

The Medieval and Later Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from 3, Redcliffe Street, Bristol (BRS03)

Excavations by Cotswold Archaeology at 3, Redcliffe Street, Bristol, produced a moderate-sized collection of pottery and ceramic building material. The material was recovered from two trenches, in both of which the remains of medieval stone buildings were found, resting on natural river silt from the Bristol Avon. In one trench, Trench 1, there was also evidence for activity on the surface of the alluvium but in the other the first activity consisted of the dumping of material to form the floors of the stone structures.

The pottery was recorded in an Access database and the wares present were coded according to the system used at the Museum of London, correlated with the Bristol Medieval Pottery Type series (BMT series). Forms were classified using the Medieval Pottery Research Group Dictionary of Pottery Forms (MPRG 1998).

Catalogue

The catalogue is arranged in supposed chronological order rather than in stratigraphic groups, since analysis of the stratigraphy suggests that a large proportion of the pottery was recycled before final deposition, leading to the presence of mostly small sherds with few being from the same vessels. There are, however, some exceptions to this generalisation and these serve to provide fixed points in the site sequence which can be assigned a date range for the period of deposition, as opposed to the *terminus post quem* dates which are all that can be assigned to the remaining assemblages.

Pottery

Early 11th to mid 12th centuries

The pottery used in Bristol from the early 11th century to the middle of the 12th century comes from two sources. The majority has a coarse, rounded sand, of mixed petrology, and has either a fine-textured or silty groundmass. These characteristics indicate a source somewhere in the tidal mouth of the Bristol Avon or in the Severn Estuary. No examples of this type were present (Vince 1984 Bristol A and Bristol B; BPT 1, 3, 7, 20, 115, 176, 190).

Alongside these wares were a small quantity containing abundant fragments of limestone, amongst which are often crinoid stems, indicating that the limestone is of lower Carboniferous date and sometimes some haematite and sandstone fragments. The clay groundmass is also calcareous and it is likely that this fabric was made using patches of clay and weathered limestone. The source for this ware is therefore likely to be restricted to the outcrop of the Carboniferous limestone, i.e. immediately north of the medieval port or to the west on the south side of the Avon. A single example of this ware was present (Vince 1984

Bristol C; BPT 2, 10, 194, 309). The sherd is abraded and probably comes from a jar. The end date for the use of this ware in Bristol is said to be c.1120, based on its occurrence at Bristol Castle.

Later 12th to mid 13th centuries

In the mid 12th century the pottery industry at Ham Green, Pill, began and very soon its products dominated pottery assemblages in Bristol and the surrounding countryside. Two distinct fabrics were produced; a red-firing sandy ware (HGR) and a light-firing fabric (HG). There are slight differences in the fabric of the redware which probably reflect a chronological shift but the earlier fabric (Vince 1984 Proto-Ham Green ware; BPT 114, 305, and AA) does not seem to be present at Redcliffe Street, although it would have required a detailed examination of the fabrics at x20 magnification to be certain. The majority of the redware sherds, however, are clearly of Ham Green redware and of later 12th to mid 13th-century date (Vince 1984 Ham Green; BPT 32, 48 and 65). All of these sherds come from jars, with everted rims, globular bodies and sagging bases. Some of the rim sherds have thumb decoration. Combed horizontal and wavy lines are commonly found on the vessel shoulders.

The light-bodied fabric was used for glazed wares, all jugs. Barton divided these into two groups, Ham Green A (BPT 26) and Ham Green B (BPT 27). The fabric division between the two groups has proved impossible to replicate but the typological division is clear. Ham Green A jugs have a rounded body with a corrugated shoulder and plain sagging base. The rims are usually collared and decoration takes the form of diamond roller-stamped bands on the rim, shoulder and rectangular-sectioned handle. The vessels are usually oxidized and have a splashed plain lead glaze, appearing yellow. Thirteen sherds of this group were present in the collection: one collar rim; three roller-stamped body sherds (one on a corrugated neck), five combed body sherds and the remainder plain sagging bases. These vessels probably date to the 12th century and are similar in form to other wheelthrown jugs of this date, such as those in London-type ware (1985), Developed Stamford ware, Developed St Neot's-type ware (Hurst 1955) and Hedingham ware.

