# Medieval pottery production at Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire

## Re-examination of the archaeological evidence and the historic landscape context

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*This study reopens the book on the Chilvers Coton medieval ceramics 'industry'. It explores the character of the historic landscape where pottery kilns have been found. It examines evidence of land ownership and land use, casting new light on the possible origins of the industry and its context and spatial extent within the medieval landscape. It considers, for the first time, the archaeological evidence of pottery production at Chilvers Coton in the light of revised ceramic dates.*

*In doing so, and although not the initial purpose, the study addresses a major aspect of one of the current regional research aims for Warwickshire, namely: 'WM21: Reassessment of, and further work on, the Chilvers Coton production site; the Nuneaton industry is large but its extent is not known' (Irving 2011, 36).*

## Introduction

In the late 1960s and early 1970s more than 44 medieval pottery kilns were found at Heath End, on the west side of Nuneaton, Warwickshire (Fig. 1). The discoveries were made sporadically, over a wide area, largely as a result of ground work for new houses. Seventeen areas of medieval archaeology were investigated, with pottery kilns, either singly or in groups, at twelve of the sites (Fig. 2: 1–5, 7–8 and 12–16); and a single, seemingly isolated tile kiln (Fig. 2:10). The kilns were dealt with by a series of 'rescue' excavations, separately and independently led by Philip Mayes and Keith Scott. The results of the work were eventually brought together in a single corpus in 1984 (Mayes and Scott 1984). The evidence has since become widely renowned as the Chilvers Coton medieval pottery industry (Irving 2011; Whittingham 2010), named after the historic parish in which the kilns were found.

The report authors stated that all of the kiln sites were located within the manor of Griff and Coton, one of three manors at Chilvers Coton during the medieval and post-medieval periods, although it is uncertain how they arrived at this conclusion, since none of the kilns were actually mapped in relation to their historic manorial context. The report provides only a distribution of kiln sites and other associated excavation areas in relation to the 1970s landscape. A historical study of clay-working in the Nuneaton area was incorporated into the report (Gooder 1984, 8), in which a single possible clay worker of 13th century date was found at Chilvers Coton, while a few medieval potters were suspected from surnames in the adjacent parishes.

Since the 1970s further evidence of kiln sites at Heath End has been slight; it is now largely a densely urbanised zone.

## The medieval manors of Chilvers Coton

It has long been accepted that there were originally two manors in the late Saxon period: Griff and Coton, each named after its 'township', or hamlet (*cf.* Dugdale 1656, 770). By the time of the Conquest the manors had been combined to form the manor of Griff and Coton. In the second half of 12th century the manor was split into three, by its lord, Ralph de Sudeley, grandson of Harold de Ewyas. Roughly one third of the manor was used to found an Augustinian priory, which took the name of Erdbury (today Arbury), which presumably derived from an ancient site upon which it was built. The foundation of the house is thought to have occurred early in the reign of Henry II (*c.* late 1150s–1160s). The parish of Chilvers Coton was elongated, *c.* 6 km east-west by *c.* 1.8–3.4

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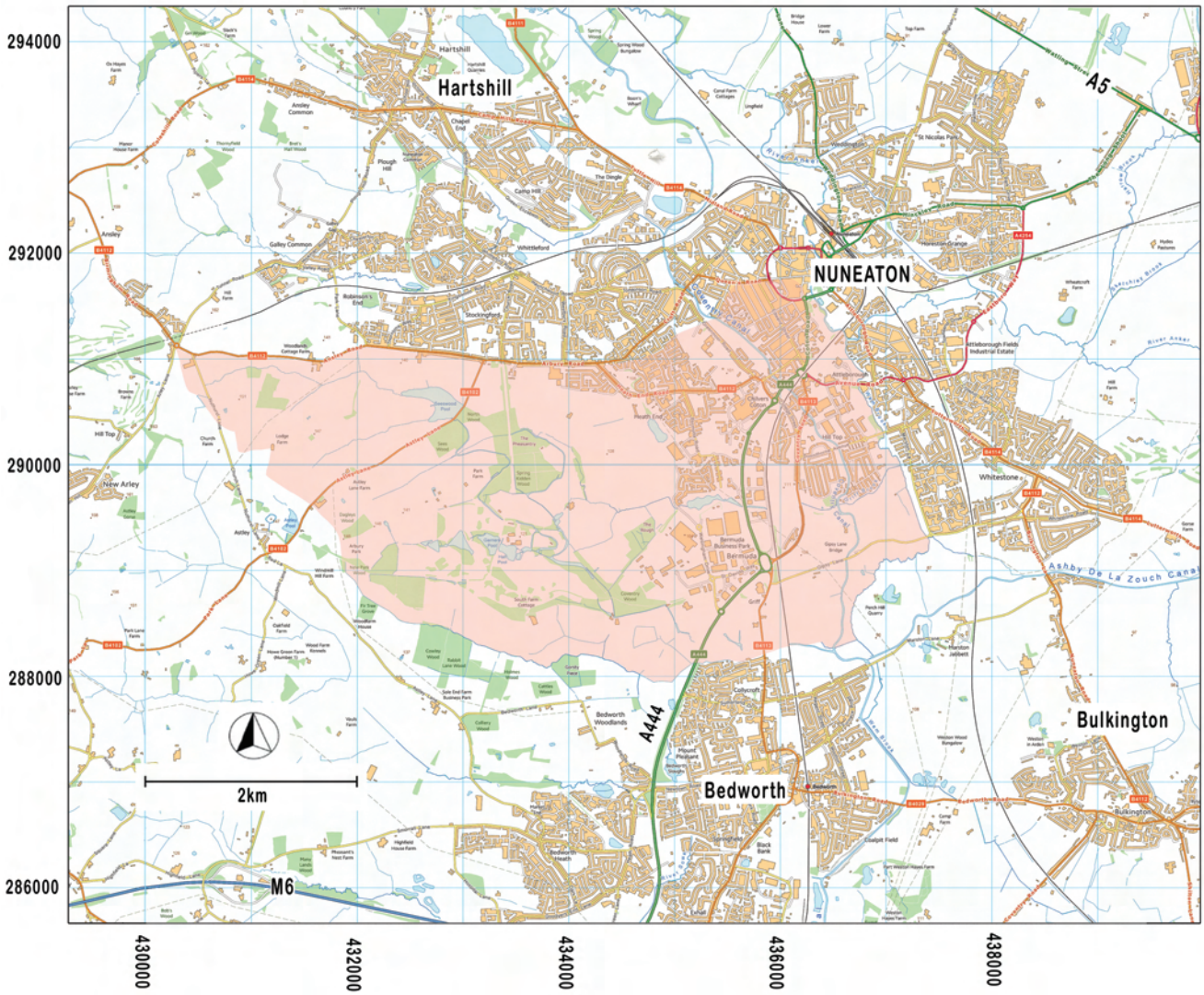


**Figure 1.** Location of the ancient parish of Chilvers Coton (light red). (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565).

km, north-south. The manor of Erdbury occupied the southern third of the parish, bordering the parish of Bedworth. The extent of the manor of Erdbury is shown in Fig. 3.

Another third of the ancient manor was donated by de Sudeley in 1185 to the Knights Templars (Lees 1935, 32; Salzman 1947, 175). Equally stretched out, the Templars' manor took in a major part of the northern third of the parish, bordering the parish of Nuneaton to the north, the common fields and to the east (Fig. 3). It was called Chelverescote manor. When it became a possession of the Knights Hospitallers in the mid 14th century, it went by the name of Chedlicote, or more generally St. John's manor, the name by which it was still known in the late 17th century. As for Ralph de Sudeley's own reduced holding, it retained the name of Griff and Coton. His manor house was situated at the hamlet of Griff on the south side of the parish (Fig.3).

The 'meeres and bounds' of the three manors (Fig. 3) largely respected natural topographical features, such as watercourses (some now defunct), or distinct changes in ground slope. Where boundaries flanked the common fields they were defined by either a hedgerow and ditch or a bank and ditch. The cultivated strips in the open fields were apportioned accordingly to each of the new manors. The new-look Griff and Coton manor was, for the main part, sandwiched between the Prior's land and that of the Templars. In addition, de Sudeley chose to retain an outlier of the old manor in the northeast of the parish, at Heath End, a tract of land amounting to about 34.7 hectares (Fig. 3). The outlier was bordered to the west and south by Chelverescote manor; its southern border took a notably erratic course. To the east it bordered the common fields, whilst its northern boundary faced the parish of Nuneaton. It is noteworthy that the Templars did not occupy their new possession right away, but instead rented it back to Sudeley for his own use, at 6 ½ marks a year, until his death in 1191 (Dugdale 1656, 770).

