

Assessment of the Medieval and Later Pottery from the Ashby Folville to Thurcaston Pipeline, Leicestershire (AFT04)

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One hundred and forty-one sherds of pottery from fieldwalking and excavation on the line of the Acton Folville to Thurcaston pipeline were submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

Most of these finds came from fieldwalking (Table 1) with a small quantity coming from excavated features on Sites 4, 5 and 12.

Description

The pottery was recorded using alphanumeric codes which were marked on the bags. These codes have been correlated where possible with those employed by medieval and post-medieval pottery specialists operating in Leicestershire (Appendix 1).

Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

No sherds of Anglo-Saxon date were submitted. Most of the Anglo-Saxon pottery in the county contains rock fragments derived from the Mountsorrel granodiorite and the treatment of these vessels is often distinctive (burnishing inside and out, stamping). Furthermore, there are no examples of Anglo-Scandinavian type present (Torksey ware, Stamford ware, Leicester ware, Lincoln Kiln Type ware) all of which are found in Leicester, nor any examples of Potters Marston ware, which contain *inter alia* fragments of fine-grained igneous rock from the southeast Leicestershire region (Croft Syenite). Since all of these types are distinctive, it is unlikely that there was any activity on the line of the pipeline during the 5th to 13th centuries.

Later Medieval

Three sherds of Coal Measures Whiteware, which might be early products of the Ticknall area, or might be from Chilvers Coton, were present. One comes from Site 12 and the other two were from fieldwalking in sections 2/28 and 4/37. Such vessels were produced in the later medieval period (i.e. mainly from the late 13th century onwards) and in many parts of the country they were still being produced in the 16th century.

Two sherds of unclassified medieval sandy ware (MEDLOC, Leicester MS) were found in fieldwalking (Section 9/83 and unknown – Ref 5153).

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Eighteen sherds of Midlands Purple were recorded. Three came from Sites 4, 5 and 12 and the remainder from fieldwalking in sections 1/5, 1/6, 2/8, 2/19, 2/27, 3/33, 4/48, 9/75, 10/88, 10/89, 10/90. This ware was produced from Coal Measures clays which were fired to stoneware temperatures, producing a grey or purple fabric with quartz sand temper. They often have a glaze. Both open forms (bowls and pancheons) and closed forms (jars) were present. The Midlands Purple tradition may have started as early as the later 14th century but became popular in the later 15th and 16th centuries (Cumberpatch 2003).

Post-medieval

Seventy-six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded. Five came from Sites 4, 5 and 12 and the remainder were from fieldwalking (Table 1). Most of the types have a wide date range and were produced at several centres (principally Ticknall and the Staffordshire Potteries). A few, however, have shorter periods of use and they demonstrate that the post-medieval pottery spans the later 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries. The earliest types present at Cistercian ware cups (CSTN) and Frechen stoneware (FREC) and the latest type present was a slipped stoneware tankard, a type produced in the Staffordshire potteries from c.1710 until c.1730 (SWSG SLIPPED). Most of the vessels were made from poorly mixed red- and light-firing Coal Measure clays (STCOAR) and this type was in use from at least the later 17th century into the later 18th century and beyond.

Table 1

Site No.	BERTH	BL	CSTN	FREC	MY	STCO	STCOAR	STMO	STRE	SWSG	Grand Total
01/4							2				2
01/5							2	1			3
01/6		1					2				3
02/08							1				1
02/10							1				1
02/19		1					1				2
02/20		1				1	1	1			4
02/21		1					2			1	4
02/22		1			3		4				8
02/23							2				2
02/25							2				2
02/26						1					1
02/27			2				6		1		9
03/32		1					1				2
05/51							1				1
05/52		1					1				2
06/58							2				2
07/64		1									1
07/65	1										1
08/71		1					1	1			3

09/76	1								1
09/83				4		1	1		6
10/89				2					2
10/91				1					1
10/95				1					1
Site 4				2					2
Site 5				1					1
Site 12				2					2
unknown				2					2

Early Modern

Forty-one sherds of pottery dating to the later 18th, 19th and 20th centuries were recorded (Table 2). Eight sherds come from Sites 4 and 12 and the remainder are from fieldwalking. The pottery ranges in date from the late 18th/early centuries (CREA and PEAR) to the mid 19th century and later (NCBW and WHITE).

