

A medieval potters' tenement at Corby Road, Stanion Northamptonshire

by

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with contributions by
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SUMMARY

Excavation by Northamptonshire Archaeology of a house plot at Corby Road, Stanion uncovered a cluster of pits within a potters' tenement containing waster dumps. A total of 600kg of pottery comes from over 200 vessels. Glazed jugs were the major product but jars and bowls are also present. This assemblage adds significantly to the understanding of the Lyveden/Stanion pottery industry, which supplied much of medieval Northamptonshire and parts of the surrounding counties with its more utilitarian table ware. There are also smaller quantities of glazed roof ridge tiles, a few with crests, and ceramic kiln furniture.

There were two distinct phases of pottery production, dating to the second half of the 14th century, and the second half of the 15th century. The evidence comes from a combination of the dating of associated pottery of other types and typology. It is now certain that the production of Stanion B ware was considerably longer-lived than first anticipated. It has been regarded as ending in the 14th century, but the evidence from this site shows that production was still taking place in the later years of the 15th century. It would therefore seem appropriate now to give the tradition a chronology of AD 1200-1500.

The evidence also indicates a revision of the Lyveden/Stanion D ware, generally regarded as starting around AD 1400 to replace the B ware, based on the evidence from Lyveden. However, wasters of both fabrics have been found at Stanion in all the pit groups. It is suggested that it should now be dated AD 1350-1500, and may even have started earlier.

It is notable that none of the kiln waste from this site is wheel-thrown, it has all been coil-built and finished on a turntable. The Stanion potters were very late in taking up the wheel, and the evidence from this site indicates that it was in the early 16th century at the earliest.

A review and a gazetteer of other archaeological work in Stanion, including details of a kiln excavated in 1990, is also provided.

INTRODUCTION

Pat Chapman

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a developer-funded excavation of a new house plot at 2 Corby

Road, Stanion, Northamptonshire, within a plot running between Little Lane, to the east, and Corby Road, to the west (Figs 1 and 2: NGR SP 9145 8701).

An evaluation trench had been excavated in 1993 (Soden 1993). The northern end of this trench had located the well-preserved remains of a late medieval stone building, and to the south there was a cluster of pits that evidently contained large quantities of wasters from a nearby kiln, although the pits were not excavated at the time.

This area was shown as an empty plot on a map of 1730 (Soden 1993, 6, NRO map 4090), indicating that it probably had not been disturbed since the pottery industry came to an end at the end of the 15th century.

When a planning application was submitted for the building of a house (Planning Application Reference: 00/00444/OUT), the plot was assessed by the then Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team (NCCHE) as containing archaeology of national importance. The mitigation strategy called for the pre-emptive excavation of the house plot, which lay over the identified cluster of waster pits, and the *in situ* preservation of all other archaeological deposits (*Brief for Archaeological Recording Action* issued by NCCHE on 15th February 2002). The excavation of the house plot was carried out in December 2002, often in very poor weather conditions. Given the time constraints, work focussed on the recovery of waster assemblages from the central group of pits (Fig 3). Subsequently, a watching brief was carried out along the northern margin of the site during groundworks for the provision of an access road, to ensure that the underlying archaeological deposits were subject to minimal disturbance.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site is level, but the ground slopes gently away to the south and east. The underlying drift geology has been mapped as Till overlying a solid geology of Inferior Oolite rock (BGS 2003).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavations were carried out on behalf of Mr A Taylor during December 2002 and were managed by Andrew Mudd. The fieldwork team, directed by Simon Carlyle, was Adrian Burrow, Nathan Flavell, Mick Garside, Giles MacFarland, Rebecca Pullen, David Stacey and Jo Young,

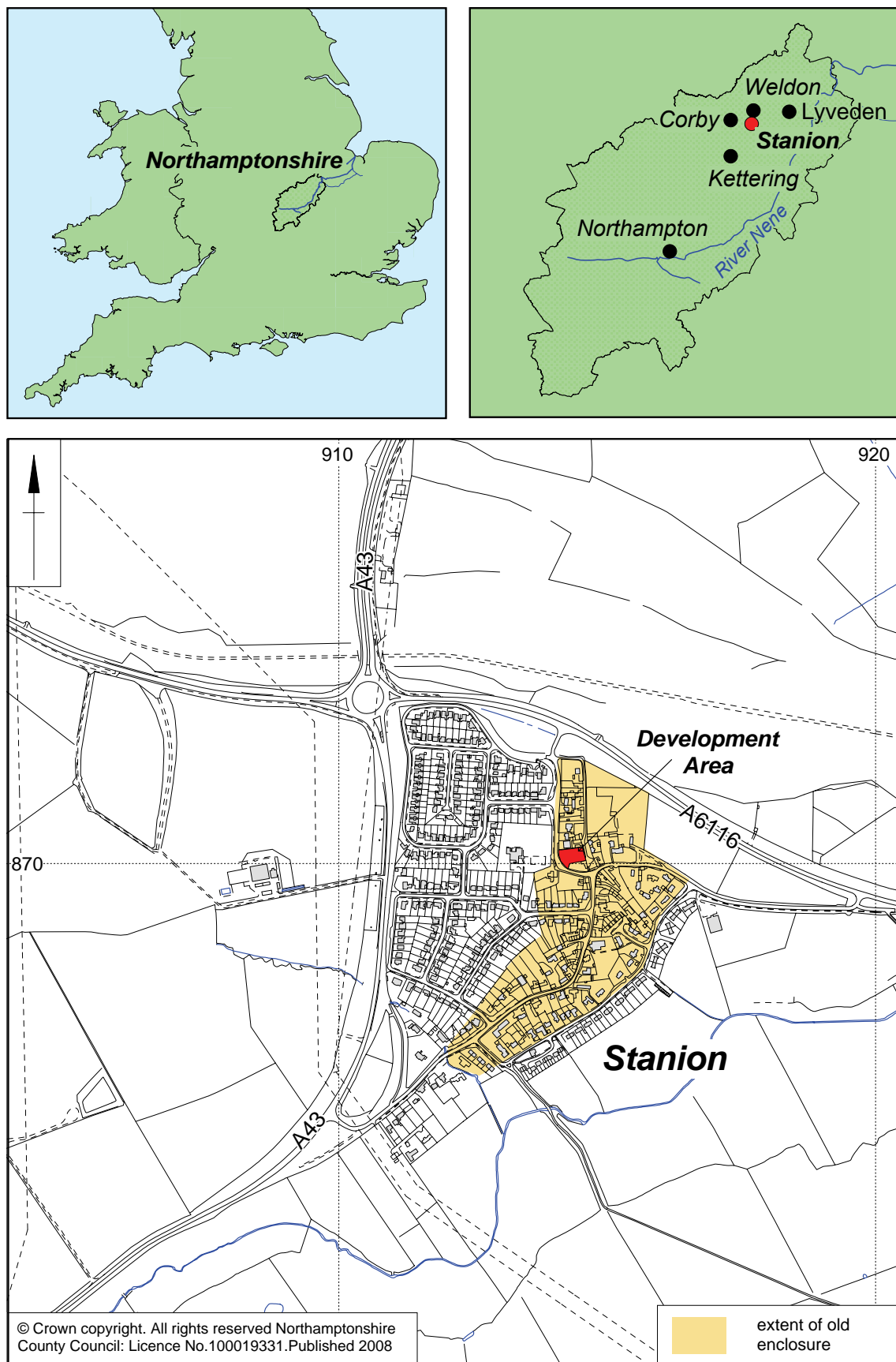


Fig 1 Location plan

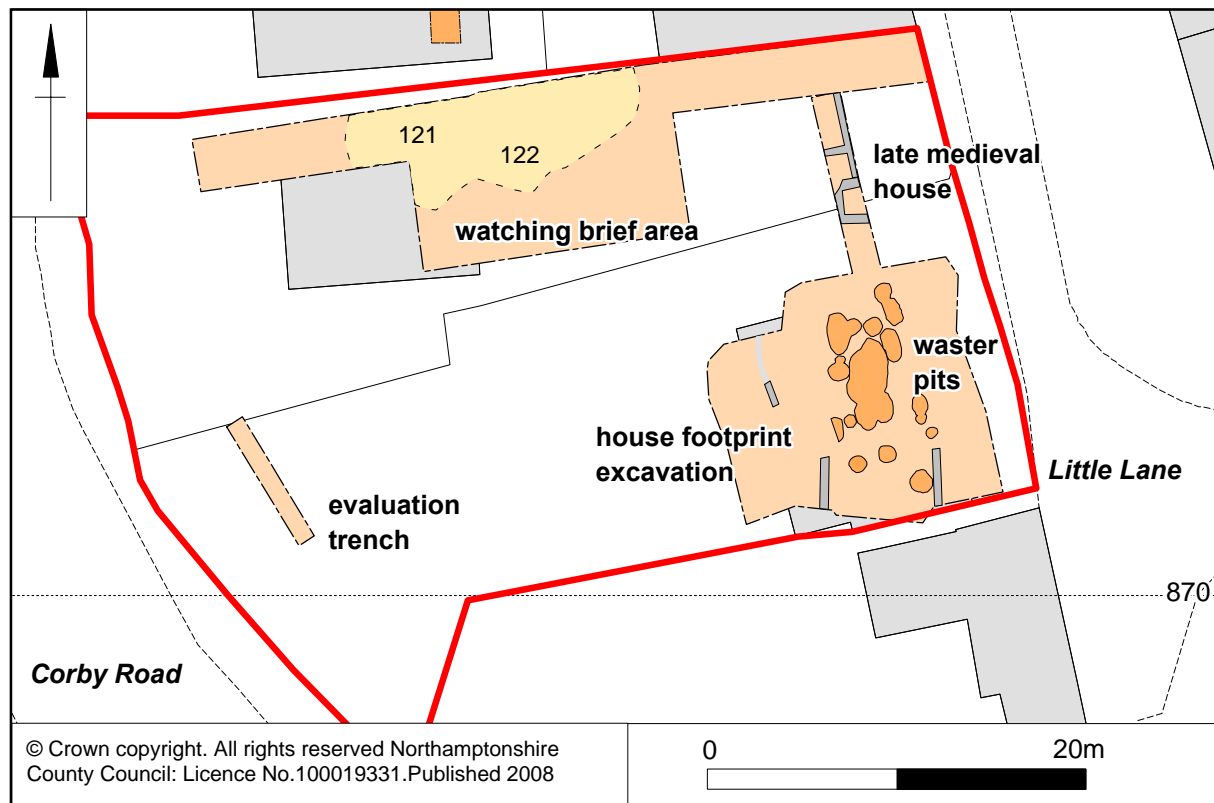


Fig 2 General plan of excavated area

who all achieved a great deal through the poor weather conditions at the time which hampered the excavation. The watching brief was carried out by David Leigh.

Given the exceptional quantity of pottery recovered, we would like to thank those individuals who freely volunteered their time to assist in the washing and



Fig 3 A display of jugs and a bowl from the waster dumps at 2 Corby Road, Stanion

reconstruction of the pottery. These included members of the Young Archaeologists Club organised through the Upper Nene Archaeological Society; Paul Thompson and Alex Thompson (née Thorne) who organised volunteers through the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, and volunteers organised by Ian Meadows. The logistics of keeping the material in order and under control was organised by Pat Chapman.

The post-excavation programme was managed by Andy Chapman. The fieldwork analysis and the report were prepared by Pat Chapman, who has also analysed the roof tile and kiln furniture. Paul Blinkhorn analysed and reported on the extremely large and important pottery assemblage. Andy Chapman has reviewed the available archaeological evidence for the Stanion pottery industry. The illustrations are by Andy Chapman and Carol Simmonds, and the pottery photographs are by Andy Chapman. The costs of post-excavation analysis have been met by Northamptonshire Archaeology.

Given the lack of a sufficient developed-funded budget to cover the costs of post-excavation analysis for this exceptionally large quantity of pottery, it has not been possible to have the vessels drawn. Instead a photographic archive has been compiled providing side views of the largely reconstructed vessels. Each image includes a scale bar and the pottery reference number. These images form an appendix and a full set is also included on the CD attached to this volume.

THE STANION POTTERY INDUSTRY

Andy Chapman

This review of the Stanion pottery industry draws on an overview of the pottery industry of the Rockingham Forest by Glenn Foard (1991) and the single previously published kiln (Bellamy 1983). In addition, it uses unpublished notes and records compiled by Burl Bellamy (and loaned to Graham Cadman) and the site records compiled by Graham Cadman during his excavation of another kiln in 1990. More recent evaluations carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology as developer-funded projects, in addition to the site being reported, are also summarised. A new gazetteer listing the archaeological interventions on and around the known production centre, largely lying at the northern end of the historic village between Little Lane and Corby Road, is also provided.

THE POTTERS' TENEMENTS AT STANION

In 1086 two holdings are recorded in Stanion. One was part of the manor of Brigstock, an important royal estate, and this probably corresponds to the post-medieval Nether Hall manor (Foard 1991, 17). The second was held by Edwin from the Bishop of Coutances, and this must be the same as Upper Hall manor, which was independent of the Brigstock manor. The evidence for pottery production in Stanion has all come from the northern half of the medieval village, and all from tenements of Upper Hall manor, which mainly lay at the northern end of the village (see Foard 1991, fig 4).

It is also significant that the Upper Hall manor held a large area of woodland that no doubt supplied the fuel

for the potters' kilns, while the woodland belonging to the Brigstock manor supplied the charcoal burners who provided the fuel for the iron industry (Foard 1991, 17).

It has been argued by Foard (1991, 17 & fig 4) that post-medieval tenements shown on the map of 1730 correspond closely to the layout of the medieval village (Fig 1). What the 1730 map depicts is a series of tenement plots fronting onto High Street, with further tenements at the northern end of the village, between Little Lane and Corby Road. Here there were cottages fronting onto Little Lane to the east and open plots to the west.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1900 shows much the same pattern but with the appearance of some new houses extending back from the frontages. It is only more recently that there has been further infilling within the historic core, as well as new estates that have covered the former fields to the west of both High Street and Corby Road, with more limited expansion onto the fields to the east of High Street and a minor expansion to the south (Fig 1). At the northern end of the village it has been the building of new houses and the sub-division of the plots between Little Lane and Corby Road that has led to the disturbance of the long abandoned kilns and waster dumps that had lain undisturbed in the former gardens and orchards (Fig 4).

DISCOVERY AND INVESTIGATION

From the beginning of the expansion of new housing in Stanion in the 1930s evidence began to slowly emerge that Stanion had been an important pottery producing centre from the 13th to 15th centuries, like Lyveden, four miles to the east.

A series of rescue excavations on deserted crofts at Lyveden in the late 1960s to early 1970s provided much information about the kilns, workshops, homes and the products of the Lyveden potters (Steane 1967, Bryant and Steane 1969, Steane 1971, Steane and Bryant 1975). As a result, Lyveden came to be viewed as the centre of the local medieval pottery industry, when the number of kilns that appear to have been functioning in Stanion would suggest that it was in fact Stanion that was the dominant production centre (Foard 1991). However, the comparable crofts at Stanion lay within the living village, so it has not been possible to investigate the industry in a systematic manner. Instead, the evidence from Stanion has accrued on an *ad hoc* basis, largely comprising salvage and rescue digs on active building sites as new houses were constructed on the plots between Little Lane and Corby Road, and on other nearby sites. In some cases, see below, this has meant that only an hour or two was available to grab a collection of vessels, often already disturbed from waster dumps, with perhaps the partial investigation of evident kilns visible in the sides of house construction trenches. There has been no opportunity to look at the arrangement of even a single tenement. To compound the problems of the lack of proper opportunities for fieldwork investigation, even a quick 'smash and grab' raid could produce substantial quantities of pottery, and there has been a lack of resources to enable much of this material to be even partially analysed and published.

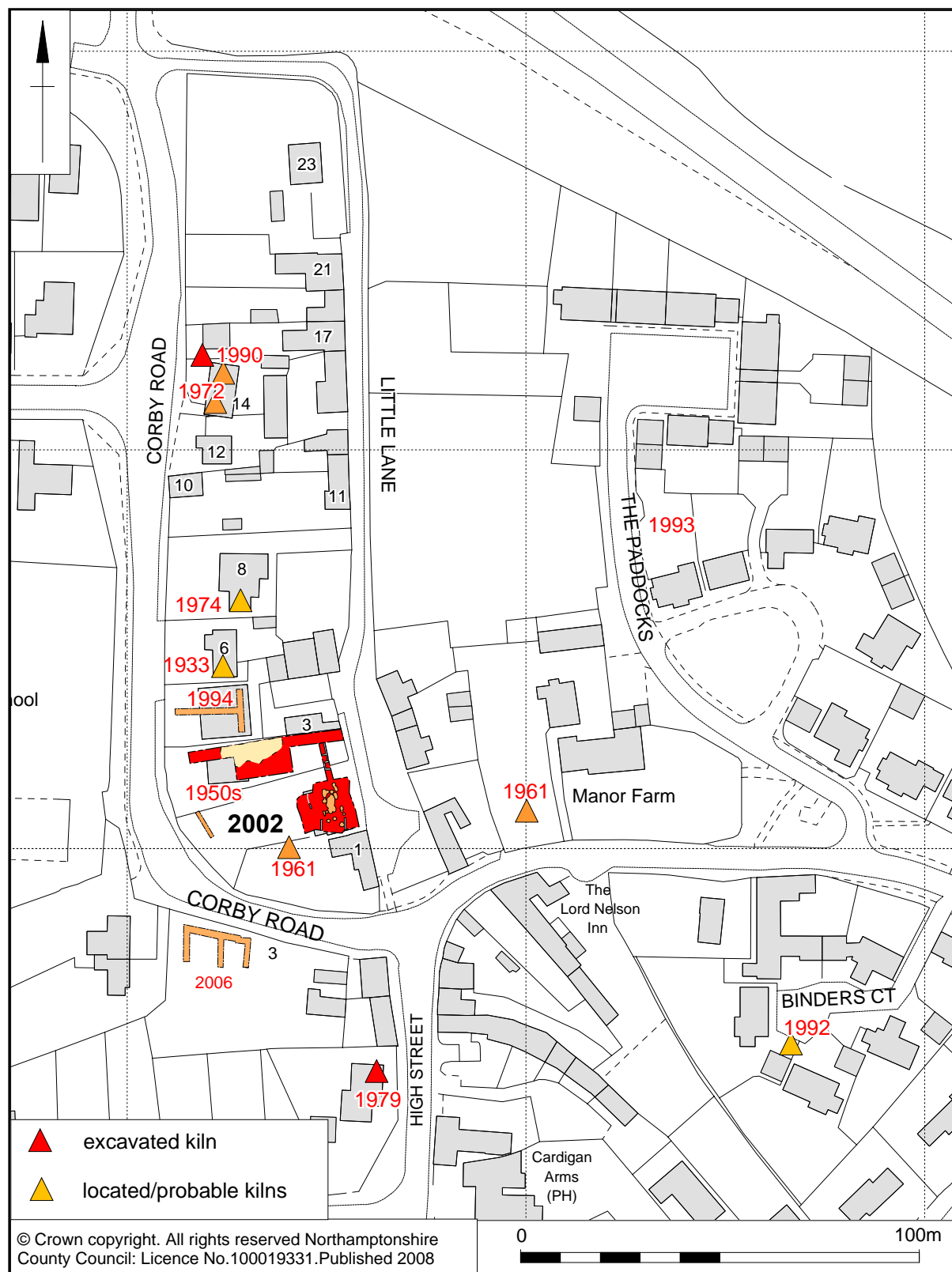


Fig 4 The potters' tenements at Stanion, showing all archaeological interventions

The information concerning the Stanion pottery industry is therefore a collection of incomplete, and sometimes uncertainly located, fragments of ground evidence

accompanied by large quantities of largely unanalysed pottery, and all spread over some 70 years of sporadic work, as listed below and summarised in the gazetteer (Fig 4).

6 CORBY ROAD, 1933

The story begins in 1933 when the *Kettering Leader* carried an article entitled 'Roman Kiln and Ancient Pottery Unearthed'. 'Remains of ancient pottery and a kiln...have been discovered at Stanion by workmen building a bungalow. The men... for a week have been excavating in an orchard near the Corby Road at Stanion in order to lay the foundations of the bungalow... when only a few inches below the surface huge quantities of broken pottery... were found. Later in a corner of the foundations huge stones burnt red by fire were found in the ground.' The Roman remains were, of course actually medieval, and Burl Bellamy identifies this site as 6 Corby Road, a bungalow built by Joseph Streather of Corby.

2 LITTLE STREET (SP 91428702), 1950s

Pottery was recovered in the mid-1950s, and it was suspected that there were kilns in the garden (Foard 1991, Appendix 1, information from Mr Thompson, 2 Little Street). This reference is to the same property as the subject of this present article, where the excavated waster pits further indicate the presence of kilns, presumably on the western part of the site.

MANOR HOUSE GARDEN (SP 91508701), 1961
1 CORBY ROAD (SP 91448700), 1961

The Ordnance Survey record cards record a kiln in the garden at 1 Corby Road and a kiln seen in a sewer trench in the Manor House garden (Foard 1991).

14 CORBY ROAD, 1972, J R FOX

In November 1972 about 4cwt (c200 kg) of medieval pottery, mostly wasters, were rescued from two houses built on an orchard plot (Fox 1975). Part of a kiln stoke hole and flue, filled with wasters, was excavated. Four courses of dry stone wall remained, but much of the structure had already been destroyed by the house foundations.

The material recovered covered at least six distinctive pottery styles as summarised below by Fox (1975). The earlier material was the course hand-made 'Stanion wares', but without the applied white strips typically of Lyveden/Stanon pottery. The later medieval wares were wheel made and fired to a high temperature. They included three sizes of jugs, typically pear-shaped with sagging bases. The smallest had rod handles with stab holes; the medium had plain strap handles, and the largest wide multiple grooved handles. Large slashed bibs of cream slip were applied to the body and covered with green glaze speckled a bright green. The lowest level of ash produced a white iron-free ware, resembling Stamford ware. The material also included some later material, including cisterns with several patterns of bung hole, fish dishes, and flat roof tiles and crested ridge tiles. A report on the later aspects of the pottery was published by Bellamy (1983, 159-61).

8 CORBY ROAD?, 1974, J HADMAN

John Hadman and Steve Upex were given half an hour to retrieve what they could from the site during the building of a house extension. It was not an excavation, more of

a smash and grab (Hadman pers comm). They recovered numerous wasters, some pretty complete, and remains of a kiln or kilns were evident (Hadman 1974). Burl Bellamy records the location as 8 Corby Road, a house that had been built in 1938. No account of this material has been published.

