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**The small finds from Parsonage Farm, Westwell,
Kent (ARC PFM98)**

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1 INTRODUCTION

During excavations at West of Parsonage Farm (ARC PFM 98) by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) a total of 65 small finds (including coins) were recorded. The coins and token were identified by Geoff Egan and the stone types were identified by Ian Betts, both of MoLSS.

<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Ceramic	1
Stone	5
Glass	2
Copper-alloy	28
Iron	18
Lead-alloy	9
Silver	1
Shell	1

The first section of the report is a brief narrative placing the artefacts within the context in which they were found. There then follows a discussion of them by type and function, drawing in parallels from surrounding sites and, where possible, placing them within their regional and national context. All the finds date either to the period of the moated site or later.

2 CONTEXTUAL NARRATIVE

2.1 Medieval phase 2 (AD 1225-1250)

Group 43622; sub-group 309 (Building 1, Room 2)

Very corroded fragments of small copper-alloy dome-headed mounts SF 28 came from features in Room 2 (an oven, etc.), context 966. These are very fragmentary and in poor condition but are likely to have originally formed parts of either bar mounts or other multi-foil or lobe mounts. These mounts may have been used on a leather belt or strap.

Group 43631; sub-group 322 (Building 1, Room 3 – kitchen unit?)

Make-up/levelling 958 associated with Room 3 produced a very corroded complete iron horseshoe, SF 30. There are four rectangular nail-holes in each branch and although the surface is very corroded, they appear to be counter-sunk. The shoe has a single calkin, but is too corroded to identify its form. Overall the shoe appears similar to those in Clark's type 3 for London (Clark 1995, 86-8 and 96), dating to the 13th to 14th centuries.

Group 43633; sub-group 372 (Building 1, Room 3 – robbing?)

A posthole fill (851) produced an intrusive copper-alloy half penny, SF 70, of George III, dated 1773.

2.2 Medieval phase 2 and 3*Group 43515; sub-group 156 (W moat cut)*

Context 190, primary moat fill, produced an incomplete fine-grained sandstone hone stone (SF 42) and pottery dated to *c* 1250-70.

2.3 Medieval phase 3 (AD 1250-1350)*Group 43516; sub-group 165 (Moat cut/fills)*

Fill 312 of the moat produced pottery dated to *c* 1250-1350 and two L-shaped iron pintles (SF 63), used for hanging doors, window shutters, etc.

Group 43612; sub-group 116 (Robbed ?drainage feature outside E gable wall of Building 1, Room 1)

A linear cut probably associated with the construction of SG109 wall 585, produced some corroded fragments of iron, including a nail (SF 26), an oyster shell used as a paint palette (SF 65) and pottery dated to *c* 1175-1250. Two of the iron fragments may come from a curving strip mount, but are too corroded to identify. The shell palette contains traces of red iron oxide (haematite) pigment, evidence for either the possible decoration of the building or for the decoration of manuscripts within the building.

Group 43624; sub-group 88 (Secondary robbing of Building 1, Room 2)

A non-structural cut (558) produced a fragment of curving sheet iron (SF 22) from an unidentifiable object and pottery dated to *c* 1250-1400.

Group 43700; sub-group 336 (Hiatus between Buildings 1 and 2)

Make-up/levelling 607 contained a cut copper-alloy short-cross farthing of Henry II to Henry III (1180 to 1247), SF 104, and pottery dated to *c* 1125-1250.

Group 43700; sub-group 359 (Hiatus between Buildings 1 and 2)

This group produced two objects of personal adornment and two fittings, as well as pottery dated to *c* 1375-1400, all from context 382, a general occupation spread. The former are a copper-alloy arcaded square clasp (SF 4) and an ornate annular brooch with zoomorphic decoration (SF 103) of 13th century date. The fittings comprise an iron hook (SF 31) and a L-

shaped iron pintle (SF 32). The hook, SF 31, is flat and very corroded but is probably part of a fitting, perhaps associated with cooking (Geoff Egan, pers comm.).

