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Contents

The Deeds of Laurel Farm :Oulton	M. Goffin	1
A Fourth Medieval Pit in Pakefield Cliffs, Suffolk	P. Durbidge	3
Erosion at Pakefield, Suffolk	P. Durbidge	13
L.A.L.H.S. Field Walking Programme	D. Cuming	14
Field-Walking on the Somerleyton Estate : An Interim Report	P. Durbidge	15
The Lowestoft Scene 1995-96	J. Reed	17
Museums	M. Reeder	19

DEEDS OF LAUREL FARM, OULTON. PART 3

by Mary Goffin

In the Annual Report of 1993/4 we reported on documents relating to Kessingland which we had transcribed. In the 1994/5 Annual Report we gave details of documents relating to the lands and premises at Oulton. This third report carries on from the first, when we learned that property now occupied at Kessingland by George Davie was in Mortgage by 1788 to Samuel Barker a merchant of Lowestoft for £1000 at 4½% Interest.

We have an extract from the Will of Samuel Barker which was dated 9th October 1781 and proved on the 25th December 1781, which appoints Samuel Barker, the younger, the son of the deceased Samuel Barker and John Barker, Brother of Samuel Barker deceased, as Executors.

We have had access to all the relevant documents, but often those we do have record previous financial activities, so in a document 15th July 1791 it is recorded that George Davie mortgaged the property to Elizabeth Clayton for £836. This mortgage was assigned to the Rev.Wm Bell Barker for £1000 plus Interest. The Interest was paid but not the original sum and on the death of William Bell Barker, George Davie requests the executors of Wm.B.Barker to assign the mortgage to Edmund Barber for £1000 and interest at 4½% without deduction of Tax. The extract from the Will of Wm.B.Barker dated 26th January 1791 and proved on the 10th March 1791 shows he appointed George Bitton of Uggeshall, Gentleman and John Thompson Esquire of Southwold as Executors. George Bitton by his Will of 1st July 1791 and Codicil of 3rd February 1792 appointed John Thompson, the Rev.Thomas Sherriffe of Uggeshall, John Dresser of Blyford, Esquire and George Turner of Harleston, Gentleman as trustees of his Estate at Kessingland and Pulham in Norfolk. (The property at Pulham was part of the Marriage Settlement from his wife Margaret). The Trustees to take £5500 out of his estate within 3 months and to be re-invested to give interest of £47.10s.0d. which is to be paid to his wife for her natural life as long as she does not remarry. After her decease or re-marriage the Interest to be paid to his daughter Sarah, wife of Peter Jermyn for her natural life, then In Trust for Peter Jermyn. On the decease or re-marriage of his wife Margaret, the decease of daughter Sarah, wife of Peter the interest to be held In Trust for any (and here I quote from the original Will) '*children of the body of Sarah Jermyn, whether by Peter Jermyn or some other husband lawfully begotten*'. The survivor takes all £5500 and if no legitimate children of Sarah survives then in Trust for daughter Isabella Barber and on her decease to her husband Edmund Barber, then to any children of the body of Isabella. If total failure of the above then in Trust to next of kin entitled by Virtue of Status of Distribution of Intestate Estates (daughters and husbands survived father and feature in later documents). His wife Margaret and son-in-law Edmund were appointed Executors and Margaret was to receive £100 within two months of his decease. For the term of her life she was to have the use of plate, plated goods, choice of half household linen and furniture to the value of £100 (the other half equally between daughters) and on the death of Margaret to be equally divided between the daughters. The residue of the Estate to be divided between the daughters with the Trustees to re-invest for the use of the daughters. In a Codicil sons-in-law are no longer to be entitled to Interest on £5500 for life but the Interest to go direct to any grandchildren. If all fail to survive him then his

Estate to be in Trust for the next of kin of Elizabeth late wife of the Rev. Thomas Foster, late of Halesworth, daughter of John Thompson, one of the Trustees. Despite all these precautions to ensure that his Estate is disposed of to his will, the daughters and sons-in-law were able to inherit.

In a document of 15th July 1791, the 31st Year of the Reign of George III, George Bitton and John Thompson, as Executors of the Will of Rev. William Bell Barker deceased assigned the mortgage on the Kessingland premises of £1000 owed by George Davie to Edmund Barber. Previous records show that in a mortgage of 1771 George Davie owed Elizabeth Clayton £836 and this mortgage was the assigned to Rev. Wm. Bell Barker for £1000 and interest. The interest was paid by George Davie but not the principal, so he asks the Executors of Rev. Wm. Bell Barker to assign the mortgage to Edmund Barber, who charges interest at 4½% without deduction of Tax. The next day a document was drawn up to show that the money paid to George Bitton and John Thompson for the assignment was not the personal money of Edmund Barber but money of George Bitton held in Trust by Edmund Barber for George Bitton.

By July 1797 George Bitton was deceased and George Davie in mortgage to him by two mortgages in total sum the of £3000, Margaret Bitton, widow of George is also deceased so Edmund Barber is the sole surviving Executor. In this capacity he calls in the mortgage. In a document of 4th November 1797 we find that George Davie the owner/occupier of the heavily mortgaged property in Kessingland is deceased and that by a Will dated 8th October 1794 he left his son John Davie, Yeoman of Kessingland the property at Kessingland subject to a payment of £20 each to his 5 grandchildren to be paid to them when they attain the age of 21 years. These grandchildren were the children of his son George, namely John, the grandson yeoman, George, the grandson farmer, Sarah, spinster, Henry and David. John Davie the grandson and George Davie the grandson and yeoman must have already attained 21 years as their inheritance is documented as paid by John Davie the son in 1797. Sarah was paid in 1803 (no precise date given), Henry on 4th July 1809 and David also in July 1809, but he could not write and only made his mark on the document.

From an Extract from the Kessingland Inclosures Award of 19th January 1788 we learn that George Davie was allotted 5 pieces of land at a total cost of £66.12s.3d. to be paid to Samuel Denton, Solicitor within one month.

No.1 piece : consisted of 9 acres 2 roods and 25 perches - parts had been exchanged with land allotted to John Denton and Oliver Skinner.

No.2 piece : 4 acres 2 roods and 27 perches bounded by Gisleham to the North, 1 acre deemed to be Copyhold to the Manor.

No.3 piece : 9 acres 2 roods and 35 perches - abutts a Marsh belonging to the Vicar to the South - in part 3 roods 10 perches deemed to be Copyhold to the Manor of Kessingland Stapleton.

No.4 piece : 1 rood 37 perches.

No.5 piece : given in exchange to Humphrey Sidney.

Details are then given of exchanged named fields :- Lower Cantlings, Upper Cantlings, Elm Pightle, Dover Acre, Calver Pightle, Partible Meadow, Piece of Glebe, Damason Went, East Acre Went, Nanland Went, Eight Acre Went, Light Land Went. It is interesting to note that some of these old field names have been used as road names in Kessingland - in particular one of our Committee members lives in Damerson Went. According to "The Local Historian's Encyclopaedia" a "Went or Wentin is a west country term for a part of a field, too large or hilly to be ploughed in a continuous furrow. It could also be a small part of a field separated from the rest by some barrier such as the road."

In 1819 a mortgage reveals that, of the Trustees of the Will of George Bitton deceased, only the Rev. Thomas Sherriffe and John Dresser are still living. George Davie is also deceased and his son John has inherited the mortgaged property at Kessingland. At the request of John Davie and his wife Mary, Thomas Thurtell of Lakenham and George William Browne Bohun of Beccles take on the £1000 mortgage by repaying the money to the two surviving Trustees of George Bitton deceased. An Abstract of Title of 1833 shows the property was sold by John Davie to the Rev. Thomas Dade of Broadway, Dorset. In an assignment of 9th October 1833 we find that John Davie and his wife Mary

sold the property for £3856 and full details of the estate are given, including field names not mentioned before and referring by numbered references to a map not contained in the document. Areas mentioned :- The Homestall, the Pit, the Pightle, the Little Meadow, Four Acres, Mallets Field, the Pit Close, Eight Acres no. 14, 7 Acres no. 15, the Gull Piece, Damson Went (note this was named Damason Went in the Inclosure Award of 1788), Crabtree Went, New Close, Little Field, the Round Marsh, the Long Marsh, Home Willingtons, Further Willingtons and Willingtons Allotment. What a find the map would be !

In another document of 9th October 1833 we learn that part of the Estate of John and Mary Davie was Copyhold to the Manors of Kessingland Itchingham, Rothenstall and Kessingland Stapletons. Of the purchase money, £1000 was used to repay the mortgage of £1000 to Thomas Thurtell and George William Browne Bohun. A further £59 was paid for the Copyholds and the remainder to John and Mary Davie, who made her mark - all others signed.

