

ROMANO-BRITISH AND EARLY MEDIEVAL POTTERY SCATTERS ON THE ALLUVIUM AT HILL AND OLDBURY, SEVERN ESTUARY LEVELS

by J.R.L. Allen

Evidence is presented for a previously unknown Romano-British site, an unsuspected early medieval debris scatter, and an unrecorded Romano-British site with evidence for early medieval occupation. The Romano-British sites flourished in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The early medieval sites, like others on the alluvium of the middle and inner estuary, seem both to have been abandoned by the end of the 12th century, perhaps as part of a movement to create nucleated villages. At one of the early medieval sites there is ceramic evidence for late Saxon activity. The pottery scatters of whatever age all occur within plough depth on the alluvium, suggesting that there may have been continuous occupation and maintenance of seabanks on the margins of this part of the Severn Estuary Levels.

Introduction

Field-by-field examinations of the disconnected outcrops of estuarine alluvium that form part of the Severn Estuary Levels toward Gloucester have disclosed much archaeological evidence within plough-depth for the Romano-British enclosure and settlement of the marshes that existed there (Allen 1990; Allen and Fulford 1990a, 1990b). Intriguingly, at one site, Bridgemacote near Elmore (Allen and Fulford 1990b), late Saxon-early medieval pottery accompanied the Romano-British occupation debris, introducing the question of the fate of seabanks and the continuity of habitation in the centuries immediately following the collapse of Roman administration. Far less clear is the extent of Romano-British enclosure and early post-Roman activity on the much more extensive alluvial outcrops of the middle part of the Estuary, ranging downstream from roughly the Arlingham peninsula to the Aust narrows. The marshes had presumably been enclosed and their outer fringes certainly settled in the Roman period, to judge from evidence now chiefly found intertidally (Allen and Fulford 1987, 1992, 1996a; Allen and Rippon 1997; Copeland 1981; Green and Solley 1980), but there are no

reports of previous attempts by field-walking to explore the archaeology of the alluvium inland of the surviving seabanks.

The aims of this paper are to (a) give an account based on a field-by-field survey of Romano-British and earlier medieval settlement in a representative alluvial area in the middle estuary, and (b) review the physical evidence for Saxon-early medieval activity in the middle and inner Severn Estuary. The area chosen lies chiefly in the parish of Hill on the southeast bank (Figure 1a, b), but ranges into Oldbury-on-Severn to the southwest and into Ham and Stone to the northeast. Coverage extends from the coast at Hills Flats to the rising ground at Hill 3 km further inland. A substantial part is under continuous cultivation and some of the grassland is ploughed and reseeded on an occasional basis. Accounts have already been given of the textural pattern of the alluvium in this area (Allen 1992a) and of the distribution and character of the medieval and later fields (Allen 1992b). Compared to the intensively cultivated dry lands of the Severn Vale, relatively few archaeological sites can so far be described from the embanked alluvium, which continues in most areas to be dominated by pasture.

Romano-British Sites

Home Farm (Oldbury-on-Severn)

The site (NGR ST 626 963) lies on moderately fine-textured alluvial soils (Allen 1992a) almost 1 km inland from the coast at Hills Flats (Figure 1b). The pottery scatter covers an oval area (125x250 m) that straddles the boundary between two hedged fields some 300 m northeast of Nupdown Road and just to the southeast of an apparently modern track to Hill Pill (Figure 2). Until recently cultivated, the fields showed well-developed, classical ridge-and-furrow (Hall 1981, 1982, 1995; Astill 1988). Faint traces of ridges

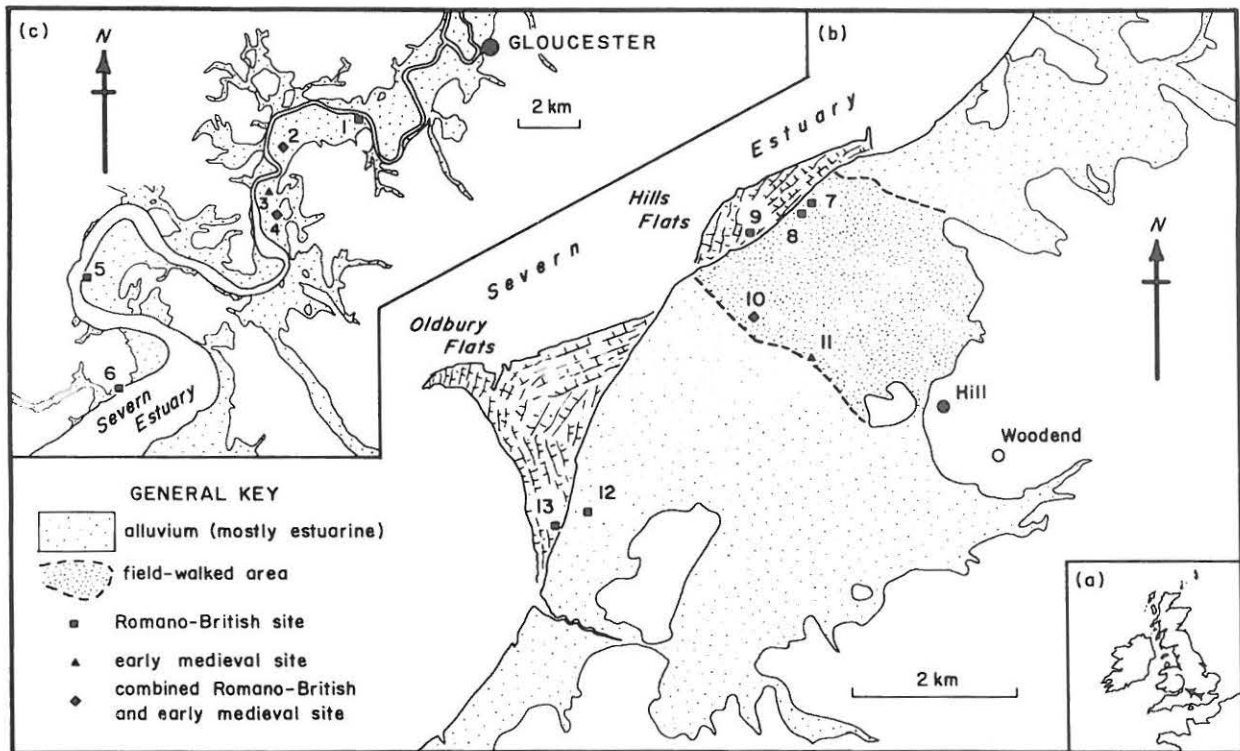


Figure 1: Archaeological sites in the inner and middle Severn Estuary mentioned in the text. (a) General setting. (b) The field-walked area at Hill and its context. (c) The inner estuary. Key to archaeological sites: 1 - Elmore (Windmill Hill); 2 - Elmore (Bridgemacote); 3 - Longney A; 4 - Longney B; 5 - Arlingham; 6 - Awre (Whitescourt); 7 - Severn House Farm; 8 - Dayhouse Farm; 9 - Hills Flats (intertidal zone); 10 - Home Farm; 11 - Nupdown Farm; 12 - Oldbury Power Station silt lagoon; 13 - Oldbury Flats (intertidal zone and exposed sections)

remain, but no other earthwork features or crop marks were detectable.

