

Assessment of Finds from Land Adjacent to Riverview Bungalow, Aire St., Knottingley (OSA04 WB09)

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Sixty-three artefacts from a watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology on land adjacent to Riverview Bungalow, Aire Street, Knottingley, West Yorkshire, were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code OSA04 WB09). The finds are of mid 17th-century and later date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Table 1

Form	Subfabric	Data	1013	1014	1019	1024	1048	1050	1062
BRICK	SANDY	Nosh				3			
		NoV				3			
		Weight				383			
	SILTY	Nosh				1	2	7	5
		NoV				1	2	7	2
		Weight				23	166	302	473
	SILTY;OVERFIRED	Nosh			1				
		NoV			1				
		Weight			42				
	PANT	Nosh	5	16					
		NoV	5	16					
		Weight	76	132					

Forty fragments of ceramic building material were recovered (Table 1). They represent no more than 37 objects and weigh in total 1.597kg. They consist of bricks and pantiles.

The bricks are of two fabrics, a sandy fabric with lenses of lighter-coloured, sandy clay, and a silty fabric with no inclusions larger than c.0.2mm. The silty fabric was much more common than the sandy one, which only occurred in one context, 1058.

A few bricks had measureable dimensions (Table 2) and these indicate that they were notably thin, a common feature of early post-medieval brick (i.e. late 15th to early 17th-century).

Table 2

Context	Form	subfabric	B	TH	Weight	Nosh	NoV
1019	BRICK	SILTY		40	42	1	1
1024	BRICK	SANDY		48	225	1	1
1048	BRICK	SILTY		45	123	1	1
1048	BRICK	SILTY		49	43	1	1
1062	BRICK	SILTY	117		270	4	1
1062	BRICK	SILTY		65	203	1	1

Bricks and brick-built structures were also noted in contexts 1000, 1003, 1005, 1006, 1023, and 1037 but no samples from these contexts were submitted for assessment.

The pantile fragments came from two contexts, 1013 and 1014. They have a fine-sand grade sand-tempered silty fabric and traces of a well-sorted quartz sand moulding sand on the bases. Pantiles were introduced into England from the Low Countries from the middle of the 17th century onwards and became more and more common in the following centuries, especially for outbuildings.

Pottery

Twenty-two sherds of pottery were recovered (Table 3), representing only 8 vessels and weighing in total 0.537Kg. The material ranges in date from the 17th century to the 19th century but includes black-glazed (BL) and slipware vessel (SLIP) which cannot be closely dated (at least without a dated sequence from the production sites where they were made).

Of particular note is the smashed base and lower body of a Frechen stoneware (FREC) bottle, probably of the Belarmine type datable to the mid/late 17th century (i.e. 1630s to 1670s). After this date, the increased use of dark green bottles made the use of the stoneware vessels superfluous.

The base of a blackware cup, identified here as a Staffordshire Redware (STRE), can probably be dated to the mid/late 17th century.

The base of a Staffordshire mottled ware tankard is also notable, since this type was first produced at the end of the 17th century (i.e. 1690s onwards) and is particularly common in the early to mid 18th century.

Finally, Pearl ware (PEAR) and Transfer-Printed ware (TPW) of late 18th or 19th-century date was recovered from context 1017.

Table 3

Cname	Form	Data	1011	1013	1017	1045	1058	Grand Total
BL	PANC	Nosh	1					1
		NoV	1					1
		Weight	115					115
FREC	BOT	Nosh				10		10
		NoV				1		1
		Weight				257		257
PEAR	TANK	Nosh			1			1
		NoV			1			1
		Weight			1			1
SLIP	BOWL	Nosh		5				5
		NoV		1				1
		Weight		28				28
	PANC	Nosh					2	2
		NoV					1	1
		Weight					94	94
	TANK?	Nosh		1				1
		NoV		1				1
		Weight		4				4
STRE	CUP	Nosh					1	1

		NoV			1	1	
		Weight			30	30	
TPW	TUREEN	Nosh	1			1	
		NoV	1			1	
		Weight	8			8	
Total Nosh		1	6	2	10	3	22
Total NoV		1	2	2	1	2	8
Total Weight		115	32	9	257	124	537

Stone

A single fragment of Coal Measures shale, from context 1062, is probably from a stone roof tile although it does not have a peg hole in the surviving piece.

Discussion

The bricks, which form the most common find from the site, cannot be closely dated without knowledge of local dated brick structures. The use of two distinct fabrics indicates at least two separate structures, but given the similarity in thickness of the tiles from both fabrics, these could be contemporary. The earliest datable activity on the site can be dated by the Frechen stoneware vessel from context 1045, but this post-dates a flood deposit containing silty bricks which in turn overlay traces of a building with a mortar floor. The smashed nature of the stoneware suggests that it is likely to be contemporary with the deposit in which it was found, which suggests that the mortar-floored building is of early 17th-century or earlier date. This is consistent with the bricks found in context 1062. The remaining finds confirm that there was activity on the site in the later 17th, 18th and late 18th to 19th centuries.

Assessment

None of the finds requires any further study at this stage but all should be retained.

Appendix: Catalogue of finds

Context	Trench	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description
1011	tr1	POTTERY	BL	PANC	1	1	115	CMR/CMW	BS	FLANGED RIM;INT BLACK GLAZE
1013	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	PANT	5	5	76		BS	
1013	tr1	POTTERY	SLIP	BOWL	5	1	28		R	LID-SEATED RIM
1013	tr1	POTTERY	STMO	TANK?	1	1	4		BS	
1014	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	PANT	16	16	132	FINE SAND TEMPERED SILTY CLAY;FINE SANDED BASE	BS	
1017	tr1-3	POTTERY	PEAR	TANK	1	1	1		BS	
1017	tr1-3	POTTERY	TPW	TUREEN	1	1	8		BS	
1019	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	42	SILTY;OVERFIRED	BS	
1024	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	225	SANDY WITH LIGHT-COLOURED SANDY LENSES	BS	MORTAR CONTAINS ROUNDED COAL AND QUARTZ SAND
1024	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	2	2	158	SANDY WITH LIGHT-COLOURED SANDY LENSES	BS	
1024	tr1	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	23	SILTY	BS	
1045	tr4	POTTERY	FREC	BOT	10	1	257		B	
1048	tr3	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	123	SILTY	BS	
1048	tr3	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	43	SILTY	BS	
1050	tr3	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	115	SILTY	BS	
1050	tr3	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	6	6	187	SILTY	BS	

Context	Trench	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description
1058	tr4	POTTERY	SLIP	PANC	2	1	94	PINK;CMW/CMR MIX	R	WHITE-SLIPPED INT;YELLOW GLAZE INT;KT EXT
1058	tr4	POTTERY	STRE	CUP	1	1	30		B	
1062	tr4	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	203	SILTY	BS	
1062	tr4	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	4	1	270	SILTY	BS	
1062	tr4	STONE	STONE	ROOFER	1	1	96	CM SHALE	BS	