

Assessment of the Finds from the Field Survey between Normansland and Sherrardspark Wood, Hertfordshire (NSW 2-3)

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A small collection of pottery and ceramic building material and a single fragment of iron were recovered from archaeological fieldwork carried out between Normansland and Sherrardspark Wood, Hertfordshire by Network Archaeology Ltd. The ceramic building material could not be closely dated and might include some medieval roof tile. However, since the pottery was all of post-medieval date, and the iron is of recent date it is more likely that the tile is likewise of post-medieval date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Twenty-four fragments, probably all of unglazed flat roof tile, were recovered. Such tiles were used from at least the mid 12th to the 17th centuries in Hertfordshire and may well have continued in use, if not production, even later.

Twenty-three of the fragments had measureable thicknesses and are within the range found in the medieval period, 13.91+/-0.83 mm. There is not enough data to determine whether there is a difference in thickness between plots (Table 1).

Table 1

Th (mm)	PL.5	PL.7	PL.16	PL.17	PL.18	PL.19	Grand Total
11					2		2
12					1	2	3
13	2			2		1	5
14	3				1		4
15		3	1	1	1	1	7
16					1		1
20	1						1
Grand Total	6	3	1	3	6	4	23

Iron

A single fragment of iron was recovered. This appears to be a piece of cast iron drain pipe or gutter and therefore probably of later 19th or 20th-century date.

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006154.pdf>

Pottery

Ten sherds of pottery were found (Table 2). One is relatively heavily abraded and has no surfaces remaining. Conceivably, it might be a fragment of Romano-British oxidized ware, but is more likely to be a fragment of locally-made flowerpot.

The remaining sherds consist of fragments of internally-glazed red earthenware bowls, similar in colour and texture to those produced at Brill, Buckinghamshire but more likely to be made closer to the field survey, and a single sherd from a flowerpot. The glazed sherds are likely to be of 17th- or 18th-century date and the flowerpot is probably of 19th or 20th-century date.

Table 2

Cname	PL.3	PL.4	PL.5	PL.16	PL.17	PL.19	Grand Total
GRE	1	1	3		2	1	8
LPMLOC		1					1
LPMLOC/OXID				1			1
Grand Total	1	2	3	1	2	1	10

Assessment

The ceramic building material and the glazed pottery are likely to be of 17th or 18th-century date. Their size and condition are consistent with being redeposited on fields with manure or night soil and therefore probably indicate that plots 3, 4,, 5, 7, 17, 18 and 19 were being ploughed in the post-medieval period. The paucity of later finds may indicate that these fields were converted to pasture in the 18th century, or that manuring methods changed, assuming that the collection protocol included pottery of 18th-century and later date.

Retention

Since the source of the glazed red earthenware and the ceramic building material was not determined, this material should be retained for potential future study. The flowerpot and the iron fragment could be discarded.

Future work

No further work is recommended at present on these finds.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Trench	Cname	Th (mm)	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
4002	CBM	PL.16	MTIL/RTIL	15		FLAT/TILE	BS	1	1	45	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	20		FLAT	BS	1	1	18	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	14		FLAT	BS	1	1	18	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	14		FLAT	BS	1	1	22	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	14		FLAT	BS	1	1	22	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	13		FLAT	BS	1	1	25	
8004	CBM	PL.5	MTIL	13		FLAT	BS	1	1	30	
8007	CBM	PL.7	MTIL	15		FLAT	BS	1	1	35	

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8007	CBM	PL.7	MTIL	15		FLAT	BS	1	1	29	
8007	CBM	PL.7	MTIL	15		FLAT	BS	1	1	35	
8009	CBM	PL.17	MTIL	13		FLAT?	BS	1	1	7	
8010	CBM	PL.17	MTIL	13		FLAT	BS	1	1	19	
8011	CBM	PL.17	MTIL	15	ROUND PEG HOLE 12 DIA	FLAT	BS	1	1	62	
8014	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	12		FLAT	BS	1	1	46	
8014	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	11		FLAT	BS	1	1	54	
8015	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	15		FLAT	BS	1	1	33	SOOTED TOP
8016	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	16		FLAT	BS	1	1	18	
8017	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	14		FLAT	BS	1	1	44	
8017	CBM	PL.18	MTIL	11		FLAT	BS	1	1	8	
8017	CBM	PL.18	MTIL			FLAT	BS	1	1	13	
8018	CBM	PL.19	MTIL	12		FLAT	BS	1	1	17	
8018	CBM	PL.19	MTIL	12		FLAT	BS	1	1	18	
8019	CBM	PL.19	MTIL	15		FLAT	BS	1	1	25	
8019	CBM	PL.19	MTIL	13		FLAT	BS	1	1	15	