Burton Dassett Southend

Part 2 Section 8.11

STONE ROOFING MATERIAL

by
Nicholas Palmer

and

Part 2 Section 8.12

ROOF TILES AND OTHER CERAMIC ARTEFACTS

by
Susan Lisk

The results of the excavations conducted at Burton Dassett Southend 1986-88, together with subsequent fieldwork (fieldwalking, and recording of the Chapel and Priest's House) are disseminated in two parts.

Part 1 is the printed volume *Burton Dassett Southend, Warwickshire: A Medieval Market Village* by Nicholas Palmer and Jonathan Parkhouse, Society-for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 44 (2022). The printed volume contains the following sections:

1. Introduction and background (aims and origin of the project, key issues, archaeological and historical contexts, fieldwork scope and methodology, summaries of earthwork survey and fieldwalking)
2. The archaeological sequence (summary of the structural evidence, ordered by phase)
3 Spatial organisation and the buildings at Southend
4 Daily life and economy at Southend
5 Conclusion
Bibliography

Part 2 consists of a series of digital files in .pdf and .xlsx format, available via the Archaeological Data Service at https://doi.org/10.5284/1083492. Whilst Part 1 is a free-standing narrative, Part 2 includes the detailed descriptions and specialist analyses underpinning the printed volume. It consists of the following sections:

6.1 Geology by John Crossling
6.2 Soils by Magdalen Snape
6.3 Earthwork survey by Nicholas Palmer
6.4 Excavation methods by Nicholas Palmer
6.5 Dovehouse Close fieldwalking 1987 & Chapel Ground fieldwalking 1991 by Nicholas Palmer
7. Fieldwork (detailed description of the structural evidence at individual context level, ordered by area/tenement and phase) by Nicholas Palmer
8.1 Medieval pottery by Stephanie Rátkai
8.2 Coins and jettons by Wilfred Seaby
8.3 Copper alloy objects by Alison R Goodall with contribution by Dr John Blair
8.4 Analyses of copper alloy objects by Dr Roger Brownsword and E E H Pitt
8.5 Pewter objects by Brian Spencer and Nicholas Palmer, with analyses of pewter spoons by Dr Roger Brownsword and E E H Pitt
8.6 Lead objects by Nicholas Palmer
8.7 Ironwork by Dr Ian H Goodall, with spurs by Blanche Ellis
8.8 Bone, jet, glass and miscellaneous by Iain Soden and Nicholas Palmer
8.9 Domestic stonework by Iain Soden, John Crossling and Nicholas Palmer
8.10 Architectural stonework by Iain Soden
8.11 Stone roofing material by Nicholas Palmer
8.12 Roof tiles and ceramic artefacts by Susan Lisk
8.13 Archaeometallurgical investigation of the smithy and other evidence by Dr J G McDonnell and Alison Mills
8.14 Coal by Dr A H V Smith
8.15 Human remains by Ann Stirland
8.16 Clay tobacco pipe by Nicholas Palmer
8.17 Flint by Dr L H Barfield
8.18 Late Bronze Age pottery by Alistair Barclay
8.19 Roman and Saxon pottery by Paul Booth
8.20 Faunal remains by Julie Hamilton
8.21 Plant economy by Lisa Moffett
8.22 Radiocarbon dating of spelt wheat by Rupert Housley
8.23 Archaeomagnetic dating of hearths by Paul Linford
9. Miscellaneous data tables

The bibliography, incorporating all the works cited in Part 1 and Part 2, is also available digitally.

(Excel spreadsheets for all tables in these sections are in BD_finds_misc_data_tables)

STONE ROOFING MATERIAL *by Nicholas Palmer*

Roofing Slate

A total of 4569 fragments of roofing slate was recovered from the site: 1567 fragments came from the excavated tenements (1293 from BD86 and 274 from BD88), and 3002 fragments from the BD87 fieldwalking. The BD91 fieldwalking produced less than ten fragments (not kept).

Source

The material was basically grey slate with many fragments stained either red, indicating the presence of haematite, or yellow, indicating Limonite (iron). It all appeared to be Cambrian Stockingford Shale and could have come from a number of places to the north or west of Nuneaton along the Nuneaton Ridge, including the quarries at Purley or Griff. It had thus been transported over 40km to Burton Dassett, and is evidence of trading connections with the Griff/Chilvers Coton area, with which Burton Dassett had seigneurial connections. Burton Dassett is some way south of the normal limit of the distribution of Stockingford Shale. It is common in Coventry (Wright and Stewart 1987, 92, 99-100, fig 54 1-7), known from Kenilworth Castle (Rahtz 1960, 66 n 1), but is not found in Warwick where the only stone roofing material excavated is limestone slates (Cracknell 1987-8, fiche D9; Ratkai 1992b, fiche **). In the post-medieval period Stockingford Shale is not recorded in the Banbury area, the only (limited) stone roofing being of limestone slates, mainly from Stonesfield, Fulwell or Collyweston (Wood-Jones, 1963, 244-9, fig 71).

