

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY AND CLAY PIPES FROM CHEDDAR

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In the excavations of the palace site at Cheddar several hundred post-medieval sherds and fragments of clay pipes were found. These were derived from occupation in the area around Manor Farm, on the south-west outskirts of Cheddar, now the site of the Kings of Wessex School (Rahtz 1979, period 7, pp. 67, 216-7, 379). The sherds were found principally in topsoil layers in the area around the chapel of St Columbanus, and in the East Hall area, where there appears to have been an 18th-century cottage (Rahtz 1979, 188). A large group of pottery of this date came from a cess pit associated with this cottage. Full details of these features and of the contexts given to the sherds discussed below will be found in the archive ARCH. 12.10., the availability of which is given in Rahtz 1979, 3.

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY by K.J. Barton

The pottery (PMP. number series) is described by centuries followed by a note on a special group of 17th-century sgraffito wares, and the 18th-century cess-pit group. The contexts of the sherds are given at the end of each entry.

16th-17th centuries (Fig. 1)

1. Candlestick fragment, holder only, handle and base missing; fabric untempered, brick red, thin olive brown glaze, possibly Bristol, 17th century; 62B.
2. Fragment from the side of a tankard, brown glazed stoneware with decoration of tree with an entwined serpent, leaves and up-looking animal; this is clearly part of a scene depicting the Fall which was characteristic of Cologne tankards towards the middle of the 16th century (cf. Koetschau 1924, Pl. 2, left); 87/1.
3. Fragment from the shoulder of a jug, brown glazed stoneware with decoration of oak leaves; decorative foliage with either oak leaves or rose leaves is typical of Cologne in the first half of the 16th century. The coarseness of the leaves and the cordon at the junction of the shoulder and the neck suggests a date close to 1550 (cf. Koetschau 1924, Pl. 35); 88B.
4. Sherd of floral blue and purple Westerwald salt glaze with octagonal medallion bearing date (16)87; 64B.
5. Handle and rim sherd of grey salt glaze, brown iron wash inside neck, similar to Flemish salt glaze; possibly c. 1550; 4V.
6. Base of globular tankard in tin glaze with speckled manganese exterior and white interior, first half of 17th century (see Garner 1948, note 12, Pl. 6, vessel dated to 1628; and Barton 1964, Fig. 66, no. 6); 33A.
7. Sherds of Netherlands or Italian Maiolica decorated with floral designs, outlined in mauve and some infilled with turquoise green and blue; 59F.
8. Spout of a fish or meat dish, coarse lightly-tempered fabric; internal fine bright red

