

APPENDIX 8: ASSESSMENT OF GLASS

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 One glass accession was recovered from ARC 330 98 in Zone 3, seven from ARC HRD 99 and three from ARC WNB 98.
- 1.2 All of the glass accessions were recovered by hand excavation.
- 1.3 It is not thought that the glass has any potential to aid the fieldwork event aims, except as further evidence, with the other Roman finds from Zone 3, for the presence of human settlement in the area. The glass bead from ARC HRD 99 is of interest but is unstratified.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 All of the glass was accessioned in accordance with the Museum of London system.
- 2.2 The records were entered onto the MoLAS Oracle relational database, subsequently transferred to RLE Datasets.
- 2.3 No sampling of the glass was undertaken.

3. Quantification

- 3.1 The glass may be quantified using the following tables:

Table 41: Assessment of Glass from ARC 330 98

Context	Count	Type	Period	Comments (Description)
134	1	Bottle	RO	<9> Base of a square bottle, decorated with moulded rings

Table 42: Assessment of Glass from ARC WNB 98

Context	Count	Type	Period	Comments (Description)
205	1	Bottle?	RO?	Natural green glass; cylindrical body fragment
489	13	Vessel	?	A tiny fragment of dark olive-green glass – intrusive?
647	12	Vessel	?	Small abraded fragment; natural green glass

Table 43: Assessment of Glass from ARC HRD 99

Context	Count	Type	Period	Comments (Description)
CH39.600	1	Bead	RO?	<35> complete dark blue, biconical bead
14	1	Vessel		<38> very small fragment of colourless glass
14	1	Vessel		<48> small fragment of natural green glass
53	1	Vessel?		<56> small fragment of natural green glass
60	1	Vessel		<68> small fragment of natural green glass
69	1	Vessel	RO?	<36> small fragment, possibly of a flat concave base, in colourless glass
114	1	Vessel		<37> very small fragment of natural green glass

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The glass recovered from ARC 330 98 came from context [134], (sub-group 3112), the fill of a probable, eroded track [135]. This context also produced pottery dating to the early Roman period, *c* AD50 to *c* AD100. Mould-blown square bottles are found from the 1st to the late 2nd century AD (Price and Cottam 1998, 195).
- 4.2 The glass from ARC HRD 99 was recovered from demolition spread over the kilns (sub-group 725), a rubbish deposit (sub-group 788) and various ditch fills (sub-groups 712, 717 and 784). The contexts all produced pottery dating to the late Roman period.
- 4.3 The glass from ARC WNB 98 is all thought to be probably intrusive; the contexts and their dating will have to be checked more closely.
- 4.4 The vessel glass is only represented by small undiagnostic fragments and as such has little potential for the site. The glass is in a stable condition.
- 4.5 The only glass artefact of interest is the complete dark blue glass bead <35> which is from CH39.600 at ARC HRD 99 and, therefore, is basically unstratified. It is biconical in shape and is thought to be Roman in date.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 The three fragments from ARC WNB 98 are mildly iridescent but no active conservation work is necessary. All the glass accessions are relatively stable and packed appropriately for archive.
- 5.2 It is recommended that all of the glass accessions should be retained, in accordance with national guidelines.
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6. Comparative material

- 6.1 Little Roman glass was recovered from the sites in Zone 3. A brief analysis of Roman glass assemblages from other CTRL sites in the vicinity appears to suggest that this is a general trend.
- 6.2 All of the glass is in relatively good condition but in most cases only very small fragments survived. This appears to indicate that it is probably redeposited domestic rubbish.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 There is little potential for further work, as it is not thought that the glass assemblage can be of use to either the landscape zone aims or the fieldwork

event aims. However, as outlined in 6.1 above, it is of interest to see that the general lack of Roman glass from the sites in Area 330 is not unusual. Although the fragmentary nature of the glass would indicate that it was redeposited rubbish, it was probably not redeposited from very far away (most of the glass is in good condition and not highly abraded). Therefore the small size of the glass assemblage is still of interest. It is recommended that there is a brief scan of the quantities of glass present from other sites in the wider region. The bead is also of interest and may be more closely dateable.

7.2 It is recommended that the following work is undertaken:

- Catalogue and report on glass bead; including checking for parallels
- A short amount of time for comparative study of glass assemblages
- Bead to be illustrated.

8. Bibliography

Price, J, & Cottam, S, 1998 *Romano-British Glass Vessels: a handbook*, CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 14

