

Assessment of Pottery Recovered from Excavations at Lyminge, Kent

Ben Jervis Archaeological Report 42

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This report offers an assessment of the 6326 sherds excavated during four seasons of archaeological investigations at Lyminge, Kent (table 1). The pottery principally dates from the early-late Saxon periods, with a small quantity of later material also being present. The assemblage is of major importance, both regionally and nationally, as it offers a seemingly unbroken ceramic sequence from the 6th-13th centuries, which is highly unusual for rural sites, and because the excavations recovered a varied and relatively large collection of imported wares. These provide great potential for investigating the trade in these wares at both local and international scales, in particular allowing us to consider the relationship between the monastery at Lyminge and the coastal trading site of Sandtun. This report will briefly situate the assemblage, both geologically and in relation to our existing knowledge of Anglo-Saxon pottery from Kent. The wares will then be described by period, with a date range being offered alongside a summary of the occurrence of formal and decorative elements. These observations will be discussed in their regional context and the potential for future research will be outlined.

Period	Ware	SC	SW
6th-7th Century	Shelly Ware	4	22
	Sandy Ware	1264	7575
	Organic-tempered Ware	60	619
	Iron Rich Ware	55	369
	Rock-tempered	30	155
	Import	32	88
	Total	1445	8828
8th-10th Century	Shelly Ware	1793	12168
	Sandy Ware	1582	15777
	Rock-tempered	282	1395
	Import	323	3001
	Ipswich Ware	43	1384
	Winchester-type Ware	1	7
	Total	4024	33732
Post-Conquest		846	4790
Post Medieval		11	144
Total		6326	47494

Table 1: Breakdown of the Assemblage by Period and Ware

Sherds were examined under a x10 binocular microscope and assigned to fabric groups based upon texture and the principle inclusions present. An internal type series was created, which can be correlated to the CAT fabric series at a later date. Elements of form and decoration were recorded following the terminology outlined by the MPRG (1998). In line with the standards devised by the MPRG (2001) the pottery was quantified by sherd count, sherd weight, maximum vessel count and

rim % (although the fragmented nature of much of the assemblage makes the latter two methods dubious measures). The pottery was recorded using an MS Access Database designed specifically for the task.

SITUATION

Lyminge lies approximately 4 miles north of the coast and due north of the site of Sandtun, a trading place with links to the monastery at Lyminge. Canterbury is 12 miles to the north and links with both sites can be suggested based upon the presence of imported ceramics, both from the continent and, potentially, north-east Kent. This section briefly summarises our current knowledge of pottery from the area around Lyminge and the surrounding geology.

Anglo-Saxon Pottery in Kent

By far the most developed ceramic sequence from the region is that from Canterbury. Here, early-mid Saxon deposits are characterised by the presence of Sandy Wares and Organic-tempered Wares. Small quantities of mid-Saxon Ipswich-type Ware have also been recovered, along with imported greywares and iron rich wares, all of which are paralleled in the Lyminge assemblage. In Canterbury mid-late Saxon deposits are characterised by a variety of Sandy Wares and Shelly Wares, with a small quantity of imports also occurring (MacPherson-Grant 1995, 822-4). At Sandtun only mid-late Saxon wares were present in any quantity, locally produced Shelly Wares are the most common, with the temper consisting of marine, rather than fossil, shell. Gritty and Sandy wares also occur, but are not common (Gardiner et al 2001, 208). The imports from Sandtun consist of a range of north French or Flemish reduced wares and Shelly Wares from the same region, as well as 10 sherds of Ipswich-type Ware (*ibid* 192). A number of early-mid Saxon sites in north Kent have been published recently (Cowie and Blackmore 2008). At St. Mary-Cray the early Saxon assemblage is dominated by Sandstone-tempered Wares, with Organic-tempered Wares being virtually absent (*ibid*, 13). At Keston, Sandstone-tempered and Sandy Wares also dominate the assemblage (*ibid*, 15). The local wares from the excavations at Manston contain a typical mixture of Organic-tempered and Sandy Wares (Mephram 2009, 226), but also a collection of imported pottery including jars and handled pitchers/jugs, of Frankish origin (*ibid*, 225). Such finds are common in Kentish cemeteries but not settlement sites and it is therefore important that a small quantity of imported sherds were recovered from early features at Lyminge. In Kent as a whole the earliest Anglo-Saxon types are Sandy Wares. The Seventh-century sees a brief phase in which Organic-tempered Wares were used, but these are not a common component of assemblages from Kent (Jervis forthcoming). Sandy Wares continue in use into the 8th-9th centuries, during which time Shelly Wares emerge in coastal regions of the county, developing into the distinctive early medieval Sandy and Shelly-Sandy Wares of the 11th Century.

Local Geology

Lyminge is situated on chalk, but to the north and south this is overlain by gravel and silt 'head' deposits, whilst to the east the superficial geology consists of alluvial silts, clays, sands and gravels. Therefore, localised outcrops of clay do occur, indeed one was located during trial excavations during the 2010 season. To the west and north, there are occasional outcrops of clay-with-flints overlying the chalk, a heterogeneous deposit consisting of weathered clay and flint nodules. A band of iron-rich Gault Clay runs to the south west of the site, which contains a range of marine fossils. To the south of these deposits is an area of sandstone geology, overlain in some areas by brickearth. In

north east Kent deposits of London clay are present, characterised by the presence of marine fossils. Therefore, a range of potential clay sources were available to potters working in the Lyminge area and it may be possible to consider the variety of sources exploited.

This report will consider the assemblage from Lyminge against this backdrop, situating the wares in the regional context and also suggesting, where possible, potential sources for these wares.

EARLY-MID SAXON POTTERY

Twenty-three percent of the assemblage can be dated to the early-mid Saxon periods. These wares were principally recovered from the excavations undertaken in 2010 and the sherds were primarily excavated from the fills of sunken featured buildings. The most abundant wares are Sandy Wares, but a small quantity of other types, including 32 sherds of imported pottery, can be dated to this phase (table 2).

Ware		Fabric	SC	SW
<i>Sandy Ware</i>	Coarse Sandy Ware	78	4	14
		87	40	492
		<i>Total</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>506</i>
	Fine Sandy Ware	72	9	35
	Sandy Ware	75	1092	6332
76		119	702	
<i>Total</i>		<i>1211</i>	<i>6892</i>	
<i>Organic-tempered Ware</i>	Organic-tempered Sandy Ware	81	5	72
	Organic-tempered Ware	10	55	547
<i>Iron Rich Ware</i>	Iron Rich Ware	80	18	110
		83	11	46
		84	9	14
		85	17	199
		<i>Total</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>369</i>
<i>Rock-tempered Ware</i>	Coarse Flint-tempered Ware	79	23	128
	Fine Flinty Ware	73	2	4
		89	1	6
		<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>
	Oolithic Limestone-tempered	86	2	4
Sandstone-tempered Ware	88	2	13	
<i>Shelly Ware</i>	Shelly Ware	74	4	22
<i>Import</i>	Flemish(?) Greyware	82	1	21
	Pimply Wheelthrown Ware	77	31	67
Total			1445	8828

Table 2: Composition of the 6th-7th Century Assemblage by Ware

Sandy Wares

Five Sandy Ware fabrics were identified, which have been sub-divided into three groups, based on texture; Fine Sandy Ware, Sandy Ware and Coarse Sandy Ware. The Sandy Ware fabric 75 dominates the early-mid Saxon assemblage, accounting for 83% of the Sandy Wares by weight. It is likely to be a local product therefore. Other wares are difficult to source, their low quantities may suggest that some are non-local, but the inclusions are not characteristic of any particular area. The question of the source of these less common wares could, perhaps, be answered by a programme of chemical and thin section analysis.

Fine Sandy Ware (Fabric 72): A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with an irregular fracture. The fabric is brownish grey throughout. The fabric has a fine, sandy matrix and the only visible inclusions are sparse, rounded, fine-sized quartz grains, some of which are iron stained.

Sandy Ware: Two fabrics were identified:

Fabric 75: A hard fabric with a rough or pimply surface, although the outer surface has often been smoothed. Sherds break with an irregular fracture. Sherds have black or brownish-grey surfaces, with a brown core. The matrix is very fine and the only visible inclusions are sparse-moderately abundant, medium sized, rounded quartz grains and occasional sandstone fragments.

Fabric 76: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are black or dark grey throughout. The matrix is sandy and there are abundant fine-medium sized, rounded quartz inclusions, some of which are iron stained. The fabric is likely to be related to the later fabric 24 (see below).

Coarse Sandy Ware: Two fabrics were identified:

Fabric 78: A soft, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are dark grey throughout. Sherds have a sandy matrix and visible inclusions consist of moderately abundant medium-coarse sized sub-rounded quartz and occasional sedimentary rock fragments.

Fabric 87: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds typically have an orange outer surface and a black core and inner surface. The fabric has a sandy matrix with moderately abundant inclusions of medium sized sub-rounded quartz. Vessels are typically fairly thick walled.

By comparing the proportions of particular fabrics it is possible to determine a chronology for some of these fabrics. Fabric 75 occurs principally in SFBs 1 and 2, suggesting a mid 6th-late 7th century date for this fabric (table 3). It is all but absent from SFB 3, from which a high quantity of fabric 76 was recovered. Fabric 76 does appear related to the later Sandy Ware fabric 24, recovered from the excavations in 2008 and 2009 and it is possible therefore that we can observe this type becoming increasingly common through the 7th-8th centuries. The Coarse Sandy fabric 76 was only recovered from SFB 1, whilst fabric 87 was principally recovered from SFBs 2 and 3, the earliest and latest in the sequence. If the sherds in SFB 3 are residual, we can perhaps see a gradual decrease in the quantity of coarse inclusions through the sequence, coupled with an increase in the sand content of the fabrics, suggesting more care was being put into the processing and preparation of clays.

