

EXCAVATIONS ON MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL SITES AT PRIORY FARM, PRESTON ST MARY

by SUE ANDERSON, STUART BOULTER, JOHN FAIRCLOUGH,
EDWARD MARTIN, MARK SOMMERS *and* ADRIAN THORPE

with contributions by Julie Curl, Jacqui Huntley *and* Cathy Tester

INTRODUCTION

PRIORY FARM HAS a very rich heritage of archaeological sites and finds dating from the Neolithic onwards. The knowledge of this is in large part due to the work of its former owner, Adrian Thorpe, who undertook a study of the historic landscape of his farm and instigated several excavations.¹ A Roman site on the farm was investigated by the television programme *Time Team* in 1995.² This report now brings together accounts of the excavations and surveys which were carried out on medieval and post-medieval sites (PSM 002 and 025) to the east of the farm buildings and another medieval site (PSM 007) to the west of them.

Site PSM 007 was started in 1992 and excavations by members of the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group (SAFG) continued during the summers of most of the following years up to 2003. Several trenches were excavated in an area which had been producing large quantities of medieval pottery during agricultural activity. Excavation revealed a series of ditches, a large rubbish pit, a water hole and an oven. The earliest ditch, which was on a different alignment to other features, was probably of twelfth century date, but most of the other features appeared to have been in use in the thirteenth century and abandoned in the early to middle fourteenth century.

Sites PSM 002 and 025 were investigated in 1998 as part of the celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History (SIAH), as a joint project by the SAFG and Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS), funded by the SIAH. In 2003 funding was obtained from the Local Heritage Initiative to continue this work. This also allowed for a small-scale excavation by the Young Archaeologists Club at PSM 007. PSM 025 is the site of a known eighteenth/nineteenth-century smock mill and PSM 002 is a rectangular earthwork forming part of a complex. The trench excavated across the rectangular earthwork in 1998 revealed a circular structure that became the main target of the second phase of excavation carried out in the summer of 2003. This structure has been interpreted as the base of a medieval windmill. A central pit probably held the wooden supporting post of the mill and a shallow depression concentric to the pit was thought to represent a track around which the tail-pole would be walked to turn the mill into the wind. Shallow post-holes around the edge of the central pit were interpreted as the settings for revetting at the base of the mound encasing the central post. Artefactual evidence, principally ceramics, suggested that the mill dated to the late twelfth or thirteenth century.

Topography and geology

Priory Farm lies about half a mile to the west of Preston St Mary church and its associated street village and 1.5 miles to the east of the town of Lavenham (Fig. 28). The farm buildings lie on the plateau that forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Brett to the east and a tributary of the same river to the west. The drift geology comprises glaciogenic boulder clays of the Lowestoft Till Formation. The ground level falls away relatively gently to the east

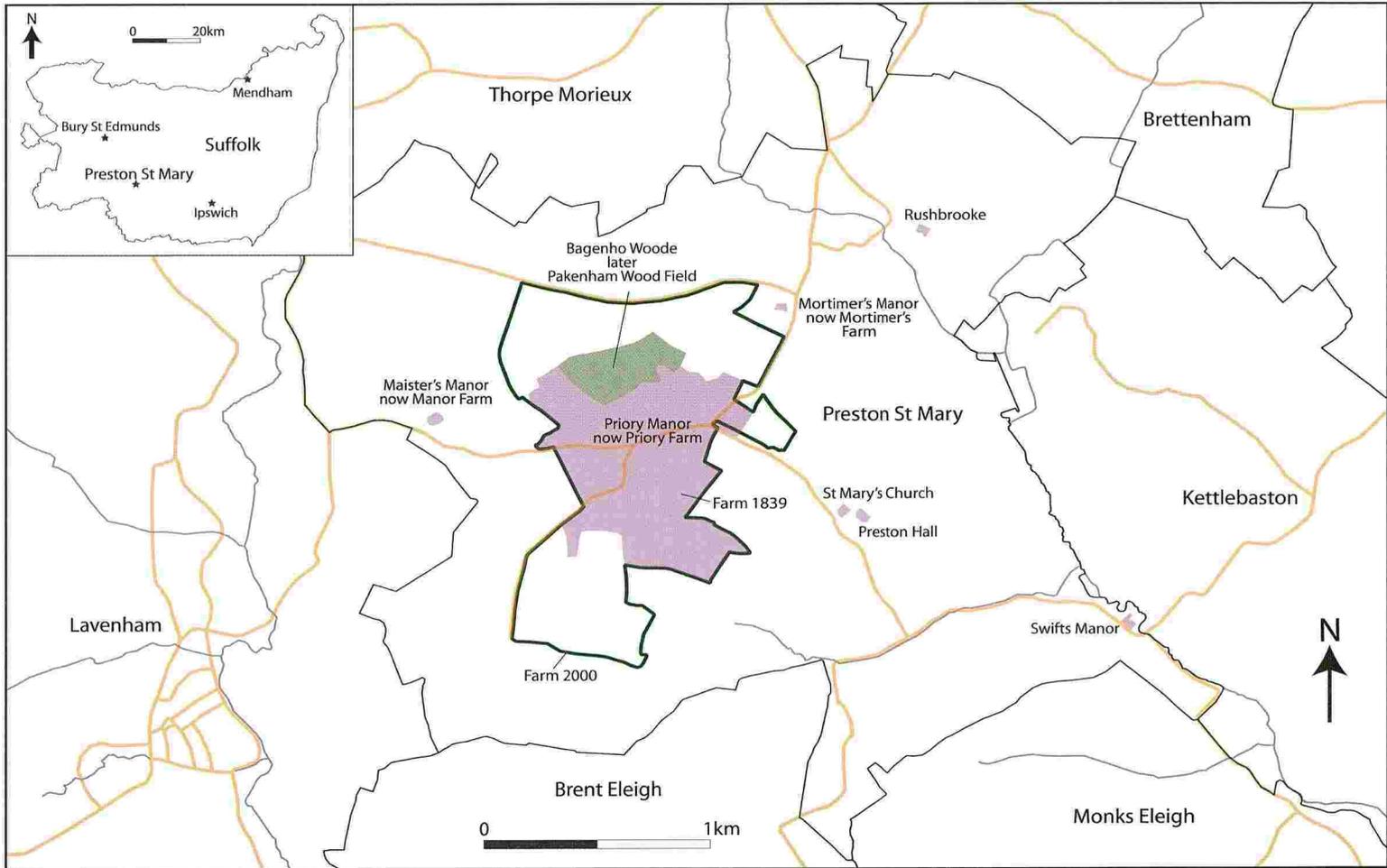


FIG. 28 – Map of Priory Farm, Preston St Mary, showing its present extent (black line) and its extent in 1839 (purple). Roads shown in brown.

and west from a maximum of 83.2m OD at a point immediately west of the main farm buildings, making it one of the highest points in the village.

Historical background (Edward Martin)

The name of the farm commemorates an historical connection with the priory of the Holy Trinity (also called Christ Church) in Ipswich, a house of Augustinian Canons which stood on the site of the present Christchurch Mansion. The lands in Preston belonging to that priory formed a manor that was centred on this farm, which in 1839 contained 145 acres. Five manors in Preston (Preston Hall or Church Hall, Maister's, Mortimer's, Priory and Swift's) are listed by W.A. Copinger in his *Manors of Suffolk*³ but his account of them is confused and often clearly wrong, so a brief outline of the evolution of the manors and the connection with Holy Trinity is offered here.

Domesday Book records two estates in *Presetuna*: one, containing three carucates and a church, belonged to Bury St Edmunds Abbey; the other, containing two carucates, belonged to Roger of Poitou.⁴ Roger's large multi-county estates were later collectively known as the Honor of Lancaster and, through its connection with that honor, it is clear that Roger's land in Preston became Mortimer's Manor. The connection with the church points to Preston Hall, the main manor in the parish, as the centre of the larger Bury Abbey estate.

The Bury Abbey estate in Preston was held by Arnulf Silvaticus, one of the 'men of Abbot Baldwin' into the 1090s, but was afterwards subinfeudated to the family of Frodo, the brother of Abbot Baldwin.⁵ They held it as a part of a group of lands (the others being Loddon and Broome in Norfolk, Mendham and Livermere) for the service of four knights. By 1166 these four knights' fees were in the possession of Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford, as a tenant of the Honor of St Edmund.⁶ The de Veres further subinfeudated the four fees to Thomas de Mendham, who was holding them in 1200. Thomas was also the constable of one of the four sections into which the forty knights of Bury Abbey were divided.⁷ He died *c.* 1208 and was succeeded by Nicholas de Mendham. Nicholas died *c.* 1220 and was succeeded by his nephews and niece: William de Walsham, Nicholas son of Swift, and Amice/Avice de Tikebron.⁸ William's portion was probably Preston Hall and lands in Mendham that became Walsham Hall. Nicholas's portion in Preston became Swift's Manor and this is recorded as being held by the service of two-thirds of a knight's fee, held of the de Veres (as in the inquisition post mortem of John de Vere, 1360). By 1342 the de Veres' life tenant at Preston was William de la Chaumbre.⁹

An additional landholding in Preston appears not to be evidenced by the Domesday record. Thirteenth-century records refer to half a knight's fee held in chief by the de Kentwell family as part of their barony of Kentwell.¹⁰ The Kentwells were the descendants of Frodo, the brother of Abbot Baldwin. As already noted, his family had been sub-tenants of the abbey in Preston before 1166, however this half fee belonged to the lands that they held directly from the king. In 1086 Frodo held an estate in the neighbouring parish of Lavenham¹¹ and it must be presumed that this half fee represents part of that holding. The Preston land, said to be one carucate, was given, before 1274–75, by Gilbert de Kentwell to the preceptory at Battisford of the Knights of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem (the Hospitallers).¹² The grantor was probably Gilbert II de Kentwell, who succeeded his father in 1206 and died in 1225 (his grandfather, Gilbert I, lived in the early twelfth century). The gifted lands formed the manor of Maister's (named from the 'master' of the order) centred on Manor Farm, which lies adjacent to the Preston/Lavenham parish boundary.

Preston's connections with Holy Trinity Priory in Ipswich go back before 1204, when a confirmation of gifts to that house listed Thomas de Mendham's gift of the church of Preston; Alan de Arches's gift of tithes from the land of Calli in Preston; and William de Prestune's gift

of lands (unspecified) in Preston.¹³ Thomas de Mendham has been identified above as the tenant of the main manor in Preston. Alan de Arches appears to have been associated with lands in Rushbrook, a semi-detached part of Preston, lying on the east side of the River Brett and in a different hundred (Arnulf held 1 carucate and 30 acres in *Resebroch* in 1086 and this is probably the ‘hide’ mentioned *c.* 1190–91.¹⁴ A William de Prestune occurs *c.* 1190–91 as owing 8d. in sheriff’s aid in Preston, as opposed to the 12d. owed by Thomas de Prestone (presumably another name for Thomas de Mendham).¹⁵ By implication, William was holding a lesser share of the Bury Abbey estate in Preston.

These gifts are not the full origin of the Priory Manor, for in 1284–87 it is recorded that Holy Trinity held a tenement of 80 acres in Preston that had been John de Ryvers’s and that this was held of Bury Abbey.¹⁶ The only other known record associating John with Preston dates from 1239–40 and is an acquisitive property transaction with the prior of the Hospitallers.¹⁷ This transaction was made jointly with his wife Matilda, and it is just possible that John was the second husband of the Matilda who was the wife of William de Walsham (William is last recorded in 1238–39). However, there is a problem in identifying the ex-Hospitaller lands as those given to Holy Trinity because, as explained above, the Hospitaller lands in Preston were not held from Bury Abbey. It may be that John and Matilda took on a life tenancy of Maister’s Manor, which lies immediately to the west of the Priory Manor lands, but that they also held or acquired some of the adjoining Bury Abbey land, which subsequently passed to Holy Trinity.¹⁸

A further addition to Holy Trinity’s estate came in 1335–36, when William de Kentford, vicar of Rushmere St Andrew, obtained a licence to grant to them in mortmain a messuage, 9 acres of land and 2½ acres of pasture in Preston.¹⁹ It was perhaps for all these cumulative gifts that in 1360 the Holy Trinity Priory owed the service of ‘two parts and a tenth part of a knight’s fee’ to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford for their lands in Preston (and he in turn held of Bury Abbey, as is specified in the inquisition post mortem of John’s ancestor, Hugh de Vere, in 1263).

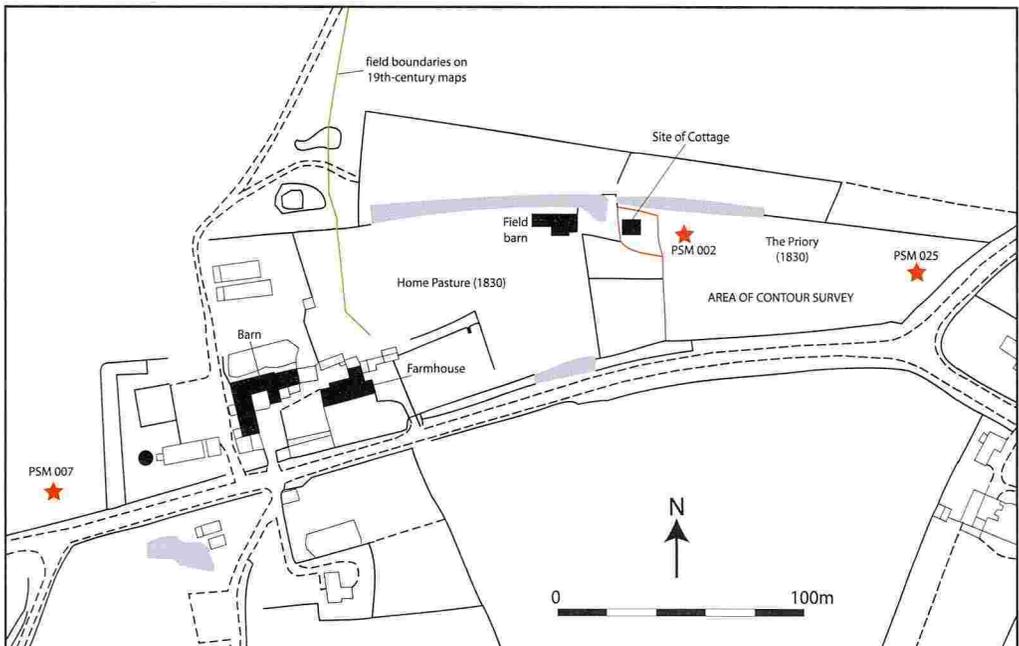


FIG. 29 – Locations of the PSM 002, 007 and 025 excavations, the contour survey, and field names from 1830.

Holy Trinity Priory was suppressed in 1537, and in 1543 this manor was granted to Andrew Judde, Alderman of London, who resold it the same year to Robert Spring of Lavenham (the second son of Thomas Spring ‘the Rich Clothier’). In 1580 the Springs sold it to Robert Ryece of Preston Hall. By 1609 the Ryecees had sold it to Sir Robert Jermyn of Rushbrooke Hall and it subsequently passed through a number of hands. By the time of the tithe apportionment of 1839 this was a farm of 145 acres owned and farmed by Johnny Green.²⁰ Adrian Thorpe’s father, John Edward Thorpe, purchased it as 230-acre farm in 1934 and it had grown to 320 acres by 2000.²¹

The existing farmhouse at Priory Farm dates from the late fifteenth century, with an adjacent aisled barn of the sixteenth century, rebuilt in the eighteenth century. The rest of the farm buildings are of nineteenth or twentieth century date. There is no documentary evidence for the location and character of the buildings associated with the medieval manor, but the presence of earthworks in a long pasture field to the west of the present farmstead raised the possibility that this was the original site. An isolated barn in this field is built of reused materials, some from a medieval open-hall house. Intriguingly, a parish map of 1830 labelled this area, which is bounded north and south by substantial moat-like ditches, *Home Pasture* (west end) and *The Priory* (east end) (Fig. 29).²² In the tithe apportionment of 1839 they are more prosaically named as *Home Pasture* and *Acre Piece*. The investigations of site PSM 002 were formulated to test the theory that this was the earlier manorial site.

THE CONTOUR AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) number PSM 002 refers to a complex of earthworks that included a large field-boundary ditch that is marked as a ‘moat’ on Ordnance Survey maps, a rectangular platform and various other ‘humps and bumps’ within the same field immediately to the east of the current farmhouse. Also in the same field was a post-medieval windmill site that was given the HER number of PSM 025 (Figs. 29 and 30).

A simple visual examination of the PSM 002 earthworks revealed that they were more complex than had originally been thought, and on that basis a contour survey of the whole

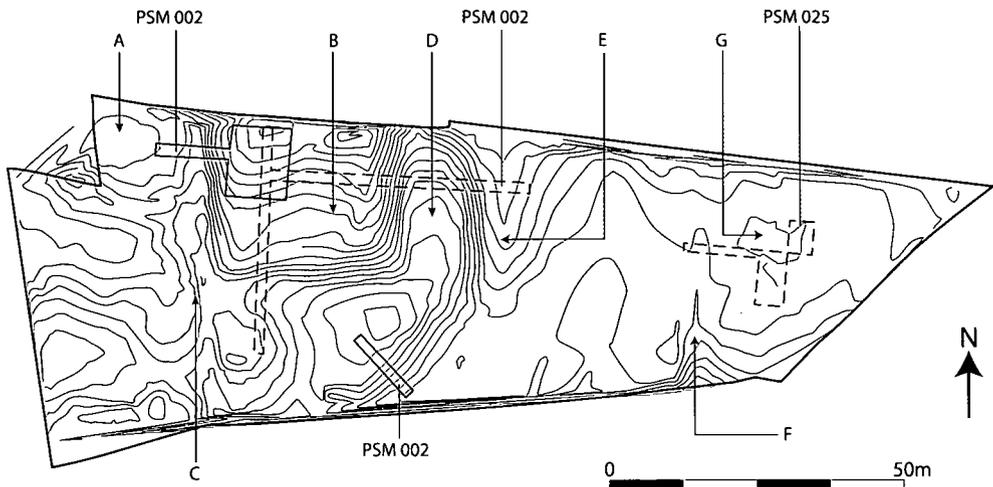


FIG. 30 – Contour survey, overlaid with the location of the PSM 002 and 025 trenches.

field was undertaken in 1998 to aid the overall interpretation of the site. A Total Station Theodolite (TST) was used for the survey with the recorded points taken randomly, at approximately 1m intervals, and more precisely at the break of slopes. The resulting plan (Fig. 30) allowed the following features to be identified:

- [A] Raised area in north-west corner of field. Known to represent the site of a cottage which was demolished during the second half of the twentieth century.
- [B] Rectangular platform bounded by ditches, but not a continuous moat as had originally been thought.
- [C] North-south orientated ditch, runs full width of the field. Northern end forms the western side of platform [B].
- [D] North-south orientated ditch forming the eastern side of platform [C]. The feature appears to broaden and turn to the west in the southern half of the field.
- [E] A shallow bank-like feature on the eastern side of ditch [D]. Almost certainly represents the upcast spoil from the excavation of the adjacent ditch feature.
- [F] North-south orientated linear feature lining up with a gate in the southern hedged boundary of the field. On excavation was found to have a metalled surface and clearly represented an access route or path that may have been associated with the adjacent mill, but also seemed to continue as a surface feature through to the northern edge of the field.
- [G] Marked depression clearly coincides with the site of a windmill as marked on the tithe map and early OS maps. This was confirmed on excavation.

In retrospect, the excavations show that the earthworks visible in the field are associated with features dating from at least the early medieval period to the later twentieth century, and as such cannot be easily interpreted without more widespread interventions to define relationships between individual features. Furthermore, some of the relatively substantial features recorded in the trenches, particularly ditches, are not represented as earthworks.

To gain additional information about below-ground features a geophysical survey was carried out on two areas in the field by Peter Cott. The surveys were carried out using a Resistivity Meter RM4 and Data Logger DL10 made by Geoscan Research of Bradford. The first area covered ten 20m squares centred on the rectangular platform; the second covered four 20m squares targeted on the windmill site. In both cases readings were taken at 1m intervals in both north-south and east-west directions. The results of the survey are given in the initial site report.²³

THE THREE EXCAVATIONS

Following on from the contour and geophysical surveys, trial-trenches were excavated in 1998 over the rectangular platform (part of site PSM 002) which, at that juncture, was considered to be the likely location of a building surrounded by a moat. The subsequent identification of a circular structure on the western end of the platform led to the second phase of excavation in 2003 (Fig. 31).

The weather conditions encountered on site – wet in 1998 and very dry in 2003 – compounded the difficulties generally associated with excavating clay sites. The cuts of individual features were difficult to see, as were the interfaces between layers. In addition, there appeared to be a problem with intrusive material, particularly in shallow features. While this may have been due to the fact that cutting features were not obviously visible, it could also be a direct result of disturbance caused by pigs which were kept in that field until relatively recently.

