

## Crews commended for rescue of cattle

Three Norfolk fire crews have been commended by the RSPCA for rescuing cattle in arduous conditions after a trailer overturned.

The 16 large cattle were trapped in the transporter vehicle after the accident in June at Diddlington, near Methwold.

Firefighters from Methwold were first on the scene and were soon joined by a crew from Swaffham and the emergency tender from King's Lynn with firefighters from Blue Watch.

They spent two-and-a-half hours freeing the animals and had to use a variety of rescue equipment. Due to the heat they used a large fan to blow cool air over the animals and sprayed water over them.

Thirteen cattle were released alive but three died.

John Atter, regional manager for the RSPCA, said: "The fact that only three of the 16 cattle did not survive is a testament to the dedication of the crews, and the unstinting efforts they made during this successful rescue."

## DURRANTS

Collective Sale of Land by Informal Tender

Closing Date Wednesday 6th September at 12pm midday

KIRBY CANE - on behalf of Mr & Mrs D Arterton:

1 - 10.77Ha (26.6 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £65,000 to £70,000

2 - 1.56Ha (3.85 Acres) of Arable and Grassland - Guide Price £15,000 to £20,000

GELDESTON - on behalf of Mr & Mrs G Reynolds:

3 - 2.94Ha (7.26 Acres) of Grassland - Guide Price £25,000 to £35,000

4 - 2.22Ha (5.49 Acres) of Grassland - Guide Price £20,000 to £30,000

ALDEBY - on behalf of Mrs Manthorpe:

5 - 1.35Ha (3.34 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £10,000 to £20,000

6 - 1.69Ha (4.18 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £15,000 to £25,000

7 - 1.82Ha (4.50 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £15,000 to £25,000

ALLBURGH - on behalf of Executors of Mrs JV Miles Deceased:

LOT 8 - 3.61Ha (7.81 Acres) of Woodland and Marsh

Guide Price £15,000 to £20,000

TOPCROFT - on behalf of MR M C Moore:

8 - 2.43Ha (5.98 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £20,000 to £30,000

9 - 2.83Ha (7.00 Acres) of Arable Land - Guide Price £25,000 to £35,000

Land to Let by Informal Offer

Closing Date Wednesday 13th September at 12pm midday

On behalf of Kirby Cane Charity Trustees

and D.H. & G.E. Danby and Mrs I Brown:

10.6Ha (11.76 Acres) of Arable Land at Church Road, Kirby Cane,

South Norfolk in 2 Lots:

LOT 1 - 2.70Ha (6.67 Acres) and LOT 2 - 2.06Ha (5.09 Acres)

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Further information by request



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TRACKER: Malcolm Weale with the radar equipment he used to find the Mosquito parts near RAF Coltishall.

# Buried aircraft bits are found by radar

By CELIA WIGG

The remains of a Mosquito aircraft and other wartime artefacts have been discovered in a farm field on the perimeter of a Norfolk air base.

Stories of vast dump sites scattered around RAF Coltishall had been doing the rounds for many years.

Eyewitnesses remembered vehicles, aircraft parts and Merlin engines being buried there after the war - a practice which was carried out at bases across the country in order to dispose of surplus equipment.

In 2000, during the 60th anniversary of RAF Coltishall, a number of items were recovered when a small trench was dug close to the firing range. And when it was announced the base would close in November 2006 it sparked fresh interest in the dumps.

A group of civilians, led by Malcolm Weale, of East Harling firm Geofizz, and aviation enthusiast Dennis Morris, of North Walsham, has now unearthed substantial finds in a farm field located at the end of a wartime runway.

The discoveries include the main spar, undercarriage legs and engine parts from a Mosquito, as well as crockery, glass bottles, footwear and documents.

Local businessman Matthew Williams sponsored a digger to enable the team to make the initial finds, and they now plan to work on other sites in and around Coltishall.

Mr Weale said: "What happened was the RAF took the Merlin engines out of the planes, took them away, and then set fire to the aircraft and buried them. We are working in the general area and looking at other sites, and what we really hope is that the Mosquito could be restored, depending on whether we find enough parts."

Mr Weale was previously featured in the EDP when he used ground-penetrating radar to uncover the wreckage of a Hurricane in London for a Channel 4 documentary.

Mick Jennings, RAF Coltishall



EXCAVATED: Pictured top is a part from a Mosquito cockpit, and above, the excavator at work and a landing light from a plane.

communications officer/historian, said some of the artefacts that came to light in the dig will go on display at the memorial room being created at the old Neatishead radar station that opens to the public in September.

One of the most interesting finds was an undamaged china plate made by AJ Wilkinson Ltd in 1952 and marked EHR, which may have been one of the first plates issued to the RAF bearing the marking of Queen Elizabeth, who became queen in February that year.

Mr Jennings said: "It's something that you are aware of as a historian, through research over 30 years, that these dumps were around. It's always

nice when somebody is successful at finding these things.

"The Mosquito was nicknamed the 'wooden wonder' as metal was in short supply and the majority was made of wood."

The tenant farmer on whose land the aircraft was buried remembers the work being carried out by teams of RAF personnel on the site.

"He specifically recalls that at least two large crates were buried in the area. It has been said that complete Merlin engines in their crates are buried around RAF Coltishall - what he witnessed could be the same," added Mr Jennings.