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OBITUARIES

Sue Margeson, Archaeologist, died of cancer on February 26th 1997, aged 48.

Sue Mairi Margeson was born in Canada and came to England with her parents at the age of six. Educated at the Perse School, Cambridge, she went on to York University, where she read English and Medieval Studies, graduating with First-class Honours in 1970.

Sue worked for two years in the medieval antiquities department of the British Museum, and in 1979 came to Norwich Castle Museum as Assistant Keeper of Archaeology. She was appointed Keeper in 1994. Her studies on the finds from the excavations of the Norwich Survey carried out in the 1970's resulted in the publication of a monograph "Norwich Households" in 1993. Other works by Sue Margeson were "Life on a Medieval Street" published in 1985, "The Normans in Norfolk" (1994) and "Viking" (1994); Sue was a specialist on the Viking culture.

She was for many years a Trustee of the Lowestoft Museum. She was valued for her knowledge, her common sense and her gentle sense of humour. She will be sadly missed.

Tony Carpenter, for many years the Park Keeper at Nicholas Everitt Park, died in January after a short illness. He and Nancy have been stalwart supporters of the museum ever since it opened at Broad House in 1985. Tony was always helpful and ready for a joke or a chat. He is sorely missed by the staff at the museum, although Nancy continues to be her usual helpful, cheery self. Our sympathies to her and her family.

A SUMMARY OF THE TALKS/EVENTS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

by Myra Kestner

- 23/5/96 Annual General Meeting.
- 13/6/95 "Talking about Victorians" by Mrs Clemens, curator at Somerleyton Hall. A large collection of domestic and agricultural artefacts was displayed and explained.
- 15/6/95 Annual Outing: this year we visited Sandringham House, Museum and Grounds, stopping on the way at Wolverton Station Museum.
- 11/7/95 Annual Round Tower Church outing, led by Bill Goode. This year we visited St. Mary the Virgin Church, Howe, and St. Andrews Church, Framingham Earl.

- 12/9/95 "Rural Life: A Pictorial Past" by Martin Collier, assistant curator at the Norfolk Rural Life Museum, housed in the Gressenhall workhouse, was illustrated by slides from the collection of old photographs held there.
- 26/9/95 Visit to the Beccles Museum.
In the impressive setting of Lemn House, the history of Beccles and the surrounding area is comprehensively displayed and explained
- 10/10/95 "The Broads (Potter Heigham and Hickling)" by Eric Redding, who stepped in at short notice, when a speaker cancelled, to provide a very well illustrated talk on the Norfolk Broads.
- 24/10/95 Visit to the Maritime Museum.
Everything there is to know, about the history of Lowestoft shipping and fishing, is displayed and explained.
- 14/11/95 Bob Collis from the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum, and author of "The Air-War over Lowestoft 1939-1945", talked about "Aviation Archaeology" and the search for missing warplanes in East Anglia.
- 28/11/95 Joint Social Evening at the Yacht Club.
In the historic setting of the Yacht Club, and enjoying a fine buffet, we met with many friends who give support to the Lowestoft Museum.
- 12/12/95 Christmas Visit to the Lowestoft Museum.
At a special opening of the Museum, we viewed the exhibits and saw the work that goes on behind the scenes.
- 23/1/96 Dick Collins our Vice-Chairman, based his talk on "Lowestoft at the Turn of the Century" on the changes, shown on the Ordnance Survey maps, that took place between his grandfather's visits to Lowestoft in 1885 and 1905.
- 13/2/96 Damion Eaton Brought with him a large collection of slides of nineteenth century photographs and paintings of Gorleston, to illustrate his talk on "Fishing Port and Genteel Resort; Gorleston in the Nineteenth Century".
- 27/2/96 Visit to the Suffolk Record Office, Lowestoft Branch. The work of the Record Office was explained, interesting documents and old maps were displayed, and we were taken on tours of the strong room.
- 13/3/96 Eddy Riseborough has collected seven hundred old postcards of Lowestoft, and used a selection of them to illustrate his talk on "The Lowestoft Fishing Industry".
- 27/3/96 Visit to the recording studio at the Seagull Theatre for a talk by Paul Hobbs on "The History and Development of Recording". Tony Beresford brought a 1902 phonograph and played early wax cylinder recordings.
- 10/4/96 "Black Sail Traders" was the title of the talk by Richard Woods, who explained the long history of the Norfolk (and Suffolk) Wherries, trading in the East Anglian waterways.
- 24/4/96 We had a novel meeting when we walked around Pakefield in lieu of the normal meeting. Bernie Cook was our guide and he told us how the sea erosion for about 100 years changed the face of Pakefield.
- 8/5/96 The talk by Kenneth Penn on "Anglo Saxon Cemeteries" showed a vast number of slides of his work in the excavation of the Angles cemetery at Spong Hill in Norfolk. Also shown were slides of finds from the same period at Sutton Hoo and a village at Mucking in Essex.

THE BELL, CARLTON COVILLE*Mary Goffin*

The Bell Inn, Carlton Colville was closed for business in January 1996 and later purchased by the Green Jack Brewery, Oulton Broad. When the new managers, Rosemary and Wayne Moore, moved in they were interested in restoring the premises to their earlier look and to remove some of the additions. As I live next door, my land having been originally part of the pub gardens until 1974, I was approached by them to find out what was known of the history of the Pub. I was able to get assistance from Mike Reeder and Terry Weatherley, both Society members, and John Dean, who is a tutor at Lowestoft College and Paul Sussams, a local resident also interested in the history of Carlton Colville. I was also given access to some old deeds dating from 1815 but which in turn referred to much earlier records. The Premises back on to an area known as "The Mardle", a circular moat dating back to Saxon times but now filled in. In my garden I have dug up a number of sherds which Paul Durbidge has dated from the 13th century which suggests the Bell site was in use at this time, but we do not know whether it was used as a pub. Although the Bell is one of the oldest building in Carlton Colville, because of extensive alterations over the years it has never achieved recognition as a Listed Building, the reasons being obvious from reports from Mike Reeder and John Dean and Terry Weatherley.

The Bell Inn*Mike Reeder*

From my point of view the remaining structure of the building turned out to be a disappointment. There is an off centre chimney stack, with the main entrance door inline with this stack. So immediately one thinks this is a 17th century baffle farmhouse. Such houses are very common and the plan is fairly standard. One enters through the front door into a very small hall, bounded by the side of the chimney stack to the front of one and a door immediately on ones left and another on ones right. Both doors lead into similar sized rooms, originally one would have been the higher status parlour, and the other the kitchen/living room with on the end of it a pantry/larder. The stairs would occupy the space behind the chimney stack and a back door would open from the kitchen. There would have been a large open fireplace both sides of the stack, that in the parlour with probably a carved or moulded lintel beam and in the kitchen the fire would have had various hanging devices for pots and kettles.

When I looked at the Bell the stripping out phase of renovation was in progress. Really all that remains of the original house is the baffle entrance in the front wall and chimney stack. Probably the parlour was on the left, and the same length as now. The kitchen/pantry end has been extended, with a fire place in the new end wall, and made into one large room. The chimney stack has been modified so many times that, apart from some brick work, very little of the original remains. Unfortunately at sometime the ceilings have been raised and a new roof structure put on so that no original timbers remain. Probably the roof was of much steeper pitch for thatch covering and the upstairs would have had very low windows, or maybe dormers. No evidence could be found for this because a new brick skin had been added to the front wall, probably when the roof was raised and the extension added on.

All old buildings that survive have been subjected to considerable change. Some of this change has been to modernise and some is 'imaginative' restoration. Attempting to work out what remains of the original, and what has been modified and added, is both interesting and difficult. No doubt there was a 17th century house on this site and the basic ground plan of this and some of the original fabric remain encased in the existing building. And a sensitive reconstruction can put back much of the atmosphere of that original building while remaining a viable modern business premises.

'The Bell', Carlton Colville, Suffolk

John Dean & Terry Weatherley

The building has been subject to considerable alteration and repair over the years and was visited several times whilst the present owners were carrying out modification and restoration work.

'The Bell' is not aligned on either of the adjacent present day routeways but lies at an angle suggestive of the 'funnel' shape which frequently occurs where routeways open out onto common land. The Parliamentary Enclosure map of the area does not suggest a common edge alignment however although several fragments of common land nearby indicate the possibility that earlier boundaries may have been determined by the edge of a common now lost through some earlier enclosure 'by agreement'.

The floor plan appears to be a 'lobby entry' layout, having an axial chimney and at least one door opening onto the stack. The evidence of worn floor pammments indicated that one of these doorways is not a modern insertion.

The walls are brick, generally laid in 'Flemish' bond although with frequent deviations. A straight joint over the front door reveals that the building had been underbuilt in brick and therefore was originally timber framed. The date of the brickwork is probably between about 1750 and 1850. The chimney stack is of similar bricks to those used in the exterior walls.

The roof has been rebuilt and possibly altered several times. That part which is accessible is a clasped purlin configuration in which the collar is face halved into the rafter. An identical joint has been observed in a house in Aldeby, Norfolk for which there is a date of 1806.

There seems little doubt that 'The Bell' was substantially rebuilt some time between about 1750 and 1850. The 'lobby entry' floor plan indicates a date of about 1580 to 1680 but in this part of East Anglia it was not unusual for small farmers to invest wealth derived from the Napoleonic Wars in new houses of very conservative design. The mean date then would seem to lie between about 1795 and 1815

As for the earlier phase, it is impossible to say much except that it was timber framed. It is curious that the chimney stack is as late as the exterior walls. Unusually, this is contemporary with the earlier walls. This does raise the question of whether it was preceded by a smoke hood arrangement or even an open heath. Alternatively, a poorly built brick chimney may have been replaced whilst the builders were on site for taking down and replacing the old timber frame

April 1997

From the Deeds the first important information we found was that the original name of the pub was "The Mardle House" but by 1815 "and for some time past known by the name or sign of The Blue Bell". Also from this document we learn in 1778 it was part of the Estate of Ann Marchyn and was sold to Francis Roberts. The Indenture of 28th August 1815 was made between Francis Roberts, a Yeoman of Carlton Colville and John Elph of Lowestoft, a beer brewer, when John Elph pays Francis Roberts £600 for the Public House, Barn, stables etc. and $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land at the back. Francis Roberts is to have "the use of the barn, Stable and Yard as long as he owns the land adjoining without paying any Rent and shall have liberty to go over the ground at the front of the Public House up to the Barn as hitherto has been the Custom".

There is no sign of the barn but the stables are still there set at right a angle to the pub. At one point when John Dean was visiting he wondered whether the present front had at one time been the back, but this extract from the deeds disproved this theory.

Under the Will of John Elph who died in January 1841 Miss Sarah Ann White and Miss Harriet White, daughters of Thomas and Susanna White deceased, who were nieces of Sarah deceased, later

wife of John Elph, inherited eleven Public Houses and other properties in Lowestoft and district, including the Mardle House Carlton Colville. The Estate of some 15 premises of John Elph was sold by Sarah Ann White and Harriet White in 1842 for £8,300 to Thomas Morse Esq. Junior of Blundeston, parts of the Estate were copyhold to the Lord of the Manor of Lowestoft for £6400 and the freehold properties £1900. In this conveyance of 11th April 1842 the Public House known as The Blue Bell, formerly called "The Mardle House" was freehold but so many other properties were included in the Sale there is no way of knowing the selling price.

