

EXCAVATIONS AT NORTH AND SOUTH CREAKE, 1997

by Andy Shelley

with contributions by Sue Anderson, John A. Davies, Julia Huddle, Lynne Keys and Alice Lyons

SUMMARY

In April 1997 Norfolk Archaeological Unit conducted an excavation in advance of pipe-laying by Anglian Water Services Ltd. Nearly one kilometre of a pipe trench straddling the parish boundary between North and South Creake was examined. A large amount of metalwork, previously recovered by metal-detectorists from the route of the pipeline, had indicated that evidence for Roman, Saxon and medieval occupation might exist. In addition, recent work by Mary Hesse had concluded that the field and road system in the area is of pre-11th century date, and possibly even of Romano-British origin.

The aims of the excavation were to seek below-ground evidence for early settlement in the area and to provide an archaeological context for the metalwork finds. In North Creake two 10th- or 11th-century crop-processing kilns were found, in association with iron metallurgical debris and possible structural beam-slots. Other features included a marl pit of medieval date and the remains of a post-medieval farm building. In South Creake a well-constructed building platform was discovered. Although undated, it may have been medieval. This report presents the archaeological evidence for these features and summarises all of the metalwork finds from the area examined.

Introduction

Provision by Anglian Water Services Ltd of a first-time sewer for North and South Creake (NGR 658565 336950 at Hall Farm, Figs 1 and 2) occasioned an archaeological excavation by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (Site 32630). The work was conducted during April 1997 in advance of pipe-laying, a little over 0.90km of the pipeline's length being examined thoroughly and, where necessary, recorded in detail. A further 0.38km in South Creake was metal-detected and less thoroughly examined. The archaeological excavation and report were generously funded by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Topography and geology

Hall Farm, North Creake, which lies approximately at the central point of the examined length of pipeline, is situated 6 km south of Burnham Market and 10 km north of Fakenham on the B1355 road between these two towns (Figs 1 and 2). The road follows a relatively deep valley containing the River Burn, which meets the sea at Burnham Overy Staithe. The base of the valley lies at c. 20m OD; its sides display a moderately steep gradient to a maximum level of 54m OD. The pipeline ran along the base of the western-facing slope and followed the 21m contour.

Both North and South Creake are dispersed settlements and the excavation was situated some distance from the village centres. In the case of North Creake the village centre (taken here to be the junction of Wells Road, Burnham Road and West Street) lay some 0.7 km north of the excavation area, although the church was no more than 0.3 km north of this point. South Creake village centre (taken to be the north side of the village green) lay 1.1 km distant of the

southernmost point of the excavations although, again, the church lay nearer (0.4 km to the south-west).

The immediate geology consists of regularly-spaced chalk ridges separated by bands of silt. Chalk underlies the silt,¹ although there are also areas of sands and gravels between the chalk ridges. These geological corrugations, probably produced by glacial meltwaters, run in an east-to-west direction. Modern farming practice has now made them invisible in the landscape.

Archaeological background

Metal-detecting of the immediate area (Fig. 2) in recent years has produced a large quantity of metalwork. In the field to the north of Kate's Lane (Site 29428) this has generally been of Late Saxon or medieval date and has included some highly decorated work (a 10th-century Viking chain terminal, for example). In the field to the south of Kate's Lane and north of the Telephone Exchange (Site 25576) a St Edmund memorial penny of AD 895–905 was found in 1989 and more fine metalwork, including Saxon mounts and brooches, medieval buckles and coinage, was later found. Less metalwork has been recovered in the field to the south of Oddfellows Cottage, although the Sites and Monuments Record still lists finds of Roman and medieval coins as well as a Romano-British enamelled stud.

There has also been a great deal of air photography of the area and this has revealed a number of nearby features, including a ring-ditch and associated features (Site 11707). Cartographic evidence is good, and rests upon on a well-known series of fine early 17th-century maps (Hesse 1992; Rogerson and Ashley 1997). There had, however, been no archaeological excavation in the area and the work reported on here was designed to illuminate the evidence from these other sources.

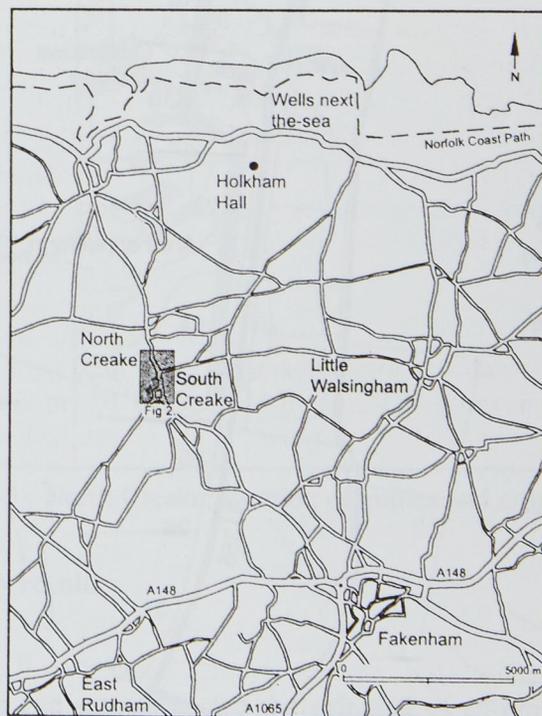


Fig. 1 Map showing location of North and South Creake and area of Fig. 2, scale 1:125,000

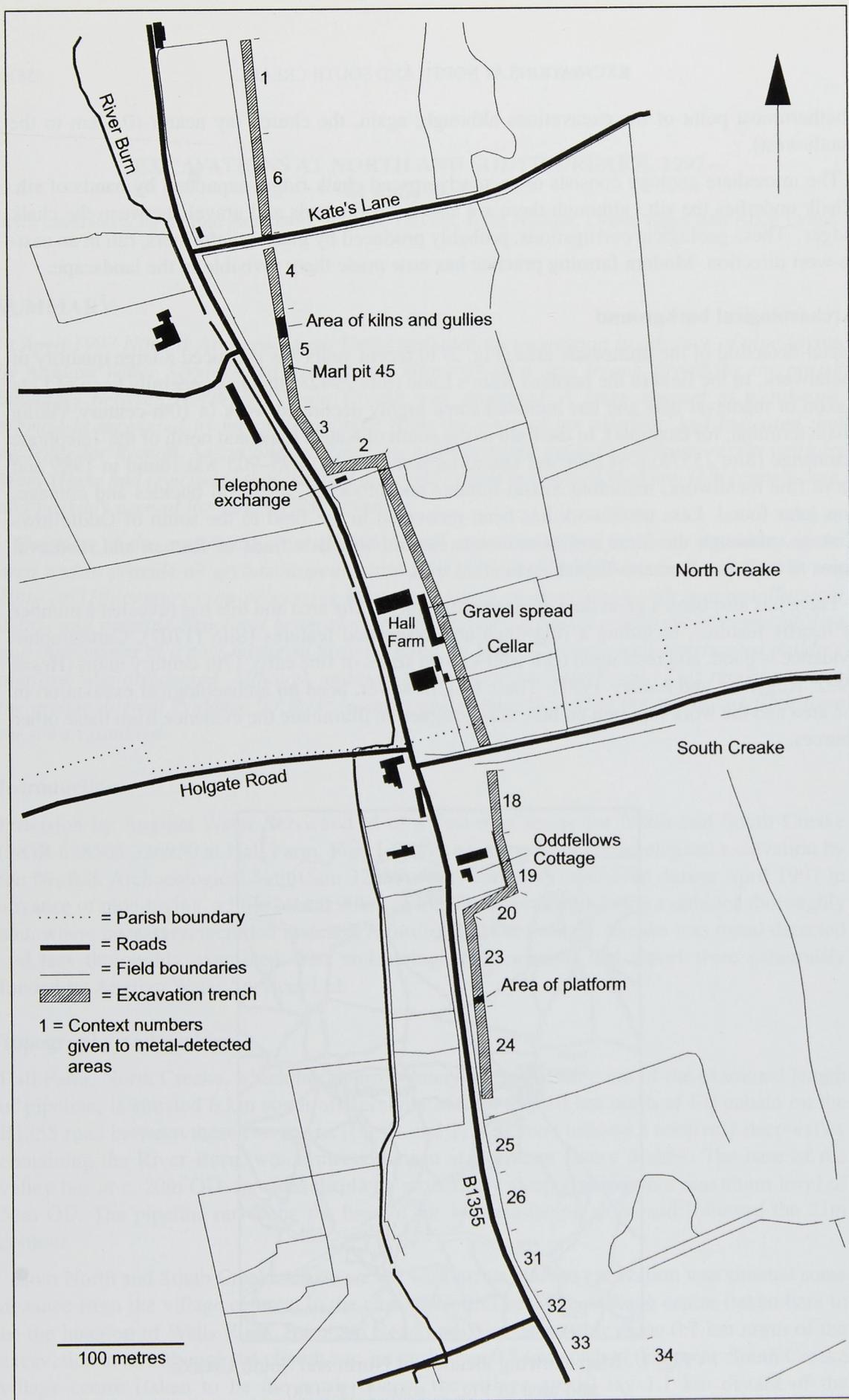


Fig. 2 North and South Creake, showing position of excavation trench, roads, Hall Farm, position of important archaeological features and metal-detected areas

