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THE MAIN POTTERY REPORT by MAUREEN MELLOR
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PETROLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY
AND TILE FROM OXFORDSHIRE by DR. D. F. WILLIAMS  G5
DESCRIPTION, Surrey White Wares

The earthenware industry along the Surrey/Hampshire borders began in medieval times and continued through to the 19th century, although the white earthenware tradition was apparently superseded by red earthenwares sometime in the 18th century. White earthenwares were also made at Coventry and in the south Chilterns in the 17th century. White firing clays, similar to those in the Surrey/Hampshire area, occur at Henley and Nettlebed in southern Oxfordshire. Both places were known to have supported medieval pottery industries but so far there is no evidence for the production of white wares in the post-medieval period.

A number of the Surrey/Hampshire kiln sites are known, but a typology of forms had yet to be made and little work has been undertaken on the petrological analysis of fabric types in that area.

White wares were the most prolific regional import; their occurrence within the survey area could be reliably expected for assemblages dating from the mid 17th to the mid 18th century. The floruit of white wares was in the second half of the 17th century within the survey area.

Some six fabric types were recognised from amongst the key assemblages (Site A: F17, F1528, F2504, F2531; Site B: III F4 L2; IV F13, VII F5; Site W: F7, F22, F45, F48, F80, F112). All six fabrics contain the same basic range of inclusions, but the size of the minerals and frequencies of the inclusions varies. It is possible that this range of inclusions may be acceptable within the range of Surrey/Hampshire products. Some of these fabrics (two types, six samples) were submitted to Alan Vince at the Department of Urban Archaeology, London, for comparison with white wares found in London, and these types were


III A3
SURREY WHITE WARES (CON.)

found to be comparable with material from 17th- and 18th-century deposits, recovered in London and Hereford (I am very grateful to Alan Vince for this information).

Fabrics DA and DB are the most frequent, closely followed by Fabric EC, although the use of the latter rapidly declined in the 18th century. Five fabrics (DA, DB, EB, EC and FH; Fabric DM occurs very infrequently), were all in use in early-mid 17th-century contexts within the survey area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Tudor Green &amp; Surrey White Wares</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz and sparse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DB</td>
<td>Surrey White Wares</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Fine sub-rounded quartz, moderate red iron ore &amp; mica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>Moderate &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz, occ. iron ore &amp; mica.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EB</td>
<td>Moderate &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Coarse sub-rounded quartz sparse coarse iron ore.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FH</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded medium-coarse quartz, sparse red iron ore.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These fabric types were also compared with fabric types from Ash, Cove and Farnborough, kindly supplied by Felix Holling, and with Hawley kiln material, lent by John Ashdown. The latter includes several fabric types, but the predominant type is similar to Fabric DB with its distinctive flecks of mica and red iron ore. Farnborough wares also includes several fabrics, one of which is very similar to the Hawley type mentioned above, as are some of the fabrics from Minley Road, Cove. Despite the very small sample from each kiln site, it is obvious that a variety of fabrics were in use and that parallels for the other Oxford white wares may be expected when more work has been undertaken on the kiln products in the Surrey/Hampshire border region.
Tudor Green wares are occasionally found in 16th-century groups, but these fine tablewares apparently commanded a very limited market within the survey area.

The whole gamut of Surrey products were recovered from within the survey area, with the exception of money-boxes and dripping-pans. White wares of the early 17th century were very thinly potted and poorly glazed. Some of these wares do have strong similarities with the Farnborough and Cove kilns (Pers. Comm. F. Holling and J. Haslam), but the small number of pipkins in comparison with the Hawley kiln products occasions some surprise (Pers. Comm. John Ashdown). No Buckinghamshire or Coventry white wares were recovered. Deep-sided dishes, porringers, jars, cups, globular mugs, tripod pipkins, butter pots, colanders and candlesticks are more popular in 17th-century assemblages, while chamber-pots and plates are more frequent in assemblages dating to the first half of the 18th century. The later white wares were more thickly potted, often with a thick rich dark green glaze, but sometimes the forms copied the finer Delft products (Fig. 94, No. 11). Vessels of the later 17th- and 18th-century are felt to be subtly different from the Hampshire/Surrey wares, although they were obviously influenced by the latter (Pers. Comm. F. Holling and J. Ashdown). However, this may reflect the lack of late 17th- and 18th-century kiln sites excavated in the border region as some of these forms have been recognised in London (Pers. Comm. C. Orton and A. Vince).

These white wares probably commanded a sizeable part of the market, not only because they were pleasing to look at but also because the repertoire of products during the 17th century was far wider than that of the local red earthenware products.
PRINCIPAL SOURCES, Surrey White Wares

Fig. 90  Surrey White Wares, Nos. 1-9, Site A, Church Street
1. A PO/1/1; 2. A P2H/2/108/1014/3; 3. A P1023/122/11;
4. A P1023/1135/4; 5. A P1023/1135/7; 6. A P1023/1135/5;

III A7
CATALOGUE

Fig. 90. Surrey White Wares

Nos. 1-9, Site A, Church St.


