

The Survey

Permission was obtained from the various land-owners and tenants and from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, and during the autumn and winter of 1985-6 a metal-detector and surface-survey was carried out by four local detector-users, who were regularly collecting from unscheduled parts of local farms, under the constant supervision of the author. Immediately after the cereal crop had been harvested from the Temple Field and the land ploughed, that field was divided into 20-metre squares and each square systematically detected by a single individual, with occasional checks by the others to ensure consistent coverage; three or four hours were spent on each square. The whole of the Temple Field was worked, but it became obvious that the main concentration did not extend as far as its eastern boundary. The survey was therefore not extended into the next field to the east, which is also part of the Ancient Monument. During the same operation the Paddock, a small pasture field which was ploughed regularly until recent years, was surveyed in the same way. After the sugar-beet harvest in January the Police House Field to the north was similarly detected.

Signals both for ferrous and non-ferrous metals were investigated, dug by the detector-user and the find bagged and returned to the hole. The author then collected the finds, numbering them and recording their location to 0.1 m accuracy. The coarse plot (Fig. 1) shows the overall distribution of finds in the three fields, a general scatter over the southern part of Police House Field, a distinct dearth in the Paddock, and a strong concentration inside the walled area of Temple Field with a good number immediately outside the wall, possibly ploughed out of the ditch fill. A distinct small concentration occurred outside the *temenos* on the other side of the valley on the edge of the wood. The recovery of eight Icenian silver coins from the Temple Field suggests the principal motive for the nocturnal raids: the finds otherwise did not include any particularly spectacular material, with relatively few silver denarii or high-quality bronzes, and a distinct absence of finds other than coins (which agrees well with the lack of votive material from the excavations (Gurney 1986)). It is therefore likely that the Iron Age coins are the great attraction.

The general distribution poses two problems: there is a marked contrast between the number of finds from the Paddock and from the other two fields. Is this genuine? It seems unlikely that nocturnal raids have stripped all finds from this area, although of course the lack of ploughing in the last few years would have prevented the constant renewal of finds in the topsoil which occurs in a ploughed field; in the raids of the last few years no signs have been seen of any disturbance to the Paddock. Unless its mature turf is impeding signals, which seems unlikely, we must assume that the north-eastern part of the *temenos* and the exterior within the Paddock are devoid of archaeological metalwork. This assumption is supported by the rarity of coin finds in the gardens of Old Church Close, south of the Paddock, where only seven have been found (Gurney 1986).

This then throws some light on the second problem, namely the marked absence of finds from a ten-metre wide strip along the south edge of the Police House Field, and from a five-metre wide strip along the west edge of Temple Field. A less marked thinning of finds can be seen along the west and south edges of these fields respectively. It is possible that the field edges are somehow affecting the recovery of material, but this is not a phenomenon which has been observed on other sites. Therefore the gaps along some of the field edges are probably genuine, which then draws attention to the curious distribution in the south part of the Police House Field, with a general scatter in the south-western quarter turning into a north-west to south-east band continuous with the coins immediately outside the north wall of the *temenos*.

The Finds

No detailed publication of the finds will be attempted here since it is envisaged that detecting will continue for several years, but it is appropriate to offer some sort of analysis of the finds of 1985-6. Apart from coins, the number of Iron Age and Roman finds is small, comprising principally a few brooches of first- and second-century AD types (Figs 4 and 5). The number of coins, in contrast, allows detailed analysis, both in terms of their chronological and their spatial distribution. During the metal-detecting survey 164 coins of Iron Age and Roman date were found in Temple Field, and these, taken together with earlier finds which can be related specifically to this field, give a total sample of 221 identifiable. In the Police House Field the total discovered was 116, which earlier finds make up to a total of 161 identifiable. A third group, of 71 coins discovered from the field identified on Fig. 1 as Cantley Hill, were found in the late 1970s, and although not plotted individually as were the 1985-6 coins nevertheless form a third useful group for chronological analysis.

The number of coins found may seem large in archaeological terms, but in the context of metal-detector finds around Caistor St. Edmund it is not. Two other fields near the Roman town, detected over a similar period, have produced a minimum of 362 and 2690 coins. There is no evidence for religious activity on these other two fields. The paucity of non-coin finds on this site, unusual as it may appear when compared with archaeological excavation, is a common phenomenon in metal-detector collections where small coins are far better represented than in many excavated examples. Indeed, among some of the many assemblages of metal-detector finds now known from Romano-British sites in Norfolk, there is a good number where metal artefacts other than coins are almost absent, and this is a phenomenon which requires further study.

The Analysis

Each group of coins is plotted separately on a histogram (Fig. 2); for each of the now familiar numismatic periods (Reece 1972, 271) the coins are expressed as a percentage of the total of identifiable Roman coins found in that group. The Iron Age coins are included but have not been reckoned in total, in order to allow easy comparison with sites elsewhere in the country where Iron Age coins have not been taken into consideration at all. In order to allow comparison within the group, the Iron Age coins have then been expressed as a percentage of the total of Roman coins.

To provide some context for the figures the background distribution of Roman coins in Norfolk is also included: a total of 12,918 coins from excavations and systematic surveys in Norfolk have been identified, mostly by John Davies and the author. These have been used as a background against which to plot the present finds. On Fig. 2 the Caistor bars are hatched and the Norfolk background bars left open. The bars are inclusive, not complementary; thus for the Temple Field in Period 3 the total bar height is 23% with the Caistor figure uppermost. The junction between the hatched and unhatched bars lies at 4%; the general Norfolk figure for Period 3 (AD 69-96) is thus 4%, while the percentage for that period from the Caistor Temple Field is 23%. The greater the difference in height between the top of the bar and the junction of hatched and unhatched, the greater the deviation from the Norfolk norm. If the top of the bar is hatched then the site group has a higher percentage for that period than would usually be expected in Norfolk. If the top is unhatched then the site group is lower than might be expected. Where the site group and the Norfolk background are the same, the top of the bar is marked with an asterisk.

