

Assessment of the Clay Tobacco Pipes from Star Glaze Waterside South, Lincoln (WSLI 05)

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A small collection of clay tobacco pipes was recovered from archaeological fieldwork carried out at Waterside South, Lincoln, by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincolnshire) Ltd. The collection includes a wig curler, of later 17th or 18th-century date, 18th-century pipe bowl fragments and the bowl of a decorated, Lincoln-made pipe dating to the mid 19th century.

Description

Table 1

Context	Form	Frag	Weight	Comments	Part
116	PIPE	1	7	CF MANN NO.195 BUT DIFFERENT MOULD	BOWL
116	WIG CURLER	1	7	DUMBBELL SHAPED	END
116	PIPE	1	2	L18TH/29TH PLAIN BOWL RIM	BOWL
116	PIPE	1	4	17THC BORE DIAM	STEM
116	PIPE	2	9	L17TH/18THC BORE DIAM	STEM
203	PIPE	1	4	MANN NO.154	BOWL
203	PIPE	1	11	MANN NO.154	BOWL

Nine fragments of pipe were recovered. These include three stems which can be broadly dated by their bore diameters. One is probably of early to mid 17th-century date and two of later 17th to 18th-century date. Three fragments of undecorated bowls were recovered. Two from context 203 are similar to Mann's Type 154 (1977) and the third is a fragment of bowl rim, not closely datable but probably 18th/19th century.

A single fragment of decorated pipe bowl was recovered. This is of a common mid-19th-century type featuring Indians (Native Americans) supporting a coat of arms, usually those of the originating city. The piece is similar to Mann's No.195 but is from a different mould. A cartouche below each figure containing upper case lettering. One has the work LINCOLN, with the N characters reversed whilst the other is illegible. The front seam of the bowl is plain, unlike No.195 which has foliage moulding. Mann catalogues seven different moulds used for these Indian pipes from excavations in Lincoln but this example differs from all of them.

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<http://www.avac.uklinux/potcat/pdfs/avac2005000.pdf>

A single fragment of wig curler was recovered. The dumbbell shape is the most common found. Such curlers are found mainly in late 17th and 18th-century contexts, and this coincides with the fashion for full bottomed wigs. Later 18th-century wigs were shorter, plainer and probably required few, if any, curlers. Even in their heyday, these wigs were expensive and would have been restricted to the well-off.

Assessment

The pipes provide termini post quem for the two contexts they were found in. Context 116 dates from the mid 19th century or later (but contains earlier pipes as well) whilst context 203 dates to the mid 18th century or later.

The collection comes from stratified contexts and should be retained for potential future study. The decorated bowl deserves more study, but as part of a larger revision/updating of Mann's work on the clay pipes of Lincoln.

Bibliography

Mann, J E (1977) *Clay tobacco pipes from excavations in Lincoln 1970-74*. The Archaeology of Lincoln 15-1 London, Council British Archaeol.