

## Volume Thirteen : 1980-81

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## THE EXCAVATION OF ST. PETERS CHURCH, WORLINGHAM PARVA

*by R.D. Carr*

NHC 004 TM 4599 8932.

**Introduction**

The site came to light through the excavation of a trench to relocate a gas main which was on the route of the eastern end of the Beccles by-pass. The trench, which lay parallel to and south of the road line cut through a cemetery, and thereby indicated the approximate position of the known, but previously unlocated church of St. Peter, (the positive identification of the church, in fact, re-awakened local memories of a noticeable scatter of flint debris and a local historian who had theorised that this was the church site). The adjacent area of road was stripped of topsoil in advance of the road works through the kind intervention of the resident engineer for the Surveyor's Department of the Suffolk County Council.

The excavation was complicated by the presence of a farm access track directly over the eastern half of the church, this could not be removed and as a result obscured the bulk of nave and chancel. The area and depth of excavation was restricted for several reasons. (a) At the onset time was expected to be restricted to a fortnight, this was sufficient to tackle the church but not the surrounding area. After the recovery of the burials from the pipe trench further work on the cemetery was written off as time consuming and non-productive. (b) The road in this area was to be embanked, the site below plough soil was, therefore, not likely to be damaged. (c) The complications of earlier occupation below the church could not be resolved within the limited area available and were, therefore, not excavated.

**The Excavation:**

The layer immediately below plough soil had a dense scatter of large flints (c. 10-15cm.). At a depth of c. 35 cm. this became an area of closely packed flint with mortar fragments covering an area of c. 5 m. square, minor trenching established that this was wall debris lying immediately over the tower wall footings. The flints were removed by machine and the wall footings below were cleared by hand.

**Pre-church occupation:**

Near the north west corner of the nave the church wall footings were hard to trace and diffuse in outline. Deeper excavation showed that the wall had sunk into a loamy sand which was the fill of an earlier feature. The line of flint rubble with mortar fragments running north-south across the nave was seen to be lying on top of this same fill, and is presumed to be demolition rubble which sank into it. In another area the feature was shown to be a shallow ditch c. 50 cm. deeper than the cleared surface within the church, and c. 1.25 m. wide. This same feature was visible on the surface exiting on the

south side of the south nave wall. It was cut by a burial and contained R.B. pottery of the 2nd-3rd century.

The site was much disturbed with natural only occurring in a very limited area in the south west corner, many of the disturbances were undoubtedly burials but others are likely to have been pre-church.

### **The church:**

Only the ground plan remained, preserved in the flint footings. The existing north-south farm track obscured nearly two thirds of the body of the church, but sufficient was uncovered to show that there was a round tower, nave and apsidal chancel.

Although the junction of the apse to the north and south walls was not uncovered it is clear that the body of the church was of constant width, with an average internal measurement of 3.80 m. The maximum internal length was 11.65 m. The tower was circular with an internal diameter averaging 2.40 m. and external maximum of 4.70 m.

The footings were of one build, showing no distinction between gable wall of nave and tower, nor any phases in the body of the church. They averaged 1.12 m. wide for the tower, 0.95 m., for the nave and 0.85 m. for the apse, and were uniformly deep, c. 25 cm. below the surface of natural or the surface immediately below the rubble layer.

The interior of the church was cleared to the level of the top of the wall footings, one grave was immediately visible, which suggests that no floor existed within the building or that it had been robbed away in the demolition. There were, therefore, no indications of structures within the church. There was no sign of any opening into the building although it is to be expected that the south doorway was somewhere along the wall line exposed.

Since the only remains were footings it is not possible to speculate far on the nature of the walls. The overlying rubble layer contained only flint and glacial erratic sandstone, there was no freestone, but this is hardly unexpected as it would have been the most sought after stone in the demolition and robbing. The wall thickness must be related to the footing widths, not surprisingly the tower is the thickest, followed by nave and apse. The 10 cm. difference between apse and nave was only demonstrated in a 40 cm. wide cutting across the footings, immediately adjacent to a buried water pipe, but the width of footing did not appear to be affected by the pipe trench.

The burials under the tower and nave demonstrated that the cemetery was in use before the excavated west end of the building, and one must assume an earlier church. There was no sign of an earlier church building but since the ground was so heavily disturbed both inside and outside the church (only c. 4.5 m. of natural bordered the church on the south side of the tower and the south west angle of the nave) this is not unsurprising. It is interesting that projection of the north and south walls and the apsidal curve do not align perfectly. A projection of the west and north west sectors of the apse is c. 20 cm. further south than expected, while the slight kink inwards in the south east section of the apse footings would align well with the projected south wall. This coupled with the narrower footings of the apse may indicate that it belongs to another building phase.

The church is known to have been in use in the late 15th century and is likely, therefore, to have had various rebuilding and alteration phases, none is preserved in the footings. Fragments of lead frame found outside the church, particularly at the east end, indicate that it was glazed. A small pit containing pin tiles c. 5 m. west of the apse appeared to be at too high a level to relate to the church and the absence of roof tile in the demolition rubble suggests the building was roofed with thatch, although some lead snippings were recovered there was not enough to postulate a lead roof.

The demolition was very thorough, the tower and nave walls were razed to ground level, the apse had a slightly greater height (c. 30 cm.) of wall core remaining in the north east sector but the wall surfaces were removed. A small pad of clay with a burnt surface on top of the tower wall footings, but below the rubble layer, is the only structure attributable to the period of demolition. Judging from the small amount of flint rubble left overlying the footings nearly all the building materials were reused.

### **The Burials:**

Five burials were excavated in and around the gas pipe trench c. 9 m. south of the church. The presence of a further 17 individuals was estimated by jaw and femur count of the large numbers of disarticulated bones recovered from the gas pipe trench and its spoil tips. During the course of the excavation of the church itself further burials were found immediately adjacent to the west and south sides of the Tower, and around the chancel, these were not excavated or recorded. The distribution of

burials in the pipe trench seemed to be fairly uniform and indicated that the graveyard was of roughly the same east-west dimension as the church itself. No burials were found north of the church but clearance on that side was very limited and graves could easily have been missed.

Although no attempt was made to totally excavate the interior of the nave, one burial was located in an exploratory trench cut across the rubble feature. A further feature, though only partially excavated, is interpreted as a grave.

A further two burials were found in trenches cut across the tower footings, both predated the footings of the church.

### Miscellaneous Small Finds

#### The Coins

All unstratified:-

1. Licinus, c. A.D. 324. Ae
2. Valentinian ? Valens, A.D. 364-78
3. Henry I, penny (1100-35) ? London mint
4. Stephen, penny (1135-54)
5. ? John, ½ penny (?1199-1216) short cross
6. Charles I, farthing (1625-49)

#### Bronze

All unstratified and mostly undateable fragments or objects.

7. Fragment of buckle.
3. Probable button.
9. Button, traces of gilding.
10. Fragment. Cross in ? red pigment,
11. Fragment.

#### The Pottery

##### Roman

The general unstratified assemblage covers the whole Roman period with both fine and coarse wares. From what was probably the north south ditch, there are 4 fragments of interest.

1. Samian, form 36. c. 1st/2nd A.D.
2. Samian, form 18/31. c. 1st/2nd A.D.
3. Nene Valley colour coated with rouletted decoration. c. 3rd century.
4. Dark brown fabric, with voids, probably shell temper.

##### Saxo-Norman

All unstratified, there are 4 Thetford type ware rim sherds, 5-8.

