## EXCAVATIONS AT WALTON MANOR, WALTON, MILTON KEYNES

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Archaeological investigations carried out during the 1970s and 2003 at the site of an abandoned medieval village in Walton identified a modest rural settlement that underwent a sequence of intensive occupation during the 12th and 13th centuries, decline in the 14th century and desertion in the 15th century. This pattern is seen time and again in the evidence for shrunken and abandoned villages in England and reflects an era of prosperity followed by economic retrenchment.

## INTRODUCTION

In the autumn of 2003, Albion Archaeology carried out archaeological investigations at the site of a new veterinary laboratory located within the former medieval village of Walton, which now forms part of the parish of Walton in the urban area of Milton Keynes.

It was the development of farmland to the northwest of the hamlet of Walton and the construction of one of the New Town's grid roads, the H9 Groveway, during the early 1970s that prompted the first archaeological studies of the area. This led to the discovery of medieval and earlier archaeological remains by the newly formed Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit (Mynard and Woodfield 1977, Mynard 1994).

The 2003 investigations were commissioned by the landowner, Intervet UK Ltd, in order to comply with a condition attached by Milton Keynes Council to the planning permission for the new laboratory. This followed advice received from the Council Archaeological Officer who identified the site as being of archaeological importance.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The parish of Walton lies in the south-eastern quarter of the Milton Keynes urban area (Fig. 1). The site is centred on NGR SP 8891 3666 and encompassed  $c.800m^2$  of land located on the northern edge of a complex of existing laboratories and offices called Walton Manor. This area is located at the junction of the Groveway and Brickhill Street; it is named after Manor Farm which existed at the site prior to its development and was incorporated into the new complex of buildings.

Approximately 330m to the south-west, along the line of the Groveway, lies the river Ouzel. The underlying geology of the area comprises Oxford Clay and Boulder Clay with the land rising from the Ouzel to a height of around 89m OD at the site.

# HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There is no mention of Walton in the Domesday Survey. It is first referenced by name in 1201 when the manor is already divided into two holdings, which passed through the ownership of various families until they were united in 1690.

The pre-urbanised hamlet of Walton was situated off the main road from Newport Pagnell to Fenny Stratford. It comprised a small number of

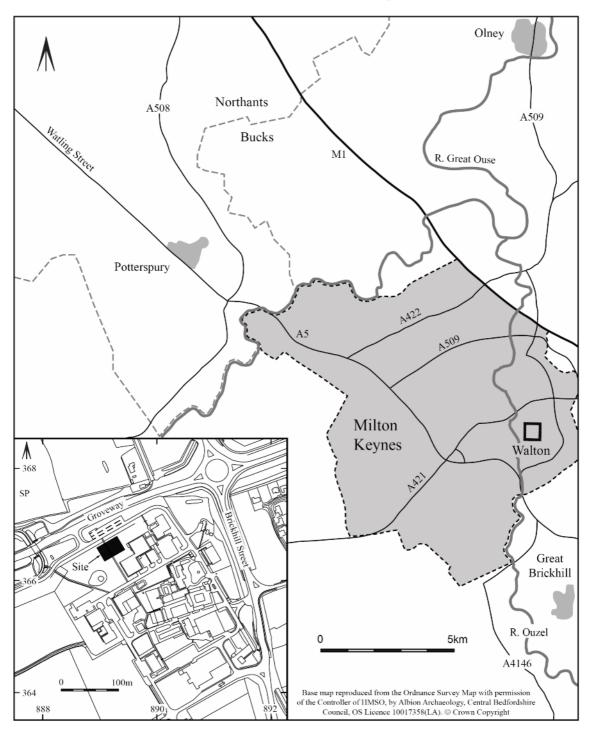


FIGURE 1 Site Location

properties ranged along Walton Road and two farms, Walnut Tree Farm and Manor Farm. The latter was sited at the western end of the hamlet, on the north-western side of the junction of Walton Road with the main road from Newport Pagnell.

The former parish church of St Michael lay some distance to the north-west and dates to the 14th and 15th centuries. Records indicate the existence of a church in Walton in 1190 and during renovation works carried out in 1976 fragments of a 12th-century font and pottery sherds dating to the mid to late 12th century were recovered (Mynard 1994).

### The 1971/2 Investigations

In 1970, proposals by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation to construct the Groveway and build a research laboratory on land to the northwest of Walton prompted the newly formed Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit to carry out a survey of earthworks in the area and conduct limited 'rescue' excavations prior to, and during, the early stages of development.

The earthwork survey (Fig. 2) identified a trackway stretching between two probable greens. On either side of the trackway linear earthworks enclosed what were interpreted as a series of crofts. Four areas across the earthworks were investigated (Areas 1, 2, 3 and 5) and finds were collected from a fifth (Area 4) during building works. The following is a summary of the findings described in Mynard 1994 and Mynard and Wood-field 1977.

A narrow ditch and stony surface interpreted as

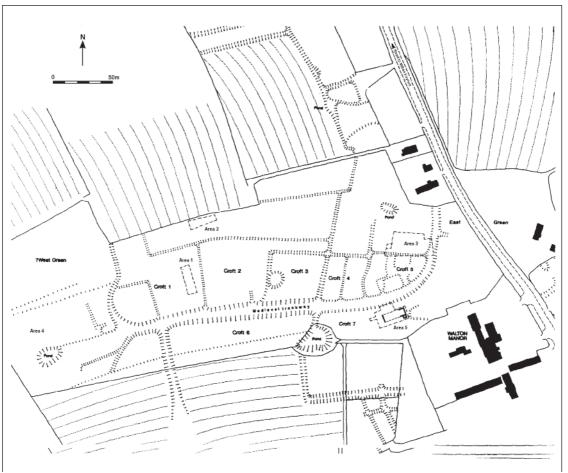


FIGURE 2 1971/2 earthwork survey and excavation areas (based on Mynard 1994, 62)

a road were found in Area 1. Pottery associated with these features dated them to the late 11th to early 12th centuries. The stony surface overlay another ditch, dated to the Roman period. In Area 2, a Roman surface of tile and limestone fragments and a pit were located. The remains dated to the 3rd to mid-4th centuries and pointed to more intensive Roman activity to the north. Area 3 contained ephemeral remains of an L-shaped, timber-framed building, dated to the mid-14th to 15th centuries, and associated cobbled surfaces. The building sealed gullies and pits dating from the late 13th to mid-14th centuries. Evidence of yard surfaces was observed during construction activities on Area 4. These were dated by the collection of surface finds to the mid to late 13th century. A long building, aligned east-west, was uncovered in Area 5. It was at least 20m long and 7m wide. The building was of mixed timber and stone construction, dating to the mid-14th century and was apparently demolished in the 17th century. A large pit beneath the building dated to the mid to late 13th century.

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered during the excavations, representing animals of all ages and sizes. The majority of the assemblage (75%) comprised cattle bones, some with strong muscular ridging possibly indicating working animals. There were very few horse or pig bones, indicating that these animals were not important in the economy of the settlement. Sheep bones (10%) were present but there were no skulls, horncores or metapoidals, suggesting the animals were slaughtered elsewhere. Overall, the animal bone evidence suggested a peasant society that lived on what could be grown or foraged for, with meat appearing in the diet only occasionally.

The ceramic artefact evidence pointed to relatively local acquisition of pottery. Production centres supplying pottery in the early medieval period lay at Olney Hyde and neighbouring centres in the Great Ouse valley to the north-east of the site. An easterly source was also evident in the late medieval material which came from nearby Great Brickhill and neighbouring centres in Bedfordshire. Regional imports were recovered but in insufficient numbers to indicate real trade.

