

Finds Assessment

by Amy Koonce & Julie Franklin

The finds assemblage numbered six complete bricks weighing a total of 17.666kg, collected from six separate structures. They are all modern in date, probably dating from the 18th century or later.

Methodology

The assemblage consists of bricks which were collected as a sample from a selection of structures. They were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (ClfA 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The data was compiled in a MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

Bricks

Six complete bricks were retrieved from STR001, STR002, STR008, STR009, STR012 and STR015.

Five of the bricks are plain, stock-moulded and are all in a medium red fabric. Dating for these can only be suggested by their dimensions. They are all of similar size (222-217mm long, 111-99mm wide and 68-61mm thick). The brick tax of 1784 resulted in thicker (64mm+) made bricks (McComish 2015, 43) and thus the two thickest (STR009 and STR012) are more likely to post-date this. The other bricks (STR001, STR008 and STR015) are slightly thinner but otherwise are not markedly different in size and comparable in terms of fabric and could be broadly contemporary or earlier. From the mid 19th century machine made bricks become more commonplace, though stock-moulded bricks continue in production. The stock-moulded bricks are therefore most likely to be 18th or early 19th.

The brick from STR002 is machine-made and frogged (230 x 104 x 75mm) and bears a maker's mark, though unfortunately worn and illegible. It is likely to post-date the mid 19th century but otherwise cannot be more accurately dated.

Discussion

The bricks derived from structures built from the 1720s onwards and most of the bricks are potentially this early. The bricks from STR009 and STR012 might be late 18th century or later. The brick from STR002 is probably mid 19th-century or later.

Recommendations for further work

The bricks have low potential for further analysis and therefore no further work is recommended.

Recommendations for archive

As it stands, the archive is of no further archaeological value and if no further work is undertaken on the site, it is recommended the bricks be discarded. The archive has been prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011).

References

Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd edn) (ClfA: Reading) http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf accessed 24 February 2020

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Reading) http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GFinds_1.pdf accessed 24 February 2020

Hammond M (2001) *Bricks and Brickmaking* Princes Risborough

McComish JM 2015 *A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials* (York) <https://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/A-guide-to-ceramic-building-material-reduced.pdf> accessed 24 February 2020

Watkinson D & Neal V (1998) *First aid for finds: Practical Guide for Archaeologists* (3rd revised edn) London