

FIELDWORK IN DERBYSHIRE

BY MERCIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES CIC, 2013 - 2015

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to summarise archaeological work in Derbyshire by Mercian Archaeological Services CIC (MAS) since 2013. Where fieldwork was small scale and the findings minimal (Aston-on-Trent, Ticknall Ingleby Lane, Ticknall St George's Church) details presented here will be the only published output. Other fieldwork it is intended to publish in detail following completion of post excavation analysis; for these sites the information and any conclusions presented here should be considered interim in nature and may be superseded following full analysis of the data. Grey literature reports on all fieldwork, including details of archive location, will be available from www.mercian-as.co.uk and from the ADS website, following completion.

Opportunity is also taken to publish a casual find that sheds light on the medieval pottery industry of Ticknall.

Unless noted otherwise, all summaries are by the above author. Description of ceramic vessel forms and parts follows the 'Guide to Classification' (MPRG 1998).

SITES

Aston on Trent SK4137 2977 OASIS ID: merciana2-183984

Two 1m x 1m archaeological test pits were excavated over the course of a week in April 2014 by students of Aston-on-Trent primary school. They were located to the west of the present school buildings at SK4137 2977 and were dug under the supervision of staff from MAS and Pat Tinkler (Derbyshire Archaeological Society (DAS)). The test pits were the fieldwork component of a project designed and led by Pat Tinkler to enthuse the children about archaeology and heritage; the project was facilitated by Adele Lark and the staff of Aston Primary and included classroom sessions led by Pat and the test pit excavation led by MAS. The work was funded by a grant from the DAS Pilling Bequest.

As well as allowing the children to take part in archaeological excavation the test pits had an archaeological objective. They were dug as a first step towards elucidating the development of Aston-on-Trent as part of long term research by MAS into settlement development in south Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, as well as feeding in to similarly long term research by MAS on the ceramics of south Derbyshire.

Built in the late 20th century approximately 130m north of the northernmost extent of the historic core of Aston, historic mapping suggests that the school was constructed on former agricultural land. The pattern of slightly sinuous linear field boundaries aligned broadly north-west south-east, visible on the county series Ordnance Survey maps either side of Derby Road, suggests that this area was part of one of the medieval fields of Aston.

The test pits confirmed this hypothesis and provided greater detail of land use history. Deposits associated with construction of the school and subsequent landscaping work overlay a plough soil containing residual medieval pottery (including Burley Hill type ware) and late 18th to early 19th century wares (white salt glazed stoneware, creamware, pearlware, black glazed earthenware and buff bodied earthenware). This plough soil in turn overlay the truncated and leached remnants of an older cultivation soil containing only medieval pottery. This earlier soil itself overlay natural gravels.

Artefacts incorporated in the cultivation soils indicated the presence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity, with several fragments of pot boiler stones (terminology after MDA 1997) and small waste flakes of struck flint found, the latter most likely of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. The small assemblage of medieval ceramics, probably resulting from medieval manuring of the fields, will ultimately provide an insight into the types and sources of pottery used in medieval Aston-on-Trent, though at present only Burley Hill type ware can be identified to a probable production source.

Archaeological and map evidence suggested that land on which the school was built had been used for arable cultivation as part of one of the fields of Aston during the medieval period, although neither source provided evidence to indicate how early this began. An absence of mid to late 15th century and later pottery does, however, suggest that this part of the field was no longer manured in the late medieval period, probably because of a change of use to pasture. The pottery is insufficiently well dated to prove whether the change of use occurred around the middle of the 14th century or later. Use as pasture apparently persisted until the late 18th century when waste material was again spread and cultivation resumed, though possibly only for a short period. This later plough soil did not contain any material post dating the middle of the 19th century which may indicate a return to pasture or other non-cultivation use, or be due to a change in the type of manure used. Construction of the school in the late 20th century brings the history of this piece of land up to date.

Heath End (Ticknall) SK3680 2124 OASIS ID: merciana2-151526

The small settlement of Heath End straddles the county boundary between Derbyshire and Leicestershire at the point where the parishes of Calke, Ashby de la Zouch and Staunton Harold meet. Research has indicated this hamlet was home to several potters operating as part of the Ticknall pottery industry in the post medieval period (Spavold and Brown 2005, 59-64).

At Ley Farm, Spavold and Brown's Site 20 (2005, 62), documentary evidence indicates potting from at least the middle of the 17th century until the late 18th century by the Tetley family (Brown 2012, 4-11). A circular structure in the middle of the yard is depicted on the 1735 Hastings Estate Map (Spavold and Brown 2005, fig. 9). One of several highly magnetic anomalies detected by geophysical survey (Malone 2010, fig. 13 feature J) appeared to be in the same location as the circular structure on the map.

In 2013 volunteers from Ticknall Archaeological Research Group (TARG) undertook an excavation over the site of the geophysical anomaly with direction, support and training provided by MAS staff. The work was part of a phase of TARG's research into the Ticknall pottery industry, at that time funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund 'Your Heritage' grant.

The excavation opened an area of approximately 8m by 4.5m over the anomaly and demonstrated that it was a pottery kiln. Though truncated by ploughing, damaged by drainage ditches and partially obscured by a live electrical cable (Plate 1), the date, form and function of the kiln could be determined. Based on ware types and forms demonstrably produced in the kiln, along with documentary evidence, this kiln was operating in the first half of the 18th

century. It had been razed before the remains were cut through by a stone lined drainage ditch that included a complete mid to late 18th century cylindrical glass bottle in its fill, presumably deposited by the (refreshed) ditch digger.



Plate 1: Section of internal wall of the kiln at Heath End, looking north. Scale bar (0.1m divisions) is in one of the flues which is choked with clinker and from which ash spills out northwards into the partially visible firing chamber (top of plate). Part of the curving internal wall of the kiln can be seen in the two surviving courses of bricks over which the electricity cable runs, while the western edge of another flue, largely obliterated by land drains, is just visible to the east of the electricity cable.

