

Appendix F.1

Ceramics

Chronology and observations on the assemblages from Areas A to D

The pottery assemblages from the four different areas excavated show two quite distinct and separate chronological profiles, the earlier indicating deposition in the later 18th and early 19th centuries, the later relating to the final abandonment of the buildings in the early-mid 20th century. There appears to be an absence of pottery dating to the middle and later years of the 19th century perhaps suggesting that there were changes in the places where rubbish was deposited over the period of the occupancy of the houses. It is probable that another area or areas exist in the vicinity of the cottages containing this material. The following description of the groups from the individual areas concentrates on the general characteristics of the material; issues pertaining to specific vessels and to the wider implications of the material have been discussed above. The data upon which the discussion depends are presented in Tables 1 to 5 (Appendix F.2)

Area A

The assemblage from Area A was, generally speaking, the latest on the site and included a substantial element of 20th century material, notably porcelain / bone china wares with overglaze transfer decoration (described as later 19th to 20th century in the tables but most probably of 20th century date). A distinct group of earlier wares (Creamwares, Pearlwares, Edged wares, Mocha ware and Brown Salt Glazed Stonewares) were noted in context [1035] with occasional sherds in contexts [1004] and [1012]. These sherds may be residual in character, although the concentration in context [1035] may require further investigation. The data are summarised in Table 2 (Appendix F.2)

Context [1001] Quadrants A/1, A/2 and A/4

A later 19th and early 20th century group which includes part of the Jasper ware lidded bowl, other parts of which were found in context [1004] (Figure F.25). Although small, the group included a high proportion of marked or otherwise distinctive sherds, which have been described above.

Context [1004] Quadrant A/1, A/2 and A/3

Context [1004] produced a large and diverse assemblage of pottery which appeared to be substantially of later 19th and early to mid 20th century date with a residual element dating to the later 18th and early 19th centuries. The group consisted of 1181 sherds weighing 8949 grams and represented a maximum of 586 vessels, indicating a high degree of internal joins between sherds, in contrast to the other large group from Trench A (context [1035]) described below in which internal joins were much rarer.

The greater part of the assemblage was recovered from Quadrant A/1 with only a handful of sherds from Quadrants A/2 and A/3. Notable individual items included the marked vessels described below and the Jasper ware lidded bowl (Figure F.25), all of which are of 20th century date. Earlier sherds include Creamware, Late

Blackware, a small sherd of Mottled ware and parts of a Pearlware carver or serving dish (context [1004] A/1; Figure F.18). Context [1004] A/1 was notable as it included a substantial group of white porcelain / bone china tablewares. Individual vessels which could be distinguished as such (usually on the basis of specific designs) have been noted, but the group of unidentified body sherds probably includes sherds belong to some of these vessels so that the Estimated Number of Vessels (ENV) overestimates the numbers of vessels.

Of particular note were three vases, two with marked bases identifying them as of German origin and one in the same style without marks; these have been reconstructed as far as possible and are shown in Figures F.77, F.78 and F.79. These highly decorated items should be seen in the wider context of the concentration of figurines and other ornamental items from Area A in general and context [1004] in particular which have been linked through the oral history evidence with a particular occupant of the cottage in Area A, Mrs. Lena Perrin.

Context [1012] Quadrants A/1 and A/2

The material from context [1012] closely resembled that from [1001] and [1004], being late in date and including sherds which joined with sherds from other contexts (e.g. that shown in Figure F.28 which consisted of sherds from contexts [1004], [1012] and [1035]).

Context 1013 Quadrants A/1 and A/2

Context [1013] produced a very small group of sherds consisting of a single jar (Figure F.43) and two small fragments of other vessels. All were of very late 19th or 20th century date.

Context [1023] Quadrant A/3

Only one vessel was recovered from context [1023]. This was an unusual, crucible-shaped vessel with a hard, coarse dense white fabric (Figure F.49). A hard white deposit was noted on the inside of the vessel. The purpose of the vessel is unknown and it appears to have been manufactured for some specific, non-domestic purpose. It is possible that it was used for the preparation of chemicals or medicines and in this connection it is interesting to note that one of the occupants of the cottages worked in a chemists shop in the years after the First World War (see Section C).

