Landscapes and Artefacts:

Studies in East Anglian Archaeology Presented to Andrew Rogerson

Edited by

Steven Ashley and Adrian Marsden

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Badeslade's pocket-sized map of Norfolk from *Chorographia Britanniae* published in 1742
Back cover image: Photograph of Andrew Rogerson at Wicken Bonhunt 1972 (Bob Carr)

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Introduction

Tom Williamson, Steven Ashley and Adrian Marsden

Andrew Rogerson is widely recognised as one of the most important and influential archaeologists in East Anglia, but he was born on the other side of the country, at Whitchurch in Shropshire, on 30 May 1949. He comes from a long line of doctors and clergymen: his English father and Welsh mother were both GPs. He attended prep school in Staffordshire before going on to Ampleforth College and then to Liverpool University to read Archaeology and History. Andrew moved to Norfolk in 1970 to join Peter Wade-Martins' excavations at North Elmham Park. It was while working on the excavations at nearby Spong Hill in 1972 that he met his wife Julia (Peckham), on holiday from her sculpture course at Camberwell. Andrew also worked on a number of sites in a variety of places outside Norfolk around this time, including Oxford, Grantham, Wallingford and Wicken Bonhunt, returning to his home town in 1973 and 1976 to conduct solo excavations in advance of a bypass, where he rescued evidence of Roman burials: the complete Roman mirror he discovered remains on display in the town museum. Andrew was one of the founder members of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1973 (along with Peter Wade-Martins, Keith Wade, Bob Carr and Derek Edwards) and in the same year directed the organisation's first major excavation, at Scole, on the Norfolk-Suffolk border. He has worked for the NAU, and its various subsequent non-contracting incarnations (now Norfolk Historic Environment Service), ever since. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1990.

The essays assembled in this volume represent a particularly fitting tribute to Andrew Rogerson's work in East Anglia over many decades, closely reflecting his principal interests in archaeology and history. In part this happy correspondence simply arises from the fact that those invited to contribute to a *festschrift* of necessity feel an obligation to address some issue of interest to the recipient. But it is in addition a sign of the profound influence that Andrew himself has exercised upon those with whom he was worked, to an extent which he would himself, almost certainly, fail to recognise. This influence has been exercised not only though his many publications and lectures but also though years of informal contacts and a number of the contributors, especially Brian Ayers, recollect the impact made on their own ideas by one of Andrew's throw-away lines or off-the-cuff, often half-humorous comments. What binds these essays together, more than with most such volumes, is thus the character of Andrew himself. Yet at the same time the contributions mirror what might be called the wider archaeological culture of East Anglia; having been involved in the region's archaeology for so many decades, Andrew has served to shape, in critical ways, a number of its distinctive elements.

Therefore, while the essays range widely, they focus on a number of key areas. A substantial proportion deal with 'small finds' of various kinds, and especially with artefacts or groups of artefacts recovered accidentally, rather than through excavation or survey work. Metalwork finds loom particularly large. Such an emphasis reflects Andrew's role, in recent years, as head of the Identification and Recording Service for archaeological finds and portable antiquities within Norfolk Historic Environment Service. But it also arises from his close association, over many decades, with amateur metal detectorists. Norfolk, as many readers will know, pioneered – initially with the activities of the late Tony Gregory – the policy of dealing sympathetically with and working alongside this active group of volunteers, rather than vilifying and alienating them, then the customary practise of 'establishment' archaeology. Andrew has accordingly spent innumerable long evenings in cold village halls, attending meetings where finds are identified, and their location carefully recorded. It is thus particularly fitting that many of the essays deal with objects, or groups of objects, recovered by metal detecting.

A number of contributions attempt to understand the meaning and significance of particular artefacts, or of the symbols they carry. Helen Geake's stimulating analysis of Anglo-Saxon representations of fish, for example, beginning with the silver model discovered by a metal-detectorist at East Walton in 2008 (perhaps derived from a hanging bowl like that recovered from Mound 1 at Sutton Hoo), argues that the artists responsible generally intended to render the specific likeness of a pike, symbol of strength and aggression, rather than some generic 'fish' – thus casting doubt on the traditional interpretations of such items as having a specifically Christian significance. Geake's contribution, like that by Jude Plouviez on Roman brooches from Scole, focuses on the intrinsic significance of a small group of artefacts. But Andrew's interests in small finds are more spatial in character: his perspective is that of the landscape archaeologist, as much as

of the finds specialist, in that he is concerned with the distribution of different types of artefact, and with where they occur within the landscape. A number of the chapters accordingly embrace such a perspective, including some which – like Geake's – are particularly concerned with iconography and meaning. The contributions by John Davies and Adrian Marsden complement each other perfectly, the one dealing with Iron Age artefacts and the other with examples from the Roman period, but both examining the *distribution* of styles and types in order to throw light on the specific beliefs held by the inhabitants of the land of the Iceni. The meaning of artefact distributions looms large in other chapters devoted to metalwork finds; Steven Ashley and Martin Biddle's joint piece on medieval sword pommels; and those by Andrew Lawson and Alan West, on Norfolk Bronze Age hoards. But the interpretation of distributions, as Rogerson has often pointed out, is a tricky business, a matter which Alan West's intelligent but accessible discussion, of the extent to which recorded patterning in the data reflect processes of survival and discovery, addresses directly. The awareness that patterning can result from processes of discovery – including the processes of 'official' discovery represented by the logging of finds in the Historic Environment Record – underlies, of course the original desire of Tony Gregory and Andrew Rogerson to liaise so closely with detectorists. And the kinds of confusions that can arise from poor recording of findspots in the past is neatly dealt with in Edward Martin's examination of the hoard discovered in the nineteenth century at Thwaite – or Campsey Ash – or Wickham Skeith – in Suffolk.

