

Post-medieval ceramic building material from Merry Hill Farm, Belmont: Assessment Report

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Summary

A small collection of brick and tile was recovered from Merry Hill Farm, Belmont, H&W. All the material had a similar fabric, an oxidised redware with no visible inclusions, except for clay pellets or grog which was seen in the brick fragment. The precise date of the material is uncertain. Nibbed peg tiles, for example, tend to have been current in the Welsh Borderland during the 16th to 18th centuries whereas the use of ceramic field drains is probably more common in the later 18th and 19th centuries.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the assessment is to identify the material and to use this information to establish the archaeological potential of the site.

Description

All the material is of a similar fabric, although the brick includes abundant clay pellets or grog fragments not seen in the roof tiles or field drain (Table One).

Table One: List of wares found and codes used in the catalogue

cname	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	broadsource	narrowsource	source
MISC NY	Miscellaneous handmade: no visible inclusions	-	-	-	-	-	-

Date

Post-medieval or early modern.

Source

Unknown. Presumably, but by no means certainly, local.

Function

The field drain fragments would have been used in agricultural improvement, probably in the later 18th or 19th centuries. The brick and roof tiles indicate the presence of a structure.

Recommendations

These finds do not indicate that the site has any archaeological potential. Nevertheless, they highlight a lack of knowledge of the precise date and character of ceramic building material of later post-medieval date in this region. Opportunities to recover similar material from datable contexts should therefore be taken when they present themselves.

Catalogue

Context	class	cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	TSNO	Photo	Description
U/S	BM	MISC NY	FIELD DRAIN	3	0				
U/S	BM	MISC NY	BRICK	4	0				CLAYPELS
U/S	BM	MISC NY	FLAT	1	0				
U/S	BM	MISC NY	FLAT	1	0				NIBBED