#### The 2003 Investigations

The site of the new laboratory lay within the area designated Croft 4 during the earthwork survey

(Fig. 2). Three trial trenches were initially excavated, revealing a relatively high density of features, mainly boundary or drainage ditches. A large amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the features, along with residual late Iron Age and Roman sherds. Due to the significance of the findings the entire site of the new laboratory was opened for archaeological investigation. The excavations comprised two approximately rectangular areas (1 and 2) measuring a total of 680m<sup>2</sup>. They lay either side of a strip of ground that was left in situ in order to maintain a public access route.

#### Results

The excavation areas contained a large number of well preserved ditches, together with a small number of pits, some probable midden deposits and a small number of possible post holes. The features produced a large quantity of finds, principally pottery but also some animal bone and iron nails.

Analysis of the artefacts suggests that of the seventeen or so ditches found in the excavation areas, two were of Roman origin, or possibly earlier. All other ditches appear to represent boundaries dating from the 12th through to the 14th centuries. After this period, the archaeological evidence suggests that this part of the medieval settlement was abandoned and eventually turned over to cultivation by the 17th century at the latest. The archaeological remains at the site can be divided into five main phases.

## Phase 1: Romano-British boundary ditch (c.AD43–410)

It is probable that the large NNE-SSW aligned ditch G2 dominating excavation Area 1 was Roman in origin (Fig. 3). It was the largest feature on the site, measuring c.1.3m deep and 5.5m wide at its broadest. A good assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from its primary fill. Medieval pottery from later fills suggests it was still a prominent feature during the medieval period. This Roman ditch cut a WSW-ESE aligned ditch G1, which must therefore date to at least to the Roman period or possibly earlier. Unfortunately, no datable artefacts were recovered to confirm its origin.

A handful of residual late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from a number of medieval features across the excavation areas.

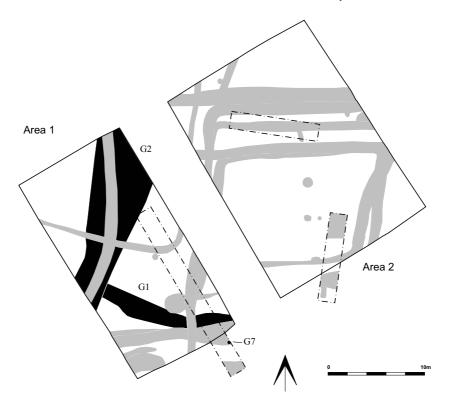


FIGURE 3 Phase 1: Romano-British

# Phase 2: Early medieval settlement (c.1150–1250)

This phase sees the establishment of medieval settlement across the excavation areas. The bulk of the remains comprise a series of boundary ditches on a roughly north-south or east-west alignment, delineating a series of rectilinear enclosures (Fig. 4). As mentioned above, the Roman period ditch G2 was probably still visible at this time, and possibly influenced the positioning of the early medieval boundaries. In Area 2, there appear to be at least five separate cuts and re-cuts (G8-12) to the northernmost east-west ditch. However, the adjoining north-south ditches remain largely in the same position. The overall impression is of a boundary that had moved incrementally northwards by around 7.5m by the end of the early medieval period.

Other features dated to this period include four unremarkable small pits G14 and a deposit G15, possibly representing a midden, containing a small amount of pottery and animal bone.

## Phase 3: High and late medieval settlement (c.1250-1500)

During the 13th century a new boundary layout appears to have been imposed on the area (Fig. 5). The position of the existing north-south ditches was maintained but re-cut (G20) and extended beyond the northern limit of the earlier enclosure system, and a new position for the east-west ditches (G19 and 23) was established. The two central, north-south ditches (G19 and 20) of the new layout possibly formed a narrow trackway about 1m wide. Again, the overall impression is that the enclosure system was shifting or expanding northwards.

The end of this phase of activity demarcates the cessation of settlement at the site, with the latest pottery recovered from midden deposits G22 dating to the 15th century.

## Phase 4: Post-medieval cultivation (c.1500-1750)

Artefacts dating from the 16th to 18th centuries were found in the layer of cultivation soil (G26)

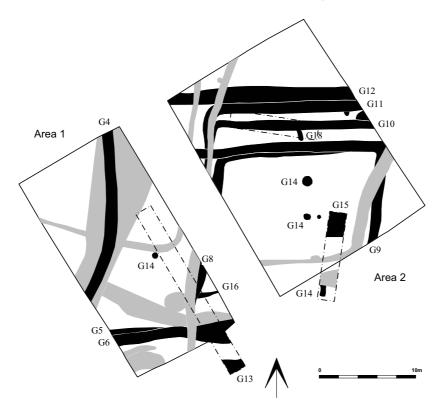


FIGURE 4 Phase 2: Early Medieval

overlying the medieval features, indicating that the area was being worked during that period.

## Phase 5: Modern land use (c.1750 onwards)

The site was probably pasture from the 18th century onwards. The earthworks of Croft 4, a remnant of the medieval boundary ditches, were evidently visible in the 1970s and so could not have been subject to intensive mechanised cultivation. The landscaping of the ground for development in 1972 appears to have largely comprised infilling and covering of earthwork features rather than any significant excavation or levelling.

### Pottery

Anna Slowikowski (with thanks to Barbara Hurman for her many helpful comments and suggestions)

#### Introduction and methodology

A total of 1,230 sherds of pottery, weighing 10.938kg, was recovered: 87% derived from

phased contexts (Tables 1 and 2). Of this assemblage, 18 sherds, weighing 50g, were recovered from samples. The assemblage is similar in character and date to that found during 1971/2 investigations (Mynard 1994).

The pottery was recorded by context, fabric and form following the guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski et al 2001). Quantification was by vessel, sherd count and weight. Sherds obviously broken post-excavation have been counted as one. Rim diameters and EVES (estimated vessels equivalents) were recorded for rim sherds only. Sherds from the same vessel but in different contexts were recorded as a single vessel. The following attributes were also recorded: abrasion, decoration, evidence of use such as sooting and wear marks. Fabric codes were correlated with the Milton Keynes Ceramic Type Series (CTS) but common names are used throughout the report wherever possible (Marney

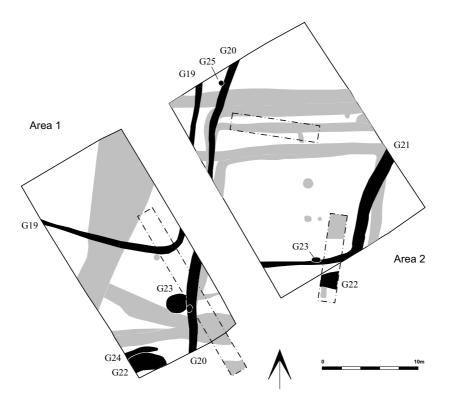


FIGURE 5 Phase 3: High and Late Medieval

1989; Mynard 1992; Mynard 1994).

#### *Condition of the pottery*

The pottery was recovered largely from boundary ditches; no structures were positively identified on the site. Nevertheless, it was in a condition to suggest that occupation occurred nearby, and throughout this report, the term 'occupation site' refers to the original site where the pottery was used, not its eventual site of discard.

