

Roman and Later Pottery from The Mount, York

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Introduction

One hundred and twenty five sherds of pottery were submitted for identification and assessment. Wares of Roman date were identified by Barbara Precious and classified according to the fabric system employed at York Archaeological Trust (YAT) by Jason Monaghan (Monaghan 1997). Post-Roman wares were identified by Alan Vince and Jane Young and classified according to the system employed by YAT (Brooks 1987; Mainman 1990; Mainman 1993).

The data were entered into an Access 7 database. Roman pottery fabric codes were preceded with "YAT" to distinguish them from other overlapping fabric codes whereas the post-Roman fabric codes were integrated into a northern English thesaurus incorporating Lincoln, London and other wares.

Description

Roman

Eighty-five sherds were of Roman date. Some were fresh-looking and others small and abraded. None of the fresh-looking sherds were later than the late 2nd century in date and included some 1st-century types. Abraded sherds included 3rd-century Nene Valley ware.

Fabrics

Table 1

cname	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	full name
YATAP25	2	2	0	DR20
YATAP28	4	4	0	Peacock & Williams Type 28 amphora
YATB01	1	1	0	Black Burnished ware 1
YATB02	2	1	0	Black Burnished ware 2
YATC00	1	1	0	Misc CC
YATC01	6	6	0	NVCC
YATC03	1	1	0	NVCC
YATE01	13	6	0	Ebor 1
YATE02	1	1	0	Ebor 2
YATE03	13	1	0	Ebor 3
YATE07	2	2	0	Harsh Ebor 1
YATG00	3	3	0	Misc grey
YATG01	10	7	0	Dales-type greyware
YATM03	1	1	0	Eboracum and local mortaria
YATM16	2	2	0	Lower Nene valley mortaria
YATM18	2	2	0	Swanpool/Cantley
YATO00	8	8	0	Pentice-moulded beakers
YATP00	1	1	0	White
YATS01	1	1	0	SGS
YATS02	1	1	0	LMDV
YATS03	3	3	0	CGS
YATS04	1	1	0	EGS
YATW00	1	1	0	Misc white-slipped
YATW02	5	4	0	Ebor white

Forms

Table 2

Form	Sherds	Vessels	Description
	36	27	No form identified
? Flagon	13	1	Flagon
31	1	1	Dr 31
31?	1	1	Possibly Dr 31
33	1	1	Dr 33
97	1	1	Dr 97
BFL	2	2	Flanged bowl
BK	7	7	Beaker
BKEV	2	2	Everted rimmed beaker
BMR	1	1	Moulded rim bowl
BTR	2	1	Triangular-rimmed bowl
CLSD	3	2	Unidentified closed form
DR20	1	1	Dressel 20
FLAGON	3	2	Flagon
GAU4	4	4	Gauloise 4 amphora
LID	1	1	Lid
M	4	4	Mortaria
MFL	1	1	Flanged rim mortaria
OPEN	1	1	Unidentified open form

Medieval

Twenty nine sherds of medieval pottery were found. Some might be as early as the 12th century, and in one case a sherd is certainly no later than c.1200. The majority, however, were of late 12th/early 13th-century date. Only one sherd, a Humber ware vessel is likely to be of late medieval date although the Brandsby-type and North Yorkshire whiteware sherds could also date to the 14th or 15th century, but are probably late 13th or 14th century.

Fabrics

Table 3

cname	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	full name
BRAN	1	1	53	Brandsby-type ware
EYO	1	1	3	East Yorkshire Orangewares
HAMBL	1	1	34	Hambleton-type ware
HUM	1	1	18	Humber ware
NYWW	2	2	14	North Yorkshire whiteware
YG	9	9	38	York gritty ware
YSP	4	4	33	York splashed ware
YW	10	9	70	York Glazed aka York White ware
MISC	2	2	23	Unidentified

Forms

Jugs were the predominant form in this assemblage with jars a close second and bowls a poor third. This composition is typical of high and late medieval assemblages and we can infer little about the activities from it.

Table 4

Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight
bowl	1	1	10
bowl?	1	1	34
jar	6	6	31

jar/jug	2	2	35
jar?	5	5	13
jug	12	11	122
jug?	1	1	8
small jug	1	1	10

Post-Medieval and Modern

Nine sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered from the site. They range in date from the 16th/17th century (BL) to the 19th century (LPM). All were small, abraded sherds typical of gardening/topsoil.

