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Contents

LOWESTOFT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY 22 YEARS ON

by W.J. Goode

We did not mark our coming of age in 1987. As one of the few remaining founder members, I thought it might not be amiss to put on record, some at least of the events of the Society during these years. Six people, were, I believe, at the first meeting to discuss the formation of the Society early in 1966. It was started in April, and that year there were 62 members.

1966 was an eventful year, with a number of important projects. We made an early start at archaeology. With an experienced supervisor from Yarmouth, we excavated the ruins of Flixton Church, near Lowestoft. It got members working together, and we learned quite a lot from our first efforts. The result of the dig was published in our first Annual Report. Bob Kedney, a school teacher, was our first Chairman, a very good choice, as his expertise was no doubt responsible for getting us off to a good start.

In 1967, Peter Harris became Chairman, and his contribution was for the number and variety of Society outings that were organised during his leadership. He always brought bags of sweats that he passed round during the coach journey. Two kinds at first, but strangely, the jelly babies became the popular sweet, perhaps a relish for childhood favourites, but they soon became the only confectionery offered.

One of the first outings, was to Framlingham Castle, then in March 1967 we visited Colchester Castle and Ipswich Museums. Moated sites in May and June on Saturdays, and then in October we visited Baconsthorpe Castle and Binham Priory. We had been fortunate with the weather so far, but the day before Baconsthorpe, it rained heavily. Although on the day we went it was fine, the ladies found it hard going down the long muddy lane to the castle ruins.

After a number of visits with members of the society to Moated Sites, to measure and assess the various possibilities, in October 1969, Paul Durbidge supervised a dig at College Farm, Raveningham. This dig carried on into the following year. Valuable plans were made of the site, and many finds were made. During all this time, Paul had been acquiring a great deal of knowledge of flints and pottery from local experts, and was soon to become an authority in his own right. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated expert as a member, and, of course, that is only one aspect of his many talents.

Bob Kedney's favourite subject was castles and besides giving us a lecture on the subject, he took members over to Bungay Castle and pointed out the many interesting features that we would have missed had we been on our own. Castle Rising and Castle Acre, were two more of the places we visited on our outings, that filled the coach. Although we were mostly very fortunate with the weather, on one occasion, when we visited Ixworth Abbey, a small abbey that was being restored by its owners, (much as Hales Hall has been), it started to rain as we left for home. Soon, many parts of the roads were flooded, and we learned later, that if we had been 50 minutes later, we would not have got through to Lowestoft.

Of course, the highlights of our excursions were the three major London exhibitions. The first was to Tutankhamen. That wonderful sight of the golden Mask of the Pharaoh, and the many and varied treasure from the tomb. A collection of treasures that will never again be seen in England. The press had told us how each individual item had to be kept in its case at a closely regulated humidity and

temperature. We were very fortunate in having already had a wonderful slide lecture on the finding of Tutankhamen's tomb by Mr. Adamson, the security officer to Lord Carnarvon. His large collection of slides and his graphic account of the find and preservation of the artefacts, not only enthralled us, but gave us a good background before our visit.

Next, the Chinese Exhibition in 1973 at Burlington House in London. This was the first time that China had exhibited items of her culture, spanning 600,000 years, to the Western world. Although a very wide range of artifacts were on view, porcelain dominated the exhibition. The highlights were the Jade funeral suit of Princess Tou Wan, (late 2nd century B.C.) found in 1968. It was made of 2,160 tablets of jade and sown with gold wire. The other item that captivated the visitors was the bronze flying horse of the late 2nd. century A.D.

Later, another stupendous exhibition of the Vikings at the British Museum, with a reconstruction of a Viking ship standing in the quadrangle. At each of these exhibitions there were extremely long queues, but we were a lot more fortunate than many other people who tried to see them. Each one of these exhibitions were just too rare and exciting to be missed.

With the Society's visit to the latest dig at Sutton Hoo last year, I must not miss that early lecture we had on the subject early in our history. After the lecture, we visited the British Museum and had one of their guides show us round the finds. The wonderful skill of the Saxon goldsmiths who fitted countless thin slices of garnets into the brooches and bracelets without the use of adhesives, was beyond words.

But the excursions were not the main strength of the Society. Over the years, we have heard lecture's by many famous personalities. Mr. Middleton, a collector of Lowestoft China, brought many of his valuable pieces when he spoke to us. Mr Stanley West, has been twice to talk to us, and once we went to see the site at West Stow where much of his work had been done.

We have had many important people to lecture to us, and although I must mention a few, I am bound to leave out several that should be mentioned. There was Charles Green, and later Barbara Green, from Norwich Castle Museum, David Dymond, Canon Thurlow, Alan Carter, Mrs. Wade Martins, Mr. G.W. Winkley, Chris Barringer, Prof. Philip Bagwell, Lawrence Jones, W.O. Hassell, John Salmon B.A. F.S.A. and Prof. K. Clayton, to name only a few.

We cannot possibly record the past history of our Society without a detailed account of the start of the Museum. Peter Harris had constantly lobbied the Council for a Museum. The town had one above the old Central Library, but that was bombed in the last war and not replaced. Eventually, we were offered part of the old Lavender Laundry (now part of the Britten Centre). The place looked a wreck! No light, heat or water. Two or three large holes in the walls where the old machinery had been taken out, and bare brick walls and an uneven floor. Also a leaking roof. Such was the sight and state of the building we were offered. One member organised the lighting, another, Hamish Alger, saw to the water and building work. While a great many members did a certain amount, undoubtedly, the star of the whole project was Paul Durbidge. He was the designer and builder of the show cases, mostly from second-hand timber and oddments, ending up with a really super layout. Most of the displays were of his inspiration and although it only takes a few sentences to detail the work, the amount involved was enormous. We were also fortunate, in that about the time we were due to open, a lady was trying to dispose of her father's cobblers tools. This became the central point of the Museum, which covered a wide variety of exhibits.

It was opened on 27th May, 1972, by the Mayor and Lord Somerleyton. During the next two years, many more items were brought in and donated to the Museum. At Easter, 1975, the second room was opened. Another strenuous effort by a few stalwarts. The extra room did, however, add prestige to the Museum and showed clearly what field work had been done quietly by society members. The position and frontage, however, was always a drawback, and it failed to attract the numbers one would have expected. The first inkling of a move came as a bolt from the blue, in the press, saying we were being subsidised to the tune of £3,000 per year, much to our indignation. Once over the shock, the search was on for a new home. At last we were offered Broad House in Everitt's Park, once it had been restored. Here the Council did us proud, and after the restoration, we had a building to be proud of, with every modern gadget one could wish for, from burglar alarms to fire precautions. This Museum was laid out entirely with the latest in modern showcases, and we had the help of the Ipswich museums to display our exhibits. The new venue proved to be just what was wanted, and attendances have been very good ever since.

There have been changes also in the Social pattern of our Christmas gatherings. Although the Society

began with a Christmas Dinner, this soon was found too expensive, as was the case with so many clubs. For a number of years, we had a very good Buffet laid on at St. Margaret's Hall, but in the past few years, a social evening at the Lord Kitchener Home has provided the Society members with a very enjoyable evening. Inflation over the years has caused this kind of curtailment to many local clubs, but it has not interrupted the atmosphere of the social gathering and the informal meeting of members over a drink and mince pies.

In this short summary of our activities from our beginnings in 1966, I must have left out many things we have done, and many names who ought to have been mentioned. Of course, Trixi Preston is one, and Mr. & Mrs. Turner, who run our Society so well just now, I have omitted, as I have concentrated on the past, but my apologies to the many who should have had a mention.

THE OLD RECTORY, CARLTON COLVILLE – A BRIEF HISTORY

by Hamish Alger

When I was asked to write a short history on our home, or 'The Old (W)Rec' as it is affectionately known in our family, I was conscious only of how much I didn't know and how hopelessly inadequate were my attempts to find out more – but this you will find out for yourself.

About a year after we had moved in, perhaps because of several friends asking questions, or may be because I have an interest in the subject, we decided to call in some 'friends of friends' who had more than a passing interest in the subject of dating houses, as they were then moving a late mediaeval barn from Weybread to near Ellough and converting it into a house. I believe that I did describe in an earlier Newsletter article how, mainly by studying the original timber joints, they dated the original structure of the house as being built between 1580 and 1600. There are many such Suffolk farmhouse types still in existence dating from this time, and many of them are still fairly original. Even a cursory study of some of these would soon tell anybody that our house is much altered, with a less steep roof and later windows. Apparently, study of the timber joints in a house is a very reliable method of determining its ago – assuming that the timbers studied are obviously basic to the house and not a later import; another possible clue is size. Generally the later the house the more accommodation it will have and rooms tended to become larger as time went on. Again, one must be careful here, because money played a good part in the size of houses too: obviously the richer you were the grander the house would be, etc.

When the house was built then, there would have been a kitchen, next to it a living room and finally, we think, a parlour, all in line, west to east, with a chimney between kitchen and living room. Of this original structure, all that remains are the ceiling joists, which also supported the upstairs floor boards and the massive chimney walls, terminating in a very pleasant brick tapering stack in the attic, built with small Tudor bricks and very well preserved for its four hundred years, protected as it has been from the elements. These original floor/ceiling joists are made from oak and laid 'flatways', even today I defy anybody to drive a nail fully in! The upper floor boards are now, alas, gone, they, of course, served the upper rooms which were presumably reached by a ladder. The walls were then timber framed, with wattle and daub externally and rough plastered within. Some of the nails that fixed the strips of timber that held the wattles in position can still be seen in the original oak wall plate which is now exposed in the bedrooms as a feature and is about 5 feet up from the bedroom floor.

At first I couldn't understand how people, even if shorter than they are today, could use the upper rooms but I assume there were no upper ceilings and the rooms were open to the roof. No other parts of the house would appear to date back to this period.

Nothing appears to have been done for about one hundred and fifty years, which puts us into the Georgian period. Several major alterations, additions and re-buildings were made at this time and in many respects, particularly from the front, the house is unaltered from this time. The old roof was removed (would it have been tiles or thatch?), as was the wattle and daub cladding and nearly all of the timber framing. The house was extended eastwards to provide a large hall and a sitting room on the east side of the hall. The walls were built up from the ground in 9" Suffolk reds right up to the original wall-plate which was left in position. The brickwork was continued upwards for a further 2' 6" approximately to give greater height in the bedrooms and a new softwood wall-plate laid on top of the walls, and a complete new roof constructed that we still have today, sags and all ! The Georgian method of jointing timbers can be clearly seen here, as it can in hundreds of similar houses all over the

country and helps to confirm the dating. The original wall-plate was now cut so that the new style sliding sash windows could be inserted at their proper heights; because of the feature of the exposed plate, this can clearly be seen in several places in the house. One of these windows, being defective was replaced last year. It was decided to re-use the original weights taken from the old window. They were found to be made of lead, very roughly cast, with one bearing a scratched date if 1777. What somebody will make of it, when the new window has to be replaced, I cannot imagine.

