarkable.

The only other part of the structure to be still relatively complete was the closed truss at the south end and the survival there of both the arcade posts, the central post, and part of the studding and bracing, enabled a confident reconstruction of it to be made at Abbot's Hall. The truss had been put together with a form of reversed assembly, the tie-beam resting directly on the tops of the arcade posts, and the arcade plates halved over the top of it, (see below, p. ). Both the arcade plates were some 30 feet long, and unjointed. This truss provided evidence that the original house had extended further southwards, into the area subsequently covered by the 19th century outhouse. On the outer face of both the arcade posts and the central post were the remains of mortise holes into which components for a further section of the building had been tenoned. Along the top of the tie-beam were housings for the ends of rafters.

There was evidence in the roof over the hall of a fire which had charred away the tops of the two passing braces, the collar over the crown post, and the whole of the collar-purlin over the south bay. A length of collar-purlin over the north bay had been neatly sawn off, but it was not clear whether this was also following fire damage, or for some other reason. The sawn off edge was smoke blackened. Less than three feet of the whole purlin remained in situ, immediately over the crown post, so that in effect the roof had become a rafter roof, without any lengthwise strengthening. It seemed that the virtual removal of the collar-purlin had taken place at an early stage in the house's existence, since the soffits of all the collars were uniformly soot-blackened, and showed no signs of where the purlin had been.

A seemingly much later and more extensive fire had charred the whole outer side of the eastern truss, and appeared likely to have caused the destruction of the missing end, but this is best dealt with after considering the evidence which the excavation provided.

The structural evidence is augmented, and a clearer idea of the layout of the original building obtained, by superimposing the main outlines of the house on to the plan of the excavated site (FIG.24). The flint and mortar foundations in the north bay of the hall, associated with an ash-pit dated to the 16th century, indicated that, as in a number of mediaeval houses, Edgar's Farm had by that date had a chimney stack with a single hearth inserted into the open hall. This was prior to the major reconstructions of the early 17th century, when the hall was ceiled over, and a larger stack built to heat the hall and the new parlour. It seems that the 16th century stack at Edgar's Farm was placed

over the site of the open hearth, and thus obliterated any evidence of it. The position of the fireplace is an indication that the north bay was the upper bay of the hall.

A very important point was the discovery that the arcade posts had been resting on specially prepared pads of blue clay. It is not surprising, though this is the first instance of definite evidence, to find that some special foundation was made for the arcade posts of the open truss: in aisled houses, as distinct from aisled barns, the feet of the posts in the open truss seem normally to have been free-standing (resting most probably on small transverse blocks of timber, which would have helped to prevent damp and rot rising) rather than tenoned into a ground sill. But it is somewhat unexpected that the blue pads should also have underlaid the arcade posts in the closed trusses, which, in a 14th century building of this quality, one would have expected to have ground sills, although no specific evidence for them has survived the 17th century alterations to the north truss, or the 19th century brick underpinning of the south.

Another pressing question was the initial form of the missing south end. It seemed likely to have combined the functions of solar and service, since excavation had demonstrated that no part of the original house had extended to the north of the hall, and the balance of evidence suggested that it had been in the form of a cross-wing, roofed at right angles to the hall. The position of clay pad no. 4 indicated a width of some 12 feet; the length, although more problematical, seemed unlikely to have been less than the width of the hall itself. The existing south truss had been designed to act both as the end wall of the hall and as the side wall of the wing. There were signs that the tie-beam, in order to fulfil its associated function of wallplate, had originally been longer, and was subsequently cut in size. Unfortunately the tie-beam was so badly damaged by fire that it was replaced during the re-erection of the building at Abbot's Hall. The use of reversed assembly in the south truss seems to have been bound up with its dual function.

A mortise on the east side of arcade Post 3 indicated the position of a doorhead for a doorway leading from the hall into the wing. There was no evidence that the ground floor of the wing was divided into more than one room, but its ceiling had had joists which ran into two main beams tenoned into mortises at the back of the arcade posts. The lower part of Post 7 was covered by 19th century brickwork for a chimney-stack, but in Post 3 a long, narrow, upward-sloping mortise at a lower level than those for the main ceiling-beams indicated that the beams were supported by arched braces (PL.2).

The form of the solar and roof was more complex to interpret. The remaining evidence was of housing for the feet of rafters along the top of the tie-beams, and upward-sloping mortise-holes on the backs of the two arcade posts and the central posts of the south truss, at the same level as the mortises for the braces to the arcade plates over the hall. Their upward-sloping form indicated that they were designed for arched braces, and there were signs on the tie-beam of the truss of the housing for a tie, which could have been supported by a brace from the central post. The use of reversed assembly for the arcade plates, however, seemed to preclude their continuation as tie-beams for the wing, supported by arched braces from the arcade posts. The explanation could be that, while the main truss of the wing had a tie-beam and arched braces in the normal way, there were also two intermediate trusses, on line with the arcade posts, which, instead of tie-beams, had arched braces to their collars. If this were so, it was a decorative feature rather than a structural necessity. It is, of course, quite impossible to say whether there was a crown-post and collar-purlin here, as over the hall, but there is the indication that the solar, as might perhaps be expected, was not without decorative elements.

The foundations for a hearth lying immediately to the south of the pad of blue clay (no. 4) indicated that at a later stage the ground floor of the cross-wing had been converted into a heated kitchen. It is harder to explain at what stage the flint and mortar walling was laid, and for what reason. It lay in a line with the back of the fireplace, and meant an enlargement, albeit marginal, of the total area. The simplest explanation would be that it represented a rebuilding after the extensive fire which,

as has been already mentioned, devastated this end of the house at some stage. To interpret it thus, however, is to leave unexplained the reason why the flint-walled structure was, in its turn, demolished and replaced by the single-storey outhouse which was there at the time of the house's dismantling. Similarly, if we explain the destruction of the later building as due to fire damage, we are left with no more satisfactory reason than that of deterioration through age for the disappearance of the timber framework from this end. On balance, however, there is more evidence for the fire being of a relatively late date. In the first place, it was almost certainly the loss of the kitchen which led to the division of the hall on the line of the open truss, and the creation of a kitchen and larder in the former southern bay. This rearrangement had all the marks of the 19th century about it. And secondly, it seems that the fire not only destroyed the end bay of the house, and seriously charred the south truss, but that it also swept into the roof over the hall itself. The first six pairs of rafters at the south end were thin, sawn, replacements, set on edge, with a long, narrow ridge-piece; this is very late work, and again the implication is of a 19th century conflagration.

A final matter to be touched on is that of the building's date. Taking into consideration only its composite structural form, Mr. J.T. Smith suggested that the house belonged to the early 14th century. The material which was recovered from below the foundations showed that there had been some sort of continuous use of the site prior to, and into, the 14th century. At the time of publication in 1959, Mr. Leslie Dow, in an editorial footnote, pointed out that the name of the farmhouse could well be an indication of ownership by the Edgar family, some of whom had had property in Combs, the parish in which the house stood, until the realignment of boundaries in 1934. Further documentary investigation by Mr. Norman Scarfe has confirmed the connection: the farm belonged to the Adgor family in 1437. In The Suffolk Landscape (p.210) Mr. Scarfe suggests that the present house may have been a rebuilding following the acquisition of more land in the vicinity by John and Ascelina Adgor in 1342 and 1346. There is no conclusive proof one way or the other, but the possibilities are strong; it seems that we have to extend the overall potential date range for the building into the second and third quarters of the 14th century. It is interesting to find a house of this age retaining a form of its original name. It is also noteworthy that no other example of a similar composite roof-structure has been found in Suffolk since Edgar's Farmhouse was first discovered some 18 years ago.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was financed by the D.o.E. and thanks are extended to Mr. G.I. Moss and Mr. J. Rolfe who assisted in the excavation. The photograph, Plate 2, is copywrite of the Royal Commission of Historical Monuments and the main truss was drawn by Mr. S.R. Jones. The authors are indebted to Mr. J.T. Smith for advice and comment throughout.

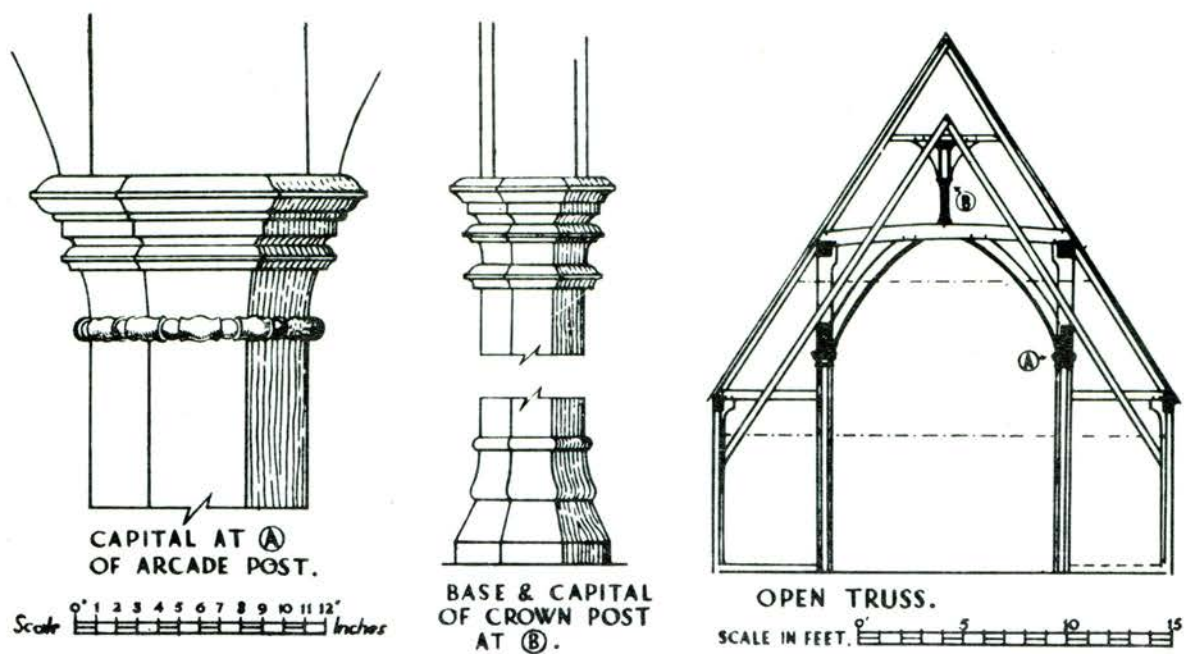
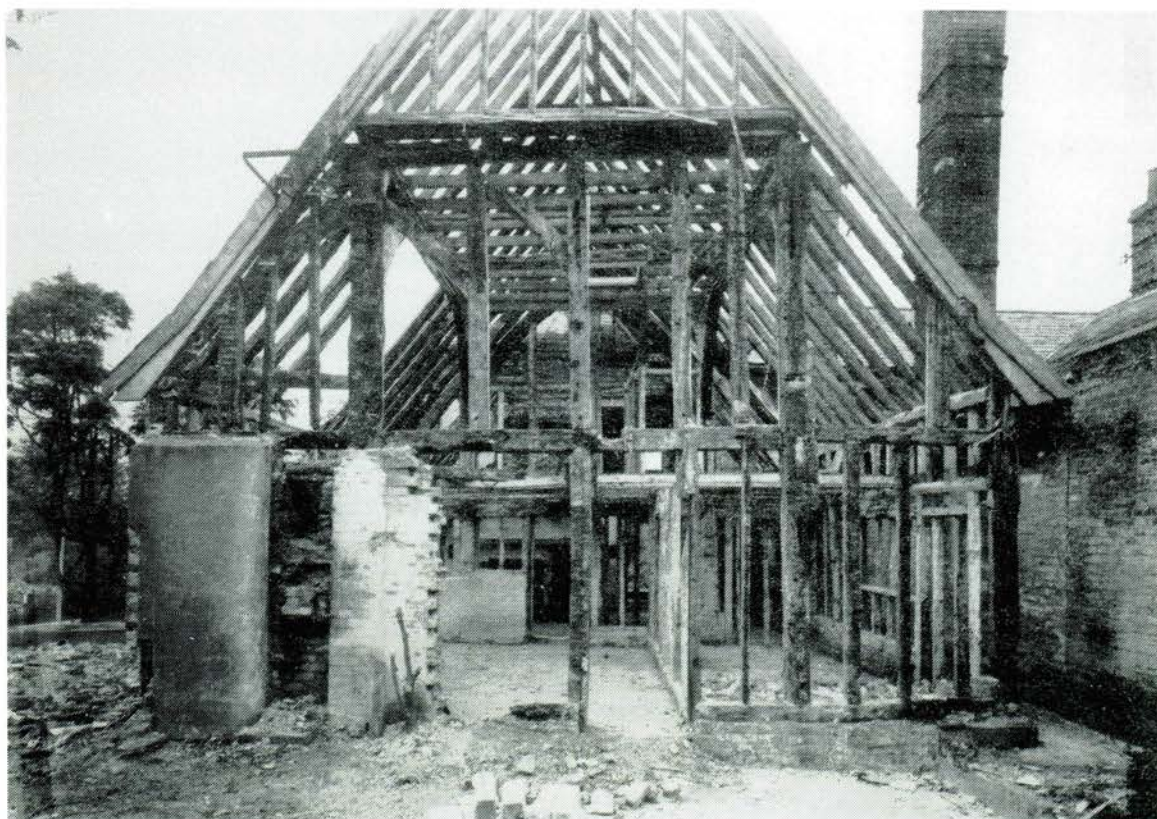


FIG.25. EDGAR'S FARM, STOWMARKET  
The open truss



PL.2 EDGAR'S FARM STOWMARKET  
View of closed truss at south end of the hall

# The archaeological potential of Bury St. Edmunds

BY R.D. CARR, B.A.