5. Cup, with horz. loop handle, ext. rilling on upper part, glazed yellow int. Probably Surrey. A F1023 L1135, mid 17th-cent. context. (Cross-joins between F1003 L1027; F1003 L1010 and F1023 L1139).


III A8
Fig. 91 Surrey White Wares, Nos. 1-13, Site A, Church Street

1. A P45/48/16; 2. A P45/171/1; 3. A P45/188/1;
10. A P17/2012/16; 11. A P17/2012/11; 12. A P60/34/2;
13. A P60/34/2.
Fig.91, Surrey White Wares (con.)
Nos. 1-13, Site A, Church St.
5. Straight-sided cup, glazed yellow int. A F55 L55, late 17th-cent. context (Cf. Form not known in London pers. comm. C. Orton)
12. Straight-sided cup, partially glazed yellow int. with a 'T' incised ext. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
13. Storage jar, glazed mottled green int. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.

Fig. 92 Surrey White Wares, Nos. 1-11, Site B, Greyfriars
7. B IV P13/0/3; 8. B IV P13/0/4; 9. B II P0/1/1;

III A11
Fig. 92, Surrey White Wares (con.)

Nos. 1-11, Site B, Greyfriars


10. Colander, glazed yellow int. B IV F13, mid-late 17th-cent. context. (Cross-joins between IV F13 and IV L1).

11. Candlestick, glazed dk green int. & ext., red clay kiln scars ext. suggesting that either the kiln furniture was made of red clay or vessels of both red and white clay were fired together in same kiln. Probably Surrey. B IV F13, mid-late 17th-cent. context.

III A12
Fig. 93  Surrey White Wares, Nos. 1-6, Site B, Greyfriars
1. B IV P0/20/1;  2. B IV P0/20/5;  3. B IV P44/0/19;
Fig. 93, Surrey White Wares (con.)
Nos. 1-6, Site B, Greyfriars

1. Lid, with incised mark on reverse, possibly a potter's mark. Probably Surrey. B IV L20, contaminated context.
Fig. 94  Surrey White Wares, Nos. 1-11, Site W, Westgate


III B1
Nos.1-11, Site W, Westgate.

1. Corrugated cup, glazed mottled green int. and partially glazed mottled green ext. Tudor Green, Surrey. W F112, 16th-cent. context.¹

2. Chamber-pot, glazed yellow int. Probably Surrey. W F80, late 17th-cent. context.


¹ Cf. Stephen Moorhouse, 'A Sixteenth-century Tudor Green group from Overton, Hampshire', in Notes and News, Post-Medieval Archaeology, v (1071), 182, Fig.53, No.1.
Fig. 95  Surrey White Wares, Nos.1-8, Site W, Westgate

1. W PU/S/2;  2. W P48/0/14;  3. W P25/0/5;
7. W P67/0/1;  8. W P45/0/1.
Nos.1-8, Site W, Westgate

1. Goddard, partially glazed yellow ext. Probably Surrey. Unstratified context. ¹

2. Dish, glazed dark green int. Probably Surrey. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.


5. Large bowl, glazed dk green int. Probably Surrey. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.

6. Dish, glazed dk green int. Probably Surrey. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.


DESCRIPTION, Red Earthenware Slipwares

During the 17th and 18th centuries, a number of production centres in the south Midlands were making red earthenware slipwares. The metropolitan wares of the London area were probably made at Harlow, Essex, and other smaller centres in Hertfordshire.1 Some thirty miles from Oxford, very similar products were being made at Potterspury, Northamptonshire, at least by 1646.2 Recent excavations at Brill, Buckinghamshire, twelve miles from Oxford, revealed another source for the slipware industry.3 Work in Winchester has highlighted yet another slipware industry, whose products are very similar to the later slipware products found in Oxford; differences in details of form and decoration suggest two distinct industries, one much influenced by the other.4

The majority of the slipwares recovered from within the survey area were probably made comparatively locally, but a few vessels are possibly from Staffordshire (B IV F46). They first appear in mid-late 17th-century contexts and continue to be found in assemblages dating to the 18th century, reaching a peak in the mid 18th-century contexts.

4. I am very grateful to Charlotte Matthews for bringing the Winchester wares to my attention.
In an attempt to distinguish the potential production centres, all the slipwares were sorted into fabric types, and eight different 'local' types were recognised. These eight fabric types were also used for undecorated red earthenwares. The most frequent fabric (DG) is identical to the '1975 kiln' material (kindly supplied by Mike Farley). Some of the other fabric types may also originate from Brill (DS, DO, FC) as the general range of inclusions is similar but with differences in frequency, sorting and size of grain. Fabric DJ was more popular in the 17th century with Fabrics DG and DF also present, but by the early-mid 18th century Fabric DG was dominant, followed by Fabric DE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Known at Dorchester &amp; Reading</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; well-sorted</td>
<td>Fine quartz, occ. red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>A variant of Fabric DH</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded medium-coarse quartz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Brill</td>
<td>Abundant &amp; well-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded coarse quartz, occ. coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DJ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz, sparse coarse quartz, occ. coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>?Brill</td>
<td>Sparse &amp; well-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz, coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>?Brill</td>
<td>Moderate &amp; well-sorted</td>
<td>Fine quartz, occ. red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sparse-moderate ill-sorted</td>
<td>Fine-coarse sub-rounded &amp; angular quartz, occ. red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC</td>
<td>Variant of fabric DG</td>
<td>Moderate &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz, sparse coarse white quartz.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RED EARTHENWARE SLIPWARES (CON.)

