

Pottery from Steeton Hall (OSA WBO9): Assessment Report

Alan Vince

Introduction

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

None

Medieval

Two contexts produced medieval pottery, 1003 and 1015. Context 1003 produced a single sherd of Rawmarsh type ware. This type of pottery was produced at Rawmarsh and Firsby, both to the south of Doncaster, in the late medieval and early post-medieval period. This particular sherd has similar characteristics to that from the excavated kiln at Rawmarsh which is probably of late 15th or early 16th-century date. Context 1015 produced four sherds, probably all from the same vessel, of Humber ware. Humber ware was produced at a number of centres in the Humber valley, to the west of the Jurassic limestone ridge. Amongst these sites the best known, and probably most prolific, site is West Cowick. The Humber ware industry began in the early 14th century and continued into the 16th century. Late vessels are often high fired with dark glazes. The present sherds are lower fired with plain lead glaze inside and out. It is not possible to identify the vessel type, except to say that it was a closed vessel, such as a jar, jug or cistern. It probably dates to the 14th or 15th century.

The sherds are all fresh and suggest occupation in the late medieval period on the site.

Post-medieval

None

Recommendations

Late medieval occupation sites are not particularly common archaeologically, partly because they tend to lie under occupied properties and partly because they belong to the period after the Black Death, when the population level was considerably lower than earlier in the medieval period. Should any further disturbance to the archaeological deposits at Steeton Hall be undertaken care should be taken to identify and record archaeological deposits.