

SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM NORFOLK

A CHALK OBJECT FROM FELTWELL

The artefact illustrated in Fig. 1 was found by Mr. E. B. Secker and Mr. M. J. Younge in 1977 or 1978 on the surface of a recently ploughed field in Feltwell Fen, south-west Norfolk (Petrology no. N257, Co. No. 17568, TL/6930 9219 approx.). It was complete, although wet and soft, when found, but is now fragmentary. In fracture, it appears to be made of granular, grey, chalky material with whiter flecks, which is probably either puddled chalk or naturally weathered cryoturbated chalk, which occurs locally. It seems most likely to have been moulded into shape, in view of its malleability when found and of excrescences at either end of the central hole which suggest that the mass was squeezed around a shaft. It is decorated with a lattice pattern of V- to U-sectioned grooves scored over both faces, again, apparently, when the object was wet and soft, since there are small ridges alongside the grooves, especially at their intersections, which must have been thrown up when they were cut.

The object may be a recent 'doodle'. It would not have survived long on the field surface and, if it is indeed ancient, must have been exposed shortly before its discovery. It seems to have been non-functional, since its fragility and its softness when wet make it unlikely to have been used as, for example, a weight or spindle whorl. It has no exact parallels. The area of the fen edge in which it was found was densely occupied in the second and early first millennia bc (Clough and Green 1972, 133-140; Lawson and Ashley 1980, 330-332; Bamford forthcoming), that is from *c.* 2500 BC to *c.* 600 BC if the calibration curve proposed by Clark (1975) is adopted, during a relatively dry interlude between two wetter episodes (Godwin 1978, 104-107), so that a date within this period is a distinct possibility.

In this case, the object may be related to the 'mace-heads' (shaft-hole implements without cutting edges) of the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age, current from *c.* 2000 to *c.* 1600 bc (Smith 1979, 14-16), that is from *c.* 2500 BC to *c.* 1950



Fig. 1

A chalk object from Feltwell, drawn by Denise Derbyshire. Scale 1 : 2.

BC according to Clark's calibration curve, and regionally concentrated on the south-eastern edge of the Fens (Roe 1979, fig. 11), where the Feltwell find was made. The vast majority of 'mace-heads' are of ground stone, the fineness of their manufacture often suggesting that they were at least partly non-functional, an impression heightened by their occasional occurrence in less durable materials, including antler and pottery (Roe 1968, 159-163). To the two ceramic 'mace-heads' recorded by Roe may perhaps be added a fragment from a post-hole of phase two of the southern circle within the later Neolithic henge monument of Durrington Walls, Wilts., published as a remarkably early spindle whorl (Wainwright and Longworth 1971, 188, fig. 82). A fragmentary perforated disc of Totternhoe stone (a hard, rock-like chalk) found during Dr. Ian Kinnes' excavation of an early second millennium bc settlement on Redgate Hill, Hunstanton, Norfolk (Petrology no. N217, Co. No. 1396) is much more regular and 'mace-head' – like than the perforated chalk lumps found in some earlier Neolithic contexts (e.g. Smith 1965, fig. 57: C16-C19). A minority of stone, flint and antler 'mace-heads' are decorated, often with lattice patterns, although they bear little overall resemblance to the Feltwell find (Roe 1968, 170, figs. 35, 37, 38; Smith 1918, 7, figs. 5-7).

The Feltwell object may thus belong to a broad class of shaft-hole artefacts of relatively fragile materials related to and contemporary with the more often surviving stone 'mace-heads' of the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age, although its date and function remain matters for speculation. The object is in private possession.

Frances Healy

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr. Eric Secker for permission to publish the object, which forms part of his collection, to Mrs. Denise Derbyshire for illustrating it, and to Mrs. Fiona Roe and Dr. Ian Kinnes for help and advice.

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FIGURINE OF THE GODDESS MINERVA FROM THE WOODCOCK HALL ROMANO-BRITISH SITE

In October, 1980, a small solid bronze statuette of the Roman goddess Minerva (Plates I-III) was found at the Romano-British settlement site at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney, Norfolk. The figurine measures 49mm (approx. 2") in height and shows the goddess standing wearing a heavily crested high Corinthian helmet, a georgoneion on her breast and long chiton. The right hand clasps the shaft of what presumably is a spear, the tip of which is now missing. The left arm is crooked and the hand, which may have supported an owl, is also missing. A small circular shield, decorated in an unusual fashion with a laurel-wreath, rests against the butt of the spear (Plates I, II & III).