Forms (Figure 8.11.2, nos 1-7)

Most of the slate was fragmentary, the few complete examples all coming from the BD87 fieldwalking. The slates were fairly roughly made and varied in size, presumably according to their position on the roof, being up to 15mm thick and from 140-260mm long. They also varied in shape from rectangular (nos 1-2), to bluntly pointed at the top (no 3), bluntly pointed top and bottom (nos 4-5), and more sharply pointed at the top (Nos 6-7).

Distribution

The broad conclusion is clear; that slate was used for roofing on the site from the late 13th century, the earliest occurrence being in ph A2, and in increasing quantity through the 15th century (Figure 8.11.1). However, identifying exactly which buildings might have had slate roofs is more difficult, given that in many cases roofs would have been dismantled carefully so that the materials could be reused elsewhere and little slate would remain. Three levels of distribution might be expected on a site where slate was in use: a low background level deriving from the presence of recycled slate in rubble or rubbish; a slightly higher level deriving from accidental breakages where a roof was constructed or dismantled; and a massive concentration where a roof was allowed to collapse in situ. The main problem of interpretation is to distinguish between the first two levels.

Figure 8.11.1: BD86 and BD88 Roofing slate distribution (no of fragments)

	A	D1	D2	E	F	BCG	H	I	W	J	K	L	MN	U/S
Pre-medieval	-	-	-	-	-	-				-				
Early 13th-century							-	-			-			
Later 13th-century	3	-	-	-	-		-	-			-			
Early 14th-century		-		-	-		-		-		-			
14th-century	3		5					3						
Later 14th-century				-			1				3			
Early 15th-century	1	13	6	6	3		8	10	2	1	4	5	3	
Later 15th-century	297	43	185	146	11			29	5			-	-	
Medieval						4								
Post-med/Topsoil	274	29	173	67	6	16	5	40	6	2	21	125	5	3
Total	578	85	369	219	20	20	14	82	13	3	28	125	8	3
%	36.9	5.4	23.5	14.0	1.3	1.3	0.9	5.2	0.8	0.2	1.8	8.0	0.5	0.2
	*							*				*		
% of contexts	126	11	27.5	14.4	3.8	11.6	4.9	2.6	0.6	4	5.6	1	0.4	

The excavated tenements showed no very large concentrations. Area A however contained the largest total (578 fragments) and a greater than expected proportion (36.9%, whereas Area A only had 12.6% of contexts). It seems likely therefore that the Area A house had a slate roof. Most of the slate came from demolition layers (211 fragments, ph A6) and topsoil (271, ph A8), and while the roof would have been slated by the later 15th century, it is impossible to be sure when it was first made. The original part of the house was massively built and it is at least possible that it was roofed in slate from the start (ph A2), although this phase produced only 3 fragments. The second largest total came from Area D2 (369 fragments) but as a proportion this was less than would be expected (23.5%, as opposed to 27.5% of total contexts in D2), which probably means that, along with the material from the other tenements north of the road, this represents a background level. In both Areas D2 and E the largest groups came from the rubble forecourts to the houses.

On the south side of the road the area totals were all relatively small. Area I with 82 fragments has a slightly higher than expected proportion (5.2% as opposed to 2.6% of contexts) but the numbers are small; a more likely possibility is Area L (125 fragments, 8.0% as opposed to 1.0% of contexts) where the small numbers are balanced by the fact that the property was hardly excavated.

The distribution of slate from the BD87 fieldwalking (Part 1 (published volume) figure 1.21) shows a general thin background scatter with a single massive concentration in the area immediately to the west of the excavated area (Z2). Here 2130 fragments came from one 20m square (1040) with more in adjacent squares. This must derive from a single building or group of buildings where a slate roof or roofs had collapsed.

