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A DISTINCTIVE TYPE OF LATE MEDIEVAL POTTERY
IN THE EASTERN MIDLANDS:
A DEFINITION AND PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

STEPHEN MOORHOUSE

SUMMARY

RECENT work in the eastern Midlands has identified two distinctive types of Late Medieval pottery, one a hard sandy grey to black reduced ware, the other a relatively soft orange fabric. They both have a similar but limited range of forms, mostly bowls, though each group has a few forms and points of detail peculiar to itself. A large number of Late Medieval groups from the general area defines the distribution and date range. Both types are reliably dated from the first half of the fifteenth century through to at least the middle of the sixteenth, with some evidence that the oxidized orange wares continue into the seventeenth century. It is the purpose of this paper to define and outline the main forms and discuss the dating evidence for the more distinct reduced type, defined as East Midland Late Medieval Reduced Ware.¹

INTRODUCTION

The general area to the north of London has produced a relatively large number of Late Medieval pottery groups during recent years (p. 52 below). A number of these deposits in the low-lying areas to the north of the Chilterns (Fig. 1, nos. 1-6) have produced two distinctive types of pottery that can be closely dated to the Late Medieval period. Pottery from this period more generally is far from common, partly due to long-lived medieval types in certain areas, making it difficult to identify type fossils for the period. It is therefore gratifying that in the eastern Midlands there are pottery types that can be fairly closely dated, which are so distinctive in both form and fabric that they are not confused with earlier types.

Fabric and techniques of manufacture

The fabric is basically coarse-textured with pimply surfaces. Its colour ranges from a medium to light grey, which is the norm, to a very hard close-knit fabric with nearly

¹ The full titles of all articles referred to in these footnotes will be found in the list of References at the end of this paper (p. 58).

jet-black surfaces. The consistency and surface texture of the pottery can also vary from being very hard and almost metallic to being fairly friable with surfaces that can be rubbed away in the fingers. A feature of some jugs, and in particular their handles, is to have a dull brick-red margin beneath the surfaces, as in the example illustrated from Sawtry (p. 43, Fig. 1, no. 5, in this volume). There is a difference in fabric between the existing groups, but whether this is due to development during their long life or the result of regional variation will only be demonstrated by a closer study of the material; the consistency in fabric between slightly different styles of bowl would suggest that a series of kilns or centres were producing the type. A constant feature throughout all forms in this fabric is that all vessels, including jugs, are, with very few exceptions, unglazed.

The vessels are well made by competent potters. They are thrown on a wheel, as opposed to their earlier coil-made predecessors in the area. The walls of all the vessels, particularly bowls and jars, are thin, with heavy corrugation in some instances, and the symmetry of the rims suggests a template has been used to form them; this is evidenced on many of the bowls by a sharp line beneath the external moulding of the rim.

Forms

A variety of distinctive forms are produced in the fabric. By far the more common are the various bowl forms, all with inward-sloping or very gently curving corrugated sides, leading to a sharp-angled flat or gently sagging base. Rim forms vary; the characteristic form from the mid-fifteenth-century Lyveden group¹ is a rounded externally beaded rim, while those from the St Neots fishpond² and Priory³ were relatively flat, of rectangular section. A triangular version also occurs in some groups.⁴

The typical medieval cooking-pot form is rare. The early group from Lyveden produced only a few examples out of nearly 1,700 sherds, and a single example in this fabric is recorded from the St Neots fishpond.⁵ It is likely that these vessels were not used for cooking as such, but as jars or storage containers, of which there are numerous examples from the St Neots fishpond deposit.

The frequency of jar types varies from group to group. Because it is impossible to know how representative the assemblages are for their respective periods and as

¹ From site J; excavated by G. F. Bryant, report forthcoming in *Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery*.

² Addyman and Marjoram 1972, p. 82, fig. 36, nos. 2 and 3.

³ Hurst 1966, p. 65, fig. 13, nos. 120 and 122.

⁴ Examples from Lyveden site J and Bedford, 43 Mill Street; not yet published.

