

CHAPTER 3 : THE 1984 EXCAVATION

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS (see fig 48)

The contexts have been grouped into four phases. Within each phase they have been described in stratigraphic order (beginning with the earliest). A discussion of the layers and their significance can be found in the printed text.

Phase 1

Context	DESCRIPTION	P l a n	S e c t i o n	FINDS		
				Pottery	Bone	Other
126	Crumbly grey-black clayey silt	-	S-N			
122	Whitish - yellow crumbly clay with frequent gravel	-	"			
121	Grey silty clay	-	"			
120	Mixed gravel and grey-yellow clay	-	"			
119	Crumbly grey-black clayey silt	-	"			
117	Very mixed and variable: yellow-grey/green - black silt; includes plentiful chalk frags and gravel.	-	" N-S		/	shell
116	Grey-green silty clay with chalk, greensand, and gravel	-	S-N N-S	/	/	shell
<p>116 produced Saxo-Norman pottery (except 1 very small green-glaze sherd, presumed intrusive) and the rest are earlier, but produced little or no dating evidence.</p> <p>These are presumed to be layers within a large feature cutting deeply into natural - it seems unlikely that 'natural' could be so far below modern ground level otherwise. An alternative possibility though is that they are the upper levels of a geological feature, such as a silted-up river channel.</p>						

Phase 2

C o n t e x t	DESCRIPTION	P l a n	S e c t i o n	FINDS		
				Pottery	Bone	Other
114	Chalk frags mixed with grey-black silty sand.	-	N-S & S-N	/		
115	Grey-black silty sand mixed with much gravel and chalk.	-	"	/	/	Roof- tile
113	Interface of 112/115: many large tile frags lying flat. Not shown on fig 34.	-	-	/		
112	Fairly clean yellow-sandy clay	2	"			
118	Yellow-brown clayey silt, with some gravel, charcoal flecks, small chalk frags.	2	"			
111	Cut with fill of 110, forming a gully	2	"			
110	Yellow gravel, with frequent tile Some lumps of yellow-buff clay, pockets of grey-brown silt.	2	"	/	/	
	<p>Though 111 is definitely cut through 112, 114, 115, 118, the fact that layers are different to either side suggests that it may be a robber trench to remove an earlier wall. 112 could be a clay floor, though what the rest might be is entirely conjectural, though clearly before 106 was built occupation was differently arranged.</p>					

Phase 3

Context	DESCRIPTION	Plan	Section	FINDS		
				Pottery	Bone	Other
109	Yellow gravel containing many tile and stone fragments		N-S & S-N			shell slag
106	Abbey wall, built off piers of stone connected by shallow arches (assuming area sampled was representative). Above the stone is regularly coursed except at the south end where there is an obvious area of later infilling. An original opening seems likely in view of the straight face, angled slightly inwards as if to form an arch above, to the original wall.	2	N-S & S-N			
108	Greenish-grey clayey silt, with much tile, mortar, stone, frags.		N-S	/	/	shell
<p>109 seems to be a construction layer (or earlier layer disturbed during construction of the wall) created when the wall was built in the later 13th and 14th century. 108 butts up to and partially overlies 106 and may be of 15th century or later date.</p>						

Phase 4

C o n t e x t	DESCRIPTION	P l a n	S e c t i o n	FINDS		
				Pottery	Bone	Other
107	Sandy mortar and brick frags					
124	Ash and cinder					
125	Mortar and rubble					
102) 103) 104)) Brick walls with associated) brick floors)					
105	Greenish-black silty loam with plentiful frags mortar, tile, brick, glass and much gravel					
123	As 101 but more cinders and ash.					
101	Black silty loam, otherwise as 105					
100	Loose rubble and vegetation at surface					
All the above are layers of 19th and 20th century origin, when all stratigraphy post dating layer 108 was evidently removed.						

The Finds

The pottery by Phil Jones. See the printed text for this report.

The Roman tile and medieval roof tile, by J L Gower

The tile from the Chertsey site is an interesting collection with medieval peg-tiles predominating but with one fragment of a Roman tegula from the 1954 excavation and several other fragments of probable Roman imbrices and flat tiles. The presence of a nearby substantial Roman building is thus indicated. Examples of medieval ridge tile, some glazed, are present. No detailed study of the tile fabrics has been undertaken, but almost all the peg-tile is of the usual orange-red sandy fabric. Unusual fabrics are noted in the catalogue.

