

## Outreach

Staff in both teams of the Service provided lectures to a wide audience, including local and national groups. The Service maintained a high profile with the media which included regular Radio Suffolk interviews and participation in the BBC's 'Hidden Treasures' programme at Coddenham, and Channel Four's 'Time Team' excavation at the Roman villa at Whitton, Ipswich. Jo Caruth continued to co-present the BBC's 'Time Flyers' programme. The Portable Antiquities Scheme also provided presentations and handling sessions at many locations around the county, including two Finds Identification Days.

Staff also compiled 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2003' (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XI, part 4, 2004).

The Service also published:

A Medieval Moated Site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket, Suffolk (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 15, 2004).



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# Archaeological Service

## Annual Report 2003-2004

The work of the Archaeological Service, recorded each year in our Annual Report is a mixture of core activities, funded by the County Council and developer-funding, together with a range of pro-active activities funded by grant aid, mainly from English Heritage.

During 2003-04 our Portable Antiquities Scheme team was increased and we welcomed Dr Steven Plunkett and

Donna Wreathall. Dr Helen Geake left to take up a regional post in the Scheme and was replaced by Faye Minter.

Our Contracting Team had a very busy year recording sites of all periods before development. Of particular interest, was the discovery of an early Anglo-Saxon settlement at Handford Road, Ipswich.

Staff continued to maintain a high profile with the media and Senior Project Officer, Jo Caruth, continued to co-present the BCC series of archaeological programmes: Time Flyers.

Keith Wade  
Archaeological Service Manager

*The Folly excavated at Flixton*

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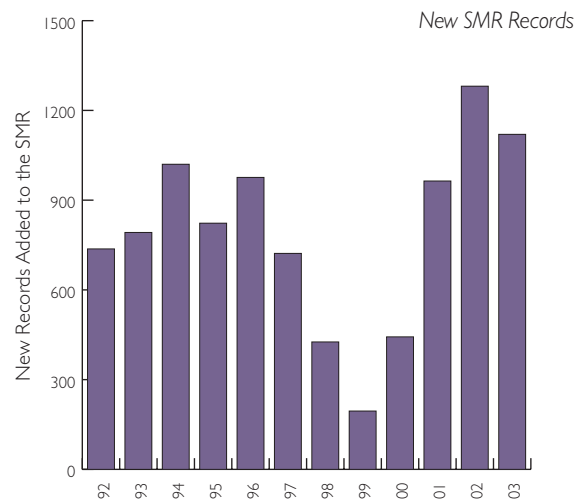
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## Conservation Team

### Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

During 2003/2004, 1120 new records were added to the computerised SMR, the second highest annual total ever recorded. Some of this results from the assessment of aerial photographs undertaken at Swindon as part of the coastal survey. In addition 1,335 existing records were amended, also one of the highest amounts for a single year.



Some outstanding finds and sites were recorded during 2003. Although a significant proportion of evidence comes from professional field and survey work, the bulk of new sites and finds reported continue to result from amateur metal detecting and field-walking surveys (for example 20 new Roman finds scatters). Other single finds recorded over the year included, for example, over 100 Neolithic axeheads.

There was a marked increase in cropmark/soilmark sites recorded from aerial photographs. These included 57 new sites of 'ring-ditches' (usually plough-levelled burial mounds), 45 enclosure cropmarks (usually settlements) and 30 trackways, often associated with attached field systems.

Documentary evidence provided information on a variety of probable medieval sites including a further nine moats, a possible kiln, and a probable church or chapel.

There were also numerous, mainly post medieval, parks, landscape and garden features, mills, kilns and brickworks sites. In addition other mainly Post Medieval and Modern floodbanks and military installations, mainly of First and Second World War date, have been recorded as part of the Coastal survey work.

