

# Excavations at the Silver Street site

40 Silver Street, Reading, Berkshire



## Kilns

Information gathered from the phases of field work and the desk based assessment of the Silver Street suggested the presence of **tile kilns**.

Examining other archaeological sites from the surrounding area showed **tile production** at the corner of Silver Street and London St, north of the current site. The Amyce 'Map' from AD1552 shows the presence of 'Tylers Cross' to the north west of the current site and 'Tylercroft' is where the current site is approximately located.



This was confirmed with the uncovering of **two tile kilns**. Thought to be late medieval (AD 1250-1500) due to the inclusion of medieval materials, including a few tiles from the abbey (probably from after the abbey's dissolution).

One of the kilns uncovered during the excavation is a rectangular brick and tile construction with small arches and a tiled floor (top image). The second kiln was of a similar shape and style yet not in as good a state (see above). Decorated floor tiles have even been uncovered (see below).



Amongst the kilns a whole pot was found, as well as a iron knife, in poor condition. The knife will be x-rayed at a later stage to see if there is any additional data that can be gleaned from it.

## Other Finds

There were several other interesting finds on site. This included a post-medieval oven which was discovered and excavated (see below).



With the excavation of two medieval rubbish pits, a range of finds including animal bones, oyster shells, pottery, tiles and bricks were uncovered. However an exciting find was a complete, yet broken, medieval pot (see below).



## Still Looking

Not all archaeological excavations reveal the expected. For example; one thing not uncovered during the excavation was the **Civil War earthworks from the AD1640s**. Historical records suggested that earthworks should have fallen within the site boundaries. However, both the evaluation and the excavation have failed to locate any Civil War features, even though there were some other defensive facilities thought to be to the north of the site.



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