

**Research and
Archaeology:
a Framework for
the Eastern
Counties,
1. resource
assessment**

edited by J. Glazebrook

East Anglian Archaeology
Occasional Paper No. 3, 1997

Scole Archaeological Committee

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY
OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 3

Published by
The Scole Archaeological Committee for East Anglia
Castle Museum
Norwich NR1 3JU

Editor: Jenny Glazebrook

Scole Editorial Sub-committee:
David Buckley, County Archaeologist, Essex County Council
Keith Wade, County Archaeologist, Suffolk County Council
Peter Wade-Martins, County Field Archaeologist, Norfolk Museums Service
Stanley West

Set in Times Roman by Joan Daniells and Jenny Glazebrook using
® Ventura Publisher
Printed by Derry and Sons Ltd, Nottingham

© The Scole Archaeological Committee

ISBN 0 9521848 1 8

For details of other titles in this series, see back cover

This report is published with the aid of a grant from English Heritage

Cover illustration

Recovering finds from topsoil which has been 'ploughed' by machine.
Photo: Nigel MacBeth, *copyright Sutton Hoo Research Trust*

Contents

Contents	v	Roman, by Chris Going	
List of Plates	v	I. Introduction	35
List of Figures	vi	II. Fortifications and Towns	35
List of Contributors	vi	III. Roads	37
Introduction, by D. G. Buckley		IV. The Countryside	37
I. Introduction	1	V. The Later Roman Period	41
II. County and Regional Priorities	1	VI. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	42
III. English Heritage Lead	1	VII. Other topics	43
IV. Aims, Approach and Terminology	2	Acknowledgements	43
V. Procedure	2	Bibliography	43
VII. Document Review	4	Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Rural, by Keith Wade	
Acknowledgements	4	I. Introduction	47
Bibliography	4	II. Anglo-Saxon	47
Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, by Louise Austin		III. Medieval	52
I. Introduction	5	IV. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	54
II. Lower and Middle Palaeolithic: <i>c.</i> 500,000–40,000	5	V. Conclusion	55
III. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	7	Acknowledgements	55
Bibliography	8	Bibliography	55
IV. Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic: <i>c.</i> 40,000–6,000	9	Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Urban, by Brian Ayers	
V. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	10	I. Introduction	59
Bibliography	10	II. Demography	59
Neolithic and Bronze Age, by Nigel Brown and Peter Murphy		III. Social Organisation	59
I. Introduction	12	IV. Economy	61
II. Early Neolithic	12	V. Culture and Religion	63
III. Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	14	VI. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	63
IV. Middle Bronze Age	16	VII. Conclusion	64
V. Late Bronze Age	18	Bibliography	65
Acknowledgements	18	Post-Medieval and Later	
Bibliography	18	I. Introduction, by Jenny Glazebrook	67
Iron Age, by Stewart Bryant		II. Fortifications, by Paul Gilman	67
I. The Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Transition and the Early Iron Age (800–400/300BC)	23	III. Parks and Gardens 1540–1960, by Sarah Green	69
II. The Later Iron Age (400/300BC to AD50)	26	IV. The Archaeology of Industrialisation and Manufacture 1750–1960, by Shane Gould	73
III. Hillforts	29	Acknowledgements	79
IV. Linear Monuments	30	Bibliography	79
V. Environment and Economy, by Peter Murphy	30	Appendix: List of Consultants	81
Acknowledgements	31	Index, by Peter Gunn	82
Bibliography	31		

List of Plates

Plate I	Erosion at Mersea Island, Essex	7	Plate VII	Middle Saxon church at Brandon, Suffolk	57
Plate II	Howe Hill, Icklingham, Suffolk	15	Plate VIII	Excavation at Castle Mall, Norwich	64
Plate III	Enclosure at Barnham, Suffolk	29	Plate IX	Maltings at Mistley, Essex	75
Plate IV	Circular fort at Borough Fen, Cambs	30	Plate X	Bulbourne Canal Works and boat lift, Tring, Herts	77
Plate V	Cropmark of Roman villa, Norfolk	38			
Plate VI	Olive stones and pine-nut from a Late Roman well, Essex	42			

