

Pottery from Spaunton: Assessment Report

Alan Vince

Introduction

A single sherd of pottery was submitted for identification. The sherd was unstratified and is a body sherd from a Gritty ware jar dating to the late 11th, 12th or early 13th century.

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

The gritty ware sherd is tempered with abundant sand with few grains larger than 0.5mm across. The sherd is from a thin-walled jar with traces of sooting on the outside. Study under the binocular microscope reveals that the temper includes fragments of iron-cemented sandstone, rounded off-white clay pellets and flakes of muscovite. Gritty wares appear to become finer textured with time and on these grounds the sherd is probably later 12th or 13th century in date. At present it is not possible to say from visual analysis where the vessel may have been made but it is likely to have been a product of North Yorkshire rather than west Yorkshire since it probably utilised a Jurassic clay rather than the Coal Measures clays used in West Yorkshire.

Recommendations

The sherd should be retained and deposited in an archaeological store.