

# Landscape Evolution in the Middle Thames Valley

## Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavations Volume 2

### Post-Roman Pottery

(Section 3)



*by Lorraine Mephram*

## SECTION 3

### POST-ROMAN POTTERY

*by Lorraine Mephram*

#### **Introduction**

The total post-Roman pottery assemblage amounts to 2105 sherds (23,812g), recovered from all stages of work by Framework Archaeology at Heathrow (WPR98, PSH02), and also including pottery from the earlier evaluation by MoLAS (POK96). The assemblage ranges in date from early Saxon to late medieval; post-medieval pottery was rarely encountered on site and is not included here. All sherds derived from stratified contexts - from subsoil and from a range of feature types across the site.

Analysis of the pottery has followed the standard Framework Archaeology pottery recording system, which accords with the recommended minimum standards for post-Roman pottery (MPRG 2001). Vessel forms have been defined using nationally recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998). All Tables appear at the end of this report.

A total of 39 separate fabric types has been defined on the basis of the range and size of macroscopic inclusions (nine early Saxon and 30 medieval). Medieval fabric types have been correlated with the Museum of London type series where appropriate. Table 1 presents fabric totals and brief fabric descriptions.

#### **Early Saxon**

##### ***Fabrics and forms***

Early Saxon material comprises 313 sherds (4115g), and within this chronological group, nine fabric types were defined. These are largely sandy, with one organic-tempered fabric. Unlike the most common medieval fabrics, however (see below), the quartz inclusions within the sandy fabrics are not iron stained and therefore not

characteristic of the Reading Beds; some may instead derive from Lower Greensand deposits in Surrey or Hampshire.

There are few diagnostic forms here – of the 17 rims present, only nine could be assigned to vessel form (see Table 2). These forms are broadly convex jars and bowls with simple upright or everted rims (**ILL. 1, 3, 4**), but there is also at least one, possibly two carinated forms (**ILL. 2**).

Decoration is limited to six sherds, three of which may belong to the same vessel, with tooled horizontal lines and stamped rosettes (**ILL. 6**). There is one other stamped sherd, carrying stamped rosettes in between tooled arcs (**ILL. 7**), one sherd, possibly from a carinated vessel, with tooled horizontal lines and impressed dots (**ILL. 5**), and one applied, pinched boss.

In addition, four sherds, all in fabric Q435, carry vertical combing or scoring, probably as a deliberate roughening of the surface rather than as a decorative treatment. All of these sherds are well burnished internally, and are so visually similar as to suggest that they all derive from the same vessel; three came from a pit complex in the north of Area 14 (pits 525331, 525333, 525340) and the fourth from a second pit complex just to the south-east (pit 555793). At Mucking combing (and other forms of surface texturing such as coarse-slipping and rustication) was largely restricted to the lower halves of larger vessels, often carefully burnished on the interior – the suggestion is made that deliberate roughening of the external surface of the vessel was designed to facilitate handling (Hamerow 1993, 35). Roughened surfaces may also have aided heat retention.

Ten other sherds are burnished, either externally and/or internally.

### ***Distribution on site***

One interesting deposit comprises what may be most of a single vessel, a large, rounded jar in an organic-tempered fabric (**ILL. 4**), which appears to have been burnt or overfired (the surfaces have powdery feel and a ‘cracked/crazed’ appearance). The vessel may have been deliberately placed within pit 547384 – this is an apparently isolated feature within Area 99, which is at least 800m from the nearest excavated feature containing Saxon pottery.

Otherwise, the Saxon material was concentrated in the north of the excavated area, within Area 14, in particular from pit 509180 (**ILL. 2**), a pit complex (pits 525287, 525295, 525323, 525331, 525333, 525335, 525338, 525340, 612090) (**ILLS. 1, 3, 5, 7**), waterhole 555805 and middening (following disuse) within sunken featured building 538326 (**ILL. 6**). A scatter of further sherds was found residually within medieval pits (probably dug for brickearth extraction) towards the southern end of Area 14 (pits b, 554641, 555842, 555861, 582389). The concentration in Area 14 seems to indicate a Saxon origin for the settlement of Longford, although if this is the case some form of settlement shift or abandonment has to be postulated to explain the apparent hiatus in the ceramic sequence for the Middle/Late Saxon period.

### ***Chronology and affinities***

This small assemblage can be added to others of early Saxon date in the west London/Surrey area, a few of which have already been published – those from Prospect Park, Harmondsworth; Hurst Farm, Molesey; and Staines (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999; Laidlaw 1996; Jones 1982). These sites, together with others as yet unpublished, confirm the distribution of early Saxon settlement along the Thames and its tributaries, with a cluster of settlement sites around Heathrow, at Harmondsworth, West Drayton and Staines.

The relative scarcity of early Saxon sites (particularly settlement sites) in the London area, and the nature of the sites (not deeply stratified) means that the ceramic sequence for the period is not as yet as well understood as that for the middle Saxon period, where a number of sites within *Lundenwic* have enabled the definition of a number of ceramic phases. Some synthesis has, however, been undertaken by Blackmore, using data from a number of published and unpublished sites (Blackmore 1993). This suggests an early reliance on sandy fabrics (in the 5<sup>th</sup> and early 6<sup>th</sup> centuries), superseded in the later 6<sup>th</sup> century by organic-tempered fabrics, which remained dominant until the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Early vessel forms are more likely to be carinated, and sometimes faceted. Surface texturing in the form of combing and coarse-slipping is thought to be primarily a 5<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon (e.g. Hamerow 1993, 36). Taken altogether, the evidence from sites such as Prospect Park, Hammersmith and Kingston (Hawkins *et al.* 2002) seems to suggest that 5<sup>th</sup> century

assemblages in the London area can be characterised by a variety of fabric types, both local and non-local, by carinated vessels and by the use of surface roughening

The predominance of sandy fabrics within the T5 assemblage, therefore, together with the presence of the carinated vessel(s), and the use of external combing, could suggest that there is at least a small 5<sup>th</sup> century component here, although the majority of the assemblage is less closely dated within a 5<sup>th</sup> to early 7<sup>th</sup> century date range. Close similarities can be seen between the T5 assemblage and that from Hurst Park, East Molesey, in terms of the range of fabrics and forms; the latter assemblage was tentatively dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> centuries (Laidlaw 1996). Similar sandy fabrics were also seen at Prospect Park, Harmondsworth, dated as 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999), although none of the ‘exotic’ (non-local) fabrics noted at the latter site were encountered at either T5 or Hurst Park. None of these sites, however, has the benefit of independent dating evidence.

