

Survey and Excavation in the Manifold Valley

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The Manifold Valley to the north and west of Ilam is an area particularly rich in earthworks. It includes the township of Throwley, Musden Grange and the area of Ilam Moor south of Beechenhill. For the most part the earthworks are of medieval or early post-medieval date, but Beechenhill also has a group from the first millennium BC or early in the Roman occupation. The parish of Calton, which is adjacent to Musden and Throwley, provides a marked contrast; here few earthworks survive but its development is recorded through field boundaries.

These studies relate to specific sites within Ilam parish, set against the background of a broader approach to three neighbouring land units. The larger areas were chosen because they represent major facets of land-use and development in the southern Peak District. Throwley is one of a number of areas formerly held by minor gentry where the family fortunes and the family's personal approach to its estate has been the major factor. Musden Grange, though coveted by these same gentry at the Dissolution, has never been more than a subsidiary land holding for owners with wider interests. Calton contrasts with both Musden and Throwley in having an unbroken history of nucleated settlement. It is evident that the principal landowners viewed this village as a source of revenue, not as a place of residence. This is underlined by the repeated use of Calton as a disposable asset when a female dowry was required.

In all three cases it is possible to make comparisons with other areas in the southern Peak District, although it would be unrealistic to expect exact replicas. Here, as elsewhere in the locality, pastoral farming is now dominant, but it is interesting to consider that substantial areas in each township were formerly in regular use as arable land, in contrast to the surrounding moor land.

While it might have appeared logical to concentrate on Ilam parish as a background to the detailed work at Beechenhill, this would have resulted in a study of townships with similar histories. The contrasts provided by the chosen areas therefore seemed to give a more balanced approach.

Part one: BEECHENHILL AND STEEPLEHOUSE FARMS

SUMMARY:

The survey areas lie on steeply sloping ground rising to the north east of the River Manifold. Prehistoric earthworks are surrounded by medieval or early post-medieval field systems overlain by field boundaries originating in the sixteenth century. The first of two small-scale excavations uncovered the corner of a complex of buildings abandoned around 1700; the second, a section across the boundary of the later of two enclosures, produced pottery dating to the first millennium BC or early in the Roman occupation.

Introduction

The areas studied (Figs. 1 and 2) lie within the parish of Ilam as shown on the Tithe Map of 1838.¹ This shows the parish divided into three townships, Ilam, Castern and Throwley, and indicates the extra-

parochial area of Musden Grange lying to the south.

Both Ilam and Castern are listed with gifts of land intended for Burton Abbey in 1002.² Ilam village, largely remodelled by Jesse Watts Russell in the mid nineteenth century,³ is surrounded by substantial traces of its former open fields. As recent farming has been largely pastoral, earthworks survive across most of the former arable land. The better land, which is flatter and at relatively low altitude, appears to have been ploughed regularly and shows pronounced furlongs of ridge and furrow, in contrast to the less productive upland areas. The best land lay immediately around the village, and much of it now lies within the boundaries of the estate of Ilam Hall (SK130510). Steeplehouse Farm (Figs. 2 and 3) is built over substantial furlongs which both the farm and existing field boundaries ignore. North of Steeplehouse the land rises steeply to Ilam Moor, where the furlongs are clear from the air but less pronounced on the ground. This contrast reflects the infield/outfield system of farming common in upland areas where mixed farming was practised and poorer land was only ploughed occasionally. Apart from the

north-eastwards out of the excavation. Other readings were confused by surfacing bedrock.

The extent of the remains made full excavation impracticable. Further work was limited to clearing topsoil from the stone structures (S1 and S3) and excavating the circular feature (S2) which could be taken in isolation as it bore no direct relationship to other structures.

