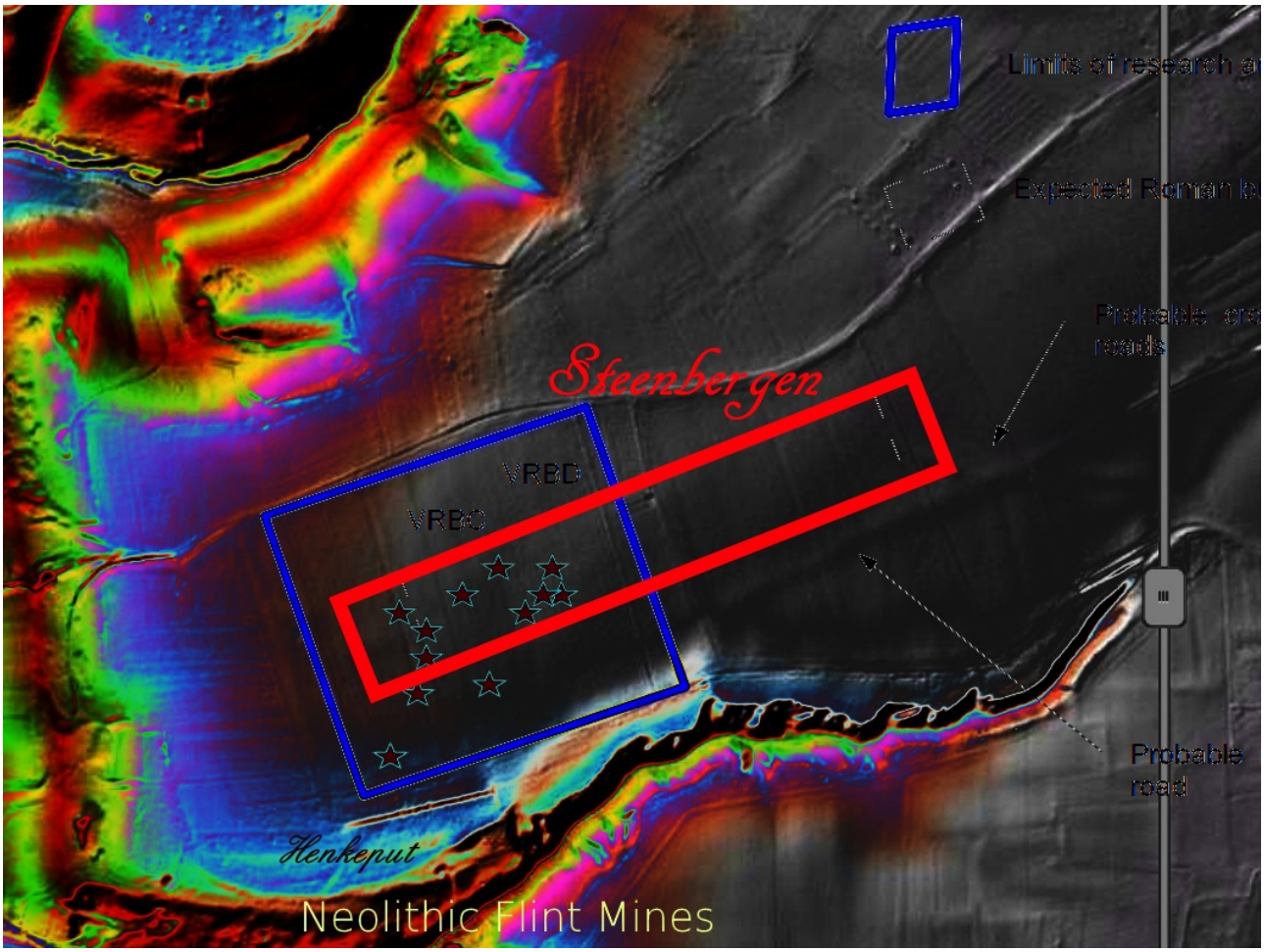
"Roman Rijckholt" at St. Geertruid - *Steenbergen*

(community of Eijsden - Margraten, the Netherlands).

An update after recent finds.

L. Jimmy Groen



This report is an update of the report entitled "Evidence for Roman – Early Medieval habitation on the plateau at St. Geertruid – *Steenbergen* " (L. Jimmy Groen, 2015) and together they form an unique document on the discovery of a Roman villa at St. Geertruid - *Steenbergen*, South Limburg, the Netherlands.

Tags: Roman, villa, St. Geertruid, regional archeology, pottery shards, survey, Limburg

Summary
After many finds from the Roman period have been noticed at a field north of the *Schoone Grub* as part of the Neolithic flint mine complex of Rijckholt, many other finds in an adjacent field show clear evidence for a Roman building, probably a villa. The field- name St. Geertruid - *Steenbergen* has been clarified as belonging to the remains of one or more Roman buildings that have been located on a flattened ridge north of the ravine *Schoone Grub*. From the various finds it is possible derivate some information about the Roman building that was located here.
1 The building was, like all Roman villas, covered with red roof tiles, so called *tegulue* and i*mbrices*.
2 There was at least some part of the building that had window pane glass (forming a bath house?)
3 The pottery shards are suggesting a local Roma villa *rustica/ urbana*
4 Some roof tile parts and some pottery shards carry fire marks, pointing at a fire
5 The structure(s) is/ are located over a minimum of 80 - 100 m based on pattern of roof tile finds
We might speak of a *Roman Rijckolt* at the Neolithic flint mine complex.
The report also briefly discusses the possibility that the villa could have had a relationship with Roman viticulture. Any relation with viticulture is just an idea, based on the special position the villa had in the landscape.

