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

Iron Age and Roman Pottery  
*By Ian M. Rowlandson*



## A453 Site 28

### Iron Age and Roman Pottery Publication Report

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The later prehistoric and Roman ceramics (excluding samian) totalled 1,345 sherds, weighing 19.749kg, RE16.80. The pottery was recorded using local coding schemes in accord with standard guidelines (PCRG 1997; Darling 2004; Knight 1998; Darling and Precious 2014) augmented where necessary to deal with the local fabric and form variants. The full archive and full fabric descriptions are contained within the online data appendix. The term 'grog' has been used to denote both grog and meta-sediment inclusions such as mudstones (Leary 2001). A summary of the pottery by fabric type is presented in Table 2. The main feature groups are discussed below and the catalogued pottery is illustrated in Figures 11 and 12.

#### *Iron Age and transitional pottery*

In contrast to the pottery from Site 7 there was a greater range of fabrics. The quartz, sandstone and quartzite fabrics were still present amongst this group including examples with Scored ware surface treatment (Contexts 1118, 1119). Grog and/or shell-gritted fabrics were much more common amongst this assemblage and included examples with Scored Ware (1330 and No. 15 Context 1223) and the lighter scratched or combed surface treatment (1197, 1210 and No. 3 Context 1207). The range of forms in these fabrics were broader including bead rimmed types (Nos 4 and 9) that occur amongst Late Iron Age groups such as Sleaford, Lincs (Elsdon 1997).

The range of quartz sand-gritted Late La Tène III vessels suggests activity on the site in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD including beaker, necked jars and bowls (Fabrics IASA1-5, Illustrations 5-7, 12-13 and 20). This group of vessels is similar to the late Iron Age vessels illustrated from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD groups from Holmes Grain Warehouse, Lincoln (Darling 1988). Some of these may represent vessels produced in the peri-Conquest period. The key vessels are illustrated and discussed below.

Rim type	Form description	Minimum No Vessels	Sherd	Weight (g)
-	No rim	29	125	2396
EVR	Everted Rounded	2	61	1084
FEE	Flattened lip; rim slightly expanded externally	1	5	85
FEEIC	Flattened lip expanded externally with single internal channel	1	3	27
RD	Rounded Direct	1	7	25
RDA	Rounded Direct, internal angle at base of rim	1	2	5
REI	Rounded lip, rim expanded internally	1	7	32
SIC	Single internal channel	1	3	55

Rim types

Body shape	Form description	Minimum No Vessels	Sherd	Weight (g)
-	No body fragments	16	123	1920
BB	Butt Beaker	1	9	130
CB	Carinated bowl	1	2	10

Body shape	Form description	Minimum No Vessels	Sherd	Weight (g)
GLOB	Globular	7	67	830
NB	Necked bowl	1	1	71
NB/NJ	Necked jar or bowl	1	1	12
NJ	Necked jar	3	5	90
NJ/NB	Necked jar or bowl	1	1	10
OV	Ovoid	3	7	137
OV/GLOB	Ovoid or globular	5	11	341
U	Unknown	52	87	991

#### Body types

Base type	Form description	Minimum No Vessels	Sherd	Weight (g)
-	No base present	83	280	4028
FLP	Flat Base, pinched out	2	6	39
FLT	Flat	5	24	333
SPED	Solid Pedestal	1	4	142

#### Base types

### ***The Romano-British pottery***

The majority of the pottery from this site could be dated to the Roman period. The mortaria present were all of the Mancetter/Hartshill type fabrics including examples of vessels with mixed quartz or fired clay type trituration grits. The majority of the tablewares present were wheel thrown cups, beakers and bowls in oxidised fabrics (No. 17, 22, 26 and 29) and a single fine greyware beaker (Context 1079) presumably produced in the later 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD before the widespread distribution of Nene Valley colour-coated type wares. A small number of sherds in white slipped or light-fired flagon fabrics were also retrieved including a flagon handle (Context 1010). Sherds from a folded beaker (Context 1137) were the only colour-coated examples present amongst the assemblage.

