

EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS IN NORFOLK 1994

Edited by David Gurney and Trevor Ashwin.

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. This report is somewhat longer than usual, due to 21 earthwork sites surveyed at 1:1000 by Brian Cushion (who kindly contributed a report on each), in many cases to support management schemes (see No. 33). These are indicated by '(NES)', for 'Norfolk Earthwork Survey'. Sites are listed alphabetically by parish, and their locations are shown on Fig. 1. The following abbreviations are used:- NAU - Norfolk Archaeological Unit; NLA - Norfolk Landscape Archaeology; NAT - Norfolk Archaeological Trust; Site - Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record Site Number.

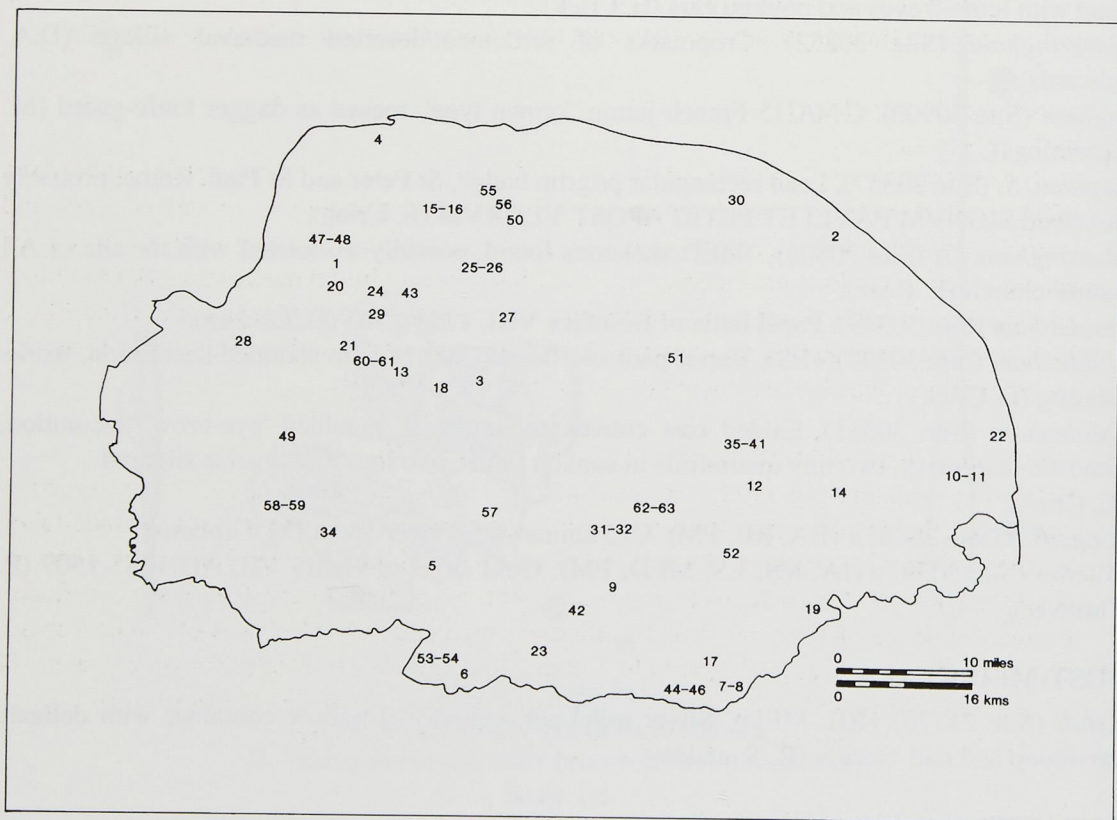


Fig. 1
Locations of excavations and surveys in Norfolk in 1994

1. *Anmer*, DMV and Park (Sites 3514, 30492; TF 737 295)(NES).

Extensive earthworks of enclosures and road lines north and west of the hall and church indicate village shrinkage (some caused by emparking 1790s-1820s). A network of subdued banks is evidence for a pre-parkland field system.

