

Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from York Hotel, York (Site YORYM:1998:707): Assessment Report

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Introduction

51 sherds of pottery were submitted for assessment, representing the total assemblage from the York Hotel trial excavation. With one possible exception, the sherds were of Romano-British date, including some that should be earlier in date than the foundation of the *colonia* although the majority of the pottery dated to the 3rd century, with two possible late 3rd or 4th-century sherds.

The possible exception, from context 1005, is either an unusual Romano-British bowl or, perhaps more likely, the rim of a large Victorian flowerpot, such as might be expected to have been in use the garden of the Hotel.

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.

Roman

The pottery was identified and classified according to the system published by Monaghan (Table 1)

Table 1

FABCODE	CNAME	COMMENTS	fabric	sherds
AP25	DR20	Dressel 20 amphora	AP25	2
B01	Black Burnished ware 1	Dorset BB1	B01	3
B02	Black Burnished ware 2	Thames estuary BB2	B02	1
B12	Crambeck B12	Crambeck greyware	B12	2
C01	NVCC	NVCC - main fabric	C01	4
C24	Moselkeramik	Moselkeramik	C24	1
E01	Ebor 1	Eboracum 1	E01	5

E02	Ebor 2	Eboracum 2	E02	7
E03	Ebor 3	Eboracum 3	E03	1
E09	Ebor 1	red slipped	E09	1
G00	Misc grey		G00	3
G08	Grey	Coarse sandy grey ware	G08	7
H01	Dales	Dales ware	H01	2
M16	Lower Nene valley mortaria		M16	2
O00	Pentice-moulded beakers		O00	1
P00	White	Misc white, off-white and cream fabrics	P00	1
S01B	SGS	Late Montans fabric	S01B	1
S03	CGS	Central Gaul (Lezoux)	S03	7

There were only four pottery-producing contexts in the excavation, all dating to the Roman period. Their *termini post quem* ranges from 2nd century (1009) to late 3rd or 4th century (1004, 1011) although the majority of the pottery is undoubtedly of 3rd century date (Table 2).

Table 2

Fabric	Name	1004	1005	1009	1011
AP25	DR20	1		1	
B01	Black Burnished ware 1	2	1		
B02	Black Burnished ware 2	1			
B12	Crambeck B12	1			1
C01	NVCC				4
C24	Moselkeramik		1		
E01	Ebor 1	3	1	1	
E02	Ebor 2	4	2	1	
E03	Ebor 3	1			
E09	Ebor 1	1			
G00	Misc grey	3			
G08	Grey			1	6
H01	Dales	1	1		
M16	Lower Nene valley mortaria				2
O00	Pentice-moulded beakers	1			
P00	White	1			
S01B	SGS				1
S03	CGS		2		5

The range of fabrics and forms found indicates a Romanized context for the pottery. Food preparation, storage, serving vessels together with drinking vessels are represented and the activities that gave rise to these sherds are likely to be associated with occupation rather than, say, ceremonial feasts held at the graveside or libations.

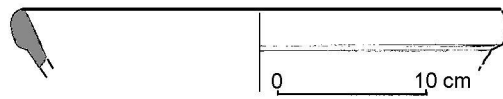


Fig 1. Romano-British bowl or Victorian flowerpot? From Context 1005 (*drawn by B Precious*).

Medieval

None

Post-medieval

One possible Victorian flowerpot rim, from context 1005 (classified here as E02, Fig 1).

Recommendations

All the pottery should be retained for further study.

Acknowledgments

The report and computer input are the work of Alan Vince. The Roman pottery was identified and illustrated by Barbara Precious.