New evidence for a Romano-British greyware pottery industry in the Trent Valley

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Three Romano-British pottery kilns were discovered in May 1983, one at Lea and two at Newton on Trent (Figs. 1 and 2). The latter site was the subject of a salvage excavation on a Bank Holiday Monday after construction work on the new bypass had uncovered the kilns. The site at Lea was located after the landowner, Mr. P. Kisby, had reported the discovery of pottery sherds and kiln debris to the City and County Museum, Lincoln, which had come to light following land clearance. The kilns at both sites contained greyware pottery dating to the second century AD and whose forms were similar to kiln products already found elsewhere on the east side of the Trent Valley below Newark. Rescue excavation and recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Field on behalf of the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit.1

The excavated material and full site archive are lodged at the City and County Museum, Lincoln and a copy of the paper archive is at the National Archaeological Record, RCHME, London.

The kiln (Figs. 3 and 4) was dug into the wind blown sand subsoil and was of the simple single-flue updraught type. It had a circular oven, 1.2m in diameter, whose floor and walls were lined with clay. The walls were near vertical, except at their junction with the stokehole where they sloped inwards toward their base. They were on average 110mm thick, the outer 80mm being fired to a brick red colour whilst the inner 30mm was grey. The floor was 85mm thick and the heat from the firing had reddened the sand beneath. The sand behind the walls had been much less affected by the heat. There was no evidence for any relining of the oven. The kiln was well-preserved, surviving to a height of 0.60m below the topsoil. There was a flue 0.90-1m long on the east side of the oven which survived to the same height as the oven but its roof was gone. Its floor, partially lined at the oven end, was level with the oven and stokehole floors. The walls were strengthened with pieces of stone beneath a clay lining. Large pieces of stone and a slag bloom were also incorporated into the south side of the stokehole. The large stokehole was full of pottery and ash. It was only partially excavated because it ran beneath a boundary fence to the south.

Part of the last load remained in situ in the oven and the products bore a strong similarity to those found at Newton on Trent (see below). It was sealed by a layer of soft orange-red clay which was probably the remains of the oven dome. This was sealed, in turn, by topsoil.

Resting on the oven floor were a number of square-sectioned oblong fiberns (Figs. 5 and 6). They were not in situ except, perhaps, a short pedestal in the centre of the oven. The bars may have been set in a cartwheel configuration, supported by the central pedestal (Fig. 6, 6.7) with further supports around the perimeter.

![Fig. 1 Newton on Trent location map (D. Taylor).](image1)

**Green Lane, Lea (Figs. 1, 3-9, 15 and 16)**

Whilst no kiln sites were suspected at Green Lane surface collections of Romano-British pottery and coins had been made in fields immediately west of site. Ten pottery kilns were discovered in 1957 at Grange Farm, Lea which lies some 270m south-east of the site in Green Lane. Seven of these were dug at the time and found to contain greyware products (Petch 1958, 107). These were similar to the products from the Green Lane kiln.

![Fig. 3 Lea kiln, looking west from the stokehole. Scale 2 metres (photo J. R. Samuels).](image2)
Fig. 2a Location map of kiln production sites in the Trent Valley. 2b Lea kiln sites (D. Taylor).
Fig. 4 Lea kiln (D. Taylor).
Fig. 5 Kiln furniture from Lea kiln (D. Taylor).
Fig. 6 Kiln furniture from Lea kiln (D. Taylor).
Fig. 7  Lea excavation plan (D. Taylor).
The kiln was well-preserved and magnetic dating samples were taken by Dr. D. Tarling and Mrs. N. Yass from the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, Newcastle University. A total of 54 orientated samples were collected from the fired clay lining of the oven walls and floor. A full account of their results is given in an earlier account of the site (Field 1984). In summary, the results were of great interest scientifically but a great puzzle archaeologically. The readings obtained from the oven floor suggested a pre-Roman date, whilst those from the walls correspond to late 5th century directions. Unfortunately, no further kilns were located with which to compare these results.

Following excavation of the kiln a geophysical survey of the area to be affected by redevelopment was carried out by a team from the Department of Archaeological Sciences at Bradford University. Archaeological features were identified but the results were inconclusive because of ground disturbance from the uprooting of trees and the proximity of overhead cables and metal fencing. Further investigation was still considered important, partly because the results were unclear and also because so few pottery production sites had been examined in their entirety.

