

Archaeological Service

Annual Report 2005-2006

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.

The Conservation Team, through our Historic Environment Countryside Advisor, has been more effective in securing the beneficial management of archaeological sites by assisting farmers to access the new agri-environment payments for farm conservation and our Finds Recording Team have continued to top the list for the number of finds recorded as part of the nation-wide Portable Antiquities Scheme.

The Contracting Team had another busy year recording sites of all dates before development. Highlights included an Iron Age farmstead, excavated at Gisleham, a Roman pottery kiln at Barham, and the unique

opportunity to excavate one of the reconstructed Anglo-Saxon buildings which had been destroyed by fire at West Stow.

Both teams of the Service were heavily involved in the search for relatives of Bartholomew Gosnold, founding father of Jamestown, USA.

Also included is a summary of the highly innovative Garbology project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund during 2005 and the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Sustainability Development Fund in 2006, which won 'highly commended' at the Innovative Practice in Wastes Management and Resources Recovery Awards for 2006.

Keith Wade
Archaeological Service Manager

The Garbology Dance at the New Wolsey Theatre

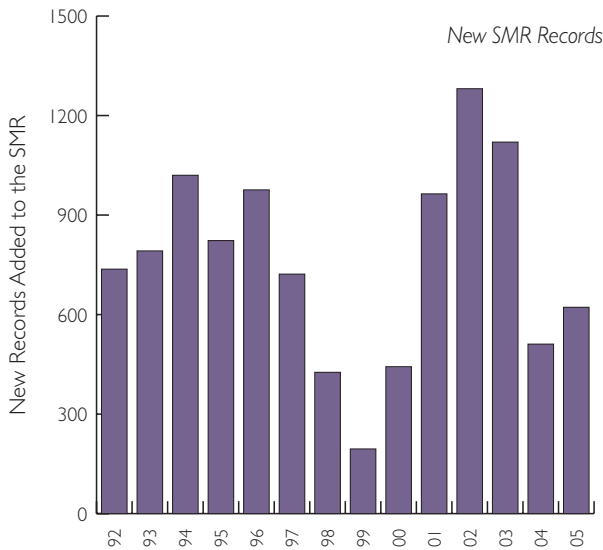


Excavations in the auditorium of The Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds



Conservation Team

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)



During 2005/2006, 622 new records were added to the computerised SMR, and 1,828 existing records were amended. Although the number of new records rose by 111 (21%) since last year, it remains below that achieved during the three years 2001-2003, but the number of revisions remains at a high level reflecting the additional staffing resources being dedicated to SMR enhancement over the last six years. One of the principal ongoing concerns has been the modification, from spot locations to accurate area representations, of the digital mapping of sites. About 15% of the 24,000 mapped sites had been upgraded by the end of the year.

This year saw the beginning of a new project, funded by the Aggregates Levy, which is allowing the revision of records for the main areas threatened by mineral extraction, namely the river valleys of the Orwell/Gipping, the Lark and the Waveney. The next stage will be analysis of aerial photographic evidence for the areas, together with a method of site grading/scoring, which will inform future recording, management and preservation strategies.

Some outstanding finds and sites were recorded during 2005. Although a significant proportion of the evidence comes from professional fieldwork, the bulk of new sites and finds reported continue to result from the responsible reporting of metal detected finds. Artefacts from this source are now including many non-metal items as detector users have been encouraged to recover other surface finds. Field-walking surveys have also resulted in about 15% of the new site records, including some significant sites such as two Roman 'red hill' (salt making) sites at Falkenham and a freshly discovered 19th century gunflint production site at Freckenham.

There were only a few cropmark/soilmark sites recorded by aerial photography this year. Identified sites included a track-way at Great Bealings; a ring-ditch (usually from a plough-levelled burial mound) at Wordwell and another very large 'ring-ditch' or circular enclosure (usually surrounding a settlement) at Flixton. Other enclosures were identified at Little Bealings, Shimpling, Theberton and Tuddenham St Martin. Various sites produced evidence of former (prehistoric to pre-1800) field-systems.

Since the completion of the coastal zone survey, in 2002-3, sites are still being revealed. The wooden remains of Post Medieval

duck decoy pipes were recorded at Benacre Broad and a possible Medieval or later fish-trap or bank-revetment at Dunwich.

