

Pottery from Golden Law Field, Eardisland, Herefordshire (LR05)

Alan Vince

Forty-three fragments of pottery, eighteen fragments of ceramic building material, a piece of iron slag and three fragments of stone were submitted for identification. They range in date from the Roman period to the 19th or 20th century, with a break between the Roman period and the mid 16th-century or later. Where possible they have been given codes based on those established at the Museum of London Archaeological Service or, if of local origin, the City of Hereford (Vince 1985;Vince 2002).

The finds are described below by material and date and a catalogue of the finds is given in Appendix 1.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Post-Medieval

Eight fragments of tile have a fabric (Hereford A10) which occurs first in the later 16th century and continues in use throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Numerous local tileries and brick yards were still in operation in the 19th century but most probably ceased operation before the end of the century. Most of the fragments come from flat roof tiles, probably suspended by means of a nib of clay, although no examples were present. Two, however, come from pantiles. These tiles, which have a S-shaped cross-section, were introduced to England from the Low Countries and probably did not reach Herefordshire until the 18th or 19th centuries.

Early Modern

Ten fragments of early modern tile were present. These tiles were produced from Coal Measures red- and white- firing clays (similar to those used in the Staffordshire potteries) and were probably also in the main imported from that area. Examples of flat roof tiles, a field drain, a coping tile (used on the top of a wall to deflect the rain) and a possible fragment of brick were found.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy 25 West Parade Lincoln LN1 1NW

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Pottery

Roman

Seventeen fragments of Roman pottery were present. All of these were of Severn Valley ware (Hereford Fabric A1). Most come from jars, with two bowls. None of the vessels is of a closely-datable form and the Severn Valley industry was established in the later 1st century and continued until the 4th century, so this pottery could date to any time within that period.

Post-Medieval

Twenty-three sherds of pottery dating between the mid 16th century and the mid 18th century were present.

The earliest of these types are Hereford Fabric B5, produced in the Malvern Chase from the mid 16th to the early 17th centuries; Cistercian ware (CSTN), produced at a number of places outside of Herefordshire during the 16th century; and Frechen Stoneware, produced at Frechen, near Cologne in the Rhineland in the mid 16th to mid 17th centuries. In total, 5 sherds of this early post-medieval period were present.

There is then a gap in the pottery sequence, with no examples at all of Hereford Fabric A7D, which dates between the later 16th and the mid 17th centuries. This is followed by a group of later 17th to mid 18th-century wares, most of which were produced in the Staffordshire Potteries (Table 1).

Table 1

cname	-	BOWL	DISH	POSS	TANK	Grand Total
STCO			3			3
STCOAR	5					5
STMO				5	1	6
STMO?				1		1
STRE			1			1
STSL	1					1
WEST					1	1

These wares consist of press-moulded slipware (STCO); Staffordshire Coarseware (STCOAR); Staffordshire Mottled ware (STMO); Staffordshire Red Earthenware (STRE) and Staffordshire Slipware (STSL). The exception is a sherd from a Westerwald Stoneware tankard (WEST). These grey salt-glazed stoneware vessels were produced in the Westerwald, south of Cologne on the Rhine from the mid 17th onwards and ceased to be exported to England in any quantity in the mid 18th century.

Early Modern

Three sherds of later 18th century or later pottery were present. They consist of a Transfer Printed Ware plate (TPW); a fragment of 19th-century Buff Ware (NCBW) and a fragment from a Sunderland Coarseware bowl (SUND). The latter is a coarse red earthenware, like the Staffordshire Coarseware, which was traded alongside Sunderland Lustrewares in the mid 19th century and later. It is much more common in Eastern England than in Herefordshire, however.

Iron Slag

A single piece of vesicular slag was present. It's colour suggests that it was associated with iron working although the weight suggests that it has very little metal content.

Stone

Fragments of Palaeozoic siltstone, two of which bore impressions of trilobites, were present. Being composed of quartz and muscovite silt with a moderate proportion of clay cement they are very similar in colour and texture to oxidized local pottery.

