

THE MEDIAEVAL POTTERY (Fig. 42)

v. Handle of jug, with grey core, light red surface and splashes of pale green glaze. cf. *Audlem*,²⁸ Fig. 39, 1, 13th century.

From the lowest excavated layer of the pit.

w. Handle of jug in grey fabric with streak of white paint and splashes of green glaze.

From the lowest excavated layer of the pit.

x. Cooking pot in pinkish grey fabric. Very similar to the pottery found in the late 13th century level at Bungay Castle.²⁹

From Ditch D, to the west of the west stoke-hole.

All this pottery would seem to be of the 13th century date.

VEGETABLE REMAINS

In the black layer at the east end of Ditch A was about a cupful of carbonised seed; this was identified by Mr. J. Arthur as that of the Common Orache.

Samples of charcoal from the west flue were sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and were determined as follows:—

Six specimens of Oak of *Quercus robur* type.

Three specimens of Poplar or Willow (*Populus* or *Salix* sp.).

One specimen of Maple (*Acer* sp.).

One specimen which was probably Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) but no scalariform perforation plates to the vessels could be detected.

THE ANIMAL REMAINS

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The bone material from this site weighed 72 pounds, of which 26 pounds consisted of unidentifiable fragments. The domestic animals present were cattle, sheep, pig, horse, dog and cat. The wild animals were red deer and fox. There were also oyster, whelk and mussel shells.

DESCRIPTION OF MATERIAL

Cattle

The remains of this species far exceeded all others and there was a minimum of ten animals represented.

The bone measurements from this site seem to indicate that more than one breed of cattle was present. A diversity of types is a feature of the cattle present on some Roman sites.³⁰

²⁸ G. Webster and G. C. Dunning, 'A Medieval Pottery Kiln at Audlem, Cheshire', *Med. Arch.*, iv (1960), p. 109.

²⁹ G. C. Dunning in H. Braun, 'Some Notes on Bungay Castle', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxii (1936), p. 334.

³⁰ P. A. Jewell in A. C. Mourant and F. E. Zeuner (Eds.), *Man and Cattle; a Symposium on Domestication*, Brit. Anthropol. Inst. (1964), p. 80.

Nearly all specimens were from fully mature animals. Out of fourteen distal metatarsal extremities only three had unfused epiphyses, indicating animals less than three years old at death. All the teeth showed considerable wear and in the case of the lower third molar, which erupts at four to five years of age,³¹ this would suggest animals of probably not less than seven years old.

Pig

Two juveniles and two adults are represented. Both adults were fully mature animals.

Horse

There were only five specimens.

Sheep

There were six adults and two juveniles. No complete long bones were found. The measurements suggest an animal of the size of a robust Soay.

Red Deer

A portion of cast antler showing saw marks, and a third phalanx were the only specimens.

Dog

There were a few fragments, also footprints on tiles, from an animal about the size of a fox-terrier.

Cat

There was a minimum of two animals of different sizes. One of these was an average sized domestic cat, but the other presents more of a problem. The decision as to whether the cat remains are from wild or domestic animals is normally based on size. In this respect the larger specimen must be classed as wild. However, in all three categories of cat, wild, domestic and feral, there have been giants with total length, including tail, of up to 3½ feet and weight up to 30 pounds,³² so the validity of this criterion is doubtful. The present restricted range of the wild cat is due entirely to persecution, but it seems unlikely that this had already started in the Roman period. The balance of probability would favour the idea that the second animal was a very large and powerful domestic tom-cat.

³¹ For the ageing of specimens, Silver's dating was used. I. A. Silver in D. R. Brothwell and E. S. Higgs (Eds.), *Science in Archaeology* (1963), p. 250.

³² M. Burton, personal communication (1967).

DISCUSSION

(a) EXPLOITATION OF THE VARIOUS SPECIES

Sheep

The total amount of sheep material is too small to be dogmatic on the point, but the absence of the bones of immature animals makes it likely that sheep were kept for milk, wool or both and were thus more valuable alive than dead. In such a system of husbandry an animal would be killed only because of excessive wear or loss of incisors or, in the case of ewes, due to disease of the udder.

