

Mediaeval Pottery in Berkshire.

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PROVIDED that we do not adhere too strictly to the vagaries of the County boundary, Berkshire forms a convenient area in which to study some aspects of the development of Mediaeval Pottery. This account, necessarily rather general, is written with the two-fold purpose of helping excavators who may encounter mediaeval pottery, perhaps in the upper layers of a site predominantly Roman or Prehistoric in its interest, and of encouraging the preservation and adequate recording of new finds of mediaeval pottery, or such examples of it as may already exist in private collections. I should personally be extremely grateful for information about or opportunity to examine any mediaeval pottery from the region.

Berkshire may be divided into two main regions according to the distribution of mediaeval pottery types. To the east of Reading lies an area which during the Middle Ages carried much woodland including Windsor Forest, and was sparsely inhabited (F. M. Stenton, *Place Names of Berkshire* (1911), 2: F. W. Morgan, *Scot. Geog. Mag.*, 51, 353, 1935). This area throughout the period shows the influence of the styles prevalent in the London region, rarely found in western Berkshire. West of Reading the styles are predominantly those of the Oxford region, or Upper Thames basin: this applies largely even to the Kennet valley, but in the south-western corner of the County some influence from the highly characteristic styles of the Salisbury region may be found occasionally, especially in 13th century decorated jugs. Some particular types are more localised in the Upper Thames basin, which may be due to the influence of Oxford itself, or, by the 14th century, due to the large scale pottery production of factories like those at Brill, 12 miles N.E. of Oxford.

The Map, Fig. 1, shows the find spots of the pottery discussed in this paper; some groups are of much greater importance than others, and the map should be used with the list, Appendix I. Although not an exhaustive list of finds for the County, it is fairly representative. The concentration round Oxford is partly due to my greater opportunities for working at this end of the County, but the general distribution does correspond to that of the mediaeval population, with a concentration in the Thames Valley and sparsity on the chalk uplands and eastern forest area (*Scot. Geog. Mag.*, 51, 353-363, 1935). More groups from the eastern area are desirable, especially as so few are recorded from the adjacent areas of Surrey, Middlesex and Bucks; but perhaps the greatest lacuna is in the populous area between the Upper Thames and the chalk downs, where most of the groups recorded are small.

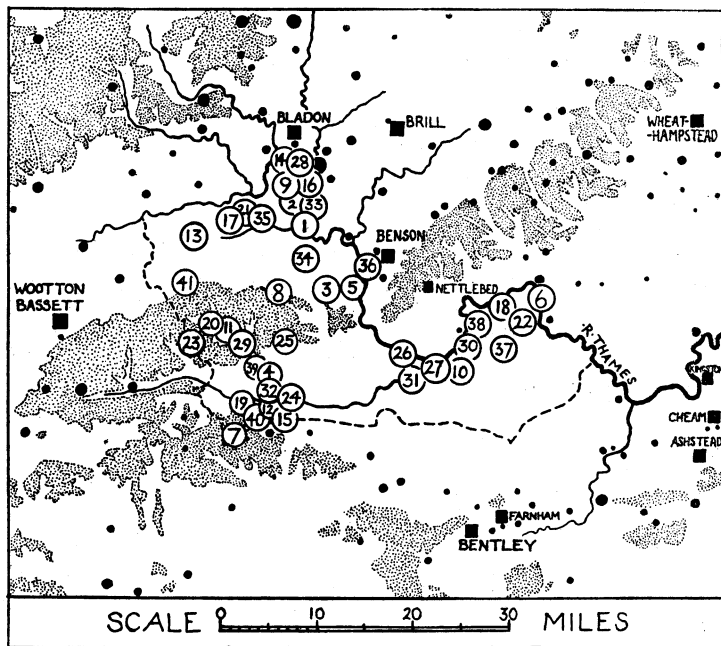


FIG. 1. Finds of mediaeval pottery in the Berkshire area.

- ① — ④① In Berkshire. • In adjacent counties.
 ■ Sites where there is evidence for pottery manufacture (add
 Nettlebed, near Hemel Hempstead)
 Land over 500 feet stippled. - - - - Berkshire County
 Boundary.

The contacts in mediaeval pottery styles of the Upper Thames region are mainly N.E.-S.W. along the clay vale, N.E. to Bedford and Cambridge, and S.W. into Wiltshire: very rarely is any contact found with the London region. By contrast the contacts of east Berkshire are usually with the London region. The pottery of the Oxford and London regions remain strikingly distinct in local character throughout the Middle Ages, although there are of course general mediaeval types, such as the cooking pot with everted rim and convex base (Fig. 5, 1, 2, 3, 5), which, with minor local variations, are universal over most of Britain. This sharp distinction between Oxford and London may be seen in the distribution of 12th century shallow dishes, the type with inturned rim flanges (Fig. 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) lying S.W.-N.E. along the clay vale (Fig. 3): later, in the later 13th century, although the tall baluster jug may be found in most parts of England, the elegant Oxford form with sharp base and rim angles (Fig. 8, 2; found also at Reading, Fig. 8, 1) contrasted with the bulbous top typical of London (*Lond.*

Mus. Med. Guide, 216, No. 5, Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. 16), and Worcester, Warwickshire, Nottingham and York, each have their distinctive forms (e.g. Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pls. 62, 63). Minor variations in mediaeval pottery style and fabric may often be detected over distances of as little as 20 miles, so that its study is very much a matter of local experience. What these local varieties mean in terms of potters, distribution, marketing and customers it is hardly possible to say at present, though the excavation of more kiln sites may help in time to dissociate the geography of potters from that of their salesmen and customers. These variations must be regarded largely as an exhibition of regional character, similar to local variation in architectural style.

At present I know of no direct evidence for mediaeval pottery manufacture within this County, though Mr. Leeds has recently described a hut in the Pagan Saxon Village at Sutton Courtenay with a potter's clay-puddling hole (*Archaeologia*, 92, 81-4, 1947). In the Middle Ages pottery was certainly made at several places only just outside the County boundary (named on Map, Fig. 1). Although some of the products of these kilns were brought into the County, it is most improbable that *no* pottery was made throughout so large an area as Berkshire. At Brill (Bucks) an extensive industry operated at least from the early 13th century continuously almost to the present day, and during the 14th century pottery from the kilns I have recently found there (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 74, 1942; X, 96, 1945) seems to have been distributed over an area of radius about 20 miles, reaching Seacourt and Cumnor, and Oxford itself. The 13th century kilns found at Wootton Bassett (*Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, 26, 416, 1892; 28, 263) and at Bentley, near Farnham (*Country Life*, April 7th, 1944) may to some extent have supplied west and east Berkshire respectively. There is documentary evidence for pottery manufacture at Bladon, Oxon (Domesday 1086) and within the extensive Manor of Benson, Oxon. (13th to 15th centuries). A large scale industry such as that of Brill appears to have served a radius of only about 20 miles, and it is thus improbable that the above places represented the sole sources of mediaeval pottery supply for Berkshire. Almost everywhere there is suitable clay, and there must be within the County, especially in the south and east where there was plenty of timber for fuel, sites of pottery making awaiting discovery either in documents or in the field. Bricks were made at Windsor for Windsor Castle (Hope: *Windsor Castle*, I, 231, 239-40), and at Shaw, near Newbury (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VI, 77, 1931) in the 15th century, and tiles were made at Wokingham (Hope: *Windsor Castle*, I, 236). It is possible that the timber of Windsor forest was guarded against the depredations of potters, tile-makers and charcoal-burners, but this would hardly be so in the wooded Kennet valley.

Mediaeval pottery was probably marketed through fairs and weekly markets: the sellers of earthenware (*ollarum terrarum*) in Oxford market in the 14th century were allotted a place in High St. (*Oxf. Hist. Soc.*, XVI, 119, 1890) and it was bought from time to time at St. Frideswide's Fair. Merchants from Oxford may have bought pottery at the great East Anglian Fairs earlier in the Middle Ages (*Oxoniensia*, V, 42, 1940; see below): certainly they were frequenting these fairs, especially Sturbridge (Cambridge), St. Ives and Northampton, at least from the 13th century onwards, similar trading activity may well provide the explanation for the Cambridge-Bedford-Northampton late Saxon pottery found in the Upper Thames region (Figs. 2 & 3) (*Oxoniensia*, V, 42-9, 1940). Occasionally documentary references suggest that vessels were brought from some distance, though it is not always certain that earthenware was meant, wood and metal vessels being also in common use. For instance, the Sheriff of Northampton was ordered to have 4000 dishes (*scutellarum*) in his custody at Northampton Castle carried to Reading for Easter in 1230 (*Cal. Liberate. Rolls*, I, 172). Imported foreign wares, such as the polychrome pottery from S.W. France (*Archaeologia*, 83, 114-134, 1933; *Arch. J.*, 94, 132, 193) or vessels from Italy and Spain, are as yet unrecorded in Berkshire, though they may be expected, as polychrome jugs are known from Guildford (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, 45, 142-5) and Italian and Spanish mediaeval wares from Oxford.

There appear to have been no differences in style and quality between the pottery in use in the Middle Ages in the towns and in the country villages and farms, that found at Seacourt or Woodperry (Oxon.) being very similar to that of Oxford, and similarly that of Blewbury (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 43, 22) to Wallingford (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 67), that of Hampstead Marshall and West Woodhay to Newbury and that of Earley and Wargrave to Reading. This is not surprising when it is remembered that the evidence suggests that the pottery in this region was made in the country and traded to the towns, and not, as in some places such as Nottingham, made within the town: London similarly was supplied from the wooded areas of Surrey and Essex (G. C. Dunning, *Trans. Eng. Ceramic Circle*, 2, 234-6, 1945).

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIAEVAL POTTERY TYPES IN BERKSHIRE.

