

Outreach

During 2004-05, the Service considerably increased its outreach activities which included excavations with CYDS Youth Group, at Leiston Abbey, and the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society, at Barbers Point, Friston.

January 2005 also saw the start of our innovative Garbology project. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, this project aims to introduce school children to both the archaeology of old 'waste' and the management of modern waste through recycling.

Staff in both teams of the Service provided lectures to a wide audience, including local, regional and national groups. These included the highly successful one day conference on 'Suffolk's Coastal Archaeology from the Air' in June, at Southwold Pier. The service maintained a high profile with the media which included regular Radio Suffolk interviews and an appearance on Channel Five's 'Greatest Treasures' series (on the Hoxne Treasure).

The Portable Antiquities Scheme provided Finds Identification Days at Ipswich Museum, Colchester Castle, Clare Castle and Kirton village and attended detecting rallies at Marlesford, Seckford Hall, Bacton, Hitcham and Tunstall. In addition finds handling sessions were provided for the Young Archaeologists Club, Wickhambrook Primary School, CYDS Youth Group and Mildenhall College.

Staff contributed to a number of published reports in local, regional and national journals, including:

'Architectural Terracotta from Westhorpe Hall, Suffolk' (Archaeological Journal, 160, 125-159).

Staff also compiled 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2004' (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XLI, part 1, 2005).

The Service also published:

A Roman Maltings at Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 20, 2004).

Excavations at a large Romano-British Settlement at Hacheston, Suffolk, 1973-74 (East Anglian Archaeology, 106, 2004).

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Archaeological Service

Annual Report 2004-2005

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 and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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Society, at Barbers Point, Friston. January 2005 also saw the start of our innovative Garbology project.

The Contracting Team had another busy year recording sites of all periods before development. Of particular interest, was the start of excavation work before the massive redevelopment of the Ipswich Waterfront.

Keith Wade
Archaeological Service Manager

Outreach: Excavations at Leiston Abbey



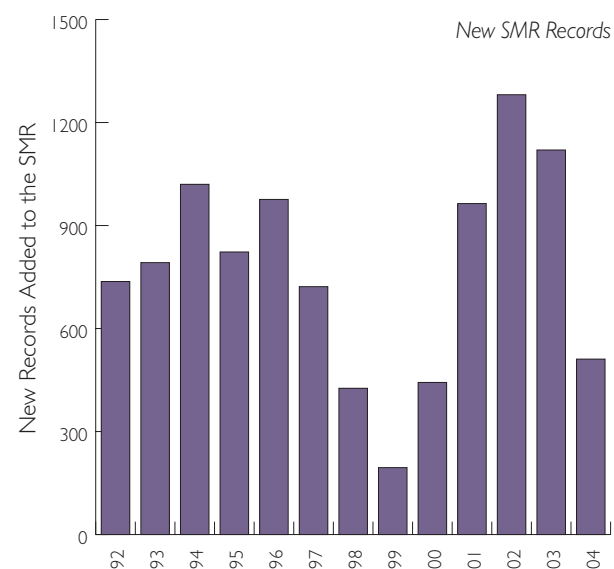
Barbers Point, Friston



Conservation Team

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

During 2004/2005, 511 new records were added to the computerised SMR, and 2,786 existing records were amended. Although the number of new records has fallen, compared with the three years 2001-2003, the number of revisions was the highest recorded to date. This reflects the additional staffing resources which have been dedicated to SMR enhancement over the last four years.



Some outstanding finds and sites were recorded during 2004, the most important of these is probably the internationally important Lower Palaeolithic implements and deposits of about 500,000 years ago from cliffs near Lowestoft, representing the earliest evidence for humans in this country. 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, producing both single finds and scatters.

It was another good year for the recording of new cropmark/soilmark sites from aerial photographs. These included 47 'ring-ditches' (usually plough-levelled burial mounds, which in three cases had actually survived as visible mounds), 21 enclosure cropmarks (usually settlements) and 25 field systems and/or trackways.

