

The Iron Age Forts of Norfolk

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Contents of Microfiche

THETFORD CASTLE Finds catalogue

1:A5 - 1:B1

Table A: post-Roman pottery quantified by

1:B2

sherd count

FORD PLACE

Description of the features in trenches A, B 1:B3 - 1:B11

and C

The resistivity survey at Ford Place, 1984, 1:B12 - 1:B14

by A. Bartlett and A. Payne

Finds catalogue

1:C1 - 1:C11

Early Prehistoric and Iron Age pottery catalogue, 1:C12 - 1:C14

by Tony Gregory

Human bone report, by Jacqueline I. McKinley 1:D1 - 1:D2

TASBURGH

The fabric of the Iron Age pot from layer 1080, 1:D3

by David Williams

Slag identifications

1:D4

NARBOROUGH

Drawn sections from survey by Derek A. Edwards 1:D5 - 1:D8

and John Wymer

THETFORD CASTLE

Finds Catalogue

By cutting and layer/feature.

Note that the layer numbers used for the south-east end of cutting A are the new reallocated numbers (see concordance in site archive for original 1962 numbers).

Cutting A, layer 1, topsoil

Post Medieval glass

Iron nail, and iron plate fragments

Fragment of double-sided bone comb, early Post-medieval (illustrated)

- 3 sherds RB coarse ware (from A12, NW end of cutting)
- 1 sherd Thetford/Early Medieval
- 6 sherds E.Med.A
- 3 body sherds Med.unglazed and one handle scar
- 1 Grimston green-glazed beard fragment from face jug
- 5 sherds LMT

16-18 cent P.Med.sherds

Cutting A, layer 4, rearward extension to outer rampart above late ditch Early Post Medieval iron knife (illustrated)

Post Medieval iron key (illustrated)

Oblique flint arrowhead

Post Medieval glass fragments

Post Medieval brick

Cutting A, layer 9, upper fill of late ditch behind outer rampart

Iron slag and iron nail

Cutting A, layer 12, fill of ditch behind outer rampart Flints

- 7 Iron Age sandy sherds including one body sherd with finger nail ornament and one scrap of everted rim
- 1 body sherd of Early Medieval B, from the main part of the ditch Post Medieval brick

Cutting A, layer 15, lowest fill of late ditch behind outer rampart

1 Iron Age gritty body sherd

Cutting A, layer 18, lower of outer rampart

1 Beaker base sherd

Cutting A, layer 19, old ground surface below outer rampart

1 Beaker sherd with comb-impressed chevron ornament

Cutting A, layer 20, layer immediately below topsoil NE of outer ditch 1 sherd of Stamford ware 16-17th century Post Medieval sherds

Cutting A, layer 21, layer immediately below topsoil over outer ditch Iron nail, wire, horse-shoe fragment, key and knife black.

Iron slag

Lava quern fragment

Oyster shells

- 5 Iron Age sandy body sherds including one (illustrated) with corrugated neck
- 1 sherd E.Med.A
- 1 sherd Early Med. or Med.
- 1 sherd LMT
- 16-18th century Post Medieval sherds

Cutting A, layer 22, main fill of outer ditch

Iron slag

Lava quern Tragments

Oyster shells

12 fragments of sawn red deer antler

Burnt gandstone fragments

1 gritty Iron Age and 9 sandy Iron Age including base and a rim similar to Ford Place no.5 (base and rim illustrated)

7 sherds of Ipswich Ware

1 sherd of St Neots inturned rim bowl, 2 sherds ?Early Med., 2 Early Med.A, 3 Early Med.B, 2 sherds of Early Med/Med., 5 sherds of Medieval unglazed including one pinched jug base, 7 sherds LMT and 7 sherds Late Med./Early Post Med.

Post Medieval glass fragments

Cutting A, Layer 23, fill of outer ditch, SW side 1 sandy Iron Age sherd

Cutting A, Layer 24, lowest fill of outer ditch, NE side 8 sherds from one sandy Iron Age jar, illustrated

The following Cutting A finds are denoted by their original 1962 layer numbers since no drawing or concordance was done at the time which would allow them to be amalgamated. It is likely that layers 2 and 3 in each case correspond roughly to layers 20 and 21 above.

A7, topsoil
16th century sherds

A7 Layer 2

16th century sherd

Iron nail

Copper alloy P.Med. shoe buckle

A8, topsoil

Post Medieval glass fragments

17-19 cent. Post Medieval sherds

A8 Layer 2 16-18 cent. Post Medieval sherds

A8, Layer 4

Early Prehistoric sherd in flint- and sand-tempered fabric

A9, topsoil

Post Medieval glass fragments

16-18th century Post Medieval sherds

A9, Layer 3
Worked flints:
2 sandy Iron Age body sherds and one gritty

A10, topsoil
16-19 cent. Post Medieval sherds

A11, topsoil

16-18th cent. Post Med.pottery

Post Medieval glass fragments

2 iron nails

A12, topsoil

Post Medieval glass fragments

Iron staple, and two nails

15 Iron Age gritty body sherds and 3 sandy

16-29th century Post Med.sherds

Cutting B, topsoil

Fragments of burnt oolite

1 Grimston green-glazed sherd

16-18th cent. Post Med.sherds

Cutting B, layer 2
8 iron nails
Iron spatulate socketed object, illustrated
Oyster shells
Post Medieval brick
1 gritty Iron Age body sherd with finger-tip ornament
1 sherd Grimston green-glazed
16-17th century Post Medieval sherds