CAISTOR ST. EDMUND
Caistor Lane Roman Temple

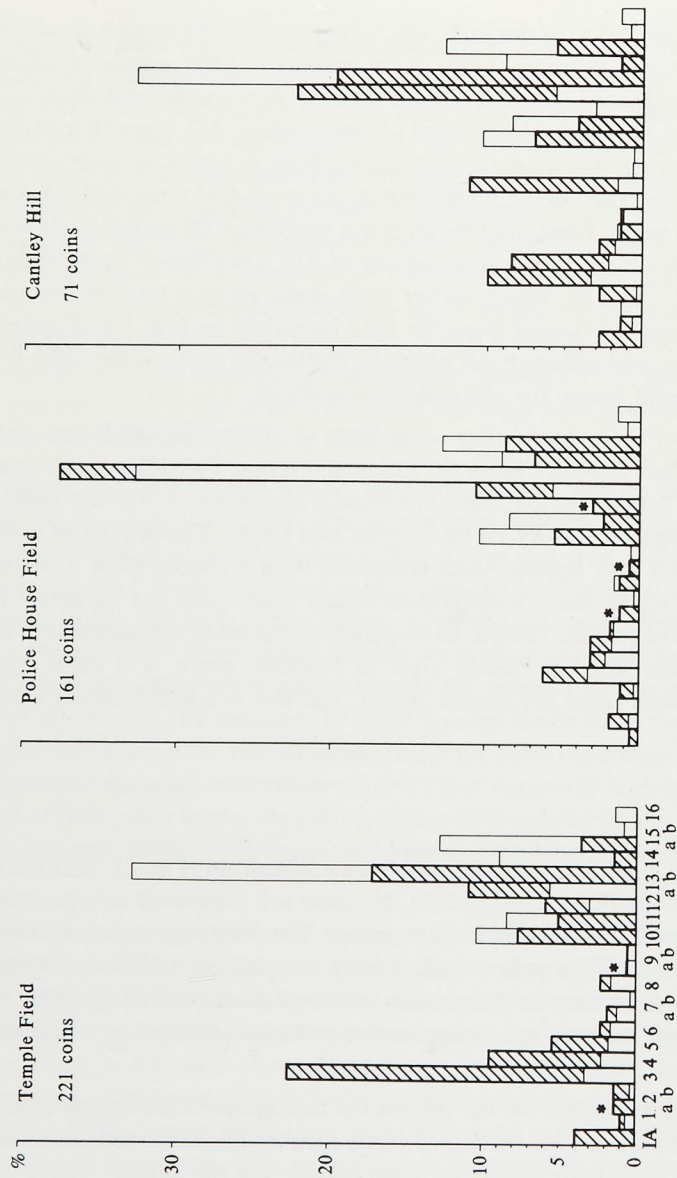


Fig. 2
Histogram of coin finds at Caistor St. Edmund.

In their general configurations the three groups conform well with the general Norfolk picture — a peak in Period 3 (AD 69-96) falling steadily to Period 9b (238-259) with a brief revival in 8 (193-222), composed almost entirely of *denarii*. A Period 10 peak (259-275) followed by fewer coins in Period II conforms well with the usual Norfolk picture, but is at odds with the other Norfolk temple sites, Crownthorpe, Sawbench and Leylands Farm, Hockwold-cum-Wilton and Walsingham where Period II coins, including barbarous radiates, exceed Period 10. After this a steady climb through Periods 12, 13a and 13b (294-317, 317-330 and 330-348) is followed by a trough in 14 (348-364) and a lower peak in 15a (364-378) which is characteristic of most Norfolk coin lists but much less common in other parts of the country where a steady decline of number sets in after 13b (Reece 1973, Table II). The low proportions usually seen

in Periods 15b and 16 (378-388 and 388-402) are entirely absent from these three site groups. The only major divergence from the 'normal' Norfolk picture is the dip in Periods 12 and 13b among the Cantley Hill coins, and the relatively small numbers of fourth-century coins from Temple Field, reduced comparatively by high proportions of Flavian and second-century coins.

To analyse the distribution spatially, the coins from the supervised 1985-6 metal-detecting have been plotted by numismatic periods across the site (Fig. 3). The intention was to search for any patterns through time, an aim which has long been in the minds of fieldworkers, but has rarely been achievable for want of large numbers of closely-dateable artefacts finely plotted across a large site. It is difficult to imagine a situation more appropriate for this sort of analysis than the Caistor metal-detecting. In order to keep the number of maps down to an acceptable number, some coin periods have been combined and thus the reader's immediate impression is conditioned by the author's selection of periods so combined. Period 3 (AD 69-96) has deliberately been allowed to stand alone, because of the large numbers of coins of that date from the Temple Field, and Periods 4 and 5 (96-117 and 117-138) combined because they too were well-represented in contrast to the following four, Periods 6-9 (AD 138-259) which are very thin indeed.

For convenience the distributions will be considered in three separate sections, the Police House Field, the Temple Field, and the extra-mural group to the north-east.

