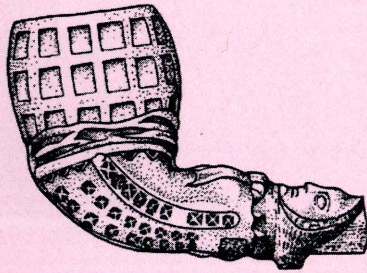


SOCIETY *for* CLAY PIPE RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER

70



Autumn/Winter 2006

wooden stem fragments, of late sixteenth or early seventeenth century date, that have been found in the Netherlands, supporting thesis that pewter pipes were indeed used for smoking.

Many questions regarding these short-stemmed pewter pipes remain to be answered. The main purpose of this contribution is to invite comments, and possibly additional information, in order to enhance the knowledge about these interesting cultural-historical objects.

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Clay Tobacco Pipes from Excavations at 7-8 Broad Street, Reading

by David Higgins

Introduction

The pipes considered in this report were excavated by Oxford Archaeology at 7-8 Broad Street (Market Way), Reading, Berkshire. The site code used for this work was REMAST 02 01.367 and the site is centred on NGR SU 7164 7346. The author examined these pipes in December 2002, when the following report was prepared. A summary of the pipe report will be included in the full excavation report, which is due for publication shortly (Scott and Hardy, forthcoming).

Description of the Finds

The excavations produced a total of 24 pipe fragments comprising five bowl, 18 stem and one mouthpiece fragment from a total of eight different contexts. A summary description and dating of the pipes from each context is provided below:

802 One small fragment of plain, cylindrical pipe stem with a bore of 5/64", dating from c1700-1780.

2001 One plain stem fragment of c1650-1750 with a stem bore of 6/64". This

fragment is reasonably large (56mm) with fresh edges, suggesting that it has not been disturbed much since initial deposition, the most likely date for which is late seventeenth century or early eighteenth century.

2003 Two plain stem fragments dating from c1680-1750, one with a stem bore of 5/64" and one with a bore of 6/64".

4012 One plain stem fragment of c1650-1730 with a stem bore of 6/64".

5016 One plain stem fragment of c1610-1660 with a stem bore of 9/64" and a plain bowl of c1620-1650 (Figure 1). The bowl is complete, fully milled and of average finish, with 88mm of surviving stem with a bore of 8/64". The other stem is 70mm long and the fresh condition of both pieces suggests that they come from a contemporary and undisturbed deposit of c1620-1650.

6001 One stem of c1700-1780 with a stem bore of 4/64".

7011 This group of pipes is by far the largest recovered from the site, even though it only comprises 14 pieces (4 bowls, 9 stem fragments and a mouthpiece). Although the fragments all date from the seventeenth century they are rather mixed in nature and the bowl forms range from c1610-1670 in date. The latest bowl dates from c1650-70 and could represent the date at which the pipes were deposited amongst demolition material as part of this pit fill. The individual bowls in this group are as follows. The bowls have been identified by the letters A-D, which has been written on them in pencil, and three of the pieces are illustrated (Figures 2-4):

A - (Figure 2) A rather roughly made local bowl of c1610-1640 with a three-quarters milled rim and a heart-shaped heel. Stem bore 7/64".

B - (Figure 3) A heel bowl of c1640-1660 with a half-milled rim and stem bore of 7/64". This pipe is of a much better form and neater finish than A.

C - (Figure 4) A heel bowl of c1650-1670 with a one-quarter milled rim and stem bore of 7/64". This piece is of average form and finish.

D - (not illustrated) Fragment of a spur bowl of c1640-1660 with a stem bore of 8/64". The bowl is completely missing with just a part of the spur surviving.

This context group also contains nine plain stems, two with bores of 8/64", five with bores of 7/64" and two with bores of 6/64". There is one mouthpiece fragment with a simple cut end and a bore of 9/64". The walls of this fragment are extremely thin, generally less than 1mm, which must have made production very difficult.

9003 Two stems of nineteenth century date, one with a stem bore of 4/64" and one with a stem bore of 3/64". The latter piece has been badly burnt in a fire after being

Methodology

The pipe fragments have been individually examined and details of each fragment logged on an Excel worksheet. The layout of the worksheet has been based on a draft clay tobacco pipe recording system that has been developed at the University of Liverpool (Higgins and Davey, 1994). A context summary has also been prepared as a similar Excel worksheet and this is included below as Appendix 1. This provides the overall numbers of fragments and date range for the pipes from each context. Digital copies of both the worksheet and the draft recording system have been provided for the site archive.

