

Crossrail Early East - Stepney Green Phase 2

Site code XRV10

Assessment of clay tobacco pipes

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1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Clay pipe	197 fragments
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1.1.1 The clay pipes

1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from XRV10 was recorded in accordance with current Museum of London Archaeology practice and entered onto the Oracle database. The English pipe bowls have been classified and dated according to the Chronology of London Bowl Types (Atkinson and Oswald 1969), with the dating of some of the 18th-century pipes refined where appropriate by reference to the Simplified General Typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41). The prefixes AO and OS are used to indicate which typology has been applied. Quantification and recording follow guidelines set out by Higgins and Davey (1994; Davey 1997).

1.1.1.2 Quantification

Table 2 Clay tobacco pipe quantification

Total no. of fragments	197
No. of bowl fragments	58
No. of stem fragments	131
No. of mouthpieces	8
Accessioned pipes	43
Marked pipes	39
Decorated pipes	22
Imported pipes	
Complete pipes	
Wasters	
Kiln material fragments	
Boxes (bulk\accessioned)	1.5 boxes

1.1.1.3 Character and dating of the clay pipes

Fragments of clay tobacco pipes were recovered from 21 contexts, the greatest number coming from context [190] (14 bowls, 95 stem fragments and eight mouthpieces). Apart from two contexts that yielded only single undatable stem fragments (contexts [247] and [256]), most are dated after c 1780 and throughout the 19th century, with only context [248] recorded as c 1640–60 on the basis of a single pipe bowl of type AO9. There are no other 17th-century pipes apart from one bowl of type AO22 (c 1680–1710) in context [1], which was found together with four type OS12 pipes dating to c 1730–80. The only other 18th-century pipe were a single type OS10 bowl found in context [4], which is dated to c 1700–40, and a type OS12 in context [5] (c 1730–80).

Table 3 Clay tobacco pipe dates, by context (B – bowl; M – mouthpiece; S – stem)

Ctxt	TQP	TAQ	B	S	M
1	1730	1780	5		
4	1700	1740	1		
5	1730	1780	1		
16	1840	1880	1		
20	1800	1900		2	
26	1820	1840	1		
54	1840	1880	1		
57	1820	1840	2	1	
60	1820	1840	1		

108	1800	1820	5		
112	1820	1840	1		
156	1840	1880	2		
187	1840	1880	2		
190	1850	1880	14	95	8
200	1820	1840	2		
204	1780	1820	9	5	
247	1580	1910		1	
248	1640	1660	1		
256	1580	1910		1	
262	1820	1840	7	24	
266	1850	1880	2	2	
Total			58	131	8

All remaining contexts date to the late 18th to 19th century, with most probably made and used after c 1800, despite the broad date range of c 1780–1820 given to types AO27 and AO27A, the most numerous forms recorded on the site (15 and 12 examples respectively). With their brittle bowls and long, thin, curved stems these pipes were easily broken, both before and after burial, hence the large number of stem fragments, all from this type, recorded in context [190]. This context, however, has been dated to c 1850–80 by the presence of two type AO29 and one AO30 pipe bowls; it also yielded two type AO28 pipes, dated to c 1820–60, so a date of deposition in the 1850s seems most likely. Late 19th-century pipes were also found in contexts [266], [16], [54], [156] and [187], all dating after c 1840. In most of these, earlier pipes are mixed in with later types, as in context [190].

In the medium-sized context [190] six pipe bowls have simple, common types of decoration in the form of moulded leaf or wheatsheaf seams on the bowl. Nine of the bowls from the same context have moulded maker's initials in relief on the sides of the heel or spur. Other decorative types include ribbed bowls of type AO27 with moulded leaf seams. The most elaborately decorated pipes are three examples all from the same maker and of the same style recovered from context [204]. They are all of type AO27, which is dated to c 1780–1820 by nine examples of this form. The decoration consists of the three ostrich feathers of the Heir Apparent (Prince of Wales) moulded on the back of the bowl, facing the smoker, with a moulded leaf seam on the front of the bowl and delicately moulded foliate decoration along the seams and sides of the stem. The initials SS are moulded in relief on the sides of the heel and the maker's name and address along the sides of the stem. Unfortunately, none of the stems are sufficiently complete to allow the name to be read clearly. The closest reading based on all three examples, appears to be S STOLTIE (?) / THE CHURCH....STREET STEPNEY. No pipe makers of this name are recorded in available records consulted for this assessment. The only other pipe marked with a full surname is a type AO28 bowl from context [200]. This has the name KEEN stamped upside down in a circle on the back of the bowl, with the initials MK moulded in relief on the sides of the spur. These stand for Michael Keens, who is recorded in Limehouse Fields in 1836 (Oswald 1975, 140). Five pipe bowls of types AO27 and AO27A are marked with the initials IF, which stands for John Ford of Stepney, known to have been working between 1805 and 1865 (ibid, 136). It is likely that some of the other marked pipes recorded on the site were also made locally; further work on the identification of makers' marks is recommended.

