

Assessment of the Finds from Denge Security Main, Kent (DSM 64)

The finds from a small evaluation carried out as part of work on the Denge Security Main, Kent, carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd were submitted for identification and analysis.

The finds including medieval or, more probably, post-medieval roof tile and other finds dating to the 19th or 20th centuries. A number of the latter finds were burnt, suggesting that they may have been dumped on the site alongside ashes or clinker.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Eleven fragments of flat roof tile were recovered. Two of these have evidence for circular peg holes. The fabric of the tiles is untempered and the surface of the tiles has a light-coloured, "salt surface" caused by the presence of carbonate and brine in the clay during firing. Pottery with these characteristics is typical of the late medieval/early post-medieval period in Kent and it is likely that this is the date of these tiles (i.e. 15th to early 17th centuries).

Glass

Two fragments of glass were recovered. One of these is a piece of clear window glass with a ribbed surface, probably of 20th-century date, and the other is a fragment of moulded bottle, also in a clear glass, probably from a milk bottle of 20th-century date. The latter piece has raised moulded lettering, "...TURN ", possibly from the word "return".

Pottery

Ten sherds of pottery were recovered. These were of four types: Western European porcelain (ENPO); late post-medieval local wares (LPMLOC); Transfer-printed wares (TPW) and Miscellaneous refined whitewares (WHITE).

The range of forms present includes bowls, dishes, a flowerpot, plates, a teapot lid and a miniature saucer, probably from a child's toy tea service.

Seven sherds were burnt and one of these was coated with clinker. It is likely that these sherds (TPW and WHITE) were discarded on a domestic coal fire.

Shell

A small fragment of oyster shell was recovered.

Assessment

Stratigraphy

The finds come from five contexts and provide *termini post quem* for the deposition of these deposits (Table 1).

Table 1

Context	TPQ	CBM	GLASS	POTTERY	SHELL	Grand Total
954	19 th C	4		4		8
957	L15 th C	3				3
960	19 th C	2		6	1	9
972	L15 th C	2				2
974	20 th C		2	2		4
Grand Total		11	2	12	1	26

Date range

The flat roof tiles are probably of 15th to 17th-century date but could, of course, have been discarded much more recently and might be contemporary in disposal to the pottery. However, two contexts produced only tile and this might suggest that there are indeed two phases of activity represent on the site.

Further work

No further work is recommended on the finds at present. It would, however, be possible to narrow down the possible sources of the flat roof tiles through scientific analysis of the fabric.

Retention

The flat roof tile from contexts 957 and 972 should be retained, if they are stratigraphically earlier than the remaining finds-producing contexts. The remaining finds are likely to be of 19th- or 20th-century date and could be discarded.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
954	CBM	MTIL	UNTEMPERED;SALT-SURFACED	FLAT	BS	CIRCULAR PEGHOLE	1	1	28	
954	CBM	MTIL	UNTEMPERED;SALT-SURFACED	FLAT	BS		3	3	40	
954	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	R		4	2	27	BURNT
957	CBM	MTIL	UNTEMPERED;SALT-SURFACED	FLAT	BS	CIRCULAR PEGHOLE	1	1	38	
957	CBM	MTIL	UNTEMPERED;SALT-SURFACED	FLAT	BS		2	2	26	
960	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	BS		2	1	60	
960	POTTERY	LPMLOC		FLP	BS		1	1	4	
960	POTTERY	TPW		TPOT LID	R		1	1	2	BURNT
960	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	BS		1	1	2	BURNT
960	POTTERY	TPW		DISH	PROF		1	1	2	BURNT
960	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	B		1	1	2	BURNT
960	POTTERY	WHITE			BS		1	1	10	BURNT
960	SHELL	OYSTER			BS		1	1	1	
972	CBM	MTIL	UNTEMPERED;SALT-SURFACED	FLAT	BS		2	2	49	
974	GLASS	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	BS	RIBBED	1	1	1	
974	GLASS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	BS	MOULDED;RAISED LETTERING "..TURN "	1	1	7	
974	POTTERY	ENPO		MINI SAUCER	PROF	CHILD'S TOY TEA SAUCER	1	1	3	
974	POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	R	DKBL;RED LINES	1	1	2	