## **Medieval**

Thirty fabric types were identified amongst the medieval assemblage (1792 sherds; 19,697g). These fabrics fall into six groups in terms of known or potential source area, including both local and non-local types:

- Surrey types, from early to late medieval, characterised by pale-firing fabrics and iron-stained quartz (ESUR, ESUR+FL; KING, CBW, CHEA, TUDG);
- Greywares falling within the Limpsfield/South Hertfordshire greyware tradition (SHER);
- London-type wares (LCOAR, LOND, LLON);
- Miscellaneous early medieval types (EMFL, ?EMCH, EMSH);
- Miscellaneous sandy wares probably largely of local manufacture;
- Imported wares (NFM, SAIN).

### ***Surrey types***

Early Surrey wares are represented by sherds of the coarseware types ESUR (containing abundant iron-stained quartz) and ESUR+FL (a variant also containing angular flint fragments). These wares utilised white firing clays, presumably from the

Reading Beds, and sand composed mainly of weathered iron-rich sandstone, for which a common source in western Surrey, north-east Hampshire or east Berkshire is most likely (Vince and Jenner 1991, 44). A possible source in the area around Tongham village in south-west Surrey has been suggested, on the basis of frequency of the ware in 12<sup>th</sup> century deposits here, the co-occurrence of outcrops of both Reading Beds clay and tempering material (sands and sandstones of the Folkestone Beds), and a documented history of medieval tile-making although not, apparently potting (Jones 1998, 233). In London ESUR appears around the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, remaining in use at least until the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Vince and Jenner 1991, 75); in north-west Surrey it seems to have survived longer, until the late 12<sup>th</sup> century (Jones 1998, 220).

The most common forms present at T5, as on other sites, are jars (17 examples). Overall profiles were not reconstructable (**ILL. 9**), but are likely to conform to the published range, i.e. rounded or shouldered forms, with a range of rim profiles, some finger-impressed (*ibid.*, fig. 2.58). Other vessel forms comprise a flared bowl, a flared dish and three unspecified dish/bowl forms. One strap handle could derive from a curfew, with a pre-firing perforation at the handle/vessel wall junction (tree-throw 515010, Area 49).

Sherds of all four of the later medieval types within the Surrey whiteware industry are present – Kingston-type ware (KING), Coarse Border ware (CBW), Cheam whiteware (CHEA) and ‘Tudor Green’ ware (TUDG). Of these, Kingston-type ware is the most commonly occurring. The chronological evidence and range of vessel forms for each of the four types is discussed elsewhere (Pearce and Vince 1988), but the attribution of sherds to specific source on fabric grounds, even with scientific analysis, has proved problematic (Cowell 1988). There may be more production centres than are currently known, and some centres may have been producing more than one type (Jones 1998, 234).

The jar forms seen here in Kingston-type ware (**ILL. 10**) are very similar to those in ESUR, with an emphasis on less developed rim profiles, which might suggest that in terms of jars the later products of the Kingston industry are not well represented at T5. Apart from jars (14 examples) there are two jugs and one bowl on the basis of rim sherds, although decorated body sherds (applied strips, slipped motifs) suggest the presence of further jugs. Kingston-type ware is generally dated, on evidence from the

City of London, from the second quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century until the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, superseded in popularity at this point by Coarse Border ware.

Eleven sherds of Coarse Border ware were recovered at T5, none of which are diagnostic. The date range for this ware type is mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. Only one sherd of Cheam whiteware was identified, but the late medieval Surrey whiteware industry is represented by 52 sherds of 'Tudor Green' ware.

### ***Greywares***

Wheelthrown greywares of various types are present at T5 in relatively small quantities, and are likely to represent the products of various sources within a widespread ceramic tradition covering south Hertfordshire, Middlesex and Surrey (including Limpsfield-type wares). Current research is not as yet sufficiently advanced to be able to characterise each of these in terms of distinct fabric types with any degree of confidence, and the recent discovery of a large group of wasters identified as South Hertfordshire Greyware in Kingston has merely complicated the issue further (*Surrey Archaeol. Bulletin* 353, Nov. 2001). There is also the possibility that some of the greyware sherds found at T5 originate from the Camley Gardens production centre at Maidenhead (Pike 1965). Five separate fabric types were defined at T5 on the basis of the size and frequency and quartz and other inclusions, but for the purposes of discussion here, the greywares have been grouped together under one fabric code (SHER), with a date range of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to late 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Vessel forms are scarce, comprising five jars, all with developed rims, and one bowl. Two vessels carry applied, thumbled strips. Comparable vessel forms can be found amongst the products of the kilns at Pinner, Middlesex and Limpsfield, Surrey (Sheppard 1977; Prendergast 1974).

### ***London-type wares***

The distribution of London-type wares, in use from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, suggests a production centre close to the city, as yet unlocated, which apparently supplied an area of the lower Thames valley as far upstream as Henley, and the surrounding counties. Fabric variants and range of vessel forms have been well

explored (Pearce *et al.* 1985). At T5 the coarseware variant (LCOAR) is the most common, although only two diagnostic forms (both jars: **ILL. 11**) were observed. The finer variant (LOND) was used predominantly for jug forms, frequently highly decorated and imitating continental prototypes. One jug rim (from an unknown form), and a handful of slip-decorated body sherds were the only diagnostic pieces recovered from T5. Late London-type ware (LLON), a mid 15<sup>th</sup> century type, is represented here by six body sherds.