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Schematic approach to research framework	3	Fig. 7	Reconstruction of villa at Great Holts, Boreham, Essex	39
Fig. 2	Location map: Palaeolithic/Mesolithic	6	Fig. 8	Location map: A/S, medieval (rural)	46
Fig. 3	Location map: Neolithic/Bronze Age	13	Fig. 9	Reconstruction of medieval farm at Stebbingford, Felsted, Essex	53
Fig. 4	Reconstruction of Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex	17	Fig. 10	Location map: A/S, medieval (urban)	60
Fig. 5	Location map: Iron Age	24	Fig. 11	Prospect of Norwich, 1581	62
Fig. 6	Location map: Roman	36	Fig. 12	Location map: post-medieval	68

Contributors

Louise Austin, Libraries and Heritage
Cambridgeshire County Council

Brian Ayers, Principal Field Archaeologist
Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Nigel Brown, Archaeological Advisory Group
Essex County Council

Stewart Bryant, County Archaeologist
Hertfordshire County Council

David Buckley, County Archaeologist
Essex County Council

Paul Gilman, Archaeological Advisory Group
Essex County Council

Jenny Glazebrook, Managing Editor
East Anglian Archaeology

Chris Going, Archaeological Consultant

Sarah Green, Countryside Section
Essex County Council

Shane Gould, Archaeological Advisory Group
Essex County Council

Peter Murphy, Environmental Archaeologist
Centre for East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia

Keith Wade, County Archaeologist
Suffolk County Council

Introduction

by D. G. Buckley

....it was equally my conviction that research should proceed, not fortuitously, but on a rigidly selective scale of values. Those values necessarily change from age to age and mind to mind; but the prime point at issue is not their individual character but the necessity for their presence. (Wheeler 1955)

I. Introduction

The words of Sir Mortimer Wheeler express the well-established belief of archaeologists, that they should carry out survey and fieldwork within a defined research context. An early attempt to achieve this on a national scale was undertaken in the 1940s by the Council for British Archaeology in a wide-ranging statement of present achievement and future needs (Hawkes and Piggott 1948). This document was largely forgotten during the frantic archaeological rescue and salvage of the 1950s and 60s which only served to emphasise the need for direction to future work. The various period societies gave much thought to the issue during the 1970s and 80s producing working documents which addressed contemporary issues and attempted to define priorities for future research, as described by Olivier (1996, 16–17). The CBA also considered the issue further, producing a theme-based research statement in 1983 (Thomas).

While failing to meet fully the need these documents did provide some direction for the expanding profession during the 1970s and 80s. However, the publication of PPG 16 (1990), and subsequently PPG 15 (1994), has established new patterns of working and emphasised the need for clear research priorities at national, regional and local level. There has also been criticism about some of the approaches being developed for the implementation of PPG 16. Articles and letters during 1994 in *British Archaeological News* (Biddle 1994a; Carver 1994) and discussion at IFA conferences and elsewhere (Biddle 1994b; Barrett 1995; Pryor 1995; Carver 1996), raised these concerns in print and fuelled a debate about the need for archaeological research. Concurrently discussion regarding the changing nature of publication and research was taking place in the Anglian region. The editorial board of *East Anglian Archaeology* raised concern about the need for a statement of research priorities following circulation of *Guidelines for the publication of archaeological research in East Anglia* (Wade 1993). This was taken up by the County Archaeologists of the five Eastern Counties (Herts, Cambs, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex) who initiated the process which has led to this report. This coincided with an initiative from English Heritage seeking regional research frameworks (see below).

II. County and Regional Priorities

The 1970s and 80s saw the appearance of county council-based archaeological staff providing a fully integrated service which for many authorities included a field team.

