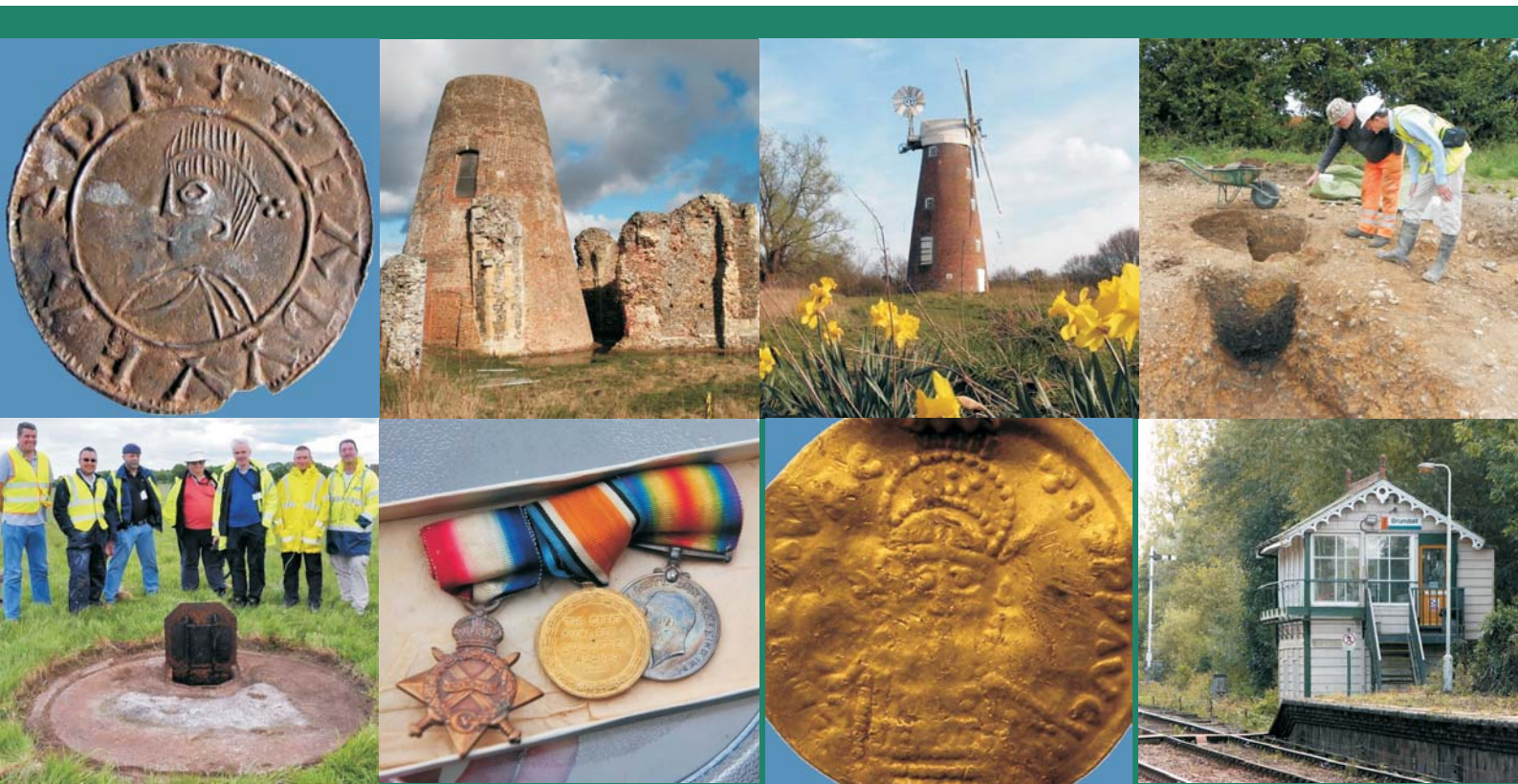


Historic Environment Service Norfolk County Council



Annual Review 2013-14

FOREWORD

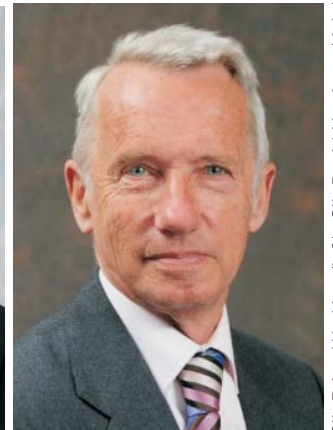
It gives us both great pleasure to introduce this Review for 2013–14, which is being made widely available to all those with an interest in Norfolk’s archaeology and historic environment.

2013 saw a number of anniversaries, including the 40th since the Norfolk Archaeological Unit – part of which is now the County Council’s Historic Environment Service – came into being in April 1973, and the centenary of the 1913 Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act which effectively laid the foundations for the present system for protecting and managing the historic environment.

The historic environment makes a major contribution to the places where we live, work and play, delivering character, local distinctiveness and sense of place. The buildings, monuments and landscapes all around us document our past and, at the same time, signal the inevitability of change. The historic environment also informs and guides future development, heritage-led regeneration, economic development and heritage tourism. We believe that the historic environment has a very important place at the heart of local government’s strategies for growth, in managing change, protecting the environment, strengthening the economy, delivering localism and promoting health and well-being.

Even in these times of continuing change and uncertainty, we are confident that the work that Norfolk County Council does on heritage, the services we provide, the partnerships that we form and the projects that we undertake or support all make a real difference to Norfolk and that they will continue to do so. More and more people, communities and businesses are getting involved in and realising the value of heritage, keeping them active and healthy, supporting the local economy and jobs, and providing interest and enjoyment. It comes as no surprise to learn that people who engage with heritage are demonstrably happier than those who do not.

Norfolk County Council’s Historic Environment Service continues to lead the field in many aspects of this work, with one of the largest and most comprehensive Historic Environment Records in the country. This enables the Archaeology and Planning Team to provide advice at a strategic level, and to work with developers, farmers and landowners on individual applications and on monument



Cllr Brian Watkins (left); Cllr David Harrison (right)



St Benet's Abbey



Blickling mausoleum



Community engagement test pitting

and landscape management, all of which are essential to protect the most precious sites, buildings and landscapes and to facilitate increasing change elsewhere.

Norfolk also has a long and very well-established identification and recording service for archaeological finds, and once again Norfolk has the highest number of recorded finds and Treasure cases in the country. Many of these discoveries are of regional, national or even international significance.

The work of the externally-funded National Mapping Programme funded by English Heritage, now in its 14th year, goes from strength to strength, and 2013–14 saw the team’s expertise being used for the first time on a project just over the county boundary in partnership with Suffolk County Council.

Finally, the staff of the Service share their knowledge and expertise with many people through a wide range of outreach and community events, talks and publications. We are very fortunate to have such a superb and dedicated team of professional archaeologists in Norfolk, and we offer them our congratulations on another successful year.

Councillor Brian Watkins, Heritage Champion, Norfolk County Council

Councillor David Harrison, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Development and Waste 2013–14, Norfolk County Council

FACTS AND FIGURES

- Very little – if anything – in Norfolk’s landscape is natural; the landscape that we see all around us today is the result of millennia of human interaction with the natural environment
- Norfolk’s eroding coastline includes deposits almost a million years old which contain, at Happisburgh, the earliest evidence for human activity so far discovered in northern Europe, including in 2013 the remarkable discovery of hominin footprints around 800,000 years old
- the Brecks includes the best- preserved prehistoric flint mining and medieval rabbit warrening landscapes in Europe, if not in the world



Archaeology Day



Hardingham church (left); Overstrand heritage information point (right)

- the Norfolk Broads result from extensive medieval peat digging, and there are more than 70 drainage mills and pumps, iconic features of this highly distinctive and valued landscape
- Norfolk has the greatest concentration of medieval churches in the world (659), including 120 characteristic round-towered churches
- the oldest known timber- framed building in Norfolk includes timbers from trees felled in 1283/4
- forecast growth for the UK heritage sector between 2009 and 2018 is 2.6%, which is a lot higher than some of the other sectors which are commonly thought to underpin our economy
- around 1.0% of the UK population (530,000 people) volunteer in the heritage sector
- new research, published in July 2013, shows that heritage-based tourism is now worth £26.4bn to the UK economy each year – that is £5.8bn higher than the 2010 estimate
- 69% of UK adults believe that heritage sites are important to the local community
- 40% of visitors to the UK come here primarily to see our heritage assets
- The UK heritage sector provides 253,000 jobs (2011 data)
- 73% of adults and children in England visited at least one heritage site during 2012–13



Visiting heritage sites is good for people

- 3% of adults visit a heritage site at least once a week
- there were 57.9 million visits to heritage sites in 2012
- on average, there's an archaeological site, find or historic building within 200 metres of every house in Norfolk
- in 2011/12 and 2012/13 people who had engaged with heritage in the previous 12 months reported significantly higher happiness scores compared to those who had not.

