

## **Assessment of pottery from Site AY 105, Winchester**

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Methodology

Wares

### **Romano-British**

Twenty-five sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered in the excavation. All of those from Trench 1 are definitely residual in medieval and later deposits.

### **Late Saxon**

There are five rims from vessels with tall everted rims and thickened necks. This style of manufacture, in which the vessels were coil-built and the final coil which forms the rim is added to the inside of the bag-shaped body, originated during the mid-Saxon period and is present at Saxon Southampton, Hamwic (Timby 1988). However, it continued to be the most common method of jar construction in central southern England throughout the late Saxon period, probably disappearing rapidly around the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century with the introduction of squat, sagging based jars of the type which became the norm in the post-conquest period. All five of the rims from this site have the same fabric, containing a mixture of rounded chalk and other calcareous inclusions, angular fragments of white flint and no rounded quartz, all in a fine groundmass. This contrasts somewhat with the Southampton examples which are tempered with stained flints from the local Tertiary deposits and have a more silty groundmass. Similar vessels have, however, been observed by the author in Wiltshire and northern Hampshire.

Twenty body sherds with a similar fabric were present in the collection. In addition to contexts 60 and 66 which also produced rims of this ware the sherds came from contexts 69, 78 and the backfill of Trench 3. In two cases (69 and Tr 3 Backfill), the fabrics included rounded quartz absent from the definite late Saxon sherds. In these cases it is not certain that the sherds came from late Saxon vessels since similar fabrics were in use in northern Hampshire from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Newbury Group B). The latter type, however, does not contain chalk but calcareous marl, which almost invariably leached out of the sherds on burial.

### **Medieval**

Fifty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from AY 105. The majority of these are locally-produced coarsewares and sandy wares, here grouped together as 'MEDLOC'. Within this group, there are several distinct fabrics:

Moderate to abundant angular white flint fragments: Contexts 57, 59, 61 and 62. A total of 5 sherds.

Two of these are certainly from handmade vessels and in the other cases the method of manufacture is

uncertain. A single rim is present, context 57, and has an intermittent thumbed strip on the exterior of the rim. This is an unusual position for such a strip, which would normally be placed around the neck, and it is possible that it is part of the fitting for a spout or handle which does not survive.

Abundant chalk inclusions: Context 59. Two jar sherds, one a rim.

Fine quartz sand with sparse to moderate muscovite flakes up to 0.5mm across. These vessels often contain organic inclusions, presumably present as rotted vegetation in the parent clay rather than deliberately added, and often have a blackened or reduced core. The range of forms found is shown in Table 1. It is notable that the products include ridge tiles which in many parts of the country seem to have been produced by potters rather than tilers.

Most of the vessels were wheelthrown but one, from context 59, appears to have been handmade. Many of these vessels were partially glazed and the method of application, often giving rise to small spots of glaze with a central pit, is said to be due to the application of the glaze as a coarse powder, so-called splash glaze. In most cases the glaze appears to have no colourant and acquires its colour from iron in the clay body but in one case copper seems to have been added (Context 51). Several of the sherds show extensive use of knife-trimming, for example the outside surface of the bung-hole jug or cistern (CIST) is very roughly trimmed. Decoration is limited to the jugs and consists of horizontal combing, horizontal iron-rich slip lines, horizontal white slip lines, and, on a strap handle, diagonal slashes.

**Table 1**

Form	50	51	52	57	59	61	Grand Total
BOWL	1						1
BOWL/JAR			3				3
CIST			1				1
CLSD			3				3
JAR				3	4	2	9
JUG		1	3				4
RIDGE	3		11				14
Grand Total	4	1	21	3	4	2	35

### Early Modern

Fifty-five vessels of early modern date were recovered from the site, all from three contexts, 50, 54 and 56. Fourteen of these are glazed red earthenwares. The condition of the sherds and the presence of joining sherds suggests that these are contemporary with the finewares, for which a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century deposition date is proposed (see below). However, one of these vessels is the lower part of a chafing dish formed as a waisted bowl in which a false perforated base is added just above the narrowest part of the waist. Circular holes were then pierced through the lower compartment to allow a circulation of air. Chafing dishes of this precise form were produced in the Malvern Chase in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is remarkable that such a vessel, in a presumably locally-produced fabric, should be discarded in the late

18<sup>th</sup> century (Vince 1977). The remaining glazed red earthenwares are internally-glazed bowls and dishes. A single sherd of Verwood ware is the only other country earthenware present.

