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76-84 ST OWENS STREET, HEREFORD

Archaeological Evaluation

David Doyle
BSc



HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	GARY THORNE
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	351500 239660
<i>Address</i>	76-84 ST OWENS STREET
<i>Parish</i>	HEREFORD
<i>Council</i>	HEREFORDSHIRE
<i>SMR No</i>	51614
<i>Project Manager</i>	MIKE KIMBER
<i>Text</i>	DAVID DOYLE
<i>Illustrations</i>	THOMAS SMALL
<i>Typesetting</i>	CAROLINE NORRMAN
<i>Fieldwork</i>	DAVID DOYLE SIMON MAYES
<i>Specialists</i>	
<i>Finds specialist</i>	KATH CROOKS
<i>Finds specialist</i>	BENEDIKTE WARD
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	MARCH 2010
<i>Report</i>	APRIL 2010

Signed off by:

Mike Kimber MA(Hons) AIfA, Project Manager

Date:.....

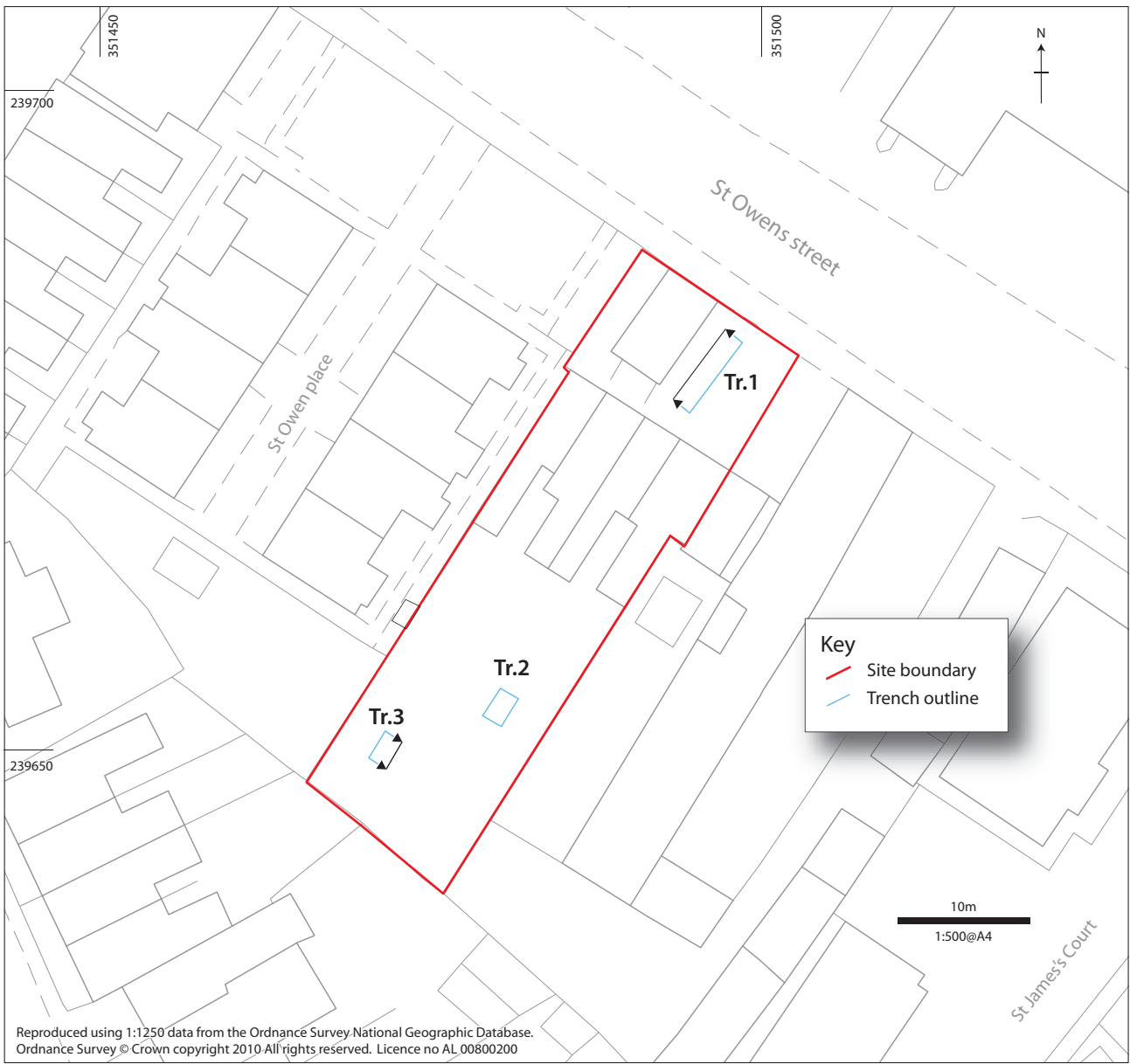
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Illus 1
Site location