Large-scale excavation was undertaken in March 1985 by Colin Palmer-Brown for the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology to try and locate further kilns and associated features in advance of building work. A total of 5947m² was stripped of topsoil of which 467m² was examined in detail (Fig. 7). It was not possible to excavate in the centre of the area, adjacent to the kiln, as this part of the site was to be built on first.

Whilst no further kilns were identified several pits and gullies were revealed, most of which contained large quantities of Roman pottery. One pit (30) was filled with blue clay which had been deliberately mixed with sand and was perhaps a store for pottery production. A similar feature was found near potteries at Barnby Top, South Humberside (Samuels, 1979).

The largest feature on the site was a substantial ditch (77) which appeared to encircle the production area (Fig. 8). A large portion, 24m in length, was excavated on the east side of the site (Areas 4 and 5). A further stretch was located in Area 1. Its width varied between 1.3m and 3.0m and its average depth was 1.0m. The fill comprised mainly a very dark brown sand with numerous pottery sherds and occasional pieces of slag and fired clay lumps. The ditch had been re-cut on several occasions.

After completion of the main excavations the digging of foundation trenches for a bungalow to the north of the kiln revealed a deposit of Roman roof tiles, lumps of mortar and large stones, many of which were burnt. There were also two large deposits of burnt clay (106) which may have been kiln debris. Two iron knife blades were also found in the vicinity.

The building debris may have been associated with a structure to the south of the excavated area, perhaps a potter’s workshop. Interpretation of the various shallow gullies and miscellaneous pits remains difficult because the excavated features were probably only a small part of a much larger industrial complex lying to the south.

The Pottery Finds Fig. 9

A large quantity of pottery was found in the ditch together with smaller amounts elsewhere on the site. The greywares formed the largest single group of material, which outnumbered all the rest of the pottery put together. The vessel types found on the site were in exactly the same proportion as those found in the kiln. The most common vessel was the medium-sized jar followed by wide-mouthed bowls and various types of lipped dish. However, other greyware pottery from the excavated features was later in date than the kiln products, coming from Swanpool and the Nene Valley (e.g. Fig. 9, 17, 20, 22, 23). Other fabrics were present on the site, the largest group comprising shelly wares, including Daleswares, dating to the second-fourth centuries. Specialist wares such as mortaria, samian, colour coated wares, red sandy wares and amphorae were present in small quantities. The mortaria probably came from sources near Lincoln. The colour coated wares came from the Nene Valley which was producing wares before the kilns at Swanpool. A few South Carlton creamware sherds which date to the second century were found as well as seventeen sherds of Samian (see below). Twelve amphora body sherds were found, representing at least five vessels all of which were of Dressel 20 type, from Spain, commonly in use during the second-fourth centuries for the transport of olive oil.

The presence of pottery on the site which appears to be later than the kiln products may be explained by the existence of a large settlement to the west of the excavated area, currently under grass. Kiln production was probably just one phase in the use of the site during the Roman period.

Lea Pottery from the excavations Fig. 9

The first number given is the context, refer to Fig. 6 for location.

4. 17. Bowl.
5. 3. Rim, cf. Cantley kilns 1-8, no. 279 (Samuels 1983).
7. 3. cf. BB types usual forms.
10. 96. Narrow-necked jar.
11. 22. Curved rim jar.
16. 65. Lid-seated jar, cf. Knaith, Daleswares type are similar.
17. 90. Lid-seated jar.
19. Unstrat. cf. Lea, Grange Farm no. 35.
24. 23. Large, lugged jar.
25. 42. Small-medium carinated bowl.
32. 32. Large wide-mouthed bowl, lipped.
33. 3. Lid.
Fig. 9  Pottery from the excavations at Lea (D. Taylor).
Samian
Maggi Darling
Two sherds of samian were found in the kiln oven and identified by Mr. B. R. Hartley.
1. Decorated sherd Docils of Lezoux AD 125-150.
2. Drag. form 18/31 Les Martres-de-Veyra. First half of second century.
Seventeen sherds, all from central Gaul (Lezoux), were found in general contexts. These were two Drag. form 37 bowl sherds, one in the style of Cinnamus (c.AD 135-170), the other in the style of Crino (c.AD 140-165). There was an undecorated neck fragment from a form 30 or 37. Plain ware forms represented were: 18/31; 18/31 or 31(3); 18/31R or 33R; 31(2); 31(2); 31(2); 46 or Curle 15; unidentified bowl. The earliest sherd would date to the first half of the second century, most would fit a mid to late-second century date.

