

## **SHROPSHIRE – Notes on clay tobacco pipes found at Bishop’s Castle**

The following notes on pipe finds from Bishop’s Castle, Shropshire, were compiled by Graham Berlyn of Ludlow in 1999 and 2000. They are from an extensive archive of his research notes regarding pipes and pipemakers, mainly from in and around Ludlow, which was compiled during the 1990s and 2000s. Following the publication of his booklet on Ludlow area pipes (Berlyn 2008), this archive was passed on to the author, who extracted and scanned these notes in December 2018.

### **Reference**

Berlyn, Graham, 2008, *Clay Tobacco Pipe Making and Use in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, Ludlow Historical Research Group, Ludlow Research Papers, New Series No 5, Ludlow (48pp).

*David Higgins, 21 December 2018*

## Clay Tobacco Pipes.

Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 1.

- 1 stem fragment, imported clay, large o/d., i/d. 5/64<sup>1/2</sup>, marked along the axis

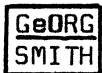


in relief serif, 4 left hand helical grooves have been pressed into the stem surface before the makers mark, this may indicate the point of balance of a churchwardens pipe, good finish. Maker Noah Roden (2) 1800 - 1855.

- 1 stem fragment, good quality local clay, marked across the stem in relief serif, no bar between lines of letters, fair finish, med. o/d., i/d. 5/64<sup>1/2</sup>, this maker is not recorded by D.R. Atkinson in his booklet on Broseley pipemakers, however this maker may have lived in that area undocumented in the very late 18th.c.



- 1 Tailed Heel only, good quality local clay, large stem o/d., i/d. 8/64<sup>1/2</sup>, marked



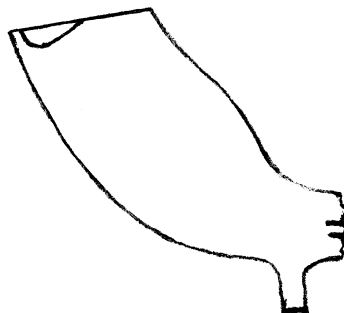
in relief sans serif, fair finish, used, 1680 - 1730, Broseley.

- 20 17th.c. stem frags., various o/d., i/d. and finish, all local clay, no marks.

- 3 18th.c. ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' , imported clay, no marks.

- 2 badly damaged bowls, local clay, both appear to be from the same maker at (Pipe) Aston Herefordshire, both show milling, no bottering left because of the damage, fair finish, 1 is used but not marked, the other is not used but is marked under Round Heel with the wheel mark of an as yet unnamed maker from the village above. Date early 18th.c..

- 1 Bowl type 7a, 1720 - 1740, slight lip damage, thin wall, poor quality local clay, all surfaces are etched probably due to having been in acidic conditions for a long period, spur heel, med. o/d., i/d. 5/64<sup>1/2</sup>, no mark, used.



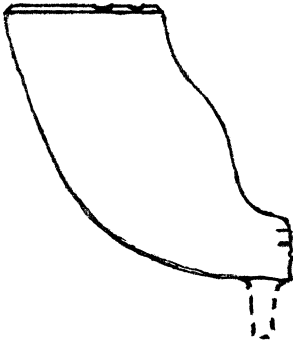
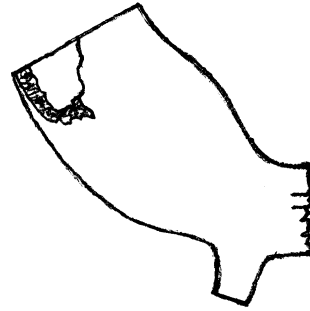
Bowl Scale Full Size.

Clay Tobacco Pipes.

Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 1.

- 1 Bowl type 4b, damaged, 1690 - 1720, good quality local clay, stub heel, no milling, internally trimmed, large stem o/d., i/d. 4/64, burnished, unmarked, unused, fair finish.

