

## Medieval pottery from Bridgecroft, Mickleham, Leatherhead

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*A group of pottery recovered from the bank of the river Mole at Leatherhead included a range of fabrics of separate classification in the Surrey type series, but which include certain similarities and that are probably of contemporary date in the early/mid-13th century. The assemblage is important in indicating the range of types that might be expected on occupation sites of this date. It draws attention to the occurrence of sparsely flint-tempered fabrics in this part of the county and the possibility of a related industry.*

### Documentary background

The medieval settlement with which the pottery recovered from the bank of the river Mole is likely to have been associated with the holding of either Norbury or Thorncroft Manor or part of a landholding called Aperdele.

A deed of 1498, in which the land of William Wymbledon is partitioned, describes ‘a manor called Apperley with certain parcels of land been sett and lye on the est syde or parte of a rever there, which river ledyth downe towards Ledred brygge, and said manor called Norbury with other lands and tenements been set and lye on the west syde or part of the said ryver’ (Blair 1981, no 141). Norbury was probably the estate held by Oswold of Richard de Tonbridge in 1086 and which had descended to the de Clares by 1315. Odo de Dammartin was the tenant in the 12th century and by 1314 the manor had passed to William de Hussee (*VCH* 3, 301–10); however, further details of the holdings of the manor during the medieval period are lacking, primarily due to the destruction between 1775 and 1780 by an agent of the Lord, Mr Chapman, of medieval documents as ‘useless lumber’ (Manning & Bray 1814, 2, 654). However, this appears to rule out the possibility that Bridgecroft was part of Norbury Manor since it lies to the east of the river.

Thorncroft Manor was held in 1086 by Richard fitz Gilbert and in 1267 Sir Philip Basset and Lady Ela his wife, Countess of Warwick, gave most of Thorncroft Manor to Walter of Merton for the support of his scholars in Oxford. However, in *c* 1170 Margaret de Montfichet, granddaughter of fitz Gilbert had granted Amfrid, son of Fulk, half a hide and a mill in Thorncroft, and a hide and a virgate in Aperdele with the Aperdele land paying 5s pa to the Knights Templar. In an action against the Templars in 1225 William de Aperdele mentioned an ancestor, Cole, giving rise to the suggestion that this may be a very rare example of the pre-Conquest landowner – here Cola – maintaining some land rights (Blair 1977). Later, in the 12th and 13th centuries, a number of virgated holdings appear south of Leatherhead (Blair 1991, fig 16) and form the basis for the dispersed settlement pattern typical of chalk downland.

By *c* 1300 the manor of Pachenesham Parva comprised two sections, one at Pachenesham and the other at Leatherhead, and it is the latter of these which is described as lying ‘beyond the water next to Thorncroft’. The Leatherhead portion appears to have comprised Bockett Farm and the Aperdele virgate on opposite sides of the river. In 1370 a field called Long Aperdele containing 30 acres (12ha) paid rent of 5s (*ibid*, quoting *Inquisitions Miscellaneous*, III, no 771) and in 1731 the combined area of Far, Middle and Hither Aprils was 32a – sufficiently close to suggest that this was the original demesne holding, and this is confirmed by entries in the Pachenesham Magna Court Books (*ibid*). These fields are shown on a map of 1731 (SHC: G25/7/3) as lying north of, and adjoining Bridgecroft, between the Mole and the line of the A24, and had by that date become part of the Norbury Estate. Only the deed of 1498 mentioned above ascribes manorial status to the Aperdele holdings.

Clearly the de Aperdele family rapidly increased their land holding and some of that land was in Thorncroft Manor. In *c* 1275 Adam de Aperdele paid 5s rent *pa* (MM: 5777c) and the same amount was paid in 1333 by John de Aperdele for a virgate of land (MM: 5779) and in the same year by Roger de Aperdele for 'a messuage and one virgate in land where he now lives' with 'in Aperleyhill' written in a different hand (MM: 5778). The holding with a messuage on Apperleyhill is described in 1629 as a parcel of 20a land and appears to have been situated immediately east of Givons Grove on the southern slope of the hill now occupied by Cherkley Court (area TQ 1758 5434) (Blair 1991, fig 15).

Other land held in Leatherhead parish is mentioned in deeds that probably date to between 1250 and 1280 when William de Abernun granted 4 acres (1.7ha) land in Williamsdene in Leatherhead which he held of William de Aperdele to the Hospital of the Holy Cross of Reigate, and at the same time John Pinchun relinquished the annual rent he received from the same land, now called Wolandesden (*ibid*, nos 103 & 104). Wolandesden lay between Leatherhead Common Field and the Downs south-east of the A24/B2033 junction (area TQ 180 554) (Vardey 1988, 40). Other lands held by the extended family included an acre in the field of Leatherhead at Stoneshende granted in 1326 (*ibid*, no 144), and 'all my land at Loslee in Leatherhead' granted in 1333 (*ibid*, no 145).

The Aperdele family had also gained land in Mickleham by *c* 1280–1320 when William de Aperdele granted a virgate on the marriage of his daughter and in 1336 Roger de Aperdele obtained the Manor of Mickleham (Blair 1981, no 112). However, they soon lost the manor as his grandson, John, apparently forfeited it when he was outlawed as a felon in 1366 (*VCH* 3, 301–10) but as late as 1391 John son of John Aperdele of Leatherhead defended a losing claim to 289 acres (120ha) of land in Mickleham (Blair 1981, no 121).