76-84 ST OWENS STREET, HEREFORD

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Doyle

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted a pre-determination evaluation at 76-84 St Owens Street, Hereford. The evaluation comprised one 5m long trench adjacent to the St Owens Street frontage and two 2m long trenches in the gardens to the rear of the property. Trench 1 revealed the presence of a cobbled surface which may relate to a late medieval road or plot frontage but it was very badly truncated by a late 19th/early 20th century pit. Trench 2 contained some 19th ceramics and Trench 3 had two 19th century cess pits cut in to the subsoil and natural.

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was carried out 76-84 St Owens Street, Hereford. (Illus.1) in order to provide information to be submitted with a planning application to develop the site. The site lies within the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act). The work was carried out as Herefordshire County Archaeology Service had advised the planning authority that information was required on whether remains of archaeological significance survive within the proposed development area, and what the likely impact of the development upon any remains would be, in line with paras 21 & 22 of PPG16 and Herefordshire planning policy ARCH1. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Project Design agreed in advance with Herefordshire County Archaeology Service.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

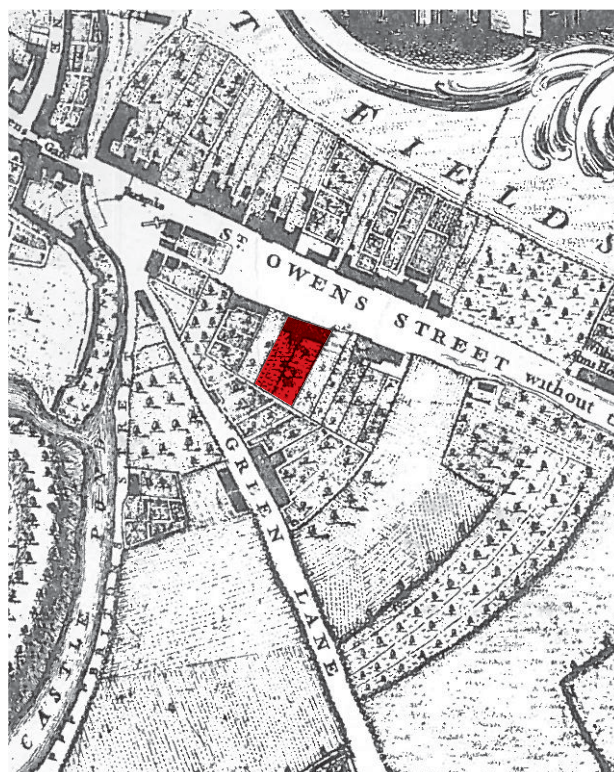
The site is located to the East Side of the medieval city of Hereford, along one of the main approach roads to the city. The centre of the site is occupied by 19th century buildings (currently a printing works), with an open yard to the St Owen's Street frontage and gardens to the rear. The underlying geology is Old fluvio-glacial gravels overlying Old Red Sandstone.

