

**By River, Fields and Factories**  
The Making of the Lower Lea Valley  
Archaeological and cultural heritage investigations  
on the site of the  
London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

**Clay Tobacco Pipes**

(Section 4)



*by Lorraine Mephram*

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### *Introduction*

This report discusses the assemblage of clay tobacco pipe recovered from all sites within the Olympic Park, all of which is post-medieval in date. The complete assemblage reported on amounts to 1018 pieces, of which about 92% (935 pieces) came from a single site (Trench 75). Quantities recovered from other trenches were minimal; 29 trenches produced clay pipe, in quantities ranging from one to 11 (see **Table 1**).

The assemblage includes a large proportion of plain stem fragments (some with mouthpieces), as well as bowls in varying degrees of completeness. Some bowls are decorated. The bowls cover a date range from the early 17th century onwards, although there are few examples pre-dating the 18th century, and a concentration in the 19th century. As Higgins points out (2004, 241), there are few good groups of clay pipes from London dating from the period from 1770 onwards, in contrast to the 17th and earlier 18th century; this assemblage, then, provides a small but useful addition to the corpus for the region.

Both bowls and stems include examples carrying makers' marks, in the form of symbols, initials, or full names. The range of identifiable makers indicate a supply drawn largely from east London (Limehouse, Whitechapel, Stepney, Bethnal Green).

### *Methods of Analysis*

All clay pipe was examined and reported on at the assessment stage, the reports prepared variously by several individuals (13 separate reports). For the largest assemblage (from Trench 75), context-by-context records were available during the analysis, including a basic classification of the clay pipe by type, with makers' marks noted. In other cases, however, only summary listings were available by context, giving date ranges of the clay pipe present.

During the process of analysis, all clay pipe was checked against the assessment records and reports as a first step. Bowls were classified using the typologies of Atkinson and Oswald (1969) and Oswald (1975); these are pre-fixed AO and O respectively. Adjustments to the dating of some forms, as highlighted by Higgins (2004) are included. Some bowls are too fragmentary to be classified by type. The extent of milling on the 17th century bowls has been recorded in quarters. Decorative motifs have been recorded, as have makers' marks and their position.

All collated data are held in an Excel spreadsheet, which forms part of the project archive, as do the records for individual trenches (grouped by 'site').

### *Results of analysis*

A full descriptive breakdown of the clay pipes by Trench can be found in the individual assessment reports, and the detail is not repeated here. **Table 2** gives the quantification of the bowl types (and their date ranges) by Trench, while **Table 3** presents the makers' marks.

#### **17th century**

No pipes dating from the earliest period of pipe use in this country (1580–1610) were found on the site, and the earliest pipe recovered is an example of a type AO5 (1610–40), found in Trench 118. The bowl has the maker's initials EB stamped in relief underneath the heel. No London pipe maker of the period has been identified to match these initials, despite the fact that the pipe is a London product.

There are two examples of type AO9 (1640–60), both from Trench 75. Neither has a maker's mark, and nor do any of the bowls dating to the period 1660–80 (AO13, AO15, AO18). The finish on these bowls ranges from poor to good, and milling from none to three quarters. One example of a type AO13 bowl from Trench 75 is a variant, possibly from a non-local source.

From the period 1680–1710, there are examples of bowl types AO20, AO21 and AO22. Milling of the bowl became less important in this period. One of the examples of AO21, from Trench 75, is a variant, and one AO22 pipe is complete, with a length of 310 mm. One bowl type AO21 has the maker's initials E/?E, but the maker is

unidentified. The mark of William Manby I (1681–96, Aldgate), was recorded on a bowl type AO22.

### **18th century**

Twenty-seven bowls belong to this period (types AO24, AO25, AO26, OS10, OS12); the AO24 is an American export type, and is represented by a single bowl base.

Makers identified from marks on bowls include William Manby II (1719–63, Limehouse and elsewhere in south-east London); other makers are not positively identified, but include Peter Branbury (1696), John Smith III (1729, St George in the East or John Saltonstall (1744–63, Limehouse), John Watts (1731, Whitechapel), John Ford II (1805–65, Stepney), and William Huggins (1739–42, Green Dragon Alley, Limehouse).

### **19th century**

The 19th century is the best represented – 64 bowls in types AO27, AO28, AO29, AO30 and AO33. The AO33 is an Irish-type bowl. In addition, one unusual square bowl belongs to this period, identified by its mark.

