

SEDGEFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT



ANNUAL REPORT



**EDITED BY
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Foreword

The 2005 season marked our tenth year of excavations within the parish of Sedgeford and was as exciting as ever. As this year's annual report shows, we are beginning to see a shift in our research aims as all the talk about finishing the excavations on Old Trench starts becoming much more realistic. Whilst a similar anticipation is beginning to brew with regards to the completion of New Trench. Resulting from this and the fact that the Romano-British period has increasingly been brought to our attention, work during 2005 has helped to locate a promising new focus area.

In keeping with previous years, this report is structured by the various time periods that our research is currently focused on. These have been presented in chronological order rather than ranking the projects according to their perceived importance. Having achieved so much over the last ten years it is good to present the information in a way that reflects how we are gradually building a picture of Sedgeford's development.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that made the 2005 season so successful, these include the landowners, the Sedgeford parishioners, the volunteers and the large number of people who visited us throughout the season.

Finally, we are most grateful to all those who assisted in the production of this report, including the individual contributors and those that found the time to proofread draft copies.

Mark Dodd and Kirsty Halifax

SHARP in 2005

This season SHARP completed its 10th year as one of the most successful independent archaeological research projects in the country. A considerable amount of effort from volunteers across the globe has made this possible with large numbers of people giving up vast amounts of time to help the project. This continued support certainly looks set to see SHARP through another ten years of exciting discoveries.

One of the main aims of the project is to bring people closer to their past, making archaeology more accessible to the general public (Figure 1). This season gave hundreds of people the opportunity to experience archaeology close at hand. Part of this commitment means that SHARP provides numerous events in addition to the general excavations. The 2005 season of evening lectures in the church was arguably one of the best yet, with some significant archaeological figures providing an informative and inspiring collection of talks that were extremely well received.

Figure 1: The general public attending one of the Friday site tours



During the 2005 season Professor Don Brothwell of York University provided us with an extra lecture. Having originally visited the site in 1960 to carry out excavations on the Boneyard, Professor Brothwell was able to provide the Human Remains team with some useful plans and documents relating to his previous work. In addition to this he was also able to take some small soil samples from several of the burials as part of research he has been undertaking into the evidence for the remains of coffins and other items relating to the burial process (Figure 2).

Open Day

The 2005 open day welcomed the return of the re-enactors who once again provided a thrilling display and insight into Saxon, Viking and Norman life (Figures 3 and 4). With much more pleasant weather than previous open days large numbers of people made their way onto Boneyard to experience the wide variety of displays. The archaeological sandpit proved a firm favourite with the younger visitors whilst the older generations were provided with guided tours explaining the work within the excavations.

Courses

Education is one of the most important features of the work carried out by SHARP. The reason that the concept of archaeology even exists is

Figure 2: Don Brothwell checks the potential for taking a sample



Figure 3: The re-enactors put our tents to shame



to provide a greater understanding of our past and there would be no point in any of our work if the knowledge we have acquired over the past ten years was not passed on.

During the Easter and summer seasons, a total of eighteen separate courses were run ensuring that we fulfil our obligation to disseminate what we have learnt. This season saw the range of courses available to people expand even further with the return of the 'Advanced Excavation and Research Design' course (Figure 5), and the 'Introduction to Lithics' and 'Introduction to Palaeography' courses making their debut.

Figure 4: Some of the entertainment on offer



Figure 5: The AERD course presents its research



Meanwhile other courses such as the 'Basic Excavation and Research Techniques' (Figure 6) continued to thrive with the 'Introduction to Archaeology for the Visually Impaired' allowing participation for an even wider selection of the community.

The Research Strategies

The project is now reaching an important point in its life as we begin to see work on the main excavations draw to a close. It was thought that work on Old Trench specifically could finally reach a conclusion this season and so there was a deliberate effort to see this dream realised. With this in mind it was decided that the baulk separating the Old and New Trenches would be excavated to help bring the archaeology together and fill in some gaps in our understanding.

Meanwhile, the work on the New Trench saw a change in excavation strategy. Work in the past has been very careful, in the belief that there may be a variety of subtle features and deposits that would require

Figure 6: Nicola Dennis and Holly Holman teaching the B.E.R.T course



detailed attention. Recently it has become apparent that this is not providing any significant rewards and now that these overlying deposits have been removed there is no reason the excavation cannot proceed more rapidly.

The further implications of completing the current excavations on Boneyard concern the eventual post-excavation work and the problem of where we go to next. Having discovered some surprising Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology within the valley bottom, it seems a logical step to investigate the potential for further remains within the rest of the parish. Therefore placing our existing discoveries into a wider context. This season saw the formation of 'The Roman Project' in response to this.

Interesting concentrations of both Romano-British pottery and metalwork were already known from Polar Breck to the south of the parish and have provided an intriguing starting point. With the results of some important non-invasive work, excavation proceeded during the summer to assess the potential for further work in this area.