Incidentally, the timber of those times being so finely worked, together with very thin glass, meant that the weights had to be increased to make a balance, so lead collars were wrapped around their tops, rather than to re-cast then.

Probably the house was now equipped with two staircases, a front for the owners and another at the rear for the staff. This last staircase would have extended to the attic floor where there were three bedrooms. It is of interest that an elderly lady living in the village can remember two staircases but there is only one now, and that is of later date. We have a photograph of the house taken around 1920 which shows what is evidently a large building attached to the rear of the house; unfortunately we can only see a hipped roof and can only surmise that this 'wing' was built in either the Georgian or Victorian era. Certainly it has gone now, together with several other outbuildings and chimneys and we are told that the house is only a shadow of its former size. Excavating in the rear yard recently to lay an underground electric cable, we came across extensive foundations laid below Victorian 'Doulton' yard bricks, so again it would appear that this wing was Georgian. Certainly the coach-house dates from the late eighteenth century and I have resisted the temptation to pull down the timber and wrought iron screens between the individual stables, however much additional space it would give us. The coach-house comprises a 'garage' for the coach, or more likely, carriage, and stabling for five horses, with a hay loft above and considerable space which I first thought might be accommodation for a groom/ostler, but there is no evidence of any fireplace so this is unlikely. The original brick floors are still in position, as are the mangers and bran basins.

Now we come to the final alterations which took place, according to the style of the windows, between 1840 and 1860. A north wing was added, comprising a drawing room 21 ft. by 18 ft. with a similar sized bedroom above and a softwood staircase which follows, cantilever fashion, around the hall and landing walls, giving an open hall with a ceiling height of 21 ft. A new front door with stonework framing and an arch was set into the Georgian brickwork and a bay window given to the front sitting room with a sloping lead roof. These last features were undoubtedly designed to give character to what must have been a fairly plain front. The attic bedrooms, which I am sure existed before this period, were given two dormer windows, rear facing, and a further window was let into the west gable. These attic dormers have lead flat roofs and it was while replacing some rotten timber last year that we noticed a shoe-print traced into the lead with something sharp. Inside the 'shoe' was the single word 'Mitchell' and the date 1837; the other lead flat again contains several shoe-prints, three of which bear the date 1904 and several initials, but no names. We found what we take to be the original cast iron fireplace for the drawing room leaning up in the coach-house, in a very rusty condition: this was cleaned up, a surround made, and all was replaced in the drawing room.

Incidentally, the crinkle crankle wall (in modern parlance a 'Serpentine' wall) on the west front boundary is Georgian and has a separate 'listing'. In fact, when a man came round from the Department of the Environment to up-date the 'listing', he was far more excited about the wall than ever he was about the house! Both house and walls are listed Grade 2(b) which to us as laymen means that we are not allowed to alter the property without obtaining permission from the Department of the Environment, that we are unlikely to obtain that permission unless it is built in a style in keeping with the style of the house (!), that we are expected to keep the property in at least reasonable repair and that we would not be able to obtain grants for repairs or alterations although in theory funds are available for that purpose.

The deeds of the property go back only to 1982 when it left the ownership of the Diocesan Authorities for private ownership. I understand that the authorities who owned the house from ? until 1982 did not bother with deeds until the time came to dispose of the property. Naturally this does not make the task of the amateur historian any easier!

This brings us up-to-date and I can only apologise for a very sketchy history. The trouble is that we are all so busy continually maintaining the property and embarking on major projects such as lowering the drive and edging it, replacing modern fireplaces with either period or at least functional examples, replacing some and repainting all of the 25 windows (all with small panes) to say nothing of a new roof to the coach-house – but reusing the original corrugated pantiles – a new patio and the creation of

new flower borders, etc. Last October saw five major (70 ft. high) trees down in the great storm; those have now been replaced, mainly with native hardwoods and this has been a truly Herculean task by all members of the family. Interestingly, one of the trees that came down in the storm was, I believe, one of those mentioned by Canon Bignold in his diary as being planted to celebrate the end of the Great War. I would commend these diaries to you, especially in the form of the Carlton Chronicles, so ably edited by the late Roy Goffin. The house is mentioned fairly frequently, and we have been able to trace Canon Bignold's study, sitting room and Parish Room from his descriptions in the diaries. Canon Bignold, Rector of Carlton Colville from 1898 until his death in 1944 lived in the house for all of this period and there are those in the Parish who still remember coming to see him in the Parish Room.

If anybody could help with any information concerning the house or its former inhabitants, please contact me, it would be particularly interesting to find out at what date the farm disappeared and the clergy moved in.

DOWSING AND ARCHAEOLOGY

by Dr. N.B. Eastwood

Dowsing, traditionally used in the discovery of mineral deposits and underground water, has lately been applied to other fields. It has proved to be particularly useful in archaeology, both in exploring known sites and discovering new ones.

In Christopher Bird's book, 'Divining', an account is given of Russian archaeological work which establishes the position of the foundations of notable ruined buildings, and associated underground passages, and also gives an account of the survey by dowsing of the Napoleonic battlefield at Borodino.

General Scott Elliot, a very skilled and experienced dowser, has written an account of his archaeological work in his book 'Dowsing, One Man's Way', in which he describes his methods and his use of map dowsing and distant dowsing for exploring remote sites, before he visits them in the field. In this way he has found sites of Bronze Age and Iron Age and also of Roman, Saxon and Mediaeval times, and later confirmed them by digging.

Both Scott Elliot's book and Christopher Bird's are available at Lowestoft library. Anyone wishing to take up dowsing could usefully refer to these two books for a description of dowsing instruments and their use. Both also describe methods of dowsing without instruments.

A very convenient method of gaining experience in dowsing is to explore the concealed Roman roads radiating out from the fort at Burgh Castle, which travel in straight lines and may be identified as they cross under the modern road system and so followed to their destinations. Their dowsing profile is unmistakable, since they have a strongly reacting drainage ditch on either side, between which lies the carriageway, usually about 10 to 12 paces wide. Roman roads can also be found in aerial photographs as closely placed parallel cropmarks. Many of the Roman roads in this district end at cliff margins where they can be seen from the beach. It would be quite possible, by exploring in this way, to construct a comprehensive Roman road map. Roman roads can also be looked for further afield and I have noted reactions typical of Roman roads at Cambridge, Hereford, Newent, Bristol, Winchester, Glyndebourne, Kew and Regents Park.

It is worth while cautiously extending one's repertoire to other obvious archaeological features; e.g. the missing west wall of Burgh Castle can be looked for.

In the course of his recent visits to the Lowestoft Literary and Scientific Association, Dr. David Trump demonstrated to me the position of the foundations of Roman granaries at the foot of the west side of Burgh Castle and used by the Romans for housing grain collected as tax from the British farmers. Another group of granaries lies along the south side of Denmark Road near Lowestoft station.

The sites of lost Saxon churches can often be found close to or within the sites of existing mediaeval churches. This aspect of archaeological dowsing has been explored by Prof. Richard Bailey of the University of Newcastle in respect of numerous churches in the north-east of England and similar discoveries can be made in this district. When I was at Tintern Abbey last year, I was able to follow the course of the Abbey drainage system, which is partly exposed on the surface, but largely hidden underground and I also noticed what I believe to be unrecognised burials.

With experience, one comes to recognise non-archaeological dowsing features which may otherwise be confusing, such as those generated by underground caves, watercourses and many man-made structures such as underground wiring and pipes and overhead HT cables.

Most people are capable of dowsing, if not by one method, then by another and it should be quite possible to set up a unit within an archaeological society to explore the possibilities offered by this rapid and effective means of archaeological survey.

THE LOWESTOFT SCENE 1987 to1988

by Jon Reed

Apart from the man-made changes in Lowestoft, the most sudden and devastating change occurred on the night of October 15th to 16th, when the great storm swept across the country. This event is detailed in the second part of this article. The details given are not completely comprehensive, being the reports of those members of the Society who contributed to the newsletters. However, the picture is much the same throughout the area and other information can be obtained from the records of the local and national press.

In Volume 19 of the Annual Report a feature was included on changes to the Lowestoft scene in the previous year. It is hoped to make this an annual feature. The value of it lies essentially in the future. One can envisage a local historian in a hundred year's time coming across these reports in the County Archives and being able to date events from them. We know, from our own experiences, how much value there is in a detailed and consecutive record of events in the past.

Picking up where the last report left off, the Britten Centre is now virtually complete and nearly every shop space is in use. One remaining change is to alter the layout of W.H. Smith so that access can be gained from the Centre's covered walkway, as well as from London Road North pedestrian precinct. The multi-storey car park at the Centre is in use as a 'Pay and Display' car park. It is just satisfactory for cars but pedestrian access is poor. People going back to their own cars have to dodge other cars going in and out, since no pedestrian walkways are provided. This includes having to walk down the ramps to the floors on the southern side, with cars coming blind around the corners. British Home Stores have made entrances to the Centre. The plaza in the middle is usually well populated and seems to be used both as a meeting place and somewhere to observe life passing by.

The Miniline buses have been altered, both in routes and frequency. When they started, they were every fifteen minutes or so, now they are every half hour. They continue to provide a service to the outlying estates.

On the roads, a new junction system has been installed at the southern end of Lowestoft bridge. A traffic light operates at the junction of London Road South and Belvedere Road. This is backed up by a new short road for southbound traffic. This filters right at the 'Harbour Hotel' and 'Notleys' and crosses the lights westbound into Belvedere Road. The priority at the next junction south has been altered. A new mini-roundabout has been put at the junction of Oulton Road with the southern end of Hollingsworth Road. The winter has been distinguished by major resurfacing and road works in and around the town. As I write, most of those are still going on. The eastern part of Victoria Road, from School Road to the Lord Nelson, and the whole length of Waveney Drive have had temporary traffic lights at some point for several weeks. They are being prepared for re-surfacing. Belvedere Road has been one way for some weeks, resulting in long delays for traffic from Oulton Broad into Lowestoft, which has been diverted via Horn Hill. Beccles Road has been severely disrupted. Roadworks have progressed from Burnt Hill Way to the Dutchman traffic lights. The A146 Beccles Road has been under repair beside Rookery Park Golf Club, at Blindman's Gate and on the approach to Barnby, again resulting in long delays. This is by no means a complete report on roadworks, others being noted around the area from time to time.