Fabrics

Table 5

cname	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	full name
BL	1	1	6	Black-glazed wares
GRE	2	2	36	Glazed Red Earthenware
LERTH	1	1	2	Late earthenwares
LPM	4	4	12	Late Post-Medieval wares
TGE	1	1	3	Tin-glazed earthenware

Forms

Three of the post-medieval and later sherds were too small to identify their form and the remainder are typical forms used for drinking, serving and storage.

Table 6

Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight
	3	3	7
bowl	1	1	5
dish	1	1	3
jar/bowl	1	1	6
jar?	2	2	36
mug	1	1	2

Discussion

There is no obvious difference between the assemblages recovered from the different trenches, all contain material ranging in date from the Roman to the modern periods with a similar pattern: a lot of Roman pottery, often with large unabraded sherds of late 2nd century or earlier date, followed by a scatter of abraded 3rd century sherds, a gap and then 12th to 14th century sherds, another gap and then a scatter of post-medieval and modern sherds. All the pottery from the 3rd century onwards is small and abraded and has clearly been in an active soil horizon, whether a ploughzone or topsoil, for some time. The earlier pottery is much fresher and seems to have been deposited and then immediately buried below the active horizon. The excavators have suggested (pers comm) that the sandy deposit from which these sherds all come may have been originally dumped on site. The ceramic evidence would agree with this hypothesis. If so, then the likely deposition date would have been in the late 2nd century or soon after (perhaps the early 3rd century?). It is possible, therefore, that the deposit was dumped as part of large-scale landscaping outside the newly-founded *colonia*. The abraded pottery would therefore be present partly as a result of weathering of the original dump and partly through the admixture of later material through reworking of the upper part of the deposit.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is concluded that the pottery from The Mount comes from a deposit which was originally dumped on site in the late 2nd or early 3rd century and was later subjected to weathering and possibly horticulture or gardening. The absence of post-Roman/pre-12th-century pottery is perhaps a surprise given the existence at The Mount of an

Anglo-Saxon cemetery and it seems that the relative proportions of 12th-century and later pottery reflects the fortunes of extra-mural suburban development outside Micklegate Bar.

Bibliography

- Brooks, Catherine M 1987 *Medieval and Later Pottery from Aldwark and Other Sites* (Archaeology of York 16/3) CBA
- Mainman, A J 1990 *Anglo-Scandinavian Pottery from Coppergate* (Archaeology of York 16/5) CBA
- Mainman, A J 1993 *Pottery from 46-54 Fishergate* (Archaeology of York 16/6) CBA
- Monaghan, J 1997 *Roman Pottery from York* (Archaeology of York 16/8) CBA

Appendix One: catalogue of pottery

Context:	Cname:	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	Weight:	Action:	PART:	Description:
1003	BRAN	jug	1	1	53		rim/handle	upper join;5t humbings at join;reduced glze
1003	EYO	jug	1	1	3		BS	possibly HUM
1003	NYWW	jar	1	1	4		BS	no glze
1003	YATC03	BK	1	1	0		BS	
1003	YATE07?		1	1	0		BS	
1003	YATM16	M	1	1	0		base	FE trits
1003	YATW02?		1	1	0		BS	
1003	YG	jar	1	1	5		rim	
1003	YG	jar	1	1	6		BS	
1003	YORK	jug	1	1	3		BS	? ID or NYWW
1003	YORKSPL	jug	1	1	7		BS	soot
1003	ZDATE		0	0	0		BS	ML3
2003	BL	jar/bowl	1	1	6		BS	late 18/19th
2003	LERTH	mug	1	1	2		handle	staffs brownware
2003	LPM	bowl	1	1	5		rim	19th
2003	YATC01	BK	1	1	0			scrap
2003	YATP00	BMR	1	1	0		rim	bowl moulded rim
2003	YATS02		1	1	0		BS	scrap
2003	YG	jar	1	1	11		BS	soot?
2003	YG	jar	1	1	3		BS	
2003	YG	jar?	1	1	1		BS	red sliip;? Glazed
2003	YORK	jug	1	1	7		BS	pocked glaze
2003	YORK	jug?	1	1	8		BS	no glaze
2003	ZDATE		0	0	0			3C
2003	ZZZ		0	0	0			scrappy mix dates
3003	HAMBL	bowl?	1	1	34		base	thick sherd;flaking worn glaze;? ID
3003	LPM		1	1	3		rim	blue/white
3003	MISC	?	1	1	7		BS	worn;no glaze;light orange sandy fabric
3003	TGE	dish	1	1	3		BS	blue decoration;18th
3003	YATAP25		1	1	0		BS	1-M2C fab
3003	YATE02		1	1	0		BS	
3003	YATG01	BFL	1	1	0		rim to base	profile;as Mon. No 2057 p1015.1
3003	YATG01	BKEV	1	1	0		rim	
3003	YATG01?		2	2	0		BSS	scraps
3003	YATO00		1	1	0		BS	micaceous

