

ANTIQUITIES FROM NORFOLK IN WEST MIDLANDS MUSEUMS

by P.J. Watson, D.J. Symons, P.J. Wise, T. Bridges and S. Lamb

The following note is a result of a survey of archaeological collections in West Midlands museums. This was carried out by the West Midlands Archaeological Collections Research Unit under the auspices of the West Midlands Area Museums Service. All museums in the counties of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire were included in the survey, but not private collections or material currently under study by field units. One of the aims of the project was to make aspects of the collections more widely known, especially artefacts of non-local origin, through a series of short notes in relevant county and specialist journals. This method of disseminating information was thought preferable to the compilation of a single catalogue which would be so disparate as to be of little appeal to the researchers we wish to reach.

Nine West Midlands museums have antiquities from Norfolk (post-1974 boundaries) and these are listed below, arranged alphabetically by site name. Many have no precise provenance, and the four-figure grid references in square brackets are given merely as an aid for locating sites. Wherever further details about findspots or circumstances of discovery are known these are noted, together with a fuller grid reference if available. Resources have not allowed the compilation of full catalogue details nor the commissioning of professional drawings or photographs. Outline drawings are provided, however, where it was thought they might help with typology or further identification. Likewise, extensive trawls through documentation and literature have not been possible. As the primary intention of the listing is to give researchers an impression of the type and quantity of material held in West Midlands museums, it is hoped that this brevity will be forgiven.

All dimensions are in mm. The following abbreviations have been used when citing museum accession numbers: Avon = Avoncroft Museum; Bir = Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery; Her = Hereford City Museum and Art Gallery; Lap = Birmingham University, School of Earth Sciences, Lapworth Museum; Nun = Nuneaton Museum and Art Gallery; Shr = Shropshire Museum Service; Stk = Stoke-on-Trent City Museum and Art Gallery; War = Warwickshire Museum; Wos = Worcester City Museum Service.

Prehistoric artefacts

by P.J. Watson

Broomhill [TL 8088]

Later prehistoric flint end scraper (Bir 1991A205).

Clarence Park [Broome? or Norwich?]

Cordate handaxe (Bir 1991A109).

Cranwich [TL 780948]

A cordate and a sub-cordate handaxe (Bir 1929A6.7).

Costessey [TG 1712]

Later prehistoric flint core fragment (Bir 1928A16.9).

Cringleford [TG 1905]

Five later prehistoric flint scrapers (Bir 1928A44.5, 17, 18).

Cromer [TG 2242]

Seventeen palaeolithic flakes and rough-outs; from foreshore (Bir 1928A25.6; 1973A1148, 1149).

Five later prehistoric flint utilized flakes; '1858' (Lap B52).

Eolith from 'forest bed' (Stk part of K48-1981).

Croxton [TL 8786]

Heavily patinated later prehistoric flint bifacial knife; '2.4.02' (Bir 1991A208).

Drayton [TG 1813]

Mesolithic core (Bir 1928A16.25).

East Runtton [TG 1942]

Two palaeolithic flints and a chopping tool, ex Reid-Moir, July 1934 (Bir 1991A90, 91).

Nine eolithic pieces, two marked July 1934; one possibly a point (Stk part of K48-1981).

Eaton [TG 2006]

Nine later prehistoric flint scrapers and a knife (Bir 1928A44.3, 10-16).

Feltwell, Shrub Hill [TL 662880]

A palaeolithic flake implement (Lap D67).

A sub-cordate handaxe; '1927' (Bir 1991A88).

Four later prehistoric flints; a discoidal scraper, a triangular section point/fabricator, a core and a flake (War A528, 531, 532, 688).

Five Mile Bottom [NL]

Two leaf shaped arrowheads; one of type 3C on a flake of pale beige translucent flint, L 39, W 14, Th 3; one broken in pale brown flint, ext L 32, W 19, Th 4 (Bir 1929A6.15). (Fig. 1)

Gorleston-on-Sea [TG 5203]

Gorleston II founder's hoard, comprising 4 socketed axes, 2 sword fragments, 2 spearheads and a casting jet (Bir 1966A668.1-9). For further details see Watson 1993, nos. 11-19.