Excavation details (Fig. 8)

Structure 1. Footings of crinoidal limestone formed two sides of a structure 6m wide and of uncertain length. Robbing had left a maximum of two courses on the west side and a single course tailing to fragments on the south. No foundations existed, the lowest course being laid straight on to the ground surface. The northern 'wall' was difficult to define as part had collapsed downhill into a slight hollow. A terrace to the east of the excavation was on a similar alignment. To the north of S1 was an area of limestone rubble which together with an area of high resistance north-east of the excavation outlined a feature 10m by 6-8m. Taken together these suggested an L-shaped structure.

Structure 2 was formed by a slight terrace cut into the hill slope outlined by a circular ditch. The ditch formed a regular circle with a diameter of 7.4m. Its depth was variable, the maximum being *c.* 0.5m. No additional features were found either in or near the ditch other than a slight external bank. Its material clearly derived from the subsoil, differing only in its less compact nature.

Structure 3 consisted of a substantial wall footing of crinoidal limestone, maximum length 4.2m, width 0.9m, with a return partly visible below tumble. The stones were up to 0.7m in length and roughly shaped. Two courses were visible of which the lower formed a footing set below the ground surface and must have required a trench. Small light-brown rounded stones all less than 0.07m formed a regular surface inside the foundation. S3 was built before S1 which abutted against it and partly overlay its footing.

Structures 1 and 3 were overlain by a scattered midden including pottery and clay pipes. The majority of the material was left *in situ* but clearance of topsoil to allow planning inevitably disturbed a large quantity of finds. The clay pipes have been reported in detail as it is unusual to be able to study a worthwhile group from a rural site. Together the pipe and pottery reports indicate that the site was abandoned around 1700.

THE CLAY PIPES by David Higgins

The excavation produced a total of 775 fragments of clay tobacco pipe; 193 bowl, 554 stem and 28 mouthpiece fragments (Figs. 9 and 10). The level of recovery appears to have been good with numerous small fragments having been collected. In a number of cases this has allowed the re-assembly of complete bowls. A limited amount of searching for stem joins both within and between contexts has been carried out. Few joins were found which may suggest that the material was fairly well mixed before deposition and that some of the bowl joins merely reflect post depositional crushing. The condition of the pipes is generally poor, the particular burial conditions having rendered the fragments soft and powdery. This means that it has not been possible to comment on finishing techniques such as burnishing and milling.¹⁷

The majority of the pipes were recovered from topsoil or midden deposits that overlay structures 1 and 3. Only three pieces of stem were recovered from the tumble of structure 3 (context 29) and these do not form reliable dating material since they could have worked their way down from the later midden deposits. The lower fill of the circular trench, structure 2, produced two pieces of a bowl and two of stem. Although both of the bowls are fragmentary one of the pieces has relatively thin walls and a fairly straight side facing the smoker which would suggest a date *c.* 1670-1710. The rest of the pipes were recovered from deposits that overlay the structures and are considered collectively below.

The most striking feature of the pipes is their uniform date range. With the exception of a few pieces from the topsoil they all appear to date from the second half of the seventeenth century to the early eighteenth century. The most common form in almost all the deposits is the Broseley type 5¹⁸ which was current from *c.* 1680-1730. The almost complete absence of pipes with the thin bowls or stems which became common during the eighteenth century suggests that the active accumulation of waste did not extend much beyond 1700. Conversely, there do not appear to be any bowl fragments dating to before *c.* 1650. There are a few pieces which date from 1650-80 but the majority are likely to have been deposited within the period *c.* 1680-1700.

The late seventeenth-century assemblage recovered from this site is important for two reasons. First, it provides a date of *c.* 1680-1700 by which structures 1 and 3 are likely to have been demolished

