

Chapter 11. The Pottery

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I. Introduction and methodology

The excavation produced 7650 sherds of pottery weighing 118.696 kg. There are 694 sherds, approximately 473 individual vessels, which have a form type recorded; undiagnostic body sherds number 6956. Based on these figures, this would appear to be an unusually fragmented assemblage. A random scan of the pottery, however, indicated that more forms might have been recorded, many with recordable features such as sooting, wear marks, residues and re-use, which were not originally identified. In addition, the pottery is very poorly washed, if at all, making fabric identification and confirmation difficult.

The way that pottery has been analysed has changed over the years. When the pottery was first being analysed in the 1970s and 80s, fabric series and form typologies were of prime, if not sole, importance, their one purpose being to provide a date. Since then, the archaeologist's view of pottery has changed: pottery is still used as a prime dating tool, but there is more that it can tell us about the way that people lived; their social standing and status; how they used the pots and the activities occurring on the site; what their outside contacts were; how and what they traded.

Constraints on resources, however, meant that it was not possible to fully update the original record and the original data was input onto an Access database, with no further additions. This must therefore stand as an example, albeit a good example, of data collection and analysis current in the 1980s.

The bulk of the assemblage is dated to the Romano-British period although there were significant quantities of Late Iron Age/early Roman transitional and Saxon pottery, and a small amount of medieval and post-medieval material, the latter of which was added to the database as an aid in determining the degree of disturbance.

The Late Iron Age pottery includes vessels which retained characteristics of the 'Belgic' pottery tradition which spans the Conquest period in the Bedfordshire/Northamptonshire area (*c.f.* ceramic phase 2 in Jackson and Dix 1986-7, 77-9 and figs 37-9).

The Roman pottery dates from the late 1st-4th (?5th) century AD, similar in composition (although not in size and quality) to that found at Odell, approximately 12 km north of Bedford (Accession no. BEDFM.1985.18). The Odell pottery was examined in detail by Brian Dix, the site director, and Pat Aird during initial analysis *c.* 1978. At the time, Odell stood as the type site for Roman pottery in Bedfordshire and it was felt, therefore, that the pottery from Newnham did not warrant publication in full. Consequently the original report for Newnham, prepared by Pat Aird, forms only a brief summary of the range of pottery found on the site.

In the light of subsequent work on Roman pottery in the county and the absence of a published report of the Odell excavations, as well as the re-phasing of the site, this report has been revised as far as the original data will allow. A correlation of matching Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series fabric codes is included. Aird's original report is in the archive.

A number of fabric types did not occur at Odell and were individual to Newnham; samples of these were separated out from the rest of the pottery archive. It was therefore possible to correlate these fabric samples with samples in the CTS. A random scan of the assemblage, however, indicated that, although identification of the fabrics was largely consistent, there were some anomalies, possibly due to the pottery being so poorly washed. These anomalies have been sorted by random examination of sherds in the assemblage but not all the pottery records could be checked fully.

All pottery type descriptions have been previously published (Parminter and Slowikowski 2004). The form series from the site, analysed by Pat Aird, is included despite its incomplete nature (Section 21). A number of the illustrations are missing and have not been redrawn as this was beyond the scope of this project. The reference collection of form sherds, however, exists in the archive (Accession no. Bedfm.1975.70).

II. Fabric Type Definitions

CTS fab code	NWM fab codes	Fabric definition	Sherds	Wt (g)
<i>Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (total: 1sherds, 15g)</i>				
F01A	NB01	Coarse flint	1	15
<i>Late Iron Age/Early Roman ('Belgic' tradition) (total: 2079 sherds, 45791g)</i>				
F05	B01; B02/03.1; B02/03.2; B03.1/2; B11; B21; B22; B31; B31/2; B32; H111; H112; H121; H222	Grog/shell	349	5238
F06A	A01	Grog fine	91	792
F06B	A01/02; A02; A02/03	Grog medium	313	4754
F06C	A03	Grog coarse	37	925
F07	H; NA01; NA02; NA07; NA11; NA14; NA16; NA17; NA18; NA23	Shelly	740	19919
F08	C11; C12; C21; C22; H02; H212; H221; NA03	Shell/grog	102	2444
F09	B02; D01; D01/02; D02; D02/03; D03; D12; D21; D22; J21	Sand/grog	212	4772
F23	H321; NA13	Grog/shell/sand	104	2214
F24	NA08; NA09; NA12	Buff shelly	119	3983
F30	H211	Sand/calc	5	550
F34	D31	Belgic sandy	7	200
<i>Roman (total: 5380 sherds, 70693g)</i>				
R	MISC; NAX; NX; X	Misc Roman	8	37
R01A	CG	Samian central Gaul	158	0
R01B	SG	Samian southern Gaul	43	0
R01C	EG	Samian eastern Gaul	9	0
R02	MICA	Mica gilded	9	205
R03A	K01/02; K01/02W; K01/03; K02	Fine white ware (VRW)	36	312
R03B	G/K02W; K01W; K02/03W; K02A; K02W; K02W/A; K03; K03W; N25; NB08	Gritty white ware (VRW)	84	1195
R03C	GW; NA28	Smooth white ware	4	30
R03D	misc	White ware with fine shell	40	930
R05A	K01	Orange sandy	55	417
R05B	NB11	Fine orange	5	40
R05D	NB11	Orange sandy – white slipped	10	56
R06A	N01; N35	Grey ware – Nene Valley	179	3012
R06B	N14; N15; N16;	Grey ware – coarse	362	3240
R06C	N06; N08; N09; N10; N11; N13; N19; N23	Grey ware – fine	1360	10435
R06D	N28	Grey ware – micaceous	36	465
R06E	J11; N05; N18; N32; N33; N34; N36	Grey ware – calc	173	2207
R06G	N07; N21	Grey ware – silty	6	53
R06H	N29	Grey ware – white slipped	39	250
R06J	N03	Grey ware – black core	277	2881
R06K	N04; N26; NB16	Grey ware – glauconite	83	1176
R07A	BB1; BB1/2; N12	Black burnished BB1	66	699
R07B	N17; N20	Black ware – sandy	113	1476
R07F	N27	Black ware – silty	23	211
R07G	BB2	Black burnished BB2	32	535
R08	N02	Black micaceous	200	2421
R10B	misc	Fine buff	1	49
R11	misc	Oxford oxidised ware	1	5
R11D	OXCC	Oxford colour coat	202	3060
R12B	NVCC	Nene Valley colour coat	280	3041
R13	J22; NA04; NA05; NA06; NA10; NA15; NA19; NA20; NA21; NA22	Shelly	1265	25927
R14	N31; NB09; NB12	Red-brown harsh	32	398
R18A	N24; N30	Pink gritty (VRW)	33	582
R18B	G; G01; NB07	Pink fine	37	429
R22A	Recorded as OXCC	Hadham oxidised	26	663
R26	TN	Terra Nigra	7	50
R28	J31	Gritty calcareous	2	20
R32A	GR GL	Lead glazed	1	0
R36	misc	Orange gritty	1	25
R38	CCX	Colour coat – source unknown	21	151
1		Mortarium – local?	1	75
2		Mortarium – Oxford white	39	1175
3		Mortarium – Oxford white-slipped	1	20
4		Mortarium – Oxford red-slipped	2	40
5		Mortarium – Mancetter-Hartshill	8	330
6		Mortarium – local?	1	70
7		Mortarium – local?	1	30
8		Mortarium – local?	1	30
9		Mortarium – red-slipped (Verulamium?)	2	45

CTS fab code	NWM fab codes	Fabric definition	Sherds	Wt (g)
10		Mortarium – local?	2	940
11		Mortarium – local?	3	1255
<i>Anglo-Saxon (total:96 sherds, 1203g)</i>				
A01	NB13	Organic	3	63
A04	NB02; NB14; NB15	Sand and calcareous	61	442
A06	NB06; NB17	Sandy	18	310
A06 fine	NB04; NB18	Fine sandy	3	11
A16	NB03	Coarse sandy	1	162
A23	NB05	Sandstone	10	215
<i>Medieval (total:15 sherds, 402g)</i>				
B09		Lyveden/Stanion	2	19
C09		Brill/Boarstall	3	28
E02		Late Medieval Oxidised	10	355
<i>Post-medieval and Modern (total:75 sherds, 546g)</i>				
P14		Black ware	2	21
P25		Frechen	3	45
P32		Staffs Refined Redware	4	60
P33		Tin glazed	1	3
P36A		Nottingham stoneware	2	14
P39		Mocha	1	36
P43		Pearlware	5	8
P48		English stoneware	4	38
P55		White earthenware	19	81
MOD		Modern	34	240

Table 11.1 Pottery fabric totals and definitions

The Anglo-Saxon pottery

Ninety-six Saxon sherds, weighing 1.203kg, were found at Newnham, the majority deriving from individual vessels. These make up 1.27% of the total assemblage and comprise six fabric types. Codes according to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (CTS) have been allocated. All are previously known from other sites in Bedfordshire.

A04 – Quartz and calcareous (61 sherds; 442g - 63.54% of the Saxon assemblage)

Abundant sub-angular quartz grains, 0.3-1.0mm, and characteristic rounded white calcareous inclusions, varying in size from 0.1-1.5mm.

Forms are primarily jars but at least one bowl was recorded (Fig. 6.3 no. 6). Vessels are generally plain with no elaborate decoration. Some, however, are burnished (*e.g.* Fig. 6.3 nos 1, 4, 5), one has horizontal grooves below the rim (Fig. 6.3 no. 5) and another body sherd appears to have been combed (unillust). One vessel is deliberately roughened, with a *schlikung*-type surface (Fig. 6.3 no. 7) (see also A06 below). This appears to be a form of finish used in the 5th and 6th centuries both on the continent and in Britain (Hamerow 1993, 37). Fabric A04 is the dominant type at the site. It also occurs at Bedford (Baker and Hassall 1979, 152) and other north-Bedfordshire sites such as Odell and Thurleigh (Accession nos. BEDFM.1985.18 and 1976.03, unpubl archive reports). Petrological analysis of samples from Bedford suggest it is likely to be local to north Bedfordshire.

A06 – Quartz tempered (18 sherds; 310g - 18.95% of Saxon assemblage)

Usually dark grey to black in colour, but dark brown examples do occur. Inclusions are predominantly abundant quartz, sub-rounded, 0.1-0.7mm, with occasional larger grains, up to 1.0mm.

None of the sherds were stamped although decoration occurs in the form of rustication on the exterior surface (*e.g.* no. 8) and some areas of burnishing. Two vessels (*e.g.* no. 7) have burnished shoulders but the surface of the body below the shoulder is deliberately roughened, with a 'schlikung'-type surface (see A04 above). This fabric also occurs at Bedford and has been fully described by Baker and Hassall (1979, 152).

Fine version of A06 (3 sherds; 11g - 3.16% of Saxon assemblage)

Characterised by abundant inclusions of very fine quartz, well-sorted, fine subrounded to subangular, 0.1-0.2mm.

Being in a particularly fine fabric, vessels of this type will take a clear stamp and are therefore more likely to be decorated than the other coarser fabrics occurring on the site. Number 10 has a faceted shoulder with horizontal grooves below and is highly burnished, while no. 9 has a stamped pattern made up of three individual stamps: a large wheel, small cross and a small plain indentation.

A23 – Sandstone tempered (10 sherds; 215g - 10.52% of the Saxon assemblage)

A hard fabric with texture like very fine sandpaper, although the surfaces have been smoothed over. Sandstone inclusions are in the form of distinctive clusters of quartz crystals, resembling sugar, 0.6-1.2mm in size. Occasional, sparse red iron ore can be seen.

All forms appear to be jars. They are decorated with burnishing, faceting on the carination and horizontal grooves (Fig. 6.3 no. 10) but only one has a stamped motif comprising grid and concentric diamond stamps (Fig. 6.3 no. 11). Two apparently plain rim fragments are highly burnished externally and may have come from vessels which were decorated on the body. Small quantities have been recovered from other Saxon sites in the county, for example, Grove Priory, near Leighton Buzzard, and, closer to Newnham, Village Farm, Bedford Southern Bypass (Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service 1995). At Grove Priory, a date in the 6th-7th centuries was suggested for this type (Slowikowski 2013), although at Newnham it may be contemporary with the rest of the Saxon assemblage and therefore possibly a century earlier. It was never a major part of the total assemblage and it has to be assumed that the source is outside the county.

A01 Organic tempered (3 sherds, 63g - 3.16% of Saxon assemblage)

Texture is smooth with a soapy feel. Abundant voids where organic material, which may include straw, grass, or chaff, has burnt out. This fabric has been published under different names, among them 'grass-tempered' and 'chaff-tempered' ware. Research backed by ethnographic parallels has determined that the likely source of this tempering was dung (Gaimster 1986).

Only a single diagnostic sherd was found, a fragment from the shoulder of a jar. All sherds are plain and undecorated. Hamerow *et al.* (1994, 15) has shown that in the south and midlands, this fabric reached its peak of popularity in the 7th century and had gone out of use by the mid-8th century. The small quantity of organic pottery at Newnham suggests an early Saxon date, before this type became dominant.