Samenvatting
Na vele vondsten uit de Romeinse periode, waargenomen op een geploegd veld noordelijk gelegen van de kloof genaamd *Schoone Grub*, onderdeel van het Neolithische vuursteenmijn complex van Rijckholt, zijn nog vele andere vondsten gedaan op een naastgelegen veld. Al deze waarnemingen tezamen tonen overduidelijk aan dat het hier gaat om een Romeins gebouw, mogelijk een villa. De veldnaam St. Geertruid - Steenbergen is daarmee verklaard door het voorkomen van resten van een Romeins gebouw noord van de *Schoone Grub*. Vanut de verschillende vondsten is het mogelijk om het volgende op te merken:
1 Het gebouw was, zoals gebruikelijk voor Romeinse villa's, met rode dakpannen belegd, zogenaamde *tegulae* en *imbrices*.
2 Tenminste een (klein) deel van het gebouw bezat vensterglas in de ramen (badhuis?)
3 De aardewerkscherven veronderstellen dat we te maken hebben met een villa *rustica*.
4 Sommige dakpannen en aardewerk scherven vertonen brandsporen, wat duidt op een brand
5 De mogelijke fundamenten van het gebouw liggen verspreid over een lengte van ca 80- 100 meter, welke veronderstelling is gebaseerd op de verspreiding van vondsten (dakpan).
We mogen dus spreken van een *Romeins Rijckholt* in het Neolithisch vuursteenmijn gebied.
In het rapport wordt verder heel kort ingegaan op een mogelijkheid dat de villa een relatie zou hebben kunnen gehad met Romeinse wijnbouw. Dat laatste is niet meer dan een idee, gebaseerd op de speciale locatie waarop de villa in het landschap was gelegen.

Introduction.
This report is an update after a ten years field survey (2005 – 2015) made on the main plateau near the village of Rijckholt, located within the former community of St. Geertruid, belonging to the present community of Eijsden - Margraten in the province of Limburg, the Netherlands.
A field north of the so called *Schoone Grub* ravine, belonging to the Neolithic flint mines of Rijckholt, several additional finds have been made.
In 2015 a report has been published at *Academia edu* about results of field surveys carried out between 2005 and 2015, showing a possible location for Roman – Early medieval habitation. In this report, entitled "Evidence for Roman – Early Medieval habitation on the plateau at St. Geertruid – *Steenbergen* "(Groen, 2015), information has been given about a variety of finds, pointing into the direction of an inhabited zone during the Roman- Early Medieval period.
As these finds did not only include shards, a coin (Hadrianus Augustus, dated between 134 and 138

AD) and utensil glass, but also Roman roof tile fragments (recognizable by its special temper and relative thickness and shape) and Roman window glass fragments, a Roman construction was suspected for the location.
This formerly investigated field, labeled VRBC as a code for its location at the north side of a steep artificial ravine caused by Neolithic flint mining activities, was limited in western and eastern direction by either a grassland and a fruit yard. The latter was the continuation of a higher flattened elevation on the hill north of the so called *Schoone Grub* ravine, where further indications of occupation during the Roman period were suspected.
This report is about the results of investigations at this adjacent field, carried out in spring 2017. For details about the local geological surface profile, soil conditions and other information see the previous report (Groen, 2015). The name *Steenbergen* (Stone - mountains) has been explained in the former report and in this case, this specific fieldname occurring next to the Neolithic flintmines of Rijckholt would normally suggest it would be all about flint (chunks, natural fieldstones). However, nearly all fields around Rijckholt carry flint and natural field stones, so it is believed the stones which is referred to in the field-name *Steenbergen* (*Steen* =stone) is specifically about the well visible red roof tile fragments, which after heavy rain sometimes give the field a red color. If not, almost all fields around Rijckholt could carry the name *Steenbergen* as we find flint and natural fieldstones everywhere in this area.
From the wider area with field name *Steenbergen*, only few Roman finds have been reported to ARCHIS (Archaeological Information System) except for ARCHIS Observation 21238, which refers to the find of a Roman roof tile at Steenbergen, and some single shards of Roman pottery which have been reported from the eastern part of *Steenbergen* (ARCHIS observation 40866) (Deeben, 2011, 38/ 136). Some Roman shards are known from the so called *Henkeput*, a marl pit near Steenbergen, of which it is believed it has served for the mining of marl.
This is an *update* of a primary report about prospections; relevant information (like images of finds, specific find locations) is stored in this report so it will be accessible by others.

Research question and objectives
After the report of 2015, closing a ten year surface survey at field VRBC (see report: Groen, 2015), the evidence was given for Roman habitation. Further objective was to obtain more additional evidence especially about the possible enlargement of a Roman building at this location. The main issue was to establish, if the Roman habitation would be limited to some small sized area or if the remains found at VRBC would be expanded over a more large area in the adjacent field(s). This only could be established by target surface prospection, collecting all (archaeological and historical) find groups from building materials till shards and slag.

Surface prospection in archeology has only a purpose for gathering information for specific reasons, like for detecting archaeological remains that are hidden in the field, locating it's estimated surface area, etc.. The results should be limited to identified Roman artifacts, or typical artifacts that habitually do not occur in later (other) contexts, like *tesserae*. So the research question was limited to the Roman period and most finds of other periods (like flint artifacts) are beyond the scope of this investigation.

Methods
The method for this field survey was similar to the other surveys made between 2005 and 2015, using a systematic field walking method to investigate the entire area, because it was suggested possible remains of a Roman building would be buried more deep, slowly sagged in the course of more than seventeen centuries. Field survey is one of the good methods for discovering new archaeological information and always is a snapshot of reality (depending on light, weather, the knowledge of the prospector, moisture of the soil, what has been plowed up by accident, etc.). As the results of field survey might serve as *basic information* for further investigations at this location,

it is a good thing to store most relevant information in a report, which is the only reason why so many images of surface finds are added in this report.
Finds from the field were cleaned afterwards and labeled VRBD, several finds have been photographed and are stored in separate bags. All finds will serve educational or scientific purpose only. In the field coordinates have been taken by an open GPS system, a free Android GPS, with DOP deviation 1-2. This deviation in position is not very important, as surface finds always are out of primary context and 'move' at the surface during the years, especially at slopes and in case of intensive agricultural activities. This makes the uncertainty for its original position relatively big, while the scattered patterns of shards on the other hand still show the more large picture for possible activity zones or hidden structures. Maps of the Arcgis AHN- viewer (maps in *Actuele Hoogtebestand Nederland*) were used and transformed to project finds. Details of artifacts were studied and photographed with help of a Digilab 5.0.