Bibliography

Vince, A. G. (1985) "Part 2: the ceramic finds." in R. Shoesmith, ed., *Hereford City Excavations: Volume 3. The Finds*, CBA Research Report 56 The Council for British Archaeology, London.

Vince, A. (2002) "The Pottery." in A. Thomas and A. Boucher, eds., *Hereford City Excavations Volume 4: Further Sites & Evolving Interpretations*, Logaston Press, Logaston, 65-92.

Appendix 1

gridx	gridy	class	cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Bag	date
1	B	POTTERY	STMO	POSS	1	1	5 2	L17	
1	B	POTTERY	STMO?	POSS	1	1	8 2	L17	
1	C	CBM	HERA10	FLAT	1	1	54 1	L16	
1	C	IRON	IRON	WASTE	1	1	3 1	ND	
1	C	POTTERY	HERA1	-	1	1	3 2	L1	
1	C	POTTERY	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1	7 2	L17	
2	B	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	1	1	1 1	L1	
2	B	POTTERY	HERA1	BOWL	1	1	7 1	L1	
2	B	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	1	1	41 1	L1	
2	B	POTTERY	HERB5	BOWL	1	1	24 1	M16	
2	C	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	4	4	20 4	L1	
2	C	POTTERY	HERB5	PANC	1	1	4 2	M16	
2	C	POTTERY	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1	7 2	L17	

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gridx	gridy	class	cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Bag	date
2	C	POTTERY	STMO	POSS	1	1	5	2	L17
3	B	CBM	HERA10	PANT	1	1	42	1	L17
3	C	POTTERY	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1	3	2	L17
3	C	POTTERY	STMO	TANK	1	1	15	2	L17
4	B	CBM	MOD	BRICK?	1	1	7	1	L19
4	B	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	3	3	69	3	L1
4	C	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	2	2	18	2	L1
4	C	POTTERY	STCO	DISH	1	1	34	1	ML18
5	C	CBM	HERA10	FLAT	1	1	15	3	L16
5	C	CBM	HERA10	PANT	1	1	43	3	L17
5	C	CBM	MOD	FIELD DRAIN	1	1	55	3	L19
5	C	POTTERY	STRE	DISH	1	1	2	1	L17/E18
6	A	POTTERY	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1	16	2	L17
6	A	POTTERY	STMO	POSS	1	1	8	2	L17
6	B	CBM	HERA10	FLAT	1	1	19	4	L16
6	B	CBM	MOD	FLAT	3	3	72	4	L19
7	B	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	2	2	21	4	L1
7	B	POTTERY	STCO	DISH	1	1	7	4	L17
7	B	POTTERY	STCOAR	BOWL	1	1	6	4	L17
7	B	POTTERY	WEST	TANK	1	1	6	1	L17
7	C	CBM	HERA10	FLAT	2	2	78	5	L16
7	C	CBM	MOD	FLAT	3	3	53	5	L19
7	C	POTTERY	HERA1	JAR	1	1	3	1	L1
7	C	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE	1	1	2	2	L18
7	C	POTTERY	NCBW	BOWL	1	1	1	2	M19
8	B	CBM	HERA10	FLAT	1	1	30	3	L16
8	B	CBM	MOD	FLAT	1	1	20	3	L19
8	B	CBM	MOD	COPING TILE	1	1	151	3	L19
8	C	POTTERY	CSTN	CUP	1	1	18	1	E16
8	C	POTTERY	FREC	-	1	1	6	5	M16
8	C	POTTERY	STCO	DISH	1	1	7	5	L17
8	C	POTTERY	STMO	POSS	1	1	9	5	L17
8	C	POTTERY	STSL	-	1	1	1	5	L17
8	C	POTTERY	SUND	BOWL	1	1	7	5	19
9	A	POTTERY	HERA1	BOWL,REEDED RIM	1	1	20	4	L1
9	A	STONE	STONE	GEO	2	2	15	4	ND
9	A	STONE	STONE	GEO	1	1	12	4	ND
9	C	POTTERY	HERB5	PANC	1	1	5	2	M16
9	C	POTTERY	STMO	POSS	1	1	8	2	L17