### ***Miscellaneous early medieval wares***

Apart from ESUR, three other early medieval wares were identified at T5 - Early Medieval Chalky ware (EMCH), Early Medieval Flinty ware (EMFL) and Early Medieval Shelly ware (EMSH). In London all three types appear first in early to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century contexts, with flinty wares rarely found later, while shelly and chalky wares continued in use until the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century (Vince and Jenner 1991).

A potential source for Early Medieval Chalky ware in south Hertfordshire has been suggested (*ibid.*, 44, 70), although comparable wares in Surrey, including examples seen at Staines, seem to cover quite a wide variation, and include wares with tufaceous inclusions as well as chalk, suggesting a more diverse ceramic tradition (Jones 1998, 228-9). Likewise the shelly wares found across Surrey are considered unlikely to have originated exclusively in north-west Kent, the suggested source for the Early Medieval Shelly ware seen in London (Vince and Jenner 1991, 44, 63-4; Jones 1998, 230).

Vessel forms seen at T5 are largely jars with undeveloped rims (**ILL. 8**), with one flared bowl in Early Medieval Flinty ware and one flared dish in Early Medieval Chalky ware (**ILL. 13**). No decorated sherds are present.

### ***Miscellaneous wares***

This category includes all other wares identified from the site, none of which at this stage can be correlated with known London types. These comprise mainly coarse sandy wares, mostly handmade but with some wheelthrown, some also containing flint inclusions. The most common of these (Q404: 233 sherds), and for which a



relatively local origin could be suggested on these grounds, is a coarse sandy fabric with sparse angular flint inclusions, which may have affinities with the early Surrey wares. Vessel forms in this fabric type comprise four jars (both developed and undeveloped rims), one knife-trimmed flared dish (**ILL. 12**) and one flared bowl (**ILL. 14**), an indeterminate dish/bowl form, and three jugs, one with a finger impressed strap handle (**ILL. 15**). The only evidence for decoration in this fabric type comes in the form of 13 sherds with combing; one of these sherds is glazed.

A pale-firing greyware with possible tufaceous inclusions (Q412: 61 sherds) may also be an early Surrey type; two jars with undeveloped rims were the only diagnostic forms recognised here. Fabrics with tufaceous inclusions are noted from several sites in the Thames floodplain in north-west Surrey, including Staines and Chertsey (Jones 1998, 228-9).

None of the other miscellaneous fabric types occurred in any significant quantity (less than 40 sherds each). There is one jug rim in Q411, a jar in Q417, and a second jar in Q421.

### ***Imported wares***

The presence of two sherds of imported wares is of interest, these wares being generally confined to the major ports, and on inland sites showing a close correlation with higher status sites. One is from a North French monochrome (green-glazed) jug, with applied rouletted strip (NFM), from the upper fill of ditch 546100, and the second is a Saintonge green-glazed whiteware body sherd (SAIN) from pit 589034. Both features are within Area 49, about 30 metres apart.

### ***Distribution on site***

#### ***Area 49/POK96***

The distribution of medieval pottery confirms the existence of a focus of activity within Area 49, of which the northern fringe was identified within the previously excavated area (POK96). Area 49 and POK96 combined produced nearly three-quarters of the total medieval assemblage (1308 sherds; 14,981g). Within this

concentration pottery was found in feature types relating to stock management (enclosure ditches, waterholes, etc) rather than domestic occupation.

An attempt has been made to phase the features within this area using the ceramic evidence (coin evidence from this area is relatively abundant – 24 medieval and post-medieval coins and tokens – but only three medieval coins came from stratified contexts). Despite the relatively large quantities of pottery recovered from this area, this exercise has been hampered by the generally low level distribution within individual features - only 14 features (out of 126) yielded more than 20 sherds, and only four more than 50 sherds. Moreover, the preponderance of less closely datable coarsewares in undiagnostic body sherds precludes anything more than a broad spot date for many features. Bearing these *caveats* in mind, however, three ceramic phases have been defined:

*ceramic phase 1 (cp1)*: characterised by the presence of early medieval wares (e.g. EMCH, EMFL, ESUR, etc), including Q404. Jar forms have undeveloped rims. Date range broadly 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

*cp2*: appearance of Kingston-type wares (dated from c.1230 in London) and greywares, generally dated as 13<sup>th</sup> century; also a few London-type wares. Jar forms generally have developed rims; wider range of forms, including glazed and decorated jugs.

*cp3*: appearance of later medieval Surrey wares such as Coarse Border Ware (from c.1270 in London), Cheam-type and 'Tudor Green' (both late 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century).

Using this three-phase chronological framework, the general development of the system of enclosures and boundary ditches can be confirmed. Despite the relatively high proportion of early medieval wares from this area (12% of the total from the area by weight), few features could be definitively dated to cp1, a significant quantity of the early medieval wares from this area apparently occurring residually in later features. Those that could be assigned to cp1 include enclosure ditch 560023 (Entity 10030), and short stretches of ditch (527197 and 539051) and one pit (529078) within the northern enclosure (Entity 10032). The ten-post structure to the east (Entity 10002) is also assigned to this phase. No closely datable pottery was recovered from the post-built structures within Enclosure 10030 (Entities 10014, 10022), although they are presumed to be of similar early medieval date. Very little of the ditch system

within POK96 can be closely dated, but ditch 962327 has been assigned to cp1. Quantities of pottery throughout are extremely small – ditch 560063 produced 38 sherds, but none of the other features contained more than eight sherds.

Ceramic phase 2 sees the extension/recutting of Enclosure 10032 (ditches 591048 and 568068 to the east, ditch 529268 to the south, ditch 527192 on the western side). To the south ditch 546100 forms part of the eastern boundary of Enclosure 10030, and features within this enclosure include ditch 512083, pits 555453 and 537105 and waterhole 569022. Boundary (or driveway?) ditches 547231/566049/539093 and 512087/542197 to the south are assigned to this phase, together with a complex of enclosure ditches at their western end (ditches 515041, 514056, 539094, 539096, 539108). Also of interest in this area is tree-throw 505010, which contained a handle probably deriving from a curfew; this is the only occurrence of this less common vessel form on the site. To the north, the field system is extended by ditches 961505, 961040 and 591043.