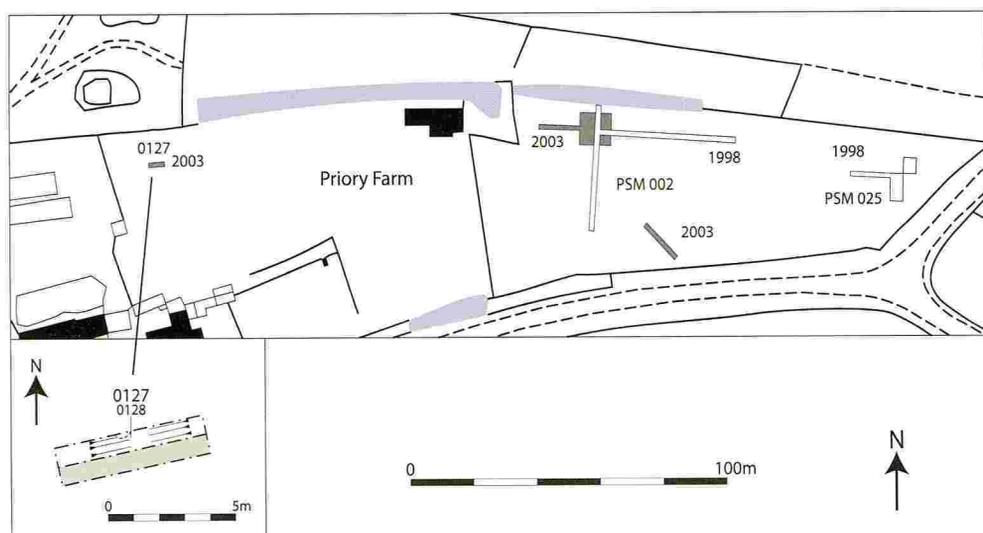


FIG. 31 – Locations of the trenches of sites PSM 002 and 025, showing the 1998 and 2003 phases of work.

Site PSM 007 was excavated over several seasons from 1992 to 2003. It was chosen due to the large quantities of pottery which had previously been noticed as surface finds. Small areas of trench were opened each year (Fig. 39), and excavated by hand in roughly 10cm spits until differences were noted in the soil. After this, areas were excavated and recorded by layers and by contexts. Trenches were recorded by SAFG members using a system of trench number followed by layer and/or context number.

Similar excavation problems to those encountered on the other sites were experienced, due to the nature of the soil, but were compounded by the method of excavation, using small seasonal trenches. It was frequently found to be difficult or impossible to trace features between adjacent trenches. However, despite these problems, combining the trench plans and descriptions has allowed a picture of the medieval use of this part of the farm to emerge.

SITE PSM 002 by Stuart Boulter

In 1998 two linear trenches covering 134sq.m. (Figs 31 and 32) were excavated at right-angles to each other. In 2003 an additional square (120sq m) was opened around the junction of the 1998 trenches (Fig. 33), a third linear trench (19sq m) was opened to the south in the same field, and a short trench (8sq m) was excavated further to the west and closer to the farm buildings (see Fig. 31). All trenches were opened using a JCB equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Details of the site recording methods are in the site archive.

The absolute dating of contexts was somewhat problematic. Residuality was clearly a factor and intrusive material was almost certainly present due to the difficulty in recognising individual contexts. The resulting phasing is relatively imprecise. For example, three stratigraphic phases have been recognised within the medieval period which cannot be separated artefactually. As a consequence, a broad late twelfth to fourteenth century date has been attributed to all three phases. Features can be located on the plans (Figs 32 and 33 unless otherwise stated); section figures are referenced in the text.

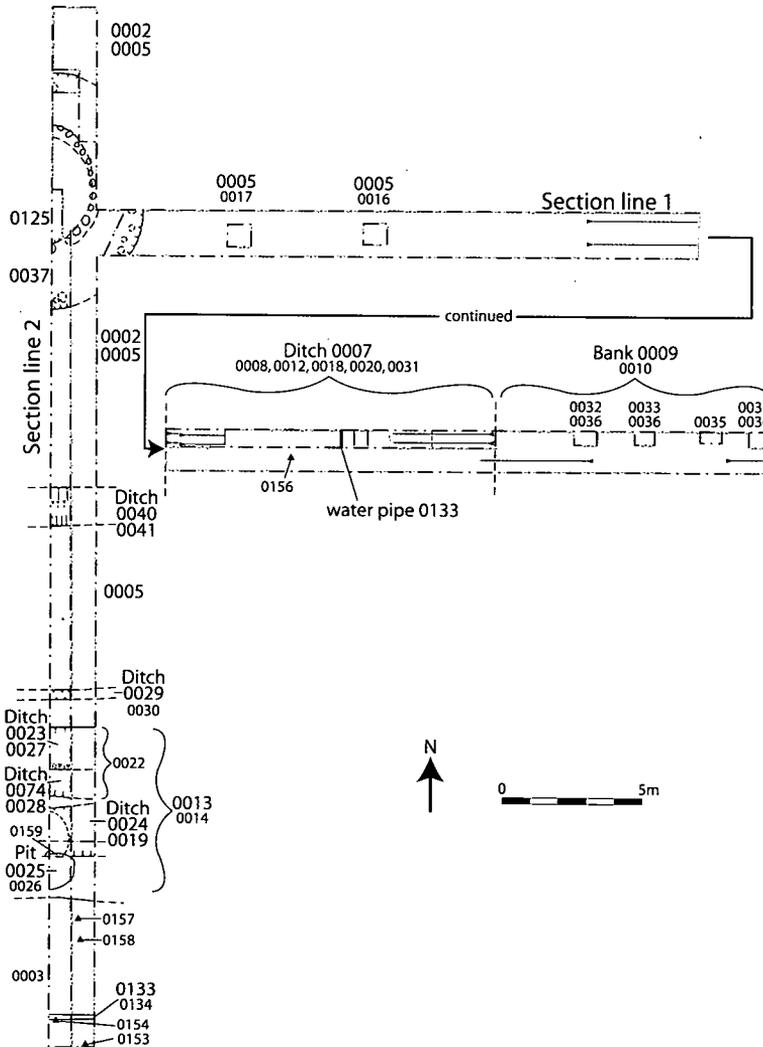


FIG. 32 – PSM 002: plan of the trenches excavated in 1998. Incompletely excavated areas shown stippled.

Periods 1a and 1b (Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age). No features of prehistoric date were recorded and evidence from this period was limited to residual ceramic finds in later contexts.

Period II (Roman). No features of Roman date were identified, all the evidence of this date being recovered as residual material within later features.

Period III (Late Saxon). One feature (0040), a ditch, was attributed to this period, on the basis of both stratigraphic and artefactual grounds. In addition, residual ceramic finds recovered from later features provided evidence for activity dating to this period within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Ditch 0040 was 1.4m wide with a maximum depth of 0.5m and a V-shaped base with a pronounced shoulder on its northern side (Figs 32 and 34, section line 2). The fill (0041) comprised relatively homogeneous grey/brown clay with some chalk flecks. The feature was orientated from east to west across the rectangular platform immediately south of the Period IVb windmill. Stratigraphically, ditch 0040 was sealed by the Period IVa layer 0005. Dating was based on a single sherd of St Neots Ware.

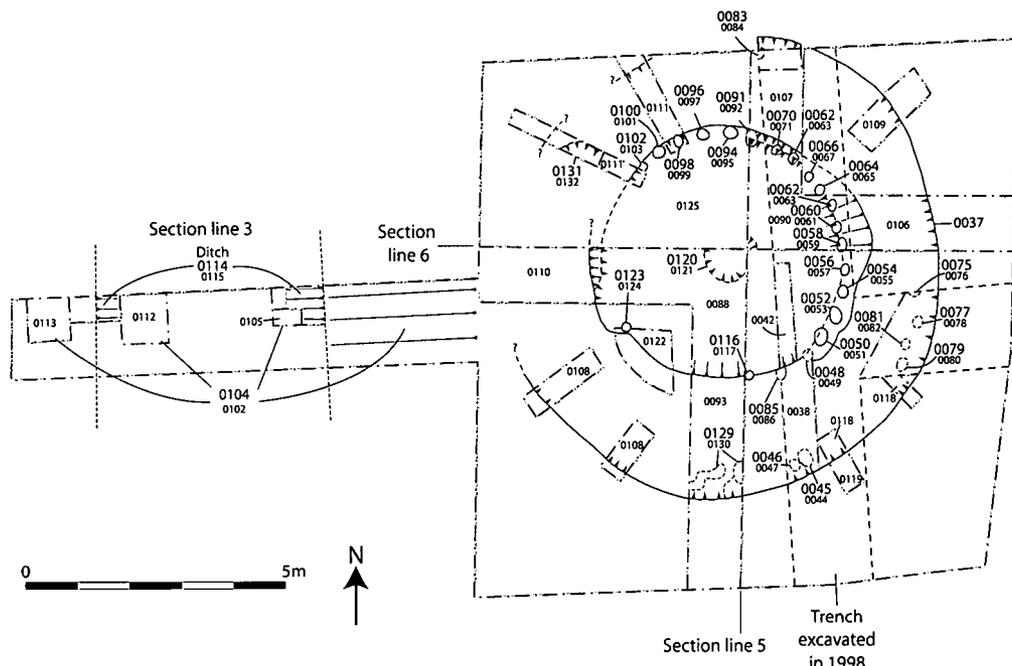


FIG. 33 – PSM 002: plan of the 2003 excavation.

Period IVa (medieval, late 12th–14th centuries). The features attributed to this phase were those which appeared to predate the windmill structure. This was ascertained purely from the stratigraphy, as the finds evidence (principally ceramics), provided only a relatively broad date range. The features included three ditches (0007, 0029 and 0114), a bank (0009) and a layer (0005) (Figs 32, 34 and 33).

Ditch 0007 was orientated north to south and formed the eastern side of the earthwork platform. Its inclusion in this phase is based on the assumption that shallow bank 0009 immediately to the east and layer 0005 on the platform, both of which produced exclusively medieval finds, were the product of the initial excavation of the adjacent ditches, also including 0029, 0014 and the open ditch to the north; this excavation effectively produced the earthwork itself. A section was excavated through the upper part of ditch 0007 in 1998, when it was found to be c. 10m wide with a depth in excess of 2m (Figs 32 and 34, section line 1). The feature, at least down to the depth excavated in the trench, had been progressively filled during the post-medieval period and, as such, is described in Phase Va and Phase Vb.

Ditch 0114 was orientated north to south and formed the western edge of the earthwork platform. A section was excavated into the upper part of the feature during the 2003 phase of work (Figs 35 and 34, section line 3), showing that the ditch was c. 5m wide, with a depth in excess of 1.5m. Like ditch 0007, this feature, at least down to the excavated level, appeared to have been progressively filled during the post-medieval period (see Phases Va and Vb).

Ditch 0029 was orientated from east to west at the break of slope on the southern side of the platform. This feature was only encountered in the north–south-orientated trench excavated in 1998 and its relationships with ditches 0007 and 0114 were not investigated. In the excavated section (Figs 32 and 34, section line 2), ditch 0029 was 0.6m wide with a maximum depth of 0.5m and an angular flat-bottomed profile. The fill comprised brown silty clay with chalk flecks. Stratigraphically, the ditch had clearly been backfilled after layer 0005 had been deposited to the north. The inclusion of both ditch 0029 and layer 0005 is based on the latter respecting the northern side of the former.

Layer 0005 (Figs 32 and 34) was encountered throughout the excavated areas of the platform that was bounded by ditches 0007, 0029 and 0114. The layer was of relatively uniform thickness (0.2–0.3m), comprising grey/brown silty clay with some chalk inclusions. Stratigraphically, the layer was cut by the Phase IVb windmill structure.

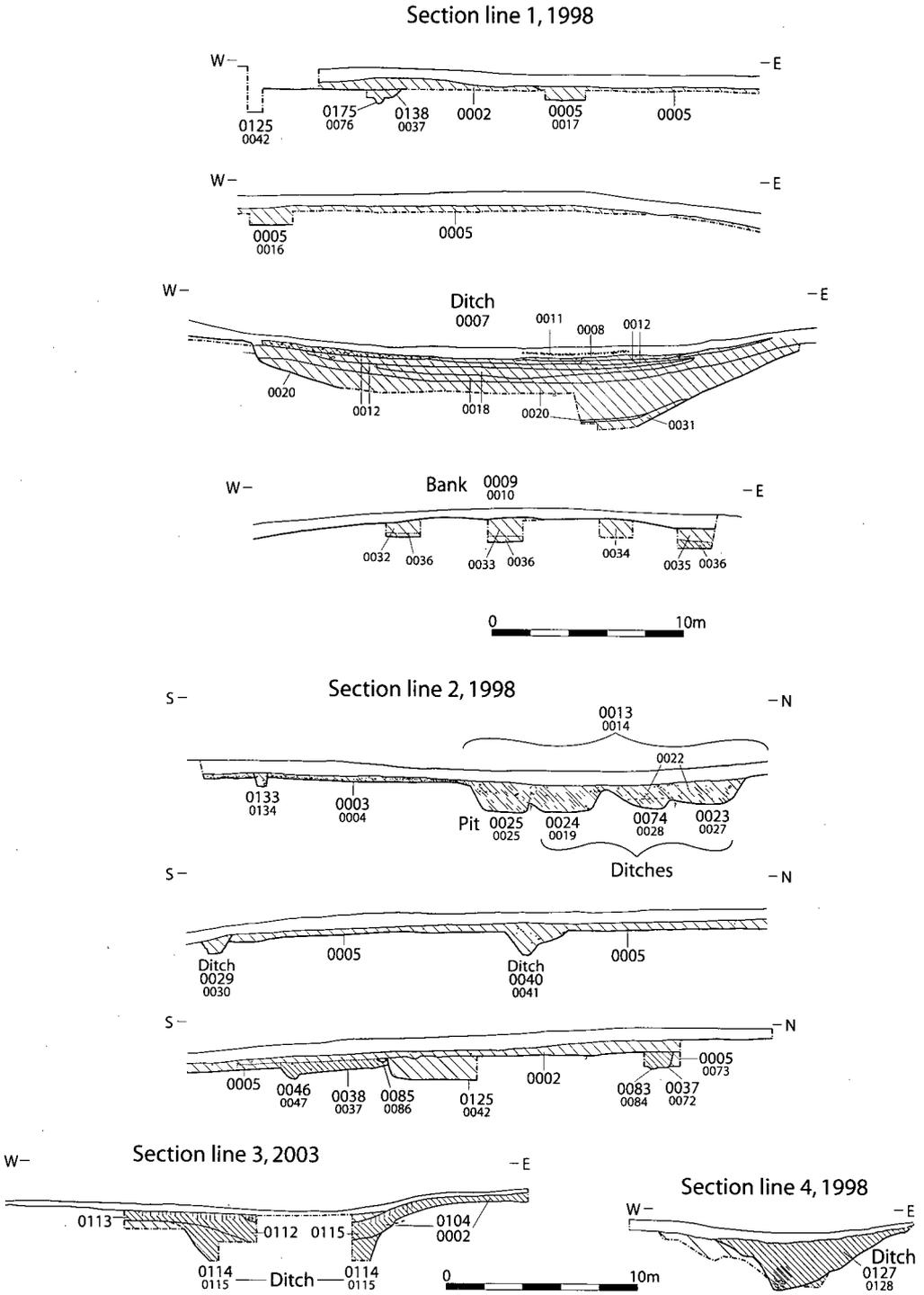


FIG. 34 - PSM 002: section drawings of the 1998 and 2003 trenches.

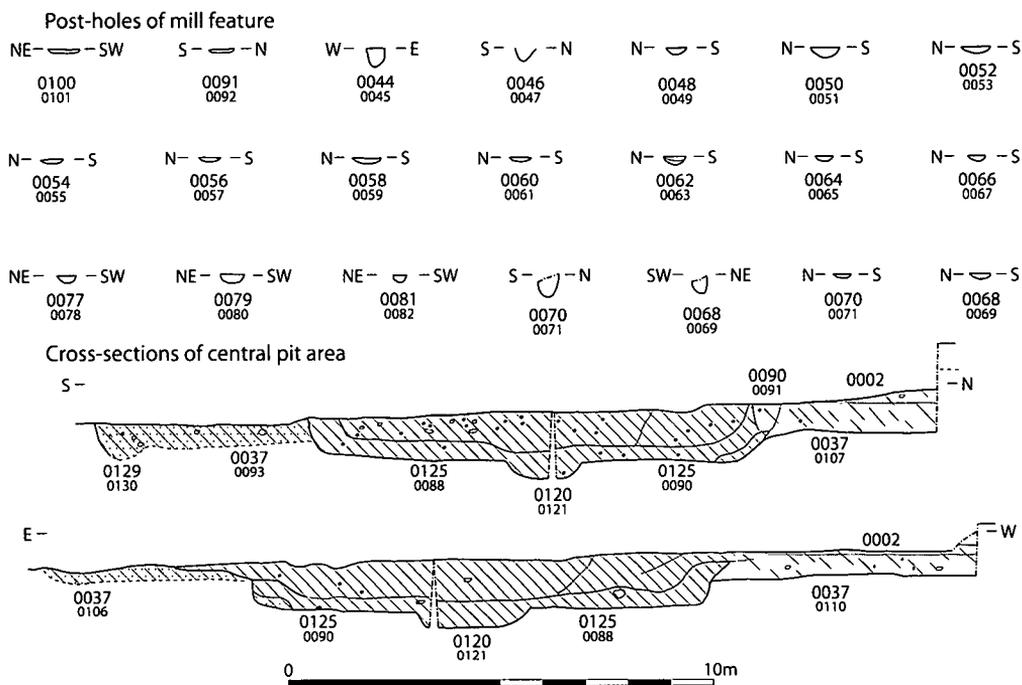


FIG. 35 – PSM 002: sections of the features and trenches excavated in 2003.

Bank 0009 was located on the eastern side of ditch 0007 and was clearly represented on the contour survey (Fig. 30). The east to west component of the 1998 trench cut through the bank revealing its internal structure (Figs 32 and 34, section line 1). The feature was found to be approximately 10m wide with a maximum height of 0.8m (measured from the existing ground surface down to the naturally occurring clay subsoil). The structure of the bank was found to comprise two layers: a basal component of dark brown/grey silty clay (0036) which varied in thickness between 0.1m towards the western side of the bank, up to 0.2m on the eastern side, with an upper layer of lighter brown clay (0032, 0033, 0034 and 0035) which varied in thickness between 0.2m at the margins to 0.4m in the middle of the feature.

Period IVb (medieval, late 12th–14th centuries). The features attributed to this phase were those that appeared to be directly associated with the medieval circular feature that has been interpreted as the foundations of a probable windmill. These included a central circular pit (0125), a circle of post-holes (0126) and an outer circular depression (0037) (Figs 32–36). The windmill structure was first identified during the 1998 excavation when overnight rain clearly revealed a central circular area of clay (0125) with a series of post-holes (0126) on its margin.

Limited excavation showed that the central clay deposit filled a relatively shallow, 0.5m deep, steep-sided, flat-bottomed pit (Figs 34 and 35). The excavated fill (0042) was described as comprising yellow clay with common inclusions of chalk. The diameter of the pit was confirmed as 4.5m during the 2003 excavation. During 2003, more extensive excavation of the pit revealed more of its structure (Figs 33 and 35). The feature was uniformly deep with an irregular protrusion on its western side. In addition, a central deepening (0120) was recorded continuing down for a further 0.2m. The long-sections through the pit exhibited a hint of stratification with a lower layer, comprising a slightly darker siltier clay, which appeared to be continuous with the fill in the central deepening (0120). The upper layer, which was slightly lighter in colour, continued as a shallow lip beyond the eastern edge of the pit. The shallow lip (0043) has been included under Phase IVc as it may relate to the overall redundancy of the structure. Other slight variations in the composition of the fill were noticed towards the junction between the base of the pit and its side.

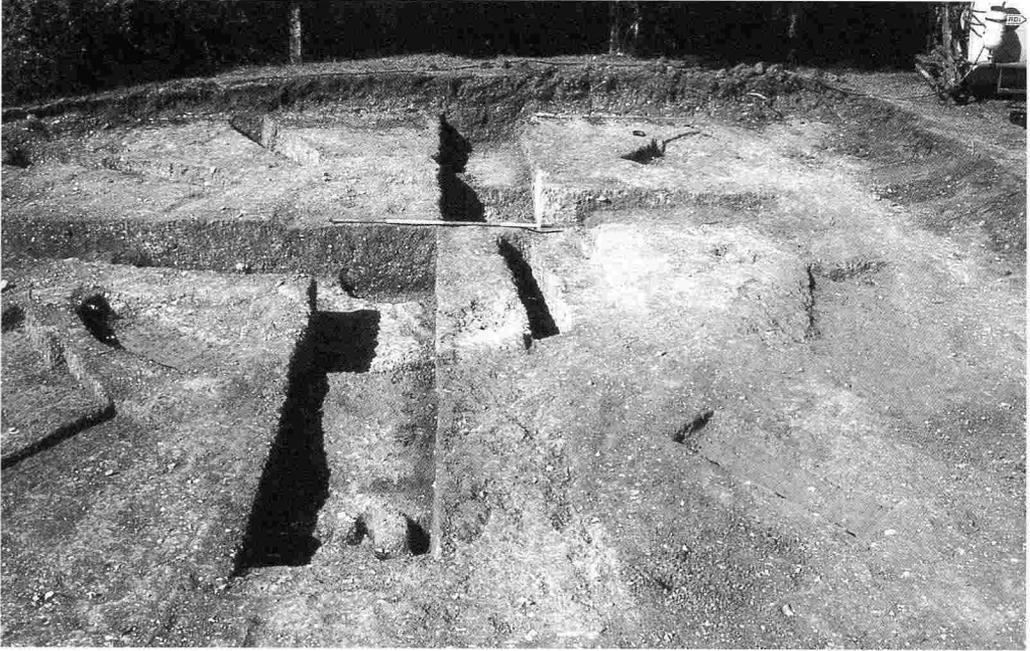


FIG. 36 – The excavation of the probable windmill site from the south, 2003.

The arc of post-holes (0126) was recorded around approximately two-thirds of the circumference of pit 0125, effectively from the north-west side round to the south side with an isolated example to the west (Fig. 33). Twenty-one discrete features were identified, all apparently cutting the fill of pit 0125. The post-holes were relatively small, mostly *c.* 0.2m in diameter with depths in the region of 0.1m, but occasionally as much as 0.2m.