The pottery of late Saxon types so far recognised in Berkshire (Fig. 2) is closely related to that of the Cambridge-Bedford-Northampton area, where pottery of this date is now well recognised (*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, 33, 133; 35, 97; 38, 158; *Antiq. J.*, XVI, 407-8). This late Saxon pottery forms part of the background from which the Mediaeval pottery of the region developed, but other traditions besides those of eastern England must have contributed, and a greater knowledge of the late Saxon styles of

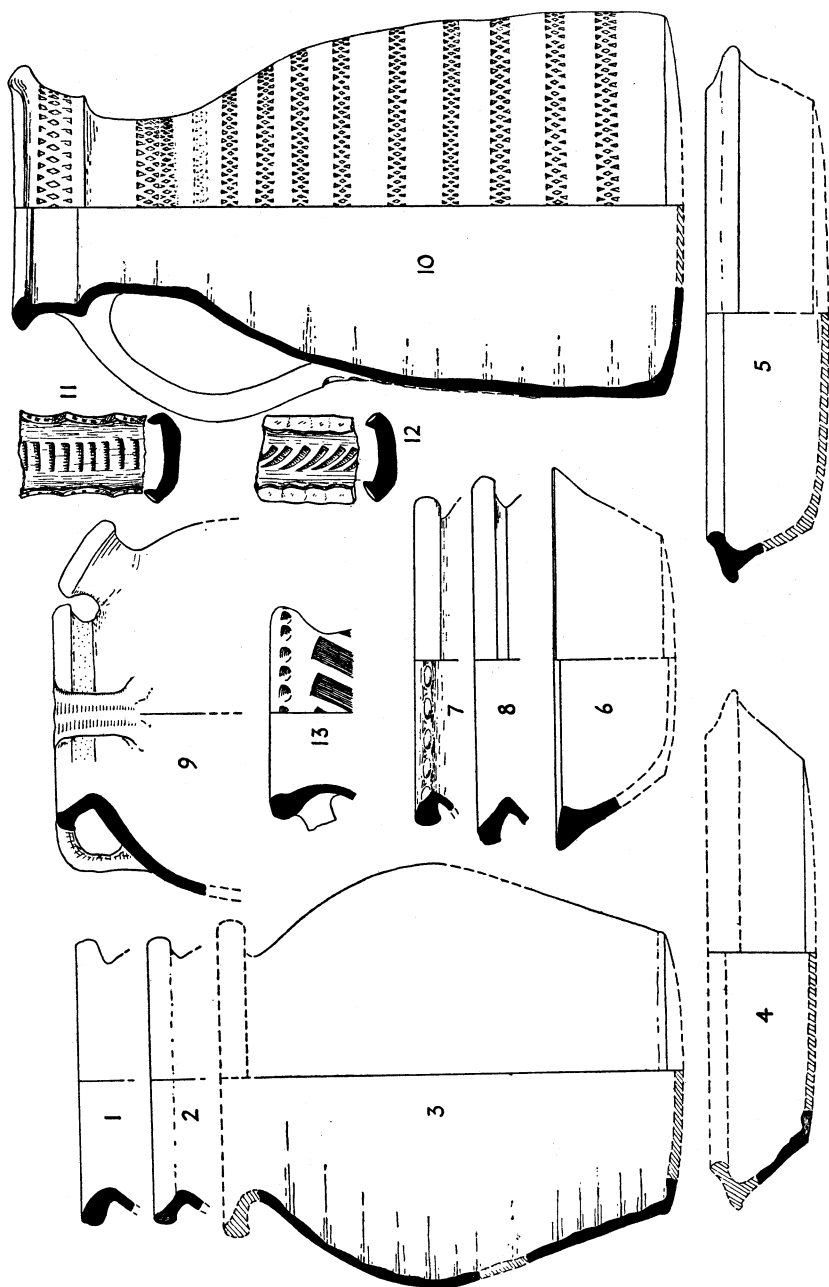


FIG. 2. Pottery of late Saxon (1-9) and 12th century (10-13) type. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, Seacourt; 3, 4, Hinton Waldrist; 8, Longworth; 9, Hedsor; 10, Oxford; 11, 12, Seacourt, also Godstow, Oxford and Avebury; 13, Avebury. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

the London, Hampshire, and Wiltshire areas is desirable. These Berkshire vessels of late Saxon type are of good quality smooth shelly fabric and are wheel-turned, and stand in contrast to the earlier Saxon domestic pottery, such as that from the Sutton Courtenay village (*Archaeologia*, 73, 147 ff.; 76, 59 ff.; 92, 79 ff.). This hand-made earlier style of pottery may have continued in use well on into the Saxon period but in Berkshire the gap between this and the wheel-made late Saxon pottery cannot at present be filled, though it can be in other parts of Britain (*e.g.* Whitby, *Archaeologia*, 89, 27-88).

The Berkshire region has produced pottery of late Saxon type datable by stratification, as well as by analogy with other datable examples. At Hinton Waldrist, in excavating the Mound and Bailey Castle (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 44, 49-60, 1940) a pit was found sealed below the old turf line under the mound (which mound itself contained much 12th cent. pottery). This pit, therefore pre-12th century, contained fragments of a cooking pot and a dish (Fig. 2, 3, 4) comparable in form and fabric with vessels found in pits similarly sealed under the mound of Northampton Castle (*Assoc. Architect. Soc. Repts.*, XVI, 243-51). Between these two places, Deddington Castle has produced similar stratified material (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 167-8). Other similar vessels come from Seacourt (Fig. 2, 1, 2 & 5, *O.U. Arch. Soc. Excav.*, 1937; Fig. 2, 6, Mr. S. A. Opie's excav., 1938), and Oxford and Yarnton (*Oxoniensia*, V, 45-9; X, 97-9).

This pottery, called in the Cambridge area "St. Neot's" ware, is wheel-turned and of a characteristic soapy purplish-brown surfaced shell-filled fabric with a dark, often black, fracture. Two characteristic forms are the tall cooking pot (Fig. 2, 3), and the shallow dish with inturned rim flange (Fig. 2, 4 & 5). Although similar to certain Roman forms, these late Saxon vessels may be distinguished by their fine thin fabric and particularly by their convex bases, a feature of most mediaeval pottery, except jugs from the 13th century onwards. These types were probably derived from Roman forms as they survived in the Rhineland, and were introduced into eastern England from thence in the 8th or 9th century (*Antiq. J.*, XVI, 407-8; *Archaeol. News Letter*, No. 10, Feb. 1949, pt. 3). Their spread south-westwards along the clay vale into the Oxford region, probably in the 11th century, is illustrated in the Map, Fig. 3: such a distribution may be compared with that of some types of early Saxon brooches (E. T. Leeds: *Antiq. J.* XIII, 229-251; *Archaeologia*, 91, 1 ff.). Later in the Middle Ages, from the 13th century, there is much documentary evidence of trading between the Oxford region and the great fairs of eastern England, such as Sturbridge (Cambridge), and this persistent archaeological pattern of cultural continuity along this clay vale may be due to similar trading activity in earlier times.

Late Saxon pottery from the rest of Berkshire is rare. Some of the material from the pile dwellings on the Thames bank at

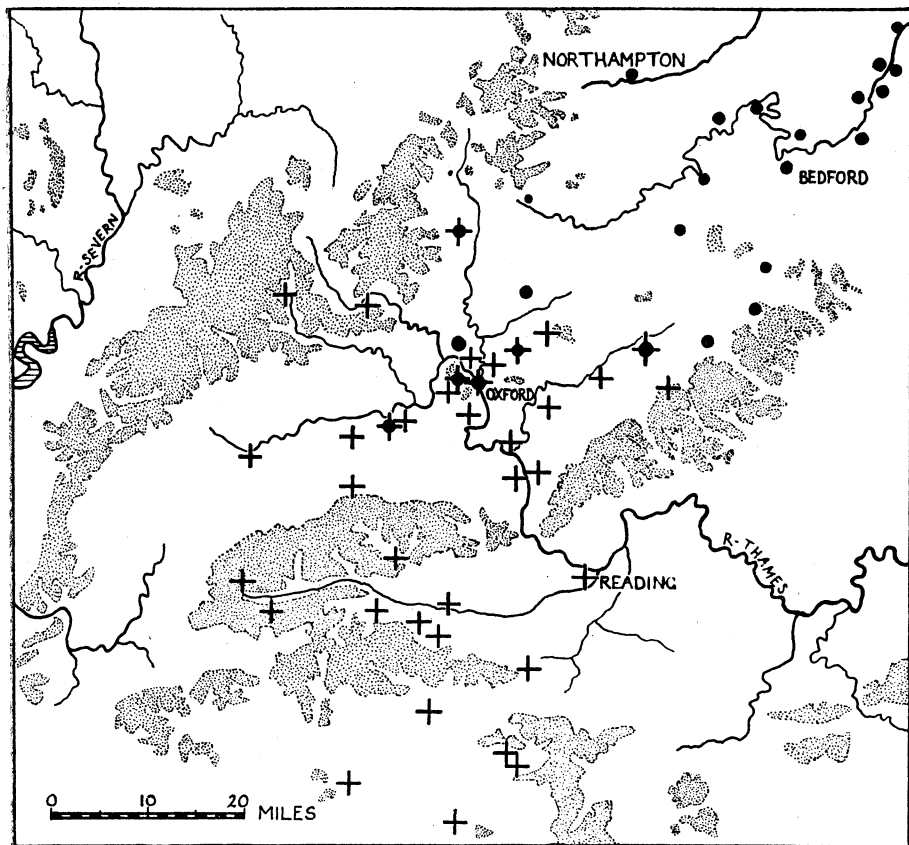


FIG. 3. Distribution of late Saxon type pottery (●) (fig. 2) spreading S-W into the Berkshire area; and of a 12th century dish with inturned rim derived from late Saxon prototypes (÷) (fig. 4).

Hedsor, opposite Cookham, may be of this period : Fig. 2, No. 9 is a spouted pitcher from this site. Other hints of what may appear in the S.-W. of the County as a late Saxon tradition may be seen in the contents of pits at Old Sarum, one of which contained a coin of William I (*Antiq. J.*, XV, 174-194), and sites in Hampshire and Surrey are now producing pottery which may also be of this period. A knowledge of late Saxon pottery is of particular importance for helping to enlighten the history of this period.

The two main pitcher types, the tall and the globular, although derived from late Saxon prototypes, seem only to be represented so far in Berkshire by examples probably of the 12th century. The tall type (Fig. 2, 10, from Oxford) is usually found in N.W. Berkshire, and, like the cooking-pots and dishes described above, may be compared with those of Cambridge and Bedford. Fig. 2, 13 is the top part of one of these jugs from Avebury, Wilts ; Nos. 11 and 12 are from Seacourt (similar ones from Godstow and Oxford and Avebury) and show typical handles. The comb marking, rouletting and finger-pressing are common forms of decoration on these jugs, which are usually of hard fine shelly fabric and unglazed. The baggy globular type (Fig. 7, No. 2, a 13th century example from Cumnor) is perhaps wider in its distribution, and many local variants are known. Mr. Bruce Mitford illustrates (*Oxoniensia*, IV, Pl. X, 1, 1939) a baggy 12th century pitcher typical of N.W. Berkshire, and Fig. 2, 9 shows the top part of a spouted globular pitcher from Hedsor, possibly earlier than 12th century and of a type more usual in S.E. England (e.g. R. E. M. Wheeler, *London and the Saxons*, 158, Nos. 1 & 2 : these are probably 12th century). Such pitchers are unglazed and in N.W. Berkshire are decorated with comb markings, finger-pressing and rouletting like the tall jugs, with similar handles and of similar fabrics (see also *Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, 46, 259-269). The glazed tripod pitcher of the West Country (*Oxoniensia*, IV, 89 ff., 1939 : *Antiq. J.*, XX, 103-112, 1940 ; Fig. 7, 7 & 8 show the tubular spout and tripod base) seems to be a development from this baggy pitcher, extending from the second half of the 12th century through the 13th century. The earlier tripod pitchers are usually of sandy buff or grey fabric with good yellow, or sometimes green, glaze : later, in the 13th century these vessels are of harder finer fabrics. Decoration consists usually of girth grooves, vertical thumbled applied strips and inlaid twisted rope handles. Berkshire examples are known from Seacourt, Abingdon, Wallingford and Newbury (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 190, 1936).

