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EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEYS IN NORFOLK IN 2009

edited by David Gurney and Richard Hoggett

This annual report comprises summaries of significant archaeological excavations, fieldwork and surveys carried out in Norfolk during 2009. It is often several years before post-excavation work on larger projects is completed and a full report is published, while many smaller projects are the subject of 'grey reports' for the client, the Local Planning Authority and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) without further publication/dissemination. These summaries therefore provide a useful guide to 'highlights' of recent archaeological research in the county.

The NHER is maintained at Gressenhall by Norfolk County Council's Historic Environment Service and may be consulted by appointment (01362 869281 or heritage@norfolk.gov.uk). An online version of the NHER database, the *Norfolk Heritage Explorer*, is available at <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>.

Acle, Springfield (NHER 50513; TG 4062 1055)

by David Whitmore, NAU Archaeology

Since 2008 Acle High School and NAU Archaeology have been collaborating on a HLF community archaeology project. The first season involved geophysical survey and the excavation of eighty test-pits which revealed quantities of Roman pottery to be present in the topsoil across the site. Several features were also noted in the test pits including a hearth or oven, ditches and possible pits.

In 2009 larger trenches were opened, targeted at features identified the previous year. Features examined included a pair

of intercutting ditches, the hearth and a substantial shallow pit or hollow, two quadrants of which have produced around 5,000 sherds of pottery, animal bone, oyster shell and ceramic building material.

Aminghall, Arminghall Pumping Station (NHER 9877; TG 2551 0434)

By Sarah Bates and Sarah Percival, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological mitigation strategy was conducted for Fenland Hydrotech Ltd ahead of the replacement of a sewer and installation of a new pumping station and associated new sewer pipes. The work was undertaken in the area of a scheduled monument protecting the site of a shrunken medieval and post-medieval village. In the course of this work a number of sections were excavated across ditches: five corresponded to known banks and three additional ditches running along the same alignment were also identified, suggesting that some land divisions had not survived as earthworks. Most of the features identified appear to have been filled in during the post-medieval period. NAU Archaeology Report 1406b.

Breckland Society Warrens Project

by Anne Mason, Heritage Consultant

The project identified 27 warrens in the Brecks, including four 'new' warrens at Barton Mills, Feltwell, Oxborough and Santon Downham. It found evidence on the ground of sections of previously-unrecorded warren banks at Beachamwell and Ickburgh, confirmed lodge sites at Broomhill, High Wrong Corner and Santon Downham, discovered four clapper areas (where the breeding does were segregated) and eight

internal enclosures. Perimeter gates were noted on maps of Beachamwell, Lakenheath, Methwold and Snarehill and their locations found at the first two.

Detailed evidence of individual warreners and their management of the warrens has been retrieved from manorial and estate records. Data about their income has come from wills and inventories and for their families from census returns. New information about the number of rabbits culled on the Breckland warrens, the prices fetched and where they were sold has also come to light. Volunteers trained in oral history techniques have interviewed former warreners and their relatives and recorded the memories of former fur factory workers.

An illustrated project report can be downloaded from the Breckland Society's website: http://www.brecsoc.org.uk/rabbit_warreners.htm.

Brettenham, Arlington Way (NHER 17269; TL 8784 8270)

by Heather Hopkins, Thames Valley Archaeological Services

An excavation was undertaken prior to development for residential use on land adjoining Melford Meadows excavated

by Oxford Archaeology in 1993. In the north of the site was an infilled hollow or palaeochannel, possibly an older channel of the River Thet. A large hollow in the centre of the site had protected deposits from later ploughing, and several hundred flints of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date were recovered.

Multiple ditches relating to a stock control area of Roman date (2nd century AD) were discovered. A possible timber structure was excavated, with quernstones used for post-packing. The relationship between these features and a midden area rich in finds is uncertain. Ploughmarks containing 2nd century pottery were sealed by Saxon deposits, suggesting Roman ploughing.

A series of small stock enclosures of 3rd/4th century date were excavated to the north of the site. Ditches appeared to parcel the landscape towards the river to the northwest. Six timber structures discovered are poorly dated, but one had chalk floor surfaces truncated by 4th century pits.

A clay-lined domestic oven was dated to the later 4th century or Early Saxon period. Seven pits showed signs of burning. Two features reminiscent of sunken feature buildings were discovered, and other features contained Saxon pottery.



Plate 1 Caistor St Edmund: One of the late Roman 'deviant' burials.

