

**SEDGEFORD HISTORICAL  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Registered Charity Number 1064553**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2003**

**EDITED BY  
PATRICIA REID**

## SHARP 2003

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Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project

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All maps are orientated with North at the top.

## **Message from the Editor**

Welcome to the SHARP Annual Report for 2003. This has been one of the most exciting and exhausting seasons we have experienced, as I hope the following pages will show.

This volume itself has a new format. At this important stage of SHARP evolution - eight years old and more vital and creative than ever - the question of publication has become critical. This summer, a Publications sub-committee was set up and one of its first recommendations was that the Interim Report should be redesigned into a more compact and comprehensive Annual Report, aimed at a wide readership. Technical, specialised reports should be included in a new series called the Sedgeford Papers.

As in the past, the Report you are now reading has been compiled from contributions from many people. This year, however, we have tried to use these as sources to give you a picture of progress towards the overall aim of understanding the development of the Sedgeford parish. Up until now, each contribution was published separately, leaving summarising to you, the reader. In this new format, although time periods have been used – Anglo-Saxon, Iron Age, Roman – the order of presentation comes from our own SHARP agenda and is not strictly chronological. We hope you will be able to see how the whole picture is coming together - where we have an abundance of information and where we have huge holes.

One very important innovation for next year, suggested by Gareth Davies, is for a Public Meeting in April at Sedgeford in the New Village Hall (see calendar at the end of this report). What we hope is that this new style Annual Report means that you can participate in planning for 2004 in a more informed way. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your views. Meanwhile, the message board on the web site [www.sharp.org.uk](http://www.sharp.org.uk), emails, letters and calls are on-going ways to communicate with us. The fact that the very first article in this Annual Report summarises our 2003 achievements in Public Archaeology is not accidental. From 1996 inclusivity has been our watchword: it is up to you to seize the opportunity.

**Pat Reid**

**November 2003**

## Public Archaeology in 2003

SHARP has always been dedicated to Public Archaeological ideals in the broadest sense. In 2003 the four-week Easter and eight week summer seasons reached out to huge numbers of people. Between the seasons, dozens of people worked to follow up and prepare for the next phase of activity – some of them members of the local community, others scattered across the country linked by the miracle of email and the internet, all of them volunteers. This brief summary is intended to pay tribute not only to achievements in public involvement but also to the often-unsung work of those volunteers who make it all happen.

### The People

Although our numbers in 2003 were not as great as in 2002 – a situation we are taking steps to rectify for 2004 - during the summer season thousands of

Fig. 1a: Open Day: getting into the Iron Age mood



Fig. 1b: Open Day: Neil enters into the spirit





Fig. 1c: Open Day: how to fight like an Anglo-Saxon



people were touched by the SHARP experience. The Open Day on the 27<sup>th</sup> July alone attracted over a thousand visitors (Fig 1). Friday site tours were well attended (especially the one after the hoard discovery!), as were the Tuesday evening Sedgeford Church lectures, the Young Archaeologists day on 13<sup>th</sup> July and the Biennial Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> August in the New Village Hall. A constant stream of visitors passed through every working day between 11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., including four school groups. For the second year running, a party of Young Archaeologists came for a four-day course. When the audiences for the media coverage for the hoard (TV, radio, newspapers) are added in, the numbers go beyond counting.

At the heart of it all, however, are the workers and especially the supervisors who dedicate their whole summer to the Project. Summer 2003 was run by twenty-seven supervisors, of whom seven were locally based and twenty accommodated on site. Most were full time, with some on call as needed. During the season, around two hundred volunteers passed through the site, some only able to stay for a week but many staying for a longer period. We also saw an increasing number of local people spending time with us on a regular basis, especially during the more informal Easter season.

Some volunteers were complete novices to field archaeology, others were old friends who come back year after year. We had the usual impressive age range from a 14-year-old on a *Human Remains: introductory* course with her mother to a lady in her seventies doing *Basic Excavational Recording and Techniques (BERT)*. Backgrounds varied as well, from archaeology undergraduates to care workers to engineers and we had volunteers from the USA, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Australia, Spain and Malta. The supervisory team showed similar diversity, with an age range from 19 to 70 years. Archaeology is, at least with SHARP, for everyone.

In the background, the trustees continue to work away both within and beyond the season. The Fund Raising committee has been especially busy this year working on a Lottery Application for refurbishment of the Old Village Hall.

These proposals were presented and heatedly discussed at one of the Thursday evening site meetings and, at the time of writing, submission was imminent. Such a grant would mean a major step forward for the project.

### The courses

In 2002, we were awarded the Graham Webster laurels by the Pitt Rivers Award scheme for 'outstanding contribution to education'. In the most important sense, all experiences in SHARP are learning experiences, not least for the supervisors who have to develop management skills at a hundred miles an hour, but we are especially proud of our course programme. In 2003, twelve six-day courses were run, one of these at Easter. In the summer the following courses ran: six *BERT*, three *Human Remains*, one *Geophysics and Surveying*, one *Standing Buildings Recording*, one *Advanced Excavation and Research*. Of these, the *Advanced Excavation* and one of the *Human Remains* courses were new, aimed at students who had already done the basic courses and gained some practical experience. Then there were the twelve short courses, such as *Introduction to Pottery* (1 day) and *Introduction to Environmental Sampling* (2 days). Most of the short courses run on Saturdays or Sundays, giving busy working people an opportunity to attend. In 2003, we also ran a number of popular informal workshop sessions on Monday evenings.

The feedback from these courses, from both participants and UEA external examiners, is always very positive. On-site teaching accommodation is sometimes seen as uncomfortable but this is outweighed by the privilege of being part of an actual working site. Summaries of 2004's Easter and summer courses can be found at the end of this report: course fees are unchanged.

### The events

Besides our usual events such as Open Day and the Young Archaeologists day, we were involved this year in a performance of *Beowulf* in association with the Hunstanton Festival. The marquee was transformed into an Anglo-Saxon mead hall, complete with candles and wenches (Fig. 2). The performance was riveting, capturing the attention of the most philistine of our young volunteers. Our conference speakers, though less dramatic, were equally worth attention. The theme, *The Living and the Dead*, focused on the relationship between burial and settlement in early Christian Anglo-Saxon England, and papers were presented on such aspects as death in Anglo-Saxon literary language, and memorials in the landscape. The most dramatic event of the season, however,

Fig. 2: *Beowulf* comes to the Marquee





was the finding of the hoard. These gold Gallo-Belgic gold staters, hidden in a cow bone two thousand years ago, are remarkable not just because of their intrinsic beauty and value but because they were, most unusually, found as an outcome of normal excavation procedures i.e. in context. The hoard itself will, as is archaeologically appropriate, be discussed further in the Iron Age section of this Report, but none of us will forget the high drama of the finding itself and the invasion of the media that followed. A hoard book is in preparation at the moment (Autumn 2003) and should be available for purchase in summer 2004.

This has been another exciting and successful year for SHARP's public archaeology. Yet even during the season, discussion and planning was going on to widen access still further next year and to rethink our publication programme. These developments mean even more work, but if you want to be part of the world of archaeology, you only have to apply.

### **Research priorities and strategies in 2003**

Most activity in 2003 continued to be focused on the medieval phase of Sedgeford's history, from the middle /late Anglo-Saxon to the later medieval period (mid 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century). Excavation continued on Boneyard/Reeddam in the Old Trench for the eighth year, and in the New Trench for the third year. Although adjacent, these excavations are at different stratigraphic levels, with Old Trench mainly clear of early Christian burials, and the New Trench, at least at the beginning of the season, not yet at the burial level. Rather different excavation strategies continued to be used in these two trenches.

