

METAL OBJECTS

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Gold object

(The cross-references denoted 'CQ' in this paper relate to *Charter Quay, The Spirit of Change*, Wessex Archaeology 2003)

Perhaps the most intriguing, and certainly the most personal object from the Charter Quay excavations proved to be a set of false teeth, or rather a partial upper plate with a single tooth attached, found in a brick-lined feature (see CQ p. 53, Fig. 105). The plate is made of gold, carefully gum-moulded to fit round existing teeth, and the single tooth, attached on one side with a gold rivet, is of porcelain; there are traces of a second attachment on the opposite side. The plate would have been very close-fitting.

The date of this object is likely to be early 19th century. William IV apparently wore a gold upper plate with carved ivory teeth (Woodforde 1983, 44), and a plate similar to the Charter Quay example, with porcelain teeth, was found in the Christ Church, Spitalfields crypt, fitted into the mouth of William Laschallas, who shot himself in 1852 (Cox 1996, fig. 92). This gold plate, and others from the Spitalfields crypt, appear to have belonged to at least fairly wealthy individuals.

Copper alloy objects

Copper alloy objects are dominated by pins (355); most of these are the short, post-medieval types often associated with dressmaking, although longer, globular-headed examples are present (see CQ p. 52).

The remainder of the copper alloy assemblage is fairly limited in range, and includes little of functional significance for the site. Personal items are the most common – five buckles, four lace tags and one hooked tag, and one button; apart from the button, these items fall within a late medieval/early post-medieval date bracket (15th-17th century) (see CQ p. 52). Other identifiable objects include two thimbles, a cast vessel fragment and a heart-shaped drop handle, probably from furniture; again, these are likely to be late medieval or early post-medieval (15th - 17th century), apart from one of the thimbles, which is a modern, machine-made example. Very few objects came from securely dated medieval contexts; these include a few pin fragments, strip fragments and unidentifiable fragments.

Iron objects

The ironwork is similarly dominated by a single object type, in this case nails (at least 266 nails/nail fragments). Many objects are corroded and unrecognisable, even from X-radiograph – 165 objects/fragments remain unidentified. Several other structural items were identified: five clench bolts, two hinges, one hinge pivot, one handle, a looped spike and a looped staple. Also of interest in this category is a large box padlock. Tools included knives of various sizes (four examples, both whittle and scale tang forms), a sickle blade, a possible awl and an axe-head (see CQ p. 30). Parts of seven horseshoes are too fragmentary for close

dating but are of late medieval or early post-medieval type. Again, there is little here with any specific functional significance to the site.

Catalogue of metal objects

Gold object

1. Dental plate, partial upper, one porcelain tooth attached, plus attachment for a second tooth. ?Early 19th century; William IV wore a gold upper plate with ivory teeth (Woodforde 1983, 44), and a plate similar to the Charter Quay example, with porcelain teeth, was found in the Christ Church, Spitalfields crypt, fitted into the mouth of William Leschallas, who shot himself in 1852 (Cox 1996, fig. 92).
Obj No 270, context 363 (sample 52), brick-lined tank 364, trench 3.

Copper alloy objects (excluding pins)

Personal items

2. Small rectangular buckle with attached belt chape. Length 32 mm, width at buckle 10 mm.
Obj No 18, context 2311, north-south linear 2403, trench 2
3. Buckle fragment, form unknown. Length 36 mm
Obj No 199, context 623, garden soil layer, trench 3
4. Double-looped buckle, plain. Length 30 mm, width 28 mm. Early post-medieval (16th/17th century).
Obj No 207, context 666, pit 662, trench 3
5. Double-looped buckle, rosette decoration. Length 45mm, width 32 mm. Early post-medieval (16th/17th century).
Obj No 247, context 2740, 'cellared structure', trench 2A
6. Rectangular buckle, fragmentary, decorated, plus belt rivet. Post-medieval.
Obj No 269, context 363 (sample 52), brick-lined tank 364, trench 3
7. ?Lace tag.
Obj No 176, context 3302, layer, trench 33
8. Lace tag in two fragments.
Obj No 193, context 610, layer, trench 3
9. Lace tag in three fragments.
Obj No 210, context 826, pit recut 829 (recut of pit 830), trench 3
10. Lace tag.
Obj No 277, context 666, pit 662, trench 3

11. Hooked tag; rectangular loop behind decorative front (corrosion has removed detail of decoration). Length 24 mm. Early post-medieval (16th/17th century) (Margeson 1993, fig. 8).
Obj No 182, context 452, levelling layer, trench 3
12. Button, plain disc, rear loop missing; ?plated. Diameter 18 mm. Post-medieval.
Obj No 202, context 623, garden soil layer, trench 3