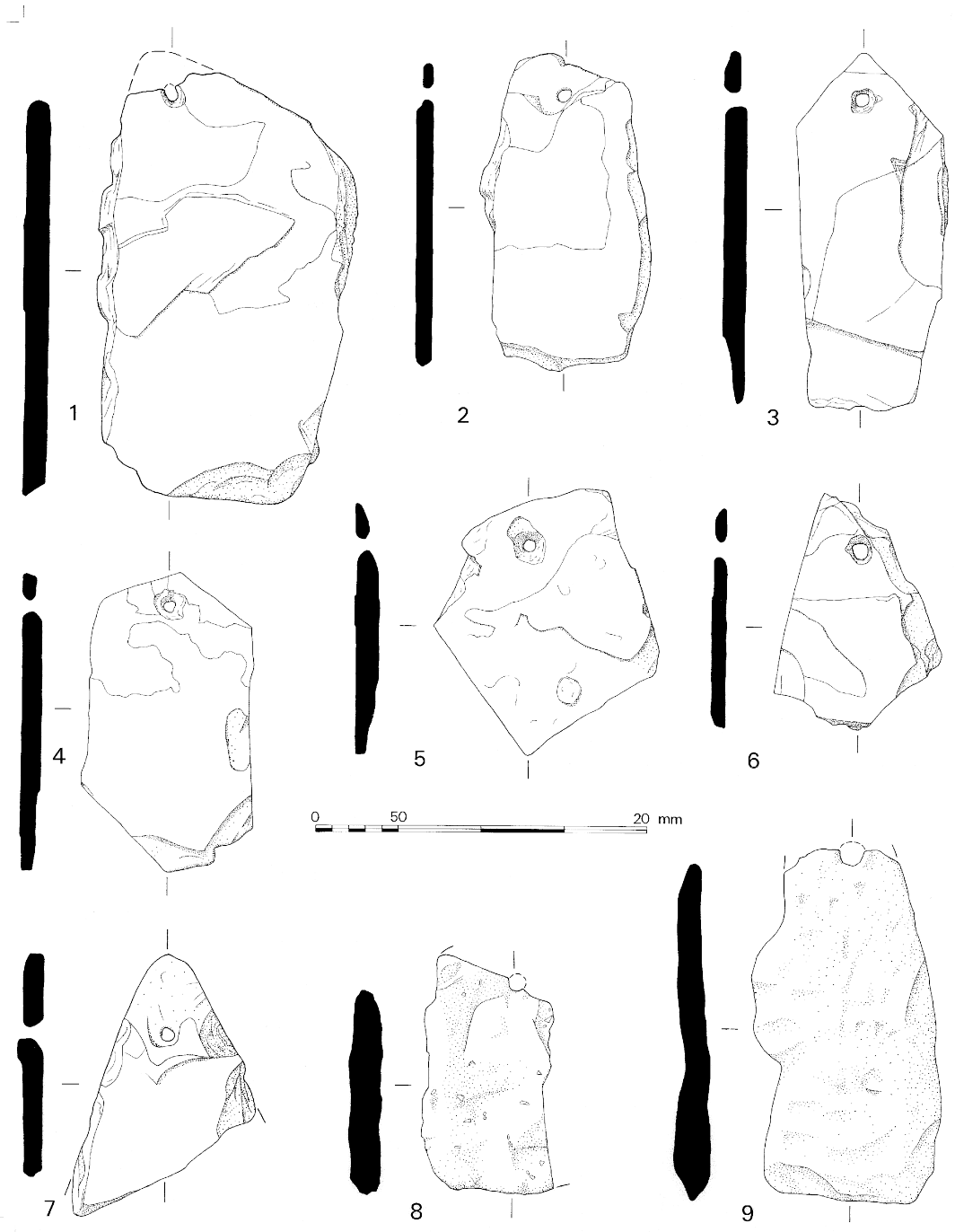

Figure 8.11.2
Stone roofing material: Slate 1-7, limestone slates 8-9

The minimal quantity of slate from the BD91 fieldwalking suggests that slate roofs were rarer to the north and east of the settlement. However the generally lower density of finds from this work make any conclusion tentative.

In conclusion it can be said that of the ten excavated tenements probably two, and possibly one more, had buildings roofed in slate at some time. In one case certainly, and presumably in the others, the building was the house. In addition there was one slate roof, at least, in the unexcavated complex to the west of Area K, and in this case it could have covered an outbuilding as this complex also contained tiled buildings. The excavated areas produced evidence for about 20 major rebuildings and extensions of houses that would have involved reroofing, and a similar number for outbuildings. This would suggest a very rough estimate of perhaps 10-15% of houses and 5-7.5% of all buildings having slate roofs. Stockingford Shale therefore represents a minor but significant component of the roofing materials. As a bulk item traded outside its normal distribution area it is interesting as evidence of the significant economic effect of the seigneurial links between Burton Dassett and Griff/Chilvers Coton.

Limestone slates (Figure 8.11.2, nos 8-9)

The excavation also produced a total of three limestone slate fragments, one (no 8, 2435/1, ph K2, later 13th century) of a highly fossiliferous well-cemented limestone, possibly from the `Grizzle Bed′ horizon in the Blue Lias Formation (Jurassic); the other two (no 9, 1, ph A8, topsoil; not illustrated, 2097, ph I4, early 15c) of an arenaceous limestone, possibly from the Northampton Sand Formation, a small outcrop of which is to be found on top of the Burton Dassett hills. The very small number of stone slates recovered suggests that this type of roofing was very rare and these fragments are likely to have been brought in rubble from elsewhere in the settlement.