Documentary evidence, mainly from early maps and historic archives also resulted in about 15% of the records for the year. Sites of likely Medieval date included a possible lost Domesday vill at Kesgrave; 'ancient woodland' sites at Hintlesham and Theberton; a moat at Peasenhall; a gallows site at Martlesham; village-green sites at Bungay, Frostenden, Kirton, Mettingham, North Cove & Westerfield; a group of (water) mills at Barnham; two turbaries (large, industrial scale, peat-diggings) at Lowestoft; a possible hunting lodge at Cransford; a chapel at Great Bealings; a possible holy-well at Badley; a salt-house at Trimley St Mary; a significant 14th century tile kiln at Bradfield, and several former deer-parks.

There were also numerous, mainly post medieval, landscape and garden features; four bridges (possibly having medieval origins); various former buildings, including a lighthouse; 12 former water and wind mills; four kilns; eight brickwork sites; and a beacon. The sites of several former transport features, such as milestones, railway lines, stations and associated features were also recorded.

Finds Recording Scheme

Funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the sixth year of the voluntary recording of portable antiquities in Suffolk was completed at the end of January 2006.

Monthly visits continued to be made to the two principal metal-detector clubs which serve the county: the Mildenhall and District Detector Club and the Ipswich and District Detector Club. Metal detectorists and other members of the public also made about 150 individual visits to the Archaeological Service during the year to have their finds identified and recorded.

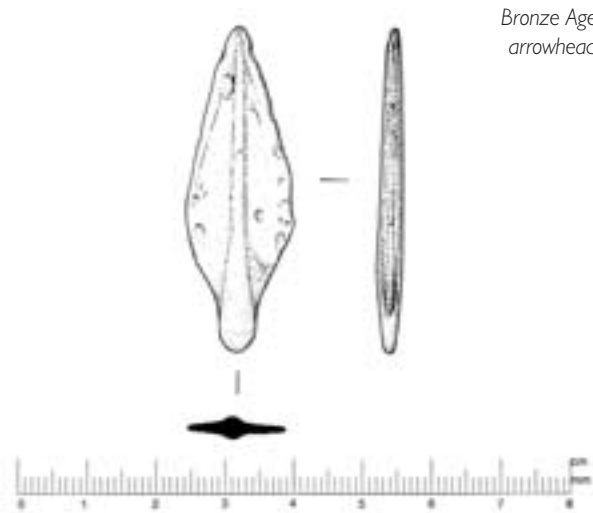
During the period covered by this Annual Report, 6,161 objects were identified, of which 6,054 were from Suffolk and the remaining 107 from neighbouring counties.

The number of digital images added to the database remains consistent, with about 50% of records having one or more linked images. Line drawings also remain a vital part of the record for many objects, revealing detail that often cannot be caught by photography.

The accuracy of find spot locations continues to increase, especially as more finders use handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) devices to plot their find locations. The scheme itself has recently purchased four GPS devices and these are being lent out to finders. This year 94% of findspots have a national grid reference (NGR) of six figures or more and 63% have a NGR of eight figures or more. The increasingly accurate plotting of findspots is vital as it has led to a greater understanding of the movement of occupation within and changes of use of sites over time.

The breakdown of recorded finds by period remains consistent with 4.2% being prehistoric, 45% Roman, 5.1% Anglo-Saxon, 32% medieval and 12.7% post medieval in date.

Perhaps the most unusual Bronze Age find this year was a complete, bronze tanged arrowhead discovered near Mildenhall. Bronze arrowheads are extremely rare in Britain despite being relatively common on the continent. Interestingly there are more bronze



Bronze Age arrowhead

arrowheads known from Suffolk than elsewhere in the country (at least 15 have been found to date). This may be significant in terms of Suffolk's relationship with the continent and could demonstrate the movement of Bronze Age people. Alternatively, the high Suffolk numbers could reflect the intensive metal detecting in the county compared to other areas of the country. Dating is difficult, but there are clearly examples of the early, middle and late Bronze Age, showing a continued use of the bow through the whole period.