Ham Green B vessels invariably have thumb bases, probably formed from an added strip of clay applied around the basal angle, and applied bridge spouts. Decoration consists of close-set horizontal grooves spiralled around the girth and shoulder over which applied decoration was often applied. Handles tend to have a single column of short incised lines applied with a round-ended tool 3-5mm in diameter. The fabric usually has a black core with a oxidized or reduced inner surface and the glaze often contains green mottles due to the presence of copper (although the green colour of the glaze is in the main due to reduction of the lead glaze). Twenty-eight sherds with diagnostic Ham Green B features were present.

The remaining thirty-two sherds were plain body sherds which could not be reliably assigned to either group.

After Ham Green wares, the next most common type was Bath Fabric A (Vince 1984, 46, 73, 134), which is characterised by the presence of polished, rounded quartz grains with the occasional fragment of flint or chert and sometimes with rounded calcareous inclusions or voids where such inclusions have leached out. The groundmass is usually extremely silty, sometimes containing flakes of muscovite. These characteristics indicate the use of the Gault clay with a sand temper derived from lower Cretaceous strata. The nearest sources of these materials to Bristol outcrop in west Wiltshire. Similar polished grains occur in the gravels of south Somerset, but there the proportion of chert is much higher. Twenty-nine sherds of this type were present. They are mostly plain jar body sherds but one jar rim with a T-sectioned rim more similar to those found in eastern Wiltshire (Newbury B ware) was present as was one handmade jug sherd with vertical combed lines and a U-sectioned strap handle decorated with knife slashes. This handle form suggests a 13th-century date in the west country. The remaining sherds cannot be closely dated and the ware was certainly current from the 11th century through to the early 14th century.

The next most common ware was Minety-type ware (Vince 1984, 18, 18E, 84 and 145). The fabric of this ware contains a mixed light brown limestone sand, including oolitic and bioclastic limestones, with little quartz. The groundmass has a light colour and few visible inclusions. Minety-type ware was produced from the early 12th to the late 15th or early 16th centuries. The earlier products (12th to mid 13th century) were handmade and consist of large globular tripod pitchers and globular jars with everted rims. Decoration consists mainly of combed lines and applied strips. One tripod pitcher handle formed from two rods of clay with a third strip of clay wrapped around them is a 12th-century form (Phase 3a, context 2083) but the sherd is abraded and clearly residual. No other chronologically diagnostic sherds were present and it is likely that several sherds identified as being small tripod pitcher sherds but found in later 13th-century or later contexts were actually from wheelthrown jugs.

The only other wares of this date from the site consist of two sherds from a crucible, possibly produced in south-east Wiltshire (Vince 1984 SEW; BPT 17, 18C, 249, 363) from a Tertiary kaolinitic clay (Phase 3a, context 1119); a sherd of a handmade, unglazed jar containing rounded siltstone fragments (EMEDX, Phase 3a, context 1103)) and a sherd from an unglazed handmade jar with horizontal wavy combed decoration (Phase 4a, context 2043) which is also possibly from south-east Wiltshire, although the more common form of decoration on these vessels is scratch marking.

Later 13th to 15th-centuries

During the 13th century, the Ham Green industry declined and then ceased whilst pottery production began in the suburbs of Bristol. Waste has been found on both sides of the Avon, including in the suburb of Redcliffe itself. Like the Ham Green industry, the Bristol medieval pottery industry used Coal Measures light-firing clays although there are differences in fabric between the two (Ham Green ware often contains numerous rounded white-firing clay pellets and has a fine-textured, well-sorted sand in which about a quarter of the grains are calcareous, whereas white-firing clay pellets are less common in the Bristol ware and the sand temper is usually not calcareous and contains fragments of red sandstone and the quartz grains are often coated with haematite. Numerous subdivisions of the fabric have been recognised at Bristol: BPT 67, 67A, 68, 72, 74, 85, 103, 117, 118, 120, 123, 125, 126, 154, 166, 208, 230, 242, 247, 294, 316, 324 and 357). The most obvious difference between the two wares, however, is that the Bristol products are invariably thrown on a wheel whereas the Ham Green ones are always handmade.

