

Assessment of Finds from Bridge Street, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire (BSB – 14)

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A collection of pottery, ceramic building material and two fragments of leather from excavations carried out at Bridge Street, Buckingham, by Network Archaeology Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment. The finds range in date from the 12th or 13th century onwards, with a possible fragment of Roman pottery.

Description

The finds consist of ceramic building material, pottery and leather (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	23	20	1926
CBM?	1	1	32
LEAT	2	2	19
POTTERY	100	96	909
Grand Total	126	119	2886

Ceramic Building Material

Twenty three definite fragments of ceramic building material and one possible piece were recorded. The majority of the pieces were unglazed sand-tempered bricks and tiles but three fragments of a tile with a flange, whose overall shape is unknown, had a plain glaze on the upper surface. In addition, a fragment of glazed ceramic was either a post-medieval rectangular dish base or a fragment of glazed roof tile, probably a ridge tile. The fragments have been coded as being medieval (MTIL) but could easily be of post-medieval date.

Table 2

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
GRE	RIDGE OR RECT DISH	1	1	32
GRE Total		1	1	32
MTIL	BRICK	2	2	903
	FLANGED TILE	3	1	86
	FLAT	18	17	937
MTIL Total		23	20	1926
Grand Total		24	21	1958

Leather

Methodology

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

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<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006006.pdf>

The leather was washed and wet when examined. Species identification was made using low powered magnification.

Summary

A length cut from a strap, or possibly a wide trimming, and a piece of primary waste were recovered from trench 8 context 806. The primary waste is an unusable area cut from the edge of a tanned cattle hide and discarded. Neither can be independently dated but do provide evidence for leatherworking.

A basic record of the leather has been made (see catalogue below): no further work is required.

Catalogue

BSB14 Trench 8 Context 806: Leather strap, plain strap with cut sides, a straight cut end and a skived end, tapering slightly in width toward the skived end. One side of the strap is slightly irregular suggesting that it may be a wide trimming. Cattle hide 4mm thick. Length 121mm, width 14-16mm.

BSB14 Trench 8 Context 806: Leather primary waste, hide edge. Cattle hide 2.5mm thick. Length 225mm, width 50mm

Pottery

Sixty-four sherds of pottery were recorded, of which one was possibly of Roman date, 27 of medieval date, twenty-one of post-medieval date and fifteen of late 18th-century or later date (Table 3).

Table 3

group	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
rom	1	1	5
med	27	24	379
pmed	21	20	375
emod	15	15	150
Grand Total	64	60	909

Roman

A very abraded sherd of oxidized wheelthrown ware from Trench 7, Ditch 700, was possibly of Roman date. It was a featureless body sherd from a jar.

Medieval

Twenty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recorded representing no more than 24 vessels and weighing 379 gm. Nineteen of these sherds could be identified and are of types well-known in Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties: Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM); Potterspury ware (POTTERSURY) and Hertfordshire Reduced ware (SHER). The latter,

SHER, is a tradition rather than the product of a single industry and without further work cannot be assigned to a source. The remaining 8 sherds could not be identified and their fabrics are described in Table 4.

Table 4

Fabric	Cname	Colour	Inclusions	Groundmass	Interpretation
FAB01	MEDLOC	10YR 6/4 Light yellowish brown	Abundant rounded quartz < 0.2mm. Some polished grains.	Fine quartz and muscovite silt	
FAB02	MEDLOC	7.4YR 6/4 Light brown	Abundant subangular quartz < 0.2mm. Moderate red clay/iron pellets. Sparse bivalve shell < 1.0mm.	Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB03	MEDLOC	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	Abundant rounded quartz < 0.5mm. Some polished grains. Sparse angular flint < 0.5mm.	Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB04	MEDLOC	Grey with dark grey core	Abundant rounded quartz <0.3mm. some matt grains. Moderate rounded calcareous inclusions <0.3mm. Moderate rounded black iron-rich compound < 0.3mm	Fine-textured with some muscovite.	
FAB05	MEDLOC	2.5YR 5/4 Reddish brown	Sparse rounded polished quartz < 0.5mm.	Silty micaceous.	Cf LLON and SHANTS RED

Jars are by far the most common form represented in the medieval pottery collection. Jugs are the next most common, with bowls forming a poor third.