By Will dated 30th October 1877 William Bird of Carlton Colville, Yeoman appointed James Saunders the Younger of Kirkley, Robert Beattie Nicholson of Lowestoft, Gentleman and Thomas Bird, Joiner as Trustees of his Estate which included land behind the Bell (this is the first reference to the Public House named as "The Bell" rather than "The Blue Bell" as in previous documents) in Trust for his son William Bird until he attained the age of 21 on 29th April 1896. In October that year the surviving Trustees sold to Benjamin Thomas Dodington of Carlton Colville, Builder, a piece of arable land, known as Church Path Pightle, occupied by J.E.Jennay, having a frontage of 110 feet next to the main road leading from Lowestoft to Rushmere for £80. In 1898 the firm of Edgar and Gilbert Morse, Brewers bought a piece of freehold land known as Church Path Pightle with a frontage of 30 feet to the road leading from Lowestoft to Rushmere and a depth of 190 feet from Benjamin Dodington, Of Carlton Colville, Builder for £40. Also in October 1896 the surviving Trustees of the Estate of William Bird, deceased sold to William Moyses of Carlton Colville, Blacksmith and his wife Elizabeth Eade Moyses and Frederick Moyses of Carlton Colville Wheelwright a piece of freehold land known as The Mardle Piece with the site of a cottage containing 2 acre 1 rood and 16 perches, the said land used as an ozier ground and numbered 71 and 72 on the Tithe map, for £90.

On 1st September 1900 William Moyses of Carlton Colville, Blacksmith and Elizabeth Eade Moyses his wife sell to Edgar Morse and Gilbert Morse, Brewers of Lowestoft, as part of a partnership property 21 roods, part of the freehold land known as The Mardle Piece for £25.

On the 23rd March 1905 the partnership of Edgar Morse and Gilbert Morse as Brewers of Lowestoft was dissolved. Edgar Morse sold his moiety of 12 properties to Gilbert Morse for £4,711 11s 6d. Among the properties sold was land at Church Path Pightle and a piece of land, part of The Mardle Piece at Carlton Colville. In a second deed of the same date Edgar Morse sold to Gilbert Morse messuages, dwellinghouses and premises in Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Beccles, Kirkley and Carlton Colville for £8,367 11s 6d. The premises referred to in Carlton Colville were The Crown Inn, Beccles Road and the Flying Dutchman, Cotmer Road but not The Bell.

In January 1997 Planning Permission was granted for the demolition of the existing toilet block and outbuildings and internal alterations, relocate kitchen and 1st floor extension to form a 3 bedroomed apartment. The work has now been carried out and the front of the building has been restored to its original design. During this work original cobble stones to the right of the front door were revealed and matching cobbles to the left have now been inserted with flagstones laid as a path to the front door. Part of the stables have been converted to a toilet block. The refurbished Bell was opened to business on 26th March 1997 serving ales from independent East Anglian Breweries and other drinks providing as well facilities for Bar Meals and a Restaurant.

The following is a list of the known landlords of The Bell public house, research by Paul Sussams.

Edward Chipperfield, 1832 - 1858 <i>who was also a butcher</i>	Alice Soloman Wilson 1930 - 1949
James Cole 1858	Jim Roberts 1952 - 1954
Lazarus Farrington 1861	Ruby & Les Cox 1957
James Harvey 1864	Jack Shales 1968 - 1976
William Turrell 1868 - 1875	Charlie Lark 1977 - 1983
Henry Cook 1881 - 1891	Robin Douce 1984 - 1986
John Bull 1891 - 1892	Brian Edwards 1986 - 1990
William Buggs 1900 - 1904	David Woodrow 1990 - 1996
Arthur Soloman (Hoot) 1908 - 1930	Rosemary Moore 1997

The land referred to as The Mardle Piece has currently a planning application made for 20 houses to be built on the site. The semi-circular moat and the pond on the site were filled in sometime in the 1960's but representations made by the Suffolk Archaeological Unit, after having the proposed development brought to their attention by several of our Society members, have meant that permission to develop the site cannot be made until full archaeological evaluation of the whole site has been made.

OCCUPATIONAL AND SOCIAL DESIGNATIONS IN LOWESTOFT, 1560 - 1730

David Butcher

This is not so much an article as a presentation of raw data, drawn from a variety of sources, yet it is not perhaps without worth to those interested in the pre-industrial history of our town. The main contributory documents are the St. Margarets parish registers, wills and probate inventories, manor court records and parochial accounts. Taken altogether, and cross-referenced, they give the reader a sense of the economic and social structure which prevailed in the early modern period, long before the development of the harbour and the arrival of the railway changed the face of the town for ever.

Up until the time of Victorian expansion, Lowestoft had been a combination of market town, fishing port and watering place (the last function being, increasingly, a feature of the second half of the eighteenth century). It was not a large town, being no more than sixty acres in area and having a population that rose from about 1500 at the end of sixteenth century to 2000 or so by the middle of the eighteenth. The list which follows suggests some degree of economic and social complexity - a structure deriving from a mixed economy based on agriculture, fishing and maritime trade.

No attempt will be made here to analyse Lowestoft's occupational structure, nor to place it within its historical context. Suffice it so say that similar variety of economic activity has been observed in other market towns, both in East Anglia and further afield. Furthermore, the tendency for people (men particularly) to be involved in more than one sphere of business holds true for Lowestoft, especially up to about the middle of the seventeenth century, but this factor of "dual" or "multiple" occupation cannot be reflected in the table reproduced here.

Nor can the change which occurred, progressively, in the town's economic structure and function during the second half of the seventeenth century. Up until about 1650, Lowestoft was very much the workshop and supplier of goods and services for its neighbourhood. Thereafter, it became much more of a specialist maritime community, a fact reflected in (and aided by) its being granted official port status in 1679. By 1700, the town had far fewer of its inhabitants involved in the food and clothing trades particularly and far more of them going to sea. It also had increasing numbers of its wealthier citizens terming themselves "gentlemen" and assuming the title of "Mr." and "Mrs.". Such modest grandification reflected a trend of the times and formed part of the growing "politeness" in society which is so much a feature of the eighteenth century.

Note : the information appended in brackets is intended to clarify the original terms, wherever it is felt that such assistance may be needed. The terms "fisherman", "sailor" and "seaman" tended to be synonymous until well into the seventeenth century, but became more clearly differentiated after 1700.

David Butcher

A table of occupation and social titles in Lowestoft, 1560 - 1730

Admiral	Gardener	Pewterer
Alehouse keeper	Gentleman	Pilot
Apothecary	Glazier	Ploughwright
Apprentice	Glover	Plumber (craftsman working with sheet or strip lead)
Baker	Goldsmith	Poor Man
Barber (barber-surgeon)	Grocer (general merchant)	Poor Woman
Beggars	Gunner (Commander of the town's battery)	Preacher
Blacksmith		Proctor (legal official)
Blockmaker (for rigging)	Haberdasher	
Boatbuilder	Hairweaver	Reeder (thatcher)
Boatman (conveyor of goods to shore)	Hatter	Registrar (Parliamentary Period official)
Boatwright	Hookmaker	Roper
Brewer	Hoopmaker (barrel hoops)	
Bricklayer	House Carpenter	Sailmaker
Brickman (brickmaker)	Householder	Sailor
Butcher	Housewright (builder)	Sawyer
	Husbandman	School Dame
Captain (ship's commander)	Innkeeper	Schoolmaster
Carpenter		Scrivener (writer of legal documents)
Carter	Joiner	
Chimney sweep		Seaman
Civil Law Reader	Keelman (bargeman)	Servant
Cobbler	Knacker (harness maker)	Sexton
Collarmaker (horse collars)	Knitter (of socks)	Shearman (finisher of woollen cloth)
Constable		
Cooper	Labourer	Shepherd
Cordwainer (leather-worker/ shoemaker)	Lighthouse keeper	Ship's Carpenter
Corviser (same as cordwainer)	Linen Weaver	Shipwright
Currier (maker of leather)		Shoemaker
Custom House Officer	Maidservant	Singing Man (teacher of singing)
	Maltster	Smith
	Mariner	Soldier
Dauber (plasterer)	Mason (builder)	Surgeon (doctor)
Doctor	Master to Sea (skipper)	
Draper	Merchant	Tailor
Dyer	Merchant Tailor	Tanner (maker of leather)
Esquire (of gentry status)	Midwife	Tapsman (cellarman/barman)
Excise Gauger (customs official)	Miller	Tawer (maker of fine leather)
	Minister	Thatcher
	Mr.	Tinker
Farmer	Mrs.	Town Clerk
Ferryman (conveyor of goods to shore)	Neatherd (cowherd)	Victualler (innkeeper)
Fiddler	Nurse (wet nurse)	
Firr-maker (faggot maker)		Waiter and Searcher (customs official)
Fisherman	Oatmeal Maker	
Fishmonger (fish merchant)	Ostler	Warrener
Flag-graver (turf digger)		Weaver
Fletcher	Painter	Wheelwright
Floormender	Parish Clerk	Woolcomber (preparer of wool for spinning)
	Park keeper	
	Pedlar	Woollen Draper
		Yeoman

CLIFF FALLS, ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY AND A THREE HANDED JUG FROM PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK.

Paul Durbidge

The year started reasonably quietly at Pakefield. The annual erosion measurements were taken the first week in January and the loss was down on the previous year, true, the cliff line was falling in places, but it usually does at this time. The grass-covered slopes towards Kessingland were also on the move, but not on any great scale. The advent of the beach levels becoming more fleet in the winter allows the sea to strike at the base of the cliff with little resistance, and combined with high water and strong winds, considerable damage is caused along this stretch.

By February 17th, the situation had dramatically changed, with north-westerly winds up to Force 8, combined with very rough seas began to bring down large amounts of cliff, especially to the rear of Pontin's Holiday Camp. These very severe weather conditions continued up to February 19th, when large amounts of debris from the cliffs became piled up at the entrance to Crazy Mary's Hole, and spread along a wide stretch of the beach. Large blocks of chalk and boulder clay were being undercut farther south and were falling to the beach, along with large pieces of sedimentary rock and nodules of flint.

From this environment, a large circular piece of sedimentary rock, thought to be a Jurassic ammonite, had rolled out of the grey clay and finished up with the debris at beach level. The deep scouring of the beach levels resulted in the recovery of several animal bones from the Cromerian beds, from which many had been washed out, and several good specimens were found as well as animal teeth and part of an elephant tusk.

Directly to the rear of Pontin's, two previously unknown W.W.II underground passages were exposed in section, as the cliff line receded, whilst farther north, on MOD land, a large concrete footing appeared, before breaking in half and falling over the cliff. Small trees and bushes along this stretch of cliff were being undermined as more sand fell, and many ended up lying on the beach amongst large chunks of clay, with an equal amount ending up hanging precariously over the cliff face.

