

17. N.R.O., N.C.A., DCN/44/131/14. These are either pre-1268 bailiffs or those of 1274-5 if John de Baketon is the same as John de Goseford.
18. Public Record Office, J I/1/577.
19. Francis Blomefield, *History of Norfolk*, vol. xi (1810), 222-3; C. J. Palmer, *Continuation of Manship* (1856), 293; Hamon Le Strange, *Norfolk Official Lists* (1890), 148-9.
20. N.R.O., Yarmouth Borough Archives (hereafter Y.B.A.), Y/C4/4.
21. N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/2, m. 6r.
22. N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/7.
23. N.R.O., N.C.A., DCN/44/131/17.
24. Gerberth (Gerberge) was a royal clerk; see *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1281-92* (1893), 485. No doubt he is styled clerk to distinguish him from William Gerberge vintner (N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/9, m. 9r).
25. N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/9, main heading and mm. 7r., 1v., and 12v.
26. N.R.O., accession Millican 10/11/69 Q183A, note by Francis Blomefield.
27. N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/8, m. 3r.
28. In two deeds (N.R.O., N.C.A., DCN/44/131/16 and DCN/44/131/20), dated 18th Nov. and 30th Nov. 1288, the first names John Elys as bailiff and the second names John de Hordelee. These must be the same man, as Elys is again named as bailiff in April 1289 (N.R.O., N.C.A., DCN/44/131/19). Hordelee may be an error for Fordele as in the next year.
29. N.R.O., Y.B.A., Y/C4/11.

THE NORFOLK EXCAVATIONS INDEX

by Neil Beagrie and David Gurney

Introduction

The Archaeological Records Section, R.C.H.M.E.

The Archaeological Records Section of the National Monuments Record (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) was created in 1963 to serve as the national repository for archives relating to archaeological monuments in England. As well as being the repository for the Royal Commission's archaeological archive, the Section holds collections of photographic, textual and graphic materials covering all aspects of archaeological activity, as well as copies of original archive materials held elsewhere.

The Excavations Index for England

Since 1978 The Archaeological Records Section has been compiling an index of archaeological excavations carried out in England. The Index has four main objectives:

- 1) To compile a list of all sites that have been excavated.
- 2) To locate the original documentary and visual archive from excavations.
- 3) To show which excavation reports have been published.
- 4) To locate the finds from excavations.

To date (January 1988), the Index comprises some 20,000 records covering 44 of the 47 counties of England: of the 3 counties remaining to be compiled Dorset and Suffolk should be completed this year and London in 1989. The Index will then have covered the whole of England and is expected to include some 25,000 to 30,000 records.

As well as forming part of the publicly consultable records of the National Monuments Record the Excavations Index will have an integral role in defining the collection policy of the Archaeology Section. The ability to retrieve information from the Index on any of its fields will

allow the examination of excavations on a national or regional basis. Unpublished or state-funded excavations where the archive has not been microfilmed to provide a publicly consultable security copy can be identified. In addition it is possible to retrieve excavations on a thematic basis for specific site types, archaeological periods, excavators or era of excavation and this can be used to select excavation archives which should be copied to enhance existing collections or to suggest new areas for collection policy.

Compilation of the Index

The Excavations Index has been compiled on a county by county basis, aiming to provide over an eleven year period a rapid and comprehensive survey of all excavations carried out in England.

The most effective means of compiling the Index has proved to be the compilation of a basic list of known excavations from the record cards and linear files of the former Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division (now the National Archaeological Record, RCHME, Southampton) and the county SMR. This basic list will normally contain *c.* 60 to 70% of the excavations eventually incorporated into the Index. This list is then supplemented by noting additional excavations described in published sources, and deriving information from individuals or institutions involved in the archaeology of the area. This supplementary work is often important in obtaining information on unpublished excavations or those excavations which have only been published in a very brief and ephemeral form.

