The Pottery from Loughton 1997, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

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Summary

The pottery from Loughton includes a few Roman sherds and a small quantity of Early Anglo-Saxon date but otherwise the sequence starts in the late Saxon period, and probably late within this period. The majority of the pottery found dates to the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries but occupation in most areas extended into the late and post-medieval periods. The majority of the pottery was obtained from local sources. In the earlier part of the occupation, shell-tempered wares, probably including some from Olney Hyde, were the most common, followed by sand-tempered wares of unknown, but local, origin. From the 13th century onwards Potterspury was the main supplier. A handful of regional imports was present, including vessels from Brill, the London area and Stamford, but there were no continental imports used in the settlement until the 16th century. The range of forms used in the medieval period was limited to cooking and storage vessels and jugs whilst drinking vessels first appeared in the 16th century.

Archive

All of the pottery examined was catalogued using MS Access™ and an Excel™ spreadsheet listing this material is deposited with the site archive. The fabric classification used is a site-based system, augmented with codes used by the MKAU and MoL where positive identifications of wares could be made. Within each excavated assemblage the pottery has been divided into fabric groups and within these into forms. Featured sherds were bagged separately and are marked with the fabric code and form. Rim forms, base forms, handle types, spout types and decoration were all classified using a site-specific coding system.

Catalogue

Roman (Fig. 00)

Only four sherds of Roman pottery were found amongst the material submitted for study. This is a very low quantity considering the size of the excavation and, clearly, the site was not occupied during the Roman period. The sherds were not noticeably abraded, nor were they any different in size from the later pottery from the site. In all probability the vessels were brought onto the site during the Saxon or later periods, having been scavenged from a Roman occupation site.

The sherds have been identified by Barbara Precious, who comments:

1. Area 2 context 490 NVCC Nene Valley Colour Coated jar base, re-used central interior point worn/pivot? Basal circumference trimmed. Abraded condition. [DN1]
2. Area E context 1051 Rim 13 M12 fresh condition. Grey, wide mouthed bowl or jar with scored wavy-line decoration on the neck. The vessel appears to be sooted below the rim. The fabric has a soapy feel, due to clay particles in the fabric which contains sparse rounded quartz-0.8; moderate smaller rounded quartz-0.3, sparse calcareous includes and moderate black iron ore which weeps in the matrix. Later 3rd-4th Century.
3. Area A F518 context 574 M2, shell-jar with sherd located towards the base with bands of rouletted decoration. There is no parallel within the Roman and Belgic pottery published by P T Marney (1989) probably later Roman 3rd Century onwards. Fresh condition.
4. Area E F2003 context 2067 Rim 10 M2, shell tempered, curved rimmed jar with a ledge on the basal area of the interior rim which has a heavily worn area just above it. This suggest that a lid was used with this jar. There is no exact parallel in Marney 1989, but it is similar to Fig 25 No 18 dated to probably later 2nd to early 3rd Century. Fresh condition.

Early Anglo-Saxon?

There is no definite evidence for early Anglo-Saxon activity on the Loughton site, but a number of sherds come from vessels of similar form and surface treatment to early Anglo-Saxon vessels.

They are of three different fabrics, assigned the codes S01 to S03 here.S01 Chaff-tempered ware

A single scrap of chaff-tempered clay might be part of a vessel, or a loom weight, or less likely, a fragment of daub. The fabric contains moderate fragments of chaff and sparse rounded quartz in a fine, micaceous matrix. Chaff-tempering is a common trait in Anglo-Saxon pottery but especially in the later part of the early Anglo-Saxon period and during the Mid Saxon period. The technique was also used in the pre-Roman Iron Age.

S02 Sandstone sand tempered

Two sherds of pottery with sandstone sand temper were found. The sandstone is relatively coarse with overgrown quartz grains giving a sugary appearance to the larger fragments under the binocular microscope. The sherds have dark, carbon-rich cores and oxidized surfaces. This fabric is widely distributed in the midlands and appears to have been distributed alongside granite-tempered wares from the Charnwood Forest area of NE Leicestershire. It appears to have been used throughout the early and mid Saxon periods and the two sherds from Loughton have no features which might allow a closer date to be assigned.

S03 Grog/clay pellet tempered

Fragments of about seven vessels were found containing abundant fragments of ?grog or relict clay up to 0.5mm across and sparse calcareous inclusions (unidentified) and rounded quartz. The quartz grains include polished and red-coated grains typical of cretaceous deposits (e.g. the Woburn Sands of central Bedfordshire). All vessels had a carbon-rich core and blackened surfaces, usually over oxidized margins. The vessels surfaces are very smooth, and may have once been burnished. Surface decoration consists of a raised angular cordon, probably marking the neck of a globular jar (Fig 00 [DN76) and an everted rim (Fig 00 [DN75]). These features can be paralleled on early Anglo-Saxon vessels and the fabric probably dates to this period.

Late Saxon

Occupation at Loughton seems to have begun in earnest in the late Saxon period. The majority of the sherds assigned to this period were shelly vessels of St Neots type ware. The use of this term, and the definition of this ware, has been discussed by several authors, most recently Dennis Mynard (REF), whose conclusions and usage are followed here:

- St Neots type ware was probably produced at a number of sites using visually and petrologically indistinguishable clays.
- Some, at least, of the industries producing St Neots type ware continued to produce pottery in the medieval period but these later products are usually distinguishable through the use of a different range of forms and a higher firing temperature. The later products are usually oxidized or oxidized with a reduced, grey core whereas St Neots type ware is often dark in colour, due probably to the incomplete removal of naturally-occurring carbon during firing.

Mynard gives the code SN1 to St Neots type ware and MC1 to the medieval products.

St Neots type ware (SN1)

About 656 sherds were identified as St Neots type ware. Of these, almost two thirds were featureless body sherds that could not be identified to form level. 8.25 EVEs were present, calculated from rim sherds, but only 3.60 EVEs calculated from bases. The main reason for this discrepancy is probably that the bases break at the base angles and cannot be recognised and measured.

