

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Please note:

Members are reminded that the next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be preceded by a tour of Burgh Castle starting at 11 am. The tour will be led by Dr John Davies, Chief Curator and Dr Tim Pestell, Curator of Archaeology. It will take in the round tower Church of St Peter and St Paul at Burgh Castle and the adjacent Roman Saxon Shore Fort. Members are advised to wear appropriate footwear, as we may be walking over heavy or boggy conditions. Location maps that show where Members are asked to meet at Burgh Castle at 11 am, and a Borough Council car parking pass for use in Great Yarmouth later in the day, can be found printed within the agenda papers. Lunch will be available at Great Yarmouth Town Hall from 1 pm for those taking part in the tour.

Date	Time	Place
Wednesday 30 March 2011	2pm	The Council Chamber The Town Hall Great Yarmouth Borough Council Norfolk NR30 2QF

A G E N D A

- 1 To Receive the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 7 October 2010. (PAGE)**
- 2 To Note any Apologies for Absence**
- 3 To Note whether any Items have been Proposed as Matters of Urgent Business**
- 4 To Note any Declarations of Interest by Members**

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is prejudicial. A declaration of a personal interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest, the member may speak and vote on the matter. Please note that if you are exempt from declaring a personal interest because it arises solely from your position on a body to which you were nominated by the County Council or a body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. another local authority), you need only declare your interest if and when you intend to speak on a matter.

If a prejudicial interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed unless members of the public are

allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, in which case you may attend the meeting for that purpose. You must immediately leave the room when you have finished or the meeting decides you have finished, if earlier. **These declarations apply to all those members present, whether the member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.**

- 5 Half-Yearly Report on the Work of the Historic Environment Service (Formerly Norfolk Landscape Archaeology)**
Report by the Historic Environment Manager (County Archaeologist) (PAGE)
- 6 Half-Yearly Report of NAU Archaeology**
Report by the Manager of NAU Archaeology (PAGE)
- 7 Half-Yearly Report of the Archaeology Department, Norwich Museum and Art Gallery**
Report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology (PAGE)
- 8 Date and Time of Next Meeting**
- 9 To Answer Formal Questions (if any) of which Due Notice has been Given**
- 10 Any Other Item of Business that the Chairman decides should be considered as a Matter of Urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972**

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22 March 2011

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NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Notes of the meeting held on 7 October 2010

Present:

Norfolk Joint Museums and
Archaeology Committee

Mrs H T Nelson (Chairman for this
meeting)

Norfolk County Council

Mr J Ward

Borough Council of King's Lynn and
West Norfolk

Mrs E Nockolds

Broadland District Council

Mr J W Bracey

Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society
Mr R Bellinger

English Heritage

Mr W Fletcher

University of East Anglia

Ms S Spooner

**1 South Norfolk Council Offices, the Pennoyer Centre, Pulham St Mary and
Forngett St Mary Church**

The October 2010 meeting of the Advisory Committee was held at South Norfolk Council's offices, but was unfortunately inquorate because there were insufficient County and District Council Members present. In the circumstances, Members agreed that they should hold this meeting and that they should present a report of its proceedings to the next meeting of the Norfolk Joint Museums and Archaeology Committee. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr B Collins, whom had given his apologies for the meeting, it was also agreed that the current Vice-Chairman Mrs H Nelson should take the Chair.

(Mrs Nelson in the Chair)

Mrs Nelson placed on record Members' thanks to South Norfolk Council for hosting the meeting and also to Alison Yardley, Heritage and Landscape Officer, Historic Environment Service, Sheila King, Project Officer for the Pennoyer Centre, and Graham Prior, a local businessman whom had led efforts to restore Forngett St Mary Church, for conducting the tours of these buildings that preceded the meeting.

Members had been informed during the morning tours, and noted as part of the meeting for reporting to the Joint Committee, that the Pennoyer Centre was a Grade II listed building and former village school which closed in 1988. Members had been shown at the rear of the building a medieval Hat Makers' Guild chapel that was originally attached to the village church. Members were informed that after years of deterioration, the building had recently been the subject of an extensive heritage conservation programme and had now reopened to provide a range of facilities to the local area. At Forngett St Mary Members had been shown

a Grade I listed church that became redundant in 1988. After 30 years of deterioration, Graham Prior, a local businessman living in Fornsett St Mary, had recently led efforts to rescue St Mary's. Members were informed that a local Friends organisation, established by Graham, had over 100 Members. During the tour, Members of the Advisory Committee had expressed the view that to form such an organisation was a significant achievement in itself. Members were also impressed by the very high standard of restoration work undertaken by the Friends.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mr B J Collins, Mr R G Kybird, Mr J R Shrimplin, Mr H C Cordeaux, Miss E J Collishaw, Dr C Kemp, Mr E N Stanton and Dr J S Johnson.

3 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were also no declarations of interest.

5 Half-Yearly Report on the work of the Historic Environment Service (formerly Norfolk Landscape Archaeology)

The annexed report by the Historic Environment Manager (County Archaeologist) was received.

Mr David Gurney, Historic Environment Manager (County Archaeologist) said that as part of the County Council's Organisational Review, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service) was combined with the Heritage Team in the Heritage and Landscape Section of Environment, Transport and Development (ETD) to form a new Historic Environment Service (HES) in ETD from 1 September 2010. Members noted that as part of the County Council's Strategic Review the future of the Historic Environment Service was being looked into, including the scope for further joint working and collaboration with other agencies and organisations, including the District Councils and Historic Environment Trusts.

In summarising the work of the HES, Mr Gurney said that HES had continued to work with the County and District Councils to protect and manage the Historic Environment (Archaeology, Landscapes and Buildings) to maintain and enhance the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, to maintain the Norfolk Buildings at risk register, to identify and record finds, to deal with enquiries and to engage in outreach. He went on to say that planning consultations were up by more than 50%, with a slight increase in the number of briefs issued. Staff had given detailed consideration to over 500 planning applications, issued 203 briefs for archaeological projects, created 1,142 new Historic Environment Records (NHER), enhanced 2, 530 existing NHER records, identified and recorded 17,298 portable antiquities and dealt with 80 cases of Treasure. Some significant enhancement

work to existing records had also been undertaken, focusing in particular on event records relating to metal-detecting and source records relating to published and unpublished records. The dry weather in summer of 2010 had produced an unusually large number of crop marks across the county. Many of these had been captured on camera by a local area photographer, Mike Page, who had very generously submitted many of his photographs to HES for accession in the Norfolk Photo Library. Mr Gurney said that Andrew Rogerson, Senior Landscape Archaeologist, had produced an advice card on illegal metal detecting (“nighthawking”) for use by the public and the police, and copies of this were handed out in the meeting.

Laid on the table were copies of a book in the series of *Norfolk, Heritage and biodiversity Walks* covering walks in and around Great Yarmouth. It was noted that another book in the series covering walks in and around King’s Lynn had recently been published and that a further book about walks around Fakenham and Wells-next-the-Sea was in preparation.

Mr Gurney agreed to let Mr Bracey have details of whom he could contact for information about the archaeology of former RAF airbases in Norfolk, and in particular that at Rackheath.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

6 Half-Yearly Report of NAU Archaeology –

The annexed report by the by the Manager of NAU Archaeology was received.

Ms Jayne Bown, Manager of NAU Archaeology, said that during the period covered by the report NAU Archaeology had continued to undertake the majority of its work in Norfolk. NAU Archaeology had been invited to bid for 183 projects (124 of these were Norfolk-based) and undertook 105 projects, along with the post-excavation stages of on-going projects. NAU Archaeology also produced 88 different reports, of which 64 were reports on Norfolk sites. These included the two volume report on excavations of Norwich Castle undertaken in the 1990’s, which had been published in the East Anglian Archaeology series. NAU Archaeology had also been commissioned to undertake seven finds projects for other archaeological organisations.

Ms Bown went on to outline some of the major Norfolk projects of the last six months, which included an archaeological watching brief conducted at the Britvic Soft Drinks in Norwich, ahead of an electricity supply cable being laid down across the River Wensum. She said that while no new artefacts had been recovered, the project had demonstrated the survival of a similar geological context, i.e. peat overlaying river terrace sands and gravels, as was present at the nearby site of Carrow Road, where prehistoric flint work had survived in situ.

Ms Bown said that the Norfolk projects also included an archaeological excavation at St Stephen’s Church, Norwich, in advance of underpinning works to the eastern

gable wall. The excavation had recovered the remains of 52 individuals which were retained by the church for re-burial. Undisturbed natural deposits of five periods of human activity were identified at the site.

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during cleaning, dredging and restoration works of the moat at Caister Castle. The oldest artefact recovered was a tobacco pipe of mid to late 17th century date.

An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the garden of 29 Belstead Road, Caister-on-Sea while work was being undertaken in advance of the construction of a new house. The archaeological evaluation had provided evidence to show that the garden was located in an area of the Roman civilian settlement south of the Roman Saxon Shore Fort and as such was in an area of high archaeological potential.

Members were pleased to hear of a community archaeological project instigated by Acle High School and supported by NAU Archaeology. A large range of artefacts had been recovered by pupils from the High School and local volunteers.