Table 2

Site No.	CREA	ENGS	LONS	NCBW	NOTS	PEAR	PMLOC	TPW	WHITE
01/5					1				
02/18				1					
02/20	2			3				2	
02/21								1	
02/23				1		1			1
02/27			1						
03/33								1	
04/48		2							
05/50				1		3		1	1
05/51			1						
06/58					1		1	2	
06/59					1				
07/68									1
09/75									1
09/83					1				
10/90					1				
Site 4						2		1	
Site 12					1			3	1

Assessment

Fieldwalking

The pottery is consistent in character with being brought onto the fields with manure and night soil. The paucity of finds of later medieval date may suggest that the line of the pipeline was not intensively cultivated until the 15th or 16th centuries. This manuring then continued

throughout the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. There is an apparent hiatus in the mid 18th century, but this could be due to the fact the diagnostic pottery types for this period are finewares. Their absence could be an indication of the relative poverty of the farms and settlements whose waste was being spread on the fields. The lack of finewares and imported vessels is a feature of the entire pottery collection, the exception being the single fragment of Frechen stoneware drinking jug (5450).

Site 4

Sherds of later medieval/early post-medieval and early modern pottery were recovered from subsoil 15001.

Sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the fills of a natural feature (15181) and of early modern pottery from the fill of a tree bole (15096). The former cannot be closely dated but is probably later than c.1650 (STCOAR) whilst the later is later than c.1780 (PEAR).

Site 5

A single sherd of Midlands Purple ware (probably later 15th to 16th century) was recovered from the fill (10200) of furrow 10199.

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was present in the fill (10133) of ditch 10134. It cannot be closely dated (STCOAR) but is probably later than c.1650.

Site 12

A sherd of Midlands Purple ware was recovered from the fill (54019) of enclosure ditch 54016.

A collection of sherds was recovered from a layer associated with ridge and furrow (54091). These include one late medieval sherd, two post-medieval or later sherds (STCOAR) and sherds of 19th-century date (NOTS, TPW, WHITE).

Further Work

Several pottery fabrics could not be correlated with published Leicestershire pottery codes (e.g. Davies & Sawday 2004). It would be possible to update this record by submitting a type series of the AFT post-Roman pottery to a local specialist.

Retention

The pottery should be retained, at least until it can be correlated with the published Leicestershire fabric series.

Bibliography

- Cumberpatch, C. (2003) The Transformation of Tradition: the Origins of the Post-medieval Ceramic Tradition in Yorkshire. Cumberpatch, C. The Transformation of Tradition: the Origins of the Post-medieval Ceramic Tradition in Yorkshire. *Assemblage 7* (<http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/issue7/cumberpatch.html>)
- Davies, S & Sawday, D (2004) 4.4 Medieval and Later Pottery and tile, in Finn, N, *The Origins of a Leicester Suburb*. BAR Brit Ser 372, 86-98

Appendix 1

cname	Leicester Code	subfabric	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	Broad source	Narrow source	source
BBAS	?		Black basalt ware	emod	1740	1900	England	various	various
BERTH	?		Black glazed earthenware	pmed	1550	1800	England	various	various
BL	MB		Black-glazed wares	pmed	1500	1750	England	various	various
CMW	?		Coal Measures whiteware	med	1250	1450	England		
CREA	EA8		Creamware	emod	1765	1830	England	Staffordshire	
CSTN	CW1 to CW3		Cistercian ware	pmed	1500	1650	England	Various	
DERBS	SW		Derby Stoneware	emod	1800	1950	England	Derby	Derby
ENGS	SW		Unspecified English Stoneware	emod	1750	1900	England	nk	? numerous sources
ENGS	SW	DERB?	Unspecified English Stoneware	emod	1750	1900	England	nk	? numerous sources
ENPO	PO		English porcelain	emod	1700	2000	England	various	various
FREC	FR		Frechen stoneware	pmed	1530	1680	Germany	Rhineland	Frechen/Cologne
LMLOC	?		Late Medieval local fabrics	med	1350	1500	England	Lincolnshire	various
LONS	SW		London Stoneware	pmed	1670	1800	England	London	various
LPMLOC	?		Late Post-medieval wares (local to site)	lpmed	1750	1950	England	na	na
MEDLOC	MS		Medieval local fabrics	med	1150	1350	England	Lincolnshire	various
MISC	?	UNID	Unidentified wares	nk	0		nk	nk	
MP	MP1 to MP2		Midlands Purple ware	pmed	1450	1650	England	Midlands	
MP	MP1 to MP2	BROWN	Midlands Purple ware	pmed	1450	1650	England	Midlands	
MY	MY		Midlands Yellow ware	pmed	1550	1650	England	Midlands	
NCBW	?		19th-century Buff ware	emod	1800	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources
NOTG	NO4		Nottingham glazed ware	med	1250	1500	England	East midlands	Nottingham
NOTS	SW		Nottingham stoneware	pmed	1690	1900	England	Nottinghamshire	Nottingham

