

6. Discussion of Artifacts

6.1 The easiest and most reliable way of dating archaeological deposits is by the study of artifacts which have been excavated from the context in which they are found. By far the most common form of artifacts are sherds of pottery vessels. These vessels are very fragile and easily broken, and therefore regularly discarded. Comparisons of fragments from excavated sites has enabled specialists to determine the date and often the place of manufacture of most pottery.

6.2 The pottery so far recovered from the site includes:

Trench 3

Roman pottery: nine sherds of orange ware from three different vessels, a sherd of cream ware, all probably late 1st century- early 2nd century. A single sherd of possible Roman pottery (unknown type).

Prehistoric pottery: a single sherd of VCP probably late Iron Age.

Post-medieval pottery: a moderate amount of 17th to 19th century wares were discovered in the topsoil.

Trench 4

Roman pottery: two sherds of orange ware.

Post-medieval pottery: a moderate amount of 17th to 19th century wares in the topsoil.

Trench 5

Roman Pottery: a small single sherd of orange ware.

Post-medieval: occasional pieces of 18th to 19th century wares.

Trenches 1 and 2 produced only 17th to 20th century pottery sherds, all from within the topsoil.

6.3 In addition to the pottery sherds that were found on the site, a moderate assemblage of other artifacts were recovered with special emphasis being placed on the finds from trenches 3 to 5. No material from trenches 1 and 2 was earlier than post-medieval in origin.

Trench 3

This trench revealed: an abundance of fire cracked pebbles. These are synonymous with pre-historic settlement sites.

A moderate amount of lead waste possibly Roman.

Occasional fragments of glass possibly Roman.

A single lump of copper ore possibly Roman.

A fragment of millstone grit quern stone Roman.

A single fragment of Roman tegula (Tile).

A moderate amount of daub possibly Roman.

An abundance of cremated bone fragments.

An abundance of charcoal flecks and pieces of charcoal

Trench 4

This trench also revealed: a moderate amount of fire cracked pebbles.

Occasional pieces of lead waste.

A fragment of Roman tegula.
Occasional fragments of cremated bone.
An abundance of charcoal and charcoal flecks.

Trench 5

This trench revealed far less artifactual evidence than the other nevertheless it did produce:
Occasional pieces of lead waste.
Occasional fire cracked pebbles.
A piece of fashioned bronze (probably Roman)
A piece of tapped slag
A lead object, possibly a Roman weight (pers comm Dr JP Wild)

6.4 Considering the small amount of area actually excavated a large amount of artifacts were discovered leading to the conclusion that a vast amount of Roman and hopefully Iron Age material is there still to be discovered. In the adjacent field to the Old Vicarage a lead object was located by use of a metal detector(pers comm Mr Peter Hodgson) which has been identified as a Roman spindle whorl. In addition, a coin from the reign of the Emperor Vespasian (69-79AD) was discovered in the field adjacent to the Church and less than 50m from the site.