

# **A note on the pottery from Crossrail works, Farringdon Station, Eastern Ticket Hall (XSF10) phase 2**

Updated 25/10/11

Lyn Blackmore

## **Introduction**

Pottery has been recovered from this site in three phases of work. The first has already been summarised (Jeffries 2011), and this note covers the second phase, in which 90 sherds from 55 vessels (2.8kg) were recovered from nine contexts ([1], [3], [20], [24], [32], [33], [58], [60], [61]); most are of reasonable size and in fresh condition but a few are more abraded. The sherds were examined macroscopically and using a binocular microscope (x 20), and recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count, estimated number of vessels and weight. A few finds merit illustration. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and also in an excel spreadsheet.

## **Roman pottery**

Three sherds (3 ENV, 58g) of early Roman pottery were recovered from context [54], comprising part of a samian ware dish, a sherd of sand-tempered ware and part of a mortarium in a ware that appears to be from the Spanish province of Baetica (fabric code BAET), an unusual form for this fabric type. Taken together the sherds give a date of AD 50–100 for context [54].

## **The medieval wares**

Seven sherds (7 ENV, 160g) of medieval pottery were found, all residual (contexts ([3], [33], [60])). The earliest is a single sherd of shelly sandy ware (SSW), dated to 1140–1220. The others comprise one sherd from a Kingston-type ware highly decorated jug (KING HD; 1240–1300) and five sherds of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW; dating 1270–1500).

## **The post-medieval wares**

Post-medieval wares are present in all contexts (80 sherds, 55 ENV, 2.060kg). Redwares from London area are the most common category, totalling 36 sherds (25 ENV), of which 21 sherds (14 ENV) are London-area early post-medieval redware (PMRE), dated to c 1480–1600 and 12 sherds (8 ENV) are of London-area early post-medieval slipped redware (PMSR/G/Y, c 1480–1650). The former mainly comprise jars, but include sherds from a pipkin, a jug, the rose of a watering can ([24]) and the base of a flower pot ([1]). The latter mainly comprise sherds from large dishes, but include sherds from a handled bowl, a chafing dish ([24]), and a small shallow dish ([32]), an unusual form in this ware. There is also one sherd from a PMRE-type jar with painted slip decoration (PMSR). Other finds comprise sherds from two cauldrons/pipkins in post-medieval bichrome glazed ware (PMBR) and one sherd that appears to be post-medieval redware (PMR), a fabric that is most common after c 1580. Redwares from

Essex are quite rare, with only one sherd of metropolitan slipware and 12 from a tankard, a mug and a possible chamber pot in post-medieval black-glazed ware (PMBL).

In second place are wares from Surrey (23 sherds, 18 ENV), of which all but one redware sherd (RBOR) are in the white fabric (BORDG/O/Y). The latter mainly comprise standard forms associated with the preparation and serving of food, such as tripod pipkins and dishes, but also include part of a condiment dish ([24]). Other forms comprise a small albarello ([24]), a money box ([33]), a saucer candlestick ([40]) and a chamber pot ([24]). Details of form types can be found in Pearce (1992; 2007).

Tin-glazed wares are limited to three sherds from [24] and [60] and [68], which range from late 16th to 18th century in date. Imports are also rare, with only five sherds, of which three are German stonewares from Raeren ([33]), Cologne ([20]) and Frechen ([20]). The other finds comprise part of an Italian tin-glazed ware ring-handled vase ([24]; to draw) and part of the base of a green-glazed Beauvais ware jug ([33]).

### **Discussion**

A few sherds are of Roman and medieval date, but the main period of activity indicated by the pottery dates to the Tudor period; some context can only be broadly dated to c 1480–1600/50, but [31] and [61] date to after 1550, while [20], [24] and [32] date to after 1580. The latest deposit would appear to be [60], which contained tin-glazed pottery typical of the period 1670–90. It is not possible at present to comment on the stratigraphic distribution of the finds, which are domestic in character. None of the context groups are large, and the highest number of sherds is from [24], which contained 24 sherds (393g).

### **Bibliography**

Jeffries, N, 2011, Note on the Roman and later pottery from Crossrail Central – Farringdon Station, Eastern Ticket Hall evaluation, unpublished MOLA report

Pearce, J E, 1992 *Post-medieval pottery in London, 1500–1700: Vol 1, Border wares*, London

Pearce, J, 2007 *Pots and potters in Tudor Hampshire*, Guildford