

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

A medieval moated site at Cedars Field, Stowmarket, Suffolk

by Sue Anderson

with contributions by
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Edward Martin and Alexis Willett

and illustrations by
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and Donna Wreathall

East Anglian Archaeology
Occasional Paper No. 15, 2004

Archaeological Service
Suffolk County Council

EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY
OCCASIONAL PAPER NO. 15

Published by
Archaeological Service
Environment and Transport
Suffolk County Council
St Edmund House
Rope Walk
Ipswich
Suffolk IP4 1LZ

in conjunction with
ALGAO East
www.algao.org.uk/cttees/regions/

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Typeset by Sue Anderson using Corel Ventura™
Printed by Henry Ling Limited, The Dorset Press, Dorchester

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ISBN 0 86055 279 9

For details of other titles in this series, see back cover

This volume was published with developer funding from TDG Logistics

Cover illustration
Aerial photograph of the site in 1966

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Manpower Services Commission in 1980 and TDG Logistics in 1999. The brief for the archaeological work in 1999 was monitored by Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The 1980 excavation was directed by two supervisors, Stephanie Harding and Susan Wright, with a team of Manpower Services Commission excavators and several volunteers. The archive report on this excavation was completed by Catherine Abbott. The 1999 excavation was directed by Steve Davison, with a team of excavators from

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team (John Duffy, Ed Frost, Amy Jones, Elizabeth McDonald-Gibson, William Ravenscroft, Alan Smith, Aiden Turner, Jonathan Van Jennians).

The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Finds processing was carried out by Sue Anderson, Alexis Willett and Amy Jones. X-rays of metal small finds were carried out by Norwich Castle Museum Conservation Department (in 1980) and Julia Park (in 1999).

Summary

Excavations in 1980 and 1999 at Cedars Field revealed evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation, a Roman field boundary, and a medieval moated site. The latter is the main focus of this report, although evidence for the earlier land use is also presented.

The moated site consisted of a square outer enclosure with a smaller square inner platform. The moat itself was unusually shallow.

Finds evidence suggested that occupation had occurred on the inner platform, and there was some

evidence for the presence of structures within this part of the site.

The site appears to have been occupied from the 12th century, but was abandoned at some point in the 14th century. Documentary evidence was useful in suggesting the tenure and significance of the site during this period.

Following abandonment, the site reverted to agricultural use, and the moat was partially backfilled, but remained waterlogged and partially visible into the 20th century.

Résumé

Les fouilles entreprises en 1980 et 1999 à Cedars Field ont révélé la présence d'occupations datant du néolithique et de l'âge du bronze, d'une limite de champ de l'époque romaine et d'un site fossoyé du Moyen Age. Le rapport de l'EAA porte plus particulièrement sur le site fossoyé, même si les traces des époques précédentes sont également présentées.

Le site fossoyé se compose d'une enceinte extérieure carrée comprenant une plateforme intérieure, également carrée et de taille inférieure. Le fossé lui-même est peu profond, ce qui est inhabituel. Le résultat des fouilles donne à penser que l'occupation s'est produite sur la plateforme intérieure; il existe en outre des preuves

montrant la présence de constructions dans cette partie du site.

Celui-ci semble avoir été occupé à partir du douzième siècle, mais il fut abandonné au cours du quatorzième siècle. Les preuves documentaires rassemblées ont permis d'avoir une idée du système de tenure et de la signification du site pendant cette période.

A la suite de son abandon, le site retrouva son usage agricole, et le fossé fut partiellement comblé. Il demeura toutefois détrempé et en partie visible jusqu'au vingtième siècle.

(Traduction: Didier Don)

Zusammenfassung

1980 und 1999 durchgeführte Ausgrabungen bei Cedars Field erbrachten Belege für eine neolithische und bronzezeitliche Besiedlung, eine römische Flurgrenze und eine mittelalterliche Grabenanlage. Dieser Bericht konzentriert sich auf Letztere, doch werden auch Befunde zur früheren Landnutzung vorgestellt.

Die Grabenanlage bestand aus einer viereckigen äußeren Einhegung mit einer kleineren viereckigen Plattform im Inneren. Der Graben selbst war ungewöhnlich flach. Die Funde deuten darauf hin, dass die innere Plattform besiedelt war. In diesem Teil der Anlage fanden sich einige Hinweise auf Gebäudestrukturen.

Die Stätte war wohl vom 12. Jahrhundert an bewohnt, wurde jedoch irgendwann im 14. Jahrhundert aufgegeben. Urkundliche Belege lieferten nützliche Hinweise auf den Besitztitel und die Bedeutung der Anlage während dieser Zeit.

Nach ihrer Aufgabe wurde die Stätte erneut landwirtschaftlich genutzt und die Gräben zum Teil wieder verfüllt. Sie blieben jedoch vernässt und teilweise bis ins 20. Jahrhundert sichtbar.

(Übersetzung: Gerlinde Krug)



Plate I Aerial photograph of the site in the 1960s (photographer Don Keeble?)



Plate II Aerial photograph of the site during excavation in 1999 (Essex County Council CP/99/4A/8)

Chapter 1. Introduction

Background

(Pl. I)

Excavations at Cedars Field moated site (SMR site SKT 011) were carried out in 1980 and 1999. In 1980, part of the site was excavated prior to expansion of the ICI Paint Works factory, and in 1999 a larger area was excavated in advance of construction of a new warehouse facility at the works. Both stages of the excavation were reported on separately (Abbott 1997, Davison 1999). This report brings the information from the two excavations together for publication.

Aerial photographs of the area taken in 1966 (Plate I) showed the shallow earthworks, under grass, of a roughly square outer enclosure with a smaller square enclosure in one corner (Fig. 1C).

Geological and topographical setting

(Fig. 1)

The site lay one-and-a-half kilometres south-east of Stowmarket town centre, to the north end of Cedars Field (Grid ref. TM 061 577), between 25 and 27m OD (Fig. 1). It was within the flood plain of the River Gipping and situated c.100m south of it, in an area marked on early OS maps as ‘liable to floods’. At the time of both excavations, the site was under rough pasture, although it had been ploughed within living memory.

The subsoil consists of post-glacial river gravels composed of clean quartz-rich sands of medium to coarse grain size, and flint gravels with pebbles commonly up to 5cm in diameter. These gravels probably represent the reworked remains of glacial outwash deposits emplaced in valleys and terraces by the ancient precursor to the modern river. The upper surface of the gravels shows evidence for soil development and becomes increasingly silty upwards. Where features had been cut into the gravels and left open, a sandy peat deposit had developed, indicating the waterlogged nature of the later sediments on the site (after Davison 1999).

The site was in Combs parish until the mid-19th century. This parish originally contained at least three other moated sites (Kimberley Hall, Ebb’s Farm and Boyton Hall), all located close to the parish boundary to the west and south (Fig. 1B). The medieval village was located around the church and hall, approximately a kilometre to the south-west of the Cedars Field site.

Methodology

(Pl. II)

An earthwork survey was carried out prior to excavation in 1980. This consisted of a contour survey (exact measurements above sea level were taken on a grid basis) and a topographical survey (changes of relief were planned by plotting their distance and angle from a known grid). Following this, the north-east quarter of the platform was deturfed by hand and the soil systematically

removed and recorded layer by layer. The site was then extended to the north-west and south-east by machine, using a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision, to reveal three quarters of the inner platform. Three sections were dug through the moat itself (sections A, B and C); plus two other sections, one across the outer enclosure ditch (section D), and one across the north-western outer ditch (section E). Unfortunately the complete excavation of the platform was prevented by the presence of several underground cables and a large tree in the centre of the site. All the features identified were allocated four-figure ‘observable phenomena’ (op) numbers within a unique continuous numbering system.

In 1999, the site was investigated in two phases. The first involved the trench evaluation of a large area to the south-west of the moated site and the second the excavation of the moated enclosures. An area approximately 65m x 60m was stripped in two stages using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Spoil from the stripping was stockpiled on-site. This work also included surface skimming of vegetation from the original 1980 excavation area which had not been backfilled.

In the intervening years, the site had become overgrown and infested with rabbits. Stripping of the outer moat proved difficult in places due to recent infilling of the earthwork with modern debris. The area towards the south-western edge of the site had also been subject to extensive dumping of spoil within the last twenty years. Archaeological features revealed by the stripping were excavated by hand, isolated features being 50% sampled and linear features approximately 10% sampled. A small number of features containing prehistoric pottery fragments were 100% excavated. The site was searched extensively by an experienced metal detectorist.

The site was recorded using a Total Station Theodolite and a single context planning method, plans being recorded at 1:50 scale and sections at 1:20. All features were allocated context numbers beginning at 0200. This follows on from the records of the 1980 excavation which reached 0104. A monochrome print and colour transparency photographic record was also compiled, and aerial photographs were taken (Plate II).

All finds were processed to archive standard, including washing, marking and bagging, followed by storage in acid-free boxes. Quantification was carried out using both count and weight. Pottery was spotdated and assessment reports were prepared on all major finds groups.

Post-excavation analysis included inputting of all site and finds records onto an MS Access database, and inking of section drawings and plans to archive standard.

The site archive (including paper, photographic and computer records and all finds) has been deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) at the Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, under the site code SKT 011.

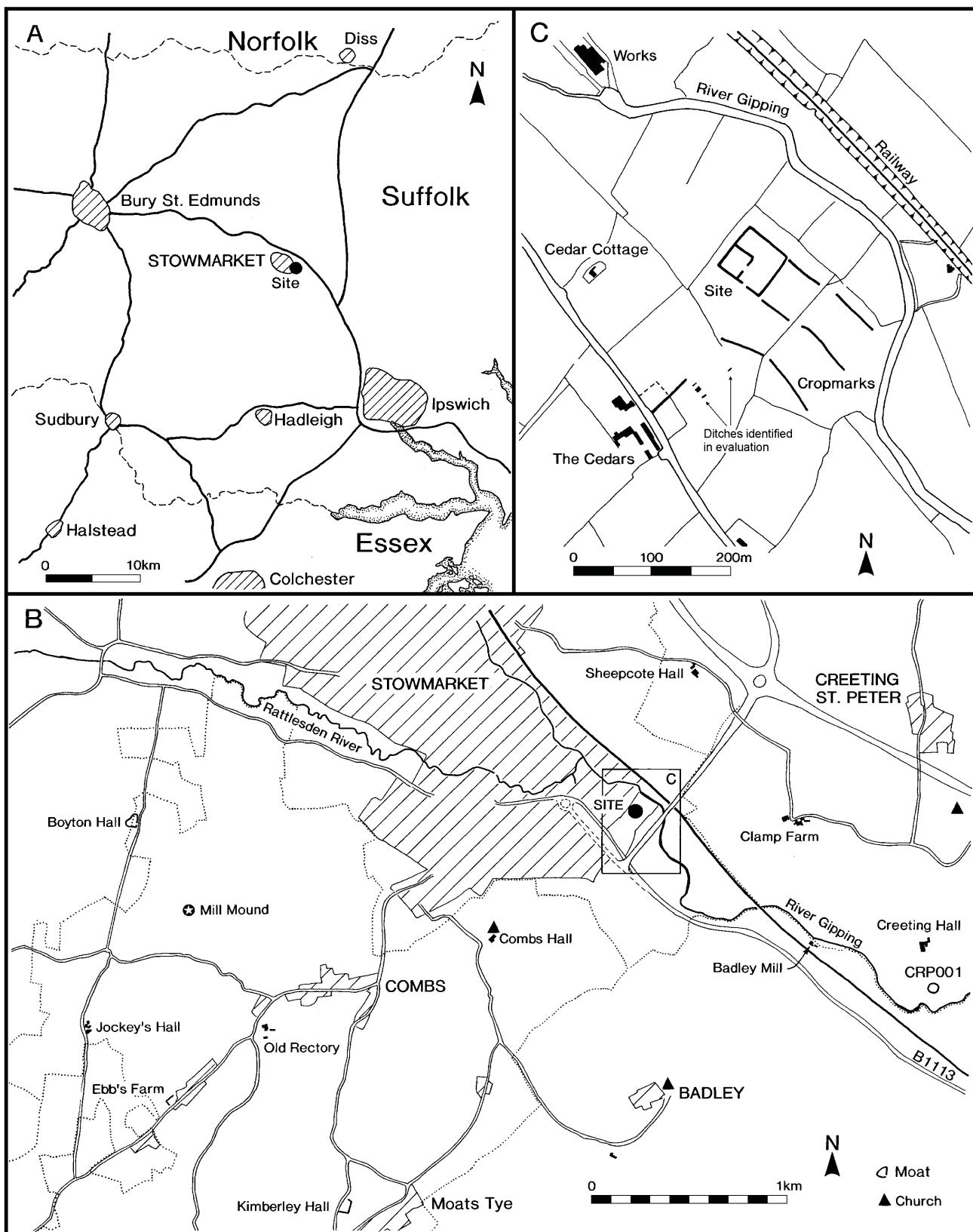


Figure 1 Location map. Map B indicates the positions of other moated sites in Combs (Boyton Hall, Ebb's Farm, Kimberley Hall, and possibly the Old Rectory), other hall sites (Jockey's Hall, Combs Hall, Sheepcote Hall, Creeting Hall), and churches (marked by triangles)

Chapter 2. Historical Background

Introduction (Fig. 2)

A documentary search covering the area of the site and its surrounds was carried out as part of the 1999 excavation project, and is included in the archive report (Breen 1999 and unpub. notes). Breen notes the difficulty in applying a 1581 survey of the area to the 1845 tithe map (Fig. 2), due to very wide differences between the sizes of the holdings in the former and the acreages of the fields recorded on the latter. He suggests that the lines of the field boundaries shown on the tithe map could represent a reorganisation of the meadow land some time in the 18th century, a period during which documentary sources are scarce for the area.

Identification of the moated site

by Edward Martin

The site formerly lay in the parish of Combs, but was transferred to Stowmarket as a result of post-1845 boundary changes. There are two detailed 16th-century surveys of the manor of Combs and these make it clear that the whole D-shaped block of land that lies between the B1113 road and the River Gipping formed a part of the manor of Combs. The survey of 1581 (Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich) HAI/EB3/4) gives more detailed abutments and from this it can be deduced that this block of land was subdivided into a number of tenements of varying sizes. Running from north to south, but not in an ordered way, these were named as: *Alwensmyll, Sewells, Pokelles, Cokerells, Curdes, Glanvylls, Hovells, Edgars, Broughtons*, land of the vill of Combs, *Mannebodies, Lethenards, Appletons* and *Hernes Myll*. Some were free and others were customary holdings. As is often the case in Suffolk (Martin 2000, 5), some of these tenemental names can be related to the surnames of taxpayers in 1327: Gerard Cokerel, William and Geoffrey de Glaunyle, and Robert del Apeltone all appear in the Combs list (Hervey 1906, 41–2).

In terms of identifying these various tenements, it is very helpful that one of them is described thus in the 1581 survey (translated from the original Latin; NB the ‘north’ of the survey is really north-west and similar adjustments should be made for the other compass points):

The vill of Combs holds one meadow abutting the river bank on the north and the meadow of the said Richard Porter on the south and abuts on the meadow of the said Richard Porter on the east and upon the said close called *Glanvylls* on the west and contains 2 and a half acres.

This piece of land must be the *Town Meadow*, containing 2a 1r 18p, that belonged to the parish of Combs and was mapped as parcel 673 on the Combs tithe map of 1845 (Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich) FDA67/A1/1). This land lay immediately to the north-east of the field containing the moated site. The abutments therefore indicate that the following entry relates to the tenement containing the moat:

Now purchased from/restored to the lords [*m[od]o dominis p[er]quisivit* – in margin]

Richard Porter of Ellingham holds freely of this fee 3 closes of meadow and pasture called *Broughtons* lying between the last in part and the free meadow of the vill of Combs in part of this fee on the west and the land, meadow and pasture lately George Kirkham on the other, and abuts on the meadow of the said vill in part and the river bank of the same in part on the north and on the king’s highway in part and the meadow of Lady Warner lately Edgars in part and the penultimate in part on the south and contains 12 acres.

An earlier survey of the manor is dated 1537, but is actually a copy of a survey of 1437 (Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich) HAI/EB3/1). In this, the above tenement appears to be described, as below, in a section covering the free holdings of the manor (again translated from the original Latin):

Now Porter [*[.Jr p[er]jt[?k]e*] – in margin]

Tenants hold lands lately of John Stonham — tenement Pulhams containing one toft 16 acres of meadow and pasture and 30 acres of land in lease [*dmss*] a piece whereon a site was formerly built [*pec unde Citm quondm edificat*] with the meadow pasture and alder-carr adjoining containing by estimation 12 acres, one piece of land enclosed containing by estimation 3 acres lying on the other side of the king’s highway opposite the said tenement, one piece of land lying in the field called *Samplooursfeld* containing by estimation 3 acres [etc detailing what appear to be holdings in a common field to the south-west of the B1113 road].

The property was thus a free tenement called *Broughtons* in 1581, but had been the property of the Stonham family in 1437 when it may have been known as *Pulhams* (though the wording is imprecise). However the twelve-acre holding with the ‘site that was formerly built’ is the same size as *Broughtons* and the ‘site that was formerly built’ could well refer to the moated site. There are parallels elsewhere for the presence of moated houses on free tenements (Martin 1999).