Resolved –

That the report be noted

7 Half-yearly report of the Archaeology Department, Norwich Museum and Art Gallery

The annexed report by the Head of Museums and Archaeology was received.

In the Absence of Dr John Davies, Chief Curator and Keeper of Archaeology, who had given his apologies for the meeting, the report was introduced by Dr Tim Pestell, Curator of Archaeology.

Dr Pestell said that, during the last six months, the Archaeology Department had made significant progress in the field of collections management through continued reorganisation of the stores and holdings at the Shirehall. The Department had also made good progress with the *Collecting Cultures Scheme*, aimed at enabling the enhancement of the archaeological collections and displays. This project, worth £220,000 in total, remained a major part of the Department's work programme through to 2013.

Dr Pestell said that the Department continued to fulfil the requirement to consider all cases of Treasure found within the county and report it under the terms of the Treasure Act. He said that although there had been a decline in the numbers of cases compared to previous years, (39 cases compared to 47 cases for the same period in 2009), Norfolk had maintained its position as the county yielding the most Treasure cases in the British Isles. The Department remained committed to acquiring the most significant of these finds.

It was noted that improvements to existing galleries displays at the Castle were currently being designed and undertaken. The main focus of the Department in terms of display work had been the Phase 1 (of 4 phases) re-display of the Castle Keep. This new exhibition in the basement of the Castle Keep chronicled the

history of Norwich Castle as the County Gaol, and was well worth a visit. It was reported that the new display had received very positive reviews, and that the project had enabled a number of items in the collection to be re-assessed and identified. Extensive research into the human stories behind the items had also taken place.

Dr Pestell went on to outline some of the work which had continued on the Egyptian Collection. He said that the documentation of the collection, that involved listing all of the artefacts, together with all the information relating to them, was largely complete. He pointed out that the conservation of the Egyptian shroud, which was inscribed with hieroglyphics, was an ongoing project with the British Museum. This was currently in the planning stage, ensuring that everything would be ready for 2011, when it was due to be taken to the British Museum to begin the process of unrolling it and carrying out a series of scientific tests.

The Advisory Committee noted that the NMAS was leading the Norfolk contribution to the British Museum/BBC 'History of the World' project. Work was currently underway to promote a final five objects which highlighted important stages in the history of Norfolk. This would be promoted through a series of BBC Radio outside broadcasts and events from museums throughout the county, to be held in the October 2010 half-term period.

Members were also pleased to note that the Department had hosted the prestigious annual conference of the joint *British and Royal Numismatic Society* at Norwich Castle in July 2010.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

In reply to questions, Mr R Bellinger gave a brief outline of the work of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society. He said that Members of the Society had been invited to join in a programme of excursions to a range of archaeological sites throughout the county. The Society had also been running guided tours of the Roman Town at Caistor St Edmund throughout the summer, and these were provided free to members of the public as well as members of the Society.

In reply to questions, Mr Gurney pointed out that the Norfolk Archaeological Trust owned Burgh Castle and most of the surrounding farmland. With the assistance of English Heritage, who had responsibility for the care of the walls of the fort, the Norfolk Archaeological Trust had made a number of site improvements, including the construction of a new car park, and the installation of new site interpretation panels. Both the Trust and English Heritage were aware of the importance of ensuring the tranquil beauty of the site was not disturbed by site improvements.

Mr W Fletcher, English Heritage, said that English Heritage had asked for comments on a draft guidance note on the interpretation of the policies in PPS 5 and on English Heritage guidance on the setting of heritage assets. He also drew Members attention to the appointment of the former Chief Inspector of Kent Police as the new Heritage Crime Initiative Policy Advisor for English Heritage. Mr Fletcher went on to point out that Langley Abbey, just off the A146 between Norwich and Lowestoft, had been restored, thanks to the support of English

Heritage, Natural England and the site owners. The site was open to the public at set times, when it was possible to take part in a guided tour.

Ms S Spooner, UEA, referred to the work that the UEA and partner organisations such as the County Council and English Nature had put into the Norfolk Veteran Trees Survey. She said that undergraduate students at the UEA had assisted with this survey. Where possible when a veteran tree was found a note was taken about any nearby interesting trees, as well as important areas of biodiversity for use in any future survey.

The meeting concluded at 3.45 pm.

Chairman



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Progress Report on the work of the Historic Environment Service

Report by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development

Summary

This report provides a progress report on the work of the Historic Environment Service (HES). The most significant events have been the establishment of the HES in ETD and the publication of Planning Policy Statement 5.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report and to review and comment on HES activities.

1. Background

1.1. On 1st September 2010, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology moved from the Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service into **ETD** as part of NCC Organisational Review. In doing so, a new Historic Environment Service (HES) was established, bringing together for the first time archaeology, historic buildings and historic landscapes professionals in NCC into a single team. This involved the relocation of the Buildings and Landscapes Team from County Hall to Gressenhall.

1.2 Subsequent to the creation of the HES - and as part of ETD's **Strategic Review** - there has been a change of focus with regard to the HES's future work on historic buildings. The conclusion of the Strategic Review was that the HES focuses upon the built heritage assets that are currently owned or managed by NCC, and negotiates a Service Level Agreement with district councils for any other work on historic buildings.

Big Conversation Proposal E18, agreed by Full Council on 14th February, reduces the HES's work on historic buildings and ends some grant funding in order to deliver savings of £240k over the next three years. In doing so, consideration will be given to how, in developing alternative options for the future management of the mills and pumps owned by the County Council, they could support and deliver continued or improved accessibility.

1.3 The HES exists to record, protect, manage, enhance, interpret and promote understanding of the historic environment. Its main aims are to record, protect and manage these on behalf of our own and future generations, in partnership with other local authorities, conservation organisations, landowners and local communities. The HES provides information and advice to anyone with responsibility for or an interest in the past. This covers :-

- 21 NCC-owned, leased or guardianship heritage assets
- 17,500 known archaeological sites and monuments

- 22,000 recorded findspots and finds scatters
- more than 10,500 Listed Buildings
- 1,500 other recorded historic buildings
- over 400 Scheduled Monuments
- around 50 parks and gardens
- and 200 maritime and intertidal sites

1.4 The HES is primarily **funded** by NCC, and there are currently 22 staff. Of these 11 FTEs are NCC funded and 9 FTEs are funded from other sources. There are Service Level Agreements with all eight Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk. These and a number of externally-funded projects brought in around £300,000 of funding in 2010.

1.5 During 2010, the work of the HES was **benchmarked** against other counties in the region and Kent. This concluded that:-

- The HES is in line with the regional average in terms of performance and costs
- Norfolk provides a very effective and low-cost service dealing with enquiries, planning advice and environmental stewardship

The HES provides outward-facing and customer-focussed services with above-average opportunities for placements and numbers of events for the public.

1.6 The HES and its activities meet the aims of NCC's **Strategic Ambitions** (2010), with particular reference to:-

- *An inspirational place with a clear sense of identity*
- *A vibrant, strong and sustainable economy*
- *Aspirational people with high levels of achievement and skills*

2. Heritage Protection and Planning

2.1 March 2010 saw the publication and implementation of a new Planning Policy Statement 5: **Planning for the Historic Environment** (PPS5). An accompanying English Heritage Good Practice Guide supports the policies in the PPS and provides explanations and guidance.

2.2 This represents a major overhaul of the planning system for the historic environment. The new PPS updates policy on archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and landscapes, and sets out a holistic and progressive framework for their future conservation. It places a greater emphasis on information, on assessment of significance and on pre-application discussions. It also enhances the status of the setting of a heritage asset within the planning process, and national guidance on this important development is currently in preparation.

2.3 The Planning Team in the HES has been working with planning and conservation officers in NCC, the District Councils and English Heritage to implement the new PPS and to ensure the continued protection and effective management of the historic environment.

- 2.4 A further important development is the **National Heritage Protection Plan**, currently in preparation by English Heritage. The NHPP will identify the threats that heritage assets face and guide future activities and the allocation of resources to ensure that the sector deals with the most threatened assets first.
- 2.5 The HES is in the process of collecting information for next year's **Historic Assets at Risk** register, which gives an overall picture of the state of Norfolk's Historic Assets and which can be viewed on the NCC website.
- 2.6 During 2010 the HES has continued to work on the **designation** of heritage assets. It is now possible for anyone to put forward a site or building for protection using an online form. One notable success for the HES in Norfolk was the urgent designation of one of Norfolk's most important sites, the Roman 'small town' and early medieval settlement at Billingford, near Dereham.
- 2.7 The HES has continued to work on the countywide register of **historic buildings at risk**. In 2010, 13 buildings were removed from the register, and grants have been made or offered to help with current or future conservation work at:-
- Gibson's Conduit (St Lawrence's Well), Norwich
 - St Benet's Abbey, Horning
 - St Mary's church, Wiggshall
 - Ketteringham ice house
 - St Saviour's church, Surlingham
- 2.8 The HES has also continued to support the work of the Norfolk Windmills Trust, the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, the Norfolk Churches Trust and the Norfolk Archaeological Trust through grants and officer time. Recent meetings with the District Councils have identified five 'at risk' projects for the NHBT to consider.
- 2.9 A Buildings at Risk feature focusing on the former workhouse building known as Hales Hospital alongside facts and figures from the BAR register was published in the EDP Sunday paper in January.
- 2.10 Work by HES in 2010 on eleven NCC owned or leased mills has included asbestos surveys, risk assessments, health and safety issues and contacts for painting and maintenance works.
- 2.11 An application has been put forward to the Broads Authority for a project to restore Clayrack Mill at How Hill as part of their Living Landscapes bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The mill is owned by NCC and if the bid is successful the mill would be restored to full working order. As part of the project there will be an element of skills training and public engagement.
- 2.12 In terms of numbers, **planning consultations** are up by more than 50%, with a slight increase in the number of briefs issued. In the year to March 2010 the HES :-
- Carried out detailed assessment of 500 planning applications with implications for the historic environment
 - issued 203 briefs for historic environment recording projects

- 2.13 The HES' work on **characterisation** has continued in line with PPS5, identifying surviving historic elements in the landscape as a basis for assessing significance and sensitivity. Following characterisation and sensitivity work on the Mangreen and Weston Longville area for the GNGP, and as a result of LDF consultation the HES is currently in discussion with King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council and Breckland Council regarding collaboration on further characterisation work to inform the LDF process. Discussions are in progress with English Heritage about a possible characterisation project on historic farmsteads. English Heritage is also to use some of HES's work as a case study in forthcoming national guidance.

