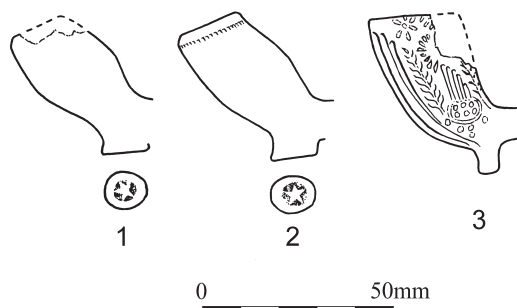


The clay pipes

Colin M Martin

Pipe fragments recovered during the excavation were extremely few, and amount only to three bowls, one stem fragment with spur, and eight stem fragments, one of which has a stamp. All come from unstratified or modern contexts, and the dating is therefore external. Recent work has shown that dating by form alone is to be treated with great caution, and mis-dating by as much as half a century is commonplace. This degree of potential error is demonstrated by the securely associated pipe assemblage recovered from the wreck of HMS Dartmouth, a ship lost in the Sound of Mull in 1690, which showed a range of types datable, on form criteria alone, from c1640 to c1720 (Martin 1977). Further work on a large stratified group from Pittenweem (Martin 1987) shows that forms have a tendency to survive long after the date of their introduction. Dates offered for pipe forms should therefore be regarded as indicating their earliest likely appearance, and not necessarily the actual date of manufacture.

The star mark, which occurs on both of the 17th-century pipes from the site, is worth comment. It is not a mark which is particularly common in Scotland, and so its occurrence on two bowls of different form from the same locality raises the question as to whether it may be specifically associated with Perth. Other examples are known from St Andrews, Linlithgow (Laing 1968, 126–7), Tentsmuir and Dollar (Paul 1905, 347–8), while there are several unprovenanced examples in the National Museum of Scotland. The mark does not appear in the large and well provenanced excavated collections from Edinburgh High Street and Pittenweem.



Illus 115 *Clay pipes. Cat Nos 1–3.*

Catalogue

1 Incuse star mark on heel. This bowl shows a general affinity to Oswald Type 6G (1975), for which a date of 1660–1680 is suggested. The shape is markedly similar to a Bristol pipe bearing the initials of Lluellin Evans, who flourished between 1661 and 1688 (Oswald 9B). A Scottish parallel, from the excavations south of Edinburgh High Street, has been published by Lawson (1978, 218, No 12), while it is noticeably absent from the 1690 Dartmouth collection. The Pittenweem stratigraphy suggests that the form first appears on the east coast of Scotland c1660, or perhaps slightly later.
A01–0020; C7000–7–10; Unstratified; Rigs VI–VIII
Illus 115

2 Incuse star mark on heel. This bowl shows the characteristics of Oswald's Type 9G, corresponding to a form date of 1680–1710. It is not dissimilar to Lawson's No 18 (1978, 218), and demonstrates the forward kick to the heel which Oswald (1975, 43) associates with Scottish manufacture. It is also paralleled by one of the Dartmouth examples, which supports a date fairly late in the century (Martin 1977, 220, No 18). A very similar pipe from Linlithgow (Laing 1968, 126–7), which also bears the incuse star heel mark, has been dated by its excavator to 1650–90. Pittenweem examples occur within strata provisionally dated between 1670 and 1700, which would be a reasonable bracket within which to place the Perth bowl.
A01–0063; C7000–7–10; Unstratified; Rigs VI–VIII
Illus 115

3 Spurred bowl with relief decoration characteristic of the mid 19th century, cf Oswald (1975, 99, Fig 10).
A0678; C4001–4; Unstratified; Rig V/VI
Illus 115

4 Spur, base of bowl, and 100mm of stem from pipe similar to Cat No 3 above (not illustrated).
A11501; C3848–2; Building T, Well 3819; Phase VI; Rig VI
Not illustrated

5 Pipe stem, 44mm long, stamped 'BURNS CUTTY P . . .' (not illustrated).
A11501; C3848–2; Building T, Well 3819; Phase VI; Rig VI
Not illustrated

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