

Comment on the slate.

A total of ten fragments of slate were recovered during the excavations, which could be identified as having been used as roofing slate or slate hangings as they retained peg-holes and remnants of bedding mortar. Accordingly they were measured according to John Thorp's methodology (Thorp 1996) to establish size, margin, width, thickness and bedding mortar.

Slate	Size	Margin	Width	Thickness	Bedding mortar
1	5 ½"	2 ¾"	3 ½"	⅛"	Trace upper & lower
2	5 ½"	1 ½"	3 ½"	⅜"	Trace lower & upper
3	6 ½"	-	4 ¾"	⅛"	Trace upper & lower
4	5 ⅓"	2"	4"	⅜"	Trace upper & lower
5	6 ¼"	1 ½"	3 ¼"	⅛"	Trace upper & lots lower
6	5 ½"	1"	5 ¼"	¼"	Trace upper & much lower
7	6 ¼"	1"	4 ⅛"	⅛"	Trace upper & lower
8	5 ½"	3 ¾"	3"	¼"	Trace upper & lower
9	5 ¼"	1 ¼"	3 ½"	¼"	Trace upper & lower
10	5 ¾"	3"	5 ¼"	¼"	Trace upper & lots lower

Table 1: Table illustrating dimensions of the slate recovered during excavations.

All of the slates were top-hung and square-headed with neat cut straight tails. They all measured between 5 ¼" and 6 ½" long, though with variable margins even for slate of the same size. This indicates that there was grading in the gauge of the exposed elements of the coursing, though some of this variation may be due to there only being trace elements of mortar on all but two of the slates. Whilst the preservation of mortar makes definition uncertain, it is likely that the slates were laid with a three-slate lap in line with common medieval and post-medieval roofing practice. It is possible that the two slates with extensive amounts of mortar were used to clad a masonry wall.

Bibliography

Thorp, J. 1996 'The Excavated Slates and Slate Hanging' in *Devon Archaeological Society Proceedings* No. 54 Berry Pomeroy castle pages 291-294