

CHAPTER 23

Glass



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23 Glass

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Glass was recovered from three sites at Stansted Airport: the LTCP, MTCP, and FLB sites. The majority of the assemblage comprises fragments of vessel glass, although window glass, objects and waste material are also represented in small quantities. The date range of the assemblage is Romano-British to post-medieval. Table 23.1 summarises glass totals by site, Table 23.2 gives a breakdown of the assemblage by date, and a complete archive catalogue is included here as Table 23.3. The largest assemblages came from the LTCP and MTCP sites, with just a small quantity (all post-medieval/modern vessel glass) from the FLB site.

Romano-British glass

A small quantity has been identified as Romano-British in date; this includes vessel glass, objects (beads) and glass waste. Fragments came from both the LTCP and MTCP sites.

All ten beads came from a single deposit (context 335022, intervention 335021, late Romano-British ring gully 306077) on MTCP (five of them retrieved from a sieved soil sample). This group comprises four very small, translucent yellow-green beads of irregular annular form, four small translucent blue beads of similar form, and two small translucent blue beads of barrel-shaped form.

Of the 16 vessel fragments, ten are completely undiagnostic; these are in colourless or very pale blue or green glass, and all derive from thin-walled vessels. The remaining six fragments are more diagnostic. One is a thick, folded rim from a cylindrical or prismatic bottle (MTCP, 328258, intervention 328257, 2nd-3rd-century ditch 344159), one of the most common vessel forms, and current during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. A second rim is from a funnel-mouthed vessel, either a jug or flask (MTCP, 335007, late Romano-British gully 335003). A third rim (MTCP, 6606, late Romano-British hollow way 6616) is from a straight-sided vessel with a slightly everted, cracked-off rim, possibly a beaker (eg Price and Cottam 1998, fig 22, dated later 1st century AD). A thin-walled body fragment with applied vertical ribs in colourless glass, from an uncertain vessel form, came from a post-medieval latrine pit on the LTCP (447012, cut 447014). A thick-walled base (MTCP, 6319, intervention 6318, 2nd-3rd-century ditch 306147) probably derives from a bowl (eg Price and Cottam 1998, fig 25 or fig 38). The sixth fragment has trailed decoration, but is otherwise of uncertain vessel form (LTCP, 115021, late Romano-British pit 115020).

The single piece of glass waste was recovered from a Romano-British cremation burial (MTCP, 349147, early Romano-British cremation burial 349139); this is a small blob of pale blue/green glass, which could represent a pyre good of some description.

Overall the assemblage indicates a certain level of affluence and/or access to luxury goods amongst the inhabitants of the sites.

Post-medieval glass

The remaining glass is of post-medieval or modern date, of which the majority came from the hunting lodge uncovered on the LTCP site (BAACP01) (111 fragments). This group includes both vessel and window glass. The window glass is all of similar type: thin-walled fragments in a very pale greenish glass, mostly suffering a moderate degree of oxidisation and consequent lamination. On the few fragments where quarry shape is apparent, it is of diamond shape (eg 480999 from the finds retrieval grid and 461035, cut 461038), but there are no came shadows visible. Condition and form suggest that these fragments are of early post-medieval date.

The vessel glass consists largely of green wine bottles. These are very fragmentary and include much undiagnostic material, but examples of both 'onion' and 'mallet' forms are distinguishable amongst this group (461001, post-medieval robber cut 461014), but not cylindrical forms, indicating a maximum potential date range of c1680-1760. These fragments came from several contexts across the site, of which the largest group (21 fragments) had been dumped in a robber trench (468004, intervention 468003, robber trench 481016).

Other miscellaneous body fragments in greenish glass, often heavily oxidised, appear to derive from thinner-walled vessels than the bottles, possibly flasks of some form (450014 - intervention 450012, post-medieval ditch 453009 – 462010 – post-medieval ditch 462009 - and 461016 – post-medieval robber trench 461043).

Also recovered from this site were three fragments of fine drinking vessels of 16th or 17th century date, a small phial of 17th or early 18th century type (459027, post-medieval hearth 459026), and another thin-walled vessel, possibly a second phial (461035, post-medieval construction cut 461038).

Two drinking vessel fragments came from the ploughsoil. One is a plain foot in colourless glass from a goblet of unknown form (Obj. No. 1337), with a probable date range of 16th to 17th century. The second fragment is also in colourless glass, but with applied *vetro a fili* spiral trails marvered into the surface (Obj. No. 1336); this probably derives from a squat beaker. This beaker type has a date range spanning the 17th century, and was produced in the Low Countries, Venice and probably England; examples with coloured trails are dated as earlier 17th century (Willmott 2002, type 3.6). The type, of relatively small size, is thought to have been used for wine and spirits; it is not a form commonly found in England (*ibid.*, 43, fig 20).