Police House Field

No Icenian coins were found, the one Iron Age coin plotted, towards the northern end of the field, being earlier, a Gallo-Belgic E stater. The Cantley Hill field immediately to the east produced an Icenian silver unit and a Gallo-Belgic Dc quarter stater. These two gold coins are the earliest Iron Age coins from the whole of the complex of sites around the Roman town. Of the Roman coins a thin scatter occurred over the whole central and southern part of the field from the Republic (coins which are likely to be residual in first or second century AD currency) to Period 12, a total time span of almost 300 years. There is no particular peak of coin-loss during this time, and the only spatial quirk in the distribution is the occurrence of five Antonine coins, Periods 6 and 7 in the northern part of the field in contrast to the southern distribution of coins of other periods. As the histogram (Fig. 2) shows, the Police House Field sees increased coin loss in Periods 13a and 13b (AD 317-330 and 330-348) and it is in the latter that the characteristic tail develops on the distribution running from the main mass of coins in the west-central part of the field south-east to the north wall of the *temenos*. The overall distribution certainly suggests a low but steady coin loss on a site physically separated from the temple site to the south, accelerating and finally joining up with the *temenos* in the first half of the fourth century.

The Temple Field

There appear to be two distinct nuclei of coin-loss within the *temenos* in the first century of coin-using. The eight Icenian silver units initiate this pattern with a north-south spread to the west of the temple, and two coins to the north-east of the later temple site. The date of loss of these coins is, of course, a problem, and it is possible that they were still in use and being lost as late as the 60s.

The north-south concentration continues to show strongly up to Period 5 (AD 117-138) as does the second, more easterly concentration, but in the latter case it is rather swamped in Period 3 (AD 69-79) by a generally heavy spread of coins over the whole *temenos* area. In Periods



Fig. 3 Roman coins plotted by numismatic period.

6-9 (AD 138-259) coins are too scarce in the *temenos* to allow any conclusions but some distinct localisations can be seen in subsequent periods, in Period 10 (AD 259-275) a strong clustering in the northern part, in the area around the temple in Period 12 (AD 294-317), in the north-east in 13a (AD 317-330), and in 13b (AD 330-48) two separate concentrations, one in the north-east and a second around the temple building. After this there is only a single coin in the *temenos* and it is likely that it went out of use in the middle of the fourth century.

Extra-Mural Group

To the north-east of the *temenos*, on the opposite side of the valley, a small number of coins were found, scattered over an area about 40 m across. These span Periods 4 to 14 (AD 96-364) and represent a separate small area of occupation, which there is no reason to associate with the temple.

The Finds

A selection of Roman brooches made of bronze, and other finds, has been illustrated (Figs 4 & 5). Don Mackreth has kindly provided brief descriptions of the brooches in Fig. 4.

1. Colchester derivative, late 1st to mid-2nd century.
2. Rosette, Augustan-Tiberian, 29 BC to AD 37.
3. Colchester derivative, probably late 1st to mid-2nd century.
4. Colchester derivative, probably later 1st century.
5. Colchester derivative, late 1st to mid-2nd century.
6. Enamelled headstud, late 1st to mid-2nd century.
7. Enamelled, unclassified, probably 2nd century.
8. Enamelled hare brooch, 2nd century.
9. Enamelled disc brooch, 2nd century.
10. Enamelled seal box lid, 2nd to 3rd century.
11. Enamelled harness decoration, 2nd to 3rd century.
12. Part of folding balance arm.
13. Tweezers.
14. Foot from bronze bowl.

CONCLUSION

Pre-emptive metal-detecting on the site has denied a certain proportion of the finds to the night-time raiders and has recovered data which would otherwise have been lost. The Temple Field was raided once after the completion of this supervised detecting and a large number of holes dug, but since all obviously recent metal objects, largely washers and cartridge cases, were left in the soil there is no way of telling what else was left for the night-timers. We were under no illusion that we could strip all recoverable material from the site, and a certain proportion must have been left behind to be found by the later unwelcome visitors.

There are clearly two distinct areas of occupation separated from the temple site proper by the watercourse which was followed by later field boundaries, a smaller area to the north-east, still in the Temple Field, but probably extending into the wood to the north, and a larger one in Police House Field running through the Roman period to a peak of coin-loss in the mid-4th century. There is no reason to suppose that these were part of the religious site, and the two gold coins of the first century BC might be the first dark hints of a pre-Conquest occupation area near the Roman town.

