

# **SPOT DATING REPORT 287 ON POTTERY FROM EXCAVATIONS AT SUDBROOKE (ROMAN VILLA), LINCOLNSHIRE, SUD06-07**

**For Craig Spence**

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The pottery from these two years comes from 74 contexts (2006, 24; 2007, 40), and has been spot dated pending preparation of a full archive database. Approximate sherd counts are: 2006, 942; 2007, 852 sherds.

This report is only a short statement of what has been found in view of continuing excavation. Since much of the pottery came from the upper layers of the site, it is not suitable for any detailed analysis. Nearly all is very fragmented and heavily abraded, leading to difficulties of identification and dating. The pottery dating and notable vessels or fabrics by context is summarised for each season in Appendix 1.

## **2006 Excavations in Areas C and D**

### **Area C**

360 sherds. The lowest identified deposit with pottery was context 25, a disturbed deposit of plough with fragmentary stone tile and *opus signinum*, the only datable sherd being a rim from a wide-mouthed bowl dating to probably the mid to late 3rd century, although the type continues into the 4th century. The later, mostly small, contexts contain pottery up to the 3rd century, and the larger deposits are from the topsoil, and surface finds.

The pottery includes Central Gaulish samian, one possibly from Les Martres de Veyre of earlier 2nd century date, while other early pottery indicators are rough-cast beakers, rusticated wares, and a hooked-rim mortarium.

### **Area D**

582 sherds. The lowest deposit, context 49 was not fully excavated, but contained a very abraded Mancetter-Hartshill mortarium dating to the mid to late 3rd century. Other contexts were mainly late deposits, with the bulk of the material from post-Roman upper layers.

There was less samian, later mortaria types, more Nene Valley colour-coated vessels, all beakers, and dales ware shell-gritted jars. The earlier pottery included rusticated sherds, parisian type plain body sherds, flagon fragments and a possible 2nd century local type of type B321. The earliest sherds from both areas are probably the rusticated sherds, although these jars continue into the middle of the 2nd century.

## **2007 Excavations in Area E**

The earliest deposits appear to be 142 which contained a single shell-gritted storage jar, only loosely datable to the 1st to 2nd centuries, but more importantly the ditch or pit contexts 161-2 which produced the most important early finds. These are sherds from a Lyon ware beaker from (162 ditch or pit 141), and a mica-dusted bobble beaker with sherds from robber trench 146, ditch or pit 141 and 103 at the base of topsoil. Importation of Lyon ware ceases c. AD 75, and the distribution of the ware is strongly related to military sites. Despite Lincoln being a legionary fortress, Lyon ware is rare there, although the same type of mica-dusted beaker, stamped by the potter CAMARO, probably from Belgium, came from an early cremation

burial (Rigby 1999), and in early deposits from The Park excavation (Darling 1999, fig 28, no 59).

The first sherds from the 3rd century occur in robber trenches 191 and 146. The samian is mostly Central Gaulish, but at least two sherds might be earlier, from either South Gaul or Les Martres de Veyre, fitting into a later 1st to early 2nd century range. There is also a sherd from a Moselkeramik beaker from (101 topsoil), and sherds from Dressel 20 olive oil amphorae. Mortaria sherds include a later vessel from the Nene Valley and earlier sherds, including an unusual spout, from a hooked-rim type.

The 2nd century is fairly well represented with rusticated ware, certain specifically local types of bowl or dish, B334 and B333, and a copy of a Gallo-Belgic plate, D452 (Darling and Precious, forthcoming). Cream flagon sherds are more likely to be of 1st-2nd century date, including an early ring-necked type (119, ?robbing), and there is also a fragment of a BB1 (Black-Burnished ware 1) from Dorset of early to mid 2nd century date.

An unusual bowl with decoration on the interior came from the dumbbell shaped burnt feature 147, and the bowl type and internal decoration can be paralleled in a large Lincoln deposit at the Lower City west gate (Darling 1999, fig 36, no 369; fig 37, no 379) which contained quantities of 3rd century and earlier pottery. There is also a very strange large open form from (105), a mixed group with post-Medieval sherds. Both will require further research.

