

## Assessment of the pottery from an excavation at Dursley, Gloucestershire (PSD03)

Forty-two fragments from an excavation at Dursley carried out by *110 Archaeology* were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code PSD03). They consisted of one piece of modern concrete, 11 fragments of ceramic building material and 20 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

As a group, the collection ranges in date from the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century to the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the majority being of late medieval and early post-medieval date (c.1350 to 1550).

### Description

#### Pottery

Thirty sherds of pottery were recovered (Table 1). Most of these are of types recorded in Gloucester and their Gloucester Type Fabric numbers are given in Table 1. They range in date from the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century through to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The condition of the sherds is good with little sign of abrasion but the sherds of earlier medieval and late post-medieval date are noticeably smaller than those of late medieval to early post-medieval date. This may suggest chronological changes in the use of the site.

**Table 1**

Date	GlosCode TF	BOWL	CHAFCUP/JUG	DISH	FLANGED	JAR	JUG	JUG/JAR	CUP	PIP	PLATE	TETP	Grand Total
Medieval	41B GLOS41B					1						1	2
	43 GLOS43											2	2
Medieval to Late Medieval	44 MINETY	1				9	2	2					14
Late Medieval	52 HERB4		1								1		2
	65 TUDG		2							1			3
Early Post- medieval	57 SSOM	2			1		2						5
Later Post- medieval	80 AK	1											1
	62 TGW										1		1

#### 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery

Six sherds of pottery of three fabric groups could be dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. All six were handmade. The fabric groups are TF41B, probably made in the Vale of Gloucester, TF43, also a

Severn Valley product, and TF44, Minety ware, which was produced on the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire border.

All three fabrics are common on sites in the Severn Valley around Stroud. The lack of wares from further north (Malvern Chase and Worcester) and further south (Ham Green) is probably not significant in such a small collection.

There is an absence of pottery specifically dating to the later 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries although it is possible that the later medieval pottery from the site includes some sherds which date to this period.

### Late 14<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century

Twenty-two sherds date from the late medieval to early post-medieval periods. The most common fabric is, again, TF44, Minety ware, but these vessels are all wheelthrown and have very little glaze, both features of the late medieval industry, which seems to have continued to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Two sherds of TF52, Malvern Chase, ware produced in the Malvern Chase, centred on Hanley Castle, were present. Their forms are a pipkin and a plain-walled dish. Both of these are later medieval forms. Three sherds of Tudor Green ware, TF65, were found. This ware was produced at a number of sites in the Hampshire/Surrey border and traded widely in southern England. Two of these come from a jug or cup with no external glaze and a copper-green internal glaze. Depending on the complete form, this vessel might be 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. The third sherd comes from a vessel with thicker walls and a yellow external glaze and copper-green internal glaze. It is likely to be a lobed cup and is probably of late medieval date. The remaining 5 sherds are of South Somerset ware, TF57. One of these sherds is a bowl with an internal white slip and clear glaze and may be of later 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>-century date whilst the remainder are not diagnostic types and could be of later 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

The predominance of Minety ware in this collection is in agreement with other evidence for the late medieval success of this industry.

### Later 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century

A single sherd of Ashton Keynes ware, TF80, was present. The sherd comes from an internally-glazed bowl and is likely to be of later 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date. A burnt fragment from a tin-glazed plate has a base profile which dates to the later 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Ceramic Building Material

Eleven fragments of ceramic building material were present. All came from glazed ridge tiles. Three different fabrics were present, one of which was unrecognised (Gloucester TF50). The other two were Minety and a Welsh Borderland ware, TF54. This latter ware was produced using Devonian marl, which outcrops extensively from Monmouthshire through Gloucestershire and Herefordshire and into Shropshire. One of the sherds contains abundant very fine mica, a feature noted on some examples from the Forest of Dean and Chepstow. The Minety tiles include examples with undecorated, hand

formed crests and examples with hand formed crests with small knife stabs on both sides of the crest, suggesting that there are at least two separate consignments of Minety ridge tiles present. The presence of four groups of ridge tiles within such a small collection suggests either that more than one roof was present on the site or that a single roof underwent a number of renovations.

Although the assemblage is very small and most of the groups are definitely mixed the earliest possible date of deposition for each context is given in table 2.

Context	<i>TPQ</i>	Comments
100	Later 16 <sup>th</sup> C	Mostly late medieval sherds
101	Late medieval	
102	Modern (concrete), otherwise late 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century	Mostly late medieval sherds
103	Late medieval	
104	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century	Mostly late medieval sherds

**Appendix: List of Identified Pottery**

Context	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description
100	GLOS41B		JAR	1	1	7HM	
100	HERB4		DISH	1	1	26INT SPLASH GL	
100	MINETY		JAR	1	1	28WT	
100	MINETY		JUG/JAR	1	1	6WT;UNGLAZED	
100	MINETY		JUG	1	1	12WT;UNGLAZED	
100	MINETY		CHAF	1	1	22RIDGE BELOW RIM;DIAMOND OR TRIANG CUTOUT IN BODY	
100	MINETY HM		JAR	1	1	15HM?;PLAIN GL INT	
100	SSOM		JAR	1	1	17GL INT AND EXT	
100	TUDG		CUP/JUG	2	1	8INT CUGL;D-SECTIONED HANDLE	
101	GLOS41B		TP	1	1	14EXT SPLASH GL	
101	HERA7B		RIDGE	1	1	57PLAIN GL	
101	MEDLOC		RIDGE	1	1	92CU GL;KC CREST;CIRCULAR STAB ON ONE SIDE	
101	MINETY		RIDGE	1	1	HANDFORMED CRESTS;STABBED BOTH SIDES (3-TIMES AND 2-154TIMES);PLAIN GL	
101	MINETY		JAR	1	1	67WT;EXT SPLASH GL	
101	MINETY HM		JAR	1	1	7HM;HORIZ COMBING	
102	AK		BOWL	1	1	15INT GL	
102	CONCRETE			1	1	30	
102	HERA7B	V MICACEOUS	RIDGE	1	1	230KC CRESTS;CIRCULAR STABS ON ONE SIDE;SPLASHED PLAIN GL	
102	HERB4		PIP	1	1	26SPLASHES OF GLAZE INT	

Context	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description
102	MINETY		JAR	1	1	15WT;EVERTED RIM;GLAZE SPLASH INT	
102	MINETY		JUG/JAR	1	1	33WT;GLOB BODY;GLAZE SPLASH AT NECK	
102	MINETY		RIDGE	3	3	320HANDFORMED CREST;DIAGONAL GROOVE/COMB	
102	MINETY		RIDGE	3	3	234HANDFORMED CREST	
102	MINETY		RIDGE	1	1	87	
102	SSOM		JAR	1	1	12GROOVE AT GIRTH;INT GL;EXT GL UPPER BODY	
102	SSOM		FLANGED BOWL	1	1	22FLANGED	
102	TGW		PLATE	1	1	4	
103	MINETY		JAR	1	1	36PLAIN GL ON INSIDE OF RIM;SELSLEY COMMON RIM	
103	TUDG		LCUP	1	1	3INT CUGL;EXT PLAIN GL	
104	GLOS43		TP	2	2	12	
104	MINETY		JAR	1	1	4WT	
104	MINETY		JAR	1	1	40WT	
104	MINETY		JAR	1	1	18WT	
104	MINETY		JUG	1	1	26STRAP HANDLE;DIAG SLASHES;UNGLAZED;LMED?	
104	SSOM		BOWL	1	1	76INT PLAIN GL	
104	SSOM		BOWL	1	1	30INT WHITE SLIPPED;INT PLAIN GL	