



Norfolk County Council

Historic Environment Service Norfolk County Council



Annual Review 2014–15

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Review for 2014–15, which is being made widely available, digitally, to all those with an interest in Norfolk's archaeology and 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, and promotes physical and mental health and well-being.

Even at this time of continuing change for local government, I am confident that the work that Norfolk County Council does on heritage, the services we provide, the partnerships that we form and the externally-funded projects that we undertake or support all make a real difference to Norfolk. 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 oldest, largest and most comprehensive heritage databases – the Norfolk Historic Environment Record – in the country. This enables the Historic Environment Planning Team to provide advice at a strategic level, and to work with developers, farmers and landowners on individual applications and on monument and landscape management, all of which are essential to manage the most precious sites, buildings and landscapes and to facilitate increasing change elsewhere. And the online version of the database, the Norfolk Heritage Explorer, www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk is used by up to 520 people a day.

Norfolk 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 recent and unexpected discovery in South Norfolk of a Saxon very high-status or possibly even royal burial is particularly exciting and intriguing.

The Air Photo Interpretation Team continued to work on externally-funded National Mapping Programme projects funded by Historic England. This work now in its 16th year goes from strength to strength. The past year saw the team's expertise being used once again on a project 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 I offer them my congratulations on another successful year.

Councillor Brian Watkins, Heritage Champion, Norfolk County Council

Norfolk Monument, Great Yarmouth



Cllr Brian Watkins



Salthouse church from the heath

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. A remarkable set of hominin footprints dating to 800,000 years ago were discovered there in 2013
- the Brecks includes the best-preserved prehistoric flint mining and medieval rabbit warrening landscapes anywhere in Europe, if not in the world
- 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
- a survey in 2012 found that windmills and drainage pumps are Britain’s favourite buildings, getting 45% of votes cast
- 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

Volunteers at Caistor



- around 1.0% of the UK population (530,000 people) volunteer in the heritage sector
- 35% of heritage volunteers report an increase in self-esteem and confidence in their abilities
- 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 heritage sector provides 253,000 jobs (2011 data)
- 73% of adults and children in England visited at least one heritage site during 2012–13
- 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

- up to 520 people a day access NCC information about heritage on our website www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk
- 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
- a recent *Britain Thinks* survey found that 94% of respondents believe that heritage is important for the country as a whole; 86% thought it was important for their local area and 81% for them personally
- seven out of ten people believe that heritage is important to the local community
- seven out of ten people have visited a heritage site in the last year, and the UK has the 4th highest participation rate in Europe.
- the value of visiting heritage sites in terms of people's wellbeing is £1,646 per person per year



Bromholm Priory, Bacton

OUR STATISTICS 2014–15

In 2014–15 NCC's HES:-

- 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 15,207 archaeological finds, mainly from metal-detecting
- worked with finders, coroners and the British Museum on 119 cases of Treasure
- made heritage information available online to up to 469 people a day
- worked in partnership with English Heritage (from 1 April 2015 Historic England, and referred to as Historic England throughout this review), Natural England, all eight Local Planning Authorities, Suffolk County Council and a range of heritage conservation bodies and trusts in Norfolk
- published the 153rd volume of the regional monograph series *East Anglian Archaeology*
- provided expert advice on 1,142 planning applications with implications for the historic environment
- issued 377 briefs for development-led recording work on historic buildings and archaeological sites
- worked with farmers and landowners to look after 33 of our most precious archaeological sites, with funding from Historic England
- managed 17 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 33 Higher Level Stewardship historic environment consultations in the last three months of the scheme, one of the highest numbers of any county in England
- advised the Forestry Commission on 11 felling licence and one England Woodland Grant scheme applications
- organised or participated in 147 heritage events and involved 5800 people in heritage activities
- added 969 new records to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record
- enhanced 11,867 existing HER records
- worked closely with members from all the 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.



Bronze Age flint arrowhead, © Will Bowden



Binham test pit



Burial at Caistor Roman town



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.

HERITAGE MAKES US HAPPIER

New research (March 2015) by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) reveals the UK's heritage helps make us happier about where we live, and puts heritage firmly at the heart of shaping and improving quality of life across the UK.

In this latest and biggest research study, the HLF commissioned research company *Britain Thinks* to carry out research in 12 locations across the UK. They undertook both surveys and workshops, to find out what people now think about heritage and the local projects HLF has supported. In all they heard from over 4,000 people.

The key findings were:-

- 93% see heritage as important to the country
- 81% see heritage as important to them personally
- 80% say local heritage makes their area a better place to live
- 64% think local heritage has got better while they have lived in the area
- 76% of Lottery players rate the HLF-funded projects in their area as good or excellent value for money
- People believe that heritage or history defines us. If we have no heritage and if the past gets lost in translation, what is the future?

People see heritage: delivering benefits that relate directly to their quality of life; bringing economic benefits like tourism and creating good jobs; making places more visually attractive; providing family leisure opportunities; helping people to understand where they come from, instilling local pride and encouraging social cohesion.



HERITAGE HEADLINES

Last year the work of HES or work or projects in which the HES played a key role made the front page of the Eastern Daily Press on three occasions, generally accompanied by a two-page spread inside and an editorial comment. This was usually followed up by further interest in

and coverage of the story in other local, national and even international media. The stories that made the news were

- 15,000 finds being recorded in 2013–14; 'Our Rich Heritage'
- The discovery of the South Norfolk Saxon burial; 'Stunning Anglo-Saxon pendant found by student in Norfolk'
- The dating of the second circle on Holme beach; 'From the depths of time and sea, experts reveal another national treasure in Norfolk. Say hello to Seahenge Big Sister'.



NCC's HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE (HES)

The HES's aims are 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:-

- 26,281 known archaeological sites and monuments
- 24,755 recorded findspots and finds scatters
- 10,609 Listed Buildings
- 2,749 other buildings of interest
- 449 Scheduled Monuments
- 50 Registered Parks and Gardens
- 222 maritime and intertidal sites
- 492 other records
- 17 County Council-owned, leased, managed or guardianship heritage assets

COUNTY COUNCIL HERITAGE ASSETS

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

- Waxham Barn
- Beeston Regis Priory
- 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
- Billingford (near Diss) Mill
- Cadges Mill, Reedham
- St Olaves Windpump
- Neaves Mill, Horning
- Gunton Sawmill
- Hardley Mill
- Hobbs Mill, Horning



Beeston Regis priory



Terrington St Clement tunnel

During the course of 2014–15 the lease of Thurne Dyke Mill to NCC was ended following a programme of repairs, and responsibility for the care and maintenance of Ranworth Porch was returned to the owner. Negotia-

tions over the possible divestment of Neaves Mill are in progress.

At some point before or during September 2013 Stump Cross, a scheduled medieval wayside cross at Haveringland owned by NCC, was hit by a vehicle and broken into pieces. In December 2014 the HES secured written permission from Historic England for NCC Highways to remove the cross for safe keeping. It is currently stored in a NCC Highways Depot, awaiting repair and return to its site in summer 2015.

The HES also worked on a NCC County Farm in Terrington St Clement, when a large hole appeared in the middle of a remote field. A timber-lined ‘tunnel’ stretching for several hundred feet underground was initially interpreted as a military feature, but the discovery of a farm map dated 1905 showing drainage features in the area suggests that it is an unusual and rather elaborate underground culvert.

OUR HERITAGE CHAMPION – Cllr Brian Watkins

Regular updates on heritage issues are provided to NCC members by means of a quarterly Heritage Champion’s bulletin. This has been featured by Historic England as an example of good practice, and Cllr Brian Watkins gave a presentation about this at the national meeting of Heritage Champions organised by Historic England in London in November.

Brian Watkins and Greg Luton, Regional Director
Historic England



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeology in the UK. Its successful application for Chartered status, winning an order of grant from the Privy Council in February 2014 and the Charter itself in June, provides recognition from the state that the profession of archaeology is working in the interests of the public.

ClfA charter seal



The ClfA anticipates that becoming a chartered institute will significantly raise its profile and that of the archaeological profession, while bringing archaeologists a step closer to other chartered professions such as architects, planners, surveyors and engineers. The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists was formally launched in October 2014.