A16 – Coarse rounded quartz (1 sherd; 162g - 1.06% of Saxon assemblage)

A coarse fabric with abundant rounded quartz inclusions 0.3-0.6mm in size. The roundness of the quartz suggests a Lower Greensand source, towards the south of the county. This fabric type occurs in abundance at Grove Priory where its occurrence has been dated to the 6th-7th centuries (Slowikowski 2013).

A single vessel was found in this fabric at Newnham, a roughly-made wide-mouthed bowl (Fig. 6.3 no. 13). It came from a post-hole in the Phase 1 building G22, despite its being one of the largest fragments of Saxon pottery on the site.

III. Site Overview

The pottery is summarised in Tables 11.2-11.3, and further discussed by phase and group, with corresponding Tables 11.4-11.11. See also Figs 2.3, 3.3, 4.3, 5.2, 6.1, 7.1 (histograms)

Fabric	Fabric definition	1	2	3	4	5	6	Unphased/ topsoil/ unstrat
F01B	Fine flint		1:15					
F05	Grog/shell	183:2487	58:1145	54:832	23:372	10:53		21:349
F06A	Grog fine	36:269	27:305	8:30	8:85	2:10		10:93
F06B	Grog medium	78:1716	82:1171	101:1114	23:382	8:80	1:5	20:286
F06C	Grog coarse	6:212	10:360	8:175	8:111	2:20		3:47
F07	Shelly	160:7716	81:1441	132:2456	128:3831	128:2063	4:45	105:2354
F08	Shell/grog	33:1159	23:472	10:154	15:246	9:181		12:232
F09	Sand/grog	88:2748	44:1006	29:359	21:412	9:89	1:5	20:153
F23	Grog/shell/sand	49:1432	16:235	11:119	18:305	5:53		5:70
F30	Sand/calc	2:525				2:15		1:10
F34	Belgic sandy			7:200				
F24	Buff shelly	3:7	11:114	33:2404	32:332	29:982	1:5	10:139
R26	Terra Nigra	1:15			2:10	2:10		2:15
R32A	Lead glazed	1:0						
R02	Mica gilded		1:2	6:175	1:20			1:8
R01A	Samian central Gaul	5:0	6:0	42:0	25:0	11:0		69:0
R01B	Samian southern Gaul	1:0	6:0	13:0	3:0	2:0		18:0
R01C	Samian eastern Gaul		1:0	4:0		2:0		2:0
R08	Black micaceous	7:105	15:208	62:470	35:722	68:550	1:10	12:356
R03A	Fine white ware	2:37		8:76	19:173	5:15		2:11
R03B	Gritty white ware	2:40	2:35	23:526	35:387	10:76		12:131
R18A	Pink gritty	1:5	1:60	10:48	7:89	7:320		7:60
R18B	Pink fine	16:231	4:27		1:10	3:9		12:142
R03C	Smooth white ware		1:1	1:1	2:28			
R03D	White ware with fine shell		3:35	15:532	18:310	2:33		2:20
R06J	Grey ware – black core	15:245	14:84	118:1069	40:414	43:495	1:5	45:349
R07A	Black burnished BB1	3:30	9:38	11:210	15:190	10:117	1:5	17:109
R07G	Black burnished BB2	2:45	6:122	3:63	15:205	3:65	1:5	2:30
R07B	Black ware – sandy	6:400	10:127	33:257	21:355	26:243	1:20	16:74
R07F	Black ware – silty	1:5		2:8	3:27	4:65		13:105
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous	1:2	2:5	3:17	14:282	8:113	1:10	7:36
R06E	Grey ware - calc	7:86	9:155	25:180	37:536	53:914	4:13	38:323
R06G	Grey ware – silty	2:10			2:13	2:30		
R05A	Orange sandy	3:50	2:17	20:120	13:141	8:41	3:6	6:42
R05B	Fine orange							5:40
R05D	Orange sandy – white slipped		1:1	9:55				
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley	5:115	15:163	58:1390	37:660	51:559	4:58	9:67
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	8:77	34:390	135:1376	66:532	83:700	2:15	34:150
R06C	Grey ware – fine	55:694	152:1403	446:3138	241:1857	301:2278	9:48	156:1017
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped		5:35	12:88	9:74	4:31		9:22
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite	5:68	7:95	14:183	34:481	15:156	2:165	6:28
R13	Shelly	35:1332	81:3240	184:3034	3987076	348:8161	10:1362	210:542
R14	Red-brown harsh		2:4	5:35	11:190	5:115		9:54
R28	Gritty calcareous				2:20			
R36	Orange gritty					1:25		
R38	Colour coat – source unknown	1:30	4:8	2:17	5:53	3:6		5:37
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	10:23	21:132	27:251	62:724	60:718	4:59	96:1134
R12D	Nene Valley mortaria – orange-brown			3:50				
R11	Oxford oxidised ware							1:5
R11D	Oxford colour coat	3:17	15:91	19:202	43:699	70:1468	1:5	51:578
R22A	Hadham oxidised	1:10		3:70	12:54	5:487		5:42
R	Misc Roman	1:1	1:10	2:20	3:60	4:10		1:5
A01	Organic					2:5		1:58
A04	Sandy		1:5	2:8	16:91	28:223		14:115
A06	Sandy	1:7		1:10	1:2	3:65	1:1	12:232
A16	Coarse sandy	1:162						
A18	Fine sandy			2:8		1:3		
A23	Sandstone		1:5			2:27		6:176
B09	Lyveden/Stanion							2:19
C09	Brill/Boarstall				1:16			2:12
E02	Late Medieval Oxidised	1:4			5:291	4:60		
P14	Black ware					2:21		

P25	Frechen					3:45		
P32	Staffs Refined Redware						3:50	1:10
P33	Tin glazed				1:3			
P36A	Nottingham stoneware	1:4						1:10
P39	Mocha						1:36	
P43	Pearlware				1:2		4:6	
P48	English stoneware				1:10		2:17	1:11
P55	White earthenware					2:16	17:65	
MOD	Modern	4:31	1:4	2:13	15:92	6:45	4:9	

Table 11.2 Pottery fabrics in chronological order, by phase quantified by sherd count: weight (g) (*weights for samian (R01) and lead glazed ware (R32A) were not recorded*)

Form	Form name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Unphased /topsoil/ unstrat
BKR	Beaker	1	8	7	6	4	1	10
BKRA	Girth beaker	1						
BKRB	Butt beaker	2	3					
BKRC	Cornice rim beaker			1	1			
BKRF	Folded/indented beaker				1	1		
BWL	Bowl	6	8	20	17	18	2	18
BWLA	Reeded rim bowl	1	1	4	2	1		1
BWLC	Carinated bowl	2	1	3	3	2		
BWLF	Flanged bowl	3	4	11	17	24		19
BWLN	Necked bowl	17	14	21	11	22		13
CAST	Castor box lid				2			
DIS	Dish	3	7	26	15	6		31
DISP	Plain rim dish	1	7	13	9	11		11
FLA	Flask					1		1
FLG	Flagon	1		3	4	2		4
JAR	Jar	14	7	18	14	17		15
JARA	Carinated jar		2	1				
JARB	Bead rim jar			1				
JARC	Cordoned jar	2						
JARN	Necked jar		1	4	5	5		4
JARS	Storage jar		1	5		2		
LID	Lid		1	15	5	5		5
PLAT	Platter	2		6	3	2		4
STNR	Strainer/colander	1			2	1		2
TRIP	Triple vase				1			
VESS	Vessel (undiagnostic sherds)	508	633	1409	1114	1226	67	850

Table 11.3 Pottery forms by phase quantified by vessel count

This is likely to be an underestimate of recognisable vessels as the forms of many more sherds could be identified but were not recorded.

IV. Phase 1 Late Iron Age to early Roman

(Fig. 2.4)

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups																			
		4	5	9	12	13	17	18	22	23	29	30	35	46	47	83	85	87	88	89	91
F05	Grog/shell	57:1145					3:260						6:130	18:422	95:505			1:5		3:20	
F06A	Grog fine	4:90							12:52				1:5	18:102	1:20						
F06B	Grog medium	29:835				1:15	10:133		5:56				3:80	19:267	10:325					1:5	
F06C	Grog coarse	5:197							1:15												
F07	Shelly	67:3317			1:5	22:145	4:96	3:30	3:20	3:55			4:295	23:514	19:2680				11:582		1:15
F08	Shell/grog	9:150			1:110		4:275			1:10			1:60	7:82	1:20	8:450			1:2		
F09	Sand/grog	49:1985					10:220		3:30				6:51	4:15	6:70	6:62			4:315		
F23	Grog/shell/sand	41:1262		1:15	1:5			1:15							3:65		1:45	1:25			
F30	Sand/calc															2:525					
F24	Buff shelly	1:1	1:3		1:3																
R26	Terra Nigra					1:15															
R32A	Lead glazed														1:0						
R01A	Samian central Gaul	1:0				1:0			3:0												
R01B	Samian southern Gaul	1:0																			
R08	Black micaceous	2:25				1:10			1:1	1:10			2:55								
R03A	Fine white ware	1:30											1:7								
R03B	Gritty white ware																			2:40	
R18A	Pink gritty													1:5							
R18B	Pink fine	14:226																			2:5
R06J	Grey ware – black core	4:125				1:2			6:82	2:11	1:20			1:5							
R07A	Black burnished BB1	1:3							1:2	1:25											
R07G	Black burnished BB2					1:25							1:20								
R07B	Black ware – sandy	4:390				1:5															1:5
R07F	Black ware – silty				1:5																
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous													1:2							
R06E	Grey ware – calc					1:2	1:1		1:8					2:25	1:45						1:5
R06G	Grey ware – silty							1:5							1:5						
R05A	Orange sandy																2:10				1:40
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley	4:110						1:5													
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	5:57			2:5	1:15															
R06C	Grey ware – fine	31:447			1:40	6:95		1:5	5:51	2:11		1:5	3:7	3:30	2:3			3:30			
R06K	Grey ware – glauconite	3:40							1:13				1:15								
R13	Shelly	22:1030	1:7			1:25	1:15	1:25	2:50	1:15			2:65						1:60		3:40
R38	Colour coat – source unknown	1:30																			
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	7:20	1:1			1:1			1:1												
R11D	Oxford colour coat					2:2							1:15								
R22A	Hadham oxidised			1:10																	
R	Misc Roman								1:1												
A06	Sandy												1:7								
A16	Coarse sandy								1:162												
E02	Late Medieval Oxidised								1:4												
P36A	Nottingham stoneware								1:4												
MOD	Modern								3:15	1:16											

Table 11.4 Phase 1 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 2.3 (histogram)

NB samian and lead-glazed wares have no weights recorded

Enclosures

The fill of enclosure **G35**, the earliest excavated feature on the site, contained largely Late Iron Age pottery of the 'Belgic' tradition and a smaller quantity of early Roman pottery. The large size of many of the sherds, the largest of which is 240g, and the assemblage's sherd:weight ratio of 1:26.07 suggest that the material in the fill was not exposed to abrasion and fragmentation over time. Although largely undiagnostic, a number of sherds could be assigned to a form. The majority are 'Belgic' in style and include bowls, one of which has slashed decoration on the rim, and cordoned bowls in grog and shell fabrics F05 and F08 as well as platters in fine grog-tempered fabric F06A.

Although recorded as undiagnostic body sherds, the fragments of shelly fabric F07 are likely to derive from cooking pots and, particularly the larger sherds, storage jars. These shelly vessels may come from Stagsden, approximately 8km north-west of Newnham, where pottery of this type was manufactured (Dawson 2000). Elsewhere on the site two fragments of shelly bases were found with possible makers' marks of the same type that occurred at Stagsden (Phase 2 Fig. 3.5, nos 18-19) (Slowikowski 2000, 82 Fig. 53, nos 236-9). Archaeomagnetic dating of one of the Stagsden kilns gave a date around the time of the Conquest.

The early Roman pottery occurs in Romanised fabrics, including Verulamium wares in fabric R03A and the fine black micaceous fabric R08, both dated to the post-Conquest period. If the conjecture that the shelly fabric F07 came from Stagsden is correct, this and the presence of the early Roman pottery would date the fill of the ditch to the end of the 1st or possibly into the 2nd century.

The single sherd recorded as Anglo-Saxon is a small fragment from a shoulder which could be from a Middle Iron Age ovoid jar. The fabric, however, is reduced to dark grey throughout and is of a sandy fabric recorded as type A06. The external surface is burnished. Also in the fill of G35 was a sherd of late Roman Oxford colour coat fabric R11D so this and the Anglo-Saxon sherd are both likely to be intrusive.

Ditch **G4** contained a large assemblage of pottery with a sherd:weight ratio of 1:31.58 with some particularly large and unabraded fragments present. The fabric profile is the same as G35 with a preponderance of Late Iron Age sherds in fabrics and forms of the 'Belgic' tradition. Small amounts of early Roman pottery similar to those in G35 are also present, although, possibly because it is a larger assemblage, more imported pottery was recognised.

