Archaeological Service publications

The following publications can be obtained from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Note special offer price reductions in red

West Stow, The Anglo-Saxon Village by Stanley West

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 24 Suffolk County Council 1985, 2 vols 184pp, 305figs, 11pls
ISSN 0307 2460

West Stow is one of the most important Early Saxon settlements to be excavated, since it was virtually complete, and devoid of later occupation. The cemetery nearby was investigated in the early 19th century, and contained predominantly inhumation burials. A cremation cemetery at Lackford, a mile away, may also be associated. The settlement began in the early 5th century, on an unoccupied site, and continued into the 7th century. The prehistoric and Roman background in the area is discussed (and for the site is published as EAA vol 48, see below), as is the pattern of early Anglo-Saxon settlement elsewhere in the Lark Valley.

The site consisted of 70 sunken-featured buildings, arranged in groups around 7 'halls', representing 3 or 4 family groups at anyone time. The purpose and reconstruction of these buildings is extensively discussed, using parallels in this country and abroad. The reconstructed buildings in the West Stow Country Park add a unique dimension to this report, and the accidental destruction by fire of one of them allowed an archaeological investigation of the remains (see below EAA report 146, Experimental Archaeology and Fire). Abundant evidence of local crafts was discovered, such as bone and antler working, weaving and potting. The combs were particularly well-preserved, and rare evidence of antler pottery stamps was found.

The conclusions bring together the archaeology of the settlement and the finds from the cemetery, placing them in their context in the history of the settlement of the Lark Valley.

This popular report, unavailable for many years, has now been reprinted.

Price £30 (£35 including postage and packing - UK only)

Burgh: The Iron Age and Roman Enclosure by Edward Martin

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 40 Suffolk County Council 1988 81 pages, 62 figures, 4pls, microfiche.

Burgh is the largest Iron Age fortification in Suffolk, still visible at ground level. Only two other sites in the county are broadly comparable, Barnham and Clare Camp, but the latter is not definitely Iron Age.

This report brings together the results of three periods of excavation, 1900–1901, 1947–1957, and 1975. The enclosure is bivallate, roughly rectangular and encloses 7 hectares. It was probably built in the 1st century BC as a minor oppidum — the regional centre and seat of a local chieftain with market, administrative and religious functions. It was destroyed about 15–25 AD. An inner enclosure of 1 hectare, was built in the north-west corner, probably just before the Conquest. This was occupied, either by an official or a noble until it was partly flattened about 60 AD. However, the enclosure was used well into the 4th century, as the centre of a villa estate.
The excavations discovered a selection of important finds, which included a good sequence of pottery, from the handmade Iron Age wares to the Belgic wheel thrown wares, along with many Gallo-Belgic imports. These reflect the high status of the enclosure.

The conclusions place Burgh into context within Iron Age Suffolk, and discuss later settlement history based on the supposition that it became the centre of a Saxon estate.

Price £4.40  Special Offer £2.50 ( £5.50 including postage and packing - UK only)

**West Stow: The Prehistoric and Romano-British Occupations**  by Stanley West

**East Anglian Archaeology Volume 48**  1990 Suffolk County Council 117 pages, 69 figures, 7pls.

In this, the third and final West Stow report, evidence for occupation of the site before the Anglo-Saxon village is described and discussed. Mesolithic occupation is attested by a series of flint concentrations and Late Neolithic activity by a ring-ditch, presumably representing a barrow, which contained a central burial pit and over 40 un-urned cremations. A series of small enclosures, a large number of pits, an extensive pottery assemblage and quantities of animal bone represent a considerable Iron Age occupation. Romano-British activity seems to have been largely confined to pottery production and associated occupation material. Five kilns have been excavated, of generally late 1st–early 3rd-century date, producing a wide range of forms.

Price £5.90  Special Offer £3.00 ( £6.00 including postage and packing - UK only).