In East Anglia, this applies to four of the five counties which have contributed to this report. In Hertfordshire an independent archaeological trust was established to carry out field work. In recent years a number of independent organisations have begun to work in the region; some are locally based, some not.

During this period, despite limitations in funding, these units endeavoured to direct their work with regard to national academic frameworks and locally identified research needs. Whilst not always formally defined in print, county level local strategies are implicit in the work of County Archaeologists. At both county and regional level, priorities for certain areas, periods or site types have been published. For example, the proceedings of a conference held in 1978 on the archaeology of Essex set out research priorities for the county (Buckley 1980), and the proceedings of a second conference held in 1993 (Bedwin 1996) have revised these priorities in the light of knowledge accumulated over the previous fifteen years. On a broader scale a report produced by the Scole Committee (1973) addressed research issues in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk and a later book for the same counties considered aspects of prehistoric archaeology (Barringer 1984). Articles in the county journals and various other publications provide additional information, while at a regional level, the *East Anglian Archaeology* monograph series now comprises eighty volumes. All periods and many aspects of the region's archaeology have been covered in the series, including a joint research paper surveying the barrows of the region (Lawson *et al.* 1981). More recently volume 50, *Flatlands and Wetlands: Current Themes in East Anglia*, published the papers from a conference held at Norwich. This specifically aimed to draw together the results of much of the work published in *East Anglian Archaeology* and to set out some of the current themes to work in East Anglia (Gardiner 1993).

These reports cumulatively have contributed substantially to the published archaeology of the region and provide much of the foundation upon which the state of knowledge and priorities for future research can be based. However, while the combined information from these various sources has proved to be of considerable value they are of variable quality, do not have a standardised format, and the nature of the topics covered and the geographical scope varies widely.

III. English Heritage Lead

English Heritage addressed the issue of national research needs with the publication of *Exploring Our Past* (1991a). This contained a statement of the achievements of the past decade of DoE/EH funding, and presented a strategy 'born of the experiences of the 1980s, for dealing with the problems and opportunities which will be encountered during the next decade'. Included within this was a broad framework of academic priorities at national level, aimed at assisting the process of effective targeting and

maximisation of limited resources. Cross-reference to the document has become a standard practice for any project research design produced in support of a grant bid to English Heritage over the past few years. The publication of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP II) also provided a standardised approach to the presentation of specific research projects (English Heritage 1991b) and gave emphasis to academic criteria underlying decision making (Andrews and Thomas 1995, 204–7). Whilst *Exploring Our Past* primarily sets out priorities at national level, it was recognised that there was also a strong argument for similarly defined policies at regional level related to, and working within, an appropriate national policy. It was this feeling which in March 1994 prompted the Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, Dr G J Wainwright, to send a letter to a wide range of relevant organisations and other interested parties including all County Archaeologists. This raised the concern of a perceived general lack of academic focus and content to some areas of work being carried out post-PPG 16. He suggested that a structure of national and regional policies would provide appropriate frameworks within which decisions could be taken on the protection, management and recording of the archaeological resource at local level and relate national strategies to those needs. This approach produced hundreds of responses detailing many individual initiatives, comparable to those mentioned above relating to the Eastern Counties, which were already available to guide future work (Olivier 1996). Also as a response most regions of England, including the Eastern Counties, increased their efforts to respond to the challenge and set out to produce appropriate regional syntheses.

IV. Aims, Approach and Terminology

The five Eastern Counties have had an established Regional co-ordination group for some twenty years which has met to discuss mutual issues of concern. This provided a natural forum to initiate discussions to address the question of a regional framework. In 1994 the specific aim of producing a regional research document for the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Hertfordshire was discussed. It was accepted that any regional research framework would have to address:

The need to be aware of earlier studies in order to understand what is commonplace and what is out of the ordinary

The need to define areas of ignorance and to suggest potentially productive lines of research.

