

## **Oakwood Business Park, Clacton, Essex. Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Assessment Report**

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### **Factual data (MAP2 A4.1)**

44 fragments of pottery and ceramic building material were submitted for assessment. All of the finds were unstratified and collected by fieldwalking. Each find was individually recorded in two dimensions and is identified by a single number which together with the sitecode is marked on the fragment. Most of the material was well-fired and has suffered little surface alteration through burial. The exception is a sherd identified putatively as a Romano-British greyware jar (find 15).

### **Pottery**

#### **Roman?**

A sherd of possible Romano-British greyware jar (find 15). The fabric is sand-tempered and the nature of the inclusions (rounded quartz grains, sparse angular flint, moderate flecks of muscovite in a silty clay matrix) suggests a local East Anglian source.

#### **Early Medieval (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century)**

A single sherd of handmade cooking pot (find 63). Light brown core with brown surfaces. Abundant rounded quartz sand and micaceous silty matrix.

#### **Medieval (12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century)**

Six sherds of sand-tempered, wheelthrown cooking pots. Four (finds 7, 60, 27, 59) are deliberately reduced greyware, which in East Anglia could be either of late Saxon (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>) or medieval date. However, none of the sherds have any other features suggesting an early date. Two sherds are from oxidized vessels, similar but more sandy than those produced at Mill Green, Ingatestone (finds 5, 61).

#### **Late Medieval/Early Post Medieval (15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century)**

Two sherds are from Tudor redwares, again of local origin to judge by a brief examination of their petrology (finds 10 and 120).

#### **Modern**

One fragment of flowerpot of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date (find 114).

### **Ceramic Building Material**

#### **Brick**

Three fragments of brick. All of handmade types which in this part of the country could date to the later medieval or post-medieval periods, probably not being replaced by mass-produced or non-local bricks until the present century (finds 116, 121, 58).

#### **Roof tile**

Twenty-eight fragments of medieval or early post-medieval roof tile were found (see appendix). All but one were made in an oxidised, sand-tempered fabric with medium to coarse quartz sand impressed into the underside. One

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fragment (find 64) contained a much finer sand temper and had a lighter colour. A few examples had subrectangular peg holes demonstrating that these tiles were suspended by means of two pegs per tile.

A single fragment of pantile was found (find 9).

Flat roof tiles are known in East Anglia from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and were supplanted by pantiles in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### Statement of potential (MAP2 A4.2)

The pottery and ceramic building material are in the main of 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date and are probably the result of manuring rather than indicative of medieval settlement on the site itself. They have little potential for enhancing knowledge of medieval life locally, regionally or nationally, except as part of a general survey of pottery supply in East Anglia.

### Storage and curation (MAP2 A4.3)

The pottery and ceramic building material are stable and can be stored without any special packaging or conditions. Since further study might enable the precise source of the material to be established and since a more detailed study of form and manufacture might lead to more chronological precision it is recommended that the material be retained for future study.

## Appendix

Find No	Class	Ware	Form	Comments
1	cbm	pmloc	flat	
2	cbm	pmloc	flat	
3	cbm	pmloc	flat	
4	cbm	pmloc	flat	
5	pot	medloc	jar	
7	pot	medloc	jar	greyware
8	cbm	pmloc	flat	
9	cbm	pmx	pant	
10	pot	tudes	jug	
12	cbm	pmloc	flat	
13	cbm	pmloc	flat	
14	cbm	pmloc	flat	
15	pot	grey	jar	Roman greyware?
17	pot	medloc	jar	greyware
19	cbm	pmloc	flat	
51	cbm	pmloc	flat	
52	cbm	pmloc	flat	
54	cbm	pmloc	flat	
55	cbm	pmloc	flat	
57	cbm	pmloc	flat	
58	cbm	pmloc	brick	
59	pot	medloc	jar	greyware
60	pot	medloc	jar	greyware
61	pot	medloc	jar	
63	pot	medloc	jar	handmade, abundant sand
64	cbm	pmloc	flat	very fine sand
65	cbm	pmloc	flat	
102	cbm	pmloc	flat	
103	cbm	pmloc	flat	
105	cbm	pmloc	flat	
106	cbm	pmloc	flat	
107	cbm	pmloc	flat	two peg holes
108	cbm	pmloc	flat	
111	cbm	pmloc	flat	
112	cbm	pmloc	flat	
113	cbm	pmloc	flat	
114	pot	pmx	flp	
115	cbm	pmloc	flat	
116	cbm	pmloc	brick	
117	cbm	pmloc	flat	

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118 cbm pmloc flat

119 cbm pmloc flat

120 pot tudes jug oval handle

121 cbm pmloc brick

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