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Assessment of the clay tobacco pipe from South Parks Road Tinbergen House (OXTINB 15 EV)

The clay tobacco pipe

by John Cotter

A single clay pipe bowl was recovered. This has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Pipe bowls, as here, are dated by reference to the local Oxford typology (Oswald 1984) or by reference to the London typology (Atkinson and Oswald 1969).

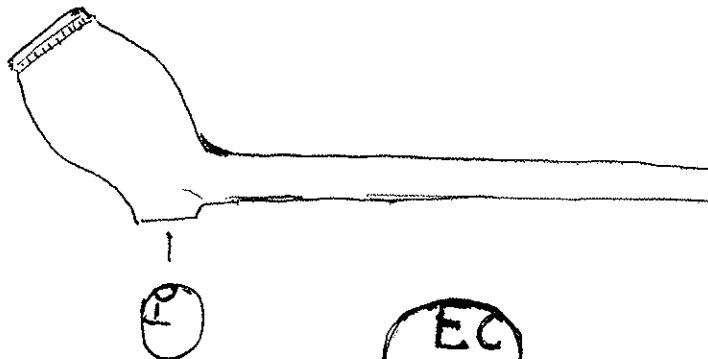
Context (102): Spot-date c 1630-1650

Description: 1 piece (weight 11g). Complete clay pipe bowl with broad circular heel (diam 9.5mm) and 70mm length of surviving stem. The bowl form is very similar to Oxford Type A bowls of c 1630-1655 (Oswald 1984, fig. 51.A) and has a complete band of milling below the rim. It has traces of faint seam marks on the front and back, is unburnished and has a stem bore diameter of c 3mm - typical of 17th-century pipes. It has clearly been smoked. On the heel is a stamped maker's mark in incuse capital letters 'EC' (c 4mm tall), with slight serifs. The mark is positioned off-centre at the top-left of the heel and the top of the letters are flush with the edge of the heel. The mark is unknown from Oxfordshire and the only EC listed by Oswald is a 19th-century pipemaker who is clearly not the maker here, so the pipe may be a non-local product. Other indications of a non-local origin are the seams on the bowl and the relative slenderness of the stem compared to other local pipes of this date. The closest London parallels are with London bowl types 8 and 10 both of c 1640-1660 although the match is not exact (Atkinson and Oswald 1969, fig. 1.9-10). A very similar, possibly identical, mark occurs on the back of an early spurred bowl of c 1630-1640 of fairly similar size to the bowl here; this is by the maker Edward Carrington of Cripplegate who was active 1634-1664 (ibid., fig. 4.12). It is quite possible that the Oxford example is by this maker, and from the same stamp, but applied to a pipe from a different mould at a different date. It is recommended that the pipe should be illustrated at some point and added to the Oxford clay pipe type series.

Bibliography

Atkinson, D, and Oswald, A, 1969 'London clay tobacco pipes', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 32, 171-227.

Oswald, A, 1984 'Clay pipes' in Hassall, T G, Halpin, C E and Mellor, M, 'Excavations in St. Ebbe's, Oxford, 1967-1976: Part II: Post-medieval domestic tenements and the post-Dissolution site of the Greyfriars', *Oxoniensia* 49, 251-262.



EC
x 2

? EDWARD CARRINGTON
OF
CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON
c. 1634 - 1644