Quantities of pottery are higher in cp2, and four of the highest-yielding features belong to this ceramic phase (23 sherds from waterhole 537164, 52 sherds from ditch 529268, 53 sherds from pit 537105 and 322 sherds from waterhole 569022). The assemblage from pit 537105 includes the complete profile of a jar in Early Medieval Shelly Ware (**ILL. 8**), and a flared bowl in fabric Q400. Independent dating for this ceramic phase comes in the form of a penny from waterhole 537164 dated 1180-1247 (Object 13172). In the case of both waterholes, pottery came from the secondary fills and upwards, with no pottery from primary fills. The secondary fills of both waterholes were consistently dated as cp2, although there were a couple of sherds of later medieval pottery (15<sup>th</sup> century Late London-type ware) from the upper fills of 569022, within a large, chronologically mixed group which probably represents redeposited midden material. The group from waterhole 537164 included a pitcher rim/handle in fabric Q400 (**ILL. 15**), and the group from 569022 a Kingston-type jar (**ILL. 10**). Also of interest in this ceramic phase is the occurrence of a single sherd of North French Monochrome ware, found in ditch 546100.

In cp3, activity appears to contract to the area of the main enclosure complex (10030, 10031, 10032), with ditches recutting and/or remodelling these enclosures (529233, 529237, 529239, 529266, 529255, 568079, 529260, 529241, 547167, 547168, 537118). There are two associated pits – 546065 and 529200 – and a waterhole

(529139). To the west, two short lengths of ditches were assigned to cp 3 (512049 and 539098); the latter also contained a penny of Henry II, dated 1154-89 (Object 13001). Waterhole 529139 produced 71 sherds and pit 546065 37 sherds, but quantities from other features were low. Also within this ceramic phase, a single sherd of Saintonge whiteware came from pit 589034.

After the 15<sup>th</sup> century any major activity in this area seems to have ceased, at least in terms of the discard of pottery, although the presence of 15<sup>th</sup> century and later coins and tokens, particularly in Area 49, suggests that the site was not totally abandoned.

#### *Areas 14/15/17*

Another concentration in the north of the excavated area (Areas 14, 15 and 17) may be related to medieval Longford. Pottery in this area derived from field system ditches and from apparent rubbish disposal into brickearth extraction pits. The distribution of pottery across this area is in general very low level – out of 27 features only one produced more than 20 sherds (107 sherds from pit 538303). Given these small quantities, no attempt has been made to apply the ceramic phasing as for Area 49/POK96 (see above). The largest deposit, from pit 538303, all from a single fill (deliberate backfill layer 538304), contained sherds of early medieval wares, Kingston-type wares and later medieval ‘Tudor Green’, in other words, a chronological mixture, perhaps resulting from the redeposition of an adjacent midden deposit.

#### *Area 51*

A sparser scatter of material was noted in Area 51 (total of 65 sherds). This may relate to activity peripheral to the focus in Area 49 to the north, and warrants comment only because independent dating evidence was recovered from one of the ditches – a penny of William I, dated 1070-72 (Object 13194) from ditch **552098** – although the ditch also produced a sherd of Kingston-type ware, suggesting a 13<sup>th</sup> century date for the feature.

### ***Discussion***

The potential date range of the medieval assemblage from T5 spans the medieval period from the early/mid 11<sup>th</sup> century through to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with an emphasis

on the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. A framework for the chronology of the ceramic sequence is provided by published corpora from London (Vince and Jenner 1991; Pearce and Vince 1988; Pearce *et al.* 1985) and also from an overview of medieval ceramics in Surrey (Jones 1998). The assemblage from T5 provides an interesting addition to the medieval ceramic sequence of the area, since assemblages from rural sites in the hinterland of London are relatively scarce.

A definite hiatus in the ceramic sequence can be discerned during the middle to late Saxon period – there is no demonstrable continuity, in other words, between the Saxon and medieval activity around Longford (Areas 14/15/17). There is some chronological overlap between the T5 early medieval assemblage and that from a nearby site at Victoria Lane, Harlington (Wessex Archaeology 2005, MoL site code SIE 00), but the Early Medieval Sandy ware seen at the latter site, including stamp-decorated vessels, is absent at T5, and nothing definitively dated earlier than 11<sup>th</sup> century can be identified.

The earliest medieval wares seen here are comparable to types seen in the London area and Surrey (e.g. Vince and Jenner 1991; Jones 1998), but this does no more than place these wares within a broad ceramic tradition of the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century, rather than indicating a common source. The early medieval period is marked in the London area, as elsewhere, by a proliferation of small-scale production centres, operating over distances of at most 20-30 miles (Vince and Jenner 1991, 43). No evidence has yet been found for any such centres in the London area, although four potential source areas have been identified (*ibid.*, 44): the south bank of the Thames in east London (source of fossil shell from the Woolwich Beds, used for EMSh); Surrey (source of the precursor to the later medieval industry, typified by ESUR); south Hertfordshire (one probable source of EMCH), and another area(s) outside London producing flint-tempered wares (EMFL). Other sources/source areas within Surrey have also been suggested for chalk-tempered and flint-tempered wares (Jones 1998), both of which are common throughout the county.

Sources of supply remained similar into the 13<sup>th</sup> century and beyond, although these were now represented by products of larger-scale industries which superseded the small-scale production of the preceding centuries. These are dominated at T5 by Kingston-type ware from the Surrey whiteware industry although, given the difficulties inherent in attributing sherds to specific whiteware sources, not all of this

necessarily came from the Kingston production centre itself. The greyware industry is likewise almost impossible to disentangle – greywares at T5 could have originated from any of a number of different sources across south Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and even east Berkshire.

