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DEED OF LAUREL FARM, OULTON. PART 2

by Mary Goffin

Several members of the Society have continued to meet and transcribe the fifty Deeds dating from 1744 - 1851 of Laurel Farm, Oulton. We have now completed this exercise but find many more Deeds have been deposited with the Records Office which will need to be transcribed before we can form an overall picture of the interaction between the property at Kessingland (reported in the Annual Report last year) and the property at Oulton.

The earliest document relating to the property at Oulton is a copy of the Probate of the Will of Edmund Cobb, late of Great Yarmouth, Merchant dated 23rd June 1787, the 27th year of the reign of George III, which proved in the Episcopal Consistorial Court of Norwich on the 1st March 1794. For the genealogist this provides a good family tree, naming his wife Ann, their two daughters Mary, whose husband Thomas Ives was deceased and Ann, married to William Hurry, who had seven children but predeceased her father. To Ann Cobb his wife, he left all furniture, plate, linen, china, rings, watches, jewels and wearing apparel and £100 to be paid as soon as possible after his decease – all in lieu of Dower she can or may claim on Property in Normanston, Oulton, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth – also an interest in property mentioned in an Indenture of 24th July 1754 (which we have not seen) for her life all rents etc.

- to Jeremiah Ives and John Ives to he paid £2000 on decease of his wife, in Trust for Mary Ives widow of Thomas Ives for her life then to Mary Ann Ives (his granddaughter) or her issue. The Indentures of 24th July 1754 made full provision for his daughter Ann on her marriage.
- to other grandchildren, son and daughters of his daughter Ann Hurry deceased; Ann Morgan, Mary Tolme. William Hurry (he died before Edmund Cobb), Elizabeth Hurry, Ives Hurry and Priscilla Hurry he bequeathed: the farmhouse in Oulton (purchased from Thomas Ellys) occupied by William George – a piece of land (purchased from Peter Deline Vanhugthringen, Esquire) in Oulton - a dwellinghouse in Great Yarmouth (late of John Crombie) - all other property in Normanston, Oulton, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, all mentioned in the Indenture of 24th July 1754. Also all shipping and parts of ships anchors etc. fishing craft etc. If any grandchildren are under 21 years their father William Hurry to hold a Bond with the Executors at 4% until legatees are of age. The executors appointed were: William Hurry, Son in Law – his brother Thomas Hurry and another grandson Edmund Cobb Hurry. For acting as Executor William Hurry is to receive £30 guineas (1 guinea = £1.05) and Thomas Hurry and Edmund Cobb Hurry to receive £10 guineas.

Although another grandson (and son of Ann dec'd) Edmund Cobb Hurry is appointed an Executor of the Will he does not share in the property at Oulton. Details of the property reveal that some abutts the land owned by E.C. Hurry so it is possible he was given property at Oulton in the lifetime of his grandfather.

In deeds of Lease and Release of the 8th and 9th April 1796 the sisters and brother of Edmund Cobb Hurry who inherited the property by the Will of their grandfather Edmund Cobb agree to sell the premises at Oulton to their brother E.C. Hurry for £1000 and agree at their expense to acknowledge, before the end of Easter Term or Trinity Term, at the Court of Common Picas at Westminster the right of ownership of the land to Edmund Cobb Hurry and his heirs.

The details of the lands and premises at Oulton is given, but without relevant maps are difficult to define precisely where they were. They include: land between lands owned by Susanna Blacknell to the east, Common Pasture of Oulton to the west abutting the Home Pightle to the south and a road leading from Lowestoft to St. Olaves Bridge to the north – in all 1 acre 32 perches. The Home Pightle – between lands of Susanna Blacknell to the east, lands of Aldous Charles Arnold to the west abutting Common Pasture of Oulton in part and yards and buildings in part towards the north and a piece of land called Eleven Acres in part and lands of A.C. Arnold in part to the south estimated as 6 acres 1 rood 29 perches. Also an Inclosure called Eleven Acres between the Marshes of the east part lands of A.C. Arnold to west abutting Home Pightle in part and lands of S. Blacknell to the north, lands of Thomas Hunt to the south estimated as 11 acres 4 perches. Also an Inclosure called the Home Close between land of Robert Lillistone in part and Pack (? Back) Lane in part to the east, lands of the Directors and Acting Guardians of the Poor of the Hundred of Mutford and Lothingland of the west abutting lands of William Drake Esquire in part and said Guardians in part to the north and upon Green Lane in part and lands of R. Lillistone in part to the south containing 10 acres 3 roods and 24 perches. Also an Inclosure called the Triangle (formerly of Deline Vanhugthringen) abutting Dole lands of E.C. Hurry in part called Little Lowestoft in part to the east – Pack Lane to the west – Dole lands of E.C. Hurry to the north and a Road leading from Oulton to Lowestoft to the south containing 5 acres 3 roods and 36 perches. Also an Inclosure called Little Lowestoft formerly of Thomas and Sarah Ellys in Oulton and Lowestoft abutting Dole lands of E.C. Hurry in part and Sanders in part to the north and east, the Triangle to the west and the Road from Oulton to Lowestoft to the south estimated 3 acres 9 perches. All in the occupation of William George and previously owned by Edmund Cobb deceased.

By 1800 we find that Benjamin Miller, a Yeoman who could not write, had bought some property in Oulton in 1788 and owes £600 to William Sewell of Great Yarmouth, Grocer, and also owes several other creditors on premises at Oulton known as the Blue Boar plus outbuildings and land. As he is unable to pay he agrees to sell the premises to Thomas Tripp of Lowestoft, Merchant and John Elph of Lowestoft, Liquor Merchant in Trust to repay 1. £600 and Interest to William Sewell. 2. repay other charges on the premises. 3. pay all charges of the sale. 4. repay Thomas Tripp and John Elph and other creditors. 5. any surplus money to go to Benjamin Miller and the purchasers must be given a covenant to say the premises are debt free. Benjamin Miller had also sold a copyhold shop at Lowestoft to Thomas Tripp (who with James Warwick were named as occupiers) for £100 but had only been paid £5 so the remaining £95 was to be paid to the Trustees to repay his creditors. An Assignment of 1 November 1800 shows that Benjamin Miller bought the premises for £550 from Sir William Henry Ashurst, Knight and John Hare Esquire as Executors and Trustees of Thomas Anguish deceased and Sarah Anguish, widow, relict and Executrix of Thomas Anguish. Benjamin Miller then borrowed £500 from William Sewell and Travel Fuller, Ironmonger of Great Yarmouth as Executors of Margaret Marsham Spinster of Great Yarmouth deceased. Most of the Estate of Thomas Anguish deceased was sold to Henry Ely the Younger of Oulton, Gardener, who covenants to produce the documents to prove the Title of Benjamin Miller at B. Miller's costs. Nathaniel Symonds repays William Sewell and holds the premises in Trust for B. Miller. On 8th May 1802 Benjamin Miller borrows £130 and Interest on security of the house and land of one rood at Oulton, occupied by himself and Henry Manning from Robert Sterry. In the 41st year of the reign of George III on 12 December 1803 by the Inclosure Act details are given of land allotted to Benjamin Miller (because he owned premises at Oulton occupied by himself and H. Manning) of 1 acre 20 perches at a cost of £22.3.0d. By documents of Lease and Release of November 1809 we learn that B. Miller had increased his mortgage to Robert Sterry in 1805 to £220 the interest having been paid. The property in mortgage is now described as "*3 tenements formerly the Alehouse called The Cherry Tree occupied by B. Miller and previously of H. Manning but now by Bultitude and Robert Basey plus allotted lands of 1*

acre 20 perches and also allotted Fresh Marsh of 2 acres 2 roods and 15 perches". William George buys the property at Oulton and the 2 pieces of allotted land for £400, he repays the mortgage of £220 to Robert Sterry and the residue £180 goes to Benjamin Miller. The Rev. Michael Maurice is appointed to act as Trustee for terms of 500 years and 1000 years for William George and John George is appointed Trustee for the natural life of William George. William George, having purchased the property from B. Miller in November 1809, by a mortgage of 11th December 1809 borrows £376 and Interest from the Executors of Thomas Custins deceased, late of Great Yarmouth, Gentleman. The executors James Hurry, Timothy Steward and Thomas Morse the Younger agree the mortgage with the proviso "*that it is repaid to the executors at the Market Cross at Great Yarmouth on the 11 th June next*".

On the reverse of this document by an Indenture of 9th October 1817 we find that William George is still in mortgage to the Executors of Thomas Custins deceased although the interest has been paid. By this Indenture William George enters into a mortgage with Bettina Totton, of St. James, Bloomsbury, spinster and William Steward of Great Yarmouth Esquire for £376 and he repays the monies owed to the executors of T. Custins deceased and 10/- each to the executors James Hurry, T. Steward and Thomas Morse.

The last document we have relating to the property at Oulton is dated 29th October 1834. In his Will of 16th May 1834 John George of Mellis, Farmer, appointed his wife Anne, his son Christopher and Thomas Harvey the Elder of Ilford, Essex, Auctioneer as Executors, with instructions to sell the property at Oulton (occupied by Christopher George) plus cottages at Oulton (occupied by Bullitude, Thomas Kemp and Widow Basey) together with the copyhold shop and premises in Lowestoft (occupied by Walter Jones) and all furniture, linen, plate, farm stock crop etc. for the best prices. This document of Renunciation absolves Thomas Harvey from acting as executor or Trustee of the Will of John George deceased. We assume from this Will that William George had died and left the property to John who was probably his son and so Christopher George occupier of the premises was probably the grandson of William George, but unless there are further documents available we cannot prove the connection.

For anyone interested in genealogy these documents can be very useful and we have made a card index of all people who have been mentioned in any capacity. Personally I was intrigued to find that a Josiah Stitchbury of Ilford, Essex witnessed the last document. Not a common name and my father who came from Deptford had an aunt, his father's sister, of this name, so I have passed this snippet on to my nephew who is engaged in tracing the family.

"A MOST CONVENIENTLY SITUATED SMALL FARM" – Part 2

by Margaret Sanders

The account of research into the history of Dell Court House, formerly Carlton Colville, now Oulton Broad, in the 1993-94 Annual Report concluded with the hope of finding documentary evidence prior to 1740. Frustrated by the struggle with the handwritten Latin of the Manorial Court Rolls, this line has temporarily been abandoned but a few more details of the Guild family who lived in the farm from 1740-1819 have emerged and these may be of interest.

Samuel Guild at 35 years of age inherited the farm from his father in 1762. His mother had already died and both parents have tombstones in Carlton Colville churchyard. On January 15th 1765 an Indenture of Settlement relating to the forthcoming marriage between Samuel Guild and Mistress Elizabeth Knights, aged 39, was drawn up. The Settlement was to be made by Elizabeth's mother Susan as "..... *the Marriage Portion ..... and for a Livelihood and provision of Maintenance*" for her daughter.

Susan Knights had a farm "*distinguished by the Mound of Reddisham Hall*" and chose two Beccles men to be Trustees. William Crowfoot, a Tanner and William Hunter, Woollen Draper. She agreed to give Samuel "*all the profits thereof*" together with "*all Goods Chattells Household Stuff and Implements of Household Cows Bullocks Sowes Mares Geldings Colts Foals Bulls Heifers Calves Sheep and all other Cattle and Swine*". In addition she would give all her "*Fowls of all kinds Waggons Carts Plows Harrows Rolls Crates Utensils and Implements of husbandry*" as well as "*the Cows in the Barns Hay Straw and Stoves*".

In return for this marriage portion Samuel had to agree to pay his future mother-in-law £30 a year in "*four quarterly payments*" on the "*Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin*" (25th March), on the "*Feast Day of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist*" (24th June), the "*Feast Day of Saint Michael the Archangel*" (25th September) and the "*Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*". The money had to be handed over "*of or in the Church porch of the parish of Reddisham*". (Did Samuel have to ride over to Reddisham on Christmas Day with £7.10 shillings in his purse, whatever the weather ?)

