

## Post-Roman Pottery from Radbourne, Warwickshire (Site IC20LOWTT)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 430 sherds with a total weight of 5252g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of the surviving rimsherd circumference was 4.19. It was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

- CO01: Calcareous Oolitic Ware**, 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. 34 sherds, 336 g, EVE = 0.22.
- CO02: Minety-type Ware**, 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd. 44g, EVE = 0.18.
- CO04: Lyveden/Stanton 'B' Ware**, 1200-1350, 2 sherds, 4g, EVE = 0.
- CS01: St Neots type Ware**, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. 7 sherds, 43g, EVE = 0.11.
- CS05: Northants Shelly Ware**, 1100-1400. 95 sherds, 1117g, EVE = 1.51.
- MB02: Late Midland Blackware**, 1600-1900. 1 sherd, 20g.
- MGW: Modern Earthenwares**, late 18<sup>th</sup> century +. 2 sherds, 14g.
- MP: Midland Purple Ware**, 15<sup>th</sup> – mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. 4 sherds, 169g, EVE = 0.
- RS01: Warwickshire Black Ware**. 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. 33 sherds, 507g, EVE = 0.69.
- Sg14: Worcester Glazed Sandy Ware**, late 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 27g, EVE = 0.
- Sg20: Brill/Boarstall Ware**, 1200 – 1600. 13 sherds, 108g, EVE = 0.07.
- Sq30: Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware**, 1300-1500. 120 sherds, 1498g, EVE = 0.55.
- SLM01: Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware**, 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century. 7 sherds, 52g, EVE = 0.02.
- SLM30: Late Brill/Boarstall Ware**, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 2g, EVE = 0.
- Sq24: Banbury/Brackley type Ware**, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 42 sherds, 442g, EVE = 0.43.
- Sq42: Potterspury Ware**, 1250-1600. 1 sherd, 8g, EVE = 0.
- STE01: Late English Stoneware**, 1750 +. 1 sherd, 78g.
- StR20: Chilvers Coton 'B' Ware**, 1250 -1300. 6 sherds, 61g, EVE = 0.
- StR30: Potters Marston Ware**, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century. 5 sherds, 62g, EVE = 0.17.
- WW01: Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware**, 1250 -1300. 52 sherds, 657g, EVE = 0.24.
- WW20: Stamford Ware**, 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 3g, EVE = 0.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of the period in the region, and indicates that there was activity at the site from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The St Neots Ware may represent late Saxon activity, but the feature sherds are from relatively large vessels that are more typical of the 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century output of the tradition (Denham 1985), and the few sherds of Stamford Ware present were all in the fine white fabric of the same date (Kilmurry 1980). The small quantity of MP present suggests that 15<sup>th</sup> century activity was not prolonged; such pottery is usually very common at late medieval and early post-medieval sites in the region. The sherds of Malvernian Oxidized Ware (SLM01), which are of a similar date to MP, are all from one vessel.

The modern wares are all from topsoil. The single sherd of F426 occurred in context (4001), the sherd of F998 is from context (5601) and the two sherds of F999 are from context (8201).

## Chronology

Each stratified, context-specific pottery assemblage has been given a ceramic phase ('CP') date based on the range of ware and vessel types present. The chronology, defining wares and the amount of pottery per phase is shown in Table X1.

*Table X1: Ceramic Phase Chronology, Occurrence and Defining Wares*

Phase	Defining wares	Date	No Sherds	Wt. Sherds	Mean Sherd Wt
LS	CS01	10 <sup>th</sup> C	1	9g	9.0g
M1	CO01, WW20, Sq24	11 <sup>th</sup> C	34	319g	9.4g
M2	StR30, CS05, CO02	12 <sup>th</sup> – M 13 <sup>th</sup> C	59	750g	12.7g
M3	StR20, WW01, Sq42	M-L 13 <sup>th</sup> C	35	523g	14.9g
M4	Sq30, SLM01	14 <sup>th</sup> C	234	2966g	12.7g
M5	SLM30, MP	15 <sup>th</sup> C	63	573g	9.1g
MOD	MB02, STE01, MGW	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C	4	112g	28.0g
		Total	430	5252g	

The data in Table X1 shows that the main period of activity (in terms of pottery deposition) was from the 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the mean sherd weight for the CP M5 (15<sup>th</sup> century) material is noticeably lower than that of the preceding phases, suggesting much of it was residual, and that it represents a period of clearance and consolidation at the end of the life of the site. Further excavation will clarify this.