Several bowls of types AO28 and AO29 have acorn and/or oak leaf borders, and one AO28 bowl carries the initials PB (Paul Balme, 1832) and with a poorly moulded ‘Fox and Grapes’, for a public house pipe (**Photo 1**; see Atkinson and Oswald 1969, 183, fig. 7.44, though not identical). The initials are unusual in that the P is moulded sideways on the heel. Pipes decorated with a fox and grapes design were popular in the second quarter of the 19th century, and appear to have been particularly associated with London. Four examples are known from the Tower of London, including an example which is as poorly moulded as the one from the Olympic Park (Higgins 2004, 247, fig. A2.3, no. 23).

One AO29 bowl has a rabbit’s foot heel and moulded decoration on the stem, and another is a Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffaloes example. One example of AO28 is an oversized bowl, thick walled and with a flat internal base containing four holes surrounding a larger central hole. This may be a patented registered pipe design, but no information survives to confirm this. It probably dates to after 1880.

Two of the AO30 pipes are complete, plain cutty types (short bowl) (**Photo 2**), and a number of the other AO30 bowls are highly decorated. One bowl has fluting around the rim containing a flower, and around the base there are scallops that continue to the rim; this resembles a type called the Tulip in Pollocks' 1879 catalogue). At least five other bowls have a band of beaded moulding below the rim, and triangular stems. Another bowl has scale decoration in relief. Of the Irish-type AO33 bowls, one has a harp stamped on the back, and a second has the heads of Victoria on one side and Edward VII on the other. A third has a rope cordon positioned part way down the bowl, and random dots in relief below this.

Several makers' marks (initials on heels or spurs, or surnames on bowls) are recorded, although only five can be positively identified: Charles Walford (1828), Paul Balme (1832, Mile End Road), George Balme (1867–76, Mile End Road), Kipps & Glide (*c.* 1860), and John Cornwell (Stepney, working 1854–92, but recorded 1854–68 at St George in the East and 1880–92 at Ratcliffe). The single example of Charles Walford may be from a remoulded mould, as an inverted V is visible beneath the C. Other makers who may be represented include John Ford II (1805–65, Stepney), Jesse Ford (1836–77, Mile End Road), Mrs M. Leach (1848–69, Whitechapel), Edmund Roach (1859–99, Shoreditch), and James Roscoe (1809–11, Stratford). Other marks, comprising initials, and other marks on the heels or spurs, are unidentifiable as to maker.

The square bowl, from Trench 59, is a rare example of a pipe stamped with the name not of the maker, but of the consumer – in this case a pub and its landlord. It has a horse in relief on two opposed faces, each face also bearing lettering as follows: WHITE HORSE / F. BRIEN, and CORNER OF CHURCH ST / SHOREDITCH (**Photo 3**). F. Brien is listed as the landlord of the White Horse at 64 Shoreditch High Street in 1872; by 1881 he had been replaced by Henry Balls ([internet source](#): [historical pubs](#)). Church Street is now Redchurch Street.

### **Pipe clay object**

A moulded doll's leg made from pipe clay, with boot and stocking detail, was found in Trench 75. It is dated by its association with pottery to after 1864.

## *Site provenance*

### **Trench 75**

Clay pipe fragments were found in contexts in Trench 75 from Phase 3 onwards (see **Table 4**), and this includes a total of 122 datable bowls, seven of which were found unstratified.

#### *Phase 3*

Within Phase 3, single bowls of types AO15 (1660–80) and AO20 (1680–1710) were found in the series of deposits representing a deliberate raising and consolidation of the ground surface prior to the construction of Building 1. Layer 333, sealing a drainage gully post-dating Building 1, produced one bowl of type AO22 (1680–1710), and 18 of OS10 (1700–40), while a bowl of type AO20 came from an associated layer. Layer 333 in fact produced the largest group of clay pipe fragments from this trench, totalling 161 (19 bowls, 12 bowl fragments and 130 stems). One bowl of type AO21 (1680–1710) came from a timber-lined pit 970 within Building 2.

The largest group of pipes from Phase 3, however, came from a timber-reveted water channel interpreted as a millrace. Within this channel, pipe bowls were recovered from the deliberate backfilling of the construction cut for the channel 1091. This group comprises 17 examples of OS10 (seven carrying the initials of William Manby II, 1719–63), two of AO21, three of AO22 (one with the initials of William Manby I, 1681–96), one of AO24 (1700–40), and one of OS28. One bowl of type AO9 is clearly residual. Two more bowls of type OS10 came from the infilling of the channel itself.