OUR STATISTICS 2013–14

Medieval seal from Martham



In 2013–14 we:-

- secured around £300,000 of external funding for work on Norfolk’s heritage through a combination of earned income, projects and partnerships.
- identified and recorded 14,997 archaeological finds, mainly from metal-detecting.
- worked with finders, coroners and the British Museum on 104 cases of Treasure.
- made heritage information available online to up to 457 people a day.
- worked in partnership with English Heritage, Natural England, all eight Local Planning Authorities, Suffolk County Council and a range of heritage conservation bodies and trusts in Norfolk.
- published the 150th volume of the regional monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology*.
- provided expert advice on 1439 planning applications with implications for the historic environment.
- issued 412 briefs for recording work on historic buildings and archaeological sites.
- worked with farmers and landowners to look after 39 of our most precious archaeological sites, with funding from English Heritage.
- managed 18 key heritage assets owned by, leased to or in the guardianship of Norfolk County Council, including Beeston Regis Priory, Waxham Barn and a number of iconic mills and drainage pumps in the Broads
- issued 96 Higher Level Stewardship historic environment consultations, one of the highest numbers of any county in England.
- organised or participated in 76 events and involved 5552 people in heritage activities.
- added 862 new records to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.



Early Saxon pendant from the Dereham area

Hands-on at Mileham Primary



- enhanced 17,567 existing HER records.
- worked closely with members from all the County Council’s political groups and, with our Heritage Champion Councillor Brian Watkins, issued three NCC Member Heritage Bulletins keeping members up-to-date with developments in the heritage sector and local heritage issues.

OUR INHERITANCE

From flints up to a million years old to underground Cold War bunkers, from Roman villas and forts to medieval castles, moats and churches, Norfolk's historic environment is the evidence of our past and a unique and precious inheritance.

Heritage assets – archaeological sites, historic buildings, industrial sites, defensive structures and ancient landscapes – are all around us in our towns and villages, along our coastline and in our countryside. They make a major contribution to local identity, character and sense of place, and enhance the quality of life in the places where we live, work and play. They are important for education and learning, economic development, supporting local businesses, regeneration and tourism.



Bronze Age flint arrowhead, photo by and © Will Bowden

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE

The Historic Environment Service (HES) exists to record, manage, enhance, interpret and promote understanding of the archaeology and historic environment of the county on behalf of our own and future generations, in partnership with other organisations, landowners, farmers, heritage trusts and local communities. We provide information and advice to anyone with responsibility for or an interest in the past. In doing so we look after the interests of:-

- 18 County Council-owned, leased, managed or guardianship heritage assets
- 26,173 known archaeological sites and monuments
- 24,644 recorded findspots and finds scatters
- 10,610 Listed Buildings
- 2,742 other recorded historic buildings
- 449 Scheduled Monuments
- 50 registered parks and gardens
- and 221 maritime and intertidal sites

The County Council-owned, leased or managed heritage assets looked after by the HES currently include the following:-

- Waxham Barn
- Beeston Regis Priory
- Ranworth Porch
- Bawburgh Monuments
- Clayrack Mill, How Hill
- Turf Fen Mill, How Hill
- Boardman's Mill, How Hill
- Old Buckenham Mill
- Polkey's Mill, Wickhampton
- Stracey Arms windpump
- Billington (near Diss) Mill
- Cadges Mill, Reedham
- St Olaves Windpump
- Neaves Mill, Horning
- Gunton Sawmill
- Hardley Mill
- Hobbs Mill, Horning
- Thurne Dyke Mill

During the course of 2013–14 the freehold of Wicklewood Mill was transferred from NCC to the Norfolk Windmills Trust, and a new lease and sub-lease were negotiated for Hardley Mill.

Regular updates on heritage issues are provided to Norfolk County Council members by means of a quarterly Heritage Champion's bulletin. This has been featured by English Heritage as an example of good practice, and the following appeared in the national newsletter HELM – Historic Environment Local Management – which is sent to all Heritage Champions:-



Waxham Barn

Cllr Brian Watkins, Heritage Champion for Norfolk County Council, in conjunction with David Gurney, Historic Environment Manager, has developed a regular heritage update for all NCC Members. The newsletter is emailed out quarterly to tell Members about the exciting and important work of the NCC Historic Environment Service in the county. It highlights local projects and includes images of sites, work in progress and also historic images from the archives. English Heritage's Kate Barbour can provide advice for local promotional work by Heritage Champions, and would be interested to hear of other newsletters or similar initiatives.

The HES is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists, the body responsible for professional standards in archaeology. The IfA maintains a register of organisations committed to meeting the highest standards with regard to archaeological work, employment practices, contributions to community benefits and development of the profession. The HES was first approved as an IfA RO in August 2009, and we have maintained our RO status since. The HES was also the first purely 'curatorial' archaeological organisation in the country to apply for and to achieve IfA RO status. We are due for an inspection in June 2014 to maintain our RO status in 2015–18.

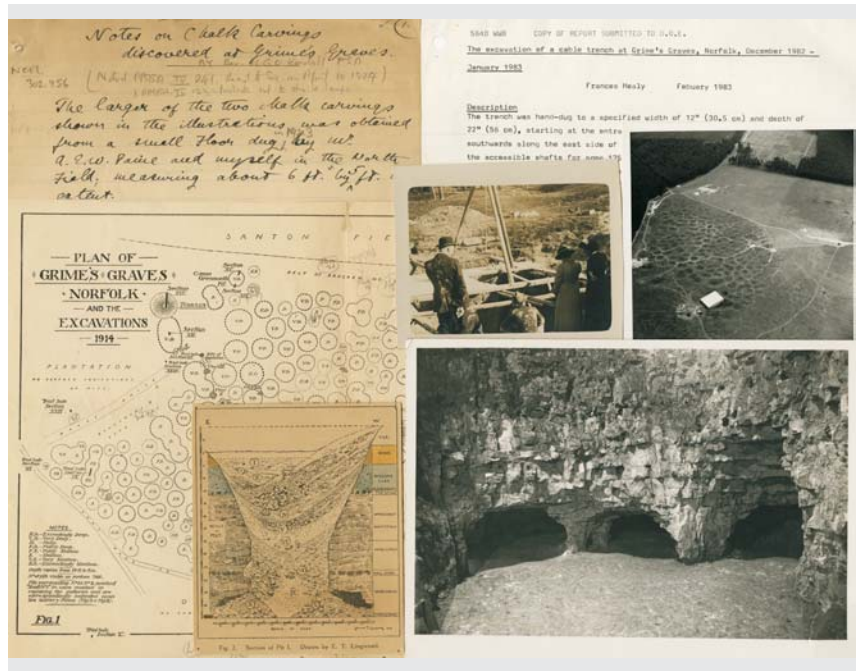
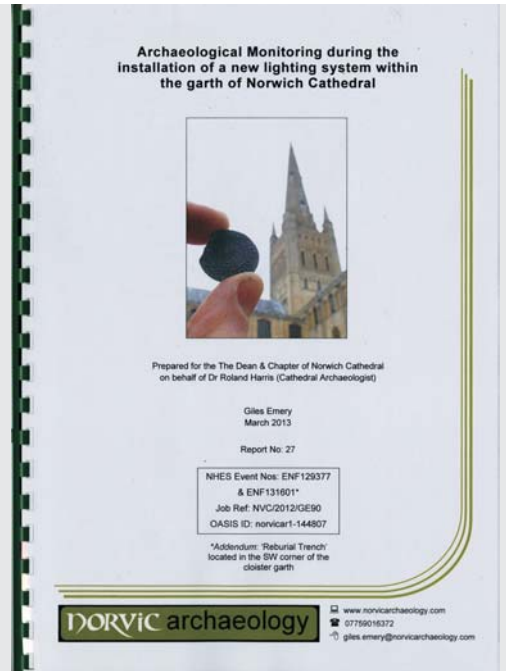
THE NORFOLK HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD



Visiting the HER

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) is the definitive record of the county's historic environment. It holds information on over 64,500 archaeological sites, historic buildings, finds, industrial sites, marine and coastal remains, defences, and parks and gardens, plus 65,000 records of events and 60,000 sources. It is one of the largest and most comp-

Grey literature



Secondary file for Grimes Graves

prehensive records of its type in the country, and it is in constant use for planning, site and landscape management, research, education, community-led heritage projects and public interest.

