

## Chapter 5: Medieval and Post-Medieval Finds (Phases 5 and 6)

### Medieval and post-medieval pottery *John Cotter*

#### Introduction

A total of 290 sherds of pottery weighing 3.013 kg were recovered. Apart from just two residual medieval sherds, all the remainder is of post-medieval date, and mostly dates after *c* 1700. In general the pottery is in a very fragmentary and very worn condition apart from some of the more robust Victorian wares. No complete vessel profiles have survived and none of the material has been deemed worthy of illustration, particularly as most of the post-medieval types are commonplace across much of southern England, and better parallels exist. A very similar (though more extensive) range of post-medieval fabrics and vessel forms occur, for instance, at Oxford (Mellor and Oakley 1984). What follows, therefore, is a simply a quantified list of the various fabrics present and a summary report focusing on the more significant or interesting aspects of the assemblage.

Following standard procedures, an intermediate level catalogue of pottery types was constructed for the excavated assemblage and spot-dates produced for each context. The catalogue includes, per context and per pottery fabric, quantification by sherd count and weight. Quantification by rim EVEs (measurable rim percentage) was not considered worthwhile. Details of vessel form, part, decoration and any other features of note were recorded in a comments field. Full details remain in the archive.

#### Pottery Fabrics

Post-medieval pottery fabrics, which are in the majority here, were recorded using the codes of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007), which can be applied to most post-medieval types in southern England. The rare sherds of medieval pottery here are coded either to the Oxfordshire county type series (Mellor 1994) or the Southampton type series (Brown 2002). The types and quantities occurring at Kingshill North are listed below in roughly chronological order.

**OXAM:** Brill/Boarstall ware, *c* 1225-1625. Buckinghamshire (Mellor 1994, 111-140). 1 sherd, 5 g. A possible sherd of this identified from a modern topsoil context (8000). The sherd is worn and unglazed with a buff sandy fabric with cream surfaces. Possibly a late medieval example, perhaps 15th or 16th century, rather than

earlier. Normally traded in the form of green-glazed jugs.

- LV:** Laverstock ware, *c* 1230-1350. Wiltshire (Brown 2002, 15). 1 sherd, 26 g. Possibly Laverstock, or something very similar, but not Brill/Boarstall owing to decorative differences. From a furrow containing 19th-century pottery (7523). The slightly worn sherd is from the lower handle junction of jug with part of a rod handle in a fine sandy cream-buff fabric with splashes of clear glaze with green speckles. Down the back of the handle is a vertical row of stabbed circular pits which join a possible horizontal row at the base of the handle.
- FREC:** Frechen stoneware, *c* 1525-1750. Import, Germany. 2 sherds, 10 g.
- BORDB:** Surrey/Hampshire white Border ware, brown-glazed, *c* 1650-1700. 1 sherd, 3 g.
- PMR:** Post-medieval red earthenwares, *c* 1550-1900. Mainly local. 109 sherds, 1779 g.
- PMR FLP:** Post-medieval red earthenware flower-pot, *c* 1675-2000. Mainly local. 35 sherds, 399 g.
- WEST:** Westerwald stoneware, *c* 1590-1750. Import, Germany. 4 sherds, 28 g.
- TGW:** English tin-glazed earthenware, *c* 1575-1825. London, Bristol etc. 1 sherd, 4 g.
- CHPO:** Chinese porcelain, *c* 1600-1900+ (mainly *c* 1725-1900). Import, China. 2 sherds, 4 g.
- ENGS:** English brown salt-glazed stoneware, *c* 1670-1900. Bristol, London, Staffordshire. 2 sherds, 29 g.
- STMO:** Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed earthenware, *c* 1680-1800. 3 sherds, 10 g.
- STSL:** Staffordshire-type combed slipware, *c* 1680-1900. 3 sherds, 6 g.
- SWSG:** Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, *c* 1720-1780. 6 sherds, 18 g.
- STBL:** Staffordshire-type fine black-glazed earthenware (Jackfield-type), *c* 1740-1780. 1 sherd, 1 g.
- ENPO:** English porcelain, *c* 1745-1925+. 18 sherds, 79 g.
- CREA:** Later creamware, *c* 1770-1830. Staffordshire, Leeds, etc. 5 sherds, 7 g.
- PEAR SLIP:** Pearlware with slip decoration, *c* 1790-1830. Staffordshire etc. 1 sherd, 2 g.
- ENGS BL:** English salt-glazed stoneware blacking bottles, *c* 1820-1900. London, Bristol, Derbyshire. 5 sherds, 101 g.
- ENGS BRST:** English stoneware with Bristol glaze, *c* 1835-1900. Bristol, London, etc. 4 sherds, 63 g.
- YELL:** Yellow wares, *c* 1790-1900. Staffordshire, Derbyshire, etc. 8 sherds, 39 g.
- REFW:** Refined white earthenwares (including transfer-printed), *c* 1800-1900+. Staffordshire etc. 78 sherds, 400 g.