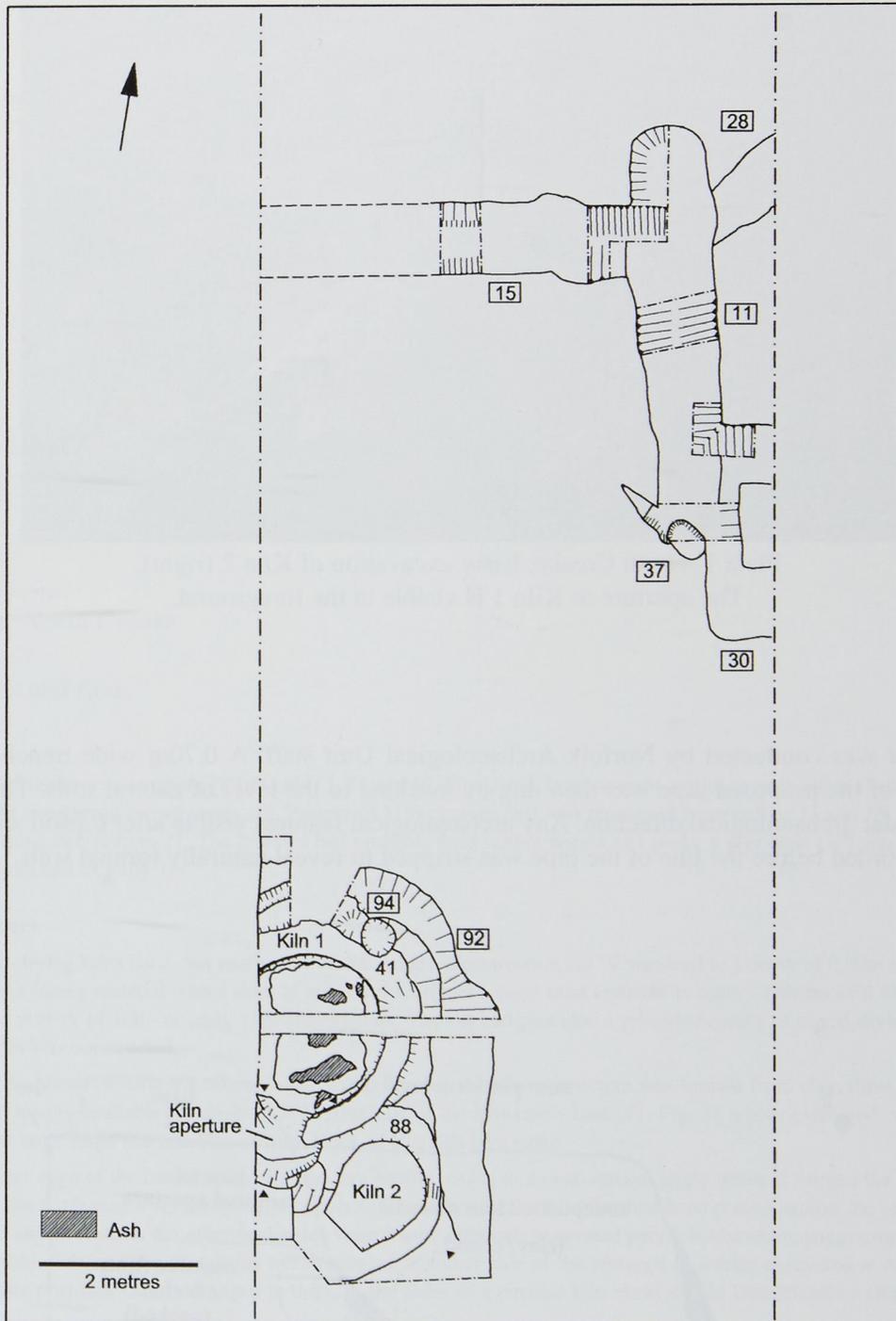


Fig. 3 North Creake: location of gullies and crop driers

Excavation and survey results

Method

Anglian Water Services Ltd sub-contracted the stripping of an 8m-wide easement along the length of the pipeline (Fig. 2). Topsoil with a maximum depth of 0.40m was removed with a 360° excavator, to Anglian Water's specification. A metal-detector survey of the width of the



Plate 1 North Creake: hasty excavation of Kiln 2 (right).
The aperture to Kiln 1 is visible in the foreground.

easement was conducted by Norfolk Archaeological Unit staff. A 0.70m wide trench in the position of the proposed pipe was then dug by machine to the level of natural soils. This took place under archaeological direction. Any archaeological features visible after topsoil stripping were recorded before the line of the pipe was stripped to reveal naturally formed soils.²

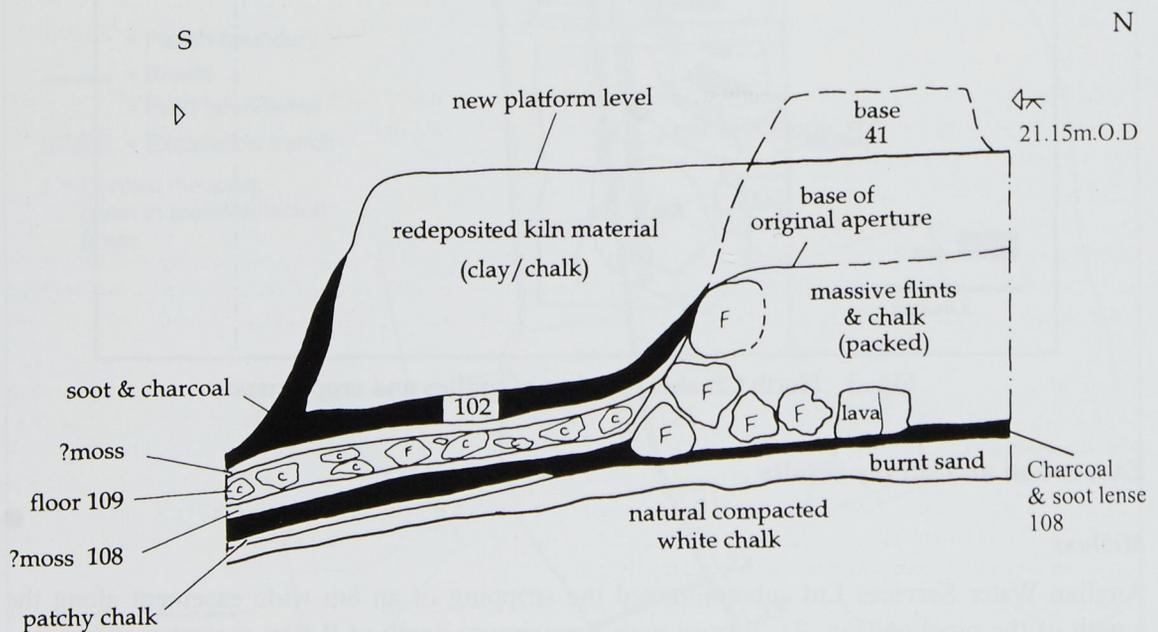


Fig. 4 North Creake: section through aperture of Kiln 1, scale approx. 1:10

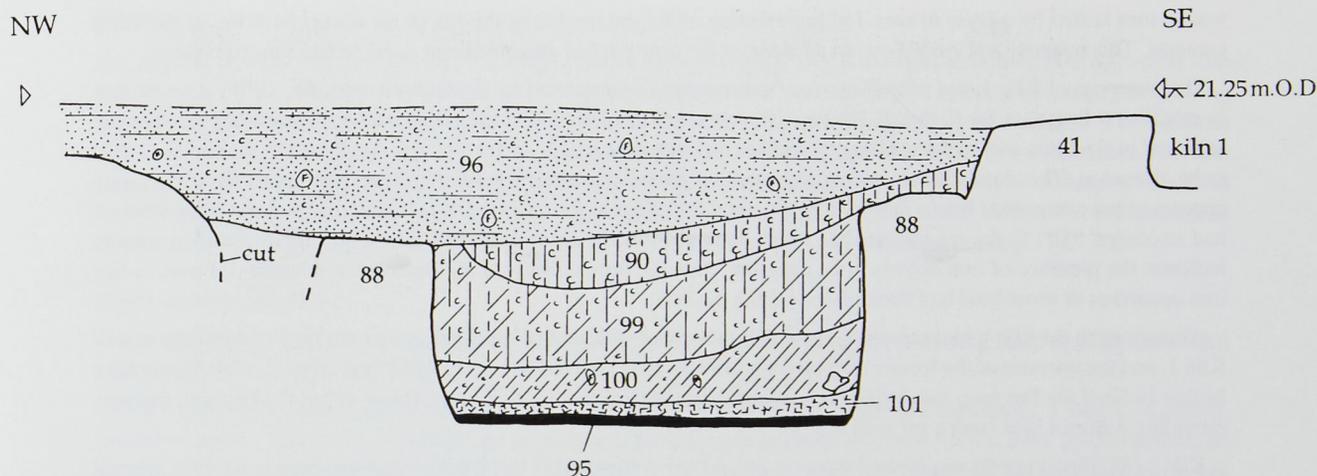


Fig. 5 North Creake: section through Kiln 2, scale 1:20

Results: North Creake

Features and finds

Gullies

A series of shallow intercutting gullies (11, 15, 28 and 30, Figs 2 and 3) lay at right-angles to each other. Each contained a naturally-weathered brown sandy silt. Pottery of 11th-century date was recovered from gullies 11 and 15, along with iron-smithing debris from 11. The features had probably held timber beams and posts: a post-hole (37) was situated at the southern end of gully 11.

