

# **Assessment of Iron and Fired Clay from the Burgh Le Marsh Bypass (BLMB06)**

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A small collection of finds from an archaeological intervention on the line of the Burgh Le Marsh Bypass, carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd, was submitted for identification and assessment.

The fired clay includes waste from the preparation of salt which is probably of later prehistoric or early Roman date. One of the iron finds is undatable and the other of recent date.

## **Description**

### **Fired Clay**

Two collections of fired clay were submitted. Both have similar fabrics when examined at x20 magnification: a silty, micaceous clay with organic voids and sparse inclusions of subangular quartz and polished quartz up to 1.0mm across and rounded red mudstone up to 3.0mm across. In all cases, the groundmass is variegated with laminae of light-coloured clay with a higher quartz content than the remainder.

The collection from context 001 consists of two fragments with a flat surface, which is salt-surfaced as a result of heating in the presence of calcium carbonate and brine.

The collection from context 133 consists of four fragments which include one clip used to secure salt-making containers in place in the hearth or oven and one fragment of such a container.

### **Iron**

Context 007 produced a nail and a fragment of a cast iron vessel with a beaded rim. The latter is clearly of recent date whilst the nail is undatable.

## **Assessment**

The fired clay from context 133 is debris from salt working. The quantities found are very low for a salt-working site but the character of the clay is consistent with a local source (polished quartz does not occur in deposits in the Lindsey Marshes since it is derived from Lower Cretaceous deposits which outcrop around the western and southern sides of the Wolds). Such briquetage is probably of later prehistoric or early Roman date since elsewhere in the country it is clear that lead pans replaced clay containers in the later Roman period and salt-working sites of medieval and post-medieval date in Lincolnshire produce very little briquetage, which is probably residual.

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