If the deed of 1498 is correct, and Norbury held no land east of the Mole during the medieval period, the area from which the pottery was recovered cannot represent an early site of that manorial *caput*, but should relate to a settlement on Aperdele land close to if not within the original demesne. There has clearly been considerable disturbance of the narrow strip of land between the Mole and the steep side of Mickleham Downs both during construction of the present dual carriageway and its predecessors, and traces of any buildings may well have been lost. The difficulties are exemplified by the following quotation: 'The main road from Dorking to London traverses the Mickleham valley. It was made a passable road in 1755. Up to that time it was not available to wheeled traffic in bad weather, and to judge from the traces of the old road it needed courage to drive along it all' (*VCH* 3, 301–2). The pottery described here probably came from a dwelling beside this road at a point where the Mole was bridged or forded to give access to Norbury Manor.

## The pottery

A significant number of sherds of medieval pottery were collected by Steve Poulter (then of Leatherhead & District Local History Society) from a short stretch of the right-hand bank of the river Mole just below a weir some 10m upstream of the bridge and adjacent to the area known as Bridgecroft in Mickleham (BCM), fig 1 (TQ 1700 5432). These were collected between 1972 and 1987, as they were apparently being eroded from the riverbank near the bend in the river. He prepared a brief note on these in 1987 but unfortunately this was not published at the time. Much of what he said then remains true and it is due to his vigilance and interest that this important group survives. This report is an evaluation of the significance of the pottery for this area of Surrey.

There was some uncertainty as to whether the material was all *in situ* as the site is close to the embankment formed during the construction of the dual carriageway of the A24 in *c* 1938. During this work the sharp eastern bend in the river was diverted. The material from the new straightened section of the road was presumably dumped in and to the side of the old course. This was, however, just upstream of the weir and is not thought to be a source of the pottery material. It was considered that the assemblage represented a domestic

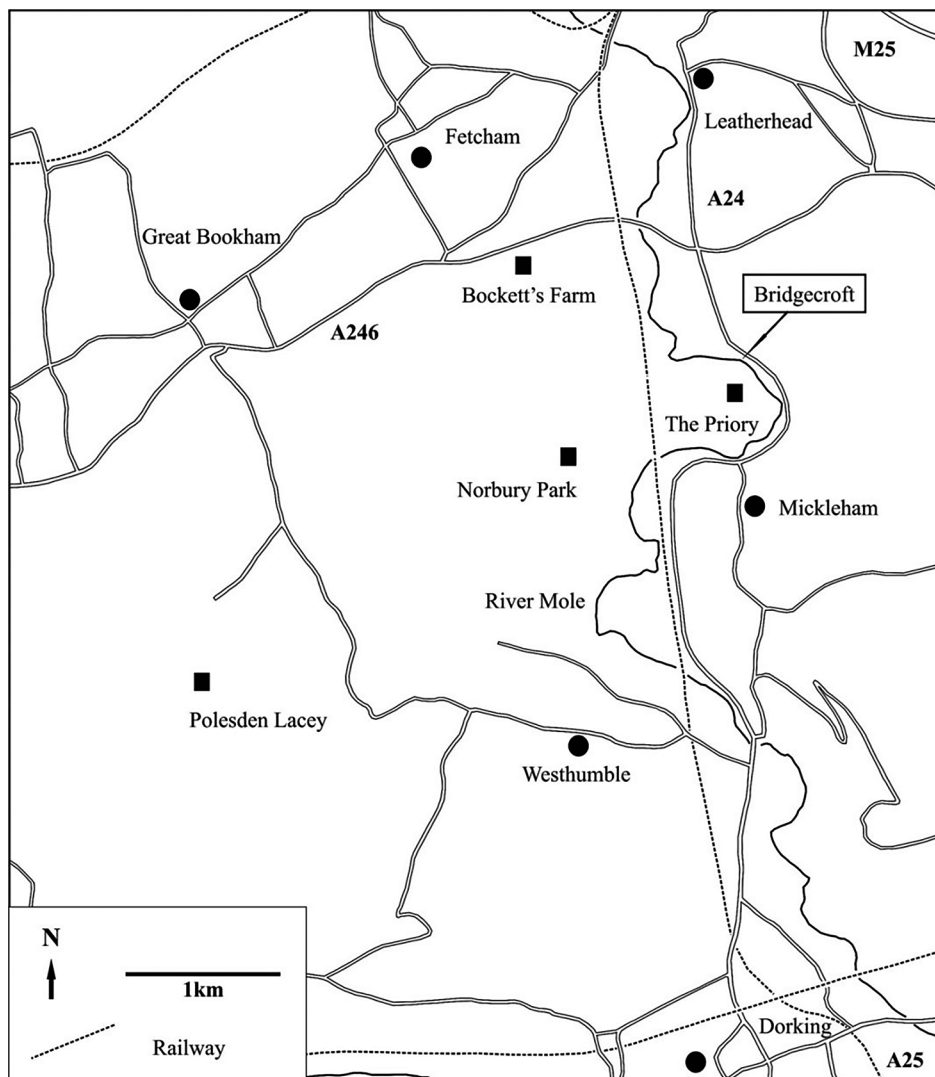


Fig 1 Location of the Bridgecroft site. The Aperdele manorial centre would have been to the east of the river and in Leatherhead parish. The precise location is unknown.

rubbish/midden/dump deposited over a fairly restricted period of time if not contemporary. Some animal bone, oyster shell and burnt flint were also noticed. Although there was no stratigraphy recorded, the material being gradually eroded from the riverbank, it was said to come from 'a fairly narrow band' along a *c* 3m stretch (figs 2 and 3). The actual site is not now obvious owing to further erosion and tree growth. Although not strictly stratified, the indications were that it derived from a single discrete deposit.

