

## Assessment of the finds from High Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (WHS02)

**Kate Steane and Alan Vince**

### Summary

The Network Archaeology excavation at High Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (WHS02) produced a small collection of finds: animal bone, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, glass, iron, pottery and stone. The finds range in date from the medieval period to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (or later) but the majority are of mid- and late-18<sup>th</sup> century date. They indicate good preservation of deposits and suggest that the site has the potential to produce large assemblages of post-medieval artefacts which could be valuable for the study of 18<sup>th</sup>-century life in Winslow.

### Description

The site produced 109 finds in total (Table 1). These included one piece interpreted here as an unworked stone (Context 35, NAT).

**Table 1**

Context	ANBN	CBM	CTP	FE	NAT	PMGL	STONE	CERAMIC	Grand Total
11			1						1
13								1	1
19		2						1	3
21	1			2		2		1	6
23		4							4
25	5	3						1	9
27	2	1						14	17
29		1			1				2
31		1							1
33	2	11							13
35	3	2	1	2	1	8		10	27
40		3							3
42		4							4
44		2				2			4
46		8							8
49			4					1	5
51		1							1
Grand Total	13	44	7	3	1	12	1	28	109

## **Animal bone**

There were 12 fragments of animal bone from the site, five from context 25. The bone was in a good state suggesting reasonable conditions for bone preservation. Due to the small number of fragments any more work on the material is unnecessary. But should further excavation take place, leading to greater numbers of bone fragments, then analysis should be carried out.

## **Ceramic Building Material**

Of the 44 fragments of CBM, there were four pieces of brick, one piece of floor brick, 33 pieces of flat roof tile, one curved roof tile and five unidentifiable fragments. No detailed analysis has been made of CBM fabrics, but two differed markedly from the rest: one had a matrix of variagated clay and the other was a heavily sanded fabric. There is evidence that at least some of the flat rooftiles were attached by means of two rounded pegholes; they varied in thickness between 10 and 16mm with the most common at 12mm.

The CBM was found scattered throughout the site. The floor brick (context 31) had been made of variagated clay (38mm thick); originally the top of it had worn smooth and subsequently it had been re-used in construction (mortar on the top surface). The largest group of CBM came from context 33, which contained 9 fragments of flat roof tile and two small unidentifiable pieces.

## **Clay Tobacco Pipe**



**Figure 1 Clay Tobacco Pipes from Context 49, WHS02**

Seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the site. Three stems with a small bore diameter suggest a later but three bowls could be dated around 1640-60 (Fig 1). This earlier material together with a stem with a large bore diameter also indicating an earlier date all came from context 49.

**Glass**



**Figure 2 Handle from handled bottle, Context 35, WHS02**



**Figure 3 Seal from bottle, Context 35, WHS02**

Twelve fragments of glass were recovered, eight of which came from context 35. These consisted of fragments from three mallet bottles, one onion bottle, a handled bottle (Fig 2) and a phial together with a seal - either 'FC' or 'EC' stamped onto a glass prunt (Fig 3). The rest of the glass consisted of fragments from two tall bottles and window glass (one of light green glass and one of light blue).

## **Iron**

The three pieces of iron from the site consisted of two iron nails and a piece of drainpipe.



## Pottery



**Figure 4 Border ware handled bowl, Context 35, WHS02**



**Figure 5 White saltglazed stoneware tankard, Context 35, WHS02**

Twenty nine sherds of pottery were recovered, of which one is medieval, one probably late medieval and the remainder of post-medieval date.

### Medieval

A sherd of an unglazed, handmade jar in a fabric containing abundant rounded voids and sparse angular white flint fragments was recovered from context 33. It is probably an example of Newbury Group B ware, also known as Oxford AQ ware ({Vince 1980 #25333}; {Mellor 1980 #38653}).

### Late Medieval

A sherd from a closed vessel (a jug or jar) with a brown external slip was recovered from context 25. The fabric was not recognised at AVAC and is probably therefore a local central Buckinghamshire ware (it is not Brill/Boarstall ware, nor Potterspury ware) and has been coded here LMLOC.

### Post-medieval

Two sherds of black-glazed tankards of the type produced at Harlow and Stock in Essex in the early to mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century were recovered (contexts 13 and 49). Whether these vessels are Essex products is doubtful given the distance of Winslow from those centres but this matter could be solved by thin-section analysis.

Seven vessels (17 sherds) come from types which were introduced in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, in each case the types continued to be made into the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it is likely that all these vessels are actually of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date (contexts 21, 27 and 35).

