

Elloughton (OSA02 EX08)

Fired Clay

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Nine fragments of fired clay were recovered from context 1240 and nine from context 1243, both of which contexts are associated with the destruction of the oven 1241.

The clay is soft (indicating that it was not subjected to a high temperature) and partially oxidized and partially black, through carbon enrichment. Only the wattle-impressed side of the fragments is oxidized. Sparse large angular fragments of flint are present in the fabric, which is otherwise devoid of visible temper.

The fragments almost all come from a daub coating on one side of a flat wattle panel. The wattles are made from round wood between 12 and 20mm diameter. The distance between the vertical wattles was in the order of 150mm. In two cases, impressions of larger, squared timbers were present.

In one case a gap between the wattles has allowed the daub to be squeezed through the gap. The daub covers the wattles to a minimum thickness of 20mm and maximum thickness of 35mm. The outer surface of the daub still shows plastering marks from being applied with a flat tool. There are no pieces from corners or curves.

Assuming that these fragments formed part of the oven superstructure, they appear to indicate a structure built out of squared posts with wattle and daub panels between the posts. Since there is no sign in the surviving pieces of corners or curves it is likely that the oven superstructure was rectilinear, and with no evidence for a roof.