Forms are in the 'Belgic' tradition and comprise a variety of platters, bowls, cordoned jars and a girth beaker in grog-tempered fabrics F06. Cordoned or corrugated bowls and jars, and lid-seated jars, some with slashed rims, in grog and shell fabric F05 are also present. The slashed rims are a common design found on lid-seated jars in the Northamptonshire/Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire region dating to the mid-late 1st century (Thompson 1982, 249; Friendship-Taylor 1997, 16). They are particularly common on vessels in shelly fabrics and were manufactured at several sites, for example Stagsden (Slowikowski 2000, 80 Fig. 51, no. 224). Lid seated jars were also made at Harrold but without the slashing on the rim (Brown 1994, 54 Fig. 24, 36-41). Also present in shelly fabric F07 is a fragment of base from a strainer.

Two of the shelly fabric F07 vessels had the remains of internal residues. One is off-white in colour and possibly lime-scale, the other black and possibly burnt food residue. Although neither sooting nor the forms of these two vessels were recorded, it is likely they were jars used as cooking pots.

Two samian fragments from a dish and a cup were found as well as a sherd from a colour-coat beaker from an unknown source. It is decorated in barbotine and may have a continental origin, possibly at Lezoux or in the Rhineland.

The small quantity of Roman pottery comprises Verulamium region white ware fabric R03A and fine pink flagon ware fabric R18B; fine grey wares in fabric R06C and Nene Valley fabric R06A; sandy black wares in the Black Burnished tradition and two small beaker sherds in Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B; this last may be intrusive. Although these are Romanised fabrics, the forms still retain some 'Belgic' characteristics such as cordons and grooves.

The enclosure ditch **G5** contained no Late Iron Age pottery, the earliest sherd being the transitional 1st-century shelly fabric F24 and the latest a tiny scrap of Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B, which may be intrusive.

The larger finds assemblage from ditch **G17** comprised predominantly pottery of Late Iron Age type, including a handmade straight-sided bowl (DV 258) in shelly fabric F07, cordoned jars in grog-tempered fabrics F06 and a large rim sherd from an unidentified vessel in shell and grog fabric F08. The grey wares, although in fully Romanised fabrics R06, still retain vestiges of 'Belgic' design in the form of cordons.

Roundhouses and structural gullies

The ring ditch of roundhouse **G29** contained only small quantities of early Roman pottery. There was no pottery with Late Iron Age 'Belgic' characteristics.

Inside the roundhouse, beam slot **G30** contained a single early Roman sherd in black-cored grey ware fabric R06J.

Also within the roundhouse are two pits, **G88**, which contain a single tiny sherd of grog-tempered ware F06B and two sherds of Verulamium white ware fabric R03A.

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the ring ditch of roundhouse **G9**: one in grog, shell and sand fabric F23 and the other in Hadham ware fabric R22A. This last sherd dates to the 4th century but it was found in the top levels of the ditch and is probably intrusive.

The gully **G18** contained only small quantities of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

No pottery was recovered from **G37**, the possible ring ditch of another roundhouse.

The two gullies of **G13** contained a relatively large amount of pottery, dating to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. The two sherds of late Roman Oxford and Nene Valley colour coat fabrics R11D and R12B respectively, weigh less than 2g and are likely to be intrusive. In this assemblage is a sherd of Terra Nigra fabric R26 and one from a samian dish dated to the mid-late 2nd century.

Structural feature **G12** was possibly associated with G13 and contained small quantities of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery.

Post-built structures

The post-built building **G22** contained a large amount of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery. The pottery is largely undiagnostic although a fragment of a beaker described as 'hollow cordoned' in a fine grog-tempered fabric F06A was recorded in one of the post-holes and an early Roman necked bowl with incised wavy line decoration was recovered from a structural feature.

Three fragments of central Gaulish samian were found, two of which were identified as a dish and a cup, dating to the mid-late 2nd century.

The late Roman and post-medieval pottery found in this group comes from the region of the semi-circular gully (the site notebooks are unclear on their precise provenance), in the approximate location of a post-medieval barn — demolition of which may account in large part for the disturbance. A single Anglo-Saxon vessel, a roughly handmade wide-mouthed jar with oxidised surfaces (no. 13), was found in a nearby post-hole. This is both an unusual form and firing, although oxidised firings are not unknown in the Saxon period. Its fabric is coarsely tempered with sub-rounded quartz typical of fabric A16 and no other inclusions are visible.

This is an anomaly. It is one of the largest fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery on the site, weighing 162g, and could not have got into the filling of this post-hole by accident. There is a possibility that this sherd might be misidentified Iron Age vessel, in which case this, and the sherd in coarse flint-tempered fabric F01A from Ph2 G2 (5c-1.16), would be the only two sherds dating to the pre-'Belgic' Iron Age. If this sherd is of Iron Age date, then its position in one of the post-holes may have an implied significance similar to that suggested for the fired clay objects (see above).

Post-hole structure **G23** could originally have been quite substantial but only part of it was visible within the area of excavation, and only a small amount of Late Iron Age pottery was found within two of its post-holes.

No pottery was recovered from structures **G24**, **G25**, **G26**, **G27** and **G28**.

Other features

Possibly associated with G22 was pit group **G46** which contained a moderate quantity of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Most of the sherds cannot be assigned to form with the exception of a butt beaker in sand and grog fabric F09

and a necked bowl in fine grog-tempered fabric F06A. The Romanised wares, although occurring in small quantities, are no different from the rest of the phase.

Pit group **G87** contains three pits, two of which (2-31) contained a considerable assemblage with all but one sherd dating to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period, and the single sherd of Roman shelly fabric R13 could be from an earlier vessel in shelly fabric F07. A second pit (2-38) also contained only Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, but the assemblage comprised a single sherd. The third pit (2-89), in addition to a sherd of 1st century shelly ware fabric F07, contained a Roman vessel in fine grey ware fabric R06C. This suggests that this pit may have been the latest of the group to be filled. Nevertheless, the cordons on the vessel follow the 'Belgic' tradition and indicate an early Roman date.

The function of feature **G83** cannot be discerned but the pottery suggests it could be contemporary with roundhouse G29. Large fragments of Late Iron Age pottery were found, including a sherd of sand and calcareous fabric F30 weighing as much as 500g. The two sherds in fine Roman grey ware fabric R06C weighed less than 2g each.

The fill of Ditch **G47** contained a similar fabric assemblage to other Phase 1 features but the forms and decoration are more prolific. The decoration on other Phase 1 vessels is limited to cordons, grooves or, rarely, incised wavy lines. In this assemblage were two substantial shelly fabric F07 vessels, possibly plain storage jars, but also single decorated sherds. These included a butt beaker with fine diagonal incisions on the shoulder and vessels with rouletting, impressed dots or the more usual cordons. Two possible bowls were found in fine grey ware fabric R06C and silty grey ware fabric R06G; both were decorated with groups of incised verticals in the London style (Marsh 1978, 124). This relatively short lived style was common in the late 1st and early 2nd centuries. Of similar date is the lead-glazed sherd fabric R32A, possibly a product of the Staines kilns (Arthur 1978, 300).

The fill of ditch **G85** contained sherds of only two vessels: a single large body sherd, weighing 45g, from a Late Iron Age grog, shell and sand fabric F23, and two small sherds in orange sandy fabric R05A.

Structural gully **G89** contained a fragmentary assemblage of Late Iron Age and early Roman fabrics, none of which were diagnostic of form.

Phase 1 summary

The pottery from this phase dates to the early Roman period, possibly the end of the 1st or the beginning of the 2nd century. The presence of large quantities of pottery in Late Iron Age forms and fabrics suggests an earlier origin for the occupation of this site and a continuation of native traditions well into the post-Conquest period.

With the exception of G29 which contained only Late Iron Age pottery, all other features in this phase contained a consistent fabric profile comprising a variety of grog-tempered and shelly wares, fabrics F06 and F07, in 'Belgic' forms and smaller quantities of early Roman fabrics, principally flagon wares in pink fine fabric R18B and white wares from Verulamium in fabrics R03A and R03B as well as a variety of Romanised fine grey wares, fabrics R06, and black surfaced wares, fabrics R07, including fabrics of the Black Burnished tradition.

Imports are rare but samian is found in small quantities as well as a colour-coated beaker recorded as being 'of continental origin'. Other finewares are Terra Nigra fabric R26 and lead glazed fabric R32A. The lead glazed ware can be dated to the late 1st-2nd century and possibly originates in Staines (Arthur 1978, 300).

The pottery indicates a household of moderate wealth able to acquire fine table wares in grog-tempered fabrics as well as the local domestic shelly wares and, as soon as they became available, Romanised wares which included samian dishes, lead glazed pottery and continental colour coated beakers. The presence of amphora was noted but the sherds and any records made are missing from the archive. It is therefore not known where they were found nor in which phase they were first used. Mortaria, however, are clear indicators of Romanised ways of food preparation and cooking, and were used on the site from the 2nd century.

V. Phase 2 Early to mid-Roman

(Fig. 3.5)

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups																		
		1	2	6	10	14	20	21	31	33	36	40	42	48	54	59	60	62	63	90
F01B	Fine flint		1:15																	
F05	Grog/shell	7:187	22:392	7:74	2:13	1:1	3:12	3:30			9:245	1:95		1:1	1:80		1:15			
F06A	Grog fine	2:60	2:10	6:147		1:5	12:61	1:1				1:15							2:6	
F06B	Grog medium	20:222	34:542	2:10	6:24		2:10	3:30			1:50	1:5			5:93	1:10		7:175		
F06C	Grog coarse	1:80	9:280																	
F07	Shelly	14:155	36:810	6:37		1:30	4:45	3:25				3:90	1:10				2:25	10:194	1:20	
F08	Shell/grog	8:60	6:217				5:160					1:25						3:10		
F09	Sand/grog	11:79	12:148	2:10	1:20		6:661	8:40		1:8				1:25				2:15		
F23	Grog/shell/sand	1:25	8:120		1:5				1:5			1:25	1:10		3:45					
F24	Buff shelly		3:55		1:3		5:50												2:6	
R02	Mica gilded			1:2																
R01A	Samian central Gaul		3:0	1:0															2:0	
R01B	Samian southern Gaul		2:0		1:0											1:0			2:0	
R01C	Samian eastern Gaul																		1:0	
R08	Black micaceous		3:40	2:30		4:70	1:20	2:35											3:13	
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)		1:30																1:5	
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)									1:60										
R18B	Pink fine		2:10	1:7		1:10														
R03C	Smooth white ware																1:1			
R03D	White ware with fine shell																		3:35	
R06J	Grey ware – black core		5:32	2:7		1:2							1:3		1:5	1:5		2:25	1:5	
R07A	Black burnished BB1	3:6	1:15											1:1	1:5			3:11		
R07G	Black burnished BB2		6:122																	
R07B	Black ware – sandy	1:2	1:15	1:2	1:5	3:92		1:5											2:6	
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous	1:3		1:2																
R06E	Grey ware - calc	1:25	1:25				1:12				2:28								3:55	1:10
R05A	Orange sandy																1:5	1:12		
R05D	Orange sandy – white slipped																		1:1	
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley		3:27				2:20												10:116	
R06B	Grey ware – coarse		6:260	2:5	1:5	3:14	1:5						1:3				2:3	18:95		
R06C	Grey ware – fine	5:16	43:545	13:76	7:53	4:72	11:145	4:12	1:6			2:8	4:68	3:1			4:4	48:377	1:10	2:10
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped	2:15				2:15													1:5	
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite		2:13	1:5			1:60												2:15	1:2
R13	Shelly	4:89	19:860	7:279		2:50	13:450	3:247	1:800				4:45	3:31	1:40		7:90	16:258	1:1	
R14	Red-brown harsh			1:2									1:2							
R38	Colour coat – source unknown	1:1	2:2																1:5	
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	1:10	8:29	2:16			4:10						1:2	2:35			2:25	1:5		
R11D	Oxford colour coat	1:5	1:15	2:15			5:12	1:10					1:15				3:14	1:5		
Fabric 2	Mortarium - Oxford	1:30					4:45						1:100					1:65		
R	Misc Roman											1:10								
A04	Sandy			1:5																
A23	Sandstone				1:5															
MOD	Modern			1:4																

Table 11.5 Phase 2 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 3.3 (histogram)

NB samian wares have no weights recorded

Enclosures and drove ways

The material within the fill of ditch **G2** includes pottery which was collected through general clearance and is likely to be from the topmost levels. This material largely comprises undiagnostic grey ware fabrics R06 and shelly ware fabric R13 but includes a large fragment from a necked bowl in grey ware fabric R06C with joining sherds from the ditch G4 in Phase 1. Other cross-contexts between G2 and G4 occur in lower levels of the ditch. The ditch fill G2 produced a sherd in a coarse flint tempered fabric F01B, dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. This is the earliest fragment of pottery from the site but indicates no more than a presence in the vicinity at that time.

