

Fig. 4
Post-medieval figurine from Mulbarton. Scale 1:1

Mulbarton (Site 28851) (+BA, MED). Early post-Medieval lead figurine of female raising skirt (Fig. 4) (J. Bratton).

Shelton (Site 28779). Silver head-dress pin, first quarter of 17th C., engraved foliage, flower and leaf, and initials A. C. (V. Jarrett).

Tivetshall St. Mary (Site 11022). Iron shoe patten found beside Patten Lane (P. Emery).

Welney (Site 28954). Bone sledge runner made from left radius of horse (G. Law).

UNDATED

Bawburgh (Site 29053) (+PAL, NEO, BA, IA, PM). Human skeletal remains in gravel pit (J. Bown).

Thetford (Site 29114) (+BA). Bronze mouthpiece for musical instrument or bosun's whistle (S. Gray).

Correction to 1991 list

Wymondham (Site 9437). The RB cockerel figurine has been reidentified as part of a MED tap.

EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS IN NORFOLK 1992

Edited by David Gurney

This annual report comprises summaries of archaeological excavations, fieldwork and surveys carried out during the year. As it is often several years before post-excavation work is completed and a full report is published, these summaries provide a useful guide to current archaeological research in the County.

Sites are listed alphabetically by parish, and their locations are shown on Fig. 1. The directors of excavations, organisations involved, the intended place for the deposition of finds and intended place of publication are listed, where known. The following abbreviations are used:- NAU – Norfolk Archaeological Unit; NLA – Norfolk Landscape Archaeology; NCM –

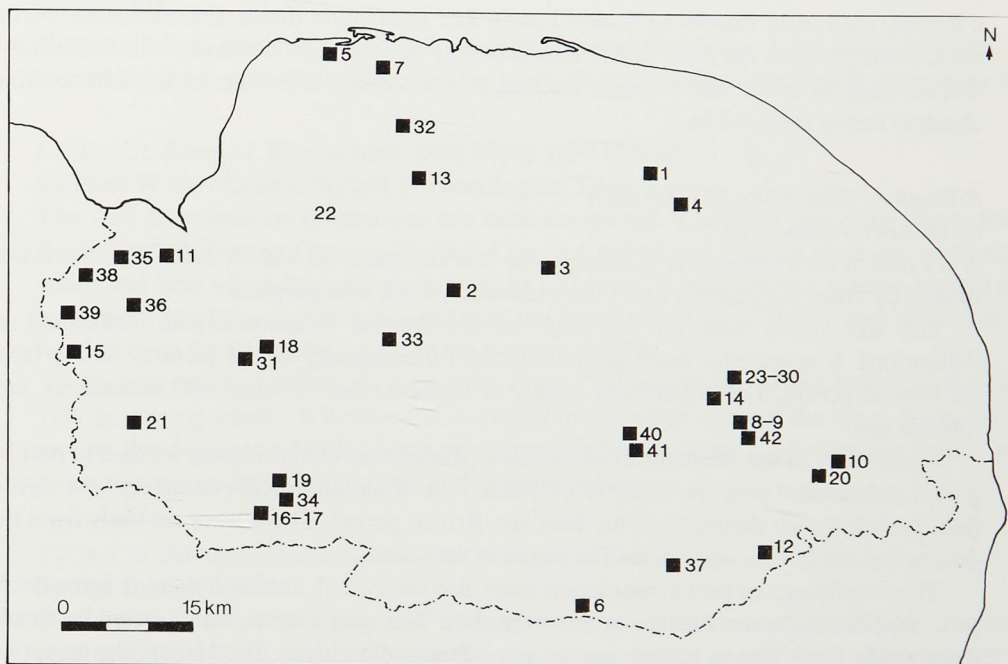


Fig. 1

Locations of excavations and surveys in Norfolk in 1992.

Norwich Castle Museum; Site – Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record Site Number; EAA – East Anglian Archaeology.

1. *Barningham (Little), Erpingham, Itteringham and Wickmere*

The Mannington and Wolterton Estates (TG 142 320 and TG 163 318)

by Alan Davison, for NLA and English Heritage.

