

[comb – measure equal to 4 bushels; firkin – small barrel holding 8-9 gallons; grey salt – impure salt made by the evaporation of brine, probably on the marshes; cade – measure of 720 herrings; red herring – smoked herring; hundred – hundredweight]

The Plate of all sorts

2 bowls of the great sort, 3 lesser of bowls of the lesser sort, a silver jug, graven with a Cover, 2 silver tunns, 12 silver spoons, a great gilt salt, a lesser gilt salt, a little gilt salt & a gilt Casting bottle £21 4s

[silver tun – drinking vessel; casting bottle – perforated container for sprinkling sugar or spice over food]

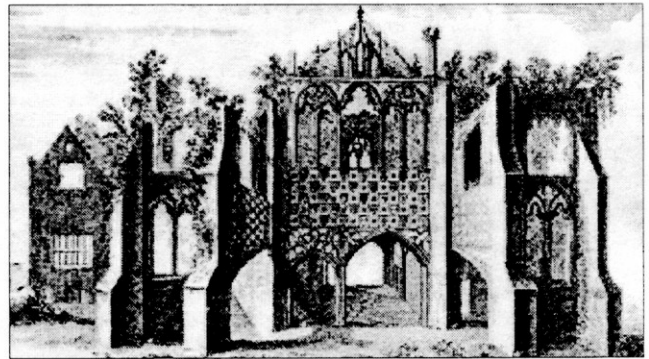
In the Closet within her Chamber

A Dansk Chest, 1 Trunk & 3 small boxes 13s

[dansk – of spruce imported from the Baltic]

Certain Timber and Riven pale in the yard 40s
 In the great barn in Rye, threshed & unthreshed £25
 In the little barn, in Barley & hay £12
 The hay in the hay house £6
 The hay in the gatehouses 10s

3 Carts, 3 Tumbrels, & certain ploughs & harrows & other necessary plough stuff & Cart stuff £10
 In Ewes, wethers, & ~~sheep~~ other year-old sheep, 998 £300
 Brick in the kiln and about the kiln £3 6s 8d
 The Hop poles in all the yards & houses £6 13s 4d
 26 Dairy Neat £55
 In the house, 6 Steers & a bull at the stack £20
 In the marshes 5 steers & 3 bulls £16
 Also in the Marshes 14 gastemares £18
 5 geldings in the best stable £25
 27 working horses, mares & Colts £40
 3 acres of Wheat £6
 140 acres of Rye £100
 16 Shotts & 4 Sows, 2 boars & 3 Shotts afatting £6 5s
 Geese, Turkeys, hens & other poultry 20s
 [riven pale – split poles; tumbrel – 2-wheeled cart; wether – castrated sheep; neat – cows; steer – castrated male calf; gastemare – barren mare; gelding – castrated horse; shott – young pig. Turkeys had been introduced from the New World about 20 years previously]
 Total £ 781 8s 4d



Upper left: Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, built by Edmund Withipoll in 1548-50 on the site of an Augustinian priory

Upper right: Engraving by Samuel Buck of Butley Priory gatehouse in 1738 before demolition of the derelict Tudor mansion glimpsed on the left

Lower left: Today the site of Robert Forth's mansion added to the east side of the monastic gatehouse is hidden behind a beech hedge

Photographs: the author

References

- Inventory: Robert Forth (1601) – NRO PROB INV 17/24
 Will: Robert Forth (1601) – NRO 238 Force, 128
 Agas, R., 1594, Survey of Butley, Boyton and Tangham – BL Egerton 2789B
 Hawes, R., 1712, *History or Memoirs of Framlingham and Loes Hundred* – IRO microfiche
 Sandon, Eric, 1977, *Suffolk Houses*. Baron Publishing, Woodbridge
 For a detailed historical and geographical context, see Fenwick, Valerie & Harrup, Vic, 2009, *Untold Tales from the Suffolk Sandlings*. Butley Research Group. www.butley-research-group.org.uk