The late medieval period (14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century) is apparently less well represented on the site, and this may be due to several factors. A simple chronological explanation of the abandonment of the site at this period is belied by the presence of later medieval coins and tokens in some quantity in Area 49. The phenomenon is in fact more widely seen across the country, and may be at least partly explained by a contraction in the pottery industry at this time, sometimes attributed to economic recession after Black Death, although the continuation of the Surrey whiteware industry, for example, is well documented. A decline in the use of ceramics, corresponding to an increase in the use of metal vessels, may also be a factor here. The almost complete absence of common early post-medieval ceramic types such as redwares, however, indicates that the site was little used after the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The largest focus of medieval activity on the site is within Area 49 and POK96, and it is from this assemblage that most comment on the nature of activity can be drawn. The features from which pottery derived within this area – ditches, waterholes, pits – appear to be related largely to agricultural rather than settlement activity, although the overall quantity of pottery, and the condition (reconstructable profiles, low level of abrasion) suggests that it has not moved far from its original point of use/discard. At least three post-built structures were identified in and around the enclosures (Entities 10002, 10014, 10022; B1 to B3), but very little cultural material was recovered from these and they are perhaps more likely to be agricultural buildings rather than living quarters.

Across the area, deposition within features, particularly the ditches, is consistent with the incidental and small-scale incorporation of midden material, and this seems to have remained the case throughout the use of the site. The larger deposits (and, as explained above, few features in any case yielded more than 20 sherds) tended to derive from pits and waterholes, but in only one instance does there appear to have been a deliberate dump of any size, in this case into the upper fill of a partially backfilled waterhole (569022). Mean sherd weight from ditches is 9.4g, from waterholes 13.5g and from pits 14.4g.

Can the range of wares and vessel forms shed any light on the nature of the settlement from which they derived? Vessel forms include jars, bowls and dishes. Some jars are very heavily sooted, confirming their use as cooking pots, but others could have had multiple functions (e.g. storage, sanitary, industrial). There are few instances of jugs or pitchers (or indeed any glazed wares) in the coarseware fabrics, but there are decorated jugs in Kingston-type and London-type wares. There were no identifiable examples of more specialised cooking forms, such as skillets or pipkins, and only one example of any other less common forms (curfew) – the assemblage is very restricted in terms of vessel form, overwhelmingly utilitarian but with a small proportion of glazed and decorated tablewares. The presence of glazed wares, in particular the two imports, does imply something a cut above a standard rural farmstead, at least in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and later. This would, incidentally, tie in with the statement that finds from rural settlements of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the London area suggest greater wealth (Sloane and Harding 2000, 222). Imports are uncommon finds on inland sites, being largely restricted to ‘higher status’ sites (e.g. religious or manorial). Curfews, too, tend to be associated with more substantial buildings. Part of the problem is that few pottery assemblages from rural settlements of any sort have been published from the hinterland of London, and there is therefore very little comparative material, but a similar range of coarsewares and glazed wares, including a handful of imported sherds and at least one curfew, came from the kitchen area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex (Hurst 1961; Stone 1995).

Supporting evidence amongst the non-ceramic assemblage is limited, but the presence of five silver pennies with a date range of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century may be noted (as well as a sixth, 11<sup>th</sup> century, from Area 51).

### **Saxon: illustrated vessels**

1. Rounded jar; fabric Q430. PRN (Pottery Record Number) WA-981, context 525296, pit 525295.
2. Carinated jar; fabric Q430. PRN WA-4391, context 509121, pit 509180.
3. Shouldered bowl; fabric Q430. PRN WA-962, context 525288, pit 525287.
4. Rounded jar, ?burnt or overfired; fabric V400. PRN WA-1041, context 547388 (ON 8162), ?'placed deposit' in pit 547384 (Area 99).
5. Decorated body sherd; impressed dots and furrowed lines; fabric Q434. PRN WA-979, context 525296, pit 525295.
6. Decorated body sherd; stamped rosette(s) and furrowed lines; fabric Q437. PRN WA-1034, context 538329, SFB 538326.
7. Decorated body sherd; stamped rosettes and furrowed arcs; fabric Q432. PRN WA-1005, context 525332, pit 525331.

### **Medieval: illustrated vessels**

8. Jar profile, fabric S400 (EMSH). PRN WA-193, context 537108, pit 537105 (Area 49).
9. Jar rim; fabric Q403 (ESUR+FL). PRN WA-498, context 562020, pit 562018 (Area 77)
10. Jar profile, heavily sooted; fabric Q402 (KING). PRN WA-712, context 569034, waterhole 569022 (Area 49).
11. Jar profile; fabric Q415 (LCOAR). PRNs WA-4743/4744, context 525088, waterhole 525080.
12. Dish profile, knife-trimmed; fabric Q404. PRN WA-719, context 582126, ditch 547231.
13. Dish profile; fabric C400 (EMCH). PRN WA-510, context 562017, pit 562018.
14. Bowl profile; fabric Q404. PRN WA-95, context 525051, pit 525050 (Area 74a).
15. Pitcher rim/strap handle; fabric Q404. PRN WA-230, context 537151, waterhole 537164 (Area 49).



## References

- Blackmore, L., 1993, 'La céramique du Vème au Xème siècle a Londres et dans la région Londonienne' in Piton, D. (ed.), *Travaux du Groupe de Recherches et d'Etudes sur la Céramique dans le Nord - Pas-de-Calais*, Actes du Colloque d'Outreau 1992, 129-50
- Hurst, J.G., 1961, 'The kitchen area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex', *Medieval Archaeol.* 5, 211-99
- Jarrett, C., 2002, 'Saxon pottery' in Hawkins, D., Kain, A. and Wooldridge, K., 'Excavations at East Lane and South Lane, Kingston 1996-1998', *Surrey Archaeol. Collect.* 89, 195-9
- Jones, P., 1982, 'Saxon and early medieval Staines', *Trans. London Middx. Archaeol. Soc.* 33, 186-213
- Jones, P., 1998, 'Towards a type series of medieval pottery in Surrey to c.AD 1700', *Surrey Archaeol. Coll.* 85, 211-38
- Laidlaw, M. and Mephram, L., 1999, 'Pottery' in Farwell, D.E., Andrews, P. and Brook, R., *Prehistoric, Roman and Early Saxon Settlement at Prospect Park, London Borough of Hillingdon*, Wessex Archaeology, 29-43
- Laidlaw, M., 1996, 'Pottery' in Andrews, P., 'Hurst Park, East Molesey, Surrey: riverside settlement and burial from the Neolithic to the early Saxon periods' in Andrews, P. and Crockett, A., *Three Excavations along the Thames and its Tributaries, 1994: Neolithic to Saxon Settlement and Burial in the Thames, Colne, and Kennet Valleys*, Wessex Archaeol Rep 10, 81-91
- MPRG 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1
- MPRG 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group. Occas. Paper 2
- Pearce, J. and Vince, A., 1988, *A dated type-series of London medieval pottery. Part 4: Surrey Whitewares*, London Middx. Archaeol. Soc. Special Paper 10

