

APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL/ ASSESSMENT OF FIRED CLAY

Ian Betts

Conservation by Liz Barham

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A total of 2.065kg of building material were recovered comprising 1.225kg of daub and 840g of stone from nine contexts. Most contexts contained less than ten daub fragments, the only exceptions were contexts 142 (44 fragments), 172 (11 fragments) and context 176 (29 fragments).

2. Methodology

- 2.1 All the material was examined and recorded for the assessment. The daub assemblage has been counted and weighed and any features such as impressions and areas of surface were noted. The data have been entered on an ORACLE database and all the material has been retained.

3. Quantifications

- 3.1 The total assemblage size is very small, just 2.065kg of which 1.225kg is daub from nine contexts. All is of prehistoric date, with most associated with late Bronze Age pottery (contexts [142], [172], [176], [178] and [221]).
- 3.2 One piece of daub has a rounded hole 18mm in diameter cut into it, ten pieces have a curved, smooth surface and one has a rounded shape. Wattle impressions are visible on a number of pieces.

4. Provenance

- 4.1 The provenance of the material is related to pits, ditches and postholes relating to a middle and late Bronze Age settlement at Cobham Golf Course. It is likely that the material has been redeposited from nearby huts and possibly hearths.

5. Conservation

- 5.1 The daub material is relatively soft and so should be stored in a stable environment of mid-range temperature and humidity and handled very carefully.

6. Comparative material

- 6.1 Late Bronze Age settlement sites in the area are scarce. The nearest comparable material is from Area 350 Zone 6 (Cuxton) where a good daub assemblage has been recovered, dating from the late Bronze Age to the middle/late Iron Age.

7. Potential for further work

- 7.1 The assemblage is largely composed of daub and has the potential to provide information on the following original Landscape Zone aims within the category Farming Communities (2,000-100BC):

- *To determine how settlements were arranged and functioned over time –*

- 7.2 Approximately ten fragments of daub have curved surfaces, analysis of these and the other daub present should reveal evidence for the physical appearance of any nearby building or other structure.

- 7.3 Further work: building material specialist

- Combine the stratigraphic and dating information to determine the chronological and spatial patterning of the assemblage
- Write publication report

- 7.4 Illustration

- Daub fragments with curved surface and daub fragment with circular hole

8. Bibliography

None

Table 9: ARC CGC 98 Assessment of Ceramic Building Material /Assessment of Fired Clay

Context	Count	Weight	Type	Period	Comments
106	6	30	DAUB	?LBA	3102*
122	6	95	DAUB	LBA	3102* 1X PART BURNT
142	44	415	DAUB	LBA	3102* 1X ROUND SHAPE 30MM IN DIAMETER
160	8	30	DAUB	LBA	3102*
168	1	20	DAUB	?LBA	3102*
172	11	85	DAUB	LBA	3102*
176	29	490	DAUB	LBA	3102* 1X ROUNDED HOLE 18MM IN DIAMETER, SOME WITH CURVING SMOOTH SURFACE
178	1	45	DAUB	LBA	3102*
221	9	15	DAUB	LBA	3102* MINUTE FRAGMENTS

*Fabric code