For the majority of its circuit, with only an indistinct area to the north-west, the central pit (0125) was surrounded by a concentric feature (0037) in the form of a shallow depression. The outer edge of 0037 was approximately 2m outside that of pit 0125. The depression had a maximum depth of 0.3m, on the north side, reducing to *c.* 0.1m to the east and south. The feature was flat-bottomed with a series of shallow, irregular interventions towards its outer edge (0075, 0077, 0079, 0081, 0083 and 0129) (Fig. 33). The fill of both the overall depression and smaller interventions comprised homogeneous brown silty clay. Stratigraphically, 0037 was cut into Phase IVa layer 0005, with a clear boundary between the two defined by a distinct absence of chalk inclusions in 0037.

Period IVc (medieval, late 12th–14th centuries). The features attributed to this phase, effectively two layers (0002 and 0043), are those which stratigraphically postdate the windmill but, from their artefactual evidence, appear to be of similar date (Figs 34 and 35).

Layer 0002, comprising dull yellow chalk-flecked clay, was first encountered in the linear trench excavation of 1998 and it was initially assumed, until pottery was recovered from within it, to represent natural clay subsoil. However, after some further investigation it was thought to be part of the Phase IVa layer 0005, but it was not until the discovery of the windmill structure itself that it became clear that 0002 was in fact a discrete layer in its own right. As far as could be deduced from the relatively narrow trenches, layer 0002 appeared to occupy a limited area over the site of the windmill with a maximum thickness of 0.2m. To the south of the windmill, the junction between layers 0002 and 0005 became indistinct.

Layer 0043 was localised around the eastern side of the windmill pit 0125 over the top of depression 0037. The yellow chaly clay was similar in composition to that of pit 0125 and it is likely that it was derived from the underlying feature after its redundancy.

Period IV (medieval, unspecified date). Only one feature was attributed to this phase, a ditch (0074) (Figs 32 and 34, section line 2). However, the dating, based on a single sherd of medieval pottery, is inconclusive and its location, adjacent and parallel to the more securely dated post-medieval ditches 0023 and 0024, is suggestive of a later date.

Ditch 0074 was orientated approximately east to west across the 1998 trench (Fig. 32), appearing to represent the stratigraphically earliest of a group of three, forming what was effectively the southern side of the rectangular earthwork platform. The feature was *c.* 1.3m wide with a depth of *c.* 0.5m and a fill (0028) comprising homogeneous brown silty clay.

Period Va (post-medieval, 16th–20th century). Two discrete features, both ditches (0023 and 0024), were attributed to this phase, along with the lowermost of the excavated fills of two further ditches (0007 and 0114) which were thought to have originated in the medieval period (Figs 32–34). It is possible, however, that 0023 and 0024 had also originally been excavated at a considerably earlier date with the finds included in their backfill indicative purely of the date of their redundancy.

Both ditches 0023 and 0024 were components of the group of three east–west orientated ditches, along with 0074, forming the southern side of the earthwork platform (Figs 32 and 34, section line 2). Ditch 0023, the northernmost of the three, was *c.* 2m wide with a depth of *c.* 0.5m and a fill (0027) comprising homogeneous brown silty sand. Stratigraphically, ditch 0023 was thought to cut ditch 0074 immediately to the south, although the relationship was unclear. Ditch 0024, the southernmost of the three, was *c.* 1.5m wide with a depth of *c.* 0.5m and a fill (0026) comprising homogeneous brown silty sand. Ditch 0024 may have been cut by pit 0025, but the relationship was somewhat unclear.

Also included in this phase were the lowermost of the excavated fills of ditches 0007 and 0114, which define the eastern and western sides of the earthwork platform. These features may have originated in the medieval period (see Phase IVa), but both clearly had stratified fills, the lower components of which contained artefactual evidence suggesting they were filled during the 16th–20th centuries. In both instances the stratification continued with modern (Phase Vb, 20th-century) material overlying the Phase Va layers.

The lowest of the excavated fills in ditch 0007 (0031) comprised a sterile grey organic clay which directly underlay a 1m thickness of homogeneous brown silty clay with common chalk inclusions (0020) (Fig. 34). It is this layer which has been included in this phase primarily on the basis of the artefactual evidence recovered during the 1998 excavation.

A similar layer of homogeneous brown silty clay (0115) was recorded as the lowest of the excavated fills in ditch 0114 during the 2003 excavation (Fig. 34) with the artefactual evidence, although sparse, again suggesting a post-medieval date.

Period Vb (post-medieval, 20th century). Two layers (0003 and 0104) and a water pipe (0133) (Figs 32–34), were attributed to this phase, based on both artefactual and documentary/map evidence. Also included are the upper fill of ditch 0007 and the entire fill of ditch 0127 (Figs 31, 32, 34).

Layer 0003 was recorded in the southernmost *c.* 5m of the north–south component of the 1998 trench (Fig. 34, section line 2) and comprised *c.* 0.1m thick of gravel-to-cobble-sized flints with common brick and tile fragments in a dark grey/brown loamy clay matrix.

Layer 0104 was encountered throughout the westward extension of the 2003 excavation area (Fig. 34, section line 3). The layer was 0.2m thick at the western end of the trench, increasing to *c.* 0.5m where it formed the upper fill of ditch 0114, before reducing again to *c.* 0.2m. While no absolute junction between the Phase IVc layer 0002 and 0104 was identified, it was clear from the included artefactual evidence that the latter postdated the former. The layer comprised dark grey, charcoal-rich ashy clay, with common inclusions of brick and tile towards the top, grading down to yellow/brown clay at its base.

Pipe trench 0133 (Fig. 32) carried a lead water pipe into the field. The feature was 0.3m wide and 0.5m deep, measured from the present ground surface, with a fill of brown silty clay.

The stratified upper fills of ditch 0007 have been included in this phase on the basis of artefactual evidence and local knowledge – the latter being the fact that the former owner (Adrian Thorpe) remembers his own father filling the feature in. The layers themselves varied in composition between brick rubble (0011) and mixed clay/loam with gravel and chalk lumps (0012).

Ditch 0127 (Fig. 31) is described more fully with the Period 0 undated features, as its origins are unclear. However its fill (0128), comprising relatively homogeneous brown silty clay, produced

artefactual evidence, including a kettle, which indicated that the feature had been backfilled during the twentieth century. Map evidence (Fig. 29) confirms that the ditch was present as a boundary feature at least until the beginning of the twentieth century.

Period 0 (undated). Two features were attributed to this phase: a ditch (0127) and a pit (0025).

Ditch 0127, orientated from the north-north-west to south-south-east across the pasture area immediately to the north of the standing farm buildings, was approximately 4m wide with a depth of 1.3m, and exhibited an irregular, open V-shaped profile with a steeper edge on its western side (Figs 31 and 34, section line 4). The feature was targeted by an individual trench during the 2003 excavation. Its inclusion in this phase is based on the lack of evidence that could indicate a date for its original excavation. The fill (0128), which clearly had been deposited during the twentieth century, is described under Phase Vb.

Pit 0025, recorded in the 1998 trench (Figs 32 and 34, section line 2) was 1.2m in diameter with a depth of 0.8m and had an indeterminate relationship with Phase Va ditch 0024. While described as a pit, the feature could actually have been the butt-end of a ditch extending out of the western side of the trench parallel to ditches 0023, 0024 and 0074 immediately to the north. The fill (0026) comprised relatively homogeneous brown silty clay with chalk flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

THE FINDS

by Sue Anderson

In addition to the following there were also several fragments of miscellaneous modern material, including tarmac, land drain and asbestos.

Pottery

Pottery (487 sherds weighing 2873g) was collected from 49 contexts, including unstratified. A summary quantification by fabric is shown in Table 1.

Methodology. Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series, which includes Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Essex wares were identified from Drury (1993) and Cotter (2000). A 20 microscope was used for fabric identification and characterisation. Form terminology follows Slowikowski (2001). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. SCCAS pottery quantification forms were used and the results were input onto an MS Access database.

Pre-Saxon pottery. Forty sherds were earlier than Late Saxon. Of these, 8 were prehistoric, 29 were Roman and 3 were undated. The earliest identifiable material was grog-tempered red-firing handmade pottery of Bronze Age date. This included an unabraded sherd decorated with finger nail rustication (layer 0113), probably from a Middle Bronze Age Ardleigh-type urn.²⁴ Other prehistoric pottery was flint-tempered and probably Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Roman pottery consisted largely of undatable greyware body sherds, but there were some coarse grogged storage vessels and a piece of black-surfaced ware which can be dated to the first century, and there was one possible sherd of Roman redware. Three unidentified handmade sherds in fine sandy fabrics with oxidised surfaces could be of Early Saxon date. All pre-Late Saxon pottery was found in association with later finds.

Late Saxon and Early Medieval wares. Material of tenth to twelfth century date formed 20.9 per cent of the pottery assemblage by count, but only 13.1 per cent by weight. Many of the sherds in this group were small and abraded. Thetford-type ware was the exception, with

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt.	% Wt.	
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	0.002	3	7.5	9	4.0
Unidentified Prehistoric	PREH	0.01	2	5.0	18	8.1
BA Grog Tempered	BAGT	0.33	5	12.5	48	21.5
IA Flint Tempered	IAFT	0.41	1	2.5	5	2.2
RB Greyware	RBGW	1.10	24	60.0	125	56.1
Roman Black Surfaced Ware	RBSW	1.22	1	2.5	5	2.2
RB Coarse Grog	RBCG	1.30	3	7.5	10	4.5
RB Red Ware	RBRW	1.40	1	2.5	3	1.3
<i>Total pre-Saxon</i>			<i>40</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>7.8</i>
Thetford Ware (general category)	THET	2.50	19	18.6	110	29.2
St. Neots Ware	STNE	2.70	23	22.5	61	16.2
Early Medieval Ware (general)	EMW	3.10	23	22.5	90	23.9
Early Medieval Ware Gritty	EMWG	3.11	1	1.0	4	1.1
Early Medieval Ware Shelly	EMWS	3.14	1	1.0	2	0.5
Early Medieval Ware Sparse Shelly	EMWSS	3.19	35	34.3	110	29.2
<i>Total Late Saxon and Early Medieval</i>			<i>102</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>13.1</i>
Medieval Coarsewares (general)	MCW	3.20	181	81.5	948	72.2
Medieval Coarseware Gritty	MCWG	3.21	2	0.9	10	0.8
Unprovenanced Glazed	UPG	4.00	1	0.5	8	0.6
Mill Green Ware	MGW	4.22	1	0.5	2	0.2
Heddingham Fine Ware	HFW1	4.23	21	9.5	254	19.3
Essex Sandy Orange Wares	ESOW	4.24	4	1.8	19	1.4
Late Essex-type Wares	LMTE	5.60	8	3.6	54	4.1
Raeran/Aachen Stoneware	GSW3	7.13	3	1.4	15	1.1
Werra Ware	WERR	7.27	1	0.5	3	0.2
<i>Total Medieval and Late Medieval</i>			<i>222</i>	<i>45.6</i>	<i>1313</i>	<i>45.7</i>
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	1	0.8	103	10.7
Iron Glazed Black Wares	IGBW	6.11	4	3.3	27	2.8
Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	6.12	36	29.3	453	47.2
Tin Glazed Earthenwares	TGE	6.30	8	6.5	52	5.4
Post-Medieval Slipwares	PMSW	6.40	1	0.8	6	0.6
Staffordshire type Slipware	STAF	6.41	4	3.3	42	4.4
Cologne/Frechen Stoneware	GSW4	7.14	1	0.8	5	0.5
Late Post Medieval Earthenwares (plantpots etc.)	LPME	8.01	7	5.7	34	3.5
Refined White Earthenwares	REFW	8.03	32	26.0	72	7.5
Yellow Ware	YELW	8.13	7	5.7	72	7.5
English Stoneware	ESW	8.20	3	2.4	10	1.0
English Stoneware Nottingham-type	ESWN	8.22	5	4.1	10	1.0
Porcelain	PORC	8.30	2	1.6	15	1.6
Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stonewares	SWSW	8.41	12	9.8	59	6.1
<i>Total Post-Medieval</i>			<i>123</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>33.4</i>
Total			487		2873	

TABLE 1 – PSM 002, pottery quantification by fabric (percentages are within period groups).

several large body sherds. However, much of this material was in a micaceous fabric similar to Heddingham Ware, and it may simply be a fine version of the medieval coarseware produced there. There is no doubt that there was a Late Saxon phase of activity at this site, however, as there were two Thetford-type ware rims and a girth-grooved sherd, and St Neots Ware was present.

Early medieval wares included the fine sandy thin-walled vessels with simple everted rims which are typical of the industry in Norfolk and North Suffolk, and the coarser shelly wares which are more typical of Essex.

High and Late Medieval pottery. Medieval wares were in typical fine and coarse sandy fabrics similar to those found in Essex, and possibly originating from Heddingham and other Essex kilns. The few identifiable jar rims were Essex types and spanned the entire high medieval

period. Glazed wares were also generally from Essex, particularly Heddingham fine ware jugs, although one sherd of a redware decorated with painted white slip lines may be from Ipswich or the Colchester area. Further work on a larger pottery assemblage from elsewhere on Priory Farm should produce a type series for further work on pottery from this area.

Late medieval material was rare, and included German stoneware and slipware (Werra Ware), as well as several Essex redware sherds.

Post-medieval to modern wares. Post-medieval wares were generally of seventeenth century or later date and make up approximately a quarter of the pottery assemblage by count, but a third by weight. The majority probably originated from the same source as that collected from the nearby mill site (PSM 025); similar types of pottery were collected from both. As much of this material was recovered from the upper fills of ditches, it is probably redeposited and may be derived from midden or 'night soil' dumping. The group was dominated by glazed red earthenwares, some of which may be as late as nineteenth-century, and refined kitchen and table wares (nineteenth and twentieth centuries).

Pottery by context. Although much of the medieval and early medieval pottery was highly abraded, it was not all redeposited. Several contexts, particularly those in the bank (0009) and platform layers (0005), may be dated to the twelfth to thirteenth centuries, as may the cobbled surface 0003. Most of the pottery from fills of ditch 0037 was medieval, and the few later sherds could be intrusive. Windmill pit 0125 may date to the twelfth to thirteenth centuries, although one sherd of possible late medieval ware was recovered.

Post-medieval features included the nineteenth or early twentieth-century ditch fill 0128, layer 0104 and ditch 0007 which contained finds of seventeenth to nineteenth century date, and ditch 0013 which contained eighteenth-century wares.

Building material

Fragments of brick and tile were generally heavily abraded and sometimes difficult to distinguish. Most of the tile was roof tile, usually peg tile but also some pantile fragments (particularly from 0012 and 0112). Two fragments of floor tile were identified (0001, 0128), and there were also several white-firing floor bricks (0001, 0012, 0112) of post-medieval date. Dating of small pieces is difficult, but the softness of the fabric suggests a possible Roman or medieval date for some of the 'brick' fragments, and a late twelfth to fifteenth century date for some peg tiles. One brick with a shallow rectangular-section frog was found in 0112. The degree of abrasion and lack of complete objects suggest that much of this material was redeposited.

Eighty-three small abraded fragments of chalk-tempered fired clay, probably daub or oven dome, were found in several contexts, again probably redeposited.

Other building material included small fragments of roofing slate, a piece of oolitic limestone, fragments of lime mortar and a piece of ?cement render. There were also four fragments of fine late post-medieval window glass similar to the larger quantities found at the mill site (PSM 025), and one modern fragment.

Metalwork

Ninety-four metal finds were collected from this site. Nails were the most common object to be collected, and that there were also several horseshoes. Most of this material was probably of post-medieval and modern date, although one example of a medieval horseshoe was found in an unstratified context.

Miscellaneous

Several worked flints, all redeposited, were found in 19 contexts. All were unmodified flakes of uncertain date. Burnt flint and other burnt stones were collected from 15 contexts.

Fragments of silicate slag were found in context 0072. These represent waste from iron smelting. One piece of ?smithing slag was also present (0011), and there were several pieces of burnt and unburnt coal.

Several eighteenth-to-nineteenth-century clay pipe stems and a piece of plain bowl were found. Other miscellaneous objects included glass fragments from several green and clear bottles, a slate pencil (0128), a tiny fragment of lava quern (0088), and a possible stone hone fragment.

A worked bone fragment was found in 0090. It was probably part of a plate from a scale-tang knife. There were two drilled rivet holes in the surviving fragment, and one end showed signs of incised decoration. It is probably late or post-medieval.

Animal bone and shell

A small quantity of animal bone was collected. Species represented included sheep, cow, pig, horse, dog and unidentified bird. This material requires specialist identification and will be studied with animal bone from another site on the farm.

Oyster shells were found in 24 contexts, and common land snails (*Helix aspersa*) were collected from 9 contexts. Two pieces of charcoal were collected from layer 0021 and ditch fill 0107.

Discussion of the finds evidence

Much of the finds assemblage was collected from backfilled ditches, layers at the medieval windmill site, and layers on the platform. Finds from the ditches suggest a backfill date in the eighteenth century or possibly later, and the presence of earlier material within these fills may suggest use of occupation layers from the medieval site. Pottery in contemporary contexts suggests that the main period of use for the windmill site was in the twelfth to thirteenth centuries, with very little later medieval material being deposited. Earlier pottery is less common and suggests limited activity in the eleventh century.

Roman pottery is likely to have been brought to the site from elsewhere, as such a small amount of this material does not indicate activity in the excavated area. However, the prehistoric pottery, despite its small quantity and redeposition within later features, probably does indicate Bronze Age activity on the site.

SITE PSM 025
by Mark Sommers

The excavation of the mill site (PSM 025) was undertaken simultaneously with the 1998 PSM 002 trenches. The whole excavation was completed manually, as any surviving structure would almost certainly be immediately below the turf. The area of the mill was divided into quadrants centred on the middle of the circular depression visible in the field. This feature also coincided with a circular anomaly recorded in the geophysical survey. The opposing north-east and south-west quadrants were investigated. From the south-west quadrant a narrow trench was extended to the west to allow the investigation of a north-south, linear feature identified in the geophysical survey.

Investigation of the actual mill site revealed robbed-out wall foundations (0005) enclosing a small octagonal area which undoubtedly represented the base of the mill (Figs 37 and 38). The robbed foundation was backfilled with broken bricks and mortar indicating that the mill stood on a brick base. A small 'pad' of four bricks (0010), located within the mill, probably supported wooden beams for the mill floor and machinery.

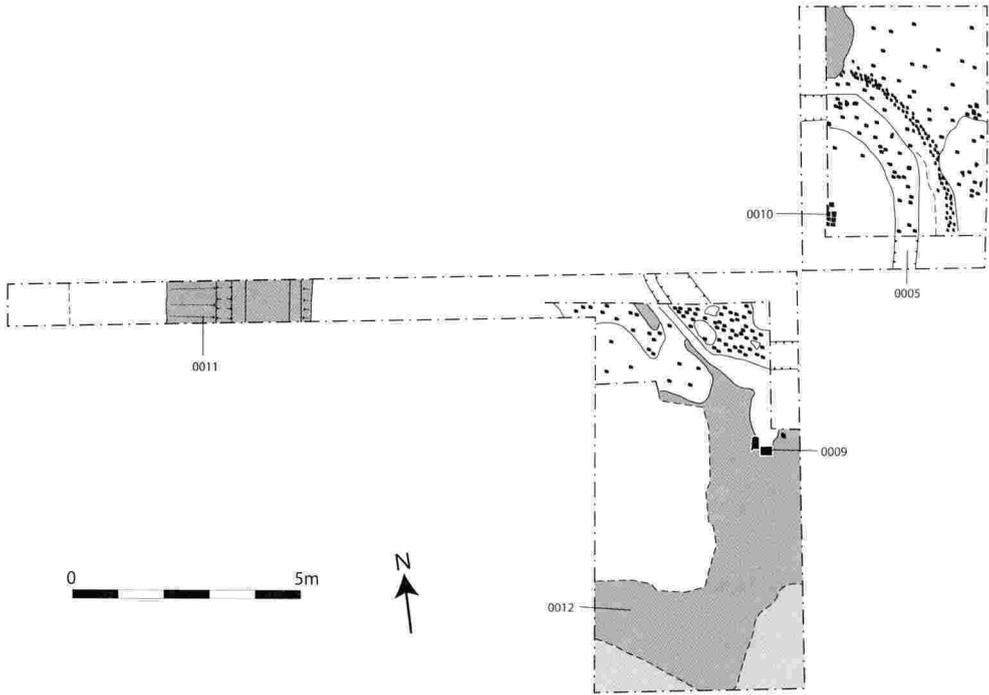


FIG. 37 – PSM 025: plan of the excavation in 1998.

On the southern side of the mill site an area of cobbling (0012) was revealed. This was formed from smallish (2–5cm diameter) rounded and angular flints laid immediately on the natural subsoil and formed a smooth, level, hard surface. Traces of this surface were also located on the northern side of the mill although it did not appear to extend to the west. It was not possible to determine the existence of this surface to the east as the excavated quadrant did not extend beyond the mill. On the south side of the mill, facing the road, fragments of a millstone (0009) were recorded. These appeared to have been laid as a surface, slightly higher than the cobbled surface, and may represent a doorstep: traditionally an old millstone is often set in the doorway of a mill.

Overlaying the cobbled surface and forming a circular pattern around the robbed foundation trench was a quantity of black tarry pitch. This is probably a result of an excess of pitch, which had been applied to the exterior of the mill, running off. This would seem to indicate that the mill was clad with wood.

A large quantity of iron fittings was recovered during the excavation. The majority of these were nails, mostly bent, as if removed from timbers by a claw-hammer. This again underlines the theory of a wooden cladding on the mill and also suggests that the mill was systematically dismantled. Many of the other iron fittings could be identified as being specific to a windmill and its associated machinery.

The linear feature (0011) identified by the geophysical survey was seen to align with a small gate on the northern edge of the field, and a dip and gate on the southern edge of the field. Upon investigation this feature was found to comprise of a hard, compacted flint surface and was interpreted as a roadway. The purpose of this roadway may have been to enable carts to enter the mill site from the main road, pass around the back of the mill and arrive at the front of the mill facing the road, ready for departure.