The remaining vessels are all either English finewares or imports. The most common is white saltglazed stoneware (SWSG). These vessels were produced at numerous factories, mainly in Staffordshire, and were in use during the middle decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, from the 1720s to the 1760s when they rapidly fell out of fashion with the advent of Creamware. Most of the 15 vessels found were plates, many of which are so similar that it is difficult to tell how many examples are present. Most had completely plain flanged rims but examples with the barley pattern were also present and one of the plain flanged rimmed plates had a scalloped edge to the rim. A bowl with a footring base and a large colander with circular holes through the base complete the white saltglazed stoneware assemblage.

Creamwares were the next most frequent fineware in the collection. Again, plates were the most common form (7/12 vessels) followed by chamber pots and bowls (possibly in fact one vessel of each type spread across two contexts, 50 and 56). An elaborate handle made as two moulded bands twisted together and topped with a sprigged floral spray, could have come from any one of number of forms, since this form of handle was widely used (see, for example, the Castleford pottery pattern book, 1973). A single sherd of Pearlware, a plain plate base, was found in context 56.

At most, four tin-glazed vessels were present, some of which had lost their glaze following excavation. These include one or more chamberpots (sherds from contexts 50 and 56) and a bowl (context 50).

A black basalt teapot, its lid and a Nottingham stoneware tankard all from context 56 complete the English fineware assemblage.

Finally, the site produced four imported vessels: sherds of Chinese Export Porcelain tea cups, including identical handled vessels from contexts 50 and 56 and a probably unhandled vessel with overglaze enamel decoration and several sherds from a Westerwald stoneware chamberpot. Such vessels are typical finds in mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century assemblages.

The presence of so many mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century types in these groups suggests that they were deposited soon after the first appearance of Pearlware in the 1770s, which is the latest datable type present.

## Forms

There are only two classes of vessel found in this collection up until the later 13<sup>th</sup> century. These are jars, most of which were used for cooking and have soot deposits on the exterior, and glazed jugs and tripod pitchers. There are a range of forms found within these two classes, all of which are well-known in southern Hampshire as a result of publication of material from medieval Southampton (1975 and 2002). For jars, these forms include everted-rimmed bag-shaped jars, a type with its origins in the mid-Saxon period; everted-rimmed jars with sagging bases and everted-rimmed jars with globular bodies and scratch-marked treatment on the body.

For jugs and tripod pitchers there are few sherds from the site large enough to establish the precise form but decoration and other features were noted on nine vessels (Table 1).

**Table 2**

Context	Description	Cname	Form
51	HORIZ WHITE APPLIED STRIP;MOTTLED CUGL	MEDLOC	JUG
52	COMBED LINES DIAG LATTICE;CUGL	LAVERSTOCK	JUG
52	STRAP HANDLE;DIAGONAL SLASHES;PLAIN SPLASH GL	MEDLOC	JUG
52	HORIZ COMBING;HORIZ FE-RICH LINE;PLAIN SPLASH GL	MEDLOC	JUG
52	PLAIN SPLASH GL	MEDLOC	JUG
59	MOTTLED SPLASHED CUGL;PLAIN SAGGING BASE;KT	LAVERSTOCK	JUG
59	BROWN SPECKS IN PLAIN GL;ROUND FOOT	OXAG?	TP
59	APPLIED THUMBED STRIP;PLAIN GL	SEW	TP
62	APPLIED TRIANGULAR-SECTIONED APP;COMBING;PLAIN GL	SEW	TP

For the later medieval period there is a larger range of forms including bowls with internal splash glaze (context 50), a cistern or bung-hole jug (context 52) and ridge tiles (contexts 50 and 52) with knife-cut crests.

