

Assessment of the Pottery and Other Finds from land adjacent to 69 Goose Green, Brackley

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A small collection of pottery, ceramic building material, iron and copper alloy finds from a site on land adjacent to 69 Goose Green, Brackley, investigated by Network Archaeology Ltd was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds range in date from the medieval period to the later 19th century or later. None of the finds are earlier than the Norman conquest and the earliest probably date to the mid 12th century.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Five fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. The fabrics of the fragments were not recorded or described.

The material consists of two fragments of brick, two fragments of flat roof tile (both featureless) and a fragment of oven tile (Table 1). The latter has a series of conical scoops on the underside and narrow circular holes running from these scoops to the surface. Such tiles were used as the floors of malt kilns in the post-medieval period, the holes being narrow enough to stop malted grain from falling through but wide enough to allow hot air to pass through to stop the germination process.

Table 1

Context	cname	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
011	MTIL	FLAT	BS	1	1	22
011	PMTIL	BRICK	BS	1	1	10
013	MTIL	FLAT	BS	1	1	22
013	PMTIL	BRICK	BS	1	1	47
013	PMTIL	OVEN TILE	BS	1	1	43

Copper Alloy

Two copper alloy artefacts were recorded (Table 2). One is a complete plain annular brooch, of medieval date, and the other a pin with a spiral wound copper head. The pin is probably of 17th-century or later date. The brooch is similar to one from the City of London (1991, No.1307) which comes from metal-detecting on a site where the majority of finds are of later 14th-century date (Billingsgate Watching Brief).

Table 2

Context	Action	Form	Description	Part	Weight	L	B	TH
022	DR	BROOCH	PLAIN ANNULAR WITH CAST PIN WITH RAISED BAND NEXT TO LOOP	COMPLETE	28			5
022		PIN	DRAWN WIRE;SPIRAL WOUND MISSING;NFP TRACES	BS	0.5	36		

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006005.pdf>

Iron

Nine iron objects were recorded (Table 3). Two of these, from context 11, are clearly similar and might be metal fittings from the same object. All are either undatable or appear to be of modern date (e.g. contexts 11 and 13) apart from the fiddle key nail from context 32, which is of a type used in the 11th to 13th century on horse shoes. Radiography is recommended for four of the objects, either because it might reveal unseen detail, or would form a permanent record of an object which is unstable. Following examination of the x-ray plates it would be possible to select objects for conservation assessment.

Table 3

Context	Action	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	L	B	TH
011		FITTING	OVAL RING WITH TWO PROJECTING STRIPS, EACH BENT OUT AT RIGHT ANGLES AT THE END	BS	1	1	119			
011	XRAY	KEY		COMPLETE	1	1	32	65	27	10
011		FITTING	OVAL RING WITH TWO OPPOSING ATTACHMENTS WITH RIVETS	BS	3	1	76			
013	XRAY	VESSEL	FRAGMENT OF SHEET METAL VESSEL WITH DISK RESEMBLING MINIATURE SAUCER 25MM DIAM ATTACHED	BS	1	1	6	33	21	2
013		NAIL		BS	1	1	4	43	6	5
013	XRAY	BINDING STRIP	FEATURELESS STRIP	BROKEN AT EITHER END	1	1	42	95	31	4
022		NAIL	SQUARE SECTIONED SHAFT BENT INTO L-SHAPE	BS	1	1	35	97	11	8
022		NAIL		BS	1	1	9	36	9	7
032	XRAY	FKEY NAIL		BS	1	1	3	36	16	8

Pottery

Medieval

Fifty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recorded (Table 4). The majority of these were of types not known to the authors and only datable between broad limits (recorded as MEDLOC). The remainder are of types which range in date from the 11th to mid 12th centuries (STAM?), to the mid 12th/early 13th centuries (OLNEY HYDE, and STAM), the early to mid 13th century (LOND) and the later 13th to 15th centuries (OXAM and POTTERSURY).

Table 4

Context	POTTERSURY	LOND	MEDLOC	OLNEY HYDE	OXAM	SHER	STAM?	Grand Total
002			3					3
003	2		2		1			5
010		4	1					5
011			4	3	1			8
012			2	1				3

013						1			1
020						2			2
022			10						10
029								1	1
032								1	1
033			5						5
034			9			4			13
Grand Total	2	4	36		4	9	1	1	57

Most of the sherds come from jars and jugs (Table 5) but include a suspension lamp from context 22. This form is a pottery copy of the glass form, in which the lamp is suspended in a cradle. In the glass examples the vessel is translucent, allowing the light to shine widely. Obviously, a pottery example is less efficient. Such vessels are known in London from the mid 12th century onwards but are never common.

