

# **Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from the Hatton to Silk Willoughby pipeline: Assessment Report**

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## **Introduction**

One hundred and forty seven sherds of post-Roman pottery from the Hatton to Silk Willoughby pipeline (hwp98) were submitted for analysis (see App 1 - table).

## **Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the assessment were

- to identify and record all the material
- to provide a date-range for the finds
- to use these to infer previous land use
- to recommend and justify any further necessary work on the finds
- to identify any aspects of the site's archaeology recognisable from the ceramic finds which require further study or preservation

## **Description**

All items were recorded to common name and form level using the codes adopted by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Young & Vince forthcoming) and any significant details of manufacture, decoration or use were recorded as comments. Quantification was by sherd/fragment count and by weight. The data was entered into a MS Access 7 database.

## **Anglo-Saxon**

A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was identified, from CS19 PL145. Early to mid Anglo-Saxon settlement is rare in Lincolnshire and this find lies close to known Anglo-Saxon settlements at Sleaford and Silk Willoughby. It was probably associated with the inhumation cemetery found in the same plot.

## **Medieval**

Two sherds of late 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century date were found, both from CS20 (plots 149 and 150). LFS is locally produced, handmade shell-tempered ware and ST is Stamford ware, produced at Stamford.

Later 12<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was found at four sites:

HWP98 CS17  
PL128

HWP98 CS19  
PL146

HWP98 CS20

PL147

HWP98 CS21

PL153

The sherds are all locally produced shell-tempered ware (LEMS).

Later medieval pottery was present over most of the pipeline - although remarkably rare in the Witham fens. The pottery originated in a number of centres: Lincoln itself, Potterhanworth, Toynton All Saints and Nottingham account for the majority and there were no sherds of obvious non-local origin or imports. There is a possible concentration of Nottingham products in the southern parts of the route, but given the low quantity of medieval pottery from the north this is probably not statistically valid.

Toynton products occurred throughout the length of the pipeline. The lack of southern Lincolnshire products is noteworthy - there is only one sherd of Bourne medieval ware (BOUA), from CS19, and no sherds of Developed Stamford ware. The entire length of the pipeline therefore lay within the market for Lincoln products, with Nottingham products probably arriving via the Trent and possible redistribution from Newark.

The lack of Anglo-Scandinavian sherds is probably significant. This area should be within the markets of distinctive wares from Lincoln, Torksey and Stamford, although it is likely that shell-tempered wares formed the majority of pottery used in the pipeline area. The pipeline generally avoids the sites of medieval villages, which were founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the pottery found is probably present as a result of manuring from these settlements and from secondary settlements - hamlets and farms, which were founded during the later 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is no evidence from this pipeline to indicate a decline in manuring in the later medieval period, and some of the Lincoln and Nottingham products are definitely of late medieval date.

### **Post-medieval**

There is a small quantity of early post-medieval pottery, dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (44 sherds). The two main wares are Bourne D ware (BOU) and Toynton/Bolingbroke products (TB).

There is a slight but definite trend in their distribution, with BOU predominating in the southern plots and TB in the northern ones. Non-local wares are mainly Midlands purple vessels, possibly from Ticknall. Some of these black-glazed wares are probably of late 17<sup>th</sup> century or later date and there is a Staffordshire slipware bowl of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date. Only a single sherd of 16<sup>th</sup>-century Cistercian ware was present.

Later post-medieval pottery is very rare - only six sherds were recorded during the entire pipeline, all 19<sup>th</sup>-century in date. This could either indicate the enclosure and reversion to pasture of these plots in the 18<sup>th</sup> century or be a reflection of collection policy, since much later post-medieval pottery looks "modern".

## Recommendations

A single sherd, a decorated Toynton ware jug from CS19 PL145, should be drawn. The Anglo-Saxon sherd should be recorded in the county SMR.

## Acknowledgments

Jane Young identified the shell-tempered wares and confirmed the identification of a sample of sand-tempered wares.

## Costings

One decorated body sherd should take 30 minutes to draw. £5.00.

## Bibliography

Young, Jane & Vince, Alan forthcoming *A corpus of Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and later pottery from Lincoln*. CLAU