

# **Erection of Rear Extension to 32 Front Street, Mendlesham, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 0416/10**

**HER Ref: MDS 158**

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(July 2011)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 32 Front Street, Mendlesham, Suffolk, IP14 5RY

Client: Mr M Dann

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0416/10

Development: Erection of small rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 19 May, 2011

HER Ref: MDS 158

Grid ref: TM 1038 6578

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-106132

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*Summary: Mendlesham, 32 Front Street (MDS 158, TM 1038 6578) monitoring of ground works for a small rear extension in the centre of the village in an area that has been interpreted as an in filled market place revealed a short length of ditch which contained a single pottery sherd of medieval date, all of the other finds recovered were from the subsoil and were sherds of Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr M Dann).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr M Dann commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 0416/10. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a small rear extension to 32 Front Street, Mendlesham (see Figs. 1 & 2).

1.2 Mendlesham is a large village in the Till dominated clay lands of central Suffolk to the north of Stowmarket that flourished through the medieval period as a local centre with some urban traits such as a market granted in 1280. The village is focused on the area to west of the parish church and the two main historic street lines of Front Street and Old Market Street may demark a former market area, now in filled. The site in question at 32 Front Street (see Fig. 2) lies within this possible in filled market area just above the 50m OD contour with the house itself being a terraced cottage of later Post medieval date with the new rear extension replacing a smaller one of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to inspect the foundation trenches and upcast spoil with all of the ground works being undertaken using a small mini-digger equipped with a toothed bucket. Spoil from the ground works was then transported to a skip allowing for its inspection and the collection of unstratified finds (0001). The foundation trenches were 500mm wide and 8m long for the full footprint (see Fig. 3) and the total length of these trenches was inspected during the site visit as the ground works reached their final stage. During the visit it was possible to enter the complete length of the trenches and trowel clean any indistinct areas on the sides or base. The extent of the foundation trenches were then recorded in relation to nearby mapped boundaries and the archaeological feature that had been identified was recorded in plan and section within the foundation trenches, finally a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The 8m of trenched foundation were taken to a depth of 900mm revealing 400mm of dark brown clayey topsoil (0001) with relatively modern brick and tile debris in addition to a few unstratified pottery sherds across the building footprint. Where exposed the naturally occurring drift geology at the site proved to be a stiff blue/grey clay though various modern drainage pipes were also revealed towards the base of the trench and the northern footing trench in particular was extensively disturbed. Examination of the foundation trenches revealed a single archaeological feature which at first was difficult to distinguish as it proved to be small ditch (0002) running on the same alignment as the short foundation trench on the eastern side of the extension footprint (see Fig. 3). Further study of the footing trenches confirmed the presence of the north/south orientated ditch (0002) with the foundation to main rear wall of the house being 900mm deep over this feature (see Appendix I- Images) while in the western footing trench to the new extension this same wall had a foundation that was only 400mm deep onto the blue/grey clay drift at the site.

# John Newman Archaeological Services

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Examination of the exposed fill (0003) of the ditch (0002) recovered a single pottery sherd as outlined in Section 4 below. Deposits on site were recorded as follows:

Context	Type	Part of	Finds	Description	Spot date
0001	U/S finds	0001	X	Unstratified finds from 400mm topsoil cover at the site	
0002	Ditch	0002		North/south orientated ditch along eastern side of eastern footing trench, 300mm deep, width unknown	
0003	Fill	0002	X	Fill of ditch 0002, grey/brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks	?med

## 4 The Finds

4.1 The finds collected from the upcast spoil (0001) at the site consisted of 7 pottery sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century date all of which are commonly found wares. The single pottery sherd from the ditch fill (0003) is of more interest as it is of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century date. The full finds report by Sue Anderson is attached as Appendix III.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 The identification of the single linear feature (0002) is of archaeological interest as the single pottery sherd that was recovered indicates a medieval date for this ditch. As outlined in section 1.2 above the area between Front Street and Old Market Street in the centre of the village can be suggested as an in filled medieval market place. Therefore the presence of a ditch of medieval date across what should have been an open area during this period indicates that the encroachment of the settlement onto the market place appears to have started in the later medieval period as the single sherd from the ditch fill (0003) is of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century date. Perhaps the market established at Mendlesham by 1280 was declining by the later 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century.