Fig. 3: Exploratory trench in 'Saggy Horse' field



In previous years, small-scale exploratory excavations have been carried out in the West Hall part of the village, where abundant evidence of later medieval development has been found. In 2003, attention moved to the eastern part of West Hall Long Meadow, nicknamed Saggy Horse Field. In 2002 a geophysical survey had been undertaken of the site and this indicated a jumble of possible ditches, gullies, pits or postholes. As the survey was not clear enough to tell what was underneath the ground and could not give dates, it was decided to dig two evaluation trenches under the expert direction of Anj Cox (Fig. 3). The aim of these was to explore possible links between Boneyard/ Reeddam (Anglo-Saxon) and the West Hall part of the village (later Medieval).

Until 2001, Standing Building investigations have been almost entirely focused on Sedgeford Church (later Medieval) and West Hall itself (present building post-Medieval). In 2002 a broader based Village Survey was set up. This involved surveying buildings, digging test pits in gardens and combining findings with documentary evidence to try to understand the development of the village as we see it today. This project continued in 2003 with twenty-two test pits dug (Fig. 4) and thirteen buildings surveyed. The Village Survey is invaluable not only for its archaeological and historical findings but also for the enthusiasm shown by villagers for the project. The test pits dug in the school playground went down particularly well.

Field walking and metal detecting continued to be used to investigate new ground. Kind weather at Easter permitted the coverage of large open field

Fig. 4: Test pit digging in a village garden



areas to the east of the village. In the summer, a rare opportunity arose to investigate a well-known crop mark to the west of the village: the short time available was used for field walking and exploratory trenching. Geophysical surveying was widely used although the dry ground this summer meant that patterns did not show up very well, according to Jon Cousins. Surveying was also carried out (Fig 5).

For the first time, in 2003 we had an Iron Age specialist supervisor, Megan



Dennis, whose task was to evaluate the Iron Age evidence obtained so far. Given the way the season worked out, this appointment was inspired. Megan was able to take on board the crop mark investigation, thought to be probably related to Iron Age features, and was available to interpret the coin finds and horse burial later in the season.

All these field activities continued to be supported by the Finds, Environmental and Human Remains teams. Post-excavational work was housed on site, with non-stop to-ing and fro-ing between diggers and specialists. Meanwhile the Old Village Hall was reorganised to become an effective archive and research centre, used by a constant stream of supervisors and researchers: later in the season, it was transformed into a photographic studio for the recording of the hoard.

At the time of writing, follow-up work is going on for all of these activities. Pottery dating has been done but other sources of information such as environmental residues are more time consuming to process. Interpretation at this stage is, of course, tentative. Yet I think it is fair to say that the findings this season exceeded our expectations – and I don't just mean the hoard.

Fig. 6 shows the main areas of intervention in 2003.

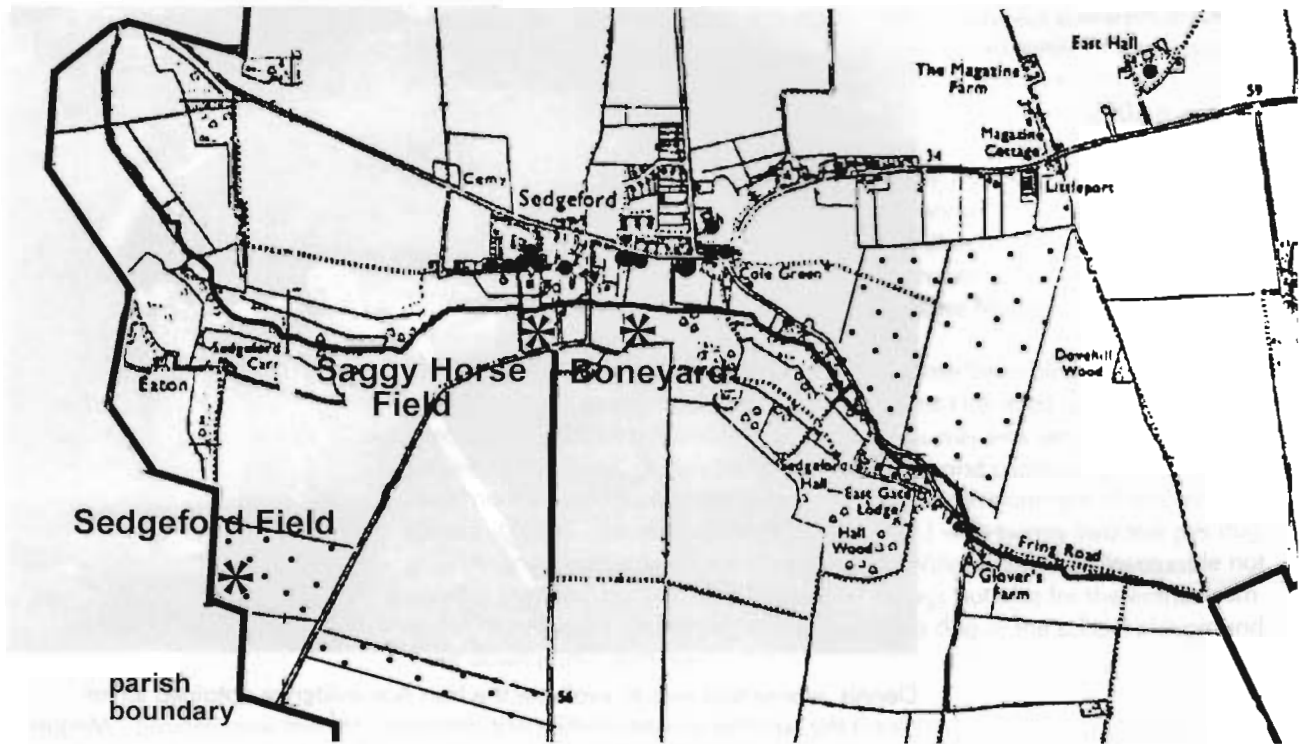
### Progress on the Anglo-Saxons (5<sup>th</sup> – mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries)

Unsurprisingly, this is the longest section in this report. It draws on findings from the Old and New Trenches, the Village Survey and Saggy Horse Field and also from field walking and metal detecting at Easter and in the summer. We have come a long way on Anglo-Saxon Sedgeford, but are we there yet?

#### A. Settlement and living areas

Gareth Davies reports from Old Trench:

In 2003, excavation of Anglo-Saxon features was largely confined to the lower slope of the Boneyard. Here the terrain flattens out before dropping down to the swampy Reeddam. This portion of the Middle-Late Saxon settlement and cemetery seems to have been particularly popular in the Middle Saxon period (AD650-850). This year the excavation of plot boundary ditches to the west of a possible hall-like structure was completed. Within the fills of these north-south ditches was Middle Saxon Ipswich ware pottery, a fine assemblage of animal bone and a good assemblage of plant macrofossils. What is striking about these ditches is that some of the earlier cuttings contain only very small finds such as



- \* 2003 excavations
- 2003 fieldwalking
- 2003 Village Survey test pits

Fig. 6: Areas researched in 2003  
(Easter and Summer seasons)

fragmented bone whereas the later cuts contain very large amounts of pottery and bone. This suggests that the ditches were within a well maintained area of the settlement during their initial infilling, but became a rubbish tip in later life: a fascinating insight into changing patterns of Saxon land use.

Further insights into land use within the Saxon settlement came from the excavation of the timber hall. This was completed in 2002 and the complete absence of burials confirmed. The eastern edge of the timber hall's plot does indeed seem to have been a contemporary boundary of the cemetery. What was the significance of this building?

Interesting finds from the Old Trench included a blue millefiore bead, dated typologically to the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> century AD and identical to one found in the Reeddam trench in 1997. The bead was found in a grave fill, though not necessarily associated with the burial (Fig. 7). A bone pin beater was found in one of the above-mentioned ditches. Pottery from the Old Trench was mainly Ipswich ware (mid Saxon, 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> centuries), though many contexts had fragments of earlier date. Only one Old Trench context yielded appreciable amounts of Thetford ware (late Saxon). Figure 8 sums up some of the main points.



