

Pottery from York Railway Station: Assessment Report

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Introduction

Two hundred and six sherds from at most 188 vessels were submitted for assessment. The pottery is mainly of Romano-British date. It includes a small quantity of early Roman pottery, of late 1st or early 2nd century date, but the majority dates to the late 2nd and 3rd centuries. There is also a small quantity of late Roman pottery, dating to the late 3rd or 4th centuries.

None of the Roman pottery comes from large or coherent assemblages and there is a likelihood that all the pottery from Int.2 is in post-Roman deposits and that only one, or perhaps two, of the assemblages from Int.1 is stratified in a deposit of Roman date (1004, interpreted here as a ploughsoil or horticultural horizon and arguably F7, a ditch fill).

There is a single sherd of high medieval pottery, two of late medieval date, a few sherds of broadly-datable post-medieval date and a handful of 19th-century wares, consistent in date with the foundation or subsequent use of the railway station.

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.

Prehistoric

None

Roman

One hundred and fifty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were present, coming from at most 139 vessels of thirty-four different wares (Table 1). These wares were predominantly locally produced, including 56 of

York manufacture (E1, E2 and E3). Late Roman wares from the Crambeck potteries and the vale of Pickering were present but in small quantities. Non-local wares included Dorset black burnished ware (B1 and B10), Nene Valley colour-coated ware (C1). Imports from outside of the province include South and Central Gaulish samian ware (S1, S3), Dressel 20, Koan and unidentified amphorae (AP25, AP10 and AA) and Terra Nigra (T2). The ratio of York/local, non-local and imported pottery is

75:16:25, plus 41 unidentified, probably mainly local greywares. The ratio of imported and non-local wares is high, but no higher than other York sites (and lower than on sites in the fortress itself).

Table 1. List of Roman ware codes and quantities

Cname	Full name	Sherds	Vessels
AA?	Unidentified amphora?	1	1
AP10?	Koan amphora	1	1
AP25	DR20	5	3
B0	Misc Burnished	1	1
B1	Black Burnished ware 1	2	2
B10	Black Burnished ware 1	1	1
B12	Crambeck B12	7	6
B18?	Late h/m?	1	1
B2	Black Burnished ware 2	3	2
B2?	Black Burnished ware 2?	2	2
B3	Grey B3	2	2
B6	Black Burnished ware 2	1	1
C0	Misc CC	1	1
C1	NVCC	8	5
E1	Ebor 1	40	36
E2	Ebor 2	13	13
E2?	Ebor 2?	1	1
E3	Ebor 3	1	1
G0	Misc grey	8	7
G1	Dales-type greyware	16	16
G18	Late unburnished handmade	1	1
G4	Grey	3	3
G8	Grey	3	2
K0	Misc calcite gritted	6	2
K1	Calcite gritted	2	2
O0	Pentice-moulded beakers	1	1
O1?	Oxidized?	1	1
OX	Unidentified oxidized Roman wares	1	1
R2	Rustic 2	1	1

S1	SGS	7	7
S3	CGS	10	10
T2	TN	1	1
W1	Ebor white	4	3
W2	Ebor white	1	1

The range of forms found is wide (Table 2). The classes of vessel found include cooking vessels, table ware and containers. Mortaria are uncommon, with just one possible sherd.

Table 2. List of Roman form codes used and quantities present

Form	Full name	Sherds	Vessels
	Not identified	9	8
18	Dressel 18	3	3
18/31/R	Dressel 18/31/R	1	1
18?	Dressel 18?	1	1
29	Dressel 29	1	1
29/37	Dressel 29/37	1	1
31	Dressel 31	1	1
31?	Dressel 31?	1	1
36?	Dressel 36?	1	1
37	Dressel 37	1	1
A	Amphora	9	7
A?	Amphora?	1	1
B	Bowl	4	4
B?	Bowl?	1	1
B225	Bowl - Gillam type 225	1	1
BD	Carinated bowl, post-Legionary style	3	3
BP	Bowl similar to Crambeck 10	1	1
CLSD	Unidentified closed	4	4
D225	Dish - Gillam type 225	2	1
DP6	Shallow undecorated pie dish with rolled rim	1	1
F	Flagon	3	3
F?	Flagon?	1	1
JP2	Plain jar with beaded or slightly everted rim	1	1
J	Jar	45	39
J?	Jar?	3	3
JB2	Butt-shaped jar with suggestion of lid-seating	2	2
JBKEV	Butt-shaped jar with everted rim	1	1
JC	Cooking pot	1	1
JC?	Cooking pot?	5	4

