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REPORTS ON MEETINGS FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS**13 May 2004****"A Stroll down the Suffolk Coast"****Tony Thurston**

This photographic tour of the Suffolk coast, from Hopton to Felixstowe, included sea erosion, coastal footpaths, coastal plants and wartime defences, as well as the birds which are Tony's special interest.

Photographs show that Ness Point in Lowestoft may not be ideal as a tourist attraction, although black redstarts can be observed there. However, as there is a continuing build-up of sand and shingle at Kessingland, it may soon replace Lowestoft as the most easterly point in Britain. Erosion continues at Covehithe and it is estimated that the church may fall into the sea in 50 to 70 years time. Here, sand martins nest in the cliffs, returning each year from Africa to their own breeding grounds.

There are many structures surviving from World War Two defences, including pillboxes on the cliffs or, as recently happened, disappearing into the sea at Benacre. On Lowestoft South Beach, an old searchlight station is now an ice cream shop.

Minsmere was flooded as part of the World War Two defences, leading to the return of the avocets and their now increasing numbers. In areas of continuing erosion, such as the Dingle Marshes north of Dunwich, the RSPB has plans for a managed retreat, forming salt marshes where there is high tide flooding. Mud is particularly rich in nutrients for birds.

The most northerly of the many Martello towers, built 1809 to 1812 as defences during the Napoleonic period, is just south of Aldeburgh, with four more built between Shingle Street and Bawdsey. The tour finished at the Landguard fort near Felixstowe.

10 June 2004**Three Member Talks**

Jeremy Stone opened the session with a biographical study of the Roman emperor Hadrian. Following the Roman tradition of choosing a successor, Hadrian was chosen in AD117 by the previous emperor, Trajan. Hadrian only stayed in Rome for 3 years, spending more time touring the distant frontiers of the Roman Empire. He did not extend the empire but, instead, consolidated its boundaries, keeping enemies such as the Picts and Scots beyond Hadrian's Wall at bay. In the resulting period of peace, building projects were undertaken and trade improved. Hadrian was an admirer of Greek culture and promoted its recognition in Rome. Unusually for a Roman emperor, he retired to his Tivoli Villa and died peacefully as an elderly man.

Louise Clarke, from her Lowestoft Record Office base, researched the history of Macan Entcheur, a seven year old African boy, who was baptised as Thomas Alert at St Margaret's, Lowestoft, in 1846. Earlier that year, the brig "Alert" arrived at Liverpool from duties in Africa where it had been suppressing the slave trade and freeing captive slaves. It was through the Gurney family connections with anti-slavery campaigners that Thomas was given into the care of Francis Cunningham, rector of Lowestoft. Thomas appeared in the 1851 census, lodging in Old Market Plain, where Alfred Hill, schoolmaster at Wilde's School also lodged. Thomas then disappeared from records, but Louise

believes he went back to Africa with the Cunninghams' adopted daughter and her husband. In the area where they worked as missionaries, an African was later ordained as Francis Lowestoft.

Terry Weatherley did not explore history in Africa or Rome but dug a hole in the ground in Carlton Colville. The Time Team Big Dig project co-ordinated members of the public prepared to dig metre square holes in their back gardens and record their finds. The project started amid criticism from some professional archaeologists and suggestions that licences and planning permission might be needed. The garden in Carlton Colville is on the edge of former meadow land, but near to Roman, Saxon and Iron Age activity. The contents of the hole, 10 cm in depth at a time, were sieved and the finds recorded. At the top were remains of flower pots and plastic, then came Victorian blue print pottery and bits of clay pipe, but lower down Terry found Roman and Iron Age pottery sherds. Full reports will appear later on the Time Team web site.

17 June 2004 Church Outing

led by Terry Weatherley to Ringsfield and Ilketshall St Andrew Churches

Ringsfield Church was restored by a leading Victorian architect, William Butterfield. He cleared out the box pews and gallery but incorporated many original features, including two unusual external monuments. One, with a brass and a mermaid crest, commemorates Thomas Garnays who saved Henry VIII's sister Mary from drowning. On the other side of the church is the tomb, displaying striking angel statuary, of Princess Caroline Murat, wife of John Garden of Redisham Hall.

Ilketshall St Andrew retains the appearance of a 12th century church with 14th and 15th century additions. Since the discovery in 2001 of late 13th century wall paintings the church has been closed and we were privileged to see them. Interpretation was difficult but we were aided by torches and an explanatory leaflet. A cross, probably originally on top of a church could be clearly seen and also a trumpet blown by an angel. It is expected that some of the paintings will be carefully restored and others covered over for protection.

The outing finished with an excellent supper at the Tally Ho, Mettingham.

9 September 2004 "Far Eastern Pavilions - 200 years of Theatres & Concert Halls in Lowestoft" **Michael Mills**

The earliest actors were classed with rogues and vagabonds and played at "fit up theatres" in barns and inn courtyards, when permitted by licence from the magistrates. A theatre bill from 1790 advertised Robert Hounslow's Company visiting Lowestoft with "A School for Scandal". David Fisher's Company toured East Anglia performing at "fit up theatres" and visited Lowestoft from 1794, probably using premises in Dukes Head Street. In 1812, Fisher opened Lowestoft's first permanent theatre building at the present Crown Street Hall.

The old Chapel of Ease, standing on the site of the present Town Hall, was used as a theatre, possibly from as early as 1850. Theatre bills from 1872 advertised well known acts, such as General Tom Thumb, appearing at the Town Hall, Lowestoft. From the 1870's, other theatres and concert halls were opened. In 1873, public subscriptions funded the building of a Public Hall where municipal events and concerts were held. In 1910 it became the Palace Cinema, destroyed by bombs in 1940. There was also a Theatre Royal, near the present Royal George, and an Alexandra Hall in Denmark Road.

Around the turn of the century, variety concert artists were expected to perform three times a day: mornings at the South Beach Pavilion, afternoons at the Olympian Gardens and evenings at the Sparrows Nest. The Marina started as a roller skating rink with performances as a side line. Later the roller skating was dropped and it became a theatre.

All the big names came to Lowestoft, including Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel, Paul Robeson and many other famous musicians and players.

23 September 2004**“A Grave Business”****Peter Driver**

The number and style of memorials which were erected and survive until today depend not only on wealth and the availability of stone but also on fashion.

Memorials to Roman centurions in full uniform have survived, with full inscriptions, but usually the earliest tombs had no legend. The alabaster figures found in churches often depicted late medieval aristocrats, lying down, with hands folded in prayer. If they had been beheaded, their coronets were placed beside them and not on their heads. In Stuart times, wealthy families constructed family portrait tombs when father died. Father and mother faced each other with sons ranged behind father and daughters behind mother. Those that had pre-deceased father held a skull, and infant deaths were represented by a baby in swaddling clothes.

The earliest Suffolk churchyard tombstone (as recorded by vicars' correspondence in “The Suffolk Miscellany”) was dated 1585, but there are earlier and bigger ones in counties where stone was cheaper and more readily available. Tombstones were sometimes re-used, with the old inscription visible beneath the new. In the eighteenth century, tombstones became more numerous, and often depicted skeletons and skulls as well as artefacts representing the occupation of the deceased. In 1743, a surgeon's instruments were shown and, in 1787, a carrier's cart and horses. Sometimes detailed biographical detail or an opinion on the cause of death was given, and usually the age at death. One man died after 8 years lingering affliction caused by sleeping on a damp bed and a woman was given an unverified age of 113. Neither these opinions nor humorous verses would be allowed in present day cemeteries.

14 October 2004**“Historic Field Systems in East Anglia”****Edward Martin**

Throughout England there were areas of different types of field systems, including a central, north to south band of mainly village settlements, common and strip field systems and late enclosures, which contrasted with a pattern of dispersed settlement and individual holdings to the east and west of this central band.

The East Anglian Fields, History, Morphology and Management Project has analysed the historic field systems of a sample of twelve East Anglian districts. In East Anglia there was a tendency to dispersed settlement and fields were enclosed at an early date. The analysis also revealed pronounced differences among the twelve selected districts with overall, more village settlement, common land and late enclosures in Norfolk and North Suffolk, and dispersed settlement and early enclosure in Essex and South Suffolk. In the south, “old hedges” were recorded in the eleventh century. The northern landscape was largely flat, much of it difficult to drain and largely pastoral. Enclosure may have been less easily agreed than in the southern farmland, and the powers of the lord of the manor, who often had the best slopes of land after enclosure, may have been stronger in the south.

These differences between north and south appear to be linked to wider historic cultural differences, perhaps dating to Scandinavian settlement and the consequent social disruption in the north, or even to the division between the tribal lands of the pre-Roman Iceni and Trinovantes. More Anglian archaeological artefacts have been found in the north, though Sutton Hoo is a curious exception to this, and inheritance customs and vernacular architecture also varied between the two areas.

A full report will be published in East Anglian Archaeology in 2005.

28 October 2004**“The Story of the Mary Rose - A Tudor Warship”****Peter Ransome**

The ‘Rose’ was built at Portsmouth in 1509 and named for Henry the Eighth's favourite sister, Mary Rose. In 1536, in order to equip the ship to participate in the war against the French, there were extensive modifications and rows of cannons were installed. It is possible that there was a resulting design fault, although there were also reports of tidal waves and a sharp turn, causing the Mary Rose to sink suddenly and disastrously in the Solent, within sight of the shore. It was then a war ship, with soldiers as well as sailors on board and, out of 600 persons, only 36 survived.

The Mary Rose Trust was given the task to raise the Mary Rose and in 1985 it was brought to the surface in a cradle and taken to a site where a museum was built around it. Artefacts taken from the wreck of the Mary Rose have extended knowledge of the lives of the sixteenth century crew and the

equipment they used. Navigational aids were found which enabled the measurement of the ship's latitude. At this time, there were no aids for measuring longitude. As well as having lines of broadside cannons, the ship was armed with long bows, grappling hooks, swords and pikes. The intention was to approach the enemy ship side on, fire with the cannons, and take it as a prize. Hammocks were a luxury and many of the crew slept on the floor with the rats, lice and fleas. The diet was largely ships' biscuit, salted meat and diluted beer, so scurvy was commonplace. They did not wash and suffered cuts from the ropes and sometimes from beatings.

11 November 2004 "The History of Barnby and North Cove" Ian Hinton and Beryl Tooley

Ian Hinton explained, with slides of maps, how the landscape around the villages, and the villages themselves, had changed since the Domesday survey of 1086 up to the present time. During the Domesday survey Barnby had 13 Freeman but no Lord of the manor. North Cove was not separately identified as it was included as part of the manor of Worlingham. Today, it is probable that anyone passing through the two villages would not know where the boundary was, although the villages are actually divided by the Hundred Stream. The two villages had once been quite separate but over the years had moved towards each other. The churches for both are at the opposite ends of each village. North Cove used to be called Cove, and still is today by many of the villagers. Slides of photographs of local scenes and activities from yesteryear were also shown. Some of these related to village characters and Beryl Tooley told some very interesting and amusing stories. One tale was of Ollie Beck who only drank Camp coffee. He collected so many empty bottles he was able to 'plant' the bottles upside down to line his borders in his garden. During the building of the bypass, which was opened in 1968, graves were discovered from Little Worlingham Church. The remains were re-interred in Worlingham churchyard. Members also heard how the Wigg family had been beneficiaries of the villages by providing land for the school and the Methodist chapel. Not all of the stones had a happy ending, for on Christmas Eve in 1891 there had been a tragic rail crash, when two trains collided head-on. The villages once had five shops but today only one remains. One thing that has not declined is the Horticultural Society. This was formed 52 years ago and is well supported. They now hold two shows a year, in Spring and in Summer. The information researched has been published as a book.

25 November 2004 "Decoys - Wartime Deception" Huby Fairhead

During World War II there was a widespread and varied system of decoys, constructed for the deception of enemy aircraft. At first, the well known pre-war expertise of Shepperton film studios was used for the construction of realistic dummies, but these were comparatively expensive so cheaper methods of production were evolved. Cardboard cut-out aircraft, canvas army vehicles and sandbags with tin hats on, representing soldiers, were employed. Sometimes inadequate camouflage was partially draped over aircraft and vehicles, to lend authenticity to the site. Even cheaper was the tip of an aircraft wing, sticking out from beneath some camouflage netting.

Real airfields had their nearby dummy decoy and real towns had nearby decoy towns, known as "starfish". Benacre was a "starfish" for Lowestoft. Large towns presented problems, but this was solved in the case of Norwich by building "starfishes" for the railway stations, overseen by the Bramerton "starfish" control room. Guide lights were installed on the decoy airfields and sometimes there were pretend blackout failures, when lights from a dummy Nissan hut or the skylights of a decoy aircraft factory were displayed as decoys. After Lord Haw Haw reported the Docking decoy had been discovered, it was converted into a real airfield.

In the period before the D-Day landings, there was a dummy build up of tanks, army vehicles and landing craft in East Anglia, including a decoy army convoy on Carlton Marshes. German reconnaissance planes were secretly allowed access to photograph this dummy build up. After the landings, folded canvas dummies were transported for use on the continent. Successful decoys had also been used by Germany and Japan.

13 January 2005**"Churches, Chapels and Other Places of Worship,
Past and Present in Lowestoft"****Terry Weatherley**

Because the parish church of St Margaret's was some distance from the town, three chapels of ease were built before the Reformation, so that the infirm did not need to walk so far. One was the Good Cross Chapel, situated at the south end of the town, on the road to Kirkley; another was on the site of the present town hall, and the third was near the centre of the town, where it survived until 1832 when it was replaced by St Peter's Chapel in St Peter's Street. The nineteenth century saw a flurry of chapel buildings by Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Swedenborgians and Latter Day Saints, as well as by Anglicans. In Pakefield there was also a Quaker meeting house. The number of places of worship, shown on the 1887 map, reflects not only the increase in population since the coming of Morton Peto and the railways, but also disputes among the dissenters. St John's Church was constructed in 1853, as a result of the expansion of the town south of the Waveney. In 1868, Christ Church was built to serve the Beach area; in 1899 the Fishermen's Bethel was opened and the Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea was built in 1900.

27 January 2005**"South Flint House and Wilde's Score, Lowestoft"****David Butcher**

The history of South Flint House and the recent archaeological finds at Wilde's Score were explained within the context of the history of the town and the country. It was probably early in the fourteenth century when the town moved from its original site, near the present Rotterdam Road roundabout, to the High Street area above the cliff. The 1357 Yarmouth Statute of Herrings suggests increasing worries about the growth of the Lowestoft fishing industry and this may be a clue to the reason for the move. The earliest surviving house in the High Street dates from 1480 and the vaulted merchant's cellars, beneath number 161, were constructed in the early fourteenth century. Finds from the Wilde's Score site appear to confirm these dates.

South Flint House is dated 1586 and the initials of James Wilde and his wife face the High Street. Like other old houses in the same street, South Flint House has a high pitched roof and was originally thatched. The terraces, beneath the houses on the eastern side of the High Street, were all constructed at the same time and appear to be part of a communal undertaking. The second terrace down was used as a rubbish dump which, beneath South Flint House, held broken pottery originating from all over Western Europe. On the first terrace, outhouses had been built and there were remains of fourteenth century cobbled paths and yards. A sixteenth century brick drain led flood water into Rant's Score.

Alongside the rubbish dump on the second terrace, was a summerhouse where, according to the inventory of James Wilde's belongings taken after his death, his clothes were listed. As well as the house furnishings and personal effects, the inventory mentions 5 fishing boats, 4 ferry boats and shares in other boats.

10 February 2005**"The Local Connection in the Life and Works of
Rider Haggard and Rudyard Kipling"****Maureen Long**

In 1989, it was suggested that the Kessingland Times should publish a series of personality profiles. The only person with a Kessingland connection, who was both dead and famous, was Rider Haggard (1856 - 1925). The youngest of eight sons of a Norfolk squire, he attended Ipswich Grammar School and was coached for the Foreign Office. On return home after service in South Africa, he started writing, but was at first unsuccessful, and decided to study law. Taking "King Solomon's Mines" to a publisher, he was offered the choice of a one off payment or the Royalties. Luckily, he chose the Royalties and, in the 1880s and 1890s, became a prolific writer of best sellers, both fiction and non-fiction.

His wife, Louisa, was heiress to the Ditchingham Estate, and the family lived at Ditchingham House, though Louisa preferred to live at the Victoria Hotel in the winter when she considered it too cold and damp there. Rider Haggard originally bought Cliff House in Kessingland as a retreat, renamed it Kessingland Grange, and named the sixteen bedrooms after British admirals. Among his publications were "The Farmer's Year" and "The Gardener's Year" and in Kessingland he became interested in

Coastal Erosion, planting marram grass on the shoreline. Rudyard Kipling visited Rider Haggard in Kessingland, arriving in a chauffeur driven Rolls. They were close friends, sharing the same traditional views and a firm regard for the British Empire. Although Rider Haggard's views are not longer fashionable, his works have never been out of print, and a Rider Haggard Society keeps his memory alive.

