

THE POPULARITY OF MEDIEVAL VESSEL FORMS IN HUMBERSIDE

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Summary

This paper uses the available stratified and unstratified pottery from the Humberside area to investigate the proportions of individual medieval pottery forms. It classifies all forms into 'principal', 'common', and 'minor' categories and demonstrates that the cooking pot and jug forms effectively dominated all forms of production during the medieval period.

Introduction

Most published pottery reports seem largely to be concerned with the identification and quantification of pottery fabrics; relating those fabrics, where possible, to an absolute chronology. Less attention has been paid to the range of forms recovered, and comparatively little to the actual proportions of those forms. Usually the only indication is provided by the pottery drawings, and in trying to illustrate examples of each form present from a given group or site, researchers often unwittingly overstate the importance of the various minor forms produced by the medieval potter.

This paper examines the relative proportions of late-Saxon and medieval pottery forms recovered from the Humberside region. The data derives from a comprehensive study of the available pottery from North Lincolnshire up to 1982, supported by comparable material from West and East Yorkshire. This Yorkshire material includes only those sites with which the writer has been involved, and for which quantitative details are available. Fig. 1 shows the location of the stratified sites and kiln sites used in this study.

An assumption is made that the inhabitants of medieval Humberside were generally able to acquire whatever pottery forms they needed and that the sherds recovered from a site therefore represent, to a greater or lesser extent, the ceramic forms required for use on that site. There is no attempt here to address the problem of the various possible uses of each of the vessel forms identified, despite the fact that the commonly used names for these forms do have implied functional connotations. Nor does this paper take account of that small proportion of pottery forms put to a later secondary use, such as the re-use of jugs as urinals. It is intended instead to identify the actual forms available and to examine the proportion of their occurrence on the various types of site in the Humberside area. Attention is focused on the varying proportions of the major vessel forms.

Pottery can also reflect subtle changes in the economic fortunes of a site, or changes in its use, a capacity recently demonstrated to good effect at Sandal Castle (Moorhouse 1983). It is not possible here to do any more than hint at the way in which pottery might aid the interpretation of the complexity of buildings within any given site. Instead, this paper seeks to identify regional trends in the use of particular pottery forms and, as such,