Ditch **G1** contained a large assemblage of mainly Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, although three small sherds of later date were also found. Of these sherds, the Oxford colour coat fabric R11D is dated to the 4th century but the sherd is tiny, weighing only 5g, so is likely to be intrusive. The Oxford mortarium fragment could be dated to the 2nd century (Young 1977, 61) but is an undiagnostic body sherd. The single Nene Valley colour coated sherd could be as early as mid-2nd century and suggests this part of the enclosure was going out of use at around that time. There is a large quantity of grog-tempered pottery with some large sherds weighing up to 100g and recorded as 'many vessels with pitted interiors'. These vessels may all have been used for the same purpose, probably as containers for acidic liquids, and possibly used and discarded at the same time. Most are undiagnostic body sherds but bowls and beakers were identified. A tiny fragment of a possible Colchester colour-coated beaker was found.

Drove-way **G20** contained an assemblage with a similar profile to G1 with possible intrusion in the form of five small sherds of Oxford colour coat fabric R11D. The Oxford mortarium has traces of a matt red slip, an unusual feature. It dates to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century so could also be intrusive. One sherd of calcareous grey ware fabric R06E joins a sherd from the ditch fill of G36.

The fill of ditch **G6** contained more pottery of early Roman date, predominantly 2nd century, including small fragments of central Gaulish samian fabric R01A and mica-gilded fabric R02. As with other features within this phase, some intrusive later material was also present, including a modern plant pot fragment. The eastern section of the ditch contained a largely Late Iron Age assemblage including the substantial remains of a butt beaker in fine grog-tempered fabric F06A.

Further subdivisions of this area included ditch **G14** and ditch **G90**. The fills of both ditches included predominantly early Roman pottery. There are fewer grog-tempered and handmade shelly wares and the assemblage is dominated by grey and black wares. It is therefore likely that these ditches went out of use towards the end of this phase.

The ditches of **G42** are filled with pottery of a similar date to that of ditch G14. At least four sherds of different fabrics joined with pottery from the enclosure ditch **G43** in the same area but in the subsequent phase. The assemblage included an intrusive Oxford colour coat flanged bowl whose flange had been deliberately trimmed off for re-use. Also intrusive but nevertheless quite large (100g) is an Oxford mortarium fragment dating to the mid-late 3rd century. Other pottery is, as for G14 and G90, of early Roman date.

Ditch **G36** contains a largely Late Iron Age/early Roman assemblage. The pottery would indicate that this ditch fits better within Phase 1 although there are no more than a dozen sherds. There is a cross-context join with pottery from a pit in G20 (see above).

Building G39 and cobbled surfaces

No pottery was found associated with the internal floor of the building **G39** but small quantities were found in **G63**, the possible re-flooring of the building. This included two sherds from a late 1st century south Gaulish samian bowl but otherwise the assemblage comprised undiagnostic sherds of shelly and grey wares.

The external cobbled area **G59** contained a few sherds dating to the early Roman period including late 1st or early 2nd century south Gaulish samian. Area **G60** contained a larger assemblage comprising largely small fragmentary sherds in mixed fabrics, mainly early Roman but including later intrusive material such as the Oxford colour coat fabric R11D.

Layer **G62** on top of the cobbles contained a large assemblage of pottery dating to the 2nd century, including orange sandy fabric R05A and its white slipped version fabric R05D and white gritty fabric R03B, both possibly originating in the Verulamium region. There is a wide variety of grey wares including both coarse and fine grey ware fabrics R06B and R06C as well as Nene Valley grey wares fabric R06A. Included in the assemblage is a small sherd of

unidentified colour coat, with barbotine decoration, possibly a Continental import. The Oxford mortarium fragment dates to the late 2nd-mid 3rd century and is from the same vessel as that from G77 in Phase 5.

Other structures

The large post-holes **G10** contained a mixed assemblage of fragmentary pottery, with two of the post-holes containing only Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery in fabrics F05 and F06, but in small amounts. The other post-holes contained later pottery of probable 2nd century date, but included a single intrusive Anglo-Saxon sherd in sandstone fabric A23, decorated with finger-tip impressions on the shoulder.

No pottery was recovered from the stake holes **G11**.

Although the roundhouse ring gully **G21** contained a kiln bar, suggesting pottery manufacture in the vicinity, none of the pottery within the same gully was recorded as wasters. The Late Iron Age sherds were recovered mainly from the western section of the ditch while the eastern section contained a mixed assemblage including large sherds of shelly fabric R13.

Rectangular post-hole structure **G31** produced a small assemblage of early Roman pottery but included a single large sherd in shelly fabric R13 weighing 800g.

The post-holes of **G33** contained only two sherds, probably dating to the 2nd century. They are relatively large with a sherd to weight ratio of 1:34.

The gullies of **G48** contained a mixed assemblage. Two vessels in Late Iron Age fabrics were found in one of the gullies 2c-50: three sherds each of grog-tempered fabric F06B and handmade shelly fabric F07. Although sherds from only two vessels were found, they weighed 25g and 60g respectively. No later pottery was found. The other gully 2c-53 contained pottery which can be dated broadly to the 2nd century although the two moderately large sherds of Nene Valley colour coat fabric R12B, would date the fill of this part of the gully group to the mid-2nd century.

Pits

Three of the four pits in **G54** contained pottery. Two had a single sherd each of Late Iron Age grog-tempered fabric F06B and grog and shell fabric F05 while the third contained a mixed assemblage of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery. All were undiagnostic body sherds, although quite large (sherd to weight ration 1:22.54), and the combing on the shelly fabric R13 suggests that this at least came from a jar/cooking pot.

Pit **G40** contained a predominantly Late Iron Age assemblage including large fragments from a handmade shelly jar/cooking pot of late 1st century type. Of the pits in this phase, it seems likely from the pottery that pit G40 was the first to go out of use.

Phase 2 summary

The pattern of ceramic use in Phase 1 continued much the same into Phase 2 although there is a distinct diminution of the 'native' grog tempered fabrics towards the end of the phase. Nene Valley colour-coated vessels make an appearance towards the end of the phase and the Verulamium region is a source for white wares throughout the 2nd century. Fine wares occur in relatively small quantities, including samian table wares and colour-coated beakers imported from the Continent, as well as mica-dusted and lead-glazed wares from Britain.

Mortaria make an appearance in Phase 2 suggesting, along with the imported wares, that this is when a truly Romanised lifestyle was taken up.

There was little pottery directly associated with the use of the main building G39 but material found in the cobbled area outside the building indicates a household of middling prosperity with aspirations to a Roman lifestyle. It cannot be certain, however, that the building G39 had a primarily domestic function.

VI. Phase 3 Mid-Roman

(Fig. 4.4)

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups																	
		3	7	19	32	38	41	43	45	51	55	64	65	66	67	68	78	81	93
F05	Grog/shell	5:80				10:327					2:10	35:371	1:4			1:40			3:80
F06A	Grog fine	3:22	2:4									3:4							
F06B	Grog medium	16:135	1:10			41:582		1:1	1:25		1:10	37:323		1:8			2:20		3:195
F06C	Grog coarse					2:20						6:155							
F07	Shelly	12:147	1:30	2:31	3:15	15:372		11:191	7:116	10:336	4:22	50:1020			6:45	6:86	1:10	4:35	3:138
F08	Shell/grog		4:15			3:115						2:22						1:2	2:25
F09	Sand/grog	2:40				7:157			1:15		2:7	10:53	3:58	1:4	1:5	2:20			5:105
F23	Grog/shell/sand	1:3	2:7	1:10		1:40					1:3	4:55		1:1					12:250
F34	Belgic sandy											7:200							
F24	Buff shelly	1:30			1:1	1:5		2:6				24:2066		1:15	1:20		1:260	1:1	1:30
R02	Mica gilded											5:130					1:45		
R01A	Samian central Gaul	6:0			2:0			1:0	3:0	5:0		20:0		1:0		4:0			
R01B	Samian southern Gaul							1:0				12:0							1:0
R01C	Samian eastern Gaul								1:0	2:0		1:0							
R08	Black micaceous	9:57	2:130					11:24	1:1		4:10	22:120	5:90		6:36			2:2	
R03A	Fine white ware (VRW)	1:5		1:5							1:1	4:60						1:5	11:112
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)			1:5	7:299	2:40						1:2		3:100	2:25	1:30	6:25	15:175	
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)											8:18				2:30			3:50
R18B	Pink fine		1:10																
R03C	Smooth white ware																		1:1
R03D	White ware with fine shell							1:3		1:15	1:20	2:301	1:15	1:2	4:20	3:155		1:1	
R06J	Grey ware – black core	9:135	3:72	1:25		8:77		2:10				90:695	2:20		1:5	2:30			4:87
R07A	Black burnished BB1	5:60	3:95						2:10				1:45						
R07G	Black burnished BB2		1:45			1:15		1:3											
R07B	Black ware – sandy	3:21	4:67		1:5	1:15	2:10	1:10			1:5	16:103		2:1	1:5		1:15		1:1
R07F	Black ware – silty	1:5			1:3														
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous											2:16			1:1				
R06E	Grey ware - calc	6:54				3:20		3:7	2:12		2:1	5:36	1:20	1:10			1:15	1:5	6:136
R05A	Orange sandy									1:10		17:98		2:12					
R05D	Orange sandy – white slipped											8:50				1:5			
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley		1:5		2:30			3:17	1:5	1:1	3:20	32:1052	4:85	1:10	8:125		1:35	1:5	
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	14:317	10:32	1:20	2:150	2:20		7:15	3:30		4:11	67:549	2:60	2:2	5:17	2:21	5:75	9:57	9:14
R06C	Grey ware – fine	40:229	15:131	3:11	3:32	8:28	1:2	11:50	4:36	2:85		303:1996	13:172	5:27	19:116	4:20	4:141	11:62	11:72
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped	8:40	1:5					1:25	1:15								1:3		1:5
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite	2:5			1:15		1:1	3:17		1:5	1:80	5:60							2:90
R13	Shelly	17:273	13:264	3:35	11:180	10:132		35:451	9:165	1:30	5:52	41:455	4:97	3:350	11:261	3:50	4:116	14:123	18:645
R14	Red-brown harsh	4:25						1:10											
R38	Colour coat – source unknown	1:2												1:15					
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	4:18		2:6	3:13			3:105	4:25	2:35	1:1	4:10		1:2	2:6			1:30	
R12D	Nene Valley mortaria – orange-brown											3:50							
R11D	Oxford colour coat	2:21	2:12	1:5		1:1		6:125	4:27			1:1			1:5		1:5		1:5
R22A	Hadham oxidised				1:45			1:5								1:20			
Fabric 1	Mortarium – local?					1:75													
Fabric 2	Mortarium – Oxford white							11:435					1:10						1:20
								1 vess											

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups																	
		3	7	19	32	38	41	43	45	51	55	64	65	66	67	68	78	81	93
Fabric 4	Mortarium – Oxford red-slipped							1:20											
Fabric 5	Mortarium – Mancetter-Harsthill	1:90																1:70	
Fabric 9	Mortarium											2:45							
Fabric 10	Mortarium - local																	2:940 1 vess	
R	Misc Roman																	1:10	
A04	Sandy	1:3																1:5	
A06	Sandy																	1:10	
A18	Fine sandy	1:3										1:5							
MOD	Modern					1:11												1:2	

Table 11.6 Phase 3 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 4.3 (histogram)
NB samian wares have no weights recorded

Enclosures and drove ways

Despite the long distance from domestic activity, enclosure ditch **G3** contained a relatively large assemblage of pottery. None was complete or could be said to have been deposited at the same time, but large fragments are present including at least seven sherds of Late Iron Age grog-tempered fabrics F06, F05 and F09, as well as shelly fabric F07 which weight between 20g and 40g. The samian ware is fragmentary and largely undiagnostic of form but possibly dates to the mid-late 2nd century. The only other import is a small fragment of a colour-coated vessel, probably a beaker, from Lezoux or the Lower Rhineland. The rest of the assemblage comprises large quantities of grey ware fabrics R06 and the ubiquitous shelly fabric R13. Intrusive material is seen in the form of two Oxford colour-coated sherds, a single rim sherd from a 3rd century mortarium from Mancetter-Hartshill and two Anglo-Saxon sherds.

The area was subdivided by gullies **G7** which contained a similar assemblage to G3 but with the absence of imported wares.

The enclosure ditch **G78** contained a good assemblage but comprising mixed fabric types of the mid-2nd century including pink and white gritty ware fabrics R18B and R03B from the Verulamium region, mica gilded wares, buff shelly and shelly wares fabric types F24 and R13, and a variety of grey ware fabrics R06. Some sherds are particularly large such as that in buff shelly fabric F24 which weighs 260g. There are two mortaria present, one from Mancetter-Hartshill and one possibly of local origin, both dating to the mid-late 2nd century.