3. BACKGROUND

No archaeological work has been carried out on the site of the proposed development.

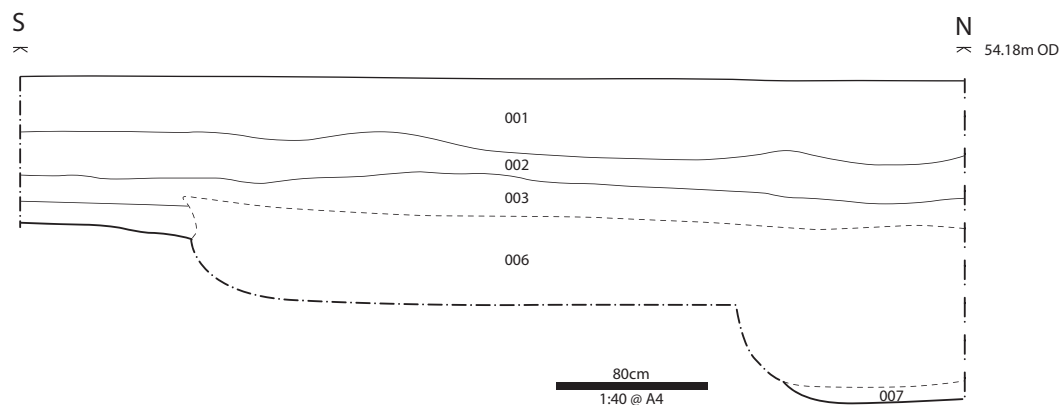
Historically St Owen's Street has been a main route into the medieval city of Hereford, via St Owen's Gate. Speede's 1610 map of Hereford, although somewhat stylised, shows few properties along the street frontage

outside of the city walls. Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford shows the development of suburbs along this route, with the land divided into small tenement plots running back from the street. The street by the proposed development site was wider than at present (Illus 2). St Owens Street was re-aligned by 1885, forming the existing street layout, but the area of the site development is still visible as a series of buildings set back from this new road and respecting the old street frontage. Even today, although the existing buildings are 19th century in date, they still respect this old boundary (Illus 1).



Illus 2

Taylor's 1757 map of Hereford. The site location is highlighted



Illus 3
Trench 1. Representative section

4. OBJECTIVES

The objective of this evaluation was to assess survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, identify the date and nature of features being investigated, produce a report and deposit the archive with the local repository.

5. METHOD

Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with the use of a toothless bucket where possible and a toothed bucket was used when hard surfaces and compact deposits were encountered. The trenches were positioned in order to target areas that would be disturbed by the proposed development. All trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was excavated to natural at its south-west end. A large 19th pit was encountered at the NE of the trench and this was excavated to the limit of the mini-excavator. Trench 2 and 3 were both excavated to natural. The base and sections of the trenches were cleaned where necessary for the purpose of identifying archaeological deposits/feature or to assist with the recording exposed strata.

6. RECORDING

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts and small finds were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological norms. Archaeological features were recorded in plan at a scale 1:20. Trench plans were produced at 1:50. Selected, representative trench sections were produced at 1:20. Photographs of archaeological features and deposits were taken using 35mm monochrome and colour slide film. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp digital camera were taken for

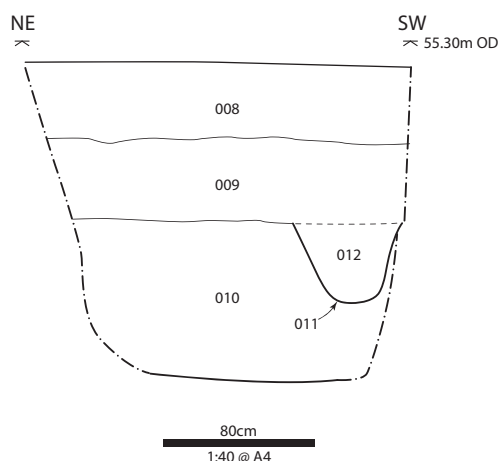
illustrative purposes. Registers were kept for context records, photographs and drawings. Trench positions were tied into the OS grid using a Trimble GPS unit with sub centimetre accuracy. Bulk finds were collected by context.