2. *Bacton*, Edingthorpe, All Saints Church (Site 6916; TG 3231 3315),
by Edwin Rose, NLA.
The tower was examined during repairs. The ground floor west window embrasure shows that the round tower is of two builds, with an outer skin added, possibly when the Perpendicular belfry was added (as at Morningthorpe). The tower contains medieval brick-work and is unlikely to predate the 13th C..
3. *Beeston with Bittering* (Site 4090; TF 893 152)(NES).
A near-rectangular moated enclosure near the church has an outer ditched enclosure and further banks and ditches, suggesting a more extensive manorial complex.
4. *Brancaaster*, Hall Farm (Site 1002, Ancient Monument 208; TF 7788 4385),
by Andrew Crowson, NAU (Report 96).
Evaluation trenches were excavated in the Scheduled Area south-west of the Saxon Shore fort for Mr N.T.P. De Winton in advance of housing development. The complete absence of features and finds indicates that this area lay outside the southern limits of the *vicus*.
5. *Breckland Archaeological Survey*,
by Kate Sussams.
A 2-year English Heritage-funded survey of the Brecks Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) started in April 1994, the main aim of which is to characterise the archaeology and historic landscape with accompanying management proposals, so that appropriate advice can be given to landowners entering into the ESA scheme. Initial desk-top work has collated evidence from the Sites and Monuments Records, aerial photographs and Tithe Maps. Fieldwork has now started on known sites and on earthworks on heathland and in pasture, including water meadow earthworks at West Tofts and Lynford.
6. *Brettenham*, Melford Meadows (Site 17269; TL 8780 8250).
Following evaluation in 1993, two areas of archaeological interest are to be preserved *in situ* within the development. Between these, area excavation of about 1ha was undertaken by the Oxford Archaeological Unit for Abbey New Homes. Some 700 struck flints of Neolithic/Bronze Age date were recovered, but no contemporary features were found. Further evidence of Romano-British settlement included several phases of ditched enclosures, drainage gullies, pits, post-holes, beam-slots and ovens. A late Roman cemetery of 22 inhumations included 1 prone and 4 decapitation burials. Early Saxon occupation was represented by 11 sunken-featured buildings, and by pits and hearths.
7. *Brockdish-Needham Bypass* (Site 29621; TM 234 824),
by Kenneth Penn, NAU (Report 104).
Fieldwork for Norfolk County Council in advance of road construction recovered 2 more silver coins, bringing the total to 26. These undoubtedly represent a scattered hoard, probably deposited AD 63-64 or shortly afterwards.
8. *Brockdish* (Site 30591; TM 18 79).
Excavation by Tim Sapwell and Steve Clarkson revealed a well-preserved circular pottery kiln, with single integral pedestal and intact flue arch. The stokehole area was partly investigated. The pottery includes 'Black Burnished' types of 3rd/4th-century date, and a coin of Victorinus (AD 268-70) was found on the pedestal.

9. *Buckenham, Old* (Site 30864),
by Heather Wallis, NAU.
Geophysical survey and excavation funded by English Heritage followed the discovery by metal-detector of a probable Romano-British brooch-manufacturing site. However no archaeological features were found.

10. *Burgh Castle, Cherry Tree Holiday Park* (Site 23790; TG 460 045),
by Trevor Ashwin, NAU (Report 112).
A two-stage evaluation was conducted for Parkdean Holidays Ltd in advance of proposed redevelopment, a preliminary magnetometer survey being followed by trenching of selected anomalies. Most of the small number of features encountered were ditches of uncertain date. However one north-to-south ditch produced a large sherd of *briquetage* (salt-production equipment), apparently of Iron Age date.

11. *Burgh Castle, Church Loke* (Site 13227; TG 4765 0490),
by Heather Wallis, NAU.
The area of a proposed churchyard extension was excavated for the Parish Council and English Heritage. Many linear features of Romano-British and some of Late Saxon date were excavated. Other Romano-British features included an oven and a post-hole structure.

12. *Caistor St. Edmund, Venta Icenorum* Roman town (Site 9787).
Resistivity survey of insula XVII by Peter Cott for the NAT located the three streets known from cropmarks, possible roadside ditches, two buildings and the rough outline of the baths excavated by Atkinson in 1935.

13. *Castle Acre, Old Wicken* (Site 4059; TF 805 176)(NES).
Incomplete enclosures, truncated linear banks and ditches with one building platform may indicate medieval settlement within a later farmstead complex.

14. *Claxton* (Site 17323; TG 338 033)(NES).
A rare surviving example in this part of the county of ditched enclosures forming part of a medieval croft or tofts.