The majority of the assemblage, unsurprisingly, was made up of wheel-thrown grey wares (GREY1-6, 730 sherds, see online data appendix). Jars were the most common forms with smaller numbers of bowls, large bowls, a lid, and a strainer. The majority of forms would fit with a 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date. A range of the forms present is discussed in the catalogue and illustrated below.

A small number of coarse grog and quartz-gritted greyware sherds were present mostly from large jars including one vessel with a resin glue repair (Context 1091). Black Burnished ware 1 and Black Burnished ware type wares were present with the majority from later Roman contexts including straight sided bead and flanged bowls and curved rimmed jars. Other coarsewares present included forty-three sherds of Derbyshire ware, a jar in a wheelmade Greetham type shell-gritted ware (Context 1025), a shell-gritted channel-rimmed jar (No. 21) and sherds with Punctate Brachiopod shell probably of South Midlands origin (SHEL3, Contexts 1094 and 1134).

### ***Catalogue and feature group descriptions***

#### *Ditch 1267*

Eighty two sherds (1,997kg, RE1.33) were retrieved. The majority of the vessels are handmade Iron Age types including a small proportion of Late Iron Age/transitional fabric

IASA3. Eleven sherds of greyware were also recovered from this feature group suggesting at least part of the feature may have remained partially open into the Romano-British period.

1. A nearly complete handmade shell-gritted carinated jar, perhaps a 'structured' deposit (Hill 1995). The vessel has a carbonised deposit beneath the rim. A close parallel was not found but the vessel probably dates to the 1st century AD. Broadly similar vessels are known from Sleaford (Elsdon 1997, fig. 84.478) and a conquest period example from Lincoln (Darling 1988, fig. 6.28). Fabric SH, context 1236.
2. A quartz and quartzite-gritted jar with scored decoration, a vessel with a similar rim form has been illustrated from phase 2 at Gamston (Knight 1992, fig. 17.15). Fabric QUQZ, context 1207.
3. A shell and quartz-gritted jar with a slightly channelled rim and fine horizontal scoring. A vessel with a similar rim is illustrated from Gamston (Knight 1992, fig. 23.54). Fabric SHQU, context 1207.
4. A shell, grog and quartz-gritted large jar or bowl probably from the middle of the 1st century AD although vessels with a similar form occur in groups from the 2nd–3rd century BC onwards (Darling 1988, fig. 5.17; Turner and Turner 1997, fig. 9.27; Knight, 1992, fig. 17.16). Fabric SHGRQU, context 1207.

#### *Ditch 1268*

A total of 150 sherds (1.765kg, RE1.42) were retrieved from this ditch with the majority of the pottery dating to the conquest period and into the 1st century AD with the exception of a sherd of Derbyshire ware from context 1134. Forty-seven sherds of greyware were retrieved including fragments from a jar with an everted rim and a strainer.

5. A local butt-beaker copy in a quartz sand gritted fabric, a similar vessel is illustrated from Lincoln (Darling 1988, Fig. 5.3). Fabric IASA1, context 1131.
6. A jar in a transitional fabric, broadly similar to an example published from Ockbrook (Leary 2001, fig. 7.25). Fabric IASA2, context 1131.
7. A large handmade jar in a transitional quartz-gritted fabric with a lid-seated rim perhaps a simpler variant of No.13, probably of conquest-period date. The vessel has a worn lid-seating groove and carbonised deposits on the external surfaces. Fabric IASA2, context 1155.
8. A coarse quartz and grog-gritted hand-built and wheel-finished jar with internal rim grooves. Similar examples are known from Leicester and Dorket Head (Kenyon 1948, fig. 35.18; Turner and Turner 1997, figs 7.13, 9.29). Fabric QUGR, context 1131.
9. A handmade quartz and grog-gritted handmade jar similar to an example from phase 3 at Gamston dated broadly to the early 1st century AD (Knight 1992, fig. 18.29). Fabric QUGR, context 1131.

