

## **A note on the medieval and post-medieval pottery and clay pipes from C257 Farringdon Eastern Ticket Hall excavation and watching brief, Areas A, B & C (XTE12)**

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### **Introduction**

The post-Roman pottery assemblage from this excavation derives from 40 contexts ([221]–[315]) and amounts to 618 sherds from 424 vessels (27.946kg); 38 sherds are from sieved samples. The finds were recorded on paper and computer using standard Museum of London codes for fabrics, forms and decoration, noting sherd count, estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and in an Excel spreadsheet. No attempt has been made at this stage to relate the finds to the stratigraphic information.

### **Medieval fabrics and forms**

Medieval pottery was present in eight contexts, totalling 39 sherds (21 ENV, 983g); the main concentrations are in [298] (14 sherds) and [240] (6 sherds). In three cases the finds are residual ([274], [298], [304]) but from the lack of other dating evidence, the others could be stratified ([235], [240], [286], [290], [292]). Ten vessels (21 sherds) are from contexts dated to 1400–1500, but earlier wares are also present, with dates ranging from 1270–1350 to 1350–1500. Local fabrics are the most common, with two sherds of coarse London-type ware (LCOAR), two of London-type ware (LOND), 20 of the later equivalent late London-type ware (LLON, four vessels) and one of the slip-coated variant (LLSL). Surrey whitewares comprise nine sherds of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW) and one of Cheam ware (CHEA); there are no Kingston-type wares. One reduced sherd is probably of Limsfield ware (LIMP). Also present are two small sherds of Mill Green ware and Mill Green coarseware. As a whole jugs are the main form type; other forms comprise bowls/dishes, cooking pots and jars.

### **Post-medieval fabrics and forms**

Post-medieval pottery was present in 32 contexts, totalling 581 sherds (403 ENV, 27.205kg); the main concentrations are in [262] (64 sherds) and [270] (55 sherds); contexts [272] and [298] have 45 and 44 sherds respectively, while [227] has 41 sherds.

London-area redwares are the dominant category, with 274 sherds (180 ENV, 15.870kg). Most are in early post-medieval redware (PMRE, 119 sherds), with a few in the related calcareous redware (PMREC) and redware with a metallic glaze (PMREM), all of which are typical of the period 1480–1600. Slipped redwares with a clear or green glaze (PMSRG/PMSRY), dated from 1480–1650, are also well-represented (126 sherds), but only 18 sherds are in the later London-area post-medieval redware (PMR). Cooking vessels are the main functional group, with sherds from up to 62 cauldrons/pipkins and cooking pots. In addition there are sherds from four chafing dishes, used for keeping food

warm at the table, and 32 jars, some of which may also have been used for cooking. Related to these are fragments of up to six lids, one of which has incised decoration and merits illustration ([310], PMSRG). Forms used for food preparation or serving are the second most common, with sherds from up to 40 dishes and five bowls. Up to 14 jugs are represented, along with an unusual small, unglazed jug/bottle in PMRE ([264]; height 105mm, base diameter 50mm; to draw). and one or more industrial vessels in a redware fabric with organic inclusions, found in [257], [275] and [311]. Other forms comprise flower pots and a watering can. Of particular note are six sherds from one or more 'industrial' forms in a redware fabric with organic inclusions (PMRO), including a very large pedestal form from [275], with opposed handles and a vent in the base; possibly a brazier. Such forms are rare in London and this is probably the most complete example of its type to date and should be illustrated; the best parallel is from Lambeth Hill (Moorhouse 1972, 120, fig 33.13); other finds from Moor House (Blackmore 2006, 80; Sudds 2006, 95, fig 75) and from New Street Square (Telfer and Blackmore in prep) are much more fragmented. In addition there are 20 sherds of fine post-medieval redware and post-medieval black-glazed ware from Essex.

Surrey-Hampshire border wares amount to 176 sherds (136 ENV, 5.542kg); only six of these are in the redware fabric. Pipkins are the dominant form (75 sherds from up to 42 examples), including one near complete example from [270] (to draw). Dishes are the second most common form, with sherds from up to 21 examples. Ten probable bowls are also present, one with the letter 'E' incised at the centre of the underside and a radial tool mark at the edge. Other forms comprise part of an upright candlestick, chamber pots, costrels, moneyboxes, drinking jugs, a goblet, mugs and porringers.

Tin-glazed wares are rare, with only 20 sherds from up to 14 vessels (461g). Most are of late 16th-/early 17th-century date (fabric codes TGW A, TGW D), including five albarelli, four with expanded and bevelled base angles in the Antwerp/Aldgate style (Blackmore 2005, 239, fig 202) and a dish and saucer with polychrome decoration. The latest finds are two 18th-century plates from [221] and [265]. Other English fabrics include Cistercian ware and., Midlands purple butterpots; the latest finds are six sherds from an English stoneware tankard with excise stamp and two of English white salt-glazed stoneware, all from [221].

Imports are relatively common on the site, with 73 sherds from 50 vessels (3.82kg), of which roughly half (46 sherds, 26 vessels) are Frechen stonewares. The best group is from [295], which contained three high quality globular jugs with inscribed/floral bands around the girth and portrait medallions and acanthus leaves and sherds from other jugs; these, a sherd from [279] reused as a counter (to accession) and a miniature globular jug from [297] merit illustration. Also from [297] is part of a rare tankard (*Pinte*), probably from Cologne, with part of one of three panels showing what appears to be Venus and the judgement of Paris (Gaimster 1995, 147, 236, col pl 18). Single sherds of probable Cologne stoneware were found in three other contexts, with four sherds of Raeren stoneware from four contexts. Other imports include Dutch redwares (both plain and slipped), part of a South Netherlands maiolica Malling jug with allover blue glaze, Martincamp stonewares from France, the complete rim of Spanish olive jar and one or

two large Spanish green-glazed *lebrillo* dishes, a rare find in London. From Italy are part of a Ligurian tin-glazed dish and a Montelupo tazza. The one sherd of Chinese porcelain, from [258] is in an unusual darker fabric with floral decoration in olive-green/brown outlined in brown.

### **The clay pipes**

In all 31 pipe fragments were recovered from six contexts, of which 10 are bowls. The finds were recorded directly onto the Museum of London Archaeology Oracle database using standard codes for type (based on Atkinson and Oswald 1969), decoration and surface treatment and noting fragment count. The earliest bowl fragment is of AO8, dated to 1610–40 from [227]; four examples from [210] and [270] are of type AO10, dating from 1640–60. Three bowls are dated to 1680–1710, two from [225] (type AO20) and one from [265] (type AO21). The latest finds are from [221] and from [227] (<13>), which contained a bowl of type AO26 (1740–80). The former is a large bowl similar in form to type AO25 has the initials NA on the spur (<15>, while the latter has the initials IH. No pipes have any other form of decoration.

### **Discussion**

The medieval pottery probably derives from the Charterhouse monastery. Some post-medieval groups are typical of the Dissolution period, but most probably date to the later 16th and early 17th centuries when former monastic buildings were converted for private use and new buildings began to be built outside the monastic precincts in the Smithfield area. The only real evidence for 18th-century activity is from contexts [221] and [265]. Most of the pottery is entirely domestic in character and while the crucible and unusual brazier-type forms hint at technological processes, the rarity of these finds suggests that these too may have been carried out within a household rather than reflect industry as such. The high status of the property/properties is reflected by the range of imported wares, which include some fine German stonewares. Several finds merit illustration.

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