At least nine different shapes were found to be associated with these wares: platters, dishes, crocks, pans, chamber-pots, bowls, cups, jars and jugs, many of these products occurring in a variety of sizes. Platters (plates) were the most popular form, followed by bowls, dishes and chamber-pots.

These products were either wheel-thrown, or press-mounded in the case of the platters, which often bore knife-trimming facets around the base of the vessel.

Four styles of decoration were recognised:

a) Simple trailed slip decoration;

b) thickly trailed slip decoration with copper oxide sometimes added to the slip;

c) marbled slip, where the slip has been poured into the vessel, which is rapidly moved in several directions to give a fluid effect to the design and the excess slip is then poured off. Copper oxide was sometimes added to the slip;

d) slip applied all over prior to glazing.

All these types were lead-glazed and usually fired in an oxidising atmosphere. The simple trailed decoration is very reminiscent of Potterspury-types, and indeed some direct parallels were found (Fig.98, No.5; Fig.99, Nos.4 & 5). This type of decoration was popular in the later 17th-early 18th century but continues to be found in mid 18th-century pit groups along with the thickly trailed slipwares. Six different fabric types are associated with this style of decoration (Fabrics DE, DF, DG - a Brill-type, DJ, DO, US and EF) and were compared with Potterspury-types from Northampton supplied by Mary Gryspeerdt, but the fabric types differ. It is possible that Potterspury wares embrace a number of fabric types and that some of the Oxford slipwares did originate from Potterspury. Medieval Potterspury-type wares were not marketed as far as Oxford in the 13th and 14th centuries, but pack-horses and carriers in the 17th and 18th centuries may
RED EARTHENWARE SLIPWARES (CON.)

have transported pottery over wider distances. Other slipware industries may have been operating in north Buckinghamshire (pers comm. Denis Mynard), and Brill was producing slipwares by the mid-late 17th century (A F17).

The second decorative style of thickly trailed slip seems to have been adopted by the early-mid 18th century (Site B: IV F44); the same range of fabrics is found to be associated with this style of decoration as with the simple trailed decoration, but the products now include hollow wares such as cups, bowls, and chamber-pots.

Marbled slip and products with slip covering the whole pot, or more commonly just the internal surface, occur less frequently and not before the mid 18th century. Again the dominant fabric types (Fabrics DE, DF and DG) are associated with these decorative styles. Only one sgraffito decorated vessel was noted in the mid-late 17th-century pit group (B IV F13).

In comparison with the fine saltglaze stoneware plates, these slipware platters seem almost vulgar in taste, but they may well have been favoured as serving dishes in taverns and inns (W F45).

PRINCIPAL SOURCES, Red Earthenware Slipware

Fig. 96 Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-8, Site A, Church St.
1. A P17/2012/10; 2. A P17/2012/8; 3. A P17/2012/6;
4. A P60/34/13; 5. A P60/34/6; 6. A P60/34/11;
7. A P18/16/1; 8. A P60/34/12.
CATALOGUE

Fig. 96, Red Earthenware Slipwares

Nos. 1-8, Site A, Church St.

Whenever possible the fabric types are listed below, however if a vessel is complete or restored, it was assigned the code ZZ indicating unclassifiable.

5. Small platter, white slip, glazed orange int., restored, Fabric ZZ. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
6. ?Platter, trailed white slip decoration, glazed brown int., Fabric DE. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
7. Dish, white slip over the entire inner surface, occasional mottled brown spots, glazed yellow int., Fabric DE. A F18 L16, mid 18th-cent. context.
8. Dish, thick trailed white slip, glazed orange int. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
Fig. 97 Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-3, Site B, Greyfriars
Fig. 97, Red Earthenware Slipwares (con.)

Nos.1-3, Site B, Greyfriars

1. ?Platter, trailed white slip decoration, glazed brown int., Fabric DG. B IV F13 L1, mid-late 17th-cent. context.

2. ?Dish, white slip over the entire inner surface, with 'sgraffito' decoration and mottled brown spots, glazed brown int., Fabric DG. B IV F13, mid-late 17th-cent. context.

3. Dish, white slip spots on rim, glazed green int., Fabric ZZ. B V F4 L1, late 17th-cent. context.
Fig. 98  Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-9, Site B, Greyfriars

1. B V P2/1/3; 2. B V P2/1/4; 3. B IV P0/20/9;
4. B V P2/1/2; 5. B V P2/1/1; 6. B X P27/0/1;

III C9
Fig.98, Red Earthenware Slipwares (con.)

Nos.1-9, Site B, Greyfriars

1. Small platter, thick trailed white slip, with green oxide sometimes added, glazed orange int., Fabric DJ. B V F2 L1, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

2. Dish, white slip over the entire inner surface, glazed dk green, Fabric ZZ. B V F2 L1, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

3. ?Platter, trailed white slip with green oxide sometimes added, glazed brown, Fabric DE. B IV L20, contaminated context.

