

Assessment of the Finds from Bed Nightclub, Sheffield (OSA06 EV11)

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A collection of finds recovered from an archaeological evaluation at the Bed Nightclub, Sheffield, undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

The finds are a mixed collection, predominantly pottery, clay tobacco pipes and slag, and mainly date from the 17th century and later. However, two contexts produced only medieval finds.

The finds have been assessed without the benefit of stratigraphic information and it is possible that the potential of some intrinsically undatable finds, which can only be dated by stratigraphic association, has therefore been underplayed.

Description

Bone

Seven fragments of sawn bone were submitted. All come from early modern contexts (see below, Assessment) and during this period sawing became a standard butchery practice whereas before sawing was normally associated with the working of bone.

Ceramic Building Material

Thirty-four fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. One unidentifiable fragment came from a context whose only dating evidence was a sherd of medieval pottery. The remainder were all from post-medieval or later deposits (Table 1). The drain fragments are all of salt-glazed stoneware and of later 19th-century or later date.

Table 1

period code	?	BRICK	DRAIN	Grand Total
EMED	1			1
EMOD		10	6	16
EPMED		6		6
LPMED	1	10		11
Grand Total	2	26	6	34

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Forty-eight fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. Of these, 35 were featureless stem fragments. Their bore diameters suggest that the pipes range in date from the early to mid 17th to the 19th centuries. Two stems appear to have a red slip coating and two are

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glazed, one with a plain lead glaze and the other with a green glaze. These stems had probably broken off close to the mouthpiece, since it is normal for only a few cm of the stem of 19th-century pipes to be glazed. Two complete glazed mouthpieces were recorded, one with brown glaze and the other with green glaze.

The remaining nine fragments were either bowls or parts of bowls. The earliest example is probably of mid to late 17th-century date and is an unmarked heeled pipe. A second bowl of similar date has a bowl similar to Mann 52 (Mann 1977). A single bowl was of late 18th-century type (cf Mann 154) and another was probably of mid 19th-century date (cf Mann 230). The remainder were undatable fragments.

Concrete

A single fragment of concrete was recorded. It was associated with late post-medieval finds.

Copper Alloy

Three copper alloy objects were recorded. Two were buttons with a soldered loop on the back. This type is usually of 18th century and later date and both are associated with early modern finds. One is possibly a coin but cannot be identified without xray and probably investigative cleaning. It has no associated finds.

Glass

Twelve fragments of glass were recorded. Four of these are from dark green bottles. Two are of the mallet form datable to the mid 18th century and two of the tall form which was introduced in the later 18th century. All were associated with early modern finds.

Five fragments of window glaze with a light green tinge were recorded (one heat distorted, 1mm x2, 2mm and 3mm thick). This type was produced in the late medieval and early post-medieval period and these fragments are likely to have been of 17th-century date. They were associated with early modern finds.

Three other fragments of light green glass are from a single moulded bottle of later 19th-century date. The bottle has a raised medallion with a walking man in the centre and an inscription around the edge reading "JOHN W...ER SHEFFIELD".

Three fragments of fine clear glass were recorded. One is from a window (2mm thick), and probably of late 18th-century or later date and the other two are from wine glasses, including one with a baluster stem which might be datable if submitted to a specialist. However, all three are associated with early modern finds.

Iron

Three fragments of iron were recorded. One is a nail from an early modern deposit and the other two are associated with early post-medieval finds but not identifiable without radiography.

Pottery

Medieval

Three fragments of Northern Gritty ware, produced from light-firing Coal Measure clays but often fired to semi-stoneware temperatures, were recorded. This ware was probably used in the Sheffield area throughout the medieval period from the later 12th to the early 16th century.

A single sherd of Coal Measures Whiteware, of the high-fired type produced at Rawmarsh, was recorded.

Post-medieval

One hundred and fourteen sherds of post-medieval pottery, dating between the late 16th and the mid 18th centuries, were recorded. Sixty-nine of these are of types which were current before the late 17th century (Blackware – BL; Brownware – BERTH; slipped ware – SLIP; glazed Red earthenware – GRE; Midlands Purple ware – MP; Cistercian ware – CSTN; and Midlands Yellow ware – MY). Of these, 45 occurred in deposits in association with early modern pottery, including all the examples of Cistercian ware and Midlands Yellow ware.

Forty-five sherds of types which were introduced between the late 17th and the mid 18th centuries were recorded. Some of these types (such as Nottingham stoneware – NOTS) continued in production and use into the early modern period. Staffordshire mottled ware was apparently in production in the Staffordshire potteries before 1686 but is almost always found first in deposits of the last decade of the 17th and throughout the 18th centuries, probably ceasing production in the 1780s. A white saltglazed stoneware bowl (SWSG) is probably of mid 18th-century date whilst a fragment of tin-glazed ware (TGW) albarello is too small to date closely and could be of late 16th to mid 18th century date. The last type is Staffordshire wheelthrown slipware (STRES).