##### Mediaeval

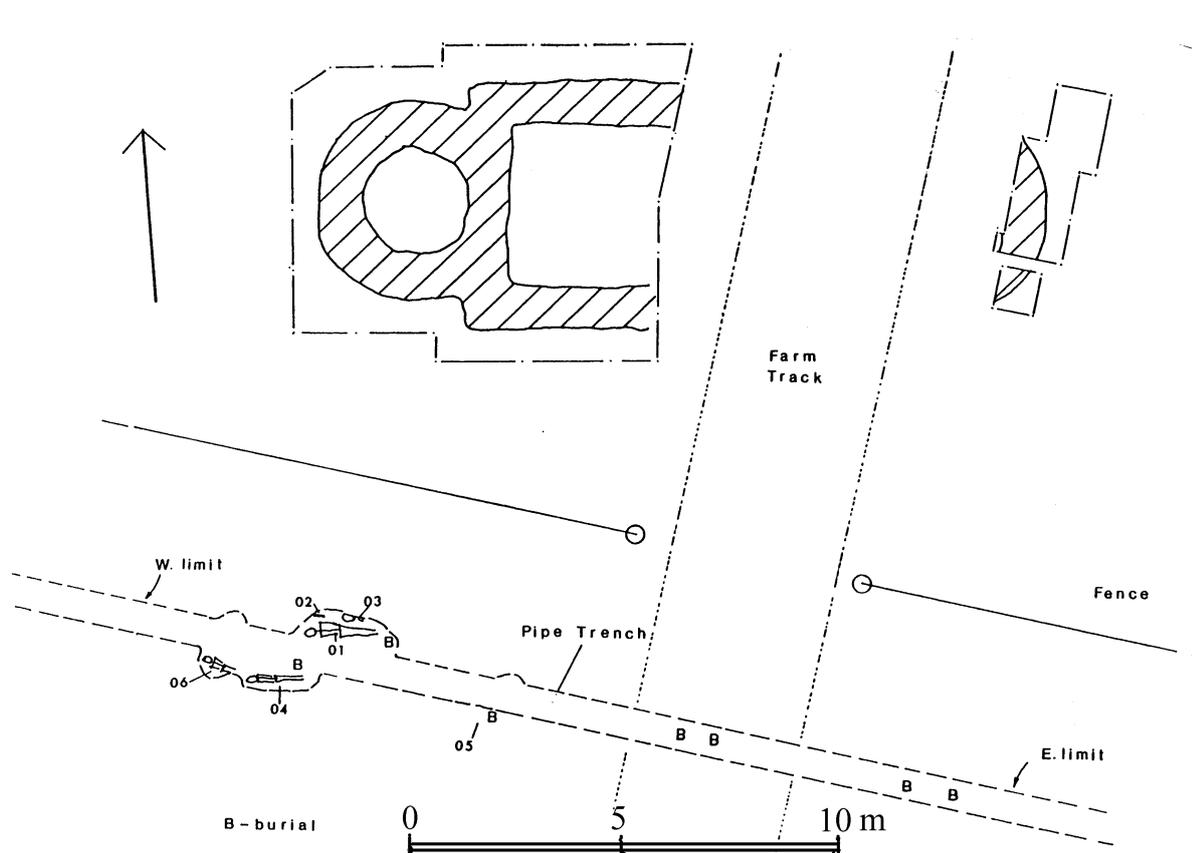
All unstratified. There is a small amount of green glazed ware probably from pitchers of the 13th century. The bulk of the sherds are from cooking pots with typical dark brown-black sandy fabric, but bowls are also represented, all generally dated 12th and early 14th century.

### Conclusions

The R.B. material and features on the site were not sampled fully by excavation but were sufficient evidence to indicate substantial occupation of the site in the early 2nd to 4th centuries. Further east on the road line a single vessel of c. 1st or early 2nd century was recovered by workmen, it was reported to be in association with bones.

There can be no doubt that the remains of the church are those of St. Peter, Little Worlingham. There is, however, no direct archaeological dating evidence. Thetford ware is represented in the general scatter on the site, indicating some occupation adjacent to the site but this still has a very broad date range (c. 900-1100). The form of the building with round tower and apse is indicative of origins also in the 10th to 12th century. Certainly there is a church recorded in the parish in the 11th century in Domesday Book. Since there is no evidence of pre-Thetford ware pottery on the site, and since the

building is shown to be in all probability a second phase building it seems likely that the excavated phase originates in the latter part of the broad date range, i.e. 11th or early 12th century.



The form of the church seems typical of the period. One might by analogue reconstruct the unexcavated area at the east end with the apse divided from the nave by an arch at the junction of north and south walls to the apse, the very small enclosed area forming the sanctuary. This was the earliest ground plan recovered on the site of St. Benedicts church, Norwich (Norfolk Archaeology XXXV, 1973, P.455) where the excavator suggests a late 11th century date.

The overall measurements of the building are undoubtedly smaller than the average surviving church; the tower diameter at 4.70 m. is, however, only c 20 cm. less than Blundeston, Gunton and Gisleham, the smallest of the neighbouring round towered churches; while the local average seems to be about 5.20 m.

From documentary sources we know the building was in use until the late 15th century, the general scatter of pottery and coins confirms the continued occupation of the site until the end of the 13th or early 14th century, but there is no Late Mediaeval or Post-Mediaeval pottery. This suggests that there were no dwellings immediately adjacent to the church for the last c. 200 years of its life. Several small bronze objects, a farthing, buttons, studs etc. are all likely candidates for chance losses and suggest the continued use of the church or the site of the church until the early 17th century. There is nothing from the site which helps to date the demolition but the total absence of finds after the early 17th century shows it was almost certainly razed by then and that the site in general was as deserted as it is today.