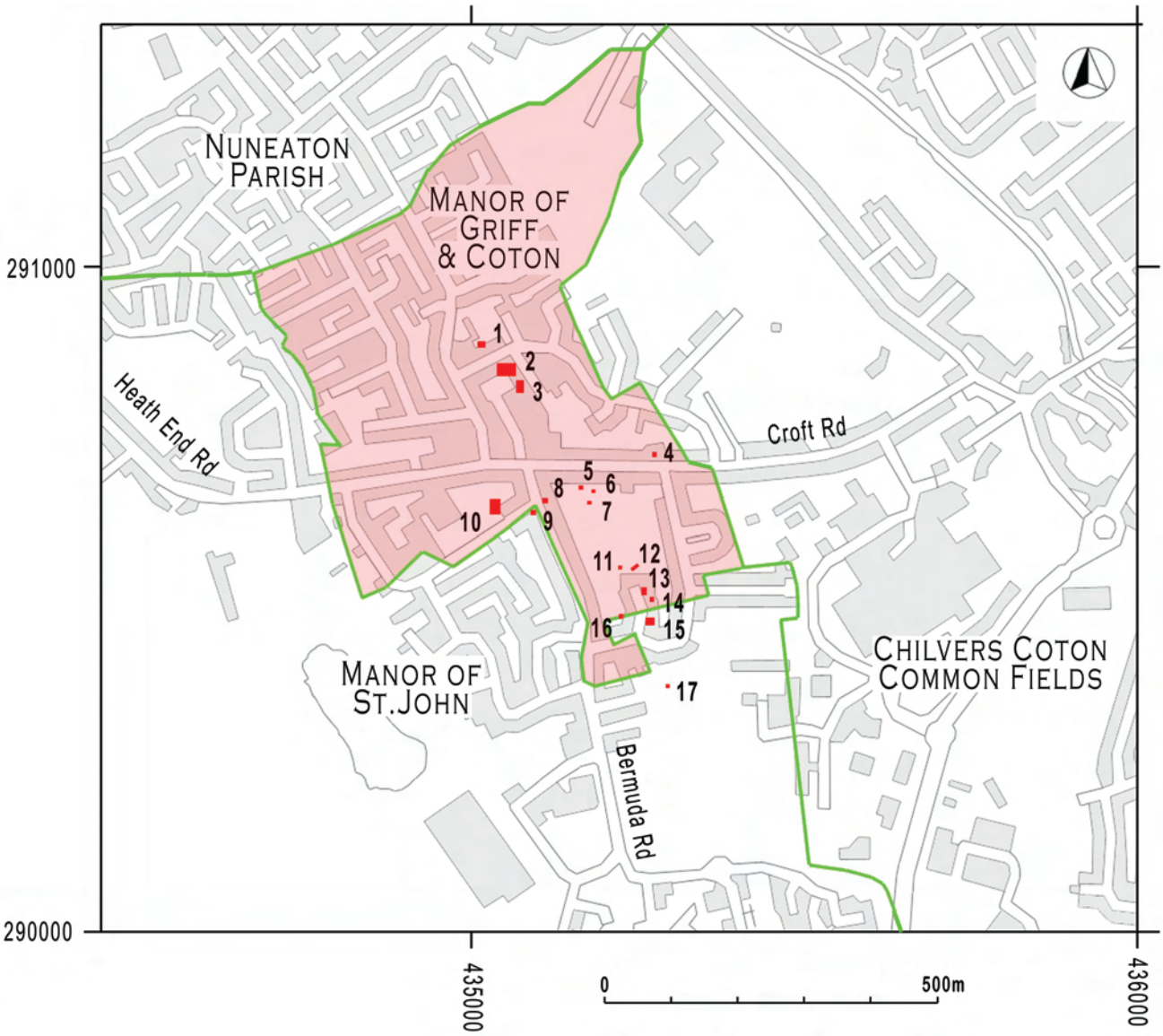


**Figure 2.** The bounds of the outlier of Griff and Coton manor superimposed upon the present day map of Heath End, showing the location of 1960s and 1970s excavation sites. (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright & database right 2018. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565).

## The manorial context of the kiln sites

The bounds of the three manors were verified by Sir Richard Newdigate in a Court of Survey undertaken 1681–1692, in order to reaffirm his entitlement to lordship of each of the three manors. He appointed two professional land surveyors and cartographers to draw up detailed scale maps to show each parcel of land in the parish (WRO CR 136/M95/96; WRO CR 136/M14), whether or not it was in his possession (he was one of three major landowners in the parish, but there were numerous other freeholders). 'Jurors' were sent door-to-door to 176 households, to collect all written 'evidences' (*i.e.* title deeds), from freeholders and tenants alike. The maps were annotated with the names of owners and occupiers. Back at Arbury Hall, Sir Richard put to good use his former profession as a lawyer, scrutinising each title deed and verifying the bounds and layout of each ancient manor. He then re-emphasised the 'meeres and bounds' of each manor by perambulation, which were recorded in narrative. The end result was a comprehensive understanding of land tenure within his three lordships, and of what was owed to him in terms of rents and dues, such as fealty and suit of court.

Crucially for the present study, numerous of the field and croft boundaries depicted on Sir Richard's maps are understood to have been established during the medieval period, and this is particularly the case in the area now known as Heath End, where the majority of pottery kilns have been found. Sir Richard's perambulation of the north-eastern part of St John's manor thus becomes vital to our understanding of the historic landscape context of the kiln sites. The following extract from the perambulation (WRO. CR136/v.13/V/11–12) describes the somewhat erratic

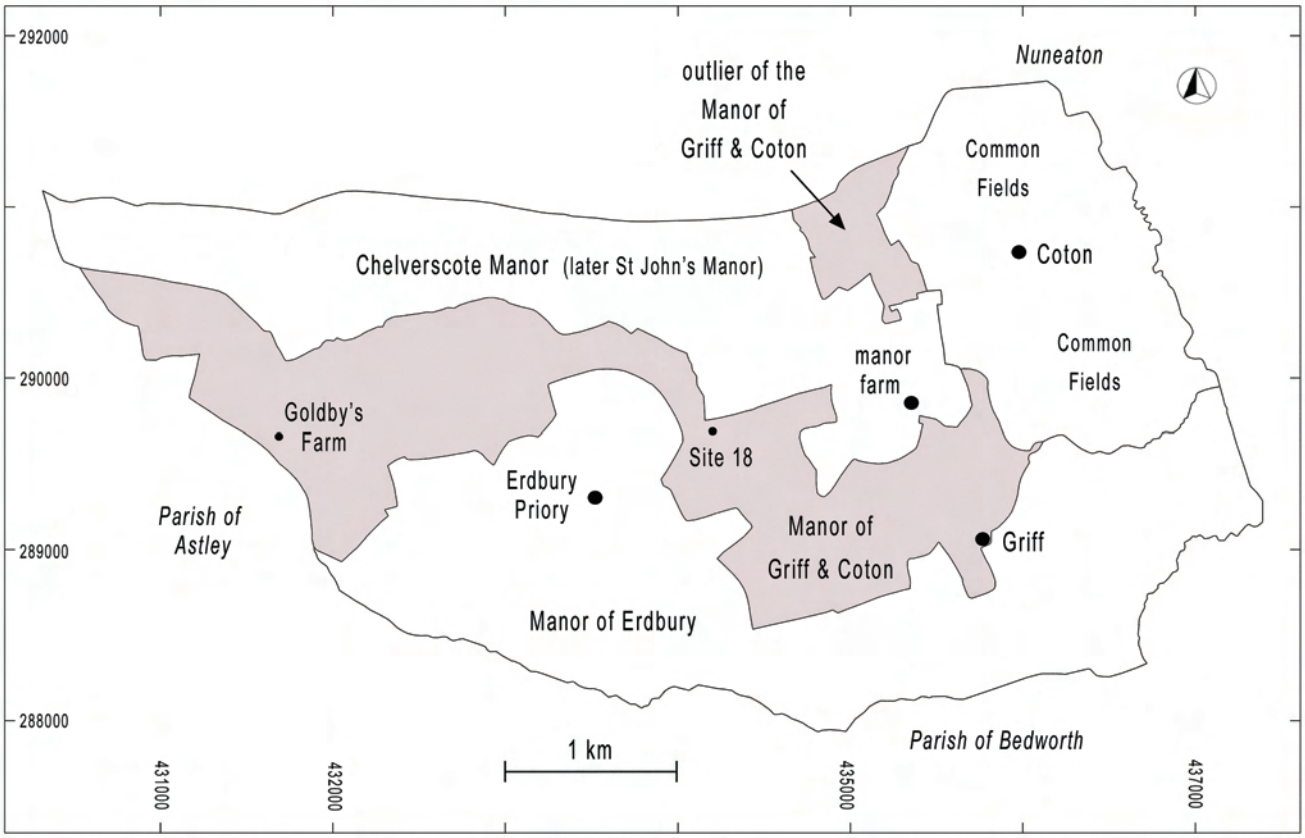


**Figure 3.** The medieval manors of Chilvers Coton and the outlier of Griff and Coton manor.

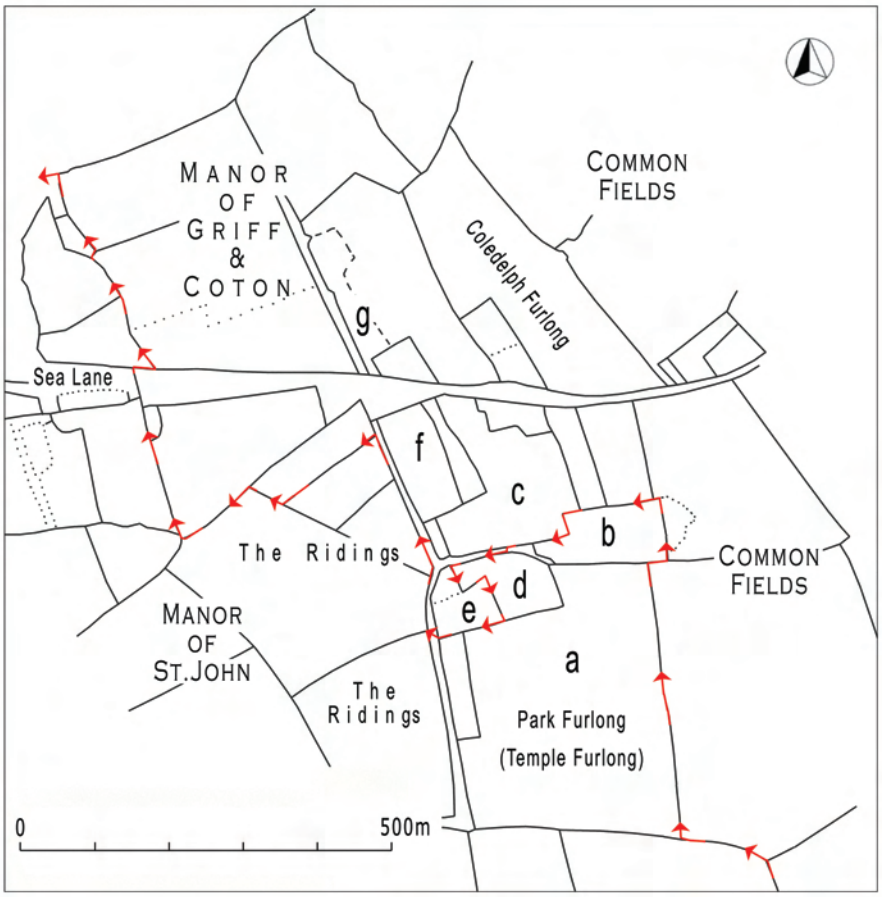


**Figure 4.** Sir Richard's Newdigate's perambulation of the 'meers and bounds' of the manors of St. John and Griff and Coton in 1684.