There may be some debate in deciding whether the material is contemporary and in confirming its date, as the different fabrics represented have differing date ranges in the Surrey series. The sherds vary in size from quite large pieces to small ones, some with fairly fresh breaks and others eroded. In addition, there are many joining sherds from the same vessel. In particular, the shelly ware bowl (fig 4, no 2) has 38 joining sherds, some retaining soot on their outer surface. This is unlikely to have survived if the material was disturbed



Fig 2 Bridgecroft. East bank looking downstream from weir, c 1959 (Surrey Wildlife Trust).



Fig 3 Bridgecroft. East bank looking downstream, c 1972 (Steve Poulter).

from elsewhere. In view of the fact that the pottery was collected from a limited area and depth and that there are many sherd joins and certain similarities in rim form, it is suggested that the group as a whole does represent a near contemporary deposit.

The total quantity of pottery surviving from the collection now amounts to 1738 sherds, weighing 34.909kg. They are marked B with a number representing a running catalogue kept by Steve Poulter at the time. During 2015 the Medieval Pottery Study Group of Surrey Archaeological Society analysed and classified the sherds by fabric following the current Surrey type series (Jones 1998) and date ranges correlated to the Museum of London (MoL) dates where appropriate. The review lists the material by sherd count, weight, Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE). The ENV estimate was based on an intuitive assessment of likely 'sherd families' and is probably a high estimate. A more intensive review of all body sherds, currently lumped together, might reduce the

estimated total though possibly not by much. The data was entered on an Excel spreadsheet to allow sorting by fabric and vessel type. The full data is on the Excel sheets and a synthesis is given in tables 1 and 2. All the pottery has been re-bagged and given a sequential number within each fabric type. The pottery and archive will be deposited in Leatherhead Museum (acc no 2021-001).

The assemblage is important in that it may represent a group of near contemporary pottery usage in this area of the county. There are only three sherds that may be later and two clay tobacco pipe fragments, clearly later intrusions, and only one sherd of an earlier type, IQ (ESUR in London dated to *c* 1050–1150) that must be residual. The different wares present are:

#### FLINT-TEMPERED WARES (QFL)

These are characterised by varying amounts of sand and flint tempering. The amounts vary in proportion and grain size, with the amount of flint varying between very sparse and moderate. There was some difficulty in distinguishing individual sherds, but they would appear to equate with QFL in Surrey, with a date range of *c* 1080–1200 and which may equate with EMGYFL, rather than EMFL, types in London. Some sherds had a higher proportion of flint than others but there were none that might be of the earlier FLQ ware type that is rare in the county and sherds of which have abundant angular flint of larger size. At the other end of the scale, there were some sherds with very sparse flint, and it was debatable whether these might be Grey/brown sandy types. However, all the flint-tempered sherds from the assemblage would thus appear to be QFL or slight variants of it. They have not been subdivided further.

There were 571 sherds (32.9 % of total, *c* 220 ENV and 7.7 EVE). This is quite a high proportion for flint-tempered fabrics in this part of the county. In Surrey flint tempering is more common in the north of the county. In Reigate QFL is largely absent from the later new town established around *c* 1170 (P Jones, pers comm). At Pachenesham, some 5km to the north and thought to have been in occupation from *c* 1200, flint-tempered pottery, there called fabric II, was said to be rare and found only in P1 (Renn 1983, 30). However, the waster pottery found in Ashted is flint tempered and could be considered a QFL type (see below, *Discussion and dating*).

Bowls and cooking pot/jars (cp/jars) form the majority with only ten sherds (two ENV) thought to be from jugs, one showing a thumbed base. Some twenty body sherds (six ENV) were glazed internally and must be bowls or dishes. Rim shapes vary from simple everted to expanded, squared and flat types. An unusual rim detail is the cp/jar (fig 4, no 6) with an expanded, slightly undercut rim with regular stab marks along the bead under the rim. Only two sherds, of the same vessel, showed a wavy line incised on the rim top (fig 4, no 8). Thumbled strips occurred on both cp/jars and bowls; on cp/jars the tops of the vertical strips are finished with a short horizontal smear. Three sherds were from a very wide bowl(s) of *c* 360+mm diameter with horizontal thumbled strip and which may be a curfew base although the rim is slightly finger-tipped rather than flat (fig 4, no 7). There was one large sherd (fig 4, no 18 and fig 5) showing the distinctive handle and 'smoke' hole. There were no sherds showing any vertical or diagonal combing that occasionally occurs on flint-tempered types from elsewhere, for example at Egham where the kiln site was thought to date from the 12th to mid-13th century (Jones 2012).

#### SHELLY WARES

There were 47 sherds of this shell-tempered fabric (2.3% and probably only six ENV and 0.3 EVE). They are grey/brown in colour, with some oxidised surfaces and contain abundant large (?oyster) shell, partly leached, with very sparse sand and moderate rounded brown ironstone. They appear to be handmade, thick walled and less competently formed than the