The ClfA 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 ClfA Registered Organisation (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 RO status. Following an inspection in June 2014 the HES has maintained its RO status in 2015–18 without any conditions.

THE NORFOLK HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

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 over 68,500 records of events and 60,000 sources. It is one of the largest and most comprehensive records of its type in the country, and it is in continuous use for planning, site and landscape management, research, education, community-led heritage projects and public interest.

During 2014–2015, 941 new monument records were added to the NHER and 11,849 existing records were enhanced. The HER team also added 1,938 new sources and 6,071 new event records.

During the year we responded to 505 commercial and 315 non-commercial enquiries and 55 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. Our online version of the NHER, the Norfolk Heritage Explorer, continues to be well-used, with a peak on one day of 469 visits. This figure continues to rise, and we are looking forward to the day when we have 500 visits.

Visiting the HER



EARLY PREHISTORIC RECORD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Norfolk has an exceptionally rich Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeological resource which has long been the subject of study. In 2014–15 the HES Records Team completed an Historic England-funded project to enhance all HER data relating to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic discoveries in the county. This project has enabled the HER to develop an

unparalleled resource encompassing data from over 1800 separate locations, including more than 4,700 individual artefact records. All records have been systematically checked, and in most cases new information added from a wide range of sources including unpublished reports, journal articles and early record cards. Significant further information was also added from the archives of the late Dr John Wymer and the late Dr Roger Jacobi, both eminent prehistorians who worked extensively in Norfolk. All of the enhanced NHER records are available online via the Norfolk Heritage Explorer, along with new period-based summaries.

In addition, a visual record highlighting key collections and objects from the county was produced. As well as digitising the NHER's large collection of artefact drawings and collection we

were also able to draw and photograph a wide range of previously unillustrated early prehistoric objects in the Norfolk Museums Service's collections.

The enhanced dataset generated by this project facilitated the creation of a new Palaeolithic and Mesolithic resource assessment for Norfolk, providing a much needed up-to-date overview of the county's early prehistoric archaeology. The resource assessment is complemented by a new Planning Guidance Document which has been produced in conjunction with the Archaeological Planning team and Historic England with the intention of maximising opportunities within the planning process for conserving and, where appropriate, investigating deposits with the potential for survival of significant early prehistoric remains.

Since the project finished, the enhanced HER records have already been requested by a number of commercial users and academic researchers, and we have received a lot of very positive feedback indicating that this is the first such resource to comprehensively record material to such a great level of detail, making it an invaluable research tool. Our data will be heavily utilised by several national research projects including doctoral studies and a new project being undertaken at the British Museum. It is hoped that these projects will highlight the potential of the Norfolk early prehistoric dataset and that it will become a well-known and well-used resource within the academic sector; its potential to stimulate and facilitate further research has been noted by project partners and Historic England. To help bring the county's early prehistoric resource to the attention of the widest possible audience it is intended that a summary of the project and its key findings will also be published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Pal-Meso flints



AIR PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND THE NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAMME

In the past year, Norfolk's team of air photo interpreters has continued to work on projects in Suffolk, in partnership with Suffolk County Council and funded by Historic England's National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme. Their work forms part of Historic England's National Mapping Programme (NMP), a methodology which is used to map and interpret archaeological sites visible on aerial photographs and other aerial remote-sensed data. It enhances 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



NMP Cropmarks of enclosures and trackways at Lound, Lothingland. Photograph © NCC BKS 0868 (NCC 3947) 06-AUG-1988

20th century. The resulting data are integrated into the National Record of the Historic Environment and relevant Historic Environment Records (HERs), and are used to inform and facilitate planning, conservation and research decisions concerning the historic environment.

In March the team completed its project investigating a 118 square kilometre area of east Suffolk, covering Lothingland, Greater Lowestoft and the northernmost part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths (SC&H) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The project mapped and described nearly 600 archaeological sites, the vast majority of which (up to 78%) were new discoveries. The sites ranged in date from prehistory to the Second World War. They included Bronze Age burial mounds, prehistoric and Roman settlements and field systems, Anglo-Saxon buildings, medieval manors, post medieval pleasure grounds and 20th century military defences. Researchers will be able to view the maps and records via the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, which can be accessed online at <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/>.

A second project was also started, using the same methodology, and again funded by Historic England and undertaken in collaboration with Suffolk County Council. It continues the work of the earlier project and covers those parts of the SC&H AONB which have not yet been the subject of an NMP survey. Crucially, the results of the project will help inform the future management of the AONB, helping to protect heritage sites contained within its unique and fragile landscape. To date, the team has primarily been working on the coastal hinterland between Walberswick and Aldeburgh, an area dominated by evidence of Second World War defences, camps and training areas, but where traces of earlier activity, such as possible 'red hills' resulting from the Roman salt-making industry, are also apparent. Further inland, work has started on the parish of Rendlesham, thought to be the location of a large, high-status, possibly royal Anglo-Saxon settlement.

PLANNING

The National Planning Policy Framework for England has now been underpinned by government guidance, following consultation on a draft last year. This guidance is available <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/>.

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

In 2014, we changed to working as a paperless office (although we continue to use paper files for existing cases). This has increased both the efficiency and flexibility of the team. In addition, in the majority of cases, briefs for fieldwork are issued along with planning advice, rather than waiting for the applicant to request a brief.

Following on from the Commercial Archaeological Geophysics Seminar in Bradford, we now require magnetometer surveys to be carried out using cart-mounted sensors, reflecting developments in geophysical research (the first county in the UK to do so). Cart-mounted data remove some of the variability in survey quality due to instrument handling errors and this has resulted in higher quality survey data. This is important on Norfolk soils, which do not have a particularly high magnetic



Planning



Roman Kiln at Watlington

susceptibility, and frequently overlies magnetically variable gravels. Hence developers have a greater degree of certainty about their evaluation data and may be able to reduce the cost of archaeological works as a result.

The Planning Team have provided detailed expert advice on 1,142 planning applications and preapplication enquiries, and issued 377 briefs (compared to 1,349 and 412 in 2013–14).

We have contributed to 12 separate planning applications at Scottow Enterprise Park (formerly RAF Coltishall), including the production of heritage statements, the provision of informal advice on the implications of development within the conservation area and the on-going management of the designated heritage assets on site (the Second World War dispersal pen and Cold War blast walls). We have also given advice on plans to increase access to parts of the site and on the provision of interpretation material at key locations.

2014–15 saw the end of excavations at Watlington quarry after a fieldwork programme lasting over ten years. The quarry has produced evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement, industry and death, with roundhouses, pottery kilns and burials extending across the site. The project now moves into the post-excavation analysis stage. Also in 2014–15, a 14th-century chapel and a 17th-century glass works were excavated in King's Lynn, a possible medieval parchment manufacturing site was discovered in Norwich, and work resumed on the archaeology of the Augustinian friary at St Anne's Wharf in Norwich.

And finally, the Planning Team were consulted about a theory that possible Nazi landing grounds built across Norfolk in the late 1930s were marked by large red barns built around that time. All we know for sure is that the RAF took the threat seriously enough in 1940 to dig anti-glider ditches across the adjacent fields.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

HES has produced in-depth reports on the historic significance of 55 medieval churches receiving grant aid from Historic England since 2012. This has shone new light on the history of these churches with many hitherto unrecognised features recorded. At Stibbard the west tower and south wall were found to be of late 11th-century date. Along with Hethel, it is one of the very few Anglo-Norman west towers which were not round. At Fishley the round tower was found to have had Norman double bell openings before the new bell stage was added later in the Middle Ages. At Gayton it was found that the 14th-century arcades were taken down during the 15th century and re-erected to a higher level. This incredibly difficult and bold way of heightening an aisled church can also be seen at North Elmham and Swaffham.

Other externally-funded reports have been written over the last year on the monastic precinct wall of Castle Acre Priory, Gressenhall Workhouse, Melton Constable park walls and Greyfriars Little Walsingham.



Winterton net warehouse

Planning applications affecting historic buildings have been monitored and recording conditions have been recommended in a number of cases. Though this procedure the HES was able to have the last surviving unaltered net warehouse in Winterton recorded. This dates from between the First and Second World Wars, and is shown on a map dated 1938.