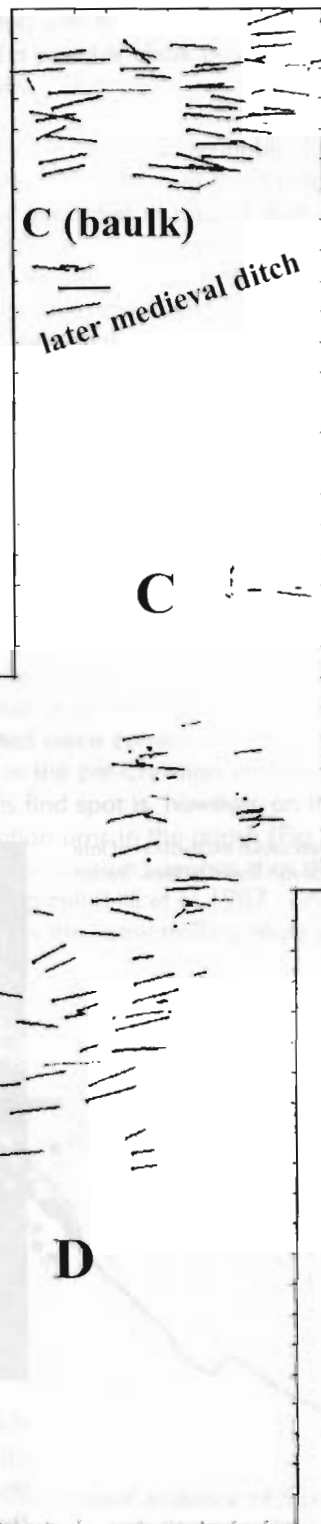
Fig. 7: Blue glass bead, dated to  
6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD

New Trench's results are more enigmatic. Nicky Dennies reports:

The 2003 season proved to be very exciting and productive in New Trench. In the 1950's Dr Peter Jewell excavated in some areas of Boneyard and his trenches were subsequently backfilled. This season the locations of the Jewell trenches which were in New Trench, were precisely identified. Areas of each of the Jewell trenches were excavated in order to clarify their edges and give a better view of the stratigraphy for the rest of the site. One of the Jewell trenches still contained in its corner a 1950's wooden site peg confirming that the areas we had excavated were correct

Fig. 8: Findings in Old Trench 2003

- Key:
- A: Timber structure without underlying burials
  - B: Two north-south parallel ditches
  - C: Areas where burials were excavated in 2003
  - D: Disarticulated bone recording at Easter 2003 suggests at least 8 disturbed burials here (Excavated in 1997)



A sequence of ditches was identified, running north to south, with very complicated phasing. Excavation showed that each ditch varied along its length, suggesting sporadic dredging and filling, and it appeared that the edges of the ditches might have collapsed whilst in use. The sequence of these ditches may therefore never be fully comprehended. However, the fill of one of the ditches did prove very exciting, with a high concentration of charcoal and what appeared to be a single dump of cockle shells. Cockle shells, unlike oyster shells, are a rare find on Boneyard. The use of these ditches remains a mystery at present – boundary markers, rubbish tips, drainage gullies or multiple uses?

A large compacted area was excavated in the central area of the trench and contained animal bone, pottery and shell. This may have been an



occupation surface, possibly the interior of a structure. A large band of large flints ran east to west across the site separating the excavated compacted area from a similar unexcavated area south of the flints. This could be an accumulation against the side of the possible structure or, more probably, a form of terracing on the slope.

To test the occupation surface hypothesis, a strategy was employed to record on a plan the distribution of every common artefact (bone, pot and oyster shell) in the compacted area, to a designated scale. Clusters of artefacts could suggest specific activities in different areas within the 'structure', whilst variations in size of fragments could suggest boundaries of the structure (small fragments inside because of trample and use, larger outside the building). Results of this are keenly awaited.

A high concentration of chalk in a circular shape with small rectangular absences of chalk at first appeared very confusing. During further excavation a linear chalk area extending from the circular area was discovered that also contained rectangular absences of chalk. The evidence is not clear but at present a tentative interpretation is that the rectangular areas may be the surviving evidence of posts that once stood in the trench, surrounded by chalk for packing to hold them in place. This method of construction with square posts in a trench is known from another Saxon site, Cowdery's Down in Hampshire (Millett & James:1985). Small bones in the centre of these rectangles may have been markers for the positioning of the posts in the trench before the chalk was put in (Fig 9).

*Fig. 9: Meticulous excavation of late Anglo-Saxon layers in New Trench*



Pottery analysis from New Trench reveals both Ipswich and Thetford ware, in abundance, but with Roman and Iron Age ware occurring in some contexts (though at a very much lower frequency). The Thetford ware is associated with the higher (later) stratigraphic levels. Finds from New Trench include a larger than usual quantity of lava quern fragments, along with a good deal of slag. A mid-Saxon dress pin and brooch were also found.

Further evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity came from Saggy Horse field. Anj Cox writes about the excavation of Trench 1 in Saggy Horse:

A layer of soil containing animal bone and pottery of late Anglo-Saxon date covered the northern part of the trench. Cut into this layer and also containing late Saxon pottery were several small gullies running parallel to each other, north to south down the slope of the site. It is likely that these were dug as drainage ditches and they are very similar in character and date to the many north-south gullies recorded on the Boneyard site to the



east of Saggy Horse Field. Also associated with this phase of activity were a small shallow pit, a single posthole and a possible chalk post pad likely relating in some way to settlement activity.

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity was sparser in Trench 2, probably due to its marginal position lower down the valley side and in the river flood plain. Only a single domestic rubbish pit containing large quantities of mussel shell, some butchered animal bone, fish bone and late Anglo-Saxon pottery was recorded. This waste possibly originated from the activity discovered on the drier land excavated upslope in Trench 1. Anj concludes that the Anglo-Saxons settled on the higher part of the site, using the lower area on the flood plain for rubbish disposal.

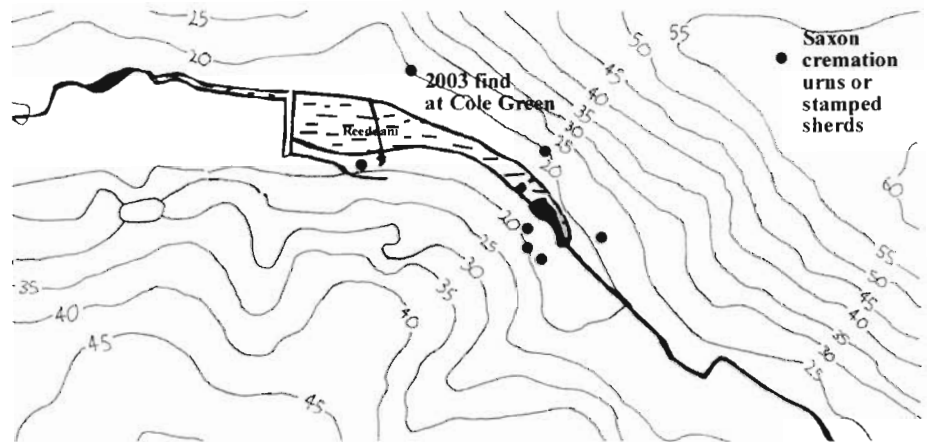
Further insights into the spread of settlement come from the Village Survey team. From the seven test pits in the West Hall area, the Village Survey team reports a clear Thetford ware presence, with strong continuity into the later medieval period. A single well-preserved piece of Ipswich ware was found in the West Hall area (a small sherd of Ipswich ware was found just north of the river around here in 2002). Elsewhere in the village, Saxon pottery sherds were found in small quantities.