Context [1035] Quadrant A/2

Context [1035] produced a large assemblage of pottery, 565 sherds weighing 1739grams. As noted above, the numbers of internal joins was low as a maximum 536 vessels were represented. The date range was similar to that seen elsewhere in Trench A, but the context also produced a number of earlier sherds, including three of White Salt Glazed Stoneware (c.1720 – c.1780). Quantities of Creamware and other later 18th to early 19th century types were also somewhat higher than in other groups from the trench, although these are, as elsewhere, residual in character.

Area B

Area B produced the earliest pottery from the site. Dating to the later 18th or early 19th century, this group was dominated by Creamwares and Pearlwares with Edged wares with smaller quantities of other contemporary types including Mocha ware, Inlaid Slipware and other Slipwares. Specifically 18th century wares were also present but in very small quantities (Tin Glazed Earthenwares; contexts [2088], [2109], [2114], White Salt Glazed Stonewares; contexts [2073], [2086], [2087], [2088], [2114], [2124], [2125], Mottled wares; context [2076]). Later 19th and 20th century wares (contemporary with Area A) were also present but were limited in their occurrence, as described below. Smaller numbers of sherds from other contexts are likely to be intrusive. Area B was the only area which produced significant numbers of coarsewares and utilitarian earthenwares (predominantly Brown Glazed Coarsewares with some Yellow Glazed Coarseware, Mottled Coarseware and Redware) but these are notoriously difficult to ascribe dates to and appear to have been manufactured more or less continuously from the 17th to the later 19th century in varieties which, if they changed significantly in form and/or fabric, have yet to be studied in detail. The data are summarised in Table 3 (Appendix F.2).

Context 2001 Quadrants B/4 and B/5

Context [2001] produced a mixed assemblage of pottery which included a number of datable items including two royal commemorative items (one of which is shown in Figure F.14, see also Figures F.7 and F.13). In general the group was a very mixed one with Creamwares alongside later 19th and 20th century wares (including a marmalade jar). The group also included sherds which appeared to be water-worn, one of several occurrences of such sherds in the assemblage as a whole which may suggest that some of the material has been derived from deposits affected by running water.

Context [2006] Quadrant B/2

In contrast to context [2001], the group from context [2006] was far more chronologically homogenous and consisted of wares of later 18th to early 19th century date, including Creamwares, Pearlwares, Brown Salt Glazed Stonewares and slip decorated wares, together with a smaller component of probable 19th century date. A significant part of the group consisted of very small sherds which were difficult to identify positively and to which it was even more difficult to ascribe definite dates. This is reflected in the use of the vague term (Transfer Printed wares) to describe sherds which could not be assigned to either the Whiteware or Pearlware categories.

Context [2010] Quadrant B/2

Context [2010] produced a small group of mixed material that appeared to include both later 18th to early 19th century pottery along with 19th century Whiteware. The earlier material was commoner and it should be noted that the size of the sherds was generally very small making positive identification difficult.

Context [2011] Quadrant B/2

Context [2011] produced a very small group of pottery that was similar to the group from context [2010] in terms of its composition and chronological profile.

Context [2017] Quadrant B/2

Only one of the sherds of pottery from context [2017] was identifiable and datable; a sherd of later 19th to 20th century porcelain. This would tend to suggest that the context was one of the later ones within Area B, but it is hazardous to draw any far-reaching conclusions from such a small group of material.

Context [2018] Quadrant B/2

In common with contexts [2010] and [2011], the pottery from context [2018] consisted of a mixed group which was largely of later 18th to early 19th century date but which included a small component which appeared to be of slightly later date (19th century).

Context [2020] Quadrant B/2

Context [2020] produced only four sherds of pottery, all of later 18th to early 19th century type.

Context [2022] Quadrant B/2

Context [2022] produced an assemblage which, in terms of the chronological profile, was similar to those from contexts [2010], [2011], [2017] and [2018] and included a 19th century component alongside the earlier later 18th to 19th century material.

