

found at Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.¹⁰ Such an explanation, however, seems to me less likely in the present instance than the alternative of a proud horse-owner honouring his mount. In this case the stone should be compared with another 3rd-century signet, from Dover, showing a racehorse called Heracleides.¹¹

MARTIN HENIG.

Medieval and later finds from near Bildeston Church. Early in 1974 the field previously known as Horse Meadow to the west of St. Mary Magdalene's Church was levelled and ploughed for the first time in living memory. It is noted as a meadow on the 1839 Tithe Map. During these operations various walls and foundations were noticed by the manager of Church Farm and after the winter harrowing the writer visited the site in December and collected some 100 sherds and clay pipe fragments from spreads of rubble and ashy deposits lying on the surface (finds since deposited in Ipswich Museum). Pieces of bone and shell were also noted but not kept. About 80% of this material seems to be medieval in date and the rest probably 16th and 17th century with two or three sherds, and a clay pipe, of 18th-century date. A selection is illustrated (Fig. 78) and described below. Much further pottery of similar type together with a silver inlaid bronze knife handle has subsequently been found by Mrs. S. Brown of Church Farm who lives in the new house built on the site. The site lies on the 200 ft. contour ridge about half a mile from Bildeston village and the Ordnance Survey marks it as the site of Bildeston Hall (TL 984492). An aerial photograph by Prof. St. Joseph (PQ9) shows various banks and ditches, but no readily discernible house platforms, with an impressive semi-circular moat feature. Most of the material came from the area of this feature which seems to correspond to the site marked as "Hall" on the map.

The Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery of East Anglia is well-known and defined but the later medieval fabrics are still imperfectly understood with few well-dated groups published from which parallels for this material may be drawn. J. G. Hurst in his Barn Road, Norwich report (*Nor. Arch.*, xxxiii, 1963) described two types—early medieval and medieval—and the moated site at Brome, a site some 20 miles to the north-east of Bildeston (S. E. West, *Jour. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, xxxiii, 1970), produced pottery from two successive periods which seemed to fit Hurst's two categories.

Of the material collected most seems to fit the 13th-century category, with sharply moulded, squared and flattened rims. Only

¹⁰ Henig, *op. cit.*, no. 362. pl. xxxv.

¹¹ *Arch. Jour.*, xxi (1864), pp. 263f. Henig, *op. cit.*, no. 585.

nos. 2 and 3, which show a more irregular profile of the rim, may date slightly earlier. No. 1 seems out of its own and significantly earlier and is probably Roman. The two glazed jug sherds (nos. 15 and 16) would fit a late 13th- or 14th-century date. Also collected

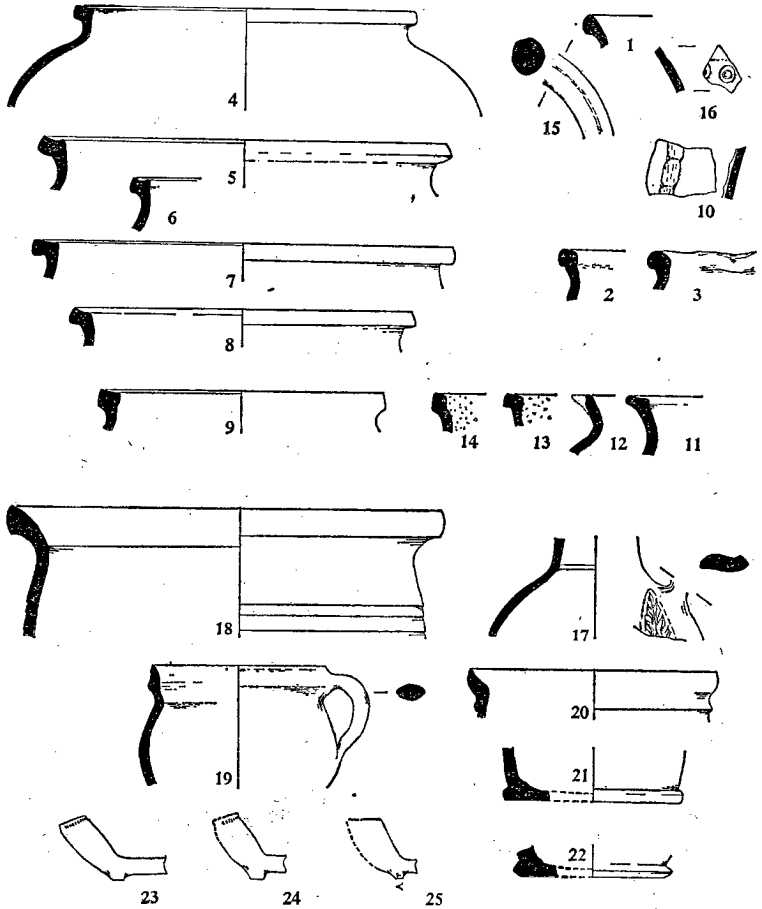


FIG. 78.—Finds from near Bildeston Church. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

were a small number of 16th- and 17th-century sherds and clay pipes (nos. 17-25). Although not in such quantity as the rest of material, the fragments are relatively large and unabraded and seem to be occupation debris rather than the result of rubbish spreading on fields.