The dishes with inturned rim flanges (Fig. 4, 1-5) are also 12th century derivatives of the late Saxon prototypes most common in eastern England (Fig. 2, 4-5), and the type lasted into the 13th century. The 12th century examples are usually of a hard grey ware with reddish or brown surface, filled with crushed flint and shell, which by the 13th century became finer and with less flint :

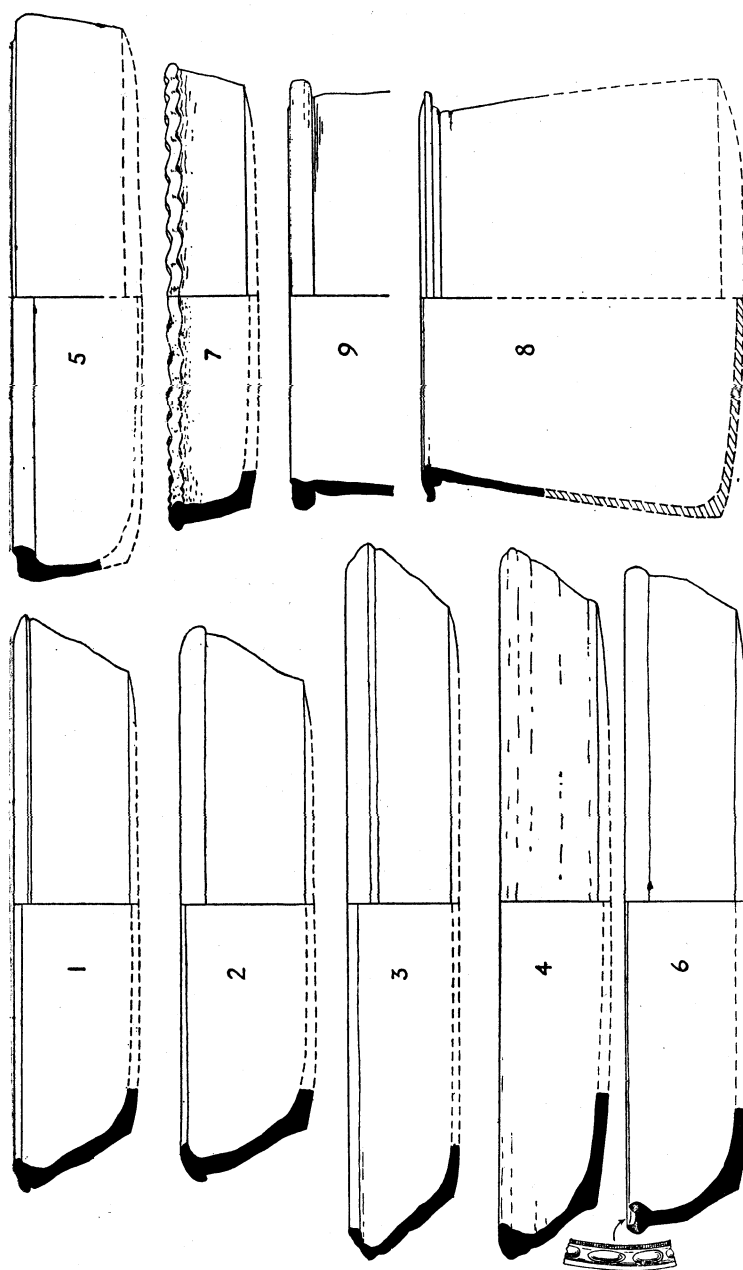


FIG. 4. 12th century shallow dishes (1-7) and cooking pots (8-9). 1, 8, 9, Seacourt; 2, Hampstead Marshall; 3, Reading; 4, near Hungerford; 5, Godstow; 6, Wallingford; 7, Cookham. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

hard sandy wares were also used in the 13th century for these dishes. There are some good examples of this type from West Woodhay (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 261-273, 1937). The Map, Fig. 3, shows the distribution of those 12th century dishes with inturned rim flanges spreading south-westwards and southwards from the area round Oxford. This type follows on in date from the late Saxon prototype and appears to carry on the general south-westward spread of pottery styles in the area at this period. However, this type of dish is also found on other fringes of the Cambridge-Bedford-Northampton area, the cradle of this late Saxon pottery in shelly fabric: there are good examples from Leicester and Lincoln. This map therefore represents only the South-westward spread of the type, but the southern and western limits on the map are set by considerable negative evidence from the London basin, Dorset, Somerset and Gloucestershire.

Other types of large shallow dish of the 12th century are well known, such as those from Wallingford (Fig. 4, 6) and from Cookham (Fig. 4, 7) with finger-tip decoration, the latter of which is a fairly widespread type and may be compared with one from Chichester (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 76, 166, Fig. 5, No. 4, 1936). Another type comes from Dorchester (Oxon.) (*Oxoniensia*, II, 61, Nos. 1, 2, 4). Fig. 8, 9, is a shallow dish probably of 12th or 13th century, with a hollow socket for a wooden handle: this type also has late Saxon ancestors, as at Bedford (and on the continent as at Dorestad, Holland; *Oudhk. Med.*, XI, 73), and a late 13th century example comes from the kilns at Rye, Sussex (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 74, 59, Pl. XI, 4, 1933) and at Bentley, near Farnham (*Country Life*, April 7th, 1944). Later mediaeval shallow dishes are shown in Fig. 9.

It is of interest to see in contemporary manuscript illustrations the uses to which these shallow dishes were put, though sometimes wood or metal vessels may be intended in the drawing. Naturally they were used often for warming milk, serving meat dishes, small roast birds &c., but it is more surprising to find how frequently they are illustrated in use as drinking vessels, for which they would seem most inconvenient (Hartley and Elliot: *Life and Work of the People of England*, 11th-13th cents., Pls. 3a, 9a, 14c, 34a, 39c; 14th cent., Pls. 4d, 9c, 17b, 27c, 41f; 15th cent., Pl. 2a).

The 12th century cooking pot types cannot, unlike other vessel types, be clearly related to late Saxon prototypes, being generally more squat than the latter, though except for one type (Fig. 4, 8 & 9) they generally have the everted rim seen on late Saxon cooking pots, by contrast with earlier Saxon domestic pottery. They also have base angles and the convex bases characteristic of so much mediaeval pottery, made by pressing and working the base after the pot has been removed from the wheel. Mediaeval globular pots (e.g. *Antiq. J.*, XV, 187, 1935) are not so far known from Berkshire. Rim forms are found in great variety upon the same basic vessel shape, plain (Fig. 5, 1, 2, 3) or with finger-tip decoration

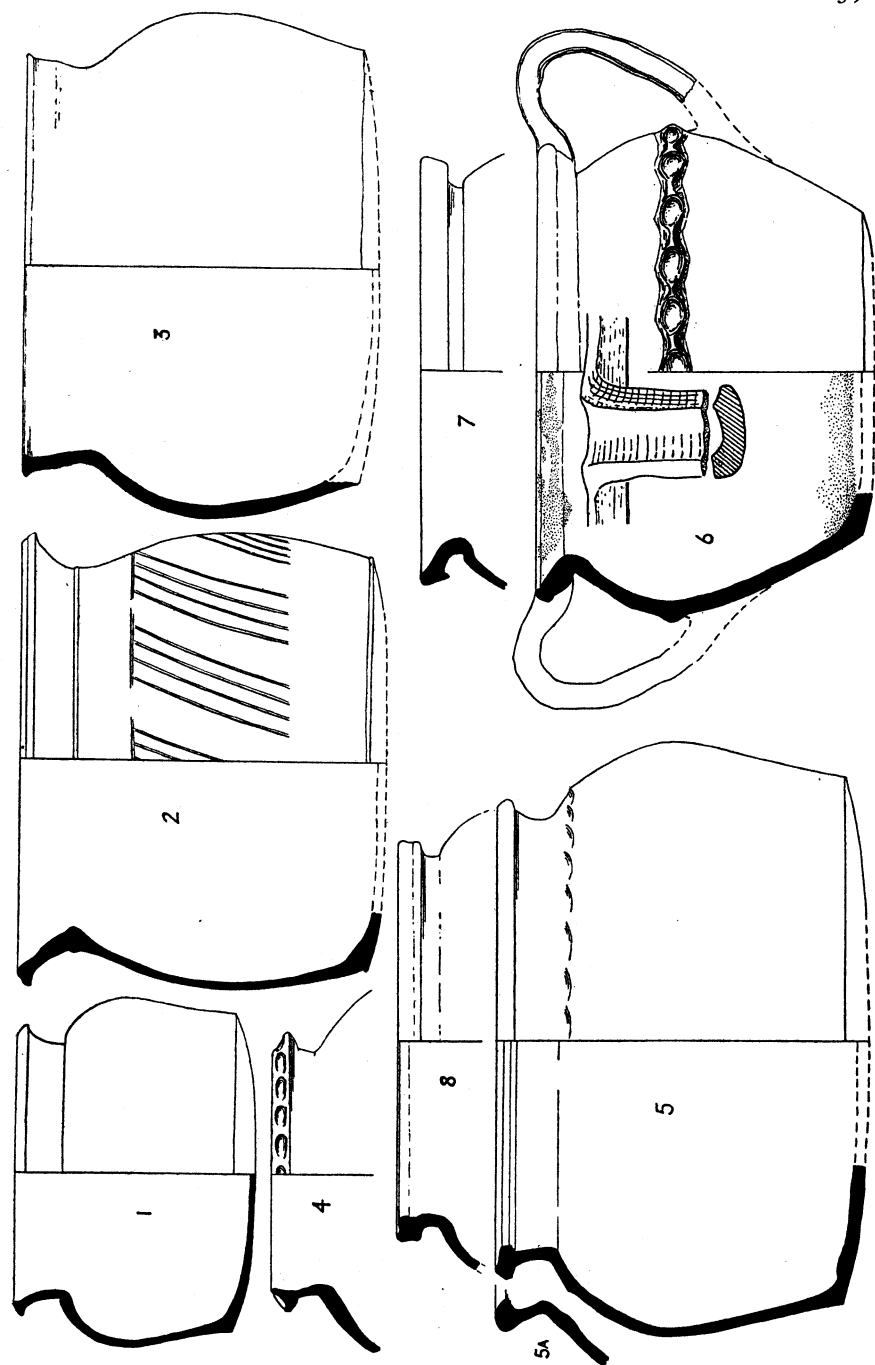


FIG. 5. 12th and 13th century cooking pots. 1, Purley; 2, Reading; 3, Waltham St. Lawrence; 4, 6, Seacourt; 5, 5a, Besselsleigh; 7, Faringdon; 8, Woolstone. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

(Fig. 5, 4; *Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 71, 1938: 44, 56, No. 12, 1940). Surfaces may be decorated with rouletting (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 70, 1938), finger-pressed applied strips (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 44, 56, No. 7, 1940), scratch or comb markings (Fig. 5, 2: markings more like those from old Sarum and Clarendon are also found at Reading: *Antiq. J.*, XV, 187, &c.), or stamped designs (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 71, No. 12, 1938). This general cooking pot shape is universal over most of Britain at this period, but the form of vertical-sided vessel with little or no rim flange and a tendency towards a diameter larger at the base than at the rim (Fig. 4, 8 & 9) seems to have a much more restricted distribution, in the Cotswolds and neighbouring areas (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 169 1946-7). Berkshire examples occur at Seacourt (Fig. 4, Nos. 8 & 9) and Hinton Waldrist (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 44, 59, No. 14, 1940). The reconstructed form is based on complete sections from Bourton-on-the-Water (Glos.) and Deddington (Oxon.) and is well dated to the 12th century at Ascot-under-Wychwood, Deddington, and Oxford, as well as at Hinton Waldrist. Another variety of vertical sided vessel, with everted rim flanges and often deep, is found in the Midlands and Welsh marches (*Antiq. J.*, XV, 331, 1935).

