

Assessment of Ceramic Building Material from Lockerley, Hampshire

Alan Vince

Fragments of ceramic building material from a test pit at Lockerley, Hampshire, excavated by Network Archaeology, were submitted for identification and assessment.

Catalogue

Medieval or later

Fragments of three flat roof tiles were present, in contexts 001, 010 and 017. All were slightly abraded and had no distinctive typological features. Their fabrics were noticeably sandy in texture and have variegated groundmasses with a mixture of iron-rich and low-iron clays.

Fragments of four handmade bricks were present, in contexts 001, 011 and 023. The fabrics of these bricks is sandy and of a uniform dark red colour.

The light coloured clays in the roof tiles are might be Tertiary Reading Beds, which outcrop extensively in Wiltshire, Dorset, southern Hampshire and Sussex. However, these clays are normally whiter and contain quartz silt which appears visually to be absent from the tiles. The texture of the brick fabrics suggests they may have been made from brickearth, which also outcrops extensively in southern Hampshire (for example, it is the geological solid at Southampton).

Without more extensive local knowledge it is difficult to be precise about the date of the material but I would guess that the tiles could be late or post-medieval whilst the bricks are most likely to be post-medieval or early modern.

Catalogue of finds

Context	Trench	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric
017	17	MTIL	FLAT	1	1	VARIEGATED WITH LIGHT-COLOURED CLAY PELLETS
010	10	MTIL	FLAT	1	1	VARIEGATED WITH LIGHT-COLOURED CLAY PELLETS
001	1	MTIL	FLAT	1	1	VARIEGATED WITH LIGHT-COLOURED CLAY PELLETS
001	1	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	RED SANDY BRICKEARTH
011	11	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	RED SANDY BRICKEARTH
023	23	PMTIL	BRICK	2	2	RED SANDY BRICKEARTH