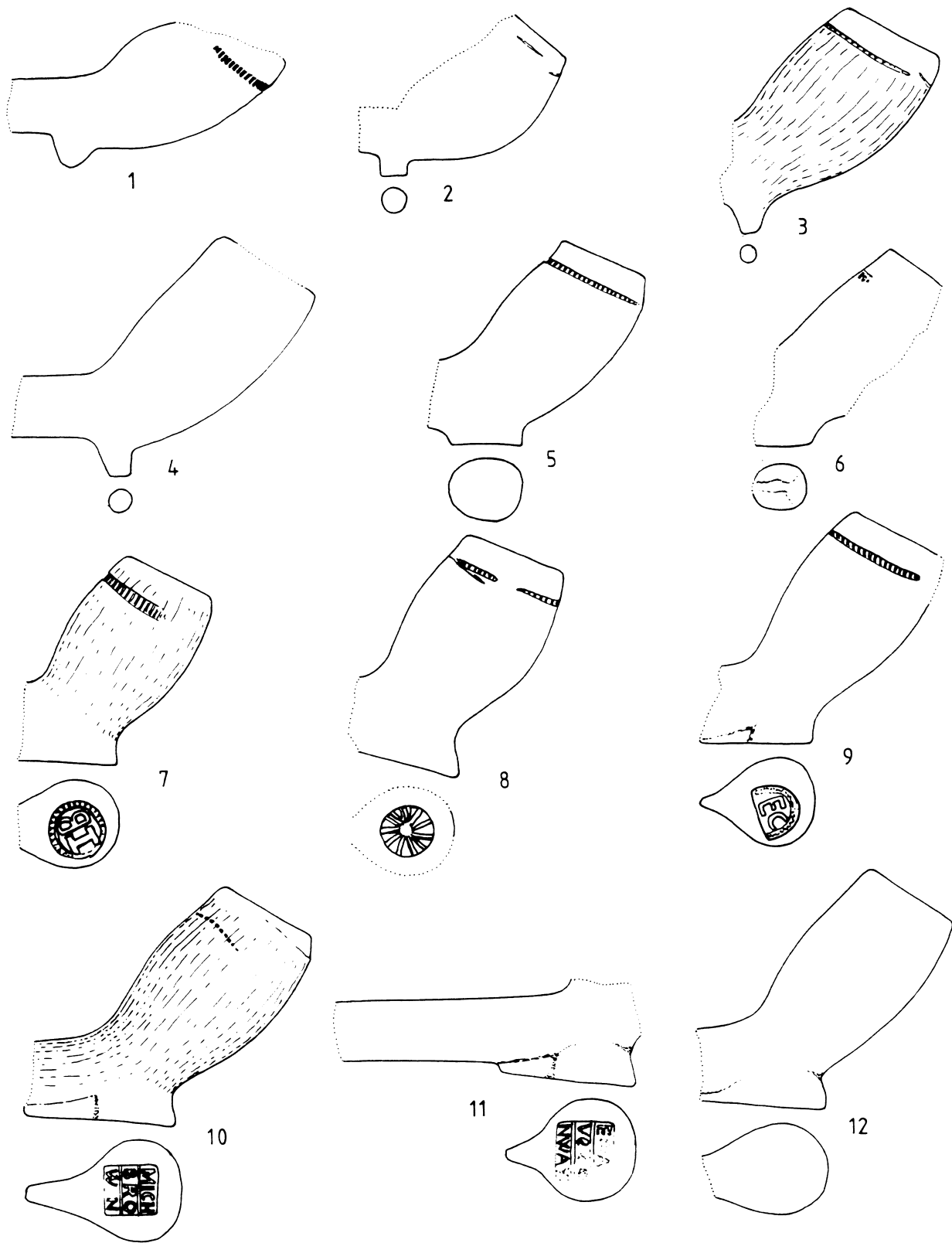


Fig. 9 *Nether Croft*: clay pipes. Scale 1:1.