In West Berkshire 12th century cooking pots are usually of a fabric filled with crushed shell, and sometimes flint: by the middle of the century hard sandy wares were being introduced in the Oxford area (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 171, 1946-7). In East Berkshire friable sandy fabrics are more usual throughout the 12th century, though the shell and flint fabric is known.

In the 13th century this same form of cooking pot remained in use, and the rim forms either changed little (Fig. 5, 5a, from Besselsleigh) or became more clubbed (Fig. 5, 3 & 5). Wares became harder than in the 12th century, and sandy fabrics commoner. During the 13th century a characteristic style of vessel developed over a wide area west of Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 73-4, 1942: *Trans. Bristol & Glos. Arch. Soc.*, forthcoming). Fig. 5, 6 is a remarkable 2-handled vessel of this type from Seacourt, and Fig. 5, 7 is one from Faringdon Clump. Most examples are of a fine hard shell-filled ware with a particularly characteristic thin wash of yellow-green glaze round the inner surface of the rim, often opaque yellow due to the presence of unchanged litharge caused by an inadequate second firing. This peculiar glaze often contains an unexpectedly high proportion of tin, and vessels of this type were being made in the kiln at Hunts Mill, Wootton Bassett (*Wilt. Arch. Mag.*, 26, 416, 1892; 28, 283). The existence of large storage jars must also be noted (*Antiq. J.*, XIV, 303-312), as although not so far recorded in Berkshire they are known in the surrounding areas (e.g. Guildford, Oxford, Deddington, Old Sarum) and are therefore to be expected.

Large deep pans (Fig. 6) were in use by the later 12th century (*Oxoniensia*, XIII, in press) and became fairly common in

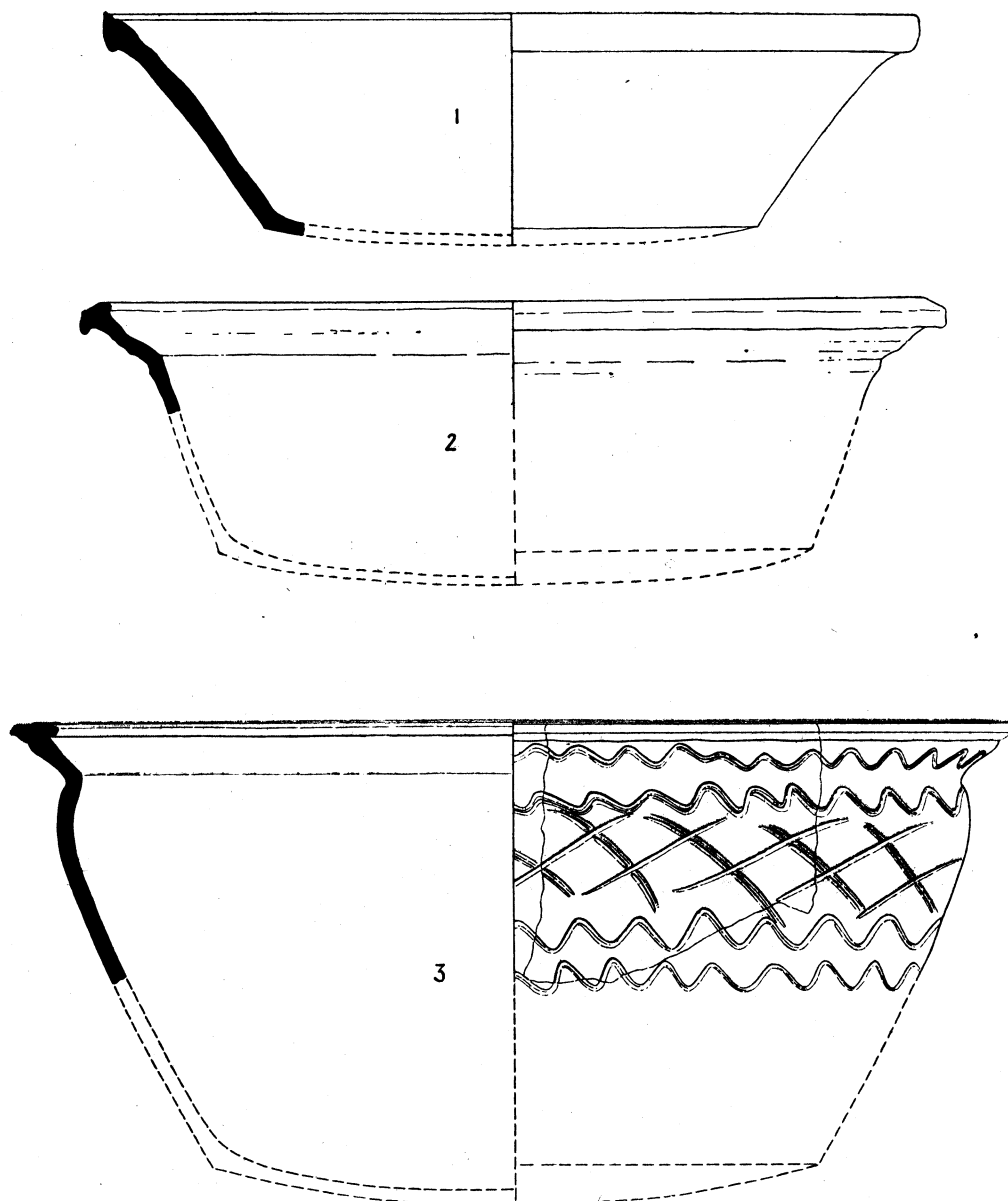


FIG. 6. Large pans of the 13th century. 1, Seacourt and Minster Lovell, Oxon; 2, Sunningwell; 3, Hampstead Marshall. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

the 13th century. Nos. 1, 2 and 3, from Seacourt, Sunningwell and Hampstead Marshall respectively, show the range of forms found in West Berkshire, the Sunningwell example with everted rim being particularly typical of the region (*cp. Oxoniensia*, VIII-IX, 103; esp. No. 1), other examples being known from Seacourt, Hampstead Marshall, West Woodhay, Oxford and Avebury.

In the 14th century cooking pots became stiffer in form with a tendency to more angular rim profiles, often perhaps worked with a tool rather than the hand, as those from Seacourt, made at Brill (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 74-5; X, 96): but the convex base was retained on such vessels right through to the end of the Middle Ages, either because it was found to withstand heating better than a flat base, or merely out of sheer conservatism. In the east the influence of the London area style of vertical neck and flattened rim flange is noticeable (Fig. 9, 2 from Tittle Row, Maidenhead). Fig. 9, No. 1 is a fine example of a typical east Berkshire cooking pot, probably of the 14th century, from Maidenhead: it is of a fairly hard fine fabric and has a wash of glaze internally at the base. By the 14th century cooking pot fabrics had become much harder, approaching those of the later 13th century pitchers: some pitchers by the 14th century however, began to be fired so hard as to approach a stone ware (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 78-9). Large pans, both shallow and deep, continued in use in the 14th century, usually made in a hard fired sandy fabric. Fig. 9, No. 6 shows a large shallow pan from Hedsor, with a striking notched decoration round the basal angle, paralleled closely from Shefford, Bedfordshire (*Trans. E. Herts. Arch. Soc.*, IX, 33-7, No. 13) and Bedford (*Bedf. Mod. Sch. Mus.*).

The thirteenth century saw great developments in pitcher forms. The baggy plastic forms continued (Fig. 7, 2, 3) but beside them waisted forms were introduced (Fig. 7, 1). These attained particular elegance in the Baluster jug of the late 13th century, varied styles of which have a marked regional character. Fig. 7, 1 from Reading (*cp. Berks. Arch. J.*, 27, Pl facing p. 158, from Broad St. Reading) and Fig. 7, 2 from Abingdon both closely resemble Oxford type with its slender elegant form, and angular rim, and may well have been made in the same kilns as those found in Oxford: the thumb and finger impression at the top of the handle of No. 1 is a particular feature of the jugs from the Brill kilns, and is otherwise uncommon in the region. This baluster jug form is in striking contrast to the characteristic bulbous London type (*Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.*, 216, No. 5: Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. 16), not so far known outside London itself, or the awkward barrel form with no waist, of Worcester, the splay feet of Nottingham or the slender refined but simple beauty of the York type (Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pls. 62, 63). Around Oxford, a "double decker" style of decorated jug is found, some

