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SAXO-NORMAN POTTERY IN EAST ANGLIA

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PART I. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ST NEOTS WARE

TERMINOLOGY

As has been pointed out elsewhere,¹ there is considerable confusion in the terminology of pottery assigned to the late Saxon and early Norman periods in East Anglia. During the fifty years from 1875 to 1925, when these wares were first identified by Professor McKenny Hughes and Sir Cyril Fox, they were thought to bridge the period between the end of the Roman occupation and the Norman conquest. Then in the 1930's work by Mr C. F. Tebbutt and Mr T. C. Lethbridge showed that these wares did not show continuity with Roman pottery in this country, and that they succeeded Pagan Saxon pottery rather than running parallel with it. It was during this time that the label Late Saxon became firmly attached to them although it was even then apparent that they continued for at least a hundred years after 1066.

The dating of these wares is at present still very uncertain; hardly any stratified well-dated sites have been excavated in East Anglia, and many types appear to show little or no development over a period of more than 300 years, as has been shown by the excavations at the Saxon Town of Thetford.² It is misleading to call pottery which lasted from the ninth to the twelfth century Late Saxon. Mr Dunning has proposed³ that, until Pre-Conquest and Post-Conquest types of Stamford ware can be closely differentiated, the term Saxo-Norman should be used. This is more satisfactory, and this term should be applied to the three types which are differentiated below.

The confusion over the different names used for the three main types of Saxo-Norman ware in East Anglia has been very great, and seems to grow worse as more discoveries are made. This has reached such a stage that if one is told that St Neots ware has been found one cannot really be certain which of the three groups is being referred to until the actual ware is described.

Although the priority for first distinguishing Saxo-Norman pottery goes to the pioneer work of Professor Hughes and Sir Cyril Fox, it was not until 1933 that one of these types of ware was distinguished and the main forms listed, when Mr C. F. Tebbutt published the results of his excavations at the late Saxon village site of St Neots.⁴ The second group of Saxo-Norman pottery was differentiated at this

¹ J. G. Hurst and J. Golson, *Norf. Arch.* vol. xxxi (1953), pp. 56-8.

² Group Capt. G. M. Knocker, *A.N.L.* vol. III (1950), pp. 44-5.

³ G. C. Dunning, in *Dark Age Britain: Studies presented to E. T. Leeds* (ed. D. B. Harden), pp. 228-31.

⁴ C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii (1933), pp. 137-51.

excavation, but because it occurs only sporadically as far west as St Neots its full importance was not realized. Large quantities of this second type of ware are in the Castle Museum at Norwich. Although material from Fye Bridge had been published as early as 1898,¹ it was not until the late 1930's that its true character was realized by Mr Rainbird Clarke and Mr G. C. Dunning. Despite these finds, and the material found under the Norwich Castle Mound in 1905, it was not until Group Capt. Knocker excavated part of the Saxon town of Thetford in 1948-9 that the second group came into its own.² As a result of these excavations there is now more pottery of this type available for study than of either of the two others.

Saxo-Norman glazed pottery had been found at sites in Cambridge in the nineteenth century, but in view of its similarity to Tudor wares it was assigned to this late period. During the 1930's Mr Lethbridge championed the cause of Saxo-Norman glaze after finding odd sherds from Flambards, Burwell Castle and Southoe between 1933 and 1938. It was not, however, until glazed pottery was found in large quantities at Thetford in 1948-9 that the archaeological world accepted the possibility of Pre-Conquest glazed pottery.

In the 1930's no confusion arose since the unglazed pottery (called St Neots Ware by Mr Dunning and Late Saxon by Mr Lethbridge and Mr Tebbutt) all belonged to types found at St Neots itself, and most of it came from the Cambridge-Huntingdon region. When the Thetford excavations took place, however, Group Capt. Knocker started to call all Saxo-Norman pottery Thetford ware and divided it into four types. Group I consisted of the main bulk of his material for which there was evidence of actual manufacture on the site; Group II the soft, soapy, shelly ware, like that which had been found at St Neots; Group III a variation of Group II; and Group IV the Saxo-Norman glazed ware. Mr Dunning, in his series of articles in the *Archaeological News Letter*,³ called it all St Neots. Since then, people who have obviously been confused by this have bandied the words Thetford and St Neots about without any true regard as to what was actually meant.

Saxo-Norman pottery should be divided therefore into three classes called respectively: St Neots, Thetford and Stamford.

ST NEOTS WARE

This is named after the type site where Mr C. F. Tebbutt first excavated and differentiated the type and its main forms.⁴ The ware is soft, contains much pounded shell, and has a black core with bright red, purple, brown or dark purple surfaces which are soapy to the touch. The three main forms as described by Mr Tebbutt are:

Deep bowls with a bold inturned rim, sloping sides and a sagging base (Fig. 8, 5).

Shallow dishes with slight sagging bases and hammer-headed rims (Fig. 8, 4). There are also examples with simpler rims (Fig. 5, 31).

¹ Rev. W. Hudson, *Norf. Arch.* vol. XIII (1898), pp. 217-32.

² Group Capt. Knocker, *A.N.L.* vol. II (1950), pp. 117-22 and vol. III (1950), pp. 41-6.

³ G. C. Dunning, *A.N.L.* vol. I, no. 10 (1949), pp. 2-3.

⁴ Tebbutt, *loc. cit.*

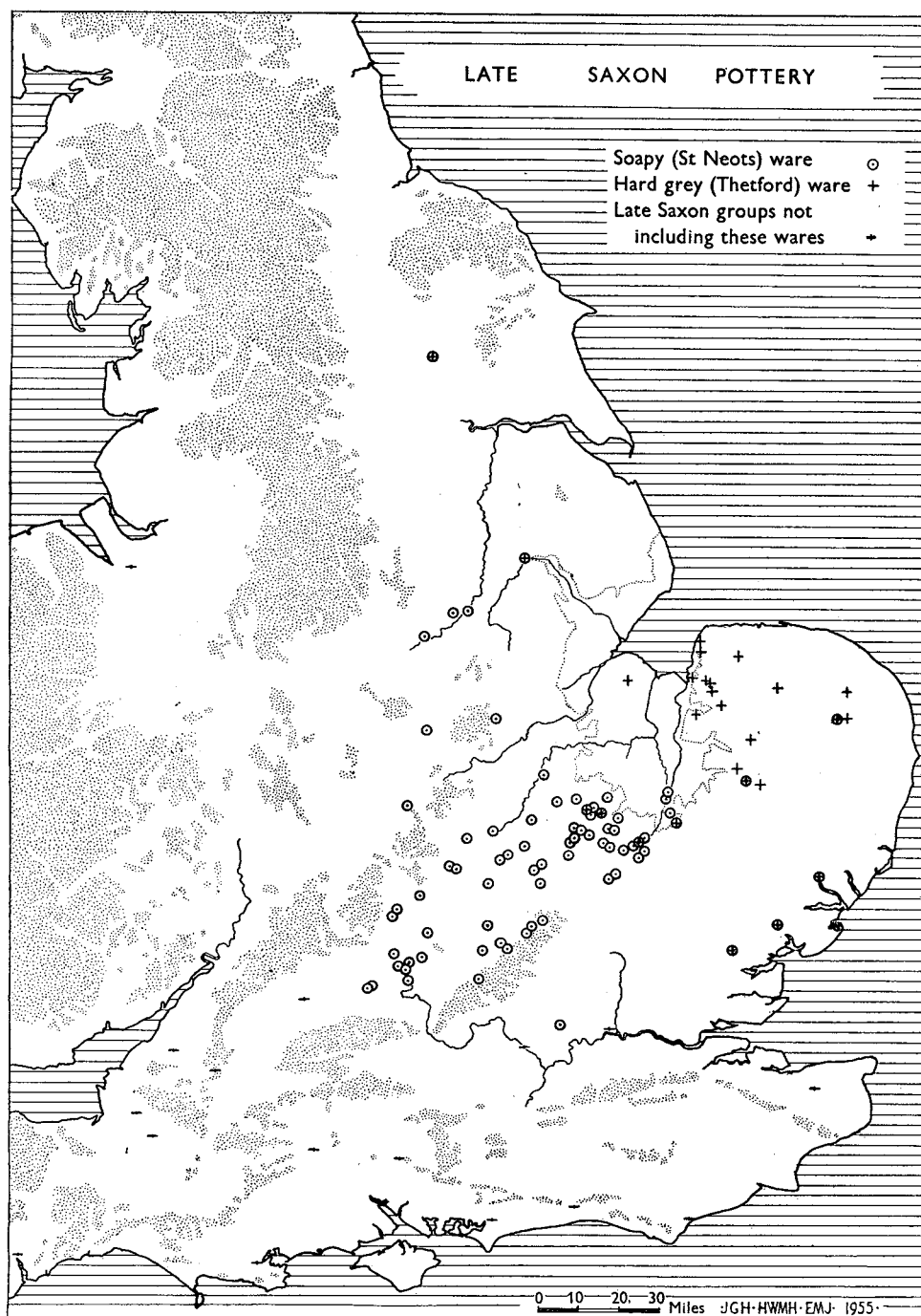


Fig. 1. Distribution map of Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery in England showing the occurrence of the three main types in East Anglia and the Midlands together with other material of the same date from the rest of England. Drawn by H. M. Hodges from information supplied by E. M. Jope and J. G. Hurst.

Small cooking pots with an average height of 6–8 in. and rim diameter of 4–6 in. They are very similar in shape to Roman *ollae* and have rolled everted, plain or hollowed, rims. The bases are usually sagging.

To these three types a fourth must now be added, the *St Neots-ware jug*. There are no spouted pitchers in St Neots ware, but these jugs appear to be late in the series. They are fully discussed below.

The distribution is centred round Cambridge, Bedford and Huntingdon as can be seen from the distribution map (Fig. 1). Only a few examples are found at Thetford and Norwich. All forms are well made on a fast wheel and are very friable as they have only been baked at a very low temperature. This presumably accounts for the soapy surfaces.

In the twelfth century the bowls appear to have upright rims instead of inturned flanges. There is, however, insufficient evidence to suggest that the more inturned a rim is the older it must be. Twelfth-century cooking pots also become larger, turning into the large medieval size but keeping to the St Neots rim form and paste. There are, however, numerous angular late St Neots cooking-pot rims.

Rare types

Spouted bowls are very rare, but there is one from Abington Pigotts and two from Bedford. There is also a *barrel-shaped vessel* with two lugs (examples from Abington Pigotts and Cambridge) (Fig. 2, 6). There is also a form of *handled bowl* (Fig. 2, 7). *Cressets* are known from Northampton, Paxton and Southoe, but are not common. Two sherds, including one rim sherd, from storage jars were found at Thetford; the rim sherd had applied strips on the rim and body. No other examples of storage vessels are known in St Neots ware, they are always in Thetford ware.

THETFORD WARE

This is named after the Saxon town from which most of our examples come. This ware was certainly made in Thetford, as Group Capt. Knocker excavated a kiln there,¹ but there is also evidence that Thetford ware was made at Norwich² and Ipswich.³ The ware is hard, sandy and grey. The main types are:

Cooking pots. Thetford cooking pots are the same as St Neots ones, only the paste being different. They have either flat or sagging bases, the former with marks of 'cheese wire' removal from the wheel. The dating of flat and sagging bases is uncertain. The early eighth-century pots from Ipswich have sagging bases, while at Thetford flat bases are commoner later. 20 % of the bases are flat at the lower levels while 50 % are in later levels. The cooking pots increase in size in the twelfth century to 8–10 in., but do not become so large as St Neots ones do; they keep much more to the original Thetford tradition.