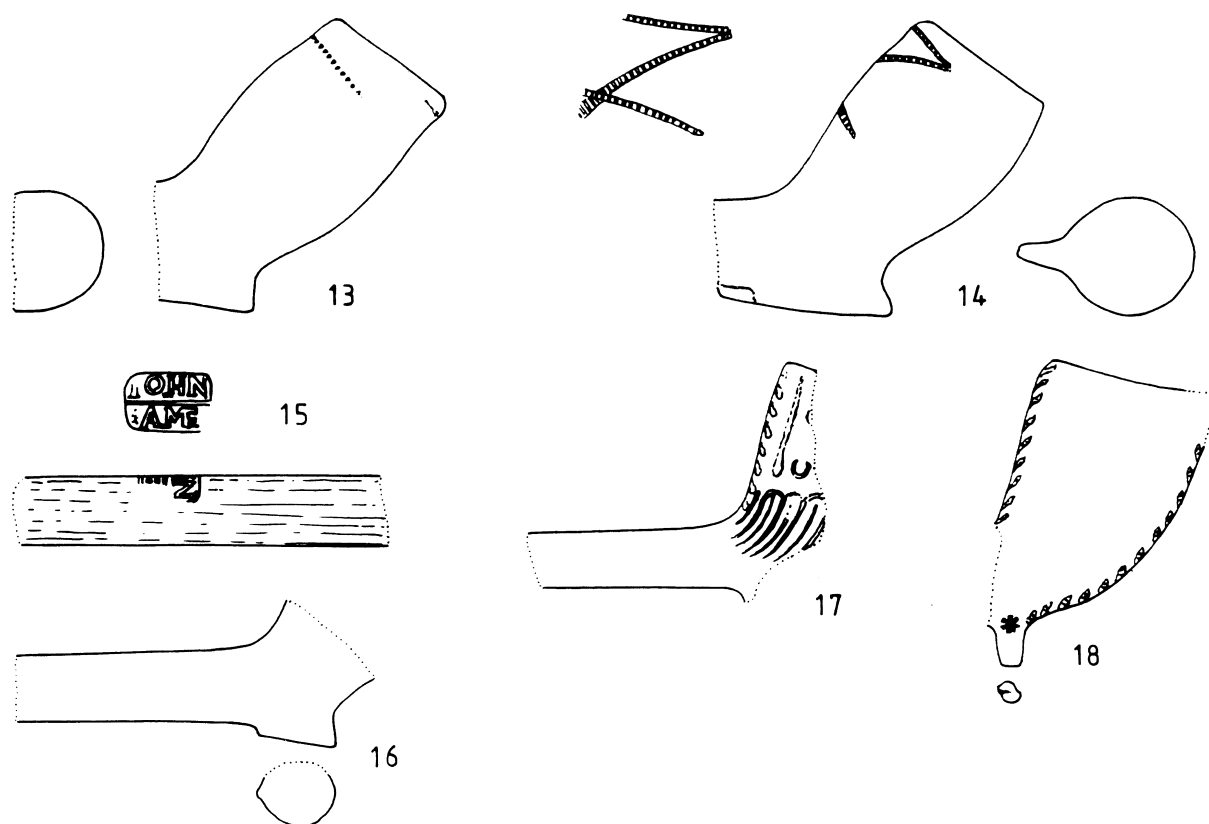


Fig. 10 *Nether Croft*: clay pipes (continued). Scale 1:1.

and, secondly, it provides a rare opportunity to study a group of pipes from a remote rural site. The majority of pipe groups available for study come from urban excavations and tend to be dominated by local products. In this case the pipes are from a small hill farming settlement, remote from known pipe making centres and in an area where very few other pipes have been recorded.

The bowl forms. Although many of the pipes are rather fragmentary it is still possible to identify a number of types which were reaching the site during the second half of the seventeenth century.

Quite a range of spur pipe styles are represented (Fig. 9, nos. 1-4) although the total number of examples is fairly small (10 actual spurs survive). There is one example of a rather crudely designed and made form of c. 1650-80, (no. 1) which contrasts with the much better made and more bulbous design of no. 2. Although unmarked the contrasting styles of these bowls suggest that they must have come from different production centres. There is a rather heavy, barrel-shaped example of c. 1670-1700 (no. 3) and a

somewhat similar, although smaller, example in context 5 (not illustrated). Towards the end of the century a less barrel-shaped form appears (no. 4) of which there are two similar examples in contexts 28 and 31. All these forms are likely to have been made 'locally', i.e., in the Staffordshire/Derbyshire area. In contrast there are three spurs of a characteristic style from Broseley in Shropshire which date from c. 1690-1720 (Broseley type 4).¹⁹ There are also fragments from at least three of the associated bowls and two stem marks (see below) which are likely to be from this type of pipe.

