

An archaeological field evaluation for the Cadeby Quarry Extension, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (SK 442 027)

Leon Hunt



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An archaeological field evaluation at Cadeby Quarry Extension (Phases 2a & 2b),

Brascote,
Newbold Verdon,
Leicestershire
(SK 442 027)

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of an extension to Cadeby Quarry, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 442 027).

The site lies close to the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Brascote. A number of archaeological features were identified during the earlier phases of work to the north of the present site (Phases 1a & 1b). A geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation identified possible archaeological features within the proposed extraction area, including a ring ditch.

A number of archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation within Field 4. These included Romano-British features, including evidence for a pottery kiln, alongside enclosure ditches and gullies. A large number of kiln bars, together with fired and partially fired pottery were retrieved from the feature by partial excavation. The forms of the jars are broadly consistent with production in the later decades of the first century AD.

There were no features within the trenches in Field 5, except in Trench 18, where there was a substantial ditch [20] running broadly north to south, also containing Grey Ware pottery. This feature may represent the eastern edge of the archaeological remains.

The probable northern arm of the prehistoric ring ditch revealed during the geophysical survey was revealed in Trench 03 as feature [16], also within Field 4, although no dating evidence was found.

Evidence of quarrying of unknown date was also discovered at the edge of Field 4 in Trench 15.

The hollow area in Field 6 was revealed to be a waterlogged depression, which is most likely a natural watercourse or spring. There were also two linear features in Trench 10 in Field 10, which were undated but may be medieval due to their proximity to the deserted medieval village to the east.

Introduction

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in advance of an extension to Cadeby Quarry, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 442 027), for further sand and gravel extraction (Phases 2a & 2b).

The site lies close to the deserted medieval village (DMV) of Brascote. A number of archaeological features were identified during the earlier phases of work to the north of the present site (Phases 1a & 1b) including an Iron Age roundhouse. A geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation identified possible archaeological features within the proposed extraction area, including a ring ditch.

Location and Geology

The proposed extraction area is located within three fields on the western side of Brascote Lane, in the hamlet of Brascote, to the south of Newbold Verdon (Figure 1). The land covers 9.4 hectares and lies at a height of around 130m aOD falling to the west towards a watercourse to around 120m aOD.

The fields of the quarry extension are numbered 1-6, with Phases 2a and 2b carrying the numbers 4-6 (Figure 2). Fields 4 and 5 were covered in self seeded crops and wild flowers at the time of the evaluation, with a strip of maize at the edge of both fields. Field 6, to the south, was pasture.

A haul road and soil bund borders the eastern edge of the site along Brascote Lane. To the north lies Phase 1 extraction area. The quarry conveyor and open farmland lies to the west. To the south is the DMV of Brascote and Manor Farm.

The underlying geology of the extraction area consists of glacial-fluvial Pleistocene sand and gravel over Mercia Mudstone, with some Diamicton round the edges of the site.

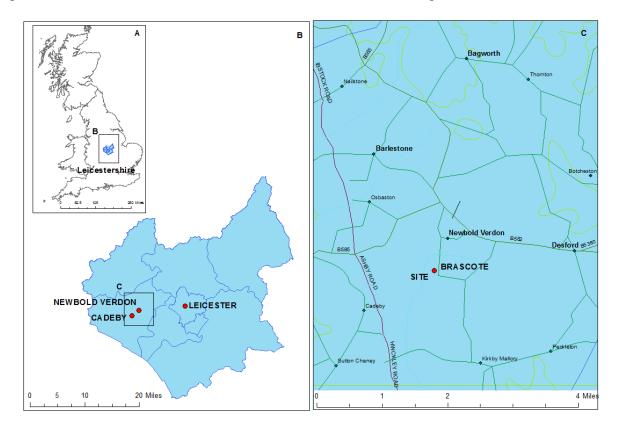


Figure 1: Site location

Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site by Archaeologica Ltd (Lisboa 2015). This considered the earthwork survey carried out by Hartley in 2008 on the deserted medieval village at Brascote, which lies within Field 6. The DMV appears to consist of enclosures, house platforms and a fishpond close to the present Manor Farm. There are further features across the lane to the east (Figure 3). A LiDAR survey was carried out on the area in 2015, but this failed to produce a clear model of the earthworks.

A geophysical survey was carried out of the whole extraction site (Phases 1 and 2). This identified a large ring ditch of 30m diameter located in Field 4 (Figure 4).

Archaeological monitoring during the stripping of upper soils during Phase 1 of the extraction (Fields 1-3) revealed a double ditched roundhouse and a large number of pits. There was little dating evidence, but the features were most likely Iron Age.

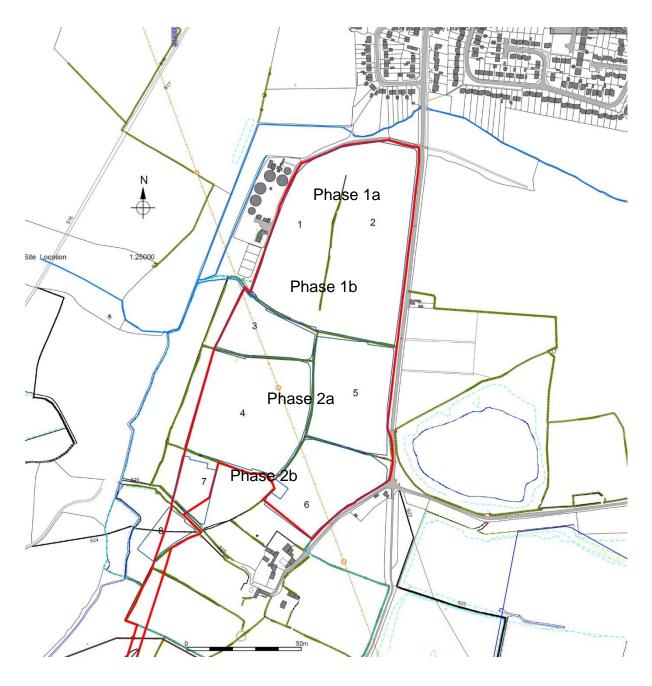


Figure 2: Location of quarry extension phases and field numbers

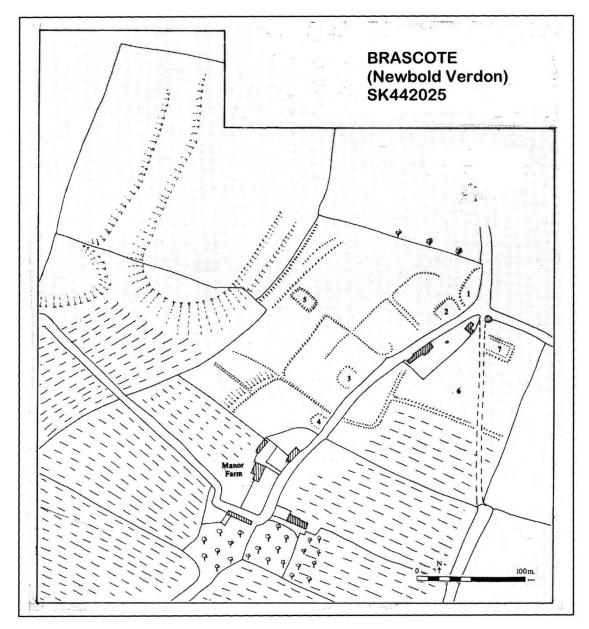


Figure 3: Earthworks at Brascote, Newbold Verdon (from Hartley 2008)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

