

OXAQ (Early - Late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware Abingdon type C)**CH20 Mid 12 - c 1425***Description*

Group II Flint: Moderate; coarse to very coarse angular grey flint, irregular limestone, occ voids. Wheel thrown; th 8-10, mainly 10. Used for Cp and jug. Combed decoration; notched rims. Ext: reddish yellow (5YR/6/6); Core: Grey (7.5YR/6/0); Int: Grey (7.5YR/5/0). Phase 8-11 at St Aldates. Date: late 12th - 15th century. Also Ludgershall Castle type C9. Wallingford type.

A wide range of regional imports, principally from the south (fabrics AG and AQ and BK) were available at the end of the 12th century and continued during the first half of the 13th century, probably reflecting increasing prosperity in the area (1980, 161). A number of discrete production areas (Fabric Y made to the north; AM to the east and AQ to the south-west) were producing very similar wares in the first half of the 13th century.

Probably coarse sandy wares were rapidly replaced by finer wares (AM) which included a wide variety of highly decorated jugs, thin-walled porringers, double-shelled lamps and, later, bottles. However, large vessels suitable for cooking were not found in this ware and in the mid 13th century: cooking pots and shallow dishes and pans were made in a flint and chalk-tempered ware (Fabric AQ). Fabric AQ was increasingly used for kitchen wares. Fabric AW produced some but could not rival the flint and chalk tempered wares (1980, 176). Absent at the Hamel by the 15th century (1980, 179).

Abingdon Type C description

Grey flint- and chalk-tempered fabric which usually has pitted holes in the surface where the chalk has leached out. Majority have bright orange external surfaces and grey internal surfaces. In a small proportion the colours are reversed or they are completely grey. Chalk and flint up to 4 mm.

Post 1250

OXAQ (Early to Late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware) was coil made and the rims often wheel finished and the bases slightly sagging. Distinctive fabric was flint and limestone tempered. Possibly from Kennet Valley clay (1994, 100). Cooking pots and storage vessels with simple decoration, preferably combing. Present in surprising quantities at Chalgrove (1994, 105), some 11 miles NW of Henley. The large quantities found throughout the life of Chalrove may indicate a preference for supporting the market at Abingdon as did the manor at Cuxham, though not necessarily through buying pottery and may be related to dairy farming. It may also indicate that it fulfilled a special function, cherished by those of some social standing, since it occurs in higher quantities at Bishop's Palace, Witney. The gap in the south-east of the county is also mirrored by the lack of Brill/Boarstall products (OXAW, OXAM) south of Chalgrove (1994, 105).

The popularity of OXAQ may be due in part that it lent itself to continual expansion and contraction. Higher temperatures were created during oven cooking from the 13th century (if not earlier) than over an open fire and so a stronger more flexible fabric

would have been desirable. The pots are often found in garderobes and therefore may have been used as chamberpots (1994, 105) Probably dates from the early 12th century to early 15th century. It was used in Newbury during the later 13th and early 14th centuries until it was replaced by Coarse Border Wares (OXBG) in Oxford (1994, 106).

BRILL/BOARSTALL**OXAG (Medieval Abingdon Ware)
CH44 - late 11th c - possibly early 15th c***Description*

Abingdon type A; Wallingford type. Abundant with white, rounded quartz, grey, white sub-rounded quartz. Wheel thrown; th 5. Cp; Jugs; bowls; tripod pitchers; cisterns. Brown and white slip, applied thumb-pressed strips, glaze. Int: lt red (2.5YR/6/8), Core: as int or grey (10YR/5.5/1) St Aldates phases 6a-11. Dated late 11th C or earlier - 15th C.

Tablewares in OXAG and OXY were not only a delight to behold but also suggest an improvement in the quality of life for many during the 12th and early 13th centuries as well as a certain affluence when compared with consumers in the north-west, north and south-east who lacked such decorative quality tablewares. Chalgrove may lack OXY but it does have OXAG.

Abingdon Type A description

Grey sandy fabric with small quartz inclusions. Common for tripod pitchers and cooking pots and other vessels. Most common glaze is a dark olive green, although there are examples with orange or greenish-yellow glaze. Elaborate decoration normal with applied strips forming zones, finger-pressed applied decoration, horizontal rouletting, notching of rims and handles.

OXAM (Oxford Late Medieval ware; Brill type; Abingdon D and L)**CH46 - mid 13th C-PM***Description*

Oxford Late Medieval ware: Sparse-abundant. Fine red-brown and colourless grains, occ red-brown iron mineral. Wheel thrown and occasional knife trim; th 4. Cp; jugs; bottles; lamps; skillets etc. Decorated with plain and rouletted thin applied strips, pads, slip, glaze. Reddish yell (7.5YR/7/5); Core: Grey-pink (10YR/7/0-7.5YR/7/5). St Aldates phases 9-11. Dated late 13th or earlier - 15th C.

By first half of 13th century appearance of first sherds of a major tradition of finer glazed vessels (fabric AM) (1977, 138). Probably coarse sandy wares were rapidly replaced by finer wares (AM) which included a wide variety of highly decorated jugs, thin-walled porringers, double-shelled lamps and, later, bottles. Large vessels suitable for cooking were not found in this ware. Cooking pots and shallow dishes and pans were made in a flint and chalk-tempered ware (Fabric AQ).

Fine sandy wares (AM) continued to dominate the market throughout the later medieval period but the very elaborately decorated jugs had been discontinued by the later 13th or early 14th century. The other vessel forms and decoration, including mottled green glaze, remained in use throughout the 14th century. The absence of jugs imported from outside the region during the 14th century is probably an indication that the finer sandy wares (AM) had a monopoly within the Oxford region. In fact a few of these wares even travelled as far as Newbury, Gloucester, Northampton, Bedford and Hertfordshire (1980, 176).