The HES has also undertaken work for the Broads Authority, incorporating parish council feedback on their Landscape Character Assessment and editing the documents ahead of web publication as part of the LDF process.

- 2.14 The **Norfolk Monuments Management Project** was established in 1990 to promote the positive management and conservation of Norfolk's most important and best-preserved archaeological sites and ruined buildings. It has been involved with more than 4000 sites, and is recognised nationally as a leader in the field of heritage asset management.

In 2009-10, thirteen new conservation agreements were set up, and £23,000 of funding from English Heritage was issued in grants. The project has recently been successful in securing £20,000 of EH funding for this work in 2010-11.

The Project recently won a CPRE award for its work on Kelling Heath, where Norfolk's best-preserved group of Bronze Age burial mounds have been cleared for the first time in living memory. The site has been fenced so it can be grazed, and interpretation panels are being prepared.

- 2.15 The HES continues to work with Natural England and with farmers and landowners and their agents to provide the historic environment content for **Environmental Stewardship** schemes. These represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to manage the landscape to benefit heritage assets particularly through Higher Level Stewardship.

In 2009/10 the HES received more than 100 HLS consultations, one of the highest numbers of any county in the country. Norfolk remains the busiest county in the Eastern Region. As a result, hundreds of important archaeological sites are now under beneficial management.

The HES has also very recently secured a grant of £2,500 from Natural England to enhance the Norfolk Historic Environment Record specifically for use in Entry Level Stewardship schemes.

Recent work on HLS and historic buildings for Natural England has included Historic Building Information Forms, briefs for Conservation Management Plans and Statements of Significance.

- 2.16 Other recent HES activities in the area of heritage protection and planning include:-
- Higher Level Stewardship briefs for Conservation Management Plans, Summaries of Historic Development/ Statements of Significance and Historic Building Information Forms
 - Assessments of ruined churches
 - LDF consultations
 - Advice on site-specific proposals for 600 sites in West Norfolk and 900 sites in South Norfolk.
 - Minerals and Waste Core Strategy document
 - Thetford Area Action Plan
 - Working with English Heritage, Norfolk Police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams on 'heritage crime' issues
 - Establishing links with the War Memorials Trust

3. **The Norfolk Historic Environment Record**

- 3.1 The NHER is NCC's definitive records of the historic environment, and it is continually being enhanced. In 2009/10, 1142 new monument records were added and 2530 records were modified. Between March and September last year, 1215 new monument records were added, 1131 existing records were enhanced, 886 new event records and 3560 source records were added.
- 3.2 The NHER is in continuous use for planning work, research, education and public interest. Recent NHER activities have included:-
- 186 enquiries (March to August 2010), 72 of which were commercial
 - Provision of data to the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's Thatch Fire Reduction Initiative
 - Data for an English Heritage-funded survey of hulk assemblages
 - Visits by several local history groups
 - Provision of aerial photographs in response to enquiries
 - Additions of aerial photographs by local flyers to the Norfolk Air Photo Library
 - Working with regular volunteers on records enhancement projects
 - Working with UEA on student placements
- 3.3 During 2010, English Heritage published *Sites and Monuments Record to Historic Environment Record, Local Authority Case Studies*. The Norfolk HER was chosen as a case study on access and outreach, giving national recognition to NCC's *Norfolk Heritage Explorer* website. This continues to attract very high numbers of users, with more than 62,000 visitors since March 2007 and up to 140 users a day. See www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk
- 3.4 The HES is working with Susanna Wade-Martins (UEA), who has secured English Heritage funding for a survey of Norfolk's 400+ rural historic school buildings, focussing on schools built before the Education Act of 1944. A group of volunteers will visit and record the schools, a report will be produced and the data will be added to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

4. **The Identification and Recording Service for Archaeological Finds and Portable Antiquities Scheme**

4.1 In 2009/10 the Identification and Recording Service for Archaeological Finds and Norfolk Portable Antiquities Scheme project recorded 17,298 portable antiquities and handled 80 cases of Treasure. These figures represent around 40% and 10% respectively of the national totals. Staff paid monthly visits to five metal detector clubs, and liaised with hundreds of individual finders.

Amongst the many thousands of finds of local, regional and national importance, the following are particularly interesting or significant:-

- A hoard of 43 sceattas from North Norfolk deposited c. AD 710-20. These small silver coins were the currency of Anglo-Saxon England in the late 7th and early 8th century. This hoard is the first sceatta hoard from Norfolk.
- A penny of Aethelred of East Anglia, puppet ruler under the Vikings following the murder of Edmund in AD 869, from South Norfolk. This is only the sixth example known.
- A Late Bronze Age hoard from Breckland. The third hoard from one parish, within 820m of each other.
- An Iron Age ring-necked pin formerly with an inset stud, probably of coral, from West Norfolk
- Two further Roman ferrules with crow-like bird terminals from North Norfolk and Broadland, suggesting a cult in the north-east of the county
- Two further Early Saxon inhumation cemeteries in West Norfolk and South Norfolk
- A die or patrix for the manufacture of Early Saxon 'C' bracteates (gold ornaments), from South Norfolk. This is believed to be the first to be found, and confirms that 'C' bracteates were made in this country.

4.2 The current Portable Antiquities Scheme comes to an end in March 2011. The HES has just been offered a four-year follow-on project to March 2015, which will fund 1.5 FTEs.

5. **The National Mapping Programme**

5.1 The NMP is an English Heritage initiative which identifies, maps and interprets archaeological sites visible on aerial photographs, and which aims to inform and facilitate planning, management, preservation and research decisions concerning the historic environment of the project area by providing baseline archaeological data.

5.2 Since 2001, the Norfolk NMP team has mapped approximately 29% of the county, recording more than 6,000 archaeological sites, around 50% of which had not previously been recorded. This has created an archaeological map covering over 1500 sq km. Sites recorded by the project include Bronze Age burial mounds, Iron Age settlements, Roman villas, ancient field systems over large tracts of the landscape, medieval villages and extensive World War Two defences, particularly along the coast.

- 5.3 The latest NMP project has been working on Norwich, Thetford and the A11 corridor. This 'growth point' project has recorded a wealth of archaeology, and in one area to the east of Norwich 91% of the sites identified have been completely new discoveries.
- 5.4 Many sites of World War Two date have been recorded around Norwich, as well as a prehistoric double ring ditch near to the Arminghall 'henge' and ring ditches, enclosures and field systems at Postwick on the route of the NDR
- 5.5 To the south of Norwich, the complex landscape around the Roman town of *Venta Icenorum* at Caistor St Edmund has been mapped, including the identification of the full extent of a previously only partially recorded kite-shaped triple-ditched enclosure around the town, a discovery of national significance.

6. **Moving Thetford Forward**

- 6.1 An historic environment survey by HES was funded by MTF as part of the Thetford Growth Point project. Its aims have been to characterise and assess the character and value of the town's historic environment and its potential to contribute to a sustainable social and economic future. The resultant GIS and assessment report will provide information for archaeological assessments of specific development sites, master plans and strategic planning. The HES continues to work with MTF and HEART on historic environment planning, conservation and promotion (*Discovering Thetford*).

7. **Caistor Roman Road**

- 7.1 The research project at the Roman town is a partnership between the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, South Norfolk Council, the University of Nottingham, the Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service and the HES. Excavations at the Roman Town of *Venta Icenorum* resumed in August and September, with two excavation areas inside the walled area and further work in connection with a planning application for an extension to the medieval church.

8. **Coastal Archaeology**

- 8.1 The HES is currently delivering the Norfolk's Coastal Heritage Project on behalf of North Norfolk District Council. The project is part of the Coastal Change Pathfinder programme, an 18-month Defra-funded 'road test' for local authorities to explore ways of helping coastal communities plan and adapt to coastal change. The aim is to encourage Norfolk's coastal communities to study and record their rich and varied heritage, especially in those areas which are threatened by erosion. To this end the HES has been working initially with the residents of Happisburgh, but the focus has broadened to include other coastal communities. There has been a wide range of activities in the field, lectures, newsletters, exhibitions and events, and work on a publication is in progress.
- 8.2 Elsewhere on the coast, the Holme-next-the-Sea beach monitoring project funded by English Heritage has been concluded, and work is in progress on a number of reports.