Documentary evidence provided information on a variety of probable medieval sites including a manorial hall, a wooden bridge and a series of mills at Clare. A number of timber structures were recorded from waterlogged deposits, including two possible corduroy trackways at Herringswell and near Bungay, and a massive series of wooden stakes from a, probable medieval, fish trap in Holbrook Bay.

There were also numerous, mainly post medieval, parks, landscape and garden features, mills, kilns and brickwork sites, and a newly discovered post medieval flint mine complex at Wangford, north-west Suffolk.

The Oasis (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) project was launched in early 2004. Its aim was to provide an online index of archaeological 'grey'

(unpublished) literature produced by units throughout the country, and subsequently to upload these reports onto the ADS (Archaeology Data Service) website for viewing by any interested parties.

SCCAS were the first unit to embrace this project fully, adding nearly 250 new entries onto the Oasis database and uploading 86 reports on the ADS website. All interventions undertaken now have a corresponding Oasis record created and work to approve these records and upload the reports onto ADS is ongoing.

Uploaded reports can be viewed on <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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 2005.

Monthly 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. Many individuals also visited the Archaeological Service individually to have their finds recorded.

During the period covered by this Annual Report, 6,054 objects were identified, 5,777 of which were from Suffolk and the remaining 277 from neighbouring counties. A monthly average of 504 finds was recorded.

The number of digital images added to the database also continued to increase. In 2004-05 48% of records have one or more linked images. Line drawings also remain a vital part of the record for many objects.

The breakdown of finds by period remains consistent with about 41% of finds recorded being Roman and 32% of finds being medieval (1066 to 1540).

Two especially rare Bronze Age objects were discovered this year: an early Bronze Age flat axe from Bardwell and middle to late Bronze Age complete socketed bronze hammer from Bedingfield. Only five other examples of socketed hammers are known from Suffolk (from Mendham, Walberswick, Wenhaston, Undley and Thorndon).

Bronze Age hammer from Bedingfield



The Roman assemblage remains dominated by coins, making up 64% of the total number of Roman finds. About 170 brooches were recorded, including four enamelled plate brooches, which are shaped like insects or flowers and, most unusually, a fantastic beast, which was found in Charsfield and is probably of second century date.

Fantastic beast brooch from Charsfield



Exciting late Iron Age or early Roman finds continue to come to light. In May 2004 a complete copper-alloy spindle from a pair of Roman dividers in the shape of a bovine head was discovered near Eye.

Divider spindle from near Eye



Another regionally important Roman discovery was a complete copper-alloy figurine, probably of the Roman God Priapus, found near Bury St Edmunds. The figure is wearing a pointed hat with hair protruding from beneath its rim and has an oval shaped face with close set circular eyes. The small triangular shaped nose projects and a horizontal line represents the mouth, which is visible through a long pointed beard. The shoulders are narrow and the elbows out and set at right angles to the body. The palms of the hands are pressed together as if praying. Covering the upper half of the body is a cloak, the folds of which are depicted with moulding and grooves. The arms are beneath this and the rest of the body is naked with a large phallus. Martin Henig believes that, although the headgear is different, it is indeed the second example of a Priapus to be found in north-west Suffolk, the previous example being from Pakenham. As depictions of Priapus are very rare in Britain these two Suffolk examples could indicate a local religious cult in the East.

Figurine from near Bury St Edmunds



This year about 8% of the finds recorded were Anglo-Saxon (410-1066 AD) and several of the discoveries were of regional, if not national importance.

Detector finds continue to increase our knowledge of early medieval coinage. This year an extremely rare Merovingian gold tremissis has been discovered at Sudbourne and is now on display to the public at Orford Castle Museum. Dr Arent Pol of the Netherland Royal Collection states that this coin was probably struck not later than c.635/640.

