

## Ancient Monuments Lab Report No 4486

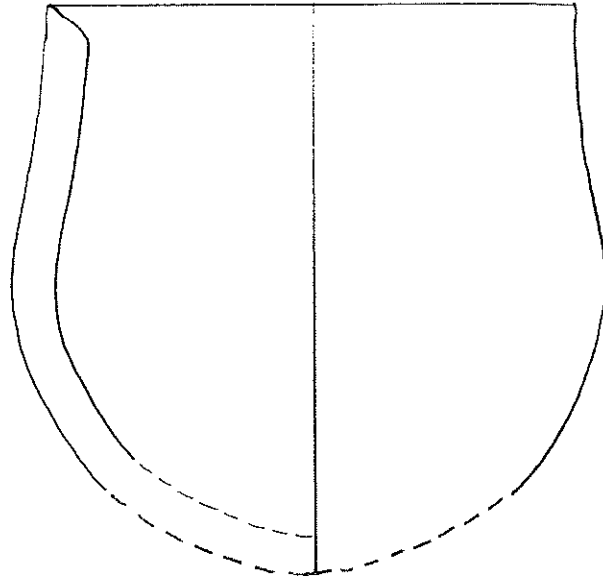
Some technological finds from The Green, Northampton

Justine Bayley

February 1985

Six samples (A M Nos 850830 - 35) were submitted for examination and analysis. They are described individually below.

- 850830 Three joining crucible sherds (see figure). The crucible was deeply vitrified on the outside and had undoubtedly been used, but only slight traces of metals (copper and possibly zinc and lead) were detected by X-ray fluorescence analysis (XRF).
- 850831 Body sherd from a crucible. XRF detected lead as well as minor amounts of copper and zinc on the vitrified outer surface.
- Both these crucibles were probably used to melt copper alloys. The exact nature of the alloy cannot be determined with any degree of confidence as the metal traces were so weak.
- 850832 Only lead was detected in the thin, even, vitreous layers on both sides of this sherd. This suggests it was a fragment of a lead-glazed pot rather than a crucible.
- 850833 Analysis failed to detect any metals on this piece. Most of the deposits on it were post-burial ones; they occurred equally on all surfaces, including the fracture. Underneath these ?water scale deposits were black, sooty patches which suggest the vessel may have been used as a lamp.
- 850834 Two sherds from cylindrical vessels with an external diameter of about 15 cm. The inner surface appears less well finished than the outside which carries a thin lead glaze. They are not parts of crucibles or moulds but could perhaps be from drainpipes or even ridge tiles.
- 850835 Fragments of bricks with extensive glazed areas. The glazing is likely to have occurred during manufacture of the bricks rather than as a result of the use to which they were subsequently put as it is not confined to a single exposed face. It could have been caused by accidental fluxing of the bricks by the ash from the fuel used to heat the kiln or clamp where they were fired or salt could have been introduced deliberately into the kiln to produce this effect, as was done with pottery. If the glazing was accidental then the bricks were probably regarded as wasters.



Sketch reconstruction of 850830