

Pottery and ceramic building material from No 20 St Martins Street, Hereford :Assessment Report

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Introduction and summary

All the pottery and ceramic building material from No 20 St Martins Street, Hereford were submitted for identification and assessment. The material consists of small quantities of pottery and building material dating to the 13th century, the late 14th or 15th century and the 18th century. The presence of a late medieval assemblage is unusual for Hereford but is too small to add to previous knowledge of ceramics of this period. It does, however, indicate a potential for further work from this site to reveal further, larger deposits of late medieval date which should either be preserved *in situ* or if this is not possible then carefully excavated.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the assessment were:

- to identify all the material submitted
- to establish the date range of the collection
- to assess the significance of the archaeology remaining on the site
- to assess the significance of the submitted finds and to make recommendations for further work, publication and dispersal

Description

The finds are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of finds by common name and sherd count

cname	Full Name	Period	Source	tpq	Total
-	Non-ceramic finds				5
HERA3?	Hereford Fabric A3	medieval	Local		1
HERB1	Hereford Fabric B1	medieval	Malvern Chase	early 12 th	2
HERB4	Hereford Fabric B4	late medieval/post-medieval	Malvern Chase	late 13 th	10
HERC1?	Hereford Fabric C1	medieval	Worcester?	Early 12 th	1
HERC2	Hereford Fabric C2	medieval	Worcester	early 13 th	2
CREA	Creamware	early modern	Staffordshire and elsewhere	late 18 th	6
HERG7	Hereford Fabric G7	late medieval	unknown	late 13 th	2
HERA7B	Hereford Fabric A7B	medieval	local	mid 13 th	4
HERA7D	Hereford Fabric A7D	post-medieval	local	mid 16 th	2
MISC SY	Miscellaneous sandy handmade	post-medieval	unknown		1
STMO	Staffordshire mottled	post-medieval	Staffordshire	late 17 th	2
STRE	Staffordshire redware	post-medieval	Staffordshire	mid 17 th	1
STSLBR	Staffordshire brown-slipped	post-medieval	Staffordshire	early 18 th	2
Grand Total					41

The *terminus post quem* for each assemblage is given in table 2. It should be noted that although contexts 2002, 2008 and 2011 have mid 13th century or later *tpqs* the actual date of deposition may be

much later, since pottery types which came into use at this time continued to be used into the 15th century.

Table 2: Terminus post quem for each context

context	period	description
1002	pmed	l18+
1004	pmed	l18+ and resid med
1005	pmed	L18th +
2002	med	m13+
2008	med	l14/15
2008	med	m13+
2011	med	m13+
2012	med	em13+

Medieval

The medieval pottery includes some types (HERB1, HERA3, HERC1, HERC2) which are of early to mid 13th-century date and would not have been used after the mid 13th century. These therefore provide evidence for occupation on the site during this period. With the exception of the two sherds in context 2012 they are all from assemblages with later pottery.

Late medieval pottery is represented by the sherds of HERB4 and HERG7, both from context 2008, and by sherds of a B4 dripping dish from context 1004.

The remaining medieval pottery is of fabric HERA7B and is only broadly datable to the high or late medieval period.

Post-medieval

Two sherds of probable 17th-century date were found, both from context 1004 (STRE and HERA7D).

Sherds of early to mid 18th-century slipware were also present in context 1004 (STMO, STSLBR).

They may be contemporary with the creamware finds in contexts 1002 and 1004 (CREA), if this ware dates to the earlier part of its lifespan, in the third quarter of the 18th century.

Recommendations

The presence of early 13th-century pottery on a site in Hereford is of no surprise - almost every excavation in the city has produced such finds. On the other hand, the late medieval assemblage, from context 2008, is potentially of great interest, should further deposits of this date be present on the site.

The finds themselves, however, form too small a group for further study.

The post-medieval pottery is all of types common elsewhere in Hereford and does not indicate any particular potential for further work on this site.

Appendix 1: Catalogue of finds submitted

Context	Common Name Code	Form	Number of sherds	Number of vessels	Description
1002	CREA	PLATE	4	4	
1004	B4	DRIP	2	1	
1004	A3?	TP	1	1	
1004	CREA	BOWL	2	2	
1004	STRE	LID	1	1	Flanged
1004	STMO	CHP	2	2	
1004	HERA7D	BOWL	2	2	
1004	STSLBR	POSS	1	1	
1004	STSLBR	TANK	1	1	
1005			1	1	18th C bottle glass
1005	MISC SY	PANT	1	1	
2002	HERA7B	RIDGE	1	1	
2008			2	2	ANBN
2008			2	2	ANBN
2008	B4	LCUP	2	1	
2008	C2	JUG	1	1	
2008	G7	JUG	1	1	Unglazed ext; glaze around inside of rim; conical form
2008	HERA7B	JUG	1	1	
2008	B4	JUG	2	2	
2011	HERA7B	JUG	1	1	
2011	C1?	CP	1	1	
2012	B1	CP	2	2	