HIGH STREET (SP 91468695), 1979, B BELLAMY

Burl Bellamy carried out a rescue operation over a weekend when a building site on the west side of High Street had been stripped down to the limestone bedrock, with building due to commence the following week (B Bellamy pers comm). A kiln was fully excavated (Bellamy 1983). It had been constructed within a vertical-sided hole cut 0.6m into the limestone bedrock, which formed the walls of the kiln. The kiln chamber was 3.4m long by 2.3m wide, with an oval pedestal, 1.6m long by 1.16m wide, built of limestone blocks with a rubble and earth core (Fig 5). In front of the pedestal there was a central flue arch support, and the flues were 0.50m and 0.55m wide defining this as a parallel flue kiln. On the northern side the flue had been narrowed before its first firing by the insertion of dry stone walling. After a period of firings the kiln was lined with limestone slabs pitched against the walls, and after a period of ash accumulation a new lining was added at a higher level. The extant flue arch support had also replaced an earlier support. The kiln as found was completely filled with ash at the rear of the chamber, with this deposit sloping down towards the stoke hole, and at least 27 separate layers of black, red, grey and white ash were observed.

The pottery was recovered from the kiln and the stoke pit and it is all likely to be wasters from vessels fired in this kiln. The main fabric was buff/pink or grey with oolitic inclusions and sometimes ironstone (within the Northampton T2 range). Other fabrics included a hard, white iron free fabric often carrying a bright green glaze, and a shelly fabric similar to Lyveden ware. The vessels included both coil built and wheel-made jugs, decorated with white painted slip bands or white applied strips and pads with grid stamps, and an olive green glaze (Bellamy 1983, fig 3). There were also skillets with plain pulled handles, and a range of bowls and jars. In addition there were green-glazed crested ridge tiles, and four floor tile fragments (Bellamy 1983, figs 3 & 4).

THE EXCAVATION OF A KILN AT 17 LITTLE LANE, 1990

THE EXCAVATION

In 1990 a rescue excavation was carried out by Graham Cadman of the Curatorial Section of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit during redevelopment of the property at 17 Little Lane (NGR: 9143 8713. Site Code: 17LL). The following description is drawn from the site records, which the excavator has made freely available to the author. Graham Cadman was assisted in the excavation by the late John Hartigan, Christine Addison and Gill Johnston. An initial assessment of the pottery was provided by Paul Blinkhorn, see below, who also described and published the pottery bird whistles (Blinkhorn 1991).

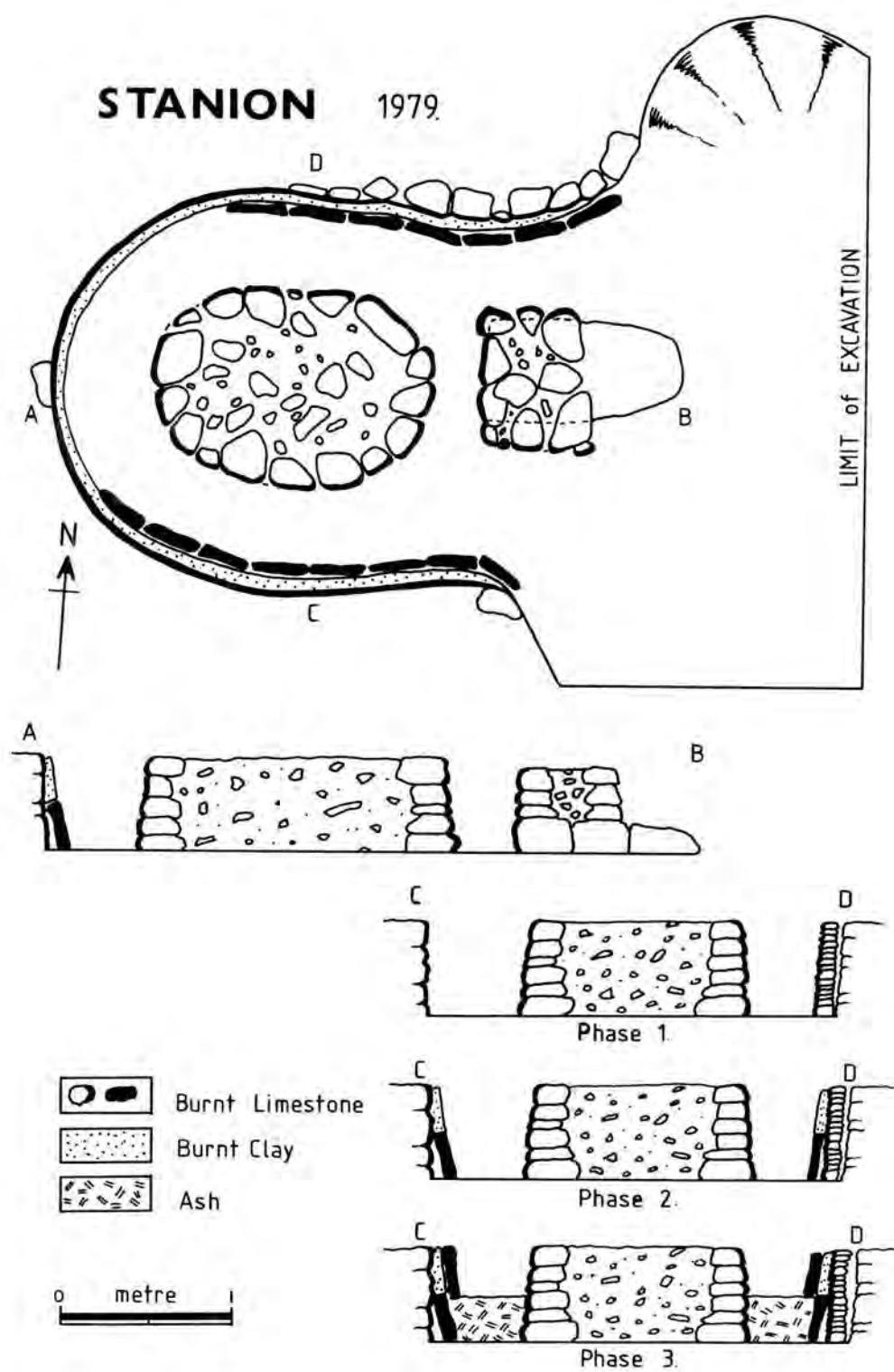


Fig 5 Plan and sections of kiln excavated by Bellamy in 1979 (from Bellamy 1983, fig 2)

On the first site visit the topsoil had been removed over the greater part of the property, to expose a natural of buff-coloured clay. Features were seen cutting into the natural and were excavated in difficult conditions over a period of some 11 days in late January and early February.

THE KILN

The kiln lay at the western end of the site against the southern property boundary, so that only the northern half of the kiln could be excavated (Figs 6-9). This was evidently a parallel-flue kiln built within a construction

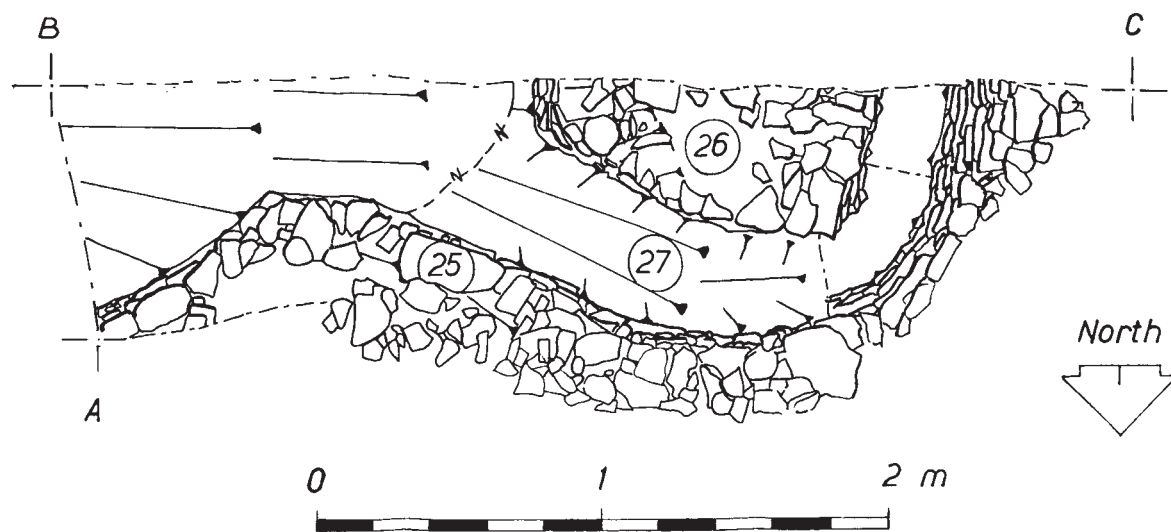


Fig 6 Plan of kiln excavated at 17 Little Lane by Cadman in 1990



Fig 7 The kiln at 17 Little Lane during excavation in 1990, looking west



pit, broadly similar to the kiln excavated by Bellamy (Fig 5). The kiln chamber was 2.5m long, lined with rough courses of dry stone walling in limestone (25), which at the west end of the kiln stood 0.95m high (Figs 6, 8 and 9). The lining continued eastward for at least 1.0m into the stoke pit. The pedestal (26) was 1.2m long, with a rubble and clay core faced with coursed limestone the same as the chamber lining. The flue was from 0.4-0.5m wide. To the north it contained lenses of red-orange-black clay-sand-ash accumulated through a succession of firings, while to the west the fill clean clay had been a deliberate infilling of this end prior to the first firing.

The kiln chamber and stoke pit was filled with tumbled limestone in a clay matix, from the kiln superstructure, and above this there was a thick layer of clay (Fig 9).

THE DITCHES

A length of ditch (F5), 1.0m wide by 0.50m deep, had been infilled with kiln debris, probably from the excavated kiln, although there was no stratigraphic relationship. The upper fill was of grey-black silty clay, containing much ash, presumably largely debris from kiln firings.

Cut into the top of the clay infill above the collapsed kiln superstructure, there was a gully (F2), which contained quantities of dumped pottery, evidently from another nearby kiln in use at a later date. Towards the southern side of the area at the eastern end of the property

Fig 8 The excavated kiln, showing the coursed limestone lining of the chamber and pedestal



Fig 9 The kiln, looking south, showing rubble fill in section

an 8.0m length of gully (F1), also aligned west to east, was probably a continuation of the same feature. It had a U-shaped profile and was 0.60m wide by 0.35m deep. The fill of the gully contained large amounts of closely-packed dumped pottery, although whether this was a backfill or a hardcore to assist drainage was unclear.

The western end of the site had not been fully stripped, and the ground surface sloped gently up and was higher than the adjacent properties. This may have been the remnant of a low bank adjacent to the west end of the plot, made up of topsoil and much pottery.

The excavations produced a total of 21 archive boxes of pottery (including roof and floor tile fragments), estimated to weigh 4cwt (c 200kg).

THE POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE FROM 17 LITTLE LANE *Paul Blinkhorn*

In 1990 Paul Blinkhorn prepared an assessment of the pottery assemblage and recommended that full analysis and publication should be carried out. Unfortunately, no funding was available and the only outcome was the publication of a note describing the exceptional bird whistle pots (Blinkhorn 1991). Below we provide a summary of the assemblage extracted from that unpublished assessment report.

FEATURE (F5)

A very large group (c 5 boxes). The initial impression is that it was from a different kiln to the material found in Features 1 and 2. The fabric is quite dissimilar, being the coil-built oolitic B-type ware, having a heavier tempering of white ooliths, with moderate amounts of rounded and angular ironstone, up to 10mm. This material is usually dated to the 13th century (eg Steane and Bryant 1975, 75). The range of colours is usual, ie mainly orange or dark grey.

Some 75-80% of the assemblage comprises jugs, bowls, tiles and jars. There are no bifid rims. A few sherds of the white sandy fabric and the buff-orange oolitic wheel-thrown ware are present, but the vast majority of the vessels are coil built, and, in the case of jugs, show obvious differences in form to the jugs in the other fabrics. They are generally much larger, and although there are a few of the grooved strap handles (one slashed), the vast majority are thicker and heavier with an ovoid cross-section, decorated with single shallow thumb groove and a single line of stab marks running longitudinally down the centre. There is also a single pipkin/skillet handle in a similar fabric with the same stabbed decoration.

It is also worthy of note that there are only two sherds with geometric slip decoration (overall scheme uncertain), as this usually appears to be the commonest form of decoration on coil-built jugs, with all the other vessels having a patchy green glaze, and apart from a single vessel with a perfunctory applied slip on the shoulder, no applied plastic decoration or stamping occurs.

The jars and bowls have the usual forms of body and rim profile for Lyveden/Stanton ware, but are made in the jug fabric, and many are glazed. This is most unusual, as these vessels only usually occur in the shelly limestone A fabric and are unglazed. There were two glazed jars in this B fabric at West Cotton, one of which had the

quite soft, ironstone-rich fabric found here (Blinkhorn in press).

Perhaps 20-25% of the material consists of coarse, conical pipe-like vessels with flat bases, which were probably kiln spacers.

A single large base sherd from a Brill/Boarstall-type jug was amongst this material.

FEATURE (F1)

The fill of this feature contained many fragments of wasters, apparently with a high degree of reconstructability. The fabric appears to be the Lyveden D type, ie wheel-thrown vessels with oolitic tempering, although with a fair degree of variation in colour, hardness and inclusions. The majority of the sherds are of an orange-buff fabric, with a grey or orange core, and a sparse tempering of fine white ooliths, < 1mm, with an occasional piece of crushed limestone, up to 5mm.

A few vessels occur in a soft, pure white fabric, a soft grey, and a hard purplish brown, with the latter having no ooliths in the temper, merely a very few pieces of angular limestone.

Many of the vessels are glazed green, but only on the top part, with most having only a few patches or splashes on the shoulders, with 'runs' down to the lower body. A few vessels have patches of white slip under the glaze, although none have any sort of geometric pattern which is typical of vessels from the earlier period of the industry. The majority of the vessels appear to be jugs, with the rim/handle count suggesting around 10 to 15 vessels present, with the predominant form appearing to be globular, with simple strap handles, which are either plain, stabbed or longitudinally grooved, with some having the latter two techniques employed.

The rim forms suggest that a fairly large number of jars are present, as were fragments of kiln spacers, a bung-hole from a cistern and a few fragments of glazed roof tiles.

FEATURE (F2)

A broadly similar assemblage to that from ditch (F1), but more fragmentary. There appears to be a lower proportion of jars and a far larger proportion of roof tiles. There are a few fragments from the neck, handle and rim of a jug in a white sandy fabric very similar to Stamford ware, with patches of thick yellowish-green glaze, and a few sherds of a similar pinkish fabric with no visible inclusions. There are also about a dozen quite thick sherds from the base of a vessel in a very soft, sandy, orange-pink fabric, also with no visible inclusions except for a large piece of angular red ironstone, 10mm. Three bird whistles in a similar, although slightly harder fabric were also found in this feature.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

It would seem apparent that the excavated pottery came from two distinct phases of production.

The earlier material is probably derived from the excavated kiln. Within this group the glazed jars and bowls are quite rare, although a few are known from Lyveden (Steane 1967, figs 3a-3e, Bryant and Steane 1969, fig 5c). The jugs are of the normal coil construction

and form, but there is none of the usual form of slip and/or stamp decoration which appear to be virtually standard for jugs of this type, as at the kiln excavated by Bellamy (1983) and as in the assemblage from West Cotton, Raunds (Blinkhorn in press).

The published material recovered from the adjacent property, 14 Corby Road (Fox 1974 and Bellamy 1983), would suggest that the kilns on this property may have been the source for the wheel-thrown vessels, Lyveden D type, recovered from ditches (F1) and (F2), with the assemblages sharing such common features as bifid rims, and a lack of slip decoration on the glazed jugs. It is difficult to be certain of a date for this material, but one of post-1400 can be suggested by association. Wheel-thrown Lyveden/Stanion wares are generally dated to the 15th century at the kiln sites (eg Steane and Bryant 1975, 91), and West Cotton, Raunds has very little of the material with the latest coin date coming from the end of the 14th century (Chapman in press).

The bird whistles are of considerable interest, as only one other example of this type is known from an English source (Pearce and Vince 1988, 128, no.210), although similar vessels are more well known on the continent, but usually with an anthropomorphic form rather than as miniature jugs (c50mm high) as in the case with these (J Hurst pers comm) (Figs 10 and 11). The whistle pots are in a hard, pink-buff slightly sandy fabric with rare white-grey oolites and reddish-brown rounded ironstone (Blinkhorn 1991). Throwing marks and glaze splashes are visible on the inner surface, which has a patchy mottled green and yellow copper glaze. A tubular clay whistle, with a rectangular cut-out on the

upper side, projects into the vessel through the side and ends just above the base. When the vessel is filled with water and air is blown down the stem, a warbling sound akin to bird song is produced. They are thought to have been used as both toys and hunting lures (Blinkhorn 1991).

It is striking that there is such a high proportion of conical vessels, which were probably kiln spacers, in the earlier pot deposits. These objects appear to be quite rare. There are two examples illustrated from kiln D1 at Lyveden (Adams in Bryant and Steane, 1969, 25 and figs 8c & d) and they were found associated with kiln D2 (Steane 1971, 35), but not with kilns G and J. No mention is made of kiln props by Bellamy (1983). The large number in this deposit at 17 Little Lane could be due to a high failure rate during firing, or even the failure of a kiln load consisting of these objects alone. It would seem probable that each potter made his own kiln furniture, but proof of this through fabric analysis is still needed.

RECENT EVALUATIONS

Apart from the excavation at 2 Corby Road reported in this article, Northamptonshire Archaeology has also carried out other evaluations in the area since 1990, although these have provided largely negative evidence.

In March 1992 a field south of Brigstock Road (SP 916869) was subject to fieldwalking and resistivity survey prior to development. A small mound in the western half of the area had a recent disturbance that had exposed sherds of medieval pottery, although no evident wasters. The above average resistance readings suggested the possible presence of a kiln, but this could not be confirmed by magnetometer survey due to the proximity of a modern sewer. This land, Binders Court, has since been developed for housing.

In March 1993 three trial trenches were excavated in a field to the north of Manor Farm (SP 915871), now occupied by The Paddocks housing development (Fig 3, 1993: Steadman 1993). It had not been possible to carry out geophysical survey because of the presence of concrete foundations and rubble from former farm buildings. No features or artefacts were recovered which might indicate the presence of nearby kilns.

In 1994 at 3 Little Lane (SP 91428703) a T-shaped evaluation trench failed to find any surviving archaeology (Blinkhorn 1994). It was concluded that the site had been levelled by terracing and that any former remains had been lost. This conclusion was supported by a comparison of the ground levels, which stood around 1.0m higher to the south within the property of 2 Corby Road.

More recently, in 2006 there was an evaluation to the immediate south of Corby Road (Fig 1, 2006: Foard-Colby 2006). This E-shaped pattern of trenches located a sparse scatter of cut features some of medieval date. However, only relatively small quantities of pottery were recovered. It would therefore appear that this particular property was never involved in pottery production despite the presence of kiln sites to both the north and south-east.