The HES has been called upon to give expert advice to the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, the Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust, Norwich Cathedral through the Fabric Advisory Committee and to the Diocese through the Diocesan Advisory Committee which considers and determines faculty applications.

HES worked with NCC Highways and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council on the unexpected exposure of the remains of the 14th-century charnel chapel next to St Margaret's church in the Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn, as part of the regeneration project, and HES advised on how best to preserve and interpret the remains.

Amongst the NCC-owned historic buildings, apart from mills, Waxham Barn is becoming a popular venue for events including weddings. Repairs to the thatch have recently been completed. The Elizabethan garden houses at Bawburgh, known as The Bawburgh

Monuments, are to be opened to the public for the first time in many years for the Heritage Open Days in September 2015. HES is receiving grants from Historic England to further consolidate the monastic ruins of Beeston Regis Priory which is a site greatly enjoyed by visitors and local people.

THE COAST

This year has been a little quieter on the coast following last year's storm surge and erosion events, but reports of coastal finds and damage reports have continued as usual.

Following the completion of the East Offshore and Onshore Marine Plans and the firm establishment of marine planning processes in this region we continue to work with District Councils and The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to ensure the historic environment is fully considered during the planning process. This has included a number of sea defence improvement and replacement projects. Some of the results of this include the completion of a photographic survey of Sheringham Sea wall prior to improvements. A plaque previously recorded on the face of the modern seawall and promenade commemorates the construction of a sea wall in 1895. The photographic survey aimed to record any features associated with the 19th-century defences before they were covered entirely. The plaque itself was rescued from the 2013 storm surge and as a result of the



King's Lynn Saturday Market Place © Archaeological Solutions

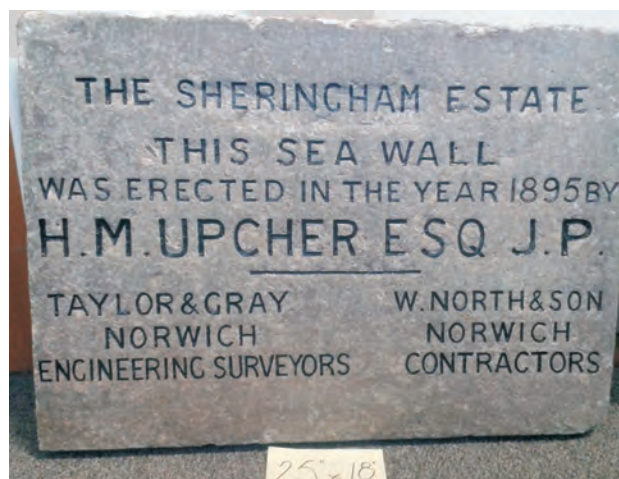


Waxham Barn

improvements has been restored and will be placed next to the new structure with an interpretation panel.

We are currently awaiting the start of much-needed works to the Happisburgh sea defences. Given the potential for highly significant Palaeolithic remains in the area an archaeologist will be present on site at all times during the works. We are also involved in discussions of proposed sea defence works at Bacton Gas Terminal which may benefit the local villages.

This year has seen the completion of the Wash East Coast Management Strategy which the HES has advised on throughout its process. We hope the measures proposed will help to preserve a number of heritage assets along that stretch of coast.



Sheringham plaque © North Norfolk District Council

Timber Circles on Holme Beach

In the late 1990s two remarkable and well-preserved Bronze Age timber circles were discovered on Holme Beach. One of these – Seahenge – was excavated in 1998 and 1999. Since the excavations the second circle has been monitored and evidence of damage by coastal processes has been recorded. In the last few years tree ring dating (dendrochronology) undertaken by HES and specialists, with funding from Historic England, has shown the timbers used to build the second circle were felled in the spring or summer of 2049 BC, early in the Bronze Age. This means that the timbers were felled at exactly the same time as those used to build Seahenge. The discovery that two monuments were built close together at the same time is thought to be unique in the study of British prehistory.

In July 2014 the story of the dating of the second circle caught the attention of the *Eastern Daily Press*. A front page article led to local, national and international media coverage, with outlets as diverse as Radio Norfolk, Anglia News, *The Sun*, *News.gr* (Greece), *Dnevnik* (Hungary), *The Delhi Daily News* (India) and the magazine *British Archaeology* picking up the story. At the time it was in the news, the circle was entirely covered by sand, as it has been ever since. Seahenge itself is on display in Lynn Museum.

Holme Beach forms part of Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Holme Dunes National Nature Reserve, is covered by many wildlife designations and is internationally important for wildlife, especially birds. The peat beds – the location of the two timber circles – are an integral part of the nature reserve and provide an important habitat for large numbers of marine invertebrates that, on exposure at low tide, are a rich source of feeding for a large number of wading birds. Arguably the roosts are the single most important wildlife feature on the whole North Norfolk Coast. They are vulnerable to disturbance and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust requests that visitors respect this special reserve.



Holme 2 in 2003 © NPSArchaeology

North Sea Ports

The HES has supplied data for this project from the Historic Environment Record.

This Historic England-funded project is being undertaken by Cornwall Council (who have great expertise in this area) and will include the ports of King's Lynn, Wells-next-the-Sea and Great Yarmouth.

This project seeks to address serious current shortfalls in our understanding of England's port heritage and its significance, a situation that undermines attempts to develop well-founded and effective strategies for the protection and sustainable conservation management of that heritage.

The project will do this by compiling a strategic-level baseline understanding for ports over a sufficiently long section of England's coasts, those facing the North Sea, to serve as a national exemplar of its approach for future extension around England's remaining coastline. The understanding developed by the project will encompass a range of variables in the ports' historic development and roles, along with their present roles, scale, historic character and heritage asset survival. It will assess the values and significance pertaining to that coastline's port heritage, the extent of its current heritage protection and the implications of pressures for change for the sustainable future management of its heritage assets.

One of the main deliverables is a report on each port, to include the historical development of the port and its North Sea roles and relationships, present historic character and extent of port functions, port-related heritage assets and contributions to present character, conservation values of the port heritage assets, current levels of heritage protection, pressures for change and heritage risk assessment and opportunities.

This cannot help but be of use in helping us to better understand the history and development of these three ports and help to inform and guide their future development.



Wells-next-the-Sea

THE BRECKS

A £1.46m grant has been awarded by the HLF for 'Breaking new Ground' a Landscape Partnership project worth a total of £2.2m that will fund 37 individual landscape conservation projects in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks over three years.



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

The Brecks, Drymere, © Nick Ford



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 HES is leading or 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 such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging; optical remote sensing technology similar to radar used to collect a wide range of topographic 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 includes six training workshops and covers 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 HES 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.

Brecks and mortar



Two recent day schools ‘Revealing Records’ and ‘Brecks and Mortar’ – a building recording day held as part of the Community Archaeology Training Programme – proved particularly popular with repeat and follow-up days being organised.
<http://www.breakingnewground.org.uk/>

THE BROADS

The Norfolk Broads were designated by Historic England (HE) 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 HE 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. This initiative ties in with long-held aspirations of the HES and the Broads Authority (BA) to design and undertake a project on the buried archaeology of the Broads.

In 2014, Peter Murphy, recently retired from Historic England, conducted a review of the Archaeology of the Broads on behalf of the NCC HES and the BA. The report highlighted the main factors affecting the archaeological resource, summarised the present situation and considered research themes, future management and potential for community and volunteer involvement. A draft was present to the BA in November 2014 and the report subsequently finalised.

In June the BA will submit their ‘Water Mills and Marshes’ project to the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Landscape Partnership scheme. The project will cost around £4.5m, with an HLF grant of £2.6m. The HES has submitted six projects under the scheme umbrella (in total 38 projects) alongside various partners including the University of East Anglia, Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society, Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership and Acle Community

The Norfolk Broads, © Mike Page



Archive Group. Heritage projects led by HES include a Broads Community Archaeology Training Programme and a variety of 'Broads Hidden Heritage' projects including looking at Second World War remains, waterways heritage, industrial archaeology, aerial archaeology and the archaeology, history and development of the marshland landscape.

