

## **The Pottery from Lower Farm, Pennington, Hampshire (LFP 03/33)**

***Alan Vince***

### **The Pottery**

Three hundred and fourteen sherds of pottery were recovered from the excavations, representing no more than 103 vessels and weighing 2.417Kg.

### **Prehistoric?**

A sherd of a flint-tempered jar from the fill of feature 224 may be of later prehistoric date. However, the sherd is featureless and weighs only 5gm.

### **Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon**

Fifty one sherds of chaff-tempered pottery were recovered, from three features, 214 (46 sherds, no more than 3 vessels), 235 (4 sherds from 1 vessel) and 405 (1 sherd). Except where the sherds were subsequently burnt, they have dark surfaces and dark grey cores, with blackening around the voids left by organic inclusions.

Most of the sherds are undecorated body sherds but those from feature 235 appear to come from a biconical vessel with faceting on the carination. Facetted, carinated vessels are characteristic of Anglo-Saxon pottery of 5<sup>th</sup> century date although pottery of that date in Hampshire is often mineral tempered rather than chaff-tempered. Chaff-tempering appears to be by far the most common tempering technique used in Anglo-Saxon south central England from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the early 8<sup>th</sup> century, at which point the technique was completely replaced by a range of mineral tempers (Hamerow and others 1994; Timby 1988).

### **Late Saxon to early Medieval**

Pottery with the bag-shaped profile and everted rim with thickened neck, typical of the 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, was present on the site (for example, a jar rim from feature 526). However, several vessels made in this fabric (Fabric 1) have features which are probably post-conquest or immediately pre-conquest in date, such as fettling of the body ('scratch marking'), globular bodies with everted rims without any thickening at the neck and sagging bases with sharp base angles. Therefore, where featureless body sherds of Fabric 1 occur they can only be broadly dated to the mid/late Saxon or early medieval periods. One rim (from feature 417) comes from a vessel which is either wheelthrown or wheel-finished, reminiscent in form of late Saxon Portchester ware.

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

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Only two vessels in different fabrics are likely to be of immediately pre- or post-conquest date. were found. One, from feature 220 (Fabric 2, Fig 00 No. 1) is represented by the top half of the jar and has a globular body and sharp neck angle and simple everted rim. This feature is typical of vessels produced in the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire but the dark-stained flint gravel temper suggests a source in an area of Tertiary deposits, such as the Hampshire Basin.

A second vessel is represented by a single sherd, from feature 316. This vessel is tempered with abundant oolites in a fine-textured, slightly micaceous groundmass, and is probably an example of Gloucester TF41B, produced at Haresfield in the Vale of Gloucester from the mid 11<sup>th</sup> to the early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, there are two reasons to doubt this find: a) the calcareous inclusions in fabric 2 are completely leached, yet these oolites are present in good condition; b) TVAS has excavated a settlement at Quedgeley, the adjoining parish to Haresfield, where this fabric is the most common ware present.

#### Fabric 1

Abundant coarse quartzose sand, composed of rounded, subangular and angular quartz, rare polished quartz and subangular flint (some brown-stained). The groundmass is usually dark brown or black and inclusionless.

#### Fabric 2

Moderate mixed coarse sand, composed of angular brown-stained and white flint and well-rounded calcareous inclusions (now all leached). The groundmass contains quartz and sparse muscovite silt.

### **Medieval**

Two hundred and twenty eight sherds, representing no more than 73 vessels and weighing 1.974 Kg, date to the post-conquest medieval period. None appear to date later than the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, since they include no wheelthrown wares and no highly decorated glazed wares such as those produced in south Hampshire and Laverstock from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

The majority of these sherds have the same fabric, Fabric 4. These vessels are all handmade and including jars, jugs, storage jars and a probable curfew. However, jars are by far the most common form (37 out of 43 vessels). Glaze is found on the exterior of the jugs and the interior base of some of the jars. Mostly, it is a plain lead glaze but a sherd from the rim and handle of a large storage jar from feature 416 (Fig 00 No 2) has a spot of copper-stained glaze on the interior. The use of copper as a glaze colourant is known in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Developed Stamford ware) but probably did not become widespread in southern and western England until the 13<sup>th</sup> century. One of the jugs, represented by a collection of

non-joining sherds, has features which suggest an early 13<sup>th</sup>-century or later date, including a ribbed neck and cordon at the neck (from the fill of feature 514).

