

The Clay Pipes.

There are 93 clay pipe fragments from Trenches 1 and 2. A 17th-18th century date is appropriate for the majority of these but some of the stems may be as late as the 19th century. A small group of 17th century bowls are thought to be the products of local pipe makers.

My thanks to David Higgins for his comments on the two pipes from context (1002) in Trench 1.

TRENCH 1, CONTEXT: U/S

A near complete large-capacity bowl has a plain rim and flat round heel. The heel has a skewed indecipherable three-lined relief stamp. Maker unknown. Mid-17th century.

TRENCH 1, CONTEXT (1002). SF. NUMBER 4.

Two small milled bowls with tailed heels. Both have an identical two-line relief stamp that is poorly struck.

David Higgins writes:

*'This is a really interesting mark – clearly on a Broseley style bowl of c.1680-1730 but the mark is not at all Broseley in style and almost certainly represents a local (SW Wales) maker of the same period copying this style. I don't think I have seen this mark before, but it looks like **'WiLL / Waling' or WiLL / Wating'**. Mixtures of upper- and lower-case lettering are typical of the period and sometimes names are abbreviated too'.*

A pipe with a similar two-lined stamp was found at Carmarthen Greyfriars (Brennan et al 1996, 73, p.72, fig.15, no.76), and was thought to be the product of a local maker. The Island House pipes were probably made by a Carmarthen or Pembroke pipe maker (Higgins, pers. comm.). A heel fragment from context (2106) in Trench 2 has the exact same stamp. Date: c.1680-1730.