Contents of loans box (in detail)

fragments are in their own box. Fragments of Roman pottery found at Middlewich (separate details provided). The

REPLICA ITEMS

Toilet set

personal hygiene: an ear-scoop, nail cleaner and tweezers A pocket toilet set which would have been made of bronze. It contains items used for

Strigil

It was used for scraping oil, sweat and grime from the skin. kit which also contained an oil flask. It might have been part of a

Hairpin

Hairpins were often necessary for the elaborate hairstyles worn by Roman women Frequently they were made of bone

Torc

elaborately coiled. They were booty that was highly prized by the Roman captors. The torc was jewellery worn by the Celtic warriors and was sometimes made of gold. Many torcs were

Wax tablet

using a stylus scraped smooth and formed a reusable writing surface. Beeswax was melted and poured into the shallow cavity of a wooden tablet. It was Letters were scratched into it

Wooden writing tablet

were made of reed or metal. Fine wooden tablets were used for writing on in ink made from soot. The split nib pens

Metal stylus

and was used for smoothing the wax to erase the writing. pointed end would be used for writing on wax tablets. The blunt end was a spatula

Wooden stylus

and was used for smoothing the wax to erase the writing The pointed end would be used for writing on wax tablets. The blunt end was a spatula

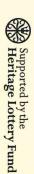
Scraper for wax tablet

This was used to create a smooth writing surface when the wax was poured in

Folding frying pan

premium i.e. a soldier on the move The folding handle suggests that this was used by someone for whom space was at a





Contents of loans box (in detail)

Silver denarii (19 assorted)

copies of silver denarii that were minted for the following emperors: Soldiers would carry coins in a leather or bronze money purse on their wrist. There are

Domitian

- reverse shows Minerva holding a javelin
- reverse shows Minerva holding a spear
- reverse shows Domitian as Augustus

Irajan

- reverse shows Genius with an altar at his feet
- reverse shows Mars

Hadrian

reverse shows Concordia seated

Septimius Severus

- reverse shows Fortuna
- reverse shows Severus
- reverse shows the emperor performing a sacrifice

Dice

made of glass or bone A popular portable game used with board games such as tabula. Often the dice were

Fibula

the remains of a silver one and would have been worn by someone of high status A brooch used to fix cloaks. This design is based on a crossbow. It is a reproduction of

Penannular brooch

A common type of brooch worn to fix cloaks.

Bird ring

Rings were commonly worn by men or women. This is the reproduction of a find.

Razor handle

emperor Hadrian changed that when he grew a beard decorative motif for the Romans. Being clean-shaven was fashionable although the missing, would have been attached at the dolphin's nose. This is the reproduction of a find. It was the handle of a razor. The dolphin is a common The razor, which is

Slide key

deter burglars. This is a reproduction of a find. It was a bronze key used in a tumbler lock used in a door. The Romans had quite intricate lock mechanisms for use on doors and strong-boxes to



Contents of loans box (in detail)

Amphora

also used for storage in a Roman kitchen. This is a replica of one for dried fruit but most stacked easily for transporting foodstuffs, liquids etc on long sea voyages. Storage vessels made of clay with two handles. amphorae were very much larger. They were made so they could be

Mortarium

are common finds on Roman sites. pestle. These must have broken quite frequently from constant use, as broken mortaria mortaria had grit incorporated into the lining so that food could be ground down with a Bowl for grinding foods to make liquids or solids. They came in a variety of sizes. The

Money pot

broken to get to the coins. Money was sometimes saved and hidden (buried) in times of crisis. The pot had to be

Samian ware (either a shallow bowl or a cup)

issued to the army and also used by civilians. Some of it was highly decorated imported from Gaul and was made so it could be stacked for transport. Samian ware was Glossy red pottery which was very fashionable. It was used for tableware.

Baby Feeder

This would have contained liquid and was used as a feeding bottle

Black beaker

Note the lack of handles A large drinking vessel similar to those made in the Nene Valley. It had a black slip

Small beaker

A drinking vessel

Book: Ancient Rome

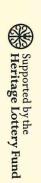
found in Britain. The text and the photographs are of outstanding quality. Many of the Although this book deals with Rome itself many of the artefacts in the photographs were replica items in the box are based on items similar to those originals shown in the book.