A further three vessels (7 sherds) are of types which were first made in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest of these is a tankard of white salt-glazed stoneware (Fig 5), a type which was being produced in the 1720s but was probably still being made into the 1760s (Context 35). A Chinese Export Porcelain bowl could have been made in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century but their use became more common in England in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century (context 35). Finally, a Creamware plate is of a type first produced in the mid 1760s (context 27).

A sherd of a hand-painted Pearlware cup with a Chinoiserie pattern is of a type first produced in the 1770s (Context 27).

### Stone

There was one flake of slate probably from a roof and one piece of natural flint.

## Assessment

### Stratigraphy

The finds from the High Street, Winslow, site provide an earliest possible date for the contexts in which they were found (Table 1). In most cases these *termini post quem* could be centuries earlier than the actual deposition date. For example, many of the deposits are dated solely by the presence of pegtiles. Such tiles were first used in the southeast of England in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and after a short period of experimentation, not represented here, the plain, unglazed rectangular tile with either peg hole or nib suspension became standard and was used without much alteration in size or fabric until the 17<sup>th</sup> century. At this time, pantiles were introduced. They required less overlap and were therefore a more efficient form of roofing. Nevertheless, their use did not catch on evenly throughout the country and it is quite possible that central Buckinghamshire was one of the areas in which they were not common. If so, then the pegtiles could be of any date up to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century, at which point slates were probably introduced to this area (although they were used much earlier closer to the

coast and navigable rivers). Under the influence of these thin slates, perhaps, thinner ceramic roof tiles were introduced, often made in moulds rather than wooden formers as the earlier tiles had been.

By contrast, a few assemblages have the appearance of closed groups, deposited during a short period of currency of the artefact types present. Examples of these are context 35, which probably dates to the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century (the latest piece present is a white stoneware tankard of c.1720 or later and there are no examples of the tall wine bottles of the 1760s and later) and context 27, which is slightly later, dated by a Pearlware cup to the 1700s or later but containing no transfer printed wares, which would have been expected in an early 19<sup>th</sup> century assemblage.

**Table 2**

Context	Date
11	Medieval +
13	Early 17 <sup>th</sup> C +
19	Later 16 <sup>th</sup> C +
21	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> C+
23	Later 16 <sup>th</sup> C +
25	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> C +
27	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C+
29	Modern (? Late 19 <sup>th</sup> C+)
31	Later 16 <sup>th</sup> C+
33	Medieval +
35	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> C+
40	Medieval +
42	Medieval +
44	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> C+
46	Medieval +
49	Early/mid 17 <sup>th</sup> C
51	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> C+

## Potential

These finds show that occupation on the site may have started in the medieval period although there is very little material which can be positively dated before c.1640. By contrast, post-medieval deposits survive well on this site and that many classes of finds are well-preserved (only waterlogged material is absent). The finds from contexts 27, 35 and 49 form small but coherent assemblages and these suggest that there is relatively little disturbance to earlier deposits through the cutting of pits and redeposition of the disturbed ground.

## Costing

There are three artefacts which require illustration, These are: the glass seal, the glass handled bottle and the Border ware handled bowl. All are from context 35.

Task	Charge-out rate	Amount
Illustration	£14.50 per hour	£43.50



## Appendix

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	date	Weight	Use	Condition	PART	TH	W
11	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1		TWO ROUND PEGHOLES		243				13	
13	CERAMIC	PMBL		TANK	1	1			17.1	6		BS			
19	CBM	CBM		BRICK	1	1				30MORTAR ALONG ONE CORNER					
19	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				38				13	
19	STONE	SLATE			1	1				1					
21	ANBN	ANBN			1	1	SPLIT			12					
21	CERAMIC	NOTTS		BOWL	1	1			17.2	3		BS			
21	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	SMALL HOLE			4		STEM			
21	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	SMALL HOLE			2		STEM			
21	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1				49		BS			
21	PMGL	PMGL	LTBL	WIND	1	1				1					
23	CBM	CBM		BRICK	1	1				227					
23	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	JOIN WITH CONTEXT 25			52				12	
23	CBM	CBM	VARIAGATED CLAY	FLAT	1	1				44				12	
23	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				24MORTAR ON ONE SIDE				12	
25	ANBN	ANBN			5					185					
25	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				21				10	
25	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	JOIN WITH CONTEXT 23			37				12	
25	CBM	CBM			1	1	FRAGMENT			7					
25	CERAMILMLOC			JUG/JAR	1	1			14.2	8		BS			