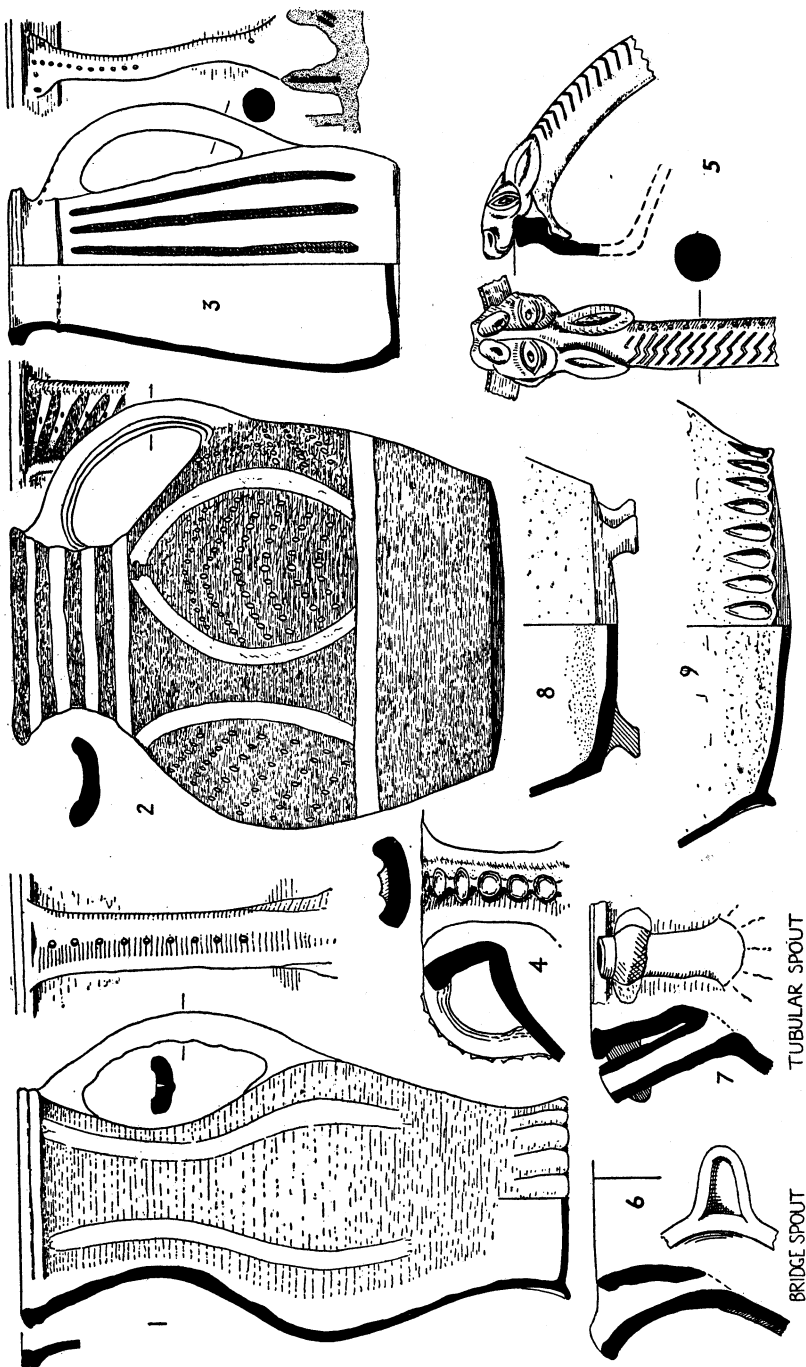


Fig. 7. 13th century pitchers: 1, 5, Reading; 2, Cunmor and Oxford; 3, Oxford and Seacourt; 4, 6, 8, Wallingford; 7, Abingdon; 9, Maidenhead. (Scale 4).

of which were made at Brill (*Antiq. J.*, XVI, 177, 1a; *Oxoniensia*, III, Pl. XIX, 3; X, 96). Thumb-pressed bases (Fig. 7, 1, 9) were introduced over most of England early in the 13th century (*Antiq. J.*, XV, 330-5, 1935) and continued in fashion in some degree until the end of the Middle Ages. The tripod bases (Fig. 7, No. 8) originating on the baggy pitchers of the 12th century also continued in the 13th century, but probably not later, and jugs tend to become common with flat or even slightly concave bases (Fig. 7, 3 &c.). Handles are round or strap in section, often decorated (Fig. 7). Pitchers of this period commonly have pinched lips (Fig. 7, 1, 2, 3) or even no lip at all (Fig. 8, Nos. 3, 4) but tubular (Fig. 7, 7) or bridge spouts (Fig. 7, 6 from Wallingford), the former being a legacy from the 12th century and the latter introduced during the 13th century. By the 13th century jugs were usually of a hard sandy ware, and nearly always glazed.

The most profuse decoration was developed on the pitchers of the 13th century throughout England, and although there are many features widely distributed, at any rate in the south, there are also many characteristic local variations to be found. Patterns of applied strips abound, often in contrasting colours, either parallel verticals (Fig. 7, 3), crossing, or spirals (*Oxoniensia*, IV, 102, K; VII, 72, Nos. 5, 6, 8). Rouletting along the strips with the pattern square to the line of the strip (Fig. 7, 3) is a great Oxford region feature: elsewhere the rouletting is often only a serration, and often set diagonally to the strip (Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pls. A, 73). Punched holes are common, sometimes surrounded by an incised circle, especially on the backs of handles (Fig. 7, Nos. 1, 3; Fig. 8, No. 3), or at the intersects of applied strips, and slashing down the backs of strap handles is common (Fig. 8, 2). Individual stamps were not so common at this period, but were used sometimes, as at the kiln at Bentley near Farnham (*Country Life*, April 7th, 1944); combed decorations, however, went out of fashion. It is in the plastic moulding of this period that some of the mediaeval potters' highest artistic achievements are seen, especially in animal forms (Fig. 7, 5; Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. 61, cp. large squat jug at Reading), or human faces (Tailpiece, cp. Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. 49; also Pls. 46, 47: *Oxoniensia*, IV, 102, K; VII, 72, No. 2: F. Cottrill, *Treasures of Winchester* (1946), 7), and also in the simpler plant forms (*Antiq. J.*, XVII, 415, &c.). Painted decoration, usually white on a dark ground, is found in Berkshire at this period (Fig. 7, 1, Reading; Fig. 7, 2, Cumnor and Oxford) though the later painted wares of the London area, such as those made in the Cheam kilns (Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. C) are not at present known so far west as Berkshire. The artistic quality of the jugs of this period is well illustrated in Mr. Rackham's recent book, *Mediaeval English Pottery*.

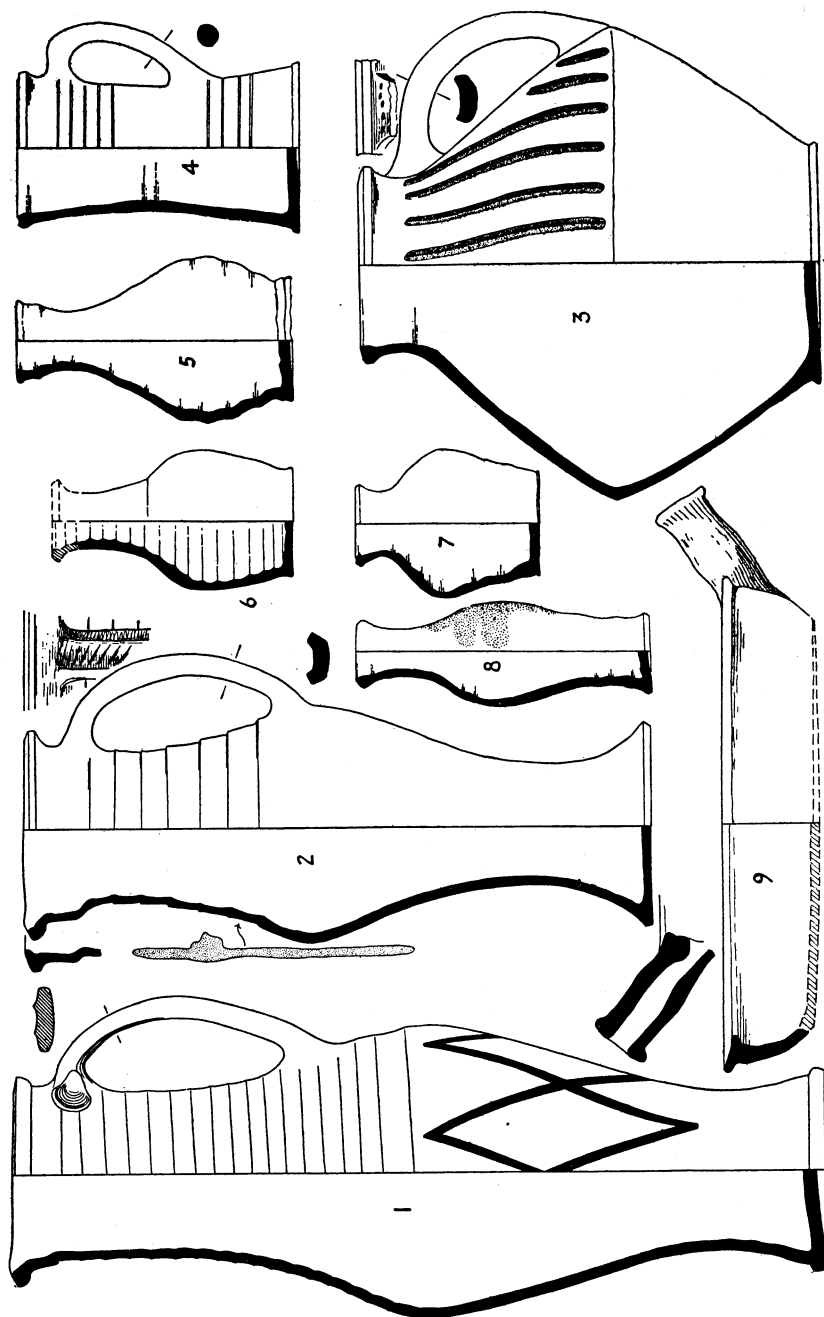


FIG. 8. Late 13th and 14th century pitchers, jugs, bottles and dish. 1, Reading; 2, Abingdon; 3, Seacourt and Oxford; 4, 5, Oxford; 6, Southcote; 7, Maidenhead; 8, Seacourt; 9, Preston Crowmarsh, nr. Wallingford. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

By the end of the 13th or early 14th century a severer mood had set in, seen already in the Baluster jugs. Decoration was reduced to a minimum, such as a few plain applied strips (Fig. 8, 3), or nothing more than girth grooves (Fig. 8, 4). Forms tended to become more angular and lost their plastic quality, perhaps due to an increasing use of tools in throwing: some vessels have a lathe turned appearance (Fig. 8, 1, 2, 4; *Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.*, 216, No. 1, &c.). Pottery bottles were in use by the late 13th century, and continued through the 14th and probably later (Fig. 8, 5, 6, 7, 8, from Oxford, Southcote, Maidenhead and Seacourt). For pitchers flat or slightly concave bases and hard fine fabrics, sometimes almost like stoneware, were usual. Glazes tended to become patchy, often a dirty brown, or else transparent copiously speckled with green.

The craft of pitcher making flowered into an art during the 13th century, but during the 14th century returned once more to a craft, probably under the industrialising influences as seen in tool turning and standard graded sizes of a particular shape, which were a consequence of the great social and economic changes of the period (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 74 f.). There is no real evidence from the study of the pottery to suggest that the Black Death was particularly responsible for this change: as with the social and economic changes (Levett and Ballard: *The Black Death* (1916); *Cambridge Hist. Journ.*, VII, 23-41, 1941), the change in pottery styles appears to have set in during the half century before the Black Death of 1349, and the recurrent pestilences probably merely speeded up the changes already well under way.