Group 43711; sub-group 481 (Construction of Building 2, Room 1)

Context 480, demolition debris, produced a copper-alloy buckle and buckle-plate (SF 5) and pottery dated to *c* 1225-1300. Examples of this form of buckle from London date from the late 12th century through to the late 14th century (Egan 1991, 76) and a similar example from York dates to the mid- to late 13th century (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2888, Fig. 1466, no. 14298).

Group 43712; sub-group 95 (Robbing associated with Building 2, Room 1)

A robber cut (307) at the NW corner of Room 1, produced pottery dated to *c* 1175-1250 and part of a socketed iron tool or implement (SF 21).

Group 43733; sub-group 243 (Robbing associated with Building 2, Room 3)

The fill of a posthole (335) contained a ceramic figurine (SF 77), probably a horse, (see separate report by Lorraine Mephram) and pottery dated to *c* 1350-1500.

Group 43725; sub-group 537 (Industrial pit to the E of Building 2, Room 2, adjacent to potential bridge abutment)

Pit 1045 produced pottery dating to *c* 1100-1500 and a small spherical iron-rich medium-grained sandstone pebble (SF 100).

Group 43753; sub-group 292 (Robbing associated with Building 2, Room 5)

Context 308, north wall of a room, produced pottery dated to *c* 1175-1250 and a corroded iron strip with remains of a possible nail or rivet hole at one end (SF 23).

Group 43761; sub-group 81 (Construction and use of a ?garderobe pit and related structure)

The lower fills 600 and 601 of a water cistern/sump produced pottery dated to *c* 1225-1250, a rim fragment from a large stone mortar (SF 64), made from Bethersden 'marble' and two corroded fragments of iron (SF 25). The upper fill 280 produced pottery dated to *c* 1380-1400, two corroded and incomplete copper-alloy vessel feet (SF 90) and another near-complete stone mortar (SF 81). The latter has three lug handles remaining (out of an original four) and is made from Purbeck 'marble' from Dorset. The vessel feet appear to be repair pieces (Geoff Egan, pers comm.).

Group 43771; sub-group 13 (Industrial activity)

Context 232, an industrial pit to the NE of the main building, produced SF 93, nine unidentified, corroded fragments of iron, some may be parts of fittings. [– or if associated with an industrial pit some of these pieces may be discards waste fragments?]

2.4 Medieval phase 3 or post-medieval*Group 43735; sub-group 324 (Miscellaneous post-holes in the area of Building 2, Room 3 but which could be later)*

The fill of a posthole (622) contained a decorated copper-alloy chape (SF 20) decorated with a row of small openwork trefoils and engraved lines. It may be 15th to 16th century in dates. This feature also contained pottery dated to c 1100-1500.

2.5 Undated/medieval*Group 43519; sub-group 187 (Activity outside moat to W)*

A small, spherical iron-rich sandstone pebble (SF 107) came from 162, a refuse pit, dated c 1100-1800.

2.6 Post-medieval*Group 43713; sub-group 101 (demolition debris/dumping)*

Fragments of iron sheet (some of which join), SF 24, and two fragments of lead alloy molten waste (SF 6) came from 207, a demolition debris/structural collapse, dating to c 1270-1350. The original form of the iron sheet object is unidentifiable due to its fragmentary and corroded nature.

Group 43802; sub-group 536 (demolition debris and late dumping in moat)

Context 1053 produced a near complete iron horseshoe (SF 29). It is very corroded but has four rectangular nail-holes in each branch, none have counter-sunk slots for the nail heads. The latter feature is one of the distinguishing features of Clark's type 4 shoes in London and it is likely that this shoe dates from the late 14th century to the 15th/16th century (Clark 1995, 88-91 and 96-7). The shoe also has quite a broad web (c 37mm) and a single calkin.

Group 43804; sub-group 213 (Miscellaneous unstratified/unallocated features)

The fill (271) of an unstratified posthole produced the square base of a large stone mortar (SF 92) with the remains of a triangular section rib on each corner. This mortar is made from Bethersden 'marble'.