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 drew to a close in 2014. June saw the last month of the Conservation Access and Community project 2012–2014, marked by two inspiring performances of 'Ideas of Flight' at the abbey.

As part of the recent Conservation, Access and Engagement Programme, a Friends of St Benet's Abbey group (TFOSBA) has been established which co-ordinates guided tours and a programme of events at the site. TFOSBA was successfully launched on 24 June accompanied by a talk by Hugh Edgell who, in 1987, became the first Prior of St Benet's since the Reformation.

The purposes of TFOSBA are to:-

- Provide for the continuity of St Benet's Abbey as a place for personal reflection, research, education, community involvement and enjoyment both now and for the future
- Liaise with the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, and other stakeholders where appropriate, to raise funds and support activities and events which realise our purposes
- Be a focus for all who are interested in the site of St Benet's Abbey.

St Benet's Abbey



The aim of the Committee of The Friends is to act as a focal point for the ongoing research for St Benet's Abbey, to coordinate and support the voluntary guides, maintain the website and to organise events and publicity to promote St Benet's Abbey to the local community and visitors to the Norfolk Broads: <http://www.stbenetsabbey.org/>

LANGHAM DOME

With the renovations complete and the internal displays installed, the Dome was officially opened on 19 July 2014. With the help of Air Marshall Dick Garwood and ex-455 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force navigator Bert Osborn, as well as a magnificent display by Richard Grace in the 'Grace' Spitfire, the Dome was well and truly 'opened'! You can view some of the proceedings on [YouTube](#). Since then, with a team of excellent volunteers, the Dome has been open four days every week, as well as the August Bank Holiday and some school visits and evening group visits. The Friends of Langham Dome has been reformed into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation: <https://langhamdome.org/>

ARCHIVES FIND A GOOD HOME

The HES was recently contacted by a gentleman in Worcestershire whose sister had bought a box of old deeds in an antique shop in Dorset some 30 years ago. He was considering throwing them away but instead decided to see if they would be of interest to anyone in Norfolk. We offered to find the right home for them and having examined them saw that some related to the village of Ludham. We asked the [Ludham Archive group](#) if they would like sight of them before the collection was deposited in the Norfolk Record Office. The deeds turned out to relate to land owned by the Garrett family, farmers and millers in Ludham, whose descendants are now spread across the world and members of whom regularly contact the Archive group. In fact the Group gets more enquiries about the Garretts than any other family. Group members have been busy transcribing the documents so they can be more easily read by others.

Langham Dome



Ludham archives



HELPING COMMUNITIES WITH HERITAGE

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, South Norfolk Preservation Trust and South Norfolk Council Neighbourhood Fund) — officially opened in the restored gravel quarry in July 2014
- 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) — milestones worked on in 2014–15 include examples at Holkham and Brancaster
- St Martin's church, Shotesham (Shotesham PCC)
- Pentney Abbey gatehouse (private owners and with Historic England)
- Waxham Barn (Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust) — repairs to the thatched roof
- St Mary's church, Great Melton (Great Melton PCC)
- Billingford (near Diss) mill (Norfolk Windmills Trust)
- Wicklewood Mill (Norfolk Windmills Trust)
- St Mary's church, Forncett
- Beeston Regis Priory (Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust).

Pentney Abbey, which HES helped to restore (completed in 2015) took first prize at the annual West Norfolk Mayor's Design Awards, having been transformed from a derelict ruin on Historic England's Buildings At Risk Register into a stunning piece of architecture and heritage asset which is now safe for us and for future generations to enjoy. The owners were also nominated for an Historic England Angel Award in 2014, and were highly commended. <http://www.pentneyabbey.com/>



Pentney Abbey

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 formal 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 heritage projects and provision of specialist advice.

HES also provided a small grant towards the restoration of the ruined tower of St Mary's church, Great Melton, a project that took no less than ten years to complete! The Grade 2* Listed Building, dating to AD1440, was recently rededicated by the Bishop of Thetford in a special service of thanksgiving and praise. Together with repairs to the adjacent church of All Saints, the church and local community raised more than £150,000 for work on the two churches. Over the Christmas period the tower of St



Great Melton

Mary's was floodlit, and looked magnificent.

Work with the Milestone Society, and their local activist Nigel Ford and other volunteers, has continued around the county. In July 2014 a leather-bound copy of 'Moving Miles' was presented to HRH Prince Charles and Her Majesty the Queen at the Anmer Milestone which Prince Charles had helped to paint. Proceeds from the book are being used to restore more milestones, in addition to small heritage asset conservation grants from NCC, Parish Councils and local businesses.



Restoring 60 of Norfolk's milestones with the help of children, royalty and hard work

By Nigel and Jennifer Ford

Milestone book

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 2014–15 the project issued just over £24,500 of Historic England grant-aid through conservation agreements. These agreements cover vegetation management at Hangour Hill (a prehistoric burial mound), a medieval moat at Beetley, the ruins of a medieval church at Bawsey and the medieval town banks at Castle Acre and support for repairs to West Acre Priory and part of the town wall at Castle Acre.

Hindringham Hall fishponds



Management works funded in previous years continued at over twenty heritage assets, including at Hindringham Hall fishponds. Scrub was originally cleared from this site with Higher Level Stewardship funding but, following a change of ownership, the project stepped in to support weed control and the sowing of grass seed. It is now clear of scrub and tall weeds and the owner has taken the opportunity to open the site to the public and raise the water level in the ponds. Nearly all the ponds now hold water, possibly for the first time in centuries.

Since 2002 the project has overseen the management of the ruins of the church at St Mary's Priory Beeston Regis, a Scheduled Monument in the guardianship of Norfolk County Council. In summer 2014 the project helped the police investigate a case of damage to the nave wall, the result of which was a formal caution for the individual involved. Repairs were commissioned for the second year in a row and a conservation architect was employed to prepare a condition survey (which will be used to inform future repairs). Located just north of the A149 near Beeston Regis Common, the ruins are well visited by local people and visitors.

The project has been involved in the management of a number of other heritage assets under the control of Norfolk County Council. These include a World War Two fighter pen at former RAF Coltishall, a medieval cross at Aylmerton and the 16th-century Great Barn at Waxham.

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 an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to manage the landscape to benefit heritage assets, particularly through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). Although HLS closed for applications in summer 2014, in 2014–15 the HES issued 33 HLS consultations and worked to ensure the enhanced management of a good number of significant heritage assets. The Norfolk Monuments Management Project (NMMP) prepared two HLS management plans (for part of Lynford Park and Burnham Norton Friary) and oversaw the management of Weasenham Great Barrow under another. Work at the Great Barrow has made a dramatic difference; bracken has been successfully controlled and grass is beginning to re-establish itself.



Burnham Norton Friary

HLS-funded works to the precinct wall at Castle Acre Priory were initiated by the NMMP in 2009 and completed during 2014–15. The project included a number of partners, including the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, Natural England, Historic England and Hutton+Rostron, and involved removing vegetation, uncovering hidden and damaged sections of wall and large-scale repairs. The improvements made to the condition and visibility of the wall are substantial.

In the summer of 2015 HLS will be replaced by a Countryside Stewardship, a new government agri-environment scheme. In 2014–15 HES provided advice on how this scheme should be targeted across Norfolk and, by taking on an important role within a national forum and taking part in a trial of a new online consultation system, was able to input into its development.

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. This work ensures important monuments, including burial mounds, features associated with medieval and post-medieval rabbit warrens and remnants of World War Two 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.

In 2014–15 six members of the public monitored the condition of archaeological sites on FC land in Norfolk and Suffolk on behalf of the Norfolk Monuments Management Project. By carrying out twenty-nine monitoring visits, they have been able to study a wide range of archaeological sites and develop their own archaeological skills and knowledge. In October 2014 many of the volunteers joined others involved with the project for an evening of talks on the management of Thetford Forest's historic environment.

Over the last few years, the HES has worked with a range of partners on heathland projects. In 2014–15 the focus was on restoration works that form part of the Brecks Breaking New Ground Landscape Partnership project and schemes funded by Higher Level Stewardship.