Also available for loan:

Caligae (replica)

and well ventilated. The iron hobnails were designed to take weight and also to stand up Ermine Street Guard, a re-enactment group.) to many miles of marching. (These caligae were formerly worn by a member of the These military sandals were very useful for fast marching (vital in war). They were strong





Fragments of Roman Pottery (Box A)

guess. It is possible that much of the coarse-ware was made locally and much dates to certain about some of the pieces but with others it was a case of making an educated about the 2nd century. The origin of these pottery sherds was evaluated by an archaeologist who could be fairly

1. Part of a mortarium

have had a white slip. The red particles may have been haematite, which contains iron. This is very uneven and shows signs of having been very poorly fired and made. It may

2. Part of a mortarium

different on the same pot. the amount of oxygen present in the firing conditions so the outside and inside might be This shows the remains of slip in the dark coloration. The finished colour depended 9 n

3. Fine black burnished ware

beginning of a pattern above an incised band. This is quite fine quality and might be used as something like "best" china. Note the

4. A piece of mortarium

5. Section of a small Cheshire sandy-ware jar

This has been poorly fired. The pottery was very porous and absorbed stains and odours

6. Part of a mortarium

Possibly this is part of the same mortarium as fragment 2

7. Greyware

Note the incised decoration is vertical. something hard like a shell. The decoration may have been made with

8. Part of a mortarium

The grit may have been calcite and haematite (the red specks).

9. Possibly part of the handle of the lid of a skillet (a guess) It was covered in dark red slip originally.

10. Base of a small grey-ware jar

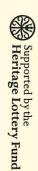
This has been quite finely made

11. Part of the rim of a mortarium

12. Rim of a pot. Greyware

This has been quite well fired and is fine. There S an incised decoration





Fragments of Roman Pottery (Box B)

educated guess. It is possible that much of the coarse-ware was made locally and much be fairly certain about some of the pieces but with some it was a case of making an dates to about the 2nd century. The origin of these pottery sherds was evaluated by an archaeologist. It was possible to

1. Part of a mortarium

The different colours may relate to an accident of firing. The grit is often pieces of flint. Slip may have been used for

2. Part of a black burnished-ware jar.

domestic use, possibly for storage There is an applied pattern of diagonal lines. The jar would have probably been for

3. Part of a mortarium

unfortunately it has not been possible to make out what it says There are the remains of a stamp across the rim. This would be the stamp of the maker: There is evidence of some sort of fracture and possibly a layer with grits applied on top.

4. Part of a grey-ware pot

It is probable that the sooty deposit is a sign that this was used for cooking

5. Possibly part of a lug (a kind of handle)

pinched on, and then smoothed This has been very coarsely made. There are finger marks where the lug has been

6. Part of a mortarium

The rim has been applied to the inside. The pot has been self-slipped.

7. Spout of a mortarium

8. Part of the neck of a flagon

This would probably have held wine.

9. Part of a small mortarium

10. Fragment of small grey-ware jar

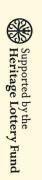
might have been used as tableware The surface has been "rusticated" which is a decoration made by dabbing wet clay.

11. Rim of a sandy-ware jar

that there are signs of residue suggesting it might have been used for cooking. This type of rim is known as a bead rim. would have been made locally. There is an incised decoration. It is possible



11



Fragments of Roman Pottery (Box B)

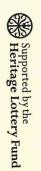
12. Fragment of grey-ware

This has a black burnished design in a lattice pattern.

13. Part of a mortarium

applied all over and later worn off. The discoloration may be original and due to firing conditions. Slip may have been





Roman Pottery

examples of the Romans themselves attempting to mend broken Samian expensive Samian ware which was imported from Gaul. There are Generally pottery was cheap and readily available. An exception was the often not worthwhile mending them and the pieces were thrown away. lot of pottery is found on Roman sites because when vessels broke it was Pottery was used for a variety of purposes including cooking and storage.

