

Assessment of the finds from Balham (BHK03)

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Ten objects from an archaeological evaluation at Balham undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services were submitted for identification and assessment (Sitecode BHK03).

The finds came from five contexts and consisted of ceramic building material, glass, pottery and stone (Table 1). All are likely to date to the 19th or 20th century.

| Class | 1005 | 1011 | 1013 | 1015 | 1017 | Grand Total |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| CBM | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| PMGL | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| POTTERY | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| STONE | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Grand Total | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 10 |

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of brick were recovered. One, a tiny scrap from context 1013, came from a mortared brick with abundant subangular quartz sand temper. The other, from context 1005, had a coarser texture including shale, angular flint and angular purple slag inclusions alongside a subangular quartz sand. The latter is certainly of modern (i.e. late 19th-century or later) date whilst the former might be earlier.

Glass

Three fragments of glass were recovered from context 1017. They consist of one plain fragment of colourless window glass, one fragment of colourless reeded window glass and one fragment from a tall moulded bottle in dark green coloured glass. All are likely to be of modern date and the reeded window glass is likely to be of early 20th-century or later date.

Pottery

Three fragments of red earthenware flowerpot were found, in contexts 1011, 1015 and 1017. The thin walls and general appearance suggests a later 19th-century or later date.

Stone

Two fragments of stone were recovered. The first, from context 1013, is a small speck of coal. The coal is high quality with conchoidal fractures and was undoubtedly brought to the site for use as fuel. The second fragment, from context 1017, is a sliver of dark grey roofing slate from North Devon or, less likely, from North Wales.

Assessment

All of the finds are typical of late 19th to 20th-century domestic and building debris. The lack of domestic pottery and animal bone may suggest that the collection post-dates the introduction of communal waste disposal in the late 19th century whilst the flowerpots suggest the presence of a garden.

Little would be gained by retaining these finds.

Appendix One

| Context | Description | DATE | Cname | Form | Nosh | NoV | Subfabric | Part Weight | Sitecode | Use | Condition | class |
|---------|----------------------|------|-------|------|------|-----|--|-------------|----------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| 1005 | MOD PMTIL BRICK1 | | | | 1 | | ANG FLINT >2.0MM;ANG PURPLE SLAG >5.0MM;A SA Q >1.0MM | BS 7 | bhk03 | | | CBM |
| 1011 | MOD PMLOCFLP | | | | 1 | 1 | | R 11 | bhk03 | | | POTTERY |
| 1013 | MOD PMTIL BRICK1 | | | | 1 | | A SA Q >1.0MM | BS 1 | bhk03 | MORTAR | SMALL REDSPECK | CBM |
| 1013 | MOD STONECOAL | | | | 1 | 1 | GLOSSY;CONCHOIDAL FRACTURE | BS 1 | bhk03 | | SMALL SPECK | STONE |
| 1015 | MOD PMLOCFLP | | | | 1 | 1 | | BS 10 | bhk03 | | | POTTERY |
| 1017 | REEDED MOD PMGL WIND | | | | 1 | 1 | CLEAR | BS 7 | bhk03 | | | PMGL |
| 1017 | MOD PMGL WIND | | | | 1 | 1 | CLEAR | BS 5 | bhk03 | | | PMGL |
| 1017 | TALL MOD PMGL BOT | | | | 1 | 1 | DKGR | BS 9 | bhk03 | | | PMGL |
| 1017 | MOD PMLOCFLP | | | | 1 | 1 | | R 18 | bhk03 | | | POTTERY |
| 1017 | MOD STONEROOF | | | | 1 | 1 | DK GREY SLATE | BS 1 | bhk03 | | | STONE |