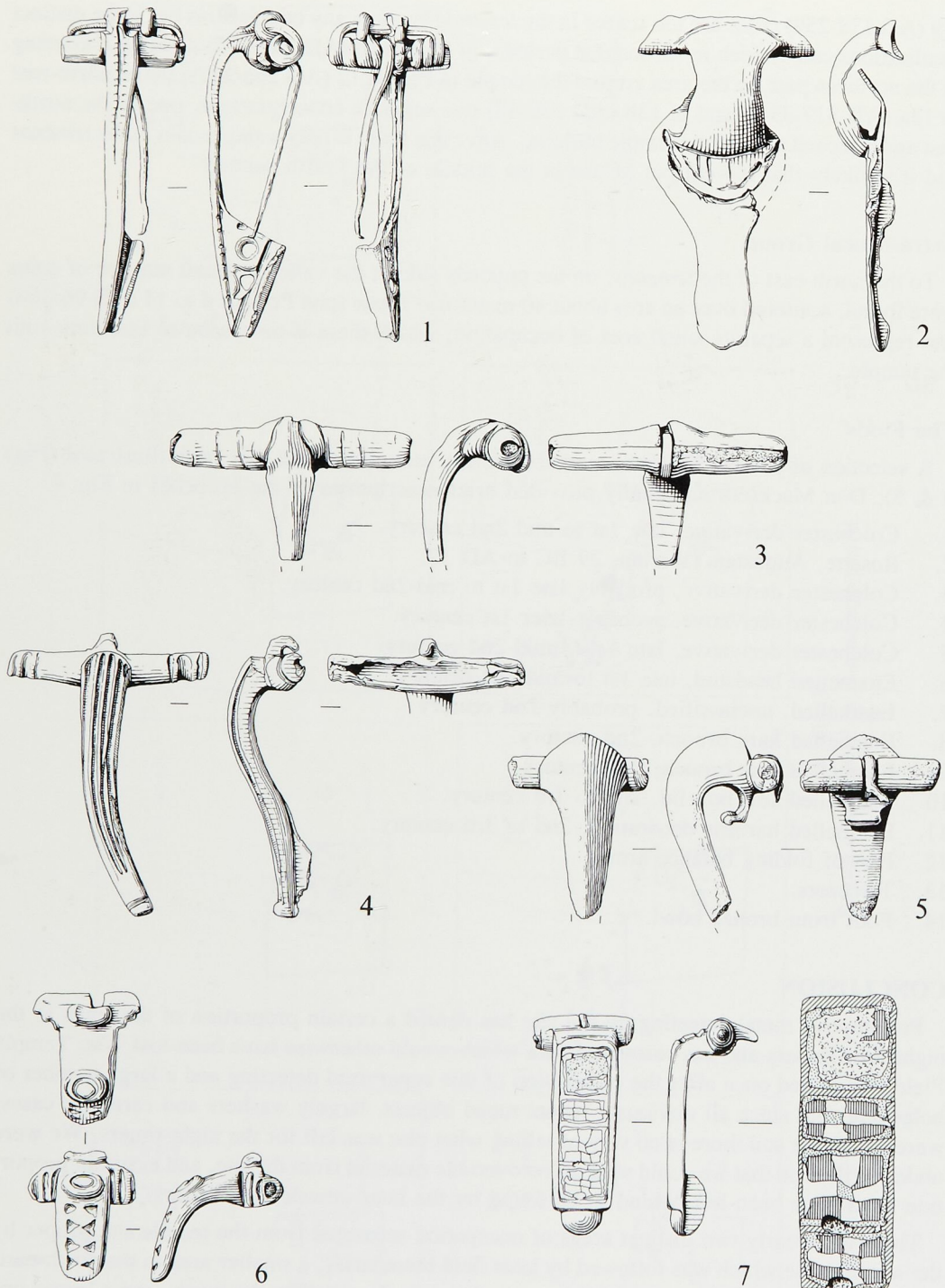
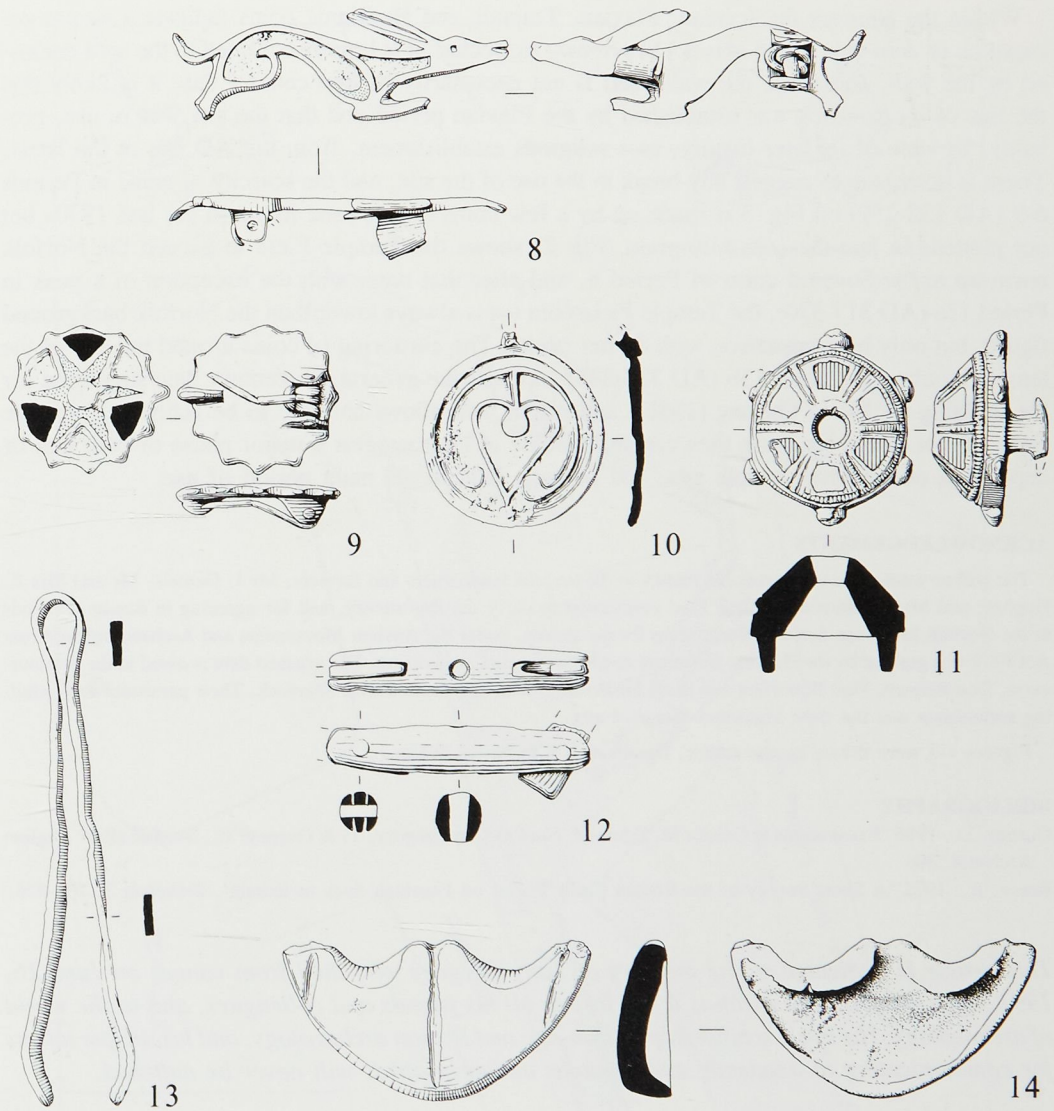


Fig. 4
Roman brooches from Caistor St. Edmund. Scale 1:1



Colour code for enamel inlay .