⁵ Addyman and Marjoram 1972, p. 84, fig. 37, no. 19.

the groups are not contemporary, it is difficult at this early stage to speculate on the significance of this. Jars are virtually absent from the Lyveden deposit. Those from the St Neots fishpond group have rounded bodies with simple sharply everted rims;¹ one has a handle.²

Jugs are also scarce, though they are known from all deposits where the fabric type occurs. They are fairly stereotyped, having a tall straight neck with plain externally beaded rim and either one or more raised cordons at the junction of neck and shoulder. The bodies are either globular or rounded, surmounting either a clubbed or frilled foot. The handles are plain, of oval section, and a thumb line right down the back, with neither incised decoration nor glaze. The body invariably has two or three scored horizontal lines on the shoulder, sometimes with diagonal incisions.³ In all, the basic profile is very reminiscent of contemporary metal types.⁴ The general pottery form can be seen from St Neots Priory in a late-fifteenth- to early-sixteenth-century context.⁵ It is also known from the Lyveden, and the Mill Street, Bedford, groups,⁶ both dated around or shortly after the middle of the fifteenth century. There is another, less common form, illustrated by a complete vessel from High Street, Bedford.⁷ A larger form of jug in a more sandy version of the fabric is suggested by thumbed and frilled bases from a number of sites.⁸ A single base-shoulder from the St Neots fishpond, from the early-sixteenth-century Group A deposit, was covered inside and out with a green glaze, but this is far from common; generally, as with the rest of the forms produced, the jugs are not glazed, though those from the earlier groups display an external sheen as if burnished.

Cisterns are well represented, but not in any great quantity. Only a few cistern rims could be positively identified amongst the large Lyveden group; it is difficult to distinguish them from large jug rims. The site at Lyveden only produced one spigot, which had a carefully frilled boss. One or possibly two cisterns were recovered from Sawtry.⁹ Unless there are abundant distinctive fragments, such as the complete rim with evidence for the two diametrically opposed handles or fragments from spigot holes, it is virtually impossible to distinguish large jugs from cisterns on rim

¹ *Ibid.* nos. 16, 17, 22 and 23; the general round-bodied form can be seen in the oxidized wares, *ibid.* nos. 12 and 13.

² *Ibid.* no. 14.

³ Hurst 1966, p. 66, fig. 14, no. 132.

⁴ For example see one from the Gower, Pembrokeshire, with a relief monogram decoration and tripod feet, *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.* 2nd ser. III (1864-7), 199 and plate opposite.

⁵ Hurst 1966, p. 66, fig. 14, no. 129.

⁶ Excavations by David Baker to be published in *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.*: see p. 57 n. 2 below.

⁷ A complete jug found on the site of the Market House in High Street, *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.* III (1966), 57, no. 2.

⁸ For example, see the St Neots fishpond, Addyman and Marjoram 1972, p. 84, fig. 37, no. 24.

⁹ Moorhouse 1971, p. 80, fig. 3, nos. 17 and 18.

and base evidence alone. It is possible that the large frilled bases, mentioned above as coming from large jugs, actually come from cisterns, as frilled bases appear to be common on this type of vessel. However, the relative absence of spigot holes with their distinctive raised bosses implies that cisterns were not a major product.

A form of shallow bowl with an inverted flat lid-seating is known from a number of sites; St Neots Priory¹ and fishpond,² Hartford³ and Lyveden, showing that the type has a long lifespan. Vessels of this general type have recently been discussed by the writer as cucurbits, or the bases for distilling apparatus.⁴ The recognition of this type more generally in the area seems to throw some doubt on this identification, at least that suggested for the Hartford vessels. This basic form of lid-seating occurs from the late fourteenth century in some parts of the country⁵ on cooking pots and jars. It therefore appears that the form in this region can now be recognized as a Late Medieval feature on domestic vessels, especially as two vessels from Bedford have recently been published displaying this very pronounced form of rim.⁶

The potter not only produced standard types during the medieval and later period, but also manufactured a limited number of less common forms. Some of these are evident amongst the East Midlands Late Medieval Reduced Wares. The rim and base from a chafing dish are known from Lyveden and a pottery copy of a typical glass form of cucurbit comes from general Late Medieval levels overlying Bedford Castle.⁷ An occasional product seems to be a flat-rimmed bowl or jar with deep thumb impressions round the raised edge of the rim; these are known from Lyveden and Sawtry.⁸ Inevitably, Raeren stoneware copies were made.⁹

Dating

The type is well dated to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The starting date is provided from Lyveden, Northants, and its continuance into the sixteenth century by the stratified deposits from the St Neots fishpond.

