



making sense of heritage

Site 28
A453 Widening Scheme
M1 Junction 24 to A52 Nottingham
Nottinghamshire

Other Finds

By R. H. Seager Smith



86805 A453 Widening, Nottinghamshire - Site 28

Other finds

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These occurred in only very small quantities. Struck flint flakes (7 pieces, 42g) found residually in contexts scattered across the site, are indicative of low-level, later prehistoric activity, while other Romano-British finds included three fragmentary iron nails (working hollow 1394 and two unstratified contexts), a short length of a broken iron rod (grain processing area 1393), part of a small, plain, jet bracelet (working hollow 1394) and part of a Millstone Grit rotary quernstone (backfill of the possible grain oven 1325). Oyster shell (4g) occurred alongside other artefacts of middle Romano-British date in pit 1196, while nine pieces (404g) of a lightweight, light-coloured, vesicular, slag-like material came from gully 1321. This material, commonly known as 'Midland Grey' or 'Iron Age Grey', is known from other sites in the area (e.g. Starley 2014), and probably derived from non-specific, high-temperature, pyrotechnical activities, such as the conflagration of daub-built structures or the materials within a hearth.

The ceramic building material (48 pieces, 3674g) included pieces from Romano-British *tegula* and *imbrex* roof tiles as well as the smaller, thinner types of brick (*bessalis*, *pedalis* or *lydion*), used in hypocausts and as lacing and bonding courses in walls. This material was recovered from 21 individual features, only two of which (pits 1165 and 1325) contained more than 500g, and survived in a highly fragmented state (mean weight 76.5g; see Brodribb 1987, 11 for complete weight/sizes), perhaps suggesting that it was brought to the area as hard-core, rather than as complete items for use in construction.

Brodribb, G., 1987 *Roman Brick and Tile*

Starley, D., 2014, 'Metalworking debris', in N. Cooke and A. Mudd, *The Archaeology of the A46 Newark to Widmerpool Improvement Scheme 2009*, 235-9



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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