8.12 ROOF TILES AND OTHER CERAMIC ARTEFACTS *by Susan Lisk*

A total of 10,629 fragments of medieval tile was recovered during the work at Burton Dassett: 3051 fragments from the excavated tenements, 7158 from the BD87 fieldwalking, and 420 from the BD91 fieldwalking. Except for one floor tile fragment all the material was roof tile. Quantities of daub, brick, field drain and two possible chimney fragments were also encountered. Only one brick fragment came from a medieval context and most was presumably post-medieval, like the field drains. The brick and field drains were not studied in detail but it was noticeable that many appeared to be in the same fabrics as the medieval tile, suggesting that the same sources of production continued into the later period.

Roof tiles

The roof tiles from the excavated tenements and a proportion (962 fragments) of the BD87 fieldwalking material was analysed by examining attributes including fabric, form, length, width, thickness, weight, and qualities of glaze, firing, use, and condition. The resulting data were manipulated using SPSS programs for statistical correlation.

Fabric

Fourteen fabrics were identified using a 10x binocular microscope (Figure 8.12.1). Comparative fabric collections were sparse, with the nearest published material from Warwick (Ratkai 1990b; 1992b). Two fabrics were similar to material from unpublished excavations by Miss J Morris in 1957-8 at nearby Warmington Priory (Warwickshire Museum Cat A5361).

Fabric A was by far the dominant type in this collection, representing 90% of the tile. It varied slightly in degree of sandiness and the percentage of haematite in its matrix. It occurred from the 13th century (Figure 8.12.3), and in all forms, including brick and the post-medieval field drains. Its dominance suggests that it must have derived from a local clay source.

Fabrics C, E, M and O had a similar matrix to Fabric A but differed in the nature of their inclusions. Both Fabrics C and M contained grog temper, but Fabric C also had large calcareous chunks, which is similar to a shell-tempered fabric from Ley Hill on the border between Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire (information from J Lawson). Fabric C was very rare (<0.1% of tile) and only occurred in topsoil contexts. Fabric M was similar to Warwick Tile Fabric 3 (Ratkai 1990b; 1992b); it was rare (0.3%), but occurred in later 15th-century contexts. Fabric O which had noticeably more haematite and black iron than Fabric A, can be definitely identified as Chilvers Coton Fabric C (Mayes and Scott 1984, 40). It also occurred in later 15th century contexts and was again rare (0.2%). Fabric E was unique in having more quartz inclusions, resulting in a coarser matrix. This was similar to one of the fabrics ('A') from Warmington Priory (Warwick Museum Cat A5361); it also had similarities with the ?Coventry Sandy ware pottery fabric F5. It was more abundant on the site (3.5% of tile) and first appeared in an early 15th-century context.

Three fabrics had shelly matrices: F (0.2%, topsoil only), G (<0.1%, topsoil only) and H (0.5%, early 15th century). Fabrics F and G had small fossil shells in the matrix, circular ones in G, and subrounded to linear ones in F. Fabric H had a finer matrix with inclusions of crushed shell and

Fabric	*Inclusions*	*Frequency & sorting*	*Size*	*Shape*	*Comparable fabric*	*Date*	*No**	*%*	*Forms*
A	Quartz, black iron, haematite	Common, sorted	1-2mm	Subrounded		13-15c	3608	89.90	Flat roof, ridge, floor (brick, field drain)
	Mica	Rare, unsorted	<1mm	Subrounded to irregular					
B	Haematite, shell	Rare, unsorted	1-2mm	Subrounded to irregular		15c	143	3.60	Flat roof (brick, field drain)
C	Grog, limestone	Common, unsorted	3-7mm	Subrounded to irregular	Ley Hill?	Topsoil	2	0.00	Roof (brick)
D	Clay	Common, bands	2-10mm	Subrounded to irregular		Topsoil	42	1.00	Roof (brick, field drain)
E	Quartz	Abundant, sorted	<1mm	Subrounded to irregular	Warmington Priory tile fabric 'A'; BD pottery F5	15c	148	3.70	Flat roof, ridge (brick)
F	Shell	Abundant, unsorted	<1-4mm	Subrounded to linear		Topsoil	8	0.20	Roof (brick, field drain)
G	Shell (oolite)	Abundant, unsorted	1-2mm	Subrounded to linear		Topsoil	1	0.00	Flat roof (brick)
	Quartz	Abundant, sorted	<1mm	Subrounded					
H	Shell	Abundant, unsorted	1-3mm	Subrounded to linear	Warmington Priory tile fabric 'B'	15c	20	0.5	Flat roof (field drain)
	Haematite	Common, unsorted	<0.5mm	Subrounded					
I	Quartz	Abundant, unsorted	0.5-5mm	Subrounded to subangular	Chilvers Coton A?	Topsoil	4	0.10	Roof
J	Clay	Rare, bands	3-5mm	Linear		Topsoil	3	0.10	Roof
M	Grog	Common, unsorted	1-3mm	Subrounded to irregular	Warwick tile fabric 3	Late 15c	15	0.40	Flat roof
O	Haematite	Abundant, unsorted	0.5-1mm	Subrounded	Chilvers Coton C	Late 15c	9	0.20	Flat roof
	Black iron	Common, unsorted	1-5mm	Subrounded to subangular					
Q	Clay	Common, unsorted bands	1-5mm	Subrounded to subangular		Late 15c	8	0.20	Flat roof (field drain)
Z	Quartz	Common, unsorted	<1mm	Subrounded		Roman	1	0.00	Roman roof tile
	Grog	Rare, unsorted							