©Will Bowden

Caister-on-Sea, Roman Way (NHER 52560; TG 5182 1240)

by Thomas Bradley-Lovekin, Archaeological Project Services
Investigations for Brian Newson Developments Ltd were carried out at the eastern edge of the outer defences of the Roman 'Saxon Shore' fort. During an initial evaluation a north-south linear ditch was partially exposed and this may represent the eastern edge of the fort's defences. Several other north-south ditches, a pit and a hollow way, all of medieval date, were also recorded. APS Reports 1/09 and 45/09

Caistor St Edmund, Caistor Roman Town Project (NHER 9786 and 1860; TG 2306 0345)

by Will Bowden, University of Nottingham

The geophysical survey of the Roman town has now covered the walled town and the fields to the south and north, covering some 40 hectares in total. A complex palimpsest of archaeological features has been revealed. Of particular interest is a large rectilinear enclosure in the southern field and a number of possible circular features to the east of the amphitheatre, which were the focus of excavations in 2009. The survey of the northern field also revealed a section of the triple ditch system around the town (first noted by the Norfolk National Mapping Programme) while a conductivity survey on the flood plain to the west showed that the ditches also continue to the west of the site. A road can clearly be discerned approaching the site from the west, which seems to enter the town via a gate now represented by the extant bastion on the wall circuit.

A combination of coring and geophysics has done much to clarify the course of the River Tas in antiquity. Its course seems to have changed significantly, moving away from the town to the north-west, while shifting closer to the town adjacent to the point where the main east-west street left the town. The buildings along this street appear to have extended to the west and are probably being eroded by the current river course.

Three major cores were extracted from the flood plain adjacent to the river. The deposits within the cores were calibrated with AMS radiocarbon dates and an extensive series of geochemical samples were extracted. One core immediately adjacent to the town shows heavy concentrations of metals (iron, lead, tin, silver, copper and zinc) in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, although magnetic susceptibility testing of the cores suggests that the site saw less activity overall in this period.

Trial excavations were carried out in the field to the south of the walled town to sample two of the major anomalies revealed by the geophysics and to test the hypothesis that they were of pre-Roman date. A trench was opened to investigate a large circular feature, which eventually proved to be of natural origin, probably resulting from periglacial processes. The trench did, however, reveal other multi-period occupation including concentrations of struck flints of Mesolithic and later date, a mid- to late Iron Age gully, and a long gully of late Roman date. Of particular interest was a cremation burial dating from the 1st/2nd century. It was

probably contained within a wooden box and comprised a single urn, an ornamental pin/nail and a possible oil lamp.

The second trench investigated the large rectilinear enclosure noted above, which appeared to comprise a square enclosure with a smaller sub-rectangular enclosure immediately to the south. The trench targeted what appeared to be two narrow gullies which formed the southern and northern boundaries of these respective enclosures. These proved to be very ephemeral and the earliest features in the trench, although these can only really be said with any certainty to predate the 2nd century AD.

The most striking discovery in Trench 2 was a series of inhumation burials. Four graves and at least three other possible graves were noted. All of them were orientated east-west, but two exhibited unusual characteristics that suggest that they are 'deviant' burials. One grave contained a male skeleton found lying on its side in a shallow pit (Plate 1). A second, only partially excavated, contained an individual in a deep pit, with the burial and primary fill sealed beneath a dump of tile, plaster and clay (perhaps from a secondary cut). Both graves dated to the 4th or early 5th centuries. Two further child burials were also found, together



Plate 2 Caistor St Edmund: Excavations by the south door of the church.

©David Gurney

with a disarticulated skull. The burials were post-dated by a fragmentary metal surface.

Two further trenches were excavated adjacent to St Edmund's church, the first time that any excavations had occurred within the walled town since the 1930s. The larger of these trenches in the south-western corner of the churchyard revealed a sequence of pits and ditches of late Roman date, partly truncated by medieval burials. It was notable that no features earlier than the 3rd century were identified, which could suggest that early Roman occupation of this area was limited, although no firm conclusions can be drawn from such a small area. The smaller trench beside the blocked southern door of the church exposed the footings of the southern wall of the nave, with 'banded' footings of rammed or compacted gravel, regular courses of knapped flints (almost certainly facing stones from the town wall) and single courses of reused Roman tiles (Plate 2).

Denton, Old Rectory (NHER 52953; TM 2858 8742)

by Andy Phelps, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Louis de Bernière-Smart ahead of the construction of an extension to the east of the current a Grade II listed house. The evaluation established the location of what is believed to be the southern exterior wall of an earlier wing shown on 19th-century maps. The bricks used in its construction are post-medieval and are likely to date from the 18th–19th centuries, while the demolition deposits to the north of the wall are probably contemporary with the structure's destruction. No trace remains of any floor associated with this structure, although



Plate 3 Dereham: An oyster shell used as an artist's palette.

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the depth of the demolition deposits may indicate they fill a void beneath a wooden floor. NAU Archaeology Report 2184.

Dereham, St Nicholas' Church (NHER ENF123456; TF 9865 1326)

by Suzanne Westall, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological watching brief was conducted for Dereham Town Council during rebuilding of the southern boundary wall at St Nicholas' church, East Dereham, following its partial collapse in October 2009. The work was carried out along an 11m stretch of wall and revealed the remains of former buildings on the outside of the wall and showed that the wall itself had been built onto the remains of those buildings. The rubble identified on either side of the churchyard wall may be largely derived from these former buildings, but the amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery and animal bone included in the deposits suggests that there is also older waste from a midden or suchlike mixed with the rubble. Significant finds included two oyster shells which had been used as painting palettes (Plate 3) and two knife handles, one made from antler and one from ivory. NAU Archaeology Report 2145.

