

Bacton to Kings Lynn pipeline (BKL02): post-Roman pottery

Sue Anderson, September 2006. Final report for publication. Revised Sept 2009.

Introduction

A total of 6290 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 42,116g was collected from sites along the route. Table 1 shows the quantification by site and period, from west to east.

Plot	Parish	ESax	MSax	LSax	Med	LMed	PMed	Mod	Unid	Total
1/251	East Walton	1			1					2
1/252	East Walton	1								1
1/253	East Walton	10								10
2/249	East Walton	1								1
6/226	Rougham	2		5	8					15
6/228	Rougham	1								1
7/223	Rougham	2			1					3
10/210	Litcham	1								1
10/213A	Litcham	1								1
13/202	Tittleshall	714	2	3	9					728
22/148	Bintree	4		9	642	20		17	2	694
24/139	Foulsham				1					1
24/144	Foulsham	300		4						304
25/136-8	Foulsham	23			640					663
27/128	Themelthorpe			1	868		2			871
28/118	Wood Dalling				1					1
28/119	Wood Dalling			37	374				1	412
28/120	Wood Dalling		1							1
30/115	Wood Dalling				1					1
30/116	Wood Dalling				1					1
31/114	Wood Dalling			2	10					12
36/97	Irmingland	11			3					14
37/92	Itteringham				3					3
38/90	Itteringham			13	486	3	1			503
39/74	Erpingham				1					1
39/77	Erpingham				1					1
39/78	Erpingham				5					5
39/84A	Itteringham			6	950	9	1		2	968
39/88	Itteringham				2					2
39/88B	Itteringham			48	166					214
39/89	Itteringham			7	31			1	2	41
43/58	Colby				2					2
44/48	Suffield			5	16		1			22
44/52	Colby				3		1	1		5
45/43	Antingham					1				1
45/44	Suffield				1		1			2
45/45	Suffield				4	1		6		11
45/46	Suffield				1					1
46/38	Antingham				1			2		3
47/34	N Walsham			6	519	37			3	565
49/28A	Swafield				15	1	2			18
50/26	Swafield		1	3	162					166
50/28A	Swafield	1			5	1				7
51/23	Swafield				5		1		1	7
52/20	Swafield				3					3
54/12	Knapton				1					1
Total		1084	4	149	4943	73	10	27	11	6290

Table 1. Pottery quantification by site and period.

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel

equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in 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. A x20 microscope was used for fabric identification and characterisation. Form terminology for Early Saxon pottery follows Myres (1977) and Hamerow (1993), and for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). Thetford-type ware rim forms are based on Anderson (2004). Rim types for medieval coarsewares are those used for Dragon Hall, Norwich (Anderson 2005), a modified typology based on the original jar form divisions for LMU and comparable rim types from Norwich (Jennings 1981). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access 97 database.

Condition

The pottery from these sites was generally in poor condition and heavily abraded, although average sherd weights were not particularly low. Table 2 shows the percentages of abraded sherds (based on MNV) for the larger assemblages, together with average sherd weights.

<u>Plot</u>	<u>% abrasion</u>	<u>Ave sherd wt/g</u>
13/202	50.1	8.7
22/148	14.9	8.1
24/144	40.0	7.7
25/136-138	31.1	6.1
27/128	28.3	7.3
28/119	49.3	6.0
38/90	63.5	5.7
39/84A	49.8	5.2
39/88B	47.3	4.3
39/89	77.8	5.3
44/48	41.2	5.8
47/34	55.1	6.5
50/26	63.5	5.1

Table 2. Abrasion and average sherd weights.

Fabrics

Early Saxon (5th-7th c.)

Sixteen generic fabric groups were distinguished on the basis of major inclusions. However, it should be noted that, as with all handmade pottery, fabrics were extremely variable even within single vessels and categorisation was often difficult. Background scatters of flint, grog, white mica and other less common inclusions, such as feldspar and ferrous pieces, were present in many of the fabrics. All Saxon wares were handmade, and colours varied throughout from black through grey, buff and brown to red, often within single vessels. General fabric descriptions are listed below.

ESHW	Early Saxon handmade wares. Indeterminate fabric due to small size of sherd.
ESO1	Organic. Heavily grass tempered with few other inclusions.
ESO2	Organic and sand. Grass tempered but containing a much greater proportion of sand than ESO1.
ESCQ	Coarse quartz. Coarse quartz tempering; generally moderate or abundant large grains of sub-rounded quartz in a finer sandy matrix, often poorly sorted.
ESMS	Medium sandy. Medium sand tempering with few other inclusions, sand grains generally well-

	sorted.
ESFS	Fine sand. Fine sand tempering with few other inclusions.
ESSM	Fine sand and mica. Sand and abundant white mica, generally very fine.
ESFQ	Fine abundant quartz. Abundant fine to medium uncoloured quartz with few other inclusions.
ESQZ	Coarse angular quartz. Common to abundant white quartz/chert.
ESGS	Grog and sand. Grog and sand tempering, grog usually red and very coarse.
ESGO	Grog and organic. Red grog with common grass/chaff.
ESSS	Early Saxon sparse shelly. Sparse to moderate fine shell and sand tempering, shell sometimes leached out.
ESCS	Coarse shelly, Coarse shell tempering with few other inclusions.
ESCF	'Charnwood Forest' granitic. Moderate to common granitic inclusions (felspar, gold mica).
ESOM	Organic, sand and gold mica. Granitic tempering with organic inclusions.
ESGG	Grog and granitic. Sparse granitic inclusions with red grog.
ESFF	Fine flint. Unburnt fine flint/chert inclusions.

Many sites in East Anglia and the Midlands have produced similar fabric groups, although they occur in different proportions. This assemblage did not include any sandstone / 'sand conglomerate' or limestone-tempered fabrics which are relatively common further north and west, however. Both occurred at Spong Hill (Brisbane 1984).

In general, fine to coarse quartz-tempered pottery tends to be the most common fabric group at sites in East Anglia, although in the later Early Saxon period these appear to have been replaced to some extent by grass-tempered pottery. Organic-tempering is thought to be a late Early Saxon development in Essex (Hamerow 1993, 31), Suffolk (K. Wade, pers. comm.) and Northampton (Denham 1985). A decrease in calcareous wares was noted at Mucking after the 6th century. However, in the Midlands, shelly wares appear to have increased in the later period and were eventually superseded by Maxey-type wares in the late 7th century.

Middle Saxon (L. 7th-9th c.)

Both main types of Ipswich Ware, described as 'gritty' and 'sandy' were present in this assemblage. Ipswich Ware fabrics are described by Hurst (1957).

Late Saxon (10th-11th c.)

Three main fabric groups were used for Late Saxon pottery. Thetford-type ware has been described by Dallas (1984), but no attempt has been made to divide the fabrics into fine, smooth, medium and coarse for this assemblage. However, the fabrics were varied, the most common types being fine to medium black wares and coarser pale grey wares which could easily be mistaken for medieval coarsewares if body sherds alone were present. Grimston Thetford-type ware is described by Little (1994). St. Neot's Ware is described by Hurst (1956).

Medieval (11th-14th c.)

Early medieval wares (EMW) are included with this group because handmade wares continued to be made into the 13th century in rural parts of East Anglia.

Several coarsewares were identifiable, although it was clear that most contained a similar range of inclusions. The fabrics, listed below, were therefore distinguished largely on the basis of coarseness and abundance of inclusions.

EMW	Fine sandy ware with common white quartz sand. Generally fully reduced to black, but some sherds partially oxidised to brown and a lighter grey internally. Most sherds were the typical thin-walled handmade ware which is commonly found in Norwich.
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- MCW1 Fine sandy ware with abundant fine sand grains which appear darker than the generally pale grey/buff clay matrix, and moderate to common mica. The sherds are sometimes darker (grey/black) on the outer surface, and occasionally oxidised to a deep red. The less common inclusions consist of clay lenses in the same colour or slightly darker than the matrix, fine calcareous material, fine ferrous oxide, and white and red coarse quartz. This fabric is very similar to East Suffolk wares such as Hollesley Ware and a Hollesely-type coarseware from Stowmarket (Anderson 2004a) which may have been made in the NE of the county. Some sherds, particularly those which had been fired to the less common colours (red, black) appeared handmade, but the majority of vessels in this fabric were wheelmade and likely to be 13th/14th century in date.
- MCW2 Finer, less sandy, matrix and abundant mica. Usually mid to dark grey. Probably a micaceous version of LMU (see below).
- MCW3 Medium sandy dark grey ware, generally with differently coloured margins (buff, red, brown or grey) and darker surfaces, although some sherds are fully oxidised or reduced. Most sherds contained occasional coarse fragments of flint and chalk. Some sherds were similar to early medieval sandwich ware (EMSW), a type which is contemporary with 11th-century Thetford-type ware in Norwich. Most body and base sherds in this fabric were handmade, but the rims were wheelmade, a technique which appears to have been commonly used at rural production sites in East Anglia from the 11th to the 13th centuries. Examples include Blackborough End, near Kings Lynn (Rogerson and Ashley 1985) and Melton, near Woodbridge (Anderson and Newman 1999).
- MCW4 Fine greyware, similar to MCW1, but again with less prevalent quartz grains and not micaceous. 13th/14th centuries?
- MCW5 Fine sandy greyware with sparse poorly sorted medium to large quartz grains and occasional red ferrous oxide, generally soft and sometimes oxidised (core and/or surfaces).
- MCW6 A coarser, and generally harder, version of MCW1, containing abundant medium rounded quartz sand grains, laminated fracture, colours variable.
- MCW7 Fine to medium greyware with large white clay lenses and common coarse ferrous inclusions, some mica. Generally soft.
- LMU Fine sandy with sparse mica, generally pale grey with one darker surface, but occasionally oxidised. The typical Norwich medieval coarseware.
- MSHW Abundant shell in a dark grey/black clay matrix. Only one vessel was present.
- ELCW A medium sandy greyware with oxidised outer surface and common calcareous inclusions. This fabric is similar to pottery made in the Fenlands of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, although a more local origin is possible. Only one sherd was present.
- GRIM Medium to dark grey internally with light grey or orange external margin and surface. Common medium-coarse quartz sand (clear and white), moderate ferrous inclusions (small-medium) and occasional calcareous fragments. Some sherds have sparse burnt-out organic inclusions. The fabric is similar to Grimston Ware in terms of overall appearance, but is not quite the same as examples from Kings Lynn and Norwich. There is a possibility that post-depositional processes, which have affected much of this pottery assemblage very badly, may have changed the external appearance of those sherds which appear less typical of the ware. However, the resemblance of some sherds to the local coarsewares suggests that they were probably made at the same production site.

It should be noted that whilst many sherds were very distinctive and could easily be fitted into the fabric scheme outlined above, the attribution of some of the more abraded and smaller examples was not easy due to the overall similarity of inclusions. Abrasion was also a factor as it had removed the surfaces of many sherds, thus altering their appearance. There was a clear continuum between the finest LMU fabrics, through the fine MCW2 and MCW4, to MCW1, MCW5 and MCW6, with MCW3 being the coarsest and most frequently handmade type. Separation of the types within each assemblage was therefore relatively subjective.

Late medieval (L. 14th-16th c.)

Late medieval pottery was not common on any of the sites, but the following fabrics were present.

LMT	Late medieval and transitional. Described by Jennings (1981) and in more detail in Anderson et al. (1996).
GRIL	Late Grimston-type ware. Same fabric as GRIM, but more commonly oxidised on both surfaces and sometimes glazed internally. Identification based more on forms than fabric.
GSW1	Siegburg stoneware. As described by Jennings (1981).
GSW2	Langerwehe stoneware. As described by Jennings (1981).
GSW3	Raeran/Aachen stoneware. As described by Jennings (1981).
DUTR	Dutch-type redwares. As described by Jennings (1981).

Post-medieval and modern (16th-20th c.)

A very small quantity of post-medieval pottery was collected, generally from topsoil. The following fabric definitions were used.

PMRW	Post-medieval red wares. Generic fabric group for unglazed red earthenwares.
GRE	Glazed red earthenware. As described by Jennings (1981).
STAF	Staffordshire-type slipware. As described by Jennings (1981).
GSW4	Cologne/Frechen stoneware. As described by Jennings (1981).
GSW5	Westerwald stoneware. As described by Jennings (1981).
REFW	Refined white earthenwares. Includes creamware, pearlware, ironstone, transfer-printed wares.
REFR	Refined red earthenwares. Generally dark brown or black-glazed redwares of 19th/20th c.
PORC	Porcelain.
BLSW	Black stonewares and basaltes.

Pottery by site

The major assemblages of post-Roman pottery are presented here, running from west to east. The smaller sites are then described in brief.

Plot 13/202: Mileham Road, Tittleshall (37746/37622 TTL)

Introduction

A total of 728 sherds of pottery weighing 6316g was collected from 30 contexts in plot 13/202. Table 3 shows the quantification by fabric.

Pottery by period

Early Saxon

The majority of pottery in this group was medium sandy with few other inclusions beyond the normal background scatter. Organic inclusions formed the second largest group, suggesting continuation into the 7th century. It is likely that some of the plain sandy wares, the coarse angular quartz and fine flint fabrics belong to a different period of site use. They may represent an Early Saxon domestic group which pre-dated the cemetery, but they could also represent Iron Age activity. The difficulties of distinguishing the pottery of these two periods are well known in East Anglia. Whilst the well-fired, hard fabrics from this site appear more Saxon than prehistoric, some of the forms present could belong to either period, and flint/chert would be an unusual choice of Saxon temper in this region. Although the material has been included in this assemblage for discussion, uncertainty remains about the dating of sherds from non-funerary contexts.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Early Saxon grass tempered	ESO1	2.01	135	18.9	785	12.7	0.11
Early Saxon grass and sand	ESO2	2.02	112	15.7	1739	28.1	2.40
Early Saxon coarse quartz	ESCQ	2.03	1	0.1	4	0.1	
Early Saxon fine sand	ESFS	2.04	49	6.9	735	11.9	0.27
Early Saxon sparse shelly	ESSS	2.07	6	0.8	41	0.7	
Early Saxon fine sand and mica	ESSM	2.08	17	2.4	108	1.7	0.04
Early Saxon coarse shelly	ESCS	2.09	16	2.2	128	2.1	
Early Saxon granitic	ESCF	2.10	59	8.3	110	1.8	
Early Saxon granitic and organic	ESOM	2.11	23	3.2	172	2.8	
Early Saxon coarse angular quartz	ESQZ	2.12	30	4.2	225	3.6	0.03
Early Saxon medium sandy	ESMS	2.22	237	33.2	1872	30.2	0.60
Early Saxon fine flint	ESFF	2.23	18	2.5	222	3.6	0.22
Early Saxon fine abundant quartz	ESFQ	2.24	11	1.5	54	0.9	
<i>Total Early Saxon</i>			<i>714</i>	<i>98.1</i>	<i>6195</i>	<i>98.1</i>	<i>3.67</i>
Gritty Ipswich Ware	GIPS	2.31	1	50.0	28	66.7	
Sandy Ipswich Ware	SIPS	2.32	1	50.0	14	33.3	
<i>Total Middle Saxon</i>			<i>2</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>0.7</i>	
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	2	66.7	14	93.3	
St. Neot's Ware	STNE	2.70	1	33.3	1	6.7	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			<i>3</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0.2</i>	
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	1	11.1	6	9.4	0.07
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	3	33.3	9	14.1	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	2	22.2	9	14.1	
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	1	11.1	27	42.2	0.08
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	1	11.1	8	12.5	0.06
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	1	11.1	5	7.8	
<i>Total medieval</i>			<i>9</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.21</i>
Total			728		6316		3.88

Table 3. Pottery quantification by fabric.

The MNV for this group was 186, but this was not evenly distributed through the fabrics – for example ESMS produced a total of 126, whilst ESO1 and ESO2 had MNVs of seven each. A few cross-matches were identified within and between contexts in the Period 7 and Unphased pit groups. Only thirteen vessels were identifiable to form. A possible biconical vessel with an everted squared rim was found in pit fills 13056 and 13031; this vessel may be 5th-century or Iron Age. There were two sub-biconical jars (Figs **.1-2; Graves 13125 and 13077), one of which was decorated with incised lines and stamps, and another vessel with a short rim (Fig. **.6; 13254) which may have been this shape; these probably belonged to the 6th century. Five baggy vessels, including a small thumb-pot and a straight-sided bowl, were associated with the cemetery (Figs **.3-5 and 11; Graves 13067 and 13277 and layer 13033) and a cremation burial (13305) and are likely to be later 6th or 7th-century in date. A carinated bowl from pit fill 13024 was tempered with coarse angular quartz/chert and may be of 5th-century or Iron Age date (Fig. **.7). A body sherd from a tall sub-biconical vessel was also found in pit fill 13024. A slightly shouldered jar with everted rim from pit fill 13058 was also of uncertain date (Fig. **.8). A flaring-sided bowl from pit 13021 had been made from the base of a broken large vessel, the broken edge having been rubbed to form a rounded rim (Fig. **.9). A body sherd from pit fill 13031 was part of a globular vessel with an offset shoulder, possibly tapering down to a footring base, again of uncertain period. Three upright plain rims from vessels of uncertain form were also present, and there was a complete base from cremation burial 13106. Where measurable, rims varied in diameter from 60mm (the thumb-pot) to 200mm, but most were in the range 100-150mm. Bases were generally flat or flat-rounded, but one footring base was present.

Apart from the highly decorated vessel in Grave 13125, very few vessels were

decorated. Three sherds showed partial decoration in the form of a deep curving groove which may have delineated a boss; they were from pit fills 13016, 13031 and 13032. This type of decoration can be paralleled in the 5th century (cf Myres 1977 Group II, Fig 181 No 2086) but is not a common Saxon decorative technique. Other decoration included a sherd with deep horizontal corrugations (pit fill 13058), two sherds with possible stab rustication (pit fill 13058), a possible vertical boss (pit fill 13058), three sherds with shallow incised horizontal lines (pit fills 13058, 13059), one with finger nail impressions (pit fill 13056), and a small sherd with S-stamps and incised lines (topsoil 13000). Many sherds showed signs of smoothing, burnishing or gras-wiping during manufacture, but some had been heavily worn on the outer surface during use. Only eleven were sooted.

Middle Saxon to medieval

Two sherds of Ipswich Ware, one gritty and one smooth, were collected from topsoil.

Two sherds of possible Thetford-type ware were found. One was from pit fill 13002 but was in association with Early Saxon sherds and could simply be an overfired pot of the same period. The other, together with a tiny sherd of possible St Neot's Ware, was from topsoil.

Medieval pottery was all recovered from the topsoil with the exception of one heavily abraded base sherd from the upper fill of grave 13129. The sherds included a bowl rim in Grimston-type coarseware and an SEV2 jar rim in LMU.

Illustrated vessels

1. ESO2 sub-biconical jar. Partially oxidised brown externally, outer surface worn at carination. Upper half decorated with lines of stamps, lower half has chevrons containing stamps, but very faintly impressed. Grave 13125, SF 70497.
2. ESFS sub-biconical jar with short vertical rim. Black, burnished around carination with some sooting. Also contains occasional burnt-out organics and flint. Grave 13077, SF 70478.
3. ESO2 baggy jar with short everted rim. Sooted, cracked and spalled in use. Grey-brown surfaces. Grave 13067, SF 70475.
4. ESO2 thumb pot. Red-brown externally and dark grey internally, poorly made, rim underfired. Contains occasional flint. Grave 13277, SF 70529.
5. ESO2 baggy jar with vertical rim and footring base. Grey-black surfaces, smoothed externally. Layer 13033, SF 70547.
6. ESMS ?sub-biconical jar, very short vertical rim. Fully oxidised orange, smoothed. Ring ditch fill 13254.
7. ESQZ carinated bowl, high shoulder, probable short vertical rim. Contains some calcareous inclusions. Pit fill 13024.
8. ESFS ?jar with slightly everted rim, slightly shouldered. Micaceous, dark brown. Pit fill 13058.
9. ESFF bowl made from broken larger vessel, 'rim' rubbed smooth, flat base. Brown-red. Pit 13021.
10. ESMS decorated body sherds with stab marks. Brown. Pit fill 13058.
11. ESMS straight-sided bowl. Black to reddish-brown. Layer 13033, SF 70463.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 4. The majority of this assemblage was recovered from Period 7, the Early Saxon cemetery and associated features.