Later Mediaeval pottery, which can be attributed to the later 14th and 15th centuries, is much scarcer than that of the preceding three centuries. This may be due in part to the increased durability of the wares themselves, and in part perhaps to the more widespread use of metal vessels, though these were in considerable use from the 12th century onwards; but it may also be due to the fact that much pottery of this period has not yet been recognised as such. I have shown that a group of pottery, retaining many mediaeval characteristics, and of a hard buff fabric, found on many sites in Oxford, was in use in the later years of the 14th and 15th centuries (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 76-9; *Oriel Record*, Jan. 1942), and some of this type of pottery is known from various Berkshire sites (Fig. 9, 9, Hurley, Fig. 9, 10, Longworth, and also Seacourt). The hard fabrics and painted wares of the London region (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, 35, 79; Cheam) may well be found in east Berkshire, though not yet recorded so far west; painted wares of this period do not appear either in the west of the County. Fig. 9, 3, 4 and 5 are pans of hard fabric from Reading, Cookham and Hedsor, which may be compared with those from Cheam; the influence of an earlier style is apparent, especially in Fig. 9, 4, though the whole moulding is much sharper and more angular. Fig. 9, 7 is a typical

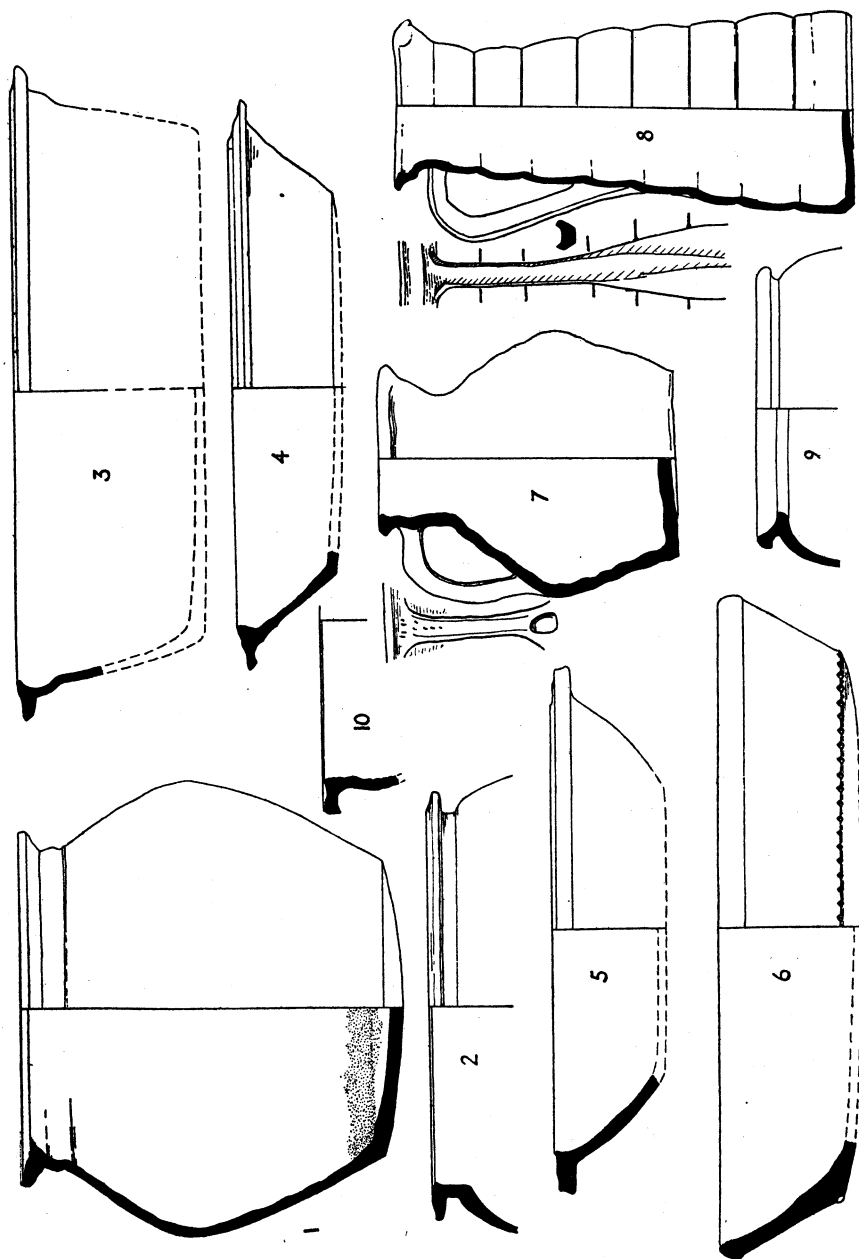


FIG. 9. Late mediaeval pottery. 1, 2, Maidenhead; 3, 7, 8, Reading; 4, Cookham; 5, 6, Hedsor; 9, Hurley; 10, Longworth. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

late mediaeval small jug from Reading Gasworks, devoid of decoration except a simple finger pressing at the base of the handle, and glaze in patches only. By the later Middle Ages glaze is generally only sparingly used, often confined to a bib beneath the lip. Fig. 9, No. 8 is a jug from Reading, of fine white fabric and a bib of bright green glaze. Such 15th century wares show the transition into the typical "Tudor" pottery, with its fine white fabrics and even green or yellow glazes, which was coming into use during the later years of the 15th century (Rackham: *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pls. C, 44-5, and review of this in *Oxoniensia* XIII). It must be remembered that coarse brown pottery, often with a rough treacly glaze, continued to be made at places like Brill (Bucks) and Leafield (Oxon.) into the 19th century, often with little change from earlier forms, which were after all often those most natural to the potter's hands. Nevertheless, the combined evidence of all features form, decoration, fabric and glaze make it usually possible to distinguish mediaeval pottery with some certainty.

FABRICS. The development of fabrics used for mediaeval pottery in Berkshire may be summarised as follows. Vessels of the late Saxon type found in the Oxford region, including N.W. Berkshire, were thrown on a fairly fast wheel and show marked internal rilling: they are of a grey or black fine fabric containing much white flecking of crushed shell, and a smooth, often soapy surface usually of a purplish-brown colour, but varying sometimes from grey to light red. These fabrics are exactly comparable with those of vessels of similar forms at Northampton, Bedford or Cambridge. Later, by the 12th century, the wheel thrown appearance becomes less obvious and irregular marks of finger pressure appear, the vessels having been much worked over by hand after initial throwing on a slow wheel, and the fabrics are often much coarser than those of the late Saxon types, though sometimes harder fired, and fair sized lumps of crushed flint or stone are found protruding from the surface. Towards the middle of the 12th century hard sandy wares began to be used for cooking pots in the Oxford region (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 171) but in the east of the County sandy wares were used before the middle of the 12th century more frequently than shell filled wares, a softer sandy ware even on vessels of late Saxon styles. By the 13th century the shell filled wares had been developed in the west of the County into a fine hard-fired ware, often with a thin wash of yellow or greenish glaze, and hard sandy wares were also usual on cooking pots. The shell filled fabric went out of use by the 14th century and the sandy wares became harder fired, becoming gradually finer in texture until by the 15th century the fabrics of cooking pottery were equivalent to fine wares used on pitchers in the 14th century.

In the 11th and earlier 12th centuries pitcher fabrics were little different from those of cooking pots, but by the middle of the 12th century sandy wares with good glaze began to be used, for instance on tripod pitchers and jugs, an influence probably spreading from the north-east. During the 13th century these sandy wares became much harder, and finely levigated wares came into use, which during the 14th century were sometimes fired hard enough to have almost the metallic ring of a stoneware. In the 15th century besides these hard wares there appeared a characteristic fine orange-buff fabric (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 76-9). In the east of the county hard whitish fabrics began to be used by the 14th century, often with splashes of green glaze, and these led gradually into the typical fine whitish "Tudor" wares with bright green or yellow glaze.

GLAZE. The technique of lead glazing on pottery was used in Roman times in Britain (Grimes, *Roman Legionary Fortress at Holt, Denbighshire*, 175 ff.) and although it was in continuous use in the eastern Mediterranean from Roman times into the Middle Ages, the technique seems to have fallen out of use in western Europe before the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, and was reintroduced, apparently into eastern Britain, in the late Saxon period (*Archaeological News Letter*, Feb. 1949). The use of glazing does not appear however to have spread out of eastern England until, perhaps, the beginning of the Norman period (*Oxoniensia*, V, 42-5; XIII, in press; *Antiq. J.*, XV, 174-192). The earliest glazes found in the Berkshire region are thin fine lemon-yellow even washes covering the entire vessel, though more blotchy glazes are sometimes found on early tripod pitchers. The profusely decorated pitchers of the 13th century were usually completely covered with glaze, yellow, orange, or green, but by the 14th century glaze seems to have been more sparingly used, often as a single patch, such as a bib under the lip, and this tendency continued into the 15th century. The glaze had thus become non-functional, as only by covering completely either the interior or exterior surface of the vessel could it render the fabric impervious to water. By the 13th century glaze is found sometimes on the base of the interior of cooking pots and large pans (Fig. 5, 6; Fig. 9, 1), and on pitchers and bottles the characteristic transparent yellowish glaze speckled with green is commonly found.

These mediaeval glazes appear always to be lead glazes,* probably produced by dusting the surface of the pot with powdered galena after the first firing, followed by a second firing, in which a glassy lead silicate was formed with the silica of the fabric. This is true even of the imported French "polychrome" vessels, which do not have a "tin" glaze, as stated by Arthur Lane (*French*

* I have analyzed spectographically some 40 specimens of mediaeval glazes

Faience, pl. I), though their glaze does contain a greater proportion of tin than usual (of the order 3%).* This larger proportion of tin is also found in the thin washes of poorly fired glaze found in the 13th century, such as those round the inner rim surface of cooking pots (Fig. 5, 6, 7): this may be the result of the use at one particular kiln of some particular process, such as the use of an oxide prepared from pewter instead of pure lead or galena, and analyses might be used to trace the products of the kiln. I have found this high proportion of tin on vessels with this characteristic poorly fired glaze from Oxford, Faringdon, Seacourt and Avebury; similar types of vessel were being made at the Wootton Bassett kiln, but many more analyses are required to reveal the real significance of this high tin content. Green colours in glazes were produced by copper, probably dusted on in the form of filings; in the case of the speckled glazes each particle of copper gave rise to a green spot. Brownish or orange colours were produced by iron, and the dark purplish or almost metallic glazes which usually go by the name of "manganese" were often produced by an excessive amount of iron oxide in the glaze, fired in a reducing kiln.

DATING OF MEDIAEVAL POTTERY IN BERKSHIRE. Even though in Berkshire there are comparatively few datable groups of mediaeval pottery recorded, much can be done with what does exist, considered in conjunction with datable groups of pottery in adjacent areas.

For pottery of late Saxon type an indication of date is provided by material sealed in pits beneath Norman castle mounds, as at Hinton Waldrist or Northampton, by sites such as Deddington Castle with long occupation, where stratified layers have been extensively excavated, and by analogy with material further to the east in the Bedford-Cambridge region. For the Norman period dating evidence is provided largely by excavated mound and bailey Castles. Some, such as Ascot D'Oilly (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 165-7) are datable by documentary evidence, but all mound and bailey castles in south England presumably belong to this period, and there is now archaeological material from a number in the Berkshire area,† though there are few examples of this type of castle recognisable in Berkshire itself. There is also much stratified or coin associated pottery of this period from such places as Oxford, Aylesbury (*Rec. Bucks. XI*, 282), Old Sarum, Clarendon Palace and Deddington Castle.

* I have analyzed three glaze specimens from this ware: see also *Archaeologia* 83, 126.

† A few may be listed: Ascot Doilly *Oxoniensia* XI-XII, 165-7), Deddington (*Ibid*, 167-8), Hinton Waldrist (*Berks. Arch. J.* 44, 49-60), Swerford (*Proc. Oxfordshire Archeol. Soc.* 1938) Cymbeline's Mount, Weston Turville and Lavendon (Records of Bucks forthcoming), Middleton Stony (*Oxoniensia* XIII.)