Ware		Fabric	SFB 1	SFB 2	SFB 3	SFB 4	Total (g)
Sandy Ware	Coarse Sandy Ware	78	100%				14
		87	2%	76%	22%		492
	Fine Sandy Ware	72	62%	31%	8%		26
	Sandy Ware	75	14%	85%	1%	0%	6127
		76	13%	69%	17%	1%	695
Organic-tempered Ware	Organic-tempered Sandy Ware	81	29%	71%			72
	Organic-tempered Ware	10	78%	0%	17%	4%	466
Iron Rich Ware	Iron Rich Ware	80	21%	79%			110
		83		100%			46
		84		86%	14%		14
		85		66%	18%	17%	199
Rock-tempered Ware	Coarse Flint-tempered Ware	79	98%		2%		111
	Fine Flinty Ware	73	50%	50%			4
	Oolithic Limestone-tempered	86	100%				2
	Sandstone-tempered Ware	88		100%			13
Shelly Ware	Shelly Ware	74	100%				22
Import	Flemish(?) Greyware	82	100%				21
	Pimply Wheelthrown Ware	77	51%	49%			67
Total			19%	75%	5%	1%	8501

Table 3: Distribution of 6th-7th Century Wares (Sherd Weight, g).

The majority of sherds were too fragmented to be assigned to a specific vessel form. Three vessel forms were identified in the assemblage however, jars, cups and bowls. A maximum of 67 jars were identified in fabric 75, with a further 7 being identified in fabric 76. The majority of these jars have simple, everted rims with a rounded profile. Four examples have a slightly thickened profile, whilst there are 2 examples of an upright rim form. These rim forms are paralleled well in Canterbury. A jar with incised chevron decoration in fabric 75 is paralleled in Canterbury, where it occurs in a Chalk-tempered Ware (MacPherson Grant 1995, 825). Similar vessels are known from a number of sites in Kent (Myres 1977, fig 279). This vessel has Danish parallels and can be dated to the late 5th or early 6th centuries (MacPherson Grant 1993, 167; Myres 1977, 47) and similar types are also known from Frisia (Myres 1977, 48). This dating corresponds with the small find evidence, which suggests a dump of 5th-6th century material is present in SFB2.

A total of 6 Sandy Ware bowls are present in the assemblage. All are undecorated and exhibit simple, inturned rims. A single cup is present, in fabric 76, identified through the presence of a small rod handle. The form is paralleled by Myres (1977, no. 1079 from Beakesbourne, Kent) and 6th-7th century handled vessels are also known from Canterbury (MacPherson Grant 1995). The cup was recovered from SFB 2 and could, potentially be part of the dump of 5th-6th century material, although the fabric counts against this. A coarse Sandy Ware (fabric 87) small cup or bowl was also recovered from SFB 2. This may have been a crucible, although there is no evidence of metal or glass working residues. Myres (1977) illustrates a range of similar straight sided bowls, including examples from East Sussex and Kent (e.g. no. 1948).

Eleven Sandy Ware sherds are decorated. The majority are decorated with incised lines. It is possible that some sherds with incised lines may also be part of a chevron scheme. One of the sherds is also burnished. It is possible that this sherd is from a beaker (see MacPherson Grant 1993, 167). These are the most common decorative type amongst material from Canterbury (MacPherson Grant 1995, 864) and as in Canterbury, it is only the hardest sandy ware fabrics which are decorated in this manner (MacPherson Grant 1993, 170). Similar motifs are found throughout the North Sea zone, principally in contexts of 5th-6th century date. Most of the decorated pottery came from SFB 2 and therefore may form part of the earlier dump in this feature. A further 2 sherds exhibit what appears to be textile impressions. Such decoration is not known from Canterbury, although a sherd of Ipswich Ware from London does display similar surface treatment (Blackmore 1988, 102). One example with Schlikung (coarse slip) decoration was identified from a test pit and this technique may have been used to produce a similarly rough surface.

Organic-Tempered Wares

Organic-tempered Wares are not common in the assemblage. Two fabrics were identified:

Organic-tempered Ware (Fabric 10): A soft, soapy fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Firing is inconsistent, but sherds typically have grey or slightly orangish surfaces with a black core. The matrix is very fine and slightly micaceous. There are abundant voids derived from organic tempering material, which are also visible on the surfaces of some sherds.

Organic-tempered Sandy Ware (Fabric 81): A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds typically have a slightly oxidised surface with a dark, reduced core. The matrix is fine with moderately abundant, fine, rounded quartz grains being visible along with occasional voids derived from organic tempering material.

Organic-tempered Wares are not a common component of early-mid Saxon assemblages from Kent when compared to other areas of the country. Both wares are paralleled in Canterbury, the profusely Organic-tempered fabric 10 is similar to fabric EMS4, whilst the Organic-tempered Sandy Ware is similar to EMS1/4 (MacPherson Grant 1995, 822). Only two sherds were recovered at Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 208). In Canterbury, Organic-tempered Wares are quite tightly dated to the 7th century and this dating holds here, given the exclusive occurrence of fabric 10 in SFBs 1 (dated to the 7th century, from which the majority was recovered) and 3 (dated to the 8th-9th centuries, with sherds perhaps representing the tail end of the tradition, or perhaps more likely, the presence of a residual element in the filling of this feature). The low number of sherds may suggest that these wares were not produced locally and that the sherds here represent only a small quantity of vessels brought to the site (a maximum of 4 jars were identified in fabric 10), perhaps as containers. All of the jars have simple, everted rims with a rounded profile.

Iron Rich Wares

A small group of Iron Rich Wares are present, four fabrics have been identified, differentiated by their texture and the types of ferruginous inclusions present:

Fabric 80: A hard, smooth fabric which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are dark grey-black throughout. The matrix is very fine and there are sparse inclusions of fine sized, rounded quartz with moderately abundant, rounded inclusions of red iron ore.

Fabric 85: A hard, slightly rough fabric which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are reddish brown throughout. The matrix is fine with sparse-moderately abundant fine, rounded quartz, occasional flecks of mica and moderately abundant, medium sized, sub-rounded inclusions of red iron ore. This would appear to be a coarser version of fabric 80.

Fabric 83: A very hard fabric with a pimply texture. Sherds break with irregular fracture. The fabric has orangish-buff surfaces and a black core. The matrix is very fine with sparse inclusions of rounded fine-medium sized quartz and iron rich argillaceous inclusions.

Fabric 84: A hard, smooth fabric which breaks with irregular fracture. The fabric is dark grey-black throughout. The matrix is sandy, with moderately abundant, medium sized, rounded quartz grains and sparse inclusions of black iron ore being visible.

The majority of the Iron Rich Wares were recovered from the earliest SFB (2), with small quantities of fabric 80 coming from SFB 1 and of fabrics 83 and 84 from SFB 3. Similar wares to fabrics 80 and 85 are known in Canterbury (fabric EMS 8) and an East Kent source is suggested (MacPherson-Grant 1995, 823). Fine and coarse variants occur, as in the assemblage from Lyminge. The finer variant is wheelthrown but it is not possible to determine whether fabric 80 was produced in this way as sherds are too small and abraded. It is possible, however, that fabric 83, was wheelthrown and this can perhaps also be attributed to this East Kent tradition.

A maximum of 9 jars were identified in this ware group, with the majority of sherds being undiagnostic of form. These jars all have simple, or slightly thickened, everted rims with a rounded profile. Two examples are present with incised decoration and a further sherd exhibits a possible textile impression (see above).

Rock-‘Tempered’ Wares

Four fabrics are present with various rock inclusions. Two fabrics have flint inclusions, one is characterised by the presence of Oolithic Limestone and one by the presence of Sandstone. Amongst the Flint-tempered Wares, fine and coarse variants have been defined.

Fine Flinty Ware (Fabric 73/89): A hard, smooth fabric, with occasional pieces of flint protruding through the surface. Sherds break with irregular fracture. Surface colour varies from buff to grey and sherds have a grey core. The matrix is fine. Sparse, fine-medium sized, rounded quartz grains are visible, with sparse sub-rounded flint (which is often patinated) of the same size. The flint is unlikely to be added as temper.

Coarse Flint-tempered Ware (Fabric 79): A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The fabric is orange-buff throughout. The matrix is fine and inclusions consist of abundant, angular, patinated flint of medium size, with occasional fragments of shell and ferruginous inclusions.

Oolithic Limestone-tempered Ware (Fabric 86): A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with a fine fracture. The exterior surface and margin is pinkish whilst the core and interior surface are grey. The matrix is very fine and the only visible inclusions are common, fine-medium sized rounded limestone inclusions. The regular, round shape, suggests that the limestone is Oolithic in nature.

Sandstone-tempered Ware (Fabric 88): A hard, slightly rough, fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are orange throughout, with a sandy matrix, characterised by common, black ferruginous inclusions. There are sparse, medium sized, rounded quartz grains and larger, sub-rounded, sandstone fragments present.

None of these wares are common in the assemblage. Fine Flinty Ware likely fits into the Sandy Ware tradition, with this flint being derived from the clay or sand temper, rather than having been

deliberately added. The relationship between Fine Flinty Ware and the Sandy Wares is also supported by the presence of sherd with incised line decoration. The Coarse Flint-tempered Ware would appear to be a 7th-8th century phenomena, as demonstrated by the presence of similar types in the later deposits. All but 1 of the sherds were recovered from SFB 1. This ware is likely to have been handmade, so does not fall into the class of imported, Flint-tempered Wares (EMS7) known from Canterbury and elsewhere in East Kent (MacPherson Grant 1993, 178). One possibility is that these wares are Sussex products, where flint-tempering steadily increases from the 6th-7th centuries (Jervis 2010, 100). The majority of sherds could not be attributed to a form. A single jar was identified, with a simple, everted rim, with a rounded profile.

The other two wares are also exceptionally rare in the assemblage. Two sherds of Sandstone-tempered Wares are present. Such wares are most common in the Thames basin, particularly southern Essex and northern Kent (Blackmore and Vince 2008, 155) where they date from the 5th-7th centuries and the sandstone is derived from erratics transported by the former course of the Thames. Whilst Sandstone was available locally, its exploitation as temper is unusual in the immediate area, suggesting that this ware was imported to the site. Oolitic limestone inclusions have also been identified amongst the pottery from Springhead (Northfleet) (Vince unpub.). They do not occur in the geology of south east England and on the basis of the occurrence of their presence in fluvio-glacial deposits in East Anglia a Suffolk source was suggested. Therefore, these small quantities of rock-tempered pottery may provide evidence of coastwise contact both westwards to Sussex (as indicated by the Flint-tempered Ware) and eastwards (as demonstrated by the Sandstone- and Limestone- tempered wares). No sherds could be attributed to a specific form. Further analysis of all of these fabrics could allow their source to be explored and potentially identified more accurately.

Shelly Ware

Shelly Wares are common amongst the mid-late Saxon material, but are rare amongst the early-mid Saxon assemblage. A single fabric was identified:

Fabric 74: A soft, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The fabric is black throughout. The fine, slightly micaceous matrix is similar to that of fabric 10. There are common shell inclusions.