Andrew's archaeological enthusiasms, of course, extend far beyond metalwork, and far beyond stray finds. His interests are catholic, but in period terms his main concern has always been with the early Middle Ages. This focus is likewise reflected in a number of the contributions to this volume, including Stanley West's thoughtful piece on the long-term significance, from the Roman into the Anglo-Saxon period, of the area around Icklingham in Suffolk. Andrew's critical involvement in the excavations of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Morning Thorpe and Spong Hill are recognized in two chapters (as well as in a poem by Anthony Thwaite). Catherine Hill's discussion of the cremation urn lid, in the form of a seated man, recovered from Spong Hill throws important new light on an unusual artefact, while Kenneth Penn offers interesting new interpretations of badly eroded burials at Morning Thorpe. Andrew's interests also extend into the middle and later Saxon periods, and especially to questions of exchange, social change and urbanism. Tim Pestell presents the first detailed account of the 1998 excavations undertaken by the *Time Team* at Bawsey – a site with which Rogerson has, once again, been closely involved over many years. Pestell not only describes the various discoveries made during the excavation of the site – an atmospheric ruined and isolated church in west Norfolk which is associated with the most prolific of the county's 'productive sites'. He also, using his particularly detailed knowledge of these dense, enigmatic collections of middle Saxon coinage and other metalwork, places the site within a wider social and economic context, drawing parallels between the pairing of productive sites at Caistor and Bawsey with the towns at Norwich and King's Lynn, and raising important questions about the genesis of late Saxon urbanism.

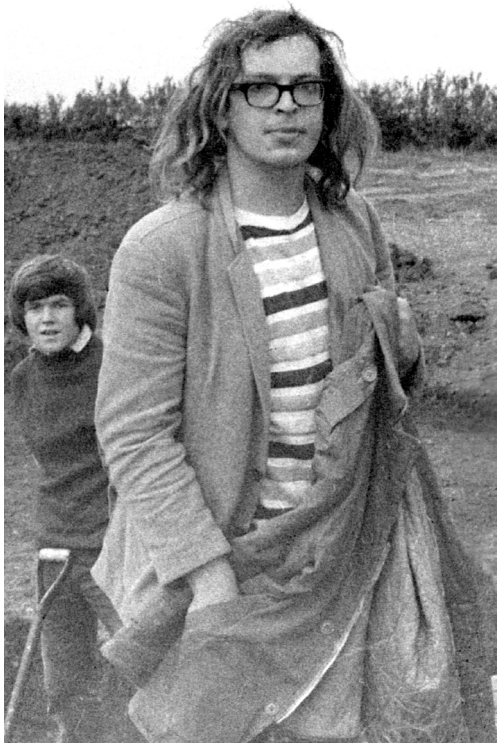
Medieval towns are another subject which has long interested Andrew, in part through his involvement in excavations at Fullers Hill in Great Yarmouth. Urban studies rely not only on the evidence of excavations, however, but also on topographic analysis, and Brian Ayers' discussion of Norwich is full of originality and surprises – including the observation that aspects of the city's medieval topography may have been influenced by the survival, into the twelfth century, of upstanding prehistoric monuments. Later urban matters are addressed in Paul Rutledge's essay, which shows dramatically how far a single new source can transform our understanding of a place – in this case a nineteenth-century illustration of New Buckenham; while Elizabeth Rutledge usefully, and elegantly, explodes the myth of the missing chapel of St Ann in Norwich, and in passing illustrates how easily false information can become orthodoxy unless challenged by rigorous analysis.

Medieval churches, their origins and place in the landscape are other areas in which Andrew has made major contributions to our knowledge, especially through his excavation at Barton Bendish. A number of contributions reflect this interest. Stephen Heywood revisits the private chapels erected by Herbert de Losinga at North and South Elmham, in Norfolk and Suffolk respectively, showing how the bishop consciously employed architectural references to the early church, and to the ecclesiastical buildings of the western Empire, to associate himself and his position with the ancient origins of his diocese. Williamson's contribution attempts to place Norfolk's isolated churches within a wider national context, while Sandy Heslop presents intriguing thoughts on the cluster of late eleventh-century churches around Great Dunham. This is a particularly fitting tribute, not only in terms of subject matter but also in its intellectual perspective, for Heslop emphasises the importance, in the archaeological analysis of standing structures, of 'such apparently prosaic matters as the materials used, and their availability and likely cost' as ways of understanding origins, meaning and chronology. Such an approach accords well with Andrew's own

intellectual approach to the past, which – while by no means eschewing archaeological theory – has always treated its wilder shores with some scepticism and caution, and is always firmly grounded in the practical. To Rogerson, moreover, theory is only as good as the evidence upon which it is based, and much of his most important work has indeed been based on the meticulous analysis of vast amounts of data – archaeological and documentary – at a landscape scale, especially in his research at Barton Bendish and at Great and Little Fransham. The latter project, pursued over many decades, represents one of the most detailed fieldwalking surveys and documentary studies of any parish in England, and formed the basis of both his PhD and of an imminent and long-awaited monograph. Indeed, it is worth noting in passing that while most people know Andrew as an archaeologist, he is also an accomplished historian, able to use, and interpret in novel ways, a wide range of documentary evidence, and well versed in the wider debates in medieval history, as much as in medieval archaeology. Hence the contributions in this volume by individuals, like the Rutledges, better known for their documentary than for their archaeological research; and that by his old colleague Bob Silvester, archaeologist and historian, on the maps of Thomas Badeslade.