¹ Knocker, *loc. cit.*

² E. M. Jope, *Norf. Arch.* vol. xxx (1952), pp. 307–8.

³ Carr Street Kilns. Unpublished material from the Carr Street Kilns to be published in Part II of this article by S. West and myself.

Bowls. Thetford bowls do not have inturned flanges except for a few rare examples at Thetford itself. Bowls are not at all common except at Thetford where Group Capt. Knocker tells me there is a special type of *angle-bowl*. When present outside Thetford the bowls are usually spouted.

Storage vessels. A distinctive Thetford type is the series of large storage vessels which have thick sides, large applied thumbled strips and multiple handles, usually alternately large and small round the rim. It is not clear if these were all made in the Thetford area, there are as many from Cambridge as there are St Neots cooking pots and bowls. They are found as far afield as Lincoln and York. At Thetford these vessels are eleventh- or twelfth-century. Earlier examples are simpler, with only three handles.

Spouted pitchers. There are no jugs in Thetford ware, but their place is taken by spouted pitchers, usually with three small strap handles and a spout. D-shaped spouts are early and O-shaped ones late. These vessels vary greatly in size from quite small examples to pitchers 2 ft. high, at which stage they really become spouted storage vessels.

The distribution is confined to the area around Kings Lynn, Thetford, Norwich and Ipswich (see the distribution map, Fig. 1). Examples are only found very occasionally in the St Neots area; in the Cambridge collections, for example, there is only one Thetford cooking pot, but spouted pitchers and storage vessels are fairly common.

Mr Lethbridge tells me that he has distinguished a division of Thetford ware into brown grit and grey grit, the brown grit in the main area of Thetford and Norwich and the grey grit in the St Neots area. This would imply that the Thetford ware in the St Neots area is a local imitation and not imported. This requires further investigation.

STAMFORD WARE

Mr G. C. Dunning has elsewhere called this East Midlands or Stamford ware.¹ The latter is better, as it gives a site name to this class as to the others. A kiln site was found in Stamford in 1875,² and recent examination of examples of this ware from as far apart as Leicester and Thetford has shown that it was made from estuarine clays which occur in the area around Stamford.³

This ware has a distinctive cream colour, often tinted pink. It is very much finer and better made than either of the other two classes.

Cooking pots are similar to the St Neots and Thetford ones.

Bowls have both inturned and upright rims, there are also many examples with everted flanges. Some bowls are glazed.

¹ G. C. Dunning, in *Dark Age Britain: Studies presented to E. T. Leeds* (ed. D. B. Harden), p. 230.

² G. C. Dunning, *Ant. J.* vol. XVI (1936), p. 411 and Pl. LXX, 3.

³ G. C. Dunning, in *Dark Age Britain*, p. 229.

Spouted pitcher. This is the most characteristic form, as it is this type which is exported from the East Midlands. It is like the small Thetford spouted pitcher with three small strap handles and a tubular spout, sagging base and knife trimming round the base.

Saxo-Norman glaze only appears on this Stamford ware, especially on these spouted pitchers. The glaze is usually a pale green, yellow or orange. The main distribution is around the centre of manufacture in the Eastern Midlands, but examples have been found as far afield as Oxford, Leicester, Nottingham, Lincoln, York, Norwich, London and profusely at Thetford. These examples are presumably imports from the Eastern Midland area.

ORIGINS

The Saxo-Norman pottery of East Anglia shows strong Roman influence which is reflected by the continuity of Roman forms across the North Sea in the Low Countries and the Rhineland. In England, after the Saxon invasions, the art of potmaking on the wheel was lost, but on the Continent there was no break in tradition. There was a steady development from the original Roman types. This well-fired wheel-made pottery seems to have appeared in East Anglia in the eighth and early ninth centuries. It shows a complete break with the Pagan Saxon handmade pottery tradition. Nothing of the Pagan Saxon tradition survived except for the use of criss-cross and bird-bone stamps on some Thetford storage vessels. There is no historical evidence at this time for any invasion from the Continent, and this pottery seems rather to be the result of the actual migration of potters from the Low Countries. There is no pottery at the time of the introduction of Saxo-Norman pottery into East Anglia in the eighth and ninth centuries which can be identified as a definite import. It is not until the tenth century that Pingsdorf pottery appears at Norwich and Ipswich. The background of Saxo-Norman pottery on the Continent has been fully dealt with by Mr G. C. Dunning in *Dark Age Britain* (pp. 218-27). The question of the origin of Saxo-Norman pottery on the continent has also been fully discussed in articles by Mr G. C. Dunning and Mr E. M. Jope, so does not need further discussion here.

Having set the stage in general outline, it is now proposed to discuss the three classes of Saxo-Norman pottery in more detail. The distribution map aims to record all known find-spots; there are doubtless other sites known from which material has not been published or deposited in any museum. I would be glad to hear of such sites so as to complete my corpus. Sites which have already been adequately published or will be dealt with by Mr Jope in *Oxoniensia* or by Mr G. C. Dunning in his forthcoming article in *Archaeologia* have been referred to only. The main aim of this paper is to publish as much previously unpublished material as possible. All the pottery described is in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology unless otherwise stated.

ST NEOTS WARE, GENERAL

The first St Neots ware to be published was that found in pits at Northampton Castle. This was described by Samuel Sharpe in 1881.¹ The evidence is not very clear, but there appear to have been Roman pits as well as Saxo-Norman ones. It is noted that coins of Edward the Elder (901-24), Edgar (959-75) and Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) were found, but it is not certain that these were found in the pits with the St Neots ware. It has been said that these pits were sealed by the Castle Mound, but the evidence does not seem to justify such statements, though it is probable.

In Cambridge the Cambridge Antiquarian Society recorded finds of Medieval pottery on twenty occasions between 1847 and 1880. It is not certain, as many of these early finds have either been lost or cannot be identified because they have got mixed with other items, but apparently the first St Neots ware was found in Cambridge by Professor McKenny Hughes and Mr Jenkinson in the grounds of Trinity Hall in 1880.² At this time the ware was not recognized and the pottery is simply described as seventeenth-century to early Medieval. As so often in Cambridge, where so much of the ground has been made up, the finds were in a town rubbish-dump which was in use until 1545.

It was Professor McKenny Hughes in his series of important papers, published between 1892 and the first world war,³ who first recognized the differentiated Saxo-Norman pottery. He placed the ware rightly in its context as a development of Roman forms and earlier than Medieval pottery, but he dated it rather too early, contemporary with Pagan Saxon pottery rather than after it. He saw that the types were developed from Roman *ollae* and *mortaria*, but thought that this was a native development in this country which would have placed this material early. He was not to know at this pioneering stage how Roman forms persisted in the Rhineland and how the development took place on the Continent, to be imported to East Anglia in Late Saxon times. Professor Hughes' work in collecting assiduously all Medieval pottery found during the heyday of rebuilding in Cambridge in Late Victorian times has been largely forgotten, but between 1880 and 1915 he saved pottery ranging from Late Saxon to the eighteenth century from about forty building sites. Although none of this pottery is stratified, owing to most of it coming from made-up ground, without it we would have no basis at all for a study of Saxo-Norman and Medieval pottery in Cambridge.

In the forty years since Professor Hughes' time pottery has only been saved from about ten sites and none of it was published except for two Medieval jugs in 1937. Except for Sir Cyril Fox, who examined the material in the 1920's, few people had looked at Professor Hughes' material before I started to study it in 1951. Much of the pottery was in fact still wrapped in newspapers of the 1880's and 1890's as Professor Hughes had packed it. Cambridge has not been lucky in having sites like

¹ S. Sharpe, *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* vol. XVI (1881), pp. 243-51.

² T. McKenny Hughes and Jenkinson, *Rep. C.A.S.* vol. XL (1881), p. xxi.

³ See *Proc. C.A.S.* vols. VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIX.

the Bodleian at Oxford, where many pit- and well-groups were collected in 1938,¹ so until such time as further excavations can produce stratified material it is on the basis of Professor Hughes' material that the story of Saxo-Norman and Medieval pottery in Cambridge must rest. Before the Lion Yard area is re-developed it is hoped that an excavation will be possible on this important area just inside the King's Ditch, and there is a prospect that this will produce some stratified material. The pottery surviving now is only a fraction of that collected by Professor Hughes. During the First World War many tea chests of material got mixed and were later thrown away as being unprovenanced. All body-sherds and most bases have been thrown away, leaving only rims and decorated pieces to give an idea of the great wealth of material which was originally collected.

While Professor Hughes was collecting this material in Cambridge itself the Rev. F. G. Walker was excavating a notable site at Barton Moats.² The moat and the pond, where sectioned, apparently had a mixture of St Neots and Medieval pottery going on until the fourteenth century. Across the north end of the site, however, was a most remarkable feature called, by Walker, the Black Ash Ditch. This contained, as its name suggests, large quantities of ash, but also large quantities of twelfth-century cooking pots. One of these was found complete, apparently *in situ* on a hearth. Mixed with these were a fair number of fragments of St Neots bowls and cooking pots. Although these were of St Neots ware, most of them show a distinct overlap with true Medieval pottery, for example, the cooking pots are large, 10 or 12 in. across, instead of the usual small Saxo-Norman type. Most of the bowls are plainer than the normal types and have simple profiles and rims. This ditch would therefore appear to have a date in the middle of the twelfth century at a period when the St Neots wares were giving place to Medieval pottery types. For what this evidence is worth it suggests that St Neots bowls with plain profiles and rims are later than the hammer-headed and inturned ones, such as are found at St Neots itself, which are almost certainly Pre-Conquest. Unfortunately the published report is marred by the fact that Walker does not seem to have followed, or agreed with, Professor Hughes' theories. All this material is called Roman, which rather confuses the issue, and his interpretation of the site is coloured by this to a large extent. The amount of pottery recovered from this ditch is too great to publish in this article, but it is hoped to publish the whole group at a later date. In 1922-4 Sir Cyril Fox, in publishing material from Abington Pigotts, published and drew attention to the Saxo-Norman wares found on this site.³ He drew attention to Professor Hughes' papers and realized at once that this material was not Roman. He confirmed the idea that they were developed from Roman types and also illustrated some deep bowls with inturned flanges from Christ's Library (1895)⁴ which he compared with *mortaria*. But the time was not yet ripe for it to be realized that this development did not take place in this country, so he dated the material to the sixth century.

¹ E. M. Jope and R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, *Oxon.* vol. IV (1939), pp. 89-146.

² F. G. Walker, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XII (1908), pp. 296-313.

³ Sir Cyril Fox, *P.P.S.E.A.* IV (1922-4), pp. 227-31.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 228, fig. 4.

It was the work of Mr C. F. Tebbutt and Mr T. C. Lethbridge, at various sites, that brought the picture into proper focus. Mr Tebbutt, excavating at St Neots from 1929-32,¹ found some huts associated with quantities of St Neots pottery. Among the other objects found was a T-shaped axe which Sir Mortimer Wheeler said was a Frankish type lasting from A.D. 650 to 850, but axe types are very hard to date and no one today would like to give a close date for it. This placed the site in the Late, not the Pagan, Saxon period. St Neots may certainly be called the type site, therefore, as it was here that Mr Tebbutt first described the ware fully and differentiated the three main types of vessel. It was at this excavation that the late date of St Neots pottery was first determined; though it could not be seen at that time how this fitted in with the fact that here was wheel-turned pottery, apparently derived from Roman prototypes appearing after, not during, the Pagan Saxon period.