Bowl forms have been recorded with reference to the London typology established by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, 177-180), although the dating has been modified according to the form and attributes of the individual fragments. Variants of the basic London shape illustrated in the typology have had the letter 'v' placed after the type number. An assessment of the likely date of the stem fragments has been provided. The stem dates should, however, be used with caution since they are much more general and less reliable than the dates that can be determined from bowl fragments.

Several of the context groups contained more than one fragment of pipe bowl. In order to identify the individual fragments a series of letters has been allocated to these pieces so that they can be cross-referenced to the computerised record. These letter codes have been pencilled onto the bowls following the context number. They appear under a reference column (Ref) in the catalogues as well as in the captions accompanying the figures in this text.

All of the pipes were recorded and dated before the interim report and context descriptions were examined. This methodology avoids any preconceptions being formed as to the possible date or nature of the various pipe groups while they are being identified and catalogued.

The Pipes As Archaeological Evidence

The excavations produced a total of 223 pipe fragments, comprising 40 bowl, 176 stem and seven mouthpiece fragments. These were recovered from 33 different contexts, most of which produced between one and six fragments of pipe. There were only six context groups containing larger numbers of pipe fragments (between 15 and 40 fragments) and these are individually described below.

The earliest firm evidence for smoking on the site is provided by a bowl of c1620-50 from Context 78. This bowl is of the same profile as an example from the nearby 7-8 Broad Street site in Reading (see report in this volume, Figure 1) and the two pipes were probably made in the same mould. Apart from this single example the next earliest pipe bowls date from the 1640s. Smoking was certainly taking place in Reading from the early seventeenth (Higgins, forthcoming) and the absence of early examples from this

site is more likely to be a product of site-specific waste disposal patterns rather than a genuine reflection of the absence of smoking itself. Between about 1640 and 1790 pipes are relatively well represented in the archaeological record at this site. After 1790, however, only one or two pieces are represented. The absence of later pipes may, once again, reflect disposal of waste away from the site or it may be a product of the truncation of later layers by more recent activity.

Although most of the groups are rather small, they still provide useful information relating to the archaeology of the site, particularly with regard to the fairly precise dating that they offer. A summary of the pipe date range from each context is provided in Appendix 1. The dates derived from the pipe evidence have not been compared with other classes of finds but they appear to offer some useful evidence as to the dating of the contexts. Three deposits identified as garden soils, for example, produced pipes. The latest date for the pipe fragments in Context 198 was 1780, in Context 201 it was 1710 and in Context 374 it was 1700. These dates suggest the point at which each of these garden soils went out of use and were sealed by subsequent development of the site.

The larger pipe groups and those with what appear to be closely datable fragments are individually described below. The context number is given first, followed by a description of the context type and the number of pipe fragments recovered from it, for example, 4/19/0 = 23. This formula represents the number of bowl (4), stem (19) and mouthpiece fragments (0) recovered from a particular context, together with the total number of fragments recovered (23), thus enabling an assessment of the nature and reliability of the pipe group to be easily seen.

195 (Pit fill: 4/19/0 = 23) Although this context produced four pieces of residual seventeenth century stem, the remaining pieces are clearly all much later. The best dating evidence is provided by two large, thin-walled bowls marked EP (Figure 9). These were both produced in the same mould and date from the second half of the eighteenth century, around 1750-90. These EP bowls are most likely to have been made by Edward Parker of Wallingford, who was apprenticed in 1757 (Oswald 1975, 161). The usual length of an apprenticeship was seven years and so he is unlikely to have been marking pipes on his own account until after c1764. The other two bowl fragments from this context are from pipes of a similar style, as are the remaining stem fragments, which are generally of quite thin, cylindrical forms. The size of some of these fragments suggests a fairly fresh deposit, most likely dating from c1765-90.

201 (Garden Soil: 9/30/1 = 40) Although the fragments from this context are rather battered and broken they do seem to reflect a fairly limited period of deposition. At least five bowls are represented, four of which are transitional types of c1680-1710, while the fifth is a slightly earlier fragment of c1660-1680. Similarly, although some of the stems could be earlier, the majority fit well with a date range of c1680-1710 and there is nothing that is definitely later. This suggests that Context 201, interpreted as a garden soil, may have built up during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century but that it has remained relatively undisturbed since that date. One of the stems from this context has a

short section of milling on it, which appears to be accidental. This stem is one of just two from this context made of a distinctive fine sandy fabric, most common in the Oxford area.