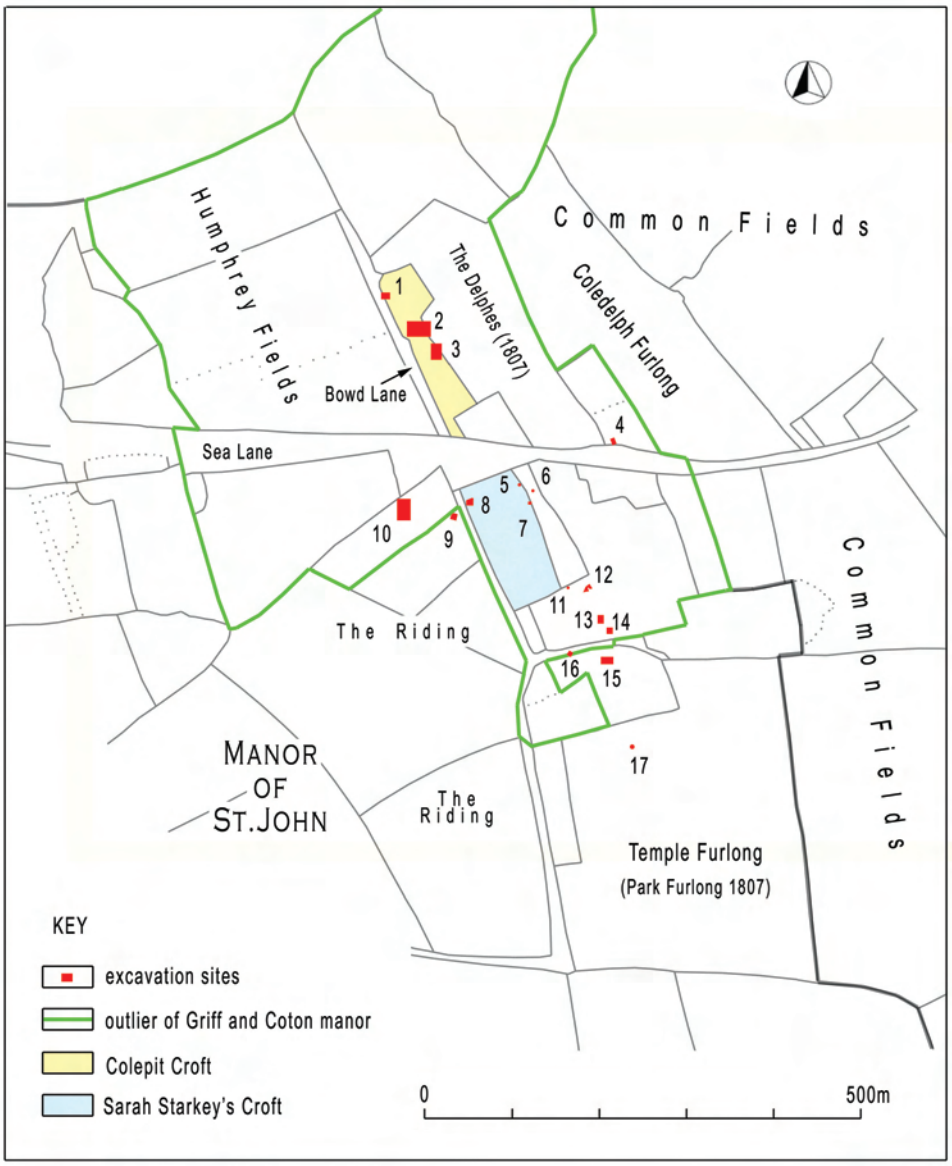


**Figure 5.** The outlier of the manor of Griff and Coton as surveyed in the 17th century, with 20th-century excavation sites superimposed.

course of the division between St John's manor and the outlier of Griff and Coton (the bold letters in parenthesis refer to Fig. 4):

> *'… all of which said Grounds on the right hand … as a man goes along these bounds to the said Commonfeild of Coton called the Windmill Field afores'd, are part of the possession of Mr Coventry (i.e. demesne of Griff and Coton manor), and then it goes along with the hedge which parts the said Commonfeild from a certaine Rough Close called the Park Furlong [**a**], through which the Coledelph runs: and all the grounds included on the left hand by the said bounds, from the said half field lane where the said bounds do cross, are also Sr. R : N's afores'd,. and so the bounds of this Mannor do continue to go round the house and Croft late in Hen: Ballards, now in Wm: Coxs tenure [**b**], being also Sr. R: N's which it includes, leaving Mr. Woods house and Orchard in Mr. Spratts tenure on the right hand [**c**] on the Northwest side, and so across the little lane by the said Mr. Spratt's doore it rounds the Wm: Sargeants house [**d**] and Croft formerly Hancoxs, which it includes, leaving out his Long Croft on the right hand, and so again to the Parke Furlong [**a**], leaving out Pipers Croft [**e**] in the tenure of Christopher Smyth, being part of Mr. Woods land on the right hand, and so across the lane to the hedge that parts the Ridings, part also of Mr Woods land in the tenure of Mr Spratt afors'd, from the said lane, northwards …'*

Figure 5 shows the 1960s–70s excavation areas superimposed onto the 17th-century Court of Survey map (WRO, CR 136/M95/96). Allowing for map repairs and creases, an acceptable level of accuracy has been achieved: for the most part there is a good match. It may be compared with Fig. 2 which shows

the bounds of the outlier of Griff and Coton manor superimposed upon the modern day map of Heath End. Since not all of the excavation areas were kiln sites Fig. 5 should be used in conjunction with Fig. 7 which shows the chronological distribution of kilns and other sites. Notably, the majority of kiln sites occur in the outlier of Griff and Coton. Two kiln sites (9 and 15), however, are located well within the manor of St John (the former Templars' manor): whilst another site (16), with one of the earliest known kilns (*c*. AD 1150–1250) debatably just inside St John's manor.

## Revised chronology of the kiln sites

The Chilvers Coton kiln sites produced eight pottery fabric types which were understood to range in date from the 13th-early 15th century. This chronology has since been refined as a result of excavation work elsewhere, in particular at Chilvers Coton (Whittingham 2008), the latter being the site of the manor farm of the Knights Templars and later, the Knights Hospitallers. The earliest medieval pottery from the Knights Templars excavation site is a group of igneous rock-tempered wares (IGN1, IGN1 FINE, IGN2) that are understood to date to *c*. AD 1150–1250 (Whittingham 2008, 84 and 86, tbl.1; Whittingham, 2010, 100-101 and tbl.1). It has been postulated that this occurrence of the IGN fabrics at Chilvers Coton is the result of imports from outside of the Nuneaton area – either as vessels or as clay and ingredients (Potters Marston, Leicestershire, was given as a possible source; *c*. 15 miles), or else that the vessels were made in kilns that predate the known industry, but are yet to be discovered (Whittingham 2010, 84).

In the course of the present study, the possible mineral constituents of the IGN group and the likelihood of imported materials have been discussed with regional geologist and mineralogist, Alan F Cook (contributor to the Mayes and Scott report). On account of high quality potting clay (Etruria Marls and Middle Coal Measures) available at Chilvers Coton as an extensive surface outcrop in the medieval period, it is considered most unlikely, and impracticable, to have transported clay over such a distance. Given that the rock fragments in the Etruria Marl (Espley Breccia) at Chilvers Coton are eruptive volcanic detrital rocks, partly igneous, partly sedimentary, it is probable that medieval clay workings at Heath End would have encountered fine igneous debris in many of the overlying glacial soils, but the debris could also have been obtained from weathered deep sub-soils (old term: regolith) and boulder clay (A. F. Cook,

**Plate 1.** Location of the medieval kiln sites at Heath End, *c*. 1970. Looking north-east from slag mound above The Riding. (Photo: courtesy of Philip Mayes).

**Plate 2.** Location of Sites 11 to 16 viewed from mining slag heap above The Riding, *c.* 1970. (Photo: courtesy of Philip Mayes).

pers. comm.). A main reason for the importation hypothesis seems to have been based on the coarseware identified as fabric IGN2, which contains 'fine black glassy inclusions and other volcanic material', and the inference that its granite-like inclusions may be syenite from Potters Marston (Leicestershire). Cook explicates that the archaeological use of the term syenite, is misleading. In the early 20th century syenite was claimed to be present in outcrops at Griff (in the southeast of the parish of Chilvers Coton), but it is now known to be spessartite lamprophyre. In modern understanding, syenite does not occur in the greater Midland area of England, the nearest occurrence being the Malvern Hills, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. In contrast, the rock fragments in the Potters Marston area are considered most probably to be weathered igneous rocks from Croft Hill, Leicestershire, which are quartz-diorites. Thus, the comparative analysis of igneous particles from Chilvers Coton and Potters Marston pottery is worthy of close re-examination.

In any case, the assumptions made about the source the clay overlook the match of the fabric known as IGN1 FINE with Chilvers Coton fabric CCBi (*cf.* Whittingham 2008, 80; Whittingham 2010, 100–101 and tbl.1), the latter which is understood to have been produced at four of the Heath End kiln sites (Figs. 2 and 5, Sites 3, 12, 13 and 16). Pottery of this fabric was also recovered from a shallow trench at Site 1 which was sealed by 13th-century kilns. Three of the kiln sites associated with fabric CCBi (*i.e.* Sites 3, 12 and 13) are clearly located within the outlier of the manor of Griff and Coton. The location of the fourth (Site 16, aforementioned) is undecided. Broadly, there are two distinct areas of kiln activity where fabric CCBi has been found; bearing in mind that not all kiln sites will have been discovered, or recorded, to date. One of these areas was situated within, and to the east side of, a former plot of ground which was known in the 17th century as Colepit Croft (Fig. 5, Site 3; 8 kilns, Pl. 1). The other occurred about 0.5 km to the south of Heath End Road (formerly Sea Lane) in an area known today as Redwood Croft and Radley Drive (Figs 2 and 5, Sites, 12, 13 and Site 16; a total of 8 kilns, Pl. 2). Two of the kilns were uncovered in a back garden in 1967 (Site 16). They appear to have been positioned alongside a hedgerow which demarcated the division between the outlier of Griff and Coton and the manor of St John.

