

Roman Middlewich Teachers' Pack

Fragments of Roman Pottery (Box B)

The origin of these pottery sherds was evaluated by an archaeologist. It was possible to be fairly certain about some of the pieces but with some 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

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

2. Part of a black burnished-ware jar.

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

3. Part of a mortarium

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

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)

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

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

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

11. Rim of a sandy-ware jar

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