### **Summary of the pottery**

The two worn and residual medieval sherds are the earliest post-Roman types present here. The Laverstock ware jug handle is of 13th- or 14th-century date; the Brill/Boarstall ware sherd (an import from Buckinghamshire) may be of 15th- or 16th-century date. Minety ware, which is perhaps the commonest medieval coarseware in neighbouring Wiltshire during the period *c* 1100-1550, is curiously absent, but given the very small size of the medieval assemblage this may not be so significant.

The rest of the assemblage is post-medieval and mostly, it would seem, of 18th- and 19th-century date. Although some pottery types (the red earthenwares and the few German stonewares) could in theory be as early as the 16th century, there is nothing in the assemblage here diagnostically earlier than *c* 1640 or *c* 1650. There are in fact only a handful of sherds datable to the 17th- and earlier 18th-centuries and nearly all of these are residual in their contexts, as they occur alongside 19th- or 20th-century wares. Among these are two sherds of German Frechen stoneware, including a rim and part of an applied facemask from a 'Bellarmine' bottle or jug which is probably of mid or later 17th-century date. Although the latter sherd occurs on its own in a pit (8100), its small size and isolation might suggest that it too is residual. A single sherd of brown-glazed Border ware from Surrey/Hampshire probably dates to *c* 1650-1700, but is also residual in a modern topsoil context (7500). The four sherds of German Westerwald stoneware are likewise residual in Victorian contexts. The ware was a common import of the period *c* 1650-1750 and the sherds belong to mugs and possibly jugs with moulded and blue painted decoration. Two small sherds of 18th-century Chinese porcelain and a few small sherds of Staffordshire products of similar date (STSL, STMO, STBL) are also likely to be residual.

The assemblage, however, is dominated by post-medieval red earthenwares (PMR, 109 sherds), mostly of fairly good quality and with a clear brown or greenish glaze internally and sometimes externally. Most vessels have a smooth creamy orange fabric, sometimes with fine streaks of white clay. Most of the surviving rim sherds are quite worn but include large storage jars, wide bowls and dishes, including one probably 18th-century example with traces of incised wavy line decoration on the rim. One or two sherds possibly from drinking vessels and jugs are also present. The most unusual item, probably of 17th- or 18th-century date and thinner and better made, is an enigmatic form, possibly a chafing dish (plate warmer) or a pomander, surviving as a small body sherd with several small perforations made before firing and with a narrow strap handle (8000). These ubiquitous glazed red earthenwares, which are probably of fairly local manufacture, are difficult to date precisely but most

of those here probably date to *c* 1650-1800 with a small number of vessels perhaps purely of 19th-century date. Flowerpots in red earthenware (PMR FLP) are also fairly common (35 sherds). Some of these are definitely 'Victorian' but some earlier-looking examples share the same fabric as the glazed redwares which suggests local manufacture. Two examples have a white slip band painted around or on top of the rim. This type of decoration occurs in a number of redware industries across south central England, including the post-medieval Brill redware industry where this feature is datable to *c* 1750-1830, although the examples here are probably local.

