

15. Carleton Rode.
Telegraph Farm, 2 miles north-west of the village. According to the occupier there is a pit in a field to the east of the road called Telegraph Pit, which marks the actual site.
16. Wreningham.
On high ground near the church.
17. Mousehold.
Telegraph Lane leads up from Thorpe Road to the high ground where the present water tower stands.
18. Strumpshaw.
The hill south of the church, marked on maps as Strumpshaw Hill. The site is preserved in local tradition.
19. Yarmouth.
On the South Gates. Shown in contemporary prints. The Telegraph House on the South Denes did not form part of this line, but belonged to the coastal chain.

January 1977

SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM NORFOLK

This is the first of an annual series of articles describing some of the more interesting finds found each year in Norfolk. Unless otherwise stated, all objects described in this article were found in 1977. Since 1954 annual lists of archaeological stray finds and brief summaries of excavations have been published in an ephemeral form by the local Group of the Council for British Archaeology, which it is hoped will continue. In addition, similar brief reports of excavations are published in national journals, such as *Medieval Archaeology*, *Britannia* and *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* (from vol. 43, 1977), and in an annual booklet produced by the Department of the Environment (this latter has now ceased publication). From time to time particularly important stray finds have been published as notes in the national journals noted above or others such as *Antiquaries Journal*, or in *Norfolk Archaeology*.

With the establishment of county archaeological units in the early 1970s it was recognised that it would be impossible for county journals to publish the full reports of excavations and field surveys. As a result, a new serial publication, *East Anglian Archaeology*, was established as the main vehicle for the publication of final excavation reports and field surveys carried out in Norfolk and Suffolk. Since 1975 eight volumes have been published!

This new annual venture in *Norfolk Archaeology* will, it is hoped, make it easier for people to learn about the wide range of interesting finds made in the county each year. A short bibliography of Norfolk items published in journals other than *Norfolk Archaeology* will, when appropriate, be included. Contributions for this, either notes or bibliographical details, should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, Castle Museum, Norwich.

Barbara Green

¹ *East Anglian Archaeology* is obtainable from the Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Earlham Hall, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

MESOLITHIC BARBED BONE POINT FROM FELTWELL (Fig. 1)

This point was found on the surface of a field of peaty soil near the Fen edge. One edge is serrated to give seven curved barbs and the other blunt: the five upper barbs are slightly bevelled. The short, slightly tapered tang is deeply notched for lashing. It would have been lashed, possibly as one of a pair, to a wooden haft, for use as a harpoon in fishing or hunting. It is generally similar in form to the Mesolithic antler and bone points of the ninth and eighth millennia B.C., large numbers of which were found in excavations at Star Carr, Yorkshire.¹ It is shorter and broader than any of those illustrated from Star Carr, but is fairly close in proportions to Star Carr P22, the smallest of Clark's Group B. The deeply notched tang is, however, absent from Starr Carr, and while several points are known with lightly scored tangs this is, to the best of the author's knowledge, the only one so notched. The execution of the barbs is also slightly unusual: rather than being formed by criss-cross saw cuts, the most common technique, the barbs on the Feltwell point have been made by cutting pairs of V-shaped grooves back into the bone at an angle of about 45° to the leading edge. This technique is also seen in one of the points from Sproughton, Suffolk, and eight other points cited by Wymer, Jacobi and Rose.² (*Private Possession*)

Tony Gregory

¹ J. G. D. Clark, *Excavations at Star Carr* (1954), Figs. 55-56.

² J. J. Wymer, R. M. Jacobi & J. Rose 'Late Devensian and Early Flandrian Barbed Points from Sproughton, Suffolk'. *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 41 (1975) 235-241, Pl. XXV.

A BRONZE AGE PIN FROM LITTLE CRESSINGHAM

The pin was found in ploughsoil during May 1977 by Mr. Terry Youngs whilst using a metal detector in Sandhills field, Threxton, in the parish of Little Cressingham (TF 8929 0039; Co. No. 12616).

DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1a)

Cast bronze pin, 22.8 cms. long, of circular section. Weight 25.0 gms. The upper part of the shank is swollen to 0.8 cms. diameter, but thins beneath the expanded, very slightly domed head, also 0.8 cms. in diameter. 5.3 cms. below the heads is a small damaged side loop 0.5 cms. long, with a small aperture.