Line-walking of the scatter yielded medieval sherds (see below), and a substantial amount of Romano-British pottery, iron-making materials (presumed Romano-British, see below), mainly splintered bone (ill-preserved), a few hand-made iron nails, and occasional small pieces of coal. Over the main site and in the fields beyond there was an even but very light spread of early modern and some modern pottery sherds.

The pottery assemblage (Table 1 and Appendix) consists of comminuted and generally badly weathered sherds. It is dominated by Severn Valley Ware, Micaceous Grey Wares and Southeast Dorset BB1, but there is some Oxfordshire Ware and a very little Samian. The collection is domestic in character, with storage jars, mortaria, cooking pots, deep bowls, shallow

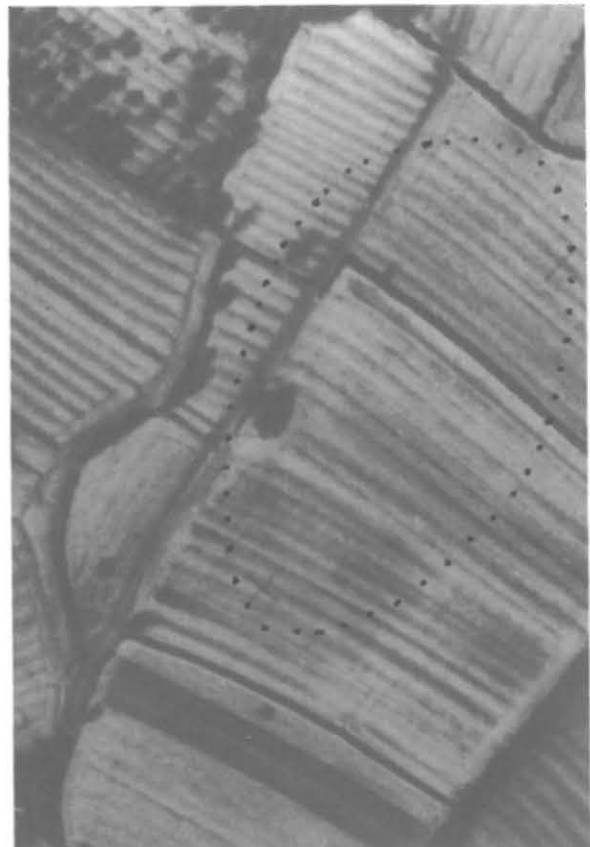


Figure 2: Air photograph (c.250x400 m, north to top) of Romano-British and early medieval site at Home Farm. Area of known pottery scatter enclosed by dotted line

dishes and mugs/tankards. Apart from some of the Samian, there is nothing that need be older than the 2nd century AD. The 2nd and early 3rd centuries are moderately well represented, but the bulk of the pottery appears to belong to the mid 3rd through to the mid 4th centuries. Some of the vessels range into the late 4th century.

Dayhouse Farm (Hill)

This site (ST 632 975) lies some 200 m from the modern coast (Figure 1b), with its intertidal assemblage of pottery and industrial debris (Copeland 1981; Allen and Fulford 1987), and only 100 to 300 m from a stratified context in a recently-dug wildlife pond (Severn House Farm) which also revealed iron-making materials and pottery (Allen and Fulford 1987). It is remote from any existing roads or tracks and lies in a hedged field which, until mechanically cultivated, displayed classical ridge-and-furrow (Figure 3). There are no visible crop marks or other earthworks. Pottery, iron-making materials, burnt clay, fire-fractured pebbles, a little quarried stone,



Figure 3: Air photograph (c.280x350 m, north to top) of Romano-British site at Dayhouse Farm. Area of known pottery scatter enclosed by dotted line

mainly splintered bone and a little coal occur in a linear zone (175x100 m) that stretches the full width of the field and must be presumed to range into the adjoining unploughed (in modern times) fields. The site reaches southwestward from an area of coarse alluvial loam into one of fine-textured soils (Allen 1992a).

As at Home Farm, the pottery is comminuted and weathered, although with a slightly greater average sherd weight (Table 1 and Appendix). The two assemblages are compositionally similar, and there is again a dominance of Severn Valley Ware, Micaceous Grey Wares and Southeast Dorset BB1. Oxfordshire Ware is relatively more abundant, but the amount of Samian and other fine wares is comparably very small. A domestic site is indicated, the vessels chiefly represented being storage jars, mortaria, cooking pots, deep bowls, shallow dishes and mugs/tankards. Many of the vessels are restricted in date to the 2nd century, but it is the period from the mid 3rd to the late 4th century that is represented by the majority. The small amount of 1st-century Samian could be heirloom material.

Iron-making

The Home Farm site, with also a medieval presence (see below), yielded the least amounts of what are presumed on comparative grounds to be Romano-British iron-making materials. Iron ore, furnace lining and slag are all represented.

There is a single, angular fragment of iron ore weighing 17.6 g. It displays a goethite-like habit but had been burnt in a furnace to an anhydrous oxide of black streak. There are eight pieces of generally sandy clay furnace lining (1.4-44.2 g, total 90.0 g). Each displays a black, vitreous and vesicular inner surface that grades toward the outside of the furnace into hard, orange-dark red, brick-like clay. One piece shows two such colour sequences, and probably came from a relined furnace, as in the shaft furnaces at the Chesters on the opposite bank of the estuary (Fulford and Allen 1992). There are nine lumps of tap slag (13.5-148.7 g, total 399.0 g), chiefly fragments from thin sheets that had chilled on the ground or in one case on top of older tap slag. Dominating the assemblage, however, are 11 basin-shaped masses of slag (104.1-491.3 g, total 2650 g). Typically, these have a slightly concave

top and commonly an underside that moulds the cuts shaped by the tools used to dig the ground-hollow in which the slag hardened. The remaining seven lumps of slag (total weight 684.5 g) are dominated by pillulous masses full of irregular cavities. The magnetic separate (>500 μm) from a sample of soil at the site yielded many

millimetre-sized dull to silver-bright spherules and scales of slag which probably represent a forge-related activity. Some scales had become trapped on the underside of one of the slag basins.