There appears to be little post-depositional disturbance. There are at least four vessels with sherds joining across contexts indicating filling at the same time and/or from the same source; three are illustrated (Fig. 6 nos. 1, 4; Fig. 7 no. 14). Phase 2 and 3 midden deposits produced relatively small and battered assemblages but, overall, the site assemblage comprises unabraded sherds which were not left to deteriorate for a long time prior to final dispersal.

#### Chronology

The pottery ranges in date from the late Iron Age to the post-medieval period, with the bulk of it dating to the 12th and 13th centuries.

A single boundary ditch G2 was dated from the pottery to the Roman period (Phase 1). Sherds included nineteen derived from a single vessel in Soft Pink Grogged ware (Fabric 2/R09A), possibly dating to the late Roman period (Table 1). Some residual late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was found in later contexts.

One small sherd of residual Saxon pottery was found on the site. It comprised a jar rim sherd from Phase 3 enclosure ditch G21. Other early residual pottery included a small assemblage of Saxo-Norman pottery, comprising a single Stamfordware sherd (MS19/C12) and a small quantity of St Neots-type ware (SNC1/B01).

Most of the pottery dates to the 12th-late 13th/14th century (Phase 2). It largely comprises Late St Neots type/Early Medieval Shelly ware

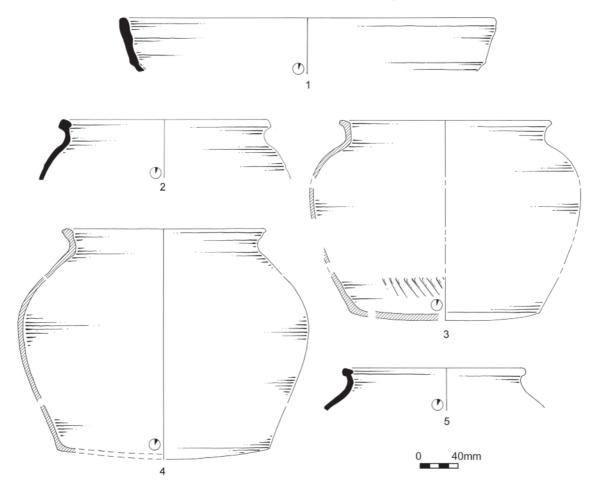


FIGURE 6 Phase 2 Pottery. Scale 1:4

(MC1/B01A) and Medieval Shelly ware (MC3/B07), as well as Medieval Grey Sandy wares (MS3/C01), both hand-made and wheel-thrown (Fig. 6 and Table 2). A single jar rim of Hertford-shire-type Greyware (C60), an uncommon type in the Milton Keynes area, occurred in this phase (Fig. 6, no.5)

Other fabric types dating to the late 13th-14th century included some decorated Brill/Boarstall (MS9/C09/C11) jugs and Potterspury (MS6/TLMS6/C10) jars, jugs and an internally glazed salt/condiment. They are mainly green glazed, although one Brill/Boarstall jug is of baluster shape and is decorated with red applied strips and grid-stamped pellets (Fig. 7, no.13).

The mid-13th to mid-14th century was the

period when highly decorated jugs were most common. Production sites such as Potterspury in Northamptonshire, and Brill and Boarstall in Buckinghamshire, were distributing glazed and decorated jugs throughout the region. These jugs were used on the occupation site but not in large quantities. Bowls and jars were the dominant forms.

Medieval Shelly ware (MC3/B07) was at its peak in the 13th century, still in use after Potterspury ware was introduced in the late 13th century, and continuing well into the 14th and even 15th centuries (Mynard 1994, 87; Slowikowski 2005).

A small quantity of late medieval pottery (Phase 3) was recovered from the site, too small to suggest that nearby occupation continued to the same extent as in the previous phase (Fig. 7 and Table 2).

| Phase | e Group | Description                   | La          | te Iron A   | lge   | Romano-British |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
|-------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------------|-------|----------|--------|-------|--|--|--|
|       |         |                               | <i>F06B</i> | <i>F06C</i> | F22   | R01A           | R05A  | R05B  | R06B    | <i>R06C</i> | R06F  | R09A     | R13    | R40   |  |  |  |
| 1     | 2       | Boundary ditch                |             |             |       |                | 1:1:5 |       | 4:4:266 |             |       | 1:19:222 | 2      |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 4       | V-shaped<br>boundary<br>ditch | 1:1:2       |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 5       | Boundary ditch                |             |             | 1:1:4 |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 7       | Small pit                     | 1:1:4       |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 9       | Enclosure<br>ditch            | 1:1:5       |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 10      | Enclosure 1:<br>ditch         | :1:3        |             |       | 1:1:1          |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 2     | 11      | Enclosure<br>ditch            |             | 1:1:13      |       |                |       |       |         | 1:1:4       |       |          |        | 1:1:5 |  |  |  |
| 2     | 18      | Gully                         |             |             |       | 1:1:3          |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 3     | 19      | Enclosure<br>ditch            |             |             |       |                |       |       |         |             | 1:1:7 |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 3     | 20      | Enclosure<br>ditch            | 1:1:9       |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 3     | 23      | Pit group                     |             |             |       |                |       | 1:1:2 |         | 1:1:5       |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 3     | 24      | Gully                         |             |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          |        |       |  |  |  |
| 4     | 26      | Cultivation soil              |             |             |       |                |       |       |         |             |       |          | 1:1:12 | 2     |  |  |  |

TABLE 1 Late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery by phase and group, quantified by vessel:sherd:weight (g)

Shading indicates pottery contemporary with the phase

The pottery is the plain, utilitarian and domestic Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS3/E01). It is a type found commonly in the region in the late 14th-15th/16th centuries. A source for this pottery could be Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, where kiln waste of this type has been found (Beamish 1989; Slowikowski forthcoming).

Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS3/E01) was found in enclosure ditch G20 and midden deposit G22 in mixed assemblages with wide ranging dates. It is the latest pottery found and possibly indicates the date of final disuse of the occupation site.

## Form and function

The pottery has all the characteristics of a rural,

domestic assemblage, with a preponderance of jars/cooking pots and bowls (Table 3).

The all-purpose jar is the commonest form, particularly in the early medieval period. Sooting on the exterior of 38.46% of these vessels suggests that their primary function was as cooking pots. Their use for cooking decreased in the later medieval period when metal cauldrons became more widespread among the peasantry. Jars are still found in the later medieval fabrics but they are rarely sooted and their main function is for storage or food preparation rather than cooking.

There appears to be a difference in the fabrics used for the different vessels; jars occur more commonly in the sandy wares and bowls in the shelly wares (Table 3).

