

## **Assessment of the Pottery, Ceramic Building Material, Iron Objects and Fired Clay from the Dodford to Borough Hill Pipeline, Northamptonshire (DOB-16)**

***Alan Vince and Kate Steane***

A collection of post-Roman pottery, ceramic building material and iron finds from the line of the Dodford to Borough Hill Pipeline in Northamptonshire was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

The earliest finds potentially consist of collections of daub from two plots, which could be of prehistoric to medieval date. Twenty-seven fragments of medieval pottery and eighteen fragments of medieval or early post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered. The remaining finds were of post-medieval and later date.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

Thirty-six fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. They include one ridge tile fragment, made in a pottery fabric (Plot 13).

The remaining fragments were grouped visually into three fabrics.

Fabric 3 consisted mainly of fragments of flat roof tile and a single brick and on this basis is tentatively identified as being of later medieval or early post-medieval date. The fragments come from eight plots, with a concentration of 9 fragments in Plot 14. The overall distribution of fabric 3 tile is very similar to that of the medieval pottery, which further supports a medieval date.

Fabrics 1 and 2 include fragments of field drain and pantile, but are mostly represented by bricks. These are therefore tentatively identified as being of later post-medieval or early modern date. The eighteen fragments occur in eight plots, ranging between 1 and 6 fragments per plot. The field drain fragment comes from Plot 13.

#### **Cement**

A single fragment of cement was recorded. It consisted of a cement skim from a brick wall and is of modern date.

#### **Fired Clay**

Two groups of ceramic building material were present. One, from Plot 13 has a wattle impression whilst the other, consisting of 21 fragments from Plot 14, contains no identifiable fragments.

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## **Iron**

Three iron nails were recorded, from Plots 4 and 9 and context 5037. Two could date to any period from the Roman onwards. The third (from Plot 4) appears to have no head, and is either a floor tack of post-medieval/modern date or a horseshoe nail, of later medieval or later date.

## **Pottery**

### **Medieval**

Twenty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. All would require identification by a specialist in Northamptonshire medieval pottery. They consist of 9 sherds from jugs, some with remaining glaze, and eighteen from unglazed jars. All but seven of the sherds were notably abraded.

The sherds come from eight Plots, and range from a single sherd to eight (from Plot 13). The unabraded sherds are also distributed across a number of plots (4) and vary from 1 to 2 sherds per plot. They do not therefore seem to indicate the presence of buried settlement.

### **Post-Medieval**

Sixty-three sherds of types which were current before the late 18<sup>th</sup> century were recorded. They range in date from types which could have been current in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> centuries to types which came into use during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the latter continued to be used into the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

By far the most common ware in this period was Staffordshire coarseware. In the west midlands this ware came into use at different times depending on the success of local country potteries in excluding it. It is likely, however, that the majority is of later 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century date, since the high-fired version, STBU (Staffordshire Butterpot fabric) is only represented by two sherds. The next most common ware is white English salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG). This consists of 11 sherds from bowls, chamber pots, plates and a tankard. All come from Plot 26, which also produced a Refined Redware teapot, another Staffordshire fineware of the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and one sherd of Staffordshire Coarseware. This concentration of mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century finewares in a single plot, and with very few standard post-medieval sherds, is unusual but inexplicable. The only other concentrations are more usual, consisting mainly of sherds of Staffordshire coarseware (Plots 10 and 27).

### **Early Modern**

Forty-five sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup>-century or later date were recorded. Most of the sherds are of factory-made types which were produced in the Staffordshire potteries and elsewhere. They include Creamware (7 sherds) and Pearlware (7 sherds) both of which were present in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries but also include types which came into use in the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, such as Derbyshire stoneware (DERBS), buffware (NCBW) and two sherds of miscellaneous refined whiteware (WHITE) which replaced Pearlware during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The early modern pottery comes from seven plots, mostly as groups of 1 to 5 sherds. However, plot 34 produced 26 sherds. Plot 27, which produced the concentration of mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century sherds, produced only 5 sherds of early modern date, which rules out the possibility that the finewares were actually discarded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century having been curated for generations.

### Assessment

Most of the pottery and ceramic building material is likely to have been brought onto the fields as a result of manuring, either using farm yard manure or night soil obtained from nearby towns. Table 1 shows the distribution of finds by plot and date. This indicates that the medieval finds occur mainly on plots 2 to 14 and that these plots also received post-medieval finds. However, post-medieval pottery shows a concentration on plots 24 to 28 which has no correlation with either earlier medieval finds or early modern finds, which also occur on plots which produced no earlier finds. The overall quantity of finds, and their size and condition, do not suggest that any of these concentrations is due to the presence of occupation on the plot itself but is probably a reflection of changes in agricultural history (such as a move to and from agricultural and pasture and the enclosure of open fields, allowing farmers to treat separate plots differently from their neighbours).