15. *Creake, South* (Site 1017; TF 857 361)(NES).
Earthworks south-east of the church indicate former river channels, building outlines, enclosures and ?fishponds, suggestive of a medieval croft.

16. *Creake, South* (Site 28817),
by Andrew Rogerson, NLA.
Excavation where 150 pieces of Late Bronze Age metalwork were recovered in 1992-3 found a further 27 pieces, but no trace of any features. This hoard, which consists exclusively of spearheads and sword fragments, contains several cross-joins with a smaller hoard found nearby in c. 1952 (Site 1944).

17. *Dickleburgh, The Beeches* (Site 11025; TM 1720 8360),
by Edwin Rose, NLA.
Investigation of this timber-framed building (mostly c.1630) revealed an unsuspected medieval crownpost truss in the rear wing, indicating that this is the remnant of a hall.

18. *Dunham, Great* (Site 4194; TF 872 149)(NES).
West of Church Farm is a complex of ditched enclosures, a hollow way, lengths of masonry, ponds and a very small 'moat', indicating a medieval croft and village shrinkage.
19. *Earsham, All Saint's Church* (Site 1118; TM 3261 8880),
by Heather Wallis, NAU (Report 89).
An evaluation trench south of the church for the Parish Council, in advance of a proposed extension, revealed no undisturbed archaeological features.
20. *Flitcham, Priory* (Site 3492; TF 736 265)(NES).
Ditched enclosures and ponds, with one upstanding building outline. The valley floor has evidence of multi-period water management, with spring sites and outflow drains. There are also remnants of toft boundaries aligned with a pre-Enclosure road.
21. *Gayton Thorpe* (Site 14071; TF 738 184)(NES).
Two toft-like enclosures, one with building platforms, adjacent to a crossroads, so possibly a coaching inn site.
22. *Great Yarmouth - Caister-on-Sea Rising Main* (Site 30081; TG 524 068 - TG 519 112),
by Heather Wallis, NAU.
A watching brief for Anglian Water Services revealed two timber quayside structures. One of these had been constructed of re-used boat timbers which were shown by dendrochronological analysis to post-date 1270. The other appeared to be built using timbers prepared for boat construction but never actually utilised for this purpose. A collapsed section of the town wall was observed, along with part of an external ditch previously observed elsewhere along its length.
23. *Harling* (TL 9740 8510),
by Alan Davison for NLA.
An Ipswich-type sherd found in the West Harling churchyard (Site 11803) led to re-examination of the adjacent field. Among medieval and post-medieval pottery some Late Saxon sherds were found but only one of Ipswich-type. Middle Saxon pottery has not previously been found here.
24. *Harpley* (Site 3544; TF 785 259)(NES).
Probable village shrinkage is indicated by building platforms and incomplete enclosures, although later partially-landscaped parkland almost certainly explains some features.
25. *Hempton, Priory* (Site 7110; TF 916 288)(NES).
Fragments of masonry, precinct wall, building outline, ditched enclosures and fish ponds are remnants of the medieval landscape on which are superimposed outlines of a 19th-C. farmstead, mill mound and hollow way.
26. *Hempton, St. Andrew's church* (Site 7120; TF 907 294)(NES).
A fragment of masonry within an enclosure is presumed to be the church and churchyard. Ditched enclosures indicate probable tofts, with a part-moated enclosure and sub-rectangular depression nearer the valley floor.

