Assessment of the Post-Roman pottery and the Building Material from Hampole, South Yorkshire

Alan Vince

Pottery

Medieval

A single sherd of a glazed jug was found in the topsoil of Tr.20. The sherd is highly abraded and no doubt had been in the topsoil for a considerable period of time. It is likely to be a manuring scatter. The fabric is red-firing with a plain lead glaze. It is tempered with a medium-grained quartzose sand which includes fragments of light-coloured medium-grained sandstone. These are probably more likely to be of Carboniferous than Triassic age and the vessel may be a produce of the medieval Doncaster industry, which dates to the later 12th to early 14th centuries.

Early Modern

A sherd of modern flowerpot with a central hole in the base, was recovered from [16] in Tr.11. The sherd is not abraded and probably dates the context to the later 19th or 20th centuries or later.

Building Material

Stone

A small fragment of a black, fine-grained rock was found in [16] Tr.11. It is likely to be a basic igneous rock and most likely a glacial erratic rather than brought onto the site by human activity.

Two fragments of micaceous sandstone were recovered from [21] (71) Tr.4. One has a smooth gently rounded face and might conceivably have been used as a rubbing stone, although it is more likely to be a fragment from a natural pebble. The other is a thin flake of white sandstone with micrite deposited on one side, due to the flowing of carbonate-rich groundwater along a fissure in the rock. It is likely to be an unworked rock fragment.

Sixteen fragments of micaceous sandstone were recovered from [3] (53} Tr.20, a similar fragment came from [4] (54) Tr.20 and twelve fragments were recovered from the surface of [1] in Tr.16.. They may have been used as roof tiles. Flaggy sandstones of this kind outcrop in the Coal Measures and may therefore have been available locally in the South Yorkshire coalfield area.

Tile

An abraded fragment of tile was found in [15] (65) Tr.11. The fabric is tempered with abundant, fine-grained subangular quartz sand and some fine-grained red sandstone fragments. These characteristics

indicate an origin in an area of Triassic rocks or, more likely, superficial sands derived from such deposits.

An imbrex tile of identical fabric was found in [2] (52) Tr.16. Such tiles were usually used in conjunction with tegulae to form the flat faces of a Romano-British tiled roof. However, if sandstone roofers were used then this tile might have been used as a ridge tile.

Assessment

The stone and ceramic building material indicates the presence of Romanised buildings near the site. It is likely that if a stone and tile-roofed structure had existed on the site it would have produced more debris, but that interpretation is made without any first-hand knowledge of the nature of the site recording or the disposition of the site.