Crop driers

Two crop-drying kilns lay *c.* 5m south-west of the gullies. Construction cut 92 survived to a depth of 0.30m (Fig. 3) and contained a loamy material with a skim of soot over scorched natural sand towards its centre. This backfill (87 and 107) contained pottery of 10th- or early 11th-century date. The cut had provided a primitive means of cereal-drying before a formal kiln was constructed.

Kiln 1 had been constructed subsequently within the cut. A circular structure was formed from clay, flints and a little chalk (all locally available materials: p.572). The bulk of the structure's base (41, Fig. 3), where examined, was formed from very large flints and one blue or grey block of Rhenish lava stone.

The outer edge of the base displayed a concave profile, rising to a near-vertical angle where it formed the wall of the drier. To the north-east a vertically-sided post-hole 94, with a depth of 0.47m, had been placed against the outer wall to support a superstructure. No other post-holes were found, although excavated parallels elsewhere suggest others would have existed. Sets of three post-holes were recorded on either side of the entrance to a drier excavated at Nottingham, whilst three post-holes were arranged to the rear and sides of a circular kiln excavated in Dumfriesshire (Rickett 1975, 56-59).

Internally the structure was a flat-based circular cavity of 0.98m radius and 3m² area. Its floor was formed from flints set in a clay matrix, with a skim of fired clay and chalk surviving away from the edges. The internal face of the wall (which survived to a maximum height of 0.22m) had probably been created by rotating a timber former from the node of the structure. The internal wall profile gently belled outwards before curving in and becoming vertical. The face was formed of clay set onto a flint skeleton, the clay having baked into a hard red-coloured surface. An aperture through which heat was drawn was provided at the southern end of the drier (Figs 4 and 5), a location which would have provided maximum protection from prevailing onshore northerly winds.

A fire located within a cut to the south of the kiln and at the base of the structure's aperture had left a thin sooty deposit over which a layer of material, perhaps moss, had formed (108, Fig. 4). A thin floor of flints and chalk 109 overlaid the moss and provided stable ground from which to use the drier. A covering of ?moss had also formed over the floor, which

was in turn sealed by a layer of soot 102 representing either the residue of the fire or an accidental firing of the kiln's contents. This material had spilled out on all sides of the aperture and contained one sherd of late Roman pottery.

The inner rim of Kiln 1 was subjected to archaeomagnetic examination by GeoQuest Associates (1997) in an attempt to establish a firm date for its firing. No positive date could be determined using this method: anomalous results were achieved in six cases and, in the remaining samples, the archaeomagnetic inclination recorded was too shallow for a date to be arrived at. The results did, however, indicate two points of interest: firstly that in several places the temperature appears to have remained below 580° C (the blocking temperature for magnetite); secondly that in those spots where it had exceeded 580° C the magnetism has been affected by some local source of distortion. Such distortion usually indicates the presence of iron objects. It is, therefore, possible that elements of the superstructure contained iron, or that iron apparatus of some kind had been placed within the kiln.

Alterations to the kiln had taken place. A second, horseshoe-shaped feature (Kiln 2) was attached to the south-east of Kiln 1, and the aperture of the former extended southwards by 0.30m to form a small platform (Fig. 4). This would have further isolated the fire from the drying area, minimising the danger of an accidental firing within the kiln and, perhaps, providing a shared heat source for both driers.

Kiln 2 (88, Figs 3 and 5) was formed from cream and red-coloured clay and chalk, which had been fired on its internal face. The base was deeper than that of Kiln 1 by 0.50m, perhaps to provide clearance for a suspended floor. The internal face was moderately concave in profile and enclosed, in a horseshoe-shape, an area of at least 1.18m². Kiln 2 had been paved internally with chalk and occasional flints.

Another sooty layer had formed over the platform, and within Kiln 1 occasional patches of grey ash had formed (49). At the base of Kiln 2 a thin spread of soot was covered with an equally thin band of grey ash (95 and 101, Fig. 5).

Ash from Kiln 1 and soot at the base of Kiln 2 were examined by Peter Murphy of the Centre for East Anglian Studies (Murphy 1997). A high proportion of the soot represented residues from the combustion of plant material. Charred remains of wheat, oats, barley and rye were also present, although cereal chaff was uncommon. Charred arable weed seeds were frequent and there were remains of heathland plants including heather, gorse and heath grass. The soot within Kiln 2 also produced shells of land molluscs, a few scraps of mussel shell, fishbones and other bone fragments.

There are two possible explanations for the presence of this material. It may have represented a residue from the accidental firing of grain whilst it was being dried (grain was dried to harden it before milling or to reduce water content before storage). Alternatively it may have been a fuel combustion residue, indicating that wheat, heather and other grasses had been burnt to heat the drier. The choice of fuel would have been largely dependant on the type of fuel available locally, although it may have been influenced by certain preferences. Straw, for example, was considered the best fuel for malting (Rickett 1975, 15).

The ash within Kiln 1 was later covered to a depth of 0.30m by flints, metallurgical debris and clay 48. This formed a solid base onto which a new floor of baked clay and chalk 43 was formed. The metallurgical debris comprised at least 12 smithing 'hearth bottoms': these may have been deliberately placed in the floor of the rebuild to aid heat retention. Their presence suggests that the processes of metalworking and cereal processing were contemporaneous.

The kilns collapsed or were demolished in antiquity. Much of Kiln 2's chamber contained redeposited fired clay and chalk (90, 99 and 100, Fig. 5), which had also filled Kiln 1's aperture. This in turn had been sealed by a 0.35m depth of brown silty sand, flints and chalk and occasional metallurgical debris (39, 91 and 96). Pottery from this deposit was of late 11th- or 12th-century date. The top of this layer had been damaged by modern farm machinery.

An early marl pit

Sub-square pit 45, measuring a little over 3m by 0.8m depth, was located a short distance to the south of the driers (Fig. 2). Its sides were nearly vertical and had been cut through an natural outcrop of chalk and flint. It was filled with an homogenous brown sandy loam within which large quantities of flints had collected. Seventeen sherds of pottery, mostly unabraded and of 13th-14th century date, were recovered from this material, together with an iron horseshoe fragment (SF 55), a door stud (SF 56) and pieces of lead scrap (SF 85).

This feature was a marl pit, from which chalk and clay had been extracted for use in fertilising the soil. The Creakes area is characterised by free-draining, decalcified brown earths which have been extensively treated by locally-quarried marls. The flints provide evidence for sorting of materials, in this case being a waste product indicating that the quarry pit had not been dug to extract building materials. The feature had been hand-dug and there were no modern finds within its fill, suggesting that it was of some antiquity. Marling is an ancient practice: Pliny wrote in the first century BC that 'All marl should be thrown on the land after it has been ploughed, in order that its medicinal properties may be absorbed at once'. Marl pits are commonly documented from the 13th century onwards and were typically found in the middle of fields, one pit per field (Rackham 1986).

Hall Farm

The pipeline passed to the east of Hall Farm (Fig. 2). Behind the east range a flint-and-gravel yard surface lay only 0.10m below the turf and extended 5.50m further northwards as a chalk spread. To the north-east of the south range (the existing farmhouse, which has a datestone reading 1888) the remains of a thick-walled cellar were encountered. The southern wall was 1.00m wide and had been constructed from chalk blocks and flint. It had been backfilled with mortar, roof tile, flints, chalk and brick. The cellar had an internal dimension of 8m and originally formed part of one of the post-medieval farm buildings that stood to the east of the surviving buildings and for which terracing is still visible. No archaeological dating evidence for the structure was recovered, although it is possible that it is shown on Faden's 1797 map.

Metal-detected evidence

The length of the trench was subdivided into context-numbered areas during metal-detecting (Fig. 2). The finds from each are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Finds previously recovered from the vicinity by metal-detectorists are listed in Appendices 1 and 2. Context-numbered areas 1 and 6 had previously been metal-detected between January 1993 and March 1996 by G. Parsons, B. Grieves, E. King and J. Leonard (Site 29428: Appendix 1). The area between Kate's Lane and the telephone exchange (contexts 2-5) had previously been metal-detected by George Parsons and Brian Grieves as Site 25576 (Appendix 2).

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>SF No</i>	<i>Cat No</i>
1	Perforated sheet fragments x 2	1	
	Copper alloy ?handle	2	
	Copper alloy fastener	3	11
6	Iron rod fragment	36	27
	Lead weight or spindle whorl	83	28

Table 1. North Creake: metalwork recovered during excavations north of Kate's Lane

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>SF No</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>Cat No</i>
2	Copper alloy buckle	4	late 15th- or 16th-century	9
	Iron buckle	29		10
3	Iron plate	30		34
4	Iron arrowhead	31	medieval	2
5	Copper alloy artefact	5		38
	Copper alloy buckle	6	14th century	7
	Iron arrowhead	33	medieval	1
	Iron plate or mount	34	?medieval	35
	Copper alloy whistle mouthpiece	98	post-medieval or modern	5

Table 2. North Creake: metalwork recovered from excavations between Kate's Lane and the telephone exchange

Discussion

The quantity and quality of items recovered by metal-detectorists prior to excavation contrasts with the limited nature of the archaeological evidence. The metalwork suggested that substantial evidence for Late Saxon and later occupation of the two fields might be revealed by excavation. This was not the case. There are various possible explanations for this, most obviously that most of the material was deposited in hillwash from the steep slopes to the east. This, along with the proximity of the north-to-south road, might account for the large amount of unprovenanced material. It should also be borne in mind that the metal-detecting exercises covered much greater

areas than the excavation programme. Nevertheless, the combined evidence suggests activity in the area from the Neolithic period to the present day.