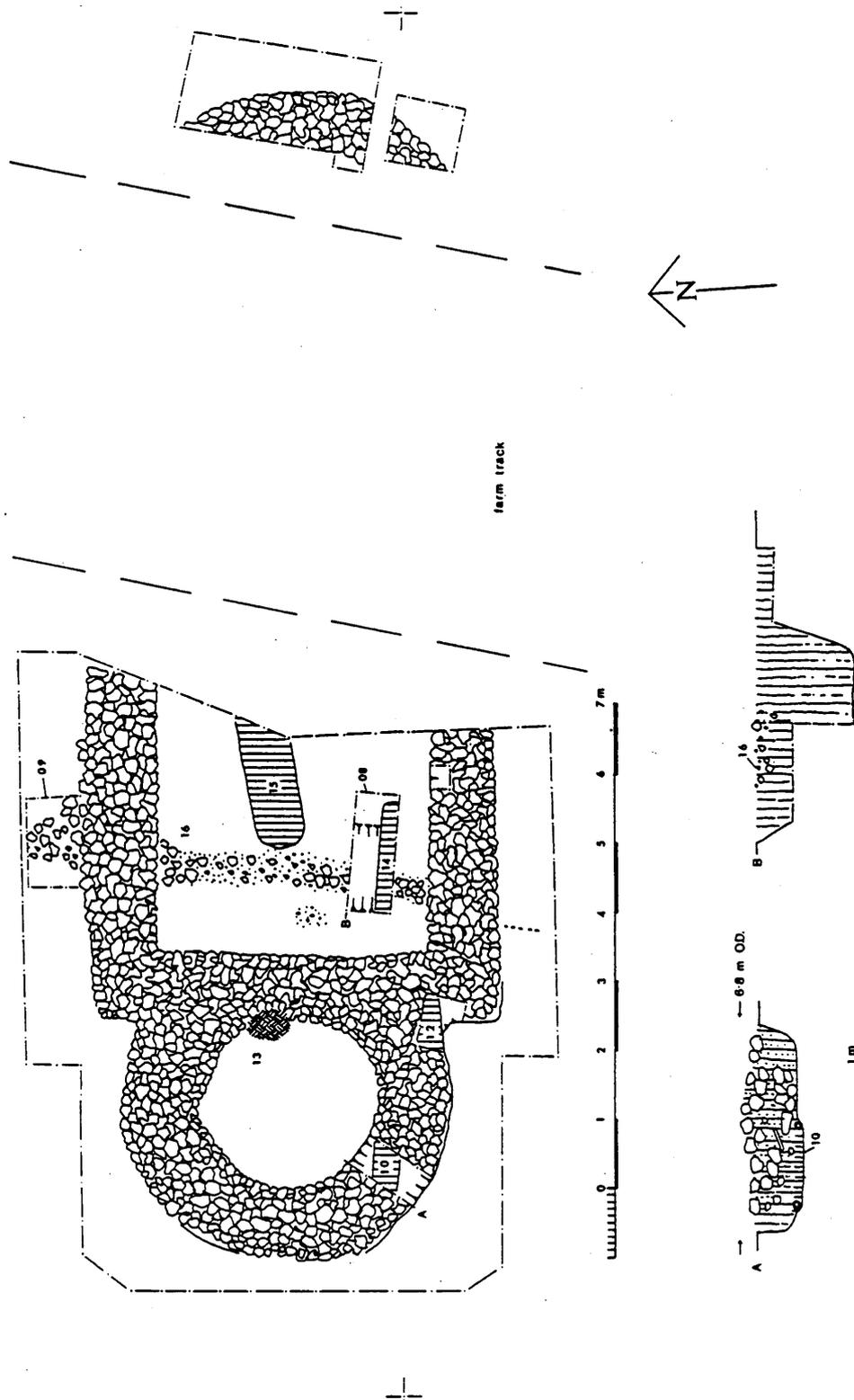
### Acknowledgements

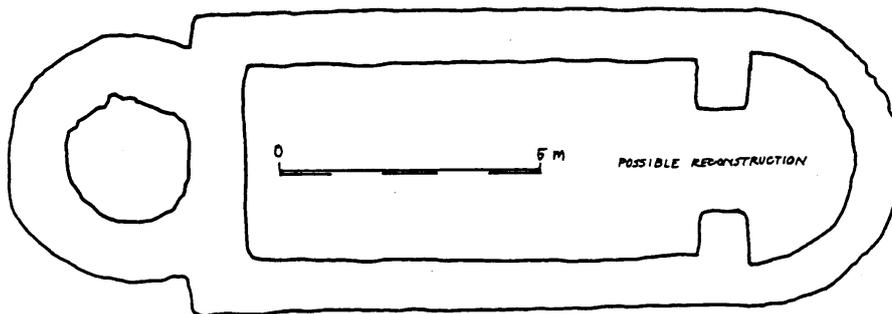
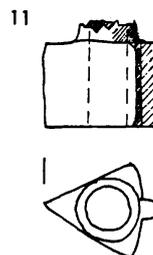
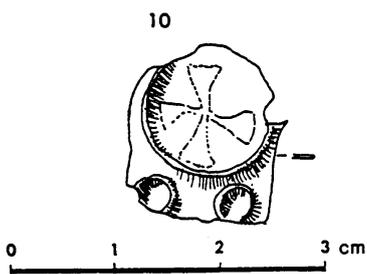
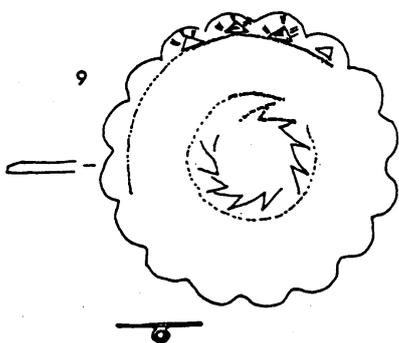
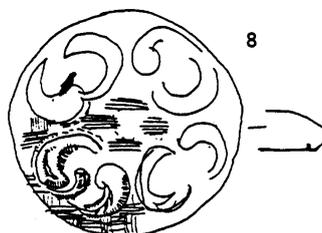
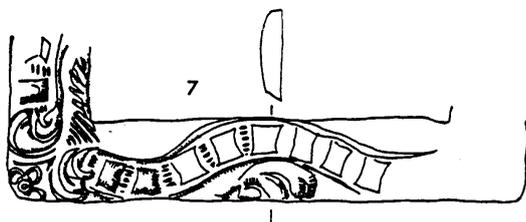
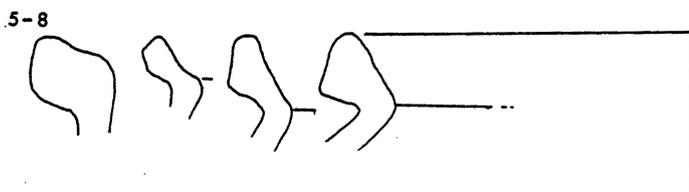
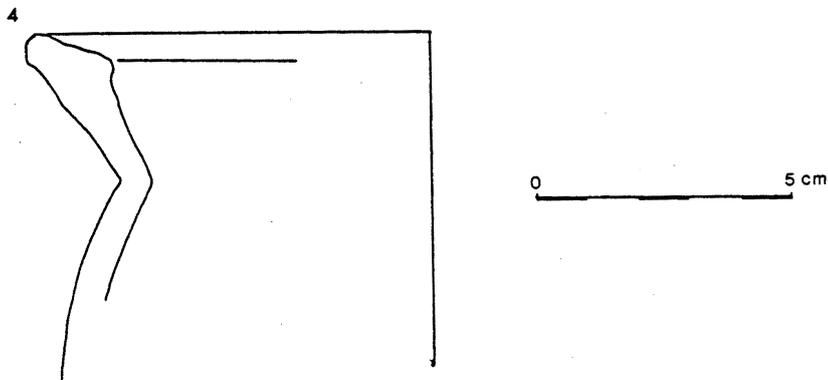
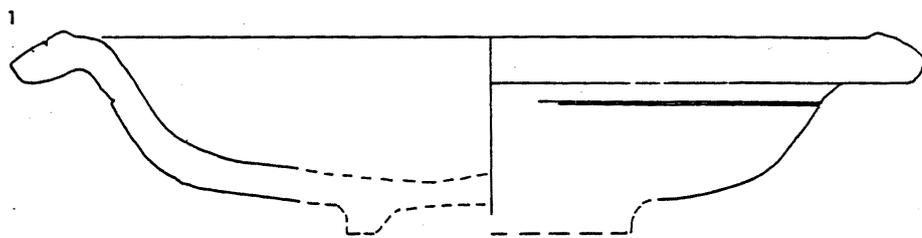
The Unit is grateful to Mr. Ian Sutherland who, on behalf of the County Surveyor's Department, gave every assistance during the course of the excavation. To the Rev. D. Goldspink, Rector of North Cove for his assistance in recovering the burials in the gas pipe trench, and to Adrian Pye who also helped with the burials and recovered all the metal artefacts from around the site.

R.D. Carr August 1980

NHC 004

ST PETER'S WORLINGHAM PARVA





**Supplementary list of additional small finds**

## Coins

Follis of Constantine I A.D. 313-315  
 Commonwealth 2 shillings (1649-60)  
 Edward I ? farthing  
 Henry II farthing (1216-1272)  
 Stephen, penny (1135-1154)  
 Stephen, penny (1135-1154)  
 Stephen, penny (1135-1154)  
 Henry I (Frag.) penny (1100-1135)  
 Henry I, penny (1100-1135)

## Bronze

4 thimbles  
 Square headed stud  
 7 Round headed studs  
 2 rings (1 rolled sheet) (1 cast with file marks)  
 Buckle pin  
 Cow or goat bell  
 Various decorative pieces  
 Other unidentifiable fragments

## Lead

Plumb weight  
 Tracery  
 Cut sheet  
 1 unidentified seal  
 Perforated dome (unident.)  
 Musket shot  
 Misc. scrap objects

## Clay products

Buff Mortaria ) 3rd-4th century  
 R.B. Gray coarseware )  
 Blue tile  
 Tegulae  
 Imbrine

A. Pye, Field Officer

**NOTES BY NORMAN SCARFE ON DOMESDAY BOOK'S EVIDENCE TOUCHING  
 WORLINGHAM, NORTH COVE AND THEIR EARLY CHURCHES**

As early as c. 1600, the compiler of the Chorography of Suffolk noted (SRS vol. 19, 1976, p.70): 'there were 2 of them the great cald Alsaints Worlingha' & 'the lesser cald St. Peters Worlingha'. Unluckily, anything he had noted about North Cove is among the pages still missing.

The recent discovery, stone footings of a presumably pre-Conquest small church with round tower, and earlier burials beneath these footings, certainly seems to be identifiable with the 'lesser cald St. Peters Worlingha', even though it lies now just within the boundaries of North Cove parish and indeed hardly more than 150 yards from the parish church of St. Botolph, North Cove. There is every reason to believe that the full account in Domesday Book of a complex Worlingham – nine separate estates of very varying sizes and significance – included the area of what (apparently about a century later) became known as Cove. It appeared in 1204 in the Curia Regis Rolls (see Ekwall's Oxford Dictionary

of English Place-Names) as 'Cove', a word which merely means a creek. In those days, when Beccles still stood beside a tidal estuary, either of two creeks could have given Cove its name: one curving up beside St. Botolph's church at the western edge of the parish, and still easily recognisable there on the north side of the main road as a stream-drained strip of meadowland; the other on the eastern edge of the parish of Cove and of the previous Domesday vill of Worlingham and of the Hundred of Wangford, and known now as The Hundred Drain. This second creek runs beside an ancient ford and moated site, where W.A. Copinger (*Manors*, VII, 167) recorded finds of 'numerous Roman bricks, and other antiquities', at Wade Hall: 'waed' = ford in Old English; nevertheless, the church may indicate the site of the eponymous cove, or creek. Though the earliest surviving feature of (n) Cove church is a Norman doorway, presumably 12th century, the dedication to St. Botolph in this (originally) estuarine, quasi-coastal position, not far from the 7th century mission-centre of St. Fursey at Burgh Castle, suggests as possible pre-Danish church here.

It does seem curious that one site containing 'numerous Roman bricks' and another with a possibly early Christian church should occur in Cove, which is not even mentioned by name in Domesday Book, while Worlingham, with no such obvious signs of early settlement has so full an account in D.B., including, however this is to be interpreted, 2 churches and ½ a church! That these 'Worlingham' churches in 1086 include Cove's seems to be corroborated by the fact that later, in 1327, when Cove had come into existence as a named vill, its assessment in the subsidy was amalgamated with Worlingham's: their assessment list is headed Villata de Werlingham cum Cove, and one of the two biggest tax-payers in the joint community was Caterine de Wathe – presumably from the ancient Wade Hall in Cove: the other, equally heavily assessed, was William Phelip the Chaplain. It is unusual to find a chaplain rated with the leading members of the vill,

Domesday Book's account of Worlingham may, therefore, with reason be taken as including Cove. Most of this large and complex vill in 1086 appears among the specially interesting entries grouped at the very beginning of the county survey of Suffolk: Lands of the King in the Royal Demesne which Roger Bigot kept for him in Suffolk.

- (1, 2, 3) First there were three small manors. Two of these were no bigger than 40 acres and a ploughteam and 2 acres of meadow. The third manor, even smaller, had 30 acres and a ploughteam, and only ½ acre of meadow.
- (4) Then, but not as a manor, a freeman had a holding of 30 acres and a plough and 2 acres of meadow.
- (5) There follows, in this record of modest holdings, a surprise, a very big farming unit: 'And 64 other freemen hold 5 carucates of land (600 acres) and they ploughed with 7 ploughs, in 1066 as now. And they have 4 acres of meadow'. Together they represent a sizeable village by our standards – let alone those of 1086.

