

# **Assessment of Fired Clay and Stone from Washdyke Lane, Mumby, Lincolnshire (WLDLM07)**

## ***Alan Vince***

A small collection of fired clay and a fragment of stone from an archaeological intervention at Washdyke Lane, Mumby (WLDLM07) carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment.

## Description

### **Fired Clay**

Three fragments of fired clay from two objects were submitted. All were examined at x20 magnification and determined to be made from a sandy boulder clay, containing sparse fragments of white flint, white sandstone, rounded ferruginous sandstone and subangular quartz grains in a groundmass of ill-sorted quartz and muscovite. Both objects have one flat face and no trace of wattle impressions. Nevertheless, they could be from a wattle and daub structure. None show the "salt surfacing" discolouration found on ceramics heated in the presence of calcium and brine and there is therefore no evidence for an association with salt production.

### **Stone**

A fragment of quern stone was submitted. Only one definite original face was present, dressed with parallel grooves. The thickness of the fragment and the angle between the dressed face and the opposite face suggests that this is part of the top stone of a rotary quern.

The stone was examined at x20 magnification and appears to be a medium-grained, micaceous variant of the Millstone Grit, composed mostly of overgrown quartz grains with minor muscovite. The pores are mostly void but some kaolinite filling is present.

## Assessment

Neither the fired clay nor the quern are closely datable. Rotary querns were produced in large numbers in the Pennines during the Roman period and were mostly replaced by imported lava querns during the Anglo-Saxon period. Millstones were produced from Millstone Grit in the medieval period but this piece is probably too delicate to have been from a millstone.

The fired clay could be of prehistoric to medieval date.

*Appendix 1*

<b>class</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Subfabric</b>	<b>Cname</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Nosh</b>	<b>NoV</b>	<b>Condition</b>
FCLAY	006	SANDY BOULDER CLAY;R RED FE;S SAQ	FCLAY	11		FLAT FACE	BS	2	1	ABR
FCLAY	002	SANDY BOULDER CLAY;R RED FE;S SAQ	FCLAY	55		FLAT FACE	BS	1	1	
STONE	006	MG;AQ;S MUSC;SOME KAOLINITE CEMENT	STONE	414	QUERN	ONE DRESSED FACE; TOP STONE	BS	1	1	