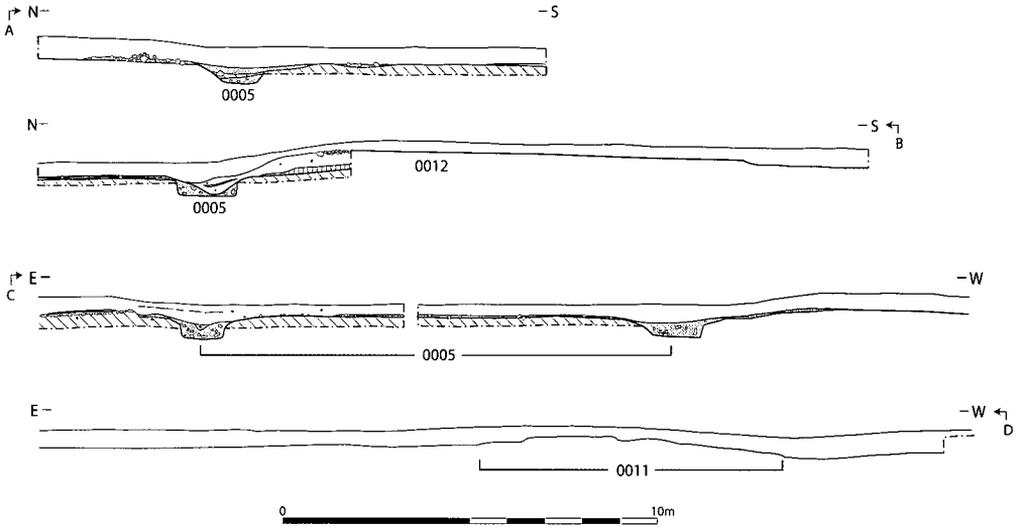


FIG. 38 – PSM 025: sections across the site.

THE FINDS

by Sue Anderson

In addition to the following there were also several fragments of miscellaneous material, including slate, wood, aluminium fragments, plastic, mother-of-pearl and worked bone.

Pottery

One hundred and eighteen sherds of pottery weighing 596g were collected from five contexts. Table 2 lists the fabrics identified and quantities of each.

Period	Fabric	Code	No	Wt
Roman	Roman Greywares	RBGW	1	1
	Samian: Central Gaulish	SACG	1	1
Medieval	Medieval Coarseware	MCW	1	2
15th–17th c.	Late Medieval and Transitional Ware	LMT	1	16
	Local Early Post-Medieval Ware	LEPM	1	3
	Glazed Red Earthenware	GRE	12	99
18th c.+	Post-Medieval Redwares	PMRW	1	38
	Post-Medieval Slipwares	PMSW	15	160
	Cream Ware	CRW	1	2
	Late Post-Medieval Earthenware	LPME	33	66
	Porcelain	PORC	1	1
	Staffs Scratch Blue Ware	SSBW	1	3
	Staffs White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	SWSW	3	4
	English Stoneware	ESW	9	50
	English Stoneware Nottingham-type	ESWN	2	7
	Black Stoneware	BLSW	2	7
Yellow Ware	YELW	32	135	

TABLE 2 – PSM 025, pottery fabric quantities.

Very little material earlier than the eighteenth century was found. One very abraded sherd of Central Gaulish samian was identified;²⁵ there was a small sherd of Roman greyware, and a small piece of medieval coarseware. A few sherds of late medieval and early post-medieval date were found, many of which were also abraded. Although some of this material may belong to the eighteenth century, particularly the Staffordshire-type stonewares and creamware, it is likely that the majority of sherds belong to the nineteenth century. The piece of porcelain was a small baby figurine which may have been a dolls' house toy.

Most of the finds from this site were unstratified, but pottery from 0006 is consistent with a late eighteenth or nineteenth century date for the foundation trench fill.

Building material

Brick fragments were collected from unstratified layers and foundation trenches. Most were in a single hard dark red sandy fabric which appeared well pressed and may have been made with an early brick machine press. This would suggest a late eighteenth or nineteenth century date. Two complete bricks from 0010 measured 232 x 114 x 63mm. Bricks of this size were used in Norwich during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, so an earlier date is possible.²⁶ One complete brick from 0006 was slightly abraded and possibly reused. This measured 220 x 111 x 66mm, and could be of seventeenth century or later date. Some bricks showed signs of thin plaster which had been painted dark grey or black. Small quantities of machine-pressed white bricks of nineteenth century date were also present. A few small, abraded fragments of softer bricks may be of early post-medieval date, and a few could be pieces of Roman tile.

Most roof tile fragments were from unstratified contexts, and this material included several fragments of glazed and unglazed pantiles. The majority of fragments were peg tiles, however. Although not closely datable, their general appearance suggested a later post-medieval date, probably in the eighteenth to nineteenth century.

One very small abraded fragment of chalk-tempered fired clay, probably daub, was found in 0004.

Other building material included a small fragment of roofing slate, fragments of knapped flint, worked limestone, and a few pieces of lime mortar/plaster and ?cement render. There were also large quantities of fine late post-medieval window glass and several fragments of lead comes and roofing sheet offcuts.

Miscellaneous

Coal fragments were found in three contexts.

Fragments of silicate slag were collected from six contexts. These represent waste from iron smelting and may indicate the presence of this process in the area. One piece of ?smelting slag was also present, and there was also a small lead ingot or slag fragment.

Several eighteenth–nineteenth-century clay pipe stems and a few fragments of fluted bowls were found. Other miscellaneous objects included a slate pencil, fragments of early plastic, glass fragments from several green and blue bottles and clear vessels, a mother-of-pearl button cover, and a bone ?button with a single central hole.

Fragments of a quartzite millstone were recovered in contexts 0002 and 0009.

Metalwork

Nearly 10kg of iron was collected from this site. Nails were the most common objects collected. Other items associated with structures, such as washers, nuts and bolts, were also relatively common in the unstratified contexts. Many of the miscellaneous fittings may be associated with the mill building. One piece of waste iron appeared to be a partially

hammered nail attached to a piece of thick sheet. This may be evidence for smithing nearby.

Other metalwork included lead comes, sheet fragments and scrap, two pieces of aluminium sheet, and fourteen copper alloy objects. The latter consisted of four buttons, a small nut, two eyelet washers for canvas or tarpaulin, three cartridge caps, two coins (one Russian 1931, one George IV penny), a sheet tube and an unidentified fitting. One small lead toy pistol grip was found in an unstratified context.

Biological evidence

A small quantity of animal bone was collected, including fragments of sheep, cow and rabbit. Oyster shells were found in two contexts. Three wood samples were also collected, from 0003 and 0005.

SITE PSM 007
by Adrian Thorpe

The excavation in this area of the farm is described trench by trench, followed by an attempt to phase individual features, although relationships have generally been impossible to establish. The trenches and the main features identified below are shown on Figure 39.

Trench 1, 1992. This trench measured 6m by 1m and was the furthest west (Fig. 39). Layer 1, the ploughsoil, was removed to a depth of 25cm. Layer 2 consisted of ploughsoil over natural chalky yellow boulder clay and was excavated to a depth of 40cm. These upper layers contained medieval pottery and charcoal, as well as some later finds. A land drain crossed the centre of the trench diagonally from west to east.

Below Layer 2, Ditch 1 was 40cm deep and c. 85cm wide with a U-shaped profile. Slot 1, adjacent to it, was c. 25cm deep and c. 50cm wide, again with a U-shaped profile. The relationship between the two

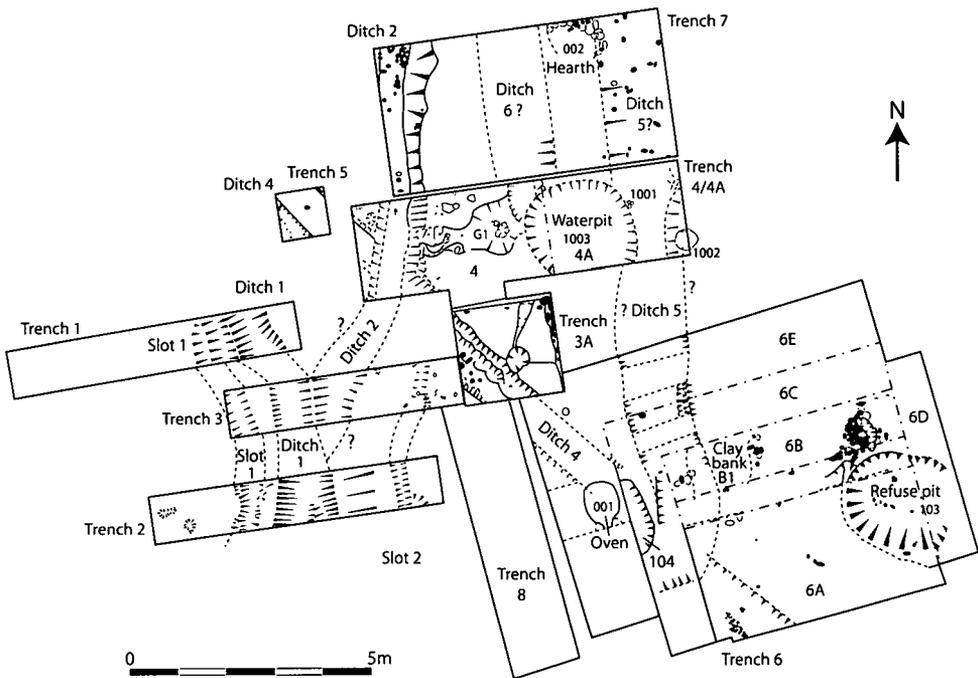


FIG. 39 – PSM 007: plan of the whole site.

features was uncertain, and their fills were excavated as Layer 3, a loam and clay mix with patches of charcoally soil, becoming more yellow and clay-like towards the base. Finds from the fill included pot, charcoal, fired clay, bone and some iron. A thirteenth century date is suggested.

Trenches 2 and 3, 1993. In 1993, Trench 2 was excavated to the south-east of Trench 1 (Fig. 39) and also measured 6m x 1m. Again, Layer 1 was the ploughsoil to a depth of *c.* 25cm, but in this trench Layers 2 and 3 were not separated due to lack of stratigraphy and poor definition of the features. Ditch 1 and Slot 1 were identified again, and a further slot, Slot 2, was seen at the east end on the same alignment. Two shallow post-holes were found at the west end of the trench; one contained four large sherds of medieval coarseware and the other a sherd of shelly ware and an intrusive piece of creamware. In Ditch 1 at a depth of 40–45cm was a tight group of sherds (105, not differentiated in the finds assemblage) consisting of the tops of two fine unglazed jugs and part of a cooking pot, which gave the strong impression of having been deliberately placed there.

Trench 3 (6m x 1m) was excavated between Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 32). Slots 1 and 2 and Ditch 1 were present again. Layers 1 and 2 were generally as defined in Trench 1, but Layer 3 was the fill of Ditch 2 and Layer 4 was the fill of Slot 1 (Fig. 40). This new ditch may be cut by Ditch 1 (although the relationship is unclear) and appeared to branch slightly to the east. Ditch 2 contained fourteenth-century pottery. A small area of cobbles (C1) was located in the north-east corner of this trench. Slot 1 was well-defined but sealed in places by patches of yellow clay, and the fill underneath contained a small amount of eleventh or twelfth-century pot, some charcoal and a fair amount of fired clay. Slot 2 was less distinct. The land drain in Trench 1 terminated in the north side of this trench, just inside Ditch 1. At the end of the year, the east end was covered with polythene before backfilling, so that the cobbling could be explored in the next season.

Trench 3A, 1994. A 2m x 2m trench was excavated to extend the area at the end of Trench 3 (Fig. 39). The cobbled area C1 was traced but was disappointingly small, although there was a hint of a continuation in the north-west corner of the trench. The feature was not smooth cobbling, more a randomly stoned surface. Many finds were scattered around and under these stones: for example an iron nail, a sherd of green glazed pot and a fragment of quernstone were found when the stones were removed.

The stones were laid on a brownish, slightly sandy clay layer with few finds. This overlay Ditch 4, which was identified running north-west to south-east across the trench. The fill was a very consistent soil containing hardly any chalk or stones. The ditch was *c.* 1m wide and 40cm deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. Nine sherds of pottery from this feature suggested a twelfth century date.

The edge of another feature was identified at the north-east of the trench. It was thought to be a ditch and was labelled 'Ditch 3', but later excavations revealed it to be part of a large pit (1003, see below).

Trench 4, 1995. This 4m x 2m trench (Fig. 39) was placed with two aims in mind: first to find out if the cobbles in the north end of Trench 3A were part of a larger group, and second to locate Ditch 4 again in the hope of finding some datable material. Initially there was a 50cm baulk between Trenches 4 and 3A, but when the cobbles were found to run under it, this was removed.

The cobbles were identified at a depth of 33cm from the surface. They formed a curving area which was not very convincing as the base of a wall or as a cobbled surface, although the latter explanation seemed preferable. In the darker soil layers to the east and west of the cobbles, several metal objects were found including nails, a knife and a small copper alloy annular brooch (Fig. 41). These layers overlay Ditch 2 to the west and 'Ditch 3' (= Pit 1003 and Ditch 6, see below) to the east, with Ditch 4 running diagonally under Ditch 2 (Fig. 40). A platform of natural clay covered by a yellowish brown sandy clay ran between Ditch 2 and 'Ditch 3' and may represent the spoil from either or both.

In this season, an exploratory trench 50cm wide was dug to extend the main trench eastwards to try to identify the nature of 'Ditch 3', but it proved to be too narrow to go deep enough or to record properly.

Trenches 4A and 5, 1996. Trench 4A extended Trench 4 to the east by 3m (Fig. 39). Natural yellow clay was reached at 55–60cm at the east end. A small pit or post-hole (1002), which was identified in the south-east corner, contained a small bar of fired clay at one side and a large stone at the base. Feature

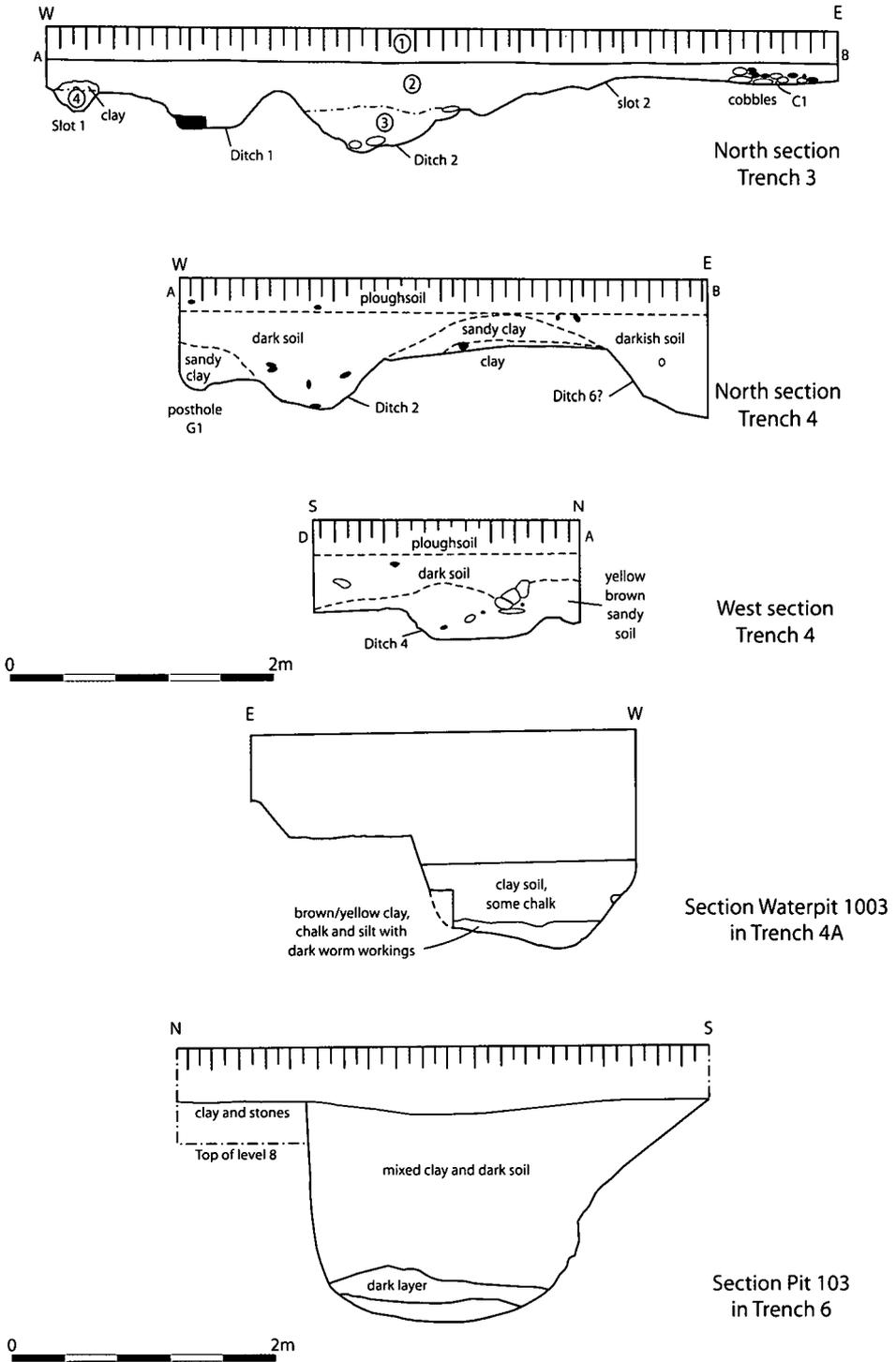


FIG. 40 – Site PSM 007: sections.

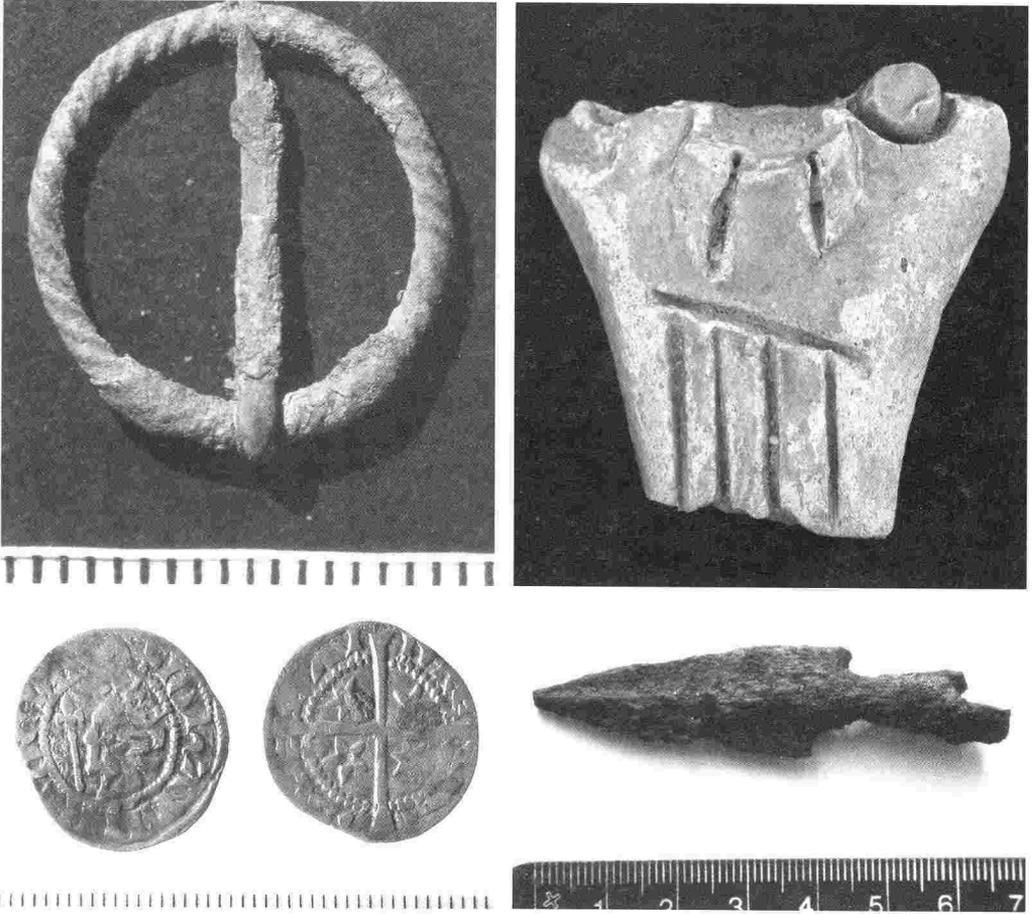


FIG. 41 – Finds from site PSM 007:

Above left: 13th-century copper alloy annular brooch. *Above right:* medieval glazed face-jug sherd.

Below left: Scottish silver penny of John Baliol, 1292–96. *Below right:* medieval iron arrowhead.

1001 consisted of three large stones just east of the centre of the trench, but these did not seem to relate to anything else.

In the western half of the trench, a large circular pit (1003), *c.* 3m in diameter and 0.8m deep, cut the natural subsoil. It was sectioned and the fill revealed to be a yellowy clay with chalk and dark veins. A greater degree of worm action and staining was seen towards the bottom, which was wet. There were a few small sherds scattered in the fill, but no domestic waste or organic matter. The sides of the pit had smooth chalk lumps, looking water-eroded, held in the natural chalky yellow clay. The feature is interpreted as a water pit. It produced thirteenth-century pottery, although sherds from part of this feature (Trench 4, ‘Ditch 3’) suggested a fourteenth–fifteenth century date, perhaps for the upper fill. This pit either cut or was linked to a probable ditch (Ditch 6) on its north-west side (see also Trench 7 for this feature).