A Roger de Stonham was taxed two shillings in the Lay Subsidy of Combs in 1327 and could have lived upon this site, especially as he is followed in the tax list by Robert del Apeltone, for, as detailed above, *Apeltons* tenement lay close by on the east side of *Broughtons*. Robert del Apeltone was also taxed two shillings, an amount indicative of a reasonably affluent farmer rather than a substantial landowner.

Roger de Stonham was probably related to the Stonham family of Stonham’s Manor in Rattlesden (Copinger 1910, vol. vi, 321). This family came to an end with the death of Robert Stonham in 1455. Robert was a wealthy and influential figure with landed interests in both Suffolk and Huntingdonshire — he was Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire 1432–3 and 1436–7, as well as being the member of Parliament for Huntingdonshire. On his death, his estates passed to his daughter Elizabeth, who married John Broughton (1420–1491) of Broughton in Buckinghamshire and Toddington in Bedfordshire. Their son, another John (1442–1479) married Anne, the daughter and heiress of John Denston of Denston Hall in Suffolk and that place became their main residence (Martin *et al.* 1995, 378). Their grandson, yet another John Broughton, died in 1517 and among his possessions were lands in Combs

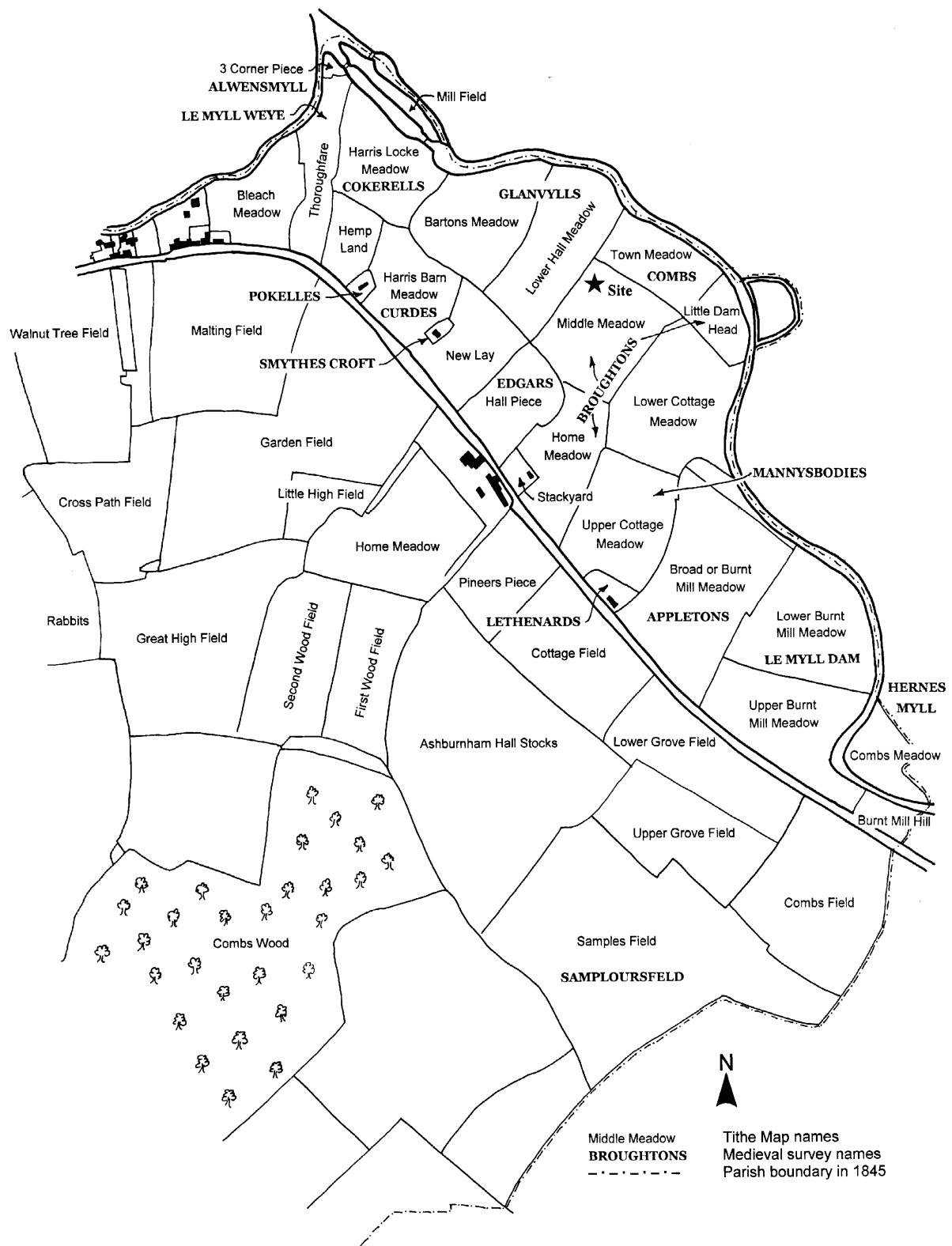


Figure 2 Positions of land holdings in the 16th century, based on the tithe map of 1845

(Copinger n.d., vol. II, 123). This makes it very likely that *Broughtons* tenement took its name from the Broughton family of Denston Hall, as heirs of the Stonhams of Rattlesden and, presumably, Combs.

The surveys also indicate that Hernes Mill and *Glanvylls* tenement had belonged to the Priory of Flixton, as a tenant of the manor. The priory had been founded in 1258 by Margery, the widow of Bartholomew de Creke. Most of the endowment for the priory came from Margery's own inherited lands in Flixton, but in 1274 she added the gift of a messuage in Combs with buildings, a meadow, pasture and alder-carr 'late in the occupation of Stephen Surly', together with a watermill (British Library Stowe ch. 361). An extent of 1292 lists the lands in Combs as one messuage, ten acres of arable land, a meadow and a watermill (British Library Stowe ch. 312). These lands must have come from her husband's family. As well as his ancestral lands at North Creake in Norfolk, Bartholomew had also inherited the manor of Combs from his mother Agnes, the daughter and heiress of William de Glanville and niece of Rannulf de Glanville, Justiciar of England. The priory lands in Combs must therefore have originated as an endowment by the de Crekes out of the manor they inherited from the de Glanvilles. However *Glanvylls* tenement may not be directly named after these early manorial lords, for as noted above, there were taxpayers named William and Geoffrey de Glanville in Combs in 1327 (William was taxed four shillings and Geoffrey eighteen pence). The connection between these later Glanvilles and the earlier ones is not clear as this was a very large and complicated family (Mortimer 1981). However some familial link is likely and William de Glanville must have had a reasonably substantial holding to have been taxed four shillings. *Glanvylls* is very unlikely to have been site of the medieval manor of Combs as this was almost certainly at Combs Hall, about a kilometre away beside the church (for the Hall's later history see Martin and Oswald 1996). A possible additional link with Flixton Priory is the fact that a Margery de Stonham was prioress of Flixton from 1328 to

1345 (Page 1907, 117), but whether she was related to the de Stonhams of Combs is unknown.

Broughtons tenement abutted the southern side of *Glanvylls* and the moated site lay close to their common boundary. A theoretical argument could be put forward suggesting that *Broughtons* and *Glanvylls* (both were freeholds) were formed out of a once-larger unit and that the moat was originally sited to be more or less central to this larger holding. If so, the division must have occurred before the gift of *Glanvylls* to Flixton in 1274, as *Broughtons* is not described as having belonged to Flixton and the 1292 description of the Flixton holding as being ten acres matches the later description of *Glanvylls* as also being ten acres.

Owners of the land

The tenement called *Broughtons* has been identified with Home Meadow, Middle Meadow and Little Dam Head fields on the 1845 Tithe Map, although these are only eight acres in total, so perhaps part of Lower Cottage Meadow was also included. Based on the above, and work carried out by Breen (1999), it is possible to trace a list of landowners or tenants back to 1327:

1845	Rev. John Freeman
1834	Edmund Freeman
1805	Rev. Charles Davy (?)
1784	Rev. John Freeman (dead by 1805)
1749	John Freeman
1740	John Jacob
1735	Mary Jacob
1706	John Jacob (from 1695?)
1666/1680	Richard Osborne
1652	Richard Sowgate
1619	John Sowgate
	Previously Atgors (aka Bradstreets) (?)
1595?	Returned to demesne
1581	Richard Porter
1537	Porter
1455	John Broughton (m. Elizabeth Stonham) – Broughton family until 1517?
1437	Tenants / John Stonham
1327	Roger de Stonham (?)

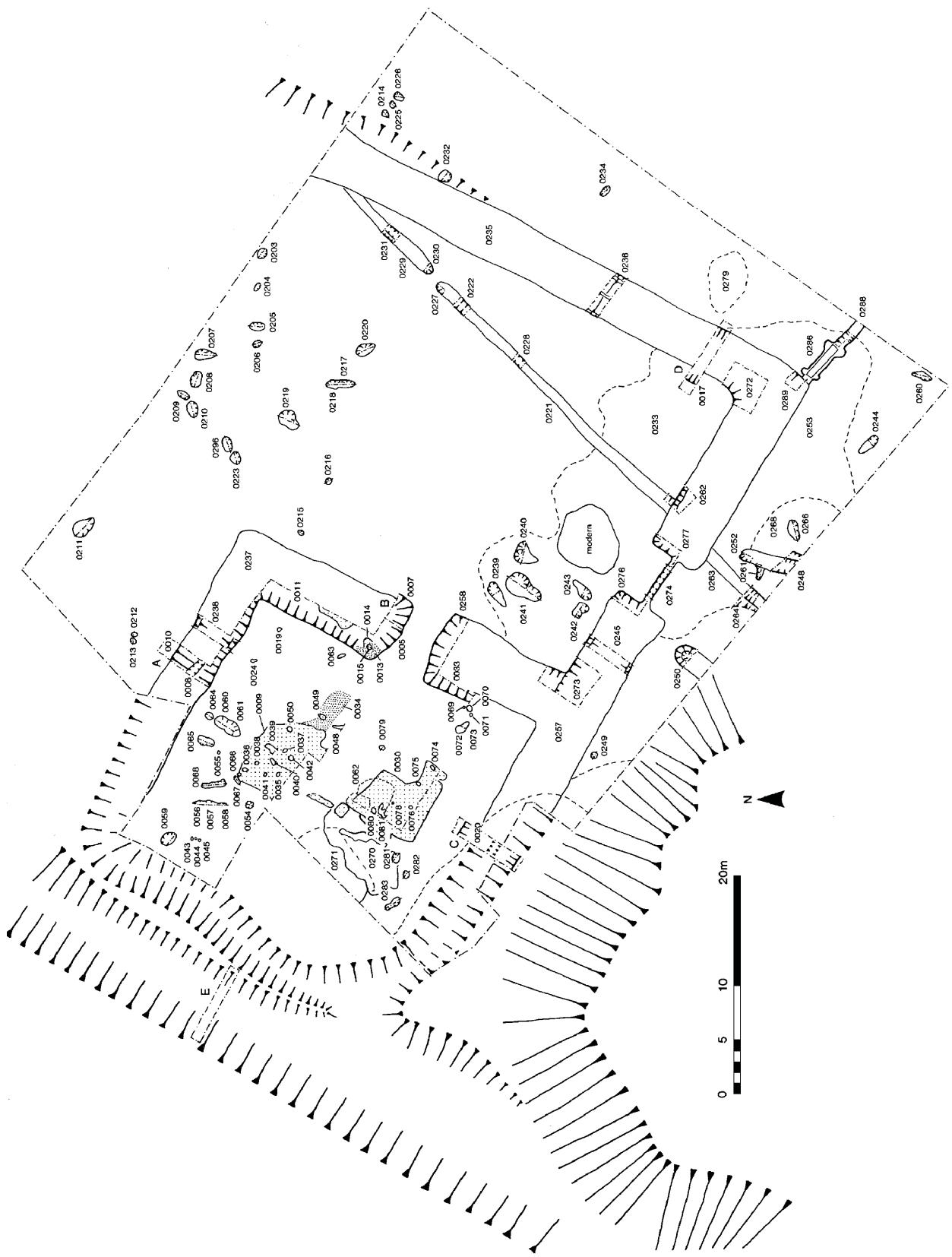


Figure 3 Plan of excavated area, incorporating part of the topographical survey of 1980 (hachures)

Chapter 3. The Excavation

Phase summary

(Figs 3–9; Table 1)

All excavated features are numbered on Figure 3. There were six main phases of human activity on the site, as shown in Table 1 and Figure 4.

Phase	Main events	Date
1	Prehistoric activity — excavation of pits into gravel subsoil	Neolithic and Bronze Age
2	Deposition of a grey silty sand layer	Iron Age or later
3	Construction of a ditch	Roman?
4	4.1 — Construction of the moat 4.2 — Use of the moated site	12th-13th c. 12th-14th c.
5	Abandonment and ?partial backfilling of the moat	Late medieval to post-medieval
6	Construction of brick-lined structure and reversion to meadow	Post-medieval

Table 1 Main phases of activity on the site

Phase 1 — Prehistoric

Unfortunately, it is not possible to allocate the majority of features within this phase to any specific prehistoric period, so they have been grouped as one — probably very long — phase of activity.

Seventy-one features were assigned to this phase. They consisted of pits and small hollows cut into the underlying sand and gravel subsoil, and varied in shape from long oval to irregular ovoid or circular. Some may be natural in origin, perhaps due to animal or tree-root disturbance. Many, particularly those on the inner platform of the moated area and those to the south-east of the site, were sealed by a buried soil (see Phase 2). The fill of the majority of these features consisted of grey-brown silty sand with flints, but a few contained charcoal-rich silty sand layers (0219, 0223, 0232, 0296). Profiles were either shallow with sloping sides and a flat base, or more steeply sided and U-shaped (Fig. 5). Some were recorded as single features but appeared to consist of two or more intercutting pits (e.g. 0068, 0240, 0241, 0242). In the inner moat platform area, these features were all relatively shallow, from 0.1 to 0.3m deep. Elsewhere, most were deeper and measured 0.2 to 0.5m deep in the main, with 0241 showing the greatest depth at 0.8m. This was also the largest pit (or pit group) in plan, measuring c.3m in length and 2m in width.

Twenty-six pits produced artefacts, consisting of pottery, worked flint, and burnt flint or stone. Most of this material is not closely datable, but there is some evidence for activity in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods, based on the worked flint and some pottery. However, one small pit (0055) contained a near-complete pottery vessel which was dated, from the charcoal it contained, to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (2470 ± 70 BP, HAR-4473).

Phase 2 — Iron Age?

A layer of pale grey to grey-brown silty sand was present over much of the south-east corner and part of the western area of the site (component 0300). The precise area it covered in some parts of the site is not recorded on the plans, and its relationship with some of the Phase 1 features is uncertain. However, it certainly seals the large ?Neolithic pits in the south-east corner, and may overlay the late Bronze/early Iron Age pit 0055. The finds from this layer consisted of flint, burnt flint and animal bone.

Phase 3 — Roman?

This phase of site use is represented by a single ditch (0221) which cut the Phase 2 buried soil layer. It was oriented north-east to south-west and ran across the entire width of the excavated area. Towards the north-eastern end, there was a small gap of approximately 1m, with U-shaped butt ends either side. It survived to a depth of 0.3m and a width of c.1.0m. The profile was a shallow V-shape (Fig. 5). Most of the fill consisted of grey-brown silty sand with flints, but at the south end of the site this fill overlay a peaty deposit at the base of the ditch. The only dating evidence consisted of five small sherds of an abraded Roman greyware jar. Nine pieces of worked flint were also recovered from two sections.

Phase 4 — Medieval

Period 4.1

This phase of site use saw the construction of the moat, and has also been assigned to clay patches and make-up layers on the inner platform. Ditches which appear to lead to the outer moat entrance are also included.

The outer moat enclosed a square area approximately 64m across (the full extent was not excavated in either direction, but vertical aerial photographs confirm that the site was square). This provides an enclosed area of some 4096 square metres, or approximately one acre. In the south-west corner there was a smaller square enclosure measuring approximately 27m by 27m, an area of 729 square metres. The entrance to the inner platform was approximately halfway along its south-eastern side and was 5m wide on the inside, tapering to 3m on the outside. The entrance to the outer enclosure was approximately 20m from the south-east corner, was 5m wide, and had a central wood-lined shallow channel across its width.