The finds from Plots 2 to 14 are from fields which surround Dodford. Within this area, the highest concentrations are from fields on the south side of the Dodford to Daventry road. Plots 2 to 6 lie between Dodford, Weedon Bec and the River Nene. The low quantity of medieval finds from these plots suggest that the area was probably pasture (or at least not manured) in the medieval period.

Plots 24 to 28 form a tight group on the outskirts of Daventry, to either side of London Road. Daventry was a coaching town on the main London to Holyhead road and was granted borough status in 1576. The finds from Plot 24 to 28 might therefore indicate an expansion of agriculture around the town in the following century.

**Table 1**

Trench	MED	PMED	EMOD	Grand Total
PL.02	3			3
PL.04	4	7		11
PL.05	6	2	2	10
PL.08	3			3
PL.09	5	2		7
PL.10	2	15		17
PL.12	21	4	1	26
PL.13	11		4	15
PL.14	10	2		12

PL.16			1	1
PL.18			6	6
PL.19			2	2
PL.22			1	1
PL.24	1	4	3	8
PL.26		13	3	16
PL.27		11	5	16
PL.28		1		1
PL.31			1	1
PL.32	1		2	3
PL.33			5	5
PL.34		2	26	28
PL.44			1	1
Grand Total	67	63	63	193

### **Retention**

The medieval pottery, the post-medieval pottery, the definite daub fragment and the Fabric 3 ceramic building material should be retained for closer identification and future study.

The early modern pottery and tile could be discarded.

*Appendix 1*

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
503		CBM	PL.5	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
1205		CBM	PL.12	MED?	FIREDCLAY		FRAGS	DAUB?
2704		POTTERY	PL.27	PMED	STCOAR		CLEAR GLAZE	BOWL
5001		POTTERY	PL.4	MED?	MEDLOC		INT GLAZE	JUG
5001		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5002		POTTERY	PL.2	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5003		GEO	PL.2		GEO			
5004		POTTERY	PL.4	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5005		GEO	PL.5		GEO			
5006		POTTERY	PL.5	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5006		POTTERY	PL.5	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5007		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STRE			JAR
5013		POTTERY	PL.4	MED?	MEDLOC		NO GLAZE; STRAP HANDLE 27 ACROSS WITH CENTRAL GROOVE AND SPACED PIERCING	JUG
5015		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5016		POTTERY	PL.5	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5018		POTTERY	PL.5	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5019		CBM	PL.5	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB2		BRICK
5020		CBM	PL.5	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB2		BRICK
5021		POTTERY	PL.5	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5022		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STCO			DISH
5023		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL

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AVAC Report 2006/108

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
5024		POTTERY	PL.4	PMED	STRES			BOWL
5027		POTTERY	PL.4	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5028	XRAY	IRON	PL.4	ND	IRON		PLATE NO: DOB-16:1; NO HEAD; EITHER HORSESHOE OR FLOORING?	NAIL
5029		POTTERY	PL.9	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5029		POTTERY	PL.9	MED?	MEDLOC		WHITE SLIP DEC	JUG
5031		CBM	PL.8	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5032		POTTERY	PL.9	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5033	XRAY	IRON	PL.9	ND	IRON		PLATE NO: DOB-16:1; SQUARE HEAD; BENT 15MM DOWN SHANK	NAIL
5034		CBM	PL.9	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5036		GEO	PL.10		GEO			
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	GRE		ROD	PIPKIN
5036		CBM	PL.10	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STBU			BOWL
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		PANC
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		PANC
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5036		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STCOAR			BOWL
5037	XRAY	IRON		ND	IRON		PLATE NO: DOB-16:1	NAIL
5038		POTTERY	PL.12	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5039		POTTERY	PL.12	PMED	FREC			DJ
5040		POTTERY	PL.13	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5042		POTTERY	PL.14	PMED	BERTH			JAR

AVAC Report 2006/108

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
5044		CBM	PL.44	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5045		CBM	PL.16	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5046		POTTERY	PL.12	EMOD	ENPO			ELECTRICAL ITEM
5047		CBM	PL.13	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		FIELD DRAIN
5051		POTTERY	PL.14	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5052		CBM	PL.14	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5053		POTTERY	PL.9	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5053		CBM	PL.14	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5058		CBM	PL.18	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5059		CBM	PL.18	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5063		POTTERY	PL.12	PMED	STMO			TANK
5067		POTTERY	PL.12	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5069		CBM	PL.13	MED?	MTIL	MEDLOC		RIDGE
5071		POTTERY	PL.13	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5073		CBM	PL.13	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5075		CBM	PL.13	MED?	FIREDCLAY		WATTLE IMPRESSION	DAUB
5075		POTTERY	PL.13	MED?	MEDLOC		GLAZE INT	JUG
5076		POTTERY	PL.13	MED?	MEDLOC		SPOTS OF GLAZE	JUG
5077		CBM	PL.13	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5078		POTTERY	PL.13	MED?	MEDLOC		UNGLAZED STRAP HANDLE 30 ACROSS, CENTRAL GROOVE WITH SERIES OF SLASHES	JUG
5079		CBM	PL.14	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5080		POTTERY	PL.14	MED?	MEDLOC			JUG
5081		CBM	PL.13	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5082		CBM	PL.13	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5084		CBM	PL.19	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		PANT

