

A note on the post-medieval pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe from the Pile Line general watching brief, Broadgate Ticket Hall (XSM10)

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18/02/2014

Pottery

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from this particular phase of archaeological work amounts to 32 sherds (18 ENV, 2.6kg) and was found in eight contexts ([1501] to [1656]). Where appropriate 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. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database.

The post-medieval pottery

With no medieval dated pottery recovered, post-medieval ceramics instead provide all of this material from this excavation phase. In common with the pottery of this date found from earlier interventions on this site, some vessels survived as large-sized joining sherds and although reconstructable profiles were few, two near complete pots retrieved in [1504] and [1635]. With this material characterised by London made tin-glazed wares with some typical imports from continental Europe, the assemblage from these latest excavated deposits are notable for the largely consistent mid to late 17th century *terminus post-quem* they provide to the several contexts.

The earliest dated pottery (1480–1600) is in [1656] which contained coarse redwares from London area with a sherd each of plain redware (PMRE) or with its slip-coated decorated derivative (PMSR) in a pitcher and cauldron/pipkin form respectively. The pottery in the remaining seven contexts mostly comprised London tin-glazed wares in charger/dish and rounded bowls forms, and imports from Continental Europe. Among the last group are common Rhenish stonewares from Frechen (in [1628] and [1655]) and Westerwald (in [1626]), in addition to the large joining sherds of a well-used whiteware tripod pipkin (also from the Rhineland) and a tin-glazed ware bowl or vase lid in [1655] that might be Netherlands sourced. A near complete Bristol-glaze stoneware marmalade or jam pot in [1504] an earlier dated stoneware globular mug or gorge (also in [1504]) and a red Surrey-Hampshire border ware chicken feeder in [1635] provide the only variation in source of pottery supply otherwise observed.

Glass

With the few fragments of glass waste found in [1501] and [1634] considered in the registered finds report for this phase of the site, this isolates the mid to late 19th-century eight sided bottle in [1504] as the only glass retrieved from this phase. This mould made aqua coloured glass functioned as a medicine bottle.

Clay pipe

Only one clay tobacco pipe bowl of the AO25 type (1700–70) was recovered from this phase of works, in [1649].

Discussion

The post-medieval pottery could be derived from a number of sources in the area, or simply rubbish brought out of the city. Despite not being related to any structural sequences the sources of supply represented are remarkably consistent, with an overwhelming emphasis locally made tin-glazed ware and stoneware and German and Low Countries imports in this sequence.