Once this basic list is complete the most important work of the Index can take place: to locate wherever possible the original excavation archive and the finds for every excavation that has taken place in the county. To this end museums, libraries and archaeological units are searched for excavation archives and finds. Individual excavators are also contacted to provide further details of archive and find locations.

The importance of this work lies in the fact that no organisation has systematically recorded this information before for any county and that details of excavation finds or archive held by any institution or individual inside or outside the county being compiled are recorded.

In this way the Excavations Index combines information from many disparate sources to provide a unique record of archaeological excavations throughout England.

The Norfolk Excavation Index

Introduction

The Norfolk Index was compiled by one of the authors (DG) between April and November 1986. This work was funded by the National Monuments Record, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

The Index was compiled initially from the Sites and Monuments Record of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (at Gressenhall and Norwich Castle Museum), supplemented by research in other museums, bibliographic searches in various libraries, the antiquities records of the former Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division (now the National Archaeological Record, RCHME, Southampton) and questionnaires sent to excavators.

The brief discussion which follows is based on statistics compiled at various times, and as future research will no doubt lead to correction and enhancement of the Index, the figures cited should be regarded as approximations. This article is not concerned with details, but instead the purpose is to describe and discuss broader trends. In October 1987, the number of excavations in the Norfolk Index stood at 1123.

An example

The following example (from the Norfolk Index) illustrates the contents of a typical Index entry, rather than the precise format of the printed Index. Various fields of the entry employ abbreviations, and lists of abbreviations used are printed with the Index. In this example, O.S. = Ordnance Survey Antiquity Record, S.A.M. = Scheduled Ancient Monument, SMR = Sites and Monuments Record, PRN = Excavation Index Primary Record Number, NAU = Norfolk Archaeological Unit, RO = Roman, NWHCM = Norwich Castle Museum, EAA = East Anglian Archaeology and REP = Report. Asterisks indicate that further information about a field is to be found under *Remarks*.

Location Information

Quarter Sheet:	TG 20 SW	OS no: 14.00	County: NORFOLK
Grid ref:	TG 2388- 0395-	SAM no: 244	District: SOUTH NORFOLK
Site name:	OLD CHURCH CLOSE	SMR no: 9787	Parish: CAISTOR ST. EDMUND
PRN:	15825		

Excavation details

Excavated by:	GURNEY, D. A.	Duration: 1984-1984
Auspices:	NAU	Funding:
Classification:	TEMPLE*	Periods: RO
Finds location:	NWHCM**	Location:

Archive detail

Location	NAU		
Notes (Y)	Plans (Y)	Photos (Y)	Negs (Y)
Slides ()	Corr ()	Manus (Y)	

Bibliography

Title	EAA/30/1986/	Type REP
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Remarks

*temenos wall **ACC NO 179.985(2)

The distribution of excavations (Fig. 1)

The main areas of Norfolk where large numbers of excavations have taken place fall into three main categories; these are the historic urban centres of the County, sites of exceptional importance and areas where usually a single excavator has been particularly active.

The first category includes Norwich, King's Lynn, Thetford and Great Yarmouth, and the five 5 km squares which include most or all of these centres account for 256 excavations (23% of the total number of excavations). In these areas, the average frequency of excavations is two in each square kilometre, and Norwich has a remarkable average of more than five excavations in each square kilometre. This is largely due to the presence in the City of one or more archaeological institutions since 1845 (when the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society was founded), excavations undertaken by the staff of the Archaeology Department of Norwich Castle Museum, in the 1970s the major programme of excavations by the Norwich Survey, and recent excavations by the Norwich Field Officer of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

The second category includes the flint mines at Grime's Graves, where there have been 20 excavations since the first in 1852, and the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* in the parish of Caistor St. Edmund to the south of Norwich where there have been 25 excavations. In the latter case, proximity to Norwich would appear to have been a contributory factor, and a number of 5 km squares around the City also have between 10 and 19 excavations.