Archaeologists are able to use pottery

- to build up a picture of life at a site.
- contents if they were containers). to see what trade patterns existed (both in the origin of the pots and the
- to discover how the pottery was made and decorated
- to help date a site through style, origin and the way it was manufactured.

transported by river across Europe and arrived in Britain via the English Originally Roman pottery was imported. It was made mainly in South, Central and Eastern Gaul (parts of France and Germany today). It was

Britain e.g. at Aldgate, Yorkshire, Colchester, Hampshire, Caerlon in South Wales, and the legionary kilns of Holt near As time went on, during the 2nd century AD, major potteries were set up in Essex, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire,

rings of parallel lines made by the potters' fingers as the pot spun. Marks on the base made by the wire which was used to cut the pot from the pottery was made on a potter's wheel. The evidence for this may be produced for export in Wilderspool in the 2nd century. Nearly all of this was to be used for everyday storage and cooking. There was pottery being Pottery was also made by local potteries in Britain, especially pottery that

glazed and decorated, and was for use at table cooking and storage and also for use at table. Fine-ware is thinner, often ware or fine-ware. Coarse-ware was for everyday use, particularly for Pottery is generally described by archaeologists as being either coarse-





Roman Pottery

Types of pottery commonly found in Britain

- types might be used at table Grey ware (Black Burnished Ware): often used for cooking though finer
- Samian ware: copper-coloured and highly glazed. Often highly decorated. Imported from Gaul. Used for tableware
- Red Sandy ware. Locally made in Cheshire. be disposed of readily and replaced. Very absorbent so tended to
- Nene Valley ware: made in eastern Britain. ornate. Typically it had a dark slip. Some of this was quite

Some common pots:

Amphora (plural amphorae)

wine from southern France. They were also used for storage in the kitchen hold of a ship. for dried foods and liquids. The shape enabled them to be stacked in the from the central Mediterranean islands; olive-oil from southern Spain; sweet range of liquids and solids. They might contain dried fruits, capers and alum These were large containers made of pottery that were used to transport a

Mortarium (plural mortaria)

spout for pouring and a heavy rim that was easy to hold used for mixing and grinding food in (i.e. a pestle and mortar), They had a Mortaria were pottery vessels which were lined with grit inside and were

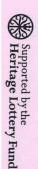
Other uses for pottery:

- briquetage baked clay used to make pans for use in saltworking
- chimney-pot one was found in Middlewich.
- oil lamps these were used to light rooms and corridors and were usually finds will show a wide variety of decoration on lamps placed on metal sconces set into a wall. A look at photographs of Roman
- spindle whorl used as a weight for spinning wool.

www.romansinsussex.co.uk. Type in the word "pot" and many examples will be found, with useful descriptive text. A source of information at many different levels is

form of currency. Roman coins were distributed throughout the empire and were the common This made trade easier.





Curriculum links for Key Stage Two

Why have people invaded and settled in Britain in the past? A Roman Study. The Romans in Britain and particularly Unit 6A (QCA Schemes of work)

Science

- Work undertaken in Science on the composition of different soils and rocks may be useful to the children when tackling some of the archaeological issues
- Showing the effect of evaporation may help children understand the way salt was produced in Roman Middlewich.
- The important tool of an archaeologist of geo-physical surveying (and there is a photograph of such a survey of Harbutt's Field in the guidebook) which can be explained in a science lesson.

English and Literacy

- Brochure/flyer for Roman footwear
- Write the text of a personal diploma (and construct a replica).
- Vocabulary enrichment: learning specialist vocabulary and use of a glossary.
- Cloze activity on the stages of settlement
- Interview an archaeologist
- Drama: the dramatic techniques of freeze-frame and hot-seating

Maths and Numeracy

Many aspects are suggested on a separate sheet

Geography

A study of Roman Middlewich will enable pupils to

- Ask geographical questions about the site of Middlewich
- Use the aerial reconstructive drawings as the basis for a series of sketch-maps.
- Recognise how Middlewich became what it is
- Relate the study of Middlewich to other Roman sites