#### *Phase 4*

Few datable pipes were recovered from Phase 4 contexts, associated with the disuse of the furnace, demolition of Building 2, and subsequent small-scale pitting. A post-hole possibly forming part of a temporary propping-up of the building during the demolition process yielded a bowl of type AO18 (1660–80), but this is presumably residual, as pottery from associated post-holes was dated 1720–80. The Phase 3 timber-lined pit (970) was truncated during this phase by another pit (956), which

contained an AO25 bowl (1700–70). This pit in turn was truncated by a possible robber trench (615), containing an AO21 bowl. Finally, one of the pits on the west side of the trench (972) produced an AO25 bowl, and an example of OS10, with initials RB (uncertain maker), came from unlocated posthole 375.

#### *Phase 5*

Datable bowls from Phase 5 are more prolific. A residual bowl (AO21) was found in the construction cut for the terraced cottages (Building 3). Further residual bowls came from the metallised surface to the east of the cottages (OS10, OS12, AO22), but this group of deposits also contained a single AO29 (1840–80) with illegible maker's initials.

To the south-east of the terraced cottages, post-pits associated with Building 4 produced bowls of types AO22 (residual) and AO28 (1820–60); one of the latter carries the initials JB (uncertain maker). Another AO28 bowl came from a surface external to Building 4; this, too, has the initials (JD) of an uncertain maker.

To the east of Building 4, and integral to it, was a cobbled surface and enclosure, perhaps a small yard or lean-to structure. Pipes from the surface make-up layer comprised two residual AO25 bowls (with maker's initials PB, possibly Peter Branbury, *c.* 1696) and an AO29. No datable bowls were recovered from Building 5, although one bowl fragment from a floor make-up layer was broadly dated to the 19th century.

On the western side of the Tumbling Bay Stream, covering the timber posts that formed a revetment in Phase 3, was a sandy silt layer that may have been deposited when the revetment collapsed. This produced bowls of types AO28 (one with maker's initials IF, either John Ford II, 1805–65, or Jesse Ford, 1836–77), AO29 (marked by Kipps & Glide, *c.* 1860), and AO30 (1850+). The fill of the channel (overlying the Phase 4 channel fill) contained bowls of types AO27 (with initials IF, probably for John Ford 2), and AO28.

In Trench 3, two postholes, from a series of postholes and stakeholes of uncertain function, produced datable pipe bowls, of AO22 and AO28 respectively. Various cuts in Trench 4 are likewise of uncertain function, but must have originated at the



beginning of Phase 5; these include a trench containing a bowl of type AO28 with the initials PB (Paul Balme, 1832) and with a poorly moulded 'Fox and Grapes' (**Photo 1**).

An AO27 bowl came from a drainage ditch in the same area. Also in Trench 4, one of the post-pits (607) within a possible rectangular structure contained an AO29 with the mark of George Balme (1867–76).

### *Phase 6*

Datable pipes from Phase 6 covered much the same date range as those from Phase 5. A number of these are clearly residual.

During this period, the drains serving the terraced cottages (Building 3) went out of use, probably when the channel of the Tumbling Bay Stream was revetted, and were infilled. The infill only yielded stem fragments, but a probable robbing of one of the drains contained two residual bowls of type AO27, one with maker's initials IS (unknown maker). A make-up layer for the pavement running down the eastern side of the cottages yielded an AO28 bowl.

An AO33 bowl came from one of the backfilling layers (43) behind the new revetment for the Tumbling Bay Stream. The revetment was anchored by iron rod tiebacks, secured to a timber anchor on the landward side. The backfill behind one of these timber anchors produced bowls of types AO28 and AO30, and a bowl fragment with the mark of George Balme (1867–76).

The sunken barrels in Trench 4 were deliberately backfilled at this period. One of these (277) contained datable bowls, but these are all residual (AO9, AO13, AO18, AO22).

Finally, the Tumbling Bay Stream was infilled. The basal fill produced bowls of types OS10, AO29 and AO30, and a stem with the mark of John Cornwell (1854–92), and the upper fill bowls of types AO28, AO29 and AO30, including one complete example of the last type. Despite its completeness, this pipe and all the others from the upper fills of the channel are likely to be residual, given the date range of the



associated pottery (1928+). Moreover, the channel backfill appears to incorporate refuse dumped from elsewhere, rather than representing *in situ* use.