The heel forms are rather more numerous with 35 examples represented (excluding the ends of tailed heels). There are fragmentary remains from the third quarter of the century which, once again, represent a variety of 'local' styles. There are 9 examples of slightly later forms dating from c. 1660-90 (nos 5 and 6). All of these pipes are characterised by round heels, only one of which is marked. These are all 'local' forms which, like the spur pipes, came under competition from Broseley styles towards the end of

the century, in this case the distinctive tailed type 5.²⁰ There are at least 25 examples of this style of pipe represented, 16 of which have stamp marks (below). Only three of these, however, can be attributed to makers from the Broseley / Much Wenlock area (e.g., no. 10). The remainder are either unmarked (e.g., nos. 12 - 14), and so are unlikely to be from Shropshire where marking was almost universal, or were made by other makers using Broseley style (e.g. nos 7-9 and 11). There is a single example of a Broseley type 3 pipe, with a large circular heel, but the mark is damaged and so its origin remains uncertain. The final heel pipe (no. 16) has much thinner walls and a small heel. It is of a form characteristic of the early eighteenth century and probably represents a local product at this date.

There are just two later bowl forms from the topsoil layers of the site, nos. 17 and 18. These are both likely to be 'local' products.

The makers' marks. A total of 23 stamped marks and 1 moulded mark were recovered from the excavation. Three of the stamped marks are fragmentary and cannot be identified. The marks are listed below in alphabetical order.

AB - Context 28, *c.* 1690-1720. Broseley type 4, spur with a small circular mark. This mark is recorded from the Broseley area²¹ and was probably made there.

CB - Context 12, *c.* 1680-1730. Small heel fragment from a Broseley type 5, or possibly type 3, bowl. This circular mark has not been recorded in Shropshire and is probably a 'local' copy.

IB - Contexts 28 & 30. There are three marks reading IB in this group. One is a square mark on a small round heel of *c.* 1660-1720 from context 28. The other two are both from the same die and both from context 30 (no.7). Both are stamped on the same irregular alignment. Although the bowl is a Broseley type 5 the mark has not been recorded in Shropshire. There is another example from Harecastle Farm, near Stoke-on-Trent,²² and so a Staffordshire maker seems likely.

Michael Brown - Context 1, *c.* 1680-1720 (no. 10). Broseley type 5 bowl with a full name, three line mark. Michael Brown was recorded as a pipe maker in Much Wenlock in 1681.²³ Examples of his pipes have been recorded from Staffordshire, for example in the Mount Street pit group from Stafford.²⁴

EC - Context 30, *c.* 1680-1730 (no. 9). Broseley type 5 bowl with an unusual 'crescent' mark which is usually confined to South Lancashire products. The

only other example of this mark was found in Uttoxeter²⁵ and so a 'local' source seems likely.

Emanuel Conway - Context 28, *c.* 1680-1718 (no. 11). Heel fragment of a Broseley type 5 bowl with a partially legible three line mark. This has the characteristic crude lettering, with mixed upper and lower case characters, of Emanuel Conway of Polesworth in Warwickshire. He baptised children between 1682 and 1704 and was buried in 1718. This example is interesting since it is not only a previously unrecorded die type for this maker but also the most distant example yet recorded from his workshop. Only a few of his pipes are known, and these have only been recorded from Polesworth, Lichfield and Mancetter.

IC? - Context 6, *c.* 1680-1730. Heel fragment from a Broseley type 5 bowl. The faintly impressed mark consists of initials within a circular border and frame which appears to have been applied upside down. The mark has not been recorded in Shropshire and is probably a 'local' copy.

William Harper - Context 31, *c.* 1680-1730. Broseley type 5 bowl with a three line stamp. William Harper worked in the Broseley area.