4. Platter, thick trailed white slip glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B V F2 L1, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

5. Platter, trailed white slip, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B V F2 L1, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

6. ?Platter, trailed white slip decoration, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B X F27, mid-late 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid 19th-cent. material.

7. Platter, trailed white slip, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. B X F27, mid-late 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid 19th-cent. material (Cf. pers. comm. Alan Vince, design known at Gloucester and London).

8. Dish, trailed white slip decoration, glazed green int., Fabric DJ. B X F27, mid-late 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid 19th-cent. material. (Cf. Parallel W F48)

9. Chamber-pot, white slip over entire inner surface, mottled brown spots, glazed yellow int., Fabric ZZ. B X F27, mid-late 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid 19th-cent. material.

1. Cf. for decoration only, Philip Mayes, 'A 17th-century Kiln Site at Potterpury, Northamptonshire', Post-Medieval Archaeology, ii (1968), Fig.27, No.17.
Fig. 99 Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-3, Site B, Gieyfriars, Nos. 4-9, Site W, Westgate
1. B X P26/0/4; 2. B X P26/0/8; 3. B X P26/0/5;
4. W P22/0/22; 5. W P22/0/21; 6. W P22/0/20;

III C11
Fig.99, Red Earthenware Slipwares (con.)

Nos.1-3, Site B, Greyfriars

1. Platter, thick trailed white slip, with green oxide sometimes added, glazed brown int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.

2. Dish, thick marbled white slip with green oxide added, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.

3. Platter, very finely executed, trailed white slip with green oxide added, glazed brown int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.

Nos.4-9, Site W, Westgate

4. Platter, trailed and dot white slip decoration, glazed orange int., Fabric DJ. W F22, early-mid 18th-cent. context.¹

5. Platter, trailed and dot white slip decoration glazed orange int. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. W F22, early-mid 18th-cent. context.²


7. ?Dish, trailed and dot white slip decoration, glazed orange int., Fabric DJ. W F80, late 17th-cent. context.


¹ Cf. Philip Mayes, 'A 17th-century Kiln Site at Potterspury, Northamptonshire, Post-Medieval Archaeology, 11 (1968), 74, Fig.30, No.3.

² Ibid.
Fig. 100  Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-12, Site W, Westgate

1. W P7/1/43; 2. W P7/1/42; 3. W P48/0/17;
4. W P48/0/16; 5. W P15/0/1; 6. W P45/0/47;

III C13
Fig. 100, Red Earthenware Slipwares (con.)
Nos. 1-12, Site W, Westgate

1. Large bowl, thick trailed white slip, green oxide sometimes added, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. W F7 L1, mid 18th-cent. context.

2. Bowl, thick trailed white slip with green oxide added, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. W F7 L1, mid 18th-cent. context.

3. Platter, trailed white slip decoration, glazed brown int., Fabric DS. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.

4. Dish, trailed white slip decoration, glazed brown int., Fabric DJ. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.

5. Shallow dish, white slip over the entire interior surface and on rim mottled brown spots, glazed yellow int., Fabric ZZ. W F15, mid 18th-cent. context.

6. Cup, white slip over the entire interior and on rim, occasional mottled brown spots, glazed brown int., Fabric DE. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.


11. Platter, thick trailed white slip, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. W F45, mid-18th-cent. context.


III C14
Fig. 101 Red Earthenware Slipwares, Nos. 1-4, Site W, Westgate

1. W P45/0/22; 2. W P45/0/23; 3. W P45/0/24;

III D1
Nos. 1-4, Site W. Westgate

1. Platter, thick trailed white slip, green oxide sometimes added, glazed orange int. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.

2. Platter, thick trailed and marbled white slip, glazed orange int. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. W i45 mid-late 18th-cent. context.


DESCRIPTION. Red Earthenware

These were sub-divided into continental imports, regional imports and local coarse wares. The only continental import was the neck of a Martincamp-type flask recovered from a late 17th-century context (B IV F40). These flasks frequently occur in coastal areas but are less common inland; the only other excavated flask from within the county was found at Banbury,¹ and two unpublished examples from Oxford.²

Regional imports include three Agate-type wares, two teapots and a cup from mid 18th-century contexts (Site W: F7, F45). These finely potted tea wares were manufactured in Staffordshire from 1740-1770. A few black glazed wares dating to the second half of the 17th century are probably Staffordshire products too (A F17, Fig.104, Nos.1, 2). Other black glazed wares are more local in origin, since both Potterspury in Northamptonshire and Brill in Buckinghamshire are known to have made black glazed wares.

The majority of red earthenwares recovered from the survey area were probably made within the county, or just over the county boundary at Brill.

Documentary evidence concerning potters working within the county during the 16th and 17th centuries is limited.³ Only one potter is mentioned for the 16th century, William Butler of Nettlebed, who died c. 1560. Two others are cited for the 17th century at Stoke Row c. 1612, and at Nettlebed c. 1668-1682, both some seventeen miles south of Oxford. By the 18th century the number of recorded potters and ancillary workers had greatly

1. K. Rodwell, 'Excavations on the Site of Banbury Castle, 1973-4', Oxoniensia, xli (1976), 132, Fig.15, No.105.
2. In the Ashmolean Reserve Collection: 1873.236 City Ditch and 1892.2618 University College.
increased. One such potter who might have marketed his wares in Oxford was Richard Griffin of Wheatley (1763-96). Wheatley lies five miles east of Oxford, in the same general direction as Brill. Brill wares may well have passed through Wheatley en route for the Oxford market and Richard Griffin must have been aware of the Brill industry and may have been strongly influenced by its products.