- 8.3 The HES also continues to work with the Environment Agency and their consultants and English Heritage to ensure that the historic environment is taken into account in Shoreline Management Plans for the north Norfolk coastline and The Wash.
- 8.4 The HES is also participating in the European Interreg IVB North Sea Region *Coast Alive* project, the aim of which is to develop a set of strategies and procedures for mobilizing more people to use local paths and outdoor facilities for recreation and for fitness. The HES will assist with the delivery of the climate change and heritage work package by producing a methodology for identifying and significance scoring heritage assets in the coastal zone vulnerable to climate change impacts and coastal path use. This will inform policy and guidance for local businesses, communities and other agencies.
- 8.5 Members will also be aware of work at Happisburgh by the *Ancient Human Occupation of Britain* project, on deposits with the earliest evidence for human occupation in northern Europe, between 780,000 and 950,000 years ago.

9. **The Norfolk Broads**

- 9.1 St Benet's Abbey at Horning beside the River Bure was founded in Saxon times, destroyed by the Vikings and re-founded around AD1020 as a monastery for Benedictine monks. Uniquely it was never 'dissolved' in the 1530s, and the Bishop of Norwich retains the title of Abbot of St Benet's. The HES has continued to support the Norfolk Archaeological Trust with its Stage 2 bid to the HLF for a Conservation, Access and Community Project. This is due to be submitted early in 2011.
- 9.2 The HES is also working with the Broads Authority on a proposed HLF Landscape Partnership bid, which will aim to:-
- conserve or restore natural and historic features
 - increase community involvement in heritage
 - increase access to the landscape
 - increase training in heritage skills

The HES has produced a Landscape Statement of Significance to support this exciting and very ambitious project.

10. **World War Two**

- 10.1 The HES is represented on a NCC project working group looking at World War Two USAAF airfields.
- The HES is also preparing a 'Your Heritage' bid to the HLF for a project on World War Two heritage assets. It will be a community-based project which will engage local communities in the recording, conservation, management and interpretation of World War Two structures in Norfolk and will aim to make the information collected more accessible.

11. **Publications**

11.1 The externally-funded regional monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology* based in the HES continues to flourish, with new titles in print and further work in press. Recent Norfolk volumes include:-

- a study of human remains from the graveyard of St Margaret *in combusto*, Norwich, which produced an important early group of six cases of treponemal disease (either yaws or syphilis)
- the report on a medieval cemetery found during the construction of the Ormesby bypass.
- a 4-volume report on the extensive archaeological work on the site now occupied by Norwich Castle Mall
- a report on excavations of part of the 13th century Franciscan Friary in St Faith's Lane, Norwich
- a report on a Roman farmstead near Thetford

11.2 The HES has also provided the heritage content for NCC's *Norfolk Health, Heritage and Biodiversity Walks* project. To date, nine booklets have been produced, for Thetford, Aylsham, Cromer and Sheringham, Dereham, Diss and Harleston, Downham Market, King's Lynn and Wymondham. Booklets for Swaffham and the coast are currently in preparation.

12. **Outreach**

12.1 HES staff represent Norfolk on 24 external committees at national, regional and local levels, present academic papers at conferences, give talks to local groups, publish papers and reports in academic journals, liaise with the media over stories of local and regional interest, lead archaeological tours and walks and support the work of the NM&AS.

12.2 On average HES staff are involved in at least two outreach activities each week, including local metal-detector club meetings, media interviews, making NCC's own historic buildings and mills accessible, health walks, lectures to local societies and events in museums and libraries.

13 **Resource Implications**

13.1 **Finance** : None

13.2 **Staff** : None

13.3 **Property** : None

13.4 **IT** : None

14 **Other Implications**

14.1 **Legal Implications** : None

- 14.2 **Human Rights** : None
- 14.3 **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)** : N/A
- 14.4 **Communications** : None
- 14.5 **Health and safety implications** : None
- 14.6 **Any other implications** : None

15 **Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act**

- 15.1 None

16 **Risk Implications/Assessment**

- 16.1 The HES ensures that NCC fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the historic environment. Non-delivery of externally-funded projects could lead to reductions in funding. The HES's Project Management systems were subject to internal audit in 2010, and the report made no recommendations.

17 **Alternative Options**

- 17.1 None

18 **Reason for Decision**

- 18.1 N/A

19 **Conclusion**

The HES has continued to make excellent progress, delivering core historic environment services and a number of externally-funded projects.

Recommendation

- (i) Members are asked to note the report and to review and comment on HES activities.

Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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If you need this (agenda / report / document) in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact (Jayne Bown, 01603 756160, jayne.bown@nps.co.uk) and we will do our best to help.

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30 March 2011
Item No. 6

Half-Yearly Report of NAU Archaeology

Report by the Archaeology Manager of NAU Archaeology

This report describes the work of NAU Archaeology from September 2010 to February 2011 inclusive

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the work of NAU Archaeology during the six months between September 2010 and February 2011.

During this period the organisation was invited to bid for 146 projects (92 of these were Norfolk-based) and undertook 90 projects (along with the post-excavation stages of ongoing projects). Of the 90 projects, 62 (69%) were projects in Norfolk

Summaries of some of the Norfolk fieldwork projects are presented below in Section 2

2. Norfolk Projects

- 2.1 Bressingham, Low Road, The Chequers

In September 2010 an archaeological watching brief was conducted after underpinning of the north wall of the Chequers Inn led to the discovery of a grave containing human remains. Archaeological excavation of the grave and the monitoring of all subsequent below-ground works suggested that the burial pre-dated the construction of the present 17th-century building and either formed part of an extension beyond the limits of the current graveyard of the church of St John the Baptist located to the south of Low Road or was a southern outlying burial to a separate grave yard concentrated to the north.

A cache of fire arms and ammunition was buried in close proximity to the grave at some point after the first quarter of the 20th century.

- 2.2 Congham, St Andrews Lane

An excavation followed the earlier evaluation of a site at St Andrew's Lane, Congham where a new stable block and menage are being constructed.

The evaluation revealed a very thick layer of dark subsoil sealing several features of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval date. A set of Middle

Saxon copper alloy tweezers were recovered from one ditch.

The excavation involved the archaeological stripping of the topsoil to formation level (a maximum of 225mm below ground level) and the recovery of any finds located therein. A very large number of artefacts were present including a silver penny of King Offa, a silver dress tag and an iron arrowhead. A large amount of Early, Middle and Late Saxon and medieval pottery was found along with a small number of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval sherds. Also recovered were 20 Saxon or Medieval knives, eight horseshoes and 328 nails, three Roman coins and one Saxon brooch.

Attempts to find patterns in the distribution of these finds have to date been unsuccessful, but the presence of this amount of material does demonstrate a considerably high level of activity and/or occupation during the Early Saxon to the Medieval periods at least.

2.3 East Harling, Ss Peter and Paul Church

During the winter of 2010–11 improvements to Ss Peter and Paul's Church were undertaken consisting of the excavation of several service trenches and a pit for the installation of a water tank within the grave yard to the west followed by the excavation of a test pit inside the building and works to replace the floor.

Excavation of the service trenches revealed little of interest beyond the presence of graveyard soils however the greater depth required for the water tank uncovered the long bones of numerous individuals, presumably from a charnel pit.

The internal alterations uncovered the remnants of a possible wall footing on an east-west alignment with what may have been an associated floor surface to the north. Excavations to the south of this revealed a soft post-medieval back fill material filling a large feature that probably extended across the length of the trench cutting a grave yard soil to the north. At the base of the excavation a single burial was encountered.

2.4 Gayton, Wells Wondy Lane

Twelve trial trenches were excavated to evaluate land at Wells Wondy Lane, Gayton in February 2011 ahead of a proposed agricultural development.

Several archaeological features were found, the majority of which were located in the southern part of the site. These consisted of two field boundaries and a large, probably natural, hollow which contained sherds of Early Saxon, Late Saxon and medieval pottery. A small pit was also located.

A small post-hole contained several sherds of Beaker period (Bronze Age) pottery and was sealed by subsoil. This feature may be associated with the Bronze Age barrows situated to the north and east of the development area; such features are frequently a focus for other activity in the same period and later.

Two other irregular pits (perhaps prehistoric in date or possibly natural features) and an undated gully were also present within the evaluated area.

2.5 Gorleston, Former Cap and Gown Public House

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead of a proposed residential development on a plot of land on Magdalen Square which had formerly been the location of the Cap and Gown public house in the southern part of Gorleston.

Two trenches were excavated across the plot within which several archaeological features (eight pits and two ditches) were found along with areas of modern disturbance.

The location of the pits, below a thick layer of subsoil, and their generally leached appearance suggested that they were possibly of prehistoric date. One of the pits contained a charcoal-rich fill and the charcoal appears to have been created through burning at high temperatures; well-preserved plant macrofossils were also present.