Then, after a mention of the King's part in a church at Ringsfield, and another church in Weston, the Domesday record comes to:-

- (6) his '2 churches in Worlingham, with 40 acres. Others have part therein. Of one of these church Robert de Vallibus holds the half part with 30 acres and 1 bordar'. This record, as one sees at once, contains much ambiguity. There is more to come.

After that main group of the King's land held for him 'in demesne' by Roger Bigot, we turn the pages to three very dissimilar holdings by three of the King's Tenants in Chief. The first, Earl Hugh of Chester, who in 1086 held Bungay and Ilketshall in this Hundred, also held -

- (7) 'in Worlingham 6 acres farmed by a freeman'. (He also held, in this same Hundred and in the adjacent entry in Domesday Book, the 22 acres and a plough farmed by three freemen at a place called Hetheburgafella. The name Hetheburgfield seems not to be recorded elsewhere; but it could conceivably have been in the Worlingham of 1086, for there was much heath towards the Ellough boundary in the south. In 1327, no less than four Worlingham-cum-Cove taxpayers were called de or del Heth. It could, almost equally possibly, have been an open space, fella, at a defended site, burg, at a hythe, or landing-place; for Lakenheath's 'heath' means 'hythe'. That could be the Wade Hall site. Heath of hythe, we shall never know exactly where those three recorded freemen ploughed.)

The next definite Domesday Book reference to Worlingham appeared under the Abbot of St. Edmunds, as Tenant in Chief, who held

- (8) 'half a church in this place, with 5 acres'. This seems to be a holding quite distinct from the two churches recorded earlier as being in the King's demesne. Admittedly, of them it was recorded

that 'others have part therein', and one of them, Robert De Vallibus (i.e. Vaux) was named. But it is difficult, indeed impossible, to see how Roger Bigot could be thought to be holding this half-church in demesne for the King if it belonged to another Tenant in Chief, the Abbot of St. Edmunds.

So we seem to have records of 2½ churches in Worlingham in 1086.

Finally, Hugh de Montfort, the Constable, whose Suffolk estates were controlled from Haughley Castle, had

- (9) an estate here of 60 acres with 2 ploughteams and 2 acres of meadow which was valued, interestingly, at 10s. 6d, and 1,000 herrings – our one reference to the estuarine fishing at Worlingham. (At Beccles, the manor rendered 30,000 herring to St. Edmund in 1066, 60,000 in 1086).

From all this, and the fact that Cove does not appear in the Domesday Book record by name, it seems clear that these nine very various estates in 'Worlingham' were set within the bounds of the later Worlingham-cum-Cove.

Can it be reasonably established which buildings are referred to in these two separate records of 2 churches and half a church? At present I do not think it can. 'Half a church' in Domesday Book means 'half a holding in a church', not 'a small church'. For instance, on the other side of Beccles, our only indication that there was a church at Barshan in 1086 is the record that there Robert de Vallibus held under Roger Bigot half a church with 20 acres which Leustan the priest held in 1066. This can only mean that, for some reason, perhaps oversight or successful tax-evasion, the ownership of the second half of the church was not recorded. If, through later records, a connection between one of the three churches of Worlingham-cum-Cove and the descendants of Robert de Vallibus (or Vaux), or with an Abbot of Bury, were established, we might distinguish these Domesday Book churches from one another. At least, Domesday Book positively suggests that all three churches had their origins before 1066.

Further to my notes on Worlingham's churches, Peter Northeast today tells me his researches into wills show Worlingham Parva St. Peter to be a fully working church and parish in 1474★, still burying, still receiving tithes, still receiving (small) legacies towards the repair of the fabric.

He has also found a nice complication: a gift in 1270 to prior and convent of St. Olave, Herringfleet, of the advowson of the church of St. Andrew in Worlingham♠! I suppose it may be the original dedication of All Saints? !

♠ College of Charter Rolls Vol. II p. 145

Norman Scarfe

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM PETER NORTHEAST

But Worlingham Parva appropriated to Butley Priory 1244-8 — See Suffolk Charters I (Leiston Abbey and Butley Priory) p. 156.

★ i.e. in will<sup>1</sup> of Joan Dully, late the wife of Thos. Wylde, while he lived, of Ellough, dated 26th October, 1474, at 'Wyrlyngham Parva', who directs her body to be buried in the churchyard of the church of St. Peter of Worlingham aforesaid; and bequeathes to the high altar there, 4d, and to the common fabric of the same church, 4d.

Yet, when John Ponde, of Worlingham Magna, made his will<sup>2</sup> on 1st April, 1472, he left small bequests of money to all the nearby churches but does not include Worlingham Parva.

John Sernegan Esq., styles himself as 'of Worlyngham Parva' in his will<sup>3</sup> dated 31st October, 1474, but makes no mention of the church there.

<sup>1</sup> Norwich: 179 Gclour

<sup>2</sup> Ipswich: Vol. 2 f.224

<sup>3</sup> Norwich: 34 Gilberd

Will of John Eye the elder (Ipswich Vol.2 f.348) dated 18th April, 1477; 'of Wirlyngham' and to be buried in the churchyard of Worlingham, i.e. apparently no need to identify which Worlingham. But as late as 1523/4, will (Ipswich Vol. 3 f.412) of Maud Howell describes herself as of 'Wirlyngham Magna'.

No further reference to Worlingham Parva or St. Peter church found after the above of 1474.

Peter Northeast

— oOo —

The Society is grateful to the Suffolk Archaeological Unit for permission to reprint its interim report on Worlingham Parva and to Norman Scarfe and Peter Northeast for their additional notes.

### ROUND TOWER RESEARCH ST. PETER'S, WORLINGHAM PARVA, SUFFOLK

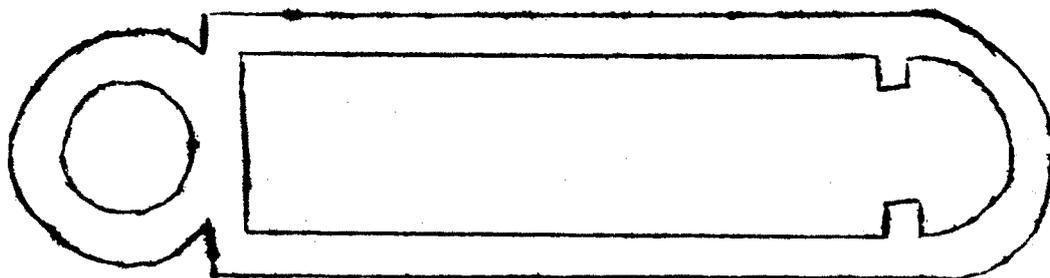
*by W.J. Goode*

Elsewhere in this publication is a detailed report on the excavation of the skeleton and the foundations of St. Peter's Church, but owing to the short time available for the dig, the Suffolk Archaeological Unit were unable to date the building closely. They stated that this type of church was in use from the 10th to 12th century, and in their opinion it was 11th or early 12th century, because it appears to have been built over some previous building.

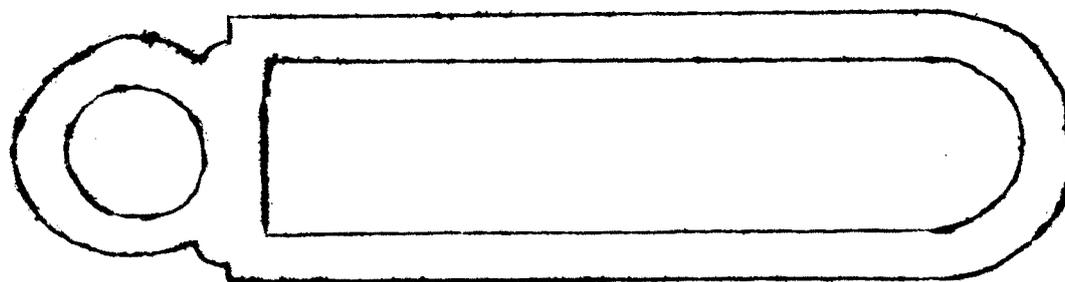
I hope, by drawing on the accumulative evidence of my 15 years study of these round towered churches, and being privileged to see the evidence with my own eyes, I can add something to this report and get us nearer to the date of the founding of St. Peter's.

Before we get down to dating proper, we should of course make sure we know the shape of the church. The 'possible' plan put forward by the Suffolk Unit includes a 'Chancel Arch', see the short walls at the end of the apse. From my observations, I do not believe the Saxon Churches in this area ever had a Chancel Arch, as there are none that I can date before the Norman era. The true plan of the foundations uncovered does not include this section which was under the trackway, and it has therefore been assumed that the church had a chancel arch.

This is the suggested foundations.