Coins
K. Leahy
Five Roman coins were found during the excavations all of fourth-century date. The small finds number is that used in the final archive.
No.  Context Description
1 3  Layer, old ground surface
Ae 3
Obv. Gratian
Rev. SECURITAS RE. PUBLICAE
Mint Arles, third period
RIC vol. 9 p. 66, no. 19b

3 3  Layer, old ground surface
Obv. CONSTAT-TINUS AUG
Rev. SAMARTIA DE VICTOR
Mint Trier 323-324, RIC no. 435 Folies vol. 7, 202

24  76  Ditch fill Area 4
Ae 3
Obv. URBS ROMA
Rev. Wolf and twins
Mint Lyons 330-331
RIC vol. 7 p. 138 no. 242

25  90  Ditch fill Area 5
Obv. FL-Jul-HELENAE AUG
Rev. PAX PUBLICA
Mint Rome before April 340
RIC VOL. p. 250 no. 27

33 105 Layer, subsoil Area 5
Corroded House of Valentinian Ae 3
Rev. SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE

Newton on Trent (Figs. 2, 10-13 and 17)
Discovery of the two kilns in 1983 identified a hitherto unknown production site which had been dug into a subsoil of wind-blown sand and lined with clay, as at Lea (Figs. 10 and 13). Kiln 1 had a sub-rectangular, almost D-shaped oven, 1.40m x 0.85m, with a short flue, 0.40m long, opposite the straight side. Although pottery was found in the kiln no kiln furniture survived; it may have been removed for re-use in Kiln 2. The walls of the oven were thinly lined with clay, the straight side being only 60mm thick (Figs. 11 and 13). (This wall had partially collapsed and may have been the reason for abandonment of the kiln.) The walls thickened on the opposite side to incorporate the full length of the flue. Internally it was 0.40m wide at its base with the walls sloping towards the roof where it was only 0.20m wide. Although the roof did not survive the flue cannot have been much higher than recorded. Unlike the oven the flue floor had been clay-lined. The flue led to a large stokehole, which was not fully excavated because it extended beyond the roadworks easement. The small area excavated adjacent to the flue of Kiln 1 showed that the stokehole floor was 0.30m below that of the flue.

The stokehole of Kiln 2 cut through the filled-in stokehole of its predecessor. It is not known how much time elapsed between the construction of the two kilns but it may have been a matter of days or weeks rather than months or years. The second kiln was similar to the first, with a sub-circular oven 1.30m x 1.10m x 0.70m deep, with clay-lined walls but the floor was not lined. It was covered with a layer of soot which seemed to run beneath the clay lining of the flue, suggesting that the structure had been rebuilt. The south side of the oven wall was very thick at its junction with the flue.

Fig. 9  Pottery from the excavations at Lea (D. Taylor).

Fig. 10  Newton on Trent kilns, looking north with Kiln 1 in foreground. Scale 2 metres (Photo F. N. Field).
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Fig. 11  New on Trent Kiln 1, lined walls but no floor lining, looking north. Scale 2 metres (photo F. N. Field).

Fig. 12  New on Trent, Kiln 2. Kiln furniture in situ, blocked stokehole at rear (photo F. N. Field).

and may represent a repair or strengthening at this point. Stones and lumps of fired clay had been lodged in the mouth of the flue. It is not clear if they had been deliberately placed there to alter the air flow or if they were placed there after the firing.

The floor of the oven sloped downwards towards a single flue 0.85m long, which led to the stokehole. It was built on exactly the same orientation as that of Kiln 1, presumably to take advantage of the prevailing wind. Remarkably, the clay roof of the flue had survived intact, creating a domed channel between oven and stokehole. Its width tapered from 0.40m at its junction with the oven to only 0.20m at the stokehole end. Unlike the oven its floor was clay lined and at the same level as that of the stokehole. The flue was some 0.80m longer than that of Kiln 1, perhaps giving a more even temperature distribution within the oven for its larger load (Bryant 1977, 15).