Fieldwalking and documentary work have been completed. Over two seasons finds include late Neolithic flints while a small quantity of probable late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery was found at the western end of the former parish of Wolterton. Probable Iron Age pottery found near Wickmere church may constitute a 'site'. Eleven new concentrations of Romano-British material were found and the existence of a twelfth was confirmed. Middle and Late Saxon activity was very much in evidence near Wickmere church, but a shift to the present village site must have begun very soon after the 11th C. There were a few finds of both periods near Mannington church, but a strong Late Saxon site lay in Wolterton near Mannington Hall. It did not survive into medieval times.

There was little evidence of Saxon or medieval activity in Calthorpe outside the envelope of the existing village apart from one, or possibly, two isolated medieval sites along the line of a former road to Blickling. Other discoveries include two fishponds in Itteringham, near White House Farm.

Assessment of the archaeological and documentary evidence is in hand.

2. *Beeston with Bittering* (Sites 7235 and 2796; TF 923 174)

by Kenneth Penn, NAU.

Excavation was undertaken on behalf of Tarmac Roadstone across the line of the

Launditch, an earthwork feature of uncertain date, at the point where it crossed the line of a Roman road (now known as Salters Lane). The excavation demonstrated that the earthwork ditch predates the road, and is thus probably an Iron Age monument. Unfortunately, despite diligent work, not a single artefact was recovered from the excavation, making absolute dating impossible.

3. *Billingford* (Site 7206; TG 007 203)

by Heather Wallis, NAU.

A six-month excavation over a ten-acre site was completed in March 1992. This work was funded by Atlas Aggregates Ltd. Post-excavation work is in progress.

The excavation was on the edge of the known Romano-British settlement at Billingford. It revealed a multi-period site with the majority of the features dating from the Roman period. These consisted mainly of linear ditches forming field boundaries, and rubbish pits.

A trackway to the Roman fort at Swanton Morley was also revealed, formed in part by gravel redeposited over the peaty flood plain. Part of an inhumation cemetery was identified, probably also dating from the Romano-British period. There were no finds from the graves and the bodies only existed as stains in the soils.

Three buildings of post construction were also excavated, although there is some doubt as to whether these are Roman or Saxon in date. The only feature which could be firmly dated to the Early Saxon period was a sunken-featured building. The Middle Saxon period was represented by an area of metal-working debris indicating that iron smelting was being undertaken on the site.

A few medieval and post-medieval ditches were also excavated, probably representing field boundaries.

4. *Blickling*, Park Farm (Site 13485; TG 1790 2940)

by Jayne Bown, NAU.

A watching brief was undertaken on the line of an irrigation pipeline on behalf of the National Trust. The trench cut through 18th C. earthworks bounding the estate. No evidence was seen in the exposed section through the bank to suggest that the earthworks corresponded to an earlier boundary.

5. *Brancaster*, Cross Lane (Site 1004; TF 779 441)

by Phil Emery and Sarah Bates, NAU.

Evaluation excavation of a 0.3 ha building plot was undertaken on behalf of E. N. Suiter and Sons Ltd. The work revealed evidence for the planned 3rd/4th C. western *vicus* of the Saxon Shore fort, extending the area of the settlement north of its previous known extent. A number of ditches were sectioned and some 600 sherds of pottery were recovered.

6. *Bressingham*, Old Hall (Site 14705; TM 0751 8081)

by Heather Wallis, NAU.

Minor excavation immediately to the north of Old Hall was funded by South Norfolk District Council. This building is thought to be a guildhall of pre-16th C. date. It was hoped that the excavation trench would reveal structural evidence which would aid the understanding of some of the architectural features recorded in the house. In the event, only a single archaeological feature of 19th C. date was revealed.

7. *Burnham Market* (Site 28915; TF 832 423)
by David Gurney, NLA.
Human skeletal remains were discovered by Edward Stubbings. Excavation revealed an extended west-to-east inhumation, and the grave fill contained one sherd of Roman pottery.

8. *Caistor St. Edmund*, Roman town (Site 9786; TG 230 036)
by Peter Wade-Martins, Norfolk Archaeological Trust.
The wall consolidation programme has been completed. The Trust has, with grants from South Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council and English Heritage, purchased additional land which brings their holding to 120 acres. A new fencing scheme around the monument has been completed, a car park has been constructed, and arrangements are in hand to open the site to the public in the Spring of 1993.
An experimental resistivity survey by Peter Cott on the site of the forum is showing very promising results. It is intended to extend this to other areas of the town. In the fields around the defences a fieldwalking programme is being organised before the land is put down to grass under a Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

9. *Caistor St. Edmund*, Roman town (Site 9786; TG 232 032)
by Phil Emery, NAU.
Fieldwalking, metal-detecting and a watching brief were carried out for the Norfolk Archaeological Trust during the construction of a visitors' car park immediately south of the Roman town. This produced Iron Age and Roman pottery, building material and coins, and four probable Roman features were revealed.