The kiln was a Type 3 (Musty 1974, 46) multiple flued updraft kiln. It had a floor of baked clay cut slightly into the yellow clay geology of the site. The internal diameter of the firing chamber was 1.83m (6 feet). The walls appeared to be made of clay with the flues, fire boxes and the (partial) inner lining of the firing chamber being of brick (Plate 1). Evidence for four flues was seen in the excavation; extrapolation suggests the kiln most likely originally possessed seven or eight. It was fired with coal. In form and construction it is virtually identical to an early 18th century kiln excavated at Old Hall Street, Hanley (Kelly and Greaves 1974, fig. 3).

The wares produced in the kiln were mottled ware and black and brown glazed earthenware. While sherds were small and highly fragmented the mottled ware products appeared typical of the range produced by similar industries in the region (e.g. in Staffordshire (Kelly and Greaves 1974, fig. 8) or Yorkshire (Beswick 1978, 47-8)), with a variety of hollow ware forms including the ubiquitous cylindrical mug with bands of reeding around the middle and at the foot, although lacking the flat wares of Yorkshire and the applied pads with excise marks of Staffordshire. The mottled ware was fired in wheel thrown saggars produced in a very coarse fabric of yellow to grey colour and one sagger had been grogged with mottled ware sherds. The saggars appear to be identical in form to those published from Staffordshire (e.g. Kelly

and Greaves 1974 fig. 22.202-4; fig. 23.205-6). Three saggars were discovered in position in the middle of the firing chamber, having been abandoned after the last firing. Sagger lids (flat discs of clay with a central perforation used to cap off a stack of saggars) were made from the same iron rich clays used for black and brown glazed earthenware; a complete example was found in a small dump of wasters that had built up against the side of the kiln during use.

Black and brown glazed earthenwares in the dump next to the kiln were predominantly large, cylindrical medium jars (terminology after MPRG 1998, section 4: medium refers to form not size), sometimes called butter pots, with internal red slip and (brown to black) glaze. Fine black wares were also fired in this kiln; scars inside some of the discarded jars indicated that they had been used as makeshift saggars, placed inverted over chamber/paint pots, to protect them during firing. Such vessels, in a more iron rich but far finer fabric with internal and external glaze (with no slip), were found on the site but not in contexts directly associated with this kiln. Black and brown glazed earthenwares appear to have been fired in the same kiln as the mottled ware and provisional reconstruction suggests stacks of saggars filled with mottled ware in the kiln's centre surrounded by upside down black ware bowls and jars, some of the latter protecting fine black ware vessels.

Use of inverted vessels to protect fine wares is a Ticknall tradition that stretches back at least to late medieval/early post medieval Cistercian ware production. The kiln design, mottled ware and saggars used to fire the mottled ware, however, are alien to that industry. The Tetley family were not new to the area and the use of native Ticknall traditions alongside imported Yorkshire/ Staffordshire traditions seems to suggest some form of contact between potters of the region that facilitated transmission of quite technical and in-depth knowledge and skills. Sue Brown suggests that local pot carriers, who travelled between Ticknall and Stoke, may have been a factor (Brown *pers. comm.*).

Whilst probably not a product of the excavated kiln, a dump of plain slipware wasters in a large post hole demonstrated the manufacture of this ware type on the site, perhaps in one of the other kilns detected by geophysical survey. These wares are essentially standard Ticknall black/brown glazed earthenware bowls but with a white slip under the internal glaze, giving a yellow appearance.

Excavation provided valuable evidence for adaptation and the adoption of new technologies, forms and production methods, albeit alongside traditional lines and methods, by one of the Ticknall potters at a time when the Ticknall industry was first starting to lose ground to the North Staffordshire potters. Increasing innovation, industrialisation and diversification during the 18th century by the latter was likely a major factor in the general decline of the Ticknall industry, which retained its 'country pottery' mode of production (e.g. Brears 1971, 9) during the 18th century, leading to its eventual demise in the next.

Hilton SK245 306. David Budge and Andy Gaunt. OASIS ID merciana2-151535

In 2012 non-archaeological excavation by Helena Coney in the garden of Dale End House, Hilton revealed a cobbled surface (at SK2425 3068) and a quantity of ceramics. The latter were mainly late 18th to early 19th century but included quantities of post medieval, late medieval and high medieval ceramics. At Mrs Coney's invitation, the site and finds were viewed by the authors. Of greatest significance was a jar rim of a type dating to around the time of the Norman conquest (kindly identified by Jane Young). Due to the significance of this discovery a model of the development of the settlement of Hilton was developed using historic map and place name evidence (Budge and Gaunt 2012).

To test these theories a number of 1x1m archaeological test pits were excavated throughout

the settlement by volunteers from Dove Valley Community Archaeology group (DVCA) and local residents, directed by staff from MAS. A contribution towards the fieldwork came from the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee via DVCA while the rest of the fieldwork costs and post excavation analysis was met by MAS.

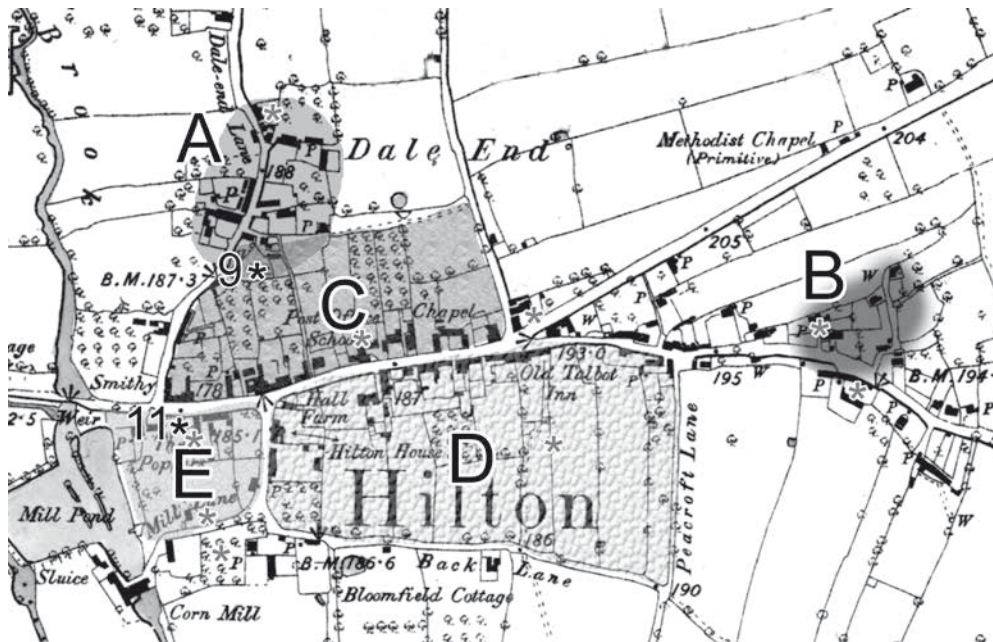


Fig. 1: Possible zones of settlement development in Hilton (A-E) and test pits excavated in phase 1 of Hilton project (asterisks) on modified Ordnance Survey map sheet Derbyshire 53 SE (1885).