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PEAR	EA9		Pearl ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various
PMLOC	?		Post-medieval local	pmed	1550	1750	na	na	na
PMX	?		Post-medieval non-local	pmed	1550	1750			
STBU	?		Staffordshire Butterpot fabric	pmed	1550	1700	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources
STCO	?		Staffordshire combed press-moulded ware	pmed	1650	1800	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various
STCOAR	?		Staffordshire coarseware	pmed	1650	1900	England/Wales	Staffordshire/Buckley	various
STMO	EA3		Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	pmed	1690	1800	England	Staffordshire	
STRE	?		Staffordshire redware	pmed	1630	1750	England	Staffordshire	various
SWSG	SW		Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	pmed	1700	1770	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources
SWSG	SW	SLIPPED	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	pmed	1700	1770	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources
TPW	?		Transfer printed ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources
WHITE	?		Modern whiteware	emod	1850	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources

Appendix 2

Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
67	5107	MP	BROWN	JAR/BOWL			ABRA	B	1	1
91	5029	CMW		JAR				BS	1	1
3-32	5277	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
3-32	5284	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
3-33	3185	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
3-33	5283	TPW		BOWL				BS	1	1
4-48	3173	ENGS		STOPPER	POSS RED STAINING FROM USE	WORN AROUND BASE AND BELOW LIP		WHOLE	1	1
4-48	3174	ENGS	DERB?	JAR	RED/BROWN SLIP			BS	1	1
4-48	3175	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
4-48	3176	MP		JAR		SOOTED EXT		BS	1	1
5-50	5205	PEAR		PLATE	MOULDED FOLIAGE DEC			R	1	1
5-50	5206	PEAR		FAIRLING				B	1	1
5-50	5207	NCBW		BOWL	WHITE SLIP INT			BS	1	1
5-50	5208	PEAR		PLATE				BS	1	1
5-50	5210	TPW		PLATE				BS	1	1
5-50	5213	WHITE		BOWL	INDUST BLUE/BLACK SLIP			BS	1	1
5-51	5155	STCOAR		JAR				BS	1	1
5-51	5156	LONS		STORAGE JAR/FLAGON				BS	1	1
5-52	5172	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
5-52	5173	STCOAR		PANC			ABRA	R	1	1
5-52	5174	MISC	UNID	JAR?			BURNT	BS	1	1

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Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
5-54	54019	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
6-58	5142	STCOAR		BOWL				B	1	1
6-58	5143	TPW		CUP				R	1	1
6-58	5145	TPW		DISH				R	1	1
6-58	5147	NOTS		JAR				BS	1	1
6-58	5149	PMLOC		FLP				R	1	1
6-58	5150	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
6-59	5148	NOTS		JAR				BS	1	1
7-64	5114	BL		BOWL				BS	1	1
7-65	5116	BERTH		JAR				B	2	1
7-68	5118	WHITE		BOWL	GREEN GLAZE			BS	1	1
8-71	5129	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
8-71	5132	STMO		JAR				BS	1	1
8-71	5133	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
9-75	3054	WHITE		JAR				R	1	1
9-75	3153	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
9-76	3060	BL		BOWL				BS	1	1
9-83	5027	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
9-83	5030	NOTS		BOWL	ROULETTED DEC EXT			BS	1	1
9-83	5034	MEDLOC	MS	JUG/JAR				BS	1	1
9-83	5503	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
9-83	5504	STMO		JAR				BS	1	1
9-83	5505	STRE		PANC	WHITE SLIP		ABRA	BS	1	1
9-83	5506	STCOAR		JAR				BS	1	1
9-83	5507	STCOAR		JAR				BS	1	1
10-88	5082	MP		JAR				BS	1	1

