

# **Assessment of the Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from Langley Park School for Boys, Beckenham (LPB08)**

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A small collection of pottery and ceramic building material was recovered from an archaeological evaluation carried out at Langley Park School for Boys, Beckenham, undertaken by Chris Clay for Allen Archaeological Associates (Site Code: LPB08).

The ceramic building material cannot be closely dated and the pottery ranges in date from the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Description**

### **Ceramic Building Material**

Three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. Two come from flat roof tiles and the third from a curved tile (which could be a ridge tile, a hip tile or conceivably a medieval version of the Roman *imbrex* tiles).

All three have a similar appearance at x20 magnification, containing few visible inclusions in the body and a fine quartz moulding sand on the base (and in the case of the curved tile also, more sparsely, on the upper surface). Rare red clay pellets, rounded polished quartz grains with a red earthy coating, and subangular brown-stained flint fragments were present but rare in the fabric.

The fabric contains a much higher proportion of polished quartz grains than wares produced in the suburbs of London (such as Vauxhall and Lambeth) and it is quite likely that they come from a local source.

## **Pottery**

### **Post-medieval**

Two sherds of a red earthenware bowl with an internal white slip covering the lower part of the body and base were recovered (GUYS). Like the ceramic building material, they contain polished quartz grains, although in a much higher frequency. Such vessels are English copies of a form found in the Low Countries in the late medieval period and were probably first produced in the Thames basin in the later 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The type continued to be used, however, into the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Early Modern**

Small fragments of Creamware (CREA) and Transfer-printed ware (TPW) were recovered. These date to the later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later. A body fragment of an unglazed plant pot is probably of similar age.

## Assessment

### Trench 2

Feature 202, a curvilinear feature, contained two deposits which produced finds. The lower, 206, produced two sherds of a late 15<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century bowl and a fragment of curved ceramic building material, and the upper fill, 203, produced small sherds of Creamware, Transfer-Printed ware which indicate a late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date. It is possible that the feature was open for a considerable period of time, or that the pottery from the lower fill is residual.

### Trench 3

Layer 304 is interpreted as re-deposited natural, possibly levelling for the playing field. It produced a sherd of plant pot and a fragment of flat roof tile.

### Further Work

No further work is recommended.

### Retention

All the finds should be retained since they come from stratified deposits.

## Appendix 1

Context	Trench	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description
203	2	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE?	BS	1	1	0.5	WILLOW PATTERN
203	2	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	R	1	1	0.5	
203	2	CBM	MTIL	ANG FLINT;SPARSE GSQ;FINE SANDY MOULDING SAND	FLAT	BS	1	1	20	
206	2	POTTERY	GUYS	GSQ; ANG FLINT	PANC	BS	1	1	0	SLIPPED INTERIOR UNDER PALE GREEN GL
206	2	CBM	MTIL	FINE SAND MOULDING SAND	CURVED	BS	1	1	0	
304	3	POTTERY	LPMLOC	FE-COATED GSQ	FLP	BS	1	1	10	
304	3	CBM	MTIL	ANG FLINT;SPARSE GSQ;FINE SANDY MOULDING SAND	FLAT	BS	1	1	51	