From the cartographic and place name evidence it is likely that the 'Ends' are the earliest parts of the settlement. They have no organised plan to their layout and include Dale End (marked A on Fig. 1), Town End (B on Fig. 1) and probably also Wood End just outside the present parish to the west. The place name component End often reflects pre-nucleation settlement, as was discovered at Whittlewood on the Buckinghamshire/ Northamptonshire border (Jones and Page 2006).

Either side of Main Street are a series of regular linear tofts and crofts. Those to the south (D on Fig. 1) extend as far as the aptly named Back Lane while those to the north (C on Fig. 1) extended to an un-named footpath, shown on the Ordnance Survey maps that likely preserves the route of the back lane here, although this boundary has now been largely obliterated by modern development. This settlement morphology, where long tofts and crofts extend from main street to back lanes, is not at all common in south Derbyshire or east Staffordshire but is the norm to the east, for example, in Nottinghamshire. Examples in Nottinghamshire with a similar morphology, investigated archaeologically, have been suggested to have been laid out from the 12th century at Laxton (Challis 2002); mid 13th to early 14th century at Laneham (Gaunt 2012, 30-31) and Edwinstowe (Gaunt 2014, 20); to after 1304 at Mansfield Woodhouse (Budge 2012, 32). Their regular layout could additionally imply a degree of deliberate planning in the expansion of the settlement. The slightly different nature of these two settlement blocks at Hilton possibly represents different phases of expansion; the map

evidence also seems to hint that the southern block (D on Fig. 1) may have been laid out over existing fields.

The area around the mill (E on Fig. 1) may represent another zone of settlement; in addition to possibly being the location of one of the mills mentioned at Domesday, the roughly oval land parcel might also be the location of an early manorial curtilage. A manorial site with mill attached has been noted at early sites such as West Cotton, Raunds, Northamptonshire (Chapman 2010).

Too few test pits (eleven in the historic core, shown as asterisks on Fig. 1) were excavated in this phase of work to elucidate Hilton's full sequence of development. The results obtained did, however, appear to conform to the expected pattern based on the cartographic and place name evidence, though precise dating was hampered by the poor state of knowledge of Derbyshire medieval ceramics (e.g. Beswick and Challis 2004, 82). This was exacerbated by the predominantly local nature of the medieval pottery; there was a shortage of wares from known production sites and only single sherds of Stamford ware, Brackenfield ware and a couple of sherds of possible overfired Burley Hill type ware have been recognised. Some of the presently unsourced local wares may, however, prove to be medieval Ticknall area products.

The earliest activity was in the Dale End area (A on Fig. 1) in test pit 9 (black asterisk marked 9 on Fig. 1). Here the ceramics were types seen, for example, in early phases at Barton Blount (mainly equating to ware 7 (Beresford 1975, 70), though examination of the Barton Blount assemblage in Derby Museum indicated that dating would benefit from revision); suggestion of a Saxo-Norman date from the wares and forms present was confirmed by the only import, a flake of Stamford (A) ware. These early wares were absent from test pits excavated in other zones of the settlement. No evidence for activity pre-dating the late 18th century was found in test pits looking for Town End (Fig. 1 B); they may have been dug too far west of the likely centre and thus missed evidence or the apparently organic looking settlement and place name may actually be much more recent. Possibility of an early focus in this area cannot, however, be discounted without further investigation of this zone.

Most of the medieval pottery was re-deposited in later layers and features except for in test pits 9 and 11 (asterisk marked 11 on Fig. 1), where intact medieval deposits and features were found. Test pit 9, in Dale End, revealed a medieval cultivation soil sealed beneath later soils. This cultivation soil was rich in Saxo-Norman ceramics and fragments of fired clay, the latter probably from hearths. Evidence from the test pit seems to demonstrate a change of land use in this part of the settlement: Saxo-Norman occupation gave way to agriculture, probably before the 13th century. If the line of the probable back lane associated with settlement block C was extended all the way to Dale End Road then land on which test pit 9 was dug would be cut off from Dale End and become part of one of the tofts and crofts stretching back from Main Street. As such, this change of use may support the theory that the tofts and crofts of settlement area C were deliberately imposed over an existing Saxo-Norman settlement pattern, rather than having developed organically.

Test pit 11 revealed a single small post hole cut into the underlying gravels and indicated the presence of structures. Deposits above the gravels were medieval and revealed a pottery sequence indicating the plot was not occupied until the 12th or 13th century. Occupation continued throughout the medieval period but appears to have ceased before the end of the 15th century. Then the plot remained essentially untouched except for rubbish spreading on its surface in the 19th century and construction of a bus shelter on the road frontage and a playground set back from the road, in the 20th and 21st centuries. The pottery dating is

not sufficiently refined at the moment to demonstrate whether abandonment occurred in the middle of the 14th century or later.

Throughout the village late medieval and early post medieval ceramics were scarce, appearing to suggest a population decrease, while merging of some plots to create larger holdings, suggested by the mapping evidence, probably also occurred.

The most interesting of the post medieval and modern finds were a 17th century clay tobacco pipe with the mark of a presently unknown maker (Hammond 2016, 1) and an assemblage of broken bottles and toy fragments (including the base of a pipe clay toy mug of German manufacture c.1880-1920 (Hammond 2016, 1)) from test pit 5 in the north of Dale End. The bottles were beer and soda bottles including examples bearing the names of Derby (Offiler's and Burrows and Sturgess) and Burton (Marstons, Marston Thompson & Son and Samuel Allsopp) companies, dated c.1880-1910. All had been deliberately smashed and bore point impact fractures indicating destruction had probably been wrought by the glass marble, originally from a soft drinks bottle, which had multiple incipient cones on its surface (or perhaps by the stoneware Five Stones gaming pieces also found in this deposit). It is hard to interpret this deposit as anything other than left overs of a child or adolescent entertaining themselves (and their friends?) in their back garden with a catapult or sling in the first decades of the 20th century. It is hoped that documentary research might uncover a likely culprit!