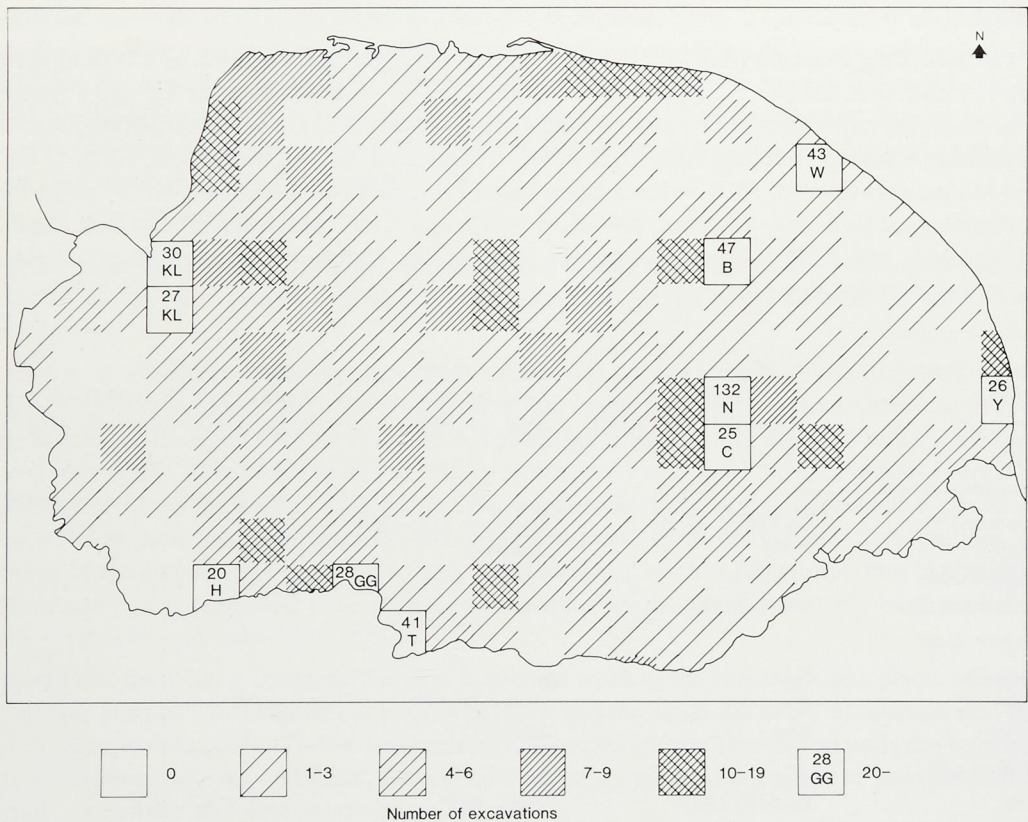


Fig. 1

The distribution of excavations. Each square is 25 sq. kms. Codes used for squares with 20 or more excavations are, from west to east: KL — King's Lynn, H — Hockwold, GG — Grime's Graves, T — Thetford, B — Brampton, N — Norwich, C — Caistor St. Edmund, W — Witton and Y — Great Yarmouth.

The third category includes the large numbers of excavations at Hockwold cum Wilton, Brampton and Witton, due to the work of the late Mr. F. Curtis, Dr. A. K. Knowles and Messrs. J. Owles and the late J. Turner respectively. Other areas with more than ten excavations include parts of the valley of the Little Ouse in south-west Norfolk (long known to be a rich area of prehistoric and Roman settlement), Heacham and Snettisham in north-west Norfolk (excavations by C. H. Lewton-Brain) and the Salthouse/Weybourne/Beeston Regis/Runton area on the north Norfolk coast (including a wide range of sites: prehistoric 'pit dwellings' excavated by A. Q. Watson, excavations on a Roman site by Gresham's School, barrows on Salthouse Heath, Augustinian Priors at Weybourne and Beeston Regis, flint sites at Kelling, Roman kilns at Weybourne and Upper Sheringham, Bronze Age hoards at Beeston Regis and various undated pits, smelteries and an animal burial). In central Norfolk, it is a coincidence that most excavations have taken place in squares not far removed from the Unit's headquarters at Gressenhall, although this area does include a series of excavations at North Elmham, at the Cathedral and the Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery on Spong Hill.