Art and Design

In their study of Roman pottery and other crafts pupils will be taught about:

Visual and tactile elements such as colour, pattern and texture

- The materials and process used
- The roles of different craftspeople in Roman times

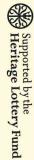




Teaching points for history at Key Stage Two

- The Middlewich area was important before Romans came because it was where there natural fording place of the River Mersey at Warrington. Crossing points on rivers was a crossing point on the River Croco. It was also on the track-way to the lowest were of greater importance in the past than they perhaps are today. Middlewich was on the route between many Celtic tribes.
- The Cornovians (and other Celtic tribes) showed a degree of sophistication in terms of their craftsmanship as pre-Roman finds in Middlewich demonstrate
- The Cornovians were not part of earlier Celtic client states in the South East so when subsidies were withdrawn they were not affected. to that of Boudicca and some other Celtic tribes Thus their experience was different
- The Cornovians seem to have got on quite well with the Romans and were gradually assimilated through marriage etc.
- The Celtic tribes varied considerably in their attitude to the Roman invaders early on. who ruled the area to the north of Middlewich. Much of the early Roman traffic through Middlewich was to quell the warlike Brigantes
- Roman troops were often not Italian.
- Roman occupation was over many hundred years and there were changes within that though remoter farmsteads may have retained their traditional ways period. The Romanisation of Middlewich was complete by the 3rd and 4th centuries
- The end of Roman Britain was not sudden: it was a slow decline
- Reconstructive drawings, and similarly the replica items in loans boxes are the result true of historical writing generally. A good historian makes it clear what is hypothesis of careful and educated guess-work. What is their value? What are their drawbacks? and what is established fact. The constant striving to get a clear picture of the past is These are issues that should be discussed with the children. Of course the same is the essence of history.
- Knowing exactly which names the Romans gave to places is quite difficult. completely resolved. Condate (meaning "Place at the confluence of two rivers") is springs") the name for Middlewich. The debate continues and is described in detail in often thought to be the name for Roman Northwich and Salinae (meaning "Salt names they gave to Middlewich and Northwich are a case in point and as yet are not Roman Middlewich by Tim Strickland (p.8).

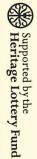




Teaching points for history at Key Stage Two

- Salt was already being produced (and traded further afield as a discovery of a coin shows) in the area before the Romans, although not on the same scale.
- Salt was not the only commodity being produced in Roman Middlewich. archaeological evidence of leatherworking and ironworking There is
- As a main artery Middlewich will have seen some of the 'crack' regiments and important individuals pass through even if it was not of such huge importance as other Roman settlements.





Pieces of the past

make Aim: to look carefully deductions about its purpose at a fragment of Roman pottery and begin to

Take a piece of pottery (a pottery sherd).

Make a sketch of the sherd

What size is it? How thick is it?

Write down three words that describe its texture

(Why might that be?) What colour is it? Is it the same colour throughout? Is it discoloured?

Is there any decoration? Draw or describe this

What is your evidence? What part of the pot was it? (Rim, wall, lid, base, spout, handle etc.)

Would it be for the table, the kitchen or something else?

Who do you think might have used it? What makes you think this?

Have you any ideas about what the whole pot might have looked like?

What do you think was it used for? Why do you think that?



Making shoes for the Romans

Making a simple Cabatina

vegetable tanning process. It would have been quite thick and have been prepared using a simple The leather used is most likely to have come from a cow, goat or deer.

shoe into shape around a last. When the leather is dry the last is removed and the shoe maintains the shape. a number of slits around the edge of the leather, thoroughly soaking the leather in water, threading a string through the slits and drawing the After the leather has been cut to shape, the shoe is created by cutting

Differences from modern shoes

be kept out. footwear as water was expected to flow through the shoe, rather than There was, however, little protection from the elements built into the today, although the Romans had, on average, smaller feet than we do. have been available in roughly the same range of sizes as our shoes are through punching and stamping the leather. The footwear would also shoes have been found with a high degree of decoration, created Roman shoes would often have been individually tailored – even simple

Better shoes

solid and hardwearing shoe. hammered through the layers of leather onto a metal last creating a introduction was the concept of nailed construction whereby nails were the industry on by leaps and bounds in Britain. Their most revolutionary The Romans had a great influence on footwear construction and brought

brochure advertising your new range. Roman troops in Middlewich. Activity: You are a maker of leather footwear, which you sell to Produce an illustrated flyer or





Salt-working in Middlewich

Aim: show understanding of the sequence of production. to learn more about salt production in Roman Middlewich.