The investigated field
Community: St. Geertruid; fieldname: *Steenbergen*
Coordinates: (at random central point in field(s), given by Google Maps) 50.799612, 5.750677
Field code: VRBD (V = *vuursteenmijn* =flintmine R = Rijckholt B = Northside, D = specific field)
Field surface dimensions: ca 140m. in length x 80 m. in width.
The investigated field is adjacent to the previous investigated field (labeled VRBC) and is a continuation of an elevation in the landscape, somehow in the shape of a flattened ridge. In this case, erosion slopes with colluvial soil horizons are visible where sometimes the upper layer has been eroded more so the plow could reach materials from more deep layers. In the field different soil types are sometimes clearly visible at the surface, where we observe usual loess, bleached loess, dark, often also gray / dark brown soil type (used by humans/ burned) a pale yellow soil type and a red/ brown soil type with light gray clay lenses (from lower horizons related to the original stratigraphy).

Location of the investigated area shown at
the red star on a regional map (by Google Maps), showing
the city of Maastricht (NL) and the Meuse river in the northwest and west.

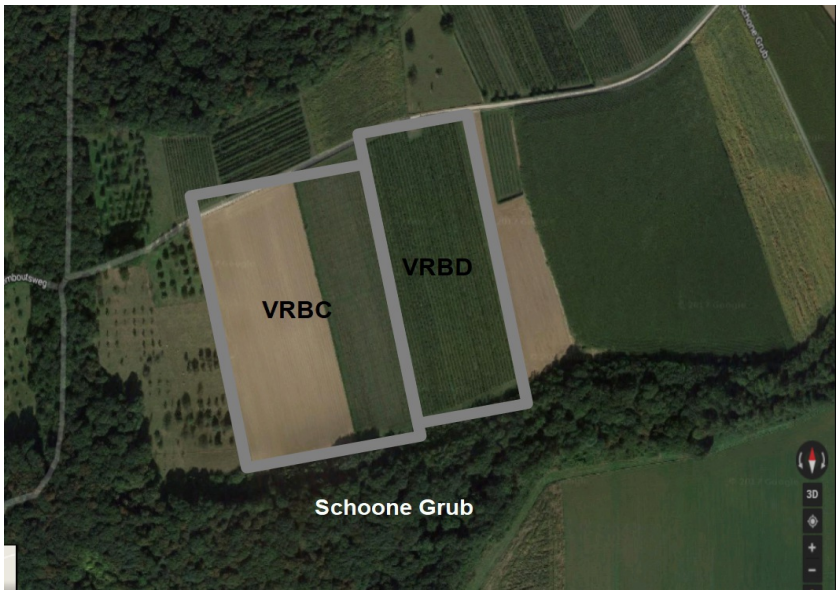


Image from Google Maps with position and limitations of field VRBC and the adjacent field VRBD, latter is subject of this update. The Schoone Grub ravine is located just south of the investigated fields and hidden in a forest.

Results

All finds have been found in disturbed context, the field has been used for *agricultural activities* over long time, post medieval shards from both VRBC and VRBD indicate a use of the land for agriculture in the 17th -early 18th century (including brown glazed stoneware, yellow glazed pottery, red ware, 'Westerwald' kearmik). One shard could be identified, by its typical line decoration and surface characteristics as *Pingsdorf* - ware; decoration fits in period 5/6 of Sanke. 1050-1150 AD (Sanke, 2002). This period coincides with the early development of the plateau near St Geertruid between 1100 and 1300 from the villages in the Meuse valley (Hartman, 1986).

Finds have been found scattered over the field, where the southern slope showed most finds at the surface probably due to erosion over decades. Both the upper layer visible at the highest parts (ca +130 m. a.s.l.) as a colluvial horizon at the slope carry finds, though the latter have clearly more finds of pottery shards.

In the field at one location (with coordinates 50.799624, 5.750843) a large fieldstone (ca 30 cm in length) and some other field stones were noticed, in this context a shard of *terra sigillata* (TS, see image 1 in the appendix) and two roof tile fragments have been found together. At this location, the plow must have made a small gap caused by this large natural stone chunk in the field.

Many pottery shards have been found, among them shards belonging to the Roman period. These shards were mainly identified as shards of *terra sigillata* (TS, Samian ware), *color coated ware* (CGCC) and shards of g*rog tempered ware*/ handmade pottery.

The pottery shards and roof tile fragments often show intense fragmentation and at many places the surface soil is showing a pattern of speckles (1- 4 or 5 mm) related to intense use of the soil consisting of carbon, small red pottery / tile parts and calcareous particles. Though many pottery shards have been found, the number of glass fragments identified for the Roman period is very low (N= 2) and besides of one silver coin, no metal founds could be identified as belonging to the Roman period (no metal detecting has been carried out). Some iron object have been noticed, but these are hard to attribute to a certain period.

Table: some *important* finds with characteristics and find location (± 5 m in position GPS by Google). Coordinates of surface position at survey.

Find	**N**	**Description**	**Coordinates**
Roof tile fragments	3	Deep red in color (F2)	50.799660, 5.751403
Terra sigillata	1	Light orange, fragment of a dish (F1)	50.799624, 5.750843
Opaque glass bead	1	Green ribbed glass bead	50.799599, 5.750497
Prehistoric shard	1	Rims shard of prehistoric pot (F6/7)	50.798938, 5.751137
Opaque glass	1	Molten glass fragment (tessera ?)	50.799113, 5.750757