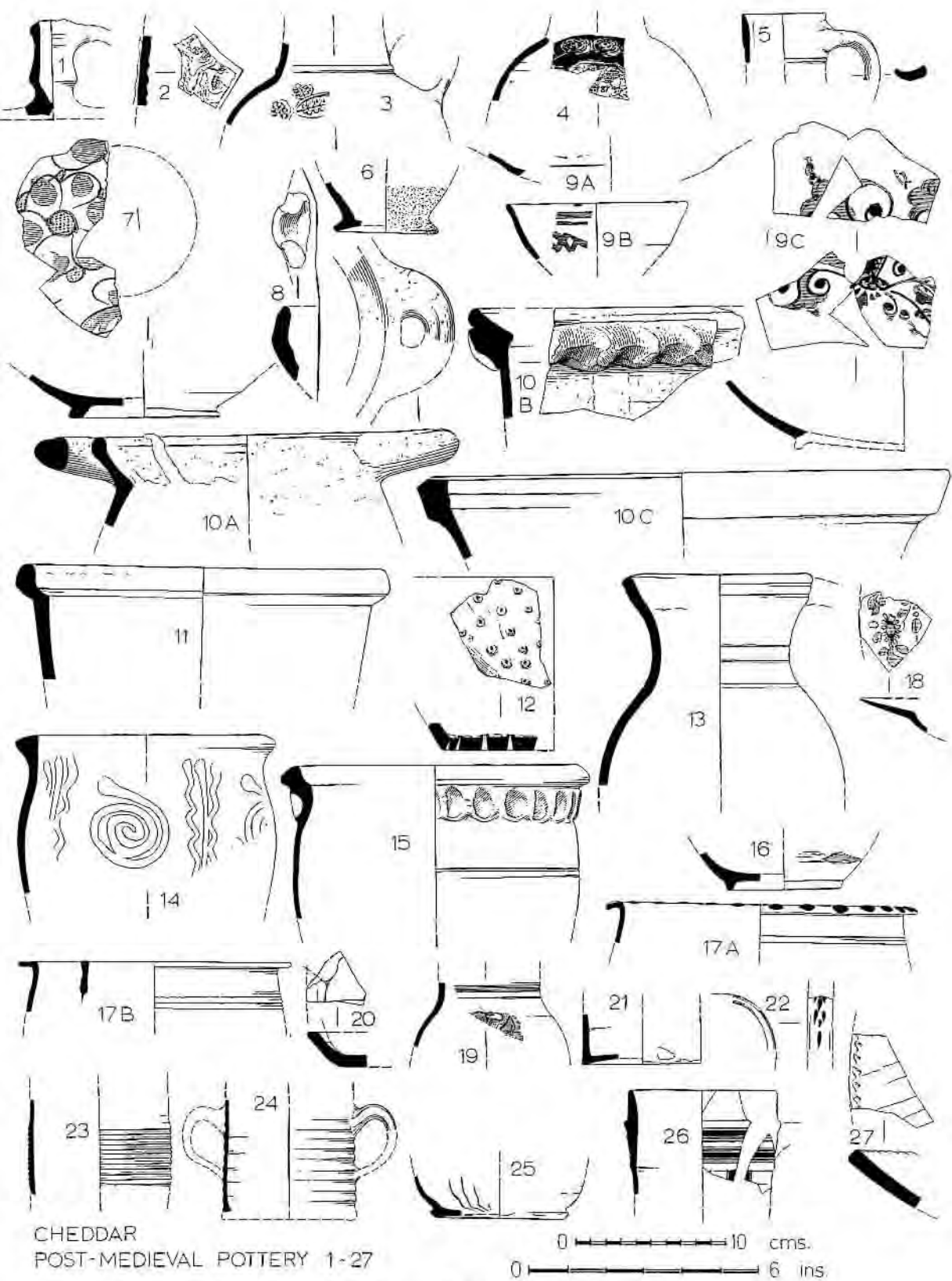


Fig. 1 Cheddar: post-medieval pottery, 1-27.

- glaze similar to a pot from St Nicholas' Almshouses in form and fabric, there 1653-56 (Barton 1964, Fig. 71, no. 88); 62B.
- 9A,B,C. Sherds of Bristol Delft, glaze colour pale blue, decoration colour dark blue; similar to sherds from St Nicholas' Almshouses (Barton 1964, Fig. 66, nos. 9 and 12-17); 63B, XXIC.
10. Sherds of gravel-tempered ware:
 A. Rim sherd with wide flare and solid handles (reconstruction from three non-joining sherds, possibly different pots); 57A, 42B, XXI U/S.
 B. Rim sherd of fish or meat dish with thumbed strip underneath, treacly brown glaze; 64B.
 C. Rim sherd similar to Watkins Type D 1660-85 (Watkins 1960); 82A.
 D. Sherd of large, vertical walled panchion type with greenish-brown interior glaze; 64B (not illustrated).
 (A and B are similar to mid 17th-century examples found at St Nicholas' Almshouses).
11. Sherd of rim with lid recess in hard, brick red paste with thin treacly brown glaze, mid-late 17th century; XXIC.
12. Base sherd of a water sprinkler, late 16th or 17th century; III K.
13. Neck, spout and body fragments of jug, exactly paralleled at St Nicholas' Almshouses, 1653-6; 64B.
14. Rim and side, slip-decorated jar or chamber pot; U/S.
15. Rim and side of glazed bowl, thumb-pressed outside; U/S.