Domestic items

13. Thimble with grooved around the base; indentations applied in single spiral from base to top; height 20 mm; internal base diameter 14 mm. Slight damage – chipping and ?burning on rim. Early post-medieval (16th/17th century).
Obj No 43, context 2154, dumped layer between walls 2152 and 2153, trench 2
14. Thimble, machine made. Height 20 mm, internal diameter 13 mm. Modern.
Obj No 174, context 3302, layer, trench 33
15. Handle, heart-shaped loop, attached ring. Used on furniture or possibly chafing dish (Lewis 1973); direct parallels from Newbury (Montague 1997, fig. 56, 27) and Southampton (Harvey 1975, fig. 245, 1864). Width at bow 60 mm; length 46 mm. Early post-medieval (16th/17th century).
Obj No 111, context 924, pit 986, trench 3
16. Cast vessel rim fragment; internal bevel; sooting on exterior. Original external diameter 280 mm.
Obj No 112, context 869, wall collapse, trench 3

Miscellaneous objects

17. Three oval plaques (one fragmentary), stamped 'AERATED BREAD Co / FULL TO / WATERLOO'. Length 200 mm, width 85 mm.
Obj No 7, context 2088, modern alley-way, trench 2
18. Loop-headed shank, function unknown. Post-medieval. Loop diameter 14 mm, length 22 mm.
Obj No 200, context 623, garden soil layer, trench 3
19. Ring plus two small fragments, function unknown. External diameter 50 mm.
Obj No 183, context 452, levelling layer, trench 3
20. Flat ring, function unknown. External diameter 24 mm.
Obj No 192, context 610, layer, trench 3
21. Flat ring, unknown function. External diameter 30 mm. Post-medieval.
Obj No 203, context 623, garden soil layer, trench 3

Sheet/strip fragments

22. Sheet fragment; unknown function.

Obj No 5, context 2055, hollow/pit 2056, trench 2

23. Fragments of two tapering strips, twisted together and looped over at one end; function unknown. Overall length 40 mm; width at broken end 4 mm.
Obj No 14, context 2132, layer, trench 2
24. Five perforated strip/sheet fragments, function unknown.
Obj No 78, context 2753, dump layer in medieval 'cellared structure', trench 2A
25. Small folded strip fragment, function unknown. Width 8 mm.
Obj No 84, context 2065, layer, trench 2
26. Strip fragment, tapering, function unknown. Length 34 mm, width 3 mm.
Obj No 178, context 3302, layer, trench 33
27. Small strip fragment, function unknown. Length 21 mm, width 2 mm.
Obj No 180, context 370, rectangular feature 371 (associated with brick-lined tank 364), trench 3
28. Fine, twisted strip fragment, ?plated. Length 19 mm; thickness 0.5 mm.
Obj No 190, context 610, layer, trench 3
29. Thin strip fragment, function unknown. Length 35 mm, width 2 mm.
Obj No 222, unstratified
30. Strip fragment, curved; function unknown. Length 135 mm; width 20 mm.
Obj No 223, unstratified
31. Curved, folded strip, ?edge binding. Length 55 mm, width (folded) 6 mm.
Obj No 249, context 2755, dump layer in medieval 'cellared structure', trench 2A

Unidentified fragments

32. Unidentified fragment.
Obj No 10, context 2147, pit 2056, trench 2
33. Two small fragments, unidentified.
Obj No 32, context 2606, north-south linear 2607, trench 2
34. Two small, unidentified fragments.
Obj No 33, context 2612, hearth 2380, trench 2
35. Small, unidentified fragment, ?waste.
Obj No 34, context 2612, hearth 2380, trench 2
36. Tiny, unidentified fragment.
Obj No 35, context 2612, hearth 2380, trench 2

37. Unidentified fragment, ?waste.
Obj No 85, context 2068, pit 2095 (for rake-out from ?malting oven), trench 2
38. Small, unidentified lump.
Obj No 209, context 700, layer, trench 3
39. Two unidentified lumps, ?waste.
Obj No 229, context 4117, layer, trench 3
40. Two small, unidentified fragments.
Obj No 230, context 4116, charcoal spread, trench 3
41. Small fragment, unidentified.
Obj No 231, context 4123, layer, trench 3
42. Two unidentified fragments,?waste.
Obj No 232, context 4124, layer, trench 3
43. Small, unidentified fragment, ?waste.
Obj No 267, context 924 (sample 72), pit 986, trench 3

Iron objects (excluding nails and unidentifiable objects)

