

Report on the Post-Roman pottery from No 1 Poultry

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The Post-Roman pottery assemblage

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Methodology

All of the pottery from No 1 Poultry has been quantified recording sherd number, an estimated number of vessels and identification of the vessel forms present. Each context has been spot-dated establishing an early and late date for the assemblage. The terminology referred to for fabrics, vessel forms and decoration are the Museum of London's standard codes (see Table 211). Records are stored on paper and the Museum of London oracle database and can be consulted with the site archive.

Insert Table 211. Expansions for fabric codes shown in this report

The majority of contexts produced small assemblages of less than 30 sherds, out of a total of 917 contexts only 41 were groups of a medium size between 30 to 100 sherds and only 7 groups were large with more than 100 sherds. The majority of sherds are therefore from small groups of less than 30 sherds which are small and abraded. For this reason the number of vessels illustrated (see Table 212) is limited to those with a more complete profile and to unusual forms and styles of decoration.

Insert Table 212. Catalogue of illustrated and photographed vessels

Medieval Dating (see Table 213)

8076 sherds were recovered from the post-Roman levels, of which 6864 are saxo-Norman or Medieval and 1212 Post-medieval. Table 213 shows that the assemblage is predominantly Saxo-Norman, associated with Periods 32-39, with a small medieval assemblage in Period 40.

**Insert Table 213. Summary of Late Saxon and Medieval fabric types
(sherd count)**

The majority of pottery within this assemblage is indigenous ie. EMCH, EMFL, EMGR, EMIS, EMS, EMSH, EMSS, ESUR, LCALC, LCOAR, LOGR, LSS as has been defined in Vince and Jenner (1991). Regionally imported wares THET, STAM and continental wares such as ANDE, REDP, RHGR, NFRE, NFRY, supplement the assemblage but are less common. The introduction of certain wares into an assemblage together with the sequence of stratification has enabled a chronological framework to be established. This is particularly effective where a large assemblage of indigenous wares occur in several periods of occupation as at Poultry. In this assemblage key fabrics for dating have been LSS, EMS, LOGR, and continental imports ANDE and REDP. For example, in Period 32 where LSS is the only fabric type present the assemblage has been dated as 900-1050. The introduction of EMS into the ceramic sequence in 970 alters the date so that an assemblage containing both LSS and EMS is dated 970-1050. The introduction of either LOGR, EMSH, EMCH, EMGR, EMIS or ESUR have been used to indicate an early date of 1050 and late date of 1150. Together with the stratigraphic sequence it has been possible to apply these ceramic horizons to the majority of assemblages in Periods 32 to 39 and to determine which fabrics can be regarded as contemporary. Thus the assemblages in Period 32 with 90% LSS date from 900-970 (see Table 213). Assemblages in Periods 33 and 34 contain 90% and 72% LSS but also EMS, THET and SATH dating from 970-1000. Period 35 assemblages still continue to have LSS, EMS, EMSS and THET but with the addition of EMSS, EMFL dating from 1000 and EMSH,

ESUR, EMCH, LOGR, EMGR, EMIS, ANDE, NFRE, NFRY, CROW, REDP and RHGR. The majority of the ceramic groups in Period 35 still contain LSS, dating up to 1050. It is the subsequent later alterations within the buildings in Period 35 which contain EMSS, EMFL, and THET dating from 1000 and the final phases of modification, containing ESUR, LOND and EMSH, which date from 1050. Periods 36 to 38 date from 1050 to 1150 and have a broad range of fabric types. LSS is now a minor part of the ceramic assemblage which sees the establishment of LOGR, EMSH, EMS, EMSS, STAM, ANDE and REDP as the main components of assemblages. In Period 36 there is supporting numismatic evidence (gp 1318) for a mid 11th-century date for this type of assemblage. Period 39 contains mid 11th-century assemblages which are typified as containing LOGR, ESUR, EMIS, EMSS, EMSH, EMS, LCALL, LOND, ANDE, RHGR and REDP. The 13th-century London-type Wares which occur in this period are associated with the latest floors of B173 and B174. Period 40 dates from 1250 to the 14th century and contains a range of medieval wares exclusive to this Period; SAIN, MG, SHER, LMHG, SSW (possibly residual) KING, CHEA, CBW as well as LCALL, LCOAR, LCOAR SHEL and LOND.

Comparative Saxo-Norman assemblages from within the City

A comparison of the Poultry assemblage with other sites in the city (see Table 214) shows that the composition of these assemblages is very similar.