The slippage of the sandy grass-covered slopes that make up the cliff directly behind the shooting butts is very noticeable and has now progressed to within 160 feet of the adjacent gully, and indications are that this will certainly continue farther with the coming of the winter months. To give an example of the severity of the February storms, one of the erosion marks was only seven feet from the cliff edge, while in January the same year it was 32 feet. Another example is shown at a second marker farther north, where some 21 feet of high cliff had collapsed to the beach over the two days in question.

During April 1995, there had been some limited testing of a small Romano-British feature which was located close to a band of dark soil which was thought to have a connection with a corn-drying kiln. It was intended at a suitable time to continue with more testing to both features but as a direct result of this year's storm, both locations were completely destroyed, along with several feet of cliff behind them.

Amongst the cliff material and other debris on the beach, fragments of pottery and tile were picked up with the remains of two roofing tiles being recovered well past Crazy Mary's Hole, which is a good 350 yards from their original location. Earthenware does not fare well when moved by sea action, subsequently becoming very abraded in a relatively short time, as can be seen on many body sherds and rims, even the thicker and harder tiles can be totally transformed after abrasion by sand and shingle.

While the storm had destroyed two important features, it did subsequently reveal a large infill close to where the medieval pits had been situated. It appeared both wide and deep and the enclosed fill stood out against the pale yellow of the surrounding cliff.

At this stage, the erosion had left Pontin's perimeter fence less than four feet from the cliff edge, before it angled away from the cliff and straightened for a while before turning towards the sea and finally going over the edge of the cliff.

Late May saw the demolition contractors Green and Son on site, and they in turn set about breaking up the remaining large army bunkers which were still set back from the cliff line. Once the

destruction of the bunkers was complete, the bricks and concrete were removed from the location and the perimeter fence re-sited some sixty feet back from the cliff edge, and roughly running parallel with it.

Over the last twelve months, there has been a steady increase in the recovery of Romano-British tile and pottery, and without exception, all the material has been found as a direct result of cliff falls.

The tapered black layer uncovered in the cliff face last year contained charred cereal and was thought to have been part of a corn-drying kiln, and it is likely that some of the pottery recovered then and now was also connected with this industrial situation to some extent. Small colourations in the cliff face have yielded occasional pottery and in another case, a shallow pit - and at the time of writing there is another grey colouration showing, roughly a foot down from the top of the cliff and running some twenty-nine feet in length. Its thickness averages ten inches and its purpose is as yet unexplained. Usually above ground, the location tells us very little, with a golf course one end and rough scrub and hawthorn bushes at the other, subsequently there are no signs of possible ground contours or colourations in the vegetation, so we can only wait as the cliff line continues to recede farther each year. As well as more material being recovered, the area involved is clearly wider than originally thought and there are probable links with the tile and pottery discoveries on a nearby field at Kessingland during 1977, when Adrian Charlton also found two Byzantine coins of Anastasius I (491-518), who was an Emperor of the Eastern Empire.

Another location which has produced Romano-British evidence is Bloodmoor Hill, which is situated NW of the present discoveries. The finding of a clay loom weight with its Saxon origins at Pakefield adds strength to the theory of a connection with the Bloodmoor settlement. Examination of the pottery from Pakefield indicates that, while some has been brought in, the majority is of local manufacture. This material tends to be both coarse and gritty in texture and occasional, the clay has been strengthened by using fragments of crushed brick or tile. It is thought that one or more kilns are in the vicinity, which would have produced these localised wares, and it was interesting to find some two dozen small sherds and a base from a jar in a pale orange fabric which had only been partially fired. Remains of jars made from very fine greyware have been brought from farther afield to their present location, as well as colour-coated fragments and red gloss-ware (or Samian), which includes small sherds from East Gaulish factories. Connections with the Mediterranean are suggested with thick body sherds and part of a neck from at least three separate Amphora and all of the globular type.

The Romano-British Feature with content at R4, Pakefield, Suffolk.

Oyster shells and pottery were first noticed at R4 during late July 1996, and by mid-August there were indications of carbon staining showing high in the cliff face, which increased significantly during the first week of September to a very distinct slump of carbon approximately 3 feet across and 17 inches down from present ground surface.

Pottery had already been recovered at beach level directly beneath the feature as early as the beginning of August, when several large pieces of mixed boulder clay split away from the top of the cliff and subsequently ended up on the beach.

Embedded in the actual clay were a number of oyster shells and a scatter of mussel shells (*Mytilus Edulis*), as well as coarse-ware pottery and abraded Samian being found in nodules of mixed top soils.

With the inevitability of more cliff falls in the coming winter months, a rectangular box was marked out 18 inches from the cliff edge in an attempt to interpret the area containing the carbon. A rectangle, 4 feet by 5 feet was cut directly above the carbon spread and soil was gradually removed to a depth of 13 inches, where odd pieces of grey coarse-ware began to appear. At 15 inches there were signs of carbon staining showing in the mixed fill and this ran parallel to the cliff line, with the inward limits being very slight. Continued removal of more of the infill confirmed the presence of a land drain and trench running across the feature on the southern side. Upon removing two sections of pipe, several coarse-ware sherds and rim forms were encountered directly beneath. It became quite clear at this stage that we were looking at the remaining part of the feature and that the other half had already gone over the cliff, so it was decided to remove the earthen baulk overlying the carbon concentration.

With the removal of the baulk, both Samian and coarse-ware were recovered and we could see that the carbon was in a hollow, sloping downwards to the beach and it consisted of several small sections of

carbonised wood, with odd pieces of thicker section in a concentration nearly 4 inches thick, which in turn gently curved upwards on both sides.

On the edge of the carbon were four pieces of a type of reddish sandstone and on two of them there was evidence of intense heat, resultant with a piece breaking off one. More pot sherds and a piece of millstone were found close to the carbon and amongst these was a large grey-ware base, several hooked rims and small splinters of animal bone.

Removal of the carbon revealed more grey-ware sherds, a small piece of worked antler, oyster shell and three irregular shaped pieces of clay which had been smeared against an irregular surface, leaving one relatively smooth face. The clay had clearly been fire hardened but not with any amount of exceptional heat, which suggests that the fragments may have been connected with a small oven - although at the time of writing, no other fragments have been found.

On the north side of the feature there was a clear shape, curving down to the yellowy-brown boulder clay but at this point all signs of the edge completely disappeared and a thin scatter of broken animal bone and teeth were observed, along with oyster shell, with many deeply embedded in the clay.

The lower limits on the south profile were the same, but the upper part clearly showed the infill was continuing southwards, with unknown limits but a thickness of nearly 16 inches.

In late November 1996 there was a considerable fall of cliff adjacent to R4 which in turn revealed more concentrations of mixed soils and carbon, involving a length of nearly thirty feet and a maximum depth of nearly five feet. Pottery, animal bone, oyster and mussel shells were found as a result of the cliff fall, as well as remains of antler, small pieces of tile and badly corroded fragments of iron.

Three fragments of crudely moulded clay suggest they may be the remains of kiln bars and there have been several finds of small tile, pottery and bone from this new development.

Examination and the subsequent interpretation of all the finds will involve a considerable amount of time and effort, but it will result in adding significantly to our knowledge and understanding of the Romano-British influence in this particular area of Suffolk.

COINAGE ASSOCIATED WITH R4

House of Valentinian	364 - 378
House of Constantine	335 - 340
House of Valentinian	364 - 378
House of Constantine	324 - 328

TRIER MINT

Illegible 4th century	
Valens	375 - 378
Gratian	364 - 378
House of Constantine	330 - 335

POTTERY TYPES

RIM

- 8 hooked rims
- 2 Everted and grooved rims
- 1 rim from bead and flange bowl
- 2 rims from bead and flange jar
- 4 very fine grey-ware rims
- 2 rims from poppy-head beakers
- 2 single grooved bowl rims
- 2 double grooved bowl rims
- 8 bowl rims
- 10 very small jar profiles in coarse-ware and grey-ware

- 2 rims from necked jar in black burnished ware
- 2 small rims in colour coated ware
- 7 coarse-ware rims
- 23 grey-ware rims including fine grey-ware with everted rims up to 8½" in diameter

BASE

- 1 oxidised flagon base
- 3 base forms converted to counters
- 8 grey-ware bases
- 6 gritty brown-buff bases
- Part of black burnished ware base
- Diameter of base forms 4¼" - 3" - 2¼" - 1¼"

LID

- 3 very fine micarous fragments

An approximate total of 587 sherds of pottery were associated with R4 and they are grouped as follows:-

RIM FORMS	75	BODY SHERDS	490
BASE REMAINS	19	LID FRAGMENTS	3

In addition there were 13 pieces of Samian ware, two secondary flint flakes and a pot boiler.

Eight of the rim forms were of the hooked type and over half were soot encrusted coarse fabrics. The few everted rims from very fine grey-ware were micarous, as were two everted and grooved rims, the latter coming from very small jars.

There were a number of bowl types, some with single as well as double grooved profiles and also eight plain types. In addition to these, there were several very small rims, including beaker, belonging to quite small vessels. Of the twenty-three grey-ware forms, some had diameters up to 8½" and these included some fine grey-wares, again with everted rims, many of which were soot encrusted.

Cheese wire marks were visible and several of the larger base forms up to 4¼" in diameter. On three small remains the body sherds had been removed, possibly so they could be used as gaming counters. The remains of three pottery lids were also recovered, all contained mica and were made from very fine grey-ware.

A combined total of approximately 490 body sherds were examined and grouped as follows:-

BODY SHERDS

- 402 were grey-ware and coarse-ware sherds with occasional fine grey-wares
- 44 were oxidised
- 12 were from very fine grey-ware and contained mica
- 14 very thin small sherds were from rough cast colour-coated ware
- 2 came from carinated jars and
- 11 sherds, reinforced with fragments of brick or tile were from black burnished ware.

DECORATED SHERDS

There were five grey-ware sherds with decoration, one being rusticated ware, another was decorated with a cross lattice-work between two shallow grooves on the shoulder of the vessel and a small wavy line pattern was used again under a shallow groove on another sherd. A vertical band of fine combing was visible on one grey-ware sherd, while single angled hatching had been applied under the grooved shoulder of another grey-ware jar.

RED GLOSS WARE OR SAMIAN

Of the thirteen sherds of Samian, three were small pieces of a thick foot-ring, from a large bowl, while another three were plain wall sherds, a moulded but undecorated body sherd is thought to be from a small cup.

There were five rim forms, all with a small overhanging profile, and all appear to belong to a small plain bowl, and possibly the same vessel. The remaining sherd has a moulded form and is part of a cup. DR27 which has its origins from the early first century to the early third.

All the sherds have lost much of their original rich gloss, which is thought to be the result of close contact with clay, which appears to create a chemical reaction in the material, while other sherds recovered in the adjacent infill appear in good condition.

BRICK AND TILE

Remains of tile and brick consist of part of a roofing tile and two pieces of brick with squared ends, a third piece of brick, rectangular in shape had both ends and the sides abraded off, the purpose of which is unknown.