The north-west side of the moat is problematic. The earthwork survey suggested that two parallel ditches existed, a smaller one around the inner platform, and a wider one extending beyond the moated area at both ends. Unfortunately, only a partial section of this ‘outer’ ditch was excavated, and its relationship with the inner is unknown. Evidence from the aerial photographs and the contour survey suggests that the inner ditch, as recorded by the earthwork survey (Fig. 3) may not be real, and it

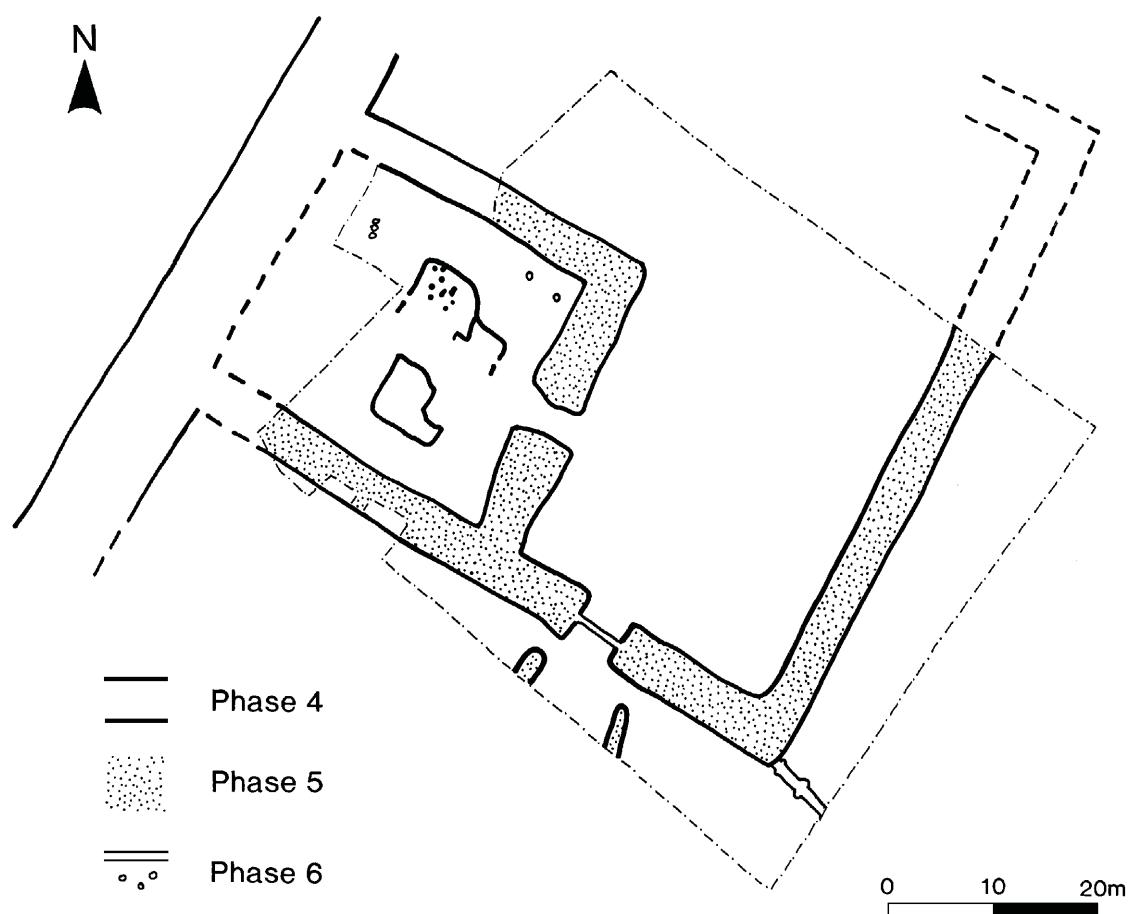
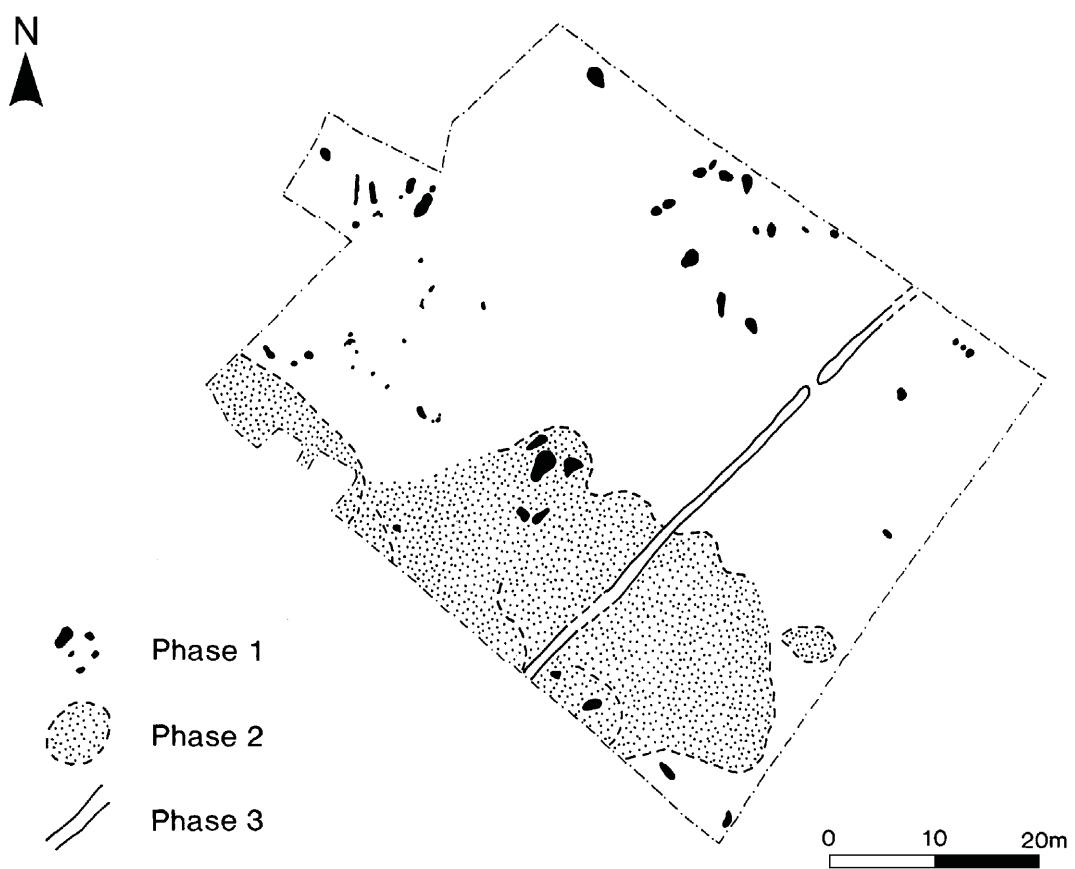


Figure 4 Phase plans

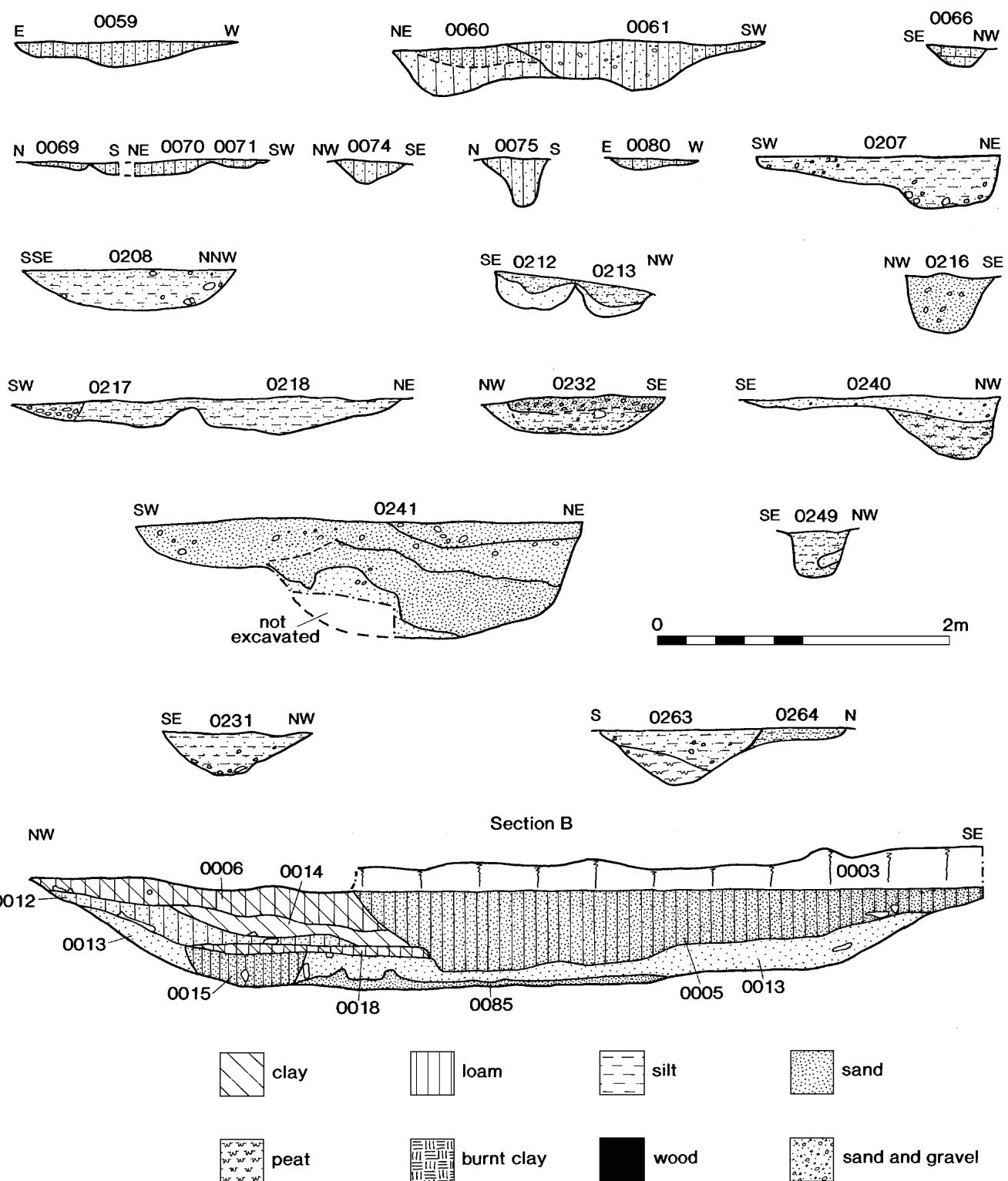


Figure 5 Sections Phases 1 and 3, and moat section B

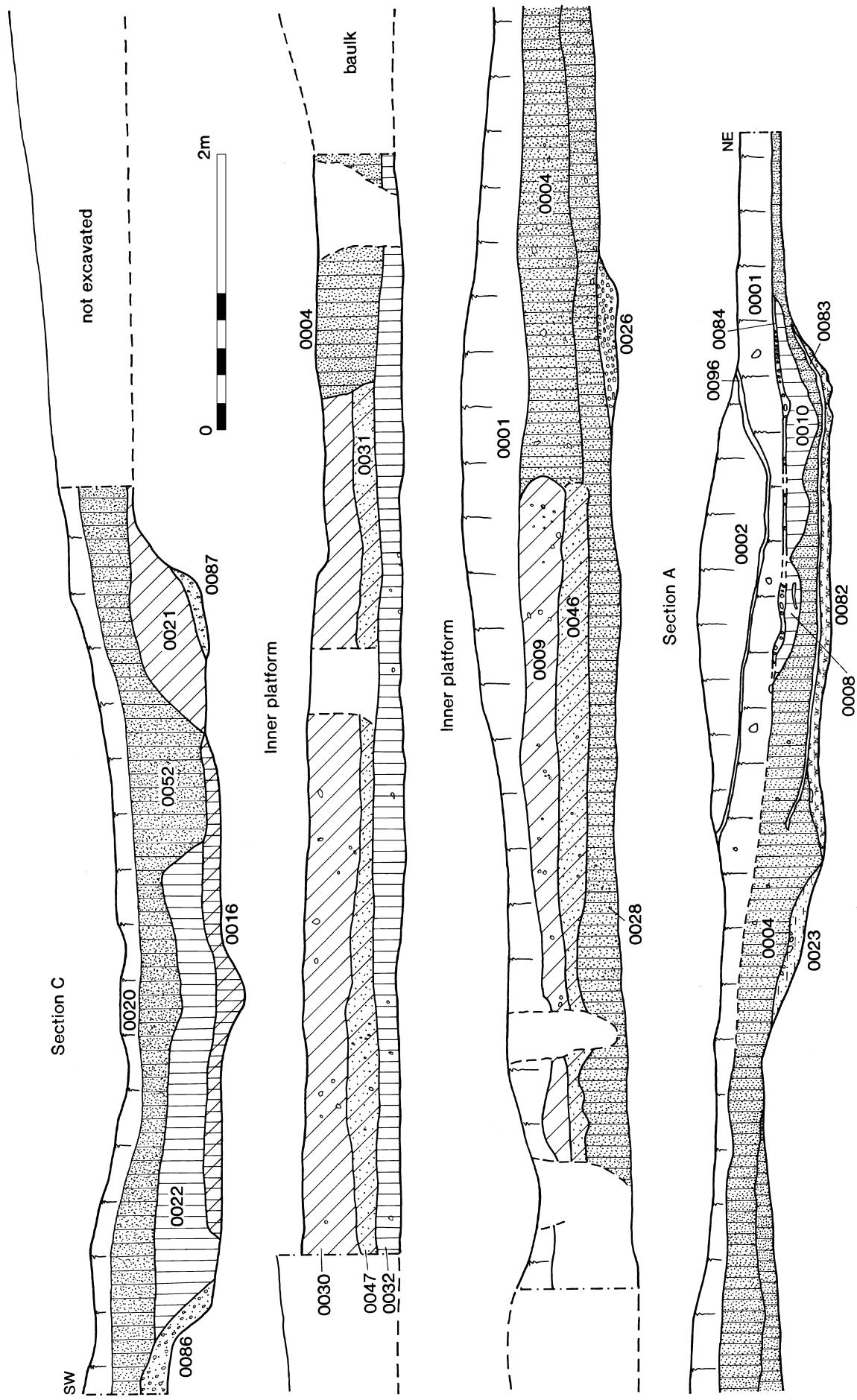


Figure 6 Composite section through moat and platform

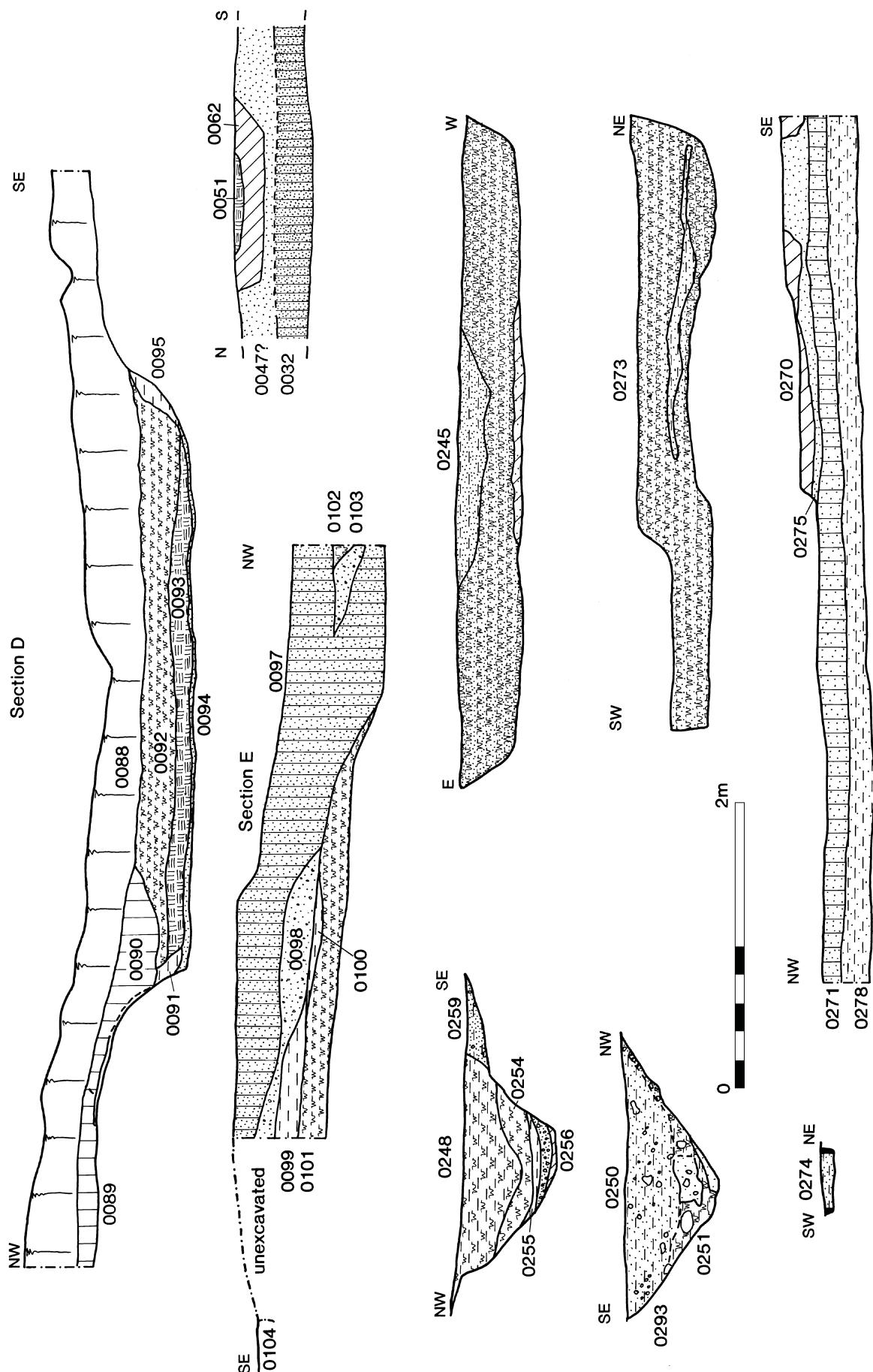


Figure 7 Moat, platform and ditch sections

may simply have identified a slump at the edge of the inner platform.