Ditch **G19** appears to have been open while building G21 was still in use and, in addition to manufactured building material, contained a largely 2nd century assemblage including fine and gritty white ware fabrics R03A and R03B from the Verulamium region and a small quantity of varied grey wares. Both Oxford and Nene Valley colour-coated wares were found, the former being intrusive. The Nene Valley colour-coated ware includes a tiny sherd from a flagon, generally thought to be a late form in this type so this too may be intrusive (Howe *et al.* 1980, 9).

The enclosure ditch **G38** contained a large assemblage of mixed date, with 69% of late 1st or early 2nd century date and only about 31% being later. Forms are unidentifiable except for a small fragment of a bowl in black burnished BB2 fabric R07G and a mortarium fragment of possible local origin, although with similarities to mortaria from the Verulamium region. The mortarium is dated to the mid-late 2nd century.

Ditch **G43** contained much the same ceramic profile as other ditches in this phase. Intrusive pottery comprised the ubiquitous Oxford colour-coated fabric R11D but also a sherd of Hadham ware fabric R22A. This latter fabric is dated to the late 4th and into the 5th century and is clearly intrusive. Two mortaria from the Oxford industry were found: one in white ware comprising eleven sherds and the other a single red-slipped sherd. Both are dated to the late 3rd-early 4th century. One of the Nene Valley colour-coated sherds is a base fragment neatly re-shaped to a diameter of 50mm, with a hole, diameter 10mm, drilled at the centre. It was possibly used as a spindle whorl. At least four sherds of different fabrics joined with pottery from ditch G42 in the preceding phase, indicating much reworking of material.

Like Ditch 43, ditch **G45** also contained an assemblage of mixed date, but included a rim from a flanged bowl in shelly fabric R13 of a type that first occurred at Harrod in the late 2nd century (Brown 1994, 60, fig. 27 no. 122). Samian sherds from a bowl by Advocisus of Lezoux dating to the mid-late 2nd century were also found. Further samian came from an east Gaulish dish, possibly from Trier, dating to the end of the 2nd or beginning of the 3rd century. Additional sherds were found in the destruction deposit G73 in Phase 5, indicating the level of disturbance. Other sherds are from a variety of grey ware fabrics R06 including a necked jar in Nene Valley grey ware fabric R06A and a Nene Valley colour-coated beaker with barbotine scroll decoration, a motif common in the early-mid 3rd century (Howe *et al.* 1980, 8).

Building G65 and other structures

A layer of mixed material **G68** was deposited on top of the levelled ground surface in preparation for the construction of building G65. Within this material were samian sherds dating to the mid-late 2nd century as well as Verulamium region white ware fabrics R03B and R03D (*e.g.* nos 22, 25).

The structural features of building **G65** produced a mixed assemblage of pottery dating from the late 1st or early 2nd century with fragments of residual grog-tempered wares, to the late 2nd century with Nene Valley grey ware R06A. A single small fragment from an Oxford white ware mortarium may be intrusive although it is largely undiagnostic. It shows signs of having been burnt.

The post-holes of the putative annexe **G32** contained a relatively large assemblage of pottery. There was less fragmentation than for other groups in this phase with a sherd to weight ratio of 1:20.74. Among the more substantial vessels whose form could be identified are a flagon in gritty white ware fabric R03B (no. 25), a carinated bowl and a necked bowl, both in coarse grey ware fabric R06B and a shallow dish in Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B. The fragment of Hadham ware fabric R22A, although at 45g quite large, is nevertheless likely to be intrusive. Pottery from the Hadham production centre did not reach this area till the 4th century.

Cobbled surfaces and occupation deposits

Pottery from the gullies **G55** comprised a similar assemblage of pottery to that from other features in this phase. Among the identifiable sherds is a tiny fragment of a colour-coated rough-cast beaker, probably a Nene Valley fabric R12B, although similar beakers were also imported from the Lower Rhineland from the late 1st until the mid-3rd century (Marney 1989, 183; Tyers 1996, 148). A large fragment from a dish or platter in grey ware fabric R06K was also found. This grey ware fabric does not occur in large quantities but is likely to be relatively local from the presence in the clay of glauconite, one of whose sources is the greensand of south Bedfordshire.

Deposits **G64**, immediately beneath building G65, contained a large residual element comprising some substantial fragments. They also contained a large assemblage of mid-late 2nd century samian comprising twenty-one vessels, including a large number (52%) of dishes in form 18 or 18/31. Other fine wares are four mica gilded dishes in fabric R02, although these are possibly residual by this time. At least five rough-cast beakers were recorded, one in Nene Valley fabric R12B and at least four in fine grey ware fabric R06C. Also present in this deposit are two red slipped mortaria, possibly from the Verulamium region, and dating to the first half of the 2nd century.

Resurfaced cobbled yard **G66** to the south and west of building G65 contained another fragment of rough-cast beaker recorded as Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B. As with the sherd in G55, this could be an import. The large storage jar in shelly ware R13 is likely to be a Harrold product, occurring at the kiln site at the end of the 3rd century (Brown 1994, 63) although handmade versions were current in the 1st and 2nd centuries.

New paved or cobbled surface **G67** covered the northern half of Area 5 and contained another sherd from a rough-cast beaker recorded as a Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B, as well as the more usual variety of grey ware fabrics R06 and shelly fabric R13. Intrusive pottery occurs in the form of two Anglo-Saxon sherds.

Other features

The well **G51** contained fragmentary pottery including samian dating to the late 2nd century, a beaker decorated with barbotine dots and a flagon handle in Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B.

The oven **G41** contained four small undiagnostic sherds in grey and black ware fabrics R06C, R06K and R07B.

Pit **G93** contains a sizeable assemblage of pottery comprising a large quantity of grey ware fabrics R06 and a smaller amount of shelly ware fabric R13. The paucity of shelly wares in this assemblage may be indicative of function as they were usually used for cooking and storage vessels such as jars, while the grey ware vessels, such as bowls, dishes and lids were used for food preparation and serving. The Verulamium region white ware fabrics R03A, R03B and R18A, although undiagnostic of form in this pit, generally occur elsewhere on the site in flagon or bowl forms. The single samian bowl sherd is from southern Gaul. It is early in date, AD 55-75. The pit appears to be mainly filled with table wares; cooking and storage of food may have occurred a distance away from this area resulting in kitchen wares being discarded elsewhere on the site. The flanged bowl in Oxford colour coated fabric R11D copies samian bowl form Dr 38 and is dated to the mid-3rd to 4th centuries; it is likely to be intrusive.

Gully G81 contained a mixed assemblage with the latest sherd coming from a possible 4th-century Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B flanged bowl. The shelly ware fabric R13 is unusually sparse when compared with the grey ware fabrics R06. It comprises largely undiagnostic body sherds, while the grey wares are made up of bowls and dishes. Part of the base of a single Oxford white ware mortarium was found, largely undiagnostic, but from the same vessel as another from Phase 4 G44 (see below).

Summary of Phase 3

The settlement appears to be at its wealthiest in Phase 3. Mortaria are most common in this phase, at 1.58% of the phase total, and samian numbers, although never very high, increase to 3.25% (Fig. 4.3 and table 11.6). The character

of the samian, with its preponderance of South Gaulish wares and high numbers of certain unusual forms such as form 30, suggests higher social connections (Wild, Chapter 12).

Rough-cast beakers, although not occurring in large quantities, appear to be restricted to this phase. They are the result of continental influences upon the Nene Valley industry, possibly even the products of migrant potters from the Lower Rhineland (Howe *et al.* 1980, 8). Some may even be imported from the continent.

Shelly wares appear to form a much smaller proportion of the total Phase 3 assemblage than the grey wares. This is unusual, as the Harrold industry was in full production by this time and elsewhere in the region there is a preponderance of shelly wares. The two wares differed in their functions. Shelly wares are mainly jar forms and were used primarily for food storage, preparation and cooking. Although grey wares were used for cooking, they were also used as table wares, with wider form repertoire including bowls, beakers and lids. It is possible that food preparation and cooking was being carried out in a different (unexcavated) part of the site. It is equally likely, however, that the market influenced the supply of pottery to the site. Production sites making pottery in grey ware fabrics are known from the area immediately to the south west of Newnham, such as Elstow (Swan 1984, 61) and Eastcotts (Albion Archaeology 2010). These sites are closer to Newnham than Harrold. Analysis of samples by Devereaux (report in archive), however, indicated a different source at least for the pottery analysed.

VII. Phase 4 Mid- to late Roman

(Fig. 5.3)

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups									
		8	15	34	44	52	57	69	70	71	72
F05	Grog/shell	8:102		1:15	1:20	1:15		9:140			
F06A	Grog fine	6:70				1:5		1:10			
F06B	Grog medium	7:124		1:2	2:5	2:13		5:25			3:18
F06C	Grog coarse	2:32		3:40	1:7						2:32
F07	Shelly	17:167	3:425	10:245	14:123	32:340	8:134	26:411	3:1665		11:148
F08	Shell/grog			1:10				7:105	1:1		4:105
F09	Sand/grog		2:40	1:35		1:90		11:140			1:2
F23	Grog/shell/sand	3:25		1:15		1:5		1:10			
F24	Buff shelly	1:5		7:100	2:8	9:72		5:37		4:30	3:50
R26	Terra Nigra						1:5				1:5
R02	Mica gilded	1:20									
R01A	Samian central Gaul	4:0		2:0		2:0	6:0	11:0			
R01B	Samian southern Gaul							1:0			1:0
R08	Black micaceous	4:32	7:210	2:175	3:20	8:86		4:40	4:145		3:14
R03A	Fine white ware (VRW)			1:5	3:3	3:23		1:30			
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)			13:111				4:82	2:9		1:10
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)	2:21				1:15		1:3			
R18B	Pink fine		1:10								
R03C	Smooth white ware							1:3	1:25		
R03D	White ware with fine shell					1:35		16:260			1:15
R06J	Grey ware – black core	4:8	5:135	3:17	3:30	8:49	4:45	3:20			6:23
R07A	Black burnished BB1	3:15			1:5	3:35	2:65				6:17
R07G	Black burnished BB2					1:1	6:80	3:36	3:65		2:23
R07B	Black ware – sandy			2:12	1:15	5:119	6:116	2:6	3:71		1:15
R07F	Black ware – silty		1:7			1:5				1:15	
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous	1:2		1:1		6:86	5:153				1:40
R06E	Grey ware - calc	1:2			3:26	6:85	1:35	8:112	1:10	4:70	7:60
R06G	Grey ware – silty		1:3		1:10						
R05A	Orange sandy			3:15	2:2	6:112	1:7	1:5			
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley			3:80		9:130	2:36	19:386			4:28
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	11:77	1:40	2:21	3:12	5:52	12:187	15:64	2:5		6:60
R06C	Grey ware – fine	17:101	5:115	52:358	18:101	43:346	25:308	44:262	13:122		10:42
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped			1:6	3:28	1:25					3:10
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite	1:5		4:49	3:10	19:290	2:17	1:5			2:15
R13	Shelly	33:492	1:40	32:1040	41:471	78:1822	16:287	47:837	4:92		128:1360
R14	Red-brown harsh	4:30				3:80	4:80				
R28	Gritty calcareous				2:20						
R38	Colour coat – source unknown					1:8					4:45
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	6:30		3:26	10:129	19:290	4:25	5:17	3:65		12:142
R11D	Oxford colour coat	2:15		1:1	2:4	22:501	5:17	2:25			8:131
R22A	Hadham oxidised			1:5		1:2					10:47
Fabric 2	Mortarium – Oxford white				1:25		1:20	4:100			
								1 vess			

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups									
		8	15	34	44	52	57	69	70	71	72
Fabric 3	Mortarium – white-slipped					1:20					
Fabric 5	Mortarium – Mancetter-Hartshill					1:15	2:50				
Fabric 8	Mortarium – local?				1:30						
R	Misc Roman	1:49		1:1							
A04	Sandy						2:10				14:81
A06	Sandy				1:2						
C09	Brill/Boarstall				1:16						
E02	Late Medieval Oxidised					5:291					
P33	Tin glazed						1:3				
P43	Pearlware					1:2					
P48	English stoneware					1:10					
MOD	Modern	4:34				5:20		6:38			

Table 11.7 Phase 4 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 5.2 (histogram)
NB samian wares have no weights recorded

Enclosures and drove ways

The disturbed nature of the fill of ditch **G8** is seen in the presence of residual Late Iron Age/early Roman wares as well as intrusive modern plant pot fragments. Of intrinsic interest is a fragment from a triple ring vase (fabric unrecorded), a rare find in this area.

Drove-way ditches **G44** contained a mixed assemblage of pottery including fragments from a triangular rim jar with rilled body in shelly fabric R13, characteristic of Harrold products in the early 4th century (Brown 1994, Fig. 34 no. 241). Other datable sherds are fragments from a flanged bowl and a plain rim pie dish, both in Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B, two of the standard 4th-century products.