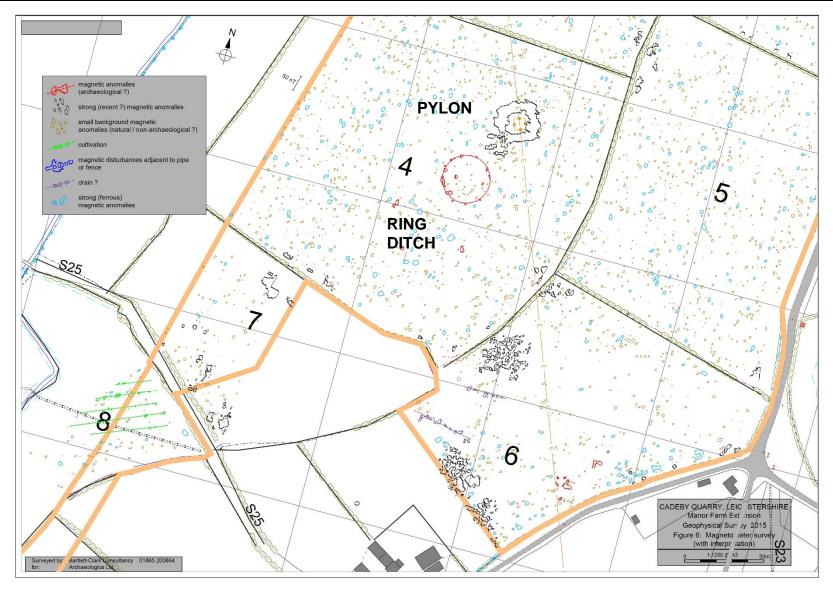


Figure 4: Plan of Phases 2a and 2b showing geophysical survey results (after Lisboa 2015)

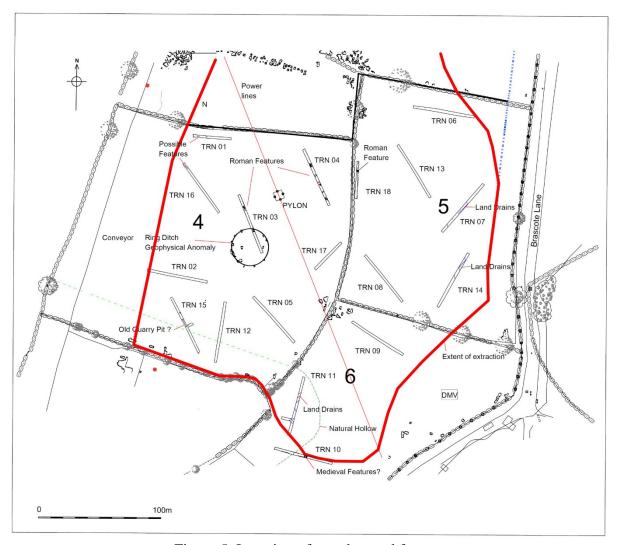


Figure 5: Location of trenches and features

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev.2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014). The archaeological work followed the *Project Design for Trial Trenching and Mitigation for Cadeby Quarry Extension* prepared by Archaeologica Ltd.

It was initially the intention to excavate twelve 50m x 2m trenches within the proposed new extraction area. Following consultation with Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council this was increased to sixteen. Further to the results of these sixteen trenches a further two trenches were added to check the extent of the visible archaeological remains in Field 4.

The sixteen trenches (Trenches 1-16) were excavated using a large tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Figure 6). Trenches 17 and 18 were excavated by JCB also fitted with a ditching bucket and under supervision.

The topsoil and subsoil layers were kept separate during the trial trenching but the trenches were not back-filled.



Figure 6: Work in progress on Trench 07, looking south

Results

The trench numbering system set out prior to the commencement of the work was retained with the additional trenches added. Therefore Field 4 contained Trenches 1-5, 12, 15, 16 and 17. Field 5 contained Trenches 6-8, 13, 14 and 18 and Field 6 contained Trenches 9-11.

Trench 01

Length: 30.5m

Width: 2m

Orientation: East – west

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak dark greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Natural Substratum: Orange brown silty-sand and gravel

Interval	E 0m	10m	20m	30.5m W
Topsoil Depth	0.30m	0.33m	0.34m	0.33m
Subsoil Depth	0.20m	0.30m	0.20m	0.05m
Top of Natural	0.50m	0.63m	0.54m	0.37m
Base of Trench	0.52m	0.65m	0.56m	0.37m

This trench was shorter than the others as it needed to fit between the quarry conveyor to the west and the exclusion zone for the overhead power lines to the east.

The trench appeared to contain a few small features, which were sampled. One appeared to be a very diffuse linear feature, which was most likely a natural band of silt, another seemed more tangible but was under 0.10m deep; possibly a very truncated gully.

A feature at the western end of the trench proved to be a tree throw pit.

Trench 02

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: East – west

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel

Subsoil: Weak orange brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Natural Substratum: Patchy orange brown sand and gravel with bands of silt and grey sand at

western end

Interval	E 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m W
Topsoil	0.28m	0.27m	0.25m	0.20m	0.30m	0.35m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.14m	0.10m	0.12m	0.26m	0.43m	0.24m
Depth						
Top of	0.42m	0.37m	0.37m	0.46m	0.63m	0.59m
Natural						
Base of	0.43m	0.40m	0.40m	0.48m	0.70m	0.61m
Trench						

There were a number of features within the trench that were sampled, but all were natural in origin. The trench sloped to the west and the subsoil was very deep this end possibly the result of colluvium.

