A1, Wetherby, Catalogue

Non-Local English Wares

Stamford ware

The Stamford pottery industry was founded in the later 9th century, soon after the Viking takeover of the Danelaw. In its first century, the industry supplied sites in the Stamford area and neighbouring towns but its products are rare elsewhere, for example at Lincoln or York. In the late 10th century. However, the industry started to grow in the later 10th century and then again in the later 11th century (apparently filling a gap in the market between the decline of the Torksey industry and the rise of the Yorkshire Gritty industries). In the middle of the 12th century there was a change in fabric and the start of the use of copper-mottled glaze. The products of this later phase are known as Developed Stamford ware.

Two vessels were recognised at Wetherby, and were examined using thin sections and chemical analysis. These analyses confirmed the attribution to Stamford. In addition a sherd identified visually as a Brandsby-type ware might be an unglazed Stamford ware jar (see SF2529).

WW/16A/03 (2). Sample V2448. The knife-trimmed base of a small, plain glazed vessel, perhaps a bottle.

WW/16A/03 (977) SF2453. Sample V2446. An unglazed body sherd from a jar. Reduced grey outer margins and surface with traces of soot.

North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered ware

WW/16C/03 (715) SF2302. Two rim sherds from a wheelthrown, unglazed jar were examined using thin section and chemical analysis. The shell had been completely leached away but the groundmass and sparse rounded quartz inclusions seen in thin section are consistent with an origin close to the Jurassic ridge in central or northern Lincolnshire. The chemical analysis has probably been contaminated by groundwater and by soil filling the voids left by the shell inclusions and therefore is chemically distinct from samples of similar central and northern Lincolnshire shell-tempered wares.

Miscellaneous wares

WW/16C/03 (1073) SF2446. A very abraded fragment from a closed vessel, possibly a drinking jug. The fabric contains abundant angular and sparse rounded quartz up to 0.5mm across in a soft powdery light brown groundmass. Possibly an unglazed Humberware drinking jug but so abraded that it might be a Roman jar!

WW/8/03 (1) SF2273. A unidentified fragment, possibly a tile. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass of calcareous clay containing abundant angular quartz up to 0.1mm across. Probably a fragment of recent ceramic building material.

Coal Measures Whitewares

There was a widespread tradition of using white-firing Coal Measure seatearth clays in South Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Such clays clearly occur in West Yorkshire but it seems as though the white-firing clays are difficult to exploit without getting contamination from red-firing clays and in many cases where the vessel was made from a white-firing, Coal Measure clay, there is some other indication that the vessel is not a local product.

WW/16A/03 (842) SF2299. The oval-sectioned handle from a large jug. The handle has three wide grooves running down the back, is covered with a red slip a partial copper-mottled glaze. The fabric contains moderate angular quartz and sandstone fragments up to 1.5mm across in a fine-textured groundmass which has a dark grey core and light brown margins. Probably a local product.

WW/16A/103 (849) SF2332. The base angle from a large squat jug with knife-trimming around the base and an external red slip under a partial copper-mottled glaze. The fabric is grey and vitrified and contains moderate angular quartz and sandstone fragments up to 0.5mm across in a fine-grained groundmass. Probably a local product.

WW/16C/03 (26) SF2531. A body sherd from an unglazed vessel, possibly a jar. There is a single spot of plain glaze on the interior. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz grains up to 2.0mm across, sparse organic shale fragments up to 1.5mm long and sparse muscovite laths up to 2.0mm across in a groundmass of powdery clay. Probably a local product.

WW/16C/03 (35) SF2152. A body sherd from a jug with a external copper-mottled glaze over close-set horizontal grooves. The fabric contains sparse angular white-firing clay pellets, sparse angular quartz up to 0.5mm across and a groundmass containing abundant quartz silt up to 0.1mm across. Probably not locally produced.

WW/16C/03 (581). A body sherd from a large jug with a vitrified red slip on the exterior. The fabric contains angular quartz grains up to 1.5mm across and vitrified iron-rich inclusions up to 2.0mm across in a groundmass of vitrified dark grey clay. Possibly local.

