

Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from Naburn Sewage Works, Yorks (Site YORYM 97.81)

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Introduction

The pottery and ceramic building material from the Naburn Sewage Treatment Works archaeological evaluation, carried out by On-Site Archaeology, was submitted for assessment. Pottery was identified by Alan Vince and ceramic building material by Sandra Garside-Neville. Only a small quantity of material was recovered, of which the only significant finds are of early Roman date.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the assessment was to identify the pottery and produce an archive record and to use this record to determine:

- the date range of the material present
- the status and function of the site(s) from which the finds derived
- the likely importance of these site(s)
- any further treatment required
- advice on retention/dispersal

Pottery

Description

A few small sherds with a vesicular fabric and probably of Romano-British date, but might be earlier. With their exception, the material can be dated to the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods.

Many of the Romano-British sherds were highly abraded, with soft surfaces. The medieval pottery was both better preserved and in general present as larger sherds and the post-medieval and modern finds were fresh, including a sherd of tin-glazed ware bowl (context [1107]), a type which is often very poorly preserved in archaeological deposits.

The Roman pottery in the main came from two contexts, [7001] and [7002], both fills of ditch [7003]. Only calcite-gritted coarseware came from the lower of these fills and this, together with the stratigraphic indication of a break between the two deposits suggests that the upper fill may be either a recut or reuse of an earlier feature. The upper fill, includes sherds of grey and oxidised wares (a carinated jar with grooved decoration). This sherd appears to be of early Roman date. Ditch [7005] also contained a sherd of Roman pottery, but alongside medieval and later material. The only other Roman pottery came from Trench 15 (unstrat). The quantity of material found may be sufficient to demonstrate occupation nearby and in the absence of either imported or regionally-distributed finewares (and the absence of Roman ceramic building material) it is likely that the settlement was of low status.

The medieval pottery only occurred as isolated sherds, often in association with later material. It includes no material obviously earlier than the 13th century and the stratigraphic context of the pottery suggests that it arrived on the site with manuring in the medieval and later fields. York-area whitewares are the only identifiable type but the majority of the sherds are of red sandy wares.

The post-medieval pottery can be divided into two groups: sherds of black-glazed wares of ?17th-century date and fresh-looking sherds from Trench 9 (context [905]) and Trench 11. The sherds from Trench 9 can be dated to the 19th century and show that the overbank flood deposits found there are of very recent origin. The sherd from Trench 11, context [1107], as noted above is unlikely to have survived in an active ploughzone for any length of time and probably dates the end of use of the furrows to the mid to late 17th century, although a sherd of Nottingham Stoneware tankard from a furrow in Trench 6 (context [601]) is probably of very late 17th or, more probably, 18th-century date.

Recommendations

None of the material requires further treatment although it is recommended that the entire assemblage is retained for further study as part of a wider study of pottery use in Roman and medieval Yorkshire.

Ceramic Building Materials

S Garside-Neville

Introduction

The was a small sample of material from this site. Much of the material was abraded.

Medieval Material

The material appears to be medieval in date. It is possible that it crosses into the post medieval era. The main form found was plain roofing tile. There is no indication of the method of suspension. There appear to be at least two fabrics. Due to the fragmentary nature of the sample, it is possible that some of the smaller pieces come from brick.

Recommendations

Due to the distinct fabrics, it will be of use to retain this sample until further, larger, samples of ceramic building materials from York's hinterlands can be studied.

Context	Form/s	Date
u/s	Plain (T14mm) (Trench 15)	13 th -18 th
601	Plain (T14mm), Plain (T16mm)	13 th -18 th
905	Plain (T14mm), Plain (T17mm)	13 th -18 th
908	Plain (T13mm)	13 th -18 th
1101	Plain	13 th -18 th
1105	Plain	13 th -18 th
1103	Plain	13 th -18 th
1107	?Brick	14 th -18 th
1200	Plain	13 th -18 th
1603	?Brick, ?Plain	13 th -18 th
1611	Plain (T12mm), Plain (T17mm)	13 th -18 th
7010	Plain (T13mm), Plain (T13mm)	13 th -18 th
7012	Plain (T14mm)	13 th -18 th

20/8/10