Earliest reference to potters at Brill is in 1254 and the absence of sherds from fabrics AM and AW in some sites suggests they were not available until the second quarter of the 13th century (1980, 178). Highly decorated designs are known around Oxfordshire at this period. Absence of highly decorated jugs, including rouletted strips, was noticeable at the Hamel suggesting that the zenith of the jug industry was over by c 1280-1290. Fewer aquamaniles and so on.

A number of discrete production areas (Fabric Y made to the north; AM to the east and AQ to the south-west) were producing very similar wares in the first half of the 13th century. Sandy wares (AM), (finer than AW) which specialised in jugs, probably came from the east, perhaps towards Boarstall area, during the second half of the 13th century and later medieval period (1980, 181).

**Like OXAW (Brill type)
CH55 (mid 12th C - c 1325)**

Description

Abundant with fine, grey, white and black grains, occ red-brown iron mineral. Wheel thrown; th 3-. Cp, undercut rims typical of Brill, skillets, jugs. White and brown slip, plain and rouletted applied strips, glaze. Int: Pale brown (7.5YR/7/4); Core: Grey (7.5YR/5/0). St Aldates Phase 11. Dated 15th C.

Fabric AW, coarser than finer fabric AM, produced some cooking pots in the mid 13th century but could not rival the flint and chalk tempered wares like AQ (1980, 176, 181).

By the end of the 12th century the Brill/Boarstall potters in West Bucks were probably beginning to make pots. The earliest potters (OXAW) used two similar fabrics - one with sub-angular quartz (OXA2), the other with abundant rounded quartz (OXAW1). Some iron stained quartz and clay pellets were present suggesting that the potters had deliberately added the inclusions to improve the clay. This is paralleled in the earlier local tradition (OXY) and the texture of OXAW and OXY is very harsh unlike the later (OXAM) and it is possible that OXY is the precursor to the OXAW tradition (1994, 111).

Cooking pots/storage jars were the largest component and the smaller sizes were more popular than the medium-sized and the larger vessels were comparatively rare. No other local tradition produced such a range of bowls, although the wide open pans found in earlier and contemporary traditions (OXAC and OXAQ) were absent (1994, 111). This may suggest either that these potters were not supplying the agricultural community with vessels suitable for dairying practices such as the making of butter, cheese and allied products, or that wood had perhaps replaced pottery in the dairy. Fewer skillets and large storage jars were found (1994, 114).

Decoration on domestic wares was minimal with rilling (throwing grooves) and applied strips, sometimes to strengthen the pot. But tablewares skilfully decorated, some with horizontal incised lines or with washes or rilling reminiscent of French jugs and also paralleled with Bristol jugs (1994, 114). Little of these Brill/Boarstall fabrics extend beyond Oxfordshire and Bucks (1994, 117). Broken jugs have been found in Oxford contexts predating 1231 and by the mid 13th century it is found in considerable quantities and the flowering of the highly decorated jugs and pitchers

coincides with this date. This fabric continued to be used after the 13th century for coarse wares only and small amounts may have persisted into the 15th century.

OXAM (CH46), OXAP (CH65), OXBX (CH64)
OXAP and BX (c mid 13th- late med/PM)

By 1225-1250 the potters from Brill/Boarstall started to use clay without the heavy admixture of quartz (OXAM - Late Medieval Oxford Ware). This was sometimes overfired making it look like a proto-stoneware (OXAP) and a third fabric often had large occasional opaque limestone inclusions (OXBX) which became more popular during the later medieval period - and into PM (1994, 117).

Fabrics were used for fine walled small cooking pots/storage jars and a wide range of smaller vessels used at the table, Such as drinking vessels with faces, puzzle jugs, anthropomorphic jugs and occasional copies of French vessels (1994, 118-122). An astonishing variety of decorative styles were present by the mid 13th century (1994,127) although plainer jugs are contemporary. Variation of jug types continued into the 15th and 16th centuries (1994, 132). The inspiration that lay behind the great flowering of these jugs and pitchers may be derived from the ceramic industries based on the Bristol area, again suggesting a western influence in the oxford region.

Pottery making was first mentioned in 1254 (1994, 132) and in the 1460s bricks were brought into Oxford from Brill and the brick-making industry continued in Brill until recently.

The distribution of Brill products which extends throughout the south midlands has a vacuum in the Benson area, only 15 miles from its source, as if it was suppressed by the south-east Oxfordshire industry despite the latter's comparatively crude products in the 13th century. East Wiltshire products (OXAQ) are also hindered from penetrating this area although the exception for both is Chalgrove. Chalgrove may have had a preference for centres some distance away or an affiliation with a specific market, eg Abingdon (1994, 138). In South-east Oxfordshire the local sandy tradition (OX162) appeared to exclude the Brill/Boarstall products (except at Chalgrove).

At the beginning of the industry, during first half of 13th century, distribution perhaps confined within a 12 mile radius, which just included Oxford. Penetration gradually increased but by mid 14th century it had decreased markedly (1994, 139). The decline of the Brill industry was marked by the increased popularity of the **Surrey/Hampshire Coarse Border wares (OXBG)** which had been active in the 13th century but thrived at this time (1994, 139). Further evidence of this decline is shown at Chalgrove where the cisterns and jars were still well glazed at a time when the Brill/Boarstall ceramic industry was using transparent glazes very sparingly. Copper oxide for the glaze had to be transported from France or further and therefore its use was a reflection of the prosperity of the potter. Transparent glaze was made from lead glaze from the Mendips or Cornwall, or possibly Derbyshire and therefore would also have been expensive. Lead industry was in decline in the 15th century. Periods of economic stress in the 15th century caused bad pots. 14th century pots got plainer.