17th-18th centuries (Fig. 1)

16. Sherd of Chinese porcelain, K'ANG HSI, late 17th-18th century; 65B.
17. A, B. Sherds of Bristol Yellow Glaze with black spots on rim top, late 17th-early 18th century (cf. Barton 1961, 164-167); XXXIC + XXII/I.
18. Rim of Bristol Delft plate with floral design, late 17th-early 18th century; 64A.
19. Sherd of Westerwald salt glaze with blue and purple decoration, 1680-1720; 64B.
20. Fragment of candle-stick in fine red paste with green glaze over white slip, 17th or possibly early 18th century; 64A.

18th-19th centuries (Fig. 1)

21. Base of Seltzer bottle, ?19th century; 62C.
22. Handle sherd of white salt glaze, blue painted pattern; XXIB.
- 23, 24. Sherds of two vessels. 24 with small loop handles; iron washed and glazed black, decorated with fine reeding; possibly Bristol or Staffs; early- to mid-18th century; 64B, XXIIIE.
25. Base of yellow glazed posset pot with trailed brown strips inside (cf. Barton 1961, Fig. 2, no. 13); XIIIE.
26. Sherds of a Westerwald tankard with blue decoration, 18th century; 13B.
27. Rim sherd of bread dish of semi-circular section with notched edge, decorated within with trailed and combed design under yellow glaze; ?Bristol, early 18th century; 13B.

17th-Century Sgraffito Group

Amongst the large quantity of 17th-century pottery at Cheddar was a group decorated with sgraffito. This group belongs in general to the sgraffiti of South-West England, although these fragments could not be attributed to one particular source. The group falls into two definite or three possible types, listed here as types I, II and III.

Type I is exemplified by the nearly complete chamber pot, PMP. 29. This vessel is oxidised although not completely so, whereas many of the other fragmentary examples appear to be only slightly or partially oxidised. The under-glaze colour of this type is nearly always pale creamy white for the slip, and olive green for the body.

Type II which may well be from the same source as *Type I*, is distinguished by the method of applying the copper green, which is always in a neat leaf pattern. A fragment of the rim of a wide mouthed bowl, not illustrated here, shows that this also occurs on a vessel with sgraffiti. This fragment has carefully cut lobes of white slip along the outer edge of the rim, embellished with leaf pattern green slip. The bowl is slipped white with a green stripe over.

Type III is from a different source from the previous types. The techniques are similar but the expression is bolder, the colours brighter and the wares oxidised throughout.

The source of *Types I, II and III* should not be very far away from Cheddar, for these types do not occur south of the Parrett; they are found in Bristol, but apparently, from a review of the collections at Gloucester, not further north. One should, therefore, look to Bristol and its region for the source for at least one of the types, especially *Type I* which was found in quantity at the St Nicholas' Almshouses excavation, together with a few examples of *Types II and III*. As all these types were found at St Nicholas' Almshouses (date range 1653-6), a firm date in the mid-17th century can be given with a possible range to the end of the century.

Type I (Fig. 2)