The problem of Faringdon Clump must be discussed. Mr. Leeds has identified this site with the "castle" of Robert of Gloucester occupied as a temporary fortified post for about six months in 1144 and then abandoned (*Antiq. J.*, XVI, 165; XVII, 294). The pottery from the excavations has unfortunately never been published, but its acceptance as a mid-12th century group would introduce chaos into the study of early mediaeval pottery, as this could not be reconciled with the dating system which has been built up based upon numerous datable deposits over the whole country (see also *Oxoniensia*, IV, 140-4). Mr. Leeds argues that local variations may be so great that comparisons between one area and another may not be valid, but a normal southern English series of 12th and 13th century pottery can be made up from sites within 10 miles of Faringdon, and this argument seems hardly to apply. The material excavated at Faringdon Clump (now in the Ashmolean) in fact contains mostly pottery which would otherwise have been dated with some confidence to the 13th century, e.g. Fig. 5, 7, and only a few sherds bear any resemblance to the good 12th century pottery series from Hinton Waldrist, 5 miles away. Although the dating of fine grade decorated jugs has been pushed back in recent years to the beginning of the 13th century (e.g. *Antiq. J.*, XV, 330-5; *Oxoniensia*, IV, 89-146), it can hardly be extended back to the middle of the 12th. It is not difficult to think of reasons for the failure of such a documentary identification to agree with the archaeological data: for instance, it would be unreasonable to expect such a quantity of finest grade pottery in a temporary camp occupied by soldiers for 6 months only, and there presumably must have been some apparently unrecorded later occupation of this site. At any rate, Faringdon Clump must act as a warning of the problems liable to arise if the documentary history of a site cannot be extended adequately throughout the Middle Ages, should an attempt be made to correlate one documentary reference to it with the bulk of the archaeological material from its excavation.

From the later 12th to the 14th century the pottery series from wells in Oxford is useful (*Oxoniensia*, IV, 89-146), and finds from deserted village sites may sometimes be fixed as being probably before a certain date, such as Seacourt, where there were only 2 houses left, both distant from the Church, in 1436 (*Oxoniensia*, V, 31-41). Finds from other sites in Oxford, from London, and from Deddington Castle, also help in this period, as will the full publication of the excavations at Clarendon Palace (*cp. Antiq. J.*, XVI, 55-84).

There is a great lack of datable late 14th and 15th century pottery throughout most of Britain, but Bodiam Castle (Sussex) has a good series, all presumably post-1385 (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 76, 223ff.). I have identified a late 14th-15th century style of pottery found in the Oxford region, including many Berkshire sites (Seacourt, for instance), and comparisons with the London material is useful for the east of the County. The introduction

of the typical "Tudor" styles, with fine whitish paste and bright green or yellow glaze still requires close dating, but it seems to have come into use a little before 1500: part of such a vessel was found at All Souls' College, Oxford, beneath the builders' debris layers associated with the building of the old cloister in 1495.

Throughout the whole period much valuable information can be obtained by correlating associated groups from different sites where they are not necessarily independently datable (*e.g.* the system used for the Wells on the New Bodleian site, Oxford, *Oxoniensia*, IV, 89-146). Datable material at all periods is very much needed from east Berkshire. Attention must particularly be drawn to Mr. Dunning's valuable series of articles on the dating of mediaeval pottery in the *Archaeological News Letter*, commencing Feb. 1949.

In addition to the standard types of vessels described above, pottery was used during the Middle Ages for making other objects, such as clay lamps, costrels and decorated chimney pots (of which there is a fine example in the Reading Museum). But its main use is for these common vessels and it is such that comprise the overwhelming bulk of material from mediaeval excavations.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

There is no full general account of English mediaeval pottery, but a short account of its dating by Mr. G. C. Dunning is appearing serially in the *Archaeological News Letter*, starting in Feb. 1949, and there are excellent accounts by him of particular areas in *Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.* (1940) and *The Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (*Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep.*, 1948). Mr. Bernard Rackham's *Mediaeval English Pottery* (1948) has a good set of photographs, almost all of jugs, and pls. C and D are particularly good colour illustrations of a Cheam kiln pitcher and a small late mediaeval green glazed jug, but the text is written purely from an aesthetic viewpoint and is inadequate as a discussion of the pottery illustrated. It is still true that a knowledge of mediaeval pottery can only be acquired from the numerous papers scattered through the journals; and indispensable, of course, is continual study of the pottery itself.

Find Spots of Mediaeval Pottery in Berkshire, numbered in Fig. 1.

R.M.=Reading Museum; A.M.=Ashmolean Museum, Oxford;

N.M.=Newbury Museum.

1. ABINGDON: R.M., A.M., Abingdon Town Hall: a fair amount of pottery representative of the whole mediaeval period (Fig. 7, 7; Fig. 8, 2; Tailpiece).
2. BESSELSLEIGH: A.M., two 13th century cooking pots from Rowleigh Farm (Fig. 5, 5A) (*Ash. Mus. Rep.*, 1937, 20).
3. BLEWBURY: R.M., 12th century fragments from village (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 43, 22, 1939).
4. BOXFORD: N.M., fragments from Fuller's bungalow (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 50, 1946).
5. CHOLSEY: Surface finds from "Silsbury Hill" (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 20, 1938).
6. COOKHAM: Maidenhead Museum, much pottery, 12th to 15th centuries, from Hill Grove Wood and Gibraltar Meadow (Stephen Darby, *Hist. Cookham* (1909), 20-1; 25) (Fig. 4, 7; Fig. 9, 4). Also pottery in Aylesbury Mus. from pile dwellings on opposite bank of the river at Hedsor, all of which appears to be post-Roman (Fig. 2, 9; Fig. 9, 5, 6. *Rec. Bucks*, VII).

7. COOMBE : N.M., fragments from Walbury Camp (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 52, 1946).
8. CUCKHAMLEY : Several fragments of mediaeval pottery from Cuckhamley Barrow (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 90-108).
9. CUMNOR : A.M., surface finds from churchyard and from the adjacent site of Cumnor Place, a grange of the Abbots of Abingdon : collected 1938-43 by Mr. John Daniell and myself (Fig. 7, 2).
10. EARLEY : R.M., fragments 12th to 14th centuries.
11. EAST GARSTON : N.M., fragments from excavations in cultivation terraces (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 133).
12. ENBORNE : N.M., 5 fragments from Cope Hill (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 41, 33, 1937), and from a gravel pit (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 133).
13. FARINGDON : A.M., pottery from Faringdon Clump (p. above, Fig. 5, 7; *Antiq. J.*, XVI, 165ff.; XVII, 2 4ff.; none of the pottery has been published before, however).
14. GODSTOW : A.M., pottery representative of the whole mediaeval period from Oxf. Univ. Arch. Soc. excavations at Godstow Nunnery (Fig. 2, 11; Fig. 4, 5).
15. HAMPSTEAD MARSHALL : N.M., much 12th and 13th century pottery from Mr. Jervoise's excavations (Fig. 4, 2; Fig. 6, 3).
16. HINKSEY, NORTH : A.M., 12th-14th century fragments from roadside bank near Church (*Oxoniensia*, X, 97, 1945).
17. HINTON WALDRIST : A.M., and at Hinton; mainly early mediaeval pottery from the mound and bailey Castle : some later mediaeval from the grounds and from a section cut through a roadway running south from here (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 44, 49-60, 1940; Fig. 1, 3, 4).
18. HURLEY : R.M., and some at Hurley Priory (Fig. 9, 9; *Berks. Arch. J.*, 38, 10; 41, 40; no illustrations).
19. KINTBURY : N.M., late mediaeval fragments (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 53), and parts of a large shallow dish (Fig. 4, 4) found by Mr. P. D. R. Williams-Hunt in a gravel pit on the Hungerford-Inkpen road.
20. LAMBOURN : N.M., base of green glazed jug (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 54).
21. LONGWORTH : A.M., much 12th to 15th century pottery from Drew's Nurseries and Bow Barn, 1948 (Fig. 9, 10; *Oxoniensia*, XIII.).
22. MAIDENHEAD : Maidenhead Museum, much mediaeval pottery from many sites in and around Maidenhead (Fig. 7, 9; Fig. 8, 7; Fig. 9, 1, 2).
23. MEMBURY : Mediaeval pottery from Mr. Grimes' excavations (*Antiq. J.*, XXVIII, 33).
24. NEWBURY : N.M., pottery from the whole mediaeval period (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 133, 190; *Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 55).
25. PEASEMORE : N.M., late mediaeval pottery fragments (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 41, 33, 1937).
26. PURLEY : R.M., 12th century cooking pot from Thames (Fig. 5, 1).
27. READING : R.M., large collection from many sites in Reading (Fig. 4, Fig. 5, 2; Fig. 7, 1; Fig. 8, 1; Fig. 9, 3, 7, 8; *Berks. Arch. J.*, 37, 155ff.).
28. SEACOURT : A.M., much pottery from excavations on the deserted village site, 1937-9 (Fig. 1, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12; Fig. 4, 8, 9; Fig. 5, 4, 6; Fig. 6, 1; Fig. 8, 8; *Oxoniensia*, V, 31-41; VII, 74-5; VIII-IX, 102-6).
29. SHEFFORD : N.M., 12th to 13th century fragments (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 41, 33, 1937).
30. SONNING : R.M., much pottery from excavations of the Palace of the Bishops of Salisbury (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 22, 10; no pottery published).
31. SOUTHCOTE : R.M., a bottle from Southcote Moat (Fig. 8, 6).
32. SPEEN : N.M., 13th century fragments from Woodspeen, similar to those from West Woodhay and Hampstead Marshall (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 57).
33. SUNNINGWELL : A.M., fragments of early mediaeval pottery and sharpening stone found in digging house foundations (Fig. 6, 2; cp. also Fig. 4, 1; *Oxoniensia* III, 168).

34. SUTTON COURTENAY: A.M. and Brit. Mus., fragments of 13th century jugs including a remarkable one in Brit. Mus. with decoration more of London type (*cp.* Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, Pl. 78, 79).
35. TUBNEY: Finds from Manor Farm (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 58).
36. WALLINGFORD: A.M., R.M., also much mediaeval pottery in Mr. Hedges' museum at the Castle, and there should be some in what used to be the Town Museum Collection (Fig. 4, 6; Fig. 7, 4, 6, 8; *Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 67, 1938).
37. WALTHAM ST. LAWRENCE: Hambleden Museum, large part of a 12th century cooking pit from churchyard (Fig. 5, 3).
38. WARGRAVE: R.M., recent finds from Borough Farm, to be described in *Berks. Arch. J.*, 51.
39. WELFORD: fragments of early mediaeval pottery from Easton Farm (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 49, 59).
40. WEST WOODHAY: N.M., much 12th and 13th century pottery from Mr. Jervoise's excavations (*Trans. Newbury D.F.C.*, VII, 261, 1937).
41. WOOLSTONE: A.M., surface finds from gardens in the village, 1938 (Fig. 5, 8).

Description of Pottery Illustrated.

A.M.=Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; R.M.=Reading Museum;

N.M.=Newbury Museum.

Fig. 2 : Pottery of late Saxon types (1-9) and 12th century pitchers (10-13).