Group 43805; sub-group 429 (19th century smithy)

Dumping 709, associated with smithing, produced pottery dated to c 1830-1950, an iron fitting (SF 38) and a slate pencil (SF 49), the latter probably 19th century in date. It has a series of partial grooves along part of its length on one side. A pencil from Aldgate, London had grooves thought to be for attaching a knotted thread (Rhodes1984, 120). It is unlikely, however, that the grooves on the present example are for this purpose.

2.7 Unstratified

Most of the unstratified small finds were recovered by metal detecting. Although no exact context can be assigned to them, the presence on the site of a number of the objects is of interest and they are discussed in more detail below with the other finds.

A number of medieval finds of note were recovered, including some indicative of high status. Two enamelled harness fittings were found: SF 1, a silver-plated shield-shaped harness mount decorated with a rampant lion on a blue enamel ground and SF 19, part of a lozenge-shaped harness pendant decorated with a white enamelled animal, possibly a salamander. Fragments of cast leaded copper-alloy vessel were also found: SF 8, SF 10, SF 12 and SF 27 all feet and SF 11 a rim fragment. A rare find is a small fragment from a good quality medieval colourless glass vessel, SF 40, decorated with an applied pinched blue glass trail. This is part of an imported vessel, an object of some importance and indicative of a degree of wealth.

Accessions SF 54 and SF 55 are horseshoes, the former of late medieval to early post-medieval date (Clark's type 4) and the latter a large post-medieval example. Items of personal adornment comprised SF 9, a copper-alloy double oval buckle frame of late medieval to early post-medieval date and SF 17, a small annular brooch of 13th to 14th century date. Part of a candlestick, SF 7, was found and is probably late 15th to early 16th century in date. Two small tubes of lead alloy sheet SF 109 may be fishing weights but are of unknown date. Accession SF 112 is a small fragment of copper-alloy waste and SF 111 is a simple copper-alloy ring fitting, both of unknown date. Fragments of lead alloy include waste trimmings and small fragments of molten waste: SF 110 and SF 57; fragment SF 108 has a nail hole through it, probably the remains of sheeting used structurally, for example in roofing, which was later cut up for reuse.

The post-medieval material included four coins (SF 102 (1770-5), SF 52 (1866), SF 39 (1919) and SF 53 (1944)) and a crude uniface token, SF 101, with an asterisk motif, probably dating to the 18th century. Accession SF 13 is a small fragment of a post-medieval lead-alloy buckle, possibly for a shoe. Accession SF 14 is a disc weight with a small perforation presumably for suspension. It has a scored line on one face and is probably post-medieval in date. Fragments SF 15 and SF 16 are parts of the same elaborate candle- or

lantern-holder, perhaps once attached to a wall, but are probably late 18th to 19th century (Geoff Egan, pers comm.). Two further fragments of colourless glass, SF 41, both from the same vessel, are probably post-medieval in date. One has the remains of what appears to be a small spout. This may be part of an alembic, although these are usually made in green-tinged potash glass (Moorhouse *et al* 1972, 89 and 99; Willmott 2001, 101). This may indicate that it is later in date or it may come from another form of spouted vessel, for example a posset pot (although the vessel wall would appear too thin for the latter form). Late post-medieval to modern finds include lead-alloy washers (for example, SF 18), an eyelet for use on canvas or leather SF 66, buttons SF 58 and bullets SF 46 and SF 56.

3 DISCUSSION OF THE SMALL FINDS BY TYPE AND FUNCTION

3.1 Items of personal adornment

3.1.1 Brooch

Part of a decorated annular-framed brooch with an incomplete pin, SF 103, came from context 382. The frame is decorated with a series of constrictions that divide it into longer and shorter ridges or lobes, almost bead-like in form. This decoration is somewhat similar to a brooch found in an early 13th century context at York which has seven enamelled settings separated from each other by solid bead-like ridges (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2913 and Fig. 1486, no. 12897). The present example has a constriction for the pin, the latter now being free of the frame. The incomplete pin has a zoomorphic decorative loop. Annular brooches with stylised animal or human decoration were popular in the 13th century (Margeson 1993, 15) and there are similarities to a brooch from Norwich (*ibid*, 15, no. 57 and Fig. 7 and plate IV), with a pair of winged animals on the frame, their heads meeting at the constriction for the pin loop. It is thought to date to the mid-13th century.