Fabric	Period 1	Period 2-7	Period 2/3	Period 7	Period 11	Unphased
ESO1				129	3	3
ESO2				98	14	
ESCQ				1		
ESFS				43	2	4
ESSS					6	
ESSM				17		
ESCS				7		9
ESCF				57	2	
ESOM				23		
ESQZ				15	7	8
ESMS	1	6	1	121	59	49
ESFF				4		14
ESFQ				5	5	1
GIPS					1	
SIPS					1	
THET					1	1
STNE					1	
EMW				1		
MCW1				1	2	
MCW3				2		
GRCW					1	
LMU					1	
GRIM					1	
Total	1	6	1	524	107	89

Table 4. Pottery types present by phase (sherd count).

Period 1 – Earlier Neolithic

Only one sherd was collected from this period, a handmade medium sandy ware. Whilst this may be of Early Saxon, or possibly early medieval, date, it seems unlikely to be intrusive in the lower fill of this feature and could well be prehistoric.

Periods 2 & 3 – Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age

One large rim sherd of an Early Saxon ?sub-biconical jar was recovered from the ring-ditch and is assumed to be intrusive.

Period 7 – Early Saxon

Five-hundred-and-twenty sherds of Early Saxon pottery and four intrusive medieval coarseware sherds were recovered from features assigned to this phase. The majority were fragments of near-complete vessels found in graves and a cremation pit. Table 5 summarises the pottery from these features.

Pottery from the eastern pit groups is of uncertain date; although it has been recorded as Early Saxon, several of the fabrics and forms identified could also belong to the Iron Age (with the exception of pit 13013, which probably is Saxon). The only other dating evidence from this pit group is a fragment of possible 6th/7th-century tweezers (T. Wilson, pers. comm.), but the pottery, if Saxon, is more likely to belong to the 5th century.

Burial	Pottery	Pot date	C14/SF date
Cremation 13106	SF70481: ESOM base fragments	6th c.	420-600 cal AD
Cremation 13305	SF70465: ESO1 vessel, lower part only; ESO1 baggy vessel (3 sherds)	L.6th/7th c.?	not dated
Inhumation 13039	1 ESCQ, 2 ESFS, 1 ESMS	residual?	390-560 cal AD; mid 6th c.
Inhumation 13046	1 ESMS, 1 ESCF	residual?	650-780 cal AD
Inhumation 13067	SF70475: ESO2 jar	6th c.?	not dated
Inhumation 13077	SF70478: ESFS sub-biconical vessel	6th c.	530-660 cal AD; E.-M. 6th c.
	2 ESFF, 1 ESCS, 1 ESMS	residual?	
Inhumation 13125	SF70497: ESO2 decorated sub-biconical jar	6th c.	E.-M. 6th c.
	SF70514 fragmentary ESCF vessel		
Inhumation 13129	3 ESO2, 6 ESMS, MCW1	residual/intrusive?	not dated
Inhumation 13277	SF70529: ESO2 thumbpot	6th c.?	not dated
Inhumation 13288	3 ESMS	residual?	L.5th-6th c.

Table 5. Pottery from funerary features G8.

Period 11 – Post-medieval and modern soil development

Eighty sherds of post-Roman date were recovered from contexts assigned to this period. They included most of the post-Saxon material in this assemblage. Eleven sherds from a single jar were found in layer 13033, but most of this group consisted of small, abraded sherds.

Unphased

Eighty-eight sherds were collected from unphased pits at the east end of the site. These included material which was again ambiguous for dating purposes.

Plot 13/202 Discussion

Vessels recovered from the cemetery and associated contexts were all typical of the Early Saxon period. They were made from fine or medium sandy fabrics with some organic inclusions and occasional coarse pieces of flint, quartz or ferrous fragments. Forms included plain sub-biconical and baggy jars, and there was one sub-biconical highly decorated vessel. All vessels associated with the inhumations showed signs of having been used prior to interment; those with the cremation burials did not.

The other handmade vessels from this site were less easily ascribed to the Early Saxon period. In general they showed no similarity to the cemetery group, and the range of fabrics was limited to sandy and flint-tempered wares. The sand-tempered vessels in this group are all hard and well-fired, many having smoothed surfaces and containing background scatters of local inclusion types; they would not be out of place in most Early Saxon assemblages. The flint or chert in the flint-tempered vessels was unburnt, and in that respect would also be unusual in a prehistoric context, but some of the forms appear closer to Iron Age than Early Saxon types. One example is the flint-tempered carinated bowl from pit fill 13024, the carination being at the shoulder rather than the waist. Whilst not inconceivable, this would be a very unusual form in the Early Saxon period. Another vessel with a very high shoulder, the body appearing to taper down sharply to a narrow base, presents similar problems. Decorative techniques used on sherds from the pit groups could also fit either period.

Plot 22/148: Billingford Road, Bintree (37755/37623BTE)

Introduction

A total of 694 sherds of pottery weighing 5651g was collected from 68 contexts in plot 22/148. Table 6 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Early Saxon coarse quartz	ESCQ	2.03	1	25.0	4	11.1	
Early Saxon medium sandy	ESMS	2.22	3	75.0	32	88.9	
<i>Total Early Saxon</i>			4	0.6	36	0.6	
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	7	77.8	34	54.8	0.12
Thetford-type ware (Grimston)	THETG	2.57	2	22.2	28	45.2	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			9	1.3	62	1.1	0.12
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	120	18.7	644	14.9	1.12
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	27	4.2	121	2.8	0.16
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	7	1.1	78	1.8	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	70	10.9	528	12.2	0.34
Medieval coarseware 5	MCW5	3.205	3	0.5	6	0.1	
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	16	2.5	54	1.2	0.19
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	5	0.8	61	1.4	
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	237	36.9	1372	31.7	1.31
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	156	24.3	1458	33.7	
Ely glazed ware	ELYG	4.81	1	0.2	10	0.2	
<i>Total medieval</i>			642	92.5	4332	76.7	3.12
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	5.10	19	95.0	1096	98.8	0.70
Late Grimston-type ware	GRIL	5.30	1	5.0	13	1.2	
<i>Total late medieval</i>			20	2.9	1109	19.6	0.70
Refined white earthenwares	REFW	8.03	17	2.5	101	1.8	0.22
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	2	0.3	11	0.2	
Total			694		5651		4.16

Table 6. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Early Saxon

Four heavily abraded body sherds of probable Early Saxon date were recovered. One sherd contained a thick deposit of burnt food residue. All were residual in medieval contexts.

Late Saxon

Sherds of Thetford-type ware were identified in a few medieval contexts. They included two medium jars with later rim types, and a Grimston-type bowl with a thumbled rim. Although classified as Late Saxon, they are likely to be contemporary with some of the early medieval wares in this group and form a continuum with the medieval pottery discussed below.

Medieval

Most of this assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. Local coarsewares formed 75.5% of the group by count, with regional glazed wares making up the remaining 24.5%. The medieval coarsewares were dominated by LMU and EMW, with a relatively large group of MCW3 also present. Other coarsewares were few in number.

Forty-three coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of fourteen bowls, twenty-five jars or cooking pots, and four jugs. In addition to the jug rims, two coarseware handles were recovered, both wide strap types.

Table 7 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV	SEV1	SEV2	THEV	FTEV	UPFT	UPTH	FTBD
Bowl	1	1			6	2			
Bowl?	2				1	1			
Jar	1	6	4	2	8	2		1	
Jar?			1						
Jug							1		1
Jug?	1					1			

Table 7. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturned; SEV – simple everted slight wedge; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; SEV2 – simple everted acute; THEV – thickened everted; FTEV – flat-topped everted; UPFT/TH – upright flat-topped/thickened; FTBD – flat-topped bead.

Nineteen rims were of early type (11th-13th centuries) and 24 were of more developed forms (13th-14th centuries), indicating a fairly even distribution through the period. Early rims were in fabrics EMW, LMU, MCW3 and MCW6; developed rims were mainly in LMU with a few in MCW1. A few rims may belong to the 14th/15th centuries, and may therefore be contemporary with the small quantity of late medieval pottery recovered (see below).

Decoration found on the coarseware pottery included fourteen examples of thumbled or 'pie-crust' decoration on the rim, a bowl with an applied thumbled strip on the rim edge (Fig. **.14), and a bowl with combed wavy lines on the rim (cf Jennings 1981 No. 260). A large body sherd of Grimston coarseware from 22062 was decorated with lines of square rouletting.

Grimston-type ware in this group was often more like the 'normal' Grimston fabric which is found in Kings Lynn and Norwich, although sherds with similarities to those identified further to the east along the pipeline were also present. The 156 sherds represented up to 77 vessels. Only two rims were found, an inturned form and a triangular bead form, both typical of the ware. At least three large globular jugs were present, including fragments of a base in pit fill 22174 which measured c.260mm in diameter. A kiln scar from a jug whose rim would have been 105mm in diameter was present at the centre of the base. Body sherds from a globular jug with a cordon at the neck and groups of vertical brown slip lines were found in 22144, and body and handle sherds of a plain globular vessel were found in 22140 and 22142. A fragment sherd from a small vessel in 22144 may be from a bottle with a flat base, which would indicate a 14th-century date. The break along the inner edge of the base appeared to have been deliberately smoothed, suggesting a secondary use for the vessel, open at the base. Thick-walled sherds from a large vessel with incised horizontal lines came from 22119 and 22174. Other decorative schemes were represented by a fragment of a vessel in 22375 with closely-spaced brown pellets which were probably intended to resemble feathers, and small fragments of vessels with vertical brown slip lines or horizontal incised lines. A few bases were thumbled. Two handles were recovered, one rod and one wide strap.

There was one sherd of Ely-type glazed ware. This fabric, which is similar to Grimston Ware but calcareous, was originally described as 'Grimston software' in Kings Lynn (Clarke and Carter 1970) but is now known to have been made in Ely and at other Fenland production centres (Spoerry forthcoming). It is relatively common in West Norfolk, and was probably distributed to rural sites via Kings Lynn.

Two unidentified sherds were probably medieval. One was a moderately coarse whiteware body sherd from 22114 with a grey surface which may be Stamford Ware or a Flemish greyware. A sherd with a burnt surface deposit, possibly glaze, was recovered from 22375. This greyware was coarser than Grimston and may be a non-local glazed ware. However, it appeared to be a waster rather than a sherd damaged in

cooking, as there was no evidence that burning had affected the clay itself.

Evidence of use was recorded where possible. Of the maximum 406 vessels of medieval date in this group, 182 were sooted (44.8%). Lime was noted inside a few vessels, including some glazed jugs, there was burnt food residue inside two jars and one jar was sooted on the upper interior surface. One LMU body sherd from 22323 had an unusual pink stain on the interior, perhaps from a dye. One Grimston jug and a Grimston coarseware vessel showed signs of burning.

Late medieval

One possible Late Grimston Ware sherd was identified in 22110. It had combed horizontal lines, which are a common feature of late medieval handled vessels. The possible bottle base mentioned above could also be classified as Late Grimston.

The nineteen sherds of LMT were all part of a single storage jar with applied horizontal strap handles (cf Jennings 1981, No. 441). The vessel was partially glazed inside and out, the glaze being olive green in colour. The fabric was not micaceous and the vessel is likely to be a product of the Hopton kiln site in North Suffolk.

Modern

Seventeen sherds of a plain refined whiteware plate, possibly a late creamware of 19th-century date, were found in 22029.

Illustrated vessels

12. EMW (or late THET?) jar with upright flat-topped rim, slight thumbing, dark grey. Quarry pit fill 22110.
13. EMW jar, buff to red externally and grey internally, simple everted wedge rim, thumbled. Enclosure ditch fill 22038.
14. MCW3 bowl with simple everted wedged rim with thumbing, external surfaces black (sooted), oxidised brick red internally. Quarry pit fill 22046.
15. MCW3 bowl, slightly inturned rim with applied thumbled strip, external surfaces black (sooted), oxidised brick red internally. Quarry pit fill 22047.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 8. Most of the assemblage is from contexts assigned to Phase 2, the remainder being uncertain or unstratified. The undated and unstratified material will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 2	Undated	U/S
ESCQ	1		
ESMS	2		1
THET	7		
THETG	2		
EMW	111		9
MCW1	18	1	8
MCW2	6		1
MCW3	59	1	10
MCW5	3		
MCW6	16		
GRCW	5		
LMU	218	1	18
GRIM	134		22
ELYG	1		
LMT	19		
GRIL	1		
REFW	17		
UNID	1		1

Table 8. Pottery types present by phase.

Trackway and roadside ditches

Very little pottery was recovered from the south side of the track, only nine sherds in total. The pit to the north side of the roadside ditch appears to be earlier (12th/13th c.) than the fill of the ditch (13th/14th c.).

Features to the north of the track produced 41 sherds, of which 17 were from a 19th-century refined ware plate. Some contexts in this area were not closely datable, including the roadside ditch, but pits 22222 and 22251 were both probably filled in the 13th/14th centuries. The plate may have been intrusive, but was from the final re-cut of the roadside ditch and may indicate the end date of this feature. As the ditch cut quarry pit 22108, which contained 14th-century pottery (see below), the road may be later than the fills on its south side suggest.

Possible timber buildings

Pits and post-holes in the north-central part of the site produced only nineteen sherds. Unfortunately the possible structures were not closely datable, although the presence of EMW may indicate an early date for their initial construction. The latest pottery associated with them came from the fill of a beam-slot and could indicate that they had been demolished by the 13th/14th centuries. Sherds from nearby pits were generally only datable to the medieval period as a whole, with the exception of pit 22229 (13th/14th c.).

Quarry pits

In total, 232 sherds were collected from four quarry pits, but most of these were from two large pits, 22045 and 22108, which together produced approximately a third of the total assemblage from this site. The features were all dated to the 13th/14th centuries, with the latest infilling of 22108 probably taking place in the 14th century.

Enclosures and associated features

The enclosure ditch fills produced 105 sherds between them, and associated pits and gullies a further 214 sherds. This is almost half of the total assemblage. Evidence from the earliest cut of the enclosure ditch suggests that it may first have been dug in the 12th century, with alterations made during the 13th century. The fills of these early cuts can be dated to the 13th/14th centuries. A later re-cut of the main ditch contained pottery of 15th/16th-century date. Two large pits, 22134 and 22139, close to the east end of the enclosure, contained pottery which suggested they had been filled in the 14th century.

Plot 22/148 Discussion

The earliest pottery from this site was Early Saxon, but all sherds were residual in later features and the quantity does not indicate intensive occupation in the period. The earliest significant activity can be dated to the 11th century, and appears to have continued well into the 14th with no apparent hiatus. Final infilling of the enclosure ditch occurred no earlier than the late 14th century and probably slightly later, and the trackway may have continued in use into the 19th century. The possible structures were less closely datable but may have an early inception.

The coarsewares in this group were dominated by EMW and LMU. The other medieval coarsewares which are relatively common on sites further along the pipeline are noticeably less so at this site. This suggests that the LMU production sites were probably more accessible in this part of the county, whether the pots came via Norwich or directly from the source.

This site has a relatively high proportion of glazed wares for a rural site. Whilst

this can be an indicator of status, perhaps suggesting that some of the material could be derived from a nearby manor, it is more likely in this case to be related to the continuation of the site well beyond the end of the 13th century. Many rural sites were abandoned in the early 14th century, which may result in a lower frequency of glazed wares in proportion to the coarseware assemblage. All but one of the glazed wares was of local manufacture, the exception being Ely-type glazed ware. A few of the glazed sherds in this assemblage were much more typical of products of the Grimston kilns themselves, which may indicate direct contact with Kings Lynn, a possible source for the Ely ware too as it is relatively common in the town.

Plot 24/144: Foxley Road, Foulsham (37757 and 37892FLS)

Introduction

A total of 304 sherds of pottery weighing 2335g was collected from four contexts in plot 24/144. Table 9 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Early Saxon indeterminate fabric	ESHW	2.00	40	13.3	19	0.8	
Early Saxon grass and sand	ESO2	2.02	7	2.3	94	4.1	
Early Saxon coarse quartz	ESCQ	2.03	4	1.3	81	3.5	
Early Saxon fine sand	ESFS	2.04	1	0.3	1	0.0	
Early Saxon grog and sand	ESGS	2.05	15	5.0	170	7.4	0.05
Early Saxon grog and organic	ESGO	2.06	33	11.0	101	4.4	
Early Saxon fine sand and mica	ESSM	2.08	26	8.7	422	18.4	0.12
Early Saxon granitic	ESCF	2.10	6	2.0	56	2.4	0.10
Early Saxon grog and granite	ESGG	2.19	15	5.0	100	4.4	
Early Saxon medium sandy	ESMS	2.22	151	50.3	1243	54.2	0.70
Early Saxon fine abundant quartz	ESFQ	2.24	2	0.7	6	0.3	
<i>Total Early Saxon</i>			300	98.7	2293	98.2	0.92
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	4	1.3	42	1.8	0.23
Total			304		2335		1.15

Table 9. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Early Saxon

The majority of pottery in this group was medium sandy with few inclusions other than the normal background scatter. This was due to the presence of two near-complete but fragmentary vessels in 24122. Other plain sandy or sand and mica fabrics were also common. The next most significant inclusion in this group consisted of grog. This was found occasionally in most vessels, but more frequently in those categorised as ESGS, ESGG and ESGO. It was generally red and likely to be Roman tile. The majority of grog-tempered sherds came from 24050. The fact that it was present in most vessels from this site tends to suggest that the pottery was all made locally as it is not a particularly common inclusion at most sites. This provides further support for the suggestion that granitic inclusions were being sourced from the boulder clay in East Anglia, and that the vessels in which it is found are not necessarily from Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire (cf Williams and Vince 1997). Organic inclusions, although present, were not abundant in any of the sherds in this group, and it seems unlikely that the site continued very long into the 7th century.

The MNV for this group was 47. There were no cross-matches between the four contexts. Ten vessels were identifiable to form. There were two hemispherical bowls in 24050 (Figs **.15-16), one small (110mm diam) and one of medium size (190mm diam). This form is more common in the 6th-7th centuries at Mucking, although it occurs

throughout the Early Saxon period. A jar rim from 24065 was plain upright and appeared to come from a shouldered or carinated vessel, possibly indicating a 5th/6th-century date for the context. A decorated body sherd with incised horizontal lines and a rectangular stamp (Fig. **.17) from this context was probably part of a small, thick-walled globular vessel. There were also four body sherds, probably from a single vessel, with bands of incised horizontal lines above and below the carination. This vessel is likely to belong to the 5th century. Rims of four vessels were present in 24122. One small jar was represented by a single sherd, a short vertical rim with a flat top. A fairly coarse baggy jar (Fig. **.18) consisted of three sherds and had a very short, coarsely formed rim and grass-wiped body. Sixteen sherds of a fine black jar included the complete flat base and two sherds of the vertical tapering rim, but it was not possible to determine the form of the vessel in between. Seventy-five sherds of a vessel with a flat base and fairly globular body were oxidised externally; none of the rim survived. There were 55 sherds of a wide-mouthed shouldered bowl with finger-tip impressions in the vertical rim (Fig. **.19). This is an unusual type of decoration in the Early Saxon period and there is a possibility that the vessel may be of Iron Age date, but the fabrics and forms in this context as a whole are within the range of Early Saxon types in East Anglia. A 6th-century date is suggested for this context.

