

Title: Clay pipes, and the medieval and later pottery from Charterhouse Square
Grout Shaft (Crossrail), City of London

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1 Quantification and assessment

1.1 Site archive: finds and environmental, quantification and description

Table 1 Finds and environmental archive general summary

Clay tobacco pipe	27 fragments
Medieval pottery	141 sherds. Total 1.1kg
Post-medieval pottery	119 sherds. Total 4.4kg

1.1.1 The clay pipes

1.1.1.1 Introduction/methodology

Recovered in six contexts, the clay tobacco pipe assemblage from XTE12 was recorded in accordance with current Museum of London Archaeology practice and entered onto the Oracle database. The English pipe bowls have been classified and dated according to the Chronology of London Bowl Types (Atkinson and Oswald 1969), with the dating of some of the 18th-century pipes refined where appropriate by reference to the Simplified General Typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41). The prefixes AO and OS are used to indicate which typology has been applied. Quantification and recording follow guidelines set out by Higgins and Davey (1994; Davey 1997).

1.1.1.2 Quantification

Table 2 Clay tobacco pipe quantification

Total no. of fragments	27
No. of bowl fragments	14
No. of stem fragments	13
No. of mouthpieces	
Accessioned pipes	2
Marked pipes	1
Decorated pipes	1

1.1.1.3 Condition

The clay pipe assemblage includes a high proportion of lengthy stem fragments, and a dozen or so complete bowls. Most pipes show evidence of having been smoked, some of them heavily or frequently (in [113]) and it appears that the deposits in which they were found were not subject to any marked degree of disturbance.

1.1.1.4 Character and dating of the clay pipes

Table 3 presents the clay pipes recovered from six contexts all of which contained bowl fragments from pipes made during the later 17th and 18th centuries.

Table 3 Clay tobacco pipe dates, by context (B – bowl; S – stem)

Ctxt	TPQ	TAQ	B	S
94	1700	1740	2	1
95	1700	1770	3	
104	1660	1680	2	6
106	1680	1710	1	
109	1700	1770	3	2
113	1700	1740	3	4

The most common types of pipe recovered from this site are the OS10 (2 of 14 bowls: c 1700–40), AO15 (3 of 14 bowls: c 1680–1710) and the AO25 type (7 of 14 bowls: c 1700–70). None are decorated. The heel of one pipe <7> [94] is relief moulded with a flower and crown symbol with another <8> [109] bearing the makers initials E/R.

1.1.2 The pottery

Table 4 Pottery

Post-Roman pottery	5.6kg	260 sherds
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1.1.2.1 Medieval pottery (c 900–1500)

1.1.2.1.1 SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

This text considers the medieval pottery retrieved in 26 contexts from the targeted watching brief at XTE12. Comprising 141 sherds from up to 125 vessels and weighing a total of 1118 grammes, this medieval assemblage is characterised by small-sized groups only (contexts containing between one and 29 sherds) with little evidence of residuality.

Reflecting the cemetery sequences it was found in, the medieval pottery was recovered in a fragmented condition (Table 5 below) with no complete vessels and reconstructable profiles and is characterised by singular small-sized body sherds.

Table 5 Medieval pottery by statistical averages per context

No. of contexts	Total no. of sherds/ENV/weight (in grammes)	Average no. of sherds (per context)	Average no. of vessels (per context)	Average pottery weight (per context)
26	141/125/1118	5.4	4.4	43 grammes

1.1.2.1.2 METHODOLOGY

The medieval pottery from this site was examined macroscopically, using a binocular microscope (x 20) where appropriate, and recorded on paper and computer, using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration. The numerical data comprises sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight (by grammes) and was entered onto the Oracle database.

1.1.2.1.3 FABRICS AND FORMS

The main three ware types in this medieval assemblage are the products of the kilns making London-type ware, with Surrey whitewares (Pearce and Vince

1988), Essex made Mill Green wares (Pearce, Vince, White and Cunningham 1982) and little in the way of other sources of supply represented.

Now known to be made in Woolwich, London-type ware (fabric code LOND) is one of the major sources of glazed jugs used in London c 1080 and 1350 and is well represented in the pottery assemblage (39.7% SC). Some of the LOND can be further identified in the highly decorated (LOND HD) and white-slipped (LOND WSD) styles. Also supplying a significant portion (24.2% SC) of this medieval assemblage are Surrey whitewares, with the Kingston-type (KING: the most common) and coarse border ware (CBW) fabrics found. Finally Mill Green (MG: 19.1% SC) describes white-slipped, green-glazed, jugs that are frequently decorated with a comb and covered in a thick glossy, green-glazed coloured by the addition of copper. This fabric is made and used between 1270 and 1350.

Jugs are the most common form to this site (SC 65%). When this identification could be further refined, baluster and conical shaped jugs were present. Only the products of the Surrey-whiteware industry provided significant variation, with jars or cooking pots, sooted from heating, identified, in addition to a dripping dish in LOND.

1.1.2.1.4 DISCUSSION

The medieval pottery assemblage is characterised by the products of the kilns making London-type ware, Surrey whitewares (Pearce and Vince 1988) and Essex made Mill Green wares (Pearce, Vince, White and Cunningham 1982). Beyond these three sources of supply, variation among the medieval pottery assemblage is otherwise limited to a few jar sherds of south-Hertfordshire greyware and French whiteware jugs from Normandy and Saintonge (north-west France).