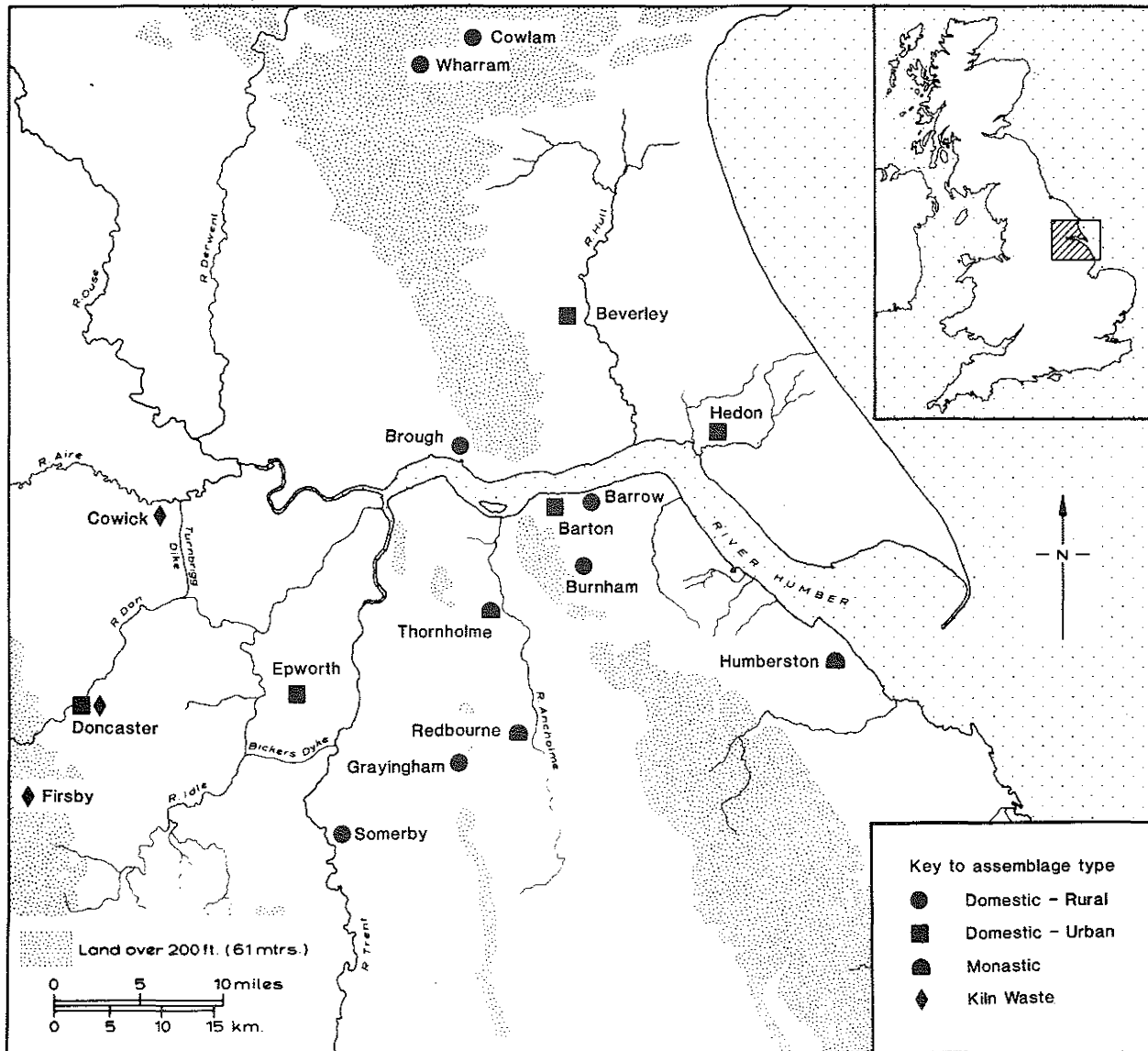


Figure 1.

a typical assemblage is more use for this purpose than an atypical one. If a chronological series of norms could be established for a region, they could then be used, for example, as a template to identify any variations in the pottery forms from a site which might in turn indicate specialisations in the use of that site.

There are a number of intrinsic problems in using pottery data for this purpose. Unstratified material from fieldwalking the ploughed-out crofts of an abandoned village is more likely to represent a cross-section of the fabrics and forms commonly used within that village than the pottery from a comparatively small trench excavated within part of one of the crofts. Excavation usually only samples part of a site, at most one or two buildings within an entire village. In such cases, the pottery found within that excavation is likely to reflect the uses of that particular part of the site and the socio-economic fortunes of its owners; as such it is not necessarily representative of the pottery in use in the village as a whole. The stratified groups from Epworth included here came from the Mowbray Manor House, once the chief seat of this important and comparatively cosmopolitan noble family (Hayfield 1984b). How representative is that manorial assemblage

likely to be of the peasant dwellings within Epworth itself? The excavations at Middle Lane, Hedon, were in one of the poorest parts of the medieval port (Hayfield and Slater 1984); had excavation instead revealed the burgages of one of the wealthier merchant families of the town, both the fabrics and forms of the assemblage would almost certainly have been quite different.

Tabulation

The following tables give the percentage occurrence of identified forms for a particular site or fabric-type; the total sample numbers being given in the extreme right-hand column of each table. Table A deals with unstratified material, whilst the stratified pottery is broken down into a series of basic time-phases in tables B-E. The information from tables A-E is then summarised in the 'pie' diagrams of Fig. 2. Table F deals with kiln material.

All the figures given here for the stratified material are based on vessel numbers, not sherd numbers. Rather than a 'minimum vessel' count based on rims, etc., the comparatively small size of the various assemblages included here allowed the sorting and allocation of sherds back as far as possible to their original vessels. This provides a 'maximum vessel number' in that the available sherds were unlikely to have belonged to more than the stated number of vessels. Unstratified material and kiln waster material is based on sherd numbers. All the pottery assemblages used in the following tables have already been published more fully elsewhere (principally in Hayfield 1985, and Buckland, Hayfield and Magilton 1989), although in many cases the actual site reports have not.

Table A

The vessel forms from North Lincolnshire's unstratified assemblages are presented in Table A. The total sample of 24,817 sherds may seem small compared to some of the country's larger urban assemblages, however, these sherds derived from over sixty sites, mostly rural, stretching from the southern shores of the Humber, south beyond the City of Lincoln (Hayfield 1985). Individual sites have been ignored and instead the pottery has been grouped into broadly similar fabric types or regional traditions. The late-Saxon fabric traditions are chronologically distinct. Late-medieval pottery traditions often began in the late-13th century, but rarely came to dominate local assemblages until the 15th century. All the other traditions have been grouped here to the period 11th-14th centuries. Larger stratified sherds can usually be much more closely attributed, but it is safer to deal with unstratified sherds in these broad chronological groupings.

Table A contrasts the declining importance of the cooking pot with the dramatic rise in popularity of the jug form. Together these two forms are dominant throughout the table and could therefore be considered 'principal forms'. Below them there is a small range of 'common forms', including bowls in the late-Saxon and medieval period, though not the late-medieval period, and perhaps those other forms achieving more than 1%, such as pipkins (1.7%) for the medieval period, and cooking-pots (2.2%), pancheons (1.8%), cisterns (6.2%), drinking-mugs (1.2%) and cups (2.4%) for the late-medieval period. All other 'minor forms' registered less than 1%. Well-known medieval forms such as the aquamanile (0.01%) or the urinal (medieval 0.01% and late-medieval 0.08%) would appear to have been rarities on most medieval sites in the region. These three categories of vessel forms, principal (over 20%), common (over 1%) and minor (less than 1%), can also be applied to the stratified pottery groups.