Many sherds showed signs of smoothing during manufacture, but some had been heavily worn on the outer surface during use. Very few were sooted, although two were noted to have slight sooting internally.

Late Saxon

Four sherds of three Thetford-type ware vessels were recovered from topsoil 24000. They consisted of two sherds from a medium jar with a type 5 rim, a small abraded rimsherd from a medium jar with a type 3 rim, and a flat base with wire marks. The two rims are both early types, but fabrics ranged from fine to coarse. The group is not large enough to allow precise dating.

Illustrated vessels

16. ESGS hemispherical bowl. Partially oxidised buff externally, outer surface very worn. Pit fill 24050.
17. ESCF hemispherical bowl. Oxidised buff to red externally, outer surface very worn. Granite relatively coarse, fabric also contains occasional burnt-out organics and red grog. Pit fill 24050.
18. ESMS small globular vessel? Stamp and incised line decoration. Oxidised surfaces, possibly burnt post-breakage. Ditch fill 24065.
19. ESMS baggy jar. Red-brown externally and pale grey internally, grass-wiped? Contains mica, occasional flint and red grog, and one large flake of gold mica. Pit fill/surface 24122.
20. ESMS wide-mouthed shouldered bowl. Brown surfaces, black core. Partial grass-wiping on shoulder, finger-tip decoration on top of rim. Pit fill/surface 24122.

Pottery by site phase

All post-Roman pottery from this site, with the exception of the few sherds from topsoil, is currently assigned to features of Phase 3 (Later Iron Age). Pit 24049 contained granitic and organic tempered sherds, including a hemispherical bowl, and was probably of 6th/7th-century date. Pit 24139 contained largely sand-tempered wares including the jar with finger-tip decoration on the rim; this feature may be Iron Age or 6th century. Ditch fill 24065 contained sherds of a carinated vessel with incised line decoration and a stamped sherd and probably belonged to the 5th century.

Site 24/44 Discussion

This small group of pottery appears to span most of the Early Saxon period, including decorated sherds of probable 5th-century date, baggy vessels of the 6th century, and hemispherical bowls of the 6th/7th centuries. Some organic-tempered pottery, also of

probable later 6th/7th century-date, was present. The variety of forms and fabrics present, together with the sparseness of decoration, is typical of domestic assemblages in the region.

This assemblage can confidently be assigned to the Early Saxon period, despite some similarities with Iron Age fabrics, due to the presence of granitic tempered sherds and a stamped vessel. However, it is difficult to interpret because it does not represent a restricted area of activity within an otherwise earlier site, the three features being dispersed in the east, central and western parts of the excavated area. The sherds appear to be domestic debris and suggest occupation in the vicinity.

Plot 25/136-138: Green Lane, Foulsham (37758/37624/37625 FLS)

Introduction

A total of 667 sherds of pottery weighing 4086g was collected from 46 contexts in plot 25/136-138. Table 10 shows the quantification by fabric. The pottery from this site had suffered from post-depositional erosion and many sherds were abraded and/or had lost their outer surfaces.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Early Saxon coarse quartz	ESCQ	2.03	5	21.7	17	8.4	
Early Saxon fine sandy	ESFS	2.04	5	21.7	34	16.8	
Early Saxon medium sandy	ESMS	2.22	13	56.5	151	74.8	0.38
<i>Total Early Saxon</i>			23	3.5	202	5.0	0.38
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	72	11.3	274	7.1	0.40
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	246	38.4	1385	35.8	1.05
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	3	0.5	15	0.4	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	258	40.3	1721	44.5	1.01
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	7	1.1	13	0.3	
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	2	0.3	4	0.1	
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	3	0.5	46	1.2	0.19
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	49	7.7	409	10.6	0.06
<i>Total medieval</i>			640	96.5	3867	95.0	2.77
Total			663		4069		3.09

Table 10. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Early Saxon

A small quantity of Early Saxon pottery was identified in this assemblage. The majority of sherds were small, abraded body pieces. Sherds from two vessels showed signs of burnishing, and several had oxidised surfaces. One small fragment of a possible everted rim was an unstratified find (816). The most interesting find, however, was a large fragment of a long-necked globular jar rim (Fig. **.20) from pit fill 25109. This form was common in the 7th century in the region. Unfortunately, like most of the sherds in this group, it was residual in a medieval context.

Medieval

The majority of sherds in this assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. Local coarsewares formed 92.3% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up the remaining 7.7%; no imports were present. The medieval coarsewares consisted almost exclusively of MCW1 and MCW3.

Thirty-seven coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of nine bowls, twenty-four jars or cooking pots, and four jugs. In

addition to the jug rims, two coarseware handles were recovered, both strap types. One of these was a fragment from the lower part of the handle, and a short circular-section peg which would have attached it to the body of the vessel survived. Table 11 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	BD	FTEV	INT	SEV?	SEV1	THEV	UPFT	UPPL	UPTH
Bowl	1	2				4	1		1
Jar			2		16	3			
Jar?				2	1				
Jug						1			1
Jug?									2

Table 11. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: BD – beaded; FTEV – flat-topped everted; INT – inturred; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; THEV – thickened everted; UPFT/PL/TH – upright flat-topped/plain/thickened.

Most of the rims were SEV types (19 vessels), which are associated with the earlier part of the medieval period in Norfolk, as are the upright types (nine vessels) and probably also the bead-rimmed bowl and, in this assemblage, the flat-topped everted bowls. The more developed type (THEV) was represented by eight vessels. The majority of SEV1 rims were in fabric MCW3, whilst more of the THEV rims were in MCW1. SEV2 was not represented in this assemblage. The distribution of rim forms may indicate that the settlement was in decline by the 14th century.

The only decoration found on the coarseware pottery from this site was thumbled or 'pie-crust' decoration on the rim (e.g. Fig. **.21).

The 'Grimston-type' ware fabric in this group was the same as that identified in the Themelthorpe assemblage (see below). Only one jug rim was found, an upright plain type. There were four handles, of which one was a rod, two were wide straps and one was a 'straight' type with a slightly hooked end (Fig. **.25). This latter may have come from a small pipkin or skillet, which is an unusual form in typical Grimston Ware, although some are known from Norwich (e.g. Jennings 1981, No. 391); it may indicate a 14th-century date for its context, ditch fill 25183. Most body sherds were small and abraded, and forms could not be determined. The few bases were generally sagging, but one small flat one was found in association with the skillet handle and is another indication of a relatively late date. One base showed signs of widely-spaced thumbing. Apart from the thin green glaze on most sherds, the only decoration present in this group was a single example of brown slip lines from post-hole fill 25175.

Illustrated vessels

21. ESMS long-necked globular jar with short everted rim, brown outer surface, black inside. Sooting around outer edge of rim. Post-hole fill 25109.
22. MCW3 jar, buff to dark grey surfaces, slightly thumbled SEV1 rim. Pit fill 25084.
23. MCW3 bowl with FTEV rim, handmade, external surfaces dark brown-black, black internally, red margins, knife-trimming. Settlement ditch fill 25115.
24. MCW3 bowl with FTEV rim, handmade, dark grey surfaces and buff margins, knife trimming. Settlement ditch fill 25115.
25. MCW1 jar, THEV rim, generally dark grey but with a large oxidised patch externally. Settlement ditch fill 25119.
26. GRIM skillet handle, worn, light green glaze on upper surface only. Settlement ditch fill 25183.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 12. Features of Period 2 produced the majority of pottery in this assemblage, although some material was redeposited in later contexts.

Fabric	Period 1	Period 2	Period 4	Period 5
ESCQ	3	2		
ESFS		4		1
ESMS		9		4
EMW		66	4	2
MCW1		188	6	52
MCW2		2	1	
MCW3	6	226	9	17
MCW4		7		
GRCW		2		
LMU		3		
GRIM		32		17
Total	9	543	20	93

Table 12. Pottery types present by phase (sherd count).

Period 1 – Iron Age and early Roman

Three handmade burnished sherds in a coarse sandy fabric were found in well 25195 (fill 25286). These are likely to be of Early Saxon date, although they may be prehistoric. Six sherds of MCW3 were found in pit fill 25078, in association with Iron Age pottery. They are either intrusive or suggest a later date for the feature.

Period 2 – Medieval

Features of this period produced 543 sherds of Saxon and medieval pottery.

Feature 25034/25059 produced eight sherds of Early Saxon pottery, including four or a single vessel with a flat rounded base. One sherd of Early Saxon pottery was collected from field ditch 25007.

The various fills of the boundary ditch produced 244 sherds of pottery. Of these, two were Early Saxon, sixteen were early medieval (EMW, GRCW), and the rest were medieval. The medieval coarsewares were dominated by MCW1 (125 sherds) and MCW3 (72 sherds) with only small quantities of MCW2, MCW4 and LMU. There were 22 sherds of Grimston-type ware.

The earliest ditch fills produced small quantities of pottery. Northern ditch fill 25074 contained only two sherds, of which one was a jug rim of possible 13th-century date. Twenty-eight sherds from southern ditch fill 25117 had an overall date range of 11th-13th centuries, but the range of fabrics and forms could indicate a 12th-century date for the fill.

The second phase of the northern ditch, fill 25033, produced 53 sherds which suggest a 13th-century date. The southern ditch fill 25115 contained 67 sherds, many of which were residual, but again with a probable 13th-century date for deposition. The recut terminus 25118 contained 60 sherds with a 13th/14th-century date range, and six sherds of the same date came from recut fill 25123. Another recut to the south, 25182, produced 12 sherds from three fills. The uppermost fill (25183) contained a Grimston-type ware skillet or pipkin handle which suggests a 14th-century date for the final backfilling.

The narrow ditches which ran parallel to the boundary ditch produced small quantities of pottery. Only one sherd was collected from the terminus of the northern ditch, fill 25134, and was of 11th- to 13th-century date. A similar date can be suggested for the six sherds from fill 25143 of the southern ditch. However, fill 25076 of the northern ditch was probably deposited in the 13th/14th centuries, based on the nine sherds from this context.

Between them, the ditches running alongside Green Lane produced 71 sherds. These consisted of 14 early medieval, 52 medieval coarsewares (MCW1, MCW2, MCW4) and five glazed wares.

The earliest fill, 25139, contained 20 sherds, of which eleven were from an MCW3 jar of probable 11th/12th-century date. Other sherds, including an MCW1 jug rim, indicate a probable 13th-century date for final infilling, however. Fill 25266 contained five sherds, of which three were 13th/14th century. Above this, cut 25267 produced sixteen sherds from two fills, the upper of which contained earlier pottery (11th-13th centuries) than the lower (13th-14th centuries), suggesting that the fill was redeposited from elsewhere. The fills of the latest re-cuts, 25137 and 25262, produced sixteen and five sherds respectively, and both could be dated to the 13th/14th centuries. The nine sherds from 25171 indicated an 11th- to 13th-century date.

In general, the pottery from these fills was not heavily abraded, and the presence of several sherds of a single vessel in the earliest fill may indicate that these ditches were first cut in the early medieval period. Later ditches appear to show some redeposition, perhaps from nearby middens, with some mixing of the date ranges.

Six post-holes adjacent to the Green Lane ditches produced pottery. Eight sherds were collected from post-hole 25108, of which one was rimsherd from a 7th-century long-necked jar. The latest sherd from this feature was a piece of Grimston-type ware, however, so it is dated 13th/14th century. The other five post-holes (25166, 25174, 25198, 25204, 25206) each contained a single sherd, the overall date range of which covered the entire medieval period (11th-14th centuries). The structure is therefore most likely to have been dismantled in the second half of the period.

One sherd of Early Saxon pottery was recovered from pit 25158. Pits 25012 and 25023 both produced small quantities of sherds with a probable date range of 11th-13th centuries. Pit 25063 produced 88 sherds, the majority of which belonged to the first half of the medieval period, but there was one developed rim in MCW1 and a sherd of MCW4, both of which indicate a final infilling no earlier than the 13th century. Pit 25083 was similar, with 103 sherds of mainly early date, but including Grimston-type ware, MCW2 and two developed rims. Nearby pit 25247 produced only four sherds of MCW3 from a single vessel, suggesting an 11th- to 13th-century date.

Period 4 – Undated

Twenty sherds of medieval date were recovered from a natural feature and features excavated during the evaluation and watching brief. The majority were from feature 449 and included EMW and MCW sherds; a plain upright jug rim suggested a 13th-century date for the feature.

Period 5 – Unstratified and topsoil

Ninety-three sherds were recovered as unstratified finds, or from the topsoil and subsoil layers. The range of fabrics was similar to that of Period 2 and included Early Saxon and medieval sherds. All of this material was redeposited and relates to site use in Period 2.

Plot 25/136-138 Discussion

The earliest post-Roman pottery was of Early Saxon date and included one form which could be placed in the 7th century. The fabrics were all sandy with few other inclusions, and not diagnostic for dating purposes. This material was scattered across the site in several features of generally medieval date, with no particular concentrations other than the eight sherds recovered from feature 25034. It is possible that the early pit 25158, which produced one sherd of this date, could be an Early Saxon feature.

Medieval wares dominated the assemblage. The range of vessels identified at this site is fairly typical for rural medieval settlements, consisting of more jars/cooking pots than other forms, and including a small proportion of glazed wares. Whilst the lack of these can be attributed to lower status — as has been demonstrated in urban

assemblages of the period in Norfolk and Suffolk — on a rural site it could also be related to the decline of the settlement in the later stages of the medieval period, when these wares were more commonly in production.

In general, where stratigraphic sequences could be studied, the pottery types were deposited in the expected order. The main exception to this was identified in one of the Green Lane ditch recuts, which produced earlier pottery in its upper than its lower fill, suggesting that the fill had been deliberately taken from a nearby midden rather than deposited 'naturally' over the life of the ditch. Despite the fact that the overall sequence of dates is correct, the general mix of pottery types in most fills may indicate similar use of midden deposits to backfill open ditches, but perhaps over shorter time periods.

The impression gained from studying this assemblage and others recovered from along the pipeline is that MCW3, often handmade and coarser than MCW1, is the earlier of the two fabrics and may have gone out of use in the 13th century. The stratigraphic sequence at this site was therefore of value in determining whether this impression was valid. In the settlement ditches, the first cut produced only a small quantity of pottery, but by weight 35.9% was MCW3, compared with 61.4% MCW1. By MNV however, MCW3 was more common with seven vessels, compared with only two of MCW1. In the second phase, 52.3% of the two fabrics was MCW3 (49 vessels compared with 25 MCW1). By the third phase, MCW3 had decreased to 14.5% of the total (three vessels, five of MCW1). There was less pottery from the sequence of Green Lane ditches, but in the first phase MCW3 made up 60.7% by weight, falling to 17.9% in phase 2, but with an anomalous increase of MCW3 (48.6%) in the latest ditch. There may be a general decline in the use of MCW3 in the later stages of the medieval period. MCW1 is more commonly found in developed forms and was generally wheelmade, but the presence of some SEV1 rims in this fabric indicates that it also started early in the period, probably continuing in production later than the handmade MCW3 wares.

The majority of pottery was recovered from the possible settlement enclosure ditch, most notably from the termini adjacent to the entrance. Work at a clayland site in south Suffolk (Anderson forthcoming a) has shown that communal middening may have taken place at the entrance to the green during the medieval period. Perhaps the disposal of mixed pottery types in these ditches may result from the use of a convenient dump of midden material close by when the time came to backfill them. There were several pits which produced large quantities of pottery, however, so it is clear that this method of rubbish disposal was also in use here.

Plot 27/128: Old Hall Farm, Themelthorpe (37626 THM)

Introduction

A total of 871 sherds of pottery weighing 6357g was collected from 120 contexts in plot 27/128. Table 13 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	1		36		
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			1	0.1	36	0.6	
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	101	11.6	321	5.1	0.19
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	301	34.7	1703	27.0	1.73
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	21	2.4	107	1.7	0.11
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	337	38.8	2987	47.4	1.28
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	8	0.9	34	0.5	
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	21	2.4	143	2.3	0.63
Medieval shelly wares	MSHW	3.50	4	0.5	13	0.2	0.08
Ely-type coarseware	ELCW	3.61	1	0.1	4	0.1	
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	74	8.5	991	15.7	0.61
<i>Total medieval</i>			868	99.7	6303	99.1	4.63
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	2	0.2	18	0.3	
Total			871		6357		4.63

Table 13. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

One well-fired base sherd in a fine greyware was collected from pit fill 27474. This is probably Thetford-type ware, although it may be a Roman greyware. The base was worn and showed no signs of the characteristic 'cheese-wire' marks.

Medieval

The majority of sherds in this assemblage, over 99%, belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. Local coarsewares formed 91.5% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up the remaining 8.5%; no imports were present. In this group, the most common coarseware fabrics were MCW1 and MCW3.

Forty-nine coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of eight bowls, 38 jars or cooking pots, one jug and one jar/jug. Coarseware jugs do not appear to have been common in this assemblage, and no coarseware handles were recovered. Table 14 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	BD	FTEV	SEV1	SEV2	THEV	UPBD	UPPL	UPTH
Bowl					2			
Bowl?	3	1			1	1		
Jar			19	2	9	2	1	3
Jar?			1					1
Jug?			2				1	

Table 14. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: BD – beaded; FTEV – flat-topped everted; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; SEV2 – simple everted acute; THEV – thickened everted; UPBD/PL/TH – upright beaded/plain/thickened.

Most of the rims were SEV types (24 vessels), which are associated with the earlier part of the medieval period in Norfolk, as are the upright types (nine vessels) and probably also the bead-rimmed bowls. One of these latter (from ditch fill 27201) was very similar in appearance to Thetford-type large jars with thumbled rims, but was in fabric MCW3; the similarity of this fabric to EMSW has been noted above, and the sherd may be of 11th-century date. The more developed types (THEV, FTEV) were represented by thirteen vessels. The majority of SEV1 rims were in fabric MCW3, whilst more of the THEV rims were in MCW1. Interestingly, SEV2, which is a very common form in Norwich, was only represented by two vessels in this assemblage, both in LMU

fabrics, suggesting that the source of these vessels was not easily accessible to this settlement. The distribution of rim forms may indicate that the settlement was in decline by the 14th century.

Decoration was not a common feature of the coarseware pottery from this site. Some rims had thumbled or 'pie-crust' decoration, one SEV1 jar had a band of short incised diagonal lines along the lower part of the rim (Fig. **.26), and one jar had a line of finger-tip impressions around the shoulder.

All glazed pottery in this group was of the same type. Although superficially similar in form and decoration to Grimston Ware from the Kings Lynn area, the fabric of this material was slightly different and the ware is therefore designated 'Grimston-type' as its source is uncertain. Some sherds were similar in appearance to the local coarsewares and it is likely that other Norfolk production sites were involved in glazed ware production. One heavily overfired body sherd from ditch fill 27449 may even be a waster.

Five jug rims were present in Grimston-type ware; three were upright plain or thickened, one was inturned and one was collared. There were also five handles, of which two were rods and three were wide straps. Whilst most fragments were body sherds, it was not possible to determine the body form of most of these vessels, although a few may have been globular. Bases were generally sagging and either frilled (continuous thumbing) or thumbled (widely-spaced thumbing). One base from ditch fill 27156 was glazed internally and may have had a tripod foot, possibly indicating a 14th-century date.

Most sherds were glazed with a paler green glaze than is typical for Grimston itself, but this was probably due to the very pale grey external surfaces of most vessels. Several had only spots of glaze or were unglazed and these were probably from the lower halves of vessels. Decoration included one example of rouletting, which is a rare decorative technique for Grimston-type ware, although it has been found in Norwich (Jennings 1981, No. 371). There were two examples of applied pellets, three of applied brown stripes and one with an applied strip in the same colour as the body. One face jug was found (Fig **.33). It was heavily worn in use and much of the glaze was lost, perhaps indicating a treasured and well-used possession, or a secondhand acquisition from a wealthier owner.