During 2014–15 the HES worked with a number of partners on river restoration. We were involved in all Norfolk Rivers Trust Nine Chalk Rivers projects, including those on the Rivers Babingley, Nar and Stiffkey, and a number of joint Environment Agency/Forestry Commission projects along the River Little Ouse.

The HES is represented on the MoD'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.



Volunteers in Thetford Forest

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.

A survey in 2012 found that windmills and drainage pumps are Britain's favourite buildings, getting 45% of the votes.

Billingford Mill is owned by Norfolk County Council, managed by the Norfolk Windmills Trust and opened to the public by local volunteers. The Historic Environment Officer is working with the local community on a project to restore the mill to full working order. The mill is in need of new stock and sails as well as repairs to the cap. Following tendering a preferred millwright has been selected and the fundraising committee is in the process of making grant applications to secure the funding necessary for the project to go ahead. The project will include the purchase of a Shepherd's Hut, training for millers and guides, a sponsors' board, production of a revised visitor guide book and a guide to 'Milling at Billingford'.

A programme of events, run by the local community, has been prepared and will take place on Billingford Common, starting with an Easter Egg hunt and finishing with a Halloween event with prizes for the best pumpkin and outfit for the under 12s.

Gunton Park Sawmill is leased to Norfolk County Council, managed by the Norfolk Windmills Trust and opened to the public by volunteers, mostly members of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society. The sawmill is listed grade II* and is a unique survival of a timber-framed water-powered sawmill still running a reciprocating saw. The local volunteers, with support from HES, applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund 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, which included working with local schools to invite school children to reinterpret the sawmill for their peers. The project is now complete and the volunteers have reported an increase in interest in the mill and visitor numbers on open days.

Stracey Arms Mill is owned by Norfolk County Council and managed by the Norfolk Windmills Trust. A stage 1 application entitled 'The Mill and the Marsh Folk', focusing on the Stracey Arms Mill, was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2013 and in June 2014 was successful in receiving a development grant of £81,200.00, 84% of the development stage costs. The projected total cost of the development phase is £97,210.00. The project includes the restoration of the mill to full working order, along with researching and promoting the life of the marshmen and their management of the Broads



Billingford Mill



Stracey Arms Mill

landscape. The project will include opportunities for Community Engagement with volunteers receiving skills training in basic mill maintenance, being guides and health and safety awareness.

Project and Finance Managers were appointed, following interview, in November 2014. The project team, which includes HES and NWT trustees, is working hard towards the Round Two submission in November or December 2015. One of the key aspects of the project is the provision of car parking facilities for visitors to the mill; this is a complex area involving multi-agency negotiations. All discussions are so far positive and supportive of the project. The project team is working with various teams within NCC including HES, Highways, Natural Environment and NP Law.

Thurne Mill was leased by the late Bob Morse and then Debra Nicholson to NCC and managed by the NWT until 31 August 2014. Following a programme of repair and repainting, with only a couple of outstanding issues to complete, the lease was allowed to expire and the mill handed back to the owner and is no longer in NCC's portfolio.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Hopton on Sea

The latest Taking Part Survey 2014–15 published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport presents the latest headline estimates for the year October 2013 to September 2014. The Survey quantifies how people spend their time in leisure activities, while also serving as a key evidence and statistical benchmark for future DCMS and sector-wide policy.

In the year to September 2014, over seven in ten adults (72%) had visited a heritage site at least once in the previous 12 months. The report also found that nearly three in five adults belonging to black and minority ethnic groups (58%) visited a heritage site at least once in the past 12 months, marking an increase of 7% since 2005–6.

HES staff represent Norfolk on more than 20 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 accessible, heritage walks, lectures to local societies and events in community venues, museums and libraries.

In 2014–15 the Community Engagement team and other HES staff members organised or participated in 147 events and involved more than 5800 people in heritage activities.

During the last year the Community Engagement team has been involved in organising heritage training events in a variety of skills including excavation, earthwork survey, finds identification and research using the Historic Environment Record. These events have been run for local history and archaeology groups including Tilney All Saints History Group, Stiffkey Local History Group, and the Breckland Society. We also collaborated with



Hands-on workshop at Martham Primary School



Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust and Norvic Archaeology to research St Margaret's Church as part of the Hopton Ruined Church project. The excavations at the church allowed us to find out how it was built, and which parts were extended first.

We provided ongoing support for groups continuing their research after receiving training from us, for example, working with Docking Heritage Group and the Loddon Parish Study to investigate the earliest settlement of their area.

The team has visited local groups to deliver a series of lectures on Norfolk's heritage and the work of the HES, participated in family events such as the Spring Fling and the Maritime Festival, and has collaborated with the Norfolk Museums Service to deliver events at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse and Norwich Castle Museum for their behind-the-scenes Passholders Day, Heritage Open Day, Archaeology Days and Romans Weekend.

We are continuing to work with Norfolk schools to help primary teachers to deliver the new history curriculum, which focusses on prehistory. Students at Shelton-with-Hardwick Primary School learnt about how materials survive in the ground and prehistoric housing, they also had the opportunity to handle ancient artefacts and find out how they were made.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONERS' TAKEOVER DAY

The Children's Commissioner for England has described Norfolk as a 'super ambassador' for children's Takeover Day in a new report on the success of the national event which took place on 21 November.

In the report, Dr Maggie Atkinson highlights the work of Norfolk County Council and its partners in making Takeover Day 2014 a success, in particular highlighting the involvement of Future Radio, the EDP and Evening News, and Radio Norfolk. The report recommends that the Office of the Children's Commission formalise its relationship with the county, to allow resources, ideas and techniques to be pooled and shared.

Norfolk's takeover day was one of the biggest in the country and the Commissioner tweeted on the day that 'So much is going in #Norfolk for @ChildrensComm #TakeoverDay. I think East Anglia is the most active region'.

Takeover Day



Members and officers of NCC welcomed 68 young people for the day, of which the highlight was a debate in the Council Chamber at County Hall where they contributed their views and made their voices heard on a range of issues.

In 2015, for the third year, the HES handed over control of some of our services to young people from Norfolk. Six young people joined us at the Gressenhall office to become Historic Environment Officers for the day. Kyran and Josh took over as Community Archaeologists, Alex became the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Planning, while Chloe and Amy took on the role of Finds Liaison Officers. The idea of the day was for these young people to see and do everyday jobs in HES, to see what exactly NCC does, and to tell us how our services can work better for them. They met finders, identified artefacts, made comments on archaeological reports to be sent to a contractor, produced publicity material for our upcoming training events and planned archaeology workshops for primary schools.

IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

The role of the Identification and Recording Service is to enable members of the public in Norfolk to log a permanent record of their finds in the public domain. Every year a very large number of archaeological objects are found by non-archaeologists, by chance or deliberately. Almost all of the latter are located by metal detector users. Except in the small number of objects subject to the Treasure Act (119 Norfolk Treasure cases in 2014–15), the reporting of finds is entirely voluntary, and the Service's role is founded entirely on public good will. Some finds are of great importance in their own right but all contribute towards our understanding of how the inhabitants of the county have interacted with their physical environment throughout the centuries.

Since October 2012, when the Identification and Recording Service for Archaeological Finds began publishing all its records on the national [PAS database](#), 20,653 Norfolk records have been entered. This amounts to 20% of the total number for England and Wales in the same period. By contrast, between June 2001 when the first PAS record was published and Sept 2012, a total of 29,752 records were entered. With these two amounts combined, the Identification Service very recently passed the 50,000 records mark.

In 2014–15 15,207 objects were recorded. These range from the humble, for example collections of Roman or medieval pot sherds that are the main evidence for vanished houses and settlements, to the truly spectacular and internationally significant, such as a remarkable ceremonial copper alloy dirk from the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500–1350 BC) found at Rudham.



Rudham dirk

The Rudham Dirk

This was reported some ten years after its discovery during farming operations in East Rudham and subsequent use as a door-stop. The owner was on the verge of throwing it away when a friend suggested he should take it to be identified. At the HES's Identification and Recording Service it was seen by Dr Rogerson, Senior Historic Environment Officer and Finds Liaison Officer Erica Darch. They were able to recognise the dirk's date and importance immediately.

