

1.1 Assessment of Ceramic Building Material

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 Ceramic building material was recovered during strip, map and sample excavations at Chapel Mill.
- 1.1.2 The material was recovered by hand excavation and from sieving.
- 1.1.3 The material was recovered in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The primary aim of collecting the ceramic building material was to determine whether it provided any evidence for the form, date or function of settlement in the vicinity.

Methodology

- 1.1.4 The material has been examined microscopically ($\times 10$) and basic fabric descriptions, following the Museum of London ceramic building material fabric series, are included where appropriate. The material has been recorded by count and weight.

Quantification

- 1.1.5 A total of 79 fragments of ceramic building material (675g) was recovered; it is quantified by context in Table 3. The assemblage comprises roofing tile, brick and some fragments of what may be furnace base.

Peg tile

- 1.1.6 A fragment of plain peg roofing tile with fine moulding sand attached to the base and edge was recovered from context 214, the single fill of late Iron Age ditch 215. It is in a fine orange fabric with some iron oxide and calcium carbonate. This is quite close to London fabric type 2276, but is not an exact match and is probably a more local product. The tile is 11-12mm thick; other dimensions are not preserved. There is a damaged diamond-shaped peg/nail hole approximately 11×9 mm in its upper face.

Brick

- 1.1.7 Fragments of late medieval or, more likely, post-medieval bricks were found in context 203, the upper fill of late Iron Age cremation pit 205 and context 212, the primary fill of cremation pit 213, probably also late Iron Age in date. These are in Museum of London fabric type 3065 and probably come from brickyards situated somewhere in the London area. The peg tile is probably from tileries situated somewhere in Kent.

Possible pyre, kiln or furnace material

- 1.1.8 Four fragments of material which may derive either from the cremation pyre or from a furnace or kiln base were recovered from context 211, the middle fill of cremation pit 213. They are in what appears to be a very coarse and sandy fired clay material.

Provenance

- 1.1.9 All the ceramic building material appears to be associated with post-medieval disturbance of the site. The brick was found in the fills of the two cremation pits 205 and 213, and the peg tile came from Iron Age ditch 215. The possible pyre or kiln material was stratified above a fragment of brick, in cremation pit 213.

- 1.1.10 The peg tile is in good condition but the other brick is highly fragmentary and abraded.

Conservation

- 1.1.11 The material could be discarded, although as the clearest evidence for the disturbance of the cremations it has some significance in terms of the interpretation of the site.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.12 The brick and tile is all post-medieval in date and is most significant as evidence of disturbance on the site. It requires no further work. It is unlikely that there would be any value in further analysis of the pyre or kiln material, since it comes from a disturbed context, and is associated with post-medieval brick. Its provenance is therefore uncertain, which severely restricts its value as evidence of activity on site.

Table 3: Summary of ceramic building material

Context	Count	Weight	Type	Period	Comments
203	1	5	Brick?	1450? - 1900?	tiny frags, MoL fabric 3065, brick?, (sample 100)
211	4	245	?	?	Very coarse sandy, furnace base?
212	73	320	Brick?	1450? - 1900?	tiny frags, MoL fabric 3065, brick? (sample 104)
214	1	105	Peg	1450? - 1900?	Similar to MoL fabric 2276, diamond nail hole