

Assessment of the Finds from Poverty Bottom to Firle Main (PBF 13)

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A small quantity of finds was recovered from the fieldwalking survey carried out on the line of the Poverty Bottom Water Treatment Works to the Firle Reservoir pipeline by Network Archaeology (Site Code: PBF 13).

The finds consist mainly of fragments of ceramic building material with a smaller quantity of pottery and metal finds. The majority of the finds probably date to the 19th century or later but include a few sherds of post-medieval pottery and a fragment of an iron cauldron which is probably of similar date.

Description

Seventy-one fragments were submitted, representing seventy objects and weighing in total 3.377 Kg (Table 1). The finds were identified as ceramic building material (CBM); copper alloy (COPP); unworked stone (GEO); iron (IRON) and pottery (POTTERY).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	50	49	2927
COPP	2	2	54
GEO	2	2	58
IRON	6	6	280
POTTERY	11	11	58
Grand Total	71	70	3377

Ceramic Building Material

The 50 fragments of ceramic building material consisted either of flat roof tile fragments, some of which had square pegholes, and brick fragments. The bricks were either hand-formed in a mould or in a few cases machine made with a frogged upper surface. A single fragment of hip tile, also with a square peghole, was present.

The flat tiles and hip tiles are either of medieval or post-medieval date. Hip tiles seem to have been present by the early 14th century but are definitely more common in later medieval contexts. The bricks appear to be of "local" manufacture (as do the roof tiles) and in Sussex this probably implies a post-medieval date. The frogged bricks will be of mid 19th century or later date.

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Copper Alloy

Two copper alloy objects were recorded. A cartridge case of 19th or 20th-century date (3131028) and a circular disk of sheet metal (3171003) which also appears to be of late date, although its identity and function are unknown. The disk has a slight groove or indentation about 1mm from the edge and could have been mounted, perhaps as part of a piece of machinery.

Iron

Six iron objects were recorded. One of these was a nail (3171020) which from its low level of corrosion (given a shallow, chalky substrate) is probably of recent date. A fragment from a globular walled cauldron was found. This has "kettle fur" on the interior and was used for boiling water (3171007). The remaining fragments appear to be cast iron and are fragments of larger objects, although none can be identified (3131001, 3131004 (two), and 3171002).

Pottery

Eleven fragments of pottery were recorded. One is unidentifiable although to judge by the chalky crust and general appearance it could be of Roman or medieval date (3131021).

Four fragments appear to be of unglazed red earthenware, of the general type produced at Harefield and Lower Parrock in the 16th and early 17th centuries (3171016, 3131029, 3131010 and 3131009). Three of these were noticeably abraded.

A single fragment of Frechen stoneware comes either from a drinking jug of mid 16th to mid 17th century date or from a Belarmine bottle of early to mid 17th century date (3171023). A fragment of black-glazed ware and two fragments of glazed red earthenware are probably of post-medieval date, but cannot be closely dated (3131028 and 3131020 and 3131023 respectively).

The remaining two sherds are of early modern date (i.e. late 18th century or later). They consist of a small fragment of transfer printed ware (3171019) and a sherd of a white-slipped Sunderland Coarseware bowl (3171005).

Stone

Two fragments of ironstone were submitted. Both appear to replace fossil sponges and probably had too low an iron content to have been used as a source of iron (3131018).

Assessment

The flat roof tile and hip tile could be of late medieval or post-medieval date and pottery of similar date is present. The remaining finds are either natural or of early modern date, except for the possible Roman or medieval sherd.

Retention

None of the brick or metal finds is likely to be worth further study in the future and could therefore be discarded. The pottery should be retained, excluding the two early modern sherds, together with a selection of flat roof tile (to represent the visual range of fabrics present) and the hip tile.

Further work

No further work is recommended for this material.