Although, as the contributions by Stanley West and Edward Martin indicate, Andrew's interests and influence extend beyond the county boundary, into Suffolk – he served for many years on the Scole Committee, and has liaised extensively with Suffolk colleagues in the wider study of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of East Anglia – he is above all a *Norfolk* archaeologist, deeply familiar with the geography of this very special county, his adopted home. Indeed, this volume arguably testifies to his role as the *paramount* Norfolk archaeologist of the later twentieth and early twenty-first century. Andrew's vast knowledge is, in particular although not exclusively, knowledge of the archaeology and history of one particular area of England. This does not imply, in any sense, an inward-looking antiquarianism, but rather an awareness and acceptance of the fact that England was, and to an extent still is, composed of a number of distinct regions, each with its own particular past, and with its own particular kinds of evidence through which that past can be studied. He is part of a long and proud tradition of both amateur and professional engagement with archaeology and history in the county (aspects of which are admirably dealt with in Wade-Martins' piece on the history of the Norfolk Archaeological Trust); albeit one which, during the course of his own professional career, was to an extent eroded by changes in the organisation of public archaeology, especially the enforced division between curatorial and field teams, and the emergence of competitive tendering for archaeological projects. This, by encouraging units from anywhere to dig anywhere, ensured the excavations have on occasions been undertaken by people largely unfamiliar with local issues, and local evidence, something rather different than the old model of county-based field archaeology within which Andrew began his career.

This volume – embracing studies in small finds, landscape history, and urban and ecclesiastical archaeology – thus reflects better than most *festschrifts* the sheer scale of the contribution which its recipient has made, and the influence he has had over a region's archaeology through many decades. That influence will doubtless continue, if not increase, over the decades to come. We haven't seen the last of Andrew Rogerson yet: indeed, the best is probably yet to come.



Clockwise from centre left: AR Shovelling at Wallingford; on scaffolding; at Wicken Bonhunt (all 1972); examining Thetford-ware pottery from Group Captain Knocker's excavations at Thetford (1979) and recording a section with S. Ashley at Guestwick Church (1983)

List of Publications by Andrew Rogerson

Compiled by Steven Ashley

1973

J. Musty, K. Wade and AR, 'A Viking pin and inlaid knife from Bonhunt Farm, Wicken Bonhunt, Essex' *Antiquaries Journal* 53, p. 287

1976

'Excavations on Fuller's Hill, Great Yarmouth' *East Anglian Archaeology* 2, pp. 131-245

1977

'Excavations at Scole, 1973' *East Anglian Archaeology* 5, pp. 97-224

1978

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AR and N. Adams, 'A Saxo-Norman Pottery Kiln at Bircham' *East Anglian Archaeology* 8, pp. 33-44

AR and N. Adams, 'A Moated Site at Hempstead, near Holt' *East Anglian Archaeology* 8, pp. 55-72

1982

AR and S.J. Ashley, 'An Unfinished Well and its Contents at Bowthorpe' *Norfolk Archaeology* 38, pp. 215-18

1983

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1984

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T. Gregory, and AR, 'Metal-detecting in archaeological excavation' *Antiquity* 58, pp. 179–84

B. Hooper, S. Rickett, AR, and S. Yaxley, 'The Grave of Sir Hugh de Hastyngs', *Norfolk Archaeology* 39, pp. 88-9

1985

'Saxon Brooch' in J. Hinchliffe with C. Sparey Green, *Excavations at Brancaster 1974 and 1977* East Anglian Archaeology 23, p. 205

AR and S.J. Ashley, 'A Medieval Pottery Production Site at Blackborough End, Middleton' *Norfolk Archaeology* 39, pp. 181-9

S.J. Ashley and AR, 'A Medieval Wooden Coffin Lid from Guestwick' *Norfolk Archaeology* 39, pp. 216-7

1986

AR and R.J. Silvester, 'Middle Saxon Occupation at Hay Green, Terrington St Clement' *Norfolk Archaeology*, 39, pp. 320-22

1987

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AR and S.J. Ashley, 'The Parish Churches of Barton Bendish: The Excavation of All Saints and the Architecture of St. Andrew's and St. Mary's' in AR, S.J. Ashley, D. Williams and A. Harris, *Three Norman Churches in Norfolk* East Anglian Archaeology 32, pp. 1-66

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1988

'Appendix I: The medieval pottery' in R.J. Silvester, *The Fenland Project Number 3: Marshland and the Nar Valley, Norfolk* East Anglian Archaeology 45, pp. 174-5

1989

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1990

R. Bond, K. Penn and AR, *Norfolk Origins 4: The North Folk; Angles, Saxons & Danes* (North Walsham)

S.J. Ashley, K. Penn, and AR, 'Four Continental Objects of Early Saxon Date' *Norfolk Archaeology*, 41, pp. 92-3

1991

S. Ashley, K. Penn and AR, 'A Further Group of Late Saxon Mounts from Norfolk' *Norfolk Archaeology* 41, pp. 225-9

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1992

S. Ashley and AR, 'Three radiate brooches and a small-long brooch from Norfolk' *Norfolk Archaeology* 41, pp. 361-2

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1993

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M.A.S. Blackburn and AR, 'Two Viking-age Silver Ingots from Ditchingham and Hindringham, Norfolk: the first East Anglian Ingot Finds' *Medieval Archaeology* 37, pp. 222-4

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S. Jennings and AR, 'The Distribution of Grimston Ware in East Anglia and Beyond' in M. Leah *Grimston, Norfolk. The Late Saxon and Medieval Pottery Industry: Excavations 1962-92* East Anglian Archaeology 64, pp. 116-119

1995

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1999

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2003

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2006

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2008

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2009

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2010

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2012

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Fransham: people and land in a central Norfolk parish from the Palaeolithic to the eve of Parliamentary Enclosure East Anglian Archaeology

Digging a Saxon cemetery

Anthony Thwaite

We approach you briskly,
Crowded clay-dwellers,
Inhabitants now well
Dispersed in your persons,
And come as callers
On hands and knees
With trowels and rulers.