Post-medieval

Two sherds of glazed red earthenware (16th-18th centuries) were recovered from topsoil 27000 and ditch fill 27329. Both were abraded.

Illustrated vessels

27. MCW3 jar with band of incised decoration at neck, brown. SEV1 rim. Pit fill 27522.
28. MCW3 jar, oxidised brick-red surfaces. SEV1 rim. Ditch fill 27138.
29. MCW1 jar with thumbled SEV1 rim, external orange surfaces. Ditch fill 27138.
30. MCW1 jar with THEV rim. Pale buff. Enclosure fill 27343.
31. MCW3 bowl? Handmade, slight shoulder, UPBD rim. Pit fill 27180.
32. MCW1 bowl, thumbled THEV rim. Enclosure ditch fill 27182.
33. MCW1 bowl, THEV rim with slight thumbing. Ditch fill 27444.
34. GRIM face jug. Very worn, most glaze lost, mortar adhering to incised decoration. ?Pit fill 27159.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 15. The majority of phased pottery came from Period 2, although the quantities from each of the three phases are not significantly different. The largest proportion was found in unphased medieval features. Topsoil and unstratified material will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Unphased	Topsoil & U/S
THET				1	
EMW	37	20	6	34	4
MCW1	40	58	60	135	8
MCW2	1	7		11	2
MCW3	71	73	30	160	3
MCW4		1		7	
LMU		7	10	4	
MSHW				4	
ELCW	1				
GRIM	1	10	25	37	1
GRE		1			1
Total	151	177	131	393	19

Table 15. Pottery types present by phase.

Period 1

This period produced 151 sherds with a broad date range of the 11th-14th centuries. More EMW was recovered from this period than subsequently, and there was more MCW3 than MCW1. Four of the five jar rims recovered were SEV1 types, the fifth being a THEV type. The overall assemblage indicates a 12th-13th century date range for most of the features, but a few sherds could be dated to the 13th/14th centuries and may be intrusive.

Four ditches assigned to this phase contained only 77 sherds of pottery. The earliest fills would appear to be those of 27046, which is stratigraphically earlier than 27585. The latest fills were probably those of possible enclosure ditches 27586, which are unlikely to be earlier than 13th century.

The remaining 74 sherds from this phase were associated with a possible industrial area and kiln. The pottery from the fills suggests a 13th-century date for the earliest feature with some redeposition of material in later contexts.

Period 2

Contexts assigned to this phase produced 177 sherds. In this period, MCW3 was still the dominant fabric, but there was an increase in the quantity of MCW1, MCW2 and GRIM, LMU made its first appearance on this site, and EMW declined. This is all consistent with a date in the second half of the medieval period, 13th/14th centuries.

Enclosure ditch 27601 and recuts between them produced 120 sherds, many of which could be dated to the 13th/14th centuries. These sherds were largely from individual vessels, suggesting scattering and redeposition of rubbish, probably during manuring activity.

Enclosure ditch 27587 produced 57 sherds, but 24 of these were from a single vessel. This may indicate that sherds in these contexts had not travelled far from their original site of deposition, and that a midden was located somewhere in the vicinity.

Period 3

This phase produced 131 sherds. MCW1 was the dominant coarseware in this group, with a decrease in MCW3. LMU and GRIM also increased in frequency from the previous phase. At least one vessel, in the second western ditch 27599, could be dated to the 14th century.

Ninety-five sherds were collected from fills of the western sequence of ditches. Some of the material is likely to be redeposited, but there is evidence for backfilling of the second ditch in the 14th century.

The eastern ditches produced only 36 sherds, some of which were clearly residual. The latest pottery in the second recut indicates a 13th/14th-century date, but most sherds in this context were abraded and likely to predate the fill.

Unphased medieval features

Unphased features produced 393 sherds. Quantities of MCW1 and MCW3 were very similar, suggesting that these features spanned the whole medieval period.

A pit group, post-hole and gully in the central northern part of the site produced 78 sherds. Based on the pottery, the earliest features appeared to be pits 27061 and 27063. Pits 27067 and 27054 and post-hole 27023 were probably later.

Twenty-one sherds were recovered from pits cutting or cut by the Phase 3 ditches at the west of the site. Those cut by the ditches were generally early, although a face jug from 27166 suggested a 13th/14th-century date for this fill. This pit was cut by the latest ditch in the sequence. Adjacent to this latest ditch, pit 27314 contained 13th-century pottery. Sherds from 27167, which cut the latest ditch, also contained 13th/14th-century pottery, possibly redeposited from the ditch fills.

Three ponds in the northern central part of the site, and associated spreads and pits, produced 145 sherds between them, most of which suggested that these features were probably infilled during the 13th century.

Other unphased medieval contexts produced 123 sherds in total. Features of both early and late date could be identified, but some were not closely datable. The largest group was from pit 27291, which contained 35 sherds suggesting a 13th-century date.

Plot 27/128 Discussion

A single sherd of Thetford-type ware was the earliest pottery type found on this site. It may be contemporary with some of the early medieval ware and would indicate an 11th-century beginning for activity on the site. Medieval coarseware jars of 11th to 13th-century date were more common than those of the 13th/14th-centuries, but there is evidence for continuation into the 14th century based on the presence of a tripod-footed vessel. The mix of fabrics and forms in many contexts suggests that much of the earlier pottery was redeposited in later features. However, the limited evidence from phasing suggests an increase in use of MCW1 and Grimston-type ware in the second half of the period and a corresponding decrease in EMW and MCW3.

The range of fabrics and forms is typical of a rural medieval site in Norfolk. Very few wares were non-local, the main exceptions being a glazed ware from the Fens and a shelly ware which is of uncertain origin. Shelly wares of 12th/13th-century date were made in the surrounding counties but are less common in Norfolk.

The large quantity of pottery collected from a relatively small area tends to suggest that habitation was not far away. It may have been centred on the areas enclosed by the ditches, despite the lack of obvious structural features.

Plot 28/119: Church Lane, Wood Dalling (37761/37628WDG)

Introduction

A total of 412 sherds of pottery weighing 2490g was collected from 29 contexts in plot 28/119. Table 16 shows the quantification by fabric. The pottery from this site had suffered from post-depositional erosion and many sherds were abraded and/or had lost their outer surfaces.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	30	81.1	64	64.0	0.33
Thetford-type ware (Grimston)	THETG	2.57	2	5.4	33	33.0	
St. Neot's Ware	STNE	2.70	5	13.5	3	3.0	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			37	9.9	100	4	0.33
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	63	16.8	193	8.1	0.27
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	64	17.1	376	15.7	0.30
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	3	0.8	9	0.4	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	146	39.0	1000	41.9	0.09
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	2	0.5	41	1.7	0.06
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	11	2.9	96	4.0	0.43
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	41	11.0	243	10.2	0.23
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	43	11.5	426	17.8	0.11
Scarborough Ware	SCAR	4.40	1	0.3	4	0.2	
<i>Total medieval</i>			374	90.8	2388	95.9	1.49
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	1	0.2	2	0.1	
Total			412		2490		1.82

Table 16. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

Thetford-type ware from this site was in medium to coarse sandy fabrics which resembled the medieval coarsewares in this part of Norfolk. Sherds were identified from their form and the presence of clear throwing lines inside. The 29 sherds represented a minimum of seven vessels. Rims of one medium and one small jar were present, and there was also a small ginger jar. The rim types were both late forms (types 1 and 4). Two sherds of Grimston Thetford-type ware included a large beaded rim with thumbing, probably from a large storage vessel. One unidentified sherd in a very fine greyware may also be a Thetford-type variant.

Five sherds of possible St Neot's Ware from a single vessel were found in association with Thetford-type ware in gully fill (28026). Although the inner surfaces were typical of the fabric, the outer surfaces were oxidised to a dark orange, an unusual colour for this pottery type. All calcareous inclusions had been leached out. It is possible that the sherds could be fragments of a Lincolnshire Late Saxon shelly ware.

Medieval

The majority of sherds in this assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. Local coarsewares formed 88.2% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up 11.5%; one non-local glazed ware was present (0.3%). The medieval coarsewares were dominated by MCW3, with relatively large groups of EMW, MCW1 and LMU also present. Other coarsewares were rare.

Twenty-seven coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of five bowls, eighteen jars or cooking pots, and four jugs. In addition to the jug rims, two coarseware handles were recovered, one wide strap and one twisted rod. Table 17 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV	SEV1	THEV	TRBD	UPBD	UPPL	UPTH	FTTH
Bowl	2			3					
Jar		2	2	6		1		4	1
Jar?		2							
Jug					1				
Jug?		1		1			1		

Table 17. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturned; SEV – simple everted slight wedge; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; THEV – thickened everted; TRBD – triangular bead; UPBD/PL/TH – upright beaded/plain/thickened; FTTH – flat-topped thickened.

This group contained similar quantities of both early (SEV, SEV1, UPPL, UPBD, UPTH, INT; total 15) and developed rim types (THEV, TRBD, UPFT; total 12), although the three bowls with THEV rims were all decorated with thumbing, suggesting that they belonged with the earlier types. Simple everted rims were in fabrics EMW, LMU, MCW3 and MCW6; two THEV rims were in MCW3 but these were both bowls; the other developed rims were all in MCW6, MCW1, MCW4 and LMU. The distribution of rim forms seems to indicate that settlement continued into the 14th century, but lack of any late medieval wares suggests that it did not continue beyond this.

Decoration found on the coarseware pottery from this site was limited to thumbing or 'pie-crust' decoration on the rim, of which there were seven examples, or the base, two examples.

The 43 sherds of 'Grimston-type' ware fabric in this group represented up to 22 vessels. The most complete was a face jug, identified in ditch fill 28016 and probably also 28030. No other rims were present, but there was one rod handle. However it is likely that all the sherds came from jugs. Decorative techniques included applied strips with finger-tip impressions, but there were no examples of parallel vertical brown slip lines. The schemes in use at this site appeared to be anthropomorphic and zoomorphic in character, with curved applied strips which appeared to represent arms or outlines of wings, and at least one vessel with applied 'feathers'. One small abraded sherd from 28000 had incised horizontal lines on the upper body, a type of decoration which is associated with the later globular jugs in Norwich (Jennings 1981, 50 and Fig. 22 No. 380). Again this suggests continuation of the settlement into the mid to late 14th century, although the sherd was found in topsoil and could have been brought in with 'night soil' for manuring at a later date.

There was one small, abraded sherd of Scarborough Ware. As a proportion of non-local wares, this is a relatively common find along the coast and in Norwich, but inland it might be expected to indicate moderate to high status when it occurs.

Illustrated vessels

35. MCW6 jar with upright thickened rim, with slight flange to outer edge, orange with buff core. Topsoil 28000.
36. MCW1 jar, pale grey with medium grey outer surface, thickened everted rim. Pit fill 28014.
37. MCW1 ?bowl with inturned rim, external surfaces black (soot), pale grey internally. Pit fill 28014.
38. MCW6 ?jug with simple everted wedged rim with thumbing, pale orange/buff. Linear fill 28076.
39. GRIM face jug, worn, light green glaze mostly lost. Ditch fill 28016.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 18. The majority of pottery was recovered from contexts of Phase 2. Unstratified and unphased pottery was largely recovered from topsoil and the watching brief and will not be discussed further.

Fabric	Phase 1	Phase 2	Unphased	U/S
THET	29		1	
STNE	5			
THETG		2		
EMW		54	9	
MCW1		38	23	3
MCW2			3	
MCW3		103	43	
MCW4			2	
MCW6		8	3	
LMU		32	9	
GRIM		27	15	1
SCAR			1	
UNID		1		
Total	34	265	109	4

Table 18. Pottery types present by phase.

Period 1 – Late Saxon

Late Saxon pottery from this site was largely derived from a single feature, truncated gully 28025. The fill could be dated to the 11th century on the basis of the forms present.

Period 2 – Medieval

Contexts assigned to this period produced 265 sherds, the majority of which was recovered from at least two phases of ditches.

Excavation of ditches and pits at the west end resulted in 137 sherds. The earliest features appeared to be ditch 28091 and pits 28022 and 28057, all of which were probably filled in the 12th/13th centuries. Ditches 28043 and 29090 and pit 28056 may be slightly later but are broadly contemporary. The latest ditches in the sequence, 28074 and 28079, both contained 13th/14th-century pottery. A single sherd of the same date from ditch 28063 is likely to be residual.

The larger of the pair of ditches to the east of the central area, 28033, contained five fragments of a single vessel of 11th/12th-century date. Further to the west, 28092 produced nine sherds and was probably filled in the 13th century.

Ditches and pits at the east end contained 114 sherds. The majority were collected from ditch 28070 and provided a 13th/14th-century date for this feature. The pottery collected from the two pits abutting it produced slightly earlier dates.

Plot 28/119 Discussion

The earliest pottery from this site indicates a Late Saxon presence, although presumably any intensive activity of this date was located outside the excavation area. Later pottery represents the whole medieval period, but the settlement which produced this material probably did not last beyond the 14th century.

The coarsewares were dominated by MCW3 at this site, but other types were relatively common too. The proportion of glazed ware was within normal limits for a rural site, but the presence of a non-local fabric is of interest and may be derived from a moderately high status household.

Much of this pottery was abraded. Some of this erosion may be related to soil conditions, but as a large proportion of the assemblage came from field boundaries it is likely that the pottery was originally distributed across the adjacent fields during manuring and was eventually deposited in the backfilled ditches some years after its original disposal. Where stratigraphic relationships were present, however, the pottery is in sequence and provides a reliable *terminus ante quem* for the use of these features.

Plots 38/90 and 39/89: Site A, Itteringham (37771/37939JTT and 37772/37940JTT)

Introduction

A total of 503 sherds of pottery weighing 2879g was collected from 66 contexts in plot 38/90, and 41 sherds of pottery weighing 219g were collected from six contexts in plot 39/89. These sites have been combined for reporting purposes. Table 19 shows the quantification by fabric. Almost all pottery from this site was abraded and glazes had also been affected by post-depositional changes.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	16	80.0	128	96.2	0.16
Thetford-type ware (Grimston)	THETG	2.57	4	20.0	5	3.8	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			20	3.7	133	4.3	0.16
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	89	17.2	180	6.3	0.12
Yarmouth-type ware	YAR	3.17	2	0.4	4	0.1	
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	242	46.8	1692	59.1	1.11
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	6	1.2	17	0.6	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	46	8.9	210	7.3	0.07
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	4	0.8	27	0.9	0.15
Medieval coarseware 5	MCW5	3.205	3	0.6	5	0.2	
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	16	3.1	105	3.7	0.11
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	8	1.5	43	1.5	
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	75	14.5	403	14.1	0.51
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	1	0.2	3	0.1	
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	24	4.6	159	5.5	0.19
Scarborough Ware	SCAR	4.40	1	0.2	17	0.6	0.10
<i>Total medieval</i>			517	95	2865	92.5	2.36
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	5.10	3	60.0	41	53.9	0.06
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	1	20.0	34	44.7	
Refined red earthenwares	REFR	8.04	1	20.0	1	1.3	
<i>Total late and post-medieval</i>			5	0.9	76	2.5	0.06
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	2	0.4	24	0.8	
Total			544		3098		2.58

Table 19. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

One unidentified base sherd from 39830 was in an oxidised fabric, possibly burnt, similar to MCW3. However the base was flat and similar to Thetford-type rural wares. There is also a possibility that the sherd could be Roman, perhaps a Nar Valley ware.

A few abraded Thetford-type ware were identified in medieval contexts. With the exception of a small abraded jar rim, possibly type 4, and a flat base sherd, all fragments were body sherds and fabrics varied from medium to coarse sandy. Two rim sherds and one body sherd of Thetford-type ware and four rim and body sherds from a single vessel of Grimston Thetford-type ware were redeposited in subsoil layer 39830. The rim sherds were all from AB jars and consisted of types 3, 4 and 6. As a group, these types span the entire period of Thetford Ware production, but two are towards the later end of the range and this, together with the Grimston Thetford vessel, suggests an 11th-century date for associated activity. Although classified as Late Saxon, they are likely to be contemporary with some of the early medieval wares in this group and form a continuum with the medieval pottery discussed below.

Medieval

Most of this assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. In this group, local coarsewares formed 95.0% of the group by count, with English glazed wares making up the remaining 5.0%. The medieval coarsewares were dominated by MCW1, with relatively large groups of EMW, LMU and MCW3 also present. Other coarsewares were few in number.

Thirty-nine coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of one bowl, thirty-two jars or cooking pots, and six jugs. In addition to the jug rims, one coarseware handle was recovered, a strap type with a sub-rectangular section. Table 20 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV	SEV1	UPPL	THEV	TRBD	BD	COLL	UPFT	UPPL	UPTH
Bowl					1						
Jar	3	3	20		4						1
Jar?					1						
Jug						1	1	1	1		
Jug?				1						1	

Table 20. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturred; SEV – simple everted slight wedge; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; THEV – thickened everted; TRBD – triangular bead; BD – beaded; COLL - collared; UPFT/PL/TH – upright flat-topped/plain/thickened.

Twenty-seven rims were of early type (11th-13th centuries) and twelve were of more developed forms (13th-14th centuries), suggesting greater activity in the early half of the period. Early rims were present in all fabrics; developed rims were mainly in MCW1 with a few in MCW3, MCW6 and LMU. One Grimston coarseware jar rim type JB (Little 1994) has been included as 'SEV' in Table 2.

Four coarseware rims had thumbled or 'pie-crust' decoration and one jar had shallow incised horizontal lines. No other decoration was observed.

Very little glazed pottery was found in this group. Several of the sherds recorded as Grimston-type were undecorated and may be from fully unglazed vessels, although they appeared more like the lower halves of glazed jugs. Two Grimston jug rims were present, one collared and one upright flat-topped. No jug shapes were identifiable. Decoration other than green glaze included one sherd with brown slip lines and one with applied pellets or feathers. One fine greyware sherd recorded as UPG may also be a Grimston variant. The only non-local vessel was a rim fragment from a Scarborough Ware face jug with part of the eye surviving.

Evidence of use was recorded where possible. Of the maximum 339 vessels of medieval date in this group, 151 were sooted externally (44.5%). There was burnt food residue inside five vessels. One Thetford-type ware base and one LMU jar rim were burnt.

Late and post-medieval

One body, one base and one jug rim in LMT and a possible rimsherd of GRE were recovered from the upper layers of the site and a pit fill. One unidentified body sherd from 39830 was a fine micaceous redware which could be post-medieval. A small body sherd of 19th-century refined redware with dark brown glaze on both surfaces was collected from topsoil.

Illustrated vessels

40. MCW1 jar with THEV rim, incised horizontal lines on body, light to mid grey. Pit fill 38096.

41. MCW1 jug with collared rim and twisted rod handle, pale to dark grey, base sooted. Pit fill 38096.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 21. The majority of pottery was collected from contexts assigned to Phase 3. Phase 6 consists of topsoil and subsoil finds; this and the unphased material will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 5	Phase 6	Unph.
THET		10	1	3	2
THETG				4	
EMW		86	2		1
YAR		2			
MCW1	1	223	2	15	1
MCW2		6			
MCW3	2	36	5	3	
MCW4		4			
MCW5		3			
MCW6		14	2		
GRCW		8			
LMU		75			
UPG		1			
GRIM		15	2	7	
SCAR		1			
LMT		1		2	
GRE				1	
REFR				1	
UNID				2	
Total	3	485	14	38	4

Table 21. Pottery types present by phase.

Phase 2 – Late Saxon

Three sherds of medieval coarsewares were collected from ditch 38055.