Gold tremissis from Sudbourne



A later find of significance is that of a small copper-alloy prick spur, found in Brome and Oakley. Its sides are D-shaped in cross-section and bend inwards at their animal head terminals. The style of the heads on this and the few comparable examples from East Anglia (Icklingham and Pakenham in Suffolk, Gooderstone in Norfolk) suggests a date between the later 8th and late 9th century.

Prick spur from Brome and Oakley



One of the most unusual medieval finds discovered in 2004/5 was a complete 12th century copper-alloy mount related to a box or casket fitting of some kind, found in Monewden. It is in the shape of a dragon and has a central oval shaped 'body' with a projecting neck terminating in a dragon-like head at one end and a tail projecting from the other. The object is decorated with circular indentations and transverse grooves, some of which may have originally held enamel.



Finds reported under the Treasure Act 1996

The number of Treasure Act cases reported in 2004-5 fell to 27 compared with 47 in the previous year, possibly because fewer fragmentary undateable objects were put through the treasure process.

There were two groups of Bronze Age metal work reported as treasure in 2004-05. A socketed knife and chisel were found near Bury St Edmunds and four fragments of Bronze Age ingot and one sword fragment were found in Nettlestead.

Roman treasure finds included a Roman gold ear-ring from near Stowmarket of rectangular form and of 2nd to 3rd century in date. Two coin hoards were also discovered. 1026 bronze radiates were recovered from Wherstead, dating from about 253-279 AD. A second hoard consisting of 13 bronze coins dating to between c.295 and 313 AD was also discovered near Bury St Edmunds.

An important Anglo-Saxon find was a gold disc pendant from near Eye. It belongs to a type that is widespread in the second half of the seventh century and it would originally have formed part of a high status necklace. It is decorated with plain and beaded wire with a now empty central cell for a prominent setting in its centre. A beaded wire collar surrounds this and as the loose garnet found associated with the pendant is too small to entirely fill the cell, Angela Evans of the British Museum suggests that originally it would have been set in a calcitic collar.

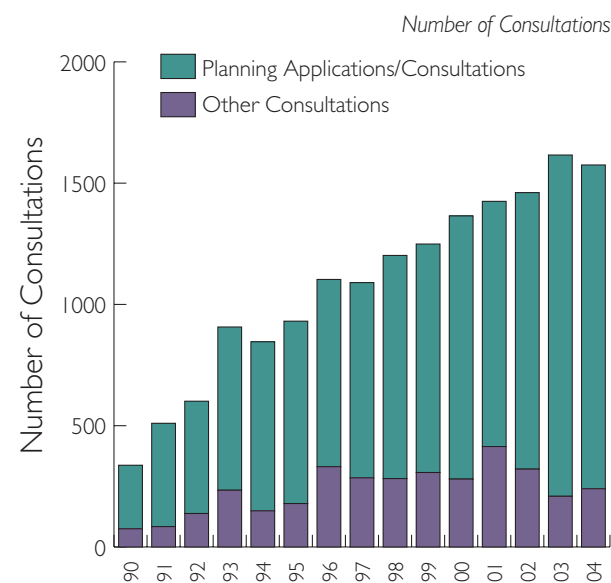


Medieval and post medieval treasure finds mainly consisted of personal accessories such as finger rings, hooked dress tags and bodkins. A more unusual find was a silver shield-shaped heraldic pendant from near Boxted, possibly originally associated with Sir William Waldegrave, who died in 1613, fathered 12 children and has a large tomb in Bures church, Suffolk.



Consultations

The number of consultations for conservation advice remains high. During 2004, there were 1,575 consultations compared to 1,616 in 2003 and 1,461 in 2002. Nearly 85% came from Local Planning Authorities, while the rest were mainly from the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Service (FWAG). There were only two consultations as a result of the Hedgerow Regulations (1997).

