
APPENDIX 3:**REPORT ON THE POTTERY FROM AN EXCAVATION AT ST. CATHERINE'S, LINCOLN
(SCEL07)**

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INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of fifty-one sherds, representing forty-five vessels in total, was submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early post-medieval periods. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some sherds was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. It was necessary to create a new ware type (LSW5), sample sherds of which have been removed to the City Medieval Fabric Type Series held at 25 West Parade, Lincoln. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using fabric codenames agreed locally and nationally. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (section 13.4.2).

CONDITION

The pottery is mostly in a slightly abraded condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (below 50grams). Only four of the vessels are represented by more than one sherd and there were no cross-context joining vessels. A small number of sherds have soot deposits suggesting that they have been used over an open fire and four vessels have internal 'kettle-fur' deposits from containment or heating of water or urine. Four of the Lincoln-type vessels appear to have been misfired.

OVERALL CHRONOLOGY AND SOURCE

A range of twenty-one different pottery ware types, ranging in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early post-medieval period were identified, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. A limited range of vessel types was recovered including examples of jugs, jars, bowls, drinking vessels and possible examples of a dripping dish and a moneybox.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	total sherds	total vessels
CIST	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	1	1
DST	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1230	1	1
EMLOC	Local Early Medieval fabrics	1150	1230	1	1
LANG	Langewehe stoneware	1350	1500	1	1
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	3	3
LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware	1350	1500	4	4
LSW1	12 th century Lincoln Glazed ware	1100	1200	2	2
LSW1/2	12 th to 13 th century Lincoln Glazed ware	1100	1300	1	1
LSW2	13 th to 14 th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320	6	6
LSW2/3	13 th to 15 th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1450	7	6
LSW3	14 th to 15 th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1280	1450	2	2
LSW4	15 th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1450	1530	3	3
LSW5	Light firing Lincoln Glazed ware	1280	1325	4	1
LSWA	Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	1100	1500	4	3
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
MP	Midlands Purple ware	1380	1600	1	1
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	1100	1250	2	2
POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1250	1500	4	3
RAER	Raeren stoneware	1450	1600	1	1
TILE	Lincoln tile fabric	1150	1500	1	1
TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	1450	1550	1	1

Saxo-Norman to Early Medieval

Thirteen vessels are of Saxo-Norman to early medieval date (11th to early/mid 13th century). With the exception of three shell-tempered coarseware vessels from contexts **141** and **306**, all are post-mid 12th century glazed wares. The glazed wares comprise vessels from Lincoln (LSWA, LSW1 and LSW1/2), Stamford (DST), Nottingham (NSP) and an unknown but probably local source (EMLOC). Five of the six Lincoln-type vessels are jugs with splashed-type glazes and one of the LSWA vessels is a small jar of mid/late 12th to mid 13th century type. The two jugs in LSWA are also of post-mid/late 12th century type whereas the other Lincoln ware sherds can only be dated generally within the period between the mid 12th and early/mid 13th century. The two Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) jugs are of different dates. The sandy fabric and inturned rim of the vessel from context 331 suggests a date in the third quarter of the 12th century or less likely the first quarter of the 13th century whereas the finer fabric of the jug from context 221 indicate an early/mid to mid/late 12th century date. The single Stamford ware jug from context 145 has a thick copper-coloured glaze suggesting it is of mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th century date. A single jug sherd (EMLOC) from an

unidentified source is likely to have been produced within 50km of Lincoln. The other three vessels are in shell-tempered Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware (LFS) and could date to the 11th or 12th centuries.

Medieval

Twenty local vessels are of medieval type, dating to between the 13th and mid 15th centuries. Most of the vessels are Lincoln produced jugs (LSW2, LSW2/3, LSW3, LSW5 and TILE), although two bowls, a possible moneybox and a possible dripping dish also occur. At least eight of the jugs, three of which are decorated, are of 13th to early/mid 14th century date. A new ware type has been identified amongst the material recovered from this site. The vessel, which was recovered from context 145, is in a light firing fabric now classified as Light Firing Lincoln Glazed Ware (LSW5). The four sherds come from a single large rounded jug with a short neck and a thick grooved rod handle. The fabric is white firing and the jug has a thick copper-coloured glaze. The slightly rounded cuff rim, use of a rod handle and the two deep eyelet thumb-pressings at the upper handle join all indicate that this jug is of late 13th to early/mid 14th century date. Sherds from a jug in a similar fabric were found during excavations at Bishop Grosseteste College in 1995 (BGB95), but the type was thought to possibly be an oddity and was therefore not classified. The finding of a second jug in a similar fabric and stylistically of the same type has enabled classification of this new ware. Other, less typical sherds no doubt await discovery amongst previously unidentified material from the city. The fabric of some of the other vessels is slightly coarser than that usually encountered within the lower city or northern Wigford groups and this may suggest another production site closer to St. Catherine's. Three of the Lincoln-type vessels have been misfired; one of which appears to have cracked during firing, although possibly not enough to have prevented its sale as a second. A large slab-built vessel in a tile fabric is likely to be dripping dish. Three coarse shell-tempered vessels are all of Potterhanworth-type and cannot be dated closer than to the period between the 13th and 15th centuries. A fourth shell-tempered sherd is of local-type (MEDLOC Fabric A) and dates to the first quarter of the 13th century.

Late Medieval to Early Post-medieval

Twelve of the pottery vessels submitted for examination are of late medieval or early post-medieval type and can be dated to the period between the late 14th and mid 16th centuries. The four Late Lincoln ware (LLSW)

vessels were probably made at the St. Mark's kiln site and can only be dated to between the late 14th and late 15th, or possibly early 16th centuries. The other three Lincoln produced vessels are all in 15th century Lincoln Glazed ware (LSW4) dating to between the late 15th and mid 16th centuries. A Toynton/Bolingbroke jug (TOYII) dating to between the mid 15th and mid 16th centuries came from context **182**. Probable regional imports include a Midlands purple-type jug or jar sherd (MP) and a Cistercian ware cup (CIST). Two imported German stoneware drinking jugs came from the site, one is of Langewehe-type (LANG) and one is of Raeren-type (RAER).

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This is only a small group of pottery and therefore difficult to assess, however there are some notable aspects to the assemblage. The earliest pottery probably dates to the 12th century, although the LFS sherds from contexts **141** and **306** could be of 11th century date. No pottery is of definite post-Dissolution date, suggesting perhaps that this area has been truncated, or was not in use after the Dissolution. The presence of a number of Lincoln-type vessels in variant fabrics, including some misfired sherds is curious and may suggest a nearby production centre. Finally the presence of typologically diagnostic sherds from the LSW5 jug has enabled this new ware type to be defined.

The LSW5 vessel has drawn for the archive and removed to the City Medieval Fabric Type Series. It should be included in any further scientific analysis of Lincoln pottery. The remaining assemblage should be kept for future study, especially as part of any further characterisation of the Lincoln ware fabrics.

REFERENCES

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.