The range of forms found in the three late 18<sup>th</sup>-century contexts is much wider (Table 2). Plates are the most common form followed by bowls. The latter are of two types: fineware vessels used for presentation of food and coarseware vessels used in food preparation. Chamber pots form the next largest category and include vessels of various fineware types: tin-glazed ware, white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware. Cups and dishes, both used in the drinking of tea, were next most frequent. Other vessel types included a chafing dish, a colander, a tankard, a tea pot and its lid.

This wide range reflects the lifestyle of a well-to-do late 18<sup>th</sup>-century household.

**Table 3**

Form	50	54	56	Total
PLATE	10		10	20
BOWL	7	1	7	15
CHP	3		3	6
CUP	2		2	4
DISH	1			1
CHAF			1	1
COLL			1	1
JAR			1	1
PLATE?			1	1
TANK			1	1
TPOT			1	1
TPOT LID			1	1

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Grand Total 25 1 29 55

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## Stratigraphic interpretation

The earliest stratified material from the site comes from context 66 and is probably of pre-conquest date. The sherd of SEW tripod pitcher from context 62 probably dates this stratigraphic strand to the post-conquest period, although sherds from context 60 would otherwise be dated to the pre-conquest period.

Context 59 in Feature 7 is an assemblage of late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup>-century date.

How much later than this is the deposition of the remaining medieval stratigraphy is uncertain, although the bung hole vessel from context 52 and the presence of internally-glazed bowls in this fabric (albeit residual in context 50) suggest a late medieval (ie later 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>-century) date. The presence of crested ridge tiles indicates a date in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century or later, but the presence of these tiles in some quantity in contexts 52 and 50 are probably due to the demolition or re-roofing of a medieval structure on the site.

As an assemblage, the material from context 50 dates to the later 1760s or later and the lack of Pearlware and transfer-printed vessels suggest that it was deposited no later than the 1770s. The assemblage from context 56, however, includes what are probably sherds of the same vessels as in context 50, and certainly includes vessels from the same sets. At least, the two contexts are rubbish from the same household, but they may in fact be a single assemblage, some of which has been disturbed and redeposited. A single sherd of Pearlware from context 56 suggests a 1770s or later date. The black-glazed teapot and lid are more typical of 19<sup>th</sup>-century deposits (18<sup>th</sup>-century examples are usually unglazed in imitation of Chinese stoneware and its European copies). However, the teapot and lid are either the only contemporary material in this group and of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date or can also be dated by their associations to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## Assessment

There is well-preserved stratigraphy on this site ranging in date from the late Saxon to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

All of the late Saxon and medieval pottery vessels from the site are of types which are well-known in the area and their study will not further knowledge of medieval ceramics or of the date or social status of the site.

The late 18<sup>th</sup>-century assemblage, on the other hand, is relatively large and provides a useful association of contemporary types which indicates the range of ceramics used in a well-to-do household in Winchester. If documentary sources survive for this period of the sites occupancy then this material would be well worth publication. Such a publication would involve a more rigorous

attempt to establish the number of vessels present and to reconstruct some of the fragmentary vessels either using glue or masking tape. Since none of the pottery is marked it has not been possible to make that study without danger of misplacing the sherds