Table: numbers of finds by category

Pottery	**Description/ type**	**N**
Prehistoric		
Handmade	Neolithic- Bronze Age; rim, 5 x 6 x 2 cm.; temper with burned flint	1
Roman (identified)		
Grog Tempered Ware -type	Bottom fragment, probably Iron age	1
Terra sigillata	Rim of a dish shard dim 6 x 4 cm.; max, groove	1
Terra sigillata	Rim	2
Terra sigillata	Wall decorated	2
Terra sigillata	Wall	7
Color coated ware	Wall	3
Color coated ware	Bottom fr.	1
White fabric	wall	26
White fabric	Rim - unidentified	5
White fabric	Rim mortaria	2
Pink /red fabric	wall	2
Grey gallo - belgic	wall	1
Amphora	handle	1
Orange fabric	wall	4
Red ware	Wall; Type identified by temper	5
Roman unidentified		
Indet.	wall	2
Gray fabric	wall	3
Red indet.	wall	5

Roman other		
Roof tile *tegulae*	Flat thick tiles fragments (3 cm or more)	11
Roof tile *imbrix* type	Round, relative thin (ca 2- 2,5 cm)	18
Drain pipe cf.	Round, estimated diameter ca 7 cm; fragments	3
Iron slag	Slag material molten iron	1
Glass paste	Molten glass slag type fragment, blue green color	1
(Roman cf.)wall fr.	Plaster and mortar fragments of walls	5 (4, of which one was recently broken; found together)
(Post-)medieval		
Pottery	Pingsdorf (1) Westerwald – type (3), early stoneware (2), glazed red wares, green slib white ware...sub -recent shards, industrial wares	67

Total artifacts 2005-2017
Total Prehistoric shards 2
Total Roman shards 73
Total (Post-) medieval 67
Total Roman roof tile fragments 29 (collected*)

*many more small parts have been noticed in the field, one 3h. prospection 83 fragments were noticed.

Artifacts	N
Roman shards 2005-2015	168
Roman shards 2017	73
Roman roof tile fr. 2005-2015	11
Roman roof tile fr. 2017	29
Roman coins 2005-2015	2
Roman *identified* glass 2017	2
Roman *identified* objects 2017	1

Total shards 241 (observed, collected)
Total roof tile fr. 40 (collected)
Total mortar/ plaster 5

Conclusions

At two different plowed fields in the community of Eijsden – Margraten, in the period 2005 till 2017 a total of 286 Roman artifacts have been surface collected. Generally, the artifacts show heavy weathering due to long time disturbance like erosion, and due to agricultural activities. As the fieldname refers to the the remains of a Roman villa (or even to *more* Roman buildings, this is unknown) the heaps of stones must have been visible in the field during centuries after it has been destroyed. These heaps of stones will have been re- used and recycled, even in the field- road

leading beside of the villa location many fragments of roof tiles and iron slag is still visible especially at eroded places.

The establishment of the presence of one or more Roman buildings at the location St. Geertruid - *Steenbergen* is entirely based on evidence from the surface. It is most unlikely a combination of (many) Roman shards, many roof tile fragments, Roman window pane glass, identified Roman utensil glass (two different rib bowl fragments, one in light green and another translucent), Roman mortar and other utensils have been brought up with dung during agricultural land use. The oldest post -Roman shard is a single shard of Medieval *Pingsdorf* pottery (mid 11th- mid 12th century) and only some other shards (early stoneware) are suggesting land use before 1500. Most shards from the post Roman period however date back to the 17th - 18th century till (sub-) recent and in majority they have been found limited to the *higher parts* of the field. One copper alloy coin has been identified as a late 17th century "duit", which is a very common find.

It is possible to interpret a large part of finds from VRBD as belonging to and having relations with a former Roman building, which is *very likely* a Roman villa. The Romans must have lived next to the Schoone Grub.

The dimensions of the construction could not be estimated from the finds, but finds of roof tile fragments were separated in distance of at least 80 - 100 meters suggesting a more large surface had been used in the Roman period for one or more separate buildings. This assumption is also based on the fact find locations of Roman pottery shards roughly have the same distribution in the field over ca 80 - 100 meters which is only an estimated value, entirely based on the results of prospections. So it is unknown how far this inhabited area would continue in the direction of the village of Eckelrade, but it is likely it follows the flattened ridge of ca +129 m. a.s.l. - +134 m. a.s.l.

The roof tile fragments show similar types compared to those found at VRBC, namely one type is deep red (wet) or deep orange (dry) in color and is easily solving a little bit in contact with water and brush, while the other type has more course temper and is lighter in color. Parts of the fields at this location color red by the dissolving of the many roof tile fragments.

Finds of Roman mortar (identified by its composition of lime, recycled pottery fragments and lithic (volcanic) inclusions and plaster confirm the presence of a Roman building.

At both fields pottery shards of course ware (type probably a *Camulodunum* – type, Iron age-Roman period handmade pottery (compare with Tyers, 1998) have been found, as well as pottery of *terra sigillata* (TS, Samian ware) and *color coated ware* (CGCC) made in two different techniques, three shards were made in type B and one shard in type A. For detailed information about characteristics and fabrics see also a previous report (Groen, 2015).

The field VRBD is showing similar patterns in distribution of Roman artifacts compared with the adjacent investigated field VRBC. This is due to similar sloping gradients – though VRBC shows a sloping gradient to both western and southern direction. In this case, roof tile fragments have both be found in the upper part of the field and on the slopes – even in the lower zones, while shards dominate at the lower sloping zone, except for some finds of some shards of *terra sigillata* which have been found on the higher part of the investigated fields.

It is very possible the real Roman structure is still covered by a loess cover in the highest parts around and above + 130m a.s.l. which is based on the fact large parts of the field lack any artifact at the surface. Whether this is really caused by a more deep position of the foundations of the building or by a real difference in distribution pattern of artifacts, could not be established.

The total number of shards and roof tile fragments from both sites VRBC and VRBD (total shards N = 241, total *collected* roof tile parts N=40) are proving we deal with a permanent inhabited zone from the Roman period. Further investigations at both fields would be necessary to establish its

exact position, its function, dimensions and period as well as a possible relation with the adjacent south oriented (wine?) terraces, overlooking the *Schoone Grub* ravine and the relation with the *Henkeput* in this.

Finds made during field prospections in a total of 11 years are suggesting the location St. Geertruid - *Steenbergen* had been inhabited during the Roman period, so we might speak of a *Roman Rijckholt* north of and adjacent to the Schoone Grub. In case of a Roman villa, it is one of the more rare examples of an inhabited location further away from the local Roman main roads.

