

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS IN NORFOLK 1990

Edited by David Gurney

This is a selection of important finds, details of which have been entered onto the Sites and Monuments Record in 1990, maintained at the Norfolk Archaeological Unit at Gressenhall and the Castle Museum, Norwich. This may be consulted by appointment.

The entries are arranged by period, and within each period by parish alphabetically. Grid references have been omitted at the request of finders. Where material of other periods is recorded but not described, this is shown by, for example (+PAL, RB).

Period abbreviations are as follows: PREHIS prehistoric; PAL/UPAL/LPAL Palaeolithic/Upper/Lower; MESO Mesolithic; NEO Neolithic; BKR Beaker; BA/EBA/MBA/LBA Bronze Age/Early/Middle/Late; IA Iron Age; RB Romano-British; PS Pagan Saxon; MS Middle Saxon; LS Late Saxon; MED Medieval; PM post-Medieval; U undated. Metal artefacts and coins are of copper alloy (bronze) and Saxon and medieval coins are of silver unless otherwise stated.

The Norfolk Archaeological Unit and the Castle Museum are most grateful to all those who bring in finds for identification, thereby contributing to the SMR and this annual list. The assistance of colleagues in other institutions, especially the British Museum and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, in the identification of finds is gratefully acknowledged.

The majority of the finds listed have been found in the course of metal-detector survey, but the list also includes discoveries of, for example, new earthworks, either by field observation or aerial photographic survey.

The illustrations are by Susan White (Figs 1-2), Kenneth Penn (Fig. 3, Fig. 5, Nos 1,3), David Fox (Fig. 4) and Steven Ashley (Fig. 5, No. 2).

PALAEOLITHIC

Hockham (Site 8992) (+MESO). Rolled flint flake (J. Wymer and P. Robins).

MESOLITHIC

Hockham (Site 8992) (+PAL). See 'Mesolithic Occupation around Hockham Mere', this volume.

BRONZE AGE

Beachamwell (Site 4544) (+RB, LS, MED). Upper end of MBA palstave and tip of spearhead or rapier (S. Brown).

Fincham (Site 25741) (+RB). BA ?rapier tip (C. Sproule).

Garvestone (Site 25689) (+IA, RB, MED). LBA hoard of socketed hammerhead, spearhead tip and casting plug (R. Reynolds).

Garvestone (Site 25898) (+RB, MED). EBA axe (R. Reynolds).

Hockering (Site 25795). MBA palstave (M. Wales).

Horstead with Stanninghall (Site 25955). Small MBA palstave c.1400-1200 BC (T. Hudson).

Horstead with Stanninghall (Site 25762) (+RB, PS, MED). Blade end of LBA socketed axe (T. Hudson and D. Baldry).

Lynford (Site 25769). Mound, possible round barrow discovered (E.V. Rogers and J. Wymer).

Reepham (Site 25696). MBA side-looped spearhead (R. Reynolds).

Sheringham (Site 25956). Blade end of MBA palstave, 1400-1000 BC (D. Coleman).

Shipdham (Site 25768). ?BA ring-ditch located by NAU aerial photography (D.A. Edwards).

Snettisham (Site 25920). LBA hoard of cutting end of socketed axe, five bronze cakes and two lead lumps (H. Mitchell).

Trowse with Newton (Site 9605). Cropmarks of ?BA double-concentric ring-ditch noted on 1973 Cambridge University aerial photograph (D.A. Edwards).

Walsingham, Gt. (Site 2024) (+IA, RB, LS, MED). LBA sword blade fragment (D. Fox).