One hundred and nine sherds of Bristol medieval ware were present, representing no more than 95 vessels, together with three which are probably of this ware but might be Ham Green ware. The majority come from jugs (97 sherds), with a range of other vessel forms represented by a handful of sherds each. These minor forms include small condiment dishes; jars; small drinking jugs (perhaps copying Rhenish stonewares); a chafing dish and a dripping dish. In addition, five sherds cannot be assigned to a form.

In the 13th and early 14th centuries, the jugs are similar to Ham Green B vessels in their overall shape and typological features, although one difference is that applied decoration could be either in a self-coloured or an iron-rich clay. Eleven sherds with applied decoration or an applied thumbbed frill at the base were present in the collection.

Later, in the 14th century, plainer, more standardised forms were more common. These still include bridge spouts but include the parrot beak spout in which the applied bridge spout rises well above the level of the rim, in imitation of Saintonge vessels. Plain strap handles, wide strap handles with a column of diagonal knife slashes between two vertical lines, and flat, splayed bases are also 14th-century features. Three sherds can be assigned to this phase.

A later phase still includes conical vessels with internal glaze and small jugs with globular bodies and cylindrical necks but no definite examples of these types were present, although two sherds from internally-glazed jugs were present.

The majority of the Bristol medieval sherds were undecorated, decorated with bands of wheel-applied combing, wavy combing or horizontal grooves and have external copper-mottled glaze. These sherds could come from vessels produced at any point in the later medieval period. Table 1 shows the distribution by phase of these various groups and shows

that the Phase 3b Bristol medieval wares have the highest proportion of highly-decorated sherds and that sherds of types datable to the 14th century (14.1 and 14.2 in Table 1) only occur residually in Phase 4a and later deposits, which also have a high proportion of undiagnostic sherds.

Table 1

phase	ND	13.2	14.1	14.2	Grand Total
3a	8	1			9
3b	21	16			37
4a	27	1	2		30
4b	28	4	1	1	34
5a	10	1		1	12
5b	2				2
Grand Total	96	23	3	2	124

The site produced a small number of sherds of medieval jugs from other parts of Britain. These include several sherds from a Glamorgan glazed ware jug (Phase 4a, context 2062; Vince 1984, GLAM; No BPT number) and two sherds of Nash Hill ware (NH; Phase 3b, contexts 2030 and 2127; McCarthy 1974; Vince 1984; No BPT number). In addition, a number of the Minety-type ware sherds found in later medieval deposits on the site could be small fragments of later medieval wheelthrown Minety ware. One definite late medieval form was present, a pancheon similar to wasters from Minety itself, although this material .

Imported sherds of later medieval date include Southwestern French mottled-glazed jugs (SAIM; BPT 156 and 157); Saintonge Polychrome jugs (SAIP; BPT 39 and 232); Merida-type micaceous ware costrels (SPAM; Hurst 1977; BPT 282) and a sherd from a flanged bowl in a highly micaceous fabric, possibly of Breton origin (Phase 4b, context 2022;NFRE; No BPT number).

Early 16th to early 17th centuries

In the late 15th or early 16th century, the Bristol medieval pottery industry fell into decline and the city was supplied with most of its pottery from the Malvern Chase industry, based at Hanley Castle, on the west bank of the river Severn between Upton on Severn and Worcester (Vince 1977). Circa 1530, there was a change in the pottery fabric used in this industry and the sandy, red earthenware, often with a copper-mottled glaze, that had been produced throughout the later medieval period (HERB4; BPT 168 and 197), gave way to a lighter-coloured earthenware, usually with a red slip and a plain lead glaze, which when combined with the underlying slip gives a brown or purple glaze (Malvern Chase 'Pink' ware;HERB5;No BPT number). The site produced 22 sherds of the earlier ware, coming from a wide range of forms (Table 2). Whilst some of these might be of later medieval date,

the majority are likely to date to the first third of the 16th century and can be paralleled elsewhere in the Severn Valley in assemblages of this date (e.g. Acton Court, Vince and England 2004).