The rim of a cylindrical beaker in pale greenish glass, with mould-blown wrythen decoration (Willmott 2002, type 1.3, fig 7), was found unstratified (Obj. No. 1326). This is a common form, distributed widely across England (*ibid.*, fig 4); the wrythen-decorated type has a date range of mid to late 17th century, and examples were made at English glass-making centres such as Rosedale and Hutton (Crossley and Aberg 1972, fig 61, 25; fig 64, 73) as well as on the continent. Larger than the squat beakers, cylindrical beakers are thought to have been used primarily for drinking beer.

The relatively low quantities of glass are perhaps surprising given the substantial nature of the buildings on the site, and their presumed high status (as a hunting lodge) within the post-medieval landscape. However, the comparatively low levels of other

artefact types were also noted, as was the scarcity of 'luxury' items such as fineware pottery, echoed here in the rare occurrence of fineware glass drinking vessels.

Table 23.1: A summary of the glass by site

Glass Type	LTCP		MTCF		FLB		TOTAL	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Vessel	82	1744	20	198	10	155	112	2097
Window	43	63					43	63
Object			10	2			10	2
Waste			1	4			1	4
TOTAL	125	1807	31	204	10	155	166	2166

Table 23.2: Glass by date

Glass Type	Romano-British		Post-Med/Modern	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Bead	10	2		
Vessel	16	71	96	2026
Window Glass			43	63
Waste	1	4		
TOTAL	27	77	139	2089

Table 23.3 Catalogue of all glass by context

Site Code	Context	SG No.	Interpretation	SG Deposit Date	Type	No.	Wt. (g)	Spot Date	Description
BAACP01	0	1	Primary Fill		Vessel	1	1	PM	Drinking vessel: rim from cylindrical beaker with wrythen mould-blown decoration; pale greenish glass (Willmott type 1.3)
BAAMP99	503	1	Primary Fill		Vessel	1	22	PM	Green bottle
BAAMP99	2312	344247	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Vessel	1	11	PM	Phial neck
BAAMP99	6319	306148	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Vessel	1	1	Romano-British	Small, thin-walled frag vessel glass. V. pale green, bubbly
BAAMP99	6319	306148	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Vessel	1	14	Romano-British	Thick-walled frag from base of bowl (Price & Cottam fig. 25 or fig. 38).. V pale green, bubbly
BAAMP99	6606	6606	Deliberate Backfill	LRB	Vessel	1	14	Romano-British	Thick-walled frag; straight-sided with rim cracked-off; ?beaker (Price & Cottam fig. 22). Pale green, bubbly.
BAAMP99	8713	8713	Secondary Fill	PM	Vessel	1	86	MO	Bottle/jar
BAACP00	115021	115021	Secondary Fill	LRB	Vessel	1	1	Romano-British	Vessel: pale blue, trailed decoration
BAACP00	136167	136167	Layer	U	Vessel	1	8	PM	Green bottle
BAACP00	138027	109208	Secondary Fill	ERB	Vessel	1	1	Romano-British	Minute fragment of vessel glass - Romano-British? Very pale blue
BAACP00	141003	109238	Secondary Fill	LIA/ERB	Vessel	1	1	Romano-British	Minute fragment of vessel glass - Romano-British?
BAAMP00	301001	301001	Topsoil	U	Vessel	1	3	Romano-British	Vessel; optic-blown ribbed dec; possibly hexagonal bottle (Price & Cottam fig. 95)
BAAMP00	328258	344163	Secondary Fill	LIA/ERB	Vessel	1	22	Romano-British	Rim from cylindrical/prismatic bottle, blue/green
BAAMP00	328258	344163	Secondary Fill	LIA/ERB	Vessel	4	1	Romano-British	Small, thin-walled frags, pale green
BAAMP00	328268	344169	Secondary Fill	LRB	Vessel	1	2	Romano-British	Almost clear
BAAMP00	333052	333052	Deliberate Backfill	LRB	Vessel	1	1	Romano-British	Almost clear
BAAMP00	335007	335007	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Vessel	1	8	Romano-British	Rim from jug or flask with funnel mouth (eg Price & Cottam fig. 72 or 84)
BAAMP00	335022	306079	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Bead	6	1	Romano-British	Two small blue glass beads
BAAMP00	335022	306079	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Vessel	2	1	MO	Tiny frags of vessel glass, clear, looks modern
BAAMP00	335022	306079	Secondary Fill	Romano-British	Bead	4	1	Romano-British	Three small translucent yellow-green beads
BAAMP00	349147	349147	Cremation Burial	Romano-British	Waste	1	4		Blob of glass waste
BAAMP00	359020	344047	Ditch	Romano-British	Vessel	1	2	Romano-British	Almost clear
BAAFL00	406009	406009	Layer	PM	Vessel	1	1	PM	Green bottle
BAAFL00	406010	406010	Layer	PM	Vessel	1	2	PM	Green bottle
BAAFL00	406010	406010	Layer	PM	Vessel	1	43	PM	Green bottle
BAAFL00	409007	409007	Secondary Fill	U	Vessel	6	46	MO	Clear bottle/jar
BAAFL00	409024	409024	Secondary Fill	U	Vessel	1	63	MO	Brown bottle
BAACP01	447004	447004	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Window	9	9	PM	
BAACP01	447011	447011	Deliberate Backfill	PM(III)	Vessel	1	12	PM	Green bottle (neck)
BAACP01	447011	447011	Deliberate Backfill	PM(III)	Window	1	1	PM	?Window (small frag)
BAACP01	447012	447012	Deliberate Backfill	PM(II)	Vessel	1	3	Romano-British	Fine vessel, applied vertical ribbed decoration; clear glass, good quality
BAACP01	449015	1	Primary Fill		Vessel	1	2	PM	Thin-walled
BAACP01	449063	449063	Layer	MO	Vessel	1	5	MO	Brown bottle
BAACP01	450014	453011	Secondary Fill	PM(II)	Vessel	1	3	PM	Greenish; heavily oxidised (flask?)
BAACP01	458020	458020	Secondary Fill	PM(disuse)	Vessel	1	60	PM	Green bottle: onion or mallet?