Attached to the Indenture is an Inventory of the possessions which Susan Knights intended to keep herself.

THE SCHEDULE

IN THE KITCHEN of the said Susan Knights Dwelling house One Clock One Jack Pulley lines and Weights One Pair of Brass Candlesticks Two Chairs One Stool with Slip or Table thereto belonging One Screen One pair of large Tongs One Firepan One Box Iron and Heats One Tea Kettle One New Warming Pan Two Skillets One Roast Iron One Brass Boiler Two Iron Candlesticks One Plumbtree Spinning Wheel and Reel One Horse for Linnen Two Pails and such earthenware of all sorts as she shall chuse Half a Dozen Knives and forks One Iron Pott and Pott Hooks One hake and One Spit

IN HER LITTLE PARLOUR there One Chest of Drawers One Looking Glass Six Chairs Six Silver Tea Spoons Two Large Spoons and One Silver Cup

IN HER GREAT PARLOUR there Two Tables

IN HER PANTRY one Deal Cubbard Four Pewter Dishes Twelve Pewter Plates Three Dozen Glass Bottles Three Beer vessels the Small Copper Three Kellars and One Buking Tub

IN THE PLACE called the Space there the Small Linnen Bed with the Bolster Coverlets Blankets Bedstead and other furniture thereto

IN HER KITCHEN CHAMBER there Two Beds with the Bolsters Coverlets Blankets and Bedstead and other furniture thereto One pair of Cobandirons Firepan and Tongs One pair of Bellows Four Chairs and a Stool One Looking Glass one Leather Trunk One Small Coffer and One Desk with all the Linnen and other goods and things therein

AND ALL HER Wearing apparel ready Money Plate Rings Bills Bonds Mortgages and all other Securities for Money whatsoever.

(All five parties to this Agreement have signed their names with a wax seal between Christian and surname, the seals each incorporating half inch tape 2 x 1½ feet and the top of the first page is cut in a wavy line.)

Samuel and Elizabeth were married and they had one child Samuel Guild the Younger. Dell Court House, originally timber-framed was re-built in brick in 1775 and the initials G over S+E are carved, with the date, on the end of a beam on the front of the house. Samuel the Elder and Samuel the Younger had many financial ups and downs before Samuel the Elder died in 1811 and perhaps these should wait a further instalment.

MORE MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK

by Paul Durbidge

Whilst drawing up the report of the second medieval pit excavated at Pakefield cliffs, a third, much larger pit was beginning to appear in the cliff face during January 1994, and this was subsequently tested early that year.

There are, however, some problems with identification of features cut into the cliff, by reasons of the army activity and the frequency of land drains which regularly appear in the cliff.

From time to time, occasional intrusions cut into the cliff that contain the odd pot sherd and occasional medieval brick, but also they often include land drains. A good example is the third pit which has a trench for a land drain cut into one side of the feature, complete with drain in situ. The upcast moved would probably have contained medieval material which subsequently would be partially re-

distributed.

Close to the pit, some clay and top soil did show signs of disturbance and in amongst this were a number of flint cobbles, oyster shell and pieces of medieval bricks, complete with straw marks. However, the soil disturbance did not show any cut sides through the clay and sand and there was no depth to the disturbance showing the problem of interpreting some features that show up.

Some of the pot sherds and animal bones have probably come from the top soil and this is often confirmed by soiled edges while other material may well have originated from spoil during the construction of the trenches for land drains as well as the army bunkers and gun pads situated at this point.

Erosion is still very much a problem along this stretch and erosion measurements taken over the last twelve months are up on last year. The situation is causing some considerable concern, with indications that the loss is extending further northwards. Here, beach levels have been reduced by 7 feet (December 1994), allowing the sea to strike the sandy base of the cliffs, and bringing down great curtains of grass-covered cliff to the beach below, where remains of invasion defences have once again, been exposed.

Large pieces of grey boulder clay, packed with chalk, continue to fall from the cliffs close to the army look-out post near Pontin's, along with sand gravel and numerous bushes and vegetation that once grew along the top of the cliffs,

Mixed boulder clays make up much of the cliffs south of Pontin's, and these in turn overlay the sedimentary beds by some 50 feet, and again, cliff falls are considerable, though lessening further on, where once again, more curtains of grass and shrub-covered slopes are slipping to the beach below on the wet grey clay.

As well as the archaeological material being recovered, fossil remains continue to appear, like the three Ichthyosaur vertebrae discovered by Adrian Charlton, with two being in exceptional condition.

At a point where the forest beds are separated by a concentration of grey and brown clay, the remains of a large deer antler was recovered by R.J. Kedney and the writer, and this was submitted for conservation at the Castle Museum at Norwich, along with a rhinoceros tooth, found shortly afterwards, from the same location.

Medieval pottery from rubbish pits in Pakefield cliffs has been known since 1992, when two deposits were examined and published in the Annual Reports of the Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society Nos. 25 & 26.

At the time of writing, there are no indications of any structures to link material found, apart from the fact that both pin tiles, cobbles and medieval bricks have been found in and around the pits, and are contemporary with the pottery. It is quite possible that some form of structure or building may possibly show in section, as some bricks and cobble have signs of mortar on some surfaces. Added to this, the presence of some good quality pottery from further afield is worth bearing in mind, as well as a range of domestic forms. Several pieces of imported Rhineland lava stone and the remains of quite a good quality sandstone mortar have also been recovered, from what has proved to be a highly productive area.

THE INVESTIGATION OF PIT 3

Indications of another probable pit in the cliff face were first suggested in late October 1993, when oyster shell began to appear in an infill situation, some 11 feet north of Pit 2.

The face of the cliff had dried out over the summer period, causing the first 2 or 3 feet of mixed soils to turn very hard and crack – and combined with the dryout, it made it very difficult to see limitations of the feature.

At this stage, it was oyster shell suggesting there may be more to follow, as fragmentary pieces of coarseware pottery can occasionally he seen along a wide stretch of the cliff in question.

By December, weather conditions had changed considerably and the subsequent dampness combined with more cliff falls, began to give a clearer picture. It certainly seemed to be another intrusion through the upper part of the cliff, but this time it was showing well into the sand which makes up the greater part of the cliff.

Early January 1994 saw much of the cliff falling all along the high cliff, but as yet nothing adjacent to the infill. But by now we could pick out a bowl shaped intrusion, nearly 10 feet across.

At the bottom, there appeared to be a deeper hollow, from which a sizeable quantity of oyster shell

began to discharge, and it was at this stage that Adrian Charlton, on one of his regular visits to the location, picked up the upper part of a large globular jug, with finger impressed ornamentation. This was found at beach level after a sizeable amount of cliff brought down some of the pit infill, and while searching amongst the fallen cliff, the corner of a sandstone mortar was also recovered by Charlton.

With cliffs of an unstable nature, any testing of the pit would have to be done from the top, and back from the cliff line, so like the previous ones, a square was marked out and some 18 inches of topsoil, grass, roots and brambles was removed. The square measured 10 feet by 8, and at 18 inches down, the infill showed as mixed topsoil overlying clay to the sides, and thickening nearer the centre of the pit, a scatter of fist-sized cobbles with small chips of animal bone were discovered as the soil was gradually removed and then we came upon a large chunk of lava stone, with a suggestion of hollowing to one surface, more as the result of dressing rather than abrasion. Beside this was an equally large piece of sedimentary rock, embedded with fossil worm casts, the nodule being rounded in profile. Continual removal of the fill on the south side of the pit enabled the excavation to follow the profile of the pit down to the brown clay, whilst on the northern side, we were travelling through infilled material, where a land drain had been cut virtually through the side of the pit.

Continued removal of soils yielded cooking pot sherds, including soot stained body sherds, some glazed sherds and more animal bones. It was also possible to see the slumped layers of fill in the centre of the pit, and the removal of a large grey coarseware neck proved to be part of a curfew after the earth was removed from it. Remains of jug necks were found amongst more coarseware sherds, as more infill was taken out, and pieces of pin tile were observed with small glazed body sherds directly underneath.

More pieces of lava stone included 2 pieces, one being heavily burned and another rough hewn beneath, with a pecked working surface above. The bottom of the pit was nearly 7 feet down from ground level and by now the remaining infill was becoming very wet, which to some degree helped in the removal of the content.

Large nodular flints had been thrown into the pit in the early stages, and beneath these were several sherds of large cooking pots, heavily soot-stained, and amongst these were 2 large jaw bones of either pig or wild hoar. One particular piece of lava stone found at this stage had been deliberately hollowed out on one of its flat surfaces, either for the purpose of grinding up items, or even to fill with oil and use with a floating wick for a lamp. By now there was a general distribution of oyster shell, suggesting additions to the normal diet of the period. The pottery from Pit 3 was interesting by reason of the varied types which included a body sherd of rich dark pitted green, complete with an underglaze slip. A pattern was formed with a swirl of applied slip, and in general the sherd suggested a foreign origin.

A great deal of mixed boulder clay was encountered close to the bottom of the pit and amongst this were a scatter of small thin bird (?) bones, all heavily dark-stained, beneath which were more cooking pot sherds, including rim profiles. Pottery was also embedded in the sand after all the infill was removed, and 6 of these sherds belonged to the finger impressed jug found earlier by Adrian Charlton.

Halfway through the infill, we did actually find a small broken spout which was part of the jug. But unfortunately there were no signs of any base forms belonging to the vessel.

THE CONTENTS OF PIT 3

LEAD

A twisted fragment $1^{5}/_{8}$" long by 1¼" wide and thought to be simple lead tracery.

IRON

The remains of 3 corroded square shanked nails, including one of 5" long, with a 1½" diameter head were found in the upper fill, as well as a badly corroded horseshoe and an iron key. The key is in a corroded condition and has lost its bow. It has a parallel open shank with a sloping ward. The latter again corroded.

Length of shank 3½" with open end.

Depth of ward ¼" - thickness $^{3}/_{16}$".

The shank does not project beyond the ward.

WHETSTONE

Part of a broken whetstone of Micaceous schist was found in content discharged from the pit infill at beach level. It was broken at both ends, with indications that it had been in this

condition for some time. There are considerable signs of wear on both edges, with one being well hollowed out.

The bone is quite heavy for its size and there is no suggestion of a hole at either of the broken ends. Length 5" - width 1¾" - thickness $^{7}/_{8}$".

ANIMAL BONES

The majority of the animal bones were either broken or butchered and amounted to some 56 pieces, plus a number of very splintered pieces.

Jaw bones of boar or pig with curved tusks were found, close to a sheep's jawbone - the remaining bones probably belonging to sheep, with the larger ones possibly belonging to immature cattle.

PIN TILES

17 pieces of pin tile came from the pit, with 4 pierced, to take either wooden pegs or iron nails. The method of construction is basic, with the tiles being cast on rough ground in a shallow box, and on the face of several tiles, where the wet clay has been drawn across, there are signs of drag marks. On two of the tiles, the colour is a soft orange, where the remainder have been subjected to greater heat, resulting in a much harder fabric and differing colours. Thickness of the tiles is fairly constant, being about ½", with occasional finger impressions on some edges, possibly to stop the sides slumping after the cast has been lifted. On another tile, three impressed finger marks are clearly visible on the face as if the workman was testing the clay. This particular tile has many air bubbles in the surface, suggesting the clay was possibly too wet when laid. One tile has a fixing hole, formed by using a probable square-shanked nail with a tapered head, and it compares with a previous tile fragment found in pit 2, while a wooden peg has been employed to form the holes in two others.

It would also appear that the two holes holding each tile in place were reasonably close together, as shown on a larger piece of tile. In this example the tile is 6¼" wide and the first hole is positioned 2" centre from the left hand side. The second hole is approximately 2" centre from the first, leaving roughly 2" to the opposite side of the tile. So far this is the largest piece of pin tile, measuring just over 9¼ in length, but broken at each end.