Trench 03

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak dark greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Natural Substratum: Orange brown silty-sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m NW
Topsoil	0.30m	0.36m	0.27m	0.30m	0.33m	0.32m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.23m	0.23m	0.20m	0.21m	0.20m	0.21m
Depth						
Top of	0.53m	0.59m	feature	0.51m	0.53m	0.53m
Natural						
Base of	0.60m	0.60m	0.50m	0.52m	0.65m	0.53m
Trench						

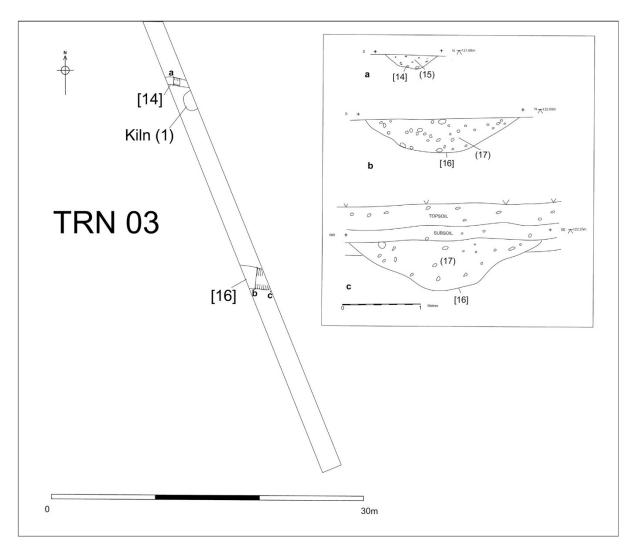


Figure 7: Plan and sections of Trench 03

This trench contained several archaeological features, and some that proved to be natural (Figure 7). The most significant was a large dark pit close to the north-west end of the trench, partially obscured by the baulk. During the machine excavation a number of pieces of pottery and a kiln bar were exposed within the feature (Figure 8). The feature was partially excavated and consisted a broadly sub-circular pit (although only part of the feature could be seen). Within the pit was a diffuse fill of very dark brown silty-sand (1), with some stones and a large number

of Romano-British pottery sherds and kiln bar fragments and other items of kiln furniture. There was also a dump of burnt clay at the northern corner plus a number of very large blackened stones. Clearly this was the remains of a kiln, not a pit and the feature was left *in situ*.

Just to the north-west of the kiln was a ditch feature [14] running east - west across the trench and visible for 2m of its length. It was 0.62m wide with shallow to moderate sides and a flat base at around 0.17m depth (Figure 7a). The definition of the feature against the natural substratum was not too clear and the feature contained a diffuse fill (15) of yellowish brown silty-sand and frequent rounded pebbles, although no finds were discovered within the fill.

Close to the centre of the trench was a large wide linear feature [16] running east to west and visible for 2m of its length. It was 2m wide and had concave sides which were moderately steep to a concave base at 0.41m depth (Figure 7b & c).

The fill (17) was an orange brown silty-sand with frequent rounded and sub-rounded stones. There were no finds.

There were a number of other features within the trench, including another possible linear feature close to the south-east end and a small pit, but all appeared natural in origin or simply patches of subsoil.



Figure 8: The kiln prior to investigation in Trench 03

Trench 04

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak reddish brown sandy-silt with occasional various shaped stones

Natural Substratum: Orange brown silty-sand and gravel

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SE
Topsoil	0.23m	0.27m	0.30m	0.30m	0.26m	0.23m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.17m	0.17m	0.22m	0.28m	0.15m	0.13m
Depth						
Top of	0.40m	0.44m	0.52m	0.58m	0.41m	0.36m
Natural						
Base of	0.43m	0.50m	0.55m	0.62m	0.43m	0.37m
Trench						

This trench also contained a number of archaeological features (Figure 9), including a large ditch running east to west across the trench towards the north-western end of the trench [12]. It was 1.38m wide, had irregular sloping sides, which were moderate to shallow in depth with an irregular base at 0.34m depth (Figure 9a). A large number of Romano-British pottery sherds were retrieved from the fill (13), which was a mid yellowish brown sandy-silt with very frequent medium rounded and sub-rounded stones. The pottery sheds included a sherd of Verulamium region mortarium, a rare find in Leicestershire.

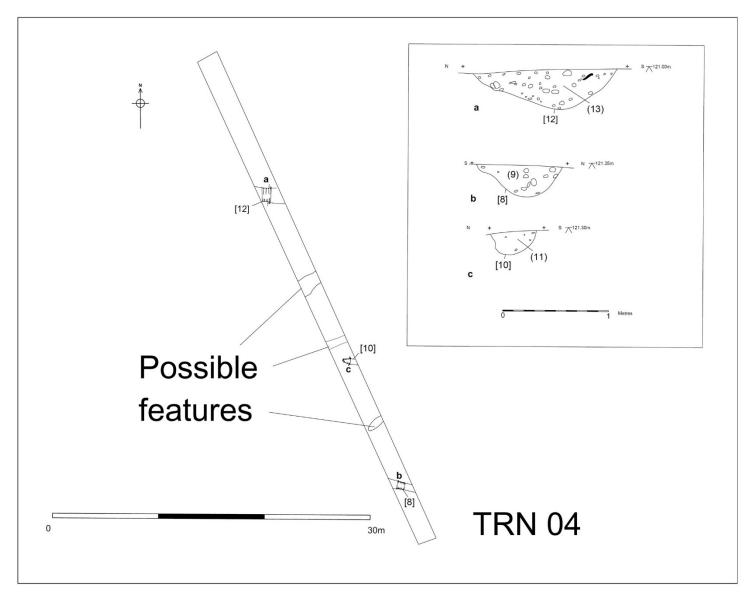


Figure 9: Plan and sections of Trench 04

Close to the south-eastern end of the trench was a narrower ditch feature [8], which appeared to lie parallel to [12]. This was visible for 2m across the trench and was 0.82m wide. It had concave shallow to moderate sides and a concave base at 0.26m depth (Figure 9b and 10). The fill (9) was an orange brown and grey mottled orange silty-clay with frequent rounded stones and Roman pottery.

To the north of [8] and on the same alignment as [8] and [12] was a narrow gully [10], which appeared to terminate with a butt-end at around 1.26m from the baulk. It was 0.26m wide and 0.19m deep with U-shaped profile and moderate sides to a concave base (Figure 9c). The fill (11) was very similar to fill (9) and contained Roman pottery sherds.

There were a number of other linear features within the trench which may have been archaeological in nature but these were not sampled.



