

The Mount, The Row, Kersey, Suffolk

Planning application: B/10/00126/FHA/GD

HER Ref: KSY 024

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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Site details for HER

Name: The Mount, The Row, Kersey, Suffolk, IP7 6DY

Client: Mr & Mrs S McQuaker

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/10/00126/FHA/GD

Development: Demolition of existing garage, erection of garage with extensions to form studio/guest bedroom

Date of fieldwork: 8, 9, 13 & 16 September, 2010

HER Ref: KSY 024

English Heritage listing ref: 276598/Grade II- 17/18th century

Grid ref: TL 9998 4430

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Summary: Kersey, The Mount, The Row (KSY 024, TL 9998 4430) monitoring of terracing works for a proposed extension revealed only one feature, a large pit of early 20th century date. However residual pottery finds from the site indicate medieval activity from the 11/12th century period at this northern edge of the historic village. Pottery contemporary with the existing 17/18th century house was also recovered. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs S McQuaker).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Wincer Kievenaar Architects on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs S McQuaker 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 B/10/00126/FHA/GD. 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 demolition of an existing garage and the erection of new garage on the same footprint plus extensions to the north to form a studio/guest bedroom on what was part of the garden at The Mount, The Row, Kersey (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Kersey parish is located to the north west of Hadleigh in south Suffolk and the main settlement forms a relatively large village with a linear layout along the main street. The local drift geology is locally dominated by the heavy clay of the Till deposits of central Suffolk with The Mount being close to the 40m OD contour. The parish church lies at the southern end of this main street which runs down to a ford across a small, east flowing, tributary of the River Brett close to the centre of the village before rising in a north-westerly direction towards where The Mount is located at the edge of the historic village. At this northerly edge of the village, and just to the south of The Mount, the main street bears round to the north east while a minor road runs to the north-west towards the site of a nearby Augustinian Priory along the eastern side of The Mount. As a minor track also runs along the western side of the property in effect The Mount is located on an 'island.' Kersey is a well known village due to its high number of listed buildings that give ample evidence to the period of great prosperity in south central Suffolk when this part of England played a major role in the medieval and early Post medieval cloth trade. The Mount itself being a Grade II listed structure described as a 'timber framed and plastered building, probably 17-18th century, much altered and modernised and included in the list for group value.' The importance of the medieval cloth trade is evidenced particularly well as one type of broadcloth was known as 'kersey cloth,' in addition the village was known for leather working.

1.3 The proposed development at The Mount can be divided into two parts (see Fig. 2) with regard to the archaeological programme of works as the construction of the new garage was on the same footprint as the previously existing one with foundations staying within the ground levels already disturbed by footings as this area fell in a tree root protection zone. Therefore the superficial ground works for the new garage were not monitored. However the construction of the linked studio/guest bedroom on a raft foundation extension to the north of the garage did require extensive ground reduction as the garage site was already cut into the south facing slope of the garden (see Appendix I image 1) to create a level terrace with a maximum depth below existing garden level of 1200mm at its northern edge.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The ground reduction for the proposed extension was undertaken using a medium sized mini-digger equipped with a toothless bucket over several days with all the spoil being removed from the site as it was excavated. In total four site visits were made to monitor the soil stripping and examine the exposed levels for

archaeological features and finds over the 7 working days required to reduce the footprint to the necessary level. These site visits were scheduled to cover the removal of the top and subsoil across the site where archaeological deposits might be revealed while the excavation of the underlying naturally occurring yellow clay Till was not observed (see Appendix I image 3 for depth of clay Till removed). As spoil was removed from the site using a medium sized flat bed vehicle ample opportunity was afforded to investigate more fully by hand indistinct areas while the mini-digger paused between loads. Site visibility was generally good as a toothless bucket was in use though wetter conditions towards the final stages did cause the machine to smear and scatter loose clods as it had to track from the edges of the terraced area to where the flat bed could be loaded. Where necessary the machine operator also cooperated fully in scraping away overburden under the monitoring archaeologist's direction to clarify small areas. A number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

2.2 In addition to the ground works to create a terrace for the proposed extension a small area immediately to the west was lowered by a similar depth to make an area for a patio. This work was outside the planning application but was also inspected and proved to have similar deposits with some 350mm of topsoil over 100mm of subsoil above naturally occurring Till clay deposits.