FABRIC TRADITION	FORM	Cooking pot	Bowl	Curfew	Dish	Pitcher	Jug	Aquamanile	Pipkin	Tripod Pipkin	Basting Dish	Pancheon	Cleatrn	Urinal	Bottle/Flask	Drinking Mug	Cup	Lobed Cup	Lid	Chafing Dish	Miscellaneous Minor Forms	Unidentified	Total	
LATE SAXON																								
	Shell-tempered	66.2	31.9		1.6																	0.3	382	
	Sand-tempered	90.1	8.8																		1.1		272	
	Whitewares	19.8				80.2																	91	
	Total Late-Saxon	69.3	19.6		0.8	9.8															0.4	0.1	745	
MEDIEVAL COARSEWARES																								
	Shell-tempered	85.0	14.7	0.1			.05				0.1											.02	4028	
	Sand-tempered	92.2	6.4	0.3	0.1	0.8		0.1		0.1														1638
	Gritty	57.8	6.7				34.8					0.7												135
MEDIEVAL FINEWARES																								
	Fine Sandy	2.9	0.2		0.1	93.2	2.5		0.4	0.6						0.2								1254
	Orangewares	1.0	0.3	.02	.05	93.7	.02	4.2	0.1	0.2				.02	0.1				.07			0.1	4374	
	Medium Sandy	15.7	0.6	0.6		75.3	0.8	0.2	0.1	5.7	0.1	.05			0.2				.05		0.3	0.2	1964	
	Whitewares	4.1	3.1			89.7	1.0	1.0														1.0	97	
	Total Medieval	40.1	5.4	0.2	.04	51.1	.01	1.7	.03	0.1	0.9	.01	.01	.01	0.1				.03		.04	0.1	13490	
LATE MEDIEVAL																								
	Humberwares	1.5				89.0	.05	.03	.05	0.8	6.2	.07			1.9	.07	.02	0.1	.03			0.2	5876	
	Toynton/Bolingbroke	3.2	0.1	0.1		86.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	3.0	5.8	0.1	.02	0.3	.05			.05	0.1	.05	0.3		4273	
	Coal Measure	7.5				59.5				8.1	23.1	0.6							1.2				173	
	Cistercian														96.1		0.4			3.5			260	
	Total Late-Medieval	2.2	.03	.03	-	85.2	-	0.1	.08	.08	1.8	6.2	.08	.01	1.2	2.4	.01	.08	.08	0.1	0.2		10582	

TABLE A: % of Forms - Unstratified Sherds from North Lincolnshire

Tables B-E

The following tables show that there was comparatively little uniformity in the proportion of vessel forms from each of the stratified sites considered here. These differences are likely to reflect the varying status of the sites themselves; some were monastic, some manorial, some peasant houses. These tables may also reflect the various functions of the excavated sites, for some were domestic buildings, some ancillary buildings, while other excavations included areas of open courtyards or boundary ditches, reflecting uses and functions across a far wider area of the site than that actually excavated. These sites also varied enormously in the quantities of pottery recovered; the amount of pottery might itself have important implications for the status and function of a site. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide sufficient detail here on each of these excavated sites to enable the full significance of their vessel range to be appreciated. However, the published pottery reports provide a full break-down of the vessel range for the various phases of each site.

Table B

Most of these assemblages were quite small. Urban sites such as Flaxengate (Lincoln) have produced individual groups for larger than the total sample of 139 vessels represented here for the late-Saxon period. Nevertheless, certain trends emerge; cooking-pots overwhelmingly dominate (82%), followed by bowls (15.1%), with pitchers (largely Stamford ware) a poor third (2.2%).

<u>SITE</u>	<u>FORMS</u>	Cooking Pots	Bowls	Dishes	Pitchers	Total
Barton, St Peter's Church		69.2	30.8			13
Barton, East Acndge		90.0	10.0			20
Barton, New Vicarage Site		89.5	10.5			19
Barrow, St Chads		81.2	15.6		3.1	32
Burnham, St Lawrence's Chapel		80.0	20.0			15
Total - North Lincolnshire		82.8	16.2		1.0	99
Cowlam - DMV		78.6	21.4			14
Doncaster - Site DT		80.8	7.7	3.8	7.7	26
TOTAL		82.0	15.1	0.7	2.2	139

TABLE B: % Forms - Stratified Late Saxon Vessels

Table C

Amongst the stratified early-medieval groups of the 11th and 12th centuries, cooking-pots (51.6%) and jugs (40.4%) represented the principal forms across the region, with only bowls (4.5%) and pipkins (1.8%) as common forms, although there was a range of other minor forms. Jugs had developed from the late-Saxon pitcher forms, and although some possible pre-Conquest examples of jugs have been recovered from Beverley, the form only became popular amongst local potteries during the later 11th century.