John James - Context 1, *c.* 1700-1750. There are two examples of stem marks used by this Broseley area maker from context 1. One simply reads 'IOHN / IAMES' (no.15) and probably dates to the early years of the century. The other is incomplete but would have read 'IB / IOHN / IAMES'. At least three variants of this die type have been recorded²⁶ but the meaning of the additional letters IB is unknown.

Daniel Overton? - Context 5, *c.* 1680-1730. One example of a three line stamp with very battered lettering on a Broseley type 5 bowl has been tentatively read as a Daniel Overton mark. Daniel Overton has not yet been traced in any records but his marks are relatively common at Much Wenlock where he is likely to have worked. Examples of his pipes have been recorded from Staffordshire, and are extremely well-represented in Stafford town, in for example the Mount Street and Mill Street pit groups.²⁷

Robert Pool - 5 examples from contexts 1, 6 (x2) and 31 (x2), *c.* 1680-1730. These three line stamps on Broseley type 5 pipes are well known although the workplace of Pool has not yet been traced. Examples are known from the Cheshire/Staffordshire border area, for example from Sandbach and Church Lawton,²⁸ while at least ten examples have been found in Stoke-on-Trent.²⁹

'Wheel mark' - Context 28, c. 1680-1730, (no. 8). There is one example of a 'wheel' mark consisting of twelve spokes radiating from a central dot on a Broseley type 5 pipe. The mark is fairly crudely executed. Both the style of the mark and the bowl suggest that this is a 'local' product.

?? - There are four illegible or fragmentary marks, three of which are circular. One is on a Broseley type 3 pipe (context 19), one is on a Broseley type 4 pipe (context 1) and one is probably on a Broseley type 5 pipe (context 5).

** - There is one moulded mark consisting of a seven armed star on each side of a pipe from context 1 (no. 18). This dates from c. 1810-60.

Decorated pipes. There are only three decorated pipes from the excavations. There is one Broseley type 5 bowl of c. 1680-1730 which has some carelessly applied lines of milling on the bowl facing the smoker (no. 14), presumably intended as decoration. The other two pieces are both from topsoil layers and date from c. 1810-1860 (nos. 17 and 18). Both have stylised leaf decoration on the seams in addition to which no. 17 also has enclosed flutes with the remains of a decorative panel above. Both these types of moulded decoration are typical of local nineteenth century products.

Discussion

The range and quantity of pipes recovered from this isolated location show that the hill farmers had ready access to supplies from a number of sources. The mid seventeenth-century types appear to be predominantly 'local' although from a number of different sources. By the 1680s 'imports' from as far away as Broseley and Much Wenlock in Shropshire had found a place in the market. As important as the actual imports is the fact that the styles of Broseley were being copied at a number of other centres. This meant that from c. 1680-1730 Broseley styles almost completely dominated the market. Of the marked pipes seven probably came from the Broseley area, nearly 50 miles to the south-west and one came from Polesworth, some 30 miles to the south. The five Pool pipes probably came from a similar distance to the west while the seven unidentified marks probably came from more local sources in Staffordshire or Derbyshire. It is interesting to note, however, that there are none of the common Riggs' pipes from Newcastle-under-Lyme or the bowl marks of the Nottingham makers. Both the actual imports and

the styles of these pipes suggest connections more to the south and west at this period than to the east. It would be interesting to learn whether this reflects the marketing area of the hill farmers themselves or the movement of hawkers bringing pipes into the area from the south-west.

Acknowledgement. I am most grateful to Nigel Melton for providing me with the details of Emanuel Conway from his current research into North Warwickshire pipe makers.

