

WMCC047 Wichenford Heritage
Project

Fieldwalking to the south of
Buryendtown Farm
Wichenford, Worcestershire

Archive finds report

Victoria Bryant

With flint identification and report by Dr Jodie Lewis

May 2004

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Project 2572
Report 1246
WSM 31782

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Background information

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Client</i> | Wichenford Local Heritage Group |
| <i>Site address</i> | Field to the south of Buryendtown Farm, Wichenford, Worcestershire (see Figure 1) |
| <i>National Grid reference</i> | SO 7740 5940 |
| <i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i> | WCM 31782 |

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Aims

The aim of this archive report is to present the results of the analysis of the finds with an overview. Further spatial analysis may form part of the final report on the fieldwalking.

Methods

Artefact recovery policy

The field was walked on the 5th May 2002. Volunteers from the Wichenford Local Heritage Group walked along transects A to O. Finds from each 25 metre interval along each transect (0 - 5) were collected and marked with the transect letter and the interval number (See figure 2).

2. Method of analysis and recording

Every object was examined, identified and dated. Single objects or groups of similar objects were entered onto an Access database. This held information on

- transect location
- material (stone, ceramic, iron, glass etc)
- object type (flint, pottery, nail, vessel etc)
- quantity
- weight - in grams
- date
- comment

Due to the large size of the assemblage and the short amount of time available for analysis only the Roman and medieval pottery was identified by type fabric number (Hurst 1992, HEAS 2004 (www.worcestershire.gov.uk)). The post-medieval pottery was sorted into broad date ranges with notes on the types entered in the comment column.

The flint artefacts were identified by Dr Jodie Lewis and a full report produced (Appendix 1). The results of this analysis were used to amend the database.

Some objects recovered from the field were not placed in labelled bags. These are identified by *Misc* in the transect location section of the database. Some bags had transect letters but not interval numbers marked on them. These are identified in the database by the transect letter alone. The finds marked MA are recorded as "continuation of the transect behind the cane"

The full digital archive is held on the disc attached to this report. Selected printouts can be found in

Appendix 2 - full database ordered by transect location

Appendix 3 - full database ordered by material

Appendix 4 - pottery database ordered by date

Results

Prehistory (for full report see Appendix 1)

Twelve flints dating from the later Mesolithic (c 7000 - 4000 BC) to the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c2500 - 1500 BC) were collected. These probably represent chance losses over several millenia and there is no evidence for a settlement in the area at any time during this period.

Romano- British (AD 43 - 410)

A small group of 5 sherds were positively identified as being of Roman date. These were all Severn Valley ware (fabric no 12) and included fragments of beakers and tankards. This type of pottery is typical of Roman assemblages from Worcestershire. Pottery was used in great quantities in the Romano-British period. On all archaeological sites of this period the majority of the pottery found is Severn Valley wares which were produced in the kiln complexes around what is now Malvern Link (Bryant and Evans forthcoming). The sherds were small and abraded and spread across the field with no concentrations. They may suggest the presence of a Romano-British farm somewhere in the vicinity.

Post Roman to Anglo Saxon (AD 410 - 1066)

No artefacts dating from between the end of the Roman period and the Norman Conquest were identified from this site. This is not unusual. The period from about 410 to 900 AD was virtually aceramic in Worcestershire and even after 900 AD pottery vessels were not common and are generally found only on high status secular or ecclesiastical sites (Bryant forthcoming).

Medieval (AD 1066 - 1540)

During the late 11th century and 12th century the use of pottery cooking and serving vessels in ordinary households rose enormously and this demand was fed by large numbers of small kilns all over the county (Bryant forthcoming). The 44 (429g) identified medieval sherds include 12th to 14th century cooking pots and jugs made in kilns close to Worcester (fabric 55 and fabric 64.1) and in the area around Hanley Castle (fabric 56 and fabric 69). They also include a slightly greater range of 15th to 16th century vessels, all produced around Hanley Castle (fabric 69) which was the major regional producer at this time.