One of the ditches, like the pits, appeared to be sealed by subsoil and is possibly of an early date. The other cut through the subsoil and contained a fragment of Roman pottery, hence is likely to have been of later date.

2.6 Gorleston, Beacon Park

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was conducted in October-December 2010 at Beacon Park, Gorleston during the construction of a new road system to facilitate the expansion of the industrial park.

This work follows on from previous work which consisted of mapping a large number of cropmarks from aerial photographs of the area (by the Norfolk Mapping Programme) and a watching brief during the laying of underground electric cables in June 2010.

This latest phase of works revealed a number of pits containing a fine assemblage of prehistoric pottery, specifically of Beaker and Iron Age date. As with the earlier monitoring works, many of the other potential features investigated were thought to be of natural origin.

2.7 Great Bircham, Church Lane, Micklebring

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Micklebring, Church Lane, Great Bircham, just west of St Mary's church, ahead of development of the land for residential purposes.

The evaluation produced evidence of two ditches of probable Saxo-Norman to medieval date.

In addition the subsoil and topsoil deposits present at the site indicated a subsequent period of open field agriculture practice.

2.8 Holt, St Andrew's church

An archaeological evaluation conducted at St Andrew's Church ahead of a proposed extension to the church consisted of one trench

measuring 4m by 4m located within the footprint of the new build.

The work revealed that the depth of undisturbed deposits lay approximately 1.20m below current ground level. The southern edge of what appeared to be an east-west aligned ditch was present along the northern limit of the site. The ceramics recovered from this feature suggest it might have been of medieval date. A shallow linear feature similarly aligned east-west was present in the south of the trench. Sealing these features was a layer of rubble mixed with soil that might date to the post-1708 rebuilding of much of the church.

The absence of any human remains might indicate that the evaluation trench lay outside the graveyard of St Andrew's Church. It is possible that the ditch revealed along the northern edge of the evaluation formed an earlier southern boundary to the churchyard

2.9 Kimberley, Station Road

Evaluation ahead of a proposed new drainage scheme, designed to relieve frequent flooding of part of the B1108 (Station Road) was undertaken prior to a final decision on the route of the drainage scheme. The scheme would potentially have an impact on part of a large earthwork complex on the edge of Kimberley Park.

Three trenches were excavated located on the line of the proposed drainage scheme. The central trench revealed that one of the earthworks located in the park represented an east-west orientated ditch of medieval date. A further medieval ditch, a pit of Early Neolithic date, and a gully of possible Neolithic date were also found in the eastern trench. 'Natural' features were observed in the western trench.

2.10 King's Lynn Power Station B

Following evaluation of the site utilising window sample cores, an archaeological excavation was undertaken during the late autumn of 2010 ahead of proposed expansion of the power station. The proposed building works impact on a north-south aligned sea bank earthwork which is situated immediately to the east of the power station. As part of the mitigation works, three wide, stepped trenches were excavated through the sea bank using a combination of machine and hand excavation in order to examine the sequence of development of the bank and to attempt to ascertain its date.

The profile through the sea bank revealed two episodes of bank construction and a final re-structuring phase. Between the first and second banks there appears to have been a period of natural deposition of windblown sand and possible erosion. A single fragment of baked clay which was likely to have been of Roman date was found within one of the earliest layers of the first bank. However the baked clay fragment is probably residual and the first bank was more likely to have been constructed in the Late Saxon or early medieval period.

2.11 King's Lynn, 18A Tower Street

An archaeological evaluation by window sampling was conducted ahead of proposed redevelopment at 18a Tower Street, King's Lynn

within the historic core of the town.

Two 'window' auger samples or cores were taken at the site and each recovered samples to a depth of 4m below modern ground surface. The sequence of deposits identified in these samples indicated that waterlogged ground at the site, perhaps of a foreshore or natural creek, had been in filled and sealed by dumps of material. Two sherds of medieval pottery recovered from this material might suggest the broad date for this activity.

The presence of modern or late post-medieval building material was noted in the upper deposits of both samples, the upper sequence logged in the samples appearing to represent late post-medieval to modern levelling up of the site. This modern or post-medieval material varied from 1.28m to 2.80m in depth

These results would appear to be consistent with what is understood about the early development of the town of King's Lynn, with land being reclaimed by either deliberate or *ad hoc* dumping of material.

2.12 King's Lynn, Wisbech Road to Boal Quay

Excavations took place on part of the route of the new Wisbech Road to Boal Quay Public Transport Route on the north bank of the River Nar where it crosses the medieval Carmelite precinct.

Very few medieval remains were uncovered, apart from a wall extending westwards from the upstanding 15th-century gatehouse to the edge of the river. However a substantial amount of medieval masonry was found reused in later structures.

Of particular interest was a large deposit of silt deposited on the site in the early to mid 17th century, sealed by rubbish deposits firmly dated to the mid 17th century. It is possible that this could perhaps be associated with defences raised in 1643 when the town was besieged (not the later 1644 defensive scheme created following the siege and depicted on later maps).

There were large deposits of 19th- and 20th-century rubbish alongside the bank of the River Nar and the suggestion of the remains of an ancient watercourse running outside the northern precinct wall before flowing into the Nar.

The project produced moderately large assemblages of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe.

2.13 Morley St Botolph, Deopham Road, Edgefield House

A watching brief carried out ahead of the creation of a 40m by 20m horse arena at Edgefield House.

The stripping of the area revealed two pits, both of similar type, and both containing large amounts of *in situ* burning, with charcoal and burnt flint but few other inclusions. Environmental samples taken from these pits confirmed that burning taken place *in situ* and rapid infilling had subsequently taken place. One of the pits contained a small

amount of hazelnut shells

These pits are undated, but are possibly of a prehistoric date.

2.14 Norwich Open Academy, Mousehold Heath

A metal-detector survey and watching brief was conducted ahead of a heathland restoration and wildflower meadow project on playing fields south-west of the Norwich Open Academy situated to the north-east of Norwich on Mousehold Heath.

The metal-detector survey produced predominantly 20th-century military artefacts, mainly blank firing cartridges and military insignia. Likewise the features recorded during machining were solely 20th-century in date and almost exclusively military in nature. The possible exception being a pit which contained burnt material.

Finds recovered during machining of the site included a small amount of prehistoric pottery and worked flint.

2.15 Poringland, Stoke Road and The Street

A desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation was undertaken during November and December 2010 in advance of an application for proposed development the site for residential purposes. A geophysical survey was conducted and 61 trial trenches were excavated. Five of the trenches produced archaeological features and deposits.

The desk-based assessment concluded that the site appears to lie within an area of low to moderate archaeological potential, with two sites known within the development area. The geophysical survey revealed sparse evidence for earlier field boundaries.

Of the five trenches containing archaeological features, four did not produce dating evidence and three trenches produced evidence of the recent past. It is possible that the features may be of early origin but more likely to be of relatively modern date.

A small piece of wreckage from the engine of a Bolingbroke aircraft was found in one of the trenches – the 1942 crash site is recorded close by.

2.16 Saham Toney, Goffes School House

An archaeological evaluation was conducted ahead of the construction of a new house on land north of Goffes School House, Saham Toney. The site was located in an area of high archaeological potential close to the historic core of the village.

A gully, a post-hole, a possible beam slot and a shallow pit, all of probable post-medieval date, were observed and a pit/tree hole and a fence-line consisting of five post-holes, of more recent 19th- to 20th-century date were also recorded.

A very worn Roman coin and a few stray sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were found within the topsoil, indicative of the background historical activity in the village. The lack of earlier

archaeological features suggests that this side of the road was not settled and had probably been parkland from the medieval period onwards.

2.17 Shipdham, Pound Green Lane

An archaeological evaluation ahead of a proposed new housing development at the eastern side of the village of Shipdham was undertaken in December 2010. The site was situated in an area of high archaeological potential due to the presence of a medieval moated enclosure immediately to the north.

The project revealed a large number of archaeological features including a small Early Saxon pit and four medieval ditches. Just one of the trenches contained no features at all. A gully containing 74 sherds of medieval pottery was also unearthed. Several other ditches contained burnt flint, but due to their appearance and proximity to the moated site they were considered not to be of prehistoric date and the flint is likely to have been (re)deposited in the medieval period.

Several pits and two ditches in close proximity contained large fragments of slag which were a by-product of nearby medieval smithing.

2.18 Wells-next-the-Sea, Jolly Sailor Yard

An archaeological evaluation trench measuring 3m by 3m within the proposed footprint of a new building was excavated ahead of proposed redevelopment at the east end of Jolly Sailor Yard, Wells-next-the-Sea.

The work indicated that undisturbed sand and chalk deposits were present 0.35m below the current ground level. The only significant archaeological remains revealed were of a building constructed of chalk and flint and bonded with lime mortar with a pavement tile floor.

Reference to earlier maps of the area indicates that the plot occupied by this building was open in the early 20th century, suggesting the building dates to before that date. The broad date assigned to brick and tile recovered from the floor supports an early 20th- to late 19th-century date for its construction. This building might have fronted Jolly Sailors Yard and it is likely that more of it survives on the plot beyond the extent of the trial trench.

