

Assessment of the Finds from the Newyears Green to Breakspear Road Pipeline, West Ruislip, Greater London (NYG 07)

Alan Vince

A small quantity of finds was recovered from an archaeological watching brief on the line of a pipeline between Newyears Green and Breakspear Road, West Ruislip. The watching brief was carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd and has the sitecode NYG 07.

The finds are probably of post-medieval and modern date.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded (App 1). They were quantified by fragment count, the number of objects represented and by weight in grams (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	10	9	202
GLAS	1	1	10
IRON	4	4	32
POTTERY	6	3	18
Grand Total	21	17	262

Ceramic Building Material

Nine fragments of flat roof tile were recovered. The fabric of all pieces has a similar appearance at x20 magnification and contains abundant rounded quartz sand, less than 1.0mm across, which includes some polished grains. Sparse angular white flint, red clay/ironstone fragments and muscovite laths. The groundmass is silty, micaceous and variegated in colour.

One of the flat roof tiles has a circular peg hole, 10mm diameter, and no signs of nibs or glaze were noted. All the fragments are abraded and some are spalled.

A single fragment of a cylindrical field drain was present. The fabric is similar in colour to that of the flat roof tiles but inclusions are scarce. The groundmass is silty and micaceous but is homogenous in texture, in contrast to the flat roof tiles.

Glass

A single fragment of opaque white glass was recovered. The fragment comes from the base of a large moulded bowl and is very similar in appearance to oven-proof glassware in current use. A recent date is therefore likely.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007015.pdf>

Iron

Three fragments of iron were recovered. One is a handmade nail with a sub-rectangular head. Similar nails were produced from the Roman period into the 19th century. A second piece is an unidentified strip of heavily corroded metal with a triangular cross-section. The third is an oval loop or ring attached to a bolt with a screw thread. This thread dates the object to the 18th century or later. It is probably a fitting from a piece of machinery.

Pottery

Six fragments of pottery were recovered. All are of a glazed red earthenware similar in texture to the MOLAS Post-Medieval Fine Redware (PMFR). The groundmass is silty and micaceous and sparse rounded, polished quartz grains are present. Several of the fragments are spalled and/or abraded.

Assessment

It is possible that the flat roof tile fragments are of medieval date but their similarity in condition to the pottery, which is clearly of 17th/18th century date, suggests that they too are post-medieval finds. Some of the ironwork is also probably of this date although it cannot be independently dated. The field drain, the glass and the iron fitting, on the other hand, are probably of recent date, 19th or 20th century for the iron and 20th to 21st century for the glass. The difference in condition between the post-medieval (and putative post-medieval) finds and the more recent finds is probably too great to be explained by the lesser time that the latter have been buried and probably indicates that the post-medieval finds were present in an active soil horizon where they could be affected by freeze/thaw and mechanical erosion whilst the more recent finds were protected in some way.

Retention

None of the finds is of intrinsic interest and all apparently come from topsoil deposits and they should only be retained if re-examination at a later date might conceivably lead to a reinterpretation of the archaeology.

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Context	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
100	IRON	IRON	RECT -SECTIONED BAR, SLIGHTLY CURVED	OBJECT	BS	1	1	15	
100	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	BS	4	4	74	ABR
200	IRON	IRON	OVAL RING 36MM BY 39MM WITH A THREADED BOLT ATTACHED;MODERN	FITTING	BS	1	1	0	
200	POTTERY	PMFR	INT PLAIN GL	BOWL	R	1	1	0	ABR
200	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	11	SPALLED

AVAC Report 2007/15

200	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	BS	2	1	22	SPALLED
300	IRON	IRON	TRIANGULAR-SECTIONED	STRIP	BS	1	1	10	
300	POTTERY	PMFR	INT PLAIN GL	JAR	BS	1	1	6	SPALLED
300	POTTERY	PMFR	INT PLAIN GL	BOWL	BS	4	1	12	SPALLED
300	CBM	PMTIL	CYLINDRICAL	FIELD DRAIN	BS	1	1	20	FRESH
300	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	30	ABR
300	CBM	PMTIL	PEG HOLE 10MM	FLAT	BS	1	1	45	ABR
400	GLAS	GLAS	MOULDED OVENPROOF	BOWL	B	1	1	10	
400	IRON	IRON	SUB-RECT HEAD 14MM SQUARE; BROKEN TIP	NAIL	BS	1	1	7	