SURREY**OXBG (Coarse Border ware: Surrey/Hampshire type; Abingdon N;
Farnborough)****CH 47 13th C - PM esp 14th - 15th C***Description*

Moderate with red-brown, white sub-rounded quartz, occasional coarse grain. Wheel thrown; th 3-7. Jugs. Patchy glaze, thumb-pressed bases. Int: v pale brown (10YR/7.5/3); Core: Pink (7.5YR/7/4). St Aldates phases 9-11. Dated late 13th-15thC.

By the middle of the 15th century regional imports from the south-east, perhaps brought via Henley, began to appear (Fabric BG, a Farnborough-Hill type common in London in the late 15th century and BN, Tudor Green, found in 15th-century Oxford contexts). These may have stimulated part of the static local industry (not changing during the 15th century) as two distinct trends appeared. In the first traditional jugs continued to be made, but poorly executed and made without the skill of the earlier jugs and in the second, Tudor Green tablewares from Surrey were copied in local clay by very competent potters. These local tablewares may only have been used in more affluent households (1980,176).

During the 15th century the highly decorated pottery and even the plain applied strips and red slip of the 14th century are missing, although fabric AM still dominant, as are the coarse flint and chalk tempered kitchen vessels (fabric AQ) 91980, 179). Nettlebed was ideally placed to copy Surrey-types transported over the Chilterns and the earliest documentary reference to a potter of 1442 would fit well (1980, 181-182).

The decline of the Brill industry was marked by the increased popularity of the Surrey/Hampshire Coarse Border wares (OXBG) which had been active in the 13th century but thrived at this time (1994, 139). Further evidence of this decline is shown at Chalgrove where the cisterns and jars were still well glazed at a time when the Brill/Boarstall ceramic industry was using transparent glazes very sparingly. Copper oxide for the glaze had to be transported from France or further and therefore its use was a reflection of the prosperity of the potter. Transparent glaze was made from lead glaze from the Mendips or Cornwall, or possibly Derbyshire and therefore would also have been expensive. Lead industry was in decline in the 15th century. Periods of economic stress in the 15th century caused bad pots. 14th century pots got plainer.

By the late medieval period the Coarse Border Ware industry from the Surrey/Hampshire borders (OXBG) began to supply the Vale and some of the riverside towns, such as Abingdon (1994, 139). This industry had been well established since the 13th century and regularly supplied this part of Oxfordshire by the late 14th and 15th centuries suggesting the increased popularity of Coarse Border Wares in direct response to the decline of the Brill industry.

Abingdon Type N description

Fine white sandy fabric which is fired a light buff internally and has a mottled bright green and yellow external glaze.

**OXBN (Tudor Green from Surrey)
CH54 13th C - PM esp 14th - 15th C**

Description

Abundant fine, white, grey quartz. Wheel thrown; Th 4. Lobed dishes; fine tableware. Rouletted strips; glaze. Very pale brown 10YR/8/3.

See above.

Demolition layers from Chalgrove produced tablewares (Tudor Green and local Tudor types) which probably date from towards the end of the manor's life, c 1450-1475 (1980, 179). The finer tablewares from Chalgrove have not been noted in the Brill and Boarstall area and may have come from Nettlebed, a mere 6 miles from Henley which was the limit of the navigable Thames during the 15th century (1980, 181). Nettlebed was ideally placed to copy Surrey-types transported over the Chilterns and the earliest documentary reference to a potter of 1442 would fit well (1980, 181-182).

Surrey

By the middle of the 15th century regional imports from the south-east, perhaps brought via Henley, began to appear (Fabric BG, a Farnborough-Hill type and BN, Tudor Green). These may have stimulated part of the static local industry (not changing during the 15th century) as two distinct trends appeared. In the first traditional jugs continued to be made, but poorly executed and made without the skill of the earlier jugs and in the second, Tudor Green tablewares from Surrey were copied in local clay by very competent potters. These local tablewares may only have been used in more affluent households (1980,176).

Absence of Tudor Green types from late 14th- or early 15th-century contexts in Oxford is notable (1977, 139).

OX162 Late Saxon to Late Medieval South-East Oxfordshire ware Tradition

CH41 (=H9) Early 12th - early 15th C

OX162 is fabric 41 available from the 11th century. Petrologically very similar to fabric type frth abundant angular quartz and some polycrystalline quartz. largely wheel-thrown and well-executed. Poor glaze but the manufacturing techniques were much better than those at Henley. These vessels were often fired on both oxidising and reducing temperatures suggesting that the potters did not have full control over their kilns (1994, 88-90). Possible potters are known from within the parish at Warpsgrove and in the adjoining parish of Cuxham in the late 13th century, where potters combined agriculture and pot making and therefore the source of some of the pottery at Chalgrove may be very local. Pottery of type OX162 was present in the earliest levels at Chalgrove - pre-dating the 1255 manor - and was found in association with another majority ceramic tradition (OXAQ) and was apparently in use throughout the life of the manor but it may have been residual in the later levels (1994, 90).

Nettlebed types (continuation of OX162 tradition)

OXBC (Abingdon type M) (OX162, Nettlebed)

CH59 14th - 15th C

Description

A local Tudor type. Sparse with fine red-brown and colourless grains. Wheel thrown; th 3-4. Lobed dishes. Dark green glaze on both surfaces. Core: reddish yellow (7.5YR/7/5). St Aldates phases 10-11. Dated 14th - 15th C.

OXCU (Nettlebed: NE 3)

CH60 mid 13th? But esp mid 14th- 15th/16th C

Available from mid 13th century (1994, fig. 24), into 15th and maybe even 16th century. White firing clay.