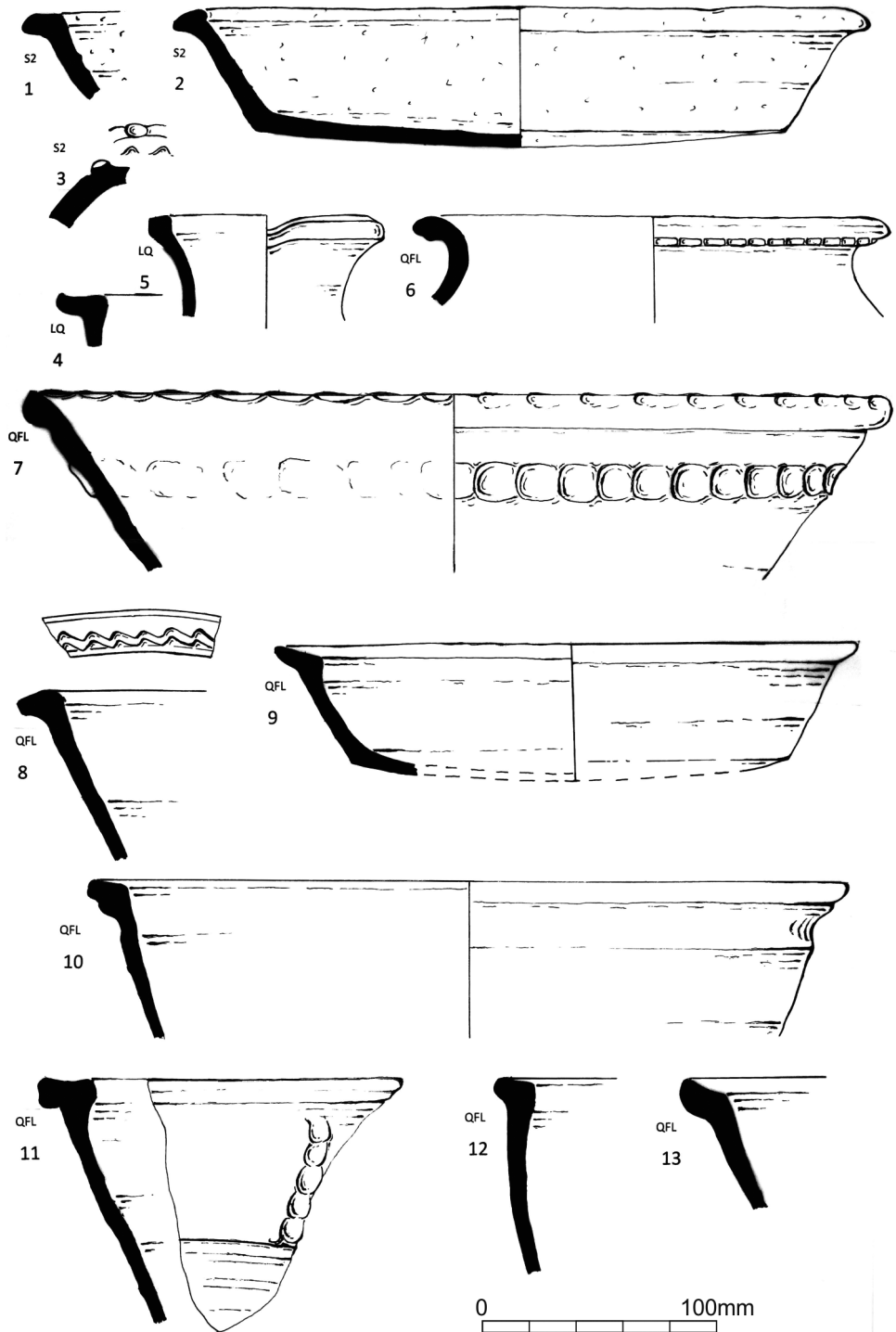


Fig 4 Bridgcroft. The pottery.

