

## The Medieval and later pottery from the Godsells site, Hereford (he97c)

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### Introduction

Two hundred and thirty two fragments of pottery and ceramic building material were submitted for examination. The aims of the assessment were to produce a primary record for archive purposes, to provide the date range of the material in each assemblage, and the *terminus post quem* for the deposition of each assemblage and finally to establish the archaeological potential of the collection and the site from which it was obtained.

The pottery was identified using the Hereford medieval pottery fabric series. Wares which could not be paralleled within the series were given a brief descriptive code, based on the system adopted at the Museum of London.

### Date Range

A single sherd of fabric D2 was present, in context 1002. This sherd ought to date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century or, at the very latest, the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the B1 cooking pots had rims which suggest that they too were of 12<sup>th</sup>-century date. These sherds were recovered from contexts 1002, 1005 and 2023?

The majority of the medieval pottery present was of 13<sup>th</sup> century date, including both types which are thought not to have been current after the end of the century and types with a longer life-span. Later medieval pottery was rare, consisting of two assemblages (1011 and 1001).

Earlier post-medieval pottery was present but only over vessel is definitely of 16<sup>th</sup>-century date (2021) and the remainder are 17<sup>th</sup>-century or later. Early modern pottery was present, ranging from late 18<sup>th</sup> to perhaps 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, but there was little material dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Potential of the Assemblage

The significance of the pottery as a stratified assemblage depends entirely on its stratigraphic context. Very little of the material warrants further study except as a means of providing a chronological framework for the stratigraphy. The exception is a remarkable ?pedestal base, made in an inclusionless grey stoneware with a purple glaze found in context 1002. Further research might establish the identity of the ware and the source and function of the vessel. The small quantity of unidentified pottery (5 sherds) would not repay further study at present but could eventually form part of a wider study of the regional imports into medieval Hereford.

### Potential of the Site

The pottery assemblage from Godsells is very similar to many recovered in recent years from the periphery of the medieval town. It probably starts in the later 12<sup>th</sup> century and is dominated by 13<sup>th</sup>-century material. For the study of ceramics, there is probably little potential from further examination of the site.

Table 1. Date range and suggested *tpq* for contexts

Context	Maximum Number of Vessels	Date range
1000	2	18th/19th C
1001	8	15th C
1001/1002 INTERFACE	3	117th +
1002	41	113th/14 <sup>th</sup> plus intrusive postmed?
1003	14	modern
1005	23	113th/14 <sup>th</sup> plus intrusive postmed?
1006	2	13th?
1011	7	114th/15 <sup>th</sup>
1018	1	12th/13 <sup>th</sup>
1019	3	113th/14 <sup>th</sup>
1021	6	19th

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2000	19	13th plus 17th
2000 cleaning	20	13th plus 19 <sup>th</sup>
2001	1	117th +
2002	6	m13th
2007	2	12th/13 <sup>th</sup>
2014	3	12th/13 <sup>th</sup>
2018	48	m13th
2020	6	17 <sup>th</sup>
2021	2	m16th
2023?	3	12th+
3004	8	13th plus 19th
3007	3	17 <sup>th</sup>
u/s	1	
Grand Total	232	

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