

TWO DEPOSITS OF POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY FROM
EAST ORCHARD CASTLE, SOUTH GLAMORGAN.

by

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with a note on the Clay Tobacco Pipes by D. J. Markell.

The pottery described here was discovered between 1964 and 1966 in two separate middens at East Orchard Castle, South Glamorgan.

East Orchard 'Castle', or more appropriately 'manor house', stands on the east slope of the Thaw valley at ST 0292 6807. In the 14th century it was the residence of the de Berkerolles, who held the sub-manor of the same name, comprising half a knight's fee under the lords of St Athan. After the failure of the de Berkerolles male line in 1411 the manor was inherited by the Stradlings of St Donats. After the extinction of the Stradlings and the partition of their property in 1756, the manor was sold to the Jones family of Fonmon, who subsequently dismantled the house and removed the fittings. A small cottage was built within the 'castle' in c. 1800, but was abandoned before 1828¹.

Midden A

During the spring of 1964, natural erosion after a severe rainstorm exposed the surface of the first midden (Fig. 1, 'A'). The midden was enclosed by masonry walling on three sides, and occupied an area approximately 2m square. The depth of the deposit ranged between 1 to 1.5m at the rear, tapering gradually to the existing ground level at the front.

It utilised an inconvenient space between the main north-wall of the house and a flight of stone steps outside it. It may be seen that it lay between the main hall and the external kitchen, and is probably made up of household debris deposited whilst the house was in full occupation during the 17th century.