24 February 2005

“Hadrian’s Wall”

Mark Mitchels

Between the decision to invade Britain, taken by the Emperor Claudius in 43 AD, and the building of Hadrian’s Wall in 122 AD, the Romans pursued their usual well planned campaign of conquest. Aiming first for the important city of Colchester, and later for the Druid stronghold of Anglesey, the key to their success was the roads they built for the movement of men and supplies. The Roman army enjoyed a comparatively high standard of living being well fed and also well cared for when sick or injured. Each day they marched 20 miles, built a temporary camp, and then moved on the following day. Their advance was delayed by the 61 AD Boudicca uprising but, by 84 AD, they were in Scotland. However, when some men were withdrawn from Britain, a decision was made to leave Scotland and create an artificial barrier between the Romans and the barbarians. A supply road had already been built between Newcastle and Carlisle, where the distance coast to coast is only 80 miles, and the wall was built beside the road. 16 forts were constructed at intervals along the wall, with some other forts to the north and south. Between the forts there were turrets. The massive stone wall was 15 ft high and up to 9 ft thick. All of it was built by the Roman army. Near Carlisle, turf walls and a wooden palisade was used for a small section instead of stone. Behind and in front of the walls there were ditches. The wall was constructed through the territory of the Brigantes, and it was sometimes under attack. From 275 AD onwards, the east coast was under attack and men were transferred to the Saxon shore forts. By 382 AD the wall had been abandoned

10 March 2005

“The Development of Lowestoft (part 2)”

John Holmes

John gave an illustrated talk on Old Lowestoft, showing what great changes had taken place in the town over the years. The original Lowestoft was a relatively small area at the top of the High Street. In the 1880s/90s this narrow Street was widened so that tramlines could be laid. Fortunately, the old houses on the cliffs were left intact, but many of the buildings opposite had to be demolished, and the front of the Town Hall rebuilt. The first trams ran in 1903 from Gorleston to Kessingland. What is now the Bus Station was originally a theatre, and the Coronet cinema became Chadds Department store in the 1880s/90s. London Road, now a busy shopping area was tree lined, with private houses on each side. The first bridge to be built was only 15ft wide, and in 1897 a new swing bridge was built. The Victoria Arcade was where Westgate House now stands. Old Nelson Street, lined with old cottages led on to the beach, and beach huts became popular with the holidaymakers visiting the town. There was much damage caused by bombing during World War II and new shops have replaced the former buildings in the town.

The Beach Village was once a thriving area, and Christ Church built in 1869 served the fishing families who lived there. There were thirteen public houses in the area. Now all has gone. In 1903 there were boat trips from the Claremont Pier. St. Margaret’s Church was in quite a rural setting, with a windmill nearby. How picturesque it must have been. No wonder Lowestoft became popular with holiday makers. In Kirkley, Morton Peto built a splendid terrace of houses which added to Lowestoft’s prestige.

14 April 2005

“History through Old Suffolk Newspapers”

Pip Wright

The earliest surviving Suffolk newspapers date from 1720 onwards. There was then only one man in an office in Ipswich, who waited for the London newspapers to arrive on the coach, and took interesting information from them to publish locally. The local newspapers cost 2 pence in 1730 and the people who could afford to buy them were interested in news from London and Bath, but not news from Lowestoft. There were also no local reporters, so there was little opportunity for obtaining first hand local news.

The earliest local information, apart from local stories interesting enough to be published in the London newspapers, came mainly from advertisements. Examples of these included information about the 1782 travelling exhibition of a lion from the tower of London and an advert for the 1796 Militia Society. Lots were drawn for service in the Militia but for a payment of 30 guineas it was possible to obtain a substitute. The Militia Society offered an insurance policy, with a 5 shilling and 6 pence premium, and would pay for a substitute for any member who became liable for service. There was also an 1826 advert for the "last lottery ever to be held in this country".

In the nineteenth century, crime reports filled the local newspapers. The twice yearly assizes were major local events, but there were also reports from the Quarter Sessions and the Petty Sessions. In the 1820s, there were many capital crimes and the sentencing was described in detail, but it appears that a majority of those convicted had their sentences commuted to transportation to Australia. Until 1855, there was a stamp duty on newspapers which made them expensive, so several people often read one paper.

28 April 2005**"Origins & Early development of Norwich"****Brian Ayers**

Although Norwich was not a Roman town, Ber Street was a Roman road, crossed by another road on causeways over the fens. By the eighth century, there were some small settlements, including one north of the river which gave its name to the present day city. Between the ninth and eleventh centuries, Norwich grew rapidly and in the medieval period was second only to London in population.

There is little pre Conquest historical evidence, but street names, church dedications and artefacts from the river suggest a strong Scandinavian influence, particularly during this period of rapid development. "Gate", a Scandinavian name for road, was frequently used, and churches were dedicated to St Olaf, King of Norway, and to St Clement, another Scandinavian favourite. A defensive "D" shaped ditch in the Scandinavian style was built around the early settlement in the Magdalen Street area and its church of St Clement's, north of the Fye bridge. In 917, Norwich was re-taken by the Anglo Saxon kings. It became a place of importance with its own coinage, marked "Norvic" and had two defended areas enclosed, south of the river as well as the original Magdalen street district.

Norwich thus appears to have been an Anglo-Scandinavian town. By the time of the Norman Conquest, it had a population of 5 to 10 thousand people, possibly 40 churches, and manufactured goods, such as the Pottergate Thetford ware, for trade. Large areas of Norwich were demolished by the Normans when they built the French Borough and the Cathedral and a quarter of the town was cleared for the site of the Castle.

The Society: it's Pre - and Early History

Bob Kidney B. A., M. Ed., Ph. D.

Looking at the latest edition of the Annual Report gave me a surprise and cause to stop and think, all the more unexpected as I was reading the cover and had not even turned to scan the contents. The cause lay in the realisation that the first issue was published over a generation ago and that is likely that few of the original members are likely to recall the beginnings and early history of the society itself. In a perhaps unique way I can echo the words of a Welsh comedian and proclaim that "I was there" when events led to its creation. Whilst it is for others to plot the many memories and wide range of achievements that have followed what follows is a description of events leading up to the formation and shaping of the society in its very first year.

After reading through the current issue I had three very strong responses on receiving and looking through the society's latest publication. The first was to reflect on how much had been achieved in the intervening years. The second was to muse how of that achievement sprang from a mix of serendipity and the remarkable commitment of a small number of interested and dedicated people. My third response was influenced by my two grown-up children urging me on my retirement to gather together and jot down recollections of our family. Two generations had passed since their childhood and so much had gone that now was the time to catch what I could. In a small way these notes are intended as a tribute to what has been achieved and an endeavour to add a little to recording the creation and contributions made by the society to Lowestoft's history and archaeology.

In some ways I am privileged in that I have a unique knowledge of events that led to the formation of the society in 1966. I was involved in the cycle of events that led to its creation and I was fortunate to be asked to be its first chairman and can thus outline some of its pre- as well as early history.

The Pre-history of the Society

From a personal point of view the origins of the society lie in a sequence of events that started in 1959 when serendipity first played a critical part. I went to college intending to train as a teacher of PE and Games, but arrived with both legs in bandages due to a rugby injury the night before I was to leave. Six weeks of recovery gave me an opportunity to review my options and I specialised in History instead. Rather than give depth to appreciation of our past my studies seemed to enhance the speed writing first practiced in secondary school when we had to copy at speed before the history master rubbed his notes off. In college my senior history tutor resorted to a less strenuous approach as he just dictated for an hour or two at a time.

After qualifying I taught in a secondary modern school in an industrial part of a large Midlands city that had five classes to each year, streamed by ability. After the fifth attempt to try to persuade adolescents destined for the then prosperous car factories of the fascination and relevance of an East Anglian landowner's contribution to world wide agriculture when he grew turnips I began to question the value of my contribution to their secondary education. A series of trips to see the world outside the classroom suggested greater pleasure, educational worth and better links with my pupils and I moved to teaching Geography.

A short-list of possible places where we would like to live was developed through a holiday touring Eastern England, and the first suitable post advertised was at the Roman Hill Secondary Boys School. Serendipity smiled again as my application was successful and I was settled in before being summoned by the headmaster to be told that I was not only also responsible for History teaching but I was to be joined by a half-time specialist in the subject. It transpired that the organiser for adult education classes in North Lowestoft was attached to the school but had been in hospital having written off another car returning home at night as he had again missed the turn at the Norwich end of the Acle straight.

At the start of the academic year I went to the school staffroom to see a frail and elderly looking man sitting on his own so I joined him. He was my new colleague and shortly afterwards he asked if I could do him a favour, to which I promptly replied I would if I could. He then proceeded to explain that he might have a new evening class starting at the grammar school but his tutor could not arrive for the first meeting due to prior commitments I explained that I had never taught adults but he just

said it was possible that no-one might be there but if they did he only wanted me to show the couple of film strips he would supply, together with a projector. I had only to turn out the lights so they would follow the images whilst I read the notes. Even I knew there was more to it than that but he said they would be historical topics and that eased my concern, at least until I asked the subject. When he said archaeology I said in a loud voice and to amusement of other teachers who knew my colleague that I could no more spell it than talk about the subject.

After much pleading I agreed to go for one evening and duly found twelve, obviously interested people waiting and somehow struggled through the session. Before the end of the week came congratulations with a request to do a second week as a stand-in by the third week I had an admission that there had never been a tutor booked, but by then I was hooked. Each week for a year consisted of trips to the library, much swatting up and note taking, the drawing up of posters and preparation of lecture notes. The subjects covered were periods of pre- and ancient history starting with the origins of man and coming to focus on this country in the later stages. Rainbird Clarke had just published his standard work on East Anglia and it was invaluable as a regional source but had little to say about Lowestoft and its hinterland. The time periods went up to the late middle ages but at no serious point was there any attempt to deal with archaeological methods. Due more to nervousness and the now selective use of the school history stock my style was didactic, I talked and they listened and it was quite a while before I began realise how much more the group members knew than I did.

When the time came to thank my students and now friends for their patience and forbearance, and say that I could do no more, the idea of a society was put forward. A date was set, the upstairs room at the previous site of the public library was booked and we tried to organise publicity. I went expecting at best a small group and an informal discussion from which ideas might come forth, I was therefore less than prepared to face over a gathering of over a hundred people and the challenge of chairing more formal proceedings. Encouraging participation and comment was both helped and hindered by an elderly man from Kessingland who sat in the front row and insisted in holding the floor until I had to ask him to stop and let others join in. Enthusiasm and support for a local society were self evident, as it was for both archaeology and local history, the society's name was chosen to reflect these aspirations.

The Formation of the Society

By the close of the meeting the society had been created and I was to be joined by nine other colleagues in being charged with its initial shape organisation and activities. Once again serendipity played its part in that we were not only all enthusiastic but brought different skills and interests and were thus able to develop, take forward and integrate a range of ideas and developments.

One of the early decisions that we took was that each member of foundation committee should have both a general and a specialist role and that we would meet regularly at first to build the foundations. It was decided that the society should have a President and Vice Presidents and a short list of invitations was duly prepared. It was then that we learnt of unwritten rules of social hierarchy and geography for whilst we were in Suffolk, (but only just), Norfolk was seen as separate, and there was still a strong sense of the old and new orders. Lord Somerleyton became our President and was joined by P.A.Taylor, the then Town Clerk, and Dr. Eastwood. The standard offices of chairman, treasurer and secretary were obvious but the next steps helped to define the role and direction of the society in ways that have served well over the years.

We saw needs to build a strong lecture programme, for publicity and information, to develop records and in due course publications, and there was a keen desire to start exploring and collecting I doubt that any of us would claim to have been far seeing or deep in our thinking at that time, rather we followed our instincts and interests. What began and grew in that first year were seven strands that developed to form the work of the society in the coming years.

1. The Lecture Programme: The annual programme of lectures and events was seen as the spine of the society's activities and in that first year it was designed to try to set standards and reflect a mix of local and regional subjects. Lowestoft china, Beccles Past and Present, and Caister on Sea were joined by lectures on Sutton Hoo, The Norfolk Man and His Dialect, the Lost Villages of Suffolk and

Norwich Cathedral. The speakers included Elizabeth Owles, the Suffolk County archaeologist, Charles Green, the government archaeologist and Dick Bagnall Oakley, author and broadcaster. The society's membership quickly rose to over a hundred and this was reflected in the attendances at each of the meetings. By the end of that year there was a need to look for a move from the upstairs room at the old site of the library and the society re-located to the college in September 1967.

2. Site Visits: A series of organised field visits were initiated and I recall seeing and hearing of the excavations of the Saxon village at West Stow, visiting Cambridge and Ely Cathedral and being challenged by conducted tour of the town walls of Great Yarmouth. On the latter occasion the centuries-old rivalry and the juxta-position of well established and novice societies came to head when a "*sotto voce*" comment was heard recalling the time in the 17th century when the fishermen of Lowestoft came ten miles north to protest over taxation and burnt the Yarmouth boats on the beach. Not all of the activities were to be indoors and academic as the first Christmas gathering was a social evening at the Wherry Hotel when Peter Harris began the first of a number of pleasant occasions by combining entertainment with fund-raising by running an auction.

3. Field Work: There was obvious enthusiasm for an active role in exploring for local archaeological evidence. Conscious of the warnings given in standard texts on the subject of the need for knowledge, skills and detailed recording that none of us had we looked first to field walking. My first recollections are of visiting ploughed land near Kessingland church after the crops had been harvested and the fields ploughed. It was strange enjoying some success and a good walk on a Sunday morning, and listening to the roar of nearby lions at the Wildlife Park. The finds included extensive numbers of Neolithic flakes, cores, hammer-stones and finished tools, some of high quality; less numerous but of perhaps greater historical interest were fragments of early pottery and Mesolithic blade tools.

The early success encouraged field searching over a wider area, including whilst gardening and I can recall finding a leaf-shaped arrow head whilst preparing a flower bed at home in Oulton village. Society members working in the building industry reported finds when searching trenches and spoil heaps. Within a few months Lowestoft and the surrounding area acquired evidence and knowledge of a history going back much further than previously known.

Whilst we had no skill or experience at excavation a number of members had clearly joined to carry out original research in the field. Conscious of the need for caution a site was found in the form of the ruined church at Flixton on Lothingland. It had the benefits of being accessible, was not listed as registered site and on advice from the County Archaeologist work was commenced inside the ruined walls down to floor level. The assumption that no harm would come and little was expected to be learnt was only right in part as the floor was covered with glazed tiles. Furthermore the adjacent pit with its rectangular top, the clear field markings that pointed to three room foundations and the kiln waste pointed to a medieval pottery on site.

Shortly afterwards Wimpey's began the deep excavation for the foundation for a tower block of flats in the old town and members of the society joined the workforce. It was a unique opportunity to search the diggings as they went down through the remains of the Lowestoft China factory. The Town Council owned a collection of fine antique examples, museums and serious collectors were extant and at that time a standard reference book had just been published. Navvies on the site quickly became interested and passed their findings on to Paul Durbidge and Barry Girling. It was the visit of a national expert from the Victoria and Albert Museum to the site after being contacted by Barry that brought to light the originality of their research and the needs for revisions to the newly published standard text.

4. Networking: Strong interest and knowledge in depth existed before and beyond the society after it was formed as individuals had extensive experience, much of which was academic but some also linked to commercial activity, notably in relation to local antiques. Dr Eastwood's finds of three large, polished Neolithic stone axes were remarkable as they were discovered over time in the same

location whilst field walking. Their size and quality pointed to either ceremonial or commercial purposes in pre-historic times. When visiting him we also learnt of his personal collection that included a fine antique collector's cabinet that he had bought some years before. He told us that a dealer just happened to ask if he would be interested in the stones and books it had contained that he had in buckets in his Store. Paul Durbidge and I were then treated to an exploration of the catalogues and specimens of one of the world's foremost historical geological collections.

Whilst walking the fields in Kessingland Paul and I met a man walking his dog, as he explained to escape kitchen duties on Sunday mornings. At first it seemed a strange choice of activity as he was a local postman who had recently moved to the area, but he had come from Wiltshire where he had been a keen, expert collector of pre-historic flint tools. Tony Collins was happy to share his wealth of experience with members of the society but never became a member; rather he contributed expert advice and analysis in the early years. His one regret was being unable to afford a sabbatical year to work on the origins of man with the Leakey's in East Africa when he received the invitation. The sharpness of his vision was remarkable and he was able to place his walking stick in a ploughed field and advise us to walk a small area in concentric circles around it, and "guarantee" finds of flint tools.

