

Chapter 6 Medieval (Phase 5) and later (Phase 6)by M O'Connell6.1.1 Catalogue of Ditch Fill (F103/300)

<u>Feature</u> (F)	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
	<u>Layer</u>		<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
103	1. Dark grey stony soil	fig 3	M, R		Tile Burnt daub
	2. Stony grey silt				
	3. * Orange gravel earth mix in lenses				
	4. * Soft brown earth silting in lenses				
	5. Gravelly soil				
300	1. Dark grey earthy fill	fig 5	M		
	2. Dark grey stony silt				Flint, burnt daub
	3. Loose gravelly soil	fig 64			

M = Medieval

R = Roman

P = Prehistoric

* lenses

6.2.1 The Medieval Pottery (fig 65)

The majority of the pottery came from the ultimate fill of the medieval ditch (F103.1/300.1). Three of the sherds described (2, 8 and 9) were found in a layer (103) partly sealing the ditch, while one sherd (1) from the plough-soil (layer 300) immediately above the ditch has also been included. The pottery has been divided into four main fabric types to facilitate discussion. Three of the vessels (nos 1, 2 and 3) had been handmade, nos 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 appear to have been wheel-made, while the abraded condition of no 8 made it uncertain what technique had been used.

I Grass-tempered

Two sherds were found of grass-temper in a brown/black fabric. Both sherds have been examined by J Hurst who considered that they could belong to the early or middle Saxon period. On the basis of pottery from Old Windsor a date range beginning in the 4th century and continuing up to the mid-11th century was thought possible for similar Saxon pottery from Staines (Crouch 1976, 111) while a starting date in the 8th century was suggested for grass-tempered ware from Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, 47). Although it is difficult to date the sherds precisely it seems likely on available evidence that they predate the remaining medieval pottery found at Petters and can be classified as rubbish survival.

1. Everted rim of small cooking pot. Layer 300.
2. Base (not illustrated). Layer 103.

II Rough grit-tempered

Rough dark grey/brown to black ware tempered with grit. This fabric is comparable with the "Pimply" wares identified at Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, 60) and the early medieval group at Northolt (Hurst 1961, 255), suggesting a similar date range of between 1050 - 1150 for its occurrence at Petters.

3. Everted rim of cooking pot, Laverstock Type 1 rim. This form is given a date in the late 11th - early 12th century at Laverstock (Musty 1969, 100) and is also found at Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, fig 35 no 1) in Pimply fabric. F300.1.

III Shell-tempered

Five sherds were found in a red to brown fabric with grey core and large shell-tempering. This fabric has been studied by Turner (1967) and occurs at Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, 60), where a date range between 1150 - 1250 was suggested. Much of the pottery from Weybridge and Petters and one sherd from Reigate (Turner 1970) in this fabric had a corky appearance. At Weybridge this was due to the acid soil which had caused the shell-temper on the outer surfaces to be leached out, while at Reigate it was suggested that the shell-temper had been burnt out during the firing process. In view of the acidity of the subsoil, it is almost certain that the shell-temper had been leached rather than burnt out of the pottery from Petters. Shell-tempered wares occur at Guildford (Holling 1969) in a 12th to 13th century context but the fabric was much softer and not pitted.

One sherd (6) had a smoother appearance on the outer surface almost as if a slip had been applied and the core was orange and contained at least one grog inclusion.

4. Developed, everted rim of cooking pot. Laverstock Type IV form. This is a 13th century form at Laverstock (Musty 1969, 100) but occurs at Northolt (Hurst 1961, fig 66 no 13) in Developed St Neots Ware (1050 - 1150) and a vessel with a similar but less developed rim at Guildford was also probably 12th century (Holling 1969, fig 3 no 4). F300.1.
5. Plain everted rim of cooking pot. F103.1.
- 6, 7 and 8. Bowls with straight sides and thickened rims. This bowl form occurs at Northolt (Hurst 1961) in the early Medieval group (fig 67 nos 33-4) and a comparable form in the Developed St Neots group (fig 66 nos 17-18). 6 comes from F103.1: 7 from F300.1 and 8 from layer 103.
9. Base (not illustrated). Layer 103.

IV Red/brown sandy

Only one sherd was found in red/brown sandy fabric with a grey core. This fabric has been discussed by Turner at Merton (Turner 1967, 56) and Reigate (Turner 1970, 29-36) and by Hanworth at Weybridge (Hanworth & Tomalin 1977, 60) where the date range proposed was between 1150 and 1275. Hanworth noted a relationship between this fabric and shell-tempered and vesicular wares at Weybridge. Evidence of shell-tempering was noted in the Petter's example while the same vessel was also slightly vesiculated.

10. Base (not illustrated). F300.1.

Conclusions

The identification of the grass-tempered pottery as rubbish survival is strengthened by the discovery of a 2nd century Roman flagon base (J Bird pers common) in the ultimate fill of the medieval ditch. The remaining pottery forms a roughly contemporary assemblage. Fabric Types 3 and 4 could be accommodated within the late 12th or 13th century. However, the appearance of the cooking pot in Type 2 fabric seems to indicate a date in the 12th rather than the 13th century, and because of the size and condition of the vessel it is unlikely to have been a rubbish survival. The rim forms in Type 3 are also paralleled in the 12th century and a date range between the middle to the end of the 12th century is therefore proposed for the assemblage.