The oven contained some of the pottery from its last firing which had been stacked on top of randomly-placed cylindrical and oblong clay pedestals (Figs. 12 and 13) which allowed adequate and even circulation of gases during the firing process. In addition to the standard kiln furniture there were several fragments of triangular loomweights (Fig. 14). Their presence has proved problematical since they are generally thought to be Iron Age in date but they do seem to have been part of the kiln load. (A single fragment of loomweight was found in Kiln 1.) The presence of the kiln furniture in situ suggests that the kiln was abandoned after firing.

The shape of Kiln 1 is unusual and it is not known what advantage there would have been in the firing process in having a straight wall opposite the flue.

No further evidence for pottery production was found along the route of the by-pass. However, crop-marks recorded from the air by P. Evermore lie in two areas to the north-east of the kilns and may be of a similar date and represent an associated settlement.2

The Kiln Products from Lea and Newton on Trent (Figs. 15-17)

Pottery sorting and identification was carried out by Dr. J. R. Samuels. The following table gives a breakdown of the vessels found at Newton on Trent and Lea. A minimum vessel count was estimated, based primarily on the rim sherds found except in a few cases where only body and/or base sherds present. The body sherds were weighted to indicate the bulk of material involved. The figures are given below.

#### Table 1: Minimum vessel count of kiln products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Newton</th>
<th>Lea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortaria</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain dishes/bowls</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipped dishes/bowls</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small jars/beakers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium jars</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusticated jars</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carinated jars</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Split rim jars</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indented jars</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow necked jars (small)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow necked jars with handles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide mouthed bowls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lids</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colander</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vessel totals</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery by weight (kg)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A mortarium sherd and a single sherd of Parisian ware were found in the kiln at Lea but are not included in the table.

Three main variations of fabric were recognised in the kiln groups; a) plain grey; b) dark grey, soft fabric with burnt out inclusions; c) grey, coarse, uneven texture. These variations in fabric seem likely to have arisen from differing preparation of the basic clay rather than from the use of other clay sources and seem related to vessel type. The figures given above are the combined vessel counts for all three fabric types.

The grey colouration of most of the mortaria sherds from Newton appeared to be secondary arising from over-firing and reduction, some retaining their intended cream colour. The iron-free clay must have been brought to the site specifically for the mortaria. The fabric is relatively fine with a scatter of small quartz and a moderate amount of mica, and all have similar trituration, predominantly of frit with some quartz. One cream fragment has traces of a possible light red-brown slip and is notably more micaceous.

Detailed pottery descriptions are included in the archive and only a representative selection is illustrated in this article together with short identifications of vessel type using the categories as defined by J. R. Samuels (1983).
Fig. 13 Newton on Trent kilns (D. Taylor).
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Fig. 14 Kiln furniture from Newton on Trent Kiln 2 (D. Taylor).

**Lea kiln products (Fig. 15)**

1. Dish. Burnished surface, lattice deco., ext. wire marked base.
3. Plain Dish.
5. Lipped dish. Burnished all over.
15. Carinated jar. Gritty with traces of grey polished ext.
17. Jar. Gritty, traces of burnishing on shoulder and rim.

**Fig. 16**

30. Indented jar. Hard, gritty, traces of burnishing on rim and shoulder.
32. Jar. Traces of smoothing on ext., burnished wavy lines.
35. Split rim jar. Hard, v. gritty, similar to other split rim jars but not such large quartz grains.
41. Narrow-necked jar, no handles. Hard, gritty, traces of smoothing on rim.
42. Narrow-necked jar, no handles. Burnished ext.
43. Handle. Abraded surfaces.
44. Handle. Hard gritty, burnished ext.
46. Narrow-necked jar, with handles. Punched lug.
47. Narrow-necked jar, with handles. Hard gritty, lug rather messily attached and pinched on interior, presumed central spigot.
50. Large jar. Soft sandy, burnished int.
51. Large jar. Hard gritty.

**Newton on Trent kilns (Fig. 17)**

A similar three groups of fabric occur at Newton; a) the basic grey fabric, with sparse to moderate quantities of quartz inclusions (Nos. 1-6, 8, 9, 14, 15, 18, 23, 27); b) a coarse
Fig. 15 Pottery from the Lea kiln (J. R. Samuels).
Fig. 16 Pottery from the Lea kiln (J. R. Samuels).
vesicular fabric, the lost tempering probably being vegetable matter (Nos. 13, 20 from Kiln 2); c) a coarse impurly fabric of poorly mixed clay, probably with added tempering (Nos. 7, 10, 11, 19 appearing in both kilns) with No. 12 (from Kiln 2) differing in having a markedly higher content of quartz. An appreciably different fabric is used for the wide-mouthed bowl, No. 16, and the copy of a BB1 cooking pot, No. 17 (both from Kiln 2), both wheel-thrown and containing the same abundant quartz found in Dorset and Rossington Bridge BB1. These seem unlikely to have been kiln products.