### Finds Recording Scheme

Funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the fifth year of the voluntary recording of portable antiquities in Suffolk was completed at the end of January 2004. Helen Geake left in August 2003 to take up a post as the national early medieval to post medieval Finds Advisor for the scheme and Faye Minter remains as the full time Finds Recording Officer for the county. Steven Plunkett and Donna Wreathall have filled an extra half time post working for two days and half a day a week respectively. They continue to be supported by a

substantial contribution of Conservation Team staff time.

Visits continued to be made to the two principal metal-detector clubs which serve the county: the Mildenhall and District Metal Detector Club and the Ipswich and District Detector Club. The Essex-based East Coast Searchers club was also attended until January 2004, after which the newly appointed Finds Recording Officer for Essex took over the role.

During 2003-04, 6,591 objects were identified and recorded which is twice as many as recorded in 2002-03.

The number of digital images added to the database also increased. This year 2,109 records have linked images and the use of the digital camera has now almost replaced that of the flat bed scanner ensuring that images are of a better quality. Line drawings also continue to be drawn by Donna Wreathall and remain a vital part of the record for many objects.

The breakdown of finds by period for this year follows the trend that was seen last year with the percentage of Roman objects recorded continuing to rise from 34% to 41%. The percentage of medieval finds, dated between 1066 and 1540, is consistent with that of last year only fluctuating slightly from 36% to 32%.

During 2003-4, data continued to be passed to other databases: the SMRs of neighbouring counties, the Early Medieval Corpus of Coin Finds at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and the Celtic Coin Index at the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford.

Detector finds are constantly expanding our knowledge of Iron Age coinage, with a further 34 Iron Age coins recorded this year. Detailed study is currently being carried out on the die links of the Icenian coins by John Talbot, who was particularly interested in new finds of two "Early Face Horse" examples from parishes along the Waveney Valley, on the Suffolk – Norfolk border. He identifies both as early examples of this type.

"Early Face Horse" coin from North Suffolk



The Roman assemblage was again dominated by coins (1,145 recorded) with brooches and other personal dress accessories the next most common category. 184 brooches were recorded, including a late 4th or 5th century supporting-arm type brooch from Eye, which may shed light on the elusive relationship between the late Roman and early Anglo Saxon periods in this area.

One of the most unusual Romano-British finds was a copper-alloy enamelled baldric ring, part of the attachment of a sword to its belt strap, which was discovered west of

Ipswich. J D Hill of the British Museum has confirmed that there are very few other examples of rings of this type. The predominant yellow enamel/cut glass suggests that it probably dates to after the Roman conquest. Indeed current evidence suggests that only red glass was used in the

Baldric ring from west of Ipswich



Iron Age and that blue and yellow glass were not used earlier than the 1st century AD in this country.

Another unique Roman object was a lead tag from Shimpling. It was inscribed with a sharp point on both faces. On one face there are numerals erased by diagonal strokes and on the other the probable incomplete name of a commodity. This tag is similar to those discovered in Carlisle, which identified the owner and price of the objects to which they were attached.

The number of Anglo-Saxon (410-1066AD) sites identified through the discovery of finds by metal detectorists continued to rise. In north central Suffolk the last couple of years has seen a doubling in the number of probable or possible early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, identifiable by finds of brooches and wrist clasps. The majority of finds are unburnt, suggesting inhumation burials, but a group of heat-distorted fragments from the Eye area indicates that cremation was the dominant rite in this particular cemetery.

The number of medieval harness mounts and pendants being reported continues to increase. Many examples are heraldic and several unusual examples have been identified. For example, a copper-alloy heraldic shield-shaped harness mount was discovered in Parham. On the dexter side is a lion rampant with traces of gilding on a white enamelled background. On the sinister side are two triple-turreted castles, gilded, on a red enamelled background. These arms should represent King Alfonso IX of Leon (reigned 1188-1230) and his wife Queen Berengaria of Castile (reigned 1214-1217). If contemporary it would be an early instance of impaled arms and of the use of harness pendants. However, Alfonso and Berengaria were the grandparents of Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I (married 1254, died 1290), so perhaps the pendant was made then.