While my revised plan of the church would be as follows;-



We can now see that the church and tower were built at the same time, as they were bonded together, which would not be so if the tower had been added later. This tells us that this parish church was not from the very early Saxon period, for there are at least 33 flint churches surviving in East Anglia from the period before towers, because we can see where their Round Towers were added to them at some later date. Having now cancelled out any chance of the church being built in the pre-tower era, we must also realise that it is most unlikely that it would have been amongst the very earliest of the Round Towers, for as the parish is only 117 acres, it is remarkable that it should have a tower at all, even if there was a stone church.

We are left, therefore, with a very strong assumption that at this time it was almost unthinkable to build a church without a tower. We must therefore date it after 937 A.D., when Athelstan declared that a Bell Tower must be built on the land of every Thegn. By this time East Anglia was dominated by the Vikings, but they were being converted to Christianity, and it appears large numbers of churches were being built. From the evidence of other Round Tower churches, it appears that although this area (East Anglia) was under Dane Law, they nevertheless still built churches and followed the trend of other parts of England in religious matters.

How long after 937? is our next question. My study has shown that the quarter-round pilasters or (fillets) between church and tower to north and south, are pre-Conquest features, and they have also been classed as such by such eminent scholars as Baldwin Brown and H.M. Taylor. The Suffolk Unit does not mention them, and their drawing of the foundation plan does not make them very clear. I did however see them on three occasions and there could be no mistaking the fact that they did exist, and also that they were part of the original building.

We are now between 937 A.D. and the Conquest, and can we narrow this further? Research has shown that all the towerless Saxon churches and the churches with early towers had naves narrower than 20 ft. The later Saxon Churches appeared to have wider naves, as did the Norman churches. This, then, appears to place this church and tower between 950 and 1,000 A.D. But we must add the proviso that owing to the very small size of the parish, there is still the possibility that this narrow church may have been built after 1,000, but still before the Conquest.

W.J. Goode

### WORLINGHAM PARVA – DENTAL EXAMINATION OF THE SKELETAL REMAINS UNCOVERED FROM THE SITE - 1980

*by A.M. Turner*

As only a small sample of the bones and skulls from the churchyard were recovered, the information obtainable from them is obviously limited.

Of those recovered a few had been archaeologically excavated, but the majority were unearthed by a mechanical digger and many were, as a result, badly damaged as well as being 'jumbled'. The total number of skulls/part skulls examined was 22, as follows in Table 1.

Table 1

Complete			Incomplete		
Maxilla + Mandible	Adult	4	Maxilla + Mandible	Adult	2
Maxilla + Mandible	Child	1	Maxilla + Mandible	Child	1
Maxilla only	Adult	4	Maxilla only	Adult	0
Maxilla only	Child	0	Maxilla only	Child	0
Mandible only	Adult	6	Mandible only	Adult	3
Mandible only	Child	1	Mandible only	Child	0

These were examined for:- 1. Signs of dental caries.

2. Signs of periodontal disease.

3. Attrition,

4. Dental abnormalities.

In one or two instances X-Rays were taken. Time did not allow detailed measurements to be made (the remains were to be re-interred) but an approximate measurement of the length of the complete mandibles from the mental prominence to the angle was taken. This varied in the adults from 0.075 m. to 0.090 m. Of the childrens mandibles, one (estimated age 4-5 years) measured 0.060 m.; one (estimated age 5-6 years) measured 0.065 m. and the other (estimated age 6-8 years) measured 0.070 m.

## Dental Caries

The teeth were examined individually using a dental probe with the results as shown in Table 2:-

Table 2

Total number of teeth present:-	Permanent	174
	Deciduous	32
Teeth lost post-mortem:-	Permanent	38
	Deciduous	14
Teeth showing signs of dental caries:-	Permanent	7
	Deciduous	0

Roots present have been included in the total number of teeth present but not in the carious teeth, for, although it seems probable that at least some of the roots resulted from fracture of the crown following dental caries, it was not possible to be certain of this.

After eliminating the roots, as stated in the previous paragraph, this leaves us with approximately 3½% of the teeth showing signs of caries. This would appear to indicate that adults could expect at least one tooth to be affected by caries, but it is worth noting that the seven teeth with caries came from 3 skulls – 2 skulls each having 3 cavities and one skull had one cavity. The latter was a child estimated as being 9-12 years old with only early attrition of the lower left first permanent molar. The others were in young adults probably of around 16-22 years. The fact that caries was found only in the 'late teenage' teeth could be of some significance, as, as will be seen later, the attrition was very considerable and it is possible that the dental caries was much commoner than would appear from the figures in Table 2, but was eliminated by attrition and the natural forming of self-cleansing areas.

## Periodontal Disease

Most of the adult skulls showed bone loss, particularly of the interdental crests. In some cases this was very severe and included considerable loss of the buccal (in particular) and lingual/palatal bone of the sockets. In one skull the buccal bone of the upper right first permanent molar had been lost up to the apex. In some instances calculus was still present.

The general impression gained was that periodontal disease of varying degrees of severity was common and presumably was the main cause of tooth loss.

## Attrition

With the exception of two skulls (estimated ages 4-5 and 5-6 years) all the skulls showed signs of attrition. This varied in degree from early loss of the cusps to very considerable loss of enamel and dentine down to and including secondary dentine. In some cases the crowns had been lost and the roots, with open pulp canals, had erupted and showed signs of attrition themselves. One child (estimated age 6-8 years) showed attrition of all the deciduous molar teeth and another (estimated age 9-12 years) showed early attrition of the lower left permanent molar, together with attrition of the left deciduous canine teeth.

## Dental Abnormalities

These were much the same as one would expect to find in 20th century man.

There was one impacted lower left wisdom tooth. In this skull the lower right first permanent molar had been lost and the second and third molars had erupted into its space in amesio-angular direction.

In another skull the upper permanent second incisors were absent (confirmed by X-Rays) and the canines had moved mesially into their spaces to give a reasonable arch.

One retained lower left second deciduous molar was noted and also one rotated upper left second pre-molar.

## Conclusion

The amount of attrition gives a very good indication of the coarseness of the diet and it would appear that this probably contained a considerable amount of grit. The sample examined was small but as eruption dates would probably be similar to those of today an indication, at least, of the rate of attrition could be gained from the childrens' teeth – making allowance for more rapid attrition of deciduous teeth. Given a larger sample and using accurate measurements it would appear that a reasonable estimation of age could be made from the teeth.

One skull was found with an edge to edge bite and one got the impression from several of the mandibles that this was by no means the only one.

Not infrequently one finds mediaeval stone or wooden carvings in churches obviously depicting 'tooth-ache'. Having studied these jaws, one realises that it must have been a far from infrequent experience!

A.M. Turner

**WEATHER REPORTS TAKEN FROM ARMSTRONGS HISTORY OF NORFOLK  
(CITY OF NORWICH) PUBLISHED IN 1778**

*by Mrs. Eunice Smith*

Editor's note - written as the original transcript, i.e. f's are used in lieu of s's.

On the 26th January, 1165, an earthquake was felt here, and all over Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgehire; the flock of which was fo great that the bells rang in the fteeples, and many people were thron down.

On the 29th June, 1271, whilft the monks were at prime, the cathedral fteeple was fo violently ftruck with lightning, that feveral large ftones were thrown down with fuch force, that they funk a confierable way into the ground; and the whole choir was filled with ftench and fmoke; but happily no lives were loft. The city and adjacent country alfo received confiderable damage, by a great flood which happened this year.

In 1280, confiderable damage was done to this city, and the circumjacent country, by teapefts and inundations.

In 1288, many perfons died here of heat and drought; and fo great a fearcity fucceeded, that wheat was fold in London at forty pence a quarter; an extravagant price at that time.

In 1456, December 20, a flock of an earthquake was felt here; and in the year following, a French invafion being dreaded, the city raifed two hundred men, which they fent for the defence of Yarmouth.

In 1580, on the Wednefday in Eaftcr week, towards the evening, was felt a flock of an earthquake; which, Stow fays, was very violent in Kent, and many other places.

In 1593, there happened fo great a drought, that many cattle perifhed for want of water; but in the year following, from the twenty-firft of June to the end of July, it fearcely ceafed raining day or night.

In 1601, on Wednefday the 29th of April, about five o'clock in the afternoon, there fell a fudden ftorm of hail and rain, attended with violent thunder and lightning: whereby the upper part of the cathedral fpire, which had been lately repaired, was beaten down; it fell on the north roof of the church, which it broke through, doing confierable damage thereto, as well as to the walls of the choir: the fpire was fplit on the fouth eaft fide from top to bottom, and more than twenty holes made therein large enough for a man to creep through; no other part of the city received any damage by this violent tempeft. And on Chriftnas day at noon another flock of an earthquake was felt here.

In 1673, fell a very deep fnow in the month of February, which laid upon the ground feven weeks: on its thawing it occafioned to great a flood, as to damage confiderably moft of the bridges in and near the city.

In 1698 the winter proved very long and fevere; wheat rofe to the enormous price of 44 s. a comb. A quantity of fnow fell on the third of May.

In 1706, a great part of the city was paid under water by two violent floods, both of which happened in the month of November.