Ten seasons of excavation have produced some remarkable archaeology and a vast archive of plans and finds. The main element of this is the ever-increasing collection of Human remains. With the end of the cemetery excavations now in-sight the Human Remains team have begun the unenviable task of sorting the collections in preparation for writing up the results and any further analysis that may take place. At this stage this is primarily concerned with sorting the various collections into a more manageable format but there is much to do and this will increasingly become a more focused area of their work.

The Easter Season

This year saw another group of die-hard volunteers visit the parish during the Easter season as they fail to survive without a fix of archaeology between summers, as Gareth reports;

"On the 26th of March the Human Remains Team held a refresher course for the recording of disarticulated human remains: a

common artefact from the Boneyard cemetery on the southern slope of the Heacham river valley. The day course in the Old Village Hall, Sedgeford, was well attended and subsequently the 'disartic' recording has continued apace. The Human Remains Team and volunteers recorded over 900 pieces of bone in the first week of recording, which represented only two boxes out of about twenty! Clearly this is an immense task, but when it is complete we will have a far better idea of the minimum number of individuals buried in the Boneyard cemetery.

The two other main activities that took place were the traditional Easter fieldwalking, and also this year some much needed geophysical surveying in the parish.

Terry and his stalwart volunteers spent two weeks lining out transects, marking up bags and going cross-eyed looking at ploughed fields for any surface finds that might reveal hidden sites throughout the parish (Figure 7). Our team of metal detectorists were also hard at work producing metal finds that will compliment the pottery recovered. The SHARP fieldwalking team has now investigated roughly half of all the arable land in the parish to the south of the river. This year, two fields south of the river Heacham have been investigated: one in the west of the parish and one in the southeast. Highlights this year have included some nice surface scatters of Neolithic flints on the high-land to the south of the parish, and the continued evidence of a heavily cultivated parish during the Medieval period, as represented by finds of Glazed Grimston ware pottery produced between the 13th and 15th centuries.

This year has also seen geophysics taking place in the south of the parish. We were lucky enough to carry out both resistivity and magnetometry (Figure 8) techniques over a known surface scatter of Roman Samian ware pottery. During this 'anomalies' were located that perhaps represent the fields and droeways of a previously unknown Roman and possibly Iron Age settlement."

Figure 7: Terry prepares his troops



Figure 8: Dave Bonner uploading magnetometry results



Thanks are due to the landowners for allowing us access as well as all those who participated in the Easter Season helping to carry out some important work in preparation for the major onslaught that took place during the summer season.

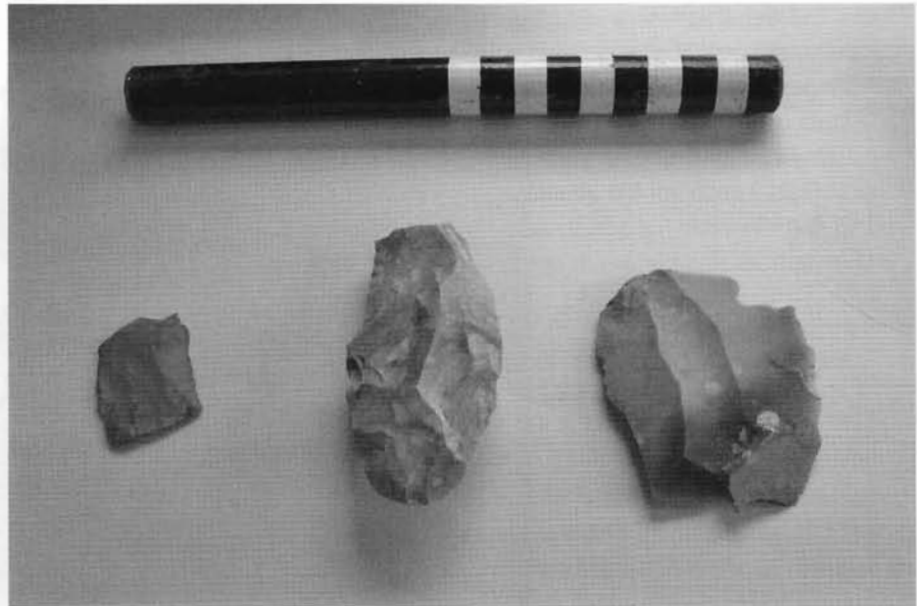
Early Prehistory

Throughout the last ten years of excavations there have been numerous worked flints recovered from the Boneyard excavations, and 2005 was no exception. In fact, there were probably more flaked stone artefacts found this season than in any previous year. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in uncovering any features or settlement evidence with which they are related. Forming a relatively dense concentration within the middle of the lower slope, the majority of worked flints have been tentatively dated to the Upper Palaeolithic/Early Mesolithic (8,000–10,000 BC) (Figure 9), with occasional flints dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Given that there are no features associated with these finds there are two main theories concerning their presence on Boneyard. With over a metre of colluvium (hillwash) that has built up in the valley bottom a lot of the finds have washed down the slope from sites higher up the side of the valley. A Bronze Age, barbed and tanged arrowhead was found on the New trench this season which is almost certainly a residual find, and numerous flint artefacts were recovered from the colluvial layers excavated on the baulk. Interestingly, of those found on Old Trench in 2005, very few showed signs of abrasion or exposure and are unlikely to have travelled any significant distance.