243 (Garden soil: 2/3/1 = 6) This context is unusual in that the two bowls, dating from about 1640-60 and 1660-80, are much earlier than the other fragments. The three associated stems and the single mouthpiece are all very consistent in date and fresh looking, and survive as large fragments. They have surviving lengths of 142mm, 136mm, 55mm and 123mm respectively. Furthermore, one of the stems fits the mouthpiece to give a total surviving length of 265mm while the other two stem fragments both come from different pipes, showing that at least three separate pipes are represented in this deposit. The shortest piece of stem has a stem bore of 5/64" while all the others are 4/64". The stems are very straight and cylindrical in section and are typical of the types produced from c1710-1780. The unusually large size of the fragments, their consistent appearance and the fact that two pieces join all suggest a very fresh and undisturbed eighteenth century deposit. This evidence is at odds with the description of Context 243 as garden soil, since pipe fragments rapidly become broken and abraded where soil is being worked.

244 (Garden soil: 3/22/2 = 27) Although rather battered and mixed in character (for example, Figures 1 and 8), the majority of these pieces from this context are of seventeenth century date with only three or four stems that are likely to be eighteenth century. The latest closely datable piece, a Type 25 bowl marked IP with 64mm of surviving stem (Figure 8), is probably early eighteenth century and the length of its surviving stem suggests that this deposit was probably sealed soon after it was discarded.

328 (Pit fill: 5/23/1 = 29) This group contains two seventeenth century bowls and one seventeenth century stem, but these are clearly residual in a context that contains principally eighteenth century material. The other three bowls are all Type 25s, two of which are marked with different makers' initials – IP and RP (the RP example is illustrated as Figure 7). These are early eighteenth century marks, suggesting that the pit was filled at some point during the first half of the century. All of the other stems would fit with this dating.

339 (Soakaway Backfill: 4/11/1 = 16) This group of pipes appears to be an extremely well dated, with large, fresh pieces of stem all matching the bowl forms in date. The four bowls are all of transitional forms (Figures 2-5) and three are early Type 25 forms, datable to c1690-1710. There are no fully developed Type 25 forms and no moulded initials, in addition to which all the pipes have bottered rims. These features, taken together, suggest that a deposition date during the 1690s is most likely for this sealed group.

368 (Pit fill: 2/13/0 = 15) Both of the bowls from this pit are of Type 25 form. One is an early variant with a forward leaning bowl and fully bottered rim. This example probably dates from c1680-1720. The other example is a standard Type 25 form, which was current from c1700-1770 but it appears to have a lightly bottered rim. This finishing technique died out early in the eighteenth century, providing a date for this piece. Taken together, the bowls would suggest a deposition date of around 1700-20 for this group. The associated

stems comprise a mix of seventeenth and eighteenth century types. There are no obvious joins amongst this group and the fragments are fairly well broken, suggesting that the pit contained mixed debris rather than a fresh deposit of domestic waste.

371 (Pit fill: 1/4/0 = 5) Although there is only one bowl in this group, it is a fresh looking example of c1650-70 with 54mm of surviving stem. The stems could all be contemporary with this bowl and survive to 81mm in length. The size and freshness of these pieces suggests a good pit group, dating from the third quarter of the seventeenth century.

414 (Pit fill: 1/2/0 = 3) Although there is only one bowl in this group, it is a very 'fresh' looking example of c1640-60 with 111mm of surviving stem. The stems look contemporary with this bowl, suggesting that these finds represent a good group from the middle of the seventeenth century.

