

Assessment of the Pottery from Lower Farm, Pennington, Hampshire (LFP03/33)

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Twelve sherds of pottery from an archaeological evaluation at Lower Farm, Pennington, near Lymington, Hampshire, were submitted for identification and assessment (LFP03/33). The sherds include types which were first produced in the late 11th century but as a group they are probably no earlier than the 13th century. None of the medieval sherds are as heavily abraded as one might expect if they were originally deposited in ploughsoil but one context, (72) [22], produced fresh sherds of medieval pottery and one abraded sherd of Verwood ware, of 16th-century or later date. A second post-medieval sherd was found in the subsoil at the north end of Trench 5.

Description

The pottery was not compared with local fabric series such as those used in Southampton and Winchester but was instead assigned a common name code of MEDLOC (locally-produced medieval wares) and given individual fabric descriptions. These groups are described below:

Fabric 1

The fabric is tempered with a coarse gravel consisting of equal quantities of rounded quartz and subangular to rounded flint grains up to 3.0mm across. The flint is sometimes heavily stained and battered and is probably originated in Tertiary or later deposits.

The vessels in this fabric are handmade jars

Fabric 2

The fabric is tempered with a well-sorted coarse rounded quartz sand with grains up to 1.0mm across with sparse angular white flint fragments up to 2.0mm across.

The one example of this fabric is the rim of a jar with a reduced, light grey colour. The vessel is possibly produced in southeast Wiltshire, for example at Salisbury or Laverstock, and is likely to be of later 12th or earlier 13th-century date. If so, the vessel is likely to have been hand made with a turntable-finished rim.

Fabric 3

This fabric is tempered with abundant well-sorted subangular quartz grains, up to 0.5mm across. Sparse fragments of angular white flint up to 1.0mm across are present. The groundmass is fine-textured with numerous subangular brown iron-rich clay pellets.

A single example of this fabric was present, a wheelthrown jar body sherd from a vessel with an oxidized inner margin and surface and a light grey core and outer surface. The vessel exterior is sooted.

Fabric 4

This fabric is similar to that of Fabric 3 but is finer-textured.

Three sherds were recovered, all from wheelthrown, oxidized vessels. Those from context (72) have sooting on the exterior.

Fabric 5

This fabric contains sparse rounded quartz and subangular flint gravel up to 2.0mm across in a fine sandy groundmass.

Two sherds of this fabric were found, from a single wheelthrown jug. The vessel was reduced, grey, with a brown inner surface and a plain splashed glazed exterior.

Fabric 6

This fabric contains moderate rounded quartz and stained, battered flint up to 4.0mm across in a groundmass of poorly-sorted angular and subangular quartz sand.

A fragment of fired clay from context (77) [27] was the only example of this fabric. There were no traces of wattle impressions but it is likely that the clay was daub.

Verwood ware

Two sherds of Verwood ware were found. That from context (72) [22] is the rim of a jar with beaded, everted rim and plain lead glaze on the interior. The precise form cannot be paralleled amongst material of 16th to 20th-century date attributed to Verwood (Draper with Copland-Griffiths 2002). That from Trench 5, north end subsoil, is a body sherd from a jar or bowl of standard post-medieval type.

Assessment

Handmade jars in a flint-tempered fabric similar to Fabric 1, were probably first produced in the immediately post-conquest period and occur in late 11th to 13th-century levels in Southampton. The Fabric 2 jar is probably of later 12th or 13th-century date. The wheelthrown sandy wares (Fabrics 3 and 4) have a similar appearance and colour range to the post-medieval Verwood wares and might be products of the medieval Verwood industry, known so far only from documentary sources. However, the Reading Beds, which are a possible source of this clay, outcrop in a narrow strip running east-west through Dorset and Hampshire and other sources are possible. The fragment of daub, Fabric 5, has a fabric consistent with the use of locally-available clays and gravels. Although the pottery may be strays from a long-lived medieval settlement the condition of the sherds does not suggest that they were

originally in a ploughsoil and they may instead be primary refuse from an isolated settlement such as might be expected in an area of woodland.

Bibliography

Draper, Jo with Copland-Griffiths, Penny (2002) *Dorset Country Pottery: the kilns of the Verwood district*. The Crowood Press, Ramsbury

Appendix

Context	REFNO	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part
61	11	HM	MEDLOC JAR		1	1	F1;COARSE FLINT/RQ GRAVEL	BS
65	15	WT	MEDLOC JAR		1	1	F4;OXID;MED SA Q SAND;BROWN FE/CLAY PELLETS	BS
68	18	WF RIM	SEW	JAR	1	1	F2;REDUCED GREY;SAQ C.1.0MM	R
72	22	HM	MEDLOC JAR		1	1	F1;COARSE FLINT/RQ GRAVEL	BS
72	22	PLAIN GL INT RIM	VERW	JAR	1	1		R
72	22	WT	MEDLOC JAR		3	1	F4;OXID;MED SA Q SAND;BROWN FE/CLAY PELLETS	BS
76	26	WT	MEDLOC JAR		1	1	F4;OXID;MED SA Q SAND;BROWN FE/CLAY PELLETS	BS
77	27		FCLAY	DAUB?	1	1	F6;COARSE FLINT/RQ GRAVEL IN BRICKEARTH MATRIX	BS
77	27	WT;SPLASH GL	MEDLOC JUG		2	1	F5;SPARSE RQ/FLINT IN FINE SANDY MATRIX	BS
77	27	HM	MEDLOC JAR		1	1	F1;COARSE FLINT/RQ GRAVEL	BS
77	27	HM	MEDLOC JAR		2	2	F3;COARSE RQ SAND	BS
		N.END SUBSOIL	VERW	BOWL	1	1		BS