Harness Mount from Parham



### Finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996

1998/1999	16
1999/2000	21
2000/2001	22
2001/2002	27
2002/2003	33
2003/2004	47

The number of Treasure Act cases reported has continued to increase. The oldest treasure item this year was the late Bronze Age gold covered 'ring money' from near Mildenhall. Roman treasure included silver finger rings and spoon fragments as well as several small coin hoards.

The most significant Anglo Saxon find was an extremely interesting group of artefacts discovered north of Ipswich. The finds could come from disturbed graves or, because of their fragmentary nature, be part of a metalsmith's scrap ready for melting down. They included seven fragments of a silver gilt florid cruciform great square headed brooch; a silver shoe shaped stud and a silver spiral wrist clasp. The great square-headed brooch fragments have beautifully executed Style I ornament, which suggests that it was perhaps manufactured in the first decades of the sixth century.

Another important early medieval find was the enamelled gold mount found near Eye. This circular mount depicts a frontal male bust, with wavy hair; large almond shaped eyes, a small mouth and a possible moustache. The bust is flanked by vegetation motifs. The enamel survives and the hair appears bluish and the field greenish-black in colour. Dr Anna Gannon believes that the best parallels for this mount are from the continent amongst brooches showing 'saints.' This is therefore likely to be an important prestige object datable to the end of the 8th century.

Enamelled gold mount from near Eye



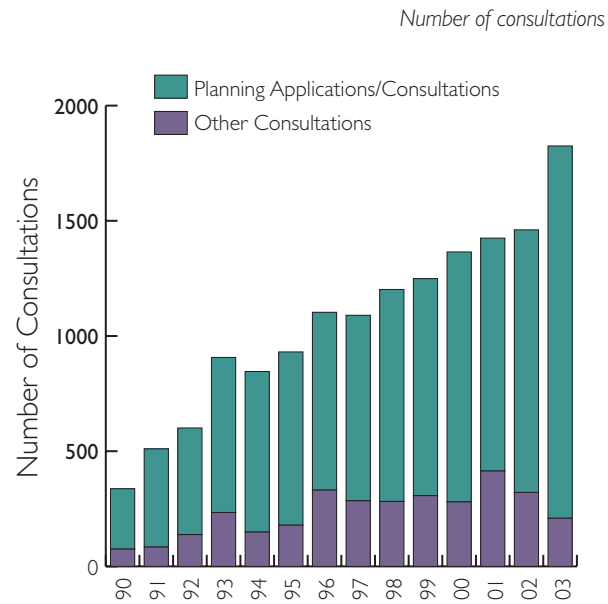
Medieval and Post Medieval treasure finds were mainly personal accessories such as finger rings and dress tags. One more unusual find was a late 15th or early 16th century gold medieval pendant of lozenge shape found in the Framlingham area. On one face is a representation of the Annunciation with the Virgin Mary standing on the left with her hands joined in prayer; in the centre is a lily in a pot and on the right the archangel Gabriel genuflecting in salutation. On the other face is the image of a bishop and the letters 'S' and 'T'. The 'T' is slightly abraded. The letters are probably meant to signify Saint Thomas for Thomas Becket.

Gold pendant found near Framlingham



## Consultations

The increase in consultations year on year continues. There were 1,616 consultations in 2003, compared with 1,461 in 2002. Nearly 90% come from the Local Planning Authorities, while the rest were mainly from the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). There were only six consultations as a result of the Hedgerow Regulations (1997).



## Scheduled Ancient Monuments

No new sites were designated by English Heritage as Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Suffolk in 2003-2004.