The excavation demonstrated that Late Saxon activities, in the form of crop processing and metalworking, had taken place. The results of the archaeomagnetic study indicate that Kiln 1 was not a lime-kiln, due to the relatively low temperatures to which the feature had been subjected (a temperature of between 800-1000° C being required). Neither was it an iron-smelting furnace (a temperature of 1200° C being required to melt pig iron). Dehydration of crops would therefore seem the most likely use for both structures.

One puzzling aspect of the driers was their relationship to one another. They were quite different in form, giving rise to the suggestion that Kiln 1 remained a crop-drier whilst 'Kiln 2' actually represented the chamber in which the heat for Kiln 1 was produced. The height differential between them would support this interpretation, allowing the heat to rise naturally from Kiln 2 to Kiln 1. Why, however, would Kiln 2 not have been placed directly opposite Kiln 1 rather than obliquely? And would the interior walls of Kiln 2 not have displayed a greater exposure to heat? An alternative suggestion is to see Kiln 2 as a superior addition to Kiln 1. Its greater depth may suggest that a floor within the feature had existed, and that the surviving elements represented the drying chamber beneath such a floor. Both kilns could have been fed from the same source. A third possible explanation is that Kiln 1 was a crop-drier and Kiln 2 an oven added in order to utilise the same heat source. In *The Evolution of the English Farm* Seebohm (1952, 113) lists the monthly activities of the Saxon farmer: in November a 'kiln was prepared in the yard to dry the corn ready for threshing, and a drying oven for malt'.

There are local parallels for these features, including one remarkably similar to Kiln 2 excavated at Calvert Street, Norwich (Bown 1992). This horseshoe-shaped feature measured 0.90m by 1.20m internally (1.00m² area) with a wall of 0.30m–0.40m thickness. The open end faced west (in Norwich the prevailing wind is from the north-east). It was constructed from clay and flint; spreading out from its mouth were burnt deposits including charred grains. A nearby pit contained more of these burnt deposits. The Calvert Street structure might date to the earlier part of the 12th–14th century period.

A parallel for Kiln 1 has been found at Thetford (Andrews 1995, 88–89) where a circular feature had been constructed from clay and flint pebbles. Its internal diameter was 1.60m, the wall was 0.30m thick and it survived to a height of 0.20m. The inner face of the clay had been fired red and many of the exposed flints had been reddened by heat. The wall was slightly concave in profile and there was an opening — probably a stoke-hole — up to 0.60m wide in the north-west side. The floor of the oven was a thin surface of baked clay. A loamy charcoal layer spread either side of the stoke-hole. The Thetford example has been interpreted as an oven of mid-12th century date.

A curious aspect of Kiln 1's construction was the presence of metallurgical debris within its fabric. Although metalworking was taking place nearby there is no evidence to suggest the two processes were connected by anything other than coincident locality. A similar coincidence had recently been recorded during excavation at Burnham Market (Percival in prep.), where features containing metalworking debris had cut an earlier kiln or oven. At North Creake the coincidence may indicate an area set aside for the industries essential to a farm.

No traces of associated farm buildings were found; the general lack of structural evidence may indicate that they were located immediately outside the boundaries of the trench, perhaps to the west. The fact that metallurgical debris was located within the gullies to the north of the feature and that smithing was generally conducted within a building, however, might suggest that the gullies in fact represented elements of farm or industrial structures.

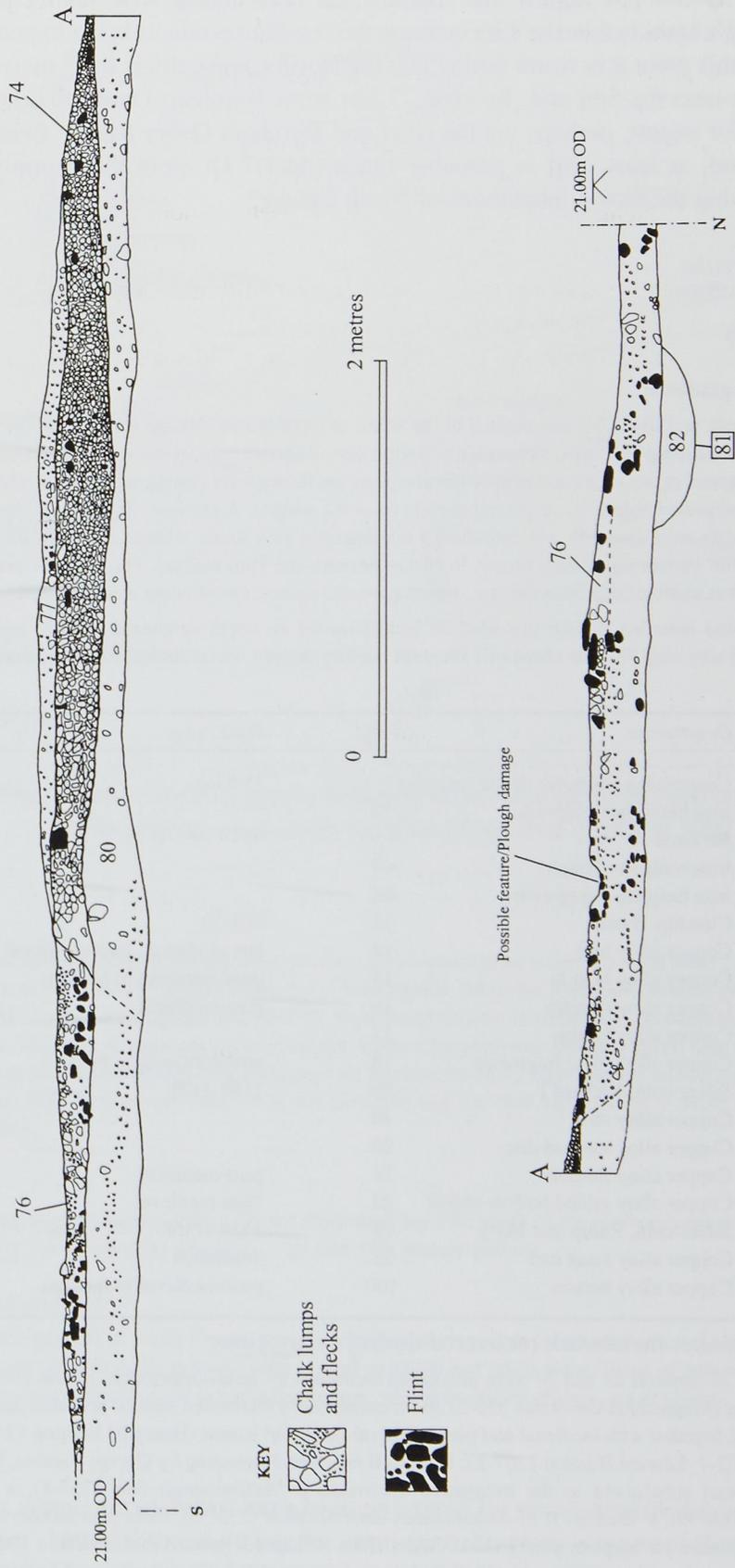


Fig. 6 South Creake: section through house platform

Rickett (1975, 35–36) has argued that malting and corn-drying were taking place in the hinterland of King's Lynn before the 13th century, the resultant products being exported as corn, malt and ale. On this point it is worth noting that the North Creake driers lay a mere 9 km from the port of Wells-next-the-Sea and, by river, 7 km from Burnham Overy Staithe. Did they contribute grain for export, perhaps via the river and Burnham Overy Staithe (which dates to the Norman period, at least, and is probably much older)? Or were they simply part of a farmstead, supplying the Saxon inhabitants of North Creake?

Results: South Creake

Features and finds

A medieval building platform

An area of packed chalk and flint (74) was located to the south of Oddfellows Cottage (Figs 2 and 6). This probably represented a metalled building platform, although the feature was observed only in the width of the easement trench and might have been a road or track. Several nearby features were cut through the orange subsoil over which the surface had been lain and were sealed in turn by dispersed gravels from the surface. A shallow, 'U'-profiled ditch (81, Fig. 6) was aligned in an east-to-west direction and contained a homogenous silty loam, without finds. To the north a large, regularly-shaped feature containing a dark brown loam lay beneath the flint surface. Due to time pressures only a photographic record was made of this latter feature, which gave the impression of being a sunken building.

The highly-compacted metalled surface provided an ideal base for an upper cambered surface, represented by a 0.08m-thick spread of silty clay 77. One sherd of 13th–14th century pottery was collected from this material.