## AIMS AND INTERESTS

The subject of this report is the history of the settlements on the site of the present town of Bury Saint Edmunds. It is felt that at this time of rapid expansion and development, an assessment of the archaeological problems and possibilities, together with a considered judgement of the need for excavation and survey work, is required.

The problems considered are those which archaeology alone can answer. It is felt that as money for archaeological work is so restricted, problems which may be elucidated by conventional historical methods should be left untouched by the archaeologist. Consequently our main efforts should be limited to problems related to the earliest settlement, the growth of the town, and a general interest in social and economic life, evidence for which is almost entirely lacking even in the historic 'period'.<sup>1</sup> There is, therefore, no attempt to cover the history of the town after the 13th century. General economic background evidence from this later period is bound to come as a by-product of any excavation in the town.

The geographical area covered is that lying within the walls of the medieval town, and a limited amount of the development along the roads leading out of the town. In practice most interest is taken in the area of the grid street pattern, and the less regularly planned area between this and the River Linnet. The areas shown on the illustrations are restricted to these limits, and consequently do not include the South Gate, the four hospitals outside the walls, or Babwell Friary.

## GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The hill beneath the town is of chalk, overlain by glacial deposits. On the slopes to the east and west of the town the chalk outcrops, but there are extensive deposits of sand and gravel on the higher ground. The valleys of the Lark and Linnet dominate the topography of the area, and their gravel terraces of well drained, light soils were probably one of the features which attracted early settlers.

The Lark, to the east of the town, flows through a series of water meadows; 'Nomans-Meadows' and 'Babwell Fen'. It is joined to the south of the town by the Linnet flowing through 'Holywater' and 'Great Sextons Meadows', and to the north by a valley draining into 'Tayfen'. Not only have these river valleys provided ample water for the settlement, but they also formed physical limits to the development of the town, acting as defences on three sides of the town boundary. Between these three low lying and originally marshy areas there is the chalk hill on the edge of which the early settlement was situated, and along which the present town has expanded (FIG.26).

The town was, and is, the natural centre for the surrounding area. To the north the Breckland, with the exception of its valleys, was probably a rather barren area. The Fens, to the West, are only thinly populated beyond the dense occupation at the marsh fringes. The area to the south and east, however, was one of the more densely populated areas of the country, and a great source of wealth to the town.

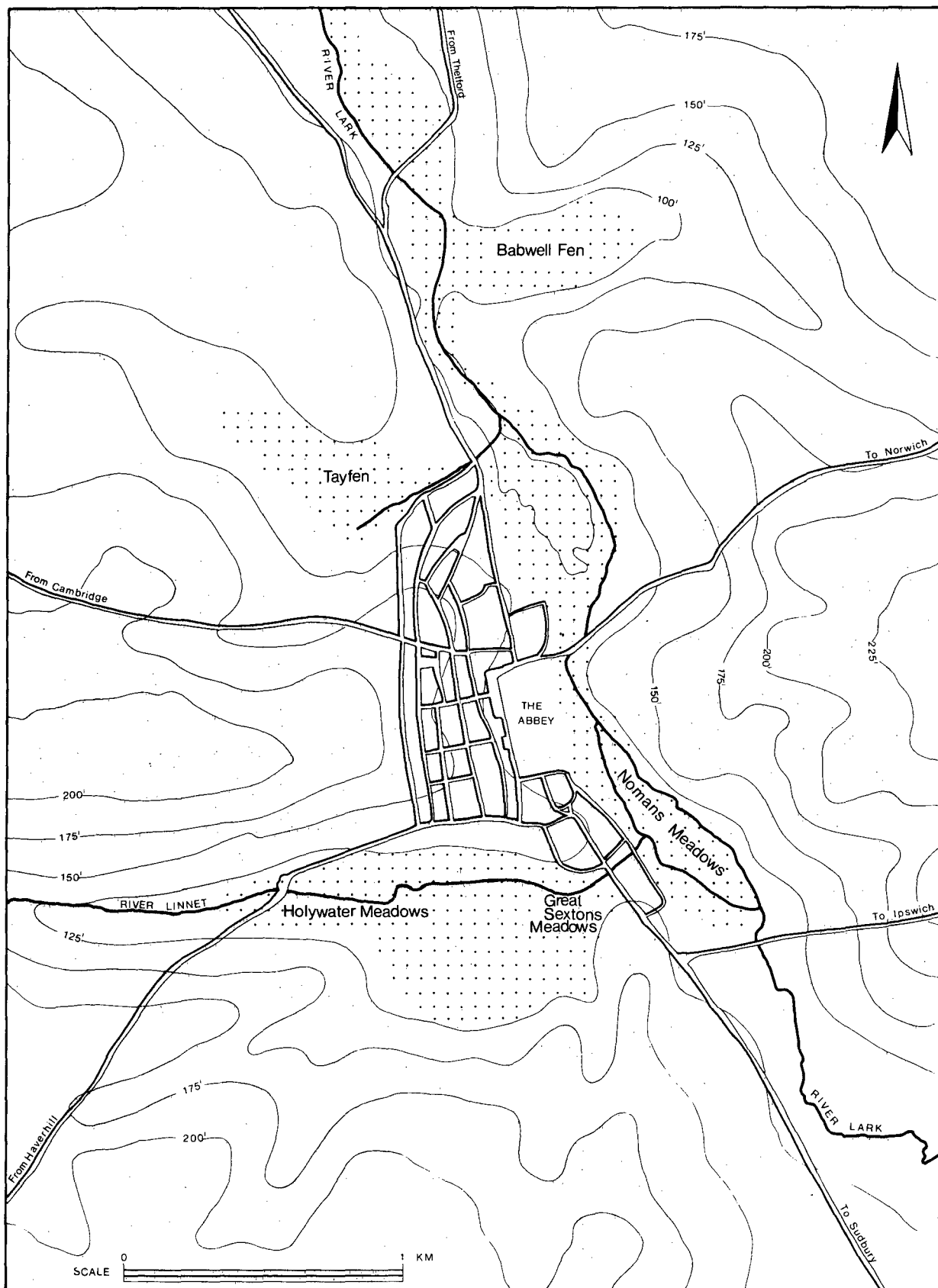
Communications are good, for although Bury is not on any of the through routes of the country, it is well served by East Anglian roads, and is centrally placed for traffic with all the other important early towns of the region.

## THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN

The early history of Bury is very thin. Like all contemporary towns the few facts have to be expanded to an extraordinary degree, and are the subject of great speculation.

<sup>1</sup>M.D. Lobel, *'The Borough of Bury Saint Edmunds'*, 1935, p.xi. The most useful book, it is a source of information used throughout the section on the history of the town.





..... Marsh Land

BURY ST EDMUNDS

TOPOGRAPHY

FIG.26

We do not know when the settlement was founded. Its name 'Bedericsworth' first occurs in a 10th century document which refers back to the 7th century. The stem is the simple personal name Beaduric, with the common place name element 'worth'.<sup>2</sup> Early references to Bedericsworth are all related to its ecclesiastical function; it seems to be the place where King Sigebert of the East Angles founded a small monastery, to which he subsequently retired in about 633. There is no further record of the place until about 903 when King Edmund's body was moved there.

The events preceding the translation of the body are of some interest. Abbo of Fleury, in his life of King Edmund the Martyr, written in about 988, records the murder of the Saint in 870 at a place now fairly confidently identified as Hellesdon, a village near the major Saxon settlement of Norwich. What happened to the Martyr's body is a matter of dispute; Abbo implies that it was buried near the scene of the martyrdom, while Herman, writing in the 11th century names Sutton, possibly the royal burial ground at Sutton Hoo.<sup>3</sup> The records agree that about 903 the Martyr's remains were translated to Bedericsworth. This is a very significant move. Both Sutton, with its royal connections, and Hellesdon, within three miles of Norwich, were important places, and it seems strange that the body of a nationally important figure, featured in a series of silver pennies which were current throughout England,<sup>4</sup> should be translated to a little known settlement. Bedericsworth must have some hidden importance to explain its acquirement of the Saint's body.

An explanation of this problem may lie in Abbo's description of the settlement as a 'royal vil'. Quite what was the status of a villa regia is very hard to know. They were important institutions, and it is possible that they acted in some way as the capital of a hundred, or group of hundreds, at a time when these were the chief administrative and legal divisions of the country.<sup>5</sup>

The problem of the early history of the town is quite impenetrable at the moment. Clearly it was a highly important settlement. All the evidence suggests that after the building of a monastery by King Sigebert there was some special relationship between Bedericsworth, the Crown and the Church.

In the 10th century we have a little more information about the circumstances of the settlement. Its geld contribution, probably for Ethelred II, was high, the equivalent of one quarter of one hundred. In the late 10th century King Edward the Martyr set up a mint in Bedericsworth. This in itself implies a degree of wealth for the settlement. Further, it is possible that the laws of Athelstan, which state that mints may only be situated in boroughs, had continued to be enforced since early in the century.<sup>6</sup> Bedericsworth by this time must have been accorded tacit recognition as a notable trading centre, even if it was not formally described as a town.

The Danish raids late in the century must have had some considerable effect on the town, but although we read in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of Ipswich, Norwich and Thetford being sacked, there is no mention of Bury. Later chronicles of the abbey, however, record that the body of the Saint was moved to safety in London at this time. When the country settled down under a Danish king the town found a new wealth. It was at about this time that the name of the settlement changes from Bedericsworth to Sanctae Edmundes Stow, an event which must surely be associated with the establishment of a Benedictine community in the town to watch over the tomb of the Saint. Certainly the change coincides with the dedication of the round church built by Cnut.<sup>7</sup> By early in the 11th century the name seems to be generally accepted as Sanctae Edmundes Byrig,<sup>8</sup> the key change being the addition of 'bury', for this clearly denotes its recognition as a town.

<sup>2</sup> E. Ekwall, *'A Concise Dictionary of English Place Names'*, 1935.

<sup>3</sup> R. Rainbird Clarke, *'East Anglia'*, 1960, p.156.

<sup>4</sup> C.E. Blunt, *'The Saint Edmund Memorial Coinage'*, *P.S.I.A.* 31 (1969).

<sup>5</sup> H.M. Cam. *'The Hundred and the Hundredal Manor'*, *Eng. Hist. Rev.*, 187 (1932), p.352-376.

<sup>6</sup> Lobel, 1935, p.3.

<sup>7</sup> Information suggested by Mrs. M. Statham.

<sup>8</sup> Ekwall, 1935.

From the time of Cnut we have sources which record the granting of a charter giving the abbey control over the town and its immediate environs, and making it exempt from the payment of geld to the Crown. At about the same time the monastery was granted freedom from the episcopal control of the Bishop of East Anglia. William of Malmesbury records that a ditch was ordered to be built to protect the lands surrounding Edmund's tomb.