Figure 8.12.1: Tile Fabrics

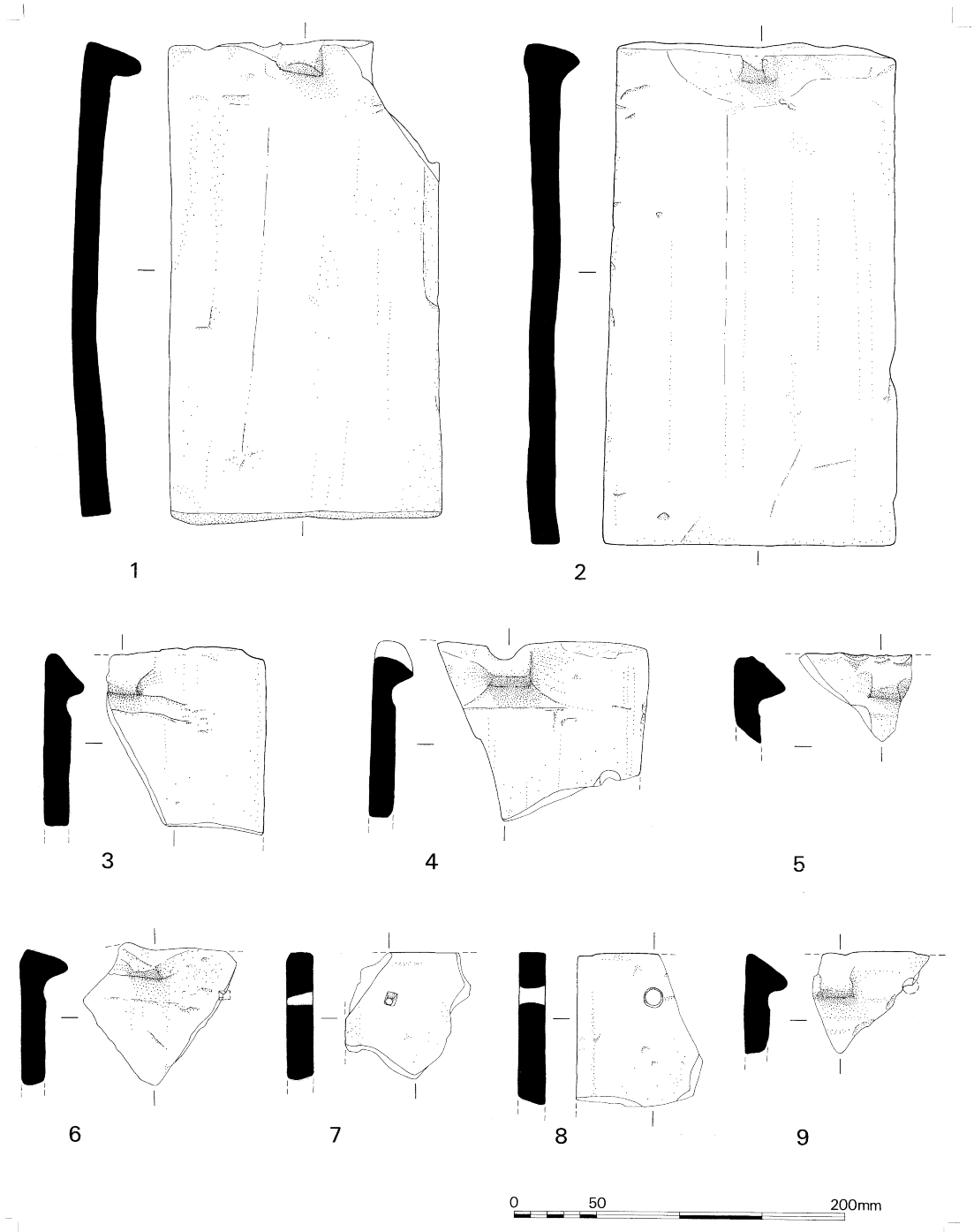

Figure 8.12.1: Roof Tile 1-9

haematite; it had similarities with Warmington Priory Fabric `B' (Warwick Museum Cat A5361).