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>SF No</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>Cat No</i>
19	Copper alloy Ringerike mount fragment	7	?Viking	36
	Iron horseshoe fragment	59		
23*	No finds			
24*	Iron wedge or punch	67		
	Iron horseshoe fragments	68		
26	Claudius II coin	13	268-70	20
	Copper alloy bell	14	late medieval -post-medieval	4
	Copper alloy buckle	15	post-medieval to modern	6
	Copper alloy thimble	16	post-medieval	24
	Copper alloy button	17		
	Copper alloy plate fragments	18	post-medieval to modern	37
	Silver coin, Richard I	25	1189-1199	21
31	Copper alloy strip	19		
	Copper alloy marked disc	20		
32	Copper alloy thimble	21	post-medieval	23
	Copper alloy gilded hollow object	22	?late medieval	33
33	Silver coin, Philip and Mary	26	1554 -1558	22
34	Copper alloy strap end	23	?medieval	8
38	Copper alloy button	100	post-medieval to modern	14

Table 3: South Creake: metalwork recovered during excavations

* The area of contexts 23 and 24 were previously examined by metal-detectorists as Site 1958. A Romano-British coin (Magnentius/Decentius 350-3) and a copper alloy enamelled stud of probable 2nd-century date were found, together with medieval and post-medieval coins and jettons (Henry III farthing 1247-80; Edward I penny 1302-7; Edward II jetton 1307-27; Charles II 6d). Metal-detecting by George Parsons, B. Grieves and Vince Stewart subsequent to the excavation uncovered a Maximianus coin (235-8), a dupondius of Vespasian (69-79), a Valerian II of Antonianus denomination (253-55), early post-medieval copper alloy tags and fasteners, a Stephen penny (1141-50), a Hans Schuttes II jetton (1586-1603), a 10th-century lead alloy disc brooch, a Henry III penny (1242-7), a French jetton (1415-97) and a James I farthing (1613-14).

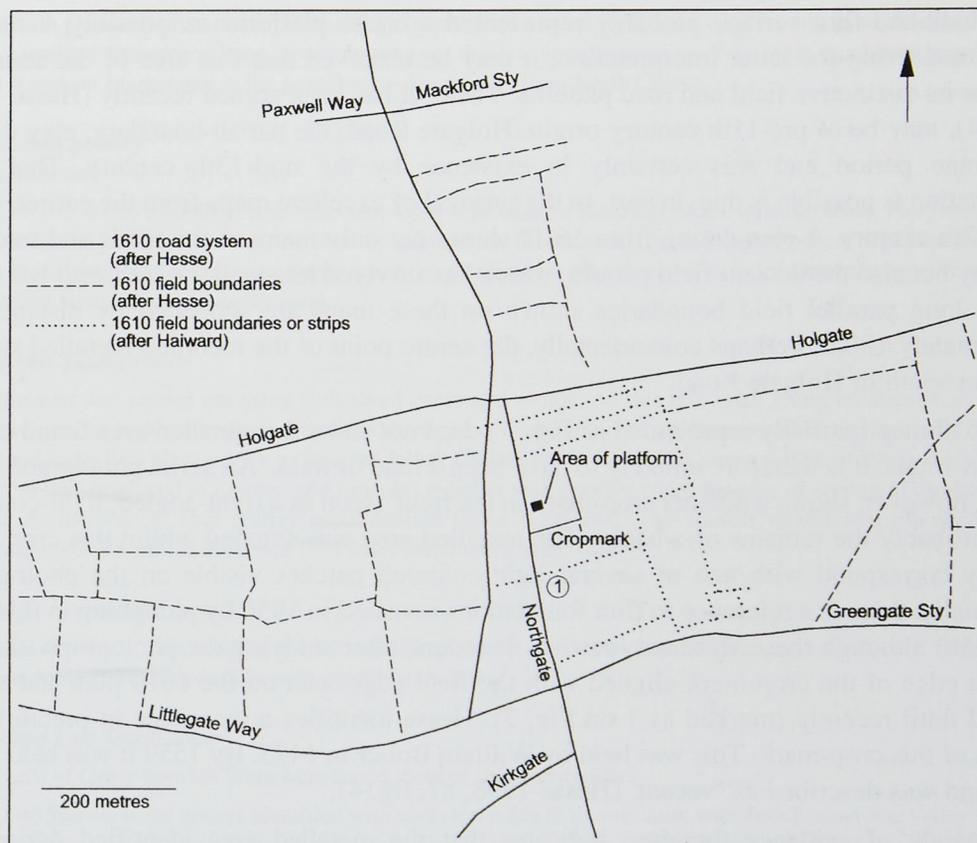


Fig. 7 Map showing roads, field boundaries and strips marked on early 17th-century maps, with location of platform found in 1997

Either side of the silty clay were large areas of flint. To the south these extended for at least 2.50m, thinning from a depth of 0.20m to 0.05m at the southernmost point investigated. Here the material consisted of abundant large flints and chalk cobbles mixed with silt and gravels (76), from which an iron implement of probable post-medieval date was recovered (Cat. 32). This material also occurred to the north of the platform, although in this case it extended northward for 4.00m. It was also more difficult here to distinguish between the flinty layer and the subsoil since the lower material itself contained large amounts of flint. Over the platform and the flint surfaces lay a depth of silty loam topsoil 0.30–0.50m thick.

Gully

A north-to-south aligned ditch or gully (79, not illustrated) lay 23m south of the southernmost point of the platform. It contained a silty loam with eight sherds of 11th–mid 13th century pottery.

Metal-detected evidence

The length of the pipeline in South Creeke was also divided into equally-spaced areas, each assigned a context number (Fig. 2), and each of them metal-detected after topsoil stripping had taken place. Items of antiquity are listed in Table 3; obviously modern material, such as cartridge casings, and unidentified objects, are not listed.

Discussion

Many fewer items of metalwork have been recovered by metal-detectorists in this area than in North Creeke. Material found during the excavation, however, suggested that a more intensive survey might produce similar results to that seen in North Creeke.³

The chalk-and-flint surface probably represented a house platform or, possibly, a road or track. Considering the latter interpretation, it may be observed that this area of the county is noted for its distinctive field and road patterns. These, it has been argued recently (Hesse 1992, 305–324), may be of pre-11th century origin. Holgate Road, the parish boundary, may date to the Roman period and was certainly in existence by the mid-13th century. That such interpretation is possible is due, in part, to the survival of excellent maps from the earliest years of the 17th century. A plan dating from 1610⁴ shows not only many of the roads and tracks in use today but also the ancient field pattern, which has survived less well. Hesse (*ibid*) has noted that the long parallel field boundaries shown on these maps are separated by distances of approximately 180m. Perhaps coincidentally, the centre point of the recorded metallised surface lay 175m south of Holgate Road.

The 1610 map (partially represented as Fig. 7⁵) does not show the metallised area found during the excavations. It is therefore unlikely to have been a road or track. An aerial photograph taken in 1977, however, shows a distinct crop-mark in the field⁶ (seen as a right-angled, light-coloured shape, probably the remains of a bank). The metallised area was situated within this crop-mark and may correspond with one of several light-coloured patches visible on the photograph. Additionally, there is a reference to flint foundations revealed in 1956 by ploughing in this field (Site 1958) although these were not located. It seems, after studying the photograph, that the southern edge of the crop-mark aligned with the field edge seen on the 1610 plan and which survived until recently (marked as 1 on Fig. 7). Hesse identifies a messuage in precisely the location of this crop-mark. This was held by William Bolter in 1475. By 1559 it was held by R. Bolter and was described as 'vacant' (Hesse 1998, 87, fig. 4).

The weight of evidence therefore indicates that the metallised area identified during the excavation — notwithstanding its appearance as a road or track — was a platform for a building which had simply disappeared by the time Haiward drew his map in 1610. No structural remains for the building were seen, probably because of the narrowness of the trench in which the platform was examined, or because the area examined had been a yard or external area.

The Finds

The Roman and post-Roman pottery, metallurgical debris, coins and iron, lead and copper alloy objects are discussed in this section. In addition ceramic building materials, animal bone and lavastone were recovered, in quantities not regarded as sufficient to warrant discussion. Full details of all artefacts are held in the project archive.

Roman pottery

by Alice Lyons

Six Romano-British pottery sherds (0.041kg) were collected. The pottery and archive are stored by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service. A full catalogue of the pottery by context is available within the archive.

This is a small assemblage of abraded, residual Romano-British pottery of late 3rd–4th century date. Most sherds are not closely datable, although the presence of a medium-mouthed jar with a flange just below the rim suggests a later Roman date.

Despite the small size of this assemblage there are several points of interest. The fabrics are very micaceous, consistent with having originated in South Norfolk (Lyons and Tester forthcoming). This contrasts with the post-Roman wares present, which were all entirely local to West Norfolk. Recent excavations at nearby Burnham Market (Percival in prep.) provide interesting comparative data. The majority of pottery from this latter site is earlier, dating to the mid 2nd–mid 3rd centuries AD, and here local and regional potteries (unsourced sandy grey ware, the Nene, the Nar Valley and Brampton industries) supplied the settlement. Although micaceous grey wares were present at Burnham they represented only 1.16% of the Roman ceramic assemblage by weight.

The North Creake Roman pottery assemblage is too small to shed light upon whether this unusual supply pattern is real or perceived. Present evidence, however, suggests that it is unrepresentative of the more usual local supply patterns seen at Burnham Market and in the post-Roman assemblage from North Creake.

Post-Roman pottery

by Sue Anderson

A total of 163 sherds (1.350kg) was collected. Table 4 provides a summary of the quantification. Full lists of pottery descriptions and pottery by context number are available in the archive. The majority of pottery was Late Saxon, early medieval and medieval coarseware. Small quantities of medieval glazed wares included Grimston-type Ware and two unidentified sandy fabrics, possibly local.