Excavations at Lyveden on site J in 1972 produced an extensive group of nearly

¹ Hurst 1966, p. 56, fig. 13, no. 112.

² Addyman and Marjoram 1972, p. 84, fig. 37, no. 30.

³ Dickinson 1965, p. 140, fig. 1.

⁴ Stephen Moorhouse, 'Medieval Distilling Apparatus of Glass and Pottery', *Med. Archaeol.* XVI (1972), 111-13.

⁵ Discussed in Hurst 1961, p. 274, *Med. Archaeol.* VI-VII (1962-3), 147, n. 78 and E. M. Jope, 'Medieval pottery lids and pots with lid seating', *Oxoniensia* XIV (1949), 78-9 and fig. 1.

⁶ David H. Kennett, 'A Medieval cooking pot type at Bedford', *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.* VII (1972), 86-7 and p. 86, fig. 5.

⁷ From excavations by David Baker in Mill Street in 1971, no. BC 71:25 (51), forthcoming in *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.*

⁸ Moorhouse 1971, p. 80, fig. 3, no. 16.

⁹ Addyman and Marjoram 1972, p. 87, fig. 40, no. 72.

1,700 sherds, associated with the orange oxidized wares, developed Lyveden types and others.¹ These were associated with a group of isolated structures though they were clearly not related to, but post-date, the main potting activity on the site. The destruction material of the buildings contained a silver penny of Edward IV, Durham mint dated 1461–80. The assemblage did not contain Raeren stonewares or Cistercian wares. The former are known to have been imported into this country in quantity from the 1480s and are type fossils for sites of the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries.² Cistercian wares, in one form or another, are common in the area; their date of introduction is not known precisely, but is attributed to the 1470–90s.³ Had either of these two types been in circulation they would certainly have appeared with this group, for it contained a wide range of other fine wares. The unworn coin in the demolition material is therefore of some significance and the dates for its circulation in all probability reflect the general period of decay or depredation for the site. The abandonment of the site can therefore be placed shortly after the middle of the fifteenth century, and thus provides a *terminus ante quem* for the material associated with its occupation.

Site E at Lyveden provides indirect evidence for the introduction of these wares.⁴ This site produced a short-lived tile kiln away from the main potting centre. Associated with it were two silver coins, a Henry IV penny, 1399–1411 and a halfpenny of Robert III of Scotland, 1390–1406. The domestic pottery associated with the wasters was predominantly of wheel-thrown jugs in a refined Lyveden-type fabric with splashes of a white slip and green glaze. Significantly there were no East Midland Late Medieval Reduced wares. It is therefore likely that in the Lyveden area these wares were introduced some time during the first half of the fifteenth century. For them to be well established and to have completely superseded the earlier Lyveden types by the middle of the century, a date nearer the start of the century is likely for their appearance in the Lyveden area.

An extensive group from Mill Street, Bedford,⁶ excavated by David Baker in 1971, suggests that the type was well established shortly after the middle of the fifteenth century. The group contained predominantly Reduced wares and orange

¹ See p. 58.

² Initially defined in J. G. Hurst, 'Flemish Stoneware Jug' in Barry Cunliffe, *Winchester Excavations: 1949–1960* (Winchester, 1964), pp. 142–3; for a recent discussion see Moorhouse 1974a.

³ The dating of these wares is discussed in H. E. J. Le Patourel, 'The Pottery' in P. Mayes and E. J. E. Pirie, 'A Cistercian Ware kiln of the early 16th century at Potterton, Yorkshire', *Antiq. Journ.* XLVI (1966), 262–9 with full references to earlier work. Recent evidence is brought together and reviewed in Brears, 1974.

⁴ Excavations in 1968 and 1969; for the site see G. F. Bryant and J. M. Steane, 'Excavations at the Deserted Medieval Settlement at Lyveden: a third interim Report', *Journ. of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery* IX (June 1971), 42–7.