Insert Table 214 – Comparative assemblages from six other sites

The Saxo-Norman assemblage at No 1 Poultry, like other city sites, has a small element of imported East Anglian products such as SATH and THET as

well as products from the Midlands such as St Neots-type ware and Oxfordshire/Thames valley LSS. Similarly there is also a small assemblage of imports from the Rhineland BLGR, REDP, RHGR and from Northern France NFRE, NFRY, ANDE.

By comparison with other city assemblages (Vince and Jenner 1991) the dating of SATH at Poultry is earlier. SATH fits closely with the start of EMS on the site in Periods 33 and 34 in c. 970, whereas Vince and Jenner (*ibid*) found it to occur in early to mid 11th-century contexts. THET occurs from the late 10th to mid 11th century at Poultry but is most common in mid 11th-century assemblages (see Tables 205 and 206) as found by Vince and Jenner (*ibid*). LSS, as in other city sites, is the most common type of pottery associated with the earliest Late Saxon settlement. It occurs from Periods 32 to 39, from 900 to c.1080 and is most commonly associated with the Sunken Featured and ?Surface-lain? buildings in Periods 32 to 35 dating from 900-1050. As found at Oxford, where St Neots-type ware is thought to replace LSS (Vince and Jenner *ibid*), so at Poultry St Neots-type Ware first occurs in the assemblage in c.1050 in Period 36.

It is difficult to assess whether the date of the indigenous wares which dominate the Poultry assemblage is different to that established by Vince and Jenner (*ibid*) as it is their dating which is used to date the occurrence of wares at Poultry. There are, however, trends within these wares which suggest some are earlier than others. EMS is evidently the earliest, occurring in the 10th-century open areas of post-Roman levelling and associated with the

sunken featured buildings in Periods 32 and 33. All of the other main wares in this assemblage (EMSS, EMFL, EMSH, ESUR, EMIS, LOGR, EMCH) first occur in Periods 34 and 35, usually in secondary or later features dating from between c.1000 or 1050. EMGR very clearly dates from mid 11th-century and is almost entirely associated with Period 39.

In her assessment of the Poultry material Goffin questions if there is a difference in the dates of LOGR and ESUR. Traditionally both fabrics have been dated as 1050 to 1150, but she notes that at Guildhall Yard (GYE92) LOGR was particularly prevalent c.1080-1100 and that ESUR became more popular in the 12th century. The evidence from Poultry shows that both fabric types occur from Periods 36 to 40, dating from 1050-1150 and that within this time span there are twice the number of LOGR sherds as ESUR (see Table 213). It is possible to infer that LOGR is therefore the more popular fabric type, but there is insufficient data relating to the period after 1100 to establish whether ESUR becomes a more prevalent fabric type in the 12th century.

Table 214 summarises assemblages from different types of Saxo-Norman features found in the city. Wattle-lined pits were evidently a type of feature used throughout the Saxo-Norman period. At Poultry three examples (in Gps 1092 and 1400) contain LSS, EMS and SATH dating from 900-1050, 970-1050 and 1000-1150. A fourth possible example in Gp 1093 contains EMIS, EMS, EMSS and LSS dating from c.1050-1150. Two wattle-lined pits at 1-6 Milk Street (MLK76) contain assemblages dated 1050-1100 (pit 41 & 55) containing BLGR, EMS, EMSS, EMSH and ESUR. These assemblages are of

note as they are both associated with coins. Pit 55 contained a coin of Cnut dated 1018-24 and Pit 41 a coin of William I dating from 1074-7. A third wattle-lined pit (Pit 81) contains a later assemblage of BLGR, EMCH, EMS, EMSS, EMSH, ESUR, LCOAR, LOND, LSS, REDP, SATH, STAM and BLGR dated 1100-1200 (Schofield *et al* 1990). Similar features at Watling Court (WAT78, Pits 43 and 65) date from 1050-1100 (Schofield *et al ibid*) and at Cheapside (CID90) as 1050-1200 (Hill and Woodger 1999).

The earliest sunken featured buildings at Poultry (B101-103) in Period 33 which date from c.970-1050 compare well with similar sunken-floored buildings (B19 and 21) at Cheapside (CID90, Hill and Woodger *ibid*) dated c.900-1000 and Ironmongers Lane (IRO80, Schofield *et al ibid*) where Buildings 1 and 2 date from 850-1020. All of these sunken-floored buildings contain assemblages in which LSS is the predominant fabric type (see table 214).