You would be puzzled
To see us, scavengers
Dressed in our casual
Clothes without ritual,
Turning up ornament,
Weapon, cremation,
Plotting your downfall.

Now dedicated to Andrew Rogerson, remembering Morning Thorpe 1975-6, and many happy sessions of sherd-shuffling since.

Late Bronze Age finds from Banyard's Hall, Bunwell, Norfolk

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Abstract: In 1981 ten pieces of Late Bronze Age metalwork were found by metal-detectorists on the surface of a ploughed field near Banyard's Hall, Bunwell, Norfolk. The socketed objects, comprising two axes, a hammer, a chisel, a spear and four small items, together with two fragmentary pieces found subsequently, are considered to have been deposited together as a hoard. Prompt reporting of the discovery by the finders, unusual at the time and presaging more recent practice, enabled the dispersal of the pieces to be assessed. The types represented belong to the Ewart Park Tradition of the ninth to tenth centuries BC, but the composition of the hoard is unusual. Subsequent discoveries in south Norfolk complement the finds from Bunwell.

Introduction

Banyard's Hall lies about 1km south-east of the parish church at Bunwell in central Norfolk, and about 17km south-west of the centre of the city of Norwich. Although the current building was probably erected in the seventeenth century, and was faced with brick in the nineteenth, it stands within the remains of an isolated moat which is thought to have once surrounded a pre-Conquest hall.[1] It was therefore one of the many rural moated sites systematically assessed in the early years of the relatively new Norfolk Archaeological Unit (NAU). In 1977, Andrew Rogerson, one of the original field officers of the NAU with particular responsibility for medieval sites, visited the moat and managed to recover medieval and later finds within its precinct, thus providing limited evidence for the date of activity within it.[2]

Some four years after Dr Rogerson's visit, evidence for much earlier activity near the moat was revealed by the discovery of Late Bronze Age metalwork. That find forms the subject of this article. At the time of discovery, few Bronze Age hoards were known in south Norfolk and hence it made an important contribution to an understanding of the period in the region. Subsequently, more hoards have been found to enrich the regional context, many of them conscientiously recorded by Dr Rogerson in his later role as Senior Landscape Archaeologist for Norfolk County Council.

Description of the site and circumstances of discovery

The site of discovery comprises a flat trapezoidal arable field, at the time some 300m long and 150-300m wide, situated immediately south-west of Banyard's Hall. The find spot lies approximately 170m west of the farm complex, 60m south of the track which skirts the north side of the field, and 40m east of the boundary with Bunwell Wood which flanks the western side of the field (at NGR TM 1320 9216). Although the hedge on the east side of the field has been removed subsequently, the other boundaries remain the same. The ground lies at c. 50m above sea level and overlies the chalky Pleistocene till of the Lowestoft Formation of the central Norfolk plateau.

All the objects were found on or near the surface of ploughsoil while using metal-detectors. The first object (No. **1** below, all objects are shown in Fig. 2) was located by Mr Pride James of Norwich late in the evening of 25 April 1981. Further objects (Nos. **2**-**10**) were detected on 5 May 1981 by Mr James working with Mr Martin and Mr Stewart Smith of Hingham.

On 8 May 1981, the current author visited the find spot on behalf of the NAU. With the permission of the landowners, F.H. Easton & Sons Ltd., and with the guidance of the finders, he created a sketch plan of the distribution of the pieces (Fig. 1). The plan was based on the memories of the finders and hence is only indicative. Nonetheless, most of the objects seem to have been found within a restricted area some 8m by 4m. Two objects, a small flat piece of copper alloy and a short length of iron with a copper-alloy binding were also detected in the general area, but these were considered not to be Bronze Age in date.

Details of the discovery, based on a preliminary report prepared by the current author, were passed by the finders to local newspapers,[3] and subsequently to other local magazines.[4]

Although primary accounts exist of the discovery of all the objects in close proximity to each other, their original association is inferred. The discovery might be regarded as an 'area find', but due to the probable contemporaneity of the objects, it seems reasonable to suggest that all ten items were once buried together as a hoard.[5] Primary sources of information concerning the discovery of the Bunwell Hoard, comprising contemporary field notes, sketches, and photographs are contained in Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record 17474. All the objects were retained initially by the finders. However, in 1984 they were acquired by the Norwich Castle Museum.[6]

One further object, a fragment of a socketed axe (No **2c**) from the same location as the hoard, was reported to the Norwich Castle Museum in 1985. It had been found

[1] Pevsner and Wilson 1999, p. 226
[2] HER 10015
[3] *The Eastern Evening News* 6 May 1981; *The Journal,* 8 May 1981, p. 10
[4] e.g. *East Anglian Monthly*, February 1983, pp. 49-52; Day 1985, pp. 26-31
[5] Needham, Lawson and Green 1985, Category 7
[6] Acc. No. 1984.1-6