These shell-tempered fabrics were distinct, and uncommon generally in Warwickshire (information from S Ratkai). They may have originated from an unknown source in the Burton Dassett vicinity utilising the Jurassic limestone, or, like the shell-tempered pottery, from further to the south-east.

Fabrics D, Q, and J contained of varying amounts of pink and white gritty clay and formed a colour continuum. Fabric D (1%, topsoil only) contained the highest percentage of pink clay in the matrix which was banded by white calcareous clay streaks and pellets. By contrast, Fabric Q (0.2%, late 15th century) was a mix of white and pink clays which were almost completely blended except for thin bands of each colour still visible. Fabric J (0.1%, topsoil only) was a white fabric with sparse, pink clay bands.

Of the others, Fabric B (3.5%, early 15th century) was well cleaned and contained few inclusions, while Fabric I (0.1%, topsoil only) was a distinctive white clay containing numerous quartz inclusions; it was roughly comparable to Chilvers Coton Fabric A, but was coarser than suggested by the published description (Mayes and Scott 1984, 40).

One abraded Roman tegula fragment was recovered from a Roman pit (88/1, ph A1); it had a tall flange with a bevelled internal edge, and a sandy fabric (Fabric Z) with grog inclusions, unusual for the Warwickshire area (information from P Booth).

Form (Figures 8.12.1, 8.12.2, nos 1-12)

Roof tiles were initially sorted into flat tiles (1305) and curved ridge tiles (110). Flat tiles were classified by type of hanger (Figure 8.12.4), in accordance with recent work (Drury and Pratt 1975; Wright 1987b; Ratkai 1990b), but the ridge tiles were not subdivided further because they were all plain and lacked crests or finials.

Among the flat roof tiles, there were six categories of hanger, none appearing before the 15th century which is not unusually early (Lewis 1987, 7-8). Nibbed tiles were commonest, coming in three forms: nib flush with the upper tile edge (nos 1, 2); nib offset below the tile edge (nos 3, 5); and nib depressed below the tile edge (no 4). Flush nib forms were the most prevalent, occurring from the early 15th century. The offset and depressed nib forms, occurring from the later 15th century, were more irregularly shaped than the squared flush nibs. All nibs were centrally located and measured from 25-32mm (maximum 35mm) in width and from 26-32mm (maximum 34mm) in thickness. Only the depressed nib form was slightly wider and flatter than the norm.

Tiles with peg holes, which occurred in later 15th-century contexts, were subdivided into square (no 7) and round (no 8) forms. Square peg holes range from 8-12mm in length and 6- 10mm in width, resulting in a slightly rectangular form; the holes all taper towards the upper side. Dimensions for the round peg holes averaged 10-11mm in diameter and occurred in both tapered and straight-sided versions.

Five tiles had both nibs and peg holes, the earliest occurrence being early 15th-century. Square holes were found on three tiles with flush nibs (no 6) and on one tile with a depressed nib. One tile had a round hole and an offset nib (no 9).

There were only two complete flat tiles: one measuring 282mm x 164mm (no 1) and the other (no 2) 301mm x 177mm; both were 18mm thick. Their sizes were larger than required by the Act of 1477 regulating roof tile dimensions to 10½in x 6¼in x 5/8in (266mm x 158mm x 16mm) (Clifton-Taylor 1972, 269). Both tiles have central flush nibs. 95 tiles had extant

								Fabric								
Date	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*H*	*I*	*J*	*M*	*O*	*Q*	*Z*	*Total*
BD86/88																
Pre-Medieval	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Late 13th-century	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Early 14th-century	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
14th-century	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Early 15th-century	54	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Late 15th-century	1286	5	-	-	18	-	-	11	-	-	5	1	1	-	1327
Medieval	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7
Post-Medieval/topsoil	1524	29	2	-	66	-	1	6	1	-	6	3	5	-	1643
BD87 Fieldwalking	727	106	-	42	61	8	-	2	3	3	3	5	2	-	962
Total	**3608**	**143**	**2**	**42**	**148**	**8**	**1**	**20**	**4**	**3**	**15**	**9**	**8**	**1**	**4012**

Figure 8.12.3: Roof tile fabrics by period (number of fragments)