**Settlements on Hill-tops: Seven Prehistoric Sites in Suffolk**  by Edward Martin

**East Anglian Archaeology Volume 65**  Suffolk County Planning Department 1993 75 pages, 43 figures, 8pls.

This volume contains excavation reports for seven sites that all share the characteristic of a hill-top location. Although the hill-tops never exceed 50m OD in height and on average are only 30–40m higher than the adjoining valley bottoms, their elevated position was clearly a significant factor in the siting of these prehistoric settlements. The sites include a double-ditched Iron Age enclosure at Barnham that is possibly religious in function, analogous to the viereckschanzen of the Continent; first millennium BC open settlements at Barham and Framlingham; and multi-period (Neolithic to Iron Age) occupation at Martlesham and Great and Little Bealings. The dating and typology of first millennium BC pottery in East Anglia is also discussed in the light of the material from these sites.

Price £8.00  Special Offer £5.00 ( £8.00 including postage and packing - UK only).
A Corpus Of Anglo-Saxon Material From Suffolk by Stanley West

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 84 Suffolk County Council 1998 373pp, l59figs, 20pls.

It is eighty years since a comprehensive survey of Suffolk Anglo-Saxon material was published by R. A. Smith in the *Victoria County History*, and thirty years since R. Rainbird-Clarke's provocative discussion in his *East Anglia*. The great surge of interest that has occurred since the 1950s - excavations, field surveys, and the rapidly increasing reported discoveries - combine to make a new survey and catalogue highly desirable. The Corpus includes as much of the previously unpublished material as possible, but the treatment of some categories of finds, particularly from the recently published sites, has had to be selective. The work is essentially a catalogue, presented at a time of rapidly-changing views and approaches to the Anglo-Saxons and the appreciation of their ongoing contribution to our heritage. It is intended that it should be used as a primary source for the artefacts and their distribution in Suffolk as a basis for the greater understanding of the mechanics of the establishment and development of Anglo-Saxon Anglia.

Price: £33.00  Special Offer £17 (£21.00 including postage and packing - UK only).

Towards a Landscape History of Walsham Le Willows, Suffolk by S.E. West and A. McLaughlin

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 85 Suffolk County Council 1998 112 pages, 70 figures (including 7 colour maps and two fold-out maps)

This study grew out of the archaeological field survey of the parish undertaken in the early 1980's. The discovery of a series of distinct medieval sites suggested that some correlation might be possible with the 1577 manorial survey already published. The wealth of documentary sources for Walsham include an important series of manor court rolls, rentals and wills which have enabled the names of a significant number of the fields and tenements to be traced to the early 14th century. It has been possible to link the archaeological fieldwork with a hypothetical medieval map of Walsham drawing on the manorial surveys. The standing buildings, the surviving hedgerows and the few remaining earthworks have provided valuable fragments of information which have been incorporated into an overall view of the landscape history of the parish.

Price £18.00  Special Offer £10 (£13 including postage and packing - UK only)


East Anglian Archaeology Volume 95 Suffolk County Council 2002, 277 pages, 151 figures, 58pls

The Snape Anglo-Saxon cemetery stands in the Sandlings area of east Suffolk. The first recorded excavations on the site were conducted 1862-3 by the landowner, Septimus Davidson and some friends. In trenching the largest barrow they encountered rivets, and by careful excavation were able to reveal the remains of a complete Anglo-Saxon ship burial, the first to be found in England. Although already robbed, they recovered a number of items including a gold Germanic finger-ring, now in the British Museum, which showed that the burial had been of the highest status. Their excavations also revealed a large number of Anglo-Saxon cremation burials. Subsequently the site was almost forgotten until in 1970 a dowser found an Anglo-Saxon urn in the field to the north of the road, and in 1972 a sewer
A trench excavated along the road yielded a further nine cremations, one in a bronze bowl (published by West and Owles, 1973).

In 1985 a research project was initiated under the aegis of the Snape Historical Trust. Excavations have shown the site to be a mixed cremation and inhumation cemetery.