Post-Medieval

Twenty one sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded (Table 5). The wares present could not, in the main, be attributed to a particular source and are classed according to their manufacturing tradition (Blackwares – BL; Cistercian ware – CSTN; Glazed Red Earthenware – GRE and local post-medieval ware – PMLOC). A single sherd of a Surrey/Hampshire Border ware (BORD) bowl was identified (1992), together with sherds of London Stoneware (LONS), Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS), and Raeren stoneware (RAER).

Few of these wares can be closely dated, but the Raeren stoneware is of late 15th to 16th-century date, as is the Cistercian ware, and the London and Nottingham stonewares cannot be any earlier than the late 17th century (but could be much younger).

Table 5

cname	BOT	BOWL	CUP	JAR	Grand Total
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BL				2	2
BORD		1			1
CSTN			2		2
GRE		6			6
LONS	1			1	2
NOTS				3	3
PMLOC		2			2
PMLOC?				1	1
RAER				1	1
Grand Total	1	9	2	8	20

Early Modern

Sixteen sherds of late 18th century or later pottery were recorded (Table 6). Most of these are factory products of types which have numerous sources, but include a sherd of Derbyshire stoneware, produced at Codnor Park. A few sherds of probably locally made flowerpots also probably date to this period (LPMLOC).

Table 6

cname	?	BOT	BOWL	FLP	JAR	JUG	PLATE	Grand Total
CREA	1		1					2
DERBS		1						1
ENGS					1			1
ENPO							1	1
LPMLOC				2				2
TPW			3			1	3	7
WHITE			1				1	2
Grand Total	1	1	5	2	1	1	5	16

Assessment

Trench 1

Finds were recovered from fourteen contexts in Trench 1. The terminus post quem for each context is shown in Table 7. From these it appears that a watercourse ran through the trench in the post-medieval period. The early tpqs for contexts 114 and 118 need not indicate residual material, since fragments of flat roof tile cannot be closely dated.

Table 7

context	period code	context group	Description
101	EMOD	Remnant cultivation layer	M19+
103	EMOD	Debris layer	M19+
104	EMOD	Debris layer	M19+
106	LMED	Ditch 105	L14+?
108	EMOD	Cinder path for allotment	L18+
109	EMOD	Gravel levelling layer	L18+
110	EMOD	Gravel levelling layer	L18+
111	EMOD	Bank erosion layer	M19+
113	EPMED-EMOD	Thin layer of dump material	L16+
114	EMED-EPMED	Alluvium	M12+
115	EPMED-LPMED	Alluvium	L16+

117	EPMED-EMOD	Debris layer - quarry waste	L16+
118	EMED-EPMED	Debris layer - quarry waste	M12+
121	EPMED	Organic layer - river deposit?	L16+

Trench 2

Finds were recovered from seven contexts in Trench 2 (Table 8). They come from three pits, 209, 223 and 232, and a modern sewer pipe trench. Pit 209 cannot be closely dated, containing only flat roof tile fragments. Pit 223 is datable to the later 16th century or later by the presence of glazed red earthenware sherds. It also produced a brick fragment. Pit 232 can only be broadly dated. It produced a single sherd of medieval jar and fragments of flat roof tile.

Table 8

Context	period code	context group	Description
202	EMOD	Sewer pipe 257	L18+
208	EMED-LMED	Pit 209	M12+
222	EPMED	Pit 223	L16+
225	EPMED	Pit 223	L16+
226	HMED	Pit 223	M13+
230	EMED	Pit 232	M12+
235	EMED	Pit 232	M12+

Trench 3

Finds were recovered from five contexts in Trench 3 (Table 9). Organic layers 308 and 309 can be dated to the late 13th century or later, on the basis of a sherd of Potterspury ware jar from context 308. The remaining contexts date to the post-medieval or later periods.

