

Assessment of Stone and Fired Clay from Gedling, Nottinghamshire (GED.06)

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A small collection of stone and fired clay from archaeological fieldwork at Gedling, Nottinghamshire, was submitted for identification and assessment. The finds consist of a single group of fired clay fragments, which are undatable; cobbles which are probably unworked but possibly heated and two fragments of Millstone Grit, which probably come from the upper and lower stones of a rotary quern.

Description

Fired Clay

Three fragments of fired clay were recovered from context 205. They probably come from the same object but there are no faces remaining and it is unclear what their function might have been. The fabric at x20 magnification contains abundant ill-sorted quartz, mostly subangular and less than 0.2mm but with sparse larger rounded grains. Muscovite laths up to 0.2mm long are also present. The fabric is much coarser than weathered Mercian Mudstone and is presumably an alluvial silt or colluvium.

Stone

Three rounded cobbles were recovered, from contexts 203 and 205. Two of these have been cracked and one has discolouration of the original surface which suggests that it might have been burnt. They might have been used as the base for a hearth but are larger than those found in the Bronze Age burnt stone spreads and mounds in the east Midlands.

Two fragments of Millstone Grit were recovered from context 205. Both have at least one pecked surface indicating that they come from worked artefacts. One could be part of the upper stone of a rotary quern, with part of the central hole and two concave surfaces but is missing its outer edge. The other has only one original surface, which is flat. This could be from the bottom stone of a rotary quern.

Assessment

The finds from context 205 probably date to the mid Roman period or later, since before that time in Nottinghamshire beehive querns and saddle querns were used.

The possible burnt cobbles and the fired clay are undatable.

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A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006023.pdf>

Retention

The finds should be retained for future study, with the possible exception of the unworked and unburnt cobble.

Further work

No further work is recommended at this stage.

Appendix 1

Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
205	FLAY	CF BRICKEARTH	-	NO FACES			BS	3	1	53
205	STONE	SSTMG	QUERN	SEGMENT OF UPPER STONE OF ROTARY QUERN		BROKEN	BS	1	1	1447
205	STONE	SSTMG	QUERN	POSSIBLE FLAT FACE SO PERHAPS LOWER STONE?		BROKEN	BS	1	1	1408
205	STONE	FINE- GRAINED WHITE SST	GEO	UNWORKED COBBLE			BS	1	1	849
205	STONE	FINE- GRAINED WHITE SST	GEO	CRACKED COBBLE	PERHAPS FIRECRACKED?		BS	1	1	599
203	STONE	FINE- GRAINED WHITE SST	GEO	CRACKED COBBLE	PERHAPS FIRECRACKED?		BS	1	1	162