

Assessment of the Finds from the Great Barford Pipeline, Bedfordshire (GBP 05)

Alan Vince with Anna Slowikowski

A small collection of finds was recovered from archaeological fieldwork on the line of the Great Barford Pipeline, Bedfordshire carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd. They range in date from the Roman period to the medieval period or later. The ceramic finds were classified using the Bedfordshire Fabric Series, maintained by Albion Archaeology, by Anna Slowikowski. All other comments and identifications are by Alan Vince.

Description

Animal Bone

A single unidentified fragment of animal bone was recorded from Plot 9 context 115.

Ceramic Building Material

A fragment of flat roof tile, of Bedfordshire Type 4, was recovered from Plot 7, Trench 3, context 129. The fabric looks similar to that of Potterspury ware and it is probable that it has a similar date (later 13th to 15th or 16th century).

Copper Alloy

A single copper alloy fitting was recovered from Trench 7 context 2. The fitting was cast and has a casting sprue on the back. It is oval, 38mm by 21mm, and 2mm thick. The face has traces of plating and has a chamfered edge. Two circular holes, 11mm diameter, are present at either end. The fact that the sprue stands proud of the back suggests that the fitting was attached to an organic substance, such as wood or leather, and size of the holes suggests that the fitting was riveted or nailed in position. It is most likely a piece of harness fitting.

Pottery

Roman

A sherd of fine-textured, black jar, of Bedfordshire Fabric R37, recovered from Plot 9 context 111, is probably of early Roman date.

Medieval

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux/potcat/pdfs/avac2005090.pdf>

An everted beaded rim from a handmade, sand-tempered jar (Bedfordshire Fabric C) was recovered from Plot 9 context 114. Handmade, everted rim jars of this type are typically later 11th to early 13th century in date.

Two sherds of shell-tempered pottery, of Bedfordshire Fabric B0007, were recovered, from context 1 and Plot 9 context 114. The former sherd could be from an unglazed jug or jar whilst the latter is the handle from a jug. Such vessels are probably 12th to early 13th century in date and were made, inter alia, at Olney Hyde.

Assessment

The earliest find from the pipeline is the Roman jar from Plot 9 context 111. There are no finds of Anglo-Saxon date and the next earlier finds are of 12th or early 13th century date. The flat roof tile is probably of later medieval date and the copper alloy fitting is not closely datable without specialist study. It is, however, likely to be of later medieval or later date.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Anna Slowikowski for assigning the ceramics their Bedfordshire fabric codes.

Appendix 1

Trench	Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Date	Nosh	NoV	Weight
	1	POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE	B007		B	Mid 12th to Early 13th century	1	1	23
PI.7 Tr.3	129	CBM	MTIL	4	FLAT	BS	Later 13th to 15th/16th century	1	1	21
PI.9	111	POTTERY	GREY	R37	JAR	BS	Later 1st to 2nd century	1	1	9
PI.9	114	POTTERY	MEDLOC	C	JAR	BS	Later 11th to Early 13th century	2	1	18
PI.9	114	POTTERY	OLNEY HYDE	B007	JUG	BS	Mid 12th to Early 13th century	2	1	55
PI.9	115	ANBN				BS	ND	1	1	10
Tr.7	2	COPP	COPP		FITTING	BS	Later 13th century or later	1	1	8