AVAC Report 2006/108

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
5100		CBM	PL.22	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5101		GEO	PL.22		GEO			
5102		GEO	PL.22		GEO			
5103		GEO	PL.22		GEO			
5107		POTTERY	PL.24	EMOD	CREA			PLATE
5108		POTTERY	PL.24	EMOD	WHITE			PLATE
5110		POTTERY	PL.24	PMED	NOTS			JAR
5111		CBM	PL.24	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		BRICK
5112		POTTERY	PL.24	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5114		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	REFR			TPOT
5115		POTTERY	PL.24	EMOD	ENGS			PANC
5116		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			CHPT
5117		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			CHPT
5123		POTTERY	PL.24	PMED	NOTS		ROULETTED DEC	JAR
5124		POTTERY	PL.24	PMED	SLIP			BOWL
5126		POTTERY	PL.33	EMOD	PEAR			BOT
5133		CBM	PL.31	EMOD	PMTIL	FAB1		BRICK
5137		POTTERY	PL.27	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5138		POTTERY	PL.27	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5141		POTTERY	PL.28	PMED	LONS			JAR
5142		CBM	PL.32	MED?	MTIL	FAB3		FLAT
5143		GEO	PL.33		GEO			
5144		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL



AVAC Report 2006/108

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
5145		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			TANK
5147		POTTERY	PL.10	MED?	MEDLOC		VERT APPLIED STRIP	JUG
5152		POTTERY	PL.10	PMED	STBU			BOWL
5153		POTTERY	PL.9	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5155		POTTERY	PL.8	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5158		POTTERY	PL.9	MED?	MEDLOC			JAR
5159		CEMENT	PL.9	MOD	CEMENT SKIM		DULL MUSTARD GLOSS WITH TOUCH OF BLUE	WALL
5201		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA			PLATE
5201		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	NCBW			BOWL
5201		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	NCBW			BOWL
5201		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW			PLATE
5205		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA			PLATE
5205		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	ENPO		OVER GLAZE PAINTING INT; FOOTRING	CUP
5205		POTTERY	PL.34	PMED	STCOAR	POCK MARKED		BOWL
5206		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA			PLATE
5206		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	ENPO		OVER GLAZE FLORAL PAINTING	PLATE
5208		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA		ENCRUSTATION IN CREAM AND BROWN	TPOT?
5208		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA		FLUTED FOOTRING	DISH/VASE
5208		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	CREA			PLATE
5208		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	NCBW		HORIZ BANDS OF BLUE INDUST SLIP EXT	BOWL
5208		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	NCBW			BOWL
5209		POTTERY	PL.34	PMED	CHPO		OVERGLAZE ENAMELS	BOWL
5209		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	DERBS			BLACK LEADING BOTTLE

AVAC Report 2006/108

Context	Action	class	Trench	date	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form
5211		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	NCBW			JAR
5211		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW			BOWL
5211		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW	PINK		CUP
5212		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	PEAR			JUG?
5212		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW			PLATE
5212		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	WHITE			JUG?
5214		POTTERY	PL.33	EMOD	PEAR			PLATE
5214		POTTERY	PL.33	EMOD	PEAR			JAR
5214		POTTERY	PL.33	EMOD	PEAR			PLATE
5214		POTTERY	PL.33	EMOD	PEAR	PALE BLUE INDUST SLIP CHEQUER PATTERN		BOWL
5215		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW			PLATE
5215		POTTERY	PL.34	EMOD	TPW			COLANDER
5217		POTTERY	PL.32	EMOD	NCBW	WHITE INDUST SLIP INT		BOWL
5218		POTTERY	PL.27	PMED	NOTS			JAR
5218		POTTERY	PL.27	EMOD	PEAR			JAR
5218		POTTERY	PL.27	EMOD	TPW			PLATE
5219		POTTERY	PL.26	EMOD	CREA	MOULDED DEC RIM		PLATE
5219		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG	MOULDED RIM DEC		PLATE
5219		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			PLATE
5219		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			BOWL
5219		POTTERY	PL.26	EMOD	TPW			BOWL
5220		POTTERY	PL.26	EMOD	CREA	FOOTRING		BOWL
5220		POTTERY	PL.26	PMED	SWSG			BOWL
5416		POTTERY	PL.8	MED?	MEDLOC	GREY PAINT INT		JAR

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