Amongst the inhumations, a wide variety of burial practices has been noted, including the use of two, and possibly three, dugout logboats as burial containers. Other graves made extensive use of organics, in some instances of textile, including the first observed use of Rippenköper weave in England (grave 37). The grave-goods were within the normal range of material to be expected in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, more exotic finds including a lyre (grave 32) and a horse’s head with tack (grave 47). Finds show the cremation burials to date for the late 5th to 7th centuries, and the inhumations to date from the mid 6th to 7th centuries. Other features excavated included ring-ditches, some associated with inhumations and six burnt stone features, apparently surrounding mound 4.

This report attempts to publish all the material known to have been excavated from the cemetery although the urns and their contents from the 1862-3 excavations have become dispersed over the years and many undoubtedly lost. The 1970 and 1972 finds have also been re-examined, redrawn and are here republished.

Price £23.50 Special Offer £13 (£17 including postage and packing - UK only)

Excavations at a large Romano-British Settlement at Hacheston, Suffolk, 1973–4 by Thomas Blagg, Judith Plouviez and Andrew Tester

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 106  Suffolk County Council 2004, 220pp, 16pls, 129figs

The core of this ‘small town’ was established before the conquest in AD43, and seems to consist of circular buildings, enclosed by ditches and a palisade. During the later 1st century a gravel road was laid out and insubstantial rectangular buildings were erected alongside it. This basic layout continued throughout the Roman period, with a droveway and partial field enclosures to the south. Pottery was manufactured at Hacheston between the later 1st and mid 3rd centuries, and the excavations also produced iron smithing debris and related structures.

The settlement continued as a market and manufacturing centre until the 4th century, when there was a marked drop in activity, and the place had become extremely impoverished by AD370. Early Anglo-Saxon structures were found just outside the Roman settlement.

The site was one of the first on which metal detecting was carried out, and the large assemblage of metal objects adds significantly to understanding both the chronology and the status of the settlement as a market and a manufacturing centre.

Price £25.00 Special Offer £14 (£18 including postage and packing - UK only)

‘Wheare most Inclosures be’ East Anglian Fields: History, Morphology and Management

by Edward Martin and Max Satchell


The Historic Field Systems of East Anglia Project was carried out with support from English Heritage’s Monuments Protection Programme. The project formulated a way of analysing the historic landscape in terms of eight basic ‘land types’ that could be further broken down into eighteen sub-types. Of especial significance were common fields and their antithesis, ancient ‘block holdings’ or holdings in severalty (farmsteads surrounded by their own group of fields). This form of analysis was applied to twelve detailed case
studies of historic land use that were carried out across the region: three in Norfolk, four in Suffolk, three in Essex and one each in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. In each place the landscape was categorised, mapped and quantified according to the land types. The varying percentages of all the land types was calculated and common fields were shown to be most prevalent in the north and west of the region, while block holdings dominated in the south, with some areas showing no evidence of ever having had common fields.

By using trend lines derived from the computer-based Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping (recently carried out in the region under another English Heritage sponsored project) in conjunction with a variety of other data sets, it was possible to suggest a wider context for the case-study based conclusions. Of particular, and unexpected, importance was a division running diagonally across the claylands of central Suffolk, approximately on the line of the River Gipping. To the south of this there is gently undulating land which had a high potential for arable farming in pre-modern times, while to the north there is mainly flat land, with an historic tendency towards dairy farming. It was also possible to demonstrate a high incidence of block holdings in the southern area and, conversely, a link with a form of common fields to the north. But beyond these topographically explicable differences, it was also apparent that the ‘Gipping divide’ was a significant cultural boundary. This can be seen in vernacular architecture, both in constructional methods and in plan forms; in the terminology used to describe greens and woods; and in inheritance customs. The patterns seen in south Suffolk extend into Essex and those in north Suffolk extend into Norfolk, indicating that this was a boundary of regional importance that has a greater cultural significance than the existing county boundaries.