Figure 10: Feature [8] in Trench 04

Trench 05 Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel

Natural Substratum: Orange brown sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m NW
Topsoil	0.29m	0.30m	0.24m	0.32m	0.30m	0.35m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.14m	0.12m	0.20m	0.17m	0.14m	0.14m
Depth						
Top of	0.43m	0.33m	0.44m	0.49m	0.44m	0.49m
Natural						
Base of	0.43m	0.35m	0.53m	0.52m	0.45m	0.52m
Trench						

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 06

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: East - west

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak yellowish brown sandy-silt with occasional stones

Natural Substratum: Reddish brown silty-sand and gravel and brownish red silty-clay

Interval	W 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m E
Topsoil	0.30m	0.32m	0.26m	0.34m	0.35m	0.33m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.10m	0.17m	0.24m	0.21m	0.22m	0.20m
Depth						
Top of	0.40m	0.49m	0.50m	0.56m	0.55m	0.53m
Natural						
Base of	0.40m	0.65m	0.53m	0.60m	0.60m	0.59m
Trench						

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. There were a number of features that may have been archaeological but these were sampled and shown to be subsoil filling slight natural depressions.

Trench 07

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-east – south-west

Topsoil: Friable greyish brown silty-clay with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak yellowish or reddish brown silty-clay with occasional stones

Natural Substratum: Orange brown silty-sand and gravel and reddish brown clay

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SW
Topsoil	0.24m	0.23m	0.23m	0.22m	0.29m	0.30m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.18m	0.23m	0.20m	0.20m	0.23m	0.18m
Depth						
Top of	0.42m	0.46m	0.43m	0.42m	0.52m	0.48m
Natural						
Base of	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	0.48m	0.60m	0.50m
Trench						

The trench contained two ceramic land drains running broadly north to south across the trench. It contained no archaeological features.

Trench 08

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Friable greyish brown silty-clay with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak yellowish or reddish brown silty-clay with occasional stones

Natural Substratum: Orange or reddish brown sand and gravel

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SE
Topsoil	0.24m	0.34m	0.19m	0.25m	0.25m	0.25m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.12m	0.10m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Depth						
Top of	0.36m	0.44m	0.39m	0.45m	0.45m	0.45m
Natural						
Base of	0.37m	0.60m	0.62m	0.54m	0.62m	0.55m
Trench						

The trench contained no archaeological features.

Trench 09 Length: 50m

Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Friable mid brownish grey sandy-silt with occasional stones

Subsoil: Firm light yellowish or reddish brown sandy-silt with occasional medium stones

Natural Substratum: Light orange brown and light grey silty-sand and gravel

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SE
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.24m	0.22m	0.20m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.20m	0.23m	0.25m	0.25m	0.27m	0.27m
Depth						
Top of	0.40m	0.43m	0.45m	0.49m	0.49m	0.47m
Natural						
Base of	0.42m	0.51m	0.50m	0.52m	0.52m	0.60m
Trench						

The trench contained no archaeological features.

Trench 10

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: East - west

Topsoil: Friable mid brownish grey sandy-silt with occasional stones at eastern end, with dark grey soft peaty silty-clay at western end

Subsoil: Mixture of light grey and very dark grey soft peaty clay with frequent rounded stones and pieces of brick and rubble

Natural Substratum: Light brownish orange silty-sand and gravel or grey peaty clay/sand

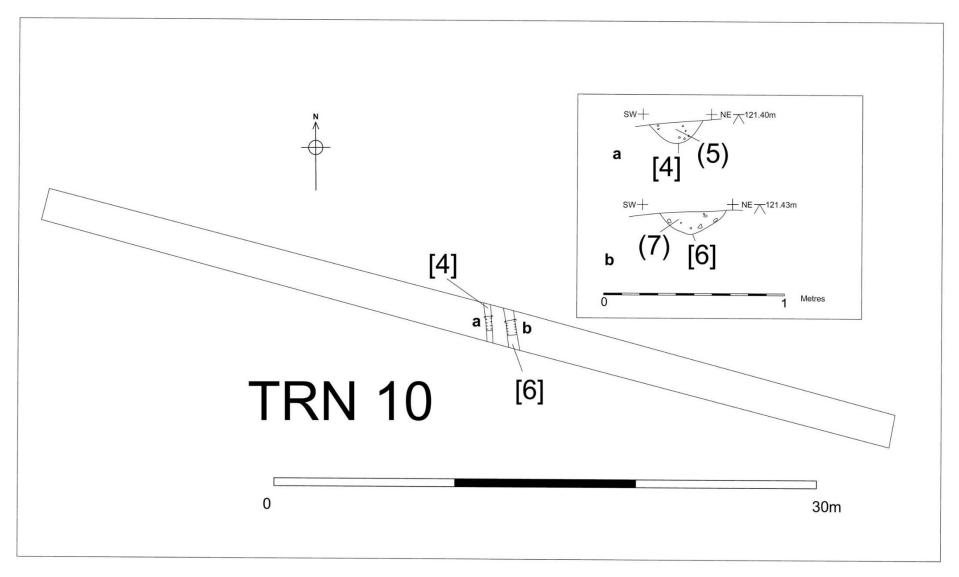


Figure 11: Plans and sections of Trench 10

Interval	W 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m E
Topsoil	0.20m	0.10m	0.23m	0.28m	0.35m	0.20m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.05m	0.26m	0.19m	0.28m	0.20m	0.40m
Depth						
Top of	0.25m	0.36m	0.42m	0.56m	0.55m	0.60m
Natural						
Base of	0.25m	0.46m	0.42m	0.57m	0.60m	0.60m
Trench						

As well as two gravel filled land drains crossing the trench from north-west to south-east and from north-east to south-west, the trench contained two parallel gullies running broadly north to south across the trench (Figure 11).

The westernmost was [4], which was visible for 2m of its length and was 0.3m wide and had a concave profile with moderate sides and a concave base as 0.11m depth (Figure 11a & 12). The fill (5) was a mottled orange brown and greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent rounded pebbles.



Figure 12: South-west facing section of gully [4, looking north-east

The other gully [6] was also visible for 2m across the trench and was 0.46m wide and 0.09m deep (Figure 11b). It had a concave profile but was shallow sided and had a flat base. The fill (7) was a slightly mottled orange brown and greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent rounded stones. Neither feature contained datable artefacts.

Trench 11

Length: 50m & 8m

Width: 2m

Orientation: North - south with a section running to the west

Topsoil: Soft to firm dark grey slightly peaty silty-clay with frequent rounded stones

Subsoil: Mixture of light grey and very dark grey soft peaty clay with frequent rounded stones

and ceramic building material and rubble

Natural Substratum: Light brown orange silty-clay and gravel

Interval	N 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m S
Topsoil	0.36m	0.22m	0.30m	0.29m	0.40m	0.30m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.40m	0.30m	0.12m	0.28m	-	-
Depth						
Top of	0.76m	0.52m	0.42m	0.57m	-	0.30m
Natural						
Base of	0.80m	0.53m	0.43m	0.60m	0.40m	0.32m
Trench						

This trench was placed within a hollow that ran broadly north-east to south-west across the field from around a third of the way across the field towards a field gate and onwards to the south-west.