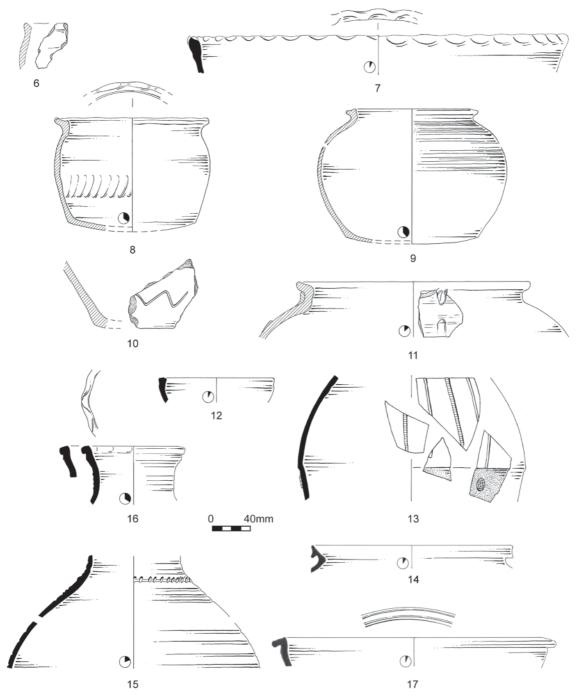


FIGURE 7 Phase 3 Pottery. Scale 1:4

| Fabric             | Jar/<br>cooking pot | Bowl | Jug | Salt/<br>condiment |  |  |
|--------------------|---------------------|------|-----|--------------------|--|--|
| Early Medieval     |                     |      |     |                    |  |  |
| MC1/B01A           | 5                   | 21   | _   | _                  |  |  |
| MC3/MC4/B07        | 15                  | 10   | 10  | _                  |  |  |
| MS3/C01            | 20                  | 1    | _   | _                  |  |  |
| ?MS34/C03          | 2                   | _    | _   | _                  |  |  |
| MSC1/C61           | 2                   | _    | _   | _                  |  |  |
| ?MSC34/C04         | 6                   | 1    | _   | _                  |  |  |
| Total              | 50                  | 33   | 10  | 0                  |  |  |
| High/Late Medieval |                     |      |     |                    |  |  |
| C60                | 1                   | _    | 1   | _                  |  |  |
| MS9/C09            | _                   | 1    | 6   | 1                  |  |  |
| MS9/C11            | _                   | _    | 5   | _                  |  |  |
| MS6/TLMS6/C10      | 4                   | 4    | 8   | _                  |  |  |
| TLMS/C05           | 13                  | _    | 2   | _                  |  |  |
| TLMS3/E01          | 6                   | 5    | _   | _                  |  |  |
| Total              | 25                  | 10   | 22  | 1                  |  |  |

TABLE 2 Post-Roman pottery by phase and group, quantified by vessel:sherd:weight (g)

The large quantity of wide-diameter bowls (e.g. Fig. 7, no. 7), with rim diameters in the region of 280–360mm, suggests dairying was being carried out on the occupation site. They occur predominantly in the shelly wares (MC1/B01A and MC3/MC4/B07), possibly because their open porous fabric helps to keep the contents cool.

Eleven examples of Medieval Shelly ware (MC4/B07 – shell and limestone type) have a thick white residue on the interior of the base. This might be lime scale resulting from the heating of domestic water; there is evidence that at least one vessel was heated as the underside and angle of the base are burnt. It might also be a deliberate attempt at improving the water-tightness of the vessel, shelly vessels being extremely porous, as suggested at Northampton (Denham 1985, 54).

Early medieval jugs are plain and unglazed, all of them occurring in Medieval Shelly ware (MC3/B07). A single decorated sherd is from a jug shoulder and has rectangular rouletting. Containers would have been needed for carrying and storing liquids and it has to be supposed that they were made of other, probably, organic materials.

Other than jars, bowls and jugs the only other form found is a small internally glazed vessel in Brill/Boarstall ware (MS9/C09). It might be part of a salt/condiment, either of which are high status vessels and unlikely to be used routinely by poor peasants. By the late 14th century, however, the increased wealth of the rural population allowed them to aspire to the outward show and accoutrements of their lords and the use of salt and its purpose-made containers was part of this phenomenon.

Decoration is sparse, but includes thumbing on the rim (Fig. 7, nos. 7-8), simple incised or combed wavy lines (Fig. 7, no. 10), rilling, or applied thumbed strips (Fig. 7, no. 11) on jars of early medieval date. Glazed vessels are generally rare on the site, although the later finer jugs of Brill/Boarstall type (MS9/C09/C11) are glazed and decorated (Fig. 7 no. 13); they have a start date in the mid-late 13th century when there was a tradition of highly decorated jugs. In addition to glaze on later medieval jugs, simple decorative motifs occur in the form of slashed strap handles or incised wavy lines on the body.

At the end of the 14th century, Late Medieval Reduced wares (TLMS/C05 and TLMS3/E01) are found, but only in small quantity. These are plain and unglazed vessels, decorated simply with horizontal grooves or the occasional stabbing (Fig. 7, no.15). They continued to be made locally throughout the 15th century, suggesting a date when the decline of the occupation site may have occurred.

The use of ceramic jugs increased in the later medieval period and they occur on the site in a wide variety of fabrics, including glazed Brill/Boarstall (MS9/C09/C11) and Potterspury wares (MS6/TLMS6/C10), as well as the plainer, more utilitarian Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS/C05).

## Sources of the pottery

The range of fabrics is limited, reflecting both the short lifespan of the settlement and the paucity of sources for most of the pottery. Presumably these sources were local and supplied Walton and other neighbouring settlements.

The bulk of the shelly wares come from a single source or area, probably Olney Hyde in Buckinghamshire, or maybe from some other unknown but nearby source. There are some sherds that might be from Harrold in Bedfordshire. It seems that Olney Hyde and Harrold were not in direct competition; they appear to have had their own markets. Very crudely, Harrold wares were dominant in Bedfordshire and probably Northamptonshire, while Olney Hyde wares supplied Buckinghamshire.

A single sherd of Hertfordshire-type greyware was found (Fig. 6, no. 5). There was large-scale production of this type of pottery on a number of kiln sites in south Hertfordshire throughout the late 12th and 13th centuries. These sites were marketing their wares southwards and they were one of the chief suppliers of the London markets; it is rarely found this far north.

In the late 13th and 14th/15th centuries, glazed wares were obtained from Brill and Boarstall in Buckinghamshire (Fig. 7, no. 13). Marketing of pottery from these two adjoining centres was highly organised and they became the dominant source of decorated jugs in the region. Other contemporary wares found on the site include a jar from Potterspury in Northamptonshire (Fig. 7, no. 14), another type with a wide regional distribution.

In the high/late medieval period, new production centres spring up, producing the plain, utilitarian Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS/C05 and TLMS3/E01), ubiquitous on sites in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire from about the late 14th and throughout the 15th centuries (Fig. 7, nos. 15-17). A number of production sites are known from the region, the nearest to Walton being Great Brickhill (Slowikowski forth-coming). Similarities in form and fabric to wasters found there, as well as its close proximity, make it a candidate for the source of the Late Medieval Reduced wares from Walton.

#### Catalogue of illustrated pottery

(Fig. 6 nos. 1-5)

- Early Medieval Shelly ware (MC1/B01A) bowl. G5 (418) 2 sherds, 55g.
- 2. Later Medieval Shelly ware (MC3/B07) jar. G6 (311) 1 sherd, 42g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, patchy sooted exterior. G10 (115) 11 sherds, 93g; G11 (113) 9 sherds, 76g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, sooted exterior. G5 (418) 8 sherds, 99g; G6 (416) 3 sherds, 27g.
- 5. Hertfordshire-type greyware (C60) jar, rim comparable to no. 2. G14 (208) 1 sherd, 42g.