Fig 10 A pottery bird whistle from the kiln excavated in 1990 (scale 50mm)

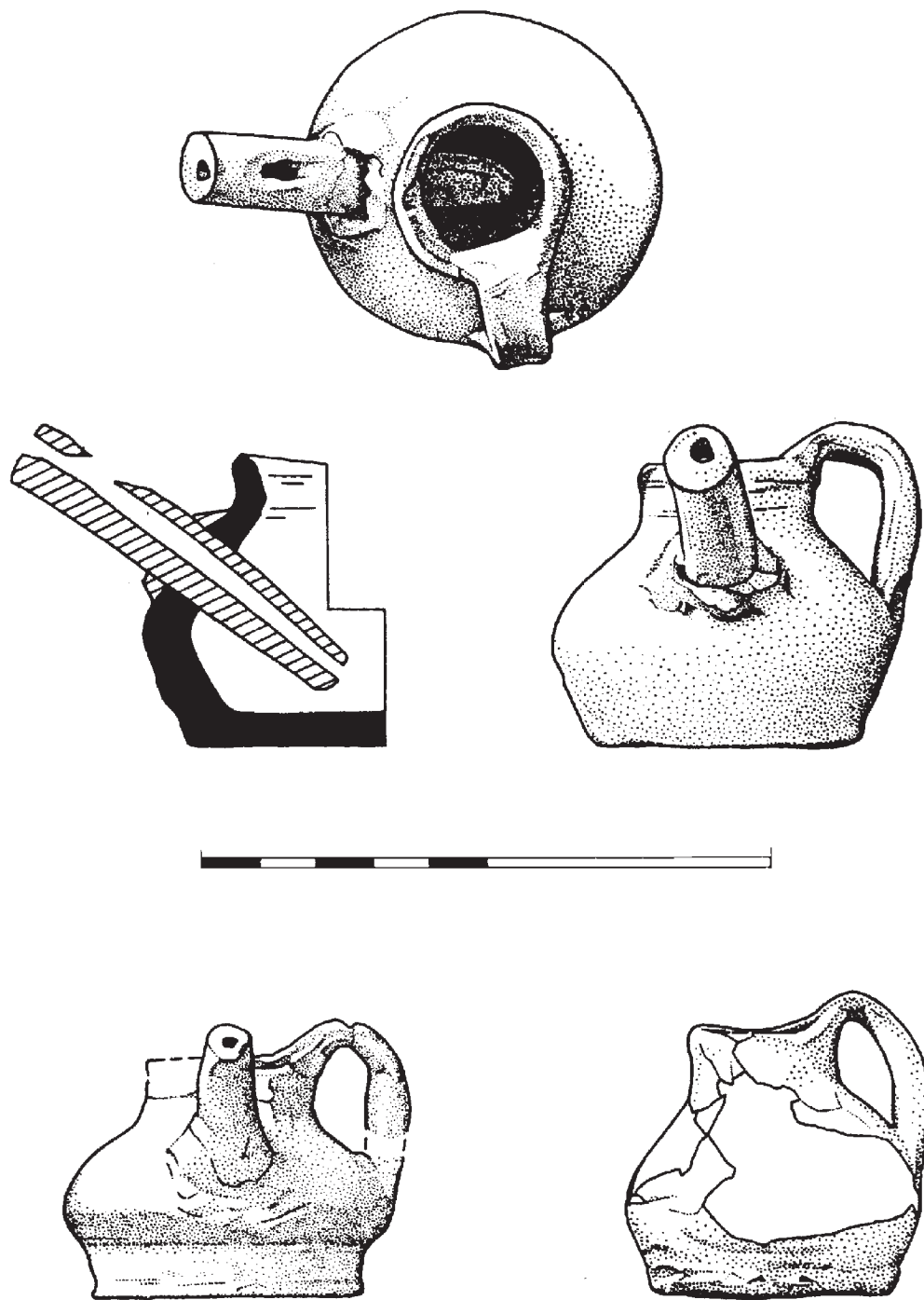


Fig 11 The pottery bird whistles from the kiln excavated in 1990 (scale 100mm)

A GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

Date	Location	Summary	Publication
1933	6 Corby Road ?	Workmen report finding of numerous wasters and part of a kiln	<i>Kettering Leader</i> , 9 May 1933
1950s	2 Little Street (SP 91428702)	Pottery recovered and kiln(s) suspected in garden (see 2 Corby Road, 2002 and waster pits on same property).	Foard 1991 (house owner pers comm)
1961	1 Corby Road (SP 91448700)	Kiln in garden recorded by Seabourne.	Foard 1991 (OS record card SP98 NW23)
1961	Manor House garden (SP 91508701)	Kiln recognised by Seabourne in sewer laying, and sherds reported from gardens in vicinity.	Foard 1991 (OS record card SP98 NW20)
1972	14 Corby Road (SP 914871)	Salvage/Rescue by J R Fox when building work uncovered deposits. Limited excavation of stoke hole and flue of one kiln and another kiln suspected. Numerous wasters. Records and finds deposited with Northampton Museum.	Fox 1975 and Bellamy 1980, 159-61
1974	8 Corby Road ? (SP 914872 ?)	Salvage work by J Hadman and S Upex. Numerous wasters and remains of kiln. Location identified by B Bellamy.	Hadman 1974
1979	High Street SP 91468695	Rescue excavation on west side of High Street following stripping of site for building. Kiln and numerous wasters.	Bellamy 1980
1990	17 Little Lane (SP 91438713)	Rescue excavation by G Cadman in advance of building work. Kiln and numerous wasters, including bird whistle pots.	Blinkhorn 1991 Chapman, Blinkhorn and Chapman 2008
1992	S. of Brigstock Road (SP916869)	Earthwork survey and resistivity survey. Possible kiln at SP91568695. Now built over	Masters <i>et al</i> 1992
1993	N. of Manor Farm (SP 915871)	Trial trenching before housing development. No evidence of former kilns or waster dumps	Steadman 1993
1994	3 Little Lane (SP 91428703)	Evaluation by P Blinkhorn for NA in advance of new house. No evidence of former kilns or waster dumps, but site had been truncated.	Blinkhorn 1994
2002	2 Corby Road	Excavation by S Carlyle for NA in advance of new house. Group of waster pits.	Chapman, Blinkhorn and Chapman 2008
2006	3 Corby Road	Evaluation by A Foard-Colby for NA in advance of new house. Archaeology survived, but no evidence of former kilns or waster dumps	Foard-Colby 2006

THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

Pat Chapman

The excavated area was almost square, measuring 13.0m north-south by 13.9m east-west, 0.14ha, taking in the proposed house plot (Figs 12 and 13). The stone building within the northern end of the previous trial trench is also considered.

The area of the house plot was stripped by mechanical excavator to expose the intact archaeological deposits (Fig 13). The western side of the area, which was almost

devoid of features, was stripped down to natural, while an adjacent area, which included two boundary walls, was left at a slightly higher level, and was not fully excavated. The area containing the waster pits was stripped to natural and the pits were excavated by hand. A small area of stratified deposits to the south-east was only partially investigated (Fig 13).

The natural substrate comprises bright orange yellow silty clay with occasional lenses of blue grey clay. The clay becomes more orange with depth and contains pieces of ironstone. The pit fills comprised grey brown



Fig 12 General view of site during excavation, looking south-east towards Little Lane

clay silts with occasional flecks of charcoal and small cobbles, with variations mentioned below.

CHRONOLOGY

A ditch running along the southern edge of the excavation probably marked the southern boundary to the tenement from the 13th century. In the 14th century this boundary was perhaps relocated slightly further to the south, perhaps to the present line, when a stone building was constructed, fronting onto Little Lane.

According to the dating of the pottery, the excavated group of waster pits fall into two periods, between 1350-1400 and 1450-1500, with the earlier group lying slightly to the east (Fig 14).

The stone building to the north, partially investigated in the 1993 evaluation, was probably broadly contemporary with the waster dumps, and had certainly been levelled by the late 16th century. A small clay dump in this area was of clean clay, perhaps prepared for potting.

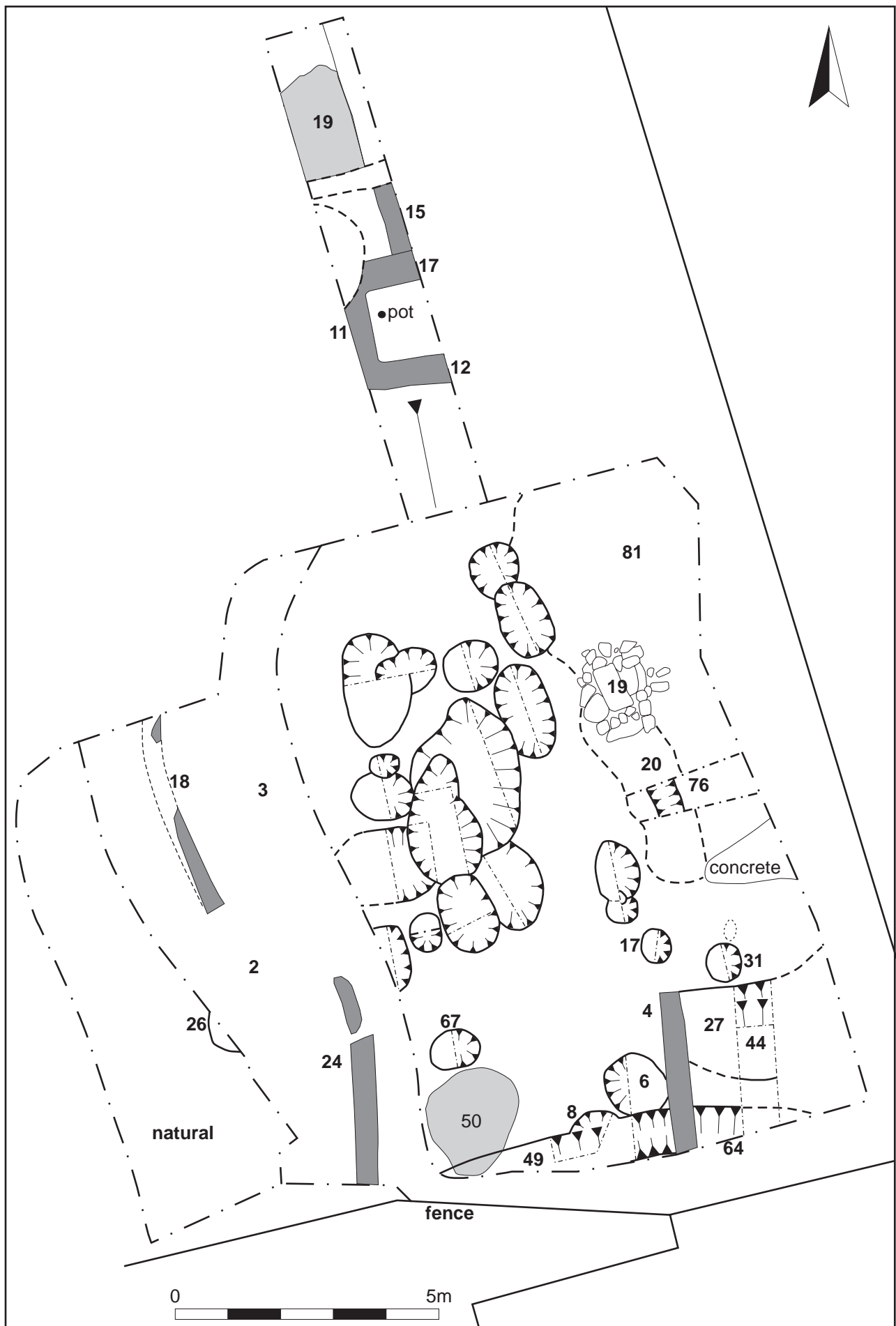
To the west, two walls running north to south were probably boundary walls. They were certainly still in use in the 16th century, following the demise of the pottery industry, and may have been built to sub-divide the plot following the abandonment of the potters' tenement (Table 1).

Table 1: Site chronology

FEATURES	DATE
Southern plot boundary ditch	13th-14th centuries
Waster dump; early phase	1350-1400
Northern building	14th-16th centuries
Southern building	14th-16th centuries
Waster dump; later phase	1450-1500
Abandonment of potters' tenement	16th century
Western boundary walls	16th century
Overlying soil horizons	16th to 18th centuries

The whole area was covered by soil layers containing a sparse scatter of post-medieval pottery dating from the 16th to 18th centuries. Part of the plot became an orchard, indicating it was left under grass rather than being a garden. In the 1990s the plot was divided into two, longitudinally, to permit the building of the new house on the southern half of the plot.

Fig 13 (opposite) Plan of excavated area



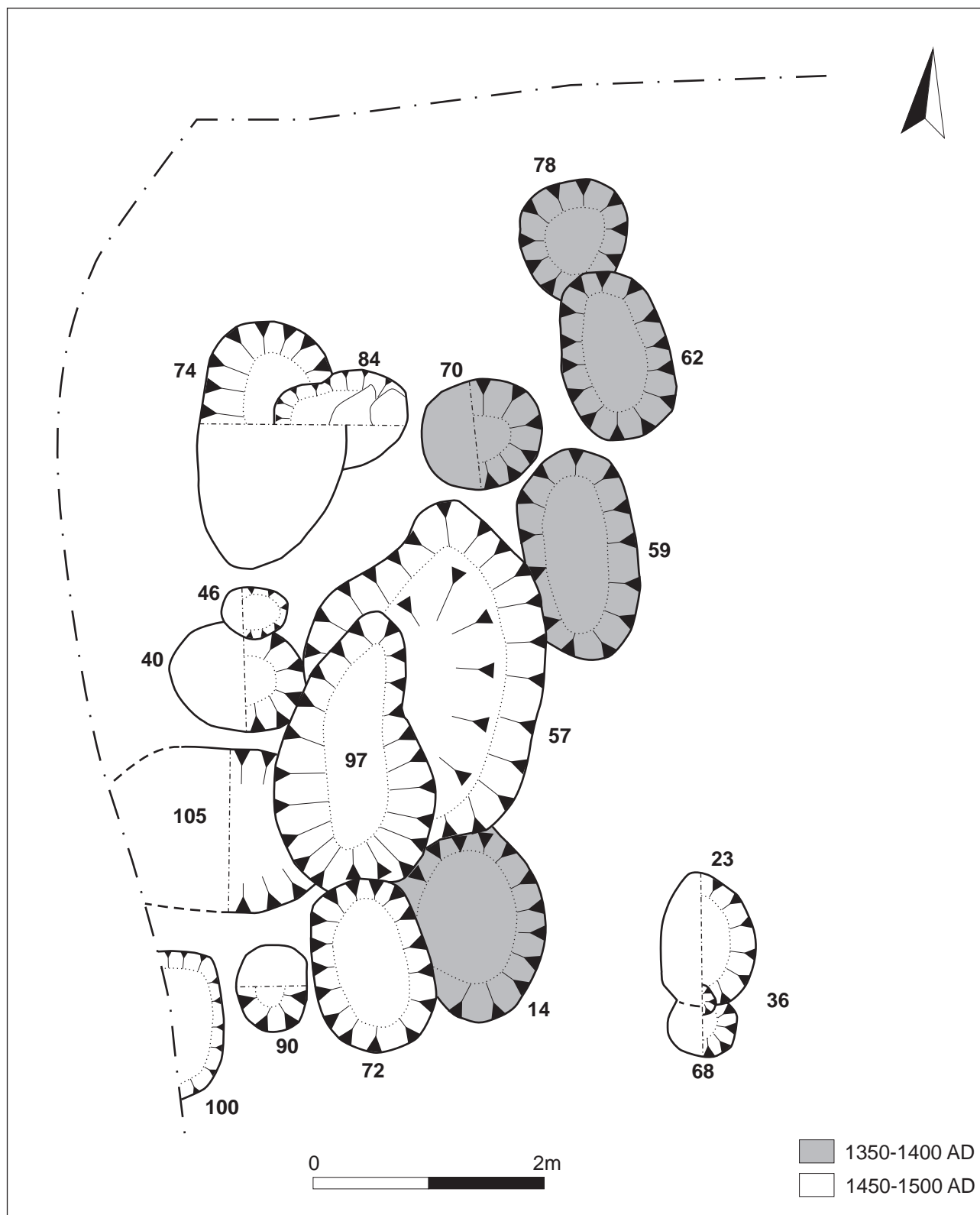


Fig 14 The central pit group

PLOT BOUNDARY

A ditch ran along the southern margin of the excavated area (Fig 13, 49/64). It was 0.55m deep, with a steep

northern side and a flat bottom, and was perhaps slightly in excess of 1.80m wide, although the southern edge lay beyond the excavated area. To the west, the primary fill comprised grey blue clay containing frequent small

limestone slabs and flecks of charcoal, along with a few sherds of Lyveden/Stanion B ware. To the east larger limestone slabs, up to 40mm by 30mm, within the primary fill were set upright on the base of the ditch, perhaps to consolidate the backfill before the construction of the overlying building. An upper ditch fill of brown clay silt (29) contained a fragment of a curfew. The presence of Lyveden/Stanion B ware indicates that the ditch was open in the 13th and into the 14th century, with the building perhaps dating to the 14th century. The close coincidence with the modern plot boundary might suggest that the early ditched boundary was perhaps relocated just a few metres to the south when the building was constructed.

THE EARLY PHASE OF WASTER PITS (c 1350-1400)

A combination of stratigraphy and pottery dating indicate that there were two phases of waster pits, with the earlier group lying slightly to the east (Fig 14). The pits were steep-sided and flat-bottomed. Three were oval, between 1.50 and 1.75m long, and the other two were 1.0m in diameter. Pit 14, at 0.58m deep, was the deepest and contained over two thirds of the pottery assemblage from the earlier pits. These pits also contained small quantities of roof ridge tile and kiln furniture.

To the east of these pits, a layer of brown clay silt, (81), about 0.05m deep and containing charcoal flecks and occasional small fragments of limestone, covered an area c 7.0m long and 3.80m wide (Fig 13). It appeared to be an area of trampled natural contemporary with the pit complex.

PIT 14

This pit was 1.70m long by 1.00m wide and 0.58m deep, with very steep sides and a flat base (Fig 14). It was filled with a tumbled mass of waster pots, most of which had gone in as complete or near complete vessels, and the density would indicate that this material probably comprised the waste from the failure of no more than one or two kiln firings. They were perhaps particularly disastrous failures in which a larger than normal number of vessels were lost. The total weight of pottery was 200kg, and 15 vessels have been reconstructed from this group.

The initial dump of pottery lay against the south-western side of the pit, and included nine jugs within a grey and ashy charcoal-flecked fill (65) (Figs 16-18). A further dump of pottery included a number of almost complete vessels within a grey brown silty clay (13), including a small jug (Fig 34, SJ1) and a small internally glazed bowl with six pulled lips, which appears to be unique (Fig 34, SB1).

The range of vessels comprises jars, bowls and jugs of Lyveden/Stanion B ware giving a date of AD 1350-1400.

PIT 59

This shallow oval pit was 1.60m long, 0.97m wide and only 0.28m deep. There was relatively little pottery, only c21kg, within the fill of greyish brown clayey silt, but



Fig 15 Central pit group looking south, pit 59, bottom left, and pit 14, centre back



Fig 16 Pit F14 during excavation of primary pot deposit



Fig 17 Pit 14, with a deposit of largely complete jug wasters



Fig 18 Pit 14 with the primary deposit of pots *in situ*

some material had been removed from the surface when the pit had first been uncovered during the evaluation in 1993.

The vessels comprise largely jugs with some bowls, and the lack of jars would indicate a date of about AD 1350.

PIT 70

This circular pit, was 0.95m in diameter and 0.40m deep (Fig 14). Within the soft grey brown silty clay there was a cluster of medium sized limestone slabs on the north side. The small amount of pottery, 7.5kg, included a complete jug (Fig 29, ST12) and one with an unusual rouletted decoration (Fig 33, ST22). The Lyveden/Stansion A ware sherds, date the group to before AD 1400.

PITS 78 AND 62

To the north-east there were two intercutting pits (Fig 14). Pit 78 was 1.0m in diameter by only 0.10m deep, and contained 6.9kg of pottery, all predating AD 1400.

Pit 62 was 1.41m long by 0.85m wide and 0.17m deep. Despite being so shallow, it contained 50kg of pottery in brown silty clay. The bulk of the pottery comprises Lyveden/Stansion B ware jars and jugs and four dripping dish rimsherds, with a small amount of Lyveden/Stansion D ware and two large Lyveden/Stansion A ware rimsherds, which date the assemblage to before AD 1400. In particular, there are three jug rims with face masks, different to previously known examples from 13th-century contexts, which have very little parallel in the Lyveden/Stansion industry. If they are copies of, or inspired by other industries such as those in Norfolk, they would be dated to the 13th to 14th centuries (Blinkhorn this report) (Fig 22, ST28, 29, 30).

PIT 17

To the south-east of the main group of pits, this steep-sided, flat-bottomed pit was only 0.55m in diameter and 0.44m deep (Fig 13). There was very little pottery, only 106g, but this included three Lyveden/Stansion A ware sherds, which would date the pit to AD 1330-1400. In the upper fill there were frequent blocks of limestone, measuring 15-30mm long and up to 10mm thick.

THE LATER PHASE OF WASTER PITS (c 1450-1500)

The second phase of waster deposition saw a concentration of larger, intercutting pits in the centre of the site (Fig 14). These contained just over half of the total pottery assemblage, and a majority of the roof tile and kiln furniture. There was also a scatter of smaller pits in the southern area (Fig 13).

PIT 57

This, the largest pit on the site, was 3.10m long by 1.30m wide and up to 0.65m deep, with steep sides and a relatively flat bottom (Fig 14).

The primary fill was a thin layer of grey blue clay, 0.08m thick, in the deepest part of the pit, suggesting that it had been left open for sometime, with water accumulating in the bottom. The secondary fill was c 0.25m thick, and contained only some pottery sherds.

The main dump of pottery, nearly 80kg, was in the upper fill (55) of dark grey clay silt, which also contained over 19kg of the ridge tile, nearly one third of all the assemblage.

Most of the assemblage comprises Lyveden/Stansion B

ware jars, bowls and jugs in broadly similar proportions to those in pit 14. There are also some sherds of Lyveden/Stansion D ware. One sherd has part of an inscription '*. naria*', extremely rare on medieval jugs, and there is a wider range of decorative techniques. This, in addition to a single sherd of Midland Purple ware, date this pit group to about the middle of the 15th century.

PIT 105

This was a shallow pit with indistinct edges, and the only pit with its long axis aligned east to west (Fig 14). It measured 1.41m long by 1.30m wide and 0.25m deep.

The primary brown clay fill was overlain by a thin band of dark grey brown clay silt, 0.03m thick, with dense comminuted charcoal. Only the upper fill (104), the usual grey brown clay, contained a very small amount of pottery, 2.4kg. It was cut on its eastern side by pit 97.

PIT 97

This pit, 2.20m long by 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep, had been cut into the fills of pits 57 and 105 (Fig 14). The primary fill (96) was soft loose ashy grey silt containing some pottery sherds. This was overlain by a thin layer of yellow brown silty sand, followed by soft dark grey clay silt (94), which contained most of one jug and was overlain by another thin layer of yellow brown silty sand. The main fill (92) was a brown clay silt, which contained 61kg of pottery as well as some ridge tile and a near complete kiln prop.

The stratigraphic sequence suggests that this pit was not filled with wasters and sherds from only one or two kiln firing, as with pit 14, but with some initial odds and ends deposited at intervals wide enough apart for some silting to occur. The main act of deposition then followed.

The entire assemblage comprises jars, bowls and jugs in Lyveden/Stansion B wares, which would probably be dated to the second half of the 15th century, especially as this pit post-dates pit 57.

PIT 72

The final pit in the central sequence, cutting the end of pit 97, was 1.65m long by 1.25m wide and only 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a roughly flat bottom (Fig 14). Unlike the other pits, in which complete or at least large parts of single vessels had been deposited, the grey brown clay silt of this pit was packed with a dense mass of individual pottery sherds (Fig 19). It seems most likely that these were sherds from several previous kiln firings, which had probably lain for some time in surface waster dumps before being redeposited in this pit. It was not possible to reconstruct any of these vessels because of the mixed and fragmented state of the assemblage (Figs 14 and 19).

This is the largest assemblage of pottery of this later phase, at over 120kg, again mainly Lyveden/Stansion B ware jars, bowls and jugs, with a small amount of Lyveden/Stansion D ware sherds. There are also three fragments of face-masks, similar to those from pit 62. These are usually dated to the 14th century, in contrast to the rest of the pottery which is mid to late 15th century, but as the group contains redeposited material the face



Fig 19 Section of pit 72, showing the fill of re-deposited pottery sherds

masks may have been residual sherds from the earlier phase of activity. There was also 2.7kg of ridge tile, the second largest amount after pit 57, and the remains of a few kiln props.

PITS 84 AND 74

Pit 84 was 1.30m long by 0.86m wide and 0.98m deep, with near vertical sides. There were two large limestone blocks *c* 500mm by 300mm by 160mm, within the yellowish grey clay silt (Fig 14). It contained only 2.8kg of pottery and roof tile.

Pit 74 was also steep-sided, 2.10m long by 1.40m wide and 0.55m deep, cutting pit 84. The primary fill was dark grey silt containing comminuted charcoal. It was overlain by yellowish clay and a grey brown silty clay, which contained 9.5kg pottery and a little roof ridge tile.

As well as Lyveden/Stanion B and D ware jars, bowls and jugs, the presence of a sherd of Midland Purple and the only two bifid type jar rims from the excavation, date the assemblage to post AD 1450.