Early Modern

Forty-seven sherds of later 18th century and later date were recorded. The most common ware is Creamware (25 sherds) followed by Transfer-Printed ware (TPW) and Pearlware (PEAR). Miscellaneous refined whiteware (WHITE), Sunderland coarseware (SUND), and buffware (NCBW – aka Yellow ware) were represented by a few sherds each. The high frequency of Creamware may indicate activity in the late 18th to early 19th centuries.

Slag

Twenty-four fragments of slag were recorded. Of these, 22 were found in association with medieval pottery (context 137), one was found with late post-medieval pottery (context 141) and the final fragment was not associated with datable finds (context 111). If the medieval data of context 137 can be confirmed by stratigraphic analysis then it would be worth submitting the slag to a specialist.

Stone

A single spherical stone object 16mm in diameter was possible a stone alley (or “marble”). The fragment was recovered from a deposit containing early modern finds.

A fragment of burnt Coal Measures shale from a late post-medieval deposit is evidence for the burning of coal.

Assessment

Earliest possible dates for the deposition of the various deposits which produced finds are given in Table 00. These have been grouped together into the following groups:

Medieval (late 12th century or later) = EMED

Early Post-medieval (late 16th to mid 17th century) = EPMED

Late Post-medieval (Late 17th to mid 18th century) = LPMED

Early Modern (Late 18th century and later) = EMOD

Two deposits, 111 and 151, contained only undatable finds.

Table 2

Appendix 1

context	period code	period	Spot date
101	LPMED		Early 18th century or later
102	EPMED		Late 16th century or later
103	EMOD		Late 19th century or later
111	ND		ND
115	EPMED		Early 17th century or later
124	EMOD		Early 19th century or later
125 within wall	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
127	EMOD		Late 19th century or later
129	EPMED		Late 16th century or later
137	EMED		12.2
140	EPMED		Late 16th century or later
141	LPMED		Early 18th century or later
150	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
151	ND		ND
152	EPMED		Late 16th century or later
159	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
161	EPMED		Early 17th century or later
162	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
167	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
169	EPMED		Late 16th century or later
172	EMOD		Late 18th century or later
177	LPMED		Early 18th century or later
181	LPMED		Early 18th century or later
185	LPMED		Early 18th century or later
186	EMOD		Late 18th century or later

193	LPMED	Early 18th century or later
195	EPMED	Late 16th century or later
200	EMOD	Late 18th century or later
206	EMOD	Early 19th century or later
210	EMOD	Late 18th century or later
212	EMOD	Late 19th century or later
216	EMOD	Late 18th century or later

Further Work

The two iron finds from putative medieval deposits should be x-rayed and the slag submitted to a specialist, providing that the medieval date of the deposit can be confirmed stratigraphically. None of the other finds require further study at this stage.

Retention

All the stratified finds should be retained.

Bibliography

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

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	TSNO	Pho
101	STONE	STONE	SHALE		1	1			
101	POTTERY	STMO		JAR	2	2			
101	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1			
101	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1			
101	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1			
102	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	1	1			
102	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	1	1			
103	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1			
103	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1			
103	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	1	1			
103	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	2	2			
103	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	1	1			
103	POTTERY	NGR		JAR	1	1			
103	POTTERY	BL		PANC	1	1			
103	POTTERY	BL		PANC	1	1			
103	POTTERY	MY		JAR	1	1			
103	POTTERY	STMO		JAR	1	1			
103	POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	1	1			
103	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1			
103	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	1	1			
103	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1			
103	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1			
103	POTTERY	BL		JAR	4	3			
103	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1			
111	SLAG	SLAG			1	1			
115	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	2	2			
115	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	6	6			

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124	POTTERY	CREA		?	1	1
124	POTTERY	CSTN		CUP	5	1
124	POTTERY	PEAR		?	1	1
124	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1
124	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	1	1
124	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	1	1
124	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	3	3
124	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
127	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	2	2
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	7	7
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1
127	POTTERY	NOTS		BOWL	1	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	2	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	3	3
127	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	2	1
127	POTTERY	BL		PANC	1	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
127	POTTERY	REFR		JAR	1	1
127	POTTERY	NOTS		JUG/JAR	2	1
129	POTTERY	SLIP		BOWL	1	1
129	POTTERY	NGR		JAR	1	1
137	CBM	?		?	1	1
137	SLAG	SLAG			22	1
137	POTTERY	NGR		JAR	1	1
140	POTTERY	BL	WHITE STREAKS	JAR	1	1