(Fig. 7 nos. 6-17)

- Saxon Coarse Sandy ware (A3/A16) jar. G21 (206) 1 sherd, 7g.
- 7. Later Shelly ware (MC3/B07) bowl, rim distorted by thumbing; sooted exterior. G20 (577) 1 sherd, 32g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, sooted exterior and patchy sooted interior; thumbed decoration on top of rim, finger marks clearly visible on interior surface; full profile. G21 (513) 14 sherds, 168g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, sooted exterior, full profile. G20 (305) 30 sherds, 366g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, oxidised, sooted exterior, incised wavy line above base. G21 (206) 1 sherd, 62g.
- Medieval Grey Sandy ware (MS3/C01) jar, vertical strip applied unevenly. G21 (553) 8 sherds, 149g.
- Brill/Boarstall ware (MS9/C09) possible salt/ condiment, pink fabric, yellow-green internal glaze. G21 (206) 1 sherd, 8g.
- Brill/Boarstall ware (MS9/C11) baluster jug, white fabric, alternate red and self-coloured applied strips on shoulder and row of grid-stamped pellets in a darker central area. G21 (206) 4 sherds, 78g.
- Potterspury ware (MS6/TLMS6/C10) jar, spots of clear glaze on exterior. G20 (305) 7 sherds, 100g; unphased (317) 2 sherds, 58g.
- Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS/C05) jug, row of stabbing on neck, horizontal grooves on neck and body. G23 (539) 2 sherds, 73g.
- 16. Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS/C05) jug with

| Phase Group |          | Description A-         | S  | <i>S</i> | Ν     | Early Medieval (12th-13th centuries) |                  |           |           |        |        |            |        |        | High / Late Medieval (late 13th-15th centuries) |        |        |           |           |          |
|-------------|----------|------------------------|----|----------|-------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|------------|--------|--------|---|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|----------|
|             |          | A                      | 6  | B01      | C12   | B01A                                 | <i>B07</i>       | C01       | C03       | C61    | B09    | <i>C04</i> | C75    | С      | C60   | C09    | C11    | C10       | C05       | E01      |
| 2           | 3        | Upper fill<br>ditch G2 |    |          |       | 4:4:13                               | 3:3:12           | 2:2:20    | 1:1:9     |        |        |            |        |        |   |        | 3:3:32 |           |           |          |
| 2           | 4        | Boundary<br>ditch      |    |          |       |                                      | 1:1:5            | 3:4:23    |           |        |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 5        | Boundary<br>ditch      |    |          |       | 3:6:123                              | 3:7:71           | 6:13:113  | 2:2:3     | 3:3:4  |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 6        | Boundary<br>ditch      | 1  | 1:1:2    |       | 5:5:31                               | 21:33:294        | 19:22:128 | 3:3:10    | 3:3:33 |        |            |        |        | 2:2:6   |        |        |           | 1:1:10    |          |
| 2           | 8        | Enclosure<br>ditch     |    |          |       | 3:3:15                               | 5:5:77           | 2:2:3     |           |        |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 9        | Enclosure<br>ditch     |    |          |       | 6:7:54                               | 4:8:37           | 9:9:70    |           |        |        |            | 1:1:12 |        |   |        |        | 1:1:8     |           |          |
| 2           | 10       | Enclosure<br>ditch     | 3  | 3:3:6    |       | 3:4:74                               | 7:8:61           | 17:37:360 | 2:2:23    |        | 1:2:10 |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 11       | Enclosure<br>ditch     |    |          |       | 5:5:12                               | 5:5:24           | 7:16:114  |           | 1:1:2  |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 12       | Boundary<br>ditch      |    |          |       |                                      |                  | 2:2:11    |           |        |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 13       | Ditch                  |    |          |       |                                      | 6:6:100          | 6:6:60    |           |        |        |            |        | 1:1:47 |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 14       | Pit group              |    |          |       | 1:1:5                                | 6:6:13           | 10:20:220 | 1:1:10    |        |        |            | 1:1:4  |        | 1:1:42  |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 15       | Midden<br>deposit      |    |          | 1:1:2 | 2:2:7                                | 3:3:32           | 5:5:49    | 2:2:3     | 1:1:11 |        |            |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 2           | 16       | Gully                  |    |          |       | 1:2:31                               | 6:6:31           | 1:2:9     | 1:1:3     |        |        | 3:3:35     |        |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |
| 3           | 19       | Enclosure<br>ditch     |    |          |       |                                      | 12:18:138        | 8:8:28    | 2:2:3     |        |        | 1:1:4      |        |        |   |        |        | 4:4:28    |           |          |
| 3           | 20       | Enclosure<br>ditch     |    |          | 1     | 8:19:214                             | 43:53:431        | 42:83:725 | 15:20:170 | 3:3:13 | 2:2:11 | 7:11:117   | 1:1:3  |        | 6:10:47   | 3:4:10 |        | 17:32:335 | 15:15:80  | 8:12:110 |
| 3           | 21       | Enclosure 1:1<br>ditch | :7 | 1:1:4    | 1:1:3 | 1:19:337                             | 37:64:629        | 44:84:803 | 2:2:14    | 5:5:75 |        |            | 1:1:11 | 1:1:17 | 3:3:17  | 4:7:82 | 1:1:78 | 12:12:82  | 41:46:299 |          |
| 3           | 22       | Midden<br>deposit      |    |          |       | 1:1:2                                | 17:21:191        | 11:11:77  | 3:3:22    |        |        | 6:10:39    |        | 2:2:3  | 1:8:62  | 1:1:2  |        | 12:21:123 |           | 17:19:14 |
| 3<br>3      | 23<br>24 | Pit group<br>Gully     |    |          |       | 3:3:63                               | 1:1:35<br>1:3:38 | 3:3:28    | 6:6:41    |        |        | 3:3:12     |        |        | 2:2:5   | 2:2:13 | 1:1:51 | 2:2:44    | 17:26:217 |          |
| 4           | 26       | Cultivation soil       |    |          | 1:1:2 |                                      | 3:8:72           | 3:4:51    | 9:9:79    | 1:1:6  |        |            | 1:1:7  |        |   |        |        |           |           |          |

TABLE 3 Medieval fabrics with identifiable forms (by vessel count)

Key: A-S – Anglo-Saxon; S-N – Saxo-Norman (10th-11th centuries) Shading indicates pottery contemporary with the phase small pulled lip. G21 (206) 6 sherds, 19g.

 Late Medieval Reduced ware (TLMS3/E01) bowl, possibly from Brickhill. G22 (209) 2 sherds, 27g.

## Other finds

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## Animal bone

An assemblage of 469 fragments, weighing 6.1kg, was hand-collected during excavation or identified in the sieved residues of environmental samples. Although the assemblage is generally fragmentary, evidenced by an average fragment weight of 13g, the material survives in moderate to good condition, with little surface erosion or evidence of gnawing.

Animal bone was identified in deposits from Phases 1-3. Among the fragments identified to species, cattle remains are the most abundant, followed by sheep/goat. A cock spur represents the only bird bone to be identified. Most specimens appear to derive from adult animals, although juvenile and sub-adult animals are also present.

Approximately 60% (by weight) of the faunal assemblage derived from Phase 1 land boundaries, which yielded 273 fragments, weighing 3,658g. Diagnostic elements comprise cow mandible, skull, horn core, vertebrae, ribs, and long bone fragments.

A total of 66 fragments weighing 967g derived from boundaries, enclosures and settlement-related features assigned to Phase 2. The assemblage is largely indeterminate of species, comprising undiagnostic vertebrae and long bone fragments, and a single cow tooth.

Boundary enclosures and settlement features assigned to Phase 3 yielded 130 fragments, weighing 1,480g. Diagnostic elements comprise sheep/goat mandible, skull, rib, vertebrae and long bone fragments, and a cock spur. Cut marks are evident on one bone of indeterminate species, and two fragments recovered from environmental sample 1 are burnt.