While a great deal of further study and excavation is required to elucidate the origins and development of Hilton (which almost certainly must be coupled with investigation of the other townships that, along with Hilton, were part of Marston parish - Marston, Hatton and Hoon - and whose fortunes were no doubt interlinked), the present phase of work has served to demonstrate the high potential of this settlement not just for the study of settlement development in the region but also for knowledge of the chronology and source of medieval ceramics in south Derbyshire, both of which are key long term research objectives of MAS.

Ticknall Burton Road SK3503 2386 OASIS ID merciana2-183985

TARG and MAS were commissioned to undertake a watching brief on excavations to construct an extension to a property at 3 Burton Road, Ticknall, in 2013, which involved reduction of the ground level by around 2m over an area of approximately 8m by 4m to the rear (south) of the property, at SK35027 23865.

The development site is within the boundaries of Spavold and Brown's Site 1, where there is documentary evidence to suggest the Hough and Pemberton families were potting from, perhaps, the 1630s to around 1764 (Spavold and Brown 2005, 39-41). Sue Brown suggests the site was one of the seven being worked by potters in the 1538-47 taxation list (Brown quoted in Budge 2013, 5). The landowner had previously discovered an almost intact Midlands Purple ware jar about 20cm high (form almost identical to Boyle and Rowlandson 2006-8, fig. 7.1) with probable firing cracks, when digging a pond on the property (Dolan *pers. comm.*).

With kind consent of the landowner two trial trenches were excavated by TARG volunteers, supervised by MAS staff, within the footprint of the extension prior to commencement of construction work (upon which a watching brief was maintained by MAS staff); the intention of the former being to involve the community in the work of investigating and understanding the site's stratigraphy prior to the watching brief.

It is unclear when the developer intends to make funds for post excavation work available so the opportunity is taken here to present an enhanced interim note and to present preliminary observations on the regionally significant ceramic assemblage. Definition and naming of the new medieval and late medieval pottery ware types, however, along with detailed descriptions

of the ceramic fabrics, must await analysis of the assemblage. The pottery is described here using simple descriptive names based on visual characteristics (e.g. cream sandy, white gritty) which will be superseded by proper fabric descriptions and ware names following analysis.

Site

Three basic layers (19th - 20th century, 18th - early 19th century and early post medieval in date) were encountered within the development area, each layer appearing to be the product of cultivation episodes that impacted significantly on earlier deposits. Despite this several cut features (often truncated) survived and were recorded.

Medieval

The earliest features consisted of ditches, post holes and gullies cut into the geological substratum (a heavy red-brown clay most likely to be Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation mudstone, rather than the Moira Formation breccia mapped at this location (BGS Geology of Britain viewer accessed 04/04/2017)) and of medieval to late medieval date. Despite being truncated by later activity stratigraphic relationships between a number of features could be determined. Two of the ditches ran parallel to each other and to the historic property boundaries; a ditch on a different alignment [344] was cut by the westernmost of these, while the eastern ditch had a line of post holes (some with stone post packing) cut into its eastern edge, probably after it had silted up, but following the same alignment. The medieval features yielded a substantial (for such a limited area of excavation) assemblage of ceramics and, along with the medieval pottery encountered residually in later features and layers, probably the largest assemblage of medieval and late medieval pottery yet found in Ticknall and the first where this material is stratified in medieval contexts. A selection of sherds from the fills of ditch [344] are illustrated in Fig. 2 (1-8), though it should be borne in mind that this feature showed evidence of recutting on at least one occasion and, more importantly, that the illustrated vessels are biased towards more complete or more distinctive examples.

There are clearly several different wares and many different fabric types present amongst the medieval pottery, but the majority can be described as sandy in texture and made from iron poor clays and include both white and light (e.g. buff, cream, pink, light orange, light grey) firing fabrics, the majority of which are oxidised. Light firing gritty wares (with quartz up to 1.5 or 2mm in size) are also present. Where present glazes are usually suspension type, sometimes with copper. Some iron rich gritty and sandy wares are also present but, until analysis of the stratigraphic sequence and pottery assemblage is undertaken, isolating sherds of these (?later) medieval wares from underfired post medieval Midlands Purple wares is difficult; similarly the fabric of some of the overfired medieval wares appears very similar to Midlands Purple. As they are easier to isolate with confidence it is the earlier medieval pottery that is dealt with in most detail here. Cistercian wares are absent from the medieval features. Feature [344] also included jug sherds in Ticknall Medieval Light Firing ware fabric 2 as defined at Ivy Leigh (Boyle and Green 2011). Atypical wares in the assemblage include a single glazed jug sherd in a reduced sandy fabric with white external margin comparable with Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware or some of the Burley Hill type wares.

While appearing to be domestic in origin the assemblage includes a number of wasters or, more likely, seconds (examples include Fig. 2.9-10 cream sandy, oxidised over breaks; Fig. 2.6 sandy, overfired (?waster), glaze over breaks). A high proportion of jars and evidence for external sooting, sometimes extensive, on many of the sherds may suggest that the area from which these features received their waste was associated with cooking.