With a substantial depth of colluvium sealing different phases of activity, it was thought an early prehistoric horizon might have been preserved,

Figure 9: Flints recovered from Old Trench



that was to undergo later disturbance during the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods. With this possibility, two large slots were excavated on Old Trench into the earliest deposits, but found that there is only a shallow depth of colluvium overlying the natural gravels, with no specific horizon to be identified that could relate to the flints.

The evidence now allows us to imagine small groups of hunter-gatherers actually manufacturing flint tools alongside the river Heacham during the early stages of prehistory. This has resulted in a surface scatter of waste flakes and the occasional tool that has been discarded.

The Iron Age

Focus on the Iron Age deposits within Boneyard has become increasingly intensified as the few remaining Anglo-Saxon burials are excavated. Recent years of excavation have shown the potential for a substantial Iron Age site with evidence for enclosures and of course the famous Sedgeford Hoard. Unfortunately, our current area of excavations within the Old and New trenches only allow us a keyhole view into what has been preserved beneath the deposits at the base of the Heacham river valley.

The majority of the Iron Age archaeology has been found on the lower slopes of the Old trench (Figure 10). During the 2005 season of excavations the removal of the majority of burials allowed work on this exciting phase to proceed a little further. It is generally agreed that the Anglo-Saxon burials are cut into a layer of colluvium that probably represents a halt in activity at the base of the river valley after the Iron Age and early stages of the Romano-British period. This has meant that these remains are largely protected from subsequent activity.

The most substantial features discovered this season were two linear cuts. The first of these was a gully running diagonally along a southwest to northeast orientation across the lower slope. Only a small section of this linear was seen as it has been completely truncated to the northeast by the large medieval ditch that runs parallel to the river Heacham. Within this gully several large sherds of middle Iron Age pottery were recovered, these were probably part of a cooking pot. The real significance of this feature is the fact that it appears to be a continuation of the enclosure into which the hoard was later buried.

Figure 10: The area of focus for the Iron Age remains



The second linear came away from the one described above at a right-angle running towards the southeast, terminating just short of the eastern limits of the excavation. Though this proved to be later than the first gully, it seems that it is forming a sub-division of a larger enclosure.

Other features uncovered this season all indicated a relatively busy area of activity. A number of shallow postholes and pits were also recorded and although the majority of them were without any finds they are all sealed by this post-Iron-age/Romano-British colluvium. There does not appear to be any pattern suggestive of a structure, but there is certainly an indication of concentrated activity. The largest of these pit features yielding several large sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone, similar to that found in the earliest of the two linears.

What could it mean?

The significance of these finds is yet to be understood fully as there are still several burials still to be excavated that are hiding the internal features of these enclosures. It has been noted that on some Iron Age valley bottom sites there is often a division of land between arable and pasture. These sites typically have large ditches running parallel to the river at the base of the valley slope, with the pasture between the ditch and the river and the arable land separated, and located on the higher ground.

In 2004, a large east-west ditch was found to be running parallel to the river Heacham within Old Trench and has been shown to continue to the west within the New Trench. Pottery recovered from this ditch has been dated to the 1st Century AD, indicating that it is early Roman. However, it is not inconceivable that this ditch was reinstating a boundary created during the Iron Age. If this is the case then the enclosure features we have found between this ditch and the river could relate to stock enclosures for animals such as sheep and pigs. There is no correct interpretation, and subsequent work may well alter our understanding. Nonetheless, a picture is developing that allows us to further understand the deposition of the horse burials and the Sedgeford Hoard.

The Romano-British Period

The work that has already taken place within the parish has increasingly turned our attention to the Romano-British period. The recent years of excavation on Boneyard have provided the catalyst for this growing interest and the 2005 season revealed the potential scale for future work in this area.

The removal of the baulk and a more intensive excavation strategy on New Trench proved that the evidence from this period is not just limited to Old Trench. Both areas identified a ditch previously excavated within Old Trench which was thought to be Roman in date (Figure 11). However, it only yielded one sherd of Samian ware when it was previously excavated and more conclusive evidence is required to prove the provenance of this feature. In light of this knowledge the opportunity to excavate an additional portion during the removal of the baulk prompted a careful strategy of excavation. The 1.5m section of ditch fill taken from the slot was wet sieved, unfortunately however no finds were recovered.

