

A note on the medieval and later pottery from Crossrail Central, Broadgate Ticket Hall (XSM10) phases 1 and 2

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Introduction

The post-Roman pottery assemblage from phases 1 and 2 amounts to 957 sherds (729 ENV, 34.492kg) from 19 contexts ([1], [3], [4], [20], [211], [212], [216], [217], [277], [279], [283], [298], [323], [327], [492], [493], [507], [651], [693]). Of these, 627 sherds were recovered in the first phase, the remainder in the second. 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. A few finds merit illustration. The data can be accessed on the Oracle database and also in an excel spreadsheet.

The medieval wares

A total of 34 sherds (34 ENV, 627g) of medieval pottery were found, all residual (contexts ([1], [3], [4], [20], [211], [212], [217], [277], [279], [327], [492], [493], [651])). The earliest are single sherds of early Surrey ware and early medieval sand-and-shell-tempered ware from [217], which date to the 11th or 12th century. Five sherds are of London ware (both fine and coarse variants), while 21 are Surrey whitewares, with a mix of coarse Surrey-Hampshire border ware (CBW) and Kingston-type ware; some of the latter are very coarse and could also be CBW, although the jug forms are typical of the Kingston industry. Also present are three sherds of South Herts-type greyware and one of late medieval Hertfordshire glazed ware.

The post-medieval wares

Post-medieval wares are present in all contexts (918 sherds, 695 ENV, 33.865kg). Redwares from London area and Essex are the most common category. The coarser fabrics, mainly from the London area, amount to 395 sherds (283 ENV). The most common types are early post-medieval redware (PMRE, c 1480–1600) with 152 sherds (118 ENV) and London-area early post-medieval slipped redware (PMSR/G/Y, c 1480–1650; 85 sherds, 62 ENV). In third place is London-area post-medieval redware (PMR), which dates from c 1580 until c 1900 (116 sherds, 67 ENV), followed by London-area bichrome glazed ware (PMBR, 1480–1600), with 39 sherds (34 ENV). Most sherds are from heavy duty vessels, mainly associated with the storage, preparing, cooking and serving of food, but including part of a PMSRG goblet ([283]), two flower pots in PMRE ([492]) and PMR ([3]), two possible industrial vessels in PMRE ([493]; all-sided rim) and PMR ([3]; cucurbit?) and part of a PMRE drain pip ([651]). The most complete vessel is a large PMR storage jar with thumbled cordon, combed horizontal and wavy line decoration and two large applied thumbled rosette pads ([20]) probably from Woolwich. Two thick-walled sherds in a reduced fabric with dull green glaze appear to be from the base of a very large vessel with kiln scars on the outer wall ([211]). Another rim is from a jar with thumbled basket handle ([4]). Of particular note is part of a PMSRY dish with

sgraffito decoration in the Dutch style, showing the body and legs of a rather crudely drawn bird ([507]; cf Hurst et al 1986, 148, pl 23), which merits illustration.

In addition there are 77 sherds (42 ENV) from Essex, of which 67 sherds are of fine post-medieval redware (PMFR, 1580–1700); the others are of post-medieval black-glazed ware (PMBL, 1580–1700) and Metropolitan slipware (METS, 1630–1700). The most complete is a two-handled dish in PMFR from [20].

In second place are wares from Surrey (143 sherds, 119 ENV), of which two sherds are of early Surrey-Hampshire border (EBORD), 91 are in the white fabric (BORDG/O/Y) and the remainder are in the redware equivalent (RBOR), the latter including three dishes with painted slip decoration (RBORSL). Most of the whiteware forms are table wares (bowls, dishes, porringers, drinking jugs and a possibly cup), but a few sherds are from chamber pots, costrels, skillets, tripod pipkins; one is part of a saucer candlestick, while two are the knops from money boxes. Most of the redware sherds are from more robust dishes, with a few from chamber pots and cooking vessels. Of note are sherds from a salt ([1]) and what appears to be a double dish ([20]), unusually a standard dish form with central partition rather than the more common form of two small dishes joined together, and a salt with pedestal base ([1]). Details of form types can be found in Pearce (1992; 2007).