Table 2

cname	Form	Total
HERB4	CUP	1
	DISH	1
	JAR	4
	JUG	1
	JUG, SMALL	1
	JUG/JAR	9
	PANC	2
	PIP	1
	SKILLET	1
	TPIP	1
Total		22

There are more sherds of the later 'pink' ware (Table 3) and here too jars are the main form found, followed by pipkins, pancheons and cisterns. By the early 17th century, the Malvern Chase production was itself in decline and the enclosure of the Chase in 1632 probably marked the end of the industry. Examples of three other west country earthenwares were present: South Somerset ware (SSOM, BPT 96, 220, 268, 274 and 334); Ashton Keynes ware (made in the neighbouring village to Minety and clearly a continuation of the medieval industry. No BPT number) and a possible local Bristol product (BPT 265), distinguished by a red sandy fabric containing moderate rounded calcareous inclusions.

Table 3

cname	Form	Total
HERB5	CIST	5
	JAR	23
	JAR/PIP	1
	JUG/JAR	1
	PANC	6
	PANC?	1
	PIP	9
	UNID VESSEL	1
	Total	

Black-glazed Cistercian ware cups (CSTN; BPT 93, 266 and 275) were present. Waste from the production of these vessels has been found to the north of Bristol, at Falfield. The form

of some of the vessels suggests influence from mid 16th-century Rhenish stoneware forms and it is likely that this ware is mainly of early to mid 16th-century date.

Non-local British wares were present. They consist of Tudor Green ware (TUDG; BPT 182) and Border ware (BORD; No BPT number) both from the Surrey/Hampshire border industry (1992); sherds of tin-glazed ware, which might be of local Brislington or London origin (TGW; BPT 99) and a sherd from an albarello or jar of unidentified fabric (Phase 4b, context 2022; PMX; No BPT number).

A number of sherds of imported wares were also found. These consist of Raeren stoneware (RAER; BPT 287); South Netherlands tin-glazed ware (SNTG; BPT 344); Late Valencian lustreware (LVAL; BPT 83); Seville olive jars (OLIV; BPT 81 and 281) and North Italian Marbled Slipware, probably from Pisa (NIMS; BPT 82).

Later 17th to mid 18th centuries

Sixty-three sherds of later 17th to mid 18th-century wares were present at Redcliffe Street, but these represent no more than 15 vessels, since 53 sherds come from five North Devon Gravel-Tempered vessels (NDGT; BPT 112). These include the complete profile of a pipkin (Phase 4a, context 2156). This ware was produced at Bideford and Barnstaple from the late 16th century onwards, but it is uncommon at Bristol until the later 17th century. Sherds of North Devon fine ware (NDFW; BPT 108 and 222) are probably of similar date. They include a single sgraffito dish sherd.

Other pottery of this date consists of Staffordshire or Bristol slipwares: a press-moulded combed slip plate (STCO; BPT 100) and a mottled glazed vessel (STMO; BPT 211). Sherds of London stoneware (LONS; No BPT number) probably pre-date the inception of the local Bristol stoneware industry and are therefore likely to be of this date, although London stoneware was produced throughout the 19th century.

Late 18th-century and later

Thirty-seven sherds of later 18th and 19th-century date were present. The majority are from unglazed flowerpots (LPMLOC; BPT 201) followed by Bristol Stoneware (BRS; BPT 278) and Weston-super-Mare-type coarseware (WSM; No BPT number). The latter has a fine fabric containing quartz and muscovite silt and silt-sized calcareous inclusions and was produced from an estuarine mud, such as might be found in the tidal reaches of the Avon and in the Severn Estuary. The Bristol stoneware includes one stamped flagon marked "[TA]YLOR/ [REDCLIFF]E STREET/ [BRIST]OL". A manuscript account ledger "of George and R. C. Taylor, Wine and Spirit Merchants, of 28 Nicholas Street, late 23 Redcliffe Street, Bristol, for all charges ex ship, for brandy, rum, sherry and port, prior to sale (hauling to

bond, examination, sampling, racking, duty paid), 1867-79" was recently offered for sale on the world wide web, suggesting that this vessel dates to the 1860s or earlier.

Finally, five sherds of transfer-printed refined whiteware were present (TPW; BPT 278).

Ceramic Building Material

Late 13th to 15th centuries

Forty-six fragments of ceramic building material of later 13th to 15th-century date were recovered from the site. Forty-one of these fragments are of Bristol medieval ware ridge tiles with applied knife-cut crests, copper-mottled glaze and applied diagonal clay strips. A single fragment of this type was recovered from a Phase 3a deposit and 6 were found in Phase 3b deposits. The remaining 33 fragments were found in 16th and early 17th-century deposits of Phase 4a and 4b. These may be residual, or it may be that they were still in use on the ridges of the Redcliffe Street buildings at this date.