Most of the context numbers issued for the moat refer to the fill rather than the cut, so these are included in Phase 5 below. Those which are included here are as follows: 0235, 0237 and 0257. The cut was broad and shallow with steep sides and a flat base, 4m to 5m wide and up to 0.5m deep (Figs. 5-7). At the outer entrance, a shallow narrow gully (0.4m wide, 0.15m deep) was cut between the two butt ends of the ditch (0274) and was lined with wood (Fig. 7). This may be a later addition to the moat, but stratigraphic evidence is inconclusive on this point.

The inner moat platform was probably formed in part from upcast derived from the excavation of the surrounding ditches. Layers in this phase are grouped under component number 0301 (0031, 0034, 0046, 0047, 0053, 0077, 0271 and 0275; the component number 0269 was issued for the platform in 1999, and included all layers above natural subsoil). These consisted of yellow-orange sandy clay with gravel (Fig. 7). Pottery collected from these layers was of 13th-14th century date.

Irregular pale yellow chalky clay patches were found in the centre of the inner moated area (0009, 0030, 0051, 0062, 0270; Fig. 8). It is uncertain whether these are simply part of the platform make-up, or whether they represent hard-standing for a structure. In either case, they would belong to the construction phase of the site and are therefore assigned to Phase 4.1. One other possible interpretation may, however, place them later, as they could be the collapsed remains of a clay walled building. Layers 0051 and 0062 were burnt areas associated with 0030, but their stratigraphic relationship with this layer was not recorded. Finds from the clay layers consisted largely of 13th-14th century pottery, although there were some later, possibly intrusive, finds including peg tile.

Two ditches aligned with the entrance to the outer moat and are assumed to be either contemporary or later. 0248/0252 had a V-shaped profile with a flattish base and was waterlogged from halfway down; 0250 had a similar profile (Fig. 7). Both cut Phase 2 layer 0253, but have no other stratigraphic relationships.

Ditch 0288/0289 at the south-east corner of the outer moat may belong to the construction phase, and be integral to the moat system, but its fill contained modern material. It is discussed further with the brick structure 0286, in Phase 6.

Period 4.2

This period covers the use of the site and includes contexts which are related to primary ditch silting.

The lowest fills of the ditches indicate silting during the life of the moat. Contexts 0013, 0085 (Fig. 5); 0016, 0021, 0023, 0082, 0086-7 (Fig. 6); 0091 (Fig. 7) and 0095 were layers of grey-brown silty sand, some with organic content. Layer 0083, a narrow dark brown stain (Fig. 6), was interpreted as an old turf line, perhaps indicating a period of stability prior to infilling. In the south-eastern half of the wide north-west arm of the moat, to the side (Fig. 7 Section E), is a thick layer of peat (0101), above which is a layer of grey silt (0099, 0100). No silting layers were specifically recorded in the 1999 excavation, although some of the sections (0238, 0245; Fig. 7) show thin layers of silty sand or sandy clay at the base. With the exception of 0013, which produced a single sherd of

13th-14th century pottery, none of these layers contained datable finds.

The lowest fills of ditches 0248 and 0250 are assigned to this phase. 0251 in 0250 was a thin organic layer of dark brown silty peat, and 0256 in 0248 was a dark grey-brown organic-rich clay (Fig. 7). Two sherds of medieval pottery were collected from 0251.

Eight possible postholes, slots and other features (0035-0042, Fig. 8) were cut into the clay layer 0009 (Period 4.1). All were filled with grey sandy loam and were shallow and irregular. They varied in size from c.0.35m to 0.6m in diameter, or c.1m long by 0.2m wide, and were 0.1m to 0.3m deep. Some or all may represent animal disturbance or tree holes, and all could be later than the use of the site. There is a small chance, however, that some could represent structural elements. Finds were collected from 0035 and 0036, indicating medieval dates for the fills if the pottery is not residual.

A single posthole, 0015, was identified cutting the lower grey sandy fill 0013 at the south-west corner of the inner ditch just north of the entrance (Fig. 8). This produced pottery and other finds of 13th-14th century date.

Layer 0004, which is discussed below in Phase 5, may in part belong to the use of the site. It butted against clay layers 0009 and 0030. However, the same context was recorded as filling the northern arm of the inner moat.

Phase 5 — Late and post-medieval

This phase covers the abandonment and backfilling of moat, possible recuts, and irregular ?natural features or late postholes.

Moat fills were grouped under component number 0299 (0004, 0005, 0006, 0007, 0010, 0011, 0012, 0014, 0018, 0021, 0022, 0033, 0052, 0084, 0089-0095, 0236, 0238, 0245, 0246, 0258, 0272, 0273, 0276, 0277).

Section A (Fig. 6) was excavated through the centre of the northern side of the inner moat (Fig. 3). The main fill consisted of layer 0004, a dark brown sandy loam deposit, which spread over the inner platform from 0009 northwards and contained finds of medieval to 19th-century date. This layer appears to have been stonier in the ditch section and may have been misinterpreted on site. A possible gully, or perhaps an open channel, 0008 cut 0004 in the centre of this section, and a slightly larger feature, 0010 was recorded to the north side of it, containing dark brown loam (Fig. 3). 0008 produced one sherd of 17th/18th-century tin-glazed earthenware. These two features were sealed by 0084, a thin stony layer. Section 0238, some 3m east of Section A (Fig. 3), contained layers which appear to be equivalent to 0004, and the Phase 4.2 layers 0023 and 0082, and produced a single sherd of medieval pottery.

Section B (Fig. 5) was a NW-SE section through the butt end of the northern inner moat (Fig. 8). At the north-west end, several layers had built up over the silt 0013 (Phase 4.2), from the bottom, 0018 (dark brown organic clay-loam), 0012 (grey-brown loose sandy loam with small stones), 0014 (grey clay) and 0006 (grey clay-loam with chalk and small stones). These probably represent slow silting. In this area of the moat, there appears to have been a recut, represented by 0005/0007, which was in turn filled with dark brown sandy loam. All layers contained 13th/14th-century pottery, but 0005,

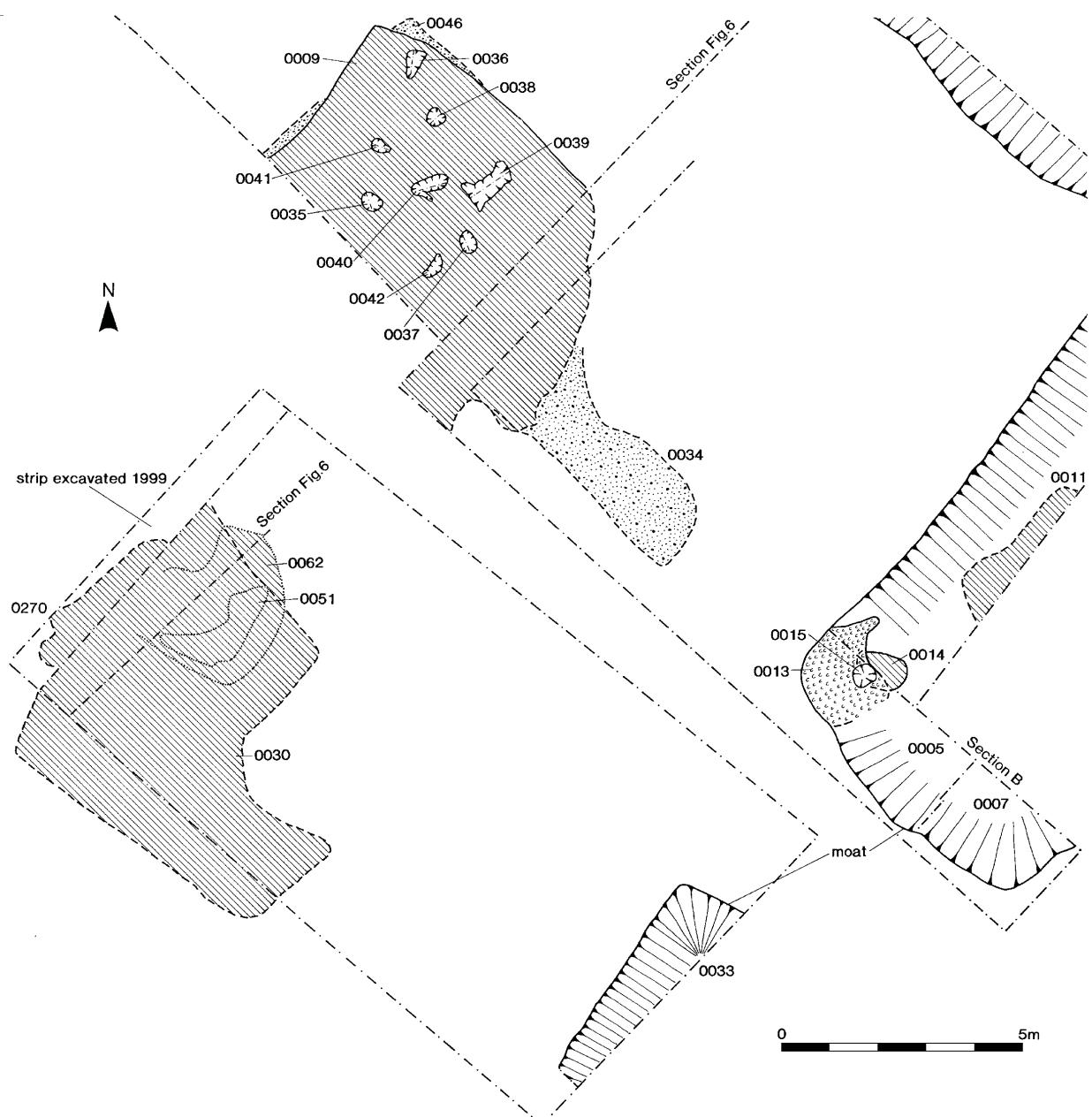


Figure 8 Plan of the clay patches and associated features on the moat platform

0006 and 0014 at the top produced a small quantity of later roof tile. Context 0011, which runs behind this section, probably represents the entire fill, and this context contained finds of medieval to modern date. On the opposing butt end of the moat, section 0258 contained dark grey-black peaty sand with grey clay lenses, and showed no signs of gradual silting or recutting. However, pottery and other finds were of medieval to post-medieval date. Finds from this area were collected as 0033 in 1980 and included a large quantity of 13th/14th-century pottery.

Section C (Fig. 6) was excavated across the southern moat, at its central point in relation to the inner enclosure (Fig. 3). In this section, 0022 (dark brown loam) appears to be equivalent to 0004 in Section A and contained pottery of medieval to modern date. This section also showed a possible recut or channel, 0052, which was filled with dark grey loam and produced a large quantity of medieval pottery. However, the section drawing suggests that 0052 spread onto the platform and it may be this, rather than 0022, which is equivalent to 0004.

A box section, 0273 (Fig. 7), was cut at the intersection of the southern outer moat and the south-east arm of the inner moat (Fig. 3). This showed that there was a slight hump c.2.5m long in the base of the inner moat. The fill in this section consisted of a dark grey-brown peaty sand. A thin lens of yellow silty sand had formed above the hump in the inner moat. Finds from this section were largely of post-medieval date.

To the south-east, a section was excavated across the outer moat, 0245 (Figs. 3 and 7). Again, this contained very dark brown to black peaty sand, and had a wide shallow central channel or recut, which contained dark grey silty sand. Sherds of medieval pottery and pieces of clay pipe were collected from the section and from layer 0246. Half-sections were excavated through the butt ends at both sides of the outer entrance (0276, 0277). The fills here were also dark brown peaty sand, in 0277 above a thick layer of grey clay. Both sections contained decayed wood approximately 1.2m south of the inner edge, which

may be related to the wood-lined channel 0274 (Phase 4.1). The finds from these sections were all residual, consisting of worked flint and a sherd of Thetford-type ware.

Box section 0272 at the inner side of the south-east corner of the outer moat (Fig. 3) also contained dark brown peaty sand above a layer of grey-brown clayey sand. The only find from this section was an iron nail.

Sections D (Fig. 7) and 0236 were excavated across the east side of the outer moat (Fig. 3). A layer of clay 0093 was also found in section D, above which was 'organic material' 0092, presumably equivalent to the dark brown peat elsewhere. On the inner side, loam deposits 0089 and 0090 may be the same as 0004. Section 0236 contained dark brown-black peaty sand above peat and plant remains.

The ditches 0248 and 0250 probably silted up during this phase (Fig. 7). Fills 0254 and 0255 in 0248 were organic layers containing plant remains and freshwater mollusc shells (bivalves, gastropods and possibly ostracods). The upper fill of 0250 (0293) consisted of mid-brown silty sand with flints.

Section E (Fig. 7) shows a gravel layer, 0098, above the silt and peat layers of Phase 4.2. This could indicate partial slumping of the platform, or perhaps a deliberate attempt to either narrow or backfill the moat here. This moat arm was apparently gradually filled with dark grey loamy sand 0097, allowing time for a lens of peat and gravel 0102/0103 to form mid-channel.

Three features, two recorded as possible postholes (0019 and 0025) and one of uncertain function (0024), were excavated in the north-east corner of the inner platform (Fig. 3, 0025 not located). Three small possible postholes (0043-0045) formed a short line in the north corner (Fig. 3). All had a dark brown sandy loam fill, and 0043-0045 were recorded as cutting 0004. They clearly belong to Phase 5 or later, but it is possible that some or all are natural in origin and represent animal disturbance. None produced any finds.

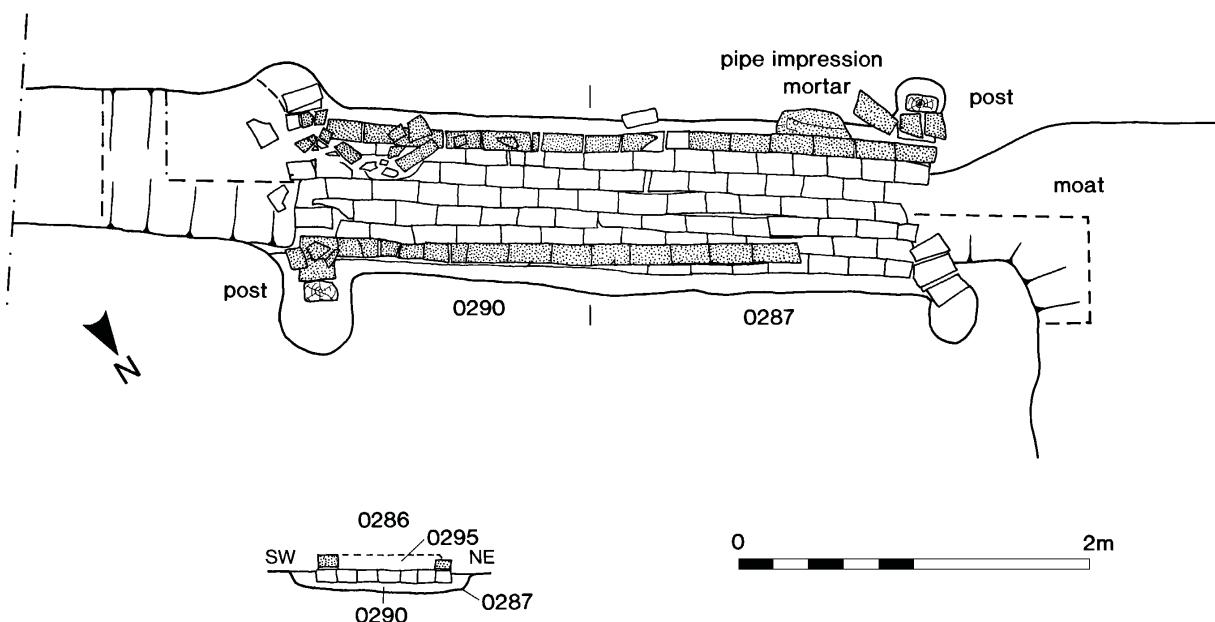


Figure 9 Brick structure plan and section

Phase 6 — Post-medieval

Phase 6 refers to contexts which largely represent build up of topsoil and reversion to meadow. Also assigned to this phase is a brick structure at the south-east corner of the moat.

Topsoil and associated deposits consisted of 0001, 0002, 0003, 0020 and 0088. This layer was removed by machine in 1999 and no context numbers were issued. Finds were largely late to post-medieval, although some residual material was also present.

A brick structure 0286 (Fig. 9) was constructed outside the moat at its south-eastern corner. This appears to have been inserted into a small ditch (south-east end 0288, north-west end 0289), which had a dark brown peaty loam fill with flints and brick debris. However the ditch could predate the structure by many years. Layer 0290 was a brown gravelly sand layer which probably formed a make-up layer for the brick structure, within slot 0287. The brick structure was built within this, and consisted of courses of bricks forming a floor or surface, with side walls one brick wide and high. It measured 3.6m long and 0.8m wide. The side walls were mortared together with lime mortar, and a layer on the top bricks suggested that at least one further course had been present. There were postholes, or the remains of timber posts, at each of the corners. The bricks have been dated to the 18th-19th centuries.