Cooking pots or jars form the main vessel type and in most cases sooting demonstrates that they were in fact used as cooking vessels. Bowls, dishes and vessels which might be either form, were the next most common class and in fact when grouped together form a third of rim EVEs. A small quantity of jug sherds, all rims, may have been underfired medieval vessels, or transitional from St Neots ware to the medieval shelly types.

Table 1

Form	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs	Base EVEs	Illustrations
?NK	60%	32%	0%	0%	
CP	21%	27%	45%	36%	DN36, DN45, DN46, DN48, DN51,
BOWL	9%	19%	32%	28%	DN4, DN23, DN24, DN32, DN33, DN52
DISH/BOWL	6%	10%	4%	18%	DN31
CP/JAR	2%	2%	11%	0%	DN47
JAR	1%	5%	1%	13%	
JUG	1%	1%	5%	0%	DN49
CURF?	1%	3%	0%	0%	DN67, DN70
DISH	0%	1%	1%	6%	
N	656	6052	8.25	3.60	

A variety of rim forms are found on SN1 vessels although, as both Mynard and Ivens have noted, there is a wide variation in detail, even within a rim form.

Table 2

RIM	Description	Illust	Rim EVEs x100
B01	Inturned rim bowl. Typical of St Neot's type ware.	DN4	25
B02	Thickened rim bowl. Typical of St Neot's type ware	DN31, DN33	40
B03	Straight-sided bowl with simple rounded rim.		55
B04	Straight-sided bowl with beaded rim	DN23	55
B05	Conical bowl with short vertical rim		10
B07	Straight-sided bowl with thickened rim (but not a distinct bead)		30
B08	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim and groove on top of flange		10
B11	Straight-sided bowl with simple rounded rim and carination	DN32	20
C01	Cooking pot/jar with beaded rim		105
C02	Cooking pot/jar with simple rolled-out rim, slight lid-seating	DN45, DN46	125
C03	Cooking pot/jar with vertical neck and simple rounded/slightly-beaded rim	DN48	70
C04	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Simple squared-off rim		10
C05	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Flat-topped		20

	rim		
C07	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with sharp inside angle and rounded external neck. Beaded rim		20
C08	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim		15
C10	Cooking pot/jar with everted inturned rim with sharp neck ("top hat" form). Simple rounded rim.	DN47, DN51	95
C11	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow outer edge.		5
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.		5
C16	Vertical neck with flat top, thickened and rounded		20
C18		DN36	20
J01	Jug rim with slightly flaring rim, rounded neck and slight beading of rim.		35
J03	Jug rim with squared top.	DN10	10
J04	Jug rim with rounded rim.		10

A sand and shell tempered ware (M1)

Thirty one sherds with a mixed shell and sand temper were noted. They were often associated with SN1 sherds, forming the only other common ware in assemblages identified as being of late Saxon date. Few sherds could be identified to form but all those which could be identified were cooking pots. One vessel classed as M1 has a rim form more typical of high medieval cooking pots (C12) and is either mis-identified (a harsh version of MC1 perhaps?) or evidence for the longevity of this fabric.

Table 3

RIM	Description	Illust	Rim EVEs x100
C03	Cooking pot/jar with vertical neck and simple rounded/slightly-beaded rim	DN44	5
C08	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim		10
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.		10

Stamford ware (STAM)

A single sherd of unglazed Stamford ware, probably from a cooking pot or jar, was present. Although possibly of late Saxon date this type continued in use into the later 11th and 12th centuries and this sherd may be either pre- or post-conquest (and was, in any case, found in the same deposit as post-medieval wares).

Saxo-Norman

It is quite clear that SN1 continued to be used in the later 11th and 12th centuries but there was an increasing use of other fabrics, principally a sand-tempered ware (M4), and a coarse gravel-tempered ware (M3). A few assemblages of reasonable size contained few sherds of SN1 and were composed mostly of sherds of M4 (for example, Cut 1020, with 57 sherds, all but one of M4). These are likely to be dated to the later part of this period and, indeed, were sometimes found to include sherds of reduced wheelthrown greywares (M17), which probably date to the mid/late 12th century at the earliest.

A sand-tempered ware (M4)

This ware was tempered with a well-sorted rounded quartzose sand with grains between 0.5 and 1.0mm. A distinctive feature of the ware was its colour and firing: most vessels were oxidized and had a dark brown or reddish brown colour, indicative of a medium/high iron content. Similar sherds have been found at Great Brickhill, although not on known kilnsites, and the ware may have been produced there. In addition, the written description of the sand-tempered wares produced at Olney Hyde suggests that this site too is a potential supplier of this ware. The Loughton vessels, were mainly from handmade cooking pots with very few other forms being recognised. Those forms were bowls and possibly dishes, spouted pitchers and jugs.

Table 4

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs	Illustrations
?NK	23%	13%	0%	
BOWL	1%	1%	8%	
CP	76%	84%	78%	DN5, DN41, DN43, DN50, DN53, DN58
CP/JAR	0%	1%	4%	
DISH/BOWL	0%	0%	2%	
JUG	0%	1%	7%	
SPP	0%	1%	0%	DN10
N	950	12532	4.88	

Most of the rim forms were variations on the everted rim, probably added as a separate coil to the globular body. Here too, a few sherds - the jugs and cooking pots with rim form C12, are typologically later in date than the majority and may be either misidentified examples of other wares or possible evidence for the continuity of this fabric into the later 12th or 13th centuries.

Table 5

RIM	Description	Illustrations	Rim EVEs x100
B04	Straight-sided bowl with beaded rim		10
B05	Conical bowl with short vertical rim		5
B08	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim and groove on top of flange		5
B09	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim		20
C02	Cooking pot/jar with simple rolled-out rim, slight lid-seating		98
C03	Cooking pot/jar with vertical neck and simple rounded/slightly-beaded rim	DN5	25
C04	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Simple squared-off rim		15
C05	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Flat-topped rim	DN41, DN50	55
C06	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and rounded neck. Simple rounded rim	DN53	35
C07	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with sharp inside angle and rounded external neck. Beaded rim	DN58	40
C08	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim		25

C09	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim with hollow top		90
C10	Cooking pot/jar with everted inturned rim with sharp neck ("top hat" form). Simple rounded rim.		5
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.		10
C16	Vertical neck with flat top, thickened and rounded	DN43	5
J01	Jug rim with slightly flaring rim, rounded neck and slight beading of rim.		10
J02	Jug rim with simple squared-off top.		25

A coarse gravel-tempered ware (M3)

Thirty six sherds were tempered with a coarse gravel, consisting of rounded grains of quartz up to 2mm across, and moderate angular fragments of flint/chert up to 5mm across. The sherds in the main seem to have come from handmade cooking pots, although a single jug rim was present (form J01). Similar coarse fabrics have been found at Great Brickhill and may have been amongst the products of the pottery industry there (pers comm. B Hurman).