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3003	YATO00	lid	1	1	0	rim	
3003	YATS03	97	1	1	0	rim	abr
3003	YATW02		2	2	0	BSS	
3003	YG	jar	1	1	2	BS	
3003	YG	jar?	1	1	4	base	soot
3003	YORK	jug	1	1	7	BS	applied vertical strip;cu glze
3003	YORKSPL	jug	1	1	7	BS	reduced glaze;reduced fabric
3003	YORKSPL	jug	1	1	9	BS	splashed glze
3003	ZDATE		0	0	0		ML2
4003	NYWW	bowl	1	1	10	BS	interior glaze
4003	YATAP28	GAU4	1	1	0	BS	frag
4003	YATC00		1	1	0	BS	v abr
4003	YATE01	flagon	1	1	0	BS	
4003	YATM18?	M	1	1	0	BS	fresh: as in 5003
4003	YATO00		3	3	0	BSS	
4003	YATO00	BFL	1	1	0	rim	unus v coarse fabric
4003	YATS01		1	1	0	BS	
4003	YATTG01	clsd	1	1	0	BS	
4003	YATW02?	flagon	2	1	0	handle	3R; abr
4003	YORK	jar/jug	1	1	17	base	soot;glaze
4003	ZDATE		0	0	0		M3+
4003	ZZZ		0	0	0		some frag glass;mix dates;some IC SAM;dated on late mortaria
5003	YAO00		1	1	0	BS	abr
5003	YATAP28	GAU4	2	2	0	BSS	abr
5003	YATB01		1	1	0	BS	
5003	YATB02	BTR	2	1	0	rims	abr
5003	YATC01	BK	2	2	0	BSS	
5003	YATC01	BK	1	1	0	BS	BA decoration;abr
5003	YATC01	BK	1	1	0	BS	abr
5003	YATE01		1	1	0	BS	
5003	YATE01		8	1	0	BSS	v abr
5003	YATE01		1	1	0	BS	sooted
5003	YATE01	BKEV	1	1	0	rim/BSS	high shldk;Flav date
5003	YATE03	? Flagon	13	1	0	base	
5003	YATG00		3	3	0	BSS	abr
5003	YATG01		3	1	0	BSS	
5003	YATG01	clsd	2	1	0	BSS	
5003	YATM03	MFL	1	1	0	rim	
5003	YATM18?	M	1	1	0	BS	Fe trits as in 4003

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5003	YATS03	31	1	1	0	rim	abr
5003	YATS03	33	1	1	0	rim	abr
5003	YATS04	31?	1	1	0	base	abr
5003	YORK	jug	2	1	18	base & BS	splashed glaze
5003	YORK	jug	1	1	4	BS	cu speckled glaze;early?
5003	ZDATE		0	0	0		ML3
5003	ZZZ		0	0	0		mix dates some Flavian + ML2 pottery (SAM) scraps wall plaster
6003	GRE	jar?	1	1	14	BS	int glaze;16-18th
6003	GRE	jar?	1	1	22	BS	int & ext glaze;16-18th
6003	HUM	jar/jug	1	1	18	BS	int & ext olive brown glaze;combed wavy decoration
6003	LPM		1	1	3	rim	blue/white
6003	LPM		1	1	1	rim	blue/white
6003	MISC	jug?	1	1	16	BS	late probably 15/16th;gritty cream/light orange fabric;reduced glaze
6003	YATAP25	DR20	1	1	0	BS	M2C+ later;large
6003	YATAP28	GAU4	1	1	0	BS	
6003	YATC01	BK	1	1	0	BS	abr;white fab
6003	YATE01	OPEN	1	1	0	base	
6003	YATE07		1	1	0	BS	abr
6003	YATM16	M	1	1	0	BS	v abr;FE trits
6003	YATO00		1	1	0	BS	abr
6003	YATW00		1	1	0	BS	
6003	YG	jar?	1	1	3	BS	
6003	YG	jar?	1	1	3	base	
6003	YORK	jar?	1	1	2	BS	no glaze
6003	YORK	jug	1	1	4	BS	glaze
6003	YORKSPL	small jug	1	1	10	rim	inturned rim;mid/late 12th to mid 13th
6003	ZDATE		0	0	0		ML3
6003	ZZZ		0	0	0		most sherds abraded