

Assessment of the post-Roman ceramics from Site 4, Chalgrove to East Ilsley Natural Gas Pipeline CEI02)

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Seventy sherds of pottery, representing no more than 53 vessels and weighing 1.332kg, were recovered from Site 4 on the Chalgrove to East Ilsley Natural Gas Pipeline watching brief carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd. The finds mainly came from an excavation in which three phases of post-medieval to modern activity were identified (Periods 3.1, 3.2 and 4). There was also a small collection of pottery recovered from the watching brief (contexts 20001 and 20002).

Quantification of Assemblage

Table 1 shows the breakdown of pottery by period and ware.

Table 1

PHASE	Data	PMLOC	RPOT?	TPW	VERW	Grand Total
3.1	Nosh	11			1	12
	NoV	7			1	8
	Weight	287			68	355
3.2	Nosh	11				13
	NoV	10				12
	Weight	210				214
4	Nosh	28		2		31
	NoV	17		2		20
	Weight	671		3		676
WB	Nosh	6	2	1		9
	NoV	6	2	1		9
	Weight	51	0	3		54
	Nosh	5				5
	NoV	4				4
	Weight	33				33
Total Sum of Nosh		61	2	3	1	67
Total Sum of NoV		44	2	3	1	50
Total Sum of Weight		1252	0	6	68	1326

Post-medieval pottery

61 sherds of post-medieval redware (PMLOC) and one sherd of Verwood ware were recovered. The PMLOC vessels from the excavation were all examined at x20 magnification using a binocular

microscope and three fabric groups were noted: a fine, silty, micaceous clay with numerous small dark inclusions, a fine micaceous clay with no visible quartz inclusions and a sandy, non-micaceous clay. All the sherds from Periods 3.1 and 3.2 were of the first of these fabrics, thought to indicate a Gault clay source.

Several different forms were recognised in the collection:

- Large conical bowls, or pancheons, mainly with a flanged rim (PANC)
- Large bowls with vertical walls and a squared rim (STRAIGHT-WALLED BOWL)
- Jugs with a globular body, footring base and cylindrical neck (JUG)
- Chamber pots with globular bodies and footring bases (CHP)
- Jars (JAR)
- Posset pots with flaring walls and a footring base (POSS)
- Unidentified forms

A brown or red slip was noted on many vessels. Slip decoration of two types was noted. Slip trailing of white slip was present on one sherd, a bowl. Marbled slip, with copper-staining used in some of the slips, was present on six vessels, including one with a micaceous quartz-free fabric. An overall white slip decorated with a mottled brown glaze was noted on one bowl.

Table 2 shows the distribution of these forms by period.

Table 2

PHASE	Data	-	BOWL	CHP	JAR	JUG	PANC	POSS	STRAIGHT-WALLED BOWL	Grand Total
3.1	Nosh		3		1		1	5	1	11
	NoV		3		1		1	1	1	7
	Weight		136		11		65	25	50	287
3.2	Nosh		9				2			11
	NoV		9				1			10
	Weight		145				65			210
4	Nosh	3	10	7		4			9	33
	NoV	2	9	2		3			5	21
	Weight	72	86	102		62			382	704

WB	Nosh	5	1						6	
	NoV	5	1						6	
	Weight	45	6						51	
Total	Nosh	3	27	7	2	4	3	5	10	61
Total	NoV	2	26	2	2	3	2	1	6	44
Total	Weight	72	412	102	17	62	130	25	432	1252

The Verwood vessel is a large bowl with an internal glaze.

There is considerable variation in the condition of these sherds, ranging from fresh breaks, large sherds and several sherds from a vessel present to very abraded (Table 3). The quantity of abraded sherds increases from Period 3.1 to 3.2 and in Period 4 some of the sherds are very abraded. There are, however, a number of fresh sherds in Period 4 contexts, but these are noted as being cleaning layers and it is likely that these fresh sherds come from earlier deposits.

Table 3

PHASE	Data	FRESH	ABR	SPALLED INT GL	VABR	Grand Total	
3.1	Nosh	10	1			11	
	NoV	6	1			7	
	Weight	263	24			287	
3.2	Nosh	3	8			11	
	NoV	2	8			10	
	Weight	86	124			210	
4	Nosh	24	5		1	3	33
	NoV	13	4		1	3	21
	Weight	638	26		18	22	704
WB	Nosh	1	5				6
	NoV	1	5				6
	Weight	6	45				51
Total Sum of Nosh		38	19		1	3	61
Total Sum of NoV		22	18		1	3	44
Total Sum of Weight		993	219		18	22	1252

Early Modern

Sherds of transfer-printed ware cups and plates were present in Period 4 and the watching brief.

Discussion

It is difficult to give a precise date to this pottery sequence but there are no sherds which are definitely of 16th-century date and several of these types are unlikely to have been produced before the mid 17th century. These include a marbled slipware plate or bowl and a black-glazed posset pot, both from Period 3.1. It is likely that much of the pottery in Period 3.2 deposits is also derived from Period 3.1 but there are two fresh PMLOC bowls, one represented by joining sherds. The pottery found in Period 4 deposits not only includes 19th-century Transfer-printed wares but also some extremely abraded and definitely residual earthenwares.

It is suggested, therefore, that Period 3.1 dates to the mid 17th century, Period 3.2 is undated and Period 4 is of 19th- century date.

Recommendations for Further Work

Several of the vessels could be reconstructed to provide type examples of the various forms present. A total of 9 drawings are recommended. Cost, including illustration by C Bentley of Network Archaeology and checking by A Vince is £176.

Provision of a catalogue and detailed discussion of the comparanda. 4 hours = £88 plus VAT.