Fabric	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	M	O	Q	Z	Total
Form															
Flat roof	873	13	-	-	38	-	1	3	-	-	7	1	1	-	936
Flush nib	161	2	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	169
Offset nib	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	34
Depressed nib	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Uncertain nib	130	5	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	140
Square peg	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Round peg	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Uncertain peg	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nibbed/Pegged	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ridge	107	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	110
Uncertain roof	2279	123	2	42	99	8	-	14	4	3	7	6	7	-	2595
Roman roof	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1*	1
Total	**3608**	**143**	**2**	**42**	**148**	**8**	**1**	**20**	**4**	**3**	**15**	**9**	**8**	**1**	**4012**

Figure 8.12.4: Roof tile forms by fabric (no of fragments)

	A	*D1*	*D2*	*E*	*F*	*BCG*	*H*	*I*	*W*	*J*	*K*	*LMN*	*U/S*
Pre-Medieval (Roman)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Late 13th-century	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Early 14th-century	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14th-century	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-
Early 15th-century	-	1	17	15	7	-	2	1	3	10	3	1	-
Late 15th-century	117	35	955*	162	33	-	-	17	8	-	-	-	-
Medieval	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post medieval/topsoil	194	62	937	155	51	38	8	20	4	59	30	55	30
Total	314	98	1910	336	92	44	10	39	15	73	33	56	30
%	10.3	3.2	62.6	11	3	1.4	0.3	1.3	0.5	2.4	1.1	1.8	1
% of total contexts	12.6	11	27.5	14.4	3.8	11.6	4.9	2.6	0.6	4	5.6	1.4	-

Figure 8.12.5: Excavated tenements – roof tile distribution by period (number of fragments)

widths ranging from 153-185mm (6.02-7.3in) and averaging 164mm (6½in). Only eight tiles were narrower than the size stipulated by the 1477 law. The similarities in overall size on these tiles suggests that they conformed to contemporary standards.

Aside from hanger form, the flat roof tiles were remarkably consistent in other attributes. Glazing was rare, occurring on only 17 tiles as random drips. Sanding was uniformly present, conforming with the traditional method of tile manufacture (Allin 1981, 52-70, 65). Tiles were fired to an oxidised state without overfiring as evidenced by an absence of defects. The presence of mortar, used to secure tiles to the roof, was rare, occurring on only 62 tiles.
Although the mortar patches were found on both the sanded and unsanded surfaces as well as the tile edge, insufficient quantities remained to infer anything about methods of tile-hanging. A majority of roof tile fragments were in average condition, their small size consistent with the suggestion that complete tiles would generally be removed for re-use and small fragments abandoned (Moorhouse 1988, 47).

All 110 ridge tiles were fragmentary, with the two largest examples (nos 10, 11) illustrated. The absence of glazing - even accidental drips - is unusual, since glazing is common on this tile form. One tile had an impressed curved line (no 12), similar to decoration on Warmington Priory ridge tiles (Warwick Museum Cat A5361), although it could also represent a batch mark.

Three tiles had mortar remaining on the ends, suggesting that they were affixed end to end. Sanding was uniformly present on the undersides, though it was of a much finer quality than used on the flat tiles. The ridge tiles were in average condition, and were generally oxidised. Length and width were not measurable on any tile, but thickness ranged from 11-21mm (0.43- 0.83in).

Site distribution

The highest quantities of tile were found in late 15th-century contexts (Figure 8.12.5). This was similar to the other artefact categories from the site, but it is likely that there was greater use of tile in this period. It is mirrored by a general increase in tile production centres (Lewis 1987, 10) during the 15th century and by increases at other sites (Williams and Williams 1979, 325). Tile was in use at Burton Dassett in the preceding two centuries but the very small quantities found make it unlikely that any of the excavated buildings had tiled roofs at this time.

The highest densities of roof tile occurred north of the road. Area D2 contained almost 63% of all excavated roof tile, but had only 27.5% of the contexts. The greatest concentration was of 172 fragments used to make hearth 703/2 (ph D26). Such use of tiles to create a hearth was common (Moorhouse 1988, 43). There were also concentrations in the D26 rubble layers (695, 712, 807, 924, 1173, 1174) to north and south of the house. This suggests that the house was certainly roofed with tile by ph D25 (mid-late 15th century).

