

**Assessment of the pottery and finds from C123 Limmo
Pensinsula Shaft and Instone Wharf (XRW10)**

Lyn Blackmore

1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Clay pipe	1 (accessioned)
Bulk glass	1; weight 159g
Bulk leather	3 (unconserved)
Post-medieval pottery	25 sherds; weight 1.008kg
Accessioned finds	5 objects, including 1 coin

1.1.1 The pottery

Table 2 Pottery

Post-Roman pottery	1.008kg	25 sherds (16 ENV)
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1.1.1.1 Post-medieval (c 1500–1900)

1.1.1.1.1 INTRODUCTION

A total of 25 sherds (16 ENV, 1008g) dating to the late 18th/19th centuries were recovered from three contexts. The pottery was examined macroscopically and recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabric, form and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. The bottle glass was recorded straight onto the computer, with the same level of information. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database.

1.1.1.1.2 FABRICS AND FORMS

Arguably the earliest is the late 19th-/20th-century consolidation layer [2], which contained half a bone china saucer with a date range of 1794–1830 (but see below, glass).

The industrial flue [31] and its backfill [35] are both dated to 1830–1900. The former contained sherds from a stoneware flagon and flared jar/measure, both with Bristol glaze. Context [35] contained 20 sherds from a range of tablewares (13 ENV), some transfer-printed, some in bone china with red bands around the rim; also present are the bases of two stoneware jars, probably used for marmalade or similar condiments. None of the pottery is of high quality.

1.1.1.2 Assessment work outstanding

None.

1.1.2 The clay pipe

See accessioned finds.

1.1.3 The bulk glass

1.1.3.1.1 INTRODUCTION

One piece of bottle glass was recovered. This was recorded straight onto the Oracle database, noting colour, form and weight.

1.1.3.1.2 DESCRIPTION

The late 19th-/20th-century consolidation layer [2] contained the neck and mouth of a Codd bottle (159g), with the glass alley that formed part of the method for stopping gas from carbonated drink escaping. This form of bottle was introduced in 1870.

1.1.4 The bulk leather

The remains of a pair of leather shoes and a single boot, probably of 19th-century date, were recovered from context [138], a layer of wood shavings and alluvium. The shoes have square-ended toes and were possibly of slip-on type; they appear to be a size 12. The round-toed boot is for the right foot and again large, size 12 or more; the nature of the upper part is unclear. All three items are substantially complete but stored in bags of water and the component parts are separating, making it difficult to be sure of construction. The finds are currently recorded as bulk leather with no further record.

1.1.4.1 Assessment work outstanding

If the finds go forward for analysis it will be necessary to record the relationship of different pieces as they are taken out of the water and to record them by illustration before any conservation is carried out. This will allow a better idea of how much time will be needed for conservation and reporting.

1.1.5 The accessioned finds

Table 3 Summary of accessioned finds by material and period

Material	Roman	Medieval	Post-med	Not known	Total	Comment
Ceramic (excludes BM, stamps)			1			Clay tobacco pipe
Iron			3			
Copper alloy			1			coin
Total			5			

1.1.5.1 Introduction/methodology

The finds were examined macroscopically and recorded computer using standard Museum of London codes for material and function. The numerical data comprises fragment and in some cases weight. The bottle glass was recorded straight onto the computer, with the same level of information. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database.

1.1.5.2 *Categories by dating and materials*

Ceramic

The late 19th-/20th-century consolidation layer [2] contained the bowl of a clay pipe of Atkinson and Oswald type 30 with moulded decoration of four large symmetrically arranged rose leaf motifs, one front, one back and one on each side, which extend to c 75% of the height of the bowl; the rim is unmilled. The 'spur' is textured like a sawn-off branch and projects from the front, ie on the same alignment as the stem, not perpendicular to it as is normally the case. From the form of the bowl and the unusual decoration this pipe dates to after 1850 (J Pearce pers comm.); although assigned a form type, no direct parallels have yet been found and the find merits illustration and a brief note in any publication of the site.

Iron

Three iron objects were recovered from the layer of wood shavings and alluvium [138], the largest being a heavy length of anchor chain (<18>); this is currently in a storage crate and is too heavy to unravel but it is clear that there are two types of oval link, one open, the other bisected by a central bar. Brief research suggests that the latter are generally used at the innermost end of the chain where the greatest strength is needed to withstand winching. The two other finds may be machinery parts; one is a large flat disc with central perforation (<19>; diameter c 330mm) while the other is a flat sheet with rows of large perforations (<20>); the latter is damaged and it is impossible to be sure whether it had a straight or rounded edge.

Copper alloy

See coins.

1.1.5.3 *Functional analysis*

The accessioned finds are naval and commercial in character.

1.1.5.4 *Provenance of objects*

Most of the accessioned finds are from [138], which appear to be a dumped deposit (?muck-pit). Clay pipe <1> is from the late 19th-/20th-century consolidation layer [2].

1.1.5.5 *Assessment work outstanding*

None.

1.1.5.5.1 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR INVESTIGATIVE CONSERVATION

1.1.5.5.2 LIST OF OBJECTS FOR ILLUSTRATION

Clay pipe <1> merits illustration

Iron chain <18> - needs consolidating

1.1.6 Coins

1.1.6.1 Summary

A Victorian halfpenny dated to 1862 was recovered from the layer of wood shavings and alluvium [138]; it is complete and in good condition.

2 Analysis of potential

2.1 Pottery

The pottery has limited potential other than as dating evidence.

2.2 Pottery

Most bulk and accessioned finds have limited potential as dating evidence, but the clay pipe is of interest for its form and decoration and will add to the development of clay pipe studies, while the anchor chain is of interest in that it reflects activities in this dockland location, while the other two iron objects are probably from shipyard activity. Whether they can also be related to ironworking in the area is doubtful. The construction of the anchor chain <18> merits comparison with contemporary examples and a note in the final publication as most have either simple oval links or bisected links, not a combination of the two.

3 Significance of the data

The pottery and most of the finds are of local significance only; the clay pipe is of wider significance being a so far unparalleled example of its combination of form and decoration, while the anchor chain <18>, will have a wider interest to specialists in maritime archaeology.

4 Revised research aims

4.1 Pottery

There are no new research aims.

4.2 Other finds

- Can a parallel be found for the clay pipe bowl that might indicate where it was made?
- How long is the anchor chain and how many loops are in it?
- Can parallels be found for the combination of loop types on chain <18> and is the bisected loop type useful for dating?
- What is the function of iron objects <19> and <20>?

5 Method statements

5.1 Pottery and bulk glass

No further work required other than check any mention of pottery in the report.

5.2 Accessioned finds

1. Research pipe type for <1> and write note for inclusion in the report, based on the above text: 0.25 day.

2. Research anchor chain and write brief report on iron objects for inclusion in the report: 0.5 day

3. Record and report on leather shoes and boot: 1.25 days including archive illustrations

4. Finds review: 0.25 day

5. Editorial: 0.5 day (all stages)

5.2.1.1 Finds analysis/investigation

If the leather is to be retained and analysed it needs to be properly cleaned and recorded prior to conservation.

5.2.1.2 Work required for illustration/photography

Illustrate/photograph clay pipe <1> and iron chain <18>

5.2.1.3 Preparation for deposition in the archive

All finds to be correctly packed and labelled: 0.5 day

6 Bibliography

Atkinson, D R and Oswald, A, 1969 London clay tobacco pipes, *J British Archaeol Assoc* 32, 171–227