- | | |
|--|--|
|  Blue |  Unknown dark colour |
|  Red |  Unknown light colour |

Fig. 5
Roman brooches and other objects from Caistor St. Edmund. Scale 1:1

Within the *temenos* the Icenian, Flavian, Trajanic and Hadrianic coins indicate a strong occupation or coin-loss which was not previously suspected; it is largely confined to the area enclosed by the wall, and while the wall itself is not necessarily of first-century date it is likely that the line of the *temenos* was established by the Flavian period and that the site was in use, probably, in view of its later history, as a religious establishment, from the AD 60s at the latest. There is no reason to suggest any break in the use of the site, and the scarcity of coins in Periods 6-9 (AD 138-259) on Fig. 3 is made up by a few coins of this time found in the late 1970s but not plotted. In fact the coin histogram (Fig. 2) shows the Temple Field to exceed the Norfolk norm up to the Severan coins of Period 8, and after that date, with the exception of a peak in Period 13a (AD 317-330), the Temple Field coin list is always lower than the Norfolk background figure, but only by comparison with earlier peaks. The clustering of coins around the site of the temple building in Period 13b (AD 330-348) supports the general 4th-century date suggested for the building by David Gurney (1986), and might well allow that date to be refined. If surface finds cannot date a structure they can in this case at least suggest a major phase of coin loss or deposition on a known temple site, and perhaps indicate its main period of use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to express his thanks to the various landowners and farmers, Mr J. Daniels, Mr and Mrs E. Hughes, and Mr C. Skinner for their kind permission to carry out this survey, and for agreeing to donate the finds to the Norfolk Museums Service. Permission for the survey, under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was granted by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission. The greatest debt is owed to the detector-users, Don Bennett, Paul Butterfant and Steve Dunthorne, with help from Barrie Sharrock. Their persistent and unflinching enthusiasm was the most important factor of all.

Figures 1-3 were drawn by the author; figures 4 & 5 by Susan White.

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This article is dedicated to the memory of Tony Gregory who died from cancer on June 26, 1991, aged only 42. His death is a sad loss to all his friends and colleagues, and to the world of archaeology. His lively scholarship in Iron Age and Roman archaeology, and his unique talents for communicating to academic and amateur audience alike, will never be matched.

THE EAST MOUNT, GREAT YARMOUTH IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT OBSERVATIONS

by Edwin J. Rose

The History of the East Mount

In the face of the growing threat of invasion from Spain in the years leading up to the sailing of the Armada, measures were taken to modernise the medieval defences of Great Yarmouth. Not all the proposals were put into effect; the well-known Hatfield House drawing of the defences is difficult to reconcile with the structural remains (O'Neil 1942). Two additions to the eastern defences were certainly made; in 1569 a Mount of earth was erected and strengthened by a wall of brick and freestone in 1588; and in 1587 a ramp of earth and 'manure' (i.e. refuse)

