

Roman Middlewich Teachers' Pack

Fragments of Roman Pottery (Box A)

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

1. Part of a mortarium

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

2. Part of a mortarium

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

3. Fine black burnished ware

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

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 easily.

6. Part of a mortarium

Possibly this is part of the same mortarium as fragment 2.

7. Greyware

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

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 is an incised decoration.