The Roman assemblage continues to be the largest of all periods recorded and nationally important objects continue to be discovered. This year a Roman copper-alloy figurine of a three-horned bull was found at Holbrook. The bull is standing but its legs are incomplete due to wear. The head is triangular in shape and in the centre of the head between two projecting horns there is the remains of a third worn horn. The forehead is flat and has a central longitudinal groove running down it. The eyes are slightly protruding with grooves delimiting them and the snout is short and rounded. The neck of the bull is thick and undulating with transverse mouldings demonstrating its muscular nature. The body is rectangular in shape and narrow, wrapped around the centre of the body there is a broad transverse decorative band, delimited by grooves. The hindquarters of the bull are slightly rounded and the tail is to one side with its tip resting on the bull's back, as if it is vigorously swishing its tail from side to side. The bull has large testicles hanging between the hind legs and a slight moulding representing the phallus in the centre of the belly. The forelegs have muscular shoulders and one leg is slightly raised. The hindlegs are straight and one is again slightly more forward than the other. It therefore appears that the bull has been depicted walking.



Three-horned bull



Anglo-Saxon mounts

Martin Henig, Roman finds specialist, believes that the presence of the broad band, or 'dorsuale' around the body is especially interesting as it suggests that the bull has been formally prepared for sacrifice.

The number of Anglo-Saxon finds (410-1066 AD) recorded was slightly less than last year but fascinating discoveries from this elusive period continue to come to light.

This year two 8th century mounts were found together near Bury St Edmunds. These unusual mounts are Carolingian in style and similar mounts, especially those with stylised acanthus designs, have been discovered in Viking Age hoards.

Two very well preserved Anglo-Saxon (700-1100 AD) hooked tags were also found close together near Mildenhall. The tags are extremely similar and may have functioned as a pair; both have an oval plate with projecting circular knobs around the edges, with a circular indentation in their centres. On the top edge there are two larger projecting circular knobs with circular perforations through their centres, which acted as sewing holes. The front face of the plates has a circular central panel decorated with scrolls of silver wire with a niello background. This is a distinctive style of decoration, which is restricted to hooked tags and strap ends of a similar date. Finds with such decoration are believed to be East Anglian in origin and as this pair is so similar they could also have been made at the same workshop.



Anglo-Saxon hooked tags

Stephen penny



Detector finds continue to increase our knowledge of medieval coinage. This year a complete rare silver penny of Stephen has been found near Eye. Previously four Stephen type 1 pennies of the mint 'El' and a fragmentary type 6 penny of the mint 'EIE' had been discovered and it had therefore been suggested that they were coins of a mint in Eye, granted to Count William of Boulogne by his father King Stephen. The find spot of this new coin supports this theory. It is the first type 1 penny of the mint with the reading EIE to be found.

The number of Medieval and post medieval finds recorded remains constant this year and a large number of hooked tags were reported. One such example was from near Bury St Edmunds and early post medieval, circa 16th century, in date. It is copper-alloy and unusual as instead of having an open work decorative design its plate depicts a bust. The bust has a full head of hair, which is tied in a low ponytail, and a circular dot and line represent the eye and mouth respectively. When the bust is viewed the correct way up the loop would be below it, which presumably indicates how this hooked tag was orientated whilst in use.



Post Medieval hooked tag

Finds Reported Under the Treasure Act 1996

The number of Treasure Act cases reported in 2005-6 increased to 37. This compares to 27 in 2004-2005 and is the highest number since the scheme started in 1998-1999. Most noticeably more hoards were reported than in the previous years. There were 12 coin hoards (3 Iron Age, 8 Roman and 1 Post Medieval) and 3 Bronze Age hoards.

Two of the Bronze Age hoards had their find spots investigated by the Archaeological Service. The first was the largest Bronze Age hoard reported, found in the Copdock and Washbrook area. It consisted of 60 pieces of Bronze Age metal work, including 5 socketed axes, 1 incomplete leaf shaped dagger, 1 bucket/cauldron fragment and 53 'ingot' fragments. Excavation revealed that it had been deposited in a small oval pit and at the interface between the pit fills and pit sides a very thin layer of dark brown material was present. This was interpreted as the remains of a container, possibly leather bag or layer of organic material or vegetation that would have protected the metal objects.