Slight variations occur in the main fabric a). The narrow-necked jar, No. 3 with its flagon type neck attachment and the lid, No. 23 have a creamish tinge to the fabric, and cream colour may have been intended; the lipped bowl, No. 8 and the carinated jar, No. 14, have a finer fabric than the norm.

**Kiln 1 oven**
2. Beaker.
3. Narrow-necked jar. Evidence for the junction between rim and neck clearly visible, more often found on flagons.
7. Narrow-necked jar with lug.
8. Lipped bowl. Traces of burnishing on all surfaces.
10. Large jar. Same fabric as 7.

**Kiln 2 oven**
11. Large jar.
12. Jar, internal grooved lip; common quartz inclusions.
13. Large jar.
15. Dimpled jar. Traces of polish on rim and shoulder.
16. Large jar. Burnished on ext. and rim.
20. Large jar. Hard, bubbly surface, pitted where limestome inclusions have blown out.
21. Mortarium. Cream fabric discoloured grey; fine trituration with much 'popped out'.
22. Wide-mouthed bowl. Wavy line deco. with burnishing on ext. and rim.

**Kiln 1 oven**
23. Lid. Knife trimmed around knops.
24. Mortarium. Discoloured grey fabric; fine trituration. Stamped on either side of spout (not illustrated); same vessel as no. 26 below showing stamp from same die.
27. Stokehole. Body sherd with unusual rustication.

At Newton only two types of vessel were represented in any number, the medium sized jars and the wide-mouthed bowls, but a total of nine types of vessels was being produced in the load. With the relatively small number of each vessel represented it is not possible to make any meaningful analysis of the products. However, it is of note that Kiln 2 contained many more wide-mouthed bowls than Kiln 1. Apart from the medium-sized jars the five other types are represented in each case by only one vessel. The vessel forms covered the same range as those found in Kiln 1 and it is likely that both kilns were contemporary.

A further stamped mortarium was overlooked until too late for inclusion in this report. The mortarium stamps are currently being researched, but appear to show two separate dies for a single potter. Both dies are retrograde, and could be read as either 'Q AVS CR' or 'Q IVS CR'. If the latter, these may be earlier products of a potter suspected to have worked in Lincolnshire, Q IVSTVS CRESCENS, whose mortaria have been found at Old Winteringham and Doncaster (Hartley 1976, 120, fig. 55, nos. 22, 23; 1985, 143, fig. 32, no. 4). The known products of this potter, however, differ on rim form, fabric and style of stamp, and he has been dated on the basis of rim type to c.AD 100-140. The Newton vessels would fit a Flavian-Trajane date. A full report on the mortaria from these kilns will be published in a future issue of *LHA*.

The sheer quantity of pottery present in the Lea kiln indicates that the final load was abandoned. There was an overwhelming predominance of medium-sized jars but a total of fourteen types of vessel were being produced. All the products being made at Newton on Trent were present at Lea but there was a wider variety of products at Lea. The lattice decoration present on dishes, bowls and jars at Lea was almost completely absent from the Newton on Trent assemblage. The presence of split rim bowls in some quantity at Lea (Fig. 16.35-38) is also of note where they are the third most common vessel from the kiln accounting for 9.5% of the total. These were absent from the Newton assemblage as were lid-seated jars. These vessels have not only been found amongst the kiln products of the Little London kilns at Torksy and at Knaith (Whitwell 1969) along the Trentside but also amongst the products of the Market Rasen kilns and those at Blackstone, Doncaster. This suggests at least some relationship between the kiln industries of these three areas. Certainly the kilns at Rossington Bridge, Doncaster were producing wide-mouthed bowls and medium sized jars as well as Black Burnished Ware (BB1).

Torksey was producing quantities of carinated jars which are only represented by a few examples at the other Trentside kilns. The kilns at Grange Farm and Green Lane, Lea and Newton on Trent are the only kilns discovered so far in the Trent Valley which were producing rusticated wares.

