

# A report on Roman pottery from archaeological monitoring at Steep Hill, Lincoln (SHLM11)

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The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery* (Darling 2004) using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit- CLAU (see Darling and Precious *forthcoming*) augmented by fabrics established by Rowlandson (2011). Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Orton (1975, 31). The pottery has been bagged by fabric and the samian has been bagged separately for ease of future reference. The archive record (below) is an integral part of this report and will be curated in an Access database, available from the author in a digital format. The author was assisted by Alice Beasley in the recording of this group of pottery and would like to thank M.J. Darling for her thoughts on the Green Glazed sherd.

## THE POTTERY

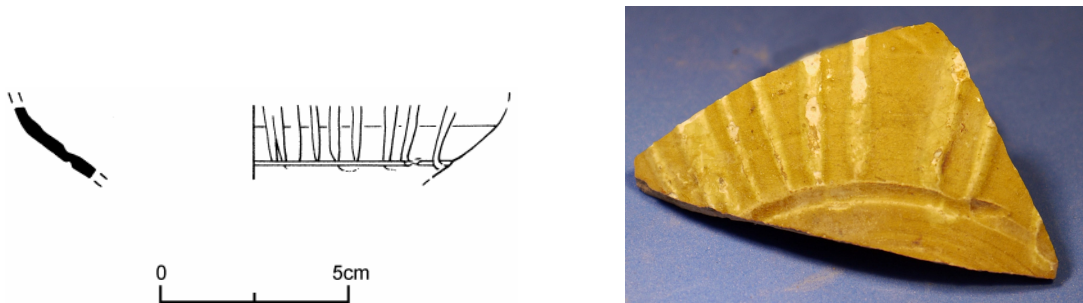
Twenty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were presented for study weighing a total of 254g (RE total 0.43). The group was mostly fresh and contained a range of Neronian to later 2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery. Only one sherd from context 113 might date to the later Roman period.

| Dating summary |           |  |       |        |            |
|----------------|-----------|--|-------|--------|------------|
| Context        | Spot date | Comments   | Sherd | Weight | Total RE % |
| 104/108        | NERO/L2*  | A small group including an unusual green glazed Roman sherd from pre Flavian samian and second century wares         | 20    | 172    | 24         |
| 105            | EM2       | A small group including first century sherds from a cream ring necked flagon and a sherd of the legionary LEG fabric | 3     | 24     | 19         |
| 113            | L2-4      | A single sherd from a Nene Valley colour coated beaker   | 1     | 9      | 0          |
| 115            | ROM?      | A small group  | 3     | 49     | 0          |

The main group of note is 104/108 which contains fresh pottery dating to the Neronian period and the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century suggests the possibility of disturbed context (see discussion below). Present in the group is a large fragment of a South Gaulish samian cup form Ritterling 9 and a sherd of Central Gaulish Green Glaze (CGGW). This sherd, illustrated below, can be paralleled to Greene form 13 or perhaps the more open 'cup like' form- Vitudurum 13; it is difficult to be sure if this sherd is from a cup or a beaker (Brulet et al. 2010, p290; Greene 1979, Fig 42. 13). The fabric of this vessel conforms to the second Central Gaulish Glazed

fabric variant typically used for cups and beakers and the decoration has been applied as barbotine trails with a fine white clay. (Brulet et al. 2010, p 294 fabric GL-CG2; Greene 1979 p 90 fabric b). This scheme of vertical moulding along with the green glaze would have given a similar effect to contemporary 'pillar moulded' glass bowls. This sherd is probably only the fifth sherd in this fabric from excavations in the City of Lincoln (Darling and Precious *forthcoming*) The later second century pottery from this group includes local greywares and a sherd from a Rhineland mortarium.

Also present amongst the assemblage are a ring necked flagon and sherds in the legionary LEG fabric (context 105).



*The Central Gaulish Glazed Ware sherd (Illustration 1:2 by Charlotte Bentley, photograph by Alice Beasley)*

## CONCLUSIONS

The pottery presented for study is a only small group of Roman pottery but contains fragments of unusual early vessels. The deposits encountered in the Steep Hill area are often heavily reworked as is clear from previous assemblages. This is largely due to the reworking of the terracing structure both in north-south and east-west axis as was found during the 4-7 Steep Hill 1974-5 excavation (Vince and Jones 1990, site code SH74). The result of this disturbance is that fresh early Roman pottery is often found in later Roman or post-Roman deposits (eg. Precious with Rowlandson 2009). However the sherds dating to the Neronian period further support the assertion that the traders' 'booths' or wineshops (*canabae*) were located in this area (Jones 2003). The presence of these Neronian drinking vessels and flagons in this assemblage would fit with the general pottery that might be expected in such wine shops where drinking would be expected but expensive glassware might not have been as commonly used as its ceramic equivalents.