Dennis Collings of Southwold was an even more remarkable contact. Once described as a hermit who lived in a terraced house Dennis's home housed a personal collection of remarkable diversity that included a ship's mast the length of his hallway and up the stairs, fine examples of middle eastern carpets, furniture and metal work, artefacts from the far east and a collection of crudely shaped stones and old bones collected from the beach and cliffs at Eastern Bavents. Over time we came to learn that Dennis' parents had been missionaries in Borneo, he had been the Curator of the Raffles Museum in Singapore. Dennis and his wife had lived with primitive tribes in the jungle of Borneo during the period of the Japanese landings in the Second World War. He learnt at first hand of Stone Age practices that were still in use and demonstrated some of the skill he had learnt then. Later it emerged he had a first class degree from Cambridge and maintained links with the Department of Archaeology and was a long-time friend of L.S.B. Leakey who he visited in London.

Dennis claimed his work at the Bavents was producing archaeological evidence of the presence of early man in this country in an inter-glacial period long before any accepted view of man in this country. He was not able to find conclusive, datable evidence of human occupation in situ and had learnt to be cautious when airing his views but he did refer to published works from the 1930s that referred to eoliths, or the first stone tools, that were similar to those found by Leakey's established research into the origins of man in Africa. I recall visiting abandoned quarries behind a pig farm with him and Paul Durbidge to search for specimens, and then travelling on to see the collection still stored but not displayed in the Suffolk County Museum. Dennis was eventually persuaded to share his depth of knowledge through a series of evening lectures given by a real archaeologist.

The round towers built of flint and attached to churches are a feature of East Anglia and had been the subject of debate over the years as to their origins and date. Explanations had included wells left high by the floods, watch towers and Sanctuaries during the Dark Ages and bell towers that were round because freestone was not easily available or was too expensive to build them square. Bill Goode had long had an interest in the towers and after retirement he extended his research and in due course published his book to accompany his lectures on the subject.

5. A Reference Point: The role of the society as a point for seeking information on finds and sharing objects found walking on the beach, in the countryside or on building sites, or even in drawers at home, started early. The day of the metal detector was yet to come, though some-one in the society did experiment with an elderly ex-army model but with limited success. Rather the contribution of the interested observer tended to rely more on local farmers at that time as well as the occasional find that caught the eye. I can recall seeing the collection of crudely shaped flint tools, including arrow-heads, which did not seem to quite fit with the finish otherwise being found. The farmer at Hopton had quite a collection and invited us to walk his ploughed fields where more turned up, in doing so he started another strand of the work of the society.

The Emerging Roles of the Society

Looking back over more than three decades reminds of a saying of American friends of ours for often when Ken is reminiscing his wife Jean smiles and gently says "So that is how you remember it?" With the gift of wisdom of hindsight I can recognise the establishment of a range of roles and activities in the inaugural years of the society, some by clear planning and enthusiasm, others more again to serendipity. Firstly there was and still is the sharing of information and ideas as well as friendships that has the annual lecture programme at its core.

Secondly there is the adding to the stock of knowledge of local archaeology and local history by encouraging and co-ordinating active research. Rainbird Clarke's excellent volume was published in 1960 when he brought together a summary of the archaeological finds for East Anglia to that date. I can only recall one entry for the Lowestoft area, and even then the reference to the possible Roman lighthouse at Corton was a qualified note as the only evidence was a written reference. So much more can and has been written now.

The decision to enter into publishing before the first meeting of the society seemed more hopeful than realistic when the inaugural committee met to think about the future. The continuing production of the annual report with even a quick scan of the contents pages show how much has been recorded that may otherwise been lost or have remained with Individuals. A brief glimpse at the contents of the publications covering the last ten years illustrates this point for there is now written record in the public domain of:

- Mammoth, bison and well pits at the Pakefield Cliffs
- A Bronze Age urn at Covehithe
- Finds of medieval pottery
- A report of the 1995 storm surge and its effects
- Evidence of the Romano-British presence
- A Saxon silver figure from Carlton Colville, now in the British Museum
- An account of the former Morton's Food Factory
- Memories of the 1953 Flood
- Lowestoft clay pipes
- Excavations at the Old School House in Wilde's Score, and
- The Carlton Colville National School

This short list is but a selection of the reports and does not include the accounts of the Field Group's finds, the annual account of the Lowestoft Scene, and a summary of the lecture programme or the business of the society as a voluntary organisation.

The other major contribution by the society to the collection, recording and sharing of evidence and interpretation of the past is, of course, the town museum. It is now seven years on from the Silver Jubilee of its opening in the old Lavender Laundry building close to where the library now stands. The partnership with the borough council led on to combining of the civic collection of Lowestoft china and other works of art in the present location in Everitts Park and the official opening by the Queen on 1st August 1985. Twenty years before the prospect can only be claimed to be little more than a gleam in the inaugural members who began the collection. Its continued role as focal point, a record of the past and the 20,000+ visits each year is another testament to the hard work and achievement its organisers and team of volunteers, and to the society.

The pre-history, formation and early shaping of the roles and direction of the Society owed much to a combination of good luck and enthusiasm and hard work. Looking back it is possible to trace much of its later work and development to those early beginning, and to the dedication and commitment of a small number of key members. It would be too easy to suggest long-sight and strategic planning whereas recall indicates spontaneity, teamwork, sheer enthusiasm and on-going commitment underlay continuing progress. So much has been achieved by the first generation of members and supporters of the Society. Rather than rate a single mention of a lost lighthouse off Corton, known only through a single written reference at the outset so much more now is known of the archaeology and local history of Lowestoft. Who knows what more will be discovered and recorded in the foreseeable future.

A Second Limited Excavation in the Grounds of the John Wilde School Lowestoft, Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

REMAINING UNIDENTIFIED MATERIAL FROM THE EXCAVATION OF THE DRYING AREA IN 2003

At the end of the first excavation on the site during October 2003 by the Lowestoft Archaeological Society (LA&LH Society Annual Report Volume 36 2003/04 pages 16-33), four items remained unidentified and were sent to the Archaeological Unit at Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Three patinated flat discs of bone with small centre perforations came in three diameters, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch with all having a constant thickness of $\frac{1}{32}$ inch. These were identified as probable toggles and were consistent of an 18th century date.

Also a large piece of what appeared to be cast clay like material was encountered amongst an infill of broken red pin tile and mortar. It was plano convex in section and broken in its length and was thought to be a section of pargetting, traces of red paint were visible on one edge and the main surface was black in colour. The fabric contained straw and a suggested post medieval date would tie in with material it was found with.

THE SIEVING OF THE SPOIL HEAPS

After the earlier excavation of part of the drying area it was suggested that the two large soil heaps on the SE side might also contain material of one sort or another and that it might be worthwhile to attempt to work through them. The heaps had been there some time and were formed as a result of various soils being removed from the adjacent vicinity and they were made up of a collection of building material including bricks, cobbles, concrete, plastic etc., all mixed in amongst already well compacted soils. A large framed sieve was made and set up upon two steel trestles some three feet above the ground and after sorting out some of the rubble soil, was then passed through the sieve. The dryness and compact nature of the soil resulted in many small lumps which were broken up prior to sieving and after the sieve was reasonably full of examined fill this was deposited a short distance away before fresh soil was loaded up and the whole process started all over again. It was to say at least a very labour intensive operation and as well as being both physical and dirty the returns for the amount sieved were comparatively sparse.

To his credit Adrian Charlton spent weekends both sieving and raking through the heaps in many cases finding little after several hours apart from small pot sherds or glass and bone. By reason of their size probably little more than half of the heaps were finally sieved but at the end of the day several of the discoveries made were of considerable interest as well as being quite varied. The following list gives some idea of the range and type of objects uncovered during the operation while at the same time there were several hundred smaller fragments of both glass and pottery too small to retain.

COINAGE FROM SIEVING

Edward VI silver penny. First period coinage 1547-49

Obverse – profile crowned bust facing right – inscription ED()

Reverse – square topped shield with large cross – inscription () LIN()

Silver halfgroat? Elizabeth I 1571

Obverse – bust with rose behind

Reverse – legend Civitas. LONDON

Very abraded silver hammered, probably a second halfgroat

Charles I farthing 1625/49

Great Yarmouth Traders token 1664

Great Yarmouth Traders token 1654 TH---- RICHMUND

Charles II farthing 1673/5
George II farthing 1749
George III halfpenny 1799
George IV farthing 1822
Victorian halfpenny 1862
Victorian farthing 1870
Victorian penny 1897
Elizabeth penny 1964
Edward VII halfpenny 1903
American cent 1984
Elizabeth ½p
Elizabeth 2p, two in number.

TRADEWEIGHT

An early to middle Victorian tradeweight, from 1850 onwards, local verification marks became widespread and the weight has both marks as well as Suffolk engraved into it.

METAL - GLASS - BONE

Small bronze suspension loop from a sword belt 16-17th century type ⇒

Three lead pewter buttons with shanks ⅝ inch to 1 inch diameters

Brass naval button with shank

Small brass thimble

Round copper alloy stud, post medieval

Eight brass dress pins

Flattened lead soldier with traces of yellow paint

Small grooved cube ⅝ inch square, possibly a counter

Narrow half section of small bone handle

Shallow S profile brass picture hook

Thin slice of bone oblong in shape ⅞ inch x 1¾ inch ⅛ inch, there is a shallow cut across the centre with a raised brass pin and there are five drill sinkings either side of the line, domino counter

Pierced plain glass bead

Pierced oval faceted green bead

Small pierced blue bead

Five assorted white beads

Small black bead

Small section of pierced lead

Three thin flat perforated circles of bone ⅝ - ¾ inch in diameter by ⅛ inch thick are thought to be bone toggles and probably date from the 18-19th century.

Eight clay marbles with colours varying from dark buff to pale orange

Green glass marble

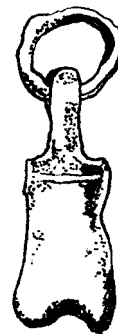
Lead musket ball with flattened side

Greater part of glass wine bottle seal, the remains are heavily oxidised with the surface of the seal well pitted showing no signs of letters or marks

Greater part of neck from oxidised 17th century onion bottle

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Small section of grey base with finger pinching



Bronze suspension loop from a sword belt 16-17th century type
full size

Three body sherds in a dark grey gritty fabric

Light grey shard from the neck of a large jug with horizontal parallel grooves and coated in a rich light green glaze

Dark buff body sherd with pitted dark green external glaze

Thin light buff body sherd with dribbles of yellow and green glaze. *Saintonge*

Section of micaceous dark grey base.

MILLSTONE

Small rounded section of lava stone just over 1 inch thick by approximately $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. One side is flat while the other has been hollowed out to a depth of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch suggesting the object may have been used for grinding purposes.

SALTGLAZED STONEWARE

Thick shard from a salt glazed bellarmine neck showing part of a large stylised mouth from a face mask

Small handle from a bellarmine

Lower part of handle stub from a salt glazed jug

Part neck and handle from a bellarmine with suggestion of the figure 2 at the top of the handle
FRECHEN 16-1700

Part of a raised circular medallions, probably from a jug with the profile of a man's head wearing what appears to be a ruff. He is also wearing a close fitting hat and has a moustache, raised scroll work is present on both sides of the head

Greater part of circular medallion from a jug with the profile of a woman looking right, she is wearing a hat placed high on the top of the head and appears to be wearing a raised collar around her neck. *COLOGNE FRECHEN 1600*

Small section of thick bellarmine with the corner of a large decorated medallion. *FRECHEN 16-1700*

Thick body sherd with handle scar in light brown stoneware probably from a jug (*cir. 1800*)

Section of thick base with wire marks from a bellarmine (*cir. 1700*)

Thin buff coloured body shard from a small globular stoneware jug with the remains of an offset handle (*cir. 1600*)

Part base from a grey stoneware frilly based jug 16-1700.

BLUE AND GREY STONEWARE

Part light grey rim from mug

Part grey rim with narrow blue bands from a cylinder mug

Three rim forms with flattened tops from chamber pots with colours varying from grey, cream and buff

Grey handle stub from a mug

Remains of two larger than normal Westerwold handles in grey buff are possibly from cylinder mug

Two base remains from mugs

Decorated blue and grey body sherds and two additional cream sherds with raised leaf and flower decoration

Remains of graffiti marks on the underside from a mug.

17th CENTURY GLASS

A number of abraded sherds from 17th century wine bottles including base remains were encountered, as well as the neck and rim from one vessel. All the glass was heavily oxidised.

CLAY PIPES

Although a small amount of clay pipe stems were present only fourteen were retained, with seven

having part of the bowl attached

The earliest bowl types were three dating from c 1680-1710, two were attributed to 1750-1800 while the broken bowls of another five are probably in the same date range

The remains of six decorated types including a large Negro head and fluted forms belong to the Victorian period

Stamped letters appear on the heels of five bowls and are

I B – two in number

I M – two in number

I G – one in number

POTTERY

Part of a dark coarseware base with a rich sandy green glaze internally and a splash of dark green/brown glaze on the underside, *c 1600*

Grey buff body sherd with traces of water scale on the internal surfaces, *15-1600*

Grey body sherd with external surfaces glazed in a pitted sandy brownish glaze and decorated with a horizontal nicked strip, *c 1600*

End of a handle with thumb impressed mark from a coarseware jug, *c 16-1700*

Various brown glazed red earthenware, some with rilling, *c 17-1800*

Section of 17th century red earthenware strap handle with light brown patchy glaze

Red earthenware body sherd with dark green glazed external surfaces

Recessed rim from a bowl glazed both sides with rich light brown glaze

Small red earthenware strap handle from a pipkin

Section of black Wedgwood handle

Part rim of tin glazed plate with abraded flower pattern in blue, the rim edge is white changing to a pitted varnish like appearance, *Dutch c 1700*

Pre-crust rim from Staffordshire type press moulded flatware with white over a dark brown slip, *late 1700 – early 1800*

Small buff coloured foot from a skillet, trace of a dark greenish yellow glaze on the underside of the foot with a splash of yellow glaze also on the back

Horizontal handle in yellow glaze from a small 17th century bowl

Rim from a small bowl with a copper green glaze on the inner surface and pale yellow externally, *c 1700*

Three rim sherds and two base forms from Metropolitan flatware, cream coloured slips over alight brown background, *c 1700*

Rim from a small copper green bowl with plain external surfaces

Rim sherd with white slip trailed on dark brown slip, Staffordshire type press moulded slipware, *c 1800*

Near black high gloss handle on very hard dark red fabric middle to late 1700, *Jackfield ware*.

WIG CURLER

A complete hair curler of 18-19th century date was also recovered, it was bone shaped measuring 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in length and just over $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter at each end. The fabric is similar to biscuit ware and has a patina to its surfaces, the colour is a creamy white and where it has been shaped in the middle narrow irregular paring lines are visible.

Fragment of tin glaze probably from a bowl decorated with blue leaves and reddish brown dots, *possibly Dutch 1700*

DUTCH SLIPWARE

Rim sherd from large dish with white trailed slip decoration, some green glaze over this, *17-1800*.

LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN

Fragments of porcelain were well scattered and mostly quite small in size making it difficult to identify as to what the fragments originally belonged to.

With one exception all the coloured shards were blue and white and there were also a number of biscuit ware sherds and occasional kiln furniture such as pegs and rings.

One glazed sherd from a fluted bowl has faint remains of a flower and swag, the pattern which is on the outside was probably once coloured but at the time of recovery shows little more than pencil lines with no colour visible

Below are listed some of the eighteen pieces recovered, the remainder being too small to identify

saucer rim transfer printed cell border 1780;

biscuit ware peg;

fragment of small stacking rim;

blue and white sherd from a bowl 1765-70;

sherds from blue and white plate 1770;

two small blue and white sherds from a bowls;

white body sherd with fluted profile and faded pattern 1780-90;

part biscuit ware tea bowl base;

greater part of tea bowl base with blue motif 1760;

part base with overall blue internal pattern.

IMARI

Body sherd of Imari possibly from a bowl, the inside decoration is made up of merged dark spots of blue outlined with small circles of gold to form leaves. Also present are leaves painted in orange but they are not outlined. The external surface of the sherd is glazed in a sandy green glaze.

