

# Blaze's Buddies

## Fun facts about a Roman roof tile

This is part of a roof tile used by the Romans. It is made from orange/red clay (see picture below, right).

This tile is called a tegula and whole would have been a very large, flat oblong shape with raised sides. It is quite heavy so the rafters of the roof would have needed to be very strong to hold lots of these tiles.

Another type of roof tile is called an imbrex, which is like a clay pipe cut in half, and was also used with a tegula to create a watertight roof. See the picture below (left) to see how they fit together.

This piece of tegula (tile) was found in Welford, Berkshire, and is really interesting because it has footprints on it. Footprints on tiles are common as the tiles would be left out in the open to dry before firing (to fully harden the tiles). The animal who made these footprints was probably a dog, as there are prominent claw prints.

The clay used to make these tiles has not been cleaned and contains lots of small stones - pieces of flint. The base of the tile is rough, as such tiles were formed on the open ground, rather than in a mould. A hole seems to have been made in the tile, probably for a nail in order to attach it to the roof.

