

## **Assessment of the Pottery from Kineton Rose Cottage, Mill Street, Kineton, Warwickshire (RCK04)**

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Nineteen sherds of pottery, a probable piece of brick and an iron object from archaeological work at Rose Cottage, Kineton, Warwickshire, carried out by 110 Archaeology, were submitted for identification and assessment. The material ranges in date from the late Saxon period to the recent past.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

A fragment of flat roof tile was recovered. The fabric is untempered and contains sparse shell inclusions and is very different from most medieval to post-medieval Warwickshire ceramic building material, which is tempered with quartz sand. The closest parallel known to the author is that produced in the Potterspury area of Northamptonshire.

A fragment of a probable modern brick, made in a light-coloured, calcareous fabric with no large inclusions, was recovered.

#### **Iron**

An iron object, recently broken in two, was recovered. It may be a binding strip, used to secure the corner of a four-sided wooden chest or box. However, an x-ray of the terminals would be required to confirm this since in its present state there are no signs of nail holes in the terminals.

#### **Late Saxon pottery**

Four sherds of St Neots-type ware were recovered (Vince and Jenner 1991, NEOT). Two come from inturned-rim bowls and two from jars, used for cooking. This ware has a distinctive shelly temper, including fragments of punctate brachiopod shell, and was made from a shelly facies of the Oxford Clay, probably in Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire or Buckinghamshire. The ware was probably first made in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries but became a widely-traded ware only in the 11<sup>th</sup> century (being found, for example, in levels immediately preceding the construction of the Norman castle at Oxford, 1994). It is likely that the ware continued to be produced into the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Medieval pottery**

A sherd of a handmade sand-tempered jar was recovered (MEDX). The fabric of this jar suggests an origin in an area of lower Cretaceous rocks and is reminiscent of material used

in central Bedfordshire which contains fragments of rounded quartz derived from the Woburn Sands. The probable date range of this type is between the late 11<sup>th</sup> and the early 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Four sherds of handmade, limestone-tempered ware were recovered (MEDX). They all have the same fabric and might be from the same vessel. The inclusions consist of angular oolitic limestone fragments with small ooliths (c.0.5mm across maximum) in a pink or red sparry calcite matrix. One sherd also includes a polished, ironstained quartz grain derived from a lower Cretaceous sand. Iron-rich oolitic limestones of Jurassic age outcrop at several places in the midlands and the fact that the fragments are angular suggests they originated in a head deposit on the slopes of a limestone hill, rather than a river gravel. However, the presence of lower Cretaceous quartz indicates a probable origin on the northwest side of the Oxford Clay vale, between Oxford and Bedford. They are probably of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>-century date.

A sherd of a medieval shelly ware, of the type produced at Olney Hyde, Buckinghamshire, was recovered (OLNEY HYDE). The fabric is slightly coarser in shell size than the St Neot's type ware but otherwise very similar. The sherd probably comes from a rounded, sagging based, jug of 12<sup>th</sup> century date.

A sherd of wheelthrown greyware jar with rounded quartz sand of Triassic origin might be of Deritend ware and of early 13<sup>th</sup>-century date.

A sherd from an unglazed jug strap handle, with a central thumb impression at the body/handle join was recovered. The fabric is similar to that of Potterspury ware and rather different from most Warwickshire medieval pottery.

### **Post-medieval pottery**

Four sherds of post-medieval pot were recovered. One is a fine sandy redware (PMLOC), an unglazed body sherd from a jug or jar. The remainder are sherds of Staffordshire coarseware (STCOAR) and include two pancheon sherds and one from a jar. This ware was produced in Staffordshire from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### **Early Modern pottery**

A single possible sherd of a flowerpot was recovered. The red-firing, fine sandy fabric is typical of wares made from Triassic clays.

### **Assessment**

The remarkable feature of the pottery from Kineton is the number of wares present which originate well to the southeast and east and the lack of local, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire wares. Whether this is a general feature of the medieval pottery Kineton is

not known to the author but it is certainly not typical of material from sites to the south of the Warwickshire Avon nor in the Coventry area. A similar concentration of southeast Midlands wares was noted at Friar Street, Droitwich, but there the finds were interpreted as pre-dating the start of the local, Worcestershire, pottery industries and dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Although this might well also be the case at Kineton, there are also later medieval southeast Midlands wares present and it is more likely that this part of eastern Warwickshire was an area which looked to the east and southeast for its pottery supplies throughout the medieval period.

### **Stratigraphy**

Two contexts produced sherds of probable 11<sup>th</sup>-century date, either before or after the Norman conquest (101 and 108). Contexts 202 and 204 are dated by sherds of handmade coarsewares which might be of late 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century in date. The four remaining contexts can be dated to the post-medieval or later periods. Context 105 contains a fragment of modern brick; context 203 produced a sherd of modern flowerpot; and contexts 207 and 209 produced sherds of post-medieval coarseware.

### **Retention**

The pottery comes from stratified deposits and therefore should be retained for future study.

### **Further work**

None of the finds are recommended for further study at present. The iron binding strip comes from a context which has produced a mixed assemblage of pottery and cannot therefore be dated otherwise it would be recommended for x-radiography and a conservation assessment.

Table 1

Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
101	NEOT		BOWL, INT RIM	R		1	1	20	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
105	STCOAR		PANC	BS		1	1	7		SPALLED
105	POTTERS PURY		JUG	H	STRAP HANDLE WITH SINGLE THUMB AT B/H JOIN	1	1	15		
105	MTIL	CF POTTERS PURY	FLAT	BS		1	1	5		
105	PMTIL	CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS	BRICK	BS	COULD BE MODERN	1	1	3		
108	NEOT		JAR	BS		1	1	29	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
108	NEOT		JAR	R		1	1	26	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
202	MEDX	RQ;FE-STAINED GSQ;FINE TEXTURED MICACEOUS GROUNDMASS	JAR	BS	HM	1	1	5		
203	LPMLOC	RED;FINE SAND	FLP	BS		1	1	1		FRESH
203	SHER	GREY;M RQ (TRIASSIC)	JAR	BS		1	1	1	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
204	MEDX	SA OOLITIC LST WITH PINK/RED MATRIX;SA FE;S GSQ	JAR	BS	HM	4	2	16		
204	NEOT		BOWL, INT RIM	BS		1	1	32	SOOTED EXT	
207	STCOAR		PANC	BS		1	1	8		SPALLED
209	STCOAR		JAR	BS	INT AND EXT BROWN SL;INT PLAIN GL	1	1	20		
209	OLNEY HYDE		JUG	B	SAGGING KT BASE	1	1	40	LEACHED INT	
209	PMEDX	FINE SAND;RED	JAR	BS	UNGLAZED	1	1	1		
209	IRON		BINDING STRIP	BS		2	1	13		

## Bibliography

Mellor, M. (1994) *Oxfordshire Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region*, Oxford

Vince, A. G. and Jenner, M. A. (1991) "The Saxon and Early Medieval Pottery of London." in A. G. Vince, ed., *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London: 2, Finds and Environmental Evidence*, London Middlesex Archaeol Soc Spec Pap 12 London Middlesex Archaeol Soc, London, 19-119.