

## **Assessment of finds from evaluation excavations, Chalgrove to East Ilsley High Pressure Pipeline (CEI02 EVAL)**

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Twelve fragments, representing no more than 8 objects, from evaluation excavations carried out on the line of the Chalgrove to East Ilsley high pressure pipeline were submitted for identification and assessment.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic building material**

A fragment of tile was recovered from context 504. It appears to be too thick for a medieval or post-medieval flat roof tile and is likely to be a Romano-British *tegula* roof tile.

#### **Burnt clay**

Two fragments of fired clay were recovered from context 1200. Both fragments have a similar fabric, containing straw impressions and abundant quartz sand in a silty, micaceous matrix. There are no wattle impressions but one flat surface remains. Daub was used as walling material from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period and without local, dated comparanda these pieces cannot be dated.

#### **Mortar**

A small fragment of a pinkish sandy mortar containing large rounded limestone (chalk?) pebbles was found in context 3506. It is not possible to date such material without local, dated comparanda and a Romano-British or medieval date is possible.

#### **Pottery**

Five sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. An abraded sherd of post-medieval lead glazed earthenware is similar to those recovered from the fieldwalking and may date from the later 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Four sherds from a single vessel from context 1412 come from a South Netherlands maiolica drinking jug, of the type known as Malling Jugs (Hurst & van Beuningen 1986 #11313). Such vessels were imported from Antwerp in the mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> century and copy the form of contemporary Rhenish stoneware jugs. They are uncommon finds and are usually found on sites of high status.

#### **Stone**

Two joining fragments of a cresset lamp in a silty, micaceous grey limestone, probably Totternhoe stone, were recovered from context 3633. The lamp is extremely crudely made but has tooling marks which suggest that it was made using a mason's chisel. It is therefore likely that this lamp was

produced as a sideline by quarrymen at the Totternhoe quarry (or possible a more local exposure of Lower Chalk). Totternhoe stone was used extensively during the medieval period and, indeed, there are still working quarries at Totternhoe today.

## **Assessment**

The finds from the evaluation are varied and in most cases cannot be independently dated. Those which can be dated range from the Roman period to the late 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century. Two finds of interest are the Malling jug sherds from context 1412 and the Cresset lamp from context 3633.