Cutting B, layer 3

1 sherd Stamford ware, 1 Early Medieval B, 1 Medieval, 1 LMT

16th cent. Post Medieval sherds

Post Medieval brick

Cutting B, layer 4

Iron needle, illustrated

Copper alloy bracelet fragment

Post Mcdieval brack

Barked and tanged frant arrowhead

8 sandy Iron Age body sherds, including 1 illustrated with incised ornament, 25 gritty Iron Age body sherds and 1 rim from illustrated vessel, 6 gritty sherds from other vessels

Cutting B, layer 6

1 sandy Iron Age sherd

1 Post Medieval glass fragment

Oyster shell

Cutting B, layer 9

Post Medieval brick

3 sherds of an illustrated jar in gritty fabric

3 gritty sherds including one with finger tip ornament

10 sherds of sandy Iron Age and one scrap of a rim in same fabric

Cutting B, layer 10

Post Medieval brick

2 gritty Iron Age body sherds

1 illustrated Iron Age jar rim in very fine gritty fabric

Cutting C, topsoil

2 iron nails and one iron quarrel head

16-18th cent. Post Med.sherds

Cutting C, layer 2

Iron nails

Post Medieval glass fragments

16-18th cent. Post Medieval sherds

Cutting C, layer 3

2 Medieval iron padlock keys, illustrated

Medieval iron arrowhead, illustrated

3 gritty Iron Age sherds and 3 sandy including 1 illustrated rim *

1 sherd Stamford ware

16th cent. Post Medieval sherds

Cutting C, layer 4

2 iron nails

1 pointed iron ferrule

6 gritty Iron Age body sherds and 13 sandy bodies

1 ?Thetford ware sherd

5 Early Med.A, 17 Early Med.B, 15 Med.unglazed, 2 glazed, 1 Early Med/Med

Cutting C, layer 5

Iron ring, illustrated

LANEBA sherd with slight grooving

13 gritty Iron Age sherds including one illustrated highly burnished sherd

17 sandy body sherds including three rims from one illustrated vessel and

1 from another

1 rim from early Roman narrow-necked jar

3 Early Med.A sherds and 2 Early Med.B

Cutting C, layer 6

1 sandy Iron Age sherd

4 Early Med.A, 1 Early Med.B, 2 poss.E.Med.A or Med

Cutting C, unspecified

Flat based chalk 'cup'

Cutting D, topsoil

Post Med. glass fragments
Burnt oolite frags
1 gritty Iron Age body

Cutting D, layer 2

Two pairs of copper alloy tweezers and gilt copper alloy strip, all illustrated

1 iron staple, 1 spur, 1 horseshoe and 7 nails

Barbed and tanged flint arrowhead

14 sandy Iron Age sherds including 2 illustrated rims ***

5 gritty Iron Age sherds including 1 rim *

2 sherds Stamford ware

1 sherd Grimston Thetford

25 sherds Early Medieval A, 94 sherds Early Med.B, 21 A or B, 1 sherd green-glazed Med, 4 Med unglazed, 4 Early Post Med

Post Med brick

Cutting D, layer 3

Flints:

Copper alloy miniature terret of Late Iron Age type, illustrated
4 sherds of LANEBA/Bronze Age pottery, one with impressed ornament
15 body sherds of gritty Iron Age and 11 of sandy including one
illustrated rim

8 sherds Early Med.A and 3 of B

Cutting D, feature 1

Iron tweezers, illustrated

10 fragments of burnt daub, some with wattle impressions

24 sandy Iron Age sherds including 4 illustrated rims

3 gritty Iron Age bodies

Cutting D, feature 2

Fragments of copper alloy plate

Burnt chalk fragment

17 sherds of one gritty Iron Age scored jar, illustrated

5 rims and bodies on one Iron Age gritty jar, illustrated

2 sandy rims and 3 bodies of three vessels, all illustrated

6 sandy bodies and one base

19 rim, body and base sherds of one sandy vessel, illustrated

Cutting D, feature 5

1 sherd of gritty Iron Age

Cutting E, topsoil

16-18 cent Post Med sherds and Post Med brick

Cutting E, layer 2

4 Medieval sherds and Developed Stamford

Cutting E, layer 3

Burnt daub fragment

Sherd of globular glass vessel with applied boss ?P.Med 16 cent.sherd

Cutting G, layer 1

18-19 cent Post Med.sherds

1 Medieval rim, 2 sherds of LMT, 2 sherds of Stamford ware

Cutting G, layer 2

Burnt oolite fragments

Cutting G, layer not recorded Chalk object, illustrated

Table A. Thetford Castle Post-Roman Pottery, Quantified by Sherd Count F G Total of Type % of Cuttings A В C D E types site total 1 PM 1 3 5 1.3 20 EPM 2 4 1 27 7.2 5 3 LM 8 2.1 M 17 2 26 5 56 14.8 2 EM/M 6 5 3.4 13 EM (A) 7 16 53 20.1 76 EM (B) 7 3 35 123 1 169 44.7 1 1 1 0.8 GMT 3 ST 1 1 1 2 5 1.3 TH 1? 1 1 3 0.8 1 SN 1 0.3 IW 7 2 9 2.4 ? 2 1 3 0.8 Total by area 76 9 92 191 7 3 378



Ford Place

Description of the features in trench A

Linear feature 99 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 0.62 m wide and 0.50 m deep (not bottomed).

A steep-sided linear cut, running east-west across the northern end of the trench. It contained an arched brick structure (154), of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date. Covered by brick and chalk rubble. Not excavated.

Pottery. 2 IA; 3 GRE; 1 LMT; 1 M ung.

Other finds. Clay pipe stems; iron slag; animal bone.

Rectangular feature 74 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 1.10 m long, 1.00 m wide and 0.20 m deep.

Rectangular, flat-bottomed cut, protruding from the west section in the south end of the trench. It was orientated east-west and was sealed by the late-sixteenth to seventeenth-century layers 68. Contained no finds.

Rectangular feature 77 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 2.00 m long, 1.00 m wide and 0.15 m deep.

