

Assessment of Finds from Home's Kiln, Brill, Buckinghamshire (HKB05)

Alan Vince

A small collection of finds was recovered from a watching brief at Home's Kiln, Brill, Buckinghamshire, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology.

The finds were associated with a late 19th-century brick and tile kiln and field drain fragments from the site are clearly overfired waste. Other finds include brick, pottery and glass, all of which are consistent with the late 19th-century date assigned to the kiln.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Three fabrics were present in the ceramic building material assemblage.

Fabric A

Fabric A is distinguished by its light colour and inclusions of light-coloured clay pellets and red ironstone (fine sandy texture). The bricks made in this fabric have a fine-textured red-coloured quartzose moulding sand adhering to the surfaces.

Fabric B

Fabric B is distinguished by its red colour, softness, and fine sandy texture. Laminae of lighter-coloured sandy clay are present. Sparse red ironstone inclusions were present.

Fabric C

Several examples of Fabric C are overfired, with a black vesicular core and dark red margins. The standard fabric is oxidized, light brown with a fine sandy texture. Heat-altered calcareous inclusion up to 2.0mm across are present.

Forms

The collection includes examples of field drains, bricks and flat roof tiles, one of which has a circular peg hole.

There are no waste examples of fabrics A and B but Fabric C includes a high proportion of over-fired fragments.

Use

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW
<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>
A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007052.pdf>

Several of the fragments are coated with mortar. In the case of the mortared bricks this probably indicates that the bricks were used, and perhaps therefore part of the structure, but several of field drain fragments are encased in mortar, which runs over broken edges. It is possible, therefore that these fragments, which include overfired pieces, were used as rubble in the kiln structure and are not therefore the products of this kiln.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of pipe stem was recovered. The bore diameter suggests that this came from a 17th-century pipe.

Iron

A single iron object was recovered. It was heavily corroded and has disintegrated. However, it seems likely that it was a small tool of some sort with a whittle tang and a handle and a broad flat blade. It might therefore have been a chisel, a knife or a screwdriver.

Glass

Three fragments of glass were recovered. One is the rim of a wide-necked jar, similar in size and shape to preserve jars. The second is the rim and neck of a narrow-necked moulded bottle, of the type used today for oils and sauces. The third is the rim of a dark brown bottle, probably a beer bottle. All are of types current in the later 19th and 20th centuries.

Pottery

Fourteen sherds of pottery were recovered. They come from no more than 4 vessels. These consist of: a buff ware bowl (NCBW) stamped on the underside with an illegible stamp; a small fragment of transfer-printed plate; and a white ware plate decorated with pink concentric lines.

Assessment

With the exception of two fragments of ceramic building material, all of the finds come from the fills of features associated with a brick and tile kiln. They therefore may have been in use in or around the brick kiln or have been brought onto the site as backfill. All, apart from the clay pipe, are consistent with a later 19th century date. The glass, pottery and, probably, the iron object are all probably domestic debris with no connection with the production of brick or tile.

The ceramic building material includes one mortared fragment of Fabric B, which may have been part of the kiln structure. It comes from the backfill of a secondary feature. A fragment of Fabric C brick was recovered from the fill of the main stoke chamber, 114. The fragments of field drain occurred in the fills of two features, 114 and 125 and include oxidized examples; overfired examples, mortared examples and mortared and overfired examples. The presence of mortar on the fragments suggests that these may have been used in the kiln

superstructure (although it is normal for those parts of the kiln exposed to high temperatures to be cemented with clay rather than mortar) whilst the fact that ten are overfired suggests that they are products of the kiln.

It is therefore likely that the Home's kiln produced field drains whilst the presence of bricks and flat roof tiles with peg holes in the same fabric suggests that these too are products.

The fact that Fabrics A and B only occur in the backfill of feature 125, which is thought to be secondary, may indicate that the Fabric A and B bricks were used in a later stage of the kiln's life and were not products.

Further Work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

Retention

The stratified finds should be retained for possible study in the future.

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
127	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	EM17TH C BORE	BS	1	1	1	
127	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	169	MORTARED;OVERFIRED
127	CBM	PMTIL	B	BRICK		BS	1	1	42	MORTARED
127	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	167	
128	CBM	PMTIL	A	BRICK		BS	4	4	213	
128	CBM	PMTIL	B	BRICK		BS	1	1	31	
128	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	62	OVERFIRED;MORTARED
129	IRON	IRON		TOOL	POSSIBLY HANDLED WITH WHITTLE TANG;CHISEL?	BS	1	1	76	
146	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	BAND OF 3 PINK LINES AROUND RIM AND ONE PINK LINE AT JUNCTION OF FLANGE AND BOWL OF VESSEL	PROF	6	1	45	
147	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	STAMPED ON UNDERSIDE; "11" AND 3 LINES OF TEXT; LAST WORD ON SECOND LINE IS "POTTERY" IN A CARTOUCHE	B	6	1	249	
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	156	MORTARED
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT		BS	1	1	112	
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	BRICK		BS	1	1	84	MORTARED
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	BRICK		BS	1	1	58	
149	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	SHL 146?	BS	1	1	26	
149	PMGL	PMGL	LTBL	JAR	WIDE MOUTH WITH COLLAR RIM'PRESERVES?	R	1	1	9	
149	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	MOULDED	R	1	1	12	
149	PMGL	PMGL	DKBR	BOT		R	1	1	23	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	4	4	98	OVERFIRED

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007052.pdf>

AVAC Report 2007/52

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	44	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	105	MORTARED
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT	CIRCULAR PEG HOLE IN CORNER;14MM	BS	1	1	95	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT		BS	1	1	21	
149	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE		BS	1	1	1	
U/S	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	2	2	30	MORTARED