BRICKS (HALVES)

Small part of brick with smoothed face, with suggestion of black paint in the hollows and bits of the surface.

Yellow/buff smooth upper surface, with two sides yellow buff to crimson drag marks on one surface. Clay containing occasional small flints. Thickness $1^{7}/_{8}$".

A very hard fired material, containing occasional flints – very irregular underside, but smooth upper face with drag marks. Colour dark brown, with evidence of over-firing. Vitreous glaze to part of the underside and showing a near white on the end of the brick. Thickness approximately 2" - width 4".

Uniform reddish to pale crimson, with one face containing straw or grass marks – heavily pitted. Opposite face definitely cambered in its length and again, heavily pitted.

Thickness ½", increasing to 2" at the centre – width 4¼".

Yellow/buff and pale purple, very rough cast underside with much grass marking, upper surface slumped with cracks, sides also cracked.

Thickness 2 – $2^{1}/_{8}$" - width 4½" - length broken at $8^{1}/_{8}$".

IMPORTED LAVA STONE

A large chunk of lava stone, weighing 12 lbs, was found in the upper part of Pit 3, and the presence of a partial circular shape with semi-flattened surface may be the result of it being broken off a much larger millstone, although there are no signs of pecking or flaking to any surface.

Small near rectangular piece of lava stone which is very hard and dense. All the surfaces are rolled and irregular. Weight 2½ lbs.

Small piece of dressed lava mill stone 2/½" thick, rough hewn on the underside and grooved on the working face. Grooves average $^{3}/_{8}$" wide, leaving ridges ¼" wide and nearly $^{3}/_{16}$" high. Weight just under 2 lbs.

Small piece of lava millstone with rough hewn underside and closely packed grinding surface. Suggestion of burning to picked surface. Weight just under 1 Ib.

Lava stone found in infill of land drain trench which cuts through side of Pit 3. The millstone is smooth hewn, with the grinding surface grooved. The ridges are worn but average ¼" wide, while the grooves average $^{3}/_{16}$" in width.

Small piece of lava stone approximately 3¼" by 4¼" thick. Underside ground flat, with upper surface irregular with a deep hollow ground into its surface, to a depth of approximately ¾". Diameter of the hollow 2¼". The purpose is not clear, but it may have been used as a small mortar for grinding.

SANDSTONE MORTAR

Remains of the sandstone mortar from Pit 3 showed that from the worn inner surfaces it had been used extensively prior to being discarded. It is square in shape with the greater part of a large semi-curved handle incorporated in its construction. The top or rim is smoothly dressed and measures $1^{3}/_{8}$" in thickness, and while the inner surfaces appear to be pecked, the lower surfaces are very smooth after continual use. A second piece of sandstone probably from the same mortar, is part of the rim and the rapid thickening at one end suggests the position of another handle.

THE CURFEW CHIMNEY

By comparison to a curfew chimney recovered with Medieval pottery at North Cove some years ago, the example from Pit 3 is much larger. It is nearly 3" high, with a diameter of 3" and a restricted throat measuring to 1½" in diameter. The dark grey micaceous fabric is constant in thickness, averaging just over ¼" and quite hard in texture, with the internal neck well soot-stained.

THE POTTERY

Approximately 430 sherds of pottery were found and were made up as follows:-

- coarseware body sherds 278
- base remains 35
- rim profiles 71
- glazed sherds 34
- part flagon necks 4
- part handles 4
- part of a semi-glazed globular jug with 6 body sherds
- neck of curfew
- one small fragment of Romano-British pottery was found at beach level just below Pit 3. It was of light grey soft fabric with a simple curled-over pin of 2nd/3rd century date.
- a small piece of shell gritted ware was also picked up at beach level, roughly 100 feet south of Pit 3. As with the other material, this may have been re-distributed by sea action. It was a slightly curved body sherd in soft light brown fabric.

Overall, the pottery from the pit was made from a hard sandy material, containing white quart grits, with textures varying from sandy to relatively smooth fabrics. Colours vary from light to dark grey and pale brown to pale orange.

EXCEPTIONS

Sherd of dark green glazed ware with applied nicked strip decoration, internal surface off-white soft fabric - no mica - Saintonge.

Body sherd with applied raised patterns and glazed in a rich dark green glaze with suggestion of merging into yellow. Hard greyish brown fabric containing occasional large grits - no mica, but signs of underglaze slip. Aardenhurg ?

Rim sherd of small jug in soft orange fabric, showing on both surfaces, no grits or mica, splash of green glaze just below rim.

Of 278 coarseware body sherds examined, most were of light grey to buff fabric with some 25

sherds of dark grey to black. Mica is present in the majority of sherds and grits are mostly small. Of the total amount, some 128 were soot encrusted, while 28 were of pale orange to light brown in colour. Thicknesses of sherds varies from $^{3}/_{16}$" to $^{5}/_{16}$". There is a suggestion of burnishing to one sherd of near black fabric, while in another, a strip of applied clay has been used for decoration.

There are 35 glazed sherds from Pit 3, and broadly classified are as follows:

- Body sherd in light brown fabric with dressing of light green glaze, part neck of some vessel with overall covering of rich green glaze.
- Sherd of dark green glazed ware with nicked strip decoration. Off-white fabric. Saintonge ?
- Sherd of light brown fabric with dressing of olive green glaze.
- Sherd of pale orange fabric with dressing of green glaze.
- Sherd of grey fabric with rich coat of light green glaze.
- Abraded cheesey glaze on dark brown fabric.
- Splashes of rich brown and green glaze on pale orange fabric.
- Metallic glaze on applied vertical strip on brown glazed body sherd.
- Sherd of greyish brown fabric with evidence of underglaze slip, applied raised contemporary patterns which have been outlined. Rich dark green pitted glaze with indications of yellow intermixing - Saintonge ? Aardenburg ?
- Metallic glaze on offset vertical strip on greenish brown glaze with light brown internal surface.

BASE REMAINS

Some 35 pieces of base profile examined from the pit suggest that with one exception, all belonged to cooking pot types, and broadly classified are as follows:

- Base remains with approximate 12" diameter. Buff internal surfaces with soot stained brown. Buff external surfaces, two vertical finger indentations clearly visible in the external face.
- Remains of base with approximate 11" diameter of sandy buff fabric, both internally and externally. The latter heavily soot-stained.
- Remains of 10" vessel with dark grey internal face and grey butt external surfaces.
- Base sherds 9-10" diameter with walls nearly $^{3}/_{8}$" thick, buff internal surfaces - brown/buff soot-stained externally.
- Base remains approximately 6½" diameter, in brown buff with spots of rich green glaze externally, soot on external surfaces.
- On all the remains examined, a slumped or sagging base was in evidence.

FLAGON NECKS AND HANDLES

Part neck with broken strap handle in orange fabric with grey core, splashes of rich light green glaze. Diameter $3^{7}/_{8}$" - handle section $1^{5}/_{8}$" *x* $^{3}/_{8}$".

Part neck with broken handle in reddish brown fabric with grey core, splashes of rich brown glaze. Diameter 4" - handle section $^{3}/_{8}$" *x* 1½"

Part neck in pale orange fabric with grey core filling up to near underside of lip, with suggestion of pouring spout. Splashes of rich light green glaze. Diameter 5".

Part neck in grey buff ware with blackened internal surfaces, part strap handle attached. Strong finger channels running down centre of handle. Diameter 5¼" - handle section ½" *x* $2^{1}/_{8}$".

Lower part of strap handle in grey buff fabric, splashes of rich green glaze on attached body sherd. Handle section $^{5}/_{8}$" *x* $2^{1}/_{8}$".

Strap handle in orange fabric with grey core dressing of rich light green glaze on centre of handle. Handle section $^{3}/_{8}$" *x* $1^{5}/_{8}$".

Lower part of broken strap handle in buff/orange fabric with outer covering of rich gritty green glaze. Handle section $^{5}/_{8}$" *x* $2^{1}/_{8}$".

Lower part of rod handle with traces of yellow and orange glaze on light brown fabric. Handle section diameter $^{7}/_{8}$".

THE FINGER IMPRESSED FLAGON

Although only part was recovered, the remains of the finger impressed flagon showed it to be of globular form in grey fabric and partially glazed in light brown and green glaze. The neck of the vessel measures 5¼" in diameter and it is 4" before the neck joins the shoulder of the pot. It has an applied spout and tool marks are visible where it has been applied to the neck. A wide strap handle, with two strong grooves, joins the vessel just below the rim and the lower part of the handle is finished by spreading out the two grooves to the body of the pot, without leaving the large thumb marks. Decoration has been applied from the shoulder downwards and this takes the form of concentric bands of what appears to be small finger indentations, pushed upwards with the wet clay. The marks average ¾" centres, and continue behind the handle, and to the base of the handle. The lack of further body sherds unfortunately gives no indication of the decoration on the lower part of the vessel. Glaze is provided with generous splashes of rich green glaze beneath the pouring spout and on part of the handle, while a rich brown glaze has been applied sparingly on parts of the shoulder, and at one point these colours merge. A similar situation occurs on the handle.

KEY TO FIGURE 1 COARSEWARE POTTERY

1 Well made vessel with wide, slightly hollowed rim and very thin walls. Light grey fabric.

2 Thick square section rim overhanging vertical wall section. Dark grey to dark buff and heavily soot-stained.

3 Angled square section rim with top sloping inwards. Dark grey fabric, heavily soot-stained.

4 Narrow rectangular section rim, with walls forming globular form. Grey material, heavily stained externally.

5 Rectangular profile rim with hollowed outer face. Globular form in dark grey fabric and soot-stained externally.

6 Dish form with wide rim profile, probably for lid. Dark grey material.

7 Very large section and possibly rim to curfew. Heavily thickened rim and wall thickness in excess of ¼". Finger impressed along shoulder with fabric colour varying from dark grey to grey buff.

8 Dish with wide hollowed rim and partially glazed, with splashes of rich light brown glaze internally - soot-stained outer surface. Dark brown fabric.

9 Rim sherd with hollowed top and additional thickening to a tapered profile. Sandy buff fabric.

KEY TO FIGURE 2

1 Neck of flagon in orange fabric with splashes of green glaze.

2 Neck of flagon in grey buff fabric - the interior is heavily blackened.

3 Remains of a sandstone mortar with attached handle. The outer surfaces are smooth, while the heavily worn inner surface is peeked. Piece of oval section mineral found in Pit 1. It is thought to be sandstone and is tapered in its length - possibly it was used in conjunction with the mortar.

4 Chimney of a curfew found in the infill of Pit 3.

5 Remains of the globular flagon which was decorated with impressed finger marks, and partially glazed in green and brown glaze. The spout has been applied below the rim - and the neck of the vessel has been given a generous coating of rich green glaze.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is indebted to the following for their contributions and support, which is greatly appreciated.

To Mr D B Gwyn - for allowing investigation of the feature.