On the 31st December 1734 was the greateft flood that has happened fince 1696.

In 1737, October 4th, a great part of the city was flooded.

1739: The winter proved remarkably feverc; a deep fnow fell about Chriftnas, and remained upon the ground till March, when on the breaking up of the froft, a prodigious flood enfued. The cold was more intenfe than in the winters of 1708 and 1715, and continued fo long, that had not the diftreffes of the poor been generoufly relieved by the inhabitants, numbers muft have perifhed. The feafon held fo fharp, that on the 5th of May, 1740, a fnow fell, which at ten in the morning hung on the cathedral fnire, from its top to the feconf window.

Early in the morning of Monday, January 10th, 1757, a flight flock of an earthquake was felt, proceeded by a strange rumbling noise in the air; its direction was nearly due east and west.

On the 21st day of January, 1759, in the afternoon, fell the most violent storm of hail ever known in this city in the memory of man; some of the hail-stones (or, more properly speaking, pieces of ice) were prodigiously large. One was taken up, which measured more than two inches in length, and an inch and half in breadth; it weighed three quarters of an ounce, and was extremely jagged.

Early on Wednesday morning, October 27, the inhabitants of this city were surprized with a sudden inundation of water, which entirely overflowed the lower parts of this city, and laid under water between two and three thousand houses, with eight parish churches: the flood continued all Wednesday, but began to abate on Thursday morning: it was fifteen inches higher than that called St. Faith's flood in 1691; but not so high as the great flood in 1646 by eight inches; or St. Andrew's flood in 1614 by thirteen inches. The damage done by it to the houses, wares, &c, if supposed to amount to several thousand pounds.

In January 1767, happened the greatest fall of snow ever known in the memory of man. It laid near a month upon the ground, and was so general as greatly to obstruct the commerce of the whole kingdom.

On Thursday August 11, in the same year (1768) at two in the afternoon, a most terrible thunder storm happened in this city; one clap was very tremendous, and greatly terrified the inhabitant: at the instant of time the lightning fell on one of the city towers between Brazen-doors and Bertrée-gates, inhabited by John Ward: it entered the house at a low room on the east, and shivered the posts of a bed which was in the room; it then passed into the next apartment, where his daughter and four of her children were at dinner, who were all smote to the ground; and a boy of seven years old was killed on the spot, the mother remained speechless for some time; it passed from thence up-stairs, and after tearing a beam into many shivers, and shattering the windows, forced its way through the roof, and threw down a part of the battlements of the tower.

1769: Tuesday, June 13th, an uncommon storm of hail and rain fell in the parishes of St. Augustine, St. Paul and St. Saviour, with part of Magdalen-street; where the fall of water was so great as to render the channels and street impassable; the hail stones were remarkable large, and what made it more astonishing was, that no hail fell in many contiguous parishes nor in many other parts of the city.

In November the rains were so incessant as to cause a great flood, which laid a part of the city under water; it was said to be four inches higher than the flood in 1762: on this calamity a collection was made in the several parts of the city, to the great relief of the sufferers, in money, coals and bread.

On Wednesday, December 19th, the inhabitants were greatly terrified at a violent storm of wind and rain which began at one in the morning and lasted several hours; during which time great damage was done in this city and neighbourhood, several churches had their windows shattered to pieces, and roofs stripped of their lead; chimneys blown down, houses untiled, trees torn up by their roots, &c. such a gale had not been remembered since the year 1741.

On Tuesday, June 2nd (1772) between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, we had a very smart tempest; a cloud unexpectedly burst from the south-east, with an explosion the most extensive, loud and awful, that had been heard in this city in the memory of man: the first discharge of its explosion fell on the White Horse alehouse in Bethel-street; part went down the chimney, which it broke, and struck dead a dog laying between the landlady and another person by the fire side; the remainder was spent on the front of the building, and shattered the windows in a most terrible manner. At three or four hundred yards distance, in the direction of N.N.W. another collection of the electric fluid, or lightning broke upon the house of Mr. Wright, in St. Lawrence, a boarding-school; part descending through the roof, splintered a bed post in the upper story; from thence descended by an iron rod in the chamber closet, and fell upon a time-piece in the school-room, beneath the glass, the frame of which it shattered to pieces, without doing any further mischief than splitting the chimney and partitions. A portion of that body of fire went down the chimney in a room contiguous, and struck out a piece of a pavement between Mrs. Wright and her fitter, who were sitting there. The effects of this amazing shock was violently felt in other parts of the city, particularly at the house of Knipe Gobbett, esq, mayor; a looking-glass which lay upon a table, with the quick-silver side upwards, was dashed in pieces.

On Friday, the 13th of August (1773) about seven in the evening, a dreadful thunder-storm began; at midnight the scene was very awful, the lightning running on the tops of the houses, as well as on the ground: this was followed by a very loud crack of thunder, the most tremendous that had been for

several years: this tempest continued till ten the next morning; notwithstanding its violence, did but little damage to this city: but the effects of this storm was dreadful in many parts of the county.

On Christmas eve following (1776) the mutability of the weather was very surprising, it often changing from temperate to extreme cold; and between five and six of the evening of the same day, there was a sharp storm of hail and rain, attended with thunder and lightning, a circumstance not remembered by the oldest person then living: two persons were struck down by the lightning on Life's Green near the cathedral, but received no damage.

In 1779, the new year was ushered in with one of the most terrible storms of wind, attended with thunder and lightning. Incredible damage was done in divers parts of the city: the dreadful effects of it was most severely felt on St. Andrew's church, which was greatly damaged, with divers other churches, houses, &c. &c. Such a storm had not happened in the memory of man; it was not confined to this city, but extended to the county and kingdom in general, dreadful accounts having been received of great damage done to shipping, many barns blown down, trees torn up by the roots, inundations at Yarmouth, &c. &c.

(This date - 1779 - is given in the book although the frontpiece says it was published in 1778).

Mrs. Eunice Smith

## OUR CHANGING BRITISH HISTORY

*by M.G. Reeder*

What a strange title, surely our history can't change, or can it? If you have been reading some of the more recent history books, then what follows may already be familiar to you. But if, like me, your knowledge of the general history of Britain stems from fairly distant school days, when facts were unquestioned, and the past was inhabited by uncivilised, murderous thugs, you too could be in for a surprise.

Firstly, it is now generally accepted, though grudgingly by some, that history is not truth. Everything is interpreted by the historian, flavoured by the individual view and the general view of the age in which the history is written. The reasons for the varying interpretations are far too numerous and complex to attempt to detail here and again are only interpretations. Thus, one current historian Lloyd Laing can write (ref. (1)) 'It seems to have been felt in the early 20th century that the English should not owe much to their Continental forebears. The view that the Saxon could have had any relationship with the Romano-British Celts they encountered that was not bloody, appears to have been untenable'.

In addition to the bias given to the interpretation is to be added the source of the information. Most easily available surviving written or archaeological records have been those dealing with the monarchy and top people, religion, war, and the law and its infringement. To write a history of a period, using these records as found, is obviously to mislead (ref. (2)). Yet this is just what many former historians did, and this narrowness, together with their dogmatism, has built up a very strange view of the British past. In this strange, mythical past, small bands of immigrants overran and made slaves of the mass of the indigenous peoples. While on specific dates the fates of nations were decided by two groups of men fighting in some remote field. Great men terrorised the land, and the cliché that life in the past was 'nasty, brutish and short' was coined to describe the whole mess,

Today's historians tend to be more honest, less dogmatic, and use a wider spread of information on which to base their interpretation. Total history is attempted by using documents, archaeological evidence and anything else available plus reasoned judgement. The past, of course, was just as diverse as the present, and a headline event could be a non-event. Thus, to some few individuals in the past, a change of monarch would be significant, but to most had no effect, just as today, despite all the ballyhoo a change of Prime Minister is insignificant. As always, the wheel of change is too great to be much influenced by any individual. All the fears and horrors have always been balanced by joy and happiness.

In 1980 the major exhibition presented in London on the Vikings received massive publicity. The popular press made much of the reassessment that has taken place with phrases such as 'Vikings now seen as nice guys'. As usual, this is an over simplification but sums up the reinterpretations of our past, as presented in the recently published histories.

Every period has no doubt been reassessed many times recently, and I have only read a few of the publications, therefore I am generalising from a small sample. But the message seems so consistent and reasonable that I find it difficult not to believe. The many Viking books now acknowledge this view (ref. (3)), the Celts are viewed with understanding, (ref. (4)) with Saxons, (ref. (5) and Normans as reasonable people. Those well studied Romans (ref. (6)) are even turning out not so masterful but more integrated, their main claim to prominence in our early past being their ability to leave vast, long lasting remains.

When we come more up to date, more records survive and the changes in our views can be more certainly justified. In the Mediaeval period the whole range of society can be observed in the records (ref. (7)). By using a wide range of evidence it becomes clear that the headlines of traditional history are a fiction, the 1066 conquest was largely a non-event (ref. (8)), the population was already falling when the black death arrived (ref. (9)), the enclosures were long drawn out and benefitted different sections of the community at different times and in different places, the dissolution of the monasteries can be seen as only a tidying up of a long standing disintegration (ref. (11)).