Earsham (NHER 44609; TM 3167 8919)

by Archaeological Solutions

A second phase of excavation examined two Neolithic pits, a group of early Iron Age pits, at least nine Early Saxon graves containing inhumations, an Early Saxon penannular ring ditch and possible cremation, and a post-medieval field system. Early Iron Age activity comprised three small pit and post-hole clusters, one of which included two cremations with human bone and pottery. Another appears to represent the footprint of a building with six pits and post-holes in a



Plate 4 Earsham: An Early Saxon bead necklace being excavated.

©Archaeological Solutions

circular arrangement. Within the pits and post-holes were relatively large amounts of pottery, burnt flint, animal bone and also a dump of probable hearth waste.

The Early Saxon features consisted of nine, possibly eleven graves located around the focal point of a penannular ditch and a possible cremation. The graves were orientated east–west, but with relatively rich grave–good assemblages including spears, blades, brooches (one of which is a particularly rare annular bone example), a latch-lifter, a shield boss, bead necklaces (Plate 4), and pottery. Only one of the grave features contained human bone due to the highly acidic nature of the sandy soil.

When combined with the first phase of excavations at Earsham (which revealed a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery and a barrow, a cluster of Iron Age pits and nine Saxo–Norman inhumation burials, possibly indicative of an execution cemetery) the work presents a very full picture of land use, reuse and continuation from the Neolithic to the medieval period.

Filby, Church Farm, Mautby Lane (NHER 52702; TG 4805 1245)

by Peter Crawley, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for M Construction Services prior to the erection of a new barn. The development plot lay at the eastern side of Church Farm and west of the medieval church of SS Peter and Paul in the neighbouring parish of Mautby (Plate 5). A series of largely undated features was observed in all three trenches, some of which tallied with cropmarks extending from an area immediately to the north (NHER 42089). The lack of medieval finds recovered during the current fieldwork suggests that these cropmarks probably represent prehistoric activity and they are similar to the cropmarks further north, which are thought to be Bronze Age (NHER 12997). A short section of probable 19th-century wall and an associated robber trench were also found and are believed to be related to old farm outbuildings. NAU Archaeology Report 2109.



Plate 5 Filby: The site being stripped with a JCB.

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Garboldisham, Manor Road, The Hall (NHER 5574, TM 0050 8223)

by Chris Birks, Chris Birks Archaeological Services

A precise date for the construction of Garboldisham Hall remains unknown. Pevsner suggests a 16th-century date for the Hall and there is documentary evidence of a sale in 1734. There was a catastrophic fire in 1954 and the Hall was largely demolished in 1955. There are no known plans or drawings. A watching brief during development recorded a previously unknown cellar, probably associated with the central body of the Hall.

Great Cressingham, Priory Road (NHER 37409; TF 8524 0183)

by Steve Hickling, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation, excavation and watching brief were conducted for Traditional Norfolk Properties Ltd at Priory Road, Great Cressingham, between October 2002 and September 2008. One large Roman boundary ditch and three small Roman pits, one containing a significant assemblage of late Roman pottery, were found, together with a large amount of Roman material residual in later features. Three small Saxo–Norman ditches and three small Saxo–Norman pits were also found, together with an amount of Saxo–Norman material residual in later features. A number of probably 13th-century quarry pits were found in the south-western portion of the site, probably for the extraction of chalk used in the construction of the adjacent parish church. NAU Archaeology Report 1720.

Great Yarmouth, Gorleston on Sea, Garnham Road (NHER 53107; TG 5252 0508)

by Mark Peachey, Archaeological Project Services

An evaluation for Breitling Homes Ltd examined land at the former United Reform Church close to the site of the medieval Augustinian friary. Several memorials at the site raised the possibility that the non-conformist chapel had a cemetery. Close to Back Chapel Lane, a probable trackside ditch of 12th–14th-century date was revealed. Nearer to Garnham Road a possible rough yard of 13th-century date was identified. This was truncated by a 13th-century rubbish pit containing domestic hearth waste and evidence for the consumption of fish and cereals. A thick layer of probable former garden soil dated to the 14th-century sealed this pit. No evidence for a cemetery associated with the chapel was encountered. APS Reports 119/09.

Great Yarmouth, 46–47 North Quay (NHER ENF123613; TG 5208 0780)

by Heather Wallis, freelance archaeologist.

Building recording by Robert Smith for Mr George Clucas prior to work to return the buildings to residential use revealed that the earliest part was located on the street frontage and dates from the early 17th century. It consisted of two rooms with a central chimney stack which only heated the southern room. Shortly after this an additional block

was built against the rear wall, again with a central chimney stack, but heating both rooms. It is possible that a fire caused sufficient damage to necessitate the re-building of the roof of No. 46 in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. Further alterations were noted, including the creation and blocking of openings between the front and rear ranges. During the 19th century the chimney stack of No. 46 was rebuilt and the ground floor altered to accommodate shop frontages onto North Quay.

