

Pottery from Elmbank Hotel, York: Assessment Report

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Introduction

Sherds of pottery found as part of a watching brief at the Elmbank Hotel, York, by On Site Archaeology was submitted for identification and assessment (Site code: OSA99 WB06). Three sherds were submitted, all of which were of Roman date. Only one is more closely datable, an Eastern Gaulish Samian ware bowl of late 2nd or early 3rd century date.

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

Three sherds of Roman pottery were found. They are all of different wares (Table 1) and of two forms, a Dragendorff 38 bowl and unidentifiable jars or bowls.

Table 1

Code	full name	COMMENTS
G1	Dales-type greyware	
G8	Grey	Coarse sandy grey ware
S4	EGS	Eastern Gaul (unspecific source)

The samian ware is datable to the period 150-250, although Eastern Gaulish samian ware is perhaps more common in the 3rd than the 2nd century. It shows signs of wear on the interior and shows a little evidence of abrasion, but certainly not as much as would have been found if the vessel had not been buried below the active soil horizon. The vessel is therefore evidence for activity - either occupation or rubbish disposal - in the mid Roman period on the site.

Medieval

None

Post-medieval

None

Recommendations

The samian bowl is a good example of its type, although not exceptional. It should be retained for further study, together with the greyware forms.

Acknowledgments

The pottery was identified by Barbara Precious and the report prepared by Alan Vince.

Costings

No further work proposed.

Context:	Cname:	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	Weight:	PART:	Description:
us	G1	J-B	1	1	0	BS	?SLIP;INT WORN
us	G8	J-B	1	1	0	BS	
us	S4	DR38	1	1	0	R	WORN INT;RIM AND FLANGE