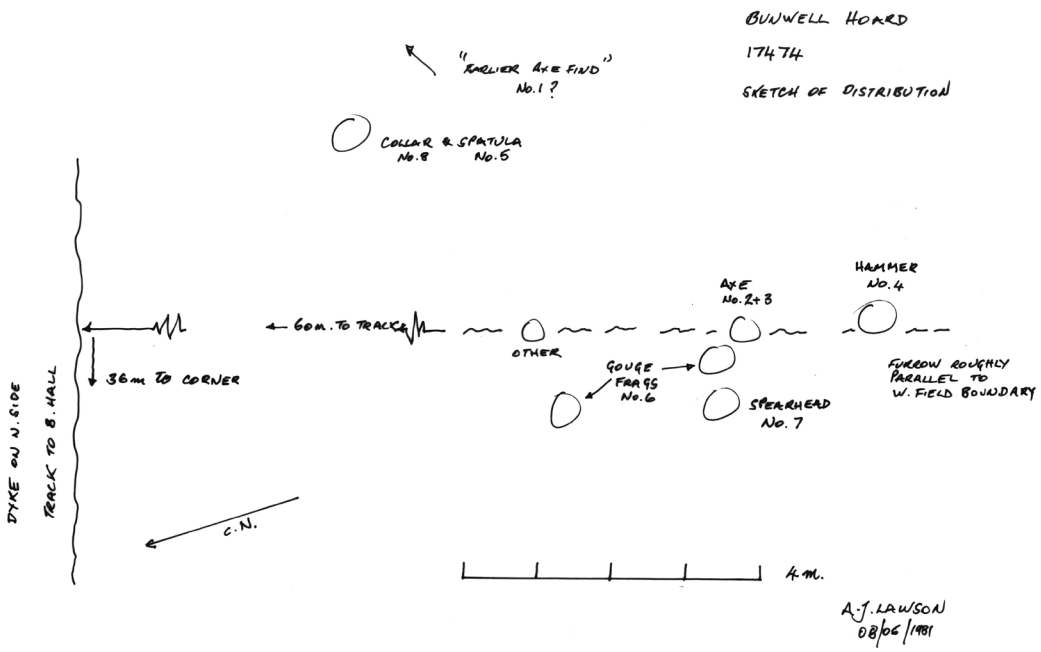

Fig. 1 Sketch plan of the Bunwell hoard

together with other metal objects from the same field, including another small cone (cf. No. **10** below), which were thought to be of Romano-British date. 'Romano-British' and 'medieval' pottery was also reported from the area at this time but none was retained for identification.

Description and comparisons

All the objects are generally in good condition with a very dark green patina. In places, the surfaces are pitted or stained brown (with iron pan). Two objects (Nos. **2** and **6**) are in poorer condition. The metal of objects has not been analysed, but from its colour and patina, it is assumed to comprise copper alloy, probably bronze.

1 FACETED SOCKETED AXE with circular mouth and flaring trumpet collar. Light single loop with vertical rib. Octagonal body widening to flared cutting edge. Two internal deep-set vertical ribs.[7]

L: 10.8cm; Wt: 219.7gm.

Comparisons:

Meldreth Type;[8] Feltwell Fen Hoard, Norfolk;[9] Gorleston I Hoard, Norfolk;[10] Husbands Bosworth Hoard, Leics.[11]

2 FRAGMENTARY FACETED SOCKETED AXE with simple everted rim: two body fragments (**2a** and **2b**) recovered in 1981, and a third, rim fragment (**2c**) found in 1985. Single loop with vertical rib. Distorted octagonal body expanding to flared cutting edge, with facet edges marked by slight ribs. Lower part of body depressed. Most of upper body and mouth missing. Contained No.**3** (and a fragment of wood considered modern: Wendy Carruthers pers. comm.).

L (of fragment **2a**): 8.3cm; Wt (**2a**): 96.6gm; L (**2b**): 3.2cm; Wt 5.7gm: L (**2c**): 3.9cm.

Comparisons:

Similar to No.1; Meldreth Hoard, Cambs.[12]

3 AMORPHOUS LUMP found within No.**2a**.

L: 2.6cm; Wt 15.8gm.

4 SOCKETED HAMMER. Square mouth with angular moulding. Square sectioned body with parallel sides, slightly splayed to asymmetric bevelled striking face with rounded facets. Sides with marked casting flashes ground or filed.

L: 7.9cm; Wt 224.6gm.

Comparisons:

Carleton Rode Hoard, Norfolk;[13] Thorndon Hoard, Suffolk;[14] Reach Fen Hoard, Cambs;[15] Isle of Harty Hoard, Kent.[16]

[7] Ehrenberg 1981 Type 1b
[8] Schmidt and Burgess 1981, pp. 204-6
[9] Smith 1958, No. 1
[10] Clough and Green 1978, Nos. 21, 22, 58
[11] Clough 1979, Fig. 55
[12] Hawkes and Smith 1955b, No 3
[13] Norfolk Museums Service 1977, Pl VI, No. 16
[14] Hawkes and Smith 1955a, No. 4
[15] Smith 1956a, No. 34
[16] Smith 1956b, No. 23