The Commercial scene has undergone some changes. The Kirkley Run Garage which was reported in Volume 19 as demolished has been rebuilt and is now operating as a petrol station. Parry's old garage at Oulton Broad North station has been rebuilt as a modern Shell petrol station. The Esso garage in Beccles Road closed down for the sale of petrol last November, but still services cars. Hodges Nursery in Colville Road was acquired last year by a property development company. They are currently clearing the site and putting a road in preparatory to building houses.

The major changes in the industrial scene are the demise of Brooke Marine and the forthcoming

closure of Morton's canning factory. Brooke Marine finally collapsed last year, leaving a small concern known as Brooke Yachts on the same site. Virtually all the employees of Brooke Marine were made redundant. Morton's in Belvedere Road is due to close soon, and it will probably be a fait accompli by the time this is published in May. Cosalt abandoned their premises in Lowestoft and are now operating from the old Pye site off Victoria Road. The engineering workshop of Small and Co., known as Watson's, in St. Peter's Street was demolished in 1987, leaving only the front wall.

The St. John's site development has been completed and Levington Court sheltered accommodation is now occupied.

Coming now to the effects of the weather, we have had a relatively mild (virtually no snow) winter but it has been exceptionally wet. All the rivers and many of the dykes in the area have gone over their banks in places and produced ponds and lakes where green fields used to be. The continuing wet weather has meant that several of those flooded areas have been in existence for some months. The height of the water, allied to a high tide, caused Oulton Broad to overflow on February 20th and to flood Nicholas Everitt Park. The basement of the Lowestoft Museum in Broad House was full of water within two or three feet of the ground floor. At roughly the same time, the high tides caused salt water to invade the rivers and broads further north, killing many hundreds of thousands of fish. The water in the New Cut has, at times, covered the foot bridge to the drainage pump house on the marshes west of Oulton Broad. Draining and ditching operations, allied to the wet conditions, have made the footpaths virtually impassable.

The storm of October 15/16th caused wholesale damage, mainly to trees and roofs. Many times it has been said that the loss of trees means that 'things will never be the same again'. This must mean within the lifetime of the speaker, because a storm of similar ferocity occurred in 1588, almost exactly four hundred years before, and incidentally scattered the Spanish Armada. The effects of that storm could not be seen in 1987. The details of damage in Lowestoft and its environs, as submitted by members, are:-

Normanston Park and Leathesham -	85 trees down
Kirkley Cemetery -	19 trees down
Carlton Colville -	17 trees recorded as down plus many willows
Oulton Broad South -	about 30 trees down
Central Lowestoft -	Twenty feet of Sparrows Nest wall down
	A cottage chimney fell through the Raglan Street smokehouse roof
Church damage -	Uggeshall Church lost its east wall
	Southwold Church lost copper sheathing from the spire
	Wangford Church had a tree fall through the south window
Pakefield -	Substantial damage including 20 trees down in The Pantiles' garden

Other reports are hopefully being prepared and will appear in the Monthly Newsletter. The Newsletters of February and March 1988 (Vol. 19, No's 6 & 7) contain detailed reports of the above mentioned damage.

COMMON BRICKS

by M.G Reeder

Bricks are so common here now that we hardly notice then. In a few parts of the world what we call a brick, made with fired brickearth, may still be rare. But as locally found materials and vernacular type buildings and methods no longer satisfy the local people, as they become overtaken and swamped by industrialisation, machine made bricks appear. It is rationalised that bricks are very versatile, durable, and have a very human scale. And building with these machine made bricks requires a large input of human energy and skill and can have a satisfying quality.

Some of us, at times, may believe that bricks are being superseded by concrete and prefabrication. In some places for a short while, and for special projects, this may happen, but the flexibility of form of building in brick maintains its popularity. Also, I suspect that we still require the human content of any building to be high for it to satisfy us. May be at some time in the future enough of us will come to accept more uniformity and less of the obvious, hand of man in our buildings, then the space age

city will be possible.

Bricks are not the only materials to have this currently essential human input, timber, stone, unfired earth, and small concrete blocks can have this feature. But brick has the advantage of being made from a widely available, low value, and usually easily extracted raw material. Some earth is ideal for making fired bricks, some earth cannot be used at all, most earth falls between these extremes and with care and blending can be used to make satisfactory bricks. Therefore, even if we were all to desire some other type of material for all new building, it may not be possible to have it, because the raw materials are far more limited in supply than brickearth.

Only building directly with unfired earth has less raw material restriction than fired brick. Of course there are some technical problems in constructing large and high buildings in earth, but normal houses are very easily made with it. We tend to take pride in our modern rational attitudes but I suspect earth is still considered to be primitive, and conjures up thoughts of 'mud huts'. We are still, as always, ruled by attitudes that go back into the distant past and provide our current values. This is not the place to deviate too far onto that path, for I suspect that we are for ever in danger of projecting back with our own values to find an embryo source for these values. That embryo undoubtedly existed but the past is such a vast space and our access to it is so fragmentary. It is not that we are searching for the needle in a haystack, we are, in fact, always searching for that needle in the very few remains of a very scattered haystack.

Britain has modern brick buildings in all areas, but to find many buildings built of early hand made bricks, we need to visit the eastern counties. Here can be found a full range of bricks, from Roman times through until the present. Some Roman brick, along with many English 17th and 18th century bricks, are too good, although being hand made they lack individuality. They try too hard to reach a perfection, a sameness one with another such as is achieved with machine made bricks. Today some extremely exaggerated surface textures are produced on some ranges of bricks in an attempt to give them individuality. This is easily soon to be a mechanical process, today a brick only becomes an individual through being accidentally damaged.

Early English bricks are all individuals, each full of life. This humble lump of man-made stone, is to me a fascinating object and a technical achievement, but more importantly it is, I believe, the object which pressed hardest on the bonds of our ancestors philosophy. It is unfortunate for those of us interested in early brick that many professionals are still unwilling to accept that bricks were made before the 17th century. Jane Wight states (1) that she was told when researching her book that her subject of mediaeval brick did not exist. A few years ago a professional architectural historian told me plainly that all brickwork was modern, he defined that as post 17th century. And during the recent national resurvey, curried out for designating listed buildings, an appointed inspector told me that virtually no brick buildings could qualify in the pre 1700 category. Even amongst those convinced of the existence of early brick, native made brick has not yet been generally accepted as existing before the 15th century. Pre-conquest brick is thought by a few to exist, I have no doubt that English made bricks will be found that date from at least 1000 A.D. That still leaves a 600 year gap between the end of the Roman occupation and therefore the end of their brick production, to the start of recognised indigenous production. We may gradually push back the proven starting date of English brick, for I believe that bricks were made throughout the whole of this period. They were not, in the earlier centuries, of survivable quality because the production was small scale, localised, intermittent, and probably clandestine, except for a few large projects, and although survivability improved, this state existed until at least the 16th century.

Roman brick making is still something of a mystery, most research has concentrated on the related craft of pottery. Some researchers maintain that pottery was produced by the Roman legionnaires, others believe civilian craftsmen were brought over from Europe as freemen, yet others believe slaves, either picked up on the way to Britain or recruited locally, were the work force. In a recent report (2) Mr. J.P. Wild takes the reasonable view that a mixed labour force was employed. Each method of procuring the work force and the expertise which different grades had, would have left different residues of skills within the native population after the final withdrawal. This does not explain why, as all researchers seem to believe, production of fired clay building materials ceased after the withdrawal.

It seems reasonable, after examining the quality of Roman brick and tile, that their manufacture was closely connected with the pottery industry. In Dr. A.K. Knowle's excavation of the Roman town near Brampton in Norfolk, large rectangular kilns are found together with the smaller round kilns normally used for pottery. A rectangular kiln, though more difficult to construct, is essential for the efficient

firing of roofing, flooring, or wall building tiles, which are up to 24 inch square. If one accepts L.S. Harley's (3) definition of a brick, 'if the sum of the two larger dimensions (L+B) divided by the smallest dimensional (T) be greater than 8, the object is a tile, if less than 8, the object is a brick', then all Roman wall building bricks are, in fact, tiles. It seems that at Brampton, where some 138 kilns have so far been discovered, building materials were being made alongside pottery. Roman fired clay building materials are of similar high quality to their pottery. This quality was surely only obtainable by very labour intensive methods on large sites with close quality control. And labour intensive transportation must have added considerably to the costs of these materials and made them very costly when compared with the other locally available materials. For instance, thatched roofs must have been more economic than laboriously manufactured and transported clay roof tiles. The Romans were clearly able, by using their organisational abilities, to 'afford' fireproof permanent materials, and to justify this cost to their own satisfaction. This seems such an extraordinarily sophisticated and self-confident philosophy, and one which has probably yet to reappear in Britain!

When the Romans finally left Britain, building material production could have continued if practical expertise were the only requirement. For it is inconceivable that the native population, whether they had been pressed or volunteers, had not absorbed sufficient practical skill to continue production. And we must remember that the Romans were no – fly by nighters – they were here for over 350 years. All logistic and technical matters must have been so well tried, tested, and proved that they must have been almost second nature. Yet the whole system seems to have collapsed fairly rapidly and high quality large scale brick production had to await the 17th century to reappear (4). One thousand two hundred years between a grogged clay Roman brick (tile) made in England and a similarly constituted English brick, why?

We can easily be inundated with answers to this question; civil war, invasions, general instability, lack of need, etc., etc. No doubt all of them relevant but not, I believe, fundamental. I believe it is impossible for us, or any other generation, to fully comprehend the way of thinking of any other time. We can all of us only think in a way dictated by current circumstances and by the view of these circumstances given to us by those around us. And surely we cannot accept that any peoples were less than complete and adequate for survival in their own time ? This, I believe, means that we have not developed, or improved, or are in any way better than any previous generations, we have only changed in order to be able to survive in our own time. Change must be continuous, but can be at differing rates, for without change there can be no time. Although we are all embedded in this moving group, we remain individual because our view of change, and its effects, also depend on our experience, our position socially in our society, and our position geographically in the world and all modified by individually inherited characteristics. Because individuals are so diverse, it is more convenient to refer only to the group identity and ignore individuality.

Francis B. Andrew (5) referring to mediaeval man recognises a consequence of this. 'They approached their work in so fundamentally different a manner. Therefore they can only be considered on their own grounds and in relationship to their own day, and clear knowledge of it and of them is hard to come by, and being found is harder still to work up into any sort of sequent story'. It follows that to go further back than the mediaeval era is far more difficult, and we can probably only ever find a few clues as to their philosophy.

