

Medieval and later pottery from Richmond Greyfriars (RGF98). Assessment Report

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Introduction

This assessment follows the structure suggested by English Heritage in the *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd Edn (1991).

Factual data (MAP2 A4.1)

A small quantity of medieval and later pottery was recovered during a watching brief on the site of Richmond Greyfriars in 1998. In addition, a larger collection was recovered from an excavation on the same site in 1985. Essentially, the 1998 pottery was not stratified and is treated as a single, unstratified assemblage here whereas internal evidence suggests that the 1985 material was recovered from a stratified sequence stretching from the 12th to at least the 14th or 15th centuries.

The quantity of material and records

Forty-three sherds of pottery (a maximum of 35 vessels) were found in 1998 and 283 in 1985. A section drawing relates to the 1985 finds but has not been examined as part of this assessment.

The provenance of material

The date of the latest pottery from each of the 1998 contexts is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Date of latest pottery from 1998 watching brief

Context	Sherds	Date of latest sherds
04	5	12th C pot and modern tile
28	9	17th / 18th C
30	4	Late 15th / 16th C
34	5	17th C
69	13	Late 18th/19th C
80	2	Late 16th/17th C

The 1985 context dating is given in Table 2.

Table 2: Date of latest pottery from 1985 excavation

Context	Sherds	Dating
00001	2	19th C
00002	7	18th C
00004	33	19th C
00007	4	Mid 18th C
00009	2	19th C
00012	6	18th C
00013	2	Pottery 13th C but with clay pipes
00014	11	17th/18th C
00015	39	Mid 18th C
00016	5	19th C
00017	6	12th-mid 13th C plus clay pipes
00018	12	13th C
00020	11	Late 12th/mid 13th C
00021	11	13th C
00023	2	Late 12th/mid 13th C
00024	32	19th C
00025	8	17th C
00027	10	13th C?
00028	4	Late 12th/mid 13th C
00031	17	18th C

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00032	18	13th or 16th C
00033	7	13th C?
00034	2	12th (-mid 13th C)
00036	6	Late 12th/mid 13th C
00037	4	13th C?
00040	8	13th C?
00042	7	Mid-late 12th C
00044	5	Late12th/mid 13th C

Even without access to stratigraphic information for the 1985 excavation it is clear that there is some mixture of material of different dates (this could be due to redeposition of earlier deposits). This is shown, for example, by the presence of clay pipes alongside 12th/13th-century potsherds in contexts 13 and 17.

The range and variety of materials

Only the medieval pottery was identified to ware/common name level. Both sites produced post-medieval pottery which has been treated summarily because of the lack of stratification.

Roman pottery

A single fragment of probably Roman pottery was found in context 31 in the 1985 excavation.

Medieval Pottery

In total 191 sherds of medieval pottery and 12 fragments of tile were recovered (Table 3).

Table 3: Medieval pottery and tile codes and total quantities by sherd and vessel count

Cname	Full name	earliest date	latest date	Sherds
MED	Unidentified medieval	1050	1550	19
YG	Yorkshire gritty ware	1050	1250	85
EMED	Unidentified early medieval	1150	1250	1
EYO	East Yorkshire Orangewares	1150	1350	6

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TILE	Unidentified roof tile	1150	1500	1
GRID	Glazed ridge tile (unidentified ware)	1150	1550	10
GYG	Glazed Yorkshire Gritty ware	1150	1250	45
RID	Unidentified ridge tile	1150	1550	1
CMW	Coal Measures whiteware	1250	1450	1
NYW	North Yorkshire whiteware	1250	1550	3
SIEG	Siegburg-type Ware	1250	1550	1
TVW	Tees Valley ware	1250	1450	22
LMED	Unidentified late medieval wares	1350	1550	7

Some of the medieval pottery might be as early as the 12th century in date. These wares (YG), collectively known either as Pimply ware or (Northern) Gritty ware, was first studied by Jean le Patourel in the 1960s. A suggested source for the ware was Thorner in West Yorkshire, although it seems that the ware was probably produced over a much wider area: kilns producing similar gritty wares have been found just outside of Durham (Aldin Grange) and on the outskirts of Whitby (Ruswarp Bank). Le Patourel suggested on the basis of occurrence on abbey and castle sites of known foundation date that the ware first appeared in the last years of the 11th century or early the following century but it certainly continued to be used into the early 13th century. There is, however, a typological progression from jars with squared rims and thinly-potted walls to jars with rounded rims and thicker walls. Some of the latter have splashes of glaze on them whilst splash-glazed jugs form a minor element of the later output (GYG). The 1985 Richmond excavation has produced examples of the earlier types. Later glazed wares produced in finer versions of this fabric were represented by a single sherd (CMW).