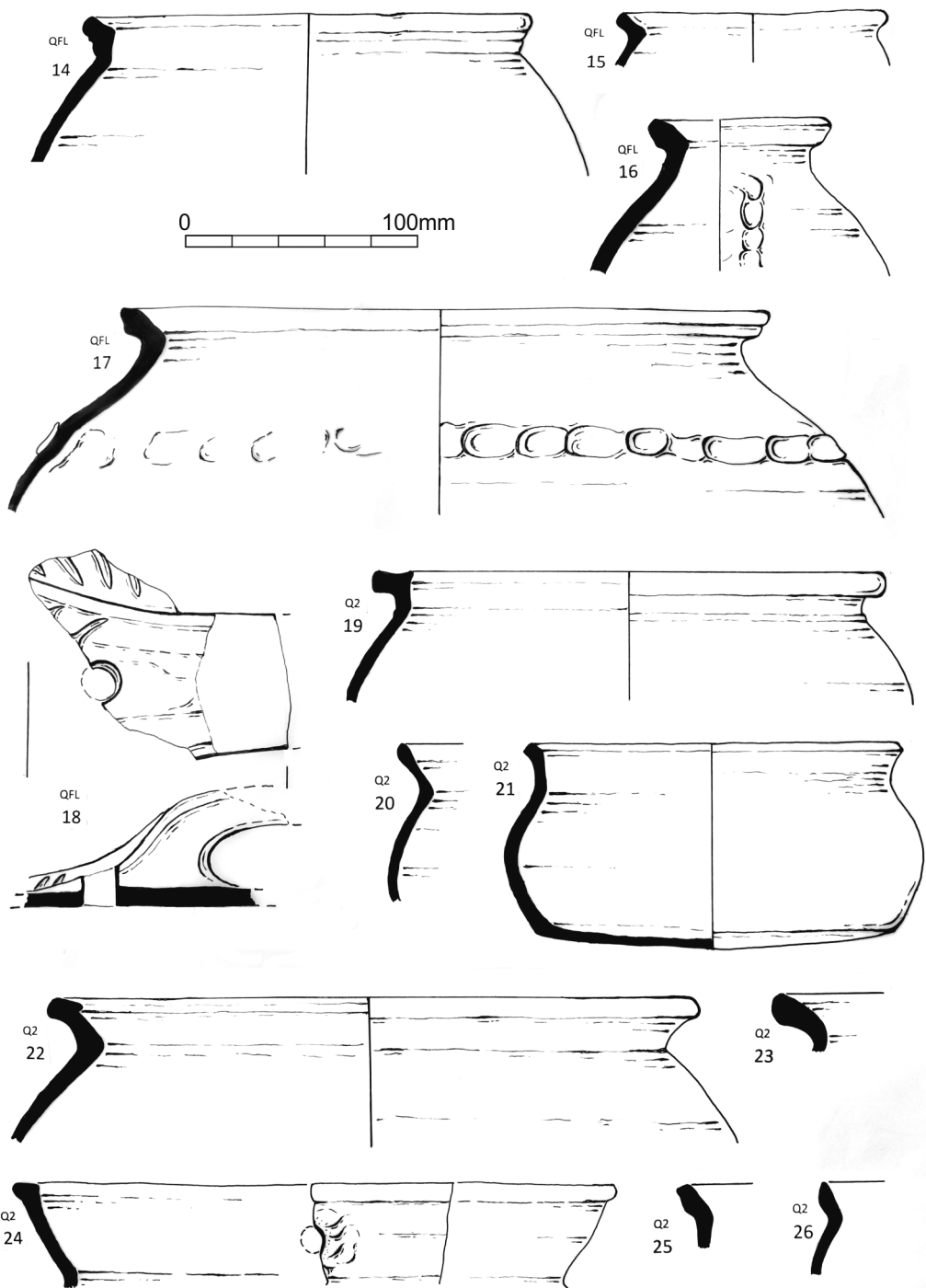


Fig 4 *Contd.*

other types. The majority, some 38 joining sherds, form the full profile of a shallow bowl with an internally beaded expanded rim with a slight lip and slightly sagging base (fig 4, no 2). Some sooting remains on part of it. There was also a large sherd with a similar expanded rim with internal bead and two horizontal external thumbed strips. It is burnt on the interior and is probably a curfew. Another angled body sherd showing a thumbed ridge on the change in angle with a groove and wavy line on either side, which must also be from the top angle of a curfew (fig 4, no 3). One other sherd is decorated with a thumbed strip. They would all seem to equate to S2 in the Surrey series (EMSH in London). Ware S2 in Surrey has a long date range, from *c* 1050 to possibly the mid-13th century and although these vessels are handmade, the distinctive flattened rims may be later in the series. There were no shelly fabrics that would be classified as S1, that is late Saxon/early medieval.

#### GREY/BROWN SANDY WARES

Some 365 sherds (21.1% and 112 ENV and 3.4 EVE) were classified as Q2, the general medieval fabric ubiquitous across much of the county with a date range of *c* 1150–1250 in Surrey (table 1). These are not precisely equated to London but may be a variant of EMGY, there with a range of 1080–1200. There were a few sherds with some very sparse flint which is probably an unintended inclusion rather than a deliberate tempering as in the QFL. As always there was some difficulty in distinguishing lighter brown sherds of Q2 and the orange wares, OQ. The size of the sand tempering is virtually the same and the distinction was made on those sherds that appeared deliberately fired orange/red, OQ.

The forms recognised from rim sherds, by ENV, were: bowls (5), cp/jars (14), pipkin types (8) and jugs, from body sherds (10). The cp/jar rims include simple everted expanded shapes, all similar with minor throwing details and diameters between 10 and 33 cm. A variant is no 35 (fig 4) with finger tipping and thumbed strips of a deep bowl or possibly a curfew. There was also a group of flat types with a distinctive flick-up on the outer edge and which seems to occur on both, cp/jars and bowls, (fig 4, nos 28–30 & 33). This detail also occurs on OQ vessels and some QFL. There was also a group of smaller-sized jars, with diameters

Table 1 Total numbers of sherds by fabric

Fabric	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Date	% of total by sherd	ENV	EVE
IQ	1	21	1050–1150	0.05	1	
S2	47	1060	1050–1150+	2.7	7	0.3
QFL	571	15670	1080–1200	32.9	220	7.7
Q2	365	4545	1080–1200	21.1	112	3.4
LQ	14	225	1150–1400	0.8	3	0.05
FGQ	29	395	1170–1300	1.7	5	0.1
OQ	426	7391	1250–1500	24.6	179	5.02
FOQ	165	2831	1250–1500	9.6	43	0.53
WW1A	6	191	1270–1500	0.3	3	0.2
WW1B	109	2549	1240–1400	6.3	47	1.1
WW2	2	10	1350–1500	0.1	2	
PMRE	2	17	1480–1600	0.1	2	
TGW type ?	1	4	?	0.05	1	
	1738	34909		97.55	625	