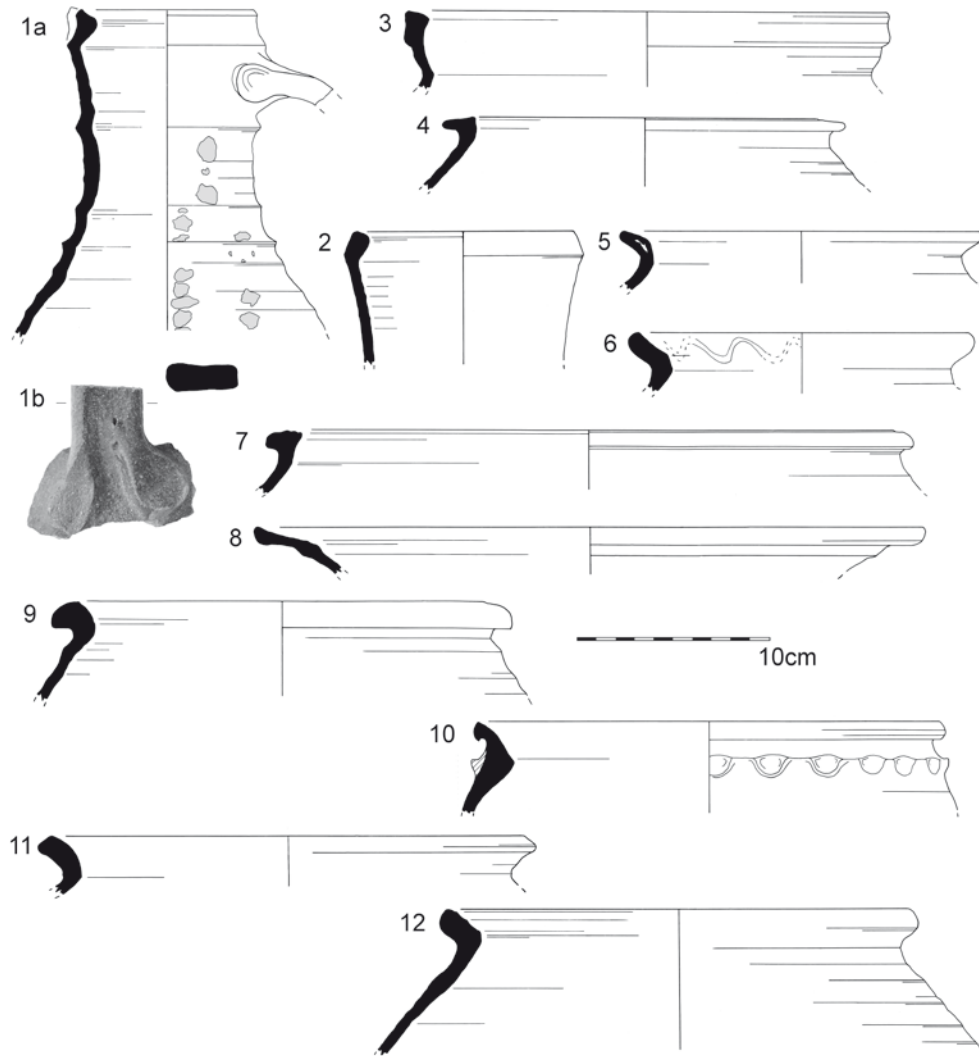


Fig. 2: Medieval pottery from linear feature [344] (1 - 8) and medieval pottery with firing faults (6, 9 -12) from sites in Ticknall.

A small number of heavily corroded iron objects were also recovered from medieval features; x-ray examination is required, although the form suggests one may be a large rotary key with solid shaft, broken at the bow.

Post medieval / modern

Later features were predominantly modern pits, garden features and animal burials. Most notable of the earlier features recorded were: post holes and a gully in the eastern part of the excavated area of probable late 15th / 16th century date; a large shallow pit that had been used for domestic waste disposal and; a shallow curvilinear gully containing quantities of (broken up) iron smelting slag, probably indicating small scale iron production on the site possibly in

the 16th or 17th century. Iron ore could be obtained locally, either by bell pit mining or simply by collecting from the fields (Spavold 1984, 109).

The shallow pit was significant for the large quantity of finds it contained including locally produced pottery and high status glassware. The ceramics and glass suggest a deposition date in the 17th century, probably mid to late 17th century. The pit may have been open for some time as some contents seemed to have been trampled or moved about within it; despite this several complete or near complete vessels were found. The late Cistercian ware flared cup (Fig. 3.15) is identical to an example previously recovered from Site 1 (Brown *pers. com.*) even down to the way a single swipe of the thumb was used to produce the basal kick. The Midlands Yellow ware (MY) chamber pot was one of two or three, the illustrated example (Fig. 3.14) is out of round and has glaze running into cracks in its neck suggesting it was a second, while the MY candlestick (Fig. 3.16) has a misfired glaze. These were probably pressed into service by a potter who kept back the less saleable but still serviceable vessels for personal use and sold the better quality wares. This frugality may have paid off as the pit also contained portions of a glass pedestal beaker with horizontal trails. Pedestal beakers are assigned a date range of 1500 - 1650 but the rare examples with horizontal trails appear to belong to the first half of the 17th century (Willmott 2002, 49). Such glassware is not uncommon on urban sites or elite sites (including monasteries) (Willmott 2002, 21) but is rare on 'normal' rural sites. George Hough, who was probably potting on site from the 1630s and who died in 1679 (and is thus the most likely owner of this vessel), described himself as yeoman in his will (Spavold and Brown 2005, 40). Unusually his son went to Repton School then Cambridge (Spavold and Brown 2005, 40), perhaps suggesting the family had the social aspirations and means to obtain at least one glass vessel.

The pottery assemblage from the 18th century to modern cultivation soils contains (in addition to the standard Ticknall coarse wares) examples of most of the major refined pottery types of the second half of the 18th into the early 19th century, predominantly in tea or coffee ware forms; these include creamware (cauliflower, pineapple, melon, tortoise shell and other under glaze coloured types along with over glaze enamelled and over glaze printed), agate ware, white salt glazed stoneware (including moulded, scratch blue and over glaze enamelled), Nottingham / Crich type stoneware, other brown salt glazed stoneware, Chinese porcelain and pearlware (under glaze blue painted and under glaze polychrome painted). Such an array of fine wares similarly suggests that the residents in the second half of the 18th century had some disposable income and the social aspirations to purchase these, mostly non-local, tablewares.

The Medieval Pottery

The pottery industry of Ticknall is often stated to have been a new establishment that was set up when Midlands Purple and Cistercian wares were introduced some time in the latter part of the 15th century (e.g. Coppack 1972, 75; Ford 1995, 36). Spavold and Brown however suggested production may have begun earlier due to 13th century references to an oven or kiln in Ticknall (though this was not necessarily a pottery kiln) (Spavold and Brown 2005, 15 and *pers. comm.*). Much of the medieval pottery recovered from Ivy Leigh on Harpur Avenue (Failes 2011) was defined as being Ticknall products (Ticknall Medieval Light Firing Ware, suspension glazed with two sub fabrics; and Ticknall Medieval Coarse Ware, splash glazed; both assigned a 13th - 14th century date (Boyle and Green 2011)). The assemblage was domestic and only a few examples of seconds were present (Boyle and Green appendix 3). This evidence could support claims for a medieval pottery industry in the vicinity but does not provide incontrovertible proof of such in Ticknall itself.



