

Ceramics by S.Ratkai

Spot Dating

2201	19th c		
2210	19th c		
2211	19th c		
2212	?early 19th c		
2213	19th c		
2214	?early 19th c		
2215	19th c		
2216	?early 19th c		
2217	19th c		
2218	19th c		
2220	?late 19th c		
2221	19th c		
2222	19th c		
2223	18th c		
2224	18th c		
2226	17th c		
2227	19th c		
2228	14th-15th c		
2230	first half 16th c		
2231	19th c		
2232	14th c		
2233	late 18th-early 19th c		
2234	14th c		
2236	19th c		
2237	18th c		
2238	14th c		
2239	18th c		
2240	19th c		
2243	19th c		
2244	late 18th c		
2246	first half 16th c		
2247	(16th) 17th c		
2249	14th c		
2251	late 17th-early 18th c		
2252	mid 17th c		
2253	19th c		
2254	16th c		
2255	17th c (same material in 2237)		
2261	19th c		
2263	(late 15th) early 16th c		
2265	16th (17th) c		
2267	?mid 17th c		
2268	17th c		
2269	16th c		
2271	19th c		
2278	late 17th c		
room 3c	19th c	room 5c	(late 17th) 18th c

Assessment

All the pottery was examined macroscopically and spot dated. Sherd size was generally small, although there were substantial portions of some early post-medieval vessels. The sherds were largely unabraded, with the exception of the 13th-14th century sherds. The medieval pottery consisted mainly of glazed wares with few cooking pot sherds. The early post-medieval pottery contained a typical range of forms eg pancheons, bowls, jars and drinking vessels.

The medieval pottery consists of a variety of fabrics, the earliest of which, sandy cooking pots, date from the 13th-14th centuries. Similar cooking pots were found at Kings Norton, Birmingham (Jones and Ratkai forthcoming). Red-bodied glazed wares decorated with ferric oxide stripes were also found on the site and are probably of a similar date. These two types of pottery were not plentiful. A greater proportion of medieval pottery consisted of oxidised wheel-thrown wares which belong in the main to the 15th and 16th centuries, although there were some sherds which may have been Malvernian oxidised wheel-thrown wares which belong to the 14th-15th centuries. There were also some Cistercian ware sherds of the late 15th-16th centuries. The early post-medieval pottery was made up of yellow wares, coarsewares and blackwares of the later 16th and 17th centuries. However the bulk of all the pottery was made up of later 18th and 19th century sherds.

The medieval pottery was unusual in that it had little in common with other pottery from Worcestershire, nor did it share a particular affinity with pottery from Warwickshire. One or two sherds may have been Boarstall-Brill or Chilvers Coton products. The former type is commonly found in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, the latter in Warwickshire. A small number of Malvernian sherds, commonly found in the two counties, were present. However the red sandy glazed wares from the site seemed to have more in common with pottery from Staffordshire and Cheshire. It would seem that the presence of Bordesley Abbey may well have had an effect on the supply of pottery in Redditch either because it was instrumental in establishing local production, which kept non-local pottery at bay, or because of tenurial links.

Proposal

Although there was a comparatively small group of medieval pottery, it is nevertheless of interest, since it indicates a different ceramic tradition in this area of Worcestershire. This in turn presents a useful insight into the social and economic dynamics of Redditch in the medieval period.

The early post-medieval pottery fits into the north Worcestershire-south Staffordshire regional tradition, by and large, but adds information for an area of the county for which there is little published material of this date.

The medieval pottery and early post-medieval pottery should be reported on in full, sourced if possible and illustrated as appropriate. The later post-medieval pottery requires no further work.

Schedule

<u>Task</u>	<u>Days</u>
Microscopic analysis of medieval pottery and division into fabric groups.	0.5
Recording of medieval and early post-medieval pottery onto database.	1.0
Analysis of pottery	1.0
Writing of report	1.0
Checking of illustrations (number of drawings c 20)	0.25
Editing text.	0.25
<u>Total</u>	<u>4 days</u>

Cost

4 days @ £110/£120* per day

£440/£480*

* cost after April 1 1998