Other wares present are south-east Wiltshire scratch-marked jars (such as a large fragment from the fill of feature 326, Fig 00 No. 3) and glazed tripod pitchers, probably produced in the Salisbury area, including Laverstock (27 sherds, from no more than 19 vessels); South Hampshire sandy wares (15 sherds, from no more than 9 vessels) and a few sherds of a coarse white-firing ware (Fabric 5). The latter consist of a sherd from a handmade glazed vessel and two sherds from a handled storage jar with a strap handle which has thumbing down the back of the handle.

#### Fabric 4

Handmade, moderate coarse quartzose sand temper. The sand consists of overgrown quartz grains, polished rounded quartz grains and subangular white flint up to 2.0mm. The groundmass contains abundant angular quartz up to 0.2mm and is usually oxidized, light brown, often with a light grey core.

#### Fabric 5

Handmade, abundant coarse quartzose sand temper. The sand consists of polished quartz and sparse white flint. The groundmass is an inclusionless white-firing clay.

### **Post-Medieval**

A single sherd of Verwood ware was recovered, from the fill of feature 22. This sherd comes from a jar with an internal glaze and hooked rim, not a common post-medieval form, and this vessel may, therefore, date to the early years of the Verwood industry, which is first documented in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Discussion**

The excavators have emphasised (pers comm) that the quantity of pottery is very small in relation to the large area excavated, and that therefore the pottery probably does not represent a substantial settlement. Nevertheless, many of the assemblages consist of groups of sherds from the same vessel, indicating probably that they are primary refuse deposits and certainly not the result of a manure scatter. Such assemblages include one with chaff-tempered pottery (feature 214), one of Saxo-Norman date (feature 316) and several of medieval date, including vessels with typological features which suggest a 13<sup>th</sup>-century date. This suggests that the pottery originated on the site itself and that this is the site of a settlement occupied, perhaps continuously, perhaps intermittently, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Most of the pottery can either be paralleled by types current in the Southampton/Winchester area (2002; 1975) or in south-east Wiltshire (Musty and Ewence 1969). However, given the

similarity in geological background of the New Forest to these areas it is by no means certain from a visual study that the Pennington pottery was obtained from those areas, rather than being made in or on the fringes of the New Forest but in similar traditions. No pottery was identified as being of Dorset or south-western origin and no imported types were present.

## Bibliography

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**Table 1**

Feature	ECHAF	GLOS41B	Fabrics 4 and 5	Fabric 1	PREH	SEW	SHANTS SANDY	VERW	SNX	Grand Total
Unstrat			15	3		5				23
11				1						1
117						1				1
124						1				1
15							2			2
18						1				1
214	46									46
219				1						1
22				1			1	1		3
220									10	10
224					1					1
235	4									4

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26							4			4
27			4				2			6
300				2						2
311						1				1
313						1				1
316		1								1
319						1				1
323			32							32
324				1						1
326						3				3
327				2						2
328						1				1
332				1						1
334						2				2
337			1							1
338				2						2
340			2			3				5
404						2				2
405	1		1							2
416			1							1
417				2			1			3
424				2						2
505			36							36
511			11							11
512			4							4
513						3				3
514			26							26
518			17							17
521			8							8
524			8				3			11
526			2	1			1			4
530				2						2
532						1				1
533			4							4
537			2	1		1	1			5
540			12							12
Grand Total	51	1	186	22	1	27	15	1	10	314