Four small pieces of roofing tile have clearly been broken down in size and are probably tessera, and they compare favourably with other pieces from the adjacent fill.

MILLSTONE FROM R4

The presence of millstone on the site would indicate that grain was being ground and probably home baked, although not on any large scale. One piece of millstone was found beside two pieces of sandstone on the edge of the carbon spread, and it was formed from a piece of dense millstone grit, containing both quartz crystals and small quartz pebbles. It measures 6½" long by 3½" wide, with a thickness tapering from 2 - 2¾". The pitted surface was relatively flat with the underside being stepped and very irregular. A second piece found in the feature was of the same mineral, round in shape and about the size of an orange, its purpose no more than waste material.

ANTLER FROM R4

A single piece of dressed antler, nearly 2¾" long, and oval in section was found amongst pottery and animal bone in the mixed soil close to the carbon spread. It had been shaped to a gradual point at one end while the opposite end showed as a broken section. Remains of the internal cell structure of the antler could be seen on one face and clear signs of paring, with either a chisel or knife were visible on much of the surface. The external surfaces also showed signs of a high shine, suggesting the implement may have been used in connection with fabric or even leather working.

ANALYSIS OF THE BONE REMAINS FROM R4 - R5

by R. J. Mutch

- | | | |
|---|--------|--|
| A | BOVID | Domestic cattle
11 bones or molars including rib fragments and bones identified by size alone |
| B | CERVUS | Red Deer
2 bones |
| C | OVIS | Domestic sheep
5 bones or molars including rib fragments identified by size alone |
| D | SUIDAE | Pig
Probably wild boar on evidence of one tusk
9 bones including molars and rib fragments identified by size alone |

On some fragments there was evidence of cut or chop marks on their surfaces or ends. These are as follows:-

Fragmentary pelvis - PIG - probably wild boar - smaller fragments - probably SHEEP

Some fragmentary bones had to be identified by their size alone, rib fragments are very difficult to identify. As this can be carried out on size alone, it is easy to identify a young BOVID as an adult of another species in error. For example - the unidentified fragments are

mostly splinters. Broken fragments are very small portions of ribs which have no points of recognition and any attempt on my part at identifying these bones would be sheer guess-work.

Five small pieces of white bone were found in the mixed soil and in context with 2nd or 3rd century pot sherds. These have since been confirmed as remains of cremated bones by Norwich Castle Museum.

AMPHORA

Sherds from three separate amphora have been found at Pakefield and all in context of Romano-British pottery. On one, the fabric is of a soft reddish-orange with a wall thickness of just under $\frac{3}{4}$ ", with a curving radius suggesting a globular type. The second, again of a globular type is much thicker with a wall thickness from over 1" down to $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The inner surface of the sherd has very wide-spaced ridges and the presence of three large vertical finger smears shows the clay was very wet when the vessel was being made. Externally, the sherd is very uneven in places with signs of knife trimming. The fabric colour is of a hard orange-buff and comparatively heavy for its size. A third piece from an amphora is part of a wide rim and part neck, from a vessel made of a gritty buff material with a diameter in the region of $5\frac{1}{4}$ ", the thickness of the neck averages $\frac{1}{2}$ " and the rim is a squared overhanging type projecting over the neck by $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

THE ISOLATED BONE DEPOSIT

During early May 1996, Adrian Charlton showed me a large nodule of cliff made up of boulder clay and mixed soils which had dropped downwards onto the sandy slopes of the cliff and came to rest in an upright position some fifteen feet from the top of the cliff.

Locked in the mixed soils was the remains of a large bone, whitish-buff in colour, and in an extremely fragile condition, with much of the dense cellular structures showing as crumbly fragments in the hard cracked clay. Before any attempt was made to separate the remains from the clay, it was photographed. It was noticeable that the object had been deposited in a vertical position and buried approximately two feet down from present ground level. The mixed soils encasing the remains had resulted in a considerable deterioration of the cell structures, with much of the outer areas reduced to little more than crumbly powder - and in spite of taking the utmost of care, only five solid pieces of bone were successfully recovered.

Two of them fitted together, giving an overall length of $12\frac{1}{4}$ " and $6\frac{1}{2}$ " at the widest point. On the flat faces of the two pieces were parallel channels, possibly for muscular connections, and whilst one end was broken, the opposite end had clearly been cut off at an angle of roughly 60°.

Two smaller pieces of bone had also been cut off, this time at right-angles, and lines made by the abrasion of saw teeth also showed that both pieces had been cut off at a very low angle.

The fifth and final piece was most puzzling. It measured just over 6" in length, by nearly 4" across and was in complete cellular form, with no flat outer surfaces like the previous pieces. On one surface, a small area had been deliberately cut out in the shape of a half round indent, $1\frac{1}{2}$ " across by $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep with a smaller parallel cut situated above it.

The end section left by the saw marks and the outer surfaces of the bones were all of the same colour, so we can safely say all this was done about the same time, but the question remains, what was the purpose of it all? The bones are thought to be from a whale, by reason of the dense cell structure and it does appear that they were placed in an upright position and not just thrown in. There is also the indent cut into one of the bones and it is just possible that there was a meaning for this; the location of the bones is just twelve feet from the Romano-British discoveries and may well have a connection with them, although in what form we will probably never know, but one thing is for certain and that is that this was no casual deposit.

THE MIDDLE SAXON LOOM WEIGHT

During April 1996, Adrian Charlton, on one of his many searches along the cliff line, made the ultimate discovery of a clay loom weight which had apparently fallen out of the top of the cliff, before ending up amongst a mass of clay boulders and sand that lay at the foot of the cliffs.

It was undoubtedly a most important find, not only by means of its general condition but the fact that it was of probable middle-Saxon date and usually such objects are only recovered as a result of direct excavation.

The weight is of the bun type, circular in shape with a diameter of roughly 4" and a thickness of 2½". It has an hour-glass perforation leading to a diameter of 3¾". It had been made from fired clay which contained mica and occasional pieces of split white flint. One side had been subjected to considerable heat which had resulted in blackening and also pieces of the clay falling off. The weight was just over 1¼ lbs.

During the Anglo-Saxon period, weaving was very important and in a house at Grimston End, Pakenham, Suffolk, two lines of loom weights were found where they had fallen and at West Stow, Suffolk, a pile of loom weights were uncovered in one corner of a hut during excavation of a Pagan Saxon village. It would appear that the Pakefield discovery is an isolated one, as subsequent searches of the location have failed to produce any more, or even associated small finds or pottery relating to the period.

THE INFILLED FEATURE AT P5, PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK

The infilled pit known as P5 was first observed on February 17th 1996, after north-westerly winds, backed up by high seas, brought down large amounts of cliff, revealing a wide dark infill over 15 feet across with a central depth of approximately 5 feet 6 inches.

The layers contained in the pit roughly followed the contour of the ground surface directly above. The only exception was the centre where there was a pronounced slump of the deposits, and they contained a thick, dark band of near carbon showing clearly in section. While both profiles of the pit showed a gradual slope towards the centre, the angle near the bottom of the south face appeared much sharper and the bottom of the pit was revealed as being relatively flat where it terminated at sand. At the time of the discovery, part of the content had already broken out and lay scattered on the beach. Society Members were able to recover pottery, iron remains, shell and bones. Over the following months, apart from isolated falls, the cliff in the direct vicinity of the pit remained reasonably stable and in September, a slot was cut some eight feet back from the cliff edge and directly above the feature in an attempt to determine the limits, prior to the oncoming winter storms. Surprisingly, the cutting showed the infill still ongoing and on the southern side of the trench, the remains of a hard standing surface was discovered. This being formed of small flints laid on a thick mat of brown boulder clay, amongst which were small chips and slivers of animal bone and two sherds of medieval pottery.

The heavy rains of November penetrated deeply into the cliffs, resulting in several areas collapsing and on the 28th of November, nearly seven feet of infill broke out of the pit to the beach, some thirty feet below. There were also further indications of the infill sinking, clearly visible from the top of the cliff.

There are clearly three periods of pottery from P5 which causes problems regarding the interpretation of the features. An example is the Romano-British material which was recovered at beach level after some of the cliff initially broke out, so there is no indication as to what level it originally came from - or for that matter, if it was simply amongst re-distributed soil.

Nearly all the bricks were situated in the bottom of the feature and so were a number of pot sherds, including both rim and base forms, all being attributed to a Medieval date. In addition there were also pieces of lava millstone and a heavily soot-encrusted bronze rim from a cooking pot or cauldron.

Amongst the upper fill the base of a dark green semi-glazed goblet was recovered along with the remains of a decorated jug with three handles. It is possible that these discoveries as well as the remains of thick glazed floor tiles all date from the early part of the 15th century or fairly close.

The continued presence of good quality wares along with those encountered in Pits 2 and 3, continues to suggest that they may have originally come from something like a Manor House or Hall and that the owner was either trading or had connections with the Low Countries, which would explain the presence of the imported wares and lava stone which continues to appear at Pakefield.

At the time of writing, P5 is still firmly embedded in the cliff face, and unfortunately we are unable to remove the fill from the feature as to determine both its limits and possible further contact. Since its discovery in January of last year, a further five feet has fallen out of the middle of the feature and there are indications that more will follow. We do know it extends inland by at least eight feet and at that stage we should be able to see the shallow consolidated surface discovered in September when the trial trench was dug.

ANALYSIS OF THE BONE REMAINS FROM THE INFILL AT P5

By R. J. Mutch

- A BOVID Domestic cattle
23 bones or molars including rib fragments identified by size alone
- B OVIS Domestic sheep
34 bones including numerous metacarpals and metatarsals which show signs of advanced bone disease
- C SUIDAE Domestic pig
6 bones including molars and rib fragments identified by size alone
- D SMALL MAMMAL
5 bones, probably wild rabbit
- E BIRD
7 bird bones. I am unable to identify them to a species but their size indicates a type of game bird

Metal and Mineral from P5

IRON

Eight iron nails were recovered, the largest measuring 3¾" long and square shanked with a flat head of approximately 1" diameter. Two other types were clenched on at 2½", the other at 1½". Again these were square shanked and in the region of ¼" square and tapering in their length. The remaining nails were heavily corroded but straight in their lengths, which varied from 2½"-3¼" respectively.

Probably the most interesting iron find from P5 was the remains of a dagger tang with 7 copper alloy rivets through the metal. It measures 2¼" long 7/8" across and the rivets have been drilled irregularly through the iron, roughly down the centre of the tang at centres varying from 1/8"-½". The diameter of the rivets is in the region of 1/16" and they protrude each side of the tang by approximately ¼". Traces of the wooden handle can be seen on the metal which has been X-Rayed by Norwich Castle Museum, who in turn have dated the remains to the late 14th century.

LEAD

One piece of white patinated lead spillage and one small patinated piece of rolled pipe lead were recovered in the upper fill.

BRONZE

Part of a double looped harness fitting from the upper fill, probably post-Medieval.

Four-inch piece of soot blackened bronze rim, probably from a cooking pot and Medieval in date.