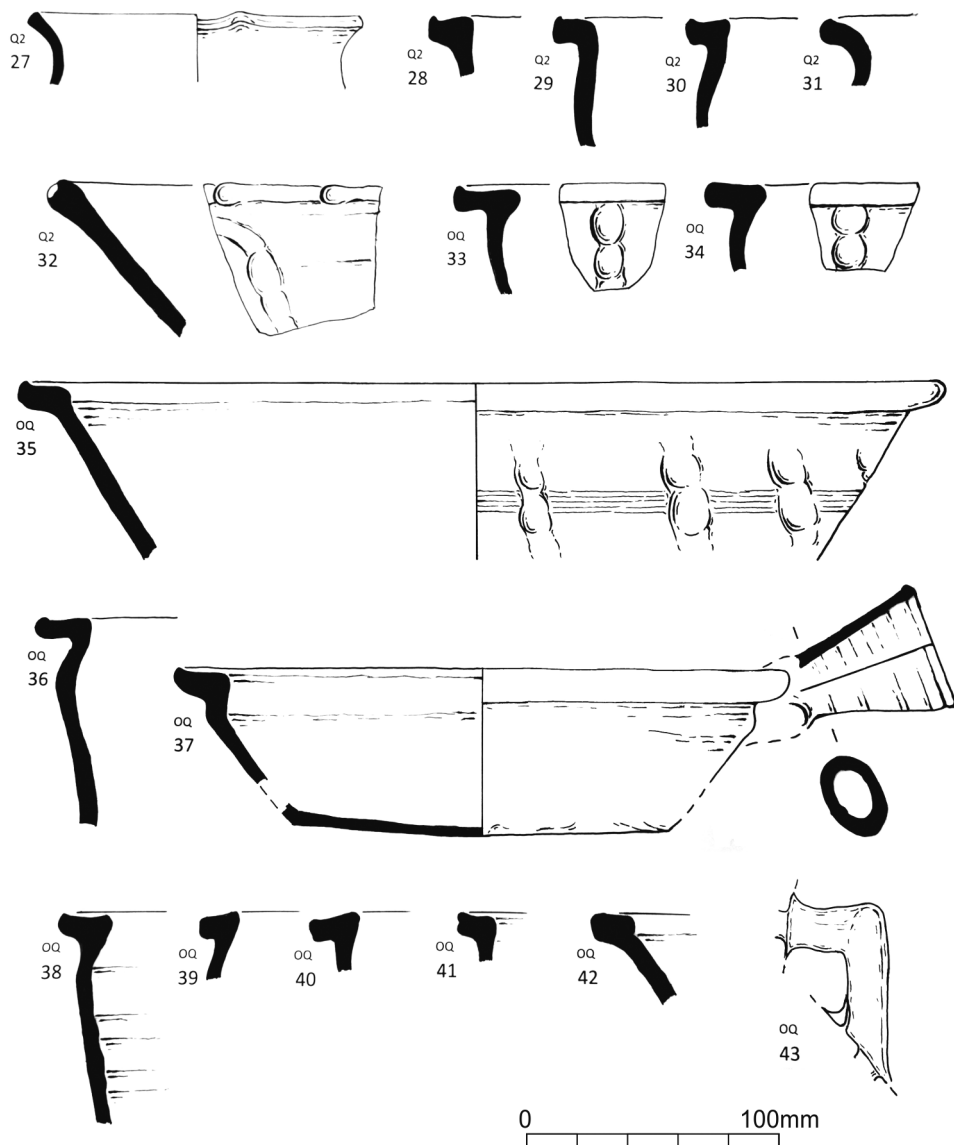


Fig 4 *Contd.*

of 16/18cm, (fig 4, nos 20, 21 & 27) with simple everted bevelled rims, which may be pipkin types although there were no handles. One has a lip (fig 4, no 27). Another, of larger size, (fig 4, no 24) has a pierced hole in the rim that must be a handle attachment rather than a spout.

There was no evidence of rouletted decoration on the jugs that does occur elsewhere, for example on the near-complete jug from Bell Street, Reigate of probable early 13th century date (Williams 1983, 65–8).

#### GREY WARES

True grey wares were a relatively minor element in the assemblage being Limpsfield type LQ (LIMP in London). This amounted to fourteen sherds (0.8% and 3 ENV) and its slightly finer version FGQ (29 sherds, 1.7% and 4 ENV). Together they count for only 2.5% of the total.