By the time of Edward the Confessor the town was certainly a borough. Many later medieval charters refer back to him as the originator of some of the privileges of the town. In 1044 the abbey was granted the Liberty of the soke of 8½ hundreds (FIG.27), the foundation of its pre-eminent wealth at a later date. There was a market and a mint, and the customs of the town show it to be a thriving economic community.

Domesday Book records a startling growth of the borough; '...now the town is contained in a greater circle, including land which then used to be ploughed and sown .....Now altogether [there are] 342 houses in desmene land of Saint Edmund which was under plough TRE.' In all, the Domesday record seems to show that Bury doubled in both population and acreage in the period between 1066 and 1086. Lobel's computation of the size of the borough, although perforce based on the notoriously unreliable figures of Domesday, would put the number of houses in the town in 1086 at about 540. Comparison of this figure with those listed by Stephenson would place the town in the fifth position in his population ranking for the country.<sup>9</sup>

From the time of Domesday onwards the historical record is complete enough to stand on its own. There are rentals and accounts, with the chronicles to fill in the political history of the town.

Perhaps the one feature of the town to appear after the Domesday survey is the town defences. These are first referred to by Malmesbury when he records the building of a wall around the lands surrounding Edmund's tomb at the time of Cnut. How this is to be interpreted it is impossible to say but it seems unlikely to be the exact predecessor of the later defences, first referred to in the 12th century when the Sacrist, Hervey, built a wall and ditch around the town.

The wall itself has been completely lost, but its line is preserved in property boundaries running to the east of Saint Andrew's Street, and then turning east along the edge of Tayfen. This stretch of the wall was confirmed by excavations carried out by Mr. S.E. West,<sup>10</sup> but there was unfortunately no dating from the section. There are various theories of the rest of the town being enclosed within a ditch, which connected the West and South gates. Certainly the rentals of early medieval date mention ditches outside both these gates, but there is no sign of them on the ground, and it seems that since both gates are near marshy land the ditches mentioned may well be for drainage.

The stone gate houses guarding the five routes in and out of the town were pulled down between 1762 and 1765, 'to make room for more traffic'.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BURY AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

The amount of archaeological work done in the town of Bury is negligible. The ruins of the abbey church and some ancillary buildings have been partially uncovered,<sup>11</sup> and a section cut across the town defences.<sup>12</sup> There has been a record of commercial excavations for buildings and services only since the Suffolk Archaeological Unit was formed in 1974.

There have been a number of chance finds from building operations in the neighbourhood of the town. These have great value since they give what seems to be quite a full picture of the area immediately before the supposed date of the foundation of Bedericsworth. Contrary to some earlier

<sup>9</sup>Lobel, 1935, p.15.

<sup>10</sup>S.E. West, 'The Excavation of the Town Defences at Tayfen Road', *P.S.I.A.*, 32 (1970).

<sup>11</sup>Gilyard-Beer, 'The Eastern arm of the Abbey Church at Bury Saint Edmund', *P.S.I.A.*, 31 (1969) and A.B. Wittingham, 'Bury Saint Edmunds Abbey', *Arc. J.*, 108, (1951).

<sup>12</sup>West, 1970.



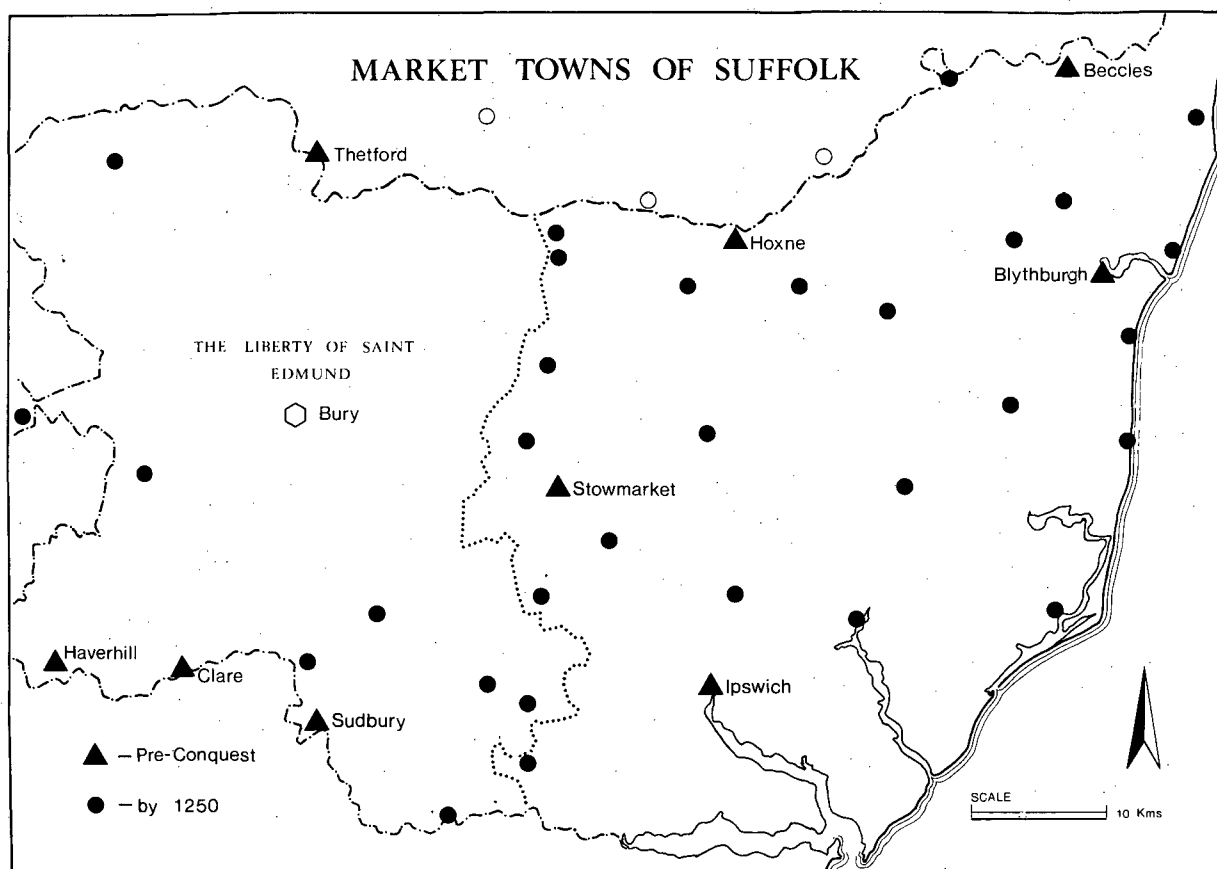


FIG.27. The Market Towns of Suffolk.

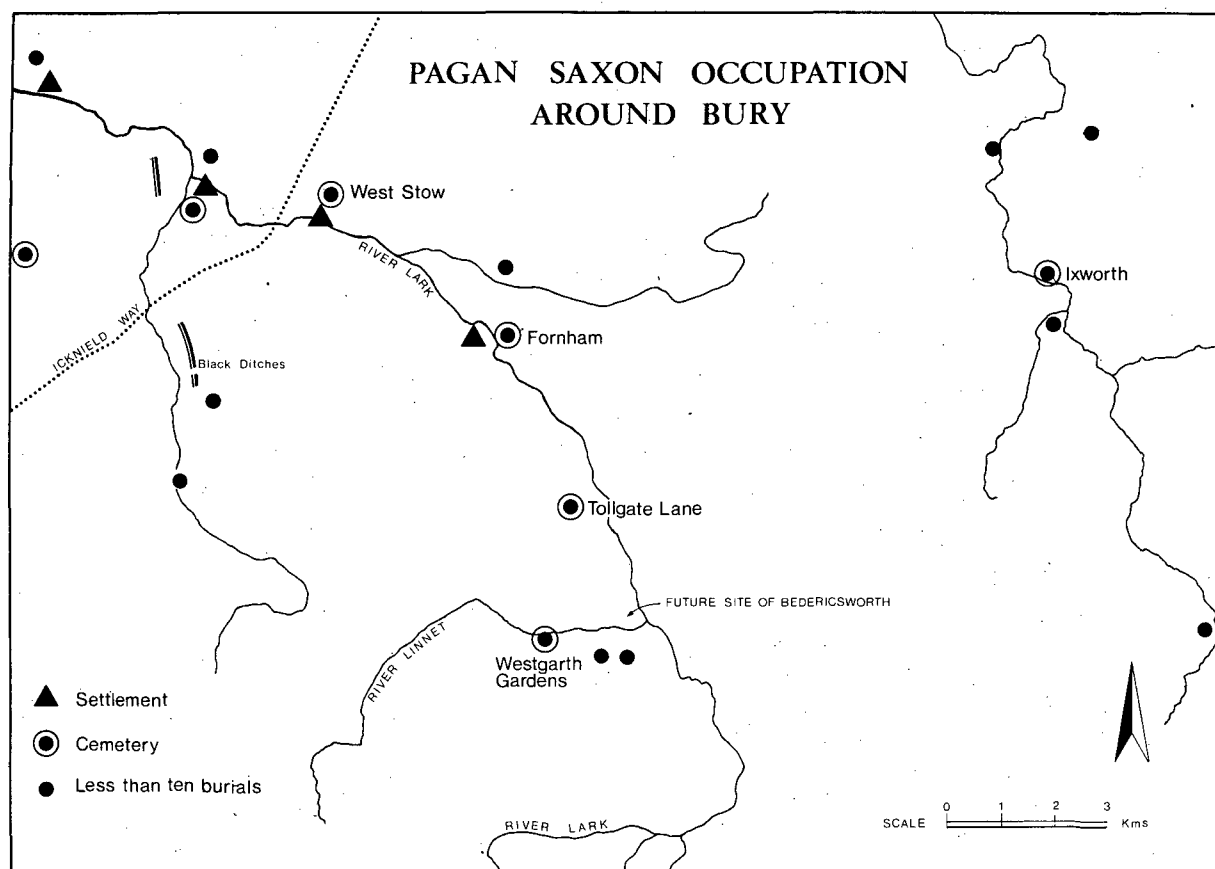


FIG.28. Pagan Saxon occupation around Bury St. Edmunds;

claims by antiquarians there is no evidence for a Roman predecessor to the town. For the Pagan Saxon period there is, however, quite a large amount of information (FIG.28). One inhumation cemetery has been partially excavated at Westgarth Gardens, just south west of the present work, but is not yet published. A small number of inhumations were found on Hardwick Lane, south of the town, and to the north about thirty skeletons have been recovered from the Tollgate Lane area. A further four cemeteries and three settlement sites are known from the valley of the River Lark, north of the town.

The location of the settlements which served the cemeteries near Bury is not known. But since they are all outside the natural boundaries of the later settlement it seems unlikely that they were directly related to any predecessors of Bedericsworth. They indicate quite a dense population in the immediate area, and provide a potentially useful body of background information for the early history of the town.

## SUBJECTS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The two major areas untouched by historical sources are the origins and character of the pre-Conquest town, and the economic life of the expanded Monastic town.

We know from the Domesday Book that the town was rapidly expanded after the Conquest on to lands which had been under plough in the time of the Confessor. Consequently we are confronted with the problem of identifying the old and new sections of the town. In reality this does not seem to difficult to achieve. The strikingly regular street pattern to the west of the abbey has come to be accepted as the 'new town'. There are three arguments for this; firstly that the mother church of the town, St. Mary's, is known to have been moved when the abbey church was rebuilt in the 11th century.<sup>13</sup> One assumes that it had occupied its original position for some considerable time, and also that it occupied a site at the heart of the Saxon town. Secondly, St. Mary's Square, formerly the Horsemarket, is sometimes referred to in medieval deeds and rentals as the 'old market', implying that it pre-dates the Great Market of Baldwin's post-Conquest town.<sup>14</sup> Finally, it is clear that the rather disorganised street pattern south of the abbey precinct is quite different from the regular grid pattern.

It seems certain that the earliest settlement stretched along the west bank of the River Lark, and that most of it has been covered by buildings, and the graveyard, in the abbey precincts. The area around St. Mary's Square, and down Southgate Street, probably represents a remaining fragment of the Saxon town. As can be seen from the historical survey, virtually nothing is known of the town at this time, and excavation almost anywhere in the suspected area of the Saxon town would be worthwhile.