The early medieval (CP M1) phase also has a fairly low mean sherd weight, so it may be that some of the pottery from this early phase is either residual or mostly of secondary deposition, perhaps representing material deposited while the site was being prepared for construction. Again, further work will clarify this.

It is worthy of note that “developed” later medieval domestic vessels of the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, primarily used for the storage, preparation, transportation and consumption of food and drink (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 102) are entirely absent from the assemblage, despite being reasonably common products of the pottery industries which are represented here, particularly those of the Chilvers Coton area (Mayes and Scott 1984). The only vessel types present are jars, bowls and jugs, which is a pattern more typical of the early – ‘high’ medieval period (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 102). Also, as noted above, usually common late medieval ware types present (MP and SLM01) are scarce, with Midland Purple Ware represented by just four sherds and all the SLM01 being from a single vessel. This would all suggest that there was little domestic activity here in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and makes a reasonable case for settlement at the site having ended during the mid-late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Further work will clarify this.

Overall, the assemblage is in mostly good condition, with a reasonably large mean sherd weight for the main periods of activity. Well-represented, partially complete vessels were noted in a number of contexts, such as (1512). indicating the presence of primary deposits and this suggesting that there are well-preserved archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of these excavations.

## **Bibliography**

Denham, V, 1985 The Pottery in JH Williams, M Shaw and V Denham *Middle Saxon Palaces at Northampton* Northampton Development Corporation Monograph Ser **4**, 46-64

Kilmurry, K, 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. C. AD850-1250* British Archaeology Report British Ser **84**

Mayes, P, and Scott, K, 1984 *Pottery Kilns at Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton* Soc Medieval Archaeology Monograph Ser **10**

McCarthy, MR and Brooks, CM, 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600* Leicester University Press

Ratkai, S and Soden, I, in archive *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series*



	CS01		CO01		WW20		StR30		RS01		Sq24		StR20		WW01		Sq30		CO04		Sg20		Sg14		Sq42		CS05		CO02		SLM01		SLM30		MP				
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date		
2004																											1	1									M2		
2101			1	2					2	9					1	9	1	3									10	53									M4		
2104															2	15											1	15									M3		
2109											2	27																									M1		
2111			2	6																																	M1		
2119			1	7							1	4			1	11	3	22									1	7									M4		
2122			1	4													2	30									1	10							1	25	M5		
2124																	2	60									2	7									M4		
2128			2	9							1	54	2	20																							M3		
2501											1	8																									M1		
2504											1	10													1	8	1	2										M3	
2506															1	31	1	6																			M4		
2901																											1	7										M2	
3009			2	28																																		M1	
3304	1	9																																				LS	
3401			1	7																							1	8										M2	
3406			7	169							1	3																										M1	
3408			5	35																							2	66										M2	
3421			2	24	1	1																																M1	
3425			1	3																																		M1	
3908			1	5											1	12	1	13									1	5										M4	
3909			1	3					15	218	3	12					1	11									3	9										M4	
3910			4	22																																		M1	
3911			1	6																																		M1	
4104															3	4	2	28																				M4	
4106											1	30																										M3	
4107																											2	18											M2
4504	3	25	1	4																							4	22										M2	
4504																																							M2

	CS01		CO01		WW20		StR30		RS01		Sq24		StR20		WW01		Sq30		CO04		Sg20		Sg14		Sq42		CS05		CO02		SLM01		SLM30		MP		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
4512																	2	8									1	9									M4
4804											1	1																									M1
5606											1	2																									M1
6008																	1	1																			M4
6401																										1	6										M2
6806																	1	2																			M4
7804	3	9	1	2																																	M1
8901																										1	5										M2
8904																	1	27	1	1						1	70									M4	
8905											1	3			14	72	7	33								12	89						1	2			M5
8907																										1	8										M2
8910							1	10																		3	141										M2
8911											2	20	1	2	1	12										10	195										M3
8912											7	88														9	160										M2
9001															1	21																					M3
9017																					2	24				2	5										M2
Total	7	43	34	336	2	3	5	62	33	507	42	442	6	61	52	657	120	1498	2	4	13	108	1	27	1	8	95	1117	1	44	7	52	1	2	4	169	