

Pottery from Manuden Test-Pits (MAN/11)

Pottery Types

EMW: Essex Grey ware. 12th – 14th century. Grey pottery with lots of visible sand grains mixed in with the clay. Made at a number of places in Essex, including Colchester, Mile End, Great Horkesley and Sible Hedingham. Most of the pots were simple cooking pots or jars, and were not glazed.

MG: Mill Green Ware. 1250 – 1350. Made near the village of Mill Green in Essex. Thin, fine, grey or red pottery, usually with a coating of white clay (slip) on the outside, over which is a glaze which appears yellow or bright green. Vessels mainly glazed jugs.

LMT: Late medieval Colchester ware. 1400 – 1550. Very hard red pottery with lots of sand visible in the clay body. Main type of pots were big jugs, some with geometric designs painted on them in white liquid clay ('slip'). Evidence of their manufacture has been found near Colchester Castle, and also in Magdalen Street, which is located just outside the walls of the medieval town of Colchester. Similar pottery was also made at Chelmsford.

GRE: Glazed Red Earthenwares: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, usually on the inner surface. Made at numerous locations all over England. Occurs in a range of practical shapes for use in the households of the time, such as large mixing bowls, cauldrons and frying pans. It was first made around the middle of the 16th century, and in some places continued in use until the 19th century. Such pottery was made in both Colchester and Chelmsford.

MB: Midland Blackware. AD1550 – 1700. Similar to GRE, but has a black glaze on one or both surfaces. Vessels usually tall cups, jugs and bowls.

WCS: Cologne Stoneware. Hard, grey pottery made in the Rhineland region of Germany from around 1600 onwards. Usually has lots of ornate moulded decoration, often with blue and purple painted details. Still made today, mainly as tourist souvenirs.

DW: Delft Ware. The first white glazed pottery to be made in Britain. Called Delft ware because of the fame of the potteries at Delft in Holland which first made it in Europe, although it was invented in the Middle East. Soft, cream coloured fabric with a thick white glaze, often with painted designs in blue, purple and yellow. First made in Britain in Norwich around AD1600, and continued in use until the 19th century. The 17th century pots were expensive table wares such as dishes or bowls, but by the 19th century, better types of pottery was being made, and it was considered very cheap and the main types of pot were such as chamber pots and ointment jars.

SS: Staffordshire Slipware. Made between about AD1640 and 1750. This was the first pottery to be made in moulds in Britain since Roman times. The clay fabric is usually a pale buff colour, and the main product was flat dishes and plates, but cups were also made. These are usually decorated with thin brown stripes and a yellow glaze, or yellow stripes and a brown glaze.

SMW: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware. Late 17th – 18th century. Hard buff fabric with distinctive purplish-brown glaze. Usually fine drinking pottery, but chamber pots and other more utilitarian vessels also known.

EST: English Stoneware: Very hard, grey fabric with white and/or brown surfaces. First made in Britain at the end of the 17th century, became very widespread in the 18th and 19th century, particularly for beer mugs, mineral water bottles and beer jars.

SWSG: Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed Stoneware. Hard, white pottery with a white glaze with a texture like orange peel. Made between 1720 and 1780, pots usually table wares such as tea bowls, tankards and plates.

VIC: 'Victorian'. A wide range of different types of pottery, particularly the cups, plates and bowls with blue decoration which are still used today. First made around AD1800

RESULTS

Test Pit 1

TP	Cntxt	GRE		MB		SMW		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
1	1									1	1	1800-1900
1	2									1	1	1800-1900
1	8									3	21	1800-1900
1	9			1	7	1	1			36	132	1600-1900
1	10	2	48	1	5			1	14	39	145	1550-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, but the range of types indicate that it has been continually occupied since the 16th century.

Test Pit 2

TP	Cntxt	MG		GRE		MB		TGE		SS		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2	1	1	3													4	23	1250-1900
2	2			4	14					1	3	2	4	2	5	8	84	1550-1900
2	3					1	3			1	2	1	4			10	135	1600-1900
2	4					1	7	1	1	4	36	2	45	1	2	3	213	1600-1900
2	5											2	6					1700-1800
2	6													1	2			1720-1750

This test-pit produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, which means the site was used at that time, but probably not as a dwelling-place. The range of post-medieval pottery shows that people have been living there continuously since the 16th century.

Test Pit 3

TP	Cntxt	WCS		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3	1					6	24	1800-1900
3	2	1	6			6	18	1600-1900
3	3					12	45	1800-1900
3	4			1	3	19	38	1700-1900
3	5			1	14	12	36	1700-1900
3	6			2	9	19	102	1700-1900
3	7					1	1	1800-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, but the range of types indicate that it has been continually occupied since the 17th century.

Test Pit 4

TP	Cntxt	LMT		GRE		MB		EST		SWSG		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
4	1							1	1			3	13	1700-1900
4	2											5	15	1800-1900
4	3											1	1	1800-1900
4	4			4	35							8	21	1550-1900
4	5							2	4			19	73	1700-1900
4	6			2	10							14	142	1550-1900
4	7			6	96	1	4	2	18	3	5	20	47	1550-1900
4	8	1	12	1	15			2	2			2	6	1400-1900

The range of pottery from this test-pit shows that the site was first occupied in the 15th century, and that people have been living here ever since

Test Pit 5

TP	Cntxt	EMW		LMT		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	1	1	4			1	4	1100-1900
5	3					1	10	1800-1900
5	7			1	3			1400-1550

There was very little pottery from this test-pit, but the medieval sherds show that it was probably used throughout that period, although it seems unlikely people were living at the site. It then seems to have been abandoned until the 19th century.

Test Pit 6

TP	Cntxt	EMW		GRE		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
6	1	1	7			25	199	1100-1900
6	2	1	13	1	6	15	589	1100-1900
6	3					61	2486	1800-1900
6	4					18	382	1800-1900
6	5					6	144	1800-1900
6	7					2	2	1800-1900

The sherds of medieval pottery indicate that people were probably living at this site in 12th -13th centuries, but it then lay largely unused until Victorian times.

Test Pit 7

TP	Cntxt	GRE		TGE		EST		VIC		Date Range
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
7	1							1	2	1800-1900
7	2	2	11					14	42	1550-1900
7	3	1	2			1	7	26	62	1550-1900
7	4	1	3					63	235	1550-1900
7	5							33	170	1800-1900
7	6			1	1			52	156	1600-1900

All the pottery from this test-pit is post-medieval, but the range of types indicate that it has been continually occupied since the 16th century.