The Romans were members of a completely alien culture, who by the force and all embracing nature of their bureaucracy were able to subdued for a time vast numbers of other cultures. Such is the strength of cultural identity that when the Romans left these shores the natives seem to have reverted to a form of their natural Celtic culture. Professor J. Markale (6) states that 'the Celtic mentality gave the Western world a taste for adventure and risk – for behind them there is a dynamic force which seeks always to change, to shatter the narrow confines of arbitrary and unmoving reason'. Subsequent invasions were by peoples of not so dissimilar cultures – cultures which although changing, were basically pagan and abhorred systemised organisation. 'England was (with the Baltic) the last European stronghold of northern paganism' (7), the Anglo-Saxons were geared to life without a central administration. (8) It is hardly surprising that having been contained for over 350 years this culture burst forth. Nor is it surprising that later classically minded historians should label this period, through to the triumph of classical and Christian ideals, as the dark ages. I believe this triumph is a sham for a sensitive search into recent history reveals that the thread of paganism and mysticism (9) together with the hatred of organisation is still very powerful. As George Ewart Evans (10) shows the 'pre-Christian cult is still current'. And virtually everything, our system of government both local and national, our law, professions, industry and institutions survive and are run on goodwill! Overlaid on

the ordinary persons easy going paganism has always been an official veneer, such as various religions, militarism, monarchy, parliament, industry, etc. The fortunes of each must have waxed and waned many times while the common stream flowed on largely unimpeded.

Long lasting brick is a product of a scientific, analytical organising mind, and as such was completely alien to the indigenous peoples. Also the production of objects in fired clay follows the mystical cycle, from out of the ground, through water, then into fire to creation. This mystic cycle is still revered openly in eastern countries and may have been in this country. The production of pottery was in small closed kilns, so much of the significance of the final part of this mystic cycle was masked. Bricks only become a worthwhile product if fired in large numbers, and can be fired without a kiln by building then into a clamp with fire tunnels through it. Few who have experienced a traditional coal or wood fired brick kiln firing today would fail to imagine the effect and significance it could have on pre-scientific minds. A clamp firing must be even more awe inspiring as the flames and smoke are not as confined as a kiln firing.

It must have been impossible for ordinary people from the 5th to 11th century to carry out this complete process efficiently because physically settled conditions are needed in order to plan and make brick, (11) but more importantly, such an act of awe inspiring creation must come from a higher authority. And with the Romans gone no recognisable higher authority existed. It must have been a period when many localised and conflicting ideas and regulations which had been planted for a long while were able to germinate, and some took root. The accumulated weight of these ideas and regulations must have increased rapidly, and with no wide ranging authority to enforce or reject them, all medium and long term planning must have ceased.

As the Christian religion became more established and the Saxons began to establish a wider spread, and more coherent organisation, more settled conditions may be seen by us to have been returning. Probably it was seen by the general population as more layers of unpredictable controls on top of those they already had. Science and technology were strictly controlled and experiment was discouraged. For instance, G.C. Coulton (12) states that 'medical science stood still – or even to some extent went backwards from A.D. 200 to nearly 1500,' and in science the 'medieval stress was upon impulse as opposed to patient reflection. By the 13th century they believed they had arrived at a state close to perfection and had pitiless repression of all that opposed this claim'. David Miles (13) blames it on the church, 'In the Middle Ages the dominance of the Church and biblical authority sustained an overwhelming spirit of unenquiry'. John Harvey (14) writes that even in more progressive France by the '13th century experimentalism ceased, quenched by a phase of self-satisfaction – now they knew all the answers'. And he believes (15) that in this country the philosophy of the 13th century was leading to 'a blind reverence for authority and an almost complete suspension of first hand investigations'. This attitude must have been affecting all science and technology for several centuries before this and any brick production must have short-cut the annual cycle of digging clay in the autumn, weathering over winter, making drying and firing during spring and summer. The firings would have to be small scale and probably curtailed and all operations would be carried out on the building site. Brickearth would be obtained from the foundation trench, cellar, or the excavation used later as a moat or pond (16).

The continuation of this deception has produced the folk myths that any old brides must have been brought in from abroad as ships ballast, or were made here by immigrants. Few, if any, of these pre-conquest bricks would be of suitable quality to survive unless encased in more durable materials. This is almost true of post conquest bricks until after the 16th century, then each century more survive. I wonder how many of today's bricks will still be in use in 1500 years time? Just because the Romans managed it, does not mean our nearer ancestors were failures.

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SOME ROMANO BRITISH ACTIVITY AT KIRBY CANE, NORFOLK

by Paul Durbidge

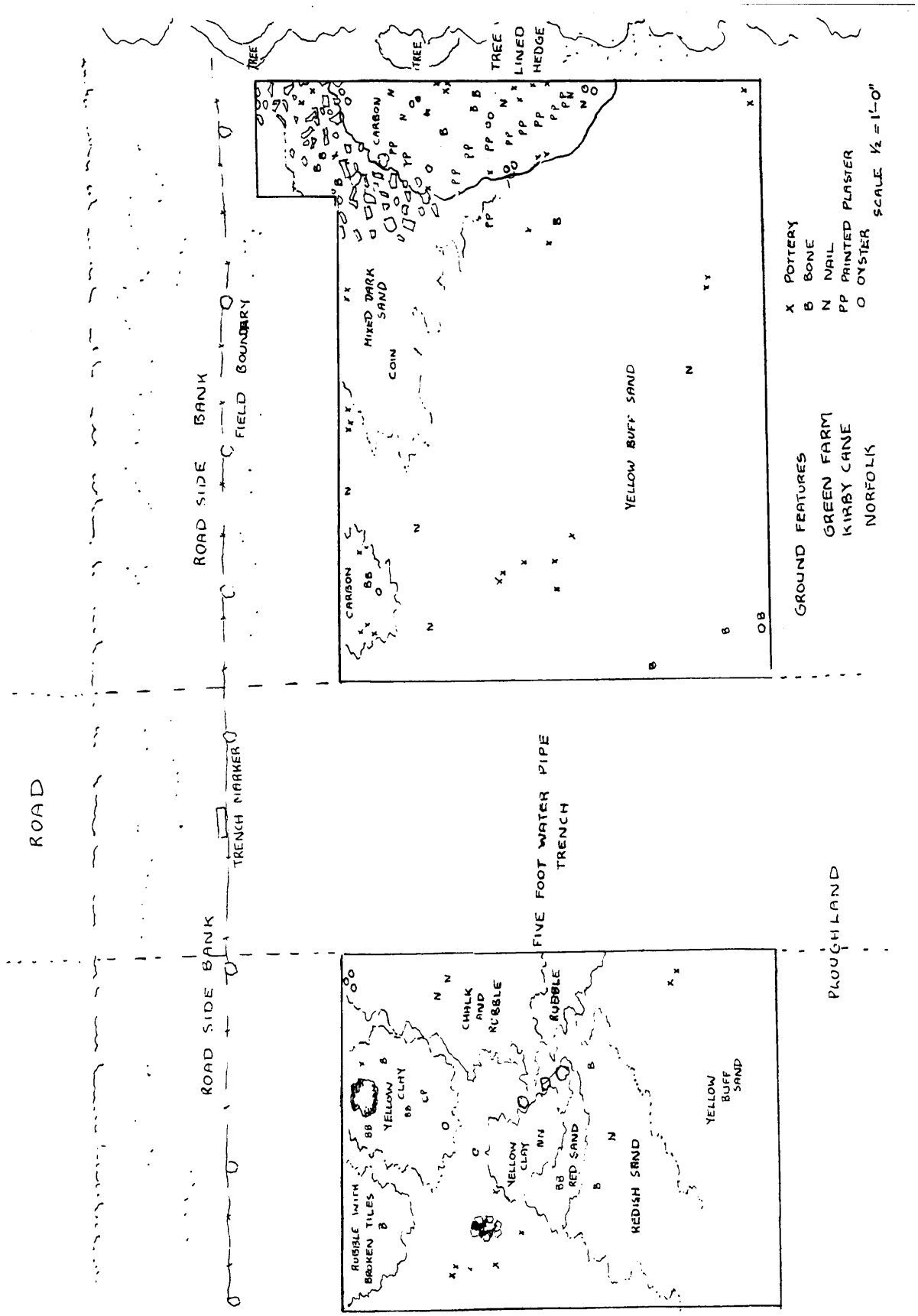
In early January, 1987, at the request of Tony Gregory from the Norfolk Archaeological Unit, society members began to fieldwalk the proposed line of the Kirby Cane Bypass. It was quite an unknown area as far as archaeological evidence was concerned, though in earlier years the remains of a Romano British Kiln were uncovered, and recently a number of early English silver pennies were discovered not far from the present village.

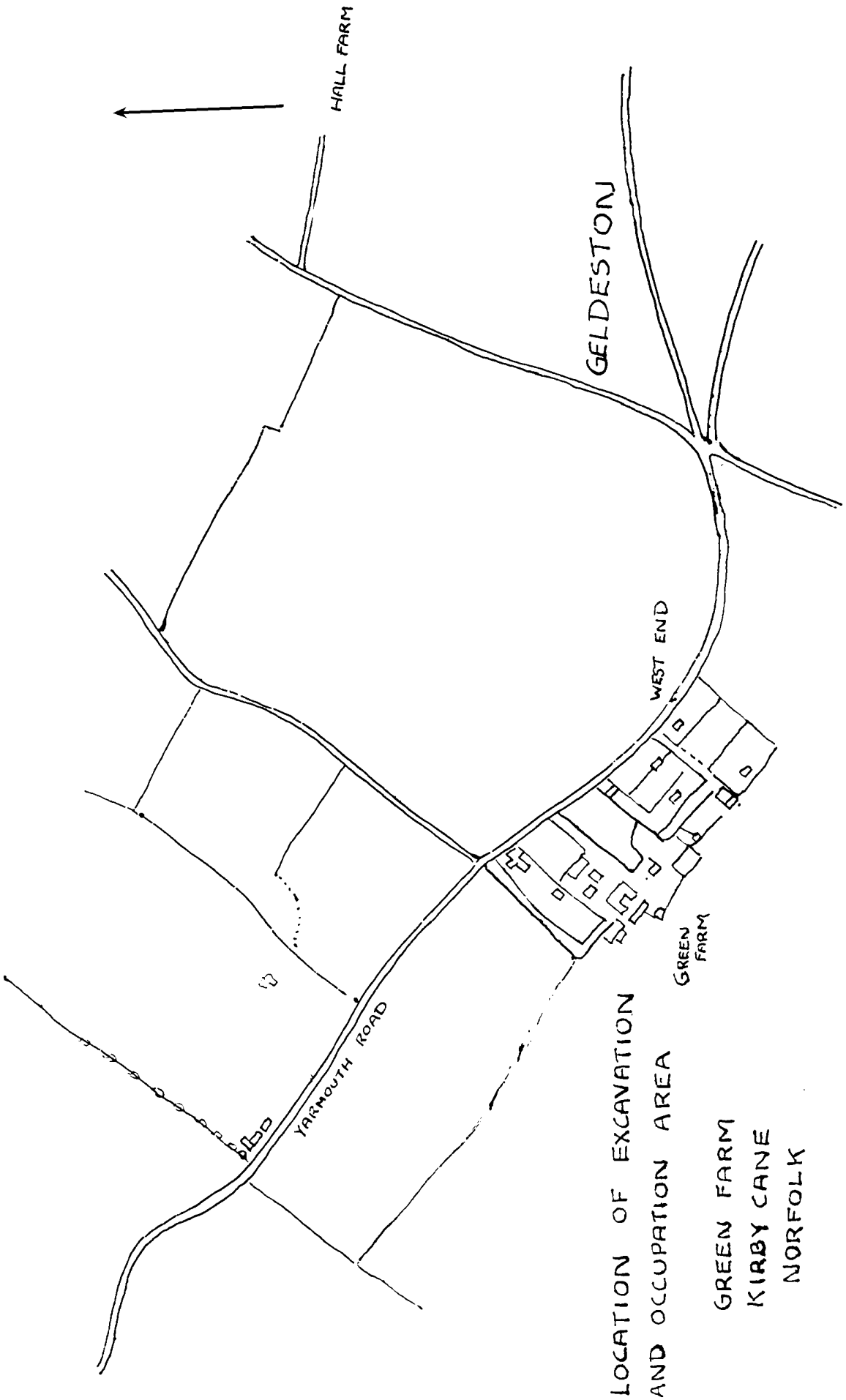
After a non-productive search on land roughly in the middle of the bypass route, it was decided to concentrate searching more on the western end, and it was from here that the initial material began to come to light. At this location the ground was reasonably high, with a mixture of soils varying from light to heavy, with the majority of the datable evidence being found high up.