WW/16C/03 (798). A body sherd from the base of a large jug with thumb impressions around the base and a thick external white slip under a copper-mottled glaze. The fabric

contains abundant angular quartz, sparse sandstone fragments, and sparse red mudstone fragments in a groundmass of light brown clay with a grey core. Probably a local product.

WW/16CV/03 (798). A body sherd from a large jug with knife-trimmed exterior and no glaze. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz grains and sparse sandstone fragments up to 1.5mm across in a groundmass of inclusionless white-firing clay, reduced in the core and interior. Probably not locally produced.

North Yorkshire Whitewares

Pottery production took place at a number of localities around the fringes of the North Yorkshire Moors in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. These wares have been divided at York into York Glazed ware; Brandsby-type ware; Hambleton-type ware and Ryedale ware. Possible examples of the York Glazed ware were examined at x20 magnification and using thin sections and chemical analysis but they appear to be finer versions of the locally produced wares (NGR and MEDLOC) rather than being of North Yorkshire origin. The only exception is a sherd of lobed cup, assigned to Hambleton ware by eye which matches samples from the Brandsby kiln in chemical composition.

Visual analysis only:

WW S+R (1). CH 4400. SF3182. A body sherd from a wheelthrown jug with a copper-mottled lead glaze. The fabric contains moderate angular quartz up to 0.5mm across, some of which is haematite-coated. Also some sparse rounded grains of similar size. Sparse muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across. The groundmass contains quartz and muscovite silt, up to 0.1mm across. Probably local.

WW/16A/03 (2) SF2166. A base sherd from a globular wheelthrown jar with sooted on the exterior. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz up to 0.5mm and the groundmass is light brown with abundant quartz silt, muscovite and biotite laths up to 0.1mm across. Probably local but could be Brandsby-type ware.

WW/16A/03 (325) SF2594. A body sherd from a thin-walled, unglazed vessel. The fabric contains no large inclusions and is light-firing with abundant fine quartz up to 0.1mm. Possibly Surrey/Hampshire border ware.

WW/16A/03 (428) SF2110. A body sherd from a cylindrical jug with a thick wall and external copper-mottled glaze. The fabric contains a large angular sandstone fragment (well-sorted grains c.0.2mm) but is otherwise fine-textured with a groundmass containing abundant fine quartz sand, up to 0.2mm across and firing off-white with a grey core. Probably Brandsby-type ware.

WW/16A/03 (471). A body sherd from a thick-walled cylindrical vessel with internal spots of light green glaze and external dribbles of colourless glaze. The fabric contains few large inclusions and has a groundmass containing abundant quartz and sparse muscovite silt up to 0.2mm across. Probably Brandsby-type or Hambleton ware.

WW/16A/03 (471). SF2253. The knife-trimmed base of a thick-walled conical jug with a thin plain external glaze. The fabric contains rare white sandstone and white-firing mudstone inclusions in a light-firing groundmass containing abundant quartz up to 0.1mm across. Probably Brandsby-type ware.

WW/16a/03 (977). SF2453. Three sherds from an unglazed jar with slight traces of soot on the exterior. The fabric contains abundant well-sorted angular quartz, c.0.2mm across, and sparse dark brown angular clay-iron fragments up to 1.0mm across. Sparse rounded off-white mudstone fragments are also present. Probably local.

WW/16C/03 (1) SF2539. A body sherd from a vessel with a plain internal glaze and spots of external glaze. The fabric is oxidized, light brown, with a reduced core and interior and contains moderate angular quartz up to 0.2mm across, sparse brown clay pellets (possibly mudstone) and sparse flakes of biotite. The groundmass contains abundant quartz and muscovite silt. Probably Ryedale ware.

WW/16C/03 (23). A copper-mottled glazed plain strap handle from a jug. The fabric contains moderate subangular and rounded quartz fragments up to 1.0mm across, often red (i.e. coated with haematite). The groundmass is off-white and contains abundant angular quartz and moderate muscovite laths up to 0.1mm long. Probably local.

WW/16C/03 (591). A small sherd from a jug with a spot of external plain lead glaze. The fabric contains moderate well-sorted angular quartz grains, c.0.2mm across, and sparse fragments of red mudstone or clay/ironstone. The groundmass is micaceous (c.0.05mm or less) but not silty. Probably a local product. Probably local.