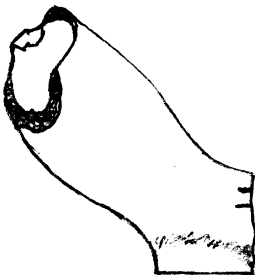
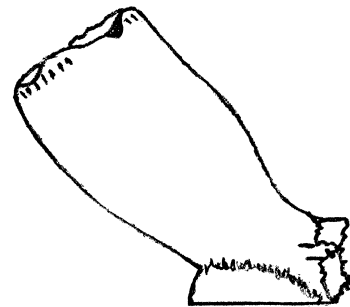


- 1 Bowl type 6a, 1710 - 1740, good quality local clay, burnished, spur heel missing, internally trimmed, med. stem o/d., i/d. 5/64, fair finish, no mark, unused.

- 1 Bowl type 5a, damaged on lip, 1680 - 1730, milled 4/4, bottered, burnished, med. stem o/d., i/d. 5/64, Tailed Heel marked sans serif, used. Broseley.



in relief  
He worked at



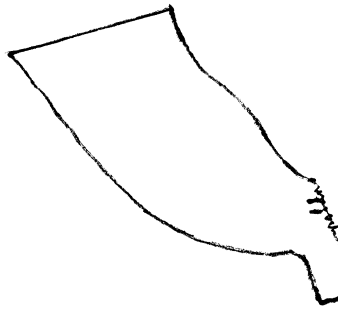
- 1 Bowl type uncertain, damaged round lip, late 17th.c., milled 4/4, no bottering left because of damage, rough local clay, polished, Round Heel marked in relief sans serif, left hand letter illegible, large stem o/d., i/d. 7/64, fair finish, unused. Maker unknown.

Clay Tobacco Pipes.

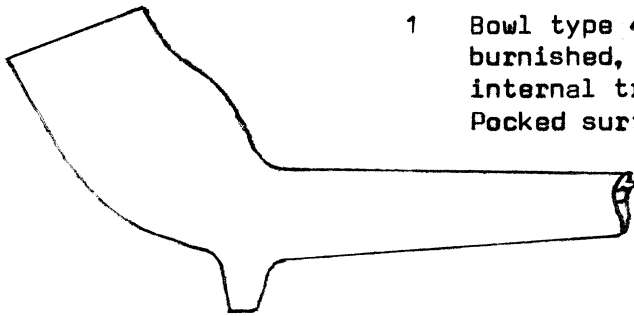
Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 2, Area A.

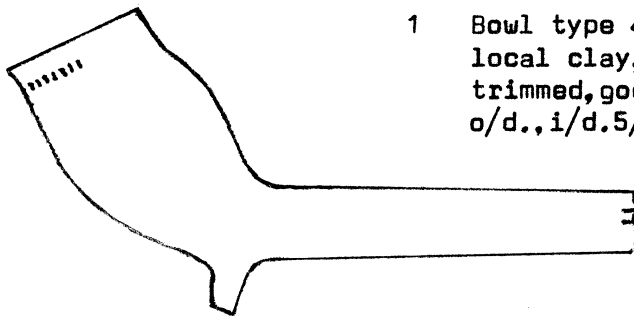
- 1 Bowl type 6b, 1710 - 1740, good quality local clay, spur heel, internally trimmed, no milling, burnished, med. stem o/d., i/d. 5/64", no mark, unused.



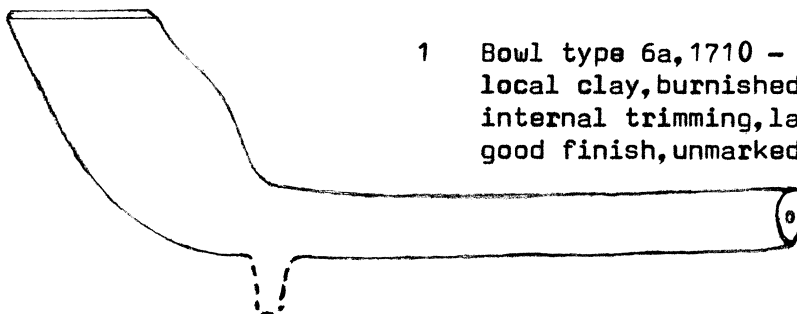
- 1 Bowl type 4b, 1690 - 1720, spur heel, local clay, burnished, no milling, no mark, unused, internal trimming, large stem o/d., i/d. 5/64", Pocked surface.