## Bibliography

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### Appendix One

Context	REFNO	Description	Trench	PERIOD	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Use	Condition
50	2	OG ENAMELS	1	EMOD	CHPO	CUP	1	1		BS		
50	2	HANDLED	1	EMOD	CHPO	CUP	1	1		PROF		
50	2	TWO-STRAND HANDLE, PLAITED;SPRIGGED AT B/H JOIN	1	EMOD	CREA		1	1		H		
50	2		1	EMOD	CREA	BOWL	1	1		B		
50	2		1	EMOD	CREA	CHP	1	1		R		
50	2		1	EMOD	CREA	PLATE	3	3		BS		
50	2		1	EMOD	CREA	PLATE	3	3		R		
50	2	HANDLED	1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		R;H		
50	2		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		R		
50	2		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		R		
50	2		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		B		
50	2		1	EMOD	PMLOC	DISH	1	1		PROF		
50	2		1	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1		R		
50	2	SPLASH GL INT	1	MED	MEDLOC	BOWL	2	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS		
50	2	KC CREST	1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	2	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS		
50	2		1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS		
50	2	KC CREST	1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS		
50	2	INT GL	1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		B		
50	2	MIGHT BE SPOW	1	ROM	RPOT	AMPH	1	1		BS		
50	2		1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	1	1		R		
50	2		1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	3	3		BS		

50	2		1	EMOD	TGW		4	1		BS	GLAZE SPALLED OFF
50	2		1	EMOD	TGW	BOWL	1	1		B	
50	2	PLAIN	1	EMOD	TGW	CHP	9	1		R;B	
50	2	BODY CHATTERED	1	EMOD	WEST	chp	1	1		H	
51	1	HORIZ WHITE APPLIED STRIP;MOTTLED CUGL	1	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
51	1		1	ROM	RPOT	JAR	2	2	WHEEL THROWN GREYWARE	BS	
52		COMBED LINES DIAG LATTICE;CUGL	1	EMED	LAVERSTOCK	JUG	1	1		BS	
52		INT SPLASH GL	1	MED	MEDLOC	BOWL/JAR3	3		FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	B	
52		SPIGOT HOLE;EXTENSIVE KT EXT	1	MED	MEDLOC	CIST	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52			1	MED	MEDLOC	CLSD	3	3	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52			1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	HANDMADE GREYWARE;SPARSE ANGULAR FLINT	BS	SOOTED EXT
52		STRAP HANDLE;DIAGONAL SLASHES;PLAIN SPLASH GL	1	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	2	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	H	
52		HORIZ COMBING;HORIZ FE-RICH LINE;PLAIN SPLASH GL	1	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52		PLAIN SPLASH GL	1	MED	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52			1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	7	7	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52		KC CREST	1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	2	2	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52		KC CREST	1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52			1	MED	MEDLOC	RIDGE	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
52			1	ROM	RTIL		1	1		BS	



53			1	ROM	RPOT		2	2	GREYWARE		BS	SOOTED EXT
54	3		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1			BS	
56	4	5-TINED TRIVET MARK ON BASE;GLOSSY BLACK GL INT AND EXT	1	EMOD	BBAS	TPOT	1	1			BS	
56	4	GLOSSY BLACK GL INT AND EXT;KNOB MOULDED INTO FLOWER SHAPE	1	EMOD	BBAS	TPOT LID	1	1			PROF	
56	4	EXT BLUE DEC	1	EMOD	CHPO	CUP	1	1			B	
56	4	HANDLED	1	EMOD	CHPO	CUP	1	1			BS	
56	4		1	EMOD	CREA	BOWL	1	1			BS	
56	4	PLAIN STRAP HANDLE	1	EMOD	CREA	CHP	1	1			H	
56	4		1	EMOD	CREA	PLATE?	1	1			BS	
56	4	MOULDED BASE	1	EMOD	NOTS	TANK	2	1			B	
56	4	NO FOOTRING	1	EMOD	PEAR	PLATE	1	1			B	
56	4		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	2	2			R	
56	4		1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	2	2			BS	
56	4	BODY/HANDLE JOIN WITH THUMBED IMPRESSIONS	1	EMOD	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1			BS	
56	4	FALSE BASE ADDED; CIRCULAR HOLES INTO BASE;PLAIN GL INT	1	EMOD	PMLOC	CHAF	2	1			B	
56	4	FOOTRING	1	EMOD	SWSG	BOWL	1	1			B	
56	4	GRID OF CIRCULAR HOLES CUT THROUGH BASE	1	EMOD	SWSG	COLL	1	1			BS	
56	4	PLAIN RIM	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	2	1			PROF	
56	4	BARLEY PATTERN	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	1	1			B	
56	4	PLAIN RIM	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	2	1			BS	
56	4		1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	3	3			BS	
56	4	PLAIN RIM WITH SCALLOPED EDGE	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	1	1			R	
56	4	PLAIN RIM	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	1	1			R	
56	4	BARLEY PATTERN	1	EMOD	SWSG	PLATE	1	1			R	