This took the form of a dozen or so body sherds of dark grey to sandy material reinforced with both crushed pottery and oyster shell, as well as sherds containing mixed grits, all typical of Iron Age fabric. With these were small fragments of red tile with combing to one face, and also a scatter of light grey pot sherds including rims, all clearly of Romano British origin. In addition several more thinner grey ware fragments, of both early and late mediaeval, were observed with the odd semi-glazed sherd of light pitted green. Worked flint was widely scattered, being mostly of secondary flakes, some witlh retouching on one or more edges, and a handful of rough scrapers, some worked on natural flint oddments. Potboilers were observed over a wide area and it is possible that both these and the flint evidence may be connected with the Iron Ago pottery as well as the Neolithic.

Another field opposite on the eastern side was also probed and again with good results. Like the previous location, material was encountered high up on sloping land, and again it was more sherds of the Iron Age pottery as well as two pieces of Romano British roofing tile close by. Lower down was a scatter of mediaeval bits and pieces, along with two small rim profiles in light grey and of Roman date, found nearly at the bottom of the slope. At this juncture searching was limited by reason of fresh sown crops and subsequently the search continued further eastwards.

It was at this stage that a wide scatter of Roman material was found quite by chance while crossing a field on the way to the bypass line, and the presence of large pieces of roofing tile did suggest a productive area. Like the two previous search areas, this one was also on high ground. It faced south and overlooked a rich fertile valley with an adequate water supply and would appear ideal for a small settlement pattern. Prior to searching, permission was obtained from Mr. Cooke and Major J. Hunter, and a number of searches were made to assess both the size and what type of material was lying on the surface of the two separate fields.


ROAD
ROAD SIDE BANK
TRENCH MARKER
FIELD BOUNDARY
ROAD SIDE BANK
TREE
TREE
TREE LINED HEDGE
FIVE FOOT WATER PIPE TRENCH
PLOUGHLAND
MIXED DARK SAND
COIN
CARBON
YELLOW BUFF SAND
CHALK AND RUBBLE
RUBBLE
YELLOW CLAY
RED SAND
REDISH SAND
YELLOW BUFF SAND
RUBBLE WITH BROKEN TILES
GROUND FEATURES
GREEN FARM
KIRBY CANE
NORFOLK
X POTTERY
B BONE
N NAIL
PP PAINTED PLASTER
O OYSTER
SCALE ½ = 1'-0"


HALL FARM
GELDESTON
WEST END
GREEN FARM
YARMOUTH ROAD
LOCATION OF EXCAVATION AND OCCUPATION AREA
GREEN FARM
KIRBY CANE
NORFOLK

There were clearly two concentrations of occupation debris, one involving about 100 sq. feet, the other in the region of 1500 sq. feet. On the smaller, several pieces of roofing tile and pottery were observed along with broken tile with combing to one face, while the larger area yielded more variation with lava stone, millstone grits and a wide variation of pottery forms. Both find spots had concentrations of tiles, though the larger area included a number of broken pieces of ridge or caping tiles in both buff and red material.

Of the pottery collected from the field surface results were as follows:- some 153 body sherds were examined and 74 of these were of light grey colour with a fairly smooth outer texture, while a further 61 sherds were of a very smooth finish and again made from a light grey material. On 14 sherds burnishing was clearly visible, with decoration in the form of vertical lines terminating at a shallow groove on one vessel. The remaining sherds were of a reddish fabric with the occasional embedded small flints, a small piece of Castor ware and two pieces of light brown pot with an applied slip of creamy buff imitating a better quality ware.

Of the 57 rim forms, 7 were early, mid 1st/2nd century, while the bulk of tile remainder can be attributed to 2/4th century. Beaker forms, bead and flange rims from shallow bowls and dishes were again in light grey ware with the occasional exceptions, such as three thickened rims of dark grey/black shell gritted ware. Rim fragments from a small mortaria were in a sandy buff material with grits of calcite in the clay, while a reddish sherd of another small mortaria was thought to be of local produce, as it had been coated with slip and was of rather poor quality. The red gloss ware, Samian, was represented by five rim forms, a fragment from a flanged bowl and four probably from cup form 33, a number of wall sherds were encountered including a decorated piece showing an ovale border and part of a badly abraded pattern.

The remaining courseware base forms numbered 24, and apart from two in light buff the remainder were in light grey, with base diameters varying from 1¼ to 3½ inches.

Two pieces of grey lava millstone were found with the pottery, one was fist sized and heavily worn while the other was clearly used as a small millstone. Two pieces of mill-stone grit were observed, one badly abraded with rounded cambering on one face, the other a wedge shaped piece with the upper surface dressed by pecking and shaving a recessed working surface.

Early May saw the contractors beginning to lay a water main from the Norwich Road across the path of the bypass and through to Kirby Cane. This operation began with the marking out and removal of a fourteen foot strip of soil a foot deep, prior to excavating an eight foot trench for the pipes. The line of the trench led straight through the surface finds and the initial removal of the wide strip did in turn uncover more material, some obviously still in situ. This was mostly more roofing tiles and pottery and also a small area of compacted yellow clay, and it did seem probable that more information might be gained from the trench when it was dug.

Tony Gregory was informed at this stage and subsequently visited the site, and afterwards spoke to the contractors to see if they would leave the pipe trench open so we could see if there was any stratification showing in the two sections. The contractors apparently agreed to this, but on returning to the location two days later the trench had been backfilled, the reason being the ground was too unstable to leave open. This was very disappointing, but apart from being on station each day there was little more we could do, under the circumstances.

In those two days the trench had been dug up to and under the road, and out the other side and backfilled. Spoil from the upcast did, however, provide surprises, with several large pieces of Roman tile lying in the earth along with brick, animal bone and horn cores. Several large pieces of thick red brick and broken roofing tile had been put to one side by the contractors, as well as a complete capping or ridge tile and more animal bones.

After showing the material to Major Hunter he got in touch with the digger driver who cut the trench, and we learned the remains had come from roughly eight feet down from what appeared an undisturbed layer. Another interesting point was that mortar was present on the majority of the brick remains, and clear traces were on the capping tile as well. The ground at this point sloped sharply down to the road, and bearing in mind the water pipe was well below the Roman level, Major Hunter very kindly offered to take out a square at right angles to the pipe with a view to testing the location for a possible building of some sort. A small mechanical excavator was used to remove a six by six square which initially began to bring up a scattering of fragmentary tile remains and odd pottery.

An area of disturbed soil was encountered down to five foot, probably as a result of upcast from the present road, as the odd piece of tarmac showed. At nearly six feet four a spread of compacted yellow

clay was encountered through which was a circular post hole, and four feet away there was a second showing through light rubble and fragments of chalk. This second post hole had been consolidated with broken tile and close by was another compact layer of yellow clay with adjacent more rubble and odd pieces of chalk. There were small amounts of grey pottery over the square, as well as clenched iron nails and small slivers of bone and oyster shell.

An extension was made to the first square in an attempt to continue with the 'flow' feature involving the two post holes, but it was found the water trench running five feet wide had cut through any tiling that may have previously existed there. Nevertheless, the square was scraped back and yielded more iron nails, oyster, traces of carbon, and several pieces of bone with knife marks on them. Datable evidence came in the form of a scatter of pot and a small bronze coin of Valens II in reasonably good condition.

The sections in the roadside bank showed considerable disturbance where the mixed soils had been infilled, while on the west section it was possible to see the outline of a probable pit sloping downwards beneath the present roadway. The flow of the square at this point then began to yield a number of flint cobbles, and large pieces of roofing tile which appeared to be on the edge of the feature beginning to show in section. Continued removal of the infill showed it contained numbers of broken bricks and tile, some with mortar, but all being rather small but still in a sealed context. It began to show that there were several layers of infill in the feature, and in one there was considerable evidence of carbon and deposits of crushed plaster and mortar.

The continued removal of the fill produced a few more pot sherds, one being a light grey rim of 3rd century date and another again in grey but with a slightly undercut rim. Completion of this stage of the operation showed a clear outline of the feature in section along with pieces of tile visible in the infill, as at this stage the mortar fragments were very clear, and two pieces of white plaster were removed, the first of many yet to follow.

The location of the feature was directly underneath some dead trees, and the presence of roots pushing downwards into the feature did cause problems while removing the infill, subsequently a considerable amount of soil between the roots and the top of the feature was removed to allow horizontal work on the infill. Removal of the mixed soils down to the mortar infill produced more fragmentary pot but mostly it consisted of oyster shells and broken tiles. Examination of the mortar infill showed it had been deposited to the right hand side of the feature, and amongst the mortar small pieces of coloured plaster began to come to light. Several were white, consisting of a skin of plaster on a piece of rough mortar backing, but as the work progressed fragments of crimson and white appeared as well as green bands on white, and also narrow black lines on a plain base.