Grime's Graves [TL 8190]

Twenty-nine flints including axe fragments, picks, scrapers and cores from various loci, pit 2, floor 3C etc. (Bir 1928A45.52-57; 1930A104.14-19; 1931A68.12-13; 1937A68.12-13; 1991A200-201, 337). Three antler picks or fragments and three other pieces of antler (Bir 1928A41, 50-51; 1948A17.33-34).

An antler pick and two other pieces of antler (Shr A704).

Ten flakes and cores from Pit 12 and one large flake from 'chipping floor at top of pit 14' (Lap B62, B95)

Two flint flakes (Wos).

Seventeen flints mainly flakes but includes some tools and a large flake (Stk K164-1981; K40-1993).

Bifacial flint tool from near Grimes Graves (Stk K3-1993).

Heacham [TF 6737]

Pebble (quartzite) mace-head. Oval with slightly hour-glass perforation; damaged. L 91, W 55, Th 32, min di perf 13 (Bir 1964A2515). (Fig. 2).

Heacham Valley [TF 6838]

Later prehistoric flint flake (Bir 1991A203).

Hellesdon, hospital [TG 199119]

Later prehistoric flint scraper (Bir 1928A44.6).

Hunstanton [TF 6740]

Twelve later prehistoric flints with various markings: 'in situ Hesse BC (cliff)', 'Bro BC', 'Bro BC Ringstead' (Bir 1991A209).

Kelley [for Kelling?]

Twenty-two later prehistoric flints and waste including 2 cores, 2 blades, 2 points and a scraper (Her Gavin Robinson collection un-numbered – not seen).

Kelling Heath [TG 0942]

Fifteen mesolithic blades and scrapers excavated 1924 (Bir 1928A16.45). A group of 110 mesolithic flints including blades, scrapers, cores, microliths and a hammerstone; excavated 1924 (Bir 1928A40.5).

A flint scraper (Bir 1928A44.9).

Four mesolithic flints: a borer on blade, 2 blades and a microlithic backed blade (Bir 1957A168-171).

A flint knife, probably from a location near Holt (Nun C4/70/124).

Kirby Bedon, Whitlingham Sewage Farm [TG 280069]

A pointed handaxe and a flake (Lap B187, W70).

Langmere [TL 9088]

Later prehistoric flint scraper (Bir 1929A6.4).

Markshall [TG 2305]

A later prehistoric flint borer (Bir 1928A16.6).

Massingham [TF 72]

Three handaxes (Her 7172.428-430 – not seen).

Melton [TG 1406]

Six later prehistoric flints including a small axe rough-out, a borer and two cores (Bir 1928A16.42).

Mundesley [TG 3136]

A later prehistoric flint bifacial knife (Bir 1991A204).

Mundford [TL 8093]

A leaf-shaped arrowhead of type 3B in grey flint: L 38, W 20, Th 6 (Bir 1980A503). (Fig. 3c).

A leaf-shaped arrowhead in grey-beige flint: damaged at both ends: ext L 27, W17, Th 4 (Bir 1980A502) (Fig. 3b).

A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of Conygar Hill type; brown-grey flint. One barb broken: L 32, W 26, Th 3 (Bir 1980A473) (Fig. 3a).

A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of Sutton b or Conygar Hill type; grey flint. Tang damaged: ext L 31, W 32, Th 7 (Bir 1980A504). (Fig. 3d).

Norwich, Carrow [TG 242075]

Three palaeolithic flakes/blades (Bir 1928A16.44).

Norwich, Mousehold [TG 2410]

Bronze socketed axe (Bir 1933A76.2). See Watson 1993, no 60 for further details.

Norwich, Thorpe Pit [TG 275087]

Palaeolithic flake (Bir 1928A25.8).

Norwich, no detailed provenance [TG 2308]

A bronze low-flanged palstave and a shield pattern palstave (Bir 1966A3536). For further details see Watson 1993, nos. 41, 35.

Ormesby, Ellsfoot [TG 4915?]

Nine later prehistoric flints including a fragment from an axe with thin, pointed butt, scrapers and flakes (Bir 1991A202).

Ouse, lower

A palaeolithic handaxe (Lap B88).

Ringland [TG 1313]

A later prehistoric flint core (Bir 1928A16.5) and two scrapers, two cores and two flakes (Bir 1928A44.2).