7. RESULTS

Trench 1 was located in the yard to the front of the properties. It measured 1.6 x 5m and was excavated to a depth of 1.7m. It exposed a sequence of silty sediments 0.7 m thick (001, 002, and 003; Illus 3). The anthropogenic material recovered indicates that these deposits relate to post-medieval activity. At approximately 53.82m OD, below (003), a cobbled surface (004) was encountered (Illus 5). The cobbled surface overlay natural subsoil, and extended 1 m into the trench, where it was truncated by a large cut (005). The fill of this cut (006) contained a mixed date assemblage of ceramics including pottery, clay pipes and brick material, as well as a fragment from a four-lugged mortar. Below context 006 was a layer of grey silt loam (007) from which a single piece of Tudor Green was recovered. The full extent of this feature was not revealed as it continued beyond the limits of the trench. The base of the feature was not reached as the trench was excavated to the limit of the reach of the mini-excavator (Illus 3).

Trench 2 measured 2 x 1.6m and was excavated to a depth of 1.56m, where natural deposits were encountered. The sequence comprised modern topsoil (008) 0.45m thick, containing some modern and 19th century finds. Underlying this was a light greyish brown buried topsoil deposit (009) which contained some ceramic material and small pieces of animal bone. Below this was orange subsoil (010) which contained pottery, clay pipe and animal bone of mixed date. The natural gravel below was clean and no cut features were observed in it.

Trench 3 measured 2 x 1.6m and was excavated to a depth of 1.80m. Natural deposits were encountered at 1.55m. The sequence of soil horizons was the same as that in Trench 2, and a mixed date pottery assemblage was again

**Illus 4**

Trench 3. Representative section showing cess pit 011

recovered from the subsoil. However two 19th century cess pits, (011 & 013) were cut into the subsoil and natural respectively. These pits contain a mixture of post-medieval ceramics and fragments of animal bone (Illus 4).

8. FINDS

Kath Crooks & Benedikte Ward

A total of 56 sherds of pottery were recovered from the site of the former printing works in St Owens Street. Of these 33 came from Trench 1, with 3 sherds from Trench 2 and the remainder from Trench 3. The majority of pottery was of post-medieval and later post-medieval date. A single sherd from Trench 2 (Context 10) was of Herefordshire glazed ware fabric A7B. In addition sherds of Cistercian type ware and Tudor Green type ware from Trench 1 may indicate activity in the area in the later medieval and earlier post-medieval periods.

The Staffordshire wares included a single sherd of jeweled slipware from context 006 in Trench 2 and a single sherd of Tudor Green type ware.

All pottery from Trench 3 was of later post-medieval date and included an ink pot and transfer printed wares, suggesting a late 19th or early 20th century date for this material.

A total of 16 clay pipe fragments were recovered from the site as well as one wig curler. Of these 11 clay pipes and the wig curler came from Trench 1, 4 came from Trench 2 and one from Trench 3.

The clay pipes from Trench 1 and 2 range in the date from 1700 – 1770 and the clay pipes in Trench 3 from 1770.

It is highly likely that these pipes came from the same clay pipe factory, at the site which is now known as

Pipe Aston. In the medieval period, the parish is named variously Hesintune, Assiston, and Aston. It first appears as Pipe Aston in the 1841 census apparently confirming a local usage almost certainly recording folk tradition of the pipe making industry which played an important part in the economy from mid seventeenth to mid eighteenth centuries.

Several of the stems carry stamps and three of them can be linked back to the maker Clemen Melard, who appears to have been working at Pipe Aston around 1700.