An enormous and impressive object, it weighs almost two kilograms and at approximately 68cms long it is about three times the size of a normal Bronze Age dirk. It is so large and heavy it is completely impractical as a weapon. With its completely blunt blade and without rivet holes for a handle, it must have functioned in rituals as some sort of religious symbol or ceremonial object. This is almost certainly the reason why it was found bent in half, deliberately folded as part of the object's ritual 'destruction' before its burial, a practice well known from Bronze Age metalwork.

This is the second such dirk to have been recorded in Norfolk. The first, found at Oxborough in 1988, is in the British Museum. This major new find has been acquired by Norwich Castle Museum. Norfolk's European importance at this early period cannot be doubted. Only four other examples, extremely similar in style and size, are known, two from France and two from Holland. All six may derive from the same workshop, but its location remains unknown.



Iron Age linch pin from Wymondham

Other Finds

- The wheels of Late Iron Age vehicles were secured by iron linch pins which were sometimes furnished with copper alloy terminals and inlaid enamel. A complete linch pin from Wymondham is the most elaborate found in the county, and is quite similar to an example found many years ago in Hertfordshire. The vehicle, perhaps a chariot, would have been driven by a member of the Iceni elite. The wealth of the Iceni has once again been emphasised by a large assemblage of Iron Age and early Roman coins from Snettisham. These appear to be a series of ritual deposits and they certainly reinforce our perception of this area as an important religious landscape in this period.

Roman coin from Wacton



- Though Roman coins are far from rare, a few can cast a great deal of light. One such from Wacton is a cast copy of a copper alloy as of the early 3rd-century emperor Maximus. It was produced from a mould made from the same prototype used to cast a number of other copies found across Britain, including two examples from the

Sacred Spring at Bath and one from the Isle of Wight. The Wacton site has produced other evidence of coin copying and could have been the origin of these coins.

- The Early Saxon period (5th–7th centuries) continues to provide some extraordinary new pieces of evidence. For example, the only parallel for a gilt copper alloy 5th-century brooch found at Fincham was excavated from a grave at Riensförde in north Germany. Norfolk is showing itself as a major centre for the discovery of bracteates, elaborately ornamented pendants of great religious significance at this period and mostly of Continental origin. A gold bracteate was found some years ago at Lessingham but its importance was not realised at the time. Depicting a highly stylised horse and rider it is a rare example of a type that was made in England.
- A cast bronze bowl made at the Egyptian city of Alexandria during the 7th century was found at Caistor St Edmund. The discovery prompted a small-scale excavation by HES which revealed that the vessel had been buried within a small pit on top of a wood vessel. The pit was almost certainly a child's grave, though the acidic soil had destroyed any trace of bones.
- From a garden in Whissonsett comes a gilt copper alloy socketed handle with an openwork cross and engraved ornament. It is probably from an aestel, a small pointer used as an aid in reading manuscripts. The most famous example of an aestel handle is the Alfred Jewel, but this piece is somewhat older, dating from before the Viking invasions and to the 8th or the first part of the 9th century, when Whissonsett was probably a major religious centre. It is appropriate that it should produce evidence of literacy which at that time was closely associated with the clergy.
- The aptitude of Vikings for recycling objects made by others can be seen in an elaborate copper alloy mount from Rocklands. It was manufactured in Ireland or Scotland in the 8th century AD and converted into a brooch sometime between AD 850 and 950. A gilt pendant, found at Horsham St Faith and cast in the form of a pair of coiled snakes, is almost certainly a copy made in England of a Scandinavian prototype. It is only the second to have been recorded, the other being recovered in Northamptonshire twenty-five years ago. Something of the international nature of trade and contact in the Viking Age can be seen in a penny struck at Dublin in the name of the Norse leader Sihtric Silkbeard early in the 11th century travelled from there to Barwick.



Middle Saxon aestel from Whissonsett



South Norfolk burial pendant

- A farthing token of John Starden of Bingham, produced circa 1650–70 and found nearby at Wiveton, is the first of this issuer's tokens to have been recovered. It is extremely rare that a hitherto unknown mid-17th-century token is recorded.

THE SOUTH NORFOLK BURIAL

In January 2015 Dr Andrew Rogerson and Steven Ashley (HES), Dr Helen Geake (Portable Antiquities Scheme) and the finder carried out a small investigation in a field in South Norfolk where an Anglo-Saxon bowl mount had been recovered. They excavated and recorded a mid-7th-century AD adult female burial, with some remarkable finds.

The finds – a bronze bowl, a pot, a knife, a chatelaine-chain and a necklace with pendants – sound fairly conventional, but the detail is remarkable and will alter our understanding of Norfolk in the 7th century.

The bowl – a beaten bronze vessel with flat bottom, vertical sides and a wide rim – isn't one of the usual types found in Anglo-Saxon burials. It has only one real parallel in England, found in a rich early 7th-century male grave at Broomfield in Essex in the 1890s, now in the British Museum. It may be Frankish. Next to the pan was a pot and this was a Frankish import, made perhaps in France or Belgium in the late 6th or early 7th century.

The necklace is the most glitzy of the grave-goods. The enormous jewelled pendant is quite extraordinary. Even while it was still in the ground, it was clear that the cloisonné garnet work included garnets cut to make up animal interlace. It must have been made in England, probably in the early to mid 7th century.

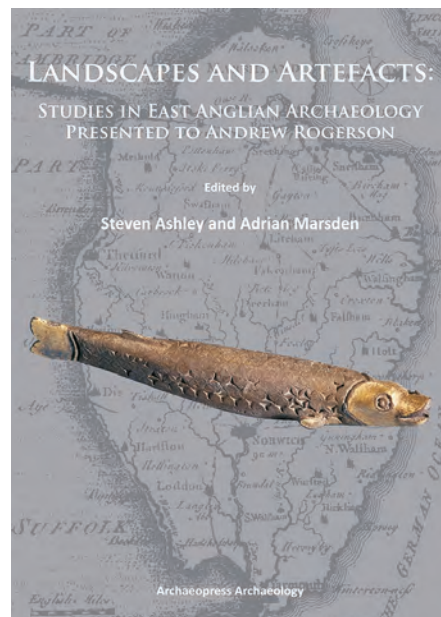
The other pendants and beads make up a conventional rich necklace often found in later 7th-century graves. But what is very exciting is that two of the pendants have been made from coins. One was quickly identified as a gold *solidus* of Sigebert III, a Frankish king who ruled from AD 639 to 656. It cannot have been buried before 639 and as it had to be imported, converted into a pendant and then buried, the grave must date at the earliest to the 640s.

Although the bones were not in good condition, the lady was clearly an adult. It seems likely that she moved at the same social level as the people buried at Sutton Hoo – she may have been alive when burials were still going on there.



South Norfolk burial being excavated

What needs to be done next is to work out why this very rich Anglo-Saxon lady was buried in that particular Norfolk field. There is little in the way of early Anglo-Saxon settlement or burial near the find spot. The finds are currently being cleaned and conserved.



FESTSCHRIFT FOR DR ANDREW ROGERSON

Dr Andrew Rogerson is one of the most important and influential archaeologists currently working in East Anglia. The various essays in this volume, presented to him by friends and colleagues within NCC, from the university sector and public archaeology, closely reflect his diverse interests and his activities in the region over many decades. They include studies of ‘small finds’ from many periods; of landscapes, both urban and rural; and of many aspects of medieval archaeology and history. This important collection will be essential reading for all those interested in the history and archaeology of Norfolk and Suffolk, in the interpretation of artefacts within their landscape contexts, and in the material culture of the Middle Ages.

Landscapes and Artefacts: Studies in East Anglian Archaeology Presented to Andrew Rogerson, edited by Steven Ashley and Adrian Marsden. xiv+250 pages; illustrated throughout in colour & black and white. Available both in printed and e-versions: printed ISBN 9781905739752, e-publication ISBN 9781905739998.

CRIMES AGAINST HERITAGE

A man from Grays in Essex pleaded guilty in court in October to using metal-detecting equipment to locate and unlawfully remove a Roman gold coin of the Emperor Valentinian from privately-owned land in Castle Acre, Norfolk. He was fined £400 and ordered to pay £250 costs.