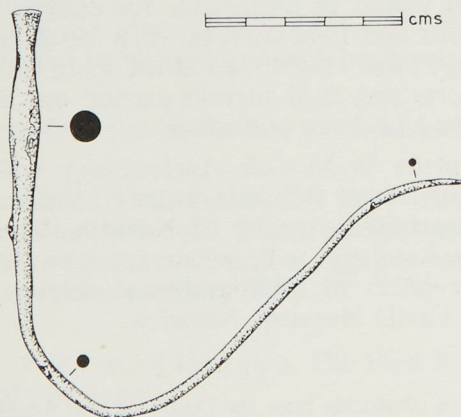
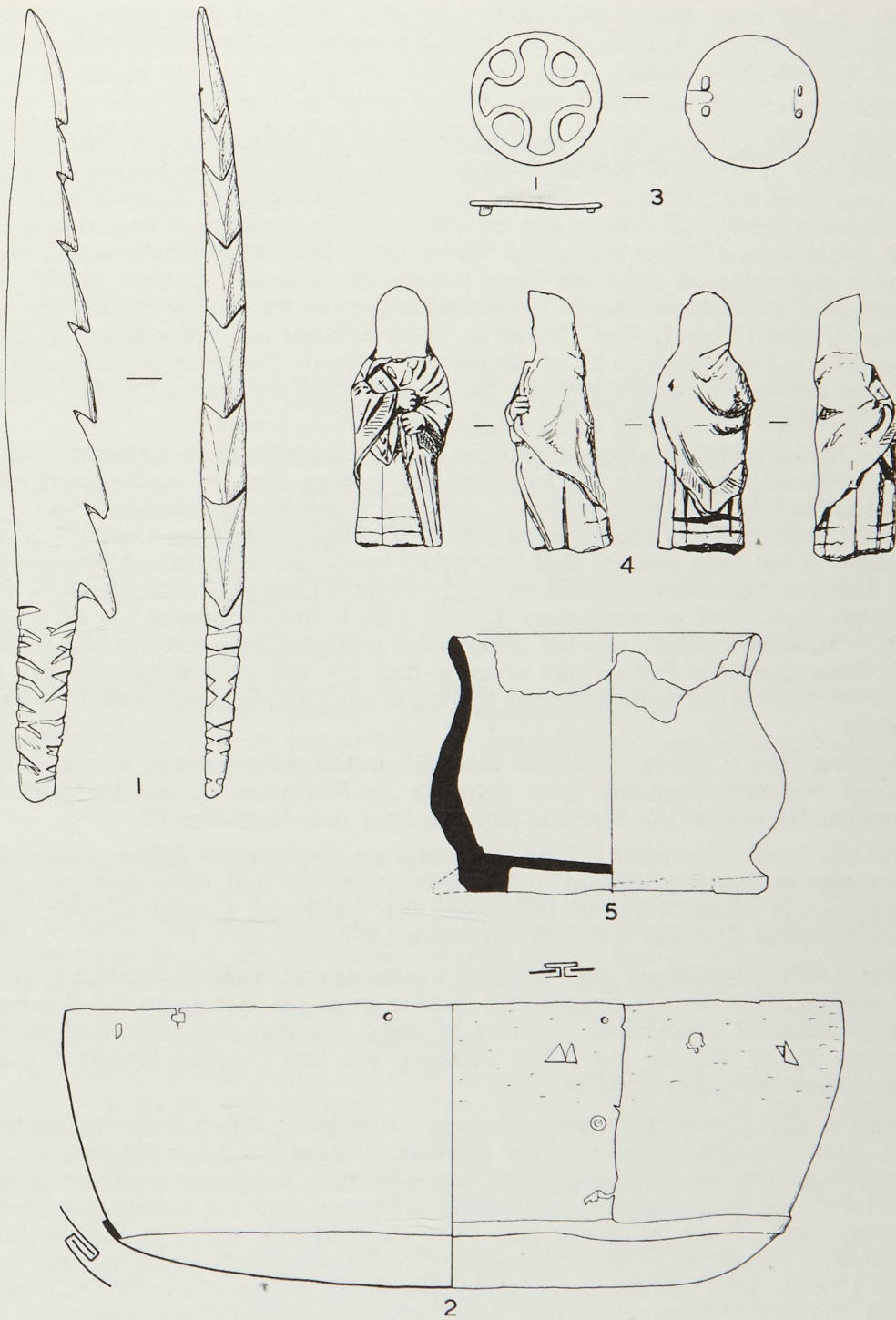


Fig. 1a



Figs. 1 - 5

(Scales: nos. 1 & 3, 1 : 1; no. 2, 1 : 3; nos. 4 & 5, 1 : 2)

The pin has been bent double into a broad V shape. It is in good condition though the original surface, and any light decoration that may have been incised on it, appears to be missing.

DISCUSSION

The bronze pin was not an indigenous article of costume in the British Early Bronze Age. A variety of types are seen in Beaker context, but no further examples are seen until the late Middle Bronze Age. Those bronze pins found in Britain at the close of the Middle Bronze Age are often imports or copies of imported types. The importance of these imports as indicators of cultural connections and trade and as chronological links has been previously observed. Hawkes (1942) has emphasised the contribution of the Tumulus Bronze Age of Central Europe to a group of pins ('Picardy Pins') found in south England and the adjacent districts of northern France; while his suggestion of a North European contribution to the pin costume of South England has been further developed by Mrs. Piggott (1949) (Butler 1963, 147).

The 'Picardy Pin' combines a number of characteristics from different cultural sources, most importantly the late Tumulus culture form of swollen-neck pins (*Lochbalsnadeln mit geschwollenem hals*) of Wurtemberg (Hawkes 1942, 34) with the disc-head and incised motifs of BzD Urnfield pins from Central Europe. However it has been stressed that no distinct break can be visualized between the late Tumulus and Early Urnfield groups in Western Europe (Rowlands 1976, 84). Another feature of contemporary hybrid pins is the occasional use of a side-loop.¹ Rowlands (1976, 85) has described a group of Tumulus/Urnfield hybrid pins from Southern Britain and stresses that the use of a side-loop, seen on seven of these, is not a characteristic feature of early Urnfield pin types in Central Europe.

Janssen (1935) showed that the pin with horizontally pierced side-loop had reached Northern Germany from Hungary by Montelius II, and Denmark by Montelius III, but are not found in contexts later than Montelius III.

As the North European looped pin forms are distinctively different from the seven pins in Southern Britain, it has been suggested that these pins owe their origin to the combination of influences that produced a range of hybrid pin types in France (Hawkes 1942, 38; Rowlands 1976, 85).

The Little Cressingham pin combines a number of the characteristics of these pin groups. The form is clearly of a swollen-neck pin, yet lacks the disc-head and geometrical decoration, features of early Urnfield pins that lead to the creation of the 'Picardy Pins'. The side-loop is a late Tumulus feature possibly derived from Northern Germany.

Hence, the Cressingham pin, although resembling other Tumulus/Urnfield pins, shows no characteristic of the Urnfield cultures but a combination of late Tumulus features of north and west Central Europe, and hence could be slightly in advance of the expansion of Urnfield influence, and the production of the 'Picardy Pins'. These influences have been encountered before in the pin from Hunstanton (Lawson 1978). But, whereas the Urnfield features of that pin may place it with other influences of central European origin in the British Penard phase, the lack of Urnfield features should place the Little Cressingham pin in the later part of the Taunton phase, perhaps in the thirteenth century B.C. and contemporary with the earlier part of Montelius III in Northern Germany (Burgess 1976, Lawson 1978). There would be no reason why this pin could not have

come directly from Northern Germany together with the other types of the 'ornament horizon' (Smith 1959) originating in Montelius II, although a precise parallel would be hard to find. Pin forms do not seem to come directly to Britain from this source and an area where hybridisation took place in Northern France would seem a more popular source (Hawkes 1947, 38; Smith 1959, 164; Rowlands 1976, 84). There is no evidence that the Little Cressingham pin was manufactured locally, although this is not impossible. (*Norwich Castle Museum*)

Andrew J. Lawson

¹Rowlands (1976, 85) does not exclude the side-loop from the features of the 'Picardy Pins' (*pace* Hawkes).

