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Ancient Monuments Laboratory  
Report 6/92

EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES FROM TWO  
LIME KILNS, SLAUGHTER HOUSE LANE,  
NEWARK.

Catherine Mortimer BTech DPhil

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Summary

Samples from two kilns (14th/15th century and 15th/16th century) were found to be lime.

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Examination of samples from two lime kilns, Slaughter House Lane,  
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Two samples were presented for analysis; sample 005 is from a medieval kiln (feature 153, dated late fourteenth/fifteenth century) and sample 003 is from a kiln which is probably post-medieval in date (feature 129, fifteenth or sixteenth century).

Both samples consist of crumbly creamy-white material, although sample 003 has a stratified appearance, with darker material interleaved; this may be due to repeated cycles of treatment or to the material being laid down in water. Small subsamples of both samples reacted vigorously to dilute HCl - indicating the presence of CaCO<sub>3</sub> (ie chalk or limestone). Sample 005 has some unreacted and partially-reacted lumps of dark stone which also react vigorously with dilute HCl. Geological examination of these stones may facilitate the identification of the origin of the material burnt in these kilns. No fuel (wood or charcoal) was noted in either sample.

#### Parallels

These kilns have no extant features inside. A 13th century lime kiln in Bedford Castle (Hassall 1979, 46-51) has four quadrant-shaped platforms built of large limestone blocks.

#### Reference

Hassall J 1979 'North of the Golden Eagle Public House: Lime kiln' in Baker D, Baker E, Hassall J and Simco A, 'Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977' Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal vol 13.