The second excavated hoard was found at Cornard, in an area, which had already produced a bronze sword hilt fragment and a piece of possible bronze ingot. When more axes were discovered the area was excavated and 23 objects including socketed axes, sword fragments, a gouge and ingots were found. It was probably deposited in a small, possibly natural, hole. Looking at the broader context the site overlooks the river Stour to the west, with a minor tributary immediately to the north. Although no other prehistoric activity is recorded from the immediate vicinity of the hoard there is a developing pattern of sites and findspots all along this part of the Stour valley.

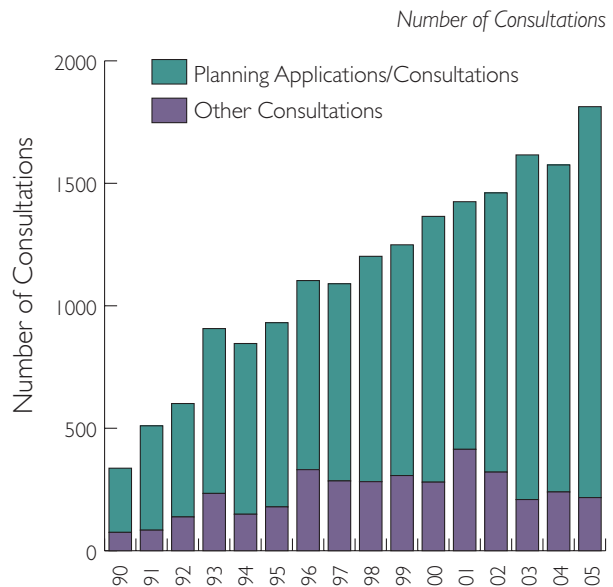


Bob Kittl helping to excavate his Bronze Age hoard at Copdock

This year 10 Roman treasure finds were reported in total. Only two of these were objects, 1 gold earring and 1 silver finger ring, and the other 8 were Roman coin hoards. Perhaps the most interesting coin hoard was that of 627 coins of the usurper emperors Carausius (287-293 AD) and Allectus (293-296 AD) discovered in Northwest Suffolk. The 627 coins include 258 of Carausius and 347 of Allectus and all originally had a silver wash. They were minted at London at an unidentified mint with the mark C. The date of deposition was circa 293-296 AD at which time Allectus, who was his chief minister, murdered Carausius. Allectus himself subsequently died in battle as the legitimate emperor, Constantius I, took Britain back into the empire in 296. The Archaeological Service carried out a small-scale excavation and it was ascertained that the coins had been placed in a pottery jar and then buried on the edge of a Roman ditch close to an area of known settlement. A pile of large flints may also have been placed to mark the spot for future recovery.

Of the other finds reported, 2 were Anglo-Saxon (a silver hooked tag and a gold and garnet setting). 6 medieval and 12 post medieval (mainly personal accessories such as finger rings, hooked dress tags, pendants and bodkins).

Consultations



The number of consultations for conservation advice continues to increase year on year. During 2005, there were 1813 consultations compared with 1575 in 2004. 88% of these came from the Local Planning Authorities with the rest from agencies involved with other land use changes such as the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), Anglian Water, Forestry Commission, Diocesan Advisory Committee, Ministry of Defence and private consultants

Monument Management

Thanks to grant-aid from English Heritage, the appointment of an Historic Environment Countryside Advisor from April 2005, has enabled the Service to significantly improve its monument management capacity, capitalising on the new agri-environment scheme payments.

Over 30 full Higher Level Scheme (HLS) applications were processed during the year as well as a number of pre HLS and Entry Level Scheme (ELS) enquiries.

To date the schemes have targeted reversion to grass on ploughed Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the management of four of the county's finest surviving parks.

Uptake of the new schemes has been slow in the first year nationwide but it is hoped that, as landowners become more familiar with the process, the schemes will make a real difference to the beneficial management of the county's historic environment assets.