GLAZED FIRE PLACE TILES

Corner of a white glazed tile with blue spiders head decoration, *c1700 Dutch*

Three other fragments have sparse blue decorations with one showing the upper part of a man wearing a wide brimmed hat, *c1700 Dutch*

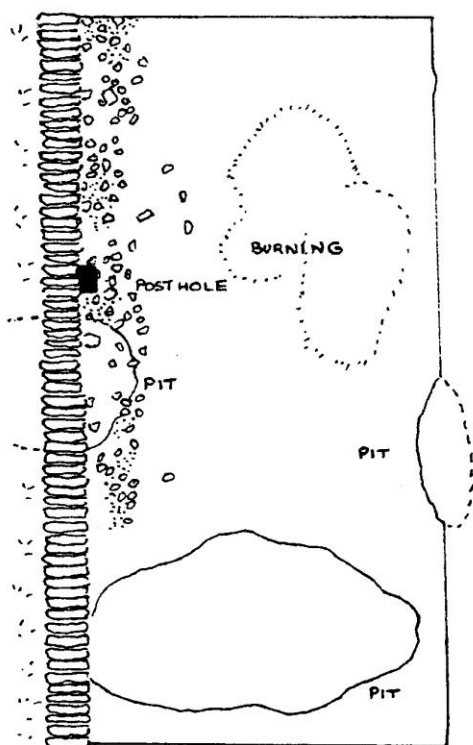
Six pieces of tile, the decoration formed on a pale purple background and this takes the form of outlined white 'paths' starting from the corners and curving to both the left and right, Victorian?

CHINESE

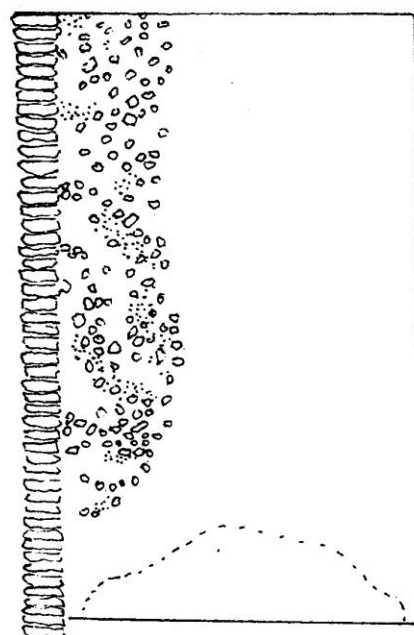
Part of a saucer with shallow foot ring, the background is a watery blue decorated on the inside with bamboo stems and sprigs of leaves

Fragments of probable saucer base with foot ring, the watery blue background is present with the inside decorated with an obscure blue pattern

Fragments from two blue and white night lights, the remains are small and are from the lower parts of the square shaped vessels. The white recessed panels are pierced while the external corners are decorated with dark blue leaf like patterns.



SQUARE TWO SHOWING SECOND LAYER COBBLES
AND GROUND FEATURES



SQUARE TWO SHOWING FIRST LAYER
OF COBBLES



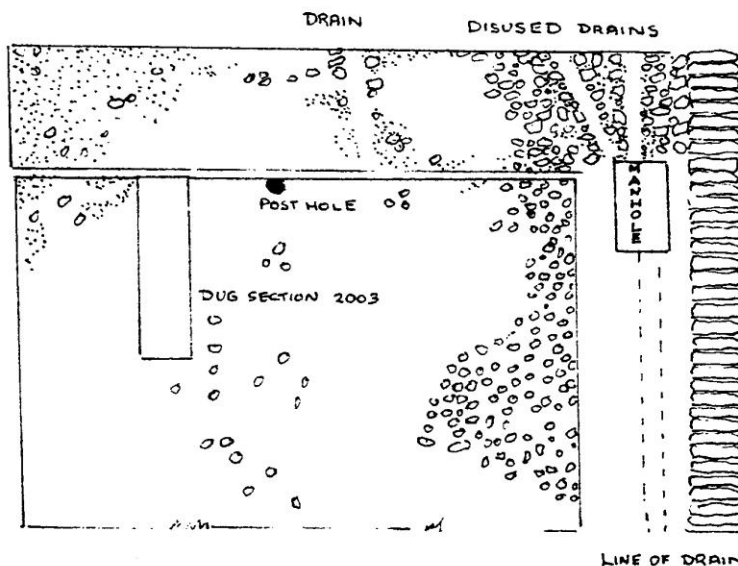
EXTENSION TO
SQUARE ONE

JOHN WILDE SCHOOL

GROUND PLAN

SCALE APPROXIMATELY

1/4 INCH = 1 FOOT



WESTERN END OF SQUARE ONE

THE MEDIEVAL SCENE

Over the last three years odd sherds of medieval pottery have been found on the land adjacent to the school building as well as in the made up ground beneath the school floor. One such piece was a decorated green glazed sherd from a jug complete with finger indentations but it is unlikely that it was its original location but more likely that it was bought into the building amongst soil being used to form the upper levels of the school building. In the basement the situation was different with a number of medieval soot stained sherds including rim being found with a scatter of oyster shells and small sherds of Mill green pottery. Soil colouration showing in section beneath the walls on the south and western sides indicated there were archaeological deposits and these contained fragments of bone, shell and carbon along with indications of burning.

Peter Murphy from the UEA visited the location at this stage and took two samples of the soils for examination and results of this revealed charred plant material, fragments of charcoal and heat shattered flint. Unburnt mussel shell fragments, fish scales and ribs were also identified as a result of tests. By reason of structural problems, further investigation was very limited, the south face abutted John Wild Score while the western section was dominated by a brick cross wall retaining several tons of infill.

In trowelling the floor of the basement a concentrated area of burning was encountered measuring approximately three feet across. Further trowelling produced more grey body sherds and splintered animal bone as well as small fragments of plaster, most of these appeared plain but black lines and suggestions of a crimson pigment were present on five other. At a point where the mixed soils gave way to sand again on the edge of the fire stains a bronze pronged buckle was recovered, and apart from the loss of the two side plates and the iron pin, the remains were in good condition.

The basement was comparatively small in width measuring only 6 feet and this added to the weight problems of the two walls added problems of going deeper and so further investigation was halted. While the burning encountered at base level indicated a heath interpretation of the deposits observed in both the southern and western sections remain unclear though it may well be that this was burnt debris from some walled structure or something similar.

While the first limited excavation of the drying Area, LA&LH Society Annual Report Volume 36 pages 16-33 was intended to support the documentary evidence for the site, the second square was positioned on a line extending northwards from the basement in an attempt to find any further extent of medieval activity.

This second square was positioned some 57 feet to the north of the present school building and 23 feet from the rear brick boundary wall of number 77 High Street. As in the first excavation there is a steady fall of the present ground surface from west to east and again the square was positioned beside a rebuilt wall running east west. The square measured 15 feet long by 8 feet wide, the width being restricted by the presence of the two very large heaps of redistributed soils which were later partially sieved.

EXCAVATION OF THE SECOND SQUARE

After the initial clearing of surface material from the square, the area was trowelled, which in turn uncovered odd flint cobbles and small stones, pieces of animal bone, clay pipe stems and a scatter of iron remains. Shale and occasional ash was present along with some very small fragments of coal and as work progressed more heavily rusted iron remains and unpatinated shards of glass were encountered towards the eastern end of the square. With more soil being removed amounts of blue transfer wares began to appear across the excavation with occasional sherds from both plain and decorated plates and dishes. Some of the dishes had shallow scalloped rims with an incised pattern of close cuts following the rim around the plate, a thin glaze in either blue or green was the applied around the rim. On one such dish decorated this way the centre has a black transfer showing a small boy standing with cupped hands and the words '*A present for thomas*' beside the figure. Sherds from large creamware bowls were also encountered along with plain white sherds from plates, the footring showing considerable signs of ware. The continued removal of soils uncovered more cobbles but this time they appeared as one level running parallel to the adjacent brick wall in a east west direction. Transfer wares were also found between some of the cobbles with occasional sherds of glass from

wine bottles, also present with more clay pipe stems and several bowls were two sherds of slip decorated Metropolitan ware. Close to the present wall a small base section from a pretty Maiolica cup was found and near by a large tin glazed body sherd of Dutch origin was trowelled up complete with its Chinaman decoration in colours of purple and yellow. When the cobbles were finally exposed they measured just under three feet in width at the widest point and filtered out towards the eastern end, while to the west they disappeared beneath the earth that terminated the end of the square. They had been laid in a bed of sand approximately three inches thick and the remains of both pin tiles and several pieces of soft red brick were present amongst them with occasional bits of chalk.

Adjacent soils began to produce both rim and body sherds of the blue and grey Westerwold as well as occasional body sherds from salt glazed bellarmines while towards the eastern end a number of sherds from red glazed earthen wares were recovered.

The soils appeared very mixed with more ash and burnt clinker and amongst this were animal bones from both sheep and pig and several shards of glass from wine bottles. The continued scraping back of the surface across the square showed a slight colour change adjacent the north face and this also sounded hollow when tapped with the trowel blade. In removing the soft content we found that it was made up of a mixture of ash and dark soil and amongst this was a sherd of medieval coarseware from a large jug, part of a base from a Lowestoft Porcelain tea bowl and a small pottery foot from a pipkin. In removing all the content the feature was just over sixteen inches wide by a little over three feet in length, the depth was very irregular but two feet eight inches at its deepest point.

The presence of so much mixed soil adjacent to the cobbles posed the question, was there anything beneath them, so a two foot wide section was cut through them to find out more. Results of this showed the mixed soils continued underneath the cobbles and small pieces of bone and spots of carbon were also present, two medieval sherds of green glazed pottery were found along with fragments of oyster shell. The section was subsequently widened and fourteen inches beneath the first layer of cobbles another layer began to appear again running parallel with the brick wall but lacking the uniformity and sandy bed of the first layer. As a result of this all the first layer was then removed and after some time soils were brought down to this second layer.

During the removal more salt glaze stonewares and fragments of post medieval brick were recovered during the operation along with more imported Westerwold from both cylinder mugs and chamber pots. Some sherds of Delft were present although the majority had lost its glaze as a result of the acidity in the soils. When completely uncovered the second area or strip of cobbles appeared very haphazard and this too had several half red bricks of 16th century date. Several of the cobbles also had mortar attached and overall most appeared very irregular both in size and shape. The layer was narrower than the first being less than two feet wide and it was noticeable that a number of fist sized lumps of chalk were present where stones were missing. In trowelling between them small fragments of animal bone and the neck of wine bottle were found along with various sherds of 16-17th century coarseware. Just as with the first layer the second spread filtered away at the eastern end of the square leaving an exposed strip of approximately seven feet. It was at this stage there were noticeable colour changes in the soil at the eastern end leading to the discovery of a large infilled feature which was probably a pit running north south with part still under the east end of the excavation square. The presence of press moulded slip wares and two wine bottle bases lying in the infill suggested that the intrusion may be of 18th century date and this was later confirmed. By reason of its size and position the feature was not tested any further at this stage until the investigation of the second cobble area and adjacent surfaces had been completed.

After measuring and photographing the second layer of cobbles they were subsequently lifted and the whole square scrapped across and more colour changes were noticed as a result of this. For the most part the ground appeared much firmer, the soil having a buff loamy texture almost like clay, carbon spots had been observed earlier but now there was solid evidence of burning showing in the soil with some of the small bone fragments also showing signs of burning.

Medieval pottery was distributed right across the square and there was a noticeable grouping of light buff to white wares with liberal coatings of green glaze near the western end. The pottery by reason of its type was mostly Saintonge with a green glazed white ware base probably having origins in Northern France. From the same spot came an abraded medieval coin or token as well as a small

bronze strap end and from the adjacent south west corner an incomplete copper alloy scabbard was recovered beside more medieval coarseware. On the south side trowelling back revealed a dark infilled post hole beside which was the beginning of another probable pit cut through the soil. Removal of the dark infill contained by the post hole produced a few small stones but nothing else while the probable pit positioned adjacent to it now showed very clearly and protruded into the square by nearly twelve inches. It was a little more than three feet in width and investigation of the enclosed soils produced more small chips of animal bone along with oyster shells. The edge of the feature appeared to slope towards the underside of the present wall and by reason of its location it would not have been safe to test the feature further to determine its limits.

In the continuing working eastwards towards the large pit feature more coarseware and glazed medieval pottery was uncovered. It was mostly from large jugs and strap handles as well as body sherds and scattered amongst them were more splintered animal bones from domestic ox.

It was at this point that while trowelling near the large infill the broken remains of four medieval floor tiles were found, three were glazed with one having an impressed pattern, although the subject matter was somewhat obscure.

By now the soil across the entire area appeared as a fairly consistent colour with the burnt area now very noticeable, although there were comparatively few traces of carbon around the area in question. A second north south section was cut across the square in an attempt to determine the thickness of the medieval layer and while odd spots of carbon and shell showed in section, sand began to appear within a few inches. More of the buff loamy like soils were trowelled back resulting in a few heavily abraded medieval pot sherds and a single sheep's jaw bone.

Fragments of oyster were occasionally seen as were some more spots of carbon but the removal of all the soils overlaying the sand appeared to show an undisturbed situation and further small sections cut into the sand confirmed this with the substance showing as being completely clear of any disturbance.

MEDIEVAL JUG NECKS

Hard dark grey rim of approximately 4 inches diameter with 1 inch diameter rod handle stub coming off the top. A small finger hole is present on the inside of the rim, probably being created when the handle was attached.

Jug neck and part strap handle in red earthenware. The top handle has been attached one inch down from the top of the moulded rim and is 1½ inches wide. A pitted reddish brown glaze is present on the handle and parts of the neck and rim.

Strap handle and part rim from a dark greyware jug the clay shows signs of cracking in the centre where it has been attached to the rim of the jug.

Cross section of a strap handle nearly 2 inches across by over ½ inch thick, the fabric is in a very hard light brown colour with a dark grey core containing small round grits. The handle has come from a large jug which has been decorated externally with three shallow grooves and a liberal coating of a light greenish glaze.

Section from an abraded dark brown jug with a sloping slightly undercut rim, the internal surfaces are dark grey and small grits and mica are visible.

Part rim and remains of strap handle from a dark grey jug, the handle being well nipped in the centre where it had been attached to the neck.

Another crude example of where the handle has been attached to a jug, the remains of two finger indents are visible on the inside and the neck has become distorted where the handle was applied. The rim profile is squared and traces of green glaze are visible above the handle.

Moulded rim profile from a small jug in a light grey fabric.

Strap handle in dark grey soot stained fabric from a small jug.

Lifting lug in a light brown gritty fabric with grey internal surfaces. Spots and dribbles of a greenish brown glaze are present on both surfaces.

MEDIEVAL BASE REMAINS

Large part of a thick base approximately 10 inches diameter with a sagging profile, the fabric is a very hard light brown colour with a dark grey core and the thickness averages $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. Wipe marks are visible on the underside as well as interior, the latter being partially glazed in cheesy green.

Base section in a hard light grey micaous fabric, both wipe and knife marks visible on wall sides.

Abraded base profile in hard light brown colour externally with grey core, internal surfaces indicate water scale. Large worn finger nipping visible on a slumped base profile with spots of green glaze.

Small section of base in dark grey fabric with water scale on the interior surface.

Base form in hard light brown fabric approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, traces of green glaze and cavities left from organic materials.

Base remains from three probable cooking pots all are quite thick, the fabrics being dark grey and of hard texture, straw or grass marks on the underside of one with limescale again present on the inside surface of another.

Half section of base from 4 inch vessel in a very light hard buff fabric, wipe marks visible on the inside of the base which has sagged inwards. The underside of this shows irregular wet clay working and also the suggestion of impressed fabric in the clay.

Small section of hard reddish brown base with strong finger nipping resulting in a profile similar to the frilly based stoneware jugs.

Base and rim section from a $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches shallow bowl. The simple rounded rim rises $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches from a soot marked base, the fabric is light brown with a grey core.

Thin section of a light grey flattened rim probably from a shallow dish.

TRANSITIONAL WARE

A hard brown buff body sherd decorated with a rich orange brown external glaze with splashes. The fabric is hard and the decorative rilling is separated by a plain inch band. It is thought this is late medieval transitional with a date range of 15-1600.

MEDIEVAL BODY SHERDS

Of the 35 dark grey body sherds found it would appear that most come from cooking pots and jugs. The material is hard and gritty and soot is present on a number of sherds. Decoration is present on four and takes the form of applied strips of clay either nicked or in the form of a raised ridge or just pressed on with occasional ridges. On some sherds the internal surface has deteriorated and again water scale is noticeable on some.

Decoration is also present on some of the 43 glazed sherds, most being on the green glazed remains where again the applied strip has been used but this time both vertical as well as horizontal, and also coated in iron oxide. It would seem the decoration was in the form of squares as well as angles, the strips being pressed on sometimes just raised or pressed on leaving a thumb pattern. On a couple of the light brown glazed sherds a thin line of nicked clay has been used while on another a thick vertical strip has been outlined on one side by an incised cut into the clay. The majority of the remaining glazed sherds take the form of worn cheesy glazes to orange brown and a sandy green, these being mostly a hard gritty light brownish fabrics also containing many small grits.

Five small body sherds in a lightish buff including one with a soft gritty green glaze may possibly be Saintonge.