Fig. 3: Pottery from pit [328] at Burton Road Ticknall (13-16, scale 1:4) and Cistercian ware Type 4 sun decoration (17, scale 1:2).

Like the Ivy Leigh assemblage, the Burton Road pottery includes a range of visually (but not microscopically) similar fabrics that are predominantly white or light firing and sandy (or less commonly gritty) in texture with common traits of manufacture. Recognisable imports from known local or regional production sites are extremely scarce; this is to some extent also the case on other relatively local sites in south Derbyshire such as Hilton. The visual homogeneity of the medieval pottery from sites in Ticknall, however, is very much at odds with the diversity of ware types found at other sites such as Hilton, Barton Blount or Derby Full Street. Such apparent homogeneity may be a product of a short and contemporary chronology on the Ticknall sites but is more plausibly explained either by the presence of a local pottery industry that was producing sufficient product of suitable quality to dominate the local markets; or that a pottery industry in Ticknall itself meant the residents could obtain pottery (including seconds) directly from local producers in sufficient quantity to render the purchase of bulky and fragile pottery from the local markets miles distant largely unnecessary. The presence of firing cracks in several vessels at Burton Road (including Fig. 2.6,9,10) and

also at Ivy Leigh, Narrow Lane (Fig. 2.12) and St George's Church (Fig. 2.11) (see below), lend weight to the suggestion of manufacture in Ticknall itself; one or two vessels with unobtrusive firing cracks might make it to market and thence on to consumer sites but a high proportion of seconds on consumer sites is most likely to occur in the immediate vicinity of a production site. Until, however, kiln material, production waste or other definitive evidence relating to medieval pottery production is found in Ticknall it would be unwise to state that Ticknall is definitely the source of these wares, although it appears increasingly probable that it was.

The medieval pottery at Burton Road is all wheel thrown, generally skilfully, and vessels often have thin walls for the vessel's size, a trait particularly noticeable on some of the gritty wares (Fig. 2.5). Forms include medium (Fig. 2.3-6,9-10) and wide jars, some lipped (Fig. 2.7), jugs (Fig. 2.1-2), bowls (Fig. 2.8) and pipkins. Jars often have quite complicated folded-over rims that could make the isolation of potential Ticknall products in consumer assemblages relatively easy. Vessels are usually evenly fired, often with a light grey core to the thicker parts and cream margins and surfaces (e.g. Fig. 2.1,5,7,9). Light pinks (Fig. 2.2,8) and light orange are also encountered. Other vessels are entirely reduced to a light grey (Fig. 2.3). Where present glaze is usually suspension type (sometimes pocked) and may have copper colourant; the latter manifests as flecks and mottles. Glaze is often present on the exterior of jugs (e.g. shouldered jug Fig. 2.2 with sparse copper mottling or baluster jug Fig. 2.1a and b, where the glaze with no copper was poured on the upright vessel from several points around the neck) and the interior of jars, particularly the lower wall (no copper) (e.g. Fig. 2.7), and on the upper surfaces of pipkin handles. Bases for all forms are flat and both bases and lower exterior walls are generally knife trimmed. Pipkin handles are strap types; jug handles include straps (some rather chunky as Fig. 2.1) and rod types. Jug rims are predominantly inturned. Decoration on jugs includes iron rich slip painted or smeared on in stripes (Fig. 2.1 slip shown by shading), incised ?combed herringbone patterns and applied vertical strips with thumbing, along with a possible example of applied iron rich ?scales. Grid stamped iron rich pads have also been seen on a casual find of a white firing jug from Ivy Leigh. Some jars, particularly those with simple everted rims, have incised wavy lines (always single) inside the rim (e.g. Fig. 2.6) or may have diagonal slashes made with the back of a knife. Horizontal applied strips with thumbing (Fig. 2.10), a form of decoration that continues to be used in the production of Midlands Purple, are also present.

Dating

The medieval pottery industry of Derbyshire and its dating is poorly understood (e.g. Cumberpatch 2012, 97-8). This is particularly the case for south Derbyshire which was excluded from Cumberpatch's review. Technological considerations and comparison with better dated local industries, however, can allow some preliminary suggestions to be made. In Staffordshire, 'Midlands white ware' appears in the early 13th century and, towards the end of the 14th and into the 15th century, was being fired to higher and higher temperatures (Ford 1995, 20-21). In Nottinghamshire light firing clays were exploited by the short-lived pottery industry at Skegby (Sutton in Ashfield) in the mid to late 12th century (Budge 2010, 184-6). However, the light firing products of this industry were probably only an experiment; they have not yet been found on any consumer sites while the iron rich fabrics also made by this industry (e.g. Skegby Splashed Ware fabric 2) have been identified on consumer sites in west Nottinghamshire and as far away as Chesterfield (Budge in prep.), where this ware was previously classified as 'Chesterfield Splash Glazed Sandy ware' (Cumberpatch 2004,

104-5). The use of iron poor clays in Nottingham itself first occurred in the late 12th century when Nottingham Developed Stamford Ware production began (Nailor and Young 2001), but widespread use of light firing clays by Nottingham potters (mainly for jugs) did not occur until the 13th century. Within Derbyshire the Brackenfield industries are not well dated (Cumberpatch 2004, 108), but Brackenfield white wares occur with Nottingham green glazed wares of the early to mid 13th to early 14th century at Nottinghamshire sites such as King's Clipstone and Skegby (*pers. obs.*). Coppack provisionally dated cream sandy ware from Full Street, Derby, to the late 12th to 13th century (1972, 74), though the provisional dating at Full Street would benefit from review in the light of increased knowledge.

Use of suspension glazes, sometimes with copper colourant, is similarly a trait most commonly seen from the 13th century onwards (although in Lincolnshire the Stamford ware industry was exploiting both white firing clays and suspension glazes from before the Norman conquest). The range of vessel types in these white and light firing wares at Burton Road also seems to support a mainly 13th century or later date for most of the pottery, with jugs, pipkins and dripping dishes present but no pitchers or other early forms.