5.2 It is also of interest that the recorded ditch (0002) runs parallel to and almost under the current property boundary between Nos. 30 and 32 Front Street indicating that this land division once established in the later medieval period has maintained its integrity.

*(The report archive is to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER Ref. MDS 158).*

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr M Dann and his contractors for their close cooperation, to Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology for her specialist finds work and to Sue Holden for producing Fig. 3).*

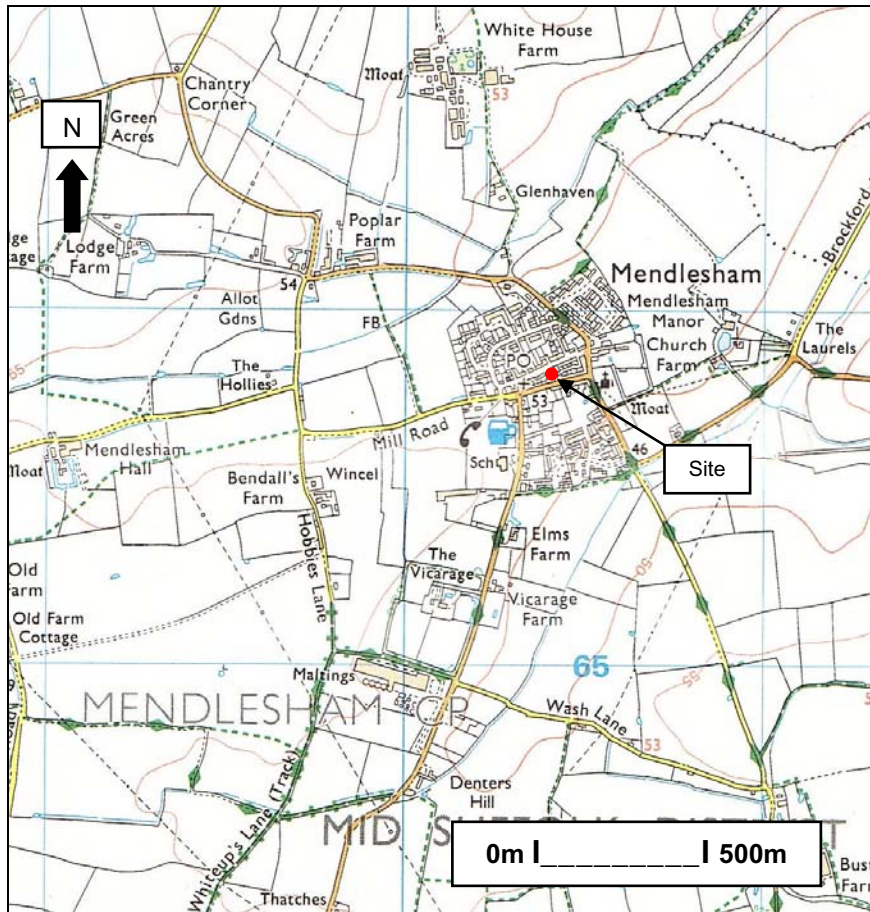


Fig.1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

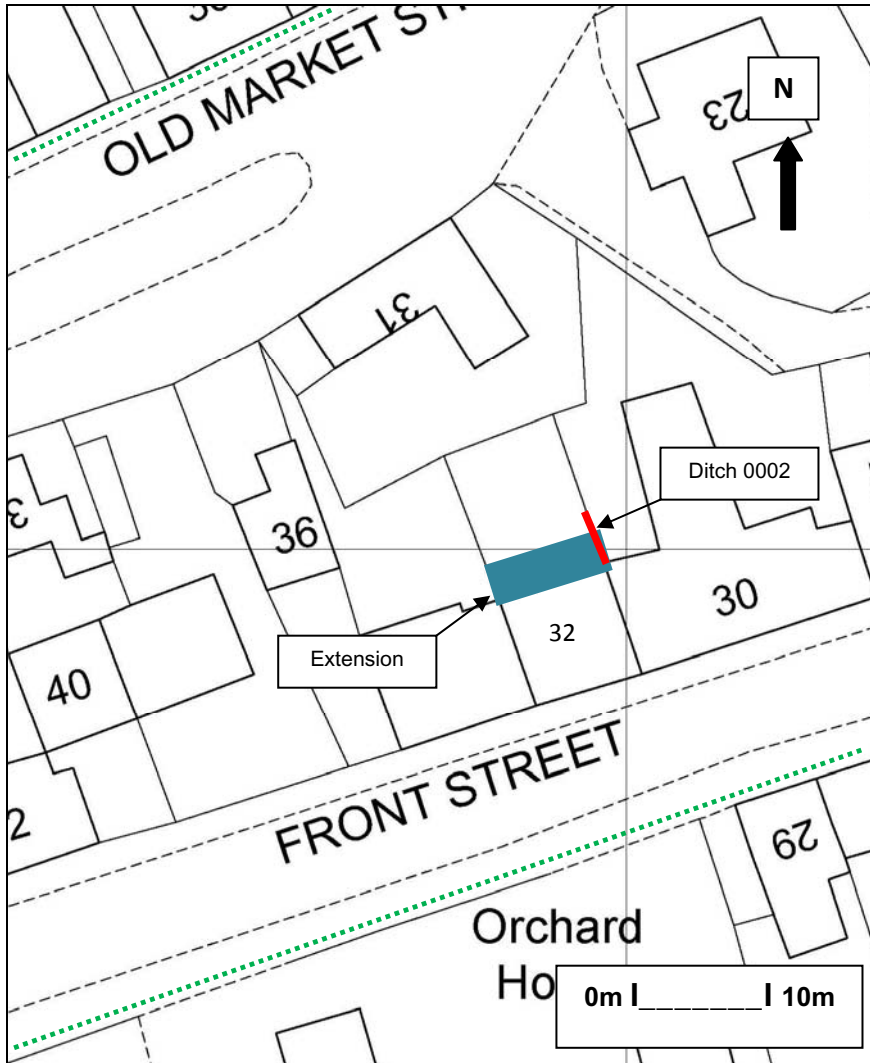


Fig. 2: Location of rear extension (possible limits to market place as green dotted line)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