Appendix 1

REFNO	Trench	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
3131001	N17	IRON	IRON	CAST INTO A MOULD; ROUGH TRIANGULAR SECTION	AGRIC MACHINERY	PART	1	1	40		
3131002	N17	CBM	MOD	FROGGED	BRICK	BS	1	1	335		
3131003	N17	CBM	PMED	FRAGS	BRICK	BS	2	2	39		
3131004	N17	IRON	IRON	CURVED WITH RECTANGULAR SECTION	AGRIC MACHINERY	BS	1	1	95		
3131004	N17	IRON	IRON	CAST INTO A MOULD; ROUGH TRIANGULAR SECTION	AGRIC MACHINERY	BS	1	1	45		
3131007	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	16		
3131007	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	31	ABRA	
3131009	N6	CBM	PMED		BRICK	BS	1	1	459	ABRA	
3131009	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	92		
3131009	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	5		TRACES OF MORTAR ON SURFACE
3131009	N6	POTTERY	PMLOC	UNGLAZED	FLP	B	1	1	1		
3131010	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	12		
3131010	N6	POTTERY	PMLOC	UNGLAZED	JAR?	BS	1	1	1	ABRA	
3131010	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	88		
3131011	N6	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	32		
3131012	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	18		
3131012	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	26		MORTAR ON SURFACE
3131014	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	11		

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REFNO	Trench	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
3131015	N6	CBM	MED/PMED	FRAG	BRICK/FLAT	BS	1	1	3		
3131016	N6	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	45	ABRA	
3131018	N6	GEO	GEO		GEO	BS	2	2	58		
3131020	N6	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	BS	1	1	4		
3131021	N6	POTTERY	MEDLOC	UNGLAZED	JAR?	BS	1	1	5	ABRA; SOIL DEP	
3131022	N6	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	8	ABRA	
3131023	N6	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	B	1	1	18	LOST SOME GLAZE	
3131024	N6	CBM	MED/PMED	FRAG	BRICK/FLAT	BS	1	1	11		
3131025	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	6	ABRA	
3131026	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	4	ABRA	
3131027	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	40		
3131028	N6	COPP	COPP	13 BASE DIA	CARTRIDGE CASE	B/BS	1	1	11		
3131028	N6	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	BS	1	1	7		
3131029	N6	POTTERY	PMLOC	UNGLAZED	JAR?	BS	1	1	3	ABRA	
3171002	N17	IRON	IRON	RECTANGULAR SECTION	AGRIC MACHINERY	BS	1	1	52		
3171003	N17	COPP	COPP	MARK 1.5 FROM RIM; 1 THICK AND 71 DIA	CIRCULAR SHEET	WHOLE	1	1	43		
3171004	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	8	ABRA	
3171004	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	46		
3171004	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	8	ABRA	
3171005	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	18		
3171005	N6	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	R	1	1	1		
3171005	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	6	ABRA	
3171006	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	16		
3171006	N6	CBM	MED	CIRCULAR HOLE NEAR TOP	HIP	BS	1	1	77		

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REFNO	Trench	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
3171006	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	18		
3171006	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT/MORTAR	BS	1	1	642		LOT OF MORTAR SUGGESTING USE IN WALL
3171006	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	26		
3171007	N6	IRON	IRON		CAULDRON	FRAG	1	1	45	NOT VERY RUSTY	WHITE DEP INT
3171008	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	2	1	14	ABRA	
3171008	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	8		
3171008	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	13		
3171013	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	29		MORTAR ON SURFACE
3171014	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	79		
3171014	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	19		
3171015	N6	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	BS	1	1	201	VITRIFIED SURFACE/ASH GLAZE	
3171015	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	26		
3171016	N6	POTTERY	PMLOC	UNGLAZED	JAR?	BS	1	1	1	VABRA	
3171017	N6	CBM	MTIL	SQUARE PEG HOLE 8 BY 8	FLAT	BS	1	1	28		
3171018	N6	CBM	MED	BLACK GLAZE	FLAT	BS	1	1	22		
3171019	N6	POTTERY	SUND		BOWL	BS	1	1	8		
3171020	N6	IRON	IRON	REMAINS OF SHANK 22 LONG	NAIL	PART	1	1	3	NOT VERY RUSTY	
3171021	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	220		
3171021	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	19		
3171022	N6	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	BS	1	1	39		
3171023	N6	POTTERY	FREC		DJ	BS	1	1	9		
3171024	N6	CBM	PMED	FRAG	BRICK	BS	1	1	4		MORTAR ON

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REFNO	Trench	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
3171024	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	7	ABRA	SURFACE MORTAR ON SURFACE
3171024	N6	CBM	MED		FLAT	BS	1	1	10		
3171024	N6	CBM	MED/PMED	FRAG	BRICK/FLAT	BS	1	1	4	ABRA	
3171025	N6	CBM	PMTIL		DRAIN	BS	1	1	39		

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