These tiles are of the well-known type with two round holes for the wooden pegs at one end. There are no examples of square peg-holes. There are traces of mortar on most of the peg-tiles indicating that they were mortared into place on the roof. There is a need for a detailed study of medieval roof tiles in Surrey. Unfortunately, the tile from most excavations has not been retained and this has precluded any detailed analysis.

CATALOGUE OF TILE

As the sample of the tile is small no weights have been recorded and similarly no detailed comments on fabrics are included. Dimensions are given to the nearest $\frac{1}{8}$ in with the converted metric dimension in brackets.

Context 108

- 1 Corner of peg-tile with extant edges 5in (12.7cm) & 3in (7.6cm) in length; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm). Traces of mortar on upper surface.

- 2 Fragment of flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness @in (1.6cm); brown glaze over most of upper surface.
- 3 Fragment of thick tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness 1-in (3.8cm); traces of mortar on upper surface. Probably re-used Rpmán.

Context 109

- 1 Corner of peg-tile; extant edges $3\frac{1}{8}$ in (8.6cm) and $3\frac{7}{8}$ in (9.8cm) in length; maximum thickness $\frac{7}{8}$ in (2.2cm); evidence of mortar on edges and upper and lower surfaces.
- 2 Fragment of curved tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{7}{8}$ in (2.2cm); brown glaze over much of upper surface; evidence of mortar on lower surface with some evidence of burning on edge and lower surface.
- 3 Fragment of flat tile with c 1 in (2.5 cm) of extant edge; maximum thickness $\frac{7}{8}$ in (1.6cm); spots of dark green glaze on edge and upper surface; hard dark grey vitrified fabric.
- 4 Two fragments of tile with no distinguishing features but probably fragments of peg-tile.
- 5 Four joining fragments and a fifth piece of the same thick flat tile with 4in (10.2cm) of one edge extant; maximum thickness $1\frac{3}{8}$ in (3.5cm); fabric is characteristically dark grey and vitrified; evidence of mortar on lower surface. ? Roman.

- 6 Fragment of thick tile with one corner and 3in (7.6cm) and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) of edges extant; maximum thickness $1\frac{1}{4}$ in (3.2cm); two scored lines on upper surface close to edge; evidence of mortar on upper and lower surfaces.
- 7 Fragment of peg-tile with one corner extant and with extant edges of 7in (17.8cm) and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (8.9cm), evidence of mortar on upper surface; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm).
- 8 Fragment of peg-tile with part of one circular peg-hole extant (diameter $\leq \frac{1}{2}$ in [1.3cm]) and $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm) of one edge extant; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm); traces of mortar on lower surface.
- 9 Fragment of peg-tile with part of left-hand peg-hole (diameter $\leq \frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm) and 4in (10.2cm) of left-hand edge extant; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm) (at edge); some evidence of mortar and burning on upper surface.
- 10 Fragment of peg-tile with one corner and edges of 6in (15.2cm) and 3in (7.6cm) extant; evidence of mortar on face and edge; maximum thickness in (1.6cm).
- 11 Fragment of peg-tile with one peg-hole (diameter $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm) and 3in (7.6cm) of one edge extant; evidence of mortar on upper surface; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm).
- 12 Two joining pieces of poorly made peg-tile with 5in (12.7cm) of one edge extant; evidence of mortar on upper surface; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm).
- 13 Two joining pieces of probable ridge tile with 5@in (14cm) of one edge extant; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1.6cm).

14 Three very small chips of tile.

Context 110

- 1 Fragment of peg-tile with $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (8.9cm) of one edge extant; maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm).
- 2 Fragment of peg-tile with part of peg-hole and possibly some of two edges extant; maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm).
- 3 Fragment of flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm); evidence of burning. Possibly thick peg-tile.
- 4 Fragment of flat tile with $3\frac{1}{2}$ in (8.9cm) and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (3.8cm) of extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm). Possibly thick peg-tile.
- 5 Fragment of thick flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness 1in (2.5cm).
- 6 Fragment of ?imbrex with 3in (7.6cm) of one edge extant; maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm). Mortar on broken edges suggests re-use.
- 7 Fragment of ?imbrex with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm).
- 8 Fragment of ?imbrex with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm). Mortar on broken edges suggests re-use.
- 9 Fragment of ?imbrex with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm).
- 10 Fragment of ?imbrex with $3\frac{3}{4}$ in (9.5cm) of one edge extant, maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm).
- 11 Fragment of thick ?flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (3.8cm). Probably Roman.

