

## Clay Tobacco-Pipes

Jenny Mann<sup>20</sup>

This small assemblage comprised 67 stem fragments and parts of twelve bowls. There were no groups of pipes, the majority of the fragments occurring as single pieces from individual contexts.

None of the pipes appears to be any earlier than the mid/late seventeenth century. Most of the single stem fragments dated to the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries, and were recovered from contexts of Periods 8 and 9, and from graves of burial Phase A. There are two fragmentary marked stems; the earlier is part of a very faint, poorly impressed incuse mark in a style used by Nottingham pipe-makers during the first three-quarters of the eighteenth century, and adopted by manufacturers elsewhere as at Chesterfield, Derby, Rotherham and Lincoln (*cf.* Walker and Wells 1979, 10; fig. 2, 7). The second is again poorly impressed but in relief, and reads, 'WES...'. The style of this mark suggests a nineteenth-century date and it can be tentatively identified as a product of Michael Westerdale of Hull, 1798–1812, or his wife, Margaret, 1814–23 (Watkins 1979).

There are three marked bowls: the earliest, from a Phase A burial (F5200), is only a small portion from the lower part of a bowl, too little for an accurate date to be suggested, although it would be consistent with the period *c.* 1680–1710. On the sides of the spurred heel are the relief initials 'R C'. These almost certainly represent the initials of Robert Chapman, working in Hull between 1681 and 1711. Examples of this mark appear to represent the earliest occurrence in Hull of the practice of placing the pipe-maker's initials on the sides of the heel instead of on the base (Watkins 1979, 94, fig. 3, 52).

The second piece, also from a Phase A

burial (F7101), is represented by a small fragment from the back of a thin-walled bowl, likely to be of mid-eighteenth-century date. It bears the incuse initials 'M R' within a circular cartouche; this is so poorly impressed that the lower half of the 'M' and of the cartouche are missing. Similar makers' marks on the backs of bowls generally occur on pipes dating between the second half of the seventeenth and the mid-eighteenth century, although some later examples are known from colonial sites (Oswald 1975, 66); Nottingham pipes with this style of mark date generally to *c.* 1650–1730, and Bristol pipes to *c.* 1670–1750.

The third maker's mark appears on a decorated bowl fragment (unstratified). The decoration is a common mid-nineteenth-century form with swags of drapery just below the rim, and fluting on the main body of the bowl; along the seams of the pipe run a series of plant leaves. The positioning of the relief marking on this bowl, with the maker's name and town placed along the top of the bowl between the fluting and the drapery, is a style that originated in Lincoln in the later years of the eighteenth century, spreading out, first through apprenticeship and family links, and later more broadly distributed by copying (Walker and Wells 1979, 12–30). The mark reads 'RO... / .UL..', and is almost certainly attributable to Charles Ross of Hull, *c.* 1830–51 (Watkins 1979, 113).

The occurrence of Hull pipes is to be expected in the Barton area, as is the presence of pipes marked in a style that originated in Lincoln (see Walker and Wells 1979, fig. 7). The Nottingham-style marked stem extends the distribution of this type (*ibid.*, fig. 3) but this, too, is not entirely unexpected given the local importance of waterways – canals, rivers and coastal trade – as well as roads in the distribution of clay pipes and styles of decoration and marking.

---

<sup>20</sup> Report written in 1997 and checked in 2010.