

Angela's latest queries

Plot of the listed samples provided. I can't remember what scale I did the last plot for her at, but I'd guess it would have been this size, so she ought to be able to compare the two.

Samples from different phases of same hole in the ground:

I cannot find a single such instance. The samples from wells, for example, do not seem to span separate phases. The specific case which may have prompted the enquiry (Well 9421), although samples were taken from both use and disuse/abandonment fills, all the action falls within the second century. For the record, the sequence runs (top down):

sample	context		Date (pot/dendro)
396	9422	Disuse	Roman
	9442	Disuse	Roman
	9457	Disuse	Roman
	9479	Disuse	Second century
403	9459	Dumping?	Second century
	9498	Dumping?	Second century
	9879	Use or disuse	Second century
485	9894	Use or disuse	
486,496,499	9895	Use	Second century
	9887	Construction	
	Timber lining	Construction	AD135/6
	9421	Construction cut	

(Obviously, stratigraphy fills in 2nd century dates where the pottery is lacking). The pottery in the upper fills 'does not look out of place' within the 2nd century, though undiagnostic by itself.

Angela specifically mentioned Area N samples as possibly falling into this class. Other than noting that a number do derive from similar pits cut into one another, probably within a relatively short period, I can find no 'hidden' reason for this. (e.g., kiln 10906 sits on the top of pit 11092, which might account for 9 similarish samples; likewise pits 11342, 11477, 11745 were all part of a single sequence running in a short span of the late 1st century BC/early 1st AD). If these are the kinds of samples that look similar, I can only presume they look similar because they actually do derive from similar activities. Even if the similarities noted are between features less closely related in time, it looks as if we may be dealing with real trends, not just excavation bias or something to do with odd numbering (though I fully agree it was worth checking!).

On a similar note, though, the following may be useful, as it is not clear as it ought to be, from what we've previously sent:

Samples 758, 775, 781, 782, 785, 750, 754, 761, 766, 768 all derive from the structure or one of the stoke-pits of the same kiln in Area L.

The following samples derive from segments (separate cut numbers) of the same ditch:

310, 314 from ditch 25000

313, 318 from ditch 25022

316, 323, 327 from ditch 25023

328, 329, 330, 334 from ditch 25026

386, 407 from ditch 25028

1806, 1829 from ditch 25213

1519 is from a layer sealing pit 10798 (samples 1518, 1520) which may well be its top fill
1522, 1527, 1530, 1534 from ditch 25027
446, 467 from ditch 25078

I think we already mentioned that contexts 2338 and 2647 (samples 140, 162, 182) were from the same structure, while 3013, 3026 and 3042 (samples 165, 189, 241, 274) were separate builds of another essentially single structure.