Four sherds of Shelly Ware were recovered from SFB 1, dating them to the 7th century. One of these is a simple, everted rim with a rounded profile, from a jar. This mirrors the picture in Canterbury, where Shelly Wares do not appear in the sequence until the latter part of the mid-Saxon period (8th century) (MacPherson Grant 1995, 823), save for an earlier fabric which is described as 'sub-Roman'. As with the development of the Sandy Wares through the SFB sequence, we can perhaps see these sherds as evidence for the emergence of shell tempering in the 7th century, a technique which becomes increasingly common through the mid-late Saxon periods, for example it emerges in *Lundenwic* in the late 8th century (Blackmore and Vince 2008, 156).

Imported Wares

Two imported types were identified amongst the early-mid Saxon material, a greyware and a pimply, wheelthrown ware.

Pimply Wheelthrown Ware (Fabric 77): A hard fabric, with a pimply texture. Sherds break with an irregular fracture. Oxidised and reduced versions occur; the oxidised version is buff/orange throughout, whilst the

reduced version is light grey throughout. The matrix is fine and there are moderately abundant, medium sized, sub-rounded quartz grains visible.

Flemish(?) Greyware: A hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The surfaces are grey, with orange margins and a grey core, a characteristic common of pottery of this date from east Belgium. The matrix is sandy with moderately abundant, medium sized, sub-rounded quartz grains and occasional argillaceous inclusions.

Sherds of Pimply Wheelthrown Ware were recovered from SFBs 1 and 2, suggesting a 6th-7th century date for this ware, corresponding with the generally accepted date for the import of Frankish wares into Kent (Mephram 2009, 227). The pimply grey or buff fabric matches well with the description of the wares recovered from Buckland Cemetery (Dover) (Evison 1987, 93) and from a domestic context at Manston (Mephram 2009). Three jars were identified amongst the assemblage, all with simple, or slightly thickened, everted rims, with a rounded profile. One of these has a rim diameter of 140mm, making it unlikely that the rim is from a bottle. Jars with similar rim forms were present amongst the imported material from Manston (Mephram 2009, 225).

The Greyware sherd was recovered from SFB 1 and is therefore likely to be of 7th century date. The sherd is from a jar and has a clubbed rim, with a rounded profile. A similar Greyware (EMS9) has been recovered from early-mid Saxon contexts in Canterbury (MacPherson Grant 1995, 823). Although only a small number of sherds, the presence of these imports at Lyminge is highly significant, adding to a trend of imported pottery being recovered from occupation as well as cemetery sites in south east England, from deposits pre-dating the emergence and solidification of the *wic* trading network.

Summary

The assemblage is the first of early-mid Saxon date to be excavated from a secure occupation context in south east Kent and offers one of the best groups from the county outside of Canterbury. The wares present are generally typical of the region, but given the chronological differences between deposition into the sunken featured buildings it is possible to offer a tentative chronology of local Sandy Ware types. The dating of these features, based largely on the small finds, allows us to date the pottery relatively closely and the clear focus of Organic-tempered Wares in SFB 1 adds further evidence to the opinion that these were a relatively short lived, seventh century type in southern Kent. The conclusion reached from the small finds evidence, that a dump of 5th-6th century material is present in SFB 2, is supported by the presence of decorated pottery in this feature, typical of this early phase, and offers evidence that there may be further evidence of early occupation in the area, waiting to be uncovered. The end of the sequence also allows us to consider the development of 8th-9th century types, such as the emergence of Shelly Ware, present in small quantities in SFB 1. The sequence is not unbroken, but it can tentatively be argued that we can see the development of later wares here and it may be possible to assess the level of continuity in occupation between the excavated areas once a more detailed ceramic sequence for the mid-late Saxon pottery has been developed. Of key importance are the imported wares and non-local Rock-tempered Wares, which demonstrate that the site participated in coastwise exchange prior to the foundation of the monastery, with wares present from the east and west in small quantities, along with a group of 7th century imported, Frankish, wares, the presence of which adds to an emerging picture of small scale trade across the channel prior to the foundation of the *wics*, and demonstrates that these vessels were used both in settlement, as well as cemetery contexts.

MID-LATE SAXON POTTERY

A total of 4020 sherds of mid-late Saxon date were excavated from 2007-9. This period covers the 8th-10th centuries, with the majority of types probably fitting more closely into the earlier half of this period. These are principally composed of local Shelly Ware and Sandy Ware types, with small quantities of, potentially non-local, rock-tempered wares also being present. Approximately 7% of the assemblage consists of imported wares, with a variety of fine and coarseware types being present, principally from Flanders and northern France.

Shelly Wares

Shelly Wares are the most common type in the mid-late Saxon assemblage (table 4). Several variants have been identified, the majority are likely to be locally produced. Further imported Shelly Ware fabrics are present in the assemblage (see below).

	Ware	Fabric	SC	SW
Shelly Ware	Coarse Shelly Ware	15	10	27
		16	869	5045
		31	374	3581
	Sandy Ware with Shell	11	9	27
		17	12	81
		18	60	634
19		346	1870	
69		113	903	
Sandy Ware	Coarse Sandy Ware	20	16	131
		29	122	739
	Fine Sandy Ware	13	14	26
		25	15	70
		48	10	127
	Iron Rich Sandy Ware	26	218	1370
		38	18	78
		58	10	28
	Sandy Ware	22	12	39
		24	424	2114
27		706	10949	
Canterbury Sandy Ware	LS1	17	106	
Rock-tempered	Flint and Sand-tempered Ware	9	22	135
		30	166	738
	Flint-tempered Ware	63	4	35
		33	62	350
	Sandy Ware with Flint	65	24	127
		47	1	1
Oolithic Limestone-tempered	34	3	9	
Sandstone-tempered Ware				
Import			323	3001
Ipswich Ware			43	1384
Winchester-type Ware			1	7
Total			4024	33732

Table 4: Quantification of the 8th-9th Century Local Wares

Coarse Shelly Ware: Two fabrics were identified:

Fabric 16: A soft fabric which ranges in texture from rough to smooth. Sherds break with a laminar fracture and vessels are inconsistently fired, the core is black but surface colour ranges from black to greyish orange.

The matrix is fine and similar to that of the earlier fabrics 10 and 74. There are abundant, coarse sized crushed shell inclusions.

Fabric 31: Is a soft fabric with smooth surfaces, which breaks with an irregular fracture. Sherds typically have a greyish brown surface with a black core. The matrix is sandy and coarser than that of fabric 16. There are abundant shell inclusions, which are generally finer than those in fabric 16, with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded quartz and patinated flint.

Sandy Wares with Shell: Three fabrics were identified:

Fabric 17: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Black throughout. Fine matrix with sparse inclusions of medium sized, angular quartz and occasional shell fragments.

Fabric 18: A soft, soapy fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Surfaces are buff-grey and the core is light grey. The matrix is very fine, with occasional visible inclusions of fine rounded quartz and black ferruginous material, with occasional shell fragments.

Fabric 19: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are generally black throughout, with a sandy matrix. There are abundant inclusions of fine-medium sized, rounded and sub-rounded quartz, with sparse-moderately abundant shell inclusions. This fabric appears to be related to fabric 31.

Fabric 69: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Sherds are generally black throughout. The fabric has a fine sandy matrix, characterised by abundant fine sized quartz grains. There are occasional inclusions of shell and patinated flint. The majority of the boss decorated pottery from the site is in this fabric.

Shelly Wares are a common component of assemblages from the region. At Sandtun, for example, Shelly Wares are the most common local late Saxon type. These local wares have a laminar fabric and contain crushed shell (Gardiner et al 2001, 209) and are dated to the 8th-9th century. These are paralleled at Lyminge by the Coarse Shelly Wares, which are the most abundant single type in the mid-late Saxon assemblage. A range of other Shelly wares are present at Sandtun, which have a fine sandy matrix with varying quantities of shell temper (Group 3). These are sourced very broadly to the south coast of England or Thames estuary. The quantity of the pottery and the presence of crushed shell in the fabric suggests a local coastal source. This group equates to the Sandy Ware with Shell and the various fabrics present may indicate that these wares were sourced from a number of different centres. Similar coarse shelly wares (MLS 4) and Sandy wares with Shell (MLS 5) have been identified in Canterbury, where they also date to the 8th-9th centuries. Fabric 69, in which the majority of boss decorated pottery occurs, equates to fabric MLS2.

Jars are the most common vessel form in the local Shelly Wares. Three bowls were identified, including a vessel with a strap handle (fabric 16), along with a large cup or handled bowl with a rod handle (fabric 19) (see below). The jar rims are typically simple, everted forms with a rounded profile, although single examples of thickened and simple, everted rims with a square profile are present in some fabrics. Such forms become increasingly common in the assemblage from Canterbury through the 7th-9th centuries (MacPherson Grant 1995), a pattern which appears to be mirrored here. Bossing is the most common decorative form amongst the local pottery, occurring on a maximum of 47 vessels. This decoration has been the subject of a detailed examination by Cavendish (unpub.) so will not be discussed in depth here. The majority of bossed sherds are in fabric 69 (Cavendish: Shelly Ware). Examples (not included in Cavendish's study) have also been noted in fabrics 31 and 19. This method of decoration is not common on the most common local shelly wares therefore, and it is possible that bossed Shelly Ware vessels were imported from

outside of the site, perhaps from Canterbury, where vessels occur in fabric MLS2, which appears related to fabric 69. No other Shelly Ware vessels are decorated.

Handled vessels are known from Canterbury, but the two examples illustrated by MacPherson Grant (1995 nos. 62 and 202) are in Sandy Ware EMS1 and date to the 6th-7th centuries. Therefore they are earlier than the two Shelly Ware vessels from Lyminge. The examples from Lyminge perhaps fit into a second group of southern English handled vessels dated to the 9th-10th centuries, including examples from Southampton, Bishopstone and Chichester (Jervis 2008). Early-mid Saxon handled vessels are known from the east coast and from sites in the Low Countries and Scandinavia, where they occur in varying form in contexts of 4th-10th century date (ibid 304). These two examples can, perhaps, be dated to the tail end of this North Sea tradition, with the handled bowl/cup form being imitated in local Shelly Ware fabrics. The presence of vessels of potential 8th-9th century date, coupled with the presence of Flint-tempered Wares of potential East Sussex provenance (see below) could cause us to re-evaluate the influences behind the Bishopstone vessel, as the chronological gap between the Canterbury vessels and those known from further west is closed and we are provided with tentative evidence of coastwise contact between these areas.