WHETSTONES

Two whetstones or hones were found in P5, one being in mica schist and measuring 4½" long by 1" x 5/8", the second being formed from sandstone. The first example compares in type to one found in P3, where in both cases the sides have hollowed profiles indicating much use, while the sandstone type measures 2¾" long and is conical in profile. It is also worth mentioning the recent discovery of

another whetstone found by Adrian Charlton some 450 yards south of P5, in the lower slopes of the cliff and again in mineral is micarous schist. This one is just over 4" long, with a width of $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and a thickness varying up to $\frac{5}{8}$ ". One face has been sharply bladed down by wear, giving the hone an almost wedge-like appearance and the sides are hollowed, again as a result of abrasion. On both faces there are deep grooves up to $\frac{3}{16}$ " in width, running to a taper at each end. The overall picture of the tool shows it had been extensively used, possibly in conjunction with bronze working.

LAVA MILLSTONE

Three piece of lava stone were found, two probably from small hand mills, the third from something on a larger scale.

SIZE 1 $3\frac{1}{4}$ " x $5\frac{3}{4}$ ", with a thickness averaging 1". Underside rough hewn, the grinding surface being grooved at $1\frac{1}{2}$ " centres.

SIZE 2 $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5\frac{3}{4}$ ", with a thickness tapering from $1\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1". Underside rough hewn with worn grooved grinding surface at $1\frac{1}{2}$ " centres.

SIZE 3 $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4", with a thickness averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Underside rough hewn with grinding surfaces grooved with ridges $\frac{1}{4}$ " across and at $1\frac{1}{4}$ " centres.

Building Material

ROOF TILE

Part of a flat orange tile with half circular impression in the clay and part of a half round section ridge tile in overfired clay can both be attributed to a Romano-British date.

PIN TILE

Four fragments of pin tile $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and rough cast underneath compare with previous types found both in P2 and P3 and at beach level. Drag marks are visible on three, and on two, holes have been pushed through the clay approximately 1" down from the top, the apertures being $\frac{5}{8}$ " square. The remaining fragments were not perforated.

FLOOR TILE

For the first time, floor tiles have been found at the location, although the majority have been recovered in small broken or fractured pieces. A total of 35 fragments of floor tile were recovered in the infill and on all, the upper surfaces were glazed. On three the glaze was a soft yellow, while on another seventeen, the glaze had turned milky. Traces of a dark rich green glaze were present on the edges of four tiles, while on two others, there were lines of a rich golden brown glaze. The remaining fragments had been split from the upper surfaces and there were no signs of glaze to any of the flat surfaces. Only one new complete tile has so far been found and this measures 7" x 7", with a thickness varying from $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to $1\frac{3}{8}$ ", two of the sides being tapered and two clearly square. The upper surface of the tile is glazed in a mixture of dark green to brown and the surface is marked by various cracks, including a wide one that starts at one end and terminates halfway across the tile. Thickness of the tiles vary, one measuring $1\frac{1}{8}$ " and the thickest being $1\frac{5}{8}$ ". On this particular fragment there are several spots of rich brown glaze on the edges where there is also the greater part of a 2" circle scratched into the clay, the axis point showing as a $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter recess in the tile.

BRICK REMAINS

1 BRICK complete

Dark yellow buff, 4" wide $8\frac{1}{8}$ " long $1\frac{3}{4}$ "- 2" thick. Slumped upper face with drag marks and odd straw marks. Mortar on upper face and underside rough cast.

2 BRICK part

Colour yellow buff, 4" wide $3\frac{3}{4}$ " long 2" thick. Slumped upper surface. Rough cast underside.

3 BRICK part

Colour yellow buff, $4\frac{1}{4}$ " wide $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long $1\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. Slumped upper surface. Frost damaged underside.

- 4 BRICK part
Yellow buff, 3¾" wide 3½" long 1¾-2" thick. Slumped upper surface with drag marks. Slumped underside.
- 5 BRICK part
Yellow buff, 4" wide 6" long 2" thick and cambered. Irregular top surface. Heavily pitted underside.
- 6 BRICK part
Yellow buff, 4" wide 5" long 1¾" thick. Slumped upper surface. Irregular underside.
- 7 BRICK part
Yellow buff, 4" wide 5" long 1¾" thick. Slumped upper surface with grass or straw marks. Rough cast underside. Mortar on one end and plaster on side of brick.
- 8 BRICK part
Yellow buff, 3¾" wide 2¾" long 1¾" thick. Slumped upper surface. Rough cast underside.
- 9 BRICK part
Colour cinnamon, 4¼" wide 3½" long 2" thick. Slumped upper surface. Rough cast underside.
- 10 BRICK part
Yellow buff with cinnamon on upper surface end and underside, 4" wide 3¾" long 1¾" thick. Slumped upper surface. Rough cast underside.
- 11 BRICK part
Soft red, 3¾" wide 4¼" long 2" thick. Slumped upper surface. Rough cast underneath.
Of the twenty-three half bricks examined from the infill, all with the exception of three were of the same colour and texture, with a reasonably consistent thickness and width. Only one complete brick was recovered and this measured 8¹/₈" in length, which is considerably less than the Medieval bricks in the north and east walls of Pakefield Church, which vary from 9¼" to 9½" respectively. During the Medieval period, there was considerable variation in the size of bricks, and several built in the Norwich city walls (dated 1340) measure 9" x 4½" x 2½" and at Becket's Chapel in Norwich, the size is 10¼" x 4¼" x 2" - the date being firmly tied down to 1307-10. In Suffolk, at Lloyds Avenue, Ipswich, some bricks dated at early 1400, measure 8½" x 4¼" x 3¾", which compares favourably with the size encountered in P6 earlier last year.

POTTERY

Two rims from very large unworn vessels with everted, slightly dished rims and globular bodies in fine grey non-mica fabric.

Wide Pancheon type rim with spots of green glaze on light brown fabric.

Rim from flagon in grey buff fabric with traces of dark green glaze.

Rim from jug in reddish-brown hard fabric.

Rim from shallow fish dish in grey-buff fabric, with splashes of dark green glaze internally.

Squared rim profile with slight hollowing to top. Strong finger imprints beneath the rim and compares with types found in P3 and P4.

Rim from flagon in light brown hard fabric with splashes of dark green glaze.

Rim from shallow dish in hard dark grey fabric.

Rim from flagon in hard orange fabric, with spots of green glaze.

Rim from small cup in light buff fabric (*import?*).

HANDLE STUBS

Part of 1" diameter corded handle in light grey ware.

Section of strap handle in orange fabric with dark grey core and light green glaze.

Part of grey rim with part of handle stub.

Part lower strap handle in hard grey fabric with splash of dark green glaze.

Lower part of strap handle in hard grey fabric with stabbed decoration.

Abraded handle lug in hard grey fabric.

Lower part of strap handle in brown-buff hard fabric with splash of dark green glaze.

Upper part of strap handle in dark brown fabric coming off jug neck.

SPOUTS

Bunghole spout in hard brown fabric with aperture of $\frac{5}{8}$ ".

DECORATION

Body sherd from large diameter vessel with series of small indents beneath a grooved shoulder.
Fabric very similar to bunghole.

BASE REMAINS

Hard light grey fabric with water scale on inner surfaces.

Hard grey-buff fabric with pitted green glaze internally.

Hard grey-buff fabric with spots of green glaze on underside.

Hard grey rounded base.

Thick coarse hard orange-buff coloured base with two strong thumb marks.

Hard brown-buff fabric with cheesy internal glaze and applied strip to base with regular thumb indents.

Thick hard dark grey base.

Reddish brown fabric with two thumb marks.

Thin grey-buff base with soot staining.

Thickened base - dark grey externally with buff internal surfaces.

Base from a finger-decorated green glazed goblet. This is identical to a complete vessel found in a well shaft at Covehithe, Suffolk in 1981. Two similar forms were picked up off a field at Benacre, Suffolk, in 1979. The Pakefield base is made from a buff fabric with pie-crust nipping to the base and rilling has been applied 1½" up from the base.

Part base in hard grey fabric with indent of a stacking rim and coating of green glaze on the underside.

One thickened base in hard dark grey fabric is of 2nd - 3rd century Romano-British date.

STONEWARES (IMPORTED)

Part base of a brown glazed frilly jug.

Body sherd from jug in light brown stoneware with nicked decoration.

Body sherds from jugs in light grey stoneware.

Body sherds with light grey inner surfaces and light brown external surfaces.

GLAZED SHERDS

Dark green internal glaze on hard buff fabric.

Thick body sherd with sandwich section in orange fabric, with spots of light brown glaze internally.

Sherd of reddish fabric with spots of rich brown glaze internally.

Hard brown-buff fabric with mottled dark green glaze.

Grey fabric with light green glaze externally.

Sandy-buff fabric with mottled green external glaze and splashes of iron oxide.

Hard grey fabric with dull dark green pitted glaze and decorated with irregular bands of iron oxide.

BODY SHERDS

Large red colour coated sherd, decorated with two lines of rouletting. Oxfordshire.

Fired clay sherd / object in a tile-like fabric with cream surfaces.

One plain squared 'rim', and other base angle and external surface with a wide scar for missing part of object. Both of Romano-British date.

Of the 129 body sherds recovered, 94 are of light to dark grey hard fabric, with over half containing mica. The remaining 35 sherds vary in colour from a pale brown to a hard orange fabric and comparatively few sherds containing mica. It is probable that the majority of the sherds are Medieval in date, with some being of 15th century origin.

THE GLAZED THREE-HANDLED JUG

Since Medieval pottery first began to appear at Pakefield, there have been some quite varied remains from glazed jugs or flagons, and the most recent from P6 is no exception. It takes the form of half the upper half of a Medieval glazed jug with a single grooved strap handle with double thumb marks at the top and a single one at the bottom. To one side there are two much smaller decorative handles coming off the neck and extending down to the high shoulder. The fabric of the vessel is a very hard bright grey material and on the ridged inner surfaces there are several splashes of light brown glaze. The diameter of the neck is approximately 3¼" and it would seem that the vessel was of a globular form, with a height between 8" to 10".

There would probably have been a pouring spout opposite the strap handle and it is likely that the two small handles would have been repeated on the other side of the neck. Like the main handle, the smaller ones are grooved in profile and where they had been attached to the neck, they almost appear as small hands, with the clay being spread out and decorated with a series of cuts. Where they join the body of the pot, they taper off and are adhered by simply being smeared on to the wall of the jug. At this point the vessel has been decorated with irregular indents in groups of four and directly below these is more impressed decoration in the form of small wavy lines which appear to have been applied free-hand. Although some of the glaze is missing, the vessel appears to have originally been totally glazed in a rich light green glaze with occasional excursions with a mixture of orange to golden-brown. It is thought that it is another of the imported wares and possibly originates from the Low Countries.