#### *Ditch 1392*

Fifty sherds (0.645kg, RE0.61) were retrieved from this group suggesting a date in the mid- to late 2nd century with some earlier greywares and a single handmade sherd. The latest sherd present in the group is a dish with a plain rim in a Black Burnished ware 1 type fabric retrieved from a secondary fill that probably dates to the later 2nd century AD.

10. A necked jar with a grooved rim, a 2nd century AD form (Birss 1985, fig. 45.183; Brassington 1971, fig. 8.146). Fabric GREY1, context 1215.
11. A greyware jar, examples of similar vessels are known from Little Chester (Brassington 1971, fig. 6.33). Fabric GREY3, context 1215.

#### *Ditch 1271*

Eighty-five sherds (weighing 0.868kg, RE0.64) were retrieved from this feature. The majority of the pottery from this group could be dated to the 1st century AD with only twelve sherds of greyware, including sherds from a bowl similar to No.16 from ditch 1272 and two sherds in a wheelmade oxidised fabric including a fragment from a similar cordoned vessel. The rest of the group fits with conquest-period types known from other sites in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire (Nos 12–14). A mid- to late 1st-century date for the pottery from this feature would be appropriate.

12. A Late Iron Age form necked bowl in a quartz gritted fabric. Examples of similar vessels are known from pre-conquest groups from Lincoln, Sleaford and Dorket Head (Darling 1988, fig. 5.9; Elsdon 1997, fig. 77.365; Turner and Turner 1997, fig. 9.27). Fabric IASA4, context 1300.
13. A jar with a grooved rim a broadly similar example is illustrated from *Margidunum* (Todd 1968, fig. 1.5) probably from the middle of the 1st century AD. Fabric IASA2, context 1210.
14. A grog and shell-gritted jar with an in-turned rim, as No.15 without decoration (cf. Kenyon 1948, fig. 35.14; Leary 2001, fig. 6.16). Fabric GRSH, context 1300.

#### *Ditch 1272*

Thirty-two sherds (0.736, RE0.38) were retrieved from this group. Much of the pottery could be dated to the conquest period (Nos 15–16) until the early 2nd century AD but the final backfilling of the feature can be dated to the mid- to late 2nd century AD on the basis of a sherd of Derbyshire ware and the base of a Black Burnished ware 1 type bowl or dish.

- 15 A grog and shell-gritted jar with an in-turned rim and rilled decoration a vessel with a broadly similar profile has been illustrated from the phase 2 Late Iron Age to conquest-period group from Ockbrook (Leary 2001, fig. 6.10) and early phases at Leicester (Kenyon 1948, fig. 34.9). Fabric GRSH, context 1223.
- 16 This form is developed from peri-conquest types (e.g. Darling 1988, fig. 5.8) and examples have been published from Ockbrook (Leary 2001, figs 7.27, 8.50) although this example in a developed greyware with burnished decoration appears similar to a period 1 deposit from *Margidunum* considered to date to AD 50–75 (Todd 1969, fig. 11.9). Fabric GREY1, context 1060.

#### *Pit 1034*

A single vessel was retrieved from pit 1034 (No. 17). The presence of this vessel raises the possibility that the inhabitants of the site had acquired coarseware cups in the 1st century AD.

- 17 A cup in an oxidised fabric perhaps developed from the pre-Flavian Ritterling 9 samian form or *terra nigra* tazza types (e.g. Kenyon 1948, fig. 35.24). A similar but larger vessel in a transitional oxidised fabric was dated to the early to mid-1st century AD date (Pollard 1994, fig. 65.246). As it was a local wheelmade product and the only vessel from the context a mid-1st to perhaps early 2nd century AD might be appropriate. Fabric OX1, context 1035.

#### *Ditch 1048*

Thirty-five sherds (0.340kg, RE1.05) were retrieved from this group. Although small quantities of handmade pottery remained present in this group the presence of a Black Burnished ware 1 bowl with burnished lattice decoration and burnished scroll decoration on the base and a small sherd of Derbyshire ware would also suggest an earliest deposition date towards the end of the 2nd century AD.