A small annular copper-alloy brooch, SF 17, is unstratified. The end of the pin remains attached to the frame, which is recessed for the pin. The X-ray shows traces of two possible mounts, central on each side. This form of brooch is 13th to 14th century in date.

3.1.2 Buckles

A small square buckle, SF 5, from context 480 has an ornate outside edge with two knops flanking a constriction covered with a sheet roller. The roller has a central linear notch for the pin (the latter is now missing). The bar is narrowed and offset and has a plate attached with four in situ rivets, an engraved line around the edges and remains of gilding. In London this form of buckle has a broad date range from the late 12th century through to the late 14th century (Egan 1991, 76) and an example from York, very similar to the present example, dates to the mid- to late 13th century (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2888, Fig. 1466, no. 14298).

A double oval frame (SF 9) appears to have traces of tinning and has the remains of an iron pin attached to the central bar. The bar projects at sides and there is a notch for the incomplete pin. It probably dates to the late medieval to early post-medieval period (c 15th to 17th century).

3.1.3 *Chape*

A fragmentary folded strip, part of a chape (SF 20), came from context 622. The front is decorated with a row of openwork trefoils, banded by two engraved lines. Part of an ornate scalloped edge also survives with engraved linear decoration. The reverse is plain and is pierced by a central rivet hole. A belt-end from Norwich has similar trefoil openwork and engraved decoration and similar to European images of 15th to early 16th century date (Margeson 1993, 37, Fig. 21, no. 242).

3.1.4 *Mounts*

SF 28 (context 966) consists of 12 fragments of a very corroded mount or mounts. The small domed heads may come from bar mounts with raised centres and bilobate sides (for example, Egan & Pritchard 1991, 218, Fig. 136, no. 1183) or from other multi-foil or lobe headed mounts (for example, Egan & Pritchard 1991, 185, Fig. 117, no. 943 (quatrefoil); 191, Fig. 120, nos 1007 & 1013 (sexfoil)). Such mounts would probably have been used on a leather strap or belt (for example, Egan & Pritchard 1991, plate 4E & F). The domes or lobes have a diameter of c 5 mm and the shafts and heads together have an overall surviving (incomplete) length of c 6 mm.

3.2 Household utensils and implements

3.2.1 *Lighting*

SF 7 (context 1) (metal-detected) is the cylindrical socket from a candlestick probably dating to the late 15th to early 16th century. The socket has simple groove decoration typical of candlesticks of this date (Brownsword 1985, 1 and 3, Fig. 3) and has a short, solid end-stub indicating it probably formed part of a branched double-socket type candlestick (ibid). The present example is very similar to an example from York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2857, no. 15184) found in dissolution levels at the priory at Fishergate. Excavations at Leeds Priory also produced a cylindrical socket from a candlestick (Tester 1978, 94, no. 3 and 95 Fig. 8, no. 3). It was found near the chapter house. The only other candleholder (or possibly lantern-holder) is SF 15 and SF 16, joining fragments, possibly of late 18th to 19th century date.