⁵ See p. 57.

oxidized types along with more local wares, but significantly no Raeren stonewares. This provides a terminal date in the 1480s, as a group of that size would undoubtedly have contained at least one vessel had they been current at the time it was deposited, considering Bedford's importance as a regional market town. The combined evidence from Bedford and Lyveden strongly suggests that as the type was available over a wide area around the middle of the fifteenth century, its date of introduction should lie in the earlier fifteenth century.

The persistence of the type well into the sixteenth century is demonstrated by the stratified fishpond deposit at Hall Place, St Neots.¹ The earliest phase, group A dated to the early sixteenth century,² contained reduced and oxidized types associated with Raeren and Cologne stonewares. Group B, dated to the middle or third quarter of the sixteenth century,³ contained an abundance of reduced wares associated with Frechen and Cologne stonewares, along with a relatively large collection of Cistercian wares; these latter do not persist in their original form much after the middle of the sixteenth century, but merge with the *tyg* types, which take over towards the end of the century, becoming predominant during the seventeenth century.⁴ Bowls with flat rectangular-sectioned rims and globular-bodied jars with sharply everted beaded rims are typical of this later deposit.

The later stages for the history of the type are far from clear. It can be assumed that it either died out or was merged into the post-medieval types during the late sixteenth century. If the latter is the case, it is not yet clear what emerged.

Distribution

The plotting of positive and negative occurrences of the type in groups of Late Medieval date from the area to the north of London is shown in Fig. 1. From it can be seen a concentrated distribution in the low-lying areas to the northeast of the Chilterns. The open spots show where the type is not known, from either associated groups or large collections of unstratified material, making it possible to define a fairly limited area of distribution. A firm line can be drawn in the south by the geographical boundary of the Chiltern Hills. Late Medieval groups from Princes Risborough,⁵ Kings Langley,⁶ Sopwell Nunnery⁷ and the Manor of the

¹ Addyman and Marjoram 1972.

² *Ibid.* p. 84, fig. 37, nos. 17, 30 and 31; and p. 87, fig. 40, no. 72.

³ *Ibid.* p. 82, fig. 36, nos. 1-4; and p. 84, fig. 37, nos. 14, 16, 19, 22-4, 28 and 29.

⁴ The terminal date for these wares varies from region to region; see Moorhouse 1974*a* for Lincolnshire and the western Midlands and Brears 1974 for south Yorkshire.

⁵ F. H. Pavry and G. M. Knocker, 'The Mount, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire', *Records of Bucks* xvi (1957-8), pottery catalogue on pp. 148-53.

⁶ Moorhouse 1973*b*.

⁷ Moorhouse 1973*c*.