Phase 3 – Medieval

This phase produced 485 sherds of pottery. It was possible to distinguish some features of early and some of later date, but many contexts produced only one or two sherds and even the larger groups were often not closely datable as they contained only undiagnostic body and base sherds.

The hollow, associated post-holes and ditches contained a total of 98 sherds. Some of these were probably residual, although they may indicate an 11th-century start date for the complex of features. The final fills can generally be dated to the 13th/14th centuries, although a possible LMT jug rim in pit 38018 may place this feature slightly later.

Post-holes in the southern group contained 54 sherds, including the Scarborough Ware face jug, which suggested a 13th-century date. Twenty sherds were found in the western group of post-holes, which may be slightly earlier and are dated 12th/13th-century.

Ditch 38209 in the north of the site contained only two sherds, but these suggested a 13th/14th-century date. Ditches in the eastern area produced only eight sherds. Ditch 39805 was not closely datable, although stratigraphically earlier than ditch 39807 which was probably filled in the 13th/14th centuries.

The large pits in the southern half of the site produced a total of 161 sherds. The largest assemblages were from pits 38115 and 38219, both of which probably dated to the 13th century. Although some pits were not closely datable, the latest in the group appeared to be pits 38046, 38050 and 38052.

Two large circular pits and a post-hole in the central part of the site, east of the waterhole, produced 67 sherds between them, the majority of which came from pit

38093. All three features contained pottery which dated to the 13th/14th centuries.

Only two of the western group of pits contained pottery, in each case only two sherds. Neither is closely datable, although 38239 may be relatively early.

A further 67 sherds were recovered from layers. The range of fabrics was mixed, but the latest could be dated to the 13th/14th centuries.

Phase 5 – Undated

One pit, nine post-holes and two ditches produced only 14 sherds between them, so the dating evidence can only provide a rough guide to their date. The more closely datable post-holes were generally early (11th-13th centuries), although 38241 contained a Grimston jug rim and was therefore slightly later. Ditch 39817 also contained Grimston-type ware.

Plots 38/90 and 39/89 Discussion

The pottery from this site largely falls within the 11th-14th-century range. Later pottery was all recovered from the upper layers of the site, with the exception of one possible LMT jug from a pit fill. However, if the sherd was not intrusive, it could be a non-local medieval glazed ware. Study of the vessel forms has suggested that activity may have been more intensive in the first half of the medieval period and it is likely that the site reverted to agriculture during the 14th century.

The quantity of pottery, given the large number of pits on the site, is relatively small, and does not suggest that the features were primarily used for the deposition of household waste. Much of the pottery was heavily abraded and may have been middened elsewhere before it arrived at the site for manuring. Incorporation in the fills of open features may therefore have been largely accidental.

This assemblage contained very little glazed ware, but the Scarborough Ware face jug is an interesting find on a rural, apparently semi-industrial, site. These jugs were tableware and would normally be associated with moderate to high status households.

Plot 39/88 & 88B: Site B, Itteringham (37772/37942 & 39518 JTT)

Introduction

A total of 216 sherds of pottery weighing 916g was collected from 54 contexts in plots 39/88 (2 sherds) and 39/88B (213 sherds). Table 22 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	41	82.0	158	70.2	0.63
Thetford-type ware (Grimston)	THETG	2.57	7	14.0	54	24.0	
'Early medieval' sandwich ware	EMSW	3.16	2	4.0	13	5.8	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			<i>50</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>24.6</i>	<i>0.63</i>
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	34	20.5	123	17.8	0.08
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	18	10.8	62	9.0	0.05
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	89	53.6	368	53.3	0.64
Local medieval unglazed (Norwich type)	LMU	3.23	22	13.3	120	17.4	0.08
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	3	1.8	18	2.6	
<i>Total medieval</i>			<i>166</i>	<i>76.9</i>	<i>691</i>	<i>75.4</i>	<i>0.85</i>
Total			216		916		

Table 22. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

The majority of Thetford-type ware in this group was in a relatively coarse fabric which varied in colour from pale grey to black, occasionally with oxidised surfaces. Body sherds were sometimes difficult to distinguish from medieval coarsewares and it is possible that more were present. Rim and base sherds were generally typical of the period however. Nine jar rims and a possible lamp rim were present. The jars consisted of two small (Dallas type AA), six medium (AB) and one large (AC). With the exception of one rim type 5 in 39056, a type which occurs throughout the period, all forms were late (i.e. 11th-century), and included types 1, 4, 5/6, 6 and 7. All THETG and EMSW sherds were undecorated body fragments, but several were thick and probably belonged to large storage vessels.

Medieval

Medieval pottery made up just over three-quarters of the assemblage. Local coarsewares formed 98.2% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up the remainder. In this group MCW3 made up the largest proportion of the coarsewares, followed by LMU and EMW. In some cases it was difficult to distinguish MCW3 and EMW as both had handmade bodies. Most of the LMU from the site was thin-walled and oxidised in patches, suggesting an early date.

Twenty coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of 18 jars or cooking pots and two EMW 'ginger jars'. No handles were recovered. Table 23 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV1	SEV2	THEV
Ginger jar	2			
Jar	1	13	3	1

Table 23. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturned; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; SEV2 – simple everted acute; THEV – thickened everted.

Most of the rims were earlier forms. The distribution of rim forms and fabrics seems to indicate that settlement at this site was confined to the 11th-13th centuries.

Nine jar rims were thumbled, but no other decoration was seen.

Only three Grimston-type sherds were recovered, all body sherds. Two were glazed with a pale green lead glaze, and one of these had a thin brown slip line beneath the glaze.

Illustrated vessels

42. THET jar, pale grey coarse sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions, AB jar, rim type 4, Grimston form JF (Little 1994). Ditch fill 39034.
43. THET jar, black with brown margins and grey core, medium-coarse sandy fabric, AB jar, rim type 5. Pit fill 39056.
44. LMU jar, dark grey, INT rim. Ditch fill 39311.
45. MCW3 jar, orange surfaces, buff core, THEV rim with slight thumbing. Pit/ditch fill 39344.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 24. The majority of sherds were collected from Phase 3 or undated contexts. Unphased material is from topsoil or unstratified and will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 5	Unphased
THET	3	32	1	5
THETG		5		2
EMW		31	2	1
EMSW		2		
MCW1		17		
MCW3	1	78	5	5
LMU		20		2
GRIM		1	1	1
Total	4	186	9	16

Table 24. Pottery types present by phase.

Phase 2 – Late Saxon

Only four sherds were collected from a pit in this period, one of which is assumed to be intrusive. The three sherds of Thetford-type ware suggest an 11th-century date.

Phase 3 – Medieval

Contexts in this phase produced 186 sherds.

Eleven sherds were collected from fills of the palaeochannel. None of the fills was closely datable, but sherds of both late Saxon and medieval date were recovered.

The fills of fourteen ditches produced 100 sherds. These suggested Late Saxon to early medieval dates for some, particularly 39396, 39460, 39461, 39462 and 39464, but all contained very few sherds. If the single sherd of Grimston-type ware from 39468 were intrusive, that ditch could also belong to the 11th century. Other ditches could not be dated more closely than 11th-13th centuries, with the possible exception of 39475, which was probably filled in the 13th century.

Six pits produced 76 sherds, all within the date range 11th-13th centuries. Those in the south-western end of the site could all be placed broadly in the 12th century.

Phase 5 – Undated

Nine sherds were collected from seven features. Pit 39278 could be placed in the 11th century and pit 39258 in the 13th, but otherwise the contexts were all only broadly datable to the 11th-13th centuries.

Plots 39/88 and 88B Discussion

This group produced a relatively high proportion of Late Saxon pottery, in conjunction with early medieval and medieval wares in early forms. Even the pottery identified as MCW1 was often thin-walled and probably handmade. It is likely that activity on the site did not continue much beyond the 12th century. The general lack of glazed wares, with the exception of two sherds of Grimston-type (the third was unglazed), tends to confirm this.

Sherds recovered from the ditches and palaeochannel were generally more abraded than those from pits, so redeposition is likely in many of the linear features. This suggests middening of rubbish and distribution of sherds over arable land, with final deposition in natural silting or deliberate back-filling of features. A slight concentration of pottery in pits to the south-west may indicate a focus of 12th-century settlement nearby.

Plot 39/84A: Site C, Itteringham (37772/39520 JTT)

Introduction

A total of 968 sherds of pottery weighing 5059g was collected from 174 contexts in plot 39/84A. Table 25 shows the quantification by fabric. Almost all pottery from this site was

abraded and glazes had also been affected by post-depositional changes.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	3	50.0	13	56.5	
Thetford-type ware (Grimston)	THETG	2.57	3	50.0	10	43.5	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			<i>6</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0.5</i>	
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	84	8.8	192	3.8	0.05
Yarmouth-type ware	YAR	3.17	5	0.5	30	0.6	
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	303	31.6	1324	26.3	1.47
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	53	5.5	302	6.0	0.60
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	76	7.9	396	7.9	0.05
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	2	0.2	16	0.3	
Medieval coarseware 5	MCW5	3.205	15	1.6	56	1.1	0.17
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	20	2.1	105	2.1	0.12
Medieval coarseware 7	MCW7	3.207	11	1.1	75	1.5	
Medieval coarseware gritty	MCWG	3.21	2	0.2	10	0.2	
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	8	0.8	67	1.3	0.05
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	203	21.2	1272	25.3	2.15
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	3	0.3	26	0.5	
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	159	16.6	1061	21.1	0.95
Scarborough Ware	SCAR	4.40	1	0.1	6	0.1	
Yorkshire glazed wares	YORK	4.43	5	0.5	24	0.5	
Late Grimston Ware	GRIL	5.30	9	0.9	67	1.3	
<i>Total medieval</i>			<i>959</i>	<i>98.1</i>	<i>5029</i>	<i>98.1</i>	<i>5.61</i>
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	1	0.1	2	0.04	
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	2	0.2	5	0.1	
Total			968		5059		5.61

Table 25. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

With the exception of one girth-grooved sherd, all Thetford-type ware in this group consisted of undiagnostic body sherds. Although classified as Late Saxon, they are likely to be contemporary with some of the early medieval wares in this group and form a continuum with the medieval pottery discussed below.

Medieval

Most of this assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. In this group, local coarsewares formed 81.6% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up 17.8% and non-local English wares the remaining 0.6%. The medieval coarsewares were dominated by MCW1 and LMU, with relatively large groups of EMW, MCW2 and MCW3 also present. Other coarsewares were few in number, but included Yarmouth-type ware. This medium sandy ware with fine calcareous inclusions is the third most common 11th/12th-century ware in Norwich, but is less common in Yarmouth (where it was first identified) and rarely occurs elsewhere. This group is also the only one along the pipeline to have contained MCW7, a fairly distinctive fabric with large white clay pellets and coarse ferrous inclusions in a fine-medium sandy matrix. It is therefore similar to MCW1, but is distinguished by the large size of its inclusions.

Seventy-five coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of thirteen bowls, one jar or bowl, fifty-seven jars or cooking pots, and four jugs. In addition to the jug rims, two coarseware handles were recovered, one wide strap and one rod. Table 26 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV	SEV1	SEV2	UPBD	THEV	FTEV	TRBD	UPPL	UPFT	UPTH
Bowl	2					8					
Bowl?	1					2					
Jar/Bowl						1					
Jar	11	1	20	5	4	10	1		3	1	1
Jug	1							1		1	1

Table 26. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturned; SEV – simple everted slight wedge; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; THEV – thickened everted; FTEV – flat-topped everted; TRBD – triangular bead; UPFT/PL/BD/TH – upright flat-topped/plain/beaded/thickened.

Forty-five rims were of early type (11th-13th centuries) and thirty were of more developed forms (13th-14th centuries), suggesting that activity decreased towards the later medieval period. Early rims were present in EMW, GRCW, MCW1, MCW2, MCW3, MCW5 and MCW6; developed rims were mainly in MCW1 and LMU with a few in MCW2, MCW5 and MCW7. The MCW1 and MCW2 ‘early’ forms were mainly inturned and appeared transitional with the developed types, so these have been dated tentatively to the 13th century.

Ten vessel rims had thumbled or ‘pie-crust’ decoration, mainly on the inner side of bowl rims, and one vessel base was thumbled. A rod-type jug handle had a thin applied thumbled strip along its length. One jar rim had stabmarks, probably made with the point of a knife, in two rows close to the shoulder. A body sherd from a jar had two narrow horizontal bands of combing close to the shoulder, a type of ‘decoration’ which more commonly occurs in later wares in this region to aid the application of handles, but in this case the lines appeared to be purely decorative.

This group produced a relatively high proportion of glazed ware. These were dominated by Grimston-type wares and even those classified as unprovenanced could be further examples of regional variants. One of these was very similar in fabric to MCW1 and had a thin green glaze. There is a possibility that it was a product of the same local kilns which produced the coarsewares predominant in this area, although it could be Hollesley Ware from Suffolk. Despite the large quantity of Grimston-type ware, only five rims were present, all of jugs. The rims were collared, upright plain and triangular beaded types. Two strap handles were present. One vessel was probably a globular jug, but generally forms could not be determined with any certainty. The typical styles of decoration were represented, consisting of brown slip stripes, applied pellets or feathers and thumbled bases. One body sherd had applied decoration which appeared to be a hand and may be from a face jug. Nine sherds appeared to be from later Grimston Ware as they were fully oxidised and/or had internal glaze.

The non-local glazed wares included five sherds in medium-coarse whiteware with a green or brownish lead glaze; these could be a local Grimston variant, but are more likely to be York-type ware. There was also a small body sherd of Scarborough Ware.

Evidence of use was recorded where possible. Of the maximum 694 vessels of medieval date in this group, 312 were sooted externally (45.0%). There was burnt food residue inside two vessels and lime in three. Seven sherds showed signs of burning, and several vessel rims were cracked. This may have occurred during firing or possibly as a post-depositional change, but is most likely to have occurred during daily use in cooking.

Two unidentified wares were both likely to be medieval. One was too small to classify and the other was a burnt base in a fine fabric.

Post-medieval

One small, abraded sherd of glazed red earthenware was recovered from layer 57613.

Illustrated vessels

46. MCW6 jar with UPBD rim, slight thumbing, light to mid grey internally, brown externally with sooting on rim. Pit fill 57676.
47. LMU jar with square UPBD rim, pale grey core and white-buff surfaces. Pit fill 57486.
48. MCW1 jar with INT rim, pale grey. Pit fill 57835.
49. MCW2 jar with UPPL rim, buff externally, dark grey internally, sooted on rim. Ditch fill 58016.
50. LMU jug with UPFT rim, pale buff externally, dark grey internally. Pit fill 57486.
51. MCW2 jug with INT rim, mid grey with buff core, slight sooting on rim edge. Ditch fill 57343.
52. LMU bowl with THEV rim, dark grey externally and buff internally, cracked surfaces, rim thumbbed internally. Pit fill 57818.
53. MCW1 bowl with THEV rim, pale buff. Ditch fill 57424.
54. MCW1 bowl with INT rim, medium grey, sooted. Ditch fill 57883.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 27. The majority of pottery was recovered from contexts assigned to Phase 3, with a large proportion in Phase 5 (undated). Unphased material, which includes unstratified finds, unassigned and watching brief contexts and a tree bole, will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Unphased
UNID	1		1	
THET	3			
THETG	3			
EMW	73		10	1
YAR	2		3	
MCW1	247		43	13
MCW2	26		24	3
MCW3	60	1	14	1
MCW4	1		1	
MCW5	5		4	6
MCW6	9		8	3
MCW7	9		2	
MCWG	2		0	
GRCW	4		4	
LMU	169		26	8
UPG	3			
GRIM	116		38	5
SCAR	1			
YORK	5			
GRIL			2	
GRE	1			
Total	740	1	180	40

Table 27. Pottery types present by phase.

Phase 3 – Medieval

Contexts in this phase produced a total of 740 sherds. Groups of features showed that the various areas of the site had been in use throughout the medieval phase, with fills dating to both the early and later halves of the period. The eastern enclosure appears to have been infilled slightly earlier than the western one, although the area was still in use as some pit fills were of later date.

The ditch 57942 to the west contained one abraded sherd of Grimston-type ware. Nine pits and a ditch in the open area to the west contained 110 sherds between them. With the exceptions of pit 57675 which was probably filled in the 12th/13th centuries, and pit 58032 which was not closely datable, all pits contained at least one sherd which could be dated to the 13th/14th centuries.

Ditch fills in the western enclosure contained 159 sherds. Where more closely datable, most of these groups suggested final filling in the 13th/14th centuries. Two

ditches, 57684 and 57787, may have been filled slightly earlier.

Pits within the western enclosures produced 244 sherds. A few fills contained very few sherds and were not closely datable, but there was evidence of at least two phases of activity with some pits dating to the earlier and some to the later halves of the period. None of these pits produced large quantities of sherds, the biggest group being 30 fragments from pit 57543.

Twenty-one sherds from three pits in the open area between the enclosure groups suggested 13th/14th-century dates for all three features.

Ditch fills of the eastern enclosure contained only 37 sherds. The more closely datable fills all belonged to the first half of the medieval phase.

Fifty sherds were found in five pits within the eastern enclosures. One (57451) was probably early, three (57414, 57510 and 57634) could be dated to the 13th century, and one (57627) may be slightly later.

Three pits in the open area to the east produced 21 sherds. Pits 57102 and 57122 contained fragments of the same Grimston-type jug and were dated 13th/14th-century. Pit 57357 contained only coarseware body sherds and was not closely datable.

Ditch 57612 contained 22 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, although the single sherd of 16th- to 18th-century glazed red earthenware may be intrusive as there were several fragments of a Grimston-type jug.

Three pits to the east contained 32 sherds. Two (57411 and 57327) could be placed in the 13th century and one (57044) was probably a little later.

Phase 4 – Post-medieval

One residual medieval coarseware sherd was recovered from a ditch assigned to this phase.

Phase 5 – Undated

Contexts in this phase produced 180 sherds of medieval date.

Three ditches at the west end of the site produced twelve sherds. Ditch 57783 may be early, whilst ditches 57779 and 57663 contained 13th/14th-century sherds.

The western pits, 25 features in total, produced 94 sherds between them. Most were not closely datable, but a few contained abraded sherds of Grimston-type ware or identifiable forms and could be placed in the 13th century or later. Pit 58010 contained late Grimston-type ware and was probably the latest to be filled.

Four ditches in the eastern enclosure produced only eleven sherds between them. Three were not closely datable, but ditch 57505 contained an early jar rim, which does not contradict the suggestion above (see Phase 3) that this enclosure was filled in before that to the west.

Four ditches to the east contained seven sherds with a range of dates. The latest ditch to be filled was probably 57009.

Twenty-three pits in the eastern half of the site contained 54 sherds. All features which could be closely dated belonged to the second half of the medieval phase.

Plot 39/84A Discussion

A small quantity of pottery of Late Saxon date was recovered, but was probably of 11th-century date and likely to be contemporary with the earliest of the medieval wares. Activity appears to have been continuous between the 11th-14th centuries, based on the fabrics and forms present. A few sherds of late Grimston-type ware indicate a continued presence into the 14th/15th centuries, but use of the site was probably limited by this date.

The majority of pottery from this site was heavily abraded, suggesting a high degree of redeposition. Of the 149 features which contained medieval pottery, 120

contained ten or fewer sherds, suggesting widespread scattering of sherds through manuring. The largest assemblage from a single feature, pit 57892 at the west end of the site, was 44 sherds. In general, the western half of the site produced a larger quantity of pottery than the east. This may be because the eastern enclosure went out of use slightly earlier than the western one, although pits continued to be dug and infilled into the second half of the period in both halves of the site.

The relatively high proportion of glazed wares at this site, together with the presence of wares from outside the region, may suggest a degree of status. As the site continued well into the 14th century, glazed wares would have been more readily available to the later occupants, but the proportion of glazed pottery is still comparable with some of the wealthier urban sites in the region.