Why was salt so useful?

Salt was used to preserve food such as meat or fish

How is food preserved today?

tanning (turning skins of animals into leather). Salt was also used in processes like dyeing (of wool and cloth) and

How salt was produced at Middlewich

- holding-tanks. The brine from the spring was collected in large tanks known as
- made of baked clay (briquetage) over a fire. Then it would be moved using wooden buckets and put into salt-pans
- crystals of salt behind. The brine would be heated so that the water evaporated leaving the
- the salt-pans The crystals of salt would be scraped from the base and the sides of
- The salt was finally transported from the site in baskets and sacks

process Either Draw a strip cartoon showing the different stages of this

salt. Or Make a flow chart showing each stage in the process of making



Roman Middlewich: Glossary of terms

used to hold something else such as brine waste at the saltworks.) non-perishable items that could not be placed in a wooden case. (These were often re-Amphora A large container made from clay that was used in the transport of wine, oil and

Auxilia Auxiliary military units attached to the legions. There were about 150,000 soldiers serving as auxiliaries. They were not Roman citizens and were usually from one of the Roman provinces, but were granted citizenship on retirement. They were organized in

Barbarian Those living outside the frontiers of the Roman Empire

Brine Water containing salt.

Briquetage Baked clay used for linings and containers in the salt-works

Britannia The Roman name for Britain.

Celtic A general term used to describe the tribes of Northern Europe during the Iron Age

centuries within each legion. The name also applies to infantry units with the auxiliary army Centurion A rank in the Roman army.

Cohort A military unit within a legion. There were 10 cohorts, each divided into six and to units within the Praetorian Guard.

Condate Possible Roman name for Northwich.

and the right to be married legally. recorded the privileges granted to the soldier on his discharge. These included citizenship Diploma Two small engraved bronze tablets bound together with bronze threads. These Cornovii The Celtic tribe that lived in the area which included Middlewich Denarius A silver coin of which there were 25 to a gold piece (Denarii plural of Denarius)

Flagon Pottery container for wine.

Fort A permanent base for units of auxiliary troops

Fortress The permanent base for units of Roman legions

Freedman A slave or servant who had given loyal and trustworthy service and had been given his, or her, freedom.

Garum A sauce made from Mediterranean fish and salt. It was a favourite ingredient in

Roman cookery.

decreed there should be . Roman army fluctuated between 25 and 33, depending on how many the current emperor cavalry. The soldiers in the legions were all Roman citizens. The number of legions in the Legion The base military unit in the army. Each legion contained 5,000 infantry and 120

Mortarium A heavy, pottery dish used to grind foodstuffs into powders, pastes or liquids Mosaic A design or scene laid in a floor or wall. This was made of small (about 2 cm.

square) coloured and glazed tiles laid in a foundation.

Oppidum A Celtic settlement, often highly fortified.

Principia The central headquarters building in a fort or fortress

Quernstones The stones used for grinding grain into flour.

Republic The period of the Roman Empire between 510 and 31 BC

Salinae Means salt springs. Possible Roman name for Middlewich

Samian-ware Glazed fine pottery often with a raised design. Originally imported from

Tribe The political and social grouping favoured by the Celts. Headed by a chief. Woad A blue dye the Celts used to paint their skins in order to instil fear in the enemy Sestertius A brass coin worth four asses, or a quarter of a denarius.

Sextarius A unit of measurement for liquids. Equal to one imperial pint (0.568 litre). Wroxeter Roman settlement of Viroconium, close to the tribal centre of the Cornovian tribe