APENDIX 1 Selected images

F1. Shard of a plate/ dish in Samian pottery in orange color (coordinates 50.799624, 5.750843 ± 5m) Ref. Argonne ARG -RS type

F 1 A Details by magnification. Left showing the weathering and original color without coating; middle image: cross section of shard; right inclusions and lost of coating.

F2. Roof tile fragment (coordinates 50.799117, 5.750925 ± 5m)

F3. Bottom and part of wall of a large grog tempered jar(probably a dolium) (coordinates 50.799388, 5.750420 ± 5m)

F 4. Decorated "Samian"shard in orange fabric.
The surface is very eroded, but still shows a part of a circle
and a line with three additional small leaves.
(coordinates 50.798819, 5.750936 ± 5m) It is possibly a 4th century Late Roman bowl.
Decoration with red slip-ware, the color imitated imported Samian ware

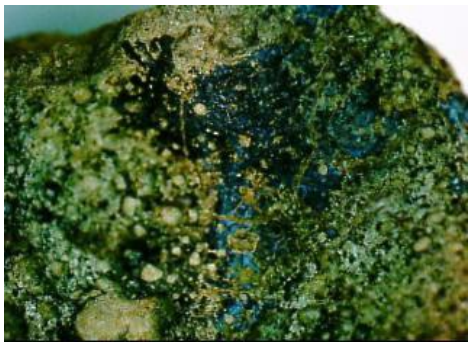
F4 A details showing weathering of the decoration; cross section of shard with trituration grid and right an image of the weathering showing its gray inner side.

F 5. Rim shard of a mortarium in white fabric (coordinates 50.799529, 5.750953 ± 5m)

F 6/ 7. Prehistoric (Neolithic - Bronze age) shard from the same field, rim shard. The temper is very coarse grained (see image below)(coordinates 50.798938, 5.751137 ± 5m) and it has great similarities with bronze age finds from the Belgian Kempen region (BT K3 0811*)*

F 8. Color Coated Ware probably from Cologne (coordinates object top of image 50.799127, 5.750836 ± 5m and object right below with coordinates 50.798677, 5.751136 ± 5m)

F 9. Molten glass fragment in blue- green color (see upper part of object) Compare with find from VRBC, a heavily weathered opaque blue- green opaque glass fragment, with typical fluid opaque glass pattern and attached iron stain (coordinates 50.798643, 5.750695 ± 5m) Still it's original period is unclear.



F9A Detail (magnification 5x) of silica slag from VRBD, showing molten cobalt blue colored glass. Still, if there is a relation with Roman finds is unknown.

F 10. Terra sigillata shard ' in situ' at surface

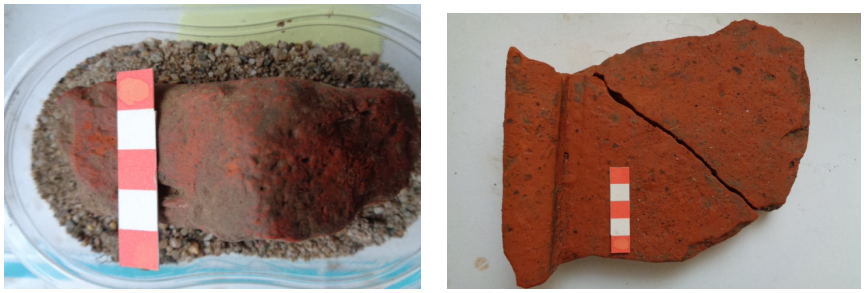
F 11. Wall shard at surface (left) and rim shard of mortarium on the hand (right)

F 12. Black core fragment of grog tempered ware, almost in the same color of the surrounding soil.

APPENDIX 2 Small additional images of finds

F 13. Color coated ware has been found in two different techniques (A and B). In the image left we see three shards in technique B. Image right: detail of decoration in technique B.

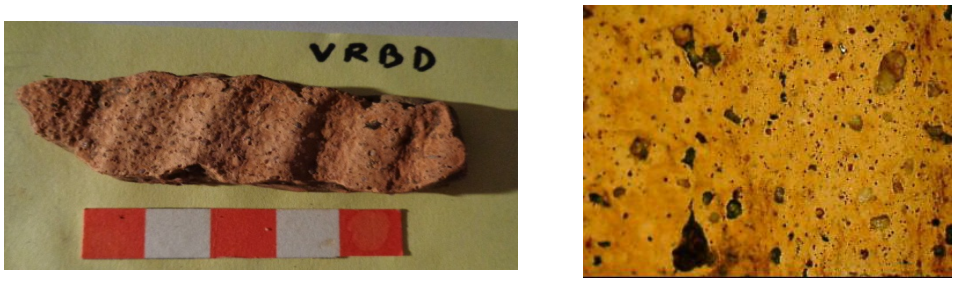
F 14. Left: rim shard of mortarium. Middle and right detail showing trituration grid (magnification 10 x)



F 15. Left: roof tile fragment: thickness (till 4 cm). Right: Two parts of *Tegula,* fitting together

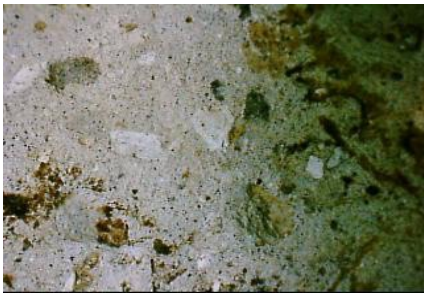
F 16. Left: roof tile fragment with animal imprints (of a very young cat?) Right: *imbrix* fragment

F 17. Left: large roof tile fragment with visible quartz temper (dimension of tile max 15 x 9 x 3,5 cm) Right: burned roof tile fragment



F 18. Left: Roman pottery shard,view at inner wall showing wheel thrown ripple effect, orange fabric, likely to be from an amphora. Right: detail (magnification 10x) showing trituration grid

F 19. Unidentified pottery shard probably from the Roman period



F 20. Grey pottery shard and detail of surface (magnification 10x)

F 21 Cf. drain pipe fragments, curved 1.4 cm thick red terracotta. Image left is showing typical vertical line (shaped impression 1 cm wide) such as known from other drain pipes from field B1 (Bocholtz – *Dellender*; Groen, 2016)

F 22. Six shards in white fabric; shards in white fabric with smooth (soapy) surface have been found, type from Heerlen - kilns.

