

## APPENDIX 1 - GLASS

### 1.1 Glass

*by Rachel Tyson*

#### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 A total of 11 fragments of glass were recovered during the watching brief at Bower Road. The majority of the glass was recovered by hand excavation with only 1 item being retrieved from samples.
- 1.1.2 The recovery and study of the glass was undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The recovery of this material was undertaken to contribute towards establishing a dated occupation sequence for the site's development and determining the status, economic orientation and patterns of contact and trade of the site.

#### *Methodology*

- 1.1.3 As the assemblage is very small, all the glass was inspected and recorded. A basic archive catalogue was created. This will provide sufficient information for a full catalogue at the analysis stage, and the fragments themselves would not need to be inspected again.

#### *Quantification*

- 1.1.4 The assemblage comprises 1 window fragment, sherds from 4 vessels and 3 beads. Although a small sample for a Roman site, the glass ranges in date from the 1st to the 4th century, and a range of functional types are present. The glass is summarised in Table 3.1 and the range of Roman material is briefly described in the sub-sections that follow.
- 1.1.5 The dark blue vessel fragments, although small and of uncertain form, provide evidence for 1st to early 2nd century use of glass (Price and Cottam 1998, 15). The window glass fragment from context 103 is cylinder-blown, and therefore dates to the 3rd century or later (Price 1996, 396), while the conical beaker fragments are likely to be 4th century (Price and Cottam 1998, 129-31). The beaker and bead from late Roman pit 242 with possible ritual deposits are of particular interest, and it is not uncommon to find these beakers or beads in Roman burials (Price and Cottam 1998; Guido 1978).
- 1.1.6 The beads, particularly the yellowish bead from sample 23 (context 367, ditch group 169), are all long-lived types to which it is not possible to attribute a precise date. The context date is probably the most reliable for dating the blue wave-decorated bead (AD 270-400), although there are similar examples stratified in 2nd century AD deposits, and Anglo-Saxon examples (Guido 1978 & 1999). The yellowish bead could date anywhere between the 3rd century BC and the 2nd century AD; the type is found on Roman sites such as Silchester, but was generally more popular among native Britons (Guido 1978, 12). The blue-green bead is probably most likely to be late Roman – opaque green and blue beads were amongst the finds from graves of AD 310-80 at Lankhills, Winchester (Guido 1978, 95 and 220).
- 1.1.7 The fragments are consistent with the probable context dates of the glass, with the exception of the small rim fragment from context 477 (see below), which may be a little later than the date given by the context, although it is uncertain which form it

is from. The blue-green bead suggests a late Roman date for undated context 418, while a 1st or early 2nd century date is suggested by the fragment in undated context 381.

#### *Conservation*

- 1.1.8 This Roman glass is chemically stable and needs no conservation input. The glass is in good condition and will not have suffered from differential preservation on different parts of the site. The current packaging is adequate for long term storage. It is not normal practice to discard Roman glass.

#### *Potential for further work*

- 1.1.9 The following section discusses potential for further work in the light of the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims.
- 1.1.10 The glass from this site can contribute to the original Fieldwork Event aims by assisting with dating the occupation sequence for the site. However, the potential is limited to rather broad date ranges of a century or more.
- 1.1.11 Because of its small size, the potential of this assemblage to assist in establishing the status, economic orientation and pattern of contact and trade of the settlement is very limited. Nevertheless, the presence of glass (especially window and vessel glass) is an indicator of Romanised occupation of some status, either on the site or more probably somewhere in its vicinity. While no further analytical work on the assemblage itself is required, the significance of its presence should be taken into consideration in any further analysis of the site, and the material itself should be reported in order to support this.
- 1.1.12 A summary for publication could be produced using this assessment as a basis. The following work would be needed:
- An archive catalogue and report should be prepared of all of the glass, together with drawings of the fragments indicated in table 3.1.
  - A short note should be prepared for publication, indicating the range and character of the glass and presence of fragments in a possible ritual deposit. Drawings should be prepared of the fragments indicated below.

#### *Bibliography*

Guido M, 1978 *The Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman Periods in Britain and Ireland*. London, Research Report of the Society of Antiquaries of London **35**

Guido M (ed by Welch M), 1999 *The Glass Beads of Anglo-Saxon England c. AD 400-700*. London: Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London **58**

Price J, 1996 Glass, in R P J Jackson and T W Potter, *Excavations at Stonea, Cambridgeshire 1980-85*, British Museum Press, 379-409

Price J and Cottam S, 1998 *Romano-British Glass Vessels: A Handbook*, CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology **14**

*Table 3.1: Glass, context, dating and description*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Special number</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Date Range</b>	<b>Comments</b>
103	106	1	window	RO	3rdC	Blue-green fragment, cylinder blown
250	28	1*	bead	RO	?2nd-4thC	Fragment of blue annular bead with yellow wave decoration
250	96	4*	vessel	RO	4thC	Rim fragments of greenish/colourless conical beaker with abraded bands
381	-	1	vessel	RO	1st-early 2ndC	Small fragment of dark blue glass with white trail
418	6	1*	bead	RO	?3rd-5thC	Tiny blue-green bead
477	-	1*	vessel	RO	?late 1st-2ndC	Small fragment of greenish-colourless rolled-in rim, possibly jar
557	3	1	vessel	RO	1st-early 2ndC	Tiny fragment of dark blue glass
-	Sample 23	1*	Bead	RO	?3rd/ 2ndC BC – 2ndC AD	Small yellowish annular bead

\* Recommended for drawing