A potter is recorded at Brill itself, twelve miles from Oxford, c. 1580, and potters continue to be mentioned as working there until the 20th century.¹

The 'brick-red' coarse wares from within the survey area first occur in very small quantities in late 16th-century contexts (Site A: F2531, F2504). By the early-mid 17th century these coarse wares are dominant and remain so until the late 18th-early 19th century, when there is a very rapid decline, due to the overwhelming competition of the cheap mass-produced white earthenwares from 'The Potteries', centred on Stoke-on-Trent.

A fairly limited range of products was recovered from 16th-century deposits, jars being the most popular product. Drinking vessels include globular and cylindrical tankards in the 'Cistercian style'; deep-sided bowls, watering pots and jugs occurred very occasionally.

¹ Michael Farley, 'Pottery and pottery kilns of the post-medieval period at Brill, Buckinghamshire', Post-Medieval Archaeology, xiii (1979), 151.
The early to mid 17th century saw a slight growth in the variety of shapes and forms associated with the preparation and cooking of food, compared with the 16th century. These include platters, dishes, tripod pipkins (always with extensive sooting on the outer surfaces), bowls, pans, crocks and panchions, in addition to stool pans and chamber-pots. By the 18th century the basic repertoire was much the same as in the later part of the 17th century but the utilitarian wares, such as pans and bowls, now occurred in several sizes. A few new forms were added such as flower-pots and bedpans, but included products which copied some of the 17th-century Surrey whiteware shapes, i.e. cups with horizontal loop handles and tripod pipkins. By the 19th century a very limited range of coarse ware, were found within the survey area, such as flower-pots, pans, bowls and a paint-pot.

In general the products were lead glazed on the inner surfaces, and fired in an oxidising atmosphere.

In an effort to isolate possible kiln sources and to discern any typological changes over time, the red earthenware from the key assemblages was sorted into fabric types with the aid of a binocular microscope (x 10).

Thirty fabric types were isolated, these were further grouped into regional imports and local wares. Regional imports include Agate wares from Staffordshire (Fabric EN), a fabric type associated with Cistercian-type forms (Fabric UW) and two fabrics (DN and EI), both glazed black internally and externally and loosely termed Midland blackwares.
### RED EARTHENWARE (CON.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>Staffs. Agate-type</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Occ. mica in red and white clay matrix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DW</td>
<td>'Cistercian-type'</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Occ. sub-rounded quartz, mica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DN</td>
<td>?Midlands blackware</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz, occ. coarse quartz &amp; red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ET</td>
<td>Midlands blackware</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz, occ. v. coarse quartz and red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From amongst the 'local' types, four fabric types were dominant (Fabrics DR, DG, DE and DJ) between the 16th-late 18th century.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR</td>
<td>1974 Brill kiln</td>
<td>Sparse and ill-sorted</td>
<td>Coarse sub-rounded quartz occ. coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DJ</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fabric DR was the dominant type in the second half of the 16th century within the survey area and is very similar to the '1974 Brill kiln' material. A coarse variant of this fabric was recognised in 15th-century levels at the Hamel, Oxford. Products associated with this Kiln-type include jars of various sizes, bung-hole jars, jugs and dripping-panes. These products, unlike

their 15th-century counterparts, were rarely glazed, though the occasional patch of plain lead glaze is found on the shoulder of the vessel (Fig.102, No.1). Knife-trimming was often employed at the basal angle, but in general products were competently potted and well fired in a controlled oxidising atmosphere to a light pinkish buff colour.

During the 16th century a new fabric type emerged (Fabric DG). By the early 17th century it dominated the local market (B:II F4 L2) and continued to do so until at least the mid-late 18th century (W F45). It was identical to some of the fabrics from the 1975 excavated Brill kilns, and markedly different from the earlier Brill-type (Fabric OR). The fabric itself was abundantly tempered with well-sorted grains, suggesting that considerable care had been taken in the preparation of the clay, implying well-organised potters. This care in preparation was not, however, carried into the manufacturing stage, and the earlier products in the new fabric, up to the early 17th century, are much cruder than those they replaced (Fabric OR). The thickness of the walls of the vessels is often twice the measurement of the earlier Brill products, and the bases are often far thicker than the sides of the vessel. This created stress when the pots dried and resulted in deep fissures, but these 'seconds' were evidently good enough to be marketed in Oxford (B III F4 L2). More open vessels were added to the repertoire of products by the early-mid 17th century, rims thickened and were squared or rolled. The wares were often covered with a thick treacly lead glaze and fired in a reducing atmosphere which imparted a very distinctive dark grey colour to the external surfaces of the vessel. The firing temperatures achieved were considerably higher than those reached with the earlier Brill products (OR), and must have necessitated considerable improvements in kiln technology. The change in fabric from OR to the
abundantly quartz-tempered DG may have been dictated by this improvement in firing, which necessitated a more open fabric which would allow the clay to withstand the high temperatures; alternatively the medieval and late medieval clay sources may have simply have been worked out. At any rate the improved firing techniques in the latter part of the 16th and possibly early 17th century heralded the beginning of the local post-medieval red earthenware tradition in Oxford.