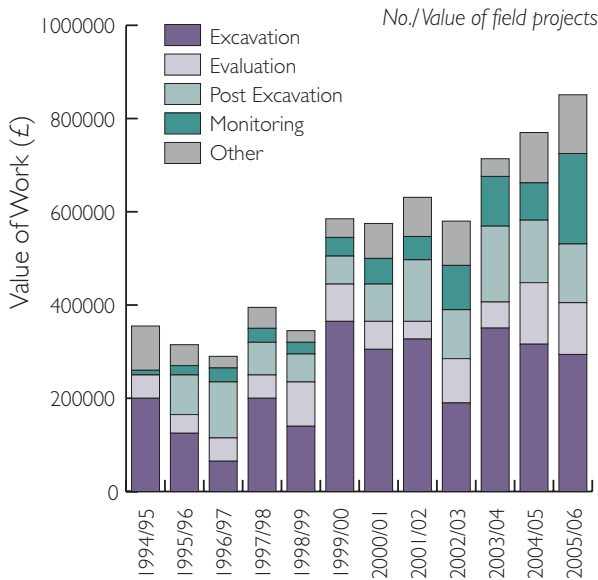


Carausius and Allectus coins



Excavation of the Roman coin hoard

Contracting Team



393 field projects were undertaken in 2005-2006 and income was over £850,000 recovering the costs of the service for the seventh year running.

The following is a selection of the more interesting and important projects. Summaries of all the discoveries reported in 2005 can be found in 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2005' in Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XLI, part 2, 2005 and copies of unpublished reports on field projects ('grey literature') can be accessed via the Archaeology Data Service/OASIS web-site (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit/>).

Barham

A second phase of excavation at Barham Quarry revealed a large (7000 square metres) sub-rectangular Roman enclosure containing several timber buildings, dispersed rubbish pits, and a pottery kiln, with associated clay extraction pits. Archaeomagnetic dating of the kiln suggests a date of AD 175-215 or 270-300 and the forms and fabrics of the pottery within it favour the earlier dating. The kiln was producing local grey wares undoubtedly supplying the nearby settlement of Combretovium.

Prehistoric, settlement found south of the Roman enclosure, included an early Iron Age round-house.



The Roman pottery kiln at Barham

Bury St Edmunds

At Nuffield Hospital, St Mary's Square, a large medieval oven was excavated similar to one excavated on a nearby site in 1997. It appears to have been a drying oven for grain or legumes and suggests this area of the town was dedicated to crop processing.

Evaluation trenching on the former Cattle Market revealed only one medieval rubbish pit and a possible well indicating that there was little occupation in this area until the town defences were demolished and the town expanded from the 16th century onwards.

Monitoring of footing trenches at Friary Meadow exposed a series of medieval flint and mortar walls belonging to the cloister of Babwell Friary.

Excavations at Honey Hill revealed over thirty rubbish pits, mostly of medieval date, and a possible malting kiln.

Excavations and monitoring in the Theatre Royal, during restoration works for the National Trust, revealed the original brick-lined flue and platform for the stove which heated the stalls, and evidence of a box office for the stalls. This would have had its own side entrance, to separate those in the cheaper seats from those in the dress circle, which was accessed from the front of house. The Theatre was built in 1819 and is a Grade 1 Listed Building (see cover photo). Excavations also recorded medieval and post medieval occupation levels, truncated by the Theatre construction, along the Westgate Street frontage.

Eriswell

Two further excavations were carried out at Liberty Village, RAF Lakenheath.

About 0.9 hectares was excavated on the west side of the phase 1 site revealing extensive clusters of pits containing mid to late Iron Age pottery and an early Roman field system. A further 0.2 hectares was excavated over and around a Bronze Age ring-ditch revealing a single central grave containing the remains of four individuals. At the top were the remains of an elderly woman and the cremated remains of a juvenile pig. Under these was the inhumation of a baby accompanied by a small pot. The lower two burials were of a



Eriswell Bronze Age barrow under excavation



Eriswell Bronze Age Burial



Biconical urns in a Bronze Age Grave at Flixton

female, aged about 16, placed in a sitting crouched position, overlying another older female lying in a crouched position. All four burials had taken place on separate occasions.

South of this ring-ditch was a shallow circular depression, provisionally interpreted as some kind of pond barrow, in the centre of which was an un-urned cremation.

Flixton

Two further areas at Flixton Park Quarry were stripped of topsoil and monitored. In School Wood a series of prehistoric pits and two four-post structures were excavated.

South of School Wood significant prehistoric, probably early Bronze Age, deposits were excavated, including two ring-ditches. The first contained two grave pits, one with two biconical urns, surrounded by a small square ditched enclosure, with an entrance towards the south-east, and the other with one biconical urn. The inverted urns contained cremated bone, an unidentified copper alloy object and twelve faience beads. The second ring-ditch surrounded a central grave-like feature but no bones or finds were found within it.