10. *Chedgrave*, All Saints' Church (Site 10526; TM 3631 9934)
by Andrew Rogerson, NLA.
This 12th C. church was transeptual: the crossing tower has gone, as have the chancel and south transept, traces of which have been recorded by small-scale excavation. The north transept is surmounted by a 16th C. tower. Observation of groundworks for an extension north-west of the nave revealed the foundation trench of a round west tower with an external diameter of c. 4m. This trench, which was cut through at least two burials, was 1m deep and was filled with vaguely-coursed flint nodules in a soil matrix. It was capped by a continuous 15-20cm thick slab of yellow mortar with sparse flints, above which a few flints in mortar survived sporadically, the lowest course of the wall proper. The foundation trench was continuous with the standing west wall of the nave. The church has thus had three towers, but the correct sequence of that over the transept and that at the west end has yet to be established.

11. *Clenchwarton*, Banklands (Site 23501; TF 5860 2207)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
A section was cut across the seabank, presumed to be Late Saxon in date, as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. No trace of a buried soil was found beneath the seabank and it appears that the feature was constructed directly on the mud-flats, possibly on the border between the flats and landward saltmarsh. Finds from the bank construction were sparse but included several sherds of Early Medieval Ware. It appears, therefore, that this section of the seabank cannot have been constructed prior to the 11th C.

12. *Denton*, Lodge Farm (Site 11061; TM 2890 8860)
by Heather Wallis, NAU.
A watching brief and excavation were funded by English Heritage. The existing building, which is undergoing large-scale alterations, is a raised aisled hall dating from the 14th C. The purpose of the work is to identify any features which might relate to the original structure. So far, no early features have been identified, but work continues.
13. *Dunton*, Shereford, St. Nicholas's Church (Site 2354; TF 8871 2961)
by Edwin Rose, NLA.
St. Nicholas's is a Saxon church with a round tower, heightened and altered in the 12th C. and altered again around 1300 when a north aisle was added. This was demolished in the 18th C., the doorway and windows being reset in the nave wall. Excavations for drains have revealed the foundations of the aisle, including two north buttresses and diagonal buttresses at the angles. The north buttresses appear to have been transferred to the nave wall opposite their original positions.
14. *Eaton*, St. Andrew's Church (Site 9608; TG 2026 0596)
by David Gurney, NLA.
St. Andrew's church is 13th C. incorporating reused Norman fragments, and the tower is 15th C. Observation of groundworks for an extension south of the tower revealed a solid masonry foundation of flints in mortar at least 1m deep and running parallel to, partly under and just south of the south wall of the tower. This foundation for an earlier tower was traced between the two angle buttresses for the present tower's south wall, which partly sit upon it. At one point a change in level of the masonry and an angled vertical face suggests that the earlier tower could have been octagonal.
15. *Emmeth*, Gaultree Farm (Site 22565; TF 4970 0712)
by the Fenland Archaeological Trust
An evaluation excavation on the site of a proposed housing development was funded by Mr P. A. Crofts. The site was believed to be a medieval moated manor site. The evaluation included a magnetometer survey by Geophysical Surveys, a metal-detector survey and trial trenching. This found no evidence of medieval occupation, and the ditches on the site proved to be part of an enclosure of 19th C. date.
Finds: KLM Archive: NWHCM
16. *Feltwell*, Feltwell Anchor (Site 23650; TL 632 885)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Excavations on a prehistoric potboiler mound were undertaken as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. The mound was one of a small number of potboiler mounds (as opposed to the ubiquitous potboiler scatters) known from the Norfolk peat fens and was beginning to be seriously affected by peat wastage.
Clearance of the ploughsoil revealed a thin spread of potboilers, in a charcoal-rich matrix, over an area c. 15m in diameter. Dating evidence was sparse but a number of Beaker sherds were uncovered from beneath the mound. Pits, filled with potboilers, were also located beneath the mound and presumably represent cooking pits. More surprising was the discovery of a single crouched inhumation beneath the mound, possibly buried in a coffin and accompanied by a single flint scraper.
Also associated with the mound was a large pit, containing waterlogged wood, including a hollowed-out and jointed log, possibly used as a cooking trough.