Refined white earthenwares (REFW), mainly from the Staffordshire potteries and dating to the 19th century, comprise the second largest fabric group from the site (78 sherds). These often have blue transfer-printed decoration and occur in the form of tablewares, such as plates, cups, saucers, dishes and jugs and so on. The latest datable item in this ware is part of a mug, possibly as late as *c* 1950-70, which has a polychrome transfer-printed design showing a railway train from around the 1930s or 1940s. There is also part of a late 19th-century pot lid from a preserve jar and part of a Keiller's Dundee marmalade jar, datable to *c* 1862 onwards. The base of a cream stoneware bottle with a clear 'Bristol' glaze bears the maker's stamp, 'POWELL BRISTOL' (*c* 1835-1906), suggesting that this part of Gloucestershire lay within the catchment area of the Bristol stoneware potteries rather than the dominating London potteries. Most of these Victorian and later wares were recovered from furrows and topsoil.

The character of the pre-19th century assemblage, dominated by local coarsewares and with few regional or foreign imports, points to low or, at best, middling prosperity. Given the very worn and mixed nature of the pottery, and the residuality of most earlier pieces, plus the presence of several flowerpots, it is quite likely that most of this material represents ordinary domestic rubbish, some of it perhaps further damaged by ploughing or horticultural activity. It is perhaps likely that most of it was dumped on the site from nearby households over a couple of centuries rather than actually used on the site.

### **Pipeclay objects and other tobacco pipes**

*John Cotter*

The excavation produced a total of 42 pieces of clay pipe, weighing 103 g, from six contexts (Table 21). The pipes are mostly in a fairly worn condition with no particularly long stem fragments and only three very damaged bowl fragments surviving and three fairly fresh mouthpieces also present. The surviving pipe bowls and measurements of stem bores date the assemblage to between the 17th and the 19th century, but the Bakelite pipe mouthpiece from context (7500) must date after 1907 when this

Table 21: Clay and other pipes

Context	Date	Stem	Bowl	Mouth	Total count	Total weight (g)	Comments
7500	19th C	10	0	1	11	22	Short pieces of narrow stems and mouthpiece mostly with stem bores (SB) c1.5mm or slightly smaller. Some fairly worn
7500	1907-1950+	0	0	1	1	4	Not clay pipe. Damaged black Bakelite mouthpiece tapering at mouth end, socket at other end for attachment to wooden pipe shaft
7502	19th C	9	0	1	10	23	19C narrow stems mostly, with SBs 1.5-2mm. 1x thicker 17/18C stem with maker's mark on top of stem - incuse letters within milled circle 'ED HIGGENS' a Salisbury pipemaker active c 1698-1710 (Oswald 1975, 198)
7514	19th C	1	0	0	1	2	Narrow stem with SB c1.5mm
7523	19th C	6	1	0	7	17	Mostly 19C narrow stems with SBs c1.5-2mm. 1 poss L18/E19C worn stem. 1x frag bowl rim prob L18/E19C?
8000	Late 18th/ Early 19th C	5	2	0	7	25	2x fairly narrow but worn stems with SBs c1.8-2mm. Rest of stems thicker with SBs c2.8-3mm incl 2 joining worn stems one with maker's mark 'ED HIGGENS' as in 7502. 2x bowls heels - both worn incl plain circ heel with attached stem prob L17/E18C and v worn bowl frag prob 17C with circular heel bearing traces of a stamp in relief - poss a star?
8031	Late 18th/ Early 19th C	5	0	0	5	10	All worn. Incl 2x fairly narrow stems with SBs c1.8-2mm. Rest very worn prob 17C or E18C with SBs c3mm
TOTAL		36	3	3	42	103	

material was invented. Most of the pipe stems are of narrow diameter and narrow bore and date to the 19th century.

The only significant pieces, residual in their contexts (7502 and 8000), were two identical maker's marks on the backs of two separate stems. These are within a milled circle containing the name 'ED HIGGENS' in incuse lettering. This pipemaker was active in Salisbury c 1698-1710 (Oswald 1975, 198). The three fragmentary pipe bowls include a rim fragment probably of late 18th/early 19th-century date, a heel fragment probably of late 17th/early 18th-century date and a very worn heel fragment bearing a mid-17th century-style stamp underneath, possibly a star in relief (8000).