Areas A, E and F also had high quantities of roof tile relative to the other tenements, but less than might be expected based on the number of contexts. In these areas tile occurred in numerous contexts but in small quantities. The contexts were largely rubble surfaces surrounding the tenements and demolition rubble. These small quantities may be the result

of thorough robbing and it is likely that at least parts of the Area E and F buildings were

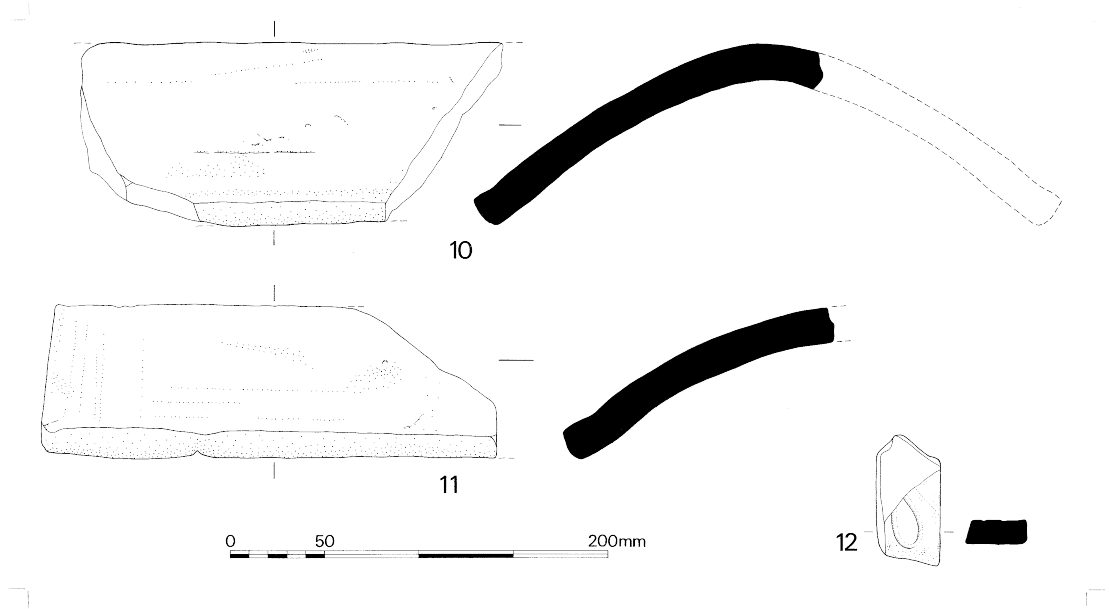

Figure 8.12.6: Roof Tile 10-12

tiled. In Area A the ph A5 extension may have been tiled but the main house had a slate roof (see above).

South of the road there was very little tile. Most of these tenements were abandoned before the use of tile became common in the late 15th century. The only possibility for a tiled roof was Area L where the proportion of tile (1.8%) was greater than the proportion of contexts (1.0%), but the numbers were small. This area may also have had a slate roofed building (see above).

The suggestion that tile was little used in the excavated areas south of the road is supported by the BD87 fieldwalking evidence (Part 1 (published volume), figure 1.21). Area Z1, covering the excavated tenements, contained little tile. By contrast the areas to the west (Z2 and Z3) contained a number of large concentrations suggesting the decay of tiled roofs *in situ*. Area Z2 seems to have contained at least two buildings, one in the vicinity of a building with a slate roof, and Area Z3 contained at least one more. In Area Z4 there was a slight concentration over the presumed site of the post-medieval shepherds' cottage, possibly suggesting a thoroughly robbed roof. The fabric proportions here were broadly similar to those from the medieval assemblages (A 75%, B 14.3%, E 6.3%).

The BD91 Chapel Ground fieldwalking produced much less tile (Part 1 (published volume) figure 1.24), but there were slight concentrations to the north-east of Area Y2 and to the south east of Area Y1 which may indicate tiled buildings.

In conclusion, of the ten excavated tenements, probably two, and possibly as many as four, had ceramic tile roofs at some point in the 15th century. The fieldwalked areas add at least four or five more. Tile was therefore important as a roofing material, more so than slate,

occurring on perhaps as many as 15-25% of the houses. This is a much higher proportion than on later houses in the Banbury area, which were almost exclusively thatched (Wood-Jones 1963, 246). It may be that Burton Dassett, on the north edge of the area, was closer to sources of suitable clay than places to the south.

Other ceramic artefacts

Floor tile

A single floor tile fragment was recovered; Fabric A with a dark greenish-black glaze, Th 27mm (2052, ph I5, mid 15th-century demolition).

Chimney pot fragments

Two possible chimney pot fragments were found in a late 15th-century rubble surface (867, ph E6). Both were of a unique white sandy clay having abundant quartz and black iron inclusions. One piece was a flattened rim with a narrow interior lip. Both pieces were 14mm thick and coated with a thick brown speckled glaze.

Daub

The site also produced 3329 pieces of daub (2715g), predominantly in small quantities from the excavated tenements. A cursory examination revealed that most was similar to Fabric A, and a few pieces had either twig impressions or distinct faces. It presumably derived mainly from the infilling of timber framing. There was an apparent concentration in Area H, where the house is likely to have been timber-framed.