

Excavations at Yeoveney, Near Staines, 1982

PHIL JONES, MARTIN O'CONNELL and ROB POULTON

The pottery (figs 4-6)

Wares and forms

Twelve to fifteen different pottery fabrics were identified, although whitewares and their variants account for over 90% of all sherds. For each fabric-type, the number and weight of sherds, the number of rim and base-angles, and percentages of rim EVEs were recorded, in addition to a description of fabric and vessel forms.

Whitewares

(a) WW1A 'Coarse Border Ware' (figs 4 and 5, nos 1-60)

396 sherds (6.83kg). Includes 55 rimsherds (4.29 rim EVEs) and 35 base-angle sherds. Off-white to buff, with frequent pink to red or white/clear sub-rounded quartz sand ($\approx 0.2-0.8\text{mm}$) and sparse red iron inclusions.

Thirty-seven rims of cp/jars (2.81 EVEs), of standard round-bodied forms with sagging and angled bases. Maximum girth was just above the mid-way point between rim and base. Rim diameters vary between ≈ 15 and 32 cm. The majority have sharp neck angles, slightly outward-bulging necks, and an upward-pointing external bead (nos 1-15,19,20)

Others have flat-topped or downward-pointing flanged rims (nos 16-18,21-30,35-40) of which most, though not all, tend to be the larger vessels which can be confused with pancheon types (large bowls).

Seven vessels (0.49 EVEs) display a greater diameter at the rim than

at the maximum girth, and are better described as pancheons. They were larger vessels than the cp/jars, c35 to 49cm rim diameter, but with similar rim forms, most of which are flanged (nos 31-4,41-3).

Decoration of cp/jars and pancheons was limited to small vertical strips applied to the neck (19 & 20); four sherds with applied finger-impressed strips, three vertical and one horizontal; and one vertical strip of triangular section applied to the neck. Over half of the rim fragments show internal and external glaze splashes, and a third of all base-angles were internally glazed.

The nine rim fragments from jugs all had cylindrical necks and simple beaded, or flat-topped rims, c10-12cms in diameter. The body form is generally globular, although some sherds are from more slender vessels, and at least one vessel seems to be of baluster form (53). Handles are sprung from just below the rim, and the lower end was luted through an opening in the body. Both strap (seven) and rod (three) handles were recovered, all decorated with combinations of slashes, stab-marks, punched slots, and punctures. The body wall was slashed concentrically around the lower spring of both types. Many similar devices were also used on the body. These include vertical grooves in either single or double rows (eight, eg 54); combing, either vertical (six, eg 57) or diagonal (three) with a two or three-tooth comb over a slightly rilled surface; or four or five-tooth combing in vertical groups separated by comb-stabbed rows (five, eg 59), or in herring-bone patterns (three, eg 58). Other decoration includes rilling of the shoulder (two, eg 55), rouletting (three, eg 60), and finger-nail impressions on the neck (48). At least one of the rod handles belonged to a biconical jug, and

another has a pair of thumb impressions on either side of the upper spring.

Two sherds were decorated with slip, one of which was a vertical buff stripe showing brown beneath a pale green glaze. The other was curious, in that the sherd has a vertical raised strip that was glazed before the application of a buff slip stripe down one side. Glaze on jugs only covered the upper body and handle in most instances, and was usually a mottled green colour.

This whiteware is very similar to 'Coarse Border Ware' such as was made at Farnborough Hill in the late 14th and 15th centuries (Holling 1971,68). Few of the forms that appear in London deposits after c1350 are found at Yeoveney, however. There are no bung-hole cisterns for example, and there is only one fragment that may be from a drinking-jug. In London, pancheons become common towards the middle of the 14th century; in Staines however, some earlier vessels in WW1A and local greywares are similar to this form, which differs from the standard cp/jar in that the mouth is wider and there remains only a vestigial shoulder.

(b) WW1A pale grey/brown variant (fig 5, nos 63-101)

113 sherds (2.01kg). Includes 37 rimsherds (2.21 EVEs), nine base-angles and four decorated sherds. The fabric is identical to WW1A except that it has an iron-rich clay body which fired mid-grey with pale to mid-brown surfaces. It did not seem to represent merely an extreme of the variability that is often characteristic of Surrey

whitewares, since it was always easily distinguishable from, and as consistent in colour as, WW1A. No jugs were represented and it is possible that only kitchenwares were made. All other characteristics such as temper, finish, glaze application, cp/jar and pancheon forms, indicate that WW1A and this pale grey/brown type may have been made at the same kiln(s).

The 31 cp/jar and pancheon rims had many similarities with those of WW1A, ie the globular or wide-mouthed forms, a majority with simple and externally-beaded rims, splashed glaze externally and over the inside of the base, vestigial raised strips applied vertically at the neck, and some flat-topped and wide flanged rims (63-97). Other forms include a bowl with hammerhead rim (100), another smaller bowl (99), a skillet glazed like the cp/jars (98), and a pulled spout probably from a dripping-pan (101).