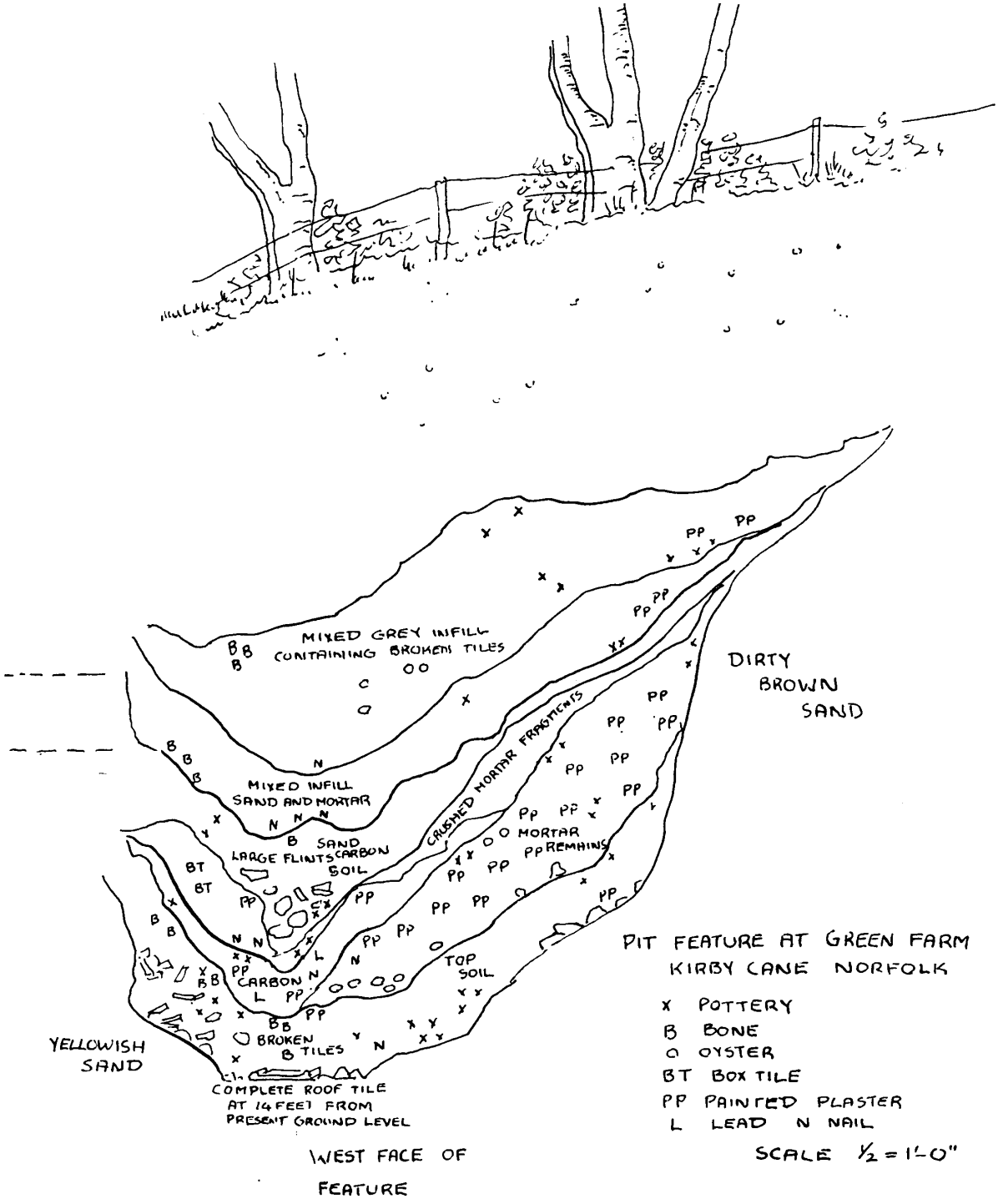
Without exception all the plaster recovered still retained sharp edges, and was, for the most part, in extremely good condition. Removal of the material on the right hand side of the feature continued, and carbon traces up to four inches thick were found to be overlaying a sandy mortar infill. From this came another type of painted plaster, this time imitating marble. Like the previous finds the travelled plaster surface had been applied over a rough mortar backing differing only by the colour and application. The texture was not as smooth as the other colours, and had been coloured with pink, which in turn had been flecked with black and crimson by just flicking the bristles of a brush. The effect is quite pleasing and almost contemporary in its appearance, but basically it was an attempt to imitate a rich marble decoration, a practice common in 3rd and 4th century bath houses.

The material encountered in this feature mostly contained building fabric, though from where we do not know. Small pieces of box tiles with combed faces for the wall plaster to adhere to were found, with more pieces of roofing tiles, and large pieces of broken brick. A small external plaster angle from a wall was found with a piece of mortar with a travel imprint, while several pieces of rough mortar had been reinforced with crushed brick, a practice used where damp conditions prevail.

Gradually we worked our way through much of the infill, leaving the greater part of the feature still in situ. At this stage the depth from present ground level was thirteen feet and there was an ever increasing danger of the face falling inwards, even though it had been timber strutted.

The problem of the trees was also all too obvious, with the roots still extending downwards at thirteen feet, and no indication of termination of the feature; in fact, it was now sloping sharply and was clearly well beneath the present road level. Topsoil was visible in a layer beneath the mortar band and this contained even more tile and flint, along with a very large lump of flint with what appears to be dressed edges. Lying flat in the top soil was a complete roofing tile, and close to it in a mixture of sand and topsoil was a complete capping tile. More pottery from this position, included part of a small

indented beaker with a metallic external finish but nevertheless good quality material. A large complete base of nearly five inches diameter was recovered with two rims from shallow dish types with more animal bones, but considerably larger than ones previously found in the infill.



Reluctantly at this stage it was as far as one could go in the circumstances, by reason of the danger of subsidence and the trees just above. The profile of the feature was drawn and measured but it's true purpose is open to opinion; certainly the content looked at did appear to contain mostly rejected material, but what the connection was to the post holes and flow level is uncertain. The presence of the painted plaster suggests a building of some richness, one that had under floor heating, and also the plaster had been disposed of and not used for hard core or something similar. On some of the white faced plaster it had deliberately been scoured with a sharp instrument prior to replastering, and on three fragments, instead of cleaning off the colour and repainting, it had been re-skimmed with another coat of plaster, so again there is the suggestion of someone being fairly well off to own such a building.

Nearly two hundred fragments of plaster were recovered, 88 were of a plain white/cream finish, the

remainder being coloured on white ground. It would appear that the dado running around the rooms may have been surmounted by a wide crimson band, with white panels framed by thin crimson or black lines, as well as borders formed of bands of green or yellow edged with red or black.

The attempt to suggest a facing of coloured marble is common in the 4th century, and from fragments found in the feature it appears that the dado in this case may have been in black, and in turn framing the stippling or spirtling with a band of crimson and black, colours involved would have been earth colours, the pink formed from haematite, calcium and quartz, and the black obtained from soot or charcoal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In general terms the writer owes a considerable debt to Major J. Hunter for permission to fieldwalk the site. Also for his interest and considerable help in preparing the location prior to the investigation of the Roman levels, without which it is doubtful the principle feature would have been discovered.

Also my thanks to Dr. N.B. Eastwood, Mr. A. Weller, Mr. & Mrs. A. Turner and Mr. D. Cuming for all the productive fieldwalking and a special word of thanks to Mr. P. Wilkes for his contribution to the fieldwalking and also his help and encouragement during the testing of the area in and around the pit.

The material from the work at Green Farm has kindly been given to the Broad House Museum, Oulton Broad, by Major Hunter and a small display is now on show in the museum.

Finally my thanks to Mr. A. Cooke, for allowing us to make the first initial search of the location which later led to more discoveries on a previously unknown area.

For further reading on wall painting and plaster wall painting in Roman Britain, Britannia Monograph Series 3, Society for the promotion of Roman Studies 1982. This is, perhaps, the fullest and most up-to-date survey of the evidence.

Shire Archaeology – Romano British Wall Painting by Roger Ling

COARSE WARE POTTERY (see following diagram)

(1) Platter with external furrow with both surfaces burnished, smooth fabric with particles of quartzite and black mineral

(2) Flanged bowl in light grey fabric with sparse grits

(3) Bead and flange in light grey fabric with burnishing to both faces

(4) Tar in grey fabric with slightly undercut rim, slightly gritty fabric

(5) Tar in light grey fabric containing small grits and mica

(6) Coarse grey fabric containing small grits, soot stained on outer face

(7) Beaker type in smooth light grey fabric containing mica

(8) Tar in grey buff fabric with thickened rim form, and slightly undercut, heavily packed with crushed shell

(9) Brownish buff fabric with slightly gritty texture and soot stained

(10) Tar with beaker type rim with offsets on the shoulder, burnishing to outer faces. Light grey smooth fabric.