Table 9

context	period code	context group	Description
300	EMOD	Topsoil	E19+
301	EMOD	Sandy subsoil	L18+
303	LPMED	Stony layer	L17+
308	LMED	Organic layer	L13+
309	EMED	Organic layer	M12+

Trench 4

Finds were recovered from five contexts in Trench 4 (Table 10). Pit 412 can be dated to the late 13th century or later on the basis of a sherd of Potterspury ware jar and Pit 418 can be only be broadly dated since it only produced flat roof tile fragments. The remaining contexts either produced post-medieval or later finds or are stratigraphically later than those producing such finds.

Table 10

context	period code	context group	Description
400	HMED	Topsoil	L13+
401	EMOD	Rubble/levelling layer	M19+

404	EMOD	Dump layer	L18+
411	HMED	Pit 412	L13+
417	EMED	Pit 418	M12+

Trench 5

A single fragment of flowerpot was recovered from context 503, a debris layer, dating deposition to the later 18th century or, probably, later.

Trench 6

Finds were recovered from three contexts in Trench 6. Pit 601 can be dated to the later 13th century or later on the basis of Potterspury ware. The latest finds from Pit 600 are sherds of Cistercian ware, dating deposition to the early 16th century or later and Pit 615 can be dated to the later 16th century or later on the basis of a sherd tentatively identified as a local post-medieval jar.

Table 11

context	period code	context group	Description
602	HMED	Pit 601	L13+
603	EPMED	Pit 600	E16+
616	EPMED	Pit 615	L16+

Trench 7

Context 701, the fill of Ditch 700, produced a single abraded sherd which is tentatively identified as being of Roman date.

Trench 8

Context 802, alluvium, from trench 8 produced the two fragments of leather. These cannot be independently dated but indicate the presence of leatherworking nearby.

Retention

All the finds which come from stratified deposits should be retained for potential further study.

Further Study

No further work is recommended at this stage on these finds, although those listed in Table 4 could possibly be identified by comparison with other material from Buckinghamshire and neighbouring counties.

Bibliography

Pearce, Jacqueline (1992) *Border Wares*. Post-Medieval Pottery in London, 1500-1700
London, HMSO for Museum of London.

Appendix 1

context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
101	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		19	BS				
101	POTTERY	emod	ENGS		JAR	1	1		22	BS				
101	POTTERY	emod	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	BLUE APPLIED SPRIGGING	6	R				
101	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
103	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1	BRISTOL GLAZE INT	1	BS				
103	POTTERY	emod	WHITE		PLATE	1	1		30	B				
103	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
104	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		12	BS				
104	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1	BRISTOL GLAZE INT	15	BS				
104	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		8	BS				
104	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
106	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	2	1		144	BS				
106	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB05	BOWL	1	1		10	BS	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT			
106	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L14+?	0	BS				
108	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		10	BS				
108	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC		FLP	1	1		16	R				
108	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
109	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		7	B				
109	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
110	POTTERY	emod	TPW		JUG	1	1		15	H				
110	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
111	POTTERY	pmed	LONS		JAR	1	1	HONEY COLOURED BRISTOL GLAZE EXT	54	BS				
111	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		3	BS				

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context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
111	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
113	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		61	BS				
113	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
114	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		25	BS				OVERFIRED
114	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
115	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		53	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	BL		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	BORD		BOWL	1	1		13	BS				
115	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1	SLIPPED INT	4	BS				
115	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
117	CBM?		GRE		RIDGE OR RECT DISH	1	1		32	BS				
117	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
118	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		52	BS				
118	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
121	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		81	BS				
121	CBM		MTIL		BRICK	1	1	SALT GLAZE	877	BS		108	42	
121	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	1	1		5	BS				
121	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
202	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	1	1		44	BS				
202	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC	PMLOC	BOWL	1	1		41	B				
202	POTTERY	pmed	RAER		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
202	POTTERY	med	SHER?	M GSQ; S FLINT	JAR	1	1		9	BS				
202	POTTERY	emod	TPW		BOWL	1	1		17	BS				
202	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
208	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB02	JAR/BOWL	1	1		35	BS				