Note on the evaluation

Eight trenches were excavated in the area to the south-west of the site. The majority of features were located in the south-eastern part of the field (Fig. 1C). A large pit (0155) with shallow-sloping sides was approximately 2m wide and 0.5m deep. This cut a small posthole (0154), c.0.5m in diameter. Pit 0155 was cut by a U-shaped ditch (0156) c.3m wide and 0.7m deep, oriented approximately north-east to south-west. Roughly parallel to this, some 3m to the north-west, was a wider ditch (0157), up to 5m in width and 0.6m deep, with very shallow sloping sides. A further 5m to the west, a narrow U-section gully about 0.5m wide was oriented north-west to south-east (0159). All were filled with pale grey sand at the base and grey-brown peaty sand above. They were overlain by a grey-brown peaty sand layer (0158). These ditches are further east than any recorded on the tithe map as field boundaries. Pottery from 0157, 0158 and 0159 is all of early medieval date, but 0156 contained 12th-13th century pottery. One other narrow gully with a flat base (0152), 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep, apparently on the same alignment as the other linear features, was found in Trench 5, slightly to the north-east of the main group. This suggests that there was some occupation in the area prior to construction of the moat, but any interpretation based on this small group of features is clearly limited.

Chapter 4. Finds and Environmental Evidence

Introduction

Table 2 shows a summary of the quantities of finds collected during the excavation by material. A full quantification by context is included in the archive.

All finds, except flint, have been divided into categories by function, following Margeson (1993) and others. Most small finds were from unstratified or topsoil contexts.

Prehistoric and Roman finds

Prehistoric pottery

from notes by E. Martin
(Fig. 10)

Fragments of one pot weighing 1.524kg were found in a single pit (0055). It was originally thought to be a cremation burial, but no burnt bone was found. The vessel was poorly-fired. It had an expanded rim, a vertically pierced lug handle and two horizontal rows of finger-tip impressions on the shoulder (Fig. 10). The inclusions were burnt flint and sand. The charcoal contents were submitted for radiocarbon dating in February 1981. It was dated to 2470 ± 70 BP (HAR-4473), with a calibrated date of 800-400 BC (2σ). This suggests a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age origin for the vessel. Stylistic parallels for horizontal rows of finger-tip impressions on the shoulder are known for similarly dated assemblages from Darnsden and Barham in Suffolk, and North Shoebury in Essex. The latter site also has a vessel with a vertically pierced lug.

Small quantities (47 sherds, 63g) of heavily abraded, underfired and fragile coarse flint-tempered pottery were found in pits 0203, 0212 and 0241. These could be of either Neolithic or Iron Age date, but the former seems most likely in view of the coarseness of the flint inclusions and association with worked flint blades.

Worked flint

by Sarah Bates
(Fig. 11; Tables 3-7)

The assemblage

A total of 310 pieces of struck flint was recovered from the site.

Most of the flint is mid to dark grey or brownish grey in colour, the latter ranging from pale gingery grey brown to dark reddish grey brown. A few pieces are a very pale transparent gingery brown. Cortex, where present, is mostly white or cream and chalky in appearance and of thin to medium thickness. However there are also pieces with an abraded orange brown cortex, these being struck from gravel, or a thin, quite smooth, grey cortex from pebbles. Much of the flint is of a fairly smooth unflawed nature. Some pieces were clearly struck from already patinated material, demonstrating the utilisation of surface collected flint as a raw material for knapping. Although some of the gingery or reddish brown flint probably represents its natural colour (or possibly

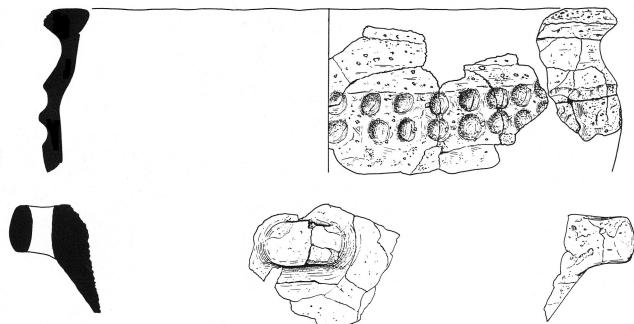


Figure 10 Prehistoric pottery (1:4)

staining), some of the dark reddish brown material is almost certainly heat-affected, probably having been deliberately heated to improve its striking quality during working. Varying degrees of post-depositional patination are present, mostly pale bluish grey or bluish white.

The flint is summarised in Table 3 and cortication and condition of the flint is shown in Table 4.

Fifteen cores and two tested pieces are present. The cores include three single platform blade cores and a bipolar blade core, the latter patinated a bluish grey in colour. Also included are nine multi-platform flake cores, two of which have battered surface patches suggesting that they were used as hammerstones, and two of which are on thermally fractured fragments. There are also two single platform flake cores, one of them small with flakes neatly removed all the way around. Three probable core trimming flakes were found including a flake from a bipolar core and a possible core tablet.

The assemblage consists mainly of unmodified flakes but a number of these have been classified as 'blade-like' and a relatively high number of true blades are also present, many of them fine, neatly produced pieces. Blades and blade-like flakes together form 31% (by number) of the complete assemblage. Although evidence for the use of a hard hammer is present (pronounced bulbs, squat flakes) a relatively large number of pieces have clearly been struck by soft hammer.

Find type	No.	Wt/g
Pottery	1559	20699
CBM	27	7301
Fired clay	7	201
Glass	3	141
Clay pipe	22	85
Worked flint	310	3827
Burnt flint/stone	319	4090
Slag/burnt material	2	6
Iron	88	3795
Copper alloy	24	-
Silver	1	-
Lead	4	-
?Aluminium	1	-
Animal bone	439	8490
Oyster shell	216	2099
Other shell	9	-
Charcoal	2	-

Table 2 Finds quantities

Type	No.
multi-platform flake core	9
single platform flake core	3
single platform blade core	2
bipolar blade core	1
tested piece	2
flake from bipolar core	1
core tablet	1
core rejuvenation flake	1
flake	138
blade-like flake	25
spall	8
chip	2
shatter	1
blade	70
end scraper	3
scraper	11
side end scraper	1
side scraper	1
subcircular scraper	2
leaf-shaped arrowhead	1
axe	1
knife	2
piercer	1
serrated blade	1
ret.flake	6
ut.blade	4
ut.flake	12

Table 3 Summary of flint

Cortex present	59
Complete pieces	84
Patinated	15
Edge damaged	4

Table 4 Cortication and condition of flint
(as % by number of complete assemblage)

Eighteen pieces have been classified as scrapers (three examples are shown in Fig. 11.1-3). They include three end scrapers, an end/side scraper, a side scraper, two subcircular scrapers and eleven other flake scrapers.

Other formal tools include a leaf-shaped arrowhead (Fig. 11.4), part of a bifacially worked axe (Fig. 11.5), at least one, possibly two knives, a piercer, part of a serrated blade, and a few miscellaneous retouched or utilised pieces.

Flint by phase

The flint from the site is described by phase below and summarised by phase in Table 5.

Phase	Total flints
1	84
2	83
3	9
4.1	12
5	24
6	16
u/s	74
eval	9

Table 5 Total numbers of flints by phase

Phase 1

Eighty-four flints were found in the fills of excavated features (pits and postholes) assigned to this phase. The largest group (eighteen flints) was from pit 0234 at the east side of the site. The flints, which were almost all small and soft-hammer struck, included nine flakes, six blades, one of them utilised, two spalls and a chip.

In the central part of the site flints were recovered from the fills of each of three ovate pits. Seven small flakes, most of them pale gingery brown in colour, three small blades, three blade-like flakes, one possibly heat-treated, and a tested thermal fragment, also probably heat-affected, were found in pit 0241. A small blade and a utilised flake, and four small flakes were found respectively in the adjacent pits 0239 and 0240.

In the east corner of the site pit 0214 contained three modified flints. These are the proximal end of a probable blade which has very fine retouch forming serrations on its right edge and two flakes, both of which have been struck from already patinated cores and both of which have slight utilisation of their distal points. Three flakes were found in each of the nearby pits 0225 and 0232.

Near the south side of the site five flints were found in pit 0266. These include two blades, one a neat soft-hammer struck piece, a flake from the face of a bipolar blade core, a flake, a blade-like flake and a spall. Two flakes, one of them blade-like, were found in pit 0261. Slightly to the north, three flakes, one of them utilised, and a blade came from the fill of pit 0249.

In the north part of the site a bifacially flaked piece which may be a type of knife (or could have been used as a core) was found in pit 0296. The piece was on a flake, little of whose original surface survived but part of which, on one edge, showed it may have been thermally fractured. Each face has had flakes struck from one of the two opposing edges and retouch around one end. If a knife, it is almost certainly of Neolithic date. A multi-platform flake core, with battered surfaces, possibly used as a hammerstone, and a flake from a patinated core came from adjacent pit 0223.

Further to the north-west a number of flints were found in two small adjacent pits 0212 and 0213. Pit 0212 contained a thin soft-hammer struck flake and a thick hard-hammer struck flake and two small soft-hammer struck blades. A single platform flake core, two flakes, two blade-like flakes, one of them utilised, a blade and a shatter piece were found in pit 0213.

At the west side of the site, in the area excavated in 1980, a multi-platform flake core, a blade and a flake were found in pit 0056 and single flakes came from each of pits 0059, 0067 and a blade from 0069.

Phase 2

Eighty-three flints were recovered from different areas of buried soils across the site, mostly in the south corner of the site. Total numbers of flints by context (Table 6) and by type (Table 7) are listed below.

The flint includes a range of types, but the relatively high number of blades and blade-like flakes is notable and a bipolar blade core 0233 is also present. A broken axe, probably of Neolithic date 0268, a knife on a sub-rectangular flake with shallow retouch along its left edge and a small piercer with protruding narrow point at its distal end, the latter both from 0259, were also found.

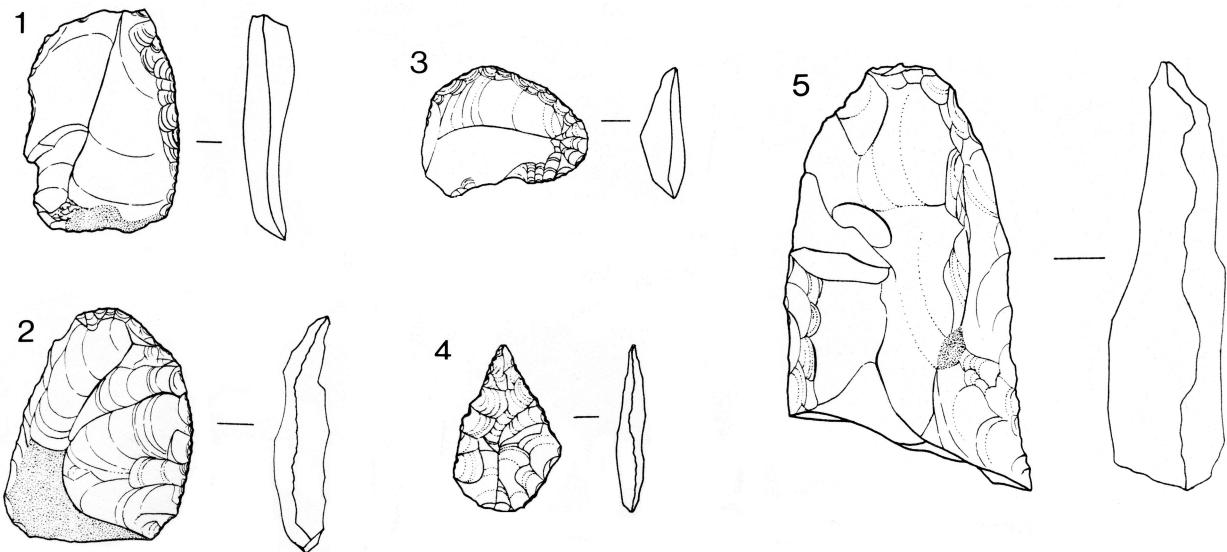


Figure 11 Worked flints (1:2)

Phase 3

A total of eight flakes and a tested fragment, battered and possibly used as a hammerstone were found in linear feature 0221.

Phase 4.1

Twelve flints were recovered from contexts assigned to Phase 4.1. They include flakes and blades and a leaf-shaped arrowhead 0030, Type 2A (Green 1984) with a slightly irregular bulbar end and retouch over most of its distal half on both faces. Seven flints were recovered layer 0271 and include a flake, two blades, one of them utilised, and three blade-like flakes.

Phase 5

Twenty-three struck flints were recovered from contexts assigned to Phase 5. They include ten flakes, one of them

utilised, and ten blades, a multi-platform flake core, a single platform blade core and a core trimming flake in the form of a possible 'core tablet'.

Phase 6

Sixteen struck flints were recovered from contexts assigned to Phase 6. They include a small single platform core with flakes removed all the way around, eight blades and seven flakes. All but one of the flints are from topsoil contexts.

Unstratified

Seventy-four struck flints were recovered from unstratified contexts. They include four multi-platform flake cores, a single platform blade core and a trimming flake from a blade core, thirty-nine flakes, seven of them blade-like, eleven blades, a spall, eight scrapers, two of them end scrapers, four retouched flakes, three utilised flakes and a utilised blade.

Evaluation

Nine struck flints were recovered from contexts excavated during the evaluation. They include a squat scraper, four flakes, two of them blade-like and four blades.

Discussion

The assemblage is mixed in as far as it includes both soft and hard-hammer struck pieces; the former suggestive of an earlier Neolithic date while the latter could belong to any period from the Neolithic to the Early Iron Age.

However there is a relatively high frequency of soft-hammer struck blades and blade-like flakes with other pieces indicative of an earlier Neolithic blade-producing industry also being present. For example cores and core preparation flakes, and tools, such as a serrated flake and end scrapers being formed on blades. The leaf-shaped arrowhead is earlier Neolithic and the broken axe is also probably Neolithic.

Also indicative of a relatively early date for the assemblage is the evidence for the possible heat-treatment of flint to improve its striking quality.

The majority of the flint from the site was retrieved from contexts assigned to Phases 1 or 2 or was unstratified. Flints were recovered from eighteen Phase 1

Table 6 Phase 2; number of flints by context

Type	Total flints
multi-platform flake core	2
single platform flake core	1
bipolar blade core	1
flake	33
blade-like flake	5
blade	19
chip	1
spall	4
scraper	4
side end scraper	1
side scraper	1
subcircular scraper	2
axe	1
knife	1
piercer	1
ret.flake	2
ut.blade	1
ut.flake	3

Table 7 Phase 2 number of flints by type

features, mostly in small numbers (<5 pieces) although a small number of pits contained a greater number (>18 pieces). In most cases, even where there were only one or two flints, soft-hammer struck or blade-like pieces were included. The only noticeable exception was pit 0232 which contained three small irregular gravel fragments. The small numbers of pieces from most features make it impossible to say with certainty that the flint is contemporary with the features. However, in those features which contain larger amounts (0234 and 0241) the similar nature of the flints, and small size of many of the pieces, do suggest that they are coherent groups and are probably contemporary with the infilling of the pits

The flint from Phase 2 is notable for the larger size of most of the pieces (possibly due in part to the excavation/collection method for these contexts). However, although more irregular pieces are present, there is still a relatively large number of blade-like pieces.

It is likely that activity occurred at the site both during the Neolithic period and during the later Bronze Age or Iron Age (Abbott 1997, Davison 1999) and it is probable that flint recovered during excavation relates to both these phases of activity. However, it appears likely that a relatively high proportion of the flint represents knapping and utilisation during the earlier of these periods.

Burnt flint

A total of 319 burnt flints were collected from the site (4090g). Of these, 92% (294 pieces, 3684g) were from Phase 1 features, the largest groups being from pit 0232 (170 pieces), pit 0223 (53 pieces) and pit 0054 (49 pieces). The remaining pieces were scattered through contexts of Phases 2, 5 and 6, and the evaluation area, and eight were unstratified.

Roman pottery

One heavily abraded cavetto rimsherd in a soft orange fabric, from the moat (13g, fill 0011), may have been Roman. Five sherds (31g) of Roman micaceous greyware from a single jar were found in Phase 3 ditch 0228. The sherds were slightly abraded and could have been redeposited.

Roman building material

One very abraded fragment of brick recovered from the moat could be a fragment of Roman tile (see post-medieval finds below).

Medieval finds

Coins and jettons

A 13th-century coin and a 14th-century jetton were both topsoil finds.

1. Cut quarter piece of a silver long-cross penny, Henry III or early Edward I. 1247-1278. Surface find 0201.
2. Copper alloy pascal lamb jetton. Ob. MOVTON SVI DE BER pascal lamb standing left. Rev. Triple-stranded straight cross fleurety in 4-arched trellis, with interstitial ornaments, trefoils in external angles. 1373-1415. cf Mitchener (1988, no. 497ff). Surface find 0201.

