

Assessment of Ceramic Building Material from King's Road, Reading (KRR03/32)

Alan Vince

Four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from an archaeological excavation at King's Road, Reading (Site Code KRR03/32). The fragments were found behind revetment A and are assumed, therefore, to have been included in dumping behind the revetment so that the *terminus post quem* for the tiles can be transferred to the revetment.

Description

Four fragments of flat roof tile. Two of these tiles have a moulding sand rich in angular white flint fragments. None of the pieces are glazed.

Assessment

The tiles are comparable in fabric and appearance to those from the Reading Abbey and Reading Oracle sites examined by the author. They do not include any thick, sand-tempered, glazed tiles of the type used at the abbey in the mid/late 12th century, many of which had unusual shapes (shouldered peg tiles, flanged and curved tiles). Likewise, the absence of glaze argues against a later 12th to 13th century date since about a third of the flat roof tile fragments of this date from the Reading Oracle site had glaze. Flint-rich sand was found on a proportion of the Reading Oracle tiles but was absent from those likely to be of 16th-century or later date. Thus, the collection is probably datable broadly between the later 13th and the 15th centuries.

None of the tiles requires further study at the present time but it is possible that future studies of tile fabrics in the Kennet valley might allow a closer date to be assigned to the tiles (as well as establishing their origin).