

Assessment of the Pottery from Kineton Rose Cottage, Mill Street, Kineton, Warwickshire (RCK04). Revised 2005

Alan Vince

Seventy-two sherds of pottery, a probable piece of brick, five pieces of tile, an iron object, and a stone hone 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.

Three further pieces of tile, made of a sandy red earthenware, were found. One of these was over-fired and almost certainly a flat roof tile whilst the others might be either flat tiles or ridge tiles.

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 check 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.

Stone

A hone of Norwegian Ragstone was recovered from context 212. Norwegian Ragstone was quarried in the Eidsborg region of Telemark, southern Norway, from before the Norman conquest to late in the medieval period. This fragment comes from an oval-sectioned hone which has seen considerable use, being worn smooth on all faces.

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 9th or 10th centuries but became a widely-traded ware only in the 11th 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 12th 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 11th and the early 13th 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 11th to 12th-century date. Six sherds which may of similar character contained only oolitic limestone and sparse rounded quartz grains, and are similar to vessels found to the south of the Warwickshire Avon in the northern Cotswolds (NCOTS, contexts 101 and 212).

Two sherds of handmade, sand-tempered jars were recovered. The sand is composed of rounded quartz grains and sparse fragments of micaceous sandstone and the groundmass is fine-textured and micaceous (MEDLOC). These sherds are probably of later 11th to early 13th century date.

Two sherds 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 12th century date.

Two sherds of wheelthrown greyware jar with rounded quartz sand of Triassic origin might be of Deritend ware and of early 13th-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. A small sherd from an externally glazed vessel which might be from the same source but is too small for certain identification was also found (MEDLOC, context 212).

A number of sherds of light-firing and white-firing wares were found. These have been classed as Midlands White Ware (MWW) but the majority of them probably come from the Chilvers Coton production centre to the north of Nuneaton (1984). Both jugs and jars are present. Such vessels probably date to the later 13th to 15th centuries. A distinctive fabric within this group has a pink fabric. All of the sherds are tempered with a well-sorted quartz sand, the grains of which are often haematite-coated.

A sherd of Midlands Purple ware was present (MP). This ware was produced from red-firing Coal Measures clay with abundant quartz sand tempering and dates to the late medieval to early post-medieval period.

Post-medieval pottery

Twenty-three sherds of post-medieval pot were recovered. The majority are fine sandy redwares (PMLOC). They include an unglazed body sherd from a jug or jar, jars and pancheons. The fabric is similar to wasters found in Warwick. Three sherds of Malvern Chase ware of late medieval or early post-medieval date were present (HERB4, Vince 1977). Two come from jugs or jars and one from a pipkin. This ware was produced at Hanley Castle, just north of Upton upon Severn, and therefore probably travelled up the Warwickshire Avon to Kineton. Two sherds of Brown/purple glazed cups, of Cistercian ware type, were present. The source of these vessels is unknown (CSTN). The form of the vessels, a ribbed cylinder, probably dates them to the later 16th or early 17th centuries. A single sherd of Frechen stoneware was present. It is too small to identify the form and could come from either a drinking jug or a "Belarmine" bottle, giving a wide date range of c.1530 to c.1670. 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 17th century onwards.

Early Modern pottery

Two sherds of flowerpot were recovered (LPMLOC). 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 low quantity 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 11th 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

One context produced only sherds of probable 11th-century date, either before or after the Norman conquest (108). Contexts 113, 116, 202 and 204 are dated by sherds of handmade coarsewares which might be of late 11th or 12th century in date. Context 112 can be dated to the later 13th century or later and context 212 dates to the later 15th century or later.

The four remaining contexts can be dated to the post-medieval or later periods: Context 101 produced a sherd of modern flowerpot; Context 105 contains a fragment of modern brick; context 118 produced a sherd of mid 16th-century or later Frechen stoneware; context 203 produced a sherd of modern flowerpot; and contexts 207 and 209 produced sherds of post-medieval coarseware.