During 2013–14, 862 new monument records were added to the NHER and 17,567 existing records were enhanced. The HER team also added 1,817 new sources and 2,505 new event records.

In January 2014 we launched a series of new forms for requesting NHER searches and documentary material, which are now available for download from the NCC webpages (www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Historic_environment/). These forms have allowed us to streamline the enquiry process, enabling staff to spend more time helping members of

the public to access data. During the year we responded to 416 chargeable commercial and 203 non-commercial enquiries, and 52 groups of visitors to Gressenhall viewed our paper and photographic archives. These figures are growing year on year, and it is our aim to continue increasing awareness of this fantastic resource and how it can be used.

NHER DIGITISATION PROJECT

This year, the primary focus of HER activity has been on making preparations to digitise our vast collection of paper and print resources, known as 'Secondary Files', which hold documents to supplement the electronic database. These files include original notes by Museum and HES staff, finds descriptions, unpublished reports, press cuttings, architectural plans, original finds illustrations, and photographic prints. It is a complex resource containing a mixture of original and duplicate material in a wide array of media and has been gathered from numerous

Extracting reports for digitisation



sources over many decades. Digitisation of this resource presents several challenges, but with the help of our volunteers and placement students from Bradford University the extraction, reorganisation and documentation of the secondary file material is now well underway.

During 2014–15, our collection of unpublished archaeological reports or ‘grey literature’ will be scanned and linked to the database, and additional categories of material will be added to our rapidly expanding digital library over the coming years. This will ultimately create a more versatile resource which will be more accessible to researchers.

NORFOLK HERITAGE EXPLORER

Since its relaunch in August 2012, the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website (www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk) has received on average between 300 and 400 visits per week, with a peak on one day of 457. Our colleagues in Community Engagement and the Finds Identification and Recording Service have also developed a ‘Find of the Month’ feature for the website, highlighting new objects discovered by the metal-detecting community. In 2014–15 we aim to continue developing this online resource, including the addition of material on the Norwich city walls compiled by the Norwich Society.

Norfolk Heritage Explorer

Home

Welcome to the Norfolk Heritage Explorer

News

This website offers a unique opportunity to access the Norfolk Historic Environment Record database online.

Search Records

The Norfolk HER is the definitive database of the county's archaeological sites and historic buildings. It contains over 60,000 records describing the archaeology of Norfolk from the earliest evidence for human occupation from 750,000 BC up to the present day.

Parish Summaries

Thematic Articles

New information is being added to the website all the time, so add us to your favourites and [follow us on Twitter](#).

Exploring More

Out & About

Recent Projects

Heritage Glossary

FAQs

Contact Us

Terms & Conditions

Links



The Norfolk Heritage Explorer allows you to:

- get the [latest news](#) about Norfolk's archaeology and the Norfolk Historic Environment Service;
- [search our database](#) for archaeological sites, by archaeological period or by using your postcode;
- browse [digital maps](#) of the county's archaeological remains and historic buildings;
- read [archaeological summaries](#) of every parish in the county;
- study specially prepared [thematic articles](#) on aspects of the county's heritage;
- view [online galleries](#) of artworks inspired by the historic environment;
- learn how to [undertake research and fieldwork](#) of your own;
- download [teaching resources](#) and instructions for [craft activities](#);
- follow guided [heritage walks](#) and find interesting [places to visit](#);
- and much more!



PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC NORFOLK



Early Upper Palaeolithic leaf point

During 2012 the Records team successfully secured £30,000 from English Heritage to enhance all NHER data relating to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity in the county. In 2013–14 over 1500 NHER records relating to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic discoveries have been systematically and thoroughly checked and in many cases significantly expanded, with additional information added from a range of sources including early record cards, journal articles and unpublished reports. Relevant information from the recently digitised John Wymer and Roger Jacobi archives has also been fully integrated.

As part of this work over 2500 individual finds records have been created. These records contain a range of information including detailed object descriptions, and now form a comprehensive database of all the county's reported Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds.

The final stages of the project will see the digitisation of over 300 unpublished finds drawings and sketches that are held by the NHER. A database of all Palaeolithic and Mesolithic finds held by Norfolk Museums has also been compiled and we will be re-examining, photographing and illustrating selected finds from the more significant collections.

New content will also be generated for the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website and we will be looking to raise awareness of the county's important Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology through a series of talks to local groups and societies.

AIR PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND THE NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAMME



Using a stereoscope

In the past year, Norfolk's team of air photo interpreters has principally been working on a project in Suffolk in partnership with Suffolk County Council. Their work forms part of English Heritage's established and ongoing National Mapping Programme (NMP), a methodology which is used throughout England to map and interpret archaeological sites visible on aerial photographs. It aims to enhance our understanding of past human activity by identifying, recording and providing a synthesis of archaeological sites and landscapes ranging in date from the Neolithic (c. 4000–2350 BC) to the 20th century. The resulting data are fed into the English Heritage Archive and relevant Historic Environment Records (HERs), and are used to inform and facilitate planning, conservation and research decisions concerning the historic environment.

The Suffolk project is investigating three areas of east Suffolk, stretching from the Norfolk/Suffolk border to the edges of Southwold. Lothingland, the northernmost study area, is an area of light loam soils and arable agriculture, resulting in a dense spread of cropmark sites.

Across the northern portion of Lothingland – which falls within Norfolk and was mapped as part of the Norfolk Coast and Broads NMP – a virtually uninterrupted palimpsest landscape of field systems, trackways, burial mounds and settlements has been discovered, ranging in date from prehistory to the post medieval period. The recently-completed work on the Suffolk portion of Lothingland has revealed a very similar landscape, with what appear to be at least two major phases of ancient land division apparent.

The central study area is Greater Lowestoft, where numerous Second World War military and civil defences are visible on photographs taken during and immediately after the war. To the south, in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, it is hoped that traces of earthwork sites might be revealed on areas of former coastal heathland. However, early work has instead identified numerous cropmark sites.

The aerial photograph shows cropmarks of enclosures, trackways and fields of later prehistoric and/or Roman date at Park Farm, Lound. These features overlie a group of ring ditches – a probable Bronze Age round barrow cemetery – one of which is faintly visible within the centre of this photograph (NLA 9910/TM5098N 08-JUL-1976 © Norfolk County Council, by Derek Edwards).



Park Farm, Lound

PLANNING

In April 2013 the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act introduced new legislation governing the way the historic environment is managed and protected in England. Some of the provisions are long-awaited heritage protection reforms, transferred from the 2008 Heritage Protection Bill to the ERR Bill in 2012. Others will implement the recommendations of the 2011 *Penfold Review of Non-Planning Consents*. The reforms have been welcomed as providing greater certainty for owners and developers of historic sites and buildings whilst maintaining levels of heritage protection.

Eighteen months after publication, the National Planning Policy Framework appears to be working reasonably well and, on balance, levels of protection for heritage appear to have been broadly maintained. Government guidance to support the NPPF (the NPPF Practice Guidance) was published in late August, including specific guidance on Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.

The Planning Team continues to provide information and advice on planning policy and the implications for the historic environment of development proposals to planners, conservation officers, developers and their agents and consultants engaged in managing change. This includes weekly planning meetings to discuss casework, work on specific



Assessing the implications of development

consultations and applications, preparing briefs for programmes of work and monitoring contractors' fieldwork and reports.

In 2013-14, the Planning Team provided detailed advice on 1439 planning applications, and issued 412 briefs for archaeological projects, by far the highest number since records began in 1991.

The team have been closely involved in NCC's work at former RAF Coltishall, both in terms of advising on the management of the site, and on the implications of development on and around the site, with a view to preserving the significance of the designated (Scheduled) Second World War fighter dispersals and Cold War blast walls, the military wall art and of the site as a whole.