PITS 40 AND 46

Pit 40 was 1.12m long by 0.86m wide by 0.55m deep, with near vertical sides (Fig 14). It contained a small assemblage of pottery and roof ridge tile, including seven crests (Fig 25) and the largest amount of kiln furniture from any context.

Pit 46, which cut the northern edge of pit 40, was a small circular feature, 0.51m in diameter and only 0.36m deep. The fill contained lumps of blue grey clay near the base.

PIT 90

This shallow pit was *c* 0.70m in diameter by 0.14m deep, with a stony clay fill and very few pottery sherds.

PIT 100

Pit 100 was 1.30m wide and 0.55m deep with vertical sides. The western half was concealed by a later soil horizon. Both the primary and upper fills contained very little pottery, which is surprising as it was so close to the central pottery pit group.

PITS 36, 68 AND 23

The earliest feature in this group, pit 36, was 0.40m wide and 0.62m deep with steep sides (Fig 14). It had been cut by a circular pit, 68, 0.51m in diameter and 0.55m deep, with vertical sides. The final cut, pit 23, was 1.22m long by 0.81m wide and 0.44m deep, with steep sides into a concave base. There were occasional fragments of limestone and about 5kg of pottery in the fills, comprising mainly bowls.

PIT 67

Lying to the south of the main group, this was a circular pit, 0.86m in diameter but only 0.11m deep (Fig 13). There were lumps of blue grey clay within the brown silty clay and one large slab of limestone, and a few sherds of pottery.

PIT 6

Also lying to the south, this bowl-shaped pit was 1.21m

long by 0.99m wide and 0.36m deep (Fig 13). There were frequent pieces of limestone, 7mm to 20mm long, in the primary fill, which was overlain by a thin ashy band, containing comminuted charcoal, covered by a soft silty grey clay. There was very little pottery, mainly Lyveden/Stanion B ware and a single sherd of Cistercian ware, giving an end date in the late 15th century.

PIT 31

A very shallow pit, 0.64m diameter and only 0.008m deep (Fig 13).

Pit 26

This was a partially exposed waster pit west of the boundary walls (Fig 13). Pottery collected from the surface included the full profile of a pancheon.

Pit 8

A sub-circular hollow, [8], had been cut into the upper ditch fill. It was 2.30m long by 1.80m wide, but only 0.14m deep. The fill was blue grey clay with fragments of burnt stone and burnt clay and containing some Lyveden/Stanion B ware pottery.

Burnt surface, (50)

To the south, and extending over the western edge of infilled boundary ditch, 49, there was an irregular burnt patch, c 2.00m by 1.80m (Fig 13, 50). The clay natural was burnt to a dark pinkish red, with the burning penetrating to a depth of 0.12m.

SOUTHERN BUILDING

The south-eastern corner of the excavated area was not fully excavated. The earliest feature was a large oval pit, 44 (Fig 13). It was up to 1.80m wide and perhaps up to 6.0m long, but the eastern end was not defined in plan, and 0.6m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The primary fill was greenish brown clay silt, perhaps suggesting that it had been used as a cess pit. The secondary fill was soft brown clay silt, which was overlain by thin layer of yellow brown clay with blue grey lumps and small limestone cobbles. On the surface of this layer there was an area of burning, perhaps associated with use of an overlying building.

A rough limestone wall was built across the backfilled boundary ditch, 64, and also across the end of pit 44 (Fig 13, 4). The wall was 0.50m wide, built of roughly coursed angular limestone and survived up to five courses high at the northern end. A length of 3m length was uncovered, and it continued beyond the southern limit of excavation. The northern end was disturbed, and it is uncertain whether it was the original northern end or marked the survival of the wall only where it had subsided into the underlying pit fill. The absence of any return wall may suggest the latter. Part of the eastern wall face was scorched, and this face was abutted by a brown clayey layer containing fragments of limestone, (27), which may have been a remnant of a floor level, also preserved by subsidence of the underlying ditch fills.

It is therefore suggested that a small stone building, of

unknown overall dimensions, had stood here during the 14th and 15th centuries, broadly contemporary with the usage of the nearby pits.

NORTHERN BUILDING

This building was partially exposed during the trial trench evaluation in 1993 (Fig 13) (Soden 1993). The plan is too incomplete to define the plan form and size, but it is likely that they formed the rear of a building fronting onto Little Lane. The walls were all 0.50-0.60m thick, built of roughly coursed oolitic limestone around a rubble core.

A wall aligned north-south, 15, which to the north had been robbed, may have formed the rear of the building. To the south it was abutted by a wall at right angles, 17, with a parallel wall, 12, only 1.4m to the south. These may have formed a small chamber with an end wall, 11, to the west, although only the inner face of this wall survived undisturbed. Within this chamber a complete Lyveden/Stanion B ware jar had been inverted and buried in the earth floor.

The western face of wall 15 was abutted by a layer of light grey clay, (19), heavily contaminated with charcoal and small stone fragments, and containing quantities of late medieval pottery and roof tile wasters (not excavated), which may have accumulated as a waster dump against the rear wall of the building.

In the junction of walls 15 and 17, there was a small deposit of pure, clean light grey clay, which appears to have had its natural contaminants removed, possible in preparation for potting.

The pottery associated with these features was no later than 15th century in date, suggesting that the building was contemporary with the waster pits and was part of the potter's workshop.

THE WESTERN BOUNDARY WALLS

There were two sinuous lengths of boundary wall, aligned north to south, in the western part of the area (Fig 13, 18 and 24). Wall 18 was 0.41m wide with two courses of unmortared limestone surviving, and wall 24 was 0.45m wide, also with two unmortared limestone courses surviving. There was a scatter of limestone running diagonally between the two wall ends, perhaps suggesting that they were part of a single boundary system despite the marked offset between their alignments.

The homogeneous soil horizons abutting these walls, (2) and (3), which were up to 0.35m thick, contained both medieval and post-medieval pottery. Above this, there was a dark grey brown clay silt layer (10), removed by machine excavation, which contained 19th-century glass and pottery as well as scatters of gravel.

OTHER POST-MEDIEVAL FEATURES

A line of limestone, interpreted in excavation as the possible remnant of a wall, ran east to west across the top of the fills of pits 57 and 97 (not illustrated). There is however, too little surviving to determine what this

derived from and whether it may have been the remnant of a wall that survived only where it had subsided into the underlying pit fills.

To the east of the pit group, the area of trampled natural, (81), was cut by a broad U-shaped gully, 76, about 3.50m long, 0.46m wide and 0.33m deep (Fig 13). The fill of grey brown silty clay, contained limestone blocks up to 150mm long, and some post-medieval pottery. Overlying the gully there was a layer of fine to coarse limestone fragments up to 0.11m thick (20).

At the northern end of these features there was a limestone slab, 500mm by 970mm and 100mm thick, surrounded by smaller slabs over a bed of small limestone fragments in dark grey brown clay silt, which also included 19th and 20th-century white china (Fig 13, 19). The hollow sound given out when the fill was tapped suggested that there was a void below, implying that the limestone was the modern capping for a well.

WATCHING BRIEF

David Leigh

A watching brief took place in early January 2003 along the northern end of the plot during the removal of topsoil ahead of laying an access road (Fig 2). In the central part of this area slightly deeper excavation exposed the top of a compact layer containing pottery and roof tiles, in an area c 15m long. Within this area, another deeper cut exposed a small area containing stone fragments and wasters within sandy clay burnt red. This suggests that further intact deposits lie in this area, at least comprising further waster dumps while the quantities of stone and burnt clay may suggest the presence of a kiln.

WESTERN EVALUATION TRENCH

An evaluation trench was excavated at the western end of the plot at the request of the landowner who was proposing to build a garage here (Fig 2). Archaeological features in this area were covered by a greater depth of overburden, nearly 1.0 m, than those at the eastern end of the plot.

At the southern end of the trench there was a roughly circular pit, 0.8m diameter, filled with mid grey clayey silt. There were several sherds of medieval pottery on the surface of the fill, but their provenance was uncertain and they were not retained. No other archaeological features were noted in the trench.

The subsoil, which was up to 0.6m thick, comprised mid brown slightly clayey silt with very occasional pebble inclusions and moderate roots. The topsoil was 0.35m thick. Several abraded sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from these layers, but not retained.

The trench was inspected by the NCCHET Planning Archaeologist and no further work on the trench was considered necessary. There would be appear to be no activity related to pottery production in this part of the plot.

THE POTTERY

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprises 620,690g (Table 2). The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference is 200.9. The pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS). The majority of the material comprises groups of Stanion ware kiln waste from isolated pits, although small quantities of other pottery types are present, as follows:

F209:	?South Lincs Oolitic ware	AD 1100- 1300	215g, EVE = 0.33
F319:	Lyveden/Stanion A ware	AD 1150- 1400	1244g, EVE = 0.53
F403:	Midland Purple ware	AD 1450- 1600	30g, EVE = 0
F404:	Cistercian ware	AD 1470- 1550	3g, EVE = 0

FABRIC

The majority of the kiln waste comprises the standard Lyveden/Stanion fabric (CTS F320. 583,178g, EVE = 192.56), but some of the material is in a different fabric, classified in the CTS as Lyveden/Stanion D ware (CTS F322) which is smoother and sandier than F320, and contains considerably fewer oolites (16,674g, EVE = 7.48).

PREVIOUS WORK

Since the first recorded evidence of medieval pottery production in Stanion in 1933 (A Chapman above), Stanion has produced plentiful evidence for medieval pottery manufacture in the form of kilns and/or potting waste, but very little of this material has been analysed and published. Bellamy's summary of 1983 is, up until now, the best-published group of material from the village. It dealt with two different groups of kiln waste from different locations, one of which also had a kiln in association. One group was dated to the late 13th to 14th centuries, the other to the mid-15th to 16th centuries.

Other than this, and notes of reports of finds, very little else has been published. The material from the evaluation at 2 Corby Road was examined by Stewardson (unpublished MA dissertation), although that report is superseded by the present analysis. The material from 2 Corby Road therefore offers the first real opportunity to examine in detail a large group of stratified kiln waste from this important industry.

Most of the kiln waste occurred within a cluster of pits, with some intercutting. The earlier phase comprised the pits lying at the eastern margin of the group, including pit 14 which contained the single largest quantity of pottery.

THE EARLY PHASE OF WASTER PITS (c 1350-1400)

PIT 14

This was, stratigraphically, the earliest of the central

Table 2: Quantification of the ceramic assemblage

FEATURE/ (FILLS)	NATURE OF DEPOSIT	TOTAL POT (kg)	WHOLE/PARTIAL VESSELS	RIDGE TILE (kg)	KILN FURNITURE (kg)
EARLY PHASE PITS 1350-1400					
78 / (77)	--	6.86	--	0.26	--
62/ (61)	B ware with A and D sherds	50.35	3 face sherds	0.86	0.21
70 / (69)	B and A ware	7.50	1 jug (ST12)	1.18 (Fig 25, 1)	0.09
59 / 58	B ware	22.84		0.27	
14 / (13, 65)	B ware in both deposits	201.61	12 jugs (ST1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, SJ1) 2 pots (SC1, SC2) 1 bowl (SB1)	1.58	0.96
17 / (16)	A ware	0.10	--		
Total		289.26		4.15	1.26
LATER PHASE PITS 1450-1500					
84 / (82, 83)	--	2.81	--	1.01	0.25
74 / (73, 79, 80)	B and D ware, Midland Purple bifid rims	9.51		2.33	4.34 (Fig 26, 4)
57 / (55, 56, 88)	B and D ware, Midland Purple Inscription	82.44	--	19.34	1.09
105/ (104)		2.36			
97 / (92, 93, 94, 96)	B ware, 2 deposits	61.39	8 jugs, (ST13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21)	8.19	1.21 brick, kiln furniture (SP1)
72 / (71)	B and D ware redeposited	121.78	--	2.69	0.28
40 / (39)		12.94	--	3.2	11.63 (Fig 26, 1 & 2) part brick
46 / (45)		1.73	--	--	
90 / (89)		1.96	--	--	
23 / (22)		5.63	--	--	0.16
6 / (5, 38)	B ware, Cistercian	1.75	--	--	--
67 / (66)		0.12	--	--	--
Total		304.42		36.76	18.96
OTHER FEATURES					
44 / (27, 41, 42, 43)	Building, cess pit south-east corner	4.31		0.27	--
8 / (7)	Hollow, B ware	0.96			--
49:64/(47, 48, 63)	Boundary ditch B ware	0.21			--
layer 3		15.68		0.86	0.28
layer 2		5.85		1.10	0.81
Total		27.01		2.23	1.09
TOTAL		620.03		43.14	21.31

pit group along with pit 59 (Fig 14). The fills, 13 and 65, produced 200.734kg of pottery with a total EVE of 74.53. It is all Stanion B ware (CTS fabric 320) with the exception of 543g (EVE = 0.14, from one jar rim) of Lyveden/Stanion A ware (CTS F319). Stanion D ware did not occur. The Stanion B ware assemblage therefore comprises 200.191g with a total EVE of 74.39. The

assemblage comprises mainly glazed jugs (EVE = 53.53, 72.0%), along with jars (EVE = 8.28, 11.0%) and bowls (EVE = 12.68, 17.0%).

The range of vessels and the fabric is fairly typical of the Lyveden/Stanion B ware tradition. One vessel of note, however, is a small bowl with an internal glaze and a total of six pulled lips evenly spaced around the rim (Fig

34, SB1). The vessel, which is nearly complete, appears to be unique amongst all the known products of the industry, and its function is far from clear. It is possible that the vessel was intended as a multi-wick lamp. Medieval lamps often have a single pulled lip in which the wick is located, and so the vessel would certainly work in such a manner, but this vessel does not have any obvious parallels, and must remain something of an enigma.

Chronology

The dating for this group is almost entirely dependant upon typology and the presence of other pottery types. The only pottery present in pit 14 other than Stanion B ware, are a few sherds of Lyveden/Stanion A ware, which is generally dated AD 1150–1400. The A ware sherds were, however, quite large and fresh, and do not appear to be residual. It is likely therefore that this particular pit group dates to before AD 1400. The range of vessel forms also suggests such a date. The assemblage comprises entirely jars, bowls and jugs; all of the more sophisticated pottery forms of the 15th century, such as dripping dishes and cisterns are entirely absent, although a case can be made, on size grounds, that some pipkins were also present. Such vessels are known from the 14th century, however. The presence of a relatively large number of B ware jars is a highly significant trait. Such vessels are extremely rare at medieval sites in the county. A number of glazed jars were noted at the kiln site at nearby Lyveden, where they were given a date of the early-mid 14th to early 15th century (Webster 1975, fig 27 and 91).

Lyveden/Stanion B ware jar rims were noted at a medieval tenement at Deene End, Weldon, where the evidence from other pottery types suggested that they dated to the first half of the 13th century. However, nearly all the medieval assemblage at that site comprised

Lyveden and Stanion wares (1,429 sherds), with only four sherds in other fabrics datable to the period AD 1250–1450 (Blinkhorn 2003). It is highly likely, therefore, that they are later than the given date. A single B ware jar rim was also noted at Warmington in Northamptonshire, in a context datable to AD 1200–1400 (Blinkhorn forthcoming). Again, Lyveden wares comprised nearly all the medieval assemblage.

The most persuasive evidence perhaps comes from the medieval hamlet of West Cotton, Raunds, despite B ware being plentiful, only two B ware jars were noted (Blinkhorn in press). It appears that West Cotton went into decline after the middle of the 14th century, so the fact that B ware jars were so rare suggests that they were only just being introduced at the time, and a date of AD 1350–1400 for the pottery from pit 14 appears therefore to be the most likely.

Jars

The jars show a fairly restricted range of rimforms, with just six different types (Table 3). Rim type 105 was by far the commonest (32.7%), with types 101, 102 and 104 well-represented, but types 103 and 108 were very rare. Many of the vessels are glazed (total EVE = 1.85, 22.3%), with, of the commoner forms, type 104 having by far the highest proportion of glazed pottery.

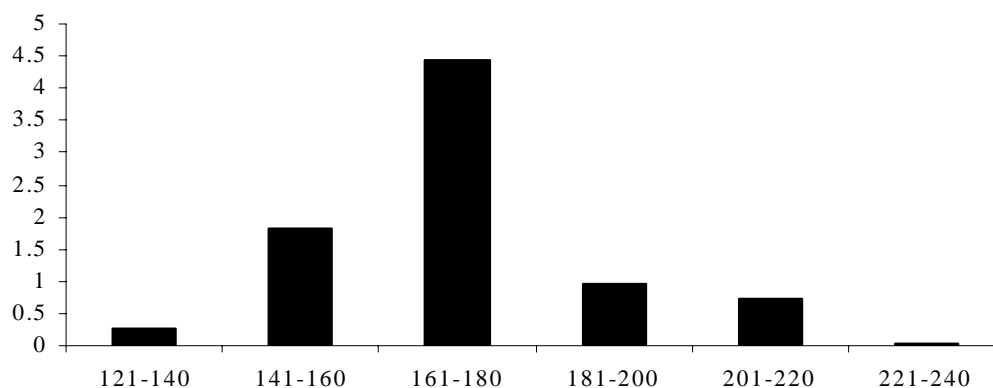
The data in Table 3 also shows the mean rim diameters of the vessels. The main rim forms show some variation, with type 102 having the largest mean at 190.9mm, and 104 the smallest, at 171.4mm. For such relatively small populations, this difference is unlikely to be significant. Overall, the mean jar rim for the entire population was 166.9mm. Unglazed vessels had a mean diameter of 177.7mm, glazed examples 165.0mm.

The data in Table 4 shows the occurrence of the different

Table 3: Jar rimform occurrence, pit 14, by EVE

Form	101	102	103	104	105	108
EVE	1.79	1.97	0.19	1.54	2.71	0.08
%	21.6%	23.8%	2.3%	18.6%	32.7%	1.0%
Glazed	0.20	0.07	0.14	0.87	0.57	0
% glazed	11.2%	3.6%	73.7%	56.5%	21.0%	0
Mean rim diameter (mm)	183.6	190.9	180.0	171.4	182.7	160

Table 4: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 14, jars



rim diameter sizes for all the jars from this pit. The data shows a classic unimodal distribution, indicating that jars in the 161-180mm diameter range were the preferred size, with smaller numbers of larger and smaller vessels also made.

None of the jars have slip decoration, despite such vessels occasionally being noted at other sites in the region, such as West Cotton, Raunds (Blinkhorn in print). Incised, applied and stamped decoration was also absent, other than stabbing on the handle of an extremely unusual handled jar. The three vessels which survived to full profile all had sagging bases.

ILLUSTRATIONS (Fig 34)

SC1 Near-complete jar. Grey fabric with orange surfaces. Glaze splashes on the outside base pad. Context 13, pit 14

SC4 Full profile of jar. Dark grey fabric with pale orange surfaces. Context 65, pit 14

Not illustrated

SC2 Full profile of jar. Grey fabric with pale orange-brown surfaces. Numerous glaze spots on outer surface. Context 13, pit 14

SC3 Full profile of jar. Grey fabric with brick-red surfaces. Sooting on lower outer body. Context 65, pit 14

SC5 Upper part of jar. Dark grey fabric with pale orange-brown surfaces. Context 13, pit 14

Bowls

The bowls showed slightly more variation in form, with ten different rim types noted (Table 6). The most common forms are 201, 203, 206, 207 and 208, with the rest all represented by less than 6%. The vessels which survived to a full profile or near-full profile suggest that most vessels had glaze on the inside, covering the base-pad and the most of the inner surface of the vessel. Other than this, none of the bowls were decorated in any way. Unusually, 11 of the bowl rims (total EVE = 2.18, 17.2%, Table 5) have pouring mechanisms in the form of a pulled lip, including one vessel with a number of them (Fig 34, SB1). Lipped bowls had a mean rim diameter of 220mm.

Table 6: Bowl rimform occurrence, pit 14, by EVE

Form	EVE	%	Mean Rim Diameter (mm)
201	1.73	13.6%	281.3
202	0.32	2.5%	312.0
203	2.11	16.6%	247.1
204	0.66	5.2%	280.0
205	0.74	5.8%	275.5
206	3.42	27.0%	316.0
207	1.41	11.1%	298.2
208	1.84	14.5%	304.1
209	0.26	2.1%	300.0
210	0.19	1.5%	300.0

Most of the rim forms have a mean diameter which fall in the range of 275–316mm, although type 203 rims are by far the smallest, with a mean size of 247mm. The mean diameter for the whole assemblage is 308.2mm. The data in Table 5 shows that there are broadly two peaks in the rim diameter occurrence of bowls, one in the 161-180mm range, the other in the 261-280mm bracket. This again suggests very strongly that the smaller lipped vessels had a different function to the larger ones, and that the former were indeed skillets or pipkins. Unfortunately, no horizontal handles of the type usually found on skillets or pipkins were noted amongst this group of pottery, although they did occur in others from this site.

The data in Table 7 shows the rim diameter occurrence for bowls from this feature. The bulk of the assemblage is over 280mm in diameter, and the distribution appears broadly unimodal. However, the occurrence of the vessels with a diameter of 280mm or less has a somewhat erratic occurrence. Previous work, on the pottery from West Cotton (Blinkhorn 1999) has shown that bowls made at other manufactories in the region, particularly shelly coarseware (CTS fabric 330) and Lyveden/Stanton A ware (CTS fabric 319) have a trimodal size distribution at some consumption sites, with the choice of size related to function. It is possible that something similar is occurring here, at the point of manufacture, although the data is not clear enough for this to be certain.

