

Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material from the Skegness to Ingoldmells Pipeline (SIP 04): Fieldwalking and Minor Trenches

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A total of 56 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from fieldwalking on the line of the Skegness to Ingoldmells pipeline (SIP 04) and from the excavation of Trench 5 and Area 5 (Table 1). With the exception of a dubious fragment of Roman tile (more likely early modern field drain) the material is of medieval and post-medieval date and the only items of special note are fragments of Flemish floor tile from Area 5.

Table 1

cname	PL01	PL04A	PL04B TR5	PL07	PL07 TR10	PL09	PL09 AREA 5	PL10	PL11	PL12	PL13	Grand Total
?			3									3
FLEMISH							2					2
MOD	2							5	2	1		10
MTIL		1					8					9
PMTIL	1			4	3	1	9	2	3	6	2	31
RTIL / PMTIL								1				1
Grand Total	3	1	3	4	3	1	19	8	5	7	2	56

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Fabrics

Brick fragments were not examined in detail since it was felt to be better to establish the likely date of the brick from the various SIP sites and then selecting material for study based on that criterion. Similarly, it was not felt to be worthwhile to study the fabric of air bricks and field drain fragments of fairly recent date.

Other ceramic building material was examined at x20 magnification. A small number of fragments had fabrics paralleled at Partney (Fabric 2 – an inclusionless groundmass tempered with abundant fine quartz sand, probably both Jurassic in origin but likely to be transported east and south by glacial action; Fabric 3 – a fine, organic groundmass with sparse quartz sand; Fabric 6 – calcareous yellow-firing with few inclusions except for rounded voids). In addition, there was one example with a distinctive fabric, having fine sand/silt temper and a variegated fabric containing streaks and lenses of light-firing clay and a moulding sand containing abundant polished quartz grains. Such a fabric was probably

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made from a mixture of Jurassic and lower Cretaceous-derived materials, neither of which is available in the Lindsey Marshes area. Three fragments have a silty, micaceous groundmass with few larger inclusions. This is similar to the fabric of some of the fired clay and could be locally produced (although it could also be produced at any number of locations on the east coast.

Two fragments of Flemish floor tile were present, and both have the sandy, calcareous fabric typical of these tiles.

Finally, two examples of refined whiteware tile were present. These were factory products, although their source is unknown.

Forms

Table 2 lists the various forms present in the collection. There is one fragment which is either from a Roman tegula or a horseshoe shaped field drain, of late 18th to early 19th century date.

The earliest material present consists of flat roof tiles, which are probably of medieval or early post-medieval date. The brick fragments too might include some late medieval examples, since late medieval brick was present at Area 6 (Plot 13) and late medieval floor tile was present at Area 5 (Plot 9). The floor tile was 124mm square and 23mm thick.

Measureable brick fragments came from the two excavated trenches included here, Trench 10 and Area 5. Two from Trench 10 were complete (225mm by 117mm by 57mm and 245mm by 117mm by 50-65mm). A third brick from Trench 10 had a complete width (112 by 61mm). Two fragments with complete thicknesses came from Area 5 (50mm and 55mm).

The remaining forms present (airbricks, field drains, pantiles and wall tiles) are all likely to be of post-medieval or modern date.

Table 2

Form	PL01	PL04A	PL04B TR5	PL07	PL07 TR10	PL09	PL09 AREA 5	PL10	PL11	PL12	PL13	Grand Total
-	1											1
?			3									3
AIRBRICK								1				1
AIRBRICK/FIELD DRAIN								2				2
BRICK				3	3	1	9		2	4	2	24
FIELD DRAIN									1	1		2
FIELD DRAIN?	2											2
FLAT		1					8	1				10
FLAT/PANT								1				1
FLOOR							2					2
PANT				1					1	2		4
TEG/FIELD DRAIN								1				1

TILE									1				1
WALT									2				2
Grand Total	3	1	3	4	3	1	19	8	5	7	2		56

Assessment

Trench 5

Three small scraps of fired clay were recovered from layer 525, which is dated to the mid Roman period or late by associated pottery. Since they only weight 2gm in total, it is impossible to determine for certain whether these came from Roman brick or tile, intrusive medieval or later or even mis-identified briquetage.

Trench 10

Three fragments of brick were recovered from context 1001, a layer interpreted as consolidation, which also produced late medieval pottery. These brick fragments might therefore also be of late medieval date.

Area 5

A collection of 19 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from Area 5. The earliest stratified piece is a Fabric 2 flat roof tile fragment from deposit 9046. This fabric has been found at Partney in late medieval contexts (c.1300-1450).

Most of the remaining fragments come from Period 3 contexts. The earliest of these is another fragment of Fabric 2 flat roof tile and a brick fragment, from the fill of recut ditch 9070 (context 9069). The brick, which is overfired and salt-surfaced, suggests a late 14th century or later, probably much later, date.

Ditch 9061 produced a fragment of Flemish floor tile and is therefore likely to be of later 15th century or early 16th century date, although it might be earlier. The tile is worn and therefore a period of use must have elapsed before its discard.

Ditch 9060 produced three fragments of Fabric 3 flat roof tile, four fragments of brick, one of which is overfired and salt-surfaced, and another, joining, fragment of Flemish floor tile.

Four fragments of brick come from ditch 9053, Period 4, which produced post-medieval pottery.

Further Work

The brick fragments from Trench 10 and Periods 1 and 3 on Area 5 should be re-examined under x20 magnification and their fabrics classified.