17. *Feltwell*, Kettle Lane (Site 5197; TL 690 907)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Excavations on this predominantly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint and pottery scatter were undertaken as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. Peat wastage was at an advanced stage on this part of the Fen edge, leaving only a peaty ploughsoil over a possible truncated buried soil. No subsoil features were encountered, apart from tree throw holes.
18. *Marham* (Site 24377; TF 7075 1173)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Fieldwork and excavation on the only securely-dated Mesolithic site in the Nar Valley were conducted as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. Intensive fieldwalking recovered c. 200 struck flints from an area c. 25m in diameter, immediately to the north of a paleo-channel of the River Nar.
Unfortunately the peat was wholly dessicated and severely deflated, leaving only 0.35m of peaty ploughsoil. No structured peat or stratified flints were recovered. It had been thought that the site was located on a sandhill of glacial origin but, in fact, it appears that the flints were derived from a bed of fluvial sand, overlying a freshwater, chalky marl. Mollusc analysis suggests that the marl was deposited in late glacial times. The Mesolithic activity, therefore, occurred on a silted-up late glacial lake.
19. *Methwold*, Methwold Hythe (Site 23045; TL 720 955)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Fieldwork and excavations were carried out on a typical Fen-edge late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint and pottery scatter as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. Peat deflation and dessication are severe in this area and little more than a peaty ploughsoil survives, over chalk. Only a few, shallow features were excavated, probably representing tree throw holes. Molluscs from these features suggest woodland conditions during the prehistoric activity on the site.
20. *Mundham*, Mundham Road (Site 29198; TM 340 970)
by Jayne Bown and Myk Flitcroft, NAU.
Field survey and limited evaluation excavation were funded by Frettenham Lime Company Limited on the site of proposed mineral extraction. Finds covering the periods between the Bronze Age and post-medieval period were recovered but few concentrations were identified. The trial trenches located a small number of prehistoric and Saxon features, including a diffuse Early Saxon settlement. Two sunken-featured buildings were recorded, one apparently within a small enclosure.
21. *Nordelph*, London Lode Farm (Site 2976; TL 5238 9912)
by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Excavation of a section across the Fen Causeway was undertaken as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. The section was cut across the later of two roads, constructed on a silt levee, formed on the southern bank of a Roman canal.
The road, which had been entirely engulfed by silt, proved to be superbly preserved. Two phases of metallurgy were recognised, separated by silts, which Foraminifera analysis proved to have been laid down under active marine conditions. On either side of the road, large drainage ditches were recognised and a full range of environmental samples obtained from the waterlogged deposits at their bases.

A surprising discovery was the recognition that the road had been built over a small salt-making site, established on the canal-side levee, and a useful assemblage of bricquage was recovered from the associated deposits.

22. *Norfolk Monuments Management Project*

by Helen Paterson

It is now two years since the start of this project to encourage better management of earthwork sites. Four agreements attracting grant aid have been concluded and the work completed, and three more await ratification. These include three barrows/mounds, one deserted village, one friary, one moat and a fishpond. Twenty-four other sites have been identified as having excellent management under the existing farming regime, or where owners have been happy to undertake positive measures to enhance the monuments without financial assistance. In this group are nine barrows/mounds, seven deserted villages or associated earthworks, four moats, one priory, one ruined chapel, one Iron Age camp and one duck decoy. The Pilot Area has been extended to the south and east, with sixteen sites already visited and a further forty or fifty selected for future visits.

23. *Norwich, Castle Bridge* (Site 874; TG 2318 0844)

by Andy Shelley, NAU.

A series of trenches were excavated on the top of the bridge on behalf of Norwich City Council. These indicated that the bridge is of early medieval date, with much of its original fabric surviving beneath a veneer of 19th C. work. Extant medieval features include both the stone bridge abutments, the external central arches, dressed Caen stone facings, medieval road surfaces and a drawbridge or counterweight pit.