- 12 Lump of soft brick/daub with no characteristic features.
- 13 Fragment of ?ridge tile with 2in (5.1cm) of one edge extant; brown glaze over part of upper surface together with score marks; maximum thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm).
- 14 Fragment of olive green glazed ?tile; $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm) of one edge extant with glaze running over part of this edge; maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm).

Context 113

- 1 Fragment of peg-tile (in 2 joining pieces); complete left hand circular peg-hole (diameter $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm) $1\frac{1}{2}$ in (3.8cm) from upper edge and $2\frac{1}{8}$ in (5.4cm) from left-hand edge; part of right-hand peg-hole present; peg-holes $3\frac{5}{8}$ in (9.2cm) apart (centre to centre); if holes symmetrically placed then width of tile would be c 8in (20.3cm) (The peg-hole tiles from Alsted were $7\frac{1}{2}$ in (19.1cm) wide); maximum thickness $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3cm). Red fabric with grey core.
- 2 Fragment of peg-tile with 4in (10.2cm) of upper edge and 4in (10.2cm) of the left-hand edge extant; complete left-hand circular peg-hole present (diameter $\frac{1}{2}$ in [1.3cm]), $1\frac{3}{8}$ in (3.5cm) from upper edge and 2" (5.1cm) from left-hand edge; maximum thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm); red fabric with grey core.
- 3 Fragment of peg-tile with 3in (7.6cm) of upper edge extant with part of circular peg-hole present (Diameter $\frac{5}{8}$ in [1.6cm]); maximum thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm); red fabric with grey core.
- 4 Large fragment (minimum dimensions 6in (15.2cm) by 4in (10.2cm)) of flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness $1\frac{7}{8}$ in (4.8cm); some evidence of mortar on edges and lower surface; probably re-used Roman.

- 5 Fragment of flat tile with no extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm); possibly peg-tile but upper surface rather uneven; some evidence of mortar on upper surface.

Context 115

- 1 Lower portion of peg-tile with no peg-holes extant; width $7\frac{1}{4}$ in (18.5cm) with 5in (12.7cm) and 4in (10.2cm) of extant edges together with bottom edge; maximum thickness $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.9cm); brown glaze on lower part of upper surface; heavily mortared on lower surface with mortar also present on upper surface and edges including broken edges indicating re-use.
- 2 Fragment of peg-tile with no peg-holes extant; width $7\frac{1}{4}$ in (18.5cm) with 6in (15.3cm) and $5\frac{1}{2}$ in (14cm) of extant edges; maximum thickness $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.6cm); some brown glaze present; heavily mortared on lower surface with mortar also present on upper surface and edges including broken edges indicating re-use.
- 3 Fragment of peg-tile with no peg-holes extant; width $7\frac{1}{4}$ in (18.5cm) with 5in (12.7cm) of two edges extant together with bottom edge; spots of brown glaze visible on upper surface; heavily mortared on upper surface with mortar present on lower surface and edges including broken edges indicating re-use.

Context 116

- 1 4 fragments of tile with no distinguishing features.

Context 117

- 1 Flat tile with $2\frac{1}{2}$ in (6.4cm) of one edge extant (minimum dimensions $4\frac{1}{2}$ in (11.4cm) by 4in [10.2cm]); maximum thickness $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (3.2cm); mortar on edges and surfaces including edge broken before re-use;

probably re-used Roman.

- 2 Small chip of tile with no distinguishing features.

The Animal bone by Geraldene Done

Phase 1 (contexts 116 & 117)

Total fragments 21. Ox 3, Pig 3, Rabbit 1, Bird 2, Oyster 4.

Phase 2 (contexts 110 & 115)

Total fragments 19, Horse 1, Pig 2, Red deer 1.

Phase 3 (contexts 108 & 109)

Total fragments 57. Ox 15, Sheep 4, Pig 6, Bird 1, Oyster 10.

There are fragments from all parts of the skeleton, including heads and feet. The bird bones were identified as domestic chicken and ? duck.