(11) Small jar in dark grey fabric containing small grits and mica

(12) Tar in brown buff with smooth texture containing mica

(13) Undercut rim in light grey fabric with sparse grits

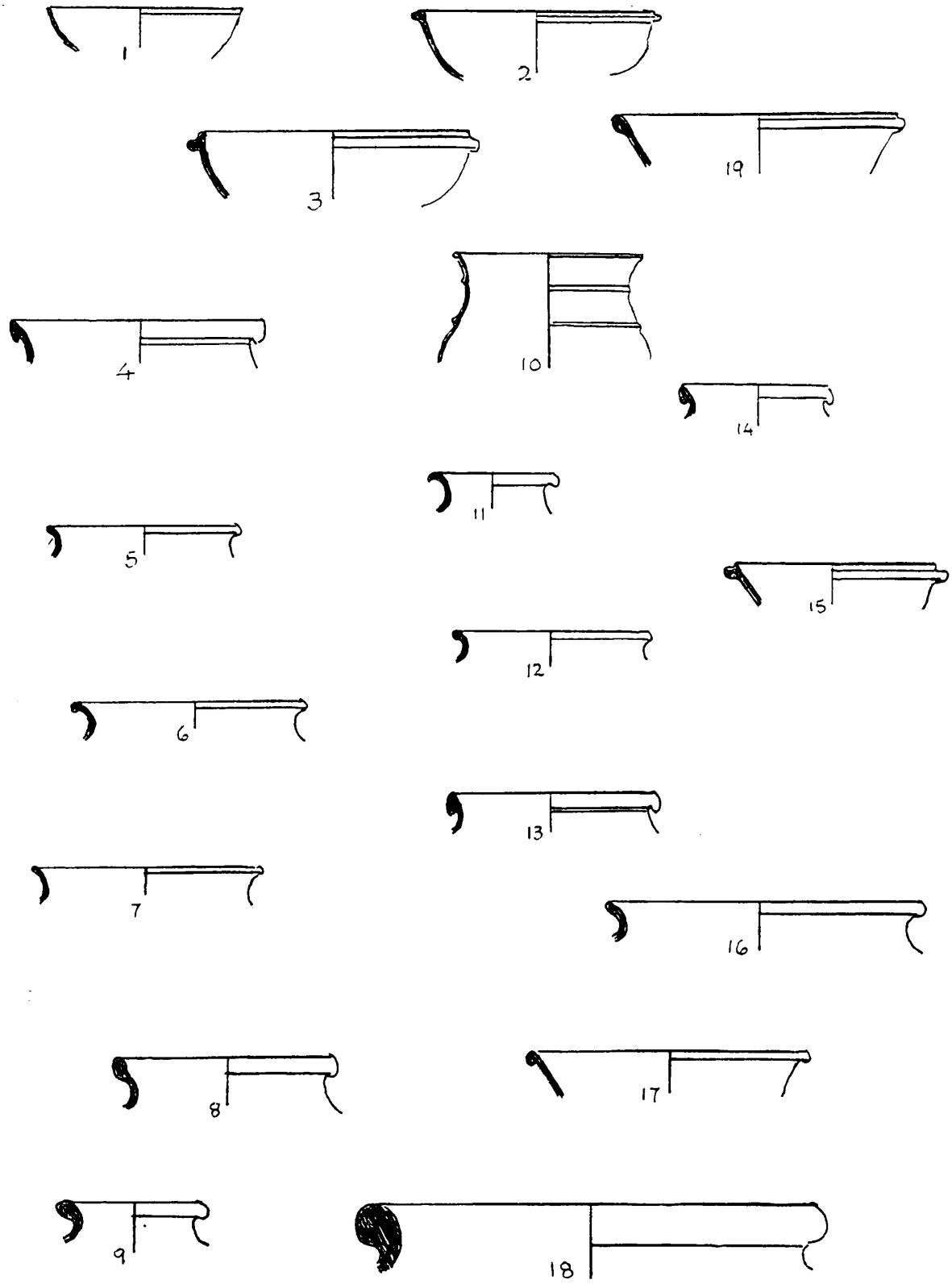
(14) Bowl with undercut rim in smooth light grey fabric

(15) Bowl and flange profile in caster ware, dark brown wash on light buff fabric

(16) Light grey fabric from a jar with inverted rim, the texture is smooth with some evidence of burnishing

(17) Bowl in grey fabric but very hard. Soot stains on both surfaces

(18) Heavy thickened rim containing mixed grits, mostly quartz, dark grey coarse fabric probably from storage jar



Pottery Forms

MR. H.J. BUCHANAN-WOLLASTON

Editor's Note:- The following information on the life and work of the late Mr. H.J. Buchanan-Wollaston, who was a resident of Pakefield for many years, is derived mainly from a letter written by his son, Mr. Geoffrey H. Buchanan-Wollaston, to Mrs. K.E. Haes, a member of this Society. This letter was written with the intention of it being edited for publication. I have, therefore, used Mr. G.H. Buchanan-Wollaston's words wherever possible, and have edited in relevant information from press cuttings he has also supplied.

He was born on 27.12.1883 at St. Mary Cray, Kent, and died at Pakefield on 21.10.1970, aged 86. He and my mother, formerly Beryl Wrightson of Aldeburgh, and by then an officer in the WAACS, were married in London in 1916.

After service throughout the first war, initially in The Dorset Yeomanry and then from 1916 in the Royal Flying Corps, in which he was an observer, (wearing goggles with quite strong lenses for his short sight !), he joined or rejoined (I don't knew which) as Assistant Naturalist, the staff of the then Board of Fisheries, whose laboratory was at Parliament Street in London. . . Not long after the Great War the laboratory was moved to Lowestoft, and, of course, he came too.

My father spent a great deal of his working life researching the plaice stocks of the North Sea; soon, however, specialising in the statistical treatment of the large amounts of data being collected in fisheries research, in an attempt to ensure that chance was ruled out before conclusions from the data were drawn. He helped to lay some of the foundations of the statistical methods now regarded as commonplace, if essential, for the proper interpretation of research data.

My father worked at the laboratory from the time of its transfer to Lowestoft until 1939, when, with the outbreak of war, the laboratory was shut up.

He was sent to H.M.S. Vernon to help with research into mines and minesweeping. They had enough boffins, however, and soon he was moved to the Freshwater Biological Association at Ambleside where, until April 1945, when he was retired by the Ministry, he continued his statistical studies and worked on the perch population in Lake Windermere. Whilst there, he designed and developed a method of steering migrating eels into traps in rivers by means of lights housed in pipes, so as to increase catches as well as not to break the 'blackout' !

He and my mother returned to Lowestoft from the Lake District shortly after his retirement and as they emerged from Lowestoft Station, were greeted by the noise of the very first V.1 Buzz Bomb to have reached the town. 'Pantiles' had been boarded up throughout their absence with steel and wooden shutters, and the house suffered little damage.

He designed his house 'Pantiles', Cliftonville Road, Pakefield, Lowestoft, and had it built in 1926. A builder called Church constructed it, and it cost, together with the acre of land upon which it then stood, about £1,000. The plot on which it was built contained no trees nor bushes, except for the western hedge and one May tree, and my father planted everything else. Initially, you could stand in front of the house and look out to sea, since there was nothing but grass and one old hedge between 'Pantiles' and the cliff.

It was designed as a bungalow with the whole of the very large upper storey reachable only by an outside wooden staircase. It had an extra strong floor, specially made to accept the loading of large parties or dances, but they never occurred. The whole place soon became a repository for unusable large pieces of furniture and all sorts of family belongings too good to throw away. . . . Most of the remaining space was given up to my father's study and to workshop benches, tools and equipment, including a lathe worked by foot power on an old Singer Sewing Machine treadle table, and on which parts for many prototype models of his inventions were made. . . .

The walls of the house were of yellow brick and breeze block with a cavity between. They were painted with lime on the outside whilst inside they were lined throughout by plywood, which in the sitting room was oak veneered, so it was well insulated and required no decorating.

The house had gas lighting and solid fuel heating, and electricity was not installed until about 1958.

I think most of my father's better inventions are mentioned in the Lowestoft Journal article of 13.10.1950; these are:-

(1) A complicated instrument for measuring ocean currents, which was awarded a prize in 1955 as being the most valuable scientific aid to navigation invented in that year.

(2) A new type of wire fencing which he made himself from eight-gauge mild steel wire. It required little support, was extremely durable and he constructed the frame of a garden from it. Working on a special bench he could produce four yards of fence in an hour.

(3) A special type of lock which he claimed was completely pick-proof. It was opened by means of a thin strip of flexible steel, the end of which was notched. In 1936 The Institute of Patentees awarded him the Grey-Wilson Memorial Gold Modal for this invention (editor's note; the press notice of this award states – for his invention relating to 'locks using thin flexible fibre keys').

(4) A small grip or clip for use with string. The Palestine postal authorities bought many thousands of these for use in bundling letters.

(5) A sock stretching device to restore shrunken socks to their origin size.

I can recollect a few others worthy of mention. No doubt there were many more of which I never heard.

They are:-

(1) A direct damped weighing machine, never quite perfected, but probably a forerunner of the familiar type which followed scales with weights.

(2) Toy cars driven and steered by means of a crank on a 'Bowden' type cable held by the operator who walked behind. It was one of our very favourite toys as children, and one which caused more competitive rows between my two brothers and me than anything else !

(3) Toy boats driven by rubber bands and wound up by an ingeniously simple winder. Another type was a wooden boat beneath which was fixed a 'Paravane', which caused the boat to sheer away from the shore when towed on a string along the shore or edge of the boating pool.

(4) A staple driver for wood staples.

(5) Various improved lone-reach paper stapling machines.

(6) The 'Trawl Crawler' a device for spreading a trawl by a means other than the use of otter doors. Not wholly successful.

As to his character, he was a somewhat stern and strict father and a bit frightening to his sons. He definitely came first in the household, and from his attitude to children in general (brats) and the noise they made, we often wondered how much we were appreciated. He was, however, secretly proud of us and when he felt like it, greatly enjoyed playing small childrens games when we were young.

Whilst he had the art of discipline, never once did he use violence to impose his will. He left the use of the hairbrush to my mother.

He was rather sensitive of criticism, did not suffer fools gladly, and disliked argument, particularly with his own family.

He loved classical music, in particular Bach, was a non-believer but totally straight in every respect. He detested humbug or self aggrandisement in others, was disinterested in politics, and absolutely loathed even the slightest vulgarity in women.

Apart from his mathematical and scientific abilities, he was very well read, and was quite a good water colourist, which unfortunately he gave up in favour of inventions in 1922, hoping there by to augment his pay.

He loved golf, which he played regularly if with inconsistent success, always searching for the secret of perfection and constantly changing his style. For a period, during play, he even attached, a splint to his left arm to keep it straight, but such experiments made no permanent difference to his performance.

My parents owned a car for only a short period prior to the war, it being bought with the £50 Grey-Wilson Award which my father won for his lock invention in 1936. However, for most of their lives they were a familiar sight locally either on pedal cycles or small motor cycles, but prior to the second war my father always rode larger motor cycles, sometimes with a side car.