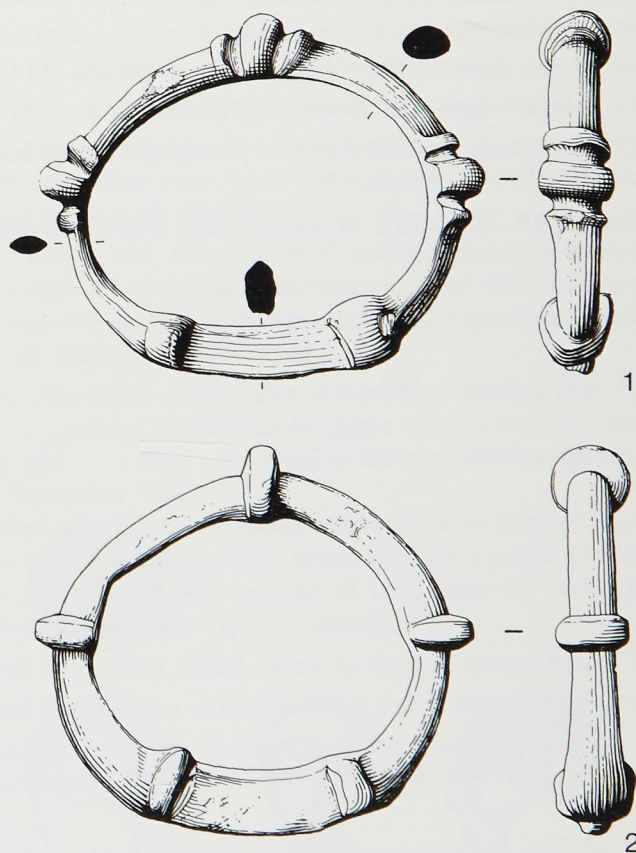


Fig. 1

Iron Age terrets from Ashill and North Creake. Scale 1:1

IRON AGE

Ashill (Site 25782) (+RB). Complete terret (Fig. 1, No. 1): simple bar, ring decorated with three equally spaced transverse mouldings, 'ribbed' type, Leeds Class 1 (R. Saunders).

Burston (Site 23345) (+RB, PS, MED). Bronze coin: either Norfolk/Suffolk border type or Cantii (Mack 296) (S. Garrod).

Creake, N. (Site 25777) (+RB, MED). Three Icenian silver coins and bronze terret (Fig. 1, No. 2) (T. Harcourt).

Filby (Site 25864). Gold stater of Antedios: extremely rare, with only two other recorded/published examples (A. Scott).

Fincham (Site 4360) (+MED). Mount in form of ram's head (C. Sproule).

Fring (Site 25758). Icenian silver coin hoard. See elsewhere, this volume.

Hockwold cum Wilton (Site 25784). Icenian silver coin: Boar/Horse B type. Human skeletal remains also reported (S. McKay).

Holme Hale (Site 25783). Miniature Celtic-style head (Fig. 2), in the round, with circular perforation from below (R. Saunders).

Hopton on Sea (Site 25088). Bronze coin of Cunobeline, Mack 244 (S. Garrod).

Morley (Site 25719). Bronze toggle with broken loop (M. Bone).

Narborough (Site 25776). Several hundred sherds of pottery and animal bone (Raspberry and F. Wiggs).

Oxborough (Site 15138) (+RB, ?PS, MED). Sherds recovered from site of ring-ditch (S. Brown).



Fig. 2

Miniature Iron Age head from Holme Hale. Scale 2:1

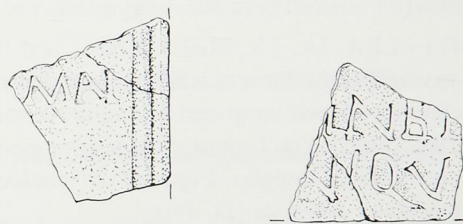


Fig. 3

Roman military diploma from Caistor St. Edmund. Scale 1:1

ROMANO-BRITISH

Ashill (Site 25782) (+IA). ?Dolphin variant brooch and Aesica brooch (R. Saunders).

Banham (Site 25944) (+IA, MED, PM). Enamelled 2nd C. disc brooch, six 4th C. coins corroded together (?hoard), eight other coins, pottery, tiles and oysters (D. Bailey).

Bixley (Site 25896). Cast 'bust' of horse with incised linear, triangular and curvilinear decoration and ring-and-dot, indicating mane, bridle and trappings, set on flat integrally-cast bar-shaped base with transverse grooves (R. Knowles).