In addition, pottery 'wasters' in fabric CCBi have been found by E.A. Gooder at Goldby's Farm (SP318 896) *c.* 3.3 km to the west (Fig. 3). The site, anciently known as Muddiman's Land and located within the main part of the manor of Griff and Coton, is considered to have been a medieval clay-worker's homestead (Gooder 1984, 8). Gooder also verified the presence of fabric CCBi found in proximity to an undated kiln site at Erdbury Priory (Gooder 1984, 10).

## Pottery making in the manor of Griff and Coton

Heath End is situated above outcropping strata of the Warwickshire Coalfield syncline comprised of coal and coal measure clays. The outcrop trends northwest to southeast (Fig. 6). It has been estimated that the outcrop of the Etruria Marl Formation at Heath End (now largely extracted) once covered a surface area of 90 hectares, while the Coal measures extended over some 300 hectares (Cook 1984, 2).

All of the discovered kiln sites occur along the outcrop (Fig. 6). It is therefore probably of no coincidence that Ralph de Sudeley's outlier of Griff and Coton manor corresponds approximately to the limits of the outcrop of the Middle Coal Measure (MCM) clays; approximately 26.4 hectares lay above the MCM while another *c.* 3.7 hectares was situated above the Etruria Formation. The retention of land in this zone is a strong indication that he was protecting his interests, specifically, the income to be had from non-agricultural activities (*i.e.* clay and coal extraction and pottery making) that were presumably already underway in the second half of the 12th century. The irregularity of the southern boundary of the outlier may be an indication of an early establishment of clay working or potters in this area.

It is presumed that the medieval potters at Chilvers Coton were peasants, who initially dug clay from their

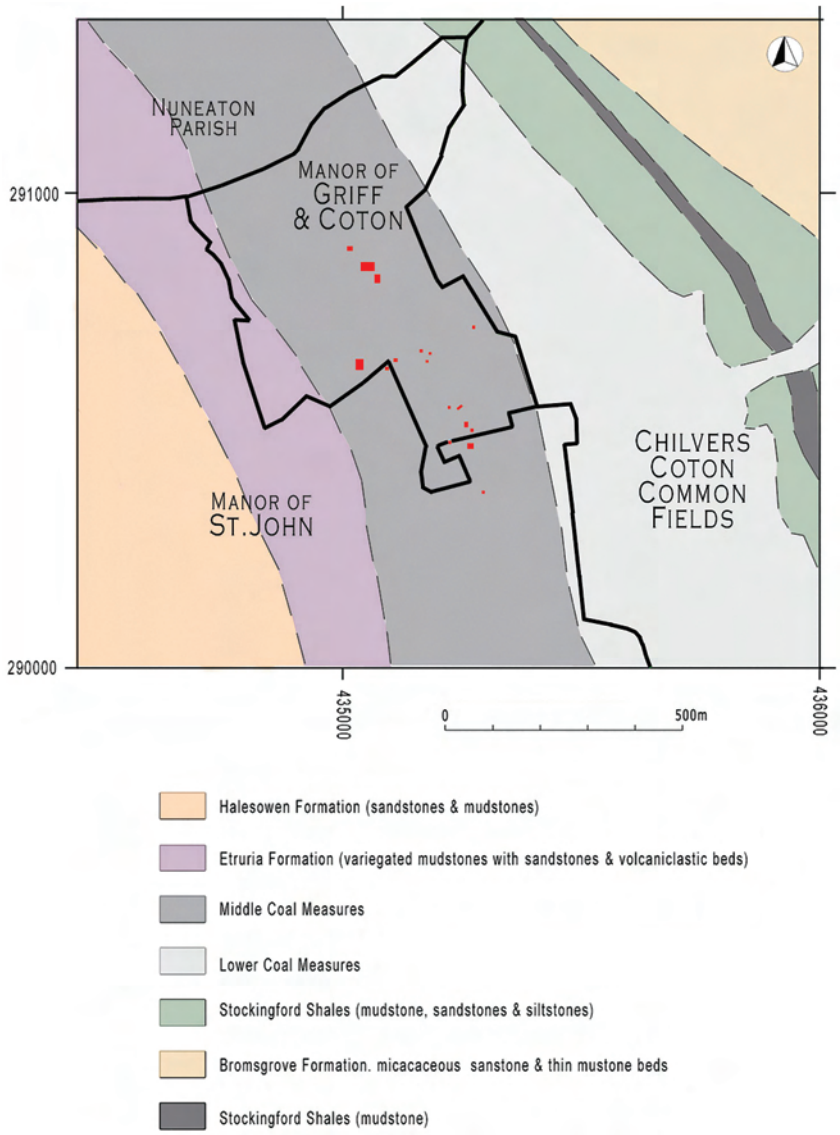


**Figure 6.** Geological outcrops at Heath End, showing disposition of the outlier of the manor of Griff and Coton and location of kiln sites.

own crofts, as has been surmised elsewhere in England (Le Patourel 1968, 114). However, not only would the resource be limited, but the size of a clay pit would have been necessarily constrained by the agricultural use of the croft, whereby clay would need to be sought elsewhere. It is important to take into account that there was no 'spare' land in a medieval manor (*cf.* Le Patourel 1968, 113–4). There was no casual exploitation of the wastes and heaths, at least not without penalty. The 'Pains and Orders' amplified at the Court Leet show that this was certainly the case in the 17th century (WRO, CR136/ DR7). In 1405 there was a serious dispute over common pasture (WRO, CR136/C656a) in the parish of Chilvers Coton, from which it may be inferred there was an acute shortage of grazing land, further illustrating that the commons and heaths were closely guarded for the purposes for which they were intended. It was the lord of the manor who ruled what could and what could not be done on his tenants' land. His also were the mineral rights and the woodland; a licence would be required to make use of raw materials.

It thus may be inferred that de Sudeley's reason for renting back the Templars' land was because it was a source of clay and fuel (wood and coal). This is not to imply that de Sudeley's involvement in the activity was anything other than the realisation of potential income from land rental and extraction licence fees, but the nascence and development of the 'industry' could only take place through sanction of land use from high level. Some idea of the manorial revenue to be had from pottery making activities at Heath End may be gleaned from Jean Le Patourel's study of the lordship of Longbridge Deverill (Wiltshire), a part of the abbot of Glastonbury's estate which was known as Poteria in 1234. Here, rates for fuel and clay were levied on each cottar who wished to make pottery (Le Patourel 1968, 105). For those engaged full-time, their annual fuel bill was 7d, while for those potting as a sideline, ½d was due for up to half a year. If clay was dug from the lord's land it was charged at 4d, or if from the cottar's land, 2d. It was estimated that the annual revenue from 23 tenements of 4 acres (1.6 ha) or less amounted to 21s. 3d. This may be compared to 13th-century pottery production which flourished in the manor of Hanley Castle (Worcestershire), where successive lords are thought to have shown little interest or influence (Dyer 2005, 92).

## The Colepit Croft

Three fairly dense production sites (Fig. 2, Sites 1, 2 and 3; Pl. 1) of 12th to 14th-century date were discovered to the north of Heath End Road, where clay and coal was available close to the surface. They were all located on the east side of an ancient north-south route known as Bowd Lane (now partly respected by Hare and Hounds Lane), with the kilns roughly aligned with the lane (Fig. 5). When superimposed upon the 17th-century map the three excavation areas are seen to straddle a slipe (a long and narrow piece of land) known as The Colepit Croft and extend eastwards into a furlong field, known in 1807 as The Delphes. The geo-referenced mapping accuracy at this point may have a discrepancy of up to 10 metres due to map repairs.

It is important to emphasise here that Sites 1, 2 and 3 only denote the limit of archaeological excavation. There were a great many additional kilns and features spotted during soil stripping, but unhappily they had to be abandoned due to lack of time and resources (the late Mr Keith Scott, pers. comm.). The Mayes and Scott report states that 'the whole site was much disturbed by modern building activity' which gives some idea of limitations of archaeological visibility and 'rescue' constraints.

Site 1 comprised eight kilns in seven identifiable phases, and pottery scatters (spatial extent dimensions not given). The kilns were superimposed in an area measuring just 8 m x 6.5 m, close to the hedgerow bordering Bowd Lane. This could imply that there was a restricted working zone, or a need for shelter from the wind, or simply that only a portion of a much larger kiln complex was investigated. The kiln residues, where present, showed that they were coal fired. The revised fabric chronology suggests that the kilns date approximately from the mid to late 13th century.

Site 2 was situated 30 m to the southeast of Site 1. Thirteen kilns were identified in six distinct phases, dating from the late 13th century and the 14th century (revised dates). Their spatial arrangement suggests that they have respected former property divisions, or land allotments. Two kilns were located some 30 m east of Bowd Lane, whilst the others lay a further 10 m to the east. The second group were largely superimposed. They were on a northwest-southeast alignment, which reflects the general layout of field boundaries to the north of Sea Lane (now Heath End Road), perhaps indicating that they respected the boundary of a former croft. The excavation area measured just 25 m by *c.* 18 m. Almost all of the kilns at Site 2 were coal-fired.

Site 3 was a 'cleaned up' area 12 m x 8 m, located about 10 m south-east of Site 2. There were eight kilns arrayed north-northeast/south-southwest, superimposed in two clusters. All were wood-fired, indicating the availability of loppings or brushwood in this period. Seven of the kilns were a two-flue type, while the northern most kiln was a later development with three flues. There were also five pits containing 'wasters'. Overall, nine phases of production could be identified. The revised fabric dates provide a date range of mid 12th- late 13th century. Roof tiles also appear to have been a product of five of the kilns.