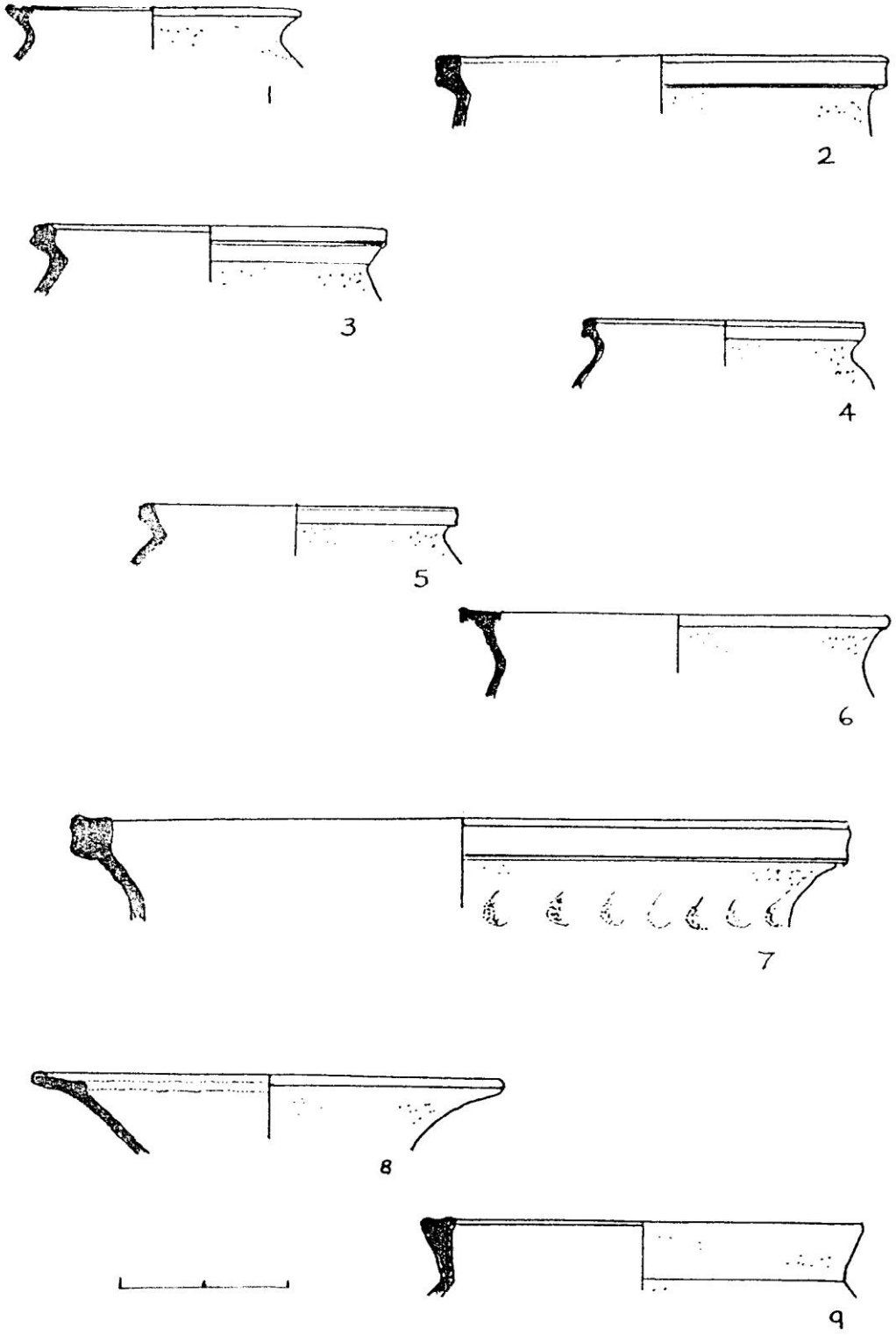
To Mr W Milligan, of the Norwich Castle Museum - for his help with the pottery

To Dick Collins, David Higgins and his young daughter Louise.

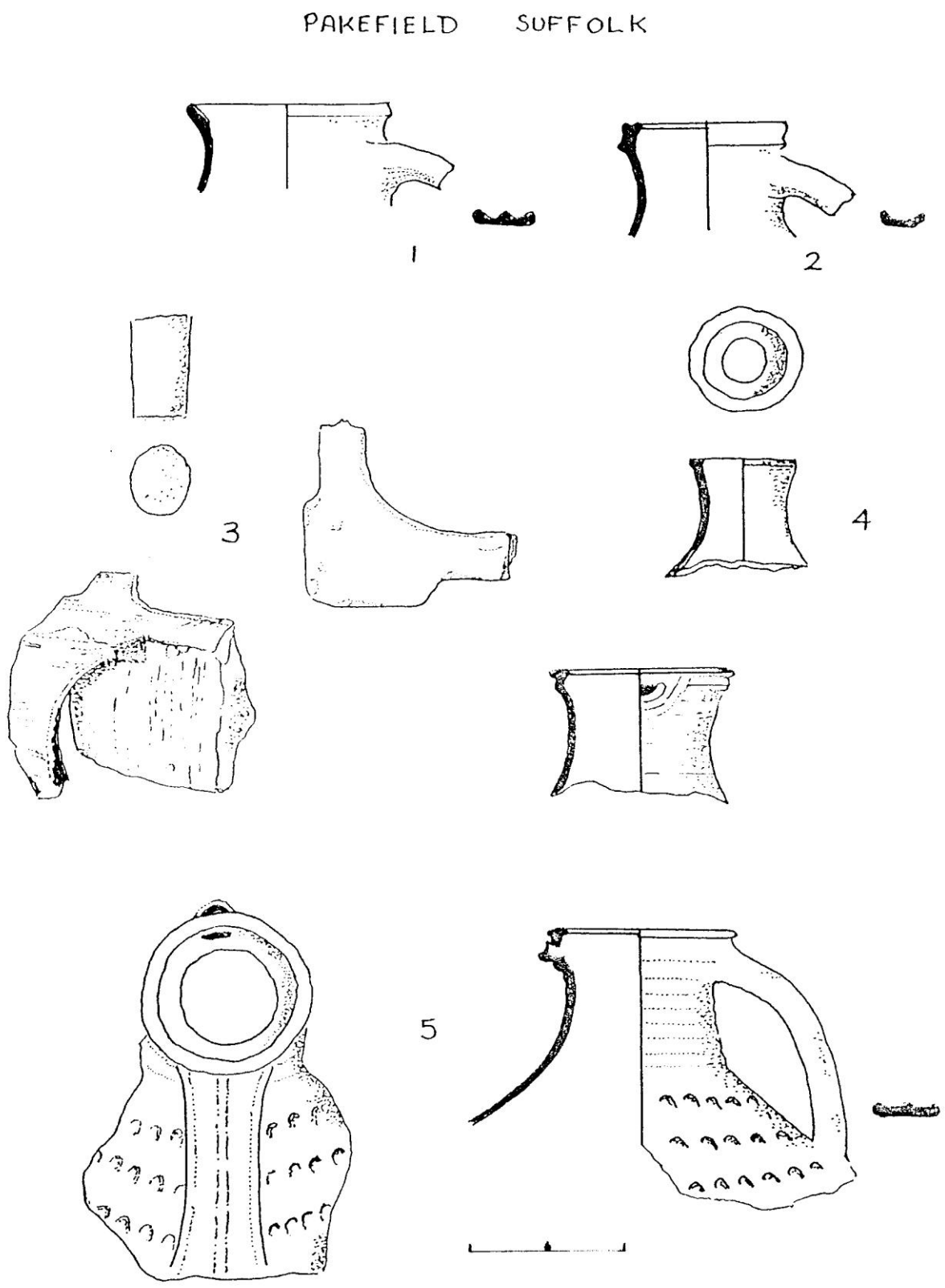
To Bhati - and finally, once again, my thanks

To Adrian Charlton - for his continued enthusiasm and observation of many of the features which have come to light over the last year. January 1995

PAKEFIELD SUFFOLK



COARSEWARE POTTERY FROM PIT 3
FIGURE 1. SCALE ¼
APPROXIMATLY



POTTERY AND MINERAL FROM PIT 3

FIGURE 2 SCALE ¼ APPROXIMATLY

EFFECT OF THE STORM SURGE OF JANUARY 2nd 1995 AT PONTIN'S PAKEFIELD.

by Paul Durbidge

A high tidal surge on January 2nd 1995 brought down large amounts of cliff all along the Pontin's stretch, including two massive gun emplacements and the concrete slab of a large army bunker, with another only three feet away from the cliff line.

Apart from the masses of sand, the beach was littered with debris, including steel, bricks, large lumps of brown clay, chalk nodules and large pieces of flint.

south of the Pontin's gap, large lumps of chalk embedded in grey clay have washed to the beach below, with the bare bed subsequently being broken up into large pieces.

Beach levels were lowered by sea action and the near black forest beds were uncovered tor several hundred yards to the south.

Remains of wood can clearly he seen in the sedimentary layers - some pieces of reasonable size - while on the beach, there are a number of septaria, some with golden coloured crystals standing out from the hard sedimentary clay.

The sudden upheaval once again revealed the large Jurassic ammonite, and a determined effort to drag the heavy fossil to higher ground nearly ended in serious injury, as more of the unstable cliff came down, resulting in the ammonite being covered yet again.

Severe slipping of the grass-covered cliffs is much more in evidence this time - both on the southern and northern sides of the gap, and erosion figures taken the next day showed a marked increase on the previous year's, resulting in resiting two of the fixed points.

Several army structures are now visible in the upper cliff face - from brick bunkers to dumps of corrugated iron and barbed wire - while the high army observation post is now perched precariously close to the cliff line - after being moved back some two years ago. The tunnel of bushes that grew along the cliff path have virtually gone to the sea at this point, and they lay on the beach, amongst masses of clay, chalk and sand.

Moving northwards, the impact of the sea against the base of the sandy cliffs has resulted in slipping on a large scale, with destruction lessening nearer the shooting range, where the beach is made up of dense shingle. An indication of the increase in cliff falls can be seen in the figures below, where the writer has been measuring yearly erosion along this stretch since January 1991.

Feet (from fixed point)		Loss	Location
1994	61	16 feet	1. South side of Pontin's Gap
1995	39	22 feet	
1994	46	12 feet	2. North side of Pontin's Gap
1995	24	22 feet	
1994	39	11 feet	3. Pontin's Camp
1995	8	31 feet	
1994	51	12 feet	4. Army Lookout Tower Pontin's end.
1995	9	42 feet	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE L.A.& L.H.S. 'FIELD GROUP'

by David Cumin

L.A.&.L.H.S. FIELD WALKING PROGRAMME 1995.

Sun. 8th January Lord Somerleyton's Field No. 33.

15th Jan. continuation of Field No 33. and Field No. 34.

22nd Jan. Field No. 35.

29th Jan. Field No. 39.

5th Feb. Field No. 40.

12th Feb. continuation of Field No. 40. and a Field 61*, at Blocka Hall Farm, O.S. TM472988.

19th Feb. Field 63*, at Blocka Hall Farm. O.S. TM474989.

26th Feb. Field 67/8*. at Blocka Hall Farm, O.S. TM477989.

5th March continuation of " " " " "

12th March Field 64*, at Blocka Hall Farm. O.S. TM474991.

19th March continuation of " " " " "

* Field No's from 1849 Tithe Field Map.

Field-Walking survey of the Estate of Lord Somerleyton.

At the last Society A.G.M, I voiced an opinion that as an archaeological society we ought to be doing practical archaeology such as field walking as we had done in the past, a practice that had somehow lapsed. There seemed to be a general consensus that it would be a good idea if such a pastime were again undertaken by the members.

Thus heartened I undertook to organise the resumption of organised field walks. Later in the year I set the wheels in motion by inviting a number of members, who I knew had previous experience, to a meeting to formulate a field programme.

On the 23rd, September, we had a meeting at my house and formed the "L.A.&.L.H.S. Field Group" according to an agenda I had prepared. After some discussion, drawing on the able knowledge and experience of Paul Durbidge, we proceeded (under his guidance), to the decision to begin our programme with Lord Somerleyton's land. In the course of that meeting's agenda, I was elected to act as Co-ordinator for the group, with Jon Reed, Peter Hood, and Keshar Whitelock as General Organisers. It was agreed that I should contact Lord Somerleyton to gain his approval and permission to access his land, and also to contact Suffolk Monuments Records, Archaeology Section, at Shire Hall, in order to ascertain how much recorded information was already held on the area. After I had done these things, we held another meeting on the 12th. December, to get the arrangements for the programme started. Our thanks to Mr. Woodrow who attended this meeting, and helped us with his experience of surveying Lord Somerleyton's land on his own project.

