

CONSERVATION NOTE FOR 12 GOSLETT YARD, WC2 (TCG09)

p/camd/1144/na/finds/cons01.doc

Liz Barham

August 2010

Summary of items considered in conservation note

	Material	No. accessioned	No. conserved	No. needing further work
Inorganics	Copper	4 (2 coins)	2 (coins)	0
	Iron	14	0	0
	Lead	4	0	0
	Ceramic	21 + labelled bulk items to be accessioned	0	21 labelled items Possible further items for photography
	Glass	4	0	0
Organics	Wood	3	0	0
	Rubber	2	0	0
	Composite (rubber/cork)	1	0	0

The following note on conservation needs for the finds from the excavations at 12 Goslett Yard, WC2 covers requirements for long term curation of the finds as well as any work recommended by finds specialists. Work outlined in this document is needed to produce a stable archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1992) and the Museum of London's Standards for archive preparation (Museum of London 1999). This note incorporates material recovered during the evaluation phase (consnote 01). The finds and pot were reviewed with reference to the notes by Lyn Blackmore, Nigel Jeffries and Jacqui Pearce.

Condition

Most objects are stable and packed appropriately for archive. The exceptions are some labels attached to pottery sherds. Significant, legible text survives on a large quantity of pots and pot sherds from the site. The labels are soft and brittle and the sherds have been packed with foam to provide some protection from abrasion, however a number of the labels are lifting. They need to be laid back down and reattached to avoid losing any more of the lettering. 21 items – three from [19] and 18 from [34] need this attention.

Investigative work if required

The finds specialist noted that three lead-tin alloy seals had lettering which is difficult to decipher. Some examination under magnification, investigative cleaning, manipulation and perhaps Xradiography may help to clarify this further if required.

Work recommended prior to photography

The pot will have been given some basic cleaning, sufficient for archive storage purposes. However, prior to photography for publication purposes, some further cleaning would be advisable to reduce staining and surface dirt.

Likewise there should be some light cleaning to reduce the mould and encrusted dirt that obscures some of the text on the pottery labels, prior to any photography. This should be done using conservation materials because of their fragility. Any vulnerable areas should also be reattached (see note below regarding preparation for archive).

The nature of a future publication is unclear at assessment, and so how many items are likely to need attention, but on a basis of cleaning of 20-40 items, 2 days should be allowed.

Work necessary for archive deposition

Prior to long term archive storage, the most vulnerable label fragments should be reattached to their vessels to reduce the risk of loss to the legibility of the printed text, especially during handling. One day would be needed to consolidate the labels most at risk from [19] and [34].

Task summary

Cleaning of encrusted dirt/staining prior to any photography	Allow 2 days
Clarifying lettering on lead-tin seals if required	0.5 day
Consolidation of 21 pottery labels necessary to prevent further loss	1 day

Bibliography

English Heritage 1992 *Management of Archaeological Projects II*

Museum of London 1999 *General standards for the preparation of archaeological archives to be deposited with the Museum of London*