Noticeable 'blanks' in the distribution include the Broads, the fens and the Stanford Battle Area. In addition to these areas, there are some 25 other 5 km squares where to our knowledge, no excavation has taken place.

Periods and types (Fig. 2)

No detailed analysis of periods and types is attempted here, but the numbers of excavations by period are shown on Fig. 2 and the following notes describe the main site types in each period.

There are 75 excavations which are undated and these are mainly burials, pits and mounds where excavations failed to recover any artefacts. Fifteen undated mounds have been excavated; no doubt it was believed that most of these were Bronze Age barrows. Unassigned prehistoric and early prehistoric excavations are mainly finds of flints and pottery.

Neolithic excavations include the flint mines at Grime's Graves (20 excavations) and the long barrow at West Rudham (2). The large number of excavations in the Bronze Age is accounted for by no less than 113 barrow excavations, in addition to settlements (14), hoards (8) and other burials (6). It is interesting to note the small number of Iron Age excavations; these are mainly confined to settlements (18) and pits (10).

The main Roman categories are towns (*Venta Icenorum* and the 'small town' at Brampton together 58), Roman roads (34), kilns (33), the Saxon Shore Forts (Brancaster, Burgh Castle

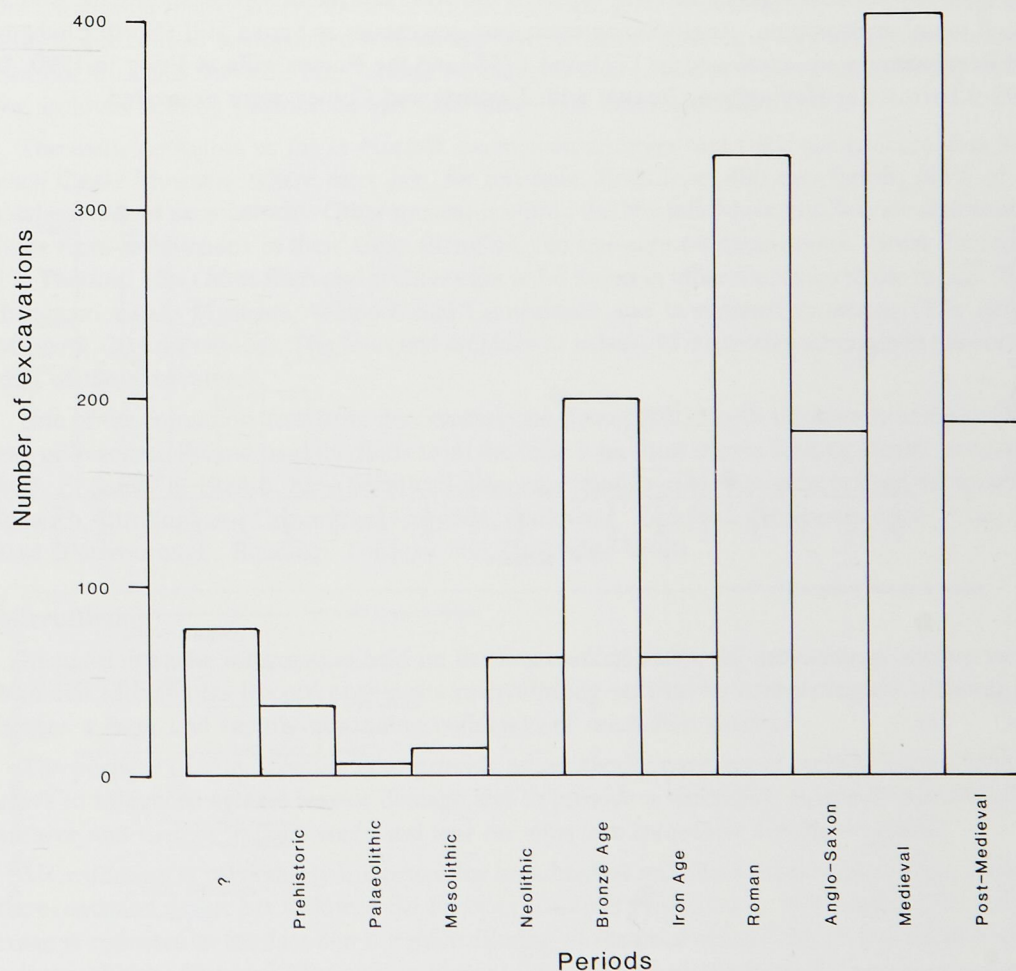


Fig. 2
Number of excavations by period.

and Caister on Sea 17) and hoards (10). Anglo-Saxon excavations have been mostly concerned with settlements (especially Thetford and Norwich) and burials (cremations and inhumations together 45).

The bar chart peaks in the Medieval period, mainly due to the large numbers of urban excavations in Norwich and King's Lynn. Churches and chapels add 53, priories, friaries and monasteries 51, moated sites 29, villages (DMVs) 18, castles and mottes 15 and kilns 11.

Post-Medieval types are fairly mixed, and include excavations of 'non-antiquities' such as World War 2 aircraft crash sites, of which there have been 14.

Excavation dates (Fig. 3)

The earliest recorded excavation in Norfolk took place in 1451, when 'hill-diggers' opened a mound in Bunwell and recovered treasure worth £100. A similar exercise at nearby Fornsett took place in 1465, when a mound called 'Nonmete Hill' was opened by J. Cans and R. Hikkcs, who recovered one hundred shillings in coined money.

In the 1530s a barrow was excavated at Fritton and St. Olaves, in 1658 the Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery at Great Walsingham was explored and 1667 saw the first excavation at the Roman 'small town' at Brampton. Anglo-Saxon cremation cemeteries at Spong Hill (North Elmham) and Brettenham were excavated in 1711 and 1754, and the Roman villa at Fring in 1790. In 1798-9 barrows at Hevingham, Buxton with Lammas and Colney were excavated.