3.2.2 *Vessels*

Seven fragments of cast metal vessels were found, all leaded copper alloy. Only one rim fragment was found (SF 11, context 7) (metal detected) and this appears to be from a bowl

rather than a cauldron or skillet. It has a small, everted rim with a diameter estimated in the region of 180-200 mm. Six vessel feet were found. Four are basically of the same form and set at an angle: the two largest of these, SF 10 and SF 27, may come from the same vessel. These two and SF 8 have a medial rib, a feature common on skillets and cauldrons and noted on examples from York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2809 and nos 13305 and 14194, found in 15th century deposits) and London (Egan 1998, 164-6, no. 462, unstratified). Accession SF 90 comprises parts of a short wide foot and a smaller foot, both probably repairs. Metal vessels undoubtedly had long lives and would have been frequently mended (although this was probably more common with sheet vessels rather than cast examples (Egan 1998, 159)). The dating of cast copper-alloy vessels is difficult based on such small fragments, although it is generally agreed that they did not come into common usage until the 13th century (Egan 1998, 158-9; Biddle 1990, 947 and 950) and continue throughout the 14th and 15th centuries.

Fragments of three stone mortars were recovered. Two of them, SF 64 (context 600) and SF 92 (context 231), are in Bethersden 'marble', a Large-'*Paludina*' limestone, sourced fairly locally to the site, for example at Bethersden and Headcorn (Bethersden itself lies to the west of Ashford) (Gallois 1965, 28-9; Worssam and Tatton-Brown 1993, 107 and Fig. 1). It was popular as a building stone in Kent in the 14th and 15th centuries (ibid). It is interesting to note that as at Purbeck the stone was being utilised both as a building material and to produce mortars (Dunning 1976, 185). Mortar SF 64 is a fragment of a large mortar consisting of a rounded side with a squared rim with an external diameter of *c* 460 mm and an internal of *c* 360 mm. A mortar from the moated site at Leigh, Kent produced part of a mortar in Small-'*Paludina*' limestone (Dunning 1976, 182-5), dated closely to *c* 1260-90. It too is large with a rim diameter of 440 mm. At the time of writing Dunning knew of only four similarly sized mortars, from Southampton, Saffron Walden, Bodiam manor-house and from the area of Hailsham (ibid, 183). Mortar SF 92 (context 231) retains part of a squared base for a circular bowl, with each corner forming a triangular sectioned rib. The internal surface of the base is very smooth.

The third mortar, SF 81 (context 280), is approximately three-quarters complete (in three fragments) and is made from Purbeck 'marble' from Dorset. This stone was one of the most common types used for mortars in the medieval period and production is thought to date to the 13th and 14th centuries (Dunning 1977, 324). This example is from a circular mortar with thick, flat base and the remains of two lugs with extended ribs, positioned opposite each other and a small, short lug. The latter was almost certainly mirrored by another short lug on the opposite side, perhaps with a pouring lip, but this section of the mortar is missing. The external surfaces have tooling marks, with particularly coarse, larger marks on the base, and the sidewalls are straight, tapering slightly towards the base. The upper surfaces of the interior have the remains of diagonal tooling marks but further down these have been smoothed away

through use. The base surface is also smoothed although not severely worn indicating that this mortar was used for grinding rather than pounding (Dunning 1977, 321). The rim is squared and upright. The mortar has a height of *c* 177 mm and an external rim diameter of *c* 275 mm. As with many Purbeck mortars (Dunning 1977, 321) this example has fractured around its thinnest, weakest point, the angle between the base and the walls.

The presence of three stone mortars on this rural site is of interest. Only 22 medieval mortars came from the excavations at York (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2799), eleven from Colchester (most probably medieval, although some may be Roman) (Crummy 1988, 39-41), twenty from King's Lynn (Dunning 1977, 320-47), and five from Norwich (Margeson 1993, 196). This may in part be due to the more intensive reuse of stone objects, for examples as building materials, in an urban context rather than at a rural site in Kent but is still interesting to note.

Only two glass accessions were found, both unstratified: SF 40, thin-walled colourless glass with an applied pinched blue glass trail and SF 41, colourless glass from a thin-walled spouted vessel. The former is of medieval date, whereas the latter is probably later. Blue glass trail decoration is found on imported high-status medieval glass vessels dating to the 13th and 14th century (Tyson 2000, 15). Too little remains to identify the form of the vessel but the trail appears to be horizontal rather than vertical and may therefore have come from a large bowled stemmed vessel (for example, *ibid*, 51-2 and 61-5) or even a lid (*ibid*, 70). It is likely to have been made in Italy or France. This fragment is a rare survival on a rural site and further indicates that this may have been a building of some importance. In her study of medieval glass vessels in England Rachel Tyson has pointed out that glass has only been recovered from 'high-status' moated manor houses and is virtually absent from rural village sites (*ibid*, 21 and 23).

