

*Pottery from Silk
Willoughby to Sleaford
Pipeline (SSP252):
Assessment Report*

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Introduction

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the assessment were

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

Description

All items were recorded to common name and form level and any significant details of manufacture, decoration or use were recorded as comments. Quantification was by sherd/fragment count alone and the data was entered into a MS Access 7 database.

Prehistoric

No definite sherds of prehistoric date were recognised. However, some of the coarse, handmade wares were identified by Barbara Precious as being of Iron Age or Romano-British date (NAT and VESIC). They came from fields 39, 45, 56, 59 and 101. Some of these sherds contained grog, which until the Roman conquest seems not to have been a common tempering material in the east midlands. However, each of these fields (except 59) produced non-grog-tempered examples.

Roman

The earliest Romano-British sherds were grog-tempered coarsewares. Six sherds were found in total (in addition to those described above). They came from fields 54, 101, 107 and 109. Another early Roman type was a single sherd of shell-tempered ware (SLSH) from field 38.

The majority of the Romano-British sherds were mid Roman (2nd-3rd centuries) greywares. Most were of unattributable wares but some examples of Nene Valley greyware occurred. These have a localised distribution, unlike the contemporary and late finewares, but are found frequently on sites in south Lincolnshire. The sites revealed in this fieldwork must have been close to the northern limit of the distribution.

Most of these mid Roman sherds occurred with less than five sherds per field. A single concentration was found, in Field 45 (11 sherds).

Field No	SumOfCount
1	2
20	1
37	1
38	2
45	11
51	2
54	4
55	1
59	1
75	1

76	1
87	3
93	1
99	1
100	1
108	1
109	1
110	1
111	1

Nineteen late Roman sherds were found (3rd and 4th centuries). Greywares were again the most common type but in addition some Nene Valley finewares and a sherd of Much Hadham mortaria were present. Most of the sherds occurred singly or in pairs and presumably represent manuring scatters. Field 45 produced five late Roman sherds, however. This is still a very low occurrence.

Field No	Sherd count
31	1
37	1
38	1
45	5
54	2
93	2
95	2
96	2
100	1
111	1
114	1

Medieval

No early to mid Anglo-Saxon sherds were found, despite the fact that the pipeline passed close to known Anglo-Saxon settlement and cemetery sites at Sleaford, Quarrington, Caythorpe and Hough on the Hill.

The earliest post-Roman pottery from the fieldwork consists of three sherds of Stamford ware (ST), all of 11th to 12th century types. These are probably no earlier than the middle of the 11th century in date and could easily be post-Conquest. Only two other sherds earlier than the 13th century were found. A sherd of Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) from F84 and a sherd of Bourne A-C ware from Fields 1/5. Both could be of early 13th century date but are possibly earlier.

The pottery collection contains more pottery of 13th to 14th century date, most of which probably came from Nottingham. This is interesting, since at that time there was a large pottery industry based in Lincoln and yet there were no positively identified sherds of Lincoln glazed ware from the fieldwork. None of the pottery occurred as a concentration (the largest number of sherds per field was 5) and all are probably present through manuring. Most were significantly abraded.

The later medieval pottery from the fieldwork is unusual as pottery of this date is rare. The finds include some sherds termed here 'Pre Midlands Purple' (PRE-MP). They are harder fired than standard Nottingham products but not deliberately overfired, as Midlands Purple itself is. The incidence of these late medieval and early post-medieval wares is more clustered than that of the earlier wares. The pipeline crosses the boundary between the contemporary markets for Midlands Purple ware (MP) and Bourne D ware (BOU). Consequently, in fields at the eastern end of the pipeline Bourne D ware predominates whilst at sites at the Newark end of the pipeline Midlands Purple ware is found almost to the exclusion of Bourne D ware. Several of the late medieval/early post-medieval sherds have a much fresher appearance (although this is to some extent due to the harder firing of the ware rather than their being disturbed from underlying occupation sites).