3. Contracts

3.1 During the reporting period NAU Archaeology provided 146 Project Designs and fee quotes for potential projects. Of this total, 119 were fieldwork projects; Excavation (16), Evaluation (54), Watching Brief (41), Historic Building Recording (7). The remaining project bids were made up of Desk-based Assessment / Environmental Impact Assessment (14), Statement of Archaeological Potential (2) Prehistoric Pottery research and analysis (10), and Other (2).

Norfolk-based projects account for 124 (63%) of the tendered

projects.

4. Post-excavation, Publication and Reports

4.1 This organisation issued 56 fieldwork and desk-based assessment reports between September 2010 and February 2011 inclusive (see Appendix 2) of which 40 are reports on sites in Norfolk.

Romano-British and Saxon Occupation at Billington, Central Norfolk by Heather Wallis has been published. It is the 135th volume in the East Anglian Archaeology Series.

5. Outreach

5.1 Each class at Queensway Middle School was given an individual talk about archaeology on the site of the evaluation trench excavated at their neighbour Queensway Infant School.

Staff have given talks about archaeology to interested groups across the county.

6. Staffing

6.1 The number of staff employed is 21.

7. Resource Implications

8.1	Finance	None
	Property	None
	Staff	None
	Information Technology	None
	Legal	None
	Human Rights	None
	Equal Opportunities	None
	Communications	None
	Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act	None

8. Recommendation

9.1 That this report be noted

Background Papers

None

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Appendix 1

Projects undertaken between September 2010 and February 2011

Norfolk		
Project Name	Type	District
Attleborough, Land at Honeysuckle Way	HS	Breckland
Aylsham Football Ground	DBA	Broadland
Aylsham Football Ground	EVAL	Broadland
Aylsham, Land off Burgh Road,	DBA	Broadland
Blakeney School Playground	WB	North Norfolk
Bradwell, Gapton Hall Road	WB	Great Yarmouth
Bradwell, Lynn Grove VA High School,	WB	Great Yarmouth
Bressingham, Chequers Inn, Low Road	WB	South Norfolk
Caister Castle Moat Restoration Phase II	WB	Great Yarmouth
Congham, St Andrews Lane,	EXC	West Norfolk
Cringleford New Primary School	SP	South Norfolk
Cringleford, New Primary School	EVAL	South Norfolk
Dereham, Greenfield Rd/Wheatman Way,	DBA	Breckland
Downham Market, Land to the South-east	DBA	West Norfolk
Downham Market, St Edmunds Road,	EVAL	West Norfolk
Drayton, 15-21 School Road	EVAL	Broadland
East Harling church	WB	Breckland
Fincham, Hall Farm, Main Road	HBR	West Norfolk
Gayton, Wells Wondy Lane,	EVAL	West Norfolk
Gorleston, Former Cap and Gown PH	EVAL	Great Yarmouth
Gorleston, Shrublands,	WB	Great Yarmouth
Great Bircham, Micklebring, Church Lane	EVAL	West Norfolk
Great Yarmouth, Beacon Park	EXC	Great Yarmouth
Great Yarmouth, EAC, Greyfriars	WB	Great Yarmouth
Holt Parish Church	EVAL	North Norfolk
Holt Quarry	WB	North Norfolk
Kimberley B1108, Station Road	EVAL	South Norfolk
King's Lynn Power Station B	EXC	K Lynn and W Norfolk
King's Lynn Sewage Treatment Works	DBA	K Lynn and W Norfolk
King's Lynn, 18A Tower Street	WS	K Lynn and W Norfolk
King's Lynn, Wisbech Road to Boal Street	EXC	K Lynn and W Norfolk
Longham Quarry 2010	EXC	Breckland
Martham, Kooky Burrow, Black Street	WB	Great Yarmouth
Middleton, Grandcourt Farm,	SREP	West Norfolk
Morley St Botolph, Edgefield House	WB	South Norfolk
North Walsham, Bacton Wood Mill	WB	North Norfolk
Norwich, Bishopgate, The Great Hospital	EVAL/HBR	Norwich
Norwich, Market Avenue Tree Planting	WB	Norwich
Norwich Open Academy Heathland	FS/WB	Norwich
Norwich, Land at Reepham Road	DBA	Norwich
Norwich School Electricity Substation	EXC/WB	Norwich
Norwich School Lower School Garage	WB	Norwich
Norwich School Refectory Extension	EVAL	Norwich

Norfolk		
Project Name	Type	District
Norwich, St Benedicts Street Public Toilet	WB	Norwich
Norwich, St Stephens Church floor	EXC	Norwich
Norwich Free School, 15 Surrey Street	HS	Norwich
Norwich, The Lodge, The Great Hospital	EXC	Norwich
Poringland, Carr Lane & Shotesham Road	DBA	South Norfolk
Poringland, Carr Lane & Shotesham Road	EVAL	South Norfolk
Poringland, Stoke Road and The Street	DBA	South Norfolk
Poringland, Stoke Road and The Street	EVAL	South Norfolk
Potter Heigham - Martham Tower Pipeline	WB	North Norfolk
Pulham Market, Grange Farm	HBR	South Norfolk
Saham Toney, Goffes School House	EVAL	Breckland
Shipdham, Park Estate RM Scheme	EVAL	Breckland
Shipdham, Parklands Avenue	EVAL	Breckland
Shipdham, Land off Pound Green Lane	EVAL	Breckland
Thetford, Bishops Primary School	HS	Breckland
Thetford, Queensway Infant School	EVAL	Breckland
Thetford Recycling Centre	SP	Breckland
Watlington Quarry Post Excavation	ASSESS	West Norfolk
Wells Next The Sea, East End Boat Yard	EVAL	North Norfolk

Outside Norfolk		
Project Name	Type	District
Bantycok Gypsum Mine	SREP	-
Barnack, Uffington Road	SREP	-
BCC 043/+BRS014	SREP	-
Bradfield Combust, Suffolk	EVAL	-
Bramford, Fitzgerald Road	EVAL	-
Bury St Edmunds, St Edmunds House,	WB	-
Felixstowe, Philip Avenue,	EVAL	-
Flixton Quarry	SREP	-
Great Cornard	SREP	-
Hammersmith, The Wormholt Centre	DBA	-
Kessingland, Land West of Africa Alive	EVAL	-
Kessingland Wind Farm, Africa Alive	WB	-
Lakenheath	SREP	-
Lambeth, Dunraven School,	EVAL/HBR	-
Linton Village College	SREP	-
Lowestoft, 38 Pinbush Rd	EVAL	-
Manea, 10-12 School Lane	EVAL	-
Margetts Farm	SREP	-
Poole, Baden Powell Middle School	DBA	-
RAFL Liberty Village Phase 5	SREP	-
Saxmundham, 22 Market Place	EVAL	-
Southwold Reinforcement Main	WB	-

Outside Norfolk		
Project Name	Type	District
Swansea, Kittle Farm, Kittle	DBA	-
Thorpe Morieux, Bury Road	EVAL	-
Tottenham, Mulberry Primary School	DBA	-
Wangford Quarry	SREP	-
West Deeping, Rectory Farm,	SREP	-
Weybread, Weybread House, Mill Lane	EVAL	-

ASSESS = Assessment; **AUPD** = Assessment and Updated Project Design; **EIS** Environmental Impact Statement; **EVAL** = Evaluation; **EXC** = Excavation; **FS/MD** = Fieldwalking/Metal-detecting Survey; **GEO** = Geophysical Survey; **HBR** = Historic Building Recording; **HS** = Heritage Statement; **SP** Statement of Potential; **SREP**; Specialist Report; **WB** = Watching Brief; **WS** = Window Sampling

Appendix 2

Reports issued between September 2010 and February 2011 inclusive

Norfolk		
No.	Title	Type
1698	Former Glassworks, Langham	HBR
2008	Old Chapel, John Kennedy Road, Kings Lynn	WB
2155	St Augustine's Gyratory Scheme, Norwich	WB
2210	Bacton Mill Wood, North Walsham	WB
2223	Potter Heigham Replacement Main Scheme	WB
2237	Thetford Bus Station	EVAL
2259	New Norwich Fire Station, 63 Bracondale	WB
2265a	Friary Cottage, Burnham Norton	EXC
2301	15-21 School Road, Drayton,	EVAL
2344a	East Winch and Middleton	EVAL/EXC/WB
2400a	Land to the north of Norwich	DBA
2402	The Assembly House, Norwich	WB
2405	Ivy Farm, Stanhoe,	HBR
2464	Break O'Day, 43 Panxworth Road, South Walsham	WB
2467	Land off Burgh Road, Aylsham	DBA
2481	Rear of 20 Bishopgate, Norwich	WB
2489	Lynn Grove VA High School, Bradwell	WB
2498	New Primary School, Hart's Lane, Cringleford	EVAL
2503	Blakeney Church of England Infant School Playground	WB
2504	Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth	WB
2517	Jolly Sailor Yard, Wells-next-the-Sea	EVAL
2516	Proposed B1108 Drainage Scheme, Station Road, Kimberley	EVAL
2519	Shrublands, Gorleston-on-Sea	WB
2525	St Benedict's Public Toilet, Norwich	WB
2530	Land to the South-East of Downham Market	DBA
2533	18a Tower Street, King's Lynn	WS
2534	Hall Farm Barns, Fincham	HBR
2541	The Chequers Inn, Bressingham	WB
2555	Land south of Stoke Road & west of The Street, Poringland	DBA
2556	Land sth of Carr Lane & north of Shotesham Rd, Poringland	DBA
2561	Land North of Goffes School House, Saham Toney, Norfolk	EVAL
2564a	King's Lynn B Power Station	AUPD
2570	St Andrew's Church, Holt	EVAL
2587	Land south of Stoke Road & west of the Street, Poringland	EVAL
2588	Edgefield House, Deopham Road, Morley St Botolph	WB
2595	Replacement Water Main, Shipdham Park Estate, Shipdham	FS/EVAL
2602	Norwich Open Academy, Mousehold, Norwich	MD/WB
2610	Micklebring, Church Lane, Great Bircham	EVAL
2612	Land Off Pound Green Lane, Shipdham	EVAL
2623	Former Cap and Gown Public House, Gorleston, Norfolk	EVAL