All these books use the traditional historical period timetable although this has become elastic and should probably be abandoned. How does one divide history up into convenient chunks for study? This is obviously becoming a problem for the multi-disciplined historians, for causes and effects know no time or geographical boundaries, the past becomes as multi-faceted as the present, and just as difficult to analyse.

Many historians believe we are now at a cross road in the study of history and they see broad, straight roads in which ever direction they favour. If Fernand Braudel (ref. (12)), a French historian of prodigious fame, is to be believed, history is about to be transformed. He forecasts the collapse of the cult of pure facts and the scientific approach, with a change to the social sciences, producing a total general humanist history. This may happen in France within the 'new wave' historians, but British reserve will, I believe, produce a compromise between this and the school of history as biography, even autobiography, as prophesied by others. General histories in the future will probably have a very light sprinkling of what we have traditionally considered as facts, while diplomatic and political events will be seen as having very little significance. Everyday events and ordinary people will feature prominently, as will the theoretical reasons for, and changes in behaviour. This type of history could become lengthy and mundane, and the lack of both untarnished heroes and true villains could make this type of history indigestible.

The justification for studying history is often put as being that by knowing the past we can understand ourselves, and even improve the future. A very laudable endeavour, but many historians in the past have, it seems, set out to prove that progress has occurred. To this end they have had to portray past as hell on earth. A future historian of this type, viewing our current obsession with weapons of total destruction, and today's carnage on our roads, could conclude that our blood lust is better developed than any period in the past. Yet most of us live well enough with this, which for me puts things in perspective, and makes the past not such a bad place.

Even with the recent history books I believe we need to keep in mind what Frank Muir said recently (ref. (13)), 'I try to make the past fun. It was, you know. The trouble is that schools teach you that it's desperately serious'.

M.G. Reeder

## References

- (1) Anglo Saxon England – L. & J. Laing (1979) P. 7.
- (2) Men of Dunwich – Rowland Parker (1978) p. 109, puts this very well.
- (3) The Viking Achievement – P.G. Foote and P.M. Wilson (1970)  
The Viking World – J. Graham-Campbell (1980)  
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The Age of the Vikings – P.H. Sawyer (1962)
- (4) Celtic Britain – L. Laing (1979)  
Celtic Civilization – J. Markale (1976)
- (5) Anglo Saxon – L. & J. Laing (1979)
- (6) Roman Britain – Life in an Imperial Province - K. Branigan (1980)

- (7) Mediaeval England – A Social History and Archaeology from the Conquest to 1600 A.D. – C. Platt (1978)  
 Mediaeval England – An Aerial Survey – M.W. Beresford & J.K.S. St. Joseph (1979)
- (8) As Ref. (5) pp. 140 and 183; as ref. (7) p. 1.
- (9) As .ref. (7) p. 91.
- (10) As ref. (7) pp. 130 and 136.
- (11) As ref. (7) p. 209.
- (12) On History – Fernand Braudel (1980)
- (13) Radio Times – 17th-23rd January 1981 p. 4.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S FIELDWORK 1980/81

*by A. Pye*

My term as Field Officer really began on June 12th when a skeleton was found on the site of the Beccles by-pass at North Cove. That was the first of many skeletons and many other pieces of information which have come to light in the past ten months. The full report as published by Suffolk Archaeological Unit and is entered separately with a supplementary list of finds made since the report.

Later in the year, on August 27th, two Gas Board workmen, digging a trench for a pipe, uncovered a human skull at Beccles, in the grounds of St. Mary's House. I carried out a small excavation the following Saturday on what seemed to be one of the wettest days of summer. A full report is also included separately.

The past twelve months have seen some erosion at Covehithe. Twenty-eight feet of cliff loss has been recorded at the end of the road. Although other points showed some loss, these amounts were fairly insignificant.

The fields were clear of crop early again this year and have been allowed to weather, in some cases for many months. This meant we had many more fields than usual to walk and record. During the past year about forty fields have been covered and the results vary as widely as the soil types.

Every field walked yielded waste material of either Neolithic or Early Bronze age flint industry to some degree. There was, however, only one area with enough material to suggest, perhaps a small settlement, and five others that may be attributed to small temporary camps. The remaining finds can probably be explained as either casual losses or, in the case of waste material on its own, to a favourite tree under which someone sat and knapped a few tools.

The Mediaeval finds were scatters of pottery, in general widespread over a field, but there were one or two notable exceptions. At Covehithe, on a slope at the edge of woodland, there were scores of body sherds, seemingly laid down almost as a path – reason unknown. Unfortunately, there has been a great deal of disturbance in the area, making excavation an unrealistic proposition. Another area of interest was found as Kessingland. Our attention was drawn to this site by the finding of coins of Elizabeth and James I. This area is still awaiting intensive searching as conditions have not been ideal this year. Other areas of small concentrations were also found at Covehithe, Benacre, Lound and North Cove.

Finds of Romano-British material have excited us this year and, once again, Covehithe is the area from which three separate finds were made. The primary area yielded rim of Mortaria, the body shard of another, possibly locally produced. Rims, flange and base of Samian wares, black burnished ware, as well as decorated coarsewares. Fragments of flue tiles were also found, but no other building material has yet been located.

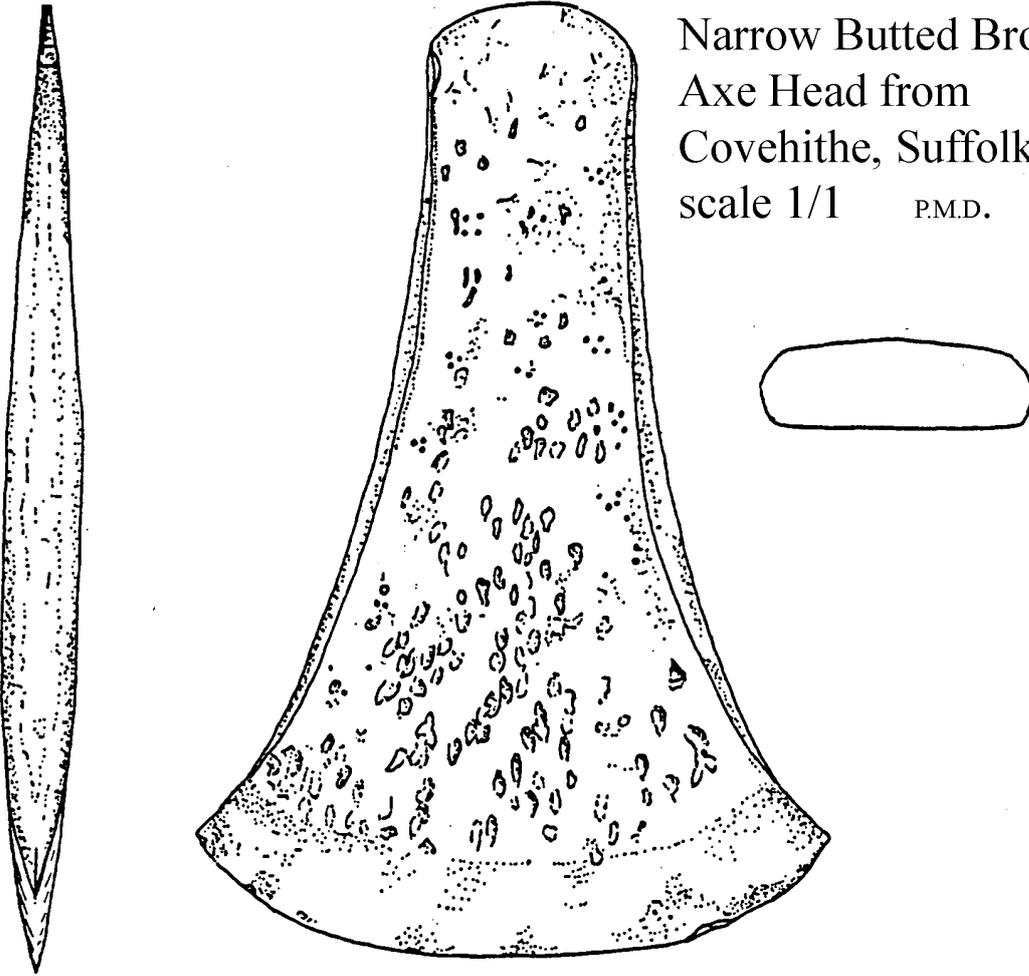
The other finds in Covehithe are both of Tequiae fragments with no other associated material.

In Benacre the bases of four fourth century grey coarseware pots were found while carrot harvesting early last year.

In Kessingland pottery and mortaria with dates ranging from late first to fourth century, were discovered on a predominantly mediaeval site.

