ROMAN (?) IMBREX FROM CHICHESTER

4506

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

(DOE Ceramic Petrology Project)

Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton

CH/84/cs Pit X14(B)

Part of a cylindrical (?)imbrex 98cms in length and with a projected radius of 75 cms. It is in a hard, slightly rough fabric which has a tendency to laminate. Yellow to reddish-brown (Munsell 10YR 8/6 - 2.5YR 4/4) outer surface, lighter brown inner surface and streaky yellow and dark brownish-grey core. Inclusions of quartz can be seen scattered throughout the paste, together with some small argillaceous material and a little flint. This fabric matches the description of the mottled Reading Beds clay which occurs in the Chichester region just below a thin layer of valley gravel (Reid, 1903). It would appear that little preparation was done to the clay before it was used.

Reference

Reid, C.

(1903) The Geology of the country near Chichester

(London, 1903).