The iron-making materials from the exclusively Roman site of Dayhouse Farm are similar but much more abundant. Iron ore (total

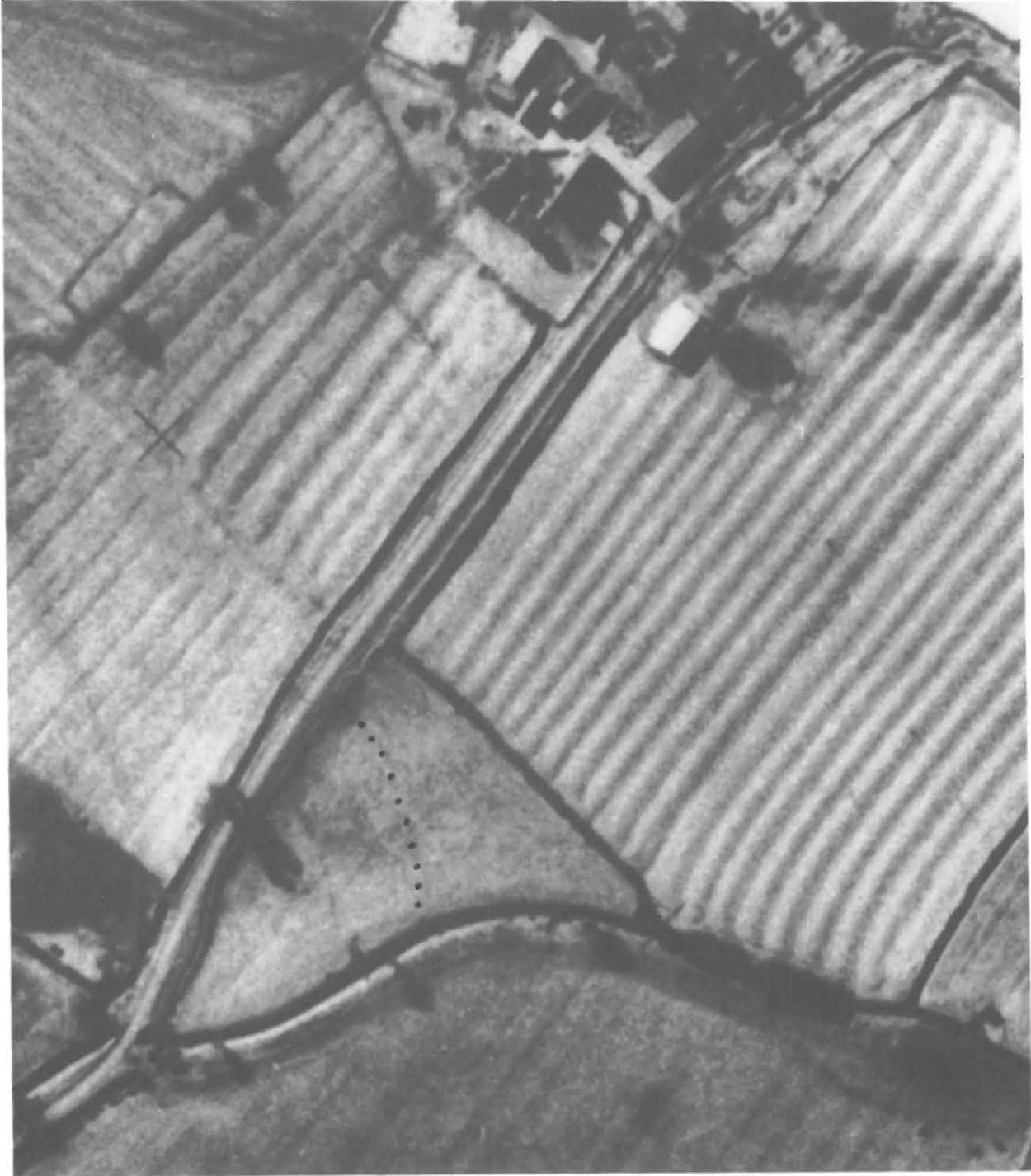


Figure 4. Air photograph (c. 250x300 m, north to top) of early medieval site at Nupdown Farm. Area of known pottery scatter west of dotted line.

weight, 207.8 g) is represented by eight, sharply angular lumps (5.8-90.0 g) of locally ochreous, massive-spherulitic goethite (6 pieces) and massive-spherulitic haematite with an earthy coating in places (2 pieces). The 15 pieces of furnace lining (6.7-55.9 g) total 358.4 g in weight and closely resemble those from Home Farm. Thirty-five lumps of tap slag were recovered (3.7-261.0 g, total 1511 g). Many were from thin sheets that had chilled on level ground; others were slender, finger-like masses, and a few appeared to have cooled while flowing along small, U-shaped or V-shaped channels. Slag basins are similarly plentiful, a total of 26 (108.4-911.2 g), of which 17 have tool-marked undersides, being recovered (total weight 89,859 g). One basin carries several dilated, joining cracks, as if it had undergone a partial collapse while being drawn, with a hardened outer crust but still-plastic interior, from a furnace. The remaining four pieces of slag (total weight, 550.4 g) include two pillulous lumps, to one of which adheres a mass of furnace lining. A magnetic separate (>500 μm) from soil at the site afforded many dull spheroids and occasional bright scales of forge-related slag.

Medieval Sites

Nupdown Farm (Hill)

This site lies in a small triangular field (ST 633 958) devoid of earthworks contained in the acute angle between Nupdown Road and a major ditch leading northeastward to Hill Pill (Figure 1b). The classical ridge-and-furrow in the field to the northeast curve strongly against the northeastern boundary and equally strongly where they abut the ditch on the southwestern side (Figure 4). They curve only slightly against the northeastern boundary of the triangular field. The field on the other side of Nupdown Road from the triangular one displays flat, straight ridges with a distinctly modern look (Allen 1992b), but these could equally be classical ridge-and-furrow which was ploughed for only a comparatively short period after having been laid out.

Cultivated fields at Hill are generally barren of pottery, and the marked concentration of comminuted sherds at the triangular area is exceptional for such ground. Although almost half the assemblage is of unprovenanced fabrics (Table 2 and Appendix), the remainder, especially

the Gloucester Early Medieval Ware and the Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware, together with the general aspect of the collection, point to an 11th-13th century date range. However, no material need post-date the 12th century.

Home Farm (Oldbury-on-Severn)

Distributed over the same ground as the Romano-British pottery (Figure 2) are 109 (662.0 g) comminuted and weathered medieval sherds (Table 3 and Appendix). This assemblage is largely if not wholly composed of cooking pots and, while simpler in composition than that at Nupdown nearby, contains most of its provenanced elements. Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware again dominates. A clear date range from the 11th to the 13th century is indicated, but no item need be younger than the 12th century.

Longney

Significant concentrations of medieval pottery are limited to two sites on the alluvium near Longney village (Figure 1b), although there is a widely distributed, very light scatter over the enclosed marshes as a whole.