## Monument Management

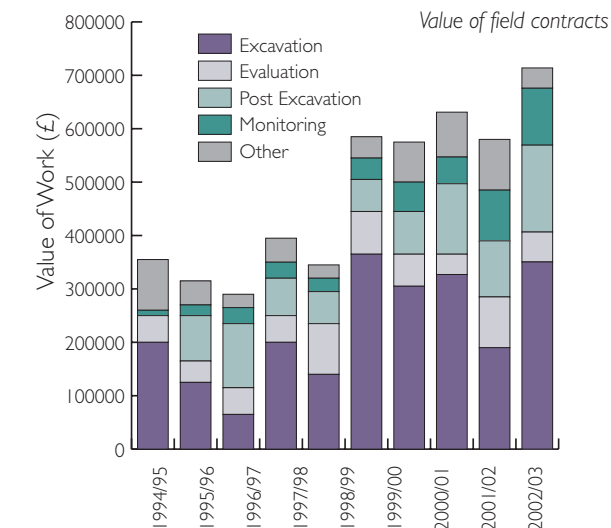
Very little pro-active work was undertaken during 2003-2004. However, the Service was consulted on 86 applications for Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements, which lead to the beneficial management of archaeological sites. Advice continued to Forest Enterprise over the management of archaeological sites on their extensive holdings in the county.

## Field Projects Team

279 Field Projects were undertaken in 2003-2004 and external income was over £700,000, recovering the costs of the service for the fifth year running.

Excavation income was considerably higher than in 2002-2003 reflecting the mini boom in development, especially in housing.

The following is a selection of some of the more interesting and important projects. Summaries of all discoveries reported in 2003 can be found in 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2003' in Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XL, part 4, 2004.



## Bury St Edmunds

Excavation at High Baxter Street revealed a late 16th or early 17th century building with a chalk floor fronting the street and a substantial cellar to the rear. Adjoining the building were rubbish pits and a well.

At Warren Yards, St Andrew's Street South, a group of three medieval ovens, built into the base of a sunken room or cellar, were found during excavations in advance of a housing development. The ovens were circular and were built against the sides of the cellar which was accessed by a chalk ramp. Postholes around the edge of the cellar suggest that it was part covered by a timber structure. The burning in the ovens indicated that they were operated at low temperatures and in the absence of contradictory evidence were thought to be for baking bread. The size and robust build of the structure implies that these were part of a commercial bakery rather than domestic ovens. The pottery from the cellar backfill dated them to the late 13th to early 14th centuries.

The medieval cellar with ovens at Warren Yard



At Out Risbygate monitoring of a development revealed the graves of at least twelve individuals thought to relate to the nearby medieval hospital of St. Peter. Possible evidence for a medieval building, perhaps the cemetery chapel, was also identified.

At St Andrew's Street, the remains of the medieval town defences, were found running north-south along the street frontage. The bank was 12.2 metres wide and sealed the original ground surface. A large medieval or early post-medieval outbuilding, possibly a cart shed, constructed around earth-fast posts was also recorded.

## Claydon

Contractors' excavations for a house basement revealed a large prehistoric pit in section. Subsequent archaeological investigation showed this feature to be nearly three metres in depth. At its top there was a weathering cone five metres in diameter, but below this the sides were nearly vertical with a diameter of 2.5 metres. Given the loose nature of the sand subsoil it is likely that this pit had a wooden revetment. Pottery recovered from near the base of the pit consisted of Grooved Ware, suggesting a later Neolithic date. Higher up the fill a definite break in the stratigraphy suggests a later recut or possibly a higher section of revetment. Pottery recovered from the fill of this part of the pit suggests an earlier Bronze Age date and fragmentary pieces of undiagnostic burnt bone might belong to a dispersed cremation.

Neolithic pits at Broome Heath in Norfolk contained square wooden containers and a similar interpretation might be possible for this Claydon example. Deep pits and shafts are known from the earlier Bronze Age, becoming more common in the Iron Age. The Claydon pit might be an early example of this long established prehistoric tradition.

Claydon Neolithic shaft



## Coddenham

Archaeological fieldwork was commissioned by the BBC for the series 'Hidden Treasures'. A geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection and twelve evaluation trenches were excavated.