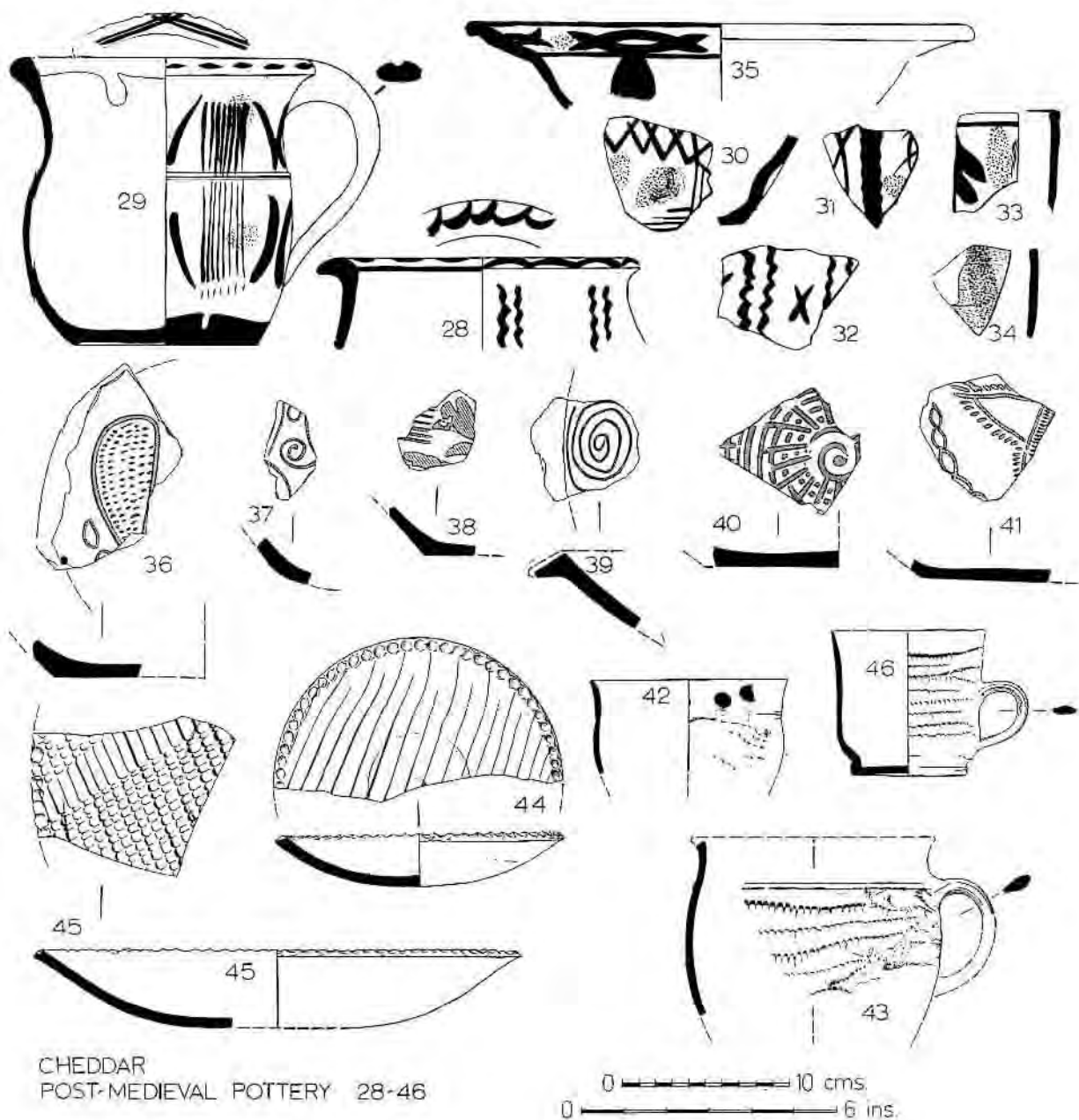
28. Rim of a chamber pot: reduced hard unfilled paste, grey in colour; the whole is slipped white, then embellished with cutting to give a sgraffito pattern comprising 'half-moons' on the rim and ripples in pairs down the body. The slip is quite thin causing the iron green body to show through as a very pale green colour; all these features are under a very fine glaze; where slightly oxidised the body shows red under the glaze, otherwise it is a dark olive green; CH U/S.
29. Chamber pot in an oxidised paste; of similar form to PMP. 1, though slipped out to most of the length of vessel, with only a little slip with the rim; there is sgraffito decoration made by more cutting through the slip with an eight-toothed comb at six places round the body, and by making four opposing half moon scallops in the intervening five spaces; outside of rim decorated with through slip cuttings at intervals of 2.5cm; top of rim gashed with comb; slip wiped off outside of handle; body embellished with applied blobs of copper rich slip at the upper and lower portions of the combed areas; whole inside and upper half of the outside covered with a thin glaze; EH/B.
- 30,32. Fragments from the base of a wide mouthed bowl in an oxidised, smooth red paste, bearing an indented decoration like *Type I*; inside coated with criss-cross sgraffito pattern; traces of copper rich slip in two patches giving a green on yellow under-glaze colour; CH U/S.