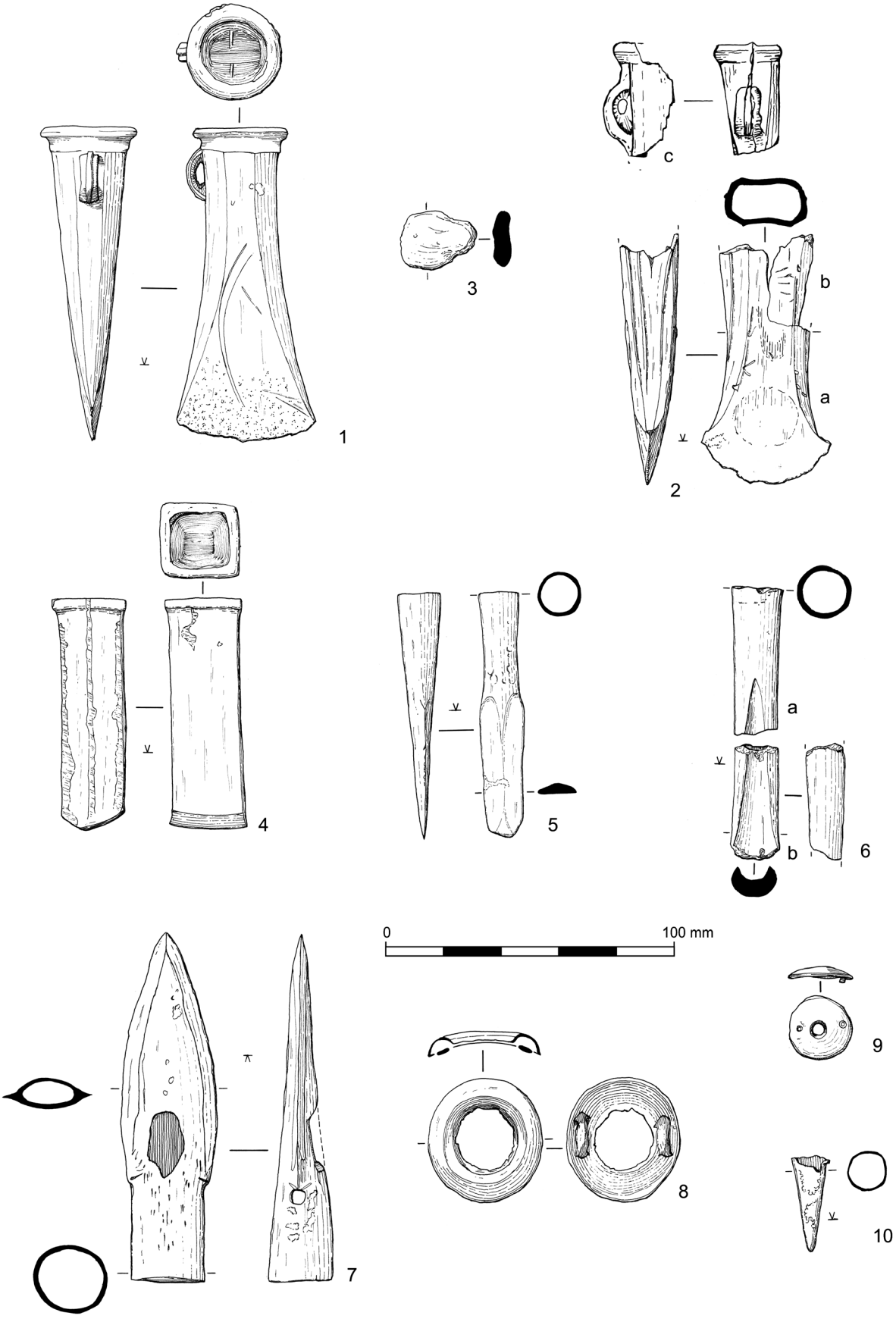

Fig. 2 The Bunwell hoard Scale 1:2

5 SOCKETED CHISEL OR KNIFE with cylindrical socket. Spatulate, parallel-sided blade with low, triangular section, tapering towards rounded end. Edges dull.

L: 8.5cm; Wt 31.6gm.

Comparisons:

Nore Hill, Chelsham, Surrey[17]

6 FRAGMENTARY SOCKETED GOUGE. Two conjoining pieces, one (**6a**) with circular, slightly expanded mouth, and the second (**6b**) with cutting edge in poor condition.

L: c.8.8cm; Wt: 41.0gm (**6a**); 34.1gm (**6b**)

Comparisons:

Carleton Rode Hoard, Norfolk;[18] Thorndon Hoard, Suffolk;[19] Reach Fen Hoard, Cambs.[20]

7 SOCKETED SPEARHEAD with cylindrical socket. Leaf shaped blade with bevelled edges and rudimentary barbs above peg holes. Surface hammered giving a rain drop patterning to part of the socket. Reverse damaged with part of the socket missing.

Comparisons:

Broadward Tradition Type 4[21]

8 HOLLOW CAST RING OR COLLAR with semi-circular cross-section and two diametrically opposed suspension loops beneath. Inner edge rebated as if to receive central setting.

Diam. 4.2cm; Wt 14.8gm.

Comparisons:

Edinburgh Hoard, Scotland;[22] Great Freeman Street Hoard, Nottingham;[23] Welby Hoard, Leics.[24]

9 CIRCULAR CONCAVE BUTTON with irregular edge, as if filed. Countersunk central perforation and two small flanking rivets, one missing.

Diam. 2.1cm; Wt 2.8gm.

10 SMALL HOLLOW CONE with circular, damaged mouth and one possible peg hole beneath.

L 3.4cm; Wt 5.7gm.

Comparisons:

Yattendon Hoard, Berks.[25]