#### Ceramic building material

Ten fragments, weighing 545g, of ceramic building material were recovered, including two fragments of Roman tegula, seven fragments of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile and a single abraded fragment of possible 13th-century shelly (B07) roof tile. This last might equally be a fragment from a thick-bodied pottery vessel. A small fragment of fired clay, weighing 2g, was found.

#### Miscellaneous artefacts

The assemblage comprises sixteen iron objects, two copper alloy artefacts and single worked bone and stone items. The majority of the assemblage derives from Phase 3 enclosure systems and comprises a disparate, largely undatable group of artefacts.

An incomplete iron looped staple (RA 9) was recovered from the large Phase 1 boundary ditch. It is not typologically datable, although its association with a quantity of Roman pottery suggests it may be of similar date.

Phase 2 boundary/enclosure ditches yielded incomplete examples of a bone sewing or weaving needle (RA 6) and a flat-headed iron timber nail (RA 13), neither of which are closely datable.

Phase 3 boundary enclosures and settlement features yielded nine iron objects, comprising the remains of six iron timber nails, a strip or rod fragment (RA 2), a rectangular staple (RA 1), and a stapled hasp (RA 3), the latter dating to the 11th-14th centuries. A portion of a lava rotary quern (RA 5), a commonly occurring type during both the Roman and medieval periods, was also identified. Its recovery in association with pottery of early and high medieval date may suggest a similar date for the quern, although this cannot be demonstrated with any certainty.

Phase 4 cultivation layers contained an incomplete flat-headed iron timber nail (RA 12) and a copper alloy shoe buckle with a single loop frame (RA 15), the latter dating to the 14th-15th centuries.

#### **Discussion and conclusions**

The findings from the 2003 excavations reinforce and complement the conclusions drawn about the site, following the 1970s investigations.

A period of late Roman settlement is followed by c.600 years of abandonment before the land is re-settled after the Norman Conquest. Settlement and division of land intensified during the 12th and 13th centuries. The artefact evidence shows this settlement to be busy, typically rural, domestic and modest. The economy is based upon agriculture and livestock with an emphasis on dairy produce, and domestic goods are simple and sourced locally.

The character of settlement changes markedly

during the 14th century. There is a phase of housebuilding and a revision of property boundaries. However, overall activity is much reduced suggesting fewer people are sustained by the land. The material culture is still predominantly that of a community of relatively low income with a farming-based economy.

By the end of the 15th century the settlement has largely been abandoned. Evidence for domestic activity is curtailed and houses have been deserted, although there is evidence that at least one building survived into the 17th century. The land appears to have been returned to cultivation during the postmedieval period, reverting to pasture in the 18th century.

Walton Manor is one of a number of medieval settlements, represented by earthworks in the Milton Keynes area. Other examples similar to Walton are the Willen moat and village earthworks and the Woughton village earthworks (Croft and Mynard 1993). Excavations at Woughton showed settlement evidence dating from the late 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. At Willen a large quantity of pottery, mainly dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was found within the crofts, indicating that they were occupied, though no house structures were revealed. Excavations at the Willen moat found evidence for a 13<sup>th</sup> century surface above a Roman ditch.

The site most similar in nature to Walton is Caldecotte, 1.3km to the south of Walton Manor. Here, a similar set of earthworks and moat was investigated over a period of 25 years (Zeepvat, Roberts and King 1994). Excavations within some of the crofts of the village earthworks took place in 1990 and identified a number of timber structures. Artefact evidence indicated a short-lived settlement, probably of fairly low status, that was in use between the late 13<sup>th</sup> to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. In contrast to Walton, Caldecotte saw a revival of occupation in the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, though this too was brief.

This sequence of settlement is typical of that which occurred in many parts of lowland England. A period of settlement creation and expansion occurs during the 12th and 13th centuries, probably brought about by an increase in the population. By 1300, the patterns of new settlement have been established showing the landscape was being intensively utilised (Rowley 1978).

The expansion of the early medieval period is followed by the decline and abandonment of settle-

ments. This corresponds with a period in medieval history when there was widespread disease, economic decline and agricultural recession. This was a relatively gradual process up until the mid-15th century when the decline intensified, possibly reflecting a change of land use from arable to grass to satisfy the demand for wool, and the consequent reduction in the required labour force.

In the Milton Keynes area Croft and Mynard note that the medieval villages which continued to flourish after the 15<sup>th</sup> century were all situated in favourable locations. The villages of Wolverton, Great Linford and Newport Pagnell, for example, all occupied prominent locations overlooking the Great Ouse valley and continued in occupation, while the village of Stantonbury, which lay adjacent to the flood plain, was abandoned (Croft and Mynard 1993, 19). Similarly, Caldecotte is situated just above the floodplain of the river Ouzel, while Walton is located on heavy clay loam soils. This marginal situation may have been a cause of their abandonment, set within the wider social and economic framework that led to settlement contraction occurring in Britain throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Acknowledgements

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Intervet UK Ltd for funding this project and contributing to the cost of publication.

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# APPENDIX: POTTERY FABRIC DESCRIPTIONS

Roman fabrics in the Milton Keynes CTS are described by Marney (1989) and post-Roman fabrics by Mynard (1992; 1994). Bedfordshire CTS codes have been added in brackets to allow correlation with the archive record. A number of fabrics do not appear as separate types in the Milton Keynes CTS. Where enough survives to define the type, this has been added to the CTS; otherwise the types are described separately below. Fabrics are arranged in broad chronological order.

Late Iron Age and Roman

Grog-tempered ware (F06B and F06C)

Marney fabric 46

Late Iron Age and early Roman in date, this type is fully described and discussed by Thompson (1982).

Forms: all sherds recovered were small and abraded, although at least three were from cordoned jars.

Grog and Organic (F22)

Marney fabric 46

Forms: a single small, abraded sherd was recovered.

#### Shelly ware (R13)

Marney fabric 1

Forms: a single thick body sherd, possibly from a storage jar. A possible source is the kiln site at Harrold, north Bedfordshire, which was in production throughout the Roman period but at its height in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Brown 1994). Soft Pink Grogged (R09A) Marney fabric 2

Forms: nineteen sherds from a single unidentifiable vessel, weighing 222g, were found. This pottery type has a wide distribution throughout the region and beyond, but is a product local to the Milton Keynes area. It ranges in date from the late 2nd to 4th centuries but was at its peak in the 3rd century.

Samian ware (R01A) Un-coded by Marney Forms: a single tiny sherd was recovered, much abraded but possibly central Gaulish in origin.

Orange sandy ware (R05A and R05B) Marney fabric 41

Forms: this category encompasses a range of orange sandy wares dating from the 2nd to 4th centuries. The three small undiagnostic sherds are more likely to be towards the end of the date range.

<u>Greywares (R06B, R06C and R06F)</u> ?Marney fabric 14

Forms: forms recognised on the site were a beaker and two flanged bowls, dating to the late Roman period. This is a diverse category of greywares with a variety of sources, possibly in the upper Nene Valley.

Reduced Sandy ware (R40) ?Marney fabric 43

Forms: principally an early 2nd-century fabric. The single sherd found on the site is from a cordoned jar, a form more commonly found in grogged fabrics (see Grog-tempered ware above). An assemblage of pottery in a similar sandy fabric has been recently excavated at Woburn, Bedfordshire, approximately 7 km away (Albion Arch in prep). This assemblage contained wasters, suggesting the presence of a production site near by, which could be a possible source for at least some of the sandy wares from Milton Keynes, including Walton.