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	date	Weight	Use	Condition	PART	TH	W
C															
27	ANBN	ANBN			2					367					
27	CBM	CBM	MOD	BRICK	1	1				525	MORTAR ALONG ONE SIDE OVER BREAK			58	
27	CERAMI C	CREA		PLATE	4	1			18.2	54		R;BS			
27	CERAMI C	PEAR		BOWL	1	1	HANDPAINTED DEC		18.3	4		BS			
27	CERAMI C	PMFR		BOWL	4	1			17.2	134		B;BS			
27	CERAMI C	PMFR		BOWL	5	1			17.2	200		R;BS			
29	CBM	CBM	MOD	FLAT	1	1				504	SOME MORTAR ON ONE SIDE			12	166
29	FE	FE		DRAINPIPE	1	1				62					
31	CBM	CBM	VARIAGATED CLAY	FLOOR BRICK	1	1	SANDED			879	WORN SMOOTH; REUSED AS MORTAR OVER SURFACE			38	
33	ANBN	ANBN			2					20					
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				34				13	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEG HOLE			25				13	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				113				14	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				42				14	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				15				14	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				11				14	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				17				15	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				19				15	
33	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				18				16	
33	CBM	CBM			2	2				15		FRAGMENTS			

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	date	Weight	Use	Condition	PART	TH	W
33	C	CERAMINEWBUR Y B	JAR		1	1			12.2	5		BS			
35	ANBN	ANBN				3				215					
35	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				118	MORTAR ON ONE SIDE			12	
35	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1		ROUND PEG HOLE		108				15	
35	C	CERAMI BORDB		HANDLED BOWL	4	1H	DR;P		17.2	262		R;B;H;B S			
35	C	CERAMI CHPO		BOWL	1	1			18.2	3		B			
35	C	CERAMI LONS		STORAGE JAR	1	1			17.2	23		BS			
35	C	CERAMI NOTTS		BOWL	1	1			17.2	4		R			
35	C	CERAMI PMFR		BOWL	1	1			17.2	65		B;BS			
35	C	CERAMI SWSG		TANK	2	1PH			18.2	61		H;BS			
35	CTP	PIPECLA Y		PIPE	1	1		SMALL HOLE		3		STEM			
35	FE	FE		NAIL	2	2				14					
35	NAT	FLINT			1	1				16					
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1				123		B			
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	ONION	1	1				320		B			
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	HANDLED BOTTLE	2	1H	DR;P			115		H			
35	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	PHIAL	1	1				16		B			
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	SEAL	1	1H	DR;P	EITHER 'FC' OR 'EC' STAMPED ONTO GLASS PRUNT		11		BS			
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1				95		R;NK			

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	date	Weight	Use	Condition	PART	TH	W
35	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1				128			R;NK		
40	CBM	CBM		FLAT	2	1	SANDED			65				13	
40	CBM	CBM			1	1				3		FRAGME NT			
42	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				42				12	
42	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	SANDED			18				13	
42	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1				30				13	
42	CBM	CBM	HEAVILY SANDED FABRIC	FLAT	1	1	SANDED			79	MORTAR ON BOTH SIDES			14	
44	CBM	CBM		FLAT	2	1				76				14	
44	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1				9					
44	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1				2					
46	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEGHOLE; SANDED			53				12	
46	CBM	CBM	VARIAGATED CLAY	FLAT	1	1				11				12	
46	CBM	CBM	HEAVILY SANDED FABRIC	CURV	1	1	SANDED			57				14	
46	CBM	CBM		FLAT	1	1	SANDED			45				14	
46	CBM	CBM		FLAT	3	1	TWO ROUND PEGHOLES; SANDED			289				16	
46	CBM	CBM			1	1				6		FRAGME NT			
49	CERAMI C	PMBL		TANK	1	1			17.1	7			BS		
49	CTP	PIPECLA Y		PIPE	1	1PH	c.1640-60			15			BOWL		
49	CTP	PIPECLA Y		PIPE	1	1PH	c.1640-60			11			BOWL		
49	CTP	PIPECLA		PIPE	1	1PH	c.1640-60			9			BOWL		

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	date	Weight	Use	Condition	PART	TH	W
		Y													
49	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1PH	LARGE HOLE			11				STEM	
51	CBM	CBM		BRICK	1	1				32			FRAGMENTS		