

Post Roman Wood Assessment

Site code: ONE94, CID90

Undated

Author: Richenda Goffin



Museum of London Archaeology
© **Museum of London Archaeology**
Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf
Road, London N1 7ED
tel 0207 410 2200 fax 0207 410 2201 email
mola@mola.org.uk



A small quantity of post-Roman wooden artefacts was recovered from the site, and these are quantified in the table below, according to excavation area.

Area	Total
Unstratified	2
Area 1	1
Shaft 3	1
Area 5	5
Area 8	17
Area 10	10
Area 12	10
Total	46

Table X: Post-Roman wooden artefacts from Poultry

NB Some of the wooden artefacts from Area 12 may be prove to be of Roman date upon further investigation.

Condition

The greatest quantity of wooden artefacts was found in waterlogged deposits within Areas 5, 8 and 12, where anaerobic conditions existed. Only 19 accessions have so far been identified as objects, the remainder being too fragmentary.

The assemblage

Late Saxon/medieval

A total of ten vessels were identified, and these were mainly bowls, with one cup. Many of the objects are well made and are well preserved, showing clear evidence of their original craftsmanship. Other items include stoppers and lids, a spatula, a spindlewhorl and a cylindrical box, some of which may prove to be of Roman date.

One item of particular interest is a fragment which may be part of a wooden crucifix, perforated with 2 holes <4385>. Another object worthy of fuller investigation is a small top-like fragment of turned wood <982>, which was found in a deposit containing both Roman and Post-Roman pottery.

This may be a waste core from lathe-turning (see Pritchard, 1991).

The objects of probable medieval date from CID90 include fragments of a box <163>, the base of a bucket <601>, and a stopper <623>. Of slightly later date, there is also a leather and wood whip <45>.

Post-medieval

Object <338> was a fragment of a late eighteenth/nineteenth century scrubbing brush. It consists of a wooden brush with some of the bristles still intact, in-situ.

The potential of the data

1. The wooden artefacts may contribute to the study of the material culture of the inhabitants of the site in the Late Saxon/early medieval period, and later.
2. The distribution of wooden artefacts may facilitate a discussion on the function of individual rooms and buildings.

3. The technology and craftsmanship demonstrated by these artefacts may contribute to a discussion on the tools and techniques which were used, and the overall skills of the woodworkers.
4. Waste fragments of wood may provide important information about wood-working as one of the activities which was occurring in Late Saxon/early medieval Poultry. Evidence from Milk Street indicates that some woodworking may have occurred in this period, and it is thought that a wood-turning workshop may have existed in the area around Cheapside (Pritchard, 1991).
5. Wooden shingles may provide evidence of the roofing used on Late Saxon/early medieval buildings in the vicinity.
6. The species of wood which was used for the artefacts may provide information on the distribution and availability of certain wood types, and their suitability for particular functions. Comparisons can be made with material of the same date from nearby sites.

Revised research aims

The original research aims are still valid.

Bibliography

Pritchard, F. 1991 'The wooden artefacts' in Vince, A. (ed) *Aspects of Saxo-Norman London II: Finds and environmental evidence*.