

Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery from Wyllan Naboth, Brecon, Powys

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A small quantity of pottery recovered by Mr Chris Thomas from the digging of drainage ditches for a barn conversion at Wyllan Naboth, near Brecon, Powys. The finds are mostly of post-medieval date but include one probable late medieval sherd and one 19th-century piece.

Description

Pottery

Medieval

A single possible abraded sherd of medieval pottery was present. It consists of the rim of a wide-mouthed bowl, made in an oxidized fabric with sparse subangular quartz grains up to 0.02mm across and a silty, micaceous groundmass. Such fabrics were classed as Hereford Fabric A6 at Hereford (Vince 1985; Vince 2002). Bowls of this sort were used for cooking and other domestic activities in the later medieval period (i.e. later 14th to 16th centuries). The fabric indicates manufacture somewhere in the Welsh Borderland.

Post-Medieval

Eleven sherds of pottery dating between the later 16th and the mid 18th centuries were recovered. The earliest type present was Post-Medieval Welsh Borderland ware (Hereford A7D). This ware was produced at several places in the Welsh Borderland, most notably in the Deerfold Forest in North Herefordshire. Three wares were produced: low-fired lead-glazed earthenwares; high-fired lead-glazed earthenwares in which the glaze has turned black through uptake of iron from the body and black-glazed cups in which the glaze was coloured with iron before application. The two examples here are from the second ware type (high-fired black-glazed wares). Such vessels were produced from the later 16th to the third quarter of the 17th century.

Seven sherds are of North Devon Gravel-Tempered ware (Watkins 1960; Evans 1979). This ware is characterised by abundant coarse gravel inclusions which using a hand lens can be identified as coming from a range of rock types present in North Devon (biotite granite, sandstone, siltstones and slates). North Devon Gravel-Tempered ware was first produced in the later 16th century and was still being produced in the early 20th century but is mainly found in the Welsh Borderland from the later 17th century to the mid 18th century.

Two sherds of later Post-Medieval Welsh Borderland ware (Hereford Fabric A7E) were present. Both come from undecorated bowls with internal lead glaze. The finish and firing

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/avac2007103.pdf>

suggest that these sherds are of later 17th to mid 18th century date, contemporary with slipware production. The nearest known source to Brecon was at Whitney-on-Wye.

Early Modern

A single sherd from the neck and rim of a stoneware bottle was recovered. This was probably a mid-19th-century or later product of the Bristol stoneware industry since it is covered with a thick honey-coloured glaze of the type invented in Bristol in the mid 1830s (Dowling 2007).

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
U/S	POTTERY	NDGT		BOWL	R	1	1	12	
U/S	POTTERY	NDGT		BOWL	R	1	1	5	
U/S	POTTERY	NDGT		BOWL	R	1	1	19	ABRA
U/S	POTTERY	NDGT		BOWL	BS	4	4	32	
U/S	POTTERY	HERA6		JAR	R	1	1	3	
U/S	POTTERY	HERA7D		BOWL	BS	2	2	25	
U/S	POTTERY	HERA7E		BOWL	BS	1	1	13	
U/S	POTTERY	HERA7E		BOWL	B	1	1	37	
U/S	POTTERY	ENGS	POSS BRISTOL	BOT	R	1	1	4	

Bibliography

Dowling, Rod (2007) *Three Centuries of Ceramic Art in Bristol - The Story of Bristol Pottery and Porcelain*. <http://www.kalendar.demon.co.uk/>

Evans, D. H. (1979) "Gravel-Tempered Ware: A Survey of Published Forms." *Medieval Later Pottery Wales*, 2, 18-29

Vince, A. G. (1985) "Part 2: the ceramic finds." in R. Shoesmith, ed., *Hereford City Excavations: Volume 3. The Finds*, CBA Research Report 56 The Council for British Archaeology, London,

Vince, A. (2002) "The Pottery." in A. Thomas and A. Boucher, eds., *Hereford City Excavations Volume 4: Further Sites & Evolving Interpretations*, Logaston Press, Logaston, 65-92

Watkins, C. M. (1960) "North Devon Pottery and its Export to America in the 17th Century."

Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology, United States National
Museum Bull 225 Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, 413-77