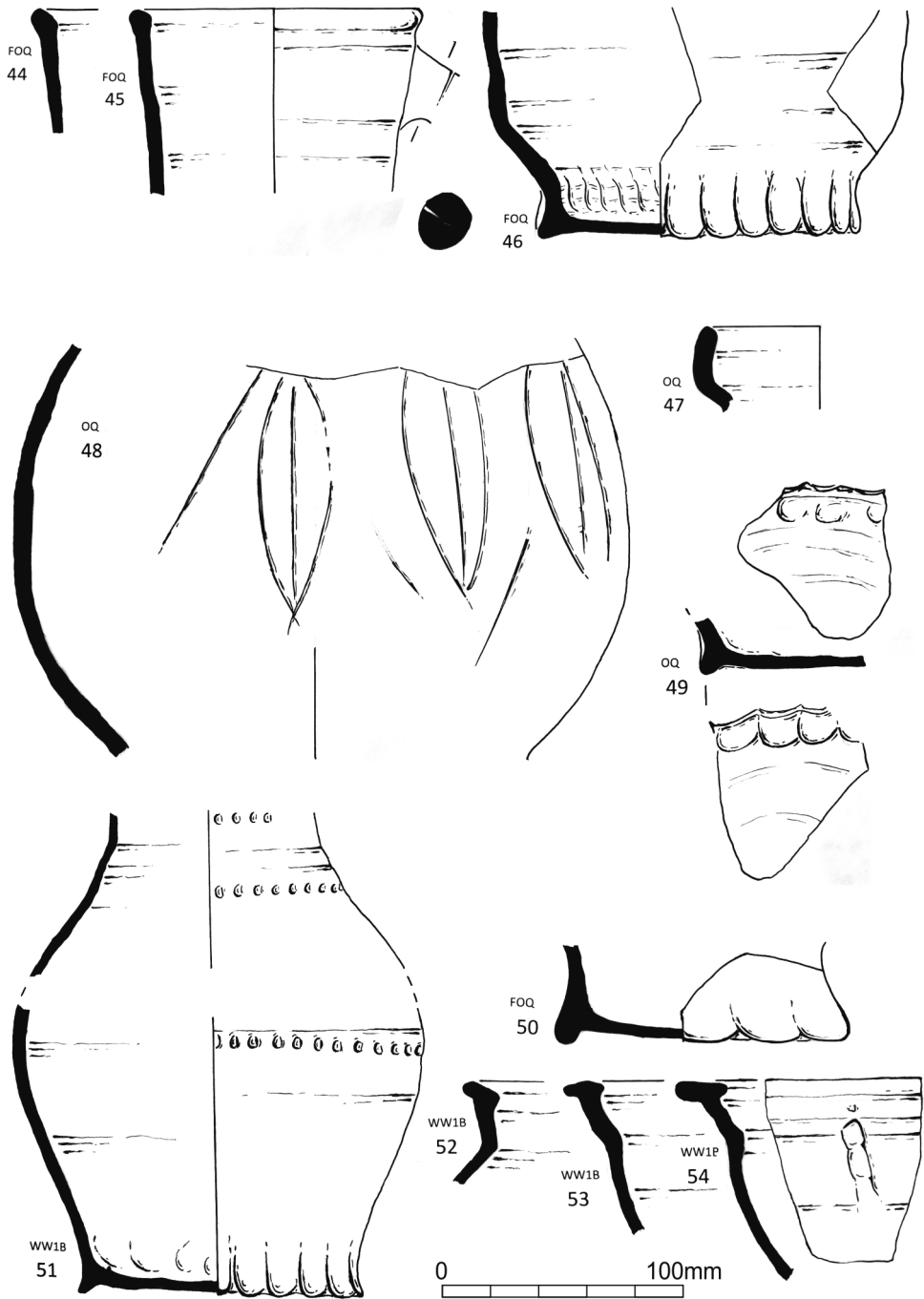


Fig 4 *Contd.*



Fig 5 Bridgecroft. Curfew handle sherd no 18.

The fabric appears to contain solely sand with no apparent flint, although some of the finer versions contain sparse chalk.

The fine grey fabric FGQ is quite distinctive and at first glance some body sherds could be mistaken for Roman self-coloured grey wares, though the forms are clearly medieval. It contains fine sand with sparse iron compounds occasionally showing as eroded hollows. Some sherds (eight out of 29) also had sparse chalk inclusions which are not usually found in either LIMP or SHER (Blackmore & Pearce 2010, 89–96 for fabric descriptions). At Reigate Vicarage there was a larger group of this ware, which were all from jugs (Nelson 2014). Of the recognisable sherds from Bridgecroft they were also from jug forms, including one rounded jug with a squared rim form and lip (fig 4, no 5). These fine grey wares are not common in the county and with the sparse chalk inclusions their source is unknown.

#### ORANGE SANDY WARES

Slightly more abundant than the flint-tempered fabrics were these orange sandy types, both OQ and FOQ. Taken together they amount to 591 sherds (34.2%, 222 ENV and 5.55 EVE). Their date in Surrey is *c* 1250–1500. However, the end date includes fabric and vessel types that would be classed as transitional between medieval and post-medieval types, and a more restricted date range could be 1200–1400 as in London. There is some evidence now from Reigate that they may develop earlier than previously accepted, perhaps by *c* 1180 (P Jones pers comm).

The surfaces of some OQ sherds (bowls and cp/jars) are unusual with a distinctive lighter surface colour initially thought to be a slip. A number also showed what appeared to be smears of red slip with faint traces of glaze, assumed to be some chemical reaction with the glaze breaking down. Of the forms recognised from rim sherds by ENV were – OQ: bowls (38), cp/jars (5), jars (1), pipkin types (2) and jugs (38). FOQ: bowls (3), cp/jars (1), jugs (31).

The majority of the jugs in OQ/FOQ were simply slipped and glazed with limited sgraffito designs that are usually more common on Earlswood-type jugs. The large, rounded jug (fig 4, no 48 and fig 6) reconstructed from sherds) shows what appears to be a series of oval ‘bud’ motifs arranged around the belly of the vessel. The jug bases show single thumbing, double thumbed on side and under base (fig 4, no 49) and larger flanged feet of baluster form (fig 4,



Fig 6 Bridgcroft. Jug, no 48.

no 50). One odd-looking plain glazed jug rim of small size may be from a bridge spout (fig 4, no 47) possibly similar to the face jug from the Earlswood kiln site (Turner 1975, 53).

#### WHITE WARES

There were 115 sherds (2750g, 50 ENV and only 1.3 EVE) of white wares. The fabric inclusions varied between moderate to coarse milky white to red sand grains. In the Surrey series they more closely resembled WW1B (KING type in London) rather than the coarser WW1A (CBW type in London). While six sherds were classed WW1A the majority were WW1B. There may, however, be something in between. The site-specific names reflect the few known production centres, but it has long been suspected that there are undiscovered kiln sites elsewhere utilising white firing clays, for example at Clandon (Jones 2017, 228–33). Some may prove to be earlier than the industries that gain a London market by the mid-13th century. It is possible that these from BCM relate to a more local source.

Nevertheless, these wares represent what must be the latest dated types in the assemblage, with a broad date range of 1240–1500. The later date of *c* 1500 is based on the supposed occurrence of small quantities of CBW in some 15th century groups in London (Pearce & Vince 1988, 18), but which there may be residual. How long its production actually continued in the Border area is uncertain. The larger group of white wares were WW1B or of Kingston type. The accepted starting date for this is *c* 1240/50 although there may be some evidence for an earlier date; KING type sherds were said to occur in at least one level associated with the earliest bridge structure in Kingston of *c* 1190 (Potter 1986, 137 and 140). The jug sherds exhibited relatively simple green glaze although one baluster jug with continuous thumbing had lines of fingernail stabbing (fig 4, no 51). This is unusual and does not appear in the London corpus (Pearce & Vince 1988) or on the known kiln production sites. One other had simple diagonal scoring. There were no stamped bosses that are typical of the later 13th century Kingston products (Miller & Stephenson 1999). The white ware industries became progressively plainer in the later 14th and 15th centuries. There were none of these plainer types with pinkish core or surfaces that in Surrey are termed RWW, transitional.