F 23. Two typical Roman pink/ red shards

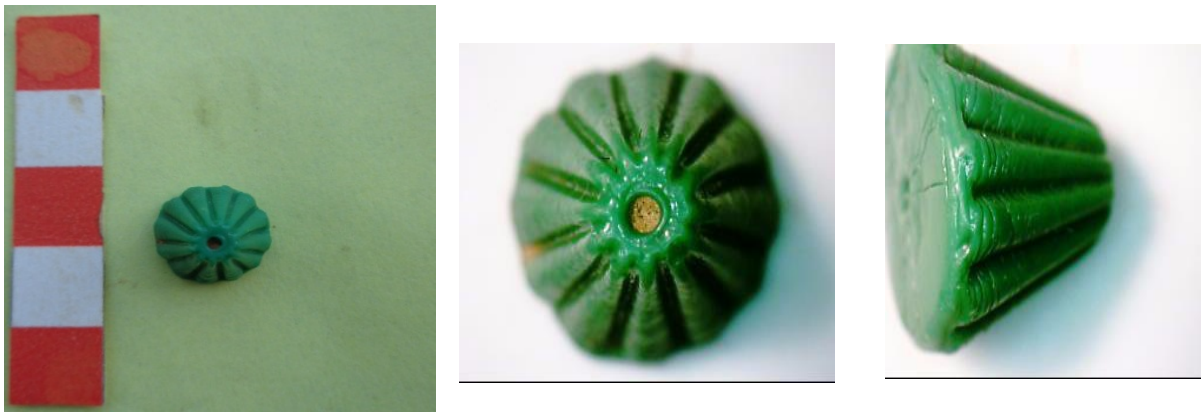
F 24. Roman pottery shard with marks of fire. Indigenous pottery

F 25 . Pottery shard TS with decoration mark in rouletting technique, decoration identical to what we find on Late Roman African Red Slip ware, ARS, 4th century AD (Hayes, 1980)

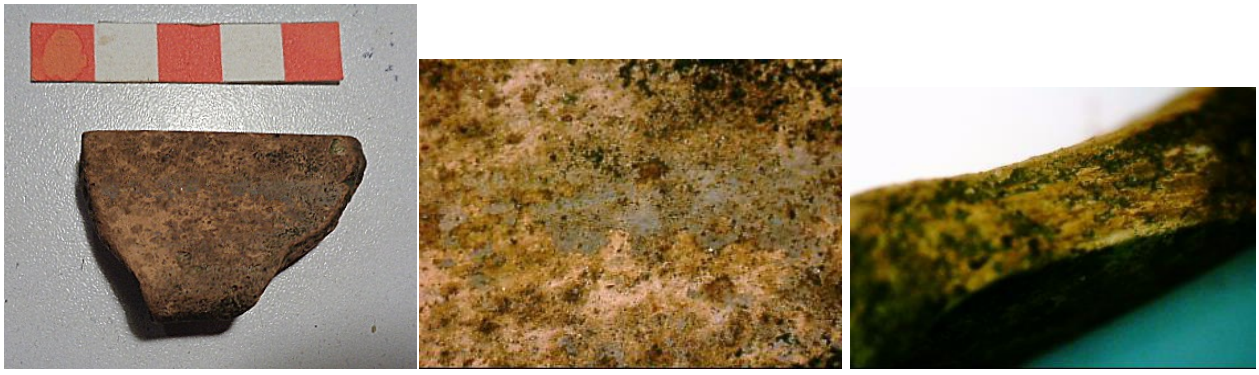
F 26. Left: iron slag, probably linked to Roman habitation. Middle: burned flat stone with iron attachment stain. Right: detail of this flat stone, showing intense heating and rust

F 27. Roof tile fragment with marks of fire

F 28. Left: utensil glass, wall fragment of a translucent glass ribbed bowl with (three visible fragmented) molded ribs, 1st till 2nd century AD. Right image: magnification (10x) of glass surface in partial contra- light, showing corrugated surface of the casting. The bowl was a shallow flat based bowl, Isings form 19?



F 29. Left: green Roman spindle whorl, ca 100- 300 AD. Middle and right: magnification 5 x

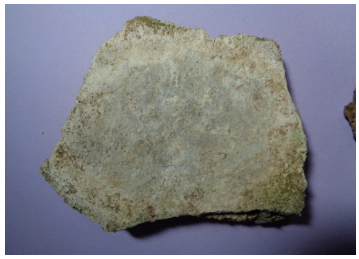


F 30. Rim shard of withe varnished pottery found on the hill slope at ca ten meters from the Henkeput. Left: shard, general view inner wall; middle: detail by magnification (3 x) of surface showing traces of the light gray/ white varnish (inner wall view); right: cross - section of original break.

F 30. Fragment of Roman plaster with mortar, most likely a wall fragment (left). Middle: *surface* of plaster (probably the wall surface) detail (magnification 3 x); right detail of mortar consisting of lime, recycled pottery and lithic fragments,

F 31. Left image: macroscopic view of the fragment F30 (left). Middle: two separate parts of one piece of plaster found together and only recently broken; image depicting the frontside. Right: backside of the separate parts, showing a rough surface which originally had been attached to a more course mortar type

F31 A. Cross section of smallest fragment of image F 31 (right image).