Although this problem failed to be resolved on New Trench other features did support evidence for Romano-British activity within the valley bottom. During the completion of the southern part of the excavation area Roman pottery was recovered from features that date approximately to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

Although intriguing, the Romano-British evidence on the Boneyard is not spectacular, and does not suggest the southern side of the valley bottom was intensively occupied during this period. With this in mind, the opportunity was taken to investigate an area in the south of the parish previously recognised through fieldwalking. As a result of work undertaken in previous years, substantial scatters of both Iron Age and Romano-British pottery have been identified in the fields to the south of Boneyard.

A dedicated team of volunteers undertook a magnetometry survey of the area during the 2005 Easter season and produced further evidence for an archaeological site. The results suggested at least several large

Figure 11: The team on New Trench discuss one of their earliest features



ditches, apparently forming enclosures of quite some size. At the beginning of the season we were kindly given permission to open one modest trench in order to investigate these interesting discoveries. The site was opened using a mechanical excavator, exposing an area approximately 30m x 15m and marked the beginning of 'The Roman Project', which produced some surprising and enjoyable results (Figure 12).

The site uncovered within the trench can be described in two main phases. An early phase, dating to perhaps the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, and a later phase, dating to the 3rd-4th centuries AD.

The early phase was represented by a ditch that ran along a southwest-northeast alignment across the trench. There was a break of several metres in the ditch at the eastern end, and may form the entrance to some form of enclosure. The amount of pottery and bone from this ditch suggests that it was close to a settlement area, or at least close to an area of busy activity.

The later phase of activity was more conspicuous, two large ditches set at right angles to one another. The first ditch was aligned north-south, the second, east-west, a deliberate change from the orientation of the earlier phase. Most impressively, in the north-west corner of the trench, enclosed by these two later ditches, was a surface constructed of flint and chalk, which is currently being interpreted as a yard (Figure 13). Within the east-west ditch to the south of the yard area, Steve, a volunteer of several seasons found a coin of Carausius which dates to 286-293 AD. This was extremely useful as it confirms this new alignment of features is a late Roman phase of activity.

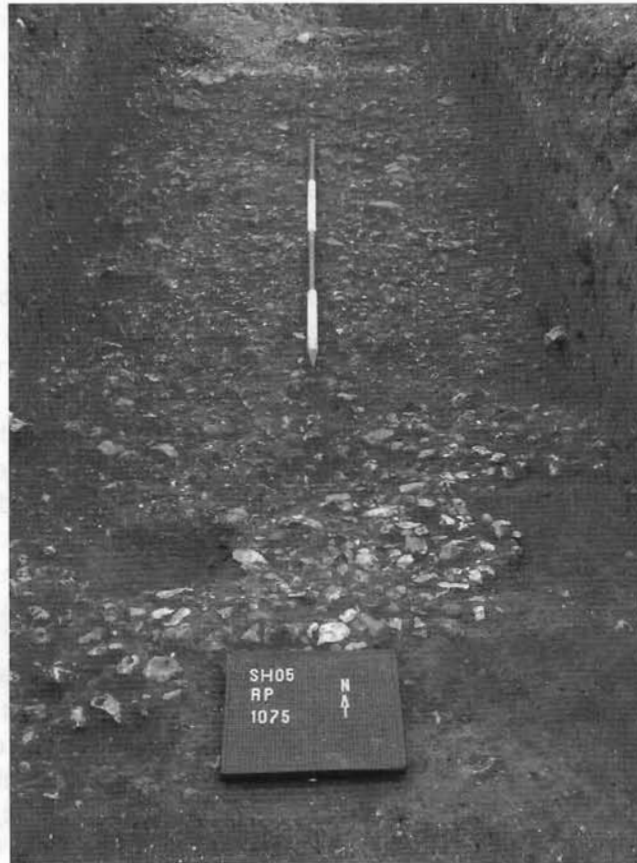
Conclusions

The evidence from the Roman Project confirms activity within the south of the parish at a similar time to that seen on the Boneyard. The presence of the Iron-Age pottery scatters close to the Roman site in the south of the parish suggest perhaps that it was the continuation of a shifting, small, rural settlement focus. Over time this appears to have developed and during the 3rd and 4th centuries the site appears to be

Figure 12: 'The Roman Project'



Figure 13: The remains of a Romano-British yard?



booming, as has been observed on other rural sites at the fringes of the civitates (administrative centres). at this time. It is difficult to ascertain exactly how these sites relate to each other both during this period of change, and throughout the Roman-British period. There is however strong evidence for continuity. Hopefully, the work next year will provide us with even more exciting evidence for this period of Sedgeford's past.

The Anglo Saxons

With Old Trench near completion and virtually free of Anglo-Saxon deposits New Trench has for the time being, become the main focus of our Anglo Saxon research. This has been demonstrated with some interesting developments throughout the 2005 summer season.