Minerva was the Roman equivalent of the Greek goddess Athena, daughter of Zeus and Aetis. Athena was the personification of the nobler aspects of Zeus, a virgin goddess, the bestower of wisdom and health and patroness of the arts and crafts. By extension she was also skilled in statecraft, warfare and the protectress of civilized society.¹

The Roman name for the goddess, Minerva, may be connected with the Latin noun *mens* meaning mind, intellect or reason. The conflation between Athena and an Etruscan craft goddess may have occurred at an early date since temples of the Etruscan type appeared in Rome, while the Capolintine triad of Jupiter, Minerva and Juno can be equated with Zeus, Athena and Hera.

Minerva is invariably depicted as a female warrior, a mature woman, always fully clothed, standing, wearing a helmet and her *aegis* and usually carrying a spear or a shield. Many existing examples may have been based ultimately on the lost Phidian statue of *Athena Parthenos*.

While there are often minor variations in the arrangement of shield and spear, the Woodcock Hall statuette is unusual in having both on the same side, although there are parallels in Graeco-Roman gemstones. A Munich figurine from Gračanica (Ulpiana) in Yugoslavia, is similar, but has the spear in an upraised right hand and a sub-oval shield by the left side.² A Minerva from Augst, Switzerland, bears a *patera* in one hand (as the Woodcock Hall example may have done).³ In general the Woodcock Hall example is most like an example from Lyon.⁴ In Britain the Bruton Minerva is broadly comparable, wearing a Corinthian helmet, carrying a spear in the right hand and holding a shield.⁵

On Graeco-Roman gemstones Minerva does appear with spear and shield on the same side, but always the left rather than the right as in the Woodcock Hall example. Relevant gems include those from Caerlon and High Tors,⁶ a British Museum gem⁷ and one from the Lewis collection.⁸



PLATE I



PLATE II



PLATE III

Minerva figurine from Woodcock Hall

The Woodcock Hall figurine is small compared to many similar examples. The Bruton Minerva is 84mm (3¼"), the Southwold one 76mm (3") and the Colchester one 90mm (3½"). Although the Woodcock Hall one is roughly similar in size to a lead soldier (for which it was initially mistaken) it has remarkably statuesque proportions and the clothing and general stance are well modelled. Only the features seem curiously unsympathetic, not unlike those of the Colchester Minerva.

Stylistically it is classical in type and appears to belong to the 2nd or 3rd Century A.D. This in no way conflicts with the find-spot, which was approximately in the centre of the settlement site where many coins of that period have been picked up. The location of the find may possibly indicate the presence of a temple at Woodcock Hall. The statuette remains the property of the finder.

Robin A. Brown

¹C. Lindgren. *Classical Art Forms and Celtic Mutations*, Noyes Press (1978).

²M. Veličković. *Petits Bronzes Figures Romains au Musée National*, Beograd (1972) No. 2789/111.

³A. Kaufmann-Heinimann. 'Die Römischen Bronzen der Schweiz', I, Augst, RGZ Mainz (1977) No. 63.

⁴S. Boucher. *Bronzes Romains Figures de Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon*, (1973) No. 156.

⁵J. M. C. Toynbee. *Art in Britain under the Romans*, Oxford (1964) Plate XVIc, p. 81.

⁶M. Henig, 1974. *A Corpus of Engraved Gemstones from British Sites* (1974) Nos. 234 and 235.

⁷H. B. Walters. *Catalogue of the Engraved Gems and Cameos, Greek, Etruscan and Roman in the British Museum*, (1926) No. 1353, Plate XIX.

⁸M. Henig, 1975. 'The Lewis Collection of Gemstones' BAR Supp. 1 (1975) p. 18, Plate 2.

Acknowledgements and thanks are due to Mrs. Miranda Green and Mr. Martin Henig for their assistance in the writing of this material.

VIKING PERIOD TREFOIL BROOCHES

Three 10th century trefoil brooches have recently come to light, one now in King's Lynn Museum, the other two brought in as enquiries to the Castle Museum, Norwich and in private possession.

Description

1. Pl. IV, A.

From Harling, Norfolk. In private possession.

