

## **General Secretary's Report to AGM 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

This year we have published our annual Proceedings and two editions of our newsletter. We said farewell to our previous Editor's Joanne Sear and Jane Carr and welcomes Nicholas Amor and Sarah Doig into these roles.

We published a new book on The Building Stones of Suffolk by Tony Redman. This has sold so well that we have had a second print run. The joint project with the Historic Towns Trust came to fruition with the publication of the historical map of Ipswich. A copy of this was sent to all members with the Proceedings.

We have continued our programme of regular winter lectures both live and on Zoom online conferencing software. It is pleasing to note that attendance figures have now returned to the pre-COVID numbers and that the Zoom talks, initiated by Nicholas Amor during lockdown, have become regular and welcome feature of the programme. The Wheeler Conference was held at The Hold in Ipswich titled 'Re-Envisaging Suffolk's Past: new discoveries from development-led archaeology'. There was a good turnout and lots of lively discussion.

We also ran a full programme of summer excursions. They were all well attended and included visits to Hadleigh Guildhall, a walking tour on Ipswich, the Alpheton villa excavations and a tour of West Stow Anglo-Saxon village.

Council agree and has paid grants of £10,000 to the Rendlesham Revealed Project towards the cost of specialist analyses of material from the site and £5,000 to the West Stow Museum towards the acquisition of the Bardwell Pyramid Mount. Other small grants paid amounted to £628.

Council also approved in principle grants payable in 2026 of £1,000 towards a project transcribing demographic records for Ipswich using both human and AI methods and a grant of £1,000 towards a publication which would include Sir Stephen Glynn's notes on 103 Suffolk churches.

Some improvements to the website are planned.

My thanks to our chair Jo Caruth for her leadership during the year and to all our Officers and Council members for their hard work.

## Membership Report

Membership Type Description	Number of Members	
Double (2 Adults Inc. Children under 16 Years)	112	
Honorary (UK)	2	
Institution Member (Eur)	1	
Institution Member (UK)	23	
Life Member (single) (UK)	15	
Overseas Institutions	10	
Single Member (UK)	324	
Single under 25 years	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>490</b>

Miriam Stead  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Editor's Report to SIAH AGM - 18 April 2026

### 1. 2025 Proceedings

The 2025 Proceedings were printed, published and distributed before Christmas. My thanks to all authors and reviewers, and to Five Castles for producing yet another handsome volume, the longest in our history, with a reasonable balance between archaeological and historical papers.

### 2. 2026 Proceedings

The following papers will be included in the 2026 Proceedings, and are all well advanced. Archaeology in Suffolk, three book reviews, and one excursion report are awaited.

Iron Age, Romano-British and Medieval remains at Land West of Thorney Green, Stowupland  
*by Abby Antrobus*

Settlement and Field Systems in a Small-Town Hinterland: Romano-British Land Use at Eye Airfield, Yaxley, Suffolk

*by Matt Brudenell, Tom Phillips and Lawrence Billington*

An Eleventh-Century Farmstead and Field System at Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk

*by Rob Cullum*

Medieval Pottery Manufacture in the Sandlings of Suffolk

*by Sue Anderson*

An Anglo-Dutch Skirmish Site at Ferry Road, Old Felixstowe, Suffolk

*by Thomas Lucking*

A New Discovery of Early Stone Sculpture at Hitcham: Maa Cat. no. Z28364 and the Use of Casts in Archaeological Education in Late Nineteenth-Century Cambridge

*by P. Everson and D. Stocker*

Coastal Change in Later Medieval Suffolk: Reconstructing Minsmere Haven, Sizewell and the original site of Leiston Abbey

*by Mark Bailey and David Sear*

Richard Hotard: One Will, Two Testaments and Several Executors

*by Heather Falvey*

### 3. 2027 Proceedings

I have received several papers for publication in the 2027 Proceedings, which are at different stages in processing.

### 4. General observations

1. Folding Space have uploaded the 2022-24 Proceedings to our website and have made some minor changes to earlier entries.
2. The reputation of the Proceedings depends on rigorous peer review of papers. Finding reviewers, particularly for archaeological papers, has been a challenge for at least ten years. My predecessors as editor, Drs Joanna Martin and Jo Sear, must be congratulated for their perseverance. However, one can only ask the same people so many times to undertake reviews, and there is an urgent need for new reviewers. Unless this problem can be addressed, the future of the Proceedings, which have been continuously published for nearly 180 years, is of concern. I have written asking for help to the major archaeological contractors who operate in Suffolk and have regularly published in the Proceedings, and I am pleased to report some encouraging responses.

Nick Amor

(10 April 2026)

## SAFG Report for SIAH AGM April 2026

2025 was a busy year for the SAFG, although we did not undertake any whole group excavations.

We did, however, run a training workshop on recording practices in July, which was attended by seven members. This was followed by a discrete excavation over a long weekend at Bulcamp, where we have previously excavated over several seasons. There was positive feedback from the participants and their enthusiasm was appreciated by Rob and Wendy Bylett, who ran both of these. We're grateful to them for their very professional organisation of the weekends and also to Simon Roberts, the landowner, who is always welcoming.

We had planned a discrete excavation in Chediston to investigate a feature in the vicinity of a known Roman villa. However, due to the presence of farm animals, this was only possible in late winter of 2025 or early Spring 2026.

On the advice of the SCCAS, we decided to limit our investigation to a few days as well as a reduced area for the time being. Unfortunately, the extremely wet weather conditions were deemed unsuitable for machinery and it was postponed. We hope to reprise this at the end of 2026 and in the meantime, a new resistivity survey has been carried out on the area.

Our geophysical surveying continued throughout the year, returning to Tattingstone and later to East Bergholt where continuation of earlier surveys was reprised.

A new survey was carried out at Wenhaston on the request of the landowner to identify any archaeological features prior to the land being drilled. Although not showing any notable features in the surveyable area other than a double ditched trackway seemingly leading towards a cropmark in the adjacent field, some circular features showing up on satellite images, could not be included as vegetation cover prevented this.

A further site on the Shotley Peninsula was surveyed with good results. One field showing several circular features, possibly evidence of occupation, thought to be Bronze Age in date and a second field was partially surveyed. This second area showed two large circular features, one of which has a parallel trackway leading to it. Two further possible ploughed out mounds were identified which may speculatively be barrows.

Field system ditches were also evident. There is further work to be done here.

In late autumn we met with Faye Minter and Alice de Leo of the SCCAS, to discuss how the group might be involved with their joint HLF Project with UCL, initially in 2026. This project, "Romans Unearthed" will look in more depth at some known Suffolk villas and their distribution should allow our members to participate at reasonable distances.

It was decided that we would be involved in all aspects when possible, in a similar way to our past involvement at Rendlesham.

(This has already begun, with a small geophys team surveying for a few days at Pakenham, in conjunction with UCL.)

The group continues to flourish, with over eighty members . Several have joined us this year already. A Whats App group has been set up for those who wish to use it and this has been very successful. It is used primarily for the use of a team working on a particular project ,to give directions, send apologies etc.

The group is set up each time a new project begins and the team has been established via email. Once completed the app is closed and another begun. All initial information re new projects , as well as general information continues to be communicated via email to all but especially for those who do not use apps.

As always, we are very grateful to the SIAH for their support. In 2025, a professional report on the faunal remains from Bulcamp were financed by the Institute. The results have helped with interpretation of this rather puzzling site. We always seek professional reports on our findings, which would not always be possible without a contribution .

Lynda Bradley April 2026