

C257 Crossrail Central – Broadgate Ticket Hall Evaluation (XSM10)

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Summary Note on Building Materials

A total of 78 fragments of building material were recovered from 21 contexts from XSM10. These comprise Roman, medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material, Roman wall plaster and daub and a post-medieval stone moulding.

The building material from XSM10 has been fully recorded and the information added to the Oracle database.

Listed below is a summary of the building material in each context:

Context	Fabric	Type	Context Date
[3]	2504, 2894	Floor tile	1680–1750
[3]	3067	Wall tile	
[20]	3110	Stone moulding	1666–1900
[58]	3032	Brick	1666–1900
[211]	3046	Brick	1450–1700
[212]	2815	Imbrex	1480–1600
[212]	3046	Brick	
[212]	2271	Peg roofing	
[212]	2810, 2323, 2504, 3246	Floor tile	
[213]	3291	Tegula	AD140–300
[213]	2453	Imbrex	
[214]	2459B	Brick	AD120–250
[214]	2815	Tegula, brick	
[216]	2586, 2273	Peg roofing	1350–1390
[216]	2894	Floor tile	
[217]	2273	Peg roofing	1180–1480
[230]	2815	Tessera, tegula, brick	AD120–250
[230]	2458B	Brick	
[230]	3102	Daub	
[231]	2815	Brick	AD100–160
[231]	3058?	Flue tile	
[231]	2454	Tegula or brick	
[239]	2459B	Tegula	AD120–250
[239]	2815	Tegula or brick, tessera	
[239]	3100	PWP	
[239]	3104	<i>Opus signinum</i>	
[277]	2199	Floor tile	1250–1310
[283]	2276	Peg roofing	1480–1800
[298]	2454	Tegula, imbrex, brick	AD50–80

[298]	3102	Daub	
[298]	3100	PWP	
[299]	2815	Brick, tegula	AD50–160
[300]	2815	Tegula, tessera, brick	AD140–300
[300]	2453	Tegula	
[306]	3102	Daub	AD50–400
[330]	3033	Brick	1450–1600
[332]	3032	Brick	1666–1900
[492]	2586	Peg roofing	1180–1480

Roman

The majority of Roman building material comprises 1st–mid 2nd century roofing tile and brick from the London area (fabric group 2815) and north Kent (fabric 2454). There are also a few pieces of worn red tesserae, probably from a plain tessellated floor. Context [31] also produced a piece of combed box flue from a building with a hypocaust heating system. This was made at an unknown tiliary outside London.

Later building activity on or near the site is represented by roofing tile and brick believed to be from a kiln site situated north-east of London (fabric 2459B) (contexts [214], [230], [239]) and calcareous roofing tile imported in via the Thames from an unknown location (fabric 2453) (contexts [213], [300]) (Betts and Foot 1994, 33–4).

Other Roman building material includes *opus signinum* with a white plaster surface (context [239]), daub and two pieces of painted wall plaster. One piece of plaster is plain red, while the other, although abraded, seems to show a border area in red, white and dark red (both from context [239]). The plain red plaster is of poor quality with the paint applied to a very uneven plaster surface.

Medieval

There are a number of fragments of glazed peg tiles. These can only be given a general 1180–1480 date, but the presence of a more uniform glaze covering would suggest they are more likely to be 12th–13th century in date.

Two types of medieval glazed floor tiles are present. From context [277] is a triangular plain black glazed ‘Westminster’ floor tile, which was probably made in London around 1250–1310. From contexts [3], [212] and [216] are a total of four decorated Penn floor tiles from the village of the same name in Buckinghamshire. These have Eames (1980) design types: 1827 (Hohler 1942, type P73), 2070 or 2071 (two tiles) and 2334 (Hohler 1942, type P74). They were probably brought into London during the period 1350–1380.

Both types of floor tiles probably originate from a parish church or monastic building. Vast number of Penn and ‘Westminster’ tiles have been found associated with churches and monasteries in the London area.

Also of medieval date is a reused large red brick from context [330]. The brick measures 251 x 115–118 x 55–59mm is similar in size to bricks recently discovered at Holywell Priory in north-east London. They are probably of 15th century date.

Post-medieval

The post-medieval building material comprises predominantly roofing tile and brick. Both pre-1666 (contexts [211], [212], [330]) and post-1666 bricks (contexts [58], [332]) were collected.

Of probable 1480–1600 date are a number of plain dark green, light brown and yellow glazed Low Countries ('Flemish') floor tiles. Again these probably derive from either a parish church or a monastic building. Vast number of plain glazed Low Countries floor tiles flooded into London during the late 15th–16th century. This may be because there does not seem to have been any English floor tile manufactures within easy reach of London during this period.

Probably from a fireplace surround in the prosperous domestic residence is a decorated tin-glazed 'delft' wall tile (context [3]). This shows part of a mounted figure in blue on white with fleur-de-lis corner decoration. It is undoubtedly a Dutch import and is similar in style to delft tiles with mounted military figures brought into London around 1680–1750 (Betts and Weinstein 2010, 157, nos 334–336).

Of probable mid 17th–19th century date is a white Portland stone moulding from context [20].

Discussion

The building material from XSM10 shows a range of different form type dating from the Roman to the post-medieval period. Higher status material is represented by the Roman tesserae and painted wall plaster, the medieval floor tiles and the post-medieval floor tile and delft wall tile.

References

Betts, I M, and Foot, R, 1994 A newly identified late Roman tile group from southern England, *Britannia* 25, 21–34

Betts, I M, and Weinstein, R I, 2010 *Tin-glazed tiles from London*, London

Eames, E S, 1980 *Catalogue of medieval lead-glazed earthenware tiles in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities British Museum*, London

Hohler, C, 1942 Medieval pavingtiles from Buckinghamshire, *Rec Bucks* 14, 1–49, 99–132