Monitoring fieldwork

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The HES has been commissioned to produce several in-depth reports to accompany grant-aid packages for conservation works on medieval churches. Many hitherto unrecognised facts have been added to our knowledge of these important monuments and are all available in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

Advice to district councils on recording buildings which are to be altered has resulted in the production of historic building records monitored and checked by the HES before being added to the NHER.

An English Heritage-funded repair project at St Mary's church, Carleton Forehoe has resulted in the discovery of the buried remains of a Romanesque round tower that would have been part of an earlier church on the site. The structure was uncovered 0.5m below the modern ground surface during archaeological monitoring work undertaken during drainage improvements.

The base of the tower was constructed with coursed flints and mortar, and dates to the 11th to 12th centuries. The wall is 1.25m thick and has an external diameter of 5.6m. This is bigger than the current tower, which was built on the same site in 1713.

This discovery is unusual as the majority of towers that have been entirely replaced are only visible as foundations, whereas this example still survives, buried, to a height of 0.4 m. Even more unusual is that, despite standing on the same alignment as the current church, there is no evidence that the two were ever connected. This suggests that the tower was demolished before the west wall of the church was built in the 15th century, and so the surviving tower did not directly replace it.

Norfolk has the most round-towered churches of any English county, with 123 examples still standing, 11 in ruins and 10 that have completely disappeared.



Carleton Forehoe church

THE COAST

It has been an interesting and at times difficult year for our coastal heritage with the Norfolk coast taking the brunt of the inclement weather, including the largest storm surge for 60 years.

Spring 2013 saw enormous scouring of our beaches through a combination of weather and coastal processes, revealing a wealth of previously buried historic environment features. These included boat and ship remains, Second World War features such as pillboxes and of course the well-publicised Palaeolithic hominin remains at Happisburgh. This newly-reported find from the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) team from the British Museum comprised a series of hollows preserved in a layer of what was once a river deposit. The hollows were first recorded in May 2013 and were soon recognised as footprints; in one case the impression of toes can be seen. The footprints date to at least 800,000 years ago, making them the oldest footprints found outside Africa. The footprints were hastily recorded by the team from the British Museum before the sea finally claimed them.

In some cases, the heel, arch and even toes could be identified, equating to modern shoe sizes of up to UK size 8. The mix of sizes shows that this was probably a family group, rather than a hunting group, who appear to be on some sort of trail and were probably heading south. In most human populations, foot length is approximately 15 per cent of an individual's height, so scientists estimate that this group ranged from 0.9m (3 ft) to more than 1.7m (5ft 7in) in height.

The footprints, arguably one of the most significant finds in Norfolk if not in Europe for decades, have been allocated Record No. 60,000 in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

Other coastal finds included a wreck or hulk which suddenly appeared on Waxham beach. Following a call from a member of the public HES staff went out to record the vessel before it was further damaged, moved by the sea or reburied by sand. The wreck comprises part of the hull of a sailing vessel, most probably a collier of 19th century date. Its presence is a reminder of the once thriving ports which existed along this coastline in the medieval and post medieval



Happisburgh footprints, photo by Simon Parfitt.
3D model footprint (below), photo by Sarah Duffy



Waxham wreck



periods. A ship known as the *Alderson* is recorded as having ‘fallen over’ on the beach in 1842 and it is possible that the wreck represents the remains of this vessel.

The winter storms of 2013/14 also took their toll on the historic environment with numerous historic sea banks damaged all along the coast. The famous pillbox which lies upside down on Happisburgh Beach (left) has also lost its base. It is likely that the full scale of the damage to our coastal heritage is not yet known.

The sea has become increasingly important to Britain’s economy and increasingly busy as a result. In recent years the UK government has begun implementing a marine planning system

in order to manage the seas, as well as protecting the natural and historic environment. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 introduced marine planning and the Marine Policy Statement 2011 provides the framework for a series of localised marine plans to regulate the marine area. Our region has been at the forefront of this development and the HES has been working with the newly-established Marine Planning Organisation to help safeguard the historic environment in the formulation of the East Inshore and East Offshore Plans. The Plans were published in April 2014 and are the first UK Marine Plans, on which the remaining nine plans will be based.

THE BRECKS

A £1.46 million grant has been awarded by the HLF for ‘Breaking new Ground’ a project worth a total of £2.2 million that will fund 37 individual landscape conservation projects in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks over the next three years. The remaining funding will come from project partners including Norfolk County Council and its Historic Environment Service.

The Brecks spans over 1000 square kilometres across Norfolk and Suffolk with Thetford at its heart. One of the driest parts of Britain, the Brecks are characterised by tranquil forest, open heathland and agricultural land and are home to unique habitats and wildlife. With large areas under the control of the Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Defence – both of whom take their stewardship of the natural and historic environment very seriously and work in partnership with the HES – it is arguably one of the best-preserved and cared-for landscapes in the region.



Breaking New Ground includes a range of smaller projects which will conserve the built and natural features that contribute to landscape character; increase community participation in local heritage; increase understanding about the landscape and its heritage and provide training in local heritage skills. One of the projects is a fund for local community projects (Breaking New Ground Grant Fund), which will provide small grants under very broad conditions (for example it could be accessed by schools wanting to dig some archaeological test pits).

Nearly £900,000 will be spent in Norfolk, of which some £180,000 has been set aside for Norfolk County Council alone.



The Brecks, Drymere. Photo by and © Nick Ford



The Historic Environment Service is involved in three key projects:-

- ‘Brecks from Above’ encompasses a range of activities including the mapping and interpretation of archaeological features visible on air photographs and other remotely-sensed data across around 75 square kilometres of the Brecks Landscape. A programme of library talks and training will be run for those who wish to know more about aerial archaeology and the County Council’s air photo collection. One thousand aerial photographs of the Breckland landscape will be digitised and made available online.
- ‘Discovering the Brecks – Archaeological Training Programme’ will be delivered in conjunction with Suffolk County Council. The Norfolk component will deliver six training workshops and cover archaeological test-pitting, field walking, historic building recording, finds identification, air photo interpretation and the use of archaeological archives.
- The ‘Ground Disturbance – Experimental Management Project’ will increase understanding of ground disturbance techniques and identify best practice management approaches to support biodiversity in the Brecks. The Historic Environment Service will provide advice on the implications for the historic environment of works at selected sites and will produce a digital Historic Environment Opportunity map to help provide a strategic approach to the work. Volunteers will also be trained to identify archaeological features in the field.

THE BROADS

The Norfolk Broads were designated by English Heritage in November 2013 as a Site of Exceptional Waterlogged Heritage (previously known as a top priority vulnerable site). The Broads is one of 39 exceptional sites listed, from the Trent floodplain to the Isles of Scilly. The ultimate goal of this EH project is to identify places with exceptional waterlogged heritage, to define their significance, to improve understanding of their location and value and to define actions in order to promote their future protection or to mitigate their loss.

The Norfolk Broads, photo by Mike Page

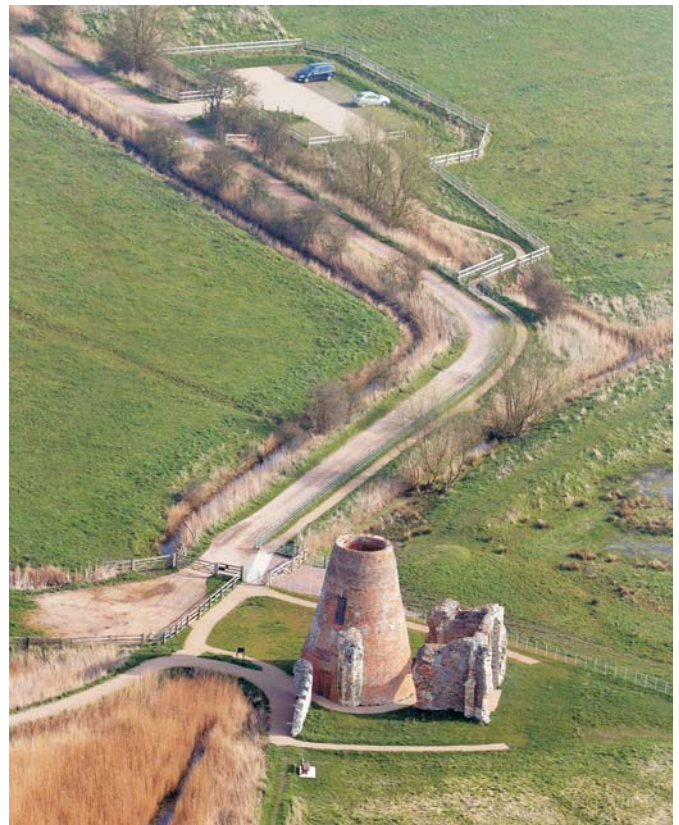


This initiative ties in with long-held aspirations of the HES and the Broads Authority to design and undertake a project on the buried archaeology of the Broads.