24. *Norwich, Cathedral* (Site 792; TG 234 088)

by Phil Emery, NAU.

The unblocking of a cupboard in the south wall of the south cloister walk revealed that its western side wall was composed of a round arch that had been blocked with mortared rubble. A drawn and photographic record was made on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich Cathedral. The Romanesque style of the arch suggests that the niche was constructed around the turn of the 12th C. during the first building phase for the cloister. The northern jamb and at least one voussoir of the arch were robbed out after the blocking, probably for the construction of a two-centred door arch for the niche, opening on to the cloister walk. This is likely to have been during the rebuilding of the cloister following the riot of 1272.

25. *Norwich, Prince of Wales Road/King Street/Rose Lane* (Site 845; TG 2345 0859)

by Jayne Bown, NAU.

Large-scale excavation was started on behalf of the NFU Mutual and Avon Insurance Group.

An area of 1.7 acres of the precinct of the medieval Franciscan Friary is to be subject to redevelopment. The site slopes downhill from west to east towards the River Wensum. Deposits vary between being truncated and with relatively slight survival to deep stratification. Pre-Conquest to early modern material is anticipated.

Excavation in 1992 revealed domestic activity and occupation of Late Saxon and early medieval date in the north-western part of the site. Medieval masonry associated with Friary buildings has also been located along with mortar and flint rubble and blocks of architectural limestone. Over 6m of deposits have accumulated above the south-eastern part of the site. Work continues.

26. *Norwich*, St. Andrew's Hall (Site 428; TG 2311 0882)
by Heather Wallis, NAU.
A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Norwich City Council while a sewer pipe was under repair. This recorded part of a buttress associated with the south cloister garth, and a cobbled surface exterior to this, which possibly formed part of a medieval street, the line of which was diverted in 1345.
27. *Norwich*, St. Andrew's Hall, West Garth (Site 428; TG 231 088)
by Phil Emery, NAU.
A small-scale evaluation funded by Norfolk County Council was carried out on the west side of the cloister garth of the Dominican Friary, in advance of remedial work to the foundations of a 19th C. staircase turret. Post-medieval material was encountered within the evaluation trench and the depths of Friary deposits were recorded by hand augering.
28. *Norwich*, St. Edmund's church, Fishergate (Site 577; TG 23335 09165)
by Brian Ayers, NAU.
A watching brief on conversion works was undertaken. Excavation within the tower revealed the unplastered lower faces of the rubble walls but no evidence of features within the structure itself. Monitoring of chase cutting in the interior south aisle wall noted the rubble core of the wall; no evidence for wall paintings or inscriptions was seen on the plaster.
A blocked doorway was recorded on the exterior face of the western end of the south aisle and excavation here revealed the base jamb of limestone surviving either side of the doorway. The doorway had been blocked with knapped flint and an offset limestone plinth course extended across this blocking. A rubble footing for the west wall of a destroyed porch was recorded. West of the aisle a drainage trench cut a further rubble footing which had formed the churchyard wall next to Water (now Hansard) Lane.
29. *Norwich*, 11 Surrey Street (Site 26400; TG 2300 0806)
by Sarah Bates, NAU.
Evaluation excavation was undertaken on behalf of General Accident. This uncovered ditches and pits of 12th C. and later date, as well as some structural evidence in the form of post-holes. Residual sherds of Saxo-Norman Thetford-type Ware were recovered, but it seems likely that the earliest occupation dates from the 12th C. Post-medieval deposits did not survive due to probable 20th C. truncation.
30. *Norwich*, Whitefriars (Site 234; TG 234 093)
by Phil Emery, NAU.
A watching brief and excavation were carried out in advance of construction work in the Goods Inward Yard of Jarrolds Printing Works on behalf of Allott and Lomax. A section of knapped flint wall, some 2m long and aligned east-to-west, was recorded during the watching brief. This probably formed part of the Carmelite Friary which lay on the east side of Cowgate. The excavation revealed an extensive c. 14th C. dump of dark grey silt containing large quantities of pottery, leather, animal bone and other waste. This deposit was overlain by a succession of surfaces representing the alignment of the later medieval and post-medieval Cowgate. A series of post-holes, floors and hearths were recorded to the west of the road. These features represented buildings constructed on the west frontage of Cowgate after the road was initially laid out. The timber-built structures were superseded by a substantial flint-walled building which continued in use into the post-medieval period.