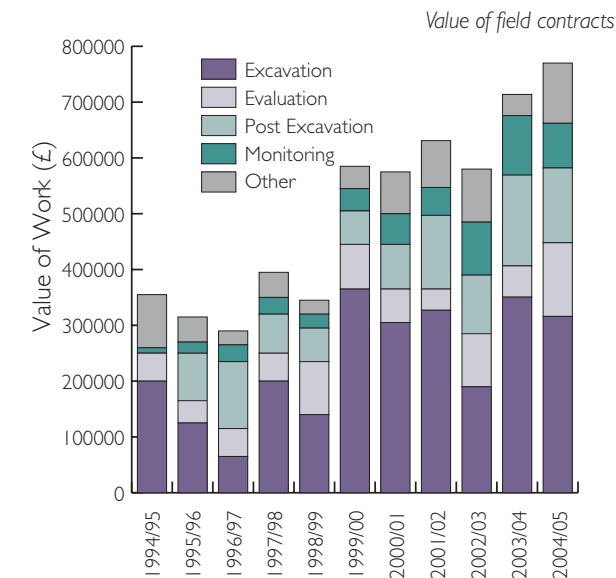


Monument Management

Very little pro-active work was undertaken during 2004-2005. However, the Service was consulted on 60 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

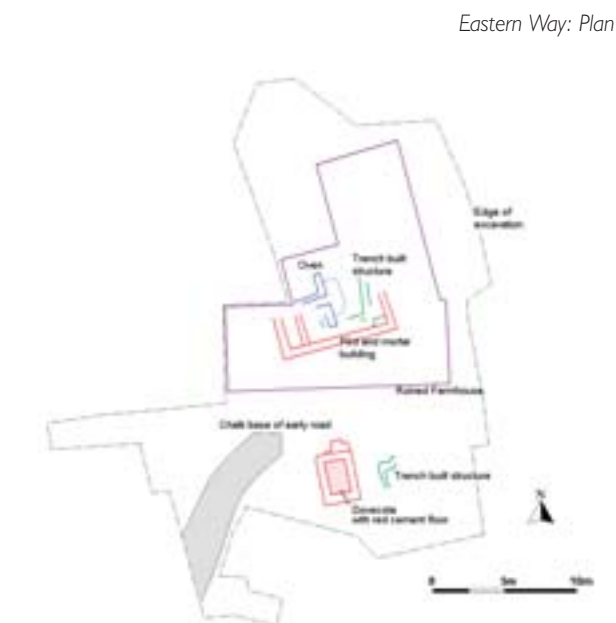
337 Field Projects were undertaken in 2004-2005 and income was just under £800,000, recovering the costs of the service for the sixth year running.



The following is a selection of some of the more interesting and important projects. Summaries of all discoveries reported in 2004 can be found in 'Archaeology in Suffolk 2004' in Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XLI, part 1, 2005.

Bury St Edmunds

Excavations at Eastern Way were undertaken ahead of a development on the site of Eastgate Barns. The site is believed to have once been the property of the cellarer of Bury Abbey. Also known as Holderness Barns and Grange Farm, this was where the cellarer would have held court and from where his business, on behalf of the Abbey, was conducted. It later became a manor house with an associated farm.



Remains of several structures were found, including a building with mortared-flint walls and a surviving internal clay floor, built over an earlier kiln. The kiln was only fired at fairly low temperatures, suggesting a possible use as a malting kiln or corn dryer. This kiln was in turn built over an earlier structure, the remains of which were in the form of a series of trenches, probably for ground beams. These three structures were all preserved under the post-medieval farmhouse.

Two further structures were found further to the south, one of which was a trench-and-posthole based structure. The second, a rectangular flint-and-mortar structure with a laid red cement floor, may well be a dovecote. Further work in this area of the site showed a series of yard surfaces, boundary walls and a chalk and gravel road leading to Eastgate Street.



Limited excavations at Chequer Square exposed peg tiles over a clay surface, medieval window glass and pottery dating from the 12th to the 18th centuries, indicating buildings fronting onto Bridewell Lane.