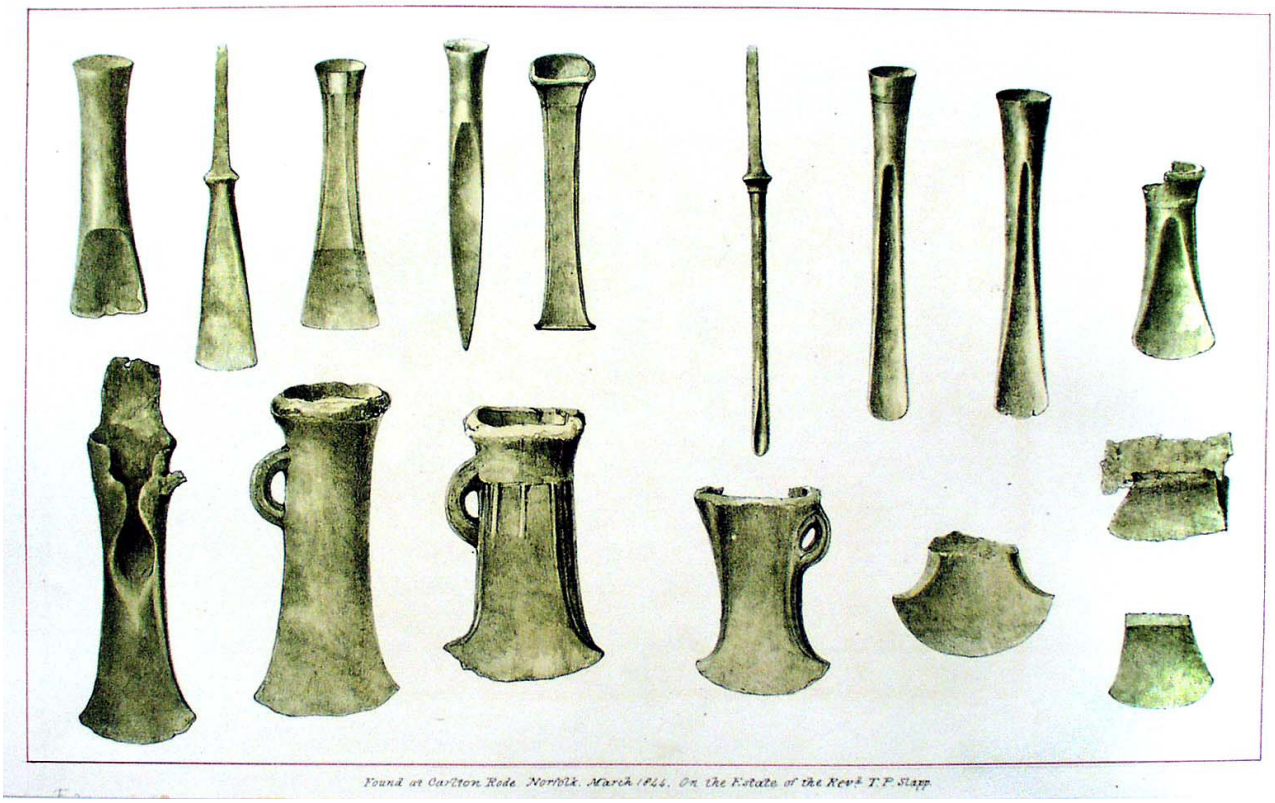

Fig. 3 Objects 'found at Carleton Rode...' lithograph by Henry Ninham

[17] Skelton 1987
[18] Norfolk Museums Service 1977, Pl VI, No. 13
[19] Hawkes and Smith 1955a, No. 3
[20] Smith 1956a, Nos. 32-3
[21] Burgess et al. 1972
[22] Evans 1881, p.290 and fig. 500
[23] Smith and Pitman 1957, No. 16
[24] Smith and Clarke 1957, No. 16
[25] Coghlan 1970, Y55

Interpretation and dating

Although it is not difficult to find parallels for many of the individual items in this assemblage, the overall character of the hoard is noteworthy. The association of tools, weapons, trinkets and casting waste is a hallmark of the Late Bronze Age Ewart Park Tradition. Nonetheless, some of the specific forms in this assemblage are unusual in Norfolk.

The faceted axes (Nos. **1** and **2**) belong to a form which originated in the Wilburton Tradition but is commonly found throughout southern and eastern England in the succeeding Ewart Park Tradition. Of later tradition is the late Sompting-type ribbed axe found in 1964 by Mr T Mickleburgh of Tibbenham while hoeing sugar beet c.600m north-east of Banyard's Hall.[26] Both the reported location and typological date of this find suggest it was not part of the Bunwell Hoard.

Socketed hammers (cf. No. **4**), socketed gouges (cf. No. **6**) and ingot fragments (cf. No. **3**) are also widely found in Ewart Park hoards. The socketed tool, possibly a chisel (No. **7**), would not look out of place in the Carleton Rode Hoard (Fig. 3).[27] The latter, with its incomparable range of at least 22 tools, was discovered in 1844 less than 2.5km west of the Bunwell site. Furthermore, the hollow ring (No. **8**) and button (No. **9**) may reflect the introduction of horse harness, and the need to join and elaborate leather straps, as seen in other hoards of this period. The hollow cone (No. **10**) is more unusual. It is possibly a fragment of a more complex cast object or composite item, or it might be a small pointed ferrule.

However, the most distinctive item is the spearhead (No. **7**), with its short leaf-shaped blade, rudimentary barbs and peg holes. Barbed spearheads are an archetypal component of the Broadward Complex.[28] Although fragments of 'classic' barbed spearheads are present in a few East Anglian hoards, such as the pieces of Type II weapons in the Aylsham and Carleton Rode Hoards,[29] they are generally rare in the region. The Complex is thought to have developed at much the same time, but independently of, the Wilburton Tradition, but fully developed barbed spearheads are considered contemporary with Ewart Park metalwork. Examples certainly occur in the hoards of this tradition in southern East Anglia (such as the Felixstowe Railway Cutting and Levington Hoards in Suffolk, and the Hatfield Broad Oak Hoard in Essex)[30]

Comparison can be made between the socketed chisel from Bunwell (No. **6**) and a tool also found with a socketed gouge (*inter alia*) by metal detector at a ringfort on Nore Hill, Surrey.[31] The similarity is not exact because the latter has a rectangular sectioned blade. Nonetheless, wood, presumably from the contemporary handle of this parallel, has given a radiocarbon date of 2765±45 uncal bp.[32] The calibrated range of this date, 1020-820 cal BC at 95% confidence, reflects not only the date of the Ewart Park Tradition, but also the probable date of the Bunwell Hoard.

Significance

As well as the unusual composition of the Bunwell hoard, several other aspects of its discovery should be noted. First, the prompt reporting by Mr Pride James and his colleagues, and the willingness of the landowner to permit archaeological recording, set an important precedent in the area. Although today such basic requirements underpin the code of practice that accompanies the 1996 Treasure Act, they were frequently avoided in earlier decades. In this case, it was possible to record the approximate dispersal of the objects, so that a start could be made on assessing the effects of ploughing on a (presumed) buried deposit. Now, comparable information from other hoard sites confirms that ploughing can disperse objects over a far greater distance than that witnessed at Bunwell.