The majority of New Trench is largely devoid of burials and continually promises to be the start to the settlement focus. The strongest indications of this are evident through the remains of an east-west aligned rectilinear enclosure. Represented by a near vertically cut narrow ditch, measuring 17m x 7m and has been interpreted as the footing trench for a large building with an entrance in the southern side. This feature was initially identified by Professor Jewell in the late 1950's and was rediscovered during the 2004 season. The main focus of activity during the 2005 season was in the removal of later features and deposits allowing this enclosure to be more fully understood.

This work on New Trench was combined with the removal of the 'balk', that had previously separated the two Boneyard trenches (Figure 14). This area running north-south across the Boneyard excavations had previously remained untouched because of the varying levels of excavation between the two trenches. However with the continued excavations on New Trench it is now possible to link the phasing of the two trenches together and access the limits of the Late Saxon cemetery to the southwest. The relationship of the ditch systems running from the

Figure 14: Removal of the baulk proceeds rapidly



now back-filled areas of Old Trench into New Trench were a priority of this work.

The baulk to be excavated was no more than 1.5 metres wide at any point and gave us an excellent 'window' through the sections running north-south on the western and eastern facing sides. As the colluvial layers were removed it was possible to relate the exposed features to what was already visible in the exposed sections of the baulk.

A complex series of Anglo-Saxons burials at the southern end looked as though it may prevent much of this work being completed during the 2005 season. However, as the team moved north, multiple features were uncovered that helped resolve several issues relating to the Anglo-Saxon features previously identified in this part of the Boneyard excavations on either side of the baulk. Despite the waterlogged conditions towards the northern end two ditches were identified in the section, one of which was probably late Saxon, running diagonally across the northern end of the baulk. The second linear ran parallel to a Roman ditch, which was in fact truncated by a third Saxon ditch within the main area of New Trench. This ditch in particular yielded a variety of finds including, a large piece of lava quernstone, Saxon Ipswich pottery and oyster shells indicating that it would have been dug at some point after the middle Saxon period (Figure 15).

The evidence only hints at the complex arrangement of middle and late Saxon features still to be uncovered within the northern portion of New Trench. As the 2005 season progressed the southern area of the New Trench excavations reached completion, work to understand the footing trench took place and many new features were identified (Figure 16). Within a number of slots located at the north of the excavation area intended to define the limits of the footing trench additional features were located. Whilst successfully exposing the northern extent of this possible structure further indication is provided regarding the intensity of activity outside the cemetery area.

The Cemetery

The Human Remains Team were pushed to the limits this season. The decision to try and finish Old Trench combined with excavation of the

Figure 15: An Anglo-Saxon bone weaving needle discovered on New Trench

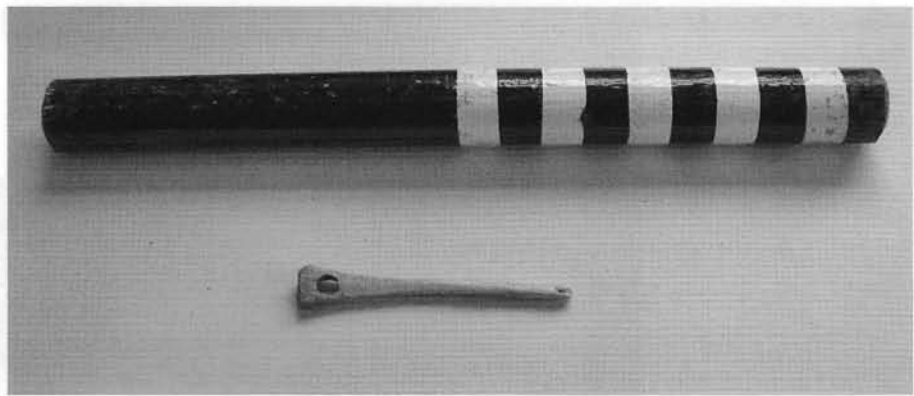


Figure 16: Progress on New Trench



balk and a more determined excavation strategy on New Trench resulted in record numbers of burials being excavated. In total 38 individually identifiable skeletons were excavated, more than in any other year so far. The annual average is only 27.6 and the previous highest was 37 in 1997 (Table 1). Because of this large number there was a limit to how many could be analysed in detail, though they were all analysed for age and sex (Table 2).

Table 1: Number of Burials Excavated Each Year

| Year | No. Of Burials Excavated |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1996 | 16 |
| 1997 | 37 |
| 1998 | 30 |
| 1999 | 33 |
| 2000 | 26 |
| 2001 | 9 |
| 2002 | 32 |
| 2003 | 27 |
| 2004 | 28 |
| 2005 | 38 |
| Total | 276 |
| Average | 27.6 |

Table 2: Age and Sex of Skeletons Excavated from all Trenches 2005

| | Male | Female | Unknown | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Early Child | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Late Child | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Juvenile | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| Total Sub-Adults | - | - | 8 | 8 |
| Young Adult | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Mature Adult | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| Old Adult | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Adult – Age indeterminate | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| Total Adults | 11 | 10 | 9 | 30 |
| Grand Total | 11 | 10 | 17 | 38 |

The previous burials excavated from New Trench have been thought to suggest the western limits of the cemetery, the furthest outlying burial not more than c. 10m from the southeast corner of the trench. The 2005 evidence broadly matches this pattern, with the seven burials lifted forming a concentration in the southeast corner.