- 18 A greyware bowl, a similar vessel has been illustrated from Ockbrook (Leary 2001, fig. 7.35). Fabric GREY1, context 1071.
- 19 A greyware narrow-necked jar, broadly similar vessels have been illustrated by the Little Chester kiln (Brassington 1971, fig. 16.451). Fabric GREY1, context 1071.

#### *Ditch 1390*

One hundred and twenty sherds (1.078kg, RE1.36) were retrieved and the group contained a mix of Late Iron Age to early Roman along with pottery dating to the mid- to late 2nd century AD including a rare sherd from a vessel in a light fired fabric, possibly from a flagon. None of the pottery present from this group could be dated to the 3rd century with certainty.

- 20 A Late Iron Age vessel in a fine quartz and grog-gritted fabric with oxidised surfaces and a reduced core. The vessel is noteworthy for the traces of a mid-red self-slip on the external surfaces of the vessel which is a necked bowl with tightly cordoned decoration. The vessel is unusual and the fabric has no good parallel amongst other groups from Nottinghamshire (D.



Knight and other members of the PCRG, personal communication). It has an affinity with examples of Late Iron Age vessels from sites in the south of England such as Aylesford, Kent (Birchall 1965) and represents this period of experimentation in the Late Iron Age. Although not a parallel, a vessel with 'closely spaced parallel rilling' on the neck of a bowl (Knight 1992, fig. 18.22) is an example of another vessel from the early 1st century AD. A shell-gritted example from Sleaford has a similar form with a slipped surface (Elsdon 1997, fig. 55.48). Fabric IASA5, context 1047.

- 21 A wheelmade shell-gritted channel-rimmed jar, examples of similar vessels were in use in the 1st to the mid-2nd century AD. Fabric SHEL2, context 1091.
- 22 A fine folded beaker with an oxidised fabric examples are published from *Margidunum* (broadly as Oswald 1948, plates XIV.11, XI.14) and Leicester considered to date to AD 70–130 although examples with slacker shoulders continued to be produced into the early 3rd century AD (Pollard 1994, fig. 55.92). Fabric OXF1, context 1091.
- 23 A greyware copy of a cauldron form with circular impressed skeuomorphic 'rivet' decoration. The scar from a single small loop handle survives. Examples of similar forms have been published from the Mansfield Woodhouse villa (Oswald 1949, plate 3) where the stratified samian suggested a date in the mid-late 2nd century or later. A similar vessel was also retrieved from *Margidunum*, Chelmsford and a broadly similar vessel from Leicester (Todd 1969, fig. 31.13; Going 1987, type L2.11; Pollard 1994, figs 68.305, 66.276). A broad 2nd to 4th century AD date has been given for these types. Fabric GREY1, context 1091

#### *Pit 1282*

Thirty-three sherds (0.943kg, RE1.12) were retrieved from this group, mostly of greyware and a date in the later 1st to early 2nd century AD might cover the range of necked jars and bowls present.

- 24 A greyware jar with an everted rim (Frere 1972, figs 77.43, 79.92). Fabric GREY1, context 1283.
- 25 A large greyware bowl with a reeded rim dating to the Neronian to Trajanic AD period. Examples of this form were produced in the Lincoln Legionary wares (Darling and Precious 2014, fig. 77.796), *Margidunum* (Oswald 1952, plate IV.3) and Leicester (Kenyon 1948, fig. 38.15). Fabric GREY1, context 1283.

#### *Pit 1185*

One hundred and four sherds (0.977, RE1.50) were retrieved from this pit. The forms present could be attributed to the mid- to late 2nd century AD and other noteworthy sherds include a fragment from a greyware rusticated jar and a possible fragment from a flagon.

- 26 A beaker with rouletted decoration in an oxidised fabric. Examples have been published from Lincoln (Darling and Precious 2014) and Leicester (Kenyon 1948, fig. 27.38; Pollard 1994, fig. 69.311) and date from the mid- or late 2nd to perhaps the early 3rd century AD. The vessel shows traces of a black resinous glue on the edges of the vessel suggesting it was repaired and reused. Fabric OX1, context 1186.
- 27 A greyware carinated bowl with burnished lattice decoration. Broadly similar examples were produced by the 2nd century AD kilns at Little Chester (Brassington 1971, fig. 5.3) and a vessel with a similar profile has been illustrated from *Margidunum* period 1 (Todd 1969, fig. 11.17) and Leicester where it was dated to the early 2nd century AD (Pollard 1994, fig. 58.146). Fabric GREY1, context 1186.
- 28 A spout fragment from a hook-rimmed Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium with fired clay trituration grits dating to after AD 150. Fabric MOMH2, context 1186.

#### *Structure 1391*

Seventy six sherds (1.077kg, RE0.69) were retrieved from structure 1391. The group can be dated to somewhere from the later 2nd to early 3rd century AD and perhaps represents a fairly fresh unmixed group of the pottery in use when the site was reorganised for the construction of the building.

- 29 A bowl in an oxidised fabric broadly copying samian form 36. Fabric OX1, context 1077.

- 30 A Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium with fired clay trituration grits. A similar vessel from Lincoln has been dated to AD 150–180 (Darling and Precious 2014, no. 1621c). Fabric MOMH2, context 1077.

#### *Pit 1394*

Forty two sherds (0.753kg, RE1.36) were retrieved from this pit. The primary fill included Derbyshire ware and an East Gaulish samian bowl that dates the group to AD 150–250 alongside sherds from a Derbyshire ware jar and a Mancetter/Hartshill mortarium. A date in the 3rd century AD appears most likely for the construction of this structure. The pottery from context 1326 provided a date of the later 3rd to early 4th century AD suggesting the date for the abandonment of the pit.

- 31 A broadly similar jar was produced from Red Hill (Elsdon 1982, fig. 5.35). Collared rim types such as this appear from the late 3rd century AD onwards. Fabric GREY3, context 1352.

#### *Pit 1085*

Twenty-eight sherds (0.826kg, RE0.47) were retrieved from this pit including large proportions of the two illustrated vessels and a range of relatively undiagnostic greyware fragments. This group represents the best evidence for the continued occupation of this site into the 4th century AD. A total 164 of the 189 sherds from late 3rd/4th-century features was retrieved from pits which is in marked contrast to the larger groups of pottery from the ditches during the earlier occupation. It can be suggested that, in the absence of extant ditches in the immediate vicinity of the building in the later Romano-British period, waste was piled in middens until it could be backfilled into a convenient pit.

- 32 A greyware bowl with a grooved flange and burnished decoration beneath the rim. Fabric GREY3, context 1083.
- 33 A wide-mouthed bowl with a grooved rim and burnished decoration. A vessel with a broadly similar profile was published from Derby and dated to the first half of the 4th century AD (Dool *et al.* 1985, fig. 87.371). Fabric GREY1, context 1083.

#### *Pit 1122*

##### **Katharine F. Hartley**

Four sherds (45g, RE0.80) dating to the later 2nd to 4th century AD were retrieved from pit 1122, including a fragment of stamped mortarium.

34. A flange fragment which carried a retrograde stamp of Mossius (AD 145–185). Fabric MOMH, context 1120.

The broken and partially impressed stamp reads [M]OS·SIVS[·F] retrograde; the borders are never fully impressed. It is from one of six dies used by the potter Mossius who worked in the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries. One of his dies was found at Hartshill in 1960 though no stamps have been found which could be from that die. Twenty-five of his mortaria have now been recorded from sites in England: from Ancaster, Ashley and Duston in Northamptonshire; Aunsby, Lincoln and *Margidunum* in Lincolnshire; Annetwell St, Carlisle in Cumbria; Milecastle 39 (information from the late John Dore) and Corbridge in Northumberland; Clifton in Nottinghamshire; Gargrave in North Yorkshire; Leicester (Connor and Buckley 1999, fig. 59, M20); Rocester and Wall (Round 1992, 35, no.16) in Staffordshire; *Tripontium* in Warwickshire; Wroxeter in Shropshire; and Verulamium (Frere 1972, 376, no. 31, stamp from the same die) in Hertfordshire. Two others have been recorded from Birrens (Robertson 1975, fig. 84, no.2) and Rough Castle (MacIvor *et al.* 1980, 267, fig.11, no. 216) in Scotland. His presence in Antonine contexts in Scotland leaves no doubt that he was active during the occupation of Scotland. Those spouts which have been recorded for him indicate that he was still active when the spout-type associated with the latest generation of stamping potters in these potteries (e.g. Iunius, Sennius etc) came into use. A date within the period AD 140–170 should cover his activity.

## Discussion

Many of the features contained fresh groups of Late Iron Age to early 2nd century AD pottery with a small proportion of Derbyshire ware and Black Burnished ware 1 types suggesting that, whilst they may have first been dug in the 1st century AD, many were only finally backfilled in the second half of the 2nd century AD. This is not uncommon and may represent the deposition of pottery into the features during the early period of occupation of the site or the utilization of midden material when the site was reorganised. As few of the groups contained large groups of fresh and contemporary pottery, statistical manipulation of this assemblage would be misleading.

During the later Iron Age to early conquest period of occupation the inhabitants of Site 28 appear to have predominantly used handmade jars with a range of forms that can be seen from a number of sites in the region (Nos 2, 3, 4, 9, 14 and 15). A broader range of fabrics were present amongst this assemblage in contrast to the exclusively Iron Age group from Site 7 of this scheme where the fabrics were mostly dominated by quartz, sandstone and quartzite inclusions. This range of fabrics may suggest that a greater proportion of the assemblage may not have been manufactured on this site and was acquired through trade or exchange.

To augment the handmade jars a range of the more specialist Late La Tène III type vessels, indicators of 1st century AD occupation, were also in use (Nos 1, 5, 12 and 20). Also present were early attempts of mimicking Roman vessels and the transitional types that developed from the Iron Age precursors in the mid- to late 1st century AD and probably continued to be used into the early 2nd century AD (Nos 6, 7, 8, 13 and 21). No pre-conquest *terra nigra* or *terra rubra* types are present but these imports are not commonly found on sites in Nottinghamshire. This group of ceramics suggests the inhabitants had access to a range of vessels in the 1st century AD including cooking and storage wares along with tablewares including drinking vessels.

A range of early Roman greywares and wheelmade oxidised wares suggest that the site began to acquire such types from the conquest period onwards (including Nos 16, 17, 24 and 25) along with oddities such as the vessel mimicking a metal cauldron (No. 23).

From the Antonine period onwards Derbyshire and Black Burnished wares were used on the site in small quantities along with mortaria from the Mancetter/Hartshill industries including hook-rimmed and flange rimmed types (Nos 28 and 30). No diagnostically later mortaria forms were evident. Very small quantities of colour-coated tablewares were retrieved from the latest groups suggesting such vessels were used in small quantities on the site however two good quality beakers in local oxidised fabrics (Nos 22 and 26) also appear to have been used by the inhabitants. The forms in the Black Burnished ware type fabric include straight-sided bead and flanged bowls including an example with a high bead (No. 32) and a jar with a cavetto-type rim and later greyware jar and large bowl forms (Nos 31 and 33) that suggest activity into the Late Roman period. The larger groups dating to this period were associated with the building and oven or crop dryer. In comparison to other sites in the area there is a more varied range of pottery in use on the site in the 1st to 2nd century AD than in the 3rd to 4th century. The broad conclusion is that a relatively diverse and interesting range of pottery dating to the 1st to early 2nd century AD was retrieved from the site with a more functional group, typical of rural settlements from the region, dating to the Antonine period into the 4th century AD.

In addition to the samian vessels discussed separately by Monteil (below), a resinous substance appears to have been used to glue a greyware vessel found in pit 1085, a grog-gritted jar from ditch 1390 and a mortarium from pit 1185. This suggests that some important vessels were repaired, perhaps from necessity during periods of limited supply or for the repair of favourite tableware vessels such as the repaired beaker No. 26. Carbonised deposits were found adhering to a few of the jars suggesting that they were probably used for cooking. All of the mortaria appeared to have worn trituration grits suggesting heavy use. A Black Burnished type bead and flanged bowl from pit 1136 with internal use wear suggests



that other bowl forms were utilised for grinding in the absence of any Late Roman mortaria amongst the assemblage.