The pottery should be deposited with the relevant museum.

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| SHLM11 Roman pottery archive |        |       |            |         |                              |         |   |       |        |          |         |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---|-------|--------|----------|---------|
| Context                      | Fabric | Form  | Decoration | Vessels | Alt                          | Drawing | Comments  | Sherd | Weight | Rim diam | Rim eve |
| 104/108                      | SAMSG  | RT9   |            | 1       |                              |         | RIM   | 1     | 15     | 12       | 12      |
| 104/108                      | SAMCG  | 18/31 |            | 1       |                              |         | RIM; ?DIAMETER  | 1     | 5      | 17       | 1       |
| 104/108                      | CGGW   | BK    | BAVS       | 1       |                              | D01     | BS; AS GREENE 13 OR ?VITUDURUM 13   | 1     | 4      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | MORH   | M     |            | 1       | WORN INT                     |         | BS; 2ND CENTURY LIGHT/WHITE FABRIC  | 1     | 28     | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | BBT    | BFL   | BIA        | 1       |                              |         | RIM   | 1     | 20     | 17       | 7       |
| 104/108                      | BBT    | BFL   | BIA        | 1       |                              |         | RIM   | 1     | 13     | 20       | 4       |
| 104/108                      | IASH   | CLSD  |            | 1       |                              |         | BASE  | 1     | 6      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | J     | BDL        | 1       |                              |         | BS; LGRL2= AS ROWLANDSON 2011 LGRL FABRIC BUT WITH SMALLER OPAQUE QUARTZ-LINCOLN MONKS ROAD FABRIC AS OTHER EARLY SAXON FABRICS PRODUCED IN AREA-SEE FORTHCOMING ROWLANDSON REPORT ON LICO11 (MONKS ROAD) | 3     | 13     | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | CLSD  |            | 1       |                              |         | BS  | 1     | 8      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | OPEN  |            | 1       |                              |         | BS  | 1     | 8      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | CLSD  |            | 1       |                              |         | BS  | 1     | 12     | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | BD    |            | 1       |                              |         | BS  | 1     | 7      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | CLSD  |            | 1       | CARBON DEP EXT; CALC DEP INT |         | BS  | 1     | 3      | 0        | 0       |

| SHLM11 Roman pottery archive |        |      |            |         |                    |         |                |       |        |          |         |
|------------------------------|--------|------|------------|---------|--------------------|---------|----------------|-------|--------|----------|---------|
| Context                      | Fabric | Form | Decoration | Vessels | Alt                | Drawing | Comments       | Sherd | Weight | Rim diam | Rim eve |
| 104/108                      | LGRL2  | CLSD | LA         | 1       |                    |         | BS             | 1     | 2      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | BBT    | CLSD |            | 1       | SOOT EXT; CALC INT |         | BS             | 1     | 9      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | BBT    | CLSD | LA         | 1       | CALC DEP INT       |         | BS             | 1     | 7      | 0        | 0       |
| 104/108                      | DSSA   | CLSD |            | 2       |                    |         | BS             | 2     | 12     | 0        | 0       |
| 105                          | CR     | FR   |            | 1       | ABR                |         | RIM; MICA EFAB | 1     | 4      | 6        | 15      |
| 105                          | LEG    | CLSD |            | 1       | VAB                |         | BASE           | 1     | 6      | 0        | 0       |
| 105                          | BBT    | BFL  |            | 1       |                    |         | RIM            | 1     | 14     | 20       | 4       |
| 113                          | CC     | BK   | ROU        | 1       |                    |         | BS             | 1     | 9      | 0        | 0       |
| 115                          | GREY   | JBL  |            | 1       | CALC DEP INT       |         | BS             | 1     | 25     | 0        | 0       |
| 115                          | GREY   | BL   | SHG        | 2       |                    |         | BS             | 2     | 24     | 0        | 0       |