

POTTERY

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(The cross-references denoted 'CQ' in this paper relate to *Charter Quay, The Spirit of Change*, Wessex Archaeology 2003)

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from Charter Quay totals 4425 sherds (72.9 kg), of which the majority is of medieval date (3974 sherds; 57.0 kg). A much smaller proportion of post-medieval wares was recovered 9436 sherds; 15.8 kg), of which the overwhelming majority is dated no later than early 18th century. A handful of residual prehistoric (5 sherds), Romano-British (4 sherds) and early/middle Saxon material (2 sherds) was also recovered.

Methods

The pottery has been analysed within the framework of the Museum of London type series for fabrics. However, given that this assemblage might be expected to consist overwhelmingly of Surrey Whitewares, and within this group specifically of one fabric type, or variants thereof (Kingston-type ware), it was decided to define fabrics at a more detailed level, on the basis of the range, frequency and size of macroscopic inclusions, following the standard Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1994), in an attempt to determine functional and chronological variation. Vessel forms have been defined using nationally recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998).

Pottery has been quantified by fabric type within each context, with details of vessel form, manufacturing technique, decoration and surface treatment also recorded. Data have been entered on to the project database (Access).

Pre-medieval pottery

A very small amount of residual prehistoric (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint-tempered and sandy wares), Romano-British (coarsewares) (see *CQ* p. 9) and early/middle Saxon (sandy wares) material was recovered (see *CQ* p. 10).

Medieval pottery

Background

Prior to the beginnings of the well documented Surrey whiteware industry in the 13th century, the local pottery industries of Kingston and the surrounding region are less well understood (see *CQ* p. 13). The major traditions have been defined (eg. Vince and Jenner 1991) and include Early Surrey sandy wares, shelly wares and flint-tempered wares, all with origins in the 11th or 12th centuries; source areas for each have been postulated, although actual production sites are as yet elusive.

The origins and development of the Surrey Whiteware industry, and in particular the Kingston-type ware industry, have already been thoroughly explored (Pearce and Vince 1988; Miller and Stephenson 1999), and are merely summarised here. On the basis of existing

evidence from both Kingston and various sites in London, the Kingston-type ware industry, the earliest of the Surrey Whiteware industries as currently defined, seems not to have begun before the early 13th century. It was not until the middle of the 13th century that Kingston-type wares appeared in London, and in Kingston itself earlier excavations have produced some evidence of a pre-whiteware phase in which London-type Rouen style jugs were used, a type introduced at the end of the 12th century.

Documentary references to pottery production in Kingston had long been known when the first kiln was found, on the east side of Eden Street, approximately 250 metres to the east of the market place. This kiln, excavated in 1968-69, was associated with dumps of whiteware wasters (Hinton and Nelson 1980); three further kilns, producing similar wares, were subsequently found on the same site (Miller and Stephenson 1999). One other whiteware kiln has been excavated to the west of Eden Street in Union Street (alias Eden Walk - *London Archaeologist* 4, no. 11, 289), and another in London Road (*Surrey Archaeol. Soc. Bulletin* 359, July 2002). The area around Eden Street (formerly Heathen Street) and London Road would have been on the south-western outskirts of the town, a marshy area suitable for industrial activity – tanning also took place here. Wasters associated with all these kilns, however, are exclusively of 14th century date, and it seems that earlier kilns in the town remain to be discovered. Documentary sources refer to the supply of 3300 ‘pitchers’ from Kingston to the royal court between 1264 and 1266, and the repertoire of the late 13th century potters of the town can be reconstructed from the range of Kingston-type wares excavated from London (Pearce and Vince 1988, figs. 39-42).

Wherever the earliest whiteware kilns were established, it is apparent that their location in Kingston itself was anomalous, for the simple reason that there is no local source of white-firing clay here – the nearest known outcrops of iron-free clay from the Reading Beds are several miles away. The largest market for Kingston-type wares was always London, and the discovery of a dump of whiteware wasters at Bankside in Southwark, in a fabric identical to the Kingston wasters, tends to support the conclusion that the Kingston industry was founded by potters from London, moving closer to the source of the white-firing clay. Why they chose Kingston is uncertain, but may not be unconnected with the expansion of the town following the construction of the bridge across the Thames in c.1170, and the establishment of the market in 1208. The proximity of the river (for the transport of both raw clay and finished goods) was probably also a contributing factor.