Trench 5 was a small test pit (1m x 1m) excavated to locate Ditch 4 (Fig. 39). The trench also revealed an area of reddening (Context 2) in the south-west corner. The section of Ditch 4 showed it to have a flat base and fairly steep sides. Only two small abraded sherds were found, both medieval and consistent with the twelfth century date suggested from finds in other sections of this feature.

Trench 6, 1996–97 and 1999–2003. Trench 6 began as a small hole to the south-east of the other trenches, placed to see if there was a possible entrance to the site from the road to Lavenham. In this area there was

modern disturbance (wheel ruts filled with concrete) to a depth of 40cm. A large pit (103) was identified to the east end of the trench, containing a fill of mixed clay and dark loam.

In 1999 the trench was extended to 5 x 2.5m and the new area designated Trench 6A (Fig. 39). A possible feature was identified in section as a bank or collapsed wall (B1), and consisted of a thick layer of clayey soil containing chalk fragments. It overlay Ditch 4, which appeared in the west end of the trench, and may have been cut by Pit 103. This pit was excavated over several seasons (extending into Trenches 6B and 6D) and produced over 2000 sherds of pottery, pointing to a thirteenth century date. It also contained a thirteenth-century iron hunting arrowhead and a Roman *Lar familiaris*.²⁷ The fill consisted of dark organic loam and clay, and the pit was oval in plan (approximately 2.0m by 2.3m) with vertical walls curving gently to a flat base at c. 1.6m deep.

An L-shaped trench 1m wide, 6B, was added to the north and west sides of Trench 6A in 2000, with a 50cm baulk in between. To the north of Pit 103 an area of large stones was identified at 50cm below the topsoil (Feature 102). Underneath this, a short hollow appeared to lead into the pit on a north-south axis. The clay bank B1 (Feature 100) identified in section in Trench 6A continued into this trench on a north-south alignment, and a ditch (Feature 101) with a dark loam and charcoal fill was identified running parallel and on the west side of it. A burnt area (Feature 104) was identified in the north-west corner of the trench. Ditch 4 was not identified.

Trench 6D was added to expose the east side of Pit 103 in 2001. No other features were identified in it.

Trench 6C added a further 1m to the north of Trench 6B in 2002. This trench contained several interconnected and parallel linear arrangements of stones which continued from Feature 102 in Trench 6B. However, the clay bank was not identified in this trench. Pottery was collected from amongst and underneath the stones, the fragments underneath including ?early shelly wares (unfortunately not differentiated in the finds assemblage). A Scottish silver penny of John Baliol (1292-96) was also recovered, presumably indicating that the stones were still exposed in the late thirteenth century.

Trench 6E was another L-shaped trench, this time 1.5m wide, which wrapped around the north and west of the already excavated area. The east end of the trench, like Trench 6D, showed a general absence of features, suggesting that the intense activity characteristic of the rest of the site was thinning out here. A further area of stones was identified at the west end, apparently continuing on from those found in Trench 6C. Underneath the stones, Ditch 4 crossed the trench at the west end, and to the east of it a further north-south linear feature, Ditch 5, appeared to be a continuation of the ditch identified adjacent to the bank in Trench 6B. No finds were recovered from either ditch in this trench. Feature 104 in Trench 6B was revealed to be an oven (001), consisting of an oval ash-filled stoke pit to the north of a circular area of fire-reddened clay. In between the two, at the entrance to the firing chamber on the east side, was a circular patch of grey clay which may have been mirrored on the west side, although it was less distinct there. Pottery from the oven fills is late thirteenth to mid fourteenth century in date. Underneath, one sherd of a large eleventh-twelfth-century Thetford Ware storage vessel with applied thumbed strips was found in section.

Trench 7, 1997/99. Trench 7, measuring 6m x 3m, abutted on to the northern edge of Trenches 4 and 4A (Fig. 39). A hearth (002) was found at the north side at c. 50cm below the ground surface. It was delineated by a curving border of large flints to the north and east, and consisted of a patch of reddened clay approximately 1m square. Seven sherds of pottery were scattered among the stones and suggested a twelfth-thirteenth century date. A compacted chalky soil layer in this trench may have been the remains of a surface. Ditch 2 ran north-south across the west end of the trench, and produced over 300 sherds of pottery which suggested a thirteenth century date for the fill. There were two parallel areas of fill to the east of Ditch 2: the one on the east side may be a continuation of Ditch 5 (see Trench 6), and the one in the centre may be another north-south ditch (Ditch 6?) which appears to butt-end or drain into pit 1003 in Trench 4/4A.

Summary and phasing of main features

During the analysis of the pottery, groups were allocated to layers and features across the site to aid in quantification and interpretation. Groups 1-7 consisted of the topsoil and subsoil spits which were excavated across most of the trenches to approximately the same depths. Groups 8-24 consist of identified features.

Phase 1: pre-11th–12th centuries. Ditch 4 (Group 15) ran diagonally in a straight line across the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. It was cut by Ditch 2 and Oven 001 (Group 22), and possibly by Ditch 5 (Group 19). It produced very few finds, the seven sherds of pottery suggesting a twelfth–thirteenth century date for its fill. It may have been filled in at this period, at the beginnings of intensive use of the site, but may have belonged to a much earlier phase of site use. Whilst a Roman origin is possible, it seems unlikely that it would have been maintained and kept open without some re-cutting, for which there is no evidence, for so many centuries before its final infilling. Other field boundaries on this alignment exist to the north-west of the site, but again their date is unknown. Whatever its date, it is certainly the earliest feature to have been identified on the site.

Group 16 consists of Gully G1 and some post holes in Trench 4, three of which cut the gully, presumably at its base, and two of which were located to the north of the convergence of Ditches 2 and 4. G1 appears to have been cut by an unidentified feature, possibly the butt-end of a ditch, which was in turn cut by Pit 1003. Its relationship with Ditch 2 is uncertain – it may simply flow into it, as appears to be the case from the plan, but it seems more likely that it was cut by it. The post-holes to the north-west may be related, and if so they suggest a curvilinear fence line. Their extent to the north-west is unknown, but they do not appear to the north-east in Trench 7.

Phase II: 11th–12th centuries. Group 8 consisted of all contexts assigned to Ditch 1, the fill of which dated to the thirteenth century. This slightly curving north–south ditch at the west side of the site ran parallel with Slot 1 (Group 10). The fill of the latter produced early medieval wares, suggesting an eleventh–twelfth century date. It is possible that the slot was dug to plant a hedge against the ditch, and that therefore both belong to the early medieval period.

Ditch 2 (Group 9) appears to have followed a sinuous, approximately north–south course to the east of Ditch 1. In the central section of the exposed part of the latter (Trench 3), the two ditches converged. Their relationship is uncertain from the section, but it seems most likely from the plan that Ditch 2 was cut by Ditch 1. It too contained a fairly high proportion of early medieval wares, but the latest pottery in its fill indicated a disuse date of mid–late thirteenth century. This seems to suggest that the two ditches were contemporary, and that they simply merged together.

Slot 2 (Group 11) appeared to run parallel to Ditch 2 just over a metre to the east, and was similar to Slot 1 in depth and scale. However, it did not appear to extend very far north, and its relationship with Ditch 4 (Group 15) is uncertain. It produced no finds. The function of this slot is uncertain, and its similarity with Slot 1 may cast doubt on the proposed function of that feature as a hedge planting trough.

Group 12 consisted of two shallow post-holes to the west end of Trench 2. 2.101 produced four sherds of medieval pottery (not separated in the finds assemblage) and 2.102 contained one sherd of possible St Neots Ware (again not separated, identified from description) and a sherd of intrusive eighteenth or nineteenth-century creamware.

Phase 3: 12th century? Group 18 was a possible clay wall collapse or bank B1 (Feature 100 in Trench 6B), identified in the section of Trench 6A and running along the east side of Ditch 5 (Group 19) in Trench 6B. A small quantity of pottery suggested a twelfth–thirteenth century date for it, although one later sherd was present and may have been intrusive. Unfortunately it did not appear to extend into Trench 6E/6C. It was almost certainly under the stones which made up Feature 102 (Group 20) and was above Ditch 4 (Group 15) in the section of Trench 6/6A.

Ditch 5 (Group 19) appeared to run north–south where it was identified in Trenches 6B, 6C and 6E, and there was a suggestion that it cornered in Trench 6/6A and ran across Ditch 4 (Group 15). It may have been present but unrecognised in Trench 4A and Trench 7 (context 7.10), where it would have been cut by Pit 1003 and Hearth 002. If so, it was probably filled in the twelfth–thirteenth century. If it really cut Ditch 4, this would give it a relatively short lifespan. No dating evidence was obtained from the identified sections of the feature.

Group 24 was an uncertain feature (Ditch 6?) in Trench 7 which had a similar fill to Ditch 2 on the west side of the same trench. It appeared to run north–south and may be an extension of the possible butt-end of a ditch in Trench 4/4A which cut G1 and was cut by Pit 1003. It contained pottery of twelfth–thirteenth century date.

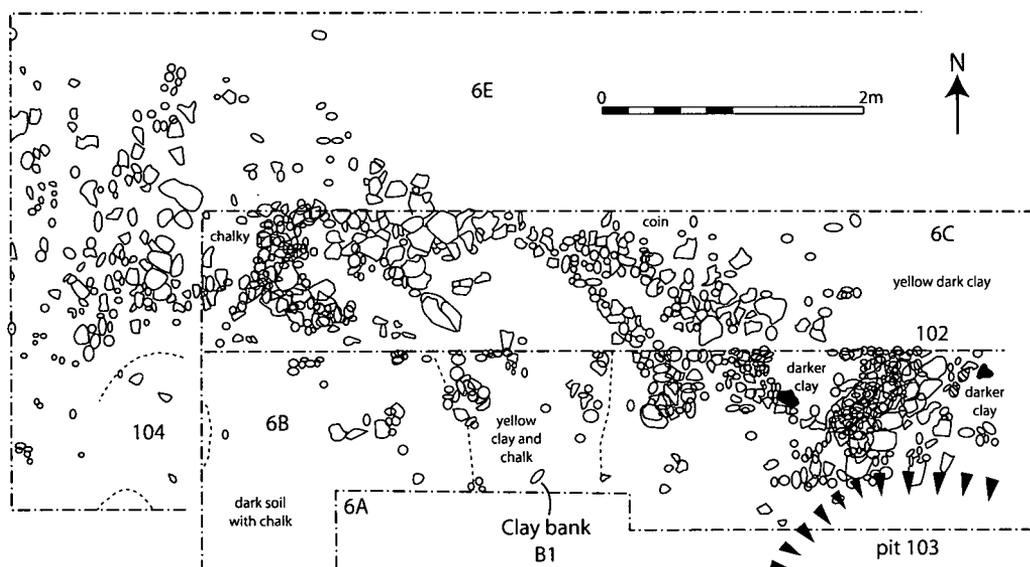


FIG. 42 – PSM 007: plan of the stone spreads in Trench 6.

Phase 4: 13th and 14th centuries. Rough 'cobbled' areas C1 (NE end Trench 3, extending into Trench 3A) and C2 (centre Trench 4, extending into Trench 3A to the north of C1) were assigned to Group 13. Both lay at around 30cm below the surface. C1 was a very small area but it must have overlain Ditch 4, although this was not identified in Trench 3. Finds from it were largely of twelfth–thirteenth century date. C2 was a curving area of large stones approximately 2m long north–south and 0.9m wide east–west, which contained pieces of slag and pot (not differentiated) and overlay gully G1 (Group 16). It appeared to delineate a semi-circular area, 0.8m in diameter, to the west side and may have surrounded something which was later removed, perhaps a barrel.

Group 14 consisted of all contexts associated with Pit 1003. This contained a relatively small quantity of finds for its size, and it has been interpreted as a water pit. It appears to have cut gully G1, and possibly Ditch 5 (Group 19). The final fill was dated to the fourteenth century, but again this feature contained largely twelfth–thirteenth-century pottery and this may have been deposited during its use.

Hearth 002 at the northern edge of the site (Group 17) contained a few sherds of twelfth–thirteenth century date. It is possible that it cut two unidentified features, Group 24 and a northwards extension of Ditch 5 (Group 19).

Group 20 (Feature 102) consisted of a loose spread of large and small stones identified in Trenches 6B, 6C and 6E at approximately 0.5m below the surface (Fig. 42). Like Group 13, they were considered rather rough to be true cobbling and too ephemeral to represent a structure. Again, the key to their interpretation may be in looking at the gaps between them. There are some straight edges running diagonally on a north-west to south-east alignment, and a possible circular area to the west end. It is possible that the stones were placed against wooden sill-beam structures or troughs, perhaps to stabilise them. Alternatively, they may have formed some kind of terracing.

Pit 103 was excavated in several seasons, and the various contexts are assigned to Group 21. It is fairly isolated from the rest of the features, and its relationship with Feature 102 is uncertain – some of the stones lie over its outer edge, but they could have collapsed in if it cut them, or they may respect it and be later. A very large quantity of pottery and a variety of other finds – including slag, lava quern, ironwork, fired clay, animal bone and shell – were recovered from its fill, and pointed to a thirteenth century date, with some residual material of prehistoric, Roman and earlier medieval date.

Group 22 consisted of Oven 001 in Trench 6E. The pottery associated with it suggested it had probably gone out of use in the late thirteenth–mid fourteenth centuries. It overlay the line of Ditch 4 (Group 15), and the Thetford Ware sherd found underneath it may have been in the fill of the ditch.

A possible feature was identified from descriptions of the upper layers in the south-east corner of Trench 4A, as an area of mixed fill containing charcoal and pot, and was assigned to Group 23. It produced nine sherds of pottery and was probably of thirteenth century date. It may have been a pit, or possibly part of Ditch 5 (Group 15).

THE FINDS

unless otherwise stated, all reports are by Sue Anderson

Pottery

A very large quantity of pottery, 25,626 sherds (148176g, eve 86.47), has been collected from this site. Table 3 shows a summary of the quantification by period. This shows that the majority of the pottery belongs to the early to high medieval periods (eleventh to fourteenth centuries).

Methodology. As for site PSM002 (see above).

Period	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave sherd wt
Prehistoric and Roman	25	0.1	186	0.1	0.15	7.4
Late Saxon	19	0.1	385	0.3	0.06	20.3
Early and high medieval	24545	95.8	141474	95.5	82.67	5.7
Medieval glazed	947	3.7	5569	3.8	2.87	5.9
Late and post-medieval	88	0.3	555	0.4	0.35	6.3
Unidentified	2	-	7	-	-	3.5
Total	25626		148176		86.147	

TABLE 3 – Pottery quantities by period.

Prehistoric and Roman pottery. Table 4 shows the quantities of prehistoric and Roman wares identified. All of this material was heavily abraded and clearly residual. There is a known Roman site on a nearby field within the farm.²⁸

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave wt
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	0.002	3	12.0	6	3.2	2.0
IA flint tempered	IAFT	0.41	1	4.0	4	2.2	4.0
IA grog tempered	IAGT	0.46	1	4.0	2	1.1	2.0
RB greyware	RBGW	1.10	15	60.0	36	19.4	2.4
RB coarse grog	RBCG	1.30	3	12.0	132	71.0	44.0
RB red ware	RBRW	1.40	1	4.0	5	2.7	5.0
Samian South Gaulish	SASG	1.63	1	4.0	1	0.5	1.0
Total			25		186		0.15

TABLE 4 – Prehistoric and Roman pottery.

Late Saxon pottery. Table 5 lists the Late Saxon pottery from the site. All Thetford-type ware sherds were from large storage vessels, perhaps even a single vessel, and consisted of body sherds with applied thumbed strips and a large bead rim with thumb impressions. All were in a Grimston-type Thetford Ware fabric, suggesting an eleventh to twelfth century date. The inner surfaces of most of the sherds showed a high degree of ware and this is typical of this type of vessel in this fabric. A small quantity of heavily abraded St Neots Ware sherds was collected, including two jar rims (square and rounded wedge types).

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave wt
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	14	73.7	367	95.3	26.2
St. Neots ware	STNE	2.70	5	26.3	18	4.7	3.6
Total			19		385		20.3

TABLE 5 – Late Saxon pottery

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave wt	
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	3401	13.9	14055	9.9	1.06	4.1
Early medieval ware gritty	EMWG	3.11	407	1.7	2757	1.9	0.46	6.8
Early medieval ware shelly	EMWS	3.14	6	0.02	20	0.01		3.3
Early medieval sandwich wares	EMSW	3.16	103	0.4	851	0.6		8.3
Early medieval sparse shelly	EMWSS	3.19	279	1.1	1287	0.9	0.22	4.6
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	14056	57.3	79556	56.2	42.86	5.7
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	998	4.1	7470	5.3	4.38	7.5
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	1201	4.9	6131	4.3	4.85	5.1
Medieval coarseware gritty	MCWG	3.21	517	2.1	6113	4.3	6.14	11.8
Hedingham coarseware	HCW	3.43	2634	10.7	15153	10.7	15.07	5.8
Colchester-type coarseware	COLW	3.47	485	2.0	5188	3.7	5.29	10.7
Medieval shelly wares	MSHW	3.50	25	0.1	198	0.1	0.84	7.9
Medieval shell-dusted ware	MSDW	3.55	433	1.8	2695	1.9	1.91	6.2
Total			24545		141474		83.08	5.8

TABLE 6 – Early and high medieval coarsewares.

Early and high medieval coarsewares. The quantities of early and high medieval pottery are listed in Table 6. Several fabrics were separated early in the cataloguing stage, and these were used throughout the recording. However, it became clear that there was such a variety of fabrics present, all of them basically sandy wares with few other inclusions, that it would be impossible to record them individually in the time available. Consequently, it was decided to continue with the two distinctive fabrics, MCW2 and MCW3, identified from the start, and to record all the other medieval coarsewares under ‘MCW1’. The fabrics were all very similar to Essex wares, which are the dominant pottery types in Suffolk towns such as Haverhill and Sudbury.

Basic fabric descriptions are as follows:

- Early Medieval Ware (EMW): Fine to medium sandy handmade wares, although some of the rims were wheel-finished and difficult to distinguish from medieval wares. Some sherds contained other typical local inclusions, such as mica, small ferrous fragments, clay pellets or flint. Occasionally, red grog was present. This corresponds with Essex fabric 13, and is not the same as EMW in Norfolk and North Suffolk (although a few fine, thin-walled black sherds were present). The sherds were more commonly oxidised than reduced, and could be brown, brick-red or even bright orange. Mostly 11th–12th century, although wheel-finished examples probably continued into the 13th century.²⁹
- Early Medieval Ware Gritty (EMWG): Particularly coarsely tempered handmade sherds were allocated to this category, although drawing the line between this and EMW is quite subjective. 11th–12th century.
- Early Medieval Ware Shelly (EMWS): An EMW handmade ware with abundant shell inclusions. Essex fabric 12B. 11th–12th century.
- Early Medieval Sandwich Ware (EMSW): A handmade medium sandy black-surfaced ware with red margins and a grey core, sometimes containing coarse red inclusions. This fabric was first recognised in Norwich and is likely to be an early medieval variant of Thetford Ware. A wheelmade version of this fabric was also present, but was included with the general MCW1. 11th–12th century?
- Early Medieval Ware Sparse Shelly (EMWSS): Generally similar to EMW but with sparse shell inclusions (or evidence of their presence, as most had been leached out). Essex fabric 12C. 11th–12th century.
- Medieval Coarsewares 1 (MCW1): The general fabric used for all fine to medium sandy medieval coarsewares in this group, other than those listed below. Most were reduced to a range of greys, but a few were oxidised on one or both surfaces. Like the EMWs, a range of sparse locally occurring inclusions was present. Essex fabric 20. 12th–14th century.
- Medieval Coarsewares 2 (MCW2): A pale grey to off-white fabric with abundant very fine quartz sand which appeared black on the surface of the sherd, giving a peppered effect. 12th–14th century?
- Medieval Coarsewares 3 (MCW3): A very fine, hard, blue-grey sandy ware, very similar in appearance to Thetford Ware, with no inclusions obvious to the naked eye on the sherd surface. Rim forms were

Rim	Essex equiv.	EMSW	EMW	EMWG	EMWSS	MSDW	MSHW	MCWG	MCW1	MCW2	MCW3	HCW	COLW	Total
A1	A1								0.16		0.06			0.22
A2	A2		0.12				0.15		0.59	0.05	0.18		0.23	1.32
A3	?								0.64	0.17	0.79	0.89	0.60	3.09
A4	A4?								0.40					0.40
A5	A3													0.00
A6	?							0.20	0.21					0.41
B1	B4					0.15		0.46	1.27	0.06		0.14	0.64	2.72
B2	B2			0.13			0.20	0.34	0.20					0.87
B3	B2					0.05		0.07	0.39					0.51
B4	B1		0.19			0.16			0.15					0.50
B5	B1				0.06	0.04		0.10	0.20	0.07				0.47
B6	?						0.27		0.30					0.57
C1	C1					0.05			1.33	0.32		0.14		1.84
C2	C1									0.12	0.08	0.11		0.31
C3	C1					0.04		0.09	1.13	0.66		0.10		2.02
C4	C1								0.15	0.08	0.20			0.43
C5	C1													0.00
C6	C1					0.15								0.15
D1	A1		0.05						0.53		0.05	0.11		0.74
D2	B2			0.05		0.16		0.14	0.43					0.78
D3	B4		0.21	0.06		0.24	0.06	0.84	4.96	0.47	0.05	0.93	0.21	8.03
D4	H2		0.21	0.12		0.23	0.16	2.21	6.82	0.31	0.21	0.82	1.14	12.23
E1	E1		0.10		0.06	0.16			0.15			0.05		0.52
E2	?					0.05			0.05					0.10
E3	E1/E4					0.05			0.52			0.05		0.62
E4	?					0.15			0.18	0.10		0.07		0.50
F1	H1		0.18			0.10		0.77	5.52	1.23	0.43	2.71	0.47	11.41
F2	H1			0.05		0.04		0.20	3.71	0.11	0.18	0.64	0.10	5.03
F3	E5								4.11	0.53	1.05	3.17	0.73	9.59
F4	H3								2.70	0.10	1.47	3.08	0.07	7.42
G1	F1								0.04					0.04
G2	F1				0.10							0.16	0.04	0.30
H1	K1											0.05		0.05
I1	D1 (C1?)							0.65	5.55		0.10	0.10	0.85	7.25
Un			0.05					0.03	0.14			0.23	0.21	0.66

TABLE 7 – Rim form quantities (eve).