Four fragments of Malvern Chase ridge tile, of the sandy, medieval fabric, were found in Phase 4b and 5a deposits. These may indicate a re-roofing or rebuilding in the early 16th century.

A single fragment of unglazed hearth tile, also of sandy, medieval Malvern Chase fabric, was recovered from a Phase 3b deposit. Such tiles were used as an alternative to pitched tile or roof slate to form the base for open hearths.

16th to early 17th centuries

As noted above, it is possible that the Malvern Chase ridge tiles described above were associated with an early 16th century structure.

Two fragments of floor tile can be dated to this period. The first is a Canynge-type tile, produced perhaps in the Worcester area in the early decades of the 16th century (Vince 1984). The tile had an overall white slip and was worn. It was recovered from a Phase 5a deposit. The second is in BPT 265 fabric and has a burnt surface (perhaps therefore having been used as a fire surround). It was recovered from a Phase 5b deposit but the similarity in fabric suggests that it has a similar date to the pottery vessels, i.e. 16th to early 17th century.

Late 17th century to mid 18th centuries

There are no fragments of ceramic building material which can confidently be assigned to the later 17th to mid 18th centuries.

Late 18th century and later

Four fragments of pantile and two fragments of brick were recovered from Phase 4b, 5a and 5b deposits. The pantiles include examples made from calcareous estuarine mud (similar to the Weston-super-Mare-type ware, WSM, and finer textured than the 19th-century Bridgewater products) and both the brick fragments were also made from fine-textured calcareous clays. In both cases it is likely that the material was brought to Bristol up the Avon.

Also of this date is a Bristol delftware wall tile, probably of late 18th century date, hand painted in purple.

Stratigraphy

Trench 1

One hundred and seventy-four sherds of pottery were recovered from Trench 1.

Period 1

Context 1171 produced four sherds of pottery, but one of these is of 17th –century date and it is likely that all are intrusive.

Period 2

Eleven sherds were recovered from Period 2 deposits, contexts 1050 and 1177. All might be of later 12th- to mid 13th-century date. The Ham Green jug sherds, which would be the most diagnostic type, consist of two plain body sherds and one with applied cross-hatched strips, with stamping over the strips. This might have come from a Ham Green A style jug.

Period 3

Phase 3a deposits produced 38 sherds. Those from context group 3 are similar in character to those from Period 2, and include at least one residual later 11th/12th-century sherd and a crucible sherd. Those from context group 5 form a similar assemblage with the addition of a single sherd of Bristol medieval ware jug, decorated externally with horizontal grooves. If this sherd is securely stratified in this deposit then it provides a *terminus post quem* of mid 13th century for deposition. The latter deposits produced a sherd of siltstone-tempered unglazed jar in addition to typical later 12th to mid 13th-century wares.

Phase 3b deposits produced 35 pot sherds and two tile fragments. The majority of these come from context group 6, 28 sherds and the tiles. One sherd is clearly intrusive and of late 18th/19th-century date. The remainder are mainly of late 12th to mid 13th-century date with a handful of later sherds. These consist of sherds of Bristol medieval jugs and a possible chafing dish fragment from context 1074; a Minety-type pancheon from context 1065, which also produced a fragment of Bristol medieval ridge tile and a fragment of

Malvern Chase hearth tile; and the bridge spout from Saintonge mottled-glazed jug from context 1058. On the basis of these sherds, contexts 1058 and 1074 should date to the mid 13th century or later whilst context 1065 ought to date to the late medieval period (late 14th or 15th century). Context group 7 produced two sherds, both probably of late medieval date. One is a strap handle from an unglazed Saintonge pegau or jug and the other is a Bristol medieval ware jug with an internal copper-mottled glaze. Context group 15 produced three sherds, the latest of which is a Bristol medieval ware jug sherd with diagonal iron-rich applied strips. This is likely to be of later 13th or 14th-century date.