27. *Horningtoft*, Manor (Site 7168; TF 942 233)(NES).
A near-circular moat, near-rectangular enclosures, linear depressions and a well-defined bank, perhaps a manorial/park boundary, in part corresponding to the line of the Billingford-Toftrees Roman road (Site 11358).
28. *King's Lynn*, The Millfleet River, Boal Street (Site 30724; TF 6184 1966),
by Andrew Crowson, NAU (Report 108).
A watching brief on groundworks necessitated by replacement of the retaining wall on the south side of the Millfleet river was funded by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Three roughly parallel lines of timbers of early post-medieval date, overlain by more recent levelling and backfill deposits, were seen in the base of the excavation.
29. *Massingham, Little* (Site 25139; TF 793 240)(NES).
A banked enclosure south of the church indicates a probable medieval building and well, with adjacent enclosures.
30. *Metton-Roughton* relay pipeline (Site 6760, TG 201 375),
by Trevor Ashwin, NAU.
A watching brief for Anglian Water Services at Hall Farm, Metton, where pipe-laying passed close to a moated site and an undated cropmark enclosure, revealed several pits with Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery and a series of north-to-south ditches.
31. *Morley* (Site 25460).
The site of a disturbed hoard of 77 Roman bronze coins to AD328 was trenched by Mervyn Bone and John Ogden, revealing a late medieval ditch. Around 20 coins were found in the ditch fill, the rest in the topsoil. Fieldwalking found no evidence of settlement in the immediate vicinity.
32. *Morley* (TM 059 990),
by Alan Davison for NLA.
Fieldwalking has been completed, and two further medieval sites found, one a green-side site associated with a possible small moat (Site 30843), and the other overlying a small Iron Age scatter isolated in an exposed position on the boulder clay (Site 30539).
33. *Norfolk Monuments Management Project*,
by Helen Paterson.
The project, originally set up in 1991 with funding by English Heritage and Norfolk County Council, has been extended for another 3 years, thereby enabling the active management of important earthwork sites to continue. To date, 18 grant-aided management agreements have been concluded, and 34 non-statutory 'management statements' agreed with owners. One site has been included in a Countryside Commission Stewardship Scheme. The Project area will now extend southwards into the 'Brecks', in liaison with the Brecks Survey (see No. 5).
34. *Northwold*, High Fen Drove (Site 23680, TL 7141 9696),
by Andrew Crowson, NAU.
Excavation for English Heritage as part of the Fenland Management Project centred on a burnt mound which had been discovered during earlier survey work. The mound itself

described a horseshoe shape 13m in diameter, and was composed of small, heat-crazed flints in a charcoal-rich loamy matrix. It sealed an episode of earlier peat growth and a probable buried soil. Pre-mound activity was evidenced by a number of sterile pits and ditches which are thought to have been Neolithic in date. The mound may have been raised in a clearing within an essentially wooded landscape, while the approximate period of its use was dated by the presence of "Late" Beaker pottery. Standing water for use in heating the flints was held in a shaft-like pit, and a shallow pit was created using the banked upcast from the excavation of a short length of ditch. Subsequently a small pit had been cut through the centre of the mound and floored with timber boards, the decayed remains of which survived.

35. *Norwich*, Castle Bridge (Site 874, TG 2318 0844),
by Andy Shelley, NAU.

A watching brief on three excavations at the upper end of the bridge was carried out for Norwich City Council Estates Department, exposing the upper surfaces of the vaults of the 13th-C. gatehouse.

36. *Norwich*, The Deanery, Norwich Cathedral (Site 26075; TG 2353 0885),
by Neil Moss, NAU (Report 109).

An archaeological survey of the west face of the Deanery Garden wall, probably once forming part of the fabric of the medieval Cathedral Priory, was carried out on behalf of the Dean and Chapter. Elements of earlier and later medieval masonry were found, as well as evidence of post-Dissolution reconstruction and adaptation.

37. *Norwich* Greyfriars (Site 845; TG 2344 0859),
by Jayne Bown and Phil Emery, NAU.

Excavations within the site of the Franciscan friary to the south of Prince of Wales Road resumed in early 1994. Work focused on the King Street frontage, where a considerable depth of stratified deposits dating to between the 11th C. and the 17th C. survived.

The discovery of medieval pits and cellared buildings illustrated the development of this section of the street frontage prior to its acquisition by the Friary (c. 1400). A substantial flint wall, which delineated the western limit of the extended precinct of the Greyfriars, was traced for 18.5m along the frontage of King Street. This was abutted to the east by a Friary building in which a doorway, floors and traces of a lead water pipe were extant. The east wall of the building, which had been constructed over a large infilled pit, had suffered dramatic subsidence. Massive buttresses and evidence of scaffolding or temporary props represented the major structural repairs that followed. A well-preserved bell-casting pit, dating to between 1400 and the Friary's dissolution in 1538, occurred to the north of this building. The understanding of the ground plan of the Friary complex was supplemented by additional minor excavations and watching briefs elsewhere within that part of the site bounded to the west by King Street and to the north by Prince of Wales Road.

