

Assessment of the pottery from Site TRC 04, Bath

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Three sherds of pottery and a piece of fired clay from an archaeological excavation in central Bath (site code TRC 04) were submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds come from two separate fills in a large cut filled with fairly homogenous dark greyish brown clay containing frequent animal bone and charcoal, but almost no pottery.

This low pottery frequency might suggest an early date for the backfill but the finds are in fact consistent with an 11th to 13th-century date. The lack of pottery and high quantity of bone may therefore reflect the function of the cut and the origin of the material used to backfill it.

Description

Fired clay

The single piece of fired clay was recovered from context 14. The fabric contains abundant voids from burnt-out plant leaves or stems and contains sparse angular fragments of a fine-grained sandstone and oolitic limestone. The groundmass contains abundant quartz silt with moderate flakes of muscovite. Although somewhat abraded, there is a hint that the fragment had a flat surface and the impression of a single wattle.

Pottery

Three pieces of pottery were recovered, two from context 6 and one from context 14. All three are of Bath Fabric A and none are of the calcareous variant which appears to be more common in late Saxon/early medieval assemblages. Two of the sherds are from jars used for cooking, and that from context 14 has kettle fur on the interior and sooting on the exterior, whilst the remaining sherd probably comes from a spouted pitcher, a form which appears to range in date from the pre-conquest 11th century to the middle of the 12th century.

Assessment

The finds are consistent with an 11th to 12th-century deposition date. Urban houses of that period often had wattle and daub walls, either used as panels between earth-set posts or forming the entire wall, presumably with posts supporting the roof.

Appendix 1

Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
06	BATHA		SPP?	R		1	1	5	SPALLED INT
06	BATHA		JAR	BS		1	1	8	

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Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
14	BATHA		JAR	BS		1	1	3	SOOTED EXT;KETTLE FUR INT
14	FCLAY	A SA Q <0.1MM;S SS FINE SST (JURASSIC?)< 2.0MM;S SA OOLITIC LST <2.0MM	DAUB	BS	PROBABLE WATTLE IMPRESSION	1	1	11	