Type II (Fig. 2)

- 33, 34. Fragments from two similar vessels in a smooth, soft red paste. Slipped in, and in the case of 33 decorated with, broad sgraffito cuts through a white slip and a leaf pattern in copper green. PMP. 34 has a similar leaf pattern directly on to a patch of unslipped body but there is a patch of white slip to one side of this; both fragments are glazed within only; CH U/S.

Type III (Fig. 2)

35. Fragment from the rim of a wide mouthed bowl in a smooth, unfilled red paste; oxidised, slipped all over within; sgraffito design executed very boldly in double scallops in the rim and leaf pattern on the bowl; thin copper green daubing on the rim. This colour scheme is most distinctive, being a bold orange and bright yellow pattern; thick lustrous glaze within only; paralleled St Nicholas' Almshouses; EH U/S.



CHEDDAR
POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY 28-46

Fig. 2 Cheddar: post-medieval pottery, 28-46.

36. Fragment from the base of a bowl in a hard, mildly sandy, bright red fabric covered with a white slip under a lead glaze; the slip is cut through to reveal the body; this is a typical North Devon product; mid-17th century; EH U/S.
38. Fragment from the base of a bowl in a brick red, hard untempered fabric, partially reduced and covered with a white slip which has remains of combing and wide scalloping similar to PMP. 29-34 above; mid-17th century; CH U/S.
39. Fragment of the rim of a wide mouthed bowl in all respects similar to PMP. 36 and 37; North Devon; mid-17th century; EH/B.
40. Fragment from the base of a bowl in rich pink, smooth untempered fabric, covered with white slip which has been cut through to show body, in a spiral pattern overlaid with radiating spokes, all under a thin clear lead glaze, a typical product of the Donyatt kilns in Somerset (Radford and Hallam 1953); EH/B.
41. Fragment from the base of a bowl similar to PMP. 36, 37, 39 above; North Devon, mid-17th century; CH U/S.

Groups from Cess Pit 80/2 (East Hall Area). Probably early-mid 18th century Chinese Porcelain

If it is 18th century it should be late. This should date to c. 1775-1850 rather than earlier. *Delft*

One sherd, plain, cf. Chester, (Webster and Barton 1957, Fig. 91, no. 14); 1700-1740.

Brown Washed Earthenware

Fragments from a cylindrical tankard, iron rich slip on a creamy body, probably Staffs; very like material found in Chester where similar pieces occur c. 1700-1740 (most are two-handled globular vessels); by 1750 cylindrical shapes are dominant.

Salt Glazed Wares

A. The shape of the handles, the reeding and the blue scratch decoration suggest a date in the mid-18th century; Rackham rim (Rackham 1951) of 52A, pattern of 53. Two exceptions are sherds of a small cup which date to the 1730s or 1740s.

B. Coarse base fragment; in form, base, and reeding decoration paralleled by the Bristol examples (Barton 1961, 163, Fig. 1, No. 1)), dated 1700-1725.

C. Fragment from the side of a tankard of similar date.

D. Two fragments of thick, white, salt glaze globular storage jars.

Black Glazed Teapot

Two fragments from a fine-bodied tea pot, c. 1740-50.

Yellow Slip (Fig. 2)

20 fragments of three posset pots including PMP. 42 and 43 in Staffs/Bristol yellow with 'trails', 'combed trail' and 'dot' decoration; this should be early-18th century at the latest; however, unless something to take its place is found, its date-range should be continued into the middle of the century. PMP. 44 and 45 are two bread dishes in this fabric.