31. *Shouldham, Mere Plot Drove* (Site 23283; TF 6902 1122)

by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.

Fieldwork and excavations were conducted on a probable early Neolithic flint scatter as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. The scatter lies on a glacial sandhill, immediately to the north of a paleo-channel of the River Nar and is still largely buried by peat. Consequently the few artefacts recovered derived from the upcast of a dyke which bisects the site.

Excavation of a trench revealed that the scatter was sealed by 0.7m of dessicated, woody peat and that the flints were contained in a grey sand, possibly a buried soil, over clean glacial sand. Features, apart from tree throw holes, were absent and the only finds, apart from flint, were a few bone fragments, including an aurochs femur.

The possible buried soil was extensively sampled for environmental analysis and a pollen core was obtained from the paleo-channel.

32. *South Creake, Waterden, All Saint's Church* (Site 1976; TF 8859 3579)

by Edwin Rose, NLA.

This unusual church is of Saxon origin with later medieval alterations, the windows being replaced by brick mullions around 1600. An account of the building has been published by G. Fenner (EAA 14 (1982), 68-73). Restoration work in 1992 enabled an examination of the set of rectangular clerestory windows which have variously been dated as Saxon and 'post-Reformation imitation domestic'. One window was found to be cut by the arch of a 15th C. nave window and must therefore predate it; that in the west wall was found to be composed of reused stone fragments and medieval tiles and, as it cuts the tower arch, it must be a later imitation. A mark above the north door, suggested by Fenner as a blocked Saxon window, was shown to have no structural significance. Laid along the wallplate of the north nave wall were twenty-five brick sections of ovolo-moulded mullions, identical to those inserted in the east chancel window and presumably left over from the works of c. 1600. The nave roof, which supposedly dates from after gale damage in 1895, was found to be of early 17th C. date, reassembled in 1900.

33. *Sporle, Old Railway Yard Farmhouse* (Site 4152; TF 8488 1209)

by Myk Flitcroft, NAU.

A watching brief was undertaken for the landowner and developer on foundation trenches for a house in the vicinity of the moated Sporle Hall. Access to the site was limited to visual inspection of the cut foundation trenches. No trace of vestigial earthworks recorded on air photographs was found but a number of undated ditches and pits were observed beneath a layer of ?post-medieval build-up soil. It is possible that these formed land divisions within the original moated island but their plan could not be determined.

34. *Stoke Ferry/Wellington Plantation* (Sites 1089, 23120 *et al*; TL 775 925 to TL 771 912)

by Kenneth Penn, NAU.

An archaeological survey, watching brief and occasional excavation was undertaken along the route of a pipeline on behalf of Anglian Water. A number of sites from the prehistoric to medieval periods were identified. Most importantly, a Middle Saxon settlement (Site 23120) was located and partially excavated at Methwold. Ditches and pits were uncovered and the probable extent of the site defined. Finds included a strap-end with zoomorphic decoration. Within Wellington Plantation, a section was recorded across the Fossditch (Site 1089), a major Early Saxon earthwork.