The revised chronology may indicate that ceramics production at Bowd Lane began at Site 3, before extending north-westwards along the course of the coal and clay outcrop (*cf.* Fig. 7). Initially, the kilns

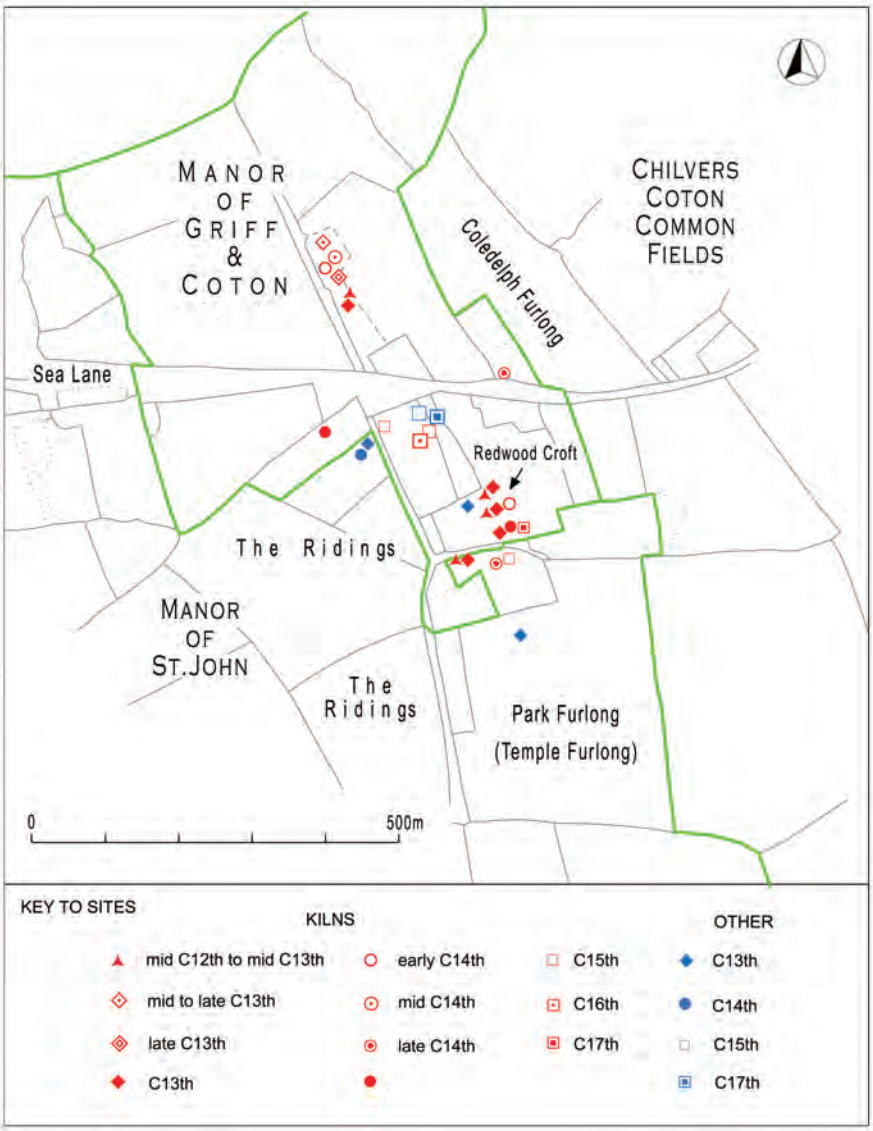


**Figure 7.** Chronological distribution of kiln sites at Heath End, in and around the manorial outlier of Griff and Coton.

may have been built on the fringe of an arable field, before spreading eastwards in step with coal and clay extraction works. The accessibility of coal in this zone was undoubtedly a key factor for the longevity of ceramics production.

## Printoft's/Sarah Starkey's Croft

There is one former land parcel of land at Heath End on which medieval kilns have been found, within the Griff and Coton outlier, where the landowners have been traced to the 16th century, and possibly earlier. In 1692 freeholder Widow Sarah Starkey, alias Hill, paid a thirtieth part of knight's fee (3s. 4d.) to the lordship of Griff and Coton. Her croft was on the south side of Sea Lane (Heath End Road), bordering the manor of St John to the west (Fig. 5). It consisted of a capital messuage within a croft 2a: 2r: 14 (*c.* 1.05 ha), a 'yardland' of 9a: 1r: 32 (3.82 ha) and a cottage which she rented out.

Three superimposed 15th-century kilns were discovered alongside the north-west boundary of Sarah Starkey's croft (Site 8), and another kiln, dated to the 15th/16th century (Site 7) was found on the east side of the plot (Fig. 5). Other finds comprised a substantial layer of 15th-century pottery, exposed in a foundation trench for a new house (Site 5). It is possible that this croft was occupied for many years by a tenant family with a tradition of pot making. Prior to the 20th August 1571/2, the croft had been one of the possessions of John Printoft of Griff. The Printofts (spelled variously Prentot, Prentoft, Prentoff) were probably yeomen. They appear in several deeds amongst a handful of substantial landowners in the parish from *c.*1200 (WRO, CR136/C716) until the late 16th century. The family held other properties at Heath End besides the above mentioned croft, for in 1528, Thomas Prentoff of Gryffe conveyed five cottages in Le Hethend, to Richard Broben of Nuneaton, and to John Wade and William Underwood, both of Chilvers Coton (BRF.

AP/437890). It is doubtful that the Printofts themselves had a hand in pottery manufacture, but more likely that they rented out tenements (and possibly land for clay and coal extraction).

Although there are a large number of extant medieval title deeds for Chilvers Coton, there are only two others (*i.e.* other than those mentioned above) known for Heath End. In 1401 and 1402, Nicholas Prentoft witnessed the transfer of two cottages that stood at Le Hethend, that were held by two branches of the Maryot family. The cottages, understood to have been freehold, stayed with the Maryots for at least two generations, reaching back into the mid 14th century (BRF.AP/437891). One was conveyed as a gift from John Maryot, son of John Maryot to John Maryot, son of William Maryot of Chilvers Coton (BRF.AP/437899), the other conveyed as a gift with entail from John Maryot to his son Thomas Maryot in 1402. The documents inform us of adjacent cottages, one held by Henry Bates, formerly Jordan Julleson's and another held by John Cuttall also formerly owned by Julleson. This may be the closest we will get to identify the late medieval crofters of Heath End, and it is tempting to think that potters were amongst these names.

### The Humphrey Fields

In the early 1680s three large fields, collectively known as The Humphrey Fields, made up the north western part of the Griff and Coton outlier, in total *c.* 13 hectares (Fig. 5). They were located on the north (and possibly on the south) side of Sea Lane, between Coton Common to the west and Colepit Croft to the east, and lay predominantly above the clay and coal outcrop. They were the freehold of John Stratford Esq. of Atherstone, Warwickshire. Mr Stratford's deeds (WRO, CR136/ Hewitt Survey/V1/63) inform us that in antiquity the fields were known as the Tillingfield, the Heathfield and the ?Lichfield. The land is now occupied by 1960s and 1970s housing estates. Although there have been no kilns recorded in this area (on account of no archaeologists present during its development), The Humphrey Fields provide a vital clue about the changes in medieval land use which were taking place at Chilvers Coton between the 12th and 13th centuries, and how these changes most probably affected the land on which the pottery industry emerged.

The Humphrey Fields took their name from a 13th-century landowner, Humphrey, son of Robert of Wiken (Wyken, Coventry). In return for homage and service, Bartholomew de Sudeley (*c.* 1226–*c.* 1280, son of Ralph de Sudeley) granted Humphrey 'land according to measure of Arden, lying on the heath [bruera] of Chilvers Coton, beside the land of Robert, his father' (WRO, CR136/C719/1562). This grant to bring heath under the plough was most probably in return solely for money rent (*i.e.* without labour services) and, if so, reflects a widespread trend that is known to have been taking place in England from the 12th century (Postan 1973, 93). But when did the reclamation of heath at Chilvers Coton begin? It is a safe assumption that Robert of Wiken's land was in a state of cultivation by the mid 13th century (and that it was subsequently inherited by Humphrey), but it may well have been cleared long before this time. Unfortunately, deeds of exchange only became common in the 13th century. It is however, notable that the western boundary of The Humphrey Fields also marks the limit of the Griff and Coton outlier, from which might be inferred that it was defined either before, or at the time of, the creation of the outlier in 1185.

### Redwood Croft: Sites 11 to 14

A cluster of kiln sites was discovered in the 1970s during house building the area now known as Redwood Croft, which was formerly in the southern end of the Griff and Coton outlier (Fig. 5, Pl. 2). The archaeological investigations during construction groundwork were sporadic and partial. The antiquity of the site could not be traced in documentary sources earlier than the 17th century. Significantly, products from two of the sites (12 and 13) included vessels in fabric CCBi. The chronological distribution of kilns at Redwood Croft is shown at Fig. 7. Site 12 comprised a single kiln which was in operation at some time in the 12th/13th century (revised date). At Site 13 there were six superimposed kilns spanning the 12th to 14th-centuries (revised dates). Site 14 consisted of a single 14th-century kiln. Site 11 comprised a small pit in which a single piece of pottery was present, dated to the 13th century.