Debate included the question of terminology and hence the scope of the papers to be produced. The agreed format was inspired by that outlined by Roger Thomas (1994) in a paper presented at the 1994 IFA Annual Conference. As preparation of this document was nearing completion the publication of *Frameworks for our Past* introduced a revised terminology (Olivier 1996, 5, fig.1) which has been adopted below.

A *research framework* comprises:

Resource assessment: the current state of knowledge and understanding.

Research agenda: gaps in knowledge, potential of resource, research topics.

Two further stages can be defined as:

Research strategy: a prioritised list of objectives.

Research project: a detailed proposal to further the research strategy.

The definition of the region, and its archaeological relevance for preparation of such a document was also considered. The group concluded that for ease of collation of data and application of the final document an East Anglian Region based on the arbitrary political boundaries was likely to be as valid as any other. The final issue for this preliminary discussion stage was that of approach, whether the papers should be thematic, based on geographical areas within the region or be presented chronologically. Again, whilst valid arguments could be made in favour of the first two approaches, the third, that of working under chronological headings, was agreed to be the most practical.

The agreed categories were:

Palaeolithic– Mesolithic

Neolithic – Bronze Age

Iron Age

Roman

Post Roman, Urban and Rural

Subsequently, an additional section for *Industrial Archaeology 1750–1960* was added. It was originally intended that the two post-Roman chapters would cover the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. However, following consultation it was decided to expand the Industrial chapter and attempt a wider post-medieval coverage and this may have led to some overlap. A separate section on environmental archaeology was also considered, but it was concluded that it would be preferable to incorporate environmental aspects under the appropriate period headings.

After lengthy discussions it was decided that *the period reviews should be presented as relatively brief assessments of the archaeological resource of the region. Accordingly the papers which follow are very condensed and make no pretence to provide full and detailed accounts of every aspect of each period. Rather they are intended to be read as summaries which introduce the reader to the available evidence, which can be further explored through the accompanying bibliographies.*

In adopting an approach which is both chronological and highly condensed it is recognised that the result may present some practical difficulties in consultation, such as the breaking up of information derived from the study and investigation of multi-period landscapes. This would be problematic anywhere but presents particular difficulty in a region such as East Anglia (Pryor 1995). However, it is hoped that most researchers, by using the condensed text in conjunction with the extensive bibliographies, will be able to overcome these difficulties.

V. Procedure

This document, setting out the regional resource assessment, is the result of the first stage in the sequence outlined above. In its preparation it went through several phases comprising:

A framework for each county under agreed period headings was prepared under the auspices of each County Archaeologist.

**SCHEMATIC APPROACH TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
FRAMEWORK IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES**