Context [2023] Quadrant B/2

Context [2024] produced an assemblage which, in terms of the chronological profile, was similar to those from contexts [2010], [2011], [2017], [2018] and [2022] and included a 19th century component alongside the earlier later 18th to 19th century material.

Context [2024] Quadrants B/2, B/3 and B/4

Context [2024] produced a larger group of pottery than those from the contexts described above and one which include a wide range of wares. In addition to the Creamwares and Pearlwares, the group included a sherd from a Black Basalt ware teapot, sherds of various kinds of Slipware, Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware and various coarsewares. The latter are difficult to date, but appeared to be contemporary with the later 18th and early 19th century wares.

Context [2025] Quadrant B/2

In common with other contexts from Area B, [2025] produced a group dominated by later 18th to early 19th century wares but including a smaller 19th century group. The degree of diversity in [2025] was also similar to that seen in comparable contexts

and the group included Creamwares, Pearlwares, Edged ware, Inlaid Slipware and Brown Glazed Fineware alongside the later Whiteware.

Context [2027] Quadrant B/2

Context [2027] produced an assemblage that closely resembled that from [2024], even as far as including a sherd from a Black Basalt ware teapot, possibly the same one as found in the latter context. The lid of a similar teapot was found in two parts, one in context [2027] and the other in context [2028]. Unlike other contexts in Area B, 19th century pottery was absent and the assemblage was of solid later 18th to early 19th century date. Tablewares predominated throughout and utilitarian wares were notable by their absence.

Context [2028] Quadrant B/2

Context [2028] produced a typical assemblage for Area B dominated by later 18th to early 19th century material with a smaller 19th century component. The size of the latter element was uncertain because of the large number of very small and scarcely identifiable sherds of Whiteware / Pearlware. As noted above, a sherd from a teapot lid joined with one from context [2027].

Context [2029] Quadrant B/4

The group of pottery from context [2029] consisted of a mixture of later 18th to early 19th century, 19th century and later 19th to early 20th century wares. This broad range of material set the context apart from the norm for Area B, and it resembled context [2001] more closely than it did the majority of contexts.

Context [2040] Quadrant B/4

Like contexts [2001] and [2029], context [2040] produced a mixed group of pottery spanning the later 18th / 19th century and the 20th century. It included sherds from the Blackpool souvenir plate (Figure F.13) also found in contexts [2001], [2041] and [2040]. It was also one of the few contexts to produce sherds of 19th century Sponged ware.

Context [2041] Quadrant B/4

Only one sherd of pottery was recovered from context [2041]. This formed part of the Blackpool souvenir plate shown in Figure F.13 and described above in connection with context [2040].

Context [2043] Quadrant B/4

With the exception of a small sherd of Brown Glazed Coarseware, the sherds from context [2043] were of 19th and 20th century date, seeming to form part of the later component of the assemblage from Area B.

Context [2044] Quadrant B/3 and B/4

Context [2044] produced one of the larger pottery assemblages from Area B. This was of mixed character but included a substantial 19th and early 20th century element with earlier material being apparently residual. A number of individual vessels from this group are of particular interest. These include the 'Robinson Crusoe' plate (Figure F.9), described in greater detail below, further sherds of the Blackpool souvenir plate (Figure F.13), a Whiteware plate, sherds of which also occur in contexts [2116], [2044] and [2173] (Figure F.17) and a tureen lid which has been repaired after breakage with wire strips (Figure F.11). The latter is worthy of particular note as the repair of ceramic (and other) vessels is an issue which has been tackled only rarely (e.g. Willmott 2001). There is no obvious reason why this particular vessel component should have been repaired; it does not appear to represent a vessel which is of any intrinsic value or rarity, although repairing a lid can be seen as one of the more effective types of ceramic repair as the functionality would not have been affected as would be the case with a vessel designed to hold liquids. It is possible that the vessel in question was one that was deemed worthy of repair because of its specific importance to the owners (it may have been an heirloom or a gift on some auspicious occasion such as a marriage). It is often assumed that repairs to pottery take place as a result of poverty but, while there are grounds for arguing (as discussed below) that the 19th and 20th century component of the assemblage represents a lower level of investment than the later 18th to early 19th century component, there is no particular sign of levels of poverty that would require the regular repair of broken pottery.