A long, rectangular, flat-bottomed cut. Protrudes from the west section in the south end of the trench. Orientated north-north-west - south-south-west. Sealed by medieval/modern topsoil layers. Cuts the late-sixteenth to seventeenth-century layer 68. Contained no finds.

Wall 113 (Fig.5; Fig.7, section !): 0.70 m wide and 0.40 m high.

A solidly constructed wall, unfaced, containing five courses of undressed chalk block and flint, of average size 0.06 m square. Unmortared. It was set in a wide, flat-bottomed, foundation trench (116). Cuts pits 130 and 131.

The pits

81 (Fig.6): 1.50 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

A shallow, oval, pit. Extends beneath the east section, in the south of the trench. The upper profile has been lost to disturbance. The fills were sealed by topsoil and it cuts natural soils above the chalk.

Pottery. 1 Grimston gl.; 1 M ungl.

84 (Fig.6; Fig.8, section 2): 2.00 m long, 1.50 m wide and 1.50 m deep. Rectangular, steep-sided and flat-bottomed pit. One corner is beneath the east section. Fills were heavily disturbed by tree roots. Fills sealed by topsoil. Cuts into fill of post hole 210.

Pottery. 15 IA; 1 M ungl.; 1 Grimston
Other finds. Flint flake; chalk weight; human skeletal material;
animal bone.

98 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 1.20 m wide and 1.00 m deep.

A long pit with rounded edges and flat bottom. In south of trench, it extends beneath the west section. It cuts deeply into the natural chalk. Sealed by topsoil and grave 74. Cuts into fill of post hole 210.

Pottery. 12 M ungl.; 1 LM; 1 M Grimston; 3 gl. Grimston; 1 M jug; 2 EM; 2 Thet.

105 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 2.10 m wide and 0.60 m deep.

A broad, shallow, flat-bottomed pit extending under the west section. A secondary northern edge shows a sequence of repeated pitting activity here. The fills were sealed by machine cleared layers. The pit cuts into preserved soils 182 and 183 and the natural chalk.

Pottery. 2 M ungl.

Other finds. Animal bone.

130 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 2.50 m wide and 0.40 m deep.

A broad, shallow, pit occupying the full width of the trench and extending beneath the west section. Cut by wall 113 and sealed by topsoil. It cuts into the natural chalk. Also cuts post hole 217 and feature 206.

Pottery. 1 LANEBA/B.A.; 20 M ungl.; 1 LM/EPM; 4 m gl.; 1 Grimston gl.; 4 Grimston Thet.; 2 EM.

Other finds. 1 crucible rim; clay pipe; animal bone.

131 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 1): 2.00 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

A shallow, rounded, pit to the north of pit 130. Cut by wall 113 and sealed by soil 60. Cuts preserved soils 182 and 183 and natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 LM/LMT; 2 M ung.

Other finds. Animal bone.

215 (Fig.6; Fig.8, section 5): 1.10 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

A rounded steep-sided pit, disappearing under the east section. Cuts into natural chalk. Not bottomed. Sealed by topsoil.

Post holes.

189 (Fig.6); 0.52 m long, 0.38 m wide and 0.09 m deep.

Rectangular in plan. Only a very shallow depth left beneath pit 130, which cut it. Contained two large packing stones. Cuts only natural chalk.

199 (Fig.6; Fig.8, section 3): 0.57 m long, 0.10 m wide and 0.05 m deep. Narrow, shallow, feature. Associated with adjacent post holes 200 and 205, suggesting that it is a re-cut post hole. The very shallow depth obscures the precise relationship. Stratigraphically earlier than pit 131. It cuts only natural chalk.

200 (Fig.6; Fig.8, section 3): 0.38 m long, 0.27 m wide and 0.39 m deep.

A square-cut, steep-sided, flat-bottomed post hole. Contains chalk packing. Cut by post hole 205 and adjacent to 199. Stratigraphically earlier than pit 131. Cuts natural chalk only.

205 (Fig.6): 0.44 m long, 0.22 m wide and 0.10 m deep.

Rectangular in plan, but very little depth remaining. Adjoins post hole
199 and cuts 200, although their exact relationship is difficult to
determine due to the shallowness of the remaining features.

Stratigraphically earlier than pit 131. Cuts natural chalk only.

Pottery. 2 M ungl.

Other finds. Animal bone.

210 (Fig.6; Fig.7, section 4): 0.50 m wide and 0.60 m deep.

A large post hole or base of a small pit. Cut by pits 84 and 98. Cuts only natural chalk.

217 (Fig.6; Fig.8, section 6): 0.50 m wide and 0.24 m deep.

A possible post hole, partly under the east section. Cut away by pit 130.

Cuts natural chalk only.

221 (Fig.6): 0.15 m wide and 0.05 m deep.

A rounded, very shallow, post hole. Very little depth left following machine clearance. Cuts natural chalk only.

Slit-shaped depression 117 (Fig.6): 1.50 m long, 0.43 m wide and 0.13 m deep.

A long, shallow, depression in the centre of the northern half of the trench. The edges had been badly weathered. Sealed by machined layer 29. Cuts only ratural chalk.

Other finds. Clay pipe stems.

Description of the features in trench B

Wall 36 (Fig.11, section 8): 5.00 m long, 0.32 m wide and 0.30 m high.

A wall of chalk block, flint and brick construction. Rests on chalk foundation 46. It ran the length of the trench, from north to south, and extended into trench C. Roughly faced and showed a different construction to the walls which now stand above ground and enclose the garden. Sealed by top garden soils. Contemporary with floor 38.

Floor 38 (Fig. 10, section 7): 0.20 m deep.

