

Albany Road 1978/84 & Cowick Street 1999

Summary Of Pottery & Other Dating Evidence

From excavations carried out during 1978 at Albany Road & Cowick Street 1999, there is a series of 21 contexts, unrelated stratigraphically to one another, each containing a small group of sherds, on average merely four per context. These almost certainly belong to the foundry, since they contain much foundry waste. Most of the sherds are coarsewares of South Somerset, coarse sandy ware and North Devon calcareous, types only broadly datable to *c.* 1500-1650. The ceramic evidence from these contexts indicates that production began at least by *c.* 1550-80. The stonewares are most useful here: a typical early-mid 16th century drinking jug in (1978: 116); a mix of both plain Frechen and Raeren drinking jugs in (1978: 119), datable to *c.* 1550-80, when Raeren falls out of the English market; plain Frechen jugs in (1978: 75, the ribbed neck of a Raeren jug of *c.* 1575-1600 in (1999: 1527), (*cf* Hurst *et al* 1986, Nos 313-15 and 317) and plain Frechen with early 17th century Westerwald of *c.* 1600+ in (1978:69). There are sherds of the South Somerset 16th century types in (1978: 75) and (1978: 24) which are pre *c.* 1580. Taken together these firmly indicate production from the mid 16th century until after 1600. The two clay pipe bowls show.....

Medieval Floor tiles

Five fragments of inlaid floor tiles of Exeter series 1, datable to the early and mid 14th century (Allan & Keen 1984). Four of the fragments are of pattern 46, the other unidentifiable. The exciting aspect of these is that they are probably wasters. Indicating that the tile factory supplying many Exeter sites at this date was somewhere close to the site, and was presumably also using alluvial clays employed by the bell foundry. One fragment is heavily over-fired and reduced, with the glaze running a little into a break; the other four are all in a very fresh condition; the glaze on each survives unworn. Two of three show glaze dribbles to a maximum of 2mm into the cracks in the fabric.

Tiles of this sort are well-known on ecclesiastical sites, but occur only on 14th century domestic sites of very high status, and it is unlikely that such tiles would have been used on this site. Following the reformation, small scatters of such tiles were widely scattered.