Burgh Castle (Site 13227) (+IA, MS). 1st/2nd C. button-and-loop dress fastener. *Antoninianus* (AD 270-1) of the emperor Vabalathus (Athenodorus), joint ruler of Palmyra with his mother and recognised by Aurelian until the latter was proclaimed Augustus and defeated the Palmyrene Empire in AD271 (P. Rilings and S. Garrod).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 9836) (+PS). Part of a military diploma (Fig. 3): extant inscription can be restored as '... and are in Britain under [name of governor] who have served for twenty-five years or more' and '... May'. The form of the text indicates that it was issued after AD 91 and before 24 September 105.

Gold earring: crushed spherical or oval bead, originally in the form of a stylized pomegranate. Unparalleled as an earring (most probable function) or as a pendant bead for a necklace. Its appearance recalls the spherical gold earrings of 1st C. date (S. Dunthorne).

Plate brooch of double sandal-sole type (D. Bennett).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 9791). Small mount in form of human head (D. Sutton).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 9759) (+IA, MS). Cast relief plaque, depicting lion (D. Bennett).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 17650). Zoomorphic plate brooch in the form of a reindeer, with enamelled cells. Crude lead disc with human face. Crude lead figurine of human or animal (D. Bennett).

Congham (Site 25675) (+IA, LS, MED). ?RB figurine of ?dog, looped for suspension (S. Brown and B. Francis).

Dunham (Site 4188). Mercury statuette (T. Harcourt).

Fincham (Site 25741) (+BA). Snake finger ring (C. Sproule).

Hainford (Site 25828). Lead-filled bust (D. Baldry).

Hindringham (Site 25773) (+IA, MED). 62 coins, sherds, tiles, metalwork, late Roman buckle with two outward-facing horses (P. West).

Hingham (Site 2982). Coins and metalwork found on site where place-name suggests earlier finds of coins or jewellery, or presence of barrow (M. O'Keefe).

Snettisham (Site 25789). Scatter of Roman roof tile, suggesting site of building (C. Hodder).
Walsingham, Gt. (Site 2024) (+LBA, IA, LS, MED). Coins, seal-boxes, lock-pins, 'knobs', styli, finger-rings, brooches, mounts in the form of a human face, keys, needle, spoon, bracelets, hairpins, cosmetic pestle, amphora-shaped strap-end and other metalwork and pottery. Silver finger-ring inscribed TOT (?the Celtic deity Toutates). Mount or vessel fitting in form of deity (?Minerva). Protected loop terret. Gold intaglio. Figurine of ?cockerel. Thick lead sheet with impression of a *denarius* of Marcus Aurelius (D. Fox).

Wighton (Site 1113). Finger-ring found with bronze-stained finger-bone (D. Fox).

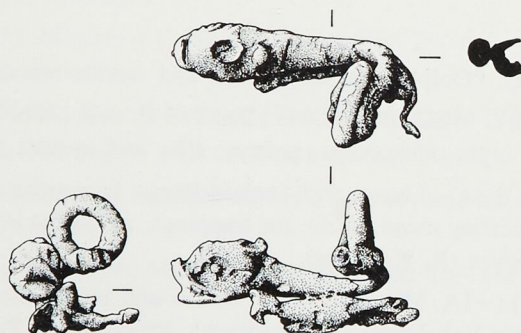


Fig. 4

Roman? object of uncertain function from West Winch. Scale 1:1

Winch, W. (Site 25465). Zoomorphic ?Roman object (Fig. 4) in the form of a ?dolphin. Function uncertain (B. Heslington).

Wormegay (Site 25755). Fragments of a pewter plate (L. Jarvis).

Wramplingham (Site 25697) (+LS). Five coins, brooch and button-and-loop fastener (R. Taylor and R. Knowles).

PAGAN SAXON

Barnham Broom (Site 25756) (+MED, PM). PS or MS 7th C. tinned/silvered 'shield on tongue' buckle pin (Allen).