Fig. 10a: Stamped sherd (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries AD) found in Cole Green test pit 2003

The most striking find from a test pit at Cole Green was a large, fresh sherd of pagan Saxon stamped ceramic, possibly part of a cremation urn. The Village Survey team report that this highly decorated piece comes from a deep context and is indicative of activity in this location in the pre-Christian era, being the first such find from the Cole Green area. Its find spot is, however, on the lower valley slope, as are previous finds of cremation urns in the parish (Fig 10). Pat Chapman points out that the preliminary examination suggests that the stamps are not the same as the ones found at Spong Hill (Hill et al 1987. 1994), thus postulating that pagan Sedgeford was not on the same trading route or using the same workshop as Spong Hill.

Fig. 10b: Location of stamped pottery and cinerary urn find in the village area 2003



Finally, field walking and metal detecting have yielded evidence of Saxon activity elsewhere in the parish. The Easter activity, in fields east of the village, yielded the Saxon strap end used on the 2003 tee shirt (Fig. 11) and pottery, which is still being analysed at the time of writing. Megan Dennis reports what could be a late Anglo-Saxon pottery scatter in the Northwest part of Sedgeford Road Field. The Sedgeford Road Field investigation also yielded a Saxon strap end.

## B. The cemetery

### (i) Burial patterns

In 2003, 26 articulated skeletons were excavated. Most of these came from the northerly (lowest) part of the Old Trench. Gareth tells us:

Fig. 11: Silver strap-end found during Easter field walking



To the east of the hall plot a number of burials were excavated this year bringing the total number of burials excavated to 200. These east west aligned burials were a mixture of shroud and coffin burials. Some burials were also excavated this year on the baulk separating the initial Reeddam trench from the Boneyard main trench, including one of a one-year-old child. The skill of our human remains team now means that our recovery of juvenile and infant burials is superb.

We now know that burials on the lower slope are up to four phases deep. Gareth sees this as providing a satisfying transition spatially between the dense burial in the Reeddam trench (five or more phases) and the much more spread out burials on the valley slope to the south (mostly single layer).

For the first time in SHARP's life, a burial in the New Trench was excavated. The Jewell excavations had told us about burials in the eastern part of the New Trench (excavated in the late 1950's and now in the Duckworth Collection at Pembroke College Cambridge). The opening up of the New Trench in 2001 had revealed yet more burials in the southeast corner, but these were covered up and left for a contextually appropriate time. In 2003, the appropriate time arrived for a skeleton located in the upper deposits of the above-mentioned complex sequence of north/south ditches, S0091. This burial lay on the western limit of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery and may be one of the last burials in the cemetery. On close examination, S0091 showed some interesting abnormalities: these will be discussed more fully in the next section.

No burials were found in Saggy Horse field or in any of the Village Survey pits, confirming expectations.

## (ii) Human remains

Pat Reid tells us that, of the twenty-six skeletons lifted, only seven were complete. Intercutting by later burials and truncation by the many ditches in this part of Boneyard meant that nineteen were incomplete, and the large amounts of charnel complicated the situation further, requiring constant vigilance in identifying sequence of burial. These problems are not new for us, but what was new was the relatively poor preservation of many of these skeletons. The ones from the baulk were of the standard we have come to expect, with S0150 a particularly fine specimen, but in the fractionally upslope area, solid-looking bones disintegrated after lifting, in spite of the most careful handling. The highly fragmentary nature of these skeletons greatly slowed down the labelling and recording of the remains, so that at the end of the season six skeletons had not been fully recorded.

This poor preservation is possibly related to taphonomy (conditions in the soil e.g. acidity, water-logging). The area being excavated in 2003 lies between the high and low water lines of the Reeddam, as evidenced by previous excavation. This zone must have experienced fluctuations between waterlogged and dry conditions over a thousand-year period. Next season we shall be more prepared for this situation, and take precautions. A new course next summer will train volunteers in coping with these more challenging remains.

The twenty recorded skeletons (including the one from New Trench) were classified as follows:

**Table 1: skeletons excavated in 2003**

	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Juvenile	–	–	2	2
Adolescent	3?	1?	?	4
Young Adult	1	1	1	3
Middle age	3	4	0	7
Old age	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	4	4
Totals	7	6	7	20

Juvenile skeletons cannot be sexed, and the sexing of the adolescents is unreliable. Other 'unknowns' are associated with skeletons lacking the bones used to infer sex and/or age, or having ambivalent indicators. Unlike in 2002, there are no clear spatial clusters of age/sex types, although a detailed relating to sequence might yet reveal patterns. The absence of the oldest age group and the slightly higher than usual proportion of mid adolescents are noted, but do not seem to be statistically significant at present.

Full assessment of the pathologies (diseases and/or abnormalities) of this sample must await the completion of recording, but our impression is that many of these people suffered to a greater degree from conditions such as spinal problems than we expected from the age indicators. Admittedly, the possible positive link between spinal problems and age is subject to much debate (Waldron 2001:86) but a more unmistakable outcome of life-damage could be seen in the dentition of these people. Severe, asymmetric wear and a puzzlingly common loss of the third molar (the youngest tooth in the dentition) strongly suggested some kind of dentition-stressing life activity. These features need to be more closely examined in the context of the whole population, but a tentative interpretation sees these burials as those of over worked, probably poor people compared with our 'normal' population. The contrast was heightened by the physical splendour of S0150 from the nearby baulk, a large young male of a very familiar type.

The pathologies of S0091 from the New Trench were startling. This middle-aged man had by far the worst case of hip-joint and knee joint osteoarthritis that we have seen in the Sedgeford population: this unfortunate, we think, must have been unable to walk. The condition is particularly interesting because of the well-known low incidence of hip problems in Anglo-Saxon populations compared with the high incidence in our modern elderly population. Older Anglo-Saxons often have osteoarthritic problems in the spine and, in the Sedgeford population, sometimes in the elbows and shoulder joints, but this is our first case of hip joint problems. Is it coincidence that this very disabled man was buried at the southwestern limit of the cemetery, separated from others? Further excavation of 'perimeter' burials is eagerly anticipated.

Besides the ongoing work of excavation and recording, we had this year a number of researchers using the whole archive to work on a range of focused topics. Maria Fashing spent the whole season examining dentition, narrowing down to a study of the incidence and nature of caries (dental decay). Maria had noted that caries is said to be of low occurrence in Anglo-Saxon populations (Hillson 1996: 282) but she suspected that the incidence was being masked by the wear. Maria made very detailed recordings and her findings are awaited with interest (Fig. 12). Kerry Hughes carried out a short but exhaustive study of shallow grooves on tibia (shin bones), concluding that these were not cut marks but were impressions of blood vessels with deceptive regularity (so much for our theory about sickles!). Chas Mifsud surveyed our

Fig. 12: Maria photographing Saxon dentition at the Old Village Hall



population for the incidence of cribra orbitalia (small pits in eye sockets, thought to be indicators of anaemia in life). Chas' findings have yet to be correlated with age, sex and chronological sequence, but the actual incidence of 19% with some signs and 7% with marked signs were low compared with previous contemporary studies. Anaemia can be caused not only by shortage of iron in the diet but also by intestinal conditions and pregnancy, so we must not leap to conclusions. Nevertheless, it is probably fair to see the Sedgford people as healthier than many of their contemporaries with regard to anaemia.

Small teams on the advanced course worked on investigating the incidence of hypoplasia (a feature of teeth where trauma in childhood leaves distinctive marks), the incidence of right and left handedness (using arm bone lengths and weights) and the relationship between tooth loss and age. This latter arose from concerns we had over aging females from tooth evidence: Mel Wilson showed pretty conclusively that we were wrong to worry and that our finding of nearly all 'old people' to be female was sound. The hypoplasia results were particularly interesting, with a seemingly high incidence although it was strongly felt by the researchers Bill Wilcox and Holly Holman that we need a dentition expert to confirm diagnosis – any offers?