Table 6

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs x100
?NK	29	176	
CP	6	78	
JUG	1	13	10

Early Medieval Chalky Ware (M15)

Five sherds with large pock-marks due to the original presence of rounded calcareous inclusions were present. These sherds appear in the hand specimen to be identical to London EMCH, for which a source in the Chilterns was postulated (Vince & Jenner 1991, 70-72). However, the only identifiable form was a dish or bowl rim (Rim Type B03), a form not found in London, where this was current in the mid 11th to mid 12th centuries.

Table 7

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs
-	1		
?NK	3	52	
DISH/BOWL	1	9	5

Medieval (late 12th to mid 14th century).

Medieval shelly ware (MC1)

Four hundred and eighty one sherds of medieval shelly ware were present at Loughton. The range of forms found is very similar to that found in St Neots ware. Comparing rim EVEs, MC1 has fewer bowls/dishes, a similar proportion of cooking pots/jars (one of which had a pulled lip, and is therefore

classifiable as a pipkin) and more jugs. However, the difference between the two groups is a lot less extreme than might have been predicted.

Table 8

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs	Illustrations
?NK	64%	45%	0%	
BOWL	2%	10%	22%	DN38
CP	25%	27%	28%	DN3
CP/JAR	1%	2%	16%	DN37
DISH	0%	0%	1%	
DISH/BOWL	4%	7%	6%	
JAR	0%	2%	3%	DN2
JUG	2%	5%	13%	DN26, DN73
PIP	0%	1%	10%	
SJ	0%	1%	0%	DN30
N	481	4366	3.40	

The range of rim forms found suggests a high degree of overlap between this ware and SN1.

Table 9

RIM	Description	Illustrations	Rim EVEs
B03	Straight-sided bowl with simple rounded rim.		30
B04	Straight-sided bowl with beaded rim		35
B05	Conical bowl with short vertical rim		10
B07	Straight-sided bowl with thickened rim (but not a distinct bead)	DN38	15
C01	Cooking pot/jar with beaded rim	DN2, DN37	40
C03	Cooking pot/jar with vertical neck and simple rounded/slightly-beaded rim		20
C04	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Simple squared-off rim		35
C05	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Flat-topped rim		15
C08	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim		10
C09	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim with hollow top		5
C10	Cooking pot/jar with everted inturned rim with sharp neck ("top hat" form). Simple rounded rim.		30
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.		15
C15		DN3	20
C16	Vertical neck with flat top, thickened and rounded		5
J01	Jug rim with slightly flaring rim, rounded neck and slight		20

	beading of rim.	
J06	[* no description]	35

Potterspury wares (M5, M18, M19)

Potterspury wares form the largest group of medieval pottery from Loughton. There is a wide variation in colour and texture although most sherds have a relatively low iron content and sparse calcareous inclusions, or the pockmarks where these inclusions have leached out. Amongst other traits, the abundant use of knife trimming on the bases and lower parts of vessels is another distinguishing feature of these wares. Over two thirds of sherds could not be identified to form level. Body sherds of cooking pots were sometimes identifiable through their curvature and external sooting but the remaining forms were often only identifiable when rims or other featured sherds were present. There is thus a sharp contrast between the apparent form breakdown by sherd count or weight, in which the majority of identifiable sherds come from cooking pots/jars, and the composition by form as demonstrated by rim EVEs, which show that in fact bowls appear to have been almost as common as cooking pots, with jugs (only 2% by sherd count) a close third with 21% of rim EVEs. Unusual forms found were dripping dishes and lids.

Table 10

Form	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs	Illustrations
NK?	68%	58%	0%	DN19
BOWL	4%	8%	36%	DN39
CP	24%	20%	23%	DN42, DN68
CP/JAR	1%	2%	17%	DN55, DN59
DISH/BOWL	0%	0%	1%	
DRIPPING DISH	0%	0%	1%	DN57
JAR	1%	3%	1%	
JUG	2%	8%	21%	DN6, DN12, DN18, DN28, DN29, DN69, DN72
LID	0%	0%	0%	
N	1308	14290	8.50	

Table 11

RIM	Description	Illustrations	Rim EVEs x100
B02	Thickened rim bowl. Typical of St Neot's type ware		10
B03	Straight-sided bowl with simple rounded rim.		15
B04	Straight-sided bowl with beaded rim		100
B06	Conical bowl with wide thin flange		10
B07	Straight-sided bowl with thickened rim (but not a distinct bead)		15
B08	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim and groove on top of flange		10
B09	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim		50
B10	Conical bowl with simple squared-off rim		10

B12	Conical bowl with everted rim, thickened at neck		15
B15		DN39	
C01	Cooking pot/jar with beaded rim		10
C02	Cooking pot/jar with simple rolled-out rim, slight lid-seating		25
C03	Cooking pot/jar with vertical neck and simple rounded/slightly-beaded rim	DN6	20
C05	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim and sharp neck. Flat-topped rim		10
C07	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with sharp inside angle and rounded external neck. Beaded rim		5
C09	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim with hollow top		100
C11	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow outer edge.		15
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.	DN5	85
C16	Vertical neck with flat top, thickened and rounded		15
C17		DN55	15
C21		DN59	15
J01	Jug rim with slightly flaring rim, rounded neck and slight beading of rim.		5
J02	Jug rim with simple squared-off top.		25
J03	Jug rim with squared top.		15

Brill/Boarstall ware (M6)

Brill/Boarstall ware shares many superficial similarities to Potterspury wares, especially in its colour and texture. However, under the binocular microscope the two wares are clearly distinguishable since Brill/Boarstall ware was tempered with abundant fine sand, with grains c.0.3mm across. The majority of sherds were probably from jugs decorated with applied strips and roller stamping.