Burlingham (Site 25942). Part of probable small-long brooch (G. Simmonds).

Burston (Site 23345) (+IA, RB, MED). Fourteen items (cruciform brooches, girdle hangers, annular brooches, wrist-clasps, suspension rings and the fittings of a wooden bucket) suggesting site of inhumation cemetery (R. Rilings, P. Rilings, D. Jordan, N. Gipson).

Bylaugh (Site 25690) (+IA, MS, LS, MED). ?Wrist-clasp bar with ring-and-dot (R. Chamberlin).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 24333). Wrist-clasp (D. Sutton).

Caistor St. Edmund (Site 13222). PS or MS gilt mount with Style 2 interlace (D. Baldry).

Corpusty (Site 25826) (+MED). Gilt mount or brooch fragment with human mask cast decoration (D. Coleman).

Elmham, N. (Site 25848) (+MED). Finds of brooches and wrist-clasps suggesting inhumation cemetery (B. George and M. Elliott).

Fincham (Site 25737). Head-plate of cruciform small-long brooch with two projecting lobes (C. Sproule).

Foulsham (Site 25759) (+RB). Square head (panelled) type small-long brooch (B. George and M. Elliott).

Letheringsett with Glandford (Site 25860). Cruciform brooch fragment of 'Florid' type with small lappets carved with bird's head motif (P. Rilings).

Mautby (Site 23704) (+MS). Unusual long brooch foot (Fig. 5, No. 1) (P. Rilings).

Sprowston (Site 25895) (+MED). PS or MS Style II decorated pelta-shaped mount, gilt bronze, decorated in two fields, with U-shaped field in centre, decorated with two animals with ribbon interlace bodies and heads (D. Baldry).

Tuddenham, E. (Site 25965). Cruciform brooch, probably Group II (R. Jenkins).

Walton, E. (Site 25856) (+IA, RB). Finds of brooches, wrist-clasps and girdle-hangers suggesting site of inhumation cemetery (S. Brown and D. Miller).

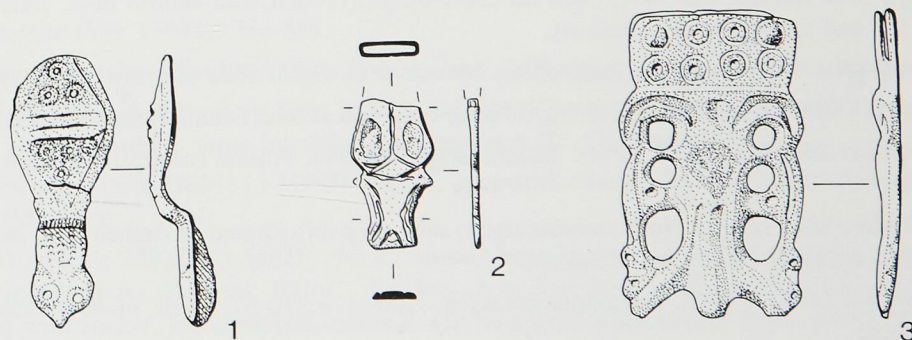


Fig. 5

Pagan Saxon brooch foot from Mautby (No.1), Middle Saxon strap-end fragment from Banham (No.2) and Late Saxon strap-end from Barnham Broom (No.3). Scale 1:1

MIDDLE SAXON

Banham (Site 25734). Fragment of 9th C. strap-end (Fig. 5, No. 2) (D. Bailey).

Barnham Broom (Site 25756) (+MED, PM). See PS.

Barnham Broom (Site 25849). 9th C. MS/LS strap-end fragment with stylised ?foliage decoration at split end (R. Chamberlin).

Bawsey (Site 25962) (+IA, RB, PS, LS, MED, PM). Six sceattas. Stylus/pin. Sheet fragment with attached ?face-mask. Styliform strap-end. Enamelled mount. MS/LS 9th C. strap-end with animal head terminal, niello inlay and silver wire decoration. MS/LS 9th C. hooked tag with niello and silver wire spirals. See PS (S. Brown).