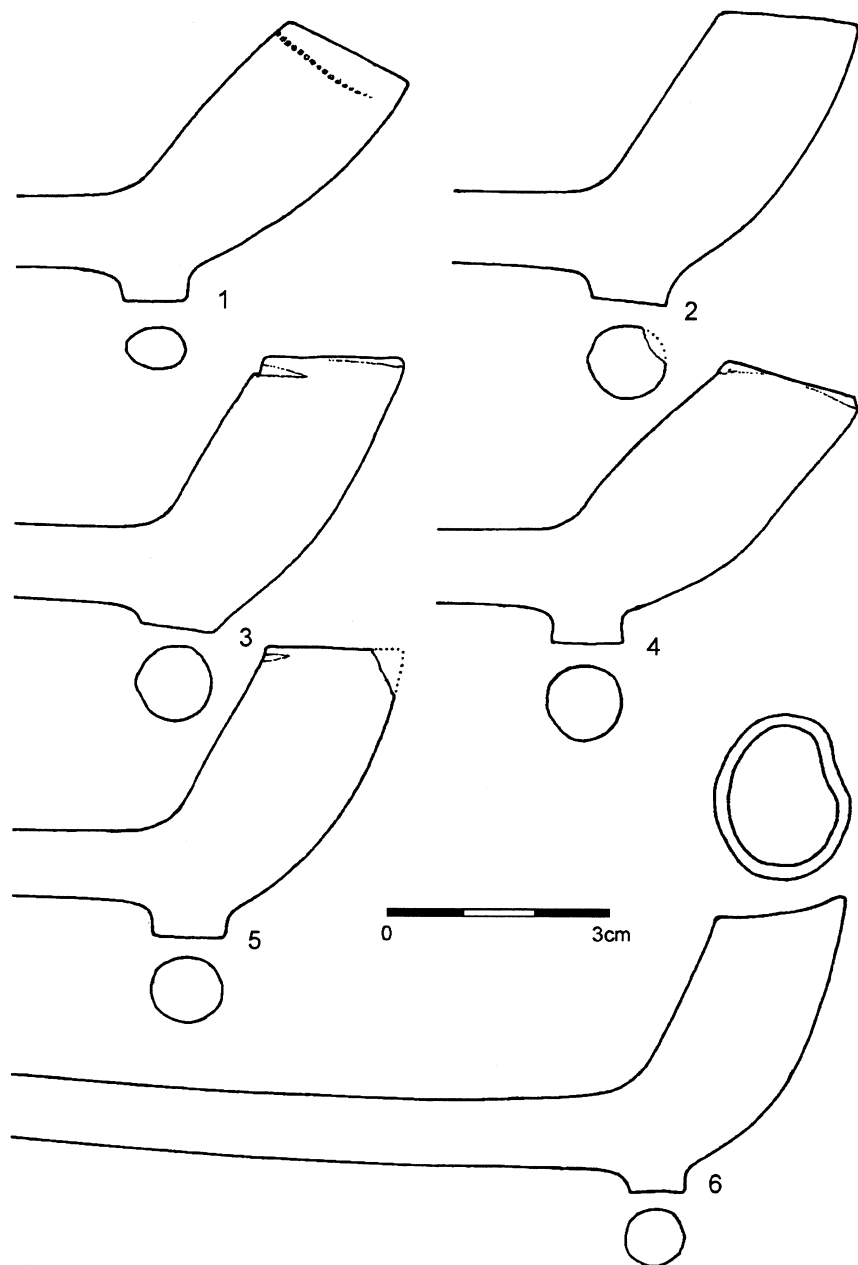
436 (Pit fill: 2/4/0 = 6) Both bowls date from c1640-60 and all the stems are of similar types. This appears to be a good mid-seventeenth century group.

469 (Pit fill: 2/3/0 = 5) Both bowls date from c1650-70 and all the stems are of similar types. This appears to be a good pit group from the third quarter of the seventeenth century.

The Pipes Themselves

The excavations produced about 30 substantially complete bowl forms, the majority of which date from between 1640 and 1710. These generally follow London styles fairly closely (Atkinson and Oswald 1969, 177-180), and none of them would stand out particularly if placed in an assemblage from the capital. The only local characteristic of note is the occasional use of a distinctive fabric containing fine sandy inclusions, for example, the bowl shown in Figure 1. This fabric appears to have come from somewhere in the Oxford region since it is particularly common there. It seems to have been quite widely used from the late seventeenth century through to the mid-eighteenth century in the Oxford/Reading area.

Although most of the bowl forms are of typical London types, there are several pit groups that are of interest because they show the range of forms that were in contemporary use. The best example is probably the small pit group excavated as Context 339. The four bowls in the group (Figures 2-5) are all transitional forms, dating from around 1680-1710. These pipes still have bottered rims, a seventeenth-century characteristic, and yet three of the bowls (Figures 2, 3 and 5) have already adopted a fairly upright, cylindrical form that was to become standard for much of the eighteenth century. The slightly more curved example (Figure 4) has a flared heel and is the most distinctively local form, this style being rare in London. All of these pipes were made in different moulds, demonstrating that new equipment was quickly introduced to keep up with the changing fashions. This group does not contain any out of date patterns and the consistency in



Figures 1-6: Clay tobacco pipes from Broad Street, Reading (REBS 01.352).
(Drawn by the author).