At site A (SO 756 138), to the north of Bollow Rhyne, little conclusive evidence of ridge-and-furrow survives (Figure 5). The small assemblage of comminuted sherds, noted by Allen and Fulford (1990a), is unaccompanied by Roman material and dominated by wares of the 11th to 13th centuries (Table 4). There is no Gloucester Late Saxon Ware, in contrast to Bridgemacote (Elmore) (see below), and the proportion of Gloucester Early Medieval Ware is slight, with Malvern Chase emerging as the main supplier. The wares have a date range beginning in the 11th century and ending in the 15th, but no item need be younger than the 12th.

Modern cultivation has been even less kind to site B, the Romano-British settlement at Longney (Allen and Fulford 1990a). Faint traces of classical ridge-and-furrow are visible in early air photographs (Figure 6) of the area, but the main evidence for its former presence is a number of early hedge-lines of reversed-S form which seem, as in many parts of the Severn Estuary Levels, to have been planted along these earthworks. The small assemblage of comminuted



Figure 5: Air photograph (c. 500 x600m, north to top) of early medieval site at Longney A. Area of known pottery scatter enclosed by dotted line

pottery lacks Gloucester wares, but is otherwise similar to that from site A to the north (Table 4). Discounting the possibly stray sherd of late medieval jug fabric, no item in this small collection need post-date the 12th century.

Elmore

The occasional medieval sherd can also be found almost anywhere in this area (Figure 1b) but there is a definite concentration, briefly reported by Allen and Fulford (1990b), coincident with the Romano-British site at Bridgemacote. Although cultivated over a long period in modern times, most of the site as seen in early air photographs clearly carried classical ridge-and-furrow (Figure 7). Fields without such ridge-and-furrow encroach only into the extreme northeastern part of the pottery spread.

The assemblage of comminuted sherds is chiefly of early medieval wares (Table 4 and Appendix), with cooking pots predominating, and includes some Gloucester Late Saxon Ware, a rare find outside the city. Discounting the 'Bristol' Ware, represented by only two sherds, no item in the collection need be younger than the 12th century, and deposition may have begun in the 10th or possibly earlier (Vince in Heighway 1983).

Discussion

Roman period

As with the Romano-British settlements already described from the alluvial outcrops of the inner and middle Severn Estuary (Allen 1990; Allen and Fulford 1987, 1990a, 1990b; Allen and Rippon 1997; Hume 1992), the habitations at Home Farm and Dayhouse Farm flourished in the 3rd and 4th centuries. They lack the reduced, calcite-tempered pottery dating to the 1st century AD (and possibly a little earlier) encountered at Oldbury Flats (Allen and Fulford 1987), Oldbury Power Station silt lagoon (Hume 1992, Allen and Rippon 1997), Hills Flats (Allen and Fulford 1987) and Severn House Farm (Allen and Fulford 1987), and appear to have been established at a slightly later date, in the 2nd century. In this later start, Home Farm and Dayhouse Farm resemble the alluvial sites further up-estuary, at Awre (Allen and Fulford 1990b), Longney (Allen and Fulford 1990b), and Elmore (Bridgemacote, Windmill Hill) (Allen and Fulford 1990a). Dayhouse Farm and Home Farm further illustrate the ubiquitous Roman iron-making at rural sites on the Severn Estuary Levels, based on Forest of Dean ores exported presumably by water.

It seems likely that the Dayhouse Farm occupation contributed to a dispersed settlement, part of which was later destroyed by coastal erosion, creating the intertidal assemblage (Hills Flats), and another portion of which was uncovered at the wildlife pond (Severn House Farm). In its later start, and geographical relationship to the other two elements, it resembles at the Oldbury Power Station silt lagoon the halo of 3rd and 4th century contexts that surrounds sites active from an earlier date (Allen and Rippon 1997). The Oldbury dispersed settlement ranges over an area of at least c.20 ha. Although a little early calcite-tempered pottery is recorded from Severn House Farm (Allen and Fulford 1987), Dayhouse Farm is ceramically much closer to this site than to the eroded part of the settlement (Hills Flats), and may for this reason also be closer in terms of the period of main activity. The ratios of Severn Valley Ware at Dayhouse Farm (Table 1) and Severn House Farm (Allen and Fulford 1987) are respectively 39.4% and 35.2%, in contrast to 64.4% at Hills Flats (Allen and Fulford 1987). The corresponding ratios for Southeast Dorset BB1 are 21.0%, 19.5% and 14.6%, and for Micaceous Grey Wares 18.1%, 29.6% and 13.1%.



Figure 6: Air photograph (c. 500x500 m, north to top) of Romano-British and early medieval site at Longney B. Area of known pottery scatter enclosed by dotted line

The habitation at Home Farm is close ceramically and in age structure to the younger parts of the dispersed settlement to the north and may be seen as a satellite of that settlement. In terms of the ratios of the chief wares, Home Farm is almost identical to Dayhouse Farm (Table 1) and not much different from Severn House Farm. The slightly higher proportion of BB1 at Home Farm may, however, be an indication that there was more emphasis here on activity in the 3rd-4th centuries.

Home Farm and Dayhouse Farm form part of the same broad pattern of later Roman pottery supply that is evident from the other alluvial sites in the middle and inner estuary (e.g. Allen and Fulford 1990b). Severn Valley Ware produced in the region is a major (27%, Oldbury Power Station silt lagoon) to dominant (67.8%, Awre) component, and Micaceous Grey Wares, made somewhere in the Tortworth-Forest of Dean area (Allen and Fulford 1996b, fig. 14c), decline gradually from dominance (48.8%, Oldbury Flats)