3. Results

3.1 The c28m² area of the extension proved to have a uniform depth across it of 350mm of topsoil which lay above a mid brown clay subsoil which varied in depth between 100mm and 200mm. The subsoil (0002) contained a small number of small roof tile fragments and two of these were retained as a sample and are described in section 4.3 below. In addition 13 sherds of pottery were retrieved from the subsoil layer as unstratified finds (see section 4.2). Clearly modern finds from the topsoil were not collected. The only feature seen during the ground works was a large pit on the eastern side of the extension footprint close to the lane running along this side of the garden (see Fig. 2). This pit was clearly cut from a high level and was only partially removed by the formation of the extension terrace as its base went below 1200mm below modern ground level (see Appendix I image no 2). The pit was rapidly identified as being of earlier 20th century date as its fill contained numerous glass bottles labelled 'Shield Hall SCWS' in addition to early batteries, ash and coal debris, at least one holed bucket and iron fragments of indeterminate type. However close examination of the upcast spoil from this large modern pit also revealed 13 sherds of pottery (0003) some of which were clearly much earlier in date. The area around the modern pit was therefore cleaned by hand in order to look for any remnant of an earlier feature cut by the recent disturbance but none were identified and therefore the sherds noted above must be seen as residual finds redeposited in a later context.

3.2 No archaeological features and no finds of note were found in the patio area.

4 The Finds

4.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in Table 1. The pottery is summarised by context and fabric in Appendix 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	13	136	2	58	PMed
0003	13	158			PMed
Total	26	294	2	58	

Table 1. Finds quantities.

4.2 Pottery

The twenty-six sherds of pottery represented activity from the early medieval to the post-medieval periods. Two body sherds of early medieval ware (EMW; 11th-12th c.) were found in 0003. Medieval coarsewares (MCW; 12th-14th c.) in a variety of fine and medium sandy fabrics were collected from both contexts. Those from 0002 were all body sherds, including a large sherd from a storage vessel (although this may be a later unglazed earthenware). Fragments from 0003 included two rims, both probably from jugs and both of 13th-century or later date. A body sherd of Hollesley-type glazed ware with spots of decayed glaze was found in 0002. A tiny body sherd of LMT (15th-16th c.) was collected from 0002.

Post-medieval wares comprised glazed red earthenwares (GRE, IGBW; 16th-18th c.) and Cologne stoneware (GSW4; 16th-17th c.). Body sherds were found in both contexts and there was a GRE bowl rim in 0003. One unidentified unglazed sherd in a fine fabric was burnt and could be either LMT or a later redware.

4.3 Ceramic building material

Two fragments of roof tile (58g) in a medium-coarse sandy oxidised fabric with occasional flint were collected from 0002. They are probably post-medieval.

4.4 Discussion

All finds were unstratified or residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. However, they show that there was activity on the site from the early medieval period onwards. The pottery recovered is typical of the range of fabrics and forms produced in South Suffolk and North Essex in the medieval and later periods. The only imported wares are German stonewares which are frequently collected from post-medieval sites in the region.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the ground works did not reveal any features of archaeological interest confirmation that the site lies within the area of archaeological interest for Kersey has been achieved by the retrieval of 11 sherds of medieval pottery including two of earlier, 11/12th century date. The latter sherds being of particular interest as The Mount is located at the northern edge of the historic settlement and is some distance from the parish church where earlier medieval activity would be expected to focus. Therefore the settlement at Kersey may have grown up from more than one focus from the 11/12th century period as The Mount is on the higher ground on the northern, opposite, side of the valley formed by the stream running through the

village to the church on the southern side. The area of The Mount in its topographic setting apparently mirroring the more obvious focus for earlier medieval settlement close to the church. Such a hypothesis, and that possibly the two foci became an area of continuous settlement along the main village street later in the medieval period, can only be confirmed through further investigation within historic Kersey. The later pottery sherds of 16/18th century date from the site are consistent with the construction date for the existing house and its subsequent occupation, apparently re-building on a site already within the settlement area by the 16th century.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works for the proposed extension have given a valuable opportunity to gain historical information relating to the development of Kersey and no archaeological deposits of importance have been affected by the soil stripping.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to the Patrick Tatam of WKP Architects for providing development plans, Julian Elford and his staff for their close cooperation on site and Sue Anderson for her specialist find report).