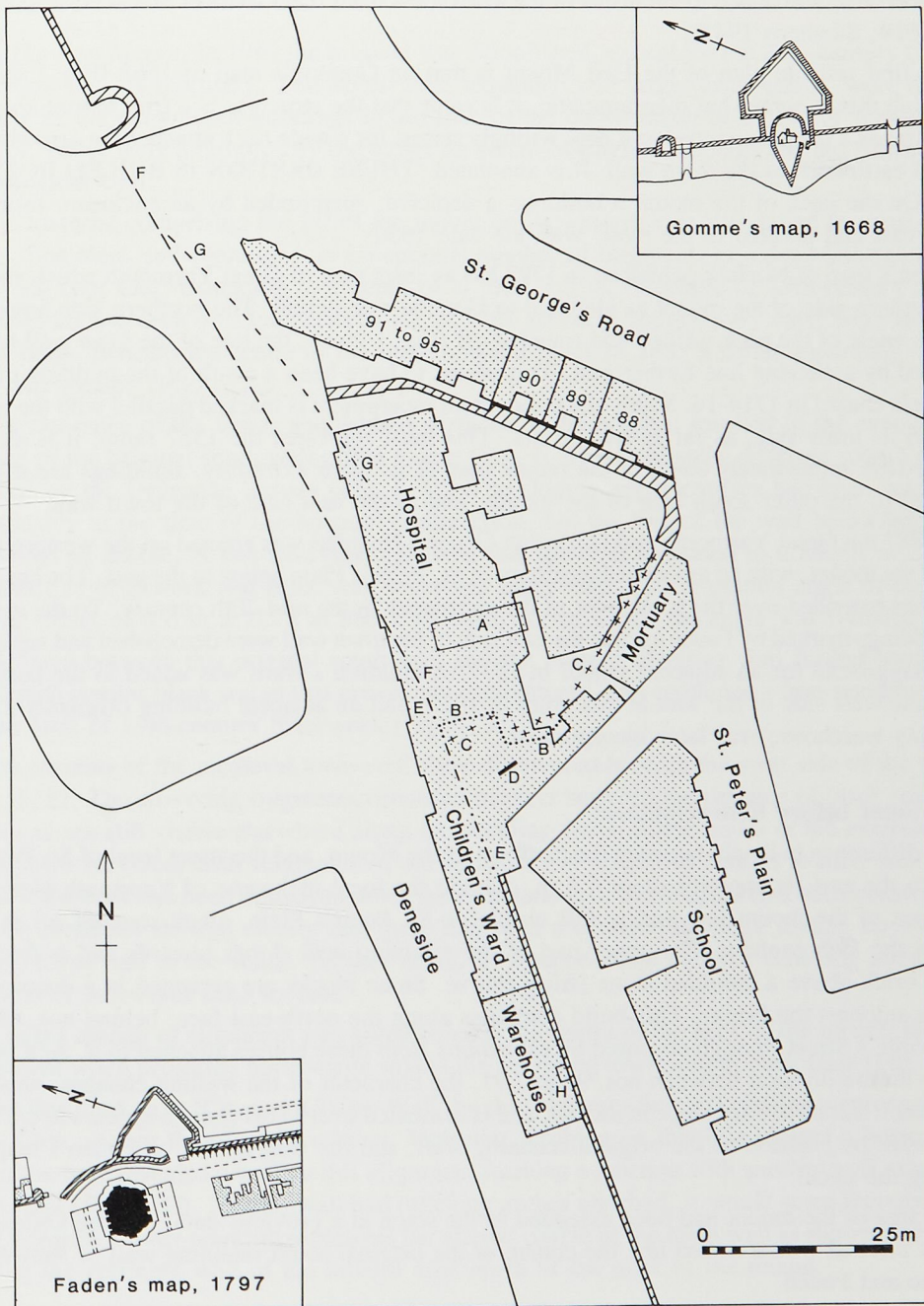


Fig. 1

The East Mount, Great Yarmouth; site plan as at 1984 with location of features mentioned in the text.

Inset: The Mount as shown on Gomme's map 1668 and Faden's map 1797.

forty feet wide was added to the inside of the town walls from Blackfriars to Market Gates (Manship 1619; Stephens 1942).

The first reliable plan of the East Mount is that on Gomme's map of 1668 (Fig. 1 inset). Although this is somewhat diagrammatic, it is clear that the structure is a true Mount and not a ravelin, as a plaque attached to it now wrongly states, for a wide neck attaches the arrowhead-shaped earthwork to the town wall. It is annotated 'THESE BASTION IS BUILED IN 1588' (*sic*). On the neck of the mount a building is depicted, surrounded by an enclosure rounded to the east and pointed to the west, with the date 1650.

Faden's map of Norfolk published in 1797 has an inset map of Great Yarmouth which shows the southern side of the mount as identical to Gomme's depiction. The northern side however has the angle of the neck infilled and rounded off (Fig. 1 inset), the line of the town wall being replaced by a curving line further east. This seems to have been a result of the building of St. George's chapel in 1714-16. South of the mount an escarpment is marked parallel with the town wall on its inner side, as far as Blackfriars. This must represent the 1587 ramp; it is shown as narrower immediately south of the mount than at its other extremity. Buildings are shown attached to the outer south face of the mount, and to the east side of the town wall.

In 1887 the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston General Hospital was erected on the western portion of the mount, with an associated mortuary in St. Peter's Plain below to the east. The hospital buildings extended over the remainder of the earthwork in the mid-20th century. To the south, the buildings marked by Faden against the east side of the town wall were demolished and replaced by a playground for an adjacent school in 1877. A children's ward was added to the hospital along the west side of the wall at this point in 1910, and an adjacent building originally a gas company warehouse was later incorporated.

The Mount before Redevelopment

The difference in height between the platform of the Mount, and the street level of St. Peter's Plain to the east, is approximately 4.5 m, gaining the local nickname of Yarmouth Heights. The apex of the mount was and is still visible on St. Peter's Plain, albeit squared off at the base in the 19th century. The upper part of the retaining wall slopes inwards and is formed of red brick above a moulded stone string course. Stone blocks are arranged in a decorative pattern amongst the bricks. This build continues along the north-east face, behind nos. 88-90 St. George's Street, though obscured by extensions from these houses attached to it. At a point level with the division between nos. 90 and 91, the character of the walling changes; west of this point it has no inward slope at the top, and is cemented over. This change appears to correspond with the junction of the original retaining wall, and the wall shown on Faden's map as infilling the neck.

The area of the mount had been extended to the south at a previous date, and the Ordnance Survey marked with a dotted line the course of the original south retaining wall as shown by Gomme and Faden.

South of the mount, the town wall below the childrens' ward could be seen from the school playground, though its lower section was covered by 19th-century red brick cladding. Above this the walling consisted of knapped flintwork, with many areas of patching. The battlements had been removed and the foundations of the wall of the ward rested on top of the town wall. The difference in ground level here between St. Peter's Plain to the east, and Deneside to the west, is between 2.5 m and 3 m. Further south, sections of the brick battlements remain built into houses in Deneside.

The Discoveries of 1984-6

(i) *The East Mount*. In 1984 the hospital was demolished, except for the 20th-century eastern extension and the mortuary. Test holes, later expanded into larger excavations, were dug on the site of the demolished buildings in advance of the construction of blocks of flats for the elderly. These were monitored by the writer on behalf of English Heritage and the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

The material comprising the fill of the mount on its western side was found to consist of a loose, fine black soil containing an exceptional number of fragments of animal bone and post-medieval roof tiles, extending to a depth of at least 3.5 m. A couple of 19th-century sherds and the rim and neck of a Langerwehe jug of 15th- or early 16th-century date¹ were the only other finds. Beneath the centre of the main hospital block of 1887 a cellar apparently of that date was located (Fig. 1, A).