A cast trefoil brooch of copper alloy with two broken arms. The decoration is unworn. There is a double-contoured triangle at the junction of the arms with a punched dot and circle at each corner and in the centre. The arms are decorated with stylised plant ornament within double-contoured borders. The pair of lugs for pin attachment and the catchplate on the reverse are complete, the lugs unusually positioned at the junction of two of the arms, with the catchplate at the end of the third arm.

Max. width 48mm.

2. Not illustrated.

From Bircham, Norfolk. King's Lynn Museum (225.980).

A cast trefoil brooch of copper alloy with a double-contoured triangle at the junction of the arms. The arms are decorated with plant ornament within double-contoured borders. There is a lug for pin attachment on the reverse

of one arm, and the remains of a catchplate on the reverse of the second. Max. width 39.5mm.

3. Pl. IV, B.

Found at Carlton Colville near Lowestoft, Suffolk. In private possession.

A cast trefoil brooch of copper alloy with an uneven triangle, with milled border and central punched dot, at the junction of the arms. The arms have milled edges and are decorated with debased plant ornament within double-contoured borders with two punched dots at the end of each arm. On the reverse of one arm is a pair of lugs for pin attachment, on the reverse of the second is the catchplate, and on the third are the remains of an attachment for a loop (for a pendant).

Max. width 49mm.

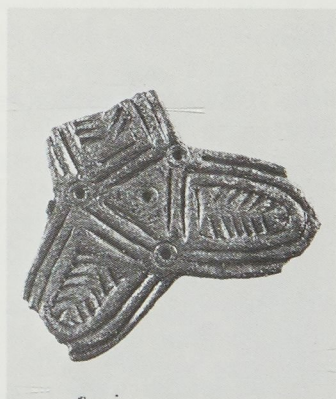


Plate IV (A)

Trefoil brooch from Harling, Norfolk.

Scale 1:1.

Photograph: Norwich Castle Museum.



Plate IV (B)

Trefoil brooch from Carlton Colville, Suffolk.

Scale 1:1.

Photograph: Norwich Castle Museum

Discussion

Trefoil brooches were a characteristic part of women's dress in Scandinavia in the 9th and 10th centuries, used to pin a shawl together, while a pair of oval brooches (such as those found in the burial at Santon, Norfolk) fastened the shoulder-straps of the dress. Trefoil brooches were based on trefoil-shaped belt mounts brought home by the Vikings from their southern raids and expeditions in the Frankish Empire. These Frankish mounts were decorated with Carolingian acanthus ornament, which the Scandinavians adapted to their own taste, sometimes introducing animal motifs.

Besides elaborate silver and copper alloy brooches with relief ornament, cheaper and more numerous examples were produced in copper alloy with debased ornament, still ultimately deriving from plant motifs. Some have only cast linear ornament imitating relief, such as those from Harling, Bircham and Carlton Colville described above. Further down the scale still were pewter trefoil brooches, mass-produced in antler moulds: both the brooches and the moulds have been found at Hedeby (Graham-Campbell 1980, cat. no. 129; Capelle 1968, 71-3, pl. 23 nos. 1, 3 and 4).

The new finds from East Anglia are crude but close parallels exist in Denmark. The stylised plant ornament on the Harling brooch resembles that on a pair of trefoil brooches from Hedeby (Capelle 1968, pl. 4 nos. 3 and 4), and of the three under discussion its decoration is probably closest to the plant ornament of its Frankish prototypes. That on the Bircham brooch is a more stylised version of the same motif. The plant ornament on both the Harling and the Bircham brooches is a variation of a stylised single acanthus leaf. By contrast the even more debased ornament on the Carlton Colville brooch derives from a motif with a central stem and branching foliage (Capelle 1968, pl. 4 nos. 5 and 6).

The loop (now only its attachment survives) on the reverse of the Carlton Colville brooch was probably for the suspension of a decorative pendant. There are the remains of a loop on a copper alloy trefoil brooch from Norway (Graham-Campbell 1980, cat. no. 128), and on the beautiful and elaborate silver-gilt trefoil brooch from Mosnaes in Norway, with its filigree and niello ornament (Graham-Campbell 1980, cat. no. 438). There are no traces of a loop on the Harling and Bircham examples.