The most notable structure identified during the evaluation was a 'hall' building of post-in-trench construction, measuring 11m x 7m, and probably 7th-century in date. Two possible sunken-featured buildings were also identified. The associated pottery assemblage was sparse but was all handmade, with a variety indicative of 7th-century settlement.



Anglo Saxon building at Coddenham

## Flixton

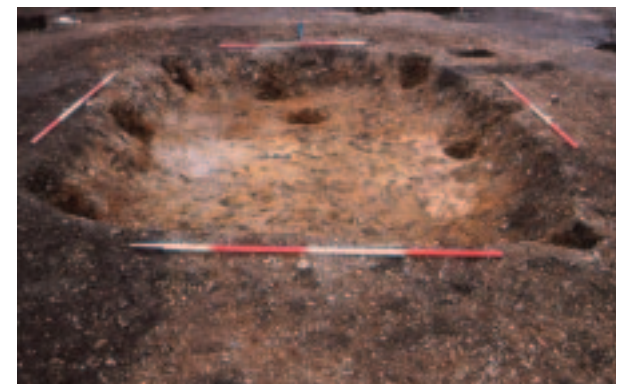
Excavation, funded by the Aggregates Levy Fund, was undertaken over an area of 2.7 hectares in the Tarmac Quarry in advance of gravel extraction. The earliest features were sixteen pits of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. A second prehistoric phase, dating to the Late Bronze Age, was represented by four pits. The majority of the archaeological deposits were of post-medieval date and included a square ditched enclosure and its internal building, defined by a square footing of rammed brick and tile. This feature was interpreted as a folly, or perhaps a dovecote, in the parkland associated with Flixton Hall and was probably erected in the 18th century, although the dating evidence was ambiguous and an earlier, possibly 17th century, date is also possible.

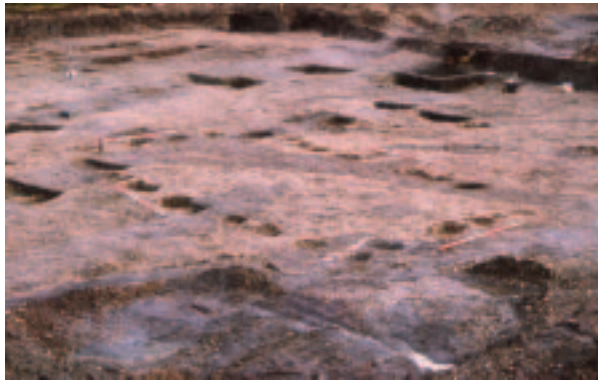
## Ipswich

At Handford Road - a large scale excavation was carried out covering about a half of the a one hectare housing development.

A complex series of ditches, particularly towards the south and east of the site, were revealed with common re-cuts and realignments. The majority of these features appeared to be of earlier Roman date. In one area of the site the ditches included large quantities of metalworking slag in their fills. Other significant features associated with the Roman period included a sunken track leading to a timber-lined well, a crescent-shaped oven, a pottery kiln and a rectilinear enclosure delimited by large post-holes. This enclosure was located in the north-east corner of the site, continuing on under Handford Road to the north, and into the British Telecom site immediately to the east and was respected by the ditch complex to the south.

Handford Road: Early Anglo Saxon sunken-featured building





Handford Road: Early Anglo Saxon Hall

The Early Saxon period had only been represented by a single sherd of handmade pottery in the evaluation and it was a great surprise when it became clear that there was a significant phase of activity on the site relating to that period, or, more specifically, the 5th/6th century. Four definite sunken-featured buildings were identified, with two other possibles, along with at least three rectangular post-hole buildings of the type described as 'halls' on sites such as West Stow. Other features positively dated to this period included a number of circular pits. Finds included ceramics, animal bone, bone objects, spindle whorls, iron knives, a glass bead, a 5th century wrist clasp and miscellaneous ironwork.