Plot 47/34: Lyngate Road, North Walsham (37631 WLN)

Introduction

A total of 565 sherds of pottery weighing 3699g was collected from 60 contexts in plot 47/34. Table 28 shows the quantification by fabric. The pottery from this site had suffered very badly from post-depositional erosion; most sherds were abraded and/or had lost their outer surfaces.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	6	100	54	100	
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			6	1.1	54	1.5	
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	52	10.0	126	4.3	
Medieval coarsewares	MCW	3.20	24	4.6	8	0.3	
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	62	11.9	356	12.1	0.35
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	2	0.4	8	0.3	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	14	2.7	64	2.2	
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	4	0.8	19	0.6	
Medieval coarseware 5	MCW5	3.205	120	23.1	557	18.9	0.26
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	64	12.3	875	29.7	0.51
Local medieval unglazed (Norwich type)	LMU	3.23	157	30.3	719	24.4	0.74
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	6	1.2	37	1.3	
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	14	2.7	179	6.1	
<i>Total medieval</i>			519	91.9	2948	79.7	1.86
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	5.10	22	59.5	348	50.4	0.20
Late Grimston-type ware	GRIL	5.30	7	18.9	195	28.2	0.20
Siegburg stoneware	GSW1	7.11	2	5.4	76	11.0	
Langerwehe stoneware	GSW2	7.12	4	10.8	59	8.5	
Raeran/Aachen stoneware	GSW3	7.13	1	2.7	10	1.4	
Dutch-type redwares	DUTR	7.21	1	2.7	3	0.4	
<i>Total late medieval</i>			37	6.5	691	18.7	0.40
Unidentified	UNID	0.001	3	0.5	6	0.2	
Total			565		3699		2.26

Table 28. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

Six sherds of possible Thetford-type ware were identified, although none could be considered typical. They consisted of two small body sherds, a flat base with wire-marks from a small vessel, a sagging base which could be Grimston Thetford-type ware, and a rim and body sherd from a small bowl. This material was residual in all three contexts in which it occurred.

Medieval

In this assemblage, medieval pottery made up 91.9% by count, but only 79.7% by weight, this difference being due to the relatively small size of the sherds in comparison with late medieval wares (see below). Local coarsewares formed 96.1% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up the remainder. In this group, the LMU fabric familiar in Norwich assemblages made up the largest proportion of the coarsewares, closely followed by MCW5 and MCW1. By weight, MCW6 was the most frequent, but this was due to the presence of several large sherds from two vessels in contexts 47160 and 47134.

Twenty-eight coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. The vessels consisted of two bowls, 20 jars or cooking pots and five jugs. Six coarseware handles were recovered. Table 29 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	INT	SEV1?	THEV	UPBD	UPFT	UPPL	UPTH
Bowl			1				
Bowl?			1				
Jar		2	16		1	1	
Jug	1			1			1
Jug?	2						1

Table 29. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: INT – inturned; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; THEV – thickened everted; UPBD/FT/PL/TH – upright beaded/flat-topped/plain/thickened.

Most of the rims were the later THEV types (18 vessels), which are dated 13th-14th centuries. Even the simple everted types appeared transitional. The distribution of rim forms seems to indicate that the main period of settlement at this site began in the 13th century.

Few vessels were decorated. One jar rim was thumbled and one had an incised wavy line. Two body sherds had shallow combed lines, and one jug handle had four incised horizontal grooves. Three vessels had applied thumbled strips, which is relatively uncommon on medieval coarsewares in Norfolk.

Very little glazed ware was present in this assemblage. The majority of sherds were Grimston-type, although a few were more typical Grimston products. They were generally green-glazed body sherds, two with brown slip lines, or base fragments, and there was one handle. Two bases had kiln scars.

There were two types of unprovenanced glazed wares. Four sherds had a fine matrix with sparse medium quartz and ferrous fragments and were orange with grey internal margins. The glaze was uncoloured, appearing orange on the oxidised fabric. Two sherds appeared to be glazed versions of the local coarsewares.

Late medieval

Late medieval wares were dominated by LMT, although only seven vessels were represented by the 22 sherds. Whilst some of the fabrics suggested a more local origin than the North Suffolk industry, there were at least two vessels – a jug with a collared rim and a small bowl with a bead rim – which were typical of the Waveney Valley production sites. Another jug, found in four contexts (286, 288, 47108, 47109), was in a medium sandy fabric which was not unlike MCW6, suggesting either a local version of LMT or possibly a 13th/14th-century date.

Four vessels of late Grimston-type ware were present. There were two jug rims, both inturned, a body sherd from a globular jug with a cordon at the shoulder and external yellowish glaze, and a base sherd with internal speckled green glaze.

Imported wares of this date consisted of a small body sherd of Dutch-type

redware and three German stoneware jugs. Siegburg and Langerwehe both appear in Norwich in the 14th century, although Raeren tends to occur in slightly later contexts. All three types are relatively rare finds on rural sites and may indicate a degree of status here in the 14th/15th centuries.

Unidentified

Three heavily abraded small greyware body sherds from 47073 and 47075 were unidentified but could be Roman.

Illustrated vessels

55. MCW1 jar, buff, sooted, THEV rim. Pit fill 47075.

56. MCW6 jar, pale grey with dark grey patches and internal brown staining, THEV rim. Pit fill 47160 (SF 74001).

57. MCW6 jar, pale grey with dark grey patches and internal brown staining, THEV rim with incised wavy line decoration. Pit fill 47160 (SF 74002).

58. LMU jug, pale brown with external sooting, UPBD rim. Pit fill 47160.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 30. The majority of pottery was collected from Phase 2, with a smaller but significant quantity from Phase 3. Phase 6 represents topsoil and unstratified finds and will not be discussed further.

Fabric	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6
THET	2	4			
EMW	29	19	1	3	
MCW	21		3		
MCW1	43	12	2	2	3
MCW2	2				
MCW3	9	2		3	
MCW4	3	1			
MCW5	76	34	3	1	6
MCW6	57	4		2	1
LMU	136	18	1	2	
UPG	6				
GRIM	10	3		1	
LMT	19	2			1
GRIL	5	2			
GSW1		2			
GSW2		4			
GSW3	1				
DUTR		1			
UNID	2	1			
Total	421	109	10	14	11

Table 30. Pottery types present by phase.

Phase 2 – Medieval

Contexts of this phase produced 421 sherds. Although some earlier material was present, most of the features belonging to this phase contained 13th/14th-century pottery, and were overlain by slightly later spreads.

The central produced 36 sherds. Whilst some were residual, the majority probably dated to the 13th/14th centuries.

The southern pits produced 168 sherds between them, of which 31 came from the upper and overlying layers. The latter could be dated to the 14th/15th-centuries due to the presence of late Grimston-type ware, and the pits themselves could all be placed in the 13th or 13th/14th-centuries.

Only eight sherds were found in one pit, 47245, in the east-central area

suggesting a possible 13th/14th-century date.

The NE pits and the cleaning layers above them produced 196 sherds. Pit 47235 could be placed in the 13th/14th centuries, and pit 47110 may be of the same date. The latter contained a single sherd of LMT from the same vessel, also found in the cleaning layers above, which may be intrusive. The late medieval sherds from pits 47046 and 47195 seem less likely to be intrusive, so these were probably the latest features in the group.

Layer 282 from the evaluation produced thirteen sherds of medieval coarseware.

Phase 3 – Late medieval

Features of this period contained 109 sherds. Many were residual, particularly those which had been deposited in the possible horticultural ditches. Presumably this was the result of continued cultivation and manuring. Sherds from the two pits in this phase were contemporary with the period.

Five of the agricultural features produced 83 sherds, the majority of which were heavily abraded and probably residual. Only ditch 47072 produced late medieval pottery. Two pits, 47149 and 47208, contained twenty-six sherds, including two types of Rhenish stoneware, suggesting a 14th/15th-century date.

Phase 4 – Post-medieval

All ten sherds recovered from the boundary ditch were residual medieval coarsewares.

Phase 5 – Undated

Fourteen sherds were collected from 'undated' features, but are presumed to be residual.

Six undated pits produced only eight small sherds of EMW and medieval coarsewares.

Six sherds were collected from the butt ends of two ditches. They suggested that the fills were of 13th-century or later date.

Plot 47/34 Discussion

The early medieval wares at this site were represented by small body sherds only. It is possible that they represent a limited early phase of settlement associated with the possible Thetford Wares, or that they have been misidentified given their small size and poor condition. The overall assemblage suggests that the settlement flourished during the 13th-15th centuries – unlike the other medieval sites along the pipeline, it had not been abandoned during the 14th century.

The assemblage of high medieval date contained the normal range of forms and fabrics for this area, with a relatively low proportion of glazed wares in comparison with other groups. An improvement in status appears possible in the late medieval period however, based on the presence of some early imported stonewares. If the land was in use for horticulture at this time, then a farmhouse of moderate wealth may have been located somewhere nearby.

Plot 50/26: Bradfield Common, Swafeld (37783/37996 SLD)

Introduction

A total of 166 sherds of pottery weighing 845g was collected from 46 contexts in plot 50/26. Table 31 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	% Wt	eve
Gritty Ipswich Ware	GIPS	2.31	1	25.0	6	26.1	
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	3	75.0	17	73.9	0.05
<i>Total Mid-Late Saxon</i>			4	2.4	23	2.7	0.05
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	12	7.4	62	7.5	0.22
Early medieval ware gritty	EMWG	3.11	1	0.6	1	0.1	
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	48	29.6	194	23.6	0.20
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	10	6.2	32	3.9	
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	4	2.5	11	1.3	
Medieval coarseware 4	MCW4	3.204	2	1.2	8	1.0	
Medieval coarseware 5	MCW5	3.205	45	27.8	181	22.0	0.50
Medieval coarseware 6	MCW6	3.206	13	8.0	53	6.4	0.24
Local medieval unglazed (Norwich type)	LMU	3.23	18	11.1	256	31.1	0.23
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	7	4.3	18	2.2	0.05
Yorkshire glazed wares	YORK	4.43	2	1.2	6	0.7	
<i>Total medieval</i>			162	97.6	822	97.3	1.44
Total			166		845		1.49

Table 31. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Note: percentages in sub-total rows are of the entire post-Roman assemblage; those referring to individual fabrics are of the total period group.

Pottery by period

Middle to Late Saxon

There was one abraded body sherd of possible gritty Ipswich Ware, although it may be a well-fired medieval coarseware as the vessel was relatively thin for this ware. Three sherds were probably Thetford-type ware, although only the rimsherd from field ditch fill 218 was distinctive enough to be certain. It was from a medium jar and was an 11th-century type (type 7). All sherds were redeposited in later contexts.

Medieval

Over 97% of the post-Roman assemblage belonged to the 11th-14th centuries. Local coarsewares formed 94.5% of the group by count, with local glazed wares making up 4.3% and other English glazed wares 1.2%. MCW1 and MCW5 were the most common.

Twenty-three coarseware vessels were identifiable to form from their rims. Rim types are those used for Dragon Hall, Norwich (Anderson 2005), a modified typology based on the original jar form divisions for LMU (Jennings 1981). The vessels consisted of three bowls, sixteen jars or cooking pots and three jugs. One coarseware handle was recovered. Table 32 shows the distribution of rim and vessel forms based on the MNV.

Form	BD	COLL	SEV1	SEV2	THEV
Bowl					3
Jar			10	1	5
Jug	1	1			
Jug?		1			

Table 32. Medieval coarseware rim and vessel forms

Key to rim forms: BD – beaded; COLL - collared; SEV1 – simple everted plain flared; SEV2 – simple everted acute; THEV – thickened everted; UPPL – upright plain.

Most of the rims were the earlier SEV types (11 vessels), which are dated 11th-13th centuries. The more developed types (THEV, COLL) were represented by eight vessels. The majority of SEV1 rims were in fabric MCW5 and MCW6, whilst more of the THEV rims were in MCW1 and LMU. SEV2 was only represented by one LMU vessel in this assemblage. The distribution of rim forms may indicate that the settlement was in decline by the 14th century.

Decoration was not common. Two jar rims had thumbled decoration and one

handle was similarly treated along the edges. One THEV bowl had a band of short incised diagonal lines along the centre part of the rim (Fig. **.54). Two body sherds had applied thumbed strips, which is relatively uncommon on medieval coarsewares in Norfolk but much more a feature of NE Suffolk wares. As the fabrics are very similar, it may be that some Suffolk wares were present but indistinguishable from the main pottery groups in this assemblage.

Very little glazed ware was present in this assemblage. The majority of sherds were Grimston-type, although several sherds were in the fabric seen elsewhere along this pipeline route. A few were more typical Grimston products. Only one rim was present, and the form was uncertain but appeared to be a small lid (100mm diameter) with slashed line decoration on the outer surface, from which the glaze had largely been lost (Fig. **.56). Two body sherds from a Yorkshire glazed ware jug were also present.

Illustrated vessels

59. LMU bowl with band of incised decoration along rim, grey-black, THEV rim. Subsoil 50001.

60. MCW1 bowl, grey with black sooted external surface, worn THEV rim. Ditch fill 50172.

61. GRIM ?lid with slashed decoration. L-shaped ditch fill 50187.

Pottery by site phase

A summary of the pottery by phase is provided in Table 33. Most of the pottery was collected from contexts assigned to Phase 3, the remainder being unstratified or from topsoil and subsoil layers (Phase 5). Unphased and upper layer material will not be considered further.

Fabric	Phase 3	Phase 5	Unphased
GIPS			1
THET	2	1	
EMW	9	1	2
EMWG	1		
MCW1	45		3
MCW2	6	1	3
MCW3	4		
MCW4	1		1
MCW5	44	1	
MCW6	10	2	1
LMU	17	1	
GRIM	6		1
YORK	1	1	
Total	146	8	12

Table 33. Pottery types present by phase.

Phase 3 – Medieval

The majority of this assemblage was recovered from features which have been interpreted as medieval in origin, with very little redeposition having occurred in later periods.

Two gullies in the eastern half of the site produced pottery of medieval date. Thirteen sherds were collected from sections of hollow 50282 and suggested a 13th-century date.

The nine parallel ditches running across both ends and the centre of the site produced a total of 42 medieval sherds. The earliest date from the west side was 11th-13th century for 50281, and the latest was 13th/14th-century for 50290. Group 50279 in the centre was also of 13th/14th-century date. On the east side, 50032 was probably L.12th-M.13th century, and 50278 and 50294 were filled in the 13th/14th centuries.

Only nineteen sherds were collected from seven pits, the largest of which was 50276. The eleven sherds from that feature suggested a 13th/14th-century date, and pit

50131 may also be of that period, but the other pits were not closely datable.

Ditch 50293, which cut the eastern ditches 50286 and 50294, produced 35 sherds from four fills. Ditch 50292 contained 29 sherds in three fills. Both were filled in the second half of the medieval period.

Plot 50/26 Discussion

With the exception of one possible sherd of Ipswich Ware, the earliest post-Roman pottery from this site was of 11th-century date, and consists of Thetford-type ware. Some early medieval wares, and possibly some of the other medieval coarsewares, may be contemporary with this. Based on rims, and to a certain extent on fabrics, there appeared to be more pottery of the first half of the medieval period than the second. However, the assemblage certainly continued into the 13th century and probably beyond.

The relative proportions of vessel types and glazed to unglazed wares are typical of medieval rural sites in East Anglia, and the forms are typical of the Norwich area. The presence of a non-local ware on an inland rural site is relatively unusual, but other sites along the pipeline have also produced small quantities of pottery from the Yorkshire kilns.

The small quantities of pottery recovered from open features probably indicates that any settlement was not close to the excavated area. Pottery may have reached the site through manuring activity, and this is corroborated by the degree of abrasion which many sherds had suffered. The high MNV (137 vessels) in comparison with the sherd count also suggests that most sherds were redeposited from their original place of disposal.

Small sites

Introduction

Post-Roman pottery was collected from 33 small sites along the pipeline route during the evaluation and watching brief. Pottery from each of these is described below.

Plot 1/251

One body sherd of Early Saxon medium sandy pottery was collected from hollow fill 1316. A sherd of MCW3 came from pit fill 1311.

Plot 1/252

One body sherd (19g) of Early Saxon granitic-tempered pottery (ESCF) with a smoothed external surface was found in 1868.

Plot 1/253

Ten sherds (90g) of Early Saxon pottery, representing a minimum of five vessels, were recovered from 1852. All were undecorated body sherds, with the possible exception of one heavily abraded sherd which appeared to have an applied boss; the outer surface was lost. Four fabrics were represented: ESCF, ESFS, ESOM and ESFQ. The latter was represented by five sherds from a single, slightly shouldered, vessel. The group may be of 6th-century date.

Plot 2/249

One small body sherd (2g) of Early Saxon medium sandy pottery (ESMS) was recovered from 2863.

Plot 6/226

Two body sherds (29g) from a single Early Saxon medium sandy (ESMS) vessel, with occasional coarse unburnt flint inclusions, were found in pit fill 6074. Ditch fill 6858 contained eight medieval sherds (16g), of which five were EMW and three were MCW3 body sherds; an 11th/12th-century date is suggested. Five small sherds from ditch fill 6043 (sample 71550) appear to be Thetford-type ware, although they may be Roman.

Plot 6/228

A small rim sherd (7g) of Early Saxon fine abundant sand (ESFQ) was found in 6852. The rim was an upright plain type with a diameter of 150mm (eve 0.07).

Plot 7/223

Two heavily abraded sherds (3g) of an Early Saxon medium sandy (ESMS) vessel were found in association with a flat base fragment (46g) in context 7861. The base fragment had cheesewire marks and was not thought to be Roman, but the fabric is unusual for a Late Saxon ware. The sherd could be from a Saxon imported vessel, but the range of inclusions would tend to indicate a local origin. It is probably the product of a rural Thetford-type or 'early medieval sandwich ware' kiln of 11th-century date.

Plot 10/210

One body sherd (5g) of Early Saxon medium sandy (ESMS) pottery was collected from 10862.

Plot 10/213A

An abraded body sherd (15g) of Early Saxon fine flint fabric (ESFF) was found in 10866. It was not clear which was the outer surface of the sherd. The concave surface was smoothed, oxidised to a dark brown colour, and there were three rough incised horizontal lines. The concave surface had been partially smoothed but appeared more like an inner surface. Although the curvature was slightly unusual, the sherd may be from the upper half of a decorated biconical vessel. If so, it is probably of 5th/6th-century date.

Plot 24/139

One heavily abraded body sherd (6g) of Grimston-type coarseware was recovered from 24857.

Plot 28/118 and 28/120

One sherd of Middle Saxon gritty Ipswich Ware (6g) was found in 28883. A jar rim from an SEV1 type jar (14g) was collected from 28884, suggesting an 11th-13th-century date.

Plot 30/115 and 30/116

One heavily abraded sherd (3g) of probable medieval coarseware (MCW3) was found in 30858. A small sherd of LMU (3g) was collected from 30852.

Plot 31/114

Two abraded sherds (36g) of an 11th-century Grimston Thetford-type vessel were found in 31866, along with two small sherds of MCW1. Two small sherds of early medieval ware came from 31854, but were residual as this context also produced a 13th-century jar rim (MCW1), two MCW1 body sherds and an unglazed Grimston-type sherd. Context

31864 contained a single abraded sherd of MCW3. Another sherd of MCW1 was collected from 31867. Total weight for the ten medieval sherds was 17g.

Plot 36/97

Eleven sherds of Early Saxon pottery (204g) were recovered from three pit fills, 36011, 36018 and 36020. They represented five vessels. Three body sherds from 36011 were from a small globular jar and were in a fine sandy (ESFS) fabric with occasional mica and chaff impressions. Four body sherds from 36018 and 36020 were small and abraded; these were in fabrics ESMS, ESCQ and ESFF. The remaining four sherds (ESMS) from the same pit were from a sub-biconical vessel with internal and external smoothing but no decoration. This form suggests a 5th/6th-century date.

