

A note on the medieval and later pottery from Broadgate Ticket Hall (XSM10) phase 5

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Introduction

The medieval and later pottery assemblage from this particular phase of archaeological work amounts to 324 sherds (221 ENV, 13.9kg) from 32 contexts ([1017] to [1396]). 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 medieval wares

Five contexts contained residual sherds of medieval pottery nevertheless dated to the 13th to 15th century. This isolates three contexts [1027], [1044] and [1186] as potentially medieval in date, although Roman material was also present here; consequently it cannot be yet determined if medieval landuse has survived until phasing is completed.

The post-medieval wares

Post-medieval wares are present in 29 of the 32 contexts which contained pottery and therefore provided the overwhelming majority of the pottery assemblage from this excavation phase (307 of the 324 sherds). Whilst this material is characterised by London made redwares with some typical imports from continental Europe, the assemblage from these latest excavated deposits are notable for the consistent mid to late 16th century *terminus post-quem* they provide to the excavated landuse.

Each pottery vessel survived as large-sized joining sherds although reconstructable profiles were few and no complete vessels were retrieved. Coarse redwares from London area in various fabrics, either plain (notably PMRE and PMBR) or with slip coated decoration (PMSR), are the most common category (190 of the 307 sherds), with cauldrons and pipkins, bowls and dishes dominating, but including a few rounded jugs and jars. Of note is the large portion of a carinated bowl in [1066].

Imports from Continental Europe amount to 46 sherds, with a mix of German stonewares from Raeren and Frechen, a few redwares from the Netherlands and south Netherlands, Italy and Spain maiolica found. The former are mostly Raeran mugs and jugs. Of note is the upper portion of an unglazed Saintonge *pegua* in [1034]. Decorative tablewares are provided by the tin-glazed or maiolica retrieved, for example the two south Netherlands maiolica alberellos, tazza fragments from Montelupo in central Italy and the Valencian sourced dish from Catalonia, Spain.

Surrey-Hampshire border wares - largely the whiteware variants - supplied 42 sherds in a range of utilitarian cooking (tripod pipkins) and serving wares (mostly dishes). Minor fabric types include post-medieval fine redware from Essex (11 sherds) in a range of drinking vessels; similarly Cistercian-type wares describing finely potted mugs

made at various pothouses across England during the later 15th into the 16th centuries were also present in small numbers.

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 coarse redwares in cooking vessels such as cauldrons and tripod pipkins, dumped relatively quickly, potentially in order to level the land just prior to its use as the Bedlam burial ground from the late 16th century.