The vast majority of the 141 sherds was found spread in twenty graves related to the three (stratigraphically) defined phases of medieval burial sequences. As a consequence of being found in disturbed and redeposited soils, coupled with the lack of any significant development in this area prior to the burial ground, most of this material might best be interpreted as what Buteux and Jackson has termed 'background noise'.

Whilst the overall condition of this material made further chronological refinement difficult – as determined by the absence of the various diagnostic styles and forms known to have been made by each pottery supply source – the presence of all three sources together in most grave backfills provided a dominant c 1270–1350 date to both burial sequences (Table 6). The near absence of any residual Saxo-Norman fabrics in these later medieval pottery groups further reinforces this chronological patterning.

Table 6 Terminus post-quem and ante-quem dates of contexts with medieval pottery by sherd count

TPQ	TAQ					Grand Total
	1300	1330	1350	1400	1500	
1080			2			2
1170			3			3
1240	11		14	1		26
1250			4			4
1270		12	77	3	1	93
1350					2	2
1380				11		11
Grand Total	11	12	100	15	3	141

This relatively precise date range has obvious implications for the burial sequence and, for the second phase of burials, establishing a relationship to the Black Death.

1.1.2.2 *Post-medieval (c 1500–1900)*

1.1.2.2.1 SUMMARY/INTRODUCTION

This text considers the post-medieval pottery retrieved in 13 contexts. It evaluates the character and the date range of the assemblage, determines the research questions this material can address while identifying areas of further work. Comprising 119 sherds from 76 vessels and weighing a total of 4485 grammes, this material was retrieved in a mixed condition, and although a few reconstructable profiles and large-cross joining sherds are present, some of this assemblage is fragmented. Most of the noted better preserved material was found in [125], a deposit which yielded 35 of the 119 post-medieval sherds from this site.

Table 7 demonstrates a relatively high proportion of sherds present per context, a figure enhanced by the presence of better preserved post-medieval pottery group noted in [125].

Table 7 Post-medieval pottery by statistical averages per context

No. of contexts	Total no. of sherds/ENV/weight (in grammes)	Average no. of sherds (per context)	Average no. of vessels (per context)	Average pottery weight (per context)
13	119/76	9.1	8.8	345

1.1.2.2.2 METHODOLOGY

The post-medieval pottery was recorded to the same standard as the medieval pottery.

1.1.2.2.3 FABRICS AND FORMS

The post-medieval pottery found can be broken up into eight categories by broad

sources of supply: Essex made 'fine' red earthenwares, imported wares (Continental and far-eastern), London made 'coarse' red earthenwares, London made tin-glazed wares, stoneware and Surrey-Hampshire border wares. Most of the assemblage is supplied by the products of the Surrey-Hampshire border wares (42.8% SC), and London's delftware (20% SC) and 'coarse' redware industries (14% SC). This combination provided a 17th-century date to much of the landuse with pottery on this site.

The assemblage is best characterised by summarising the 35 sherds of pottery in [125]. Dated 1580–1620, this well-preserved group (within the context of the overall site pottery assemblage) derived from an external dump comprised a selection of fabrics and forms in common circulation during this period. Frechen stoneware, shipped empty into London from the Rhineland and used as containers for beer or wine, included the complete rim and neck fragment from a large pitcher, with Midland purple stoneware used to store butter and other such dairy products. The majority of this material in this context was the white fired products of the Surrey-Hampshire border industry or red earthenwares sourced from London pothouses in Thameside Deptford, Southwark and Lambeth. These both supplied the mainstay of London's pottery during this period, making largely utilitarian wares for kitchen and tableware use and are found here in chamber pot, storage jar, various shaped pipkin, porringer and dish forms.

2 Analysis of potential

2.1 Clay pipes and pottery

Whilst little can be gained from the detailed analysis and further descriptions of the range of (common) medieval and later pottery fabrics and forms, the medieval pottery has potential beyond characterising the deposits it was found in by informing the stratigraphic sequence for the three burial phases. The results of any radio carbon dating of the osteological remains would also be critical in determining whether the medieval pottery delivered an accurate chronological framework for the burials. The post-medieval pottery has no further potential (or significance).

3 Significance of the data

3.1 Clay pipes and pottery

The post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipes have no significance beyond characterising the deposits they were found in and providing a dating framework for this sequence. The medieval pottery, however, is important for supplying a consistent c 1270–1350 chronology to both burial sequences, dating which is significant in relation to the Black Death.

4 Method statements

4.1 Pottery

The below method statement is related to the medieval pottery only.

4.1.1.1 Task 1: full integration of spot-date information with the stratigraphic sequence on the ORACLE database and checking the discrepancies to finalise phasing and to agree the chronological dividing lines of the periods with the stratigraphic author: 0.5 days pd

This is necessary for finalising the medieval sequence from this site and needs to be established to provide the contextual landuse framework needed before any interpretive text on the burial text is written.

4.1.1.2 Task 2: Write general descriptive narrative for the medieval pottery in the burial sequences with a particular focus on the results of the radiocarbon dating: 0.5 days pd

Total: 1 day of post Roman pottery specialist time

5 Bibliography

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