Period 4

Twenty-five sherds were recovered from Period 4 deposits. The sherds are a mixture of medieval and post-medieval types and assuming that the deposits are dated by the latest type present then Phase 4a is dated to the later 17th century or later by a fragment of North Devon fineware dish decorated with sgraffito and Phase 4b is dated to the late 18th century or later by a sherd of transfer-printed ware bowl from context 1093 and by sherds of unglazed flowerpots of early modern type from contexts 1109 and 1143. Other sherds from these deposits include early to mid 18th-century slipwares and tin-glazed wares.

Period 5

Forty-five sherds of pottery and eight fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from Period 5 deposits. The character of the material is very similar to that from Period 4: a series of small, mixed assemblages which include residual medieval and post-medieval sherds and early modern pottery and tile. The latest sherds from Phase 5a deposits are glazed and unglazed red earthenwares of late 18th or later type from context 1010; similar flowerpots and a transfer-printed plate from context 1023; a combed press-moulded slipware plate of early to mid 18th-century type from context 1028; two sherds of a Border ware cup or goblet of late 16th or 17th-century date from context 1032; a group of later 16th or early 17th-century wares from context 1035; a sherd of North Devon Gravel-tempered ware of 17th or 18th-century date from context 1063; a Ham Green jug of late 12th to mid 13th-century date from context 1117; a transfer-printed ware plate of late 18th or 19th-century date from context 1118; a transfer-printed ware bowl of late 18th or 19th-century date from context 1122; and a sherd of late 18th or 19th-century flowerpot from context 1161. A single assemblage was recovered from a Phase 5b deposit, context 1025. The assemblage consists of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material of which the latest datable type is a sherd of press-moulded combed slipware.

Trench 2

There is no stratigraphy equating to Period 2 from Trench 2 and no pottery or ceramic building material was recovered from the natural silts of Period 1. The pottery sequence therefore starts with Period 3.

Period 3

One hundred and ninety-three sherds of pottery and six fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from Period 3 deposits. Phase 3a deposits produced 76 sherds and one ridge tile. The majority of these were of later 12th to mid 13th-century types but a handful of sherds were of later character. These include two Bristol medieval jug sherds from context group 3; three Bristol Medieval jug sherds and a ridge tile fragment from context group 4 and three Bristol Medieval ware jug sherds from context group 5. These sherds mainly have an external copper-mottled glaze with no other typological features. However, one sherd with an applied self-coloured strip may come from an anthropomorphic jug, one has an external red slip with only dribbles of plain glaze and one probably comes from a parrot-beaked jug. The ridge tile has a diagonally-applied strip. None of these sherds need be later than the mid/late 13th century (parrot-beaked, mottled glazed Saintonge ware jugs were found in deposits in London dated to c.1250 but are absent from groups of the first half of the century).

Fifty-six sherds were recovered from Phase 3b deposits. These are clearly of later character than those in Phase 3a and there is a lack of late 12th- to mid-13th-century types apart from 10 sherds of Minety-type ware which were identified as handmade tripod pitchers, but could in fact be wheelthrown jug sherds which are too small for the throwing marks to be identified. The remaining types are mainly Bristol medieval ware jugs, some of which are of later 13th to mid 14th-century character. There are also some possibly intrusive sherds of 16th-century or later date. These include a North Devon fineware jar from context group 8; a sherd of Bristol stoneware from context group 9; and a sherd of Malvern Chase jar, of 16th-century date, from context group 14. If we assume that these sherds are indeed intrusive in the deposits then the next latest types still date some of the deposits to the later medieval period: an Iberian Micaceous ware costrel from context group 10; two sherds of unglazed Saintonge ware from context group 14 and a wheelthrown Minety-type ware jug sherd from context group 9.

Period 4

Two hundred and sixty-one sherds of pottery were recovered from Period 4 deposits. Phase 4a deposits produced 104 sherds and 17 fragments of ceramic building material (all Bristol Medieval ware ridge tiles), mainly from context group 19. The latest types present in this group date to the early 16th century and include no sherds of Malvern Chase pink fabric

vessels, which were present at Acton Court by the 1530s. The group also include residual later medieval types which account for over half the sherds recovered. Context group 21 produced a single smashed North Devon Gravel tempered tripod pipkin, of 17th-century or later date.