WW/WW6/03 (6026). An oval-sectioned handle from a large jug. The handle has five ribs and is partially glazed with a plain glaze. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz (some haematite-stained) and red clay/mudstone pellets in a silty groundmass. Probably local.

WW/16C/03 (1) SF2492. The pulled spout from a thick-walled jug with a rounded rim and horizontal grooves just below the rim. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz silt up to 0.1mm across in a light-firing clay matrix. Probably Brandsby-type ware.

WW/16C/03 (538) SF2226. A body sherd from a large jug with an external glossy green glaze, probably stained with copper. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to

0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz and muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a matrix of light-brown clay. Probably Brandsby-type ware. Probably the same vessel as SF2150.

WW/16C/03 (509) SF2150. A body sherd from a large jug with an external copper-mottled glaze over a band of horizontal grooves. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz and muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a matrix of light-brown clay. Probably Brandsby-type ware. Probably the same vessel as SF2226.

WW/16C/03 (40) SF2269. A body sherd from a large jug with patches of copper-mottled glaze. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz and muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a matrix of light-brown clay. Probably Brandsby-type ware. Probably the same vessel as SF2226

WW/16C/03 (40) SF2360. A body sherd from a large jug with external knife-trimming and a spot of glaze. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz and muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a matrix of light-brown clay. Probably Brandsby-type ware. Possibly the same vessel as SF2226.

WW/16C/03 (40). A body sherd from a jug with an external copper-mottled glaze. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz grains up to 1.0mm across and sparse sandstone fragments, up to 1.0mm across, in a groundmass without visible inclusions. The clay matrix is reduced except for the external margin and is probably light-firing. Probably local.

WW/16C/03 (23) SF2529. A body sherd from an unglazed jar. The fabric contains sparse angular iron ore fragments up to 2.0mm across in a groundmass containing fine quartz sand. Possibly Stamford ware.

WW/16C/03 (2) SF2362. A body sherd from an unglazed, wheelthrown jar. The fabric contains abundant angular quartz sand up to 0.5mm across in a light brown clay matrix. Probably local.

WW/16C/03 (2) SF2518. A body sherd from a large jug with external knife-trimming and no glaze. The fabric contains sparse angular quartz grains up to 0.5mm across in a groundmass containing abundant quartz and muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a matrix of light-brown clay. Probably Brandsby-type ware. Possibly the same vessel as SF2226.

WW/16A/03 (374). A body sherd from the shoulder of a large jug with a sharp neck angle and external glossy copper-stained glaze. The fabric contains moderate fragments of haematite-coated angular quartz up to 0.2mm across and sparse red sandstone fragments

in a groundmass containing abundant angular quartz and sparse muscovite silt up to 0.1mm across in a light brown clay matrix. Probably Brandsby-type ware.

WW/16C/03 (40) SF2345. A body sherd from a jug with an external copper-mottled glaze. The fabric contains moderate angular quartz grains and sparse sandstone fragments up to 1.0mm across in a fine-textured light brown clay matrix. Possibly local or Brandsby-type ware.

Thin section and chemical analysis:

These three samples were identified visually as York Glazed ware (V2440), and Winksley ware (V2441 and V2666). All three have a well-sorted angular quartz sand similar to those above. Chemical analysis indicates that they are more similar to each other than to samples from the Brandsby kiln, Lumley Farm or Winksley. Factor analysis was carried out on the full range of measured elements and then again using only the least mobile elements, to test for post-burial contamination, and in both cases the Wetherby sherds are more similar to each other than to the comparative material. Therefore, a local origin is proposed.

However, a lobed cup with an oval-sectioned handle (V2445) was confirmed as a North Yorkshire product by thin section and chemical analysis, although it is closer in composition to Brandsby-type ware than to Hambleton ware, its visual attribution.