Body sherd in grey fabric with green glaze

Three sherds including rim from a small jug in mill green ware. The fabric is hard pale orange in colour with a rich splash of dark green glaze. 13-1400

SAINTONGE

At least twelve sherds are thought to be of French origin, the fabric is white buff with the external surfaces glazed with a speckled green glaze and most of the sherds come from a small jug. It has been decorated with vertical nicked strips of clay and there are also traces of yellow glaze with

the green. The greater part of a strap handle was also recovered near the sherds and this was unglazed, finger prints are visible in the wet clay and graffiti is present on the top half of the handle. 13-1400

The greater part of a whiteware base is again glazed in a thin green glaze both internally and externally. It is also from a small jug with a base diameter of 3½ inches, and it probably originates from Northern France. 13-1400

FLOOR TILES

Half of a glazed floor tile five inches wide with chamfered edges, cheesy yellow glaze, ⅞ inch thick. 13-1500

Section of floor tile pitted upper surface coated with yellowish light brown glaze, chamfered edges, ¾ inch thick. 13-1500

Section of floor tile with relief pattern, design uncertain, yellowish brown glaze, ⅞ inch thick. 13-1400

Section of floor tile unglazed drag marks on upper surface, ⅞ inch thick. 13-1500

Section of unglazed floor tile of irregular thickness, ⅞-1 inch chamfered edges. 13-1500

PIN OR PEG TILES

Section of tile 2½" x 2" and ½ inches thick in gritty orange fabric, splash of light sandy brown glaze on upper surface. c1600

LAVA MILLSTONE

Very small undressed waste pieces not retained.

Small section, approximately 3" x 3" by 1½ inches thick, underside rough hewn grinding surface left plain. MEDIEVAL

Two small pieces approximately 2½" x 3 inches, rough hewn underside with shallow grooves scoured into the grinding surface, thickness averaging 1 inch. MEDIEVAL

SALT GLAZED STONEWARE 16-1700

Cologne and Frechen were amongst the largest producers of stoneware during the middle ages and noted for the production of bellarmine as well as a wide range of domestic stoneware.

Half the upper section of a small salt glazed bellarmine including neck and small handle.

Lower section of bellarmine handle.

Lower part of a salt glazed strap handle from a jug, the attached body sherd shows as grey stoneware on the inside surface.

Part base of large bellarmine with the distinctive markings on the base that resemble thumb prints.

Two sections of base from bellarmine with one having incised lines in the external surface, while on the underside the base shows a profusion of marks in the clay.

The remains of large bellarmine with the distinctive marking on the base that resemble thumb prints.

Two sections of base from bellarmine with one having incised lines in the external surface while on the underside the base shows a profusion of marks in the clay.

The remains of 53 body sherds are all from bellarmine with colours varying from very dark brown to light brown or dribbles of light salt glaze on an almost grey background, soot is present on a number of the sherds.

Fourteen additional sherds are probably from either jars or mugs, they are mostly thin in section and in variations of brown glaze, from lustrous to several types of light brown. Wiping is visible on only one sherd with two more glazed internally, the lack of both rim and base sherds does cause problems in identification although both thinness and shape of the sherds is of some help. Only one rim sherd was found and this belonged to a mug glazed in a dark rich brown glaze on a grey fabric with the remains of an attached handle one inch below the rim.

Section of a small sandy buff handle probably from a mug.

Body sherd of sandy grey stoneware also from a mug.

Part base of a glazed frilly based stoneware jug. *Langerwehe 16-1700*

WESTERWALD

Situated between Cologne and Frankfurt am main on the Rhine. Westerwald was a major pottery producing area from the middle ages.

Handle and flattened rim from a chamber pot.

Two blue and grey rims and body sherds from a chamber pot with a lion stamped on an applied pad and surrounded by blue.

Six sections of grey chambers pot with thin blue band beneath the rims.

Plain grey rim from chamber pot.

Grey strap handle with lower scroll on body sherd, probably from a mug.

Grey and blue body sherd with thumb mark and upper handle scar.

Four part rims from blue and grey decorated cylinder mugs.

Body sherds with stamped motifs detailed and surrounded with blue colour from chamber pot.

Section from small grey mug handle.

Section from small buff mug handle.

Two base remains from cylinder mugs decorated in blue and purple.

Part of base in grey and blue from a chamber pot possibly a waster.

TIN GLAZED EARTHENWARE

Body sherd from a plate with a floral decoration in yellow, blue and green, the fabric appears as cream. *Anglo Netherlands 17-1800*

Rim section in tin glazed earthenware from a plate or shallow dish with a light green and purple decoration. *Possibly Italian 17-1800*

Large angled body sherd in tin glazed earthenware with white background in contemporary designed with trees, river and chinamen figures, painted in yellow and purple. *Dutch 17-1800*

The remaining sherds of tin glazed earthenware are comparatively small in size with few exceeding over 2 inches, so unless there is either base or rim profiles it is not always easy to identify them. Two heavily crazed sherds appear to come from a large bowl and are decorated with light purple flowers which are outlined in a darker purple. Around the outside of the rim are three dark purple lines containing an oval lattice work running around the rim. *Dutch 17-1800*

The underside of two other sherds including a blue internally decorated rim from a large dish also indicate a Dutch origin by reason of the heavily pitted varnish like texture on the undersides. The remaining eight fragments include two rim from plain tin glazed plates while on two other rim sherds parallel lines in blue with occasional blue dots have been employed as decoration.

Part remains of a footring from a small bowl with three parallel lines radiating upwards from the footring to a small but unclear pattern in deep blue. *Dutch? 17-1800*

PORCELAIN

The base remains of two small Chinese bowls were found, the background colour is in a high glossy, watery blue with decoration limited to a single blue line both internally and externally.

Small sherd from a Chinese tea bowl with its thinned rim and blue lattice like border just inside the rim.

LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN

Small fragment in blue and white from the cover of a miniature tea pot.

Fragment from blue and white bowl. *1765*

Upper part of handle probably from a sauce boat decorated with deep blue designs.

Fragment of biscuit ware from the foot ring of a bowl.

Two sections from bowl rims in biscuit ware.

Rim profile from a bowl with a blue lattice border. *1770-1800*

Rim profile from a bowl with blue lattice border and beginning of small leaf design on external surface.

Section of rim with internal blue lattice border from a bowl with blue foliage pattern externally. 1770-1800

Section of rim with merged blue lattice pattern internally and strong over blue decoration externally.

Bowl rim with scroll flower and cell type pattern in blue on the inside. 1780-1800

A further eleven sherds of Lowestoft were found, the thin narrow rims suggesting they came from cups. Traces of an over glaze pattern are present in the form of a decorated pale red line just inside the rim and a darkened flower like pattern externally.

A fourth sherd from a bowl has a small upturned loop pattern with two parallel lines running above the pattern just inside the rim. On the remaining five small sherds various blue patterns are too small to identify and one of these shows signs of burning.

The remaining two wall sherds appear as plain undecorated forms.

COINS FROM SQUARE TWO

Worn copper alloy coin or token too worn for any identification to be certain but most likely medieval in date.

It is possibly a sterling bust jetton although thinner and less regular than most examples. Stirling bust jettons are counters with size and designs related to the silver penny - circa 1280-1345. Although alternatively it could be a continental copper alloy imitation of an English silver penny. *Faye Minter*

Copper alloy worn Nuremburg token of Rose and Orb type –

Obverse. Three crowns with three fleur-de-lis arranged around a central petaled rose.

Reverse. An imperial orb surmounted by a cross patty within a tressure of three main arches. c1500-85

Both legends on the obverse and reverse are unintelligible. *Identification by Faye Minter, Finds Recording Officer at SCCAS Bury.*

Copper ally Nuremburg jetton rose and orb type –

Obverse. Three crowns and alternate with three fleur-de-lis arranged circularly around a central rose with eight petals. Inscription HANNS KRAVWINCKEL IN NVR

Reverse. An imperial orb surmounted by a cross patty within a tressure of three main arches. c1500-85 Inscription GOTES GABEN SOL MAN LOB

Meneyer Hans Krauwinckel II 1586-1635

BRONZE REMAINS FROM THE SECOND SQUARE

Small copper alloy strap end with both plates still retaining leather, 1 inch long by ½ inch wide. *MEDIEVAL*

Small rectangular piece of corroded copper alloy, 1 ⅜ inches long by ¾ inch wide. *MEDIEVAL?*

An incomplete copper alloy possible scabbard chape measuring 3¾ inches in length and 1½ inch in width. It tapers towards its solid terminal and the upper part is damaged but seems to have been hollow originally one face has a central cast longitudinal ridge while the other is flat. Non parallel could be found for this possible scabbard chape but it is most likely to be medieval circa 1250-1540 in date. *Identification by Faye Minter.*

POTTERY

Small post medieval pottery foot in orange brown fabric with reddish brown glaze at the top, soot stained and probably from a pipkin.

Two body sherds from the shoulder of a jug in orange fabric the external surfaces have rilling and are glazed in a rich reddish glaze with soot staining. *Post Medieval*

Sherd from a colander in a rich yellowish green glaze ¼ inch tapered round holes through a white fabric. c1700

Small sherd of Metropolitan ware orange fabric with yellowish green slip decoration. *c1700*

Hard grey body sherd from the neck of a jug glazed on both surfaces with a rich glossy greenish glaze. *c1700*

Small curved handle in orange fabric with orangey reddish glaze on adjacent rims surfaces probably from a small pipkin.

Small section of rod handle and conjoined rim with inner surfaces splashed with an orangey brown glaze possibly from a skillet.

Decorated body sherd from the shoulder of a jug in a hard dark fabric with a rich glossy near black glaze. *Jackfield ware middle to late 1700*

METAL, BONE, CLAY, GLASS, FLINT & LEAD

Ornamental lead pewter button.

Small lead pewter button.

Small bone button.

Two decorated iron buttons.

Small metal token marked 'The All win'

Small metal token marked 'The All win 160'

35 silvered dress pins with rounded heads measuring $\frac{7}{8}$ " long

1 measured $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch in length.

1 measured $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length.

Remains of pipe clay wig curler.

Perforated small blue bead.

Perforated small white glass bead.

Part of slate pencil.

Three clay marbles.

Victorian stone ware small inkpot.

WINDOW LEAD TRACERY

The remains of eight small pieces of lead tracery were found all being in a very damaged and deteriorated condition. On average the lead is a little over $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide by $\frac{1}{8}$ thick with two very shallow grooves on either side to facilitate the equally thin glass which when encountered is frequently oxidised by chemical action in the soil.

FLINT FLAKE

An excellent example of a patinated flint flake found during the excavation measures $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide. It was originally dark brown in colour but at some time has been in contact with chalk which has subsequently turned the flakes a pale white. The surface shows three smaller flakes had been detached prior to the colour change and the flake is thought to date from either the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

GLAZED RED EARTHENWARES

Rim/base from a small redware bowl with the internal surfaces glazed in a rich reddish brown glaze with patches of glaze externally. *c17-1800*

Greater part of redware base from large jar with both surfaces coated in a rich golden brown glaze containing spots of copper. *c17-1800*

Base from a $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter vessel in red earthenware with a light brown glaze to both surfaces, stacking marks underneath. *c17-1800*

Greater part of shallow dish in redware with only the inner surfaces glazed in a rich golden brown glaze. *17-1800*

Small unglazed base in a hard light brown fabric. *1700*

Rim from large sherd of press moulded Staffordshire type slipware. *c1800*

Rim/body sherd in redware from a small bowl glazed on both surfaces with a rich reddish brown glaze. *c1800*

Three very gritty body sherds in orange brown fabric with traces of pitted brownish external glaze, soot stained. *c1600*

Body sherd from a jug in hard orange material, the vessel is probably a jug with the external surface partially glazed in a rich brown while at the junction of the neck and shoulder the former is heavily soot stained. *c1700*

Rim/base from a very small bowl in unglazed yellowish buff. *c1800*

Long thumbled lug handle in red fabric from a large storage jar.

Large upturned U shaped handle with a regular line of finger indents in an orange fabric with dark brown rims of glaze, over an almost metallic sparse glaze. Large storage jar.

CLAY PIPE REMAINS

The remains of 48 clay pipe bowls and stems were retained during the excavation of the second square although there were considerably more fragmentary pieces from bowls and stems encountered.

A total of eleven complete bowls were examined with a further twelve broken forms, while the remains of only seven clay pipe stems were retained by reason of length or having part heel or bowl attached. The biggest percentage of the pipes were dateable to the Victorian period with both decorated and undecorated forms, many bad designs such as basket weave, fluted patterns, scallop or soldiers holding muskets and heraldic designs.

The letter 'TB' occur on several heels and these are probably attributed to Thomas Brown of Peterborough and date from 1830-69. The earliest forms were four plain bowls which date from the period 1780-1820 and on one the letters 'TH' are visible.

There was originally a pipe making business in Lowestoft trading under the name of Knights and this was later bought out by one John Harris of Great Yarmouth. Some of the pipe makers augmented their earnings by producing other objects in clay such as hair curlers during the 17th and 18th century and the remains of two of these were found at the John Wilde School during excavations. The first a complete one was found at the foot of one of the soil heaps with the greater part of a second being recovered during the early stages of the excavation of the second square.

THE INFILLED PIT

Thoughts now turn to the edge of the large pit at the eastern end of the excavation, only part had been exposed and an undetermined amount still lay buried ?? the eastern profile of the square. As a result of this the square was extended by another three feet and the material worked through prior to arriving at the level of the exposed pit. Once again there were considerable amounts of broken transfer wares of various forms and much iron remains, the majority of pieces coming from cycle parts. Large amounts of thin flat glass, slate and bricks were encountered all mixed in making working through the material somewhat hazardous. Broken pan tiles were in abundance and on some of the bricks odd splashes of glaze were present on some of the face sides, these comparing with bricks built into the present school building which also have odd traces of glaze on them. There were also much larger spreads of ash and clinker uncovered and nearer to the level of the pit several broken base remains from 18th century wine bottles were found. Odd animal bones occasionally come up and mostly all were complete with the larger ones from domestic cattle frequently cut through with butcher's saws. A few small bird bones were encountered as well as a number of small animal bones including vertebra and the later discovery of a small skull suggested it might be a cat. From the face of the newly cut eastern end it was possible to see exposed Victorian glass stoneware and various earthenwares indicating the location had been used as a dumping ground for some considerable time. With the continued removal of much of the fill directly above the pit the remaining material began to change to more soil and this appeared as very light in texture changing to more mixed soils again at the level of the feature. On trowelling across the pit a number of sherds of press moulded slipware were uncovered sticking up on one side of the feature beside the remains of a shallow stoneware bowl. The steady removal of the infill showed a light loamy soil and on the northern side remains of a blue and white bowl made at the Lowestoft factory showed clearly against the background of mixed

soil. The shape of the pit appeared as an irregular circle where it had been cut through the sand and in the middle more bricks had been thrown in. Beneath these were a number of sherds from red glazed earthenwares with types including shallow dishes and bowls all coated in a light brown glaze. Again on the northern side remains of a small brown glazed bowl were found close to the remains of more porcelain from the china factory. Some animal bones were encountered, the majority belonging to pig with just one jaw bone from sheep and amongst these two worked bones objects were found. One was the drilled head of an 18th century toothbrush while the other resembled a finely turned bobbin although it is thought that it is some sort of handle. More sherds of blue and white porcelain were found in the fill and amongst these were the remains of a blue and white Lowestoft tankard with a blue painted figure two on the underside. The lower levels of the pit saw much more corroded iron and broken glass and more bricks tightly jammed in with the remains of more 18th century wine bottle glass. In uncovering the base of the pit it showed as somewhat irregular but mostly flat with more narrow bricks and red glazed earthenwares from pancheons and bowls wedged in between them. Some soil was still present at the bottom of the feature and amongst this was a number of bones apparently from the same animal, leg bones, a number of rib and vertebra were all finally uncovered with the skull remains indicating a small dog. Also in the soil were several broken fragments from an Imari bowl decorated in red and blue but like the tankard only a small amount was found. Directly beneath the soil and virtually on the floor of the pit was a large section of an oblong dish of the boars head type along with more remains of 18th century wine bottle and a corroded copper English token dated 1794.

When finally uncovered the shape of the feature appeared more oval than circular and measured nearly six feet across the widest point.

It had been cut through medieval level and into the sand by approximately two feet with the overall depth a little under four feet, the bottom was somewhat irregular but mostly flat with only the western side appearing slightly angled.

CONTENT FROM THE LARGE PIT

GLAZED RED EARTHENWARE *c17-1800*

Small handled bowl in orange fabric, light brown glaze with occasional brown flecks on both interior and exterior only partial glazing on external rim. Figure six visible on internal base with stacking scars on the underside.

Half section of large Pancheon in orange fabric with pouring lip and knife trimmed base, light brown glaze with occasional brown flecks to both surfaces. The thickened rim is partially glazed and soot stained.