In examining the origins of the region’s field systems, consideration was given to claims that some areas had extensive co-axial field systems of pre-Roman date. A careful examination of the evidence suggests that although co-axial systems do exist, they are not vast terrain-oblivious entities and that they have varying dates and purposes. Some co-axial systems may incorporate prehistoric elements, but others are likely to be late Saxon or early medieval in date. Importantly, they are not automatic indicators of early land allotment. The case studies suggest that ‘locational’ analysis involving soil type, drainage potential and access to water is a more certain way of identifying the areas most likely to have been used for early agriculture. In the northern part of the region these ‘core’ arable areas tended to develop into common fields, but in the southern zone they tended to become block demesnes, that is large fields that were the exclusive property of manorial lords. This divergent development probably had its genesis in the late Saxon period and has an obvious significance for the understanding of the origins of common fields on a wider, national, level. The late Saxon period witnessed very significant advances and changes in agriculture that were to have far-reaching consequences. The factors driving and influencing these changes are complex but included a climatic amelioration, an increase in population, the development or re-introduction of the mouldboard plough and the Viking invasions. The project produced evidence pointing towards a linkage between areas of Viking settlement/influence and the appearance of common fields — but not in a simple sense of an imported idea, as current evidence suggests that the English common fields are earlier than those of Scandinavia. However, the adoption of common fields may have arisen out the social upheaval caused by the Viking interventions or in the reorganisation following the English re-conquest. If so, this could suggest an origin for common fields in the late ninth or early tenth centuries. Conversely, areas that showed minimal Viking influence seem to have developed block demesnes, possibly as a continuation of farming practices that could have their roots in the Roman period or even earlier.

These findings confirm that East Anglia has an important legacy of ‘ancient’ enclosed fields, corroborating the sixteenth-century observation by Sir Thomas Smith that it was one of the areas ‘wheare most inclosures be’. Ancient cultivation traces within the fields are, however, rare. This is not because ridge-and-furrow, as found in the Midlands, has been eroded away, but because over most of East Anglia ‘stetch’ ploughing was the norm and this produced low ridges that seldom survive as earthworks. The conservation priority therefore is the preservation and the historically appropriate management of the boundaries of these fields, for changing the appearance of boundaries can change the local character as much as changes to the pattern. The report has therefore pulled together a key collection of historical descriptions of the nature and management of field boundaries across the region, as an aid towards the informed conservation of the East Anglian landscape in the twenty-first century.

Price: £30.00 Special Offer £18 (£23.00 including postage and packing - UK only).
The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Shrubland Hall Quarry, Coddenham, Suffolk by Kenneth Penn

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 139 Suffolk County Council 2011, 146pp, 120 illus

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Shrubland Hall Quarry, Coddenham, was unknown until its discovery during investigation of an Iron Age site. The fifty Anglo-Saxon burials found were possibly the remains of a larger cemetery, extending an unknown distance to the west, the other graves being lost to earlier gravel extraction. While most of the fifty burials lacked grave-goods, or had modest accompaniments, several graves included elaborate grave-goods, some imported, and typical of the later 7th and early 8th century. Coins found in two burials give a general date to the cemetery, placing it in the later 7th and early 8th centuries. The grave-goods are mostly typical of the mid-7th to early 8th century, when a distinct range of object types was deposited. The excavation adds a cemetery to the known mortuary landscape at a time when accompanied burial was about to end. The graves illustrate the varied practices used in this period, including structures within graves and the use of barrows.

Price £22.00 (£26 including postage and packing, UK only).