Finally, we have at last started to tackle effectively the massive and ever increasing problem of disarticulated bone and charnel. Charnel is bone which has been disturbed by gravediggers and is placed relatively carefully back in the ground, although the bones are no longer articulated. Disarticulated bone has been jumbled up by more random factors such as tree roots, downslope movement of soil or by deep ploughing. Around 1/3 of our human remains assemblage consists of disarticulated bone, bagged by context but otherwise ungrouped. In the last two years, we have increasingly been bagging together charnel associated with a particular disturbance, for closer examination after excavation.

Several attempts have been made in the past to record the disarticulated bone, but proved too time consuming or too superficial. This Easter, with much discussion and piloting, a recording system was set up with built-in logging into a database, and around half of the disarticulated bone was recorded. There have already been some revelations, and more will follow. Over the Easter 2004 season, we hope that the rest of the disarticulated bone will be recorded,

bringing the archive up to date and enhancing analysis enormously. The new course in 2004 will devote some attention to disarticulated bone and charnel remains.

### C. Conclusions

The 2003 findings for Anglo-Saxon Sedgeford have been confirmatory rather than revelatory, filling out the detailed complexities of the broadly known or strongly suspected rather than throwing out new avenues. Priority is increasingly being given to detailed analysis and integration of findings. Matters such as the sequence of burials (and the relationship of this to variables such as the incidence of pathology, or familial traits), the relationship between the stratigraphy of Old Trench and that of New Trench, and the precise location and dating of small finds need urgent attention if we are to benefit from the huge amount of work done.

We also, however, need more archaeological theory to guide our interpretations. The 2003 conference focused on the relationship between the Living and The Dead. Our various speakers showed the wide range of possible answers for the early Christian period, with no necessary link between cemetery location and church location in the mid-Saxon period: the term 'field cemetery' was widely used. Perhaps the reason we have not identified a church is because what we have here is a field cemetery. Rik Hoggett, however, used many East Anglian examples to show the difficulties archaeologists have in confidently identifying structural remains as those of a 'church': is Gareth's mystery building a church? Is the church under the waters of the Reeddam? Indeed, was there a church at all? Some of these issues may be addressable through detailed post-excavation work, but not all. The plans for 2004 in the last section of this report will give some new lines of investigation, and any suggestions from readers and/or offers of help will be most welcome.

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### **Progress on the Later Medieval (Mid 11th –15<sup>th</sup> centuries)**

Much excellent informative work has been done on later medieval Sedgeford. The church and the three medieval manors have been studied using historical and archaeological evidence. The Reeddam, which was created by damming of the Heacham River sometime between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, has been investigated to some extent. Archaeologically, the test pits in the dry season of 1996, the compact trench Reeddam 1 (1997-2001) and the long narrow exploratory trench Reeddam 2 (2001-2002) yielded much information. Much documentary research has also been carried out on land ownership and usage. For 2003, the main area of investigation was the so-called Saggy Horse Field, under the direction of Anj Cox.

### Anj reports:

Saggy Horse Field lies in the western half of the village roughly between the sites of the Anglo-Saxon village centred near Boneyard, and that of the Post-Conquest medieval village around West Hall. It lies immediately to the south of the site of the medieval manor owned by the Norwich Cathedral Priory and was once part of their lands. The 1630 Estate Map indicates that the present field was once two separate plots, the southern portion being part of a field known as 'Grasse Croft' and therefore probably pastureland during the medieval period.

Trench 1 was a rectangular trench measuring 7m x 5m and was sited in the northwest corner of the field. It was dug within the boundaries of the field known as 'Grasse Croft' and where the geophysical survey suggested ditches and pits might be found. The archaeology uncovered did indeed seem to suggest that this part of the site was pastureland during the medieval period. Thick layers of undisturbed topsoil and subsoil were evident and systematic metal detecting of the layers and the spoil recovered several metal finds thought to have been lost by their owners when passing through the site or perhaps tending animals there. Such finds included a medieval button, finger ring, decorative mount from a belt, and a hammered silver coin dated to around the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. These layers sealed evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site.

Fig. 13: The Great Medieval Ditch in 'Saggy Horse' Field



The main evidence of later medieval activity came from Trench 2. Trench 2 measured 1.6m x 20.0m running north to south across the western portion of a large east-west ditch indicated by the geophysical survey. This ditch proved to date to the medieval period and appears to be a continuation of the large ditch investigated in three different excavation trenches where it runs along the length of the Reeddam to the east of Saggy Horse Field (Fig 13). The portion excavated in Trench 2 was recut at least fourteen different times, the earliest of which may in fact date to the late Saxon period but dating as yet remains unclear. This initial cut and some of the earlier recuts appear to have silted up with alluvial sands and gravels, suggesting that the ditch was a channel for free flowing water, essentially a canal.

In its early form the ditch probably functioned as a crucial part of the medieval water system in the valley. We know that the river was dammed to form the Reeddam, a commercial reed bed on the eastern side of the valley, and was diverted through a complex system of moats around the two medieval manors directly to the north of Saggy Horse Field. Perhaps then, this ditch was designed to bypass the manorial complexes so that waterborne traffic associated with the reed industry at the Reeddam could transport crops freely up and down river. Later recuts to the ditch indicate that this function as a canal eventually changed. The later ditches silted up gradually under stagnant water conditions characteristic of a boundary ditch rather than a watercourse.

Again, the Reeddam poses the most tantalising questions, not least of which is the initial date for the establishment of the flooded area. Anj suspects that this



could be mid-10<sup>th</sup> century, an argument also offered by Rik Hoggett. If correct, this could be the explanation for the cross-river shift of settlement from Boneyard to the West Hall – church area. (See above). Yet firm evidence, whether archaeological or documentary, has eluded us so far.

More information about late medieval Sedgeford has come from the Village Survey and field walking finds. The seven test pits near West Hall and St Mary's showed clear continuity between late Saxon and medieval pottery. Smaller amounts of medieval pottery were found in other pits such as the one at the bottom of the King William garden. Medieval buttons found by field walkers in Sedgeford Field have already been mentioned. Sadly, though, a detailed standing building survey of East Hall (site of a medieval manor identified from documentary sources) confirmed that (like West Hall) its structures seem to be entirely post-medieval.

A detailed report on the West Hall excavations is in preparation at the moment.

### **Progress on the Post Medieval (16<sup>th</sup> century until now)**

The structure of the landscape around Sedgeford – field boundaries, water control, chalk pits and trackways – may well be medieval or earlier. Apart from St Mary's church, however, all of the standing buildings in modern Sedgeford do seem to be post medieval. West Hall and East Hall occupy the sites of medieval manors, but the present structures are, on present evidence, 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. To the prehistorians, the archaeology of the post-medieval can seem absurdly modern, and the classification as 'small finds' of Victorian jam jars or (as was the case this year) a false tooth may seem inappropriate. Progress made by the Village Survey team this year has, however, brought home the richness of the field and documentary evidences for the changing settlement, land use and lifestyles which have given us the landscape we experience today.

The Village Survey team reports:

In 2002 the village survey concentrated its standing building recording on the 'Old Buck'. This year the standing building element of the village survey was expanded and ran in tandem with the test pits. In fact, most of the buildings recorded also had test pits dug in their gardens. The aim of the standing building survey, like the rest of the village survey, is to understand how the village developed into its present form. In total thirteen buildings were recorded and interpreted during the 2003 summer season, by making detailed measured drawings of the exteriors and interior ground floor plans of the majority of them (Fig. 14). These drawings, photographs and a detailed written account of the structures were examined together with cartographic and documentary evidence in order to understand their development and function over time, especially in relation to the wider development of the village

We collected virtually every find, no matter how recent it might be, and the Village Survey finds trays became splendid displays of technicolour plastic, pot and glass amongst the greys and brown of the Boneyard finds. This was not mere diligence; the recent finds provided a very illuminating view on the recent past, a more anthropological sideline to our work. Finds such as a penknife, a false tooth, a 2p coin, an aspirin bottle, a Bovril jar and an electrical insulator were a hit with visitors, and gave an amusing insight into twentieth century material culture.