Sitecode	BL	BOU	CSTN	FREC	MP	MY	PRE-MP	TB
f001/5		4						
f011			1					
f012					1			
f023/24			1					
f030					1			
f031		1						
f045							1	
f049			3	1				
f054		3						
f055		1						
f056		2			1			
f060		1	1		2			
f061					1			
f065					1			
f068			1					
f069					1		1	
f075			1		1			1
f076					1	1		
f084			2		2	1		
f086					1			
f087			1		2			
f093				1				
f100			1		2			
f101	1	1		1	5	1	1	
f108					3			
f109			1					
f111			1					
f112			1					
f113	1							

Post-medieval

Later sixteenth century and early 17th century wares consist of Cistercian ware cups (CSTN) and some of the black-glazed wares (BL) and Frechen stoneware (FREC). There is no clear correlation of these wares and the Midlands Purple ware distribution, suggesting that the Midlands Purple ware predates their use. Sherds of this date appear to be more diffusely distributed than the late medieval examples. They occur in more fields but usually in lower numbers.

Later 17th and 18th-century wares formed the largest group found in the fieldwork. Almost all of the sherds are either from potteries situated on the Coal Measures (such as Tickhill, in Derbyshire, or Stoke on Trent) or from Nottingham. The only other source represented is an unknown, probably more local, black glazed ware. The late 17th and 18th century pottery includes very little which must date to the 17th century and several types which are definitely of 18th-century date. These include finewares such as Agate ware (produced by mixing red and buff-firing clays) and Refined redware as well as slipwares and other table wares (STCO; STMO, STRE and STSL). All are present in much smaller quantities, relative to the contemporary coarseware, than would be found in urban assemblages, such as those from Lincoln or Nottingham. The absence of white saltglazed stoneware and Westerwald stoneware is notable. Such wares, together with tinglazed wares and porcelain, would be present in most urban assemblages and, one would imagine, would also have been gracing the tables of farmers in central Lincolnshire. It is likely that Nottingham stoneware to some extent took the place of these finewares and, indeed, some of the Nottingham stoneware vessels are thin-walled tablewares of types that might have been expected in white stoneware. Nevertheless, the apparent poverty of these late 17th/18th century assemblages is noteworthy.

Sitecode	AGATE	BL	NOTS	REFR	STCO	STCOAR	STMO	STRE	STSL
f1/5		1							
f11		1					3		1
f12							5	1	

f13/19					1		
f20		1	2		1		
f23/24		2			6	1	
f25					4		
f31							1
f37					1		
f38			1		2		
f39		1			1		
f45		5	1	1	21		
f49	1	2	1		9	1	1
f51					1		
f52			1		1	2	
f54					1		
f55		1			3		
f59					5	1	
f61					1		
f65		1					
f68					1		
f69					1		
f74		1			1		
f75			1		7		
f76					4		1
f84		4	1	1	8		
f86		2			9	1	
f87					2		
f90		4					
f91		1	2		1		
f93		2	4		5		
f94			3		6		1
f100					2		
f101			1		10		
f102		2	2		3		
f103			1		1		
f108			2		1		
f109		2					
f111		2			3	1	
f112					8	1	
f113		1	2		16	1	3

Later 18th and later pottery is remarkably scarce. It is possible that some of the Staffordshire/Derbyshire Coal Measures wares (STCOAR) are this late, although several are of datable types which are definitely earlier. Two red-slipped flower pots are of 18th/19th century date as are sherds of Derbyshire stoneware, stonewares with feldspathic glazes (introduced in the mid 19th century) from London, Nottingham and an unidentified source and a sherd of Selzer bottle, imported from the middle Rhine filled with carbonated water. The absence of late 18th and early 19th-century Creamware, transfer printed wares and 19th-century buff wares is remarkable, as it is inconceivable that they were not commonly found on central Lincolnshire/eastern Nottinghamshire farms. If these finds are indeed a true reflection of the late ceramics present on these fields then the finds are clearly not from manuring. Rather they are in the main vessels used to hold and carry liquids. It would seem that a major change in the use of the fields took place in the middle of the 18th century (some time after c.1740), after which date manuring ceased. This may be related to enclosure, and the subsequent reversion of the fields to pasture. To be fanciful, it is possible that the later sherds arrived in the fields along with ditch-clearing and drain-laying gangs.

