

Pot shards found on Naphill Common

Pot shard 105

This is a fragment of moderately fine-grained baked clay pot, about 5 mm thick. The clay is reddish-ochre with what appears to be a dark grey slip on one side and perhaps a paler grey slip on the other. The use of slips first became common in Roman times but grey would be unusual. It is almost flat. The only features are two straight scratch-like lines across the piece. One is on the “top”, just by the label; the other is on the darker side. The two “scratches” are not exactly parallel. Its date is indeterminate but could be Romano-British. Expert advice will be sought.



Top



Underside

Pot shard 182

This is a fragment of coarse baked clay pot, about 9 mm thick. The clay is yellow-ochre and contains small cavities and fragments of grit. The curve suggests that it was part of a pot of about 30 cms (12 inches) diameter. The inner side (with label) is darker which may be a stain from the contents of the pot or may be a thin grey slip. Its date is not certain but it appears to be fairly typical of pottery from the Iron Age or earlier, hence it could be Romano-British. Expert advice will be sought.

The significance of these shards are that they were both found on different locations within the boundary of the ‘D’ shaped earthwork on Naphill Common. The date, origin and purpose of this enclosure is open to debate but the general opinion has been that it is a Romano-British farmstead. These shards may support that conclusion. In 1991 a shard of pot with a round rim, now in Aylesbury museum was found in Dew Pond next to the earthwork. This was identified as Romano-British by Mike Farley who was then the Bucks County archaeologist.



Top



Underside