

## **Chemical Characterisation of Floor Tiles from Tewkesbury Abbey Meadow**

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Samples of fourteen floor tiles from the Abbey Meadow excavations were submitted for chemical analysis, using Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectroscopy in order to address questions about their source and date.

Two of the samples (V3437-8) are of a fabric not recognised elsewhere and may be of local origin. ICPS analysis, therefore, was intended to compare their composition with that of the main ceramic building material fabric found in the excavations, for which a local origin is postulated.

Eleven samples (V3311-3, V3315-V3322) were of Droitwich-type tiles. They include three examples with parallels to the Holm Castle pavement, probably of mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date (V3317-8, V3321), five of designs which occur in the late 14<sup>th</sup>-century Singing School pavements at Worcester Cathedral (V3312, V3315, V3319-22), and three of designs which do not occur in either pavement (V3311, V3313 and V3316). The main question to be addressed by this analysis is whether the Abbey Meadow tiles are likely to have come from more than one pavement. If all of one date, they are likely to post-date the Holm Castle pavement but pre-date, or be contemporary with the Singing School pavement.

Finally, a single sample is a Canynoges-type tile, produced in the same general area as the Droitwich-type tiles (probably Worcester and its immediate neighbourhood). The question posed of this analysis is whether the same fabric was used for this tile and the bricks and roof tiles from the excavation which have been tentatively identified as being of late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup>-century Worcester origin. Two of those tiles had kiln scars from being fired alongside glazed floor tiles.