

Post-Roman Pottery Assessment from CID90

Excavations took place in the summer and autumn of 1990, before redevelopment of the site at 72-75 Cheapside and 83-93 Queen Street (TQ 3249 8113).

The bulk of the ceramics recovered from the excavation are of Roman date, but a quantity of Post-Roman pottery was recovered, in particular from Late Saxon and Early Medieval features.

The Post-Roman pottery is stored in the same boxes as the Roman pot, so it is only possible to estimate the quantity of material present. Approximately 10 shoeboxes of Post-Roman pottery were recovered from Trenches A and B. This has been spotdated and computerised according to the procedures used by MoLAS staff from the Specialist Service Department.

Trench A

A group of medieval pits were excavated, containing pottery dating from 850 - 1150. In many cases the quantities of material are very small, and consist of a few sherds of Late Saxon Shelly with some Roman pot. One pit in particular contains pottery dated to the eleventh/twelfth centuries, and includes some wares imported from the Meuse/Rhine area.

Trench B

Following occupation throughout the mid 1st - late third century, two successive buildings of Saxo-Norman date were constructed, with a third structure to the north. One of these buildings had a floor covered with midden deposits containing large quantities of iron slag. This structure may have been used as a metal working workshop. The small quantity of pottery from these features is of tenth date.

At the north end of Trench B the ground surface was raised with dumping (XXVI). Some cut features were excavated, including a pit with pottery dated to the tenth century, and another group of features associated with further deposits of slag, which may represent the internal remains of a tenth century building. A masonry cellar was constructed over the dumping in the early medieval period, which continued in use until the thirteenth century. The yard to the south was cut by rubbish pits and several wattle lined cesspits, which contained pottery dating from the eleventh through to the thirteenth century.

The only post-medieval material recovered was from a brick lined pit, which contained a small quantity of seventeenth/eighteenth pottery.

Recommendations

Trench A

It is suggested that the pottery of eleventh/twelfth century date from one pit should be fully quantified, as the presence of imported wares and locally produced fabrics form a significant group, which can be compared to similar material from other sites. The pottery from other pit groups in this trench should be considered in the light of more detailed stratigraphic information. However, it seems likely that further quantification will not be necessary, in view of the small amount of pottery involved, which is mainly of one fabric type (LSS).

Full quantification of 1 shoebox of pottery: 1 day

Trench B

Only a small quantity of pottery was recovered from the Saxo-Norman buildings (XXII) and (XXIII). The vessels represented were of a domestic rather than industrial nature, and were almost exclusively of one fabric type and date range. No crucible fragments were recovered which could have been associated with metalworking activity from the building (XXIII). The standard range of forms represented in these two groups, and also (XXVIII), and the small quantities involved suggest that it is not necessary to quantify this material.

The most productive features from the site in terms of the ceramic assemblage come from the wattle lined cesspits (XXXII) and pits at the south end of the trench (XXXIII). Both these groups of features contained a larger quantity of pottery, consisting of vessels that were locally produced such as Early Medieval Sand and Shell cooking pots (EMSS), non-local fabrics such as Stamford-type (STAM) and Thetford-type ware (THET), and imported wares from Andenne and the Rhine/Meuse (ANDE and REDP).

A Redpainted spouted pitcher from (2317) in particular should be illustrated for publication, along with other imported sherds. In addition a rare form of a ?lamp recovered from (2333) should be drawn, and a Thetford-type storage jar from (2317).

It is estimated that 3 boxes from Trench B should be quantified, taking 2 days. Approximately 10 vessel fragments are worthy of illustration. It is recommended that the report writing from Trench A and B should take 12 days to complete. This includes time for pencil illustrations.

TOTAL TIME FOR TRENCHES A AND B: 15 days

Trench A: 1 day quantification
Trench B: 2 days quantification
12 days for report writing

The Post-Roman pot report

At the moment it is unclear how the finds from CID90 are going to be published. The ceramic assemblage could be treated in one of several ways:

1. As a pottery report on its own.
2. As one component in a synthetic discussion of pottery of similar date from other sites in the vicinity such as KNG87 (King Street) or from further away.
3. As one component in a thematic report on particular types of pottery worthy of further consideration such as the imported wares from the Rhine and Meuse.

A considerable amount of work has already been completed on pottery of this date for the second volume of **Aspects of Saxo-Norman London: II Finds and Environmental Evidence** (Vince, 1991). Here the Late Saxon/Early Medieval is catalogued according to a sequence of ceramic phases, with supporting evidence from dendrochronological and numismatic dating. It is possible that further dating evidence from CID90 will enable the pottery to be discussed in the same way. However, since the quantity of pottery is small, it may be better to include it as one of several relevant sites as proposed in Option 2.

Trench C

Only one context (3550) contained medieval pottery, dating to the tenth century.