

# **Assessment of the Pottery, Clay Tobacco Pipes and Ceramic Building Material from land to the south of Wheelock Street, Middlewich: Archaeological Evaluation**

***Alan Vince***

A small collection of pottery was recovered from features in two trenches dug by Foundations Archaeology Ltd on land to the south of Wheelock Road, Middlewich, Cheshire. The finds include a few residual sherds of medieval pottery but all of the features with pottery could be dated to the post-medieval or early modern period.

## **Description**

### **Ceramic Building Material**

Ten fragments of brick and three fragments of flat roof tile were recorded. The bricks are all of the same fabric, Fabric 1, and the flat roof tiles are in a second, finer, fabric, Fabric 2.

### **Clay Tobacco Pipe**

Six fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered. Five of these have wide bore diameters typical of early to mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century pipes whilst the seventh is a worn fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century pipe stem with an inscribed stamp, which appears to be purely decorative.

## **Pottery**

### **Medieval Pottery**

Four sherds of medieval pottery were recorded, all from Trench 2. One is an unidentified medieval wheelthrown jar, of 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date (MEDLOC). A second is a sherd of North Staffordshire Medieval Whiteware (NSMWW) of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date and the remaining two sherds are of Midlands Purple ware (MP), of 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **Post-medieval Pottery**

Most of the pottery from the evaluation is of late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. That dating from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century or later is all of Staffordshire origin. However, a few earlier pieces are probably from some other source, quite likely to be more local to Middlewich.

### ***Unknown source***

Although initially thought to be Staffordshire products, the three red-fabric slipware vessels have a slightly different appearance from definite Staffs products (STRE). In addition, a Glazed Red Earthenware vessel (GRE) is not a Staffs product.

### ***Staffordshire Wares***

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>  
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Forty-seven sherds of Staffordshire origin are of late 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date (Table 1).

**Table 1**

Name	Code	16.2	17.1	17.2	18.1	Grand Total
Midlands Yellow ware	MY	2				2
Staffordshire Butter pot ware	STBU	4				4
Staffordshire Coarseware	STCOAR		16			16
Staffordshire Brown Stoneware	STBRS				1	1
Staffordshire Press-moulded Slipware	STCO			1	1	2
Staffordshire Mottled ware	STMO			3		3
Staffordshire Red-slipped ware	STRES			14		14
Staffordshire Slipware	STSL			5		5
	Grand Total	6	16	23	2	47

### Early Modern Pottery

Four sherds of mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century or later date were recorded. One is a fragment of press-moulded dish with white slip-trailed decoration (STCO); another is a fragment of biscuit-fired refined whiteware plate (WHITE); a third is a fragment of Creamware plate (CREA) and the fourth is a fragment of locally-made flowerpot (LPMLOC).

### Assessment

#### Trench 1

Six features were identified in Trench 1, five of which produced finds (Table 2). Some of the sherds have different starting dates but could have been in contemporary use but there are some definite residual sherds and clay pipes.

**Table 2**

Context	Feature	class	16.2+	16.2	17.1	17.2	18.1	18.2	Grand Total
105	104	CBM	2						2
		CTP			1				1
		POTTERY		2	1	5		2	10
107	106	CBM	2						2
		CTP			2		1		3
		POTTERY				4			4
109	108	POTTERY		1	2	5	1	1	10
111	110	CBM	2						2
		POTTERY		1	1	1	1	1	5

113	-	POTTERY			4	1				5
115	114	CBM	2							2
		POTTERY			1	2				3
Grand Total			8	4	12	18	3	4		49

## Trench 2

Trench 2 revealed 5 features which produced finds (table 3). The finds overlap in date with those from Trench 1 but include earlier wares and lack any of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

*Table 3*

Context	Feature	class	13.1	13.2	15.2	16.2+	16.2	17.1	17.2	Grand Total
204	203	CTP						1		1
		POTTERY	1				2	3	1	7
206	205	CBM				5				5
		POTTERY					2		2	4
208	207	CTP						1		1
		POTTERY			2		2	3	2	9
210	209	POTTERY		1			2			3
212	211	POTTERY						1		1
Grand Total			1	1	2	5	8	9	5	31

## Further Work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

## Retention

All the submitted finds come from stratified deposits and should be retained for potential re-examination.

## Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
105	POTTERY	GRE		16.2	PIP	H;BS	1	1	7	INT PLAIN GL		SOOTED EXT
105	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	1	1	28			
105	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	1	EM17TH BORE		
105	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	BS	1	1	23			
105	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	4	4	52			
105	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	CUP	R	1	1	3	INT COMBING?		
105	POTTERY	CREA		18.2	PLATE	BS	1	1	1			
105	POTTERY	LPMLOC		18.2	FLP	BS	1	1	6			
105	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	112			
105	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	ML17TH + 1 L18TH+		
107	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	2	2	4	EM17TH BORE		
107	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	2	2	8			
107	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	TANK	B	2	1	19	BROWN-SLIPPED INT AND EXT		
107	CTP	PIPECLAY		18.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	1	STAMPED STEM;18TH BORE		
107	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	41			
107	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	EM18TH		
109	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	BOWL	R	1	1	3	WHITE EXT SLTR		
109	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	2	2	10			
109	POTTERY	STCO		17.2	DISH	BS	1	1	27	MARbled SLIP		
109	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	3	1	43			
109	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	POSS	BS	1	1	1	EX SLTR		
109	POTTERY	STCO		18.1	DISH	BS	1	1	5	COMBED SLIP		
109	POTTERY	STCO		18.2	DISH	BS	1	1	31	WHITE SLTR ON BROWN SLIPPED BODY		
109	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	1	1	0	E18TH+		
111	POTTERY	MY		16.2	BOWL	R	1	1	32			
111	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	BS	1	1	8			
111	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	BS	1	1	4			