Beachamwell (Site 25717) (+MED). Part of ansate (caterpillar) brooch with unusual wedge-shaped terminal with two hatched zones giving the appearance of a fish-tail (S. Brown).

- Burgh Castle* (Site 13227) (+IA, RB). Ansate (caterpillar) brooch. Penny of Offa, c.792-6, moneyer Eadbald, not previously recorded, bringing the number of moneyers in East Anglia during Offa's heavy coinage to three, Eadbald, Lul and Wihtred (P. Rilings and S. Garrod).
- Bylaugh* (Site 25690) (+IA, PS, LS, MED). High quality MS or LS silver pin: gilt head decorated with filigree and granules forming trefoils within circles. Brooch with backward-turning quadruped (R. Chamberlin).
- Caistor St. Edmund* (Site 9813). MS or LS 9th C. strap-end with worn secondary zoomorphic decoration (M. Fry).
- Caistor St. Edmund* (Site 9759) (+IA, RB). Strap-end, tapering to a tiny animal-head terminal (D. Bennett).
- Caistor St. Edmund* (Site 13222). See PS.
- Congham* (Site 25765) (+IA, RB, LS, MED). Unique Carolingian gold coin, struck from an official reverse die of Chartres, obverse inspired by a coin of Constantine I or II, late 9th or early 10th C., struck probably in France, but possibly by Vikings in the Low Countries or even the English Danelaw, pierced for suspension and probably ceremonial or ornamental rather than currency.
- St. Edmund memorial penny, post-Cuerdale variety c.905-15, Southern Danelaw, moneyer 'Er-crer' (B. Francis).
- Hainford* (Site 25775). 8th-9th C. MS/LS cross-shaped brooch with central boss, transverse single lug and catchplate (T. Hudson).
- Hempnall* (Site 19364). Ansate (caterpillar) brooch with trefoil ends to arms (M. Fry).
- Kempstone* (Site 13042). MS or LS 9th C. strap-end with animal head terminal (T. Hudson).
- Loddon* (Site 16854) (+MED, PM). Brooch fragment. Pin. Ansate (caterpillar) brooch (D. Bennett).
- Long Stratton* (Site 12513). Northumbrian styca, ruler probably Eanred or Aethelred II, mid-9th C., York, moneyer Monne (S. Bennett).
- Mautby* (Site 23704) (+PS). Northumbrian styca, Eanred, c.810-37, York, moneyer Eadwine (P. Rilings).
- Sprowston* (Site 25895). See PS.
- Walton, W.* (Site 25853) (+RB, LS, MED). Sceat, 'porcupine' type c.715-30. Sceat, Series Q c.715-30, possibly a new type (M. Carlile).
- Wiveton* (Site 25862) (+MED). MS/LS 9th C. strap-end fragment with elongated animal head, white 'paste' (?niello) in ears and central field (D. Coleman).

LATE SAXON

- Barnham Broom* (Site 25849). See MS.
- Barnham Broom* (Site 25723) (+MS, MED). Thick cast tongue-shaped object decorated with 10th-11th C. Winchester-style acanthus leaf with ?niello inlay in one lobe, and on reverse sunken field with two lugs, perhaps part of a loop (Allen).
- Barnham Broom* (Site 25757). Winchester-style openwork strap-end (Fig. 5, No. 3) with two rows of four ring-and-dots along split end and human or animal mask in centre of foliate motif (Allen).