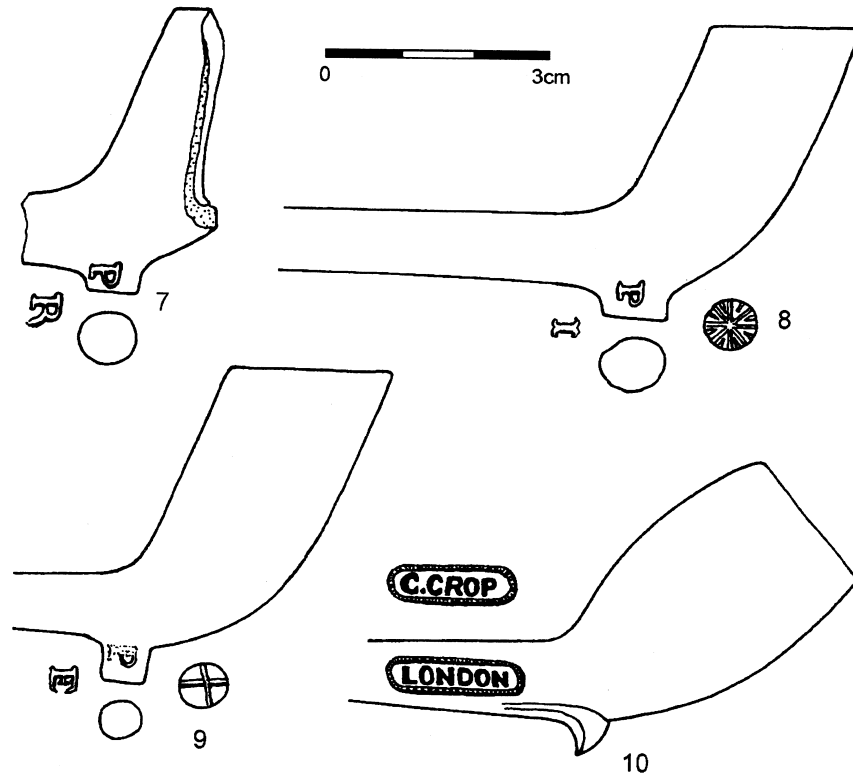
overall style allows for close dating of deposits like this, which was probably discarded during the 1690s.

Another interesting piece (Figure 6) was recovered from Context 328, a pit group dating from c1700-50. This pipe has a clearly distorted bowl and the stem shows signs of an upwards curve towards its broken end. Both of these features are consistent with a pipe that has started to collapse during firing as a result of the fabric nearing the point of vitrification. In the kiln the pipes would have been stacked in a cone shape, bowl down and facing outwards, with the stem leaning onto a central support. The sagging of the long stem caused by overfiring with the pipe in this position would have been particularly evident when the pipe was complete. Despite this, the bowl shows signs of having been smoked suggesting that it was sold as a 'second', despite its warped bowl and stem.

Only six of the fragments from these excavations had makers' marks on them, five of which were relief-moulded initials on the sides of the heel. There are two examples marked IP, which is by far the most common set of initials found in Reading. These pipes were almost certainly produced by John Paty, who was born in 1688 and who died in 1745 (Cannon 1999). One of these examples is particularly interesting in that it has an unusually complex internal bowl mark (shown in plan in Figure 8). Internal bowl marks were formed by cuts on the end of the metal stopper that was forced into the mould to make the bowl cavity during the manufacturing process. They may have been made to help prevent suction pulling the sides of the bowl in as the stopper was removed. The most common form of these internal bowl marks is a simple relief cross, as shown in Figure 9. In the IP example, however, the mark comprises an eight-arm star with small points cut between each of the arms. Only three examples of internal bowl crosses were recovered from these excavations, the IP example discussed above (Figure 8) and the two EP bowls, both of which were made in the same mould (e.g., Figure 9).