From then on progress was fast; in 1934 Mr Lethbridge and Mr Tebbutt published their excavations at Flambards Manor, Meldreth, and Paxton. At Paxton they found mainly St Neots ware with only a few Medieval sherds. This site they equated with lime kilns in use during the building of the church in the middle of the eleventh century. At Flambards, on the other hand, only a few St Neots sherds were found, the main bulk being hard grey ware sherds of twelfth-century date. It appeared from documentary evidence that this manor might not have been occupied until after the Conquest, but Dr Palmer believed that there was a Saxon Hall on the site.

It was then that Mr Lethbridge and Mr Tebbutt made the important point that St Neots pottery must have lasted after the Conquest and the possibility of an indigenous development of St Neots ware in this country had finally to be abandoned. There was, therefore, a sequence building up, if only on slender evidence—St Neots itself being certainly Pre-Conquest, Paxton (with numerous St Neots sherds and a few later ones) being just about the time of the Conquest,² followed by Flambards with a few St Neots sherds and far more twelfth-century types. This sequence was confirmed in 1935 at Burwell Castle, where St Neots and twelfth-century sherds were found under the Castle Mound built about 1142-4, and at Southoe in 1937 where there was mixed St Neots and twelfth-century pottery on a site which apparently decayed soon after 1219. A pit containing St Neots sherds was cut into by a pit containing mixed St Neots wares and hard grey and red twelfth-century wares comparable with those dated to the twelfth century at Rayleigh Castle.³ These sites suggest a possible end-date for St Neots ware of about 1150, but the whole question of the change-over from Saxo-Norman to Medieval pottery types has still to be worked out. And as will be seen from the other sections, no firm date can be given for the change-over. There was anyway a considerable overlap as Medieval wares came in soon after or about 1066 while St Neots ware lasted perhaps until 1200. Potters in

¹ See list of St Neots sites for references to the publication of Mr Tebbutt's and Mr Lethbridge's excavations.

² The dating depends on the church, which Holmqvist would (1954) date before 1066 and Sir Cyril Fox and Cobbett to the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-66)—*Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxv (1924), pp. 50-77—but there is no documentary evidence.

³ E. B. Francis, *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.* vol. xii (1913), pp. 147-86.

East Anglia seem to have continued using St Neots forms well into Medieval times, thus showing that the Norman conquest did not really affect the pottery industry very much.

Meanwhile in Bedford Mr F. W. Kuhlicke was collecting St Neots ware found during building operations between 1926 and 1937.¹ Few complete profiles were obtained at the Cambridge sites, or even at St Neots, but at Bedford about sixteen complete profiles were obtained, giving the best type series of this ware so far obtained.

Also during the 1930's Dr J. R. Garrood was collecting St Neots pottery in the Huntingdon area and Mr E. Newton excavated a chapel at the deserted Medieval village of Weald in 1941.² Dr Garrood's site at Salome Lodge is of importance, for here St Neots ware was found stratified between Romano-British and Medieval levels.³ There seems to be a distinctive type of bowl in this area which has straight sides and bifid rim.

No kiln sites are known for St Neots ware. It is unlikely that it was all made in one place, but at various centres in the Cambridge-Bedford-Huntingdon region. The forms are mainly closely matched at all sites, but the colour of the ware seems to vary from place to place. The Cambridge ware is mainly dark purple-brown, that at Bedford a lighter purple-brown and that from Huntingdon red. The Huntingdon material is also much rougher to the touch and is not so soapy; this may, however, be because it is late in the series. It is possible that these minor differences denote different sources of clay, though the difference in firing to make these different shades would be very slight. The distinctive soapy surfaces are due to the fact that St Neots ware was not fired at a very high temperature. It is possible therefore that it was not made in kilns.

Outside the main area St Neots pottery penetrated into the Thetford area and is found in small quantities at Thetford itself, and at Norwich at Fye Bridge and St Benedict's Gates.⁴ There is a single bowl at Ipswich, a pot from Colchester and another from Witham.

Westwards into the Oxford region St Neots ware extends as far as Oxford itself and a little further west to Hinton Waldrist. Mr Jope has fully discussed its spread⁵ and hopes shortly to publish a list of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire sites in *Oxoniensia*.

Northwards St Neots ware extends as far as Leicester, Nottingham and Lincoln on scattered sites, but does not appear to have gone south to London. The St Neots pottery found by Mr Hodges at Thurgarton is of importance as it was found stratified under the twelfth-century chapel and therefore presumably dates to the eleventh century.⁶ This shows that St Neots pottery had spread north-westwards as well as south-westwards to Oxford by about the time of the Norman Conquest.

¹ F. W. Kuhlicke, *Bedford Modern School Field Club J.* no. 4 (1937), pp. 116-23.

² E. Newton, *Trans. Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. VI (1943), pp. 168-75.

³ Dr J. R. Garrood, *Trans. Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. V (1936), pp. 385-90.

⁴ J. G. Hurst and J. Golson, *Norf. Arch.* vol. XXXI (1953), pp. 56-8.

⁵ E. M. Jope, *Berks. Arch. J.* vol. L (1947), pp. 52-8, fig. 2 and fig. 3, distribution map, and *Oxon.* vol. XVII-XVIII (1952-3), pp. 106-9.

⁶ H. M. Hodges, *Trans. Thor. Soc.* vol. LVII (1954), pp. 21-36.

It will be seen that after twenty-five years of collecting St Neots ware, there is no firm sequence or dating evidence. This is because most pottery collected comes from mixed levels, while that from excavations comes from sites or levels which cannot be firmly dated. The following dating for types is the best that can be given at present. It is just not known how early the first St Neots pottery is. It should start at least by the ninth century, as it was being exported to Thetford at this date in small quantities. From its distribution it seems to have entered East Anglia from the coast of the Wash up the rivers, rather than to have spread westwards from the Thetford area. It is reasonable to suppose therefore that it would start at the same time as Thetford ware. The earliest St Neots pottery in the main area is from the hut-sites at St Neots, though how early cannot be determined; a suggested date is the tenth and eleventh centuries, though it could well be earlier. The presence of Thetford spouted pitchers and storage vessels on the site suggests that this pottery tradition had been established for some time. All the cooking pots from St Neots are small, while the bowls have large inturned flanges, except for one plain and one flat-topped rim. It is supposed therefore that these are the earliest forms. Paxton, which dates to about the time of the Norman Conquest, has again only small cooking pots, but the bowls have more developed rims; many of them are hammer-headed. Sites such as Flambards, Burwell Castle, and Eaton Socon have mainly large cooking pots which are in the Medieval tradition, but still in St Neots ware. There is also a fair quantity of Medieval pottery in harder fabric stratified with St Neots pottery on these sites. These presumably belong to the first half of the twelfth century. Cooking pots are large; the rims are still mainly everted, but many are moulded and quite complex. Bowls from these sites still have inturned flanges, but most of the bowls either have upright, slightly inturned or hammer-headed rims. As would be expected, the St Neots ware from Cambridge shows great variation. There are, however, only a few small cooking pots like those from St Neots itself and Paxton. This suggests that the Cambridge pottery does not go back much earlier than the eleventh century. There are several cooking pots which are intermediate in size between the Pre-Conquest ones (which are 4-6 in. in diameter), and the twelfth-century examples (which are up to 14 in. in diameter). This uncertainty shows the urgent need in East Anglia for the excavation of dated early Medieval sites, and, more important, the excavation of sites which will show a sequence. The publication of the Ministry of Works excavations at Thetford will give us a useful series of Thetford ware in its prime, but even here the end date is very uncertain. Group Capt. Knocker has kindly given me the following percentages for the occurrence of St Neots ware at Thetford, which show that it was introduced into the Thetford area in increasing quantities. In the lowest levels late eighth-early ninth centuries, 3 %; mid-late ninth century, 8 %; early-mid tenth century, 14 %; late tenth-mid eleventh century, 20 %. The earliest dated St Neots ware is therefore this material exported to Thetford.

ST NEOTS-WARE JUGS

St Neots-ware jugs have been found at four sites in Cambridge and twelve other places.

Bedfordshire

BEDFORD. *Bedford Modern School Field Club J.* no. 4 (1937), p. 120, Figs. 1-3. Three St Neots jugs. One from the *Granada* site (3730) is tall and is closer in shape to the Oxford jugs than those round Cambridge. The jug from the *Roger Porter* site (3732) is squatter and appears to be an intermediate type. Another jug from the *Granada* site (3729) is much more globular than the others, or the Cambridge examples. Unfortunately the neck and rim are missing. None of these jugs has the rouletting usual on the Cambridge or Oxford jugs. Bedford Modern School Museum.

Cambridgeshire

BARTON MOATS (1910). From the pond, a strap handle in light brown ware with thumbing down the side ridges. Fragment of another similar handle, but with rougher thumbing down the edges.

CAMBRIDGE. *Bird Bolt* (1906). A brown red sherd from the side of a jug at the point where the base of the strap handle joins the body. Two applied bands projecting below the handle join, each with a double thumbing.

Falcon Yard (1897). Neck of a black shelly-ware jug with light brown purplish soapy surfaces, bands of oblong rouletting round the lower part of the neck.

King's Lane (1907). Neck of a black shelly-ware jug, brownish soapy surfaces with rows of square rouletting. Also a sherd with triangular rouletting.

Market Hill (1902). A group of four strap handles, two plain and the third of black shelly-ware with smooth brown surfaces, pressed thumbing on one ridge and fingering on the other, a deep vertical scoring down the centre and superimposed irregular arc pattern in between (Fig. 2, 3). The fourth a strap handle with brown surfaces, outer ridges lightly fingered, and in the centre a double row of rosette stamps set alternately on each side (Fig. 2, 4). The two plain strap handles are typical with soapy surfaces. The two decorated examples have much rougher surfaces, but must belong to the same series, possibly being later.

COMBERTON. *Reeds Pit*. Neck, strap handle and four St Neots sherds from similar jugs with triangular and square-notch rouletting.

From *Bakers Pit* nearby a sagging base 9 in. in diameter, black shelly ware with red inner and darker outer surfaces. Bands of square-notch rouletting near the base. This might have been part of a bowl, not a jug.

ELY. This jug is the most complete in the St Neots region except for the Bedford jugs. It was published by Sir Cyril Fox in 1924 (*Ant. J.* vol. IV (1924), pp. 371-3). It has the typical form of the other St Neots jugs, but the ware is not quite so soapy. With the other examples the ware is twice as soapy as the normal St Neots ware due to less firing. It has a sagging base, pinched-out lip and strap handle with double thumbing down the sides. There are seventeen rows of mixed triangular and diamond-notch rouletting on the upper part of the jug. This was very lightly applied, unlike the other jugs, and can only be made out with difficulty; it is also very irregular (Fig. 2, 1).

FLAMBARDS (1934). From the cesspit at a depth of 2 ft. 8 in. a small sherd from a St Neots jug with horizontal rows of rouletting.

HAUXTON. The neck and sherds of a black shelly-ware jug with very soft soapy brown surfaces. Horizontal bands of oblong rouletting. There is a small pinched-out lip (Fig. 2, 2).

Huntingdonshire

ALCONBURY (2217 in the Huntingdon Museum—Dr Garrood). Found on the north side of the churchyard. Neck and strap handle of a jug with brown soapy surfaces, but no rouletting.