Coarse sandy and gritty wares, in both iron poor and iron rich fabrics, tend to include simple everted rims on jars while bowls feature the wide and sometimes quite heavy everted rims commonly seen in the late medieval period (many jar and bowl rim forms, for example, are like 15th century gritty wares from Keighton, Nottinghamshire (Coppack 1968, fig. 3.18-19, fig. 4.8-11). Many of the typologically later sandy and gritty wares can have a quite distinct firing pattern (when not over/under fired or wasted) with grey or orange cores, white or cream margins and yellow, orange or grey surfaces. Some of the typical Midlands Purple style rims also first appear in these ware types. An iron rich, gritty bowl waster or second has a form comparable with a proto-Midlands Purple bowl from the phase 4B cloister midden at Leicester Austin Friars (Mellor and Pearce 1981, fig. 35.134). Some fabrics are visually comparable to Nottingham Light Bodied Gritty ware, present in Nottingham from the late 14th to 15th centuries (Nailor and Young 2001). It seems probable that this type of pottery at Burton Road has a similar date range and most likely fills the gap between the earlier white and cream sandy production and later Midlands Purple and Cistercian production.

Parallels for some of the iron poor, sandy ware vessels can be found at local sites and may provide some indication of when the Burton Road site was first occupied. Several jars in light grey sandy fabrics at Burton Road are identical to a common late 11th - 12th century type that may continue into the 13th century at Tutbury Castle (Ratkai and Collins 2011, fig. 11.1,9,10,14), though the Tutbury vessels are hand made (Ratkai and Collins 2011, 203); similar forms occur at Full Street in grey gritty ware (e.g. Coppack 1972, fig. 9.34) where they are also assigned a relatively early date (late 12th century). At least one of the Burton Road examples is relatively fresh and un-abraded and occurs in association with various overfired sherds and rim forms that should be 13th century at the earliest. The jar from ditch [344] (Fig. 2.3) has a very similar light grey sandy fabric to these and is comparable with an orange gritty ware vessel of the late 12th century from feature 43 at Full Street (Coppack 1972, fig. 8.16). Inturned rims were the commonest rim type on cream sandy ware jugs (Coppack 1972, 74), but, unlike in Nottinghamshire (where these rim types are diagnostically late 12th - early 13th century), Coppack considers that the inturned rim continues throughout the medieval period in Derbyshire, for example on Burley Hill type wares dated to the late 14th century at Full Street (Coppack 1972, fig. 17.199,200,201). A particularly distinctive jar rim type at Ticknall (related to Fig. 2.4; though the rim is usually heavier than on this vessel) is seen at Full Street in feature 24 (early 13th century) in cream sandy ware (Coppack 1972, fig. 13.111). This form

is otherwise difficult to parallel; identical rims are found in Normandy Gritty Ware (Barton 2003, illust. 6.42C) but it seems implausible to contemplate French influence on a rural site so far from the coast, or Norman fortifications and towns. There are also rims from bowls that seem to show definite Stamford influence but are similar in fabric to some of the seconds and thus probably local products, mirroring Kilmurry's form 1, rim type 22, 44 and 48 (Kilmurry 1980, 237). Assuming that Stamford is the influence for these vessels this also argues for an early date, Developed Stamford ware having gone out of use in the mid 13th century at Lincoln (Young and Vince 2005, 121).

Production

Considering all these factors it seems reasonable, provisionally, to suggest that pottery production may have begun in the Ticknall area perhaps as early as the late 12th century and very likely not later than the middle of the 13th century. Manufacture was not, however, on the Burton Road site. An increasing quantity of over fired and under fired sherds, gritty wares and typologically later medieval forms and seconds seem to suggest an increase in local production in the 14th or 15th century, but again probably not on the site. The first clear evidence for production on the Burton Road site comes in the form of many fragments and a single complete example of a Midlands Purple ware saggar (Fig. 3.13), used to fire Cistercian ware vessels, along with kiln furniture, including golf tee props and mushroom supports (e.g. Boyle and Rowlandson 2006-8, Fig. 7.6,11). Quantities of over and under fired Cistercian ware vessels, including wasters, demonstrate the product being manufactured. A complete but melted flat, two handled, flared rim Cistercian ware cup was also found by the developer during 'gardening' works immediately to the south of the watching brief area. Some of the Cistercian ware was decorated; mainly impressed patterns surrounded by four applied blobs (as Mellor and Pearce 1981, fig. 43.258); a fragmentary example of a pad with stamp impressed decoration in the base of a cup is a form not known previously (Fig. 3.17). It is a new example of 'sun' type decoration (Spavold 2009, 40 - 41) and has been classified as a Type 4 sun by Spavold (*pers. comm.*).

Later wares included black and brown glazed earthenware and Midlands Yellow wares; wasters were present along with clay squeezes and pads for separating and levelling vessels in the kiln. The black and brown glazed earthenware forms were mainly coarse bowls and jars. Upcast from a recently installed fence post on the north-eastern property boundary (at SK35040 23872) contained extensively burnt clay and is very likely to indicate the location of one of the post medieval pottery kilns on the site.

This site has the potential to dramatically increase understanding of medieval and late medieval pottery produced and used in south Derbyshire and may demonstrate that Ticknall was the source of some of the presently unsourced ware types encountered in the county and in Derby itself (perhaps particularly cream sandy ware). It is, however, essential that a basic assessment and quantification of the artefacts, in conjunction with examination and analysis of the site stratigraphy, is undertaken.

Ticknall Ingleby Lane SK3535 2405 OASIS ID merciana2-207608

A watching brief on construction of a new detached dwelling on the corner of Ingleby Lane and Chapel Street, Ticknall (SK3535 2405) was undertaken in 2015.

The development site appears to have originally been part of Knowle Hill Field, one of the open fields associated with Ticknall village. Upon enclosure in 1765 the development site became part of a plot allotted to people with the smallest entitlement to land in the open fields

(Brown and Spavold 2014, 1). Map and documentary evidence suggests the plot was part of an orchard from the middle of the 19th century; maps suggest this declined during the 20th century and by the 1950s the development site was a garden for the adjacent property.