Three medieval sherds were also found. A 13th/14th-century developed rim sherd (18g) of an LMU jar was an unstratified find from the evaluation (814). An abraded base sherd (5g) of a Grimston-type vessel with a kiln scar externally was found in pit fill 36022. Pit fill 36018 contained an MCW1 jug rim (3g).

Plot 37/92

Context 37852 contained two sherds of medieval coarseware (MCW1) and a sherd of Grimston-type ware (total 22g), suggesting a 13th/14th-century date.

Plots 39/74, 39/77 and 39/78

One sherd (5g) of green-glazed Grimston-type ware was collected from 39869. It had the typical brown slip vertical stripe decoration and was probably of 13th-century date. A small body sherd (2g) of EMW (or possibly MCW3) was found in 39855. Context 39854 contained five 13th/14th-century sherds (33g), consisting of an MCW1 base sherd, and MCW2 bowl rim, two body sherds of a Grimston-type face jug and an unglazed Grimston-type sherd.

Plot 43/58

Two sherds of MCW1 (2g) were collected from 43887.

Plot 44/48

A total of 22 sherds of pottery weighing 127g was collected from 18 contexts. Table 34 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	% No	Wt/g	%Wt	eve
Thetford-type ware	THET	2.50	5		12		
<i>Total Late Saxon</i>			5	22.7	12	9.4	
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	6		25		
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	4		6		
Local medieval unglazed (Norwich type)	LMU	3.23	2		3		
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	2		1		
Scarborough Ware	SCAR	4.40	2		45		
<i>Total medieval</i>			16	72.7	80	62.9	
Westerwald stoneware	GSW5	7.15	1	4.6	35	27.6	0.13
			22		127		0.13

Table 34. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Five sherds of Thetford-type ware were recovered. Three of these were from a blue-grey overfired, thin-walled vessel in a fairly coarse fabric and were found in pit fill 44058 and ditch fill 44126. A dark grey-brown body sherd, also relatively coarse, was found in layer 44001 and a small base sherd in a similar fabric came from ditch fill 44216. These suggest limited activity on the site in the 11th century.

Twelve coarseware body and base sherds were recovered. The fabrics present suggest that there was activity throughout the high medieval period, but no rims were present to confirm this. Two tiny sherds of a Grimston-type green-glazed vessel were found in ditch fill 44268. Perhaps the most interesting find in this small assemblage was the Scarborough Ware from ditch fill 44243. Unfortunately the two sherds were very abraded, but they were fragments of a figurine from a highly decorated 'knight jug'. This relatively rare decorative item would probably have graced a high status table somewhere in the vicinity in the 13th century.

One rim sherd of a Westerwald chamber pot of 17th/18th-century date was found in ditch fill 44077.

Plot 44/52

Three medieval (10g) and two post-medieval (28g) sherds were recovered. Context 119 contained a single body sherd of MCW1. A base sherd of early medieval ware and a heavily abraded 13th/14th-century rim sherd of MCW1 were found in 132. A tiny base fragment from a 16th-18th-century glazed red earthenware sherd was found in 830. A plate base in refined white earthenware of 19th/20th-century date came from 44859.

Plot 45/43

One small abraded sherd of red earthenware (2g) with combed horizontal lines was found in 45852. The fabric was medium sandy and could be medieval, but this surface treatment was most commonly used in the late medieval and transitional (LMT) industries on vessels to which handles were applied. The sherd shows no definite traces of glaze, but post-depositional erosion has affected the surfaces.

Plot 45/44

A base sherd (2g) of medieval coarseware (MCW2) was found in 401, and a small sherd of red earthenware (1g), most likely from a tile or brick of post-medieval date, was collected from 416.

Plot 45/45

Four sherds of medieval (53g) and seven sherds of post-medieval (218g) pottery were found. Context 402 produced a body sherd of MCW5, and an abraded sherd of MCW4 came from 408. A handle in MCW6 was collected from 815 along with a Grimston-type face jug rim fragment. This context also contained a refined whiteware plate rim with moulded fleur-de-lys decoration along its scalloped edge, four sherds of a late creamware jug, and a large fragment of a black basalt vessel with moulded decoration (thistle, shamrock, oak leaves). A base sherd from a 15th/16th-century Raeren stoneware mug was found in 45851.

Plot 45/46

A single body sherd of MCW5 (6g) was recovered from 45868.

Plot 46/38

Ditch fill 46038 produced one abraded body sherd of a Grimston-type jug (2g) with a vertical brown slip line, slight cordon at the neck base, and green glaze externally. One sherd of refined whiteware willow pattern ?plate (1g) and a fragment of a porcelain slip-moulded figurine (7g) with underglaze blue spatter decoration were topsoil finds 46000.

Plot 49/28A

Fifteen sherds (64g) of medieval pottery, one late medieval (31g) and two post-medieval

sherds (7g) were found. Context (164) contained a single abraded sherd of early medieval ware. Context 156 produced eleven body sherds, consisting of a variety of medieval coarsewares (MCW1, MCW2, MCW4, MCW5) and one Grimston-type fragment, suggesting a 13th/14th-century date. A bowl rim (MCW1) and a sherd of Grimston-type ware suggested a similar date for context 822. A developed bowl rim (MCW5) with thumbing externally was recovered from 49850, but this context also produced one sherd of LMT, a small body sherd of Frechen stoneware and an abraded fragment of a Staffordshire-type slipware hollow ware base.

Plot 50/28A

Context 175 contained seven sherds (13g) with a variety of dates. A possible Early Saxon fine sandy (ESFS) sherd was recovered, but the surfaces were lost and the fragment may simply be fired clay. Body sherds of medieval coarsewares (MCW1, MCW5, MCW6) formed the bulk of the assemblage, and there was one tiny abraded sherd of LMT with green glaze inside and out.

Plot 51/23

Five medieval sherds (21g), one post-medieval (24g) and one unidentified (18g) were recovered from 51850. The medieval sherds consisted of body sherds of EMW and MCW1, a base sherd of MCW2, a jar rim of MCW5 (probably 13th-century, wheelmade rim on handmade body), and a glazed sherd in a local fabric of uncertain provenance. The post-medieval sherd was an abraded rim fragment of a large bowl or pancheon in glazed red earthenware (16th-18th centuries). A greyware base sherd in a coarse sandy fabric with a buff core was probably either a local Thetford-type variant or an unusually coarse Roman vessel, although it is similar to some Early Saxon imports and may be an example of one of these.

Plot 52/20

Two medieval coarseware (MCW1, MCW2) body sherds (6g) were found in 257 and a developed jar rim (MCW6; 16g) was found in 263. Both contexts are probably of 13th/14th-century date.

Plot 54/12

One sherd (4g) of green-glazed medieval pottery in a fine grey sandy fabric was of uncertain origin. It is similar to Hollesley Ware from the east Suffolk coast, but the coarsewares generally in this area also bear a resemblance to that fabric, so it seems more likely to be a local product from an unknown production site. It was found in context 54850.

Discussion

Early Saxon

Fifteen sites along the pipeline produced Early Saxon pottery, a total of 1023 sherds weighing 8454g. The largest assemblages were from Tittleshall (13/202) and Foulsham (24/144). Totals by fabric are shown in Table 35.

Group	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	eve
?	ESHW	40	19	8	
Organic	ESO1	135	785	7	0.11
	ESO2	119	1833	9	2.40
Quartz	ESCQ	13	123	9	
	ESQZ	30	225	18	0.03
	ESMS	389	2991	164	1.33
	ESFQ	19	128	10	0.07
	ESFS	60	832	20	0.27
	ESSM	43	530	5	0.16
Grog	ESGS	15	170	6	0.05
	ESGO	33	101	1	
Shell	ESSS	6	41	4	
	ESCS	16	128	4	
Granitic	ESCF	68	195	9	0.10
	ESOM	2	13	1	
	ESGG	15	100	1	
Flint	ESFF	20	240	8	0.22
Total		1023	8454	284	4.74

Table 35. Early Saxon pottery quantities by fabric.

Figure 1 shows the proportions of each main fabric group using each of the quantification methods.

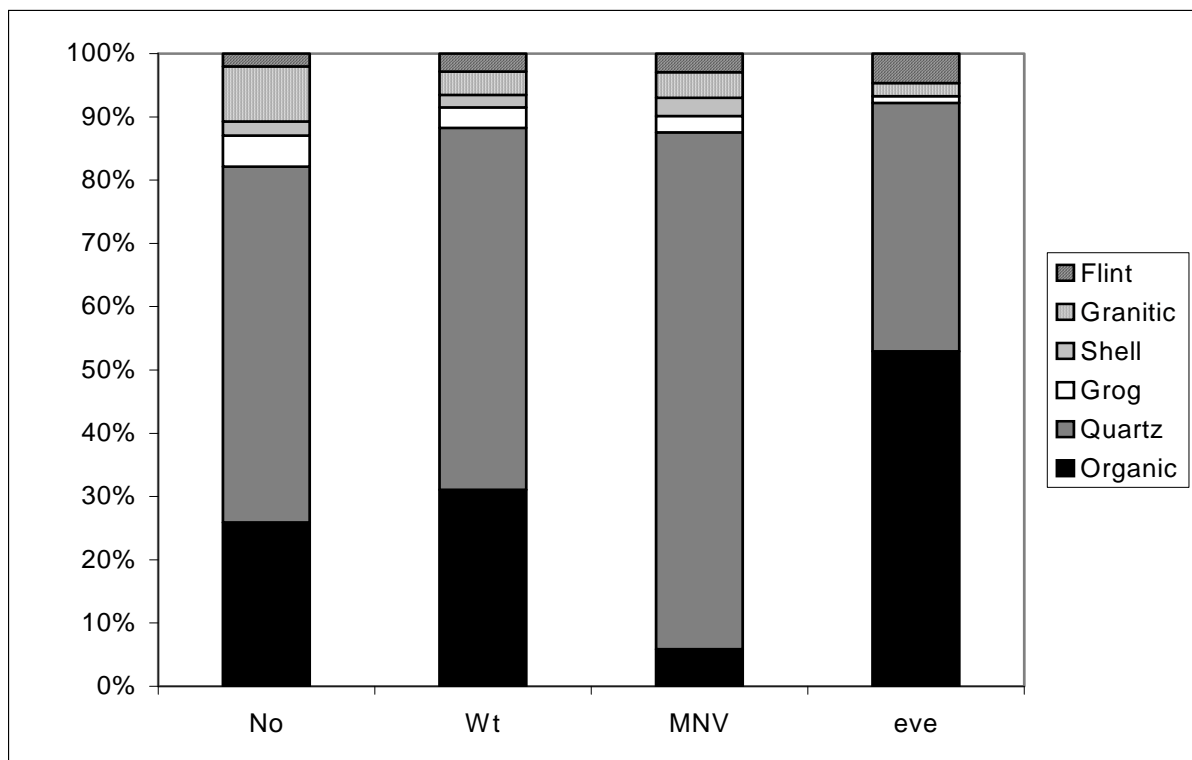


Figure 1. Early Saxon fabric proportions for count, weight, MNV and eve.

All methods except eve show that the quartz-tempered fabrics were the most common in this group. Organic-tempered fabrics are the next most common type, although only a few vessels were represented. Of the less common fabric groups, granitic tempering predominates and there is a relatively large group of grog-tempered types. The latter fabric did not occur at Tittleshall, presumably reflecting the lack of a Roman presence on that site since the grog used at Foulsham (and other sites where this type of fabric occurs) appears to be crushed Roman tile. As discussed with regard

to the Tittleshall assemblage, some of the quartz and flint-tempered material may be of Iron Age date. Removal of the possible Iron Age groups at that site from the overall totals does not change the relative proportions of fabrics significantly, although very little flint-tempered material remains and the granitic and grog-tempered proportions increase slightly. Quartz and organic fabrics remain the first and second most frequent groups.

Fabric distributions amongst the two largest assemblages were very different. Figure 2 shows the proportions of the fabric types by weight. It can be seen from this that organic-tempered pottery was considerably more common at Tittleshall than at Foulsham. Medium sandy and fine micaceous fabrics predominated at the latter, with grog-tempered fabrics also forming a significant proportion of the group. The organic-tempered sherds at Tittleshall were largely recovered from the cemetery, although granitic and quartz-tempered vessels were also found in graves. The other pottery from that site may represent domestic waste of an earlier date. The Foulsham site had no funerary element and probably ended in the late 6th or early 7th century. The cemetery at Tittleshall probably continued well into the 7th century.

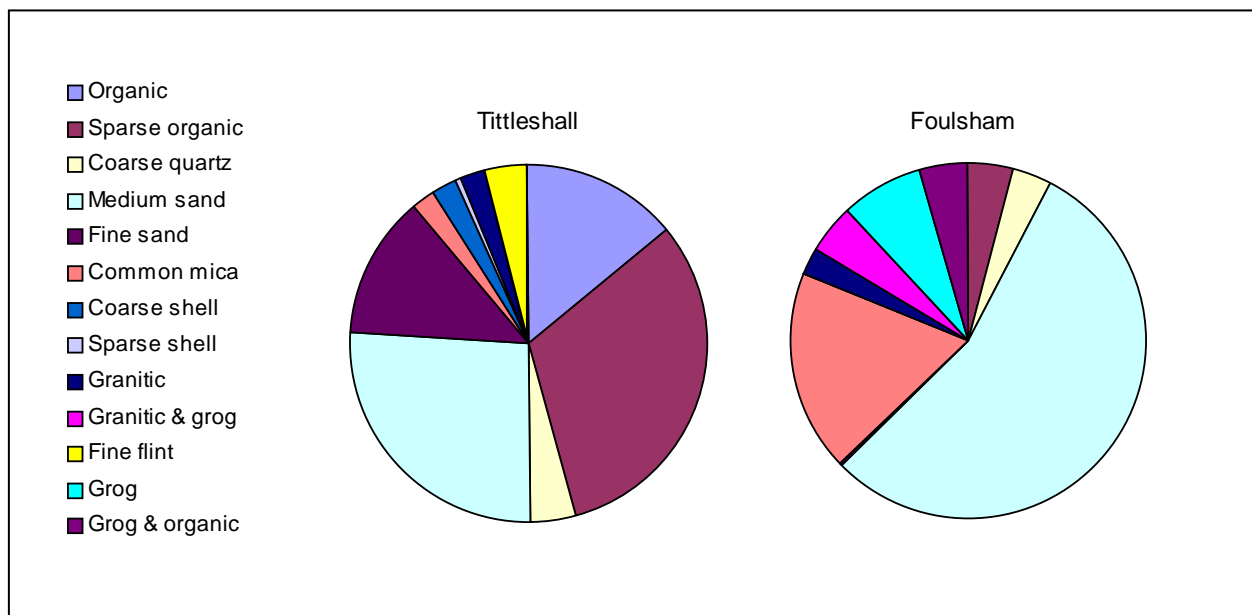


Figure 2. Fabric distributions (weight).

Other cemetery sites in the region have produced high proportions of organic wares, for example Eriswell and Flixton in Suffolk (Anderson 2003 and 2006). Both sites also produced a smaller proportion of granitic wares. The inhumation cemetery at Spong Hill, North Elmham (Brisbane 1984), produced some organic wares, but quartz-tempered fabrics were the most common. The site also produced red grog-tempered pottery and granitic wares were relatively frequent. Chalk, ferrous oxide and quartz conglomerates also formed separate fabric groups there, but these were not major inclusions at Tittleshall and Foulsham.

As discussed with regard to Foulsham, it is likely that the granitic inclusions used in most of the vessels from East Anglian assemblages were added locally. The similarity between the grog-tempered pottery both with and without felspar and gold mica at Foulsham suggests that both were probably made within the vicinity of the site. Previously it has been suggested that some granite-tempered pottery reached East Anglia from Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire (Williams and Vince 1997), and this may still be the case, but it is also possible that some of the temper was derived from local boulder clays. Interestingly, a piece of granite was collected during excavations at

Flixton, Suffolk, so another possibility is that the stone itself was being imported to the area. This may imply that there was some significance to, or preference for, the type of inclusion chosen. Evidence for importation of the pottery itself can be seen at Spong Hill, where oolitic-tempered pottery, common in Cambridgeshire and the Fens but not in North Norfolk, was found in the cremation cemetery but not in the inhumation cemetery or settlement (Brisbane 1984, 32). This may imply that the large cremation cemetery there had a very broad catchment area, as well as showing that pottery might sometimes travel many miles.

Other sites along the route generally produced only one or two sherds, though ten or more were collected from sites at East Walton (1/253), Foulsham (25/136-8) and Irmingland (36/97). The group from East Walton contained both granitic and sandy fabrics, those from Foulsham 25/136-8 were all sandy, and those from Irmingland were generally sandy but included one fine flint-tempered sherd which may be prehistoric. However, the same fabric was found at Litcham (10/213A) and the sherd appeared to be from a decorated biconical vessel. If so, it is possible that there was some utilisation of flint as a temper in this area during the Saxon period.

The forms identified at the main sites have been described in the relevant reports. Overall there was quite a variety of vessels in this assemblage, from early through to late forms. Table 36 shows the main forms present at each site.

Identified vessel types	13/202	24/144	25/136	1/253	10/213a	36/97
<i>Inhumation accessory vessels</i>						
Sub-biconical jar	2					
Straight-sided baggy jar	2					
Thumb pot	1					
<i>Cremation vessels</i>						
Straight-sided baggy jar	1					
<i>Non-funerary</i>						
Biconical jar	1				1	
Sub-biconical jar	2	1				1
Globular jar		2				
High-shoulder globular jar/bowl	2	2		1		
Straight-sided baggy jar		1				
Low bulbous tall jar			1			
Carinated bowl	1					
Hemispherical bowl		2				
Splay-sided bowl	1					

Table 36. Identifiable Early Saxon forms.

Early forms – the biconical, sub-biconical and carinated types – were present at Tittleshall, Foulsham and two of the smaller sites, Litcham (10/213a) and Irmingland (36/97). Intermediate forms – globular, baggy and hemispherical forms – were also present at the two larger sites and at East Walton (1/253). However, the latest vessel in the group came from another Foulsham site, 25/136-8, and was a low bulbous jar with a long neck. If this site did not represent a completely separate settlement, it may provide tentative evidence that the larger Foulsham settlement moved some 2km to the north-east in the 7th century.

Middle Saxon

Only four sherds of Ipswich Ware were recovered, three gritty and one sandy. Two of these were from the Early Saxon site at Tittleshall and probably represent a continuation of the settlement somewhere nearby. The sherds were recovered from topsoil and are more likely to represent agricultural than settlement activity at this time. One possible sherd was a residual find in a medieval extraction pit on site 50/26 in

Swafield. Finally, there was a sherd from site 28/120.

Late Saxon

Thirteen sites produced pottery classified as Late Saxon, a total of 144 sherds weighing 742g. Table 37 shows the quantities by fabric.

Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	ave
THET	118	572	86	1.52
THETG	20	166	13	
STNE	6	4	2	
Totals	144	742	101	1.52

Table 37. Late Saxon pottery quantities by fabric.

The largest groups were from Wood Dalling (28/119) and Itteringham (39/88B), which produced 37 and 48 sherds respectively. Other sites produced less than 15 sherds each. In most cases, the Late Saxon material was associated with early and high medieval assemblages and is likely to be of 11th-century date. It is therefore contemporary with the earliest medieval use of these sites. The main exceptions were Foulsham (24/144) where four sherds of Thetford-type ware came from topsoil and were the latest pottery finds from the site, and Tittleshall (13/202) where Late Saxon and medieval pottery was recovered from topsoil.

