

## Medieval and later pottery from Ford Abbey, near Leominster

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### Introduction

The pottery and ceramic building material from evaluation excavations carried out by Archaeological Investigations Ltd at Ford Abbey, near Leominster, Hereford & Worcester (site code: fab97) was examined by the author. Although a few sherds of medieval date were present, probably of 13<sup>th</sup>-century and later date, the majority of the pottery found dates to the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The condition of these sherds is good, with many vessels being represented by a large number of sherds, and it is likely that further disturbance of these deposits would yield post-medieval deposits of some interest.

### Aims and Objectives

The aim of the examination was to identify the source, date-range and significance of the pottery and tile found and to use this information to assess the date and social context of the occupation at Ford Abbey and the potential significance of the archaeological deposits preserved there.

### Description

Two hundred and thirty eight fragments were examined, representing a maximum of 154 vessels.

### Medieval

Twenty sherds of medieval date were found, of which five are probably of late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date and the remainder of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

The earlier group consists of three fabrics: B1 (Malvern Chase); LUGG FINE (North Herefordshire) and A7B (Herefordshire), all of which have been found on sites in Leominster itself.

*Table 1: High Medieval Pottery by context*

Context	cname	SumOfNosh	SumOfNoV
1001	LUGG FINE	2	1
209	B4	2	1
309	B4	3	3
507	B4	1	1
712	B1	1	1
712	B4	3	3
715	A7B	1	1
715	B4	6	6
DUMPS	B1	1	1

The later group consists of sherds of fabric B4 (Malvern Chase) and the range of forms present: jugs, bowls and ridge tiles, suggests a late medieval rather than post medieval date. The single sherd of Tudor Green ware (TUDG) is also likely to be of this date.

*Table 2: Late Medieval Pottery by Context*

Context	cname	Form	SumOfNosh	SumOfNoV
209	B4	RIDGE	2	1
309	B4	BOWL	3	3
312	TUDG	CUP	10	1
507	B4	JUG	1	1
712	B4	JUG	3	3
715	B4	JUG	5	5
715	B4	RIDGE	1	1

### Post-medieval

The majority of the pottery was of post-medieval date. Within this period two groups were recognisable: a handful of sherds dated to the later 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and were divided into kitchen wares (bowls and jars) made in the Welsh Borderland (A7D, mostly likely in this case made in the

Lingen Forest) and black-glazed cups which were probably regional imports, although their precise source is not known (CSTN).

The remaining sherds are most likely of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Most were of Staffordshire slipware (STSL and STSLBR), mottled glazed ware (STMO), combed press moulded slipware (STCO), redware (STRE) and coarseware (STCO). A few sherds from non-local sources were present: London stoneware (LONS), tin-glazed ware (TGW) and Westerwald stoneware (WEST). The absence of White Saltglazed Stoneware may be a feature of the date of the assemblage, since it first appears in the 1720s and becomes progressively more common during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, or perhaps an indication of a lowly status of the site during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Several of the Staffordshire wares are of types which first appear in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, c.1700, and typically late 17<sup>th</sup>-century types such as embossed press-moulded plates are absent. This might indicate that the assemblage was deposited over a very short period of time, c.1700-1720.

*Table 3: Post-medieval pottery by Common Name and Form*

Cname	Form	SumOfNosh	SumOfNoV
A7D	BOWL	7	6
A7D	JAR	2	2
A7D/CSTN	CUP	1	1
CSTN	CUP	3	3
LONS	SJ	2	2
STCO	DISH	5	3
STCO	DISH/PLATE	1	1
STCO	PLATE	1	1
STCOAR	BOWL	40	33
STMO	BOWL	2	1
STMO	POSS	30	6
STRE		1	1
STRE	BOWL	28	4
STRE	CUP	1	1
STRE	DISH	1	1
STRE	PLATE	10	3
STSL	POSS	2	2
STSLBR		1	1
STSLBR	BOWL	1	1
STSLBR	JAR	2	1
STSLBR	POSS	0	0
TGW	MUG	1	1
TGW	PLATE	2	2
TUDG	CUP	10	1
WEST	TANK	3	1

*Table 4: Post-medieval pottery by context*

Context	cname	Form	SumOfNosh	SumOfNoV
Unstrat	LONS	SJ	1	1
Unstrat	STCOAR	BOWL	2	1
Unstrat	STRE		1	1
Unstrat	STRE	BOWL	1	1
108	CSTN	CUP	1	1
110	STCOAR	BOWL	2	2
112	CSTN	CUP	1	1
112	STCO	PLATE	1	1
122	LONS	SJ	1	1
122	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1
122	STSLBR	BOWL	1	1
125	STCO	DISH/PLATE	1	1
134	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1
134	STSLBR		1	1
211	STSL	POSS	1	1
307	STMO	POSS	2	1
307	STRE	BOWL	2	1
309	A7D	JAR	2	2
309	STCOAR	BOWL	5	1
309	STMO	POSS	24	1
309	STRE	BOWL	24	1
309	STRE	PLATE	8	1
311	A7D	BOWL	4	3
311	STCOAR	BOWL	14	12
311	STRE	CUP	1	1
312	TUDG	CUP	10	1

404	STCO	DISH	4	2
404	STMO	POSS	2	2
404	STRE	PLATE	1	1
404	STSLBR	JAR	2	1
506	A7D	BOWL	1	1
511	STCOAR	BOWL	4	4
511	STMO	POSS	2	2
511	STRE	PLATE	1	1
609	STCOAR	BOWL	3	3
707	STSLBR	POSS	0	0
802	A7D	BOWL	1	1
802	STCO	DISH	1	1
818	A7D/CSTN	CUP	1	1
818	WEST	TANK	3	1
1000	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1
1001	A7D	BOWL	1	1
1001	STRE	DISH	1	1
1001	STSL	POSS	1	1
1003	CSTN	CUP	1	1
1003	STMO	BOWL	2	1
1003	TGW	MUG	1	1
1003	TGW	PLATE	2	2
DUMPS	STCOAR	BOWL	7	7
DUMPS	STRE	BOWL	1	1

## Modern

A small quantity of early modern and modern pottery was present, dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries onwards.

*Table 5: Modern pottery by Common name*

Cname	Sherds	Vessels	period
TPW?	1	1	emod
BRIS	1	1	emod
CONP	1	1	emod
CREA	6	6	emod
ENGS	3	2	emod
NCBW	9	9	emod
PEAR	10	10	emod
TPW	15	12	emod
MOD	11	11	mod
MISC NKW	1	1	nk
MISC SKW	1	1	nk
MISC NW	1	1	nk
MISC SW	1	1	nk

## Recommendations

The later post-medieval pottery, dating to c.1700-1720, forms an interesting assemblage which is of regional significance, since very little post-medieval pottery is recovered from closely-datable deposits. If it is possible to determine a context for this material, by correlating it with the structural sequence or documentary records for example then it would be worth publishing a note on the assemblage, illustrated by drawings or photographs of the main types present. The remaining deposits producing these vessels should either be preserved *in situ* for future study or removed and recorded under archaeological supervision.