The distribution of trefoil brooches lies within the Danelaw. Another copper alloy trefoil brooch was found at Lakenheath Warren in Suffolk, decorated with animal-masks in relief at the junction of the arms, and spiral ornament on the arms (Shetelig 1940, fig. 28, Roesdahl *et al* 1981, cat. no. E.29). There is now clear evidence for the manufacture of trefoil brooches in the Danelaw: a fragment of a clay mould for a trefoil brooch was found at York (Graham-Campbell 1980, cat. no. 437; Roesdahl *et al* 1981, cat. no. YMW 14; now in the Yorkshire Museum). The mould also demonstrates that high quality brooches of this type were produced in the Danelaw even though none has been found there. The mould fragment has Borre-style animal-masks as well as birds or winged beasts of a type familiar from Anglo-Saxon sculpture. This fusion of Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon traditions reflects other evidence of Viking settlement in Yorkshire. Partly as a result of this find, it has been suggested that the fine Mosnaes trefoil brooch mentioned above was produced in York, or by craftsmen trained there.

These latest finds from Norfolk and Suffolk are some of the clearest artefactual evidence for the presence of the Vikings in East Anglia. We know that trefoil brooches were in fashion in Scandinavia from the late 9th century to the second half of the 10th century when they died out along with oval brooches. Whether brought over by settlers, or produced in the Danelaw by Scandinavian craftsmen, the brooches reflect the close association between Denmark and East Anglia in the years following Guthrum's settlement which began in 878, an association that is emphasised by the parallels from Hedeby.

Sue Margeson

Capelle, T.	1968	<i>Der Metallschmuck von Haithabu</i> Neumünster
Graham-Campbell, J.	1980	<i>Viking Artefacts. A Select Catalogue.</i> London
Roesdahl, E. <i>et al</i>	1981	<i>The Vikings in England.</i> London
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I am grateful to Mr. Robert Trett of King's Lynn Museum for the details of the Bircham brooch.

LATE SAXON SWORD

An iron two-edged sword with decorated pommel and curved guard in remarkably fine condition but broken in two pieces was found in river dredgings in the parish of Weeting-with-Bromehill in about 1977, and brought in to the Castle Museum Norwich for identification some two years later. Mr. Tom Adams has since very generously presented it to the Museum. (NCM 420.981).

Description

Fig. 2

The trilobate pommel is decorated with bands of copper, gilded and incised with transverse lines to imitate twisted wire. From X-rays it has been possible to see that the pommel was attached by riveting the end of the tang over the pommel knop. Two iron beaded bands survive at each end of the hilt, one attached to the underside of the pommel-bar, and the other to the top of the guard.

The blade is pattern-welded, and the condition of the blade is good enough to see in places the herring-bone pattern characteristic of this process, by which a number of bands of iron are twisted together and then forged for added strength. Length 875mm.

Length of guard 87mm.

Discussion

The form of the pommel and the curved guard are distinctive of Late Saxon swords but in the absence of any decorative hilt-bands or plates it is difficult to date precisely. It might be 9th or 10th century, on the basis of comparison with the hilt structure and decoration of the pommel on the 9th century sword from the river Wensum in Norwich (Wilson 1965, 40-41), and the hilt of the 10th century Gooderstone sword which has a silver beaded band at its base (NCM 11.958; Wilson 1965, 35-6).

The blade was found bent just below the guard almost to a right-angle, and it fractured when pulled from the mud. It may have been bent during the dredging but it is also conceivable that the blade had been deliberately bent before deposition in order to ritually 'kill' it, a custom known from Viking graves (Wilson 1965, 35).

It is of interest that the sword was found in river dredgings because many Saxon swords have turned up in rivers. Because of the numbers involved it is unlikely that they were casual losses and it is assumed that they were thrown to the river as an offering, a sacrificial custom of which no contemporary record survives (Wilson 1965, 50-51).

Sue Margeson

Wilson, D. M.

1965

'Some neglected late Anglo-Saxon swords', *Medieval Archaeology* vol. IX, 1965, 32-54.