Table 12

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs x100	Illustrations
?NK	52	356		
BOWL	1	12	5	
JAR	3	110	20	
JUG	36	505	10	DN11, DN13, DN14, DN15, DN16, DN17, DN20, DN22, DN27, DN65, DN66, DN74

Wheelthrown Greywares (M17)

Wheelthrown, unglazed greyware vessels with quartzose sand temper were present at Loughton. Cooking pots were by far the most common form found, although over-represented by sherd count because of the ease of identifying body sherds. A single jug was present (Area E, deposit 1085).

Table 13

FORM	Sherds	Weight	Rim EVEs	Illustrations

?NK	38%	21%	0%	
BOWL	2%	6%	28%	DN34
CP	56%	70%	58%	DN54
CP/JAR	1%	1%	13%	
DISH/BOWL	0%	1%	3%	
JUG	2%	1%	0%	
N	245	3405	2.00	

Table 14

RIM	Description	Illustrations	Rim EVEs
B03	Straight-sided bowl with simple rounded rim.		10
B04	Straight-sided bowl with beaded rim	DN34	20
B05	Conical bowl with short vertical rim		5
B06	Conical bowl with wide thin flange		5
B09	Straight-sided bowl with flanged rim		20
C02	Cooking pot/jar with simple rolled-out rim, slight lid-seating		15
C08	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim		25
C09	Cooking pot/jar with everted rim with rounded neck. Squared rim with hollow top	DN54	75
C12	Cooking pot/jar with no neck and squared rim with hollow upper edge.		15

London-type wares (M21, SSW)

Sherds of London-type ware (M21) and London Shelly-Sandy ware (SSW) were present (2 sherds of each type). These vessels were produced in the late 12th / early 13th century in the London area (Pearce, Vince 1985). All were featureless bodysherds except for a SSW cooking pot rim (Rim form C12).

Developed Stamford ware (M11)

A single Developed Stamford ware body sherd was found. This ware was produced in the late 12th and early 13th centuries and widely distributed over midland England, and beyond.

Sand-tempered glazed wares (M13, M14)

Two unprovenanced sand-tempered glazed wares were found (M13 and M14, 2 sherds and 1 sherd respectively).

Late Medieval

Potterspury wares and Brill/Boarstall wares probably continued to be used at Loughton into the late 14th and 15th centuries. The majority of the sherds, however, show no distinctive late medieval forms or treatments and could only be dated by their context. However, two variant Potterspury fabrics, both red-firing (one silty fabric, M23, and one a micaceous fabric, M24), were identified by B Hurman. Only six sherds of M23 and four of M24 were noted. The M23 sherds included one jug rim (Rim form J02) and the M24 sherds included a glazed bowl rim (Rim form B08). All these late medieval sherds came from Area B.

Post-Medieval

Small quantities of post-medieval pottery were recovered from Areas 2, 3, B, C, D and E. The main sources of coarseware were Potterspury (PM3?, PM9) and Brill (M27). Staffordshire black-glazed coarseware was also present (PM1). Fineware black-glazed cups (CNTN) were present in all but two areas together with sherds of Frechen stoneware (FREC). Staffordshire finewares were rare, being represented only by a vessel from Area D (STSL).

The post-medieval pottery dates from the mid 16th to the early 18th centuries but there is insufficient material to provide a close date for the occupation in any one area, except to say that 16th/17th century material is most common on Areas 2, 3, B and C and 17th/18th century material is present in Areas D and E.

The Frechen stoneware included a sherd from a Motto jug, dating to the late 16th century (DN56), but the remainder might be from jugs or Belarmine bottles and are not closely datable. A small number of the Potterspury wares were slip-trailed (DN60, DN61 and DN64) and probably of later 17th or 18th-century date. These include one vessel from Area B.

Table 15

FABRIC	FORM	DN	RIM
FREC	DJ	56	
FREC	DJ	71	
PM9	JAR	8	
PM9	BOWL	61	B18
PM9	BOWL	63	B18
PM9	JAR	62	C02
PM9	BOWL	60	B08
PM9	BOWL/PLATE	64	
STSL	POSS	21	

Table 16

AREA	CSTN	FREC	M27	PM1	PM3	PM9	STSL
Area 2	1		1				
Area 3	1						
Area B	1	6	3		1	7	
Area C	6	1	26			8	
Area D				1		4	4
Area E			3	2		18	

Discussion

Dating of excavation areas

Area A

A single feature was assigned to Phase 1 (Cut 528) and produced a single sherd of ?Early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery and may therefore be of this date. Four cuts assigned to Phase 2 (cuts 521, 537, 604 and

606) produced in total 17 sherds of pottery. Only four were of fabric SN1, four of "medieval" shell-tempered ware (MC1) and the remainder sand-tempered wares. A date in the 11th century, either side of the conquest, or the earlier 12th century is probable. The majority of the cuts in this area contained medieval pottery assemblages which included Potterspury Ware (M5). The only exceptions, cuts 517, 520 and 531, could date to the 12th century on the basis of their pottery assemblages but apparently are stratigraphically later than deposits containing M5 sherds. [a large number of assemblages could not be assigned to a phase since there was insufficient information on their stratigraphic position].