- Pearce, J., Vince, A. and Jenner, A., 1985, *A dated type series of London medieval pottery, Part 2: London-type ware*, London Mddx. Archaeol. Soc. Special Paper 6
- Pike, G., 1965, 'A medieval pottery kiln site on the Camley Gardens Estate, Maidenhead', *Berkshire Archaeol. J.* 62, 22-33
- Prendergast, M.D., 1974, 'Limpsfield medieval coarseware: a descriptive analysis', *Surrey Archaeol. Coll.* 70, 57-77
- Sheppard, D., 1977, 'A medieval pottery kiln at Pinner, Middlesex', *London Archaeol.* 3 (2), 31-5
- Sloane, B. and Harding, C with Schofield, J. and Hill, J., 2000 'From the Norman Conquest to the reformation', in *The archaeology of Greater London: an assessment of archaeological evidence for human presence in the area now covered by Greater London*, MoLAS Monog., 2000, 207-54
- Stone, J.A., 1995, The medieval pottery assemblage from the Hall area of Northolt Manor, Middlesex, unpub. MA dissertation, Univ. Leicester
- Vince, A. and Jenner, A., 1991, 'The Saxon and early medieval pottery of London' in Vince, A.G., *Aspects of Saxon and Norman London 2: Finds and Environmental Evidence*, London Mddx. Archaeol. Soc. Special Paper 12, 19-119
- Wessex Archaeology 2005, RMC Land, Victoria Lane, Harlington., archaeological excavation. Basic interim statement assessment of results on Phase 2 excavations, unpub. client rep., ref 56450.02, MoL Site Code SIE 00



POST-ROMAN POTTERY TABLES

Table 1: Fabric type series and pottery totals

Fabric Code	MoL code	Fabric Description	Date Min	Date Max	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Q430		Early Saxon: medium-grained sandy (equivalent to PPK 93 fabric Q401)	450	750	104	1102
Q431		Early Saxon: as Q430 but with rare fine flint	450	750	38	268
Q432		Early Saxon: medium-coarse grained sandy with coarse gravel	450	750	4	98
Q433		Early Saxon: fine matrix with some organic inclusions	450	750	6	337
Q434		Early Saxon: finer version of Q430 (equivalent to PPK 93 fabric Q405)	450	750	20	237
Q435		Early Saxon: sparse sand and organic inclusions	450	750	63	400
Q436		Early Saxon: prominent iron oxides & iron-stained quartz	450	750	3	46
Q437		Early Saxon: very fine sandy	450	750	4	8
V400		Early Saxon: organic-tempered (equivalent to PPK 93 fabric V402)	450	750	71	1619
		<i>sub-total Saxon</i>			<b>313</b>	<b>4115</b>
C400	?EMCH	Calcareous (leached) with some quartz	1050	1200	95	698
C401	?EMCH	Sandy with sparse calcareous inclusions	1050	1200	18	239
F400		Medium flint, some sand	1050	1200	16	243
F401	EMFL	Early medieval flint-tempered ware	970	1100	44	472
Q400	ESUR	Early Surrey ware	1066	1350	492	4971
Q401	ESUR	Early Surrey ware	1050	1150	5	121
Q402	KING	Kingston-type ware	1230	1400	373	3892
Q403	ESUR+FL	Early Surrey ware with flint	1066	1350	24	348
Q404		Early Medieval: medium quartz with flint	1066	1350	233	3049
Q405	CBW	Coarse Border ware	1270	1500	11	143
Q406	SHER	Medieval: medium-grained sandy, greyware	1066	1350	26	176
Q407	LLON	Late London type ware	1400	1500	6	45
Q408	SHER	Medium-grained greyware (quartz <1mm)	1066	1350	69	763
Q409		Medium-grained oxidised, iron-stained quartz	1066	1350	19	205
Q410		Medium-grained oxidised sandy (bright orange)	1066	1350	4	81
Q411	SHER	Medium-grained greyware, slightly soapy surfaces	1066	1350	23	298
Q412		Pale greyware, ?tufaceous inclusions	1066	1350	61	527

Q413	CHEA	Cheam whiteware	1350	1500	1	10
Q414		Fairly fine whiteware	1066	1350	1	7
Q415	LCOAR	London-type coarseware	1080	1200	103	798
Q416	TUDG	'Tudor Green' ware	1380	1500	52	563
Q417		Fine greyware with pale surfaces, handmade	1066	1350	6	178
Q418		Pale-firing sandy with rare flint	1066	1350	6	208
Q419	SHER	Coarse greyware, prominent quartz >1mm	1066	1350	15	129
Q420	SHER	Fine greyware, wheelthrown	1066	1350	14	413
Q421		Coarse greyware, slightly soapy	1066	1350	32	335
Q422	LOND	London-type ware	1080	1350	17	144
Q438	NFM	North French monochrome ware	1066	1350	1	5
Q439	SAIN	Saintonge ware	1066	1350	1	5
S400	EMSH	Early medieval shelly ware	1050	1150	24	631
		<i>sub-total medieval</i>			<i>1792</i>	<i>19,697</i>
		OVERALL TOTAL			2105	23,812

Table 2: Saxon vessel forms by fabric

	Q430	Q431	Q433	Q434	Q435	V400	TOTAL
rim, form unknown	4	1			3		8
simple everted rim	3						3
simple upright rim		1	1	1	2		5
rounded jar						1	1
TOTALS	7	2	1	1	5	1	17