Table 5: Lipped bowl rimform occurrence (20mm intervals), pit 14, by EVE

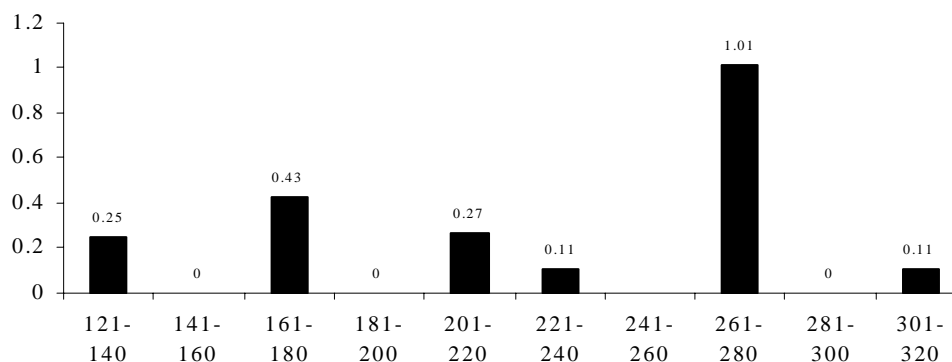


Table 7: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 14, bowls

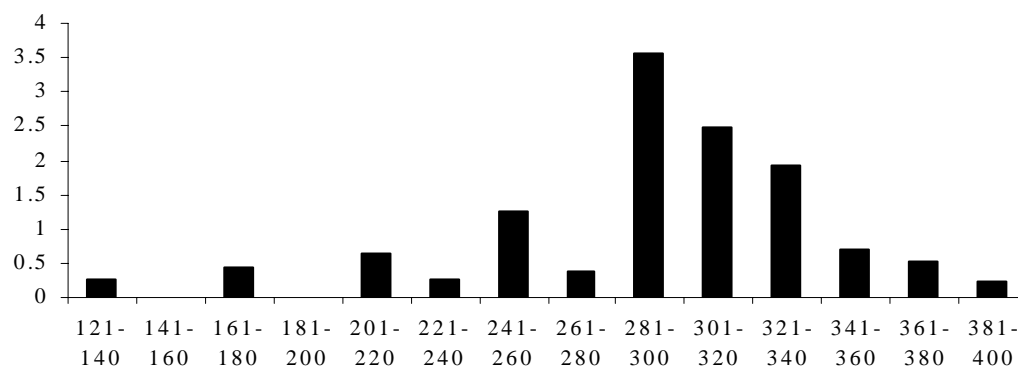


ILLUSTRATION (Fig 34)

SB1 Near complete, multi-lipped bowl. Grey fabric with orange-brown surfaces. Inner surface covered with a glossy green, copper-spotted glaze, numerous glaze spots and runs on the outer surface. Context 13, pit 14

Not illustrated

SB3 Full profile of pantheon. Grey fabric with browner surfaces. Glossy green glaze on lower inner surface. Context 13, pit 14

SB6 Full profile of bowl. Grey fabric with dark reddish-brown surfaces. Glossy dark green glaze on inner surface. Context 13, pit 14

SB9 Full profile of pantheon. Grey fabric with brick-red surfaces. Patchy, glossy green glaze on the inner surface. Context 13, pit 14

Jugs

Jugs are, as noted above, the commonest vessel type from this group, as is usually the case with Stanion B glazed wares (eg Fig 20, ST1 and Fig 21, ST3 and ST6). They

had a limited range of rim forms, as shown in Table 8, types 301, 303 and 304 are by far the commonest types, with all types having a similar rim diameter.

Table 8: Jug rimform occurrence, pit F14, by EVE

Form	301	302	303	304	305
EVE	10.35	0.66	18.83	18.95	4.64
%	19.3%	1.2%	35.2%	35.4%	8.7%
Mean rim diameter (mm)	103.6	112.0	108.2	107.1	106.2

The data in Table 9 shows the rim diameter occurrence for the jugs and shows that, like the jars, they have a unimodal distribution. The mean rim diameter for the jugs was 106.8mm.

All the complete or near-complete jugs suggest that all the vessels have a similar overall form. They are all high-necked and shoulderless, with the widest point at the waist, and the area below the waist tapering slightly towards the base, although the bases were generally only slightly narrower than the waists. The exceptions to this

Table 9: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 14, jugs

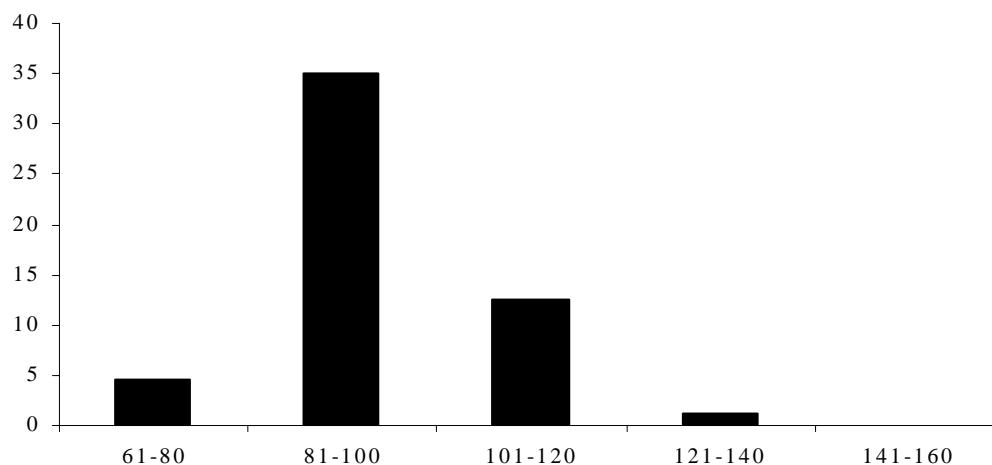




Fig 20 Jugs ST1, pit 14 (left) and ST15, pit 97 (right)



Fig 21 Jugs ST3 and ST6, pit 14 (centre and right) and ST17, pit 97 (left)

were ST6, which had rounded shoulders and a cylindrical lower body, and SJ1, which was very squat (see Figs 27–28, ST1–10; Fig 30, ST16; Fig 34, SJ1). The commoner form is typical of the Lyveden/Stanion B ware tradition. All the jugs have pulled lips as the pouring mechanism, and handles are generally round-sectioned rods. A total of 59 complete or fragments of jug handles were noted, all but one of which had stabbing.

A total of 126 bases sherds were noted, all of which were flat apart from two examples with thumb-frilling. Such treatment is very rare on B ware jugs, despite being quite common on the products of other industries. No parallels are known from settlement sites in the region.

Decoration was predominantly glazing, which was a little patchy, but universally covered the area of the vessel from just below the waist to the rim top. A number of vessels also had geometric slip decoration in a white-firing clay which generally appeared yellow under the glaze. Five different geometric schemes were used with the commonest, noted on 12 vessels, being simple, evenly-spaced longitudinal stripes which ran slightly diagonally across the upper body of the pot. Much less common was a scheme which comprised standing arches divided by vertical stripes, but in all cases, where a vessel had slip decoration, the scheme always included a single horizontal stripe which ran around the waist of the pot, with the rest of the decoration always above it. Stamped pellets, which are often noted on glazed B ware jugs were entirely absent, and the slip decoration was always thinly applied, probably with a brush. Stylistically, these are quite different from the 'classic' slip-decorated B ware jugs, where the slip lines are usually narrower and thicker, and given the appearance of being trailed onto the vessel rather than painted. It may be that such vessels are earlier than the group from this site; certainly, such vessels were only present in contexts dating to before 1350 at Black Lion Hill in Northampton (Denham 1985, 126). Excavations of one of the Lyveden kilns also suggested that the stamped jugs with trailed decoration were much earlier than the types with painted stripes and no stamping (Webster 1975, fig 21).

ILLUSTRATIONS (Figs 27, 28, 30, 34)

- ST1 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with brown surfaces, green glaze on upper body and neck, kiln scars on upper body. Context 13, pit 14
- ST2 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with brown surfaces, green glaze on upper body and neck, stripes in a cream slip appearing pale green under the glaze. Context 13, pit 14
- ST3 Near-complete jug. Uniform orange fabric. Orange glaze with dark-green copper-spotting on upper half of body and neck and rim. Context 65, pit 14
- ST4 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with purplish-brown surfaces. Glossy green glaze, white slip decoration appearing pale green under the glaze. Context 65, pit 14
- ST5 Near-complete jug. Dark grey fabric with lighter surfaces, glossy green glaze with unfused blobs of copper oxide. White slip stripes, appearing pale green under the glaze. Context 65, pit 14

- ST6 Full profile of jug. Grey fabric with browner patches on the outer surface. Large streak of glossy green glaze on and below the handle. Context 65, pit 14
- ST7 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with orange-brown surfaces. Glossy green glaze on upper part of body and rim. Sherd with slip-stripe decoration fused to outer surface. Context 65, pit 14
- ST8 Full profile of badly distorted jug. Grey fabric with browner surfaces, spots and runs of glossy green glaze on the outer surface. Context 65, pit 14
- ST9 Near-complete jug. Dark grey fabric with orange surfaces, glossy green glaze on upper part of body and neck. Context 65, pit 14
- ST10 Body and base of jug. Grey fabric with orange inner surface. Glossy green glaze, white slip decoration appearing pale green under the glaze. Context 65, pit 14
- ST16 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with brick-red surfaces. Variegated green and blue-green glaze over most of body and neck. Context 65, pit 14
- SJ1 Near-complete squat jug. Grey fabric with orange brown surfaces, dull green glaze on the upper body, unglazed around the handle. Context 13, pit 14

Not illustrated

- ST11 Near-complete jug. Uniform brick-red fabric. Green glaze, largely unvittrified, over white slip stripes appearing light green under the vittrified areas. Context 65, pit 14

PIT 59

This feature is, like pit 14, the earliest stratigraphically in the central pit group (Fig 14). It does not have a direct relationship with pit 14. The fill, 58, produced 21.42kg of pottery, with a total EVE of 8.79. It is mainly Stanion B ware, although unlike F14, some D ware vessels are also present (384g, EVE = 0.59, 1.8% of the assemblage by weight). Of the B ware, the main vessel type is jugs (EVE = 8.08, 91.9%), with bowls making up most of the rest of the group (EVE = 0.59, 6.7%). A single jar rim is also present (EVE = 0.12, 1.4%). A single fragment from the rim of a dripping dish (SD1) was also noted, but as these are asymmetrical, it is not possible to calculate the EVE.

Chronology

This assemblage shows a number of differences to that from pit 14. The most striking trait is the range of vessel forms. Jugs are far more common, with only one jar rim present. If, as discussed above, such vessels were not common until after the middle of the 14th century, this would suggest that this group is earlier than that from pit 14, and dates to around AD 1350.

A single bodysherd was noted in the pit 59 group with both slip decoration and rows of comb-stabbing. Again, such sherds were absent from pit 14, but were noted at Bellamy's 1983 kiln again suggesting a similar date (Bellamy 1983, fig 4. 4, 46).

The pottery

The relatively small assemblage size coupled with the

preponderance of jugs means that detailed statistical analysis of this group would serve little purpose.

Only one jug was reconstructable to a full profile (Fig 33, ST24). It is of a similar form to the majority of the jugs from pit 14, and has glaze limited to the upper part of the outer surface. It is not slip-decorated. Slip decoration on jugs was not common amongst this group; just four vessels (EVE = 1.2) were noted, and all had simple vertical stripe schemes, again painted rather than trailed. As with pit 14, all the jug handles were round-section rods, all with a single line of stabbing running down the centre. All the spouts were simple pulled lips.

A total of 21 sherds from jug bases are noted, of which five are thumb-frilled bases. This is a much higher proportion than was noted amongst the pottery from pit 14, and again suggests that this group is of a different date.

No lipped bowls were noted, but it is worthy of note that even though the assemblage was small, the bowls again appear to favour two different sizes. Three rims were noted in the range 140–180mm, the rest in the 300–320mm category.

ILLUSTRATION (Fig 33)

ST24 Near complete jug. Grey fabric with dark reddish-brown surfaces. Glossy dark green glaze with copper-spotting on upper part of body. Context 58, pit 59

Not illustrated

SD1 Dripping dish fragment. Uniform brick-red fabric. Unvitrified glaze on inner surface. Context 58, pit 59

PIT 78

One of the two most northerly pits, this feature only produced 6.86kg of pottery. It was cut by pit 62, and therefore is likely to pre-date AD 1400. Seven rimsherds were noted, all from jugs. One of the jugs had slip

stripe decoration. Two rod handles, both with stabbed decoration, were also present.

PIT 62

Pit 62 yielded 48.14kg (EVE = 20.07) of pottery. The assemblage includes two large A ware rimsherds (280g, EVE = 0.32) in good condition, indicating that the assemblage dates to before AD 1400. The bulk of the assemblage comprises B ware, with 800g (EVE = 0.10, 1.7%) made up of D ware. The B ware assemblage comprises jars (EVE = 0.4), bowls (EVE = 0.34) and jugs (EVE = 19.01). In addition, four rimsherds from dripping dishes were noted, as was the handle from the same or a skillet. None of the bowl rims produced any evidence of spouts. They all have a rim diameter of 300mm or greater, apart from a single example with a diameter of 200mm, again suggesting a bimodal size distribution.

The dripping dishes all have simple upright rims and were glazed internally. The group is also notable from the presence of three jug rims with face-mask decoration.

Jugs

The jug assemblage had a fairly wide range of rimforms, with types 303 and 304 by far the most common (Table 10). The mean rim diameter was 107.9mm, with the unimodal size distribution shown in Table 11.

Table 10: Jug rimform occurrence, pit 62, by EVE

Form	301	302	303	304	305	306	307
EVE	0.99	0.92	7.13	6.28	2.84	0.12	0.85
%	5.2	4.8	37.5	33.0	14.9	0.6	4.5

All the jug handles are round section rods with a single line of stabbing. A total of 118 jug rims was noted, of which 15 have slip stripes. No other forms of decoration were noted, other than five sherds with fragments of facemasks.

Table 11: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 62, jugs

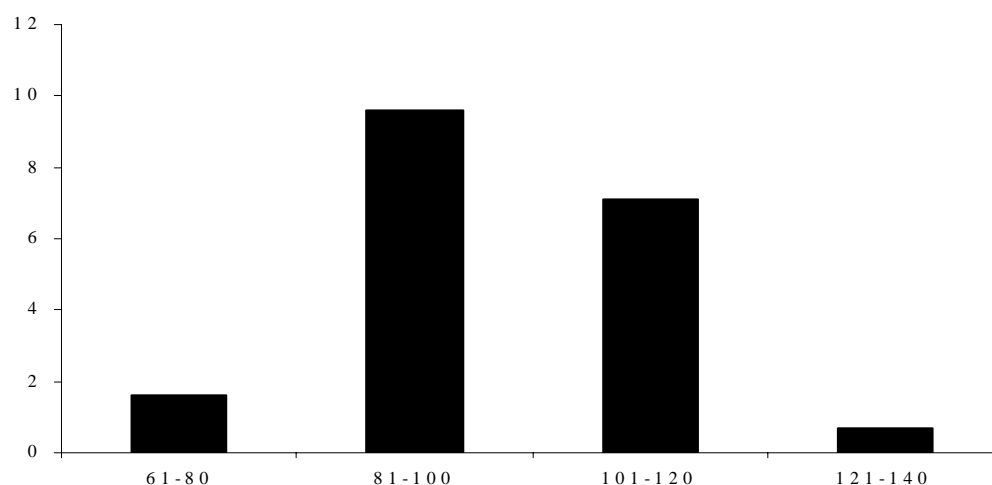




Fig 22 Face mask sherds, ST30 (top), ST 28 (left) and ST 29, pit 62

The facemask sherds (Fig 22, ST 28, 29 and 30) are somewhat unusual, and different to previous known examples, which have been noted in 13th-century contexts at other sites. The early examples comprised dots of white slip into which crude faces had been cut (eg Blinkhorn 2002, fig 10, 1 & 2), whereas these examples consist of an incised mouth and slashed applied strip around the lip of the jug, to form a mouth and beard, with one of them (ST29) having a simple slashed eye or eyebrow just below the rim. The other (ST28) is damaged and insufficiently complete to know if eyes were present. The third sherd is much smaller, and only a fragment of the beard is present, although this one has slip stripe decoration as well (ST30). Such vessels appear to have very little parallel in the Lyveden/Stanion industry. A sherd from Lyveden kiln D1 had a slashed pad below the lip which may be an attempt at a similar enhancement, but the illustrated vessel is said by the authors to be '*derived from two similar jug bits*', and its date is unknown (Bryant and Steane 1969, 21 and fig. 9). There are no other published parallels.

It is possible that the facemask vessels are copies of, or at least inspired by, the products of other industries. Anthropomorphic and face-jugs are well-known products of the Grimston industry in Norfolk (eg McCarthy and Brooks 1988, fig 157), and at least one anthropomorphic Grimston jug is known from Lyveden (Webster 1975, fig 34, 8.01). Such vessels tend to be 13th to 14th century, which is in keeping with the mid-late 14th-century date given to this group.

ILLUSTRATIONS (Fig 22)

- ST28 Fragment of face-jug. Dark grey fabric. Dull green glaze on outer surface. Context 61, pit 62
- ST29 Fragment of face-jug. Orange fabric with unglazed glaze on outer surface. Context 61, pit 62
- ST30 Fragment of face-jug. Orange fabric, slip stripe decoration. Context 61, pit 62

PIT 70

Adjacent to pits 59 and 62, this pit produced a small assemblage of jug sherds including a single near-complete example (Fig 29, ST12) and a single bowl rim. One of the jugs, unusually, has rouletted decoration (Fig 33, ST22). There were also four small sherds of 'A' ware present, suggesting that the group may date to before AD 1400.

ILLUSTRATIONS (Figs 29 and 33)

- ST12 Near-complete jug. Light grey fabric with orange surfaces. Green, partially unglazed green glaze on upper part of the vessel, white slip stripes appearing yellow under the vitrified areas. Context 69, pit 70
- ST22 Fragment of jug. Grey fabric with brick-red surfaces, concentric rows of rouletting above the waist. Glossy dark green glaze with copper spotting. Context 69, pit 70

PIT 17

This small feature to the south-west produced only 98g of pottery, including three small A ware sherds.

THE LATER PHASE OF WASTER PITS (c 1450-1500)

PIT F57

This feature was later than pit 14 and pit 59, and cut both (Fig 14). It comprised three contexts, 55, 56 and 88. The bulk of the pottery came from context 55, comprising 75.325kg (EVE = 20.24), with 56 producing 5.07kg (EVE = 1.95) and 88 yielding 2.02kg (EVE = 0). The total EVE for the feature was 22.19.

Most of the assemblage comprises the standard B ware, but 1.944kg of D ware is also present (2.3% of the assemblage by weight), along with a single sherd (10g) of Midland Purple ware (CTS fabric F403). The B ware comprises jars, (EVE = 2.76, 12.4%), bowls (EVE = 3.58, 16.1%) and jugs (EVE = 15.85, 71.4%), which is broadly similar to the proportions in the stratigraphically earlier pit F14.

Chronology

The presence of the single sherd of Midland Purple ware in this feature offers an excellent *terminus post quem* for the pottery. Such wares are well dated in the region, and were in widespread use by the mid-15th century. They are often found conjunction with Late Medieval Oxidized Wares (CTS fabric 401) which date to the second half of the 15th century. It would appear therefore that this pit group dates to around the middle of the 15th century.

Further possible support of this chronology comes from a sherd with a fragment of a single line inscription (Fig ST26). The inscription appears to read '*...naria*', although it is somewhat difficult to decipher, and other interpretations are possible.

Any sort of lettering on medieval jugs is extremely rare. A small sherd with a fragment of a roller-stamped inscription is known from fieldwalking at Flore near Northampton (Blinkhorn and Dix 1992). It appears to have been part of a vessel which is the same as a 15th-century example from Coventry. The latter appears to have

the same inscription, and, almost certainly, was made by the same potter. Dunning's (1967) overview of medieval jugs with lettering illustrates how rare such vessels are. He noted an inscribed jug handle from Abthorpe near Towcester in Northamptonshire (*ibid*, fig 67), dated to the late 14th to 15th centuries, and the Coventry vessel noted above. A vessel from Spilsby in Lincolnshire, with a free-hand inscription was also dated to the 15th century (*ibid*, fig 70). The sherd from this pit, with its mid-late 15th century date is, chronologically, entirely in keeping with all the other known examples.

The assemblage

This group does show some typological differences to the material from the earlier pits, 14 and 59. The range of vessel forms is basically the same, comprising jars, jugs and bowls, and a single skillet or dripping dish handle was also noted. The main difference appears to be a somewhat wider range of decorative techniques. The most notable of these is a sherd with an inscription,

In addition to the inscribed sherd, a further five bodysherds were noted with decoration, four of which were in D ware. The one sherd which was not had fingertip impressions and an incised wavy line, as did one of the sherds in D ware fabric. The rest comprises one sherd with fingertipping, one with a wavy line, and one with horizontal cordons.

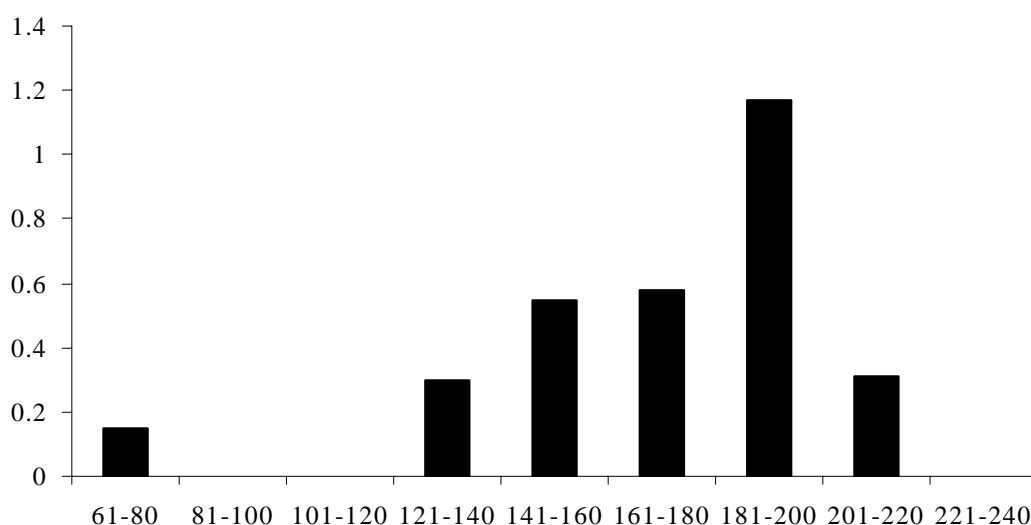
Jars

A total of 20 jar rimsherds were noted, with a mean rim diameter of 185.0mm, which is a little larger than that for pit 14. The rim diameter occurrence is collated in Table 12, and shows a unimodal distribution, as once again was the case for pit 14. Just two of the rims showed traces of glaze.

Bowls

A total of 52 bowl rimsherds were present, 20 of which showed evidence of internal glazing. A wide range of rimforms were noted, as shown in Table 13. It was similar

Table 12: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 57, jars



to that from pit 14, and there were some variations in occurrence. For example, type 203 rims, which were one of the most common types in pit 14, were one of the rarest here.