The last document we have is a Conveyance of 28th November 1851 of property at Kessingland adjoining the Estate Rev. Thomas Dade purchased from John and Mary Davie to add to his Kessingland Estate.

Without further documents we are unable to discover when the Estates at Oulton and Kessingland combined.

A FOURTH MEDIEVAL PIT IN PAKEFIELD CLIFFS, SUFFOLK

by Paul Durbidge

During March 1995, a quantity of pottery of Medieval character was recovered at beach level approximately 200 feet (60 m) south of Pontin's Gully and some 860 feet (260 m) north of three Medieval pits excavated between 1992-94. It would seem that the material had fallen from the upper plough soil and from the amount, it had probably come from a sealed location, and a subsequent examination of the plough soil showed a shallow intrusion extending into the chalky grey boulder clay. Pottery could be seen in the feature and what made the discovery interesting was the fact it was the first confirmed feature south of the gully and while a single sherd of shell-gritted ware had been picked up from beach level the previous year, it was thought that it may have come from the pits further north.

The field above, which contained the feature, had been left unploughed for some time and at the pit location, an area of ground some six feet (2 m) square was pegged out and soil was lifted to a depth of eleven inches (28 cm). At this depth a loamy mixed soil was encountered, containing some small pot sherds, several of which were heavily rolled, but as travelling continued, larger sherds were uncovered and an irregular shape began to appear. It revealed an edge or profile, a little under three feet (0.9 m) wide by just under four feet (1.2 m) and this terminated in the grey clay which forms much of the upper part of the cliffs along this stretch of the coast. The loamy infill was more concentrated as the infill terminated against the clay and some 95% of the pottery was recovered at this point along with three small oyster shells and two pieces of split animal bone. In comparison with the previous pits on the northern side of the gully, Pit 4 was very shallow, being approximately twenty-nine inches (74 cm) deep from present ground level, to where it terminated into the clay. There was a lack of brick fragments and tile and only slight evidence of bone and shell, but the pottery did compare with previous material, although not a single sherd of glazed fabric was encountered in the fill.

THE CONTENTS

- IRON Remains of one small square shanked nail, approximately 1½ inches (38 cm) long and heavily corroded at one end.
- BONE One piece of splintered rib bone and one part of a probable leg bone. Sheep ?
- SHELL Remains of three very small oyster shells.

POTTERY

While composition and colour of the bulk of the pottery is fairly constant, five body sherds are clearly different by reason of colour and texture.

The fabric is a hard, gritty material, containing very small grits and sparse mica. It is light grey in colour, with none of the oversize grits encountered in previous Medieval pottery and it is relatively smooth.

GROUPING OF TYPES

A total of two hundred and thirty-two sherds of pottery came from Pit 4 and they are as follows:-

Rim profiles	27
Base remains	23
Plain body sherds	116
Soot-blackened sherds	45
Frost-pitted sherds	12
Finger impressed	4
Grey sherds	5

THE FABRIC

Overall, the fabric is a hard, sandy material, containing both large and small grits, the latter occasionally in the shape of small flints up to ¼" (0.6 cm) in diameter; colours vary from dark grey to buff or sandy buff, and mica is present in many sherds.

RIM FORMS

With one exception, all the profiles are typical Medieval shapes, including variations on the box section with the largest belonging to vessels decorated with strong finger imprints directly below the rim. Diameters vary from the finger-impressed form, up to 18 inches (46 cm), with another bowl in the region of 16 inches (41 cm). Cooking pot rims lie between 6½ and 10 inches (16.5 and 25 cm) respectively.

BASE REMAINS

On all the sherds, a sagging or slumped base has been employed, with thicknesses varying from 1/8 inch (0.3 cm) to 3/8 inch (1 cm). Two fragments are from small bowls with a diameter of around 4¼ inches (11 cm) while remains of a larger base indicates a diameter of approximately 15 inches (38 cm).

Walls coming off the base show that angles of some pots are quite sharp, with perhaps only two being globular forms with any certainty. Soot is present on seventeen of the twenty-three base remains and it is also present on many of the body sherds.

BODY SHERDS

Of the one hundred and seventy-eight body sherds, twelve have been damaged by frost on the external surfaces and all appear to have come from the same vessel. In addition, there is also evidence of rolling and abrasion to several of the sherds. A further forty-five sherds are soot-stained and on two, there are signs the vessel had cracked under heat, as thick soot is present on the inner surfaces.

The remaining one hundred and twenty-one sherds compare in type and colour to material from the previous pits and appear to be of reasonable quality, with some exceptions. In some cases, it would appear the clay may have been very wet when some of the pots were being turned, as there are examples where the clay has slumped, resulting in considerable thickening of the walls adjacent to the base.

On some sherds, the outside walls are quite irregular and often ridged with the potter ending up trimming the vessel with a knife, while on the inside, attempts to smooth the wet material have mostly proved unsuccessful.

DECORATION

Decoration in the form of impressed thumb marks has been employed on the remains of at least three vessels from Pit 4, with shallow indentations on another body sherd, suggesting a fourth. A continuous line of impressed thumb marks positioned just below the rim at ¾ inch (2 cm) centres have been used on two of the large diameter bowls, while a line of shallow finger impressions are visible on a thin body sherd of sandy buff material. Once again the walls of the large vessels are extremely

irregular, showing hollows and occasional marks on the outer surface, though surprisingly the thickness of the walls are parallel in this case.

On one of the globular cooking pots, the walls are again dented and an attempt has been made to decorate the pot with parallel lines, though the result does not appear to have been very successful.

The lines or grooves start near the shoulder and are quite thin, just cutting into the clay, but as they continue downwards, they fail to line up and run into each other from different levels. Towards the middle of the pot, more pressure has been applied, resulting in deeper grooves, but again these become very irregular and they terminate some 1½ inches (4 cm) from the base of the soot blackened vessel.

FRAGMENT OF A MEDIEVAL MORTAR

During the months of January to February 1995, there was considerable destruction to the cliff line near Pontin's Holiday Camp, near Pakefield, Suffolk, when heavy sea action brought down hundreds of tonnes of cliff. By the very nature of these cliffs, with boulder clay overlying sand and occasional stone, they are particularly unstable and at times the beach was littered with clay nodules, chalk, flint and building material; the latter coming from a complex of army bunkers situated along the cliff top.

It was in this situation that *JONATHAN STEWART* picked up part of a Medieval mortar a good fifty feet (15 m) away from the face of the cliff line. It originally had a diameter of 12¼ inches (31 cm) and the underside showed a rough hewn surface with a number of cut indentations where it had been dressed to its present form. The mortar had been made from shelly limestone and the pecked outer surfaces gradually slope outwards, terminating 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the base, where there is a small rounded stub. Vertical saw marks were also visible at the base. There were some signs of wear to the centre of the base, while the inner surfaces also show a mixture of rough hewn and pecking and again, there are signs of wear at the point where the walls join the base. Wall thickness varies from 1½ inches (4 cm) up to 2¼ inches (6 cm), though these sizes may well differ on the other half of the vessel.

The mortar remains have been subjected to much movement over the period of time and it is thought that it is probably connected with previous finds of Medieval material which is being discovered close by.

THE GROUND DISTURBANCE AND POTTERY ADJACENT PIT 3

The continuing falls of cliff, especially close to Pit 3 have again resulted in more pottery being found amongst the clay and sand that have subsequently fallen to the beach below and the upper part of the cliff at this location is greatly disturbed. Rusting sheets of galvanised iron, driven vertically into the ground could be seen in the face of the cliff within three feet (1 m) of Pit 3, and parts of two cooking pots were observed, virtually within a foot (0.3 m) of the iron. Beside this were a number of iron tanks filled with concrete and bits of iron poles which in turn had been buried beside a large underground bunker, built during the last war. The remains of the cooking pots recovered two feet, ten inches (0.85 m) down from the top of the cliff, were retained in top-soil and were all that remained of another probable infill which was undoubtedly destroyed when the fortifications were constructed. There is extreme turbulence in the first three feet (1 m) of cliff, with a complete mixing of soils and building material, resulting in all the archaeological material being deposited and spread about. From evidence found at the foot of the cliff, all appears to be of Medieval date, with the exception of a small dark grey spout from a *COSTREL* which is thought to be Late Thetford Ware, the first to be found in the Lowestoft area.

The large underground bunker close to Pit 3, and the deep gun platform would have required much ground being dug out during the construction, with the bunker alone measuring eighteen feet wide and thirty-three feet long (5.5 m x 10 m). So we are left with quite a lot of material which has been in clay and sand as well as clods of top-soil, all of which has fallen to the beach below.