Section of large pancheon in orange fabric with light brown pitted glaze both internally and externally, irregular line of rim probably due to kiln loading, much abrasion to top of rim.

Greater part of large oval dish in orange fabric with yellowish brown glaze with spots of iron oxide, pouring lip at one end. Knife trimming to base edge and soot traces under rim.

Sherd from oval bowl in brownish orange fabric, yellowish brown glaze to both surfaces with flecks of iron oxide, soot staining.

Base remains from large bowl, orange fabric with brownish orange glaze externally, terminating approximately 1 inch from the base. Rich yellowish brown crazed glaze internally.

Rim section from a lidded jar in a hard red fabric, traces of a dark green mottled glaze are present on the inner rim, the external surfaces are heavily soot stained. *c1600-1700*

RED GLAZED EARTHENWARE

Half section of base from a bowl in orange fabric containing occasional small flints. Rich reddish brown glaze to both surfaces containing iron oxide, stacking scars on underside.

Thick wall sherd from a pancheon in orange fabric with very abraded light brown glaze.

Base remains from a large thin walled pot in orange fabric, glazed internally and externally in a sandy brown glaze.

Shoulder from large storage jug in brownish orange fabric glazed in a rich reddish brown glaze to

both surfaces, remains of a thumbled handle.

Rim sherd from a small redware bowl in brownish orange fabric and glazed with a rich reddish brown glaze to both surfaces.

Pouring lip from a jar in orange fabric and glazed in a crazed light brown glaze, spots of iron oxide present externally.

Body sherd with handle stub from a jug in unglazed brown buff fabric.

Part base from a small bowl in orange fabric with occasional small flints, both surfaces glazed in a rich brown glaze. Remains of a thumb impressed handle close to the base.

Part base from small bowl with remains of a horizontal handle scar, the fabric is orange and the internal glaze is light brown flecked with copper. Externally the glaze is a mixture of greenish brown.

Rime sherd in orange fabric from a shallow dish in a sandy brown glaze, the rim is mostly unglazed and is soot stained.

Half section of a small shallow dish in brownish buff fabric containing mica. The vessel is unglazed apart from where a dribble of brown glaze is present on the top of the rim.

Sherd from a small jar in orange fabric, the vessel has been partially glazed in a sandy brown glaze and this has stopped some two inches beneath a flattened rim.

Sherd from a small diameter bowl in orange fabric and glazed in a crazed yellowish brown glaze.

Rims from skillet(?), brownish orange fabric with a clear brownish orange glaze below the external rim, some glaze internally.

SLIPWARE

Large section of oblong dish '*Boars Head*' type. Oblong dishes such as this were made in large numbers in the 18th century. The pattern is 'feathered' with a comb or pointed tool in cream coloured slip on a dark background. The rim has a pie crust effect and the underside is soot stained.

Remains of at least three different rectangular dishes in Staffordshire type press moulded flatwares, the red coloured clay has been decorated by trailing a white slip over a dark brown slip background. A small pie crust decoration is present on the rim of one sherd which is also soot stained.

STONEWARES

Part base from small bellarmine.

Salt glazed body sherds from bellarmine.

Part base from a large bellarmine in grey buff stoneware.

Small strap handle in brown glazed stoneware from a small jug.

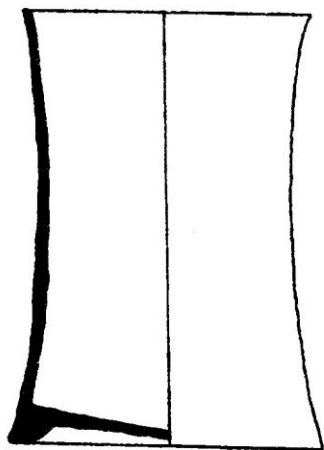
Greater part of a small strap handle glazed brown and buff from a jug

Body sherds of blue and grey Westerwold and two rims from chamber pots.

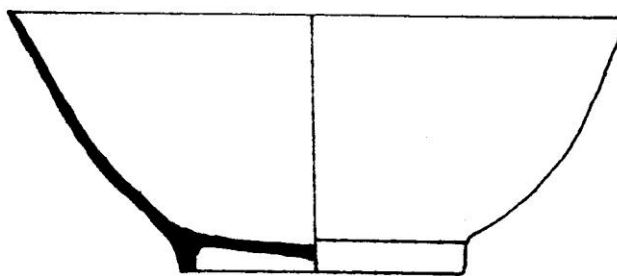
Half section of a stoneware bowl with flattened rim in a reddish lustrous glaze, the bowl has a wide incised decorated band running around the outside.

Body sherds and neck from a tall stoneware jar glazed externally in a two tone glaze of sandy buff and grey. Three small vertical finger indentations are present in the lower part of the handle remains.

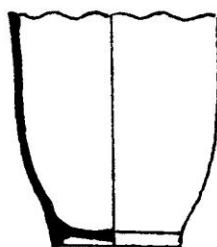
Victorian inkpot.



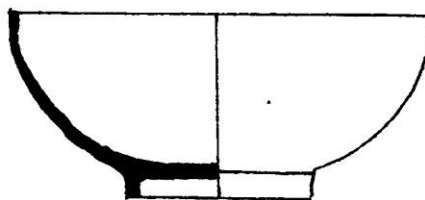
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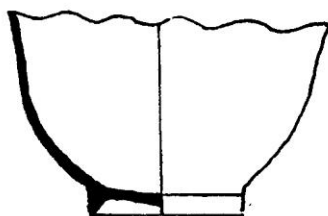
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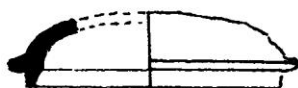
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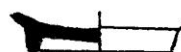
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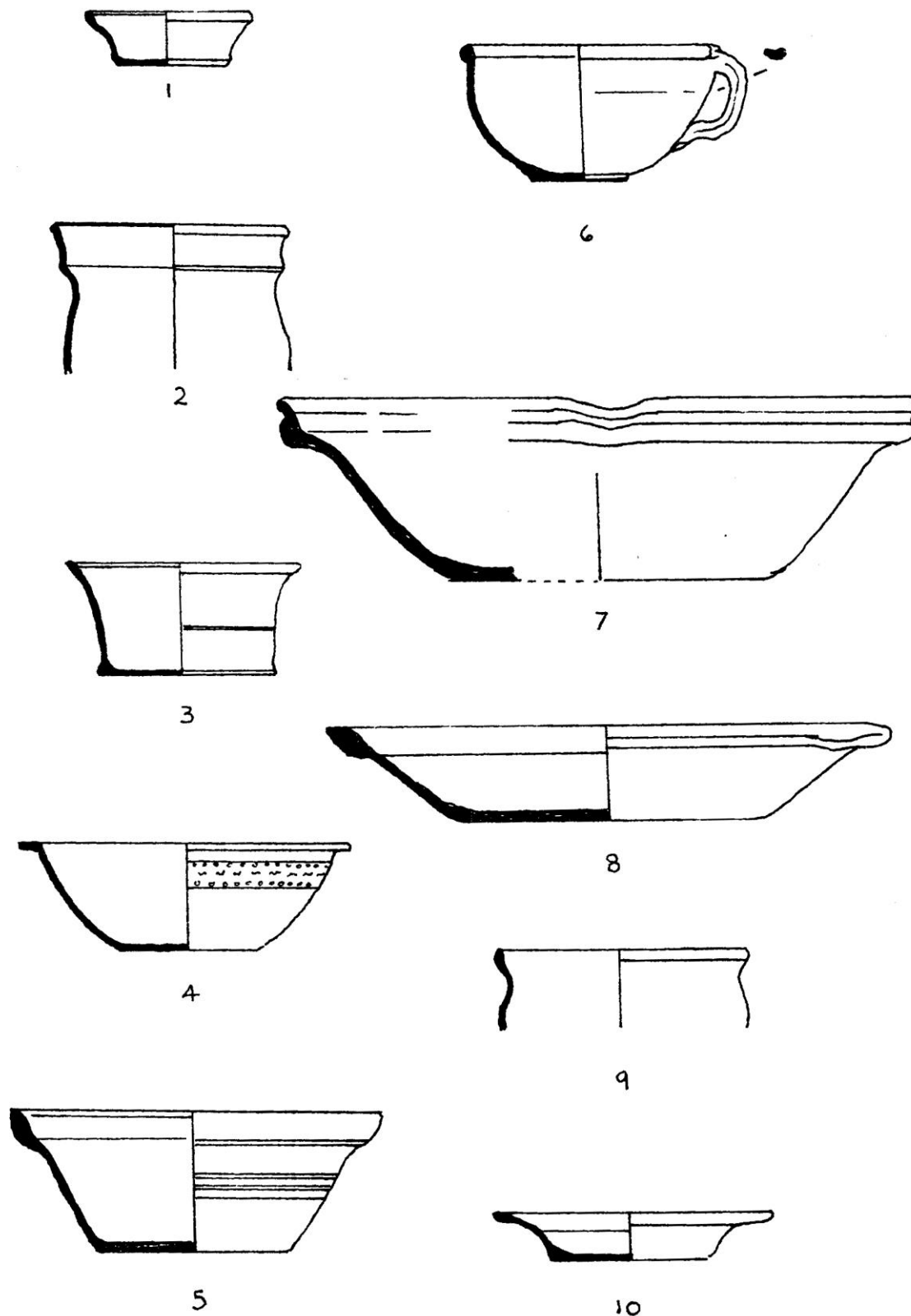
JOHN WILDE SCHOOL

LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN

SCALE $\frac{1}{2}$ ACTUAL SIZE

LOWESTOFT PORCELAIN

- 1 Cylindrical mug in waisted form with undercut base
Pogoda – River Island blue design
Five conjoined sherds
MARK 2 inside footring 1762-64 *Pit*
- 2 Section of blue and white bowl with transfer pattern
man on bridge 1775-80 *Pit*
- 3 Half of fluted coffee cup, traces of looped pattern externally just below rim.
Greenish blue glaze 1795 *Pit*
- 4 IMARI bowl in pale blue with dark blue root pattern and orange flowers, traces of gilding.
Six conjoined sherds *Pit*
- 5 Section of fluted bowl with external pattern of dotted loops and fern like design below rim. Four corn flower like flowers spaced singularly around the middle
Greenish blue glaze 1795 *Pit*
- 6 Section of fluted bowl with small green border internally, external pattern of faint dotted loops and fern like pattern.
Greenish blue glaze 1795 *Pit*
- 7 Two adjoining pieces of tea pot cover forming about two thirds of domed cover, no decoration.
Greenish blue glaze middle period *Pit*
- 8 Tea bowl fragment including base painted in under glaze blue, on inside of base a flower.
oxidised 1780



POST MEDIEVAL GLAZED RED EARTHENWARES

SCALE 1 : 4

GLAZED RED EARTHENWARE (key to drawing)

- 1 Small shallow dish in hard orange fabric with splash of light brown glaze on top of the rim.
- 2 Section from jar in orange fabric with partial glazing in light brown glaze to both surfaces.
- 3 Section from small bowl in orange fabric with both surfaces coated in a rich golden brown glaze.
- 4 Stoneware bowl in a rich brown glaze with a decorated band on the external surface.
- 5 Thick section from a bowl in orange fabric with both surfaces glazed in a rich light brown glaze, sooted under the rim.
- 6 Small handled bowl in orange fabric glazed in a clear brown glaze with heavy crazing, iron oxide streaks showing in the glaze.
- 7 Pancheon in red fabric with pouring lip, light brown glaze containing oxide streaks. The external surface is partially soot stained and the base has been knife trimmed.
- 8 Oval shaped dish with pouring lip to end, sandy brownish glaze heavily pitted with iron oxide streaks.
- 9 Section from small globular bowl in a red fabric and glazed in a rich reddish brown glaze.
- 10 Greater part of a heavily pitted shallow dish glazed in a light brown glaze on the inside. The external surface is unglazed and there is knife trimming around the base.

WINE BOTTLE REMAINS

Retained wine bottle remains from the pit are as follows. Non of the base remains encountered were kept.

One reconstructed 18th century wine bottle, the glass shows signs of some oxidisation.

Necks of three 18th century wine bottles.

Greater part of long neck wine bottle of 17th century date with section of shoulder.

Necks of two 17th century onion bottles both heavily oxidised.

Squat neck of 18th century date, probably from gin bottle.

Squat oxidised neck of 17th century date, probably from gin bottle.

SMALL METAL TRADE MARK

A small oval shaped trade was found in the pit. On the back there are small traces of adhered wood. On the face there is a raised profile of a spider surrounded by a shield like profile beneath which is the word 'BURLACH' while at the top surmounted by a flower is the word 'GRITZNER'. There are two fixing holes for pins to the left and right and the metal is non-ferrous.

TIN GLAZED EARTHEN WARES

Rim section from a plate with dark blue flower pattern.

Small sherd from a plate with dark blue pattern.

Section of base from a drug jar. *Dutch?*

Half section of a seven inch plate where all the rim has been knocked off, the back is plain and the white glaze pitted, abrasion marks are visible where the plate came in contact with the table. On the inside there is a painted boarder encircling a blue painted Chinese design of landscape with a boat. *17-1800 Dutch*

FIREPLACE TILES

Large piece of plain white pitted tile.

Small section of plain white tile.

Section of white tile with obscure pale blue pattern. *Dutch?*

Corner section of tile with trailing lines in dark blue on a white background.

Section of Victorian transfer tile pattern.

PEG TILE

Half section of a peg tile ten inches long by roughly ½ inch thick, hard red fabric, rough cast underside with dragmarks on the upper surface, one ½ inch diameter hole positioned 1½ inches down from the top. *c1600*

COIN

English copper token dated 1794, propaganda piece against the French.

THE EXTENSION TO SQUARE ONE

During the latter part of 2004 and opportunity came to test a small strip of ground at the top of the western end of the first square. It measured approximately three feet by fourteen and terminated against the high back yard of no. 73 High Street. The ground involved also contained three separate drains leading to the present manhole with one of those being live. In trowelling across the strip large flint cobbles were uncovered in the north west corner and dug right through these were narrow trenches for the drains leading in an easterly direction. The cobbles had been laid as a hard standing area and formed part of the system originally uncovered in the first square. In the adjacent soils there was considerable disturbance and adding to this the roots of a large mature Sycamore was adding to the problems. The surface area being tested was comparatively small involving little more than forty square feet but in spite of this quite a lot of datable material was found including medieval lava stone. Most of the material recovered lies in a 16th to 18th century date range and includes a number of sherds of soot stained red glazed earthenware along with several stoneware fragments including Westerwold,

pottery handles, included a round hollow handle from a large pipkin, a small dark brown glazed handle from a mug and a small semi-glazed tab handle from a small bowl. Some ten sherds were from slip decorated metropolitan wares with sherds including part of a handle, a rim from a bowl and a pouring lip and part base from a small jug. The application of a yellow coloured slip forming raised decorative patterns on a background of rich golden brown glaze must have made the vessels very attractive to the interested buyer during the 17th century. The remains of two pieces of lava stone were also found, one being waste material, the other being from a hand mill with its three deep grooves scoured out of the grinding surface. A twisted piece of lead tracery was found amongst stones in the south west corner along with a small lead pistol ball, a calibre typical of the many flintlock and percussion weapons widely owned by civilians in the 18th & 19th centuries. Two jettons were found, one amongst small stones near the live drain, the other close to the cobbles. The first was a thin Rose and Orb Nuremburg type dating between 1500 and 1586, while the second was a cut quarter from a copper alloy Nuremburg token, unfortunately the latter was well worn with only some of the legend visible but it is likely that it is of late 16th or 17th century origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was carried out under the direction of the writer and I am greatly indebted to the following for their contribution to the project.

Bob Carr & Faye Minter Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Pete Murphey Environmental Studies UEA
Ron Ashman
Ivan Bunn
David Butcher
Adrian Charlton
Ray Collins
David Ecclestone
Peter Larter
Russell Sprake
John Stannard

All the material recovered during the excavation has now been returned to the Lowestoft Civic Society here in Lowestoft.

Paul Durbidge March 2005

A Medieval Kiln Site at Oulton near Lowestoft Suffolk

Paul Durbidge

During 2004 as a result of an enquiry from a gentleman at Oulton I visited the location where I was shown a quantity of pottery that became exposed after a large tree had fallen to the rear of the garage belonging to the property.

The area is now grassed over but from the description given by the finder it would appear that the tree had either grown on or close by to a medieval kiln site. How large the area was is unclear but from what material was recovered the output appears to have been glazed medieval jugs along with other pottery. The remains took the form of broken jug necks, handles, base forms with pinch nipping and several body sherds and below is an account of material broadly classified.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Jarvis for showing me the finds to record and also offer the Societies thanks for donating the remains to the Broad House Museum.