Illustrated pipes (Figs. 9 and 10)

1. Context 19. Rather crudely designed and made bowl of c. 1650-80. Probably a 'local' product. Not burnished.
2. Context 28. Quite a well designed and fairly globular form of c. 1660-90. Abraded surface.
3. Context 1. Rather heavy, chunky form of c. 1670-1700. Quite well finished and with a burnished surface.
4. Context 28. Fairly cylindrical form of c. 1680-1710. Abraded surface and damaged rim, but with no traces of milling.
5. Context 6. Local heel form of c. 1660-1700, three-quarters milled. Not burnished.
6. Context 30. Local heel form c. 1670-1700 with a more cylindrical form than no. 5. Not burnished.
7. Context 30. Rather 'chunky' heel form of c. 1680-1720 with distinctive mould flaw on the left hand side of the heel away from the smoker. This proves that another fragment from the same context came from the same mould. The strange orientation of the mark is the same on both examples. This example is three-quarters milled and burnished.
8. Context 28. Local copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730. Fully milled but not burnished.
9. Context 30. Local copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730. Abraded surface. There is a parallel for this mark from Uttoxeter.
10. Context 1. Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730 made by the Much Wenlock maker Michael Brown, recorded working in 1681. Three-quarters milled and finely burnished.
11. Context 28. Copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730 made by Emanuel Conway of Polesworth, working c. 1680-1718. Abraded surface.

12. Context 1. Local copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730. Not milled or burnished.

13. Context 30. Local copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730. Half milled but probably not burnished.

14. Context 5. Local copy of a Broseley type 5 of c. 1680-1730. Probably half milled originally but not burnished. Facing the smoker are two extra bands of milling, presumably applied as decoration. These only just cross, well off the centre line of the pipe. There is a chipped area just after the crossing but the lines could not have extended much further.

15. Context 1. Early eighteenth-century stem, burnished, and with the mark of John James, a Broseley area maker, stamped on it.

16. Context 30. Thin-walled bowl with a small and slightly flared round heel. This appears to be an early eighteenth-century form and, as such, the latest bowl form present in the midden deposits.

17. Context 1. Local bowl with relief moulded decoration, c. 1810-60. There would have been a decorative panel above the enclosed flutes.

18. Context 1. Local bowl with relief moulded decoration, c. 1810-60. Seven-armed star on either side of the spur.

THE POTTERY by Alan Bagnall

Introduction

The pottery from the site consisted of the usual range of types expected in the post-medieval period; few, if any sherds could be dated with a precision better than within a fifty-year period. However, by studying the overlaps in likely production dates within individual layers, some attempt can be made to suggest deposition dates within a shorter time frame. Individual contexts are discussed below:

Circular feature S2

Context 33 represented the lower fill of this feature and gives a tentative date for its period of use. Unfortunately, only three sherds were recovered.

a) Romano-British Derbyshire ware. A small residual sherd.

b) Mottled Ware. The body and rim of a porringer; buff body, the mottled glaze applied internally and

externally although the outer base is unglazed. 1680-1720.

c) Coarse Ware. A very small fragment, possibly of a flanged bowl; pink fabric with applied red slip. 1640-1750.

On the above evidence, a date for the feature cannot be estimated more accurately than 1680-1750.

Ground surface outside buildings S1 and S2

Context 19 represented the ground surface at the final stage of use of the buildings, pre-dating the midden (see below). The pottery may be summarised as follows:

Apart from one residual sherd of medieval date, the earliest pottery from the layer was glazed midlands purple, including a bung-hole pitcher, and midlands yellow wares, including a flanged bowl unlikely to date from later than 1700. Some of the midlands purple has been recognised as similar to material from a waster tip at Heath End, Ticknall, and a possible date range of mid seventeenth to early eighteenth century has been suggested for this.³⁰ A delft drug or ointment pot is of the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. Both slipware and mottled wares are represented, giving an earliest date of 1680. Coarse wares and the finer wares, characteristic of country pottery of the Staffordshire or Buckley industries, would also fit within the range 1680-1725, although they could be as late as 1780.

On the above evidence, a date within the range 1680-1725 may be suggested for the abandonment of the buildings represented by S1 and S3.

The midden

This layer of refuse, which overlay the structures S1 and S3, obviously post-dates their destruction and is mainly represented by context 12.