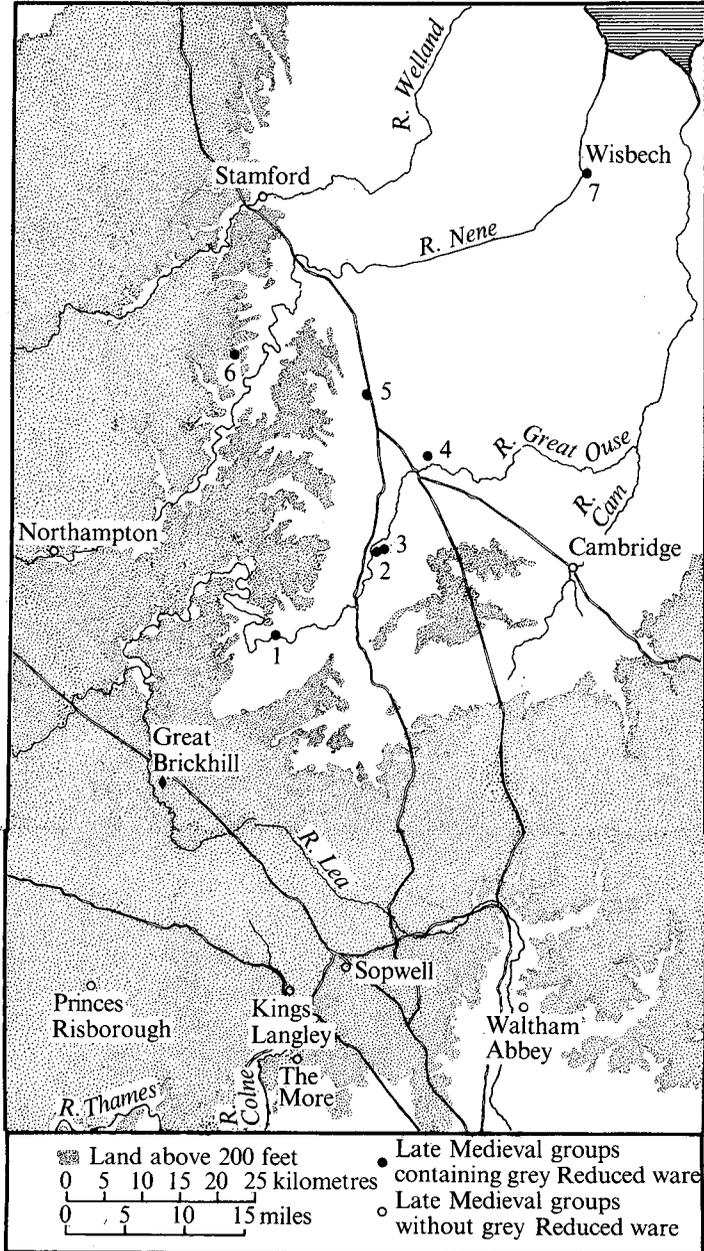


Fig. 1. Distribution map of East Midlands Late Medieval ware, showing present limits of distribution. The land over 200 ft, major rivers and assumed main late medieval roads are also shown. For a note on the map see pp. 56-7

More,¹ Rickmansworth, on the southern side of the Hills, show that the pottery from this region is coming from, or being influenced by, the extensive industries of northern Surrey and Oxfordshire, while extensive deposits from Waltham Abbey² show influence or trade from Essex and Cambridgeshire kilns. Although Cambridge has produced relatively little Late Medieval material, there is sufficient to show that the ware under discussion is not reaching that far east. The type has a distribution down into northern Buckinghamshire,³ along the upper Ouse valley, but it is not known in Northampton, where more local traditions are evident;⁴ the Potterspurry–Yardley Gobion⁵ tradition supplied a large percentage of the wares. The western limits of distribution provide a problem, for during the medieval period the centre at Great Brickhill,⁶ to the south of Bletchley and just off the present A5 (Watling Street) (see Fig. 1), were producing wares in an almost identical fabric to the East Midland types; the significance of this is discussed on p. 55 below. The northern region is roughly delimited by Stamford where excavations have been carried out by Miss Christine Mahany, from which quantities of material have been recovered.⁷ The material has established a general ceramic chronology for the town, from which it is apparent that throughout the medieval period the town was supplied mainly by

¹ Martin Biddle *et al.* 'The Excavation of the Manor of the More, Rickmansworth', *Archaeol. Journ.* cxvi (1959), 161–73.

² Groups from various sites in the town excavated by P. J. Huggins; Rhona M. Huggins, 'The Pottery' in P. J. Huggins, 'Excavations at Sewardstone Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex 1966', *Post Med. Archaeol.* III (1969), 68–85, the type is not even an occasional find in the area, *ibid.* p. 71; see also Rhona M. Huggins, 'The Pottery' in P. J. Huggins, 'A Medieval Bridge at Waltham Abbey, Essex', *Med. Archaeol.* xiv (1970), 141–3 and Rhona M. Huggins, 'The Pottery' in P. J. Huggins, 'Waltham Abbey: Monastic Site and Prehistoric Evidence: 1953–67', *Trans. Essex Archaeol. Soc.* 3rd ser. II, 3 (1970), 244–56, esp. group of c. 1475–1540, p. 248, fig. II, nos. 6–14 and p. 249.

³ I am grateful to Dennis Mynard for this information.

⁴ This is evident after examination of a quantity of material from the town in the Museum and from recent controlled excavations within the town; I am grateful to M. R. McCarthy for information about material from recent excavations in Northampton.