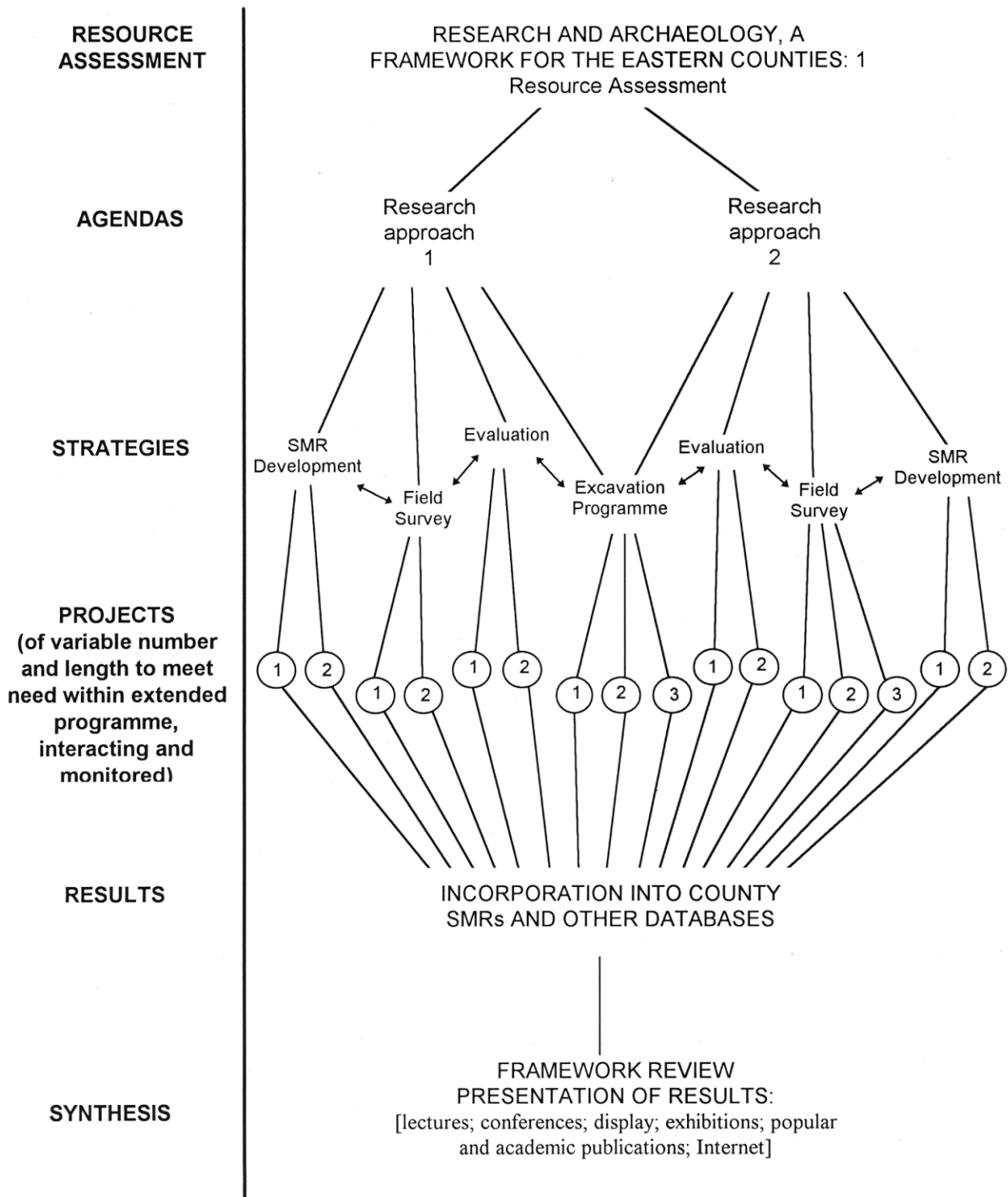


Figure 1 Schematic approach to archaeological research framework in the eastern counties

These were circulated to a wide range of informed individuals with a knowledge of the county and/or particular period and the papers revised in the light of comments received.

Nominated individuals took responsibility for preparing the regional period chapters, based on the county papers and a wide range of other sources.

The consultation exercise was repeated with these papers which were then revised in the light of comment received.

The revised contributions were brought together as a draft for this volume. The draft was reviewed collectively by the co-ordinating group and the consultation exercise repeated.

Following broad agreement on the content this volume was produced.

The task of producing the volume was never considered an easy one and it took a year longer than anticipated. However, the main reason for this was the wide ranging consultation undertaken. Given the scope of the exercise it is believed that the end product will be widely accepted and provide a firm foundation for the next stage, the establishment of a research agenda.

VI. Document Review

The present document, a resource assessment forming the first stage of a research framework for the eastern counties, is published by the Scole Committee, forming a link with their pioneering work of twenty-five years ago. Although it is the product of considerable effort and consultation it remains a statement in time. Review is considered essential and will be an ongoing part of the Regional Committee's timetable.

