

# 1 Medieval pottery from XSP10

## 1.1 3-4th phase of intervention (OSD and sewer diversions)

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Medieval pottery was recorded from contexts [35], [41] and [42], coming from nine vessels (10 sherds), with a total weight of 439g. Eight vessels are the later products of the Surrey whiteware industry. Most common are coarse border wares (CBW) in a range of large rounded or bunghole jugs that can be broadly dated to c 1350–1500. Two further CBW vessels is the base and lower profile of a lobed cup and the other comes from the base of a large bowl or dish. CBW was one of the main pottery fabrics in use in late medieval London, dominating the capital's ceramic supply from the mid 14th century onwards, although it is first found in contexts dated to the end of the 13th century. The forms represented in contexts [35], [41] and [42] are amongst the most common types of everyday household wares in use during this period.

This otherwise unremarkable pottery assemblage did however include (in [42]) a Spanish lusterware maiolica - made in Valencia or close by in Paterna. This is an example of a 15th-century 'basil pot' reported on by Anthony Ray in the *Burlington Magazine* (2000, 142, 371–5), and has survived as two ring gallery and finials. Of the photographed examples in Ray's piece, the XSP10 example with its blue-line painted banded decoration forming part of the vessel seems most closely paralleled to those in figs. 46–7 (*ibid*, 374). This pot adds to one of only a handful of known basil pots from archaeological deposits or that have survived whole in museum or private collections and the importance of this find in an archaeological context in London cannot be overstated.

### Bibliography

Ray, A, 2000, 'The Rothschild 'Alfabeguer' and Other Fifteenth-Century Spanish Lustred 'Basil-Pots', *The Burlington Magazine* 142 (1167), June 2000, pp. 371-375