V2440	WW/16c/03	(262)	SF0208	NGR	JUG	TS;ICPS	
V2441	WW/16A/03	(1296;1298)	VESS13	WINKS	JUG	TS;ICPS	RECT RSD;PLAIN GL
V2445	WW/16A/03	(471)	SF2121	HAMB	LCUP	TS;ICPS	CUGL
V2666	WW/16C/03	(027)		WINK?	JUG	TS;ICPS	EXT PLAIN GL

Beverley-type wares

From the mid 12th century through to the 14th century the potteries at Beverley produced a wheelthrown glazed ware characterised by a fine silty fabric. The vessels are typically thinly potted. It seems that the Beverley industry gave rise to a number of daughter industries, for example at Perth, to the south of the Humber and possibly at York, but few of their products have been analysed as yet and it is unknown to what extent the distribution of “Beverley ware” is actually a composite made up of the products of daughter industries.

Three samples from Wetherby were analysed using thin sections and chemical analysis. Factor analysis of the chemical data was carried out using only the least mobile elements. This indicated that the Wetherby samples are more similar to the samples of Humberware from Wetherby than to true Beverley ware; Beverley-type ware from York or Humberware

produced at York. The thin sections do not contain any distinctive east Yorkshire rocks or minerals. Therefore, it seems likely that the Wetherby Beverley-type ware was produced at an unknown centre, which may have then gone on to produce Humberware later in the medieval period.

Visual analysis only:

WW/16C/03 (43) SF2321. An unglazed body sherd which might easily be from a Humberware jug.

WW/16C/03 (507) SF2237. A body sherd from a jug with a glossy copper green glaze over a thick white slip.

WW/16C/03 (35) SF2152. The rim of an unglazed drinking jug. Probably Humberware.

WW/16C/03 (3) SF2520. A body sherd from a jug with a dark copper-green glaze.

WW/16C/03 (766) SF2318. A body sherd from a jug with a thin plain glaze, possibly over a red slip. Possibly a fine version of the local MEDLOC group.

WW/6/03 (1) SF3362. Probably the rim sherd from a Northern Gritty ware jar.

Thin section and chemical analysis:

V2437	WW/16c/03	31	SF2367	BEVO1T	SMALL VESSEL WITH PL GLAZE ON UPPER PART OF BODY ONLY
V2438	WW/16c/03	572	SF2252	BEVO2T	PLAIN SAGGING BASE
V2439	WW/16c/03	1	SF2539	BEVO2T	LARGE OVAL HANDLE;CUGL?

Scarborough ware

Three sherds of Scarborough ware were identified. Two of these, from the same vessel, were identified at x20 magnification and the third was subjected to thin section and chemical analysis.

Visual identification:

WW/16A/03 (461) and (476). Two sherds from a jug with a glossy yellow glaze. Self-coloured strips overlain with a copper-mottled glaze run vertically down the body alternating with red-firing vertical strips. The fabric is oxidised throughout and has a pink colour, no large inclusions and has a groundmass containing abundant coarse quartz silt and muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across.

Thin section and chemical analysis:

TSNO	Sitecode	Context	REFNO	cname	Form	Action	Description
V2443	WW/16A/03	471	SF2121	SCAR	JUG	TS;ICPS	CUGL EXT;ROD HANDLE

Imported Wares

Low Countries Highly-Decorated ware

From the later 12th century onwards, potteries in the low countries were exporting wheelthrown glazed wares to ports around the North Sea. Such vessels are uncommon in England until the later 13th century and these are commonly termed Aardenburg-type ware, although it is clear that several sources other than Aardenburg were taking part in this trade.

Distinctive features of Low Countries Highly Decorated ware are that the vessels often have a thick white slip, applied whilst the pot was still on the wheel and thicker towards the rim of the vessel, and the fact that the glaze is usually completely oxidized and colourless, which must reflect a difference in the method of preparation and application compared with English practice. However, in the case of the Wetherby site, there are several local wares which share the slip technique (probably as a result of diffusion of the idea from the Low Countries) and the glaze is usually too weathered for the original colour and appearance to be determined. Therefore, the identification of these vessels is suspect. However, one vessel was sampled for chemical analysis which supports a Low Countries source.

Visual analysis only:

WW/16A/03 (337) SF2080. A body sherd from the shoulder of a jug with a cordoned surface and sharp neck angle. The vessel is oxidized throughout and there is a weathered external plain glaze. The fabric contains abundant ill-sorted angular and sparse rounded quartz grains ranging up to0.3mm across. The groundmass contains muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across.