Type A = plain upright; B = beaded upright; C = beaded; D = simple everted; E = thickened everted; F = flat-topped everted; G = flanged/lid-seated; H = collared; I = cavetto. Note: types A5 and C5 were present but not measurable. Essex equivalents are as published by Cunningham 1985, except that Suffolk form 'I1' is the type published as 'C1' by Drury 1993 (but 'D1' in Cunningham 1985).

generally late. Coarser versions of this type of fabric were also present, but these were included with MCW1, and those with particularly coarse inclusions were recorded as Colchester-type ware. 13th–15th century?

Medieval Coarsewares Gritty (MCWG): Coarse sandy medieval coarsewares in a variety of colours and occasionally containing other local inclusions. Sherds were slightly more likely to be oxidised than reduced. Probably 12th–13th century.

Hedingham Coarseware (HCW): This ware was identified using sample sherds from Haverhill which were originally separated by Helen Walker. In general, it is slightly softer and more micaceous than the overall MCW1 assemblage. However, the fabric is very variable, ranging from fine to medium sandy, and it is likely that some of the coarser products of these kilns were present amongst the sherds allocated to MCW1. It varies in colour from pale orange-brown to light and dark greys. Mid 12th–?early 14th century.

Colchester-type Coarseware (COLW): A hard orange or blue-grey ware, usually with a sandwich-effect section, containing moderate to common coarse white quartz in a medium sandy matrix. 13th–15th century.

Medieval Shelly Wares (MSHW): Wheelmade medium sandy wares with sparse to moderate shell inclusions. Probably 12th–13th century.

Medieval Shell-dusted Ware (MSDW): A soft to hard, fine to medium sandy ware, often with a purple-brown surface and dark grey core. The shell is only a surface treatment and does not occur in the matrix of the clay. This type of surface decoration has been noted in Bury and Colchester, but the fabrics are not the same as this example. Probably 12th–13th century.

Although the Suffolk typology of rim forms was used, these can be correlated with Essex forms. Very few Suffolk forms were present, and these were largely the developed square-beaded types typical of the Hollesley industry and East Suffolk generally, although not in the Hollesley fabric. The true quantity of rim types is hard to calculate in this assemblage, due to the scattering of many vessels through several contexts. For this reason, Table 7 shows the quantification by eye, although unfortunately a high proportion of rims were too abraded or worn to be measured, so these cannot be included in the figures.

This shows that the most common rim forms were types D4 and F1, but that types F3, F4, D3 and I1 were also present in large numbers. Most of these rims belong to the thirteenth century, although F3 and F4 are dated to the late thirteenth to mid fourteenth centuries.³⁰

Base forms were generally sagging. Unlike much of the pottery found in Bury St Edmunds, for example, very few bases showed evidence for knife trimming. Handles were most commonly wide strap types, a few were narrower straps, and there were some examples of rod types.

The majority of vessels were probably jars (or ‘cooking pots’), and this is typical of most medieval pottery assemblages. Table 8 shows the estimated vessel equivalents (eves) for form type. This suggests that bowls were not very common, and although this may well be the case, it should be noted that bowl rims are more difficult to measure accurately from small fragments, and many are not included in the eve quantification. In terms of rim sherd numbers, bowls are twice as common as jugs. One unusual vessel form was a ?bowl with a large handle applied to the top of the rim in the way that a basket handle would be positioned (Fig. 43.21).

<i>Form</i>	EMW	EMWG	EMWSS	MSDW	MSHW	MCWG	MCW1	MCW2	MCW3	HCW	COLW	Total
Jar	0.78	0.36	0.16	1.41	0.56	4.82	31.15	3.86	3.60	11.35	3.64	61.69
Jar?	0.13					0.29	0.75		0.08	0.06		1.31
Bowl			0.06	0.19		0.58	3.17		0.14	0.54	0.2	4.88
Bowl?				0.06		0.05	0.53	0.10		0.18		0.92
Jug					0.13	0.63	4.41	0.18	0.98	1.14	1.24	8.71
Jug?					0.15		0.98	0.20		0.24		1.57
Un	0.15	0.10		0.16		0.14	1.13	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.21	2.02

TABLE 8 – Quantification (eve) of medieval coarseware vessel forms.

Decoration was not common in this group. Thumbled rims were present in most fabric groups, although they are more typical of the first half of the medieval period (twelfth to thirteenth centuries). Two or three vessels had concentric incised lines in the rim top. Decorative features on the body of the vessel included applied thumbled strips, and combed or incised wavy or horizontal lines. Finger-tip impressions at the shoulder, a common feature of East Suffolk pottery, were not present. Handles were ‘decorated’ with stab or slash marks (probably more to help with the firing of these thick pieces of clay, rather than true decoration), and two examples had short patches of combing in place of thumbing along the edges (Fig. 43.17). Two vessels apparently had applied thumbled strips around the angle of the base.

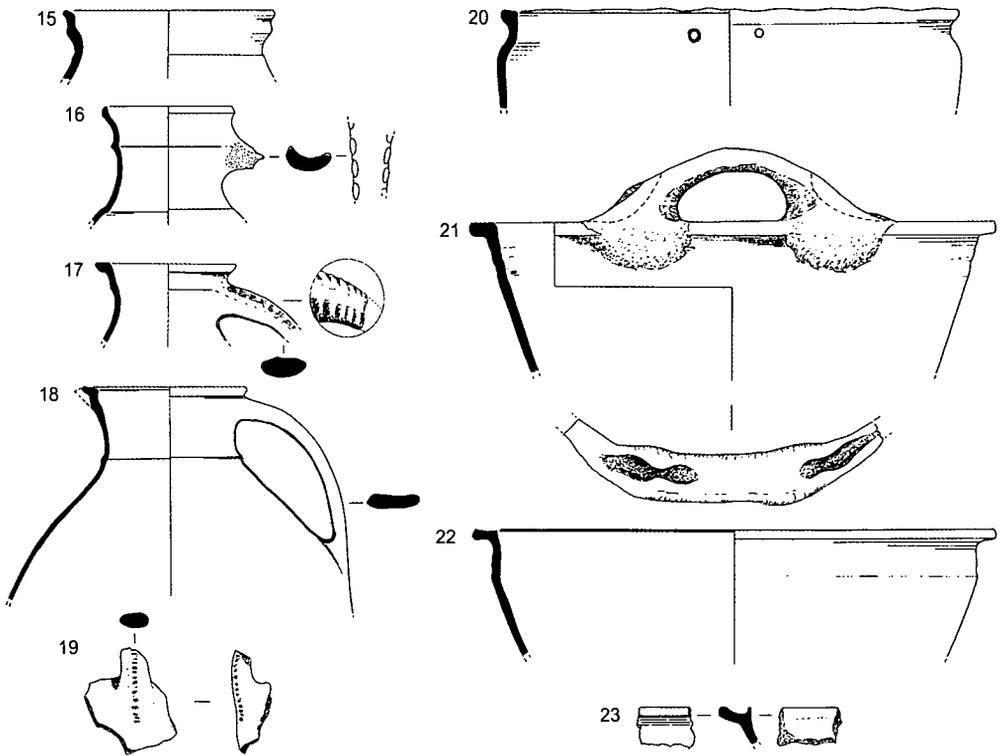


FIG. 43 – PSM 007: pottery nos 15–23, jugs and bowls (1:4).

Sherds showing evidence of sooting, burnt food residue and lime were present in most contexts, indicating that the vessels had been used before disposal. Several vessels had holes drilled after firing, suggesting that an attempt had been made to mend them. However, some of these holes were close to the rim and could have been intended for suspension.

A small proportion of vessels in this assemblage appear to have been poorly fired and have spalled and laminated after burial. This is particularly true of some sherds in MCW1, which had black surfaces and red cores, and also of some Heddingham coarsewares. This is more likely to be a post-depositional change, however, and there is no evidence to suggest that these vessels were particularly inferior for cooking purposes. Some very well fired vessels also showed signs of lamination, for example a small near-complete jar (Fig. 44.6) which had lost most of its base due to burning, presumably during cooking.

Medieval glazed wares. Table 9 shows the quantification of medieval glazed wares. Glazed wares form 4.4 per cent of the total medieval assemblage (not including early medieval wares) by count. Burton End in Haverhill, a semi-industrial site which may have been a knacker's yard, produced 8 per cent, and a medieval moated site near Stowmarket had 10 per cent.³¹ Smaller proportions were found at St. Olave's Church site, Creeting St. Mary (5 per cent) and Benacre Quarry (2.3 per cent), so Preston is within the expected range for a rural site.

The glazed wares were clearly dominated by Heddingham Ware from Sible Heddingham in north-west Essex. Other Essex production sites are represented, particularly Mill Green and Colchester, which produced distinctive wares in identifiable fabrics. It is likely that several of the unprovenanced glazed sherds, many of which are fine to medium sandy redwares, were

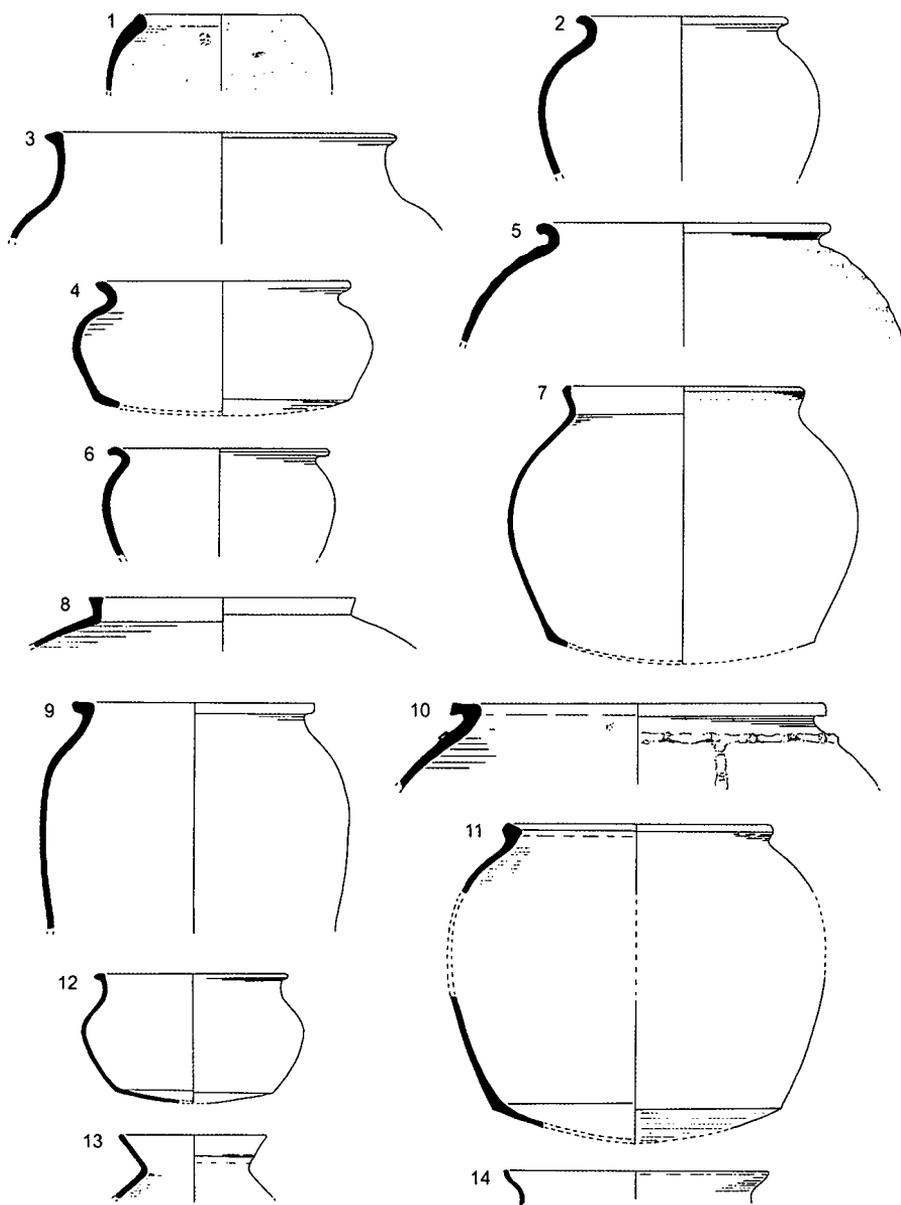


FIG. 44 – PSM 007: pottery nos 1–14, jars (1:4).

also products of Essex kilns. Grimston Ware from Norfolk is not particularly common, but whether this is due to the date of the site or the distance from the source is unclear. Certainly the contemporary Mill Green Ware is present in similar low numbers, but this is also approaching the limits of its distribution. Both wares are found in Bury St Edmunds, where Grimston is the dominant glazed ware in the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, but their presence and proportions in Lavenham and Sudbury are currently unknown.

It is likely that all glazed sherds in this assemblage were from jugs. Few were identifiable to specific forms, however. Several handles in Hedingham Ware jugs were twisted rod types, and

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave wt
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	23	2.4	154	2.8	
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	38	4.0	182	3.3	0.07
Colchester ware	COLC	4.21	15	1.6	150	2.7	0.10
Mill Green ware	MGW	4.22	35	3.7	328	5.9	0.60
Heddingham fine ware	HFWD	4.23	836	88.3	4755	85.4	2.10
Total			947		5569		2.87
							5.9

TABLE 9 – Medieval glazed wares.

their form suggested that they were from globular jugs. A few decorated sherds were from jugs, which had been decorated in the Rouen style with applied strips and pellets in chevrons. Several Heddingham jugs had the typical decoration for this fabric, which consisted of narrowly spaced vertical or curving lines of applied strips under a green glaze, and there were several sherds with ring stamps, also a common decorative form in this fabric. At least one face jug was present (Fig. 41), although the source of this was unknown. Several sherds in a fine pinkish whiteware of unknown origin, but possibly French, were glazed with a thick yellow glaze.

Late and post-medieval wares. Table 10 shows the quantities of late medieval, post-medieval and modern sherds recovered. From this it can be seen that very little pottery was deposited on the site after the medieval period. A few sherds of probable fifteenth to sixteenth century date were present (notably Late Essex-type Ware (LMTE) and Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE)), but most were heavily abraded and are likely to have reached the site during agricultural activities such as manuring. They do not suggest any kind of intentional rubbish disposal in this area continuing into the post-medieval phase.

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve	ave wt
Cistercian-type ware	CTW	5.20	1	1.1	1	0.2	1.0
Late Essex-type wares	LMTE	5.60	30	34.1	198	35.7	0.10
Iron glazed black wares	IGBW	6.11	1	1.1	18	3.2	18.0
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	23	26.1	117	21.1	0.05
Post-medieval white wares	PMWW	6.20	1	1.1	1	0.2	1.0
Tin glazed earthenwares	TGE	6.30	1	1.1	1	0.2	1.0
Staffordshire-type slipware	STAF	6.41	1	1.1	6	1.1	6.0
Cologne/Frechen stoneware	GSW4	7.14	1	1.1	4	0.7	4.0
Late post-medieval earthenwares	LPME	8.01	4	4.5	19	3.4	4.8
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	8.03	11	12.5	16	2.9	0.05
Refined red earthenwares	REFR	8.04	1	1.1	1	0.2	1.0
Creamwares	CRW	8.10	1	1.1	1	0.2	1.0
Yellow ware	YELW	8.13	3	3.4	9	1.6	3.0
English stoneware	ESW	8.20	7	8.0	72	13.0	0.10
Porcelain	PORC	8.30	1	1.1	2	0.4	2.0
Late slipped whiteware	LSWW	8.52	1	1.1	89	16.0	0.05
Total			88		555		0.35
							6.3

TABLE 10 – Late and post-medieval pottery.

Unidentified. Two sherds (7g) were unidentified. One was an undecorated body sherd in a medium sandy redware from 6C.5 and the other was a sherd of uncertain type, possibly Roman, from 6D.2.

Pottery by context. The majority of pottery from this site was collected from the soil layers overlying features. In an attempt to make some sense of this large assemblage, the layers and features have been allocated group numbers which cover the whole site rather than simply the individual trenches.

The majority of the pottery came from topsoil and subsoil down to 60cm. With the exception of the topsoil and spit 7 (which only occurs in a few areas of the site), there is an increase in the ratio of early medieval to medieval wares the deeper the layer, ranging from 12.6 per cent in spit 2 to 42.5 per cent in spit 6. Despite this, it is clear that the layers are very mixed, and as they appear to overlie features of medieval date, some of the earlier material at least may be redeposited. The most concentrated areas of pottery deposition were in Trench 6, but Trenches 2, 3 and 4 also produced significant quantities.

Of the features, the largest groups were from Pit 103, Ditch 2, Pit D3, Oven 001 and Ditch 1. Their assemblages are summarised below:

Pit 103 produced four residual sherds of prehistoric, Roman and Late Saxon pottery, 292 sherds of early medieval wares, 1746 sherds of medieval coarseware, and 87 sherds of glazed ware. The forms and fabrics in this assemblage would appear to indicate a mid thirteenth century date for the fill.

Ditch 2, which cut Ditch 4 (finds from the two features were not distinguished in Trench 4) and has an uncertain relationship with Ditch 1, contained five residual sherds of Thetford Ware and St Neots Ware, 239 sherds of early medieval wares, 630 sherds of medieval coarseware, and 39 glazed sherds. The rim forms in this group suggest a mid-late thirteenth century date for the infilling of the ditch.

Pit D3 contained 93 early medieval sherds, 290 medieval coarseware sherds, 8 sherds of medieval glazed wares, and one late medieval sherd. The presence of a late medieval sherd, if not intrusive, may suggest a fourteenth/fifteenth century date for this feature. Certainly the rim types, the relatively high proportion of hard blue-grey coarsewares, and the small quantity of small and abraded medieval glazed wares, would combine to suggest a fourteenth century date.

Oven 001 produced a large fragment of a Thetford-type large storage vessel with applied strips from its lowest levels (6E.001.1). The general fill contained 90 sherds of early medieval wares, 134 sherds of medieval coarsewares, two sherds of glazed wares, and an intrusive piece of porcelain. The assemblage included three F4 and one F3 rims, suggesting a late thirteenth-mid fourteenth century date for the fill, but this does not discount a thirteenth century date for the use of the feature.

Ditch 1 produced only coarsewares, 11 early medieval and 182 medieval. The suggested date for this fill is mid-late thirteenth century, which would make the infill contemporary with Ditch 2. However, the allocation of finds to Ditch 2 is tenuous in those trenches where it has a relationship with Ditches 1 and 4.

The dating evidence for the other features is sparse. Finds from Slot 1 were only distinguished from the general spits in Trench 3, and here they consisted of Thetford Ware and early medieval ware, suggesting an twelfth to thirteenth century date for this feature. One of the post-holes in Trench 2 produced a sherd of creamware and possibly also a piece of St Neots Ware (not separately numbered in the collection, but described in the site information). Ditch 4 produced only 11 sherds (although some of those allocated to Ditch 2 in Trench 4 probably also belong), one of which was a heavily abraded Roman grogged ware, but the remainder were all early medieval or twelfth to thirteenth century fabrics, suggesting that the feature was probably filled in the twelfth century. The rim type and fabrics present in hearth 002 suggest a twelfth to thirteenth century date. Clay bank feature 100 produced a single rim sherd of late thirteenth to fourteenth century date, as well as earlier body sherds. Area of stones 102 included two rims of early-to-mid thirteenth century date. Burnt area 6B.104 (possibly the same as Oven 001) produced two early-mid thirteenth-century rims. Possible feature 4A.4 contained thirteenth-century pottery.