- Bawsey* (Site 25962) (+IA, RB, PS, MS, MED, PM). Two cut farthings (one Cnut). Folding balance. Tweezers. See also MS (S. Brown).
- Beachamwell* (Site 4544) (+MBA, RB, MED). Cut halfpenny of Aethelred II, c.979-985, southern style dies, ?London mint (S. Brown).
- Brinton* (Site 25803). 11th C. box mount in form of animal head (see elsewhere, this volume) (T. Linford).
- Bylaugh* (Site 25690) (+IA, PS, MS, MED). Tweezer arm. Penannular finger-ring. Tongue-shaped 10th C. Winchester-style strap-end with ?human figure in foliage. Italian denaro, Lucca, Henry II-V (between 1004-24 or 1039-1125). See also MS (R. Chamberlin).
- Caistor St. Edmund* (Site 9813). See MS.
- Congham* (Site 25766). ?Harness-fitting (?cheekpiece) with Ringerike-style engraving (S. Brown).
- Deopham* (Site 25778) (+IA, RB, MED). Bridle side-link with central boss and lobed pierced terminals (R. Chamberlin).
- Erpingham* (Site 12991) (+MED). Box-mount with human mask (see elsewhere, this volume) (M. Bone).
- Fritton and St. Olaves* (Site 25859) (+MED). Borre-style 10th C. disc brooch (A. Ereira and R. Rilings).
- Hainford* (Site 25775). See MS.
- Kempstone* (Site 13042). See MS.
- Letheringsett with Glandford* (Site 25863). 10th C. Borre-style brooch (D. Coleman).
- Letheringsett with Glandford* (Site 21565). 9th-10th C. convex disc brooch with three Borre-style animal heads in three interlace knots between (D. Coleman).
- Long Stratton* (Site 25691) (+MED). 10th C. openwork mount with Winchester-style inhabited vine (M. Fry).
- Roudham* (Site 25921) (+MED). 9th C. animal head strap-end with three panels with silver wire spirals above terminal. 10th C. disc brooch in East Anglian Borre style. LS cast hooked fitting with socket, cross-shaped terminal with engraved equal-armed cross, possibly part of sword-belt attachment (T. Harcourt).
- Sisland* (Site 25855). LS or early MED 11th C. box-mount, unusually with flange decorated with transverse engraved lines, openwork body of mount engraved with two animals (Ringerike influenced), and central 'cat-like' but big-eared animal head in relief (D. Bennett).
- Sheringham, Upper* (Site 25894) (+MED). 11th C. gilt strap-end of very unusual type, decorated with leaf scrolls in ?Winchester style (D. Coleman).
- Walsingham, Gt.* (Site 2024) (+LBA, IA, RB, MED). Penny of Eadwig, moneyer Folcard (who struck coins for Eadwig and Eadgar 959-75). A moneyer of the same name (?same individual or homonymous relative) struck coins of Aethelred II at Norwich c.979-97 (D. Fox).
- Walton, W.* (Site 18952). Cast foot of vessel in form of animal head (M. Carlile).
- Walton, W.* (Site 25853) (+RB, MS, MED). 10th/11th C. box-mount with Winchester-style decoration, ?animal decoration and ?Ringerike elements (M. Carlile).
- Wiveton* (Site 25862). See MS.
- Wramplingham* (Site 25697) (+RB). Lead disc brooch with cast cruciform motif in five cast bosses, one in centre, one in each arm, ribbed border and spandrels between cross arms decorated with crude interlace (R. Taylor and R. Knowles).

