

## **Pottery from the Hillington Test-Pits (HIL/16)**

**BA: Late Bronze Age.** 1200-800BC. Simple, hand-made 'bucket-shaped' pots with lots of flint, shell and/or grog (ground-up pieces of old pottery) mixed in with the clay. Mainly used for cooking or as cremation urns.

**RB: Roman.** All. 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century.

**THET: Thetford ware.** So-called because archaeologists first found it in Thetford, but the first place to make it was Ipswich, around AD850. Potters first began to make it in Thetford sometime around AD925, and carried on until around AD1100. Many kilns are known from the town. It was made in Norwich from about AD1000, and soon after at many of the main towns in England at that time. The pots are usually grey, and the clay has lots of tiny grains of sand in it, making the surface feel a little like fine sandpaper. Most pots were simple jars, but very large storage pots over 1m high were also made, along with jugs, bowls and lamps. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England as far north as Lincoln and as far south as London.

**SN: St Neots Ware.** Made at a number of as-yet unknown places in southern England between AD900-1100. The pots are usually a purplish-black, black or grey colour, but the clay from which they were made contains finely crushed fossil shell, giving them a white speckled appearance. Most pots were small jars or bowls.

**EMW: Early Medieval Sandy Ware.** AD1100-1400. Hard grey or brown pottery with plentiful quartz temper. Manufactured at a wide range of generally unknown sites all over eastern England. Mostly cooking pots, but bowls and occasionally jugs also known.

**GRIM: Grimston Ware.** Made at Grimston, near King's Lynn. It was made from a sandy clay similar with a slight 'sandpaper' texture. The clay is usually a dark bluish-grey colour, sometimes with a light-coloured buff or orange inner surface. It was made between about AD1080 and 1400. All sorts of different pots were made, but the most common finds are jugs, which usually have a slightly dull green glaze on the outer surface. Between AD1300 and 1400, the potters made very ornate jugs, with painted designs in a reddish brown clay, and sometimes attached models of knights in armour or grotesque faces to the outside of the pots. It is found all over East Anglia and eastern England.

**CW: Cistercian Ware:** Made between AD1475 and 1700. So-called because it was first found during the excavation of Cistercian monasteries, but not made by monks. A number of different places are known to have been making this pottery, particularly in the north of England and the midlands. The pots are very thin and hard, as they were made in the first coal-fired pottery kilns, which reached much higher temperatures than the wood-fired types of the medieval period. The clay fabric is usually brick red or purple, and the pots covered with a dark brown- or purplish-black glaze on both surfaces. The main type of pot was small drinking cups with up to six handles, known as 'tygs'. They were sometimes decorated with painted dots and other designs in yellow clay. Cistercian ware was very popular, and is found all over England.

**GS: German Stonewares.** First made around AD1450, and still made today. Made at lots of places along the river Rhine in Germany, such as Cologne, Siegburg and Frechen. Very hard grey clay fabric, with the outer surface of the pot often having a mottled brown glaze. The most common vessel type was the mug, used in taverns in Britain and all over the world. Surviving records from the port of London ('port books') show that millions such pots were brought in by boat from Germany from around AD1500 onwards.



The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was occupied during the Bronze Age, but was then abandoned until around the late Saxon and early medieval periods. It was then abandoned again until fairly recently.

### Test Pit 3 – Linden, Station Road

		SN		GRIM		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
3	2					2	3	1800-1900
3	6			1	4			1200-1400
3	8	1	5					900-1100

There is very little pottery from this test-pit, showing that it was rarely used by people other than perhaps as fields in the late Saxon and medieval periods.

### Test Pit 4 – 31 Station Road

		THET		GRIM		GRE		GS		EST		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
4	1											6	34	1800-1900
4	2							1	9			7	7	1450-1900
4	3	2	36							1	4	23	79	900-1900
4	4	1	5									15	26	900-1900
4	5			1	14							10	25	1200-1900
4	6	4	98			3	36					18	35	900-1900
4	7											8	15	1800-1900
4	8	2	8									7	16	900-1900

The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was occupied during the late Saxon period, but after that time was rarely used other than perhaps as fields in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

### Test Pit 5 – 3 Wheatfields

		GRIM		VIC		
TP	Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date Range
5	1	1	6			1200-1400
5	2			9	23	1800-1900
5	3			2	12	1800-1900

There is very little pottery from this test-pit, showing that it was rarely used by people other than perhaps as fields in the medieval period.

### Test Pit 6 – 8 Wheatfields

TP	Cntxt	GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	2	1	49			1550-1600
6	5			2	62	1800-1900
6	6			2	11	1800-1900
6	9			1	8	1800-1900

Most of the pottery from this test-pit is modern, other than a sherd of early post-medieval material, showing that the site was never used before the 19<sup>th</sup> century other than perhaps as fields in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### Test Pit 7 – 3 Wheatfields Close

TP	Cntxt	RB		THET		EMW		GRIM		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1					1	1	1	82	1	1	1100-1900
7	2			2	13			2	33			900-1400
7	3							5	139			1200-1400
7	5			1	1			7	185	1	2	900-1900
7	6			4	25	2	23	1	3			900-1400
7	7	1	2	5	10	1	63					100-1200

The single sherd of Roman pottery shows that the site was probably used as fields at that time. It was then abandoned until the late Saxon period, when people started living here. This occupation continued until the 14<sup>th</sup> century, after which time it was abandoned until fairly recently.

### Test Pit 8 – 6 Wheatfields Close

TP	Cntxt	THET		EMW		GRIM		CIST		GS		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
8	1	1	1													900-1100
8	2					2	13					2	7	2	4	1200-1900
8	3	2	10					1	2							900-1550
8	4			4	13	1	8			1	4	3	42	4	4	1100-1900
8	5	4	75	2	5	1	3							3	5	900-1900
8	6	4	30			1	1					1	3			900-1600

The pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was occupied from the late Saxon period until the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This activity may have continued until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, after which time the site was abandoned until fairly recently.

### Test Pit 9 – The Old Coach House, Station Road

TP	Cntxt	EMW		GRIM		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
9	2							3	7	1800-1900
9	3			1	3			1	1	1200-1900
9	4	1	2	1	24			1	4	1100-1900
9	5	1	3			1	1	2	7	1100-1900

There is very little pottery from this test-pit, showing that it was rarely used by people other than perhaps as fields in the medieval period.