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'ROMAN GRAVES' AT CAISTOR BY NORWICH

In the spring of 1977, a field to the east of the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* was ploughed for the first time in local memory. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were found, and the farmer reported that he had not ploughed the north-west corner of the field which he said contained an ancient monument, known as the Roman graves. No visible structures of Roman date had previously been recorded in the field, so the site was visited.

The 'Roman graves' turned out to be an area of pits and piles of soil and gravel, thickly over-grown with grass and bushes. These were in fact the remains of the excavation by Commander Mann in 1938 which revealed a road and an area of metal-working debris; Mann's excavation trenches had apparently been left unfilled, and, despite the close attention of archaeologists to other parts of the Romano-British site at Caistor, their original purpose forgotten locally.

This occurrence should be regarded as an important lesson in the folk-lore of archaeological sites; in less than 40 years the true function of a feature has been forgotten, and an erroneous interpretation placed on it. Place-names which have been in use for hundreds of years should be regarded with proportionate suspicion, and their archaeological interpretation be most tentative.

Tony Gregory

A BRONZE BOWL FROM UPWELL (Fig. 2)

In 1976, during construction work on the Norfolk bank of the Old Croft River at Upwell, a bronze bowl was unearthed by a mechanical excavator; the discovery was reported in 1977.

It is made of a copper alloy, which has not been analysed, but has been called 'bronze' for convenience. It consists of two parts, a dished base, and a wall made from a single strip of bronze with its ends rivetted together to form a circle. The two are fused together by bending the top of the base down, and the bottom on the wall up, so that they are folded together to form a vessel 30 cm. wide and 11 cm. deep. All the working of the metal has been done by hammering, and the lathe has not been used: the hammer marks have been worked out of most of the metal apart from a band 3.5 cm. deep at the top of the wall. This upper part of the wall is pierced by holes, about 7 cms. apart, which still contain clips, made from folded strips of bronze. It is probable that there was originally another segment of wall attached above what remains today, and therefore the top of the wall would not have been visible, and could be left rough. However the bronze clips are a tight fit, and they could not have held an upper band of metal in place, so it seems that the upper part of the wall had been removed, possibly because of damage, and the holes left by the rivets, which had originally held it in place, were plugged with the clips so that the surviving part of the bowl could still be used. The rivets which hold together the two ends of the strip which form the wall are entirely different: they are made from strips of bronze coiled up and inserted through the holes, so that they uncoil slightly and hold the joint steady.

This vessel is one of a group of bronze bowls and cauldrons made by rivetting a bronze plate or plates to a dished base. The cauldron from the Santon (Norfolk) hoard,¹ which contained a group of material of the mid first century A.D. is of this type, and other associated finds including vessels of this type confirm a generally late Iron Age/Early Roman date. (*Norwich Castle Museum*)

Tony Gregory

¹R. A. Smith, A Hoard of metal found at Santon Downham, Suffolk. *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* XIII (1909), 143-163.

SAXON BRONZE BROOCH FROM THREXTON, LITTLE CRESSINGHAM (Fig. 3)

A small cast bronze disc brooch was found amongst a scatter of medieval and post-medieval finds from the site of the deserted medieval village of Threxton. It is 1.9 cm. in diameter with the remains of a hinge and catch-plate on the reverse. The decoration consists of an 'Anglian' cross, the interior of which, like the area between the arms, is recessed about 1 mm. below the surface of the brooch and may originally have been filled with champleve enamel, no trace of which now survives.

Three other examples of this type of brooch are now known from Norfolk (Thetford, Castle Acre and Hilgay). Miss Vera Evison considers the type to have been imported from the Rhineland, and to date from the 8th to 9th centuries.¹ (*Private Possession*)

M. W. Atkin

¹V. I. Evison, An Enamelled Disc from Great Saxham, *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.*, XXXIV, part I, (1977), 9.

PIPE-CLAY FIGURINE FROM ATTLEBOROUGH (Fig. 4)

A pipe-clay figurine was found while raking a garden at Hargham Road, Attleborough. It is uncertain whether it came from garden soil or from amongst clay-lump blocks knocked out of a wall of the house. It is 7.6 cm. in height and solid cast. The figure is female, wearing a ground-length dress covered by a cloak and a hood or veil over the head and shoulders. She has a book tucked under her right arm and, in her left hand, an unidentified long object. The face is missing and was probably deliberately removed.