JC4	Cooking pot with cavetto rim	1	1
JEV	Everted rim jar	1	1
JH3	Huntcliffe jar	2	2
JL	Jar with loop handles	4	4
JL?	Jar with loop handles?	1	1
JLS	Jar [*check with BP]	1	1
JP	Jar with beaded or slightly-everted rim	1	1
JR	Rusticated jar	1	1
JW?	Wide-mouthed jar?	1	1
JCUR	Curved-rim jar	2	2
K	Beaker	6	5
K?	Beaker?	2	2
KB3?	Bag-beaker with scroll design?	1	1
KF1	Funnel-necked indented beaker with plain rim and applied decoation	4	2
L	Lid	2	2
LBX	'Castor Box' Lid	1	1
MORT?	Mortaria	1	1
OPEN	Unidentified open form	2	2
P	Platter	3	3
P?	Platter?	2	2
PA	Platter with curved walls and marked division between internal wall and base	1	1
PA2	Platter with curved walls and marked division between internal wall and base without footring	5	1
PA2?	Platter with curved walls and marked division between internal wall and base without footring?	2	2
PLS	Lid-seated platter	1	1

Medieval

Two sherds of medieval pottery were present. One is a fine-textured late 13th or 14th-century whiteware from the North Yorkshire Hambleton Hills potteries (NYWWF) and the other a plain lead-glazed lobed cup, probably of later 14th or 15th century date, made in a fabric containing rounded quartz sand and possibly not of local origin. Both sherds were stratified in recent deposits and might have been brought onto the site in the 19th century. A sherd of late medieval Humber ware (HUM) was found at the base of the excavated sequence in Int.2.

Post-medieval

A single sherd of black-glazed ware (BL) might be stratified in a post-medieval deposit (1018). Some sherds of glazed red earthenware (GRE) might be of 17th or 18th-century date, but were found in later

deposits. A handful of pottery is likely to be of mid 19th-century date and associated with the construction of the railway, even if found in later deposits. These wares include black-glazed ware, refined buff ware (NCBW), Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS) and transfer-printed wares (TPW). These sherds all had unabraded breaks and are unlikely to have been subjected to weathering.

Stratification

Trench Int.1

Pottery was found in five contexts in Int.1. Of these, three were recent. Context 1000 was modern (1989) landscaping, 1006 was the fill of F2, the foundation of a 20th-century railway building and 1001 a spread of cinders associated with the 19th century railway. The remaining two contexts, 1004 and 1016 may be of Roman date.

The pottery from 1004, a spread of sandy loam, is an unremarkable assemblage of late 2nd or 3rd-century date. A single possible late Roman sherd was present, of fabric G18, and the only non-local sherd is of central Gaulish samian ware.

The pottery from context 1016, the fill of ditch F7 which is cut through 1004, consists of two sherds of early to mid Roman date, one Ebor ware of early 3rd-century type and one rusticated ware, of late 1st or early 2nd century date.

Two of the sherds from 1004 are abraded and the assemblage is consistent with a ploughsoil or horticultural horizon. If the greyware sherd, G18, is actually a late handmade sandy ware as it appears then the horizon was still exposed during the 4th century. It is likely that F7 is an early 3rd-century or later feature. One of the two sherds found in its fill is probably derived from the loam the ditch is cut through and it is possible that the ditch is actually of post-Roman date on this evidence.

The Roman wares found in the recent deposits may have been disturbed from the site itself or brought onto the site with hardcore.

Table 3 Wares from Int.1 (sherd counts)

cname	1000	1001	1004	1006	1016
B1		1			
B3			1		
E1			2		
E2			1		1
E2?			1		
E3		1			
G18			1		
G8			3		
GRE	1				

