

1.11 The early nineteenth century museum: building materials by Cynthia Poole

A limited range of building materials have been identified that can be assigned to the nineteenth century building that was constructed over the Roman mosaic. Some of the material was quantified on site and discarded and a sample retained for full recording. All the material has been recorded on the Excel file, which contains data on all the building material from the excavations. Quantities are summarized as follows:

Nineteenth century building materials	Nos.	Wt	Fabrics
Brick	135	6412	F
Roof: peg tile	47	810	C, C3
Mortar	108	4060	M1, M2, cob

Roofing

Small quantities of flat roofing tile, all broken and incomplete fragments, were found. These measured 11-15 mm thick and appeared to be peg tile as a couple of pieces had nail holes 7 and 9 mm diameter. They were all made in fabric C3, a laminated clay with clay pellets. No ridge tile was noted though it is possible some fragments have been recorded as imbrex. It could be argued that the ridge tile that has been recorded as Roman is in fact nineteenth century and this was the initial interpretation during recording of the building materials. However, some of the pieces appeared to be from undisturbed Roman contexts and characteristics more in common with Roman tile were observed. However, as the ridge tile is all made in fabric C3 it suggests a possible connection with the later roof tile.

Brick

Most of the brick found was broken, but 17 complete bricks remained in the base of the foundation trench F1165 of the nineteenth century building. These measured 223-230 mm long, 104-109 mm wide and 60-63 mm thick. This is the typical standard size for the nineteenth century. All had flat surfaces on all sides and no frogs or other features. Several had a grey ash glaze on one or two surfaces and it is possible these were used to some decorative effect in the brick work. One of the brick fragments had M2 mortar adhering.

Mortar

Two lime mortars appear to have been used. M1 was a cream–light brown mortar mixed with a high density of sand and containing chalk and flint grit. M2 was a light brown or yellowish brown very hard lime mortar containing very high densities of quartz and flint sand and grit up to 4 mm. Some of the mortar clearly derived from jointing between the bricks, whilst others retained the impressions of flints.

A large quantity of mortar fragments were recovered from layer 732, a layer of nineteenth century demolition rubble from the robbing of the museum building. Several large blocks of mortar or possibly cob had flat roughly smoothed surfaces, as well as some smooth undulating surfaces, which looked like the impressions of dressed wall flints. Two thin pieces

(12-15 mm thick) had one very flat surface and the reverse slightly rougher: possibly render over brick or cob surface. A thicker fragment 23 mm thick had a pale turquoise painted surface. Four fragments 17-33 mm thick had interwoven wattle impressions measuring 10 mm, 12 mm, 13 mm, 17 mm, 23 mm and 25 mm diameter. A single large wattle 35 mm diameter may have been a vertical pole. This material probably derived from an internal wattle partition, daubed with mortar, rendered and apparently painted.

Discussion

The building materials provide a little additional detail to complement the excavated and historical record of the nineteenth century museum building.