On the 8th of January this year, we started the programme at Herringfleet with our first group of hardy volunteers, and were considerably encouraged with the number of finds we made. A good cross-section of material from all periods was found. This was particularly fortuitous since we could so easily have come up with nothing.

Field-walking has continued every Sunday morning thereafter with the same heartening results, and we have covered nine fields in twelve weeks at Herringfleet and Ashby. Four of the fields were on tenant farmer D. Kitties' land at Blocka Hall Farm.

The total categories of material found up to, and including Sunday 19th March, are as follows:-

- Flintwork 143 pieces found.
- Pottery 30 " "
- Mediaeval 52 " "
- 16th & 17th.c. 35 " "
- Post-mediaeval 59 " "
- Metal 87 " "
- Fossil 20 " "

The original intention was to casual line-walk, initially just to get an appraisal, with the intention of returning to re-walk in the future. It is expected that the total programme will take up to five years.

The number of finds to date is very encouraging indeed, and many thanks to those who volunteered in response to my original proposal, and congratulations on your vigilance which has produced the above returns.

The field walkers were:-

P. Durbidge,	J. Reed,	B. Girling,	A. Charlton,	Ja. Berrey,
J. Berrey,	M. Coffin,	E. Leach,	E. Middleton,	A. Weller,
L. Fisher,	R. Ashman,	M. Kestner,	I. Rougier,	C. Rougier.

alongside our two metal detectorists - P. Hood, & K. Whitelock

And from the Blundeston History Society -

T. Chilton, Mrs. Flatt, P. Offord, C. Ragged, H. Smith, L. Smith.

Field-walking has now come to an end due to crop seeding for Spring 1995 season, and I look forward to inviting you to join me later in the year, when we shall hopefully return to Lord Somerleyton's lands and with his continuing countenance, resume where we have left off.

David Cumming,
LA&LHS Field Group Co-ordinator,
March 1995

RESULTS OF THE SOMERLEYTON FIELD-WALKING SURVEY, AN INTERIM REPORT

by Paul Durbidge

The present season of field-walking carried out by the LA&LHS 'Field Group' on the Somerleyton Estate began in early January and concluded during the middle of March when seeding began on the remaining fields.

The area chosen to start the survey was at Herringfleet close to the Norfolk and Suffolk border, the reason being that the field surfaces at this location had been ploughed for some considerable time and were extremely well weathered and ideal for surface searching. This in turn would help people who had never been field-walking and subsequently increase the possibilities of recovering any archaeological evidence that may be there.

Initially the field-walking on the estate is being conducted on a casual line in an attempt to obtain a general appraisal of material and as the project hopefully continues those areas that have yielded in the initial searches will he more closely covered at a later date. The ploughed land at Herringfleet is mostly flat with comparatively light soils although on another part the field sweeps downwards and more mixed soils are encountered along with concentrations of surface flint and the remains of a Victorian bottle dump.

In all some nine fields have been searched and the results are encouraging. It would also be fair to say that everyone who has taken part in the project has made a contribution in the recovery of material in an area we know very little about.

Broadly classified the finds are as follows.

FLINT INDUSTRY

There were more discoveries in this group than any other, and flint industry was encountered on every field with confirmed grouping on one.

This took the form of secondary flint flakes, some trimmed, pot boilers, a core axe-head, and a body sherd of heavily gritted Neolithic pottery. Two hammer-stones, showing considerable battering were recovered close-by on an adjacent field, and it was noticeable that on a number of naturally fractured pieces of flint, some working had been applied although often very briefly.

This would explain the lack of cores encountered as up to the time of writing only one multi-platform type has been recovered, and this would be a location needing a second more concentrated search in the future.

POTTERY

As already mentioned a single sherd of Neolithic pottery has been found and it is the earliest piece of pottery so far recovered from the survey and it would date from around 2500 BC.

A body sherd of light grey coarseware and a simple curled over rim in buff fabric are both thought to be of Romano British date, while a thicker body sherd of rough gritty brown courseware has caused us to scratch our heads. In the end it was submitted to Norwich museum where again it proved a headache to tie down, but finally an early Romano British date has been suggested.

MEDIEVAL

Fragments of Medieval pottery have been found on all the fields and forms vary from fragmentary body sherds to occasional rim forms and handle fragments. The finds have been encountered with stonewares and occasional broken bricks, the latter being badly cracked and distorted complete with straw or grass markings. The presence of broken strap handles, one with traces of green glaze suggest they came from jugs, while two of the rim forms are typical of shallow dish types.

Water scale was visible on the inner surface of one base sherd, and on one Pancheon type rim there were signs of soot beneath the rim. Some dark green glazed fragments including part of another Pancheon type were found close to the coarseware sherds, and a small dark green glazed fragment with nicking to one surface may have French origins by reason of the off-white fabric. It is worth mentioning at this point that while some of the pin tile fragments being found are clearly later in date, there is a possibility that the rough cast types may be Medieval in date, or at least fairly close to it.

STONEWARES

Stoneware remains are well represented and fall into two groups, those attributed to around the 16-17th centuries, and those occurring much later.

Fragments of the blue and grey Westerwald and some of the salt-glazed stoneware sherds suggest trading with the Low Countries with the three thick body sherds and part of a small salt-glazed neck attributed to a Belamine jar. Like the previous periods, fragments are widely scattered, some of the rim forms belong to mugs, although it is possible that some of the other stoneware bits and pieces do as well.

Colours of the stonewares vary from smooth light grey to speckled light brown, dark brown to grey buff, but in each case all can safely be tied down to the period.

The second group, which is much later also consists of glazed earthenware, glass, various stonewares, metal, clay pipe stems, and building material, and this material has a general distribution with one exception. The siting of a Victorian rubbish dump in one field resulted in much material being subsequently moved about by farm machinery over quite a wide area. Objects from this group are very diverse, and range from the remains of a very ornate brass door knocker to a small fragment of blue and white Chinese porcelain.

GENERAL

Although they cannot be accurately tied down to a particular period a number of oyster shells and fragments have been observed during searches.

Fossil remains consist of a small sea urchin, remains of a Gryphaea, and a small Belemnite, all attributed to the Jurassic Period.

METALS; BROADLY CLASSIFIED

As one would expect metal remains are across the spectrum, although when the first search resulted in 303 bullets, part of a pocket watch, and iron nails there were a few smiles. Since then an interesting

group of material has started to emerge, and like the field-walking, some locations may yield more on later dates.

Coins; from reigns of Charles I, George II/III, and Victoria, some 19 C pewter buttons, buckles, musket halls, various lead weights and plumb bobs, 17 C Nuremburg Jetton, and a lead leather work fitting.

This is an interim report of results of the start of the Somerleyton Field Walking Survey, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked on it in one way or another. I would like to express my thanks to Mr. C. Lockhart for his time and help, and also Mr. R. P. Kittle for allowing a wider search of the area of Herringfleet to be covered.

Finally my thanks to Lord Somerleyton for allowing the survey to take place. The results have been very encouraging and the Society is greatly indebted.

Paul Durbidge. March, 1995.

ROMAN SCOLE - THE FIRST EXCAVATION

by David Cumin

It's back to Roman Scole once again. I have already talked about the second excavation site on the 27th January 1994 when I gave a slide talk, and an account of that was in the last Annual Report. Some of us visited that site on the 1st November 1993. 1 now give here an account of the other two excavations at Scole to complete the picture. The last excavation from April to July last year was visited by some members with me on July 4th 1994. I shall he giving a slide talk on this site later in the year on September 28th 1995.

SITE 1

I offer you here, a sketchy report of the first excavation, which I did not visit myself, since it was reaching completion at the time of my visit to the Norfolk excavation on the opposite side of the River Waveney.

The following is from Judith Plouviez' talk on the first Scole excavation - from the series of lecture meetings on 'Roman East Anglia' early in 1994.

Judith began her talk on the site, the Stuston side, to the south of the River Waveney, by drawing attention to the fact that these types of excavations only became feasible as a result of road schemes, in the last twenty years.

Such schemes laid bare adequate areas for investigation, with associated funding, since road development schemes tended to be close to Roman roads, frequently at Roman road junctions, or at river crossings, where Iron-Age settlements tended to spring up. Such excavations were more likely to reveal a small Roman town, than, say, a villa, as in other parts of the country.

A small area had been excavated in the 1970's, in advance of a small housing estate, to the north of the River Waveney, at what is now Karen Close.

Scole, had a main north-south road, and one east-west. Like other small Roman towns it had a number of side roads, buildings with clay and chalk floors, and a lot of wells. A range of materials, importing pots from various other places for re-sale. A prolific quantity of metalwork - much more than normal for rural sites. A large number of coins, spanning the Roman period all giving the impression of a commercial centre.

Trial trenches and field-walking showed material in the low area, close to the river, indicating Roman activity had taken place there. The line of the by-pass road, going through an apparently essential Roman site thus made further investigation worthwhile.

Two main areas for such investigation became apparent - that adjacent to the A140, and the peat area in the loop south of the river.

Finds became inconsistent alongside the A140 the further south, away from the river crossing, the excavation progressed. There were traces of the Roman road visible, not covered by the A140, and a modern ditch that had cut the Roman road.

During early Roman occupation, there was evidence of gravel extraction to build the original road. Later, around the 2nd century, traces of buildings at the northern end, with post-holes of a fairly

substantial building. Features running parallel and at right-angles to the road look like early field boundary ditches, later developing into small-scale domestic occupations. One house-plot had a domestic well in the garden. The remains were insubstantial, widely spaced and ceasing before the southern end of the site.

The other area investigated south of the river, revealed a ditch, cutting across a loop in the river, probably a channel, like a mill-race, although the ends near the river were not excavated. Beside it were a number of features, although the very light soil was badly abraded by ploughing for twenty of thirty years, and appears to have gone down very quickly with agriculture. Other features included two ditches, identified from aerial photographs, and appearing like a road, a feature like a rectangular enclosure, a ditch complex and Roman buildings, and a possible Pre-historic roundhouse.

This being a very wet area, a large amount of wood was preserved - a very important feature, since very little wood is preserved in East Anglia, except in the Fens and at estuaries. When exposed, it has to he kept covered, or it deteriorates very rapidly. Timber, flanking enclosures, were held in position by upright timbers. Across the ditch were two single box-like structures, built in two phases. In the bottom of one there was an earlier small box structure, the sides of this structure also held in place by upright timbers. Adjacent to these features, was found a clay lined, timber rectangular feature. The timber was in an extremely good state of preservation, due to the water table level keeping it damp. Exposed joints revealed one side had been removed at some stage. A drain went from this feature to the box-like structure in the ditch mentioned above. During the earliest phase of this construction, it had a clay-lined square edge, with a spill in the middle. Later in another phase, a similar structure cut into this at a higher level, though not overlapping. The whole was apparently a clay tank system, with timber edges - a process for drawing water from the river and resulting waste being discharged into the river or peat area.

Other features in this area included possible post-holes for buildings and a large rectangular area, incomprehensible to the excavators, within which there were a number of small clay features, containing a lot of ash, creating a thick black layer. This proved to be burned chaff and cereal waste, though the clay features it was in, were not burned, or only slightly so, suggesting there was a structure above them which contained the fire (probably an iron grid), through which the ash could fall to the clay floor beneath.

The exact nature of the industry going on here cannot he established, because much of the debris was not indestructible, as would be the case with an industry such as pottery.

The evidence suggests a none-too-demanding occupation, requiring lots of water. First speculations suggested tanning, although no leather had been found, which would have been as well preserved as the wood. Another suggestion was fabric-related processing, such as flax retting or dyeing, but the cereal debris suggests that malting and brewing are the most likely.

As there was considerable activity with moving water, it appears likely that there could have been a mill in this complex, somewhere, although none of the excavated structures implied a mill, but large pieces of quern millstone were found in the ditch.