#### Anglo-Saxon

A3 Coarse sandy (A16) The fabric is described by Pearson (1992, 243) and dated to the early to middle Saxon period.

Forms: a single jar rim was found. Illustrations: Fig.7, no. 6 Saxo-Norman (10th-11th centuries)

#### SNC1 St Neots-type ware (B01)

Described by Mynard (1992, 249), this type reached its peak in the 10th and 11th centuries.

Forms: six small undiagnostic sherds were found, possibly residual.

#### MS19 Stamford ware (C12)

Two examples were found, one a fine pink fabric with a thick dark yellow external glaze, and the other a fine white fabric, unglazed. This type is fully described and discussed by Kilmurray (1980).

Forms: two undiagnostic sherds were found, although the unglazed sherd might be from a jar. Dated to the 11th-12th centuries.

#### *Early Medieval (12th-13th centuries)*

MC1 Early Medieval shelly ware (B01A and B01A 'brown variant')

Two fabric sub-groups are included within this type. The first is generally an orange-brown shelly fabric, as described by Mynard (1992, 251). The second sub-group has previously not been distinguished in the MK CTS and appears to have been included within the MC1 fabric description. It is a hard-fired fabric, light chocolate-brown with darker brown-grey exterior surface and a light grey core. Densely packed with elongated shell fragments, up to 1.5mm, and sub-rounded limestone, up to 2.0mm. Very rare red iron ore, c.0.5mm, is seen in oxidised areas.

The affinity of the MC1 fabrics with both St Neotstype ware and the later shelly wares (MC3/B07 below), and their dating of 10/11th to mid-13th centuries suggest a transitional Saxo-Norman/Medieval type. The 'brown variant' occurs at about the same date in Bedfordshire, where it is defined as a late version of St Neots-type ware (Slowikowski in prep).

Forms: the majority of forms are bowls, generally with large diameters, 260-360mm, and rounded or slightly thickened rims. Examples from the site are shallow with a carination on the body. There are at least two 'top-hat' jars of the same form as those published by Ivens *et al* (e.g. 1995, 256, fig.125 no.2). Other jars have plain everted rims. Neither the bowls nor the jars are decorated in any way.

Illustrations: Fig. 6, no. 1

#### MC3 Later Medieval shelly ware (B07)

Published by Mynard (1992, 253) as 'Olney Hyde A ware' and subsequently (1994, 86) as 'Later Medieval Shelly ware'. The pottery from this assemblage is unlike the pottery from the Olney Hyde production site, in its relative hardness; Olney Hyde is much softer (B.

Hurman pers comm.). The pottery from consumption sites, however, is likely to be different to that found on production sites due to the prevalence of wasters and poorly fired pieces on the production site. Therefore, Olney Hyde is still a possible source, due to its proximity, but the wide variation in the fabrics suggests other as yet unrecognised sources.

Forms: jars, bowls and jugs are present. Bowls have large diameters, ranging from 280–360mm, with rounded or slightly thickened rims as for MC1; one has fingering along the top. The few jugs that were found have plain wide strap handles. With the exception of thumbed rim noted above, all other vessels are plain and undecorated. Illustrations: Fig. 6, no. 2; Fig. 7, no. 7

<u>MC4 Medieval shelly ware (B07 – shell and limestone)</u> This type has similarities to both Medieval shelly ware MC3 and Lyveden ware MSC4, but does not appear to have been described in the MK CTS. It has been allocated a new code and sherd examples have been lodged with Buckinghamshire County Museum and the British Museum.

Very hard, can be quite harsh and brittle, its hardness is a characteristic trait. It is less shelly than either Harrold or Olney Hyde, with abundant off-white subrounded calcareous inclusions, probably limestone, varying in size from fine, less than 0.1mm, to quite coarse, when the calcareous inclusions are up to 2.0mm. Other inclusions are rare: occasional fragments of red iron ore or rounded quartz. It is usually buff-orange in colour, although at least one example is reduced internally to a mid-grey.

Forms: jars, bowls and jugs occur in this fabric. The one bowl found is similar to the large diameter, roundedrimmed vessels in MC1 Early Medieval Shelly ware. The only jug has a wide strap handle.

#### MSC3 No common name (B07 - sparse shell)

Similar to MC3 Medieval shelly ware, but with sparser shell and more quartz. Described by Mynard (1992, 258) as a possible precursor to Potterspury ware and dated to 12th to 13th centuries.

Forms: only three undiagnostic sherds were found

## MS3 Medieval Grey Sandy ware (C01 Early medieval sandy)

Can be either reduced or oxidised throughout but more usually orange-brown to light grey, often patchy with light grey core. Harsh, 'emery board' texture, surfaces are easily rubbed away. It is hard fired with a hackly fracture; abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded quartz inclusions, 0.3–0.7mm. Occasional large rounded quartz grains up to 1.5mm and rare pebbles up to 5.0mm. Rare

rounded black inclusions possibly iron ore, c.0.2mm, and black 'smudges' where organic matter has fired out incompletely. It belongs to the same early medieval sandy tradition as fabrics C01 in north Bedfordshire, C59B in south Bedfordshire and possibly also EMS in London. Mynard (1992, 260) gives this fabric type a wide date range of mid-11th to early 15th centuries, but on this site it is likely to be at the earlier end of the range.

Forms: primarily hand-made, unglazed jars with frequent signs of external sooting, this was the basic cooking pot. A single bowl was also found, but no jugs. Vessels are simply decorated, if at all, and motifs are limited to vertical strips very roughly applied (Fig. 7, no. 11); incised wavy lines on the body (Fig. 7, no. 10) (on the illustrated example the decoration extends to the lower part of the body although on other sherds it appears to only occur on the shoulder); facetting on the rim (Fig. 7, no. 8).

Illustrations: Fig. 6, nos. 3-4; Fig. 7, nos. 8-11

#### MSC1 Reduced sand and calcareous inclusions (C61)

Hard, reduced to dark grey with grey core and thin buffbrown margins. Fairly smooth and fine. Tiny white speckles visible on the surfaces, small rounded calcareous inclusions, c.0.5mm. Fine sub-rounded quartz is common, 0.3-0.5mm. Rare black voids where organic matter has imperfectly fired out.

Forms: a single jar with rectangular rim and rilled grooves on the shoulder. Dated by Mynard (1992, 256) to the late 11th to mid-13th centuries.

#### Sand and shell (C)

Harsh, quite hard fired, orange or mid-grey surfaces, depending on degree of oxidation/reduction, with a midgrey core. This is a very mixed fabric with a hackly fracture. Inclusions are abundant sub-rounded quartz, 0.3-0.5mm, and shell, seen as elongated white inclusions, much rarer than the quartz but large, *c*.5.0mm long. Rare lumps of limestone, *c*.3.0mm, or flint, *c*.4.0mm, and black voids where organic mater has imperfectly fired out; black and red iron ore, up to 0.5mm, the red being larger than the black.

Forms: a single jar and an undiagnostic body sherd were found. This type does not appear in the Milton Keynes CTS as a separate fabric; it may have been incorporated into one of the other sand and calcareous wares. The form of the jar suggests an early medieval date, possibly 12th century.

#### MSC4 Lyveden ware (B09)

Hard fired, orange-brown to grey with smooth surfaces and clearly visible white speckles. Inclusions are abundant rounded limestone, most of which is oolitic, 0.3-0.7mm, with oolites *c*.1.0mm. Sparse sub-rounded and rounded quartz, 0.5-1.0mm, and sparse red iron ore, particularly seen on oxidised surfaces, *c*.0.5mm. A very distinctive fabric, it is found in small quantities on the site.