Secondly, the find helped to fill a blank in the distribution map of Bronze Age activity in Norfolk. A number of Late Bronze Age hoards were known in the Norwich area (and elsewhere in the county) but few had been revealed in that part of Norfolk south of the city. The important hoard found at Carleton Rode in 1844 has already been mentioned (above). Another had been found about 1828 at Pulham St Mary, a little more than 10km south-east of Bunwell. Manuscript notes compiled by the Norfolk antiquarian, Goddard Johnson, state that '…Eight bronze Celts, some Spear and Arrow Heads and a Sword All of the same sort of metal…' were discovered, but that he was only able to recover one of the 'Celts' which the un-named finder had kept as a memento (NNRO MS16, f.28). The findspot was once thought to be in Pulham Market (HER 1685) but its location was subsequently re-assessed (HER 10765). The description of the find would fit a typical Ewart Park tradition hoard.

However, since the discovery at Bunwell, several additional hoards have come to light in south Norfolk, greatly enriching our knowledge of Late Bronze Age practices in the area. Another collection of metalwork was found at Pulham St Mary between 1986 and 1989. Although much of the material spread across the site hints at the presence of a high status Romano-British site, the finding of fragments of a spearhead, a chape, a hollow ring, a sword hilt and a socketed axe attest Late Bronze Age activity, if not a dispersed hoard.[33]

Two socketed axes had been found in 1966 during the hoeing of sugar beet at Kenninghall, about 11 km south-west of Bunwell, but around 1998 it seems that

[26] HER 10033
[27] HER 10022; Norwich Castle Museum 1977, Pl VI
[28] Burgess et al 1972
[29] Clough 1971, pp. 163 and 166, no. 18; Norfolk Museums Service 1977, 30 and 31 resp.
[30] Burgess et al fig. 9 Nos. 3-4, fig. 21 No. 9, and fig. 29, No. 75 resp.
[31] Skelton 1987
[32] Needham et al 1997, DoB 5
[33] HER 22927

about ten more axes were found at the same site by an anonymous detectorist.[34] Although word of the find came to the notice of Andrew Rogerson, the objects had been sold before they could be fully assessed. A second Late Bronze Age hoard, comprising a single palstave and nine socketed axes, one of which was broken, was found with a detector at Kenninghall in 1995, together with Romano-British and medieval coins. The discovery was reported to Norwich Castle Museum where the individual items were recorded.[35] The number of objects is suspiciously similar to that attributed to the first site[36] but without a clearer record it is impossible to clarify the facts. Thus, another important aspect of the Banyard Hall find lies in the fact that the hoard was not dispersed and the bronzes sold individually. The circumstances of their discovery were documented, and later the entire collection was acquired by the Norwich Castle Museum where it is curated enabling this and future study. Because it remains accessible, it can be made available for future analysis, such as metal composition, when pressing new research questions arise.

Four Late Bronze Age hoards have been found in recent years by metal detectors in the Attleborough area, less than 10km north-west of Bunwell, three of them near Great Ellingham. At the first site, near Attleborough, four socketed axes, some fragmentary, were found between 1994 and 1998 in the same area as Saxon and medieval metalwork.[37] Late in 1996 Andrew Rogerson led a small excavation near Great Ellingham, where previously six socketed axes, three fragments of sword and a casting jet had been recovered from a restricted area of ploughsoil, some 11m by 5m. By 2005, the same site had produced a total of at least 18 bronzes, as well as Saxon and medieval material.[38] In September 2007, Dr Rogerson also recorded the excavation of the site of a second hoard from Great Ellingham, comprising a socketed axe and 26 ingot fragments.[39] Between 2007 and 2010, he also recorded the discovery of socketed axes and sword blades found in a 30cm square pit cut 9cm into the clay subsoil at a third Great Ellingham site. Unusually, organic material comprising a fragment of cloth and a wooden board were also recovered from the pit. Later that spring, nine more bronze fragments were recovered from the same site by detectorists.[40]

The Bunwell find can therefore be seen as the first of a wave of new discoveries of Late Bronze Age metalwork hoards in south Norfolk. The popularity of metal-detecting since the 1970s, and the consequent discovery of prehistoric objects, is not restricted to that part of Norfolk: without counting the number of isolated individual bronzes, the number of Late Bronze Age hoards now known in Norfolk alone currently stands at about one hundred. A full analysis of the ever-growing number of finds is beyond the scope of this paper but many of them belong to the Ewart Park tradition and together with the Bunwell find display the diverse range of tools, weapons and smaller objects skilfully created by the consummate smiths of the period. Furthermore, by mapping the spatial distribution of metal types represented in the hoard, it is possible to suggest the range of social and economic contact in the British Late Bronze Age.

Acknowledgements

Knowledge of recent metalwork finds has resulted from a growing respect and trust between detectorists and archaeologists, and in the case of the latter, much of the credit of developing good working relationships is due to Andrew Rogerson. Although his principal interest lies in medieval archaeology, his understanding of other periods is deeper than he might admit, and his dedication to fieldwork is without equal. The current author had the pleasure of working with Andrew and his colleagues of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit between 1973 and 1983, and with fond reminiscences, I have great pleasure in dedicating this short article to him.

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Copy of the lithograph of objects 'Found at Carleton Rode...' by Henry Ninham (NWHCM 1954.138, Todd 1D, Depwade, 2:F) is reproduced with the kind permission of the Norfolk Museums Service (Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery)

[34] HER 10797
[35] HER 32005
[36] HER 10797
[37] HER 30938
[38] HER 31588
[39] HER 51148
[40] HER 54009

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