Base remains belong to cooking pots and from a few pieces that fit, it appears that the diameters of two was between nine and ten inches respectively and with the exception of four, the remaining twenty-seven sherds were soot blackened. One fragment of base, creamy-buff in colour, had spots of green and yellowish glaze, while the bottom of the sherd had strong pencil marks at ¾ inch (2 cm) centres.

On another four inch diameter vessel, a small raised bung hole of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) diameter had been positioned one inch (2.5 cm) up from the base; the colour of the pottery being a pale orange to both surfaces, but with no traces of glaze. Of the one-hundred and ninety-seven body sherds, fifty-four showed soot staining externally, with inner surfaces either dark grey or near black in colour, while the bulk were a mixture of light buff to dark grey or sandy buff and very gritty.

There were twenty-four rim fragments, with one being from a shallow milk dish and two small semi-glazed rims attributed to a shallow fish or meat dish: similar forms were encountered in Pit 2 and these too were glazed. Some rim forms were quite thick and up to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch (1.6 cm) and diameters taken from some of the larger ones, show that eight to ten inches (20 to 25 cm) was an average size, though obviously smaller pots were used, but as yet they are in a minority. One rim in light buff fabric shows quite a narrow diameter, and a thumb impression just below the rim suggests it was part of a jug or flagon, and the thumb mark was where the handle had been attached.

Another simple curl-over rim had an approximate diameter of $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches (11 cm) and was partially green glazed just below the rim, and again had traces of soot on both surfaces. There has been a number of handles or part handles found with the pottery, and six of them are of the strap handle type. On one, a rich coating of light green lead glaze has been applied, while on another there is only a splash of green glaze over the reddish-brown fabric. Another handle section has three parallel grooves down the centre and is coated in a rich light brown glaze, while another, made from hard gritty clay is unglazed, but has a thumb imprint at one end where it was applied to a jug or flagon. The handle has been applied askew and fixed to the neck with two large thumb marks. Where the last example was quite crude and basic, a sixth handle and part rim show a totally different type of application: here the neck of the jug is very smooth. The rim has been greatly rounded and the handle has been neatly applied and smoothed into the neck of the jug. The fabric being a dark brown overlying orange and unglazed.

While the majority of the handles so far found at Pakefield are of the strap type, it was a change to recover part of a rod handle, and also a grey-ware lifting lug. The rod handle was nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2 cm) in diameter and had traces of light green glaze to the outer surfaces and had been attached to the vessel with a single large thumb mark. Unlike the jug or flagon handles which curve outwards from the body, this type came off at an angle and remained straight.

The lifting lug is the only one so far found and is probably one of two employed on the shoulder of one of the large cooking pots. It was just over three inches (7.5 cm) long, in hard grey fabric and had four finger impressions in the upper surface, which projected outwards by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (2 cm), enough to enable fingers to grip and lift the pot from the sides.

PATTERNED SHERDS

Shortly before cliff falls accelerated near Pit 3, *ADRIAN CHARLTON* recovered four sherds of rich yellow glazed ware in the mixture that made up the upper layer of the cliff. These are quite different to any other glazed types so far and strongly suggest a vessel of some quality. Beneath the rich yellow glaze are very small oval pellets of clay and these have been glazed in a rich brown glaze. Although the sherds are small, it would seem that they came from a jug which may be English or again they may come from another of the imported types.

Another interesting glazed sherd, picked up at the foot of the cliff, has also been decorated with oval pellets and in turn glazed with a rich dark green glaze. The decoration is unusual in as much as the oval pellets have been applied in horizontal lines and are larger than those used on the yellow sherds. The fabric is a sandy-buff type with a grey core.

STONEWARE

Two pieces of stoneware were found: one a small grey body sherd, the other being a complete base of a frilly based jug. The base is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches (9 cm) in diameter and glazed in a mixture of light brown to grey-buff. The internal surfaces are unglazed and very irregular.

GLAZED SHERDS

Only three were found, and these consist of rich light green pitted glazed on the internal surface of a body sherd; spots of dark green glaze on light golden brown and spots of light green glaze on buff fabric.

BUILDING MATERIAL

A fist-sized piece of mortar-like material containing flints and fragments of chalk is probably daub. It is the only piece so far identified and was found with Medieval brick and associated pottery.

BRICKS (PART)

2" thick, 4" wide, 7" long (5 x 10 x 18 cm): smooth slumped upper surface, irregular underside with considerable distortion and cracking. Yellow to light brown.

1¾" thick, 4" wide, 7" long (4.5 x 10 x 18 cm): drag marks to upper surface, irregular underside. Traces of mortar containing small flints on upper surface. Yellowish on upper surface, orange-brown underside.

2" thick 4" wide, 4¼" long (5 x 10 x 11 cm): smooth slumped upper surface, irregular underside and cracked. Yellow to purple.

2" thick, 4¼" wide, 5¼" long (5 x 11 x 13 cm): slumped top surface, criss-crossed with grass or straw marks. Underside irregular. Light brown to orange.

1 ¾" thick, 4" wide, 7¼" long (4.5 x 10 x 5 cm): the upper surface is slumped and pitted, with the underside irregular. The colour is dark orange.

1½" thick, 4" wide, 5¾" long (4 x 10 x 15 cm): the upper surface has a trowel cut into the surface and there is a spread of hard mortar attached to the face of the brick. The underside is heavily grass impressed and reddish-purple in colour.

This brick is particularly interesting as one end had been divided into three equal parts, leaving a tenon profile in the centre. It would appear that when the clay was reasonably hard, the shoulder of the tenon were pared off, as narrow hollows are visible in both the sections. The length of the tenon is 1" (2.5 cm).

2" thick, 4¼" wide, 8" long (5 x 11 x 20 cm): slightly irregular upper surface, with hollows to underside. Soft red all over.

PIN TILE

Four fragments of pin tile were very small, but compare in both thickness and type to previous finds.

ANIMAL BONES

Eleven pieces of bone, including small jawbone, probably from sheep; all the remains were splintered and small in size. Several large grinding teeth, probably from cattle.

ROMANO BRITISH EVIDENCE

Although on no great scale, Romano-British pottery has been found along one part of the cliff line at Pakefield, Suffolk, since 1993, when both coarseware and Samian was recovered. See: *Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History Society's Annual Report Vol. 26 1993/4 "A Second Medieval Pit" Durbidge, P.*

Since then, isolated finds of earthenware and roofing tile have been found, the majority of which have come from the top soil and disturbed areas adjacent to the army bunkers. The majority of the pottery so far found has been small and frequently, water worn by reason of the softness of the fabric, although there are several exceptions.

Since 1993, there has been an increase of discoveries, especially in the area adjacent to the military range and as a result of sizeable cliff falls a horizontal band or layer of black was easily seen, some three feet down from the top of the cliff. It measured eight feet four inches (2.5 m) in length and just over eight inches (20 cm) thick one end, tapering in its length to nothing.

First impressions were that it was a deep concentration of carbon but in spite of its blackness, it lacked the amount of charred remains one would have expected, and at this stage the only positive facts were that it was artificial and it contained Romano-British material. The majority of the pottery from the layer was coarseware and this included small hooked rims, beaker fragments, base remains, body sherds and a large body sherd from an amphora. Two pieces of worn abraded Samian have come from the layer and on one was a retrograde stamp COMITI- LI which is attributed to the potter COMITIALIS at the East Gaulish Factory at Rheinzabern. The fragment was part of a decorated bowl and the curved sherd confirmed the form as Dragendorf 37, with a date of either late second or early

third century. With odd pottery and tile still coming out of the feature, DAVID CUMING suggested that we might be able to find out more regarding the composition of the material if a sample was submitted to *MR PETER MURPHY* of Environmental Archaeology at the UEA, Norwich, and subsequently I am most grateful to Mr Murphy for the results of the analysis. The sample submitted was composed of a dark grey clay loam matrix, with pale greyish-brown clay inclusions mottled brown. It included hard red-fired clay fragments up to 30mm, and there was extensive penetration of modern roots. A 200g sub-sample was disaggregated in hot water and charred plant material extracted by water flotation, using 0.5mm collecting mesh. Charred cereal remains were abundant, particularly chaff (*GLUME BASES & RACHIS INTERNODES*) of spelt wheat (*TRITICUM SPELTA*) with some wheat grains and the grass (*BROMUS MOLLIS SECALINUS*). No other micro-fossils were noted. As a result of the analysis, Mr Murphy offers the suggestion that the deposit was either related to cereal crop processing or that crop processing waste was being used as a fuel in some industrial process. Results of the tests have given us a lot of information and an aspect not previously considered, and given time, it may be possible to add more to the suggestion.