Catalogue of illustrated vessels (Figs 43–44)

- 1 Ginger jar-type vessel? MCWG Rim A6. Coarse sandy pale grey. Pit 103 (6B.103 1.65–1.7m).
- 2 Jar. MCWG Rim I1. Grey, coarse gritty fabric with occasional coarse white quartz. Sooted below shoulder. Spit 6C.5.
- 3 Jar. MCW1 Rim B6. Dark orange with grey margins/core, medium sandy with occasional mica and larger quartz fragments, some ferrous inclusions. Contexts 1.02, 1.03 and 1.3.
- 4 Jar. MCW1 Rim I1. Grey-black, abundant fine-medium sand with occasional larger pieces of white quartz. Sooted below shoulder. Pit 103 (6D.103).
- 5 Jar. MCW1 Rim I1. Dark grey with red margins, medium sandy, occasional red inclusions, similar to Colchester-type ware. Spit 2.2/3.
- 6 Jar. MCW1 Rim I1. Slightly oval, fire-damaged with spalling of lower half and base. Dark grey with red core, medium sandy with occasional red inclusions (flint/quartz and ferrous pieces) and coarse flint. Sooted on rim and below shoulder. Spit 2.2/3.
- 7 Jar. HCW Rim D4. Dark grey with red core, medium sandy. Spits 6.6, 6.6a, 6A.3/4b, 6.5, 6.5e.
- 8 Jar. MCW1 Rim E3. Pale buff with red margins and grey core, medium-coarse sandy with occasional mica. Spit 3A.02.
- 9 Jar. MCW1 Rim F1. Brown, medium sandy, occasional larger white quartz. Sooted below shoulder. Spit 2.2/3.
- 10 Jar. MCW1 Rim F1. Pale grey, medium sandy with occasional mica and ferrous pieces. Applied thumbed strips. Spit 3.3.
- 11 Jar. MCW2 Rim D3? Pale grey, abundant fine sand. Lower half sooted. Spit 6.7.
- 12 Jar. HCW Rim F1. Dark orange, soft, fine sandy micaceous, common red pellets. Spit 6C.5.
- 13 Jar? MCW1 Rim D1. Blue-grey, fine sandy, occasional mica and coarse white quartz. Sooted under rim. Rim form is similar to late medieval drinking vessels in Colchester. Layer 6/6A.7e.
- 14 Jar. MCW1 Rim D1? Dark grey, fine sandy with occasional mica. Spit 6B.3/4 N–S.
- 15 Jug. MCWG Rim B1. Pale grey with red margins and grey core, coarse white and clear quartz. Spit 4A.3.
- 16 Jug. MCW1 Rim A4. Spit 2.2/3.
- 17 Jug. MCW1 Rim F2. Grey external surface, orange core and inner surface, medium sandy, slightly micaceous. Comb marks in place of thumbing at either side of handle. Spit 2.2/3.
- 18 Jug. COLW Rim B1. Grey surfaces and core, red margins, common coarse white quartz in a medium sandy matrix with occasional red inclusions.³² Layer 6.7.
- 19 Jug. MCW2. Pale buff externally, pale grey inside, abundant fine sand and common mica. Handle decorated with short ?finger nail impressions. Spit 4.2.
- 20 Bowl. MSDW Rim C6. Orange-brown, common coarse rounded quartz in a medium sandy matrix, sparse shell dusting externally. Pierced after firing, either side of a break – may be for suspension or mending. Sooted below the shoulder. Layer 1.3.
- 21 Bowl. MCWG Rim F2. Brown with red margins and grey core, abundant medium-coarse sand, occasional red clay pellets. Thick wide strap handle running vertically across rim, with deep grooves at either end. Layer 6.5.
- 22 Bowl. MCW1 Rim F1. Brown, abundant fine sand and occasional larger white quartz. Sooted on rim and below shoulder. Spit 4.5.
- 23 Bowl. COLW Rim G2. Black surfaces, red margins and core, medium sandy with coarse red ?grog fragments. Spit 2.2/3.
- 24 Face jug. Unprovenanced Glazed (UPG). White/pink fabric with blue-grey core, fine sandy micaceous. Worn and abraded. Spit 6A.3/4c. (Fig. 41).

Building material and fired clay

The majority of ceramic building material came from the upper levels of the excavation and was generally small and abraded. A full catalogue was not made, and types were noted during bulk finds quantification. Most fragments were of plain roof tile, but there were also pieces of late brick, drainpipe and pantile. All are likely to postdate the medieval pottery assemblage with which they are mixed. A few fragments of Roman tile were present, however, including a possible *tessera* (6B.2e) and a large *tegula* fragment (6C.5). A few pieces of Welsh roofing

slate and lime or cementitious mortar fragments were also recovered, and are likely to be post-medieval.

The fired clay assemblage consisted almost entirely of small, abraded fragments in a soft, pale pink to buff chalk-tempered fabric. There were no diagnostic pieces, but even the largest fragments showed no evidence for wattle impressions. The most likely source for this material would be a smashed oven dome, and it is probably derived from the medieval oven excavated in Trench 6C/6E.

Miscellaneous

Slag. A large group of ferrous slag and some fragments of fuel ash slag were collected. These were not analysed in detail, but the assemblage was dominated by smithing slag, including several hearth bottom fragments. The largest group was collected from Pit 103, suggesting that smithing was taking place near the site in the thirteenth century.

Lava quern (by Cathy Tester). Seventy-seven fragments of lava stone weighing 10.393kg were collected from 31 contexts. Approximately a third of the assemblage (35 per cent) by weight came from layers, 10 per cent came from a ditch, an oven and a pit, but more than half of the stones (55 per cent) were unstratified. A maximum of 53 querns are represented but most pieces would amount to only small proportions of the original stones. However, only 12 pieces have no recordable features.

The stone is in good condition. The lava is grey and vesicular and almost certainly of Rhenish origin. It is presumed to come from medieval hand querns although only 6 have measureable diameters. 3 upper stones have outer diameters of 160mm, 340mm and 360 mm. 3 upper stone central hole diameters of 110mm, 100mm and 80mm were recorded including one from a Dorestad Type II quern which has a flanged or collared hopper hole. Parkhouse (1976) describes this type as the most common early medieval quern at Dorestad and elsewhere. 39 of the stones have complete thicknesses which range from 14mm to 50mm but most of them are less than 34mm. 6 stones have thicknesses between 40 and 50mm which may possibly indicate that they were part of lower stones.

Grinding surfaces are mainly smoothly finished but 4 have radial grooves. Several of the grinding surfaces are concave and several have concentric striations from use. Non-grinding surfaces are almost all irregular and roughly finished but a few are neatly finished with regular small to medium-sized pecking.

The querns were all found in association with medieval pottery and there is nothing to suggest that they are any earlier, although some have obviously been reused which is indicated by subsequent wear patterns. One abraded piece has lime adhering.

Clay pipes. Six pieces of clay pipe stem were recovered, all from the upper levels of Area 6.

Glass. All glass was post-medieval or modern in date and included fragments of windows, bottles and other vessels. It has not been catalogued.

Metalwork and chalk objects

The vast majority of metalwork collected from this site was in poor condition and probably of post-medieval date. The ironwork consisted largely of nails and sheet fittings of uncertain use, as well as a few horseshoe fragments and nails (e.g. 3A.04, 3A.05, 6E.4), and knives (e.g. 3A.07?, 4.2.005, 6.1/2, 6E.1/2, 7.1); it has not been catalogued in detail. A few copper alloy finds were also present, including vessel rim fragments (e.g. 3.2, 4A.3.005), belt fittings (e.g. 6.1, 6/6A.7e, 6B.3/4e, 6C.3/4, 7.001), and there was a folded lead sheet fragment (7.3). A schist whetstone was found in 6E.4. A few of the more interesting small finds are listed below.

- 1 Ag. Penny of John Baliol (First coinage 1292–96). Mint: St. Andrews. Obv. profile bust L., sceptre in front of face, +IOhANN[ES] DEI [GR]A. Rev. long cross, mullet in each quarter (at least one mullet with 5 points and at least one with 6, others obscured by corrosion), [CIVI]/ T[AS/ S] AN/ DRE. Context 6C.5. (Fig. 41)
- 2 Ae. Annular brooch with cable decorated frame and small sheet pin. 16mm diameter. *Cf* Egan and Pritchard 1991 No. 1334. 13th century. Ditch 3, 4.001. (Fig. 41)
- 3 Ae. Annular brooch with twisted wire frame, pin lost, signs of gilding. 24mm diameter. 13th century. Not located.
- 4 Ae. Buckle. Rectangular frame with sheet roller and folded sheet rectangular plate. 42mm total length, buckle width 21mm. Similar in design to a folding strap clasp (e.g. Egan and Pritchard 1991 No.559). Late medieval. Context 6B.6b.001.
- 5 Ae. Buckle plate. Plain, rectangular, thin sheet, 14 x 10mm, recessed for buckle frame and pin, two rivet holes close to buckle end at edges of plate. Tinned or silvered? Medieval? Context 4A.2.004.
- 6 Ae. Belt mount. Rectangular, 15 x 6mm, with two small rivets in situ, recessed long edges and slightly convex centre (solid, flat backed). Similar to Egan and Pritchard 1991 No.1137. Late 13th–mid 14th century. Context 6.4.
- 7 Chalk. Spindle whorl, 27mm diameter, 18mm thick, 12g. Medieval? Context 6/6A.8e.
- 8 Fe. Arrowhead. 75mm long, socketed, blade is tanged. Medieval. Context 6B.103. (Fig. 41)
- 9 Ae. Leg of Roman *Lar familiaris*. Context 6B.103. This object has already been published in detail.³³

BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal bone (Julie Curl)

Summary. A total of 5.882kg of faunal remains, consisting of 1246 pieces, was recovered from a variety of medieval and post-medieval contexts. Although this is a relatively small assemblage, at least thirteen species or groups of species were identified, including deer, woodcock and ferret/polecat. The assemblage comprised of primary and secondary butchering waste, skinning of large and small mammals and some evidence of horn and antler working.

Methodology. All of the bone was scanned primarily to identify species and elements present following modified guidelines by English Heritage.³⁴ The assemblage was also examined for butchering evidence, ageing data and any pathological evidence. Bone was quantified; total quantities for each context were noted and quantities for each species were noted for each context. Quantities of measurable bones and those countable according to English Heritage guidelines were also noted. No bones were measured at this stage. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and entered into an Excel database for analysis of data: a summary of the information is included in a table in archive.

Results. In general the assemblage was fragmentary, largely due to butchering, and in quite poor condition: few measurable or ageable bones were present. Canid gnawing was noted in Trench 4 and Trench 6, which may suggest that this material was left uncovered for sometime and open to scavenger activity before burial.

Trench 6 produced just over 66 per cent of the bone in this assemblage. The bulk of the material belonged to the three main food species of cattle, sheep/goat and pig; the remains of all three species consisted of both primary and secondary butchering waste. The pig bone from Trench 6 included several neonatal bones, which would indicate on-site breeding. One of the neonatal bones exhibited butchering and burning, which would suggest that the piglet had been cooked and was not merely a natural piglet death. The sheep/goat bone mostly belonged to adults, although juvenile remains were present.

One chopped sheep horn core was identified from context 6B.5 in Trench 6 that may indicate horn-working in the area. Skinning waste in Trench 6 is also suggested by the presence of cuts on equid, sheep/goat and cattle lower limb bones. Also noted was a cat mandible in the thirteenth–fourteenth century context 6B.6c with knife marks; cut rabbit in context 6D.1; and a single bone from a ferret/polecat in context 6B.5e, all of which may be remains from skinning smaller mammals.

Bird bone was also present in Trench 6. Butchered galliformes (chicken/pheasants) were identified, along with remains from goose and woodcock. Although no butchering was noted on the woodcock bone in context 6C.5, it does not mean that it was not used for food: smaller birds require little butchering and, furthermore, its presence with more urban waste would suggest food use, as this is a naturally a secretive woodland species. A canid jaw and a metapodial were also produced from this trench.

Trench 4 produced 18.5 per cent of the assemblage and largely produced butchered remains of the main three food species, consisting of both primary and secondary butchering waste. The remains included neonatal pig, which would suggest on-site or local breeding. Small quantities of equid bone were also noted, including a chopped tibia in context 4.5b. Sparse remains of bird were recovered in Trench 4 with identifications of goose in 4A.2 and galliforme in 4A.3.

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 combined only produced 15.5 per cent of the assemblage, with a total of 885g of bone. No bone was recovered in Trench 1; only 24g of bone was produced from Trench 2 and just 4g from Trench 5. 146 grams of bone were yielded by Trench 3: the only identifiable remains from this trench being a sheep/goat molar from 3A.05, a neonatal pig calcaneus and one fish bone from 3A.11. Trench 7 produced 711g of faunal remains. The remains in this trench mostly consisted of the primary and secondary butchering waste of cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Equid teeth were produced from context 7.5 and single bird bones were noted in 7.3 and 7.4.

Conclusions. The bulk of the faunal assemblage appears to be mostly primary and secondary butchering waste from the preparation of animal carcasses and skinning, to food waste. Trench 6 produced the most interesting and varied remains with greater evidence of skinning, including of cat in a thirteenth to fourteenth-century context; it is also possible that the ferret/polecat found in Trench 6 had been used for its pelt. Industrial activity is further indicated in the fourteenth century by the presence in Trench 6 of a chopped sheep horn core that could suggest horn-working waste had also been dumped with skinning waste. In addition, antler-working waste was also recovered from the same trench as the horn core.

Shell

Shells were dominated by oyster and land snails. The only other shells were four mussels, two whelks and a winkle, which presumably reached the site, like the oysters, as food debris.

The snails consisted entirely of *Helix aspersa* and *Cepaea nemoralis*, both common types which like a variety of habitats. The large concentrations of some of these within ditches may indicate that they colonised the open features during the winter.

Plant macrofossils (J.P. Huntley)

Introduction and method. A bulk soil sample was collected from the fire area in front of a thirteenth to fourteenth-century oven (6E.001) and sent to the laboratory for analysis of, especially, plant remains. Given the generally dry nature of the deposit it was expected that only charred plant remains were likely to be contemporary with time of deposition. The complete sample (1.3kg, c. 1 litre) was therefore processed by manual flotation with both flot and residue retained upon 500 μ mesh. After drying the residue was scanned for the presence of bone fragments and artefactual material as well as checking processing efficiency with respect to the plant material. The flot was scanned at magnifications of up to x50 under a stereomicroscope. Seeds were sorted and identified by comparison with modern reference material belonging to the author.

Results and discussion. The initial material was a black-brown (2.5Y 3/2) organic clay with brick/tile and mortar inclusions. Charcoal flecks were abundant. The flot consisted almost entirely of charcoal, much of which was in the form of fragmentary cereal grains and legumes. Table 11 presents the full data from the flot.

Latin Name	Common English Name	No. of items	Flot residue
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	Bread wheat	223	4
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> glume bases	Bread wheat chaff	7	
<i>Hordeum undiff</i>	Barley	4	
<i>Avena</i> sp	Oats	2	
<i>Bromus</i> sp	Brome grass	2	
Culm node	Straw nodes	6	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking mayweed	2	1
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Hemp nettle	2	
<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	Black bindweed	1	1
Cf <i>Ranunculus sardous</i> -type		1	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat hen	3	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> -type	Docken	1	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	1	
<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>	Water bistort	3	
<i>Euphorbia</i> sp	Spurge	1	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elderberry	1	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> receptacle fragments	Stinking mayweed flower fragments	2	
<i>Polygonaceae</i> undiff		2	
>4mm legume fragments	Pea/bean fragments	16	1
<4mm legume fragments	Vetch/tare fragments	30	
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers		1
Total		310	8

TABLE 11 – Plant macrofossils from Oven 001.

Other than the few charred plant remains present in the residue it also contained a few flakes of flint (not necessarily worked) and a few small fragments of animal bone, none of which was identifiable.

At 318 seeds per litre this is a rich sample and should therefore adequately reflect activity regarding the plant remains at least near to the site of deposition, if not actually within it. It is unlike many archaeological contexts where concentrations are of the order of a few tens of seeds and reflect mixed activities from all over the site. Bread wheat was by far the most abundant species recorded and it seems clear that the oven was being used either to dry or process such grain. Chaff fragments and weed seeds, although varied in type, are not abundant and thus it is most likely that the grain was fully processed prior to deposition in this area of the site. The grain has not sprouted and is therefore not malted although wheat is rarely used for this purpose in this country. The weedy taxa represented are largely typical of heavy clay or at least wet soils. None is characteristic of light sandy or even calcareous dry soils. Although barley and oats grain were both present, there is no indication as to whether they were being grown in their own right as crops, or simply contaminants of the bread wheat. The >4mm legume fragments tended to be about 4mm and generally round – most were halves or slightly less than half – and were probably peas (*Pisum sativum*) rather than Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) because of this shape and size. They may well have been a crop in their own right and could have been the remains of former plantings in the field or the remains of former activities in the oven. The smaller legumes, likewise, could have been from vetches grown as fodder or simply weeds. If weeds, then the species in this category are more typical of grassland and other associated grassland taxa are absent. Thus it could be argued that they, too, reflect other crops being grown nearby.

At what stage in processing the bread wheat was introduced to the oven, presumably for drying, is something to address in more detail. Bread wheat is a free-threshing cereal, so when the grains are released during threshing a more or less intact rachis (ear) remains. This is in comparison with, for example, spelt wheat, where the ear breaks into spikelets which require further processing to remove the tough attached glumes and rachis segments. The whole ears of bread wheat could have been being dried, with some grains simply falling out and through

the racks of the drier where they became charred, and subsequently raked out into the fired area that was sampled. However, it could be argued that weeds would have remained in the crop at this stage and that their seeds too, could have accompanied the grains falling through the rack. Many weeds would almost certainly have been harvested with the wheat and threshing is one of the first processes to be undertaken on the way to producing the clean grain for storage and consumption. If the grain had already been fully processed and was simply being dried prior to storage in a granary, then more or less pure grains would be expected. This is what has survived and thus it is argued that the sample does represent a fully processed product as initially inferred.

Although a small sample, this context does seem to represent fully processed bread wheat being dried prior to storage or use. The weed seeds have given some indication as to the type of soils being cultivated and there are suggestions of other crops also being grown by this farmer. Sampling of other contexts may well add further information about the general crop husbandry of this site and should be undertaken during further phases of excavation.

Charcoal and coal. Small fragments of charcoal and burnt and unburnt coal were found in many contexts. In some trenches coal occurred fairly low down in the layers, suggesting that it was intrusive or possibly that the material may have been redeposited.

Discussion of the finds evidence

Compared with other rural sites excavated in recent years, this has produced one of the largest assemblages of medieval pottery in Suffolk. The only sites which rival or outstrip it are production sites, and the sheer quantity meant that there was speculation during the excavation that this was another such site. However, it is clear from the composition of the assemblage that this group consists entirely of domestic waste. Whilst a few vessels had certainly been under-fired, and cracking and spalling was seen on some others, they were not wasters, many having evidence of sooting or burnt food residue. The large quantity in comparison with other sites must in part be attributed to the careful hand excavation from topsoil downwards, through layers which would be machined away on 'rescue' sites, but there is still an unusually large quantity.

A very wide range of fabrics was present in the group, although most were fine to medium sandy wares with few other inclusions and were not easily divided. Early and high medieval coarseware rim types and vessel forms and fabrics were generally typical of Essex, although a few rims were more like east Suffolk forms. The number of these was insignificant however, and it is clear that the sources favoured by the people using this site were to the south, perhaps channelled via the markets at Sudbury and Lavenham. Unfortunately, no large assemblages of medieval pottery are available from these towns so far. A few glazed wares came from further afield, notably Grimston Ware from Norfolk and possibly a single glazed vessel from France, but the majority were products of the kilns at Sible Hedingham in Essex. These kilns were also the main source of glazed wares as far north as Bury St. Edmunds in the mid twelfth to mid thirteenth centuries, although they were supplanted thereafter by Grimston as the dominant source for the town.

The majority of pottery was recovered from layers above the features, and it appears from the general lack of abrasion and the proximity of many sherds from individual vessels that very little movement of the material had occurred following deposition. The exception to this is the early medieval pottery (and anything earlier), which generally did show some signs of abrasion. One explanation for this may be that the rubbish was deposited in middens around the edges of the site, and that some of it eventually made its way into the fills of ditches after the site was abandoned and the heaps collapsed and weathered. The large pit 103 would

probably also have been an open feature during most of its life, and was presumably deliberately backfilled with some of the surrounding midden material.

The other finds from the site were in relatively small quantities. The most notable assemblages were the ferrous slags, most of which were hearth bottom fragments and suggest that smithing was taking place in the vicinity, and the lava querns, which were presumably connected with the oven and its use for drying bread wheat.

Based on the pottery and stratigraphy (where recorded), it appears that the earliest features on the site are the north–south Slot 1 and north-west to south-east aligned Ditch 4, dated eleventh to twelfth and twelfth century respectively. The activity associated with these features presumably accounts for the fairly large quantities of early medieval pottery from the site, although no other features can be assigned to this phase. However, the main activity on the site appears to have been in the thirteenth century, much of the pottery belonging to this period. The main features were an oven which had been used for drying bread wheat, a possible water hole, and some boundary ditches. Some of these were probably deliberately backfilled towards the end of this phase, perhaps in the early fourteenth century.

It is possible that the site was a semi-industrial area at the west end of a green (identified during excavations at PSM 002)³⁵ with grain processing related to the nearby windmill (site PSM 002). Alternatively, if it predates the construction of the mill, perhaps it was no longer required and went into decline, resulting in the use of the area for rubbish disposal in the thirteenth century.

In terms of pottery studies in Suffolk, this assemblage has not been as productive as was first hoped, simply because it is typical of Essex and a typology and sequence for these wares is already available. It has provided much-needed evidence for the types of pottery available to, and used by, a medieval rural community in the south central area of the county, and provided information on the sources – and the probable markets – favoured by the people living there. However, it is clearly untypical of the assemblages collected from most rural sites in the county, and it has offered an insight into methods of rubbish disposal in the thirteenth century. On most sites, small quantities of pottery end up in ‘rubbish pits’, and it is rare to find large parts of single vessels, thus causing speculation about what happened to the remainder. Possible explanations have included the regular clearing out of pits for manuring. Evidence from this site, though, seems to suggest that material was dumped in heaps rather than pits, and this deposit may well represent the use of a redundant ‘brownfield’ site (in present day terminology) by several households for the disposal and middening of waste. Perhaps this was a method favoured particularly in the claylands, due to the heavy nature of the soil and the likelihood of waterlogging at quite shallow depths. Its preservation is probably related to its position at the edge of a field, in an area which was not subsequently heavily ploughed, and which later became the site for a pig manure heap, preserving it by the re-establishment of its early use into the twentieth century.

