

A1 LEEMING TO BARTON 1158, A1L2B

MORTARIA ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the analysis of mortaria recovered from deposits associated with human remains recovered from across the A1L2B road widening scheme, in accordance with *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group, Barclay *et al.* 2016). A total of 37 sherds weighing 1.439kgs were recovered.

It was unlikely that any mortaria sherds were placed in burials as grave goods, and were likely redeposited as graves were backfilled. As such, the amphorae remains discussed present evidence for 'background' human activity during the Roman period in the locality, rather than as part of any specific burial rites. This approach removes certain contexts/deposits from stratigraphical relationships resulting in limited interpretation in this volume. The material presented here will be subsequently considered alongside that from associated deposits and 'complete' stratigraphic sequences to inform on human activity during the Roman period within the A1L2B scheme in the forthcoming volumes First Contact and Establishment, Consolidation and Retreat.

METHODOLOGY

All mortaria sherds were analysed visually (by eye and under a X30 magnification binocular microscope) and classified by fabric class using fabric codes presented in Tomber and Dore (1998). mortaria sherds were quantified by count and weight, with totals presented for each archaeological deposit (**Table XX**). Where possible products were identified according to form and place of origin, along with broad date-ranges for their manufacture. Featured Vessels are denoted FV followed by their unique number.

RESULTS

The mortaria assemblage comprised of material predominantly from the Yorkshire region (16 sherds weighing 1.017kg)(Crambeck and Crambeck Type wares, and Catterick Vicinity White-slipped wares). In addition, material from major production centres further afield were also present, such as Verulamium Region White ware (3 sherds weighing 0.172kg), Mancetter-Hartshill White ware (8 sherds weighing 0.099kg), and also Colchester White ware (2 sherds weighing 0.055kg). These types of mortaria were a common during the Roman period in this region.

The majority of the mortaria date to the 2nd century AD, with some Mancetter-Hartsill products possibly into the 3rd century, and the Crambeck and Crambeck Type material dating to the 4th century AD.

BOWBRIDGE LANE

Field 145

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

BAINESSE

Field 159A

Grave 13420

A bodysherd of a Catterick White-slipped ware mortarium was recovered from the fill over the cist. AD100-200.

Pit 13501

Seven body sherds of Catterick White-slipped ware mortaria were recovered from various fills of pit **13501**, broadly dating between AD100-200. In addition, a rim sherd of a bead-rim mortarium (FV78) dating between was present. Two sherds of Colchester White ware were also recovered. AD100-150.

Field 163E

Grave13586

A single small sherd (12.9g) of a Catterick White-slipped ware mortarium was recovered from grave backfill **13585**.

BAINESSE CEMETERY

Field 163C

No mortaria were recovered from grave backfills in the Baineese cemetery (F163C).

Ditch 4944

A single base sherd of a Catterick White-slipped ware mortarium was recovered from the middle fill of ditch **4944**. AD100-200.

Enclosure ditch 12286/12520

Four sherds of Catterick White-slipped ware were recovered from the cleaning top fill of enclosure ditch **12286/12520**. AD100-140.

Ditch 12368

Three sherds of Catterick White-slipped ware mortaria were recovered from the upper (**12372**) and lower (**12443**) fills of ditch **12368**; a rim sherd of a bead-rim mortarium (FV 90) came from the lower fill. AD100-150.

CATARACTONIUM

Field 172

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 174

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 175

Topsoil 31882

Seven sherds of Mancetter-Hartshill and two sherds of Crambeck Type mortaria were recovered from topsoil **31882**. AD300-400.

Field 176

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 177

Ditch 20368

Three sherds of Catterick White-slipped ware mortaria were recovered from the fill of ditch **20368**, one of which (FV 223) was stamped MASC-F its maker, Mascellio. AD120-130. A single undesignated sherd of mortarium was also recovered.

Grave 20955

Two sherds of a Verulamium White ware mortarium stamped with a markers' mark. The stamp is in two lines with a herringbone border; the upper line is mostly missing/illegible, the lower possibly reads 'MA[....] (MA ligatured) ' in retrograde, and may be one of Matugenus (AD80-125), Marinus (AD80-125) or Martinus (AD100-140). AD80-140. Similar to examples at Vindolanda (no's 26a-c), Birley and Sheehan-Finn 2012) and Corbridge (Birley and Gillam 1948, fig. 2, no. 38, 172-204).

Field 178

Grave 20417

A single sherd of Crambeck White ware was recovered from the fill of grave **20417**. AD300-410+.

Grave 20476

A single sherd of a Mancetter-Hartsill hammerhead mortarium was recovered from the fill of grave **20476**. AD240-370.

Grave 20601

A single undesignated sherd of mortarium was recovered from the fill of grave **20601**.

Field 179

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

SCURRAGH HOUSE

Fields 209-211

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

SCOTCH CORNER

Field 228

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 258

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 265

Subsoil 31501

A single sherd of Verulamium White ware mortarium was recovered from subsoil **31501**.

OTHER AREAS

Field 259

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

Field 261

No mortaria present in grave related deposits.

DISCUSSION

No mortaria could be said to have been grave goods or used as part of a cremation (as pyre goods), burial or memorial ceremony. A range of wares were present, predominately northern products (Catterick Vicinity White-slipped wares, Crambeck wares and Crambeck Type wares), and also a small quantity of nationally distributed wares (Colchester White ware and Verulamium Region White ware. This type of assemblage is not uncommon in this part of northern England.

There seems to be no distinction between mortaria sherds recovered from grave backfills and those from other features, mostly ditch fills from the various areas. However, 22% (by sherd count) of the

mortaria assemblage considered in this volume was recovered in Field 159A, from pit **13501** (cut by grave **13435**), dating between AD100-150; the mortaria from the fills were predominantly Catterick Vicinity White-slipped wares, along with two sherds of Colchester White wares.

The remains for two vessels with makers' marks were recovered, the first, from Field 177 (FV 223), from the fill of ditch **20368**, the second, from burial **20955**. The first was a potter local to Cataractonium, Mascellio, producing between c. AD120-130 (Hartley 2017, no. 14, M208, 112-3). The second (FV 225) was very fragmentary and not completely legible, but could be of Matugenus (AD80-125), Marinus (AD80-125) or Martinus (AD100-140)(see Vindolanda no's 26a-c; Corbridge (1948, fig.2, no. 38, AD70-100), but certainly produced in the Verulamium region between AD80-140.

Overall, the assemblage dates broadly to the second century, with a handful of sherds dating from the mid- to late third (Field 178, **20478** and Field 159A, **13421**) and through the fourth century (Field 163C, context **4946**, Field 175, context **31882**, and Field 178, context **20415**). However, given the nature of the deposits and the artificial removal of the contexts studied in this volume from larger assemblages, detailed study of the chronological supply and use of these mortaria will be undertaken in the forthcoming volumes 2 (First Contact) and 3 (Establishment, Consolidation and Retreat).

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mortaria assemblage considered in this volume requires no further study. Two diagnostic sherds with makers' marks (FV's 223 and 225) have been recommended for illustration in this volume. The author recommends that all rim sherds and those fragments with makers' marks be retained.

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