There are indications that there might have been regional variations in the popularity of both principal and common forms. Table C suggests that cooking-pots, for example, were over 20% less common in North Lincolnshire than East Yorkshire. Such variations are quite likely, for there are other indications of regional differences in both the occurrence and proportion of pottery forms. Topographical differences within the geographical regions of Humberside, for instance, might lead to differences in their agricultural economy, in turn leading to differences in eating habits and lifestyles, culminating in differences in the domestic pottery required. However, it is just possible that any differences in the average date-range in the various North Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire sites might also induce an apparent variation. The earlier the groups, for example, the more likely they are to contain a higher proportion of cooking-pots and a smaller proportion of jugs. A more positive identification of regional variations requires additional sites to increase the data base.

TABLE C: % Forms - Stratified Early Medieval (11th century - 12th century) Vessels

SITE	FORM	Cooking pot	Bowl	Curfew	Dish	Pitcher	Jug	Aquamanile	Pipkin	Tripod Pipkin	Sasting Dish	Pantheon	Cistern	Urinal	Bottle/Flask	Drinking Mug	Cup	Lobed Cup	Lid	Chafing Dish	Miscellaneous Minor forms	Unidentified	Total
Barton, St Peter's Church		17.6					82.4																17
Barton, East Acridge		66.1	9.1				24.6														0.2		460
Barton, New Vicarage site		66.7	3.7				29.6																27
Barow, St Chad's		72.8	6.2		2.5		18.5																81
Burnham, St Lawrence's Chapel		66.6					33.3																6
Epworth, Mowbray Manor							00.0																2
Grayingham, Churchyard		53.3	6.7				40.0																15
Redbourne, Hayes Priory		46.2	9.7				41.9		2.1														93
Appleby, Thornholme Priory		2.7	0.5	0.5			87.6		6.5		0.3	1.1										0.8	370
Total - North Lincs.		41.9	5.6	0.2	0.2		48.8		2.4		.09	0.4									.09	0.3	1071
Hedon, Middle Lane		49.0	3.2	0.4			43.4		1.2			0.4									0.6	1.8	500
Beverley, Lurk Lane		82.3	5.8				10.6		0.3						1.0								311
Beverley, Highgate		46.8	1.6				50.0		1.2														124
Wharram Percy, Site 45		65.6	3.2				31.2																157
Cowlam - DMV		78.2	3.0				12.9		1.0												5.0		101
Total - East Yorkshire		62.1	3.7	0.2			31.3		0.8			0.2			0.2						0.7	0.7	1193
Doncaster - Site DA		75.7	5.3				17.8		1.3														152
- Site DN		60.9	4.3			8.7	26.1																23
- Site DQ		57.3	1.2				40.2		1.2														82
- Site DSR		21.6	2.7				73.0		2.7														37
- Site DT		47.2	1.2	1.2		1.9	44.7		1.9												0.6	1.2	161
- Site DV		29.6	4.6		0.9	0.9	59.3		3.7			0.9											108
- Site DX		37.7	6.9			1.7	49.7	0.6	3.4														175
Total - West Yorkshire		48.5	4.1	0.3	0.1	1.2	42.8	0.1	2.3			0.1									0.1	0.3	738
TOTAL		51.6	4.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	40.4	0.3	1.8	-	.03	0.2	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	0.4	3002

TABLE C: % Forms - Stratified Early Medieval (11th century - 12th century) Vessels

Individual sites stand out as being different from the others in the proportions of a particular vessel form. Thornholme Priory, for example, produced a very small proportion of cooking-pots (2.7%) in comparison to the average for all other early-medieval sites (51.6%). This was a small Augustinian house, founded in the reign of Stephen, where recent excavation was concentrated around the gatehouse and the ancillary buildings of the outer court. If cooking-pots were indeed principally made for cooking, and if food at Thornholme was prepared centrally elsewhere on the priory, then the proportion of cooking vessels from the outer court might be expected to be small. At 6.5%, pipkins achieved a higher proportion at Thornholme Priory than anywhere else in the region. Many were sooted, and suggest that food may have been doled out from the central kitchen to people, such as the staff of the gatehouse, who then warmed it up over small fires before eating. Such a theory cannot be proved, but it perhaps offers a plausible explanation to account for the otherwise marked differences in the proportion of the vessel forms from this site to others in the region.

Although the quantities of vessels from each of the various sites excavated at Doncaster were comparatively small (Buckland, Hayfield and Magilton 1988), they too show a considerable variation from site to site in the proportions of the two principal vessel forms, cooking-pots and jugs.

