

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

4336

SERIES/No

CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR

D F Williams

August 1984

TITLE

Roman tile from Edington, Wiltshire

For ...

ROMAN TILE FROM EDINGTON, WILTSHIRE

D.F. Williams, Ph.D., F.S.A.

(DOE Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Two samples of Roman decorated tile were submitted from Edington for thin sectioning and study under the petrological microscope. The object being to see if both tiles share a similar fabric, and by implication a similar source. One of the tiles (155. 1975) displays a combed decoration, while the other (unmarked) shows a diamond and lattice pattern (cf. Lowther, 1948, Group 5).

Under the microscope the combed tile showed frequent well-sorted subangular quartz grains, average size up to 0.30mm across, together with some flecks of mica and a little quartzite. The stamped tile appears to be in a different fabric to this, displaying a groundmass of subangular quartz grains, average size 0.05mm and under, with a scatter of larger grains up to 0.60mm across, together with flecks of mica, quartzite and a little flint. Since both tiles contain fairly common inclusions it is difficult to suggest likely origins, whether local or imported from some distance. The different fabrics of these tiles would seem to suggest that they were made at two separate centres.

Lowther, A.W.G. (1948) A Study of the Patterns on Roman Flue-tiles and their Distribution Res. Papers of the Surrey Archaeol. Soc. no. 1.