At St Peter's Street - monitoring of development revealed a large deposit of human bone under the floor of a Victorian cellar, on the former site of Lord Curzon's house. This early-16th-century mansion was later used by the bishops of Norwich and from 1666, during the time of the 2nd Dutch War, housed a hospital for wounded navy seamen. Analysis of the bone has revealed skeletal injuries, including at least one sword cut, suggesting this bone deposit is probably associated with the hospital phase of the site.

### Lakenheath

Excavation at RAF Lakenheath revealed a group of late Roman pits, and ditches aligned on the same north-south axis seen in the main Roman settlement focussed around Caudle Head Mere. This site lies c.50m east of the previous excavations and it had originally been thought that the Roman settlement did not extend this far but these results may suggest the occupation spread eastwards during the later Roman period.

### Martlesham

Excavation in advance of the Park and Ride construction revealed Early Bronze Age domestic occupation represented by small shallow pits containing Beaker pottery and a small number of flint tools and flakes.

During the Roman period part of the area was divided by ditches into small fields. Only a relatively small number of Roman artefacts were recovered indicating that this area was farmland.

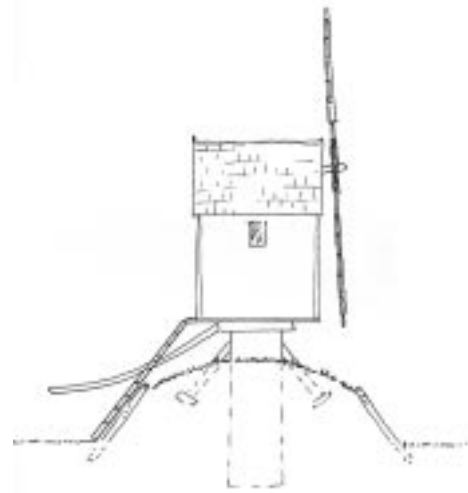
### Mildenhall

At RAF Mildenhall An area of about 25,000 square metres was excavated, on this typical fen edge site with hummocks, and hollows filled with peat. The earliest evidence consists of Beaker pottery and struck flints, which were found beneath

layers of dried peat within hollows. A concentration of twenty pits, excavated into a band of chalk, were dated to the early Iron Age and contained large amounts of animal bone, mostly from cattle. A human jaw and a whole pot were found in one pit and a fragment of a cranium in another. The greatest concentration of features is dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period with a complex network of ditches and fence lines. Several circular structures were identified, the function of which is yet to be determined. Later in the Roman period land division was reorganised with ditches excavated on a new orientation. This phase also includes an unusual Roman posthole building measuring 6.5 x 10 metres in which the largest postholes were set in the short walls. Buried in a pit within the area of the building were the remains of a horse's head, spine, and ribs. Seven human inhumations and three cremations were also excavated, of which four were inhumations and two were cremations in a discrete cluster.

### Preston St Mary

A small excavation was undertaken with the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group at Priory Farm with funding provided by the Local Heritage Initiative. This followed on from a previous investigation (1998) of a rectangular earthwork forming part of a complex in a meadow. A trench excavated across the earthwork revealed a circular structure with a central pit, 4.5 metres in diameter, with a central post-hole which was interpreted as the base of a sunken-post mill. A shallow depression concentric to the pit was thought to represent a track around which the tail-pole would be walked to turn the mill into the wind. Shallow post-holes around the edge of the central pit were interpreted as the settings for revetting at the base of the mound. Artefactual evidence, principally ceramics, suggested that the mill dated to the late 12th or 13th century.



Reconstruction of the Preston Medieval Post Mill

### Semer

Work to replace the current concrete bridge (built in 1931) across the River Brett, gave an opportunity to record previous bridges. The base of two brick piers and part of the southern abutment remain of a mid-to-late 18th century bridge, which stood until 1931, and crossed the river in three spans. Prior to this, the river was spanned with wooden bridges and the positions of sixty-eight timbers

were plotted. The timbers included both softwood posts, left in the round, and oak piles that had been squared off using saws. The ends of the piles had been worked into points and had been driven 1.5-1.8 metres into the riverbed. Dendrochronology dates suggested that there were two phases of bridge building or repair work, with felling dates for the timbers at the beginning of the 17th century and in the spring of 1697. The softwoods were shallow set and a lot less robust than the oak piles and were thought to be part of the mechanics of building or dismantling the brick bridge.

