

Assessment of the Pottery from the Cotswold House Hotel, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (CHH04)

Five sherds of pottery from archaeological investigations carried out at the Cotswold House Hotel, Chipping Campden by 110 Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment. All are of medieval date, ranging from the 12th to the 14th or 15th centuries. The sherds were catalogued using the author's standard protocol which conforms to the Medieval Pottery Research Group best practice (Table 1).

Description

Medieval Pottery

The earliest sherd present is probably the unstratified tripod pitcher handle. This vessel was made in a light-firing, sandy, fabric, possibly Oxford Fabric Y (OXY). The handle might have been made from three pieces of clay, two of which were circular-sectioned rolls surrounded by the third. All three were then smoothed together and decorated with stabbed impressions running centrally down the back of the handle and flanked by vertical grooves (1994).

Two sherds of Malvern Chase wares were present (Vince 1977). They consist of a handmade jar (HERB1) and a wheelthrown jug or jar (HERB4), made in a sandy fabric typical of the later medieval period (i.e. late 14th or 15th century). A sherd of Worcester glazed ware jug was present (WORCS, 1984). The final sherd is from a white slip-decorated redware jug. The fabric has a fine, micaceous, groundmass with rounded quartz sand inclusions and is similar to products of the Deritend, Birmingham, kiln (see http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/GenerateContent?CONTENT_ITEM_ID=14125&CONTENT_ITEM_TYPE=0&MENU_ID=11476&EXPAND=1485).

Assessment

These sherds indicate that Chipping Campden had trading connections to the west, down the Warwickshire Avon to Malvern Chase and Worcester, to the south and possibly to the north.

Stratigraphy

Context 210, from which all but one of the sherds was recovered, appears to be dated to the late medieval period through the presence of one sherd of Malvern Chase ware. Without this sherd, it would be dated to the early 13th century or later.

The unstratified sherd is probably of earlier date.

Retention

The pottery is either stratified or of intrinsic interest and therefore should be retained for future study.

Further study

No further work is recommended at the present time on this collection.

Table 1

Trench	Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
	210	HERB1		JAR	BS	HM	1	1	15	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
	210	WORCS		JUG	BS		1	1	13		
	210	HERB4	SANDY	JUG/JAR	BS	LOOKS LATE MED	1	1	3		FRESH
	210	MEDX	M RQ (TRIASSIC?);MICACEOUS FINE-TEXTURED GROUNDMASS	JUG	BS	APPLIED WHITE STRIPS, SMEARED ONTO BODY;CF DERITEND	1	1	5		
TR 1	US	OXY		TP	H	STRAP HANDLE, POSSIBLY COMPOSITE;CENTRAL VERT LINE OF SLASHES WITH GROOVED LINES AT EITHER SIDE;PLAIN GL;PLUGGED B/H	1	1	54		

Bibliography

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Vince, A. G. (1977) "The Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Industry of the Malvern Region; the study of a ware and its distribution." in D. P. S. Peacock, ed., *Pottery and Early Commerce*, Academic Press, London, 257-305.

Vince, A. G. (1984) *The Medieval Ceramic Industry of the Severn Valley*, Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Southampton.