JUG HANDLES

The remains of 48 handles were examined and 42 of these show a grey sandwich layer in section with a further 6 showing an orange fabric right through the broken section. Small grits are present in the majority, with occasional larger flints showing just beneath the surface of some or where the handles have fractured. With the exception of one, a water abraded rod handle, again from a jug, all the remains have traces of glaze either in splashes or remains of small spots with colour varying from light green to a greenish brown and even a rich golden brown glaze.

The size of the handles vary but the average size of those examined shows the majority of the strap handles are in the region of 1½ inches across with three larger types measuring 2 inches across, the three rod handles again from jugs average 1⅞ across respectively. In each case where the handles have been attached to the necks of the jugs strong thumb marks are present with even larger thumbing left on the lower part of the handles where they have been attached to the shoulders of the vessels.

Decoration was used on the upper surface of only one handle and this takes the form of an irregular line of four stabbed holes in the clay, probably by using a small stick. Two remaining handles from the group included a small lead glazed strap handle from a bowl and part of a shallow unglazed small bowl with a large hollow sectioned side handle.

JUG RIMS

Amongst the pottery recovered from the site were 17 rim forms from jugs with diameters of these in the region of 3½ to 4 inches and on three of these the remains of pouring lips were present. On a further eight rims thumb indented handle stubs were still attached, these being positioned just below the undercut rims and coming off nearly at right angles to the necks of the vessels.

BODY SHERDS

Sixty six body sherds were made up of 49 being glazed either all over in a rich green glaze or with patches or spots of either green or yellowish brown glaze. Sherds with a yellowish cheesy glaze were also present.

BASE REMAINS

Remains of over 50 bases were in the group and with the exception of four, all were well finger nipped on slightly sagging base profiles in an attempt to make the vessel more stable. It would seem that several of the remains where wall sherds are attached were from globular jugs with only the remains of three showing more upright forms. In some cases close groups of four or five fingers indents occur together while on others it is limited to two's or three, while on the greater part of a 4 inch base two indents are well spaced apart. A number of the base remains are small making it difficult to determine the diameter of vessels but remains from three indicate diameters varying from 4, 5½ and 6½ inches, with one thick base of over ½ inch, indicating a very large pot. The small white grits are again visible in many sherds along with quite large irregular flints showing through the surface and frequently in several of the fractures. Neither the internal or external surface of the base forms have any glaze although seventeen have occasional glaze spots on the underside of the base probably as a result of kiln stacking. Wiping is also visible in some cases both internally and externally and some of the nipped indents have clear finger prints in the wet clay. There are also a number of small cavities in the clay indicating where the organic material has been burnt away during firing in the kiln.

DECORATION

Iron oxide is present only on one green glazed sherd and applied strip decoration appears on three others. On one very thick glazed sherd a triangular section of applied strip a ½ inch wide was used as a vertical decoration, while on another a smaller crude strip was used horizontally on the neck of a green glazed jug. Another body sherd from the neck of a jug had rilling all the way up and the remains of a strip of nicked clay had been applied at a slight angle with the suggestion of a clay pellet higher up, again a light green glaze had been used.

BUNG HOLE SPOUT

One of the jugs probably held some form of liquid as the greater part of a bung hole was encountered amongst the body sherds. Used to draw off heavy sediment it was nearly two inches in diameter and had been simply decorated with small facets around the perimeter, in the centre was a pouring hole

with a diameter of just over ½ inch.

HANGING BOWL

Small section from a pottery flange complete with a ¾ inch straight through perforation, the flange extends out from the body of the pot by just over 1 inch and has a slightly rounded rim. It is possible the flange extended all the way round the vessel with other pieced holes for hanging. The fabric is very hard grey texture coated in a rich light green glaze.

RIM SHERDS

Of the remaining eleven rim sherds eight are from wide rimmed dishes with diameters of about ten inches, all are in a light orange fabric with soot present on two of the sherds. Again the fabric is water worn with both large and small grits prominent and on the inside of one the remains of a pale green glaze is visible as well as the beginning of a pulled rim. On the inside of a shallow dish there is the remains of a cheesy glaze with glaze rims indicating the vessel was stacked on its side in the kiln. Knife trimming is also visible on the external surface.

The remaining three rim sherds appear as a gritty dark buff material and appear to have come from bowls.

ROOF TILE

Fragments of a glazed roofing tile ½ inch thick and rough cast on the underside, the upper surface is glazed with a very gritty greenish brown glaze with the fabric being dark grey in colour and extremely hard in texture.

Paul Durbidge March 2005

Nicholas Everitt and the Casement Affair

Mike Chester

Nicholas Everitt is familiar to most local people as the previous owner of Everitt's Park – originally known as Mutford Bridge or Mutford Estate – and following his death in 1928, both the park and Broad House were bought by his friend Howard Hollingsworth. The retail magnate, Hollingsworth, promptly donated these to Lowestoft Corporation for the recreation and enjoyment of the Public; in memory of his friend Nicholas Everitt.

Everitt wrote a number of books, chiefly about his hobbies which included wild fowling, fishing, yachting and foreign travel. It is perhaps not generally known that during the First World War he served his country as a member of the British Foreign Service (BFSS), and after the War wrote a book on his experiences entitled "The British Secret Service in the Great War". A copy of the book – written about 1920 – has been donated to Lowestoft Museum by the nephew of its previous owner the late Mr Lewis Smith of Hall Road, Oulton Broad. Mr Smith saw active service in the First World War as a motor driver.

Nicholas Everitt was uniquely qualified for secret work surveillance of the intricate inlets and fiords of North Germany, Denmark and Norway; he had after all enjoyed his hobbies of yachting and wild fowling in peacetime along just such a coastline. At the outbreak of war in 1914, Everitt, at the age of forty-seven was too old for the Armed Services but young enough to be considered by His Majesty's Secret Service. After manfully struggling with War Office red tape he was finally recruited into the British Foreign Secret Service (BFSS) in 1915, and given the codename of "Jim" or on special occasions "Mr Jim".

Roger Casement, on the other hand, came from a well to do Irish family and was born in 1864. He had joined the British Foreign Office and by the early 1900's had seen service as our Consul in Panama, Rio and Para. Furthermore, he had seen action in the Boar War and was decorated for his part in it. In 1911 he was knighted for his Diplomatic services. In 1913, at the age of fifty, he decided to retire from the Service and was awarded a pension. He was assumed to be a loyal servant of His Majesty's Government, enjoying a cosy retirement on an ample pension. So it was with incredulity and suspicion that in 1915 Sir Roger Casement – that pillar of the Empire – had been seen

hobnobbing with the Imperial German authorities in Berlin and visiting internment camps; after the declaration of war in June 1914 and without the authority of HMG.

Everitt in his book on the Secret Service writes in some detail about what became known as the Casement affair. He had ample reason to write about the whole sorry story since the indiscretions committed by Casement and the reciprocal actions by the British agents against Casement in neutral Norway, were carried out – so to speak – on Everitt's patch. His duties were mainly concerned with the movement of German submarines and other shipping. A whole chapter deals with submarine warfare and blockade busting by illegal ship movements. Casement was clearly a marked man and needed to answer questions of loyalty to HMG. Following a visit to America he had made his way to neutral Norway and during his stay there written a long whingeing letter to a Norwegian newspaper. It accused the British Government and the British Consul in Norway of hounding his every movement. This rambling and self-incriminating letter is quoted in full in Everitt's book. He suggested that Casement was trying to drive Norwegian public opinion against the British Government. Casement also revealed the reason for his German visitations. His plan was to secure the freedom and autonomy of the Irish Nation, or as he put it "my fatherland", if or when Germany invaded the British Isles. It must be remembered that Southern Ireland had not yet made a Declaration of Independence and recruiting was in full swing, though the Irish Nationalist movement opposed this strenuously.

Curiously, the only questions asked in the Houses of Parliament concerning Roger Casement and his incriminating letter was whether he continued to enjoy his pension? Quoting from Everitt's book – The Marquis of Crewe, on behalf of the Government replied: "I have no particular information in regard to Sir Roger Casement. Even if he is still entitled to a pension it is evident, from what we have heard of his whereabouts, that he is not in a position to draw it, nor is he likely to become so; but I agree that such action as he is reported to have taken ought to be followed, as far as possible, with the infliction of the severest penalties. With that I couple the melancholy reflection that a man who has done such good services in the past, assuming that he is still in possession of all his faculties, should have fallen so low as he appears to have done".

It was not revealed to the House and Casement carefully hid from his letter to the newspapers, that from 1913 he was already involved with the IVP (Irish Volunteer Force). In April 1916 Roger Casement and two friends attempted to return to Ireland. Their mode of entry was to say the least, unconventional. Their plan was to travel from Germany in a submarine to the west coast of Ireland, where they would rendezvous with a vessel packed with arms. This was to land at Tralee Bay. But a gross error of navigation meant that the two vessels failed to meet. So Casement and his two friends embarked in a dinghy and landed on Banna Beach in the small hours of the 21st April 1916. The three fugitives calling themselves "the smallest invading party in history", were arrested and held in Tralee police station barracks. Whence Casement was taken to the Tower of London, traditionally the jail of choice for traitors.

Later he was accused of "High Treason without the Realm" and put on trial at the High Courts of Justice before four High Court Judges. His actions were proclaimed to be so incompatible with his previous exemplary conduct that Casement's defence pleaded insanity. This was rejected by the Judges as unproven and on 26th June 1916 Casement was found guilty of High Treason. Immediately several famous personalities began a campaign of reprieve, amongst them were Bernard Shaw, Galsworthy and Conan Doyle. However both the British and Irish public were entirely disinterested. So on 3rd August 1916 Roger Casement was hanged at Pentonville Prison and his body buried in the prison grounds.

We must now jump forward in time to the 1950's. The writer and many readers will remember the rather plaintive requests from the Dublin government for "the return of the bones of Roger Casement". It was apparent that the passage of time changed the Irish perception of Roger Casement to something approaching a martyr for the Republican cause. These annual requests were always coldly refused by successive British governments. Until in 1965 the government of Harold Wilson sanctioned the return of Roger Casement's bones and on the 1st March 1965 they were re-interred in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin with full military honours. Casement's family did not attend the ceremony.

Some incrimination letters found in 1916 by the Police in Casement's London house suggested that he had been homosexual – at that time a criminal offence – were dismissed then as forgeries by Irish Nationalists. In 2002 these were subject to the latest forensic tests by London University and were found to be genuine. The final humiliation of Roger Casement was the failure to transfer his entry in "Who's who" to "Who was who".

Michael Chester

References

Nicholas Everitt "British Secret Service during the Great War", Third Edition c.1920. London, Hutchinson & Co

Dictionary of National Biography, 2004

Appendix I

References to Lowestoft in Nicholas Everitt's book.

There are only two direct references in the whole book. The first concerns the tardiness of Whitehall in responding the Everitt's reports of instances of local espionage. Everitt had uncovered in early 1916 on the East Coast, (not in Lowestoft) an illegal wireless transmitter and sent off a full report to Whitehall in April 1916.

"The Powers that be took a whole week to consider this report; then they suggested a meeting with the author at any convenient time for which they added there was no hurry whatsoever.

Meanwhile on Monday 24th April 1916 the manipulator of these terribly dangerous and unlawful instruments arrived at another navel base – Lowestoft – on the eve of its bombardment by the German Fleet, actually staying at the Royal Hotel, which overlooks the whole sea-front and which was occupied by most of the officers in command of the base"

The majestic Royal Hotel stood on the site now occupied by the East Point Pavilion. The other reference to Lowestoft is contained in Everitt's many examples of the excessive bureaucracy of the War Office.

"In June, 1916, a chimney at a Drill Hall in the town of Lowestoft on the east coast required sweeping, and an orderly suggested to the commanding officer that he should employ a local man residing a few doors away, who offered to undertake the job efficiently at the modest outlay of 1s (or 5p). But the commanding officer was shackled body and soul in red-tape bonds. Following his duty he reported the matter to headquarters. Further particulars were required and given and in due course the army chimney-sweep arrived, did the work and departed. He came from and returned to Birmingham, and stated that his contract price was 10d (about 4p). The third-class return fare from Birmingham is 26s 7d (£1.33). It probably meant two days occupied at an expense which could not have been much less than 30s (£1.50). A total of £2 16s 7d (£2.83), to save 2d, and do a local man out of a 1s job in a town admittedly ruined by the unfortunate exigencies of war."

A Look at Local History

Jeremy Stone

A message from Jeremy Stone

Over the last few years I have been writing the article in the society's annual report entitled "The Lowestoft Scene". All the sources of information came from the local newspapers. There has been very little to write about concerning this town and rather than write something that is very similar to those of previous years, I have decided to break with the usual format and write articles that I hope will appeal to its readers. These articles will be on various subjects concerning the history and archaeology of the Lowestoft area, but also that of East Anglia. This year the subject is on the revolt of Boudicca against Roman rule AD 60-61 and also the Roman town of Venta Icenorum or as we call it today Caistor St. Edmund near Norwich.

Boudicca's Revolt of AD 60-61

The Boudiccan revolt against the Romans was an important event in Roman Britain and involved the Celtic tribe the Iceni, who held lands in what is now Norfolk. The Iceni had allied themselves with the Romans when they invaded Britain and were a "Client kingdom". By reaching agreement with the local rulers of areas the Romans could promote their influence and keep control over territory which was close to their own areas of occupation, whilst the client ruler and his people enjoyed independence in return for their support. The Iceni had even been allowed to retain their weapons, but by AD 47 the Roman governor Publius Ostorius Scapula forced them to disarm and this led to a small scale revolt that was quickly suppressed. Relations between the Romans and Iceni deteriorated further when the client king Prasutagus died. He had made the emperor Nero his heir along with his wife Boudicca and his daughters. This was an act of deference in order to protect his family, but instead the Procurator Catus Decianus who was in charge of the treasury ordered that the whole of Prasutagus' estate be given to Nero. The Romans acted very badly and flogged Boudicca and raped her daughters in the account given by the Roman historian Tacitus. It was this which started the rebellion against Rome.

All of our knowledge concerning Boudicca and the rebellion is from the histories of the Roman authors Tacitus and Cassius Dio. In Tacitus account Boudicca took advantage of the absence of the Governor of Britain Paulinus Suetonius, who was busy suppressing the druids on the island of Mona (Anglesey). The Iceni were joined by their neighbouring tribe the Trinovantes who inhabited what is now Essex, parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. During this revolt the Roman towns of Carnulodunum (Colchester), Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St. Albans) were destroyed. Tacitus states that Colchester was attacked because it was seen as a centre of tyranny, where retired veterans had forced the natives from their land and were encouraged by regular soldiers who also abused them. It was also very poorly protected with inadequate defences with barely 200 men without their full equipment. The Iceni and Trinovantes burnt the town and after a two day siege of the temple of Claudius, where the garrison had taken refuge was stormed. Also the Britons intercepted Petilius Cerialis the Legate of the IX Legion and wiped out his infantry. He escaped with his cavalry to the safety of camp.

The town of Colchester was inhabited by mainly old soldiers and their families and the garrison of serving soldiers. They had appealed to the Procurator Caius Decianus for help and it was he who sent the poorly armed 200 men. The inhabitants of Colchester being greatly outnumbered were slaughtered. Suetonius had marched to London after suppressing the druids in Anglesey, but realised there was little he could do to protect this important town which was a centre for trade. His own force was considerably smaller than that of Boudicca's and was forced to abandon London. He took only those who could keep up with his retreat, despite the wishes of the people who wanted his protection. Suetonius purpose was to sacrifice London in order to save the whole province by withdrawing his troops in order to save them to do battle later. Thus London was sacked and then the British rebels marched to St Albans and destroyed the town and killed its inhabitants. The British preferred to attack these towns being "soft targets", compared with Roman forts and also provided the opportunity to plunder. The Procurator Caius Decianus fearing for his own safety and that the Roman province of Britain was about to be lost had in the meantime fled to Gaul. Also Poenius Postumus the Camp Prefect of the II Legion refused to obey his commanding officers orders to fight and stayed inside his own camp. According to Tacitus about 70,000 Roman citizens and people of these towns were killed.

There is considerable archaeological evidence of Boudicca's rebellion that has been found in Colchester that backs Tacitus claim that the commanders paid little attention to fortifications and put comfort before necessity. Parts of the military defences were levelled to provide spaces for public buildings such as the temple of Claudius, a theatre, an arch, a council chamber, and a statue of Victory. Also some barracks and centurions quarters were converted into houses and this work dates to around the 50's AD. There is also a red layer in the soil that is the remains of burned debris. There is also evidence of deliberate destruction by Boudicca's warriors, an example being the tombstone of Longinus an auxiliary cavalryman of Thracian origin which was deliberately toppled.