Cole Green was a particular focus of study this year, with eight buildings from this area of the village being investigated. Four of the houses in the row on the north side of the Heacham Road were recorded, giving a clearer picture of the development of this part of the village. On the 1630 estate map, this north side of Cole Green is referred to as the 'castle', although there is no evidence of any castle having ever existing in Sedgeford. There

Fig. 14: Surveying a village house



are two buildings shown in this area on the map. Close examination of the Post Office Cottage has revealed that this was probably one of these two buildings, since bricks on the south elevation and the internal layout suggest a seventeenth century date.

By the time of the 1797 Enclosure Map there was a long row of buildings on the north side of the Heacham Road; the houses around the Post Office and Anncyrian Cottage were all built during the eighteenth century. This suggests that through the course of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries small cottages were being built on the north side of Heacham Road and on the east side of the Memorial Green. There may have been stables or a small barn between the Post Office Cottage and Anncyrian Cottage, but by the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century these had also become cottages. The Greenhaven houses are probably part of this development.

During the course of the nineteenth century more cottages were built in Cole Green and existing houses expanded. The Post Office Cottage forms part of a shop and there may have been a workshop at the rear of Anncyrian Cottage. By the late nineteenth century Cole Green was becoming a village centre. The recording of Wisbech House revealed that this was built during the mid nineteenth century and at this point formed the western extent of Cole Green. However in about 1890 the fields, which existed on the south side of Heacham Road between Cole Green and the King William Pub, began to be built on with buildings such as Park View, Peddars and Victoria House. As well as being houses, these buildings contained a builder's workshop, the Post Office and other shops at various times during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

From this we can see that Cole Green, unlike other areas of the village that were centred around a farm, remained a mainly residential area over the course of the last 350 years, with workshops and shops gradually growing up until Cole Green becomes the main focus of Sedgeford's commercial activity.

Other buildings recorded included East Hall Farmhouse, which is located on the site of the medieval manor of Gnattingdon. West and east facing elevations of the building were completed, along with interior floor plans. This was recorded as part of the Standing Buildings Course. This course, which introduced building recording and interpretation techniques, was enjoyed by all the participants, and agreed to be a great success.

The western end of the current East Hall Farmhouse dates from the late sixteenth/seventeenth century and contains the remains of a large brick fireplace and chimney. During the eighteenth century the house was extended to the east and outbuildings attached to the north. In the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century the final two-storey east extension was added giving the house its current form. However a fire in the 1940s destroyed the north-east side of the house, and a modern flat roof extension was subsequently added. The exact development of East Hall Farmhouse and outbuildings is still not clear, so further work will be needed on the house and associated buildings in the future.

Field walking produced an abundance of post-medieval finds, from musket balls to pieces of agricultural machinery. Coal fragment clusters in some fields marked the customary location of traction engines in the days of steam-powered agriculture. Buttons, clay pipe fragments, coins, building materials and ceramic fragments are all abundant. Although the Village Survey team has done wonders with the standing buildings recording – Sarah Glover's rapidly increasing teaching collection of bricks is already famous – the finds would amply repay attention, in conjunction with documentary and graphic sources.

### **Progress on the Iron Age (Circa 8<sup>th</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD)**

North West Norfolk has long been seen as an area rich in high-status Iron Age metal finds, most famously the Snettisham torque hoard. Sedgeford parish has its own torque find (currently on display in the British Museum) and a hoard of 169 silver late Iron Age coins, hidden in a pot, was found in a field in Fring. Iron Age pottery, some of it high quality, is widely distributed over the parish, and has been closely looked at by Liz Wilson. What has been lacking is substantial evidence for Iron Age settlement and land use. Although rectangular enclosures have been identified from crop marks, there is nothing in the parish as dramatic as the hill forts found elsewhere in England. The Sedgeford project gives an exceptional opportunity to reconstruct a settled Iron Age landscape in action.

Since the beginning of the project, Iron Age archaeology has been recognised on the site. This includes large portions of fine pots in the southern (upper slope) Old Trench. The removal of the last (earliest) Saxon burials from the Reeddam trench in 2001 showed that they were cut into Iron Age stratigraphy – a curving ditch attracted a lot of attention, and Iron Age pottery was abundant. In the 2002 season, it was found that the deep cut of the later Medieval ditch in the north of the Old Trench had sliced through the Anglo Saxon layers and was revealing Iron Age features.

In the Old Trench in 2003, the area to the west of the burials excavation, which had Anglo Saxon features but no burials, was excavated. From below the Anglo Saxon levels, a layer of hill wash about 40 centimetres thick was removed. This layer contained a handful of sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. This depositional stage is interpreted by Gareth as an *abandonment phase*, between the Iron Age and the Anglo-Saxon – possibly a period of several

Fig. 15: The Horse burial in Old Trench excavated in 2003



hundred years. It was expected that any features found below this sterile 'abandonment' phase would probably date to the Iron Age or earlier.

Gareth reports:

Below the abandonment phase, we were in for a pleasant surprise. We found a large east-west running ditch sequence and a superbly preserved horse burial (Fig. 15). The horse burial suggests that there were possibly some important ritualised activities taking place on the Heacham valley slopes in the Iron Age. The horse burial had late Iron Age pottery in its grave fill. Whether or not it had been deliberately killed is a question for post-excavation. It may be significant that the horse was buried near a ditch terminal, perhaps reinforcing that boundary in some way. The discovery of this burial adds more significance to a partial horse burial found twenty metres to the south (upslope) in 1997.

Just as we thought we had wrapped-up for the season, a last big surprise was in store. At the bottom of the Reeddam where we had previously found evidence for Iron Age occupation, a hoard of Gallo-Belgic E gold staters was discovered (Figs 16 & 17). The hoard had been hidden in a cow's humerus and buried in a pit. The excavation of this fantastic feature enables us to observe a moment of time in the Iron Age past of Sedgford. The total number of gold coins associated with the hoard now numbers 39. The hoard will be the subject of a SHARP publication in 2004.

These coins can be quite closely dated. They are of a type made in Gaul around 60-50 BC, during the Gallic wars against Rome, and are found quite commonly in eastern Britain. They are made of gold, alloyed with small quantities of other metals such as copper and silver, and are plain on one side, stamped with horse and other decorative motifs on the other. The bone in which they were hidden is, according to Ray Thirkettle, a wholly typical cows humerus (front leg bone) for the period, unworked in any way. It is a question for debate whether it was hidden for security, was a ritual dedication or has some other explanation. Meanwhile, at the time of writing, analysis of the carefully excavated surrounding contexts continues apace (Fig 18).