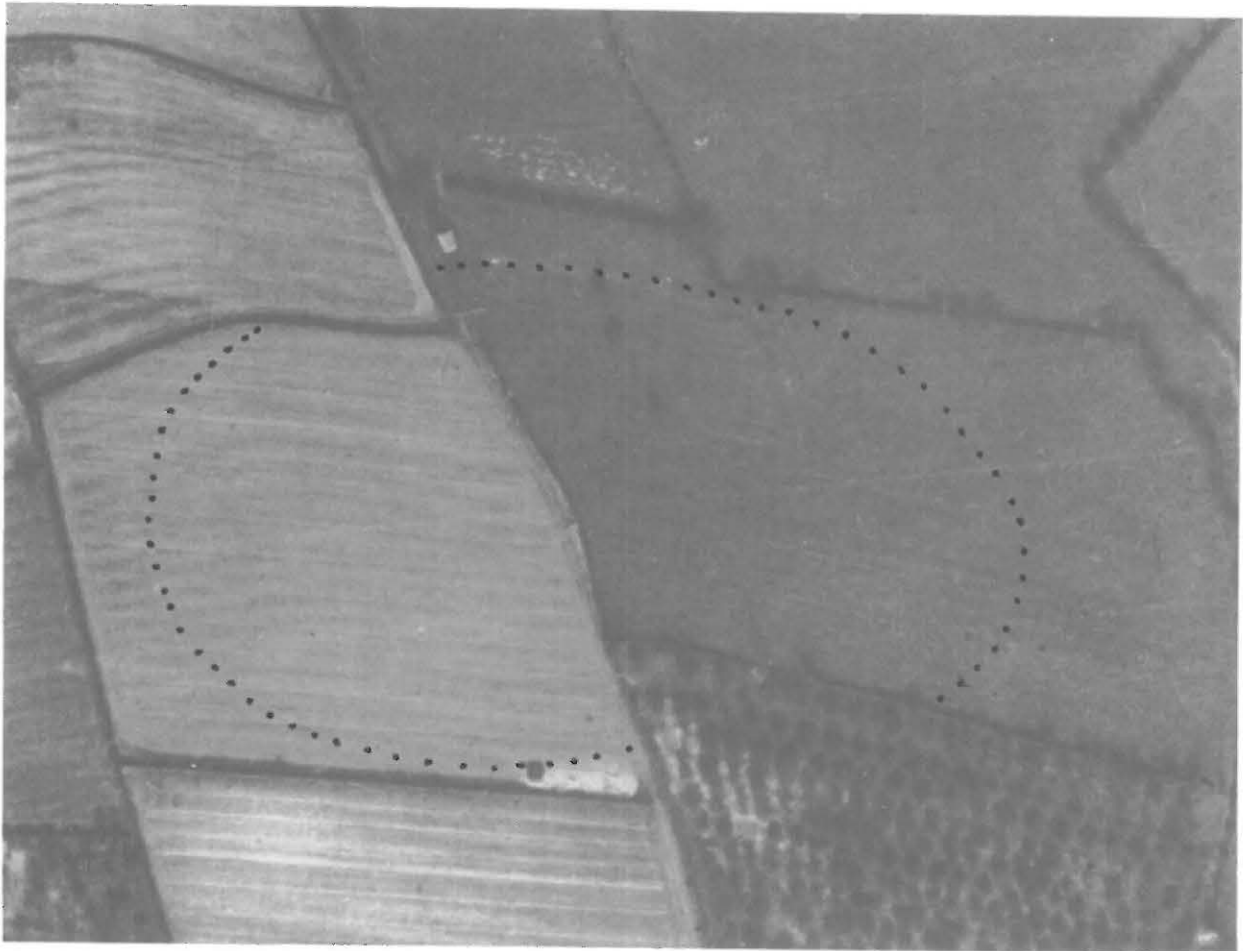


Figure 7: Air photograph (c. 500x400 m, north to top) of Romano-British and Saxo-medieval site at Bridgemacote. Area of known pottery scatter enclosed by dotted line

in the southwest to low values toward the northeast (7.0%, Windmill Hill). The imported Dorset coarse wares are invariably modest in proportion (8.9-25.8%) compared to neighbouring parts of the region (Allen and Fulford 1996b). Fine wares came chiefly westward from the Oxfordshire industry.

Medieval period

Whereas the character of Romano-British agriculture in the area remains unknown, there is clear evidence from field earthworks and the patterns of hedged fields that, in the centuries following the Norman Conquest, the enclosed alluvium along the inner and middle Severn Estuary was intensively cultivated and then, during late medieval and early modern times, increasingly enclosed for pasturing or use as meadows (Allen 1986, 1990, 1992b; Allen and Fulford 1990a, 1990b). As discussed elsewhere (Allen 1992b), there is no evidence for Franklin's

(1989) medieval 'Oldbury Marsh' or 'Severnside marshes'. This is part of the background against which to judge the medieval pottery scatters on the alluvium described above. The other but less definite part is the apparent halving (up to the Norman Conquest) and then doubling of the English population over the millennium between late Roman and high medieval times (Millett 1990; Smith 1988). These national trends may have found sharper expression in the region of the West of England where, between the Conquest and the late 14th century, the population seems to have grown at a higher than average rate.

The pottery assemblages (Tables 2-4) suggest for most sites a strong economic link with Gloucester and its neighbourhood, perhaps because of proximity to the estuary as the readiest means of communication. Gloucester Early Medieval Ware and Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware, both produced near Gloucester, together dominate the collections from Elmore, Nupdown Farm and Home Farm. At Longney,

however, the Malvern Chase and North Wiltshire enterprises seem a much stronger influence. Pottery from Bath makes a significant contribution at Home Farm, among the most southwesterly of the sites. Activity at the sites had ceased before the Ham Green industry in Bristol came to prominence in the 13th century. It is now clear that Gloucester Early Medieval Ware in particular was much more widely

distributed than originally envisaged (Vince 1981); it is plentiful at Hereford (Vince in Shoemith 1991) and a single sherd was recently found at Oldbury Flats. The Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware is also widely dispersed, appearing at all the sites except Longney B, as well as at Gloucester (Vince in Heighway 1983). In the city this pottery plays a minor role to Gloucester Early Medieval Ware (Vince in Heighway 1983, table