There were only two small sherds of what might be the finer WW2 white ware type broadly equivalent to CHEA (London) dating to the later 14th and 15th centuries. However, they may be simply a finer version of WW1B. In the Kingston kilns material, there are examples of finer fabrics along with the dominant medium to coarse tempering. There were just three strays; two joining sherds of early post-medieval red ware (PMRE) and one small rim sherd of blue painted tin-glazed earthenware (TGW), which has an unusual pink fabric with a lead-glazed outer surface and a tin-glazed interior and which may be an import.

## FORMS

The pottery, where identifiable, was classified into basic form types (table 2). The distinction between cooking pot/jars and storage jars is often not clear; a decision usually being made solely on size. On the basis of a simple sherd count they are fairly evenly divided between bowls, cooking pot/jars and jugs, with jugs being the most common. However, figures based on the ENV show jugs as relatively less common as there were a number of vessels, particularly in OQ/FOQ, with many joining sherds. If the bowls and cp/jars etc are combined, as food preparation/cooking utensils, they outweigh the jugs as serving vessels. How real or valid a distinction this is may be debated. There was at least one frying pan (in OQ fig 4, no 37) with a large socket handle and a slipped and green-glazed interior, which is heavily burnt on the underside. There were at least three curfew vessels, in S2, QFL and Q2 fabrics.

The jugs, virtually all in OQ/FOQ, show a variety of base forms – plain with sagging base, continuous and spaced thumbing, a lobed or flanged baluster form and a single, very unusual sherd with thumbing on side and underneath (fig 6, no 49). This detail is rare in southern England and was considered to be a northern characteristic (Hurst 1964, 295–8). Some of the jug bases, particularly no 46 (fig 4), show finger-nail impressions where the potter has held his hand inside the jug, upside down to form the thumbing.

There was a marked similarity of some rim shapes between QFL, LQ, Q2 and OQ fabrics, particularly the flat rim form with a ‘quiff’ or flick-up on the outer edge (eg fig 6, nos 4, 28–30 & 33). There were a number of simple everted rim vessels of relatively small size (*c* 16–18cm) that appear to be pipkin-type forms similar to pipkins in Kingston-type ware (Miller & Stephenson 1999, 21–3). One angled handle sherd comes from a metal copy cauldron type jar showing an extra fillet of clay securing the upper part of the lower join. There was also a taller and larger, at 26cm diameter, necked vessel with part of a pierced hole probably for a similar handle attachment. A point of interest was that a number of the bowls had a large diameter (40+ cm), particularly in QFL and OQ. They may have been used for

Table 2 Breakdown of the principal fabrics by identifiable form

Fabric	Bowls		CP/Jars		Jars		Pipkin types		Jugs		Curfews	
	Sherd	ENV	Sherd	ENV	Sherd	ENV	Sherd	ENV	Sherd	ENV	Sherd	ENV
S2	45	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1
QFL	57	33	49	24	23	11	–	–	10	2	1	1
Q2	10	5	24	14	34	6	14	8	42	10	8	1
OQ	92	38	6	5	9	1	8	2	108	38	–	–
FOQ	6	3	2	1	–	–	–	–	152	31	–	–
WW1A	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WW1B	21	9	15	8	1	1	–	–	16	4	–	–
	232	95	98	53	67	19	22	10	328	85	11	3

storage rather than serving. Thumbed strips, on all fabrics, vary in thickness, from almost vestigial smears to 'ribbons' up to 8mm thick.

The few white ware cp/jars had very similar rim profiles and occurred in a range of sizes (*c* 40cm down to 16cm). It is tempting to see them perhaps as a discarded set of small, medium and large kitchen utensils.

### Discussion and dating

Although there appears a disparity between the accepted dating of the fabrics, especially between the QFL and white ware types, the latest/earliest dates for each are close. The rim forms of the QFL types would seem to be of relatively developed shape, for example the flat and squared forms. The unusual fabric of some of the white wares and the limited decoration on the jugs may indicate an early date in that type series as do the cp/jar rim forms of simple everted expanded shape. There were no bifid, lid-seated rim forms that in London seem to be an introduction in the later 14th century. The marked similarity in some rim forms across the different wares also points to a possibly near contemporary date. In addition, while the assemblage was classified by the existing Surrey codes, individual fabrics showed some degree of similarity. Within QFL for example, were it not for the distinctive flint inclusions, sparse to moderate in many cases, there was difficulty in characterising these in relation to some Q2 or even OQ types. This similarity also raises the intriguing possibility of a related industry/area utilising slightly different clay sources and tempering components.

It is of note that the pottery production site at Ashtead is only some 5km to the north (Frere 1941; Renn 1968). This waster material appears to be a grey/brown sandy ware with flint inclusions. A brief look at a few sample sherds indicated a sparse flint component which has a similarity to the QFL from BCM – a rim sherd also showed a slight bead on the upper surface akin to the flick-up noted on some BCM rims. The Ashtead production site was considered to have been of limited duration but presumably of 13th century date.

There is no external dating evidence or stratigraphy to confirm a date for this BCM assemblage. There are few published groups locally that might be comparable. At Pachenesham, supposedly in occupation from *c* 1200, to *c* 1350 there is no close dating for any possible early deposits (Renn 1983, 28). As mentioned above in relation to the Q2 wares, Pit 1 at 16 Bell Street, Reigate had a suggested date of *c* 1200–50. This contained similar fabrics including shelly types at roughly one-third of the total there, but apparently no white wares (Williams 1983, 64). Also, there are a number of unpublished sites in Reigate town centre the pottery of which has had a preliminary assessment by Phil Jones and that may provide some better dated groups (Jones 2008). However, it is suggested that this Bridgcroft assemblage represents a near contemporary deposition for the material in a fairly restricted area and possibly dating to *c* 1200–50.

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