K1	1	
MISC SKW		1
R2		1
S1		1
S3	1	

Trench Int.2

Thirteen contexts in Int.2 produced pottery. Of these, six (1008, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1015 and 1017) can be dated to the 19th century or later by their stratigraphic position. The remainder appear to be tip lines, either as part of a landscaping exercise or the fills of a large feature. The lowest, and therefore earliest, of these layers produced a sherd of late medieval Humber ware (context 1026). However, this sherd is interpreted by the excavator as intrusive and cannot be used to date this feature. Six later layers also produced pottery (contexts 1025, 1024, 1023, 1022, 1021 and 1018). Individually, the *termini post quos* for these layers are: mid-late 2nd century, mid 4th century, mid 2nd century, 4th century, late 1st-early 2nd century and late 3rd or 4th century (plus early modern) respectively. There is no consistency in these dates, nor in their stratigraphic order. This suggests that the pottery had been redeposited. The latest two deposits, 1018 and 1021, both produced abraded Roman sherds and one could make a case for the lower deposits being of Roman date and the upper ones of early modern date. However, even then context 1022 contained earlier pottery than context 1024, which it lay over. On balance, it is likely that the entire sequence is of post-Roman date and probably can be dated by the one post-medieval sherd, a black-glazed ware in context 1018. This vessel was produced in a pinkish fabric, probably produced using Coal Measures clay. Such vessels were produced from the late 17th century into the 19th century and, in this interpretation, these tip lines could have been associated with the construction of the railway, perhaps levelling the ground before construction began, or might have been fills in an earlier post-medieval feature, such as a quarry.

Table 4

cname	1008	1010	1011	1012	1015	1017	1018	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026
AA?									1				
AP10?									1				
AP25					3		2						
B0												1	
B1									1				
B10							1						
B12						2	2			2	1		
B18?					1								
B2						1	2						
B2?						1					1		

B3						1			
B6									1
BL	1		1			2	1		
C0								1	
C1				3	4	1			
E1		2	2	1	4	19		1	5
E2			1		2	3	1		2
G0						3	5		
G1			1	1	2	6	3		1
G4						3			
GRE	1					1			
HUM									
K0						6			
K1									1
LMED									
NCBW						2			
NOTS						2			
NYWW	1								
F									
O0								1	
O1?		1							
OX						1			
R/MTIL								1	
E									
S1			2			3	1		
S3			1	1	1	3	2		1
STSL	1								
T2					1				
TPW			3		1	4			
W1			2			2			
W2							1		

Recommendations and conclusions

The pottery from York Railway Station indicates occupation of some sort on the site in the mid Roman period with the probability that earlier and later Roman material was brought onto the site in more recent times, along with a little later medieval pottery. This interpretation is based on very little evidence and should be tested in any further archaeological work on the site.

The collection includes four Roman sherds of types not found in J Monaghan's corpus of Roman pottery from York. They should therefore be drawn for future reference. The pottery collection should be retained for future re-evaluation.

Acknowledgments

Barbara Precious identified the Roman pottery and Alan Vince identified the medieval and later wares. The report was written by Alan Vince.

Costings

The illustrations can be carried out by FAS staff.

Appendix

trench	Context	Period	Ware	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Action	Description	REFNO
Int.1	1000	PMED	GRE	BOWL	1	1		CUGL;FABRIC HAS STREAKS OF WHITE CLAY;RED-STAINED SST SAND	117
Int.1	1001	ROM	B01		1	1		RIM CF MON 3777	
Int.1	1001	ROM	E03		1	1			
Int.1	1001	ROM	K01	JH3	1	1			
Int.1	1004	ROM	B03	DP6	1	1	DR 1		
Int.1	1004	ROM	G18	JLS	1	1	DR 2		
Int.1	1004	ROM	E01	J	1	1		FTM DEPOSIT INT	
Int.1	1004	ROM	E01	JBKEV	1	1		SHLDR	
Int.1	1004	ROM	E02	JP	1	1			
Int.1	1004	ROM	E02?	PA2?	1	1		VABR CF MON 4078	
Int.1	1004	ROM	G08	J	1	1			
Int.1	1004	ROM	G08	JC?	2	1		J SCALE INT	
Int.1	1004	ROM	S03	18/31/R	1	1		FTRG ABR	125
Int.1	1006	MED	MISC SKW	LCUP	1	1		ROUNDED QUARTZ SAND C.1.0MM DIAM;BROWN TINGED GLAZE	
Int.1	1006	ROM	S01	18	1	1		FTRG FRESHISH	120
Int.2	1008	PMED-EMOD	BL	BOWL	1	1		FINE RED FABRIC;CF WRENTHORPE	106
Int.2	1008	PMED	GRE	BOWL	1	1		ABR;CUGL;LOOKS LIKE RED RYEDALE	105
Int.2	1008	MED	NYWWF	JUG	1	1		CLOSESET GROOVES ON UPPER	102