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context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
208	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
222	POTTERY	pmed	GRE		BOWL	3	2		61	BS				
222	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	TRIANGULAR SECTIONED APPLIED STRIPS	14	BS				
222	POTTERY	med	OXAM?		JAR	1	1		7	R				
222	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
225	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	SALT GLAZE	60	BS				OVERFIRED
225	CBM		MTIL		BRICK	1	1	SALT GLAZE	26	BS				OVERFIRED
225	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
226	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEGHOLE 10MM ACROSS	113	BS				
226	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	GLAZE INT/EXT	4	BS				
226	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M13+	0	BS				
230	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	2 ROUND PEGHOLES 32MM APART	59	BS				OVERFIRED
230	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB03	JAR	1	1		9	BS				
230	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
235	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1	ROUND PEGHOLE	56	BS				
235	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
300	POTTERY	emod	DERBS		BOT	1	1		13	BS				
300	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB01	JAR	1	1		35	BS	SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT			
300	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1	FLAT BASE FROM SMALL CONICAL/BICONICAL	19	B				
300	POTTERY	med	SHER	S GSQ	JAR	1	1		40	BS				
300	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		6	R				
300	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	E19+	0	BS				
301	POTTERY	emod	CREA		?	1	1		1	BS				

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context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
301	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
303	POTTERY	pmed	LONS		BOT	1	1		19	B				
303	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L17+	0	BS				
308	CBM		MTIL		FLANGED TILE	3	1	PLAIN GLAZE ON UPPER SURFACE	86	BS				
308	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY	LIGHT- BODIED	JAR	1	1	BIFID RIM	38	R				
308	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L14+	0	BS				
309	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		48	BS				
309	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
400	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY	LIGHT- BODIED	JUG	1	1	WIDE STRAP HANDLE	23	H				
400	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				
401	POTTERY	emod	ENPO		PLATE	1	1		1	BS				
401	POTTERY	pmed	NOTS		JAR	1	1		5	BS				
401	POTTERY	emod	TPW		PLATE	1	1		3	BS				
401	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M19+	0	BS				
404	POTTERY	pmed	BL		JAR	1	1		1	BS				
404	POTTERY	emod	CREA		BOWL	1	1		2	BS				
404	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		3	BS				
404	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		4	BS				
404	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
411	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		97	BS				
411	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	FAB04	JAR	1	1		2	BS				
411	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY	LIGHT- BODIED	JAR	4	1		39	B;BS				
411	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				

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context	class	group	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Part	Use	B	TH	Condition
417	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		53	BS				
417	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	M12+	0	BS				
503	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC	LPMLOC	FLP	1	1		14	B				
503	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L18+	0	BS				
602	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		32	BS				
602	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY	LIGHT-BODIED	JUG	1	1		8	B				
602	POTTERY	med	SHER		JAR	1	1		8	BS				
602	POTTERY	med	SHER		JAR	1	1		3	BS				
602	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L13+	0	BS				
603	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		16	BS				
603	POTTERY	pmed	CSTN		CUP	2	2		20	B;BS				
603	POTTERY	med	OXAM		JUG	1	1		3	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY		JUG	1	1	CUJL EXT	18	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY		BOWL	1	1		24	BS				
603	POTTERY	med	POTTERSURY		JAR	1	1		19	BS				
603	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	E16+	0	BS				
616	CBM		MTIL		FLAT	1	1		17	BS				
616	POTTERY	pmed	PMLOC?	PMLOC?	JAR	1	1		2	BS				
616	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L16+	0	BS				
701	POTTERY	rom	RPOT?	RPOT?	JAR	1	1		5	BS				VABR
701	POTTERY	comment	ZDATE			1	1	L1+	0	BS				
802	LEAT		LEAT		SCRAP	1	1		15	BS				
802	LEAT		LEAT		STRIP	1	1		4	BS				