The weather had been fairly dry in the weeks leading up to the evaluation but the area in which the trench was placed showed heavy trampling of the soil by cattle that had formed hard tumps of boggy grass in the dry period.

The subsoil was only in evidence at the northern end of the trench where it was patchy with layers of gravel, brick material and rubble within the matrix. Elsewhere there was only the upper soil, which was siltier towards the northern end but over the rest of the trench it mainly consisted of a peaty material, which had pushed down into the lower layers in places (probably due to the aforementioned poaching).

The northern end was very deep and the southern end shallow, with a light brown orange silty-sand in gravel at the base of the trench, shallowing to the south (Figure 13).

There were many field drains crossing the trench, mainly from the north-east and east running into the depression. These were a variety of forms from ceramic to stone and gravel filled. The trench soon flooded, with water almost spurting from the damaged drains. The trench remained flooded at the base throughout the evaluation. A large group of animal bones was retrieved from the base of the peaty material close to the southern end of the trench.



Figure 13: Trench 11 post excavation

Trench 12 Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-south

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel

Natural Substratum: Orange brown sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m N
Topsoil	0.28m	0.23m	0.28m	0.27m	0.24m	0.33m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.23m	0.12m	0.17m	0.19m	0.14m	0.20m
Depth						
Top of	0.51m	0.35m	0.45m	0.46m	0.38m	0.53m
Natural						
Base of	0.51m	0.37m	0.48m	0.48m	0.45m	0.53m
Trench						

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 13

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak yellowish brown sandy-silt with occasional stones

Natural Substratum: Reddish brown silty-sand and gravel and brownish red silty-clay

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SE
Topsoil	0.22m	0.30m	0.30m	0.33m	0.33m	0.30m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.09m	0.12m	0.22m	0.13m	0.12m	0.22m
Depth						
Top of	0.31m	0.42m	0.52m	0.46m	0.45m	0.52m
Natural						
Base of	0.31m	0.45m	0.56m	0.50m	0.53m	0.52m
Trench						

No archaeological features were identified within this trench. A field drain ran across the trench from north to south.

Trench 14

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-east – south-west

Topsoil: Friable greyish brown silty-clay with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak yellowish or reddish brown silty-clay with occasional stones

Natural Substratum: Reddish or orange brown silty-sand and gravel, with some patches of

reddish brown clay

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SW
Topsoil	0.23m	0.21m	0.23m	0.25m	0.27m	0.30m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.12m	0.16m	0.16m	0.18m	0.20m	0.20m
Depth						
Top of	0.35m	0.37m	0.39m	0.43m	0.47m	0.50m
Natural						

Base of	0.35m	0.40m	0.45m	0.52m	0.50m	0.55m
Trench						

This trench contained a number of features that were sampled but none were archaeological in nature. There were a number of field drains running north to south across the trench.

Trench 15

Length: 50m with 6m extension to north-east

Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east with section to the north-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel

Subsoil: Weak orange brown sandy-silt with frequent gravelly patches

Natural Substratum: Orange brown sand and gravel

Interval	SE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m NW
Topsoil	0.18m	0.27m	0.25m	0.33m	0.30m	0.23m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.12m	0.15m	0.12m	0.30m	0.10m	0.10m
Depth						
Top of	0.30m	0.42m	0.37m	0.63m	0.40m	0.33m
Natural						
Base of	0.32m	0.45m	0.57m	0.65m	0.41m	0.33m
Trench						

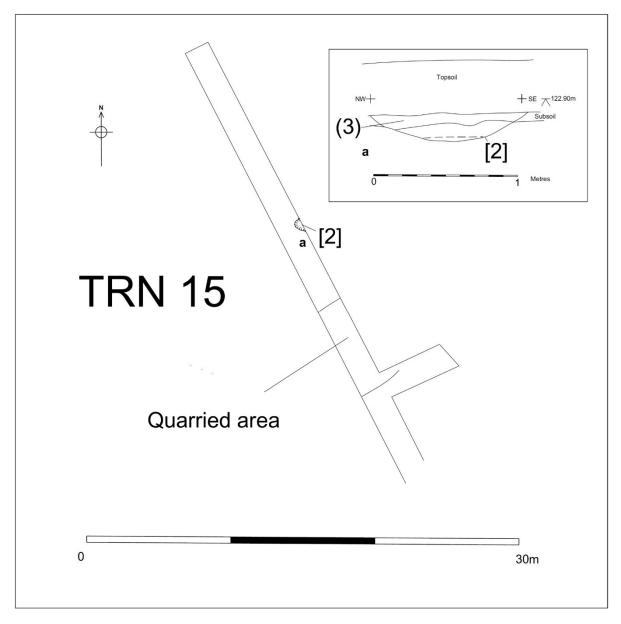


Figure 14: Plan and section of Trench 15

This trench appeared to show the natural sand and gravel substratum albeit with a deep section of subsoil around the centre of the trench (Figure 14). Further examination showed that subsoil appeared to continue under the sand and gravel at the edge of the deeper section. Therefore, a section was excavated through the trench at a right angle to the trench, extending to the northeast. This showed that the subsoil layer was the infill of a hollow, most likely the result of quarrying in this area.

The new section was excavated to around 0.8m deep down to clean red sand and gravel. Throughout most of this section of the trench the soil sequence consisted of 0.20m - 0.25m topsoil over 0.55m of yellowish brown silty subsoil mixed with sand and gravel. This lay over the sand and gravel.

The land falls away to the west here and there is a slight indentation in the field in this area. This appears fairly localised and was not observed in the other trenches in the area.

The sand and gravel observed at the base of the trench is most likely quarry infill, at least in part.

At the north-western end of the trench there was a pit [2], possibly cut into quarry fill. This was partially obscured by the baulk but the visible section was 0.80m long and 0.50m wide. It was irregular in plan with shallow sides and a flat base at 0.18m depth (Figure 14a).

The fill (3) consisted of burnt clay at the top of the pit, with pottery in the matrix. Below this was a mottled reddish brown and orange brown sandy-silt and stones.