TILE REMAINS

Since January 1995, the layer has yielded at least thirty-one pieces of confirmed tile, of which nine are roofing tile fragments (*TEGULAE*), as well as a further five fragments of broken upstands from roofing tiles. Some nine pieces of flat tile are probably from roofing tile and there is part of a ridge tile (*IMBREX*). All the remains are of a soft orange material, smooth on the face side and rough cast on the underside. Widths of the upstands vary from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (2 to 4 cm), and on three, the bottom of the tile has been cut back to assist the seating of the next layer. There are at least parts of seven flat tiles or bricks, with thicknesses up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches (4 cm). They are square at the ends with mortared surfaces and several other pieces of rolled tile-like remains could be attributed to either of the two groups.

POTTERY AND METAL

The pottery found in the layer is made up of four distinct groups and these are:-

Soft orange ware	Grey coarseware
Fine greyware	Samian

Only two rims of soft orange material have been recovered and these are from small jars and compare with a fragments found close by at beach level in 1994. Grey coarseware includes a rim of a beaker and a poppy head beaker, part of a small bead and flange bowl, coarse grey base forms as well as a number of body sherds.

Fine greyware is made up of hooked rim fragments, single and double grooved bowl rims, body sherds and grey base forms, all of which are micaceous. What Samian ware has been found has been mostly worn or abraded and includes a fragments with a retrograde stamp, and another decorated fragment of a bowl (same vessel?), and a foot ring from a bowl. We were extremely fortunate the layer should produce a clipped siliqua of Valentinian II 378/83. The reverse of the coin being VCT/XV/MULTIS/XX and the mint mark Trier. Another piece of metal was a small square section strip of lead with a bifurcated end, the purpose of which is unknown.

THE GREY FILLED HOLLOW OR PIT

Towards the end of April 1995, a section of cliff broke away and fell to the beach below, some sixty feet south of the layer of black material and in the debris, part of a roofing tile and more Romano-British pottery were found. The tile fragment was quite sharp and on the underside there were impressed lines of two wooden slats upon which the tile had been placed to dry before firing, and impressed in the face of the tile were two small pug marks made by an animal when the tile was wet. Pottery from the collapse included the thick base of a mortaria, studded with small quartz grits, a couple of body sherds from a fine light grey burnished jar and a handful of small grey coarseware sherds. At the point where the cliff had collapsed, a slumped hollow or infill of light grey material stood out against the brown boulder clay, terminating three feet (1 m) down from the top and measuring nearly seven feet (2.1 m) across.

The top of the cliff directly above the infill was a mass of brambles and small shrubs, all of which were growing amongst a thick distribution of stinging nettles, and initially, it took some time to clear

a working area. Once it was cleared, a seven foot (2 m) square was pegged out with one end terminating at the cliff face and the first foot of root-infested soil was removed. After most of the root systems had been removed, the soil became much easier to work, although the vegetation had made it very dry, and at seventeen inches (43 cm) down, small pieces of greyware began to show. At this depth, there was no colour change of soil, but at twenty inches (51 cm), traces of a dark damp soil began to appear across most of the square, and slowly working through the dark fill, more grey pottery was encountered, including the base and rim forms. Of the few Samian sherds recovered, one was a fragment of rim from a small cup, probably DR 27, while the remainder were plain sherds. Small hooked grey rims were found as the infill dipped along, with a larger everted rim from a jar, and two orange coarseware rims with traces of colour coating on the external surfaces. Body sherds made up of colours ranging from light to dark grey with occasional very thin abraded sherds of brown buff. On a few sherds, a hatched decoration had been applied, suggesting they had come from beakers. With more soil removed across the square, it became clear that the grey/black infill extended past the square but not in any density, so as the cliff line recedes during the winter months, the location will require more observation, with a view to further testing. The infill finally terminated two feet seven inches (0.8 m) from present ground level and roughly at the beginning of the yellow boulder clay, where a large nodule of flint had been thrown in, along with an equally large chunk of rough sandstone, the latter having no clear form, or dressed surfaces. Towards the bottom of the feature, small fragments of carbon were present, as well as five very small, heavily burned brick tile fragments, and equally small fragments of lava stone.

MINERAL REMAINS

Two pieces of sandstone were found at Pakefield during February 1995; one being found in context with Medieval pottery near the foot of Pit 3, the other found in context with Romano British material near the horizontal black layer further north.

The beach level find is 4½ inches (11.5 cm) long and 1½ inches (4 cm) square, and made from hard sandy coloured sandstone. It is broken in its length and is thought to be part of a Medieval pestle which compares with a complete one in Norwich Castle Museum.

The second piece is 2½ inches (6 cm) wide, with a rounded axe-like profile and this is also broken in its length. It is 5/8 inch (1.6 cm) thick and the sandstone is a fine dense type, reddish-brown in colour. What makes this piece interesting are the eight parallel lines cut across the edge of the stone at approximately 1/8 inch (0.3 cm) centres, while on the opposite edge there are five more lines cut across at an angle of approximately 60 degrees. Like the other side, these are parallel to each other with centres of 3/16 inch (0.5 cm).

REMAINS FROM THE CROMERIAN SEDIMENTS AT PAKEFIELD, AND THE PEAT DEPOSITS OFF COVEHITHE

The Cromerian or forest bed sediments at Pakefield have, over many years, yielded several discoveries, including remains of giant elk, a cave bear, two species of elephant and three species of rhinoceros, to name a few.

Usually, the forest bed is covered by cliff falls but deep scouring by sea action during March 1995 resulted in the sediments being uncovered to a depth of up to three feet (1 m) in places, revealing the remains of wood, small leaves and seeds in the deposits. A clay intrusion cutting through the beds and thought to be the remains of an ancient water course, yielded part of a humerus bone from bison and also the remains of part of a rhinoceros jaw-bone, complete with teeth. The latter being in excellent condition. Part of a large antler, thought to be red deer was recovered the previous year, with a complete rhino tooth, and in July 1995 a complete vertebra again from deer was found in the same location.

Although not as old as the Pakefield sediments, the peat deposits at Covehithe, Suffolk, are of post-glacial date, and may be up to five thousand years old. Subsequently, similar deposits may of course be much older and much younger.

From time to time, heavy sea action breaks up the peat blocks, which in turn end up on the beach, and it is from one of these peat blocks that two large animal bones were recovered during March 1995.

They were stained black from the peat, and in the opinion of *DR T STUART* of Norwich Castle Museum's Natural History Department, they were probably from a cow, the bones being the right femur and left half-pelvis of the animal.

At the same location during the 1980's, the local Heritage Warden collected a small goat's skull from a block of peat and also stained black from the peat, where it had lain embedded for a considerable number of years.

