

## **Appendix 4:**

### **Report on the Ceramic Building Material from an Excavation at St. Catherine's Lincoln (SCEL07)**

Jane Young

#### ***Introduction***

A total of four hundred fragments of ceramic building material weighing 48838gms and ranging in date from the medieval to the early modern period were recovered from the site. The material was examined visually and then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames on an Access database. The CLAU tile type series was consulted for comparative material. Examples of three newly defined fabrics (Lincoln Tile Fabrics 12-14) were recovered from this site and one example has been removed from the general site archive to be included with the established Lincoln Tile Type Series held at the Collection, Lincoln (former City and County Museum).

#### ***Condition***

The material is in variable condition with most tile fragments showing a little abrasion. Most of the medieval flat roof tiles have mortar adhering and in many cases this extends over broken edges suggesting reuse of broken tile in rubble infill. A few of the flat roof tiles (PNR) have evidence for manufacturing techniques in the form of finger marks and possible cloth impressions. Four of the medieval roof tiles recovered have evidence for misfiring. One of the glazed tiles has cracked during firing and the glaze has run across the cracked edge.

#### ***The Ceramic Building Material***

A range of ceramic building material including flat and ridge roof tile and brick was found on the site (Table 1). The material ranges in date from the medieval to modern periods. With the exception of a

small number of medieval flat roof tiles, all of the fragments found on the site are typical of those recovered from previous excavations within the city.

**Table 1: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight**

| <b>codename</b> | <b>full name</b>                 | <b>fragments</b> | <b>weight in gms</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| BRK             | Brick                            | 7                | 7927                 |
| BRKDISC         | Brick (discarded)                | 10               | 5300                 |
| GNIB            | Glazed nibbed tile               | 3                | 416                  |
| GPNR            | Glazed peg, nib or ridge         | 1                | 139                  |
| GRID            | Glazed ridge tile                | 1                | 82                   |
| MISC            | Unidentified types               | 1                | 1521                 |
| NIB             | Nibbed tile                      | 32               | 5037                 |
| NIBDISC         | Nibbed tile (discarded)          | 12               | 760                  |
| PANTDISC        | Pantile (discarded)              | 1                | 120                  |
| PNR             | Peg, nib or ridge tile           | 32               | 4803                 |
| PNRDISC         | Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile | 298              | 22299                |
| RID             | Ridge tile                       | 2                | 434                  |

## Medieval

Most of the ceramic building material recovered from the site is undiagnostic medieval flat roof tile (PNR) with three hundred and thirty unglazed and one glazed fragments coming from the site. All three of the newly defined Lincoln Tile Fabrics (Fabrics 12-14 as defined at St Catherine's Priory-LICS06) were noted amongst the material from this site. The fabric types recovered suggest that local ceramic tile was in use in the area from the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century through to the late medieval or early post medieval period. The main Lincoln Fabrics (Fabrics 1, 7 and LSWA) are found on sites throughout the city and this site is no exception (Table 2), although they are outnumbered by tiles in the newly defined fabrics (Fabrics 12-14). Only Fabric 7 has close dating associations with present evidence suggesting that it is no longer in production by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century and possibly ceases to be used by the second quarter of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is not possible to use this site to date the new fabrics, although the occurrence of glazed fragments and early type nibs suggests that the fabrics are in production before the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly no applied and cut nibs occur in these fabrics indicating a pre mid 14<sup>th</sup> century end date. The most unusual aspect of the new tile types is the presence of fragments that suggest that some of the flat roof tiles were cut along the top edge of the tile.

Only a small number of diagnostic suspension nib types are present, most of which are of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date (nib Types 1 and 2) or 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date (nib Types 3A, 4E and 5A).

**Table 2: Identifiable flat roof tile fabric types with total fragment count**

| <b>Lincoln Fabric type</b> | <b>Fragments</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Beverley ?                 | 1                |
| Fabric 1                   | 42               |
| Fabric 7                   | 81               |
| Fabric 12                  | 148              |
| Fabric 13                  | 59               |
| Fabric 14                  | 36               |
| Fabric LSWA                | 4                |

Only one fragment of a medieval glazed ridge tile (GRID) was present amongst the material recovered, although two unglazed fragments (RID) may be of medieval date.

### **Late medieval to modern**

A few of the flat roof tiles may be of late medieval or later date. A single early modern pantile has been discarded. Seventeen brick fragments are present in the assemblage, four of which are of modern machine-made type. The manufacture and fabric of eight of the handmade bricks suggests that they are of late post-medieval to early modern date. One of these bricks has been moulded to shape, possible for use around a window. The other five handmade bricks have fabrics (St. Catherine's Brick Fabrics 1 and 2) similar to those noted at St. Catherine's (LICS06) where they were used for construction of a kiln of unknown function. These bricks recovered from this site are very narrow where measurable (73-78mm) and at least one brick that is more than 60mm thick is reminiscent of a kiln bar. Whilst the construction of the LICS06 feature is most probably of post-reformation date it remains possible that the bricks themselves could date as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

## ***Summary and Recommendations***

The ceramic building material recovered dates between the medieval and the modern periods. The material is mainly typical of types found on sites elsewhere in the City, however a number of new medieval flat roof tile fabrics and the first evidence in the city for a cut edge on a flat roof tile, are also present. It is difficult to interpret such a small assemblage, especially as much of the material has evidence for use after initial breakage (mortar over broken edges). Overall the ceramic building material in use on the site is mainly of mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date and was probably manufactured fairly locally. There is little evidence for post-Dissolution activity until the early modern period.

Most of the undiagnostic tile has been discarded in accordance with guidelines set down by the City and County Museum; all of the remaining material should be retained. One tile needs to be integrated with the Lincoln Tile Type Series