MEDIEVAL

- Barnham Broom* (Site 25756) (+MS, PS, PM). 13th C. rectangular buckle-plate decorated with mythological beasts in relief on enamelled ground. Penny of Alexander III of Scotland, 1249-1285 (Allen).
- Barnham Broom* (Site 25911). Possible moat located as soil mark by NAU aerial photography (D.A. Edwards).
- Bawsey* (Site 25962) (+IA, RB, PS, MS, LS, PM). Two late 13th C. ring brooches with bosses for glass pellets or gems, alternating with deep dots or trefoil motifs. 12th C. gilt-silver, square collet (empty) from finger-ring bezel (S. Brown).
- Beachamwell* (Site 4544) (+MBA, RB, LS). Iron belt-fitting (?to suspend purse) with animal-head terminal. 12th/early 13th C. silver buckle frame with relief dragon (S. Brown).
- Beeston with Bittering* (Site 25909). Earthworks of moated site located by NAU aerial photography (D.A. Edwards).
- Bylaugh* (Site 25690) (+IA, PS, MS, LS). Penny of Stephen, type 1, c.1135-41, mint and moneyer uncertain. See also LS (R. Chamberlin).
- Congham* (Site 11743). Penny of Stephen, type 1, defaced obverse die of the East Anglian group, c.1135-41 or later, defacement possibly associated with interdict of 1148, Norwich, moneyer Eustace. Defacement is found at only four East Anglian mints, and most commonly at Norwich (S. Brown).
- Corpusty* (Site 25826) (+PS). Square belt- or casket-mount with trefoil projecting lobe and surface decorated with engraved cross-hatching and 'ribs' on trefoil (D. Coleman).
- Cranworth* (Site 25910). Earthworks of possible tofts located by NAU aerial photography (D. A. Edwards).
- Cranworth* (Site 25721). Cropmarks of moat or enclosure located by NAU aerial photography (D.A. Edwards).
- Deopham* (Site 25778) (+IA, RB). 14th C. circular seal matrix with faceted handle and quatrefoil loop and legend in angles of eight-pointed star *SV SEL AM . . . abbreviating JE SV SEL DE AMOUR (I am the seal of love) (R. Chamberlin).
- Emmeth* (Site 19631). 14th C. oval seal matrix. Legend SIGILLVM AMORIS (The seal of love) (M. Carlile).
- Erpingham* (Site 12991) (+LS). 14th C. circular seal matrix, SI NIOWE CVSTOMME DONEWICI, seal of new customs of Dunwich, NIOWE a version of NOVE (M. Bone).
- Fritton and St. Olaves* (Site 25859) (+LS). 15th-16th C. candle-snuffer. MED unusual gilded belt-fitting with ring buckle decorated with engraved lines on which swivels a rectangular loop with moulded side-knobs (A. Ereira and R. Rilings).
- Hempnall* (Site 25677). Extremely rare round halfpenny of Henry I, only the fifth to be recorded (M. Fry).
- Hindringham* (Site 25850) (+PREHIS, RB). Short cross penny, 1180-1247, probably Henry III, rev: +H?E.LIS.ON.LVN.DEC, odd moneyer and reverse (D. Fox).
- King's Lynn* (Site 25906) (+PM). Very large collection of MED and PM pottery, including imports and Thetford-type sherds. Lead pilgrim badge with seated Virgin and child with elaborate quatrefoil with beaded edge. Late MED knife handle end-cap, six-sided, decorated with male and female figures with two decorated panels on each side of herringbone leaf. Lead 'star', perhaps a wall or ceiling decoration (B. Jones).

Long Stratton (Site 25691) (+LS). ?MED eagle head on flat 'shaft', perhaps a handle (M. Fry).

Marsham (Site 22040). Hollow padlock in form of animal (S. Bennett).

Oxborough (Site 25825). 15th or 16th C. tap with animal head spout, white metal coated, reminiscent of ewer spouts of similar date (S. Brown).

Sheringham, U. (Site 25894) (+LS). Belt-chape, engraved with four stylised leaves (D. Coleman).

Sisland (Site 25855). See LS.

Walton, W. (Site 25853) (+RB, MS, LS) Lead oval seal matrix, inscribed both sides but only one legible legend S' CECILI FIL' MEG' (Seal of Cecily daughter of Megan or Margaret) (M. Carlile).

Wiveton (Site 25862) (+MS/LS). 11th C. box-mount, quadruped with tail above back and upward-raised head and front paws. 14th C. circular seal matrix, strutting bird, TIMETE DOMINVM (Fear the Lord) (D. Coleman).

Wiveton (Site 25893). 15th C. silver finger-ring with bezel in form of openwork crown above clasped hands, incomplete inscription AVE MA[RIA] (Hail Mary) and ring either reduced in size or made from two rings. Dagger chape. Cast vessel handle escutcheon in form of human head (D. Coleman).

Correction to 1989 list

Snettisham (Site 1487). The RB lead negroid head found by C. Hodder has been re-identified as part of an 18th-19th C. tobacco jar lid. Another has been found at Snettisham (Site 1487) during 1990 and a third at Horsford (Site 25941).