Knives and other tools

44. Knife, scale tang with mineralised traces of wooden handle riveted over (copper alloy rivets). Length 130 mm. Post-medieval.
Obj No 8; context 2146, hollow/pit 2056, trench 2
45. Knife, in four fragments, scale tang with mineralised wooden handle riveted over (copper alloy rivets). Overall length c.180 mm. Post-medieval.
Obj No 47, context 2154, dumped layer between walls 2152 and 2153, trench 2
46. Small knife, whittle tang. Length c.85 mm.
Obj No 283, context 2175, posthole 2176, trench 2
47. Long ?knife blade, whittle tang, iron hilt band. Length c.215 mm.
Obj No 94, unstratified
48. Sickle blade (incomplete) and whittle tang. Length 185 mm.
Obj No 27, context 2440, layer, trench 2
49. Partial ?blade in two fragments. Length 48 mm.
Obj No 28, context 2440, layer, trench 2
50. Axe head with flaring blade. Length c.185 mm.
Obj No 80, context 2762, dump layer in medieval 'cellared structure', trench 2A

51. Small tool - awl? length c.90 mm.
Obj No 292, context 4001, brick floor of ?flue/stokehole, oven complex 813, trench 3
52. Long shank - tool?
Obj No 109, unstratified

Domestic and structural items

53. Figure-eight shaped link, attachment at one end, function uncertain. Overall length 145 mm.
Obj No 9; context 2147, hollow/pit 2056, trench 2
54. Composite iron/copper alloy box padlock with shackle.
Obj No 23, context 2440, layer, trench 2
55. Handle, subrectangular, perforated strip attachment. Width of handle 10 mm.
Obj No 95, context 424, dump/reclamation layer, trench 3
56. Hinge, perforated strip with three rivet holes. length c. 250 mm.
Obj No 96, context 424, dump/reclamation layer, trench 3
57. Hinge, probably related to connection of gate to post. Length 132 mm, width 80 mm.
Obj No 79, context 2748, foundation trench 2749, trench 2A
58. Hinge pivot.
Obj No 44, context 2111, accumulation of fire debris, trench 2
59. Looped spike. Length c.280 mm.
Obj No 288, context 4018, posthole 4017, trench 3
60. Looped staple. Ring diameter 45 mm.
Obj No 289, context 916, layer, trench 3
61. Clench bolt.
Obj No 97, context 426, dump/reclamation layer, trench 3
62. Clench bolt.
Obj No 282, context 2752, dump layer in 'cellared structure', trench 2A
63. Clench bolt.
Obj No 284, context 2717, ditch/gully/foundation trench 2716, trench 2
64. Clench bolt.
Obj No 286, context 452, levelling layer, trench 3
65. Clench bolt.
Obj No 287, context 412, ?dump/reclamation layer, trench 3

Horseshoes

66. Horseshoe fragment. Clark's type 3 or 4 (1995).
Obj No 279, context 818, layer, trench 3
67. Horseshoe fragment, Clark's type 4.
Obj No 280, context 987, pit 986, trench 3
68. Three, possibly four horseshoe fragments, Clark's type 3 or 4.
Obj No 281, context 452, levelling layer, trench 3
69. Horseshoe fragment, Clark's type 3 or 4.
Obj No 291, context 623, garden soil layer, trench 3
70. ?Horseshoe fragment, Clark's type 3 or 4.
Obj No 290, context 782, pit 651, trench 3

Personal items

71. Buckle, rectangular. Length 33 mm, width 27 mm.
Obj No 285, context 819, brick 'platform', oven complex 813, trench 3

Miscellaneous objects

72. Ring, function uncertain. External diameter c.50 mm.
Obj No 273, context 665 (sample 59), pit 662, trench 3
73. Three perforated strip fragments.
Obj No 72, context 2017, dumped deposit to raise floor height, trench 2
74. Two strip fragments.
Obj No 246, context 2740, fill of 'cellared structure', trench 2A

Lead objects

75. Circular bun-shaped weight, stamped with initials AW. Diameter 48 mm; weight 226g (7.95 oz).
Obj No 154, unstratified
76. Window came fragments (11). One partial triangular glass quarry still in place. All appear to be of Knight's type E (1985), milled with straight tooth marks, early post-medieval (16th century+).
Obj No 155, unstratified
77. Fragment
Obj No 12, context 2174, hearth 2315, hearth complex 2347, trench 2
78. Fragment
Obj No 36, context 2614, hearth 2380, trench 2

79. Folded fragment
Obj No 151, context 591, modern building debris, trench 3
80. Strip fragment
Obj No 152, context 3447, layer, trench 34
81. Strip fragment
Obj No 153, context 4018, posthole 4017, trench 3
82. Strip fragment
Obj No 263, context 370 (sample 53), rectangular feature 371 (associated with brick-lined tank 365), trench 3

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