

[The writer of the above note has since had an opportunity of examining bricks recently excavated from the 14th-century North Wall of Kingston-upon-Hull and both in dimensions and body-texture, they appear to be closely similar to the Wingfield bricks, with which they have been directly compared.

Also, similar bricks have been found at Butley Priory and there were de la Pole links with Butley, where Michael de la Pole lies buried.]

L. S. HARLEY

Two Late Medieval Pipe-Drains from Thetford Priory. Two pipe-drains were discovered and lifted during excavation and consolidation work at Thetford Priory by the Office of Works, now Department of the Environment. Twenty-nine sections of drain-pipe survive in the store of architectural and archaeological material on site, and these can be identified as the remains of two separate drains.⁶ Dated earthenware pipes are almost unknown in medieval contexts, and the significance of these from Thetford is that they can be dated architecturally by association with dated buildings.⁷

The pipe sections are all of the same earthenware, a hard, finely sanded fabric, usually orange-brown in colour, although some examples have been reduced to a dull grey. There are splashes of a yellow-green or brown glaze on some of the pipes, but none were glazed intentionally. The pipes had remained unwashed in the site store, which had fortunately preserved some evidence of laying. They had been buried in a light, sandy, grey soil, not unlike the present topsoil on the site. There had been no attempt to seal the junctions of separate pipes, and the suggestion that they served as drains is supported by the fact that a heavy deposit of silt remains on the inside surface of each pipe. A drain of similar pipes remains *in situ* below the infirmary block, partly laid in a stone-built culvert, and still serves to drain away surface water.

The first type of pipe (Fig. 26, 1 and 1a) was a tapered, wheel-thrown tube, rather irregular in shape. The inside showed marked throwing-rings, although the outside was fairly smooth. Incised on the ends of each pipe were assembly marks. On one pipe, the marks were three vertical slashes and a cross, whilst the other surviving section of pipe bore a corresponding cross and a 'D'-shaped mark. The two sections were obviously designed to fit together, the join being marked by the two crosses. The pipes were 11½ and 12½ ins

⁶ Listed as TP P35 in the catalogue of finds from the site held by the Department of the Environment Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments.

⁷ Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer has brought to my attention a series of pipes from Glenluce Abbey, similar to types 2 and 3 at Thetford, but with a complex series of assembly marks, and which are late medieval in date. For details of these pipes see: S. H. Cruden, *Trans. Dumfries. & Galloway Nat. Hist. & Antiq. Soc.* xxix, pp. 177-194.

long respectively. The remaining 27 drain-pipes (Fig. 26, 2 and 3) were also wheel-made, tubular objects. The pipes were tapered, some bulging slightly in the middle, and were shouldered at the narrow end to aid locking into the next pipe in the series. There were no assembly marks on these pipes. There were two sizes of pipe, one averaging $13\frac{1}{2}$ ins in length, and a shorter version, approximately $9\frac{1}{4}$ ins long, but both sizes were designed to fit together and were part of the same pipe-drain.

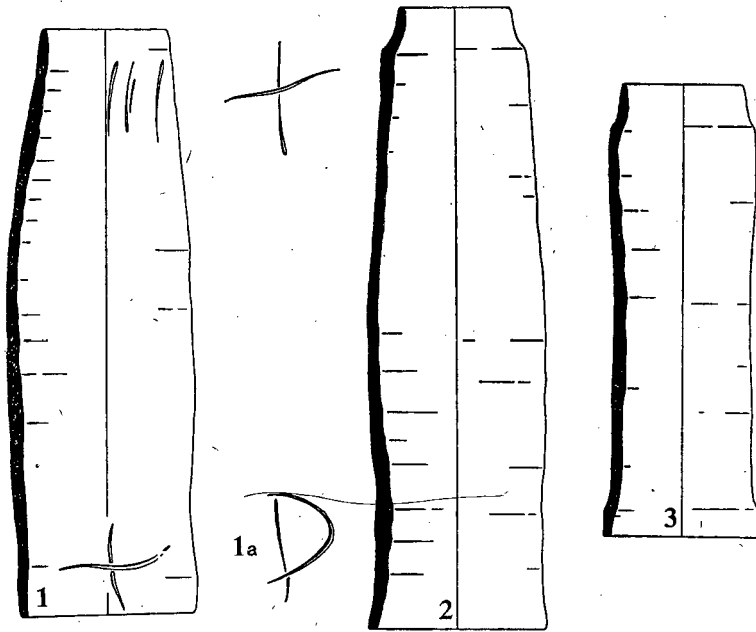


FIG. 26.—Late Medieval Pipe-Drains from Thetford Priory. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

The discovery of the two pipe-drains is not recorded in the excavation finds lists,⁸ which are particularly complete for this site, but it would seem that one pipe was discovered between 1934 and 1938,⁹ whilst the other was discovered in 1951 and 1952.¹⁰ The first section of drain was found outside the south presbytery aisle, associated with a piscina drain, whilst the second drain was found during excavation of the infirmary, running through an opening in

⁸ Held by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments.

⁹ Information from Mr. A. Snowdon who was present at the discovery.

¹⁰ Information from Mr. W. L. Shickle, chargehand.

the south wall of the building. The two marked sections of pipe were removed from the piscina drain, the remaining 27 sections coming from the infirmary.

It is interesting to note that the pipes can be dated fairly closely. Type 1, belongs to the inserted piscina in the wall of the south presbytery aisle, which is dateable to the period 1400 to 1475 architecturally.¹¹ However, a close examination of the piscina-base, all that now remains, shows that it originally drained into a soak-away within the wall foundations. This must have proved unsatisfactory, for a hole was cut through the wall behind the piscina, and a lead pipe inserted, which led in turn to the pipe-drain. This modification which must date the pipes seems to have taken place towards the middle of the 15th century, after there had been some erosion of the original drain. The date of types 2 and 3 also falls in the 15th century, at a time when the infirmary was rebuilt, and an opening was provided in the south wall of the range to let the pipe out. Because of the provision of an outlet for the drain, it would seem reasonable to assume that the drain was provided at the time when the building was being rebuilt, and almost certainly at an early stage in that programme. The similar drain that still flows below the infirmary must also be of this date, as the stone culvert in which it runs is incorporated in the footings of the range. The date of the rebuilding of the infirmary should fall in the middle of the 15th century¹² on the evidence of surviving detail, though heavy post-dissolution robbing of this part of the site makes it difficult to give a close date for the rebuilding.

GLYN COPPACK

A Portuguese Jar from Lakenheath. The vessel published in this note is part of a collection of miscellaneous antiquities preserved by Ebernezer Gathercole of the parish of Lakenheath in the first half of this century. Little is known of the circumstances of its discovery but it would appear to be a local find and has been so accepted by the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge (accession no. Z15159).¹³ The vessel is an 'onion-shaped' jar in a pink, micaceous ware, with smoothed surfaces, fired internally pink and externally to a buff/brown. It has a narrow neck below a thickened rim, external diameter 8 cm, internal diameter 6 cm. Below the neck constriction the vessel broadens into a generally bulbous shape

¹¹ F. J. E. Raby and P. K. Baillie Reynolds, *Thetford Priory* (H.M.S.O. 1970), p. 6 and plan.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 9, and observations by the writer on site.

¹³ I am grateful to the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology for facilities at the museum and for permission to publish the vessel. Mr. P. Gathercole, the museum's curator, was kind enough to furnish details of his late relative's collection.