

## **Assessment of Burnt Clay from Hampole, South Yorkshire**

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Two fragments of burnt clay, <1>, were submitted for identification and assessment. The fragments come from [5] (55) and were associated with mid Roman pottery. One of the fragments is a tiny spall and is assumed to have come from the larger piece, described below.

The clay is a low-fired calcareous marl containing sparse rounded limestone pebbles, up to 4.mm across (mainly on one side of the fragment rather than in the body).

On one side there are impressions from two flat-faced split timbers, at an angle to each other. The other side is irregular and may well not be a true face. The entire fragment is coated with a black film, assumed to be soot, even on the broken edges, and it has clearly been burnt after the breakage of the artefact of which it was part.

The timber impressions are very similar to those found on late- and post-medieval lath panels but such laths have not been observed by the author in deposits of earlier date. The angle of the two impressions also suggests that they are laths, woven around vertical wattles.

The fragment is probably an accidentally burnt fragment of a wattle and daub structure in which the horizontal wattles are formed of split laths rather than the usual round timbers. The character of the fabric suggests that it is a local clay, perhaps a deposit interleaved with the limestone on which the site is situated or perhaps formed by the recent weathering of the limestone.

There is no requirement for further treatment or study of the fragment but the building technique it implies is worthy of note.