

## **Assessment of finds from Water Oakley, Berkshire (WOB02)**

### ***Alan Vince***

A small group of finds from Water Oakley, Berkshire (site code WOB02), was submitted for identification and assessment. They range in date from the prehistoric period (possibly) to the present day.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

A fragment of a flat roof tile and a fragment of whiteware wall tile (such as might be used in a bathroom or a sink surround) were found.

#### **Pottery**

Sherds from a whiteware vessel which copies the form of the Renaissance *crepina* (fluted dish) were found. The internal surface of the vessel is stained, possibly indicating that it held water (eg a soap dish or flowerpot stand). The general impression of the vessel is that it is very modern and has not been subjected to any weathering through burial at all.

A rim from a large red earthenware bowl with a red slip was recovered. The fabric is fine-textured with a micaceous matrix. The vessel has the appearance of a modern third world import, such as might be used as garden furniture or an internal plant pot for a large plant such as a palm or fern.

#### **Stone**

A single worked flint was present. It had been struck from a fresh flint nodule, some of whose cortex remained, and had been worked around the edges, although the resulting object makes an unconvincing tool.

A collection of burnt flint was also present. The pieces were small (up to 30mm across) and appeared to have been unworked pebbles. They might have been accidentally burnt, for example in the base of a hearth. However, in the Bronze Age (and possibly earlier and later) mounds of burnt stones are found. Their exact interpretation is open to debate but it seems clear that the stones were heated and then thrown into troughs of water to heat the water, either to boil meat or to produce steam. Whether any such interpretation is relevant to the Water Oakley finds depends on the quantities present. The small collection presented for identification here would not be significant but extensive spreads or deposits of burnt flint would be.

## Assessment

The flints are potentially evidence for prehistoric activity but more finds are required before any firm conclusion as to their date and significance can be made.

The remaining finds are probably of very recent date and together conjure up a picture of a middle class bathroom, kitchen or conservatory of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Appendix

Context	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Sitecode	Use	Condition	class
101	CRESPINA FORM;WHITE GLAZE	WHITE	DISH	4	1	71		PROF	WOB02	GREENY- BROWN STAIN INT	FRESH	ceramic
201	REMOVED FROM CORE WITH SINGLE BULB OF PERCUSSION;SOME WORKING AROUND EDGES SO POSSIBLY A TOOL	FLINT	FLAKE	1	1	16	UNPATINATED;SOME CORTEXT		WOB02			FLINT
101	BURNT	FLINT	PEBBLE	5	5	39		BS	WOB02			FLINT
101		WHITE	WALT	1	1	5		BS	WOB02			CBM
101	FINE RED SLIP CF SAMIAN	LPMIMP	BOWL	1	1	26	MICACEOUS GROUNDMASS	R	WOB02		FRESH	ceramic
101		PMTIL	FLAT	1	1	31		BS	WOB02			CBM