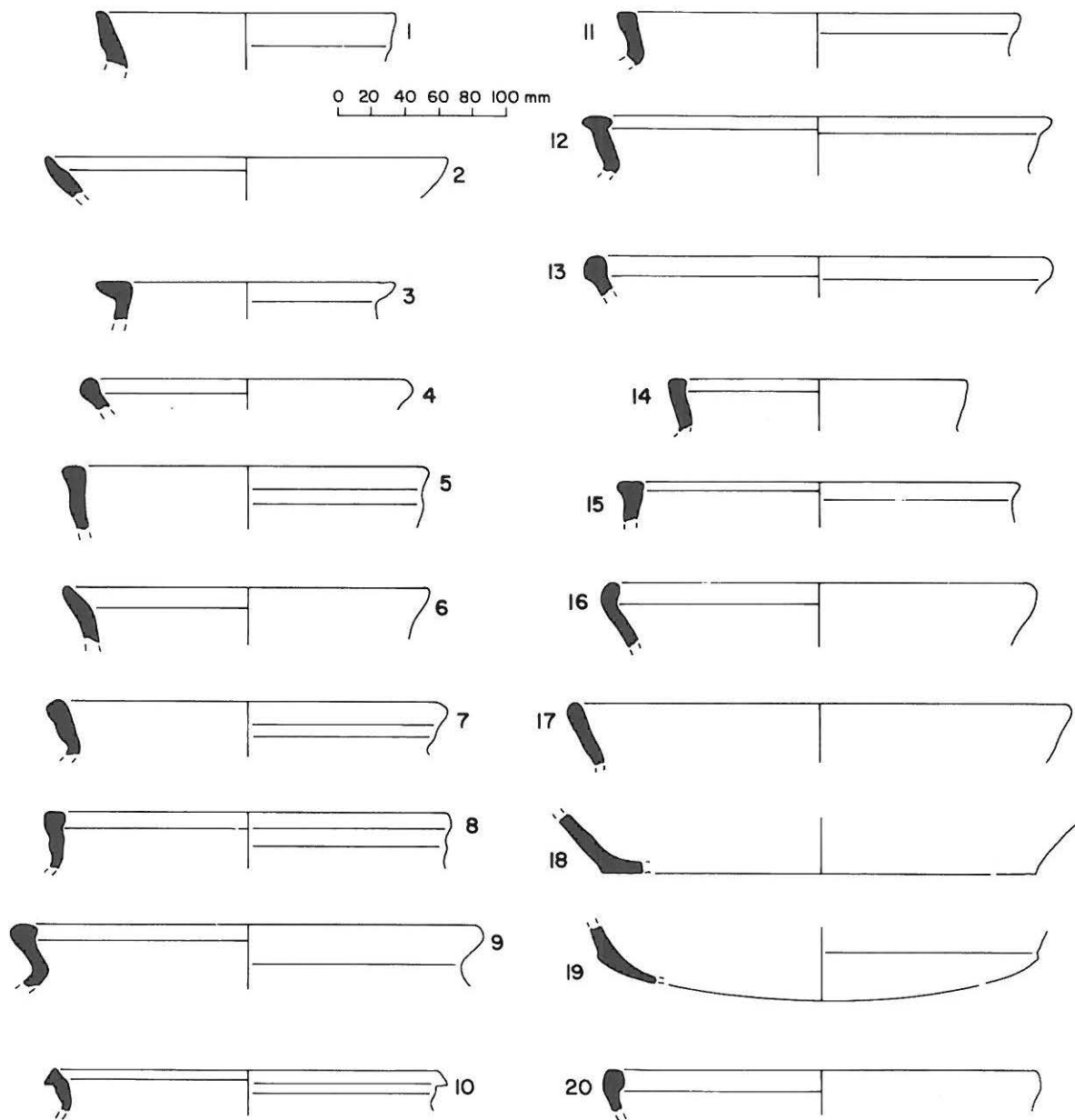


Figure 8: Late Saxon-early medieval pottery from the Severn Estuary Levels. Gloucester Late Saxon Ware: Elmore (1). Gloucester Early Medieval Ware: Nupdown Farm (2), Home Farm (3-9), Longney A (10), Elmore (11, 12). Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware: Nupdown Farm (13), Home Farm (14-19), Elmore (20)

3.20), suggesting that at Nupdown Farm and Home Farm (Table 2, 3) it is nearer its production site.

Until excavations are made, it will not be clear what weight in terms of land-use should be placed on the pottery scatters at Nupdown Farm and Home Farm and, looking further upstream, Longney and Elmore. These collections are small, of comminuted and weathered material, and are only loosely dated. Do they record arbitrarily placed dumps of rubbish remote from dwellings, or are they on the sites of habitations, pointing either to continuity of settlement and farming on the alluvium, or to the more extreme scenario of abandonment and recolonisation, each leading up to an eventual possible reorganisation of the open fields?

The medieval pottery at Nupdown Farm is unaccompanied by Romano-British material. If a habitation existed here, that settlement would seem to have been planted on part of a furlong already under cultivation, for the lands in the field to the northeast have clearly been severed by the northeastern boundary of the triangular field enclosing the site (Figure 4). The pottery (Table 2) suggests that occupation may have begun as early as the 11th century and been over by the end of the 12th. The apparent insertion of the site among the lands would suggest that the ridge-and-furrow here has an origin at least as old if not older than the date-range given by the pottery. It is also possible, however, that the triangular field is relatively young, post-dating both the ridge-and-furrow and the pottery scatter.

The evidence that the pottery concentrations are associated with classical ridge-and-furrow is indisputable at Home Farm (Figure 2), Dayhouse Farm (Figure 3) and Bridgemacote (Figure 7), inconclusive at Longney A (Figure 5), and strongly suggestive at Longney B (Figure 6). If it is supposed that these assemblages record habitations, a degree of reorganisation of fields and settlements on the alluvium of the middle and inner estuary is implied, perhaps part of a regional movement to concentrate occupation in nucleated villages (e.g. Aston 1985, Lewis *et al.* 1996). The movement at Hill could have been to the now-deserted village of Woodend, on the dry ground east of the alluvium (Figure 1b). Except perhaps at Longney A, the arable was extended over each of the sites just mentioned; given the evidence of Nupdown Farm (see Figure 4), it seems less likely

that open fields were being created for the first time. The pottery assemblages (Tables 3, 4) uniformly suggest that abandonment could have occurred as early as the end of the 12th century. It is interesting to compare these examples from enclosed alluvial areas with the evidence for abandonment at Frocester on the dry lands to the east (Aston 1985; E.G. Price, pers. comm. 1997). Intensive modern cultivation has allowed the recognition here of no less than twelve sites abandoned and, in at least some cases, overploughed by or in the 13th century. As on the alluvium described above (Tables 2-4), the commonest pottery types recovered by field-walking at these Frocester sites are Gloucester Early Medieval and Sand- and Limestone-tempered Wares. No Gloucester Late Saxon Ware is so far known, but the minster church at St. Peter's, at the western end of the early medieval settlement, existed by late Saxon times.

It is surely not fortuitous that at no less than three of the five known sites - Home Farm, Longney B and Bridgemacote (Elmore) - the medieval pottery concentration is coincident with a Romano-British settlement. The time-gap in terms of the physical, ceramic evidence evidence is six centuries in the case of Home Farm and Longney B, but perhaps only 450-500 years at Bridgemacote. Perhaps at these places there was an actual continuity of settlement, albeit at a level reduced from its late Roman scale. If abandonment and recolonisation are preferred, it would seem necessary, in order for settlers to be drawn back to previous habitation sites, to invoke the survival of at least some compelling landscape features - favourable configurations of tracks and field ditches - or some 'folk memory' of antecedent behaviour. In support of the likelihood of continuity, many Saxo-medieval rural sites prove to lie on or very close to Romano-British settlements in, for example, Wessex (Aston 1994; Lewis 1994; Rippon 1994) and central England (Lewis *et al.* 1996). Rippon (1994, 1997a) describes an interesting example, the late Saxon-early medieval 'infield' at Puxton on the North Somerset Level, with its Romano-British as well as Saxon-medieval occupation debris within plough depth, although at slightly separated geographical foci. A remodelling of fields in response to changed socio-economic and political circumstances rather than the more extreme recolonisation following a period of flooding may be the explanation for changes in field alignment

in cases such as this.