Table 17

PHASE	CONTEXT	M1	M17	M20	M21	M24	M3	M4	M5	M6	M8	MC1	R00	S00	SN1
1	528													1	
2	521											3			
2	537							3							
2	604										4	1			4
2	606										2				
3	502	1	19				1	38	35	22	1	1			11
3	506							11	1			1			2
3	507							1	4					1	
3	511		1						1						1
3	517		1												2
3	518		17					6	75	2		6			1
3	520							36							
3	530							10	1						1
3	531							6				1			
3	532						1		2						4
3	541								1						1
3	546		1					1	2						
3	601							27	1						
3	602		1					8	1			2			1
3	608							1	2						2
Phase?	534								1						
Phase?	550		7	1	1	1		26	100	10		17	1	1	21
Phase?	555		2				1					3			
Phase?	556														
Phase?	558													1	
Phase?	559								6	2					
Phase?	561								3						1
Phase?	562											2			
Phase?	563											3			
Phase?	566								6						1
Phase?	654														1
Phase?	694														1

Area B

Three cuts were assigned to Phase 1 containing in total five sherds of pottery. Two cuts (2519, 2529) included sand-tempered wares (M4) and the remaining cut contained only two shell tempered sherds is apparently stratigraphically later than a cut containing M4. Therefore, the earliest activity in this area probably dates to the 11th/12th centuries. Phase 2 consists of a number of cuts containing sherds of M5,

M17 and others. A few of these contained no M5 and some contained only SN1. However, there is apparently stratigraphic evidence to show that they are stratigraphically later than contexts containing M5 and they are therefore assumed to be deposited in the 13th century or later.

Table 18

PHASE	CUT	S00	SN1	M1	M17	M21	M23	M24	M25	M27	M28	M4	M5	M6	MC1	PM10	PM3	PM9	TPW	CSTN	FREC
-	741																			1	
-	743														1						
-	750										4		43					4			
-	752							8		1			23			4			1		4
-	753			1	16							1	1		2						
-	754										1		8			11	1	2			1
-	755								1				1		1		1		2		
-	756		1		1										2						
-	757												1								
-	760																				1
-	761					1							2		2						
-	762											1	1								
-	763			1									1								
-	764												2		1	1					
-	765				1		3						13								
-	770												4								
-	2509		5										1								
-	2522		1										2		1						
-	2531												1		1						
-	2539				2								3		2						
-	2553												5								
-	2557											1									
-	2578				4									1							
-	2581				1					2		6	6	1							

1	2519							1			
1	2527		2								
1	2529		1					1			
2	734			3		1		2		1	
2	737	1									
2	744								3		
2	746		7					4			
2	747			5						8	
2	2502								1		
2	2514									1	
2	2515							1	2		
2	2516		1						1		
2	2518			2				25			
2	2521			2							
2	2526								3		
2	2530			1						2	
2	2532		1						1		
2	2534								2	1	
2	2535			2				1	6	4	
2	2538		2		1					2	

Area C

Phase 1 dates to the 11th / 12th century on the basis of sherds of M4 in cuts 805, 823, 824, 845 and 2208 and the stratigraphic relationship of the remaining features to these cuts. Phase 2 dates to the 13th century or later although most assemblages contained high quantities of earlier pottery, presumably derived from activity during Phase 1. Phase 3 is dated to the 16th or 17th century (Post-medieval Brill wares - M27, Cistercian ware and ?post-medieval Potterspury ware - PM9). This phase too contains mainly residual sherds of medieval pottery.

Table 19

PHASE	CUT	CSTN	M1	M17	M27	M3	M4	M5	M6	M8	M9	MC1	PM9	R00	SN1	SSW
1	803											1			13	
1	805						1									
1	811											1			1	
1	821														6	
1	823						1								2	
1	824						1								3	
1	832														7	
1	833														3	
1	844														4	1
1	845						3								11	
1	2204														1	
1	2206														1	
1	2208					1	10									
1	2213		1													
1	2221														1	
1	2230														1	
2	802			7											1	
2	809						1	2								
2	815			2		3	17	4				43			21	1
2	816							5								
2	817							1								
2	822					2	6	62	1			2			7	
2	827					1		1							1	
2	830							4		1		1			1	
2	837			1						6					17	
2	841			4		1	41	5				94			15	
2	848						1	6							4	
2	849							3								
2	2200					1		2							4	
2	2202						1					11				
2	2231							4								
2	2232			1											1	
3	818	1				2	1	22				1				
3	842							2							2	
3	843	1					2					3				

3	2217	1													
3	2219					5			4	1				3	
3	2228														5
3	2229	3	1	15	21		9	7	1		8		6	1	
UNPHAESED	2215							9							

Area D

The stratigraphy and internal pottery dating allow the pottery-bearing deposits in Area D to be divided into four phases. Phase 1 (cuts 928 and 931) contains only three sherds of pottery, all SN1 and *might* therefore date as early as the late 9th century. The following Phase 2 (cuts 907, 911, 917, 919, 923, 940, 942, 945, 947 and 2105) also produced only shell-tempered wares, a minority of which had firing patterns which were classified as MC1. Nevertheless, the absence of any sherds of sand-tempered wares still suggests that the deposits could have been laid down before the middle of the 11th century.

The pottery from the following Phase 3 (cuts 904, 905, 906, 910, 913, 916, 926, 933, 948, 949, 2102 and 2108) was also dominated by shell tempered wares, with a small number (4 sherds) of sand-tempered ware (fabrics M1 and M4). This phase also produced residual sherds of early to mid Anglo-Saxon ware. The final phase consists of features which can be dated to the later 12th century or later because of the presence of fabric M17. [Five pottery-producing contexts (901, 936, 943, 2152 and 2153) could not be found on the site matrix/plans]. The absence of Potterspury ware (M5) in any quantity in this area suggests, but does not prove, that occupation ceased before c.1200.

Table 20

PHASE	CUT	M1	M16	M17	M4	M5	MC1	PM1	PM9	S00	SN1	STMO
1	928										1	
1	931										2	
2	907										4	
2	911										1	
2	917						1				6	
2	919										4	
2	923										2	
2	940						4					
2	942						1				7	
2	945						2				2	
2	947										4	
2	2105										1	
3	904										12	
3	905										1	
3	906	1								4		
3	910									3	2	
3	913										2	
3	916										3	
3	926				2						4	
3	933						1				7	

3		948										1									
3		949																	1		
3		2102																	5		
3		2108								4							1				
4		934			1														4		
4		935																	3		
4		938								10									9		
4		939							4	2									12		
4		2106								8		1							4		
4		2113							1										4		
NOT PHASED		901													1		4				4
NOT PHASED		936																	1		
NOT PHASED		943																	1		
NOT PHASED		2152									1										
NOT PHASED		2153																	1		

Area E

Phase 1 is cut 1028, possibly dating the early to mid Saxon period and containing one sherd of this date. Phase 2 is datable to the 11th / 12th century with a high proportion of sand-tempered wares. Phase 3 dates to the late 12th / early 13th century (Area E is the only part of the excavation to have deposits which can definitely be dated to this period). Phase 4 consists of cuts containing Potterspury ware (M5) and therefore dating to the 13th century or later. Phase 5 consists of three cuts containing post-medieval Potterspury ware (PM9), datable at present only to the later 16th to early 18th centuries.

