

Assessment of pottery from Wansford Road, Driffield

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Twenty four fragments of pottery, two pieces of ceramic building material and a piece of mortar from a watching brief at Wansford Road, Driffield (OSA01 WB28) were submitted for identification and assessment.

The Pottery

Medieval

Eight sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. All were very small, abraded fragments consistent with their being derived from manuring of fields rather than occupation. The majority of the sherds were of Beverley glazed ware type (BEVOT). Most of these were jars used for cooking. Such vessels had a long life-span, from the mid 12th to the mid 14th centuries. Two of the glazed sherds came from copper-glazed jugs, a type found in the 13th and 14th centuries. A single sherd of North Yorkshire whiteware, probably from the Hambleton Hills area, was present. The oval-sectioned handle and brown-tinged glaze suggest a later medieval date (ie 14th/15th century).

Post-medieval

Eleven sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. Of those that can be more closely dated, one is of 16th century date (Cistercian-type ware: CTSN) and three of late 17th/mid 18th century date (Staffordshire style slipwares: a press-moulded dish and a mottled-glazed posset pot and tankard (STMO). The remainder are brown-glazed earthenwares whose fine silty texture and general similarity to Beverley glazed wares suggests local origins (BERTH, GRE, BL). The sherds are larger and less abraded than those of the medieval period but are still likely to represent manuring.

Early Modern

Five sherds of early modern pottery were present. These include two fragments of basalt ware teapots, one red stoneware and the other black (RBAS, BBAS) together with Pearlware (PEAR), Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS) and white-slipped red earthenware (SLIP). The black basalt ware teapot is a large sherd from a fragile vessel and cannot have been subjected to ploughing or similar activity. It is therefore likely that by the 19th century these finds represent either debris from on-site settlement or dumping of refuse.

The Ceramic Building material

Two pieces of ceramic building material were present. That from context 2001 is of an unidentified type and might be either medieval or later in date. That from context 6000 is similar in appearance to Beverley products of medieval date.

Mortar

A fragment of greyish mortar with quartz sand aggregate and rounded limestone gravel was submitted. It is probably of post-medieval or early modern date.

Assessment

The finds suggest that the site was in cultivation during the medieval and post-medieval periods, starting perhaps in the 13th or early 14th centuries and continuing to the early 18th century or later.

Appendix One

Conte xt:	Description:	period	Class	Name:	Form:	Nosh	NoV:	SUBFABRIC:	PART
1000		post-med or early modern	Morta r	MORTA - R		1	1		BS
1000	BROWN GLAZE;PEDESTAL BASE	pmed	Potter y	BERTH SALT	JAR	1	1		BS
1000	DARK CUGL	pmed	Potter y	BERTH JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
1000		pmed	Potter y	CSTN CUP	CUP	1	1		BS
1001	OVAL HANDLE BROWN GLAZE	med	Potter y	NYWW JUG	JUG	1	1		BS
1003		emod	Potter y	PEAR PLAT E	PLAT E	1	1		BS
1003		pmed	Potter y	STMO POSS	POSS	1	1		BS
2001	FLAT TILE OR BRICK?	med or later	Cbm	CBM -		1	1		BS
3001		med	Potter y	BEVOT JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
4000		pmed	Potter y	BL JAR	JAR	1	1		H
4000	INT GL	pmed	Potter y	MISC BOW L	BOW L	1	1	MOD LIMESTONE SAND	BS
4000		emod	Potter y	NOTS CLSD	CLSD	1	1		BS
4000		pmed	Potter y	STMO TANK	TANK	1	1		BS
5000		pmed	Potter y	BERTH JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
5000	CUGL	med	potter y	BEVOT JUG	JUG	1	1		BS
5000		med	potter y	BEVOT JAR	JAR	1	1		R
6000		med	cbm	BEVOT FLAT	FLAT	1	1		BS
6000		emod	potter y	BBAS TPOT	TPOT	1	1		BS
6000		med	potter y	BEVOT JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
6000	VABR	med	potter y	BEVOT JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
6000		med	potter y	BEVOT JAR	JAR	1	1		BS
6000	CUGL	med	potter y	BEVOT JUG	JUG	1	1		BS
6000		emod	potter y	RBAS TPOT	TPOT	1	1		BS
6000		pmed	potter y	STCO DISH	DISH	1	1		BS
7000		pmed	potter y	GRE BOW L	BOW L	2	2		BS
7000		emod	potter y	SLIP BOW L	BOW L	1	1		BS