HES staff are currently working with the Broads Authority and Peter Murphy, formerly the Science Adviser for the East of England and Coastal Strategy Officer for English Heritage, on a Statement of Significance and vision for the archaeology of the Broads. This work includes a literature review and will seek to identify gaps in knowledge and potential projects and possible future funding streams. The initial work is due to be completed by summer 2014.

ST BENET'S ABBEY

The Norfolk Archaeological Trust's Heritage Lottery-funded project to consolidate the remains of the St Benet's Abbey site at Horning on the River Bure, alongside a programme of Access and Outreach activities, has progressed very successfully during 2013–14 and will draw to a close in 2014. The project received a small pump-priming County Council Heritage Asset Conservation Grant, the Historic Environment Manager has been on the project management team throughout the project and Historic Environment Service staff have been involved in the project in various ways including provision of days schools, finds identification and through contributions to the interpretation, web site and audio guides, and an exhibition and activities at the Norfolk Record Office from 12 May to 25 July 2014. The event to celebrate the successful completion of the project is in June.



St Benet's, photo by and © Mike Page

St Benets precinct wall



One major ‘discovery’ has been the clearance and recording of the precinct wall around the north end of the site, previously hidden amongst dense undergrowth. The original wall, built of knapped, squared, galletted flintwork of the highest quality appears to have failed and was replaced by a wall of lower quality. The first wall was probably erected when the abbey received its licence to crenellate in 1327, and the rebuilt wall may date to around 1380.

DESIGNATION

During 2013–14 the HES has continued to work on the designation (listing) of heritage assets and to provide information as part of the designation consultation process. During the year 12 buildings in Norfolk were Listed, bringing the total number of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments in Norfolk to 10,610 and 449 respectively. The newly-Listed buildings include the railway signal boxes at

Thetford, Downham Market and Brundall.

The HES played a key role in providing information on two NCC-owned heritage assets, County Hall and the Cold War runway at former RAF Coltishall, both of which had been put forward for designation by other parties. In both cases, the decision by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport was not to designate.

The HES continues to put forward heritage assets for possible designation including in 2013–14 a remarkable do-it-yourself civilian / private underground Cold War nuclear bunker in Taverham, constructed in the early 1980s. This very rare heritage asset had been put forward previously but had failed to progress as then it was less than 30 years old.



Brundall signal box, photo by and © Evelyn Simak



County Hall, photo by and © Graham Hardy



Taverham Cold War bunker entrance

Milestone at Brinton



CONSERVATION

Recent and current or ongoing conservation projects involving the HES, working with and supporting the work of communities, partnerships and local heritage trusts to conserve important heritage sites and buildings, all of which will benefit and boost the local economy, include:-

- St Benet’s Abbey, Horning (Norfolk Archaeological Trust)
- Ketteringham icehouse (East Carleton and Ketteringham Parish Council)
- Dereham Windmill (Trustees of Dereham Windmill)
- Langham Dome (North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust and Friends of Langham Dome)
- Brecks Landscape Partnership (Brecks Partnership)
- Milestones (Nigel Ford/The Milestone Society)
- St Martin’s church, Shotesham (Shotesham PCC)
- Pentney Abbey gatehouse (private owners and with English Heritage)
- Waxham Barn (Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust)
- St Mary’s church, Great Melton (Great Melton PCC)
- Billingford (near Diss) mill (Norfolk Windmills Trust)
- Wicklewood Mill (Norfolk Windmills Trust).

The owners of Pentney Abbey, Howard Barber and Dita Lee, acknowledged our grant with these words:-

To complete the last phase we needed to raise a considerable sum of money that was beyond our financial means. English Heritage was very keen to be involved but one of their conditions to unlock their grant was that we gained the support of another public body. The County Council Grant was enough; it was the seed grant that allowed us to proceed.

I would like to thank you for your support; I think it would be fair to say your efforts have been pivotal in saving this wonderful building.



Pentney Abbey



Langham Dome

On Saturday 7 September 2013 Dereham Windmill re-opened as a Community Exhibition Centre, having received a small pump-priming heritage asset conservation grant from the County Council. A small café, meeting room and toilets are planned, together with improvements to local signage.

The NCC Grant was the very first grant that we received. This was massively important to us as we totally believed in our vision of a community windmill for future generations. It was encouraging that NCC also saw the potential opportunities created by investing in changing an old derelict building into a much loved community space for all generations to enjoy.

The HES continues to deal with the management, maintenance, health and safety and public access to the heritage assets owned by or leased to NCC, especially those iconic windmills and drainage pumps looked after by the Norfolk Windmills Trust, with whom we have a management agreement. The HES also continues to support the work of the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, the Norfolk Churches Trust and the Norfolk Archaeological Trust through participation in projects and specialist advice.



Dereham windmill

MONUMENTS MANAGEMENT

The Norfolk Monuments Management Project was established in 1990 to promote best practice management of Norfolk's most important and best-preserved archaeological sites and ruined buildings and their conservation for future generations. It has now been involved with over 10,000 sites, hundreds of the most significant are now under beneficial management, and the project is recognised nationally as a leader in the field of heritage asset management.

In 2013–14 the project awarded just over £30,000 of English Heritage grant-aid through conservation agreements. These agreements cover vegetation management at Shouldham shrunken village and Hindringham Hall fishponds and support for repairs to Langley Cross, Bromholm Priory and Carrow Abbey, all sites of medieval date.

Since 2002 the project has also overseen the management of the ruins of the church at Beeston Regis Priory, a Scheduled Monument in the guardianship of Norfolk County Council. In autumn 2013 the project commissioned just over £13,000



Langley Cross

County Hall



Caistor Dunston Field (Mike Page)

of repairs, the first undertaken in over ten years. Open to the public and very popular with residents and visitors, the ruins are located just north of the A149 near Beeston Regis Common.

At Castle Acre Priory, the project and English Heritage provided funding for condition and ecological surveys to help with the preparation of a specification for repair and consolidation of selected sections of the precinct wall. As at St Benet's, the rediscovery of the priory's precinct wall, completely obscured by vegetation and ivy for as long as anyone can remember, has been one of the year's highlights.

We have also completed repairs to two other heritage assets owned by NCC; Waxham Great Barn and the Bawburgh Monuments.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Since 2004 the HES has worked with Natural England, farmers, landowners and agricultural agents to provide the historic environment advice on Environmental Stewardship schemes. These represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to manage the landscape to benefit heritage assets, particularly through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). In 2013–14 the HES issued 96 HLS consultations and worked to ensure the enhanced management of many significant heritage assets, including Weasenham Great

Barrow, an Iron Age fort at South Creake, deserted villages at Waterden and Egmere, a medieval moat at Colkirk and Gresham Castle.

FORESTS, HEATHS AND DEFENCE

The HES works closely with the Forestry Commission (FC) to ensure important historic assets are protected during forestry operations in Thetford Forest and elsewhere on their estate. This work ensures important monuments, including Bronze Age burial

Bracken management and archaeological recording at Weasenham Great Barrow



mounds, features associated with medieval and post-medieval rabbit warrens and remnants of Second World War military activities are treated sensitively during felling, ground preparation and replanting. To support the FC's work in the protection of historic assets, HES and FC staff undertake joint site visits, and the HES is represented on the FC's regional Archaeological Liaison Group.



Volunteers studying a prehistoric burial mound in Thetford

Over thirty members of the public have now signed up with the Norfolk Monuments Management Project as volunteers to monitor the condition of archaeological sites on FC land. Taking part in condition monitoring gives members of the public the opportunity to study the many archaeological sites owned by FC and develop their own archaeological skills and knowledge. Thirty-one volunteer visits took place in 2013–14.

Over the last few years, the HES has worked with a range of partners on heathland projects. Working with these partners we continue to develop best practice approaches and ensure heritage assets are fully considered and protected during heath restoration and re-creation works across the county.

The HES is represented on the Ministry of Defence's Stanford Training Area Conservation Group, which meets twice a year to discuss conservation issues and ensure that important historic assets are considered in the planning and delivery of military training.