Midlands purple, midlands yellow and delft are the earliest pottery here represented, but they do not occur in large quantities. Later wares, such as mottled wares and other fine wares, suggest a deposition date not earlier than 1680. The large pancheons and other coarsewares could have been deposited at this date or, of course, very much later, but the complete absence of creamwares or white glazed wares suggests a date before about 1760.

It is likely then, that the pottery from the midden, giving a *terminus ante quem* for the demolition of the

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Abbreviations

BAR	British Archaeological Reports.
DAJ	Derbyshire Archaeological Journal.
DLHC	Derbyshire Local History Collection.
DRO	Derbyshire County Record Office.
NRO	Nottingham County Record Office.
LJRO	Lichfield Joint Record Office.
PRO	Public Record Office.
RCHM	Royal Commission on Historic Monuments.
SAS	Staffordshire Archaeological Studies.
SCA	Sheffield City Archives.
SHC	Staffordshire Historical Collections. (Old Series, New Series, and Fourth Series)
SRO	Staffordshire County Record Office.
VCH	Victoria County History.
WSL	William Salt Library, Stafford.
WA	Welbeck Abbey.

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FOOTNOTES

- ¹ LJRO Ilam Tithe Map 1838.
- ² Whitelock 1930, 47-51.
- ³ Pevsner 1974, 152.
- ⁴ Wildgoose 1991, wall type 4, 214-6.
- ⁵ Bateman 1861, 152-153
- ⁶ Howarth 1899, 183, J93-554; Vine 1982, 162
- ⁷ Coombs 1979, 44-47 eg fig. 16,4,5, fig. 17, 6, fig. 25, 2.
- ⁸ Elsdon 1992, 12
- ⁹ Thomas 1991, 39-42.
- ¹⁰ Challis and Harding 1975, i, 360.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.* i, 68, ii, 3, fig. 5.
- ¹² Stead 1991, 98-111.
- ¹³ SHC1912, 182-3.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 184-5.
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 144.
- ¹⁶ LJRO Ilam Tithe Map 1838.
- ¹⁷ A detailed catalogue of all pieces together with a context summary has been prepared for the site archive, which it is hoped will be deposited at The City Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent.
- ¹⁸ Atkinson 1975, 25.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ²⁰ *Ibid.*
- ²¹ Higgins 1987, fig. 66.4.
- ²² SJ 831523. City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, K9.13.1989.
- ²³ Higgins 1987, 504.
- ²⁴ Higgins 1986, fig. 4.5.
- ²⁵ Higgins 1987, fig. 95.12.
- ²⁶ *Ibid.*, 555.
- ²⁷ Higgins 1986, fig. 5.20;
- ²⁸ Barker and Holland, 1986, fig. 8.8.
- ²⁹ Higgins 1987, figs. 96.10-11 & 98.3. In the collection of the City Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent.
- ³⁰ Barker, David. Pers. comm.
- ³¹ LJRO Ilam Tithe Map 1838. SHC 1912, 144-8, 181-5.
- ³² Wilson 1982, 91-2; Wilson 1979, 42-6.
- ³³ Charlton 1979, 220-225.
- ³⁴ Ramm 1970, 54-60.
- ³⁵ Plot 1686, 354.
- ³⁶ British Geological Survey. Ashbourne Sheet 124.
- ³⁷ PRO E142/29.PRO.31. Extent of Throwley. < 15 Edward II > .
- ³⁸ WSL Southwell papers. SMS 360.
- ³⁹ RCHM 1979.
- ⁴⁰ PRO E142/29.PRO.31. Extent of Throwley. < 15 Edward II > .
- ⁴¹ SHC III (OS), 1882, 41.
- ⁴² Sleight 1883, 56.
- ⁴³ PRO E142/29.PRO.31. Extent of Throwley. < 15 Edward II > .
- ⁴⁴ WSL 9/8/00. Court roll.
- ⁴⁵ Palliser 1984, 55.
- ⁴⁶ SHC VII (OS), 1886, 158.