Table D

As table D shows, cooking-pots and jugs remained the two principal forms throughout the 13th and 14th centuries, although the jug at 67.6% was the more important. Only pipkins (1.7%) and pancheons (1.2%) could be

SITE	FORM	Cooking pot	Boil	Curfew	Dish	Fitcher	Jug	Aquamanile	Pipkin	Tripod Pipkin	Basting Dish	Pancheon	Cistern	Urinal	Bottle/Flask	Drinking Mug	Cup	Lobed Cup	Lid	Chafing Dish	Miscellaneous Minor Forms	Unidentified	Total
Barrow, St Chads		100.0																					2
Barrow, Cherry Lane		41.0	4.7			0.4	49.4		2.2			0.4	0.2				0.2				0.2	1.1	449
Burnham, St Lawrence's Chapel		24.6					68.1					1.4	4.3			1.4							69
Epworth, Mowbray Manor		11.8	0.9				80.0		4.5	0.9		2.5	0.4			0.8	0.1				0.9	0.9	110
Appleby, Thornholme Priory		8.4	0.3	0.9	.04		76.8		3.1	.04	0.5	2.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.1		.08		0.5	5.0	2629
Total - North Yorkshire		13.4	0.9	0.8	.03	.06	72.9		2.9	.06	0.4	2.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1		.06		0.7	4.0	3259
Hedon - Middle Lane		41.0	0.3	0.1			56.6	.04	0.9	.02	0.2	0.4	.04	.02		0.1					.06	0.2	4970
Beverley, Highgate		12.5		2.5			75.0	1.2	6.2			2.5											80
Cowlam - DMV		75.0					25.0																12
Total - East Yorkshire		40.7	0.3	0.1			56.8	.06	1.0	.02	0.2	0.5	.04	.02		0.1			.02		.06	0.2	5062
Doncaster- Site DA		21.7					65.2		13.0														23
- Site DC		9.9	0.4	0.4	0.4		80.6	0.4	2.1			2.5	0.8			0.4	0.4	0.8			0.8		242
- Site DEH		4.1	0.2	0.1			94.3	0.1	0.8			0.3											1027
- Site DG		13.6					77.3		4.5			4.5											22
- Site DMP		20.8		8.3			70.8																24
- Site DQ		7.7	0.4			0.8	82.9			0.4		2.4	2.8	0.8		1.6							246
- Site DS		11.1					88.9																18
- Site DSR		18.0					75.4		3.3		0.8		1.6									0.8	122
- Site DT		16.7	1.2	1.2		0.4	72.1		2.5			2.9	1.7			0.4					0.4	0.4	240
- Site DV		21.4	2.6			0.6	68.2		1.9		0.6	2.6	0.6								1.2		154
- Site DX		8.3	8.3				83.3																12
- Site DY		10.0					80.0					10.0											10
Total - West Yorkshire		9.2	0.6	0.2	.05	0.2	85.1	.09	1.4	.05	.09	1.3	0.7	.09		0.3	.05	0.1			0.2	.05	2140
TOTAL		25.7	0.5	0.3	.02	.06	67.6	.05	1.7	.04	0.2	1.2	0.3	.09	.05	0.3	.05	.03	.03	-	0.3	1.3	10461

TABLE D: % Forms - Stratified High Medieval (13th century - 14th century) Vessels

considered common forms, although the variety, but not the importance, of minor forms increased.

Possible geographical variations within the region are still apparent, but three sites dominated the pottery of this period. Of the 10,461 stratified high-medieval vessels, 2,629 or 25.1% came from Thornholme Priory, 4,970 or 47.5% came from Hedon, and 1,027 or 9.8% came from the Elephant Hotel site (DEH) at Doncaster. In the latter case, over 960 of those vessels came from a single well group made up almost entirely of jug sherds (Buckland, Hayfield and Magilton 1989). Under these circumstances the more detailed comparisons between the sites of one region and another become less reliable.

Table E

The jug was the only principal late-medieval form (73.7%), more effectively dominating the vessel range now than at any other time. However, the number of common forms increased; cooking-pots (5.9%), pipkins (1.0%), pancheons (3.8%), cisterns (5.4%), drinking-mugs (2.%) and cups (2.5%). By the 13th century, most potters in Humberside were specialising in producing either coarseware or fineware fabrics. By the 15th century, these coarseware fabrics had largely died out, due perhaps to a declining demand for their principal vessel form, the cooking-pot (Hayfield 1985).

Table E confirms that cooking-pots had considerably diminished in importance by the 15th and 16th centuries. A possible reason for this is provided by the introduction of tripod pipkins which were basically small cooking-pots with the addition of handles and legs. It is probably no coincidence that these pottery tripod pipkins mirrored the form of late-medieval metal cooking-pots. Many years ago, Mrs Le Patourel noted the rise in the importance of iron cooking-pots during the late-medieval period, suggesting that they had now become available to a far wider proportion of the population (Le Patourel 1968). Perhaps if you owned an iron cooking-pot, you had less use for ceramic ones.

Such examples serve as a reminder that pottery was only one of several materials in use for producing domestic, table and kitchen vessels and that fluctuations in the cost, availability and fashion for vessels in these other materials would have been as likely as anything else to influence the range and proportion of pottery forms produced.

