

TACOT18 Tamworth, Coton Lane

Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay Report

By Cynthia Poole

A small quantity of ceramic building material and burnt clay was recovered from ditches and a posthole. The material is poorly preserved consisting of small moderately to heavily abraded fragments, with no complete dimensions surviving except for thickness in one case. The fired clay cannot be dated, but the CBM includes both Roman and late medieval items. The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). Fabrics were characterised with the aid of x20 hand lens or binocular microscope at x25.

The Roman tile comprises fragments of two tegulae and an imbrex. It was all made in a pinkish red-orange sandy fabric containing moderate-frequent medium-coarse quartz sand and small red iron oxide inclusions. One tegula had a thickness in excess of 18mm and the imbrex greater than 20mm. The tegulae consisted of broken flange fragments, one of which had a width of 27mm, but no complete flange profiles were preserved. One of the tegulae was recovered from the Roman enclosure ditch 50001/50012, whilst the other two Roman tiles were found in a later ditch 50008 cutting across the Roman enclosure.

A single fragment of late medieval-early post-medieval, 15th-16th century, flat roof tile was found in the mid-late Roman ditch 50011. This is probably the corner of a thick peg or nib tile though no evidence of a nib or peg hole survived. It was made in a brownish red fabric containing a very high density of coarse white quartz sand with a moderate scatter of mica. It measures 19mm thick.

Amorphous undateable fragments of burnt clayey sandy soil were recovered from context 47 and posthole 2226. Both groups have the character of burnt soil or subsoil, of the sort that might occur around the cut of a hearth or oven.

Bibliography

ACBMG 2007 *Ceramic building material, minimum standards for recovery, curation, analysis and publication*