

Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from 16 Tofts Green, York: Assessment Report

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Introduction

Thirty-three sherds of pottery, nine fragments of tile and three fragments of other building material were submitted for identification and assessment. They range in date from the 1st or 2nd century to the end of the 4th century and from the 11th century to the present day.

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

Fourteen sherds of Roman pottery were present, from contexts 1002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. All were of common types present elsewhere in York (Table 1). The pottery was mostly abraded and was found in mixed assemblages, containing Roman and later wares. It should therefore be treated as an unstratified assemblage rather than individual groups.

The majority of the wares are of mid and late Roman date, consistent with the standard model of the development of the *colonia*, but there are two earlier sherds, OXWS and SAMCG. The former sherds were abraded and might have arrived on the site as a result of rubbish disposal at the fringes of the 1st/2nd century settlement but the Samian ware dish, of form Dr31R, is fresh and probably dates from the late 2nd century, contemporary with the foundation of the *colonia*.

Two calcite gritted sherds were found. These are typical of the 4th century and one is a Huntcliffe jar rim of mid-late 4th-century date. No sherds of late 4th or 5th-century handmade wares were present, but

in a group of this size this is no real indication that occupation did not continue to the very end of the Roman period.

Table 1: Summary of Roman pottery by sherd count.

Cname	full name	Sherds
CALC	Calcite-tempered	1
CCALC		1
CRGR	Crambeck greyware	1
GFIN		4
GREY	Romano-British greywares	1
NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coated	2
OXWS	Oxidised white-slipped wares	2
SAMCG	Central Gaulish Samian Ware	1
SAMEG	East Gaulish Samian ware	1

Medieval

Nineteen sherds of medieval pottery were found (Table 2). They were recovered from seven contexts: 1000, 1001, 1002, 1023, 2003, 2004, and 2005. With one possible exception, all the sherds were of 11th or 12th-century date. The exception is two sherds from a NYWW jug with copper glaze. At the earliest, this might be late 12th century in date but if of Brandsby-type ware then a later 13th-century or later date is likely. The sherd of TORKT is of 11th-century date at the latest but at present it is not known whether the industry extended into the post-conquest period. The gritty ware sherds might be of late 11th-century date, as at York Minster where they occur in deposits of c.1080, but could be of 12th-century date. The presence of BEVO ware also indicates a 12th-century date. The splashed ware is of a type containing a coarse sand/gravel temper with sparse calcareous inclusions (possibly chalk). It is possible that these sherds are early products of the Beverley industry, dating to the late 11th or early 12th centuries. The UNGS sherd is from a wheelthrown jar and might be Roman or medieval date.

Table 2. Summary of Medieval Pottery

class	cname	full name	SumOfNosh
ceramic	BEVO	Beverley Orange ware	2
ceramic	NYWW	North Yorkshire whiteware	2
ceramic	TORKT	Torksey-type ware	1
ceramic	UNGS	Unglazed Greensand-tempered fabrics	1
ceramic	YG	Yorkshire gritty ware	11
ceramic	YORK	York glazed ware/York White ware	1
ceramic	YORKSPL	York Splashed ware	1

Fragments of tile were recovered from five contexts (ie all but two of those producing medieval pottery). Most were scraps of tile which might be flat or ridge tiles but in addition fragments of peg tile

(context 2004), half tile (1023, cut down from a full-size tile after moulding and before firing) and a putative hearth tile fragment (context 2005).

These pottery and tile finds suggest that much of the archaeological activity noted on the site dates to the 12th century.

Post-medieval

Fragments of linoleum and concrete with bitumen paint from context 2005 are of modern date.

Recommendations

No further work is required on this pottery at present but the finds should be retained in an archaeological repository for future study.

Acknowledgments

The illustrations and computer input are the work of Alison Oliver. Building material and post-Roman pottery was identified by Jane Young and Alan Vince and Roman pottery was identified by Barbara Precious.

Costings

No further work is envisaged on this material.

Appendix One

Context	Class	Cname	Form	Description	Sherds
1000	Cbm	PNR	?	flake;hard fired 12th+	1
1000	Ceramic	TORKT	Jar		1
1001	Ceramic	YORK	Jug	small frag;cu glaze	1
1002		zdate		4c/post-Ro	0
1002		zzz		most abraded;mixed M2-E3 SAM/OXWS 1-2c	0
1002	Cbm	PNR		fine fabric;? Date	1
1002	Cbm	RTIL		small frag	1
1002	Ceramic	CALC	Clsd	hm decoration	1
1002	Ceramic	CRGR	DPR	v abr;burnt;girth	1
1002	Ceramic	OXWS		flagon?;abr	1
1002	Ceramic	SAMEG	37	v abr	1
1002	Ceramic	YG	Jar	Soot	1
1023	Cbm	PNR		Corner	1
1023	Cbm	PNR		half tile;one cut edge	1
1023	Cbm	RTIL		? Teg	1
2003		zdate		3-4/post-Ro	0
2003	Ceramic	GREY	Open	prob dog dish; v abr;burnt under base	1
2003	Ceramic	NYWW	Jug	cu glaze;coarse fabric G	2
2003	Ceramic	YG	Jar		4
2003	Ceramic	YG	Small jar		1
2004		zdate		4c/post Ro	0
2004	Cbm	PEG		corner;single hole;salt surfacing	1
2004	Cbm	PNR		Flake	1
2004	Ceramic	BEVO	Jug	type I fabric;splashed glaze	1
2004	Ceramic	NVCC	B	v abr	1
2004	Ceramic	UNGS	?	Flake	1
2004	Ceramic	YG	Bowl	square everted rim;soot	1
2004	Ceramic	YG	Jar	square rim	2
2004	Ceramic	YG	Jar?		1
2004	Ceramic	YG	Small jar	square rim;soot;thin walled	1
2004	Ceramic	YORKS PL	Jug	coarse fabric common rounded chalk?; Fabric 3;splashed glaze	1
2005		zdate		4c/post-Ro	0
2005		zzz		most freshish OXWS flagon 1-2c;mixed dates + SAM;Huntcliffe could be ML4c	0
2005	Bm	MISC		wall plaster	1

2005	Bm	MISC		Concrete with bitumen	1
2005	Bm	MISC		Linoleum	1
2005	Cbm	PNR		hearth tile?	1
2005	Ceramic	BEVO	Jug	? ID;splashed glaze fabric type I	1
2005	Ceramic	CCALC	JHUN		1
2005	Ceramic	GFIN	B	joining ; same fabric as jar;silty 4 CRGR	3
2005	Ceramic	GFIN	J	BVL decoration;same fabric as bowl; silty 4 CRGR	1
2005	Ceramic	NVCC	B	white fabric ; fresh	1
2005	Ceramic	OXWS	FR	abr	1
2005	Ceramic	SAMCG	31R	fresh	1