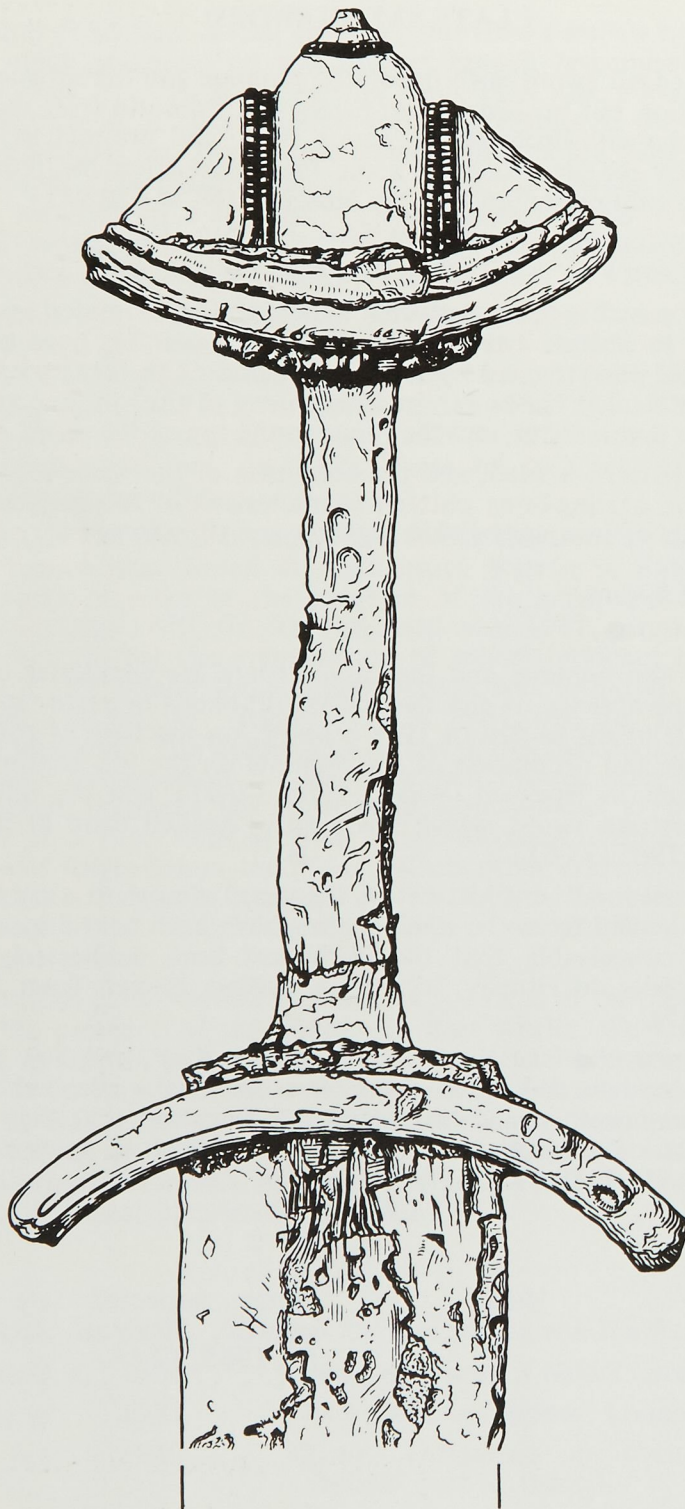


Fig. 2
Sword from Weeting-with-Bromehill. Scale 1:1.
Drawing by Rizard Hadjul, Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

AN INSCRIBED STONE FROM THE LYNN BLACKFRIARS' SITE (Fig. 3)

The construction of a new telephone exchange at King's Lynn began in 1980, on a site known to have been occupied until the Dissolution by the Dominican Friary. After the Dissolution the ground was used mainly for pasture, and was subject to little disturbance until 1840-50. The buildings had by then disappeared with the exception of the cloister quadrangle, which formed a kind of enclosed yard, the gatehouse to the west, which had become a dwelling house, and, to judge from 19th century references,¹ apparently another small entrance somewhere to the south, on the later Blackfriars Street.

In 1840-50 this site was developed and large numbers of skeletons and coffins were found, together with the magnificent cemetery cross which now stands under Greyfriars Tower in Lynn, and was published by E. M. Beloe.² The area was henceforth accepted as the Blackfriars' cemetery, and the telephone exchange site covers part of the same. The skeletal remains of some seventeen individuals, three in coffins, were found during the excavation of trenches; many exhibit interesting medical features. Foundations next to the road on the south side perhaps belonged to the above possible southern entrance, which may thus have led directly into the cemetery. The only other foundation traced was a massive one of brick which appeared briefly in a pile boring and is believed to have belonged to the cloister.