Howe, St Mary's Church (NHER 10128; TM 2749 9995)

by Andy Phelps, NAU Archaeology

A watching brief was commissioned by Peter Codling Architects on behalf of Howe Parochial Church Council in order to monitor the removal of a portion of walling from a blocked western doorway at St Mary's church. Upon removal of the infill it was evident that the two impostes visible on the interior of the doorway continued through to the exterior with a triple roll mould on their underside and would have formerly projected forward from the jambs (Plate 6). Within the arch above the doorway on the exterior a record was made



Plate 6 Howe: The partially unblocked western door of the church.

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of the Tredington-style brickwork which lends support to the 11th-century date of the tower. At some point between the later 16th century and the 19th centuries it appears the western entrance fell out of use and was blocked up using a mixture of flint, medieval brick and post-medieval tile. NAU Archaeology Report 2129.

King's Lynn, Austin Street, Former Dairy Depot (NHER 53200; TG 6213 2040)

by Rachel Clarke, Oxford Archaeology East

The earliest identified deposits appear to be the result of flooding and suggest that this area, although situated within the medieval walled town, was located within low-lying marshland. By the 15th or 16th centuries reclamation of this marginal area was underway with the dumping of large volumes of soil and refuse, presumably originating from a variety of sources within the nearby town. The presence of moderate quantities of pottery, medieval bricks, roof and floor tiles and a fragment of strap end from a book fitting could in part represent demolition from ecclesiastical institutions, perhaps the nearby Austin friary, following the Dissolution. The faunal assemblage includes evidence of industrial waste, perhaps leatherworking, in the vicinity and compliments the results from the nearby Lidl site (NHER 31393).

The sloping nature of many of the dumped deposits, combined with the rapid ingress of water in the lower parts of the trench, suggest that a fleet or stream may once have flowed nearby. Early maps of the town show a fleet running to the west of the site, roughly in the location of what is now Austin Fields.

The only clear evidence of occupation on the site comprised the remains of part of an insubstantial timber structure of unknown function and form that probably dates to the 17th or 18th centuries.

King's Lynn, Boal Street (NHER 5481; TF 618 195)

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services

An evaluation for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council encompassed part of the precinct of the Carmelite Friary, with the 14th-century Whitefriars Gate immediately alongside (Plate 7). This revealed evidence of medieval dumping to raise the ground level and part of a medieval wooden quayside, located over 120m east of the present quayside. Boundary ditches and refuse pits of medieval date, perhaps associated with properties located on Bridge Street to the east, were also recorded. Close to, and in alignment with, the Whitefriars Gate was a western continuation of the friary precinct wall. Associated with this were mortar floors implying buildings in the area, though no other structural features were identified. Demolition deposits, apparently associated with the dissolution of the friary in 1539, were identified and were cut by an undated, but perhaps early post-medieval stone and brick wall; a boundary is shown in the same approximate position on Faden's 1797 map. In the western part of the site, nearer to the river, were extensive dumped deposits of post-medieval date. A timber mooring post was revealed and a wooden structure of uncertain



Plate 7 King's Lynn, Boal Street: Excavations on the line of the friary precinct wall.

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function but perhaps a temporary quay or jetty was identified. Post-medieval dumping also occurred in the eastern part of the site. Amongst this material was an assemblage of gunflint waste, apparently from manufacture in the vicinity and making use of Brandon flint. Remains of a 19th-century oil mill and associated railway were also recorded. APS Report 97/09.

King's Lynn, South Gates Park (NHER 53095; TF 6223 1917)

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Archaeological Project Services

An evaluation for King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council examined the Park, which lies alongside the South Gates, built 1437–40. Located on or in proximity to the site were the town defences, established in the 13th century and embellished in the Civil War of the 1640s and subsequent conflicts, but demolished by the 1880s.

Several ditches and pits, all containing 13th–15th-century pottery, were revealed. These were overlain by a sequence of



Plate 8 King's Lynn, South Gates: The elephant-headed clay pipe bowl.

©Archaeological Project Services

dumped deposits that extended elsewhere across the site and which may represent the town defences. Some of these bank deposits also yielded 13th–15th-century pottery. Within the bank deposits was a late medieval mortar walled and floored structure, perhaps a cellar or cistern. Demolition deposits within this structure contained artefacts of the 13th–16th centuries. Several post-medieval pits were also identified, one containing 16th–17th-century pottery and a large quantity of clay pipe of the period 1630–60. It seems probable that this is associated with the Civil War refortification of Lynn in 1643. A brick-built cellar, probably part of the Crown Inn (1800–1918) was also recorded. This was associated with a group of decorated clay pipes, including an elephant-headed figural bowl which is perhaps a London copy of a French bowl of c. 1880–1900 (Plate 8). APS Report 101/09.

