

## Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from YORYM 1998.29: Assessment Report

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### Introduction

The pottery and ceramic building material from site YORYM 1998.29 was submitted for assessment. Where datable, the material fell mainly into two periods: mid Roman and 19<sup>th</sup> century (Table 1). There were, in addition a small number of late medieval sherds.

### Aims and Objectives

The aims of the assessment were

- to identify and record all the material
- to provide a date-range for the finds
- to use these to infer previous land use
- to recommend and justify any further necessary work on the finds
- to identify any aspects of the site's archaeology recognisable from the ceramic finds which require further study or preservation

### Description

All items were recorded to common name and form level and any significant details of manufacture, decoration or use were recorded as comments. Quantification was by sherd/fragment count alone and the data was entered into a MS Access 7 database.

**Table 1**

CONTEXT	DATE
	1008 3+
	1009 3C?
	1010 M3
	1011 L3-4
	2002 M3+ (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)
	2007 EM3 (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)
	3000 3C (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)
	3004 EM3 (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)
	4007 3C (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)
	4008 L2-3 (AND POST-MEDIEVAL)

### Prehistoric

None

### Roman

Twenty three sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered, from ten separate contexts. All the pottery was of similar character and individual assemblages ranged in date from late 2<sup>nd</sup>/early 3<sup>rd</sup> century to late 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century. There were no sherds which need be earlier than the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century nor any which need be later than the early 4<sup>th</sup> century.

The assemblage is mainly of wheelthrown Romanised wares, the exception being a single sherd of handmade shell-tempered Dales Ware. The proportion of finewares and mortaria to coarsewares is high (14 to 9) and probably typical of the fortress and colonia of York and their immediate suburbs rather than the surrounding countryside.

**Table 2**

FABRIC CODE	FULL NAME	Grand Total
CC	Colour-coated ware	1
DWSH	Dales Ware	1
EBOR2?	EBOR 2?	2
GREY	Greyware	8
MONV	Nene Valley mortarium	2
NVCC	Nene Valley Colour-coated ware	3
OX	Oxidized ware	2
OXWS	White-slipped oxidized ware	2
SAMCG	Central Gaulish Samian ware	1
Total		23

Large, fresh fragments of Roman brick were found in context 2006 and a possible fragment of roller-stamped box tile was found in context 1008. These both originated in Romanised buildings or other structures.

### Medieval

Twelve sherds of medieval pottery were found, most residual in later assemblages. All were fresh in appearance and included some large fragments. It is possible that the earliest sherds might date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century but most were probably late medieval, including examples of large cisterns and unglazed drinking jugs of Humber ware which could even be of early post-medieval date. Three contexts produced no later sherds:

**Table 3**

Context Date
2002 L13TH-15TH C
3002 L14TH - 16TH C
3003 L14TH - 16TH C
3004 L14/15TH C

**Table 4**

CODE	FULL NAME	Number of sherds
BRANDSBY	Brandsby ware	2
HUMB	Humber ware	5
RED SANDY	Red Sandy ware	2
RYEDALE	Ryedale ware	2
YORK GLAZED	York glazed ware	1
Grand Total		12

### Post-medieval

Eighteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. All were probably of later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The earliest datable sherds were of Staffordshire white saltglazed ware vessels, which although produced in the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century must often have been handed down as heirlooms since they often occur in later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century assemblages.

**Table 5**

Context Date
2007 L18/19TH C
3000 19TH C
4007 18TH / 19TH C

**Table 6**

CODE	FULL NAME	Number of sherds
BLACK	Black-glazed ware	1
ENGS	English stoneware	2
PEAR	Pearl ware	1
PIPE	Clay tobacco pipe	1
PMTILE	Medieval/Post-medieval tile	4
STCO	Staffordshire press-moulded combed slipware	1
STRE	Staffordshire/Halifax redware	1
SWSG	Staffordshire white saltglazed stoneware	2
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1
Grand Total		16

### Recommendations

A greyware rim sherd from context 1011 is of a type not previously recorded from York and should be illustrated. None of the other finds requires further treatment. Nevertheless, the sherds should be retained for further study/closer identification.

### Acknowledgments

The Roman pottery was identified by Barbara Precious and medieval and later finds identified by Alan Vince.

### Costings

Illustration of one greyware rim: £5.00