ST NEOTS PRIORY (1902). Neck of a black shelly-ware jug with smooth soapy light brown surfaces, strap handle apparently plain. There is no rouletting on the neck of this vessel.

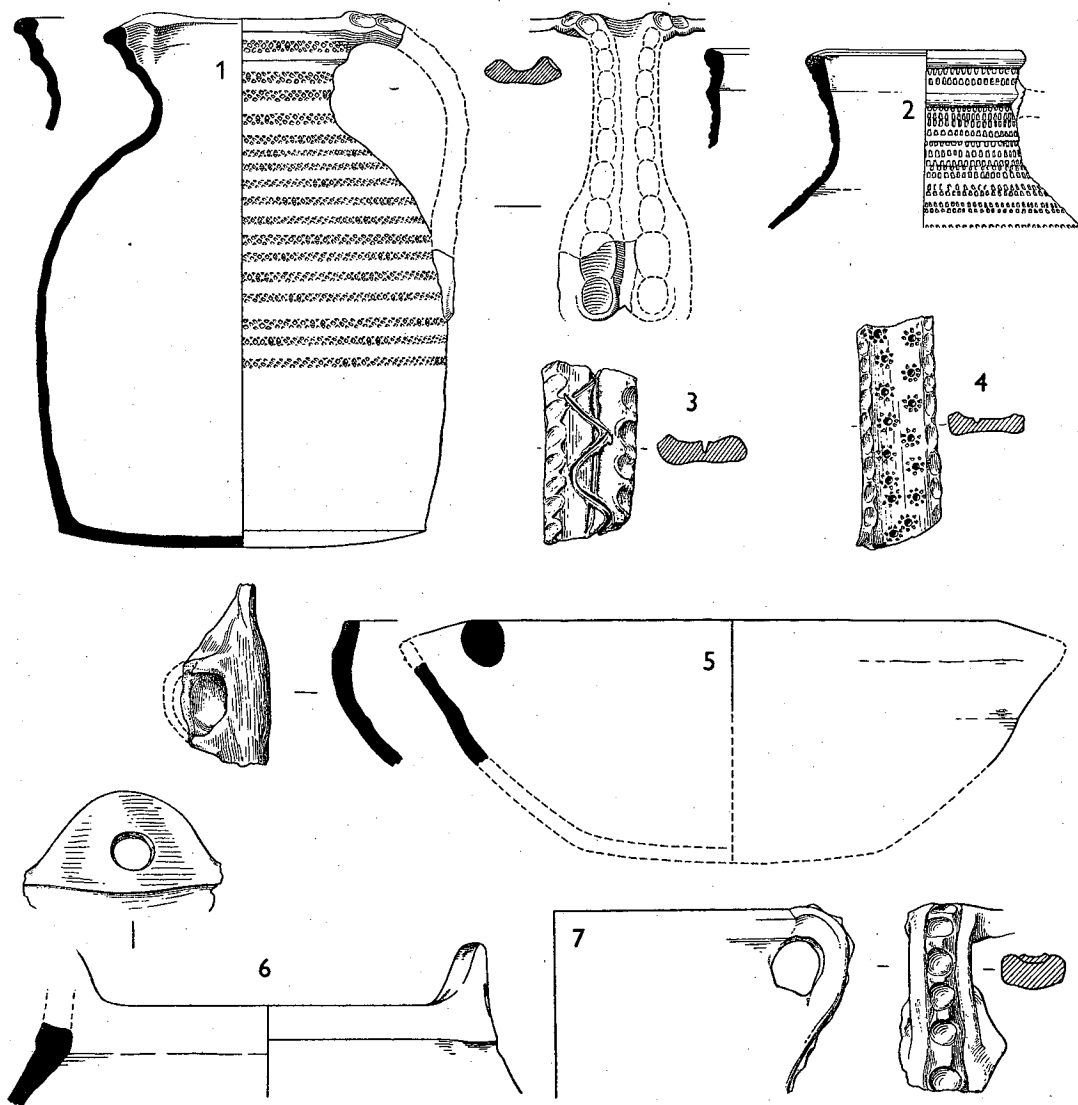


Fig. 2. St Neots jugs. 1, Ely. 2, Hauxton. 3-4, Market Place, Cambridge. 5, Spouted bowl, Abington Pigotts. 6-7, Unusual St Neots forms from Cambridge. 1/4.

EATON SOCON (*Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLV (1952), pp. 59-60). Neck of a jug with rows of rectangular rouletting, from E 6 below the mortar layer.

SOUTHOE (1937). Two thin strap handles grooved down the centre with a decoration of erratic stabs, light purple-brown surfaces.

Lincolnshire

STAMFORD. Examples from the Castle site may be published with other material from Stamford by A. P. Baggs and myself in the later parts of this paper.

Northamptonshire

LONG BUCKBY (1955). Dr M. W. Thompson found a sherd of a St Neots-ware jug during excavations by the Ministry of Works on the outer bailey of this castle site in a twelfth-century context.

These jugs are all similar and, except for the St Neots and Bedford examples, have bands of rouletting round the neck. No other St Neots sites have jugs of this type. Outside the area the jug from Radcliffe Square, Oxford, is a very close parallel,¹ but is not soapy. It has the same bands of rouletting, the same broad sagging base as the Bakers Pit example, though the Cambridge examples lack the collared neck. Mr Jope dates this to the twelfth century and calls it a developed Late Saxon type. These jugs are not early, and are unlikely to be Pre-Conquest. The lack of examples from St Neots, Paxton, and other early sites is significant. It is suggested that they should be placed in the eleventh and the twelfth centuries. This dating is confirmed by the finding of stratified examples in mid-twelfth century levels at Eaton Socon and Long Buckby. The type lasted well into the Medieval period and the same decoration and shape is found on two jugs in the rough Cambridge thirteenth-century ware, one with a patchy green glaze.

Outside the St Neots area there are no examples, and it would appear that in the Thetford area its place was taken by the spouted pitcher, examples of which do not appear in St Neots ware, nor west of Cambridge (in St Neots ware, though of course they do in Stamford ware). This suggests that we must look to a different origin for this form as it does not appear to have come over from the Continent with the other types of the Thetford-Norwich area. It must therefore either have come in from the Continent direct to the St Neots area or be a local Mercian contribution. Mr Jope's drawing of the supposed coastline of the Wash in Saxon times (Fig. 1) brings out clearly the coastal and river distribution of Saxo-Norman pottery; the modern coastline is very misleading.

LIST OF ST NEOTS-WARE SITES

All sherds described have the usual black core with pounded shell and soapy surfaces unless otherwise stated. To save space, only the colour variation of the sherds' surfaces is described.

Bedfordshire

BEDFORD. F. W. Kuhlicke, *Bedford Modern School Field Club* *ƒ.* no. 4 (1937), pp. 116-23. Material from *High Street*, *Meaker Site*, corner of *Mill* and *High Streets*, off *Tavistock Street*, *Roger Porter*, *Rose Extension* and *St Peters*. In the Bedford Modern School Museum.

¹ E. M. Jope, *Berks. Arch. ƒ.* vol. L (1947), Fig. 2, 10 and p. 56. There is another example in gritty ware from the Jewry Wall, Leicester. G. C. Dunning, *Soc. Ant. Res. Rep.* no. 15 (1948), pp. 226 and Fig. 60, 7.

DENE HOLES. Between Wickhamstead and Hangaton Conquest. Material in the Bedford Modern School Museum.

FELMERSHAM. E. M. Jope, *Ant. J.* vol. XXXI (1951), pp. 45-50. A typical series of St Neots cooking pots.

HOUGHTON REGIS (1952). Material found by Mr Blair during the excavation of two habitation sites. Most of the pottery is twelfth century.

KEMPSTON. Material in the Bedford Modern School Museum.

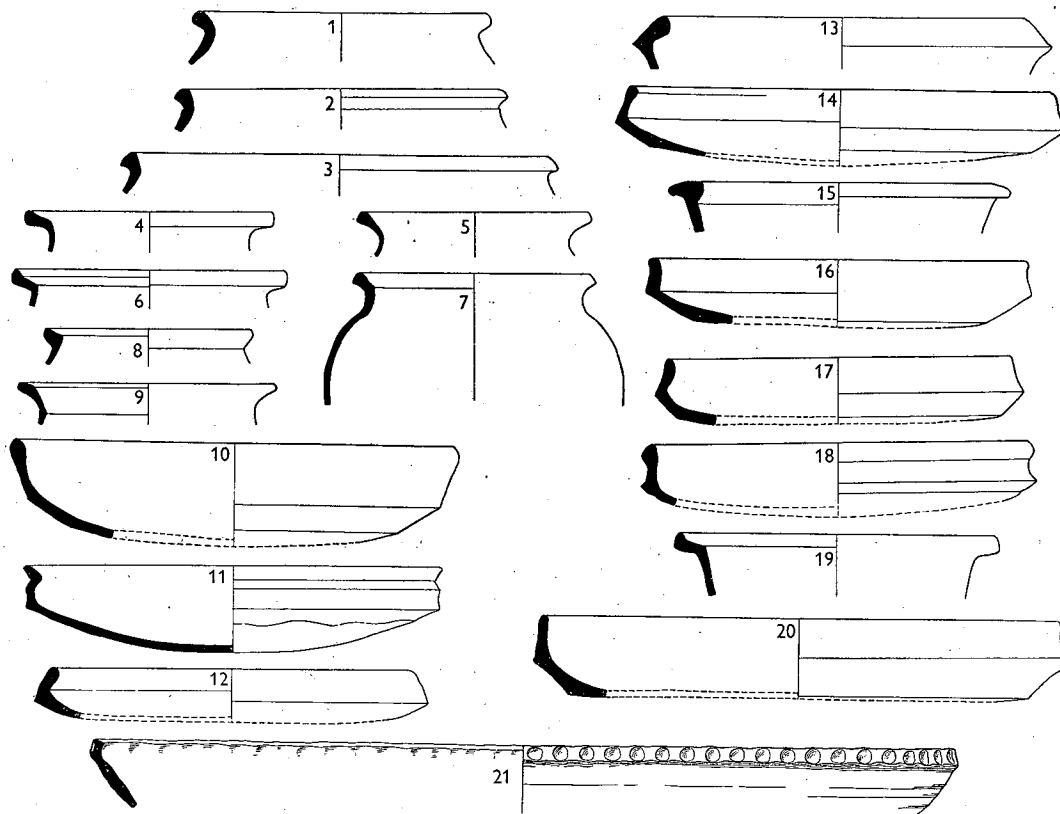


Fig. 3. St Neots cooking pots and bowls from Comberton 1-2 and 10-11. Hemingford Grey 3 and 5. Herrimere 4 and 14. Dimmock's Cote 13. Knapwell 6 and 15. Tempsford 7-8 and 16-19. War Ditches 9 and 19. Chesterton 12. Elmswell 21. 1/5.

TEMPSFORD (1934). Unpublished. Dredged from the river 100 yd. below the Anchor hotel where there used to be a ford. Five examples of this large collection have been shown. Typical cooking pot with everted hollowed rim, brown (Fig. 3, 7). Cooking pot with thickened rim hollowed on the inside (Fig. 3, 8). Three typical shallow dishes with upright or slightly inturned rims and angular profile (Fig. 3, 16, 17 and 18). Bowl with everted hollowed rim (Fig. 3, 19).

TOTTERNHOE. St Neots sherds.

YELDEN. St Neots sherds from the Castle.