Middle Saxon Animal Husbandry in East Anglia by Pam Crabtree

East Anglian Archaeology Volume 143, 2012; 80pp, 52 illus; ISBN 978 0 956874719

This comparative study of three large Middle Saxon faunal assemblages from eastern England reviews the animal bone remains from the Middle Saxon estate centres of Brandon in western Suffolk and Wicken Bonhunt in north-western Essex, and also those from a number of Middle Saxon sites within the town of Ipswich. At that time Ipswich served as an emporium or ‘wic’, a centre of craft production and regional and international trade. All three sites produced large faunal assemblages that were analysed using standard archaeozoological methods. Individual bones were identified to species and body part; the bones were examined for traces of butchery and pathology; ages at death were determined on the basis of dental eruption and wear and epiphyseal fusion of the long bones; and measurements were recorded when possible. Species ratios, mortality profiles and osteometric data suggest that the inhabitants of Brandon were engaged in specialised wool production. Unlike most other Anglo-Saxon sites, the Middle Saxon features at Wicken Bonhunt produced large numbers of pig bones. The residents of the site may have been engaged in large-scale pork production, and the limited evidence from the late 6th-to-7th century features at the site suggest that specialised pork production may have begun at the site in the later part of the Early Saxon period. Brandon and Wicken Bonhunt also produced rich assemblages of wild birds, including water birds and waders. The Middle Saxon sites from Ipswich yielded a much less diverse bird assemblage. The inhabitants of Ipswich appear to have been provisioned with beef and mutton from the surrounding countryside, but the ageing data indicate that some pigs may have been raised within the town itself. The results are compared to the faunal assemblages that have been recovered from other Early and Middle Saxon sites in eastern England.

Price £12.00 (£15 including postage and packing, UK only).
The destruction by fire of a reconstruction of a Sunken-Featured Building (SFB or Grubenhaus) at West Stow in Suffolk, presented a unique opportunity for experimental archaeology, and provides new insight into the nature of burnt buildings in the archaeological record. It also provides an opportunity to understand better the structural form of this distinctive building type. The burnt remains of the reconstruction were meticulously excavated and recorded using conventional methods combined with a range of forensic fire investigation techniques, which has enabled the seat of the fire and sequence of destruction to be identified. The study has also enabled a range of standard scientific techniques to be tested because it is known how the building was constructed and what materials were used, and also what and where objects were located within it when the fire occurred. The results are fully described and presented in this unique study, and the implications for our understanding of burnt remains are examined, providing a reference for future investigations of buildings destroyed by fire.

Price £20 (£23 including postage and packing - UK only)

The prehistoric archaeology is dominated by three monumental structures. The earliest, dating to the late Neolithic, is a post-hole circle of approximately 18m diameter, with an entrance to the north-west. Various interpretations are explored including the possibility that astronomical alignments were invested in the monument. The circle was subsequently overlain by an early Bronze Age ring ditch and urned cremation. A second ring-ditch nearby subsequently became the focus for burial in the early Anglo-Saxon period (Flixton I). Its central mound was re-used in turn as the site of a windmill in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. The Iron Age/Roman archaeology included an enigmatic palisaded enclosure - closely-spaced posts in a series of slots and individual post-holes describing a near-perfect circle 27m diameter. Direct dating evidence was sparse, but pottery from adjacent pits suggested activity dated around the time of the Conquest. Various functions for the post-hole circle are explored.

Two Anglo-Saxon burial grounds were found: Flixton I, a small plot associated with a prehistoric barrow: and Flixton II, larger and at first contained within a rectangular plot close to another barrow. Fifty-one of an estimated 200 or more graves have been excavated. Burial at Flixton II later shifted southwards onto the barrow itself, where eleven more graves were identified. The excavated graves in Flixton II date from c.500 AD to the middle of the 7th century, and Flixton I is likely to have been contemporary with its earliest phase. The material evidence has been used as a base from which to discuss the social make-up of the community who buried their dead in the two burial grounds. The role of this community in the southern marches of the former Iceni territory has also been explored.

Price £30 (£34 including postage and packing - UK only)
Roman Pottery manufacture at Bourne Hill, Wherstead by D.Gill, J.Plouviez, R.P.Symonds and C.Tester

East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 9 Suffolk County Council 2002 32pp, 16figs, 6pls

Ditches of late Iron Age and Roman date, probably enclosing a settlement, were found in a small gravel extraction area on Bourne Hill, Wherstead. Two twin-flued Roman pottery kilns, in use sometime between AD50 and 70, were excavated in and adjacent to ditches. This is one of the few sites in Britain with good evidence for the production of cups and platters stamped with a maker's mark. The full range of products is surprisingly varied, with some types unique to Wherstead, including copies of glass bowls, apparently an example of local experimentation stimulated by new Roman material.