Method and quantification

Quantification was carried out using both sherd count and weight. As this is a small group no attempt was made to record weights for separate body, base and rim sherds, or to quantify by form. Where possible, rim types and forms have been noted in the list. Thetford Ware rim types follow Dallas (1984). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes (similar to that employed in London and Lincoln) together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. Norfolk Archaeological Unit pottery quantification forms were used. The number of different rim sherds in this assemblage was 20 and the EVE was 0.76 from seven measurable rims.

Unidentified handmade pottery

One sherd of a sandy hard handmade fabric was found. It had a brown external surface and a black core. It may be Late Iron Age, Early Saxon or possibly early medieval in date.

Middle and Late Saxon pottery

Two sherds of Gritty Ipswich Ware were found, both of them unstratified.

Thetford Ware was not always identified with confidence due to its similarity with both Roman Nar Valley Wares and local (Grimston and other) medieval coarsewares. Those sherds which could be identified on the basis of form exhibited a wide variety of fabrics, both in coarseness and in colour. Five sherds were probably Grimston Thetford Ware and these

<i>Fabric Name</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Fabric No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>%</i>
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	0.00	1	3	
Gritty Ipswich Ware	GIPS	2.31	2	25	
Thetford-type Ware	THET	2.50	49	308	
Grimston Thetford Ware	THETG	2.54	5	216	
<i>Total Group 2 (Mid/Late Saxon)</i>			56	549	40.7
Early Medieval Ware	EMW	3.10	12	122	
Early Medieval Ware Gritty	EMWG	3.11	2	5	
Early Medieval Sandwich Ware	EMSW	3.16	4	22	
Medieval Coarse Wares	MCW	3.20	16	67	
Grimston Coarse Ware	GRCW	3.22	13	219	
Local Medieval Unglazed	LMU	3.23	37	148	
<i>Total Group 3 (Med)</i>			84	583	43.2
Unprovenanced Glazed	UPG	4.00	2	6	
Grimston-type Ware	GRIM	4.10	11	152	
<i>Total Group 4 (Med glazed)</i>			13	158	11.7
Post-medieval Red Wares	PMRW	6.10	2	5	
English Stonewares	ESW	8.20	1	11	
<i>Total (PMed)</i>			3	16	1.2
<i>Total</i>			163	1350	

Table 4: Summary of post-Roman pottery quantification

included a sherd decorated with diamond rouletting and a large thumbed rim (type AG6) from a handled vessel with applied strips on the body. Other identifiable forms included a type AA5 and a type AB8, both from 10, and a fragment of strainer similar to a Grimston product (Leah 1994, fig. 59.38).

Some of the material could presumably have come from the nearby Bircham kiln, although this industry is thought to have produced Thetford-type ware in the first half of the Late Saxon period (Rogerson and Adams 1978) whereas much of the Creake Thetford-type ware is associated with Early Medieval Wares.

Early Medieval Ware and medieval coarsewares

Early Medieval Ware was present in a variety of fabrics, including fine sandy, gritty and chalky types. Colours ranged from black and grey to orange and red. The forms included a vessel with an unusual short spout (Fig. 8 i) and flaring everted rims with thumbed decoration (Fig. 8 ii). Jars with similar rim forms were produced at Blackborough End, Middleton (Rogerson and Ashley 1985) during the mid 12th–13th centuries, although they are typical of earlier EMW as well.

Medieval coarsewares were also highly variable, consisting of both the 'Norwich type' LMU wares in smooth, fine sandy fabrics, and sandier variants such as Grimston coarsewares and other ?local wares. The identified vessels included large bowls with rolled rims (Grimston coarseware type LBB, in Leah 1994), sooted sagging bases from cooking pots, and a bowl with a complex rim form (Fig. 8 iii).

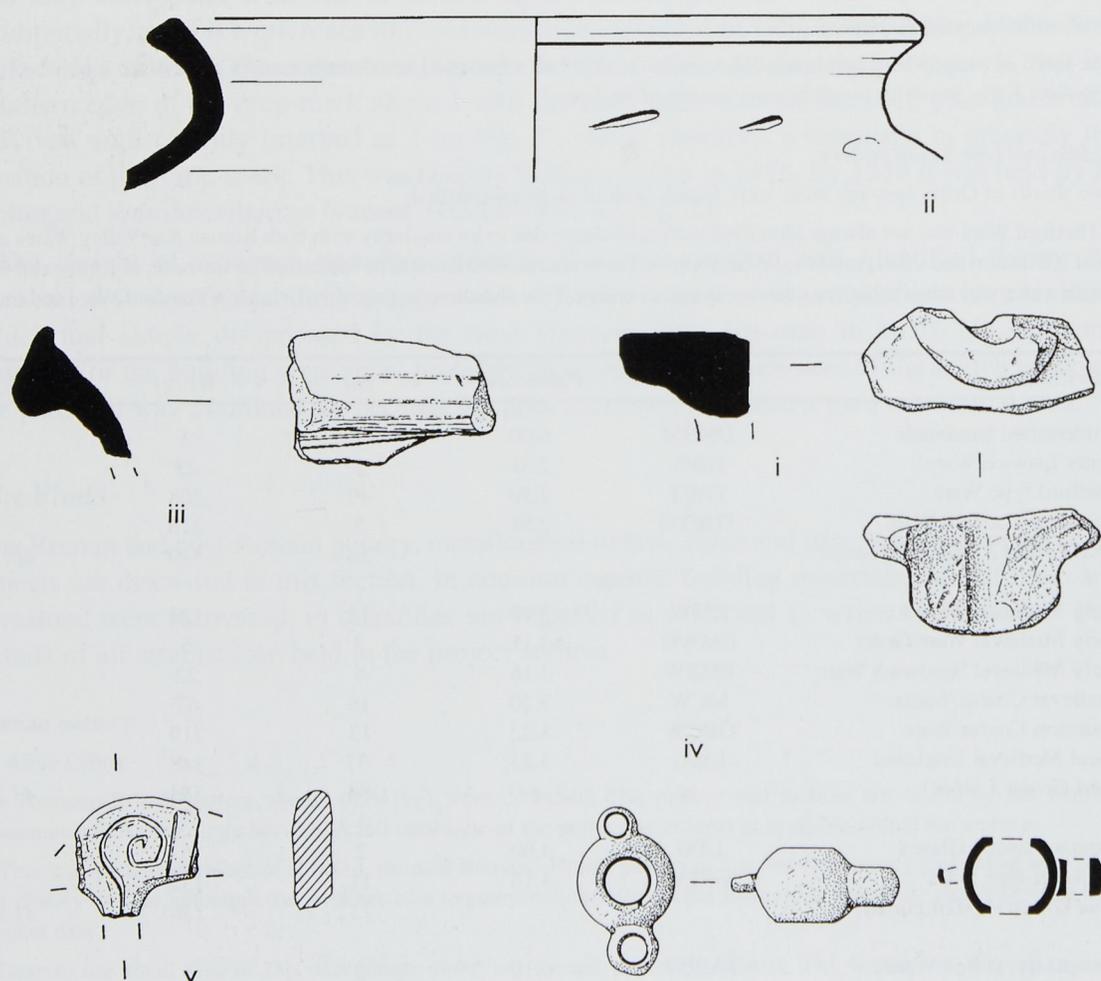


Fig. 8 Illustrated finds

i: EMW? Possible spouted vessel, with a bung-hole-like applied clay spout at the rim. Fine sandy red fabric with grey core. Context 8. Scale 1:2 **ii:** EMW. Handmade below rim, slash decoration at join. Rim diameter 170mm, 17%. Blackborough End type? Context 39. Scale 1:2 **iii:** GRCW. Bowl rim, unusual form for this fabric. Context 53. Scale 1:2 **iv:** ?joiner, cat. 33. Scale 1:1 **v:** Fragment of Ringerike mount or harness fitting, cat. 36. Scale 1:1

Medieval glazed wares

The majority of medieval glazed wares were Grimston-type products, although even these showed a wide range of fabrics. Some had red external surfaces similar to the earlier unglazed wares, others were smooth with pale pink or buff surfaces and the inclusions varied from sparse to abundant quartz sand. In one case there were also abundant soft red inclusions (ferrous oxides or clay pellets). Most sherds were green glazed, some with brown stripes. One piece was brown glazed and had impressed fingernail decoration similar to that seen on some face jugs.

Two sherds may have been Grimston products, but were unusual in having layers of slip under a yellow glaze. These are recorded as UPG.

Post-medieval pottery

One sherd of unglazed red ware may have been post-medieval; there was a small rim sherd from a late medieval or post-medieval dish with white slip and yellowy brown glaze on the top surface. One sherd of a white glazed stoneware jar of 18th-century or later date was found.

Pottery by feature

Pottery was found in eight features. These are listed in Table 5, together with suggested spotdates.

Few feature assemblages merit further discussion. Gully 11 produced 18 sherds, all of which were Late Saxon or Early Medieval Wares. The group from marl pit 45 totalled 17 sherds of Late Saxon to 13th–14th century date, possibly suggesting that the fill was redeposited.