SITE	FORM	Cooking pot	Bowl	Curfew	Dish	Fitcher	Jug	Aquamarile	Pipkin	Tripod Pipkin	Basting Dish	Pancheon	Cistern	Urinal	Bottle/Flask	Drinking Mug	Cup	Lobed Cup	Lid	Chafing Dish	Miscellaneous Minor Forms	Unidentified	Total	
Burnham, St Lawrence's Chapel		4.0	0.8				56.3					6.3	27.0	0.8		1.6	3.2							126
Epworth, Mowbray Manor		4.4					68.3			0.5		3.3	5.0	1.1	0.5	6.7	8.3							180
Appleby, Thornholme Priory		5.8	0.1	0.8	.07		80.9		1.6	.07	0.7	3.1	2.0	0.5	.07	1.5	0.6	.07	.07	.07		1.6	1.6	1468
Humberston Abbey							54.5						18.2	18.2		9.1								11
Somerby, DMV, Gulley 6		53.8	23.1				23.1																	13
Total - North Lincs		5.8	0.3	0.7	.06		77.4		1.3	0.1	0.6	3.3	4.1	0.7	0.1	2.1	1.6	.06	.06	.06	0.4	1.3	1.3	1798
Beverley, Highgate Brough, Station Road		4.4			1.3		43.7			3.2		6.3	10.1		1.3	5.7	8.9	0.6		3.8	3.2	7.6		158
		3.1					77.9			0.6		3.1	6.7			6.7	0.6				1.2			163
Total - East Yorkshire		3.7			0.6		61.1			1.9		4.7	8.4		0.6	6.2	4.7	0.3		1.9	2.2	3.7	3.7	321
Doncaster - Site DN		22.2					22.2					22.2	11.1								11.1	11.1		9
- Site DEH		11.1					80.9		1.6			1.6	4.8											63
- Site DG		11.1					33.3					11.1	22.2	11.1		11.1								9
- Site DM		4.9					68.7		0.6			5.5	12.9			1.8	2.4	1.2		0.6	1.2			163
- Site DSR		15.8					65.8		2.6	2.6		10.5	2.6											38
- Site DY		7.9					55.5					3.2	7.9				23.8					1.6		63
Total - West Yorkshire		8.4					66.1		0.9	0.3		5.5	9.6	0.3		1.2	5.5	0.6		0.3	1.2	0.3	0.3	345
TOTAL		5.9	0.2	0.5	0.1	-	73.7	-	1.0	0.4	0.4	3.8	5.4	0.6	0.1	2.5	2.5	0.2	.04	0.3	0.8	1.5	1.5	2464

TABLE E: % Forms - Stratified Late Medieval (15th century - 16th century) Vessels

The information from Tables A-E relating to the principal and common vessel forms have been summarised in six pie diagrams shown in Fig. 2. They demonstrate very effectively just how extensively cooking pots and jugs dominated the pottery forms produced in the region from the late-Saxon to late-medieval periods. The various minor forms are combined together under 'other'. These pie diagrams also offer the chance to compare the proportions of the principal and common vessel forms between the unstratified and stratified pottery. Although both show the same overall trends between the major forms, there are some differences in their actual proportions. Amongst the late-medieval pottery for example, jugs dominated both stratified and unstratified assemblage. However they formed 73.7% of the stratified groups and 85.2% of the unstratified material, the latter differences originating perhaps from variations in the proportions of sherds (unstratified) and vessels (stratified) for example.

Table F

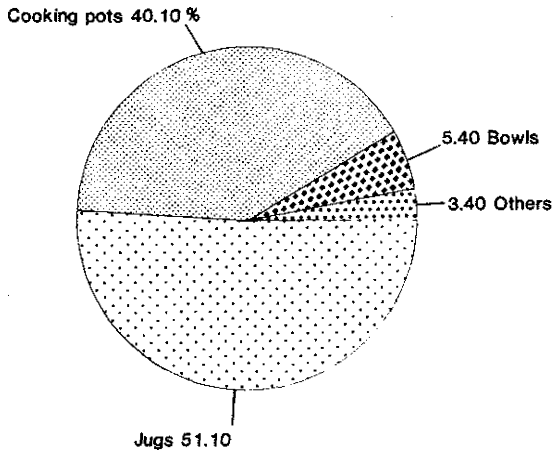
This table compares the vessel forms found as waster material at kiln sites with vessels of the same fabric type amongst both stratified and unstratified assemblages. The various Doncaster waster assemblages are, for example, contrasted with the proportion of vessels in each fabric from the various excavated sites within the town itself. Difficulties in isolating the products of the Staxton and Potter Brompton kilns in the Vale of