A single context with pottery, 158, is noted as not used. Since there is no cut noted on the matrix for the wall 159, is this related to that? The few sherds are not closely datable.

## Summary

Overall, the pottery is strongly related to that occurring in Lincoln, particularly in the 2nd century. The early imported fine wares from Lyon and Central Gaul provide very important new evidence. The dating for both is Neronian rather than later, although both could be still around into the later 1st century, c. AD 75. As fine table wares, such vessels could have a relatively long life. Further evidence is desirable to confirm the earliest date for the occupation on the site. As noted previously (Darling 2006), there are no sherd for which a 4th century date is applicable. Moreover, to date, all the Nene Valley colour-coated wares have excluded the known later open forms, most sherds being from beakers. Such aspects will aid determining the closing date.

Some vessels from these excavations will be selected for illustration, reserved pending further excavation on the site. Equally the samian will be extracted as a specialist report will be required.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Darling, M J, 2006 *Report 233 on pottery from excavations at Sudbrooke (Roman villa), Lincolnshire, SUDA05*, for Lindvm Heritage, July 2006, unpublished report.
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- Rigby, V, 1999 The Camaro beaker, in Darling 1999, 121.

# APPENDIX 1

## Spot dating of contexts

### 2006-07 Excavations

2006 Excavations						Link	
Cut	Deposit	Area	Cxt	Sherds	Date	Comments	
-	Mixed plough	C	25	6	ML3-?4		
42	Robber trench	C	37	1	ROM	SINGLE SHERD;ABR	
58	Robber trench	C	26	16	2C+	SAMCG37;BKRC;ABR	
-	Over hypocaust floor	C	15	13	PMED	SAMLM?;ABR	
-	Over hypocaust floor	C	14	1	ROM	PROB 2C;SINGLE SHERD	
-	Disturbed	C	12	1	ROM	PROB 2C;ABR	
-	Lower topsoil	C	05	2	2-3C	VABR CC BK BS	
-	Lower topsoil	C	07	16	PMED	SAMCG;ABR	
-	Lower topsoil	C	09	7	3C	ABR	
-	Topsoil	C	04	10	2C+	SAMCG	
-	Unstrat.	C	02	97	2-3C	SAMCG;NVCC BKBARB;RUST;MHK;ABR	
-	Surface finds	C	01	190	PMED	VABR;DR20;SAMCG;MOMH;NVCC	
Total Area C				360			
-	Not fully excavated	D	49	1	ML3	MOMH MRR ONLY;VABR	
-	Dump post demo.	D	27	9	3C	VABR;BURNT CC BKM SHS?	
61	Linear cut	D	39	70	ROM	VABR;BSS ONLY	
55	Linear cut	D	53	2	3C	NVCC BKROU;ABR	
52	Linear cut?	D	51	2	L1EM2	RUSTIC BS	
-	Sondage	D	28	157	ML3+	DWSH;NVCC;MORT MRF;PART	
-	Sondage	D	17	33	PMED	ABR;NVCC	
46	Gully	D	40	17	ML2?	ABR;SAM FLAKE;?BB1 DPR;BDTR	
32	Linear depression	D	20	17	2C+	ABR;FLAGON HDLE	
30	Field drain	D	22	98	PMED	CHINA;SAMCG 31R;NVCC BKBARB;L2+	
-	Lower topsoil	D	16	93	PMED	CHINA;SAMCG 31;NVCC BKFN;?DWSH;ML3+	
-	Lower topsoil	D	06	60	PMED	VABR;MONV? CHIP;GREY B321?	
-	Unstrat.	D	03	23	ML3+	ABR;MORT NR MHH;?DWSH BS;	
Total Area D				582			
Total				942			
2007 Excavations							
Cut	Deposit	Area	Cxt	Sherds	Date	Comments	Link
143; 138	Packing	E	142	7	1-2C?	SHELL JS ONLY	
191	Robber trench	E	120	5	3C?	SAMLM?;NVCC BKROU	
-	Destruction?	E	129	4	3C	NVCC BK;2C? BK RIM	
-	Burnt spread	E	149	3	3C	NVCC BS	
147	Dumbbell feature	E	132	23	L2+?	SAMCG DÉCOR 37 AS (169);UNUSUAL.BOWL	169
-	Dump	E	118	77	EM3	MORT MHK SPOUT;MORT BSS;SAMSG? 29;NVCC BKBARB BS;DR20 BNT;B334 BS;B333 RIM;DTR;M2?	
-	Demolition?	E	115	20	PMED	SAMIAN;?BB1 BKBR;VABR	
195	Robbing/construction	E	172	1	2C	SINGLE J RIM;THIN WALL	
-	Robber trench	E	116	8	2C?	BS OXL MICAC;BSS	
159	Robbing	E	140	1	ROM	JBK BASAL;PROB 2C	