Berkshire

Mr E. M. Jope is publishing details of Berks. sites in a forthcoming volume of *Oxoniensia*. There is St Neots ware from Hinton Waldrist, Kennington, Longworth, Seacourt.

Buckinghamshire

Mr E. M. Jope is publishing details of Buckinghamshire sites in a forthcoming volume of *Oxoniensia*. There is St Neots ware from Aylesbury, Cublington, Lavendon, Marsworth, Olney Hyde, Princes Risborough, Stantonbury.

Cambridgeshire

ABINGTON PIGOTTS. Sir Cyril Fox, *P.P.S.E.A.* vol. IV (1922-4), pp. 227-31. A remarkable series of vessels from a site lasting from Iron Age to Medieval times. Fox illustrates examples on Fig. 3 which he considers to be Saxo-Norman. N is a spouted pitcher in Thetford ware. L and U are like St Neots bowls, but are in hard ware so may be twelfth century as one from Comberton Reeds Pit (Fig. 3, 11). M is a genuine St Neots bowl, but had a sagging base as Fig. 3, 18. A, C and D are more likely to be prehistoric as they are hand-made and have no parallels amongst other Saxo-Norman pottery. There are other sherds in the collection which it is very hard to place either in the prehistoric or the Saxo-Norman periods. There is also in St Neots ware:

A coarse spouted bowl of unusual type, Fig. 2, 5 (51. 318D). Fox, Fig. 3, K.

A similar handle to that from the Braybrooke collection. See below and Fig. 2, 6.

BARRINGTON (1946). Sherds, scramasaxes and a bronze bowl collected by Mr Coleman from dredging at the foot of the hill on the Foxton-Barrington Road.

BARTON MOATS. Rev. F. G. Walker, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XII (1908), pp. 296-313. It is hoped to publish this site fully at a later date.

BOURNE (1909). *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XV (1911), p. 168, Rev. F. G. Walker. In Tumulus II a shallow basin 15 in. diameter and 4 in. high (Pl. XII, p. 175) was found in a cooking place dug into a Roman Barrow. This was then covered by an enlargement of the barrow supposedly by the Danes. This is, from its description, a typical shallow St Neots bowl, though it has unfortunately been mislaid; it would appear to be Pre-Conquest.

BURWELL CASTLE (1935). T. C. Lethbridge, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XXXVI (1936), pp. 121-33. In the soil under the chalk rubble of the castle which was built by Stephen to block Geoffrey de Mandeville between 1142-4 and never finished. The sherds presumably came from the manor of the Abbey of Ramsey whose land was used for the Castle. Unfortunately these sherds are mislaid. The Cambridge Museum only contains the Medieval pottery from this site.

CAMBRIDGE SITES. To avoid duplication, the circumstances of the discovery of St Neots pottery on the different sites in Cambridge will be given in full in the site list for Medieval pottery which will appear in a forthcoming *C.A.S.* volume. In no case were the finds stratified.

Bird Bolt (1905), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1906), pp. 424-45, Professor M. Hughes.

B 2. Deep bowl with inturned flanged rim hollowed inside and with a straight sloping outside firmly squared off, brown purple, Fig. 6.

B 3. Rim of a bowl with rounded hammer-headed rim like Fig. 7, 9 but sloping outwards, dark brown-purple.

B 4. Rim of a similar bowl with rounded hammer-headed rim but hollowed on top like Fig. 7, 8, brown.

B 5. Rim of a bowl with rounded hammer-headed rim sloping outside, as B 3 but more sloping.

C 1. Large cooking pot but with typical everted rim hollowed inside and squared outside, dark purple brown, Fig. 4.

C 2. Typical small cooking pot with plain everted rim, light purple-brown, blackened outside. Fig. 4. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1906), p. 437, Fig. 27.

C 3. Cooking pot with thicker less everted rim, light purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 4. Large cooking pot with strongly everted rim squared outside and hollowed and bevelled inside, black, Fig. 4.

C 5-11. Typical cooking pots with variations of the normal type of everted rim, C 5 hollowed inside, squared outside, C 6 thick and upright, C 7 more everted and rounded, C 8 thin, C 9 and C 10 upright, and C 11 upright and hollowed along the top.

Bridge Street. Not published.

B 6. Bowl with sharply inturned sides and almost upright flanged rim hollowed both sides, dark purple-brown, Fig. 6.

Castle End (1898). Not published.

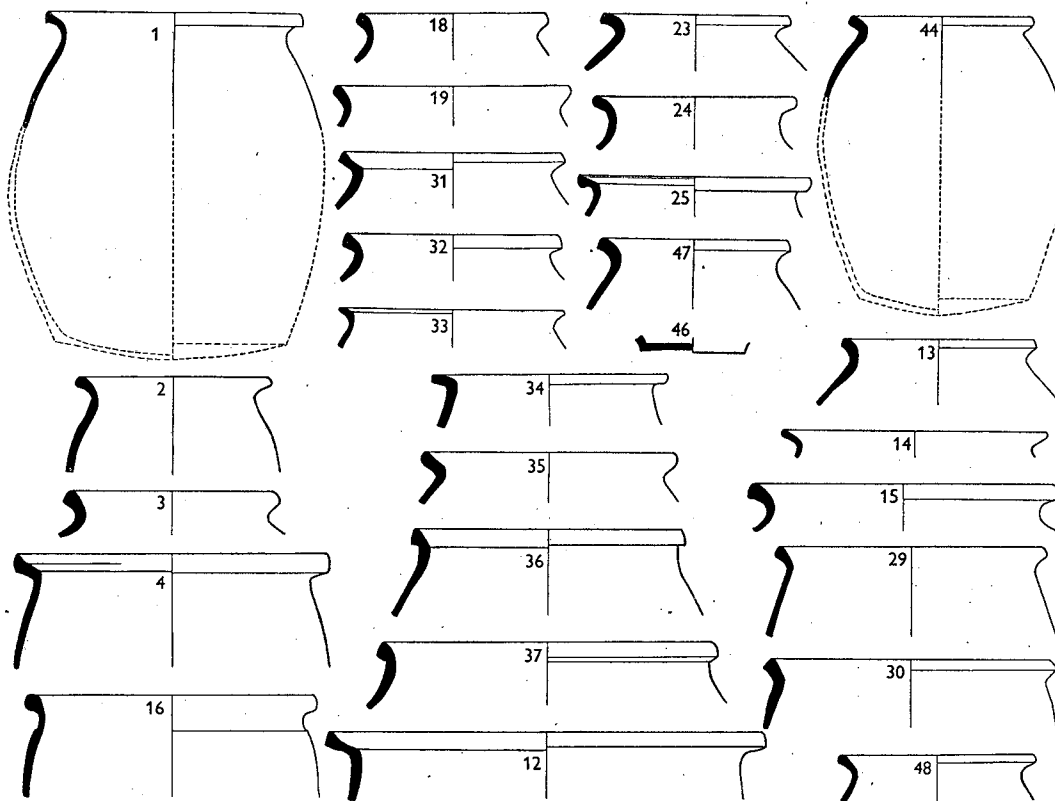


Fig. 4. St Neots cooking pots from Cambridge. 1/5.

C 12. Very large cooking pot with strongly everted rim squared outside and hollowed inside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

Christ's College Library (1895), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. ix (1899), p. 337, and *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xi (1906), p. 408, Professor M. Hughes. Sir Cyril Fox, *P.P.S.E.A.* vol. iv (1922-4), p. 228.

B 7. Rim of a large bowl with rounded upright rim slightly hollowed each side, light purple-brown, blackened by fire outside, Fig. 6.

B 8. Large bowl with thin inturned flanged rim rounded at the top and heavily beaded underneath outside, brown-purple, Fig. 6. See also Fox, op. cit., Fig. 4, 1.

B 9. Bowl with inturned flanged rim hollowed both sides and sharply squared off outside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 6. See also Fox, op. cit., Fig. 4, 3.

B 10. Bowl with thin inturned flanged rim, fingered outside, black-purple, Fig. 6. See also Fox, *op cit.*, Fig. 4, 2.

B 11. Very deep straight-sided bowl with hammer-headed rim sloping slightly outwards, thumbled along the outside, dark purple-brown, lighter inside, Fig. 6.

B 12. Bowl with inturned thick rounded rim fingered outside, black, Fig. 6. See also Fox, *op. cit.*, Fig. 4, 4.

B 13. Small fragment of the rim of a large bowl with inturned thickened rim.

C 13. Cooking pot with everted rim squared outside, purple-brown, somewhat rough and not true St Neots soapy feel, Fig. 4.

C 14. Large cooking pot with plain thin everted rim, dark brown-purple, Fig. 4.

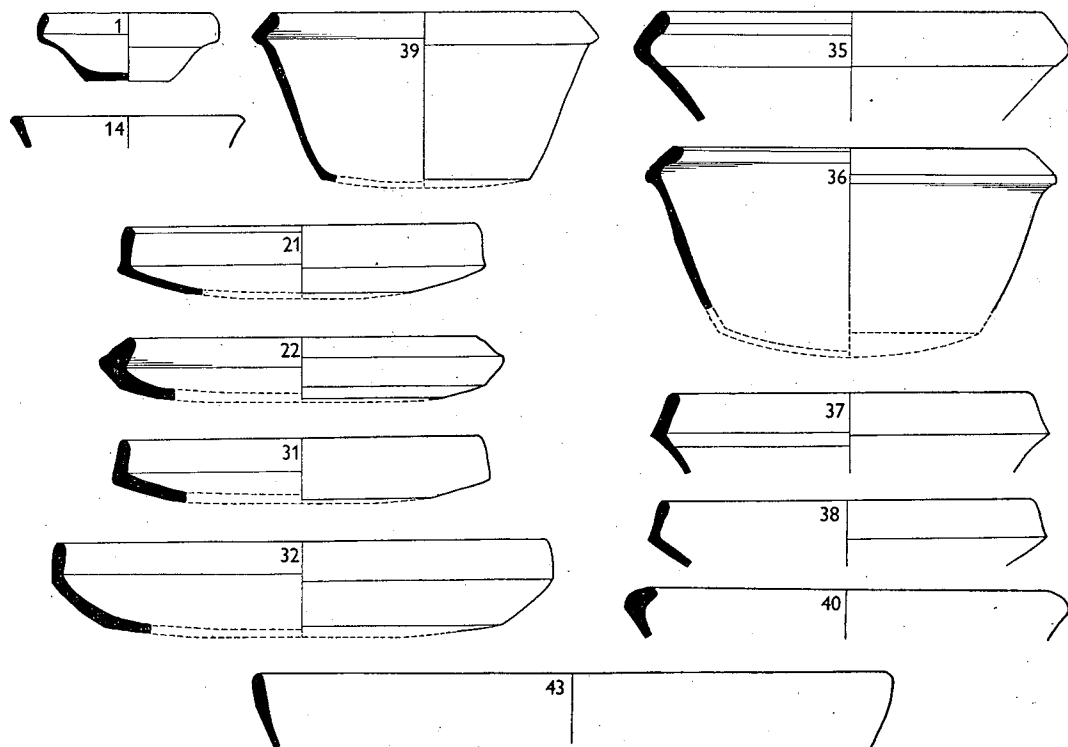


Fig. 5. St Neots bowls from Cambridge. 1/5.

C 15. Similar, but with plain thickened everted rim, light brown-purple, Fig. 4. *Eden Yard* (1905). Not published.

B 14. Rim of a small bowl with a simple rim and sides sloping outwards, brown, Fig. 5. See also Southoe.