NE2 (mid 13th? But esp mid 14th to c mid 16th)

CH63

Available from mid 13th century (1994, fig. 24). This = **HE5 AND 7**

The finer tablewares from Chalgrove have not been noted in the Brill and Boarstall area and may have come from Nettlebed, a mere 6 miles from Henley which was the limit of the navigable Thames during the 15th century (1980, 181). Nettlebed was ideally placed to copy Surrey-types transported over the Chilterns and the earliest documentary reference to a potter of 1442 would fit well (1980, 181-182). Oxford was drawing pottery from a wide area.

CH59, CH60, CH63 and also CH51 (HE12) (Mid 14th - mid 16th C)

A substantial tile industry was established by the mid 14th century and it is possible that pots were also made there. There was an abundant source of clay in the Chilterns, including white firing clay near Soundess Farm, Swyncombe, but the archaeological

record suggests this was not used for the making of pots before the mid-late 14th century (1994, 143).

This ceramic tradition, containing 10-20% of polycrystalline quartz, caused the pottery researcher working on Chalgrove considerable problems. The fabric types containing quartz were amalgamated and as a result more than one tradition can be found within the broad fabric types (OXAM, NE1, NE2) (1994,143).

The industry produced lavishly glazed pots with mottled green glaze which were recorded at Chalgrove as Brill although Brill were only occasionally using transparent glaze at this later medieval period. It was used for large jars with thumb-pressed strips, glazed in thick rich mottled green glaze covering the entire vessel in and out. Cisterns with bung holes were glazed like the jars. Jugs, bottles and very wide strap handles were also made. A minor component were types similar to Tudor Green with dark green glaze (Chalgrove 59; OXBC) and these copied or may be part of the Surrey White Wear tradition. The ability of the potter to produce vessels that copied the fine metal tablewares may have aided this particular industry to survive and flourish at a time when their competitors (Brill) were in decline (1994, 144).

Most of these vessels were recognised in the destruction levels at Chalgrove where they were originally attributed to Brill because visually the fabric types are similar. Typologically, however, they are closer to Surrey White Wears although probably locally made (1994, 144).

Wasters from Swyncombe indicate three fabric types: two were iron rich, with sub-angular quartz (NE2), more rounded quartz (NE1), and both with polycrystalline quartz. The third was a near white iron free clay (NE3) with sub angular quartz. The latter was wheel thrown (1994, 146).

The flowering of this tradition in the late 14th - 15th century may be associated with patronage and by the later 14th century such patronage may have come from wealthy landowners such as occupants of moated manors, such as Chalgrove, rather than through a demand of local markets, which seem to have been in decline at the time, eg Wallingford (1994, 146).

Vessels probably belong to second half of 14th century - early 15th century. A few examples of white firing clay (NE3) have been found in Oxford contexts, dating 1500-1550 (**OXCU**), suggesting that these types continued to be made during the 15th century and possibly into the 16th (1994, 147).

Others

Rouen (CH66) early 13th C -

By first half of 13th century appearance of first sherds of a major tradition of finer glazed vessels (fabric AM). Imports from Rouen and the Rhineland would also have been in use (Fabrics AI andBJ) (1977, 139).

SW Oxon (CH70)

OXDJ (CH71)

Lewknor (CH21)

OXCC - Saintonge (CH49)

OXAV (What tradition?)

CH40 14th - 15th C

Moderate with fine grey, white grains, occ red-brown pellet, sparse mica. Wheel thrown; th 5. Jugs, bowls with handle socket. Applied plain and rouletted strips, glaze. Int: very pale brown (10YR/8/4); Core: white (10YR/8/1). St Aldates phases 10-11. Dated 14th - 15th C.

Other misc

Unknown sandy wares

CH45

CH50

CH70-72

St Aldates discussion 137-139

This found that most Late Saxon pottery had calcareous tempering and this was replaced soon after the Norman Conquest by sandy wares which became progressively finer and more decorated until a peak in the 13th century followed by a decline. The changes were gradual. Major fabrics creep in, then flourish and finally decline so that assessments of their relative proportions at any point are more significant than their presence or absence.

Flint-tempered wares (Group II) almost certainly in the case of Fabric AQ, indicate a limited local trade from the south. In the second half of the 11th century it is assumed that St Neot's Ware was already losing ground to a new local ware tempered with oolite and irregular limestone (fabric AC) and by the early 12th century cooking pots of AC had gained ascendancy over type IA fabrics. Sandy cooking pots were also increasing. Transition to sandy wares continued in the second half of the 12th century. By first half of 13th century appearance of first sherds of a major tradition of finer glazed vessels (fabric AM). Imports from Rouen and the Rhineland would also have been in use (Fabrics AI and BJ).

The slow replacement of coarse sandy wares (fabric Y) by finer vessels would have continued in the second half of the 13th and early 14th centuries (1977, 138-9). Not absent later on but less of it and also disturbed from earlier layers.

Absence of Tudor Green types from late 14th- or early 15th-century contexts in Oxford is notable (1977, 139).

The isolation and description of four distinctive dominant fabric types from St Aldates and other local sites suggest that these are major local traditions and they have been given the following nomenclature: Fabric B: Oxford late Saxon ware); Fabric AC: Oxford Early Medieval ware; Fabric Y: Oxford Medieval ware; Fabric AM: Oxford Late Medieval ware (1977, 139).

The Hamel (1980, 160-182)

Mid 12th century coarse sandy wares already dominated the market with cooking pots and pitchers in the ratio of 5:1 (fabric Y) but shallow dishes and cooking pots continued to be made in calcareous gravel tempered fabric (fabric AC). A greater variety of forms available in sandy fabrics by the end of the century and forms which had traditionally been marketed in calcareous gravel tempered wares were made. Potters of gravel tempered wares at first tried to copy the sandy rivals but by mid 13th century they were no longer marketed.