None of these contexts produced large coherent assemblages and in every case the dating depends on a few sherds, which might be residual or intrusive, rather than complete assemblages. This is particularly likely to be the case with a spread such as the track (contexts 105, 203 and 212), the rubble spreads (112 and 118) and the plough or subsoil, context 207.

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

Trench	Context	TPQ	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
Area 1	101	9.2	POTTERY	NEOT		BOWL, INT RIM	R		1	1	20	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
Area 1	101	11.2	POTTERY	NCOTS		JAR	BS		5	5	34	SOOTED EXT	
Area 1	101	12.2	POTTERY	DERITEND		JAR	B		1	1	16		
Area 1	101	13.2	CBM	MEDLOC	RED EARTHENWARE;S RQ <1.0MM;M SAQ <0.5MM	RIDGE	BS		3	3	46		
Area 1	101	13.2	CBM	MEDLOC	RED EARTHENWARE;S RQ <1.0MM;M SAQ <0.5MM;CMR?	FLAT	BS	OVERFIRED	1	1	21		
Area 1	101	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	R	INT AND EXT CUGL;COLLAR RIM;ROD HANDLE WITH COLUMN OF ROUND STABBED HOLES;THUMB IMPRESSIONS AT EITHER SIDE OF R/H JOIN	1	1	67		
Area 1	101	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JAR	BS		1	1	9	WHITE DEPO INT	
Area 1	101	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	BS	EXT CUGL	3	3	38		
Area 1	101	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JAR	BS		2	2	20		
Area 1	101	15.2	POTTERY	CSTN		CUP	B	CYLINDRICAL RIBBED	2	2	28		
Area 1	101	15.2	POTTERY	HERB4		PIP	BS	INT CUGL	1	1	6	SOOTED EXT	
Area 1	101	15.2	POTTERY	HERB4		JUG	BS	UNGLAZED	1	1	7		
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	JAR	R	TRACE OF INT GL	2	1	49	SOOTED EXT	
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	JAR	R	SQUARED RIM	1	1	27	SOOTED EXT	
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	JAR	BS		3	3	28	SOOTED EXT	

AVAC Report 2005/42

Trench	Context	TPQ	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	PANC	R	PLAIN INT GL	1	1	68		
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	PANC	BS	PLAIN INT GL	2	2	29		
Area 1	101	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	CF WARWICK?	BOWL	BS	PLAIN INT GL	1	1	7		
Area 1	101	18.2	POTTERY	LPMLOC		FLP	BS		1	1	5		
Area 1	101	NA	ANBN	ANBN			BS		1	1	9		
Area 1	105	13.2	POTTERY	MTIL	CF POTTERS PURY	FLAT	BS		1	1	5		
Area 1	105	13.2	POTTERY	POTTERS PURY		JUG	H	STRAP HANDLE WITH SINGLE THUMB AT B/H JOIN	1	1	15		
Area 1	105	17.2	POTTERY	STCOAR		PANC	BS		1	1	7		SPALLED
Area 1	105	18.2	POTTERY	PMTIL	CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS	BRICK	BS	COULD BE MODERN	1	1	3		
Area 1	108	9.2	POTTERY	NEOT		JAR	BS		1	1	29	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
Area 1	108	9.2	POTTERY	NEOT		JAR	R		1	1	26	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
Area 1	112	13.2	POTTERY	MWW	PINK CMW;SAQ <0.3MM	JUG?	BS	KT EXT	1	1	10		
Area 1	113	11.2	POTTERY	MEDLOC	RQ <0.5MM;FINE SST <1.0MM;MICACEOUS MATRIX	JAR	BS	HM	1	1	2	SOOTED EXT	
Area 1	116	11.2	POTTERY	MEDLOC	RQ <0.5MM;FINE SST <1.0MM;MICACEOUS (INC BIOTITE) MATRIX	JAR	BS	HM	1	1	9		
Area 1	118	12.2	POTTERY	DERITEND		JAR	BS		2	2	16		
Area 1	118	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	BS	CUGL EXT	1	1	4		
Area 1	118	13.2	POTTERY	MWW	PINK CMW;SAQ <0.3MM	JUG	BS		1	1	20		
Area 1	118	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	BS	PLAIN YELLOW GL	1	1	4		
Area 1	118	16.2	POTTERY	FREC		DJ/BEL	BS		1	1	7		
Area 2	202	11.2	POTTERY	MEDLOC	RQ;FE-STAINED GSQ;FINE TEXTURED MICACEOUS GROUNDMASS	JAR	BS	HM	1	1	5		