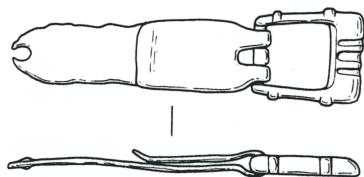


Figure 12 Copper alloy buckle (1:1)

Dress accessories

Belt fittings

(Fig.12)

One buckle has a parallel in a 14th century context in London, although it could be later. A sheet fitting could be of medieval or later date.

3. Copper alloy buckle. Trapezoidal frame with thick outer edge, three filed grooves. Single sheet plate recessed for frame with central hole for pin (missing), top side broken. Hole for rivet. 14th-century? Similar to Egan and Pritchard (1991 No. 437). Topsoil 0001. Fig. 12.
4. ?Tapered copper alloy strap end or buckle plate with one rivet in situ, 22 x 6+ mm, plain sheet. Very worn. Medieval? Topsoil 0001.

Medieval pottery

(Fig. 13)

A total of 1345 sherds weighing 18448g was collected. Table 8 shows a summary of quantification by fabric.

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series, which includes Norfolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Non-local ware identifications are based on McCarthy and Brooks (1988). A $\times 20$ microscope was used for fabric identification and characterisation. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service pottery quantification forms were used and the results were input onto an Access 97 database.

Late Saxon and Early Medieval Ware

Four well-fired sherds of wheelmade greyware in a relatively coarse sandy fabric could be sherds of Thetford-type ware. No rims were found.

A small group of early medieval pottery was collected, 53 sherds in total, consisting in the main of coarse sandy wares (EMW, EMWG), but some sherds also had sparse shell inclusions (EMWSS). There were no identifiable early medieval forms, all sherds being undecorated body or base fragments.

Medieval pottery

Over 70% of the total sherds (including prehistoric and post-medieval pottery) from this site were medieval coarsewares. In general these were not identifiable, being very similar in macroscopic appearance. They have been divided into three main types: sandy (MCW1), gritty (MCWG) and Hollesley-type (HOLL), with two other less common types (MCW3 a hard, fine sandy, compact greyware; MCW4 a soft micaceous oxidised ware). A few sherds of finer sandy wares, generally oxidised, were recorded as Medieval Ipswich Ware.

The Hollesley group was based partly on fabric, which was pale buff to off-white and contained common

Fabric	Code	No.	% No.	Wt/g	% Wt.	eve
Thetford-type ware (general category)	THET	2.50	4	7.1	47	13.1
Early medieval ware (general)	EMW	3.10	48	85.7	274	76.1
Early medieval ware gritty	EMWG	3.11	2	3.6	28	7.8
Early medieval ware sparse shelly	EMWSS	3.19	2	3.6	11	3.1
<i>Late Saxon - Early Medieval</i>		56	4.2	360	2.0	0
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	416	36.0	4379	28.0
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	42	3.6	656	4.2
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	13	1.1	131	0.8
Medieval coarseware Gritty	MCWG	3.21	272	23.5	4548	29.1
Hollesley-type coarseware	HOLL	3.42	387	33.5	5559	35.5
Ipswich medieval coarseware	MIPS	3.44	25	2.2	379	2.4
<i>Medieval coarsewares</i>		1155	85.9	15652	84.8	7.56
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	9	6.7	112	4.6
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	3	2.2	47	1.9
Colchester ware	COLC	4.21	2	1.5	84	3.4
Hedingham fine ware	HFW1	4.23	9	6.7	152	6.2
Ipswich glazed ware	IPSG	4.31	52	38.8	1120	46.0
Hollesley glazed ware	HOLG	4.32	56	41.8	905	37.2
London-type ware	LOND	4.50	3	2.2	16	0.7
<i>Medieval glazed wares</i>			10.0		13.2	0.40
Total		1345		18448		8.34

Percentages are within period groups and for the total group as a proportion of the total assemblage

Table 8 Medieval pottery quantification by fabric

moderate to coarse sand and occasional large clay lenses, and partly on form. Although the vessel types are similar to those found at Hollesley, the fabric is slightly different and they were probably from a different source. As Ipswich medieval coarsewares are of a similar type, it seems likely that there was a general East Suffolk tradition during the 13th to 14th centuries. This type has also been identified at Trimley St Mary (sites TYY 021, 027, 029), Orford (ORF 032) and Rickinghall (RKN 030). The source for the material found at Stowmarket has yet to be identified, but it may be local and/or it may be related to 'Suffolk Buff Ware', a fabric identified in Haverhill and in North Essex (Walker, unpublished).

Several of the MCWG vessels were in a reddish-brown fabric with dark grey surfaces. This fabric matches the description of some of the coarsewares found in Colchester (Cotter 2000) and at the Great Horkestone and Mile End production sites (Drury and Petchey 1975). Parallels for some of the rim and vessel forms were also identified at these sites, suggesting that they were the likely origin of some of the pottery from Cedars Field. Stowmarket is slightly outside the 15-20 mile radius suggested by Cotter for the Great Horkestone kilns, but this production site was no further from Cedars Field than is Hollesley.

Table 9 shows the quantities of identifiable vessels in medieval coarsewares. The majority were jars or cooking pots, although there was also a relatively high proportion of large bowls with square rims and finger-tip impressions

below the rim (e.g. Fig. 13.10). Most of these were recorded as Hollesley-type. There were also some sherds from coarseware jugs. A number of jar rims were vertical with triangular beading (e.g. Figs. 13.9 and 13.15), and this form is common at both

Ipswich Fore Street and Hollesley. It is probably of late 13th or early 14th century date. Everted and flat-topped rims were also common (Fig. 13.18-19). Most bases were sagging. One Hollesley-type bowl was pierced below the rim after firing. An Ipswich medieval coarseware skillet had spots of yellow glaze on the interior, possibly as a result of firing with glazed vessels rather than an intentional surface treatment. This vessel was heavily sooted. One vessel, a dripping dish or similar, occurred in a number of contexts. Although these tend to be more common in the late medieval transitional period, the Hollesley kilns were producing similar vessels and it seems likely that this example was of 14th/15th century date.

The most common forms of decoration were finger-tip impressions below the rim on bowls, and narrow vertical applied thumbbed strips. Incised horizontal, vertical or wavy lines were also found. Some bases had thumbbed edges.

The glazed wares at this site made up 10% of the medieval assemblage. Local glazed wares included fragments from Hollesley and Ipswich, the most positively identified being a large rim sherd from a baluster jug with splashed green glaze on one side. One vessel, tentatively identified as Hollesley-type glazed ware although it contained sparse large pieces of flint, was green-glazed with white slip lines, and was found in a number of contexts (topsoil 0001; ditch fills 0010, 0014, 0018, 0033 and possibly layer 0271). Three sherds of Grimston Ware were found, including two thumbbed bases. Fragments of Essex glazed wares included Hedingham Ware and Colchester Ware. There were also three sherds of London-type ware, including a thumbbed

Fabric	Jar	Bowl	Jug	Skillet	Pan	Lid?
MCW1	3.201	8	2	1		
MCW3	3.203	3	5	1		1
MCWG	3.21	7	7	3		
HOLL	3.42	25	20	7		
MIPS	3.44			1	1	
Total	43	34	12	1	1	1

Table 9 Identifiable forms in medieval coarsewares

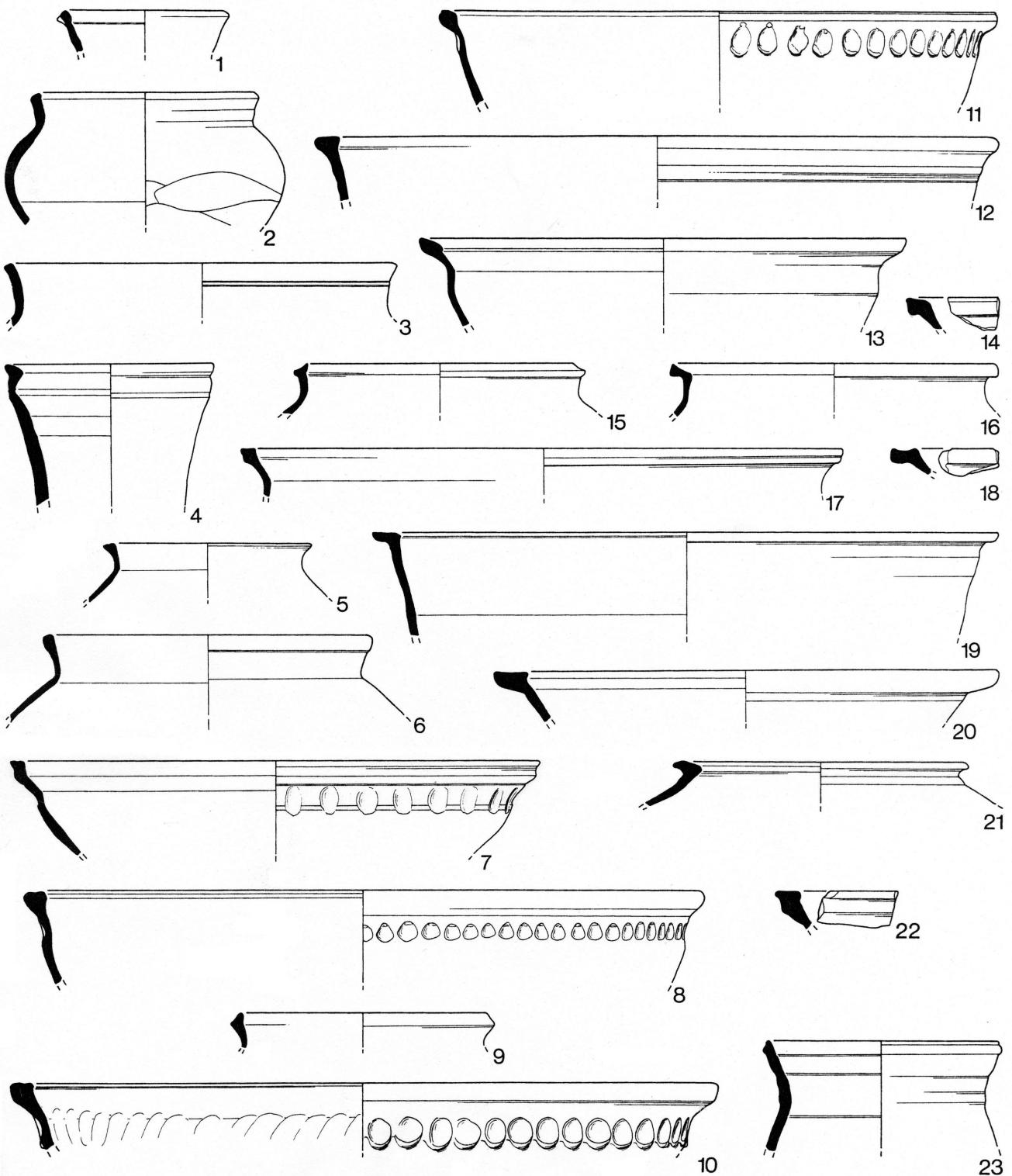


Figure 13 Medieval pottery (1:4)

base. The majority was green glazed, although most bases and lower body sherds were unglazed. Five unprovenanced fabrics occurred. A base sherd in a fine orange fabric may be a local variant of Ipswich glazed ware, or possibly Late Medieval and Transitional Ware (0014). Three unglazed sherds from 0033 could be Ipswich or Hollesley glazed wares. Two sherds of a gritty redware with spots of green glaze on the base were found in 0224. A green-glazed gritty greyware handle fragment was found in 0258. Two sherds with a fine red matrix and

sparse coarse quartz, with spots of yellow glaze, came from 0271.

Pottery by phase and context

Three sherds of medieval pottery (27g) were ascribed to a Phase 1 pit (0061), but this feature was apparently sealed below the platform layers and is the same as other prehistoric pits in the vicinity. The most likely explanation for this is that the finds were wrongly labelled.

Period 4.1 produced 219 sherds of medieval pottery (3894g), of which 179 were from layers forming the inner platform (0301), the rest from the clay layers on top. Period 4.2 features contained only nineteen sherds (261g), of which seven were from the lowest moat fills. The lack of sherds from these primary fills is probably due to collection of finds under single fill numbers in the second phase of excavation, although it seems likely that the quantity would still be low.

Phase 5 produced 889 sherds (11872g), of which the majority (697 sherds) were from the moat sections surrounding the inner platform. Only seven sherds were collected from the outer moat sections. Most of the remaining sherds were from layer 0004, which partially covered the platform and continued into the moat.

Of the remaining sherds, 163 (1937g) were from topsoil in Phase 6, twenty-six (153g) were collected during the evaluation and twenty-six (304g) were unstratified.

Illustrated sherds (Fig. 13)

1. Jug. Rim form A1. HOLL. 0033.
2. Jar. Rim form A3, knife trimming at base. MIPS. 0271.
3. Jar. Rim form A4. HOLL. 0020.
4. Jug. Rim form B1. IPSG. 0052.
5. Jar. Rim form B1. HOLL. 0014.
6. Jar. Rim form B2. HOLL. 0031/33.
7. Bowl. Rim form B3. HOLL. 0224.
8. Bowl. Rim form B5. HOLL. 0014.
9. Jar. Rim form B6. HOLL. 0033.
10. Bowl. Rim type C1. HOLL. 0052.
11. Bowl. Rim type C3. HOLL. 0052.
12. Bowl. Rim type C5. MCW3. 0271.
13. Bowl. Rim type D3. HOLL. 0052.
14. Bowl. Rim type D4. HOLL. 0027.
15. Jar. Rim type E2. HOLL. 0031.
16. Jar. Rim type E3. HOLL. Unnumbered.
17. Jar. Rim type E4. MCW3. 0001.
18. Bowl. Rim type E5. MCW3. 0001.
19. Bowl. Rim type F1. HOLL. 0258.
20. Bowl. Rim type F2. MCWG. 0031.
21. Jar. Rim type F3. MCWG. 0020.
22. Bowl. Rim type F5. HOLL. 0033.
23. Jug. Rim type G1. GRE? 0022.

Discussion

The majority of the medieval pottery was collected from the topsoil, the loam layer below the topsoil, and the ditch sections. Single vessels were found to occur in two or more of these contexts quite frequently. There were similar matches between the clay layers and the layers above them. This spread of pottery, together with the wide date ranges occurring in some contexts and the high degree of abrasion, suggests frequent disturbance of the ground presumably due to agricultural activity.

The moat sections contained a mixture of pottery from Roman to post-medieval date (see below). The post-medieval wares were probably intrusive, although they could indicate that the moat was filled with overburden during the 18th century.

The amount and types of pottery scattered across the site suggests activity or occupation in the area throughout the medieval period. Early Medieval Wares were present in small quantities, and the general medieval coarsewares probably represent dates from the 12th century onwards. The Hollesley-type wares have been dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries, although it seems likely that they could have been manufactured and used for most of the 14th century.

The small quantity of post-medieval wares (see below) suggests that occupation had ceased by the 15th century.

Building materials

The majority of building material recovered from the site was probably post-medieval, although some of the iron objects, such as nails, are not closely datable and could relate to the medieval occupation. All are discussed with the post-medieval finds below.

Floors

One fragment of a plain green-glazed triangular late medieval floor tile was found in layer 0014 (Phase 5).

Fired clay

Thirteen fragments of fired clay were collected from contexts of Phase 4.1 to Phase 6. With the exception of one small abraded fragment in a soft clay pellet fabric, the fired clay was chalk tempered. Two pieces had smoothed surfaces (0033, 0271), suggesting that they were fragments of daub, and one fragment collected during the evaluation (0156) had a wattle impression.

Equestrian objects

Horseshoes

Two horseshoes were found in the moat itself and could be related to occupation of the site. One is probably of late medieval date. Type numbers follow Clark (1995).

5. Iron. 113mm across, c.111mm long, web 28mm wide. Poor condition, possibly medieval type? Slightly sub-rectangular nail holes. Type 4? Medieval or late medieval. Moat fill 0007.
6. Iron. 121+mm across, 127mm long, web 35mm wide. Very poor. Tapering arms. Rectangular nail holes. Type 4, 15th/16th century. Parallel Margeson (1993 no. 1844, 16th-century). Topsoil 0001.
7. Iron. Very decayed and broken into two pieces (?). One arm shows three large rectangular nail holes. Nothing visible on the other fragment. 14th/17th-century. Moat fill 0007.

Weights

One object was probably a weight, or possibly a spindle whorl. It may be medieval.

8. Flattened circular lead object with central hole (9mm diameter), irregular surface. 26mm diameter, 8oz (52g). Surface of moat 0302.

Miscellaneous tools

Knives

Two fragmentary knives collected from the site could late or post-medieval.

9. Fe. Fragmentary scale-tang knife handle with shoulder plate. 21mm wide, possible rivet *in situ*. Deposit 0002.
10. Fe. Very poor, in two main parts. Handle has two non-ferrous rivets. Radiograph shows a small rectangular terminal or shoulder plate riveted in place. 14th/17th century. Parallel Margeson 1993, no. 834 (shoulder plate). Similar knives are found in late 14th-century contexts in London (Cowgill et al. 1987). Clay surface 0009.

Post-medieval finds

Coins and tokens

Two very worn copper alloy discs recovered during metal-detecting over the moat (0302) were possibly post-medieval coins or tokens.

Dress accessories

Belt fittings

Partial or complete pieces of six buckles, a buckle plate, and a buckle plate or strap end were found, most in the topsoil (0001). Most were probably of post-medieval date.