Santon Warren/Thetford area [TL 88]

154 later prehistoric flints, mainly flakes but also including hammers, a knife and six arrowheads. Most seem to have been found circa 1919-1924 and are marked with 'site' numbers in Roman numerals. Thus there are some 27 pieces from site XX, 4 from site XXI, 1 from XXII, 10 from XXIII, 98 from XXIV, 1 from XXV and 13 without such a designation. In addition many have more descriptive provenances written on them (eg. 'Thetford St. Peter near Santon boundary', 'Two Mile Bottom East Croxton Track', 'South of Drove Rd. towards Mundford Rd.' etc.) (Bir 1926A12.5; 1928A44.8, 701-703; 1928A47; 1929A24; 1930A25.1-11, 13-15, 17-19; 1938A72.1-16; 1948A17.24).

Sheringham [TG 1543]

Scraper? and eolith (Stk part of K48-1981).

Springfield [NL - possibly Springfield, Essex?]

A leaf-shaped arrowhead of type 3B in dark grey flint; 'Jan 1926'. L 45, W 21, Th 8.

A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of Sutton type b in pale beige-grey flint; 'Nov 1926'. L 30, W 21, Th 4 (Both Bir 1991A210).

Taverham [TG 1613]

A later prehistoric flint knife (Bir 1928A16.36).

Thetford, Barrow Hill [TL 850823]

Three later prehistoric flint flake tools (Bir 1991A249).

Thetford [TL 8783]

A palaeolithic 'hammerstone' (Her 1287 - not seen).

Three handaxes (Lap D67-69).

A later prehistoric flint flake and a scraper (Lap D70, B36).

A later prehistoric flint knife; found 1894 (Stk K116-1981).

Thetford Warren [TL 8383]

Two later prehistoric flints: a borer and a crude tanged knife (Bir 1991A250).

A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead in milky grey-brown flint; barbs broken. L 33, W 18, Th 3 (Bir 1991A406).

Thorpe [TG 275087]

Heavily rolled flint flake (Lap W59).

Weeting [TL 7788]

Nine later prehistoric flint flakes and tools including a narrow unpolished axe/chisel (Lap W4).

Two later prehistoric flint flakes, two hammerstones and a large flake tool (Bir 1928A44.20-21; 1948A17.23; 1991A206).

Six later prehistoric flint flakes, 2 scrapers and a fabricator (Stk K164-1981).

West Runton [TG 1842]

Three flake tools (Bir 1991A89).

Four eoliths (Stk part of K48-1981).

Norfolk, no detailed provenance

Thirteen later prehistoric flints comprising 2 knives, 7 scrapers, 2 fabricators, and 2 cores (Bir 1929A6.1-2, 16-18).

Bronze basal-looped socketed spearhead with leaf-shaped blade and prominent midrib; tip of blade broken. L 130 (Her 8718).

Iron Age coins

by D.J. Symons

All of the coins described below were formerly in the collection of the late Mr. Ian Donal Finney of London. Mr. Finney presented his collection to Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery in two parts in 1992-93. The coins were generally acquired from dealers in the London area and the provenances are those provided at the time of purchase. The year that Mr. Finney acquired the coins is mentioned in the individual entries below, as is the source if this was other than the London market.

Full details and photographs of the coins have been deposited with the Celtic Coin Index, Institute of Archaeology, 36 Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PG. (The Index aims to record all Celtic coins found in Britain, and would be very pleased to hear of any material that is as yet unrecorded, as well as of any new finds.)

Each entry gives the coin's Birmingham accession number and the Finney collection (FL) number. Where the coin can be referred to a type published in one of the standard catalogues (Mack 1975 = M; Van Arsdell 1989 = VA) no description is given.

Attleborough, found a little to the north of [TM 0495]

'Iceni', silver unit of Can Duro. M.434 variety; VA. 663-1 variety. Bought in 1990. 1993C365 (FL559). Published Symons 1991, no. 5.

King's Lynn, near [TF 6120]

'Iceni', silver unit. Not in M. or VA. (Obverse: Celticized head left; Reverse: Horse right, star above). Bought in 1990. 1993C374 (FL576). Published Symons 1991, no. 11.

Saham Toney [TF 8092]

'Iceni', silver half unit of Ecen. Compare M. 428; VA. 766-1. Bought in 1993. 1993C423 (FL688). Unpublished.

Snettisham area [TF 6834]

The following six coins are all said to be from an undeclared and illicitly dispersed hoard allegedly found in the region of Snettisham c. 1992. They were all bought in 1993.

'Iceni', class D silver half unit. M. 411; VA. 661-1. 1993C406 (FL644). Unpublished.