Medieval pottery

1. Small, everted rim sherd in fine, sandy, light-grey fabric with even, dark-grey surfaces.
2. Small rim sherd in coarse, sandy light-grey fabric with darker inner surface and patchy oxidised red-brown outer surface. The diameter could not be determined but vessel is more upright than the bulging squat cooking pots such as no. 4.
3. Small rim sherd similar to no. 2 but with finer texture and slight thumbing of rim.
4. Two joining sherds forming shoulder and rim of cooking pot in a hard, light-grey, coarse, sandy fabric. Patches of sooting show on outer surface. These two sherds were the only ones, of those collected, which were found to join.
5. Rim sherd of cooking pot with large diameter in coarse, sandy buff-brown fabric with dark-grey core in rim section. This lighter surface colour is probably the result of a greater oxidation of this vessel in the kiln.
6. Rim sherd, diameter not determined, in coarse, sandy dark-grey fabric with heavily oxidised, red-brown, outer and inner surfaces.
7. Rim sherd of cooking pot with large diameter in sandy, grey fabric with buff-brown surfaces. Slight fire blackening on outer side of rim.
8. Rim sherd in hard, coarse, sandy dark-grey fabric with red-brown, oxidised, outer surface.
9. Rim sherd of cooking pot in hard, sandy, grey fabric with brownish surfaces.
10. Body sherd of cooking pot, fabric similar to no. 6, but fire blackened on outer surface; also shows applied, thumbbed strip.
11. Small rim sherd of flaring neck cooking pot in sandy, light-grey fabric with buff-brown surfaces.
12. Rim sherd slightly thinner but similar to no. 11.
13. Rim sherd in smooth, sandy, dark-grey fabric, with slight shell filling. Fire blackened on outer surface.
14. Small rim sherd of similar type but with greater shell content. Vessel form is difficult to determine but may be large wide-necked jug.
15. Part of jug handle in sandy, dark grey fabric with brown surface and patches of olive-green glaze.
16. Body sherd from jug in fine, soft brick-red fabric with slight mica content and a deep olive-green glaze over outer surface. This sherd shows two, adjacent ring and dot impressions. Heddingham ware.

Post-medieval pottery

17. Upper part of body of narrow necked mug in dark grey stoneware, milky-white internal glaze and mottled brown glazing over outer surface. Part of stamped acanthus leaf decoration remains on shoulder near handle. The sherd is from the handle side of a 16th-century German stoneware drinking mug. J. G. Hurst has recently discussed these imports (*Arch. Aeliana*, 1974) and has suggested that this type with alternate moulded acanthus leaves and medallions dates to c. 1525-1575. Without knowing the form of the central band of decoration or whether the vessel had a face mask applied to the front, it is difficult to be certain but a date in the second half of the 16th century would seem appropriate and, together with the mottled glazing, should indicate a product of the Frechen kilns.
18. Rim from very large, unglazed storage jar in fine, sandy, bright brick-red fabric with dark surfaces and girth grooves round body.
19. Rim and handle from small bowl, fabric as before, with glaze over lower part of inner surface.
20. Sherd from rim of similar vessel, in the same fabric, but with more pronounced lid-seating in rim. These last three could be late 16th or 17th century.
- 21 and 22. Two sherds from bases of dark-glazed, sandy red-ware tygs. Generally these vessels are thought to be 17th century.
- 23-25. Many clay pipe fragments were found, mostly representing types dated to the 17th century (nos. 23 and 24) but with one 18th-century (no. 25). There was only one bowl of this last type and it may represent a later stray rather than 18th-century occupation material.

S. NELSON

'The Chilton Bulge'—*The early mapping of Suffolk hundreds*. Most of the early printed maps of English counties depict the boundaries of hundreds and wapentakes. These governmental areas dating from Anglo-Saxon times still had administrative, fiscal and tenurial uses in the 16th and 17th centuries, though their courts had long since lost significance beside those of local justices and itinerant judges.¹² At the time of the Norman Conquest, Suffolk had 25 hundreds, some of which were reckoned as twice, $1\frac{1}{2}$ or half the normal taxable capacity. One new half-hundred was subsequently created at Exning, but by the end of the Middle Ages amalgamations had reduced the number to 21.¹³

¹² Helen M. Jewell, *English local administration in the Middle Ages* (1972), Ch. 5, especially pp. 131-3. The wapentake is the equivalent of the hundred in the north of England.

¹³ *Victoria County History of Suffolk*, I, pp. 357-60; *Suffolk in 1524* (Suffolk Green Books, No. X).