11. Sub-rectangular plain copper alloy buckle frame, 39 x 29mm. Topsoil 0001.
12. Half a large ornate copper alloy ?shoe buckle with open frame and moulded decoration. 50mm wide. 18th-century? Topsoil 0001.
13. Copper alloy buckle? Fragment of ornate ?tinned frame. 17th/18th-century. Topsoil 0001.
14. Large iron ?shoe buckle frame. Moulded decoration with eight-petalled flowers at each corner. Areas in between have large circular mouldings each surrounded by four small circular knobs. Post-medieval. Half in deposit 0002, and half in layer 0004.
15. Oval copper alloy buckle with pointed oval loops in the centres of one long and both short 'sides'. Iron bar survives only at one side, with a hole below the frame in the opposite side. Curved, probably shoe buckle. Surface has shallow incised lines parallel to the outer edge. 43 x 39mm. Spoil heap 0200.
16. Central buckle bar with three integral pins. Copper alloy with iron deposits adhering to bar. Post-medieval? Topsoil 0001.
17. Copper alloy sheet rectangular buckle plate with five rivet holes (one at each corner and central), 42+mm x 29mm. Undecorated. Surface 0201.

Fasteners

Objects in this category consisted of two post-medieval buttons from the topsoil.

18. Flattish circular copper alloy button with integral loop, incised concentric groove close to edge of top surface. 12mm diam. 17th/18th century? Topsoil 0001.
19. Copper alloy disc button with pewter or tin(?) skin and copper alloy loop, plain. 17mm diam. 18th/20th-century. Topsoil 0001.

Household objects

Furniture fittings

20. Moulded copper alloy drop handle with hollow back, max. 39 x 24mm. 18th/19th-century. Topsoil 0001.
21. Incomplete copper alloy hinged fitting, open-work, ?moulded, with small knob on one extremity. Post-medieval. Topsoil 0001.

Glass vessel

An 18th/19th-century bottle base was found in ditch fill 0273.

Post-medieval pottery

Table 10 shows the quantities identified.

Fabric	Code	No.	Wt/g
Iron glazed black wares	IGBW	6.11	1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	27
Speckle-glazed ware	SPEC	6.15	3
Post-medieval white wares	PMWW	6.20	4
Border wares	BORD	6.22	4
Tin glazed earthenwares	TGE	6.30	2
Staffordshire-type slipware	STAF	6.41	1
Metropolitan slipware	METS	6.42	2
Cologne/Frechen stoneware	GSW4	7.14	2
Westerwald stoneware	GSW5	7.15	1
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	8.03	2
English stoneware	ESW	8.20	2
Porcelain	PORC	8.30	1
Scratch blue ware	SSBW	8.40	1
White salt-glazed stonewares	SWSW	8.41	1
Total		54	620

Table 10 Post-medieval pottery

Post-medieval pottery, much of which dated to the 17th and 18th centuries, included glazed red earthen-wares, speckle-glazed wares, Metropolitan slipware, white wares, a tin-glazed earthenware handle, German and English stonewares, and transfer printed wares. One sherd of over-glaze painted English porcelain of probable 18th-century date was found, and there was a small footing base fragment in white or pale grey stoneware, either from Staffordshire or from Westerwald.

Pottery of this date range was recovered from Phase 5 layer 0004 (six sherds, 41g), the outer moat sections (two sherds, 14g), the inner moat sections (thirty-eight sherds, 490g), Phase 6 topsoil (three sherds, 48g), and one sherd (8g) was unstratified.

Building materials

Structural metalwork

Fifty-nine iron objects were identifiable as nails or studs. These came from topsoil 0001 (31), layer 0004 (2+), gully 0008 (1), clay surface 0009 (1), moat fill/recut 0010 (5), pits 0035 (2?) and 0042 (1?), surface finds 0201 (1), clay layer 0246 (1), layer 0271 (1), and ditch sections 0258 (10), 0272 (1) and 0273 (2). Three iron objects from 0258 were unidentified, but may all be nails. One fragment was L-shaped, there was a small curved fragment with a square section (possibly a ring), and one fragment could have been a double-headed nail.

Other objects, listed below, may also be associated with buildings.

22. Tapered iron hinge, convex with 4+ holes along length. Post-medieval. Layer 0004.
23. Drain? Cast iron fragment with large rivet hole. Post-medieval. Layer 0004.
24. Large curved iron staple, fragmentary, 97+mm long. Ditch fill 0006.

Ceramic building materials (CBM)

Twenty-seven fragments of CBM and seven pieces of fired clay were available for study. A further twenty-two fragments, recorded as 'pintile', had been discarded following the 1980 excavation. All fragments, with the exception of two complete bricks, were small and abraded.

CBM collected from the site included two complete bricks, a half brick and seven brick fragments.

The complete bricks, samples from structure 0286 (Phase 6), were handmade in sanded forms and measured 61-62 x 105-107 x 223mm (approximately 2½ x 4¼ x 8¾"). They are unlikely to be earlier than the 17th century, and probably of 18th/19th-century date. The fabric of the complete bricks could not be categorised, but was relatively fine in comparison with the abraded fragments.

Other brick fragments were collected from contexts in Phases 5 and 6. A half-brick in a pinkish white fabric was tempered with red grog and may have been an 18th/19th-century floor brick, as the surface showed some signs of wear (topsoil deposit 0002). Small pieces of red brick were recovered from topsoil 0003, moat fill 0022, layer 0258, and moat section 0273. The latter was soft and micaceous and could be a fragment of Roman tile.

Fragments of plain roof tile and pantile were collected from contexts of Phases 4.1, 5 and 6. Most were in fine or medium sandy red fabrics and were probably of late to post-medieval date. Two pantile fragments had dark brown glazed surfaces (0006), and six from the fill of

structure 0286 were in a sandy white-firing clay. These latter were spalled and covered in mortar.

Glass

Two small fragments of thin flat light green glass, both probably of post-medieval date, were found in ditch section 0258 and slot 0287 (the cut for brick structure 0286).

Equestrian objects

Horseshoes

Four post-medieval horseshoes were collected. Most were from the topsoil and could represent thrown shoes from ploughteams or passing horses.

- 25. 120mm across, 123mm long, web 26mm wide. Fullered groove and rectangular nail holes (three on one arm, four on the other). Parallel Margeson 1993, no. 1855, 16th/17th-century. Topsoil 0001.
- 26. 102mm across, 110mm long, web 28mm wide. Square nail holes, three on each arm, two at curve. 16th century onwards. Topsoil 0001.
- 27. 158mm across, 140mm long, web 35mm wide. Thick shoe. Very poor. Arms taper very slightly. Four small rectangular nail holes either side. 16th to 18th-century? Topsoil 0001.
- 28. 175mm across, 162mm long, web 28mm wide. Arms taper very slightly. Four small rectangular holes on one arm, three on the other. 18th/19th-century? Topsoil 0001.

Tack?

- 29. Small sub-rectangular iron buckle frame or slider, 32 × 20mm. Late post-medieval. Layer 0004.
- 30. Small sub-rectangular iron buckle frame or slider, 32 × 20mm. Identical to 29. Late post-medieval. Deposit 0002.

Diversions

Sewing aid

- 31. ?Machine-made large copper alloy thimble with broken top. Bottom diameter 20mm. 17th-century or later. Moat fill 0011.

Clay pipes

Twenty clay pipe stems and two bowl fragments were found in moat sections 0245, 0258 and 0273, and layer 0246. The pipe heel shape, size of the shafts and large bore suggest a late 17th- to early 18th-century date. All pieces were stained light brown.

Waste associated with metalworking

Two small pieces of ?slag or burnt material were found in moat section 0273. These, and the two fragments of lead waste from the topsoil, are not closely datable.

- 32. Lead waste? Two large amorphous pieces, possibly shaved? 160g. Topsoil 0001.

Miscellaneous fittings

Most of these objects are likely to be post-medieval.

- 33. Copper alloy stud. Pointed oval, domed, hollow-backed stud with integral pin. 21 × 11mm. One edge damaged. Possibly a belt mount. Surface find from moat 0302.
- 34. Four moulded copper alloy suspension rings, diameters 23mm, two 25mm, 28mm. 15th- to 17th-century. Parallel Margeson 1993, nos. 522-524. Topsoil 0001.
- 35. Copper alloy suspension ring, surface lost. 25mm diameter. Surface 0201.
- 36. Iron handle? Curved fragment with circular section c.6mm diameter. Topsoil 0001.
- 37. Half a large oval iron chain link? Topsoil 0001.
- 38. Fragments of barbed wire, including one barb. 20th-century. Topsoil 0001.
- 39. Narrow iron strap (11mm wide) with wide disc (30mm diameter) and central rivet at one end, 49mm long. Possible hinge? Deposit 0002.

Objects of uncertain function

All unidentified objects were probably post-medieval or modern.

- 40. Fragment of iron blade or strap? Topsoil 0001.
- 41. Iron object. Radiograph shows slightly tapering object with straight edges. 80 × 29mm. Section 0017.
- 42. Copper alloy disc. Possible defaced coin or token? Thin, 23mm diameter. Post-medieval. Topsoil 0001.
- 43. ?Aluminium disc. Possibly bottle top – tin or aluminium foil? 19th/20th-century. Topsoil 0001.

Biological evidence

Animal bone

by Alexis M. Willett

Introduction

A total of 439 animal bone fragments, weighing 8490g was recovered. The 1980 excavations produced 365 fragments, 6769g, and the 1999 excavations yielded the remaining 74 fragments, 1721g. The bone was generally of good preservation although some of the bones recovered in 1980 appear to be stained by ?iron.

Methodology

Bone was identified by the use of reference material in the form of published descriptions by Schmid (1972), Hillson (1992), Sisson and Grossman (1938) and Jepson (1938). All the bone was analysed and listed. 161 fragments were unidentifiable but the remainder were recorded in terms of taxa, skeletal element, number of fragments, total weight of fragments and any observable features such as cutmarks, any

Taxa	Definition	No.	Wt/g
cow	domestic cattle	48	1941
horse	all equids	55	3375
large mammal	approximately the size of a horse / cow / large deer; more specific identification was not possible	107	2356
sheep/goat	there is difficulty in distinguishing the two species; in most cases the bone is probably from a sheep but this cannot be assumed	12	237
pig		9	63
deer		1	47
medium mammal	approximately the size of a sheep/goat / pig / dog / smaller deer	21	135
cat	domestic cat	2	4
rabbit/hare	where the species could not be more specifically identified	3	4
small mammal	small mammal; approximately the size of a cat or smaller	13	18
bird	more specific identification could not be achieved due to a lack of reference material	7	13
unident		161	297

Table 11 Summary of taxa quantification

Taxa	Phase 2		Phase 4.1		Phase 4.2		Phase 5		Phase 6		Evaluation	
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g
horse			26	247	1	40	20	2700	2	68	6	320
cow	5	13	1	50	1	47	39	1728	1	55	1	48
large mammal			5	151	3	12	81	1606	15	553	3	34
deer			1	47								
pig					1	30	6	27	2	6		
sheep/goat			1	28	2	5	7	165	2	39		
medium mammal			1	3	2	13	12	99	6	20		
rabbit/hare			1	1			2	3				
cat			2	4								
small mammal					2	2	10	13	1	3		
bird			1	3	1	1	3	6	2	3		
unidentifiable	1	37	6	7	4	8	130	221	14	15	6	9
Total	6	50	45	541	17	158	310	6568	45	762	16	411

Table 12 Taxa by phase (fragment count and weight)

immaturity, gnaw marks and any pathology were also remarked upon. The minimum number of individuals was not calculated due to the restrictions of time, sample size and fragmentation. Percentages are either based on the number of bone fragments or the weight of the fragments within the context of the whole assemblage; this is specified where appropriate.

Results

A summary of the quantities of each taxa can be seen in Table 11 and a full list of the material is available in archive.

The most abundant taxa category is that of horse, accounting for nearly 40% of the total weight, followed by large mammal and cow. The medium-sized mammals account for a significant proportion of the total assemblage also. 36% of the total number of fragments, but only 3% of the total weight were unidentifiable.

Table 12 shows the distribution of taxa by phase. Approximately 68% (by weight) of the animal bone was recovered from the inner moat fill. The remainder of the animal bone fragments was scattered throughout the topsoil and layers beneath it, with no obvious clustering.

It is likely that only a very small number of individual animals was present in the whole collection thus the numbers of fragments of each taxa are relatively insignificant as larger animals produce more fragments, therefore accounting for the greatest proportions of the whole assemblage. Although the minimum number of individuals has not been calculated, many of the fragments could be seen to fit together and thus the totals were likely to have been relatively low.

Conclusions

The faunal material from Cedars Field appears to represent localised food waste and the remains of animals living on and around the site including those being used for their secondary products such as milk, traction and wool. Only a small proportion of the whole assemblage was identified as being immature and thus a high status consumer site is not suggested. The low numbers confirm this and also restrict the idea of the site being used specifically for butchery.

Animals seen in low numbers, such as deer, cat, rabbit/hare, small mammal and bird are an indication of the animals living in and around the settlement throughout its use. No significant pathology was evident in this assemblage.

Shell

Oyster shell was collected from contexts from Phase 4.1 onwards. Phase 4.1 features produced 32 shells (422g), most of which were from layers in the platform. Only eight shells (53g) were collected from Phase 4.2 features, four from a possible posthole and four from a layer in the moat. The majority of shells were collected from the moat sections in Phase 5 fills, a total of 160 shells (1420g); 58% of the total assemblage by weight was from the inner moat sections. Sixteen shells (204g) were collected from topsoil layers assigned to Phase 6.

Plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

Introduction

Samples for the extraction of plant macrofossils were taken from the fills of two prehistoric pits (Phase 1 contexts 0232 and 0241) and the lining of a shallow gully of probable medieval date (possibly Phase 4.1 context 0280). Four samples were submitted.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 13. Nomenclature in the table follows Stace (1997). Whilst most plant remains were preserved by charring, mineral replaced wood fragments were present in samples from 0241 lower and upper (0241L and 0241U respectively) and pieces of un-charred wood were recovered from sample 0280. Modern contaminants including seeds/fruits and fibrous roots were present throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present.

Results

Plant macrofossils

Plant remains were present at varying densities in all samples. Charcoal fragments were predominant in samples 0232, 0241L and 0241U. However, the lower and upper fills of pit 0241 also produced mineral replaced wood fragments and a single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was recovered from 0241L.

Sample 0280 was taken from the wooden lining of a shallow gully (possibly of medieval date) which was cut across the entrance to the outer moat platform. Highly

Context No.	0232	0241L	0241U	0280
Plant macrofossils				
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x		
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	xxx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	x	xx	
Mineral replaced wood frags.		x	xx	
Wood frags.				xx
Other material				
Black porous 'cokey' material		x		
Bone		xx		
Burnt stone		x		
Mineral replaced soil concretions			xxx	
Sample volume (litres)	4	3	4	0.5
Volume of flot (litres)	0.6	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
% flot sorted	25%	100%	100%	100%

x = 1–10 specimens xx = 10–100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens

Table 13 Plant macrofossils and other remains

degraded wood fragments were common within the assemblage and although most were too fragmentary to identify, some larger pieces were of ring porous wood, probably oak, with visible rays and latewood pores in radial groups.

Other materials

Other materials were extremely rare. Bone fragments were noted in the upper fill of 0241 along with pieces of burnt stone and black porous material, the latter probably derived from the combustion of organic materials at high temperatures. Mineral replaced soil concretions were predominant in the assemblage from the gully fill (0280).

Conclusions

The assemblages from the prehistoric features are largely typical of the period, containing charcoal fragments and very rare food remains. The presence of mineral replaced wood is not so common but is probably the result of minerals in solution within the pit fill and surrounding soils.

The medieval gully appears to have been lined, at least in part, with oak, but the purpose of this lining is not understood.

Discussion of the finds evidence

Pottery, worked and burnt flint, animal bone and oyster shell were the largest groups of artefacts collected from the site.

The earliest finds include Neolithic and Early Bronze Age worked flint, often associated with small fragments of contemporary pottery, and a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery vessel which may have been the remains of a cremation burial, although no bone was found. The majority of flint and prehistoric pottery was recovered from contexts of Phases 1-2, although there was clearly some redeposition of material during the Roman and medieval phases.

The other large groups of finds were dominated by material found in the ditch sections surrounding the inner platform of the moated site, the inner platform make-up layers, and the topsoil.

Three possible explanations for this disposal pattern can be suggested: firstly, original deposition of material in the ditches with subsequent scattering due to agricultural activity; secondly, backfilling of the moat with the occupation layers and middens of the site at the point of abandonment; thirdly, post-medieval filling of the ditches using surrounding topsoil. The fact that material from the moat is generally less abraded than the artefacts from the topsoil suggests that either the first or the second are the most likely. However, it is probable that a combination of all three has occurred, with primary material in the lower contexts from the moat and later material redeposited on top following dispersal by ploughing. The picture may be further complicated by the possibility that the moat could have been cleaned out at least once during use. Very little material is associated with the clay layers, but any finds lying on the surfaces of these could have been removed as part of context 0004.