Langley with Hardley, Langley Abbey (NHER 10344; TG 3623 0286)

by Graeme Clarke, Oxford Archaeology East

Archaeological monitoring revealed features at the junction of the northern wall of the gatehouse and the north-western corner of the barn/western range that were contemporary with the original use of the abbey. These comprised a buttress surviving below ground level and subsequent reinforcement at a later date. Later features in the barn/western range post-dating the Dissolution include a porch leading to a door in the

eastern wall, a retaining wall blocking a further door in the eastern wall and a heavily-truncated internal stair leading to a door in the western wall. A brick wall was also identified to the north of the gatehouse.

Little Dunham, Dunham Estate, The Walled Garden (NHER 52764; TF 8765 1256)

by Chris Birks in association with Calvencorp, Walworth Building Services

Historic building recording was carried out prior to development. The Grade II listed walled garden is contemporary with Dunham Lodge of c. 1785. Constructed of brick with flat stone coping, it has buttresses and a very unusual semi-circular plan. The 19th-century greenhouse and boiler house retain internal features, and there are indications of an earlier structure, possibly a greenhouse or vinery. Evidence of 19th- and 20th-century alterations and additions was present.

New Buckenham, Marsh Lane (NHER 52831; TM 0869 9025)

by Peter Watkins, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for RDB Construction UK Ltd ahead of the construction of a new residential dwelling. The site was located in what would have been the south-western corner of the medieval town, close to the likely location of its defensive ditch. No evidence of the southern town ditch was found within the single trench excavated, although this result does allow its line to be predicted with a greater degree of certainty. A recut ditch present within the trench was likely to be a medieval boundary which subdivided the marshland that lay to the south of the town ditch. Several post-holes and other features were also identified, although these appeared to be footings associated with much more recent, post-medieval structures. NAU Archaeology Report 2166.

North Pickenham, St Andrew's Church (NHER 4644; TF 8655 0692)

by Chris Birks, Chris Birks Archaeological Services

Excavation and monitoring were carried out prior to the construction of toilets and a store room within the western tower, a meeting room within the church and associated services. A post-medieval feature within the base of the tower may represent a feature used for storing molten lead from a boiling furnace, possibly during the rebuilding of the church in the mid-19th century. Although only seen within the confines of trenches within the base of the tower, successive deposits indicate floor layers although these are undated. There were indications of a fire, although no further information was gained. A sandstone slab within the north transept may mark the location of a burial vault relating to one of the memorials dating from 1812 and the 1850s.



Plate 9 North Runcton: One of the wooden posts.

©Cambridge Archaeological Unit

North Runcton, land off Hardwick Roundabout, (NHER 52618; TF 6360 1880)

by Kerry Murrell, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Archaeological evaluation for Morston Muckworks Ltd in advance of a new road recorded an alignment of five wooden upright posts on a sand terrace which sloped down to the fen. One of the posts was radiocarbon dated to Cal BC 390 to 170, placing it in the Middle to Late Iron Age. The posts were constructed from barked oak timbers and were in a well-preserved condition with tool marks (Plate 9). There were no post-holes evident and the posts appear to have been driven through the sand. It is likely that the alignment was part of a routeway or jetty. A small shallow pit was also identified which is likely to be prehistoric and contemporary with the post alignment. CAU Report 876.

North Wootton, The Lodge, Manor Road (NHER 53908; TF 6401 2439)

by Andy Phelps, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on behalf of Calvert, Brain and Fraulo ahead of the proposed construction of new housing to the rear of The Lodge. The fieldwork revealed at least two ditches and a possible pit from which significant quantities of iron tap slag and local Romano-British pottery were retrieved. The evidence suggests that the area may have formed the northern limit of a 1st–2nd-century industrial iron-smelting works that probably extended at least 170m to the south-east and perhaps as much as 400m to the south-west. Despite its proximity to the known location of a medieval church, very little medieval material was recovered and no features could be attributed to this period. NAU Archaeology Report 2096.

Norwich, 258 King Street (NHER 48962; TG 23865 07665)

by David Adams, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological excavation was undertaken of an area adjacent to 258 King Street prior to its development by Youngs Homes. The oldest remains revealed were a large medieval quarry and waste pits (broadly 15th–16th century) from which small quantities of domestic pottery and animal bone

were recovered. Part of an early post-medieval building with a chalk, flint and brick foundation set on banded footings was also present. This building might have abutted the city wall, which runs close to the site's southern curtilage. A substantial late post-medieval wall which crossed the site on an approximate east-west axis perhaps served as a boundary. A bitumen surface possibly associated with this wall occupied most of the southern part of the excavated area. Overlying these features were construction levels and foundations for two late Victorian or Edwardian terraced houses. NAU Archaeology Report 2128.