Excavations at the Angel Hotel revealed pits dating to the 11th-15th centuries along the Angel Lane frontage. Many of these were broad and deep and contained areas of lightly-fired clay, which combined with the documentary evidence that demonstrates the presence of inns in this area since at least the 14th century, suggests the possibility that the pits may be associated with brewing processes.

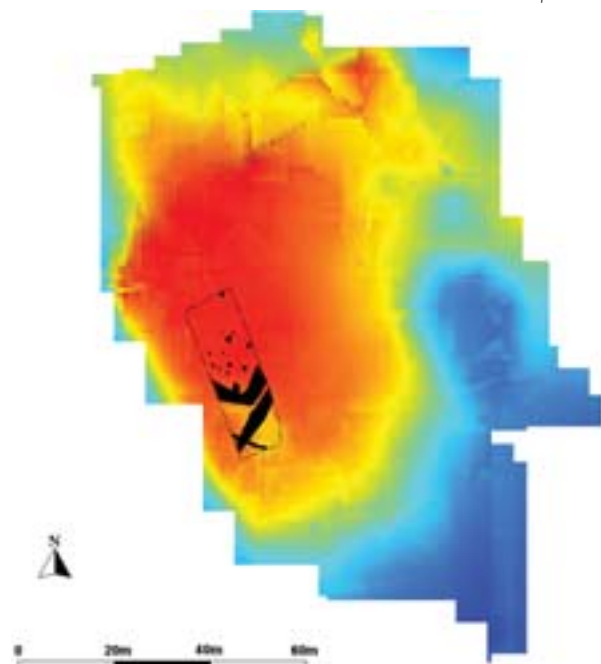
Clare

An evaluation on the site of Nethergate Street Garage revealed a large east-west aligned Roman boundary ditch, and an isolated Roman post-hole, representing the first clear evidence of Roman occupation in the historic core of Clare.

Friston

A training excavation for the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society was carried out on a Roman site at Barber's Point, on the edge of the River Alde. A prior magnetic survey of the site by Aline and David Black (Colchester Archaeological Trust) clearly showed a ditched enclosure and other linear features. Excavation revealed a thick buried soil deposit containing Roman pottery dating from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD. Abundant briquetage suggested that salt production was carried out on or near the site. A large enclosure ditch was revealed, as was another large outer ditch. A smaller ditch cut this at right-angles and contained Middle Saxon pottery.

The Barbers Point 'island' with excavated features



A series of chalk-filled post-holes, some of nearly one metre in diameter, were encountered within the enclosing ditch. No dating evidence has been recovered from these although at least two phases are recognised stratigraphically. A line of smaller posts, cut from a higher level than the large chalk-filled posts, may be part of a Saxon hall-type building.

A detailed contour survey of the site showed that it was located on a slight rise. An examination of auger samples by Mike Godwin, showed that a branch of the River Alde had flowed behind Barber's Point making it an island within the river. He also suggested that sea-level fluctuations would have inundated the island from the 3rd to the 7th century, perhaps accounting for the break between the early Roman and the Middle Saxon occupation.

Ipswich

Evaluation and excavation at Cranfield's Mill, College Street, revealed a large, well-constructed cellared building, probably a merchant's house dating to the late 15th century. The building was made of septaria blocks (a mudstone quarried from the Orwell) with moulded limestone around the door and window openings. The building was 6 metres wide and extended for 20 metres back towards the medieval quayside from the College Street frontage. There were three phases of build before its demolition in the second half of the 19th century. The finds included a 'witch bottle' – a pot buried within the fabric of the wall to protect the inhabitants from evil spirits. The pot was a late-15th-century Dutch import and contained a bone, a coin and hair.

The site was part of Bigot's Quay, which is referred to in several early medieval account rolls. These and various subsequent records show that the quay was occupied and used by several of Ipswich's leading mercantile families. The building overlay earlier stratified deposits including pits containing Late Saxon Thetford-type Ware and demonstrates that a rich sequence of archaeological deposits associated with the Saxon waterfront survives within this area.