On the face of it, the local Shelly Wares from Lyminge simply add to a picture of these wares emerging in the mid-Saxon period in south-east Kent, fitting into the wider development of these wares in coastal areas of south-east England and across the wider north sea zone (see below). We are able, however, to consider their development and use more subtly, to explore the transfer of ideas across this coastal zone, for example through the imitation of forms as well as the development of shell tempering itself, from the early sherds in SFB 1 to the later features excavated in 2007-9. Investigations into the development of this technique will be greatly enhanced once stratigraphic data and absolute dates have been integrated with the ceramic data, to allow us to explore when and how rapidly this type of pottery developed and how long it remained in use for. We are also able to consider the movement of vessels, through the presence of distinctive bossed types which are probably regional products. The presence of imported shelly wares (see below) demands us to rethink how and why pottery moved, and serves to demonstrate the potentially cosmopolitan nature of the population of this well connected monastic site.

Sandy Wares

Fourteen Sandy Ware fabrics were identified, which have been separated based on basis of texture and the inclusions present. These have been grouped into five-subgroups; Sandy Wares, Coarse Sandy Wares, Fine Sandy Wares, Iron Rich Sandy Wares and Canterbury Sandy Ware (table 4).

Sandy Ware: Two fabrics have been determined, differentiated on the basis of texture:

Fabric 24: A hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Sherds are black throughout, although the surfaces are occasionally slightly reddened. The matrix is sandy and the fabric is characterised by abundant, fine, rounded quartz grains, with occasional flecks of mica.

Fabric 27: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with Irregular fracture. Sherds are generally black/grey throughout, although there is occasional reddening at the surfaces. The matrix is characterised by abundant sub-rounded medium sized quartz grains.

Coarse Sandy Ware: Two fabrics fit into this group. Inclusions are generally larger and the surfaces rougher than those of the two Sandy Ware fabrics.

Fabric 20: A soft, soapy fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The colour varies from orange to black. The matrix is fine and sandy, with moderately abundant, coarse sized inclusions sub-angular quartz and sedimentary rock fragments.

Fabric 29: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds vary in colour from orange to grey. The fabric has a fine sandy matrix with moderately abundant medium-coarse sized quartz, in a variety of sizes.

Fine Sandy Ware: Three fine Sandy Wares were identified. Two fabrics (25 and 48) are related, whilst Fabric 13 shares some similarities with the Shelly Ware fabric 16 and the earlier fabrics 10 and 74.

Fabric 13: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are black throughout, with a very fine, slightly micaceous matrix. There are occasional inclusions of sub-rounded, medium sized quartz.

Fabric 25: A hard, slightly rough, fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Surfaces are buff-grey in colour, with a light grey core. Inclusions consist of moderately abundant fine, rounded quartz grains.

Fabric 48: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. The surfaces are pinkish grey and the core dark grey. The fabric has a fine matrix, with moderately abundant, medium sized, rounded quartz grains.

Iron Rich Sandy Ware: Three Sandy Wares are characterised by the presence of ferruginous inclusions:

Fabric 26: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are black throughout, with occasional reddening. The matrix is sandy and inclusions consist of moderately abundant, rounded quartz grains of medium size and occasional flecks of ferruginous argillaceous material. The fabric is probably related to fabric 27.

Fabric 38: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Surfaces are orange-buff in colour, with a greyish buff core. The matrix is very fine and the only visible inclusions are abundant flecks of black iron ore.

Fabric 58: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with affine fracture. Sherds have oxidised surfaces and a black core. The matrix is very fine and there sparse inclusions of fine, sub-angular quartz and black ferruginous material.

The final sub-type is ***Late Saxon Canterbury Sandy Ware (CAT fabric LS1):*** A reduced sandy ware characterised by abundant inclusions of evenly sized quartz sand (Macpherson-Grant 1995, 824).

The most common Sandy Wares in the assemblage are fabrics 24 and 27, which appear to be the antecedents of fabrics 75 and 76. The iron rich fabric 26 is also relatively abundant. The high iron oxide content is paralleled amongst the sandy wares from Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 208), but non-ferruginous fabrics also occur. A Gault Clay source is likely for the iron rich Sandy Wares, whilst other wares may have been produced from more localised superficial clay deposits. These wares are a minor component of the Sandtun assemblage, but are relatively abundant here. It would appear that Sandy Wares were produced locally, continuing from an earlier tradition. Similar sandy wares (MLS 3) were also in use in Canterbury during the 8th-9th century. Stratigraphic analysis may allow a better understanding of the relationship between Sandy and Shelly wares to emerge. Some fabrics, particularly the Fine Sandy Wares, are not abundant and may be non-local products, but further analysis needs to be undertaken to establish their provenance. Late Saxon Canterbury Sandy Ware (dated to the 9th-11th centuries) is not common amongst the excavated assemblage. This suggests that the bulk of the features pre-date its inception, as it has been identified from trial trenches elsewhere around the village (see below and Appendix 2).

A single bowl was identified amongst the Sandy Wares, the remaining diagnostic sherds were from jars. The majority of these have simple, everted rims with a rounded profiles, although occasional examples with straight edged or clubbed forms occur. Vessels are rarely decorated. As with the most common decorative form is bossed decoration which occurs on sherds of (possibly an early variant of) Canterbury Sandy Ware (Cavendish: Sandy Ware 1), fabric 13 (Cavendish: Sandy Ware 7), fabric 26 (Cavendish: Sandy Wares 3, 5, 6, Iron Rich Sandy Ware), fabric 27 (Cavendish Sandy Ware 4), with single examples also occurring in fabrics 48 and 24 (not considered in Cavendish's study). It would seem that small quantities of bossed pottery were produced locally (fabrics 24, 26 and 27), with examples also being present in other, less common Sandy Wares, which may not be of local manufacture. A further sherd of fabric 48 was rouletted, with a diamond motif, whilst a sherd of fabric 26 was rouletted, but the motif could not be recognised. A further sherd of fabric 27 is decorated with a ring-dot stamp and is identical to a Sandy Ware sherd from Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 212). At Sandtun a distinction appears to exist between beakers and pitchers, produced in sandy fabrics and cooking pots, in Shelly Wares (Gardiner et al 2001, 211). Such a distinction cannot be clearly drawn from the Lyminge assemblage at this point, although smaller Sandy Ware vessels can be demonstrated to be more common than smaller Shelly Ware vessels (figure 1). This, coupled with the fact that Sandy Ware vessels are (marginally) more commonly decorated, may allow us to tentatively make a similar conclusion here, although before this can be firmly established, the chronological relationship between Sandy and Shelly Wares needs to be more firmly established.

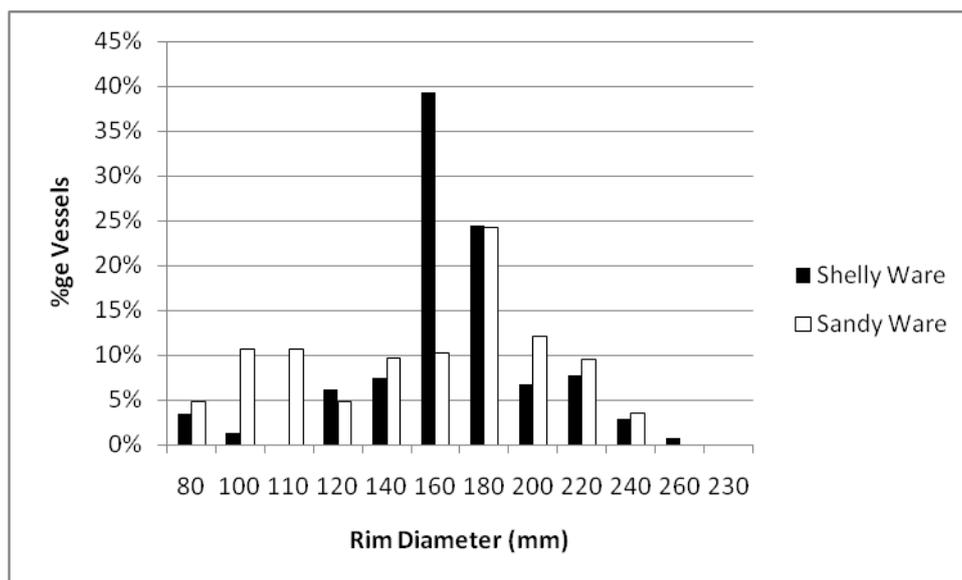


Figure 1: Comparison of the Rim Diameter of Shelly Ware and Sandy Ware Jars.

Rock-tempered Wares

A range of wares with geological inclusions are present, but only in small quantities (table 4). The most abundant are flinty wares, divided into three groups; Sandy Ware with Flint, Flint-tempered Ware and Flint and Sand-tempered Ware. Individual fabrics with Sandstone and Oolithic Limestone inclusions are also present.

Sandy Ware with Flint: Two fine, sandy fabrics are present, with occasional flint inclusions:

Fabric 33: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Sherds have a grey/buff surface and a black core. The matrix is very fine and the fabric is characterised by sparse, medium-coarse sized, sub-rounded flint inclusions.

Fabric 65: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The fabric is buff/orange throughout. The matrix is similar to that of fabric 33 and the fabric is characterised by sparse, angular, patinated flint inclusions.

Flint-tempered Ware: Two fabrics are present, one, fabric 63, finds a close parallel in Hamwic (fabric ??):

Fabric 30: A hard, abrasive fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Surfaces vary in colour from orange to grey and the core is reduced. The matrix is fine, with occasional rounded fine quartz grains being visible. There are moderately abundant, coarse sized sub-rounded and sub-angular flint fragments present.

Fabric 63: A hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. The fabric is black throughout. The matrix is fine and there are moderately abundant inclusions of rounded, medium sized quartz and medium-coarse sized sub-rounded flint.

Flint-tempered Sandy Ware (Fabric 9): A hard, abrasive fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Surfaces are buff-grey in colour and the core is dark grey. The fabric has a fine matrix with moderately abundant, medium sized, rounded-quartz and sparse-moderately abundant, medium sized, sub-rounded flint. This may be a coarser version of fabric 30.

Sandstone-tempered Ware (Fabric 34): A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are black throughout. The matrix is fine and the fabric is characterised by moderately abundant inclusions of fine, rounded quartz and sparse, coarse sized sandstone inclusions.