							BODY;REDUCED CORE AND INT	
Int.2	1008	PMED	STSL	POSS	1	1	PROB NOT STAFFS	104
Int.2	1010	ROM	E01	J	1	1		
Int.2	1010	ROM	E01	OPEN	1	1	BURNT STAINED	
Int.2	1010	ROM	O01?	MORT?	1	1	FRAG MFL?	
Int.2	1011	PMED-EMOD	BL	PANC	1	1		45,46
Int.2	1011	ROM	E01	F	1	1	HANDLE 2R	
Int.2	1011	ROM	E01	F	1	1	HANDLE 3R	
Int.2	1011	ROM	E02	J	1	1	GREY CORE	
Int.2	1011	ROM	G01	CLSD	1	1		
Int.2	1011	ROM	S01	18	1	1		50
Int.2	1011	ROM	S01	29	1	1		61
Int.2	1011	ROM	S03	31	1	1	LWR WALL;WORN INT;ABR	
Int.2	1011	EMOD	TPW	CUP	1	1	WILLOW PATTERN	63
Int.2	1011	EMOD	TPW	CUP	1	1		62
Int.2	1011	EMOD	TPW	TPOT	1	1	WILLOW PATTERN	49
Int.2	1011	ROM	W01		2	1	ABR INT;CF 1017	
Int.2	1012	ROM	E01	J	1	1		
Int.2	1012	ROM	G01	K?	1	1	OX INT	
Int.2	1012	ROM	S03	B?	1	1	WORN IN BURNT	
Int.2	1015	ROM	AP25	A	3	1	1FAB ABR	
Int.2	1015	ROM	B18?	JC	1	1	BDL;HMADE POSS B18 LATE FAB	
Int.2	1015	ROM	C01	K	2	1	WHT PA	91

Int.2	1015	ROM	C01	KB3?	1	1		PA SCROLL;B38?	91
Int.2	1015	ROM	E01	J	2	2			
Int.2	1015	ROM	E01	JL	1	1			
Int.2	1015	ROM	E01	OPEN	1	1			
Int.2	1015	ROM	E02	J?	2	2			
Int.2	1015	ROM	G01	J	1	1			
Int.2	1015	ROM	G01	JP2	1	1		SHLDR CF MON 3828	
Int.2	1015	ROM	S03	B	1	1		B38?	71
Int.2	1015	ROM	T02	P	1	1		ABR	
Int.2	1015	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	1	1		WILLOW PATTERN	
Int.1	1016	ROM	E02	PLS	1	1	DR 3	WALL BURNT LIP;N AFRICAN STYLE	
Int.1	1016	ROM	R02	JR	1	1		RUST	
Int.2	1017	ROM	G01	J	1	1	DR 4	APPLIED PHALLUS; OXIDISED INT	379
Int.2	1017	ROM	B02	B225	1	1		LWR WALL	
Int.2	1017	ROM	B02?	BD	1	1			
Int.2	1017	ROM	B03	BD	1	1			
Int.2	1017	ROM	B12	BD	1	1			
Int.2	1017	ROM	B12	J	1	1		BVL; AS IN 1023	
Int.2	1017	PMED-EMOD	BL	BOWL	1	1		COAL MEASURES REDWARE	276
Int.2	1017	PMED-EMOD	BL	PANC	1	1		COAL MEASURES REDWARE	260
Int.2	1017	ROM	C01	KF1	1	1		BASC?	269
Int.2	1017	ROM	C01	KF1	3	1		SC	262;263;264

Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	J	10	10		
Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	J	1	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	JL	1	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	K	1	1	V THIN	
Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	PA	1	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	E01	PA2	5	1	BURNT UNDER	
Int.2	1017	ROM	E02	CLSD	1	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	E02	JL	1	1	BURNT EXT	
Int.2	1017	ROM	E02	L	1	1	KNOB	
Int.2	1017	ROM	G00	J	2	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	G00	J	1	1	MIN CALC	
Int.2	1017	ROM	G01	J	2	2		
Int.2	1017	ROM	G01	JB2	1	1	SHLDR;CF MON 3767;AS 1022	
Int.2	1017	ROM	G01	JCUR	1	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	G01	JCUR	1	1	SHLDR	
Int.2	1017	ROM	G04	A	3	3		
Int.2	1017	PMED	GRE	UNK	1	1	CUGL;FABRIC CF <117>	256
Int.2	1017	ROM	K00	J	5	1		
Int.2	1017	ROM	K00	K?	1	1	V THIN WALL	
Int.2	1017	EMOD	NCBW	-	1	1		202
Int.2	1017	EMOD	NCBW	CLOSE D	1	1	HORIZ WHITE AND BLACK PAINTED LINES	203
Int.2	1017	EMOD	NOTS	SJ	1	1		227