Outside Norfolk		
No.	Title	Type
2373	Roman Bank, Little Dowgate, Leverington, Cambridgeshire	WB
2414	Land at West Richardson St, High Wycombe, Bucks	EVAL
2461	22 Bridewell Street, Clare, Suffolk	WB
2423	t Kenilworth Grove, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex	WB
2474	High Street, Hauxton, Cambridgeshire	EXC
2488	Dunraven School, Lambeth	EVAL/HBR
2496	10-12 School Lane, Manea, Cambridgeshire	EVAL
2494	Norse Avenue Off Site Scheme, Bradfield Combust, Suffolk	EVAL
2523	Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk	EVAL
2553	Weybread House, Weybread, Suffolk	EVAL
2582	Baden Powell School, Poole, Dorset	EVAL/HBR
2600	The Mulberry Primary School, Parkhurst Road, Tottenham	DBA
2638	Land between 74 and 76 Fitzgerald Road, Bramford, Suffolk	EVAL
2621	Land at Kittle Farm, Swansea	DBA
2620	The Wormholt Centre, Hammersmith	DBA
2615	38 Pinbush Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk	EVAL

ASSESS = Assessment; **AUPD** = Assessment and Updated Project Design; **EIS** Environmental Impact Statement; **EVAL** = Evaluation; **EXC** = Excavation; **FS/MD** = Fieldwalking/Metal-detecting Survey; **GEO** = Geophysical Survey; **HBR** = Historic Building Recording; **HS** = Heritage Statement; **SP** Statement of Potential; **SREP**; Specialist Report; **WB** = Watching Brief; **WS** = Window Sampling

**Report to Norfolk Archaeological Services Advisory
Committee
30 March 2011
Item No 7**

**Half-Year Report of the Archaeology Department,
Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery,
October 2010 – March 2011**

Report by Head of Museums and Archaeology

Summary

This report reviews and provides information about the range of duties and activities undertaken by Norwich Castle Archaeology Department, which is part of the Curatorial and Display Section of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

1. The Archaeology Department, October 2010 to March 2011

- 1.1 The Norwich Castle Archaeology Department has continued its forward-looking and balanced programme of curatorial work, which includes acquisition and disposal, collections management, facilitating research into the collection, outreach activities, providing support for the wider museum community and undertaking major projects.
- 1.2 The team remains Dr John Davies (Chief Curator), Dr Tim Pestell and Alan West (part-time), while volunteers continue to supplement the work of the curators, tackling specialist collections and areas of work where staff are not able to make such rapid progress.
- 1.3 Two Honorary Research Associates continue to provide their voluntary specialist assistance. Dr Peter Robins continues his work on the lithics collection. Faye Kalloniatis continues her work on the Ancient Egyptian collection (section 10 below).
- 1.4 The Department also benefits from the voluntary work of two postgraduate students. Dr Matthew Sillence, of the University of East Anglia, has continued his study of the Department's seal collection. Eileen Jahnke is a history graduate of Potsdam University, to which she will return to complete her MA. She has received funding for a 7 month placement in the Archaeology Department as part of the EU's 'Leonardo Programme'. Eileen intends to develop a career as a museum curator.

2. The Rationalisation Project and Office Moves

- 2.1 Current proposals for NMAS include the requirement to move the Costume and Textile collections and services from Carrow House to the Shirehall. In order to accommodate the additional material, a substantial reorganisation of the building has been planned.
- 2.2 Work has begun on the reorganisation and moving of Shirehall offices, collections, departmental libraries and resources. This work will continue throughout the rest of 2011.
- 2.3 As a result of these moves, Norwich Castle Study Centre will embrace more functions and collections for public access, alongside the existing departments, which include archaeology.

3. Collections management

- 3.1 Work has continued towards the fuller documentation of the archaeology collection.
- 3.2 Movement of collections and records is actively underway, as part of the reorganisation of space within the Shirehall complex.
- 3.3 Significant work has continued on the seal collection. A number of original medieval wax seals have been identified and placed in plastazote packing. Work on the casts has revealed the collection to be more extensive than previously thought. This is now considered to be one of the most important such collections in the UK.

4. Treasure Act and Acquisitions

- 4.1 Norwich Castle has continued to acquire important objects through the workings of the Treasure Act and from the close relationship with the county's metal-detector users. Recent acquisitions include:
 - A very rare Iron Age bronze boar figurine.
 - A magnificent 6th century Visigothic buckle plate, imported to Britain from Spain.
 - A lead-filled Late Anglo-Saxon censer cover that had been re-used as a weight.
 - An assemblage of objects from Beachamwell, including Anglo-Saxon cemetery material.
 - Two highly ornate enamelled 7th century Celtic mounts.
 - A die used to create punched designs on an Anglo-Saxon 'bracteate' pendant.
 - A gilt 8th century Anglo-Saxon brooch with blue glass inlays.

- 4.2 Thanks to the positive relationship established with metal-detector users and to their generosity, many of these items have been gifts to the museum.
- 4.3 The *Collecting Cultures Scheme*, reported at previous NASAC meetings, is enabling the enhancement of the archaeology collections and displays. The project, worth £220,000 in total, remains a major part of the Department's work programme, through to 2013.

5. Loans

- 5.1 The standing of the archaeology collections both nationally and internationally is reflected in the regular and frequent requests for loans of objects from a range of institutions. Recent requests for future loans have come from:
- The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, for the Iron Age electrum torc from south-west Norfolk.
 - National Trust Sutton Hoo, for the Balthild matrix and Anglo-Saxon female accessories.
 - Ipswich Museum, for the Happisburgh flint collection.
 - Falaise Castle, Calvados, **Normandy**, for artefacts of the Norman period, for a new display in their Keep.
 - A national exhibition at Goldsmiths' Hall, City of London, on the use of gold through history, entitled 'The Glory of Gold: The Story of Britain and Gold'. A range of prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon objects.
 - Swaffham Museum, for Norfolk Anglo-Saxon material.
- 5.2 Material from the collection is currently being loaned to the following institutions:
- Nottingham University. Samian ware pottery from Caistor St Edmund
 - The Grosvenor Museum, Chester. For its Vikings exhibition, 'Reap and Tillage'.

6. Norwich Castle Keep Redevelopment Project and the British Museum Partnership

- 6.1 Norwich Castle Keep has been identified through the Service Planning process as the next substantial display priority within NMAS. The phased approach to this project has previously been reported to NASAC.
- 6.2 A new exhibition in the Keep basement opened during the summer and has received very positive reviews. Curated by Tim Pestell, it chronicles the history of Norwich Castle as the County Gaol.

- 6.3 On the 16th February 2011, NMAS and the British Museum launched a new partnership with the aim of creating major new displays in Norwich Castle Keep. The event was held in London, at the British Museum. The project is titled: '**Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England**'. The plan is bring together some of the outstanding collections from London and Norwich in major new displays at Norwich Castle. Together, the Designated archaeology collections at Norwich Castle and the medieval collections of the British Museum will enable an unparalleled insight into life, work and faith in East Anglia in the medieval period.
- 6.4 At the British Museum event, the new design vision was presented, together with ideas for major partnership object-rich displays, setting Norwich and Norfolk in the context of wider themes of life in medieval England.

7. The Norman Connections Project

- 7.1 A partnership has been established between Norwich Castle Museum and communities in the south of England and in Normandy to explore and develop some of the historical, intellectual and physical links between our historic sites, relating to the Norman period. The partners represent:
- Norwich Castle
 - Colchester Castle
 - Rochester Castle
 - Hastings Castle
 - Caen Castle
 - Falaise Castle
 - Bayeux Tapestry Centre
 - Calvados Tourism Department
- 7.2 In October, funding for this project was secured from the Interreg IVa France (Channel) – England Programme and it will run until September 2013.
- 7.3 The project will develop a shared approach to the conservation, interpretation and display of our respective Norman monuments, artefacts and documents. In doing so, the partners will benefit from the shared professional experience of the partnership. It will also explore the creation of a Norman Heritage Tourism Trail, which will span both sides of the Channel.
- 7.4 Norwich Castle embraces the Norman Connections project within its wider Keep development project. Norman Connections will enable us to:
- Explore the architecture of the Norman Keep more fully

- Develop the interpretation and understanding of the Keep by comparison with its French counterparts
- Explore new methods of display
- Improve existing Keep displays
- Provide the opportunity for international object loans
- Enable a dialogue for the exchange of expertise between partners in the areas of historical knowledge, museum skills and tourism
- Promote Norwich's Norman heritage to wider audiences across southern England and Normandy

8. General Displays at Norwich Castle

- 8.1 Significant work has been undertaken in the permanent galleries. New object labels and holster information cards have been produced for the Boudica and Anglo-Saxon & Viking Galleries, while a number of interesting and important new finds have been placed on display in both.
- 8.2 Work has begun in the Keep main floor, with a number of new items put on display, alongside new medieval loan objects from the British Museum.