**Table 3: Medieval vessel forms by fabric**

Vessel Type	EMCH	EMFL	EMSH	ESUR	KING	TUDG	SHER	LCOAR	LOND	MISC	TOTAL
jar	4 s	4 s	2 s	17 15s 2d	14 2d; 12s	2 1s 1d	5 d	1 s		7 5s 2d	56
rounded jar								1 d		1 s	2
bowl				3 1d 2s	1 d		1 d				5
flared bowl		1 d		1 s						1 s	3
rounded bowl (dev rim)				1 d							1
dish/bowl (simple rim)										1s	1
flared dish	1 s									1 d	2
jug				1	2				1	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>80</b>

Table 4: Medieval fabrics by site subdivision

BED	EARLY MEDIEVAL				SURREY				GREY	LONDON			IMP	MISC. WARES (?LOCAL)			
	EMC H	EMF L	ESU R	EMS H	F400	KING	CBW	CHE A	TUD G	SHER	LCOA R	LON D	LLO N	IMP	Q400	Q404	SAND
14			3/32		2/62	10/78			10/13 7	28/399	10/99	1/11	1/3		38/357	16/196	37/320
15									7/34	2/19					5/30	6/24	1/14
16											3/32				8/99	1/5	
17	5/42					1/4				1/6					2/20	3/53	
28						1/16											
34																	
45															1/5		
47																1/1	
49	73/614	43/46 6	3/27	23/60 5	8/97	285/326 1	11/143	1/10	33/37 3	97/1259	28/235	11/10 3	5/42	2/10	319/339 9	174/236 0	81/1077
51	23/130				1/5	26/232				1/2					11/95	2/10	1/4
52											1/2						
58									1/3	1/16		1/1			1/15	2/1	2/16
61						2/9				1/5		1/24			3/37		
75						1/4				2/8					12/74	8/159	
77	9/125		23/41 0	1/26											1/7		
99																	
42A															5/5	1/3	1/1
67A	2/11					23/213			1/16	6/48	61/430	3/5			30/338	3/19	6/109
POK96	1/15	4/46			2/39	24/75				8/17					56/490	16/218	
	113/93 7	47/51 2	29/46 9	24/63 1	13/20 3	373/389 2	11/143	1/10	52/56 3	147/177 9	103/79 8	17/14 4	6/45	2/10	492/497 1	233/304 9	129/154 1

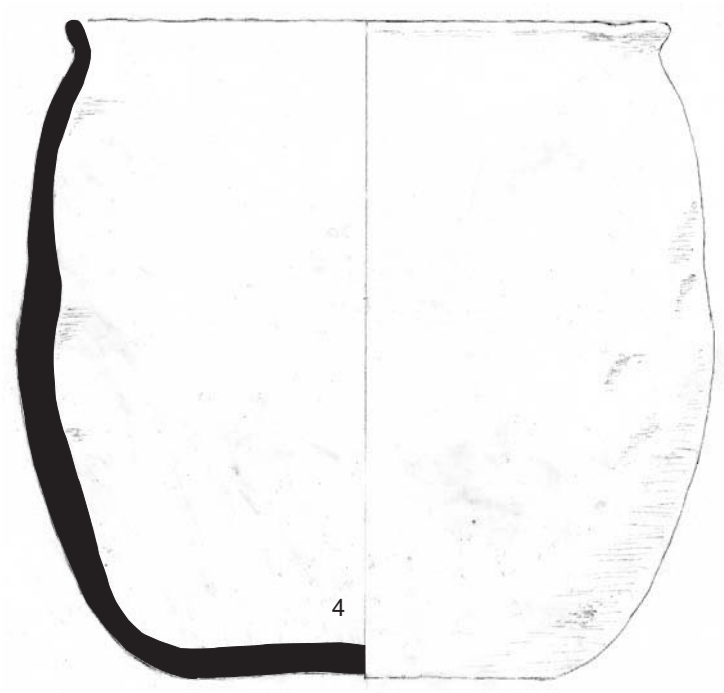
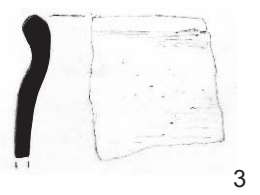
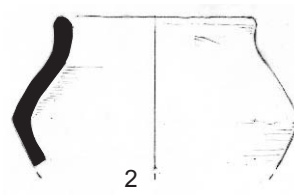
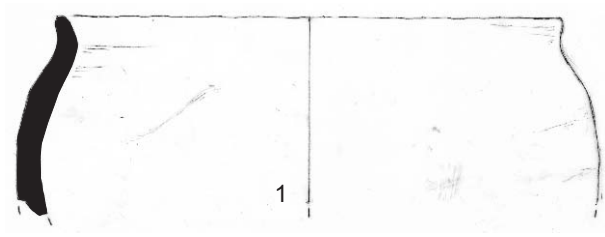
## APPENDIX 1: VESSEL FORM TYPE SERIES

Form Code	Form description
dsh	dish, form unspecified
jug	jug, form unspecified
fbo	flared bowl (MPRG 5.1.4)
dbo	dish/bowl, form unspecified
bow	bowl, form unspecified
jra	jar, form unspecified
fld	flared dish (MPRG 5.3)
rbo	rounded bowl (MPRG 5.1.6)
sbo	shouldered bowl, rounded (Saxon)
jrr	rounded jar (MPRG 4.1.7)
cri	carinated form, unspecified