A single worn piece of pipeclay wig curler, weighing 9 g, was recovered from a topsoil context (7500) containing a range of 17th- to early 20th-century material. The piece represents approximately half of the original object including a solid



Fig. 42 Pipeclay wig curler

tapered stem and bulbous terminal (maximum diameter 17 mm) with a flattened end which bears no maker's mark. Wig curlers became popular during the second half of the 17th century (Mellor 1984, 262-3). A 17th- or 18th-century date for this piece seems likely (Fig. 42).

#### Ceramic building material *Dan Stansbie*

A total of 42 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 617 g, were recovered during the course of the excavations. The vast majority of this material was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The assemblage is dominated by two main fabrics: CBM1 and CBM2, while a third fabric, CBM3, is present in minor amounts.

**CBM1:** orange poorly mixed sandy clay, containing occasional voids left by organic material

**CBM2:** orange brown sandy clay, containing occasional voids left by organic material and occasional small fragments c 1-2 mm of ironstone and shell

**CBM3:** orange sandy clay, containing moderate to frequent flecks of silver mica

The majority of the ceramic building material comprises small abraded unidentifiable fragments. However, some post-medieval brick and tile fragments are also present. Two fragments in CBM3 from the fill of plough furrow 7521 may have come from a modern land drain.

Table 22: Glass: Summary quantification by context and function (fragment count)

Context	Function						Total
	wine bottle	bottle	tonic bottle	vessel	window	undiagnostic	
7500	1			1			2
7502	1			1			2
7506	1						1
7512	1						1
7514				1			1
7518				2			2
7523				1			1
8000	2	1					3
8035					1		1
8228						7	7
8378				1			1
8390			1				1
8825						1	1
8834						1	1
8844					2		2
8938						1	1
9110						1	1
9148	1						1
Total	7	1	1	7	3	11	30

**Glass** *Ian Scott*

There were 30 sherds of glass from the site, with no particular concentrations. Glass was found in 18 contexts (Table 22). Twelve contexts produced a single sherd of glass; five contexts produced two sherds and one context three sherds. Only context 8228 produced more than three sherds, but these were all very small and undiagnostic, and were recovered through sieving of soil samples. Altogether four contexts (8228, 8825, 8834 and 8938) produced only very small undiagnostic sherds from soil samples. A fifth context (9110) produced a single blue glass sherd with thick cordon or ridge. It is undiagnostic to form, but was possibly from a vessel.

Eleven of the 30 sherds of glass are undiagnostic, that is they cannot be assigned to window, vessel, or other class of glass find. The remaining 19 sherds include seven sherds from wine bottles. Most of these sherds were weathered and from thick-walled bottles dating before the later 19th century. The form of the bottles in most cases is unclear because the sherds are too small. One wine bottle sherd (context 8000) was not weathered and was probably from a modern wine bottle. The same context also produced a single body sherd from a bottle of oval section with moulded vertical reeded decoration. This was a machine-moulded bottle of late 19th-century or early 20th-century date. Context 8390

produced a base sherd from a moulded rectangular, or flattened octagonal, section tonic or medicine bottle.

None of the sherds identified as 'vessel' could be identified to form. Many of the sherds were heavily weathered with iridescent deposits on the surfaces and sometimes on the broken edges. None of the sherds, with the possible exception of two opaque white sherds from context 7518, need be later in date than the 19th century.

There were three sherds of window glass, none of them modern float glass. One small sherd of window glass (context 8035) is light olive green in colour. The other two sherds (context 8844) were darker olive green in colour and may have been from the same sheet of glass. The larger of the two sherds has a clear straight, thickened and rounded edge, which is diagnostic of cast glass. The smaller piece from context 8844 was slightly thinner but of the same colour. Again it is probably a piece of cast window glass. In Britain, cast window glass is found in contexts dating from the Roman period, but also from the 17th to 19th century contexts. The distinctive edge piece might be Roman in date, although Roman cast glass generally has one distinctly matt face and one glossy face. The sherd from context 8844 has a similar gloss on both faces, and is probably later in date. Given that 8844 was a Phase 4a occupation deposit, the glass is likely to have been intrusive even if it were of Roman date.