Cranfields: late medieval merchant's house from above

Excavation at the river edge yielded exciting results in the form of a 'boardwalk' structure constructed on a series of driven piles. Preliminary finds evidence shows that the structure was sealed by substantial reclamation deposits of 11th-13th century date and may well be of Anglo-Saxon date. Excavation of the buried channel revealed a peat layer with finds of late 1st-2nd century AD date. This immediately overlay a high-energy river deposit, and tantalisingly suggests the possibility of Roman management of the stream. The lower one metre of fills below this peat layer are therefore thought to be of prehistoric date, but produced no dateable finds.



Cranfields: the boardwalk

At Albion Wharf, Key Street evaluation revealed undisturbed stratified deposits as little as 0.4m below the existing ground level. The uppermost deposits were of late medieval date and included a partially revealed septaria-built wall. Excavation was halted to avoid disturbing earlier remains. A second trench was opened at right angles to the street frontage in order to locate any earlier quay walls. However, it became clear that

this objective could not be met as unexpected evidence was revealed of a deliberately dug inlet. The deposits were at least 3m deeper than anticipated immediately next to the modern road and a substantial driven pile structure was recorded within the area of the inlet. The limited area of exposure meant that this proved difficult to interpret, but initial examination suggests it may represent either a pier or piling for a wall. Post-excavation work is in its early stages but the structure is currently thought to be of late medieval date. Beneath this structure a peat deposit up to a metre thick was also recorded, and although no dateable finds were recovered from it, the presence of sheep bones indicates that it is of Bronze Age or later date.



Albion Wharf: late medieval timbers

Lavenham

An evaluation was carried out at the Lavenham Press site in Water Street prior to consideration of plans for housing development. Three trenches were excavated in the open areas surrounding the existing Lavenham Press buildings.

A trench on the Water Street frontage, adjacent to the late medieval Arbons House, revealed the corner of a flint and mortar building, probably of medieval date and a late medieval circular brick structure, likely to be a hearth for a larger copper or dyebath. A trench along the eastern edge of the site revealed a concentration of features dating from the 14th century onwards, indicating less permanent structures.

Although Lavenham is well-known to have been the centre of the thriving wool industry, during the later medieval period, in south-west Suffolk, little is known about the archaeology of that industry apart from the wealth of surviving 16th century timber-framed houses. This Water Street site shows the enormous potential for archaeological evidence to survive of

the large range of specialist activities involved in the wool industry. The documentary evidence suggests that Roger Ruggle, or his son George, was using the site in the 16th century for dyeing wool.

Leiston

A training excavation at Leiston Abbey focused on two areas of interest: The Cottage Site, on the north side of the medieval abbey church and, The Kitchen Site, south of the refectory.

At The Cottage Site, the remains of a 19th century cottage were excavated and beneath it were two skeletons, which may be lay burials, i.e. non-monastic individuals.

At The Kitchen Site, a 1980s geophysical survey suggested the presence of building rubble and possible structures thought to be the site of the kitchens. Excavation revealed the remains of a substantial building with stone and flint walls and finely painted window glass. This seems to be far too grand a building for a kitchen, and may be the Abbot's private residence or the infirmary.

Mildenhall

A second season of excavations was carried out prior to the construction of a new sports field at RAF Mildenhall. The earliest evidence consisted of an Early Bronze Age crouched inhumation accompanied by a Beaker. Ditch systems dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman periods, identified during the first season were shown to continue. Three burials and a possible cremation were excavated close to the site of where burials were found in 2003. Preliminary examination suggests they all date from the Roman period. Towards the eastern edge of the site several pits and a sunken-featured building were found, which is the first evidence for Early Saxon occupation on the site.

Purdis Farm

Excavation at Murrills Road revealed evidence of two road surfaces, and two buildings of probable Late Saxon/early medieval date, together with rubbish pits and a complex of boundary ditches. Pits associated with one of the buildings contained abundant iron slag and evidence of burning suggesting that it may have been a smithy.