Trench 16

Length: 50m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Topsoil: Weak greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Subsoil: Weak dark greyish brown sandy-silt with frequent various shaped stones

Natural Substratum: Orange brown silty-sand and gravel becoming patchy at the north-west end

Interval	SE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m NW
Topsoil	0.30m	0.30m	0.33m	0.27m	0.24m	0.30m
Depth						
Subsoil	0.10m	0.23m	0.26m	0.24m	0.14m	0.10m
Depth						
Top of	0.40m	0.53m	0.59m	0.51m	0.38m	0.40m
Natural						
Base of	0.42m	0.60m	0.62m	0.54m	0.40m	0.40m
Trench						

This trench contained field drains running north to south plus a possible linear feature, which proved not to be so on closer inspection.

Trench 17

Length: 30m Width: 2m

Orientation: North-east – south-west

Topsoil: Friable yellowish brown/grey silty-clay with occasional rounded stones

Subsoil: Firm mid orange brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Mixture of sandy and silty yellowish brown clay

Interval	SW 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.27m	0.24m	0.24m	0.25m	0.23m	0.26m	0.26m

Subsoil	0.14m	0.15m	0.09m	0.20m	0.15m	0.14m	0.14m
Depth							
Top of	0.41m	0.39m	0.35m	0.45m	0.38m	0.40m	0.40m
Natural							
Base of	0.42m	0.40m	0.36m	0.46m	0.39m	0.45m	0.45m
Trench							

No archaeological features were observed in this trench

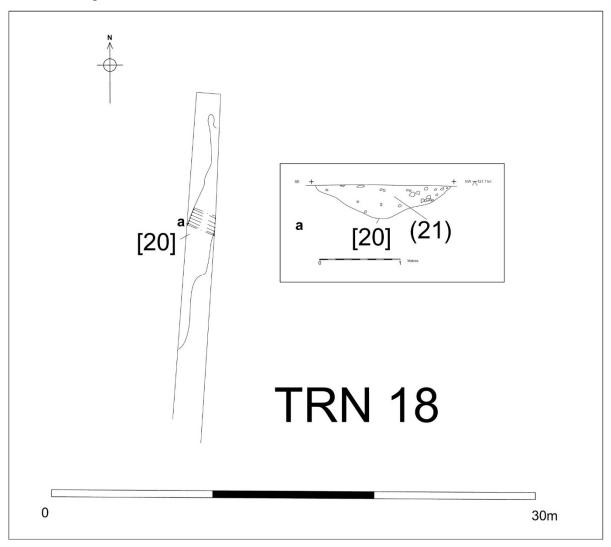


Figure 15: Plan and sections of Trench 18



Figure 16: North-east facing section of feature [20], looking south-west

Trench 18 Length: 30m Width: 2m

Orientation: North- south

Topsoil: Friable dark greyish brown silty-clay with occasional rounded stones

Subsoil: Firm mid orange brown silty-clay with occasional rounded pebbles

Natural Substratum: Mixture of sandy and silty orange brown clay and sand and gravel

Interval	S 0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m N
Topsoil	0.22m	0.18m	0.24m	0.25m	0.23m	0.20m	0.23m
Depth							
Subsoil	0.10m	0.12m	0.10m	0.18m	0.24m	0.23m	0.23m
Depth							
Top of	0.32m	0.30m	0.34m	0.41m	0.47m	0.43m	0.46m
Natural							

Base of	0.33m	0.31m	0.35m	0.42m	0.50m	0.45m	0.48m
Trench							

The trench contained a large linear ditch [20] running north north-east to south south-west across the trench at the northern end (Figures 15 & 16). It ran for 14.2m and was obscured by the baulk for most of its length, although it may have ended close to the northern end of the trench, where it appeared to turn north-west and butt-end. It was 1.6m wide and 0.40m deep. It was V-shaped in profile with shallow sides and a concave base (Figure 15a).

The fill (21) was a mottled orange grey and reddish orange sandy clay with rare to occasional rounded, sub rounded and angular stones. The fill also contained Roman pottery.

Roman pottery and kiln furniture

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of 91 sherds of pottery weighing nearly 5kg was recovered from five contexts in Trench 2, predominantly from context (1). Approximately 75% of the material by weight is considered to be kiln product. Alongside these a total of nearly 12kg of kiln furniture was recovered, comprising preformed kiln bars and flat circular plates, again mainly from (1). The material was classified using the Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count, weight and EVEs. The full record by context is presented below (Table 1).

Results

Table 1 Quantified record of kiln product and other pottery from Newbold Verdon

Cadeby Quarry Brascote Lane Newbold Verdon XA42.2017									
Cont	fabric	form	type	part	rim	sherd s	weight	EVE s	Dia m
1	SG sam	beaker	Dr67	body		1	6		
1	GW5	jar	shortneck	rim	everted	4	91	0.27	120
1	GW5	jar	necked	rim	bead	5	210	0.25	260
1	GW5	jar	necked	rim	bead	1	25	0.06	120
1	GW5	jar	neckless	rim	bead	1	15	0.1	120
1	GW5	jar	neckless	rim	everted	1	12	0.21	80
1	GW5	bowl	carinated	body		1	20		
1	GW5	jar	misc	body		1	9		
1	GW5	jar	misc	base		1	120		
1	GW5	jar	misc	base		1	25		
1	GW5	jar	misc	base		1	60		

1	GW5	jar	misc	base		1	125		
1	GW5	jar	misc	base		1	20		
1	GW5	jar	misc	body		22	815		
1	SW3	jar	storage	rim	bead	5	1680	0.3	400
9	GW5	jar	shouldere d	rim	everted	4	50	0.42	120
11	SW3	jar	misc	body		1	14		
13	GW5	jar	necked	rim	bead	22	475	0.65	200
13	MO7	mortar	flanged	rim	bead	11	1110	0.6	270
21	GW5	jar	misc	body		6	46		
Total						91	4928	2.86	

Analysis by form and fabric

Apart from two vessels, the south Gaulish samian beaker from (1) and the mortarium from (13), all the pottery is considered to be waste product from the kiln from which it has been disturbed. The kiln appears to have produced a range of small and medium-sized jars, including a carinated form (rims of 80-200mm in diameter) in a fine sandy grey ware fabric (GW5) of which there are up to 16 examples, alongside large storage jars in a coarser, 'transitional' sandy ware fabric (SW3), of which there is at least one example preserved. The grey ware jars are all slightly under-fired with a powdery surface with one example having a crazed surface, indicating over-firing. The storage jar is also has crazed surfaces suggesting over-firing. The forms of the jars, necked

with beaded rims, and shouldered forms with everted or slightly lid-seated rims are broadly consistent with production in the later decades of the first century AD and possibly into the early second, being paralleled by contemporary deposits in Leicester (Pollard 1994, figs.52.41-46 and 58.147) as well as being similar to the products from the nearby kiln at Earl Shilton (Clarke 1952, 43-46, fig.21). This dating is also consistent with the two vessels which fortuitously found their way into the deposit from normal domestic refuse and which are particularly well-dated. The first is a body sherd from a south Gaulish decorated samian beaker of Dragendorff Form 67, from (1) dating between AD70 and 100, an unusual enough occurrence in Leicester itself, let alone in the surrounding countryside. The second vessel is Verulamium region mortarium (Fabric MO7) from (13) with a down-curved flange and a bead below the height of the flange, which is partially stamped twice with the letters (_) RNVS possibly a partial stamp of the potter Marinus dating between approximately AD60-100.