**Discussion**
While the Newton on Trent kilns appear to be slightly earlier than those at Lea, the similarity of products suggests a chronological overlap. The unusual feature of the Newton kilns is the production of mortaria, not pursued at any of the other kilns already identified on the east side on the Trent Valley below Newark, such as Knaith, Lea and Torksey which made utilitarian wares in the second century. The nearest known kilns making mortaria in the second century are the Technical College Kiln at Lincoln (Baker 1937) and the South Carlton kiln (Webster 1944), although mortaria were certainly being produced earlier from unknown kilns in the area of Lincoln (M. J. Darling pers. comm.). It is possible that the source of iron free clay was similar to that used by the South Carlton potters, who also gritted their vessels with crushed flint.

A further Trentside site was salvage recorded at the Finningley gravel pit, Doddington, in 1957, but although the finds included wasters no evidence was found for a kiln (Petch 1958, 107). Another site is noted at Meering, Notts., where a surface collection of greywares was made in the 1940s-1960s but evidence for a kiln is even more tenuous (Todd 1968, 208). Swan (1984, 21) also refers to a site at Newark as having kilns but the evidence is scant and inconclusive (M. Bishop and J. Samuels pers. comm.).

The market networks of these industrial centres are difficult to establish. There have been few excavations on rural sites of this period in the Trent Valley and fieldwalking collections from Lincolnshire have not been sufficiently analysed to be able to draw firm conclusions about distribution of products. The most remarkable fact is that, to date, there are no known kiln sites on the west bank of the Trent and that fieldwalking in the modern county of Nottinghamshire has shown that very little Roman pottery is picked up (D. Garton pers. comm.). One or two of the forms present in the Trentside kilns have been identified from Nottinghamshire sites but kilns in the Doncaster region were producing similar wares and these may have been the source for the pottery in Nottinghamshire. Until it becomes possible to distinguish between the fabrics from the Trentside and Doncaster kilns a source cannot be definitively assigned.
Fig. 17. Pottery from the Newton on Trent kilns (J. R. Samuels).
The dearth of Roman pottery from Nottinghamshire is in direct contrast to the large quantities which have been recovered from sites in Lincolnshire. There are numerous large Roman settlements, including several villas, on the Lincolnshire side of the Trent Valley and along the springline of the Limestone Cliff. Despite the ferry crossings known to have existed in the Roman period (e.g., at the end of Tillbridge Lane, opposite the fort at Littleborough) the Trent must have been a major physical barrier with little communication between natives on either side.

There are, however, considerable difficulties in allocating products to a specific kiln site. The raw material available to the Trentside potter was, in every case, local alluvial clay and it is unlikely that even thin-sectioning of fabrics would be able to source sherds with accuracy to a specific production site. There seems to have been little specialisation in kiln production and slight variations in proportion of one vessel type to another presumably reflected current demand. One cannot, therefore, assign with confidence particular vessel types to a location and even if the necessary analysis of fieldwalking and excavation collections was to be carried out it might only be possible to source products to the Trentside group.

An obvious market for the Trentside greywares would have been Lincoln itself. However, the evidence from Lincoln, so far, is hardly overwhelming. Some Trentside forms appearing in Lincoln are types found at a number of kilns, for example the carinated jar which is not only present at Newton and Lea, but also Roxby (S. Humberside), indicating widespread manufacture of this type. Other forms found at Lea and Newton, such as the split rim jars and the narrow-necked jars with internal lid-seating are rarely found in Lincoln.

Three kiln sites producing grey ware close to Lincoln have been found but their products were more specialised and none fit the production period of the Trentside kilns. Two late first-century kilns found at Hykeham were making predominantly rusticated wares and a single kiln was discovered at the Lincoln Racecourse in 1948 which contained Black Burnished Ware (BB1) copies, quite different from the products of the kiln sites discussed above. A greyware kiln found on Bracebridge Heath in 1990 was producing greyware, but of a late third century date. There is every possibility that a kiln contemporary with those at Lea and Newton will eventually be found at Lincoln itself.

In conclusion, it is becoming apparent that the second-century Trentside greyware kilns were of considerable local importance and probably served a large rural area, perhaps including the west bank of the Trent. In addition, the kilns may have supplied Lincoln itself. It is clear that detailed comparison of the Lincoln material with the kiln products is required. In addition, further excavation of the known kiln sites (only 13 kilns out of a total exceeding 30 have been investigated) is badly needed.

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