The clearance of the floors and ground surfaces of the hospital resulted in the exposure of the top of the original south wall of the mount (Fig. 1, B) on a slightly different course to that marked by the Ordnance Survey (Fig. 1, C). The sloping upper courses had been removed, presumably at the time of the hospital construction, but the line of the wall below appeared as a band of rubble. A test excavation showed that the wall remained to a height of 2 m; it consisted of brickwork and flint, with a vertical inner face. The re-entrant angle of the neck had an offset of 0.6 m at 0.75 m above its base, above which the angle was rounded off.

The area between this original south wall and the present revetting wall further south was filled with similar black soil to that previously encountered, and contained a free-standing foundation arch of 19th-century brickwork (Fig. 1, D).

The remains of the medieval town wall were discovered beneath the west side of the mount (Fig. 1, E). The surviving fragments consisted of piers between the remains of brick relieving arches as are still visible elsewhere along the standing walls. Some traces of the external wall facing also survived, with fragments of the surrounds of arrowslits central to each arch. Sections of the wall had been destroyed when the foundations of the hospital had been constructed, but the remnants showed clearly that there had been a continuous length joining up with the visible town wall to the south. Further north, an intact section of three relieving arches had fallen over eastwards onto its face.

A slight change of alignment was noted beneath the centre of the neck of the mount; the new alignment when projected northwards strikes the surviving town wall at New Gate (Fig. 1, F).

The line marked as 'Course of Town Wall' by the Ordnance Survey, running south-east from New Gate, cannot therefore be correct. However, probing on this line located a buried wall and a test hole revealed a wall on this alignment forming a junction with another wall extending to the east (Fig. 1, G). Neither wall had relieving arches attached. It would seem therefore that the Ordnance Survey marking represents the altered course of the town wall as shown by Faden, joining the retaining wall of the infilled area north of the neck of the mount.²

(ii) *The Town Wall South of the Mount*. The children's ward and the former warehouse were demolished, and the brick facing removed from the lower part of the east face of the wall.

A test hole excavated on the site of the warehouse (Fig. 1, H) produced the same sort of black soil as encountered on the hospital site, again containing many fragments of bone and roof tile though here the latter included medieval as well as post-medieval types.¹ Only one sherd was found, a fragment of late 19th-century stoneware. Tip lines were visible in the fill. A cellar was located, apparently constructed for the warehouse and later altered for hospital use. Its

brickwork was pointed on the exterior faces suggesting it had been built as a free-standing structure. The inner or western face of the town wall was again found to have brick relieving arches.

Removal of the brick cladding to the eastern face of the wall revealed four large apertures. These had been roughly hacked through the wall by enlarging the existing arrowslits. Some of the apertures had later been reduced in size with brickwork to form doorways. Two arrowslits remained undamaged, having been bricked up from the east side, as shown by the fact that the mortar was pointed on the east but untrimmed on the western face. The relieving arches, to which these apertures now gave access, had been walled off on the west side in late brickwork; one contained a number of 19th-century pottery and glass vessels. Presumably the building marked by Faden against the outer face of the wall — said locally to have been a row of cottages — had utilised the arches as cellars.

Discussion

These observations have been of great value with regard to both the medieval and 16th-century defences. It has been confirmed that the town wall at this point was constructed in a similar fashion to the remaining sections to north and south, and its alignment is now accurately known. No evidence was found for the medieval gateway supposedly buried by the mount and replaced by New Gate, but this could still remain undiscovered beneath the roadway of Deneside north of the area observed.

The shape of the mount as shown by Gomme has been confirmed, at least as far as the south side is concerned. Of great interest is the evidence relating to the ramp of 1587. The loose black soil containing animal bones which was discovered corresponds agreeably with Manship's 'earth and manure' and the types of roofing tile mixed with it support a 16th-century date. It would be pleasing to know from where this material was obtained. The 19th-century sherds were presumably introduced at the time of the insertion of the hospital cellars. What is particularly noteworthy is the occurrence of this soil in the western side of the mount itself, lying across and to the east of the town wall. This raises the possibility that the original 1569 mount was in fact indeed a ravelin, detached from the wall, and that besides the ramp on the inside of the town wall the 1587 works included making an earth neck to join the ravelin to the walls, thus forming a true mount, the project being completed in 1588 with the enclosure of the earthwork in its retaining walls. The town walls were partly dismantled to form the neck, their lower sections being buried. However, Manship's statement (see Appendix) that the weight of earth caused the town wall to collapse suggests that the original earthwork of 1569 butted against the wall and was indeed therefore a mount. This may be the reason for the section of the medieval town wall that was found lying on its face. Perhaps the similarity in the earth fill from the two areas is simply due to its having been collected from the same area at two different dates. During construction of the Market Gates shopping centre in 1973 Mr S. Dunmore observed the development on behalf of the Archaeological Unit. He recorded that on the site of the 17th-century fortification known as the Main Guard, which stood on the northern end of the 1587 ramp, a loose black soil containing post-medieval pottery extended downwards to a depth of two metres. This indicates that the ramp was of the same material throughout as encountered on the hospital site.

The alterations shown on Faden's map have now also been confirmed. It is probable that when St. George's Church was constructed in 1714-6, the proximity of the town wall and the ramp gave cause for concern with regard to the stability of the church's foundations, as well as the fact that only a narrow passage would have been left on the east of the new building. Fashion

as well as prudence dictated the infilling of the north neck angle of the mount and a realignment of the town wall.