The conviction results from close co-operation between Police, heritage agencies and the British Museum after staff of the Museum reported that the individual concerned was suspected of being in possession of items that had not been reported to the Coroner as required by the Treasure Act 1996. Police executed a search warrant and found documentation implicating the man in theft and subsequent sale of two gold coins.

Mark Harrison, National Policing and Crime Adviser for Historic England, said: ‘we recognise that the majority of the metal detecting community comply with the laws and regulations relating to the discovery and recovery of objects; however, we work hard with the police to identify the criminal minority who operate outside of the law.’

Ranworth porch



Other heritage crimes during the year included damage to Ranworth Porch – the gatehouse to the demolished 16th-century Ranworth Old Hall – during an illegal rave, damage to the medieval ruins of Beeston Regis Priory, graffiti damage at Thetford Priory and damage to the door at the base of the tower of the ruined church dedicated to St Theobald at Great Hautbois, near Coltishall.

The HES prepared its first Heritage Crime Impact Assessment Statement on Ranworth. Ranworth Porch, previously in the guardianship of Norfolk County Council, has now been handed back to its owner.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The latest Taking Part Survey 2014–15 has been published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which present the latest headline estimates for the year October 2013 to September 2014. Taking Part is a national survey in England which quantifies how people spend their time in leisure activities, while also serving as a key evidence and statistical benchmark for future DCMS and sector-wide policy.

The report found that between July 2014 and September 2014, 55% of adults stated they were aware of local or national event or activities being held to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. The report also found that 79% of adults were supportive of the UK commemorating the Centenary of the First World War.

So this year, in addition to our normal programme of talks, we have developed a series of library lectures aimed at promoting First World War archaeology in Norfolk. These hour-long illustrated presentations showcase the heritage that can be found on your doorstep. Due to popular demand, bookings were extended to local history groups, societies and heritage centres. Twenty one talks have been given to date, with over 390 attendees.

The HES is part of an exciting project to investigate and restore what was thought to be a First World War circular pillbox on the edge of the Stiffkey marshes.

The pillbox appears to be First World War in that it is round, made of concrete blocks (though other examples of that date use smaller blocks) and has a thin concrete roof and a small door. Untypically it is very low and has only two large apertures. Local people believe it was built in the Second World War for practice or



Stiffkey pillbox

by the Home Guard. Unfortunately at this stage we can't say we have proved or disproved these theories and its atypical aspects mean other possibilities have to be considered.

The pillbox was in a derelict state, having previously been vandalised. Three of the concrete blocks surrounding a gun loop had been removed, and the interior of the pillbox had been used to dump rubbish. With the help of the National Trust, which manages the area, the Stiffkey Local History Group recovered the missing blocks from a nearby creek, and cleaned them up ready to be returned to their rightful place in the monument. This was achieved with the help of a local builder, and with small grants from HES and the National Trust

In late September an intrepid team of local volunteers gathered to excavate the pillbox, under the supervision of HES's Community Archaeologist. Excavations internally showed that contrary to common sense one could not stand up in the pillbox but only squat. There was no concrete floor, just the natural golden sand. The entrance was lined with corrugated iron (not necessarily original) which may have connected to a trench system.

The future of this wartime structure is now looking much brighter, since it has been adopted by Stiffkey Local History Group. The Group is now concentrating on archival research and oral history to find out more about the people who built and used it. It is hoped that their work will form the focus of some interpretation for the site and other coastal military sites in the area, so the large number of visitors to the marshes can find out about its long and fascinating history.

EIGHTH IN THE EAST

Eighth in the East, a three-year HLF funded project in which HES is a partner organisation, is exploring the legacy of the USAAF 8th Air Force in the eastern counties during the Second World War. A key part of the project's work is the recording of surviving airfield buildings through a programme of community archaeology based field surveys.

The past year has seen the project really take off in Norfolk with the first building recording training event for volunteers taking place at Old Buckenham airfield in April. Subsequent training events and fieldwork by volunteers has seen building recording surveys completed over the winter months at Hethel, Tibenham, Shipdham and North Pickenham airfields. Surveys have also been carried out at Thorpe Abbots airfield and the



Earsham bomb storage complex in conjunction with the Waveney Valley Community Archaeology Group.

The project has also been engaging the younger members of Norfolk's community with the production of educational resources and organised events. In October, 90 children from Mulbarton Junior School took part in an archaeology test-pitting exercise at Hethel which was featured on local television news programmes.



Hethel test pitting © EITE

Former RAF Coltishall © Mike Page



Although the main focus of the project has now shifted to other counties in the region there are still plenty of opportunities to be involved in Norfolk. Find out more at www.8theast.org.

FORMER RAF COLTISHALL/SCOTTOW ENTERPRISE PARK

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 operational 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 former RAF Coltishall in January 2013 after buying the 600-acre site from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for £4m. In November 2014 it was renamed Scottow Enterprise Park, with heritage work continuing under the title 'Spirit of Coltishall'.

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 Historic England.

We are putting all our heritage resources for RAF Coltishall onto our website with pages for current heritage projects; <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/raf-coltishall>

Scottow Moor Solar

In December 2014 planning permissions were granted for Scottow Moor Solar, after a great deal of work by HES on heritage matters ensured that heritage was not an issue when the proposal came before the planning committees. The 49.9 megawatt scheme will in its entirety (two phases) generate income for the County Council in excess of £10m over 25 years. The Council has agreed this money will be reinvested into the site to operate and maintain it, create jobs, safeguard the important heritage assets, bring forward proposals to open up public access and ultimately create further revenue in the future. The solar scheme was operational by the end of March 2015, as planned.



Heritage Statements to accompany other past, current or future planning applications have been produced or drafted by HES for the following buildings:-

- Sergeants' Mess
- Officers' Mess
- Gymnasium
- Hangar 4
- Aircraft Fire Facility
- Cold War runway extensions
- Fire training facility
- Building 139
- Hangar 3
- Cold War 'Igloos'
- Building 349
- Building 378
- Building 380
- Hangar 1
- Hangar 2

Second World War Fighter Pen Project

A very detailed laser scan survey of the Second World War fighter pen has been commissioned, along with a detailed condition survey and analysis of samples of the concrete. This work will give us a detailed record of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, help us to record the processes of decay and consider options for remedial actions. At the time of writing, those reports are awaited.

HES has also secured a grant of £11,845 from a national grant scheme – the Ministry of Defence's Community Covenant Grant Scheme – to restore part of the fighter pen and to enable the creation of an airfield interpretation point.

The feature to be restored is a unique Second World War brick-built shed, believed to be the only building of its kind to have survived the war. After the building is restored, an airfield interpretation point will be established to tell the story of the pen and the airfield showing how it would have looked during the Second World War. Norfolk County Council will also organise site tours, delivered by the Spirit of Coltishall Association, to local residents, former service personnel and civilians, special interest groups and schools.

The pen and shed are a Scheduled Monument and within a Conservation Area At Risk, having suffered many years of neglect. The shed may originally have been used to house

Laser scanning



RAF Coltishall shed

a small tractor, moving people and equipment around the airfield. In more recent times it appears to have been used as a store for salvaged materials.

Current and former Armed Forces personnel and civilians will be involved in the project during 2015, managing the site and even helping builders to repair the shed, under close supervision, retaining as much original fabric as possible and with all repairs on a like-for-like basis.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2014

In September 2014, NCC and HES opened Former RAF Coltishall for the first time for heritage guided tours as part of HODs. This was featured extensively in the media, and the site was used for the Norfolk launch event as a new venue.

318 people went on six heritage coach tours around the site over two days: 9% came from Badgersfield and adjacent parishes, 42% from Norfolk, 43% from Norwich and 6% from beyond Norfolk. The Spirit of Coltishall Association provided stewards, expert guides, displays and refreshments. In total this amounted to around 300 volunteer hours.