- 1, 2, cooking pot rims from Seacourt (O.U. Arch. Soc. excavations, 1937). Dark purplish-brown soapy surface and almost black core filled with white crushed shell: this fabric is typical of the late Saxon types in the Bedford-Cambridge region (A.M.).
- 3, 4, parts of cooking pot and base of shallow dish from pit sealed under turf line beneath mound at Hinton Waldrist (*cp.* *Berks. Arch. J.*, 44, 49-60). Fabric similar to 1 & 2, but a little harder (A.M.).
- 5, 6, 7, from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations, 1938). 5 is an inturned rim flange of a shallow dish of hard shell filled grey ware with smooth, soapy light red surface (*cp.* Yarnton, *Oxoniensia*, X, 97-9). 6 is a rim of a small bowl of soft fabric as 1 and 2 with a fine purplish soapy surface. 7 is a cooking pot rim of hard grey shell filled fabric with light red surface, probably a derivative of the late Saxon type, 1 and 2 (A.M.).
- 8, from Longworth (Drew's Nurseries 1948) is very similar to No. 7 only a little softer and smoother.
- 9, is the top part of a pitcher with spout and originally perhaps with 3 handles, from the pile dwellings at Hedsor (*Rec. Bucks.*, VII). of dark friable sandy ware. Aylesbury Museum.
- 10, pitcher, probably 12th century, from Radcliffe Square, Oxford, derived from late Saxon type. Of hard light grey shell-filled fabric and light red surface, decorated with diamond pattern rouletted bands on the body and comb markings on the handle, and thumb pressed applied strips leading downwards from base of handle: pinched lip (see *Oxoniensia*, V, pl. XI, for photo). This type occurs frequently on N.W. Berkshire sites.
- 11, 12, strap handles of pitchers as No. 10 and globular type of *Oxoniensia*, IV, pl. X, 1; examples of 11 from Seacourt, Godstow and Oxford; of 12 from Seacourt, and Avebury, Wilts.
- 13, top of pitcher with combed decoration, from Avebury, Wilts. Hard grey shell and flint filled fabric.

Fig. 4. 12th century shallow dishes and cooking pots.

- 1-5, shallow dishes with inturned rim flange, derived from late Saxon prototypes, Fig. 2, 4, 5. For distribution of this type, see Fig. 3. All are of fairly hard shell and flint filled fabric, brown or grey. 1, from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938); brown surface, grey core (A.M.).

- 2, from Hampstead Marshall; reddish surface, grey core (N.M.).
- 3, from Reading, fabric as 2 (R.M.).
- 4, from sandpit on E. side of Hungerford-Inkpen road (found by Mr. P. D. R. Williams-Hunt, 1948). Surface red-brown, shell dissolved out to give digestive biscuit appearance, traces of fire blackening on exterior.
- 5, from Godstow Nunnery (O.U.A.S. excavations 1939): light red surface, grey core (A.M.).
- 6, large shallow dish from Wallingford, with finger impressions on rim: type common in region S.E. of Oxford. Hard pale buff sandy fabric with grey core (A.M. 1921, 350).
- 7, from Cookham, a small dish with finger impressions on rim, of a type common in the South and East of England. Of brown biscuity ware with grey core. Maidenhead Museum.
- 8, 9, from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938). Vertical sided cooking pots with little or no rim-flange, a type with an Oxford-Cotswold region distribution (*Oxoniensia*, XI-XII, 169). Hard fine shell filled fabric, with almost black surface and core (A.M.).

Fig. 5. 12th and 13th century cooking pots.

- 1, almost complete cooking pot from the Thames at Purley. Coarse flint gritted ware, but thin, with grey core and grey to light red surface (R.M.).
- 2, almost complete cooking pot from Katesgrove, Reading. Sandy grey black ware decorated with lightly incised lines on exterior. Found with other objects (*Berks. Arch. J.*, 13, 122: *Lond. Mus. Med. Cat.*, 113, 117).
- 3, found when digging a grave in Waltham St. Lawrence churchyard: fairly hard sandy dark grey ware. Hambleden Museum.
- 4, from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938), cooking pot with finger tip decoration on rim, a common 12th century type in the Oxford region (cp. Wallingford, *Berks. Arch. J.*, 42, 71; Dorchester, *Oxoniensia*, II, 61, No. 13). Hard sandy dark grey fabric.
- 5, 5a, two cooking pots found together at Rowleigh Farm, Besselsleigh. 5, of buff fairly hard sandy fabric with grey core, shows the tendency to clubbing of the rim, of the 13th century: it has slight raised finger tip decoration round the shoulder. 5a is of dark shell filled ware, pitted where the shell has dissolved out (A.M.).
- 6, many fragments of this remarkable handled cooking vessel from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938). Hard fine shell filled ware with grey core, light red surface, and wash of yellowish-green glaze round rim and interior of base (cp. Clarendon Palace, *Antiq. J.*, XVI, 79, Fig. 6) (A.M.).
- 7, from Faringdon Clump (1936), hard shell filled fabric with buff surface and grey core, and wash of yellow green glaze on interior surface of rim (A.M.).
- 8, surface find from gardens at Woolstone; very pale buff or cream fine sandy ware. This shows the clubbing of the rim fully developed (A.M.).

Fig. 6. Large Pans with everted rims, 13th century.

- 1, from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938): fairly fine hard dark grey ware with crushed shell filling, thin light brown wash over interior. There are several similar vessels from Seacourt (cp. *Oxoniensia*, VIII-IX, 103) and from the site of the Manor House at Minster Lovell, Oxon. (A.M.).
- 2, from Sunningwell, housing estate 1938, with other pottery including an inturned rim bowl (cp. Fig. 4, 2) and other 12th and 13th century types. Hard grey ware with some shell and flint fillings (A.M.).

3. from Irish Hill, Hampstead Marshall; wheel-turned coarse grey ware, fine soft white grit, weathered out of surface; surface mostly light red: decorated with deeply incised bands of wavy lines (N.M.).

Fig. 7. 13th century Jugs and Pitchers.

1. jug from the Kennet at Reading; buff sandy ware with vertical cream painted strips and olive glaze; strap handle decorated with jabs, and thumb-pressed base (R.M.).
2. pitcher of brown sandy ware with white painted decoration and fairly transparent glaze. Part of rim and handle and side of jug from Cumnor; the whole based on an Oxford example (A.M.).
3. small jug from Radcliffe Square, Oxford: fine hard buff fabric with mottled green and orange glaze, and rouletted applied vertical strips of Oxford type (A.M. 1917.47).
4. pitcher handle from Wallingford, hard sandy grey ware, unglazed, decorated with applied strip down back, thumb pressed at intervals.
5. pitcher handle from the Kennet at Reading, fine animal head handle, reminiscent of metal prototypes. Red sandy fabric with yellow glaze (R.M.).
6. bridge spout from Wallingford, pale buff surface and grey core, green glaze on exterior.
7. tubular spout from Abingdon (cp. one from Kennet Valley in N.M.); buff sandy ware and orange glaze; and another in grey ware with greenish glaze (A.M.).
8. tripod base of globular pitcher, of form as Fig. 7, 2; from Wallingford, pale grey sandy ware with brownish glaze; another similar with greenish glaze: for type see *Antiq. J.*, XX, 103.
9. thumb pressed base of large pitcher from Maidenhead High St., hard fairly fine cream ware and green glaze.

Fig. 8. Late 13th and 14th century jugs, pitchers and bottles.

1. baluster jug of Oxford type, from Reading (36 Minster St.), buff ware, yellow glaze; rilling on upper part of body and painted crossing strips on lower part; slashed handle. The thumb and finger impression at the top of the handle is a regular feature of the pottery from the Brill kilns at this date, otherwise not a common feature in the region (R.M.).
2. baluster jug of Oxford type from Abingdon: hard buff sandy ware with pale yellow green glaze on upper part and brown painted strip down front: strap handle with slashed decoration (for photo of this jug see Rackham, *Med. Eng. Pot.*, pl. 58) (R.M.).
3. carinated pitcher from Oxford: hard buff fabric with transparent orange-yellow glaze and applied strips of red clay in low relief: strap handle decorated with paint jabs. An exactly similar pitcher in Reading Museum also comes from Oxford, and the type is known from Berkshire sites in the Oxford region, such as Seacourt and Cumnor (A.M.).
4. small jug from Lincoln Hall, Oxford (cp. Seacourt, &c.): fine pale buff hard fabric with speckled yellow green glaze, decorated with fine girth grooves (A.M.).
5. bottle from Oxford, hard orange brown fabric, coarsely made, unglazed (A.M.).
6. bottle from Southcote Moat, coarse sandy pale buff fabric, unglazed (R.M.).
7. bottle from Maidenhead High St., pale buff or cream fabric, quartzite gritted with grey core, unglazed (Maidenhead Museum).
8. bottle from Seacourt (Mr. S. A. Opie's excavations 1938), of fine pale buff fabric with patches of speckled green glaze (A.M.).

- 9, pan from Battle Farm, Crowmarsh (opposite Wallingford), with socket to take wooden handle; fairly hard sandy dark brown ware with blackish core; a type in use throughout the Middle Ages, with late Saxon ancestors (*e.g.* Bedford): a late 13th–14th century example, was found in the Rye kilns (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, 74, 59, pl. XI, 4, 1933) (A.M. 1917, 32).

Fig. 9. Late Mediaeval Pottery from Berkshire.

- 1, complete cooking pot from Maidenhead High St.: fine hard sandy cream fabric; some patches of bright green glaze on exterior and on interior of base (Maidenhead Museum).
- 2, rim of cooking pot from Tittle Row, Maidenhead; hard dark brown sandy fabric; this form is common in the Middle Ages in the London region and S.E. England generally (Maidenhead Museum).
- 3, top part of a pan from Reading Market Place; greyish white ware with patches of green glaze on rim and interior surface (R.M.).
- 4, pan from Hill Grove, Cookham; hard fine whitish fabric with a few spots of yellowish glaze (Maidenhead Museum).
- 5, 6, dishes from pile dwellings on Thames bank at Hedsor; 5, of fairly hard buff gritty ware; 6, of dark grey hard fine sandy ware with notched decoration on base angle (*cp.* Shefford, *E. Herts Archaeol. Trans.*, IX, Fig. 3, No. 13, and Bedford, Bedford Med. Sch. Mus.).
- 7, small jug from site of Reading Gasworks; fine pale buff fabric and deep green glaze (R.M. Stevens Coll.).
- 8, jug, probably from Reading; fine hard whitish fabric, deep green glaze on upper part; bad firing crack in lower half; handle restored (R.M., G. W. Smith Coll.).
- 9, rim of cooking pot from Hurley; fine hard orange fabric with reddish wash over surface and traces of transparent glaze; ware and form very similar to that in use in the late 14th and 15th century in Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 76–9) (R.M.).
- 10, pot rim from Longworth (Drew's Nurseries 1948); fine hard orange fabric; this form of vessel appears to have been in use before the end of the 14th century (*Oriel Record*, Jan. 1942) (A.M.).

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