By the mid-late 17th century, products in Fabric DG began to be fired in an oxidising atmosphere giving bright orange-red hue to the wares and a good gloss to the glazed wares. The products became more competently potted, and it was during this time that the first slipwares in this fabric are noted. The industry at Brill was well established and well able to withstand the introduction of finer wares from Staffordshire when they appeared in quantity in the second quarter of the 18th century.

The potting techniques and firing procedures of the 18th century showed little change from the mid-late 17th century, but a few new shapes were evident: platters, flower-pots (little different from present day examples), cups and chamber-pots. The latter were the most frequent commodity.

By the 19th century only a few bowls in this fabric were recovered, but while the survey area suggests a rapid decline in the demand for these Brill products, the rural community may well have absorbed all that the potters could produce.¹

Curiously very few forms in this fabric could be paralleled with the shapes of the '1975 17th-century Brill kiln'. The 'large bowls' and baking

¹ Oxfordshire Department of Museum Services Reserve Collection
RED EARTHENWARE (CON.)

Dishes or dripping pans typical of this kiln are largely absent from the Oxford assemblages. Finer table wares including globular mugs, cylindrical mugs and jugs were found, but in different fabrics (see below). The distinctive kiln scar of one such drinking vessel with black glaze was found on the base of a large jar (Fabric DG) recovered from an early-mid 17th-century pit (B III F 4 L2), which corroborates the tenuous evidence from the '1975 17th-century Brill kiln' that fine black-glazed table wares were made there.

During the early-mid 17th century, another fabric type was emerging (Fabric DE). Again the grains were well-sorted, suggesting a finely levigated clay but unlike Fabric DG the quartz sand had not been added by the potter but occurred naturally in the clay, which gave a very fine paste. By the time these wares appeared within the survey area, the forms were already well made and included finely made black glazed cylindrical tankards as well as jars and pans. This fabric continued in use throughout the 18th century, and as with Fabric DG presented a slightly wider range of vessel types such as chamber-pots, cups and butter pots. Panchions and large jars were not found, and it may be that this fine fabric was better suited to smaller vessels. The orange/brown glaze, typical of this fabric, was usually very glossy and obviously fired in a well-controlled oxidising atmosphere. Slip decorated wares were also found and may indicate that this fabric too originates somewhere to the east (Brill) or further north.

Finally, the fourth dominant fabric (Fabric DJ) also occurred alongside Fabrics DG and DE in the early-mid 17th century and continued in use throughout the 18th century, but it probably reached its peak in late 17th-early 18th century. It too was frequently slipped, but unlike the other major fabric types the grains were not well-sorted, and the products were not well finished, suggesting a less well-organised potter or potters.
RED EARTHENWARE (CON.)

Other fabric types which were isolated and may possibly be associated with Brill are Fabric BX, a variant of Fabric DR, which was first noted in later medieval contexts in Oxford. Fabrics FC and FD occur in 18th-century contexts only and are possibly variants of a Brill-type (Fabric DG), while Fabrics ED, DS and DG may also be Brill-types. However in view of the number of known potters working in Oxfordshire during the 18th century it is probably wise to be cautious in attributing these types to Brill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with MEDIEVAL BRILL-TYPE</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BX</td>
<td>Medieval Brill-type</td>
<td>Sparse-moderate ill-sorted</td>
<td>Medium-coarse sub-rounded quartz, sparse medium-coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FC</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD</td>
<td>Abundant ill-sorted</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fine quartz, sparse medium-coarse quartz &amp; red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Abundant well-sorted</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fine quartz, sparse coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fabric DT may possibly originate from the same production centre as Fabric DJ, but Fabric DT is associated with Cistercian-type drinking vessels of the 16th century. These finely made Cistercian-types and black glazed wares of the 16th and 17th century were often fired to a near vitrifying temperature, so that the inclusions form a glassy matrix with the clay. This coupled with the tendency to shatter into minute sherds, with a body thickness of only 2-3mm, often makes the analysis of the fabric very hazardous. These black-glazed vessels were found also in Fabrics UQ and DJ, but only one of two examples occurred in 17th- and early 18th-century deposits (A F17, B III F4 L2, W F22).
The lack of these wares was surprising, since tavern scenes painted by contemporary artists suggest they were commonplace, but it may be that Oxford is on the periphery of the distribution area. 'Midlands Purple' wares and Midland white wares were completely absent from the survey area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>Variant of fabric DJ</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DU sub-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz, sparse rounded quartz.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Little is known about the possible sources for the remaining fabric types, but as more stratified post-medieval red earthenware is recovered from within the county it should be possible to highlight the potential areas for possible kiln sites, and perhaps in turn correlate them with the known documentary references to potters working within the county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DF</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz, sparse coarse quartz.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DH</td>
<td>Variant of DF</td>
<td>For description see Slipwares</td>
<td>Coarse sub-rounded quartz, sparse medium-coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DT</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Medium-coarse quartz, occ. red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sparse and ill-sorted</td>
<td>Fine quartz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td>Known at Burford</td>
<td>Abundant and ill-sorted</td>
<td>Coarse quartz (con.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RED EARTHENWARE (CON.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Comparable with</th>
<th>Frequency &amp; sorting</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Coarse quartz, sparse red iron ore, occ. limestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DX</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>Fine quartz, occ. coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate &amp; ill-sorted</td>
<td>Sub-rounded-angular quartz, occ. coarse red iron ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sparse</td>
<td>Sub-rounded quartz, occ. v. coarse red iron ore, mica.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRINCIPAL SOURCES, Red Earthenware