Perhaps the most notable feature of the later monastic town is that from 1044 it was the capital town of the Liberty of Saint Edmunds. The economic and legal life of the area centred on this one town. The abbey created a monopoly situation by suppressing the development of other markets in the Liberty. We find that there are only eleven other towns by 1200, and that these are well away from Bury, near the boundary of the Liberty. Over the rest of the country one would expect towns to be springing up very fast in the 12th and 13th centuries. A situation such as this must have had a significant and unusual effect on the archaeological record.

The archaeology of Thetford, the second or third most important Saxon town in East Anglia, shows that early in the medieval period occupation south of the River Thet became less and less dense, while the town north of the river, which had been of very secondary importance throughout the Saxon period, became pre-eminent, with the main market and the castle. It is possible that this move was made because the area south of the river became part of the Liberty of Saint

<sup>13</sup>N. Scarfe, *'The Suffolk Landscape'*, 1972, p.97.

<sup>14</sup>Information from Mrs. M. Statham.

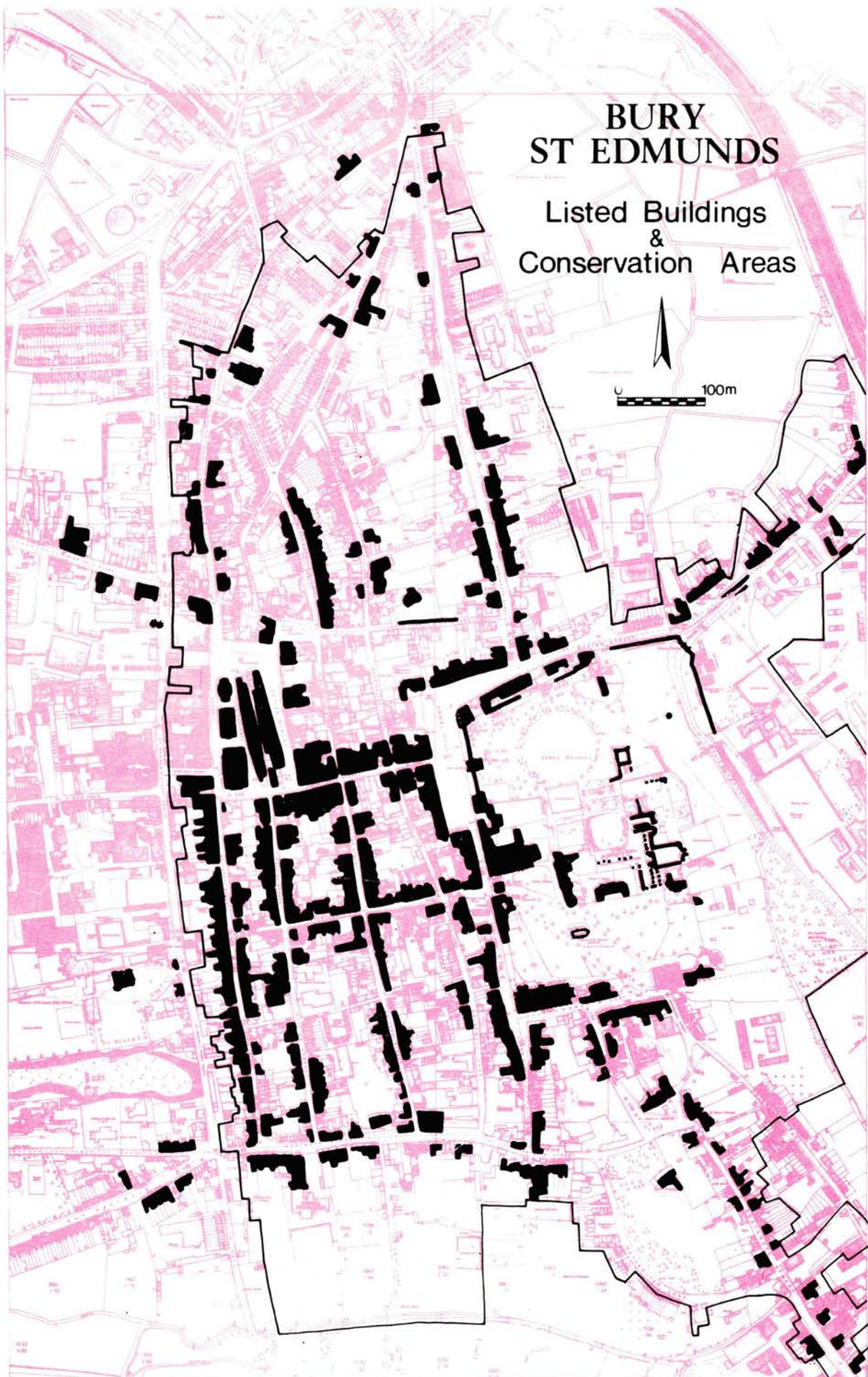


FIG.29 BURY ST. EDMUNDS. Listed buildings and conservation areas



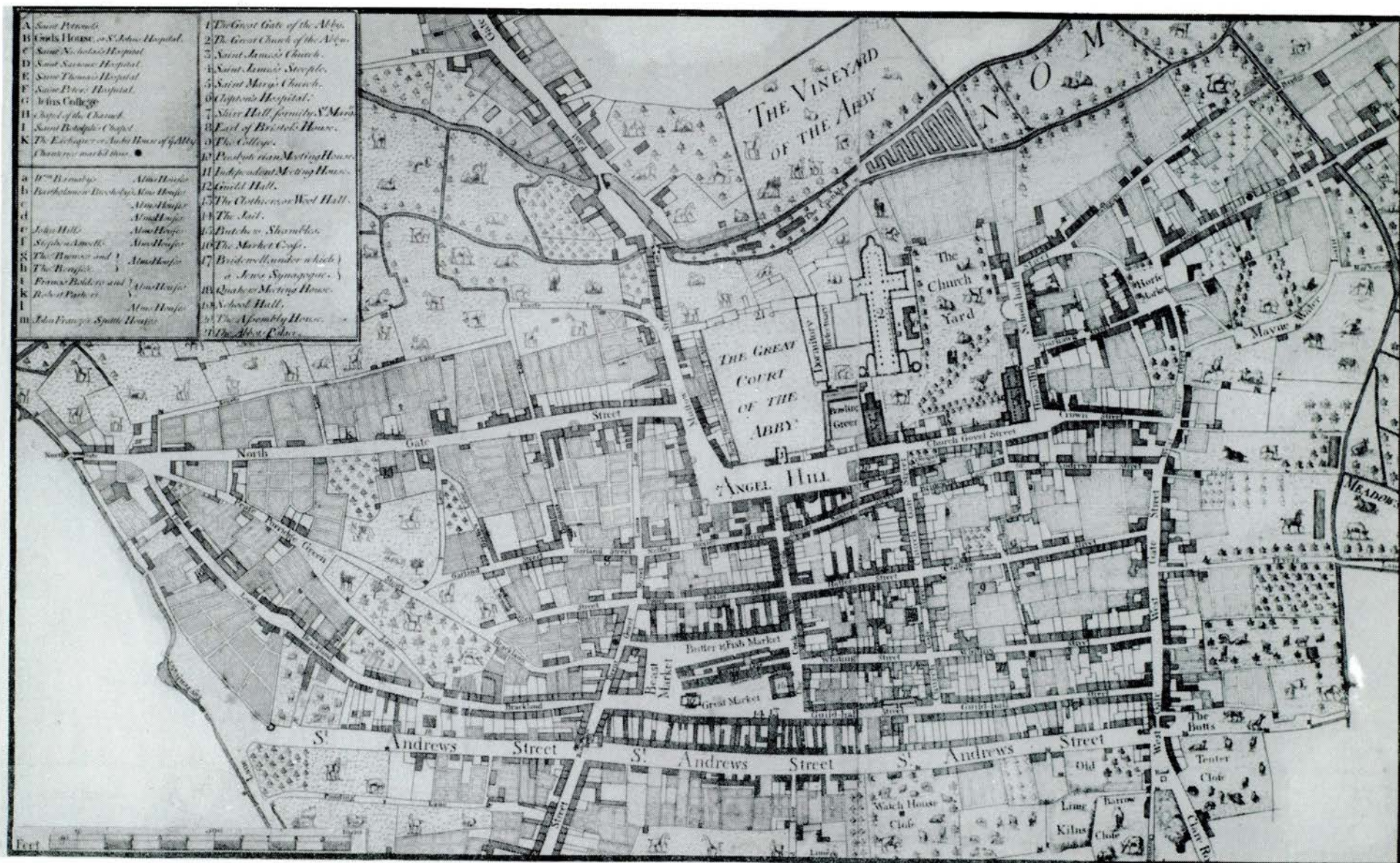


FIG.30. BURY ST. EDMUNDS Warren's Map of Bury in 1776





BURY ST. EDMUNDS. Threatened and damaged areas

Edmund. If so it is a striking example of the influence of the abbey and its powers.

The monopoly of trade in the Liberty should allow the archaeologist to make valuable comparisons between the known trading sphere of the abbey, and the actual, physical, remains found in excavation. There should also be considerable information to be gained from comparisons between Bury and other towns which did not benefit from such a rigidly controlled sphere of influence.

## CONSERVATION AND LISTED BUILDINGS

Bury Saint Edmunds is a remarkably well preserved town. There has been very little building in the historic core of the town in this century (FIG.31). Comparisons between the present day Ordnance sheet and the map of Warren produced in 1776, and almost identical to his first edition thirty years before (FIG.30), show that very little has changed in the past 200 years. The bulk of the town houses and shops are of medieval to early 19th century date.

The number of listed buildings (FIG.29) bears witness to the value of the town's architecture. Practically the whole of the area which is of archaeological interest is enclosed within the conservation area designated in 1970 (FIG.29).

Ironically this situation, where large areas of the town are subject to orders which limit development, does not remove the need for archaeological work. The limited amount of building which will be allowed to take place in the future will offer a very rare opportunity to investigate the archaeology of the town. All development, even of single house site, must be regarded with the same seriousness as the wholesale gutting which can occur in medieval towns not so fortunate in their degree of protection.

## DAMAGE AND DEVELOPMENT

As is noted above, the degree of damage by recent development is slight, and buildings in the future will be strictly controlled. However, some damage has been done, particularly around the area of the Great Market. In Fig.31 the buildings of this century have been separated out as those which, as a group, have the heaviest foundations and which are most frequently built in a levelled terrace cut into the slope of the hill. This terracing may be a special problem in the western part of town, where recent observation suggests that the depth of deposit on the chalk is very slight. As a result even minor levelling may have removed all archaeological deposits. This situation may pertain elsewhere in the town, but as yet the opportunity to establish this has not arisen.

In addition to the damage caused by recent buildings it must be noted that a very high proportion of the houses in the old parts of the town have cellars (FIG.31). Those plotted on the maps are those which can be seen from the street, and consequently the underground extent is not known nor are those which have been blocked up recognised. Finally, cellars cannot be dated from the street, a complicating factor when medieval undercrofts are known to exist under buildings on the Buttermarket, Abbeygate Street, and Angel Hill. From the archaeological point of view the building of a cellar is bound to be destructive, very often of the most interesting area of any tenement, the street frontage.

Recent development in the town is mostly happening in the modern areas of the town where it does not pose a threat to the archaeology. The sites marked on Fig.31 are a combination of those with planning permission, those where planning applications are being considered, and some areas where permission has not been sought, but which are considered likely areas for development.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The content of this survey suggests the need for excavation in the Saxon area of the town with the intent of clarifying its dimensions, its origins, and the standard of economic and social life. These aims could be satisfied by work in almost any area of the Saxon town.

There must also be excavations on sites within the area of the post-Conquest town to provide us with material which will allow us to begin thinking about the economic life of the town. Sites which suggest themselves for this purpose are those where the regularity of the street pattern is disturbed, as in Angel Lane, and Bridewell Lane, which have clearly moved to the east, probably marooning a well preserved street frontage, and a section of road.

Since only a comparatively small amount of development is likely to occur in the near future it seems that Bury would not justify the services of a full time field archaeologist. It is, however, clear that, in addition to excavation, a very close check should be kept on all developments within the town, both at the planning stage, and by close observation of building work.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to the staff of the Planning Department, Saint Edmundsbury Borough Council, for the provision of up-dated Ordnance Survey maps, and information about planning applications. Discussions with Mr. S.E. West were the source of many ideas which have subsequently found their way into the text. Mrs. M. Statham of the Bury Record Office was kind enough to read through the historical survey section, and make one or two suggestions.