Fifty-four sherds were recovered from seven contexts within the corn drier complex, including primary fill 87. This contained a small rouletted Thetford Ware sherd in a dark grey/black fabric with abundant sand. Rouletting does not appear to occur in the later Thetford Ware industries of Langhale (Wade 1976) and Grimston (Leah 1994), but it does occur at Bircham (Rogerson and Adams 1978) which has been dated to the 10th–early 11th century. Unfortunately the other pottery from the drier does not provide a very clear sequence of dates. Layer 102 contained a rimsherd from a flange rim jar of late Roman date and the material used in Kiln 1's rebuild 48 contained a base sherd in medieval coarseware (or possibly Nar Valley Ware). The remainder of the assemblage came from four contexts in the abandonment phase, and included Roman red colour-coated ware, Thetford/Nar Valley Wares, Early Medieval Ware and medieval coarsewares. The Roman, or potentially Roman, material from this feature may suggest 3rd–4th century activity in the area.

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Diagnostic Sherds</i>	<i>Spotdate</i>
Gully 11	THET, EMW	11th century
Ditch 15	THET (one small sherd)	Late Saxon?
Drier 41	Primary fill THET	10th–early 11th century
Marl pit 45	MCW, GRCW, GRIM	13th century
Pit 57*	GRCW	11th–mid 13th century
Feature 73*	RBGW	Roman?
Platform 74	MCW, GRIM?	13th–14th century
Gully 79	MCW, GRCW	11th–mid 13th century

Table 5: Suggested ceramic spotdates for features

* not discussed in this report

Discussion

The range of fabrics appears to be almost entirely local to West Norfolk. Late Saxon material, in varying fabrics, was typical of the rural Thetford-type Ware industries (K. Wade, *pers. comm.*) and the medieval wares were probably from Grimston and local centres producing Early Medieval-type Wares. 'Early Medieval Ware' from West Norfolk is not always strictly 'early' but at this site, where it is associated with unabraded Thetford Ware sherds, it is probably of 11th- or early 12th-century date. Where it is found with later medieval types it could potentially be from later production centres and this difference may account in some part for the variety of fabrics seen.

Forms were not easily identifiable in most cases, but those rims which were recovered were typical of the Thetford, Early Medieval Ware and Grimston industries. Apart from the normal range of jars, bowls and jugs, there was also a fragment of strainer and an unidentified vessel type with a short ?spout at the rim (Fig. 8 i).

Although there were difficulties with identifying some of this material it seems likely that the majority is of Late Saxon to medieval date, and that the corn-drier in particular was in use from the 10th century.

Metallurgical debris

by Lynne Keys

A total of 3.3 kg of iron smithing slag (24 fragments) was recovered during the excavations. A small quantity was found in gully 11 but the larger and most interesting amount was from the rebuild of Kiln 1 (48). The slag consisted almost exclusively of smithing 'hearth bottoms' — twelve in all — which formed part of a deposit used in the construction of a new floor in Kiln 1. Full details of the assemblage are held in the project archive.

The smithing hearth bottom is the most distinctive waste product of smithing activity. It is the result of high-temperature reactions between the iron, iron-scale and silica from either a clay furnace or the silica flux used by the smith to clean the surface of the iron and inhibit further oxidation of the iron during hot working. It is possible that the smithing hearth bottoms had been intentionally used in this deposit to take advantage of their heat-retaining properties.

Small finds

by Julia Huddle, Val Fryer and John A. Davies

A total of 62 small finds were recovered during the project. The categories used below follow those used in the catalogue of finds excavated by the Norwich Survey from 1971–78 (Margeson 1993). A complete listing of all the small finds recovered is held within the archive. Numbers in **bold type** refer to the select catalogue at the report's conclusion: this does not include small finds that proved to be modern, such as a cartridge casing and copper alloy and lead scrap.

In addition to the six Romano-British pottery sherds found, the earliest datable find was a coin of Claudius II Antoninianus (AD 268–70, **20**). A possible Ringerike-style mount or harness fitting (**36**, Fig.8 v) was recovered. (For a discussion on the Ringerike style and the occurrence of artefacts decorated in this style found in Norfolk see Margeson 1997, 31–37.) This mount provides more evidence of the Vikings in Norfolk and adds to the growing corpus of important Viking metalwork found in the county, which includes a 10th-century Viking chain terminal from Site 29428 (Appendix 1). None of the small finds may be dated to the Late Saxon period although this is not to say that some of the undiagnostic finds are not of this date.

Artefacts dated to the medieval period include two barbed arrowheads, two probable 12th- or 13th-century knives and two buckles, one of which (**10**) is an iron spur buckle (cf. Alexander and Binski 1987, 259–60, no. 166: for discussion of these spur buckles see Egan 1995, 150, fig 109, no. 378). One of the coins may be a Richard I silver penny (1189–1199, **21**), and a possible awl (**30**) is from a context spot-dated to the medieval period. Unlike the pottery, much of the metalwork appears to be post-medieval in date and includes a horseshoe fragment, buttons, a flute mouth-piece, buckle frames, thimbles and a silver groat of Philip and Mary (1554–1558, **22**).

Diversions

Weapons

- 1 SF 33, 5, X-ray 5573. Socketted and barbed iron **arrowhead**. Medieval.
- 2 SF 31, 4, X-ray 5573. Socketted and barbed iron **arrowhead**. Medieval.

Horse equipment

- 3 SF 35, 13, X-ray 5574. Fragment of iron **horseshoe** with narrow web and pointed tip, two nails surviving. Probably post-medieval.

Musical instruments

- 4 SF 14, 26. Flattened copper alloy sheet **bell** with iron pellet *in situ*. Made in two hemispheres and soldered together. Strap loop for suspension. Late-medieval or post-medieval.
- 5 SF 98, 5. **Flute mouthpiece** with traces of iron collar/body in socket, high tin content ?Post-medieval or modern.

Dress and Personal Possessions

Belt-fittings

- 6 SF 15, 26. Single rectangular copper alloy **buckle** frame with sheet roller, pin missing. Post-medieval or modern.
- 7 SF 6, 5. Trapezoid copper alloy **buckle** frame with incurved outer edge and pin rest, decorated with grooves. Pin missing. cf. Margeson 1993, fig. 14, 142. 14th-century.
- 8 SF 23, 34. Incomplete copper alloy rectangular **buckle** plate with four perforations, two with rivets *in situ*. Probably medieval.

- 9 SF 4, 2. Double oval loop copper alloy **buckle** frame. Expanded outside edges with grooved pin seat and four decorative knobs. Iron staining on swivel bar from missing pin. Late 15th- or 16th-century.
- 10 SF 29, 2, X-ray 5573. Iron spur **buckle** with oval frame and integral oval plate with pin swivel hole and hooked terminal. For a similar example in situ see Alexander and Binski 1987, 259–60, No. 166 and Egan 1995, 150, fig 109 no 378.

Fasteners

- 11 SF 3, 1. Rectangular copper alloy **sheet** with two pierced arms and rolled top, with incised decoration. Probably catch plate for small household item or dress fastener.
- 12 SF 12, 21. Hemispherical ?gilded copper alloy **hollow cap**, probably button head.
- 13 SF 99, 24. Discoidal copper alloy **button** with missing attachment loop on reverse. High tin content? Post-medieval or modern.
- 14 SF 100, 38. Discoidal copper alloy **button** with soldered-on attachment loop on reverse. ?High tin content. Post-medieval or modern.

Furnishings and Household Equipment

Iron Knives

- 15 SF 32, 4, X-ray 5574. Folding **knife** or razor, 'T'-shaped hinge at one end. Post-medieval or modern.
- 16 SF 27, 3, X-ray 5573. Iron **knife** with whittle tang, horizontal back tapering to tip. Cutting edge worn by sharpening, handle missing. Probably 12th–13th century.
- 17 SF 28, 3, X-ray 5573. Iron **knife** with whittle tang, handle missing. Blade has horizontal back tapering to tip. Cutting edge worn by sharpening. Probably 12th–13th century.

Vessels (copper alloy)

- 18 SF 10, 21. **Vessel** fragment that includes part of rim with sooted outer surface. Late medieval or early post-medieval.

Occupations, Industry and Crafts

Weights

- 19 SF 91, 24. Discoidal perforated lead **weight** (weight 0.014kg).

Commercial activity, coins

- 20 SF 13, 26. Copper alloy **coin** of Claudius II Antoninianus R. illegible. Female figure holding *cornucopiae*, standing left. AD 268–70.
- 21 SF 25, 26. Silver **coin**, possibly Richard I (1189–1199) penny. Moneyer, Raul mint, London.
- 22 SF 26, 33. Silver **coin**, groat, Philip and Mary (1554–1558). Obv *Philip and Maria dg Rex Z Regina*. Rev *Posimus deum adiuto*

Needlework

- 23 SF 21, 32. Copper alloy **thimble** with fine even punching all over and rolled rim, machine-made. Post-medieval.
- 24 SF 16, 26. Copper alloy **thimble** with fine even punching on the top two-thirds and three bands of tiny punched dots below. Probably machine-made. Post-medieval. Machine-made thimbles were introduced from the Netherlands from the 17th century onwards (Margeson 1993, 187).

Unclassified

- 25 SF 9, 21. Copper alloy looped terminal with possible remains of single collar before break.
- 26 SF 97, 38. Possible lead handle or similar, socketed at narrower end, wider end convex at top with a burred flange around edge. Wider end has possibly been struck. Date and function uncertain.
- 27 SF 36, 6, X-ray 5573. Rectangular-section iron rod, bent and tapering to a point at one end and broken at the other. Start of a spur arm on interior of bend. Similar in form to a medieval flesh hook but too incomplete to be certain.
- 28 SF 83, 6. Discoidal lead object with irregular tapering hole; spindle-whorl or weight (weight 65.63g).
- 29 SF 40, 77. Iron strap/sheet fragment. Both ends riveted and broken. Date and function uncertain.

