

Assessment of the Clay Tobacco Pipes from the Hamble to Botley Jetline Pipeline (HBJ03)

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Description

Fifty-four fragments of clay tobacco pipe were retrieved from fieldwork on the line of the Hamble to Botley Jetline pipeline (Site Code HBJ03). The pipes came from eleven of the sections (Table 1).

Forty-nine of these fragments were plain stem fragments which could be roughly assigned to three groups on the basis of their bore diameters. Two had wide bores of the type common before c.1650. These came from Sections 9 and 13a. A further ten stems had bore diameters which suggest a date between c.1650 and c.1750. The majority of the stems, 37 in total, had narrow bore diameters which suggest date after c.1750. All of these have been classed as 'early modern'.

Table 1

Comments	4	5	8	9	11	12	13	13a	15	16	19	Grand Total
17TH C BORE				1				1				2
17TH/18TH C BORE	2		3				5					10
18TH/19TH C BORE	4	1		3	1	1	18	4	1	1	3	37
18TH/9TH C PLAIN SPUR											1	1
SPUR MARKED JS OR SJ				1								1
SPURRED 1660-80;BROWN STAINED				1								1
SPURRED DECORATED BOWL;INDECIPHERABLE LETTERS ON SPUR								1				1
STEM MARKED 'GNER' AND 'LAND..'				1								1
Grand Total	6	1	3	7	1	1	23	6	1	1	4	54

A single complete bowl was recovered, from Section 9. This bowl was of the spurred type typical of London in the period c.1660-80 and corresponding to Atkinson's Southampton type 4 (Atkinson 1975, Fig 276 No.4) which he dates broadly to c.1630-70.

Three other marked fragments were found, all of 19th century type. Two come from pipes with small spurs with initials on either side, one of these is definitely from a pipe with a decorated bowl (Section 13a) and on the other only the spur survives, with the initials J and S on either side. The third fragment is from a marked stem. The surviving inscription reads 'GNER' on one side and 'LAND' on the other. No placename ending 'GNER' could be found and therefore this is probably the last four letters of the maker's name. There are several places with names starting LAND.. but apart from Landford none of these is in Hampshire or south central England.

The pipe fragments were mainly quite small, and some had abraded ends and had clearly been exposed to chemical and mechanical erosion. The largest fragment was the 17th-century pipe bowl from Section 9 but even this pipe was heavily iron-stained.

Assessment

None of the pipes necessarily suggest the presence of disturbed occupation deposits with the possible exception of that from Section 9 since it is exceptional for a fragile clay pipe to survive in such good condition in ploughsoil.

Bibliography

Atkinson, D. R. (1975) "The Clay Tobacco Pipes'." in C Platt and R Coleman-Smith, eds., *Excavations in Medieval Southampton 1953-69 2*, Leicester University Press, Leicester, 344-9