Of note is the greater range of fabric types associated with surface-laid buildings at Poultry, Milk Street and Ironmongers Lane (see Table 214). At Poultry the buildings in Periods 35 and 36 contain LSS but with the addition of EMS, EMSH, LOGR, EMSS, THET, EMFL, ANDE and ESUR dating from 1050-1150. Buildings 4 and 5 at Milk Street contain LSS and EMSH dating from 1000-1030 (Schofield *et al ibid*). Building 3 at Ironmongers Lane contains LSS and EMSH dating from 1020-1050.

The later buildings (B1-3 and B5) at Watling Court (WAT78), though described as sunken-floored date from 1050-1150 (Schofield *et al ibid*) and

contain assemblages more closely associated with the surface-laid buildings at Poultry in Period 35 and 36, dated 1050-1150.

A barrel lined pit (Pit 46) at Watling Court compares well with the example in Period 36 at Poultry. The Watling Court example has been placed in Ceramic phase 4 (1050-1150) and contains LSS, EMFL and EMS in the construction and use. Two Pit fills [11124 and 11227] (sg 10704, 10696, gp 1414) from a timber-lined, possible barrel well at Poultry contain EMSH, LSS and THET dating from 1000 to 1150.

The barrel-lined well in building 137 contains an assemblage of KING and LCOAR dating from 1230-1350. It is impossible to distinguish between use and backfill of such a feature. Of note is a similar type of well at Watling Court (WAT 78) where the construction and use dates from 970-1050 containing LSS, EMFL, EMS and the disuse dates as c.1050-1150 containing EMCH, EMSS, LSS and THET (Schofield *et al* 1990)

In later wares the first occurrence of LCALC in Period 39 at Poultry places the fabric as c.1050/1080. This is earlier than Vince and Jenner (*ibid*) postulated where LCALC is associated with early to mid 12th-century contexts at Pudding Lane (PDN81) but is more common from the late 12th century.

Vessel Form typology

The types of vessel function associated with the medieval and post-medieval assemblages are summarised in Table 215. The medieval assemblage is predominantly kitchen, serving and storage vessels in the form of jars, cooking pots and bowls whereas the post-medieval assemblage contains vessels for display drinking, distribution of drink, food consumption, hygiene,

kitchen serving and storage and pharmaceutical. The contrast between the two is not surprising as they represent the difference between a primarily Saxo-Norman assemblage and a late post-medieval assemblage.

Insert Table 215 Summary of principal vessel form codes

Insert Table 216 Summary of Vessel Functions (ENV)

Although the majority of Saxo-Norman vessel forms at Poultry are typical of those already defined in Vince and Jenner (1991), it has been possible to identify some chronological trends in vessel form in the principal fabric types between the date range of 900-1200. Table 216 shows that cooking pots/jars are the most common form followed by bowls, spouted bowls and storage jars.

Insert Table 217 Statistical analysis of vessel forms in principal Saxo-Norman fabrics(ENV)

In LSS the earliest vessels in the early to mid 10th-century (Period 32) are cooking pots. The range of vessels increases between c.970 and 1000 (Period 33) to include cooking pots, dishes, storage jars and bowls. After c.1000 spouted pitchers and spouted bowls occur. All of these vessels continue into Period 39 but are generally absent in groups dated 1080-1200 meaning that they probably continue up to c. 1050 as originally defined by Vince and Jenner (1991). The cooking pots tend to be rounded with an everted rim. Two examples of storage jars are decorated on the rim with stamped circles and with stamped grid pattern impressions and an applied thumbled strip.

In EMS the earliest forms are bowls, cooking pots and storage jars occurring in Period 33 and 34 c. 970 to 1000. After c.1050 dishes and spouted pitchers occur. All these forms continue into Period 39 in groups dated 1080 to 1200 in which the only spouted bowl occurs. Eleven very large sherds from at least two EMS spouted pitchers, decorated with applied thumbled strips must date as 970-1050 in a pit (sg 91338, gp 1295) in Open Area 124.

Within the East Anglian products there is a typical range of vessels such as the THET storage jar with thumbled cordon and a spouted pitcher in SATH.

Within EMSS cooking pots occur in every Period and storage jars in Periods 35 and 36. In fabrics LOGR, ESUR/EMIS, ESMH, EMCH and EMGR dating from 1050 to 1150 there is very little change in vessel typology. This is partly due to the short time span, the lack of sub-division within the stratigraphy of this date and little supporting external dating evidence to sub-divide this period further. In all of these fabrics jars used as cooking pots are the predominant but not the only form as demonstrated in Table 216.