# The origin and development of Ipswich : an interim report

By Stephen Dunmore, B.A., Vic Gray, M.A., Thomas Loader, B.A., and Keith Wade, B.A.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1973 Ipswich, the Archaeological Implications of Development was published.<sup>1</sup> This report reviewed the archaeological evidence accumulated from Ipswich in the past and made recommendations for an archaeological policy in the future to meet the threat of continuing redevelopment in the town.

Following its creation in April 1974, The Suffolk Archaeological Unit initiated a full-time archaeological survey into the origins and development of Ipswich, in conjunction with the County Council and the Ipswich Borough Council. Since that time a series of excavations and watching briefs have been carried out on Saxon and Medieval sites prior to redevelopment (FIG.32). Work has also been started on a study of the documentary evidence, under the direction of Mr. V. Gray, and research into the standing buildings by Mrs. S. Colman.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

### History of Archaeological Research

Archaeological finds, principally Saxon and Medieval pottery, have been collected in Ipswich since the late 19th century. In the early part of this century Miss Nina Layard was active both in the collection and the recording of archaeological material. In 1906 she excavated the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Hadleigh Road<sup>2</sup> and later recorded a redevelopment on the site of the Carmelite Friary in the centre of the town.<sup>3</sup> The first systematic excavations carried out in advance of redevelopment were those, under the auspices of the then Ministry of Works, at Cox Lane in 1958<sup>4</sup> and at Shire Hall Yard, where a section was taken across the surviving portion of the town ramparts in 1959.<sup>5</sup> The Ipswich Borough Museum excavated the sites of two Late Saxon kilns in 1961,<sup>6</sup> and examined the foundations of the Westgate in 1967<sup>7</sup> and a portion of Wolsey's College in 1974.

### The Middle Saxon Town

The first documentary references to Ipswich and to Stoke (to the south of the River Orwell) occur in the 10th century,<sup>8</sup> but the archaeological evidence demonstrates settlement from the 7th century, indicated by at least two sceattas and considerable quantities of Ipswich ware.

The early settlement appears to have had important industrial and commercial functions, of which the most important was pottery manufacture. There is evidence of bone-working, metal-working and weaving in middle Saxon Ipswich, but no evidence as yet that these were marketed outside Ipswich. The production of Ipswich ware, however, as evidenced by wasters and the remains of kilns in the

<sup>1</sup> The Scole Committee, Ipswich, the Archaeological Implications of Development, (1973).

<sup>2</sup> A. Ozanne, 'the Content and Date of the Anglian Cemetery at Ipswich', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., XXIX, (1962), 208-212.

<sup>3</sup> N.F. Layard, 'Recent discoveries on the site of the Carmelite Convent of Ipswich, and the Old River Quay', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., X, (1899), 183-188.

<sup>4</sup> S.E. West, et al., 'Excavations at Cox Lane (1958) and at the Town Defences, Shire Hall Yard, Ipswich (1959)', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., XXIX, (1963), 233-303.

<sup>5</sup> West, (1963).

<sup>6</sup> Norman Smedley and Elizabeth Owles, 'Some Suffolk Kilns: IV. Saxon Kilns in Cox Lane', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., XXIX, (1963), 304-335.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Owles, 'The West Gate of Ipswich', Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol., XXXII, (1971), 164-167.

<sup>8</sup> West, (1963), 236.

<sup>9</sup> West, (1963), 246-249.



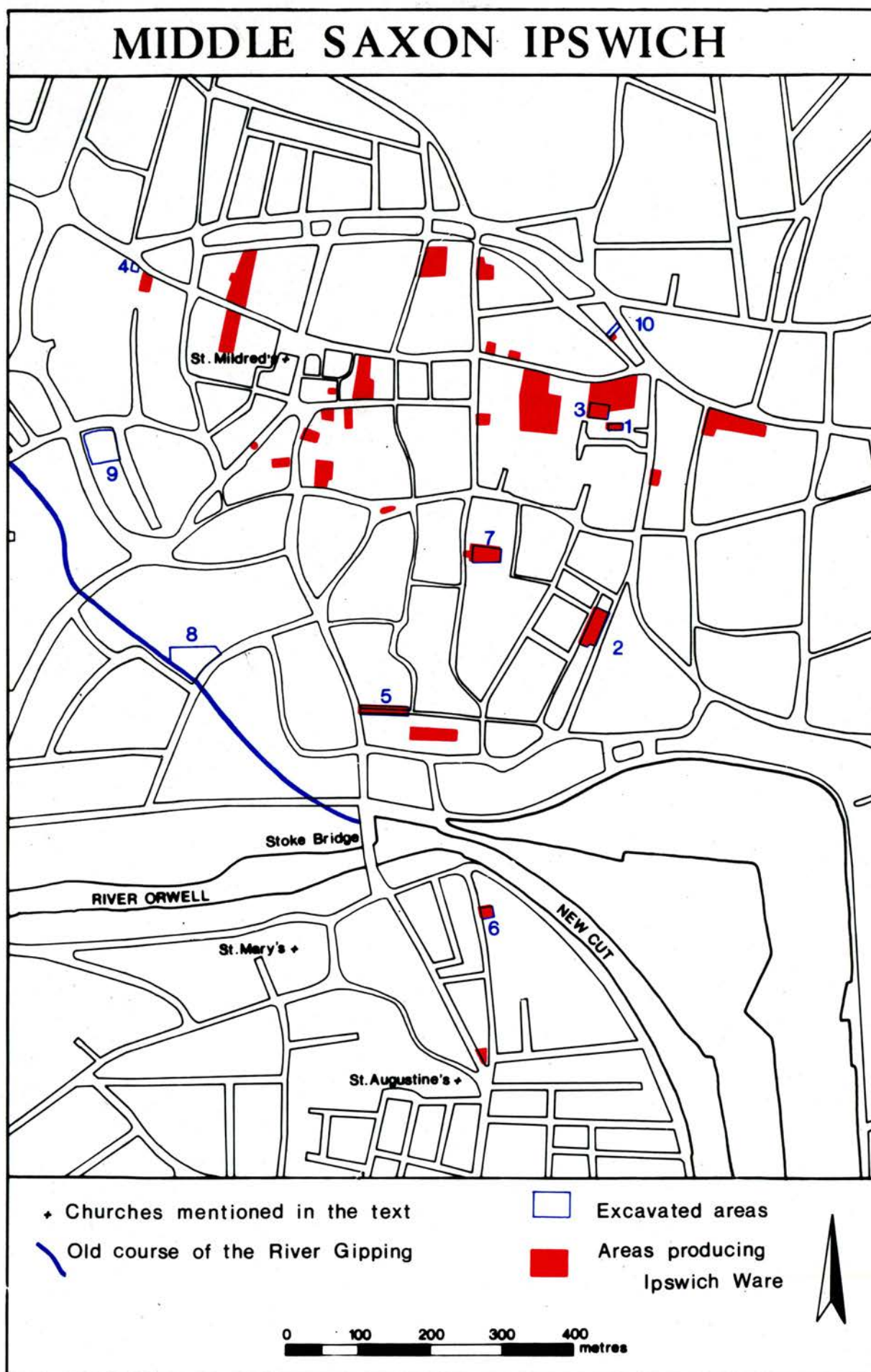


FIG.32 Middle Saxon Ipswich

Cox Lane area,<sup>10</sup> appears to have been a specialist industry of some magnitude. The widespread distribution of Ipswich ware over Eastern England (FIG.33)<sup>11</sup> is not only a quantitative measure of the industry, but also perhaps an indication of the 'zone of influence' of Ipswich at this early period.

The distribution map of Ipswich-type ware in Eastern England (FIG.33) is the first revision of that published by J.G. Hurst in 1958.<sup>12</sup> It is, however, provisional in that it was compiled to a large extent on the basis of museum records, and that the material itself has not been examined. It should also be treated as a distribution of Ipswich-type ware until scientific examination establishes whether or not Ipswich is the sole source of production.

It is significant, however, that the three main fabrics, as identified in Ipswich,<sup>13</sup> occur in the same proportions as far away as Sedgeford in north-west Norfolk, i.e. sandy ware, followed by 'pimply' ware, with burnished ware in the minority.<sup>14</sup> The implication is surely that north-west Norfolk was receiving the pottery from Ipswich. Outside the Kingdom of East Anglia the finds are virtually restricted to the distinctive stamped pitchers,<sup>15</sup> presumably a reflection of their special nature.

This evidence, together with the large areal extent of the middle Saxon settlement (FIG.32), and the consequent implications of the interdependence of such a sizeable settlement with the countryside, is surely evidence that Ipswich was urban from its foundation and that its hinterland may well have extended beyond the East Anglian Kingdom.

In addition to its function as a market for local and regional trade the settlement also functioned as an entrepôt for international trade. At present the direct evidence for the latter is confined to a small collection of 9th century Badorf-type ware sherds. Indirect evidence of contact with the continent is, however, well established from the Pagan Saxon period onwards. The diverse connections between the Wuffingas (the East Anglian royal house) and the continent as indicated by the Sutton Hoo burial<sup>16</sup> and the Rhenish contact implied by the re-introduction of the wheel for the production of Ipswich ware, have both been fully discussed elsewhere.<sup>17</sup>

It has been suggested that the Wuffingas were directly involved in the foundation of Ipswich and indeed the place-name GIPESWIC may share with them a Swedish Origin.<sup>18</sup> A sherd of Ipswich ware with face-mask decoration bearing a close resemblance to that portrayed on the Sutton Hoo whetstone and discovered in the Cox Lane area has led Owles and Smedley to maintain that the

<sup>10</sup> Owles and Smedley, (1963), 304.

<sup>11</sup> A provisional map subject to the qualification in the next paragraph.

<sup>12</sup> J.G. Hurst, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in East Anglia', *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, LI, (1958) 58, figure 5.

<sup>13</sup> West, (1963), 246.

<sup>14</sup> Keith Wade, 'The Pottery', in P. Jewell, 'Excavations at Sedgeford, Norfolk, 1958', *Norfolk Archaeol.*, (forthcoming).

<sup>15</sup> J.G. Hurst and S.E. West, 'Saxo-Norman Pottery in East Anglia, II', *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, L. (1957), 40-42.

<sup>16</sup> R.L.S. Bruce-Mitford, *The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial: A Handbook*, (London, 1968), 69-71.

<sup>17</sup> Hurst and West, (1957), 30-31.

<sup>18</sup> E. Ekwall, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names*, (Oxford, 1960), 266.

## KEY TO EXCAVATED SITES IN FIGURE 32

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Cox Lane, 1958         | (6) Great Whip Street, 1974    |
| (2) Shire Hall Yard, 1959  | (7) 9 Lower Brook Street, 1974 |
| (3) Cox Lane Kilns, 1961   | (8) Greyfriars, 1974           |
| (4) Westgate, 1967         | (9) Magistrates' Court, 1974/5 |
| (5) Wolsey's College, 1974 | (10) Old Foundry Road, 1974    |