Table 5

Context	JAR	JAR/BOWL	JUG	JUG, BALLUSTER	JUG/JAR	SUSPENSION LAMP	Grand Total
002	3						3
003	1		3		1		5
010			5				5
011	7		1				8
012	3						3
013			1				1
020			2				2
022	3	1	1	4		1	10
029	1						1
032	1						1
033	5						5
034	7		6				13
Grand Total	31	1	19	4	1	1	57

Post-medieval and Early Modern

Thirty-one sherds of post-medieval and later date were recorded (Table 6). These include 14 sherds of possible 17th or 18th-century date (e.g. GRE, PMBRILL, PMLOC and TGW) whilst the remainder are of mid 19th-century or later date.

Table 6

Context	BBAS	GRE	NCBW	PEAR	PMBRILL	PMLOC	TGW	TPW	WHITE	Grand Total
001								2	1	3
011		5	3	3			3	2	1	17
013	2			1	1	3		2		9
015						1				1
022						1				1
Grand Total	2	5	3	4	1	5	3	6	2	31

The post-medieval and later pottery includes a wide range of vessel forms (Table 7). They include types used in gardening (Flowerpots –FLP), dining (Plate), drinking beer and tea (Tankards – TANK and Teapots –TPOT).

Context	BOWL	CHPT	FLP	JAR	JAR/JUG	JUG	PLATE	TANK	TPOT	Grand Total
001	2				1					3
011	7	1		2		1	4	1	1	17

013	4		2				1		2	9	
015			1							1	
022				1						1	
Grand Total	13	1	3	3		1	1	5	1	3	31

Assessment

The finds come from fourteen contexts whose termini post quem range from the late 11th century to the mid 19th century (Table 7). There are a number of features which only contain medieval finds and it is likely that these are evidence for medieval occupation although in some cases the sherds could be residual (for example 020 – interpreted as a possible pet burial).

Table 7

Context	TPQ	Description
033	12+	Primary fill of postholes 023 and 035
002	12+	Trackway to tannery
013	19+	Fill of linear 016
010	E13+	within and around V-shaped drain 009
029	L11+	Lens within 022
032	L12+	Fill of posthole 035
015	L16+	Fill of stone drain 014
022	L16+	Levelling subsoil
012	M12+	Silting of drain 009 at southern end
034	M13+	Fill of postholes 023 and 035
020	M13+	Possibly a pet, no cut visible
003	M13+	Subsoil
001	M19+	Garden topsoil
011	M19+	Victorian dumping area?

There is a lack of types which can be definitely dated to the later medieval period and post-medieval pottery is scarce. This suggests that the occupation probably ceased in the 14th century.

The finds include several medieval pottery types made at some distance from Brackley and these are consistent with the town's status as the second largest town in Northamptonshire in the medieval period.

The only find of note of post-medieval or later date is the fragment of oven tile, which suggests that a malt house may have stood nearby (or that the site was used for dumping of material from elsewhere in the town in the post-medieval or later period).

Future Work

The copper alloy brooch from context 022 and the suspension lamp from the same context should be illustrated.

Four of the iron objects would benefit from radiography.

The unidentified local pottery has been given fabric numbers and a site type series should be prepared to accompany the archive.

Retention

The ceramic building material, the medieval and post-medieval pottery and the copper alloy

finds should certainly be retained for future study. The iron objects are unstable and probably mostly of recent date. They could be preserved by record rather than stabilisation and special packaging.

Bibliography

Egan, Geoff and Pritchard, Frances (1991) *Dress Accessories: c.1150-c.1450*. Medieval Finds from Excavations in London 3 London, HMSO.

AVAC Reports No 2006/5

Context	Action	class	cname	subfabric	Form	description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use	L	B	TH
001		POTTERY	WHITE		JAR/JUG		BS	1	1	27					
001		POTTERY	TPW		BOWL		BS	2	2	8					
002		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB08	JAR		BS	3	1	15					
003		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	STRAP HANDLE WITH STABBING	H	1	1	29					
003		POTTERY	POTTERSPURY		JUG		BS	2	1	11					
003		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR		BS	1	1	2					
003		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB07	JUG/JAR		BS	1	1	13					
010		POTTERY	LOND		JUG	ROULETTED SQUARES	BS	4	1	17					
010		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB06	JUG		BS	1	1	2					
011		POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	MOCHA	BS	1	1	2					
011		CBM	MTIL		FLAT		BS	1	1	22					
011		IRON	IRON		FITTING	OVAL RING WITH TWO PROJECTING STRIPS, EACH BENT OUT AT RIGHT ANGLES AT THE END	BS	1	1	119					
011		POTTERY	PEAR		BOWL		B	1	1	184					
011		POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	ROULETTING	BS	1	1	5					
011		POTTERY	GRE		BOWL		BS	3	3	39					
011		POTTERY	GRE		BOWL		R	1	1	41					
011		POTTERY	GRE	FAB19	JAR		R	1	1	105					
011		POTTERY	TGW		PLATE	PALE BLUE GLAZE; FOOTRING	B	3	1	37	CONCRETE ADHERING TO FRAGS				
011		POTTERY	TPW		JUG		B	1	1	78					
011		POTTERY	NCBW		JAR		R	1	1	48					
011		POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL		R	1	1	59					
011		POTTERY	WHITE		TPOT	BLUE GLAZE	R	1	1	33					
011		CBM	PMTIL		BRICK		BS	1	1	10					