Although the assemblage is quite small there seems to be concentration of medieval pottery to the north of the field, close to Buryendtown Farm. This concentration is associated with roof tiles which, although difficult to date, may be late medieval. These finds may have originated from medieval buildings on, or close to, the site of the present farm.

Early post-medieval (AD 1540 to 1750)

A small assemblage of early post-medieval period finds were collected. These consisted of 43 sherds of pottery, 35 sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval roof tile and one mid 17th century clay pipe fragment stamped with a "DB". The pottery assemblage was typical of a domestic assemblage of the period with the majority of the sherds being fragments of slipware with some fragments of tygs (small, handled cups) and the occasional jug, bowl and butter pot. These finds were randomly distributed across the area fieldwalked and were generally small and abraded. This suggests that they might have derived from household/farm waste used to manure the field.

Later post-medieval to modern (AD 1750 to present)

The vast majority of the finds recovered date from the later post-medieval period to the modern period. They include the occasional fragment of land drain and electrical equipment (see Appendix 2) but the main object types are as follows

| Object type | Count | Weight (grams) |
|--------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Pottery | 3090 | 17271 |
| Clay pipe | 803 | 2611 |
| Vessels glass | 176 | 2174 |
| Kiin furniture and waste | 50 | 543 |
| Window glass | 24 | 47 |
| Ceramic roof tile | 164 | 6086 |
| Stone roof tile | 10 | 97 |
| Brick | 3 | 176 |
| Iron objects | 32 | 1204 |
| Copper Alloy object | 1 | 33 |
| Slag and coal | 15 | 176 |
| Bone and shell | 11 | 69 |

Domestic refuse

The bulk of the finds originate from domestic waste. All the pottery is of the type used in ordinary Worcestershire households from the later 18th to the 20th century. The range includes some finer vessels, including a fragment of German Westerwald stoneware, but the bulk of the finds are late 19th to 20th century "china" (including a great many willow pattern plates and dishes) and stone ware storage vessels of the same period. In amongst the plates, mugs and teapots are a number of large bowls used in the dairy and the occasional flowerpot. As well as pottery there are fragments of glass bottles and clay pipes, a copper alloy draw handle and a few bits of bone and shell.

Building material

Spread across the field were fragments of window glass, roof tile, brick and nails which presumably came from buildings near by. The roof tiles may have been brought in as hard core. Some of the iron work may be associated with farm machinery and carts.

Industrial waste

A small but interesting group of objects consisted of kiln furniture and wasters. The fragments of waster were biscuit fired and consisted of cups and other delicate items. This material may derive from one of the porcelain factories in Worcester and may have been brought to this site and other places in Wichenford to use as hard core. It would be interesting to investigate this further and identify the source of the material and the date of its deposition.

Future work

The finds from fieldwalking at Buryendtown Farm form a small but interesting group which adds to the known history of the parish. Three of the flints (see Jodie Lewis Appendix 1) and the mid 17th century clay pipe (C2) should be drawn for the final publication. The distribution of finds of pre 1750 date do not warrant further investigation but it might be worthwhile spending more time on plotting discrete groups of objects such as the kiln waste or the roof tile to see if they are more concentrated around gateways etc.

Archive

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Boxes of finds | 4 |
| Computer disks | 1 |

The finds and the disc containing the Access database were returned to the Wichenford Local Heritage Group at the end of the analysis. It is assumed that the full project archive will be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
01299 250416

Bibliography

Bryant, V forthcoming. The medieval and early post-medieval pottery in Dalwood and Edwards (eds) *Deansway, Worcester: excavations by Charles Mundy 1988-89* CBA Research Report

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Hurst, J. D. and Rees, H. 1992 Pottery fabrics: a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester. in Woodiwiss, S. G. (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res. Rep. 81

Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service 2004 Worcester online fabric type series

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Local Heritage *initiative*