North Cove, as you will see from the 'Worlingham Parva' report, has also yielded R.B. material this year. More was recently found at the bottom of a three feet deep trench being dug by workmen. A rescue dig was conducted to attempt to determine the reason for the position of the material before the trench was backfilled, and overlaid with a further two feet of hogging. However, the depth of the

material made it almost impossible to determine its cause, but more Mortaria, grey coarseware, Tegulae and Imbrine were found during the excavation.



Narrow Butted Bronze  
Axe Head from  
Covehithe, Suffolk  
scale 1/1 P.M.D.

Several outstanding finds for the year must, however, be attributed to people outside the Society. As a result of publicity regarding the 'Worlingham Parva' finds I was shown an Achulean hand axe, found near Beccles Common about two years previously. It is 4" long, 2¾" wide and 1¾" thick, in black flint and these are seldom found.

A partly polished grey flint axe head was found by two boys on the old golf-course in Long Road. They must be very proud to have found such an axe, I know I was when I found mine. Thanks must go to the lads for reporting it to us for recording.

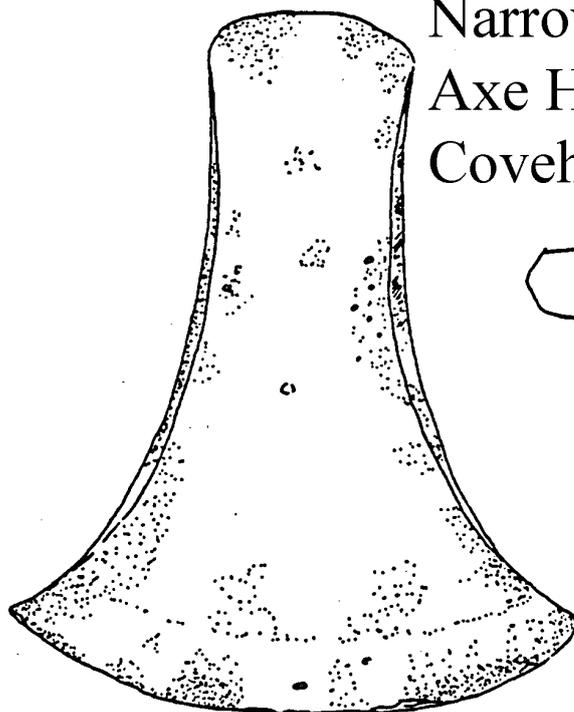
Two flat bronze axes were found at Covehithe, one by metal detector, the other visually. Drawings of them appear in this report. One shows very clearly the marks of impact made, possibly by the founder, the other was slightly smaller and smoother. They can both be attributed to Early Bronze Age.

Another find by a metal detector was that of a Roman 2nd century headstud brooch with some of its red and blue enamel intact, and although broken is an unusual find for this area. A contemporary knee brooch was also found close by.

I would like to thank Paul and Rebecca Durbidge for their invaluable assistance during my first term as Field Officer, and to others who have accompanied me in my searches from time to time.

In conclusion, I must also thank the landowners and their tenants for allowing us to walk their fields, particularly to Benacre Estates, on whose land we have spent so much time this year,

A. Pye, Field Officer



## Narrow Butted Bronze Axe Head from Covehithe, Suffolk



scale 1/1

P.M.D.

### EXCAVATION OF ST. MARY'S HOUSE, BECCLES

30<sup>th</sup> August 1980 – TM 41889008 – BCC 006

*by A. Pye*

#### Introduction

The site has always been known as that of a leper hospital and chapel. A small trial excavation was carried out in May 1979 before the building of five bungalows on the site and the report was published by Paul Durbidge.

On 27th August, 1980, a human skull was uncovered by workmen while digging a trench for a gas pipe. I decided an excavation may be helpful in determining the type of burial and perhaps even the cause of death (i.e. leprosy).

The excavation was complicated by the close proximity of trees and shrubs and their roots and was not wholly satisfactory. What was learned however may be of use at some later date.

#### The Excavation

The skull which the workmen had found was some 60 cms. below the present surface and was found, after examination, to have belonged to a person aged between 25 and 30 years. The shoulder and left, upper arm were also visible in the bottom of the trench but further examination of this skeleton was not considered practical.

More bones were found in the trench at the same depth and had at sometime been re-interred, as there were arm, leg, pelvic, rib and broken skull bones in two separate east/west alignments in a single grave spaced about 50 cms. apart and 2 metres away from the other burial already mentioned.

Further examination of the trench between the two graves revealed another infill of topsoil in the sand and this contained the fourth skeleton which was undisturbed.

The skull was removed and given to Mr. A.M. Turner, a Lowestoft dental surgeon, for examination and possible dating.

The remaining part of the skeleton was excavated to the hip – removal of the rest of the infill would have resulted in root damage to a fine yew tree.

The soil overlaying the burial indicated an assortment of road surfaces. The top 10 cms. consisted of hard core, large flints, gravel, brick, cinder and top soil. Below that a 5 cms. wide band of clay and shingle with pebbles up to 1.5 cms., interspersed with patches of well puddled cinder. Below that a thin 2.5 to 4 cms. layer of crushed brick and mortar with some pin-tile. To the eastern edge and just off the road surface, loamy topsoil was present to a depth of about 22.5 cms., and immediately below that 7.5 to 10 cms. of stony gravel, the stone content being up to about the size of a chicken's egg, with a few pieces of pin-tile and a few pieces of floor tile – neither of which showed any signs of glaze. A rather irregular scatter of crushed chalk covered the area of the four burials and continued in varying quantity and thickness for most of the 20 metres of the trench. Below that, dark topsoil containing a single sherd of brown, salt glazed pottery, circa early 17th c. and was immediately above the sandy topsoil of the grave infill. The grave itself was cut into clean, orange sand.

The skeleton, when exposed, was that of a female, estimate to be aged between 20 and 25 years, and was aligned roughly east/west.

There were no visual signs of leprosy but because her hands and feet were not exposed, it could not be easily determined one way or the other exactly how she died.

The infill of the grave contained no archaeologically datable evidence whatsoever and further excavation was not a practical proposition at the time.

The remains were left in the graves and were re-covered with as little disturbance as possible.

It should be made clear that, although the lepers buried their own dead in the grounds of the hospital Chapel up to 1598, this is probably not the reason for the shallowness of the graves. This was in all probability caused by extensive building and landscaping in 1788 when the present house was built on the site. At that time twelve complete skeletons were dug up and reinterred in the charnel-house under St. Michael's parish church.

A. Pye, Field Officer

## MYSTERY AT PACKWOOD

*by Y R Hood*

It was on a glorious summer's day, one of the few in 1980, that my husband and I meandered through the delightful country lanes of Warwickshire to Packwood, to view the 16th century timber-framed house there, known as Packwood House.

As we wandered through the rooms which contained a wealth of interesting tapestries and furniture, we came upon the Great Hall. Formerly detached from the house and used as a cow-byre and barn, it was renovated into its present impressive shape in 1925-27 (a fore-runner of the present mode of barn conversions?). Having studied the many interesting features and contents of the Great Hall, we admired the magnificent 14th century refectory table, upon which stood a bronze standard bushel measure now used as a jardinière. Whilst commenting on the excellence of the floral display it contained, we espied an inscription on the side of the measure, which read 'MRS. JANE LEWIN, HALESWORTH MANOR' – Halesworth Manor? !! How did it come to be there? Our curiosity aroused we sought the assistance of the Steward on duty that day, who consulted the inventory of the contents of the house. The item was catalogued as 'a bronze standard bushel measure, inscribed Mrs. Jane Lewin, Halesowen Manor, (an understandable error as Halesowen is only a few miles from Packwood). But no clue as to how it came to be so far removed from Suffolk, nor the date of its acquisition.

Although we had been instrumental in rectifying a mistaken attribution, we left Packwood pondering on the unanswered question.

'How did the bushel measure get from Halesworth to Packwood?'

Y.R. Hood

Biographical Note of Mrs. Jane Lewin, extracted from 'The Manors of Suffolk'.

### Chediston Manor

In 1701 Gustavus Fleetwood was the possessor, and the property was sold by his executors in 1722 to Walter Plumer of Gray's Inn.

Walter Plumer died without issue in 1745-6, and was succeeded by his brother and heir William Plumer, and from him in 1768 it descended to his son William, who died in 1822, leaving the estate to his widow, Jane Plumer, afterwards married to Capt. Lewin, whom she survived and married Robert Ward, the author of 'Tremaine' etc., who assumed the name of Plumer. To this third husband she left the manor, but in 1833 he sold it with divers other manors to George Parkyns . . .

#### Halesworth Manor

Thomas Betts sold the lordship and advowson in 1739 to Walter Plumer, who held his first court that year, and died in 1745-6, when the manor passed to his brother William Plumer, at whose death in 1822 it went to his widow, Jane Plumer, who presented Richard Whately the well-known Archbishop of Dublin to the rectory in 1822.

It seems that Jane the widow re-married Robert Plumer Ward, who in 1833 or 1834 sold the manor to John Cutts, a solicitor at Witham, Essex, who re-sold it a little later to John Crabtree.