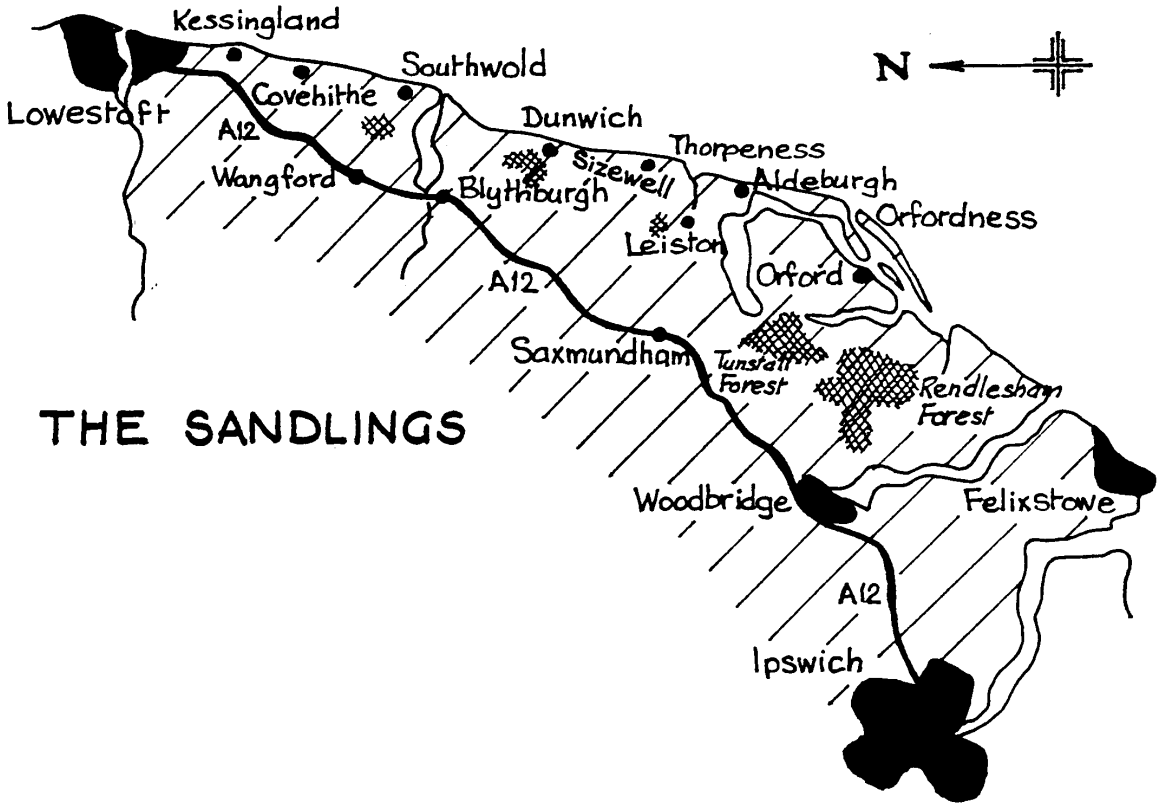
Two newspaper articles in the Lowestoft Journal, one probably from 1965 and the other dated 18th October, 1968, show that Mr. H.J. Buchanan-Wollaston was ahead of his time. Exactly one hour ahead ! For soon after his retirement in 1945 he and his wife decided not to turn their clocks back to Greenwich Mean Time when British Summer time ended in the autumn. From then on Buchanan-Wollaston Time was always one hour ahead of G.M.T. and B.S.T., for when summer time came they put their clocks on another hour.

THE SANDLINGS

by David Cuming

A geographical, geological, ecological and Historical description, showing man's use of the land since earliest times

Geographically, the Sandlings occupy a coastal strip contained roughly within the boundaries of the A12 in the west and the coast in the east: To the north as far as the south bank of the Waveney and south to the north bank of the Orwell. Major towns are the County town of Ipswich, to the S.W. on the Orwell, with port and dock facilities, and Lowestoft, also one of the major fishing ports, in the N.E. Other major coastal towns include Southwold, Felixstowe and, in land, Woodbridge. The coast is subject to erosion and accretion, so giving rise to varied scenery such as spits, cliffs, beaches, sand and shingle, salt marshes and dunes. Principle rivers of the region are the Waveney, Deben, Stour, Orwell, Ore, Aide and Blyth.



Geologically – a cretaceous sea laid down a chalk bed, which in some places is 300m deep. This was covered by glacial sands and gravels and by sandy loams of crag, followed by Reading and London clays. Advancing and receding ice ages meant a glacial breaking up of underlying formations which resulted in a variety of soil patterns of clays, loams and sands. Sands on the coastal strip have acid character, but produce light thin soils. Sandy loams of Pliocene Crags gave rise to large tracts of heathland. Some of the uses the local rock was put to were, Sarsen Sandstone for Saddle Querns to grind corn, clays for bricks and from the Roman times onwards Septoria Limestone for building blocks.

As the glacial iced retreated so Palaeolithic man advanced. In this region there would have only been a few families using seasonal camps and routes. Approximately 10,000 years B.C.; as the Ice Age finally retreated, so birch woody would have taken root. Mesolithic man showed a preference for well drained soils, close to a stream to hunt and fish, or lakes and marshes where game and plants were abundant. By 5,000 B.C. Neolithic man was able to improve his position and dramatically take control of his environment by making flint axes from mined flint, which were used for coppicing woodland.

The first farming began on the sandy soil, this being the easiest to work. With domestication of animals, and crops, man became more settled, and an air of permanence pervaded as a result of this

social and economic specialisation. During the Bronze Age man grazed his stock on the heaths. It was during this period that man began to make enduring features, for there appeared the curious burial rites of the beaker people who built bell and disc barrows, and later the urn people. Over 70 round barrows and 3 long barrows from this period are recorded in the region.

The Romans mainly by passed the coastal strip leaving it in the hands of the Iceni, but they did build a network of roads connecting the region with London. When north sea pirates began marauding the area, the Romans were obliged to build sea defence forts from which Roman navy ships stood by to repel these pirates. For this region a fort was built at Walton Castle near Felixstowe, now in ruins beneath the sea.

Following the departure of the Romans a vacuum was left and the so called 'Mongrelism' period of settlement began. During this, west and north-western tribes of Europe began their assault on eastern England. It is claimed that Angles, Saxons, Frisians, Jutes, Danes and Norsemen were all closely related by speech and culture. Saxons and Franks were crossing from Flushing to Harwich. In the 6th century it is known that Swedes had moved down into Denmark, into the space left by Danes moving to England. The Swedes eventually emigrated to East Anglia in long boats of the Nydam type (oars only) by following the west coast of Europe, and crossing from Belgium to the Kent coast then across the Thames estuary and up the east coast rivers. The Royal family of this tribe settled in Rendlesham near Woodbridge and were head of the Ipswich people. The family, the Wuffings, were related to the Royal house of Uppsala, Sweden. The Wuffings had their cemetery at Sutton Hoo on a sandy bluff overlooking the Deben; there are 11 burial mounds, including the ship burial previously unique to Sweden.

There followed an invasion and settlement by the Danes about the 9th century. This Anglo Danish period brought development to the region because of the increased population and greater agricultural productivity, and wool became East Anglia's Golden fleece. East Anglian towns prospered because the network of Roman roads remained and rivers gave easy water transport to the interior. The wool industry grew where towns had Ecclesiastical or Military connections, or if they had their own mint. These towns were ideally situated to trade with continental cloth markets. It was a time when East Anglia was the industrial centre of England. Drapers and merchants flourished in Ipswich. Dunwich figured in the trade because it was a port and Beccles also became prominent. The whole structure crumbled after about 500 years, when the industry moved to Yorkshire and the North, mainly because the East Anglia rivers were unsuitable for driving the new machinery. Also East Anglian woollen cloth was coarse and had problems competing with the finer European cloth then coming into fashion.

The Domesday survey (1086) shows the Sandlings divided up into hundreds (Danelaw - 100 hides - unit of land to support one peasant family) these were between the Orwell and Deben - Colneis in the north - Lothingland and in between Lothing, Plomesgate, Blything, Loes, Parham and Wilford. Sandling villages had small mounts of meadow for sheep and some woods. Colneis hundred must have been attractive to early settlers, because many Domesday names cannot now be identified. 'Fisheries' referred to in the South indicate estuary activity, and 'Herring rents' in the north the Maritime element. Population per square mile was as follows:- Colneis 15-20, Wilford 15-20, Plomesgate 10-15, Blything 10-15, Loes 10-15, Parham 10-15, Lothingland 5-10. Plough teams to the square mile were:- Colnois 35-45, the remaining hundreds all had 25-35. Every village had access to, or a share in, a water mill. Essential for grinding corn they were on every stream, or river, and in 1086 forty mills were shown in existence in the Sandlings. There were four salt pans on the coastal estuaries at Ipswich, Dunwich, Blythburgh and Aldburgh, and three had disappeared from Frostenden, Wangford and Fritton. Woodland in Domesday was calculated by the number of swine it would support. At Halesworth one wood in 1066 had 60, which dropped to 20 in 1086, and at Leiston 500 in 1066, and 200 in 1086. Either the woods were then being coppiced, or the swine were declining.

In the 15th century a new use of the heathland developed and warreners were working their coneys (rabbits) alongside the shepherd and his sheep. Heathlands became designated warrens, in 1499 warren and coneys at West Wood, Blythburgh, were leased to a warrener for 15 years. There is evidence of other warrens at Snape, near Aldburgh, Coney Hill, Benacre and Warren Hill, Leiston.

The flock was an important ecological link in the Sandlings. In winter and early summer sheep were fed on heather shoots. As some pastures were marshy for much of the year the sheep were folded on arable land where their dung fertilised the soil, which was planted with clover in the summer, the roots of this fixed nitrogen by bacteria, and in winter turnips were grown.. Every fourth year that part of the arable land may have been used for wheat, or barley. The heathland was managed like other land, sheep walks were cut and burnt to secure a good covering of furze and ling. At Westwood,

Blythburgh in the 17th century the flock measured 1,000, by the 10th century it had risen to 1,600, but from 1938-1962 the number of sheep kept fell by two thirds. The high cost of sheep folding, and shepherding have been blamed for this fall.

Timber has been utilised well on the Sandiings. In mediaeval times at Staverton Park oaks were provided for Henry VIII's navy. In 1842 at Rendlesham and Theberton Hall, 1,000 oaks were cut and sold for £8,000. In the 1920's on uncultivated land at Aldwood forest, the Forestry Commission planted Scots pine, Corsican pine, Douglas fir, and on the roadsides the broad leaf's Oak, Beech and Popular. It should be noted that removal of woodland leads to establishment of heath. Heathland heather was used for bedding of stock, and brushwood for repair of ditches draining lowland pastures.

There are many reasons for the decline of heathland, after centuries of stability. In 1735 half of the Sandlings were heathland, by 1889 there were 19,000 acres, and in 1966 8,400 acres of heathland. Since the 1920's and 30's the heathlands have been converted into arable land, forestry, golf courses, airfields, gravel workings and pasture. In 1947 the technique of summer irrigation of light sandy soils having low rain fall was developed. In the 1950's two dry summers stimulated interest in irrigation which produced increased yields of potatoes, and sugar beet. Magnesium and copper deficiencies were overcome by liming, which was subsidised, as were fertilizers. With subsidies for ploughing difficult land and the increased demand for arable land, the last barriers to heathland conversion were overcome.

Demand for sand and grava1 resulted in a pit at Westleton. Several small pits were dug on Walberswick common but these have been reinvaded by the heather and also by the lizard and adder, as well as a number of heathland butterflies.

One other pressure on land and wildlife, is recreation. In April 1968 at Dunwich heath, an accidental fire destroyed 25 acres, and a further 85 acres of Minsmere Bird Reserve.

The cessation of controlled burning of sheep runs, has resulted in the heather becoming tough and woody with thick stems; this when set alight burns more fiercely, and the root is destroyed. This requires regeneration from seed, but if before this can happen bracken invades, this means more heathland has gone.

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