A small fragment of a carinated bowl in fine grey ware fabric R06C might be residual as are the grog-tempered and handmade shelly fabrics. A variety of vessels occur in wheel-thrown shelly fabric R13 among which is a triangular-rimmed jar with rilling on the body, characteristic of Harrold products in the early 4th century (Brown 1994, 74). There is no samian in this ditch, although the percentage in this phase is still relatively high. Two mortaria sherd were found, one whose form is comparable to 3rd century Nene Valley types although the fabric suggests a possible local source, and the other an Oxford white ware fragment which comes from the same vessel as that in G81 in Phase 3 (see above). Intrusive pottery is present in the form of a small sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a single sherd in a fine pink fabric which might be late 13th-14th century unglazed Brill/Boarstall fabric C09.

The pottery assemblage from ditch **G57** is relatively large but there is evidence of disturbance. A fragment of post-medieval tin-glazed ware was recovered, as were two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery. Late 2nd-century samian is present but in a fragmentary condition. Also present is a carinated bowl in Black burnished fabric R07A, a flanged bowl on grey ware fabric R06E, a rounded-rimmed dish in Nene Valley grey ware fabric R06A and a strainer in coarse grey ware fabric R06B. The Oxford colour-coated sherds, although still fragmentary, may no longer be intrusive. Two mortaria were found, one from Mancetter-Hartshill, dating to the 4th century and the other, from Oxford, dating to the late 3rd century. The former sherd comes from the same vessel as one in pit G52 (see below).

Occupation deposits

Outside building G65, deposit **G69** contained a similar assemblage to those in the Phase 4 ditches, including an intrusive modern plant pot fragment. Much of the pottery is residual but included in the assemblage is a shelly fabric R13 necked jar, two sherds of Oxford colour-coated ware fabric R11D and five sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B, one of which is very abraded but one other which can be identified as coming from a rough-cast beaker (see Phase 3 above). Four sherds from an Oxford white ware mortarium were found, dating to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century. It was worn through use and was slightly burnt.

Corresponding deposit **G72** outside the building, like G69, comprised a large quantity of Late Iron Age/early Roman residual material. The latest pottery is Anglo-Saxon in date and comprises fourteen sherds none of which can be assigned a form. The latest Roman pottery is Oxford colour-coated fabric R11D and Hadham ware fabric R22A, including a necked jar. Both date to the 4th century (Tyers 1996, 168).

Inside building G65, deposit **G70** was probably the raking pit for the stoke hole of the hypocaust. It contained a fragmentary assemblage of mixed date with a large proportion of residual Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Unusually, there are only four sherds of shelly ware fabric R13 and no demonstrably 4th century material.

Also inside the building, deposit **G71**, described as a thin layer of ash, contained the fragments of three vessels. Only one of these could be assigned a form, a shallow pie dish in silty black ware fabric R07F. This paucity of material is not surprising as the interior of the building would have been cleared regularly.

In addition to the large quantity of residual material, the capping/make-up layers making up **G34** contained late Roman pottery, including 4th century Hadham ware fabric R22A and shelly ware fabric R13 as well as Nene Valley and Oxford colour coated vessels dating to the 3rd-4th century. The majority of forms are bowls, dishes and lids although at least two jars were found, one of which was in black micaceous fabric R08 (no. 32) and, despite its size, is likely to be residual.

Pits

Pit **G15** was identified as a water pit. Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery was predominant including large fragments of handmade shelly ware fabric F07, black micaceous fabric R08 and black-cored grey ware fabric R06J, the last identified as a narrow-necked jar. Only one sherd of shelly fabric R13 was found. Most, if not all, the pottery would appear to be residual.

Pit **G52** contained a disturbed assemblage comprising late medieval and post-medieval pottery. There are small amount of 4th-5th century pottery in the form of Oxford colour-coated ware fabric R11D and Hadham ware fabric R22A but most of the pottery is residual Late Iron Age or early Roman in date. The two mortaria sherds, one from Mancetter-Hartshill and the other a white slipped ware from Oxford, are both late 3rd century or later. The latter sherd comes from the same vessel as one in ditch G57 (see above).

Phase 4 summary

By the late Roman period, samian use declines and there is less variety in pottery types, with fewer locally sourced wares. The market is dominated by the large manufactories which have a wide distribution network. In this area, the shelly industry at Harrold is the predominant source for basic domestic kitchen and storage vessels but table wares are dominated by the Oxford and particularly the Nene Valley industries.

VIII. Phase 5 Late Roman to Saxon

(Fig. 6.2 and 6.3)

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups								
		56	73	74	75	76	77	79	80	86
F05	Grog/shell			1:7	1:2	3:14	3:20	2:10		
F06A	Grog fine							2:10		
F06B	Grog medium			3:25	2:35		1:10	2:10		
F06C	Grog coarse						2:20			
F07	Shelly		39:861	14:260	9:63	25:302	27:378	7:175	7:24	
F08	Shell/grog	1:10	3:80	1:10	1:15			2:65	1:1	
F09	Sand/grog	1:5	1:5	3:22	2:50		1:5		1:2	
F23	Grog/shell/sand		2:40				1:3	1:5	1:5	
F30	Sand/calc			1:5			1:10			
F24	Buff shelly		9:705	5:45	2:45	8:122	4:50	1:15		
R26	Terra Nigra						2:10			
R01A	Samian central Gaul		2:0	1:0	1:0	3:0	3:0	1:0		
R01B	Samian southern Gaul							2:0		
R01C	Samian eastern Gaul		2:0							
R08	Black micaceous		2:20	2:30	2:20	30:338	29:130	2:10	1:2	
R03A	Fine white ware (VRW)					4:5			1:10	
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)		2:25	1:1		3:7	1:7	2:35	1:1	
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)		1:280			2:25	1:3	1:2	2:10	
R18B	Pink fine					2:4			1:5	
R03D	White ware with fine shell		1:30				1:3			
R06J	Grey ware – black core		10:81	5:85	2:205	5:13	11:30	8:78	2:3	
R07A	Black burnished BB1	1:5		1:5	3:12	2:40	3:55			
R07G	Black burnished BB2				1:15	1:15	1:35			
R07B	Black ware – sandy	1:5	2:30	4:28	4:40	3:29	6:62	4:42	1:5	1:2
R07F	Black ware – silty		2:40			2:25				
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous		3:55	1:1		4:57				

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups									
		56	73	74	75	76	77	79	80	86	
R06E	Grey ware - calc	1:20	12:542	6:46	3:30	8:57	13:120	9:94	1:5		
R06G	Grey ware – silty		1:25					1:5			
R05A	Orange sandy		1:1	1:5		1:2	1:20	3:12	1:1		
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley	1:5	6:115	7:37	2:25	18:169	4:33	10:150	3:25		
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	1:10	2:21	9:94	4:30	37:343	18:91	8:71	4:40		
R06C	Grey ware – fine		39:514	19:95	16:84	136:1033	43:286	35:182	13:84		
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped			1:1		1:10	1:10		1:10		
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite			4:35	1:5	8:96	2:20				
R13	Shelly		71:2522	36:762	9:262	88:2148	98:1539	28:737	18:191		
R14	Red-brown harsh		1:10			2:50		1:50	1:5		
R36	Orange gritty					1:25					
R38	Colour coat – source unknown		1:0			1:1	1:5				
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat		14:207	6:79	1:5	13:243	14:104	8:58	4:22		
R11D	Oxford colour coat		25:985	2:5	3:10	16:211	17:200	4:31	3:26		
R22A	Hadham oxidised		3:476	2:12							
Fabric 2	Mortarium – Oxford white					6:205 3 vess	4:95				
Fabric 5	Mortarium – Mancetter-Hartshill						2:90 2 vess				
Fabric 7	Mortarium – local?			1:30							
R	Misc Roman					3:10					
A01	Organic									2:5	
A04	Sandy					8:117	18:101		2:5		
A06	Sandy	1:45				1:10	1:10				
A18	Fine sandy	1:3									
A23	Sandstone		1:26	1:1							
E02	Late Medieval Oxidised						4:60				
P14	Black ware						2:21				
P25	Frechen						3:45				
P55	White earthenware						2:16				
MOD	Modern		1:17		2:10			3:18			

Table 11.8 Phase 5 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 6.1 (histogram)
NB samian and unrecognised colour coated wares have no weights recorded

Structural features

Post-hole **G86** contained two small sherds of undecorated Anglo-Saxon pottery in organic tempered fabric A01.

Gully **G56** contained a mixed assemblage ranging in date from the Late Iron Age to the early Anglo-Saxon periods. The Anglo-Saxon pottery, however, is quite substantial in comparison with fragments from other features and comprises a large sherd in sandy fabric A06, with a burnished exterior and a row of pinched rustication on the shoulder (no. 8). Rustication is relatively rare in the area, although it occurs on pottery from Grove Priory (Slowikowski 2013) and Puddlehill (Matthews 1976), both in the south of the county. The second sherd is smaller but highly decorated and is in a fine version of the sandy fabric A06 (Fig. 6.3 no. 9). It has a pattern made up of three different stamps: a large wheel, a small ‘hot-cross bun’ and plain round indentations. Both sherds are from jars.

Robber trenches and destruction layers

The robber trench of building G39, **G80**, contained a mixed assemblage within its fill. The latest pottery is Anglo-Saxon but it is small and undiagnostic and so, like that from features of previous phases, could be intrusive. The relatively large quantities of Nene Valley colour-coated fabric R12B, Oxford colour-coated fabric R11D and shelly fabric R13 indicate a date in the 4th century for the filling of the robber trench.

The robber trench of building G65, **G79**, contained a larger assemblage but similar in composition to G80 with the exception of the Anglo-Saxon pottery. Although Anglo-Saxon pottery is absent, a number of the Roman forms could be dated to the late 4th or 5th centuries. Among these is an Oxford colour-coated flanged bowl, form C51, which continues till the end of the Roman period (Young 1977, 160). Large sherds in shelly ware R13 include typically late 4th-century flanged bowls and a lid (or possible bowl) dated at Harrold to the late 4th or 5th centuries (Brown 1994, 76, Fig. 40, no. 364).

The absence of any significant Anglo-Saxon pottery from the backfilling of the robber trenches suggests a date at the end of the Roman period. The presence of late 4th century pottery corresponds well with the date of the mid-4th century coins.

The destruction layer **G75** lay inside the apsidal area of building G65. In addition to large quantities of residual material there is also a fragment of modern plant pot, indicating disturbance. The late Roman pottery includes a flanged bowl with wavy line decoration on the flange in shelly fabric R13, typical of the Harrold industry in the late 4th and 5th centuries (Brown 1994, 73). Nene Valley and Oxford colour-coated fabrics R12B and R11D were found in small quantities.

Destruction layers G74, G76 and G77 lay outside the building G65.

A single tiny fragment of Anglo-Saxon sandstone fabric A23 was found in **G74**. Among the late Roman pottery were largely undiagnostic sherds in shelly fabric R13, although the size of some of them suggests they may have derived from storage jars. Beakers and bowls were found in Nene Valley and Oxfordshire colour-coated fabrics R12B and R11D as well as body sherds in Hadham fabric R22A. One possible mortarium in a local fabric could date to the 3rd-4th century, although the identification is only tentative.

Destruction layers **G76** and **G77** contained a similar assemblage of pottery. Later disturbance affected G77 with the result that late medieval and post-medieval pottery was mixed in with earlier material. Both deposits contained Anglo-Saxon pottery, with 92.85% of the Anglo-Saxon assemblage in these two groups made up of a single fabric type, A04. Although no complete vessels were found, both deposits contained a number of single large sherds. Decoration was sparse and there were no stamps. One jar was burnished externally and the rim also internally and another body sherd has a *schlikung*-type surface finish, a method of deliberately roughening the exterior surface of a vessel characteristic of the 5th-century (Hamerow 1993, 37). Two vessels from G76, a jar and a bowl (fig. 6.3 no. 6), have internal black residues with clean exteriors, the result of burning some unknown substance inside the pot. In addition, the jar has a layer of sandy oolitic limestone on the underside of the base. Either it was rested on this sandy material to dry out prior to firing or it was deliberately applied, possibly to roughen the surface. Only the base survives so it is not possible to say whether this applied to the rest of the pot.

The late Roman pottery comprised the usual Nene Valley R12B and Oxford colour-coated R11D wares and a large assemblage of shelly R13 vessels (e.g. Fig. 6.2 no 39). The 4th-century Harrold-type flanged bowl occurs in both deposits, as do jars with rilled bodies. The strainer/colander and the lid are forms that were being made at Harrold in the late 4th century (Brown 1994, 76, fig. 40 nos 364, 372). Other sherds, despite their large size, may be residual.

In addition there are 136 fine grey ware sherds from G77 but weighing only 1,033g. Many of the sherds could not be assigned to a form but their shattered nature suggests a large number of single sherds, possibly from relatively thin-walled vessels such as necked bowls, dishes and beakers.

Among the residual pottery, are a large part of a shelly fabric R13 lid-seated jar, three tiny fragments of late 2nd century samian, one of terra nigra fabric R26, and a vessel in grey ware fabric R06C decorated with barbotine dots, possibly a poppy-head beaker.