In addition an isolated oval grave was found which contained a crushed but complete Early Bronze Age Beaker. A rectangular stain within the grave is likely to be the remains of a bier or hollowed-out tree trunk into which the body would have been placed.



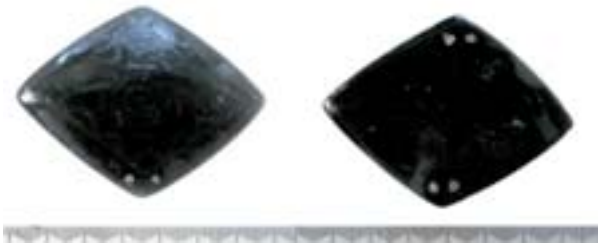
Flixton: Faience beads



Flixton ring ditch with enclosure and central grave



The Iron Age enclosure (bottom right) at Gisleham
(Photo: Commission Air)



Gisleham jet plaque

Gisleham

Excavations on a proposed Household Waste and Recycling site on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate revealed a probable early Iron Age circular ditched enclosure containing a single roundhouse. The enclosure was about 22 metres in diameter and had an entrance to the west with a posthole to one side, indicating a probable gate post and entrance-way. The building inside was about 7.5 metres in diameter with a probable entrance to the south-east and a central hearth.

Evidence for earlier activity was sparser but two pits, in particular, were noteworthy. Both were of Bronze Age date, with one producing a small lozenge shaped jet plaque with geometric decoration and a fine flint knife. Jet, which comes from Whitby in Yorkshire, is a relatively common find in Early Bronze Age contexts in the north of England and in Scotland but is much rarer in East Anglia. The other pit proved to be an isolated cremation burial also of earlier Bronze Age date.

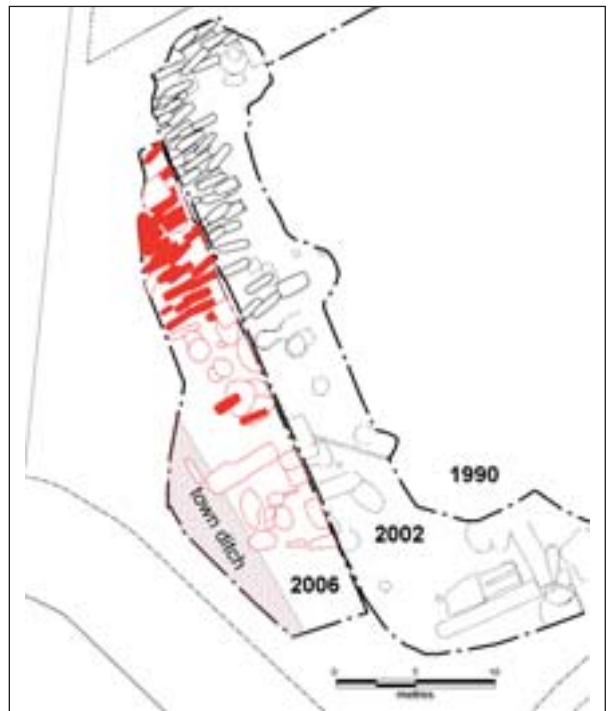
Ipswich

At Franciscan Way, excavation continued on the last remaining portion of a development site, previously excavated in 1990 and 2002, producing more human burials related to the medieval Friary of the Greyfriars and its later use as a burial ground for sailors from a nearby hospital and gaol. The excavation also uncovered a section of the late Saxon town ditch.

An early 19th century brick ice house was excavated at St Joseph's College as part of an educational project.



Burials at Franciscan Way



Franciscan Way: Plan of excavated features



St Joseph's College Ice House

Lavenham

A small area was excavated fronting Prentice Street revealing the floors and flint and mortar walls of a demolished early post medieval building. To the rear of the building was a complex of small medieval ovens and a related clay-lined pit or cistern possibly connected with the dying of cloth.

Mildenhall

Excavations at College Heath Road uncovered a pair of two-roomed, semi-detached cottages with walls of clay and chalk around a central shared chimney and two ancillary buildings, constructed of earth-fast timber posts, set within hurdle fenced enclosure. Pottery and bricks from the hearth suggest a 16th-17th century date.