35. *Terrington St. Clement*, Hay Green (Sites 22576 and 22275; TF 537 182 and TF 541 176) by Mark Leah, and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Excavations were undertaken on this, the largest known Middle Saxon site in Marshland, as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. Previous fieldwork demonstrated that the site extends for c. 1.5 km along a roddon and has produced over 1000 sherds of Ipswich Ware from field survey alone.
Two trenches were excavated across the roddon, revealing a number of substantial ditches running along it. Foraminefera analysis demonstrated that the features were filled with silt, deposited under active marine conditions. A number of pits, containing charcoal-rich deposits, were also sectioned and analysis of the fills suggests the production of salt-tolerant crops.
Late Saxon features were also excavated and seen to lack marine silt fills. This appears to be the result of more stable environmental conditions, following construction of the seabank.
36. *Tilney St. Lawrence*, Hirdling Field (Sites 21397 and 25333; TF 565 136) by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
The only known Early Saxon site in Marshland lies on the roddon of a silted-up Roman canal and is represented by a small scatter of handmade pottery. Excavations were conducted as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. The work failed to find any evidence of surviving features and the site appears to have been ploughed out.
The opportunity was also taken to cut a section across the roddon of the Roman canal. The trench was 80m long and reached a depth of 2m. A complex sequence of roddon deposits was encountered, apparently indicating a winding, shifting river course. At the north end of the trench this was seen to have stabilised finally as a substantial, well-defined channel. It appears likely that this latter feature represents the cut of the canal.
37. *Tivetshall St. Mary*, Patten Lane (Sites 11008, 11022, 18526 and 28441; TM 170 852 to TM 168 836) by Phil Emery, NAU.
A watching brief funded by Anglian Water was carried out during the construction of a sewerage pipeline. Pottery from the Iron Age, Roman and Early Saxon periods and three Roman coins were recovered by fieldwalking and metal-detecting on the site of a Roman villa indicated by previous finds. A concentration of cut features, of Roman and Early Saxon date, was also recorded in this section of the pipeline. These included a ditch, infilled during the Early Saxon period whose alignment was at considerable variance with that of Patten Lane.
38. *Walpole St. Andrew*, Rose Hall Farm (Site 22145; TF 4874 1600) by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.
Excavations were undertaken on a Middle Saxon Site as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. The site consists of a scatter of Ipswich Ware for a distance of c. 800m along a roddon. A trench was cut across the site, revealing a number of large ditches running along the roddon. These were largely silt-filled and Foraminifera analysis demonstrated that the silt had been deposited under active marine conditions. Also excavated were a number of substantial pits, containing charcoal-rich deposits and animal bone.

39. *West Walton*, Ingleborough Farm (Site 18943; TF 4727 1481)

by Mark Leah and Andy Crowson, NAU.

Survey work and excavations were undertaken on a Middle Saxon site, as part of the English Heritage Fenland Management Project. Fieldwalking revealed a scatter of Ipswich Ware and local hand-made pottery, centred on a low rise, *c.* 100m in diameter. Excavation demonstrated that the mound was, in fact, the highest element of a roddon, which has been largely buried by a post-Roman silt. Cut into the roddon were a number of substantial, silt-filled ditches, some of which were probably Middle Saxon in date.

A number of Late Saxon features were also encountered and, in contrast to the Middle Saxon ditches, these were not silt-filled, probably indicating more stable conditions following the construction of the seabank, immediately to the north of the site.

40. *Wymondham*, Abbey Meadow/Becketswell Road (Site 9437; TG 1065 0150)

by Heather Wallis, NAU.

Evaluation excavation was undertaken immediately to the south and west of Wymondham Abbey, prior to a drainage scheme by Anglian Water. Excavations to the west revealed Thetford-type Ware pottery and a flint and mortar wall probably contemporary with the Abbey. To the south of the Abbey church itself some skeletal remains were uncovered. A large mass of compacted flints was also revealed, possibly related to part of the monastic buildings. Work continues.

41. *Wymondham*, Silfield, Park Farm (Site 25887; TM 1067 9919 to TM 1087 9936)

by Myk Flitcroft, NAU.

Evaluation excavation was undertaken on behalf of the Department of Transport on the line of the proposed Wymondham Bypass. The work was conducted on the site of a potboiler and pottery concentration recorded by fieldwork in 1990/91. The evaluation indicated the survival of a domestic settlement apparently datable to the middle part of the Iron Age. Evidence was found for at least one hut circle and field/track boundary ditches. Although badly abraded, the pottery recovered appears to indicate a date somewhere between the early 'West Harling' types and the late Aylesford-Swarling tradition.

42. *Yelverton to East Carleton* (Sites 9734, 9743, 7947, 28992 to 29004, 29030 and 29099; TG 291 037 to TG 222 030)

by Phil Emery, NAU.

A watching brief was carried out on behalf of British Gas during construction of a gas pipeline.

Three concentrations of Roman material were recorded. The first, which consisted of a pottery scatter, is in Kirby Bedon. The second, a scatter of sherds, building material and a Dolphin-type brooch as well as six cut features, is in Framingham Earl. The third, comprising pottery, building material, eight coins and a disc brooch, was recorded to the south of Caistor St. Edmund Roman town (*Venta Icenorum*).

In addition, the pipe trench cut through two natural gravel banks, one on either side of the River Tas. Associated cut features suggest that both banks lay on the lines of forks of the Colchester to Caistor St. Edmund Roman road, which served the west and south gates of the town.