Faden shows the ramp as narrowing as it approached the mount; the section northwards to Market Gates is not shown at all, presumably due to levelling and the build-up of adjacent ground levels. There is nowadays a gradual rise of up to 2 m from King Street to Deneside; the buildings between the two are shown by Faden and the ramp had already been partly spread out to the west before 1797 to allow for their construction. There is a rise of about 2 m in York Road where it crosses the town wall line at the site of Little Mount Gate. These levels correspond with the 2-3 m difference between the east and west sides of the wall at the childrens' ward site. The remains of the ramp can nowadays be followed southwards, the soil level on the west side gradually decreasing and the relieving arches of the wall becoming visible, until all trace of the ramp ceases at Alma Road, the site of Garden Gate.

At some date before 1797 cottages were built against the outer face of the town wall just south of the mount, and the inhabitants conceived the idea of enlarging the arrowslits in the wall to form cellars in the now subterranean relieving arches beyond. Presumably the arrowslits had been blocked up in 1587 to prevent the soil of the ramp spilling through, for the walls across the western sides of the relieving arches appear to be composed of brick of late post-medieval type, rather than that of the 16th century. It is very difficult however to explain how the arches could have been emptied of their soil fill from the east, and the walls constructed across the arches, without the main mass of the ramp slumping down into them.

When the hospital was constructed in 1887 the southern side of the mount was extended southwards; the almost-accurate depiction of the original line by the Ordnance Survey suggests that the retaining wall was still visible at the time of the survey of the first edition twenty-five inch map of 1880. The parapet was removed but the body of the wall allowed to remain buried. The black soil infill of the additional area is so similar to that of the ramp that it is probably that removed when the hospital cellars were excavated; the details of the cellar below the former warehouse suggest that an area of soil was cleared to allow its building as a free-standing structure, the soil then being backfilled against its walls; the loose nature of the soil would necessitate this.

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August 1989

1. Identified by Andrew Rogerson.
2. Detailed measured drawings of all the structural discoveries were to be prepared by the developers, Messrs Chaplin and Farrant. These have not been received at the time of publication.

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Appendix from pp.46-57 of Henry Manship's *History of Yarmouth* of 1619, published by C.J. Palmer in 1854.

This town of Yarmouth, for the defence thereof and of the coast adjoining, by the special direction of our Captain Jennins, at their own private costs and charges, did erect and build up in the midst of the town, directly east of the Prison or Tolhouse of Yarmouth, towards the sea, a very high Mount of earth, which was begun (myself being with other the then grammar scholars of Yarmouth, by the space of three days, a young labourer, or rather loiterer, amongst them, — more willing to help to carry a maund of earth in my hand, than a satchel of books on my shoulder,) on the eleventh of Decem^r, 1569, in the time of John Ufford and Ambrose Bulward, Bailiffs, by the inhabitants of Yarm^o, who continued the work till the 5th of June following, at which time the town wall being overcharged, fell down to the ground. The rubbish whereof being within five days following cleared, a new wall was reared, and on the eleventh day of the month of June aforesaid, they began to build again the Mount aforesaid afresh, making the breast of flags of earth. Which Mount did contain 222 feet in length, and in breadth 32 feet without the walls: to the performance whereof every one of the number of the Four-and-twenty gave two shillings the week; every of the Eight-and-forty, twelve pence; and the other townsmen according to their ability. Eight country carts were hired by the town, who continued the labour by the space of eight weeks: so by the diligent oversight of the magistrates, and willing obedience of the people, the whole work was fully finished by the 5th of Augst following. But in the year of our Lord 1588, John Coldham and John Youngs, Bailiffs, which was in the year of the coming of the great (yet by God made weak) Spanish Armada against us, by special direction of S^r Thomas Leighton, the town did inclose the lower part of the same with a wall of brick and free-stone, containing in compass 500 feet, the breadth of the foundation 9 feet, the depth within the ground 11 feet, the height to the setting of the wall 15 feet, and the breadth at the setting off 5 feet and 3 inches; the height of the wall finished, 20 feet 6 inches: all which was done at the town charge, and cost in money (besides the labour of the inhabitants, which being rated at eight pence a-day, did amount to more than £200) the sum of £682 13s. 4d., and is holden by skilful engineers a work for defence most excellent . . . The other inward Wall is far higher than the town wall, of competency sufficient, and was by the township begun to be built and walled-in anno 1590, James Johnson and John Wheeler, Bailiffs . . . But the same being not finished, it hath been adjudged by men of great wisdom and judgment, that the same will cost, before it be ended, £300. In both which be continually placed in readiness, great pieces of ordnance, to scour the road at the time of the enemy's approaching.

THE GREAT HALL, OAK ST., NORWICH

by G.N. Barrett

This ancient building (Plate I) is owned by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, an offshoot in 1923 of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society. The Trust is a property-owning Registered Charity. Amongst its original life subscribers were the two Misses Colman, Prince Duleep Singh, H. Bradfer-Lawrence and Basil Cozens-Hardy.

The building consists of the original great Hall of a prosperous citizen of the 15th century. Norwich-over-the-Water was then the industrial suburb of the City and Oak Street one of its most popular districts. The Ordnance Survey of 1888 shows the Sussex Street to Station Road area as densely populated with eighteen side yards of small houses or tenements. The air raids of 1942 more or less obliterated the area, the Great Hall alone stood above the debris.

The Hall has recently been extensively repaired and refurnished and is now used as offices. The Trust is very interested in the history of its property and commissioned reports carried out by Robert Smith of the Centre of East Anglian Studies and Geoffrey Kelly. The following is a shortened account of their reports.