Kiln Furniture

A total of nearly 12kg of pre-formed kiln furniture was recovered, comprising kiln bar fragments and flat clay plates, and a small amount of clay kiln lining. All were manufactured with presumably local clay mixed with chaff, which burnt out during the firing of the kiln leaving distinctive voids on the surfaces and within the body of the different elements.

Kiln bars

A total of 23 fragments of kiln bar weighing nearly 7kg were recovered from (1). The description and quantified record of the kiln bars is presented below (table 2).

Table 2 Roman kiln bars from Newbold Verdon.

Cadeby Quarry Brascote Lane Newbold Verdon XA42.2017							
Context	Frags	Weight	Description				
1	2	735	complete tapered radial kiln bar L330mm, W35mm, H42mm				
1	1	315	end of tapered radial kiln bar W35mm, H44mm				
1	1	240	end of tapered radial kiln bar W36mm, H37mm				
1	1	695	Incomp curving bar tapered square end. incomL290mm, W36mm, H44mm				
1	2	660	Incomp curving bar tapered square end. incomL225mm, W38mm, H39mm				
1	3	495	Incomp curving bar tapered square end. incomL205mm, W38mm, H40mm				
1	2	380	Incomp curving bar tapered square end. incomL167mm, W36mm, H38mm				
1	2	590	Incomp curving bar tapered rectangular end. incomL215mm, W30mm, H52mm				
1	2	635	Incomp straight bar tapered rectangular end. incomL205mm, W35mm, H51mm				
1	2	480	Incomp straight bar tapered rectangular end. incomL210mm, W37mm, H43mm				
1	1	190	Incomp straight bar tapered rectangular end. incomL90mm, W28mm, H47mm				
1	1	375	curved bar fragment rectangular section W42mm, H48mm				
1	1	450	curved bar fragment rectangular section W42mm, H53mm				
1	1	380	tapering bar end rectangular section W36mm, H57mm				
1	1	360	tapering bar end rectangular section W36mm, H57mm				
Total	23	6980					

Two types of kiln bar have been recognised. The first type is the straight 'cigar-shaped' radial kiln bar of square section and tapered at both ends with a rounded terminal. There is one complete example of length 330mm and two other ends and the widths of all three are all around 35mm and the heights between 37mm and 44mm. These bars radiated from a central pedestal to the edge of the kiln chamber to provide a floor upon with the pottery vessels could be stacked above the fire. The bar length therefore suggests a radius for the kiln, and allowing for the central pedestal, the diameter of the chamber is likely to have been around 700mm, which is consistent with other kilns of this type locally at Earl Shilton (Clarke 1952, 43-46, fig.23 and fig.24 for reconstruction) at regionally at Elstow, Bedfordshire (Swan 1984, 62,

pl.20) and Weston Favell in Northamptonshire (Corder 1957, Fig 9). The second type of bar is of square or rectangular section and tapers slightly to a squared off terminal and has a slight curve along its length. No complete examples are present, and the longest fragment is 290mm. The widths are similar to the radial bars but the heights are generally taller, up to 53mm. The curve suggests that they provided support around the circumference of the kiln chamber for the radial bars, and are again paralleled at the nearby contemporary kiln at Earl Shilton (Clarke 1952, 43-46, fig.23). A variant of this second type of bar, of which there are two tapered end fragments, are more rectangular in section, with heights of 57mm and widths similar to the other two types. The ends are tapered with a slight curve at the end, where they may have butted against the wall of the chamber, where it met the flue.

Kiln Plates and lining

A total of 76 fragments of kiln plate and lining weighing nearly 5kg were recovered predominantly from (1) with additional fragments from (3), (11) and (21). The description and quantified record of the kiln plates and lining is presented below (table 3)

Table 3 Quantified record of preformed clay plates and kiln lining.

Cadeby Quarry Brascote Lane Newbold Verdon XA42.2017						
Context	Frags	Weight	Weight Description			
1	9	590	kiln wall lining fragments finger smoothed surface			
1	25	660	misc flat plate fragments			
1	2	250	half of round plate diam 220mm			
1	1	175	quarter of rond plate diameter 160mm			
1	3	230	joining frags rounded edges			
1	2	160	joining frags rounded edges			
1	2	140	joining frags rounded edges			
1	1	190	part of large convex plate 360mm diameter			
1	1	80	part of plate 240mm diameter			
1	1	30	part of plate 240mm diameter			
1	15	1040	flat plate fragments			
1	5	870	flat plate fragments			
3	5	155	flat plate fragments			
11	2	5	flat plate fragments			
21	2	325	misc fired clay frags			
Total	76	4900				

The plates are formed from thin discs or sub-rounded fragments of clay between 5mm and 15mm thick, which taper towards the edges. The discs are shaped with the hands, with finger smoothing impressions (and occasionally twigs) confined to the upper (convex) surface, whilst the lower surface is untreated and covered with chaff impressions, perhaps as it lay on the straw

to dry. Some, like the large plate of 360mm in diameter, appear to be convex, and were specifically intended to form part of the temporary kiln roof during firing. Others have smaller diameter of 160-240mm and may have been used as platforms or spacers between vessels in the kiln chamber perhaps.

Discussion and potential

The assemblage is significant in understanding the early production of Roman pottery in the county, as it is one of the few instances where kiln furniture and pottery products have been found in association. The production belongs to the early Roman industry based around Leicester Forest which started in the later decades of the 1st century and continued through the 2nd and possibly later (Pollard 2005, 149-54, fig.3). Similarities to the kiln assemblage at Earl Shilton are particularly striking. The current group has clearly been disturbed from a nearby kiln structure and only stripping of the area will reveal the evidence and allow clear comparison.