56	4		1	EMOD	TGW	CHP	9	1			R;H
56	4	INT GL	1	EMOD	VERW	JAR	2	1			BS
56	4	CHATTERED BODY;BLUE PAINTED	1	EMOD	WEST	CHP	5	1			B
57	5		1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	2	2	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		BS
57	5	EVERTED FLAT-TOPPED RIM	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		R
57	5	EVERTED RIM;THUMBED APPLIED STRIP ON EXT	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	A ANGULAR WHITE FLINT		R SOOTED EXT
59	7	MOTTLED SPLASHED CUGL;PLAIN SAGGING BASE;KT	1	EMED	LAVERSTOCKJUG		1	1			BS
59	7	EVERTED FLAT-TOPPED RIM	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		BS
59	7		1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		BS
59	7	ROLLED-OUT RIM;HANDMADE BODY	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		BS SOOTED EXT
59	7	HANDMADE	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	2	2	M ANGULAR FLINT		BS DEPO INT;SOOTED EXT
59	7		1	EMED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	A CHALK INCLUSIONS		R
59	7		1	EMED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	A CHALK INCLUSIONS		BS
59	7		1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE		BS
59	7	BROWN SPECKS IN PLAIN GL;ROUND FOOT	1	EMED	OXAG?	TP	2	1			BS
59	7		1	ROM	RPOT		3	3			BS
59	7	APPLIED THUMBED STRIP;PLAIN GL	1	SN-EMED	SEW	TP	1	1			BS
60	8		1	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	3	3	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT		R SOOTED EXT
60	8		1	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	7	7	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT		BS
61			1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	2	1	A WHITE FLINT		BS

61		KT EXT	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	2	2	FINE SAND;SPARSE MUSC;BROWN WITH REDUCED CORE	BS	
62	9	HANDMADE	1	MED	MEDLOC	JAR	1	1	M ANGULAR FLINT	BS	
62	9		1	ROM	RPOT		5	5		BS	
62	9	APPLIED TRIANGULAR-SECTIONED APP;COMBING;PLAIN GL	1	SN-EMED	SEW	TP	1	1		BS	
66			1	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT	BS	
66			1	ROM	RPOT		1	1		BS	
67			1	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT	R	SOOTED EXT
67			1	ROM	RPOT		2	2		BS	
69				LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	4	4	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT	BS	
69				LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	5	5	A R Q;S ANG FLINT;S R CHALK	BS	SOOTED EXT
69				ROM	RPOT		1	1		BS	
69	10			ROM	RTIL		1	1		BS	
69	10			ROM	RTIL	IMBR	1	1		BS	
69		THUMBED RIM;SCRATCH-MARKED BODY		SN-EMED	SEW	JAR	2	1		BS	
69				SN-EMED	SEW	TP	2	1		BS	
78			3	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT	BS	
78			3	ROM	RPOT		2	2		BS	
78			3	ROM	RPOT		1	1		BS	
78			3	ROM	RPOT?		1	1	R Q (GSQ) >1.0MM	BS	SOOTED EXT
78			3	ROM	RPOT?		1	1	A RQ >0.3MM;M FRESHWATER MOLLUSC/LAND SNAIL SHELL	BS	SOOTED EXT
79			3	ROM	RPOT		1	1		R	
BACKFILL			3	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1	A R CHALK;A ANG WHITE FLINT	BS	
BACKFILL			3	LSAX	LSAXLOC	JAR	1	1	A R Q;S ANG FLINT;S R CHALK	BS	
BACKFILL			2	ROM	RPOT		1	1		BS	

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BACKFILL	3	ROM	RPOT	1	1	BS
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