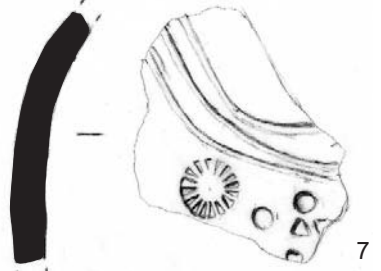
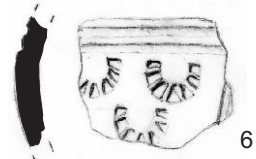
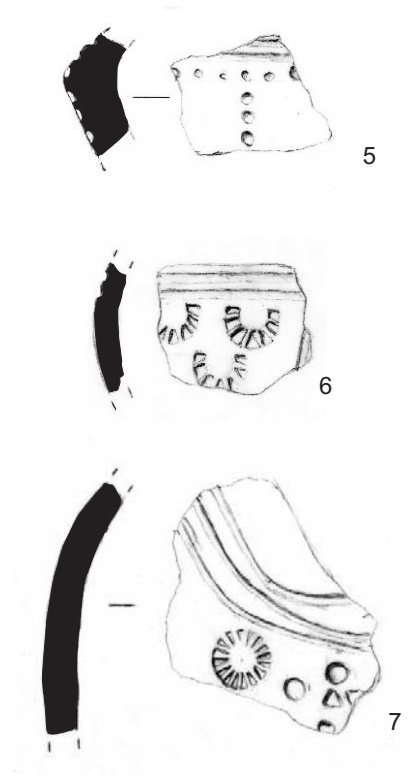
## APPENDIX 2: COMPONENT PART TYPE SERIES

Part Code	Part Type	Part Description
99	rim type	rim form unspecified
401	rim type	externally expanded, flattened
402	rim type	squared rim
403	rim type	triangular section, flattened
404	rim type	internally expanded
405	rim type	everted, thickened
406	rim type	T-shaped rim
407	rim type	simple thickened rim
408	rim type	everted, moulded
409	rim type	internally and externally expanded (not flattened)
900	rim type	jug rim, unspecified
901	rim type	jug rim, collared
902	rim type	simple everted rim
903	rim type	simple upright rim
904	rim type	upright rim, thickened
402	base type	jug base (often thumbbed)
401	base type	sagging base
403	base type	flat base
404	base type	rounded basal angle
401	handle type	strap handle
402	handle type	rod handle

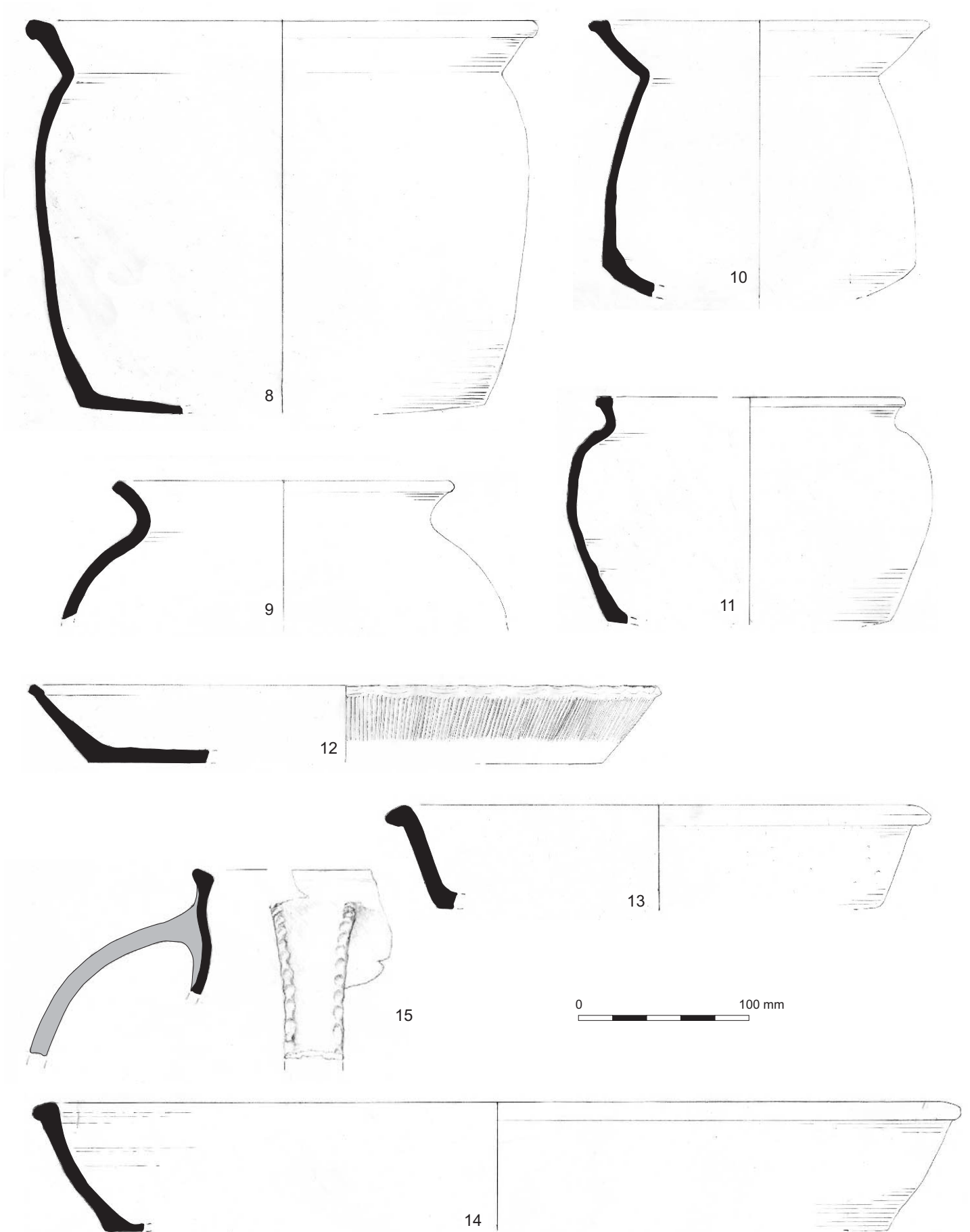




0 100 mm



0 50 mm



Medieval pottery

# Landscape Evolution in the Middle Thames Valley

## Heathrow Terminal 5 Excavations Volume 2

This is one of the  
24 specialist reports  
provided with  
the above publication.

Framework Archaeology  
**Monograph 3**

ISBN 978-0-9554519-2-8



*Framework  
Archaeology*

**BAA Heathrow** 