Cattle

As with the sheep, the cattle were obviously only killed at the end of a long working life. Steers or cows would have been used as draught animals and cows, in addition, would be the producers of milk and calves.

(b) MEAT

On the basis of bone dimensions and comparisons, carcase weights have been allotted as follows: cattle 350 pounds, sheep 35 pounds and pig 50 pounds. The carcase is defined as the body after head, hide, feet and entrails have been removed. For unimproved breeds the carcase weight is about 50 per cent of the live weight. This is the killing out percentage. The numbers of each species present are multiplied by the allotted carcase weight of that species and these figures added to give the total weight of meat. The figure for each species is then expressed as a percentage of the total (Table I). The number of bone specimens is ignored as it is misleading.

TABLE I
Meat Provided by Each Species

	Number of Animals	Lbs. Meat	% Meat
Cattle	10	3,500	91
Sheep	6	210	6
Pig	2	100	3

Pig remains do not survive as well as those of the other species, so the true contribution of this animal was probably higher.

PLATE XXXII

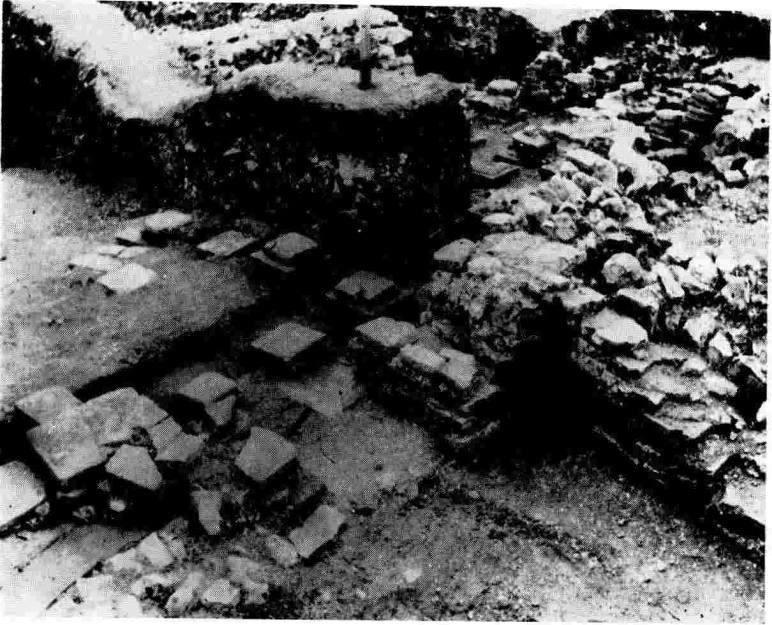


(a) Tile floor and footings of apsidal wall of east room after removal of flue.



(b) East room showing cement floor and blocked flue.

PLATE XXXIII



(a) North flue. Cement floor partly removed.



(b) West end showing north wall of flue and plunge baths with lead pipe in position.

PLATE XXXIV



(a) West plunge bath looking west. On the right is the cement floor of the first stage, on the left, the tile floor and quarter-round mouldings of the second stage.



(b) The plunge baths, the west room and the wall of the cistern. The first waste pipe can be seen below the foot-rule.

PLATE XXXV



(a) General view. In the foreground the east flue with blocking wall removed.



(b) Colour coated ware.

(c) THE NATURE OF THE SITE

At this site the meat bones and the waste bones—those removed when the carcase is prepared—were in roughly equal proportions. This is the case at a subsistence site, one where the animals are produced, killed and eaten in the same place. This suggests that there was a farm close by and it further seems likely that the ditch round the bath house where most of the bones were found was used to dump rubbish in. Moreover, although the forelimbs were well represented, the bones of the hind limbs were relatively scarce, so it is tempting to surmise that there was a surplus and parts of the carcase were “exported”. On the other hand, however, had it been possible to excavate a wider area, the missing portions might have appeared.

(This report on animal remains has been curtailed by the omission of three tables; the complete version is preserved at the Ipswich Museum).

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