- 1 Bowl type 4b, 1690 - 1720, spur heel, good quality local clay, milling 2/4, burnished, internally trimmed, good finish, no mark, unused, large stem o/d., i/d. 5/64".






- 1 Bowl type 6a, 1710 - 1740, spur heel missing, local clay, burnished, no bottering, milling or internal trimming, large stem o/d., i/d. 5/64", good finish, unmarked, unused.




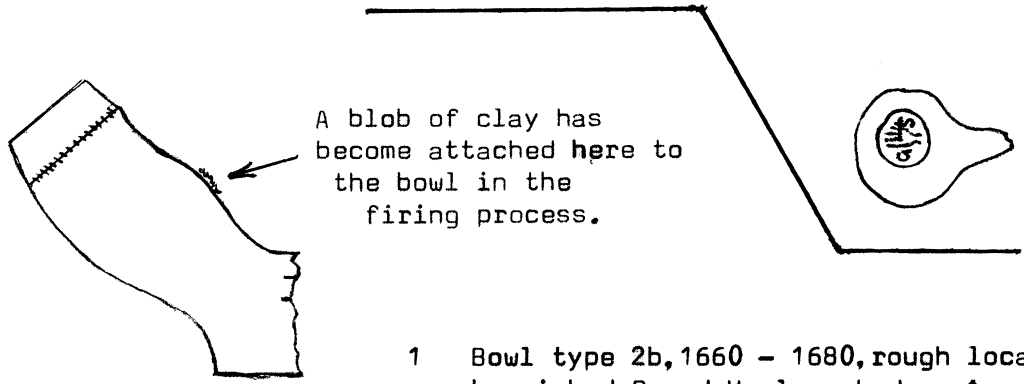
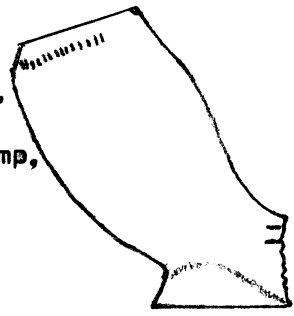
Clay Tobacco Pipes.


Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 2, Area A.

- 1 late 17th.c.mouthpiece,good quality local clay,small stem o/d.,i/d.6/64," good finish.
- 1 stem fragment possibly late 18th.c.,good quality local clay,marked across the stem  in relief serif,no bar between the lines of letters,med. stem o/d.,i/d.4/64,"fair finish,although this maker is not actually recorded,it is likely that he worked in the Broseley area where other RODEN family members made pipes.
- 1 stem fragment,local clay,med.o/d.,i/d.4/64,"marked along the stem (possibly  very feint),in relief serif,this maker worked at Benthall, Shropshire about 1690 - 1720,fair finish.
- 1 badly damaged and fire burned bowl,type 4b,1690 - 1720,stub heel,large stem o/d.,i/d.6/64,"local clay,no mark.
- 1 broken Tailed Heel,late 17th.c.,local clay,marked  in relief serif, rough finish,large stem o/d.,i/d.7/64." Maker not known.
- 56 17th.c.stem frags.,various o/d.,i/d.and finish,all local clay,no marks.
- 9 18th.c. " " " " " " " " , " imported clay,no marks.

- 1 bowl type 5a,1680 - 1730,good quality local clay,milling 4/4,slight evidence of bottering,fair finish,large stem o/d.,i/d.5/64,"Tailed Heel marked  in relief in an oval stamp, this mark is one of several used by George Smith of Broseley.Unused.



- 1 Bowl type 2b,1660 - 1680,rough local clay, burnished,Round Heel marked  in reverse, milling 4/4,"bottered,large stem o/d., i/d.8/64,letters in relief serif,unused.The only other example of this makers work seen so far is held at Ludlow Museum,and it is known that that piece also came from Bishop's Castle. Maker unknown. (Dr.D.C.Edwards collection).



Bowl Scale Full Size.