## Pottery making in St John's Manor

### The Templars period

No administrative records survive of the Knights Templars' Chelverescote manor between 1185 and 1306. However, during the manor's Crown custodianship (AD 1308–1314), the annual accounts attest to the sale of timber and brushwood, potting clay (*terra ad vesa sirgata facienda*) and occasionally sand or gravel (*granera*) or at least permission to obtain the materials from their estate (PRO/E/358/19/ mem 44d; PRO/E/3587/mem 45d/6). The sale of coal, or sea coal (*carbonibus maritimis*) as it was called, was also a means of augmenting Edward II's coffers during these years. The coal and clay outcrop ran directly beneath the Templars' demesne – Temple Furlong (later Park Furlong) and Temple Park to the south (Fig. 5). To date, the archaeological evidence of pottery manufacture within the Templars manor consists of a dump of kiln wasters (Site 9), which included vessels in fabric B (AD 1150– 1300). Archaeological excavations took place at the site of the Templars' grange farm in

**Plate 3.** Thirteenth-century pottery from Chilvers Coton (Image: Author).

three phases between 1970 and 2004. There was no kiln evidence, though 13th-century waste pits attested to the household's regular consumption of Chilvers Coton products (Figs 8 and 9, Pl. 3).

## The Hospitallers period

The king's stewards shut down the Templars' manor in February 1314 (PRO E358/19/mem 46/5) seemingly having bled it almost dry, for seven years. What happened over the next two decades is uncertain. Many of the Templars' territories in England were acquired by the descendants of benefactors. If this was the case then the manor is likely to have been ceded to the Hospitallers in 1324, when the King finally succumbed to pressure from the Vatican. The archaeological evidence suggests that the Hospitallers took over a derelict farm, robbed of building stone (Wilson 2010, 3), and erected a new timber-framed manor house on more or less the same site; inheriting a pitted tract of land above the clay and coal outcrop, known as Temple Furlong. The farmers of St John's manor are absent from the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332 (detailed assessments listing individual taxpayers were not made in Warwickshire after this date), but this may be on account of their status as clerics. It is not until a report compiled for the Grand Master Elyan de Villanova in 1338 (Larkins and Kemble 1885, 179–180) that the Chilvers Coton manor is again seen as a going concern with annual 'rents and works' (valued at £8. 7s. 6d) returning annual profits to the manor of Ballessall (the ex-Templar preceptory at

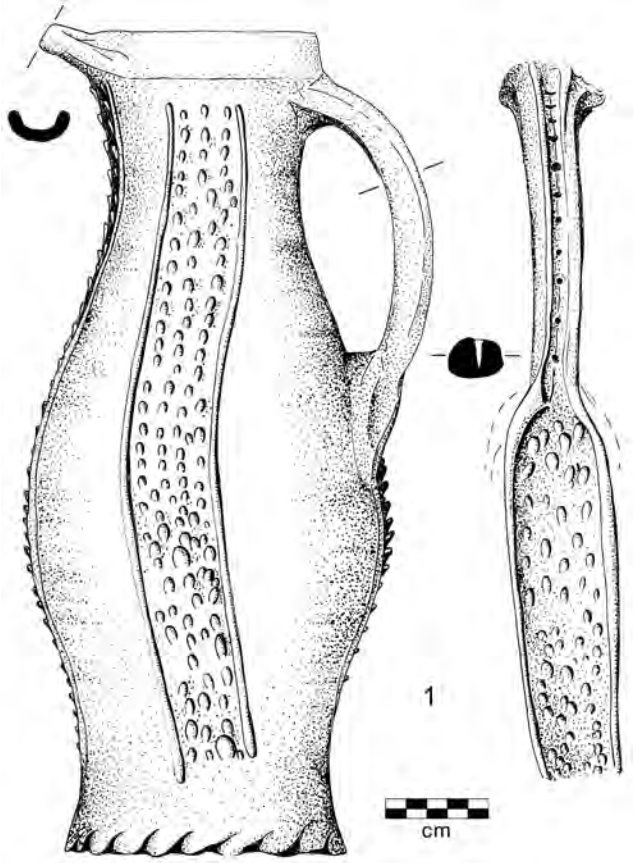


**Figure 8.** Thirteenth-century pottery from Chilvers Coton. 1. pitcher fabric A, light green glaze with olive-glazed applied strip and bead decoration, ht: 395 mm, rim diam.: 105 mm; wt: 1.36 kg (65%) (ref. BER/ 154b/ 155b; *cf.* Mayes and Scott 1984, 156–7, fig. 104, 190; fig. 105, 200).

Temple Balsall, Warwickshire). Initially, the cultivable land (one plough land) was worked by a squire or yeoman. No freeholders were recorded. The resident Hospitallers become more visible in documentary sources from 1360 (WRO CR136/C772/1440). They were not only farmers (*firmaius dominii prioris Sancti Johannis de Jerusalem in Anglia infra parochiam de Chilverscoton*), as described in 1405, but were responsible for collecting rents and managing the customary dues of the peasants who worked probably a third of the field-strips in the common fields, and whose tenements and crofts were dispersed throughout Coton and Heath End.

Excavation Sites 9 and 15 lie in the former manor of St John; (Fig. 5), and attest to pottery production during the Hospitallers period (AD 1324–1481) (Fig. 7).

## The Riding

It is presumed that The Riding or Rydinge (OE 'clearing') (Fig. 5) was *assarted* from the heaths and wastes, which were situated between woodlands to

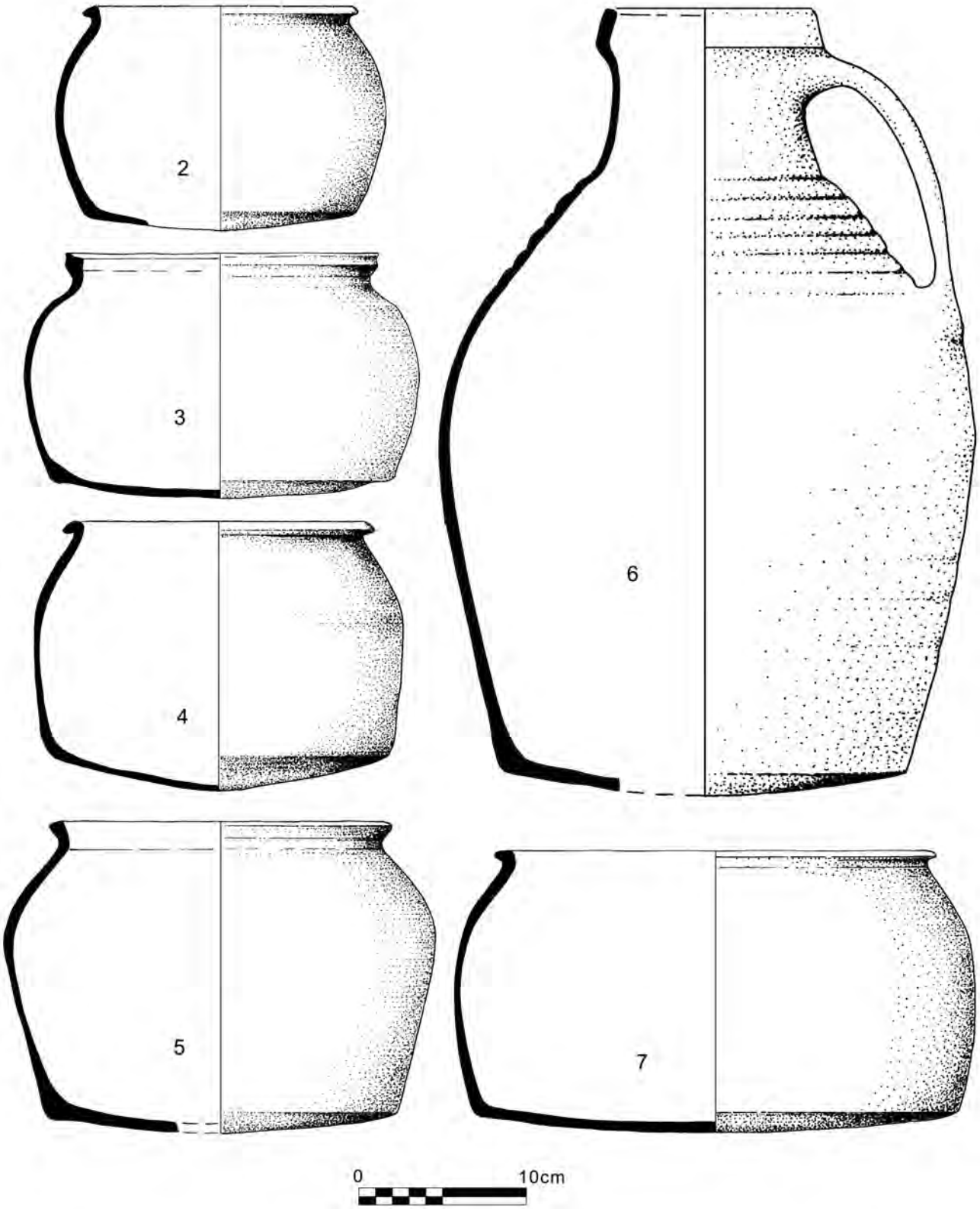


**Figure 9.** Thirteenth-century pottery from Chilvers Coton. 2. cooking pot fabric Bi, ext. rim diam.: 167 mm, ht: 135 mm; wt: 0.28 kg (*c.* 10%) (ref. BER/ 152a); 3. cooking pot; fabric Bi, ext. rim diam.: 188 mm, ht: 146 mm, wt: 0.92 kg (70%) (BER/ 155b; *cf.* rim form Mayes and Scott 1984, 135, 101, 360, fig. 83, 608.360 and 613.363, 196.240, fig. 49); 4. cooking pot fabric Bi, ext. rim diam.: 187 mm, ht: 162 mm, wt: 0.86 kg (65%) (ref. BER/ 152a); 5. cooking pot fabric Bi, rim diam.: 207 mm, ht: *c.* 188 mm: wt: 1.4 kg. (80%) (BER/ 152a); 6. rounded jug fabric A, creamy white, external dark green glaze; wt: 3.2kg. (*c.* 75%), ht: 470 mm; int. rim diam.: 108 mm (BER/134/150); 7. cooking pot fabric B; ext. rim diam.: 267 mm, ht: 170 mm; wt: 96 g (*c.* 30%) (BER/ 152b).

the west and open fields to the east. It was located in the manor of St. John, its northern and eastern boundaries juxtaposed with the outlier of Griff and Coton manor. In the 17th century it covered an area of about 10.25 hectares. By the 1950s, except for the back gardens of pre-1940s houses on the west side of Bermuda Road, The Riding was occupied by the slag heap of a coal mine. Site 9, interpreted as a kiln dump, was located in the north corner of The Riding (Fig. 5). It was recorded in a modern drainage trench. Despite archaeological visibility being somewhat restricted, the material seems to have accumulated in the 13th and 14th century. The vessels comprised cooking pots, pipkins, fish dishes, bowls and mortars (Mayes and Scott 1984, 60) .