3.2.3 Other

In addition to the above artefacts, part of a fine-grained sandstone hone stone was found. Hones, used for sharpening bladed implements would have been common implements in medieval households and workshops. Accession SF 21 is part of a socketed tool or implement. The remains of a rectangular shaft widens to a curving socket with a rivet hole for attachment. It is too fragmentary to identify its original form.

3.3 Household fittings

Fragments of molten lead came from context 207 and unstratified. None of these fragments is very large and they may be the remains of lead used in building works or the burnt remains of structural fittings or objects. In addition, a number of small fragments of sheet lead were also found, all unfortunately unstratified. Again, these may be the remains of structural fittings.

One fragment, SF 108, has a nail hole with iron staining around it. This piece may have been used as a patch or in association with roofing.

Three L-shaped iron pintles or pivot pins were found, one from the general occupation spread between Buildings 1 and 2 and two from the fill of the moat. These items, commonly found on medieval sites (for example, Norwich (Margeson 1993, 148, nos 1149-1160 and Fig. 109) and London (Egan 1998, 43-6 and Figs 26 and 27)), were used to hang doors, window shutters, etc. They comprise a long, tapering arm, which could be hammered into timber, leaving a short vertical shaft upon which to hang the door or shutter.

An iron hook with a flattened section (SF 31) is part of a larger object and may have been utilised in the kitchen area in association with cooking (Geoff Egan, pers comm.).

3.4 Horse fittings

Three complete and one near complete horseshoes were recovered, all very corroded. The earliest in date is SF 30, which has a plain outer edge and counter-sunk rectangular nail-holes indicating a 13th to 14th century date. The shoe has a single calkin, too corroded to identify its form of manufacture. Overall the shoe appears similar to those in Clark's type 3 for London (Clark 1995, 86-8 and 96). Two horseshoes, SF 29 and SF 54, the latter unstratified, probably belong to Clark's type 4, dating from the late 14th century to the 15th/16th century (Clark 1995, 88-91 and 96-7). Horseshoe SF 54 has a number of nails still in situ in the nail-holes; they have square/rectangular section shafts but are too corroded to identify the form of the head. The fourth horseshoe SF 55 is a large later post-medieval example, again complete and unstratified. It has no calkins and has a slight lip at the front of the toe, a post-medieval development known as a clip (Clark 1995, 82). It has four rectangular (almost square) nail holes in each branch. The size would indicate that it was used with a large workhorse.

Although the number of horseshoes is small it includes examples dating to throughout the use of the site from the 13th century through to the early modern period.

SF 1 is a silver-plated copper-alloy shield-shaped mount with what was probably originally a T-shaped bar at its head. The shield itself is quite small (20 mm in height) and decorated with a lion rampant on a blue enamel background. This mount is typical of a fashion for heraldry common in the second half of the 13th and into the 14th centuries (Griffiths 1989, 1; 1995, 62). Shield-shaped harness mounts and pendants have been found in Kent, although none with the same type of fitting as the Parsonage Farm example (for example, from Sandway (Kelly 1989, 408), Cobham (Kelly 1990, 291 and Fig. 4, no. 16), Boxley (Kelly 1989, 406; Kelly 1991, 344 and 345, Fig. 3, no. 4), Wouldham (Kelly 1991, 348 and 345, Fig. 3, no. 3), Southfleet (Mason 1994, 454 and 446, Fig. 3, no. 4). An example from Cliffe in Kent has traces of gilding and a lion rampant azure (blue enamel) (Kelly 1986, 354 and Fig. 7, no. 3). The other harness fitting from Parsonage Farm is a small lozenge-

shaped harness pendant (SF 19) and is also unstratified. It is of copper-alloy with a white-enamelled animal, possibly a salamander, and is similar to one from York depicting a lion *passant gardant* (Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2964, no. 14497), also of 13th to 14th century date. An enamelled lozenge-shaped pendant was found at Cobham, Kent depicting a winged beast with a human head (Kelly 1991, 346 and 345, Fig. 3, no. 2 and 346).

