

**Medieval pottery from excavations at Seagrang, Baldoyle,  
County Dublin**

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**October 2013**

## Introduction

The medieval pottery assemblage from Seagrang, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin contains four sherds of medieval pottery ranging in date from the late-twelfth/fourteenth-centuries (figure 1). The assemblage contains locally-made pottery types and vessel forms associated with domestic activities including food storage, preparation and consumption such as storage jars, cooking pots and jugs. The range of local medieval pottery types represented is similar to that retrieved from medieval levels during excavations at the site of Meakstown Castle, also located in north County Dublin (Doyle 2009; McQuade 2009).

Type	Number of Sherds	Vessel Form	Date range	Origin
Leinster Cooking Ware	2	jar/jug	12th-14th C	Ireland
Dublin-type ware	2	jar/jug	13th C	Ireland
Dublin-type fineware	1	jar/jug	L13th-14thC	Ireland
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>12th-14th C</b>	<b>Ireland</b>

Figure 1. Table of medieval pottery types from Seagrang, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin

## Methodology

These fragments were identified visually in accordance with existing typologies. A brief description of fabric and decoration is given. The different types of pottery are presented in tabular form (figures 1 and 2). Medieval vessel types and styles of manufacture were identified in accordance with the Medieval Pottery Research Group's classification of ceramic forms (MPRG 1998). Medieval types were identified based on information from published excavations in Ireland and existing typologies. In the absence of NMI find numbers at this early stage of post excavation processing the sherds have been assigned temporary numbers (1-5) for reference for the purposes of this report.

## Dating

Date ranges for the pottery types are based on published dates for the production and distribution of pottery excavated from archaeological sites in Ireland.

## **Quantification**

The table in Figure 1 illustrates the number of sherds found within each type and the date range and origin of each type. The Minimum Number of Vessels (MNV) is a vessel count based on a frequently occurring diagnostic feature of the vessels represented in the assemblage. The high instance of jugs within most medieval pottery assemblages means that basing the MNV on the occurrence of rim-handle fragments, as representative of handled jars, is suitable. The assemblage from Seagrang did not contain any such diagnostic sherds, consequently the MNV count is zero and not represented in figure 1. A full catalogue of ceramics from the Seagrang, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin analysed for this report is presented in Figure 2.

## **Medieval Pottery from Seagrang, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin**

### **Leinster Cooking Ware**

Leinster Cooking Ware is a hand built ware found on most sites in south-eastern Ireland from the twelfth/fourteenth-centuries. The fabric is coarse and contains large plates of quartz, mica and occasionally decomposed feldspar (Ó Flóinn 1988). The assemblage from Seagrang contains two Leinster Cooking Ware rim fragments from jar/jug forms of this type. Fragment 1 is a rim fragment from a jar/jug with a squared rim; Fragment 2 retains only a small portion of the rim but appears to represent a vessel with a simple rim form. A slight protrusion below the rim on Fragment 2 possibly represents the point at which a spout or handle was joined to the vessel, unfortunately too little of this element survives to provide any certainty on this point.

### **Dublin-type wares**

It is a convention in medieval pottery analysis to name pottery after its production site; in the absence of a definite production site the pottery is named after the area in which it has been found to be most prolific (Blake and Davey, 1983, 39-40). Research on the medieval pottery produced and consumed in the Dublin region has provided a classification of Dublin-type pottery by fabric, form and date as carried out by Barton (1965), Papazian (1989) and re-

designated by McCutcheon (2000; 2006). Two medieval Dublin-type wares are represented within the assemblage from Seagrang and discussed in the following sections.

### **Dublin-type ware**

Dublin-type ware is a wheel thrown, glazed ware that was produced locally from the late-thirteenth/fourteenth-centuries. This type superseded Dublin-type coarseware; it is less coarse and is heavily influenced by stylistic elements of contemporary Bristol Redcliffe wares (McCutcheon 2000, 122). Base Fragments 3 and 4 represent a lead-glazed Dublin-type ware jar/jug.

### **Dublin-type fineware**

Dublin-type fineware is a fine, wheel thrown type dated to the late-thirteenth/fourteenth-centuries. This type possibly overlaps the later period of Dublin-type ware but contains much fewer inclusions and follows on from Dublin-type ware stylistically, with Bristol Redcliffe influences (McCutcheon 2000, 122). The assemblage contains a body sherd (fragment 5) from a lead glazed jar or jug of this type.

### **Catalogue**

<b>Find number</b>	<b>links</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Part</b>
1		Ceramic	Pottery	Leinster Cooking Ware	rim fragment
2		Ceramic	Pottery	Leinster Cooking Ware	rim fragment
3		Ceramic	Pottery	Dublin-type ware	base fragment
4		Ceramic	Pottery	Dublin-type ware	base fragment
5		Ceramic	Pottery	Dublin-type fineware	body fragment

**Figure 2. Catalogue of medieval pottery from excavations at Seagrang, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin.**

## Bibliography

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Clare McCutcheon addendum: Dublin-type cooking ware. The only other identification could be is the base of a Dublin-type jug as there is some wear on the outer surface. Either way, local, 13th century and fits with the rest of your ceramic evidence.