A floor of sandy mortar and chalk lump construction, to the west of wall 36, against which it formed a contemporary floor or yard surface. It extends the length of the trench. Sealed by garden top soils and above layer 87.

Pottery. 1 M gl.

Other finds. Post-medieval window glass fragments. Iron nail.

The pits

149 (Fig.9; Fig.10, section 7): 4.00 m wide and 0.50 m deep.

An oval, round-bottomed, pit in the middle of the trench. Extends beneath the west section. Sealed by layer 87 and cuts preserved soil 136 and natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 LANEBA/B.A.; 1 IA (lower fill).

Other finds. Animal bone and charcoal (upper fill).

158 (Fig.9; Fig.11, section 8): 1.50 m deep (not bottomed).

Part of a rectangular pit in the north east corner of the trench. Its sides are nearly vertical and the base was not excavated further, for safety reasons. Sealed by wall foundations and the associated layer 39.

Cuts layer 87 and into natural chalk.

Pottery. 4 M gl.; 6 M ungl.; 1 EM; 1 EM/M.

Other finds. Iron nails; animal bones; brick and tile.

201 (Fig.9; Fig.10, section 7): 0.50 m deep.

Only a small segment appears in the south-west corner of the trench,
disappearing beneath the west and south sections. Sealed by layer 87.

Cuts preserved soil 136 and natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 IA.

204 (Fig.9): 1.70 m wide and 0.40 m deep.

An oval pit, of some 1.7 m diameter, extending beneath the southern section. Sealed by layer 87. Cuts soil 136 and natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 IA.

Other finds. Animal bones.

Description of the features in trench C

Wall 53 (Fig. 12; Fig. 14, section 10): 0.30 m wide and 0.10 m high. A heavily truncated section of rough chalk wall, projecting north from the southern section for 0.8 metres. The wall ran north-south and its chalk foundations (54) reappear in two positions further north (120 and 170). This wall was also located in trench B. It represents a previous subdivision of the garden and is of post-medieval date. Earlier garden clearance has largely removed the wall. Its foundations cut pits 157 and 175.

Well 146 (Fig. 12; Fig. 13, section 9): 2.0 m across. Depth unknown. Located in the centre of the trench. The top two metres of well housing had been removed by robbing activity, down to the level of natural chalk. The shaft beneath this was subsequently capped by bricks and limestone slabs (145). The well was lined with dressed chalk blocks (219).

The pits

86 (Fig. 12; Fig. 13, section 9; Fig. 14, section 13): 1.50 m deep.

Deep pit in the north east corner of the trench. Its plan and section suggest more than one pit cut. Most of the feature lies beneath the north and east sections. Sealed by top soil layers. Cuts the natural chalk.

Pottery. 3 IA (from lower fill, 91).

Other finds. Animal bone.

155 (Fig. 12; Fig. 13, section 9): 3.00 m long and 2.20 m deep.

Oval pit in the south east corner of the trench. The largest and deepest of the trench C pits. Adjoins pit 157; the top fills of which it cuts. Lies partly beneath the east section. Sealed by garden soil and cuts natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 IA.

Other finds. 6 Neolithic flints.

157 (Fig. 12; Fig. 14, section 10): 2.20 m long and 1.20 m deep.

A large, deep, pit in the south of the trench. Similar in shape and dimensions to pit 155. Lies partly beneath the south section. Sealed by garden soil and cut by wall 53 and pit 155.

Pottery. 3 IA.

Other finds. Flint flake; animal bone.

175 (Fig. 12; Fig. 14, section 11): 1.50 m long, 1.00 m wide and 1.00 m deep.

Located in the centre of the trench, partly beneath the unexcavated area. Sealed by garden soil 85 and wall footing 170. Cuts fill of pit 170 and natural chalk.

Pottery. 1 EM/M.

Other finds. Flint flake.

179 (Fig.12; Fig.14, section 12; Fig.15, section 14): 1.00 m deep.

Shallow, amorphous, pit. Lies partly beneath the east section. Sealed by garden soil. Cut by pit 175. Cuts natural chalk.

Finds. Flint flake; slag; animal bone.

194 (Fig. 12; Fig. 15, section 13): 1.50 m deep.

Oval pit in the far north of the trench, partly beneath the north section. Sealed by garden soil. Stratigraphically earlier than pit 198. Cuts natural chalk.

Pottery. 2 IA; 1 M gl.; 1 EM/M.

Other finds. Animal bone.

198 (Fig. 12): 0.50 m deep.

Irregular shaped pit, in the north west of the trench. Only a very shallow depth remaining beneath the disturbance. Cuts into the upper fill of pit 194. Sealed by garden soil. Cuts natural chalk.

Pottery. 6 IA; 1 LMT; 1 M.

Other finds. Brick fragments; animal bone; oyster shell.

207 (Fig. 12; Fig. 15, section 14): 2.20 m long, 2.00 m wide and 0.30 m deep.

Irregular-shaped and shallow pit in the north of the trench. Sealed by garden soil. Cuts natural chalk only.

208 (Fig. 12; Fig. 14, section 11; Fig. 15, section 14): 0.40 m deep.

Irregular-shaped pit, partly beneath the west section. It may have been part of a construction trench related to later gardening activity. Sealed by garden soil. Cuts fills of pits 198 and 207.

Pottery. 2 IA; 1 LMT; 1 LM/LMT.

Other finds. Animal bone.

224 (Fig. 12): Approximately 1.30 m diameter.

Irregular-shaped pit in the south of the trench. A shallow hollow.

Sealed by garden soil. Cuts natural chalk.

225 (Fig. 12): 1.40 m long and 1.10 m wide.

Oval-shaped pit in the south of the trench. A shallow hollow. Sealed by garden soil. Cut by pit 226. Cuts natural chalk.

226 (Fig. 12): 1.70 m long and 1.10 m wide.