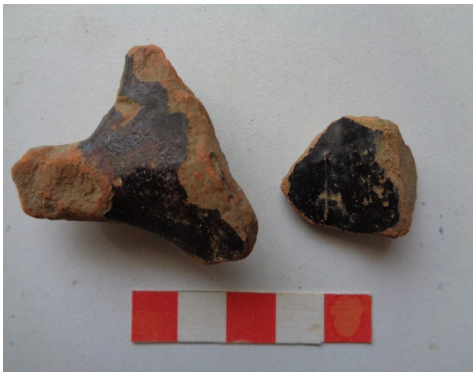
F31 B. Detail of the course part of the mortar: large inclusions of lime glued together. The structure of the mortar gets more fine tempered to the outside, till a smooth surface has been realized to form the plaster. The image right shows a slight difference in color at the surface, showing an horizontal oval shaped discoloration, probably due to original painting.

F32. Grog tempered ware/ handmade ware; tempered with inclusions of sand till >2 mm, with inner core of shard ranging between dark gray and black, outside wall has soapy smooth appearance; compare late Roman grog tempered wares (Tomber & Dore, 1998).

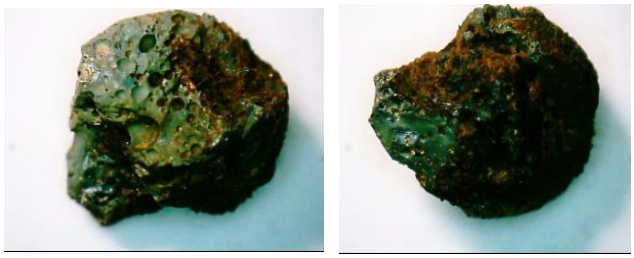
F33 Shard of possible indigenous Roman ware; compare with ROB SH - Romano British (Tomber & Dore, 1998).


F34 Roman Republic coin dated – 76 /- 75 BC, valued 1 denarius; Gnaeus Cornelius Lentulus Marcellinus (EX) SC (Senatus Consultus) CN.LE**NT CVR✠** (in fat script what is readable on the coin; ref. Seaby, 1967); silver coin (ca. 3.90 grms.) found with naked eye. Front and back side. Coordinates 50.799549, 5.750648 ± 5-7 m. In the first century this currency of the republic was still valid.


F35 Black burnished ware . Abundant quartz inclusions – 'earthenware' - compare with a ROSS BB1 (Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware 1, (i.c. Romano British ware, Tomber & Dore et al. (1998))



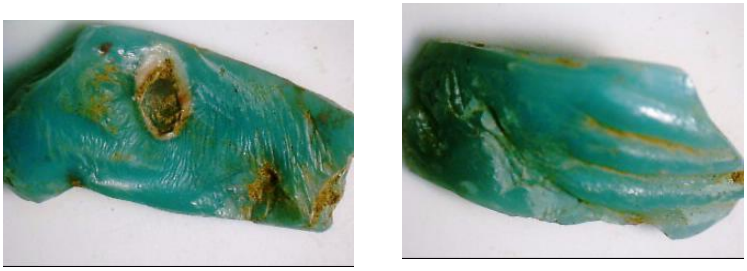
F36 Black slipped ware on orange fabric, probably Central Gaulish (handle part and bottom fragment) (Brulet, Vilvorder and Delage, 2010)



F37 Molten opaque glass fragment (magnification 7x) image from two sides. Possibly a tessera, compared with molten tesserae found at the surface of field B4, Bocholtz -*Vlengendaal* NL; Groen, 2016)

F38 Tessera cf. The only one found at the location. Right: dimensions of dark green tessera cf.: (LxWxTh., in cm.) 1.1 x 1.0 x 0.7 The green tessera has one smooth surface, all others are course. Coordinates of this find (Margraten**)** 50.800848, 5.750537. The possible tessera has been found on the corner of the road adjacent to the investigated field road, corresponding with a *lower level* of the investigated field.

F39 Ribbed Roman red ware wall shard, outside view

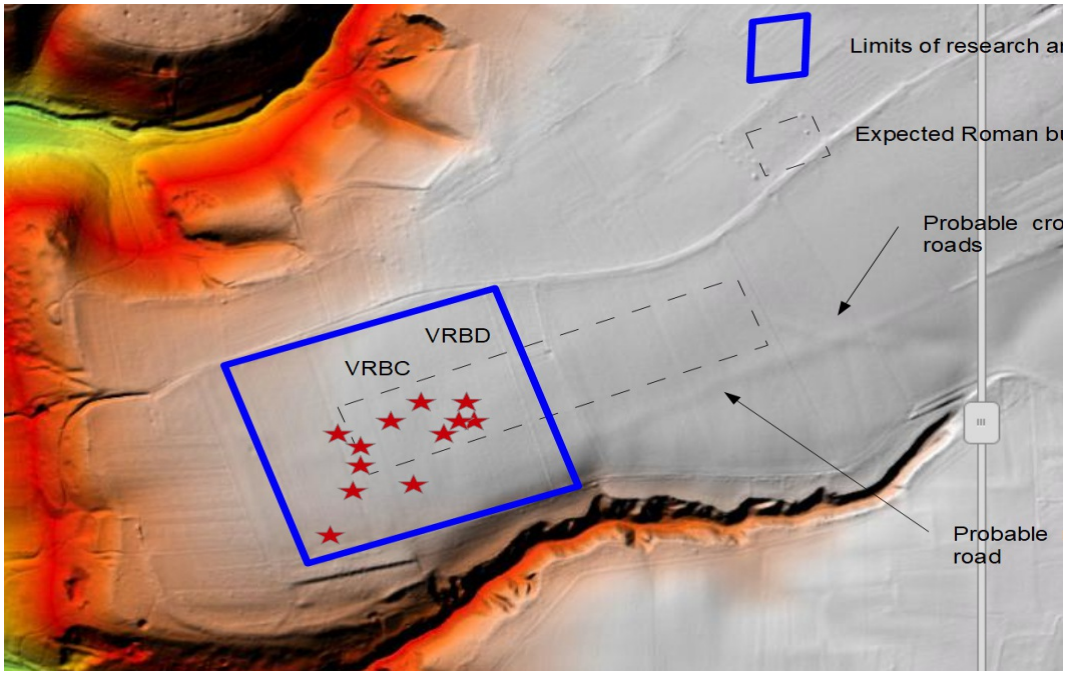


F41 A light blue opaque glass wall fragment, probably of a small jar or bowl; it has three distinguishable ribs and shows some long term deterioration. Most likely from the Roman period. It measures 2 cm in length.