In the 1320s The Riding is likely to have been in the possession of Galfrido (Geoffrey) de la Ryding (WRO, CR136/C761c), who was undoubtedly a farmer of some substance and a tenant-in-chief. Galfrido bore witness to a number of Chilvers Coton deeds and, in the 1320s and 1340s, acquired land in proximity to the Riding. His earliest known forebear is Richard de le Rudingge (WRO, CR136/C724), who in 1284 was a signatory to a grant of land in Chilvers Coton to Sir Andrew de Estley (Astley), the lord of an adjacent manor. In Richard's time, The Riding may already have been well established as cultivable land. As with The Humphrey Fields, clearance and groundbreaking of The Riding will have undoubtedly been a considerable and protracted enterprise. It is difficult to be sure whether it pre-dates the creation of the new manorial boundaries in 1185, or whether it was created during the Templars' period (*i.e.* post AD 1191). As Postan has shown, by 1190 a number of rent-paying tenements had already been cut from the demesnes of the Warwickshire preceptory at Balsall, whilst other Templars manors in the county (Tysoe and Newbold) were wholly let out (Postan 1973, 98–9).

## Park Furlong

Site 15 was located in the manor of St. John, some 20 m south of the manorial boundary with the Griff and Coton outlier (Fig. 5; Pl. 4). It was formerly towards the north end of Park Furlong (also as known as Temple Furlong), which adjoined the west side of the common field known as Windmill Field. There were three broad phases of kiln activity spanning the 14th and 15th centuries and 'later' (Fig. 7). In the mid 16th century, Park Furlong was owned by 'gentleman farmer of the manor' Henry Acres (WRO, CR136/CR440/7/1259; WRO, CR136/812), whose estate (PRO/PCC16), has been identified as the former demesne of the Knights Hospitallers (Wilson 1998 1–6; Wilson, 2010, 85). In the 17th-century

**Plate 4.** Site 15, rear garden of 10 and 12 Radley Drive: the base of a 15th-century kiln alongside a 14th-century ditch. (Photo: courtesy of Philip Mayes).

Court of Survey the field was described as 'a certaine Rough Close' situated above the 'Coal Delphe'. It was presumably pitted throughout, on account of coal and clay near to the surface. Four crofts occupied the northern end of Park Furlong. Beneath the croft in the tenure of labourer William Sergeant (Fig. 4, d) was a large spread of 15th-century kiln wasters, roughly 50 m long by 20 m-30 m wide, which extended beyond the manor boundary to the north-east. The kiln (Site 15) was built on a dump of 14th-century wasters, attesting to either an early establishment of the croft, or an antecedent tenement.

Park Furlong was steadily quarried for coal and clay during the 19th and 20th centuries. Notwithstanding this, in the 1970s, evidence of medieval occupation was found on the edge of a clay pit, about 100 m south of Site 15 (Fig. 5, Site 17). The discovery comprised a group of waste pits containing a large quantity of pottery. The majority of vessels were jugs, cooking pots, wide mouthed fish dishes and mortars, all of which were dated to the 13th century. The revised chronology now indicates a wider date range: AD 1275– 1500. At least one vessel was in fabric B; AD 1150–1300. The site was thus occupied at some time during the Knights Templars' period (*i.e. c.* AD 1191–1307), and continued during the Knights Hospitallers period (AD 1324–1481). The excavators considered the site to be associated with the industry (*i.e.* a potter's abode), although the nature of the site is uncertain. In view of its proximity to The Riding (Fig. 5) there are two contenders in the documentary sources. One of these is the site of Temple Croft, which was conveyed in 1324 to Galfrido de la Ryding by Ralf, son of Robert de Bower of Chilvers Coton, who had held it through ancient rights of his father (WRO, CR136/748/1523). The word croft in this sense is taken to be a small farm as opposed solely to an enclosed piece of land. The other site, known as Templefeld, was released by the quitclaim of Edith le Grey of Chilvers Coton in 1342, on the death of her husband Ralph, to Galfrido de la Ryding (WRO, CR136/761c).

The archaeological and documentary evidence thus suggests that by the 13th/14th century the north part of Park Furlong was partitioned into a number of small crofts, some of which were engaged in pottery making.

### Potting in the manor of Erdbury

The evidence for medieval pottery making in the manor of Erdbury is slender; all we have to go on is Eileen Gooder's account (1984, 10) of a kiln site excavated by the late Mr Fred Phillips, an amateur archaeologist of Bedworth, Warwickshire, who was also a family friend of the author. In the 1970s and 1980s Phillips was permitted to conduct covert 'trial excavations' on the Arbury Hall estate (Fig. 3, Erdbury Priory), where he uncovered what was considered to have been the site of Erbury Priory's tilery and pottery and the base of an undated kiln. Gooder, who was a close associate of Phillips and visitor to the site, noted the frequent occurrence of pottery sherds in Chilvers Coton Fabric CCBi, and surmised (quite rightly) that this type of pottery could date to shortly after the mid 12th century, in view of its association with the priory site (Gooder 1984, 10).

## Discussion

The application of revised fabric dates to the pottery recovered from the 1960s and 1970s excavations at Chilvers Coton has shown that the earliest kilns possibly date from the second half of the 12th century. Almost all of the kiln sites were located within an outlier of the manor of Griff and Coton, which was established by Ralph de Sudeley in 1185, coinciding with his donation of a substantial part of the lordship to the Knights Templars. Conspicuously, the boundary of the outlier encloses a geological outcrop of high-quality pot-making clay, and coal, which runs northwest–southeast through the parish. It is thus surmised that Ralph's intention was to retain ground that was already providing him with a source of money revenue from both mineral rights and land rents. The erratic course of the southern boundary of the outlier appears to denote the extent of clay working activities at the time of de Sudeley's land donation to the Templars.

It has been shown that a vast northwest-southeast swathe of land at Heath End amounting to about 23 hectares ( *i.e.* The Humphrey Fields and the Riding), was probably claimed from the heath during the 12th and 13th centuries, for the purposes of cultivation and tenements, and that this process is resonant with changes to the manorial economy that were taking place throughout England from the 12th century, whereby demesne lands were fragmented in order to raise money revenue. This inevitably calls into question the former status of the land immediately to the east of these clearances: the zone in which the pottery kiln sites were located. This was a large band of territory, of roughly 15 hectares, bordering to the east the open fields of Chilvers Coton. Despite the paucity of deeds and pre-17th century field names, the geographic location of this zone suggests that it represents a first phase of heath reclamation; which probably took place in the 12th century. In support of this theory, there is body of circumstantial evidence which points to an early fragmentation of this territory into tenements. In the 1520s there were two fairly considerable freeholds held by the same family, the Prentoffs, who had been respected substantial land holders at Chilvers Coton and Griff since at least *c.* 1200. Their freeholds at Heath End included five crofts with tofts, of which there is no information about their precise location or size. But another was a croft of over 4 hectares with a capital messuage and a cottage. Significantly, it was on this last property that a sequence of four pottery kilns

were found, dated to the 15th and 16th century. A minor family of freeholding crofters (the Maryots) has also been flagged up at Heath End from at least the mid-14th century, together with their neighbouring crofters of unknown status.

The transformation of heath and waste at Chilvers Coton was probably enabled by the independent enterprises of a small number of fairly substantial yeomen farmers, in return for rent payments to the lordship. Subsequently a series of tenements (crofts and tofts) were marked out within the early clearances to the north and south of Sea Lane, and these were rented out to peasant families. In addition, there may have already been other peasants in this area holding their crofts directly of the lord. Some of these peasants were undoubtedly the potters, who most likely built their kilns either on their crofts, or on the periphery of cultivable land, possibly on selions (cultivation strips) in their possession. It is quite probable that the twelve sites at Heath End where pottery kilns have been discovered (Fig. 5, Sites 1–4, 7–8 and 12–16) represent discrete family groups. Significantly, a number of sites had superimposed kilns, showing that the structure was more or less a permanent feature, but also illustrating the longevity of the craft of pottery-making within a family. The identities of the families, and the numbers involved in the craft remain elusive. It is to be noted that all of the excavated kiln sites of 12th/13th century date were distributed throughout the corridor of the coal and clay outcrop; over an area of approximately 500 m (north-south) by 300 m (east-west). And, since most of these sites were made by chance discovery during piecemeal development of brown-field sites, it is probable that other kilns await discovery, particularly as the gardens of 19th-century to pre-1940s houses occupy the sites of a number of former crofts that were situated along main ancient routes.