When the timbers lining the ditch were examined, they were found to have been re-used, and close consideration of the joints made it clear that these had been roof timbers, a very important find, since Roman roofs have not survived. It is possible, with a lot of imagination, to construct a ground plan of buildings from post-holes, but it becomes very tentative to try and project a roof at the top. Once you have actual rafters, you have a lot more evidence. These will be important to future discussions on the construction of Roman buildings, particularly in the re-construction of timber-framed buildings in East Anglia. Elsewhere, collapsed walls have produced evidence of angles and numbers of storeys to buildings such as villas.

SITE 3

This third and last Scole archaeological rescue, excavated from the 24th of April to the 22nd of July 1994, and paid for by the contractors, was on the road-line adjacent to the A140, of the eastern section of the Scole Bypass works. The main excavation measured 90m x 25m. Archaeological remains continue right across this field, and compliments the work from the first site, on the opposite side of the A140. This land, having been in private hands, does not appear to have been ploughed or indeed worked in any way during recent times, although currently, cattle can be seen pasturing in the field next to the road.

This field is an Ancient Monument Site, believed to be a temple, and was so declared after

investigations by Basil Brown, in the 1930's or 40's. It is visible as a slight mound in the centre of the field.

Work began on the site at the end of April, and I first visited the site on the 11th of May, when the top-soil to Roman levels had been removed. At this time, no concrete opinions had been formed about land use on this site, but much evidence of activity was present, in pottery, charcoal, metal slag, metal objects and large quantities of animal bone, particularly jaw bones. The main features were wells, ditches and plough marks, a metalled path and road, but no evidence of buildings.

On Saturday 18th June 1994, I joined a conducted tour for Ipswich Archaeological Trust, of which the following is an account.

David Gill, Archaeological Site Manager, started his tour of the site by drawing attention to the soil layers, revealed by excavation. Three distinct layers of land use were apparent. The deepest, earliest layer was the level containing the wells and boundary ditches, which ran haphazardly at an angle to the Roman road (A140). Excavation has revealed a complex network of land enclosure by ditches. In some places, ditches converge. When the ditches were open, they contained standing water, which had laid a fine silt at the bottom.

David conjectured that a bit of a 'free-for-all' had taken place here, with laying out of land plots. He suggested that in the beginning, official bodies (ie. local civitas) may have laid out staked plots, since on the opposite side of the road, ditch plots were adjacent to the road, following some uniformity, but on this side, field plots had obviously evolved more randomly, the locals apparently ignoring any official attempt at uniform, organised plots.

The layer above this, shows it thence to have become agricultural land. Evidence at various places on the site showed plough furrows intact. Later, the whole area became a rubbish dump.

This showed as a dark layer in the soil below the grass surface and was the layer in which all the finds were made. The latter stages of land use came to an end when the whole area became flooded, evident by a pale silt sediment above the lower levels, similar to alluvial plain flooding. This event sealed all the layers of the Roman period. Pottery sherds from out of town dumping, date to the 3rd century, so flooding obviously occurred after this dale in the Roman period, when the area was abandoned.

The most interesting features on this site were the wells, and of particular interest was the fact that there were three different types. Hitherto, all the wells had been the square, wooden type, as on the Norfolk site. The first to be found here was a circular well, however, made from re-cycled barrel staves. This was in the centre of the southern half of the site, and according to a visiting dendrologist, had its origins in Germany.

After the barrel had been disassembled, it was re-assembled as two, that is two cylindrical tubes, strengthened and bound inside and out with ash hoops, and then sunk into the ground, one on top of the other. The other kind of well found on this site, consisted of a wattle lining in the shaft: and there were two of these. The best example was the one located in the northern half, close to the eastern side of the excavation, and was complete and intact, having the appearance of a circular basket, sunk into the sandy soil. It was a finely crafted piece of work by some Romano-British basket maker. It had been suggested by the dendrologist, that samples should be taken from each side, to establish by analysis, whether it had come from managed coppiced hazel, or naturally grown hazel - and whether it was a continuous piece of wattle going around. There was also considerable debate as to whether it could have been made before being sunk into the ground, although this remains unresolved for the present.

The other well of this type was close to the western side of the excavation, and a much rougher version. It appeared to have been repaired, probably after the sandy soil had collapsed one side. When I first saw this well, there were just a few strands of wattle still adhering to the side of an excavation which had taken place, of a ditch running through it. It remains unknown as to whether the ditch, or the well, were dug first. All the wells had been discovered by excavating a dark circle in the soil, created by silting up, and a peat level settling over it.

David Gill expressed surprise at the lack of buildings, expected to be found near this unusual number of water sources, in such a small area, though maybe their function was in connection with an industrial activity. Samples have been taken from the residue at the bottom of the wells, and analysis will hopefully reveal an industrial use. To add credence to this, on the eastern side, near to the well, was an area of charcoal containing iron slag.

SCOLE RE-VISITED

On Monday, the 4th of July 1994, Society Members joined me on a visit to the site, and were taken on a conducted tour, with commentary by David Gill (Archaeological Site Manager). The following is, again, a report of what we saw.

At the northern end of the site, excavation revealed an interesting feature of posts, driven into the sides of a peat-filled channel, with peat up to a depth of some 8 feet. Upon initial investigation, it was thought that it could have been some sort of revetment, although lacking any other material built against the side of it.

Using my imagination here, I conjecture that this construction could have been made to accommodate water-borne travellers, landing at a river stage on a visit to the temple, an island in the flood plain.

The oak posts, from their thicknesses, were judged to be 5-6 feet long. Dendro-chronological evidence showed that they had been cut sometime in the 2nd century. The posts were laid out in line, in a pattern of two thick posts, with two smaller posts in between them. Infill material, driven in around them, contained Roman vines (does this indicate vine culture and wine making was another feature of Roman Scole?). Further evidence showed that the life of the construction had been extended by later driving new stakes into the tops of the old ones. The evidence suggests that all the material is probably from the Roman period, since none exists above the flood layer.

In the latter stages of the excavation, work concentrated on the southern end of the site.

Another well was discovered at the eastern side. It was of the square, wooden type, with oak timbers - with which we are now very familiar, as seen on the previous visit to the Norfolk site, though with the added interest of an articulated cow carcass, wedged into the top opening. It's cut off legs had been wedged in spaces around the top edge. It was presumed that this was a sacrificial offering at the end of the working life of the well. The whole had then been capped with clay.

Interestingly, a leather bag, containing willow twigs had been found in one of the other wells, similarly appearing like some sort of offering. (It seems a strange ritual of the culture and times, that upon being presented with any water feature in the landscape, to immediately feel obliged to start tossing in objects of personal value, or inscriptions, to a resident watery deity - although it is realised that aquatic gods were strong features of the culture.)

Earlier in the excavation, David Gill had expressed the opinion that the southern-most end of the site had appeared the most likely location for evidence of buildings, since below the dark layer of soil there was compacted gravel. His intuition may well have been right, since this was the location of a road, running east from the main Roman road towards the temple site in the next field. It is not possible to say at present whether the road surface was the same compacted gravel referred to above.

Excavation of the road and the ground adjacent was in progress at the time of the visit by Society Members, and David showed us a bag of the finds, comprising pottery sherds, bone and lumps of metal slag. At this location, 150 coins were found, with and without a metal detector.

Later, back at the archaeology mobile, we were shown a collection of pottery sherd finds, containing a particularly fine piece of a Samian-ware bowl, with a running hunting scene depicted around the outside, found near the stake-line in the north-eastern corner of the site - and also a piece of grey-ware pottery, depicting a similar scene.

CONCLUSION

This site, in keeping with the previous two, shows the strong characteristics of occupation and industrial land-use, typified by the presence of wells and ditches, for water orientated activities, and the evidence of fire, heat and foundry working, given credence by the liberal distribution of iron slag. Added to this, the usual evidence of use and occupation, by the distribution of pottery sherds and coins - and other domestic objects. The preservation of the soil layers helped considerably with interpretation, since the Roman levels were distinctly layered, from industrial, to agricultural, to waste deposits, and the site was then sealed by flooding, causing the abandonment of the site.

Beyond the northern end of the main site, the area up to the Waveney, a series of smaller excavations were made, together with a similar strategy on the other side of the river, towards the encroaching road works. Here, finds continued to he made; of animal jaw-bones, plough marks, and two particularly interesting finds of a rolled lead inscription and a brooch with an intact pin, again apparently placed as sacrificial offerings. I imagine the Waveney was a wider flowing stretch of water at this time. Archaeologists explained that in Roman times, the coastal area was considerably different from that of

today, and higher water levels led to inland areas around estuaries, river valleys, etcetera, became flooded, causing large tracts of land to remain under water for some period of time.

Beyond the end of the current stage of construction of the new by-pass road, the remains of a square building of the Roman period were discovered (since confirmed as a temple) on the road line and had to be hastily excavated and recorded by archaeologists, dodging amid contractor's heavy equipment, engaged in road construction.

Archaeologists talked of the distinction between this site and that on the opposite side (Site 1) adjacent to the Roman road. I have outlined earlier, the differences in the way ditched land enclosures evolved, but there were other differences, too. Pottery finds on this site showed the latest dating to be the mid-3rd Century, whereas on the opposite side of the road, dating for pottery was as late as the early 4th Century. The other obvious difference, was the lack of buildings on this site, whereas opposite, many remains of structures were apparent.

Among the finds revealed on this site, and not mentioned earlier, were a hand mirror and some rings. During the last week of excavation, the edges of the site, where the spoil had been dumped, was excavated - and a possible stoke-hole to a pottery kiln, with waste and collapsed pottery was discovered. This indicates possible evidence of pottery production at Scole.

Archaeologists pointed out that, technically, (in law), all finds from the site belonged to the landowner, although they were now in the keeping of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, for preservation treatment and recording purposes. It is hoped the owner will donate them to Suffolk, for display in a Museum.

When all the discoveries from the three sites at Scole have been collated, provision will have to he made for a joint exhibition from Norfolk and Suffolk Archaeological Units' sites.

So I end on the hopeful note, that in the not too distant future, we will have the opportunity of seeing some, if not all, of the finds from Roman Scole exhibited at Norwich or Ipswich Museums.

CONCLUSION TO ALL THREE SITES

During the course of the talk by Judith Plouviez on the excavations at Scole, and what they revealed about Scole in Roman times, I got to thinking about the various features at Scole in their entirety, and the following are a few conjectures of my own.

Roman Scole appears to have been a vibrant rural commercial centre. This is reflected in the excavations of the industrial periphery of the town. These showed a complex of *"town roads, substantial buildings, a lot of wells. a range of other materials - making pots, importing pottery from other places for sale, and a range of metal-work, beyond that which is normal for rural sites, and large numbers of coins, covering the Roman period, all giving the impression of a commercial centre."* [1] Scole, in the late 4th Century was producing very little material, possibly reducing in population, a fate common with other towns, small and large, with Roman administration breaking down and leading to failure to collect any taxes at all. Ultimately towns in most cases were completely abandoned soon after.

The finding of the Hoxne Hoard (just over two miles from Scole) gives rise to much speculation about the area. The Hoard reflects a wealthy family of Senatorial class in the Roman Empire of the time, residing in the area (the commercial industrial owner of Scole industry, perhaps). Yet no villa of the size or quality befitting a wealthy family has to date been found in the area, or the evidence of a Roman estate: *"...certainly no evidence from the Scole site..."*. [1]

Scole, in the Antonine Itinerary, is shown as a town named *"Villa Faustini {" ...a common imperial name from the 2nd Century onwards..."* [1]. An odd name - perhaps there was a villa so named in Scole, or somewhere on the Roman road, south or north of Scole? Again Judith Plouviez answered this query. *"If in the town, then more likely to have been a post-house for Imperial travellers or messengers..."* [1].

So the mystery of the area pervades. The Hoxne Hoard would appear to be only half of the rich family's silverware. Silver plate and other table-ware were absent - as found in the Mildenhall Treasure.