The distribution of finds within the moat is significant in determining the nature of the site. That so much was recovered from the moat surrounding the inner platform, and so little from the outer moat, must indicate that any domestic occupation was confined to the inner area, as would be expected if this were used as a house platform.

In general the material is of medieval date, particularly the 13th-14th centuries. Early medieval pottery is largely derived from features to the south of the site and may indicate occupation closer to the road frontage in the 11th-12th centuries. Later finds are rare and confined to the topsoil or the top fills of the moats.

Medieval pottery probably represents the disposal of rubbish, and the relatively large quantities of animal bone in association with the larger pottery assemblages would tend to support this. The pottery types used on the site were those generally available to most of the inhabitants of East Suffolk in the high medieval period, with local wares predominating. A few regional wares, from Norfolk and Essex, were present, but these are not unusual. Inland high status sites of the period might be expected to produce a small quantity of imported pottery, but none was identified in this assemblage.

Most of the small finds probably represent casual losses. Very few were medieval, and the general lack of coins and metalwork contemporary with occupation of the moated site adds to the overall picture that the site was not of particularly high status. There are several post-medieval dress accessories and objects associated with horses. Very few other objects could be assigned a definite function. Most furniture and other fittings were of post-medieval date and probably reached the site as refuse. Two fragments of lead waste could be the remains of lead working at the site, but again these could be a result of post-medieval manuring.

The few fragments of ceramic building material probably also originated off-site, although the sampling policy for this material is not known so more material may have been present in the excavated area. Only the bricks from structure 0286 were *in situ*.

Overall the finds suggest small-scale activity during prehistory, a major phase of occupation in the high medieval period, and decline into agricultural land use by the post-medieval period.

Chapter 5. Discussion and Conclusions

Pre-moat land use

Evidence for early prehistoric land use (Phase 1) consists entirely of pits cutting the natural subsoil, only 37% of which produced artefacts. These features varied considerably in size and, presumably, function and date. They were particularly concentrated in three main groups (north-east, north-west and central parts of the site). A similar site of Neolithic date was excavated at Hurst Fen, Mildenhall (Clark et al. 1960), where the clusters of pits and hollows were interpreted as representing individual households within a settlement. However, at a Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age site at West Row Fen, it was suggested that the pit groups could represent seasonality of occupation (Martin and Murphy 1988).

In later prehistory (Phase 2), the site was at least partly covered by a soil in which worked and burnt flint of earlier and possibly contemporary date were deposited. The only other finds from this layer were small quantities of animal bone. This layer is interpreted as evidence for cultivation of the land.

By the Roman period (Phase 3), the presence of a single boundary ditch suggests that the site was in use for agricultural purposes, but the general lack of artefacts belonging to this period suggests that it was some distance from any centres of habitation.

The moated site

There are, at the time of writing, 936 known moated sites in Suffolk (C. Pendleton, pers. comm.). The majority are located on boulder clay subsoil which occurs in a band, some 25 miles in width, diagonally across the county from south-west to north-east (Martin 1999). They are particularly dense in the northern half of the band, especially in parishes surrounding Metfield, Framlingham and Mendlesham. They occur less frequently in areas close to the river valleys, which cut across the boulder clay and have deposited areas of gravel terracing.

The moated site at Cedars Field is considered untypical of moated sites in the county for three main reasons: the position of the site on a low-lying gravel subsoil in a floodplain, the small size of the inner moated area, and the extreme shallowness of the moat (E. Martin, pers. comm.). These features of the site are therefore the key areas around which this study was focussed.

In terms of date, Cedars Field fits into Phase III of moat construction as defined by Le Patourel and Roberts (1978, 51), i.e. those built between about 1200 and 1325. In this period, there was a change in emphasis towards 'limitation and the protection of personal property', and a diffusion of the 'moat idea' within rural society, increasingly down to those of lower social status.

Location

This site was originally in Combs. Like the other known moated sites in the parish, it has a peripheral location.

However, the other three moats (Boyton Hall, Ebb's Farm and Kimberley Hall) are on higher ground (c.65–70m OD) and situated on clay subsoil.

The Cedars Field moat is not the only moated site within the floodplain of the Gipping. In Creeting St. Peter, on the north side of the river, a larger, circular moat (site CRP 001, Fig. 1B) was located at less than 25m OD. The moat was ploughed out and destroyed in 1959. A fieldwalking project carried out in 1983–4 produced relatively large quantities of 12th to 14th-century pottery.

A survey of moated sites in the Blackwater region of Essex indicated that ten out of the thirty-nine sites studied were located on terrace gravels (Hedges 1978, 65). In Norfolk, approximately 30% of known moated sites are outside the boulder clay area, which is less extensive than that in Suffolk and Essex, and in these areas most of the moated sites are in valley bottoms (Rogerson 1993).

One of the key questions with regard to this particular moated site is its position in relation to other features of the medieval landscape. As noted above, it is in a peripheral and somewhat isolated situation relative to the village of Combs. In addition, it is set back at some distance from the road, which was mentioned in the survey of 1437 and is thus of medieval or earlier origin. There are at least three tenements, marked on the tithe map of 1845, which appear to be present in the earlier survey. All of these were probably as large as the inner platform of the moated site, and one, *Lethenards*, may have been bigger. However, these enclosures probably included some ancillary buildings, which are unlikely to have been present on the inner platform of the moated site.

Although there is no documentary evidence which can be used to determine the pattern of settlement in this area in the 12th–13th centuries, there is some archaeological evidence from the evaluation. Early medieval pottery was collected from pits and ditches to the south of the moated site, closer to the medieval road, and may indicate that there was earlier occupation in the vicinity. Unfortunately, it does not provide evidence for the roadside itself. If this area was more densely occupied during the 13th century, it may provide one explanation for the siting of the moat so far from the road.

Other explanations for the siting of moated sites in isolated parts of parishes include the use of marginal land during the populous years of the 13th century, and the related expansion into previously wooded areas. In Combs, an area of ancient woodland is preserved to the east of the medieval village centre, although at Domesday the wood in Combs was recorded as only large enough for sixteen pigs.

Method of construction

The moat ditches are approximately 5 metres in width, in some places slightly broader. This places the site within the 'true moated site' range, rather than merely being a ditched farmstead (Martin 1999). However, the depth of the ditch is perceived to be a problem in this category of site, since it is only about 0.5 to 0.7 metres deep measured

from the original ground surface (based on the sections drawn in 1980, since these included the modern topsoil and were not truncated by machining).

Several possible reasons for this can be suggested. The first is that the water table in this floodplain area is relatively high, and is likely to have been so at the time of construction, thus not requiring a greater depth to provide some water. In fact, parts of the moat excavated in November 1999 were still wet in the lower levels. A second possibility is that the site has been at some point truncated, although this appears unlikely. Thirdly, a shallow moat may have been all that was required for a site of relatively lowly status.

The moat, as seen in aerial photographs, is exceptionally regular in its squareness. Many moats of this period, even those which are generally rectilinear or square in plan, have at least one acute or obtuse corner angle.

On some aerial photographs there appear to be extensions to the north-east and south-west along the north-western side of the moat. These may have extended as far as the river at one end, and the road at the other. The 1966 vertical and oblique photographs also show extensions to the north-eastern and south-western arms of the outer moat, running parallel towards the river. These cropmarks are plotted on Figure 1C. Part of the south-east corner was excavated in 1999 and a shallow ditch was found underlying a later brick structure. Combined, this evidence suggests that a system of leats and channels was used, perhaps to aid drainage rather than to feed the moat since there is a gentle slope downwards to the river.

A question which needs addressing in relation to the form of this moated site is whether there is any evidence that the inner and outer moats were dug separately or form a single phase of construction. It is not possible to answer this from the stratigraphic evidence provided in the sections. However, there is some circumstantial evidence which may point to the later construction of the inner platform.

Firstly, the two moats are of very regular width, which is not typical of sites with an inner and outer ditch—often the outer moat is less substantial than the inner. For example, a similar layout can be seen at Wattisham Hall, where there is a sub-circular moat within the corner of a larger rectilinear enclosure (E. Martin, pers. comm.). In this case, however, the circular moat appears to be earlier, and the outer enclosure ditch is less than half the width of the inner. At Stowmarket, the consistency of width could be used as evidence for one phase of building, or alternatively to indicate that the outer enclosure was unlikely to have been ditched at a later date. However, it does not negate the possibility of a later inner moat.

The second, perhaps more telling, piece of evidence is the presence of pottery of high medieval date in the layers which formed the inner platform. These are thought to be contemporary with the use of the site, so how did they get into its make-up layers? The likelihood that the platform was constructed using the upcast from the moat has been suggested at many sites where the platform is heightened, and it is not unreasonable here. Construction of the inner moat could have disturbed earlier middens or pits, the fills of which were deposited along with natural subsoil on the platform (there are some prehistoric flints in these layers). The main problem with this is the general lack of medieval pitting on the site.

One further reason for the later construction of a platform can be suggested. The moat is clearly on low-lying ground in a floodplain. The climate is known to have deteriorated markedly in the early part of the 14th century, with cold, wet summers occurring particularly in the years 1311-19 (Steane 1985). If the area suddenly became more prone to flooding, the addition of a slightly raised area on which to site the house might be the only practical option, until finally the land became too wet to be habitable at all.

Structures

The principal evidence for a structure or structures on this site consists of the yellow clay with chalk patches in the centre of the inner platform. These can be interpreted in two main ways: as a floor surface, or as the puddled remains of a clay-walled building. There is some suggestion that they could represent both of these.

A large burnt area in the southernmost patch was recorded as ‘within’ the clay. This could suggest a floor layer buried by wall collapse, or it could simply mean that the burnt area was surrounded by unfired clay. Either way, it is likely that this burnt patch represents the remains of a hearth, perhaps even the central hearth to a great hall. The northern clay patch appeared to overlay a stone spread—perhaps an area of cobbling—at its eastern edge, although again the relationship between the two is unclear from the site records. The section drawings show the clay lying precisely above a layer of orange sandy clay with gravel, which could be interpreted as make-up for a floor.

The northern clay layer was cut by several features, some of which may be postholes or slots, but their interpretation is difficult—they may simply be animal or tree root disturbance. They do not form any discernible pattern which might indicate a post-built structure.

The north-west and south-west sides of the southernmost clay patch appear to be fairly regular straight lines which are parallel to the moat. This could indicate the edge of a floor. If so, any external structural features were not identified and must be presumed to have consisted of a timber frame with sill beams rather than earth-fast posts, or possibly a simple cob-walled structure. The width of the room, based on the clay spread, would be approximately 6m internally. If the two clay patches formed part of the same structure, it would have been at least 17m in length. A possible aisled building at Brome was approximately 5m wide in the central section, but about 8.5m wide including the aisles (interpretation by P. Aitkens, based on West 1970). Other excavated buildings have a width of around 4m (e.g. two rural 12th-century buildings at Hitcham, Suffolk (Gill 1995), and buildings in Alms Lane, Norwich (Atkin et al. 1985)). An extant aisled hall of 13th-century date at Purton Green, Suffolk (Walker 1994) had a nave width of 4.6m, and one at Harlowbury, Essex, an ‘exceptional’ mainspan of 6.4m (Young and Clark 1982, 182). Whilst there is no archaeological evidence for aisles at Cedars Field, the suggested width of the floor would seem to indicate that they were present. Clay pads may have supported the aisle posts, and these would be difficult to identify. At 17m, the building would be unusually long, so there is a possibility that two separate structures were present on the inner platform.

The entrances to the outer enclosure and inner platform were across causeways which were simply uncut areas breaking the line of the ditch. These were not later infillings and must be taken as part of the original scheme.

A posthole surviving in the lowest fill of the inner moat to the north side of the causeway may be evidence for the presence of a gate at this point. Two pieces of waterlogged wood were found in similar positions on either side of the outer moat causeway, and could represent another gate across this entrance. The latter could be a later addition, however, perhaps related to the shallow wood-lined trench across the causeway.

None of the pits excavated on the site provided evidence of a medieval date. This is unusual, as most rural sites of this period would be expected to have several. Whilst the moat might provide an alternative means of rubbish disposal, the shallowness of the moat at Cedars Field might preclude this use, since it would presumably have filled up very quickly. Pits occur on other moated sites, for example Brome, where the moat was considerably wider and deeper. Perhaps the inner platform was simply too small to allow for pits to be dug, but there were none in the outer enclosure either. Middening of waste would appear to be the only explanation, and the later clearance of these may well explain the presence of medieval pottery in the Phase 5 moat fills.

Function, use and significance

If the Cedars Field site was originally a single square enclosure with no inner platform, then at one acre it falls within the size range of moated manors (Martin 1999). The size of the inner enclosure, however, is more in keeping with rectories and farms.

The land holding which is associated with the moat in the 1437 survey is too small to indicate a manor, but the site may have fallen into disuse at least a century before. The area of land belonging to it could have been larger in the 14th century. The aerial photograph shows a system of ditches running south-east from the site, and these may have been part of its original leat system. If so, they suggest that the field to the east was originally part of the holding.

If the 1845 field boundaries are ignored, the site lies almost centrally within the bend of the River Gipping. It seems likely that the moat was sited in this position because it was central to a roughly oval area bounded by the river to the north and two rather sinuous field boundaries which could be earlier than the straight line boundaries between them. These boundaries run from the river to the road (Fig. 2, the first running from Bartons Meadow to Home Meadow, and the second delineating the east side of Lower and Upper Cottage Meadows; the latter is marked as a narrow stream or ditch on the 1924 OS map, but not on the earlier edition). The moat is also roughly mid-way between the two medieval watermills (Alwensmyll and Hernes myll) mentioned in the 1437 survey, although this may be coincidental.

The entry to the site from the road may have been along a trackway beside the old field boundary on the west side of Home Meadow, based on the 1845 and probably 1723 glebe terriers. This was recorded as the way to Town Meadow, and may have preserved a much earlier right of way. The line of the boundary curves around gently to line up with the entrance through the outer moat, and may

originally have been delineated by the ditches flanking this entrance.

There are clearly problems in determining the use and significance of this moated site. The material culture suggests that it was a domestic dwelling for at least part of its life, and that the house was situated, as would be expected, on the inner platform. There is a general lack of medieval small finds, and nothing in the finds assemblage to indicate a site of particularly high status. In view of the size of the inner enclosure, the superficial nature of the ditches, and the marginality of the surrounding land, it can be postulated that this site is most likely to have been a farmstead on an ancient free tenement.

Abandonment

The pottery evidence suggests that the site was abandoned in the 14th century. This was a period of great change. A series of rainy summers and disastrous harvests in the first quarter, followed by years of plague (1348-50) and warfare, resulted in a marked population decrease and the abandonment of many dwellings and farms located on marginal land. Failure of heirs and the movement of the household through marriage are other factors which may have resulted in abandonment (E. Martin, pers. comm.).

Although the site was abandoned, it was still visible as shallow earthworks, even if the moats were partially backfilled using occupation soil and midden material. If the field pattern surrounding it was later, it clearly respected the lines of the main moat and related ditches, running parallel to them on the west and north sides. A redefining of tenements could have taken place following abandonment, even though some of the land was clearly retained by the Stonham family. Much of the surrounding land belonged to the Priory of Flixton by 1437, but the field to the north belonged to the parish by 1581.

Post-medieval land use

The land must have reverted to meadow soon after its abandonment, although it may have lain waste for part of the 14th century.

The moat remained visible, with a slight depression remaining even on the aerial photographs of the 20th century. It was probably wet in places up until the 19th century. The position of the brick structure at the south-east corner suggests that it may have continued in use as a drainage channel. Possibly the wood-lined channel across the outer entrance was inserted as part of this post-medieval system. The most likely explanation for the brick structure would seem to be that it functioned as some form of shallow sluice, and in fact the entire length of the drainage channel within the moat was probably very shallow at this stage.

The type of land use during much of the post-medieval period is unknown, but the presence of post-medieval artefacts, a high proportion of which can be dated to the 17th/18th-centuries, suggests that the fields were ploughed and manured at this time. Many of the smaller finds, however, could well have been deposited through casual loss. The site was under pasture in 1845, and was again at the time of excavation, although it is known to have been ploughed at least once in the 20th century.

Conclusions

Whilst the moated site at Cedars Field may be unusual in comparison with the vast majority of moated sites in Suffolk in terms of location, it is far from unique. Other moated sites are known in floodplain areas and river terracing, including one in the next parish. The major differences appear to be in the regularity of form (for this date) with undifferential attachment to the outer enclosure, and the shallowness of the moat, although so few moats have been excavated in Suffolk to date, that the latter can be considered to be largely a matter for speculation.

In terms of size, whilst the outer moat may have enclosed an area which would place the site in the manorial category, the house platform within the inner moat is relatively small and does not suggest such a high

status dwelling. The documentary and artefactual evidence is in accord with this interpretation, and the suggestion is that the site was occupied by a minor landowner. By 1327, the site can be associated with the Stonham family, although little is known of Roger de Stonham himself.

The short life of the moat is not particularly unusual. Other sites were abandoned during the 14th century, for example the moated site at nearby Creeting St. Peter, probably with similar underlying causes as have been noted for the Cedars Field site.

What is clear from previous studies of moated sites is that no two are the same. Until there are more excavated sites available for study and comparison, it is not possible to state with any certainty that this moat is untypical of the pattern of lower status moated site construction in Suffolk.

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