6.3.1 Catalogue of post-medieval Postholes

Measurements in metres

<u>Posthole</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Estimated pipe diameter</u>	<u>Post removed</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
							<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
100.2	0.12	0.15	0.09	x	fig 3	33			
100.3	0.12	0.15	0.09	x	"	33			
101	0.53	0.25			"	34,35			PM tile
102	0.36	0.12	0.08		"	36			
120	0.17	0.15			"	too small to section			PM glass
401	0.21	0.96			fig 7	131			Chalk
402	0.16	0.97			"	132			PM brick and tile
403	0.17	0.08			"	133			
404	0.20	0.08	0.15	x	"	134			PM iron nails
410	0.45	0.28				140			PM iron nail tile or brick
416	0.40	0.17			fig 6	146			PM iron nails and tile
417	0.57	0.22			fig 7	147			
421	0.10	0.10	0.06		"	151			PM tile
443	0.14	0.09	0.05		"	173			
461	0.14	0.12			"	193			PM glass
475	0.35	0.06	0.08	partially	"	98			PM clay pipe frag and brick

6.3.1 (contd.)

<u>Posthole</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Estimated pipe diameter</u>	<u>Post removed</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
							<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
478	0.42	0.12	0.09	partially	fig 7	104	P		PM clay pipe frag and tile
480	0.75	0.15	0.12	partially	"	109			PM clay pipe frag and tile
482	0.55	0.17	0.18	partially	"	112			PM clay pipe frag brick or tile
485	0.42	0.11	1.18						

P = Prehistoric

PM = Post Medieval

6.3.2 Catalogue of post-medieval Pits

Measurements in metres

<u>Pit No</u> (F)	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Fill in reverse</u> <u>order of</u> <u>deposition</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
						<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
100	0.80 x 0.21	0.15	Post pit and contains 100.2 and 100.3 - fill of pit (100.1) is brown earth with pebbles	fig 3	33	PM pottery		
301	0.70 x ? only partially excavated	0.20	1. Dark soil with charcoal	fig 5	25			PM building debris

6.4.1 Catalogue of Postholes of uncertain date

Measurements in metres

<u>Posthole</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Estimated pipe diameter</u>	<u>Post removed</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
							<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
104	0.34	0.10		/	fig 3	42			
105	0.25	0.06		/	"	42			
106	0.31	0.07		/	"	43			
107	0.26	0.15		/	"	43			
109	0.26	0.09		/	"	42			
111	0.43	0.23	0.11	/	"	46			
113	0.06	0.18	0.06	x	"	too small to be sectioned			
114	0.32	0.15		?	"	49			
115	0.23	0.12		?	"	48			
118	0.43	0.24		/	"	51			
119	0.37	0.10		/	"	52			
138	0.50	0.19	0.06	/	"	68			
142	0.54	0.24	0.11	/	"	72			
143	0.66	0.11		/	"	73			
146	0.18	0.14	0.07	/	"	76			
148	0.30	0.57	0.15	/	"	7			
149	0.28	0.44	0.12	/	"	7			
150	0.24	0.12		/	"	77			

58.

6.4.1 (contd.)

<u>Posthole</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Estimated pipe diameter</u>	<u>Post removed</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
							<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
151	0.31	0.18	0.11	x	fig 3	78			
152	0.26	0.07			"	80			
possible a root hole									
153	0.23	0.07		?	"	79			
154	0.37	0.17		/	"	84			
158	0.47	0.56		/	"	45			
159	0.30	0.40		/	"	45			
161	0.30	0.17	0.10	/	"	44			
204	0.16	0.11	0.06	/	fig 4	89			
312	0.28	0.15	0.16	/	fig 5	219			
495	0.26	0.42	0.09	/	fig 7	127			
498	0.22	0.23		/	"	129			

6.4.2 Catalogue of Pits of uncertain date

Measurements in metres

<u>Pit No</u> (F)	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Fill in reverse</u> <u>order of</u> <u>deposition</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
						<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
108	1.11 x 0.71	0.30	1. Grey soil 2. Grey soil and charcoal 3. Gravel and soil	fig 3	44		/	Tile fragment
110	at least 1.08 x 0.96 cut by F150	0.44	1. Brown earth 2. Gravel and sand	"	45			
112	0.48 x 0.26 probably a root hole	0.05	1. Brown soil	"	47			
116	1.65 x 1.17	0.17	1. Brown stony soil	"	50			Burnt daub
133	2.40 x 0.93	0.30	1. Burnt pebbly soil 2. Burnt sandy soil	"	63			
136	at least 1.08 x 0.71 only partially excavated	0.33	1. Fine grey to brown soil with pebbles	"	66			
137	0.78 x 0.53	0.25	1. Dark brown pebbly soil	"	67			

6.4.2 (contd)

<u>Pit No</u> (F)	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>Fill in reverse</u> <u>order of</u> <u>deposition</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Finds</u>		
						<u>Pottery</u>	<u>Bone</u>	<u>Other</u>
141	0.67 x 0.66	0.25	1. Pebbly dark brown soil	fig 3	71			
144	1.22 x 1.10	0.17	1. Dark brown pebbly soil	"	74			
145	at least 1.0 wide - only partially excavated	0.08	1. Dark brown pebbly soil	"	75			
156	0.92 x 0.64	0.28	1. Dark brown soil with burnt stone and charcoal flecks 2. Gravelly soil	"	86			
160	at least 0.64 x 0.40 cut by F150	0.12	1. Brown earth	"	45			
203	0.56 x 0.55	0.11	1. Dark soil with gravel and charcoal flecks	fig 4	88			
303	0.70 x 0.54 root hole	0.25	1. Dark grey earthy soil	fig 5	2-10			
496	3.46 x 1.60 cut by 495	0.70	1. Brown stony soil	fig 7	29-32			
497	at least 1.00 x 0.50 cut by F496	0.18	1. Brown stony soil	"	128			