POSTSCRIPT

In the Hoxne Hoard there were 14,865 coins, 569 gold, 14,272 silver and 24 bronze. There exists a vague record of a larger hoard of gold coins being found in 1780 near the village of Eye (just over 3 miles south-west of Hoxne), so could our wealthy landowner have been dividing his wealth up into

hoards and burying them for safely around his estate? Judith Plouviez, in her talk, said *"...that the Suffolk map of Roman sites was well endowed, except that the map was thin in the area of the Dove Valley (area between Hoxne and Eye), and that there was a need to go out and thoroughly search this area and find Iron Age and Roman sites, and fill in this gap in the map of Roman East Anglia."* [1].

So I leave you with the thought that maybe, somewhere within or just outwith of a triangle formed by Scole, Hoxne and Eye, there is the remains of a villa; larger than any yet found in Suffolk, and maybe, further treasure hoards, just waiting to be discovered.

[1] **[**Judith Plouviez - lecture within series "Roman East Anglia" 1994]

Acknowledgements

Judith Plouviez David Gill David Cuming March 1995

THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 1994 TO 1995

by Jon Reed

The awful weather reported in last year's piece seems to have continued this year. There has been heavy rain nearly all winter, with high winds. Meteorologists say that it has been the wettest winter for some 65 years. We escaped the snow, with the exception of a few flurries, when we should have had it. As soon as the first day of spring came round we had several days of snow and sleet, but it didn't lay. We have been relatively lucky compared to the north of the country where roads were blocked right up to the end of March. The bad weather has caused more cliff damage at Pakefield. Paul Durbidge reported some 43 feet had gone down in 12 months in the area of Pontins. While this is bad, it has had a sort of silver lining in the quantity of things coming out of the cliff. There is an area of Roman finds and now two areas of Medieval remains. Apart from these the elusive ammonite has re-appeared, albeit for only two hours before more clay fell on it and hid it again. It is reported to be some 26 inches across. We still have the impression of a large ammonite in the Museum, but would dearly love to have the real thing. Fossil finds included dinosaur vertebrae and some large leg bones. Fortunately the erosion at Covehithe has been less in the last year than in the previous 12 months.

There has been a fair amount of movement on the industrial scene. Last year Small & Co. sold their engineering side to Orion Engineering Ltd., winners of Waveney business award in 1993. It was reported that Wessex Foods were to take over the Harvest Poultry factory at Pakefield, but the building and land are still very empty and up for sale or let. The Brooke Marine site was renamed the Brooke Business Park in March 1994. The Suffolk Water Company has been taken over by Essex Water, but is still French owned. In April 1994 20 redundancies were made at the CWS factory. In May it was taken over by F.E. Barber of the Hobson Group. In spite of assurances of continued employment, the factory closed suddenly in October, with 350 job losses. A week later the factory was bought by H.L. Foods for $9M, but it is still closed and doesn't look like re-opening. Kvaerner Oil & Gas announced 200 new jobs at the Brooke Business Park in September.

In May 1994 it was announced that Richards Shipbuilders was to close in August. Even in the May nearly all the workforce had already been made redundant. Richards was the last Lowestoft shipbuilder and its closure brought a long tradition to a sad end. In October it was announced that Guardline Shipping were to buy the Richards site. In December 500 lots of Richards equipment were auctioned off.

The row on fishing has gone on all year. The EC regulations have made great inroads on the remaining fishing "fleet", apart from the fish industry depending on the fleet's catches. In November 1994 Colne Fishing announced the scrapping of 3 trawlers and 18 redundancies, with the threat of more to follow in 1995. Early in 1995 a number of whip-less Tory MPs came to Lowestoft to see for themselves. Michael Jack, the Fisheries Minister, has been under pressure to combat a threatened move to give a huge slice of the British plaice quota to Holland. It was estimated that the Lowestoft share of this would result in the loss of over £1M to the port.

Local amenities have had a mixed year. In March 1994 a new bandstand was started at the Sparrows Nest and it was completed in June at a cost of £25,000. It was built by Badgers and was dedicated as a permanent memorial to Coastal Patrol Service members who died in the Second World War. In March 1994 a Lowestoft Maritime Heritage Centre was announced. It would have an exhibition

centre and two old ships on show. I personally haven't heard any more of this project. In April 1994 the "Travellers" site at the northern end of the Kessingland by-pass was officially opened. It cost £800,000 and charges up to £40 a week for a pitch. Plans to open a shopping and leisure centre on the U-Save site on London Road South were turned down by Waveney. Last July the first Lowestoft Festival of the Arts was held, and was considered to be a success. The local beaches have continued to sport their blue flags, some of the cleanest in the country. Last August the Kitchener Home celebrated its 75th anniversary. A 100 year old lifeboat, the Alfred Cory was restored and given to Southwold. Southwold Reading Room's new UPVC windows were deemed out of character and were ordered to be replaced. Also at Southwold a new RNLI station was opened last June at a cost of £130,000 from the bequest of Mr Anthony Mills Murray. Waveney approved an application for 188 caravans and timber chalets at Corton. Finally a trial hot-air balloon flight was made in December from Normanston Park. At the time it was said that it could be the start of a new "service".

A new job centre was opened on the old Cosall site in the Marina. High Street traders demanded assistance after the opening of the Eastern Relief Road had affected their business badly. The proposal for a wind farm at Easton Bavants was turned down by the Council. The "Blue Boar" at Oulton started its own brewery in April 1994. It has introduced a new dark ale called "Welder's Armpit". The old "Suffolk Poacher" at Wangford which closed some years ago, was re-opened as the "Angel Inn" in October. The same month the Wherry Hotel at Oulton Broad had a severe fire which needed 9 fire appliances. It started in a kitchen vent and burnt out the top floor rooms. The hotel made valiant efforts and remained open. The repairs are now nearly completed. On a very sad note, David Mullender of the Raglan Street Smokehouse suffered a heart attack at sea while fishing on November 27th. His cheerful personality will be sorely missed by all who use the Smokehouse. His partner is carrying on the business.

The roads have been in a state of flux for months now. Apart from the normal repairs, Anglian Water has been creating chaos. As forecast in last year's report, they have disrupted traffic all over the town while they relined the water mains. Some people have been without water for 33 hours at a time and the traffic has been badly affected. Not much else has happened, just a few "improvements", the zaniest of which is the introduction of cycle lanes in the upper portion of Cotmer Road, which is barely wide enough for two lorries to pass in comfort. In the town centre some roads are limited to residents parking only - a privilege for which residents have to pay. In March 1994 the Department of Transport again delayed the, by now mythical, Third Crossing, this time until at least 2005. This produced the usual crop of letters to the Journal. Various other by-pass schemes have started or are about to, as those unfortunate enough to have to get through Scole will know.

On the education front there seems to be a total dichotomy of mind. While some establishments are building up their facilities, others are in dire trouble or have closed. The Warren School pool, mentioned last year, is now up (or should it be down?) and just about running. A new sixth-form study centre was opened in September at Benjamin Britten School. Each of these projects cost around a quarter of a million pounds. Kirkley High School has an ongoing appeal for a new sports and leisure centre. Meanwhile 23 lecturers at the Lowestoft College took voluntary redundancy last year in a bid to save £1M, at around the same time as the Maritime Centre at the College received a big boost by being sponsored by Shell. Most of Oulton Broad Primary School was demolished and 48 dwellings are being built on the site.

Building sites still abound in and around the town. The Persimmon Homes estate on Beccles Road was started just after Christmas and is now a sea of mud with islands of material in it. There seems to be a trend for filling bits of ground with houses. For instance, I have had it reported to me that the garden of a house on the corner of Waveney Drive and Waveney Crescent has got planning permission for a house. The field on Cotmer Road is also being built on, again by Persimmon Homes, more's the pity. A few years ago I scoffed at a suggestion that we would have housing all the way between Lowestoft and Beccles - now I'm not so sure. The Excelsior Trust received a grant of £50,000 in 1994 from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. A bronze cannon was dredged up at Southwold which is thought to come from the Battle of Sole Bay. Wrentham held an exhibition in August of 100 years of the town and Covehithe, at which the Society and Museum had a stand. Lowestoft Museum is no longer anonymous, it has a sign over the door ! Jack Rose has given what he says is his last slide show. He is concentrating on fund-raising and setting up a new Museum devoted to Lowestoft in the Second World War, which he hopes to open this summer. The Parish Councils of Carlton Colville, Oulton and Wrentham all celebrated their centenaries last year and St. Michael's at Rushmere held its

first service since 1967, after years of restoration.

Some dreadful statistics, published in March this year, show that male unemployment is 17%, with 25% of households claiming council tax benefit, 22% of employment is part-time and 10% of the population is living at or below income support level. This is indeed a depressed area and the Council are instituting a programme to combat poverty. The short life of new businesses is a symptom of this. The number of changes of shops in London Road North alone is quite revealing. It is possibly significant that car thefts have increased by 250% in the last few years.

In 1994 the 50th anniversary of D Day was celebrated by several events including a service at St. Peter's Church, a play at the Seagull Theatre called "The Turn of The Tide" and Jack Rose selling commemorative mugs. This year sees the 50th anniversary of the end of the war and there will be many more things happening. Our own contribution is an exhibition of both World Wars in Lowestoft Museum.

As reported last year, we have been subjected to campaigns on behalf of and against local government changes. There has been a lot of discussion about single tier systems and a merger between Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth, called "Yartoft". All this came to nothing when the Government announced the result of polls that showed the county, in its slow way, was averse to any change at all. So we still have Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council, for better or worse.

A few totally unrelated items come to mind. Lowestoft Radio (LTR FM) has done its third stint and is set to do more. Southwold has applied for a similar licence. By the time this is published Radio Suffolk will have held a three hour programme at Lowestoft Museum, with interviews of local people actually from within the Museum. Dr. Mohan of the Victoria Road Surgery has received an award for new country-wide guidelines on patient care. The railway sell-off is under way and we still have to see what it means to our two local lines. The Suffolk Archaeological Unit has conducted a preliminary survey on a field to the west of Pakefield Industrial Estate. This is prior to granting a building licence to J.S. Bloor. They were looking for a Saxon cemetery known to be there but found strong traces of Roman settlement. It is not yet known whether they will conduct a full dig, but if they do so our Fieldwalking group should be involved.

A VISIT IS RECOMMENDED

by Lilian Fisher

Being involved with our Archaeological Society and Museum, it almost goes without saying that we are all interested in Museums generally, and visit them wherever we go.

One of the most unusual and captivating museums I have ever visited must be the Museum of Smuggling at Ventnor in the Isle of Wight. It was established in 1973 and claims to be the only museum in the world devoted to showing methods of smuggling in Britain over seven centuries. The museum is housed underground in what appears to be a huge cavern, with quite startling displays appearing dramatically out of the gloom. These romantic notions were somewhat dampened when I discovered that the "cave" was actually the old boiler house of the huge T.B. hospital formerly on this site, which is now the Botanical Gardens.

All the information in the museum was conveyed by tableaux containing lifelike models as well as actual artefacts, and my knowledge of smuggling was, I soon found out, sadly lacking, having only associated smuggling of the past with "brandy for the parson; 'baccy for the clerk" of the old poem, as well as today's more lethal drug smuggling.

Did you know, for example, that the first known smugglers dealt in wool ? English wool was in great demand by Continental weavers, and the smugglers deemed the rewards to be worth the risks. In 1297, Henry of Aderne was caught smuggling wool in wine barrels to Flanders. He was fined twenty pounds by the Bishop of Lichfield, and was actually allowed to pay by instalments. This lenient treatment was not doled out to the later and less influential smugglers, whose punishment was the cutting off of the left hand, surrender of all worldly goods, and transportation to the American Colonies.