A wide range of regional imports, principally from the south (fabrics AG and AQ), probably also from the east (fabric BK) were available at the end of the 12th century and continued during the first half of the 13th century, probably reflecting increasing prosperity in the area (1980, 161).

By the middle of the 13th century coarse sandy wares (Fabric Y) were meeting considerable opposition and were finally superseded although they were probably used in a limited manner throughout the 14th C (Hamel 1980, 161).

Probably coarse sandy wares were rapidly replaced by finer wares (AM) which included a wide variety of highly decorated jugs, thin-walled porringers, double-shelled lamps and, later, bottles. Large vessels suitable for cooking were not found in this ware. Cooking pots and shallow dishes and pans were made in a flint and chalk-tempered ware (Fabric AQ). Fabric AQ was increasingly used for kitchen wares. Fabric AW produced some but could not rival the flint and chalk tempered wares (1980, 176).

Fine sandy wares (AM) continued to dominate the market throughout the later medieval period but the very elaborately decorated jugs had been discontinued by the later 13th or early 14th century. The other vessel forms and decoration, including mottled green glaze, remained in use throughout the 14th century. The absence of jugs imported from outside the region during the 14th century is probably an indication that the finer sandy wares (AM) had a monopoly within the Oxford region. In fact a few of these wares even travelled as far as Newbury, Gloucester, Northampton, Bedford and Hertfordshire (1980, 176).

By the middle of the 15th century regional imports from the south-east, perhaps brought via Henley, began to appear (Fabric BG, a Farnborough-Hill type and BN, Tudor Green). These may have stimulated part of the static local industry (not changing during the 15th century) as two distinct trends appeared. In the first traditional jugs continued to be made, but poorly executed and made without the skill of the earlier jugs and in the second, Tudor Green tablewares from Surrey were copied in local clay by very competent potters. These local tablewares may only have been used in more affluent households (1980,176).

Earliest reference to potters at Brill is in 1254 and the absence of sherds from fabrics AM and AW in some sites suggests they were not available until the second quarter of the 13th century (1980, 178). Highly decorated designs are known around Oxfordshire at this period. Absence of highly decorated jugs, including rouletted strips, was noticeable at the Hamel suggesting that the zenith of the jug industry was over by c 1280-1290. Fewer aquamaniles and so on.

Surrey types, including fabric BG, a Farnborough-Hill-type which was common in London in the late 15th century and fabric BN, a Tudor Green, known in 15th-century contexts in Oxford, increased in popularity (1980, 179). During the 14th century the highly decorated pottery and even the plain applied strips and red slip of the 14th century are missing, although fabric AM still dominant, as are the coarse flint and chalk tempered kitchen vessels (fabric AQ) (1980, 179).

Demolition layers from Chalgrove produced tablewares (Tudor Green and local Tudor types) which probably date from towards the end of the manor's life, c 1450-1475 (1980, 179). Rhenish stonewares and tin-glazed (from Netherlands) also date c 1500.

Manufacture

Flint and chalk tempered wares (AQ) were coil made from the 13th to 15th century and were also finished on a wheel. Its coarse-textured, open fabric would have made it

ideally suited to the continual stresses of heating and cooling during cooking (1980, 180).

Knife-trimming was evident on the coarse sandy cooking pots including shallow dishes (fabric Y). This may indicate that kitchen wares were made by less competent potters (1980, 180).

Mottled green glaze continued in dominance from the late 13th and 14th centuries until the mid 15th century when clear lead glazes became as popular. Streaky mottled green glaze, brought about by firing at higher temperatures, may be an indicator of the 15th century (1980, 180).

Production areas

A number of discrete production areas (Fabric Y made to the north; AM to the east and AQ to the south-west) were producing very similar wares in the first half of the 13th century (1980, 181). This strongly suggests that there was an exchange of ideas, such as a guild, or their customers were conservative. Bifid rims were associated with the 15th century or later levels. Jugs with distinctive thumb-marked handles and undercut rims are probably products of Brill which do not appear in Oxford until later in the sequence although they would have been available for 200 years (13th century) (1980, 181).

Fabric Y was possibly made north of Oxford, maybe at Woodstock where a pottery was recorded in 1279. Flint chalk-tempered wares (fabric AQ) may have been made around Newbury during the 13th and 14th centuries. Sandy 'painted wares' (Fabric AG) which are similar to London types may have originated between Reading and Newbury. Sandy wares (AM), which specialised in jugs, probably came from the east, perhaps towards Boarstall area, during the second half of the 13th century and later medieval period. Coarser sandy wares (AW) in particular kitchen vessels with undercut rims are similar to those excavated at Brill.

The finer tablewares from Chalgrove have not been noted in the Brill and Boarstall area and may have come from Nettlebed, a mere 6 miles from Henley which was the limit of the navigable Thames during the 15th century (1980, 181). Nettlebed was ideally placed to copy Surrey-types transported over the Chilterns and the earliest documentary reference to a potter of 1442 would fit well (1980, 181-182). Oxford was drawing pottery from a wide area.

Pottery in the Oxford region OXO 1994

OX162 is the South-East Oxfordshire Ware (available from early 12th century) which in 14th century was continued by NE1-3 from Nettlebed.

Early medieval

OX162 - Late Saxon to Late Medieval South-East Oxfordshire ware

This tradition includes a number of fabric types representing a dispersed ceramic industry of several hundred years and extending into the late medieval period, therefore the tradition has been split between two periods. The other features the

Nettlebed fabrics (NE1, NE2, NE3). The clay and inclusions of the iron-rich clay are visually similar - a common factor for all these fabrics was the inclusion of polycrystalline quartz in a range of 10 -20 %. This is a characteristic unparalleled elsewhere in Oxfordshire. Although petrologically the fabrics are distinct but it is difficult and time consuming to isolate the different types (1994, 84).

