

Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from Huddersfield (TYHUD:1998) Assessment Report

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Introduction

A small collection of pottery and one scrap of brick was found in the excavation, from a single context, [1019].

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.

Medieval

Two sherds of white gritty ware were found. One is a coarse cooking pot and the other a thin-walled vessel, probably a jug, with rectangular-toothed roller-stamping. Gritty wares of this sort were introduced to northern England in the late 11th or early 12th century but the thin-walled decorated sherd is likely to be of late 12th or 13th-century date. Similar wares were produced at Winksley, near Ripon.

Nine sherds of Soft Orange Sandy ware were also present. These came from one or more wheelthrown cooking pots. This ware is found extensively in West Yorkshire but normally in small quantities. It is therefore not closely dated at present. Nevertheless, a 13th or 14th-century date seems likely.

The pottery suggests that the site was occupied during the 13th century, and possibly earlier.

Post-medieval

A small scrap of post-medieval house brick was present. The fabric is poorly mixed with large inclusions of white clay and black inclusions. It is likely that this brick is of 17th- to 19th-century date.

Recommendations and conclusions

The medieval pottery collection is small but interesting. The presence of Soft Orange Sandy ware, previously unsourced, as the major ware present suggests that the ware might have been produced close by. No further work is required but the sherds and data should be retained for future study.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr Chris Cumberpatch for discussing the dating and attribution of the medieval pottery.

