

## 1.1 Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

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### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building materials was recovered. Most fragments are tiny, although a few pieces are of larger size. The material comprises one half brick, two fragments of plain roofing tile, and a number of unidentifiable fragments; there is also a fragment of possible Roman ceramic building material.

### *Methodology*

- 1.1.2 All materials were examined microscopically (×10) and have been recorded by count and weight. Where appropriate, comparisons were made with the MoL fabric series. Brief fabric descriptions are included of the more significant material. No full dimensions are preserved.

### *Quantification, Provenance and Comparative Material*

- 1.1.3 The building material and fired clay is quantified by context in Table 4.

#### Unidentifiable fired clay

- 1.1.4 Unidentifiable fragments of fired clay were recovered from contexts 56 and 63, both fills of ditch 62, dated to the later Roman period. They do not warrant further consideration.

#### Possibly Roman ceramic building material

- 1.1.5 A fragment from context 29, the upper fill of later Roman ditch 62 is in a fairly coarse red fabric with some iron oxides and shell. It is abraded and is possibly, but not certainly, of Roman date.

#### Plain roofing tiles

- 1.1.6 Fragments of plain roofing tiles (peg tiles) were recovered from context 63, fill of later Roman ditch 62 and from context 68, fill of post-medieval ditch 28. They are in slightly different but perhaps related fine fabrics, orange or light brown in colour. Thicknesses are shown in Table 5. No other dimensions are preserved. No peg/nail holes remain in the fragments.

- 1.1.7 Plain tiles changed little over time after their introduction in the 12th century and it is not possible to suggest a date for these pieces. The fragment in later Roman ditch 62 may be intrusive, perhaps becoming deposited when ditch 6 was cut through it.

#### Brick

- 1.1.8 An incomplete brick (half bat) was recovered from context 5, the primary fill of post-medieval ditch 6. It is a handmade product with a 'lumpy' orange fabric with some iron oxide, small stones, and yellowish silty bands. The arrises are quite sharp. Its breadth is 118 mm and its thickness 60-63 mm. There is mortar on its broken edge, but this does not necessarily indicate reuse since bricks are frequently used as half bats in walls. It is certainly post-Tudor in date, and probably dates from the 18th or 19th century, possibly even from the early 20th century.

### *Conservation*

- 1.1.9 Since this material contributes so little to the understanding of the site and has very little intrinsic importance, permanent retention is not recommended.

### *Potential for further work*

- 1.1.10 This fragmentary material, occurring in such small quantities, has little potential either for dating or for interpreting the site. Such small fragments of roof tile and one broken brick do not necessarily even derive from primary use at the site itself. For this reason, and because the material lacks any intrinsic interest, no further work is required on it. For publication, details of the building material may be integrated with the main text, using data from this report. Further specialist input is not required.

*Table 4: Summary of ceramic building material and fired clay*

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Count</b> | <b>Weight (g)</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Period</b> | <b>Comments</b>    |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 5              | 1            | 1160              | Brick       | ?             | Prob. C18 or later |
| 29             | 1            | 55                | ?           | ?             | Roman?             |
| 56             | 1            | 5                 | ?           | ?             | Fired clay         |
| 63             | 1            | 10                | Peg         | ?             | Not MoL fabric     |
| 63             | 14           | 5                 | ?           | ?             | Fired ceramic      |
| 68             | 1            | 40                | Peg         | ?             | Not MoL fabric     |
| 3716-2         | 1            | 5                 | ?           | ?             | Fired clay         |
| 3717-4         | 1            | 10                | ?           | ?             | Fired clay         |
| 3717-4         | 4            | 200               | Peg         | ?             | Various fabrics    |

*Table 5: Thicknesses of plain roofing tiles*

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Thickness (mm)</b> | <b>Median (mm)</b> |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 63             | 12                    | 12                 |
| 68             | 10                    | 10                 |