Oolitic Limestone-tempered Ware (Fabric 47): A hard, rough fabric. Sherds are grey throughout, with a sandy matrix. There are abundant round voids and rounded limestone inclusions, suggesting the presence of Oolitic Limestone inclusions.

Flint-tempered Wares are a more major component of the mid-late Saxon assemblage than of the early-mid Saxon assemblage. Flint-tempered Wares are not common in Canterbury or at Sandtun and it is unlikely, given their quantities here, that they are local products. As for the earlier wares, an East Sussex source can be suggested. Such wares were approaching their peak in the 9th century (Jervis 2010, 100) and their presence here may indicate coastwise exchange and contact with settlements further west. Similar gritty wares are also known from *Lundenwic*, so the London area must remain a further possible source. One fabric (63) is paralleled in the assemblage from Hamwic and supports this suggestion further. As in the earlier period, the exception is the Sandy Ware with Flint, where the flint is likely to be an incidental inclusion, rather than added as temper. Such wares are known in Canterbury (MLS2) and therefore a local source can be suggested for these wares. Jars with simple, everted rims are the only form in the Flint-tempered Wares. One clubbed rim is present amongst the Sandy Ware with Flint. None of the Flint-tempered Wares are decorated. Two sherds of Sandy Ware with Flint (fabric 65) are bossed and this oxidised fabric may be a variant of the most common boss decorated fabric, fabric 69.

As in the earlier period, a sherd of Oolitic Limestone tempered ware may have an East Anglian source. Similar wares are known from *Lundenwic*, where they date to the 7th-8th century (Blackmore 2003, 236). Sandstone-tempered Wares are also known from *Lundenwic* (Blackmore 1989), but comparison of type sherds is required to determine if these are the same as the Lyminge examples.

No identifiable forms are present amongst these wares, but one sherd of Sandstone-tempered Ware exhibits boss decoration (not included in Cavendish's study).

Imported Wares

Imported wares account for 7% of the assemblage by sherd count. A varied range of types are present, including coarsewares (Flint-tempered Ware, Shelly Ware and Grog-tempered Ware), north French/Flemish Reduced Wares and Whitewares (including Red Painted Ware), Oxidised Wares and imports from other areas of England, consisting of Ipswich(?) Ware and Winchester(?) Ware (table 5). The majority of types present are also known from Sandtun/Canterbury. This is a significant group of imports as it has been recovered away from a trading site and includes a wide range of imported wares, which are not just limited to the wheelthrown reduced wares and whitewares, which typify assemblages of imported wares away from wic sites.

Ware Name	Fabric	SC	SW
Shelly Ware	61	4	10
	71	2	192
	91	1	37
Iron Rich Shelly Ware	44	26	243
Oxidised Shelly Ware	37	39	185
Flint-tempered Ware	70	2	93
Grog-tempered Ware	46	4	64
Blackware (London NFBW/Hamwic Class 14)	42	4	54
	45	91	562
	52	4	133
	92	2	4
North French Greyware (London NFGW)	68	10	69
	49	7	63
Flemish Greyware (London NFEB; Hamwic Class 13)	14	13	63
	51	5	57
	66	3	42
Badorf Ware	54	11	267
	64	2	4
	67	1	2
Sandy Whiteware with Reduced Surfaces (London NFWR)	21	26	147
	23	10	87
	28	29	196
	32	4	50
Oxidised Ware	59	5	40
	50	6	117
	56	5	36
	57	2	99
North French Whiteware (London BEAV/Hamwic Class 9)	95	2	30
Low Countries Greyware	62	3	55
Fine' Ipswich Ware		41	1345
Pimply Ipswich Ware		2	39
Winchester-type Ware		1	7
Total		367	4392

Table 5: Quantification of the Imported and Non-Local English Wares

Coarsewares

Three groups of coarsewares can be identified. The most numerous are Shelly Wares, but sherds of Flint-tempered Ware and Grog-tempered Ware also occur.

Shelly Ware

Five non-local Shelly Ware fabrics were identified. The majority are analogous with imported types from Sandtun, where Iron Rich Shelly Ware and Oxidised Shelly Ware (Sandtun group 1) and Fine Shelly Ware (Sandtun Group 3?) occur. Wheelthrown Shelly Ware is thought to be related to Sandtun Group 1, although none was positively identified as matching *Hamwic* Fabric 90, which the Lyminge sherd does. One vessel is present in a densely tempered Profusely Shelly Ware (fabric 71), which MacPherson-Grant (1993, 182-3) has demonstrated to date from c875-925 and possibly derive from Flanders. This corresponds with the dating for the other wares, for example Wheelthrown Shelly Ware occurs in 9th- to 10th- century contexts at *Quentovic* (Worthington 1993, 379) and is found in both *Hamwic* and late Saxon Southampton (Brown 1994, 136). Whereas local Shelly Wares can be dated to the 8th-9th centuries, the imported wares seem to have a slightly later date. This corresponds with the development of Shelly Wares in Frisia and Flanders, where they appear to be most common in the 9th century (Stilke 1995, 15; Worthington 1993). In sum, the dating of these wares needs refining, but it would appear that a Lyminge can be seen as being part of a cross-channel Shelly Ware tradition, which developed through the 8th century, reaching its peak in the 9th, when a small quantity of vessels were brought to the site, perhaps as containers rather than as imported goods in their own right.

Oxidised Shelly Ware (fabric 37): A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds are orange throughout, with a fine sandy matrix. Inclusions consist of abundant crushed shell fragments.

Iron Rich Shelly Ware (fabric 44): A very hard, rough fabric, which breaks with a hackley fracture. The surfaces are buff and the core light grey. There are moderately abundant iron rich, argillaceous inclusions with occasional fragments of shell and moderately sized quartz grains.

Wheelthrown Shelly Ware (fabric 91): A hard, smooth fabric which breaks with irregular fracture. Oxidised surfaces with a grey core. Fine matrix with moderately abundant shell fragments and occasional iron rich argillaceous inclusions. Same as *Hamwic* fabric 90.

Profusely Shelly Ware (Fabric 71): A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Brownish-grey throughout. Fine sandy matrix with abundant crushed shell inclusions.

Fine Shelly Ware (Fabric 61): A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Grey throughout. Very fine matrix, with occasional shell inclusions and black, ferruginous inclusions.

Jars with simple, everted rims with a rounded profile, are the only identifiable forms amongst the imported Shelly Wares. This matches with the types known from *Quentovic* (Worthington 1993) and from the Pas-de-Calais (Routier 2004). Similar types were present amongst the assemblage from Sandtun and Lundenwic (Gardiner et al 2001, 203). Bowls/dishes are relatively common amongst the Sandtun material but none were identified at Lyminge, although this may, in part, be the result of fragmentation meaning that no diagnostic sherds were present. For example, the single base sherd of Wheelthrown Shelly Ware may be from a dish. Only one sherd is decorated, with a wheel stamp. This stamp is paralleled on Shelly Wares from the Pas-de-Calais (Routier 2004) and Frisia (Stike 1995, no. 3.9).

Flint-tempered Ware

One vessel is present in a distinctive flint-tempered ware which may equate to an imported Flint-tempered Ware (CAT Fabric EMS 7), known from Canterbury and other sites in east Kent. MacPherson-Grant (1993, 178) discounts an East Kentish or East Sussex source for this ware and a north French, or more likely Suffolk, source is suggested. The fabric is known from mid-7th century contexts in east Kent and therefore belongs to the earliest part of the mid-late Saxon ceramic sequence from Lyminge.

Fabric 70: A hard, slightly pimply, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Brownish grey throughout. Fine matrix with abundant, angular burnt/patinated flint inclusions.

The only identifiable form is an undecorated jar with a simple, everted rim, with a rounded profile. The form is paralleled amongst other examples from east Kent (MacPherson-Grant 1993, 176).

Grog-tempered Ware

Four sherds of Grog-tempered Ware are present amongst the mid-late Saxon assemblage. A small quantity of residual Roman pottery is present in the assemblage (principally in the form of Samien Ware sherds) and therefore a Roman date cannot be completely discounted for this ware. The fabric does however bare striking similarity to a sample of Grog-tempered Ware from Flanders, both in terms of the matrix and the quantity and type of grog present in the fabric. Therefore, this fabric has tentatively been identified as a Grog-tempered Ware of Flemish origin. In Flanders these can be dated from the 6th-8th centuries (Pieterjan Deckers pers. comm.) so if this attribution is correct, then this fabric belongs to the earlier part of the mid-late Saxon sequence. Grog-tempered Wares have also been recovered in *Lundenwic* (Blackmore 2003, 236) so their occurrence, although rare, is not unheard of and a further review of the literature may reveal more occurrences of this ware type on mid-Saxon sites, particularly on the east coast.

Fabric 46: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Orange/grey surfaces with a black core. Fine matrix with moderately abundant, medium sized, sub-rounded quartz grains and abundant orange grog.

One undecorated jar was identified in the assemblage, with a simple, everted rim, with a rounded profile.

Summary

Undoubtedly, the majority of coarseware pottery used at Lyminge was sourced locally. There are however a small quantity of imported coarseware vessels, principally from the coastal zone of Flanders and northern France present in the assemblage. Two of these types, the Flint-tempered Ware and Grog-tempered Ware belong early in the mid-late Saxon sequence. The dating of the Shelly Wares is more problematic. The Wheelthrown Shelly Ware is definitely late, based on its occurrence in late contexts at *Quentovic* and in late Saxon Southampton. Other fabrics may be slightly earlier, probably dating to the 9th century. There does not seem to have been a consistent supply of imported coarseware pottery to Lyminge, instead it is likely that these vessels found their way to the site as containers.

Blackwares (London NFBW/Hodges Class 14)

This is the largest group by sherd count and consists of four fabrics, by far the most abundant being fabric 45 (table 5). The group is characterised by fabrics with black surfaces and reduced or reddish brown cores and were produced at a range of centres in northern France and eastern Belgium. A small quantity were recovered at Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 193) where they are present as spouted pitchers or jars where burnished and rouletted examples were identified. In *Hamwic* these wares are most common in earlier (ie. 7th-8th century) deposits (Timby 1988, 112).

Fabric 42: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Black throughout. Fine, sandy matrix with sparse, medium sized, sub-rounded quartz grains. The fabric is similar to Hamwic fabric 137.