38. *Norwich*, 27 Heigham Street (Site 26425; TG 2242 0916),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 106).

Evaluation work in advance of proposed redevelopment was undertaken for Mr D.Grady. Deposits of later medieval and post-medieval date were exposed, some of them probably fluvial. Large numbers of detached cattle horn-cores were found.

39. *Norwich*, St Peter Parmentergate Church (Site 258; TG 2343 0835),
by Andy Shelley, NAU.
Remedial works on the churchyard boundary wall were observed. No articulated human skeletal remains were seen but animal bones and early- and mid-17th C. pottery was retrieved from a general deposit of graveyard soil.
40. *Norwich*, West Norwich Hospital (Site 884; TG 210 091),
by Andy Shelley, NAU (Report 98).
Desktop assessment and site evaluation took place in advance of car park works. Earlier finds indicate the former presence of a Romano-British burial ground here, but extensive 19th-C. quarrying had destroyed any archaeology once existing in the area.
41. *Norwich Northern Distributor Road*,
by Natasha Dodwell and Kenneth Penn, NAU (Report 83).
An Implication Report was drawn up for Norfolk County Council to assess the possible archaeological impact of six potential routes. Several sites of interest were revealed, including prehistoric barrows and ring-ditches, Roman roads, medieval moated sites and a small cropmark enclosure of unknown date.
42. *Quidenham*, Hargham Estate (TM 028 875),
by Alan Davison.
Fieldwalking since 1992 has located the Middle Saxon core (Site 29634) of Hargham DMV well to the west of the church (TM 020 913), a probable Iron Age site (29960) on the south-east edge of the old Hargham parish, two Romano-British sites (30658, 30835), one with Iron Age pottery, in Wilby (TM 032 899), scattered finds of Ipswich-type ware north of Wilby village, and a small Romano-British site (30655) just within Old Buckenham (TM 065 915).
43. *Raynham, West*, Raynham Park (Site 17449; TF 875 254)(NES).
Earthworks east of the ruined church indicate shrinkage of tofts, many superseded by later dwellings. Within the avenue is evidence of a former street with degraded toft boundaries on both sides. Banked and ditched linear features belong to an earlier field system.
44. *Scole*, A143 Scole-Stuston Bypass (Site 30650; TM 6150 2785),
by Andy Shelley, NAU.
A watching brief on behalf of Norfolk County Council produced evidence for 2nd- and 3rd-C. field boundaries aligned with a known east-to-west Roman road. A small Romano-Celtic timber and masonry temple, of concentric square design, overlaid the field boundaries. Two parallel ditches containing cremated animal bone, ceramic cremation urns and votive objects were probably contemporaneous with the temple, along with a clay floor or yard surface. Two post-pits located further to the east might have formed part of a 2nd- or 3rd-C. building. A kiln or furnace was also found.
45. *Scole*, Scole Road Farm (Site 30498; TM 1450 7925),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 88).
The area of a proposed borrow pit connected with the A140 Scole-Dickleburgh Improvement was evaluated by field survey for Henry Boot Southern Ltd. Worked flint,

medieval/post-medieval pottery and post-medieval building material were recovered in small quantities, but no specific concentrations were identified.

46. *Scole*, Thelveton (Site 29520; TM 1635 8100),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 92).
Site evaluation for Henry Boot Southern Ltd in advance of works connected with the A140 Improvement comprised field survey and trenching of a known medieval moated site located by geophysical survey. Finds included worked and burnt flint, and medieval and later pottery and metalwork. Medieval sherds were most numerous close to the moat itself. Post-medieval building material concentrated in the area of the moat implied levelling of the area. The moat itself was trenched and augered but no south arm of the moat ditch was seen.
47. *Sherborne* (Site 30903; TF 714 322)(NES).
Well-defined banks indicate a pre-Enclosure field system west of Coldham Farm.
48. *Sherborne* (Site 29361; TF 706 321)(NES).
Enclosure boundaries and drainage ditches west of Sherborne Hall.
49. *Shouldham*, Sewerage Scheme (TF 675 900),
by Trevor Ashwin, NAU.
An intermittent watching brief conducted throughout the village for Anglian Water Services produced only negative evidence.
50. *Snoring, Great* (Site 11785; TF 948 341)(NES).
A pond with almost concentric surrounding banks and ditches is thought to be an unusual fishpond complex.
51. *Swannington* (Site 29478; TG 135 189)(NES).
An irregular platform-like raised area, a part-banked pond, a low causeway and incomplete enclosure suggest a small farmstead site.
52. *Tasburgh* (Site 2258, Scheduled Monument Norfolk 211; TM 201960),
by Alan Davison and Derek Woollestone for NAT/NLA.
Gridded fieldwalking (AD) and metal-detector survey (DW) failed to find any significant concentrations within the earthwork. A weak scatter of worked flints, a complete absence of prehistoric pottery, and tiny quantities of Romano-British, Middle Saxon, Late Saxon and later material were recorded. These results question an Iron Age date for the earthwork.
53. *Thetford*, Mundford Road (Site 30258; TL 8610 8450),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 85).
Fieldwalking and geophysical survey of a 15 ha area took place in advance of proposed development by the Crown Estates Office. Three potentially significant areas were identified by remote sensing; one of these yielded a concentration of Romano-British material and three Iron Age sherds, while another appeared to represent relatively recent infilling of a hollow.

