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Assessment of the pottery
by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

A total of 12 sherds (388g) of Roman and post-Roman pottery was recovered from eight contexts. This comprises six sherds of Roman pottery (74g) and six sherds of post-medieval pottery (314g). All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total Roman and post-Roman pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in separate columns. This was followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to for the post-medieval pottery are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The Roman pottery fabrics were identified by Paul Booth of Oxford Archaeology. The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and therefore only summarised below.

Date and nature of the assemblage

The assemblage is mostly in a very fragmentary condition with no complete profiles present, however some of the post-medieval sherds are fairly fresh and large. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented and all typical of the wares commonly found in Oxfordshire. In terms of dating there are equal numbers of Roman and post-medieval pottery sherds, but no medieval pottery (despite the presence of late medieval roof tile in some contexts).

The six Roman sherds (all types of greyware) occur in Contexts (107), (109), (111) and (134) and span most of the Roman period. Although these do not occur in the same contexts as the post-Roman pottery, Context (107), however, occurs with late medieval roof tile. The fairly small size of the Roman pottery sherds might suggest they are all residual in post-Roman contexts.

Despite the presence of late medieval or early post-medieval roof tile in several contexts, all the later pottery is post-medieval. Although some pieces are not closely datable, except to a broad range (eg. post-med redwares c 1650-1900), it is quite likely that there is nothing earlier than c 1750 present. A few sherds of definite 19th-century tablewares are present, and the latest pieces (Context 119) could be as late as the early 20th century. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Clay tobacco pipe
by John Cotter

A single piece was recovered and is described below:

Context (105) Spot-date: Late 18th to 19th century
Description: A small short piece (1g) of slender clay pipe stem of narrow stem bore. No further work is recommended.

Assessment of the ceramic building material (CBM)
by John Cotter

A total of 12 pieces of CBM weighing 925g were recovered from six contexts. This was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see elsewhere) and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. As usual, the dating of fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad. The assemblage, which is

mostly very fragmentary and sometimes worn, is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and summarised only briefly here as there is little of note.

No Roman CBM was identified. The majority (10 pieces) is comprised of fairly fresh pieces of ?late medieval peg tile in a very hard red sandy fabric similar to late medieval St Giles-type roofing tiles from Oxford which are broadly datable between the 15th and the 17th century (or perhaps c 1375-1650 at the widest). A few have circular nailholes and one has ?accidental specks of dark brown glaze. A single small piece of brick from Context (105) is only broadly datable to the 17th-19th century but may fall within the 18th-19th century date range. A tiny scrap of CBM or fired clay from (125) is undatable. No further work is recommended.

Bibliography

MoLA 2014 Medieval and post-medieval pottery codes
(**http://www.mola.org.uk/resources/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes**