

Assessment of the finds from Stage 2 of the Ashby Folville to Thurcaston Pipeline (AFT 04)

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A small quantity of finds were recovered from the second stage of archaeological evaluation on the line of the Ashby Folville to Thurcaston pipeline, undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd (Appendix 1).

The finds are probably all of early modern date although both a copper alloy object and a fragment of tile could conceivably be of Roman date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of flat tile was recovered, 5400. The fabric is oxidized and moderately hard fired. It contains moderate subangular and rounded quartz up to 0.2mm across, sparse black iron-rich inclusions, sparse fine-grained red sandstone inclusions and sparse light-coloured clay pellets. The groundmass is poorly mixed with streaks and lenses of a lighter brown-firing clay. The fragment is probably a medieval to post-medieval flat roof tile but the upper surface does not have the regular lines caused by the use of a bowed wire drawn across the surface and it is just possible that it is a fragment of Romano-British tegula.

Copper Alloy

A short tapering fragment of copper alloy, 3.0mm wide at its widest and 2.0mm wide at its narrowest end (possibly original) and 1.5mm thick might be the pin from a brooch or buckle. However, the presence of numerous transverse stress lines suggests that the object might have been originally circular and has been unrolled. The degree of corrosion is consistent with an early date (i.e. Romano-British or later) but in an active environment such as ploughsoil similar corrosion could happen in a much shorter time.

Fired Clay

A single fragment of fired clay was recovered, 5422. This is a featureless lump, probably abraded, and might be burnt daub or a brick fragment. It has a similar colour to the tile and similar quartz sand inclusions. However, the iron ore, sandstone and light clay pellets are absent and in their place are moderate angular fragments of limestone and bivalve shell. The groundmass is not variegated. It is likely that a boulder clay derived from Jurassic and Triassic strata was the source of this fragment but its date and function are unknown.

Pottery

Four sherds of pottery were recovered. Two of these are Staffordshire Coarseware bowl fragments, possible as early as the 17th century but more likely to be of 18th- or 19th-century date. The other two sherds are from Transfer Printed Ware plates decorated with willow pattern designs and likely to be of 19th century date.

Assessment

The finds from the second stage of the AFT04 evaluation do not provide any positive evidence for activity before the 19th century.

None of the finds require further study and all should be retained for future re-examination.

The copper alloy object is corroded and probably unstable. However, since it is unlikely that it can be further identified and given its unstratified context it is probably not worth undertaking a conservation assessment.

Appendix 1

REFNO	cname	subfabric	class	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Part	Weight
5400	STCOAR		POTTERY	BOWL	1	1	INT AND EXT RED SLIP;INT BLACK GL	B	55
		M SAQ <0.2MM;M RQ <0.2MM;S BLACK FE <4.0MM;S RED SST <4.0MM;S LIGHT CLAY PELLETS <4.0MM, SOME MARLY;LENSES OF LIGHTER BROWN CLAY							
5400	PMTIL		CBM	FLAT	1	1	OR RTIL TEG	BS	88
5408	TPW		POTTERY	PLATE	2	2	WILLOW PATTERN	R	14
5412	STCOAR		POTTERY	BOWL	1	1	INT AND EXT RED SLIP;INT BLACK GL	BS	26
5422	FCLAY	M SAQ <0.2MM;M RQ <0.2MM;S ANG LST AND SHELL <4.0MM	FCLAY	-	1	1		BS	39
							ID?;TAPERING SUB-RECTANGULAR CROSS-SECTION; 3MM AT WIDEST;2MM AT NARROWEST;1.6MM;TRANSVERSE LINES SUGGEST METAL FATIGUE AND THAT THE OBJECT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORIGINALLY CIRCULAR		
5426		DARK PURPLE WITH GREEN CORROSION	COPP	RING	1	1		BS	0.5

