
APPENDIX 3.1

THE POTTERY FROM EXCAVATIONS AT THE MANOR HOUSE, THORPE ON BOLNE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE (TIB08)

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INTRODUCTION

A total of twenty sherds of shell-tempered pottery representing about fourteen vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery has been identified to ware type and sub-fabric levels where possible. The absence of chronologically diagnostic rim or form types has prevented close dating for any of the vessels. The identifiable pottery ranges in date from the Middle Saxon to the medieval period (Table 1).

METHODOLOGY

The pottery was recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, those developed during the East Midlands Anglo-Saxon Pottery Project (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) and ongoing archaeological investigations of sites in Lincolnshire. Fabric identification was undertaken with a x20 binocular microscope and the assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight. The resulting archive was entered onto an Access database (Appendix 3.2). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

CONDITION

The assemblage mainly consists of small to medium sized sherds (below 50gms) in a slightly abraded to abraded condition with the majority of vessels only being represented by a single sherd. The external preservation of the shell-temper in most sherds is poor and the general condition and size of most of the pottery suggests that little of the material represents primary deposition. Only one context, **020**, contains what could possibly be considered primary deposition. Most of the vessels have external and/or internal soot residues. In at least two cases this extends across broken edges suggesting that exposure to carbonised deposits may have been post-depositional.

THE POTTERY

In total fourteen identifiable vessels in six identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types were recovered from the site (Table 1). The earliest vessel dates to the Middle Saxon period whilst the latest sherds are of medieval date. Pottery was only recovered from three contexts; **020**, **021** and **023**. Few vessel forms are discernible due to the small size of many of the sherds. The range of identifiable form types is limited to examples of various types of jars and jugs.

Table 1. Pottery types with total quantities by sherd count, vessel count and weight in grams

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	total sherds	total vessels	total weight
DONC	Doncaster Hallgate-type ware	1170	1250	2	2	5
EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	1	1	3
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	8	8	61
LSWV	Lincoln Sandy ware Variant Generic	1200	1400	1	1	25
MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	680	870	1	1	22
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1250	1450	7	1	30

Middle Saxon

A single Middle Saxon sherd of pottery was found on the site. The Maxey-type ware vessel (MAX) was recovered from the upper fill of a medieval pit (Pit **022**, fill **020**). The thick-walled sherd is probably from a jar and is in an unclassified coarse-shelled fabric (Fabric U). This Fabric was found at Flixborough (Young forthcoming), where it was associated with other more common fabrics and at present can only be dated to the period between the late 7th and mid/late 9th centuries. The importance of this single sherd cannot be underestimated as at present it is the only Middle Saxon shell-tempered vessel to have been recorded from South Yorkshire (Vince forthcoming). The nearest site to have produced a group of Maxey-ware pottery is at Belton on the Isle of Axeholme in Lincolnshire.

Saxo-Norman

All eight Saxo-Norman vessels recovered from the site are in Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware (LFS). This handmade coarse domestic industry mainly produces undecorated jars and bowls for cooking and storage from the late 10th to late 12th centuries. The ware forms the major type to found on sites in central Lincolnshire by the mid 11th century before declining in the mid/late 12th century with the rise of early medieval shell-tempered wares (LEMS). It is also found on other sites in South Yorkshire (including Doncaster and Laughton-en-le-Morthen near Rotherham), as well as at York and a number of rural and urban sites in Derbyshire, East Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. Close dating of small or undiagnostic sherds is made difficult by the long period of manufacture together with little change in form, fabric or production technique. It was only possible to identify the vessel form of three of the vessels recovered from this site, due to the small size of the majority of the sherds (below 5 grams). The three identifiable vessels are all small to medium-sized shouldered jars. Six of the vessels have external or internal soot residues suggesting their use

with an open flame, although the internal residues could be post-depositional. All of the vessels are thin-walled suggesting that they post-date the mid 11th century.

Early medieval

Only two of the vessels recovered from the site can be considered of Early Medieval type. One small sherd is from an Early Medieval Handmade hemispherical jar, probably made in East Anglia (Fabric A). The other handmade sherd is either from a jug or jar in Doncaster Fabric C. Similar pottery was recovered from the Market Place (Hayfield 1984) and Hallgate (Cumberpatch *et al* 1998-9) in Doncaster where it was thought to be an early to mid/late 12th century phenomenon, however the sherd is too small to be certain of this date as a similar fabric was used for later vessels.

Medieval

Three medieval vessels were found on the site. The composition of the group is somewhat perplexing as one of the vessels has previously been unknown outside of the Boston, Ingoldmells and Louth areas in Lincolnshire and another is in a Lincoln Glazed ware tradition. A small rim sherd in Doncaster Fabric B (DONC), is from a small jar or pipkin. The vessel can only be dated generally to the period between the 12th and 14th centuries. Seven sherds in a fairly fresh condition are from a single jug and are in medieval Toynton ware (TOY). The jug has a patchy yellow glaze with a vertically painted iron-rich strip in a contrasting dark brown colour. The fabric of this vessel includes moderate to common fine calcareous inclusions that are uncommon in vessels found outside of the Boston, Ingoldmells and Louth areas in Lincolnshire. Only one other Toynton ware jug has previously been recorded with directly painted strips. Directly painted iron-rich decoration in Lincolnshire is usually confined to vessels of late 12th to mid 13th century date, however the origins of Toynton ware have not at present been thought to be this early. Traditionally the medieval industry at Toynton All Saints and nearby Toynton St. Peter's is dated from the late 13th, or early 14th century until possibly as late as the early 16th century. A variant type (BOSTTT) is found in the Boston area in groups that would otherwise be mid 13th century in character, but there is no evidence as yet for production in Toynton itself. A large sherd, also in a fairly fresh condition, comes from a Lincoln Glazed ware style jug (LSWV). The jug has a reduced green glaze mottled with copper-colourant and is visually similar to vessels recovered from

Louth, although the fabric of this vessel could be more local (pers. com. Alan Vince). This jug would be of 13th or 14th century date.

SITE CHRONOLOGY

Pottery was only recovered from three different contexts, **020**, **021** and **023**. The small group of seven vessels found in Ditch **024** (fill **023**) is in poor condition and is unlikely to represent primary deposition. The group includes one EMHM and six LFS vessels and probably dates to between the late 11th and 12th centuries. Pit **022**, cutting into the side of Ditch **024**, contained two different fills (**020** and **021**). The primary fill (**021**) only produced two small LFS sherds of a similar condition and date to the material from Ditch **024**. These two sherds may represent disturbed material. The upper fill, context **020**, produced a small mixed group of five vessels including a Middle Saxon Maxey-type jar sherd. Two of the early medieval to medieval sherds are small and may be residual (DONC) and two (LSWV and TOY) are in a fairly fresh condition and may represent primary deposition. These two vessels are likely to be of mid 13th to 14th century date.

DISCUSSION

This is a small but significant group of pottery. The site has produced the first positively identified sherd of Middle Saxon Maxey-type ware to be found in South Yorkshire and has extended the number of sites known to have been using Lincolnshire Fine Shelled ware as the main Saxo-Norman coarseware. The four medieval vessels include two unusual pottery types, one a regional import from the east of Lincolnshire (TOY) and the other a Lincoln Medieval Glazed ware copy (LSWV). The LSWV sherd could be usefully analysed chemically and by thin-section to more accurately determine the source of the vessel.

The material should all be retained for possible future study.

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