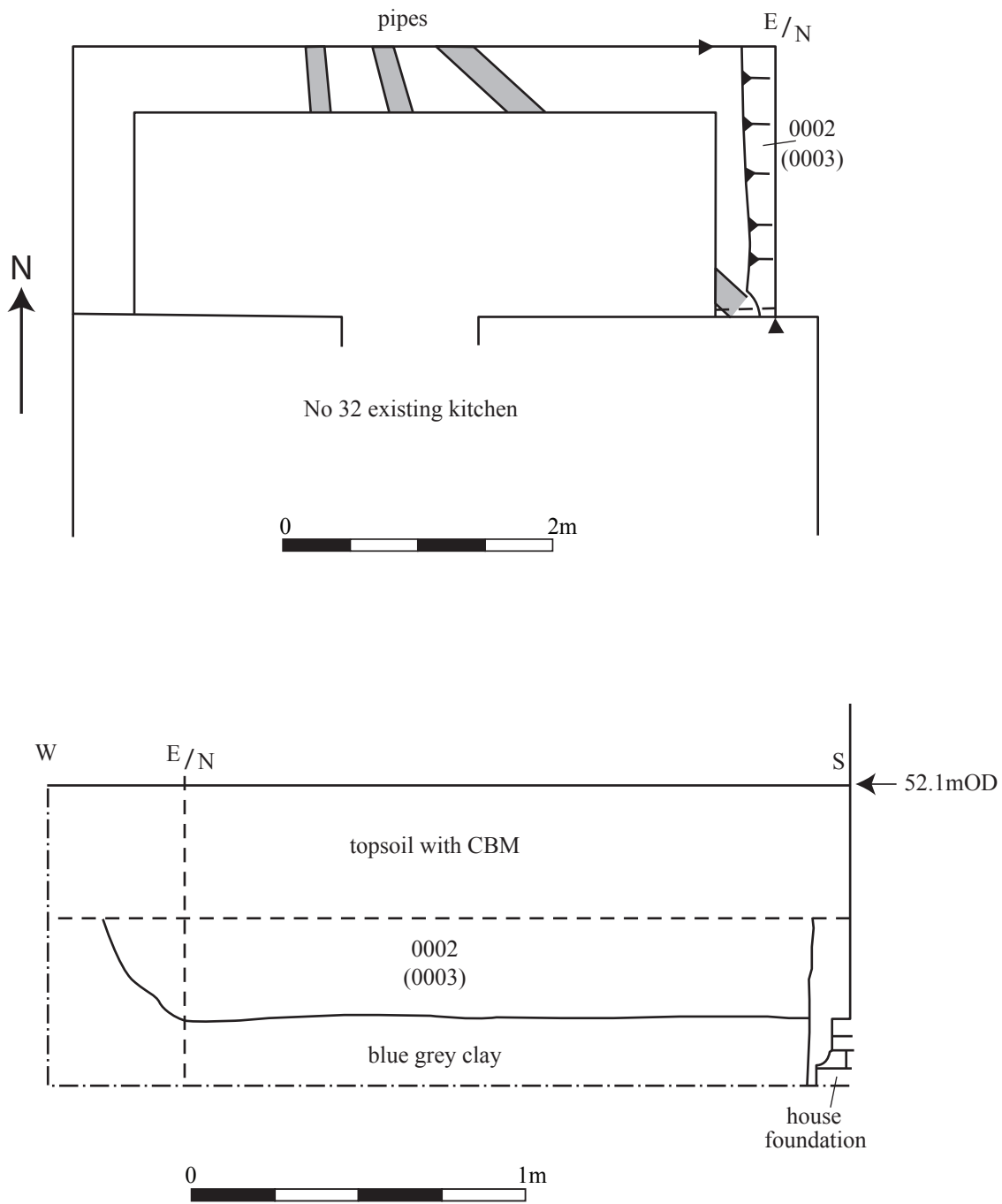


Fig. 3. Plan and section.

## Appendix I- Images



Eastern footing trench from north-west showing ditch 0002 in long section & deep existing house footing over the line of the feature below the pipes



Eastern footing trench from south with ditch 0002 in long section on same north-south alignment as brick wall above



**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

**Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

**32 FRONT STREET, MENDLESHAM**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 32 Front Street, Mendlesham has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (0416/10). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of medieval Mendlesham, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.
- .4 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

**2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil,

are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

### **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- .6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- .7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P L and Wiltshire, P E J, 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

## 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear

statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets should be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 If archaeological features or finds are found an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Reference: /32 Front Street

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

## Appendix III- The Finds

### 32 Front St, Mendlesham (MDS 158): ceramics

Sue Anderson, June 2011.