Table 21

PHASE	CUT	M21	M1	M12	M13	M14	M15	M17	M18	M27	M3	M4	M5	M6	M8	M9	MC1	MISC	PM1	PM9	S00	SN1
1	1028																				1	
2	1005																1					1
2	1006											1									31	
2	1020											57										1
2	1024											3										
2	1030																1					
2	1035																					7
2	1036																					2
2	1038																	2				
2	1040										1	2										
2	1045											1										3
2	1047											9	1				1					2
2	1069										1	1										
2	1070											2										2
2	1073					1						5										4
2	1094											3										2
3	1016							5				1									4	

3	1023											10											1
3	1025											59			3		15						17
3	1031		1				4					97			2								6
3	1032	1					3					33			4		3						23
3	1042						2					7			1		10						7
3	2001		1				6					12					3						5
4	734									1													
4	1012						2		1				7										
4	1013		2				2			1	5	33	4				1						5
4	1014											5											
4	1021		2					1				4									1		
4	1029											1											
4	1033											8											
4	1034											6											
4	1041										11	6			1								6
4	1043					1	1				3	1					7						1
4	1044						4			1	3	10											
4	1046										4	1											
4	1049										2	12	2										1
4	1062										30	1											3
4	2002						1			2	14	1									1		
4	2003											2					1						1
4	2054						3				6	33	3										1
4	2055											1			6								
5	1050		1				2			1	31	30	3				5			1			5
5	1051			1	1		3				11	118	9	4			15			10			9
5	1055						1				1	3					1		2	7			
UN	1008																						
UN	1026																						1
UN	1075																						
UN	2052				1						2	7	3				1						
UN	2056								2		4	2	1										
UN	2062		1			1	2				5	3	1										4

Area 1

Phase 1 may date to the early to Anglo-Saxon period, on the basis of three sherds in cut 305. Phase 2 is 11th / 12th century (contexts 300 and 309 could date to the late 9th/early 11th centuries on the basis of their assemblages alone).

Table 22

PHASE	CUT	M3	M4	S00	SN1
1	305			3	
2	300			13	5
2	304		1		
2	306	3			

2	307/302	1	1	
2	309			7

Area 2

Phase 1 is datable to the 11th / 12th century (cuts 406, 421 and 3007 could be earlier - late 9th to early 11th century - if dated only by their pottery). Phase 2 is dated to the 13th century or later on the basis of Potterspury ware (M5). Cuts 424, 425, 432 and 3003 could be earlier if dated only by their pottery. Cut 425 in particular contains what appears to be a coherent assemblage of late 12th / early 13th century pottery but is apparently stratigraphically later than deposits containing Potterspury ware. Phase 3 is post-medieval, dating to the 16th century or later.

Table 23

PHASE	CUT	CSTN	M1	M11	M15	M17	M26	M27	M3	M4	M5	M6	M8	MC1	PM9	SN1
1	402												1			2
1	403									1						1
1	406															2
1	414		3													5
1	421															11
1	3006									1						
1	3007															1
2	410									1	3	1		4		
2	411										1					
2	413			1							1					1
2	415										1					5
2	417					1					1					
2	420										1			2		
2	422					7	4			1	20			1		2
2	424													1		2
2	425					32				13				31		7
2	426					1				29	3			1		1
2	428									2						
2	429				1	1				2	1		1	3		2
2	430								1	1	1					
2	432		1													
2	437									1	1					4
2	438										1					
2	444					1					1		3			
2	447		1							4	4			2		
2	457					3					3			1		
2	468							1			3	4				
2	3002		1			3			1		10			51		4
2	3003													1		49
2	3005										2			2		
3	442				1									1	1	
3	3000	1														
UN	3009															

Area 3

Phase 1 is dated to the 11th / 12th century but contains in total only 9 sherds of pottery. Phase 2 consists of cuts containing Potterspury ware (M5). All the assemblages contain sherds of M4 which are probably residual. Phase 3 contains pottery of similar character but is stratigraphically later than Phase 2. A single cut in Phase 4 is dated to the 16th century or later by a sherd of Cistercian ware (CSTN).

Table 24

PHASE	CUT	CSTN	M1	M15	M17	M18	M26	M3	M4	M5	M6	MC1	MISC	SN1
1	1103											1		
1	1111													1
1	1116											1		1
1	1122								2					3
2	1114						4		1	4		5		1
2	1118								1	1		1		
2	1164			1	10	1		2	13	5	1	15	1	13
2	1165								3	1		5		2
3	1104							1	5	2		10		4
3	1105									2				2
3	1106									4				4
3	1109								6	12				4
3	1110				2			4	2	21				4
3	1113							1		1		1		
3	1126		3						3	14		3		2
3	1135								3			2		
4	1115	1								11				
UN	1117							1	5	3		1		5
UN	1121													6
UN	1123													1
UN	1124								2					

Area 4

Phase 1 is datable to the 11th / 12th century. Or possibly earlier since the two deposits contain only shell-tempered wares. Phase 2 is dated by a single Potterspury ware sherd.

Table 25

PHASE	CONTEXT	M5	MC1	SN1
1	1300		6	12
1	1301			1
2	1302	1		

Chronology

As usual with medieval rural excavations in Buckinghamshire, the Loughton site provided no externally-dated deposits and because pottery fabrics and forms seem to have been long-lived in the Milton Keynes area it has not proved possible to date individual deposits with any accuracy. Using the broad dating of the wares described above, a summary of the dating evidence from each context was produced in the form of the number of sherds of each date range in the assemblage. As might have been predicted, the pottery assemblages from horizontal deposits tended to include the bulk of the finds but have broad date ranges. This information is integrated into the site report.

