Youngsters dig deep to aim higher

The past of a Suffolk village came under the spotlight yesterday with help from a team of teenagers. Saxon and medieval pottery were found underneath gardens in Chediston, near Halesworth, as part of an Aim Higher scheme to encourage teenagers into university. The finds will form part of a University of Cambridge research project into how settlements are formed and change, based on digs in 30 villages across East Anglia. Students from Sir John Leman High in Beccles, Kirkley High and Benjamin Britten highs in Lowestoft and Thurleston High in Ipswich took part. They were helped by experts including Carenza Lewis, of Time Team fame, the director of the higher education field academy at the University of Cambridge.

She said: “It is not just for the children, it is doing original research for the university. We put their names on the published report. They are intelligent young people and it is giving them a chance to contribute something while also learning life skills.”

The teenagers have spent two days in the field and will spend a day in Cambridge in July learning about university life. Villagers will also benefit by knowing more about the history of their village.