Chalgrove in the late 12th to early 13th century had a predominance of OXAQ followed by OXAG and OX162. Then NE2 (CH 63) and NE3 (OXCU), OXAM and Minor traditions (Fig. 24). OX162 is fabric 41 available from the 11th century. Petrologically very similar to fabric type from Tetsworth with abundant angular quartz and some polycrystalline quartz, largely wheel-thrown and well-executed. Poor glaze but the manufacturing techniques were much better than those at Henley. These vessels were often fired on both oxidising and reducing temperatures suggesting that the potters did not have full control over their kilns (1994, 88-90). Possible potters are known from within the parish at Warpsgrove and in the adjoining parish of Cuxham in the late 13th century, where potters combined agriculture and pot making and therefore the source of some of the pottery at Chalgrove may be very local. Pottery of type OX162 was present in the earliest levels at Chalgrove - pre-dating the 1255 manor - and was found in association with another majority ceramic tradition (OXAQ) and was apparently in use throughout the life of the manor but it may have been residual in the later levels (1994, 90).

Some neighbouring craftworkers had close links (OXY, OXAW) while others exhibit no tangible contact or influence (OX162, OXAG). A few were influenced by industries to the east (OX162).

OXAG= Medieval Abingdon Ware. Tablewares in OXAG and OXY were not only a delight to behold but also suggest an improvement in the quality of life for many during the 12th and early 13th centuries as well as a certain affluence when compared with consumers in the north-west, north and south-east who lacked such decorative quality tablewares. Chalgrove may lack OXY but it does have OXAG.

Post 1250

Development of OXAQ (Early - Late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware) and Brill/Boarstall types (OXAW, OXAM) replaced OXY (Late Saxon to Medieval Oxford Ware) in the east and north of the county. OXAG and OX162 (other Late Saxon and Early Medieval ceramic industries) may have persisted (1994, 93).

Chalgrove in the mid 13th to mid 14th century mainly contained OX162, OXAQ, OXAM and NE2, NE3 (similar fabric possibly and to be discussed together) and Minor traditions (Fig. 36).

OXAQ (Early to Late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware) was coil made and the rims often wheel finished and the bases slightly sagging. Distinctive fabric was flint and limestone tempered. Possibly from Kennet Valley clay (1994, 100). Cooking pots and storage vessels with simple decoration, preferably combing. Present in surprising quantities at Chalgrove (1994, 105), some 11 miles NW of Henley. The large quantities found throughout the life of Chalgrove may indicate a preference for supporting the market at Abingdon as did the manor at Cuxham, though not necessarily through buying pottery and may be related to dairy farming. It may also

indicate that it fulfilled a special function, cherished by those of some social standing, since it occurs in higher quantities at Bishop's Palace, Witney. The gap in the south-east of the county is also mirrored by the lack of Brill/Boarstall products (OXAW, OXAM) south of Chalgrove (1994, 105).

The popularity of OXAQ may be due in part that it lent itself to continual expansion and contraction. Higher temperatures were created during oven cooking from the 13th century (if not earlier) than over an open fire and so a stronger more flexible fabric would have been desirable. The pots are often found in garderobes and therefore may have been used as chamberpots (1994, 105) Probably dates from the early 12th century to early 15th century. It was used in Newbury during the later 13th and early 14th centuries until it was replaced by Coarse Border Wares (OXBG) in Oxford (1994, 106).

Brill/Boarstall-type ware (Buckinghamshire OXAW, OXAM) (1994, 111-140)

By the end of the 12th century the Brill/Boarstall potters in West Bucks were probably beginning to make pots.

OXAW

The earliest potters (OXAW) used two similar fabrics - one with sub-angular quartz (OXA2), the other with abundant rounded quartz (OXAW1). Some iron stained quartz and clay pellets were present suggesting that the potters had deliberately added the inclusions to improve the clay. This is paralleled in the earlier local tradition (OXY) and the texture of OXAW and OXY is very harsh unlike the later (OXAM) and it is possible that OXY is the precursor to the OXAW tradition (1994, 111).

Cooking pots/storage jars were the largest component and the smaller sizes were more popular than the medium-sized and the larger vessels were comparatively rare. No other local tradition produced such a range of bowls, although the wide open pans found in earlier and contemporary traditions (OXAC and OXAQ) were absent (1994, 111). This may suggest either that these potters were not supplying the agricultural community with vessels suitable for dairying practices such as the making of butter, cheese and allied products, or that wood had perhaps replaced pottery in the dairy. Fewer skillets and large storage jars were found (1994, 114).

Decoration on domestic wares was minimal with rilling (throwing grooves) and applied strips, sometimes to strengthen the pot. But tablewares skilfully decorated, some with horizontal incised lines or with washes or rilling reminiscent of French jugs and also paralleled with Bristol jugs (1994, 114). Little of these Brill/Boarstall fabrics extend beyond Oxfordshire and Bucks (1994, 117). Broken jugs have been found in Oxford contexts predating 1231 and by the mid 13th century it is found in considerable quantities and the flowering of the highly decorated jugs and pitchers coincides with this date. This fabric continued to be used after the 13th century for coarse wares only and small amounts may have persisted into the 15th century.

OXAM, OXAP, OXBX

By 1225-1250 the potters from Brill/Boarstall started to use clay without the heavy admixture of quartz (OXAM - Late Medieval Oxford Ware). This was sometimes overfired making it look like a proto-stoneware (OXAP) and a third fabric often had

large occasional opaque limestone inclusions (OXBX) which became more popular during the later medieval period - and into PM (1994, 117).