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
111	POTTERY	STBRS		18.1	TANK	H;BS	1	1	8			
111	POTTERY	WHITE		18.2	-	BS	1	1	3		BISCUIT	
111	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	184			
111	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	E18TH+ (1 WHITE BISCUIT SHERD)		
113	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	B	4	1	140			
113	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	R	1	1	19			
113	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
115	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	R	1	1	61			
115	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	1	1	6			
115	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	JAR	BS	1	1	32	BROWN SLIPPED INT AND EXT;WHITE SLTR		
115	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	1	1	175			
115	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	68			
115	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
204	POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB 1	13.1	JAR	BS	1	1	5	WT?		
204	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	2	2	37			
204	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	4	EM17TH BORE		
204	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	3	3	166			
204	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	BS	1	1	10	REEDED NECK;GLOB BODY		
206	POTTERY	MY		16.2	CUP	BS	1	1	5			
206	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	1	1	21			
206	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	2	2	33			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	3	3	143			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	23			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	45	NIBBED		
206	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	M17TH+		
208	POTTERY	MP		15.2	-	BS	1	1	7			
208	POTTERY	MP		15.2	JAR	R	1	1	39			
208	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	BS	2	2	55			
208	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	2	EM17TH BORE		
208	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	3	3	53			

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
208	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	2	2	21			
210	POTTERY	MWWNS		13.2	JUG	BS	1	1	29			
210	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	BS	1	1	6			
210	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	B	1	1	33	4-HANDLED FLARING CUP		
210	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
212	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	FLP	BS	1	1	32	UNGLAZED SLIPPED BS		
212	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	ML18TH+		
Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
105	POTTERY	GRE		16.2	PIP	H;BS	1	1	7	INT PLAIN GL		SOOTED EXT
105	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	1	1	28			
105	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	1	EM17TH BORE		
105	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	BS	1	1	23			
105	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	4	4	52			
105	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	CUP	R	1	1	3	INT COMBING?		
105	POTTERY	CREA		18.2	PLATE	BS	1	1	1			
105	POTTERY	LPMLOC		18.2	FLP	BS	1	1	6			
105	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	112			
105	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	ML17TH + 1 L18TH+		
107	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	2	2	4	EM17TH BORE		
107	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	2	2	8			
107	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	TANK	B	2	1	19	BROWN-SLIPPED INT AND EXT		
107	CTP	PIPECLAY		18.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	1	STAMPED STEM;18TH BORE		
107	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	41			
107	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	EM18TH		
109	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	BOWL	R	1	1	3	WHITE EXT SLTR		
109	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	2	2	10			
109	POTTERY	STCO		17.2	DISH	BS	1	1	27	MARBLED SLIP		
109	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	3	1	43			
109	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	POSS	BS	1	1	1	EX SLTR		
109	POTTERY	STCO		18.1	DISH	BS	1	1	5	COMBED SLIP		

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
109	POTTERY	STCO		18.2	DISH	BS	1	1	31	WHITE SLTR ON BROWN SLIPPED BODY		
109	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	1	1	0	E18TH+		
111	POTTERY	MY		16.2	BOWL	R	1	1	32			
111	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	BS	1	1	8			
111	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	BS	1	1	4			
111	POTTERY	STBRS		18.1	TANK	H;BS	1	1	8			
111	POTTERY	WHITE		18.2	-	BS	1	1	3		BISCUIT	
111	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	2	2	184			
111	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	E18TH+ (1 WHITE BISCUIT SHERD)		
113	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	B	4	1	140			
113	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	R	1	1	19			
113	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
115	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	JAR	R	1	1	61			
115	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	1	1	6			
115	POTTERY	STSL		17.2	JAR	BS	1	1	32	BROWN SLIPPED INT AND EXT;WHITE SLTR		
115	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	1	1	175			
115	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	68			
115	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
204	POTTERY	MEDLOC	FAB 1	13.1	JAR	BS	1	1	5	WT?		
204	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	2	2	37			
204	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	4	EM17TH BORE		
204	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	3	3	166			
204	POTTERY	STMO		17.2	CUP	BS	1	1	10	REEDED NECK;GLOB BODY		
206	POTTERY	MY		16.2	CUP	BS	1	1	5			
206	POTTERY	STBU		16.2	JAR	BS	1	1	21			
206	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	R;BS	2	2	33			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 1	16.2+	BRICK	BS	3	3	143			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	23			
206	CBM	PMTIL	FAB 2	16.2+	FLAT	BS	1	1	45	NIBBED		

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	GROUP	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Condition	Use
206	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	M17TH+		
208	POTTERY	MP		15.2	-	BS	1	1	7			
208	POTTERY	MP		15.2	JAR	R	1	1	39			
208	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	BS	2	2	55			
208	CTP	PIPECLAY		17.1	PIPE	BS	1	1	2	EM17TH BORE		
208	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	BOWL	BS	3	3	53			
208	POTTERY	STRES		17.2	BOWL	BS	2	2	21			
210	POTTERY	MWWNS		13.2	JUG	BS	1	1	29			
210	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	BS	1	1	6			
210	POTTERY	STRE		16.2	CUP	B	1	1	33	4-HANDLED FLARING CUP		
210	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	L17TH+		
212	POTTERY	STCOAR		17.1	FLP	BS	1	1	32	UNGLAZED SLIPPED BS		
212	COMMENT	ZDATE				BS	0	0	0	ML18TH+		