⁵ All previous references for the medieval industry at Potterspurry are brought together in D. C. Mynard, 'Medieval Pottery of Potterspurry Type', *Bull. Northants. Fed. Archaeol. Soc.* no. 4 (April 1970), pp. 49–55; the post-medieval industry is discussed in Philip Mayes, 'A 17th Century Kiln Site at Potterspurry, Northamptonshire', *Post Med. Archaeol.* II (1968), 55–82. An extensive medieval industry has recently been discovered at Yardley Gobion by Mr Robert Moor of Northampton Museum, producing very similar Potterspurry-type wares; for the post-medieval industry see *Post Med. Archaeol.* III (1969), 200 and 202.

⁶ Material from these kilns is in The County Museum, Aylesbury, Bucks. acc. nos. 67 and 69 (19)62; 46, 70 and 71, (19)64. For recent discussions of the type see Mynard 1969, pp. 183, 195 and 193, fig. 57, nos. 95–98; and p. 198, fig. 58, nos. 99–104; and Mynard 1971, p. 35 with a range of types, p. 27, fig. 6, nos. 34–47; and p. 28, fig. 7, nos. 48–51.

⁷ Little Late Medieval material has been recovered from the town but a series from St Leonard's Priory indicates that the type is not a common one in the area. I am grateful to Miss Mahany for allowing me to examine the material prior to her own publication.

centres in south Lincolnshire or from the west, with a steady source from Lyveden or other kilns producing the same ware. As the Reduced wares are virtually unknown, with a very few exceptions explained as traded pieces, a source or sources are suggested outside the normal trading areas of Stamford and possibly nearer to Bedford, where the trading potential, via road and river, would be far greater. The single outlier sherd from Wisbech (Fig. 1, no. 7) can be discounted for normal distribution purposes as it represents a single vessel. The sherd was the only one of its type from a vast late-fifteenth- to early-sixteenth-century deposit comprising mainly Grimston and Bourne types.¹

The areas within the present known limits of distribution are inevitably going to be filled out as further material becomes available. Its distribution into the Fens to the north of Cambridge has yet to be determined, but it does not appear to reach Wisbech and is unknown from Denny Abbey,² 7 miles northeast of Cambridge. The division of types in the area to the south of Cambridge is less easy to forecast, for no groups of that date have been recovered, and it is evident that in the earlier period the area is being supplied by the Cambridge, East Anglian and Essex centres. Sites in the upper Ouse and upper Nene valleys are likely to produce this reduced ware, though the defining of its extension westwards could be complicated by the similar Brickhill types. The concentration of sites within this area could possibly suggest centres of manufacture. On the other hand, if the potters were supplying markets, and the pottery being distributed that way, its concentration would not be so apparent and would tend to reflect markets and not kiln sites.³

Affinities and problems

As the pottery type is easy to recognize and its date range is known with tolerable certainty, it is an important addition to the study of Late Medieval ceramics in general. Its introduction in the first half of the fifteenth century and the proportion of types produced are the two most significant features. It is generally assumed that the traditional form of medieval cooking pot dies out towards the end of the medieval period, and is superseded by bowl and jar types, but there has been a lack of evidence to show precisely when this change occurred. Obviously there are many factors

¹ Moorhouse 1975.

² Material from excavations carried out by Mrs P. Christie, to whom I am grateful for allowing me to examine it prior to her own publication.

³ For the evidence of markets see Mrs H. E. J. Le Patourel, 'Documentary evidence and the medieval pottery industry', *Med. Archaeol.* xii (1968), 101-26 esp. pp. 119-20; the Toynton All Saints evidence shows that potters were using and 'stockpiling' wares at markets many miles from their source of manufacture, *ibid.* p. 119, showing the dangers of assuming that potters always used local markets.

involved preventing generalizations. The most important of these is the regionalization of pottery traditions. Eating habits also changed, the communal cooking pot giving way to the individual place setting; more pewter, metal and glass vessels were thus in use, due to the more evenly distributed wealth among the rising gentry and lower working classes. However, we must remember that these developments occurred neither overnight nor simultaneously. It is therefore gratifying to see these changes taking place in the eastern Midlands by the early fifteenth century.