Falcon Yard (1897), Professor M. Hughes, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. IX (1899), p. 379, and vol. XI (1907), p. 409.

B 15. Large bowl, simple rounded rim hollowed on both sides. Rough black ware with more shell than usual and brown and purple surfaces blackened outside, Fig. 6.

B 16. Bowl with everted rim rounded outside and double beading inside. Rough black ware as above with brown-purple surfaces, Fig. 6.

B 17. Rim of a small bowl with rounded hammer-headed rim. Like Fig. 7, 5, but sloping outside, black.

B 18. Inturned flanged rim of usual type as Fig. 6, 2.

B 19. Rim of a bowl with rounded everted rim, slightly undercut.

B 20. Sagging base and sides of a large flanged bowl with horizontal spaced bands of oblong notch rouletting as in the St Neots jugs, brown-grey ware.

C 16. Large cooking pot with straight sides and rounded upright rim with an offset on the shoulder outside, brown, Fig. 4.

Free School Lane (1895), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. IX (1899), p. 101, Atkinson.

B 21. Shallow dish with upright simple rim, moulded shoulder and sagging base. Rough brown ware with darker surfaces, Fig. 5.

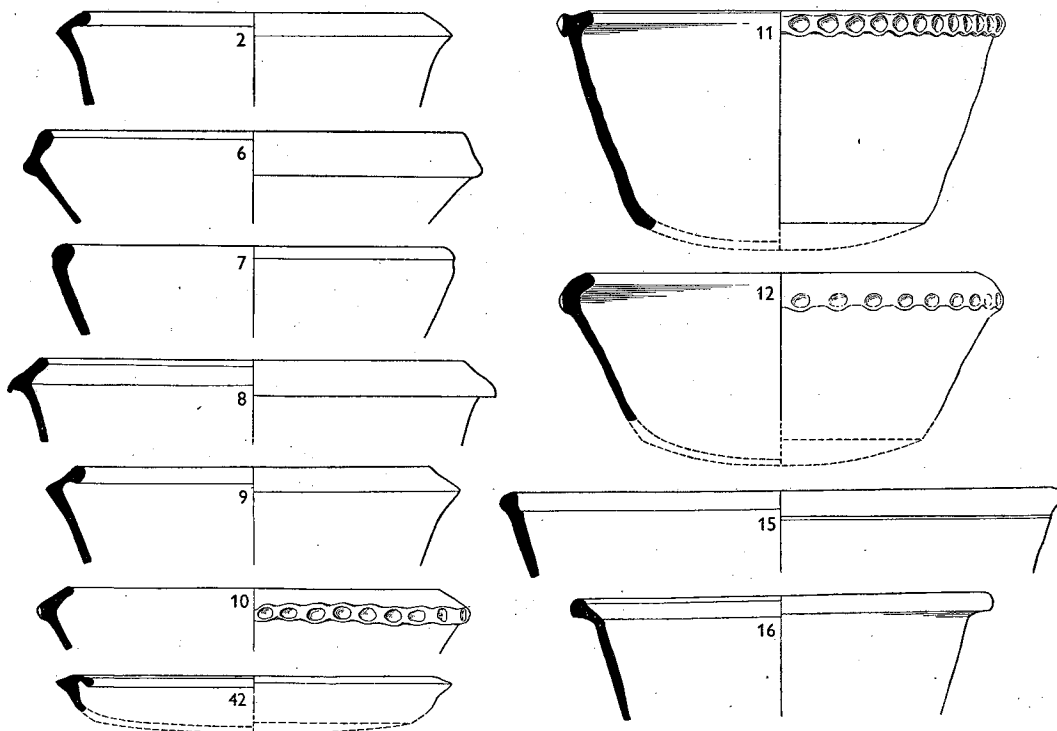


Fig. 6. St Neots bowls from Cambridge. 1/5.

Unprovenanced. B 1. A small bowl from the Braybrooke Collection (48.452), dark purple-brown, Fig. 5. There is a similar bowl in the Bedford Modern School Museum (3739). Found on the St Peter's site in 1936. It is a little larger and has a more inturned rim. See *Bedford Modern School Field Club J.* no. 4 (1937), p. 121, Fig. 4.

Cambridge, King's Ditch

Mill Lane North (1893), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII (1895), pp. 265–82, and (1906) *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1907), p. 175, Professor M. Hughes.

B 22. A shallow dish with very thick sides and inturned flanged rim, brown-purple, Fig. 5. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII, Pl. XIII, 4.

B 23. Rim of a large bowl with sloping sides and simple thick rim with a slight beading outside, like Fig. 6, 15, dark purple-brown.

B 24. Rim of a bowl with inturned flanged rim, hollowed on top like Fig. 5, 39, purple-brown.

B 25. A shallow dish with a rounded profile and simple, almost upright rim and sagging base, like Fig. 5, 21.

B 26 and B 27. Two small fragments of rims of bowls with inturned flanges.

C 17. Simple everted rim of a cooking pot, fingered on top.

Fosters Bank (1892), *Proc. C.A.S.* VIII (1895), pp. 32-55, Professor M. Hughes.

C 18. Cooking pot with slightly everted simple rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 19. Larger cooking pot with slightly everted plain rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 20. Small cooking pot with everted rim (diameter 5.2 in.), dark purple-brown.

C 21. Cooking pot with everted rim beaded inside (diameter 5.8 in.), dark purple-brown.

C 22. Small cooking pot with everted rim hollowed inside and squared outside, dark purple-brown, similar to Fig. 4, 32.

Hunnybunn's Ditch (1891), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII (1895), pp. 32-55, Professor M. Hughes.

B 28. Rim of a deep bowl with slightly inturned flanged rim slightly hollowed on both sides, reddish. Figured in *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII, Pl. II, 6, similar to Fig. 6, 6.

B 29. Thick hammer-headed rim of a large bowl with sloping sides and a beading inside. Black ware fired much harder than usual with dark brown-purple surfaces.

B 30. Thin hammer-headed rim of a bowl like Fig. 7, 5.

C 23. Cooking pot with plain strongly everted rim, brown, Fig. 4.

C 24. Cooking pot with rounded slightly everted rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 25. Cooking pot with everted rim rounded and undercut outside and bevelled inside with a beading at the top, grey. Rougher surface not really soapy, Fig. 4.

C 26. Cooking pot with typical everted rim, figured in *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. VIII, Pl. III, 14.

Millers. Not published.

C 27. Large cooking pot with upright rounded rim hollowed outside, red-purple.

C 28. Large cooking pot with an upright rounded rim sloping outside, brown-purple. Both these rims are similar to Fig. 4, 36.

Hawkins (1929). Not published.

C 29. Cooking pot with plain, slightly everted rim, greyish, Fig. 4.

C 30. Similar cooking pot, but with much thicker rim bevelled outside, greyish, Fig. 4. Both these sherds are much rougher than the usual St Neots soapy wares and are presumably transitional to the Medieval-type harder wares, though they still contain much shell and have the same texture as St Neots upon fracture.

CAMBRIDGE SITES (*continued*)

Kings Lane East (1907), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XII (1908), pp. 133-9, Professor M. Hughes.

B 31. Angular shallow dish with upright plain rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 5.

B 32. Angular bowl with upright simple rim and sagging base, dark purple-brown, Fig. 5.

B 33. Bowl with angular sides and simple rounded rim, black with sparse shell brown inner surface, rough soapy, compare Comberton Reeds, Fig. 3, 12.

B 34. Small fragment of the rim of a bowl with slightly inturned rim as Fig. 6, 12, but not thumbbed.

C 31. Cooking pot with everted rim bevelled outside and hollowed inside, reddish, Fig. 4.

C 32. Cooking pot of more normal size with everted rim thickened and squared outside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 33. Thin-sided cooking pot with thin everted rim beaded on the inside, dark purple-brown, blackened outside, Fig. 4.

C 34. Cooking pot with everted rim and partly flat top, reddish, Fig. 4.

C 35. Cooking pot with everted rim slightly hollowed inside, light brown-purple, Fig. 4.

C 36. Large cooking pot with upright rim bevelled inside and squared in an angular way outside, dark purple, Fig. 4.

C 37. Large cooking pot with upright rim squared off on top and undercut, reddish, Fig. 4.

C 38. Large cooking pot with upright rolled rim undercut like Fig. 4, 37, only more upright, dark purple-brown.

C 39. Small cooking pot with slightly everted rim hollowed inside, dark purple-brown.

C 40. Cooking pot with plain everted rim, dark purple-brown.

C 41. Cooking pot with thickened everted rim hollowed inside and squared outside, dark purple-brown.

Market Hill (1905), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XII (1906), p. 13, Professor M. Hughes.

B 35. Smaller bowl with sharply sloping sides and inturned flanged rim with a beading outside, brown-purple blackened outside, Fig. 5.

B 36. Deep bowl with inturned flanged rim hollowed both sides, double beading outside, brown-purple, Fig. 5.

Market Place (1902), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. x (1904), pp. 261-2, Professor M. Hughes.

B 37. Deep bowl with plain slightly inturned flanged rim, sharply squared off outside and with a double beading inside, purple-brown, Fig. 5.

Museum of Archaeology (1910), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XIX (1915), p. 15, Professor M. Hughes.

C 42. Large cooking pot with upright rounded rim sloping outside. Very friable black ware with red surfaces much more soapy than usual. Similar to Fig. 4, 37 but not undercut.

New Schools (1907), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1907), p. 417, Professor M. Hughes.

B 38. Bowl with sharply sloping sides and slightly inturned flanged rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 5.

C 43. Rim of a cooking pot with large thin everted rim hollowed inside and outside like Fig. 4, 14. Rougher ware than usual.

33 *St Andrew's Street* (1907). Not published.

B 39. Medium-sized deep bowl with inturned flanged rim hollowed inside and straight slope outside. Sagging base, reddish, Fig. 5.

C 44. Typical cooking pot with thickened everted rim, purple-brown, Fig. 4.

St Catharine's College (1906), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1907), p. 417, Professor M. Hughes.

B 40. Rim of a deep bowl with rounded inturned flanged rim, purple-brown blackened outside, Fig. 5.

C 45. Medium-sized cooking pot with rounded everted rim (diameter 8.3 in.), reddish purple-brown.

St John's College Kitchens (1893), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1907), p. 421, Professor M. Hughes.

C 46. Most body sherds and bases have unfortunately not been kept so that only a few bases are left. A slightly concave base of a small cooking pot, brown, Fig. 4.

St John's College New Court. Not published.

B 41. Rim of a bowl with hammer headed rim, like Fig. 7, 5, dark purple-brown.

C. 47. Typical cooking pot with plain everted rim, black, Fig. 4.

20 *Trinity Street* (1895), *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XI (1907), p. 420, Professor M. Hughes and Sir Cyril Fox, *P.P.S.E.A.* vol. IV (1922-4), Fig. 4, 5, p. 228.

B 42. Rim of a bowl with sharply inturned flanged rim convex on top and sharply hollowed underneath, dark purple-brown, Fig. 6.

Trinity Hall (1880), *Rep. C.A.S.* vol. XL (1881), p. xxi, Hughes and Jenkinson.

B 43. Rim of a large bowl with slightly sloping sides and plain upright rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 5.

B 44. Rim of a bowl with sloping sides and hammer-headed rim hollowed on top, dark purple-brown.

B 45-B 47. Typical rims of bowls with inturned flanges like Fig. 6, 2 and 6, dark purple-brown and purple-brown.

B 48. Small hammer-headed rim sloping outside, grey.