BAACP01	458024	458024	Ploughsoil	MO	Vessel	1	2	PM	Beaker base; marvered white trails (vetro a fili) 9Willmott type 3.6)
BAACP01	458024	458024	Ploughsoil	MO	Vessel	1	2	PM	Drinking vessel: wine goblet footring, colourless
BAACP01	459006	459006	Deliberate Backfill	PM(disuse)	Window	2	2	PM	slightly oxidised
BAACP01	459008	459008	Deliberate Backfill	PM (IV)	Vessel	2	3	PM	Green bottle
BAACP01	459022	459022	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	1	4	PM	Green bottle
BAACP01	459024	459024	Hearth	PM (IV)	Vessel	1	2	PM	Green bottle; string neck
BAACP01	459027	459027	Deliberate Backfill	PM (IV)	Vessel	4	2	PM	Thin-walled ?phial (tubular neck); very pale greenish; Obj. No. 1370
BAACP01	459029	459029	Occupation Layer	PM (III)	Vessel	1	1	PM	Bottle/jar - tiny frag; pale greenish
BAACP01	461001	461001	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Window	3	17	MO	
BAACP01	461001	461001	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	4	106	MO	Bottle/jar; clear
BAACP01	461001	461001	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	2	22	MO	Brown bottle
BAACP01	461001	461001	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	1	23	PM	Green bottle (base); onion/mallet form
BAACP01	461015	461015	Deliberate Backfill	PM (IV)	Vessel	1	12	PM	Green bottle
BAACP01	461016	461016	Secondary Fill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	1	2	PM	Greenish; thin-walled, oxidised (flask?)
BAACP01	461027	461027	Deliberate Backfill	PM (IV)	Vessel	7	726	PM	Green bottle; 2 bases (onion)
BAACP01	461035	461035	Secondary Fill	PM (IV)	Vessel	1	1	PM	Thin-walled ?drinking vessel; Obj. No. 1400
BAACP01	461035	461035	Secondary Fill	PM (IV)	Window	24	24	PM	Diamond-shaped quarries; oxidised; Obj. No. 1399
BAACP01	462009	462009	Ditch	PM (I)	Vessel	9	49	PM	Greenish, thin-walled, heavily oxidised (flask?): Obj. No. 1397
BAACP01	468004	468004	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	21	530	PM	Green bottle; max. 2 bases and bodies (?mallet)
BAACP01	468004	468004	Deliberate Backfill	PM (disuse)	Vessel	3	12	PM	Green bottle
BAACP01	480048	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Window	1	1	PM	
BAACP01	480048	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Vessel	2	11	PM	Green bottle
BAACP01	480083	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Window	2	7	PM	Diamond-shaped quarries
BAACP01	480083	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Vessel	5	94	PM	Green bottle (neck/body); onion/mallet form
BAACP01	480092	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Window	1	2	PM	
BAACP01	480092	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Vessel	1	3	PM	Green bottle (neck)
BAACP01	480100	480999	Retrieval Grid	PM	Vessel	3	41	PM	Green bottle (base); onion/mallet form
BAACP99	991801	991801	Topsoil	MO	Vessel	1	3	PM	Bottle/phial
BAACP99	992101	992101	Topsoil	MO	Vessel	2	10	PM	Clear ?cup (handle stump)



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