Such fittings indicate a degree of wealth as, as well as being decorative items, they would also have identified the animal or wearer as belonging to a certain household. Nick Griffith has suggested that poorer quality examples may have been used by retainers rather than by the nobles themselves (1995, 62). Examples are fairly common amongst metal-detector finds from rural sites in Kent (see examples above, all metal detector finds from Kent). Such small metal fittings must have easily been lost from harness and the loss would probably have gone un-noticed until it was too late to find and replace the piece. It is, however, of interest to have two, each with a different motif, from the same site.

3.5 Other

A token (SF 101) from [MD4] is probably a trade or agricultural token with a common asterisk design and a plain back. It probably dates to the 18th century.

The occurrence of a shell palette (SF 65, context 585) is unusual as these items are more usually associated with wall or panel painting or manuscript decoration, and, therefore, with secular or religious buildings of some importance. Since such palettes are also quite fragile it is unlikely to have travelled far and must be associated with one of the buildings on the site. Analysis by polarised light microscopy of the red pigment has identified it as haematite, a 'hard, compact and nearly pure natural variety of anhydrous ferric oxide' (Gettens and Stout 1966, 118). Haematite could be ground to produce a dark purple-red pigment and the hard kind was also used in the preparation of burnishers for gold leaf (ibid). Shell palettes have been found on a number of medieval sites, in most cases associated with a site of religious or secular importance (for a survey of sites with palettes up to 1997, see Howard and Park, forthcoming); more recent examples include seven oyster palettes from excavations at the Guildhall in London (G. Egan, in prep) and one from Whitefriars friary, Canterbury (www.canterburytrust.co.uk). The only sites in Kent mentioned by Howard and Park are St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury and Faversham Abbey. It is unclear whether the palette was used in association with the decoration of the building – no painted wall plaster was recovered – or with the production of decorated manuscripts – an unusual activity if this was merely a glorified farmstead.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The small finds assemblage associated with the construction, use, re-modelling and demolition of the moated site is relatively small but is sufficient to give a glimpse of the people and lives that were led there.

Few of the accessioned finds could indicate much about the structure and appearance of the building. A few structural fittings, such as the three pintles were recovered. They would have been used for hanging doors, shutters, etc. Some of the fragments of lead may also have been used in the fabric of the building but most are unstratified. The shell palette may indicate the presence of painted walls or panels, but may also have been used for decorating manuscripts or indeed for decorating other items. It is interesting to note that no window glass was recovered. At the moated site at Leigh, Kent (Parfitt 1976) some forty plain, undecorated fragments were recovered associated with two late 13th and early 14th century timber-framed buildings (ibid, 201). The pintles may indicate that shutters were used.

The daily life at the site is indicated by three stone mortars, used in the preparation of foodstuffs in the kitchen, two made from a local stone and one imported from Dorset. Fragments of leaded copper-alloy vessels, most probably from skillets or cauldrons and a rim fragment probably from a bowl may also have been used in the kitchen and perhaps also for serving food. The dating of these is problematic as they are nearly all unstratified. Such vessels only start to be used in England in the 13th century but continue into the 15th century or even later. A possible iron implement or tool was also found, as well as a hone stone fragment. It is interesting to note, however, that no knives or knife blades were found, or any spoons or other implements. It can only be assumed that the site was quite thoroughly cleared on abandonment and most waste metal recycled. The small fragment of colourless vessel glass with the blue trail is a tantalising indication of higher status activity at the site. Such imported vessels would have been expensive, treasured items and as has been pointed out are particularly rare on rural sites, except on wealthy moated sites, castles and religious houses.