Later, brandy smuggling from the Continent was very lucrative, and ingenious means of hiding kegs

of brandy or tea or even silk by means of sinking them below water line at pre-arranged spots were devised. The smugglers seem to have been audacious and enterprising, and the customs men were, at first, no match for them. The Hovering Act of 1784 somewhat strengthened the hand of the excise men by imposing penalties for smuggling and for impeding or resisting arrest. The use of fast clippers also helped.

The smugglers were called "owlers", presumably because they were active at night, and owlers windows were contrived to allow light to be shown seaward but not seen by customs men on the shore. Old stories of gangs using churchyards, crypts and belfries, where superstitious villagers feared to tread, appear to have been founded in fact. A piece of stone from a demolished church in Brighton shows rope marks made when barrels of brandy were hauled up into the belfry. Perhaps the Dr. Syn of Russell Thorndyke's novel was based on truth.

More methods of smuggling brandy and tea were shown, including hollowed stones and special clothing in which to hide contraband. What appeared to be a length of rope was really twisted tobacco. Horse shoe fakes were used to make false trails leading in the wrong direction. The smugglers seem, on the whole, to have been seen as rather glamorous vagabonds dodging unpopular taxes. Sometimes whole families were involved in smuggling. The notorious Wheeler family actually kept a diary in a school exercise book of all the wrecks and smuggling transactions on the Isle of Wight and this is exhibited in this museum. Women were active in the smuggling gangs. One famous lady smuggler was "Lovey" Warne, who wound contraband round her body to avoid the Excise men, and did so successfully for many years. The infamous Hawkhurst gang actually broke into the Customs House at Poole, Dorset to rescue a seized cargo of tea, but in doing so, murdered a Customs officer and an informer. All the leaders of the gang were caught and hanged.

In later years, a football filled with tobacco was dribbled through Portsmouth docks right under the nose of the customs men. Ingenious schemes to smuggle other valuable and more modern commodities were exhibited. Guns were hidden in banana boxes; specially prepared belts were used to smuggle gold. In 1911, the Mona Lisa was smuggled from France to Italy in a false bottomed case. There was even a car mascot made up in gold and plated with chromium to fool the authorities. When nylons were unobtainable in Britain, they were hidden in tins supposedly containing food.

Today, drug smuggling is rife. Exhibits showed examples of an opium block and ways of hiding hard drugs in puppets, oranges, paint tubes, even in crutches and in an ice cream cornet. The possibilities seem endless.

As we know, on this coastline of East Anglia, the smuggling of people was, and probably still is common depending on the immigration laws of the day, and a tableau of a group of illegal immigrants crammed into a container ready to he landed on a secluded beach, just as years ago barrels of brandy were put ashore, was a very disturbing sight.

As we left the Museum of Smuggling, we were each given a certificate to say we had been accepted as members of the Secret Society of Smugglers!

MY PRE-WAR WORKING LIFE

by Eric Crossland, born 26.2.1912

I left the Lowestoft Secondary School (now Denes High) in July 1929, at the age of 17½, and armed with the Cambridge School Certificate. My initial experience at getting employment started with my attending the Education Office, Town Hall, Lowestoft where I was interviewed by the Education Officer, Mr. Randlesome for a post in that department. I was offered the job and told the weekly wage would be10/-d. (50p). I turned it down.

Next I was given a letter of introduction by Major Spashett to a Major Black, the general manager of the Alliance Artificial Silk Company, whose premises were then being built on the south side of the river at Oulton Broad, along School Road and I was successful in obtaining a job in the Laboratory in T (training) Plant at the factory.

The plant was for training future employees at the main factory and was under the managership of Mr. Burr. There were three shifts - 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 11 p.m. and 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. The plant worked from 7 a.m. on Monday, until 3 p.m. on Saturday. The change of shift was effected as

follows: The night shift came off at 7 a.m. on Saturday and resumed at 7 a.m. on the following Monday. The shift finishing at 3 p.m. on Saturday recommenced at 3 p.m. on the Monday, and the shift ending at 11 p.m. on the Friday came on to night duty at 11 p.m. on the Monday.

The shifts each had a shift manager. My manager was Mr. Wilde, a Swiss national, whose brother was an authority on artificial silk and floated round the works but his command of the English language was very limited and so he had little contact with the workers. My Manager however spoke perfect English.

The workforce of each shift consisted of a Shift Foremen (mine was Mr. Joe Gooda), a Shift Laboratory Assistant (me), a Mixing Room staff of two men (Mr. Peck and Mr. King), and a Recovery Room man (Mr. Black). The Shift Foreman had his desk in the Spinning Room where men supervised the spinning of the silk. The solution was cellulose acetate and acetone.

There was also the Jet Room staffed by ladies who worked with microscopes cleaning the jets which frequently blocked, and repacking the cleaned jets into the fitments which I believe were called candles. The Drying Room contained an ear-splitting centrifuge which was used to dry off the spindles of silk if they had been oiled in an experimental exercise. The man in charge of this was a Mr. Johnson who was lame but who was a well-known local soccer referee.

We all had to 'clock in' and the Time Keeper was a Mr. Harper who kept an eagle eye on all when clocking in or out. The men had a canteen wherein they could smoke and eat whatever food they had brought with them. There was no food available as in present day canteens. I had my food in my laboratory where I was frequently making pots of tea for Mr. Wilde (and myself). It was a new experience for him to have tea and with much frequency he would come into the lab and say *"I think we have a tea"*.

I was at 'T' Plant from August, 1929 until the following year when I think production was started in the premises which were to be the main factory. The shift pattern was then changed to 6 a.m. - 2 p.m., 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. The process was continuous so the changeover and time off was arranged as follows: The shift finishing at 2 p.m. on say Monday next came on at 2 p.m. Wednesday. The shift finishing at 10 p.m. Monday came on at 10 p.m. Wednesday and the old night shift coming off at 6 a.m. would restart at 6 a.m. on the Wednesday.

When we first moved from 'T' Plant, only the Factory Chemist moved with us laboratory assistants. He was a Dutch national named Bauman who spoke German and fluent English, including many English swear words.

The work which we did in the laboratory consisted of testing the mixing which produced the silk thread, low viscosity etc., testing the acetone which was recovered by Mr. Black in the Recovery Room for specific gravity, visiting the various spinning machines every hour to record the temperatures, and carrying out any other duties required of us, which usually amounted to washing up the various receptacles used by Mr. Curry and Miss Emler who were also engaged in experiments.

There were one or two infrequent exercises in producing cloth but nothing of any commercial use and sadly the factory soon folded up and went into bankruptcy. All workers were of course dismissed (without redundancy, etc.) just the note saying our services were at an end.

I then suffered a hernia due to a motor-cycle accident, and whilst in the Lowestoft Hospital, the Lowestoft Water & Gas Company, advertised for a laboratory assistant at their works on the north beach.

My father took my certificates to the General Manager, Mr. T.V. Johns, and I was offered the job when discharged from hospital.

The beach gas works were controlled by the General Manager, Mr. Johns, whose office was in London Road North. He also controlled the Water Works which were centred at Lound.

My job was to check the condition of the purifiers for purity; the meter reading to show the volume of gas being produced; the calorific value of the gas at intervals according to my whim; the ash content of the gas coal delivered by boat (one of which was the J.B. Paddon and another the Yewhank) about 600 tons at a time. I caused eyebrows to be raised when my test revealed an abnormally high ash content. I repeated my testing and confirmed my original calculations and the Manager agreed to send a sample of the shipment to the Silksworlh Colliery from whence it came. The colliery finally confirmed my calculations and I believe made a cash adjustment.

At the Gas Works another of my duties was to check the cargoes of coal which came by boat. The

system was for me to count the number of bags of coal transferred from the boat to one or another of the lorries contracted for the occasion, issue the driver with a ticket giving the number of bags on his vehicle and he then was supposed to check the number of bags off the lorry and into the bunker.

It was a very hard life for the men in the Retort House. They had to douse the baking coke by throwing buckets of water over the barrel loads as they were pushed out of the Retorts. The coke was then hauled by harrow across the road to the coke yard, which was under the foreman, Mr. Hutchings, who had one leg and a crutch. The Works Foreman was a Mr. Soanes who lived in the coal dust covered house outside the works.

I was thus employed until September, 1932. When first discharged from hospital I could not ride a cycle so travelled from Pakefield to Duke's Head Street by tram and as I started out before 8 a.m. I could avail myself of a workman's ticket costing 1d. Similarly after leaving off at 5 p.m, I could get a workman's ticket again for 1d.

Eventually my parents bought me a motorcycle which I used to go to and from work. The Works Engineer was a Mr. Harper, who was also the engineer for the Lowestoft Fire Brigade, St. Peters Street. Mr. Harper used to oversee the condition of my A.J.S. motorcycle and in return when he got a fire alarm call, I used to take him on the pillion from the works to the fire station.

In September, 1932 I tried to join the Metropolitan Police and attended with almost 100 other hopefuls at Scotland Yard. We sat an examination on general knowledge and arithmetic. I was tipped off that I came top so instead of completely ruling me out, I was told to return home, take exercises and try and gain another $^{1}/_{8}$ of an inch and re-apply in six months. However I received a letter calling me for examination and interview at Ipswich for the East Suffolk Police. Once again there was a muster of 44 for 4 vacancies.

This time I was successful and realised my schoolboy ambition and became a policeman on 1st October, 1932.

ROUND TOWER CHURCHES OE SOUTH EAST ENGLAND BY W.J.GOODE 1994

his latest book reviewed by Mike Reeder

This new publication by the Round Tower Churches Society, written by its founder Bill Goode, is a must for all local historians and would interest anyone who notices features as they travel around.

The major part of this book is 128 pages of Church Notes, in which every round towered church in south east England is described, with principle dimensions and details of the tower construction and dating features. Some details of the rest of the building are given where they relate to the tower or its dating. So as one would expect, this specialised book does not replace the general church guide book. It adds information on its specialised area and provides a basis for the overall comparison of round towers. Every tower is illustrated with a drawing by Diana Bowie, the tower is always shown and on many we see the whole church. To me these drawings are excellent in their quality and also excellent in that they give the reader something to relate the written details to. Other round towers in the rest of Britain are listed with brief description. Those in the rest of the world are listed.

Forty five pages of text detail the history and development of the round towers. There have been many fanciful theories about round towers and Bill's ideas are very rational, but leave me with further questions to ask. He claims our only building stone was flint, which is difficult to form into a strong corner, so the towers were built round. That sounds totally logical if one is going to build a strong tower. But here comes a problem, for Bill claims that these towers probably originated not as towers, but as west end porches or porticos, and 'Early East Anglian towers were never more than of nave ridge height'. This changes the rationale completely, for if the church can have square corners made of flints, why cannot the porch he similarly constructed? Further, if the porch is to be built with, or against an existing gable wall and is not going to rise above it, and if square corners really are a problem, then a U shaped west end apse is the logical plan. I cannot conceive of any structural reasons for building a round porch. But there are many reasons against a round porch to, it is more difficult to build and roof and uses more material; and has less space inside than an apsidal form. A round porch only makes any sense if there is from the beginning the intention to build a tower somewhat higher than the rest of the church.

All Bill's dating methods and reasons are clearly laid out and convince me. And I just marvel at his tenacity to amass all the detailed information on every tower and then to condense it down into suitable form for publishing. This book is selling well and deserves to be, for it is a good read and a reference book of quality.

Like me, some of you may have Bill's earlier book 'East Anglian Round Towers and their Churches'. This new book is an update on that and has many more pages. It uses the same A4 format and a similar layout for the text. This text is much improved from the earlier book and Bill acknowledges that John Scales and Arnold Butler have created this improvement and much new information given. The photographs are largely the same as the earlier book because they relate to the structural features described in the text, some have been photographed, all have been printed to a much higher quality. The most noticeable change is the layout of the Church Notes for as stated above every church is now illustrated, the layout is much clearer using the whole width of the page, with larger type face than the older book, and the text is improved and updated. And we now have location maps for all towers in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Even if you have the earlier book in my opinion this new book is well worth having as well.