

A GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING SWANBOURNE ARTEFACTS

Does it look like rock? --→ YES → BROWN COLOUR, sand grains seen = SANDSTONE; most likely Cretaceous Greensand from Leighton Buzzard (105 million years old).

Does it look like rock? → YES → BEIGE COLOUR, often containing shell impressions (fossils) = LIMESTONE; most likely Jurassic Portland Limestone from Whitchurch/Oving hill (140 million years old).

Does it look like brick? → YES → Reddish colour = old HOUSE BRICK fragment. Could go as far back as the 17th Century in Swanbourne, and derived from fired Oxford Clay.

Does it look like clay? → YES → Reddish colour with a mix of pebbles which are subangular and made of non local rocks? → YES = GLACIAL BOULDER CLAY. Derived from the ice sheet that covered this area in the Ice Age, approx 300,000 years ago The pebbles are erratic, transported a great distance from their point of origin.

Looks like clay but blue/grey colour → YES = Jurassic OXFORD CLAY, West Walton Series, the bedrock of Swanbourne, is 150 million years old. May contain large curled shells called Gryphaea, sometimes nicknamed the "Devil's toe nails" which are ancestral oysters, or bullet shaped objects called belemnites which are ancestral cuttlefish remains. Farm labourers used to think these were thunderbolts.

Does it look like pot? → YES → Is it curved, more than 1cm thick and brassy colour? → YES = DRAINAGE PIPE FRAGMENT; 20th Century in age.

Does it look like pot? → YES → Is it dark coloured, quite thick (up to 1cm thick) with ground shell fragments contained within the pot fragment? → YES = MIDDLE AGES TO ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY FRAGMENT most likely; may date between 700AD to 1400AD.

Does it look like pot? → YES → Is it of terra cotta, orange to white in colour, unglazed with a good shape? → YES = ROMAN POTTERY most likely; likely to date between 100AD to 400AD.

Does it look like white pot (china), is thin, of good quality and blue or green with intricate tree, leaf or flower patterns? → YES = WILLOW LEAF POTTERY

→ Brush strokes clearly seen = 16th-17th Century in age.

→ Fine dots in background suggest a transfer = 18th-19th Century.

White china with multi-coloured patterns? = MODERN (20th Century) POTTERY.

Is the object brown with sharp edges and percussion rings? → YES = FLINT

Is the flint shaped like an axe or arrow head? → YES = PRE-HISTORIC TOOL; could be half a million years old.

Is the object white, tubular and with a hole down the middle? YES = FRAGMENT OF CLAY PIPE; may date from the 17th to the 19th Century in age.

SPHERICAL OBJECT → Heavy, metallic, lead grey colour = LEAD PISTOL SHOT (18th/19th Century).