Imports are well-represented on the site and numerically the third most common category, with a total of 137 sherds (119 ENV). As usual most are German stonewares, mainly from Raeren (57 sherds) including three complete bases from [693] and part of a mug with incised and stabbed face ([507]; cf Hurst et al 1986, 196, fig 84.302). Some sherds recorded as Raeren could in fact be from Langerwehe. Frechen stonewares amount to 37 sherds, while the remainder are from Siegburg, Cologne and Westerwald. Those recorded as Cologne have oak and rose leaf decoration, while one has an acanthus leaf and another has a portrait medallion. Other imports from northern Europe comprise German whitewares (three sherds from [4] and [211]), Dutch redwares (DUTR: nine sherds from four cauldrons/pipkins, a jar and a dripping dish), Dutch slipwares (DUTSL: three sherds), South Netherlands maiolica (SNTG), Dutch tin-glazed ware (DTGW), and part of a Beauvais sgraffito ware dish (BEAU1). One sherd of SNTG has an allover blue glaze ([212]), while the other is from the base of an Italian-style vase/altar vase with polychrome decoration ([507]). One sherd from a dish made at Montelupo (MLTG), Italy, is present ([212]), but most south European imports are from the Iberian Peninsula, including one sherd of Portuguese tin-glazed ware. Spanish wares comprise part of an Isabella polychrome ware dish (ISAB; [507], cf *ibid*, 54–7, figs 24–5), two sherds of olive jar (OLIV), and four from one or two large dishes in Spanish green-glazed ware (SPGR; [507]) of the type known as *lebrillo* (cf *ibid*, 65, fig 29.78). Also present are two sherds of Chinese porcelain, one from the neck of a miniature garniture vase ([216]).

Tin-glazed wares, mainly forms that would be used at the table, are the fourth most common category by sherd count (99 fragments, 85 ENV), although the sherds are much smaller. It is likely that most are from factories along the south bank (Britton 1987; Noël Hume 1977; Tyler et al 2008). A range of different decorative styles is represented, with fairly even mix of 17th-century and 18th-century wares. The former comprise wares with blue and white or polychrome decoration (TGW D, date 1630–80; 35 sherds, 32 ENV), and one with Chinaman in grasses decoration (TGW F, 1670–90; 3 sherds, 2 ENV). The latter include two sherds with 'Lambeth polychrome decoration (TGW G, 1701–11), 11 sherds with blue on blue decoration (TGW H, 1680–1800), 18 recorded as TGW, most with typical 18th-century-style decoration, and two from plates with sponged decoration (TGW SPNG). Of particular interest is the base of a small fluted bowl in TGW

G with what appears to be the number '13' on the underside of the base ([4]). Vessels with a plain white glaze (TGW C; 28 sherds, 22 ENV) were produced from c 1630–1846 and so are difficult to date precisely, but most are from chamber pots and should date to after c 1650.

Other English ware types include 22 sherds from 14 Cistercian ware mugs, one substantially complete ([507]), 15 sherds of assorted Staffordshire wares, 28 sherds of English stoneware (various types) and the base of a Bow white porcelain teabowl with applied sprig decoration ([217]).

Discussion

The site would appear to be within the precinct of the Austin Friars, and the medieval pottery was presumably used within the friary. Contexts [211], [212], [277], [279], [283], [298], [507], [651] and [693] all contain pottery that falls within the date range of c 1550–1600 and so could represent material discarded at the Dissolution (total 257 sherds, 9.374kg).

The largest group is from [507] (83 sherds, 4.162kg), which contains a number of imported wares, 54 sherds from [211] and 45 sherds from [212]. Contexts [323], [492] and [493] date to the mid/late 17th century, while all other contexts contain pottery dating to the 18th century and must reflect the later development of the site; the largest group is from [20], which contained 215 sherds (10.450kg) with a date range of 1763–1800. The assemblages of each period are typical for London, but, as noted above, the post-medieval wares include a few unusual forms that merit comment in any publication of the site; six of these could be illustrated.

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