Beach Finds

BONE

A small piece of flat sectioned bone found during October '96, close to the Cromerian beds suggests it may have originated from further north and arrived at its final spot as a result of sea action. The bone, which measures 3¾" long and just over ½" across, is a shade over ¼" thick and has one end rounded while the opposite end has been tapered to a blunted point. While the colour of the bone is a sandy-buff the surfaces still retain much of the colour patination. The additional wear mark on the point of the tool offers the suggestion its purpose may have been to decorate pottery, although to which period it belongs is not known.

ANTLER

Again during October, a piece of red deer antler was picked up amongst shingle approximately 130 yards north of the rifle range. It measured nearly 4" long and retained its point at one end. The opposite end was cut off square, with some lines showing clearly in the oval section. The general condition was good, with comparatively little abrasion to the surfaces and a shiny patina was present all over the surfaces. As far as the origin of this find is concerned, this is uncertain - it is possible there are connections with other discoveries of antler further south which have been found in context with closely datable Romano-British pottery also found during 1996.

BRONZE

A small rim from a copper alloy cooking pot was found with a cast bronze alloy foot, probably from a cauldron, while the rim is of probable Medieval date and was possibly broken down with the purpose of recycling. The solid cast foot compares with other receptacle legs of this type, which were cast from the early 14th century up to the 17th century.

POTTERY

Pottery encountered at beach level after the early winter storms is made up mostly of coarseware body sherds of Romano-British date, with odd sherds of base and occasional rim forms. The majority of the material is of a very gritty texture with less than eight sherds of very fine grey ware and it was only those that contained mica.

Medieval pottery found at beach level over the last year was comparatively slight, with less than a dozen pot sherds and the greater part of a coarseware handle. The handle, which is probably from a jug, differs from previous types by the way it comes at right-angles off the neck of the vessel, which in turn angles sharply inwards. Application of the handle is also crude, with no attempt to smooth the underside to the neck of the jug which appears very thin and of poor quality. Decoration is suggested by the two shallow grooves down the centre of the handle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

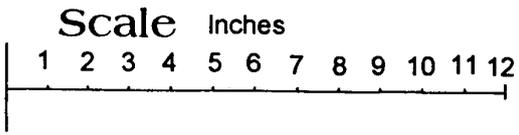
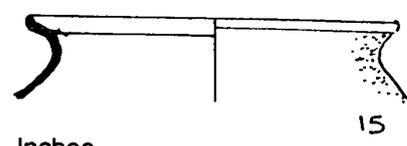
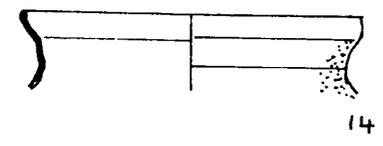
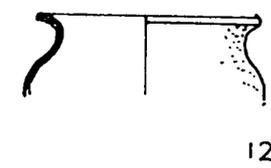
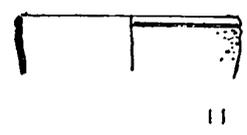
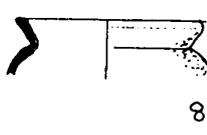
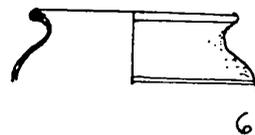
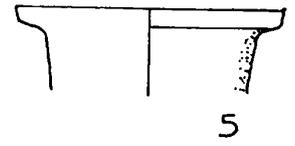
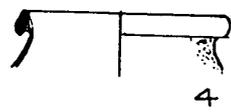
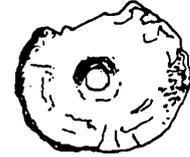
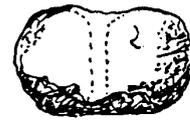
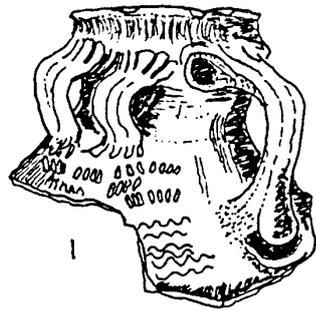
In compiling this year's report, I would once again extend my thanks to all those who contributed to the project and apologise to anyone I have failed to mention.

To Mr K Hendry for allowing the continued investigation of the location, to Mr J Davis and Mr W Milligan of the Castle Museum, Norwich, for their continued assistance with the finds, to Robert Carr of the Suffolk Archaeological Unit for his advice and encouragement, to Mr and Mrs J Berrey, Mr and Mrs D Cuming, Mrs M Goffin, Mrs E Leach, Mr I Rougier, Mr E Middleton, Mr J Reed, Mr A Weller and once again to Mr A Charlton, who has once again come up with even more material and who has been invaluable at the location. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr R Mutch for his report on the bone remains from the Romano-British feature and the Medieval pit and also his detailed report on the Cromer Forest bed formations, for which I am most grateful.

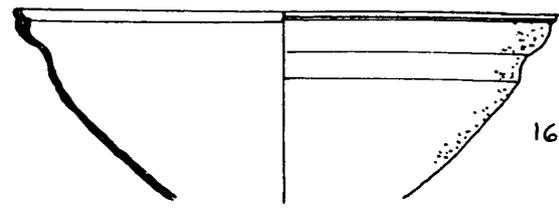
Paul Durbidge - February 1997

ANNOTATION TO ILLUSTRATIONS ON PAGE 21 - ROMANO BRITISH AND MEDIAEVAL POTTERY FROM PAKEFIELD, SUFFOLK

1. Decorated three-handled jug P5
2. Middle Saxon bun loom weight
3. Everted and grooved jar in gritty dark grey fabric R4
4. Soot-encrusted jar with hooked rim in grey-buff coarseware R4
5. Neck of amphora in buff fabric containing small grits, recovered in topsoil just below present ground surface.
6. Jar in very fine greyware. R4
7. Necked jar in black burnished ware R4
8. Poppy-head beaker in grey coarseware R4
9. Jar with everted rim in micarous dark grey fabric R4
10. Samian cup DR27 R4
11. Single-grooved soot-stained bowl R4
12. Jar in micarous brown-buff R4
13. Bowl in micarous grey buff R4
- 14 & 15 Very large unworn forms everted, slightly dished rims and globular bodies in fine non micarous fabric. From their shape, they could equally be of 2nd century date or early Mediaeval. P5
16. One of two late-Mediaeval pancheon types from P5 hard light brown fabric with soot staining externally. Lower part of inside surface glazed in light brown, with spots of dark green glaze.



ROMANO BRITISH AND
MEDIEVAL POTTERY
PAKEFIELD SUFFOLK



REVIEW OF THE FIELD-WALKING ON THE SOMERLEYTON ESTATE

Paul Durbidge

The 1996/97 season of field-walking on the Somerleyton Estate has involved three fields at Herringfleet, five at Ashby and one at Somerleyton, and like the previous two years, the results have been both varied and most constructive.

Bearing in mind the short period allowed for field-walking, prior to the land being seeded, searching began in early January, but it was well into the latter part of the month before ground conditions were anywhere near good enough for visual searching. Prior to this year's survey, field 32, opposite Pond Farm at Herringfleet was searched during mid September of last year, after the removal of potatoes and results were extremely good. It yielded some 53 pot sherds of Medieval date and a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, as well as lava stone, 16th century brick and further pot sherds with a date range of between 1600 and the present day. There were also a number of metal finds including a coin of Elizabeth I, a fragment of a Nuremberg Jetton and a number of the bronze objects of Medieval date. Lead was also recovered, some as spillage while other pieces appeared to be scrap lead. There was also pistol and musket balls and a lead cloth seal disc of probable Dutch or German origin.

This year, searches at Ashby have been both extensive and productive, with two fields indicating clear grouping of Neolithic flint industry - including scrapers, borers, flakes and pot boilers. Discoveries of pottery has been less than last year and I feel sure that this is down to the late weathering of the field surfaces, which made searching very difficult during the early part of January.

During late February, a silver "short cross" penny of Henry III was visually picked up, along with odd pieces of bronze and part of a small solid cast human figure, along with more lead musket shot and lead pewter buttons.

Shrapnel fragments and the remains of 303 bullets were found, with clay pipe stems and 19th century stoneware and fragments of glazed earthenware and flat pin tiles were well scattered around, with pieces of pan tiles and brick remains.

There is no set pattern as to what may or may not be found on a filed surface and as an example, a field of seven acres produced just three flint scrapers and fragments of two post-Medieval bricks, whilst on another involving just three acres, there was both pottery, bronze, lava stones and a light scatter of worked flint on quite a respectable scale. Near Blocka Hall, large amounts of earthenware, stoneware, glass and building material indicates the presence of an infilled dump with later ploughing of the field resulting in the material being distributed across a wide area. An identical situation was encountered during the first year of the survey. Never-the-less, we are greatly indebted to the walkers for continuing with this third season of the project and for picking up so much material from the field surfaces. I would apologise for the lack of my own involvement this season which is due purely to the setting up of a new display case at Broad House and the continuing demands of the cliff discoveries at Pakefield. Hopefully next year will be different !

Last year saw some items sent for additional information to the Castle Museum, Norwich and the results of this and some of this year's discoveries are listed below.

CONSTANTINE I FOLLIS CONSTANTINOPOLIS 330-5AD

Short cross penny Henry III (1216-1247) HENRICUS REX. Westminster Mint

1 illegible silver penny 14th /15th century

Silver penny Elizabeth I (1561-77) CIVITAS LONDON (City of London)

Nuremberg jetton HANS KRANWICHEL II (1586-1635)

Fragment Nuremberg jetton

Official weight (bronze) Crowned G and dagger (symbol of City of London. Symbol of founder's company 615 grammes.

MEDIEVAL

Belt chape with broken buckle

D buckle

Ornamental double buckle

Rim for small bronze bowl

Double buckle

Incomplete rectangular bronze plate with gilded decoration; perhaps a buckle plate.

Buckle or belt plate with rivet hole in each corner, gilding in centre; subject area with scalloped short sides.

Disc shaped lead weight with central perforation and crude scratched decoration.

OTHER FINDS

Heavy disc from cloth seal. Stamped on both sides, so probably German or Dutch. Remains of loop at top 1600-1700.

Lead musket and pistol balls.

Various scrapers, borers, flakes and slug knife - Neolithic.

Body sherd of Romano-British pottery

Body sherd of middle Saxon pottery

Sherds of pottery c.1300-1900.

Lead pewter buttons.

Musket flint.

Thimbles.

Five objects sent for additional information from the current season's survey.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks for the help given by Norwich Castle Museum and also the thanks of the Society to Lord Somerleyton for allowing the continuation of what is proving to be a very worthwhile project.

Thanks are also due to Mr Chris Lockhart for his continued help in the field and to this year's field-walkers who have contributed so much time and effort during the 1996/97 season, and these are -

Adrian Charlton	David Cuming	Tricia Cuming	Paul Durbidge	Lilian Fisher
Mary Goffin	Myra Kestner	Edith Leach	Ted Middleton	Philip Offord
Chris Raggett	Jon Reed	Ivor Rougier	Clive Rougier	David Rougier
Jonathan Stewart	Alan Weller			

I would also like to thank David Cuming (Field Group Co-ordinator) for his continued enthusiasm and Tricia Cuming for all the hard work in compiling the results of the searches.

