

Assessment of finds from Chester Business Park, Chester (CBP03)

Alan Vince

Forty-two artefacts from the Chester Business Park were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code CBP03). They consisted of ceramic building material, glassware and pottery. The earliest material is probably early 18th century but the six assemblages submitted for study each contain 19th century material.

Description

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of ceramic building material were submitted, from contexts 703 and 706. One is certainly from a brick, probably of 19th century or later date, and the other two are likely also to be from bricks since they share the same pinkish, sandy, calcareous fabric containing rounded white clay pellets. The latter suggest that the bricks were made from Coal Measure clays, or more recent clays derived from the Coal Measures.

Glassware

One piece of clear window glass, probably of modern date, and two dark green tall bottle fragments were submitted. The bottles are of late 18th-century or later date.

Pottery

Thirty six sherds of pottery were submitted. They are of two broad classes: vessels made of Coal Measures white and red-firing clays, probably in the Buckley potteries near Flint, and refired wares made at factories throughout England, principally those in the Staffordshire Potteries.

The possible Buckley wares consist of five vessels:

- a brown stoneware tankard from context 602
- a mottled glazed bowl from context 602
- Black-glazed coarseware vessels from contexts 602 (a jar) and 703 (a bowl)
- An unglazed flowerpot from context 606.

Of these, the flowerpot might have been made elsewhere, although it too is definitely made using Coal Measure clays.

The remaining wares include examples of Derbyshire stoneware, made near to Chesterfield, Nottingham stoneware and the standard range of refined earthenwares (“china”). These include White Salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG), Creamware (CREA), produced from the late 1760s onwards, porcelains, probably of English origin (ENPO), a brown-glazed buff ware (possibly a teapot, NCBW), Pearlware (PEAR), transfer-printed wares (TPW) and whitewares (WHITE).

The range of vessels represented includes finewares and coarsewares and includes vessels used in social drinking, food preparation and dining. This suggests that the pottery comes from typical domestic occupation.

Assessment

The finds indicate either the presence of early and mid 18th century activity on the site or the redeposition of material of this date on the site at a later period. Since the assemblages are clearly of mixed character it is not possible to say which interpretation is correct.

Appendix

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	date	Part	Weight
402	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	1		BLUE FEATHERED 1EDGE	Early Modern		4
402	Pottery	ENPO		CUP	1		FLUTED BODY WITH OG ENAMEL	Early Modern		2
402	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	1	1	1(PURPLE;DK RED)	Early Modern		2
501	Pottery	DERBS		BLACKLEADING BOTTLE	1	1		Early Modern	B	30
501	Pottery	ENPO		?	1		MOULDED IN HIGH 1RELIEF;TEAPOT?	Early Modern		5
501	Glass	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1		1L18TH/19TH C	Early Modern		140
501	Pottery	NOTS		JAR	1	1		Early Modern		30
501	Pottery	TGW		?	1		1LOOKS 18TH C	Post-Medieval		1
501	Pottery	TPW		PLATE	1	1		Early Modern	R	2
602	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	5	1		Early Modern	R	15
602	Pottery	STBRS		TANK	1		1EXT WHITE SLIP	Post-Medieval		5
602	Glass	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1		1TALL BOTTLE	Early Modern		32
602	Pottery	STCOAR		JAR	1	1		Post-Medieval		5
602	Pottery	STMO		BOWL	5	1		Post-Medieval		30
602	Pottery	SWSG		CHP?	1	1		Post-Medieval		3
602	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	2	1		Early Modern	R	10
606	Pottery	LPMLOC	FINE PINK WITH	FLP	1	1		Early Modern	B	20

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	date	Part	Weight
			HARD KAOLINITE PELLETS							
606	Pottery	NCBW		TPOT	1		BROWN GLAZED INT 1AND EXT	Early Modern		1
606	Pottery	PEAR		DISH	1		BLUE 1PAINTED;L18/19TH C	Early Modern	B	5
606	Pottery	TPW		DISH	1	1		Early Modern		5
606	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	1	1	MAY BE AN OVAL 1TUREEN	Early Modern		20
703	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	1		STAMPED IN OVAL 1'STON.'	Early Modern		1
703	Pottery	PEAR		PLATE	1	1		Early Modern	B	2
703	Pottery	PEAR			1	1		Early Modern	B	2
703	Pottery	STCOAR		BOWL	1	1		Post-Medieval	B	87
703	CBM	PMTIL	SA Q AND CALC INCLUSIONS	BRICK	1	1		Undetermined		9
703	Pottery	WHITE			1	1		Early Modern		1
703	Pottery	WHITE		PLATE	1	1	SPRIGGED FLOWER WITH LT BLUE GLAZE 1OVER	Early Modern		1
703	Pottery	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	SPONGED 1DEC;BURNT	Early Modern	R	5
706	CBM	PMTIL	SA Q AND CALC INCLUSIONS	BRICK?	2	1		Undetermined		3
706	Glass	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1	Vessel frag.	Early Modern		2