Fabric 45: A hard, smooth fabric which breaks with laminar fracture. Has black-grey surfaces with a pinkish-brown core. Sandy matrix with common rounded quartz inclusions of medium size, black ferruginous inclusions and occasional shell fragments. The fabric bears some resemblance to Hamwic fabric 131, but is slightly coarser.

Fabric 52: Very hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Grey throughout. Very fine matrix with moderately abundant sub-rounded quartz grains and occasional calcareous material. The fabric is similar to Hamwic fabric 133.

Fabric 92: A hard, smooth fabric which breaks with laminar fracture. Black surfaces, with a pinkish grey core. Fine, sandy matrix with sparse, medium sized, sub-rounded quartz grains, some of which are iron stained. The fabric is paralleled in Hamwic (fabric 130).

Only four vessels could be confidently identified in the assemblage; three jars and a pitcher. The jars all have simple, everted rims with a rounded profile. Sherds are occasionally decorated. One vessel exhibits an applied boss, 1 is decorated with a line of rouletted squares, 1 is decorated with a diamond roulette and 1 exhibits incised decoration. Two sherds are present with lattice stamps. The square roulette is paralleled on Blackwares from Hamwic (Timby 1988, 94). The diamond roulette is not illustrated on Blackware sherds from either site, although is present on Greywares and Seine Valley Whiteware. Similarly, no parallels for the stamped sherds can be found amongst the Lundenwic and Hamwic material and further research is required into the source of the fabric on which this occurs (fabrics 42 and 45). Parallels can be found however amongst the reduced wares from Dorestad (Van Es and Verwers 1980) and therefore a more easterly source for these wares must be considered.

North French Greyware (London NFGW)

Two Greyware fabrics are present in the assemblage. Fabric 49 is paralleled in Hamwic (fabric 184). Fabric 68 is a distinctive, thin walled type which is often highly burnished and decorated with bossed decoration (some of which is applied). The most likely source for these wares is Normandy and the Pas-de-Calais (Blackmore 1988, 90). A small quantity of similar Greywares are known from Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 194).

Fabric 49: A very hard, slightly pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Light grey surfaces with a darker core. Very fine matrix with moderately abundant, medium sized, rounded quartz grains.

Fabric 68: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Grey throughout. A very fine, slightly micaceous, matrix with sparse, rounded quartz/sandstone inclusions of medium sized and black ferruginous material. The fabric is similar to Hamwic fabric 158.

Three sherds of fabric 68 are highly burnished and decorated with applied boss decoration, whilst three are present from a jar with impressed bosses. A parallel can perhaps be found in a vessel from *Lundenwic* (Blackmore 1988, 90), where a 7th-8th century date is suggested. A further vessel (fabric 49) is present with a diamond roulette. The roulette is paralleled in a Greyware of a different fabric in *Hamwic* (Timby 1988, 97).

Flemish Greyware (London NFEB/Hamwic Class 13)

A distinctive group of greywares which are 'sandwich fired', giving oxidised margins and in some cases an oxidised core. The wares are likely to derive from the Pas-de-Calais, Picardy and western Belgium, although some could be from as far east as the Meuse Valley (Blackmore 2003, 239). These wares were not present in the assemblage from Sandtun.

Fabric 14/51: Hard, smooth fabric, with occasional pimples on the surface. Breaks with fine fracture. Grey surfaces and core, with brownish orange margins. Fine matrix with sparse fine-medium sized, rounded quartz grains. Slightly micaceous.

Fabric 66: A very hard, smooth fabric which breaks with irregular fracture. Sherds have a brownish grey surface with dark grey core. Sandy matrix with sparse-moderately abundant rounded quartz grains, some of which are iron stained, and occasional iron rich argillaceous inclusions.

Four jars were identified in the assemblage, two have simple, everted rims with a rounded profile and one has a more squared profile. None of the sherds are decorated.

Possible Badorf-type Ware (London BADO)

A small group of buff wares were recovered. Based upon parallels in the Hamwic type series these have been identified as Badorf-type Wares, although further analysis is required to confirm this attribution. These wares derive from a range of sources within the Cologne region. These wares are known from London (Blackmore 2003, 240) but are exceptionally rare in Hamwic. None were identified at Sandtun. Three fabrics were identified. Fabrics 54 and 64 are very fine sandy wares, whilst fabric 67 is coarser, although not as coarse as sherds of Relief Band Amphorae (Hamwic fabric 123), to which they bear some resemblance. These wares can be quite closely dated based upon the evidence from *Lundenwic* and *Ipswich*, where they are only found in deposits of late 7th or early 8th century date (Blackmore 2003, 240). Some material may be of late Saxon date however, as a sherd occurred in context (1033), which also includes fabric EM1 and a sherd of Winchester-type Ware. Further research is required to provide a more confident determination of the date(s) of the Lyminge sherds. These wares are rare in England and are considerably more common on the continent as non-local components of assemblages, for example, at *Dorestad* (ibid). Therefore, their occurrence here is highly significant.

Fabric 54: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Pinkish/grey surfaces and margins, with a grey core. Fine sandy matrix, with occasional argillaceous, iron rich inclusions.

Fabric 64: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Pinkish-white throughout. Very fine matrix with sparse, fine-medium sized sub-angular quartz.

Fabric 67: Very hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Orange throughout. Fine matrix with moderately abundant sub-rounded iron stained quartz of medium size.

Amongst the 14 sherds only a pitcher could be confidently identified. It has a simple, everted rim, with a straight-edged profile. One sherd is decorated with incised wavy lines and one is decorated with square roulettes, motifs also present on Badorf-type Ware from Lundenwic (Blackmore 2003, 240-1).

Sandy Whiteware (London NFWR)

This is the second largest group of imports and is the largest group in the assemblage from Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 195), and a Meuse Valley source is likely.

Fabric 21/23/28/32: A hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. White/cream surfaces with a grey or buff core. Fine matrix with moderately abundant rounded quartz of fine-medium size.

Two jars and three pitchers are present amongst the assemblage. All of the rims are simple, everted forms with rounded or straight-edged profiles. A strap handle from a pitcher is present. Three sherds are decorated with rouletting, in two cases the motif could not be made out, but one exhibits a diamond motif. Another sherd is decorated with incised lines. Both types are common on Meuse Valley types of the late 8th-9th centuries (Giertz 1996, 40-1).

Oxidised Wares (London NFRW)

Four oxidised fabrics are present in the assemblage. Fabric 59 is particularly fine and the closest parallel for it amongst the Hamwic material is with a Red Burnished Ware from Flanders (fabric 181). A Flemish source is possible (and likely, given the source of other imports in the collection), but further research is required to provide a more confident attribution. Redware sherds of uncertain origin are also known from Lundenwic (Blackmore 2003, 239) and further research into the source of this small group is required. Only one vessel could be confidently identified, a jar with a clubbed rim.

Fabric 50: A soft, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Black-grey surfaces with a reddish orange core. Fine, sandy and slightly micaceous matrix with abundant fine quartz and occasional black ferruginous material. Larger, sub-rounded inclusions of sedimentary rock fragments.

Fabric 57: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Brownish grey surfaces with a dark orange core. Fine, ferruginous, sandy matrix with abundant-moderately abundant fine rounded quartz grains, with sparse moderately sized sub-rounded grains.

Fabric 56: A very hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Brownish grey surfaces with an orange core. Sandy matrix with abundant, rounded, fine sized quartz grains, occasional black ferruginous inclusions and iron rich clay pellets.

Fabric 59: A hard, very smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Bright orange surfaces with a light grey core. Very fine, sandy matrix with no visible inclusions.

North French Whiteware (London BEAV/Hamwic Class 9)

A single North French Whiteware fabric is present. Sherds are decorated with Red Painted Decoration. The fabric is almost identical to Hamwic fabric 125 which is known as Beauvais Red Painted Ware, although in reality such wares were produced at a range of centres across northern France. No Red Painted Wares were recovered from Sandtun.

Fabric 95: A hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Cream/buff throughout. Fine sandy matrix with moderately abundant rounded, iron stained quartz grains of medium size.

The sherds are decorated with red painted decoration, with a lattice motif. Red Painted Wares are rare in both Lundenwic and Hamwic, where they belong to the later part of the sequence. Lattice motifs are common on Beauvais Red Painted Ware from Southampton (Brown 1994, 138). A 9th-10th century can be suggested for this ware.

Low Countries Greyware

Three sherds of Low Countries Greyware are present in the assemblage. The fabric is paralleled in late Saxon Southampton (Fabric 922) and can be dated to the late Saxon period (late 9th-11th centuries).

Late Saxon Low Countries Greyware: Fabric 62: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Grey throughout. Abundant fine-medium sized sub-rounded quartz grains with occasional iron oxide. The fabric is paralleled in late Saxon Southampton (fabric 922).

Non-Local English Wares

Two non-local English Wares are present in the assemblage. The first is Ipswich Ware, of which the fine and pimply/coarse varieties both occur and the second is Winchester-type Ware, probably dating to the 10th century.

Ipswich Ware

Wheel-finished Ipswich Ware is a well known type at coastal sites in eastern England. It is generally a reduced ware, although oxidised examples are present in this assemblage, characterised by a fine, dense matrix. Coarse, or 'pimply', Ipswich Ware is also present in the assemblage, characterised by occasional larger quartz inclusions. Generally the ware is given a date range of AD 650-850, with them dominating the market in Lundenwic by c750 (Blackmore 2003, 234). A similar pattern has been observed in Canterbury, where they appear to go out of use around 845-50 (MacPherson-Grant 1993, 179). Ten sherds, including oxidised examples, were recovered at Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 206). The Sandtun sherds include large pitcher fragments, similar to those recovered from Lyminge (see below).

'Fine' Ipswich Ware (Fabric 53/55/43/60): A hard, smooth grey fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Grey throughout, but occasionally with brownish margins. Sandy matrix with abundant, fine quartz grains.

'Pimply' Ipswich-type Ware (Fabric 39/94): A very hard, pimply fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Surfaces are black-grey, with a brown-grey core. Fine, slightly micaceous matrix, with sparse-moderately abundant rounded quartz grains, of medium size.