Billingford Mill

MILLS AND PUMPS

NCC owns or leases 16 mills and pumps and continues to work in partnership with the Norfolk Windmills Trust (NWT) and private owners of mills to maintain them.

Billingford Mill (near Diss) is owned by NCC, managed by the NWT and opened to the public by local volunteers. The mill is in need of new stocks and sails as well as repairs to the cap, and a specification has been prepared and put out to tender. Members of the local community have formed a fundraising committee headed by the local landowner, and put together a programme of events and training for guides and millers.

Gunton Park Sawmill is leased to NCC, managed by the NWT and opened to the public by volunteers, mostly members of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society. In the last year, with support from the HES, Heritage Lottery funding was obtained to replace the thatch, repair and conserve the mill race, replace a damaged wall plate, improve the car park area to make it easier for the elderly and infirm, and refresh and re-examine how the sawmill is presented to the public and schools. Following the completion of the thatching

works the Bishop of Lynn visited the sawmill whilst on a tour of the benefice and a private visit was made by HRH Prince Charles.

Stracey Arms Mill is owned by NCC and managed by the NWT. The mill is Grade II* listed and requires major repairs to the cap, along with new stocks and sails. The sails and any loose timbers on the fanstage and gallery were removed on health and safety grounds, following discussion with the Broads Authority. The NWT employed a consultant to put together a Stage 1 bid to the

Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by HES. The application entitled *The Mill and the Marshmen* includes restoration of the mill to full working order, along with research into the life of the marshmen and their management of the Broads landscape. The project will include opportunities for Community Engagement and the formation of a 'Friends of Stracey Arms Mill' group, with volunteers receiving skills training in basic mill maintenance, acting as guides and health and safety awareness. A decision is expected from HLF in June 2014.

Wicklewood Mill was gifted to NCC in 1977 and is managed by the NWT. Following the hoisting of the sails back onto the mill in October 2012 a member of the community approached the HES wishing to form a new group and to open the mill to the public. Advice and support was given and following organised cleaning days the mill was open during the 2013 season for the first time in a number of years. The volunteers organised additional exhibits such as an old bus, vintage cars and a fire engine, which proved very popular and over 650 people visited during six open days. The freehold of the mill has recently been transferred from the County Council to the NWT thereby bringing the whole site, the mill and the mill house into one ownership.



Gunton Sawmill being rethatched



Stracey Arms Mill

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY

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 wider aims and objectives of NCC.

On average, HES staff are involved in at least two outreach activities each week, including local metal-detecting club meetings, media interviews, making NCC's own historic buildings and mills

Hands-on workshop at Martham Primary School



Binham test pit

accessible, heritage walks, lectures to local societies and events in community venues, museums and libraries.

In 2013–14 the Community Engagement team and other HES staff members organised or participated in 76 events and involved more than 5500 people in heritage activities.

From September 2012, the HES hosted a one-year youth-focussed community archaeology training placement. This post, occupied by Claire Bradshaw, was one of just 12 funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund; Claire has now become the Community Archaeologist for the HES.

During the last year the Community Engagement team has been involved in organising heritage training events in a variety of skills including excavating test pits, building survey, fieldwalking and research using the Historic Environment Record. These events have been run for residents of several Norfolk parishes including Tilney All Saints, Loddon, Great Yarmouth, Castle Rising and Wayland, and also as part of wider HLF projects such as the Gaywood Valley Community Archaeology Project.

We also provide ongoing support for groups continuing their research after receiving training from us, for example, working with the Binham Local History Group on a programme of fieldwalking and test-pitting to locate and investigate a Roman villa site in that parish.

The HES has organised a series of hands-on archaeological workshops for primary schools, focussing on teaching prehistory as part of the new National Curriculum, as well as delivering a Roman themed activity day at Caister Junior for 150 children. In conjunction with English Heritage as part of their Heritage Schools initiative we have also provided a training event at Burgh Castle to help familiarise teachers with resources available on prehistory.



Children's Takeover Day

The team has visited local groups to deliver a series of lectures on Norfolk’s heritage and the work of the Historic Environment Service, and has collaborated with the Norfolk Museums Service to deliver events at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse for their behind the scenes Passholders Day, History Fair, and Heritage Open Day. Our very successful Archaeology Day at Gressenhall during the Festival of British Archaeology was attended by over 500 people.

In November, as part of the Children’s Commissioner’s Takeover Day, two Year 10 pupils, Laura and Eliza, took over as Historic Environment Officers, designing archaeology workshops for their school and finding out what is involved in providing heritage advice for planning applications in Norfolk.

IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

14,997 archaeological finds were identified, recorded and added to the national Portable Antiquities Scheme database (www.finds.org) in 2013–14, and 98 cases of Treasure or potential Treasure were reported from the county in the same period.

We continue to attend six metal detecting clubs on a monthly basis and to record finds made by a large number of individual detectorists and members of the public. We are very grateful to all those who allow their finds to be recorded. It should be remembered that, with the exception of items subject to the 1996 Treasure Act, the reporting of archaeological finds is entirely voluntary. Knowledge and understanding of our county’s heritage is thus greatly augmented by those motivated by a sense of responsibility and continuing goodwill. Every broken fragment of buckle, sherd of pot and flint flake forms part of an assemblage which is more informative than most headline-grabbing hoards or shapely figurines, but every single find is a part of and contributes to the story of Norfolk’s past.

Just a few of the highlights recorded in 2013–14 include:-



Mace head



Grimston Ware sherd

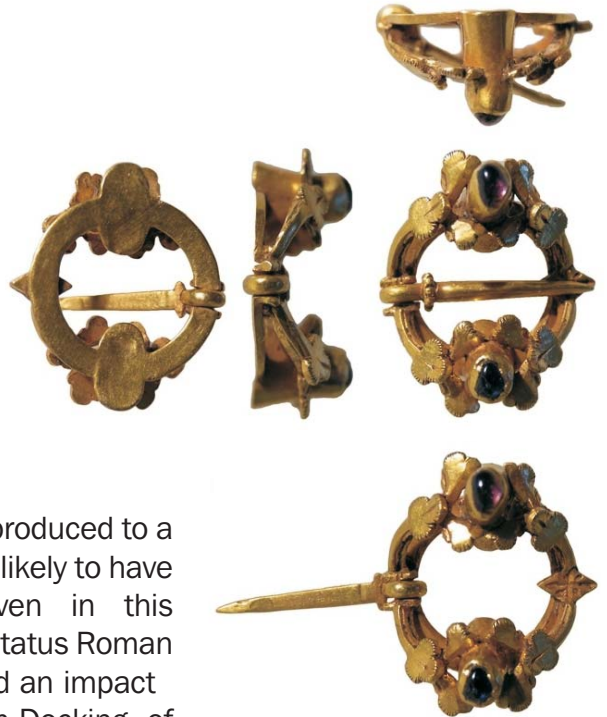


Roman figurine

Edward the Elder penny



Medieval brooch



- a Mesolithic or Neolithic quartzite mace head or hammer, from Necton
- a fragment of a Roman figurine from Martham, produced to a high standard with finely modelled features. It is likely to have been imported and demonstrates that even in this geographically far-flung part of the Empire high status Roman goods and artistic tastes were available and had an impact
- a sherd of medieval Grimston Ware pottery from Docking, of 12th–13th century date, with highly unusual rouletted decoration in the form of rows of shields
- a medieval gold annular brooch with two stones and decorated with leaves. This, being complete and uncorroded, looks as it would have done when it was lost by the wealthy woman who would have owned it, and is an excellent example of the sumptuous fashions in the 13th and 14th century. From Barton Bendish
- three pennies of Edward the Elder (AD 899–924) from Quidenham, almost certainly from a much larger hoard identical in date to the large Morley St Peter hoard found in 1958. The two hoards are probably testament to trouble in the area, part of the recently reconquered Danelaw, after Edward’s death.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Public and heritage bodies will be working on a wide range of initiatives to mark this important anniversary over the next four years.

First recorded by the HES’s National Mapping Programme, fieldwork has located some First World War practice trenches in the dunes at Winterton. There is also a remarkable group of circular First World War pillboxes distributed along the River Ant ‘stop line’, which would have acted as the first line of defence in the event of an invasion and the breaching of Norfolk’s

First World War trench at Winterton



First World War pillbox at Wayford Bridge, Stalham



coastal defences. One easily-seen example is beside the A149 at Wayford Bridge, Stalham.