140	POTTERY	CMW	RAWCLIFFE	JAR	1	1	
140	POTTERY	MP		JAR	1	1	
140	IRON	IRON		?	1	1	X-RAY
140	POTTERY	GRE		JAR	1	1	
141	POTTERY	BERTH		BOWL	1	1	
141	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1	
141	SLAG	SLAG			1	1	
141	POTTERY	MY		BOWL	3	1	
141	CONCRETE	CONCRETE			1	1	
150	CU ALLOY	CU ALLOY		BUTTON	1	1	X-RAY
150	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1	
150	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	WINEGLASS	1	1	
150	BONE	BONE		?	1	1	
150	STONE	STONE		MARBLE?	1	1	
150	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1	
150	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	3	3	
150	CU ALLOY	CU ALLOY		BUTTON	1	1	X-RAY
151	CU ALLOY	CU ALLOY		COIN?	1	1	X-RAY
152	POTTERY	BL		CUP	1	1	
152	POTTERY	?		?	1	1	
159	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1	
159	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1	
159	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1	
159	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1	
159	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1	
159	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	5	5	
161	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	1	1	
161	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1	
161	IRON	IRON		?	1	1	X-RAY
161	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1	

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162	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1
162	POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	1	1
162	POTTERY	?		?	1	1
167	POTTERY	STRE		BOWL	1	1
167	POTTERY	PEAR		BOWL	1	1
167	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
167	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
167	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	5	1
167	POTTERY	BERTH		LARGE JAR	1	1
169	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
172	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1
172	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1
172	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
177	POTTERY	STMO		TANK	3	1
177	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1
177	POTTERY	STMO		BOWL	1	1
181	CBM	CBM		?	1	1
181	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	2	2
181	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1
181	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1
181	POTTERY	BL		JAR	2	1
181	POTTERY	BL		PANC	1	1
181	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
185	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	3	1
185	POTTERY	COAR		JAR	2	1
185	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
185	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1
185	POTTERY	BL		PANC	2	1

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185	POTTERY	STMO		JAR	4	1
186	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1
186	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	3	3
186	POTTERY	CREA		TANK	1	1
186	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	2	2
186	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
186	POTTERY	CSTN		CUP	2	2
186	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1
186	POTTERY	CREA		JUG	1	1
186	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	2	2
193	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1
193	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	3	3
193	POTTERY	NOTS		BOWL	1	1
193	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1
195	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1
200	POTTERY	CREA		TANK	1	1
200	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1
200	POTTERY	TPW		DISH	2	1
200	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
200	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
206	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1
206	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	1	1
206	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
206	POTTERY	NOTS		COLANDER	1	1
210	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
210	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1
210	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
212	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1

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212	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	1	1
212	POTTERY	PEAR		JUG/JAR	3	1
212	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1
212	CBM	PMTIL	ENGS	DRAIN	1	1
212	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	3	3
212	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	2	2
212	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1
212	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	MOULDED BOTTLE	3	1
216	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1
216	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	2	2
216	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	2	1
216	CBM	PMTIL	ENGS	DRAIN	1	1
216	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	WINEGLASS	1	1
216	BONE	BONE		OFFCUTS	3	3
216	POTTERY	SUND		BOWL	1	1
216	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1
216	POTTERY	TGW		ALBORELLO	1	1
216	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
216	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	4	4
216	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	1	1
216	BONE	BONE		OFFCUTS	2	2
216	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE	2	2
216	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	2	2
216	CBM	PMTIL	ENGS	DRAIN	4	1
216	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1
216	POTTERY	NOTS		BOWL	1	1
216	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1

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216	POTTERY	CREA	PLATE	2	2
216	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR	1	1
216	BONE	HORN CORE	OFFCUT	1	1
216	POTTERY	NOTS	BOWL	1	1
216	POTTERY	TPW	CUP	2	2
216	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE	1	1
216	POTTERY	REFR	JAR	1	1
216	POTTERY	BL	JAR	1	1
216	POTTERY	BL	BOWL	2	2
216	POTTERY	CSTN	CUP	3	3
216	POTTERY	CREA	CUP	1	1
125	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE	1	1
within wall					
125	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE	1	1
within wall					
U/S	POTTERY	CREA	BOWL	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	BL	PANC	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	NOTS	BOWL	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	STRE	BOWL	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	CREA	PLATE	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	SWSG	BOWL	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR	1	1
U/S	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR	6	1
U/S	POTTERY	STMO	BOWL	2	1