Over in Saggy Horse Field, the Iron Age was also becoming visible. Anj tells us:

In Trench 1, unexpectedly, was a phase of prehistoric activity. The main feature of this phase was a possible boundary ditch running east to west across the trench that had been recut once it had silted up. Both of these cuts contained fragments of Iron Age pottery, the secondary cut containing

*Fig. 16: Five of the Gallo-Belgic staters, with modern coinage for scale*



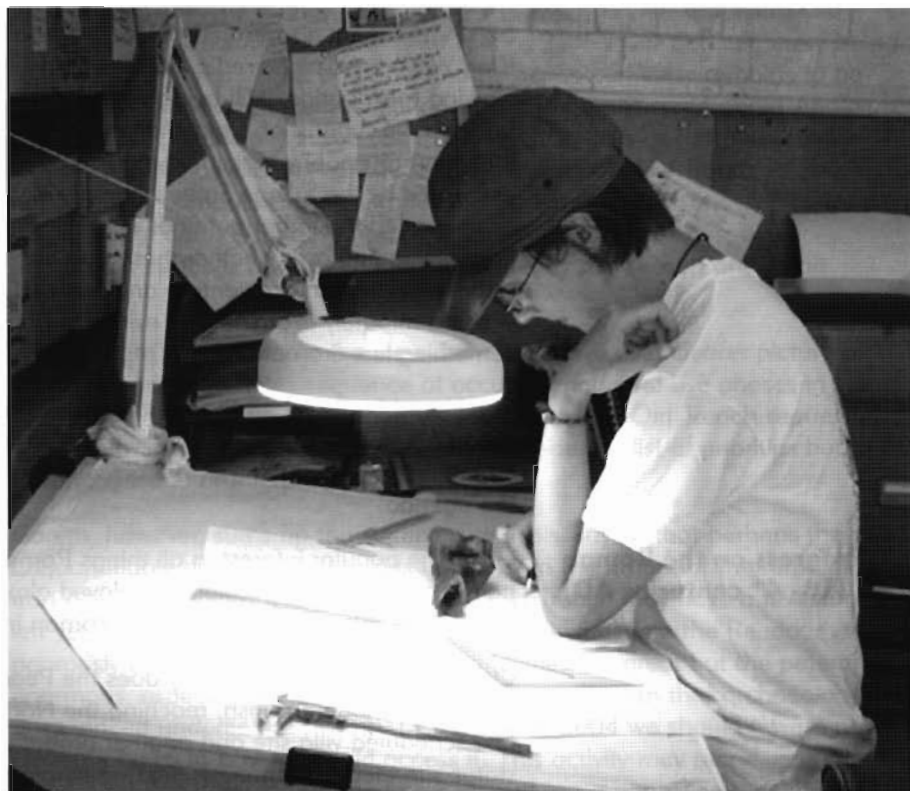
*Fig. 17: Close-up of an Iron Age stater, showing the horse motif*



substantial amounts, as well as animal bone, and the occasional fragment of worked flint tool. Another possible ditch running north-west to south-east also contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone, while a pit and several possible postholes remain undated.

In Trench 2 the prehistoric activity uncovered was even more pervasive. A large ditch of late Iron Age date ran north to south down the length of Trench 2. It contained a silver-alloy East Anglian 'Face/Horse' coin dated to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, substantial fragments of pottery and some domestic waste such as animal bone, oyster shell and mussel shell. Its

*Fig. 18: Recording the hoard bone at the Old Village Hall*



function remains unclear but it was probably a boundary ditch perhaps to a settlement or homestead, or more likely a field. This ditch did however cut an earlier ditch that ran east to west across the trench. The east-west ditch contained no finds as only its base was preserved after being cut away by not only the north-south ditch but also the great medieval ditch. Nevertheless it can certainly be dated as late Iron Age or earlier by its association with the north-south ditch.

Twenty-three postholes and five stake holes were also excavated in Trench 2 and no datable finds were recovered from any of them. Their association with the ditches, each other and datable soil layers does suggest however that they are of Iron Age or earlier date. In such a long narrow trench it is also impossible to recognise any patterning amongst the holes, to suggest structures and consequently any functions for them. They may represent domestic buildings on the site or more simply activity associated with the nearby river. Whichever, they are clearly quite densely scattered suggesting substantial or prolonged activity.

Not very far away in Sedgford Field, the investigation of crop marks was more inconclusive. These marks showed a rectangular enclosure apparently surrounded by a circular enclosure, thought to be very possibly an Iron Age feature. Megan, however, reports:

Trial trenching was carried out to assess the preservation of the archaeological features causing cropmark HER 33599. The first trial trench over the circular cropmark revealed the presence of a shallow ditch, but the complete profile was not recovered. The second trench was placed over the rectangular feature and recovered possible evidence for a very eroded chalk foundation for a building. The third trench was placed over the complete profile of the ditch and revealed it to be about one metre wide with possible recuts. Although all archaeological deposits were sieved, very few finds were recovered and unfortunately we have not been able to date the features.

Although Megan says that further work might uncover more, the ploughed out features and very abraded nature of the small amounts of pottery recovered suggest, in her view, that this may not be economical in terms of time and effort.

Iron Age pottery also turned up in the New Trench, Village Survey test pits (the King William pit produced a Gallo-Belgic sherd) and in the process of field walking (distributions still being worked on). There was even an intriguing and half-serious suggestion from Megan that a curious circular chalk feature identified by geophysical surveying in 2002 in Allotment Field and partly excavated by the Village Survey team in 2003 could be an Iron Age feature. Neil has reviewed the larger pot finds of previous years, very carefully and argument is currently raging over whether these pots were ritually smashed and deposited, rather than broken accidentally and dumped in a rubbish ditch. The buried horse is being minutely examined for evidence of cause of death – poleaxing or something less dramatic?

The Hoard book will set the overall scene much more thoroughly, as well as giving full details of the hoard itself. Meanwhile, the excitement over this emerging field of study must be obvious: the Iron Age has definitely moved up the agenda!

### **Progress on the Roman (1<sup>st</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD)**

Given the popular interest in all things Roman, it may seem curious that the period of Roman occupation has played almost no part in the work of SHARP so far. Was this area untouched by Roman influence?

Clearly this is not so – not only does the Peddar's Way run through the eastern side of the modern parish, reaching the North Sea at Brancaster, but there is one scheduled villa site and another probable villa site in the parish, plus a high status site identified through field walking metal finds. Sherds of Roman pottery turn up in many contexts, and finds over the life of the project include a lamp



Fig. 19: Roman coin found during Easter field-walking 2003



### **Progress on the pre Iron Age Prehistoric (Before 700 BC)**

and brooches. A large Roman coin (yet to be identified) was found during the Easter field walking in 2003 (Fig 19). What does seem certain, however, is that the Boneyard/Reeddam excavation area was not itself a location for Roman-style settlement.

The time will undoubtedly come in the development of the project when the Roman phase will rise up the archaeological and historical agenda for SHARP. Rapidly increasing interest in the late Iron Age archaeology means that this may happen sooner rather than later. In short, the absence of the Roman from the SHARP field programme is a matter of back burner, not disinterest or irrelevance. Any interested volunteers wanting to do desk-top research or compile a report on our Roman period finds would find plenty of interest.

This long phase of human occupation has not so far been a SHARP priority, yet throughout the life of the project worked flints have often been found. The Sedgford area was clearly occupied in one way or another from the Palaeolithic through to the Neolithic and in 2003 evidence of Bronze Age occupation was found. Anj tells us that this year's findings in Saggy Horse Field paint a clear picture of substantial activity on the site during the prehistoric period tailing off after the Iron Age. Just up the road from Saggy Horse this season, field walkers found a Bronze Age axe head.

There are no immediate plans to follow through on these early finds, but the potential is clearly there. In an open-ended project like SHARP, this is not a problem – the time will come – but the flints in particular would repay careful recording and systematic study in the near future.

### **2004 – what next?**

As is always the case with SHARP, there are many suggestions for the way forward next year – shifts in research priorities, improvements in methodology, new courses to meet new needs, ways in which our inclusivity can be improved. Our problem is, again as always, choosing what to emphasis when the field of fascinating and worthwhile opportunities is so huge and resources, inevitably, limited.

#### **Research**

At the beginning of the 2003 planning, the focus was heavily on the Anglo-Saxon and later medieval phases. According to Gareth, this year's excavations have largely resolved the Anglo-Saxon archaeology on the Boneyard Old Trench, with a fantastic snapshot of a working settlement and cemetery being revealed - next year only a portion of Anglo-Saxon cemetery remains to be excavated. There are, however, still questions to be answered about Anglo-Saxon activity, especially in the New Trench. Nicky tells us that next season looks like being as exciting as 2003. A larger area of New Trench will be opened to encompass areas of work from the previous seasons. A pit with a large upright bone extending from it and a ditch under the suspected occupation surfaces have been identified already this season and await excavation.