Table 13: Bowl rimform occurrence, pit 57, by EVE

Form	EVE	%	Mean Rim Diameter (mm)
201	0.25	7.0%	313.3
202	0.35	9.8%	288.0
203	0.10	2.8%	290.0
204	0.09	2.5%	320.0
206	0.87	24.3%	300.0
207	0.16	4.5%	300.0
208	0.48	13.4%	317.1
210	0.48	13.4%	336.7
211	0.59	16.5%	320.0
212	0.04	1.1%	300.0
213	0.17	4.7%	370.0

The rim diameter occurrence is shown in Table 14. It shows a trimodal distribution, suggesting that there were three main favoured sizes and, in diameter terms, they were more or less the same as those in pit 14. Just two bowls with pulled lips were noted, and these were again at the smaller end of the size range, one with a diameter of 240mm, and the other 260mm. This suggests that they are also likely to be from skillets.

Not illustrated

SB5 Full profile of bowl. Grey fabric with dark reddish-brown surfaces. Glossy dark green glaze on inner surface. context 55, pit 57

SB10 Rim of decorated bowl. Grey fabric with brick-red surfaces, unglazed glaze on the inner surface. Rim top decorated with fingertipping. context 55, pit 57

SD2 Dripping dish/skillet handle. Uniform brick red fabric. context 55, pit 57

Jugs

The range of rimforms from this pit group is broader than that from pit 14, and different forms are favoured (Table 15). The most common form is type 305, comprising over 55.8% of the assemblage, as opposed to just 8.7% of the pit 14 jugs. Type 301 rims, which comprise over 19% of the pit 14 group, represent less than 1% of this assemblage, and the other forms have noticeably different representation. This is perhaps what one would expect for two groups of pottery with a chronology which indicates that they were made by different potters. Certainly, it has been observed in the past that potters tend to favour a particular rimform, even when working within the constraints of a tradition (J Hudson pers comm).

The assemblage mean rim diameter was 112.4mm, which is a little larger than the jugs from pit 14, but probably not significantly so.

The distribution of the jug rim diameters (Table 16) shows a similar distribution to that for F14.

In terms of decoration, many of the jugs were glazed, but only two had slip decoration, in the form of painted vertical stripes similar to those in the earlier features. Just 11.2% of bodysherds were noted with slip decoration, but as this includes all vessel types, it would suggest that the proportion of slip decoration on jugs is somewhat higher, and the apparently low occurrence of slip decorated jugs as suggested by the rimsherds is just a statistical anomaly.

Table 14: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), pit 57, bowls, by EVE

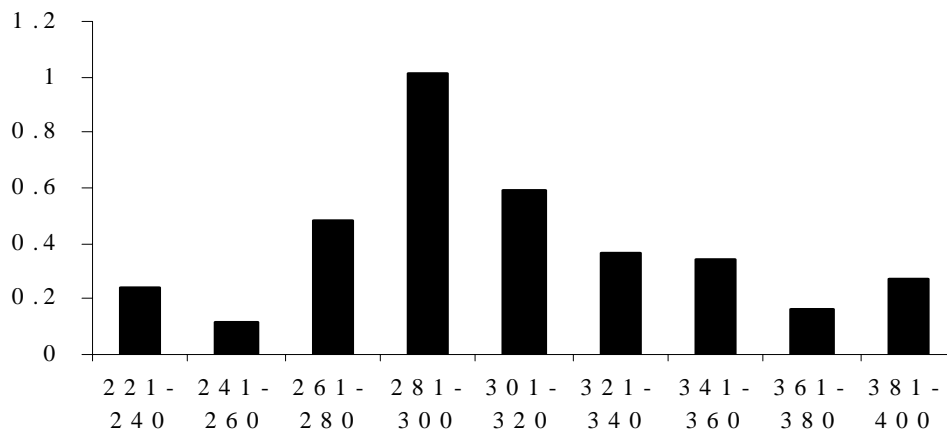
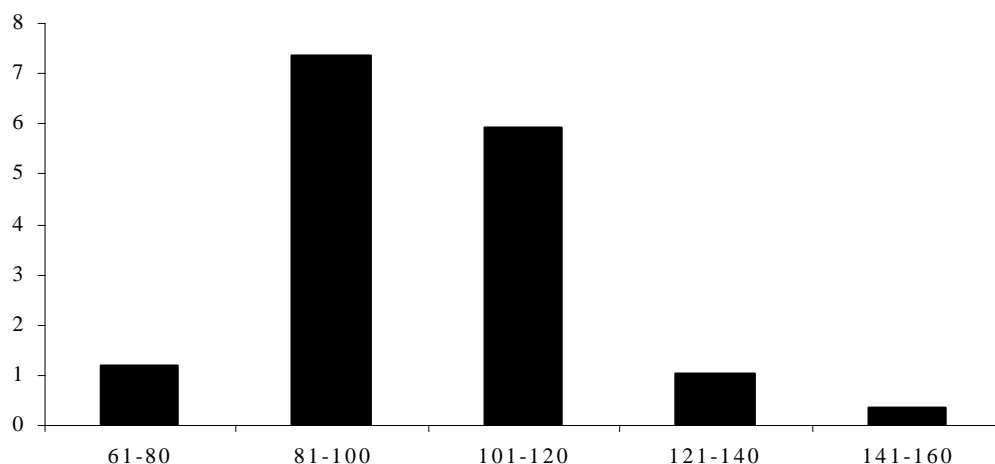


Table 15: Jug rimform occurrence, pit 57, by EVE

Form	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308
EVE	0.15	0.22	2.93	2.12	8.84	0.10	0.28	1.06
%	0.9%	1.4%	18.5%	13.4%	55.8%	0.6%	1.8%	6.7%
Mean rim diameter (mm)	80.0	126.7	116.0	110.0	111.7	140.0	100.0	112.5

Table 16: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 57, jugs



A total of 28 handles were noted. Of these 26 were round-sectioned rods, all of which had a single line of stabbed dots running down them. The other two handles were a single horizontal example from a skillet or dripping dish, and a strap handle with slashed decoration. The latter is more typical of the Brill and Potterspury industries, and is most unusual on B ware vessels, although a small number were noted at West Cotton.

Not illustrated

ST25 Full profile of jug. Grey fabric with dark reddish-brown surfaces. Glossy dark green glaze with copper-spotting on upper part of body. Context 55, pit 57

ST26 Sherd with incised lettering. Grey fabric with browner surfaces, glossy variegated green and purple glaze on outer surface. Context 55, pit 57

PIT 97

This feature cut both pits 57 and 105, although the latter only produced a small assemblage (1,692g). Pit 97 produced 63.261kg of pottery with a total EVE of 14.65, of which 5.773kg (EVE = 2.01) was D ware. It comprised mainly jars (EVE = 1.46, 10.0%), bowls (EVE = 1.71, 11.7%) and jugs (EVE = 10.52, 71.8%), along with a single skillet (EVE = 0.11, 0.8%).

Chronology

The entire assemblage comprised B wares, meaning that any dating could only be given on stratigraphic and typological grounds. The group obviously post-dates pit 57, which was reasonably closely dateable to around the middle of the 15th century, but that is all that can be said. It is therefore given a tentative date of sometime in the second half of the 15th century.

Jars

Jars were slightly less common than in pit 57. Just six rimsherds were noted, with rimforms 101, 103, 104 and 107. All the vessels were in the 140–180mm size range, with a mean diameter of 165.0mm. Four had traces of glazing, one of which also had slip stripes.

Bowls

A total of 18 bowl rims were present. They almost all had type 211 rimforms, apart from single examples of types 201, 206, 207, 213 and 216. They had a mean rim diameter of 313.3mm, with the size occurrence again suggesting a trimodal distribution (Table 17). The only skillet from the assemblage had a rim diameter of 160mm, which is considerably smaller than any of the bowl assemblage, although the only two bowls with pulled lips were again at the smaller end of the distribution range, being 220mm and 260mm diameter respectively. Six sherds produced traces of internal glazing.

Table 17: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), pit 97, bowls, by EVE

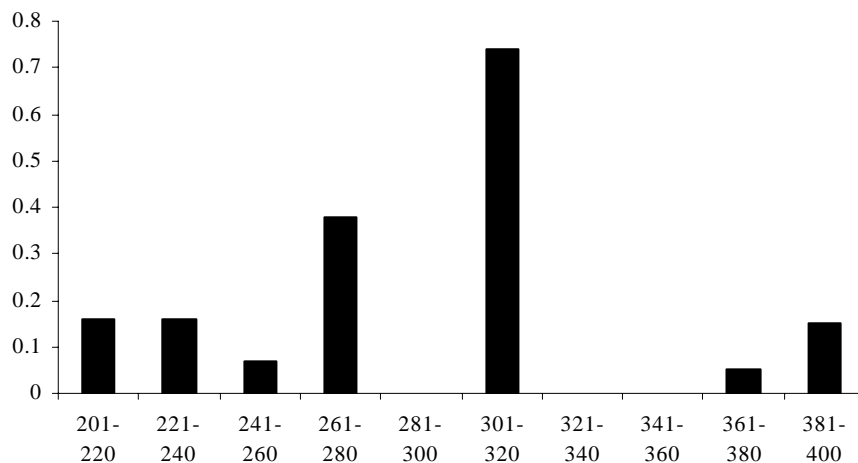




Fig 23 Jugs ST13 (right) and ST14, pit 97

Jugs

The range of rimforms was this time somewhat restricted, as shown in Table 18. The data show a broadly similar pattern to those for pit 57, with type 305 by far the most common. The rim diameter occurrence is shown in Table 19. It once again shows a unimodal distribution, with the mean rim diameter being 114.7mm. The vessels which survived to a full profile (Figs 20-23, 29-32, ST13

Table 18: Jug rimform occurrence, pit 97, by EVE

Form	303	305	307	308
EVE	2.30	5.92	0.46	2.30
%	21.9%	56.3%	4.4%	21.9%
Mean rim diameter (mm)	125.0	118.5	113.3	100.0

Table 19: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 97, jugs

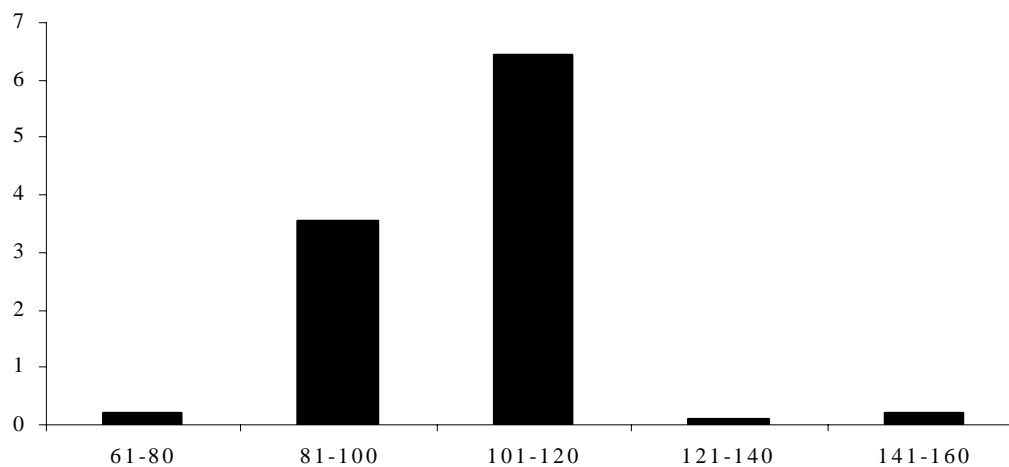




Fig 24 Jugs ST20 (right) and ST21, pit 97

– ST15, ST17 – ST21) showed a little more variation in form. The globular balusters noted in the earlier groups were still represented, but some were a little taller and more slender than previously (eg Fig 21, ST17), and a single small squat example was also present. This deposit also contained two jugs in a distinctive white fabric with pale buff surfaces and a bright apple green glaze (Fig 23, ST13 and ST14).

A total of 18 handles were noted, all of which had a single line of stabbing running down the centre. Six vessels had slip decoration, again brushed on and entirely limited to vertical stripes with the exception of two vessels (ST20 and ST21, Fig 24 and Figs 31 and 32, ST20 and ST21) which had what appear to be an inverted horseshoes painted between widely-spaced stripes. These two large globular jugs were also both evidently decorated by the same individual, as the patterns are near identical, although the horseshoe pattern is more clearly executed on the smaller jug, ST20.

Two bodysherds, probably from jugs, had incised cordons, but no other decoration was noted.

ILLUSTRATIONS (Figs 29 to 32)

- ST13 Near-complete jug (Fig 23). White fabric with pale buff surfaces. Pale, apple green glaze with sparse darker copper-spotting. Context 92, pit 97
- ST14 Near-complete jug (Fig 23). White fabric with pale buff surfaces, bright apple green glaze with sparse copper-spotting. Upper part of body glazed and lightly incised. Context 92, pit 97

- ST15 Near-complete jug (Fig 20). Grey fabric with orange surfaces, patchy green glaze on most of body and neck. Incised wavy line around girth. Context 92, pit 97
- ST17 Near-complete jug (Fig 21). Grey fabric with orange patches on outer surface. Sparse drips of glossy green glaze on outer surface and handle. Context 92, pit 97
- ST18 Grossly distorted waster. Orange fabric with patchy, glossy green glaze, white slip decoration appearing yellow under the glaze. Context 92, pit 97
- ST19 Near-complete jug. Grey fabric with brown surfaces, glossy green glaze with white slip decoration, appearing yellow under the glaze. Context 92, pit 97
- ST20 Near-complete jug (Fig 24). Grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Glossy green glaze, white slip decoration appearing yellow under the glaze. Context 92, pit 97
- ST21 Near-complete jug (Fig 24). Grey fabric with orange brown surfaces. Glossy green glaze, white slip decoration appearing yellow under the glaze. Context 92, pit 97

Not illustrated

- ST27 Highly decorated sherd. Uniform pink fabric, incised decoration on outer surfaces, glossy variegated yellow and brown glaze. Context 92, pit 97

SC7 Jar rim. Dark grey fabric with brick-red surfaces. Variegated dull orange and green glaze on both surfaces, white slip decoration on outer surface, appearing yellow through the glaze. Context 92, pit 97

SB8 Full profile of bowl. Grey fabric with red surfaces. Context 92, pit 97

PIT 72

This was, stratigraphically, the latest of the central pit group. It was also the second largest, comprising 117.505kg of pottery with a total EVE of 40.1. The D ware totalled 1.511kg (EVE = 0.5). The B ware assemblage comprised entirely jars (EVE = 2.96, 7.4%), bowls (EVE = 3.58, 8.9%) and jugs (EVE = 33.56, 83.7%).

It was most notable for three vessels which had three fragments of face-masks. They are basically the same as those from context 61, pit 62, with an applied beard and incised mouth below the pouring lip. The fact that the examples from this context are obviously later indicates that they were either still being made in the mid-late 15th century, or are redeposited.

Chronology

This group is also lacking any other pottery apart from B ware, and so the dating is arrived at purely on stratigraphic grounds. Once again, given the range of fabrics and forms, a mid-late 15th-century date seems the most appropriate.

Jars

Most of the rimforms comprised type 102 and 105, as shown in Table 20. A total of 27 rimsherds were noted,

Table 20: Jar rimform occurrence, pit 72, by EVE

Form	101	102	105	108
EVE	0.12	1.49	1.05	0.30
%	4.1%	50.3%	35.5%	10.1%
Mean rim diameter (mm)	180.0	190.9	203.3	193.3

of which just three had traces of glaze (eg SC6). None had slip decoration.

The assemblage had a mean rim diameter of 196.3mm. The diameter occurrence is shown in Table 21. The data again shows a unimodal distribution. The two classes at the extremes of the distribution appear a little over-represented, but there was just one sherd in each class, and both were relatively large, and have thus skewed the data.

Bowls

A total of 56 bowl rim sherds occurred. They had a wide variety of rimforms, but by far the most common was type 206 (see Table 22). There was a wide variation in the mean rim diameter of the various types, but this is likely to be due to some classes only having one or two examples. The assemblage mean was 298.6mm.

Table 22: Bowl rimform occurrence, pit 72, by EVE

Form	EVE	%	Mean Rim Diameter (mm)
201	0.21	5.9%	260.0
202	0.12	3.4%	280.0
203	0.12	3.4%	200.0
204	0.07	2.0%	360.0
206	1.52	42.5%	300.0
207	0.59	16.5%	294.0
208	0.71	19.8%	315.4
209	0.11	3.1%	300.0
210	0.16	4.5%	266.7

The rim diameter occurrence is shown in Table 23. It once again suggests that there were two different size-classes of vessel, one clustering around the 201-220mm class, the other around 281 – 300mm. Three rims were noted with pulled lips, one from a vessel with a rim diameter of 200mm, the other two being 220mm. This again suggests that the smallest vessels in the bowl class were skillets or pipkins. Only 20 of the rims did not show traces of internal glazing.

Table 21: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 72, jars

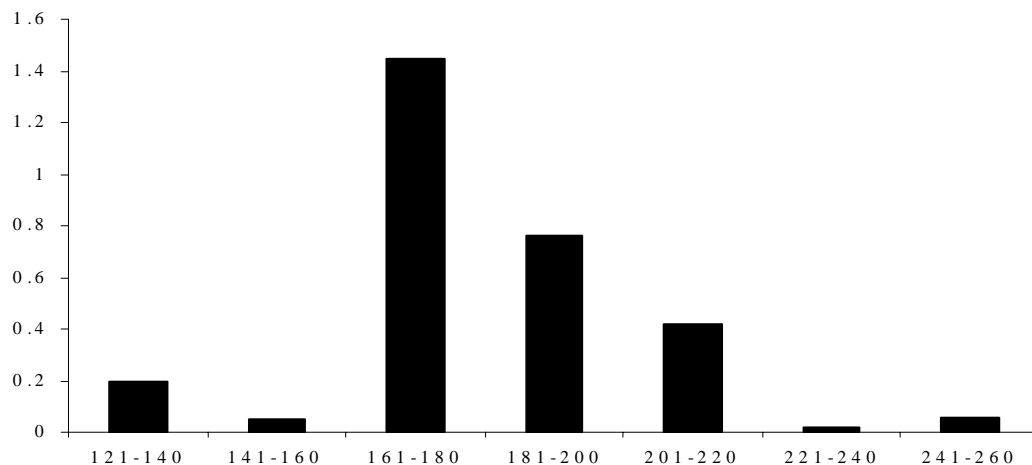
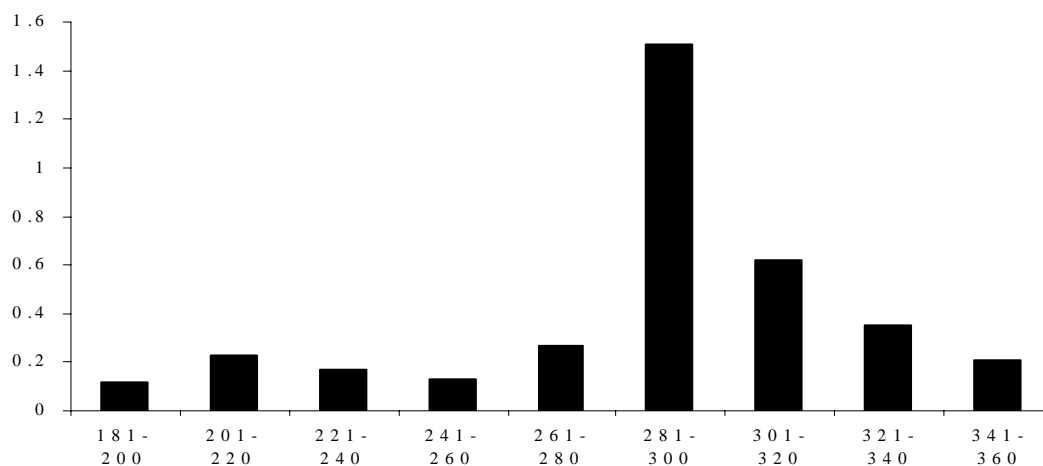


Table 23: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), pit 72, by EVE, bowls

*Jugs*

A total of 198 rims were noted from jugs. The range of forms is shown in Table 24.

Table 24: Jug rimform occurrence, pit 72, by EVE

Form	301	303	304	305	306	307	308
EVE	2.55	12.53	13.40	1.82	0.08	2.19	0.96
%	7.6	37.3	39.9	5.4	0.2	6.5	2.9
Mean rim diameter (mm)	103.1	109.4	107.0	116.7	120.0	107.7	116.0

The assemblage had a mean rim diameter of 108.6mm. The rim diameter occurrence is shown in Table 25. Once again, they have a purely unimodal distribution.

A total of 62 handles were noted. They are all round-section rods with a single line of stabbed impressions

running down them. There are fifteen vessels with slip decoration, one with arches, the rest with vertical stripes. None of the jugs had survived to a full profile, so it is difficult to make any meaningful assessment of the vessel forms.

Not illustrated

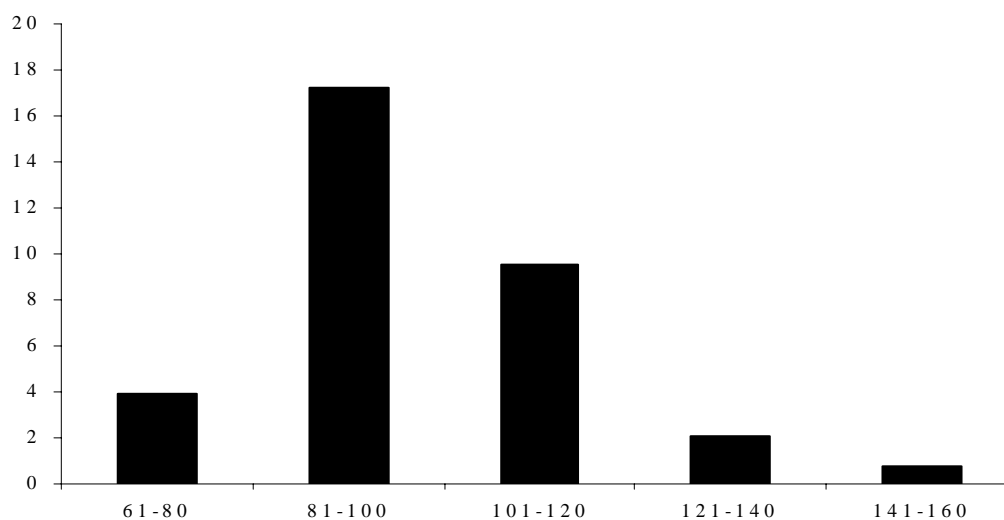
SC6 Rim of jar. Uniform dark grey fabric, large splash of dark green glaze on inner shoulder. Context 71, pit 72

SB4 Full profile of pancheon. Grey fabric with pale brown surfaces. Context 71, pit 72

PITS 84 AND 74

These two features were in the northern area of the site, just north of the two larger pits 57 and 97 (Fig 14). Pit 84 was cut by pit 74 giving it a *terminus post quem* of the mid-15th century. Pit 84 produced just 2.81 kg of pottery,

Table 25: Rim diameter occurrence (20mm intervals), in EVE, pit 72, jugs



all of which is B ware, except for 2.98kg of D ware. Only six rims were noted, two each from jars, bowls and jugs. Four handles are present, one being a rod of the usual type, one from a skillet handle and the other two are slashed straps, both in D ware. One bodysherd was noted with slip stripes.