148	Robber trench	E	134	3 ROM	GREY BSS ONLY	
139	Spread	E	131	1 L3?	NVCC BK ROU/BACC CHIP	
146	Robber trench	E	135	17 ML3	NVCC BK;VABR SHS	
146	Robber trench	E	136	99 M3/POSTRO?	MICA DUST BK BS;DWSH;NVCC;D452;CR FLAG;BDTR;?PRO	161; 103
-	Demo/robbing	E	119	62 EM2?	DR20;SAMSG?;CR FR;BKRC;RUST;B334?;NVCC CHIPS??	
-	Destruction	E	165	2 ROM	2 GREY BSS	
-	Destruction	E	151	6 EM2?	BB1 CP BWL	
123	Robbing pit?	E	122	2 ROM	VABR;2 BSS ONLY	
-	Demo/robbing	E	117	1 PMED	CHINA	
-	Ditch or pit	E	162	28 2C	SAMCG CHIP;LYON BKRC;ABR	
-	Ditch or pit	E	161	8 L1E2C?	MICA DUST BOBBLE BKEV	103; 136
164	Robber trench	E	160	14 2C	BKRC CHIP;GFIN BHEM;FLAGON?	
185	Robber trench	E	169	10 M2?	SAMCG DÉCOR 37;?MORT FRAGS;	132
157	Posthole	E	153	1 ROM	GREY CHIP ONLY	
173	Depression	E	154	3 2C	BKROUZ BS GRY	
-	Over robber trench	E	152	11 2C	BSS ONLY;NO CLOSE DATES	
-	Base topsoil	E	103	1 L1E2C?	RIM MICA DUST BKEV AS 161	136; 161
-	Base topsoil	E	104	50 3C	SAME 105;NVCC BK BS;SAMSG/LM?	105
-	Base topsoil	E	105	88 PMED	SAMSG 29?;BS NVCC BK;V.ODD LGE OPEN;VABR;SAME 104	104
-	Base topsoil	E	107	11 PMED	VABR;NVCC BX	
-	Base topsoil	E	108	9 3C	NVCC LBX;SAMCG UNUSUAL 33;VABR	
-	Base topsoil	E	109	50 PMED	VABR EXC SAMCG 37 RIM;ML2?;NVCC BX FRAG 3C	
-	Base topsoil	E	110	50 PMED	CHINA;VABR;JRUST	
-	Base topsoil	E	111	15 ROM	VABR;CR FLAG BS	
-	Base topsoil	E	113	20 PMED	CHINA;SAMIAN CHIPS;VABR	
-	Base topsoil	E	114	32 PMED	CHINA;VABR;SAMIAN FLAKE;NVCC	
-	Unstrat.	E	102	48 PMED	CHINA;VABR;MONV MRF;NVCC;SAMCG 27	
-	Unstrat.	E	101	49 M3?	VABR;MORT BSS;B334?;MOSL RIM	
-	Unstrat.	E	100	8 ML3?	VABR;MORT BS	
-	Void?	E	158	4 ROM	ABR GREY BSS ONLY	
<b>Total sherds</b>			<b>852</b>			