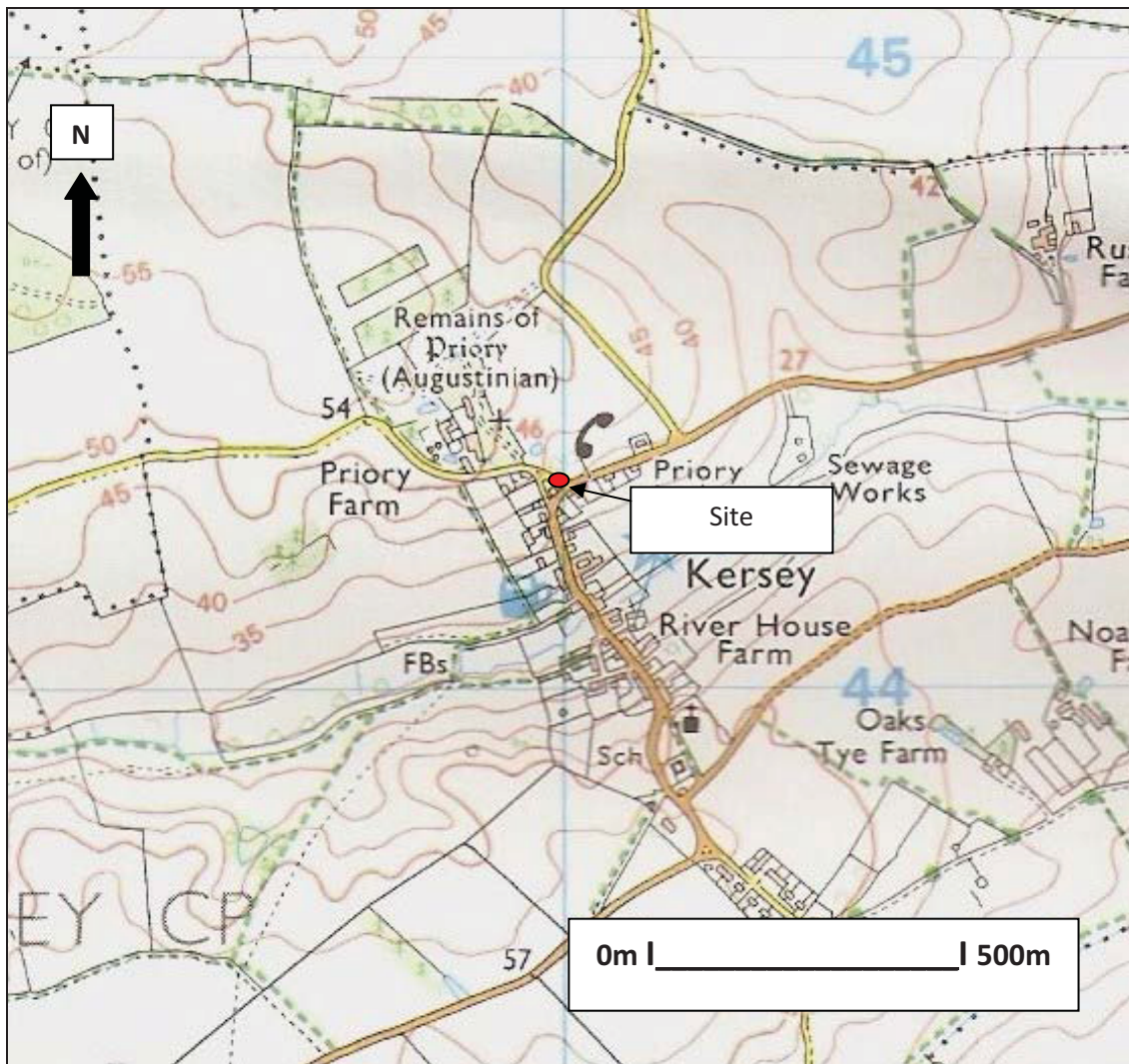


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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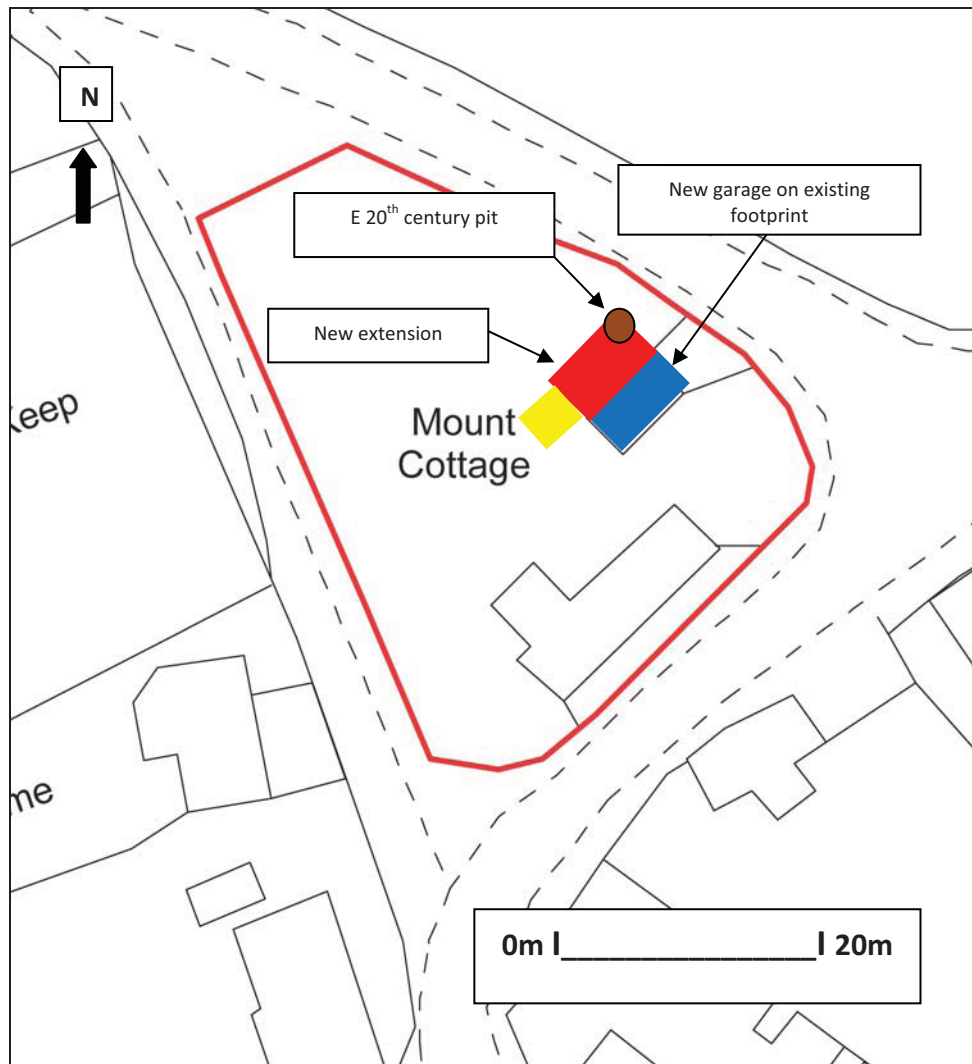


Fig. 2: Monitored extension terrace- yellow block- patio area (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



1. Site from south east as ground works commence (existing garage removed)



2. Terrace area for extension from west with early 20th century pit visible in section by ranging rod



3. Terraced area for extension from south east showing depth of naturally occurring yellow clay removed in section



4. Terrace extension area from south also showing topsoil over naturally occurring in section

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

THE MOUNT, THE STREET, KERSEY

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to erect a garage with extension at The Mount, The Street, Kersey has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/10/00126). 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 archaeological interest for the medieval settlement of Kersey 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 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: 30th April 2010

Reference: /The Mount

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 3- Pottery

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
0002	MCW	3	19	body sherds, 1 v micaceous	12-14
	MCW?	1	32	large vessel, possibly a later coarse earthenware, sooted	Med/PMed
	HOLG	1	9	spots of decayed glaze	13-14
	LMT	1	3	small body sherd	15-16
	GRE	4	39	orange & brown glazed body sherds	16-18
	IGBW	2	12	dark brown glazed body sherds	16/18
	UNID	1	22	poss LMT or burnt PMRW	LMed/PMed
0003	EMW	2	12	sooted, medium sandy	11-12
	MCW	1	7	flat-topped everted ?jug rim (diam 180mm, 6%)	13
	MCW	1	22	upright thickened jug rim (diam 100mm, 22%)	13-14
	MCW	3	36	body sherds	12-14
	GSW4	3	27	sherds of 2 vessels	16-17
	GRE	2	19	body sherds, orange glaze (1 burnt)	16-18
	GRE	1	35	thickened everted bowl rim (diam 240mm, 10%)	16-18