Pit 74 produced 9.51kg of pottery. As well as B ware, it also produced a fairly large sherd of Midland Purple ware, which dates the assemblage securely to post-AD 1450. The rest of the assemblage comprises B ware, but only 2.38kg is in the standard fabric, with the bulk of the assemblage (5.41kg) made up of the D ware. Only 11 rimsherds are present; four from jars, three from bowls and four from jugs. It is certainly significant that two of the four jar rims are the bifid type 109. Bifid rims are universally a late medieval form, and the fact that they occurred in this feature along with a sherd of Midland Purple, offers considerable support to the late medieval date given to this group. These are the only two rimforms of this type from the entire excavation.

None of the jars or jugs have slip decoration, although two bodysherds were noted with such treatment. Five handles are present, which were all stabbed in the usual manner.

PIT 6

This pit yielded just 1.33kg of pottery, most of which was B ware, but a single sherd of Cistercian ware is also present, given the group a *terminus post quem* of the late 15th century. It produced four rims: two from jars, one from a bowl and one from a jug. The feature was cut by a ditch, 49/64, which contained a small assemblage of B ware and a fragment of a possible curfew in the gully overlying the ditch east of wall 4.

PIT 67

This small pit to the south of the main group yielded just 182g of B ware.

PIT 23

A group of three small pits lay east of the main group. The largest group of pottery from these pits came from pit 23, with 5.093kg (EVE = 1.89). It comprised mainly bowls, all with a rim diameter of 320mm or greater, along with a single jar rim and three jug rims. One of the jugs was reconstructable to a full profile, and also showed that the handle was luted to the body by the pottery pushing a finger through the body of the pot from the inside.

ILLUSTRATION (Fig 33)

ST23 Full profile of jug. Grey fabric with pale orange surfaces. Extensive patches of partially unvittrified green glaze on upper part of body. Context 22, pit 23

OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

This group of pottery is significant on many levels, and offers a useful insight into the later part of the Stanion B ware pottery industry. Perhaps the most important finding is the chronology of the industry. The past, rather

scanty evidence has suggested that the B ware industry had finished by the end of the 14th century; the evidence from this excavation shows that there is no doubt that it in fact continued more or less to the end of the 15th century.

The presence of other pottery types suggests that this site contains wasters from an earlier phase of manufacture, and that there were two distinct phases of potting. The groups in association with A wares almost certainly date to before AD 1400, with the presence of B ware jars, a post-mid 14th century vessel type, indicating a date of AD 1350-1400.

Also, the presence of two sherds of Midland Purple ware and a sherd of Cistercian ware in direct association with wasters shows that B ware pottery was still being made in the last quarter of the 15th century. This chronology is supported by the presence of two bifid rimforms in a late pit group, pit 74, which produced one of the sherds of Midland Purple ware. Bifid rims were not noted as being present at the Lyveden potteries (Bryant and Steane 1969; Webster 1975), but several were noted by Bellamy at the kiln at 14 Corby Road in Stanion (*ibid* 1983, fig. 5 nos 12-15). That group was given a date of AD 1450-1550 (*ibid* 161), which is broadly the same as the chronology for the examples from this site.

Thus it offers an opportunity to examine two large and reasonably well-dated groups of B ware which were made around a century apart. In the following analyses, these will be referred to as the 'early group' in the case of the former, and the 'late group' in the case of the latter.

EARLY GROUP: PITS 14, 59, 62, 78

Vessels

The proportions of the main vessel types, in EVE is shown in Table 26. There is very little difference between the two. Jars are slightly more common in the later groups, but the difference does not appear significant. It would seem therefore that there was little change in the output of the Stanion potters between the mid-14th and the late 15th centuries.

Table 26: Comparison of vessel types, early and late groups

	Jars	Bowls	Jugs	Total EVE
Early Group	8.4%	13.0%	78.4%	104.8
Late Group	10.9%	11.6%	77.6%	80.41
Total	17.55	22.9	144.49	185.21

The minor wares, skillets and dripping dishes, were mainly represented by handles or, in the case of the latter, asymmetrical vessels, meaning that the EVE could not be calculated. It is certainly worthy of note that the five dripping dish fragments from this excavation all appeared in early groups.

The date of introduction of dripping dishes within the Stanion pottery industry is uncertain, but such vessels were being made at other kilns in the region in perhaps the 13th century and definitely the 14th century, at, for example, Olney Hyde and Brill (Mynard 1984; Mellor 1994). They were not present at West Cotton, Raunds, but status considerations are a likely factor. Dripping

dishes are rare finds and are usually only found on sites of somewhat above average status; they were used to catch the fat dripping from roasting meat for use in sauces etc, and they are usually found in an urban context or at a manorial site or similar. Stanion dripping dishes are very rare finds, with few obvious parallels. A couple of fragments, interpreted as skillets, were noted at a kiln in Stanion, along with a probable handle (Bellamy 1983, fig 3; 29, 30 and 32). The group was dated to the late 13th–early 14th century, on stylistic grounds, although the presence of three glazed B ware jar rims, one with slip decoration, suggests perhaps a slightly later date, around the mid-14th century.

A large fragment of a dripping dish was noted at the manufactory at Lyveden (Webster 1975, fig 32, 4.26), although that example was in a different fabric, probably Lyveden E ware (CTS fabric 325), and was dated to the late 15th century, which is the time when that fabric type was current.

The evidence from here and elsewhere therefore suggests that dripping dishes were probably being made at Stanion around the mid-14th century. The lack of such vessels from the later group at this site also suggests that they had ceased to be made by the mid-15th century, although they are such rare vessels, and the fact that other industries in the region were still making them at that time, means that this end date cannot be advanced with confidence.

Vessel Size

This section will concentrate solely on jars and bowls. The rim diameter of jugs does not seem to be related to vessel size, whereas evidence from elsewhere, particularly West Cotton, has indicated that the rim diameters of, particularly, bowls and, to a lesser extent, jars, is related to the capacity of the vessel (Blinkhorn 1999).

Jars

The mean rim diameter for the early group was 183.5mm, while for the late group it was 191.0mm. This difference does not appear greatly significant, but the data (Table 27) shows that the late group had a wider range of sizes, and that there is a small secondary peak at the larger end of the size range. This would suggest that, in the later period, small quantities of large jars with a specialized function were being produced. These are likely to have been storage vessels, perhaps even bunghole cisterns, but no bungholes were noted amongst the entire assemblage. It is uncertain whether such vessels were produced in the B ware. Bellamy (1983, fig 6, 21 and 22) noted two bungholes amongst a group of kiln waste at 14 Corby Road, Stanion, but these were the wheel-thrown E ware (CTS fabric 325) which date to post-1450. A few were also noted at Lyveden (Webster 1975, 3.09, 4.09, 4.10; Bryant and Steane 1969, fig 12n), but these were again all in the E fabric.

Bowls

The mean rim diameter for the early group was 305.7mm, for the late group, 306.5mm. The data is shown in Table 28. It shows that both early and late groups have a broadly unimodal distribution, but that the early group has a much wider range of sizes. There are also some of the smaller categories of early vessels (less than 220mm) which are not represented at all. It is most likely due to there being two categories of bowl, one having a pouring mechanism in the form of a pulled lip. Most of the lipped bowls had a rim diameter of 280mm or less, with the majority 220mm or less. The mean size was 220mm, which is considerably lower than the assemblage mean.

Conversely, of the unlipped bowls, only three examples had a diameter of 220mm or less, and the sherds were so small that they could easily be lipped examples with the pouring mechanism unrepresented. The small mean size of the lipped bowls suggests very strongly that at least some of these may have been pipkins or skillets, which often have a pouring mechanism such as a lip. Pipkins/skillets tend to be smaller than the large pancheons which make up the bulk of this assemblage, but usually have a horizontal handle at 90 degrees to the position of the lip. Thus, it would be difficult to say that a rimsherd came from such a vessel unless it was complete enough to include the area where the handle would have been located.

A similar picture was noted with the late group. Only seven lipped bowls were noted, but they were all at the smaller end of the distribution, being 260mm or less, with a mean diameter of 231.4mm. This is again considerably smaller than the assemblage mean.

It would appear therefore that the bowls broadly fell into two functional categories; small vessels, often with lips, which cluster around the 220-240mm diameter range, and large ones, without lips, in the 300-320mm range (Table 28).

Jugs

As noted above, the rim diameter of the jugs does not appear to be related to the vessel capacity, and there seems to be considerable variation in the latter parameter, at least partially related to vessel form.

Rimforms

Jars

The jar rim form occurrence, in EVE, as a proportion of the assemblage, is shown in Table 29. It provides confirmation that the type 109 bifid rims only occur amongst waste in the 'late group', as noted above.

Bowls and Jugs

There appears to be considerable variation in the proportion of the bowl and jug rim forms in the different groups, but

Table 27: Jar rim diameter occurrence, in EVE

Diameter (mm)	121-140	141-160	161-180	181-200	201-220	221-240	241-260	261-280
Early Group	0.26	1.99	4.57	0.97	0.97	0.04	0	0
Late Group	0.81	0.97	3.09	1.93	1.40	0.13	0.21	0.06

Table 28: Rim diameter (mm) by EVE

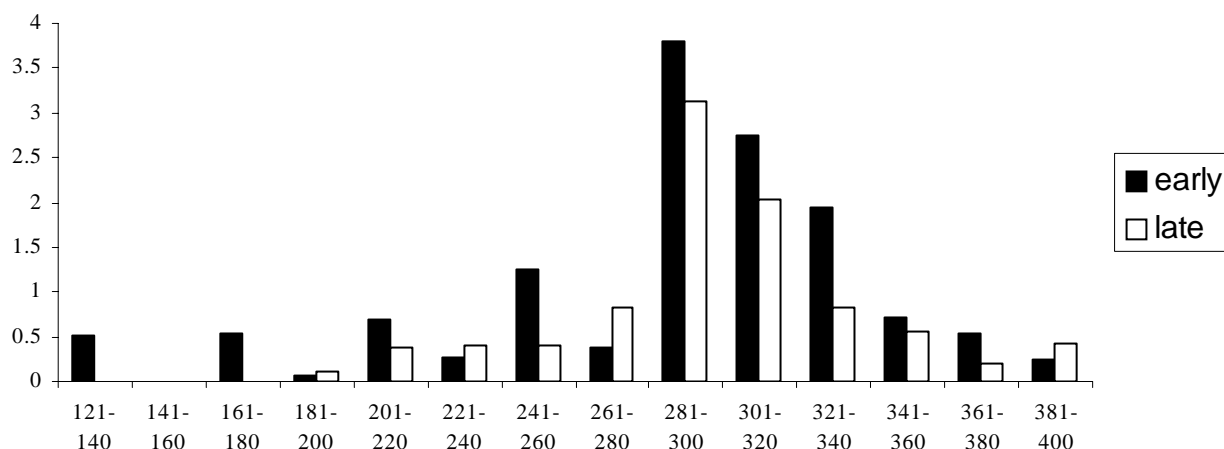


Table 29: Jar rim occurrence by type, in EVE, expressed as a percentage of the period assemblage

Form	101	102	103	104	105	107	108	109	Total
Early	20.3%	26.3%	2.1%	17.5%	32.8%	0	0.9%	0	8.80
Late	3.7%	30.4%	6.7%	8.0%	15.8%	27.9%	3.4%	4.1%	8.75

none appear to have typological significance. As noted above, it is entirely possible that each rimform represents the work of a different potter, with the implication that the wasters were from a number of different kilns, or, conversely, if this represents the output of a single kiln, then a number of different potters were using the same kiln. At this time, we have very little knowledge of how medieval pottery industries were organized. Villages such as Stanion, where pottery production was a staple of many of the inhabitants in the medieval period, are well known, but how the various potters interacted with each other is not.

Decoration

The Stanion B ware pottery from this site is typical of the industry in that decoration is extremely limited. Glazing was noted on all the vessel forms, although not all vessels were glazed. The same applies to slip decoration, mainly in the form of painted stripes, although a small number of vessel with other schemes, such as standing arches, were also noted.

Glazing on jars usually occurred on the upper body and rim, although a number of examples simply had splashes and drips of glaze, indicating that they were essentially unglazed, but had been fired at the same time as glazed vessels. Slip decoration did also occur on jars, but only in the form of vertical stripes.

Some bowls were glazed, but always on the inside. Again, some vessels were essentially unglazed, with splashes and drips from other vessels.

Jugs were most often decorated, but the range of techniques was somewhat restricted when compared to some other contemporary industries. Glazing was usually limited to the upper part of the vessel, and where slip stripes

occurred, they were limited to the glazed area, usually with a single horizontal cordon defining the lower limited of the decorated area. Stamped pads, which are common on Lyveden/Stanion wares, were not noted.

One vessel had a fragment of an incised inscription, which is extremely unusual in medieval pottery generally, and a small group of vessels with faces modelled below the pouring lip were also noted. Incised decoration was generally very rare, other than a few vessels with comb-stabbing or incised cordons or wavy lines.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

The evidence indicates that the pottery from the pits at this site represents two distinct phases of production, one in the second half of the 14th century (the 'early group'), and the other in the second half of the 15th century (the 'late group'). The dating comes from a combination of the dating of associated pottery of other types and typology. In the case of the early group, associations with A ware, which had fallen from use by AD 1400, and in the case of the latter, Midland Purple and Cistercian wares, which were introduced in the mid-late 15th century. The fact that the whole site was sealed by a layer which produced pottery of the mid-16th century onwards offers some general support to the end date of production.

One of the most striking aspects of the two groups of pottery is how little difference there is in terms of the style of most of the pottery, and the range of vessel and decoration types. Despite this, the assemblage has provided some very useful insights into the Stanion pottery industry, and has allowed some refinement of the chronology of this regionally important industry.

It is now certain that the production of Stanion B ware

was considerably longer-lived than first anticipated. It has always generally been regarded as ending in the 14th century, but the evidence from this site shows that production was still taking place in the later years of the 15th century. It would therefore seem appropriate to now give the tradition a chronology of AD1200-1500.

The site has also offered evidence to make a case for the revision of Lyveden/Stanion D ware. This was generally regarded as starting around AD 1400 based on the evidence from Lyveden, and was thought to replace the B ware, but wasters of both fabrics have been found here, in all the pit groups. It is therefore suggested that it should now be dated AD 1350-1500, and it is entirely possible that it may even have started earlier.

The excavation has also confirmed that bifid-rim B ware jars, although rare, are a reliable chronological tool. They appear solely in the late group, and thus can be dated AD 1450-1500.

Similar comments apply to dripping dishes. They mainly occur in the early group, so it can be confidently stated that such pots were first made in Stanion around AD 1350.

The slip decoration used on the vessels found at this site is somewhat different, in terms of the technique of application used, to other vessels. All the slip-decorated vessels from this site were had the designs painted on in a generally rather thin slip. The thick, possible piped slip decoration known from other kilns and excavations is entirely absent, as are stamped pads, another common technique elsewhere. It would appear therefore that thickly applied slip and/or stamped pads are an early product of the industry, dating from perhaps AD 1200 – 1350, whereas painted, thin slip decoration is later, and datable to AD 1350-1500.

It is also possible that techniques of incised decoration, such as comb-stabbing, are also early, and again dates to AD 1200-1350.

Finally, it is notable that none of the kiln waste from this site is wheel-thrown, it all being coil-built and finished on a turntable. It has long been known that Stanion potters were very late in taking up the wheel, and in the past it has been suggested that a true fast wheel was not used until the late 13th or early 14th century. The evidence from this site indicates that it was later still, and likely to be the early 16th century at the earliest.

CERAMIC ROOF TILE

Pat Chapman

This assemblage comprises 474 sherds, weighing 42.8kg, of exclusively ceramic roof ridge tile (Table 30). They come from both phases of waster pits, together with the pottery and kiln furniture. About half of the assemblage, 202 sherds, came from fill 55 of pit 57, and a further 64 sherds are from fill 92 of pit 97, part of the central pit group of the later phase. The tile assemblage includes 31 ridge crests, all but three being of a single basic standard type, rather like a blacksmith's anvil, with small variations. There are single examples of three other types.

The tile is generally about 13mm thick with variants from 9mm to 15mm thick. The largest 11 sherds from fill 55, pit 57 are a maximum of 194mm by 65mm, while most of the rest average 110mm by 70mm, with some

smaller sherds. In fill 92 pit 97 there are six sherds, c 140mm by 110mm, while the majority of the rest are about 130mm by 70mm, with a few smaller sherds.

Most of the sherds are in a hard, smooth to rough fabric, which has a generally rough fracture, with mainly frequent to dense fine crushed shell, sometimes with occasional small ironstone inclusions. The tile is brown, orange brown or red, usually with a medium grey core varying in thickness from a thin streak to the whole width except for the surface. This has a similarity to the Lyveden/Stanion D ware fabric (CTS F322) which is dated 1350-1500, according to the revised dating (Blinkhorn this report). It is also similar to the tile fabric 1 from the Greyfriars site, Northampton (Eames 1972, 125). Some of the sherds had been overfired to grey or black. A few sherds and one crest are in a silty pink fabric, the crest with some large ironstone inclusions. Laminated flaking was noted particularly on sherds from pit 57 and pit 97.

The majority of the ridge tile are green glazed, while one is lead glazed, and a few were left plain.

Table 30: Quantification of ceramic ridge tile

Context/feature	Number	Weight (g)	Crests	Comment
13 / pit 14	23	1581	1	Early phase
58 / pit 59	11	273	1	Early phase
61 / pit 62	8	868	3	Early phase
69 / pit 70	13	1187	1	Early phase
77 / pit 78	3	262		Early phase
39 / pit 40	37	3196	7	Later phase
43 / pit 44	1	273	1	Later phase
55 / pit 57	202	19347	10	Later phase
71 / pit 72	42	2692	1	Later phase
73 / pit 74	9	590		Later phase
79 / pit 74	18	1744		Later phase
82 / pit 84	16	992	1	Later phase
83 / pit 84	1	25		Later phase
92 / pit 97	64	8194	4	Later phase
2 layer	13	1101	1	Later phase
3 layer	13	869		Later phase
Totals	474	43094	31	

All the sherds had been stabbed from the underside of the tile for firing purposes, sometimes through to the upper surface. An implement, typically c3mm square in section, was used and a more or less regular pattern of holes was creating, spaced very approximately 30mm apart. Sometimes this had been done around the crests from the outside. Some crests had vertical or near vertical slashes along each side, similar to those on vessel handles.

Only part of one ridge tile could be reconstructed to give measurable dimensions, the tile from pit 70 (Fig 25, 1 and 2). The height of the ridge tile from the 'base' to the apex of the ridge, not including the crest, is 135mm; from the base midpoint to the edge of the tile is 130mm, giving an estimated base width of 260mm. The surviving length is 245mm. The measurement of 137mm from edge to the crest, gives a projected complete length of c334mm, assuming the crest was central.

CRESTS

The crests were added separately to the tile by pushing the clay upwards from inside whilst pressing the crest down, and then smoothing the clay into the tile both underneath and on top. This can be seen clearly on those crests with only a remnant base. The top and the curves at each end were knife-trimmed and the edges smoothed.

The basic crest shape is that of an anvil or hammerhead (Fig 25, 3). Each end is usually a matching concave shape or flared out in a straight line or occasionally as a convex curve. However, occasionally the ends are slightly different. The crest base length varies between 40mm and 95mm, although 50mm to 70mm is the most common, while the top length measures between 40mm and 80mm. The height is typically 33mm, although that can range from 20mm to 42mm (Table 31).

Three single examples of other crest styles were found. One is triangular, 40mm long at the base, narrowing to 22mm at the, broken, top (Fig 25, 4a). It is possible that it may have been similar to the horned crest (see

below), but with the second horn missing. One crest is an asymmetrical triangle (Fig 25, 4b). A few examples have been found elsewhere, including at least three partial examples at Greyfriars, Northampton (Eames 1972, fig 18). The horned crest is 95mm long at the base, rising to blunt points at each end, 45mm apart (Fig 25, 4c). One point is 28mm high, 15mm long at the base narrowing to 10mm on top and 12–7mm thick. The other point is 34mm high, 22mm long at the base narrowing to 14mm on top and is 17mm thick. Both sides are slashed. The green glaze has been overfired.

The tiles and crests were found in both phases of waster pits, indicating the general conservatism of the roof furniture.