Fabrics were used for fine walled small cooking pots/storage jars and a wide range of smaller vessels used at the table, Such as drinking vessels with faces, puzzle jugs, anthropomorphic jugs and occasional copies of French vessels (1994, 118-122). An astonishing variety of decorative styles were present by the mid 13th century (1994,127) although plainer jugs are contemporary. Variaton of jug types continued into the 15th and 16th centuries (1994, 132). The inspiration that lay behind the great flowering of these jugs and pitchers may be derived from the ceramic industries based on the Bristol area, again suggesting a western influence in the oxford region.

Pottery making was first mentioned in 1254 (1994, 132) and in the 1460s bricks were brought into Oxford from Brill and the brick-making industry continued in Brill until recently.

The distribution of Brill products which extends throughout the south midlands has a vacuum in the Benson area, only 15 miles from its source, as if it was suppressed by the south-east Oxfordshire industry despite the latter's comparatively crude products in the 13th century. East Wiltshire products (OXAQ) are also hindered from penetrating this area although the exception for both is Chalgrove. Chalgrove may have had a preference for centres some distance away or an affiliation with a specific market, eg Abingdon (1994, 138). In South-east Oxfordshire the local sandy tradition (OX162) appeared to exclude the Brill/Boarstall products (except at Chalgrove).

At the beginning of the industry, during first half of 13th century, distribution perhaps confined within a 12 mile radius, which just included Oxford. Penetration gradually increased but by mid 14th century it had decreased markedly (1994, 139). The decline of the Brill industry was marked by the increased popularity of the **Surrey/Hampshire Coarse Border wares (OXBG)** which had been active in the 13th century but thrived at this time (1994, 139). Further evidence of this decline is shown at Chalgrove where the cisterns and jars were still well glazed at a time when the Brill/Boarstall ceramic industry was using transparent glazes very sparingly. Copper oxide for the glaze had to be transported from France or further and therefore its use was a reflection of the prosperity of the potter. Transparent glaze was made from lead glaze from the Mendips or Cornwall, or possibly Derbyshire and therefore would also have been expensive. Lead industry was in decline in the 15th century. Periods of economic stress in the 15th century caused bad pots. 14th century pots got plainer.

OXBN

By the late medieval period the Coarse Border Ware industry from the Surrey/Hampshire borders (OXBG) began to supply the Vale and some of the riverside towns, such as Abingdon (1994, 139). This industry had been well established since the 13th century and regularly supplied this part of Oxfordshire by the late 14th and 15th centuries suggesting the increased popularity of Coarse Border Wares in direct response to the decline of the Brill industry.

OX162: Late Medieval South-East Oxfordshire Ware Nettlebed (NE1, NE2 and NE3) 143-150

A substantial tile industry was established by the mid 14th century and it is possible that pots were also made there. There was an abundant source of clay in the Chilterns, including white firing clay near Soundess Farm, Swyncombe, but the archaeological record suggests this was not used for the making of pots before the mid-late 14th century (1994, 143).

This ceramic tradition, containing 10-20% of polycrystalline quartz, caused the pottery researcher working on Chalgrove considerable problems. The fabric types containing quartz were amalgamated and as a result more than one tradition can be found within the broad fabric types (OXAM, NE1, NE2) (1994,143).

The industry produced lavishly glazed pots with mottled green glaze which were recorded at Chalgrove as Brill although Brill were only occasionally using transparent glaze at this later medieval period. It was used for large jars with thumb-pressed strips, glazed in thick rich mottled green glaze covering the entire vessel in and out. Cisterns with bung holes were glazed like the jars. Jugs, bottles and very wide strap handles were also made. A minor component were types similar to Tudor Green with dark green glaze (Chalgrove 59; OXBC) and these copied or may be part of the Surrey White Wear tradition. The ability of the potter to produce vessels that copied the fine metal tablewares may have aided this particular industry to survive and flourish at a time when their competitors (Brill) were in decline (1994, 144).

Most of these vessels were recognised in the destruction levels at Chalgrove where they were originally attributed to Brill because visually the fabric types are similar. Typologically, however, they are closer to Surrey White Wears although probably locally made (1994, 144).

Wasters from Swyncombe indicate three fabric types: two were iron rich, with sub-angular quartz (NE2), more rounded quartz (NE1), and both with polycrystalline quartz. The third was a near white iron free clay (NE3) with sub angular quartz. The latter was wheel thrown (1994, 146).

The flowering of this tradition in the late 14th - 15th century may be associated with patronage and by the later 14th century such patronage may have come from wealthy landowners such as occupants of moated manors, such as Chalgrove, rather than through a demand of local markets, which seem to have been in decline at the time, eg Wallingford (1994, 146).

Vessels probably belong to second half of 14th century - early 15th century. A few examples of white firing clay (NE3) have been found in Oxford contexts, dating 1500-1550 (OXCU), suggesting that these types continued to be made during the 15th century and possibly into the 16th (1994, 147).

Broader discussion

Some of the type sites, such as Witney (and possibly Chalgrove) may not be typical of the area being subjected to more visits by travelling households which might affect pottery movement (1994, 148). Therefore, regional imports (such as East Wiltshire OXAQ) may be more common than at other local sites.

Medieval Abingdon Ware (OXAG) overlaps with Oxford Medieval Ware (OXY) at Oxford but the latter does not penetrate much south of Oxford (not at Chalgrove) (1994, 149). Chalgrove suggests that one of the local south-east potteries was flourishing while the industry in central Buckinghamshire (OXAM) was contracting like many other ceramic production sites across England. This might indicate patronage rather than the industry having to rely on market forces. The presence of good quality, copying metal vessels, may indicate a high status site. By the second half of the 14th century the focus of the south-eastern ceramic industries may have shifted to Nettlebed and the surrounding parishes where it became thoroughly established and closely connected with tilers and brickmakers. By the 15th century it was clearly copying both Brill and Surrey types and was not suffering from the economic stress experienced by Brill. However, the distribution appeared very confined until it finally fostered the emergence of the post-medieval ceramic industries centred on Nettlebed (1994, 149).