The group also includes some examples of types of pottery found only rarely amongst the assemblage. These include mid to later 19th century Sponged ware and Yellow Glazed Coarseware. Both of these are types which occur frequently on other sites, but which are rare at Alderley Sandhills. The group also include a small number of sherds with the characteristic abrasion pattern of vessels which have been deposited in running water, suggesting that not all of the pottery is primary refuse.

Two cross-context joins connect context 2044 with two other contexts; [2116] and [2173]. Both joins involve the same object; a transfer printed Whiteware plate bearing the Asiatic Pheasants design, shown in Figure F.17.

Context [2050] Quadrant B/4

Context [2050] produced only one sherd of pottery, a small sherd of 19th century Whiteware.

Context [2052] Quadrant B/4

Context [2052] produced only one sherd of pottery, a piece of 18th or early 19th century Mottled ware.

Context [2054] Quadrant B/4

Only two small sherds of pottery were recovered from context [2054], both of late (probably 20th century) date.

Context [2061] Quadrant B/3

Context [2061] produced a small group of three sherds of pottery. Two of these were of later 18th or early 19th century date, but the third was of 19th century date.

Context [2063] Quadrant B/3

Context [2063] produced one very small sherd of later 19th to early 20th century Whiteware which bore an unidentifiable transfer printed design.

Context [2073] B/4

Context [2073] produced a diverse assemblage of pottery which included 18th century wares as well as the commoner later 18th to 19th century wares. There also appeared to be a 19th century component, but the size of this should be treated with caution as the sherds tentatively identified as Whiteware were extremely small and the distinction between Whiteware and Pearlware, always difficult to assert with confidence, is particularly difficult when the sherds are particularly small.

Eighteenth century wares were represented by a small group of White Salt Glazed Stonewares which included a sherd with 'scratch blue' decoration and a group of small sherds of Late Blackware. Eighteenth to 19th century pottery was present in larger quantities and in this respect the group resembles those from contexts [2006], [2020], [2022], [2023], [2024], [2025], [2027], [2028] and [2029], [2075] and [2076]. Creamwares (including sherds decorated with under-glaze colours and, in one case, a moulded design), Pearlwares, Marbled Slipware and Mocha ware were all present as were a number of contemporary coarsewares (Slipware, Redware, Brown Glazed Coarseware). Later 19th and early 20th century wares were represented by only occasional sherds of porcelain/bone china, given that the Whitewares are of ambiguous date.

Context [2075] Quadrants B/3 and B/4

The group from context [2073] resembled in many respects that from contexts [2073] and [2075] and others which were dominated by material of later 18th to 19th century date. Nineteenth century material was represented by a single very small flake of Whiteware while earlier types included the normal range of tablewares (Creamware, Pearlware, Inlaid Slipware) and utilitarian wares (Redware, Brown and Yellow Glazed Coarseware and Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware). A number of sherds bore signs of secondary burning, a trait which occurred sporadically throughout the assemblage as a whole.

Context [2076] Quadrant B/5

Context [2076] produced a large and diverse group of pottery which included the mixture of later 18th and early 19th century material and 19th to 20th century material. The group was characterised by an overall small sherd size which precluded the identification of many of the designs and decorative motifs, particularly on the transfer printed wares (see, for example, the group from Quadrant B/5). In

these cases identification has been to the basic characteristics of the designs (Chinese landscape, floral etc) rather than to particular named designs. This shattering affected all types of sherds and there appeared to be no distinction between the earlier material (such as the Creamwares and Pearlwares from Quadrant B/5) and the later types.

The range of wares was broadly similar to the remainder of the site with tablewares predominating and a smaller utilitarian coarseware element (Brown Glazed Coarseware, Redware and utilitarian stonewares)

Contexts [2084], [2085], [2086], [2087], [2088] and [2094] Quadrants B/2, B/3 & B/4

Contexts [2084] to [2087] and [2094] resembled each other closely in terms of the range of wares present. All of these contexts were dominated by wares of later 18th to early 19th century type, with only very small numbers of sherds of later 19th to 20th century type present (limited to contexts [2084] and [2085]). Creamwares and Pearlwares predominated, but utilitarian earthenwares were also present in significant quantities (Brown Glazed Coarseware, Mottled Coarseware, Redware). Later 19th and 20th century wares were represented by small, and possibly intrusive, groups of sherds from contexts [2084] and [2085]. Eighteenth century wares (Tin Glazed Earthenwares, White Salt Glazed Stonewares and Late Blackwares) were included amongst the earlier material, a relatively rare occurrence of these types on the site.

