

## C257 Crossrail central – Broadgate (XSM10)

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### Summary Note on Building Materials

Building material was recovered from 49 contexts from this phase of XSM10. This comprises mainly Roman roofing tile and brick and post-medieval brick samples. Roman box-flue tile is also present along with post-medieval roofing tile and glazed floor tile.

Most of the building material from this phase of XSM10 has only been scanned. The building material will have to be fully recorded before it can be added to the Oracle database.

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

Context	Fabric (where recorded)	Type	Context Date
[0]	-	Floor	1480–1600
[1017]	3046	Brick	1500–1600
[1017]	-	Floor - Flemish	
[1017]	-	Floor - Penn	
[1017]	-	Peg	
[1017]	2815	Imbrex	
[1019]	2815	Tegula	AD50–160
[1023]	2815	Tegula, box-flue	AD140–300
[1023]	2815?	Brick	
[1023]	2453	Tegula	
[1023]	2454	Tegula	
[1023]	3060	Brick	
[1023]	3100	RPWP	
[1024]	-	Tegula, imbrex	AD50–160
[1024]	2454	Tegula	
[1027]	2815	Tegula, imbrex	AD50–160
[1027]	2454	Imbrex	
[1027]	3100	RPWP	
[1034]	-	Pantile	1800–1900+
[1034]	-	Peg tile	
[1034]	-	Stoneware pipe	
[1034]	-	Floor - Penn	
[1036]	2815	Tegula, imbrex	
[1045]	2815	Tegula, imbrex, brick	
[1045]	2454	Tegula	
[1066]	2276	Peg	1500–1700
[1066]	3033	Brick	
[1068]	2459B	Tegula	AD120–250

[1072]	2815	-	AD120–250
[1072]	2459B	Tegula	
[1074]	2815	Brick	AD50–160
[1081]	2815	Tegula	AD50–160
[1103]	3033	Brick	1550–1666/1700
[1105]	3033	Brick	1550–1666/1700
[1107]	3032	Brick	1666–1900
[1108]	3032	Brick	1800–1900
[1109]	3032?	Brick	1750–1900
[1110]	3032	Brick	1750–1900
[1112]	3032	Brick	1666–1900
[1113]	3032, 3033	Brick	1600–1700
[1117]	-	Peg	1480–1800
[1135]	-	Floor – Tin-glazed	1600–1650
[1145]	3033	Brick	1500–1600
[1146]	3033	Brick	1500–1600
[1150]	-	Floor - Penn	1350–1390
[1150]	-	Peg	
[1154]	-	Drain	1500–1800
[1156]	-	Delft wall tile	1740–1760
[1156]	2271	Peg	
[1156]	2459B	Flue	
[1169]	-	Peg	1180–1800
[1191]	-	Floor - Flemish	1480–1600
[1215]	3033	Brick	1500–1600
[1291]	2815	Brick	AD50–160
[1301]	2815	Imbrex, brick, box-flue	AD50–100
[1301]	3121	Roofing?	
[1311]	2815	Tegula	
[1314]	2815	Tegula	AD50–160 (or medieval)
[1314]	-	Brick	
[1314]	-	Floor? Tile	
[1318]	3105	Rubble	AD50–1800
[1323]	2815	Brick	AD50–160
[1342]	3032	Brick	1800–1900
[1343]	2271, 2816	Peg	1180–1800
[1345]	2454	Imbrex	AD50–160
[1345]	2815	Tegula	
[1347]	3031	Brick	1300–1480
[1347]	2815	Brick	
[1366]	2454	Tegula	AD50–80
[1369]	2815	Tegula	1180–1800
[1369]	-	Peg	
[1384]	3090	Peg	1180–1800
[1391]	2815	Brick, imbrex	AD50–160
[1395]	2815	Tegula, imbrex	AD50–160
[1395]	2454	Imbrex	

[1397]	2815	Tegula, brick	AD50–160
[1397]	2454	Tegula, imbrex	
[1397]	-	Brick	
[1432]	2454	Tegula	AD50–80
[1448]	2815	Tegula	AD50–160

### ***Roman***

Most of the Roman building material comprises brick and roofing tile (tegula and imbrex) of 1st–mid 2nd century date. A number of bricks are unusually thick (59–68mm), these may be sesquipedalis or bipedalis bricks (Brodribb 1987, 3) which were principally used to cap stacks of pila bricks in the floor of buildings with a hypocaust heating system. More evidence for a hypocausted building, or buildings, is provided by a number of box-flue tiles which would have been set into the room walls. These have scored, combed and relief-patterned keying. The latter is keyed with die 46. Tiles keyed with this roller stamp are relatively rare, outside London they are only known from three sites in Essex and a single site in Berkshire (Betts et al 1997, 114–115).

Other Roman building material includes plain red wall plaster from context [1027] and plain white plaster from context [1023]).

### ***Medieval***

The building material of medieval date comprise three decorated floor tiles from the tiliary at Penn, Buckinghamshire (contexts [1017], [1034], [1150]), a cream Low Countries brick (context [1347]) and a small number of peg roofing tiles. The Penn tiles are decorated with Eames (1980) designs: 2037, 2536 and a further design type first identified at Merton Priory (Betts 2007, 205, fig 202 <T93>). These tiles probably paved the floor of a parish church or monastic building. The Low Countries brick is unusual in having a deep circular hole in the top surface. This brick may have been used as a door-post.

### ***Post-Medieval***

Tudor plain glazed Low Countries ('Flemish') floor tiles were recovered from contexts [1017] and [1191]. Bricks of similar date were found in contexts [1145], [1146] and [1215]. A Tudor brick from context [1066] is unusual in having diagonal cut marks in the top surface. This may have been used as a type of non-slip paving. Also of possible Tudor date is a rectangular drain with a central semi-circular depression running along the tile length (context [1154]).

Dating to the early-mid 17th century is a fragment of tin-glazed floor tile with a flower and leaf design painted in blue, brown, green and yellow on a white background. This was probably made in London, although a Dutch origin cannot be discounted. A complete tile with a similar design is shown in Betts and Weinstein (2010, 109, no. 102).

Other bricks from the site range in date from the 17th to the 19th century. Also present is peg and pantile roofing, although little can be closely dated. There is also the corner of a decorated delft wall tile. This shows the edge of a landscape scene in blue set in an

octagonal purple border. The design has blue carnation heads corners. This is a London design dating to around 1740–1760. Horne (1989, 22–23, nos 33–45, 47,–49, 51) illustrated a number of delft tiles with similar decoration.

## **Discussion**

The building material retained is mainly of Roman date and post-medieval date. The Roman tile is predominantly 1st–mid 2nd century, but a few later fabric types are present, including a calcareous roofing tile dating to AD140–300. The box-flue tiles would have come from a masonry building with a hypocaust heating system

The post-Roman building material is mainly brick samples, but there are a few decorated and plain floor tiles which probably derive from a church or monastic building. The decorated tin-glazed floor tile would have been installed in a building of considerable social status, whilst the delftware wall tile probably came from a decorated fire surround.

## **Further work required**

Fully record four crates of building material = 2 Days

Input record sheets into Oracle = 1 Day

Input Oracle dating information = 0.25 (quarter) Day

Box–up retained items = 0.25 (quarter) Day

Total time required = **3.5 DAYS**

## **References**

Betts, I, Black, E W, and Gower, J, 1994 A corpus of Roman relief-patterned tiles in Roman Britain, *Journ Roman Pottery Studies*, 7

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

Brodribb, G, 1987 Roman brick and tile, Gloucester

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

Horne, J, 1989 English tin-glazed tiles, London