With the exception of later truncations, the majority of burials lifted from the upper slope of Boneyard are in an exceptional state of preservation. During this season, one of the most complete sets of coffin fittings was observed from burial S3011 on New Trench. Fascinatingly, an L-shape iron angle bracket was uncovered, sitting against the edge of the grave, left in-situ as the wooden coffin decomposed (Figure 17).

Excavation in the 1999 SHARP season on Old Trench revealed 6 burials located partially within the baulk with only the lower limbs visible. These

Figure 17: S3011 with an iron coffin fitting visible in the top corner of the grave-cut



were cleaned and recorded but left in-situ and so when work started on the baulk this season we knew what to expect. However, the Anglo-Saxons had left us yet another surprise, which was realised when we uncovered an unexpected seventh burial from within the baulk.

The skeletal remains excavated were extremely well preserved. It seemed as the season progressed that we had located two rows of burials which both cut the same colluvial layer. The phasing of two burials higher up the slope (S3010 and S0060) was hard to distinguish, however it was assumed that they were both cut into the same stratigraphic layer.

Notable finds from the burials included 2 copper alloy shroud pins, while one burial (S0060) contained a large amount of oyster shells, concentrated around the upper body. The seventh unexpected burial, were the remains of a 13–15 year old juvenile, S3010, located entirely within the limits of the baulk. In association with this burial, sieving of the grave fill recovered a small calcareous stone, oval in shape, measuring 35mm x 20mm x 1mm. Current thinking is that it may be a very large bladder stone, but this is not certain and will require chemical analysis to reach a firm conclusion.

Old Trench was as always, the main focus of work on the cemetery, providing a total of 24 burials (Figure 18). The density of burial activity

Figure 18: Recording a Juvenile on Old Trench



observed on Old Trench this season has only been rivalled by those uncovered to the north, during the Reeddam excavations between 1997 and 2002. One of the more complex examples on Old Trench created a challenging puzzle for both the excavators and the Human Remains team, as Martin explains:

"At first sight it appeared that we might have found a 2.5m tall giant! A little more excavation revealed that it was in fact two burials overlying one another (Figure 19). The upper one, S0195 a largely complete adult male, had the bottom of its legs on top of the pelvis of the lower one, S0196 a young adult who was probably female. Despite being buried so close together that their bones actually touched S0196 was also substantially complete, only the cranium (top of the head) and the left tibia and fibula (lower leg) were missing. Immediately to the north of these two superimposed burials was S0197, another young male adult. The top of the head of this skeleton was in line with the middle of the chest of S0195. It is just possible that the digging of the grave for S0197 clipped the pre-existing grave of S0196 and displaced the tibia and fibula. However it is not possible to be absolutely certain of this because S0197 had itself been truncated from the waist down removing the pelvis and legs and even the lower arms and hands. The position of this truncation aligns nicely with the missing cranium of S0196 and is believed to result from a later burial excavated in 2004. Hence, based solely on the burial evidence, the probable sequence of events was that S0196 was buried first; some time after it had become skeletonised S0197 was buried slightly to the northwest of it but close enough for the grave-cut to remove its lower left leg; then some time after S0197 became skeletonised a later burial removed the head of S0196 and everything below the waist of S0197; finally S0195 was buried directly on top of S0196, displaced about 1m to the west."

Excavation on the lower slope of Boneyard has revealed some intriguing patterns with the positioning of the burials. They indicate that the graves were being dug in north-south rows with several phases of burials

Figure 19: Getting to grips with one of the more complicated burial sequences



overlying one another. This pattern is most evident towards the western extent of the lower slope where at least three rows form a distinct boundary. With further rows lying to the east there is no evidence of any burial activity within a corridor measuring c. 1.5m along the western extent of excavation area. Given the intensity and apparent form with which these burials are positioned it raises important questions as to why there is this area devoid of burials. Unfortunately, it will probably not be possible to answer this question without expansion of the existing excavations. The most exciting theory though is that an ecclesiastical structure is located beneath our main spoil heap. The rows being positioned in such a way, individual burials could be placed as close as possible to this structure.

What Next Then?

Even after ten seasons of work the project shows no signs of coming to an end, growing in strength each year. The 2006 season certainly has a lot to live up to, but promises to be an exciting year for SHARP as we expand and build upon the work we have already done.

Excavation

The completion of Old Trench is scheduled for next summer, but the previous years of excavation have taught us that there are always surprises. There is believed to be a manageable number of burials left to excavate but as to what lies beneath these is anybody's guess. The end for New Trench is also in sight, with the southwest portion fully excavated. The archaeology is expected to intensify within the remaining area and although this will prove a challenge for those involved the rewards should make the effort worthwhile.