The group represents a fairly typical range of pottery similar to assemblages from sites such as Ockbrook near Derby and the addition of an interesting range of late La Tène III finewares from the site make this a small but significant assemblage for understanding of the supply and use of pottery during the 1st century AD.

### **Samian Pottery**

#### **Gwladys Monteil**

The samian ware was recorded to create an archive which also contains a rubbing of the decorated fragment. The assemblage is small, twelve sherds representing ten vessels with a total weight of 112g and a total rim equivalent of 0.45 (Table 3). With the exception of an abraded East Gaulish dish recovered from an unphased pit, the samian assemblage comes from features assigned to phase 2.

#### ***Assemblage chronology and composition***

Though small, this samian assemblage contains a range of forms and fabrics dating from the Flavian period to the early 3rd century AD. The earliest samian material consists of two South Gaulish vessels, a dish form Dragendorff (Dr.)18/31 in ditch 1390 and a dish form Dr.36 in enclosure ditch 1279. Both are Flavian in date.

Second-century material dominates with a single vessel from Les Martres-de-Veyre probably of Trajanic-early Hadrianic date in pit 1054 and five fragments from Lezoux broadly dating to the 2nd century. Three sherds complete this group, two from the later East Gaulish industry of Rheinzabern and one probably from Trier.

Only one vessel can be dated more precisely: a decorated bowl from pit 1394 which is the latest samian vessel from this site, comprising one bodysherd of Dr.37 from Rheinzabern. Only the lower section of a freestyle decoration remains on top of a pronounced chamfered edge. The decoration includes a small lion, the back legs and partial tail of a large lion and the front legs of perhaps two horses. The smaller lion is Ricken and Fischer type T21 while the large lion is probably T2 (Ricken and Fischer 1963, 117, 111). The front legs of the third partial figured type are harder to match. From the shape, the lower foot certainly belongs to a horse but it is not M162 or any of the horses illustrated in Ricken and Fischer (T112 – T115). Lions T2 and T21 were used by a number of Rheinzabern potters but the presence of the rough chamfered edge perhaps suggests a date in the early 3rd century for this piece.

#### ***Use wear and repair***

Two vessels present evidence of repair, a Central Gaulish Dr.36 from the north side of structure 1391 and a cup form Dr.33 from pit 1054. The dish shows a slot through the rim while the cup has remains of glue on one of its breaks. Drilled or filed holes are the most common traces of repair found on samian ware in Britain (Willis 2005) and dove-tailed examples tend to be more common on 2nd-century vessels than on 1st-century ones (Willis 2005, section 11.3). The use of glue is however more rarely recorded in Roman Britain (Marter Brown and Seager Smith 2012) and the presence of glue on one of these vessels adds to the growing body of evidence from Britain.

#### ***Conclusions***

The group is too small to attempt any kind of statistical or functional analysis but the forms represented and the emphasis on plain ware generally fit with typical samian functional profiles for rural sites in Britain (Willis 2005, section 8.2.6) and with other samian assemblages recovered from small sites within the *Margidunum* hinterland (Monteil 2011). The samian supply represented by the vessels is also consistent with other rural groups from the *Margidunum* hinterland. The presence of a decorated vessel from Rheinzabern is perhaps surprising in such a small rural group and suggests relatively easy access to such ware perhaps from *Margidunum* itself or roadside settlements on the Fosse Way. Fairly large

proportions of East Gaulish samian ware, especially from Rheinzabern, were recovered in the assemblage from the roadside settlement located on the Fosse Way within the *Margidunum* hinterland (Monteil 2014) which probably acted as a redistribution centre. The presence of two vessels with evidence of repair within an assemblage of ten vessels also fits with this group originating from a rural site and is in keeping with other published evidence (Willis 2005, table 73).



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