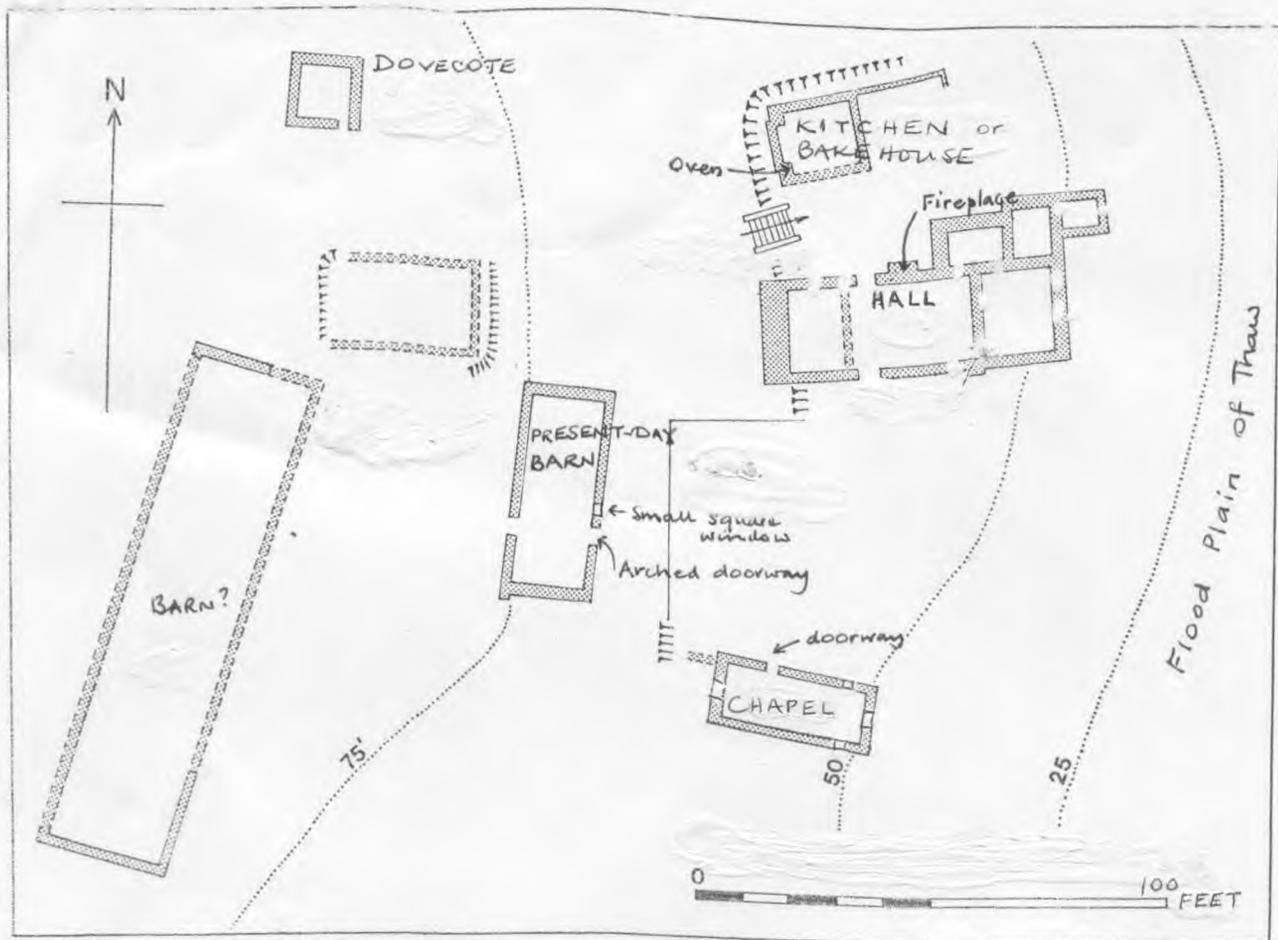


Fig. 1 East Orchard Castle: plan of the buildings

Midden B

The second midden, (Fig. 1, 'B') was noticed during the summer of 1966. On this occasion the modern ground surface in the south-east corner of the Hall appeared to have been disturbed by the action of a fox or badger. Removal of some overlying rubble revealed a flight of narrow stone steps, presumably leading originally to a cellar located beneath the room at the Hall's eastern end. A cursory examination revealed that this enclosed area had been utilised as a latrine. It can thus be assumed that this use, and the pottery that was deposited there at this time, belongs to a period after the decline of the main building, when the site was being occupied in humbler style.

2. Unmilled; oval heel, no mark; surface cracks, not very well finished; Bristol style, 1670-1700.
3. Milled, round, lopsided heel, slightly flared; slimmer than No. 2. Bristol type, 1670-1700.
4. Milled; polished bowl, but somewhat abraded; only part of the heel survives; no mark. Bristol type? 1670-1700.
5. Part of stem and heel only, with damaged incuse mark, probably LE; the 'E' is definite but of the 'L' only the bottom bar is certain, with the upright possibly showing at the damaged edge. Probably by Llewelin Evans of Bristol, fl. 1670-1700.
6. Milled; broken, slightly flared, round heel with incused mark, probably PE, although part of the first letter is missing; large, polished bowl, slightly bulbous middle; by Phillip Edwards II of Bristol, fl. 1681-96.
7. Milled; re-constructed part bowl only; round heel with incuse PE; maker as No. 6.
8. Milled; large, flared, distorted, round heel with relief mark MD in a circle; heel is wider than the stem; bowl well polished, blackish specks in clay; Broseley type, made by Morris Decon c. 1683-1700.
9. Unmilled, slightly flared lip; polished, fairly straight-sided bowl with some surface cracking; spur missing. Possibly Bristol type, 1710-30.
10. Not drawn; part bowl only, similar to Nos. 2, 3 and 4.
11. Not drawn; part bowl only, similar to Nos. 2 and 3.
- 12,13 Not drawn; part bowl only, similar to No. 3.

NOTES

1. A detailed description of the manor house and its ancillary buildings was published by G.T. Clark in Arch. Camb. (1869) pp. 63-73.
2. J.M. Lewis, 'Potters and potteries at Ewenny in the 19th century', Trans. Cardiff Nats. Soc. XCV (1968-70), 24-40.
3. Similar vessels have been found at St Mary's Street, Swansea and Cosmeston Castle (publication by S.H.Sell in preparation).
4. Harvest jugs and other vessels with sgraffito inscriptions were being produced in Somerset and North Devon during the 18th century, and were probably being imitated at the Ewenny potteries in the 18th century.