Very little pottery was stratified in deposits of the $10^{th}/12^{th}$ centuries (i.e. the Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods) and in many cases where features of this date were present they produced few sherds. In fact, the highest quantity of sherds in a deposit of this period was 58 (Area E feature 1020), and the next largest contained only 18 sherds. Given the size of some of the features of this period it may be that there was relatively little pottery in use. In most excavated areas it was not possible to phase these early features, although they clearly belong to more than one phase. In Area D, however, there was a long stratigraphic sequence, starting with a group of pits which were cut by a ditch (944), itself but by another ditch (900) with a sequence of recut ditches in the southern part of the site (2115, cut by 2140, cut by 2130, cut by 2125). This sequence allowed four groups of pottery to be defined (here called 0 to 2) and demonstrates that fabrics M4 and M1 occur at the end of the sequence and fabric MC1 occurs in the second phase (thus confirming that, as identified at Loughton, the changeover between poorly fired SN1 and oxidized MC1 was gradual and started in the Late Saxon period..

Table 26

TYPE	CUT	PHASE	M1	M4	MC1	S00	SN1
Pit	928	AREA D PHASE 0					1
Pit	931	AREA D PHASE 0					2
Pit	932	AREA D PHASE 0					
Ditch	907	AREA D PHASE 1					4
Ditch	917	AREA D PHASE 1			1		6
Ditch	923	AREA D PHASE 1					2
Ditch	942	AREA D PHASE 1			1		7
Ditch/Gully	945	AREA D PHASE 1			2		2
Gully	911	AREA D PHASE 1					1
Gully	947	AREA D PHASE 1					4
Gully Terminal	2105	AREA D PHASE 1					1
Gully Terminal	919	AREA D PHASE 1					4
Gully	940	AREA D PHASE 1			4		
Ditch	2108	AREA D PHASE 2		4		1	
Ditch	905	AREA D PHASE 2					1
Ditch	906	AREA D PHASE 2	1			4	
Ditch	910	AREA D PHASE 2				3	2
Ditch	913	AREA D PHASE 2					2
Ditch	916	AREA D PHASE 2					3
Ditch	926	AREA D PHASE 2		2			4
Ditch	948	AREA D PHASE 2			1		
Ditch	949	AREA D PHASE 2					1

Gully	2102	AREA D PHASE 2		5
Gully	904	AREA D PHASE 2		12
Gully	933	AREA D PHASE 2	1	7

There is little evidence for any difference in date between the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman occupation between the excavated areas.

Table 27

AREA	PHASE	M1	M3	M4	M5	M8	MC1	SN1	SSW	Total
AREA 1	SNEM	0	3	2	0	0	0	12	0	17
AREA 2	SNEM	3	0	2	0	1	0	22	0	28
AREA 3	SNEM	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	6
AREA 4	SNEM	0	0	0	0	0	6	13	0	19
AREA A	SNEM	0	0	3	0	6	4	4	0	17
AREA B	SNEM	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	5
AREA C	SNEM	1	1	16	0	0	1	54	1	74
AREA D	SNEM0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
AREA D	SNEM1	0	0	0	0	0	8	31	0	39
AREA D	SNEM2	1	0	6	0	0	2	37	0	46
AREA E	SNEM	0	0	5	0	0	2	13	0	20
Total		5	4	38	0	7	23	196	1	274

Later 12th/early 13th century deposits: recognised through the preponderance of sherds of fabric M4, some wheelthrown greywares of fabric M17 but few or no sherds of Potterspury wares (M5) were rare and only certainly occurred at Area E. In addition to the high frequency of fabric M4 the ratio of MC1 to SN1 is higher than in the earlier deposits.

Table 28

TYPE	CUT	LOND	M1	M17	M4	M8	MC1	S00	SN1	total
Ditch	1023				10				1	11
Ditch	1025				59	3	15		17	94
Ditch Grp No	1042			2	7	1	10		7	27
Gully	1031		1	4	97	2			6	110
Gully	1032	1		3	33	4	3		23	67
Pit	1016			5	1			4		10
Pit	2001		1	6	12		3		5	27
Total		1	2	20	219	10	31	4	59	346

The distribution of pottery stratified in medieval deposits emphasises that medieval settlement was non-existent in some of the excavated areas. There are no medieval features in Area 1 and only a single pit (containing one pot sherd) in Area 4. Much of the pottery found in medieval deposits is of the same fabric types as that in the earlier deposits and in most cases is likely to be residual from earlier

occupation. The wheelthrown greywares, M17, on the other hand, may be contemporary, since their equivalent types in the south-east of England (such as Hertfordshire Reduced and Limpsfield wares) were used into the 14th century. In several of the excavated areas the medieval shelly ware, MC1 is more common than ?residual SN1, indicating that this ware too was contemporary with the other medieval wares (mainly Potterspury wares, M5, and Brill/Boarstall ware, M6). There is a possibly significant difference in the relative proportions of major medieval wares from Area to Area. M17 is present in similar quantities in all areas but M5 and M6 are both present as a higher proportion of possibly contemporary wares in areas with a low frequency of medieval shelly ware. This probably indicates that the medieval shelly ware fell out of use within the medieval period at the expense of Potterspury and Brill wares. On these criteria, the medieval settlement in Areas A and E would be later than that in the remaining areas. However, whether this should be interpreted to mean that it started later, or continued later is not clear. Furthermore, the entire pattern might be due to the presence of earlier medieval material residual in the medieval deposits in some areas.

Table 29

FABRIC	AREA 2	AREA 3	AREA 4	AREA A	AREA B	AREA C	AREA D	AREA E	TOTAL
M1	3	3		1	2			4	13
M3	2	8		2		8		5	25
M4	54	37		145	33	67	20	78	434
M5	58	67	1	126	19	99		132	502
M6	5	1		24		1		9	40
M8	4			1		7		1	13
M9								6	6
M11	1								1
M15	1	1						1	3
M16							1		1
M17	49	12		40	14	15	5	13	148
M18		1						1	2
M23					1				1
M26	4	4							8
M27	1							1	2
MC1	96	42		11	19	146	1	9	324
MISC		1							1
S00				1	1			2	4
SN1	77	34		26	11	67	36	18	269
SSW						1			1
Total	355	211	1	377	100	411	63	280	1798

The medieval deposits in Area 3 were sub-divisible into two phases on stratigraphic evidence but there is no obvious distinction between the pottery assemblages from these two phases.