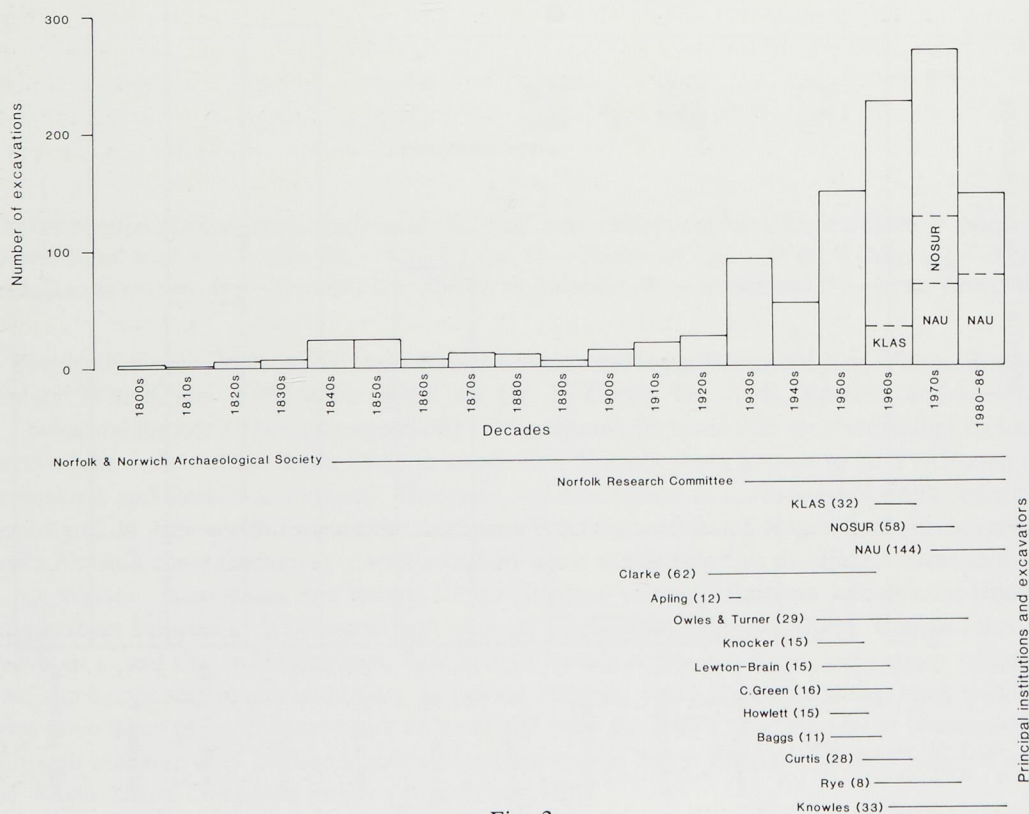


Fig. 3

Number of excavations by decade since 1800, and principal institutions and excavators (with numbers of excavations). KLAS — King's Lynn Archaeological Survey, NOSUR — Norwich Survey, NAU — Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

The number of excavations in each decade since 1800 is shown on Fig. 3. The 1840s and 1850s have 24 excavations each, and these are mostly barrow excavations by clergyman, although excavations also took place at Burgh Castle, Grime's Graves, Castle Rising Castle and Little Walsingham Priory. In 1845, the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society was established, and within a year had a membership of more than 300. It was confidently anticipated that 'the antiquities of Norfolk will be more thoroughly investigated than those of any other English County'.

The next main impetus to excavation came in 1934 with the formation of the Norfolk Research Committee. After World War 2, the late 1940s saw the first major urban excavations in Norwich and Thetford, and from the 1950s, the number of excavations increases dramatically, boosted by the King's Lynn Archaeological Survey (1963-71) and the Norwich Survey (1971-78). 1973 saw the establishment of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, and since its formation, the Unit has been responsible for 144 excavations up to 1986.

Finds and archive locations

The location of the finds and archives from excavations are two of the main objectives of the Excavation Index. Where these are still in the possession of excavators, it is hoped that they will, in due course, be deposited with an appropriate institution (e.g. Norwich Castle Museum, Norfolk Museums Service). The National Monuments Record also provides a microfilming service for archives held by institutions and individuals (see Microfilming below).

The main institution as far as Norfolk excavation archives and finds are concerned is Norwich Castle Museum, where there are, for example, finds from 480 excavations (43% of the total number of excavations). Other museums within the Norfolk Museums Service also contain finds from excavations in their areas (King's Lynn museum 64 excavations, Great Yarmouth 17, Thetford 15). Other finds and archives are to be found in other museums in the region (Sandringham Estate Museum, Wisbech and Cambridge) and in national museums (The British Museum, 20 excavations). The finds and archives of at least 45 excavations remain in the possession of the excavator.

One of the cremation urns from the cemetery on Spong Hill, North Elmham is at the University of Warsaw, Poland, and the finds from the mesolithic flint site on Kelling Heath, excavated by J. E. Sainty in 1924-6, have been well dispersed: finds are known to be housed in Norwich, Ipswich, Birmingham, Cambridge, Croydon, Guildford, Hereford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Oxford, Peterborough, Reading, Torquay and Tunbridge Wells.

Microfilming

In addition to the information held on the Excavations Index the archaeology section of the National Monuments Record provides a microfilming service for archaeological archives and houses a large and rapidly expanding collection of microfilm records.

The purpose of microfilming is to provide an archivally permanent security copy of the archive to safeguard against loss or damage and to provide a secondary means of consulting the archive and thereby reduce wear and tear on what are frequently fragile originals.