KEY TO FIGURES - ROMANO-BRITISH & MEDIEVAL POTTERY

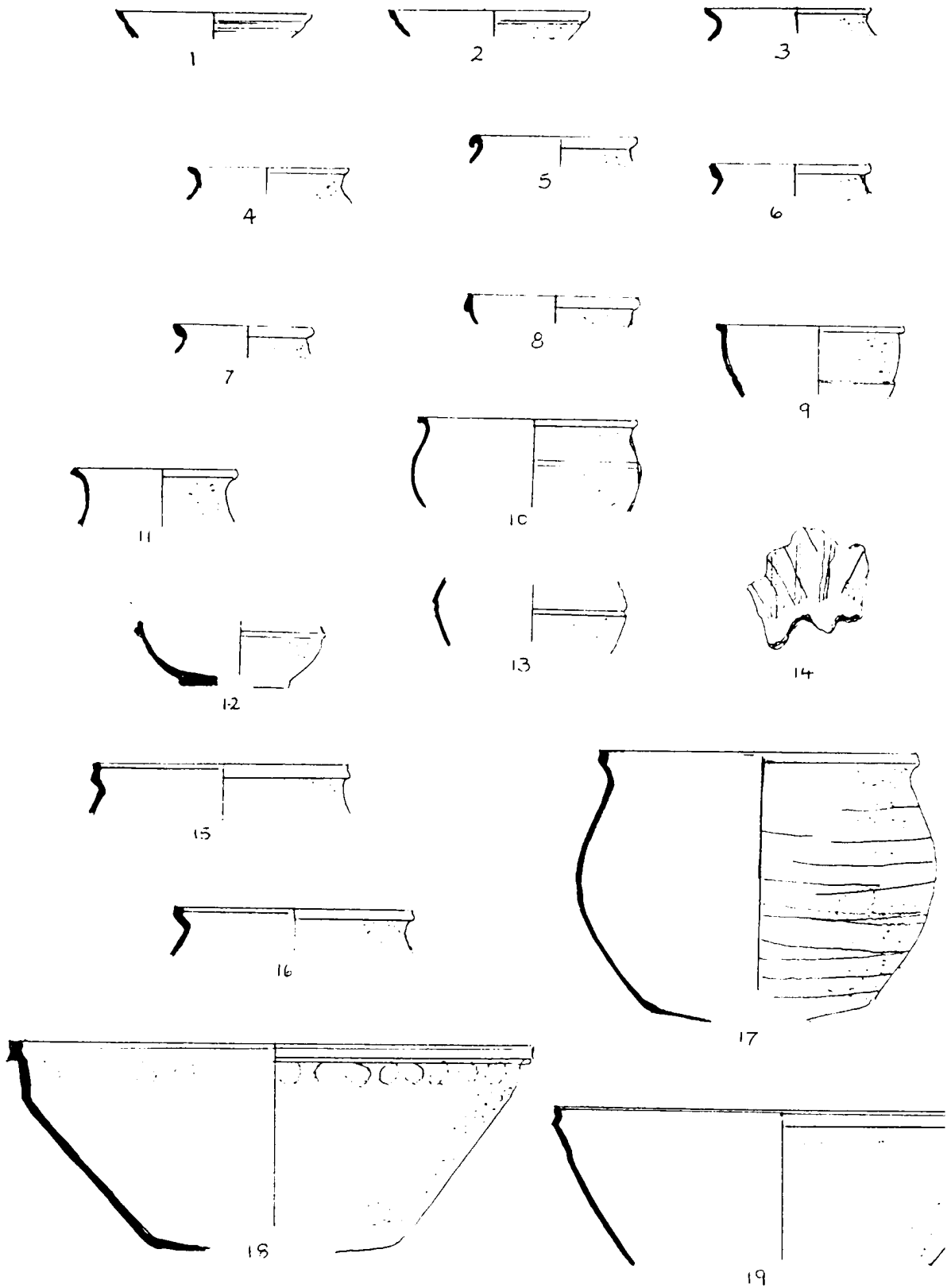
1	Rim of platter with double external groove	PIT
2	Fine single grooved rim from greyware platter	PIT
3	Rim from poppy head beaker in coarseware	BLACK LAYER
4	Orange jar rim	PIT
5	Jar with hooked rim in very fine greyware	BLACK LAYER
6	Jar in dark buff coarseware	BLACK LAYER
7	Jar with slightly undercut rim in fine greyware	PIT
8	Coarseware bowl with traces of colour coating	PIT
9	Jar with overhanging rim	PIT
10	Jar with everted rim and false cardon	PIT
11	Necked jar ? in greyware	PIT
12	Bead and flange bowl in soft buff fabric	BLACK LAYER
13	Corinated bowl in soft brown fabric	BLACK LAYER
14	Cross-hatching decoration on beaker sherds	PIT
15/16	Medieval cooking pots with soot-stained outer surface	PIT 4
17	Cooking pot of globular form with irregular lines cut into the body of the vessel. The fabric is a hard, sandy brown buff with sparse mica.	PIT 4
18	Large bowl decorated with finger impressed pattern under the rim. The fabric is a hard coarse sandy buff with occasional small flints.	PIT 4
19	Bowl with slightly hollowed rim in hard grey-buff material containing mica and small flints.	PIT 4

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is greatly indebted once again to Mr D B Gwyn and subsequently Mr K Hendry - for allowing further investigation of the features as they appeared and sincere thanks are also due to Brenda Dickinson of the British Museum - who has access to the Corpus of Samian Stamps. My thanks go to Mr W Milligan and Mr J Davis, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology at Norwich Castle Museum. I am also grateful to Mr Peter Murphy, of Environmental Archaeology at UEA, for his work on the sample from the black layer which has provided another aspect of the location and I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs J Berrey, Mrs M Goffin and Mr and Mrs D Cuming for their contributions to what is in fact a team project. In conclusion, thanks are once again due to Adrian Charlton - who has spent a great deal of time and trouble watching and recovering at the location, resulting in the finding of so much material, which otherwise would have been lost.

Paul Durbidge February 1996

PAKEFIELD SUFFOLK



ROMANO BRITISH AND
MEDIEVAL POTTERY

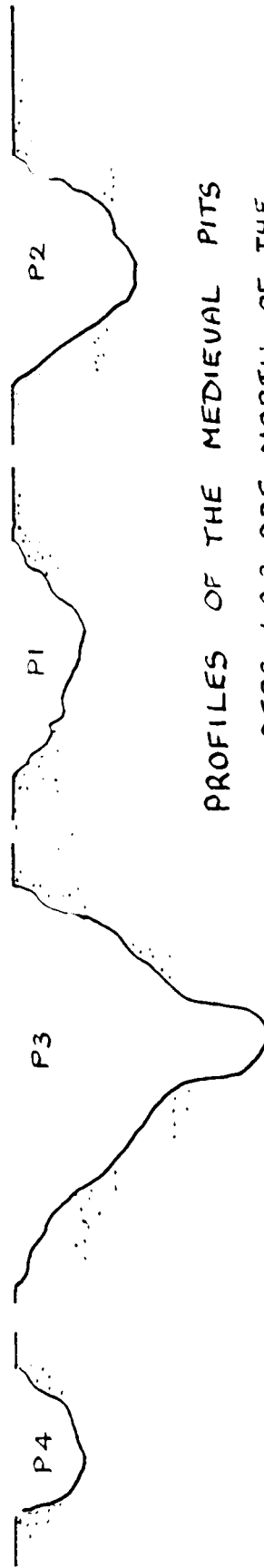
SCALE APPROX 



CLIFF PROFILES SHOWING
GUN PADS AND BUNKERS
IN RELATION TO THE
MEDIEVAL FEATURES

SCALE. APPROX 1 INCH = 100 FEET

X DISTURBED MEDIEVAL FEATURE PIT?



PROFILES OF THE MEDIEVAL PITS
NUMBERS 1 2 3 ARE NORTH OF THE
GULLY WHILE 4 IS SOUTH

PAKEFIELD
SUFFOLK

SCALE APPROX 1 INCH = 3 FEET

EROSION AT PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK

by Paul Durbidge

Measurements taken for the year ending January 1996, show that cliff falls in the vicinity of Pontin's Holiday Camp have lessened considerably, with little comparison to the serious loss, recorded during 1994/95. Nevertheless, cliff falls have resulted in one of the largest underground bunker of World War II overhanging the cliff line by several feet, and subsequently as a safety measure, this and two smaller brick and concrete structures were pushed over the edge by bull-dozers. To the north, and several hundred yards past Pontin's beach, levels were sharply reduced by nearly six feet during October, and at this point, the cliff is principally sand with a light covering of coarse grass. Here, over the last year, there is evidence that cliff slippage is increasing by over forty feet in a northerly direction, with the grass-covered slopes sliding to the beach below in great curtains of material. A similar situation is happening in the south, where in late November, high seas broke up large amounts of the Cromerian forest bed, as well as the heavy clay deposits, before washing them away. The cliff at this location is on a much lower angle and made up of grass-covered grey clay containing large flints, chalk and septaria. Nevertheless there is again the problem of slipping, and already much grey clay has reached the beach. Each year, thousands of tonnes of cliff material is re-deposited by sea action, and this can be seen at Kessingland where there has been an extensive build-up now for several years. Much of this material has come from Covehithe Cliffs and some of it comes from Pakefield, a fact confirmed a month ago when several cemented course of white bricks lay on the beach. Bricks on a beach are not unusual, but these ones were part of the underground bunker pushed over the cliffs at Pontin's in early summer, a location a mile and a half from their present location at Kessingland.

