

## Assessment of the Pottery from Site 1, RAF Quedgeley, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (RQG 03/107)

### Alan Vince

Ninety-three sherds of pottery from an archaeological evaluation carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services at RAF Quedgeley were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code RQG 03/107).

The pottery came from a series of gullies and ditches, interpreted as part of an agricultural system, and from topsoil. The material ranged in date from the Roman period (including some definitely 2<sup>nd</sup>-century or later pieces) to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. There is a gap in the pottery sequence from the end of the Roman period to the late 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### Description

The pottery was recorded to Fabric and form level and a record made by sherd count, maximum number of vessels present and weight in grams. In total, the 93 sherds come from at most 69 vessels and weigh 873.5gm.

### Roman

Five sherds of Roman pottery were found. Three come from Cut 1 in Trench 1 and two from the spoilheap in Trench 4. The pottery is abraded but the sherds are quite large and probably come from occupation on or near the site rather than manuring from a more distant settlement. Four sherds are in a Severn Valley ware fabric, Gloucester TF11, and one is a small sherd of Dorset Black Burnished ware (Gloucester TF4). The latter dates to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later whereas the former spans the entire Roman occupation.

### Medieval to early post-medieval

The pottery was identified using the fabric codes employed at the city of Gloucester and Hereford, and the fabric series for both cities are published (Heighway and others 1979; Vince 1983; Vince 1985; Vince 1983). The identified wares are shown in table 1 together with the *terminus post quem* for the sherds found at Quedgeley.

Cname	Source	Gloucester	11.2	12.1	12.2	13.1	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.1	16.2	Total
CSTN	Cistercian ware	TF60								1		1
GLOS41B	Haresfield	TF41B	20									20
GLOS54	Welsh borderland	TF54						1				1
HERA7D	Welsh borderland	TF54									2	2

HERB1	Malvern Chase	TF40	23	13							36
HERB4	Malvern Chase	TF52				8	2	5			15
HERB5	Malvern Chase	TF52							2		2
HG	Ham Green	TF53			1						1
MINETY	Minety	TF44	3				1				4
RAER	Raeren	TF68						1			1
STROAT	Stroat	TF97								1	1
WORCS	Worcester	TF42 AND TF90		3	1						4
Grand Total			20	29	13	2	8	4	6	3	88

Eighty eight sherds of medieval to early post-medieval pottery were recovered. Of these, by far the largest number came from Trench 3 (54 sherds) with much smaller quantities from the other trenches (of which Trench 15, with 8 sherds, was the most productive).

An assessment of the condition of the sherds was made to try and distinguish between material which might have been brought onto the site with manure from a farm or village elsewhere from material which had been used on the site. This demonstrated that very abraded material predominated in all the trenches except for Trench 3 and Trench 15. For the combined reasons of quantity of finds and the condition of the sherds it is concluded that Trenches 3 and 15 are closest to a site or sites of medieval settlement whereas the other trenches might well be interpreted as having a background scatter of finds.

Table 1 shows the distribution of sherds by their earliest possible date (*terminus post quem*). From this, it is clear that there are significant differences in the date of activity between the trenches.

Trench 3 has evidence for activity spanning the later 12<sup>th</sup> centuries through to the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The starting date for this activity is dated by the relatively low quantity of Gloucester TF41 sherds and the presence within this collection of a sherd from a jar with a flat-topped everted rim, a late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup>-century type.

Trench 15, on the other hand, only contains material of late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century date and probably represents a short-lived activity.

In the remaining trenches there were no large collections of late 11<sup>th</sup>/early 12<sup>th</sup>-century pottery but Trenches 2, 4, 7 and 12 produced sherds of abraded or very abraded pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century date, i.e. contemporary with the activity at Trench 3.

Pottery dating to the later 12<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century was absent from the minor trenches but present on the surface of trench 3 and in the fill of Cut 2 in the same trench.

Very abraded late medieval and early post-medieval pottery was found in trenches 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 14. This suggests that whatever occupation there might have been on or near trench 3 had by this time ceased.

**Table 1**

Trench	Cut	11.2	12.1	12.2	13.1	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.1	16.2	Grand Total
TR03		5	11		2	8	1			1	28
	2	5	8	13							26
TR03 Total		10	19	13	2	8	1			1	54
TR15		2									2
	6	1									1
	7	5									5
TR15 Total		8									8
TR05							2	1	1		4
TR05 Total							2	1	1		4
TR07	14								1	1	2
	3		1					1			2
TR07 Total			1					1	1	1	4
TR08									1		1
TR08 Total									1		1
TR13	13							1			1
TR13 Total								1			1
TR04		1	5								6
TR04 Total		1	5								6
TR12	8		2								2
	9	1				1				1	3
TR12 Total		1	2			1				1	5
TR14								3			3
TR14 Total								3			3
TR02			2								2
TR02 Total			2								2
Grand Total		20	29	13	2	9	3	6	3	3	88

The pottery collection is very small and the presence/absence of specific wares and forms is probably not significant. All of the types present, however, are also found in the city of Gloucester and there is no obvious difference in the character of this material from that to be found in the city. It is very likely that the inhabitants of the area relied on city markets for their pottery.

