

Assessment of finds from Horncastle Road, Boston (HRBO-05)

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A small collection of finds from excavations at Horncastle Road, Boston, carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment. A collection of iron and/or slag fragments could not be identified or assessed without radiography. The remaining finds (Table 1), where datable, are of post-medieval date, the earliest being of earlier 17th-century date.

Table 1

class	Object	001	005	015	038	041	Grand Total
CTP	PIPE	2		1			3
PMGL	BOT		1				1
	WINEGLASS					1	1
STONE	WASTE				1		1
Grand Total		2	1	1	1	1	6

Description

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Three fragments of pipe stem were recorded. Two of these have bore diameters which suggest an early to mid 17th century date and one has a bore diameter suggestive of a later 17th or 18th century date. The pipeclay contains no visible inclusions at x20 magnification and is probably Tertiary ball clay from southern England.

Glassware

A chip of dark green bottle glass was recorded. The lack of weathering products suggests a mid 18th century or later date.

The solid stem of a wine glass was recorded. Such vessels were produced from the later 17th century onwards. At x20 magnification parallel scratch marks are visible, indicating that it had been cleaned with a scouring material.

Iron

Six bags containing corroded iron objects and, probably, slag were submitted. They cannot be assessed without radiography and, if the xray plate suggests that the object is slag, washing.

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

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006070.pdf>

Stone

A single fragment of organic shale with impressions of several plant fossils was recorded. The thickness of the fragment is similar to medieval and later roof slates but it is more likely that this is a fragment of Coal Measures shale, either of Carboniferous or Middle Jurassic origin.

Assessment

The clay tobacco pipe stems and glassware are all post-medieval in date and the iron and stone can probably only be dated by their content.

The iron and/or slag require xradiography providing that their archaeological context will allow the items to be dated. Even if unstratified, it might be worthwhile xraying the iron since it is possible that the collection may contain identifiable and datable objects which add to the archaeological knowledge of the site.

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Object	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Description
001	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	8	BS	4.0MM BORE DIAM;EM17TH
001	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	3	BS	3.5MM BORE DIAM;EM17TH
005	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1	1	1	BS	
015	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	4	BS	3.0-3.4MM BORE DIAM;L17TH/18TH C
038	STONE	STONE	BLACK FOSSILIFEROUS SHALE	WASTE	1	1	42	BS	
041	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	WINEGLASS	1	1	11	BS	SOLID STEM