FEET (From fixed point)		LOSS	LOCATION
1994	61 (18.6)	= 16 feet (4.9 m)	1
1995	39 (11.9)	= 22 feet (6.7 m)	South side of Pontin's Gap
1996	32 (9.8)	= 7 feet (2.1 m)	(Crazy Mary's Hole)
1994	46 (14.0)	= 22 feet (6.7 m)	2
1995	24 (7.3)	= 12 feet (9.7 m)	North side of Pontin's Gap
New point	193 (58.8)		(Crazy Mary's Hole)
1996	190 (57.9)	= 3 feet (0.9 m)	
1994	39 (11.9)	= 11 feet (3.4 m)	3
1995	8 (2.4)	= 31 feet (9.5 m)	
New point	92 (28.0)		Pontin's Camp
1996	76 (23.2)	= 16 feet (4.9 m)	
1994	51 (15.5)	= 12 feet (3.7 m)	4
1995	9 (2.7)	= 42 feet (12.8m)	Army Look-out Tower
New point	53 (16.2)		Pontin's End
1996	31 (9.5)	= 22 feet (6.7 m)	

Footnote to above

On February 19th 1996, north-westerly winds began to veer north and subsequently increased to severe gale force 9, making the sea very rough and high at times, and by February 20th, stretches of the North Norfolk coastline were at the mercy of the sea as the storms smashed through ailing defences. Yellow warnings were in force from Yarmouth southwards, past Lowestoft and Southwold, with Spring tides three to four feet above normal. At Pakefield, large amounts of the cliff were brought down, especially behind Pontin's, with the nearby Cromerian forest beds severely broken up.

Beach levels were considerably reduced and littered with lumps of chalk and great lumps of clay, along with septaria and an assortment of large stones brought down with the cliff falls. The large Jurassic ammonite, discovered a couple of years ago by Adrian Charlton also re-appeared, and this time it was recovered and taken to Lowestoft Museum (Broad House, Oulton Broad), for cleaning.

All traces of the black layer and the small feature that contained Romano-British pottery had gone, as well as sizeable amounts of cliff. On the southern side of 'Crazy Mary's Hole', some 25 feet of cliff fell in two days. The falling cliffs revealed two underground bunkers and a large infilled intrusion of unknown date. While on the beach, fragments of animal bone, teeth and antler were scattered over a wide area, after being washed out of the forest beds.

By February 22nd, the scene began to change. The winds had turned to south-westerly, and the sea had become moderate and an uneasy peace began to take place.

Paul Durbidge March 1996

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

by David Cuming

L.A.&L.H.S. FIELD WALKING PROGRAMME - ANNUAL REPORT

FIELD-WALKING 1996.

Sun. 7th. Jan.	Field No. 43 - Manor House Farm. O.S. 481 978.
14th. Jan.	Continuation of Field No. 43. O.S. 481 978.
21st. Jan.	Field No. 46 - White House Farm. O.S. 484 978.
4th. Feb.	Continuation of Field No. 46. O.S. 484 978.
4th. Feb.	Field No. 47. White House Farm. O.S. 484 981.
11th. Feb.	Continuation of Field No. 46. O.S. 484 978.
11th. Feb.	" " " No. 47. O.S. 484 981.
18th. Feb.	Completed Field No. 47. O.S. 484 981.
18th. Feb.	Field No. 42. O.S. 478 979.
25th Feb.	Field No. 42. O.S. 478 979.
10th March.	Field No. 42. O.S. 478 979.
17th. March.	Ashby, Field No. 61. O.S. 490 994.
24th. March.	" Part of Field No. 64. O.S. 488 988.
" "	" Field No. 61. O.S. 490 994.

FIELD-WALKING SURVEY OF LORD SOMERLEYTON'S LAND.

Field-walking resumed this year on Sunday the 7th of January at Field No. 43, Manor House Farm, Herringfleet, and has continued on most Sunday mornings until Sunday 24th March, when crop seeding curtailed further activity. Field-walking has mainly been concentrated on the Herringfleet area, at Manor House and Whitehouse Farms. We then moved to Ashby on the 17th of March when the fields at Herringfleet were crop-seeded. Our progress this year has been somewhat slower than last year, only six fields compared with nine last year, due to Lord Somerleyton's restriction of only six people field-walking at one time. Nonetheless total figures of material found compares favourably with last year, again reflecting occupation of the land throughout the ages back to pre-history. The amount of worked flint found particularly reflects this.

It is also to our credit that this work is a contribution to updating the county records of the Sites and Monuments Record Office. I again thank most sincerely the volunteers for their consistency in turning out in all weathers to field-walk, and I would particularly like to thank Barry Girling for taking over my role during my recent incapacity.

The total categories of material found up to and including Sunday 24th March are as follows :-

Flintwork	130 pieces found.
Pottery	28 " "
Mediaeval	61 " "
16th & 17th. C.	13 " "
Post-mediaeval	33 " "
Metal	90 " "
Fossil	2 " "

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 still very encouraging indeed, and many thanks to those who volunteered, and congratulations on your vigilance. We intend to return to Lord Somerleyton's lands and, with his continuing countenance, resume where we have left off.

David Cuming,
L.A.&L.H.S. Field Group Co-ordinator.
April 1996

FIELD-WALKING ON THE SOMERLEYTON ESTATE - AN INTERIM REPORT

by Paul Durbidge

The second season of field-walking on the Somerleyton estate began on January 8th 1996 and finished in late March and this time it was under the direction of Barry Girling.

Numbers of walkers this year were reduced to six, as requested, and they included one metal-detectorist. Once again, results were very good both above and below ground.

Search locations available to the field group were four fields at Herringfleet and a further six at Ashby. In spite of losing two mornings to shooting and bad weather, fields at Herringfleet were completed and one of the six at Ashby.

Once again field surfaces were well weathered, with soil types varying from light to medium with comparatively few areas involving heavy land.

FLINT INDUSTRY

Just as it did last year, the flint industry dominated returns and this season two projectiles were encountered, one being part of a leaf arrowhead, the other the initial stages of a barb and tang. A number of cores were also encountered this year, including pyramid, single and multi-platform types. Scrapers were also more in evidence and the presence of occasional trimming on some of the secondary flakes also shows these were being employed as tools, although there was no clear-cut form as to their purpose. At Ashby a hard, orange-sized ball of sandstone with battered surfaces is probably a hammerstone and this was picked up in conjunction with a small core and a scatter of flakes, including a burnt scraper.

A large amount of fragmentary pot boilers were observed while searching at Herringfleet, the concentration involving an area roughly 20 feet by 20 feet, up until then only single finds had been made. This was clearly a grouping for a specific purpose, but as yet what this was is unclear.

POTTERY

One light grey body sherd from Herringfleet is thought to be Romano-British in origin and part of a thick grey coarseware base from Ashby is typical of the 2nd - 3rd century.

However, two other sherds have been submitted for further information, one is part of a thick squared rim in a hard grey/black fabric, while the other is a hard dark grey pitted body sherd. Both are of totally different fabrics from the normal pottery and both come from Ashby.

The majority of the remaining pottery encountered has been both small in size and thin in section, but textures suggest the majority to be of Medieval character, with some sherds showing evidence of soot staining to the external surfaces.

Rim forms are clearly Medieval, as are the handle remains, which include strap and corded. Glaze is present on some sherds, with colours varying from light to dark green, with one solid rod-like type coated in a pale yellow glaze. This particular glaze was also observed on small base forms, where it appeared as a couple of spots and a small splash of glaze.

A small ribbed sherd of buff stoneware may well be part of a JAKOBAKANNE, one of a number of small jugs produced during the 14th century at SEIGBURG.

It was noticeable that there was a reduction in finds related to the post-Medieval period, compared with last year, and this includes both stonewares as well as earthenware. The imported WESTERWALD and numerous finds of clay pipe stems were very prolific last year, while this season, the combined figure was probably around half a dozen.

BUILDING MATERIAL

Herringfleet produced an abundance of semi-glazed pin tiles, and the broken remains of straw-impressed bricks, amongst which was some pottery, but not in any quantity. The period was clearly Medieval.

The distribution of material involved an area roughly 300 feet by 200 feet, and the majority of the pin tile fragments picked up had been partially glazed, with colours ranging from light to dark green, orange to light brown, with others dark green to black.

Some of the tiles were unglazed but all had been rough cast, and drag marks were visible through the glaze. On several, mortar was present and the remains of holes showed that wooden pegs were probably used to hold the tiles in position.

METAL REMAINS; BROADLY CLASSIFIED

Pieces of white patinated lead were widely encountered during this season at both locations and these took the form of pieces of waste lead, including spillage and two pieces of sheet lead, one piece being nearly $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick, which appears to have been either chopped or axed off.

Moulded or cast lead included musket shot, spindle whorls, perforated cylindrical weights, flat weights and a plumb bob. There were also odd pieces of unpatinated lead which suggest more recent origins.

Bronze finds include what appears to be a damaged dagger chape, part of a strap end with traces of gilding to one face and a small cast bronze object, impressed with a crown and a dagger, the latter being sent for further information.

Brass and lead pewter buttons, a thimble and numerous pieces of brass and copper were also recovered, and several fragments of brass and aluminium were clearly connected with World War II activity.

Coins included a Norwich token, Silver Hammered Long Cross penny, Silver penny of Charles II, Neederlander one cent coin and several well abraded copper coins. Two abraded bronze coins found at Ashby have been sent for further information.