Norwich, 46–48 St Giles' Street (NHER 608; TG 2265 0855)

by Simon Underdown, Oxford Archaeology South

Archaeological investigations, prompted by the discovery of a brick cellar or undercroft of possible medieval date in 1961, demonstrated that the existing cellars associated with the St Giles' Street buildings which contain the medieval elements do not extend beyond the footprints of the listed buildings on the street frontage and therefore do not extend below any of the modern extensions. The cellar beneath No. 48 contains two bays with medieval quadripartite ribbed vaults under the front part of the building (on St Giles' Street) and brick barrel-vaulted cellars at the rear which date to the rebuilding of the house in the 1790s. The cellars beneath No. 46 have later flat ceilings, but the walls contain brick-arched recesses which probably date from the late medieval period. A review of the grid reference of the cellar found in 1961 indicates that any remnant of it may lie below the floor of the extant Sports Hall building and/or in close proximity to it.

Norwich, 3 St James' Court (NHER 53794; TG 2340 0928)

by Chris Birks, Chris Birks Archaeological Services

Evaluation for Jarrolds & Sons Ltd recorded a structure and culvert of post-medieval date beneath a 21st-century road surface of Cowgate Street, the forerunner to Whitefriars Street. A possible northern extent of the Carmelite Friary was indicated by an area of chalk raft, upon and through which friary buildings elsewhere were built. Chris Birks Archaeology Report CB122R.

Norwich, Starling Road (NHER 52926; TG 2294 0967)

by Peter Watkins, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Lovell Partnerships Ltd prior to the construction of residential dwellings. The earliest features present were several groups of parallel linear trenches, mostly filled with loose mixes of mortar, tile and mussel shell and all containing post-medieval finds. It is likely that these were planting trenches, perhaps associated with one of the many orchards known to have existed within this part of Norwich (Plate 10). Other post-medieval features included a brick well that possibly served the nearby Borough Lunatic Asylum. Overall, the degree of post-medieval and modern disturbance was remarkably limited, particularly given that housing was present on

the site until the latter half of the 20th century. There was nothing recovered to suggest that this site was anything other than agricultural land during the medieval period or before. NAU Archaeology Report 2193.

Ormesby St Michael (NHER 30626; TG 4747 1519)

by Nick Gilmour, Oxford Archaeology East

Evaluation on the proposed site of a series of silt lagoons for the Broads Authority revealed evidence for a substantial Bronze Age enclosure, together with further prehistoric field system ditches. Few finds were recovered to provide an accurate date for the features and no evidence of contemporary or subsequent settlement activity was recorded.

Postwick to Attlebridge, proposed Norwich Northern Distributor Route (NHER 35668, 36669, 49748, 50493, 50501, 51049; TG 28181 08576 to TG 14588 15465)

by John Ames, NAU Archaeology



A programme of trial trenching was conducted for Norfolk County Council Planning and Transportation Services ahead of proposed construction work on the Norwich Northern Distributor Route (NDR). The proposed NDR corridor covers 20km between 'bounded landscapes' north of the Wensum valley and the Yare-Bure peninsula. Based on the results obtained from the fieldwalking and metal-detecting survey and geophysical surveys undertaken in 2008, combined with information from cropmark sites, a programme of trial trench evaluation of 21 sites was developed. Cropping regimes and difficulties of access to some sites reduced the target number of trenches from 150 to 110. The scope of the evaluation was determined by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and focussed on areas where archaeological remains are known, positive geophysical survey results have been obtained and also 'control' areas of unknown archaeological potential. In addition to the 110 trenches along the corridor of the NDR



Plate 10 Norwich, Starling Road: Possible planting trenches.

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itself, an additional 48 were excavated in the area of Postwick (the Postwick Hub Link Road and Broadland Gate). Of these 158 trenches, 91 produced evidence of archaeological activity across many periods.

Early Neolithic pottery and worked flints were recovered from substantial pits or ditches at Beeston St Andrew (NHER 49748) situated on the higher southern grounds of the Bure valley and west of a tributary of the Bure. Residual Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic worked flints were recovered from a ditch at Postwick (NHER 51973). At another site in the parish  complex arrangement of linear and rectilinear cropmarks, probably representing field systems and an enclosure produced Early Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age artefacts (the latter being more prevalent). The site was partly situated on higher northern tracts of land overlooking the lower reaches of the Yare valley with free draining valley terrace gravels ideal for agricultural purposes and partly on lowland pastures and clayey bottom valley deposits suitable for cattle husbandry. This indication of mixed-farming practices in the Middle Bronze Age would obviously necessitate social and spatial organisation and likely settlement nearby. Middle Bronze Age pottery was also recovered from pits on the higher tracts of land at Taverham north of the Wensum valley. 

Iron Age pottery was recovered from Spixworth, possibly associated with the Thorpe St Andrew to Brampton Roman Road (NHER 52126). Further to the west, also in Spixworth, Roman pottery was found in a pit alongside several undated ditches (NHER 35668).

Early Saxon pottery was recovered from NHER 49744 at Horsham St Faith from within the area of a medieval fairstead. An Early Saxon sherd of pottery was also discovered at Rackheath (NHER 50501) which may hint at a presence prior to that of the deserted medieval village of Little Rackheath.