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Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
10-89	5063	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
10-89	5064	MP		BOWL				BS	1	1
10-89	5083	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
10-90	3083	NOTS		JAR				BS	3	1
10-90	3084	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
10-91	3044	STCOAR		JAR				R	1	1
10-91	3090	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
10-94	003	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	2	2
10-94	004	WHITE		CUP	TRACES OF OVERGLAZE PAINTING			R	1	1
10-95	5019	STCOAR		PANC				BS	1	1
1-4	3046	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
1-4	3047	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
1-5	3037	MP		BOWL				BS	1	1
1-5	3038	STMO		JAR				BS	1	1
1-5	3039	NOTS		BOWL				BS	1	1
1-5	3041	STCOAR		PANC			ABRA	BS	1	1
1-5	3042	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
1-6	3031	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
1-6	3036	BL		BOWL				BS	1	1
1-6	3049	STCOAR		JAR				BS	1	1
1-6	3104	MP		JAR				R	1	1
2-8	3033	STCOAR		JAR				BS	1	1
2-8	3035	MP						BS	1	1
2-10	3030	STCOAR		JAR				B	1	1
2-18	5469	NCBW		BOWL				B	1	1
2-19	5460	BL		BOT				R	1	1

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Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
2-19	5464	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
2-19	5467	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-19	15001	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
2-19	15001	TPW		BOWL				R	1	1
2-19	15001	PEAR		PLATE				R	1	1
2-19	15096	STCOAR		PANC				B	1	1
2-19	15096	PEAR		PLATE				BS	1	1
2-19	15181	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-20	3014	STMO		JAR				B	1	1
2-20	3015	STCO		DISH				R	1	1
2-20	3017	TPW		JUG				H	1	1
2-20	5431	CREA		PLATE				R	1	1
2-20	5437	NCBW		BOWL	WHITE SLIP EXT			R	1	1
2-20	5439	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
2-20	5441	TPW		PLATE				BS	1	1
2-20	5442	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-20	5443	CREA		CUP				R	1	1
2-20	5453	NCBW		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-20	5454	NCBW		BOWL	CRAWLED GLAZE INT			BS	1	1
2-21	5421	SWSG	SLIPPED	TANK	BROWN SLIP ROUND RIM; CREAM ELSEWHERE			R	1	1
2-21	5422	BL		JAR				BS	1	1
2-21	5434	STCOAR		FLP				BS	1	1
2-21	5435	TPW		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-21	5436	STCOAR		PANC				BS	1	1
2-22	5420	MY		JAR				BS	1	1
2-22	5420	MY		BOWL				R	1	1

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Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
2-22	5420	MY		PANC				R	1	1
2-22	5423	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
2-22	5424	STCOAR		PANC				B	1	1
2-22	5428	STCOAR		BOWL				R	1	1
2-22	5429	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
2-22	5430	BL		JAR				B	1	1
2-23	3011	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
2-23	5416	STCOAR		PANC				BS	1	1
2-23	5417	NCBW		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-23	5418	PEAR		PLATE				R	1	1
2-23	5419	WHITE		CUP	OVERGLAZE HAND PAINTING			BS	1	1
2-25	5450	FREC		DJ				BS	1	1
2-25	5451	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
2-25	5452	STCOAR		BOWL				R	1	1
2-26	3019	STCO		DISH				BS	1	1
2-27	3023	CSTN		CUP				H	1	1
2-27	3024	LONS		BOWL/JAR				B	1	1
2-27	3166	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
2-27	5398	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
2-27	5400	STCOAR		BOWL				R	1	1
2-27	5403	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	2	1
2-27	5406	CSTN		CHPT				R	1	1
2-27	5412	STCOAR		PANC				R	1	1
2-27	5413	STRE		PANC	WHITE SLIP		ABRA	R	1	1
2-27	5446	MP		PANC				BS	1	1
2-27	5447	STCOAR		PANC	SHL=5448			BS	1	1

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Trench	REFNO	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
2-27	5448	STCOAR		PANC	SHL=5447			BS	1	1
2-27	5449	STCOAR		PANC				BS	1	1
	5153	MEDLOC	MS	JAR			ABRA	BS	1	1
	5273	CMW		JAR				B	1	1
0-1	3048	STCOAR		JAR				B	1	1
0-1	3051	STCOAR		BOWL			ABRA	R	1	1
2-23-24	10134	STCOAR		JAR	SQUARE REEDED RIM			R	1	1
2-23-24	10200	MP		JAR				BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	CMW		JAR			ABRA	BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	NOTS		BOWL	STAMPED DEC EXT			BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	STCOAR		FLP				BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	TPW		PLATE				R	2	1
5-54A	54091	TPW		BOWL				BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	TPW		CUP				R	1	1
5-54A	54091	WHITE		BOWL				BS	1	1
5-54A	54091	STCOAR		BOWL				R	5	1
5-54A	54091	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1
YARD	5015	STCOAR		BOWL				BS	1	1