Most of these vessels are probably of a similar date to those of WW1A. Although the dripping-pan is a common later medieval type in London (Thorn 1975, 134 & fig 13 no 202), it appears perhaps earlier in North-west Surrey, as at Brooklands (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, fig 40 no 77) and Staines in Surrey whiteware. Skillets, although a relatively uncommon type are also found locally in 13th century contexts.

(c) Later medieval whitewares (fig 5, nos 61 and 62)

A few sherds were found that had smoother texture, thinner walls, and patches or 'bibs' of evenly applied and glossy green glaze. Some may be from later phases of 'Coarse Border ware' production, as for

example the base and rim of two 'Tudor Green' mugs (61 & 62), but others may be from Kingston or other Thames-side kilns operating during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Sand and flint-gritted wares : Staines type QF (fig 6, nos 102-111)
56 sherds (1.75kg). Includes seven rimsherds (0.48 EVEs) and seven base-angles. The fabric is tempered with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded quartz (\leq 0.3-1.0mm, but with many grains up to 2.5mm), moderate amounts of angular flint of the same range of sizes, and sparse amounts of grog and/or iron minerals. The hard fabric is almost always dark grey and has a gritty feel. Six rimsherds are from large globular cp/jars with everted and square-ended rims, 21-38cm in diameter (102,104,105,107), and angled sagging bases. A third of all body sherds is decorated, four with finger-impressed strips, applied vertically or in combination with diagonal ones (108,109); three that are diagonally combed; and two rouletted sherds (111). Only one jug was represented and this had a beaded rim, cordoned collar, and a plain strap handle with thumb impressions on either side of the upper spring (110). This had been a large jug, probably globular in shape, and it was grey with red/brown surfaces covered with a thin yellow glaze.

Flint-gritted wares in Staines were in use from late Saxon to late medieval times (Jones 1983, 205-7). From the early 13th century however, such wares were used in the town only for vessels that needed to withstand thermal shock such as large cp/jars and curfews. Whereas early medieval flint-gritted wares were also tempered with variable quantities of calcareous material, sherds from Yeoveney are

perhaps later examples of the tradition since they were tempered only with sand and flint. A similar suite of inclusions is typical of pottery produced at kilns at Rush Green, Denham in Bucks (Farley 1982, 174). These seem to have been in production during the late 12th to 14th centuries, and many of the cp/jars were decorated with vertical or diagonal combing of the body, as found on some vessels at Staines and here at Yeoveney during the same period. Only the larger vessels of Denham-type seem to have reached the southern end of the Colne valley where most vessels are of Surrey whiteware. Similar greywares known to have been made at several sites in south Hertfordshire and north Middlesex (Hertfordshire Reduced Ware), have not been positively identified among the sherds at Yeoveney, although some are known from Staines.

Other coarsewares

Twenty-nine sherds are of wares thought to have been in decline or out of use by the time the Yeoveney site was being used.

Shelly ware : Nine sherds including a bowl rim (112), of fabric S2 as found at Staines, the standard 12th century coarse shell-tempered (probably oyster) type (Jones, forthcoming). In most parts of north-west Surrey and in the Colne valley, shell-tempering seems to have become obsolete by the mid-13th century.

'Standard' grey sandy wares : Fourteen sherds, including three small rim fragments (not illustrated). Predominantly tempered with quartz sand and of 12th or 13th century date. Some may be contemporary with the whiteware (Staines fabric type Q2B).

Quartz/flint/chalk-tempered fabric : Six sherds from a single vessel of TQ1B fabric as found in 12th and early 13th century deposits in Staines.

Oxidised sandy 'jug'wares

Seventeen sherds from ten jugs, seven of which may date to before c1350 (a,b,c below), whilst others could be later (d,e,f).

(a) Eight body sherds, a handle fragment with grooved decoration (113), and a rilled neck sherd (114), representing four or five vessels. Pale grey/buff core, orange margins, and patchy pale grey/brown surfaces with a fine sandy feel. Tempered with very frequent quartz sand (0.02-0.05mm and occasionally larger) and sparse iron minerals of the same sizes. All the sherds have a thin pimply glaze, olive to green/brown in appearance depending on the variable surface colour. The source is unknown.

(b) A single sherd of fine orange fabric with applied pellets of pale buff clay (115). Body and pellets were tempered the same, with abundant subangular quartz (c0.01-0.02/3mm) and angular dark grey grains (flint?) of similar size, as well as occasional grog (up to 0.09mm). Thin-walled, and with pale yellow glaze. This may be from a London-ware jug of the 13th century (identified by A Vince of the Department of Urban Archaeology, Museum of London).