Later medieval wares are also present of which the most common type is Tees Valley ware (TVW) which is a red-firing wheelthrown ware in which white slip is commonly used to coat the external surface. The precise source of Tees Valley ware is not known but examples are distributed on sites in the Tees Valley, such as Hartlepool and Yarm, and are absent from excavations on medieval sites to the north (such as Newcastle and Durham) and to the south of the Tees valley (Whitby, Scarborough, Wharram Percy and York). A few sherds of vessels made from a silty red-firing clay were probably made in East Yorkshire at the Beverley potteries and these too may have arrived at Richmond via the Tees valley. Only three sherds of whiteware from the Hambleton Hills potteries (whose products include Brandsby ware) were present suggesting that the southern approach to Richmond was relatively unimportant as a source of pottery. Finally, a large fragment of a Siegburg stoneware vessel, probably used for drinking, was found (Fig. 1). Such vessels are common finds on east coast port sites but are rarer inland. The Richmond find therefore indicates that the site had high status in the late 14th or early 15th century.

Post-medieval pottery

One hundred and eleven sherds of post-medieval and early modern pottery were recovered from the Richmond sites. This was examined in a summary fashion only and the wares present and quantities are listed in table 4. The post-medieval pottery includes some types which might have been in use before the dissolution but which continued in use afterwards. For example, Raeren stoneware and Cistercian ware are both common mid 16th-century finds. Some definite 17th-century types were present but not the typical type fossil of this century, Frechen stoneware. It is likely, therefore, that much of the glazed earthenware, that cannot be closely dated by its fabric or form, either dates earlier or later than this century. There is a sequence of late 17th to early 18th-century, mid 18th century and late 18th-to 19th-century wares from the site, demonstrating a continuous sequence of occupation from c.1700 onwards.

Table 4: Post-medieval pottery codes and quantities

Cname	Full name	earliest date	latest date	Sherds
RAER	Raeren stoneware	1450	1600	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	9
BL	Black-glazed wares	1500	1750	3
CIST	Cistercian-type ware	1500	1650	1
BERTH	Black glazed earthenware	1550	1800	4
TGE	Tin-glazed earthenware	1550	1750	4
MY	Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	2
MARTIII	Martincamp red earthenware	1600	1750	2
PGE	Pale Glazed Earthenware	1600	1750	20
RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	1600	1850	2
CEP	Chinese export porcelain	1640	1850	1
SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	17
PMF	Post-medieval fine whiteware	1650	1750	1
BS	Brown stoneware	1680	1850	6
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	2

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STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800	1
WS	White stoneware	1700	1770	14
LPM	Late Post-Medieval wares	1750	1900	13
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	2
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	2
CRMWARE	Creamware	1770	1850	2
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	3

Condition

None of the pottery finds are complete vessels but the Siegburg stoneware vessel is represented by the complete lower half of the pot. Much of the remainder consists of small sherds, with each sherd representing a different vessel.

Primary sources/documentation

A section drawing from the 1985 excavation is the only available documentation for the site whilst the 1998 material is all unstratified.

Statement of potential (MAP2 A4.2)

There is at present little published information about the medieval pottery sequence of Richmond or its locality and the combined collections from the two excavations could be used to sketch out the pottery sequence from the 12th century onwards. The value of this work would, however, be greatly enhanced if it were possible to establish and date the stratigraphy of the 1985 excavation.

Storage and curation (MAP2 A4.3)

The pottery should be retained in an archaeological store for future study. It requires no special storage treatment apart from the Siegburg drinking jug which is fragile.

Bibliography

English Heritage 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition

Le Patourel, H E J 1965 Appendix B: the pottery in C V Bellamy Pontefract Priory excavations Publ Thoresby Society 49, 106-119

Appendix One: Catalogue of pottery

a) RGF85

Context	Cname	Form	Sherds	Part	Description
	MED		1		Winksley?;roulette decoration
00001	LPM		2		
00002	CIST		1		
00002	GYG		1		
00002	GYG	bowl	1		? Could be a PMED gritty
00002	MED		1		? Roulette decoration
00002	WS		1		
00002	YG		1		
00002	YG		1	rim	
00004	BS		1		
00004	CEP		1		
00004	CRMWARE		2		
00004	GRE		1		
00004	LMED		1		
00004	LPM		4		
00004	PGE		2		
00004	PGE	pipkin	2		
00004	SLIP		3		
00004	SLIP		9		19th