The HES helped to reunite a local family with some precious First World War medals after they were discovered at one of the County Council’s recycling centres.

Walter Westgate’s medals were awarded for his service in the Somme trenches with the Army Service Corps in the First World War and as an air raid warden in Blofield in the Second. But they accidentally ended up at Strumpshaw recycling centre when the family was sorting out Walter’s daughter’s

effects. Walter was born in the late 1890s and brought up in Ormesby St Michael. He joined up and was responsible for looking after horses at the trenches, including at the Somme, where he was gassed and then sent to the south coast of England to recuperate. Although he wasn’t expected to survive for more than a few years he lived, mainly in Blofield, until he was 86.

We are absolutely delighted to have these family heirlooms back with us, safe and sound. We’re so proud of Walter’s service in not just one, but two world wars and they’re such an important part of our family history so we’re really grateful to the recycling team and Norfolk’s historians.



First World War medals

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

At Docking, two very rare Tett Turrets have been reported, and these are the only examples known in Norfolk. A search of a national database come up with only six records, and one of those is dubious! These, along with a nearby pillbox, represent an important cluster of anti-invasion defensive structures that may be worthy of designation.

At Carbrooke, a previously unrecorded pillbox and anti-aircraft gun emplacement came to the attention of the HES when the clerk of the Parish Council sought advice on how to resolve the problem of children climbing onto the pillbox, and not being able to get down again! Remarkably, given its position on a Public Right of Way close to a Second World War Airfield and the fact that it is visible on aerial photographs (such as Google

Docking Tett Turret



Carbrooke pillbox

Earth), this had never been recorded by volunteers scouring the countryside for pillboxes as part of the national and local Defence of Britain Project. The HES is now working with the Parish Council, the local history group and the Council’s Travel and Transport Service’s *Safer Routes to Schools Scheme* to effect repairs to the pillbox to make it safer and less climbable, to encourage its use by bats and to provide some on-site interpretation of its history.

EIGHTH IN THE EAST



Another wartime airfield project, the *Eighth in The East*, was launched in September at RAF Horham in Suffolk. As part of this regional project funded by the HLF, the HES is hosting a year-long project officer at Gressenhall in 2014 to work on historic airfields in central Norfolk. Over 200 people attended the first Eighth in the East community day at Shipdham WI Hall in February, supported by a number of HES staff. People of all ages, from every generation between nought and ninety, discovered more about their village during wartime. Throughout the day they learned about the 8th USAAF role in the East of England during the Second World War and discovered more about how the project aims to share the story of their village during



Eighth in the East launch

New Buckenham ROC post



wartime. There are many more events and activities planned for 2014–15, including events in museums and training days in the field. See www.8theast.org.

THE COLD WAR

At New Buckenham, on the common, there were calls for the upstanding remains of the Royal Observer Corps observation post to be demolished, as some people using the common considered it to be an eyesore. Having been tipped off by a local resident, HES has worked with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the national Royal Observer Corps Association and the local community to recognise its heritage significance, to negotiate its retention and in due course, to undertake some restoration and hopefully to provide on-site interpretation.

FORMER RAF COLTISHALL

RAF Coltishall (at Scottow) opened in 1939 as a bomber station with a grass runway, but was pressed into use as a fighter station in May 1940. The base remained as an operational facility as a Cold War fighter station, serving as the lead Jaguar station from 1974 until April 2006. Operations ceased in November 2006.

Norfolk County Council took ownership of the former RAF Coltishall site in January 2013 after buying the 600-acre site from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for £4m.

The HES continues to work on the site's heritage, including working with the Community Liaison Reference Group set up by NCC, local heritage stakeholders (such as the Spirit of Coltishall Association), Broadland and North Norfolk District Councils and English Heritage.

Former RAF Coltishall © Mike Page



We have also worked with the Airfield Research Group, Paul Francis and the Spirit of Coltishall Association to record, assess and to better understand the history, development and significance of the site's many heritage assets. Site investigations by the Airfield Research Group in 2013 were able to locate and record some of the features (such as landing lights) that still mark on the ground the precise locations of the Second World War runways. They also found two of the three Pickett-Hamilton forts or 'pop-up pillboxes' which were known to have existed as part of the Second World War airfield defences, but whose locations, hidden under the grass, had been lost. Filled with water, one was pumped out so that its rusted internal machinery could be inspected and recorded. The third fort is, we believe, probably still extant but under a thick layer of Cold War concrete.

Heritage Statements to accompany current or future planning applications have been produced or drafted for the following buildings:-

- Sergeants' Mess
- Officers' Mess
- Gymnasium
- Hangar 4
- Aircraft Fire Facility
- Cold War runway extensions

In collaboration with the University of East Anglia's *Cold War Anglia*

project a site visit was arranged for Rosie Snell, Senior Lecturer Fine Art at Bath Spa University. Rosie has already been inspired to produce one piece of art based on what she has seen during the site visit. This is currently in the form of a drawing of the Jaguar installed engine testing rig drawn as if seen through broken safety glass. Rosie hopes to display her artwork inspired by the region's Cold War sites at an exhibition, to be held in late 2015 across several venues in Norwich.

After living in Norfolk for several years I became accustomed to encountering military architecture and machinery, surreally juxtaposed against the ploughed fields and cabbage crops of the countryside.

As a young artist studying for my Masters at Norwich I became fascinated by these striking visual counterpoints, which led me to explore how conflicts and technological developments have not only created purpose-built machines and architecture, but have also had a direct effect on the landscape. My artistic practice consists of pastoral landscapes, which are either punctuated by military hardware or bear the traces of its use.



Pickett-Hamilton Fort



Drawing by and © Rosie Snell

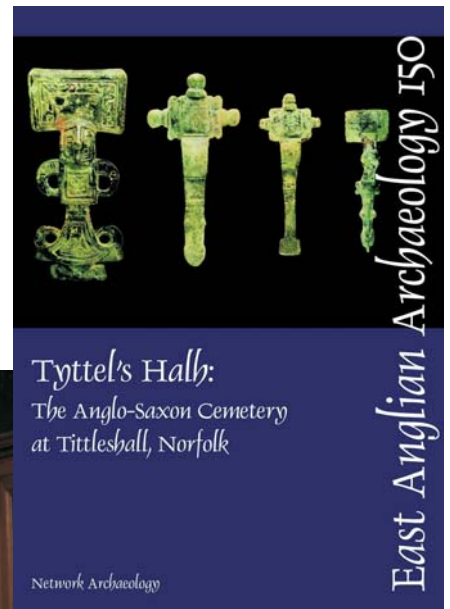
In January 2014 two small group heritage tours were organised for local residents, visiting Hangar 1, the Control Tower, the Ground Defence Operations Centre, the flying field and the bomb and missile stores.

An interim heritage leaflet has been produced, and a self-guided heritage trail drafted in anticipation of public access at some stage around the former sports field and ‘community woodland’ area at the north end of the site.

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

East Anglian Archaeology (EAA) has just celebrated the publication of its 150th report: *Tyttel's Halh: the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Tittleshall, Norfolk* (see below) marks an important milestone for the series that began in 1975. Since then, EAA has published the results of important archaeological research in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire at an average rate of one every three months. Best-selling titles include reports on West Stow Anglo-Saxon village, Norwich Castle, Great Chesterford Roman town, the Kelvedon warrior burial and the Research Framework for Archaeology in the East of England. Supported by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (East of England) and English Heritage and hosted as an externally-funded project by Norfolk County Council, EAA is the only peer-reviewed regional monograph series in the UK. It is published under the direction of an editorial board of professional archaeologists from the region, and the books are distributed by Oxbow Books.

Excavations by Network Archaeology on the Bacton to King's Lynn gas pipeline at Tittleshall revealed 28 burials dating from the 5th to 7th centuries AD. They included a young boy in fine linen with a sword scabbard and two knives, and a young girl in adult clothing, but with the sharp brooch pins removed. Amongst the adults was a woman wearing an ornate gilt brooch and fur-trimmed cloak, and an older man buried with his head resting on a shield. The report places Tittleshall in the context of the changing social and political landscape of East Anglia, with an analysis of women's burials in the Wensum-Yare-Waveney river system, and a review of local place-names and landholding patterns.