The rebellion though initially successful was eventually defeated by Suetonius, he had the XIV

Legion, some detachments from the XX Legion and some auxiliary troops. He had about 10,000 men and lured Boudicca's army to some ground of his own choosing in order to do battle with her. The site of the defeat of Boudicca's rebels is believed to be at a place called Mancetter, which is near Nuneaton in the midlands. The British with their superior numbers were confident of victory and had stationed their carts, possessions and families at their rear. The Britons attacked first. But many were brought down by Roman javelins, then the Roman infantry attacked in a wedge formation and finally also the Roman cavalry. The British had to flee but they became trapped by their own baggage train and were massacred by the Romans. British losses were around 80,000 compared with only 400 Romans according to Tacitus, but with a slightly larger number wounded. Suetonius' victory saved the province and brought glory to the XIV and XX Legions, but Poenius Postumus of the II Legion because of the shame of avoiding battle killed himself with his own sword.

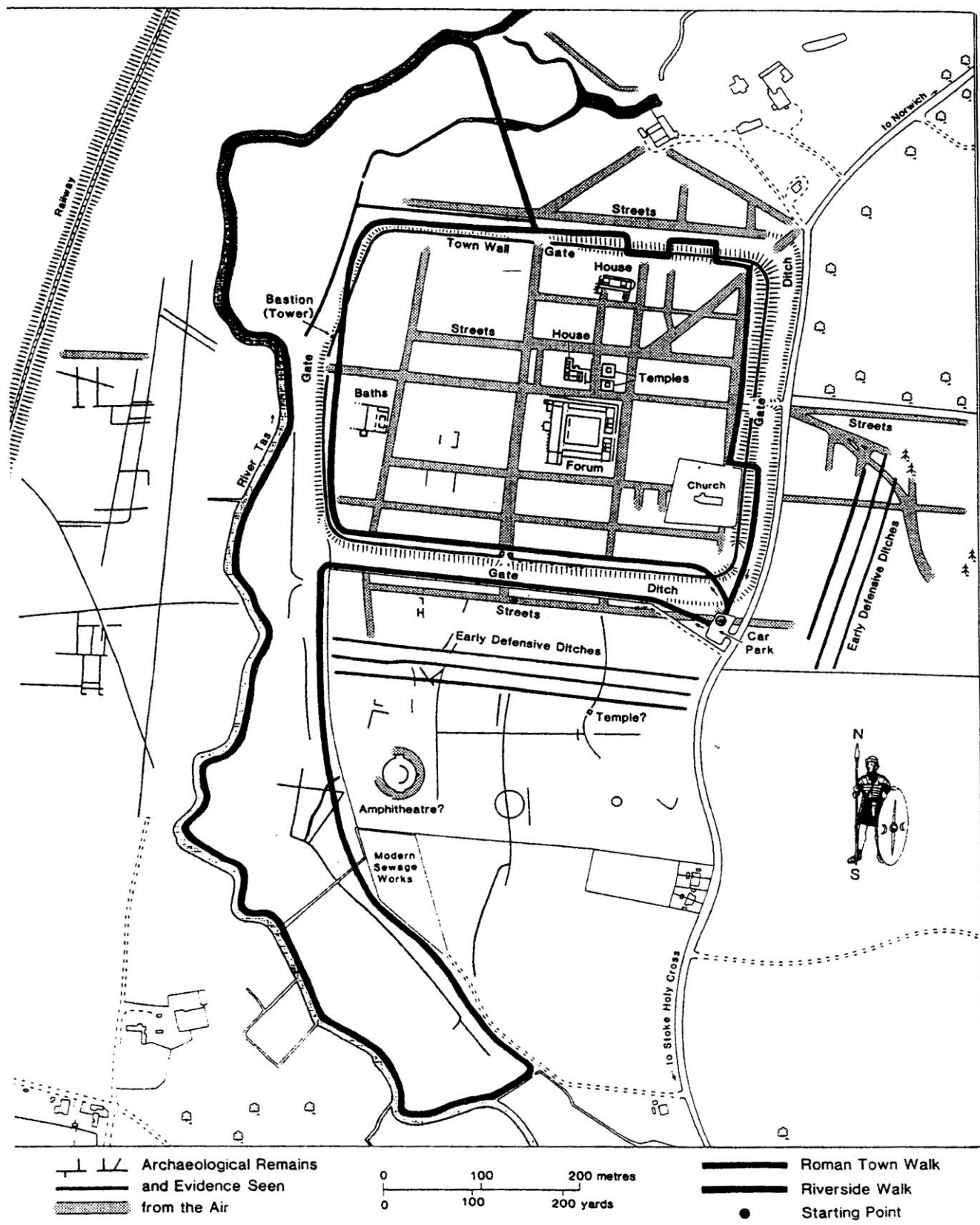
The Roman Town of Caistor St Edmund (Venta Icenorum)

After the defeat of Boudicca's revolt and faced with capture, Boudicca took her own life with poison according to Tacitus. The Romans having defeated the Icenii tribe also had to make sure that they would not rise again and stationed troops in the area. It also became administered by the Romans and it was in the subsequent years following the rebellion that the town of Caistor St. Edmund or Venta Icenorum was developed. The name of Venta Icenorum means the selling place of the Icenii. The site upon which the town developed was probably of importance before the Roman development, as Celtic artefacts have been found such as Icenii coins, brooches and bronze harness rings were found both east and west of the walls. The Romans developed what was already a settlement of the Icenii.

At Caistor in the centre of the town various Roman military artefacts have been found which indicate a Roman presence during the middle of the first century AD. These are fittings from soldiers' tunics and horse harnesses, coins of Claudius and Nero and Samian ware pottery. There have also been pottery kilns discovered, these would have supplied the troops stationed there. There is also aerial photographic evidence of triple ditches which are indicative of Roman forts of this early period of Roman occupation, later the town would have had a defensive wall made from stone and flint and would have replaced the earlier earthworks.

The town would have been the regional capital and was located close to the river Tas, and much wider and deeper than today and would have been suitable for boats to transport goods to and from the town. Its location by the river Tas and the evidence of a wooden wharf would have connected it to the large estuary which existed before it silted up and became land in the area between Acle and Great Yarmouth. Other sites have been found beside the river Yare, where large timbers have been found indicating a wharf where agricultural produce could have been loaded and taken to the ports at the estuary's mouth of Caister-on-Sea and Burgh Castle. These strategically placed forts guarding the estuary may have been involved in the transfer of goods to much larger ocean going ships that would sail to the continent. Also this would have also been the route by which Samian and Argonne ware from Gaul (France) and Rhenish and Mayen wares from Germany would have entered the region. The town of Venta Icenorum was also connected to the agricultural fenlands in the west, which were also a centre for salt production. It was also connected by road to Brampton in the north which was a centre for pottery and to Scole and eventually Colchester. The town was therefore well connected with other areas, with both agriculture and sheep farming playing an important role. There is also evidence that the manufacture of woollen goods was important to the town, a large iron wool comb, shears and leather working needles have been found through excavations. There has also been discovered a workshop manufacturing glass and in the area of Caistor Hall to the north-east a furnace for bronze working was also found.

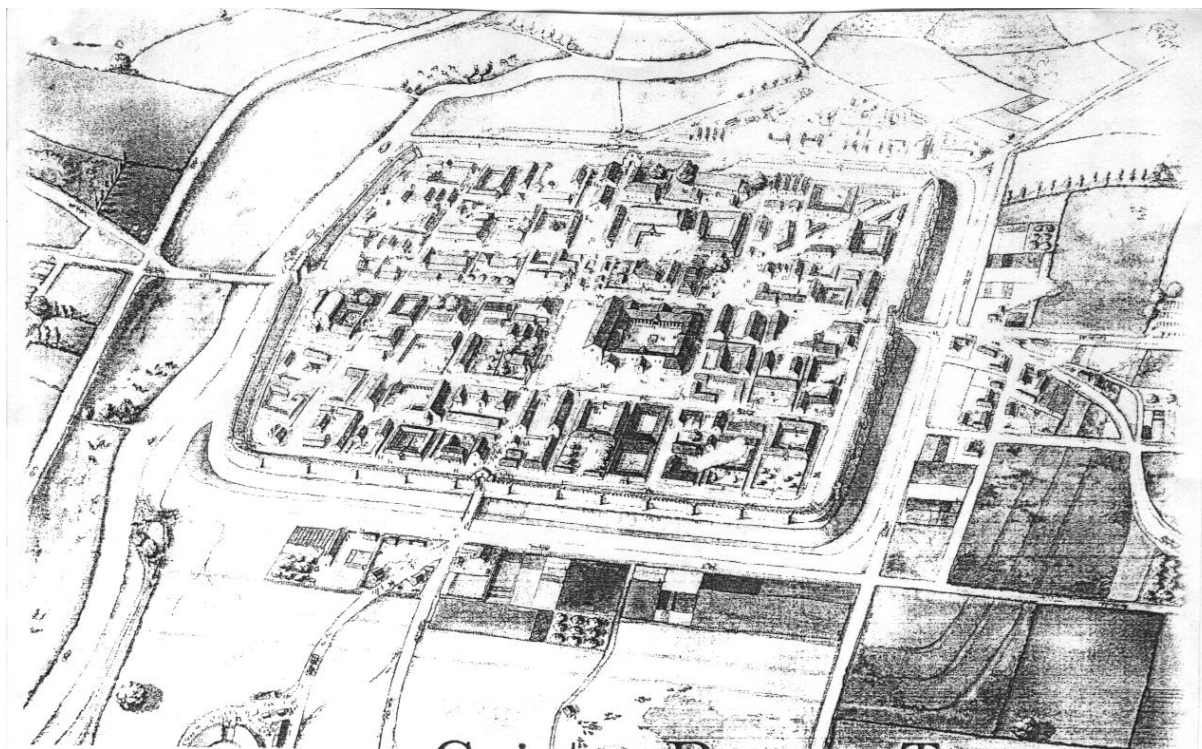
Site of Caistor Roman Town



The monument and surrounding fields are now in the care of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust. The Trust hopes that you will enjoy your visit, and asks that you follow the country code.

- For your protection and that of the monument do not climb the walls.
- Dogs must be kept under control and on a lead at all times.
- No camping or metal detecting on the site.
- Visitors are welcome on foot only.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Please do not drop litter.

The layout of the town was typically Roman in that it was laid out in a rectilinear street grid (see diagram). From aerial photographs prove that this grid extended further beyond the later flint walls. Also there are some streets which radiate from the north-east corner of the walled area of the town and these do not align with the main town grid and were probably constructed earlier than the main grid layout. The Romans when building a town used a group of surveyors who were known as grammatici. When the outer limits of the town had been established there would have been sacrifices to the gods and then the building work would commence. The rectangular plan was bisected by two main streets which crossed as right angles in the town's centre. Then this was further divided into a grid of numbered blocks known as insulae, with these being separated by side streets. In the centre there would have been public buildings. Roman streets and roads were made by firstly defining the street or road line by the ploughing of an outer ditch on each side. Then central embankment was created to be the road and on top large stones were used for the foundation and then smaller stones laid on top. Then the surface was cambered to allow drainage, in Caistor they used a layer of grey sand which rested on the natural ground surface and above this layer of grey sand would have been successive layers of pressed gravel, which became thicker towards the centre and thus gave it a camber. This method was used at Caistor because the area has very little stone except for an abundance of flint, which was used in the construction of the later walls of this town. Aerial photography has revealed dark lines running down the centres of some of the streets and are evidence of the timber constructed drains in the town.



Before AD 100 the town's street layout was established and the first buildings were made timber and would have been simple structures. Large spaces would have been left for the forum and public baths. Shops and workshops were also constructed, these would have firstly been of timber and later in masonry as resources became available. The remains of wattle and daub houses have been found beneath some of the later town houses and underneath another site at Caistor, which was a later Anglo-Saxon cemetery. No matter where a Roman town was situated in the empire, the major public buildings were the Forum and baths. These varied in size and appearance due to the wealth of the local council or *ordo*. There were three Fora at Caistor. The first was constructed in the reign of Hadrian (AD 117-38), another was built during the Antonine period (AD 138-80) but this was burnt down in the early third century. A Roman forum was the area of a town where trading and business would have flourished and served as a market place. It was also where the town hall or Basilica would have been sited. The forum was therefore the centre of political and economic life in the town. At Caistor it consisted of a three sides of a square which was joined to the basilica. The forum

consisted of a central courtyard flanked on three sides by a colonade with an internal courtyard area of 31.4m by 29.6m. The Basilica measured 53.9m by 9.1m with offices and heated by a hypocaust system. It was built from flint and brick for its main walls and the north wall of the forum, but used cheaper materials such as chalk blocks, unfired clay bricks on flint walls.

Close to this part of the town were the public baths and were built about the same time as the forum of the Antonine period. Although excavated in 1935 there is very little information about them.

The baths at Caistor were close to the river and had a cold room or frigidarium, a warm room or tepidarium and a circular heated room called a laconicum. There was also another room which was rectangular and could have been either a dressing room or a latrine. They were also burnt down and rebuilt by the end of the second century. Roman baths were not just for cleanliness, but provided people with a place to socialise. The water supply for Caistor probably came from either a reservoir, distribution tanks and walled conduit. There may have also been an aqueduct, but no trace of one has been found. The town's waste water and sewage would have been disposed of into the nearby river. There is also evidence of drains and sewers from aerial photographs.

It is thought that the town could have had a population of four to five thousand and when the walls were built around three thousand people. Several houses have been found, one was an L-shaped house which was built from flint and mortar and its internal walls were decorated with painted plaster and its windows made from glass. This house probably dates from about AD 300 and would have belonged to a wealthy person. Tesserae were also found indicating there was once a mosaic floor. The less wealthy artisans would have lived in smaller dwellings near their place of work in apartments above or behind their workshops. Aerial photographs also have shown the sites that were once shops and workshops and by the river would have been storehouses for goods being transported to and from the town by water. There have been finds showing aspects of everyday life such as bronze and silver coins, medical scalpels, iron styli for writing on wax tablets and items connected with games such as the counters of board games and dice. Also carbonised grain has been found.

There was also an amphitheatre just 90m south of the town and is shown as an oval crop mark in aerial photographs and is just a slight dip in the ground. It has never been excavated, but has been revealed by a geophysical survey. Its arena measured 40m by 33m and was of stone, masonry or brick. There would have been tiers of seats and there would have been gladiatorial fights for entertainment between men or with animals. In the town there were also temples in which local Celtic deities became associated with their Roman equivalents. At Caistor a pan handle with an image of Mercury has been found along with figurines and miniatures of an eagle, cockerel and three linked vases which were cult objects. There has even been found a defixio or curse tablet dedicated to Neptune with a request for him to seek out a thief and recover the items that have been stolen. There has also been another temple discovered outside the wall area to the north-east of Caistor hall. At this site two altar bases and a tesserae floor were found. The Roman burial area has not been found, but burials may have lined the roads to Venta Icenorum or a flint rectangular structure to the north-east of the town walls and found in the 19th century, may have been a walled funerary enclosure for the town.

By the 270's AD at Venta Icenorum a defensive wall had been built of stone and flint. The building of this wall of stone and flint reduced the size of the town to about half of its original size. The north wall was about 4m thick and 7m high above ground level. This was topped with a parapet and walkway, its inner face was covered with an earthen rampart which formed a 25 degree slope. This feature can still be seen today. The town wall was built using three levels of tile coursing, with the inner and outer faces using dressed flints and an infilled core. Outside of the wall on the south and east sides was a ledge and then a ditch. The western section of the north wall is today narrower than its eastern half. This could be due to the flints being taken for other uses after the Romans or because this sector may have faced a water channel from the river Tas. This channel could have been used by small boats which would then be able to moor alongside this section of wall and thus supply the town. Also with a water channel this would serve as an additional barrier to any attackers, so this section of the wall would not have to be as robust as the rest of the walls. In each of the walls was a central gateway 4m wide and set between curved inturns of the wall. There would have been arches at each end, gates and a single tower over the entrance. The town wall also had two different types of bastion

projecting from it, some were semi-circular whilst others were rectangular.

There was also a new forum constructed at the end of the third century, which was simpler and smaller than the earlier fora.

The town of Venta Icenoruni was developed in the years following the Boudiccan revolt in an area that had been a focus of Celtic settlement. By the 340's AD the Roman empire started to break down and the Romans abandoned Britain. The town of Venta Icenoruni and its surrounding area were settled by the Angles. There have been several Anglo-Saxon cemeteries discovered and Caistor continued as a prominent settlement in the area, until Norwich became the chief settlement in the ninth and tenth centuries.

SOURCES USED IN THIS ESSAY

Tacitus, Extract 4.3 of Supplementary texts of The Open University course Culture, Identity and Power in the Roman Empire.

Venta Icenorurn Caistor St. Edmund Roman town by John A Davies Published by Norfolk Archaeological Trust, 2001.