The original potters may have come from London, but the Kingston and London-type industries soon diverged, and Kingston became the centre for the production of a range of highly decorated jugs, with vibrant polychrome motifs, stamped bosses and anthropomorphic forms, produced alongside plainer utilitarian jars, bowls and pipkins. The *floruit* of the industry was in the second half of the 13th and first half of the 14th century, after which Kingston wares declined in popularity in London in the face of competition from rival whiteware industries at Cheam and on the Surrey/Hampshire border. The Eden Street kilns have archaeomagnetic dates in the middle of the 14th century; the Union Street kiln may have been in operation later, perhaps as late as 1375 (Miller and Stephenson 1999, 41).

As well as the local whitewares, Kingston, as a major market, might have been expected to act as the redistribution centre for a number of other wares. While Kingston products were supplying London, London-type wares travelled in the opposite direction (see Pearce *et al.* 1985, figs. 1-3). Products of the various 13th/14th century greyware industries located around

London in Hertfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey are also likely to be represented here, although 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. 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).

Following the demise of the Kingston whiteware industry, the Cheam and Coarse Border ware industries supplied the London market until the middle of the 15th century, as well as satisfying local demand. The Kingston pottery industry, however, had one last flourish, although in a different guise. In 1979 a dump of late 15th/early 16th century redware wasters was found behind the High Street, about 100 metres to the south-west of the market place. Vessel forms included jugs, bunghole pitchers, jars, cauldrons and pipkins, bowls and dishes, and costrels (Hinton and Nelson 1980).

Ceramic sequence

The identification of pre-mid 13th century wares (and particularly 12th century wares or earlier) was crucial in the attempt to pinpoint the earliest activity on the site, particularly for the plots south of the Hogsmill. Three types were identified; flint-tempered and shelly wares occurred in small quantities but the most numerous were the early Surrey coarsewares – all these have a date range starting in the 11th century and extending into the 12th century (Vince and Jenner 1991). To this early group can possibly be added some of the London-type wares, although these wares have a wider date range through the medieval period (early/mid 12th to at least early 14th century) – here they have been dated on the presence/absence of Kingston-type wares (see above; the pre-whiteware London-type wares in Kingston have previously been dated to the early 13th century). None of these early wares occurred in sizeable groups and most appeared to be residual, but in a few instances, including features south of the Hogsmill, were used tentatively to date contexts to the 12th or early 13th century. Interestingly, the relatively small quantities of these early wares recovered from the plot north of the Hogsmill suggest little pre-mid 13th century activity within this area, despite the proximity of the market place, although the street frontage had been removed by later cellaring.

Not surprisingly, the medieval assemblage is dominated by Surrey whitewares, principally Kingston-type wares (62% of the total medieval assemblage by weight). The known period of production spans the mid 13th to mid 14th century, although the differentiation here of later 13th century from early 14th century groups is hampered by the fragmentary nature of the assemblage and small size of context groups, as well as the lack of independent dating evidence. Few complete (or even partial) profiles are reconstructable. Dating is therefore based on the presence of characteristic decoration on jug sherds, and the more diagnostic of the utilitarian forms. The range of decorated jugs present clearly includes highly decorated examples typical of the third quarter of the 13th century, with applied strips, pellets and pads, any of which could be stamped or rouletted, within complex decorative schemes. Polychrome examples are rare, coloured with copper and/or red slip. No anthropomorphic forms were identified, although there is one curled horn from a zoomorphic vessel (see Pearce and Vince 1988, fig. 71, 109). Later 13th century and early 14th century jugs bear less complex decoration – techniques recognised here include the use of stamped bosses.

Apart from jugs, the Kingston-type wares found at Charter Quay illustrate most of the known range of vessel forms (*ibid.*; Miller and Stephenson 1999) – coarseware jars and bowls, and more specialised cooking wares (pipkins, frying pans, dripping dishes) – which span the known period of production (mid 13th to mid 14th century) (see *CQ* p. 17).