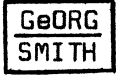

## Clay Tobacco Pipes.

Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 2, Area B.

The following clay tobacco pipe fragments were found among other artefacts at The Poppy House, Market Square, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, in the garden at the rear of the house close to the old castle wall, in late August 1999 by Mr. C. Walmsley and a team of helpers from Stockport. The owner of the property is Mr. G. Grimes.

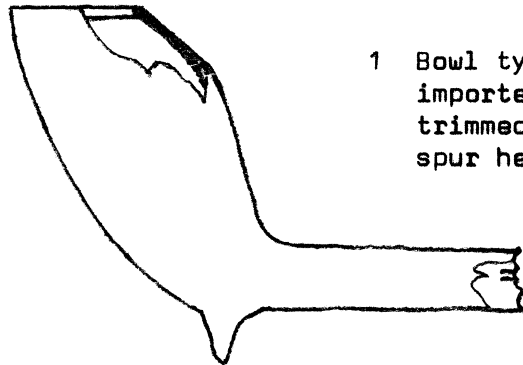
The reason for the excavation is that Mr. Grimes intends to build an extension to the house and before doing so wishes to learn what remains of the castle may exist under the garden before building starts.

- 1 Tailed Heel only, good quality local clay, marked  in relief, this maker worked in the Broseley area of Shropshire about 1680 - 1720. Large stem o/d., i/d. 8/64", fair finish, unused.
- 1 Stem fragment, imported clay (i.e. from Devon), med. o/d., i/d. 4/64", marked across the stem  in relief serif, Thomas Taylor worked at Broseley 1750 - 1760. Good finish.
- 1 Badly damaged bowl, type possibly 6b, 1710 - 1740, good quality local clay, large stem o/d., i/d. 4/64", fair finish, no mark, unused.
- 16 stem fragments 17th.c., various o/d., i/d. and finish, all local clay, no marks.
- 7 stem fragments 18th.c., " " " " " " imported clay, no marks.

Poppy House, Bishop's Castle.

Trench 3.

These further clay pipe fragments were found during the week ending 30/10/1999, together with other artefacts, and an Aluminium Plate stamped from below with the wording shown in a drawing on sheet 2.



- 1 Bowl type 8d, 1780 - 1800, partly damaged, imported clay, good finish, internally trimmed, used, no mark, med. stem o/d., i/d. 4/64", spur heel, possibly polished finish.

Bowl Scale Full Size.

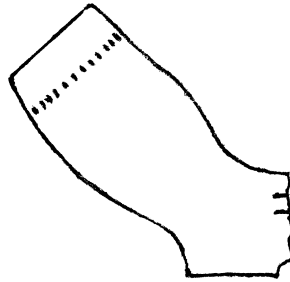
- 1 Badly damaged bowl, type uncertain, possibly early to mid 18th.c., spur heel, good quality local clay, thin wall, fair finish, large stem o/d., i/d. 4/64", used, no mark.
- 1 Mouthpiece, small o/d., i/d. 7/64", good quality local clay, fair finish.
- 1 Stem fragment marked with a criss - cross pattern, local clay, fair finish, med. stem o/d., i/d. 7/64".
- 8 17th.c. Stem frags., local clay, various o/d., and i/d., and finish.
- 6 18th.c. Stem frags., imported clay, various o/d., i/d. and finish.

N.B. Sheet 2 is a drawing of an Aluminium Plate which was found in the same trench as the clay pipes recorded above. This will be found with Bishop's Castle correspondence.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Private Collection

Pipe Fragment found in the garden of 11 High St, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, by Mr. M. E. Pullen, 13 High St., B.C., during the Summer of 1999. (Postcode SY9 5BE)  
Tel. No. 01588 638 271



1 bowl type, possible variant of Broseley 3a, 1670 - 1690, milled 4/4, bottered, good quality local clay, round heel marked with the letters L W, in relief serif, in a 1/4" inch diameter stamp, good finish stroke burnished, large stem o/d., i/d. 7/64, used, The name of the maker is presently unknown.

Bowl Scale :- Full Size.