Medieval pottery was recovered from a series of pits and ditches at site NHER 51049 to the north of Rackheath. Further west lies the probable site of Little Rackheath, centred on Holy Trinity church which was abandoned by the 16th century. It is highly probable that the features recorded at NHER 51049 form part of this deserted medieval settlement; almost all of the pottery recovered was of 13th/14th-century date. Cropmark evidence recorded within Rackheath Park may pre-date the establishment of the park and it is likely that this village was deserted as a result of the reshaping of the landscape for Rackheath Park itself.

Reedham (NHER 52921; TG 4096 0177)

by Heather Wallis, freelance archaeologist

Waterlogged wood found on Limpenhoe Marshes during the excavation of a new soke dyke was recorded for Broadland Environmental Services Ltd. The remains of a series of upright posts, which appeared to support wickerwork hurdles, was found in the silty clays at the base of the new dyke. The similarity of this to other sites has led to its interpretation as part of a possible Middle Saxon fishtrap. If this is confirmed it is the second such structure to have been found during the Flood Alleviation Scheme, the other being at Herringby in 2008.

Reepham, Oaks Farm, Kerdiston (NHER 52765; TG 0694 2277)

by Chris Birks in association with Calvencorp, Walworth Building Services

Historic building recording was carried out prior to residential development. Brick gable walls and returns dating to around 1600 denote the former presence of a timber-framed barn, the frame being replaced in the 18th century by brick and flint. Two additional timber-framed barns were added in the 17th century, and then all three were raised in height and provided with an overall roof around 1800 before 19th- and 20th-century additions.

Stalham, 133 High Street (NHER 52563; TG 3727 2518)

by Peter Crawley, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken for Utting Construction prior to the construction of new retail and residential development adjacent to the High Street. Three trenches were excavated and all contained a series of medieval features, comprising ditches, gullies and pits. Two larger probable boundary ditches were also revealed. The work supports the suggestion that this area next to the historic church was at the core of medieval Stalham. NAU Archaeology Report 2201.

Stoke Holy Cross, Mangreen Hall Farm (NHER 37649; TG 2196 0346)

by Archaeological Solutions

Excavations on the site of a proposed reservoir c. 1km west of the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* examined a circular Roman enclosure ditch encompassing six graves containing at least seven human skeletons (Plate 11). These may have been part of a family group, perhaps associated with a villa or small settlement, although no evidence of domestic activity was encountered. Four of the inhumations within the enclosure are thought to have been roughly contemporary. The other three were situated in the entrance to the enclosure and are thought to have belonged to a later generation and perhaps an act of closure of the monument. Of particular interest is the presence of a young female exhibiting facial characteristics suggestive of mixed ancestry, with features more indicative of Negroid than Caucasian origins, but with the shared genetic trait of a pronounced occipital protuberance as two other burials. This was the only female buried within the funerary enclosure and she shared the grave with a young male. She may represent a second or third generation migration community in the *Venta Icenorum* area, though of course the presence of just one individual cannot possibly indicate how extensive this may have been.

Thetford, proposed Thetford Biomass Power Station (NHER 52658; TL 8623 8599)

by Peter Crawley, NAU Archaeology

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of RPS Planning and Development on the site of a proposed Biomass Power Station to the north of Thetford. A considerable

amount of prehistoric material has been recovered from the area within which the site is located and the projected course of the Icknield Way passes just to the east of the site. The evaluation followed a geophysical survey conducted in February 2009 and a fieldwalking survey conducted in May 2009. The evaluation trenches were partly arranged to examine some anomalies observed during the geophysical survey. Archaeological features revealed included three possible prehistoric pits and a possible prehistoric ditch, which was observed crossing four trenches and which confirmed one of the geophysical anomalies. Several good quality flint scrapers were found within the topsoil along with other worked flakes. This 'background noise' pointed to the exploitation of the area in the Neolithic period and added to the worked flints discovered in the fieldwalking. NAU Archaeology Report 2264.

Titchwell, RSPB Reserve (NHER 26780; TF 754 445)

by Louise Bush and John Diffey, Oxford Archaeology East
Archaeological work in advance of a development to realign the sea defences found an isolated prehistoric cremation and an associated pit, suggesting Neolithic activity in the surrounding area. A possible prehistoric ditch and others of post-medieval date were found, along with sea defence banks containing post-medieval elements. A World War II Armoured Fighting Vehicle Training Range and training site were also recorded.

Upton with Fishley (NHER 8606; TG 4071 1181)

by Heather Wallis, freelance archaeologist

New flood defences between Acle and Upton have been constructed as part of the Broadland Flood Alleviation Scheme. During a watching brief on behalf of Broadland

Environmental Services Ltd the foundations of Fishley Steam Pump were recorded. The pump was probably constructed in the latter part of the 19th century, replacing an earlier wind pump located nearby. It is visible on aerial photographs of 1946 and is said to have been destroyed by the army in the 1950s or 1960s when the building was regarded as an eyesore.