(c) Three sherds of sandy redware with grey core and orange surfaces, including part of a pie-crust base. Thin-walled and fine-textured, but with moderate amounts of sub-rounded quartz (0.03-0.12mm) and iron minerals (0.02-0.05 though with rare grains up to 0.25mm). Source unknown.

(d) Three sherds of fine orange ware with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded quartz (0.02-0.04/5mm), sparse iron minerals and rare flint grits. Glossy dark green glaze thinly applied, showing olive. These sherds may be from medieval kilns at Brill or Boarstall (Ivens 1982; Farley 1982; Jope 1953-4) although the flint temper could indicate a source perhaps in south Hertfordshire where similar wares have been found.

(e) Base of a small biconical jug in fine sandy orange ware (117). Thick-walled, much eroded, and with two external clear glaze spots. The inclusions are frequent quartz (0.01-0.03/4), and moderate amounts of flint and iron minerals of similar sizes, although occasionally larger.

(f) A single sherd of fine sandy orange ware with external white slip and green glaze. Quartz inclusions (0.03-0.06mm) and some grog. Possibly of Mill Green-type (Pearce et al 1982).

Saintonge monochrome ware

Six sherds, four unstratified and one each from context 4 of section AA (fig 3), and context 2 of section AE, probably all from the same vessel (116). The colour is pale grey/buff, and the vessel has an external mottled green glaze. Tempered with sparse to moderate amounts of quartz (0.04-0.08mm and occasionally larger) and sparse iron minerals (0.05-0.10mm). Although eroded at the rim there is a scar that marks the curvature of a parrot-beak spout. (Identified by A Vince of the DUA as late 13th/14th century Saintonge ware).

Slip-decorated bowl

Rimsherd in pale orange ware with buff margins and orange surfaces (118). The interior has a repeated red/brown trailed slip motif, rendered brown by a thin clear glaze. The fabric is fine, but with frequent subangular quartz grains (0.01-0.03mm) and sparse iron minerals. The bowl is post-medieval, of 17th or 18th century date, but is illustrated here because of its unusual form and decorative motif.

Pottery from contexts of the recorded sections (cf fig 3)

Section AA: 94 sherds, including 45 from a single vessel. WW1A predominates, and was present in both the lowest and highest contexts. Q2B 'standard' sandy ware and QF sand and flint-gritted ware made up most of the remaining sherds:

1 no sherds.

2 WW1A -12 sherds including two plain sagging base-angles and one pie-crust base-angle, two sherds with horizontal combing, and a strap handle fragment.

Oxidised 'jug' ware -2 sherds of fine unglazed orange fabric

3 no sherds.

4 WW1A -5 sherds including a plain sagging base-angle and a sherd from a jug with horizontal combing and a vertical series of grooved lines.

WW1A grey/brown variant -6 sherds including a sagging base-angle

and three with internal green glaze splashes.

S2 Shelly ware -1 sherd.

Oxidised 'jug'ware -1 sherd of orange ware with diagonally-combed decoration.

Saintonge monochrome -1 sherd, green-glazed (116).

5 WW1A -3 sherds including a plain sagging base-angle.

QF Sand & Flint -1 sherd with diagonal combing of the body.

5/6 QF -1 sherd with diagonal combing and a vertically-applied finger-impressed strip.

6 WW1A -3 sherds including a pie-crust base-angle.

WW1A grey/brown variant -6 sherds including a sagging base-angle and 2 sherds with internal green glaze.

QF Sand & Flint -4 sherds including a sagging base-angle and a diagonally-combed sherd.

S2 Shelly -1 sherd.

7 no sherds.

8 WW1A -46 sherds, all but one of which were from a single jug with vertically-grooved body, pie-crust base, rod handle grooved down both sides and with stab series around the lower spring, mottled olive-green glaze over the upper parts. Another vessel was represented by a glazed sherd.

WW1A grey/brown variant -1 sherd.

Section AB : Sherd samples were recovered from two deposits, both within shallow hollows and probably of the same date :

11 WW1A brown/grey variant -8 sherds including a rimsherd (106).
QF Sand & Flint -5 sherds including a rim fragment (107) and
four joining sherds from a sagging base-angle.

Q2B 'Standard' sandy ware -4 sherds.

Oxidised 'jug' ware -1 sherd, green-glazed.

14 WW1A -7 sherds including five that are glazed in part, two of
which are also combed vertically and horizontally.

QF Sand & Flint -2 sherds.

TQ1B Sand, Flint & Chalk -1 combed sherd.

Section AE : Sherds were only recovered from :

2 WW1A grey/brown variant -6 sherds from a skillet (98).

Saintonge monochrome -1 sherd, probably from the same vessel as
represented by four unstratified sherds and one from AA4.
(116).