Phase 4b deposits produced 117 potsherds and 23 fragments of ceramic building material. The latest datable sherds from context group 18 date to the later 13th-century or later; those from context group 20 include 19th-century stoneware but excluding these the latest types are of later 16th or early 17th-century date, including both England and imported vessels. Two sherds of tin-glazed ware of probably English origin (a chamber pot and a bowl with a lead-glazed exterior) and probably date to the early to mid 17th century. This group too includes residual later medieval wares. The ceramic building material from this group includes medieval and early post-medieval ridge tiles (Bristol and Malvern Chase wares); a fragment of a brick with a calcareous fabric and a fragment of a Weston-super-Mare type pantile (probably both intrusive 19th-century pieces).

Period 5

Eight sherds of pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from Period 5 deposits. Three of these came from context group 22, Phase 5a, and included two sherds of Bristol stoneware of 19th-century date. The remainder came from context group 25, Phase 5b. All of the pottery from this group appears to be residual medieval and post-medieval whilst another piece of brick with a calcareous fabric probably dates to the 18th or 19th century.

Discussion

Since the Trench 1 ceramics from Period 1 are probably intrusive and those from Periods 4 and 5 are mainly residual in late 18th to 19th-century deposits, the only assemblages of archaeological interest from Trench 1 are those from Periods 2 and 3. These indicate that the first activity in this area appears to consist of occupation on the floodplain in the later 12th to mid 13th century (Period 2) and the drainage (Phase 3a) and subsequent raising of the ground level and the subsequently domestic occupation of the site (Phase 3b). Phase 3a can be dated to the mid 13th century or later whilst Phase 3b is a long-lived period of activity, stretching from the later 13th to 14th century into the late medieval period.

The Trench 2 deposits appear to be of similar date and confirm that phase 3a activity is probably to be dated to the mid/late 13th century, providing a *terminus ante quem* for Period 2. It also confirms that Phase 3b continued into the later medieval period. In addition, however, Trench 2 produced evidence for 16th- and early 17th-century activity absent from Trench 1. This includes a group of early 16th-century date from Phase 4a (context group 19), a group of early 17th-century date from Phase 4b (context group 20) and a smashed North

Devon tripod pipkin, probably of later 17th or 18th-century date from context group 21. None of the assemblages are particularly large but in each case they are perhaps unlikely to have been redeposited and therefore provide a fixed point in the stratigraphic sequence.

Despite the lack of pre-13th-century assemblages on the site, there is a handful of pottery of this date in later deposits. This might have been disturbed from early deposits on the site but it is perhaps more likely that it was imported to the site with make-up and building materials.

There is abundant evidence of residuality throughout the stratigraphic sequence and therefore it is difficult to reconstruct complete contemporary assemblages even where the date of deposition can be determined.

Finally, there is a small proportion of pottery throughout the sequence which is clearly intrusive. This has been mentioned in the stratigraphic discussion above but is ignored when assigned a deposition date.

The character of the pottery from 3 Redcliffe Street is typical of medieval and post-medieval sequences in Bristol and apart from rare non-local English imports the range of sources which supplied the site with the majority of its pottery is similar to that found throughout the city. Despite being located in a suburb of the city noted for its pottery industry, there is no evidence for pottery waste or even seconds in the collection.

Imported and non-local pottery is absent from the earliest, mid 13th-century deposits (one might have expected to find Rouen ware jugs and jars, Normandy gritty ware and the earliest types of Saintonge ware, all of which are absent). However, by the later medieval period imports are present in small but significant numbers, including Iberian micaceous ware and unglazed Saintonge vessels. The 16th- and early 17th-century assemblages include Rhenish stonewares; South Netherlands Maiolica, North Italian marbled slipware and a probable piece of late Valencian lustreware. As a proportion of the total size of the assemblages (residual and contemporary), there appear to be more imports of 16th/17th-century date than of later medieval date. By comparison with contemporary sites in the surrounding countryside, the Redcliffe site contains a high proportion of imported pottery (although it cannot compare with the frequencies found at Acton Court) but in comparison to other assemblages from medieval ports in the south and west of England (e.g. Southampton), the quantities are modest.

The pottery was mainly used for the standard range of domestic activities: food preparation and cooking; serving at table; the drinking of alcoholic beverages and by the 16th/17th centuries display.

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