One shelly fabric R13 base sherd had a hole bored through it post-firing, possibly to re-use it as a spindle whorl although there is no record of the sherd having trimmed edges. Another sherd of black-burnished fabric R07A also had a hole bored through it post-firing, but this was only 5mm in diameter and could possibly indicate a trace of a repair.

Nine mortaria were found in these two destruction levels, all except three originating in the Oxford industry and dating to the late 3rd-4th century. Of the other three fragments, one is in Oxford white ware but dates to the late 2nd-mid 3rd century and comes from the same vessel as that in G62 in Phase 2, where it probably originates. The other two fragments are from Mancetter-Hartshill, one of which is heavily worn and could be the work of the pottery Sennius (Wild, Chapter 12).

Destruction layer **G73** contained a particularly good assemblage of animal bone and an equally good assemblage of pottery. It has been suggested the bones were deposited within a short space of time and the condition of the pottery would suggest a similar occurrence. The pottery assemblage, however, is datable and appears to be highly mixed, with approximately 36% being residual. Even this residual element is in good condition with 35% comprising sherds that weigh over 20g.

The pottery makes up 33.56% of the phase total by weight but only 16.79% by sherd count, indicating the presence of larger and heavier sherds than other assemblages in this phase.

Phase 5 summary

A large amount of residual pottery is still seen, although this is to be expected as the site had now been occupied more or less continuously for the best part of 400 years. The quantity of pottery used is still as high as ever but a smaller number of restricted pottery types is seen from Phase 4 and the same pattern is seen in Phase 5 (Figs 5.2 and 6.1). The assemblage is dominated by shelly wares from Harrold, grey wares and colour coated wares from the Nene Valley and colour coated wares and mortaria from the Oxford industries. These large manufactories had all but disappeared before the mid-5th century due to the collapse of market networks (Young 1977, 240).

Anglo-Saxon pottery was intrusive in previous phases but now it comes into its own, although the quantities are relatively small and fragmentary.

IX. Unphased groups – probably Roman

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups					
		16	50	53	58	82	84
F05	Grog/shell			1:12		2:2	
F06A	Grog fine			1:5		6:43	
F06B	Grog medium			2:18		1:5	1:20
F06C	Grog coarse			2:45			
F07	Shelly	2:5		32:1241			14:151
F08	Shell/grog	1:5		2:100			
F09	Sand/grog			1:10		3:30	1:6
F30	Sand/calc			1:10			
F24	Buff shelly			2:41			
R01A	Samian central Gaul						2:0
R08	Black micaceous	1:10		1:5	1:5		
R03A	Fine white ware (VRW)				1:10		
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)			2:5	1:1		
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)			4:51			
R18B	Pink fine	2:2					
R03D	White ware with fine shell			2:20			
R06J	Grey ware – black core			1:15		2:8	1:1
R07A	Black burnished BB1						2:23
R07G	Black burnished BB2						2:30
R07B	Black ware – sandy			1:2			2:15
R07F	Black ware – silty	1:15					
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous			2:1	2:5		2:25
R06E	Grey ware - calc			8:75			4:16
R05A	Orange sandy			1:1		1:10	1:15
R05B	Fine orange			4:25			
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley			1:35	2:10		1:10
R06B	Grey ware – coarse			5:16			8:34
R06C	Grey ware – fine	6:34		8:29	2:3	1:1	4:6
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped			1:1	2:10		
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite			1:10			
R13	Shelly	4:17	3:12	18:160	2:10	1:1	7:205
R14	Red-brown harsh			1:5			1:20
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	1:20		6:33	5:10	1:10	2:41
R11D	Oxford colour coat			2:40	1:5		
R	Misc Roman			1:5			
A04	Sandy						2:10
A06	Sandy			3:13			
B09	Lyveden/Stanion			1:9			
C09	Brill/Boarstall			1:3			
P36A	Nottingham stoneware						1:10
P48	English stoneware	1:11					

Table 11.9 Unphased pottery fabrics by group from quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 7.1 (histograms)

NB samian and unrecognised colour coated wares have no weights recorded

Unphased groups produced the full range of pottery found on the site. Although unphased, a number of groups could be broadly dated from the pottery within them. Among them are pits 2-45 and 2e-9 in G53, both of which contained only Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and on pottery alone, might be assigned to Phase 1 or early in Phase 2 (Late Iron Age). At least two of the features in G58, on the other hand, might be assigned to late phases from the pottery within them. The post-pit 4f-05 contains only two sherds but both are late Roman, while the undefined feature 4a-21 contains an assemblage of 2nd-century pottery and might possibly be assigned to Phase 3 on pottery alone. The fill around burial 5a-61 produced sherds of grey ware in early Roman fabric types R06C and R06J, but these are small single sherds and are unlikely to be associated with the burial. The other unphased burial 2c-28 contained no pottery while the oven G50 contained three sherds of undiagnostic shelly ware fabric R13. All that can be said about this

pottery is that it is wheel-thrown and therefore likely to be post-Conquest in date and possibly even late Roman. Other groups contain pottery of mixed dates.

X. Phase 6 Modern

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups	
		0	0_1
		92	
F06B	Grog medium		1:5
F07	Shelly		4:45
F09	Sand/grog		1:5
F24	Buff shelly		1:5
R08	Black micaceous		1:10
R06J	Grey ware – black core		1:5
R07A	Black burnished BB1		1:5
R07G	Black burnished BB2		1:5
R07B	Black ware – sandy		1:20
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous		1:10
R06E	Grey ware - calc		4:13
R05A	Orange sandy		3:6
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley		4:58
R06B	Grey ware – coarse		2:15
R06C	Grey ware – fine		9:48
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite		2:165
R13	Shelly		10:1362
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat		4:59
R11D	Oxford colour coat		1:5
A06	Sandy		1:1
P32	Staffs Refined Redware		3:50
P39	Mocha		1:36
P43	Pearlware		4:6
P48	English stoneware		2:17
P55	White earthenware		17:65
MOD	Modern		4:9

Table 11.10 Phase 6 pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g). See also Fig. 8.1 (histogram)

A mixed assemblage of pottery was recovered from modern features ranging in date from the Late Iron Age, through the Roman period to post-medieval, representing all periods of occupation on the site.

XI. Topsoil, overburden and unstratified pottery

Fabric	Fabric definition	Groups	
		0	0_1
F05	Grog/shell	6:25	12:310
F06A	Grog fine		3:45
F06B	Grog medium		13:218
F06C	Grog coarse	1:2	
F07	Shelly	31:396	23:501
F08	Shell/grog	2:50	7:77
F09	Sand/grog	6:30	9:77
F23	Grog/shell/sand	1:20	4:50
F24	Buff shelly		8:98
R26	Terra Nigra		2:15
R02	Mica gilded		1:8
R01A	Samian central Gaul	5:0	62:0
R01B	Samian southern Gaul	1:0	17:0
R01C	Samian eastern Gaul	1:0	1:0
R08	Black micaceous		9:336
R03A	Fine white ware (VRW)		1:1
R03B	Gritty white ware (VRW)	1:2	8:123
R18A	Pink gritty (VRW)	1:3	2:6
R18B	Pink fine		10:140
R06J	Grey ware – black core	3:7	38:318
R07A	Black burnished BB1	1:25	14:61
R07B	Black ware – sandy		13:57
R07F	Black ware – silty	6:53	6:38
R06D	Grey ware – micaceous		1:5
R06E	Grey ware - calc	4:18	22:214

R05A	Orange sandy	1:10	2:6
R05B	Fine orange		1:15
R06A	Grey ware – Nene Valley		5:12
R06B	Grey ware – coarse	3:20	18:80
R06C	Grey ware – fine	22:105	113:839
R06H	Grey ware – white slipped	4:6	2:5
R06K	Grey ware - glauconite		5:18
R13	Shelly	11:208	164:1109
R14	Red-brown harsh	3:6	4:23
R38	Colour coat – source unknown		5:37
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	5:28	76:992
R11	Oxford oxidised ware	1:5	
R11D	Oxford colour coat	3:30	45:503
R22A	Hadham oxidised		5:42
Fabric 2	Mortarium – Oxford white	1:5	2:20
Fabric 4	Mortarium – Oxford red-slipped		1:20
Fabric 5	Mortarium – Mancetter-Hartshill		1:15
Fabric 6	Mortarium – local?		1:70
Fabric 11	Mortarium – local?	3:1255 1 vess	
A01	Organic		1:58
A04	Sandy		12:105
A06	Sandy		9:219
A23	Sandstone		6:176
B09	Lyveden/Stanion		1:10
C09	Brill/Boarstall		1:9
P32	Staffs Refined Redware		1:10
MOD	Modern		2:46

Table 11.11 Phase 0.1 (topsoil, overburden and unstratified) pottery fabrics by group quantified by sherd count:weight (g)

NB samian and unrecognised colour coated wares have no weights recorded

The full range of pottery types occurring on the site was recovered from the topsoil. A large number of substantial fragments were found, including 36% of the samian assemblage and 29% Anglo-Saxon pottery, including some of the largest fragments. The only two medieval sherds found on the site came from the topsoil and are dated to the 13th-14th century.

XII. Discussion

Sources

Ceramics are mainly local or regional, although there is pottery present from further afield including locations on the Continent. The different types reaching the site throughout the phases is summarised in Figs 2.3, 3.3, 4.3, 5.2, 6.1, 7.1 (histograms).

Large quantities of grey wares and shelly wares were found on the site. A large number of small local workshops producing pottery for the local market are known in the area; the easy access to raw materials, clay, water and wood for fuel made this area ideal for ceramic manufacture, whether pottery or building materials, until modern times.

A previously unrecorded local/regional grey ware fabric R06K was identified. This grey ware fabric does not occur in large quantities, making up just over 1% of the total site assemblage, but could be relatively local judging from the presence in the clay of glauconite, one of whose sources is the Lower Greensand of south Bedfordshire.

Shelly wares are almost ubiquitous on Late Iron Age and Roman sites in the county. The materials suitable for this type of pottery are to be found in the north of the county and a number of kiln sites have been excavated, among them Clapham (Dawson 1988), Harrold (Brown 1997), Stagsden (Dawson 2000), Willington (Oetgen forthcoming), Biddenham Loop (Luke 2008) and Bedford Southern Bypass (Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service 1995). Most are dated to the early Roman period when there was a large number of small workshops operating throughout the area. Harrold, however, grew in importance and continued as a large manufactory into the 4th century, distributing its products widely.

Only in rare cases is it possible to say which kiln supplied the site. Stagsden is only 8km away from the site and a number of small kilns were found there. The same distinctive marks found on the bases of some of the pots made there have turned up on pottery found at Newnham. Stagsden ceased production at about the same time that Harrold was

expanding. By the late Roman period, if not before, most of the shelly pottery used at Newnham is likely to have come from Harrold, whether directly from the kiln site or via the local markets.

Among the known workshops producing grey wares is the kiln site at Elstow (Swan 1994). Devereaux (report in archive) compared a selection of grey wares from Newnham with similar pottery from the Elstow kilns, at that point the nearest known kilns to Newnham producing this type of pottery. Devereaux's analysis suggested that the Elstow kilns were not the source of the grey wares, although he only compared a very small sample. Since then more grey ware kilns have been uncovered, among them more kilns at Elstow (Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service 1995), and further work needs to be carried out before the nature of the pottery industry and its markets can be established for this area.

In addition to the shelly pottery, Harrold was producing ceramic building material, which was supplied to Newnham. The distance between Newnham and Harrold is less than 10km and it is likely that the shelly brick/floor tiles and flue tiles for the hypocaust were supplied as a direct order. The source of the sandy roof tiles is not known but is likely to be outside the immediate area.

Regional imports are predominantly from the Verulamium region, both for the white gritty wares and possibly also the slipped orange wares. These make up most of the white or white-surfaced fabrics R03 and R05 in the early Roman period. Small quantities of the widely traded wares from Oxfordshire and the Nene Valley were reaching the site from the 2nd century onwards but it is not until the 4th century that these were present in significant amounts.

In the later Roman period, Oxford wares are important, including mortaria from the Oxford workshops, which dominate this site and the region from the late 2nd century well into the 4th century. Of smaller significance is the presence of Hadham ware from the Essex production site at Much Hadham. This type occurs regularly but in small quantities on most Roman sites in the region particularly in the 4th century, and possibly into the 5th century.

In the late Roman phases, in the 4th and early 5th centuries, the typical assemblage comprises predominantly shelly wares from Harrold, grey wares from local sources as well as from the Nene Valley, colour coated wares from the Nene Valley and especially from Oxford as well as a small quantity of oxidised wares from Hadham.

There appear to be no mortaria from the Nene Valley although grey wares and colour coated wares from there are present. The pattern of contacts and marketing appears to be different for mortaria, with largely local products used in the early Roman period and in the later phases, Oxford and Mancetter-Hartshill predominating. Elsewhere in the area Nene Valley mortaria are as frequent if not more so than the Oxford vessels.

