

SOME NOTTINGHAM MEDIEVAL POTTERY WASTERS

by

VICKI NAILOR

INTRODUCTION

Material donated to the Nottingham Historical and Archaeological Society, by Alan McCormick (previously of Nottingham Museums), is thought to be part of the artefacts collected in a variety of circumstances by Campion during the 1930s. Most of the material appears to be unprovenanced and unstratified, and it ranges in date from the Roman to Post-Medieval period. The material includes Roman pottery that may be from excavations of the Roman fort at Broxtowe (Campion 1938), a few possible hand-made Anglo-Saxon sherds, Nottingham Splashed ware and Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware. The medieval pottery is illustrated here as it includes examples of Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware wasters, which have not previously been published. This is also the first evidence of Nottingham Fine Sandy Splashed ware wasters, and therefore helps to confirm production of the ware within the city in the 12th century. It is hoped that the archive of excavated material will be published shortly.

NOTTINGHAM FINE SANDY SPLASHED WARE WASTERS

Three probable jug waster sherds in Nottingham Fine Sandy Splashed ware were identified. These were a base, a body sherd and a ribbed, neatly thumbled strap handle. The handle is more typical of earlier rather than later Nottingham Splashed ware production. Both form and fabric are indicative of the second half of the 12th century date (unpublished type-series, Brewhouse Yard Museum). Evidence of later Nottingham Sandy Splashed ware production was established on the Goosegate site in 1978 where Charles Young excavated two kilns. The products from these kilns were shouldered jugs with sagging

bases, strap handles with thumbled edges and inturned rims with simple pulled lips. These jugs and associated jars and bowls were provisionally dated from the later 12th to the mid 13th century (unpublished archive, Brewhouse Yard Museum). The presence of waster sherds in the Campion material is the first evidence for the production of Nottingham Fine Sandy Splashed ware. This ware has been provisionally dated as occurring from the mid-12th century (excavation archive, Brewhouse Yard Museum). As yet no earlier Nottingham Fine Sandy Splashed ware kilns have been found.

NOTTINGHAM LIGHT-BODIED GREEN GLAZED WARE AND NOTTINGHAM COARSE SANDY WARE WASTERS

The Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware wasters in this collection are only a very small proportion of the material collected by Campion. The wasters are mostly Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware jugs (Fig.1.1-19), and a few rounded jars, or small balusters in Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware (Fig.1.20-21). The jug rims in Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware are collared (Fig.1.1-9) or slightly internally bevelled (Fig.1.10, 12 & 13) with simple strap handles and are probably from either shouldered (Fig.1.15) or baluster forms with flat bases (Fig. 1.17-19). With the exception of simple body rilling there was very little decoration in the collection. The fabrics are typical of material found elsewhere in Nottingham (unpublished type-series, Brewhouse Yard Museum), and range from very soft to nearly vitrified. In Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware there are a few rounded jars with everted rims, small bottles or rounded jugs (Fig. 1.21) and baluster jugs (Fig.1.20). There was a smaller amount of Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware with internally bevelled jug rims. Nottingham Light-Bod-