Price was £5.50 Special Offer £3 (£6 including postage and packing - UK only)

A Medieval Moated Site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket, Suffolk by Sue Anderson

East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 15 Suffolk County Council 2004 34pp, 13figs, 2pls

Excavations in 1980 and 1999 at Cedars Field revealed evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation, a Roman field boundary, and a medieval moated site. The latter is the main focus of this report, although evidence for the earlier land use is also presented. The moated site consisted of a square outer enclosure with a smaller square inner platform. The moat itself was unusually shallow. Finds evidence suggested that occupation had occurred on the inner platform, and there was some evidence for the presence of structures within this part of the site. The site appears to have been occupied from the 12th century, but was abandoned at some point in the 14th century. Documentary evidence was useful in suggesting the tenure and significance of the site during this period. Following abandonment, the site reverted to agricultural use, and the moat was partially backfilled, but remained waterlogged and partially visible into the 20th century.

Price was £7.00 Special Offer £4 (£7.00 including postage and packing - UK only).

A Roman Maltings at Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk by Ellen Bales

EAA Occasional Paper 20 Suffolk County Council 2004 83pp, 6pls, 25figs

Excavation of a 1.7ha area at Beck Row, Mildenhall, revealed activity spanning the Bronze Age to Roman periods. Early Bronze Age features were few, but indicate settlement in the vicinity. During the Iron Age three circular buildings and a ditched enclosure system were established. By the 1st century AD domestic activity focussed on the south-west corner of the excavated area and clearly extended beyond this. However, a Roman realignment and extension of the enclosure system included a large timber aisled building, which was fully rebuilt after burning down and was then abandoned after a second fire in the 3rd century. The building was used for agricultural rather than domestic purposes, possibly as a malt house. The site is viewed in the context of an intensely occupied area along the Fen edge in the Iron Age and Roman period.

Price was £10.00 Special Offer £6 (£9 including postage and packing - UK only)
An Historical Atlas of Suffolk Edited by David Dymond & Edward Martin

The 86 map sections in this revised and expanded edition of the Atlas, compiled by 39 of the county’s leading scholars, provide an authoritative yet accessible guide to the geology, archaeology, history and buildings of Suffolk. With a coverage from early prehistory through to the 20th century, this is an indispensable source of information about Suffolk’s past. A bestseller when it first appeared, it was also critically acclaimed: ‘This format should be a model for all the counties of Britain’ Oxbow Book News
‘An indispensable source book for any study of East Anglia over time and a mine of information for the general reader’ British Archaeological News

Price: £22.50 (£26.50 including postage and packing to UK only).

A Survey of Suffolk Parish History researched by Wendy Goult
Suffolk County Council 1990 A4 size, 3 vols., each c.455 pages Paperback, xerox printed, comb binding

This important book summarises the history of each parish in the county compiled from a variety of printed sources; it touches upon every part of local history including administration, landscape, social, religious and economic characteristics, and covers a time span from the earliest archaeology to modern times.

The book comes as a set of three volumes:
  West Suffolk
  East Suffolk parishes A to H
  East Suffolk parishes I to Y

Price:£35.00 for set of three, £12.00 per volume (plus £5 per volume postage & packing within the UK).

Suffolk’s Defended Shore - Coastal Fortifications from the Air by Cain Hegarty and Sarah Newsome

This book illustrates the history and development of military defences on the Suffolk coast using data collected during an English Heritage funded survey of the Suffolk Coast carried out as part of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme (NMP) by Suffolk's Archaeological Service. This involved the examination of both modern and historic aerial photographs in order to create a map of archaeological remains on the county's coast. The results of the survey were dominated by evidence for the military defence of the coast, reflecting the importance of the Suffolk coast in national defence strategies over many years. The book highlights the particular importance of historic aerial photographs which provide a different, and often unique, perspective on the coastal defences constructed in World War II. Photographs taken during and immediately after this war sometimes provide the only visual record of the rapidly evolving defences from this period. Using modern and historic aerial photographs, and interpretive illustrations based on the survey data, the book provides an overview of Suffolk’s military coastal defences and demonstrates the value of aerial photographs as a resource for studying these types of remains.

Price £14.99 (£17.99 including postage & packing in the UK)