Paul Durbidge March 1997

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

David Cuming,

FIELD-WALKING 1997.

Sat 25th Jan.	Field No 33. search completed. O.S. TM 483 976
Sun 26th Jan.	Field No 48. search completed. O.S. TM 483 984
Sat 1st Feb.	Field No 41. search completed. O.S. TM 476 982
Sun 2nd Feb.	Field No 64. search completed. O.S. TM 488 988
Sun 9th Feb.	Field No 51 search incomplete. O.S. TM 485 944
Sun 16th Feb.	Field No 51 search completed. O.S. TM 485 944
Sat 22nd Feb.	Field No 29 search incomplete. O.S. TM 477 975
Sun 23rd Feb.	Field No 94 search incomplete. O.S. TM 476 989
Sun 2nd March.	continuation of Field No 94 incomplete O.S. TM 476 989
Sat 8th March.	Field No 52 search completed. O.S. TM 483 993
Sun 9th March.	Field No 50 search incomplete. O.S. TM 483 990
Sun 16th March.	Field No 50 search incomplete. O.S. TM 483 990
Sun 23rd March	Field at Holly Farm, Camps Heath. O.S. 511 946

FIELD-WALKING SURVEY OF LORD SOMERLEYTON'S LAND.

Field-walking started late this year due to lack of information on the field winter ploughing programme. We have now covered the above fields over the winter months. Early on, during January, the fields showed evidence of recent ploughing, and the surface was not in the condition ideal to our purpose i.e. well weathered, due to lack of rain, January this year being a record month for lack of rainfall. However by the middle of February we pressed on and the conditions gradually got better during the following weekends until the land was seeded in late March, and we suspended searching for the season.

There are about one hundred fields on Lord Somerleyton's estate, and over the last three seasons of field-walking we have searched twenty-five of them. So we have a long way to go if we are going to be thorough in our survey. The map below shows the location of the fields we have searched at Somerleyton, Herringfleet, and Ashby. We have now covered all the fields except for five within the rough triangle formed by Blocka Road, Herringfleet Road, and Old Market Road.

Members may wonder why we appear to wander about in a seemingly random fashion. This is because each winter we are governed as to which fields we search by the ploughing programme provided by Lord Somerleyton's Farm Manager, Chris Lockhart, thus avoiding fields under winter crop, though eventually we do get onto them as crop rotation frees them for searching.

Several members now bring metal detectors to field-walking which gives us the added dimension of recovering metal objects just below the surface of the fields thus enhancing the finds. Many such objects may now be seen on display in the field-walking case in the Everitt Room of the museum.

So once again I thank all the members for their diligence in field searching, and look forward to continuing the search next year.

The total categories of material found up to, and including Sunday 23rd March 1997, are as follows:-

Flintwork	127 pieces found.
Pottery	3 " "
Mediaeval	29 " "
16th & 17th. C.	25 " "
Post-mediaeval	102 " "
Metal	26 " "
Fossil	18 " "

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 twelve years.

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

The field walkers this year were:-

A. Charlton,	D. Cuming,	T. Cuming,
P. Durbidge,	L. Fisher,	M. Goffin,
M. Kestner,	E. Leach,	E. Middleton,
J. Reed,	I. Rougier,	C. Rougier,
J. Stewart,	A. Weller	

and from the Blundeston History Society -

P. Offord,	C. Raggett.
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Metal detecting was carried out by -

P. Durbidge,	A. Charlton,	I. Rougier.
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Field-walking has now come to an end due to crop seeding for Spring 1997 season, and I look forward to you to joining me next year, when we shall hopefully return to Lord Somerleyton's lands and with his continuing countenance, resume where we have left off.

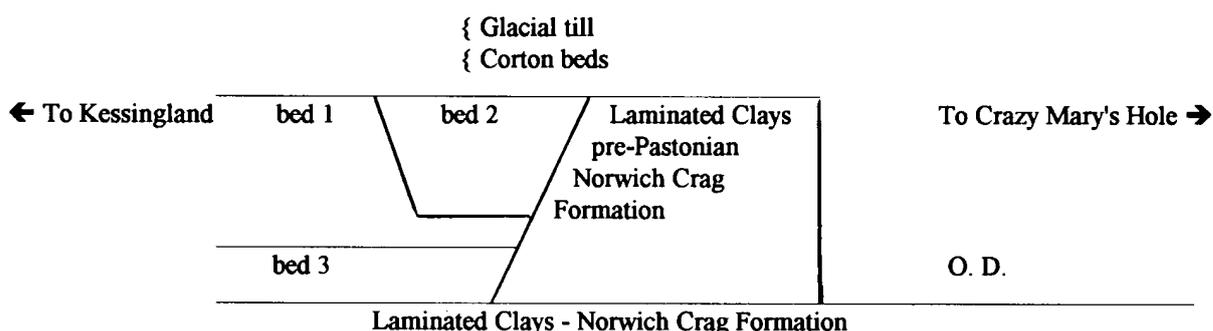
David Cuming,
L.A.&.L.H.S. Field Group Co-ordinator.
April 1996

THE CROMER FOREST BED FORMATION DEPOSITS OF PAKEFIELD

R. J. Mutch

In the late 1800's cliff erosion at Pakefield very active and numerous mammalian teeth and bones were found by both local collectors and J. Blake of the British Geological Survey, who were conducting a survey of the coast around Lowestoft at this time. (Blake 1877)

Until the very recent winter gales of February 1996 had eroded the beds, the Cromer forest-bed formation had been for the most part obscured by talus. The storm 'scoured' the beach from the foreshore to the base of the cliff and once again the deposits as seen by Blake were visible. A simplified diagram showing the stratigraphy of the beds as seen by myself is shown below.



Bed 1 - The stiff blue green and brown clays which make up the rootlet bed are an old land surface. The rootlets from which its name is derived show that plant growth had occurred upon its surface.

Bed 2 - At its northern-most end, a channel is cut through the rootlet bed which is filled with a sequence of freshwater deposits of sand and gravel, capped by laminated mud and silt of marine origin.

Bed 3 - Ferruginous gravel was seen in patches upon the foreshore, underlying the rootlet bed and its associated channel.

As mentioned previously, this is a very simplified diagram of what is very complex stratigraphy. The deposits to the north of the rootlet bed and dated to the early Pleistocene, whilst those of the 'Cromer forest-bed formation' are early middle Pleistocene in age, a hiatus, clearly being present. Should any readers wish to explore the litho-stratigraphy and sedimentary history further, I would recommend them to obtain a copy of Professor R. G. West's excellent interpretation entitled "*The Pre-glacial Pleistocene of the Norfolk and Suffolk Coasts*".

Many mammalian bones and teeth were either washed out of the ferruginous gravel or collected in situ when its covering of beach sand was washed away. A list of identifiable finds is shown below, the various specimens mentioned are held in either my own collection or that of J. Stewart. Additional collecting was carried out by A. Charlton, to whom I am indebted, and assistance in identification when required was given by Dr. Adrian Lister of University College, London and Dr. Tony Stuart of Norwich Castle Museum.

- PROBOSCIDEA - MAMMUTHUS TROGONOTHERII - Extinct Mammoth
Molars, tusk, partial scapula and fragmentary limb bones
- PERISSODACTYLA - EQUUS ALTIDENS - Extinct small horse
Molar, proximal and distal portions of limb bones & a tarsal bone
- DICERORHINUS ETRUSCUS - Extinct rhinoceros
Upper molars, radius, portions of distal limb bones, rib section and phalange
- ARTIODACTYLA - HIPPOPOTOMUS MAJOR
Incisor tooth
- MEGACEROS VERTICORNIS - Extinct small deer
Numerous portions of antlers - some with frontals attached and one partial skull
- MEGACEROS SAVINI - Extinct giant deer
Three portions of antlers with frontals attached

Numerous partial limb bones, vertebrae, tarsals, ribs, molars, jaw sections with molars, partial palates with molars and antler portions were recovered, but due to the similarity between the bones and molars of MEGACEROS VERTICORNIS and MEGACEROS SAVINI, it is not possible to identify them to specific species.

- BOVIDAE - BISON SCHOETENSACKI - Extinct bison
Upper and lower molars, portions of proximal and distal limb bone

All the mammalian fossils collected are well represented in the earlier collections made at the turn of the century. Unfortunately none of the earlier carnivore teeth and bones were found in February, at least not to my knowledge, and no mollusc shells were seen. At the time of Blake's survey of the coast, shells were found in the ferruginous gravel. A list of these is given in his memoir - my examination of this shows that these are all freshwater species, found in river sediments. The gravel deposit in question is therefore an ancient river bed which would explain its highly fossiliferous nature. Flooding would wash carcasses and bones into the river, in addition, bank erosion would deposit further bones and carcasses into the river from animals dying beside the river and upon its floodplain.

Until more recently, it was always believed that the early middle Pleistocene deposits at Pakefield were nothing more exciting than the most easterly outcrop of the famous and well-researched deposits of West Runton. These were believed to represent a single temperate interglacial stage, pre-dating the Anglian glacial. Geologists had suspected that this was an over-simplification, in comparison with deposits of similar age and fossil composition on the continent. For example, in Holland, four interglacial stages are recognised in their Cromerian complex, spanning a great length of time.

Current studies are concentrating upon the stratigraphic distribution of vertebrates throughout the "Cromer forest-bed Formation". The working hypothesis being that more than one temperate stage within the "Cromer forest-bed Formation" is present and that the deposits at Pakefield represent one of the hitherto unrecognised temperate stages. It would ante-date the West Runton freshwater bed but

pre-date the Anglian glacial. Recent discussion with both Dr. Adrian Lister and Dr. Tony Stuart indicate that their preliminary studies support this view. This would make Pakefield a unique site of great significance.

Accurate dating of these deposits of fluvatile, alluvial and marine origin are problematic, since they undoubtedly cover a considerable period of time. We know from electron-spin resonance dating of the molars from a complete skeleton of an extinct elephant (MAMMUTHUS TROGONOTHERII) excavated from West Runton freshwater bed, that the freshwater bed can be dated to approximately 500,000 years before present. If indeed the Pakefield deposits do ante-date those of West Runton, then they will obviously be somewhat younger, how much so we do not know. Hopefully, the current investigations will shed light upon this important question and a fairly accurate date will be arrived at.

It is to be hoped that we do not have to wait another hundred years for a similar sequence of events to enable further collections to be made from Pakefield. Hopefully, ongoing erosion of the cliffs will cut back the rootlet bed, exposing the fossiliferous gravel beneath and I will have further finds to report, together with the results of the current investigations.

R. J. Mutch - February 1997

THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 1996 TO 1997

by Jon Reed.

It is getting to be a tradition to start with the weather. In 1996 we had some of the oddest conditions for many years. In August we had temperatures of 30 degrees Celsius (86° Fahrenheit for the old-fashioned!) immediately followed by torrential rain - 18 mm (¾ inch) in 20 minutes one day - which caused flash floods in the town. Then we had Force 9 gales. So first it was hotter than the Mediterranean, then wetter than a monsoon and finally windier than the Arctic. We also had a fairly bad winter. It started in November and the snow that fell just after Christmas laid around for several weeks. Our camellia usually blooms in January or February. This year it got so discouraged it didn't bloom until late March. The expected cliff erosion at Pakefield in the winter brought out some surprising artefacts, which Paul Durbidge has written about in his report. The field walking eventually got under way in late February when the snow melted, and we worked two days every weekend to try and catch up.