Eight sherds of pottery weighing 199g were collected from two contexts, along with one fragment of clay pipe (7g).

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes.

Table 1 shows the quantification by context.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	ESW	3	102	brown-glazed stonewares, various types	17th-19th c.
	LSRW	1	72	rim of large bowl or dish, slip decoration inside	18th/19th c.
	YELW	1	4	body sherd	19th/20th c.
	REFW	1	7	spongeware decoration externally	19th c.
	REFW	1	6	rim of cup, blue transfer print (willow)	19th/20th c.
0003	GRIM	1	8	green-glazed externally	13th-14th c.
<i>Total pottery</i>		<i>8</i>	<i>199</i>		
0001	clay pipe	1	7	part of bowl with spur marked 'A W'	

Table 1. Ceramics catalogue.

Key: GRIM – Grimston glazed ware; ESW – English stonewares; LSRW – late slipped redwares; YELW – Yellow ware; REFW – refined factory-made whitewares.

The majority of pottery in this group was of post-medieval date, recovered from spoil 0001. These included fragments of three English stoneware vessels (one possibly a Nottingham type), a sherd of a late slipped redware bowl or dish with slip dashes, a small body sherd of a yellow ware hollow ware form, a fragment of a blue spongeware ?bowl, and a willow pattern cup rimsherd.

A body sherd of Grimston-type glazed ware was recovered from ditch fill 0003. This is likely to date to the 13th/14th centuries.

A piece of clay pipe stem/bowl came from spoil 0001. It had a narrow bore, a fluted bowl and a small spur heel, suggesting a date in the early 19th century. The spur was marked 'A W' which may provide a clue to the maker with further work.

## References

MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1.