The plant remains

Rachel Small

Introduction

During the evaluation three bulk samples were taken. Sample 1 was a fill (1) from a possible Romano – British kiln feature, sample 2 was from waterlogged peaty material from the base of trench 11 and sample 3 was a fill (21) from a ditch [20]. Samples 1 and 3 date to the early Roman period. The results of the analysis of the plant remains recovered from these samples are presented, together with a discussion of what this can tell us about the diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

Samples 1 and 3, were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry before being sorted in their entirety for plant remains and other artefacts under a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted in their entirety, whilst the residues under 4mm were only scanned for remains.

Sample 2, which was waterlogged, was bucket floated: a small amount of soil was put into bucket, a stream of water applied and then the bucket swirled. The water was then drained off into a 0.3mm sieve to catch the floating organic material and the process continued until nothing more was carried off. The flot and residue was kept wet and scanned under an x10-40 stereo microscope for plant remains and other finds. None of the waterlogged material was retained.

Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991). All fragments were recorded semi-quantitatively using the following scale: rare (0 to 10 items), common (10 to 50 items), and abundant (50+ items).

Results

Sample 1 (1)

Charred grains were present but in low quantities (under 10 items). These were damaged (broken and abraded) and this meant they could not be identified to species. A small number of charred wild seeds (under 10 specimens) was also present and included cleavers (*Galium*

aparine L.) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.). Uncharred (modern) rootlets and seeds were present in small quantities, suggesting disturbance to the context but this was minimal.

Sample 2

Waterlogged rootlets, probable blades of grass, and wood fragments were abundant in the sample (over 50 items). No grains, chaff or wild seeds were seen. Occasional fragments of charcoal (10 to 50 items) were noted.

Sample 3 (21)[20]

No charred plant remains were present in this sample, charcoal fragments were present but in a small quantity (0 to 10 items).

Discussion

Charred plant remains were sparsely represented on the site, and those which were present in sample one (grains and wild seeds) were very poorly preserved, being broken and abraded. These likely represent waste from domestic activity (processing and consuming cereal grains). Overall, it can be concluded that potential for the survival of charred plant remains on site can be considered low.

Conclusion

A number of archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. These included a number of Romano-British features within Field 4, including evidence for a pottery kiln (1), alongside enclosure ditches and gullies (Features [8], [10], [12] etc).

The kiln was not fully excavated at this stage but a large number of kiln bars, fired and partially fired pottery were retrieved from the feature by partial excavation. The kiln appears to have produced a range of small and medium-sized jars, including a carinated form (rims of 80-200mm in diameter) in a fine sandy grey ware fabric of which there are up to 16 examples, alongside large storage jars in a coarser, 'transitional' sandy ware fabric, of which there is at least one example preserved.

The forms of the jars are broadly consistent with production in the later decades of the first century AD and possibly into the early second, being paralleled by contemporary deposits in Leicester (Pollard 1994) as well as being similar to the products from the nearby kiln at Earl Shilton (Clarke 1952).

This dating is also consistent with the two vessels that were found within features but were from normal domestic refuse. The first is a body sherd from (1), which is a fragment of a south Gaulish decorated samian beaker dating between AD70 and 100, which is a very unusual find in rural Leicestershire. The second vessel is a Verulamium region mortarium from feature [12]. This is partially stamped twice with the letters (_) RNVS, which is possibly a partial stamp of the potter Marinus dating between approximately AD60-100.

There were no features within the trenches in Field 5, except in Trench 18, where there was a substantial ditch [20] running broadly north to south, also containing Grey Ware pottery. This feature may represent the eastern edge of the archaeological remains.

The probable northern arm of the prehistoric ring ditch revealed during the geophysical survey was revealed in Trench 03 as feature [16], also within Field 4, although no dating evidence was recovered.

Evidence of quarrying of unknown date was also discovered at the edge of Field 4 in Trench 15.

The hollow area in Field 6 was revealed to be a waterlogged depression, which is most likely a natural watercourse or spring. There were also two linear features in Trench 10 in Field 10, which were undated but may be medieval due to their proximity to the deserted medieval village to the east. Although waterlogged environmental sampling indicated low potential for remain.

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The project was managed by Patrick Clay and the work was carried out by Leon Hunt

Archive

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A42.2017 and consists of the following:

1 Unbound copy of this report

18 Trench recording sheets

1 Context Record sheet

20 Context sheets

2 Photo Record sheets

- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs
- 1 Drawing record sheet
- 4 A3 sheets of permatrace with primary drawings

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05-06-2017

Appendix: OASIS data entry

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access* to the *Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

	Oasis No	universi1- 286468	
	Project Name	An archaeological field evaluation at Cadeby Quarry	
		Extension (Phases 2a & 2b), Brascote, Newbold Verdon,	
		Leicestershire (SK 442 028)	
	Start/end dates of	11-04-2017 to 04-05-2017	
	field work		
	Previous/Future	Yes/ Yes	
	Work		
	Project Type	Evaluation	
PROJECT	Site Status	None	
DETAILS	Current Land Use	Pasture/ arable fileds	
	Monument	Prehistoric-Roman	
	Type/Period		
	Significant	Pottery Roman	
	Finds/Period	Kiln Furniture Roman	
	Reason for	NPPF	
	Investigation		
	Position in the	Planning condition	
	Planning Process		
	Planning Ref.	-	
PROJECT	Site	Manor Farm, Brascote Lane, Newbold Verdon	
LOCATION	Address/Postcode		
LOCATION	Study Area	9.4 ha	

	Site Coordinates	SK 442 028					
	Height OD	120-130 aOD					
	Organisation	ULAS					
	Ü		Andharita (LCC)				
	Project Brief	Local Planning Authority (LCC)					
	Originator	TH AC					
DDOJECT	Project Design	ULAS					
PROJECT	Originator	Detaile Class					
CREATORS	Project Manager	Patrick Clay					
	Project	Leon Hunt					
	Director/Supervisor						
	Sponsor/Funding	Tarmac Trading Ltd					
	Body	DI 1 1	D: 1/ 1	I D			
	D 11 4	Physical	Digital	Paper			
	Recipient	LCC Museum	LCC Museum	LCC Museum			
		service	service	service			
DD 0 77 077	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A42.2017	X.A42.2017	X.A42.2017			
PROJECT	Contents	Pottery	Digital	Report			
ARCHIVE		Kiln Furniture	Photographs	Trench Sheets			
				Context Sheets			
				Photo Record			
				Drawing Record			
	_			Drawings			
	Type	Grey Literature (
	Title	An archaeological field evaluation at Cadeby Quarry					
		Extension (Phases 2a & 2b), Brascote, Newbold Verdon,					
		Leicestershire (SK 442 028)					
PROJECT	Author	Hunt, L					
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Other bibliographic	ULAS Report No 2017-080					
DIDLIO GIVIN III	details						
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