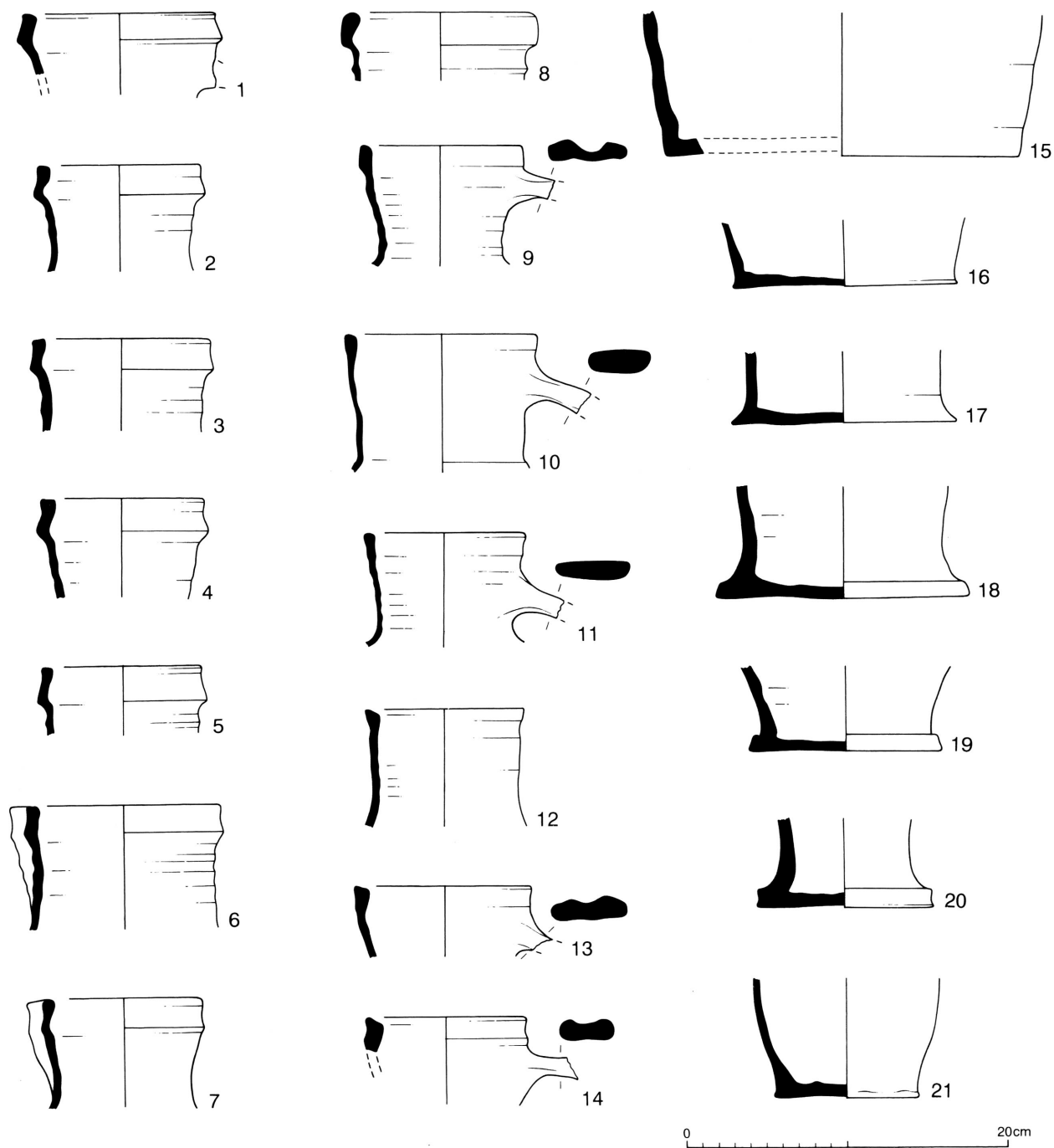


FIGURE 1: Medieval Pottery Wasters: 1 – 19, Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware: 20 & 21, Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware. Drawn by Jane Goddard.

ied Green Glazed ware has been provisionally dated as occurring from around the middle of the 13th century, while Nottingham Reduced Green Glazed ware may be in use by the end of the 13th century, becoming dominant in the 14th Century (excavation archive, Brewhouse Yard Museum).

This collection can be related to previous work on excavated material confirming the range of wares produced in Nottingham during the 12th, second half of the 13th and part of the 14th century (excavation archive, Brewhouse Yard Museum). It is hoped that the archive information on the type-series will be published in the near future.

CATALOGUE OF THE ILLUSTRATED POTTERY FIGURE 1

Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed ware

1. Collared jug rim with strap handle stub, cream-pink margins and light grey core with a thick brown glaze, fired upside down. Illustrations 1 to 8 have rims similar to Splashed ware jugs.
2. Collared jug rim with pale orange surface and pink core
3. Collared jug rim with pale orange surface and pink core, thick glossy green glaze on neck
4. Collared jug rim with pale grey surface and core with an over-fired green-yellow glaze, maybe a waster
5. Collared jug rim with cream surface, pale pink core and thick glossy green glaze
6. Collared jug rim with cream surface/margins and pale grey core, thick yellow-green glaze on neck
7. Collared jug rim with pale brown surface/margin and grey core, thick glossy green glaze
8. Collared jug rim, pale yellow with a thick glossy green glaze
9. Thickened jug rim with simple strap handle, pale grey interior and grey core, and burnt glaze: piece of pot possibly used as separator attached to rim, probable waster
10. Slightly internally bevelled jug rim with oval section strap handle, with pale orange surface/pale grey outer margin and grey core, green glaze is eroded, and the rim has excess clay on it due to stacking in kiln, possible waster
11. Jug rim with wide strap handle, pale orange surface/margin and grey core, thick glaze runs over the rim and part of a section, fired inverted, probable waster
12. Internally bevelled jug rim with pale grey surfaces/margins and a grey core, thick green glaze, with sherds of pot stuck to interior, possible waster
13. Internally bevelled jug and centrally thumbled strap handle, with over-fired orange brown surface/margins and orange core, over-fired glaze, may be a waster
14. Internally bevelled jug rim with centrally thumbled strap handle, cream surfaces and core, and a green glaze
15. Probable shouldered jug base with pale orange surfaces and core, excess clay along basal edge, which may have broken during firing, may be a waster
16. Flat, probable shouldered jug base, pale orange surfaces, cream core
17. Tall, slightly splayed, semi-baluster form, pale orange surfaces, pale grey margins and grey core, with a partly oxidised fracture and cracks suggesting a probable waster
18. Flat baluster jug base with pink surfaces and core
19. Flat, splayed baluster jug base in an over-fired fabric with partly oxidised fracture, probable waster

Nottingham Coarse Sandy ware

20. Small, flat baluster jug splayed base, orange with small cracks in base, evidence for inverted stacking in kiln
21. Small, flat globular jug base with excess clay along basal edge, orange surfaces and core

REFERENCES

Campion G. F., 1938. 'Roman Relics found at Broxtowe', *Transactions of the Thorton Society Excavation Section 3rd annual report*, 6-17.

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