A fragment of stone-lugged mortar was recovered from the fill (006) of the modern pit (005) in Trench 1, similar to those recovered from the Trinity Almshouses during the 1976–90 excavations (Boucher & Thomas, 2002, 143–144). This artefact is likely to be of medieval date, possibly from a religious site.

9. DISCUSSION

The discovery in Trench 1 of the cobbled surface (004) corresponds with the row of buildings set back on a wide section of St Owens Street shown on Taylor's 1757 map (Illus 2), and is likely to be part of a 19th century or earlier road surface. The frontage of these plots has remained the same throughout the following centuries even when the road has been altered, and the 0.7m of deposits overlying this surface suggests that there may be potential for earlier remains to survive beneath the existing buildings on the site. The large cut feature found in this trench appears to be modern in date and could be a large 19th/20th century rubbish disposal pit or possibly a large service run related to later urbanisation of the St Owens Street area. This means that most of the yard in front of the existing buildings is likely to be heavily disturbed. The fragment of carved stone mortar found in

**Illus 5**

Cobbled surface 004 revealed in Trench 1

this feature may have derived from an ecclesiastical site, possibly from the former St Owen's Church, which stood just outside of St Owen's gate.

The first definite evidence of formal garden plots in this area is Taylor's 1775 map. However, the finds assemblage recovered during the evaluation demonstrates human activity from the 13th century AD to the modern period within the development area. It appears that the entire depth of the soil profile to the rear of the properties has been comprehensively reworked by horticultural activity occurring comparatively recently, as 19th century finds were recovered from all identified soil horizons. Complex stratified deposits or upstanding structures are unlikely to survive in this area due to bioturbation and mechanical mixing of the soil. The only identified cut features in Trench 3 date to the 19th century. There is however potential for remains pre-dating the pre-19th century period to survive as features cut into the natural gravels.

10. REFERENCES

Boucher, A and Thomas, A 2002 *Hereford City Excavations: Further sites & evolving interpretations*. Herefordshire: Logaston Press. p143-144, p195-196.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site registers

Trench Register

Trench No	Orientation	Description	Length	Topsoil depth
1	NE-SW	Stratified deposits on to a cobbled surface which is then cut by a very large pit	5	0.45m
2	NE-SW	Modern topsoil above old topsoil and subsoils onto natural gravels	2	0.45m
3	NE-SW	Modern topsoil above old topsoil and subsoils. Two 19th C cess pits cut into the subsoil and the natural	2	0.45m

Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Description
001	1	Topsoil (imported)
002	1	Light Brown silt
003	1	Mid brown loose silt, greyish black flecks, stone inclusions
004	1	Cobbled surface
005	1	Cut for large 19th Century rubbish pit
006	1	Fill of large rubbish pit [005]
007	1	Grey silty loam within pit fill (006). Possibly a sealing layer.
008	2,3	Dark modern topsoil (imported)
009	2,3	Old topsoil
010	2,3	Greyish orange silty clay subsoil
011	3	Cut for small cess pit
012	3	Fill of small cess pit [011]
013	3	Cut for cess pit
014	3	Fill of cess pit [013]
015	1,2,3	Natural gravel

Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Section	Plan	Description
1	-	1:20	Plan of Trench 1
2	1:20	-	E facing Trench 1
3	1:20	-	SE facing Trench 2
4	1:20	-	NW facing Trench 3
5	1:20	-	SE facing Trench 3

Photographic Register

Photo No.	Colour print	Colour Slide	Direction	Description
1	1/30	2/29	NE	Trench 1 Cobble surface (004)
2	1/29	2/28	NE	Trench 1 Cut for pit [005]

Photo No.	Colour print	Colour Slide	Direction	Description
3	1/28	2/27	NE	Trench 1 pit [005]
4	1/27	-	NW	Trench 1 section
5	1/26	2/26	NW	Trench 1 section showing (007) + [005]
6	1/25	2/25	NE	Trench 1 plan
7	1/24	2/24	SE	Trench 2 plan
8	1/23	2/23	NW	Trench 2 section
9	1/22	2/22	NE	Trench 3 plan
10	1/21	2/21	SE	Trench 3 [011]+(012)
11	1/20	2/20	N	Trench 3 [013]+(014)

