

Two medieval pottery kilns at Limpsfield Chart

L L KETTERINGHAM

The Pottery by M Saaler

LOAMPIT FIELD

Cooking Pots

- 1 - 3 Simple thickened rims. 1 with slight groove on the front of the flange. 2 and 3 sub-triangular. These three examples were found at the west end of the ditch.
- 4 - 9 Thickened flanges. 4 similar in form to 1. 5 with a bulge on the neck. 8 atypical with rounded flange and a quiff-like projection forming a shallow internal beading.
- 10 - 15 Flanged, either undercut (12, 13) or straight (10, 11, 14, 15). 11 has well formed internal beading and incised wavy line decoration on the flange top. 15 with wide flange decorated on top with shallow stabbing. 13 with vertical applied thumb-strip.
- 16 - 18 Flanged rims with sloping necks in marked contrast to 1 - 15, which are vertically necked. 16 has applied thumb strip in diagonal inverted V.
- Rims 4 to 18 were found at the kiln site.

Dishes

- 19 - 20 Flat flange with marked thickening beneath the rim. 19 has combed wavy lines on the rim.
- 21 Wide, flat rim with horizontal triangular (knife) stabbing.
- 22 Wide, flat rim decorated with incised wavy lines.
- 23 Deeply undercut rim rounded outside with a sharp ridge below the rim.
- 24 It is possible to see how the clay has been folded over to form the wide rim. Rounded outside and deeply undercut. Decorated with triangular stabbing. There is a hole 3mm diam pierced in the wall of the vessel at the thickest point just below the rim.
- 25 A thick rim decorated with combed wavy lines and stabbing. There is a thickening below the rim, as in 19 and 20.

- 26 - 29 Beaded inside. 26 has deep stabbing on the rim.
28 is decorated with combed wavy lines.
- 30 Beading inside. Decorated with stabbed holes which are pierced through the rim with fingernail impressions on each side.
- 31 - 32 Rounded outside, beaded inside.
- 33 A wide rim decorated with irregular stabbing.

The great rim diameter of these dishes, particularly 21 to 25 is noted. A measurement of over 60cm is not unusual in this kiln.

Bowls

- 34 - 35 Rare at Loampit Field.

Jugs

- 36 - 37 The top of the neck sharpened to a ridge. No rim-flange.
- 38 A rounded narrow rim with sharp undercutting. Smooth, sandy fabric, pinkish-buff in colour.
- 39 Slightly flaring rim.
- 40 Slightly pulled down lip.
- 41 Undercut rim with misshapen lip. Rim decorated with shallow grooves (?fingernail impressions).

Handles

- 42 The lower junction of a jug handle in sandy grey fabric, sparsely stabbed.
- 43 Middle section of a jug handle roughly stabbed in diagonal lines.
- 44 Most of a handle and lower section decorated with irregular stabbing.
- 45 Pinkish-grey fabric decorated with a single row of triangular stabbing.
- 46 Upper junction of a handle decorated with a double row of stabbing.
- 47 Upper junction of a handle liberally decorated with random stabbing.
- 48 Upper junction of a handle decorated with lateral, rectangular stabbing.
- 49 Decorated with a single row of wide sub-triangular stabbing.
- 50 Decorated with large vertical slashes down the centre and horizontal semi-circular stabbing.
- 51 Upper junction of a handle decorated with irregular small semi-circular stabbing.
- 52 Lower handle junction decorated with three vertical rows of stabbing between deep finger grooves.
- 53 Rim junction with stabbing both externally on the handle and internally inside the rim (atypical).

- 54 Rim junction of handle decorated with deep vertical slashing.
- 55 Lower junction of slashed handle with slashing continued on the body of the vessel.
- 56 Middle section of handle with rows of slashing and intermittent stabbing.
- 57 Middle section of handle with short, wide slashes.
- 58 Bunghole.
- 59 Small handle or pedestal in pinkish grey fabric, decorated with stabbing underneath.

Decoration

- 60 Shoulder sherd with triangular stab marks at neck/shoulder junction, and vertical applied thumb strip.
- 61 Shoulder decorated with incised horizontal bands within which occur wavy lines or shallow stab motifs.
- 62 Shoulder to girth with combed horizontal wavy motifs.
- 63 Neck/shoulder decorated with irregular horizontal incised lines.
- 64 Shoulder/girth with incised combed wavy motif.
- 65 Flat sherd with lattice applied thumb strip.
- 66 Flat sherd with very shallow small circular depressions.