Walpole (NHER 53706; TF 4880 1650)

by Rachel Clarke, Oxford Archaeology East

Excavation in advance of an extension to an electricity substation investigated a possible medieval saltern identified by evaluation in 2008. The site of a second possible saltern mound was also monitored. The earliest levels comprise extensive layers of clays, silts and sands largely representing saltmarsh development post-dating the Iron Age and Roman periods. A sea-bank was constructed to the east of the site during the Late Saxon period, but the first definite activity on the site dates to the 13th to 14th centuries.

A large curving channel or creek extended across the site. The earliest evidence of saltworking comprised a large rectangular tank, associated with at least two phases of revetment. The latter took the form of a timber slot and a number of post-holes designed to stabilise the inner 'working' bank of the channel. Following a possible period of abandonment further phases of revetment were constructed, probably of mid-15th- to 17th-century date. Contemporary with these were several pits, tanks, troughs and channels. The final phase of activity, with pits, a probable filtration tank and a possible hearth, appears to date to the late 18th/19th centuries, although this is at odds with the known history of the site, which was enclosed and drained in 1789-9, and the documented decline of the industry in the late medieval period.



Plate 11 Stoke Holy Cross: Double burial, with the young female of mixed ancestry at the top.

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The features, deposits and associated finds appear to represent sporadic, low-level saltworking and channel management on the edge of the saltmarsh. Relatively few medieval salterns have been excavated or published within the region and in Norfolk, making this site of local and regional significance.

Weeting with Broomhill, Grimes Graves Environs Project (NHER 5640; TL 8169 8986)

by Barry Bishop, University of York

Work has focussed on documentary sources, artefacts held by museums, a finds distribution survey and a ground penetrating radar survey. The radar survey has been started and looks promising in terms of locating buried and no longer visible shafts. Probably the most significant finding so far is 500m to the south-west of the English Heritage site. This area was felled in November 2009 and although tree-felling debris obscures the surface a number of hollows are present. The sides of these were cleaned, revealing that stratified deposits are preserved in many of them. This particular area lies in a



Plate 12 West Dereham: The porch of St Andrew's church.

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comparable topographical situation to Grime's Graves and the potential identification of further extraction sites would be a very significant addition to our knowledge and appreciation of prehistoric activity in the area.

West Dereham, St Andrew's church (NHER 4425; TF 667 021)

by Gary Taylor, Archaeological Project Services

Building recording for Archimage Ltd and West Dereham PCC recorded the south porch of the 12th-century and later church (Plate 12). The porch has been described as 17th century with a shaped gable and incorporating reused medieval masonry for the door jambs and arch and a statue niche. The survey indicated that the porch had been built against the 15th-century body of the church and incorporated a recess to maintain access to a stoup. It was established that the main body of the porch was earlier than previously thought, perhaps of the 15th–16th centuries, and had been extended with brick to create the shaped gable in the late 17th century. APS Report 106/09.

Weybourne to Salle, Sheringham Shoal Onshore Cable Route (NHER 11339, 35206, 51724, 51429, 51430, 51432, 51725, 51433, 51434, 42834, 51815, 51435, 51436, 51437, 51438, 51726, 51439, 51440, 35206, 51442, 51443, 51444, 51446, 51727, 51728, 51444, 51447, 51448, 51449, 51450, 51451, 51816, 51452, 39390, 44076, 51453, 51454, 51729, 11339, 51455, 51456, 51457, 51458, 51730, 34869, 51459, 51460, 51465, 51731, 51732, 51461, 51462, 51463, 51465, 50177, 51467, 51468, 51469, 51471, 51472, 51473 and 51474; TG 10710 43642 to TG 12805 24082)

by Stephen Hickling, NAU Archaeology

The 21.3km length route of the Sheringham Shoal onshore cable route was evaluated by desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, fieldwalking and trial trenching, followed by excavation of specific sites and a watching brief on behalf of Scira Offshore Energy Limited. In total 131 evaluation trenches were excavated and four open-area excavations undertaken along the cable route linking the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm landfall at Weybourne to the EDF Energy substation at Salle. The open-area excavations took place at Baconsthorpe (NHER 35206 and 51444), Mere Farm (NHER 11339) and Heydon Park (NHER 51465).

The Baconsthorpe excavation at NHER 35206 produced a concentration of prehistoric burnt flint, possibly the edge of a potboiler mound, and two Roman structures – one of timber construction, the other possibly masonry, and both exhibited evidence of burning – along with an oven or kiln. A Roman post-hole alignment, eight Roman ditches and at least five Roman pits and a post-medieval ditch were also revealed. The watching brief phase further defined the Roman masonry building. A copper-alloy runic object was found at the base of the topsoil during the initial stripping of this site (see Hines, this volume).

The excavation at NHER 51444 revealed a large amount of Roman pottery and a complete Roman tile from the subsoil,