C 48. Thin-sided cooking pot with thin everted rim squared outside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 4.

C 49. Large cooking pot with a thick everted rim rounded outside and hollowed inside, purple-brown (diameter 8 in.).

Unprovenanced from the Braybrooke collection.

Upright handle from an unusual type of barrel-shaped vessel. Black with an extra amount of crushed shell and red-brown surfaces, Fig. 2, 6.

Unprovenanced from the Freeman collection.

Handle of a large bowl of unusual type, Fig. 2, 7. It has not been reconstructed as there is no parallel to tell if it had a spout or other handles.

Cambridgeshire

CHESTERTON (1905). Unpublished. Presumably from the same site in the *High Street* which produced two fine Medieval jugs. Details of the find not known. The C.A.S. only records the purchase of the jugs, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XII (1908), p. 13.

Shallow angular dish with rounded, plain, slightly inturned rim, slightly sagging base, dark purple-brown, Fig. 3, 12.

COMBERTON, *Reeds and Bakers Pits* (1924). Unpublished, though referred to in *V.C.H.* vol. 1, p. 329. Material collected from the gravel workings by Mr F. B. Macrae. Three examples have been drawn from this large collection.

From pit A a large bowl with angular sides and upright simple rim and sagging base, dark purple-brown (24. 1351), Fig. 3, 10.

From pit A a shallow dish with angular profile and sagging base. Shelly ware but well baked with harsh grey surfaces, Fig. 3, 11. This is presumably a late twelfth-century development of St Neots ware. There are similar examples from Abington Pigotts, q.v.

From pit A three large cooking pots with simple rounded everted rims. One is figured Fig. 3, 1, the others are similar, one being more and the other less everted, red-brown.

Another, similar, but the rim squared off outside and an offset on the shoulder, reddish, Fig. 3, 2.

DIMMOCK'S COTE (1952). Typical type of flanged bowl, Fig. 3, 13, dark purple-brown.

ELSWORTH (1953). A large bowl with thumbing round the rim, red, Fig. 3, 21.

FLAMBARDS (1934). T. C. Lethbridge, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv (1935), pp. 101-3, Fig. 4. A few St Neots sherds but mostly Medieval. Latrine pit containing eight rims, five of them St Neots, the rest of large twelfth-century Medieval-type cooking pots. Elsewhere Medieval forms predominated. The latrine pit also contained a Stamford sherd quite unlike any usual form and a fragment of a St Neots jug, see p. 54. Unfortunately the St Neots pottery has been mislaid, so cannot be republished.

HERRIMERE, BARWAY, Crannog site. Shallow bowl with angular profile, slightly inturned rim and sagging base, light brown, Fig. 3, 14.

Cooking pot with strongly everted rim squared outside and hollowed on top, brown, Fig. 3, 4.

All the pottery from this site has very much more shell in it than most St Neots sites.

HAUXTON (1920's). Mr R. W. Hutchinson collected sherds from a gravel pit beside the road from Hauxton to the railway bridge on the Harston-Newton Road.

KNAPWELL (1929) (29. 369). Large bowl, found between 2 ft. and 3 ft., with hammer-headed rim with a small beading under the outer flange, black-purple, Fig. 3, 15. Very similar to the bowl from Paxton, Fig. 7, 12.

Medium-sized cooking pot with strongly everted rim squared outside and doubly bevelled inside, brown, Fig. 3, 6.

Typical cooking pot with plain everted rim (diameter 5 in.), brown.

STUNTNEY (1933). *V.C.H. Cambs.* I. 329. I cannot find the whereabouts of this material.

SWAVESEY, *V.C.H. Cambs.* I, 329. The whereabouts of this material is likewise not known. Mr Lethbridge informs me that he does not think it was St Neots ware.

WAR DITCHES (1910). Stanley Smith. Cooking pot, everted thin rim rounded outside and bevelled inside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 3, 9.

Large shallow bowl with slightly inturned plain rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 3, 20.

Essex

COLCHESTER, *Castle Car Park* (1950). Rim of a St Neots cooking pot with a thickened everted rim and grooves on the neck similar to examples at Bedford. Found in the tumble of the Roman wall in its upper part, due perhaps to robbing in early Norman times for stones to build the keep. The rim therefore very likely dates to the late eleventh century.

WITHAM (1933-4). St Neots sherds were found by Mr F. Cottrill during the excavation of a hut site. Dated by coins to the ninth century.

Hertfordshire

LONG MARSTON (1944). Several body and rim sherds of St Neots cooking pots, with much other Medieval pottery from a moated site half a mile south-east of the village, collected by Mr Peter Crossley-Holland and E. M. Joep.

SANDON. *St Albans and Herts. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (1934), pp. 173-83. Three small sherds found on the old ground surface below this Post Mill excavated by Mr W. P. Westell.

Huntingdonshire

ALCONBURY. Unpublished. Collected by Dr Garrood and in his private collection and at Huntingdon Museum.

EATON SOCON. *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XLV (1952), pp. 48-60. T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt. Primary occupation in the twelfth century, following the levelling of a Saxon church and churchyard to build a castle, presumably in the troubled times of Stephen. The pottery is all homogeneous and is of the same date. Besides the small sherd of a St Neots jug already described there were sherds of the usual flanged bowls and small cooking pots.

From the black layer in trench E 4. Cooking pot with thick overhanging rim and an offset at the shoulder, reddish, Fig. 7, 14 (53. 170).

From Zone A clay level, large cooking pot with thick moulded rim sharply hollowed inside, purple-brown, Fig. 7, 15 (53. 167).

From trench E 5, above mortar layer, two cooking pots with rounded everted rims one hollowed inside and the other undercut. One with an offset outside, reddish and purple-brown, Fig. 7, 16 and 17 (53. 171A).

GODMANCHESTER. Unpublished. Material from Colney Close in the Huntingdon Museum.

HEMINGFORD GREY (1951). Surface finds from the site of the old Manor House, mainly Medieval but a few St Neots sherds (51. 516).

Rim of a shallow bowl as Fig. 3, 14, grey with dark purple-brown surfaces.

Large cooking pot with upright rim and sloping outside, purple-brown, Fig. 3, 5.

Thin-sided cooking pot with plain everted rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 3, 3.

HUNTINGDON. Material in Huntingdon Museum and Dr Garrood's private collection from *Castle Hill Walk, Castle Ditch, 147 High Street* and the *Hippodrome Cinema*.

PAXTON (1934). T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv (1935), pp. 97-105. Lime kilns thought to have been used in the construction of the church between 1042 and 1066, so the pottery is presumably just before the Conquest. Nearly all St Neots ware and hardly any Medieval sherds.

Cooking pot with plain everted rim, black, Fig. 7, 1. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 9.

Cooking pot with rounded everted rim thinned at the shoulder, dark purple-brown, Fig. 7, 2. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 8.

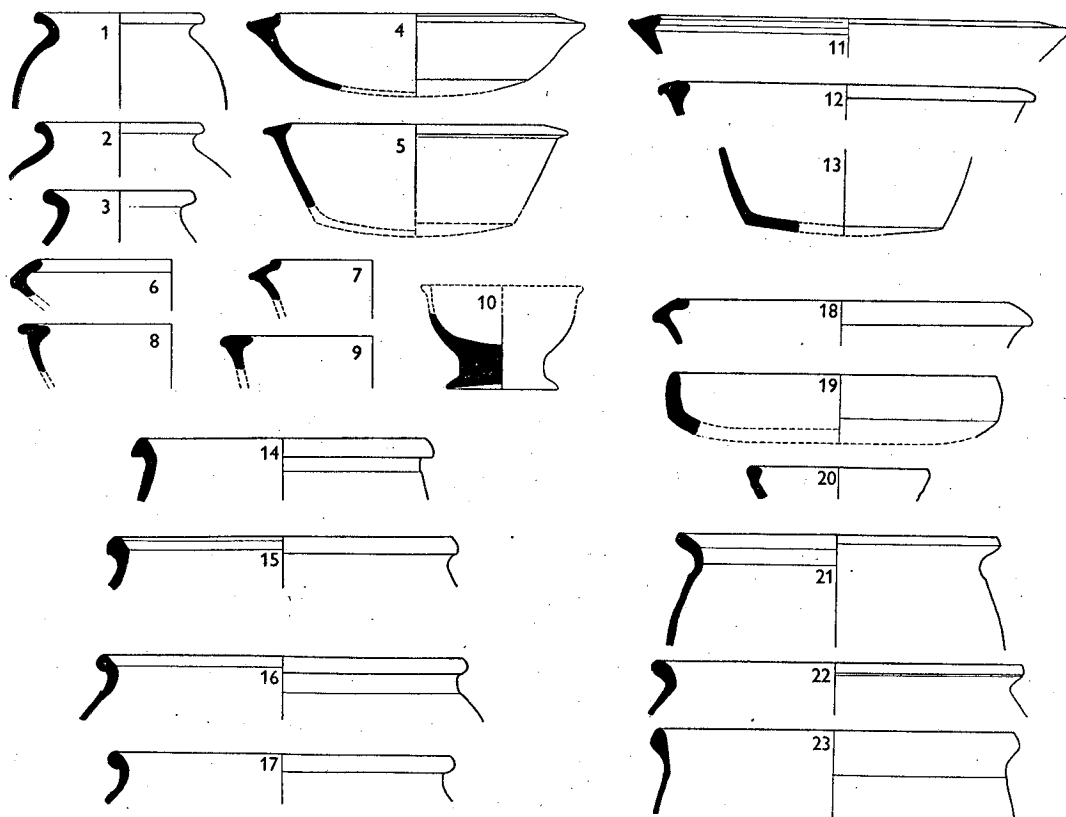


Fig. 7. St Neots ware from Paxton 1-13, Eaton Socon 14-17, Southoe 18-23. 1/5.

Cooking pot with thickened everted rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 7, 3. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 7.

A shallow bowl with hammer-headed rim sloping outside with a double beading, Fig. 7, 4. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3-6.

A deep bowl with thin straight sides and hammer-headed rim sloping outwards, small beading on the outside, dark outer surface and light purple-brown inner surface, Fig. 7, 5. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 1. There is a complete example of this type of bowl from the High Street, Bedford, which enables the depth of the Paxton bowl to be restored, Bedford Modern School Museum 3760.

Fig. 7, 6 and 7, typical flanged bowls, No. 7 with similar beading to the hammer-headed bowls. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 2 and 3.

Fig. 7, 8 and 9, further examples of hammer-headed bowls. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxv, Fig. 3, 5 and 4.

Fig. 7, 10, the base of a lamp. There is another example with a taller stem from Southoe (*Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 8). Except for these two examples I know of no other examples in St Neots ware in the Cambridge area. There are examples at Northampton. All the cressets in the Cambridge collections are Medieval in date.

Rim of a bowl with angular inturned rim, a double beading on the sloping outer edge, dark purple-brown outer surfaces, lighter inside, Fig. 7, 11.

Rounded rim of a bowl with outer flange with a small beading underneath, black, Fig. 7, 12. This closely parallels the bowl from Knapwell, Fig. 3, 15.

Sagging base of a cooking pot, dark purple-brown, Fig. 7, 13.