Amongst the Fine Ipswich Ware 2 jars and a pitcher were identified. One of the jars has a simple, everted rim, paralleled on examples from Lundenwic (Blackmore 1988; 2003). The pitcher is a thick walled vessel with a thickened, straight-edged rim. It is decorated with lattice stamps which are located within triangular zones, and thick applied strips or lugs. The type is a well known Ipswich Ware form (Hurst 1976, 301) and similar Ipswich Ware vessels are known from Lundenwic (Blackmore 2003, 234-5) and Sandtun (Gardiner et al 2001, 206). They are generally confined to the south-eastern part of the Ipswich Ware distribution and it has been suggested that they are a Kentish variant (Hurst 1958, 58), although this is not supported by the fabric. Sherds with similar stamps have been identified in Ipswich (West 1963). A sherd is also present with 'stick-end' decoration. A bowl and a jar were identified amongst the 'Pimply' Ipswich Ware sherds. The bowl

has a clubbed rim with a rounded profile. No parallels have been observed amongst the Lundenwic material and further comment on this form must await the imminent publication of the definitive work on this ware (Blinkhorn forthcoming). The jar is present as a shoulder, with noticeable rilling or 'throwing marks' on the exterior surface.

Winchester-type Ware

A single sherd of a wheelthrown, lightly glazed, oxidised ware is present, which matches well with a sample of Winchester-type Ware in Southampton Museum. The ware is relatively common in Winchester, but rare elsewhere in Hampshire, although it is known from the monastic site at Romsey (Jervis forthcoming b). The ware dates to the 10th century, probably being introduced around 950, with it staying in currency for around 50 years, prior to the introduction of local 'tripod pitcher ware' (Holmes and Matthews forthcoming). It's occurrence at Lyminge is unusual, although perhaps unsurprising, given its monastic character. The sherd is decorated with incised wavy lines.

Winchester-type Ware (*Fabric 90*): A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Orange throughout. Sandy matrix with sparse rounded-sub-angular, medium sized quartz grains and occasional black ferruginous inclusions.

Summary

The local wares can be comfortably situated in the 8th-9th century bracket, based on parallels from Canterbury and Sandtun. The Shelly Wares appear to have their origins in the 7th century and further integration with stratigraphic information will allow us to track their rise and decline through the site sequence. Whilst not identical to the earlier wares, the Sandy Wares appear related to earlier types and their chronological development in relation to the Shelly Wares will be a key area for future research, which may provide an approximate dating tool for refining the dates of 7th-9th century contexts. The majority of the vessels identified are jars, whose form is a development of those in use in the 5th-7th centuries and are paralleled in Canterbury, with similar types being used across southern England. The functional, as well as chronological, relationship between the Sandy and Shelly Wares requires further attention. Tentatively it can be suggested that the pattern observed at Sandtun, whereby some Sandy Ware vessels may have functioned as beakers and pitchers, whilst Shelly Wares appear to have principally functioned as 'kitchen' vessels, holds here. The bossed pottery has already received significant attention, however the results of Cavendish's research need to be re-evaluated and integrated fully into the wider discussion of the assemblage. It would appear that much of this distinctive pottery was brought to the site, perhaps from Canterbury, but that the decorative form was imitated in local wares. Wider influences are also displayed in the local products. The adoption of Shell tempering occurs across the North Sea zone and the fine chronological resolution which will be possible from research at Lyminge may allow us to better understand the processes by which this technique developed and was transferred and adopted. Vessel forms also demonstrate wider influences, particularly two handled bowls, which fill a chronological gap between late Saxon vessels from further west and early-mid Saxon vessels from Canterbury, which may indicate the coastwise transfer of influences and further situate Lyminge within its continental context. The presence of non-local Rock-tempered Wares show that Lyminge's contacts stretched along the coast in both directions, continuing links which had been established in the 6th-7th centuries.

The continental imports are principally from the Low Countries and Germany, mirroring the picture in Lundenwic. Some of the wares, principally the Badorf Wares, are not common in wic contexts and this may indicate that Lyminge (or perhaps more accurately Sandtun) was involved in different trading activity to these larger centres. Whilst the reduced wares are well paralleled, further work is required on the Badorf Wares and Oxidised Wares to firmly establish their provenance and dating. Ipswich Ware provides further evidence of the sites role in coastwise exchange, presumably with Lundenwic or Ipswich itself. The find of Ipswich Ware on a monastic site is not surprising, as outside of Ipswich's immediate hinterland it is generally found on high status sites (Blinkhorn 1999). Although the majority of the non-local wares date to the 8th-9th centuries, there is a later component to the assemblage, characterised by small quantities of Red Painted Ware, Low Countries Greyware and Winchester-type Ware, which likely date from the 9th-10th centuries.

POST-CONQUEST POTTERY

A small group of post-conquest types were recovered, principally from test pits and topsoil contexts. These are briefly summarised below. The majority of these sherds were not recovered from secure features so therefore are not considered further. They are an important footnote to the assemblage however, as they provide evidence of continued activity on the site throughout the medieval and post-medieval period, potentially in the form of manuring.

Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware (Fabric EM1): This is the most abundant fabric in the assemblage and is the most commonly occurring ware at sites in east Kent. It is a sandy, low fired fabric, with common-abundant quartz inclusions, which ranges in colour from orange/brown to grey. Reduced sherds are likely to be earlier than oxidised ones (with oxidation being common from c1150) (Cotter 2006, 134), but both types are present in this assemblage. A date range of 1050-1225 has been suggested for this ware (Cotter 2006, 140).

Shelly Sandy Ware (Fabric EM3): An oxidised sandy ware with moderately abundant, ill sorted shell inclusions. It has a similar date range to fabric EM1 (c1050-1225) (Cotter 2006, 153).

Early Medieval Shelly Ware (Fabric EM2): Similar to fabric EM3, but with sparser quartz (Cotter 2006, 149).

Tyler Hill Ware (Fabric M1): A coarse sandy fabric which is very similar to fabric EM1, but is harder fired and denser. The fabric is known to have been produced at the Tyler Hill kilns, north of Canterbury, and is estimated to date from c1175-1375.

Mill Green Ware (Fabric 1): A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Orange throughout. Fine sandy matrix, with moderately abundant fine, sub-angular quartz. Sherds have a green glaze over a white slip. Produced in Essex, but common in Kent. Dates 1270-1350.

Ashford/Wealden Sandy Wares: Four fabrics fall into this group, although they cannot be related to particular fabrics at this stage. This is a group of brownish grey, iron rich sandy wares, which also include shelly or chalk inclusions (Cotter 2006, 169). They can be loosely dated to the 12th-14th centuries.

Fabric 2: A hard, rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Grey throughout. Fine matrix with moderately abundant, medium sized quartz grains and occasional calcareous material

Fabric 4: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Greyish brown throughout. Fine matrix with sparse, sub-rounded, medium sized quartz grains and occasional calcareous material.

Fabric 5: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Grey throughout. Fine sandy matrix with abundant fine-medium sized, rounded quartz grains.

Fabric 6: A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Dark orange throughout. Very fine, slightly micaceous matrix with occasional inclusions of calcareous material and iron oxide.

Late/Post Medieval Sandy Wares: Three fabrics are present which likely date from the 15th-17th centuries. Further research would be required to identify these, but sherds were recovered from the topsoil, so this is not deemed necessary.

Fabric 7: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Orange surfaces with a black core. Very fine matrix with sparse-moderately abundant fine sub-rounded quartz and occasional calcareous material.

Fabric 3: A very hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Orange surfaces with a dark grey core (sherds have a dark olive green glaze). Very fine, slightly micaceous matrix, with occasional calcareous inclusions.

Fabric 8: A hard, slightly rough fabric, which breaks with irregular fracture. Orange throughout. Sandy, iron rich matrix, with common, sub-rounded, fine sized quartz grains. Some sherds exhibit a white slip/wash.

Slipware (Fabric 12): A hard, smooth fabric, which breaks with fine fracture. Very fine matrix with common iron oxide. The source of this ware is unknown, but it is unlikely to be a Harlow product based on the fabric. Slipware was produced in Canterbury (Cotter 2006, 239). The sherd probably dates to the 17th-18th centuries.

Post Medieval Redware (fabric PM1): Two sherds are present of a red, sandy, earthenware fabric with an interior glaze. A 17th-18th century date for this ware is suggested in Canterbury (Macpherson-Grant 1995, 919).

Frechen-type Stoneware: Rhenish Stoneware, typified by its mottled surface. 15th-17th century.

Staffordshire White Salt Glazed Stoneware: No diagnostic sherds present. Early-mid 18th century

Industrial Slipware: No diagnostic sherds present. 19th century.

SUMMARY OF SELECTED FEATURES/TEST PITS

Stratigraphic data for the majority of features excavated from 2007-9 was not available at the time of writing, so detailed discussion of the pottery from individual features could not be carried out. Individual contexts have been spot dated however and this information can be found in appendix 1. It is however briefly worth discussing the contents of the three main sunken featured buildings excavated in 2010 and providing a brief summary of the pottery from test pits excavated in 2007-2010, which were not included in the previous assessment report (appendix 2).

SFB 1

SFB 1 contained 356 sherds, with the assemblage being dominated by Sandy Ware fabric 75. A key feature of the assemblage is the occurrence of Organic-tempered Wares, which provide a 7th century date for this feature, supported by the small finds evidence and the small group of wheelthrown imported wares of 6th-7th century date which are also present. The presence of Flint-tempered Ware, possibly from East Sussex, also supports this date (see above). The presence of Shelly Ware suggests that the feature was filled in the late 7th or early 8th century, but the fabric is not found in later deposits and may be indicative of the origins of this tradition.

SFB 2

As with SFB 1, the majority of the pottery in this feature consists of Sandy Ware fabric 75. There is a general absence of Organic-tempered Ware, demonstrating that the feature was likely filled in the

6th-7th or 8th centuries. The presence of Iron Rich wares and wheelthrown imports of 6th-7th century date suggests that the earlier date is correct and this is supported by the non-ceramic evidence. The small finds evidence suggests that there may be an earlier dump of 5th-6th century material present and this is supported by the occurrence of a jar with incised chevron decoration and a number of other sherds with similar incised decoration.

SFB 3

Stratigraphically and based in the small finds this is the latest feature in the sequence. It only contained a small quantity of pottery. Sandy Ware dominates, but fabric 76 is more common. This is related to a later fabric (24) and may be illustrative of changes in pottery technology around the 7th-8th centuries, as is also illustrated by the emergence of Shelly Wares and changes to the Sandy Ware fabrics.

2007: Test Pit 2

Contained a single, small sherd of Low Countries Greyware, dated to the 9th-11th centuries.