Context [2100] Quadrant B/2

Context [2100] produced a small group of 19th century tablewares with an equal number of sherds of Brown Glazed Coarseware and clearly falls into the later group of contexts in Area B.

Context [2103] Quadrant B/2

The group from context 2103 closely resembled those from contexts [2084] and [2085] in being largely of later 18th to early 19th century date with a small, and probably intrusive, later 19th to 20th century element.

Contexts [2104] Quadrant B/2 and [2113] Quadrant B/3

Only one sherd was recovered from context [2104], a very small fragment of porcelain of probable later 19th century date. A similar sherd was found in context [2113].

Context [2109] Quadrant B/2

The composition of the group from context [2109] resembled those from contexts [2086] to [2088] in being of 18th and 18th to 19th century date. It included a sherd of Tin Glazed Earthenware alongside Creamware, Slipware and a fine Brown Glazed earthenware.

Context [2114] Quadrant B/5

Context [2114] produced a large and diverse collection of pottery which included some of the earliest sherds from the entire site (Blackware and Slipware of probable 17th century date) alongside the more usual 18th and 18th to 19th century wares (including Tin Glazed Earthenware, Slipware and White Salt Glazed Stoneware). As with other contexts ([2084], [2085], [2109]), a small number of later sherds were also present including recent porcelain/bone china and Whitewares, both plain and transfer printed. Both tablewares and utilitarian earthenwares were present, the former commoner than the later, as also found elsewhere on the site.

Context [2115] Quadrant B/3

Context [2115] produced only two sherds of pottery which appeared to fall into the later horizon (19th century) rather than the earlier.

Context [2116] Quadrant B/4

Context [2116], Quadrant B/4 produced sherds from several small transfer printed plates of later 19th to early 20th century date. Although they all bore the common Asiatic Pheasants design, these were all rather different in shape and did not appear to form part of a matching set. One of the plates bore a makers mark, naming Adams & Co. of Tunstall, described in greater detail above. Parts of one of the plates also occurred in context [2044] (Figure F.17).

Context [2120] B/2

Context [2120] produced only two sherds of pottery, only one of them, a sherd of slip banded ware, datable to the 19th century.

Context [2122] B/4

The small group of tablewares from context [2122] was of a mixed character; one sherd was of 20th century date while others, including Transfer printed Whiteware, Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware and Creamware spanned the later 18th and 19th centuries.

Context [2124] B/4, [2125] B/2, [2127] B/4

In common with other contexts from Area B (including [2084] – [2089], [2109], [2114]), contexts [2124], [2125] and [2127] produced groups of later 18th to early 19th century date with only occasional sherds of later date (context [2125]). Eighteenth century wares (White Salt Glazed Stoneware, Mottled ware and late Blackware were present alongside Creamware and Pearlware sherds of 18th or early 19th century date.

Context [2129] B/4

Context [2129] produced only two sherds of pottery, one of them part of a Brown Glazed Coarseware pancheon of uncertain date, the other a piece of banded ware with a red painted rilled band on a white body of probable 19th century date.

Context [2131] B/4

The pottery from context [2131] was of later 18th to early 19th century date, in common with other groups from Area B.

Context [2134] B/4

Context [2134] produced only one sherd of pottery, a piece of moulded Creamware with green paint. The moulding gave a cellular effect, enhanced by the green paint and the sherd may be from an elaborately decorated vessel.

Contexts [2135], [2138], [2139] and [2141] B/4

Contexts [2135], [2138], [2139] and [2141] produced groups of later 18th to early 19th century date (principally Creamware with smaller quantities of Pearlware), with individual sherds of later wares in contexts [2138] and [2141].

