

Note on the XTE12 non-ceramic registered finds, nails, glass and slag excavated in 2013

Beth Richardson

Summary of accessioned finds by material and period

Material	Roman	Medieval	Post-med	Not known	Total	Comment
Copper alloy	0	0	7	0	7	
Iron	0	0	5	0	5	
Bone	0	0	1	0	1	
Glass	0	0	1	0	1	
Leather	0	0	6	0	6	In Conservation
Fibre	0	0	1	0	1	In Conservation
Totals	0	0	21	0	21	

Introduction/methodology

There are 21 non-ceramic accessioned finds, seven copper-alloy, five iron, six leather, one fibre, one bone and one glass. The finds have been accessioned in accordance with MOLA procedures and the digitised records are held on the Oracle database. All metal, bone and glass objects were examined individually, with the aid of x-rays where appropriate and archive catalogue entries entered on to the database.

There are also non-accessioned finds: four iron nails, three small bags of slag and two small bags of bulk glass.

The registered finds

Most of the registered finds from this phase of the site appear to be early post-medieval (16th- or 17th-century). Where identifiable they are all standard dress fittings and domestic items. A near-complete shoe (<25>) and two small mounts (<47>) and <16>) are in good condition and require further research. Three finds from organic ditch filling (sgp 160 [274], [275]) can be particularly closely dated by a near-complete mid to late 16th-century high shoe with slashed decoration (<25>) from [275]. There is also part of a leather belt (<24>) from the same context and a short length of bent copper wire (<17>) from [274].

Several finds from filling or levelling dumps for a ditch (subgroup 172, context [298]) are also early post-medieval (16th- or 17th-century). They include a small arrow-shaped copper-alloy mount (<47>), a small pin with a flat wound wire head (<44>), a short length of twisted copper wire (<39>), part of a thin iron spike (<35>), two small fragments of naturally coloured light blue and green vessel glass (<46>) and pieces from a leather belt and straps (<29>, <31> and <32>).

Other ditch fill finds (sgps 176, 179, 180) include a bone used for sharpening pins (<38> [297]), not seen) and part of a copper-alloy thimble rim (<38>, [297]). The thimble is not machine-made (it has stamped triangular pits) and probably dates to the 16th- or 17th-century. There are also part of a knife or tool (<33>) and a piece of leather strap (<30>) from context [217].

Finds from an extensive pre-building dump across the site (sgp 133, [231]) consist of a small rectangular bone mount (<16>) and a copper-alloy pin shaft. They are post-medieval but not intrinsically datable.

Bulk glass, nails and slag

There is a very small amount of bulk glass. Four fragments of 16th- or 17th-century natural green window glass were found in dumped ditch fill context [310] (sgp 179). A high domed base from a pharmaceutical phial (discoloured but originally natural green glass) is 17th-century.

There are four nails. Three, from [272], [279] and [298] appear to be broadly the same type: 55-65mm long, with square shafts and circular or polygonal heads. One (from [262]) is very corroded.

Slag from contexts [227], [262] and [270] weighs approximately 650 grams. It should be seen by an external specialist.