Forms: body sherds only.

#### ?MS34 Reduced sandy (C03)

Hard thin walled, coarse textured fabric but with well smoothed surfaces. Reduced to dark grey with occasional thin buff margins. Abundant sub-rounded quartz, 0.2–0.5mm. Rare small black and red inclusions 0.1–0.5mm, possibly iron ore, the black inclusions being smaller than the red.

Forms: bases and base angles are very thin, possibly hand-made. Two jars were positively identified although it is likely that the other body sherds are also from jars. All are unglazed with decoration limited to shallow horizontal grooves on the shoulder and one example has a vertical thumbed strip applied across the grooves. This type has similarities to MS34 which is dated by Ivens *et al* (1995, 265) to the 14th to 15th centuries. Its contexts (Table 1) and the possibility that at least some of the vessels are hand made suggests an earlier date, possibly in the late 12th or 13th centuries.

#### ?MS34 Reduced sandy (C04)

Reduced to dark grey throughout, with occasional buff margins. Hard and rough, with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded quartz, *c*.0.5mm, clearly visible to the naked eye against the dark grey, slightly micaceous back-ground. Occasional sparse red iron ore, generally 0.2–0.5mm is visible in oxidised areas. Some sherds have a characteristic 'pimply' appearance, the result of smoothing the surfaces with a wet hand.

Forms: a bowl and four jars were recognised. The vessels are relatively plain and unglazed, with decoration limited to occasional rilling and thumbed vertical strips applied to a single jar. Dated by Ivens *et al* (1995, 265) to the 14th to 15th centuries.

#### Hertfordshire-type greyware (C60)

A hard fabric with a hackly fracture, fairly wellsmoothed surfaces, reduced throughout generally to light grey although darker shades occur. Frequent subrounded quartz is the dominant inclusions, 0.3-0.7mm. Occasional rounded black inclusions can be seen, 0.1-0.3mm. There is some variation in the fabric with occasional black elongated organic patches, c.0.5mm, and, rarely, sparse but large flint inclusions, up to 3.0mm. Occasionally, the quartz is very coarse and white in colour. Forms: a single form was recognised, a jar with an inturned rim. All other sherds are undiagnostic body sherds but likely to also derive from jars. One vessel, comprising only body sherds, has a particularly coarse fabric and is decorated with horizontal grooves. An early Hertfordshire greyware in a coarse fabric containing flint inclusions was found at St Albans Abbey and dated to the 12th century (Havercroft, Turner-Rugg and Rugg 1987, 31). The sherds found on the site might have a similar date.

#### Illustrations: Fig. 6, no. 5

#### Mica and calcareous inclusions (C75)

Hard, coarse fabric but with well-smoothed surfaces, orange-brown to grey in colour, sometimes patchy. A very micaceous fabric characterised by large, sub-rounded lumps of decayed limestone, white or grey in colour, 0.3–1.0mm; fine mica and small calcareous inclusions are particularly visible on the surfaces. Sub-rounded quartz, 0.5–1.0mm, is rare.

Forms: undiagnostic body sherds. The small quantities make it difficult to define but it does not appear to be described in the Milton Keynes CTS as a separate fabric. Dating is problematic as it is found in contexts with mixed assemblages, where it might be residual.

#### High/Late Medieval (late 13th-15th centuries)

#### MS9 Brill/Boarstall (C09 and C11)

A hard fabric, fairly smooth light grey with a pinky-buff surface (coded C09) or slightly coarser and buff-white in colour (coded C11). Frequent sub-rounded quartz inclusions, 0.2–0.5mm, occasional limestone lumps, *c*.0.5mm but can be up to 1.5mm; moderate rounded black iron ore, 0.3–0.5mm.

Forms: jugs are the commonest form although a single small bowl with an internal yellowish green glaze was also found; this may be part of a salt/condiment. One sherd has a thick coating of dull olive green with the appearance of a 'splashed glaze' (i.e. sprinkled on in the form of a powder), with the result that the surface is pock-marked with an 'orange-peel' appearance. The olive green glaze is characteristic of the later medieval period (B. Hurman pers. comm.), but the 'splashed' glazing is common on early medieval jugs. The more usual glaze on this fabric type is coloured green with copper, often speckled. One baluster jug is decorated with applied red strips and stamped grid pellets. Dated mid-13th century at the earliest but continuing into the 15th century. The decorated jug is likely to be late 13thearly 14th century, a period when highly decorated jugs were common.

Illustrations: Fig. 7, nos. 12-13

#### MS6/TLMS6 Potterspury ware (C10)

Described by Mynard (1992, 262), this is a common type occurring on sites in the Milton Keynes area. It was manufactured in Potterspury, Northamptonshire, approximately 16km away. It has a wide date range, occurring first at the end of the 13th century and reaching its height of popularity in the 15th century.

Forms: jars, bowls and jugs were found. Generally undecorated but for a single occurrence of incised wavy lines on a bowl and slashing on a jug handle. Illustrations: Fig. 7, no. 14

#### TLMS Late Medieval reduced ware (C05)

Fabric is reddish-brown with darker grey surfaces and a thin mid-grey core. Fresh breaks are hackly due to the voids left behind by quartz falling out. Inclusions are as for MS3 and TLMS3, frequent sub-rounded quartz, c.0.5mm, but can be up to 1.0mm. Rounded black iron ore inclusions occur in moderate amounts, c.0.3mm.

Forms: jars and jugs are the only recognisable forms. As with all Late Medieval Reduced wares, vessels are relatively plain with only simple decorative motifs such as thumbing around the rim (Fig.7, no. 16), rows of stabbing round the neck (Fig. 7, no. 15), and single or multiple horizontal grooves on the body. The similarity between MS3 and the Late Medieval Reduced wares means it can be difficult to assign small undiagnostic sherds to a particular type. However, vessels in fabric MS3 tend to be hand-made, unlike the wheel-thrown vessels in Late Medieval Reduced ware. Although belonging to the same Late Medieval Reduced ware tradition as TLMS3, Brickhill is unlikely to be the source of this fabric type. Sites producing this type of pottery are known throughout Bedfordshire and in Northamptonshire, and it appears that there was a widespread distribution of small scale workshops relatively close together, many of which are still to be identified (Slowikowski forthcoming).

Illustrations: Fig. 7, nos. 15-16

#### TLMS3 Late medieval reduced ware (E01)

Fabric is very similar in its constituents to MS3, something also noted by Mynard (1992, 275), but is characteristically fired harder with a hackly fracture. It has mid to dark grey surfaces, occasionally almost black, with frequent red margins. Inclusions are abundant subrounded quartz *c*.0.5mm and rare small black rounded inclusions, possibly iron ore. A probable source is Brickhill, approximately 6km away (Slowikowski forthcoming). Despite the difference in date, the similarity in fabric between MS3 and TLMS3 suggests long term use of local resources.

Forms: bowls and jars with rectangular or triangular rims, typical of the forms found in the assemblage of production wasters from Brickhill (Slowikowski forthcoming, fig. 23). There is no exact parallel in the illustrated waster assemblage for Fig. 7, no. 17, although it has similarities to rim 5 from there (Slowikowski forthcoming fig. 23, no. 41).

Illustrations: Fig. 7, no. 17