Oval-shaped pit in the south of the trench. A shallow hollow. Sealed by garden soil. Cut by pit 155 and wall foundation 120. Cuts pit 225 and natural chalk.

Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Resistivity Survey at Ford Place, Thetford, 1984
by A.D.H.Barlett

AM report No. 4477

Dates of fieldwork:

NG: TL874 826

29th-30th October 1984

The object of this survey was to test for the possible continuation of the Iron Age ditches which form at least a partial circuit around Castle Hill. If the two ditches follow the line of Ford Street and Old Market Street and extend to the east then either or both could pass through the gardens of Ford Place where the survey was carried out.

Resistivity readings were taken at 1 m intervals along a series of traverses positioned 5 m apart within the walled garden (traverses 1-9), and also across clear ground to the south (traverses 10-13). The traverses were located in relation to baselines measured to each side of the garden wall as shown on the plan.

A resistivity survey should provide an effective means of location ditches, but it was necessary also to rely on this method because the magnetometer is of little value in urban conditions. The magnetic response from the lawn in the area of traverse 10 was checked by scanning. Less iron was visible here to cause interference than in the walled garden, but conditions were still found to be too disturbed for the instrument to be of use.

The resistivity readings were taken using the two electrode probe configuration. This gives a depth of penetration rather greater than the probe spacing, which for most of the readings was 1 m. The fill of a reasonably large ditch should be detectable at this depth, but additional readings at 2 m spacing were taking along four of the traverses as a further check. The plan enclosed shows first a plot of the initial 1 m readings which are relatively noisy, and then one of the same data after smoothing by taking a running mean (of groups of 3 readings weighted

1: 312

1:2:1). (See plots i and ii). Plot iii shows the 2 m data similarly smoothed.

The only disturbance which extends through the traverses in the manner of a ditch is marked by low readings at the northern ends of traverses 1-6. The effect is not very distinct because the readings lie at the edge of the garden where paths and wall foundations might well interfere, but it is slightly clarified in the smoothed data. Low readings of this kind might reasonably be caused by a ditch with a water-retaining silted fill, and if the anomaly is genuine it could therefore indicate that the northern (Old Market Street) ditch cuts into the garden for part of its width.

There is no similarly consistent response on the possible line of the southern (Ford Street) ditch. There is a slight dip in the readings at B in traverses 10 and 11 and this is emphasised a little in the 2 m data; but the feature cannot clearly be located to the east of the wooded area. Plot ii shows a slight fall in the readings towards the north end of traverse 12, but to link this with the low readings at C in traverse 9 would require a sharp change of direction.

Conclusions

The findings from this survey may be compatible with the presence of ditches, but are not sufficiently clear or unambiguous to establish their existence conclusively. It remains possible that the ditches terminate outside the garden, or that their fill is not readily distinguishable by resistivity and the disturbances noted here are spurious.

The most promising indication of a possible ditch lies at the north side of the walled garden and has its southern limit at the approximate position indicated on plot ii. Only the most tentative suggestions can be made concerning the southern ditch, but if any further investigations of the site are proposed these might include limited trials at the position

1: 313

of the feature labelled B.

Survey by: A.D.H.Bartlett and A.Payne

Date of report: 4th January 1985

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FORD PLACE

Finds Catalogue

In context order.

Context 2 (Trench A'; machined layer).

- 2 sherds TGE
- 1 base Frechen
- 2 sherds 18th century
- 1 sherd Staffs slip, 18th century
- 2 Post-Med. iron-glazed sherds
- 3 sherds GRE
- 6 sherds 16th-17th century
- 3 sherds Grimston green gl.
- i sherd Med.gl.
- 3 Med.sherds
- 1 sherd EM

Clay pipe frags., brick and tile, iron nails, slag, whetstone frag., animal bone

Post-Med glass, shell, 9 flints

Context 3 (Trench A'; machined layer)

- 1 base Frechen
- 2 body sherds iron-glazed
- 2 sherds GRE
- 1 rim sherd, Grimston face jug
- 1 Grimston handle
- 1 base/body sherd, Post-Med., wavy line decoration
- 7 body sherds, Grimston type; one decorated with brown lines
- 2 body sherd Med.gl.
- 1 sherd Med.ungl.

- 1 body sherd Med/LM ungl.
- 4 body sherds Med.ungl.
- 1 sherd poss. Thetford
- 1 sherd IA

Clay pipe frags, Post-Med glass, brick, iron bar, iron frag., 3 iron nails, animal bone, charcoal, 1 flint

Context 6 (Trench A'; machined layer).

- 1 sherd GRE
- 1 GRE handle
- 2 sherds Post-Med., c 17th cent.
- 1 sherds LM/EPM gl.base fine fabric. Yellow spots.
- 1 sherd Grimston green gl.
- 6 body sherds Med.ungl.
- 2 body sherds Med or later ungl.
- 1 body sherd ?EM

Clay pipe frags, Post-Med. glass, coal lump, brick, iron lump, slag, animal bone, shell

Context 7 (Trench A'; machined layer).

- 1 rim GRE jar
- 2 bases GRE
- 1 body sherd GRE
- 4 body sherds EPM
- 1 Grimston base sherd

Clay pipe frags, brick, slag, animal bone, shell

Context 18 (Trench A'; machined layer).
Clay pipe frags, brick, animal bone

Context 21 (Trench B'; machine clearance).

- 1 sherd TGE
- 1 sherd modern stoneware
- 1 handle ?Frechen
- 1 body sherd GRE
- 2 body sherds EPM/PM
- 1 rim, Stamford bowl
- 1 body sherd EMW

Brick, iron nail head, large quantity of animal bone

Context 22 (Trench B'; machined layer).