In the cemetery areas was found the inscribed stone illustrated. The slab is a bluish grey, close-textured stone, with two lines of inscription in Lombardic letters. The inscription seems to have been composed of two lines only, which read (missing letters restored):

Orate:pRO:ANIMA
 I:DE:GOVSLE



Inscribed stone from site of
 Dominican friary, Kings Lynn

Fig. 3

This name, written variously as de Gousele and de Gouxle, was certainly current in Lynn in the 14th century. Alan de Lindesey, burgess, sold to William de Gousele, farrier of Lenn, the liberty of a passage or ferry-boat over the water of Lenn in 1300.³ Other references occur in the Red Register of Lynn. In 1333 Lynn equipped a ship for Edward III, to be sent against the Scots; in the list of contributions in the Register we find that Robert de Gousele gave a 'haketon' (acton) worth five shillings, and Walter de Gouxle contributed a basinet worth three shillings.⁴

In 1338 a Robert appeared in the will of John de Cranwich, as a neighbour of his tenement in the *vicus ferriarorum* south of the Tuesday Market Place. This perhaps suggests that Robert, too, may have been a farrier or smith. Cranwich himself willed to be buried in the Blackfriars' church, where his brother was a friar.⁵

A Robert de Gousele made his own will in 1341, ten days before his death. He desired, however, to be buried in the cemetery of St. James', so the Blackfriars stone is unlikely to be his. The description of his tenement does not tally with that mentioned above, as it apparently stood south of the 'great bank of Lynn' (*magnam ripam Lenne*), so the former may be another Robert, perhaps the one called 'son' in the latter's will. Walter de Gousele, presumably the donor of the basinet to the ship, was left two shillings and was described as a 'cutter' (*cissori*), which may indicate a tailor or a stone-cutter. Walter's sons, John and Humphrey, were also left two shillings apiece and John, in addition, received a 'green robe with a collar'.⁶

The Christian name on the stone displays a genitive case ending in 'I' which should disqualify John from being its owner. Assuming that the second line of the inscription began immediately below the 'O' of the speculated 'Orate', we may estimate perhaps five letters before the 'I'. If so, of the known male Gouseles, Humphrey (Umfridi), with six letters before the 'I' but one a narrow one, perhaps fits the gap best, but this is speculation. We do not know where Robert the younger, Walter, Humphrey or John, or the earlier William, wished to be buried, and there were, perhaps, other male members of the family who are unrecorded.

As discovered, the stone was in two pieces. Unfortunately the smaller piece, containing the lower half of the 'I', was accidentally lost on site, soon after discovery; it is recorded on photographs. The larger fragment has been carefully preserved and has been built into the foyer hall of the new telephone exchange.

Elizabeth M. James

¹Memories of Lynn by William Armes, in the *Lynn News and Advertiser* in 1864 and Hillen's *History of Lynn* p. 655. The exact site is unidentified however.

²*A Cemetery Cross of the Blackfriars at Lynn*, by E. M. Beloe. Norwich 1884.

³Hillen p. 681 and Blomefield Vol. viii p. 534.

⁴*Red Register* Folio 63 and 63d.

⁵*Red Register* Folio 54.

⁶*Red Register* Folio 77.

Other sculpted stone fragments found, with the cemetery cross, in 1840-50 and the skeletal material and a small group of other finds from the work in 1980 are at King's Lynn Museum.

AN UNFINISHED MEDIEVAL WELL AND ITS CONTENTS AT BOWTHORPE

The well

The well (Co. no. 15296) was discovered in September 1979 during mechanical topsoil stripping for a new road at TG 17688 09475, *c.* 400 m N of Bowthorpe church. Its surviving top lay 0.45 m below ground level which lies at 23.25 m O.D. The well was constructed of flint nodules set in off-white mortar and internally rendered with an almost white mortar. The walls were 0.28 m thick, and the internal diameter was 1.25 m. The base of the wall lay 1.8 m below the top and was perfectly level except for a jagged hole 0.4 m wide and 0.2 m high which had been knocked out on the north side.

The filling of the shaft (context 2), a brown sandy loam with dark charcoal-bearing patches, occasional flint nodules and lumps of chalky clay had been manually removed to 1.45 m by contractors before Andrew Rogerson's arrival, but it had apparently been uniform. All the finds ascribed to context 2, pottery, brick, animal bone and shell are without doubt from this filling. Below 2, context 3 consisted of similar soil and extended to the base of the wall and to 2 m near the centre. Below 3 a quadrant on the north side was dug to natural sand at 2.58 m near the centre. The filling, brown loamy sand with no finds except lenses of mortar similar to the internal rendering, appeared to be within a feature extending down from the base of the wall, with an inverted cone-shaped profile. There was no sign of a wooden raft beneath the wall.