The question as to the origin of the tradition of these new wares inevitably arises. Earlier medieval grey ware traditions are strong in the surrounding regions. The most widespread of these are the Hertfordshire wares which appear some time in the early twelfth century and continue until around the middle of the fourteenth century.¹ This group have a distribution to the north and west of London as far as the Chiltern foothills and are a well-recognized type in Bedford.² They are superseded in these areas, with the exception of Bedford, by the large Surrey industry and to the north-east by the products of the Essex potters. Cambridge also had a grey ware tradition in the earlier medieval period, though very little is known about it.³ Northern Buckinghamshire was partly supplied by the Great Brickhill kilns and probably other centres producing similar types which are virtually indistinguishable in fabric from the reduced pottery under discussion. These wares are known from thirteenth- and fourteenth-century contexts but it is not certain how long they persisted. Similar characteristics occur in the straight-sided bowl with externally beaded rim⁴ and in the dull brick-red margin below the surface, occasionally seen in East Midland Late Medieval Reduced jug handles, as in the one from Sawtry.⁵ Unless distinctive rim sherds were present it is difficult to separate these two basic types visually on fabric alone. Heavy-mineral analysis of material from the Great Brickhill kiln site and one of the groups further east may distinguish between them. The various forms of these separate grey ware traditions in the medieval period are all distinct from those of the later type being discussed, suggesting that they did not influence its introduction and development.

¹ For the type and its dating see Hurst 1961, pp. 267-73. For the known kiln sites producing it see Stephen Moorhouse, 'The Pottery' in P. E. Curnow, 'Berkhampstead Castle: Excavations at the South-East Tower, 1962 and 1967', *Herts. Archaeol.* 11 (1971), 70 and Derek F. Renn, *Potters and Kilns in Medieval Hertfordshire* (Herts. Local History Council, 1964).

² See Susan Linger and David H. Kennett, 'Medieval Jugs from Bedford', *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.* VII (1972), 69, fig. 2, nos. 10 and 24; and p. 70, fig. 3, nos. 11, 12 and 13. It is uncertain how long these wares persist and problems could arise, particularly in Bedford, when distinguishing body sherds of this ware and those under discussion.

³ Addyman and Biddle 1965, generally between pp. 104 and 114.

⁴ Compare the Great Brickhill types from Stantonbury, Bucks, Mynard 1971, p. 28, fig. 7, no. 48 and that from Sawtry, Hunts, Moorhouse 1971, p. 80, fig. 3, no. 13.

⁵ Moorhouse 1974b, p. 43, fig. 1, no. 5 (in this volume).

Possibly the necessity for a new ceramic tradition in the later medieval period was stimulated by the rising gentry class who emerge during the later fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, creating new material needs.¹ The waning Lyveden industry had ceased as a commercial enterprise by the end of the fourteenth century, though other centres producing the earlier type may well have continued. Evidence from sites E and J at Lyveden, dated respectively *c.* 1400 and *c.* 1450, demonstrate the round-bodied jars with bone-template-formed rims and large jugs were still being produced somewhere in the area, but thrown and not coil-made like the earlier types. The distribution of Lyveden-type wares covers a large area of the central and eastern Midlands, with the distinctive decorated jugs travelling much further afield. In the Late Medieval period a number of contrasting traditions are seen throughout this area, making it certain that the potters who made the Lyveden-type wares had no influence on any of their successors' products. Similarly, there is no link between these potters and those who made the East Midland Late Medieval Reduced wares; the use of bone templates to mould and form rims is a common feature and has no significance here.

All that can be said at the moment about the source of the tradition behind East Midland Late Medieval Reduced wares is purely negative, in that it did not flower out of any of the neighbouring earlier medieval traditions, at least not directly.

A note on the distribution map (p. 52, Fig. 1)

Only a selection of the available material has been represented on the distribution map and listed below. The primary intention is to show the limits of distribution for the type by contrasting its positive and negative occurrences in large groups of material, and to show the location of important dated deposits which show the life-span of the type. Only relatively large groups or assemblages have been included, as small groups were not judged to be sufficiently representative of the wares available in their respective regions. For purposes of distribution boundaries, small assemblages do not give a true picture of current wares available. Not all of this material has been included to show the concentration within these limits, as this was not the purpose of the map.² Work is in progress to define the density of these wares throughout the region, but at the moment there is not enough material to form any conclusions; distribution maps are notorious for giving the wrong answers to the right questions.

¹ A paper on the significance of this and the economic and political trends of the Later Medieval period and their influence on some aspects of the pottery industry is in preparation.