'Iceni', silver half unit of Ecen. Not in M.; VA. 744-1. 1993C418 (FL672). Unpublished.

'Iceni', silver half unit of Ecen. Not in M.; VA. 744-1. 1993C774 (found among Mr. Finney's effects after his death). Unpublished.

'Iceni', silver half unit of Ecen. Not in M.; VA. 744-1 variety. 1993C415 (FL668). Unpublished.

'Iceni', silver half unit of Ecen. Not in M.; VA. 744-1 variety. 1993C417 (FL671). Unpublished.

'Iceni', silver unit of Ecen. M.425; VA.760-1. 1993C419 (FL673). Unpublished.

Thetford, found near [TL 8783]

'Iceni', class H and I silver minim. M.417; VA.681-1. Bought at Bonham (London) auction, 19/3/1981, lot 6; previously offered in Bonham auction 21-22/5/1980, lot 22. 1993C222 (FL153). Published Symons 1990b, no. 68; Symons 1993.

Weston, from the 1852 hoard

'Iceni', class E silver unit (attributed by VA to Boudicca). M.413; VA. 790-1. Bought in 1947. 1993C197 (FL73). Published Symons 1990b, no. 76.

'Iceni', class E silver unit (attributed by VA to Boudicca). M. 413; VA. 790-1. Bought in 1947. 1993C198 (FL74). Published Symons 1990a, no. 37.

Norfolk, no detailed provenance

'Iceni', Bury C type silver unit. Gregory 1992, 62. (Obverse: Head right; Reverse: Horse left, with dotted tail). Bought in 1987. 1993C305 (FL420). Published Symons 1990a, no. 65; Gregory 1992, pl.9.12.

'Iceni', class B silver unit. M.408; VA. 657-1. Bought in 1984. 1993C242 (FL208). Published Symons 1990b, no. 64; Symons 1993.

'Iceni', class H and I silver half unit. M.431/417a; VA. 683-1. Bought in 1989. 1993C343 (FL506). Published Symons 1990b, no. 69.

'Iceni', silver unit of Ecen. M.429; VA. 752-1. Bought in 1987. 1993C296 (FL390). Published Symons 1990b, no. 74.

'Iceni', silver unit. Not in M. or VA. (Obverse: Head right; Reverse: Horse left, with branched tail). Bought in 1989. 1993C348 (FL534). Published Symons 1990a, no. 58.

Saxon coins

by D.J. Symons

Cranwich [TL7894]

Silver penny of Edward the Martyr (975-78), Sole type (BMC i). Worcester mint, moneyer Man. This coin provided the first evidence that Worcester was active as a mint earlier than the reign of Aethelred II. Found with a metal detector in 1990. (Bir 1991C10).

Medieval

by P.J. Wise

Norwich [TG 2308]

A green-glazed jug; tall, narrow form without a lip. Undecorated. Probably late 13th century. H 170, Base Di 85. (War A1661).

Post-medieval

by T. Bridges and S. Lamb

Norfolk, no detailed provenance

Tiles and bricks (Avon).

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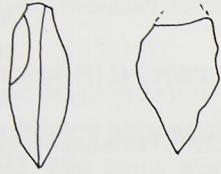


Fig. 1 Two arrowheads from Five Mile Bottom

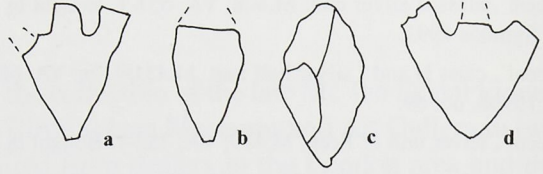


Fig. 3 Arrowheads from Mundford

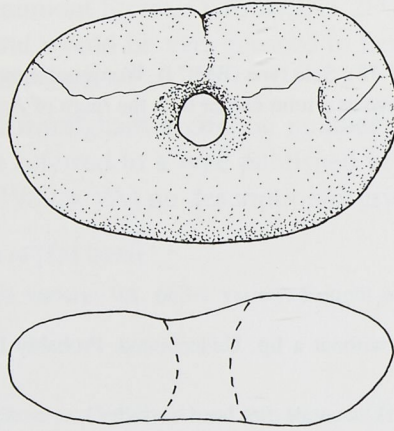


Fig. 2 Mace-head from Heacham