GENERAL

Occasional pieces of oyster shell have been observed during the field-walking, but not in context with either pottery or building material. Fossil remains consist of one small sea urchin and the greater part of a LAMELLIBRANCH, both being attributed to the Jurassic period.

This is the second year's interim report on the Somerleyton Survey and a more detailed account has now been sent to Dr C Pendleton and the Suffolk Archaeological Unit at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

I would at this stage like to thank Mr Chris Lockhart for his time and assistance during the survey and thanks are also due to members of the field group who took part and once again produced a wide variety of finds in a comparatively short period. Finally, once again thanks are due to Lord Somerleyton for allowing the survey to continue, for which we are greatly indebted.

Paul Durbidge April 1996

THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 1995 TO 1996*by Jon Reed*

I seem to have started with the weather for the last two years, and the summer of 1995 merits comment. In contrast to previous years, people flocked to the area, and we had an all time record attendance at the Museum - over 20,000 ! However the local hoteliers in June were not getting bookings, and even offered free beds to get people in. Mind you, the winter made up for it, with snow, high winds and even more coastal erosion as a result. By now you all know the story of the ammonite that Adrian Charlton eventually managed to save for the Museum. This is only one item of a fascinating collection found as the Pakefield cliffs disintegrate.

Industry has been having a mixed year, with success and failure. As an example, Kvaerner Oil, in association with two other firms and Waveney, were trying last May to get E.U. cash to revive Brooke Marine's old yard, with the prospect of 500 jobs. In August Kvaerner reported a full order book but then had to lay 100 off in October. Come December it was announced that the bid for cash had failed. Richards old yard was being sought by a German firm in May with the prospect of 100 jobs, but K.Y.E. Offshore took a 5 year lease this January, in order to rationalise their operations from two sites in Rotterdam Road and at Brooke Yachts. Still on the offshore business, in August S.L.P. delivered a module to the Shetlands which weighed 1260 tons. In November they announced a merger within the oil industry and won a Conoco contract for a converted tanker. Back in March 1995, Birds Eye Walls had a severe fire which closed part of the plant and cost £50,000 in lost production alone. Incredibly, exactly the same happened in March 1996. In August they announced plans for a £2.5M "odour eating" plant. In December they made a gift of a disused 19th century house to the Civic Society. The saga of the C.W.S. canning plant continues. We announced last year the plant was closed suddenly. In fact, the cannery closed but the plant continued to operate, making ready meals and sauces. You will remember it was bought by Barber Richmore, a subsidiary of the Hobson Group, which is now controlled by Nager Group. In January this year it was sold to Hillsdown for £1.3M, and Hillsdown are the people who closed down Mortons.

In April 1995 the Beccles Heliport lost the Shell North Sea contract to KLM and the operation was moved to Norwich. This was the writing on the wall for the Beccles Heliport and the brave group of people who had bought it from Maxwell have had to close the site. Victor Vigo di Gallodoro is still fighting his battle against the liquidators, Price Waterhouse, who sold, he says, £7M assets for £700,000. Mr. Porter has referred the case to the Ombudsman. Last April PETANS, who had been running offshore industry survival training at Lowestoft College, withdrew in favour of working in Norwich. It was announced in September that Shell Quay would be refurbished at a cost of £1M. In December the Esso Oil Depot at Ness Point closed down, changing the local skyline. Back in August the MAFF Lab had a chemical leak at Pakefield which closed the local beach for a while.

The planning authorities have been busy. In May Grantchester of Romford applied for a retail and leisure park in North Lowestoft. In September Bernard Matthews had an application for a turkey farm at Ellough turned down. Also in September plans for 13 houses on a greenfield site at Kessingland were rejected. Planning guidelines have been issued for even more building along Beccles Road. The site will take building up to Chapel Road and from Beccles Road right through to Lowestoft Road, Carlton Colville.

In September a plan was announced to develop Lowestoft Station, moving the platforms about half a mile westward. Waveney were in discussions with Railtrack and Suffolk County Council Highways Department. The idea is to put in shops, a restaurant and flats, with the A12 re-routed through Commercial Road into Katwijk Way and the Station Square becoming a pedestrian precinct.

In October Pleasurewood Hills was put up for sale at an asking price of £4.75M. It will hopefully stay open, which is more than can be said for the famous Cheese Shop in Beccles Road. Shirley Webster-Jones finally put up the shutters in July after abortive attempts to sell it as a going concern. It is much missed.

There have been two ongoing attacks on the local scene which have occupied attention for many months and given rise to a great deal of protest. The first was the announcement in April 1995, going on from the situation reported last year, that 4,500 tonnes of the European plaice quota, which had

previously been Britain's, would now go the Holland. There have been many forecasts about the effect on Lowestoft, from the loss of 600 jobs to the collapse of the entire industry in the town. Mr. Porter has been in the thick of it from the beginning. He has told the Government that they have condemned the town and that any further cuts would kill the industry. He tabled over 50 questions in the House of Commons on the Common Fishing Policy and, when it came to the vote, he abstained. Mr. Cartiss, the MP for Great Yarmouth, actually voted against the government. The rebels between then forced a government defeat. Whilst all this is not the concern of this column, it is significant that no less than 14 fishing boats from Lowestoft have been decommissioned in the last year. It does begin to look as though the government is intent on destroying Lowestoft's traditional livelihood.

The second cause of contention has been the attempt by the Health Authority to close beds at Lowestoft and Beccles Hospitals. This all started in September with the proposal to close 24 beds at Lowestoft in the wards caring for old people, and another 10 beds at Beccles. The controversy raged for several months, involving James Paget Hospital, local doctors, community action groups and the government, when over 70 people from the town lobbied at Westminster. Eventually a review was promised and the outcome is the closure of only 10 beds here and 18 at Beccles, which will buy its care from James Paget.

There has been some good news on the commercial front. In October White & Kings won a national award, the Faraday Trophy. In November the *Norfolk Wolf Porter* of Green Jack Brewery in Oulton Broad was judged the best old ale. The traditional skills of Newson's Yard were rewarded by the contract to restore the 104 year old 'Kommandoren' vessel, a 65 footer which will go back to sea this year as an accommodation and hospital ship.

On the roads, oh dear, the roads, things have been in a state of flux all year. Apart from endless temporary lights all over the place, we have definitely said goodbye to several local schemes. I personally doubt whether the third crossing will ever be built now. On the bright side a £2M relief road has been announced between Peto Way and Yarmouth Road. The Water Company seem to have finished their mains refurbishment, but many others have been digging all year. Take Beccles Road as an example. First there was the water main thing, then came cable television, followed by some probably unnecessary revisions at the Dutchman, closely followed by stout efforts from Eastern Electricity to hold up traffic as long as they could. A few hundred yards along the road we then had repeated interruptions as the Persimmon Homes site was fed with everything - this after we had been inconvenienced all spring by a revision of the road there. Finally the Dutchman was fitted with new traffic lights, which went wrong within two weeks of being installed. I am quite sure this is only one of many such stories.

Central Lowestoft has now had even more residents parking for the last year, good for locals but not so good for shoppers. In May the bridge got stuck in the middle of the rush hour at 5 o'clock. It was operated manually then stuck open. In August the result of a survey on asthma revealed that it is twice as prevalent along the south beach as anywhere else in town, attributed to slow moving traffic. The public were encouraged to report smoking vehicles.

This year there is a new section to the report which concerns those who have won on the Lottery. No, not the punters, the charities. In August a new sports and leisure centre at Kirkley High School was given £180,000. In October Waveney Playbus got £24,000 (they had already received £8000 from SLP in August) and the Roundabout Community Trust got £146,000. In November SOLD (Disabled Charity) got £42,000, St. Johns Housing Trust £19,000, Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Aid and Assist Project £65,000 and Waveney Women's Aid £33,000. These were followed in December by grants of £31,000 to the Childrens Society in Alexandra Road and £19,000 to the Womens Heath Information Centre in Milton Road. Christian Salvesen gave £7608 to the Clyffe old people's home which will be used to give a facelift to the leisure centre.

Some of the more outstanding events were the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the British Red Cross at Sparrows Nest, the opening of the new Lowestoft Memorial Museum (which was vandalised in February this year), the Excelsior coming eighth in the Tall Ship Race, out of an entry of 96, the appearance of metal animal sculptures by Stephen Vince throughout the area in August (the one of the Tiger was stolen), Pakefield Church reverting to the old practice of keeping the grass down by sheep

grazing in the graveyard and the sale of a George Burwood painting of Lake Lothing for £12,000. The East Point Pavilion had it's 1,000,000th visitor in October.