- 15 sherds TGE
- 3 sherds Staffs slip ware
- 2 sherds GRE
- 1 body sherd Raeren/Langerwehe stoneware
- 3 body sherds LM/EPM ungl.
- 3 body sherds EM
- 3 sherds hand-made
- 3 flints, clay pipe frags, brick, strip of lead, large quantity of animal bone, oyster shell

Context 23 (Machined layer).

Burnt clay frag., 1 slag frag., animal bone

Context 26 (Trench A'; fill of pit 130).

- 1 body sherd LM/EPM. Thick green gl. 16th/15th century
- 1 body sherd Med gl.
- 1 body sherd Grimston gl.
- 3 sherds Med. gl.jug
- 3 rim sherds Med ungl. cooking pots. 13th-14th century
- 16 body sherds Med. ungl.

1: C3

1 rim frag. 'Grimston/Thet'/'soft'

3 body sherds 'Grimston Thet'

2 body sherds EM

1 used crucible rim, clay pipe frags, 1 burnt clay frag, animal bone

Context 30 (Trench B'; machined layer).

1 body sherd LMT

1 body sherd LM

1 body sherd M/LM

1 body sherd EM

Tile, Med/EPM glass, 1 flint, animal bone

Context 38 (Trench B'; floor adjacent to wall 36).

1 base sherd Med.gl.

PM glass, iron nail

Context 39 (Trench B'; layer to east of wall 36).

1 body sherd Med.gl. - 13th-14th century

Animal bone, flint core

Context 50 (Trench C'; machined layer).

2 base sherds EPM

1 Med. jug base

1 body sherd Med.jug

1 body sherd EM

3 Iron Age sherds

Tile, animal bone

Context 52 (Trench C'; layer to south, beneath 50).

1 rim sherd Med.ungl.

Animal bone

Context 53 (Trench C'; wall to extreme south).

Animal bone

Context 58 (Trench C'; layer in north-east).
Animal bone

Context 60 (Trench A'; layer beneath layer 29).
Animal bone

Context 61 (Trench A'; layer beneath 60).

2 body sherds Med.ungl.

2 burnt flints, animal bone

Context 62 (Trench A'; layer beneath 29, in centre of trench).

1 sherd TGE, modern

1 base sherd GRE, tripod leg

7 body sherds GRE

1 body sherd GRE - yellow and orange gl.

1 body sherd Med Grimston

1 body sherd Med ungl.

Clay pipe frags, brick, slag, animal bone

Context 68 (Trench A'; layer above pits 159 and 163, to south of trench).

1 rim sherd GRE bowl

1 rim sherd GRE bow1?

1 sherd Med/EM?

Brick, animal bone

Context 70 (Trench C'; layer adjacent to wall 53).

1 body sherd Iron Age Animal bone

Context 72 (Trench C'; layer beneath wall 53 and foundations 54).

1 base sherd Iron Age

2 body sherds Iron Age

Animal bone

Context 79 (Trench A'; fill of pit 105).
Animal bone

Context 80 (Trench A'; fill of pit 81).

1 body sherd Med Grimston, gl.

1 body sherd Med. ?ungl.

Context 82 (Trench A'; fill of pit 130).

1 body sherd Med.ungl., wavy line decoration

Context 83 (Trench A'; fill of pit 84).

1 body sherd Med.ungl.

3 rim sherds Iron Age

1 base sherd Iron Age

4 body sherds Iron Age

Animal bone, flint flake

Context 85 (Trench C'; layer above pits in south of trench).

1 body sherd Post-Med or LM

Animal bone

Context 87 (Trench B'; deep layer across whole of trench, below floor

4 rim sherds Iron Age

1 incomplete base Iron Age

5 body sherds Iron Age

Cremation, human skull frags.

Animal bone, flint flake

Context 91 (Trench C'; lowest fill of pit 86).

3 body sherds Iron Age

Context 92 (Trench A'; fill of pit 131).

1 body sherd LM/LMT

2 body sherds Med ungl.

Animal bone

Context 94 (Trench C'; upper fill, above well 146).

3 sherds PM gl., 18th century

2 sherds LM/PM

1 body sherd EM

1 body sherd Iron Age

Brick and tile, PM/modern glass, iron nail, animal bone

Context 97 (Trench A'; upper fill of pit 98. Cut by feature 77).

1 sherd Med ungl.

3 sherds Med ungl.

Context 100 (Trench A'; fill of drain cut 99).

Tile, animal bone

Context 101 (Trench A'; machined laver).

Clay pipe frags.

Context 102 (Trench A'; fill of drain cut 99).

- 2 rim sherds GRE
- 1 body sherd GRE
- 1 body sherd LMT
- 1 body sherd Med ungl.
- 2 body sherds Iron Age
- 1 burnt flint, clay pipe frags, slag, brick, animal bone, charcoal

Context 104 (Trench A'; machined layer).

LM roof tile, clay pipe frags.

Context 107 (Trench A'; lower fill of pit 98).

- 1 body sherd LM
- 1 sherd Med Grimston
- 3 body sherds gl. Grimston
- 1 handle from Med jug, ?Grimston
- 1 rim Med ungl.
- 2 sherds Med ungl.
- 2 body sherds Med ungl.
- 3 body sherds Med ungl.
- 2 body sherds EM
- 1 body sherd Thet (fabric 5) (late 11th 12th century). Storage jar with thumbed strips
- 1 body sherd Thet?, with thumbed strip (poss. 11th-12th century)
 Animal bone

Context 115 (Trench A'; fill of trench 116, adjacent to wall 113).

Animal bone, 1 flint, PM glass

Context 119 (Trench A'; lower fill of pit 84).

1 body sherd Med Grimston

2 rims Iron Age

5 body sherds Iron Age

Chalk loom weight (SF1)

Burnt clay, chalk frags, animal bone

Context 126 (Trench A'; fill above drain cut 99).