Evidence of repair on pottery, in the form of repair holes, suggests that large numbers of vessels were not stocked and that new supplies were not always easily available. The repair holes seen on a vessel of black burnished fabric R07A might suggest that this type of pottery was marketed centrally rather than made locally for the community and was therefore not regularly available to the people at Newnham. However, even the local coarse wares such as the shelly fabric R13, showed signs of repair indicating some difficulty in acquiring even the local products. The worn interior of a mortarium from Mancetter-Hartshill, indicates heavy and prolonged usage and possibly difficulty in finding a replacement.

Evidence for pottery production

The economic basis of the site was agriculture although there is some evidence of industrial activity if not on the site, then close by. At least two kiln bars and a possible potter's rib were found, objects which would not have travelled far from their place of use. Although there is no direct evidence of potting on the site in the form of either kilns or wasters, this is likely to have occurred near by, possibly on the periphery of the settlement and even under its direct control.

Previously unidentified mortaria types have been assigned to possibly local manufacture (Chapter 13). There is no evidence of a specialised mortaria workshop in the area and these vessels were probably made by generalist potters either producing for the local market or specifically for the estate workers. As these mortaria have not been recognised on other sites in the region it is possible that the settlement had a standing order with the potter for these specialist vessels.

Status and Continental imports

Personal items are relatively few in number, of common types and not indicative of any particularly high status. Aspirations to a Romanised way of life, however, can be seen particularly in changes to ways of cooking and eating. Fragments of amphora were found, but no other record survives. Mortaria, however, were used and one from Mancetter-Hartshill, in particular, was well-worn through use.

The local shelly ware fabric R13 was used for cooking and storage vessels such as jars. The grey wares, on the other hand, although also used as kitchen wares, were used primarily for food preparation and serving. A comparison with the pottery from Odell confirms a difference in the function and status of the sites (Dix, unpubl. archive report, Accession no. BEDFM.1985.18). Odell, a farmstead, has fewer imported wares and a higher proportion of local shelly wares throughout its life. The proportion of grey wares is greater at Newnham than at Odell. Dix suggested that this was an indicator of the relatively low status of Odell.

The finewares from Newnham show no signs of sooting or wear and were used solely for table wares. A number of these finewares are relatively rare in the area. A single vessel in lead-glazed ware fabric R32A was found. Small quantities are known in the area, particularly from towns such as Sandy and Dunstable, possibly because only a small proportion of the population were wealthy enough to afford this kind of display. Mica-gilded fabric R02 is found more frequently in the area but still not in large quantities. At least seven vessels were found at Newnham, one of which was decorated with bosses (Marsh 1978, 123). Imported colour-coated beakers R38 are equally sparse in the area, although nineteen were found. Among these are rough-cast beakers, possibly imported from the Lower Rhineland although similar beakers were also made in the Nene Valley.

Samian ware was available on the site throughout the 2nd and into the 3rd centuries (table 11.12; Chapter 12). The bulk of the samian is Antonine in date, but the majority of decorated wares are South Gaulish in origin. This might indicate higher social connections. Also unusual is the high number of bowls of form 30 (five of which four are from South Gaul) in comparison with the very much commoner form 37 (eight in total). The impression is gained from the material as a whole that the period of maximum import is likely to have been around the middle of the second century, probably coinciding with construction of the main building G65.

Phase	Phase date	Vessels	Sherds
1	Late Iron Age to early Roman	6	6
2	Early to mid-Roman	11	13
3	Mid-Roman	41	60
4	Mid- to late Roman	25	27
5	Late Roman to Saxon	13	15
6	Modern	0	0
0 and 0.1	Unphased, topsoil, overburden and unstratified	60	89

Table 11.12 samian totals by phase expressed as vessel and sherd counts (weights were not recorded)

Other possible imports are the colour coated rough-cast beakers, possibly imported from the Lower Rhineland although similar beakers were also made in the Nene Valley. The Rhineland beakers were imported from the late 1st until the mid-3rd century (Marney 1989, 183; Tyers 1996, 148).

Re-use and repair on pottery

A number of sherds had signs of being re-used after breakage. The most common and most easily recognised change to a sherd is to re-shape it into a disc and drill a hole through it for use as a spindle whorl. One such spindle whorl was made from the base of a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker and another from a base sherd in shelly fabric R13. The latter sherd has a hole bored through it post-firing although there is no record of the sherd having trimmed edges so its identification as a spindle-whorl is only tentative.

Other modifications to sherds are not as easily recognised although there is at least one sherd reshaped into a possible potter's rib (Phase 3 no. 30), a tool used for shaping the pot. Similar tools formed from discarded sherds have been recognised on later medieval pottery manufacturing sites (Slowikowski 2011) and as part of the potters' toolkit at the Canaanite site of Lachish, 1200-1150 BC (Magrill and Freestone 1997, 68, fig. 1; 71). Re-shaped broken sherds, used as potters' tools, have been recorded in ethnographic contexts (Barley 1994, 73) and the same shaped ribs are used by potters today. Together with the kiln bars on the site, the presence of such material suggests pottery manufacture close to the site. No evidence of kilns or wasters was found.

Evidence of repair on pottery, in the form of repair holes, suggests that large numbers of vessels were not stocked and that new supplies were not always easily available. A sherd of black-burnished fabric R07A had a hole 5mm in diameter bored through it post-firing and identified as a repair hole. This might suggest that this type of pottery was

marketed centrally rather than made locally for the community, and was therefore not regularly available to the people at Newnham. However, even the local coarse wares such as the shelly fabric R13 showed signs of repair, indicating that there was some difficulty in acquiring even the local products.

Evidence of ritual activity

A triple vase was found in Phase 4 ditch **G8**. This is a rare find in the Bedford area, although another example from the county has recently been excavated at Marston Park, Marston Moretaine (Luke and Barker forthcoming) and four were found at Legrave Marsh, near Luton, in the 1950s (Luton Mus acc nos 1/32/54; 2/32/54; 3/32/54; 4/32/54). Activity at Legrave Marsh ended in the early Roman period, *c.* AD 80. Elsewhere, however, these vessels have been dated to the late Roman period: vessels in the Ashmolean Museum, for example, are dated to the 4th century (Ashm. Mus. 1934.105). The form appears to have continued in use throughout the Roman period, albeit in different fabrics. The function of these vessels is unknown but their presence on cemetery and temple sites suggests that they were part of some ritual activity. The contexts of all the Bedfordshire vessels have been very close to water: the River Lea in the case of the Legrave Marsh vessels, the Elstow Brook in the case of Marston Park and the River Ouse in the case of Newnham. The hollow forms of the vessels suggest association with water and it is possible that they may have been used in some form of ritual involving rivers (Tim Vickers pers. comm.). They may have been multi-purpose ritual vases and could equally have been used in the worship of household gods or in rituals conducted at a domestic shrine.

Anglo-Saxon Pottery

Evidence for the Saxon period at Newnham comes largely from the ceramics. A significant quantity — over 70 vessels, represented by 96 sherds weighing 1.203kg — was recovered although most pieces were single small sherds. No other finds of early Saxon date were recovered from the site.

Its date is somewhat ambiguous although there is evidence to point to the Early Saxon period. The presence of the stamped vessels (nos 9, 11) and the small quantity of organic-tempered fabric A01 sherds, together with the absence of any diagnostic Middle Saxon types such as Ipswich or Maxey ware, suggest an Early Saxon date. In addition, the presence of at least two vessels with a *schlikung*-type surface suggest the 5th century (Hamerow 1993, 37). This surface finish is rare in this area, although it might easily be overlooked and go unrecorded. One other possible example has been recognised, at the deserted medieval village of Stratton, near Biggleswade.

Two sherds had rusticated decoration (Fig. 6.3 no. 8; the other is unillustrated). Overall rustication is relatively common on domestic pots and may have made the vessels easier to handle (Myres 1977, 20; Hamerow 1993, 35). In Bedfordshire, this surface finish can be paralleled by a vessel from the fill of a sunken featured building at Grove Priory, in the south of the county, where it was dated to the 6th century (Slowikowski 2013) and also from Puddlehill, Dunstable (Matthews 1976) and Harrod (Wells 2012).

Faceted carination (Fig. 6.3 no. 10) is found on vessels of the early–mid-5th century (Myres 1977, 19). It occurs at Mucking, London, Northampton and (closer to Newnham) at Sandy, mid-Bedfordshire (Myres 1977, fig. 95 no. 3869; Kennett 1970, 25). Not enough of the Newnham vessel survives to be certain of its full form, but a 5th-century date is suggested.

Two vessels were decorated with a variety of stamps. Number 11 (Fig. 6.3) is a body sherd with a row of concentric diamond stamps above one or more grid stamps in a panel segregated by diagonal grooves. The grid stamp has been found at Sancton, Yorkshire (Myres 1977 cat. no. 2331, fig. 101) and Loveden Hill, Lincolnshire (Myres cat. nos 589 and 1390, fig. 297). The diamond stamp is rare and the closest parallel is from Lackford, Suffolk (Myres cat no 861, fig. 335) where it is also associated with grid stamps, but these are circular rather than square. A single diamond stamp is known from Elkington, Lincolnshire (Myres cat no 673, fig. 309) and double diamonds from Sancton, Yorks, in association with grid stamps (Myres cat, nos 2283 and 2603, fig. 258).

The second stamped vessel (Fig. 6.3 no. 9) is another body sherd but in a particularly fine version of sandy fabric A06. The decoration comprises an eight-segmented rosette with the lower half surrounded with circular dimples, ending in a small quadranted circle. Myres has recorded the large rosette from Girton, Cambridgeshire (Myres cat. no. 179, fig. 100) and St John's, Cambridgeshire (Myres cat no 311, fig. 158) while the small quadrant has been recorded from Hunstanton, Norfolk (Myres cat. no. 726, Fig. 111) as well as Girton (Myres cat. no. 183, fig. 113).

Two vessels in quartz and calcareous fabric A04 contained internal black residues with clean external surfaces. This is a common occurrence on Saxon sites and indicates a specific although unknown use of these vessels, involving the burning of the pot's contents.

The more substantial pieces were recorded as unstratified. Their condition, however, is good; they are unabraded and with several sherds joining, so it may be that they were removed on excavation from secure contexts and subsequently that context was lost. Their condition does suggest occupation of the site, and that it was more than just a derelict place of rubbish disposal.

The pottery was compared with the Saxon assemblage from Bedford, less than 3km away, to determine whether there were any links. Although scatters of Roman and Saxon pottery have been found throughout the town, the greatest concentration came from the Castle site. Although the difficulty of dating plain wares was acknowledged, the assemblage from here was dated to the early part of the Middle Saxon period. Identifiable middle Saxon pottery, such as Maxey and Ipswich wares, was found at the Castle (Baker and Hassall 1979, 148–59; Wells 2009), while there are none from Newnham. The characteristics of the Newnham pottery — the presence of stamped decoration, the faceted carination, the small quantity of organic tempered wares and the absence of diagnostic middle Saxon pottery — point to a date in the 5th century.

Both sites used sandy fabric A06 and sand and calcareous fabric A04, but these are probably locally made (Williams 1979, 152). The sources for the pottery were the same but not necessarily exploited at the same time. It would appear that by the time that the settlement on the Castle site at Bedford was being established the site at Newnham was no longer occupied.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery

Fifteen sherds of medieval pottery were found comprising three fabric types: B09 Lyveden ware, C09 Brill-Boarstall ware and E02 Late Medieval Oxidised ware. Lyveden ware is a calcareous tempered fabric produced in the Northamptonshire village of Lyveden and dated to the 13th century. The fragments found at Newnham are from green-glazed jugs with white applied decoration in the form of grid stamps. These stamps also occur on later Cistercian wares and it has been suggested that they have a religious significance, possibly representing the Host or the Communion wafer (Spavold 2010, 43, 44 fig. 28). This type of pottery may originally have been used at the monastery at Newnham, although it occurs in small quantities throughout the region. The C09 Brill/Boarstall sherds date to the late 12th to 14th centuries and the type occurs throughout the region as a common decorated jug fabric. The latest medieval sherds are in an orange-brown hard-fired fabric with varying sources throughout the region, including Glapthorn, Northamptonshire (Johnston 1997). Dated to the 15th–16th centuries, it is one of the commonest late medieval wares found in the region.

A small quantity of post-medieval and modern sherds was recovered, with dates ranging from the 16th century to the present day. Among them are: P14 Blackware (2 sherds: 21g); P25 Frechen stoneware (3 sherds: 45g); P32 Staffordshire refined redware (3 sherds: 50g); P33 Tin-glazed ware (1 sherd: 3g); P36A Brown salt-glazed stoneware (2 sherds: 14g); P39 Mocha ware (1 sherd: 36g); P43 Pearlware (5 sherds: 8 g); P48 English stoneware (4 sherds: 38g); P55 White china (19 sherds: 81g); Miscellaneous Modern (34 sherds: 240g). Although these are recorded they are not discussed further.