The figurine has been identified by Brian Spencer of the Museum of London as a religious figurine of late 15th or early 16th century date, imported from the Low Countries. Such figurines are well-known from London, but this seems to be one of the first identified from Norfolk. It is likely that they have been overlooked in the past.

The figurine has been tentatively identified as that of St. Sitha (Sita or Zita) whose emblems are a book, a rosary and keys. Some representations of this saint¹ show her with a small bag and a bunch of keys dangling from a broad strap almost to the ground on the left hand side of her body and half covered by a fold of the cloak. It is possible that the long object held in the left hand of the Attleborough figurine is, despite its resemblance to a parasol, a crude representation of this. Sitha lived in Italy in the 13th century and after canonisation was venerated particularly as a patron of domestic servants. There is, however, considerable confusion in the literature between St. Sitha and St. Sythe or Osyth,² who established a monastery between Brightlingsea and Clacton, Essex, in about A.D. 675 and who was the object of particular reverence in East Anglia. By the 15th century the popularity of the Anglo-Saxon saints had declined and therefore the attribution to St. Sitha (Zita) is perhaps more likely.

(*Norwich Castle Museum*)

Barbara Green

¹W. L. Hildburgh, 'Further Miscellaneous Notes on Medieval English Alabaster Carvings', *Antiq. J.* XVII, pl. 3 (1937); P. Biver, 'Some Examples of English Alabaster Tables in France', *Arch. J.*, LXVII, pl. XL2, figurine top right (1910).

²F. C. Husenbech, *Emblems of Saints: by which they are distinguished in Works of Art*, 2nd ed. London (1860).

WOODEN BOWL FROM BREYDON WATER (Fig. 5)

A small, lathe-turned, wooden cup, probably of beechwood, was found in mud on Breydon Water. In form it is rather squat and bulbous, with a recessed and broad foot ring. Most of the rim and a small piece of the base are missing. It is otherwise in good condition, although little of the original outer surface remains.

Such complete examples of wooden vessels are very rare. Unless conditions in the ground are extremely favourable, they quickly disintegrate and consequently the dating of such objects is difficult. There is no direct similarity to any medieval or post-medieval pottery forms to give a clue as to its likely date, but the nearest parallel is with the 17th century black-glazed cups. This suggests a post-medieval date for the wooden vessel. (*Great Yarmouth Museum*)

W. F. Milligan

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'EXCAVATIONS IN KING'S LYNN 1963 - 70'

Three of the major towns of Medieval England are situated in Norfolk. Members will be aware of the work of the Norwich Survey from the annual interim reports of work published in *Norfolk Archaeology*. They are perhaps less aware of the work that has taken place in King's Lynn. This volume is volume II of the King's Lynn Archaeological Survey. Vanessa Parker's *The Making of King's Lynn* (1971) dealt mainly with the standing buildings. Volume III, to be edited by Mrs. D. M. Owen, deals with the rich collection of documents available for the study of this major medieval port; publication in 1979 is anticipated.

Volume II, which records the work of Mrs. Helen Clarke, Mr. E. J. Talbot and Mr. Alan Carter, is far more than a record of five major excavations together with evidence from minor excavations and building sites. The wide range of locally-made and imported pottery, dating from about 1100 to the 18th century, found in the town is discussed and illustrated, as is a variety of other finds. Of particular interest are the leather objects which include shoes and decorated knife scabbards, the wooden objects which survived only because of the water-logged soil on some sites, and the stone mortars. This latter group is one of the largest recovered from a single town in Europe. The study of the plant and animal remains tells us not only about the diet of the citizens, but also provides evidence for local crafts and industries. For instance, the use of cat fur by furriers is deduced from the age at death of the cats. In the final chapter the authors draw upon documentary as well as archaeological evidence to produce a picture of the development of the town.

The King's Lynn Archaeological Survey has shown clearly the need for the detailed study of standing buildings and documents in parallel with archaeological work if we are to understand how our towns developed and functioned. We await volume III with anticipation.

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Barbara Green