Industry next. There has been a lot of action in the last twelve months.

Birds Eye. In March 1996 they had a fryer explode, which caused a major fire with over £1 million damage. About that time they had to stop making beefburgers because of the BSE scare. Then they had an office fire in October which caused more damage. This didn't stop them introducing new shift systems, based on a 7 day week. In November they announced 100 job losses over the next year.

Adnams were awarded the title "World Champion Pale Ale" at a Chicago symposium.

Sanyo announced another 100 new jobs in April 1996.

Ananas and Dansk got the Business of the Year Award.

Small and Co. got a contract from SLP for carrying bitumen.

Altro Whitelock doubled their operation on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. Norwegian Viking Group bought Britannia Marine in May from Suffolk Marine. It was set up in 1987 to buy out the safety standby operation of Boston Deep Sea Fisheries.

The marine sector has been in a state of turmoil. The EU wanted to cut fishing quotas by 40% early last year. In March John Major said he would get tough over the quotas. In June the Lowestoft fishing industry demanded that Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, made good his promise to keep foreign trawlers out of the port. There have been endless politicians who have stood on the wharf and announced their full support, but not a lot seems to have happened. We are still under threat of a 40% cut. The plaice quota ran out in November and the following month the sole quota was halved. However, the EU awarded £100,000 to three fish processing companies in July. The MAFF laboratory at Pakefield, which had been under threat of privatisation, was relieved.

Oil and Gas. Shell received an award from a new body called Investors in People for their work in Lowestoft and Bacton last April. In May they announced they were taking their supply vessels to Yarmouth. In September they were forecasting double production by 2000 and promising to buy more services locally. Recovery Systems have set up in Commercial Road to process waste oil. Pilot Drilling (drilling accessories specialists) set up on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate and later benefited from a Suffolk C. C. subsidy using European 5b money. SLP won two big contracts, from Conoco for a rig, and for the supply of Portsmouth harbour gates. They also set up a joint operation with Atlas Power and Gas of Great Yarmouth to provide services to the energy industry.

The Brooke Marine Business Park has good news and bad news. Firstly, the shipbuilding news of the year is that George Pryor have secured a contract to build the Silver Sturgeon, a 1000 tonne upmarket floating restaurant for use on the Thames. This has been hailed as the renaissance of the Lowestoft shipbuilding industry by some hopeful people. Then there's Kvaerner Oil. In May last year they said they would have to lay off 95 people due to the weakness of the harbour wall. It was said that the owners, Knight Holdings, could have to spend around £2M to put it right. They obviously didn't, because Kvaerner sued them a month later for failing to fulfil their obligations on maintenance. Then in August Kvaerner announced job losses because they were closing their fabrication plant.

Also in shipping, September sadly saw A.D.Truman filing for bankruptcy. However, the site is being used for a major new boat museum, holding many ethnic craft, varying in size from a coracle to a Chinese junk.

In the food industry, the main story is the scandalous behaviour of Barber Richmore owners, Hillsdown. After the partial closure reported last year, they closed down the last section, the ready meals facility, in November, with the loss of 350 jobs. In July they had enlisted the aid of the police to foil a blackmail attempt, when £50,000 was demanded not to introduce bacteria into Barber Richmore's Kid's Stuff children's meals. In September Wessex Foods got a grant of £1M from the EU to bring 50 new jobs to Lowestoft.

Other industrial stories are - Polycastle (double glazing etc.) opened their new HQ on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate. Zephyr Cams, going through a lean period, wanted to fund further working by selling off part of their site for shops. They were refused planning permission. Harrod UK (sports equipment) got an Investors in People award.

A Plant Rentarc opened up on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, spending £3M on their new place. In January Boulton and Paul were acquired by Rugby Holdings for £15.5M down, probably ending up as £27.5M. There were fears for 350 jobs at Lowestoft, but the latest news is that the Norwich factory is closing instead. Godfreys DIY shop in London Road South closed in July.

This has been the Year of Projects. There's Lowestoft 2000, launched early in 1996. Then there's Futura 2000, which intends, as I understand it, to put Lowestoft into the forefront of the World Wide Web and the Internet. They are proposing to build a centre on the Clapham Road car park, with underground parking. An opportunity for a bit of archaeological digging? The Kirkley Regeneration Scheme seems to be getting speed up on the runway, but the Lowestoft Coastal Scheme is six months late in being published, we're told. Enterprise 2000 claims to have launched 71 new businesses in 18 months (unemployment, however, is still high). By all accounts there is a lot of money floating about and it seems a pity that our museum can't get hold of any of it.

Some local landmarks are being altered or are threatened with disappearance. The north side of Hamilton Dock has been filled in for development. Last July the roof was taken off the engineering sheds of the old North of Europe Steam Navigation Company in the port. The old Ideal Cinema building in Norwich Road has been demolished for the Suffolk Heritage Housing Association. They have also succeeded in demolishing the Lord Nelson pub in Victoria Road, the Meeting Hall at the corner of Tanning and Flensburgh streets, and the metal working shop at Roman Hill School. Perhaps they should reconsider the "Heritage" part of their title. There is rumoured to be a threat to demolish Lowestoft Station in the name of progress. This is in spite of repeated assurances to the contrary. There is also a threat to build on an ancient mardle at Carlton Colville. The owner of the Heathlands Caravan Park at Kessingland has summarily uprooted an ancient hedge, which resulted in many complaints. Persimmon Homes have cheerfully pulled out great lumps of the hedge in Clarkes Lane. Both of these, I gather, with Planning Department approval.

On the positive side, plans were announced for conservation of Victorian and Georgian houses in the town, of Kensington Gardens, of the Esplanade with the remaining Peto houses and of the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club.

The roads have seen the usual crop of hold-ups and accidents. Last autumn there was a spate of serious accidents on the notorious Barnby Bends on the A146. Nearly every week sees some sort of incident there. Beccles Road has had no less than nine temporary traffic lights in the last few months. Last year the Electricity people dug up Beccles Road as soon as the Water Company had finished. This time it's been the cable television people and the gas board, to name but two. The proposed rebuilding of the A146 has been put on the back burner again, as has the Wrentham bypass and the by-now mythical third crossing. There is, however, a move afoot to try and persuade private money to take a hand in this latter enterprise. £3 million has been allocated to a northern spine road and new pelican crossings and roundabouts are springing up all over.

The plans for the Lowestoft Station area have been unveiled. This involves moving the A12 along Commercial Road and across the existing railway into Katwijk Way. The station site will become something trendy like cafes and boutiques. Then there's the plan to cut the High Street off even more thoroughly. The Triangle will become a pedestrian area. Naturally the local traders are hopping mad but nobody, according to them, takes any notice. Just to add to the general traffic confusion, the bridge got stuck and had to be repaired. The pollution along London Road South reached new highs and we were all asked to report smoking vehicles. I personally deplore this use of the populace as informers. It leaves one to suppose that the authorities cannot do their own jobs.

On the health scene, things have got to near chaos. I cannot fathom who is going to look after our hospitals. There are accusations and counter-accusations. The existing system is being pulled apart and, as always, it seems to be the older folk who suffer. Can anybody tell me how many beds are being lost at Lowestoft, Beccles and Ditchingham hospitals? I certainly don't know from one week to the next. New laws being drafted would seem to aim at keeping the virtually incapable at home. In the midst of all this the news broke of mistakes in over 8000 cervical smear tests. It seems to have been a matter of luck that there have been very few people who have suffered as a result. Health Chiefs have promised an extra £500,000 for medical posts but we don't know where.

On the housing scene, the sales of existing houses seem to have taken an upward turn. New houses are going up all over the place. Persimmon Homes patted themselves on the back at Christmas for beating their target of people into new homes before the end of the year. Waveney District are reported to be facing a bill of £2 million to repair St. Peter's Court. Oldman and Routledge have bought the old Repeater Station on Battery Green Road for redevelopment, having already developed Godfrey's old warehouse. They have plans to convert the old Suffolk Water Company offices in the High Street into 18 flats. The Carlton Hall site extends from Beccles Road to Long Road, Carlton Colville, taking 102 acres of farmland. Approval has been given for 650 houses to hold an estimated 2000 people. The plans must include homes for the elderly (possibly those who can no longer stay in hospital), improvements to Long Road, play areas and so on. Suffolk are planning a new school. The developers have offered to build a bypass from Chapel Road to Long Road. The objectors, not unnaturally, are demanding jobs not houses.

On the amenities side, a major blow was that Katwijk ended the twinning with Lowestoft. The local wisdom said we are just too boring. The RNMSDF closed its canteen but kept the hostel open. The rest of the news was good. Beach Radio got a licence and started broadcasting last September. Lowestoft, Kessingland and Southwold all won awards for tidy beaches, and Southwold got the coveted blue flag. A little train called the Waveney Belle started to run up and down the Esplanade last summer. The Arts Council have given £70,000 for a feasibility study for the Flotilla of Sails at Ness Point. Finally, we are to have closed circuit TV cameras in London Road North and South.

Charities have done fairly well, although there have been one or two problems such as the Lydia Eva Trust failing in their Lottery bid. Winners in Lottery handouts were Relate, North Suffolk Victim Support, DIAL, Special Needs Help and a few others. Suffolk Wild Life Trust are extending their Centre on Carlton Marshes. Lound has got a new Village Hall. The Rapid Response Rescue Team of the RNLi got £2,500 from Sizewell for a new engine to replace the one stolen. The Sailing Smack Association are rebuilding the last Zulu herring lugger. The Civic Society have raised half the money

needed to convert the old school in Wildes Score into a Visitor Centre and are trying for Lottery funds. Another Lottery application is being made for a Community Centre at the Gorleston Road School.

The new Foxborrow Middle School was officially opened in July by Paul Evans, the Marathon runner. The extension to the Warren Special School was opened by the Chairman of Suffolk County Council. Plans have been announced for a new Conference Centre at Lowestoft College. A new sports centre was opened at Kirkley High School.

The disused United Reform Church in South Lowestoft has been bought by the Roman Catholic Church, to be re-opened as St. Nicholas, South Cliff. St. Margaret's, Reydon has 5 new bells and rang the first peal for over 300 years.

Personalities in the news include Lord Somerleyton, who had to be airlifted from a Scottish glen after a heart attack. Thank goodness, he seems to be fully recovered. Then Paul Evans got a Pride in Lowestoft medallion for winning the Atlanta Marathon. Peter Larter, Barclays Bank manager and well-loved lecturer, retired from work, although he said he will continue to give talks. In 1994 David Mullender, of the Raglan Street Smokehouse, died suddenly. His partner, Mr. Beaumont, has now also passed away after an illness. His widow Gwen is carrying on with the assistance of her son.