The notion of continuity of occupation, but at a varying level, is not easily dismissed. Bell (1989) has reviewed environmental evidence for the post-Roman period suggesting that peasant subsistence farming in Britain, disciplined by the people's requirement for food (see also Aston 1985), was little affected by the collapse of the Roman administration. Although in parts of the Severn Estuary Levels, unmistakable evidence for substantial post-Roman sedimentation has long been known (Aston 1985; Rippon 1997b), it certainly seems to have been the case that the seabanks defending the alluvium at Oldbury and Hill continued to be well-maintained, so that no further significant tidal alluviation occurred. It would not otherwise have been possible to find evidence within plough-depth for Romano-British and/or medieval occupation of the alluvium, at Home Farm and northeast of the Power Station road (Allen and Rippon 1997) in Oldbury, at Hill (Nupdown Farm, Dayhouse Farm), and at Arlingham, Longney and Elmore upstream (Allen 1990; Allen and Fulford 1990a, 1990b). Experience in the Low Countries (De Bakker 1948; Sponselee and Buise 1979) shows that breaches in seabanks, if left unrepaired, rapidly lead in previously embanked areas to renewed tidal siltation, the development of extensive creek networks, and a general reversion to salt marsh. Fully developed systems of creeks can appear in less than a century. These features are not known in the areas under discussion, which it is argued saw continuous settlement from the Roman to the early medieval periods.

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Appendix: Notes on Selected Pottery Wares and Assemblages

Home Farm (Romano-British)

The Samian includes products from South Gaul, Central Gaul and East Gaul, with the latter area affording a late Dr 35/36 with a rim of Webster's (1996) type C. The Oxfordshire Ware (Young 1977) includes the 2nd-century mortarium M7.2 and various late Roman forms (M18.3, WC4.1 and C97). Webster (1976) gives a general catalogue of Severn Valley Ware and Rawes (1982) furnishes details of products found chiefly in the Gloucester area. The wares recorded are chiefly late in date and include storage and other jars (Webster 13, Rawes 11, 49), bowls (Webster 16, 22, Rawes 66, 76), an internal-lipped bowl (Webster 51-57), and a mug/tankard (Rawes 51). The Southeast Dorset BB1 and Micaceous Grey Wares were typed following Gillam (1970). They include late everted-rim jars (145, 147, 148 and 161) and a late pie dish (333). The white (?Mancetter) mortarium compares with Gillam's type 273/274 of the later 3d century.

Dayhouse Farm (Romano-British)

This site yielded a much higher proportion of dateable material than Home Farm, chiefly among the Oxfordshire and Severn Valley Wares. Of the Samian, four sherds represent South Gaul and there are also products from Central Gaul; the East Gaulish Samian includes ?Dr 31R of the late 2nd to mid 3rd century. The Oxfordshire Ware includes Young's early mortarium M6 and his late forms M17, M18, M22, WC4.1, C97 and C100.1, along with two bowls (C46.3, C74.4). One body sherd from a bowl is extensively decorated with demi-rosettes. Another, from a brown-slipped flagon/jug or large beaker, carries barbotine animal forms. The Severn Valley Ware includes mainly late storage jars (Rawes 37, 43, 50 and 52), numerous pulley-rim jars of the mid 2nd century (Rawes 11) and one late form (Webster 11, 13), numerous wide-mouthed jars (Webster 27-29, Rawes 55), flat-rimmed bowls and an internally-lipped bowl all of the second century (Rawes 130, 132 and 133), various other bowls/jars covering the period from the 2nd to the 4th century (Rawes 64, 68), and several mugs/tankards (Rawes 141-151). There are numerous fragments from late everted-rim jars. Comparatively little of the Southeast Dorset BB1 and Micaceous Grey Wares was dateable. The everted-rim jars come from between the mid 2nd and mid 4th centuries and include Gillam's types 138, 142, 144, 145 and 147, and there a number of late flanged bowls (228, 229, 231). The pie dishes include the 2nd century form Gillam 328 and several examples of the wide-ranging type 329.

Nupdown Farm (medieval)

The fabrics of the Gloucester Early Medieval Ware and Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware are as described from Home Farm (see below). The single rim among the former is moderately everted, swelling upward from the angle of the neck but pinched toward the edge (Fig. 8.2). The single rim representing the latter ware is also moderately everted, but swollen and slightly inturned (Fig. 8.13).

Fabric F has a mid grey core and pale brownish grey to orange exterior. The moderately abundant inclusions consist of limestone (<1 mm), just subordinate quartz (<0.5 mm) and common iron ore.

Fabric G, represented by plain, unglazed cooking vessels, is hard and coarse textured, with a mid to dark grey core and a dark grey-black, occasionally locally oxidised exterior. It consists of abundant, ill-sorted inclusions (<4 mm) of angular to rounded quartz, subordinate but about equally represented sandstone and limestone grains, and some ore set in silty-sandy matrix. The single rim present, suggestive of an 11th- or 12th-century date, is moderately everted and gently swollen and rounded at the edge.

Fabric H has a mid grey core and a pale brownish grey to orange exterior. Set in a slightly micaceous, silty matrix are moderately abundant inclusions of quartz (<2 mm) with very subordinate sandstone, limestone, clay pellets and ore. The sherds are plain and unglazed, suggesting cooking vessels.

Fabric I is hard and dark grey with a grey-black, in places slightly oxidised exterior. The abundant inclusions (< 2 mm) are of limestone, quartz and occasional sandstone. The wares appear to be cooking pots.

Home Farm (medieval)

Gloucester Early Medieval Ware is the second most common fabric at this site (Table 3). The fabric is hard with a pale to mid grey core and a pale brownish grey, pale brown, or reddish orange exterior. It is more variable in the size (<1.5-5 mm) than the composition of the inclusions. The latter are predominantly limestone, represented by oolitic limestone and broken-whole ooids, fossil shell debris and shelly limestone, and micritic limestone. There is some generally well-rounded quartz sand (<0.5 mm), and similar quartz forms the nuclei of many of the ooids. Very occasional rounded iron ore grains are seen. The inclusions are set in a very fine grained, locally strongly birefringent clay matrix with scattered quartz silt and very fine sand. The sherds seem to represent chiefly if not exclusively cooking pots. Most of the rims (Fig. 7.3-9), which are mainly upright or slightly to moderately everted, find parallels among examples of the ware recorded from Gloucester (Vince in Heighway, 1983) and Hereford (Vince in Shoesmith, 1985).

Dominating the assemblage is Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware (Table 3). The fabric is hard, with a mid grey core and pale pinkish grey to orange exterior. Inclusions are abundant, but in composition and size rather variable. Limestone granules (<3-7 mm) vary from slightly more abundant than well rounded quartz sand (<2 mm) to substantially less plentiful than the sand. The limestone debris includes micritic limestone, fossil shell and oolitic limestone. Occasional feldspar grains, sandstone pellets, clay pellets and iron ore can also be found. The matrix is clay-dominated, with scattered quartz silt. The fabric is represented by cooking pots with rims that are either flat-topped and upright to slightly everted (Fig. 8.14, 15) as recorded from Gloucester (Vince in Heighway, 1983, fig. 77.26, 36), moderately everted but inturned (Fig. 8.16), or moderately everted but straight (Fig. 8.17). Both flat- and round-bottomed cooking pots are present (Fig. 8.18, 19).