1.1.1.4 Marked pipes

Table 4 Marked and decorated clay pipes

Ctxt	Acc	Form	ED	LD	Dec	Mark	I/R	M/S	Pos
108	6	AO27	1780	1820	WB	??	R	M	SH
112	10	AO28	1820	1840	LB	?SC	R	M	SS
190	44	AO27	1780	1820		CI	R	M	SH
1	4	OS12	1730	1780		CS	R	M	SH
1	5	OS12	1730	1780		CS	R	M	SH
262	108	AO28	1820	1840		DB	R	M	SS
1	6	OS12	1730	1780		DOTS	R	M	SH
204	54	AO27	1780	1820	RIBV2 / LB	FC	R	M	SH
5	8	OS12	1730	1780		FLEUR-DE-LIS	R	M	SH
190	46	AO29	1840	1880	LB	HG	R	M	SH
60	4	AO28	1820	1840	LB	HS	R	M	SS
156	11	AO29	1840	1880	OAKS	HS	R	M	SH
108	9	AO27A	1800	1840	WB	I?	R	M	SH
204	57	AO27	1780	1820		IE	R	M	SH
262	111	AO27	1780	1820		IE?	R	M	SH
108	7	AO27	1780	1820	WB	IF	R	M	SH
108	8	AO27	1780	1820	WB	IF	R	M	SH
190	43	AO27A	1800	1840		IF	R	M	SS
204	53	AO27	1780	1820	RIBV2 / LB	IF	R	M	SH
57	107	AO27A	1800	1840		IF	R	M	SS
190	50	AO27A	1800	1840	WB	IT	R	M	SS
16	1	AO29	1840	1880		J?	R	M	SH
200	82	AO28	1820	1840		KEEN (inverted) / MK	I/R	S/M	BF/SS
262	109	AO27A	1800	1840	WB	OO	R	M	SS
190	134	AO28	1820	1840		OO	R	M	SS
204	51	AO27	1780	1820	POW / LBB	SS / SID...THE CHURCH	R	M	SH/SL
204	55	AO27	1780	1820	POW / LBB	SS / S STO..STEPNEY	R	M	SH/SL
204	56	AO27	1780	1820	POW / LBB	SS / S STOLTIE.. / STREET	R	M	SH/SL
204	58	AO27	1780	1820		STEPNEY	R	M	SH
262	110	AO28	1820	1840		SS	R	M	SS
204	52	AO27	1780	1820		STARS?	R	M	SS
190	49	AO27A	1800	1840	LB	TC	R	M	SH
200	81	AO27	1780	1820		WC	R	M	SS
190	47	AO27A	1800	1840	WB	WG	R	M	SH
190	45	AO27A	1800	1840	LB	WI	R	M	SS
108	5	AO27A	1800	1840		WM	R	M	SS
57	3	AO28	1820	1840		WS	R	M	SH
4	7	OS10	1700	1740		WS?	R	M	SS
190	42	AO27A	1800	1840		WW	R	M	SH
187	41	AO29	1840	1880	LB	WW	R	M	SS
190	48	AO30	1850	1910	FTH				
266	112	AO30	1850	1910	LB / FOL				
266	113	AO29	1840	1880	LB				

2 Analysis of potential

2.1 General assessment of potential

The clay pipe assemblage from XRV10 yielded a large number of marked examples that have good potential for further work aimed at identifying their makers and thereby further refining the dating of the contexts in which they were found. Given the size and variety of the pipe assemblage, further work should aim to compare the finds from XRV10 with those of similar date from other sites in this area of London, with a view to examining local production and distribution networks. There is also potential for examining the clay pipes in relation to other finds, in order to understand their place within the wider context of development and use of the site.

3 Significance of the data

The clay pipes have an important role in clarifying the site sequence and in understanding the social context in the 19th century in particular. Their significance is not limited to the local sphere alone and they have a wider regional importance in relation to clay pipe manufacture, distribution and use at a regional level.

4 Revised research aims

4.1 Clay pipes

The following additional research aims are suggested by the pipe assemblage from XRV10:

1. Identify the names of clay pipe manufacturers from marked examples and refine dating accordingly
2. Compare the marked clay pipes with other examples from nearby sites. How does this affect distribution patterns of the products of known manufacturers?
3. Consider the clay pipes in relation to other finds from the same contexts.

5 Method statements

5.1 Clay pipes

In order to carry out the requisite research and prepare a text for inclusion in any proposed publication, the following tasks will be necessary:

5.1.1 Integration of site and finds data

Estimated specialist time: 0.5 pd.

5.1.2 Research

1. Identify the makers of marked pipes, and parallels recorded on the Oracle database. Estimated specialist time: 1 pd.
2. Research into the distribution of pipes by identified makers, and comparison with patterns observed on other sites in the vicinity. Estimated specialist time: 0.5 pd

5.1.3 Writing

3. Preparation of publication text. Estimated specialist time: 1 pd

5.1.4 Illustration

Five items have been selected for illustration.

5.1.5 Preparation for deposition in the archive

Estimated specialist time: 0.25 pd.

6 Bibliography

Atkinson, D R and Oswald, A, 1969 London clay tobacco pipes, *J British Archaeol Assoc* 32, 171–227

Davey, P 1997 *Clay pipes from Bolsover church*, unpub archive rep

Higgins, D A and Davey, P, 1994 *Draft guidelines for using the clay tobacco pipe record sheets*, unpub rep

Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay pipes for the archaeologist*, BAR 14, Oxford