It is frequently assumed that pot-making in the medieval period was largely undertaken as a side line to supplement a household income that was otherwise derived from agriculture (*cf.* Dyer 2005, 92; Steane 2014, 243). This could very well have been the case, but the circumstances which permitted a subsistence cultivator to become a potter tend to be ignored. The availability of requisite materials and fuel alone is not an adequate explanation. Arguably, it was changes to the manorial economy in the 12th century that produced a set of favourable circumstances for the emergence of the pottery industry at Chilvers Coton. In the first century of Norman rule villeinage tenure was heavily burdened with the performance of labour services to the lord, attending to the agricultural needs of the demesne farm. This work was usually of the more labour-intensive kind, and beyond the scope of regular duties performed by the household servants. It frequently took the form of week-work, usually three days a week, for little recompense other than food. The demands on a peasant's time would intensify according to the agrarian calendar. Even so, is it believed that the villein still had sufficient time each year to tend to his own tillage (Duby 1968, 209). Each villein held his smallholding of the lord, which normally consisted of a croft with a toft and a handful of selions in the open fields. The annual agricultural yield would be just sufficient to feed the mouths of his family: he was also required to supply a tithe, and a payment in kind to the lord, the amount of which depended on the specific terms of his tenure. Under such constraints there was little scope or opportunity for the investment of time to engage in pottery-making. However, Postan's analysis of surveys of manorial records has shown that by the second half of the 12th century, there was a countrywide move to replace labour services (or at least a proportion of it) with money rent (Postan, 1973, 89–106). This relaxation of dues undoubtedly gave the peasant more time in which to seek other means of meeting the lord's rent. But while there was little scope to produce a surplus yield (*i.e.* for sale) from the family's yardland, the hiring out of personal labour services to a substantial landowner was not always an option. It may therefore, be no coincidence that the emergence of pottery manufacture at Chilvers Coton occurs in the same period as the widespread movement towards the commutation of labour services. Even so, pottery manufacture required financial risk. The minimal monetary outlay would be a licence from the lordship to obtain clay and fuel (wood or coal). Other overheads might include tempers, glazing materials, and possibly even carriage costs. To be cost-efficient, a potter would require a thorough knowledge of materials and processes: wedging, throwing, turning; drying, kiln building and firing. In addition to this, adequate space would be required for potting, kilns, drying sheds and for the storage of materials and equipment. Was such knowledge and resource so casually acquired?

Coupled with the 'sideline' belief is the presumption that the pots were made by men (*cf.* Steane 2014, 243). But could it have been that the craft was undertaken predominantly by women? It would certainly explain the scant evidence for male potters in the documentary sources for Chilvers Coton and the Nuneaton area. It is noteworthy in this respect, that Eileen Gooder identified three likely female candidates (1984, 10–12): Amice Potkyn, whom she suspected was a potter for Nuneaton Priory in 1327; Elena Pott of Nuneaton, and Agnes Butterton who ran a tile house there in 1553 (one must bear in mind however, that the 'pot' surname is not evidence of an extant potter, but may just refer to the craft of a forebear). In support of the theory for a predominance of female medieval potters at Chilvers Coton it is necessary to look at the 17th-century census records compiled by Sir Richard Newdigate, at which time clay-working and ceramics production (pottery, tiles and bricks) was still a feature of the locality. Although the census provides us with the names, ages and occupations of 788 people

**Plate 5.** Site 10. A 14th-century tile kiln at Tenlons Road, Heath End, *c*. 1970. The site is flanked by the back garden of an early 20th-century house. (Photo: courtesy of Philip Mayes).

living in 180 households, it is conspicuous that there is no mention of either a potter or a clay-worker. While Gooder suspected that some of the potters may have been masquerading as male 'labourers', it would not be unreasonable to assume that others are veiled as 'wife' or 'widow'. The occupation of the woman of each household was evidently viewed by the census recorders as inconsequential.

Medieval pottery manufacture at Chilvers Coton is frequently referred to as an 'industry', although the term is somewhat misleading. Based on the combined evidence (archaeological and historic documentary) it would be better viewed as a craft economy, essentially domestic, that was shared by a number of families within a defined geographic zone. It is a fairly safe assumption that the spatial extent of pottery making activities at Chilvers Coton during the 12th and 13th centuries, was primarily within the limits the Griff and Coton manorial outlier (Figs. 2 and 5), and especially within the zone (*c*. 15 ha) interpreted as initial heath reclamation. Apart from the debatable location of Site 16, the archaeological evidence seems to show that pottery and clay-working gradually spread out into the manor of St John in the 14th century, largely following the course of the clay and coal outcrop (Fig. 7). A substantial tile kiln was also in operation during this period at The Grove, a croft situated in the Griff and Coton outlier (WRO CR 136/M95/96), between The Riding and the Humphrey Fields (Fig. 5 and Pl. 5).

There are, however, exceptions to the location of kilns in the early period, as seen at Arbury Hall (Fig. 3, Erdbury Priory, 2 km to the southwest, SP341 897) and at Goldby's Farm (Fig. 3, *c*. 3.3 km to the west, SP318 896). Gooder conjectured that the presence of 12th-century pot wasters at Goldby's Farm was indicative of gradual colonisation of the Arden by potters in search of good clay, although it is equally plausible that clay was carted from the outcrop at Heath End; as was undoubtedly the case at the Erdbury Priory pottery and tilery. A group of six 15th-century kilns have also been found on the west side of an arable field known as The Banners (WRO, CR136/764/104), on the south side of Harefield Lane (formerly Half Field Lane), about 1.2 km south west of the outlier (Fig. 3, Site 18; SP341 897). The site was formerly situated within the greater manor of Griff and Coton. The area of excavation, *c*. 28.5 m x 15.5 m, also revealed the foundations of a house, indicating that this was probably a potter's croft. Since, in this locality the underlying geology comprises mudstones and sandstones of the Whitaker Member (Carboniferous), it is more than likely therefore that potting clay was carted from the outcrop at Heath End.

Finally, to place the archaeological knowledge of pottery manufacture at Chilvers Coton into

perspective, it is noteworthy that less than 1% of the initial zone of heath reclamation, and only *c*. 0.4% of the outlier, has been observed by archaeologists. It is estimated that less than 4 hectares of the outlier still has archaeological potential, and that this is largely restricted to the gardens of 19th-century to pre-1940s housing. Nonetheless, there is very high potential for the discovery of kilns sites within existing gardens, and this is no more clearly exemplified than by the settings of Sites 10 and 15 (Pl. 4 and 5).

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***Abbreviations:***

| | |
|---|---|
| BRF.AP | Birmingham Reference Library, Aston Papers |
| PRO | The National Archives, Kew |
| WRO | Warwick County Record Office |


BRF, AP/ 437890, Deed of Gift, John Maryot, son of John Maryot to William Maryot of Chilvers Coton, Aug. or Jan.1401

BRF, AP/437891, Deed of Gift with entail, 31 Oct. 1402

BRF, AP/437899, Gift, Thomas Prentoff of Gryffe, 27 Jan. 1528

PRO, E/358/19, 29 Sep. 1310 to 29 Sep. 1311

PRO, PCC16, Babbington, Testamentum Henrici Acres, 1567

WRO, CR 136/M14, Map of Chilvers Coton by Thomas Hewitt, 1684

WRO, CR 136/M95/96, Map of Chilvers Coton by Robert Hewitt, 1684

WRO, CR136/ v13/Hewitt Survey Vol. V/11–12

WRO, CR136/ Hewitt Survey Vol.1/63, Freeholders Evidences

WRO, CR136/DR7 (misc. papers), Pains and Orders

WRO, CR136/C656a, Settlement of a dispute re Common of Pasture between the Vicar of Nuneaton and the inhabitants of Attleborough, Coton and Griff, 5 Jan. 1405

WRO, CR136/C716, 'Land charter, Griff, by Ralph de Sudeley', *c*. 1200

WRO, CR136/C724, 27 Feb.1284

WRO, CR136/C719/1562, Grant by Bartholomew de Sudeley to Humphrey son of Robert of Wiken of land in Chilvers Coton, 13th century

WRO, CR136/C748/1523, Grant by Ralph son of Robert de le Bowre to Geoffrey de la Rudyng, croft in Chilvers Coton

WRO, CR136/C761c/1519, Quitclaim. Edith, relict of Ralph le Grey, widow to Geoffrey de la Rudyng. Land in Chilvers Coton, 5 Sep. 1342

WRO, CR136/CR440/7/1259, View of frankpledge, Manor of Chilverscoton, of Henry Akers, gentleman, farmer of the manor of St John, 17 Oct.1560

WRO, CR136/C764/104, 1684

WRO, CR136/C772/1440, Grant, Thomas Loteman to William his son, of lands in Chilvers Coton, 2 Feb. 1360
WRO, CR136/C812, Final concord, Thomas Dabridgecourt to Henry Acres of property in Chilvers Coton, 29 Sep. 1566

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### Résumé

Cette étude fait guise d'introduction du livre sur l'«industrie» de la céramique médiévale de Chilvers Coton. Elle explore le caractère du paysage historique où des fours à poterie ont été trouvés. Elle examine les preuves de la propriété foncière et de son utilisation, ce qui jette un jour nouveau sur les origines possibles de l'industrie et sur son contexte et étendue spatiale dans le paysage médiéval. Elle examine, pour la première fois, des preuves archéologiques de la production de poterie à Chilvers Coton à la lumière de nouvelles dates de la céramique.

Bien que ce n'est pas son objectif principal, de cette façon, l'étude aborde un aspect majeur d'un des buts de la recherche régionale actuelle en Warwickshire, à savoir : "WM21 : une réévaluation de, et travaux supplémentaires sur, le site de production de Chilvers Coton; l'industrie de Nuneaton est grande mais on ne connaît pas son ampleur" (Irving 2011, 36).

### Zusammenfassung

Diese Studie befasst sich mit der mittelalterlichen Keramikindustrie in Chilvers Coton. Der Beitrag erörtert die Wesensmerkmale der historischen Landschaft, in der Keramiköfen gefunden wurden. Es werden Belege für Grundeigentum und Bodennutzung untersucht. Dabei wird ein neues Licht auf die möglichen Ursprünge der Industrie und ihres Kontextes geworfen sowie ihrer räumlichen Ausdehnung in der mittelalterlichen Landschaft. Die Studie betrachtet dabei zum ersten Mal archäologische Hinweise auf die Keramikproduktion in Chilvers Coton unter Berücksichtigung der überarbeiteten Keramik-Jahreszahlen.

Obwohl dies nicht ihr ursprünglicher Zweck war, befasst sich die Studie auf diese Weise mit einem wichtigen Aspekt der derzeitigen regionalen Forschungsziele für Warwickshire: 'WM21: Neubewertung von, and weitere Forschung zu, der Produktionsstätte Chilvers Coton; die Industrie in Nuneaton ist zwar umfangreich, aber es ist nichts über ihr Ausmaß bekannt' (Irving 2011, 36).