

## **Assessment of pottery from the Baglan Bay gas pipeline, West Glamorgan (BAB00)**

### ***Alan Vince***

Forty-four sherds of pottery from fieldwalking on the line of the Baglan Bay gas pipeline (BAB00) were submitted for identification and assessment. The pottery is all of post-medieval or later date.

### **Description**

#### **Post-medieval pottery**

Three types of post-medieval pottery were present: red earthenwares made from Devonian marl which were produced over a wide area of the Welsh borderland, from Usk through to the Lingen area on the Herefordshire/Shropshire border (PMWB). These industries operated between the later 16<sup>th</sup> century and the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century; North Devon gravel-tempered ware, produced at Bideford and Barnstaple on the river Torridge, from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (NDGT). The heyday for export of this ware was the later 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. In one case, however, an earlier date can be postulated since the three sherds found all come from wide, conical pancheons (context 5803). Finally, sherds made from the same Fremington estuarine clay as the gravel-tempered ware but with few inclusions were found (NDF).

The high proportion of North Devon products present is not unusual on a south Welsh site, especially one close to the coast. The vessels may have been imported directly from Barnstaple or via Bristol.

#### **Modern pottery**

Twenty-five sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup>-century and later pottery were recovered from A6 (unstrat). The collection includes a tin-glazed plate with blue painted decoration. Such vessels were produced in Bristol from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and this piece is likely to have been one of the later products (although without further analysis the attribution to Bristol is a mere assumption on the grounds of proximity. Other centres with access to the western seaways were certainly operating in the British Isles). Creamwares dating to the mid 1760s or later were also present, as were hand-painted pearlwares, likely to be of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. However, the collection includes a fluted stoneware preserve jar of late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date and a very recent-looking wall tile, certainly of 20<sup>th</sup>-century date. This collection therefore has the appearance of occupation debris from a late 18<sup>th</sup>- to 20<sup>th</sup>-century household. The lack of country pottery, such as North Devon or Staffordshire/Buckley blackglazed coarsewares is unusual.

A second sherd of stoneware preserve jar was found in context 5000.

## Appendix: List of identified pottery

Plot	Context	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV
A	5000	GREY STONEWARE;FLUTED MARMALADE JAR	ENGS	JAR	1	1
A6	5005		NDGT	BOWL	2	2
A6	US		TGW	PLATE	5	5
A6	US		PEAR	BOWL	2	2
A6	US	PAINTED	CREA	BOWL	2	2
A6	US		CREA	PLATE	3	3
A6	US		CREA	BOWL	3	3
A6	US	FLUTED	ENGS	JAR	1	1
A6	US	MOULDED BASE;WHITE GLAZE	MOD	WALT	1	1
A6	US		PEAR	PLATE	2	2
A6	US		PEAR	BOWL	1	1
A6	US		ENPO	DISH	1	1
A6	US		ENPO	CUP	2	2
A6	US		TPW	CUP	1	1
A6	US		TGW	PLATE	1	1
B4	5308		NDF	JAR	1	1
B4	5308		PMWB	BOWL	2	2
D6	5802		NDGT	BOWL	1	1
D6	5802		NDGT	BOWL	3	3
D7	5803		NDGT	PANC	2	2
D7	5803		NDGT	PANC	1	1
E3	6008		NDGT	BOWL	3	3
F3	6200		NDGT	JAR	1	1
F3	6200		NDF	JAR	2	2