POST ROMAN PERIODS

F38 Pottery shard of *Pingsdorf* ware (11th -12th century AD; see Sanke, 2002)

Additional Maps

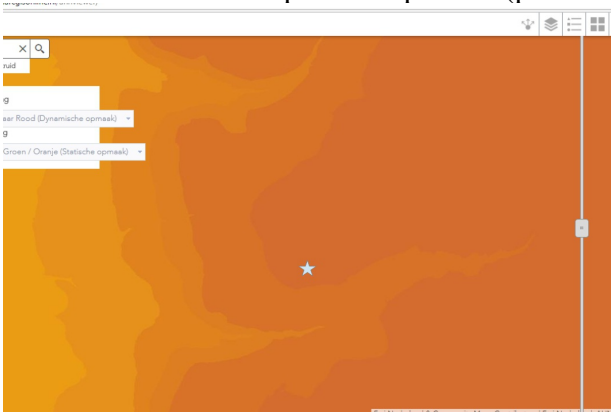


Map by AHN viewer in shade selection. The investigated area is presented in the blue line with global position of distribution of roof tile fragments in the field projected as red stars. The field is sloping to the south. The possible building is represented by a dotted line. The straight elevation line, (made visible by the LIDAR map) in the right of the picture could be explained as a former Roman road, leading to the building. The *Henkeput* is visible as a black dot in the southwest, located exactly at the plateau's edge. In this pit, in the 20th century several Roman shards have been found, stored in the collection of De Geloes, Eijsden.

Roman viticulture?

Usually we find Roman buildings at easily accessible locations, along the main roads (Roman lanes, in dutch: *heerbanen*) amid of large arable fields where crops could be brought in from all directions; having good and quick connections with the surrounding area and because villas and towns had close (economic) relations (Mazano, 2017). This does not indicate anything about the typical architecture or organization of the villa as this might be different in the northern Roman Empire (Roymans & Derks, 2011). In this case however we notice Roman habitation at a more or less isolated location ending up at a rather steep ravine in the south, steep slopes at the west and only one wider corridor from the north, visible on the LIDAR map. This would either suggest a villa

urbana or a special function for the building. In the map below we can notice the isolated position of the Roman building in a corner of the landscape of the plateau (plateau in dark brown).



A map with elevation lines marked in colors ranging between pale and dark brown, the latter is the altitude of ca125 m. a.sl., which is the main plateau. The position of the Roman building is marked with a light blue star. It is disconnected in the south by the ravine, which is not easy to cross (depth up to ca 18 m.)

At the south side of the location of the Roman building, we still find some large terraces on the south oriented slopes. The shaded lines indicate the available slopes around the Roman building of which several are very suitable for viticulture (flattened, light sloping gradient, protected against northern winds by a higher part of the plateau).

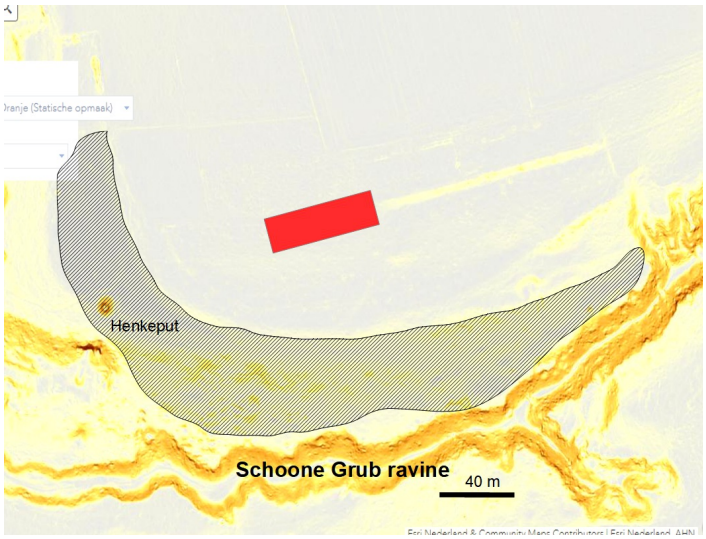


Image with angles of inclination from AHN viewer of the field of the Roman building with its adjacent south oriented slopes that were suitable for viticulture due to its position by a sloping gradient and soil conditions (cretaceous). The area suitable for viticulture is estimated 1,5 - 3 hectares. The suggested Roman building is projected in red and in the right of the picture we notice a white line, which is a result of the 'Angle of inclination '- projection of the AHN viewer and has not been adapted in the image. This would suggest a former Roman road.

In this case, the Henkeput could even have served for the mining of marl for the soil to be enriched for the viticulture. In such case, a Roman building (or several buildings) could have served for local viticulture (storage, labor) serving as (one of the) local wine production places, i.c. for the Roman

city *Mosa Trajectum* (Maastricht).
This is only one of the possibilities as a (additional) function; we do not know anything about Roman viticulture in South – Limburg and there is only a little bit of scientific knowledge about this known from the surrounding area, like from Cologne at a similar 51 º latitude, where a pruning knife has been found in Roman context (Karvonen, 2017).
In Britain *Vitis vinifera* appeared in a fossil record from a mid second century pit and could point into the direction of organized viticulture (Williams, 1977). The lack of finds of artifacts related to viticulture is not proof that viticulture did not exist in that region (Brown et al., 2001).
The date of the partially visible terraces at Rijckholt adjacent to the *Schoone Grub* ravine is unknown and only one Roman shard has been found at the hill slope, near the *Henkeput*.
So though there is no real evidence for this possibility, it is worthwhile thinking about the special position of this Roman building this close to a particular interesting area like the Rijckholt Neolithic flint mine complex with its ravine and many sloping gradients, its cretaceous soil conditions and special micro - climate which must have been noticed in the Roman period.

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