### *Acknowledgements*

Much of the information included in this report is taken from the individual site assessment reports by Lyn Blackmore and Tony Grey (Museum of London Archaeology Service) and Chris Jarrett (Pre-Construct Archaeology). Any errors in interpretation, however, remain the current author's own.

## **References**

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## **Internet source**

Historical pubs: <http://deadpubs.co.uk/LondonPubs/Shoreditch/WhiteHorse.shtml>  
(last accessed May 2012)

**Clay Pipe Table 1: Clay pipe quantification by Trench**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>MoL Site Code</b>	<b>Bowl</b>	<b>Stem</b>	<b>Total</b>
9	OL-01507		5	5
11	OL-01507		3	3
16	OL-01507		1	1
18	OL-01507		4	4
22	OL-00305	3		3
26	OL-00105	1		1
43	OL-08607		2	2
53	OL-04307	1		1
54	OL-04307	2	1	3
58	OL-04407	1	2	3
59	OL-04407	3	1	4
60	OL-04307	2	1	3
65	OL-06807	1		1
75	OL-06507	173	762	935
76	OL-07907	1		1
77	OL-07907	1		1
78	OL-08908	2		2
79	OL-08908	2		2
97	OL-01607	1		1
99	OL-01607		2	2
100	OL-01607	2	1	3
103	OL-01607		4	4
104	OL-01607		1	1
106	OL-01607		5	5
107	OL-01607	7	4	11
108	OL-01607	2		2
110	OL-07807		3	3
111	OL-08807	1		1
117	OL-07907	1		1
118	OL-08707	4	5	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>211</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1018</b>

**Clay Pipe Table 2: Bowl types by Trench**

<b>Bowl type</b>	<b>Date range</b>	<b>022</b>	<b>026</b>	<b>053/054</b>	<b>058/059</b>	<b>060</b>	<b>065</b>	<b>075</b>	<b>076/077</b>	<b>078/079</b>	<b>097–108</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>Total</b>
AO5	1610–40													1	1
AO9	1640–60							2							2
AO13	1660–80							2							2
AO15	1660–80							1							1
AO18	1660–80							2							2
AO20	1680–1710							1							1
AO21	1680–1710							6							6
AO22	1680–1710							8				1			9
AO24	1700–40							1							1
AO25	1700–70							3							3
AO26	1740–1800							2							2
AO27	1770–1845				1			5						2	8
AO28	1820–60	1			1	1		15			1				19
AO29	1840–80		1	1			1	7		1	4				15
AO30	1850+	1			1	1		8		2	3				16
AO33	1840+			2				1	1	1	1		1		7
OS10	1700–40							15						1	16
OS12	1730–80							5							5
square					1										1
wood									1						1
fragment								19			1				20
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>138</b>

NB Some Trenches have been grouped (by MoL site code) for convenience

**Clay Pipe Table 3: Makers' marks by bowl type**

<b>Bowl type</b>	<b>No. examples</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Identification and comments</b>
AO5	1	EB under heel (incuse)	Unidentified
AO21	2	E/?E on sides of heel (relief)	Family name illegible; unidentified
AO22	3	W/M on sides of heel (relief)	William Manby I, 1681–96, Aldgate
AO25	2	P/B on sides of heel, crowns above each letter (relief)	?Peter Branbury, recorded 1696
AO26	1	I/F on spur (relief); FORD/STEPNEY in circle on back of bowl (incuse)	John Ford (2), 1805–65, Stepney
AO26	1	?/K on spur (relief)	Forename damaged; unidentified
AO27	1	I/R on spur (relief)	Probably James Roscoe, 1809–11, Stratford
AO27	1	I/F on spur (relief)	John Ford (2), 1805–65, Stepney
AO27	1	C/W on spur (relief)	Charles Walford, 1828. Possibly remoulded bowl
AO27	2	I/S on spur (relief)	No pipe makers known locally (see Oswald 1975, 145)
AO27	1	I/R on spur (relief)	Unidentified
AO27	1	E/H on spur (relief)	Unidentified
AO28	1	?/W on spur (relief)	Forename illegible; unidentified
AO28	1	?/I on spur (relief)	Forename illegible; unidentified
AO28	1	I/F on spur (relief)	?John Ford (2), 1805–65, Stepney, or Jesse Ford, 1836–77, Mile End Road
AO28	4	stars on sides of spur (relief)	Unidentified
AO28	1	S/? on spur (relief)	Family name illegible; unidentified
AO28	1	?/?G on spur (relief)	Almost totally illegible; unidentified
AO28	1	J/D on spur (relief)	James Davis (2), 1826–32, Cromer Street, or John Dearden, 1805–40, Edgware Road; both are unlikely here
AO28	1	J/B on spur (relief)	James Bourne, 1799–1832, Bethnal Green, or John Birch, 1823, Whitechapel; many contemporary makers with the same initials (see Oswald 1975, 131)
AO28	1	P/B on spur (relief)	Poorly moulded 'Fox & Grapes' public house (Atkinson & Oswald 1969, 183, fig. 7.44); Paul Balme, 1832, Mile End Road
AO28	1	E/R on spur (relief); ROACH /LONDON in wreath on back of bowl (incuse)	Edmund Roach, Featherstone Street, Shoreditch (1859–99. probably producing pipes after this date)