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00004	TGE	2	no glaze
00004	WS	3	
00004	YG	2	
00007	BERTH	1	
00007	BS	1	
00007	STMO	1	
00007	TVW	1	? ID
00009	LPM	2	
00012	BL	1	17/18th
00012	STSL	1	or MY
00012	TGE	1	
00012	TPW	2	
00012	WS	1	
00013	TVW	1	? ID;splashed glaze
00013	YG	1	
00014	GRE	1	
00014	GYG	2	
00014	LMED	1	reduced fabric
00014	SLIP	1	
00014	YG	6	
00015	BERTH	1	
00015	GRID	4	

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00015	GYG		3		
00015	LERTH		2		
00015	LMED		1		reduced gritty
00015	MED		1		? Or LMED;footed pipkin;spl glaze on int
00015	MED		1		v. fine reduced fabric;reduced green glaze
00015	PGE		1		pocked glaze
00015	RGRE		1		
00015	STSL		1		
00015	TVW		1		? ID
00015	WS		1		
00015	YG		21		
00016	LPM		4		
00016	RGRE		1		
00017	GYG		1		
00017	GYG		1		CU specks in glaze
00017	YG		4		
00018	GYG		2		
00018	MED		1		CU glaze;sandy fabric
00018	MED		1		CU glaze;reduced fabric with white surfaces
00018	MED	jar	1	rim	grey/orange hard sandy fabric;unglaze;see M&B fig.125 no.636 from Hart
00018	NYW		1		? ID
00018	YG		6		

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00020	EYO		1		? ID;splashed glaze
00020	GRID		1		
00020	GYG		5		
00020	MISC		1		? ID;Roman sandy?
00020	YG		2		
00020	YG		1		? Or Roman
00021	GRID		1		
00021	GYG		1		CU spots in glaze
00021	GYG		1		splashed glaze
00021	GYG	jar	1	rim	square rim;? Id
00021	MED		1		fine sandy fabric;splashed yellow/green glaze
00021	TVW	jug	1		? ID;thumbed base
00021	YG		4		
00021	YG	jar	1	rim	
00023	YG		2		
00024	BERTH		1		18th
00024	BL		1		18th
00024	BS		2		
00024	GRE		1		
00024	GYG		1		splashed glaze
00024	GYG		1		suspension glaze
00024	GYG	jar	1	rim	thumb pressed rim

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00024	MISC		1		worn:YG or Roman
00024	MY		1		Yorkshire
00024	PEARL		2		
00024	PGE		7		17/18th
00024	SLIP		3		L17/18th
00024	WS		8		
00024	YG		1		
00024	YG	jar	1	rim	12th
00025	GRE		1		? ID;worn
00025	GYG		1		worn
00025	MARTIII		2		? ID
00025	MISC	bowl	1		very worn;?? PGE
00025	NYW		1		? ID
00025	PGE	pipkin	1	handle	? ID
00025	YG		1		worn
00027	GYG		1		
00027	MED		1		light sandy fabric;glaze
00027	TVW		4		
00027	YG		4		
00028	GYG		1		suspension glaze some cu
00028	MISC		1		fine reduced grey fabric;SN or Roman
00028	YG		2		

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00031	BS		1		
00031	GRE		5		
00031	GYG		1		
00031	GYG		1		orange fabric:slip under glaze
00031	MED		1		unglaze
00031	MISC		1		MED?;burnt
00031	R		1		
00031	SLIP		1		
00031	YG		3		
00031	YG		1	rim	thumb pressed rim
00031	YG	JAR	1	rim	thumb pressed rim
00032	EYO		1		well worn
00032	GYG		3		
00032	MED		1		probably LMED;thick reduced sandy fabric
00032	MED		1		reduced
00032	MED		1		sandy fabric
00032	MED	jug	1		thumb pressed strap handle;12/E13th
00032	MISC		2		? ID;MED or PMED;very fine fabric
00032	NYW		1		? ID
00032	TVW		1		? ID
00032	TVW	jar	1		? ID
00032	YG		5		

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00033	GYG		1		
00033	GYG		1		suspension glaze;incised wavy decoration
00033	GYG		1		white slip under glaze
00033	TVW		1		? ID
00033	YG		3		
00034	GYG	jar	1	rim	
00034	YG		1		
00036	GYG		2		burnt
00036	MISC		1		worn:? YG
00036	YG		3		
00037	GYG		3		
00037	TVW		1		
00040	GYG		1		
00040	TVW		6		
00040	TVW		1		? ID
00042	EMED	jar	1	rim	burnt/sooted;buff/grey sandy fabric;? Spot of glaze
00042	GYG		1		burnt
00042	GYG	jug	2	rim	splashed glaze;square rim
00042	YG		3		
00044	GYG		1		
00044	MED	small vess	1	rim	sandy fabric:splashed glaze