### Stoke-by-Clare

An evaluation at Stoke College revealed two large ditches forming hollows either side of a ridge of undisturbed ground. Documentary evidence suggests that the ditches and banks might have been part of a rabbit warren or a deer park.

### Sudbury

An evaluation between Weavers Lane and Burkitts Lane located the large defensive ditch which surrounded the Late Saxon town. A small amount of pottery recovered from a primary fill was identified as either Iron Age or Early Saxon.

### Sutton

Following the discovery of man-made wooden structures and pottery on a stretch of foreshore below Sutton Hoo, a programme of archaeological work was undertaken which included environmental work, survey of the eroding river bank, systematic fieldwalking and monitoring of both the foreshore and condition of the known wooden structures.

The environmental work consisted of columns taken through the foreshore sediments and radiocarbon dating of wood and mud samples. The lowest deposit of the sequence showed that the channel had once been freshwater, only starting to become brackish around 570 BC. A second radiocarbon date of around AD 1 came from a sample just below the present foreshore. Alder from a wood scatter near the high tide line was radiocarbon dated to around AD 420 and a hazel pole from wattling on the low tide line was dated around AD 590. Sediment samples taken from directly beneath the wattle areas suggested that the wooden structures were constructed in a similar environment to that present today, with an underlying sand ridge allowing access onto a fairly firm foreshore. The saltmarsh appears to have been less extensive than it is now, suggesting a wider surface area covered by water at high tide.

Although the wooden structures are too fragmentary to be certain about their function, the combined topographic and environmental evidence suggests they are most likely to be the remains of fish traps.

### Walberswick

Monitoring at Lodge Road revealed a thick deposit of 'dark earth' with finds dating from 12th to 15th century. While digging the footings, contractors came upon a cache of four pottery vessels dating to the 15th century, including a Dutch redware cauldron, a jug from SW France, a German

stoneware bottle and a whiteware jug from Surrey. To find such near-complete vessels sometimes indicates tavern clearances, but the imported nature of the finds assemblage might suggest a high status origin, possibly belonging to a merchant with international connections.

## Survey

### Forest Survey

At Brandon, rapid survey following felling operations identified two adjoining areas of former flint mines, over five hectares in extent, with large and well-preserved earthworks associated with some knapping debris of probable Napoleonic date.

### Suffolk Coastal Survey

The data collection phase of the project to map archaeological features on Suffolk's coast from aerial photographs was completed during 2003-04. The number of new records created by the survey now stands at 1,465 with 306 existing records enhanced or amended.

Although less prevalent than on the coast, modern military features were still prominent in the estuaries, particularly around Orfordness and Landguard Point. For example, during World War Two a large area of Boyton was evacuated and used as a training area or "Battle School", and a training ground for Armoured Fighting Vehicles, now better known as tanks, was established on Boyton Marshes. This highlights the impact military operations had on the lives of the local population during the war years.

The survey also increased the number of prehistoric and Roman sites and landscapes identified on the coast, as well as enhancing the detail in previously recorded sites. For instance, a probable prehistoric 'D' shaped enclosure in Harkstead parish has been accurately plotted for the first time, while in the Deben valley a second possible Roman villa has been identified. Cropmark enclosures visible on Burrow Hill in Butley parish may relate to an Anglo-Saxon monastery previously identified on this site, whereas in Butley parish, cropmarks of a probable relict road may reflect the boundary of the medieval Augustinian Abbey.

The next stage will be to produce a report summarising the conclusions of the project, and it is hoped that aspects of the data will be published in a popular book, illustrated with some of the aerial photographs used during the project.