

# **Assessment of Mixed Finds from Roman Bank, Spalding, Lincolnshire (RBS 08)**

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A small assemblage of four fragments of glass and a clay tobacco pipe stem were submitted to the authors for identification and assessment. The finds are probably all of 19<sup>th</sup> or later century date.

## **Description**

### **Clay Tobacco Pipe**

A single stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe was recovered from context 406. The bore diameter suggests a date in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Glass**

Four fragments of glass were submitted, all from context 405. The largest is the base of a square bottle in a bright green metal with a pontil mark on the base. The colour suggests the deliberate use of copper as a colourant rather than the dark green colour found in much bottle glass which is the result of the presence of iron. The size of the bottle and its colour are distinctive but without further work can only be said to be of mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century or later date.

Two small fragments of dark green bottle glass were present. These are probably from tall bottles and one comes from the rim and neck of a bottle which appears to be mould blown, which again suggests a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

The final piece is a burnt fragment of clear glass. It is not closely datable. Clear glass was used for the production of wine glasses and similar fineware from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards and the burning indicates that even the curvature of the sherd cannot be used to identify its original form. The thickness, however, suggests that it might be from a tumbler, a common form in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Assessment**

Layer 405 is the earliest deposit encountered during the evaluation. Although layer 405 is described as containing pottery, bottle glass, iron pieces and fragments of slate, coal and mussel shell, the only find submitted was the fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem which on its own can only provide a later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date for the deposit.

The glass from the overlying layer 406 produced the small collection of glass. None of the pieces present is of a definitely late 19<sup>th</sup> century or later type but all could have been current in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and not before. Given that a brick foundation of probable late 19<sup>th</sup>

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century date was observed in the overlying levels, it is likely that layer 406 dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Retention**

It would be possible to identify the glass and clay tobacco pipe more precisely with time and money and since they provide evidence to date the excavated stratigraphy it is therefore recommended that the finds are retained for future study.

### **Further Work**

No further work is recommended.

### *Appendix 1*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Cname</b>	<b>Subfabric</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Nosh</b>	<b>NoV</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Condition</b>
405	PMGL	CLEAR		BOT	BS	1	1	1	BURNT
405	PMGL	DKGR		TALL	BS	1	1	1	
405	PMGL	DKGR		TALL	R	1	1	7	
405	PMGL	DKGR	PONTIL MARK	SQUARE BOTTLE	B	1	1	191	
406	PIPECLAY		18/19TH CENTURY BORE	CLAYPIPE	STEM	1	1	3	



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