Combed Slip (Fig. 2)

Small cup (PMP. 46) in combed yellow slip, smooth loop handle; glazing very yellow; bottom section to foot ring cranked; part of a great family of Staffs/Bristol yellow glazes. Probably early 18th century, but it could be later.

Coarse Wares

Numerous fragments in a brick red paste, covered with a red glaze to a variety of colours, according to the state of reduction or oxidisation, ranging from green to orange. The glaze is mainly even, not very thick (an 18th-century feature) and never sparse (a 17th-century feature).

There are also many sherds of gravel-tempered wares, thumb-decorated under rims, mid-17th century in Bristol (cf. St Nicholas' Almshouses, Barton 1964); they are either survivals, or this type continues into the 18th century.

Hereford-Leominster type

Two sherds only of this type (see Morgan 1956).

CLAY PIPES by A. Oswald

The clay pipes are part of the F.C. (fired clay) series. Their contexts are described in Rahtz 1979 (period 7, pp. 67, 216-7, 379), and a full list is in archive ARCH. 17 (Rahtz 1979, 3). N.B. The At. numbers referred to under numbers 17 and 71 below refer to an unpublished paper by D.R. Atkinson on Jeffrey Hunt pipes.

F.C. numbers

7. *RN incised*. Richard Nonney 1655-c. 1700; typical Bristol shape c. 1670; similar but not identical mark from Nottingham, St Fagans Mus. (perhaps London), Badbury (nr. Bradford on Avon), Taunton, Caerleon, Queenhithe (London).
8. *Wheel or Tudor Rose* in relief, c. 1620-40; duplicate London, Guildhall Mus., probably Dutch, mark occurs on Dutch pipes c. 1630.
16. No mark c. 1650; Bristol pipe.
17. Group of seven pipes c. 1640-80. Marks: *FH incised*. Flower Hunt; Bristol 1651-c.1672; duplicate mark Temple Church (Bristol), St Fagans Mus.; early example of this maker.
Jeffrey Hunt. Two examples: (1) At.3.F. c. 1660-70. (2) At.3/4. (1) occurs at Salisbury, Devizes, Bath; (2) at Devizes, Nunney Castle, dates c. 1670-80; made in the Bristol area by Jeffrey Hunt the second.
John Hunt. Incised mark, no exact parallel; John Hunt a Freeman of Bristol 1651; date of pipe perhaps 1650.
RN incised. Richard Nonney, Bristol maker 1655-c.1700; duplicate mark London and Nottingham; c.1680.
AND/REW/RAN/DAL. Incised mark; duplicate Wills Mus. Bristol; maker unknown; c.1650.
29. c. 1670-80.
30. c. 1820-50. Dragoons head; duplicate from kilns at Lamb St., Bristol and Plymouth.
35. Four bowls. *RN incised (N reversed)*; Richard Nonney as above c. 1680. *IS in relief*: right hand side of bowl; duplicate from Rosemary St. Bristol (Wills Mus.); Port Royal, West Indies with Robt. Tippett, Worcester; several possible makers, c. 1700-30; position of mark typical of Bristol 18th-century marks.
Of the other two bowls one is characteristic of Devon manufacture, c. 1720-30 (cf. Oswald 1969, Fig. 55, no. 26); the other is a London type 28, c. 1820-40 (cf. Atkinson and Oswald 1969, Fig. 2).
47. c. 1670-80.
48. Stem with decoration c. 1700-40; no exact parallel but decorated stems of similar character were found in some numbers at Plymouth, dated c. 1700-40.
55. c. 1660-70; polished pipe.
64. London type 27 (Atkinson and Oswald 1969), c. 1780-1820; also F.C. 68.
71. *Jeffrey Hunt*. Incised, At. type I.A. c. 1650; parallels: Calne, Devizes, Bristol, Taunton, Salisbury, Marlborough, Southampton, Blandford, Shaftesbury, Bridgewater.

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