In LOGR cooking pots such as occur in every period. A small range of other vessel types in LOGR are represented by a bowl in Periods 35 and 39, spouted pitchers in Periods 35, 36 and 39, a spouted bowl in an assemblage dated 1050-1150 in Period 40 and a lamp in Period 39. The spouted bowl in Period 40 must be residual. The bowl with thumbled rim form appears to be a late form occurring in Period 39 in a group (Gp 1468) dated 1100 to 1150. A number of spouted pitchers have rouletted decoration around the outer edge

of the rim and lines of rouletted decoration around the body of the vessel similar to Vince and Jenner (*ibid* fig 2.64 no 177 and fig 2.65 no 178a) and occur in contexts dated 1050/1080 and 1150 associated with timber Building 173.

In ESUR cooking pots such as occur in every period. Other examples include rims with internal lid seating in a context dated 1080-1200 in Period 39, rims with incised wavy line decoration in a residual assemblage dated 1050-1150 in Period 40 and examples with thumbbed rims or rilled shoulders in Period 39. Other vessels include a storage jar and lamp in Period 39 and a bowl in a residual assemblage dated 1050-1150 in Period 40.

In EMIS cooking pots occur in every period including examples with thumbbed rims in Period 35. Two examples of spouted pitcher have elaborate decoration; one in Period 35 has a thumbbed rim decorated on the inner edge with wavy lines of stabbed dots and on the exterior of the body incised lines criss-crossing across the body to form large diamond patterns. Spouted pitcher in a residual assemblage in Period 40 dated 1050-1150, is decorated with rows of stabbing on the rim and body exterior and regular stabbing with a four-pronged tool on the inside of the rim.

In EMSH cooking pots occur in Periods 35 to 39. Examples include thumbbed rims in Period 35 and a thickened rim and square clubbed rims in the same residual assemblage dated 1080-1200 in Period 40. An elaborately decorated handled jar occurs in an assemblage dated 1050-1150 in Period 36. This has an everted rim and pinched/flattened rod handle applied vertically from the rim to the shoulder. Radiating out from around the base of the handle attachment are deeply incised lines alternating with lines of stabbed dots. Other vessels in

EMSH are a bowl in *Period 35/36 (if moved from Period 32)*, spouted bowls in Periods 35 and 39, spouted pitchers with heavily incised decoration around the spout in Period 35, and storage jars with finger impressed decoration in Periods 38 and 39. Single examples of a dish, a dripping pan and a lamp occur in Period 39 associated with contexts dated 1080-1150. A bowl occurs in a residual assemblage of 1080-1150 in Period 40.

In EMCH cooking pots are the only identified vessel form which occur in Periods 35 to 39. Likewise cooking pots in EMFL occur in Periods 36 and 39. EMGR occurs only in Period 39 but in a range of vessels; cooking pots, spouted pitchers and storage jars.

A small collection of imported wares include a variety of different vessel types. Imported REDP occurs after c.1000. The most common form is a spouted pitcher (as in Vince and Jenner *ibid* Fig 2.107 nos. 249-253) occurring in every Period. Other less common vessels are a beaker in Period 37, spouted pitchers in Periods 35, 36 and 39 and a handled pitcher with large strap handles in a residual assemblage dated 1080-1150 in Period 40.

A second Rhenish import is RHGR, in which storage jars and smaller jar/cooking vessels have been identified, occurs in Periods 35 to 40.

After c.1050 ANDE spouted pitchers as in Fig 2.113.274 (Vince and Jenner 1991) occur in Periods 38, 39 and 40 dating from c.1050 to 1200. Same as V and J 1991

Other North French vessels include NFRE spouted pitchers with thumbing around the spout in Period 36 and at least three NFRY pitchers, some with rouletted decoration, in Periods 35, 36, 39 and 40. The NFRY spouted pitcher must date from c.1050 in a pit (sg 83204, gp 1309) at the back of Open Area

131. Other examples of NFRY pitchers with rouletted decoration occur in contexts dated 1080-1200.

The majority of vessels in the Poultry assemblage are typical of the indigenous Saxo-Norman fabrics commonly associated with the city. However more unusual and rare vessels include a Crowland Abbey-type bowl, a Stamford Ware bowl, a goblet, a sprinkler, a spouted pitcher and a NFRY pitcher with collared rim. The Stamford Ware vessels are all in contexts dated from 1050-1150. The association of the goblet with the new altar construction in Building 174 St Benet's Sherehog suggests it had a possible function as a chalice. Inturned bowls are rare outside of the immediate region of Stamford (Kilmurray1980).