Identifiable forms in this small assemblage consisted of three small jars, sixteen medium jars, one large jar, two bowls, one ginger jar and a possible lamp. Early rim types were not common, and were represented by two type 3 and two type 5, one each from Wood Dalling and Itteringham. All other rim forms were later and consisted of four type 1, six type 4, two type 6 and three type 7.

None of the Thetford-type ware from this assemblage was typical of the urban assemblages in the region and probably represents rural production of the ware, such as has been identified at Langhale (Wade 1976) and Bircham (Rogerson and Adams 1978), as well as at Grimston. The similarity of the coarse fabric, which occurred at several sites along the pipeline, to the local medieval coarsewares was striking and means that some body sherds may have been wrongly identified.

Medieval

A total of 4943 sherds weighing 29,729g was identified as medieval. These were recovered from 37 sites along the route. The largest assemblages were from Bintree (22/148), Foulsham (25/136-8), Themelthorpe (27/128), Wood Dalling (28/119), Itteringham (38/90, 39/84A and 39/88B), North Walsham (47/34) and Swafield (50/26). Totals by fabric are shown in Table 38.

The most common fabrics were MCW1 and MCW3, followed by the Norwich-type LMU and EMW. Of the glazed wares, Grimston-types were by far the most frequent. Given the high proportion of EMW overall, it is interesting that YAR was rare in these assemblages. In Norwich, it makes up a large proportion of the pottery found at most early medieval sites. Although designated 'Yarmouth-type ware', the precise origin of this shell and sand-tempered ware is uncertain. As it occurs on rural sites in mid-Suffolk (e.g. Stowmarket, Anderson forthcoming b), it seems likely that it was made somewhere to the south-east of Norwich; the general lack of it along the pipeline route provides further evidence for this hypothesis.

Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	eve
EMW	639	2135	382	2.52
EMWG	1	1	1	
EMSW	3	59	2	
YAR	7	34	4	
MCW	24	8	8	
MCW1	1341	7311	808	6.62
MCW2	110	596	83	0.71
MCW3	1052	7321	747	3.48
MCW4	35	172	28	0.21
MCW5	194	859	109	1.12
MCW6	144	1315	70	1.65
MCW7	11	75	8	
MCWG	2	10	2	
GRCW	25	208	21	0.13
LMU	782	4606	590	6.20
MSHW	4	13	1	0.08
ELCW	1	4	1	
UPG	12	73	12	
GRIM	543	4817	332	2.12
SCAR	5	72	4	0.10
YORK	7	30	4	
ELYG	1	10	1	
Total	4943	29729	3218	24.94

Table 38. Medieval pottery quantities by fabric.

The approximate date ranges for the nine largest medieval sites are provided in Table 39. With the exception of the North Walsham site, all appear to have started in the 11th century, and all but Itteringham Site B continued into the 14th century, although most had been abandoned by the 15th century.

Site	Plot	Approx date range
Billington Road, Bintree	22/148	11th-L.14th c.
Green Lane, Foulsham	25/136-8	11th-E.14th c.
Old Hall Farm, Themelthorpe	27/128	11th-M.14th c.
Church Lane, Wood Dalling	28/119	11th-M.14th c.
Itteringham Site A	38/90 & 39/89	11th-M.14th c.
Itteringham Site B	39/88 & 39/88B	11th-E.13th c.
Itteringham Site C	39/84A	11th-M.14th c.
Lyngate Road, N Walsham	47/34	13th-15th c.
Bradfield Common, Swafeld	50/26	11th-E.14th c.

Table 39. Approximate date ranges for main medieval sites.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of the main coarseware fabrics across the larger sites (Itteringham Sites A-C are considered as one site for this purpose).

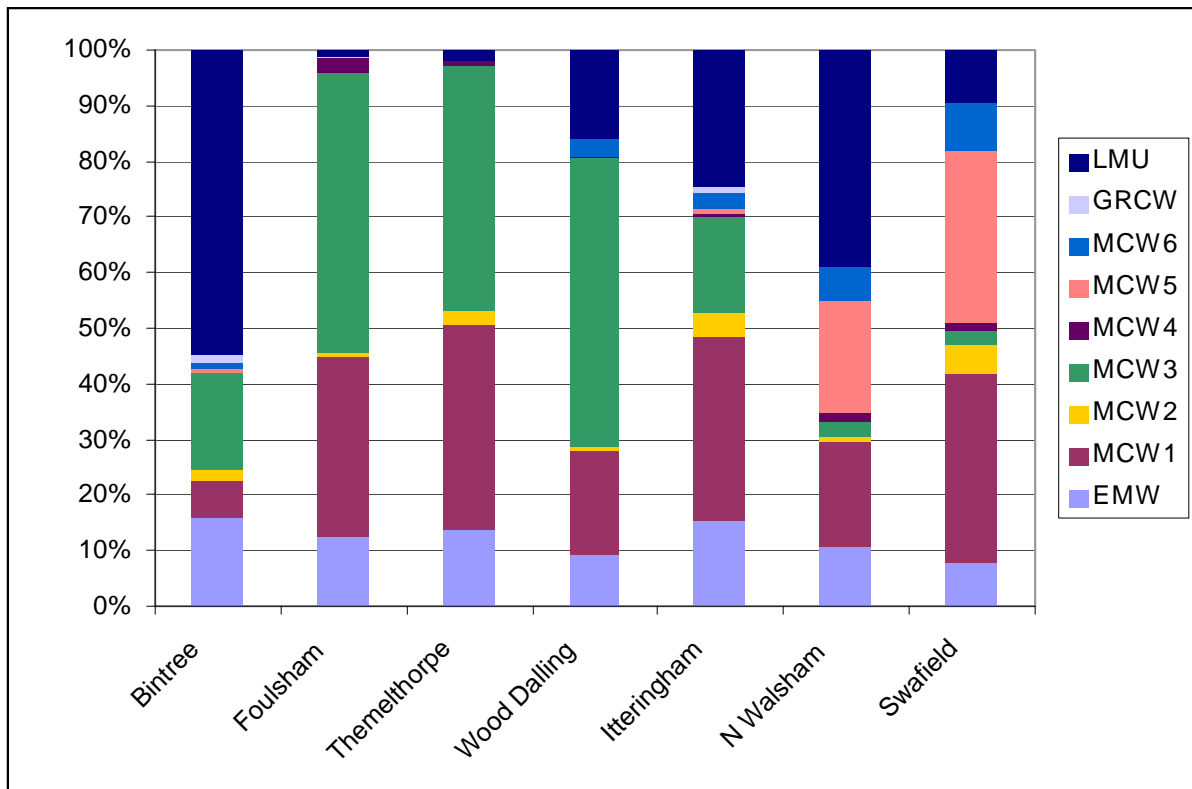


Figure 3. Distribution of medieval coarsewares at the main sites (MNV).

It is unfortunate that very little medieval pottery was found on sites in the western half of the pipeline, as comparisons across the whole length may have shown greater differences between the coarseware distributions. Only eleven sherds of coarseware came from sites west of North Elmham, and these included EMW, GRCW, MCW1, MCW3 and LMU. The larger sites were all to the east of North Elmham, the majority lying to the west of Aylsham, with two concentrated to the north of North Walsham. The proportions of EMW are fairly constant across the whole area. It appears that MCW1 and, to a lesser extent, MCW2 and MCW4 were available across most of this area. MCW3 was noticeably more common in the central area than the north-east, where MCW5 seems to have been more frequent. MCW6 also appears to be slightly more common to the east. MCW7 is not included in the analysis as it only occurred at Itteringham Site C.

With the notable exception of Bintree, LMU was not common in the central area, and its distribution generally seems to be inversely proportional to that of MCW1. LMU is thought to have been produced to the north-east of Norwich, waster sherds having been identified at Woodbastwick and Potter Heigham (Jennings 1981, 41), though no kilns have yet been excavated. LMU might thus be expected to occur most commonly at the north-eastern end of the pipeline, and it was the most frequent type at North Walsham, though not at Swafield. However the high proportion at Bintree may indicate a different pattern of distribution of this ware. Rather than going directly to the sites, it may have been sent out to rural areas via Norwich. Bintree is on the main Norwich to Fakenham road and close to the River Wensum, whilst the other central sites are not located close to any major routes and may have received supplies via the smaller market towns such as Aylsham and Reepham. A high proportion of LMU (and possibly also MCW1) was found in excavations at Red Lion Street, Aylsham (Goffin forthcoming).

The few rural medieval pottery assemblages from elsewhere in Norfolk have

generally been small in recent years, and no attempt has previously been made to divide the coarsewares into fabrics. This may be possible in future, although it is acknowledged that the subjective nature of fabric identification may mean it is difficult to apply the descriptions provided here to other assemblages. LMU has been used as a generic term for all medieval coarsewares in Norfolk, and it is only large-scale and widespread projects such as this which make separation into fabric groups and comparisons across the county worthwhile. This project has provided some evidence for localised distribution of some fabrics with a more complex distribution pattern indicated for others. Future research involving more sites from the whole county might help to elucidate this further, and also to suggest production and catchment areas for the various fabrics, but for the purposes of individual projects it is preferable to continue to record all local fabrics as 'LMU'.

Despite the differences in fabrics, the forms identified in this group were largely typical of EMW and LMU and rims could usually be paralleled amongst those illustrated from Norwich (Jennings 1981). Table 40 shows the distribution of rim forms by fabric for all sites based on MNV.

Rim	Form	EMW	GRCW	LMU	MCW1	MCW2	MCW3	MCW4	MCW5	MCW6	MCW7	MSHW	Total
Everted: simple	SEV	7	1		1		7			1			17
	SEV1	18		35	16	2	39		3	4			117
	SEV2			9	2		2			1			14
Upright	UPBD			2	2	1	3			2			10
	UPFT			2	2		1		1				6
	UPPL				4	2	3		1	1			11
	UPTH			4	1		7		2	1		1	16
	FTTH				1								1
Inturned	INT	2	1	8	11	2	2	2	2	3			33
Beaded	BD				1		4		1				6
	FTBD			1									1
	TRBD				2					1			3
	COLL				1				2				3
Everted: developed	THEV		1	34	46	5	9	2	5	8			110
	FTEV	1		4	1		3				1		10

Table 40. Distribution of coarseware forms by fabric (MNV).

The earliest forms (SEV, SEV1, SEV2) can be seen to occur most frequently in fabrics EMW, LMU and MCW3. Intermediate forms (INT and FTEV) are more common in MCW1 and LMU, as are the developed rims (THEV). Stratigraphic evidence, particularly from Plots 25/136-8 and 27/128, also tends to suggest that MCW3 was the earlier fabric and MCW1 the later, though clearly with some overlap. In this assemblage, the UPBD form is not very common; this type is associated particularly with early medieval fabric YAR in Norwich, which was rare in these groups. In general, the upright and beaded rims were used on jugs, and this form was relatively infrequent amongst the coarsewares at these sites. No particular patterns can be discerned for these rim forms as a result.

Study of this assemblage has also provided evidence that Grimston-type wares were probably produced elsewhere in the county. Most of the Grimston-type sherds were of a similar type, as described above, but some of the sherds resembled the local coarsewares more than the normal Grimston fabric. A few were noted as being probable Grimston products, particularly at Bintree, the most westerly of the larger sites.

It has previously been suggested (Anderson 2005) that an oxidised and slightly coarser form of the ware, often poorly coated with a yellowish lead glaze, might have been made somewhere near Yarmouth (termed 'Yarmouth-type glazed ware' by the current author) in the 13th-15th centuries. The wares from this site were also relatively coarse and many had a pale greenish yellow glaze, rather than the rich green seen on the finer greywares of Grimston. A possible waster was identified at Themelthorpe and another at Bintree, but unfortunately there was no other evidence for pottery production at either site.

Other glazed wares were not common. A few were unprovenanced but could be further local variants of Grimston. A single sherd of Ely Ware came from Bintree, and Scarborough and other Yorkshire wares were identified at Wood Dalling, Itteringham, Suffield and Swafield. Scarborough Ware in particular is a frequent find at ports and coastal sites along the east coast of Britain but is less common on inland rural sites. The vessels identified in these assemblages were highly decorated jugs, including a face jug (38/90) and a knight jug (44/48), and were probably used as tableware. If so, they imply a degree of status for the households to which they belonged. The few examples were generally heavily abraded, however, and had probably been deposited along with midden material.

Figure 4 shows the proportions of the main identifiable forms at each site, based on MNV. Itteringham Site B produced the narrowest range of forms, having only jars and ginger jars, but this is probably related to its early abandonment. At most of the other sites, jugs form a similar proportion of the range, although they are more common at the latest site, North Walsham. At all sites the main form is the jar. The relationship between jars and bowls varies between them however. Bowls have been associated with dairying, and it may be that they occurred more frequently on sites which were involved in this form of agriculture. However, like jars, bowls could be used for a variety of functions, so this evidence alone is not sufficient to indicate a dairy-based economy for some of the sites.

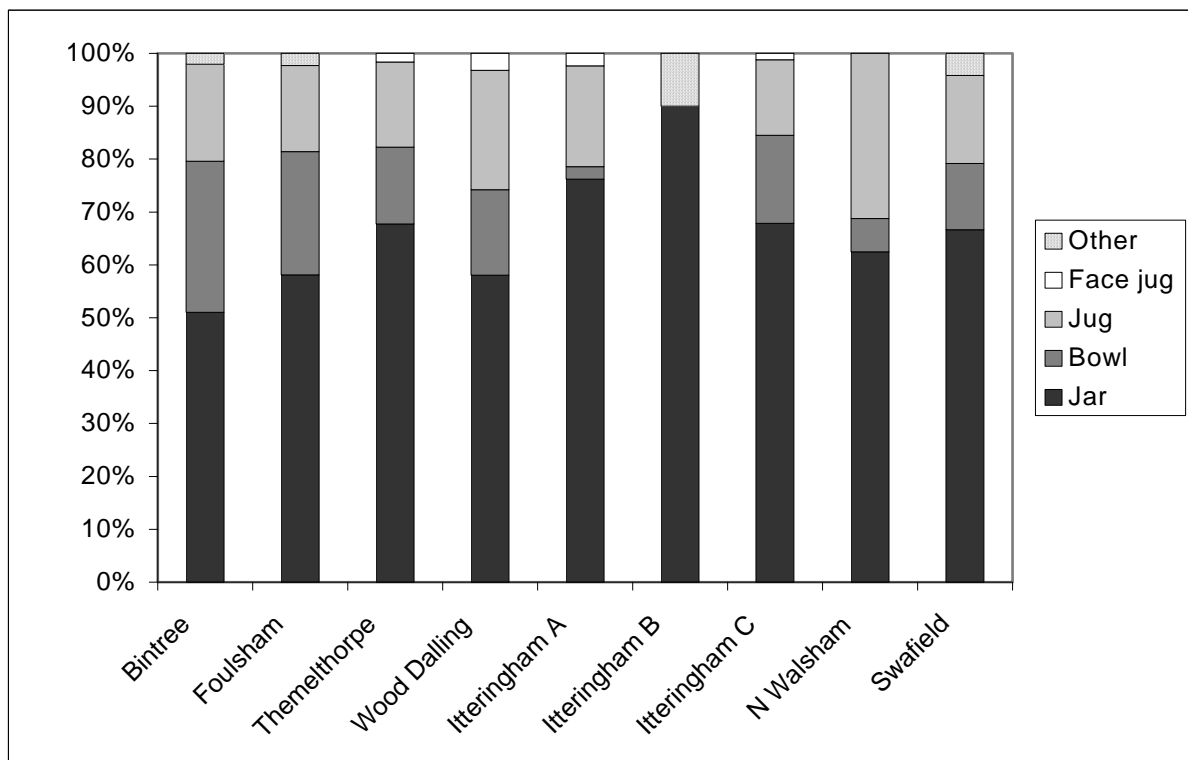


Figure 4. Medieval pottery vessel forms at each site.

Late medieval

A total of 73 sherds of late medieval date were collected from eight sites. Table 41 shows the quantities by fabric. The largest groups were from Bintree (22/148) and North Walsham (47/34).

Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	eve
LMT	47	1519	14	0.96
GRIL	17	275	7	0.20
GSW1	2	76	1	
GSW2	4	59	1	
GSW3	2	171	2	
DUTR	1	3	1	
Total	73	2103	26	1.16

Table 41. Late medieval pottery quantities by fabric.

On most sites where pottery of this date occurred, it was found in association with high medieval pottery and suggested continuation into the L. 14th-15th centuries. There was one exception, plot 45/43 in Antingham, where a single sherd of LMT was the only find.

Identifiable forms included a large storage jar with horizontal strap handles from Bintree and a jug from Site A in Itteringham. The North Walsham site produced the most varied assemblage of this date, consisting of two jugs and a bowl in LMT, four late Grimston-type jugs, a fragment of Dutch-type redware, and three German stoneware jugs.

Post-medieval and modern

Ten sherds were classified as post-medieval and twenty-seven as modern. There were no particular concentrations, other than 17 sherds at Bintree which represented a single creamware plate. Most of this material was recovered from topsoil and subsoil, and is likely to have been deposited along with 'night soil'. It may therefore be derived from neighbouring settlements and be totally unrelated to the sites themselves. Table 42 summarises the finds by fabric.

Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	eve
PMRW	1	1	1	
GRE	6	79	6	0.04
STAF	1	5	1	
GSW4	1	2	1	
GSW5	1	35	1	0.13
REFW	24	171	5	0.45
REFR	1	1	1	
PORC	1	7	1	
BLSW	1	15	1	
Total	37	316	18	0.62

Table 42. Post-medieval pottery quantities by fabric.

Conclusions

Two major periods of human history are represented by large assemblages of pottery from the pipeline excavation, specifically the Early Saxon and medieval periods. Few rural secular sites of these periods have been excavated in the county as a whole, so this project is unusual in allowing for comparisons to be made across a broad area of north-east Norfolk.

The two Early Saxon assemblages, although from sites which are relatively close together, contained very different groups of fabrics. This may be related to date, but

also to differences in function. Most of the pots which can be positively dated to the period at Tittleshall were from funerary contexts, although sooting on most indicated that they had been used prior to interment, even if that use was related to the burial ritual. The inhumation vessels were largely of 6th-7th century date. The pottery from Foulsham, on the other hand, appeared to span the whole Early Saxon period and probably represented domestic waste. Most fabrics identified at both sites can be paralleled at the nearby funerary site of Spong Hill.

The medieval pottery from the pipeline sites can be divided into broad fabric groups which occur across the whole area but which appear to show varied patterns of distribution. Like the differences seen in the Early Saxon groups, this may in part be related to date, but it was also related to supply and demand. Market towns in the central area included Foulsham, Reepham and Aylsham, and it is likely that the local potters sold their wares at these and other centres. Some of the potters appear to have supplied more markets than others and their wares also presumably reached North Walsham, but other potteries predominated there. Despite the fabric differences, the forms are generally similar to those identified in Norwich and it is clear that there was a general Norfolk tradition of pottery production. The potteries may have been local, but they were not working in isolation. There were differences in methods, some production sites favouring hand-built wares well into the 13th century whilst others used the wheel, but the overall picture suggests that a uniform range of vessel types was available to the medieval consumer wherever he or she lived in the north-east of the county. In addition, whilst some of the fabrics from this assemblage would not be out of place in central and eastern Suffolk, significantly the forms would be.

The medieval assemblages were generally relatively large for rural sites. This may be because they were apparently disposed of away from the main foci of settlement, in the peripheral agricultural and horticultural areas which have rarely been excavated in the past. Most belonged to the 11th-14th centuries, but it could be seen that in most cases the settlements from which the pottery was derived had probably been abandoned at various points during the 14th century. The site closest to a large town, at Lyngate Road, North Walsham, continued into the 15th century, if not beyond. The other sites presumably represent abandonment and depopulation associated with the 'troubles' of the previous century. The fact that they never recovered is the reason that these assemblages survived to be excavated in the 21st century.

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