Construction work revealed a sequence of archaeological deposits above the bedrock and a number of archaeological features, along with artefacts of prehistoric, medieval, post medieval and modern date. The earliest soils, directly overlying the bedrock, were of 19th century date and were interpreted as plough soils. Three shallow linear ditches or gullies, running north-south and cut into the top of the bedrock, did not produce any dating evidence but their alignment (parallel to Ingleby Lane) and spacing suggests they were most likely the base of plough furrows associated with medieval or later agriculture. Other features included wall foundations of 19th or early 20th century date that probably related to an earlier boundary of the plot, while yard surfaces and rubbish deposits appeared to relate to early 20th century use of the land.

The prehistoric period was represented by two flint flakes made of translucent grey / brown flint with many internal frost fractures. One was a small core fragment or chunk that had almost certainly failed during knapping due to an internal frost fracture; the other, a small blade-like flake with a number of hinge fractures on the dorsal surface of the proximal end and the striking platform itself missing. Both seemed to be the products of knappers attempting to use flawed raw material which was probably too small. Neither piece was typologically diagnostic but both had surface cortication (terminology after Shepherd 1972, 114-19); the core fragment with all over white and the flake with slightly patchy, bluish white cortication. Locally, cortication is often (but not always) seen on diagnostically Mesolithic or earlier pieces, for example at Heath Wood, Ingleby (*pers. obs.*).

Medieval pottery included a jar rim with everted rim and wavy line decoration to the inside and a small thrown strap handle with prominent upper ridges, both in Coal Measures White fabric. A few late medieval local gritty wares and underfired Midlands Purple wares were present, along with a few Cistercian ware sherds of late medieval / early post medieval date. Later Ticknall products, including brown and black glazed earthenwares and Midlands Yellow ware were present, as were kiln furniture and wasted fragments. All this pottery was most likely introduced to the site by manuring.

The bulk of the pottery and other finds were of 19th and early 20th century date and included quantities of Buff Bodied Earthenware (NCBW) (sometimes called yellow ware) produced by many south Derbyshire potteries. This is not a known or documented Ticknall product but unglazed sherds are sometimes found in the village; a partially glazed triangular sectioned rod that appears to be kiln furniture in NCBW was found at Ingleby Lane. It may have been transported into the village with waste for some purpose (such as hardcore for road building) rather than suggesting production of these wares in the vicinity. Several complete glass bottles and stoneware jam jars and bottles of early 20th century date (including a blue glass bottle formerly containing 'The Mexican / Hair Restorer') and an enamelled iron saucer were also found, presumably discarded on the site when the orchard was in decline or out of use.

St George's Church, Ticknall SK3511 2411 OASIS ID merciana2-288702

Renovation of St George's Grade II listed church included the excavation of new service trenches north of the tower and north aisle. MAS were contracted to undertake a watching brief on the work.

St George's was consecrated in 1842 to replace the medieval church of St Thomas a

Beckett, located around 50m south of the new church. The medieval church was blown up with gunpowder as the demolition contractor found it to be more sturdily constructed than expected (Cox 1877, 460). According to the churchwarden's accounts the churchyard was extended northwards in 1834, prior to construction of the new church (Spavold and Brown 2005b, 6; Brown *pers. comm.*).

The only significant archaeological feature was a wall foundation seen at SK35118 24110, approximately 0.6m (2 feet) wide. The foundation was constructed with small stone chippings in the base of the trench and a course of larger stones, not faced or bonded, on top. A pink lime mortar adhering to the upper surface of the large stones indicates the wall above foundation level was mortared. Alignment and location proved this foundation was part of the original churchyard wall demolished in 1834. A dump of material including Welsh slate, window glass, mortar and other building rubble, seen to the north of the north aisle, appeared to feature the same types of material used to construct St George's; it would seem that the ground surface in the churchyard extension was raised and levelled up using builders rubble derived primarily from construction of the new church.

The few finds were mostly modern, but a single medieval rim sherd of a jar in a light firing sandy ware was significant (Fig. 2.11) due to the firing crack running down from its rim. The fabric is cream with buff and light grey mottled surfaces and has common well sorted, sub-rounded (occasionally well rounded) to sub-angular quartz, clear, frosted and white (frosted occasionally iron stained), between 0.2mm and 0.8mm with occasional sub-rounded examples up to 1.75mm and a background of common rounded quartz and common rounded red iron both under 0.05mm. There are also occasional sub-angular white ?clay pellets 0.6 - 1.5mm.

Very similar fabrics are present in the probable 13-14th century wares at Burton Road, but there do not include firing cracks.

Ticknall Narrow Lane SK3502 2380

A member of the public discovered a sherd of medieval pottery on top of a pile of spoil awaiting collection on the road verge of Narrow Lane in October 2013. The spoil had apparently come from the nearby development of The Limeyards, then under construction on the corner of High Street and Narrow Lane; the centre of the development at approximately SK3502 2380. The sherd was presented to the author for comment.

The sherd is fresh and from a jar, probably rounded or shouldered with a simple rounded everted rim (Fig. 2.12). Inside the rim has light but quite distinct rilling. The vessel appears to be a waster as it has oxidised clay deposits, of a type often seen on wasters, adhering to its surfaces and over old breaks. There are no documentary references to potters working on this plot (Spavold and Brown 2005, 39), but this is unsurprising as documentary evidence for the Ticknall industry is entirely post medieval.

The fabric is cream with light yellow surfaces and a small patch of reduced light grey inside the rim. It contains common, well sorted, sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, mainly frosted (some iron stained), 0.4-1.2mm and sparse, moderately sorted sub-rounded white clay pellets 0.4-2mm, (occasionally containing very fine quartz and fine streaks of iron rich clay), with a background of abundant sub-rounded quartz less than 0.1mm and common rounded red iron to 0.05mm. Common, tiny, sparkling flakes under 0.05mm are most likely to be mica but may be angular quartz; they are too small to confirm their nature at 20x magnification.

The inclusions appear much more prominent at the surface than in many of the other Ticknall medieval wares mentioned above, giving this fabric a gritty appearance in hand specimen. This may be due to greater shrinkage of the clay on firing, possibly a result of

higher firing temperature (though the vessel is not notably high fired). Visually similar fabrics are not immediately apparent at Burton Road. This vessel may be of medieval or late medieval date; the latter seeming slightly more likely.

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