

## Medieval and later Pottery from the Silk Willoughby to Staythorpe Pipeline (ssp252:00 Int 10)

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Sixty-two vessels of medieval or later pottery (represented by 75 sherds) and two fragments or medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material were recorded from sites on the Silk Willoughby to Staythorpe Pipeline (Table 1).

**Table 1**

SITE NO	Med	lmed	Pmed	Emod	medcbm	Grand Total
1/3		2				2
4	3		1			4
5	2		1	1		4
9	3	1	1			5
10	25	1	3	1	2	32
12	2					6
17	1					1
22/23			1			1
24			1			1
26			1	4		5
27				1		1
No site no	3	1	2			6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64</b>

The majority of these vessels were of medieval date. Their condition suggests that they are associated with the agricultural use of the land and have been brought onto the pipeline through manuring. Most of these vessels are of high medieval date, ie probably late 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, with a handful of late medieval vessels. The eleven vessels of post-medieval date can be split into those of the earlier part of the period (four examples) and those which probably overlap with the Early Modern period (ie later than c.1780). The latter vessels, and those definitely dating to the Early Modern period, tend to be less heavily abraded than the earlier vessels. This is partly, no doubt, due to the improvements in firing and the presence of stoneware and near-stonewares, but also seems to reflect a change in the use of the land, presumably associated with enclosure. A single closed assemblage of early modern date was found, on Site 26, from the backfill of F2, a ditch. This dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The pottery in this group was broken into small vessels but these were not heavily abraded.

Most of the medieval vessels came from context 1079 on Site 10, a spread below the topsoil. To judge by the wide range of dates for this material it is likely to be an accumulation over several centuries, from the high medieval up to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rather than a single-period deposit.

**Wares**

## Medieval

**Table 2**

cname	4	5	9	10	12	17	No site no	Grand Total
MEDLOC		1		5			1	7
MEDX			2					2
MISC					2			2
NCOS		1		1				2
NLBG						1		1
NOTG	2			11			2	15
POTT	1							1
POTT/SLST				7				7
POTT/SLST?				1				1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>

Eight types of medieval pottery were recognised within the collection of 39 vessels. The most common of these was Nottingham Green-glazed ware (NOTG), which was subdivided into those with a light-firing body and those with a reduced body. This distinction is likely to be solely due to firing rather than fabric but apparently reflects a chronological change, with the reduced ware being later.

There are nine vessels of shell-tempered ware. In all of these the shell has leached out. Because of their condition it is not clear whether they are Potterhanworth ware (POTT) or South Lincolnshire Shell-tempered ware (SLST).

The remaining types are unsourced but of Nottinghamshire character. They include unglazed jars (NCOS, produced in Nottingham alongside NOTG jugs), a precursor to Midlands Purple ware (NOTLBG) and various unsourced sandy wares (MEDLOC). Two jug vessels are either non-local regional imports or, more likely, Nottingham Green-glazed ware with reduced bodies (MEDX).

There is insufficient pottery present to see any pattern in the distribution of fabrics but it is clear that Nottinghamshire products predominate. The settlements which used this pottery probably obtained it via Newark, with very little evidence for contact with Lincoln or any of the fen ports. This supports the view of these sites are being involved in agriculture with little contact with the wider world.

## Late medieval

**Table 3**

Cname	9	10	-	1/3	Grand Total
BOU		1			1
LMEDX	1		1		2
LSW3				2	2

Grand Total	1	1	1	2	5
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Five vessels of late medieval date are present. Of these one is of Bourne D ware (BOU), two of late medieval Lincoln glazed ware (LSW3) and two unsourced, probably non-local vessels (LMEDX). It is likely that the reduced firing Nottingham Green-glazed vessels are contemporary with these vessels but the collection is too small for any detailed comparison of sources or distribution along the pipeline.

### Post-medieval

cname	4	5	9	10	24	26	-	22/23	Grand Total
BL		1	1	3		1	2		8
CSTN	1				1				2
MP								1	1
Grand Total	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	11

Eleven vessels of post-medieval date were present. Two of these are of Cistercian ware (CSTN) of late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>-century type, one is a 17<sup>th</sup>-century Midlands Purple ware (MP) and the remainder are blackwares (BL). Of these, five are produced in Coal Measure red-firing clays, one of which was fairly high-fired, similar to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Staffordshire butter pots and the remainder were earthenwares made from mixed light-firing and red-firing clays, often with a dark red clay slip under the black glaze.

### Early Modern

**Table 4**

Cname	Grand Total
CREA	2
MISC NW	1
NCBW	1
NOTS	1
PEAR	1
SWSG	1
Grand Total	7

Seven vessels of early modern pottery were present. All are of factory-produced wares, mostly from Staffordshire. They do, however, include one fragment of a Nottingham Stoneware tankard and an untempered flowerpot (MISC NW), presumably of local origin.

### Forms

The majority of the medieval and late medieval sherds come from jugs, with some jars, used mainly for cooking, and bowls. Drinking vessels appear in the post-medieval period. The early modern period saw a much greater diversity of forms and the small collection includes examples of bowls, flowerpots, jars, measures, plates and tankards. The relative proportions of these different forms is in accordance to what we might expect on rural domestic sites of the medieval to early modern periods. There is no evidence, therefore, for any of these vessels having a specific agricultural use, such as harvest bottles.