AVAC Report 2005/42

Trench	Context	TPQ	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
Area 2	203	12.2	POTTERY	SHER	GREY;M RQ (TRIASSIC);DERITEND?	JAR	BS		1	1	1	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
Area 2	203	18.2	POTTERY	LPMLOC	RED;FINE SAND	FLP	BS		1	1	1		FRESH
Area 2	204	9.2	POTTERY	NEOT		BOWL, INT RIM	BS		1	1	32	SOOTED EXT	
Area 2	204	11.2	POTTERY	MEDLOC	SA OOLITIC LST WITH PINK/RED MATRIX;SA FE;S GSQ	JAR	BS	HM	4	2	16		
Area 2	207	17.2	POTTERY	STCOAR		PANC	BS		1	1	8		SPALLED
Area 2	209	12.2	POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE		JUG	B	SAGGING KT BASE	1	1	40	LEACHED INT	
Area 2	209	16.2	POTTERY	PMLOC	FINE SAND;RED	JAR	BS	UNGLAZED	1	1	1		
Area 2	209	17.2	POTTERY	STCOAR		JAR	BS	INT AND EXT BROWN SL;INT PLAIN GL	1	1	20		
Area 2	209	NA	POTTERY	IRON		BINDING STRIP	BS		2	1	13		
Area 2	212	11.2	POTTERY	NCOTS		?	BS		1	1	6		
Area 2	212	12.2	POTTERY	DERITEND		JAR	R		1	1	14		
Area 2	212	12.2	POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE		JAR	BS		3	3	7		
Area 2	212	13.2	POTTERY	MEDLOC	LIGHT BODIED;SAQ <0.2MM;RQ <1.0MM;BLACK CORE	?	BS	PLAIN EXT GL	1	1	2		
Area 2	212	13.2	POTTERY	MWW	PINK CMR	?	BS	INT PLAIN GL	1	1	15		
Area 2	212	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JAR	BS	RED SLIPPED INT AND EXT;WT	2	1	22	SOOTED EXT	
Area 2	212	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	BS	CUGL EXT	2	2	4		
Area 2	212	13.2	POTTERY	MWW		JUG	BS	PLAIN GL EXT OVER RED SLIP	1	1	1		
Area 2	212	15.2	POTTERY	HERB4		JUG	BS	CUGL EXT	1	1	3		
Area 2	212	15.2	POTTERY	MP	CMR;A SAQ <0.3MM	JAR	BS		1	1	6		
Area 2	212	NA	STONE	STONE	NORWEGIAN RAGSTONE	HONE	BS	OVAL-SECTIONED	1	1	19	WORN ON BOTH	BROKEN AND BOTH

Trench	Context	TPQ	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
												SIDES	ENDS

Bibliography

Mayes, P and Scott, K (1984) *Pottery kilns at Chilvers Coton Nuneaton*. Soc Medieval Archaeol Monogr Ser 10 London, Soc Medieval Archaeol.

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. (1977) "The Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Industry of the Malvern Region; the study of a ware and its distribution." in D. P. S. Peacock, ed., *Pottery and Early Commerce*, Academic Press, London, 257-305.

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.