REGIONAL TRADITION	FORM	Cooking pot	Cp/Bowl	Curfew	Dish	Pitcher	Jug	Peat Pot	Pipkin	Tri-spot Pipkin	Basting Dish	Bancheon	Cistern	Urinal	Bowl	Drinking Mug	Cup	Lobed Cup	Lid	Chafing Dish	Miscellaneous Minor Forms	Unidentified	Total
Gritty																							
	Doncaster Market Place kiln	53.3				6.7	40.0																30
	Doncaster Hallgate kiln C	66.6			16.6		11.1					5.5											36
	Stratified 'C' fabric from Doncaster	58.1				2.3	34.9								4.6								86
Whiteware																							
	Doncaster Hallgate kiln 'B' fabric	27.5					57.3	4.5				10.6									0.1		2379
	Stratified 'B' fabric from Doncaster	30.9	0.4				63.0	2.6							1.5						1.5		265
Fine sandy																							
	Doncaster Hallgate kiln 'A' fabric	2.1					71.0	24.3				2.5									0.1		3072
	Stratified 'A' fabric from Doncaster	2.4				0.1	91.2	5.6	0.3	0.1												0.1	695
Coarse sandy																							
	Potter Brompton kiln waste	46.4	38.8	0.6	0.2		0.6	6.1	2.6		.06											0.2	1773
	Staxton kiln waste	81.5	0.5	0.8	0.3		4.5	3.6	.09		0.1		.05			.09			.09			.05	2116
Humber ware																							
	Cowick Moat - Humberware waste	2.4					82.6	0.1	0.6	.06	0.3	12.5	.06			1.2			.06		0.1		1537
	Stratified Humberware waste						92.5				0.7	1.4	0.7		2.7		0.7				1.4		146
	Unstratified N. Lincs Humberware	1.5					89.0	.05	.03	.05	0.8	6.2	.07		1.9	.07	.02	0.1	.03			0.17	5876
Coal Measure																							
	Firsby Area A waste	54.0			2.7		21.6					21.6											37
	Firsby Area B, C & D waste	36.5					28.2				0.4	27.0	2.1			3.7			2.1				241
	Stratified coal measure from Doncaster	4.0	0.5	0.2			72.4		0.2		8.8	11.4	0.5				0.2		0.2	1.4			421
	Unstratified N Lincs coal measure	7.5					59.5				8.1	23.1	0.6						1.2				173

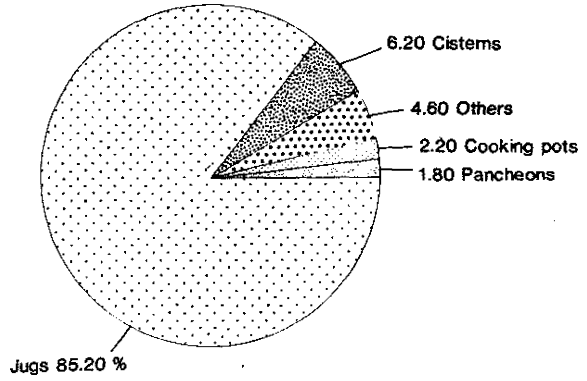
TABLE F: % of Identified Forms from Regional Kiln assemblages compared with Stratified and Unstratified Finds from the Region