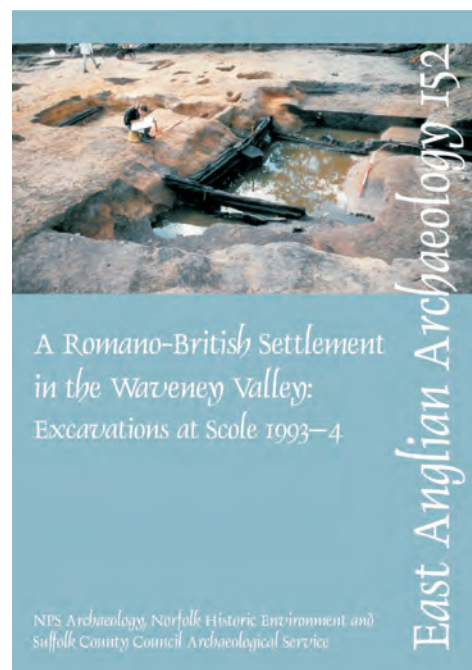


HoD2014 launch

167 people (53%) filled in evaluation forms. Asked how much they had enjoyed the tour, on a scale of 1 (bad) to 10 (good), the average score was 8.99. 101 people left comments, including these:-

- *A superb, informative experience*
- *It was fascinating and brilliantly presented.*
- *A fascinating, informative and nostalgic tour. Brilliant. Thank you.*
- *Very informative. We could have easily spent all day here, asking questions and learning from the experts.*
- *Great opportunity. Lived local for 57 years and never seen.*
- *Thank you to the Spirit of Coltishall and NCC for organising and running the interesting tour.*
- *Thank you. A dream come true.*

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY



EAA is the only academically-refereed regional monograph series in the UK. It is hosted by Norfolk County Council and published under the direction of an editorial board of professional archaeologists from the eastern region. The series is distributed by Oxbow Books. Supported by ALGAO (East of England) and Historic England, EAA reports cover archaeological evidence of all periods from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

EAA is a unique corpus of archaeological information not matched anywhere else in Britain, whose value lies not so much in the individual titles as in the series as a whole. The series is enhanced and extended by each new title, providing enormous potential for synthesis and research. EAA is the home of *Research and Archaeology*, the research framework for the East of England (published in 2000, revised in 2011), and available online as a PDF free of charge from the series [website](#).

EAA has been publishing high quality archaeological monographs since 1975. The series has now reached 177 titles which encompass a huge range of topics by site, period or synthesis. This represents an unparalleled archive of material and covers 40 years of archaeological development in the eastern counties.

Not only does this archive represent some of the most important commercial excavations (e.g. Stansted Airport and Bloodmoor Hill), it also includes material which has had a major impact on archaeological research (e.g. Aspects of Anglo-Saxon Inhumation Burial, Earthworks of Norfolk or West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village). It documents the changing face of archaeology over that period, including the introduction of new planning legislation and guidance, changes in stylistic, social and theoretical paradigms, and developments in scientific process.

Notable past publications include the Corpus of Anglo-Saxon material from Suffolk, Norwich Castle excavations and the Fenland Survey Project volumes. EAA has sold an estimated 33,000 books, and has an international readership which reaches academic communities in America, Australia and Japan. It is represented in every archaeological library in the UK.

Scole Bypass

Recently published titles include EAA 152 *Romano-British Settlement in the Waveney Valley* by Trevor Ashwin and Andrew Tester, which describes excavations at Scole in 1993–4.

When the major roads the A140 and A1434 were altered to bypass the town, large-scale archaeological excavations were conducted by Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, funded by Norfolk County Council and the Highways Agency.

Excavation revealed late Iron Age and Roman settlement over an extensive area, and was accompanied by specialist studies of exceptional importance – notably those dealing with a large body of waterlogged Roman structural timber, with the character and context of metalworking within the settlement, with the environmental sequence recorded in a palaeochannel of the river, and with the formation of a variety of ‘dark earth’ deposits. Other highlights include the discovery of small Romano-Celtic temple, and a possible riverside maltings complex.

Electronic Access Project

The EAA Editorial Board recognises that there is a strong imperative for releasing the EAA back catalogue online as open access PDFs. Much of this material is no longer easily or readily accessible and the way in which research is undertaken means that the back catalogue is becoming increasingly invisible to the modern research community.

Digital versions of these volumes will reach a wider and more varied audience, making the archaeology of East Anglia better and more widely known, and opening up the series to an international research community. This project therefore represents a number of key themes from both national and regional research agendas and the NHPP.

More than four decades of archaeological publishing has created an extensive and valuable regional archive which should be online, searchable, and easily obtained, ensuring its relevance and accessibility into the future.

A Project Design was submitted to Historic England in March 2015, and funding for the first phase of work has been secured. This includes obtaining digital copy of all EAA titles and securing permission for electronic release from publishers.

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK – COMPLIMENTS AND THANK-YOUS

During 2014–15 the HES received no formal complaints and we logged 54 thank yous and compliments about our staff and services. Here are just a few of them:-

- *Thanks for sending those HER searches through so quickly. That has helped me greatly!*
- *Your speaker was great! Everyone loved the talk, and were so enthused.*
- *They are some detailed comments! So thank you for taking the time and effort to do that. It's really appreciated and will be so useful. You're a star!*
- *I can, thanks to your website, now stand in the place where my ancestor was buried during the reign of the Tudors – brilliant.*
- *I have spent too much time looking at your fascinating website!*
- *I thought your email was excellent and clearly outlined some concerning issues with the report. Many thanks once again for dealing with this matter so promptly.*
- *You're a marvel, thank you so much!*

Early Saxon bracteate



- You've been a great support throughout the project.
- We are fortunate indeed to have such quality professionals supporting metal detecting.
- I feel I must thank you and your colleagues at HES for taking an enhanced interest in the heritage of this place. Heritage not being in abundance in this modern dormitory village/town every newly identified morsel should become a cause for celebration!
- Just wanted to say once again many many thanks for your kindness to us on Wednesday. We were thrilled with the information you were able to supply about our house and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.
- You have done an amazing job. This is the last data set that I am looking at, I have already gone through Suffolk,

Cambs and Beds (Central and Borough). The Norfolk records stand out, as expected, in terms of quantity and quality.

- I felt I had to email you a special thank you for the time and trouble you took on Friday to look after my daughter and her baby son. Your special treatment of her made her feel like a VIP rather than a troublesome mum, and she felt very honoured that you found the time to provide a personal informative tour for the two of them. Your kind attention was very much appreciated by both of us.
- Thank you so much for these, and for your incredible help. Your records were the best I've encountered so far, and I really appreciate all of the advice and help you offered.
- The workshop met my expectations and exceeded them in terms of its professionalism.
- It really was a top class workshop – over the years I have attended training courses and seminars of a wide range of standards and this was certainly one of the very best.
- May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your assistance at our development. Our contracts manager was extremely complimentary of you regarding your help and this was conveyed on many an occasion to the client and project team.
- Wow that was amazingly quick, thank you very much
- What a great resource for Norfolk.
- Many thanks for your very swift and highly informative response to my consultation. Life would be so simple if everyone was so helpful.
- Thanks again for the support Norfolk County Council has given us, and as a source of advice throughout.
- This is a very impressive service.

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 (County Archaeologist), by email david.gurney@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01362 869280.



HES offices at Gressenhall

STAFF IN 2014–15

Including NCC core staff, business support and externally-funded project staff in post for some or all of the year.

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Archaeologist (Planning)

Steven Ashley
Finds Archaeologist

Andrea Beckham
Historic Environment Assistant (Records)

Claire Bradshaw
Community Archaeologist

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(Records)

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Historic Environment Assistant (Records)

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Historic Environment Assistant (Planning)

Erica Darch
Finds Liaison Officer

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Archaeologist)

Heather Hamilton
Historic Environment Officer (Records)

Ken Hamilton
Senior Historic Environment Officer
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Sarah Horlock
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Kelly Powell
Assistant Historic Environment Officer
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Business Support Assistant

Amanda Rix
Historic Environment Officer (Mills and
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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
Historic Environment Officer (Landscapes)

VOLUNTEERING

We are very grateful for the continued support during 2014–15 of the following regular volunteers:-

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



Terry Miller

CONTACT US

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If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact David Gurney on 01362 869280 and we will do our best to help