- 30 SF 39, 39. Possible iron awl fragment. Square-sectioned and tapering towards both ends from an off-centre expansion. Possibly medieval.
- 31 SF 38, 24. X-ray 5779. Iron ?handle.
- 32 SF 37, 76, X-ray 5574. Cast iron tool or implement head. Tapering subcircular-section handle, recessed and pierced at end, attached to a sub-rectangular plate with downturned short edges. Front edge of plate has two pairs of two large substantial 'notches' on either side of handle, and one small subcircular 'notch' at the centre. The plate between the notches is bifurcated giving a decorative appearance. Function uncertain, but the form is similar to trade tool handles of late post-medieval date.
- 33 SF 22, 32. Cast copper alloy hollow object ?gilded with large central perforation and two integral side loops; one is more substantial than the other ?joiner. ?Late medieval. (Fig. 8 iv)
- 34 SF 30, 3, X-ray 32630. Incomplete iron plate with swollen end and hooked incomplete terminal. Possibly part of a padlock key.
- 35 SF 34, 5, X-ray 5573. Central trapezoidal iron plate with short flaring arms emerging from both short sides. One arm has a rounded riveted terminal, the other has an angular riveted plate which steps down to become a tapering strip/tang. White metal plating overall. Probably medieval.
- 36 SF 7, 19. Small fragment of cast copper alloy with incised linear and scroll decoration. Possibly part of a Ringerike-style mount or harness fitting. (Fig. 8 v).
- 37 SF 18, 26. Stamped copper alloy plate fragments x 4, two with bevelled edges and rounded corners. Possibly fragments of a small box lid. Post-medieval or modern.
- 38 SF 5, 5. Circular section copper alloy wire or object with one end broken, the other end has a minute ball and possible collar head. Date and function uncertain.

Conclusions

The excavation offered a valuable opportunity to examine a transect across a large area for which metal-detected evidence had suggested a human presence since the Bronze Age. The sheer volume and variety of this metalwork was suggestive of extensive settlement from the Romano-British period onwards.

In the event little settlement evidence of any age was discovered. The disparity between the metal-detected and excavated evidence may be explained in a number of ways. Although the excavation trench followed the route of the B1355 for much of its length it was situated some way to the east of the road itself. Any roadside settlement might, therefore, have been missed. Secondly, although the area stripped of topsoil measured 8m in width, the area where natural soils were observed measured in width only 0.70m. Much in the way of structural evidence (post-holes, beam-slots etc) may therefore have gone undetected. Finally, there may in fact have been little in the way of actual settlement in the vicinity, the metalwork being accounted for instead by casual loss and movement of the soils within which it was found. Such movement may have been caused by mechanised ploughing, which has visibly decreased the depth of topsoil surviving along the headland.

Notwithstanding the scarcity of structural evidence it remains clear that the valley has been host to a prolonged human presence. This is attested to by the recovery of Bronze Age and Roman items and a Neolithic axe. Items from all Saxon periods have also been found, some of them highly decorative. Metalwork of Late Saxon and medieval date is most in evidence and this concurs with the excavated evidence. The crop-driers and their related features, probably together forming a part of a Late Saxon farmstead, suggest that the immediate area was under cultivation by the 11th century at the latest. Medieval settlement was indicated by the probable house platform in South Creake and is supported by surviving documentation (Hesse 1998). We have no evidence for the date of construction of this building although it appears to have been already abandoned by the mid-16th century.

The aims of the excavation were to seek below-ground evidence to support the suggestion of early settlement in the area. In this they have been only partially successful, for whilst Late Saxon occupation within the valley was in evidence its extent remains unproven. Thus, further excavation along the river would be required to confirm the suspicion that settlement of the valley bottom began in the Late Saxon period.

May 2001

Appendix 1. North Creake: metalwork recovered between January 1993 and March 1996 from site 29428

<i>Period</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Neolithic</i>	axe		found at Kate's Lane (Site 1961, not Site 29428)
<i>Bronze Age</i>	palstave axe fragment		Middle Bronze Age
	ring		With grooved outer face and traces of punched dots
<i>Roman</i>	coins	8	Lucilla, Sestertius, 164-82; 2 others illegible, Antonius Pius 154-155; HoC 320-3; Constantine II 323-4; 2 x HoV 364-78.
	copper alloy brooch		1st century AD
<i>Early Saxon</i>	small-long brooch		
	headplate and bow		
<i>Middle Saxon</i>	copper alloy pin		Faceted head
	copper alloy bi-conical pin-head		Faceted with ring and dot decoration
<i>Late Saxon</i>	lead trefoil ?pin head		
	copper alloy openwork tongue-shaped strap-end		Rectangular, 2 openwork panels, 2 pierced holes, worn stamped ornament
	box-mount		
	copper alloy openwork pommel		
	copper alloy openwork discoidal brooch		
	cast animal head with Borre-style interlace		10th century, see Margeson 1997, 22, fig. 26
<i>medieval</i>	coins or jettons	3	Plantagenet king cut farthing and penny 1180-1247; Edward I penny 1279-1302
	copper alloy buckles and buckle plates	16	gilded and otherwise
	copper alloy mounts	2	
	copper alloy crescentic strap-end, with leaf terminal		14th century
	copper alloy belt mounts and fittings	4	
	copper alloy ring		From a buckle or brooch
	crescentic pendant		Possibly Roman
	copper alloy fastener		
	copper alloy ring brooch		14th century
	ring brooch		13th century

<i>Period</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>late medieval</i>	coins and jettons	2	Henry VI/Edward IV penny 1422-83; French jetton 1461-97
	gilded copper alloy harness boss fragment		
	thimble		Spirally applied dots
<i>late medieval/early post-medieval</i>	copper alloy casket key		
<i>early post-medieval</i>	coins and jettons	3	Nuremburg jettons 16th-17th century; Hans Schuttes 1553-84
	copper alloy discoidal mount		With cast rosette
	buckles and buckle frames	6	
	copper alloy sword-belt fitting	2	
	copper alloy knife handle end-cap		
	gilded copper alloy harness mount	2	
	copper alloy thimble	2	
<i>post-medieval</i>	jetton		
	copper alloy book-clasp		
<i>late post-medieval or modern</i>	gilded copper alloy socketed object with leaf decoration		
<i>undated</i>	Square copper alloy mount		

Appendix 2. North Creake: metalwork recovered between October 1989 and February 1995 from Site 25576

<i>Period</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Roman</i>	coins	9	Cp (330-5); Magnentius (350-3); Antoninus Pius (138-61); HoC (321-3); Severus Alexander (222-31); a Marc Antony Denarius (32-31 BC); Arcadius siliqua (392-5); HoV (364-78); Gratian (367-83)
	silver siliqua		Arcadius (388-92)
<i>Early Saxon</i>	small-long brooch		
	cruciform brooch fragment		
<i>Middle Saxon</i>	copper alloy leaf-shaped strap-end		Cast decoration in the form of overall squares and dots in low relief. Animal head terminal.
	gilded copper alloy rectangular mount		Interlace in centre, 2 strand interweaving.
<i>Late Saxon</i>	copper alloy penannular finger ring		With tapering overlapping terminals
	St Edmund memorial penny		c. 895-905
<i>medieval</i>	cast copper alloy vessel foot		
	coins	3	Edward I pennies 1279-1307 (Dublin mint) and 1279-1302 (London); Richard I penny (1189-99)
	buckles, buckle frames and buckle plates	14	Of varying ages. Gilded and otherwise; decorated and otherwise
	copper alloy mounts	2	One a 13th-century Limoges enamelled item
	copper alloy harness accessories	3	One of openwork, decorated in the form of elaborate leaf motifs.
	copper alloy dagger chape		Cut-away chevron decoration at top

<i>Period</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>medieval</i>	copper alloy openwork box-mount		Lozenge shaped motif in centre. Transverse lines on rectangular frame
	copper alloy skillet handle fragment		
	strap-end fragment		Spherical terminal
	copper alloy ring brooches	3	One is of 13th-century date and would have held a glass pellet, another of 14th-century date
	belt-hasps		Double-looped, with moulded scallop shells
<i>late medieval</i>	coin	3	Henry VI groat, Calais mint, 1433-61; Henry VIII (1526-44), Elizabeth I (1564)
	jetton		French, Tournai; 1415-97
<i>post-medieval</i>	coins	6	Holland AR coin; Mary penny 1553-54
	buckles	1	
	gilded copper alloy lozenge-shaped fragment of back-plate for drawer		17th century
	handle copper alloy coin-weights	2	17th and 18th centuries. The former a Charles I shilling, the latter for a half-guinea.

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1. Section 1, East Anglia, Sheet 52N 00, British Geological Survey
2. The archive and finds resulting from this excavation are lodged with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.
3. Subsequent to the excavation further metal-detecting was conducted by George Parsons, B Grieves and Vince Stewart. These are listed below Table 3 (p. 576)
4. Norfolk Record Office Map Reference BL35. The map is probably by William Haiward and shows South Creake.
5. Fig. 7 is an amalgam of a plan of the present road system, as presented by Ordnance Survey, a version of the 1610 map traced onto permatrace and a digitised version of Hesse 1992, fig. 6
6. Visible on photos ref: 8536/L and 8536/M held by Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

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