ILLUSTRATIONS (Fig 25)

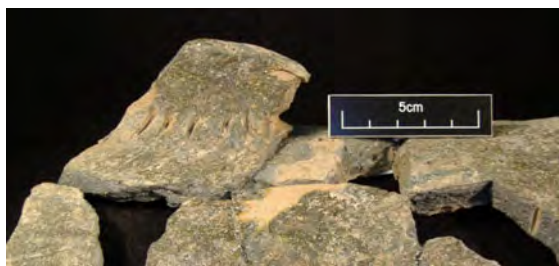
- 1 & 2 Ridge roof tile with crest
 3 Crests, anvil type, one with slashes
 4 a: pointed, triangular crest, b: asymmetrical triangular crest, c: horned crest

Table 31: Crest descriptions and dimensions

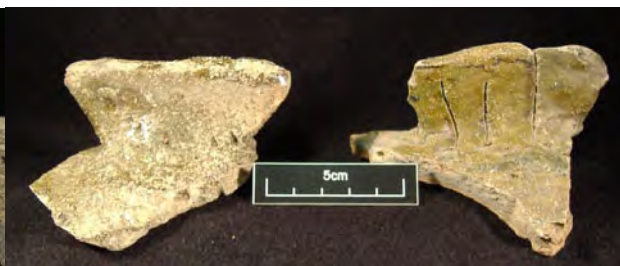
Context/ feature	Base length (mm)	Top length (mm)	Height (mm)	Thickness base to top (mm)	Description
13 / pit 14	73	85	40	20-10	Vertical slashes, convex curve upwards, green glaze
58 / pit 59	58		30	25 - 10	Stabbed, ends broken, green glaze
61 / pit 62	40	22	23	25 - 10	Triangular, possibly formed from tile, top broken, slashed, green glaze
61 / pit 62	70	80	30	25 - 8	Slashed, ends more upright, white slip
61 / pit 62	65	--	0 - 20	25 - 10	Diagonal longwise, slashed, possibly formed from tile, white slip
69 / pit 70					Partial, green glaze, slashed
39 / pit 40	50	60	25	25 - 10	Pink fabric, ironstone inclusions, white slip
39 / pit 40	55	60	30	25 - 10	Straight and convex ends, some stabs, green glaze
39 / pit 40	50	63	25	22 - 10	Flared sides, white slip, glaze?
39 / pit 40	50	60+	30	25 - 10	One tip broken, green glaze
39 / pit 40	68	75	30	25 - 10	Tips broken, green glaze
39 / pit 40	60	70+	33	25 - 10	Winged end, other broken, green glaze
39 / pit 40	50+	50+	33	25 - 10	End missing, green glaze
55 / pit 57	55	50+	35	25 - 10	Flared end, one broken, green glaze
55 / pit 57	58	85	32	20 - 9	Flared, green glaze
55 / pit 57	58	78	35	23 - 9	One end pointed, other convex, pink fabric, ironstone, inclusions, white slip
55 / pit 57	65	73	30	25 - 9	Slashed, tip missing, green glaze
55 / pit 57	51	65	32	25 - 10	Winged, tip missing, green glaze
55 / pit 57	70	50+	42	28 - 10	Occasional stabs, both ends broken,
55 / pit 57	68	--	--	25	Base only, stabbed, green glaze
55 / pit 57	--	--	--	32	Half base, green glaze
55 / pit 57	--	--	--	30	Base end, green glaze
55 / pit 57	--	--	30	25 - 10	One end only, white slip
71 / pit 72	--	--	--	--	Partial, one winged end, green glaze
82 / pit 84	95	45	28&34	12-7, 17-14	Slashed, horned, green glaze
92 / pit 97	70	85	33	30 - 10	One tip missing, stabbed one side, slip
92 / pit 97	65	80	34	25 - 10	Green glaze
92 / pit 97	55	78+	35	23 - 10	Tip missing, green glaze
92 / pit 97	--	--	35	25 - 10	One end only, green glaze
43 / pit 44	90		35	25 - 8	One end broken, green glaze
layer 2	64	60+	37	20 - 10	Winged, one end broken, green glaze



1



2



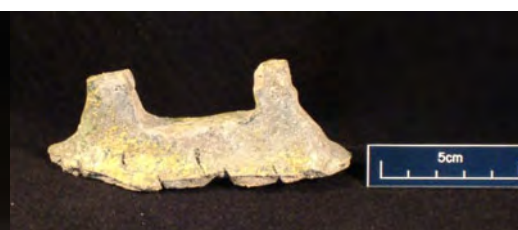
3



4a



4b



4c

Fig 25 1: roof ridge tile partially reconstructed; 2: detail of crest; 3: anvil style crest with and without slashes; 4: a, triangular crest; b, asymmetrical crest; c, horned crest

KILN FURNITURE

Pat Chapman

KILN PROPS

A quantity of more crudely-made items has been identified as cylindrical kiln props or spacers. The assemblage comprises 198 sherds, weighing 20.9kg (Table 32). Half the assemblage by number and weight comes from the fill (39) of pit 40, of the later phase, 1450-1500. There are eleven separate kiln props by rim count.

The fabric is hard with a generally rough fracture and medium to frequent fine crushed shell and occasional to some small ironstone fragments up to 9mm in length. The colour is red brown with a medium grey core of varying thickness. The surface is often buff to grey, sometimes hard fired to dark grey or black. There are a few sherds that are fine and silty, pink in colour with occasional ironstone inclusions, similar to a few of the tile sherds. The remains of the prop from fill 65, pit 14, is red-brown with very frequent shell, of up to 1mm in length, standing proud of the surface. Unusually it has been stabbed, in places only 15mm apart.

These kiln props are all coil made. The coils are usually quite broad, typically 30mm thick, and the breakages have almost invariably occurred at the coil joins, leaving a steep diagonal sheer, which indicates how poorly the coil joins were smoothed over in manufacturing. The narrower upper ends of the props are occasionally very simply finished, and in one case the section is an irregular oval rather than circular (Fig 26, 2). However, the tops have more usually been given a reasonable finish internally for a finger's length down from the rim, which has itself been simply shaped in a fashion similar to the contemporary jugs (Fig 26, 1). In many cases this finishing is more than would have been required, and it may be that these props were made by trainee potters who were practising their skills in turning a rim.

The body is generally smoothed on the outside, and they are furnished with flat bases. There are occasional splashes of glaze on the bodies, and two large sherds have glaze down the edges, perhaps suggesting use as spacers after having already been broken. The body of the props are typically 10-12mm thick, with the more crudely made props about 14mm thick. The rims vary in diameter between 60 and 70mm.

The most complete example, SP1, from the fill (92) of pit 97, stands 290mm high, with a rim diameter of 110mm and a base 180mm in diameter (Fig 26, SP1). It broadly resembles a medieval jug in form, but it is complete enough to be certain that it never had a handle attached. It may have been a partially made jug that was rejected and utilised as a kiln prop.

It is possible that the few larger, wider props could have been used as saggars; containers to hold and protect small items in the kiln, such as the pottery whistles from 17 Little Lane (see A Chapman above). The best preserved example has an oblique, oxidised 'rim', suggesting that it was a kiln prop that lost its upper part during initial firing, and may subsequently have been used as a sagger (Fig 26, 4).

Kiln props were noted at Lyveden kilns D1 and D2

(Bryant and Steane 1969, figs 8c and 8d, and Steane 1971, 35). They are of broadly similar form to the examples from this site. Bellamy (1983) does not mention kiln props as being found at either of the groups of material he published. About a quarter of the vessels within the pottery recovered from the kiln at 17 Little Lane are described as coarse, conical pipe-like vessels with flat bases used as kiln spacers (Blinkhorn in A Chapman above).

Table 32: Quantification of kiln props

Context/feature	number	weight (g)	comments
13 / pit 14	8	754	Early phase
61 / pit 62	2	218	Early phase
65 / pit 14	2	208	Early phase
69 / pit 70	2	91	Early phase
39 / pit 40	101	11634	Later phase
55 / pit 57	11	1090	Later phase
22 / pit 23	1	167	Later phase
71 / pit 72	9	280	Later phase
73 / pit 74	29	3889	Later phase
79 / pit 74	5	459	Later phase
82 / pit 84	3	255	Later phase
92 / pit 97	10	1217	Later phase
2 layer	11	815	Later phase
3 layer	4	287	Later phase
Total	198	20993	

ILLUSTRATIONS (Fig 26)

- 1 Kiln prop, jug-type rim, diameter 50mm widening to 110mm near base, surviving length 285mm. Context 39, pit 40
- 2 Kiln prop, oval, upright rim, diameter c65mm widening to 85-95mm near base, surviving length 195mm. Context 39, pit 40
- 3 Kiln prop, jug type, diameter 110mm, base diameter 180mm, length 290mm. Context 92, pit 97
- 4 Kiln prop, top missing, base diameter 160mm, surviving height 170mm. Context 73, pit 74

STRUCTURAL TILE

There are two structural tiles associated with the kiln waste. One from fill 92 of pit 97, is large, rectangular and weighs 3.6kg, but is broken in half. The fabric comprises poorly mixed clay, with frequent fine shell inclusions and the occasional small fragment of ironstone, reduced to a dark grey, except for the surface which is a pale pinkish brown.

The tile would have measured 256mm long by 145mm wide and 70mm thick, (10 inches long by 5¾ inches wide and 2¾ inches thick). One face is smoothed if slightly uneven, has squared corners and sharp edges, with a fine cracked surface, the other face has rounded edges and corners. The tile had been stabbed from both sides although the entrances were obscured.

The tile fragment, weighing 0.5kg from fill 39 of pit 40, was formed from a batch of clay that had been mixed



1 Pit 40



2 Pit 40



3 SP1, pit 97



4 Pit 74

Fig 26 Kiln furniture 1 – 4

in a circular fashion, leaving a 'hole' in the centre. The fabric is very similar to the above example if slightly darker. The surviving surface is smooth, but with fine cracks and has been stabbed with an implement with a 3mm squared section at 20mm intervals in rows 20mm apart. The surviving dimensions are 135mm by 133mm and 53mm thick (5¼ by 4 by 2 inches thick. Two further fragments also came from this context.

These are similar to structural tiles found at a tile kiln in Warwick (Chapman 2007) and the contemporary 13th to 14th century-tile factory at Danbury, Essex (Drury and Pratt 1975, 123 and fig 54). A similar style of tile was also recovered from the 17th to 18th-centuries pottery kiln at Donyatt in Somerset, indicating the ubiquitous nature and longevity of this element of kiln structure (Coleman-Smith 2002, 158, fig 24).

KILN BAR

There is one small fragment of a possible kiln bar from fill 69 of pit 70. It is 60mm long and a minimum of 38mm thick, broken at both ends. It is made from a very hard reduced fabric with a partial red surface.

FIRE CLAY

This small assemblage comprises 40 fragments weighing 1.4kg. There are eight fragments of irregular, grey, overfired, powdery, vesicular, fired clay with fine shell and ironstone inclusions. One piece has small fragments of red shelly pot fabric embedded in it. The largest piece is 75mm by 70mm by 38mm, the remainder being smaller. Eleven pieces are orange to brown to black with a flat combed or smoothed surface, averaging 40mm by 50mm by 15mm thick. The thickness is the same with smaller fragments. These fragments are presumably debris from the nearby kilns.

FLOOR TILE

From pit 62 there is a fragment of plain unglazed floor tile. It is 30mm thick made from a coarse dark red fabric with occasional large inclusions. A thinner, larger fragment comes from pit 72, with surviving dimensions of 90mm by 70mm and 20mm thick. The fabric is similar to the other tile but one surface is light orange.

ANIMAL BONE

Karen Deighton

Animal bone weighing 1.11kg was recovered. Identifiable bones were noted. Ageable and measurable bones (after Von Den Driesch) were also noted. Ageable elements included cheek tooth rows and bones with fusion and neonatal bones. Animal bone from wet sieving (3.4mm and 1mm residues) was also included.

Fragmentation was heavy with few whole bones recovered. Surface condition was reasonable. A single instance of butchery was noted, a chopped *Bos* femur. No evidence of burning or canid gnawing was observed. The material appears to be domestic refuse.

Table 33: Identifiable bones by species

<i>Bos</i> cattle	<i>Ovicaprid</i> sheep/goat	<i>Sus</i> pig	<i>Avis</i> bird	<i>Cervid</i> deer	Amphibian	Total
7	6	4	1	2	4	24

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Karen Deighton

Two 20 litre samples were hand collected. These were processed using a siraf tank fitted with a 500-micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots were dried and analysed using a microscope (10x magnification). Analysis was undertaken to establish the nature, preservation and presence of ecofacts and their potential contribution to the understanding of the function and economy of the site.

Preservation was moderate with some cereal grains exhibiting fragmentation and abrasion.

Table 34: Finds by sample and context

Sample	1	2
Context/feature	43 / 'cess' pit 44	98 / pit100
Charcoal	Very frequent	Very frequent
Cereal	3	10
Pulse	1	
Weed/wild	2	
Other	Mollusc	

Note: Numbers for plant macrofossils refer to number of finds.

Cereal in sample 1 could not be identified beyond Wheat/barley (*Triticum/Hordeum*). The pulse in sample 1 appeared to be common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). The wild / weed species in sample 1 were possible raspberry (*Rubus cf idaeus*). Cereal types present in sample 2 were Spelt/ bread wheat (*Triticum spelta/aestivum*), possible rye (*Cereale cf Secale cereale*) and possible naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare cf var.nudum*).

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE (Figs 27-34)

Given the lack of a developed-funded budget to cover the costs of post-excavation analysis for this exceptionally large quantity of pottery, it has not been possible to have the vessels drawn. Instead a photographic archive has been compiled providing side views of all the largely

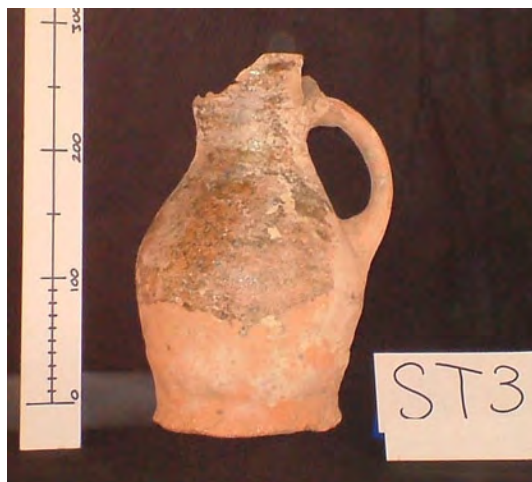
reconstructed vessels. Each image includes a scale bar and the pottery reference number. On the following pages (Figs 27-34) the vessels are reproduced at consistent scales. A full set of these images is also included on the CD attached to this volume.



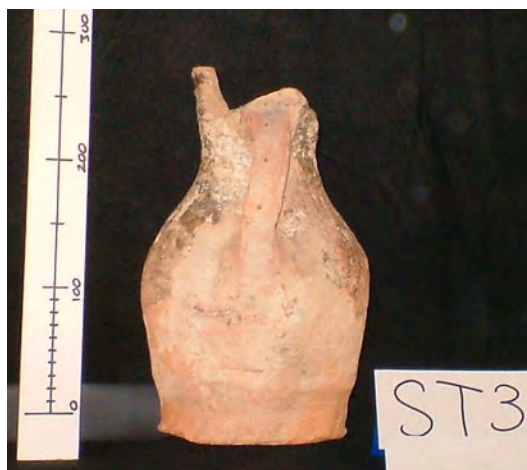
ST1, pit 14



ST2, pit 14



ST3, pit 14



ST3, pit 14



ST4, pit 14



ST5, pit 14

Fig 27 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST1-ST5, pit 14



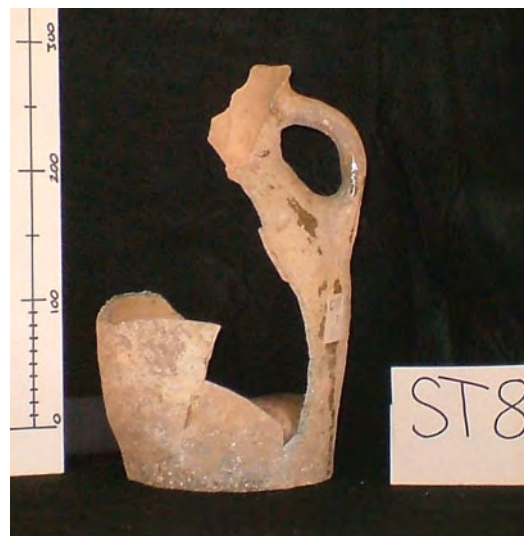
ST6, pit 14



ST6, pit 14



ST7, pit 14



ST8, pit 14



ST9, pit 14



ST10, pit 14

Fig 28 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST6-ST10, pit 14



ST12, pit 70



ST13, pit 97



ST14, pit 97

Fig 29 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST12, pit 70; ST13 and ST14, pit 97



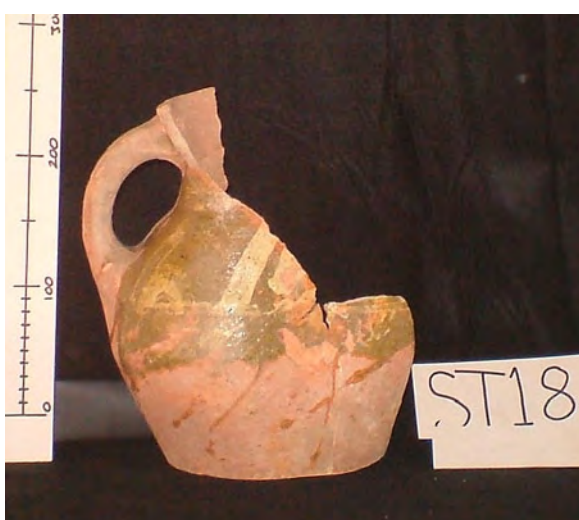
ST15, pit 97



ST16, pit 14



ST17, pit 97



ST18, pit 97

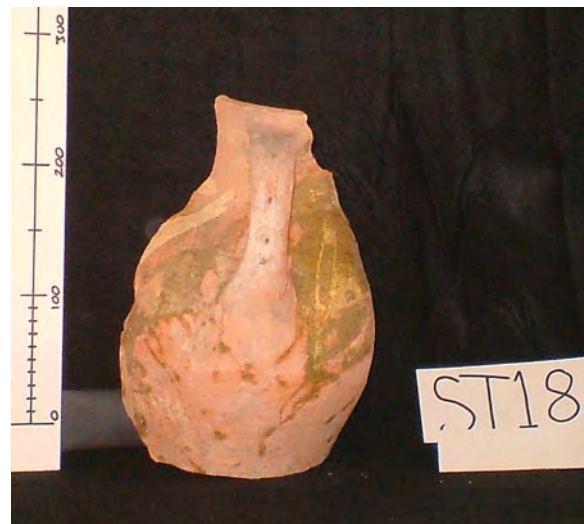


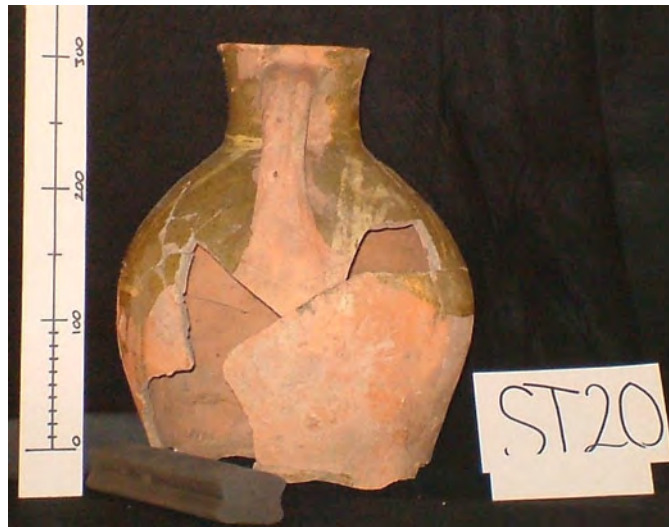
Fig 30 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST16, pit 14; ST15, ST17 and ST18, pit 97



ST19, pit 97



ST20, pit 97



ST20, pit 97

Fig 31 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST19 and ST20, pit 97



ST21, pit 97



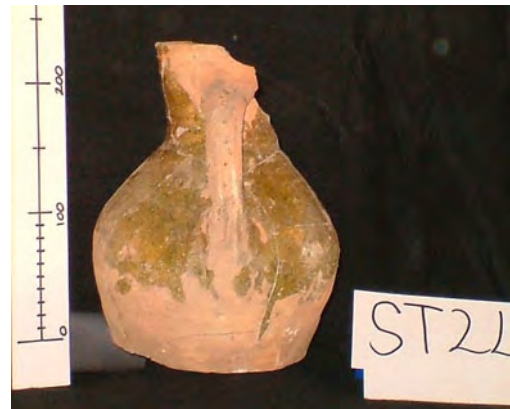
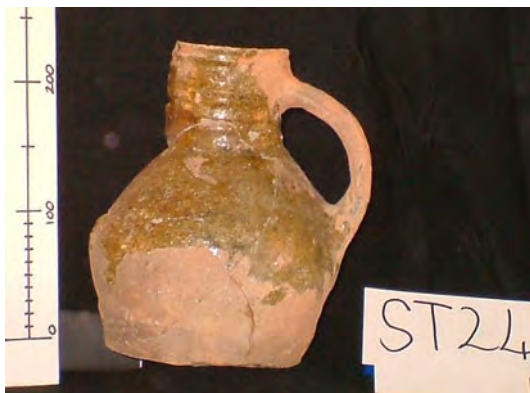
Fig 32 Pottery catalogue, jug ST21, pit 97



ST22, pit 70



ST23, pit 23

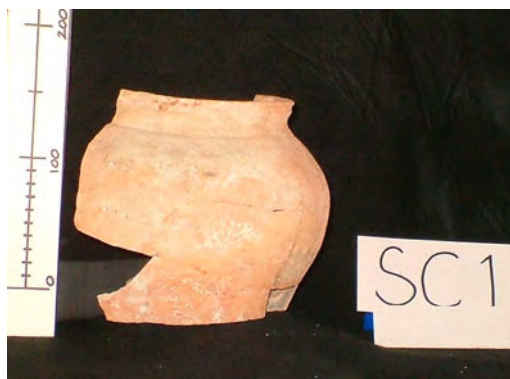


ST24, pit 24

Fig 33 Pottery catalogue, jugs ST22, pit 70; ST23, pit 23 and 24, pit 59



SJ1, pit14



SC1, pit 14



SC4, pit 14



SB1, pit 14

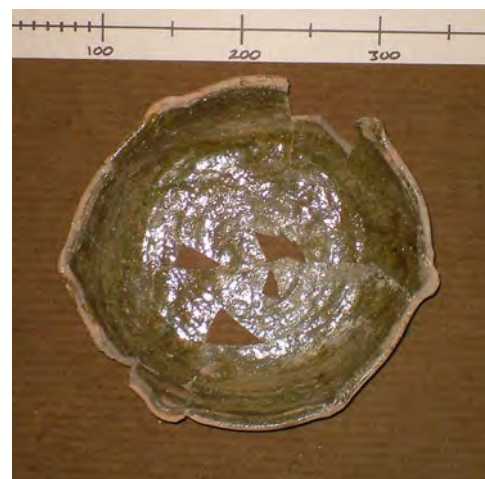


Fig 34 Pottery catalogue, jug SJ1, jars SC1 and SC4, six-lipped bowl SB1; pit 14