With fewer resources required on the Boneyard excavations, the Roman Project is to expand on the work carried out this season. Having successfully located the edge of a possible farmstead a larger area will be excavated in 2006 and may eventually become the focus of work for many years to come

Easter 2006

Next Easter will not see the return of the fieldwalking that has become a traditional activity at this time of the year. With so many years of fieldwalking finds already forming a large part of our archive, 2006 will be used to try and make some sense of it all. It is all very well actually gathering this information but it is imperative that we do not allow our findings to become nothing more than local folklore.

In addition to this post-excavation work there will another phase of geophysical surveying taking place. We are still unsure about the extent of the Roman site on Polar Breck and this will hopefully allow us to realise what we are hoping to be dealing with in the future.

Education

This will continue to feature as an important aspect of the project with another season packed with a wide variety of courses. There are few alterations to the existing programme, following their success this season, the 'Introduction to Lithics Analysis' will return for two separate courses and the 'The Natural History, History and Archaeology of Woodland' course will be run over two days in 2006 in order to incorporate a site visit.

Meanwhile, there will be a reduction in the number of 'Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques' courses that take place. The decision has been taken to no longer run this course during week 6. It is important

that volunteers are given the opportunity to stay onsite after completing this one-week course as it takes time for the knowledge learnt to be fully absorbed and then applied. It was therefore noted that this opportunity could not be provided with this course running in the final week of the season.

Two more additions to the already very healthy schedule of courses will be 'An Introduction to Archaeology' which will hopefully provide people with a brief overview of all aspects of archaeology with a view to encouraging many more people to get involved. Also new for 2006 is the week long course "Recording Archaeological Finds", an important step in giving experienced students an opportunity to work towards post-excavation analysis of a genuine archaeological assemblage and for bringing some of our results to written conclusion.

DIARY 2006

Summer Excavation dates

Sunday 9th July – Friday 18th August

Sunday 23rd July

SHARP OPEN DAY

Week courses start days (all week courses Sunday 8.30 am to Friday 5.00 pm)

Sunday 9th July

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques
Archaeology of Human Remains: Introductory

Sunday 16th July

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques
Archaeology of Human Remains: Introductory
Advanced Excavation and Research Design

Sunday 23rd July

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques

Sunday 30th July

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques
Artefacts and Ecofacts

Sunday 6th August

Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques
Researching Archaeological Finds

Sunday 13th August

Non-Invasive Landscape Archaeology
Day courses

Saturday 8th July

An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Settlement

Sunday 9th July

Introduction to Archaeology & SHARP

Saturday 15th July

Food of the First Millennium

Saturday 15th July

Anglo Saxon Weapons and Warfare

Monday 24th July

Basic Archaeoastronomy

Tuesday 25th July

Introduction to Landscape Archaeology

Wednesday 26th July

An Introduction to Lithic Analysis

Thursday 27th July

An Introduction to Pottery Analysis

Saturday 5th August

Animal Bones in Archaeology: an Introduction

Sunday 6th and Monday 7th August

The Natural History, History and Archaeology of
Woodland

Saturday 12th August

An Introduction to Lithic Analysis

Sunday 20th August

Archaeology for the Visually Impaired

**Visitors welcome to view our excavations:
Sunday 9th July to Friday 18th August (except Saturdays)
11am to 4pm.**

For queries regarding application and volunteering for the 2006 season or to request
copies of our prospectus and application form, please contact:

Brenda Huggins at 67 Victoria Ave, HUNSTANTON, Norfolk, PE36 6BY

☐ 01485 532343 Email: tanzee@supanet.com

APPLICATION FORM SUMMER 2006 (FOR EASTER PLEASE EMAIL OR PHONE)

Note: Please read the Prospectus carefully before completing this form.

Family Name First Name(s) (in full please)

Address

Post code Email

Tel. (day) (eve).

Date of Birth. Nationality

Next of Kin

Name/Contact no.

Each year a copy of the annual report is sent to our volunteers (except those just on day courses). Please tick if you **DO NOT** wish to receive this for 2006.

All Applicants: Health

You **MUST** be covered by an up-to-date Tetanus inoculation **BEFORE** coming to Sedgeford. Please confirm :

Do you have any allergies we need to be aware of, e.g. insects, food etc? If yes, please give details:

Do you have any medical conditions of which we need to be aware in case of emergencies, e.g. epilepsy, diabetes, back problems etc?

Do you have any special dietary requirements? If yes, please give details:

Are you qualified in First Aid? If yes, please give details:

Have you any learning difficulties, e.g. dyslexia? If yes, please let us know.

Please be sure to enclose:

1. A completed application form.
2. A cheque, payable to SHARP, for either a deposit of £35 (non-returnable) or payment in full.
3. A large A4 2nd class stamped self-addressed envelope.