The single Miscellaneous sherd is pale grey with a brownish-orange exterior and an unusual fabric. The abundant inclusions (<2.5 mm) are flakes of dark grey-black mudstone, pinkish white pellets of silty clay, coarse siltstone and very fine grained sandstone, and occasional well-rounded quartz sand.

Longney A (medieval)

The only sherd of particular interest from this site (Table 4) is a single rim from a Gloucester Early Medieval Ware cooking pot (Fig. 8.10). The moderately everted is of unusual form, with an

Table 1. Summary of Romano-British pottery

	<i>Home Farm</i>		<i>Dayhouse Farm</i>	
	<i>no. (%)</i>	<i>wt. in gm (%)</i>	<i>no. (%)</i>	<i>wt. in gm (%)</i>
Samian	5 (1.2)	14.8 (0.5)	9 (1.0)	30.8 (0.5)
Nene Valley Ware	1 (0.2)	3.11 (0.1)	3 (0.3)	8.8 (0.1)
New Forest Ware	-	-	1 (0.1)	20.6 (0.3)
Oxfordshire Oxidised Ware				
red/brown-slipped	12 (2.8)	36.2 (1.3)	47 (5.5)	228.6 (3.4)
white-slipped	-	-	5 (0.6)	31.1 (0.5)
mortaria	6 (1.4)	62.1 (2.2)	13 (1.5)	84.9 (1.3)
Oxfordshire White Ware				
mortaria	4(0.9)	39.6 (1.4)	14 (1.6)	210.1 (3.2)
Southeast Dorset BB1	104 (24.5)	556.8 (20.2)	181 (21.0)	1092.8 (16.4)
Black Micaceous Ware	7 (1.7)	68.9 (2.5)	14 (1.6)	129.4 (1.9)
Micaceous Grey Wares	91 (21.5)	736.3 (26.7)	156 (18.1)	1505.3 (22.6)
Severn Valley Ware	150 (35.4)	1069.5 (38.7)	339 (39.4)	2796.4 (42.1)
Other mortaria				
white (?Mancetter)	1 (0.2)	13.0 (0.5)	-	-
white (?New Forest)	-	-	2 (0.2)	48.1 (0.7)
other white	-	-	2 (0.2)	10.3 (0.2)
white-slipped oxidized	-	-	2 (0.2)	48.3 (0.7)
Miscellaneous reduced wares	5 (1.2)		21 (2.4)	188.0 (2.8)
Miscellaneous oxidized wares	38 (9.0)	122.1 (4.4)	52 (6.0)	216.1 (3.3)
Total	424 (100.0)	2760.9 (99.9)	861 (99.7)	6649.6 (100.0)
		(Average sherd wt.=6.5 gm)		(Average sherd wt.=7.7 gm)

Table 2. Summary of medieval pottery at Nupdown Farm

	<i>no. (%)</i>
Gloucester Early Medieval Ware (Fabric A) (11-13C)	4 (12.1)
Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware (Fabric B) (11-12C)	9 (27.3)
Hereford (Fabric A2) Ware (Fabric D) (L12-L13C)	1 (3.0)
Malvern Chase Ware (jugs) (Fabric E) (12-13C)	1 (3.0)
North Wiltshire (Minety) Ware (Fabric F) (12-15C)	2 (6.1)
Fabric F	1 (3.0)
Fabric G	7 (21.2)
Fabric H	5 (15.2)
Fabric I	3 (9.1)
Total	33 (100.0)

Table 3. Summary of medieval pottery at Home Farm

	<i>no. (%)</i>
Gloucester Early Medieval Ware (11-13 C)	40 (36.7)
Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware (11-12 C)	57 (52.3)
Bath (Fabric A) Ware (11-12C)	10 (9.2)
Hereford (Fabric A2) Ware (L12-L13C)	1 (0.9)
Miscellaneous	1 (0.9)
Total	109 (100.0)

Table 4. Summary of medieval pottery at Elmore and Longney

	<i>Elmore</i>	<i>Longey</i>	<i>Longney</i>
	<i>no (%)</i>	<i>(site A)</i> <i>no. (%)</i>	<i>(site B)</i> <i>no. (%)</i>
Gloucester Late Saxon Ware (10-11C)	4 (7.4)	-	-
Gloucester Early Medieval Ware (11-13C)	23 (42.6)	1 (4.2)	-
Sand- and Limestone- tempered Ware (11-12C)	2 (3.7)	3 (12.5)	-
Flint-tempered Ware (11-12C)	-	-	1 (5.0)
Malvern Chase Ware			
cooking pots (11-13C)	9 (16.7)	9 (37.5)	5 (25.0)
jugs (12-13C)	1 (1.9)	1 (4.2)	1 (5.0)
Worcester Ware (12-13C)	1 (1.7)	-	-
'Bristol' Ware (L13-15C)	2 (3.7)	-	-
Ham Green Ware (jug) (E13C)	-	1 (4.2)	-
Late medieval jug fabric (15C)	1 (1.9)	-	1 (5.0)
North Wiltshire (Minety) Ware (12-15C)	10 (18.5)	4 (16.7)	10 (50.0)
Miscellaneous fabrics	1 (1.9)	5 (20.8)	2 (10.0)
Total	54 (100.2)	24 (100.1)	20 (100.0)

external overhang and a slight internal shoulder, and somewhat resembles a rim from a 10th- to 11th-century context at Hereford (Vince in Shoesmith, 1985 fig. 56.7).

Bridgemacote (Elmore)

This locality (Table 4) is the only one with all three of the Saxon-early medieval wares produced in the Gloucester area (see Vince in Heighway, 1983).

The Gloucester Late Saxon Ware is characterised by a mid to dark brown core and dark brown to brownish black exterior. The abundant inclusions are chiefly of off-white oolitic limestone (<6 mm) and some fossil shells, accompanied by polished and rounded, sometimes red-stained quartz (<2 mm), and occasional mudstone pellets and grass/cereal stems. The sherds include a single slightly everted rim tapering slightly to a flattish top (Fig. 8.1).

The commonest pottery is Gloucester Early Medieval Ware, with an appearance and fabric as described at Home Farm (see above). The sherds represent cooking pots with slightly everted rims (Fig. 8.11, 12). An upright rim is present among the small amount of Sand- and Limestone-tempered Ware (Fig. 8.20).

*John Allen,
Department of Archaeology,
University of Reading,
Whiteknights,
READING, RG6 6AA.*

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