## Assessment

The pottery suggests that there had been some settlement on the RAF Quedgeley site, in the Roman period and in the earlier medieval period. The character of the former activity is not certain, since the only stratified sherds came from a feature interpreted as a pit or tree bole. The latter activity seems to have consisted of a late 11<sup>th</sup> to early 12<sup>th</sup> century phase of activity in the area of Trench 15 and a slightly later phase of activity in the area of Trench 3, lasting from the later 12<sup>th</sup> to the early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. There is evidence for a scatter of pottery contemporary with the activity on Trench 3 and subsequent to the abandonment of that site there is a scatter of abraded pottery on several trenches, including Trench 3. This later activity does not seem to have extended far into the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is certainly over by the middle of the century since one would otherwise expect to find Newent Glasshouse slipware together with Staffordshire slipwares in the collection.

The finds include some illustratable rims but since all the material can be paralleled with published finds from either Gloucester or Hereford there is little purpose in drawing them.

The material is stable and should be retained for future study.

## Appendix One

Cut	Context	Trench	period	DATE	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition
1	50	TR01	rom	2.1	GLOS04		1	1	2		BS			ABR
1	50	TR01	rom	1.2	GLOS11	WMJ	2	1	34		R			ABR
2	51	TR03	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR	5	5	24		BS			VABR
2	51	TR03	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR	6	6	24		BS	HM		ABR
2	51	TR03	med	12.2	HERB1	JAR	4	4	34		BS	HMWF?		ABR
2	51	TR03	med	12.2	HERB1	JAR	8	1	227		R	HMWF;INTURNED RIM		FRESH
2	51	TR03	med	12.2	HERB1	JAR	1	1	31		R	HMWF;INTURNED RIM		FRESH
2	51	TR03	med	12.1	MINETY	TP	2	1	11		BS			VABR
3	52	TR07	med	15.2	RAER	DJ	1	1	11		BS	THUMBED BASE		FRESH
3	53	TR07	med	12.1	MINETY	TP	1	1	3		BS			VABR
6	57	TR15	med	11.2	GLOS41B	SPP	1	1	25		BS		LEACHED INT	FRESH
7	58	TR15	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR	5	5	7		BS			ABR
8	59	TR12	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR	2	1	4		BS	HM		ABR
9	60	TR12	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR	1	1	1		BS			VABR
9	60	TR12	med	14.2	GLOS54	JUG	1	1	3		BS	PLAIN EXT GL;VERY APPLIED WHITE STRIP		VABR
9	60	TR12	med	16.2	HERA7D	BOWL	1	1	8	A BROWN CLAY PELLETS	BS	PLAIN INT GL		VABR
13	64	TR13	med	15.2	HERB4	JUG/JAR	1	1	1	BRICK RED 16TH?	BS			FRESH
14	65	TR07	med	16.1	HERB5	JUG/JAR	1	1	0.5		BS			VABR
14	65	TR07	med	16.2	STROAT	JUG	1	1	11		B	INT AND EXT BROWN GL;FOOTRING BASE;GLOB BODY		ABR
	70	TR03	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR	1	1	22		R	EVERTED FLAT-TOPPED RIM		ABR
	70	TR03	med	16.2	HERA7D	JAR	1	1	5		BS	INT PLAIN GL		VABR
	70	TR03	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR	4	4	35		BS	HM		ABR

Cut	Context	Trench	period	DATE	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition
70	TR03	med	13.2	HERB4	JAR		5	1	78		R	WT;CYLINDRICAL BODY;INTURNED RIM	SOOTED EXT	FRESH
70	TR03	med	13.2	HERB4	JUG		2	1	33		BS	VERTICAL KT EXT NEAR BASE		FRESH
70	TR03	med	14.2	HERB4	JUG		1	1	11		H	PLAIN STRAP;CUGL		FRESH
70	TR03	med	13.2	HERB4	JAR		1	1	7		BS	INT GL		VABR
70	TR03	med	13.1	HG	JUG		1	1	11		BS	GROOVES ON NECK;PLAIN EXT GL		FRESH
70	TR03	med	12.1	WORCS	JAR		3	1	7	HERC1	BS			VABR
70	TR03	med	13.1	WORCS	DRIP		1	1	9		BS	INT CUGL		VABR
74	TR08	med	16.1	CSTN	CUP		1	1	16		B	GLOBULAR BODY;FOOTRING		FRESH
76	TR14	med	15.2	HERB4	JAR		3	1	8		BS			VABR
78	TR15	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR		2	2	4		BS			FRESH
US	TR02	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR		2	1	9		BS	HM		ABR
US	TR03	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR		2	2	6		BS			ABR
US	TR03	med	11.2	GLOS41B	SPP		1	1	3		BS		INT LEACHED	FRESH
US	TR03	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR		1	1	3		BS			VABR;LEACHED
US	TR03	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR		2	2	10		BS			ABR
US	TR03	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR		2	1	7		BS			VABR
US	TR04	rom	1.2	GLOS11	TANK		1	1	13		R			VABR
US	TR04	rom	1.2	GLOS11	CLSD		1	1	8		BS			VABR
US	TR04	med	11.2	GLOS41B	JAR		1	1	2		BS			ABR
US	TR04	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR		4	1	17		BS			VABR
US	TR04	med	12.1	HERB1	JAR		1	1	3		BS			VABR
US	TR05	med	15.2	HERB4	JUG		1	1	6		BS	EXT PLAIN GL;BAND OF COMBING		ABR
US	TR05	med	14.2	HERB4	BOWL		1	1	51		R			VABR
US	TR05	med	16.1	HERB5	JUG		1	1	22		B	FOOTRING BASE;INT CUGL		FRESH
US	TR05	med	14.2	MINETY	JUG		1	1	6		BS	WT;EXT PLAIN GL		VABR







## Bibliography

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