Int.2	1017	EMOD	NOTS	TPOT?	1	1	STAMPED	217
Int.2	1017	ROM	OX	JEV	1	1	NECK;SILTY	
Int.2	1017	ROM	S01	18	1	1		268
Int.2	1017	ROM	S01	18?	1	1	FTRG	206
Int.2	1017	ROM	S01	29/37	1	1	DEC	249
Int.2	1017	ROM	S03	31?	1	1		231
Int.2	1017	ROM	S03	36?	1	1		233
Int.2	1017	ROM	S03	37	1	1	UPPER WALL;OVOLO;FRESH	248
Int.2	1017	EMOD	TPW	BOWL	1	1	WILLOW PATTERN	258
Int.2	1017	EMOD	TPW	BOWL	1	1	WILLOW PATTERN	255
Int.2	1017	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	1	1	WILLOW PATTERN	201
Int.2	1017	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	1	1	WORN ON BASE ANGLE;WILLOW PATTERN	254
Int.2	1017	ROM	W01		1	1	ABR;INT;SHL 1011	
Int.2	1017	ROM	W01	F	1	1		
Int.2	1018	ROM	AP25	A	1	1	VABR 1FAB	
Int.2	1018	ROM	AP25	A	1	1	BURNT 1FAB	
Int.2	1018	ROM	B02	D225	2	1	J;BDL?	
Int.2	1018	ROM	B10	JC4	1	1	SHLDR	
Int.2	1018	ROM	B12	JW?	1	1		
Int.2	1018	ROM	B12	K	1	1	ROUL	
Int.2	1018	PMED-EMOD	BL	PANC	1	1	COAL MEASURES PINK FABRIC; BLACK GLAZE;WEAR ON INNER LIP OF RIM	
Int.2	1018	ROM	C01	LBX	1	1	ROUZ	8

Int.2	1018	ROM	E02	B	1	1	FTM	
Int.2	1018	ROM	G00	J	2	2		
Int.2	1018	ROM	G00	J	1	1	ORANGE INT;?BURNT;E3	
Int.2	1018	ROM	G00	J	1	1	STRING	
Int.2	1018	ROM	G00	JC?	1	1	J STRING	
Int.2	1018	ROM	G01	J	2	2		
Int.2	1018	ROM	G01	J	1	1	RUST	
Int.2	1018	ROM	S01	P?	1	1	FRAG	10
Int.2	1018	ROM	S03	B	1	1	ABR	9
Int.2	1018	ROM	S03	P	1	1	FLAKED BURNT	
Int.2	1018	ROM	W02	F?	1	1		
Int.2	1021	ROM	E01	JL?	1	1	VABR	325
Int.2	1021	ROM/MED	R/MTILE	FLAT	1	1	MIGHT BE Roman OR MED	325
Int.2	1022	ROM	A10?	A	1	1	GOLD MICA;CALC;NO BLK SAND	
Int.2	1022	ROM	AA?	A?	1	1	MICA	
Int.2	1022	ROM	B01	B	1	1	LA;LWR WALL	320
Int.2	1022	ROM	C00	K	1	1	LOCAL?	
Int.2	1022	ROM	E01		3	3		
Int.2	1022	ROM	E01	J	1	1		
Int.2	1022	ROM	E01	J	1	1	BURNT EXT	
Int.2	1022	ROM	E02	BP	1	1		
Int.2	1022	ROM	E02	J	1	1		
Int.2	1022	ROM	G01	J	1	1		

Int.2	1022	ROM	O00	CLSD	1	1	SILTY	
Int.2	1023	ROM	B12	J	2	1	BVL;J;AS IN 1017	
Int.2	1024	ROM	B00		1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	B02?	JC?	1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	B12	L	1	1	UPPER WALL;BURNT	
Int.2	1024	ROM	E01	J	1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	E01	K	1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	E01	P	1	1	N A TYPE	
Int.2	1024	ROM	E01	PA2?	1	1	LW WALL;CF MON 4080	
Int.2	1024	ROM	E02	CLSD	1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	E02	JL	1	1	BURNT	
Int.2	1024	ROM	G01	J?	1	1		
Int.2	1024	ROM	G01	JB2	1	1	SHLDR CF MON 3767;AS 1017	
Int.2	1024	ROM	K01	JH3	1	1	SHLDR	
Int.2	1025	ROM	B06	JC?	1	1		
Int.2	1025	ROM	S03	P?	1	1		352
Int.2	1026	LMED	HUM	CLOSE D	1	1	GLAZE INT AND EXT	441