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006005.pdf>

AVAC Report 2005/

011		POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	BLUE FEATHERED EDGE	R	1	1	58				
011		POTTERY	PEAR		CHPT		B	1	1	65				
011		POTTERY	TPW		TANK		BS	1	1	8				
011		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR		BS	1	1	2				
011	XRAY	IRON	IRON		KEY		COMPLETE	1	1	32				
011		IRON	IRON		FITTING	OVAL RING WITH TWO OPPOSING ATTACHMENTS WITH RIVETS	BS	3	1	76				
011		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB08	JAR		BS	1	1	4				
011		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG		BS	1	1	2				
011		POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE	INC PUNCTATE BRACHIOPOD	JAR		R;BS	2	2	15				
011		POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE		JAR		BS	1	1	2				
011		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR		BS	2	2	4				
012		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB08	JAR		BS	1	1	7				
012		POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE		JAR		BS	1	1	14				
012		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB08	JAR		BS	1	1	6				
013		POTTERY	PMLOC		BOWL	BLACK GLAZE	BS	1	1	2				
013		POTTERY	PMLOC		FLP	BLACK SLIP INT/EXT	BS	1	1	11				
013		POTTERY	PMLOC		FLP		BS	1	1	4				
013		CBM	MTIL		FLAT		BS	1	1	22				
013	XRAY	IRON	IRON		VESSEL	FRAGMENT OF SHEET METAL VESSEL WITH DISK RESEMBLING MINIATURE SAUCER 25MM DIAM ATTACHED	BS	1	1	6		33	21	2
013		CBM	PMTIL		BRICK		BS	1	1	47				

013		POTTERY	PMBRILL		BOWL	BS	1	1	12			
013		IRON	IRON		NAIL	BS	1	1	4	43	6	5
013		CBM	PMTIL		OVEN TILE	BS	1	1	43			
013		POTTERY	BBAS		TPOT	BS	2	1	4			
013		POTTERY	TPW		BOWL	B;BS	2	2	11			
013		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	BS	1	1	2			
013		POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	B	1	1	2			
013	XRAY	IRON	IRON		BINDING STRIP	FEATURELESS STRIP	1	1	42	95	31	4
						BROKEN AT EITHER END						
015		POTTERY	PMLOC		FLP	RED SLIP INT/EXT	1	1	25			
020		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	R	1	1	4			
020		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	BS	1	1	1			
022		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB18	JAR	BS	1	1	3			
022		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB06	JAR	BS	2	2	8			
										SOOTED EXT		
022		POTTERY	PMLOC	FAB16	JAR	BLACK GLAZE	1	1	14			
022		IRON	IRON		NAIL	SQUARE SECTIONED SHAFT BENT INTO L-SHAPE	1	1	35	97	11	8
						PLAIN ANNULAR WITH CAST PIN WITH RAISED BAND NEXT TO LOOP						
022	DR	COPP	COPP		BROOCH	COMPLETE	1	1	28			5
022		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB03	JAR/BOWL	BS	1	1	2			
022		IRON	IRON		NAIL	BS	1	1	9	36	9	7
022		COPP	COPP		PIN	DRAWN WIRE; SPIRAL WOUND MISSING; NFP TRACES	1	1	0.5	36		
022		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB14	JUG	BS	1	1	11			
022	DR1	POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB01	SUSPENSION LAMP	R	1	1	59			

AVAC Report 2005/

022		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB15	JUG, BALLASTER	BS	4	1	16	ABRA				
029		POTTERY	STAM?		JAR	BS	1	1	5					
032	XRAY	IRON	IRON		FKEY NAIL	BS	1	1	3			36	16	8
032		POTTERY	SHER		JAR	BS	1	1	3		SOOTED EXT			
033		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB03	JAR	BS	1	1	3					
033		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB02	JAR	BS	1	1	7					
033		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	B	1	1	12		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT			
033		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	BS	2	2	32					
034		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	BS	1	1	4					
034		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	B;BS	2	2	18		SOOTED EXT			
034		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	BS	2	2	4					
034		POTTERY	OXAM		JUG	BS	2	1	9					
034		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB06	JUG	BS	2	2	3					
034		POTTERY	MEDLOC		JAR	BS	3	2	17		SOOTED EXT			
034		POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	BS	1	1	2					