1 body sherd LMT?

Brick, animal bone, slag, charcoal

Context 130 (Trench A'; pit).

1 body sherd Iron Age

Context 136 (Trench B'; below layer 87).

Animal bone

Context 137 (Trench B'; immediate vicinity of cremation).

Folded lumps of clay

Context 138 (Trench B'; upper fill of pit 149).

Animal bone, charcoal

Context 141 (Trench B'; lower fill of pit 149).

1 rim Iron Age

1 body sherd Iron Age

Animal bone, slag

Context 147 (Trench C'; fill of pit 155).

1 body sherd Iron Age

6 flint flakes

Context 148 (Trench C'; fill of pit 157).

1 piece burnt clay, animal bone, 1 burnt flint, 1 flint flake

Context 151 (Trench B'; lower fill of pit 158, in east of trench).

- 1 sherd Med gl., 14th century
- 3 body sherds Med gl. jug
- 1 sherd Med ?ungl.
- 1 body sherd Med ungl, wavy line decoration
- 4 body sherds Med ungl.
- 1 body sherd EM
- 1 body sherd EM/M

Brick, 2 iron nails, animal bones

Context 171 (Trench C'; fill of pit 175).

1 flint flake

Context 174 (Trench C'; fill of pit 208).

- 1 body sherd LMT, 16th century or later
- 1 body sherd LM/LMT
- 1 rim sherd Iron Age
- 1 body sherd Iron Age

Animal bone

Context 177 (Trench C'; fill of pit 179).

Animal bone, slag, 1 burnt flint, 1 flint flake

Context 181 (Trench C'; fill of pit 198).

- 1 body sherd LMT (late 15th-16th century)
- 1 rim sherd Med Grimston jug

6 body sherds Iron Age
Brick, animal bone, oyster shell

Context 188 (Trench A'; upper fill of hole 200).

1 sherd Med ungl. (13th-14th century)

1 body sherd Med ungl.

Animal bone

Context 192 (Trench C'; fill of pit 194).
Animal bone

Context 193 (Trench C'; fill of pit 194).

1 Med gl. handle. Orange quartz fabric. Poss.import
(Normandy/Hedingham?)

Context 195 (Trench C'; fill of pit 194).

1 hody sherd EM

1 body sherd Iron Age

Context 201 (Trench B'; pit in west of trench).

1 body sherd Iron Age

Context 203 (Trench B'; fill of pit 204).

1 body sherd Iron Age

Animal bone

Context 212 (Trench C'; fill of pit 175).

1 sherd EM/M

5940 Thetford Ford Place

Pottery Catalogue - Early Prehistoric and Iron Age, by context number, by Tony Gregory

Early Prehistoric:

130 Trench A', Pit 130

One body sherd of grog- and sand-tempered fabric with two parallel lines of impressed (stick?/finger nail?) ornament. LANEBA or B.A.

141 Trench B', Pit 147

One body sherd of grog- and sand-tempered fabric, undecorated. LANEBA or B.A.

Iron Age:

Three fabrics occur, both are hard, fine to medium, predominantly black/dark grey and sometimes mottled with orange or brown.

They are distinguished by their inclusions:

GRITTY: sparse to profuse subangular medium to small white quartzite and sparse small rounded translucent grey to colourless quartzite.

Surfaces rarely burnished.

SANDY: sparse to profuse small rounded translucent grey to colourless quartzite. Surfaces commonly burnished.

CHALKY: As GRITTY but white quartzite replaced by white subangular to subrounded chalk.

All body sherds unless otherwise stated. Entries end with total IA sherds.

- 3 Trench A', machined topsoil; one body sherd gritty, one chalky (2)
- 22 Trench B', machine clearance; three gritty including one of an apparently wide-mouthed jar with a very slight shoulder (3)
- 50 Trench C', machined topsoil; two gritty body sherds including one illustrated (no.10), with round shoulder and finger-tip ornament (2)
- 70 Trench C', Features 214/106; one gritty (1)
- 72 Trench C', Layer; three joining sherds from one jar base and wall in sandy fabric (1)
- from 87 in Trench B I suspect that this is a confusion rather than a cross join and therefore ignore these sherds.

 Three rims (drawn nos.1, 4 and 5), one sandy base (drawn no.6), two bodies including one (consisting of three joining sherds) of a round shouldered jar (drawn no.7) all sandy (6). See also 119, from same pit.
- 87 Trench B', hand-excavated layer (with cremation); seven joining rim

and body sherds of jar (drawn no.8) - one sherd from 83 also joins, which I think is probably a mix-up, so I'm counting that sherd as from 87 also. Joining rim and body sherd of jar (drawn no.9) (9, both sandy).

- 91 Trench C', pit 86; two sandy and one gritty (3).
- 94 Trench C', feature 143; one gritty (1).
- 102 Trench A', pit 99; one gritty, one sandy (2)
- 119 Trench A', pit 84; three bodies and two rims of one sandy bowl

 (drawn no.2) including one sherd from 87 which is treated as part

 of 199, and probably a confusion. One sandy rim (drawn no.5) and one
 sandy body (7).

See also 83, from same pit.

- 141 Trench B', pit 149; one gritty (1); see also Early Prehistoric (1).
- 147 Trench C', pit 155; one sandy with burnished surface (1).
- 174 Trench C', pit 208; two sandy (2).
- 181 Trench C', pit 198; six gritty, of which two joining sherds are from the neck of a burnished bowl or jar (5).
- 192 Trench C', pit 194; one gritty (1).
- 195 Trench C', pit 194; one gritty burnished (1) could belong to same vessel as two joining sherds in 181
- 201 Trench B', pit 201; one sandy body with high burnish (1). See 203 below.
- 203 Trench B', pit 204; one small sandy scrap with high burnish, a fresh break from off the 201 sherd above.