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

The earliest activity represented on the site dates to the Bronze Age and, while limited to a few residual ceramic finds, these are still significant, though it is impossible to deduce what type of activity they represent. What is intriguing, however, is the presence of Bronze Age material at all. There has been a tendency to think that the clay plateau areas were relatively deserted during the prehistoric period, with settlements and agricultural activities concentrated in the more easily cultivated valleys. Recent archaeological discoveries, however, including metalwork recovered using metal detectors, have forced a re-think and it has become clear that the clay areas were more populous than had originally been thought. A limited quantity

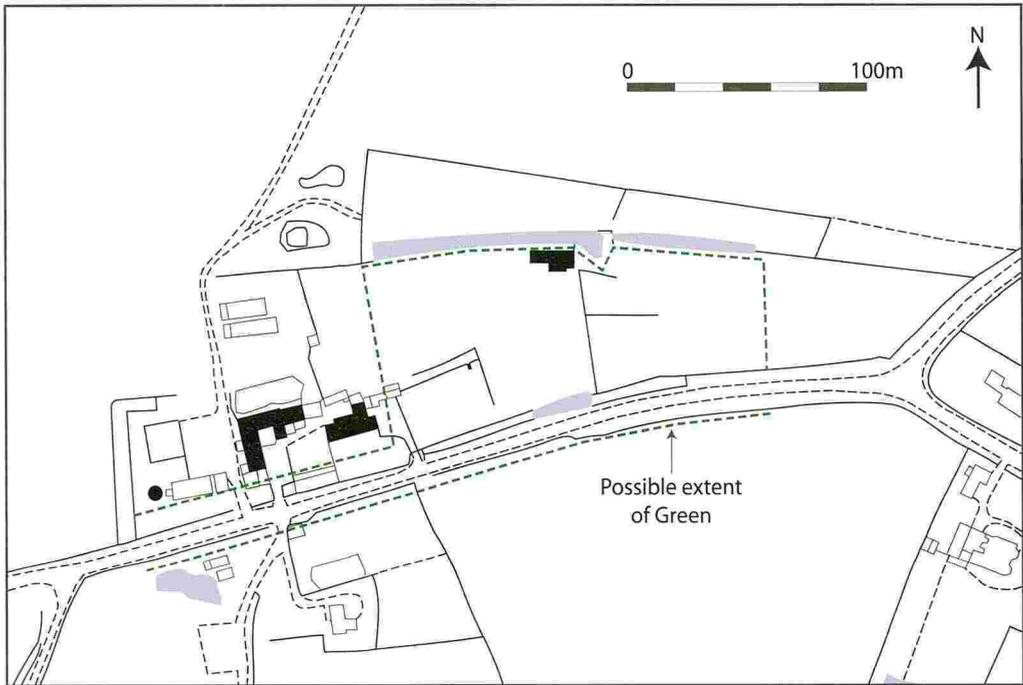


FIG. 45 – Map showing the suggested extent of the medieval green.

of Iron Age and Roman pottery was also recovered as residual material in later features. These finds were almost certainly generated by the known Iron Age and Roman site in the fields to the north.

The excavations revealed only one feature of Late Saxon date, but the presence of Thetford Ware pottery as residual finds in later features suggests that there was activity of this date in the immediate vicinity. Indeed, the range of ceramic finds is suggestive of continuous activity, in some form, on the site from as early as the tenth to eleventh centuries through to the present day. However, the most significant features recorded during the 1998 and 2003 excavations dated to the medieval period. While precise dating of the individual phases recognised was problematic, it seems likely that the main structure at PSM 002, interpreted as a windmill, dated to the thirteenth century, although an earlier, twelfth century, date cannot be entirely ruled out.

It is possible that the area between the substantial water-filled ditch on the north side and the road to the south originated as a green (Fig. 45). The site topography (Fig. 30) suggests that this area was subdivided into a number of compartments by a series of ditches. The apparent 'building platform' (Fig. 30, B) may not have been an intentional structure, but could have been the result of the subdividing. The dating of the subdivision is not clear with two of the platform-defining ditches containing post-medieval material, but possibly medieval in origin.

The one certain structure on the building platform, first identified during 1998 and then fully excavated in 2003, has been interpreted as a windmill of a type known as a post-mill. This interpretation is based entirely on the morphology of the structure, as there was no other evidence, such as preserved grain, which would confirm this hypothesis. The mill would have been constructed within the area of the green, possibly confined within a small ditched enclosure to isolate it from interference from grazing animals.

The mill itself would have comprised a deeply embedded central post, in this case set within a central post-hole, itself located in the centre of a larger circular pit. The mill superstructure would have been set on the post, with the entire structure able to turn into the wind. A long tail-pole, which would be used both to turn the mill and as a stabiliser, would have extended to the rear of the structure, through the access ladder. The irregular secondary circular feature external to the central pit recorded at Preston St Mary may represent the trodden path around the mill formed by the continual turning necessary to maintain optimum conditions for use. The irregular settings against the outer edge of this feature may represent where the end of the tail-pole rested on the ground. The ring of post-holes around the central pit is more enigmatic. They are relatively small and are not likely to have been structural. It is possible that they were simply to accommodate timber revetting around the central mound.

A remarkably similar structure was excavated at Boreham Airfield in Essex.³⁶ While this example was confined within a ring-ditch, the circular pit with its central post-setting was very like that excavated at Preston St Mary. Here there was additional evidence for its function as a mill, as environmental samples, which included significant quantities of charred cereal grains, were recovered from in the vicinity of the mill structure and close to a four-post structure interpreted as a granary. However, it must be said that even with this evidence, the author does put forward an alternative interpretation that the structure may have been a dovecote³⁷ and the same degree of caution should be exercised with Preston St Mary.

The artefactual evidence suggests that the Preston St Mary mill was a one-phase structure, possibly only in use during the thirteenth century, certainly becoming redundant no later than the fourteenth century. With the uncertainty of the date by which time Priory Manor was given to the priory of Holy Trinity in Ipswich, we cannot be sure if the mill predated their ownership or was part of their own farming operation.

The medieval site to the west of the farm buildings, PSM 007, appears to have been broadly contemporary with the mill site. The earliest feature on the site was a very straight, north-west to south-east aligned ditch, which was backfilled in the early medieval period but which may have had much earlier origins. Its line was cut, apparently very soon after it was backfilled, by a curving north-south ditch which converged with another to the west of the site. These had parallel slots, which may have been planting troughs for hedges. More ephemeral evidence for two further ditches, perhaps slightly later and again running north-south, was found to the east of the site. These ditches appear to have been filled in within a century of their construction, although it is possible that the ditches to the west survived slightly longer than those to the east. If they were all open at the same time, it is very difficult to suggest a function for them, but there would not appear to be much requirement for a sequence of replacements moving further towards the east either.

The greatest level of activity at PSM 007 was towards the eastern half of the site. Once the ditches here had been backfilled, two large pits were dug. One was probably a cistern or water pit, and the other appeared to be primarily a rubbish pit. A hearth to the north and an oven to the south may also have belonged to this phase of activity, and several areas of stone spreads between these features, whilst harder to interpret, may have been related. It seems likely that this area was an industrial complex in the thirteenth century. The finds from the site provided evidence for grain drying and processing, smithing, horn- and antler-working, skinning and butchery. Not all of these activities were necessarily carried out within the confines of the site however, as the very large quantity of pottery recovered seems to imply that the area ended its life, probably in the latter part of the thirteenth century, as a midden, which continued in use to the early-mid fourteenth century.

While the mill and the possible industrial complex clearly became redundant before the end of the medieval period, the artefactual evidence from throughout the site, and the fact that the

extant farmhouse includes elements that date back to the fifteenth century, suggests that activity/occupation continued, at some level, through to the present day.

The post-medieval archaeology included evidence for building structures, with their interpretation enhanced by documentary and map sources. The first was a cottage that once stood in the area immediately to the west of the medieval post-mill. From the earliest readily available map evidence we can tell that the cottage was built prior to 1830 and it is known to have survived into the middle of the twentieth century.³⁸ The metallised surface recorded at the southern end of the 1998 trench was part of the driveway leading to this cottage, shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1880. In addition, rubble and domestic rubbish recovered during the 2003 excavation were certainly associated with this building.

The second structure was a known windmill (PSM 025) targeted during in the 1998 excavation. Whilst not shown on the Hodkinson map of *c.* 1783, this cannot be taken as conclusive proof that no mill was present at this time. Two maps by Bryant and Greenwood, both dating to the mid 1820s, clearly show a windmill on the site.³⁹ A map of the parish of Preston St Mary, surveyed by J.A. Melhuish in 1830, clearly shows the site as a working mill enclosed in a triangular parcel of land, as does the Tithe Map of 1839.⁴⁰ The last documentary source mentioning the site as a working mill dates to 1874 when the miller's name is given as Henry Martin.⁴¹ However, by the time of the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1880, the mill was shown as disused, and it had disappeared altogether by the Second Edition of 1900, as had the field boundary which enclosed it to the east. In addition, some of the metalwork recovered during the excavation suggests late eighteenth-century, rather than nineteenth-century, technology.⁴² It seems likely, therefore, providing the mill or its machinery was not bought second hand, that there was a mill on the site from the latter years of the eighteenth century.

Prior to the excavation in 1998, the type of windmill that had occupied the site was unknown. The excavation evidence suggests that it was of a type known as smock mill. These generally have octagonal brick bases and a tapering tower constructed with a wooden frame clad in timber weatherboarding.

Peter Dolman described the mill as follows: 'The wall foundations could be traced and showed a typical octagonal plan, 15 feet across flats internally and with 17 inch thick walls. The surrounding area was paved with large round stones and the doorway had fragments of burr stone outside. Metal finds included one of the slip cog pins from a stone nut, two sailcloth hanging rings and pieces of a clamp, possibly from the sails. The rear six feet of the wooden windshaft also survives, having been built into a farm building. This retains the iron cross-fin tail gudgeon (which is not drilled for a striking rod) and parts of the two brakewheel spoke mortices. The mill could have resembled nearby Brettenham mill which dated from 1804 and was of similar size'.⁴³

Features (ditch fills, water pipes etc.) were also recorded in the trenches which relate to the more recent years of the farm's history. These features help to illustrate how the landscape of a working farm is a dynamic system, with changes and modifications happening on a continual basis. It is also clear that it would be impossible to recognise all but a few of these changes within the limited scope of the archaeological investigations undertaken on the site. However, they do provide snapshots at particular points in both space and time and give a tantalising glimpse of the archaeological potential for the site as a whole.

CONCLUSIONS

From the known historical background of the Priory Farm site it was obvious that there was a high potential for significant archaeological deposits to survive within the vicinity of the

extant medieval farmhouse. Priory Manor, particularly when under the ownership of the priory of Holy Trinity in Ipswich, would have included a substantial working farm. The overall manorial farm complex is likely to have included accommodation buildings, barns, stables, animal sheds, crop-processing areas, dovecotes, a smithy and, in this case, at least one windmill.

The two main aims of the initial programme of archaeological investigation in 1998 were to deduce the character of any surviving archaeological deposits associated with the rectangular earthwork and to investigate the known post-medieval windmill site to the east. It was then a sheer coincidence that the main structure revealed within the rectangular earthwork was the remains of another, earlier, windmill separated chronologically from its neighbour by in the region of six hundred years.

The optimum position for the windmill itself would have been in a relatively open area divorced somewhat from the main farm building complex. This fits with the excavated evidence at Priory Farm, where the mill is located on the north side of what has been interpreted as a possible green.

As previously mentioned in this report, the dating for the medieval windmill was somewhat problematic, but a main period of use within the thirteenth century is consistent with the excavated evidence, although a slightly earlier, twelfth-century use is also possible. The structure appears to be of a type known as a post-mill, or more accurately a sunken-post-mill. These are the earliest known type of windmill, with the whole structure rotating around a single, deeply set wooden post. There is no crosstree (to provide additional anchorage) and any other support is likely to have been provided by relatively insubstantial bracing. Due to the relatively unstable nature of the single post structure, it is likely that the actual body of the mill was small and made as light as possible with wicker or clapboard walls.⁴⁴

While there is some disagreement regarding where post-mills were first invented, Holt suggests England, possibly even East Anglia.⁴⁵ Clark also states that the documentary sources used to give some indication of date for the first post-mills are ambiguous, but it seems clear that the type was relatively well established by the end of the twelfth century. The twelfth to thirteenth century date attributed to the mill at Preston St Mary is consistent with a period when there is thought to have been a great increase in the number of post-mills in operation, particularly in eastern England.⁴⁶

The mill would have been used to grind the grain from the manorial farm and, for a fee paid as a percentage of the milled flour, the grain of tenants who in many cases were legally bound to use the manorial mill.

The site to the west of the farmhouse has been harder to interpret, with relationships between features being difficult to establish. The quantity and type of pottery recovered shows that the site was active between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, a period of three hundred years. It may have ceased to function fairly abruptly around 1350, the time of the Black Death. Economic reasons as a result of this crisis would have caused its demise just as much as the more obvious population loss.

Although the excavations on this part of the farm began in 1992, it was only in 2003, after the second excavation at the so-called 'moated site' (PSM 002), that the possible significance of the location was realised. If the 'moated manor site' were not a moat at all, but a green, this entrance to the green may have been the workplace of semi-autonomous artisans, craftsmen and traders. Previously it had been assumed that it was closely associated with Priory Manor, perhaps a working area serving it. Association with a manor, particularly one owned by a powerful priory, would give a much higher degree of stability in bad times. But these people, with fewer resources behind them, would just move on if there were a significant decline in trade.

The ferrous slag is evidence of blacksmithing; the lava quern of grain grinding; and the burnt clay of ovens or furnaces. We must remember, too, all the other activities for which hard evidence may not survive: wood working, harness making, weaving and thatching to name but a few. The bone report also mentions butchery, horn-working and skinning. It seems that there was intense activity accompanied by many changes on this site for quite a long period. This may explain why the archaeology in this part of the farm was so complex. It is unfortunate that it was not possible to identify any buildings, but they must have existed somewhere nearby. There is just a chance that some were present in the gaps between the stone spreads.

The findings of the pottery report are very clear about the trading patterns of the people living here: they looked towards Essex, Lavenham and Sudbury, rather than northwards to Bury St Edmunds. This is useful confirmation of what was already assumed to be the case.

The excavations at Priory Farm have only covered a very small area and it is entirely possible that the remains of other, later, windmill structures survive which would bridge the chronological gap between the PSM 002 post-mill and the PSM 025 smock mill. Extension of the excavated areas to the west of the farmhouse might one day allow for a better understanding of how this rural medieval industrial site was related to the green and the windmill.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are extended to Adrian and Jane Thorpe for providing not only the archaeology itself, but also their hospitality and enthusiasm throughout the project. Members of the Suffolk Archaeological Field Group and Adrian Thorpe's 'Monday Club' provided volunteer labour. John Fairclough, Edward Martin and Keith Wade provided management, organisation and advice for various stages of the project. The late Peter Dolman from the Suffolk Mills Group provided his expertise regarding the post-medieval windmill site.

Roman pottery was identified by Cathy Tester and Jude Plouviez, prehistoric wares by Edward Martin, and the medieval coin by Helen Geake. Kelly Powell sorted and input the context information for PSM 007 and sorted the finds before analysis. Pottery drawings are by Adrian Thorpe, small find photographs are by Faye Minter, and the site photograph is by Stuart Boulter.

NOTES

- 1 Thorpe 1993.
- 2 Boulter 1996.
- 3 Copinger 1905, 183–90.
- 4 Rumble 1986, 8.26; 14.26.
- 5 Douglas 1932, lxxxiv and cxlii.
- 6 Hall 1896, I, 393.
- 7 Douglas 1932, lxxxvi.
- 8 Brown 1985, 74; *Curia Regis Rolls, 5 & 6 Hen. III*, 287.
- 9 Kirk *et al.* 1949, 64, no. 313.
- 10 *Book of Fees*, II, 600, 919.
- 11 Rumble 1986, 12.6.
- 12 Illingworth 1812–18, 142.
- 13 Dugdale 1846, VI, 448.
- 14 Rumble 1986, 14.115; Davis 1954, 67, 69).
- 15 Davis 1954, 67.
- 16 Hervey 1925, 82.

- 17 Rye 1900, 45, no. 141. This John de Ryvers is not the Sir John de Rivers who inherited the Honor of Ongar in Essex from his grandmother in 1243 – see White 1949, 13.
- 18 In 1234–35, Nicholas son of William de Prestun (?the son of the pre-1204 grantor of land to Holy Trinity) had also entered into an acquisitive land transaction with the prior of the Hospitallers: Rye 1900, 36, no. 131.
- 19 *Cal. Patent Rolls, Edu. III*, II, 119; Copinger 1904, iv, 323.
- 20 SROB (Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds), T91/1,2.
- 21 Thorpe 2000.
- 22 SROB, M563/1.
- 23 Boulter and Anderson 2004, 7–10.
- 24 E. Martin, pers. comm.; Brown 1999.
- 25 C. Tester, pers. comm.
- 26 Drury 1993.
- 27 Plouviez 2003.
- 28 PSM 003/008, Martin *et al.*, 1996.
- 29 *cf.* Rogerson and Ashley 1985.
- 30 Drury 1993, Essex type H3.
- 31 Anderson 2004.
- 32 *cf.* Cotter 2000 Fig.65 No.49.
- 33 Plouviez 2003.
- 34 Davis 1992.
- 35 E. Martin, pers. comm.
- 36 Clarke 2003.
- 37 Clarke 2003, 76.
- 38 SROB, M563/1.
- 39 Dolman 1998, 1.
- 40 SROB, M563/1; T91/1,2.
- 41 Dolman 1998, 3.
- 42 P. Dolman, pers. comm.
- 43 Dolman 1998.
- 44 Clarke 2003, 74.
- 45 Holt 1988, 20.
- 46 Clarke 2003, 74.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- The Book of Fees commonly called Testa de Nevill*, II, 1923. HMSO, London.
- Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III*, II, 1893. HMSO, London.
- Curia Regis Rolls of the reign of Henry III. 5 & 6 Henry III*, 1949. HMSO, London.
- Anderson, S., 2004. *A Medieval Moated Site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket, Suffolk*. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 15.
- Boulter, S., 1996. *Excavation Report: Preston St Mary, Suffolk*. Suffolk County Council Archaeol. Service Rep. 96/15.
- Boulter, S. and Anderson, S., 2004. *Excavations at Priory Farm, Preston St Mary (PSM 002 and PSM 025)*. Suffolk County Council Archaeol. Service Rep. 2003/133.
- Brown, N., 1999. *The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex: Excavations 1955–1980*. E. Anglian Archaeol. 90.
- Brown, P. (ed.), 1985. *Sibton Abbey Cartularies and Charters*, I, Suffolk Charters VII. Woodbridge.
- Clarke, R., 2003. *A medieval moated settlement and windmill: Excavations at Boreham Airfield, Essex 1996*. E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 11.
- Copinger, W.A., 1905. *The Manors of Suffolk*, I. London.
- Copinger, W.A., 1904. *Suffolk Records & MSS &c.*, IV. London.

- Cotter, J.P., 2000. *Post-Roman Pottery from Excavations in Colchester, 1971–85*. Colchester Archaeol. Rep. 7. English Heritage, London.
- Cunningham, C.M., 1985. 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex,' in C.M. Cunningham and P.J. Drury, *Post-medieval Sites and their Pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*. Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 5/ Council Brit. Archaeol. Research Rep. 54.
- Davis, R.H.C. (ed.), 1954. *The Kalendar of Abbot Samson*, Camden Society 3rd ser., LXXXIV. London.
- Davis, S.J.M., 1992. *A Rapid Method of Recording Mammal Bones From Archaeological Sites*. English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory Rep. 19/9.
- Dolman, P., 1998. 'The Windmills of Preston St. Mary', *Suffolk Mills Group Newsletter*, 72.
- Douglas, D.C. (ed.), 1932. *Feudal Documents from the Abbey of Bury St. Edmunds*. Oxford.
- Drury, P., 1993. 'The Later Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery,' in W.J. Rodwell, and K.A. Rodwell, *Rivenhall: Investigations of a Villa, Church and Village, 1950–1977*, 2, *Specialist Studies and Index to Volumes 1 and 2*. Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 4.2/Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 80, 78–95.
- Dugdale, W., 1846. *Monasticon Anglicanum*, VI. London.
- Egan, G. and Pritchard, F., 1991. *Dress Accessories c. 1150–c. 1450, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 3*. HMSO, London.
- Hall, H (ed.), 1896. *The Red Book of the Exchequer*, I. HMSO, London .
- Hervey, F. (ed.), 1925. *The Pinchbeck Register*. Brighton.
- Holt, R., 1988, *The Mills of Medieval England*. Oxford.
- Illingworth, W. (ed.), 1812–18. *Rotuli hundredorum temp. Hen. III et Edw. I*. Record Commission, London.
- Jennings, S., 1981. *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich*. E. Anglian Archaeol. 13.
- Kirk, R.E.G. et al. (eds), 1949. *Feet of Fines for Essex*, III. Colchester.
- Martin, E., Pendleton, C. and Plouviez, J., 1996. 'Archaeology in Suffolk 1995', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.*, XXXVIII, 482.
- Parkhouse, J., 1976. 'The Dorestad Quernstones,' offprint from *Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek*, Jaargang 26, ROB.
- Plouviez, J., 2003. 'A copper-alloy Lar fragment lost in a medieval pit at Preston St Mary', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.*, XL, 331–33.
- Rogerson, A. and Ashley, S., 1985. 'A medieval pottery production site at Blackborough End, Middleton,' *Norfolk Archaeol.*, 39(2), 181–89.
- Rumble, A. (ed.), 1986. *Domesday Book, Suffolk*. Chichester.
- Rye, W. (ed.), 1900. *A Calendar of the Feet of Fines for Suffolk*. Ipswich.
- Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001. *Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of post-Roman ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Res. Group Occ. Paper No 2.
- Thorpe, A., 1993. *A Landscape History of Priory Farm, Preston St Mary*. Dissertation for a Cambridge certificate course in landscape history and field archaeology.
- Thorpe, A. 2000. *Priory Farm, Preston St Mary. Wildlife, Archaeology, Buildings*. Privately printed booklet.
- White, G.H. (ed.), 1949. *The Complete Peerage*, XI. London.