Fig. 102 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-9, Site A, Church Street
1. A P2504/8/1; 2. A P14/1065/1; 3. A P2531/0/3;
4. A P2531/1/2; 5. A P1023/1147/9; 6. A P1023/0/1;

III E11
CATALOGUE

Fig. 102. Red Earthenware

Nos.1-9, Site A, Church St.

1. Bung-hole jar, partially glazed orange on shoulder, knife trimmed around base. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. A F2504 L8 (= F2011), 16th-cent. context.

2. Jar, applied thumbed strip below rim, sprig-moulded cock in white clay, partially glazed yellow, Fabric DG. A F14 L1065, 17th-cent. context.

3. Cylindrical mug, glazed brown int. & ext., complete, Fabric ZZ. A F2531, 16th-cent. context.

4. Globular mug, glazed black int. & ext., complete, Fabric ZZ. A F2531 L1, 16th-cent. context.


8. Small platter, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. A F1023 L1147, mid 17th-cent. context.


1. Cf. for general form, Michael Farley, 'Pottery and pottery kilns of the post-medieval period at Brill, Buckinghamshire', Post-Medieval Archaeology, xiii (1979), 147, Fig.12, Nos. 1-4.

2. Ibid., 147, Fig.12, Nos. 7-8.
Fig. 103  Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-6, Site A, Church street
1. A P1/102/2;  2. A P1003/1010/8;  3. A P17/2012/18;

III E13
Fig. 103. Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos. 1-6, Site A, Church St.

1. Tripod pipkin with spout, partially glazed int., Fabric EF. A F1 L102, mid-late 17th-cent. context.


Fig. 104 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-2, Site A, Church Street
1. A P17/2012/3; 2. A P17/2012/5.
Fig. 104, Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos. 1-2, Site A, Church St.


Fig. 105  Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-7, Site A, Church Street
1. A P45/171/3; 2. A P45/171/10; 3. A P45/48/5;
4. A P60/34/7; 5. A P60/34/3; 6. A P60/34/9;
7. A P60/34/8.

III F3
Fig. 105, Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos. 1-7, Site A, Church St.

1. Pancheon, glazed green int., Fabric ZZ. A F45 L171, mid-late 17th-cent. context.
2. Dish, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. A F45 L17i, mid-late 17th-cent. context.
4. Flower-pot with three holes in base. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
5. Cup, glazed mottled brown int. & ext., restored, Fabric ZZ. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
6. Flower-pot with a central hole, three bands of white slip ext. Probably Brill, Fabric DG. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
7. Flower-pot with a central hole, three bands of white slip ext., Fabric DE. A F60 L34, mid 18th-cent. context.
Fig. 106 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-9, Site B, Greyfriars

III F5
Fig. 106, Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos 1-9, Site B, Greyfriars


8. Cylindrical tankard, glazed black int. and ext., Fabric DE. (Cross-joins between IV F13 and F13 L1). B IV F13 L1, mid-late 17th-cent. context.

Fig.107  Red Earthenware, Nos.1-12, Site B, Greyfriars

1. B IV P101/0/3; 2. B IV P44/0/7; 3. B IV P44/0/8;
Fig. 107, Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos. 1-12, Site B, Greyfriars


6. Crock, with rilling ext., glazed green int. Possibly Nos. 4 & 6 made by the same potter, Fabric ZZ. B IV F44, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

7. ?Ladle with horz. loop handle, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ B IV F44, early-mid 18th-cent. context.


10. Dish, Fabric ZZ. B IV F44, early-mid 18th-cent. context.


12. Dish, glazed green int., Fabric ZZ. B IV F44, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

III F8
Fig. 108  Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-10, Site B, Greyfriars

4. B I P29/0/1; 5. B X P26/0/1; 6. B I P27/0/4;
10. B IV P0/1/1.
Nos. 1-10, Site B, Greyfriars

1. Dish or pancheon with applied thumb-pressed strip, glazed green int., Fabric ZZ. B IV L20, contaminated context.
2. Chamber-pot, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B VII F4, early 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid-late 18th-cent. material.
3. Platter, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B VII F4, early 18th-cent. context with some intrusive mid-late 18th-cent. material.
5. Chamber-pot, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.
7. Chamber-pot, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.
8. Bowl, with rilling ext., glazed brown int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.
9. Chamber-pot, glazed orange int., Fabric ZZ. B X F26, mid 18th-cent. context with some intrusive 19th-cent. material.
Fig. 109 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-5, Site B, Greyfriars,
Nos. 6-13, Site W, Westgate
7. W P22/0/12; 8. W P22/0/11; 9. W P22/0/6;
13. W P22/0/7.