Mildenhall cottages



Plan of Mildenhall cottages

Shelley/Stowmarket: The Gosnold DNA Project

In 2003 a grave was excavated in Jamestown, Virginia, USA, which is thought to be that of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold (died 1607) who was a prime mover behind the expedition that founded Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America. To confirm the identity, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) commissioned research in England to find living relatives that could provide suitable DNA samples to compare with that of the Jamestown skeleton. Only mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited exclusively through the female line, was suitable and unfortunately no living female-line relatives could be traced. Further research was therefore undertaken to locate burials of his known female-line relatives. This revealed the probable burial places of two relatives:

- Elizabeth Tilney nee Gosnold (Bartholomew's sister) buried in All Saints Church, Shelley in 1646
- Katherine Blackerby nee Bowtell (Bartholomew's niece) buried in St Peter and St Mary's Church, Stowmarket in 1693.

The APVA then applied for and were granted permission from the church authorities to excavate for the graves and remove samples of bone.

The excavation at Shelley did reveal the skeleton of a woman (radiocarbon dated to 1640-1740) but subsequent DNA tests showed that the individual was unrelated to the Jamestown skeleton.

The excavation at Stowmarket found that a Victorian vault had removed the earlier grave of Katherine Blackerby



Excavations at Shelley Church



The burnt-down house at West Stow



Jane Carr and Chris Mycock at the Moyses Hall exhibition

West Stow

In 2005 fire destroyed one of the reconstructed early Anglo-Saxon houses at West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. The destruction of timber buildings by fire is commonly found in the archaeological record and this provided a unique opportunity to excavate the evidence which remains after such a building, of known construction, has been destroyed.

The site was excavated and recorded in a manner comparable to a conventional excavation and using the same scientific techniques currently used to examine archaeological remains.

Using the techniques of forensic investigation usually applied in contemporary fire scenes, it should be possible to understand the nature and dynamics of the burning of a timber building with a thatched roof and this should provide insights into past and future interpretations of burnt buildings in the archaeological record.

Outreach

During 2005-2006, the Service continued to provide its usual outreach activities as well as completing its major new initiative: the Garbology project.

The Finds Recording Scheme provided finds identification, displays, and finds handling sessions at Aldeburgh Museum, Sproughton Village History Festival, the Suffolk Show, and the Anglo-Saxon Festival at Sutton Hoo. A popular exhibition of finds highlighting the work of the scheme and its collaboration with the Mildenhall and District Metal Detecting Club ran for three months at Moyses Hall Museum.

Staff from both teams in the service provided guided walks and lectures to a wide audience including local, regional and national groups, and maintained a high profile with the media, most notably with numerous press and TV interviews during the Gosnold DNA project, which included a BBC 2 programme in the Passion for Churches series.

The Garbology Project

What is Garbology?

Garbology is a term coined by the US researcher William Rathje to describe the study of present day culture or society through its material waste remains (a hybrid of 'garbage' and 'archaeology'). It has been used across North America for the study of modern rubbish deposits, including domestic dustbins, as part of education programmes looking at the relationship between consumerism and the growing volume of rubbish needing disposal.

The Suffolk Garbology project was a joint initiative between the Archaeological Service and the Waste Management Service. Its aim was to pioneer the use of rubbish from recent centuries as a learning resource in schools in the hope of encouraging waste reduction and an interest in heritage.

The project ran from January 2005 to March 2006 and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Sustainability Development Fund.

The project had a controversial start with a number of unhelpful tabloid headlines, but proved a major success with articles in The Times Educational Supplement, Wastes Management, and Rescue News. The project was also 'highly commended' at the Innovative Practice Awards of the Institute of Wastes Management.

Over the 15 months the project:

- Worked with over 3800 young people, ranging in age from 4 to 16 years, but mainly in the 7-11 category, from 61 different schools, and involving 168 teaching staff and assistants and 64 parent helpers.

Rubbish! Council is spending £30,000 on a 'garbologist'

By James Booth
Local Media Correspondent

IPSWICH Council says it might consider the possibility of employing a 'garbologist' to help it manage its rubbish.