Late Medieval and Post-medieval Traditions: 1400-1625

Brill type wares, although suffering during the 15th and 16th centuries continued to supply Oxford and the area to the north. The area to the south was increasingly subjected to the powerful market forces of the Surrey Whitewares. In the South-East the ceramic industry was vibrant and continued in the medieval tradition until the 16th century (1994, 150).

Chalgrove in early to mid 15th century produced predominantly OXAM (made well past middle 16th century) and NE2 and NE3 (mid 14th to mid 16th century), then Minor traditions, then OX162 (until early 15th century), then OXAQ (possibly into early 15th century, could be residual) (Fig 74).

Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, in A medieval grange of Abingdon Abbey at Dean Court Farm, Cumnor, Oxon (Allen, T), *Oxo* 59 1994, 325-354

IA: OXBK

IB: OXAC, OXBB

II: OXAQǫ, OXBF

III: OXAB, OXAGǫ, OXAMǫ, OXAPǫ, OXAWǫ, OXBGǫ, OXBW, OXBXǫ, OXCUǫ, OXY

Red earthenware (REW)

Rhensih stoneware (RST)

Miscellaneous (ZZ)

The major ceramic traditions at DCF suggest that from its inception the inhabitants preferred to buy their pottery from the same sources which supplied Abingdon and presumably their landlords Abingdon Abbey. Some domestic pots came from a pottery source that supplied Abingdon and much of W Berks during the medieval period (Fabric OXAG). OXY (dominant in Oxford) is present at DCF but not in quantities present elsewhere (not at all at Chalgrove). There were Surrey types present in the 13th century (unusually early) showing the links with the south (1994, 352).

Fabrics OXAQ and OXAG supplied much of the cooking vessels for the later kitchen which, during the 13th century is rare in Oxford but more common in Berkshire and Abingdon. Closer links with markets in south than Oxford. Although this may be explained at DCF by links with Abingdon Abbey the trend is also seen at Seacourt and at Chalgrove there are unexpectedly strong links with the Abingdon market (1994, 352).

Witney

The medieval and post-medieval pottery by C Keevill and M Mellor

Fabric type 3 (OXAQ: early to Late Medieval East Wiltshire ware) is a limestone tempered fabric with a finer consistency and with smaller amounts of flint temper than fabric 2. Also known as Newbury fabric B and Reading type LSF. This fabric dates from the 12th century in Oxford and continued in use until the early 15th century.

The other main fabric tradition is Brill/Boarstall ware, a fine jug and pitcher ware, known in Oxford, Reading and Abingdon. Fabric types at Mount House are fabrics 6, 17 and 27 which represent marginally different sand-tempered fabrics and developments in the products (**treat the Chalgrove fabrics like this**). Brill/Boarstall ware is dated at the kiln site to the 13th - 14th century for Brill and one kiln at Boarstall is dated to 1300-1325 although in Oxford fabric OXAW predates 1231 at St John's Hospital.

The problem with the dating of the fabric types is that two are very long lived. Medieval NE Wiltshire ware (OXAQ) may have fulfilled a specialised function or may be associated with social standing due to its high levels at Mount House. Fabric OXAQ may also be associated with the dairy industry.

Like OXY (but paler) and also probably later than OXY dates of 12th to 13th C

This is not OXY because it did not penetrate south of Oxford, more likely to be its rival, Medieval Abingdon Ware (OXAG)?.

Oxford Medieval ware, also Abingdon type A and Seacourt Fabric 2. Abundant/well-sorted with grey, white sub-rounded quartz, occ coarse red-brown iron mineral. Wheel thrown, occ knife trim; th 3-7. Cp, jugs, tripod pitchers etc. Glaze, applied thumb-pressed strips, thumb pressed bases, slip, combed, incised, rouletted. Int: lt grey - lt brown (7.5YR/6/1; 6-9-10YR/5-6/2-3); Core: light grey (10YR/5.5-6/1). St Aldates phases mainly 6-9. Dated late 11th C or earlier - early 14th C.

By the early 12th century, sandy cooking pots (fabric Y) were increasing. The slow replacement of coarse sandy wares (fabric Y) by finer vessels would have continued in the second half of the 13th and early 14th centuries (1977, 138-9). Not absent later on but less of it and also disturbed from earlier layers.

By the middle of the 13th century coarse sandy wares (Fabric Y) were meeting considerable opposition and were finally superseded although they were probably used in a limited manner throughout the 14th C (Hamel 1980, 161).

Knife-trimming was evident on the coarse sandy cooking pots including shallow dishes (fabric Y). This may indicate that kitchen wares were made by less competent potters (1980, 180).

A number of discrete production areas (Fabric Y made to the north; AM to the east and AQ to the south-west) were producing very similar wares in the first half of the 13th century. Fabric Y was possibly made north of Oxford, maybe at Woodstock where a pottery was recorded in 1279 (1980, 181).

FABRIC TYPES

Flint

Early- late Medieval East Wiltshire Ware

OXAQ (CH20)

Sandy

Surrey

CH43

OXBN (CH54)

OXBC (CH59)

CH67

CH68

OXBG (CH47) Coarse Border Wares

Brill/Boarstall

OXAM (CH46, CH57)

OXAG (Medieval Abingdon Ware) CH44, CH53

OXAW (CH55, CH58, CH69)

OXBX (CH64)

OXAP (CH65)

Also possibly CH62

SE Oxon

OX162 (CH41)

HE12 (CH51)

OXCU : NE 3 (CH60)

NE2/HE7 (CH63)

Also possibly CH 61

Foreign

Saintonge (OXCC)

Rouen (CH66)

Unknown sandy wares

CH45

CH50

CH70-72