Sitecode	BL	DERBS	ENGS	LONS	NOTS	SELZ
f20			1			
f39	1					
f65			2			
f70					1	
f90	1					

f99	1	1	1
f101		1	
f107	1		

Recommendations

None of the pottery requires illustration or further study. All should be retained for further study.

Acknowledgments

Roman pottery was identified by Barbara Precious and medieval pottery was identified by Jane Young and Alan Vince. Post-medieval pottery was identified by Alan Vince.

cname	full name	period	latest date	earliest date	broadsource	narrowsource	source
AGATE	Agate ware	emod	1770	1730	England	Staffordshire	various
BL	Black-glazed wares	pmed	1750	1500	England	various	various
BOU	Bourne D ware	pmed	1650	1500	England	South Lincolnshire	Bourne
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	med	1250	1150	England	South Lincolnshire	Bourne
CBM	Ceramic building material	na					
CMW	Coal Measures whiteware	med	1450	1250	England		
COAR	Reduced misc Roman coarsewares	rom	0	0			
CR	Cream-bodied ware	rom					
CSTN	Cistercian ware	pmed	1650	1500	England	Gloucestershire	
DERBS	Derby Stoneware	emod	1900	1830	England	Derby	Derby
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	emod	1900	1750	England	nk	? numerous sources
FREC	Frechen stoneware	pmed	1680	1530	Germany	Rhineland	Frechen/Cologne
GREY	Romano-British greywares	rom	400	40			
GROG		ROM	0	0			
LONS	London Stoneware	pmed	1800	1670	England	London	various
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	med	1350	1150	England	Lincolnshire	various
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	med	1350	1150	England	various	various
MISC	Unidentified wares	nk			nk	nk	
MOMH		ROM	0	0			
MORT		ROM	0	0			
MP	Midlands Purple ware	pmed					
MY	Midlands Yellow ware	pmed	1650	1550	England	Midlands	
NAT		ROM	0	0			
NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	med	1500	1250	England	East midlands	Nottingham
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	pmed	1900	1690	England	Nottinghamshire	Nottingham
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	emed	1250	1100	England	Nottinghamshire	Nottingham
NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coated	rom	400	200	England	East Midlands	Nene Valley
NVGW		ROM	0	0			
OX	Oxidized ware	rom			England		
OXRC		ROM	0	0			
pmed	Post-medieval Red Earthenwares	pmed			unidentified		
PRE-MP		MED	0	0			
REFR	Refined Red Earthenware	emod	1800	1730	England	various	various
SELZ	Selzer bottles	pmed	1900	1750	Germany	Rhineland	unknown

SHEL	Romano-British shelly wares	rom	400	40			
SLSH		ROM	0	0			
ST	Stamford Ware	lsax	1150	1000	England	South Lincolnshire	Stamford
STCO	Staffordshire combed press-moulded ware	pmed	1800	1650	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various
stcoar	Staffordshire coarseware	pmed	1900	1650	England/Wales	Staffordshire/Buckley	various
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	pmed	1800	1690	England	Staffordshire	
stre	Staffordshire redware	pmed	1750	1630	England	Staffordshire	various
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	pmed	1800	1680	England	Staffordshire	Staffordshire or Bristol
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	pmed	1650	1500	England	Lincolnshire	Toynton, Bolingbroke
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	med	1500	1250	England	Lincolnshire	Toynton
VESIC		ROM	0	0			
ZZZ	General context comments	na	0	0			