2007: Test Pit 3

One sherd of 8th-9th century Sandy Ware and 2 of Coarse Shelly Ware were recovered from secure contexts. Unstratified finds from the test pit consist of 5 sherds of Sandy Ware, 2 of Sandy Ware with Shell, 2 of Flint-tempered Ware, 6 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and one of Tyler Hill Ware.

2007: Test Pit 4

Three sherds of Sandy Ware and 1 of Ipswich Ware were recovered from context (24). One sherd of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware, 3 of Tyler Hill Ware and 2 of Ashford/Wealden Sandy Ware were recovered from unstratified contexts.

2007: Test Pit 5

Six contexts were excavated. Context (16) contained single, small, sherds of Sandy Ware, Iron Rich Sandy Ware and Flint-tempered Ware of 8th-9th century date, along with a sherd of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. Context (20) contained a sherd of Flint-tempered Ware and q of Tyler Hill Ware. Context (26) contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware. Context (32) contained 2 sherds of Sandy Ware and a sherd of Sandy Ware with Shell. Context (94) contained 2 sherds of Sandy Ware, 2 of Coarse Shelly Ware, 2 of Flint-tempered Ware, 1 of Sandy Ware with Flint and 2 with Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. Context (95) contained a sherd of Coarse Shelly Ware. The material from this test pit dates from the 8th-13th century and individual contexts can be quite mixed in regard to chronology. A sherd of Sandy Ware with Flint, 2 sherds of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and 3 of Tyler Hill are present amongst the unstratified material.

2007: Test Pit 6

Contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware with Shell, one of Sandy Ware with Flint and 4 of Tyler Hill Ware.

2007: Test Pit 7

Context (30) contained a sherd of Flemish Greyware. Context (31) contained 3 sherds of Sandy Ware with Shell and 4 of Flint-tempered Ware.

2007: Test Pit 8

Four contexts were excavated. Context (44) contained a sherd of Iron Age pottery, 3 of 8th-9th century Sandy Ware and 1 of Coarse Shelly Ware. Context (50) contained single sherds of Sandy Ware, Coarse Sandy Ware and Sandy Ware with Shell. Context (64) contained single sherds of 8th-9th century Iron Rich Sandy Ware and Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. Context (66) contained a single sherd of Flint-tempered Ware. A sherd of Coarse Shelly Ware, 5 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware, 2 of Shelly Sandy Ware and 3 of Tyler Hill Ware were present amongst unstratified material.

2007: Test Pit 9

Three contexts were excavated. Context (40) contained a sherd of Roman pottery, 7 sherds of Sandy Ware and one of Sandy Ware with Shell. Context (46) contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware with Shell and Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. Context (67) contained a single sherd of Coarse Shelly Ware, 2 sherds of Sandy Ware with Shell and 1 of Blackware. Single sherds of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and Shelly Sandy Ware were recovered from unstratified deposits.

2007: Test Pit 10

Four contexts were excavated. A single sherd of 8th-9th century Sandy Ware was recovered from context (63). Context (71) contained 2 sherds of Sandy Ware, 2 of Iron Rich Sandy Ware, 2 of Oxidised Shelly Ware and 16 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. Context (75) contained 7 sherds of Sandy Ware, 3 of Iron Rich Sandy Ware and 4 of Coarse Shelly Ware. Context (77) contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware, 2 of Iron Rich Sandy Ware, 5 of Coarse Shelly Ware and 2 of Flint-tempered Ware. Five sherds of Sandy Ware, 3 of Coarse Shelly Ware, 1 of Sandy Whiteware with Reduced Surfaces, 5 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and 10 of Tyler Hill Ware were present amongst unstratified material.

2007: Test Pit 12

Seven contexts were excavated. A single sherd of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware was recovered from context (57). Seven sherds of Sandy Ware were recovered from context (59). Context (65) contained 5 sherds of Sandy Ware, a sherd of Iron Rich Sandy Ware, 2 of Coarse Shelly Ware, 2 of Sandy Ware with Shell, 4 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and single sherds of Sandy Ware with Flint and Oxidised Shelly Ware. Context (69) contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware. Context (70) contained 2 sherds of Sandy Ware and single sherds of Coarse Sandy Ware and Sandy Ware with Shell. Context (79) contained a single sherd of Sandy Ware with Flint. Unstratified material consists of single sherds of Sandy Ware and Coarse Shelly Ware, 2 sherds of Sandy Ware with Shell, 3 of Flint-tempered Ware, 8 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and 4 of Tyler Hill Ware.

2007: Test Pit 14

Two contexts were excavated. Context (90) contained single sherds of Sandy Ware, Iron Rich Sandy Ware, Flint-tempered Ware and Sandy Ware with Flint. Five sherds of Early Medieval Canterbury

Sandy Ware were also present. Context (93) contained single sherds of Sandy Ware and Flint-tempered Ware. Unstratified material consists of three sherds of Sandy Ware, three of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware, two of Shelly Sandy Ware and one of Frechen-type Stoneware.

2007: Test Pit 15

Contained 2 sherds of Iron Rich Sandy Ware and three sherds of Coarse Shelly Ware.

2007: Test Pit 17

Contained single sherds of Coarse Sandy Ware, Flint-tempered Ware and Iron Rich Shelly Ware, with two of Sandy Ware.

2007: Test Pit 18

Context (117) contained a sherd of Organic-tempered Ware and 4 sherds of fabric 75 (Sandy Ware). Test pit 18 (layer 2) contained a sherd of Organic-tempered Ware, 2 sherds of fabric 79, a sherd of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware and a sherd of Iron Age pottery. This test pit appears to have been dug into an area of potentially 6th-7th century activity.

2007: Test Pit 19

Context (113) contained 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery. Two Sherds of fabric 9 and 5 of EM1 were recovered from context (115). Context (118) contained 2 sherds of fabric 9 and 5 of Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy Ware. An 11th-12th century date can be suggested for the deposits excavated.

2007: Test Pit 20

Contained a single sherd of Organic-tempered Ware and a sherd of fabric 75 (Sandy Ware). A 6th-7th century date can be suggested for the deposits excavated.

2007: Test Pit 21

Context (111) contained 10 sherds of fabric 75 (Sandy Ware). One of the sherds exhibits Schlikung (coarse slip) decoration, paralleled on 6th century material from Canterbury. A 6th-7th century date can be suggested for the deposits excavated.

2007 Test Pits: Summary

The stratified contexts were all of early medieval date, typically containing a mixture of 8th-9th century wares with post-conquest wares. Unstratified material consists of a range of early medieval and later material. Three test pits, 18, 20 and 21 contained evidence of earlier (6th-7th century) occupation, including a potentially 6th century sherd, decorated with Schlikung decoration.

DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This is a large and important assemblage, providing the longest early medieval ceramic sequence in south Kent, outside of Canterbury. The earliest pottery dates from the 6th century, whilst the sequence continues, apparently unbroken, until the 12th-13th centuries. Groups appear to be relatively coherent, with little evidence of intrusion, although residuality may be an issue. The nature of excavation and plans for scientific dating, coupled with the presence of Ipswich Ware and other wares of known date, offers great potential for defining the ceramic sequence at a high resolution.

This assessment has defined the pottery in relation to fabric, form and decoration and suggested broad date ranges have been provided. This should provide a useful guide for future work in the area, but there is clear scope for the refining of this sequence.

Although the wares present are all paralleled elsewhere, the assemblage offers a great deal of potential for refining their relationships to one another in terms of chronology, technology and function. A key area of the assemblage are the imported wares. Parallels have been drawn with material from Sandtun and the wic sites of Hamwic and Lundenwic, but further research is required to determine a closer provenance and date range. Clearly the site at Lyminge was well connected, even before the founding of the monastery, as is evidenced through non local wares in contexts of 6th-7th century date. More research is required to determine where these wares came from and, when coupled with the evidence provided by other finds, this may allow us to reconstruct coastwise contact from the 6th century onwards. It is recommended that further work is undertaken on this assemblage and that it is brought to full publication. In order to do this the following steps need to be undertaken (in order of priority):

- The ceramic data must be integrated fully with the stratigraphic record and scientifically derived dates. This will allow the calibration of the ceramic sequence and potentially permit a more nuanced discussion of the chronological relationship between the various local ware types, as well as to consider temporal differences in trading contact. Contexts should be targeted for cross-fit analysis to contribute to an understanding of depositional practice. The Sunken Featured buildings are a prime candidate for such work and the presence of some cross fitting sherds has already been noted.
- Direct comparison of local types with wares from Canterbury to determine provenance more exactly. New types should be integrated with the regional type series held by CAT.
- A programme of petrological and chemical (ICP-MS) analysis should be undertaken including Sandy Wares from Lyminge and if possible samples from Canterbury, Sandtun and northern France, to determine the variability inherent within the existing fabric groups and to explore similarities and differences between the early and later assemblages. A similar programme should be undertaken on the Shelly Wares and the results should be integrated with those of the wider programme undertaken on material from London, Quentovic and Sandtun. Ideally this should be coupled with a programme of clay sampling. Such analysis would require the use of external specialists to undertake ICP-MS analysis.
- Further work on the imported wares, including discussions with continental colleagues and comparison with type-sherds from Lundenwic and elsewhere to more firmly tie down the provenance and dating of these wares.
- A programme of usewear analysis to establish the functional relationship between the Sandy and Shelly Wares. This analysis would focus on the mid-late Saxon material, as the earlier pottery is too fragmented. Such studies are not commonly carried out and the Lyminge material offers potential to develop methodologies and promote the value of such studies.
- Quantitative comparison with other Anglo-Saxon sites in East Sussex and Kent to identify areas where the unique character of the site at Lyminge is represented in the ceramic assemblage. Candidates for comparison would include a number of sites in north Kent,

Canterbury, Pevensey and Bishopstone. Such comparison could focus on issues such as resource procurement, trading/exchange contacts, use and depositional practices. Such analysis may be a suitable topic for an undergraduate or MA dissertation.

- In addition, key diagnostic sherds and a form type series should be illustrated. It is anticipated that 75-100 sherds would need to be illustrated through line drawing and/or photograph.

It is anticipated that the final publication would consist of a catalogue of ware and form types and discussions of chronology, technology, function and trade, set into a regional context. The study of deposition would be best integrated with a wider discussion based around all of the material and stratigraphic evidence. In addition, it is recommended that a pre-publication summary is published in a journal such as *Archaeologia Cantiana* or *Medieval Ceramics*. The results of scientific analysis or regional studies may also form stand-alone papers, which could be published in these or other relevant journals.

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