London-type wares continue to occur in small quantities alongside the Kingston-type wares; the only other 13th/early 14th century wares found in significant quantities are the coarse greywares, for which potential sources include south Hertfordshire and Limpsfield in east Surrey (Prendergast 1974), or even Kingston itself (see above). These occur almost exclusively in jar and bowl forms, although a single jug handle is present. Imported wares are extremely rare – all sherds were of North French monochrome (probably early 13th century) and most came from plot 2, where all sherds could conceivably come from the same jug, decorated with applied scales.

Very few large mid 13th to mid 14th century groups were recovered – only 11 contexts produced more than 100 grammes of pottery, and the highest total for a single context was 7445 grammes. Five of these contexts are make-up/floor levels behind the High Street frontage in plot 2.

Despite the demonstrable continuity of activity on the site, later medieval wares are comparatively scarce, due at least in part to the increase in the use of vessels in other material types such as metal. There is also a small amount of late London-type ware. The late medieval assemblage is characterised by sparsely decorated jugs, bifid rim jars, and large bunghole jars or jugs. No large groups were recovered – only one context (in Plot 3) produced more than 30 sherds.

The decline in the quantity of pottery recovered continues into the post-medieval period, and there is very little which can be dated later than the 17th century (see *CQ* p. 52). Coarse earthenwares predominate, largely redwares, augmented by whitewares from the Border Ware industry. Some at least of the redwares are likely to have been locally produced; small-scale redware production is attested by a waster dump behind the High Street, dated late 15th/early 16th century (Hinton and Nelson 1980) – the white-slipped examples of these wares are known elsewhere as ‘Guy’s ware’. Other potential redware sources include the Border Ware industry and various kilns in south London.

Other wares occur in very small quantities – German and English stonewares, tinglazed earthenwares and Staffordshire-type slipwares. The impression gained is one of an almost exclusively utilitarian assemblage with very little in the way of finewares. Exotica are limited to a single sherd of Spanish olive jar and two sherds from a North Italian marbled slipware bowl, both from a single 17th century context (a small pit/posthole in evaluation trench 35) – there is little here to reflect the function of Kingston as an inland port at this time. Nor are there any indications of specialised vessel forms in the post-medieval assemblage which might be related to specific craft/industrial functions (a limitation which applies equally to the medieval assemblage).

Table 1: Overall fabric totals

Ware	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Prehistoric	5	35
Romano-British	4	25
Early/middle Saxon	2	12
MEDIEVAL WARES		
<i>Early medieval wares</i>		
Flint-tempered (EMFL)	2	40
Shelly (EMSH)	7	66
Early Surrey wares (ESUR/ESIR)	78	843
<i>Surrey whitewares</i>		
Coarse Border Ware (CBW)	110	1789
Kingston (KING)	2443	35,588
Cheam (CHEA)	130	1217
'Tudor Green' (TUDG)	97	430
<i>London-type wares</i>		
Coarse London-type (LCOAR)	21	389
Fine London-type (LOND)	282	5446
Late London-type (LLON)	26	770
Greywares (inc. LIMP, SHER)	624	8964
Miscellaneous unid. sandy wares	141	1328
Imports (all NFM)	13	144
<i>sub-total medieval</i>	3974	57,014
POST-MEDIEVAL WARES		
<i>Earthenwares</i>		
Cistercian-type (CSTN)	1	4
Coarse redwares (PMCR)	185	7742
Fine redwares (PMR)	22	1027
Black-glazed (PMBL, PMRE)	16	316
Border wares (BORD, ERBORD)	52	926
Kingston-type redwares (inc. PMSR)	59	2928
Slipware (METS)	1	45
<i>Stonewares</i>		
German (AAC, RAER, KOLS, FREC)	23	1306
English (inc. LONS, NOTS)	11	139
Staffordshire-type slipware (STSL)	4	681
Tinglazed earthenware (TGW)	29	264
Chinese porcelain (CHPO)	5	79
Salt-glazed stoneware (SGWW)	5	22
Creamware (CREA)	12	157
Pearlware (PEAR)	4	12
Modern industrial whitewares (TPW; REFW)	3	3
Bone china (BONE)	1	15
Imports (OLIV, NIMS)	3	133
<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	436	15,799
Unidentified	4	23
OVERALL TOTAL	4425	72908

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