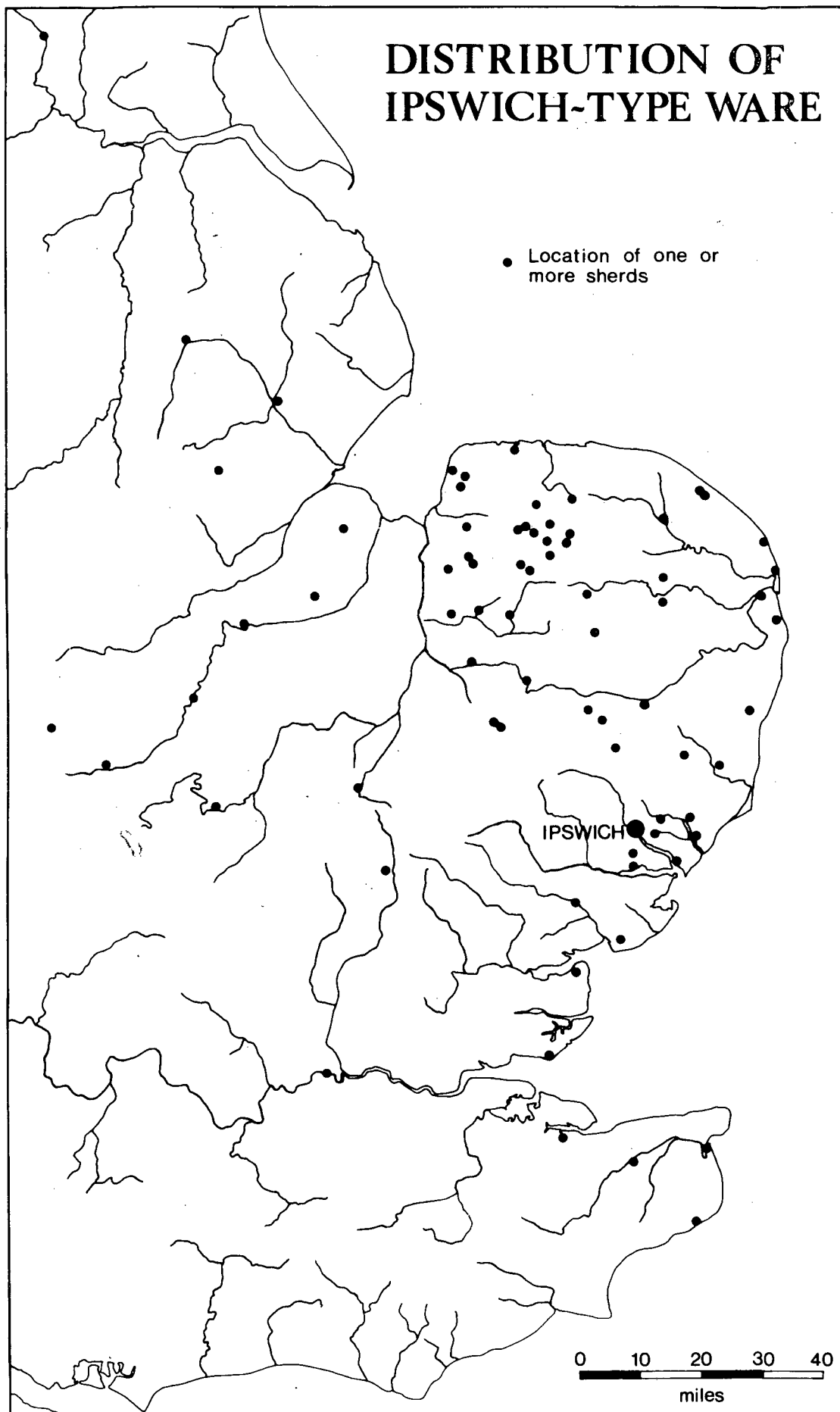


FIG.33. Distribution of Ipswich Ware in Eastern England

establishment of the Ipswich ware pottery industry resulted from royal initiative.<sup>19</sup> Norman Scarfe has produced evidence that St. Mildred's Chapel, which stood on the Medieval Cornhill, may well have been founded for the Wuffingas, and that they may have had a hall adjacent to the chapel.<sup>20</sup> If this royal connection could be firmly established then it would surely imply that Ipswich was one of the royal administrative centres of the East Anglian Kingdom.

Of the lay-out of the middle Saxon settlement little can be said at the present time. The concentration of Ipswich ware production in the Cox Lane area undoubtedly indicates industrial zoning whereas the traces of other industrial activities occur throughout the settlement. The only evidence of middle Saxon building is a group of post-holes and foundation trenches revealed in the Cox Lane excavations in 1957-58.<sup>21</sup> This lack of evidence is hardly surprising since our knowledge of the middle Saxon settlement is derived almost entirely from pottery retrieved in the course of contractors' excavations. As these have either not occurred, or not been observed, in some of the critical areas of the town, the form of the middle Saxon settlement shown on Figure 32 is clearly incomplete. This problem is particularly obvious in the southern and western sectors of the town and south of the river in the Parish of Stoke.

Observation and excavation during 1974, has, however, already added to our knowledge of these areas. Of particular importance is the recognition that middle Saxon settlement extends into the Parish of Stoke, which was connected to Ipswich by Stoke Bridge from at least 970 A.D.<sup>22</sup> Excavations in Great Whip Street revealed continuous occupation from the middle Saxon period to the present day (FIG.34). The middle Saxon features which survived later disturbance contained evidence of bone-working in association with Ipswich ware, and later features produced residual Badorf-type ware sherds. In spite of this small sample it seems likely that the site, adjacent to the Medieval marsh, lies at the eastern edge of a large middle Saxon settlement extending westwards to St. Mary's Church and southwards to St. Augustine's Church. St. Mary's Church was certainly in existence as early as the 10th century,<sup>23</sup> and the dedication to St. Augustine may suggest a 7th century foundation for this church, the precise location of which is still uncertain. The suggested site was trial-trenched in 1974, but no traces were found.<sup>24</sup> According to local tradition a burial ground was discovered nearby at the turn of the century, which may be a closer indication of the correct site, as shown on Figure 32. Major excavations are planned in 1975 to clarify the extent and functions of the settlement in relation to Ipswich 'proper'.

North of the river three sites in 1974 have produced either positive or negative evidence of middle Saxon occupation. Observation of a building site in Lower Brook Street revealed a series of rubbish pits containing 7th-8th century pottery, including a further sherd of Badorf-type ware, and evidence of middle Saxon iron-working (FIG.35). Excavations adjacent to the old course of the River Gipping, and within the precinct of the Greyfriars, confirmed that the marsh was confined to a narrow strip alongside the river and that the area behind, although suitable for settlement, showed no sign of occupation prior to the Friary (FIG.36). At the time of writing excavations currently underway on the site of the proposed Magistrates' Court, which lies adjacent to the western Medieval defences of the town at the corner of Currier's Lane and Elm Street, have revealed no activity earlier than the late Saxon period (FIG.32).

<sup>19</sup> N. Smedley and E. Owles, 'A sherd of Ipswich ware with Face-mask decoration', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.*, XXXI, (1967) 84-87.

<sup>20</sup> Norman Scarfe, *The Suffolk Landscape*, (1972), 101-103.

<sup>21</sup> West, (1963), 237-239.

<sup>22</sup> Scarfe, (1972), 129.

<sup>23</sup> Scole Committee, (1973), 3.

<sup>24</sup> Scole Committee, (1973), 3.