Pipkins

- 67 Pipkin with inward sloping rim with pinched and pulled lip.
- 68 Pipkin with inward sloping rim, no lip visible on this sherd.
- 69 Pipkin handle decorated with single row of stabbing on lower surface and on lower junction with the body. Horizontal shallow grooves along upper surface. The handle is attached to the body by plug and luting.

RIDLANDS FARM

Cooking Pots

- 1 - 2 Wide, flat-topped flanged rims, typical of this series. 1 with thumb-strips applied in chevrons.

- 2 with horizontal strips.
- 3 Narrower flat-topped flanged rim with applied diagonal thumb-strip on the body.
- 4 Flat topped and flanged rim with steep undercut.
- 5 Flanged rim with slight depression.
- 6 Thick flat topped flanged rim, internally beaded.
- 7 - 10 Simple, thickened, sub-triangular forms. 8, 9 and 10 sloping slightly outward.
- 11 - 12 Narrower flanged rims sloping outward. 12 with small stabbed decoration on upper surface.
- 13 - 14 Narrow flanged rims sloping outwards. 13 has slight depression. 14 is stabbed.

Bowl

- 15 Flat topped and flanged rim. Distinguished from cooking-pots as maximum girth does not exceed maximum rim diameter.

Dishes

- 17 - 18 Outwardly sloping undercut flange; 17 has combed wavy decoration on upper surface.
- 19 Flat topped, slightly undercut, thick flange.
- 20 See skillets.
- 21 Flat topped and flanged rim with slight undercutting and internal beading, rounded outside. Vertical applied thumb-strip on body.
- 22 Similar to 17 and 18 but with internal bead and incised wavy line on upper surface of rim.
- 23 Flange slightly concave and undercut. Internally beaded. Incised.
- 24 Flat-topped, sub-triangular rim.
- 25 Wide, heavy, flat-topped rim with internal beading.
- 26 - 27 Very large diameter vessels with flat-topped and flanged rims, decorated with a single row of stabbing. The internal beading is distorted by thumb pressure.

Jug Handles

- 28 Strap handle in light grey sandy fabric. Knife slashed.
- 29 Strap handle. Greyish buff sandy fabric slashed with a triangular-sectioned knife. Intermittent stabbing.
- 30 Strap handle in light grey sandy fabric, closely knife slashed with occasional stabbing.
- 31 Rod handle with slight groove down the centre and deep, broad knife stabbing down each side.
- 32 Rod handle in mid-grey densely sandy fabric. One line of knife stabbing down the centre with lines of stabbing down each side.

- 33 Rod handle in mid-grey smooth sandy fabric. Two lines of knife stabbing.
- 34 Strap handle, oval in section. Smooth pale grey sandy fabric with rows of knife stabbing.
- 35 Rod handle. Light sandy grey fabric slashed with a thick triangular-bladed knife. Sparsely stabbed with a pointed instrument.
- 36 Strap handle in greyish buff sandy fabric, deeply slashed and sparsely stabbed with a pointed instrument.
- 37 Rod handle in pinkish-grey fabric decorated with lines of round holes 6mm diam (made with the head of a nail?).

Skillets

- 20 Flat-topped and flanged rim with complete profile. Very slightly beaded internally.
- 38 Complete profile with flat-topped and flanged rim, with internal beading and tubular handle. The handle is attached by luting and is decorated on the upper surface by rows of stabbing, the two outer rows continuing on to the rim. The under surface of the base is decorated with thumb-strips.

Crucible

- 39 The only vessel of this type known in Limpsfield ware. A very thick-walled small cup with thickened rim which is decorated with a shallow row of triangular stabbing. The body is deeply stabbed with a thick-bladed knife.

Jugs

- 40 Simple inward-sloping rim with very slight internal beading.
- 41 Narrow flanged rim, slightly concave on top.
- 42 Flared rim, variant of 40.
- 46 Rim, neck, shoulder and strap handle of jug with vertical thumb-stripping. Simple pinched lip.
- 47 Decorated body sherd including lower part of neck with combination incised motifs.
- 48 Shoulder to girth sherd with impressed and incised decoration including wavy lines and small oval fingernail impressions. There is an incised rough arrow shape pointing upwards on the neck. A similar mark, though not necessarily for the same purpose, appears on a Mill Green ware jug (Pearce et al 1982, p14).

Miscellaneous

Three bungholes were also found in the kiln. Not illustrated.