

Report on the imported pottery from Greyfriars Road  
(IAS 5203)

The imported pottery from this excavation was particularly interesting. It is the largest collection of unambiguously 7th century imported pottery I have come across. I say unambiguously because we do not have to rely on Black wares, which can be 7th century, but could just as easily be early 9th century. Most of the early imports are Bornheim-Waldorf type (these have been listed in the Badorf ware catalogue). However, there is also a lovely Walberberg rim sherd (from 0273 and 0341 0342), and a fragment of Mayen ware (from 0857).

Because of the clear dating of these wares, some of the MS contexts can be considered to belong to the second half of the 7th century. These contexts are:

0075 0170, 0273, 0328 0581, 0352, 0398, 0588, 0598,  
and 0595.

Early Badorf ware (also called Coarse Badorf) and Bornheim-Waldorf ware are represented by at least 16 vessels, and the most common context to contain these types was were EMS. Classic 8th/9th century Badorf ware was much less frequent; only 5 vessels are represented. None of the classic Badorf ware sherds

are found in EMS contexts.

One clearly identifiable Tating-type ware sherd was recovered from context 0045 - an early medieval context. The other possible Tating sherds are undecorated and may simply be very fine Black ware sherds, although the fabric is not the usual Black ware type. The fact that three EMS contexts produced these sherds suggests either that the sherds are not Tating, or that the contexts are later than the first half of the 7th century.

Pingsdorf ware is common. There are at least 22 vessels represented here. Most of them are from early medieval contexts, but four ELS contexts produced Pingsdorf pottery.

Five red-painted vessels are represented (vessels 17, 43-46), most of these sherds are also from early medieval contexts.

Black wares are very common; at least 27 vessels are represented in the assemblage. The rim sherd in the EMS context 0595 is from a small vessel, and is beaded and everted rather than the more common (later?) flanged rims. Two fragments of readily identifiable Merovingian vessels were noted (Black ware vessels nos.

42 and 43). One is from a biconical vessel and is decorated with chevron stamping, the other is from a large pitcher decorated with rilling and triangular roller-stamping. Both sherds are from early medieval contexts.

York ware (identification not yet confirmed) was found in 0008 and 0705. To my knowledge, York ware has not been found in East Anglia before.

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