Appendix 2 – Finds Catalogue

Trench	Context	Material	Qty	Object	Description	Spot Date
1	002	Ceramic	1	pottery	Staffordshire slipware jar with brown glaze	18thc
1	002	ceramic	1	pottery	Staffordshire dish or charger with feathered decoration	18th c
1	002	Glass	2	bottles	Bases of two bottles	18thc
1	002	ceramic	1	rooftile	Flat tile, sanded underside	Post-medieval
1	002	ceramic	1	Wig curler	6 cm oblong pin with one rounded end	Late 17th to 18th c
1	003	ceramic	4	pottery	Staffordshire wares	Mid to late 18th c
1	003	ceramic	3	pottery	Local wares including trailed slipwares	17th to 18th c
1	003	ceramic	1	pottery	Salt glazed stoneware	18th c
1	003	ceramic	2	pottery	Staffordshire slipware – white slip over red fabric; clear glaze	18th c
1	003	ceramic	4	Clay pipe	3 stems and ½ bowl w. stamp and dotted decoration round the top. Stamp of a rose, linked to maker Clemen Melard	c. 1700
1	004	ceramic	2	pottery	Cistercian type ware (16th c) – handles of cups	16th c
1	004	ceramic	1	pottery	Staffordshire mottled slipware	Mid 18th c +
1	004	ceramic	1	pottery	Heavily abraded sherd probably Malvern Chase ware	16th to 17th c
1	004	ceramic	1	pottery	Modern glazed ware	19thc
1	004	ceramic	5	Clay pipe	3 stems and 2 whole bowls. One pointed heel indicates 17th ct. The stamp on one shows it is made by Clemen Melard at PipeAston, nr Leominster	c. 1680 – 1710
1	006	ceramic	3	Clay pipe	2 stems and 1 whole bowl.. bowl has dotted decoration round the top. One stem has a stamp, (possibly rose). Made by Clemen Melard at Pipe Aston	c 1700 – 1770
1	006	ceramic	7	Pottery	Jars and beakers in Staffordshire mottled slipware	Mid to late 18thc
1	006	ceramic	2	pottery	Staffordshire slipware dishes. One sherd jewelled slipware	Late 17th to 18th c
1	006	ceramic	1	pottery	Tudor Green ware. Probably a cup	15th to 16th c
1	006	ceramic	3	pottery	Local glazed earthenware. One has trailed slip	17th to 18th c
1	006	ceramic	1	pottery	Black glazed cup	17th to 18th c
1	007	ceramic	1	Pottery	Tudor Green ware – neck of jug	15th to 16th c
2	010	ceramic	2	Pottery	2 sherds of transfer printed ware	19th c
2	010	ceramic	1	pottery	Sherd of Herefordshire glazed ware (fabric A7B) probably from a jug	Mid 13th to 15th c
2	010	ceramic	4	Clay pipe	3 stems and 1 bowl.	1700- 1770
3	010	ceramic	11	pottery	Local coarsewares. Also transfer printed ware and salt glazed ink pot	Later 19th to e20th c
3	010	ceramic	1	tile	Decorative wall tile	Later 19th to 20th
3	010	ceramic	1	Clay pipe	Whole bowl with part of stem. Bowl decorated. Thin walls.	Poss 1770ies
3	012	ceramic	6	pottery	Modern white glazed wares and coarse earthenwares.	18th to 19th c
3	014	ceramic	2	pottery	Staffordshire coarseware, modern white glazed ware	End 18th -19th c
3	014	ceramic	1	pottery	Frechen stoneware	17thc
3	014	tile	1	rooftile	Nibbed tile	Post-medieval
1	006	Stone	1	Mortar	Fragment of four-lugged stone mortar	Medieval