III F11
Fig. 109, Red Earthenware (con.).

No. 1-5, Site B, Greyfriars


2. Small shallow dish, possibly to be used with flower pot. Probably same production centre as No. 1, Fabric FQ. B VII F5, mid 19th-cent. context.

3. Pan, glazed brown int. Probably same production centre as No. 1, Fabric FQ. B VII F5, mid 19th-cent. context.


Nos. 6-13, Site W, Westgate


13. Plate, glazed orange int., Fabric EF. W F22, early-mid 18th-cent. context.

III F12
Fig. 110 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-9, Site W, Westgate

1. W P48/0/8; 2. W P48/0/5; 3. W P48/0/6;
4. W P48/0/4; 5. W P48/0/7; 6. W P48/0/12;

III F13
Fig. 110, Red Earthenware (con.)

Nos. 1-9, Site W, Westgate

1. Small pan, glazed yellow int., Fabric ZZ. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.
2. Small crock, glazed brown int., carbon on ext. surface. Probably same production centre as No.1, Fabric ZZ. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.
4. Bowl, glazed green int., Fabric ED. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.
5. Crock, glazed green int., Fabric EF. W F48, mid 18th-cent. context.

III F14
Fig. 111 Red Earthenware, Nos. 1-10, Site W, Westgate

1. W P45/0/2;  2. W P45/0/19;  3. W P45/0/18;
4. W P45/0/1;  5. W P45/0/5;  6. W P45/0/4;
7. W P45/0/16;  8. W P45/0/15;  9. W P25/0/2;
10. W P25/0/7.

III G1
Fig. 111, Red Earthenware (con.)
Nos. 1-10, Site W, Westgate.


5. Cup, glazed orange with brown flecks int. & ext., restored, Fabric ZZ. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.


7. Chamber-pot, glazed orange int., Fabric DE. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.

8. Chamber-pot, glazed green int., Fabric DE. W F45, mid-late 18th-cent. context.


10. Large flared pan, glazed orange int. & ext., Fabric ZZ. W F25, mid 18th-cent. context.
PETROLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY
AND TILE FROM OXFORDSHIRE

D.F. Williams, Ph.D.,
(DoE Ceramic Petrology Project)
Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

As an aid to characterize the fabrics from three post-medieval potteries in Oxfordshire, Leafield, Barford St. Michael and Marsh Baldon, samples of earthenware and tile associated with their local industries were examined in thin section under the petrological microscope.

1. Leafield Pottery c. A.D. 1900
A thin section was taken from an almost complete jug in a fairly smooth sandy fabric, deep red (Munsell 10R 5/8) outside surface, light reddish-orange core, with a reddish-brown glaze on the inner surface of the vessel. Under the microscope the fabric can be seen to consist of frequent well-sorted subangular quartz grains in the size-range 0.10-.30\mu m., a little iron ore, plagioclase feldspar and chert. These are set in an optically isotropic reddish-brown matrix with a scatter of very small quartz grains and flecks of mica.

Three sherds from different vessels, each suspected of being a product of the Leafield kilns, were also examined and compared with the Leafield jug above. In thin section two of the sherds, Leafield 654 (base) and Leafield 654 (thin-walled vessel), compared very favourably with the jug sample, and there seems a strong likelihood that all three vessels were made at the same centre. The remaining sherd, a deep dish from North Leigh, is in a slightly coarser, more micaceous sandy fabric. If it were possible to sample more known kiln material from Leafield, the results may well indicate a wider range of fabric than would accommodate III G5
the North Leigh sample. However, on the present evidence the North Leigh sherd does not sufficiently match the one known vessel produced at Leafield to suggest a common origin.

2. **Barford St. Michael Pottery** Post-Medieval

A. Rim from large dish. Thick, hard, fairly smooth reddish-buff fabric, with visible inclusions of what appear to be red and black grains of iron ore scattered throughout. Light-brown glaze on the inside of the sherd.

B. Bodysherd. Thick, hard, fairly smooth red (10R 5/6) fabric, reddish-brown glaze on the inside of the sherd. Inclusions of ?iron ore are present, but less apparent than for sample A above.

In thin section both sherds appear very similar, containing numerous subangular quartz grains under 0.10mm., with a scatter of slightly larger grains, large grains of ?iron ore and plentiful mica.

C. Bodysherd. Thick, hard, fairly smooth light red (2.5YR 6/8) slightly micaceous fabric, white ?slip on the inside of the sherd.

Thin sectioning reveals frequent ill-sorted quartz grains ranging up to 0.80mm. in size, and flecks of mica.

3. **Marsh Baldon Tile Kiln** c. A.D. 1680-1710

Tile. Thick, very hard, rough bright red (10R 5/8) fabric, containing visible inclusions of quartz and chert/flint.

In thin section the fabric can be seen to be extremely micaceous, with frequent quartz grains, average size 0.05-040mm., some iron ore and flint/chert.

III G6
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