Personalities must include Lydia Cox, the original Lydia Eva, who actually launched the vessel in 1930, visiting her. Faith Hammond, a Lowestoft telephone exchange supervisor, has been telling the country for a year to dial "01" and, finally, Paul Evans, a Lowestoft man, has been running his heart out round the world, finishing 5th in the London Marathon in 1995 and 3rd in 1996.

Some odds and ends to finish. The Water Company are telling us there will be shortage unless there is very heavy rain this spring, but that hasn't stopped then reopening Benacre pumping station at a cost of £400,000. St. Marks new church centre was officially opened by the Bishop of Norwich in October. The Foxborrow Middle School opened in September.

I'm sure I've missed out a lot, but I seem to have been writing for much too long. If any member wishes to add things to next year's article, please keep in touch during the year, I'm always happy to receive items of news.

MUSEUMS

by Mike Reeder

1995 was for me a very good museum visiting year, for I found what are for me the three best museums. Maybe I will find better ones in the future, perhaps you can suggest some. In reverse order I will briefly describe my three.

My third best museum is unlikely to be known to anyone who may read this, for it is rather difficult to find. In 1992 it was awarded a special commendation in the European Museum of the year competition, but it is obviously not intended that it should have visitors for the citation just gives its location as Greece. It is in fact the Museum of Cretan Ethnology and it is in a small town named generally as Vori in Crete (there are no standard translations of Cretan place names). We have a large book published in 1992 which claims to contain details of all the museums in Crete but does not list this one. And the museum's own literature only states Vori, no maps or other details. It is not near a tourist area, but as we visited most places on the island we came across it by accident.

The made up road by-passes Vori, but we noticed a small hand painted arrow stating 'museum', so set off into the town. It is typical, really just a small village, the main street has no pavements, a few open fronted shops, metal tables and chairs are scattered around and the old men sit at them gossiping, sipping drinks, playing cards. A few donkeys wander along carrying people or packs, and old black robed ladies carrying bundles. We picked our way round pot holes, tables, donkeys, and ladies but there were no more signs to the museum. We dumped the car by the church and set off on foot and soon found a building which looked renovated, and it was the museum.

It must have been an old industrial building, of two stories, constructed of local stone around three sides of a small court yard. At the moment two sides of the upper story are open as the museum. It first opened in 1988 and the very good museum guide was published in May 1989 and states that, 'The Museum will be completed in the near future when the ground floor of the building is added'. Obviously the ground floor is there, but there is no sign of any work being or having been done on it. It just seems to be used as general storage, but then the Greeks 'near future' seems to generally be far off. But what has been done 'sponsored mainly by the European Fund' is good.

The display cases are very simple, very good, and probably very costly. They are just formed of floor to ceiling plate glass panels set about one metre (3 feet) from all the walls, and down the centre of the space to form two metre wide enclosures mostly with dividers down the centre. All the floors, backs, dividers, and ceilings of the cases are dark grey and very powerful lighting is incorporated in the ceiling. All the items are hung directly on the back panels or on separate dark grey panels, or on glass shelves, or placed on the floor or on dark grey blocks. The whole display has a very appealing uniformity and totally emphasises the objects. As the whole museum is one large L shaped space there are no walls to break up this uniformity, but there is the added interest of continually going round corners and finding more displays. It is all very well done.

What is on display are the items of everyday life in traditional Crete, many similar are probably still in use. Fortunately there are no reconstructions of rooms, workshops, etc., with dummies and such like. These type of displays are not to my liking. All the labelling and information panels are very clear. The themes of the displays are, Diet, Fishing, Agriculture, Arboriculture, Stock Raising, Architecture (this sound a bit grand, really it is vernacular buildings), Weaving, Basketry, Pottery, Metal Working, Trade, Transportation, Morals and Mores, Religion, Arts, Music, Warfare.

It can obviously only be a selection of the items that have been in use, and the selection is from those which have survived. I noticed no reproductions, which is good. And one has to do a lot of reading of the information panels and give oneself plenty of time to take it all in. One needs to buy the guide book which has 16 A4 size colour photographs of the displays, has a brief history of the island and a detailed description of most of the items and then one has a fairly good background knowledge of how the people lived. What more can one ask of a museum ?

You may well be wondering why such a museum is where it is and is not known. I too wondered this and asked the very efficient young lady on duty, we were the only visitors and she spoke good English. She claimed it was there because local people were interested in that sort of thing and so had set it all up. My interpretation is that it is an EC funded and directed attempt to spread the tourist load to some unknown areas. But for some reason they have not followed it through with publicity, access, etc. Most likely the EC money and organisation was a 'pump priming' exercise which got the museum up and running and the local government was to do the rest and haven't, yet !

My number two museum is the Oxford University Museum. Firstly the housing of the collection is for me excellent. The building is set well back from the road with lawns in front of it so one can see the whole of it. It was purpose built and completed in 1860, although it remains unfinished to this day because they ran out of money. The architecture is important, it is Gothic revival modelled externally on northern Medieval cloth and town halls. There was much intrigue and skull duggery to get this design approved, but the main thing is it was approved, and the building contract was awarded to Lucas of London in May 1855. Many will realise that this company were associates of Morton Peto of Somerleyton and they built a great many railway buildings including Liverpool Street Station, and ran Somerleyton brick works from 1857 to 1875. The museum has stone cladding but presumably has a brick core and some of the internal walls are just plain brick. It was intended these would be plastered and decorated but it did not happen. So were some, or all of these bricks made at Somerleyton ?

Once inside the museum it is like a monastery, having a large cloistered courtyard in the centre. This is covered over with a glass tile roof supported by cast iron pillars and girders with wrought iron braces. In the first attempt at this roof the iron structure was so weak it could not even support its own weight. The redesigned version is very impressive and cathedral like with its soaring arches. There is a heating system but no means of ventilation, so the advice is not to visit in a heat wave.

I have written much about the building because it is a large part of the museum collection, for in the structure are 126 stone columns each of different British decorative rock labelled with the name and source. There are 64 piers and 192 capitals and corbels carved with plants representing all the botanical orders duly labelled. The movable items are the university's natural history collection, a 'million or so animals and fossils, the several million insects, and the tens of thousands of minerals and rocks'. Its principal use is for scientific research and teaching and it is divided into four units to aid this, they are Entomology, Geology, Mineralogy and Zoology. There are so many fascinating things to see that if you go there you must allow plenty of time.

For those with similar views to my own, this museum has a far greater significance, for it solidified the premier seat of learning's confidence in the new theories on evolution then recently published by Charles Darwin in "The Origin of Species". It is the very spot where the search for scientific truth took root and pushed the authoritarian views into the sidelines. In the year of its opening in 1860, an historic clash took place at the museum between Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford and Professor Thomas Huxley. Wilberforce claimed divine creation to be the truth and that no one could believe humans who are in the image of God could be descended from apes. Huxley argued for the logic of evolution and is generally agreed to have won the argument and his statement, "*I would rather be descended from an ape than from a divine who employs authority to stifle truth*", is a turning point for

the scientific method. Also this museum building is one of the main early manifestations of the Arts and Crafts Movement driven by that genius William Morris.

My number one museum adjoins the Oxford University Museum, it is the Pitt Rivers Museum. It is only accessible through the University Museum but it is a totally separate organisation and houses a vast ethnography collection.

General Pitt Rivers collected artefacts from all over the world. He was much influenced by Darwin's theories, and came to believe that a systematic classification of artefacts could be made and would reveal the course of the evolution of human culture. He wanted to set up a National Anthropological Collection, and in 1880 when he inherited the Cranbourne estates he offered all his items to the South Kensington Museum, But this was refused because they claimed it should be in the British Museum. He then gave his collection to Oxford University and they readily accepted it.

Though this is nothing to do with the collection as such, his interest had changed to archaeology and he became the 'father of scientific archaeology'. He was not interested in treasure hunting but aimed to recover as much information as possible. He became the first Inspector of Public Monuments and set up a national programme of registration and protection. So he safe guarded much of our national heritage.

Back to the museum – a new building was constructed to house the collection. Staff were appointed and this was the beginning of the academic study of anthropology. The building is again a great cast iron framed structure and I think it is impressive, but the collection dominates and conceals much of it. Today the collection has grown from the original 14,000 items to over a million, and most of them are on display. And still the collection goes on, for people all over the world are interacting so that traditional artefacts are being modified and make using modern materials, such as baskets made out of coloured telephone cables, and all such items chart human change. So they need to still be collected in order to make the area of study as complete as possible, for the museum is very much a teaching department of the university.