Acknowledgements

The main co-ordinators in this exercise have been the County Archaeologists from the five counties, namely Stewart Bryant (Herts), David Buckley (Essex), Alison Taylor (Cams), Keith Wade (Suffolk) and Peter Wade-Martins (Norfolk). They have received much input from appropriate members of their staff, in particular Brian Ayers (Norfolk) and Nigel Brown and Caroline Ingle (Essex). Caroline Ingle has also acted as secretary to the co-ordinating Committee. The various chapters were prepared and edited by archaeological specialists in the region comprising Louise Austin, Nigel Brown, Stewart Bryant, Chris Going, Keith Wade, Brian Ayers and Shane Gould. The environmental input was provided by Peter Murphy, who is most grateful to Umberto Albarella, Charly French and Patricia Wiltshire for their comments on an earlier draft. Valuable contributions and comment were received from Adrian Olivier, Philip Walker, Deborah Priddy (English Heritage); Peter Topping (RCHME), and Jenny Glazebrook (EAA managing editor). Beyond this many people have been involved in the consultation exercise (see appendix). Thanks are given to them all for their time and input of their specialist knowledge.

Bibliography

- Andrews, G. and Thomas, R., 1995 'The management of archaeological projects: theory and practice in the UK', in Cooper, M., Firth, A., Carmen, J. and Wheatley, D. (eds) *Managing Archaeology*, 189–207
- Barrett, J.C., 1995 *Some challenges in Contemporary Archaeology*, Archaeology in Britain Conference 1995, Oxbow Lecture 2
- Barringer, C. (ed), 1984 *Aspects of East Anglian Prehistory*, (Norwich, Geo Books)
- Bedwin, O. (ed), 1996 *The Archaeology of Essex: Proceedings of the 1993 Writtle Conference*
- Biddle, M., 1994a 'Challenging the normal presumption', *Brit. Archaeol. News* March 1994, 9
- Biddle, M., 1994b *What Future for British Archaeology?*, Archaeology in Britain Conference 1994, Oxbow Lecture 1
- Buckley, D.G. (ed), 1980 *Archaeology in Essex to AD 1500*, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 34
- Carver, M., 1994 'Putting research back in the driving seat', *Brit. Archaeol. News* May 1994, 9
- Carver, M., 1996 'On Archaeological Value', *Antiquity* 70(267), 45–56
- Department of the Environment, 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (HMSO)
- Department of the Environment, 1994 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: 'Planning and the Historic Environment'* (HMSO)
- English Heritage, 1991a *Exploring Our Past: Strategies for the Archaeology of England*
- English Heritage, 1991b *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (MAP II)
- Gardiner, J. (ed.), 1993 *Flatlands and Wetlands: Current Themes in East Anglian Archaeology*, E. Anglian Archaeol. 50
- Hawkes, C. and Piggott, S., 1948 *A Survey and Policy of Field Research in the Archaeology of Great Britain: I Prehistory and Early Historic Ages to the Seventh Century AD*, (Counc. Brit. Archaeol.)
- Lawson, A., Martin, E. and Priddy, D., 1981 *The Barrows of East Anglia*, E. Anglian Archaeol. 12
- Olivier, A., 1996 *Frameworks for Our Past* (English Heritage)
- Prehistoric Society, 1984 *Prehistory, Priorities and Society: The Way Forward*
- Pryor, F. 1995 'Management objectives: context or chaos?' in Cooper, M., Firth, A., Carmen, J. and Wheatley, D. (eds) *Managing Archaeology*, 224–233
- Scole Committee, 1973 *The problems and future of East Anglian archaeology*, (Report of the Scole Committee 1973)
- Thomas, C. (ed.), 1983 *Research Objectives in British Archaeology*, (Counc. Brit. Archaeol.)
- Thomas, R., 1994 *Where next?* (Unpublished paper presented at the IFA 1994 Annual Conference, Bradford)
- Wade, K., 1993 *Guidelines for the Publication of Archaeological Research in East Anglia*, (Scole Editorial Committee paper)
- Wheeler, M., 1955 *Still Digging: Interleaves from an Antiquary's Notebook*