9. Norwich Castle Study Centre

- 9.1 The Department continues to invest time to support researchers who request to study the outstanding Designated collections.
- 9.2 Researchers and students have continued to visit the Study Centre from across Britain and the world. Collections studied during the six months include:

Prehistoric objects

- Happisburgh flints
- Neolithic flint arrowheads
- Kelling Heath flints
- Grimes Graves flint

Iron Age objects

- Iron Age coinage

Roman objects

- Roman glass

Anglo-Saxon objects

- Sporle Anglo-Saxon cemetery collection

Medieval objects

- 14th century Book of Hours
- Medieval manuscripts

Post-medieval objects

- Jettons

Ancient Egyptian objects

- General Ancient Egyptian objects
- The New Kingdom period shroud

9.3 Researchers on the collections have come from the following institutions and places:

From institutions within the United Kingdom

- The Royal Mint, Cardiff
- University of Kent
- English Heritage
- University of Sheffield
- University of York

From other institutions Worldwide

- Leiden University, Netherlands
- Kyushu University, Japan

9.4 Staff continue to provide professional knowledge and expertise to visiting students through discussion and mentoring. These include:

- Jun'ichiro Tsujita, who is Associate Professor at Kyushu University, **Japan**. Jun'ichiro is spending a year as a Research Associate at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Cultures in Norwich. He is spending time throughout the year with the Archaeology Department - becoming familiar with the late prehistory (Iron Age) of East Anglia, through discussions with staff.

9.5 A collection of Anglo-Saxon skeletons excavated from Thornham in the 1950s has been loaned to a lecturer in Forensic Anthropology at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge for analysis. This will enable the group to be aged, sexed and examined for evidence of diet and their cause of death. It is also hoped to undertake stable isotope analysis, to investigate their geographical origins.

10. The Egyptian Collection Project

10.1 The Honorary Research Associate, Faye Kalloniatis, has continued to work on the collection, with the ultimate aims of publishing a catalogue and also of increasing awareness of the collection within the local and Egyptological community. During the last six months the main

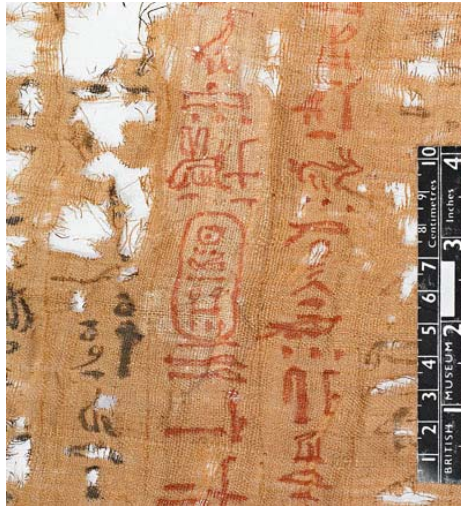
emphasis of the project has been the study of the ancient Egyptian shroud.

- 10.2 Norwich Castle is fortunate to have in its collection a rare ancient Egyptian shroud dated to c1550 BC and inscribed with hieroglyphs of chapters from the Book of the Dead; spells designed to help the deceased on their journey to the afterlife. The shroud, part of the 1921 Colman donation, has remained in store, unable to be properly viewed or researched.
- 10.3 In January 2011 a joint project, generously supported by Partnership UK, was begun between Norwich Castle and the British Museum. The aim was to unroll the shroud, conserve it and study the inscribed text. It is hoped to discover its ancient owner, provenance and something of the religious beliefs and practices of the ancient Egyptians. Over the coming months the shroud will be fully exposed and conserved by the British Museum textile conservators, with assistance from the Norwich staff. Minute samples of cloth will be scientifically analysed to identify the pigments used for the hieroglyphs, while the use of special imaging techniques will enhance the clarity of the text, making it easier for curators and other researchers to study.



Dr John Taylor (BM) and team examine the shroud with Faye Kalloniatis (centre-left)

- 10.4 During the course of the project, up-to-date progress on the Norwich shroud can be followed through the blog: (<http://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/conservation-2/norwich-shroud/>). Once the shroud is fully restored and interpreted, study days will be held at both the British Museum (7 April) and Norwich Castle (24 May).



Shroud detail containing the name of King Menkaure

10.5 The shroud will form a valuable addition to the small international corpus of such known artefacts and will, it is hoped, be the subject of a small exhibition in due course.

10.6 A small number of enquiries and identifications in relation to the Egyptians are received and are dealt with by the specialist Research Associate.

11. Education, Outreach and Media

11.1 Staff have given the following presentations, interviews and sessions to students, members of the public, specialist academic audiences and the media:

- John Davies 12 October 'Boudica's Norfolk', to the Hanworth Society.
- John Davies 15 October 'The Introduction of Coinage to East Anglia', to the Friends of Cromer Museum.
- John Davies 19 October 'The Norwich Castle Iron Age Collection', Norwich Castle lunchtime talk.
- John Davies 22 October 'Boars, Bulls and Norfolk's Celtic Menagerie', Time and Tide Museum lunchtime talk.
- John Davies 16 November 'The Norwich Castle Roman Collection', Norwich Castle lunchtime talk.
- John Davies 16 November 'Boudica: Her Life, Times and Legacy', to the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Archaeological Society.
- John Davies 10 February 'Roman Norfolk', to the U3A Artefact Group, Norwich Castle Study Centre.
- John Davies 14 February 'The Roman Town at Caistor St Edmund', The Mattishall Society.
- John Davies 9 March 'The Romans in East Anglia', The British Federation of Graduates, Norwich Castle.

- John Davies 10 March 'Roman Norfolk', Lowestoft Archaeology and Local History Society.
- John Davies 17 March 'Roman Norfolk', U3A Group, Norwich Castle Study Centre.
- Tim Pestell 9 February 'Treasure and Museum Acquisition', for the Museums Eastern Archaeological Network event at Colchester Castle.
- Tim Pestell 15 February 'Early East Anglian Monasteries', to the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Archaeological Society.

12. Conferences

- 12.1 Work has started towards an international conference on the theme of 'Norman Castles', which will be held at Norwich Castle in October 2011.
- 12.2 Two Egyptian shroud study days will be held, with the first at the British Museum on 7 April and the second at Norwich Castle on 24 May.
- 12.3 Work continues towards the publication of the volume entitled: '*The Iron Age in Northern East Anglia: New Work in the Land of the Iceni*'. This work is the proceedings of a conference organised by the Archaeology Department in May, 2008. Contributions from a series of national scholars have been received and have been prepared for submission to the publisher.

13. Publications and Committees

- 13.1 Tim Pestell continues to serve on the Bury St Edmunds Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, and the Council of the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society.
- 13.2 Tim Pestell continues to sit on the Department of Culture, Media and Sport *Treasure Valuation Committee*.
- 13.3 Tim Pestell undertakes the role of Curatorial Advisor for the 100th Bomb Group Memorial Museum at Thorpe Abbots, south Norfolk.
- 13.4 John Davies contributed a section and catalogue on 'Coins', to the recent monograph, 'Romano-British and Saxon Occupation at Billingford, Central Norfolk', *East Anglian Archaeology 135*, pp38-41 and 80-94.
- 13.5 Staff continue to undertake research into the collections for publication. John Davies and Tim Pestell are writing a history of Norfolk, to be completed in November 2011.
- 13.6 Tim Pestell has written a paper on the Norfolk gold bracteates for the Sachsensymposium proceedings with Dr Charlotte Behr of

Roehampton University and a chapter on Anglo-Saxon paganism for the proceedings of the 'Art of Faith in Norfolk' book.

14. Museum Archaeology Regional Network

14.1 The Archaeology Department has actively continued their involvement in the newly established Museums Eastern Archaeology Network (MEAN). This new Partnership also involves museum-based archaeologists in Colchester, Ipswich, Luton and Cambridge.

14.2 The aims of the Partnership are:

- to develop links with other collections in the region.
- to work towards the development of a strategic approach for managing the region's archaeological collections.
- to safeguard knowledge so that others may benefit in the future.
- to provide opportunities for extending this knowledge to those who will benefit from it.

14.3 In February, members of the Network provide an archaeology information and training day for non-specialist and independent museums staff in the region. This was organised in conjunction with Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service and the meeting was held at Colchester Castle.

15. Metal-detecting liaison

15.1 Staff from the Archaeology Department continue to have an active relationship with metal-detecting in the county. Tim Pestell has attended metal-detector club meetings and stood in to help cover for members if the Finds Identification and Recording Service at these events. Staff also contribute specialist reports on objects for finders and for the HER.

16. Recommendation

16.1 Recommendation - that the report be noted.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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