Please return to: Brenda Huggins,
SHARP Enrolment Secretary
67 Victoria Avenue
HUNSTANTON
Norfolk PE36 6BY

I confirm that the above details are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed Date

The information contained in this application is considered to be confidential and will not be made available to any third party unless you are applying for UEA accreditation. If you are, a copy of your application will be forwarded to the University to ensure that you are registered as a UEA student.

Cut here or photocopy page

Facilities Fees (all weeks per week) Full: £150 Waged, £120 Student/unwaged. Part: £60

All Week courses – UEA: £160. Non-UEA: £130 Waged, £100

Student/unwaged Day courses: £20 per day (2 day course £40) for all.

Volunteers wishing to participate in the Project's excavations who have not previously completed a basic excavation course or who have less than 3 weeks excavation experience must enrol for *Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques*. Experienced volunteers who do not wish to study a course are also very welcome to join us for only the cost of facilities.

I wish to attend for the following week(s):

| Week start date (Sunday) | facility charge £ | Courses – please indicate clearly – # UEA available | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| | | | £ | | £ |
| 9 – 14 July | | BERT | 9 – 14 July | HR1 | 9 – 14 July |
| 16 – 21 July | | BERT # | 16 – 21 July | HR1 | 16 – 21 July |
| 23 – 28 July | | BERT # | 23 – 28 July | AERD # | 16 – 21 July |
| 30 July – 4 Aug | | BERT # | 30 July – 4 Aug | A&E # | 30 July – 4 Aug |
| 6 – 11 Aug | | BERT # | 6 – 11 Aug | RAF # | 6 – 11 Aug |
| 13 – 18 Aug | | | | NILA # | 13 – 18 Aug |
| Total facilities fee | | Total course fees | | | |

I wish to enrol for the following day course(s) please indicate clearly:

| | Date 2006 | £ |
|---|--|---|
| An Introduction to Anglo-Saxon Settlement | Saturday 8 th July | |
| Introduction to Archaeology & SHARP | Sunday 9 th July | |
| Food of the First Millennium | Saturday 15 th July | |
| Anglo Saxon weapons and warfare | Saturday 15 th July | |
| Basic Archaeoastronomy | Monday 24 th July | |
| Introduction to Landscape Archaeology | Tuesday 25 th July | |
| An Introduction to Lithic analysis | Wednesday 26 th July | |
| An Introduction to Pottery Analysis | Thursday 27 th July | |
| Animal Bones in Archaeology: an Introduction | Saturday 5 th August | |
| The Natural History, History and Archaeology of Woodland – Two day course | Sunday 6 th and Monday 7 th August | |
| An Introduction to Lithic analysis | Saturday 12 th August | |
| An Introduction to Archaeology for the Visually Impaired | Sunday 20 th August | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| TOTAL DUE: | £ |
| I enclose a cheque for: £35 deposit / full payment – please circle | |

Do you claim a concessionary fee on the grounds you are a student/unwaged? If yes, please give details (proof may be required):

- I should like an accommodation list for the area
 I shall require a lift at 5.30 p.m. from King's Lynn rail station (Saturdays only) on:

Applicants requiring UEA Accreditation Only

I am applying to enrol on UEA accredited courses as indicated above (£160 course fee)

Do you have a criminal conviction not spent under 1974 Rehabilitation of Offenders act? Please tick Yes No

(Please note that the University requires all students to provide this information and a place cannot be confirmed without it. Please enclose details of any criminal convictions not spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act in a sealed envelope with your application. Full details of the UEA policy can be provided on request.)

Help with fees may be available for students experiencing financial hardship. If you would like to find out more, please contact Dean of Students Office on 01603 592761.

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Field Walking at Easter



Washing environmental samples

School children get a lesson in human remains



Hard at work on Old Trench



Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project
Registered Charity Number 1064553

PATRONS

Henry Buscall
Henry Bellingham M.P.
Professor Bernard and Susan Campbell
Richard Jewson

SPONSORS AND BENEFACTORS

Ray Baldry
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
The Campbell family and Sedegford Hall Estate
Charlotte Burrill
Council for British Archaeology – East Anglia
Institute of Archaeology, UCL
Stuart Hall
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Guy Jillings
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Geoff and Caroline Lambert
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Christine Morton
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Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Pat and Jim Reid
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Hilary Snelling and Colin Harris
Peter Taylor
U3A Hunstanton
The University of East Anglia
Bert Weaver and Data-Mania Ltd
West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeological Society
Peter Wilson
The Villagers of Sedgeford Parish
Various Donations from generosity at Open Day, Lectures, Story Telling,
Friends of SHARP, Gift Aid.
Apologies and thanks to anyone who has not been included but should have
been and to those who wish to remain anonymous.

For further information on the Project and our work, please visit our web site
at:

VISIT SHARP AT <http://www.sharp.org.uk>