

Mancetter-Hartshill Roman Pottery Kilns Archive Project: excavations by Kay Hartley and Warwickshire Museum at Mancetter and Hartshill, from 1960 to 1984.

Notes for users

The Worcestershire Archaeology audit report ([Evans and Hurst 2019](#)) should be read as an introduction to the overall archive and updates the 1995 report by John Chadderton ([HE7725 intro Chadderton-report](#)). The latter is essential reading for understanding the background to this project and the level of work achieved by 1995. The mortarium bibliography for Roman Britain (Hartley and Tomber 2006) summarises key information about the industry. The finds archive comprises 893 boxes, generally well organised by site and area.

Digitisation of the paper archive has been very selective. It is a large archive and has not been organised or rationalised as this was outside the scope of this project. The same is true of the drawings stored in the plan chest at the Warwick Museum store, including site plans and working drawings as well as drawings inked to publication standard. These, for example, include dyeline copies of drawings which could now be discarded.

The digital archive comprises the following sections:

- [Sites](#)
- [Mortaria](#)
- [Other pottery](#)
- [Other finds](#)
- [Metadata](#)

Each section has an introduction and index, providing information about the files included. Tabulations are provided of documents relating to sites and kilns [HE7725 intro tabulation sites-documents](#) and all artefacts/ environmental finds [HE7725 intro tabulation finds-documents](#). Information about the various site codes used can be found in the introduction to sites [HE7725 intro sites-kilns](#).

Themes and topics which would benefit from further research include:

- Pottery kilns: dates, types and associated potters and pottery. Vivien Swan's 'The pottery kilns of Roman Britain' provides a starting point for classification; her summary of the Mancetter-Hartshill kilns is available on line <https://romankilns.net>.
- Kiln products: the *mortaria*; analysing the data recorded, refining the form typology, spout typology and decoration typology in the light of more recent work. Analysis in relation to kilns and individual potters and to assemblages found elsewhere. The mortarium fabrics are described in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), which is available online <https://romanpotterystudy.org.uk/nrfrc/base/index.php>. There is more variation within the fabrics recorded from the kiln sites; it would be helpful to publish photographs of fabric variants, to show the range.
- Kiln products: the coarse ware pottery; analysing the data recorded, publishing kiln groups and comparison of forms and fabrics with other regional assemblages, in particular from Leicester which appears to have been a major market. The fabrics are described in the Warwickshire Roman pottery fabric type series; this is not published as an entity in itself but lists are available from the Warwickshire HER.
- Digitisation of all pottery data. This would be a critical first step towards progressing both of the above. Old digital data has been retrieved for the other pottery and for mortaria from

Cherry Tree Farm. This needs to be assessed, to see if the records are complete, and made more accessible. Kay Hartley's and Yvonne Boutwood's records have not been digitised.

- Further research on the glass kiln and its products in relation to the pottery industry, once the latter is better understood.
- A social history of archaeology: the archive includes newspaper articles, letters, site note books etc which bring to life the archaeological process and reflect the changing face of the archaeological profession since the early 1960s. This is a resource that has not been tapped as part of this project.

The archive would benefit from the following:

- Creation of a sustainable research archive; organisation and rationalisation of the paper and drawings archive, which presently includes duplication, and then re-packaging to current archive standards; to be carried through to the digitised archive on-line if possible.
- Incorporation of relevant additional documents from Kay Hartley's Leeds archive, into both the physical and digital archives.