EAA Editorial Board

SPONG HILL, NORTH ELMHAM

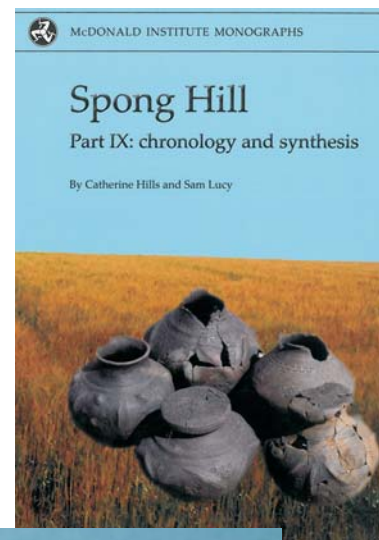
Spong Hill is the largest Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery to have been completely excavated in Britain, with 2383 cremation burials and 57 inhumations. The site also held important prehistoric and Roman remains, including a Roman pottery kiln, and an area of Anglo-Saxon settlement.

The cemetery was first recorded in 1711 by the local antiquary Peter Le Neve who reported at least 120 urns being unearthed by labourers. Further finds followed in 1718 and 1852, and excavations by the Dereham and District Archaeological Society took place in 1954. There were trial excavations in 1968 and a major excavation project from 1972 to 1984. One of the most interesting finds from the site is the well-known Anglo-Saxon cremation urn lid known as ‘Spong Man’, which is on display in the Castle Museum.

Eight reports on the excavations have been published in the regional monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology* between 1977 and 1994. These include detailed catalogues of the cremation burials, the inhumations, the cremated bones, prehistoric activity and the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement.

A final synthetic volume, *Spong Hill Part IX: Chronology and Synthesis*, has been written by Dr Catherine Hills, who directed excavations between 1974 and 1981, and Dr Sam Lucy, together with a team of specialists including several Norfolk archaeologists.

One of the most important conclusions to be drawn from this latest research is that the use of the site for cremation burials started in the first quarter of the 5th century AD. This challenges the generally accepted chronology of Anglo-Saxon activity in Britain which puts this somewhat later, in the second half of the 5th century. The authors also demonstrate that there are strong cultural connections between Spong Hill and sites on the continent in north Germany, so that the population buried in the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ cremation urns were probably people of mixed local and continental ancestry.



Spong Man

PLACEMENTS

For the fourth year running the HES offered a work-placement opportunity to undergraduate students from the University of Bradford. During the 2013–14 academic year we were able to provide placements for two students; Hannah Mellor (Environmental Science) and Joseph Page (Archaeology).

During their placements so far Hannah and Joseph have gained experience of working across the Planning, HER, Finds Recording and Community Engagement teams. They have carried out a wide range of activities including the enhancement of existing HER and planning records, finds identification and recording and helping to organise and deliver schools and community events.



Joseph and Hannah

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

During 2013–14 the HES received no formal complaints and we logged 23 compliments about our staff and services. Here are just a few of them:-

- *On behalf of the Breckland Society, I'd like to thank you for the brilliant talk. It had one of our largest-ever audiences – 63 – and has resulted in four new members joining as well as three reports being sold.*
- *We very much appreciate your support and experience as a much-valued partner.*
- *I should also have thanked you more for the help and guidance you gave with the drawings. I think she did a grand job – due in no small part to your advice.*
- *Brill and many thanks – could not have wanted you to be more helpful, or your deliberations and advice be more generous.*
- *Thanks...you are a star!*
- *Thank you so much for a brilliant tour. It was incredibly interesting and I haven't stopped telling people about it. It was a real privilege to be taken round by you as your knowledge and enthusiasm for the history of the site is wonderful and I just know that so many other people would be fascinated by your tour so please let me know if you are putting on any more.*
- *Just wanted to let you know that I got the results for my placement report and poster. I received 80% for my report and 80% for my poster, and was awarded a distinction. To add a cherry on top, in the placement poster competition I received 1st place and won a prize. I would not have been able to do as well if not for everyone's help, support and encouragement.*
- *Thank you for one of the fastest replies I've ever had!*
- *Have a look at the posts from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service. Good examples of writing about what we think people won't be interested in but probably actually are.*
- *Thank you for your comprehensive response. It's incredibly helpful and will make our work much more straightforward and cost-efficient.*
- *I am still buzzing from last Friday. I think you need to be bottled and sold to everyone who comes to the Broads. I think I bored my partner senseless when I got home.*
- *Just a note to thank you so much for spending the day with us and introducing us to archaeology, and in such a lovely non-threatening way. You were both just lovely. We all thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm getting messages telling me how much individuals enjoyed and learned, and despite achey backs, really keen to do more!*
- *I just want to say a massive thank you for being so helpful over the last couple of months and putting up with my endless questions. You take pride of place in the acknowledgements section of my dissertation.*

The HES strives to deliver high-quality and customer-focussed services which meet the needs of all our users. If you have any comments on our services, contact the Historic Environment Manager, at email david.gurney@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01362 869280.



HES offices at Gressenhall

STAFF IN 2013–14

James Albone

Archaeologist (Planning)

Steven Ashley

Finds Archaeologist

Andrea Beckham

Historic Environment Assistant (Records)

Claire Bradshaw

Community Archaeologist

Jane Bramham-Jones

Business Support Assistant

Alice Cattermole

Senior Historic Environment Officer
(Records)

Mary Chester-Kadwell

Historic Environment Assistant (Records)

Zara Dack

Historic Environment Assistant (Planning)

Erica Darch

Finds Liaison Officer

Ellen Ford

Air Photo Interpreter

Jason Gibbons

Freelance Illustrator

Jenny Glazebrook

Managing Editor, East Anglian Archaeology

David Gurney

Historic Environment Manager (County
Archaeologist)

Heather Hamilton

Historic Environment Officer (Records)

Ken Hamilton

Senior Historic Environment Officer
(Planning)

Stephen Heywood

Historic Buildings Officer (Planning)

Sarah Horlock

Air Photo Interpreter

Adrian Marsden

Numismatist (based at Shirehall, Norwich)

Hannah Mellor

Bradford University Placement

Alex Miller-Fik

Historic Environment Assistant (Planning)

Joseph Page

Bradford University Placement

Hannah Potter

Community Archaeologist, Eighth in the East

Kelly Powell

Assistant Historic Environment Officer
(Countryside)

Amanda Rix

Historic Environment Officer (Mills and
Community Engagement)

David Robertson

Historic Environment Officer (Countryside)

Andrew Rogerson

Senior Historic Environment Officer (Finds)

Sophie Tremlett

Senior Air Photo Interpreter

Pete Watkins

Historic Environment Officer (Records)

Alison Yardy

Acting Senior Historic Environment Officer
(Records)

VOLUNTEERING

We are very grateful for the continued support during 2013–14 of the following regular volunteers:-

- Ray Jenkins
- Terry Miller
- Catrin Whitehorn
- Norfolk Monuments Management Project volunteers

CONTACT US

Our offices are located at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse Museum, near Dereham. Visitors are welcome by appointment.

Address: Historic Environment Service, Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR

Tel: 01362 860528

Fax: 01362 860385

Email: historicenvironment@norfolk.gov.uk

Website: www.norfolk.gov.uk/Environment/Historic_environment/

Twitter: @NorfolkHES

Facebook: NorfolkHES



Historic Environment Manager (County Archaeologist)
David Gurney 01362 869280 david.gurney@norfolk.gov.uk

Historic Environment Record and Norfolk Air Photography Library
Alison Yardy 01362 869292 alison.yardy@norfolk.gov.uk

Identification and Recording Service for Archaeological Finds
Dr Andrew Rogerson 01362 869294 andrew.rogerson@norfolk.gov.uk

Historic Environment Planning
Dr Ken Hamilton 01362 869275 ken.hamilton@norfolk.gov.uk

Historic Environment Projects/Mills and Pumps
Amanda Rix 01362 869394 amanda.rix@norfolk.gov.uk

East Anglian Archaeology
Jenny Glazebrook 01362 869297 jenny.glazebrook@norfolk.gov.uk

Portable Antiquities Scheme
Erica Darch 01362 869289 erica.darch@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk National Mapping Programme
Sophie Tremlett 01362 869283 sophie.tremlett@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk Monuments Management Project and Environmental Stewardship
David Robertson 01362 869291 david.robertson@norfolk.gov.uk

Community Archaeologist
Claire Bradshaw 01362 869296 claire.bradshaw@norfolk.gov.uk



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