² For example, the group from Beaulieu Priory, Clophill, Beds; Kevan Fadden, 'Excavations at Beaulieu Priory Clophill', *Beds. Archaeol. Journ.* III (1966), 34, fig. 4, no. 3. The vast quantity of material in Bedford Museum has yet to be examined.

Although this may only reflect the markets from which the wares were distributed, it would give a clue as to the whereabouts of the kilns producing the type, for it is unlikely that the sources of manufacture would be far from the centres of distribution.¹ When further information is available it is hoped to publish a more detailed map contrasting known Late Medieval markets, trade routes by road and river and detailed regional geography, as these were important factors in the distribution of any ordinary household commodity until more recent times.

Sites shown on the distribution map (p. 52, Fig. 1)

(1) *Bedford, 43 Mill Street*

A large deposit from the back of a tenement site excavated by David Baker in 1971.² It contained a selection of types, but predominantly Reduced wares, and, as discussed on pp. 50-1 above, should be dated around the middle of the fifteenth century. The group has yet to be closely examined, but along with that from Lyveden should provide a range of fabrics and forms for the early stages of the type's history.

(2) *St Neots Priory, Hunts*

This site produced a large and varied selection of Reduced wares, though mostly unstratified.³ Two jug rims came from general late-fifteenth- to early-sixteenth-century levels.⁴ The unstratified material included the near-complete profile of the typical jug as well as a good selection of jug types.⁵

(3) *St Neots, Hall Place fishpond, Hunts*

Two groups of immediate importance were recovered from this fishpond, excavated by Peter Addyman in 1961:⁶ group A dating to the early sixteenth century, and group B to the mid or third quarter of the century. The latter is of the more significance for it shows a range of types during the later stages of the type's life; it contained round-bodied jars with simple everted rims and bowls with either flat or rectangular rim profiles. The site was only partially excavated, so it is hoped the opportunity may arise to examine the remainder and obtain what would almost certainly be an important and extensive range of material.

(4) *Hartford, Hunts*

This single vessel, with cover, was a chance find.⁷ It contained a large coin hoard, the latest from which suggested it was buried in or shortly after 1503. It is discussed on p. 49 above.

(5) *Sawtry, Archers Wood moated site, Hunts*

A small excavation on this large and complex site produced a group of later fifteenth- to early sixteenth-century date; the site was possibly abandoned after the Dissolution. Some of the finds

¹ See p. 54, no. 3.

² A large deposit recovered during excavations in 1971 by David Baker, no. BM.S 71:9:32. I am grateful to Mr Baker for allowing me to examine this material before his own publication.

³ Hurst 1966. The relevant sherds are from a late fifteenth- to early sixteenth-century group, p. 60, fig. 9, nos. 55-6 and unstratified pieces, p. 65, fig. 13, nos. 110-13, 115 and 118-22; and p. 66, fig. 14, nos. 129-38.

⁴ *Ibid.* p. 60, fig. 9, nos. 55 and 56.

⁵ *Ibid.* p. 66, fig. 14, no. 129 and nos. 30-137.

⁶ Addyman and Marjoram 1972.

⁷ Dickinson 1965, p. 140, fig. 1.

have been reported in an earlier volume of these *Proceedings*,¹ while the rest appear on pp. 41-5 in the present volume.

(6) *Lyveden, site J, Northants*

This site, excavated by G. Bryant in 1972-3, produced an extensive collection of material including nearly 1,700 sherds of Reduced ware.² Evidence suggests the site was relatively short lived, dating to the middle years of the fifteenth century; this evidence is discussed on pp. 49-50 above. Some of the types are mentioned on pp. 47-9 above, but it must await a full study of the material before the full range is known.

(7) *Wisbech Castle, Cambs*

A single sherd came from a large deposit from the upper filling of the Castle moat, recovered during contractor's work in 1955.³ The deposit dates generally to the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century. The group is composed of predominantly Grimston and Bourne types, and the sherd can be seen as an obvious outlier, probably reaching the important port of Wisbech through a traded consignment.

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¹ Moorhouse 1971, p. 80, fig. 3, nos. 12-23 and pp. 81-2.

² Report forthcoming in *Journal of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery*.

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