201 and 204 are adjacent but not intercutting features. The fresh break in the case of the 201/203 sherd therefore makes the security of the association of sherd and feature very doubtful.

Ford Place, Thetford.
The human bone, archive report.

Cremation 137.

Total weight 211.2gm.

Sieve weights: 10mm = 157.6gm (74.6%)

5mm = 48.2gm (22.8%)

2mm = 5.4gm (2.6%)

Maximum fragment size: Skull = 37mm long bone = 81mm

Total weight identifiable material = 104.6gm (49.5% of total weight)

Skull = 28.7gm; Axial = 2.2gm; Upper limb = 21.8gm; Lower limb = 31.9gm.

SKULL: Fragment supra-orbit with medium margin. Fragment left temporal with articular tuberosity & postglenoid

tubercle. Fragment right mastoid process.

Vault, 13 fragments, upper sutures fusing.

AXIAL: Vertebral body fragment with very slight osteophytosis on margins.

Thoracic, articulation process.

Innominate; fragments of acetabulum.

UPPER LIMB: Clavicle shaft fragment.

Scapula, neck/spine fragment.

Humerus, fragments of head and shaft.

Radius, fragments of head and shaft.

Ulna, sigmoid notch and shaft fragments.

Carpals; hooks of both hamates.

Metacarpals: head.

Phalanges: 2 proximal/middle heads with shafts. 2 middle. One distal. Proximal and middle phalanges have slight exostoses along palmar lateral margins.

LOWER LIMB: Femur, fragments of shaft and distal articulation surfaces.

Tibia, shaft fragment.

AGE: Older mature/older adult.

SEX: ?

PATHOLOGY: 1) Osteophytosis on vertebral body margins.

2) Slight exostoses along palmar laterals of proximal and middle finger phalanges.

COMMENT: Bone is well cremated (white/buff homogeneous). Dirty and charcoal stained. Several grams of charcoal recovered with cremation.

Context 87.

SKULL: Fragment right parietal bone, upper sutures fully open. AGE: Young/mature adult.

Context 119.

SKULL: Mandible - body, left distal portion missing.

R 87654321 123456 L

Flat occlusal wear on all teeth, slightly heavier buccally. Mild-heavy lingual calculus deposits on all teeth.

AXIAL: Lumbar, fragments 2 bodies.

Rib, fragments 4 shafts, one with tuberosity and facet.

UPPER LIMB: Humerus, right with head missing. Strong attachments for pectoralis major muscle.

AGE: Younger mature adult. SEX: ?

KEY: / = sockets only.

Tasburgh

Appendix I (microfiche)

The fabric of the Iron Age pot from layer 1080 (Fig.d:2)

by David Williams

Fairly hard, sandy fabric with soft angular argillaceous fragments scattered throughout, dark grey (between Munsell 5YR 4/1 and 3/1) outer surface, grey-brown (7.5YR 4/2) inner surface. Smooth burnished exterior with burnished line decoration. Thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope shows a reddish-brown baked clay matrix containing subangular quartz grains, some with undulose extinction, average size up to 0.30 mm across, but with a few slightly larger grains, flecks of mica, a little iron ore and frequent angular pieces of grog (crushed up pottery).

Recent work on the late Iron Age 'Belgic' pottery of south-eastern England has shown that grog-tempering is a significant feature of much of this ware (Thompson 1982). Tasburgh Camp lies outside of the main concentrations of 'Belgic' grog-tempered pottery (Map 1), and given the nature of the grog-tempering it is difficult to say whether the Tasburgh sherd was made locally or some distance away. Moreover, with only the bottom half of the vessel surviving, it is difficult to be sure of the exact form of the vessel, and whether or not it can be regarded as a 'Belgic' type. However, presumably the Tasburgh Camp vessel was some form of jar, and Thompson has several jar categories containing burnished vessels, sometimes with accompanying burnished decoration.

	Smithing slag	Fuel ash slag	Dense iron slag	Hearth lining	Metallic
Layer 1001, topsoil	x		x		
Layer 1002, topsoil		x			
Layer 1004, base of topsoil	x	x	×	x	
Layer 1006, base of topsoil, SW area	хB		x		
Layer 1007, base of topsoil, SW area	x	x	x		
Post-hole 1013, post-medieval		x			
Post-hole 1015		•	x		
Pit 1016			x		
Hearth 1020	x		•		
Layer 1022, filling of ditch B		•			_
Post-hole 1024, cutting building slot 101S	x				x
Pit 1025	x				
Building slot 1028	x				
Area of burning 1030	x				
Layer 1032, soil above natural, N area	x	x			
Layer 1038, above bank 20		x			
Depression 1040 within building		x			x
Layer 1047, above bank 20		×			
Area of burning 1050		x			
Layer 1051, filling of building slot 1018		x	x		
Layer 1053, filling of ditch A					
Layer 1054, soil above natural, N area	X X	_			
Layer 1056, upper filling of building slot 1028	x	x			x
Layer 1059, filling of building 1028	x	_			
Possible building slot 1060		x			
a costor culturing stor 1000		x		x (with	
Layer 1074, filling of ditch A				?Tuyere)	
Layer 1075, filling of building slot 1028	x		x		
Layer 1084, above bank 20	X -D				
Layer 1085, filling of building slot 1028	хB		,		
Layer 1089, filling of ditch C	x				
Pit 1096, post-medieval	x				
Post-hole 1099	x				
Unstratified, 1104	x				
Layer 1109, soil above natural	x				
Depression 1111	x				
Inside building'	B				

Table 1. Slag identifications key: x = present; B = plano-convex slag 'bun'