# GREAT WHIP STREET (7501)

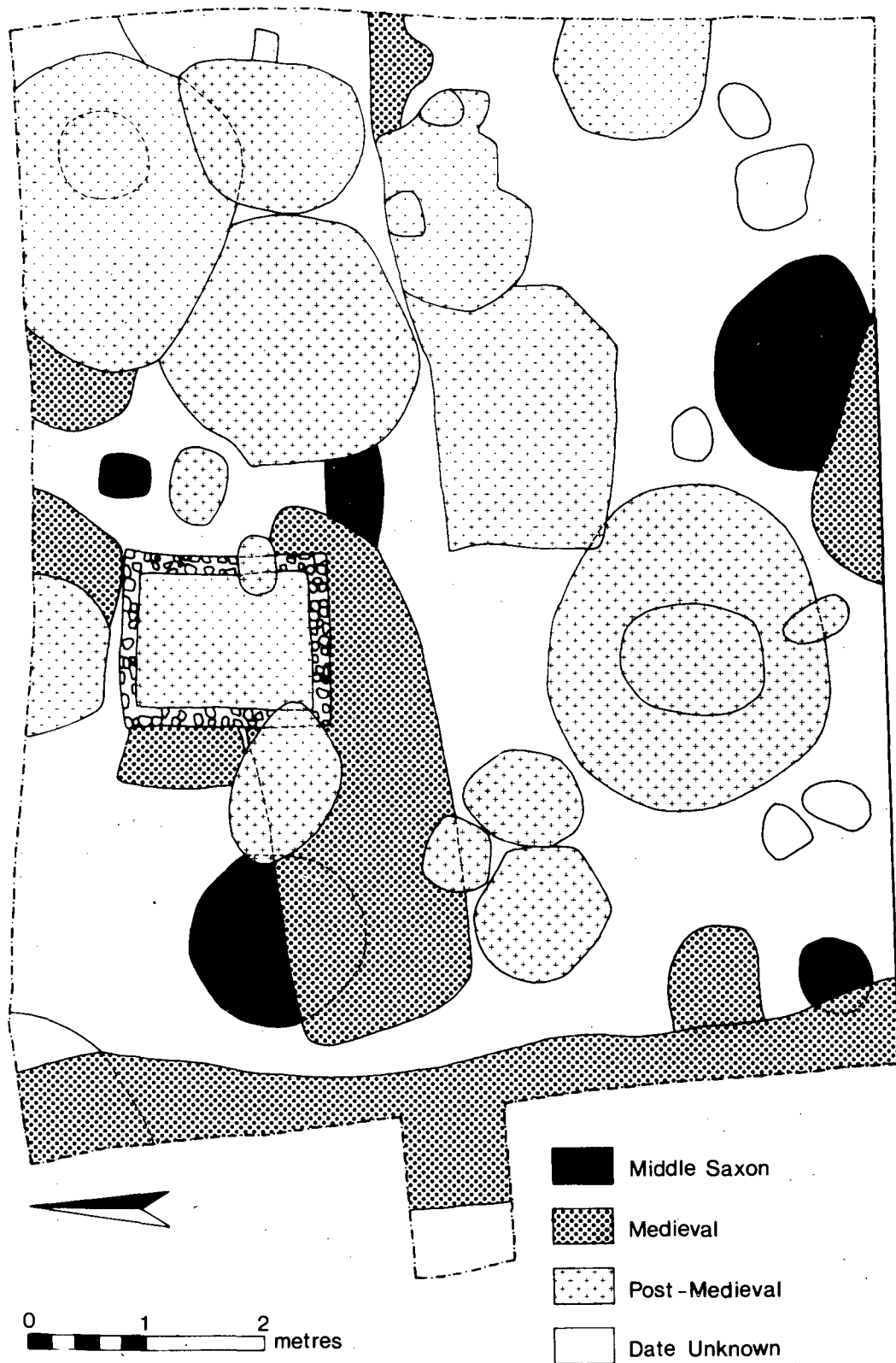


FIG.34 IPSWICH Great Whip Street, plan of excavation

# 9 LOWER BROOK STREET (45 02)

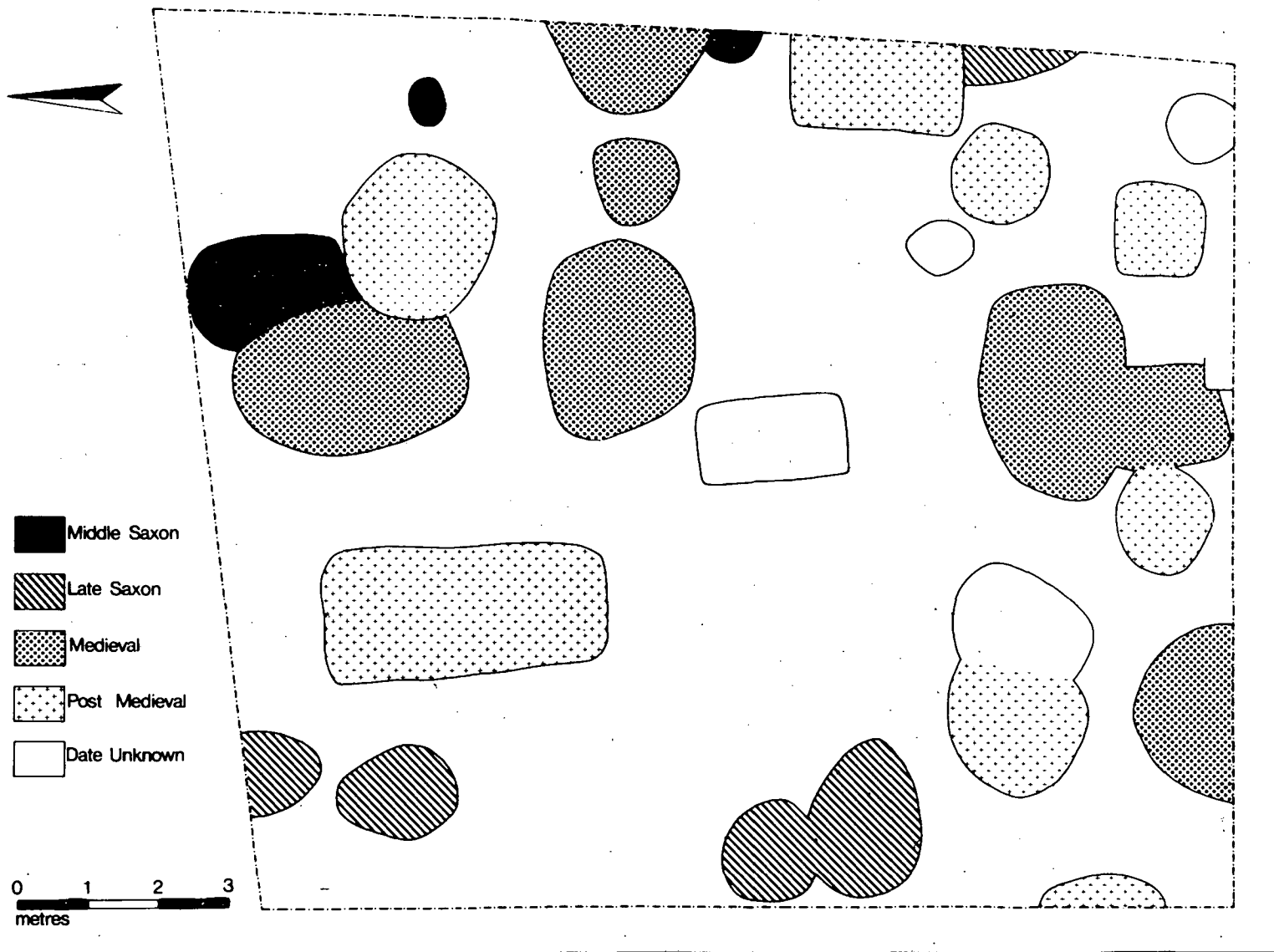


FIG.35. IPSWICH No.9 Lower Brook Street, plan of excavation

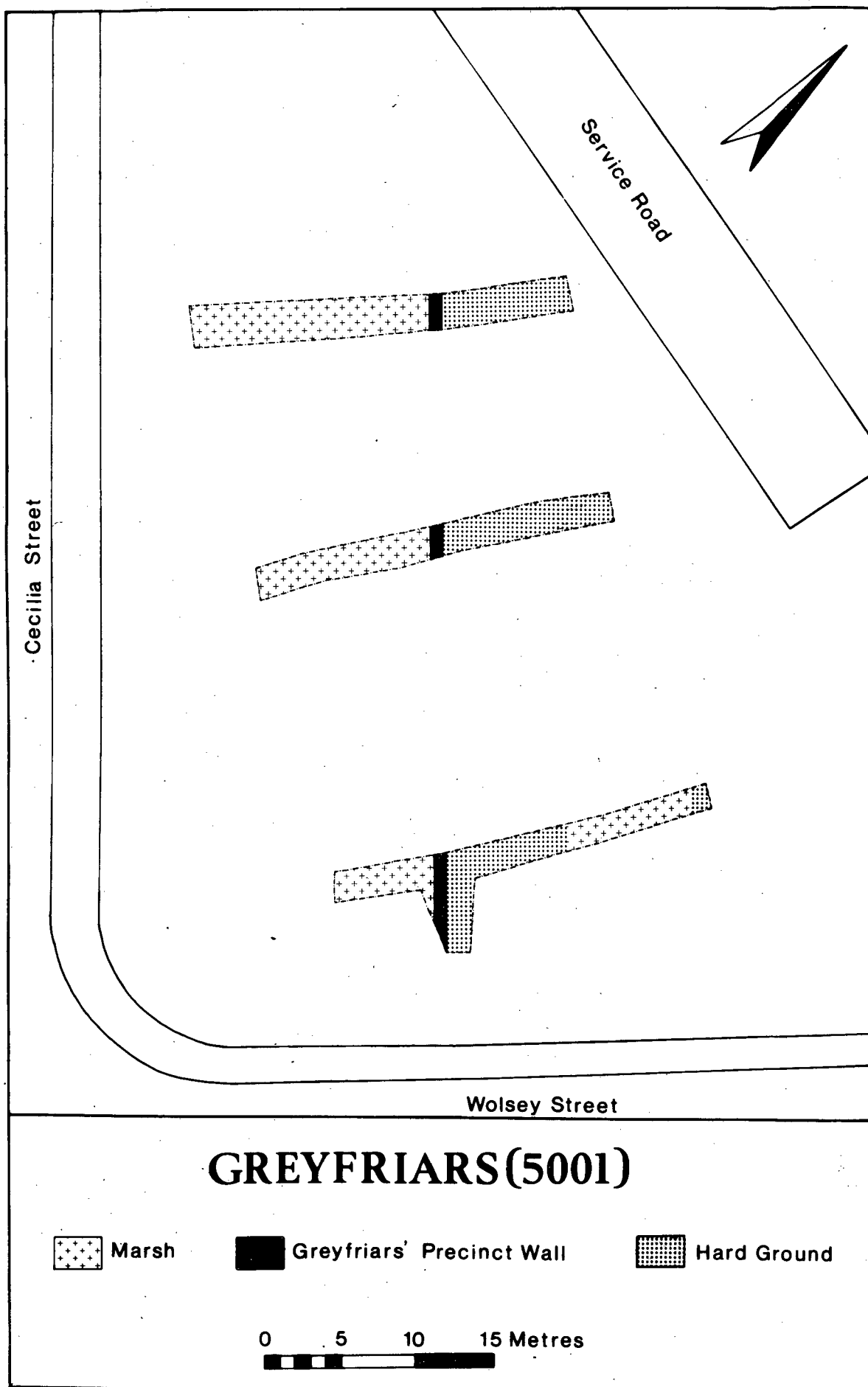


FIG.36. IPSWICH Greyfriars, plan of excavation

## The Saxo-Norman Town

Information about the town during the 10th and 11th centuries is scanty, but there are a handful of documentary references. Ipswich was of sufficient importance in the 10th century to have had a royal mint, and coins bearing a shortened form of GIPESWIC appear from the reign of Eadweard II.<sup>25</sup> The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that the Danes raided the town in 973 and 1010, but it is unlikely that the damage inflicted was long-term. Indeed Domesday Book records 538 burgesses in the borough, and lists ten churches, undoubtedly an incomplete tally since we know, for instance, that St. Mary at Stoke existed in the 10th century. Excavations have added little to this historical outline. The Cox Lane area continued as the potters' quarter, changing to the production of Thetford-type ware in the mid-9th century, and two kilns have been excavated.<sup>26</sup> The area excavated nearby in 1958 revealed late Saxon pits and a large ditch, defensive in nature, probably the boundary of a single, important property in the town.<sup>27</sup>

Many questions remain unanswered. It has been suggested that the layout of the town, consisting of a compact rectangular pattern of streets in the central area, surrounded by a curved line of streets following the course of the defensive ditch, dates from the late Saxon period.<sup>28</sup> This hypothesis has yet to be confirmed archaeologically. The town defences were strengthened by a rampart in 1204, and on the east side of the town, at the Shire Hall Yard, the 1959 excavations found this rampart lying above a late Saxon ditch. Working on the hypothesis that this ditch might well represent the late Saxon town defences, two further sections of the supposed 1204 defences were examined in 1974.

Excavation adjacent to Old Foundry Road, at the north-east corner of the town, revealed part of what was almost certainly the 1204 ditch, but no trace of the rampart had survived later levelling (FIG.32). At the Magistrates' Court site, on the west of the town, excavations currently underway across the presumed line of the 1204 ditch have already revealed one pre-1204 ditch and a complex of late Saxon features, the interpretation of which is impossible at the present time (FIG.32).

## The Medieval Town

Archaeologically, the Medieval town is virtually unknown, and the extent of archaeological research into this period will clearly depend on the quality and quantity of the surviving documentary evidence, (see below).

## THE DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

Since its inception in August 1974 the Ipswich Documentary Survey team has pursued two initial objectives: the location and examination of existing secondary sources, and the first stages of a programme of research into the potentially most rewarding primary source materials. In both cases the objective has been the accumulation of detailed information for a reconstruction of the medieval and the 16th-17th century town as a framework against which work in the archaeological and architectural fields can progress. The method has been the assimilation of information into a standard form to facilitate data retrieval on individual sites and buildings.

Work on secondary sources has so far been largely directed at unpublished collections of material held both locally and in the British Museum. Since the appearance, in 1948, of Lilian Redstone's Ipswich through the Ages, little work has been published on the original sources for the Medieval history of the town. Notable exceptions are Professor Martin's works on the Corporation

<sup>25</sup> West, (1963), 236.

<sup>26</sup> Owles and Smedley, (1963).

<sup>27</sup> West, (1963).

<sup>28</sup> Scole Committee, (1973), 3.



archives,<sup>29</sup> and Derek Charman's concise account of the documentary evidence relating to the town ditches.<sup>30</sup> Ironically this comes at the end of a century or more of vigorous research and accumulation of data by local historians and antiquarians, commencing with the publication in 1830 of Clarke's History and Description of Ipswich.<sup>31</sup> The appearance of this volume unleashed a spate of antiquarian zeal in the accumulation of material, both manuscript and illustrative, for projected histories, none of which, with the exception of Wooderspoon's Memorials of Ipswich,<sup>32</sup> came to fruition. The notes and collections of David Davy, W.S. Fitch, William Batley, John Glyde and the Revd. J. Ford<sup>33</sup> remain as testimonials to the energy of their progenitors and as largely untapped sources of observed and collected detail. During the present century the work of Frank Woolnough, Claude Morley and Vincent and Lilian Redstone extended the range of unpublished work, culminating in the twenty-five volumes of transcribed extracts from the Borough records which Vincent Redstone has left as the ground work for further topographical research.<sup>34</sup> It is towards the abstraction, evaluation and synthesising of information from these various collections of papers that the work of the secondary sources team is at present being directed.

In order to complement excavation work underway at various points along the line of the town defences, work on primary sources has concentrated to date on the series of Corporation records known as the common soil grants.<sup>35</sup> Dating principally from the 15th and early 16th centuries, they record the leasing of plots of ground by the Corporation to individual townsmen. While the exact origin of the town's common soil remains unclear and its original extent unknown, it is evident from the plots so far identified that these were areas of some strategic or economic importance to the town: for instance the plots adjoining the town walls, the land immediately fronting the river, and certain parts of the Medieval markets are included. Though historians since Wooderspoon have been aware of the existence of this group of documents, and as recently as 1963 they have been used to elucidate the history of a particular section of the town defences,<sup>36</sup> their value as a group has not hitherto been fully appreciated or exploited. Together with rentals of the common soil properties dating from 1499 and 1542,<sup>37</sup> they provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the lay-out of properties along the line of the town ditches, enhanced in value by the frequent inclusion in the documents of statements of dimensions and details of abutments. They are thus not only of use on occasion in locating the line of the town rampart and ditch, as has already proved the case in excavations at the corner of Currier's Lane and Elm Street (FIG.32, no.9), but also, in so far as the properties are subject to irregular re-leasing, they are of value in providing a chronologically extended view of the history of an important series of tenements. While the period covered by the grants is in general not more than a century, the leasing of the plots is of considerably greater antiquity, earlier transactions being recorded in the rolls of the town's courts. While emphasis has so far been placed on the later period, it will clearly be possible to extend the coverage back into the 14th and, hopefully, the 13th centuries, providing important data as to changes in occupational patterns and distribution of wealth for a specific group of properties throughout the town. Detailed reports on the common soil properties and on the medieval and post-medieval history of the town rampart and ditch are envisaged as part of the future programme of the documentary survey.

<sup>29</sup> G.H. Martin, 'Records of the Borough of Ipswich to 1422', J. Soc. Archivists, I, (1956); Early Court Rolls of the Borough of Ipswich, (Leicester, 1954); Ipswich Recognisance Rolls, 1294-1327, (Suffolk Record Society, 1973).

<sup>30</sup> D. Charman, 'The Documentary Evidence', in West (1963), 301-303.

<sup>31</sup> G.R. Clarke, History and Description of the Town and Borough of Ipswich ..., (Ipswich, 1830).

<sup>32</sup> J. Wooderspoon, Memorials of the Ancient Town of Ipswich, in the County of Suffolk, (Ipswich, 1850).

<sup>33</sup> The Fitch, Glyde and Ford collections in the Reference Department of the Ipswich Central Library; the Davy MSS. in British Museum Add. MSS, 19093-4; the Batley MSS. are B.M. Add. MSS. 25334-5.

<sup>34</sup> Ipswich Central Library, Reference Department.