A collection of 17 lamps have been identified in the Poultry assemblage. These are globular vessels similar to the crucibles, but distinguished by sooting on the exterior surface and a lack of metallic residues (see section **** Dungworth and Bowstead Stallybrass). They occur in EMSS, EMCW*** in contexts dated between 1000 and 1050, 1080-1200, 1135-1220 and 1230-1270. They are associated with B107 in period 35, B127 in Period 36, B173 in Period 39, OA 152 and R102 in Period 40. The majority are associated with Building 173.

Medieval vessels forms such as jugs are introduced in LCOAR, LCALC and LOND in Periods 39 and 40. LCOAR produces a wider range of vessels including cooking pots in Periods 35, 36 and 39, bowls in Period 40, but primarily jugs in Periods 39 and 40. One particular bowl in Period 40 has unusual decoration. The vessel has a continuous white slip with a thickly applied yellow lead glaze on both surfaces. Around the interior and exterior of

the vessel are arcs painted in red iron ore, which has run in the firing giving a very mottled brown line.

The most common medieval vessel forms in this assemblage are in London-type Ware which occurs in periods 35, 36, 39 and 40. The range of vessels is quite diverse including two dripping pans in Periods 35 and 40 and an early rounded jug in Period 36 dating from c.1000 to 1050. The majority of vessels occur in Period 39 and 40 post-dating 1050 and include a possible chafing dish, dripping pans, an aquamanile with scale decoration, a tripod pitcher, a bowl, early rounded jugs, baluster Jugs, North French and Rouen style jugs, pipkins and cooking pots.

Post-Medieval Dating

A small post-medieval assemblage occurs at Poultry by association with three/four (*don't know which building 16001 is in - ? a fourth building?*) buildings in Period 41. Tables 209 and 210 summarise these late 17th to early 18th-century assemblages containing CHPO, FREC, TGWA, TGWC, TGW, TGWF, WEST, WEST PURP, BORDY, METS AND PMBL. Other post-medieval fabrics to occur at Poultry are a SPAM jug, BORDY/G, PMR, PMRE, PMSRY/G and RAER from a context dated 1550-1600 in Period 40. Also 16001 containing BORDY, RAER, PMR, PMRE, PMSRG, PMSRY, FREC, SPAM, MLTG and TGW. These wares are found in groups of domestic household rubbish in B136, B144 and *[16001] B???* dating as 1680/1700 and 1665-1730 (see Tables 209 and 210). The range of vessel forms present reflects the status of these households and gives some indication as to the occupations of the tenants. In B136 the assemblage includes a Metropolitan

Slipware jug dated '1646' which must have survived a considerable number of years to be present in this assemblage. Its survival indicates that it had some considerable value as a table/serving object. Other table wares are represented by a TGW fluted dish, a PMBL tyg, two Frechen drinking jugs and a Bartmann jug. These are good quality table wares but perhaps not the highest in status. Of note in this assemblage are the 22 small plain white TGWC ointment pots and four TGWA albarello which correspond with the documentary reference to the occupants of 'The Falcon' being a 'drugster' (see section *** Keene). The albarello are all of local London manufacture decorated with blue and yellow diminishing arcs and feathery tufts and are therefore local purchases for pharmaceutical use.

The second household assemblage associated with Building 144 contains a collection of particularly fine tablewares indicative of high status tenants. The fine tableware is particularly well represented by two WEST PURP jugs, two CHPO tea bowls, a TGWA charger with polychrome decoration, four large TGW D fluted dishes, four TGW C chargers with Wan Li patterns, two TGW F bowls with landscape patterns, a POTG faience mug, a WEST jug with applied decoration and three WEST tankards with applied decoration. The imported POTG Faience and range of English highly decorated Tin Glazed Earthenware shows a specific pattern of purchasing in which vessels for display are important. The ornamental TGW shoe in this assemblage also shows that this is a household with the purchasing power for luxury and display items. The lack of Frechen drinking jugs, usually a low cost mass produced vessel suggests that drinking vessels in this household were in another material such as glass, though by this date (1665-1730) Frechen

vessels were probably replaced by Westerwald tankards of which there are three examples in this assemblage. Pharmaceutical wares in this assemblage are represented by two albarello and 29 small ointment pots, all of local London manufacture.