Loughton's pottery supply

The precise source of much of Loughton's medieval pottery is not known. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the majority of pottery used was obtained from sources within 30km of the settlement. In fact, Olney Hyde, one of the potential sources of MC1 and M4, is only 20 km from Loughton; Great Brickhill, potentially a source for M3 and M4, is 14 km from Loughton whilst Potterspury is only 8 km away.

The only other medieval wares to form more than a small percentage of the Loughton assemblage were M6, Brill/Boarstall ware, approximately 26 km from Loughton, and M17, wheelthrown greywares. If the latter are indeed Hertfordshire products, rather than more local versions, then they were probably carried over 50 km to Loughton.

All other medieval wares occur in very small quantities. Only three can be approximately provenanced:

Stamford wares (70 km), London-type ware (80 km) and London Shelly-Sandy ware (80 km). All are types marketed extensively and were quite probably obtained from a local market.

Activity and status at Loughton

The range of pottery vessels used at Loughton reflects the activities which were carried out there and the social customs of the settlement's inhabitants. Because of the difficulty in assigning body sherds to forms only rims can be used for statistical analysis, quantified as EVEs. All stratified rims were therefore assigned to a form and their frequency by broad period using rim EVEs was calculated:

Table 30

FORM	SNEM	L12E13	MED	PMED	Total
BOWL	27%	21%	18%	22%	435
DISH/BOWL	7%	0%	2%	0%	50
PANCH	0%	0%	0%	6%	25
BOWL/JAR	0%	0%	0%	3%	15
DISH	3%	0%	0%	0%	15
bowl/dish total	37%	21%	20%	31%	540
CP	58%	72%	55%	21%	1,065
CP/JAR	5%	0%	13%	8%	215
JAR	0%	0%	4%	2%	55
PIP	0%	0%	0%	8%	35
cp/jar total	63%	72%	71%	39%	1,370
DRIPPING DISH	0%	0%	0%	0%	5
JUG	0%	7%	8%	30%	250
Total	295	145	1,275	450	2,165

As expected, cooking pots and jars formed the main component of Saxo-Norman/Early medieval assemblages but, unexpectedly, actually increased in frequency in the late 12th/early 13th century and then again in the medieval period. This may, however, be due to the present of residual pottery in the later deposits. Nevertheless, a similar pattern is found if the major wares are arranged in chronological order, ignoring stratification:

Table 31

FORM	SN1	MC1	M4	M17	M5	Postmed	total
BOWL	32%	22%	8%	28%	36%	30%	27%
DISH	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
DISH/BOWL	4%	6%	2%	3%	1%	0%	3%
PANCH	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	1%
bowl/dish total	38%	29%	10%	30%	37%	80%	32%
CP	45%	28%	78%	58%	23%	0%	42%
CP/JAR	11%	16%	4%	13%	17%	0%	12%

JAR	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	20%	2%
PIP	0%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
cp/jar total	57%	57%	83%	70%	41%	20%	57%
DRIPPING DISH	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
JUG	5%	13%	7%	0%	21%	0%	11%
total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Here, however, the proportion of cooking pots declines between the use of M17 and M5. However, it has been argued that these wares are likely to have been contemporary during the later 13th and 14th centuries. Clearly, the Loughton pottery suggests that ceramic cooking pots were used throughout the occupation of the settlement, with no evidence for their replacement by metal vessels, as is often found in urban ceramic sequences.

Bowls and dishes were the next most common form, throughout the medieval period. The stratified assemblages indicate a drop in frequency in the late 12th/early 13th century but the frequency of bowl rims in fabrics M17 and M5 makes it clear that they continued to be produced and used at a significant level. Many of these vessels show signs of being used in cooking and the deep, conical bowls or pancheons, used in dairying, seem to have been unimportant in the medieval settlement, although forming half of all rim EVEs in the post-medieval period. The high proportion of bowls/dishes is therefore more likely to be a reflection of cooking habits than an indication of any other activity.

The proportion of jugs is consistently low - there are no rims in stratified Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval deposits and only 7-8% by rim EVEs in late 12th/early 13th century and later medieval deposits. By contrast, jugs form a higher proportion of most of the major wares, forming 21% of rim EVEs in Potterspury ware (M5). The explanation for this discrepancy may be that where jug rims survive they tend to form a higher rim percentage than cooking pot rims so that a very few instances (mostly unstratified) give rise to a significant rim EVE count. Even so, the overall frequency of jugs is undoubtedly low: many high medieval pottery industries, like Potterspury, seem to have concentrated on the production of jugs, as is shown both by the frequency of jugs in these fabrics on consumer sites and by the composition of waster dumps and failed kiln firings.

Other forms were rare, only dripping dishes were represented by rim sherds (which, given the oval form of the dripping dish, are difficult to obtain rim EVEs from). Storage jars occurred in Saxo-Norman/early medieval, late 12th /early 13th century and medieval deposits and lids were present in medieval deposits. Spouted pitchers are likely to date to the Saxo-Norman/early medieval period and only one sherd of such a vessel was found, stratified in a medieval deposit.

In total, the pottery forms found at Loughton reveal a community which used pottery mainly for cooking and food preparation. A few of these vessels, classified as jars, have no evidence for being used in cooking and were possibly used in food storage, as were the few storage jars. Serving vessels (spouted pitchers and jugs) were rare, increasing in quantity in the medieval period. Nevertheless, there must have been a much lower use of ceramic serving vessels at Loughton than in south-east midlands towns, such as Bedford, Aylesbury or Oxford. It is unlikely that the Loughton villagers used metal vessels instead and it seems therefore that they had fewer occasions on which to use serving vessels (which, to judge by manuscript illustrations and their shape and decoration were usually used to serve alcoholic drinks at formal feasts). Loughton, therefore, fits the general impression of medieval village life.

Bibliography

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