AO29	1	4-petalled rosette on each side of spur (relief)	Unidentified
AO29	1	I/? on spur (relief)	Acorn & oak leaf borders; family name missing; unidentified
AO29	1	?/F on spur (relief)	Forename illegible; unidentified
AO29	1	M/L on spur (relief)	probably Mrs M. Leach, 1848–69, Whitechapel
AO29	1	K/G on spur (relief); KIPPS & GLIDE in shield on back of bowl (incuse)	Kipps & Glide, c. 1860
AO29	1	G/B on spur (relief); BALME / MILE / END above star, in shield, on back of bowl (incuse)	George Balme, 1867–76, Mile End Road
AO29	1	pellets on sides of spur (relief)	Unidentified
AO29	1	I/J on spur (relief)	Moulded dec: RAOB
frag	1	I/C on sides of heel (relief)	Unidentified
frag	1	BALM[E] / MIL[E] / END (in shield) on back of bowl (incuse)	George Balme, 1867–76, Mile End Road
OS10	18	D/?I on sides of heel (relief)	Family name uncertain; unidentified
OS10	1	R/B on sides of heel (relief)	Possibly Robert Bowes (1719), R. Barrett (1719), or Richard Bryant (1733–40)
OS10	1	E/C on sides of heel (relief)	?Elizabeth Collett, 1762, Gaol Yard, Drury Lane
OS10	9	W/M on sides of heel (relief)	William Manby II, 1719–63, Limehouse and other workshops in SE London
OS10	1	I/W on sides of heel (relief)	Several makers for this period (Oswald 1975, 148); John Watts, 1731, Whitechapel most locally known mater pipemaker
OS12	1	Raised dots on either side of heel (relief)	Unidentified
OS12	1	illegible initials on sides of heel (relief)	Unidentified
OS12	3	R/B on sides of heel (relief)	?Robert Baldwin, 1749, Chymister Alley, St Martin's Westminster, but more likely unidentified
OS12	1	?W/H on spur (relief)	?William Huggins, 1739–42, Green Dragon Alley, St Annes, Limehouse
square	1	WHITE HORSE / horse / F BRIEN on L face; CORNER OF CHURCH ST / horse / SHORE/DITCH on R face	F. Brien listed as landlord of White Horse, 64 Shoreditch High Street, in 1872

		(all relief)	
stem	1	CORNWELL / LONDON, in cartouches, on sides of stem (relief)	John Cornwell, Stepney, working 1854–92, but recorded 1854–68, St George in the East; 1880–92, Ratcliffe
frag	1	W/M on sides of heel (relief)	William Manby II, 1719–63, Limehouse and other workshops in SE London



**Clay Pipe Table 4: Clay pipes by site phase (Trench 75)**

	PERIOD					
<b>Bowl type</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>unstrat</b>	<b>Total</b>
AO13				1	1	2
AO15	1					1
AO18		1		2		3
AO20	1					1
AO21	3	2	1		1	7
AO22	6		3	1		10
AO24	1					1
AO25		2	2			4
AO26			1		1	2
AO27			2	2	1	5
AO28			7	7		14
AO29			4	3		7
AO30			1	4	3	8
AO33				1		1
AO9	1			1		2
OS10	37	1	4	2		44
OS12			9			9
OS28	1					1
Bowl frag	26	1	18	6		51
Stem	344	21	263	131	3	762
<b>Total</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>935</b>



Plate 1: Poorly moulded 'Fox and Grapes' pipe



Plate 2: Complete cutty pipe



Plate 3a: Unusual square bowl clay tobacco pipe (White Horse/F Brien)



Plate 3b: Unusual square bowl clay tobacco pipe (White Horse/F Brien)

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