00044 YG 3

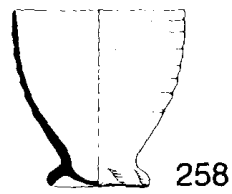
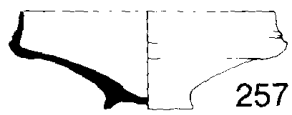
UNKNOWN SIEG jug 1 base ash glaze;frilled base

b) RGF98

Context	Cname	Form	Sherds	Part	Description
04	EYO	jug	2	base	? ID;thin walled;splashed glaze
04	EYO	jug	2	bs	? ID;thin walled;splashed glaze
04	LPM	tile	1		modern
28	LMED		1	base	reduced fabric
28	LMED	cup?	1	base	int & ext splashed glaze;handle scar
28	PGE		1	bs	scrap
28	PGE	bowl	2	bs	
28	PGE	jar	1	rim	CU glaze
28	TVW	jug	3	bs	
30	GRID		1		reduced glaze
30	MED		2	bs	int & ext glaze;reduced fabric;? Or LMED
30	RAER	large jug	1	bs	
34	MED		2	base	light firing fabric;glaze int;complex incised decoration
34	MY	drug jar	1	base	Yorkshire
34	PGE	jar	1	bs	
34	TILE		1	bs	vessel or RFURN
69	BERTH	bowl?	1	base	17/18th
69	BS	mug	1	bs	18th

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69	GRID		3		incised wavy decoration
69	GYG	jar?	1	bs	
69	MISC		1	base	unglaze
69	MISC	jug	1	bs	sandy fabric
69	MISC	jug?	1	bs	fine reduced fabric;olive glaze;? LMED
69	PEARL	bowl	1	rim	
69	RID		1		late 18-20th;worn
69	TGE	porringer	1	rim	18th
69	YG	jar	1	bs	
80	PGE	bowl	2	bs	pocked int light green glaze
U/S	BL	bowl?	1	base	late 17/18th
U/S	CMW	jug	1	bs	glaze
U/S	LMED	jug	2	bs & handle	reduced light firing fabric;handle shape sim to 15/16th HUM
U/S	PMF		1	bs	int & ext glaze



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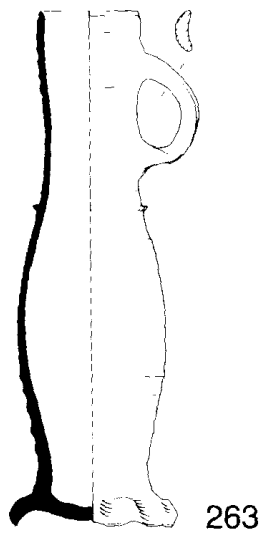
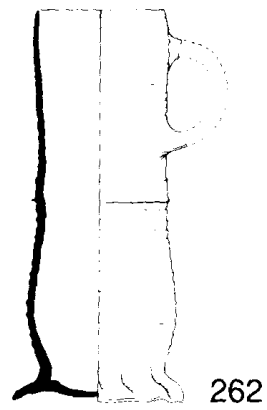
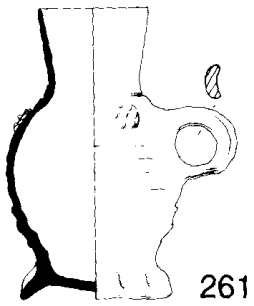
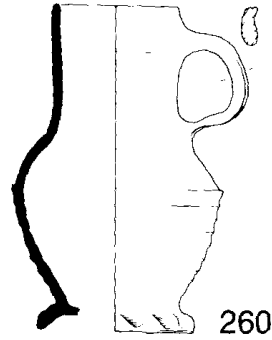
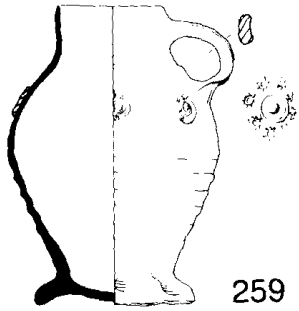


Fig 1. Siegburg stoneware vessels with similar bases to that from Richmond (reproduced from Hurst *et al* 1986).