Context [2151] B/2

Context [2151] produced only a single sherd of Brown Glazed Coarseware, a type which is difficult to date with any degree of accuracy.

Context [2163] B/3

Context [2163] produced pottery of probable 19th century date, including sherds of Mocha ware, a type which appears at the end of the 18th century and becomes commoner during the first half of the 19th. A sherd of Whiteware was more certainly of 19th century date but a fragment of Brown Glazed Coarseware could not be accurately dated.

Context [2164] B/4

Context [2164] appeared to belong to the later 18th to 19th century horizon seen elsewhere in Area B and produced exclusively utilitarian stonewares and earthenwares.

Context [2166] B/4

The pottery from context [2166] was exclusively of later 19th or early 20th century date and included Whiteware and porcelain tablewares decorated with overglaze gold lines and bands. In this it closely resembled the assemblage from Area A.

Context [2173] B/4

Context [2173] produced a large and diverse assemblage which include later 18th to early 19th century wares but appeared to be principally of later 19th to early 20th century date. Part of a Whiteware plate with a transfer printed design (Asiatic Pheasants) linked the context with context [2044] (Figure F.17). There appeared to be slightly less of the over-glaze metallic line and band decorations and rather more

transfer printed sherds, but it is not clear if this should be taken as indicating a slightly earlier date than, for example, context [2166], or whether it is the result of chance factors affecting the deposition of material.

Contexts [2181] and [2184] B/4

Contexts [2181] and [2184] belonged to the later 18th to early 19th century group and produced small, mixed assemblages of pottery. These included both utilitarian wares (Brown and Yellow Glazed Coarseware and Late Blackware) and tablewares (Creamware).

Context [2208] (no quadrant)

Context [2208] produced a slightly unusual group of pottery in which utilitarian slipwares (buff bodied wares with red slip under clear glaze) predominated.

Area C

The pottery assemblage from Area C (Quadrant C/1) appeared to be of a similar date to that from Area A, although with a general lack of the porcelain / bone china wares which were such a distinctive feature of the latter area. A small number of earlier sherds were present (Edged ware, late Blackware) but these appeared to represent nothing more than the inevitable 'background noise' to be expected on any continuously occupied site.

The general impression of the assemblage was that it was homogenous with little internal differentiation across the contexts. The sherds were generally rather small and the Whitewares in particular appeared to have been shattered and many bore the marks of flaking and spalling, suggesting that this was the result of frost action while the pottery was exposed on the ground surface.

Five contexts produced pottery ([3001] – [3005]; summarised in Table 4 (Appendix F.2) with the greater part of the assemblage coming from contexts [3001] and [3002]. There did not appear to be any significant differentiation between the contexts, all of which were dominated by tablewares of later 19th and early 20th century date.

Area D

The pottery assemblage from Area D resembled that from Area C in terms of its date range and the range of wares represented. Porcelain / bone china was commoner than was the case in Area C although Whitewares were a commoner type. The data are summarised in Table 5 (Appendix F.2).

Seven contexts produced pottery ([4002], [4003], [4004], [4006], [4007], [4008] and [4009]) which included a mixture of tablewares (the majority of sherds), containers (notably marmalade jars), cooking and food preparation wares (including a jelly mould from context [4002]). Utilitarian coarsewares (Brown Glazed Coarsewares) were present but rare. Small quantities of later 18th to early 19th century wares were

noted in contexts [4004], [4008] and [4009] but these were exceptional and the groups as a whole was clearly of later 19th and 20th century date.

Context [4003] D/2 produced a group with very mixed characteristics in terms of abrasion including two joining sherds one crazed and discoloured from lengthy exposure to severe weathering processes, the other relatively unabraded. Some sherds had a rusty deposit which covered the broken edges as well as the surfaces of sherds, suggesting that they had been in the proximity of rusting iron. The group also included a number of water-worn sherds. These may have been redeposited from elsewhere as the group does not, in general, show signs of having been affected by running water.

The group was considerably fragmented but the number of joining sherds was relatively high (1041 sherds and a maximum of 580 vessels) suggesting a high degree of breakage in situ.