What we are hoping is that the New Trench will give us a clearer picture of what is clearly a complex sequence of occupational/ land use phases in the Anglo-Saxon period. This can then be linked in to the Old Trench sequence. The Anglo-Saxon does, therefore, remain high on the list of priorities but at an advanced stage of interpretation.

Gareth, however, sums up the shifting emphasis, saying that perhaps the most unquantifiable questions left to answer concern the nature of the remaining Iron Age archaeology. He points out that Old Trench may have a few surprises left yet. In 2004, the possibility of extending outwards into the Reeddam will be rigorously evaluated and costed – the difficulties are great but the potential enormous, especially as earlier keyhole glimpses confirm that archaeology does indeed underlie the swamp. By the end of 2004 we should have a much clearer idea as to how we could access it. This activity may mean, however, that we will not have the resources for an outlying exploratory trench in 2004.

Looking ahead, the Village Survey team tell us that they have identified the Docking Road as an area worth examining in some depth both by test pitting and by recording buildings. The buildings survey will also be targeting the West Hall area, giving more context to St Mary's and West Hall.

The Village Survey Team then go on to state that geophysics and field walking are beginning to be integrated into the Village Survey remit, looking increasingly at agricultural areas, particularly those north and east of the village. The Village Survey team feel that the excellent progress made this year has allowed them to plan quite ambitiously for the future, beyond the original research objectives of the existing village into the parish as a whole. They are beginning to integrate previous excavation results with field-walking, geophysics, geological and environmental data, and with the help of digital mapping they hope eventually to bring these together into a coherent data set. Once again, as with the two main trenches, intelligent integration of skills and knowledge is seen as essential for progress.

### **Methodology**

No fundamental changes are planned – our recording methods are tried and tested – but 'quality control' has been something of an issue this year, particularly in relation to the movement of material from trench to finds and other post excavation processing. Archiving too has its problems. It tends to be done in a massive flurry of activity at the end of the season, rather than built-in to the ongoing processes: the weaknesses of this habit were highlighted this year when the dramatic late season finds suddenly created a huge amount of unexpected work in the last week. Next year all supervisors will be strongly encouraged to build in documentation and archiving throughout the season – the Village Survey team set a particularly good example for this in 2003.

The solution is seen as lying in more explicit training of supervisors. The meeting in April and the start up week in the summer are particularly useful slots, and the programme is currently being discussed. The turnover in supervisory personnel every year is not in itself a handicap - indeed, this is the source of much of the project's vitality and innovatory practice – but we do perhaps have to acknowledge the need for supporting novice supervisors more honestly and openly.

A third area for development involves the creation of a full electronic archive (only Human Remains and Pottery have one at the moment). At Easter 2004, Chris Mackie and Pat Reid will be working on the finds database and would welcome help from anyone feeling confident with a keyboard.

### **Education**

Courses are the lifeblood of the project. Pitt Rivers notwithstanding, we must not get complacent. 2004 will see the refinement of the BERT course, with closer linking to practical activities and a more flexible assessment framework. Our various non-invasive techniques courses have been brought under an 'umbrella' module so that the techniques are no longer seen as isolated but as part of a repertoire of techniques used to address archaeological questions. Human Remains will be introducing another new course for those with some experience, this time offering training in the recording of the more challenging kinds of human remains.

An important new venture is the Artifacts and Ecofacts six-day course being offered in July. This brings together finds and environmental training, much of which has been trialled in short courses. The new course will complement museum-based artifact courses by approaching the evidence as contextualised – as contributors to understanding the site rather than 'art objects' for display.

A flexible programme of day courses will continue to be offered. A new venture in 2004 is a one-day course for the visually impaired, developed in consultation with representatives of the RNIB. As tutors we have a great deal to learn about this kind of venture and look forward to the experience.

## Inclusivity

Much discussion took place informally and in meetings about improving still further our inclusivity. This new format Annual Report is just one of many possible strategies. Meanwhile, put the Public Meeting date in your diary – your ideas and evaluations will be very welcome. 2003 was a great season – help us to make 2004 even better.

## SHARP Programme 2004

(\* indicates courses which can be accredited by UEA)

### Easter 2004: Sunday 4th April – Friday 30th April 2004

One week courses:

1. *The Archaeology of Human Remains (Introductory)\**  
Sunday 4th- Friday 9th April.
2. *Non-invasive techniques for exploring the archaeological landscape\**  
Sunday 11th April – Friday 16th April

NB Emphasis at Easter will be on field-walking techniques, with geophysics and metal detecting

Charges: £160 UEA/ £125 non-UEA/ £95 student & unwaged

Non-course activities could include: field-walking, test pitting, data processing of finds, disarticulated human bone recording, environmental residue sorting. Watch the web site for details.

Friday 16th April: Public Meeting at the New Village Hall, Sedgeford at 7.30 p.m. All welcome

Saturday 17th April: 2004 Supervisory Team Meeting at the Old Village Hall, 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

### Summer 2004: Sunday 27th June – Friday 20th August

One week day courses:

1. *Basic Excavation and Recording Techniques (BERT)\** (but not \* weeks 1 and 6) 4th-9th July: 11th-16th July: 18th-23rd July: 25th-30th July: 1st-6th August; 8th-13th August
2. *The Archaeology of Human Remains (introductory)\**  
4th-9th July: 18th-23rd July
3. *Further Archaeology of Human Remains*  
1st-6th August
4. *Artefacts and Ecofacts: post excavational analysis in context \**  
11th-16th July
5. *Standing Building Recording: an introduction\**  
25th-30th July
6. *Non invasive techniques for exploring the archaeological landscape\**  
8th-13th August NB Summer version emphasises geophysics and surveying.
7. *Advanced excavation and research\**  
11th-16th July

Charges: £160 UEA/ £125 non-UEA/ £95 student & unwaged

### Short courses (one or two days)

<i>Introduction to pottery</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July
<i>Iron Age coins</i>	10 <sup>th</sup> July
<i>Anglo-Saxon settlement</i>	17 <sup>th</sup> July
<i>Animal bone identification</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> July
<i>Archaeo-astronomy</i>	31 <sup>st</sup> July
<i>Archaeological photography</i>	7 <sup>th</sup> August
<i>The archaeology of woodlands</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> August
<i>Food of the first millennium</i>	14 <sup>th</sup> August
<i>Introduction to archaeology for the visually impaired</i>	15 <sup>th</sup> August

Charges: for one day, £30 waged, £16 unwaged

Non-course activities include: digging, surveying, geophysical surveying, metal detecting, field walking, test pitting, finds processing, human remains processing, environmental (residue sorting, animal bone processing), site equipment management, archiving (electronic, material, paper), documentary research.

If you have a research proposal, for a dissertation or for personal interest, contact Dr Pat Reid on [patmreid@hotmail.com](mailto:patmreid@hotmail.com)

Friday 2nd July: Friends of SHARP evening at New Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 25th July: Annual Open Day

Facility charges: No charge at Easter as facilities are not provided – you have to make your own accommodation arrangements. In the summer, full facilities (camping, full board, supervision): £140 waged/ £110 unwaged for weeks 2-5, £130 waged/£100 unwaged for weeks 1 and 6. £50 a week for part facilities. Day courses: £30 waged, £16 unwaged.

Contact Brenda Huggins for a full prospectus and application form:

Tel: 01485 532343

or

email: [tanzee@supanet.com](mailto:tanzee@supanet.com)

or

website [www.sharp.org.com](http://www.sharp.org.com)

**Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project**  
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