The authority's annual budget will be just £22.5m to look after the town's 140,000 residents. It has to make do with the 100 or so staff it employs.

The Borough Council's Planning and Building Committee will meet on Monday to discuss the possibility of employing a 'garbologist' to help it manage its rubbish. The authority's annual budget will be just £22.5m to look after the town's 140,000 residents. It has to make do with the 100 or so staff it employs.

IPSWICH Garbology Officer
£30,000 - £33,000 per annum

The job involves the identification, recording and analysis of rubbish. It is an exciting new initiative between the Authority and Waste Management Services. It involves an interest in the environment to young people. **Garbology is the Archaeology of Rubbish - Ancient and Modern.**

For more information on the archaeological garbologist job, please contact the Garbology Officer on 01473 222222. The job involves the identification, recording and analysis of rubbish. It is an exciting new initiative between the Authority and Waste Management Services. It involves an interest in the environment to young people. **Garbology is the Archaeology of Rubbish - Ancient and Modern.**

Daily Express 12.11.04



Excavation of a mid 20th century rubbish dump at Saxmundham

- Undertook excavations on a 19th century Ice House, in Ipswich, 20th century domestic waste sites at Woodbridge, Saxmundham and Aldeburgh marshes, the medieval village of Laxfield, an in-filled medieval moat at Parham.
- Undertook classroom sessions where rubbish samples from local archaeological excavations were sieved, and then 'researched'. This led to discussions about what decomposes, and does not survive (organics) and what doesn't (glass, pottery, plastic) and the differences between the old and modern rubbish as a problem and as a source of information about the everyday life of the people who discarded it.
- Worked with local artists using the garbology experience as a stimulus for music, sculpture, drawing, painting and even a dance performance at The Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich involving 150 7-11 year olds from five primary schools (see cover photo).
- Interacted with older people using retrieved objects as a focus for reminiscence. In some cases this involved finding local people who actually remembered the objects concerned and were able to use them to fill out the picture of rural life either side of the Second World War.

The project was particularly successful in engaging young people of all abilities and social and ethnic backgrounds. It was found that children with learning difficulties, such as behaviour and language, who are often withdrawn or disruptive, became focussed, animated and completely engaged in their tasks. In schools with a range of ethnic backgrounds, the picture was the same. Although children, like many adults, can find it difficult to relate to Roman or Saxon culture, an awareness that all around them are things to be discovered and stories to be told is something that all children can relate to. It was the project's ability to excite the imagination about the past that made it so successful. Staff and parents also became very involved in the work and when parents and their children are involved in the same session this can be the beginning of a common interest that can continue to be shared.

The project came to an end at the end of March 2006 but elements of the content have been mainstreamed into the work of the Waste Management education service. The project would not have been such an enormous success without the skills and enthusiasm of Duncan Allan, the Garbology Officer.



Finds from the Saxmundham rubbish dump



Older villagers help the children research their finds

Publications

Staff contributed to numerous published reports in local, regional, and national journals. Including:

'Roman painted wall plaster' in Roman and later development east of the Forum and Cornhill: Excavations at Lloyd's Register, 71 Fenchurch Street, City of London (MOLAS Monograph 30)

'The Accessioned Finds' in The Royal Palace, abbey and town of Westminster on Thorney Island: Archaeological Excavations (1991-8) for the London Underground Limited Jubilee Line Extension Project (MOLAS Monograph 22)

'The Accessioned Finds' in The Medieval Postern gate by the Tower of London (MOLAS Monograph 29)

'Whose Good Luck? Roman phallic ornaments from Suffolk' in Image, Craft and the Classical World, Essays in honour of Donald Bailey and Catherine Johns (Monographies Instrumenta 29)

'Chillesford Lodge: a Nineteenth Century Model Farm' in Oxford and District Local History Bulletin 5.

'Survey in the Deben Valley' in Sutton Hoo: A Seventh Century Princely Burial Ground and its Context

'The Excavation, Examination and Conservation of a Wooden Trough from Badwell Ash, Suffolk' in Centre for Archaeology Report 71 (English Heritage)

Staff also compiled 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2005' in Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XLI, part 2.

Digital reports (grey literature) on all fieldwork projects can also be accessed on the Archaeology Data Service web-site:
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit/>.

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