The well was clearly unfinished, probably for one of two reasons. It may have failed to drop down because it had stuck, the internal surface of the masonry was vertical except on the south-west side where it was 8 cm out of true. An attempt to unstick it might explain the lump knocked out of the base. However, it may have been abandoned because there was no sign of water at 3.03 m below the ground surface. In this area the water table is normally at a depth of *c.* 15-18 m, but recent construction work in the vicinity of the well has encountered localised areas with a perched water table at a depth of *c.* 3 m. The medieval well builders may have been aiming at such a shallow deposit and have abandoned the work when there was no sign of water.

To the west of the well along the stripped road line a spread of flint, mortar and late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was probably a continuation of a scatter of medieval pottery and bricks, mortared flints, and chalky clay soil marks recorded by Keith Wade in 1964 (Co. No. 9312). The site lies just south of an east-west Roman road and must form part of the deserted village of Bowthorpe whose church was destitute of parishioners in 1522 (Allison 1955, 144). However, the stone well and probable masonry buildings close by imply inhabitants of greater wealth than might be expected of the normal late medieval peasant.

The pottery (Fig. 4)

- No. 1 Jug minus rim and handle. Sandy fabric, pale grey core with buff surfaces, green glaze over most of exterior. Grimston-type ware (cf. Jennings 1981, no. 382). Context 2.
- No. 2 Lower part of jug with handle scar. Pale red fabric with discontinuous grey core, occasional white inclusions. Patch of greenish brown glaze on uppermost part. The exterior is very roughly finished and the whole is distorted apparently by the application of the handle. Grimston-type ware. Context 2.