Microfilming is particularly important for unpublished records or excavation archives where the excavation report has followed the Frere or Cunliffe guidelines on publication. This importance is reflected in the fact that the microfilming of the excavation archive and the deposit of a copy with the National Monuments Record was and is a requirement for rescue excavation grants from the former Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Department of Environment and now the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

The National Monuments Record provides a free microfilming service of archaeological archives of all types to private individuals or public bodies and if requested provides one free copy for the owner of the archive.

Further information on the conditions and methods for microfilming is available from the Archaeology Section in London at the contact address listed at the end of this article.

Using the Index

Where and How to Consult the Index

The Excavations Index is computerised and information can be retrieved from any combination of the 72 fields in the record (period, site type, excavator, date of excavation, archive location, parish, etc.).

On-line searching of the Index is possible via a computer terminal in the public library of the National Monuments Record in Fortress House in London, where NMR staff can guide you through the enquiry screens. This service is free except for the cost of copying if this is required.

Printouts of the Index for Norfolk are also available in the NMR Library and these contain a catalogue ordered by Ordnance Survey 1:10,000/1:10,560 Quarter Sheet and National Archaeological Record/former O.S. Archaeology Division record number as well as indices for date of excavation and periods represented on excavated sites.

Printouts of the Index for Norfolk have been deposited for consultation at the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record, Gressenhall and at the Castle Museum in Norwich.

For those enquiries which require printouts which are selected or ordered by other specified criteria, e.g. excavator, archive location or site type or information on excavations outside Norfolk, this may be obtained from the NMR. Enquiries can be made by personal visit or by telephone or letter addressed to the Archaeology Section as detailed below. A wide range of catalogue and index options for printouts are available for which a nominal charge is made to cover the cost of printout.

Potential Uses of the Index

There is a wide range of potential use for a national record of excavations; the following describes some of the different uses to which the record has been put in the last two years:

- 1) Enhancement of existing record systems such as County Sites and Monuments Records or the National Archaeological Record.
- 2) Site research prior to excavation:
 - a) Previous excavations on the site, location of excavation archive and finds, any publication.
 - b) Excavations on similar site types, e.g. all previous excavations on leper hospitals or Gilbertine religious houses.
- 3) University or private research, e.g. all excavations by members of the Yorkshire Roman Antiquities Committee or all excavations funded by MOW/MPBW/HBMC or MSC in Essex.
- 4) Museum Collection Policy:
 - a) Lists of all archive locations and archive types for excavations conducted in the county or district.
 - b) Lists of all excavation archives held and their contents for any specified institution.
- 5) Assistance in decisions on record copying or accession by the National Monuments Record Archaeology Section.
- 6) Research by local offices of RCHME prior to field survey.

The Checking and Updating of the Index

Checking of the Index

Once compilation of an index for a county has been completed the information is computerised in London and a number of primary checking procedures are carried out. This involves the checking of the computerised record against the original data entry sheets, then a number of checks to ensure internal consistency in coding and format. Final checking then takes place to assess academic content and to add any information received since compilation was completed.

The Updating of the Index

The Excavations Index was begun in 1978 and for the majority of counties no updating has taken place since compilation was completed. The Index in some areas therefore needs substantial updating to include excavations which have taken place, reports published or finds or archive transferred to museums. Some counties will therefore require additional compilation work to bring them up to a par with counties completed more recently in the South of England.

Once this is done plans for the future maintenance of the Index can be put into effect.

The information required to maintain the Index is essentially of two types:

- a) Basic information on site location, site type, bibliographic references, etc.
- b) The location of archive and finds.

Four major sources will be utilised to provide this information:

- a) Information abstracted from national and local journals and other archaeological literature derived from the National Archaeological Record in Southampton.
- b) Regular contact with archaeological units, societies and sites and monuments records.
- c) Information from museums on accessions of excavation archives and finds.
- d) Information obtained from individual excavators.

Errata and Omissions

A survey of excavations in a county can never hope to be complete and it is inevitable that some errors will have occurred or some information omitted. We would welcome notification of any errors or additional information on excavations from users of the Index and any such information can be sent to the Archaeology Section at the address below.

Contact Address

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