The two EP pipes (as shown in Figure 9) were produced in the same mould, which is characterised by a very poorly formed surname initial. The bowl form is rather more elegant and with thinner walls than the IP pipe and the EP bowls date from about 1750-90. These bowls can be attributed to Edward Parker of Wallingford, who was apprenticed in 1757 (Oswald 1975, 161). An apprenticeship of 7 years was normal and so it is unlikely that Parker would have been marking his own pipes until at least 1764. An EP pipe or pipes (numbers not stated) have been recovered from the Reading waterfront excavations (Hawkes and Fasham 1997) but none were recorded amongst the large assemblages from Reading at Friar Street (Cannon 1997) or the Oracle (Higgins, forthcoming). The scarcity of this mark from Reading supports the suggestion that these pipes represent 'imports' from Wallingford, some 15 miles to the northwest.

Figure 7 illustrates a heel mark that reads RP, the letter R being particularly large and boldly executed. This mark has been previously recorded at Reading with an unspecified number of examples from the Waterfront sites (Hawkes and Fasham 1997). There are also 42 examples from Friar Street (Cannon 1997) and nine examples from the Oracle



Figures 7-10: Clay pipes from Broad Street, Reading (REBS 01.352). (Drawn by the author).

site (Higgins, forthcoming). There are three known makers who could have produced these pipes – Richard Pickman (I), who took an apprentice in Wallingford in 1708; Richard Pyeman, who was apprenticed to Richard Pickman (I) at Wallingford in 1708 and Richard Pickman (II), who took an apprentice in Henley-on-Thames in 1752 (Cannon 1999). Henley-on-Thames lies some 6 or 7 miles to the north northeast of Reading. It is possible that both Richard Pickmans are, in fact, the same person, although there are 44 years between the two apprenticeship records. Further documentary research into these three individuals, coupled with detailed analysis of the RP pipes from Wallingford, Reading and Henley is clearly needed to try and sort out the products of these makers.

The final marked pipe is much later in date and has the maker's name and place of work (C.CROP/LONDON) moulded in incuse, sans-serif, lettering along the sides of the stem within a relief-moulded beaded border (Figure 10). Charles Crop was one of the best quality London manufacturers of his period and appears in directories from 1856-1929 (Hammond 1999). Crop specialised in making good quality figural

pipes but this is one of the firms everyday patterns, which would have been readily available through wholesalers to tobacconists in many parts of the country. This particular example would have been a short-stemmed (cutty) pipe.

Only one burnished fragment was recovered from the excavations – a single piece of stem with a fine burnish from Context 245. This piece had a stem bore of 6/64" and probably dates from around 1640-1720. Decoration was similarly poorly represented amongst the excavated assemblage. A stem of around 1660-1710 from Context 201 has a very short section of milling on it, which does not appear to have formed part of a larger pattern and may well just be accidental. Context 158 produced a nineteenth century stem just opening out into a bowl with traces of narrow flutes on it. This piece, however, is too fragmentary to say anything more about it, other than it was badly burnt after having been broken. The final decorative element was the simple curled spur to the Crop pipe illustrated in Figure 10.

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APPENDIX 1 - CONTEXT SUMMARY

This appendix provides an indication of the overall date range represented by the clay tobacco pipe fragments recovered from each context (Cxt) and the temporary pencil reference letters (Ref) allocated to identify the individual bowls from each context. It also shows how many fragments of bowl (B), stem (S) or mouthpiece (M) the date range is based on as well as the total number of fragments (Tot) from each context. The marked (Marks) or decorated (Dec) pieces from each context are briefly described, followed by the figure number of any illustrated examples (Fig). Bowl fragments, especially if they are marked, are much more closely datable than stem fragments. For this reason, the number and type of fragments present should be taken into account when assessing the reliance that can be placed on the date range given for any particular context group.

32

| Cxt | Ref | B | S | M | Tot | Date | Marks | Dec | Fig | Comments |
|-----|-----|---|----|---|-----|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----|---|
| 48 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1780-1850 | | | | Most likely c1780-1820 but could be later. |
| 78 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1620-1650 | | | | Quite a marked 'hump-back' to this bowl form, but neatly designed and finished. |
| 112 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1610-1660 | | | | |
| 158 | | 1 | 3 | | 4 | 1780-1900 | | flutes | | Includes a burnt stem fragment just opening into a bowl with traces of narrow fluted decoration on it - c1820-1900. |
| 160 | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1780-1929 | C.CROP / LONDON | curled spur | 10 | Probably all C19th and including a plain bowl with decorative curled spur and incuse moulded stem mark reading C.CROP / LONDON on the stem. Charles Crop is listed in directories from 1856-1929. |
| 195 | A-D | 4 | 19 | | 23 | 1610-1800 | EP x 2 | | 9 | Four C17th fragments but the rest all C18th and most contemporary with two identical bowls marked EP of c1750-90. |