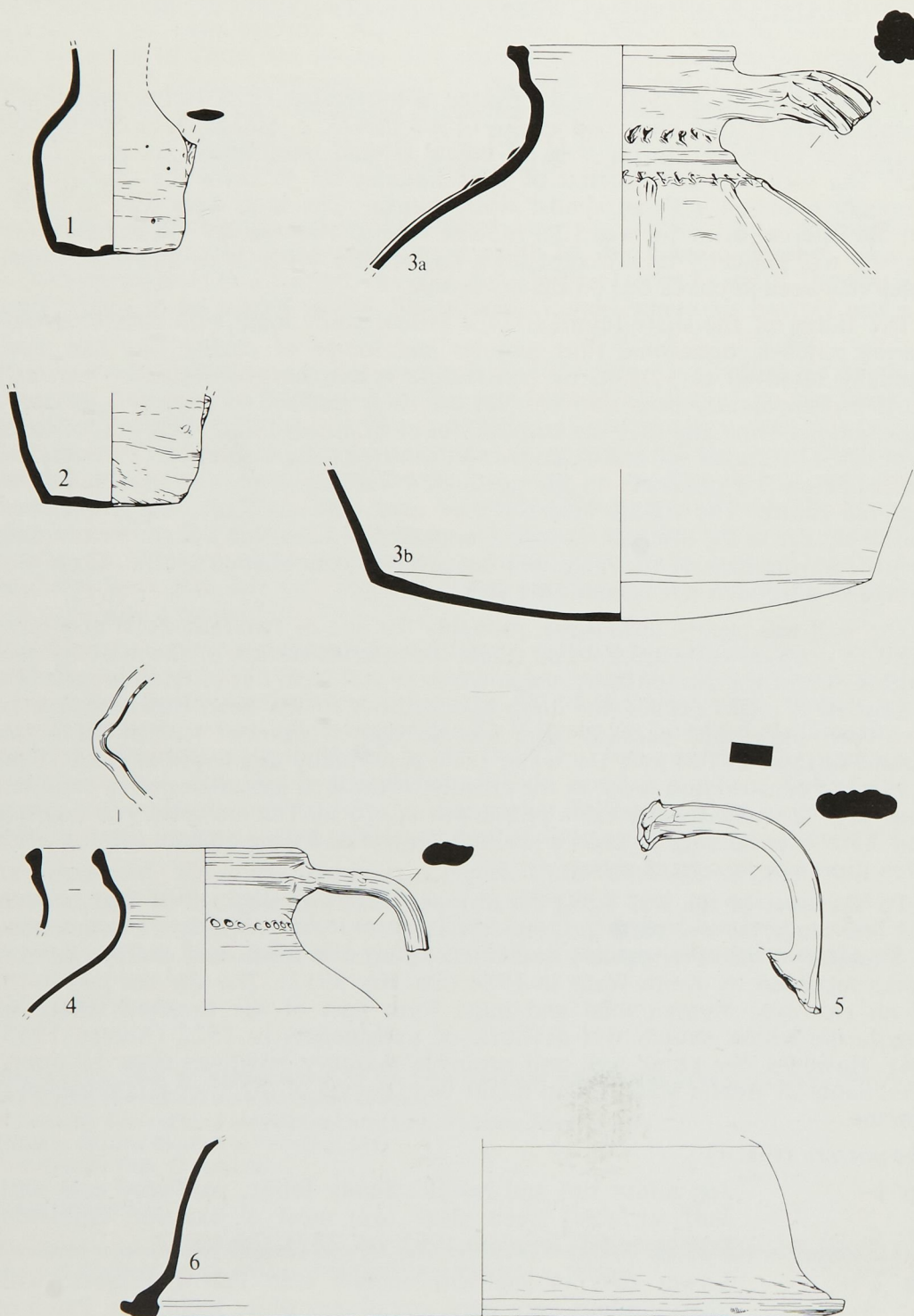


Fig. 4
An unfinished well at Bowthorpe: the pottery. Scale 1/4.

Fragments of five other glazed pots including a thumbled base were found in context 2 and a strap handle in context 3.

- No. 3a and b Jug, grey sandy fabric with dark grey patches on exterior. Stabbed decoration and applied strips. No surviving evidence of pouring lip. Only the rim is wheel-made. Context 2.
- No. 4 Jug, grey slightly micaceous fabric with very occasional brown and white inclusions. Dark grey exterior. Impressed decoration. Context 2 and 3.
- No. 5 Jug handle, fabric as No. 3. Context 2.
- No. 6 Bowl used as a curfew, reddish brown gritty fabric with brown surfaces, sooted interior. Context 2 and 3.

Five cooking pot body sherds representing four pots were found in context 2 and 3.

Pottery from disturbed soil around the well (context 1) was predominantly Late Medieval and Transitional Ware (Jennings 1981, 61) and the following Norwich types were included: 396 (pancheon), 413 (bowl), 421 (jar), 429, 431 and 433 (pipkins).

Discussion of the pottery

The large number of joining sherds and the uniformity of filling suggest that contexts 2 and 3 must have accumulated fairly rapidly; indeed an unwanted well might be expected to be refilled hastily. Although there is no external dating evidence, a date range may be proposed. An absence of decorated glazed jugs and a scarcity of normal medieval unglazed cooking pots might suggest a date after *c.* 1350 as do the baggy profiles of the jugs (Clarke and Carter 1977, 200; Jennings 1981, 50) while the virtual absence of Late Medieval and Transitional ware (there is one body sherd from context 2) puts the group some time before *c.* 1450.

A date of *c.* 1350 – *c.* 1400 for the production of unglazed jugs (nos. 3-5) is perhaps more odd than the 13th century date suggested by Jennings (1981, 48) although the *raison d'être* of such vessels in the face of glazed competition is hard to explain anyway. This difficulty decreases with the fact that most medieval jugs were glazed externally, so that the disparity between glazed and unglazed vessels is more aesthetic than practical. Perhaps the period concerned saw a shortfall in the availability of glazed jugs. Examples generally similar in fabric and form were found in the Happisburgh well (Larwood 1951) and numerous parallels are held by Norwich Castle Museum from sites in east and north-east Norfolk (for example Bawburgh, Felthorpe, Clippesby, Fleggburgh, Hunworth, Little Barningham, Marsham and Waxham).

Sherds of unglazed jugs including some with stabbed decoration on the shoulder above vertically applied strips are amongst material from unpublished small-scale excavations in 1960 on the pottery production site at Woodbastwick. Unglazed jug fragments occur in lamentably small surface collections from a probable kiln site at Potter Heigham and include twisted handle fragments.

Andrew Rogerson and Steven J. Ashley

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