The early modern material, for example is likely to have been refuse from farmhouses or even urban night soil.

## Function

Apart from sooting around the rim of one late medieval jar rim there is no direct evidence for the use of any of the vessels.

## Decoration

None of the vessels were decorated.

## Interpretation

The medieval and later pottery is unlikely, in the main, to represent *in situ* occupation. In most cases it probably came onto the sites through manuring, either with farmyard refuse or urban night soil. The only exception is a small group from F2 on Site 26. This material is unabraded and dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of a white stoneware bowl, of the type used for display or to contain sugar, would be out of place in a rural context and suggests that the site lies close to a farmhouse or other settlement of this date and is primary refuse.

## Assessment

None of the pottery requires further study, or illustration. Clearly, in the future knowledge of Nottinghamshire and central Lincolnshire ceramics will allow a number of the unsourced wares (MEDLOC, MEDC, LMEDX) to be provenanced and for this reason the collection should be retained for future study.

## Appendix One: Catalogue of finds

Feature	Cont ext	class	Cname	subfabric	Form	Nos h	No V
<b>Site 1/3</b>							
	1029	lmed	LSW3	ID?	JUG	1	1
	1029	lmed	LSW3	ID?	JUG	1	1
L14th/15 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 4</b>							
F33	1046	med	NOTG	LIGHT FIRING	JUG	1	1
F33	1046	med	NOTG	REDUCED	JUG	1	1
F33	1046	med	POTT		JAR	1	1
13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> C							
F43	1068	pmed	CSTN		CUP	1	1
L15th/16 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 5</b>							
	1268	med	MEDLO C	MEDIUM SANDY	JUG	1	1
	1268	med	NCOS		JAR	1	1
	1268	pmed	BL	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1
Mixed, up to 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> c							
	1339	emod	CREA		-	1	1
L18th/19 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 9</b>							
F272	C136 6	emod	NOTS		TANK	1	1
18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> c							
F273	C136 7	Med	MEDX	NOTG REDUCED?	JUG	2	2
13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> c							
F274	C136 8	Lmed	LMEDX	HUM?	JUG/JA R	1	1
F274	C136 8	Pmed	BL		JUG	1	1
Mixed up to 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 10</b>							
	1079	Lmed	BOU		JUG	1	1
	1079	med	POTT/S LST?		JAR	1	1
	1079	med	POTT/S LST		-	5	5

	1079	med	POTT/S LST		JAR	1	1
	1079	med	POTT/S LST		BOWL	2	1
	1079	pmed	BL	STBU	JAR	1	1
	1079	pmed	BL	GRE FABRIC		1	1
	1079	pmed	BL		CUP	1	1
	1079	med	MEDLO C	MOD R Q; S R RED CLAY	JUG	1	1
	1079	med	MEDLO C	MOD R Q; S R RED CLAY	JAR?	1	1
	1079	med	MEDLO C	MEDIUM/COARSE SANDY	JUG	1	1
	1079	med	MEDLO C	MOD R Q; S R RED CLAY	BOWL?	1	1
	1079	med	NOTG	REDUCED	JUG	1	1
	1079	med	NOTG	LIGHT FIRING	JUG	10	10
	1079	Medc bm	MTIL		FLAT	2	2
Mixed from 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> c to 17 <sup>th</sup> c							
F47	1076	Emod	CREA		PLATE	1	1
F47	1076	Med	Ncos		JAR	1	1
Mixed up to late- 18 <sup>th</sup> century							
F73	1112	Med	MEDLO C	MEDIUM SANDY	JUG	1	1
<b>Site 12</b>							
F103	1143	Geol	STONE	SHELLY LIMESTONE		4	4
F143	1228	Med	MISC	A R Q	DAUB?	1	1
F143	1228	Med	MISC	A FOSSIL SHELL	JAR	1	1
<b>Site 17</b>							
	1548	Lmed	NOTLB G		JAR	1	1
14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 24</b>							
	1399	pmed	CSTN		CUP	1	1
L15th/16 <sup>th</sup> c							
<b>Site 26</b>							
	1019	Emod	MISC	NW	FLP	1	1
	1019	Emod	PEAR		JAR	2	1
	1019	Emod	SWSG		BOWL	7	1

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	1019	Pmed	BL	STCOAR		BOWL	1	1
L18th /18 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Site 27</b>								
F1	1002	Emod	NCBW			MEASU RE	1	1
19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Field 13</b>								
	1044	Med	MEDLO C	MEDSANDY		JUG	1	1
	1044	Med	NOTG	LIGHT FIRING		LARGE JUG	1	1
	1044	Pmed	BL	STCOAR		BOWL	1	1
Mixed up to 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Field 94</b>								
	1549	Imed	LMX	MOD R Q; S R RED IRONRICH;WHITE STREAKS IN GROUND		JAR	1	1
L14th/15 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Field 101</b>								
	1550	med	NOTG	LIGHT BODIED		JUG	1	1
L13th/14 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Field 123</b>								
	1557	pmed	BL	STCOAR		BOWL	1	1
17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> c								
<b>Site 22/23</b>								
	1552	pmed	MP			-	2	1
17 <sup>th</sup> c								

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