54. *Thetford*, Saxon Place (Site 5847; TL 8665 8265),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 97).
Evaluation of the area of a proposed housing redevelopment was carried out for the Peddars Way Housing Association. All four trenches encountered deposits of Saxo-Norman date, features identified including walls, post-holes, large pits and a ditch terminus. Abundant pottery and animal bone were retrieved.
55. *Walsingham, Great* (Site 30697; TF 942 375)(NES).
A series of rectilinear enclosures straddling a spring-fed channel and a squarer enclosure suggestive of tofts, adjoin irregular platforms with upstanding masonry fragments and wall footings, possibly associated with moated site of Berry Hall (Site 11951).
56. *Walsingham, Little*, The Old Shop, High Street (Site 17418; TF 9340 3676),
by Edwin Rose, NLA.
The building is probably a post-Dissolution house reusing medieval masonry and much altered in the 18th C.. Conversion work revealed a wallpainting on and above a fireplace, with latticed pillars bearing lions' heads on an architectural background above a hunting scene. Interpretation and conservation work continues.
57. *Watton*, Church Road (Site 30946; TF 9205 0090),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 113).
Evaluation trenching for Mr F.Dye in advance of proposed housing development opposite St Mary's church revealed a small number of features and artefacts, most of them modern or undateable.
58. *Wereham*, B1160 realignment (Site 30442; TF 6765 0225 - TF 6690 0070),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 91).
Field survey for British Sugar plc located worked flints, and sherds of ?prehistoric and Middle Saxon date. Two small undated pits were revealed by topsoil stripping.
59. *Wereham*, borrow pit (Site 30568; TF 671 009),
by Kenneth Penn and Andy Shelley, NAU (Report 99).
Field survey for Mr G.P.Gott in advance of gravel extraction connected with No. 58 and a watching brief during stripping of overburden revealed no features, but late Neolithic/early Bronze Age and Iron Age lithic and ceramic artefacts were found.
60. *West Acre*, Priory (Site 3881; TF 782 150)(NES).
Extensive earthworks include the fallen masonry of the church and conventual buildings, part-surviving outer buildings, the precinct wall, fishponds, enclosures and a roadline within the precinct. The valley floor has extensive evidence of multi-period water management.
61. *West Acre* (Site 16580; TF 784 149)(NES).
A suggested Iron Age square barrow with mound and incomplete external bank has been recorded within the priory precinct.
62. *Wymondham*, Harts Farm (Sites 30846, 30871-3, 30887-8; TG 118 017),
by Kenneth Penn and Sarah Percival, NAU (Reports 102, 111).
Desk-top assessment and field survey of a 24 ha area was carried out for J.S.Bloor Ltd in

advance of proposed residential and light industrial development. Evidence of human activity ranging in date from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods was located. A quantity of medieval pottery sherds indicated the site of a small farmstead to the south of the present Harts Farm.

63. *Wymondham*, Rightup Lane (Site 30569; TG 121 005),
by Sarah Bates, NAU (Report 94).

Evaluation by field survey and trenching was carried out for Sir Alfred McAlpine Construction Ltd/A.F. Budge in advance of gravel extraction connected with the A11 Wymondham-Besthorpe Improvement. No features and very few finds were encountered.