Thin section and chemical analysis:

A single sherd was sampled for chemical analysis and compared with samples of Tees Valley ware, white-slipped local wares (NGR Fabric 6;MEDLOC Fabrics 5 and 9) and Low Countries Highly Decorated ware from Bruges, Ieper and Aardenburg. The results clearly show that the Wetherby sample is chemically similar to those from the Low Countries and distinct from the English white-slipped wares.

V2444	WW/16c/03	789	SF2376	JUG	ICPS	THICK WHITE SLIP;CUGL

Low Countries Red Earthenware

In the later medieval period, particularly after c.1350, the highly-decorated jugs ceased to be produced and in their place plain lead-glazed red earthenwares were exported around the North Sea.

Visual analysis only:

WW/16C/03 SF2173. A body sherd from a cauldron or tripod pipkin. The vessel has a carination, to the top of which is a clear lead glaze and below some spots of glaze. The fabric is oxidized throughout and contains abundant ill-sorted angular and sparse rounded quartz grains ranging up to0.3mm across. The groundmass contains muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across.

WW/16A/03 (471). The rounded, slightly thickened everted rim of a cauldron or tripod pipkin with an internal clear glaze. The fabric is oxidized throughout and contains abundant ill-sorted angular and sparse rounded quartz grains ranging up to0.3mm across. The groundmass contains muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across.

WW/16A/03 (471). The rounded rim of an internally clear-glazed vessel of wide diameter. The profile is not the same as that of the frying pan (skillet) or wide bowls but is paralleled by a curfew from Utrecht ({Hurst & van Beuningen 1986 #11313}, Fig 61 No. 204). The fabric is oxidized throughout and contains abundant ill-sorted angular and sparse rounded quartz grains ranging up to0.3mm across. The groundmass contains muscovite laths up to 0.2mm across.

South Netherlands Maiolica

WW/16A/03 (348) Sample V2442. Two sherds from a drinking jug. One is part of the oval-sectioned handle with a hole at the end nearest the rim join for the attachment of a metal (probably pewter) lid. The second sherd is from the globular body of the vessel with traces of blue painted decoration. Such vessels were often decorated with mottled blue or purple glaze (sometimes both) and these are termed Malling Jugs. The present example, however probably had a painted sacred monogram or other design on the body. Chemical analysis confirmed the attribution to Antwerp, in the south Netherlands.

Siegburg Stoneware

A single fragment of Siegburg stoneware was present. This ware was exported to eastern England from the mid 14th to the 16th centuries (Hurst 1986, 176-184).

WW/16C/03 (472) SF2173. A body sherd from a bowl, similar to Hurst 1986 Fig 88. No. 257. These vessels were fired in stacks and the lower part of the body is therefore protected from

ash glazing since it is enclosed in the vessel below. The Wetherby sherd comes from the junction of the protected and ash-glazed areas. Although Hurst dates these vessels to the later 15th and earlier 16th centuries, similar vessels were present in deposits at the London waterfront from the early 15th century ({Vince 1985 #43263};{Vince 1988 #10033}).

Langerwehe Stoneware

A single fragment of Langerwehe stoneware was present. This ware was exported from the Rhineland to eastern England between the mid 14th and the 15th centuries (Hurst 1986, 184-190).

WW/16A/03 (895). SF2430. The thumbed base of a drinking jug. The vessel has a brown external slip and ash glaze whilst the interior is oxidized and probably only fired to earthenware temperatures. There are no typological developments in the form of the bases of Langerwehe stoneware vessels and this example could date anywhere within the mid 14th to late 15th-century bracket.

Raeren Stoneware

A single fragment of Raeren stoneware was present. This ware was exported to England in quantity from the mid 15th to the later 16th centuries (Hurst 1986, 194-208).

WW/16A/03 (332) SF2068. The thumbed base of a drinking jug with a grey salt glaze externally (excluding the centre of the base, which presumably was shielded by the rim of another drinking jug). The thumbed frill base was used from the mid 15th to the mid 16th century and without evidence for the body profile no closer dating is possible.