

Assessment of the Pottery from Back Lane, Winchcombe (BLW04)

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Eight sherds of pottery from archaeological fieldwork at Back Lane, Winchcombe, undertaken by 110 Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment. They were catalogued using the author's standard protocol which conforms to the Medieval Pottery Research Group best practice (Table 1).

The sherds range in date from the Romano-British period to the 19th century.

Description

Roman pottery

Two very abraded sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. Both are of Severn Valley ware and are visually similar to pottery produced at Malvern Link. These wares probably spanned the entire period of Roman occupation, from the late 1st to the 4th centuries.

Medieval pottery

Five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Three of these came from the Malvern Chase potteries centred on Hanley Castle (Vince 1977 #10133). One was a sherd from a handmade cooking pot, probably of late 12th to mid 13th-century date (HERB1) and two were sherds of glazed jugs (HERB4), including a plain strap handle whose high firing and sparse glaze suggests a 16th-century date. One very abraded sherd of a Worcester glazed ware jug was found (WORCS). This type was produced in Worcester from the early 13th to the early 14th centuries. The final sherd is from the sagging base of an unglazed jug or jar with a grey, reduced, body. The fabric contains sparse rounded quartz grains in a silty, micaceous groundmass (MEDLOC). This vessel is unusual and probably not locally made. Similar vessels were produced in the early 13th century at Deritend, Birmingham, and are outliers of the Reduced Ware tradition of the Thames basin.

Early Modern pottery

A single sherd of Derbyshire stoneware was recovered. The vessel is the shoulder of a blackleading bottle, a type produced from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries. Blackleading was a form of graphite used for polishing cast iron (e.g. firebacks and kitchen ranges).

Assessment

Stratigraphy

Context 101 in Area 1 must date to the Roman period or later.

Context 101 in Area 2 must date to the 19th century or later since it contains the sherd of Derbyshire stoneware.

Context 103 probably dates to the 16th century or later although it also produced two sherds of 13th-century date.

Retention

All of the sherds are either stratified or of unusual type and therefore should be retained for future study.

Further work

No further work is recommended on the pottery although it would be possible to discover more about the origin of the medieval greyware vessel through scientific analysis.

Table 1

Trench	Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
AREA 1	101	RPOT	TF11		BS		1	1	4		VABR
AREA 2	101	HERB4		JUG	BS		1	1	9		VABR
AREA 2	101	DERBS		BLACKLEADING BOT	BS	SHOULDER AND NECK	1	1	6		
	103	HERB1		JAR	BS		1	1	2		VABR
	103	HERB4		JUG	H	PLAIN STRAP;PLAIN GL SPOTS;16TH C?	1	1	45		ABR
	103	RPOT	TF11		BS		1	1	7		VABR
	103	WORCS		JUG	BS		1	1	1		VABR
US	MEDLOC	S RQ (TRIASSIC);MUSC A Q SILT	JAR		B		1	1	22	SOOTED EXT	

