

Assessment of Additional Pottery and Kiln Furniture from the Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory, Worcester (RWP04/65)

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An archaeological Watching Brief at the Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory produced several collections of waste pottery and kiln furniture, all of which appear to be of relatively recent date (mid 20th century or later). A small quantity of additional finds from the same intervention has been submitted for identification and assessment. These are mostly of similar character to those from the previous finds (Vince and Steane 2007). However, a collection of sherds of Romano-British pottery was recovered and these appear to be in fresh condition, suggesting activity on the site in that period.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of brick, one with concrete adhering to it, were submitted. They were not examined in detail.

Pottery

Roman

Sixteen sherds of one or more Severn Valley Ware jars were recovered from context 754. The fabric contains abundant charcoal fragments, a feature which in Gloucester was particularly common in the later 1st and 2nd centuries.

Early Modern

Twenty-nine sherds of kiln furniture made from Coal Measures Whiteware clay, containing numerous rounded off-white clay pellets in a similarly-coloured groundmass, were recorded. The clay could have been obtained from the Staffordshire potteries, Bristol or almost any area where the Coal Measures outcrop. Most of the fragments came from saggars, some of extremely large diameter. Several had a layer of bitstone on the inside of the base, to raise the pots being fired in the saggar above the base level. Several had vitrified exterior surfaces.

Four spacers were present. These were short sausages of clay which had been squashed to an oval section. The maximum cross-sectional dimensions were measureable in three cases: 9 by 6 mm; 5 by 13 mm and 7 by 10 mm.

The remaining fragments were made in a fine white clay, presumably one which if fired to the correct temperature would have formed porcelain. All were actually biscuit fired. The fragments include turned rings, presumably used as separators within saggars. These rings

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occurred in a variety of sizes ranging from 50mm to 130 mm in diameter. A single example of a moulded trivet was present. The remainder consisted of fragments of biscuit-fired porcelain, including bowls, cups, a figurine, jars, jugs, and plates.

None of the pieces included any features which were immediately closely datable but the material is very similar to that from previously reported finds which it was suggested dated to the mid 20th century.

Assessment

Context 754 can be dated to the later 1st century or later and the pottery appears to be fresh, so the deposit is likely to be of early Roman date. The remaining contexts, 753, 755, 757, and 760, all date to the later 18th century or later, and most probably all are actually of 20th-century date.

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Retention

All the finds come from stratified deposits and therefore should be retained for future study. It would be possible, however, to reduce the quantity by retaining representative examples of the different pottery forms and kiln furniture types.

Bibliography

Vince, Alan and Steane, Kate (2007) Assessment of Pottery and Kiln Furniture from the Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory, Worcester (RWP04/65). AVAC Reports 2007/74 Lincoln

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use	DN ID
753	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		BOWL	B	1	1	26			
753	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	R;BS	2	2	20			
753	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		JAR	B	1	1	12			
753	POTTERY	ENPO			PLATE	B	1	1	8			
754	POTTERY	SVW			JAR	BS	2	2	23			
754	POTTERY	SVW		CORDON ON SHOULDER	JAR	BS	14	1	80			
755	POTTERY/PLASTER	ENPO	BISCUIT	PLATE FRAG ATTACHED TO PLASTER	PLATE/PLASTER	BS	1	1	99	ASHY SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	CMW		FRAG	SAGGER	BS	1	1	5			
755	CBM	PMTIL			CONCRETE AND BRICK	BS	1	1	5			
755	POTTERY	CMW		SPACER; SQUASHED TO 9 BY 6	KILF	BS	1	1	7		VITRIFIED SURFACE	
755	POTTERY	ENPO?	BISCUIT	TEST CONE? 24 BASE DIA; 48 TALL	KILF	NEAR COMPLETE	1	1	20			
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	FRAG	KILF	PART	1	1	7	ASHY SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 90 DIA	KILF	PART	1	1	12	SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 55 DIA	KILF	PART	1	1	17	ASHY SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 130 DIA	KILF	PART	1	1	40	SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 55 DIA	KILF	PART	1	1	26	ASHY SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO		ORNATE MOULDED HANDLE	JUG	H	1	1	33			
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		CUP	R;BS	5	5	8	SOIL DEP		
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	R;B;BS	16	16	290	SOIL DEP		

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755	POTTERY	CMW		SPACER; SQUASHED TO 5 BY 13	KILF	BS	2	2	5	
755	POTTERY	CMW		FRAGS	SAGGER	BS	4	4	24	
755	POTTERY	CMW			SAGGER	BS	1	1	55	TRACES OF BITSTONE INT
755	POTTERY	CMW		FRAGS	SAGGER	BS	3	3	87	VITRIFIED INT/EXT
755	POTTERY	CMW			SAGGER	B	1	1	101	BITSTONE INT AND ON BASE; VITRIFIED EXT
755	POTTERY	CMW			SAGGER	R	1	1	46	BITSTONE DEEP INT; VITRIFIED EXT, RIM AND INT
755	POTTERY	CMW		FRAG, BIGGER THAN 520 DIA	SAGGER, LARGE	BS	1	1	235	BITSTONE INT; VITRIFIED EXT
755	POTTERY	CMW		FRAGS	SAGGER	BS	2	2	137	BITSTONE INT; VITRIFIED EXT
755	POTTERY	CMW		52 DEEP	SAGGER	BS	1	1	163	BITSTONE ON BASE/INT; VITRIFIED EXT
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		CUP	R;BS	16	16	19	SOIL DEP
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	R;B;BS	19	19	67	ASHY SOIL DEP
755	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	1	1	2	
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	MOULDED	FIGURINE?	BS	1	1	6	
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	DRAPERY FOLDS	FIGURINE	BS	1	1	11	
755	POTTERY	ENPO			PLATE	BS	1	1	7	
755	POTTERY	CMW		SPACER; SQUASHED 10 BY 7	KILNF	BS	1	1	3	
755	POTTERY	CMW			SAGGER	BS	5	5	37	
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	TRIVET; ONE ARM WITH POINT	KILNF	PART	1	1	7	
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	FRAGS	KILNF	PART	3	3	13	SOIL DEP
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 90 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	8	SOIL DEP
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 60 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	8	SOIL DEP
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 80 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	9	SOIL DEP

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755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 60 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	12	SOIL DEP
755	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 70 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	22	SOIL DEP
757	POTTERY	CMW			SAGGER	BS	5	1	97	
757	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		LARGE JAR	43	1	1	43	ASHY SOIL DEP
757	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	B	1	1	13	SOIL DEP
757	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	B;BS	4	4	64	ASHY SOIL DEP
757	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 80 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	26	ASHY SOIL DEP
760	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT	RING 50 DIA	KILNF	PART	1	1	12	SOIL DEP
760	POTTERY	ENPO	BISCUIT		PLATE	R;BS	3	3	40	SOIL DEP