UNSTRATIFIED NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSEMBLAGES

1) EARLY AND HIGH MEDIEVAL FABRICS

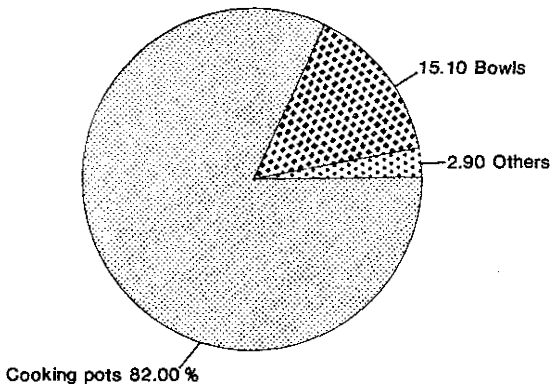


2) LATE MEDIEVAL FABRICS

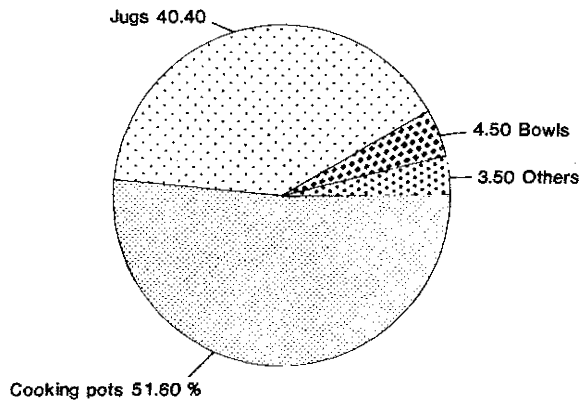


STRATIFIED ASSEMBLAGES FROM HUMBERSIDE

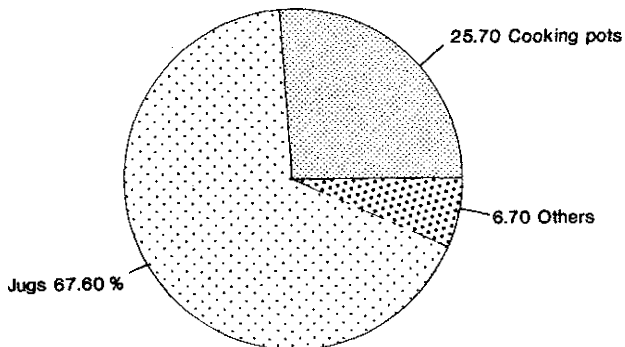
3) LATE SAXON GROUPS C9 - C10



4) EARLY MEDIEVAL GROUPS C11 - C12



5) HIGH-MEDIEVAL GROUPS C13 - C14



6) LATE-MEDIEVAL GROUPS C15 - C16

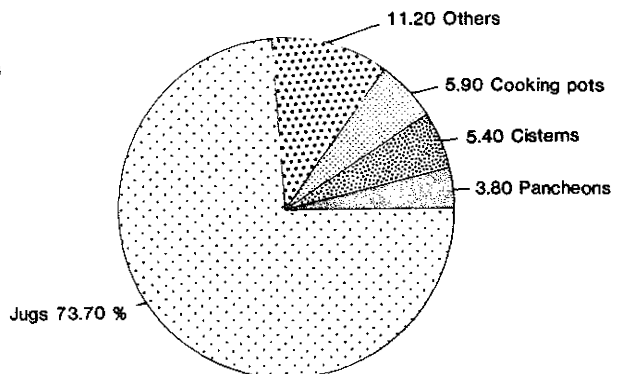


Figure 2.

Pickering from the other coarse sandy wares found in East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire have made it impossible to offer comparative stratified or unstratified figures for these wasters. Neither the kilnwaste from the excavated West Cowick kilns, nor the waste from the kiln at Holme-upon-Spalding-Moor (Mayes and Hayfield 1980) have been included in this table because a detailed analysis of their component vessel forms was not carried out. Instead comparison has been made to the various Humberware wasters recovered from the dredging of West Cowick Moat.

It might be thought that the proportions of pottery wasters found at a kiln site would not be representative of the actual proportions of vessels produced because potters would have taken greater care over the firing of more time-consuming or more expensive forms. These latter vessels would be carefully stacked in the safer parts of the kiln while the more expendable forms filled the less reliable parts. In fact table F fails to confirm this, for in many instances the proportions of the waster forms correspond roughly with the proportion of those forms found in stratified and unstratified assemblages elsewhere. This is perhaps more clearly seen amongst the three Doncaster fabrics, although there are still some anomalies. For instance, amongst the gritty 'C' fabric there was a contradiction in the proportion of cooking-pots and jugs from amongst the Hallgate wasters compared with both the Market Place wasters (Hayfield 1984a) and those found stratified elsewhere in the town. The proportions of stratified and waster Doncaster white sandy 'B' fabric and red sandy 'A' fabric (Buckland *et al.* 1979) vessels seem broadly similar, except that there was a far higher proportion of pipkin wasters in the 'A' fabric than was found elsewhere in the town.

Only the surface collection of Coal Measure fabric wasters from Firsby near Conisbrough (Hayfield and Buckland in press) offer any support for the original contention. Here the identified cooking-pot wasters (36.5%) far outweighed the proportion of excavated vessels (4.0% and 7.5%) and in contrast, the proportion of jug wasters (28.2%) was far lower than the excavated proportions (72.4% and 59.5%). The proportion of pancheon wasters (27.0%) was also markedly higher than those excavated (8.8% and 8.1%).

The differences in the proportion of cooking-pot wasters between the two coarseware kiln sites at Staxton and Potter Brompton in the Vale of Pickering can largely be explained by the category of cooking-pots/bowls which features so heavily in the Potter Brompton wasters. This was a common 12th-century form amongst the coarse sandy tradition in East Yorkshire, vessels having a rim and base diameter greater than their height, and with near vertical walls. The peat-pot form present here was a common form in East Yorkshire, but virtually unknown in North Lincolnshire.

Discussion

The principal result of this work has been to demonstrate just how heavily the cooking-pot and jug forms dominated the medieval potters' repertoire within the Humberside region. Considering both the stratified and unstratified results together from the early-medieval to late-medieval periods, of every hundred vessels found, ninety were either cooking-pots (25) or jugs (65).

The use of both stratified and unstratified pottery has gone some way towards establishing a 'norm' for the Humberside region for each of the major chronological periods. Differences between an excavated assemblage and the regional norm for that period might help towards an understanding of the uses of pottery on that site and in turn cast light on the nature of the site itself.

Clearly the results presented in the tables above can only represent a beginning, for the validity of such an exercise increases with the size of its data base. It would be interesting to see comparable sets of figures emerging from medieval pottery studies elsewhere to show how typical the Humberside region is of the country as a whole.

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