ST NEOTS. C. F. Tebbutt, 1929-32. *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii (1933), pp. 137-51. Found during the excavation of a series of Late Saxon huts. Saxo-Norman pottery only. This site is

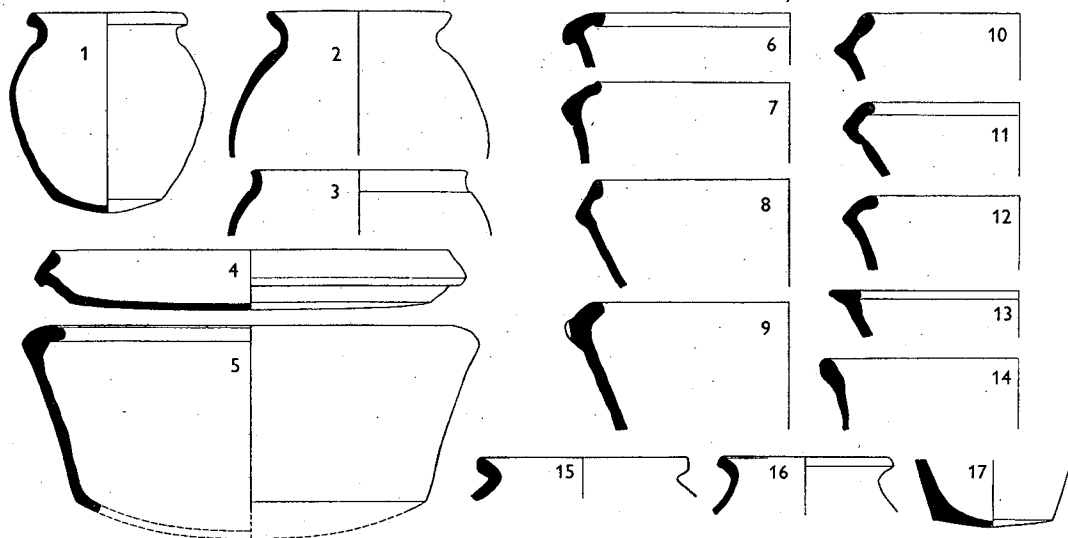


Fig. 8. St Neots cooking pots and bowls from hut sites at St Neots. 1/5.

certainly Pre-Conquest and may be as early as the ninth or tenth century. The dating depends on a T-shaped Frankish axe, but these pots do not have a close dating.

Typical small cooking pot with everted rim squared outside, black, Fig. 8, 1. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Pl. II. This is the only cooking pot in the Cambridge area which has a complete profile.

Larger cooking pot with slightly everted plain rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 8, 2. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Fig. 6, 11.

Cooking pot with an unusual upright rim, dark purple-brown, Fig. 8, 3. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Fig. 6, 10.

Shallow bowl with inturned flanged rim and slightly sagging base, Fig. 8, 4. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Pl. III, purple-brown.

Deep bowl with rounded inturned flange, dark purple-brown, Fig. 8, 5. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Pl. II.

Fig. 8, 6-12, a typical series of bowls with inturned flanged rims. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Fig. 6, nos. 5, 4, 2, 1, 6, 3.

Bowl with hammer-headed rim and internal beading, Fig. 8, 13. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Fig. 6, 8. Compare with the Paxton bowls, Fig. 7, 11 and 12.

Bowl with upright thickened rim, Fig. 8, 14. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxiii, Figs. 6, 9.

Cooking pot with a thickened everted rim, black, Fig. 8, 15.

Cooking pot with thin sides and everted rim squared outside and beaded inside, dark purple-brown, Fig. 8, 16.

Sagging base with sharp angle outside and rounded inside, dark brown-purple, Fig. 8, 17.

SALOME LODGE. Dr Garrood, *Trans. Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. v (1936), p. 385. St Neots pottery was found stratified between Medieval and Roman levels.

SOUTHOE MANOR (1937). T. C. Lethbridge and C. F. Tebbutt. *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii (1938), pp. 158-63. The manor was divided into three in 1219 so the property probably decayed after this date.

There is the base of a lamp from this site (*Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 8) like that from Paxton, Fig. 7, 10, but with a taller stand.

From a posthole a typical flanged bowl, dark purple-brown, Fig. 7, 18. This is an earlier type than the rest of the pottery from this site which is mainly twelfth century.

From the Latrine pit a cooking pot with thickened everted rim hollowed on top and brushed, fingered along the outside edge. See *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 10. Small fragment of a cooking pot with sharply everted rim heavily beaded inside. A medium-sized bowl with upright rim, thick sides and slightly sagging base, purple-brown, Fig. 7, 19. See *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 11. Small bowl of unusual type with upright rim and sloping sides, red purple-brown, Fig. 7, 20. See *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 9. A similar small bowl was found on the site of 147 High Street, Huntingdon (Hunt. Mus. 2214) and another at Eden Yard, Cambridge, Fig. 5, 14. Upright rimmed bowls appear to be late in the series, dating to the eleventh or twelfth century. The fingered cooking pot is a common twelfth-century type. But there is now evidence that it may be late eleventh, *Oxon.* vol. xvii-xviii (1952-3), p. 84, Fig. 33, 23-8.

From the later Latrine pit a series of St Neots cooking pots with fairly simple everted rims and the offset on the shoulder which appears to be a twelfth-century feature, Fig. 7, 21-3. See also *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 1-4. This Latrine pit was cut into the other one and the contents must therefore be later. As the contents of the first Latrine pit are already twelfth-century, the later Latrine pit cannot be more than a few years later. There were also in this some Medieval sherds as *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xxxviii, Fig. 1, 1, which are similar to pots from Rayleigh Castle which is twelfth century. These pits do not appear to be of much help for dating, for if the Latrine pit is twelfth century there should be some Medieval sherds in it if Medieval pottery (i.e. pottery in the hard Medieval fabric but very often in St Neots forms) started soon after the Norman Conquest as appears likely.

TURTLE FIELD. Mound on the St Ives Road near Huntingdon. Material in the Huntingdon Museum, Dr Garrood.

WEALD CHAPEL (1941). E. Newton, *Trans. Camb. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* vol. vi (1943), pp. 168-75. St Neots pottery was found here near and under the chapel of this deserted Medieval village.

WOODHURST (1951). Various sherds of typical black and grey shelly wares with red to purple-brown soapy surfaces mixed with Medieval pottery (51. 515).

Leicestershire

LEICESTER, *Jewry Wall Site*, G. C. Dunning, *Soc. Ant. Res. Rep.* no. 15 (1948) pp. 222-8.

Lincolnshire

LINCOLN. Material from *Eastgate* (published by H. Hodges, *Thoroton Soc. Proc.* (1954) pp. 29, 30); *Flaxengate*; *Newport Arch* excavations 1954 and from the *Telephone Exchange* site at the corner of Broadgate and St Rumbold Street. From the later site an almost complete cooking pot with a band of rouletting round the shoulder. To be published by F. H. Thompson in *Lincs. Arch. Soc. Rep.*

NETTLEHAM (1935). A cooking pot, the rouletted rim of a flanged bowl and a shallow spouted bowl from the manor site. Lincoln City Museum.

STAMFORD. Material from the destruction of the castle mound in the 1930's to make a car park.

London

A few sherds in the Guildhall Museum from various sites.

Middlesex

NORTHOLT (1950 onwards). *A.N.L.* vol. III (1951), p. 149, J. G. Hurst. Fragments of bowls found under the thirteenth-century level. The sherds were found in a latrine pit during trial trenching in the first season and many have since been found in a twelfth-century ditch. A large area is being taken down to this level in which it is hoped to find further examples. Gunnersbury Park Museum.

Norfolk

NORWICH (1896). At *Fye Bridge*, see *Norf. Arch.* vol. XIII (1898), pp. 217-32, and at *Barn Road*, 1948 (*Norf. Arch.* vol. XXX (1952), pp. 307-8), 1951 and 1953 (*Norf. Arch.* vol. XXXI (1953), pp. 56-8) and 1954. *Palace Street* (1952). Norwich Castle Museum.

THETFORD (1948-50). *A.N.L.* vol. II (1950), pp. 117-22, and vol. III (1950), pp. 41-6. A fair number of St Neots sherds were found by Group Capt. Knocker during the Ministry of Works excavations in the Late Saxon town. Norwich Castle and Thetford Museums.

Northamptonshire

ARMSTON. St Neots cooking pot.

EARL'S BARTON. Sherds from the churchyard, collected by E. M. Jope in 1939: cooking pot rim and body sherds.

HINTON-IN-THE-HEDGES. Cooking pot rim from a water supply trench dug in 1939-40, collected by E. M. Jope.

LONG BUCKBY (1955). Dr M. W. Thompson. Material from the Ministry of Works excavation of the outer bailey of the castle, mainly twelfth century in date.

NORTHAMPTON. *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Rep.* vol. XVI (1881), p. 243, S. Sharpe. Northampton Museum.

TOWCESTER (1954). J. Alexander. Sherds from the Ministry of Works excavation of the Roman defences.

WYTHEMAIL (1954). Sherds found by Miss D. G. Duckett on this deserted village site excavated by the Deserted Medieval Village Research Group on behalf of the Ministry of Works.

Nottinghamshire

STOKE BARDOLPH (1952). The Peveril Research Group have found St Neots pottery in the lower levels of this Medieval manor site. Information, Mr H. Wildgoose.

THURGARTON (1953). St Neots pottery was found on this site stratified under an early twelfth-century chapel by Mr H. Hodges. *Thoroton Soc.* vol. LVIII (1954), pp. 28-30. Mr P. W. Gathercole found further sherds in 1954.

Oxfordshire

Mr E. M. Jope is publishing details of Oxfordshire St Neots sites in a forthcoming volume of *Oxoniensia*. There is St Neots material from Deddington Castle, Duns Tew, Marston, Woodperry, Wretchwick, Yarnton and in Oxford from under the castle mound, Canal Wharf, Bulwarks Lane, St Ebbe's, St Martin's, Lincoln Hall, Bodleian Quadrangle, Radcliffe Square, Oriel College, All Souls Cloister Quadrangle, Logic Lane, Angel Inn, New College, York Place and Clarendon Hotel.

Rutland

OAKHAM CASTLE (1953). A few sherds were found associated with Stamford ware in an occupation layer under the twelfth-century Castle bank in the Ministry of Works excavations directed by Mr P. W. Gathercole.

Suffolk

IPSWICH. A single bowl from Falcon Street.

Warwickshire

BIGGIN. Miss Morris tells me that the Rugby School Archaeological Society found St Neots ware on this deserted village site.

Yorkshire

HUNGATE, YORK (1951-2). Various fragments of typical St Neots cooking pots and bowls were found by Miss K. Richardson on this site during excavations by the Ministry of Works. As far as I know no examples of St Neots ware have been found elsewhere in Yorkshire. Mr D. M. Waterman confirms this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper owes its origin to Mr G. C. Dunning who first persuaded me to make a corpus of East Anglian Saxo-Norman pottery when I was a research student at Cambridge in 1951. Since then he has given me the benefit of his wide knowledge on this subject and has most generously allowed me to publish his drawings of pottery from St Neots (Fig. 8, 1-14), Paxton (Fig. 7, 1-10), the Ely jug (Fig. 2, 1; Fig. 3, 11 and Fig. 6, 1). I also have to thank Mr E. M. Jope for his help in many ways, especially in bringing to my notice many extra St Neots sites of which I was not aware in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire; Dr G. H. S. Bushnell for his continued help and encouragement; Mr T. C. Lethbridge and Sir Cyril Fox for reading through my text and offering useful suggestions, and for correcting details of fact; other individuals and museum curators who have provided me with information as stated in the text and lists of sites.

I must thank Miss E. Mickle for drawing the pottery on Fig. 2, 2-7.