5. A stamp of this type occurs on a vessel from St Mary's Street, Swansea. Ex. inf. S.H. Sell.
6. D.H. Evans, 'Gravel-tempered ware: a survey of published forms', Medieval & Later Pottery in Wales II (1979), 18-29.
7. A similar form has been found at St Mary's Street, Swansea.
8. J.K. Knight, 'A seventeenth century pottery group from Swansea Castle', B.B.C.S. XXIII (1970), 407-9.

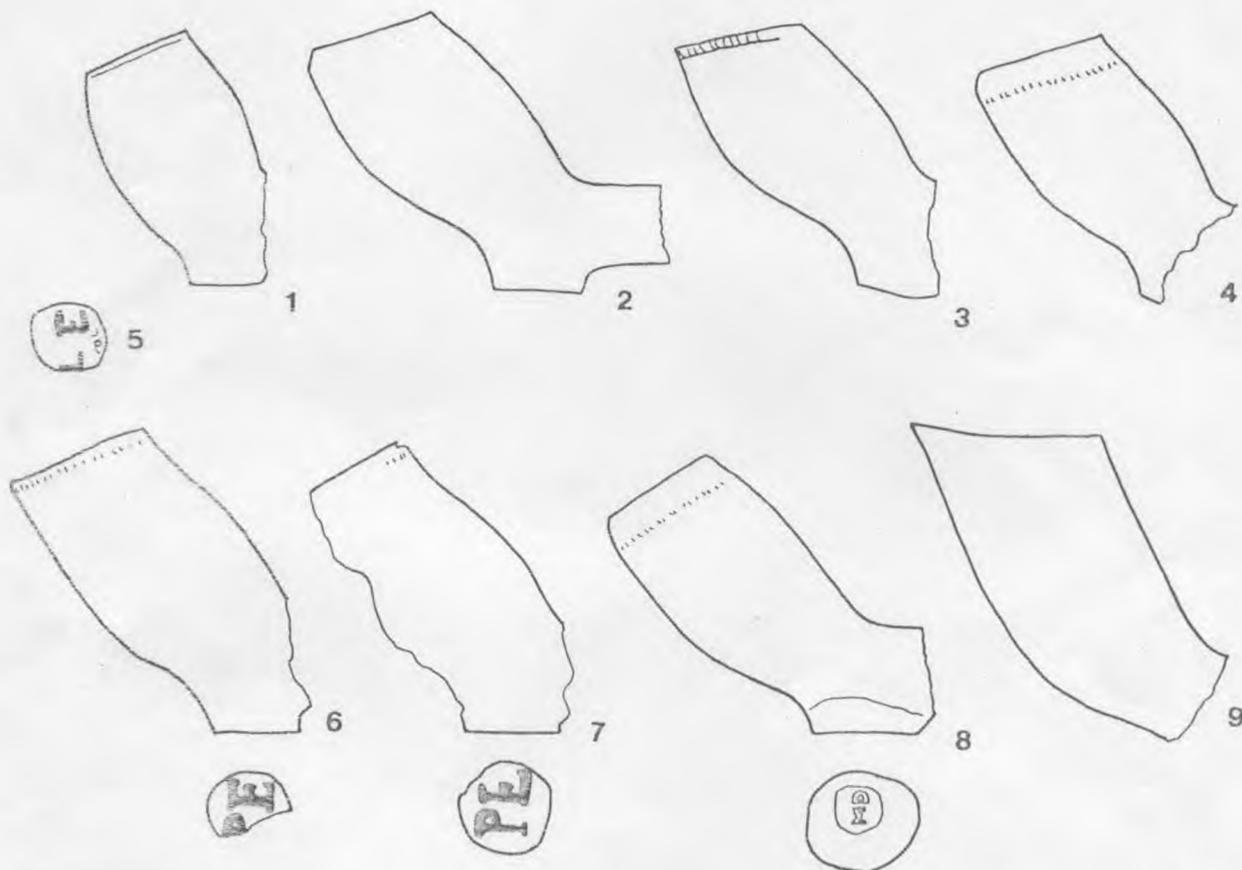


Fig. 6 Clay tobacco pipes from Middens A and B. Scale 1:1
(drawing by D.J. Markell)