33

| Cxt | Ref | B | S | M | Tot | Date | Marks | Dec | Fig | Comments |
|-----|------|---|----|---|-----|-----------|-------|---------|------|---|
| 198 | | 1 | 6 | | 7 | 1610-1780 | | | | Although fragments range from c1610-1780, there is a bowl of c1660-90 and most of the stems would fit with this, suggesting it could represent the date of deposition. A single later stem of c1680-1780 looks intrusive in this group. |
| 201 | E-K | 9 | 30 | 1 | 40 | 1610-1710 | | milling | | Mixed C17th stems, but with almost all the bowl fragments datable to c1680-1710. Suggests a terminal date in this range for this deposit. One stem has a small section of milling, probably accidental. |
| 203 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1780-1900 | | | | |
| 234 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1610-1710 | | | | |
| 243 | L, M | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1640-1780 | | | | Although the two bowls date from c1640-80, the stems are very mixed with several C18th types, suggesting final deposition in c1700-1780 range. |
| 244 | N-P | 3 | 22 | 2 | 27 | 1610-1750 | IP | | 1, 8 | Mixed material but with latest finds suggesting closing date of c1700-50 for this deposit. |
| 245 | | | 3 | | 3 | 1640-1760 | | | | A finely burnished stem of c1640-1720 and a large stem fragment of c1700-60, which suggests a deposition date for this context. |
| 286 | | | 6 | | 6 | 1610-1750 | | | | |
| 287 | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 1660-1710 | | | | Stems are likely to be contemporary with the bowl of c1680-1710. |

| Cxt | Ref | B | S | M | Tot | Date | Marks | Dec | Fig | Comments |
|-----|--------|---|----|---|-----|-----------|--------|-----|------|--|
| 324 | | | 2 | | 2 | 1610-1710 | | | | |
| 328 | Q-U | 5 | 23 | 1 | 29 | 1610-1750 | IP, RP | | 6, 7 | Consistent looking group with almost all the pieces, including large, fresh fragments, suggesting a deposition date of c1700-50 for this deposit. |
| 330 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1680-1720 | | | | Appears to be made of the fine sandy local fabric, which only becomes common at the end of the C17th. |
| 339 | V-Y | 4 | 11 | 1 | 16 | 1680-1710 | | | 2, 5 | Very consistent looking group, with all fragments likely to date from c1680-1710. Deposition during 1690s most likely. |
| 368 | Z, AA | 2 | 13 | | 15 | 1610-1770 | | | | Mixed group of C17th and C18th fragments. Latest pieces date from C18th, but probably before c1770. |
| 371 | | 1 | 4 | | 5 | 1640-1680 | | | | Fresh looking bowl of c1650-70 with 54mm of stem surviving. The associated stems are of c1640-80 types but could well be contemporary with the bowl. |
| 374 | | | 2 | | 2 | 1610-1700 | | | | |
| 414 | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 1640-1660 | | | | Fresh looking bowl, with 111mm stem surviving, and two contemporary looking stems. |
| 436 | AB, AC | 2 | 4 | | 6 | 1640-1660 | | | | Contemporary looking bowls and stems suggesting a tightly dated group. |
| 464 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1640-1720 | | | | Quite a long stem fragment (107mm) with a fairly strong stem taper - most likely later C17th in date. |

| Cxt | Ref | B | S | M | Tot | Date | Marks | Dec | Fig | Comments |
|------|--------|---|---|---|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-----|--|
| 465 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1610-1710 | | | | |
| 469 | AD, AE | 2 | 3 | | 5 | 1650-1670 | | | | Contemporary looking bowls and stems suggesting a tightly dated group. |
| 520 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1610-1710 | | | | Most likely a mid-seventeenth century stem. |
| 543 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1610-1710 | | | | Most likely an early- to mid-seventeenth century stem. |
| 2327 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1700-1850 | | | | Thin stem encrusted with a mortar-like deposit. Most likely C18th. |
| 5082 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1680-1750 | | | | |
| 5118 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1640-1710 | | | | |
| 5728 | | | 2 | | 2 | 1640-1750 | | | | |

Answer to 'Who is this?' on page 16. The mystery man is Allan Peacey who is taking a photograph of features in the trench excavated in Upper Aston Field, 11th August 2006. Photograph by David Higgins.

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ISSN: 1359-7116

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