The items of personal adornment are also few: two brooches of 13th and 13th/14th century date, a gilded buckle and buckle-plate, also probably of 13th century date and some very corroded and fragmentary mounts that may have been used on a leather belt. Other small metal fittings comprise the two enamelled harness fittings, one with silver plating and both of 13th to 14th century date. They are again indicative of a degree of wealth and importance. More mundane horse trappings are the four horseshoes, one of which dates to the period of the moated site, two to the late medieval to early post-medieval period and one post-medieval in date.

It can therefore be seen that the finds represent a mix of more ordinary everyday items and a number of objects that infer a degree of wealth. It may be that this wealth was

only amongst visitors to the site (perhaps from the priory at Canterbury), although the glass vessel and the mortars may indicate a more permanent degree of wealth.

Although occupation at the site appears to have ended fairly completely at some point at the end of the 13th century, a number of later medieval objects indicate activity in the vicinity. The only evidence for lighting from the site is part of a candlestick, dated to the 15th to 16th century and a fragmentary decorated copper-alloy chape has a similar date. In addition there are a number of objects of post-medieval and later date.

5 CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED SMALL FINDS

The number (I-) visible at the end of each catalogue entry refers to the unique record ID which can be found in the database.

5.1 Medieval (Fig. 1)

SF 1 Harness mount. Unstratified. I-219.

SF 17 Small annular brooch. Unstratified. I-220.

SF 4 Arcaded square clasp. Cxt 382. I-216.

SF 5 Copper-alloy buckle and plate. Cxt 480. I-227.

SF 8 Leaded copper-alloy cast vessel feet. Unstratified. I-213.

SF 11 Leaded copper-alloy cast vessel rim. Unstratified. I-214.

SF 12 Leaded copper-alloy cast vessel feet. Unstratified. I-223.

SF 19 harness pendant. Unstratified. I-222.

SF 21 Iron socketed tool fragment. Cxt 307. I-243.

SF 27 Leaded copper-alloy cast vessel feet. Unstratified. I-225.

SF 30 Horseshoe. Cxt 958. I-252.

SF 31 Iron hook. Cxt 382. I-248.

SF 32 Iron pintle. Cxt 382. I-246.

SF 40 Small fragment of medieval colourless vessel glass with blue pinched trail. Unstratified. I-272.

SF 103 Annular brooch with zoomorphic pin. Cxt 382. I-229.

5.2 Late medieval/early post-medieval (Fig. 2)

SF 7 Socket from a branched double-socket type candlestick. Unstratified. I-240.

SF 20 Decorated chape. Cxt 622. I-221.

SF 29 Iron horseshoe. Cxt 1053. I-250.

5.3 Post-medieval

SF 9 Double oval buckle frame. Unstratified. I-217.

SF 41 Glass spouted vessel. Unstratified. I-271.

5.4 Unknown date

SF 108 Fragment of lead sheeting with a nail hole; possibly a patch or from roofing? Unstratified. I-262.

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APPENDIX 1: TYPOLOGIES USED

Horseshoes:

Clark, J (ed), 1995 *The Medieval Horse and Its Equipment c 1150-c 1450, Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 5*, HMSO

APPENDIX 2: PIGMENT ANALYSIS BY LIZ BARHAM, MOLSS

Accession number	ARC PFM98 585 SF 65
Object	shell containing pigment
Colour of particles	red
Description of particles	some large, rough, striations, sometimes parallel, broken ends; red to orange; some particles show conchoidal fracture
Refractive index SF or 1.66 (Meltmount)	1.66
Relief	high
Colour under Chelsea filter	N/A
Pleochroic	slightly - orange/red in larger particles
Anisotropic/isotropic	anisotropic
Colour under crossed polars	red - orange
Extinction	
Stationary cross	N/A
Any other features	range of colours not changed with first order red plate; positive test for iron with spot test (so not vermilion)
Conclusion	haematite