<sup>35</sup> Suffolk Record Office, (Ipswich) : C0/13.

<sup>36</sup> Charman, in West (1963).

<sup>37</sup> Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich) : C9/15.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation of a number of site owners, developers, architects and contractors in connection with archaeological work in Ipswich is gratefully acknowledged. Three of the sites excavated were in the ownership of Ipswich Borough Council. Thanks are due in particular to A.B.M. Malting Ltd., A.J. Hines and Co. Ltd., and Woodham, Smith, Greenwood and Holland. Financial assistance was provided by the Department of the Environment and by the Ipswich Borough Council.

Thanks are also due to all the volunteers who have given valuable assistance over the past year on both archaeological and documentary work.

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# The problem of the redundant churches of Suffolk

By R.D. CARR, B.A.

Archaeologists feel every concern for the future of the parish churches of the country as a whole, and we of the Suffolk Unit especially for those of this county. If the predictions of the Rev. J. Fitch in The Churches of Suffolk - Redundancy and a Policy for Conservation are proved correct, the near future will see a great many of our churches being made redundant on Pastoral grounds. Fitch notes that there are 218 churches in the Diocese of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich which are serving populations of below 250, and comments that '..... none of them can be regarded as entirely safe for the foreseeable future. In the immediate future it is the 50 or so churches of parishes with under 100 souls which are threatened.' At the present time there are 7 churches already in ruin, and 12 declared, or in the process of being declared, redundant. A further 6 are redundant but consigned to the care of the Redundant Churches Fund. In the Deanery of Lothingland, Diocese of Norwich, (part of the administrative County of Suffolk), there are a further two parish churches which have been declared redundant (FIG.37).

Speaking generally the building which constitutes a parish church and the site upon which it stands is of great value to archaeology. The church will, in most cases, be the oldest standing building in any settlement, and will have been regarded as the most important single building in any community throughout its life. As such its history reflects the history of the community which it served. This is, perhaps, where the interests of the architect and the archaeologist separate. Whereas both are vitally interested in the fabric of the building it could be said that the architect's interests are, on the whole, concerned with the way the building reflects national changes in architectural style and technological ability. The building is appreciated for itself and its national value. For the archaeologist there are different criteria. Our concern is for the church as a source of historical information at a much more local level. We seek to draw conclusions about the people who lived in the village and worshipped in the church. Thus, for us, an architecturally insignificant building of small size, with no outstanding or unusual features, and many phases of building, will have as much, if not more, historical interest built into its walls. Further, our interest extends to the ground beneath the present structure to ascertain the form and date of any earlier buildings which will almost certainly underlie the present building. A church over-restored, or largely rebuilt in the last century, although of no great interest itself, will be built on a plot of ground which has as much archaeological value as that below the most perfect of Perpendicular churches.

In the light of this and following the example of the Council of British Archaeology's notes on the subject, it is the Suffolk Archaeological Unit's opinion that the criteria concerning church redundancy should include:—

1. That the archaeological value of a church should be one of the factors considered in determining its future.
  - (a) To achieve this evaluation we recommend that the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, as the professional body concerned with archaeology in this county, should be consulted on the archaeological value of a church, and its importance in relation to its adjacent settlement, and other nearby churches. We feel that consultation should take place as soon as the church is considered for redundancy by the Diocesan Pastoral Committee.
  - (b) Further, we recommend that should the redundancy be approved there should be a second consultation with the Suffolk Archaeological Unit when a redundancy proposal is discussed by the Diocesan Redundant Churches Uses Committee.

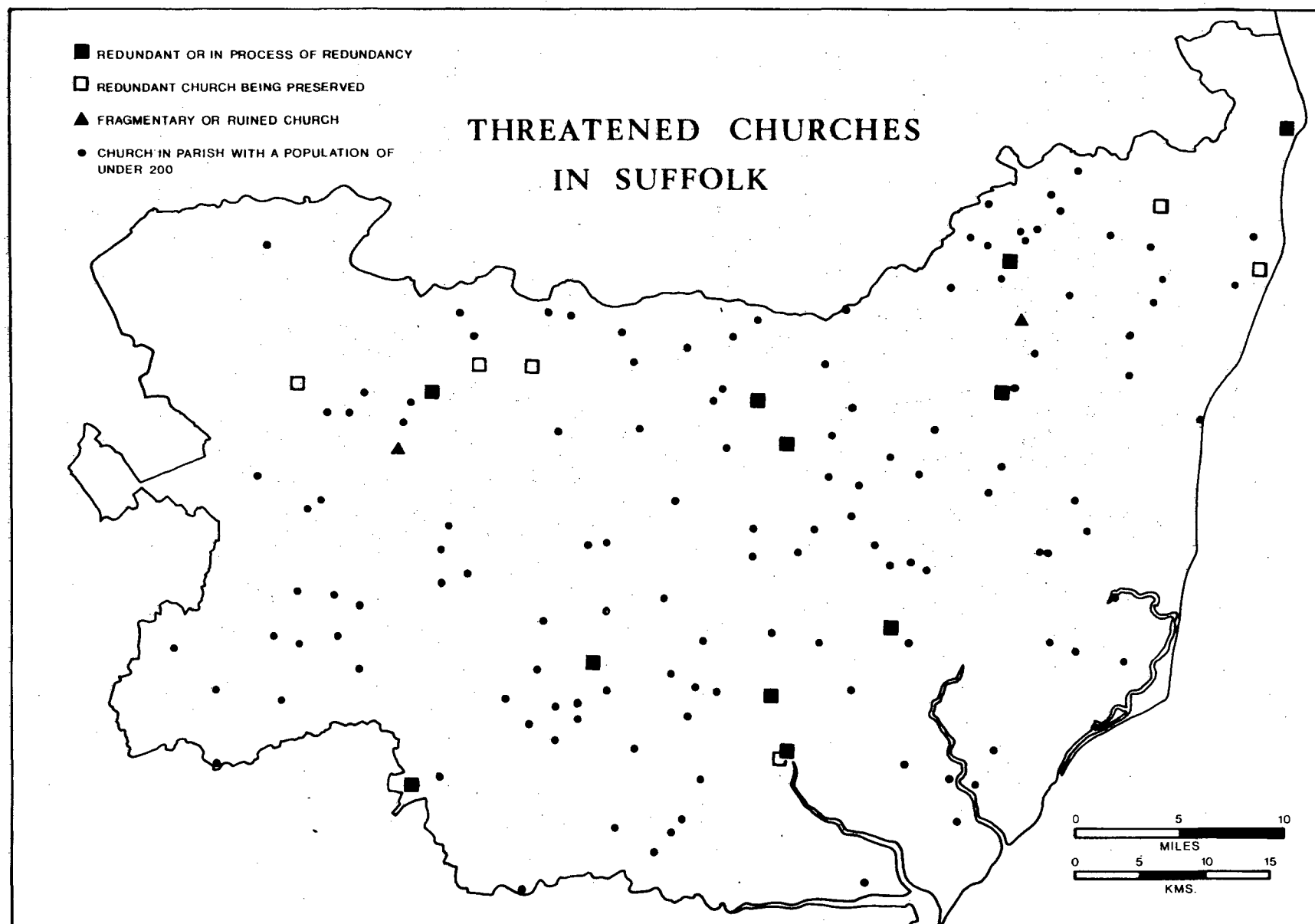


FIG.37. Distribution of threatened churches in Suffolk

2. That the recording of church buildings once they are declared redundant should be to the highest standard, and that such recording should take account of problems specific to archaeology.

- (a) We consider that once the future of a church is decided by the Redundant Churches Uses Committee, or the Church Commissioners, no demolition, alteration to the structure, excavation in the church or churchyard should take place without prior consultation with the Suffolk Archaeological Unit. We feel that this should apply equally to those churches given over to the Redundant Churches Fund.
- (b) We consider that the structure, contents and churchyard should be inventoried to the standard now adopted by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and that any demolition should be supervised, or conducted by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, and that detailed records should be kept concerning the disposition of all the furniture, objects and materials removed from the church.

3. At present the introduction of a Redundancy scheme imposes an arbitrary procedure upon diocesan authorities which is, apparently, irreversable – either some use is found for the building, or it is demolished. We would recommend that a third category be introduced, whereby the church is rendered safe by the removal of the roof, and any other potentially dangerous structures, and designated a ruined church. A provision such as this would enable the building to retain its important place in the local landscape, and preserve its architectural and archaeological interest.

A procedure such as this may be possible already under some sections of the Pastoral Measure; we feel these should be clarified with a provision for the ruination of churches and their maintenance by the appropriate ecclesiastical, or civil authority, at a local or national level.

4. There are various ancillary matters which we feel should be considered in connection with redundancy schemes.

- (a) That churchyard memorials be accurately recorded in situ before any churchyard is cleared.
- (b) That any documents, maps and church records (other than current registers) which would normally be transferred to the new parish, are deposited instead at the County Record Office.
- (c) That structures within the churchyard, such as lychgates, may be considered for exemption from redundancy schemes, or otherwise subject to the same considerations as the church itself.
- (d) That parsonages, which may be of considerable antiquity, or on the site of previous parsonages, affected by redundancy schemes be subject to the same assessment by architects and archaeologists as the church itself.

#### ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE REDUNDANT CHURCH: RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF DEMOLITION

The object should be to record the fabric of the building, its fittings, and surrounding graveyard as fully and objectively as possible. There should be an attempt to discover the form of earlier, buried, buildings which occupied the same site. This information would be combined with any documentary evidence to give a comprehensive history of the church and its parish.

Further to this, there should be an attempt to link the church with its locale, both socially and economically. Thus the survey of the church and its changing fortunes might be taken to reflect the wealth and population of its parish throughout its history. The materials used in its building would indicate national trading contacts. If other churches were similarly treated there would be the possibility of comparing methods of construction and the dates at which they were used; and also of setting the architecture of the building into its national picture, perhaps demonstrating a resistance to change in the styles of small buildings in rural settings. To this day it is still the major churches and cathedrals which have been the most closely studied, and it is, therefore, this minority which has conditioned our thinking on the history of Medieval architecture.

With the possibility of giving the building and its phases a relatively accurate date, there may well be the opportunity to date the associated archaeological material more closely than we can at present. This would prove of immense value to our understanding of contemporary Medieval, but non-ecclesiastical sites.

The following schedule lists the stages of work which would be necessary to achieve the satisfactory recording of a church about to be demolished. It would also be the basis for the recording of a church to be designated 'ruined'. In the case of a church which was to undergo conversion, all stages, in whole or part, except 9, 10, 11, and possibly 12 would most likely be necessary. (Conversion would imply damage to walls whilst keying in partitions, inserting new floors at first floor level, and installing lighting and heating. Damage to the original floor would occur during the insertion of services, new floors, damp courses, and the removal of internments and monuments).

- A1. Total photographic record of interior and exterior.
- 2. Catalogue of internal fittings prior to removal (and recording if to be destroyed).
- 3. Recording of the ground plan.
- 4. Catalogue of tomb slabs on both wall and floor.
- 5. Removal of internal wall plaster in search of wall paintings and to expose the fabric.
- 6. Recording and removal of wall paintings if present.
- 7. Recording of wall elevations, drawn and photographed, phases assessed.
- 8. Removal of floor, minor excavation to establish building phases.
- 9. Removal and recording of glass, recording of tracery and floor and window openings.
- 10. Recording and removal of roof structure.
- 11. Demolition of walls, recording of building methods and worked reused stone.
- 12. Possible major excavation to record earlier forms of the church.
  
- B1. Documentary research of the history of the building and its parish.
- C1. Sampling and analysis: stone types and sources, plaster and mortar types, wood types used and samples taken for dendrochronological dating, analysis of brick and tiles, glass and grave slabs to establish type and source. Analysis of stone and wood working in an attempt to typify mason and joiner. Analysis of the building as a piece of structural engineering. Comparative architectural studies.

The use of archaeological techniques in the study of parish churches is a very recent development. Only a very few excavations have been undertaken in British churches, and these have usually been an attempt to answer specific questions about special churches. The priorities envisaged are based on an attempt at forethought rather than from experience. The methods to be used in the recording, the time it will take and consequently the cost of the operation, are all unknowns, and will have to be the subject of experimentation. To this end the Suffolk Archaeological Unit is about to embark on the recording of the above ground structure of the redundant church of Ubbeston, which is likely to be converted into a private dwelling.