

Assessment of the Finds from Priestley Office Supplies, King Street, Halifax, West Yorkshire (OSA06 EV18)

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A small collection of finds from an archaeological evaluation at Priestley Office Supplies, King Street, Halifax, undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment. Where datable, the finds are of post-medieval and later date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of a salt-glazed stoneware drain pipe was recovered from context 3006 and two fragments were recovered from context 2008. Such drains are unlikely to be earlier than the late 19th century.

Pottery

Sixteen sherds of pottery were recovered.

Post-medieval

Seven sherds of types which could have been made in the mid 18th century or earlier were present. However, in most cases the types continued to be produced and used alongside refined wares in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

The types found are blackware (BL); slipped ware (SLIP); press-moulded slipware (STCO) and mottled ware (STMO). The latter types were probably not made later than c.1800.

Early Modern

Nine sherds of late 18th century or later date were present. They mostly consist of Pearlware and Transfer-printed ware, types which were introduced in the 1770s and rapidly became the most common pottery types used in the country. A single sherd of stoneware, of unknown origin, comes from a jar.

Assessment

Stratigraphy

The finds indicate that there was some activity on the site in the mid 18th century. However, whether the housing represented by wall 2015 in Trench 2 dates to that period or the sherds relate to earlier activity is unclear. The buildings seem to have been in use in the late 18th to 19th century and there are no finds associated with them which need to be later than c.1850.

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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/avac2006117.pdf>

Trench 2

Eighteen fragments of pottery and drain were recovered from Trench 2 deposits (Table 1).

The earliest stratified material comes from wall 2015 and consists of two sherds of post-medieval pottery probably dating to the very late 17th to the mid 18th century.

A single sherd of a transfer-printed ware mug with a transfer print of a camel was recovered from context 2011, the make-up for flag floor 2007, which is later in date to flag floor 2006 which runs up to wall 2015. It might be possible to date this sherd more closely but it is certainly later than c.1770.

The remaining sherds come from a turf level outside wall 2015 which is only sealed by modern dumping, 2001. The turf level contains two stoneware drain fragments and cannot therefore have been sealed until the late 19th century.

Table 1

Context	BL	ENGS	PEAR	SLIP	STCO	STMO	TPW	Grand Total
2001	1		1	2			1	5
2008		3	2	2			3	10
2011							1	1
2015					1	1		2
Grand Total	1	3	3	4	1	1	5	18

Trench 3

The only find from this trench was a fragment of stoneware drain from the backfill of quarry 3006.

Retention

The stratified finds should be retained for future study. Those from contexts 2001, 2008 and 2006 could be discarded.

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
2001	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	BS	1	1	1	
2001	POTTERY	PEAR	BLUE FEATHERED EDGE	PLATE	R	1	1	4	
2001	POTTERY	BL		JAR	BS	1	1	8	
2001	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	B	1	1	14	
2001	POTTERY	SLIP	BASE DIA 100	JAR	B	1	1	71	
2008	POTTERY	PEAR		BOWL	BS	1	1	1	
2008	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	BS	1	1	2	
2008	POTTERY	TPW		BOWL	BS	1	1	2	
2008	POTTERY	ENGS		JAR	BS	1	1	2	
2008	POTTERY	TPW		JUG	BS	2	2	7	

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2008	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	R	1	1	8	
2008	POTTERY	PEAR		JUG	H	1	1	9	
2008	CBM	ENG		DRAIN	BS	2	2	66	
2011	POTTERY	TPW	IMAGE OF THE REAR OF A CAMEL	MUG	BS	1	1	20	
2015	POTTERY	STCO	WHITE SLIP DEC UNDER CLEAR GLAZE	DISH	BS	1	1	6	
2015	POTTERY	STMO		BOWL	PROF	1	1	58	SLIGHT SOOTING EXT
3006	CBM	ENG		DRAIN	BS	1	1	52	