

## **Assessment of pottery from Gargrave, North Yorkshire (OSA02EV02)**

### ***Alan Vince***

Seventeen sherds of pottery from an evaluation at Gargrave, North Yorkshire, were submitted for identification and assessment. Two are likely to be of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>-century date with the remainder dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **The Pottery**

#### **Medieval**

Two sherds of pottery from context 302 are likely to be of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>-century date. One of these is a Yorkshire Gritty ware jar, used for cooking and with a coating of soot on the exterior. Unusually, the vessel is decorated with two bands of roller-stamping. This decoration should be recorded by illustration. The second sherd is extremely unusual. It appears to be the rim of a vessel with a very small diameter and a cylindrical body. It too may be a Yorkshire Gritty ware, although the fabric is obscured. Alternatively, it may be the wheelthrown spout from a spouted pitcher or bowl. There is a rectangular cutout in the wall of the vessel, which might support the idea that it is a spout although there is soot around this cutout and no evidence for the luting of the wall of the vessel to another piece, which one would expect from a spout. Furthermore, the sherd is coated with an iron-rich deposit and, over this, a white crystalline deposit. Both of these may be related to the function of the vessel and suggest that it might, instead, be an industrial vessel. This sherd too requires illustration.

#### **Post-Medieval**

Six sherds may be of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date, although in most cases they are of types which continued in use into the early modern period. They are a glazed red earthenware bowl (PMRED), blackglazed vessels (BL) and a small Staffordshire(?) stoneware jar or cup, decorated with combing and a brown wash. The latter type is clearly of early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. All these sherds come from Trench 4 (contexts 401 and 402).

#### **Early Modern**

Six sherds of 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery were recovered. They are all factory-made products - buff ware (NCBW), white ware (WHITE), Derbyshire stoneware (DERBS) and an unsourced English stoneware (ENGS). The sherds come from contexts 205, 401 and 402.

#### **Glass**

A single fragment of melted glass was present, in context 302. Although associated with medieval pottery, the glass appears to be of early modern (ie 18<sup>th</sup>-century or later) clear glass, with no sign of the chemical weathering associated with medieval and post-medieval glass. It is most likely that this is a

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fragment of an early modern glass vessel or window that has been accidentally melted rather than production waste.

## Assessment

The two medieval sherds are both of interesting and unusual types. Both require illustration, at least for archive purposes.

The remaining pottery is of less interest in its own right and on balance probably indicates a phase of 19<sup>th</sup>-century activity on the site which includes one or more heirloom sherds of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

## Costing

Two pottery illustrations at £10 each: £20.

Context:	Trench:	Category	Cname:	SUBFABRIC:	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	PART:	Description:	Action:
205		Emod	NCBW		BOWL	1	1	BS		
205		Emod	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	BS		
302	T3	Med	YG		JAR	1	1	BS	HORIZ BAND OF RSD; SOOTED EXT	DRAW/PHOTO
302	T3	Med	YG		INDUST?	1	1	BS	ID?;FORM?	DRAW
302	T3	Pmgl	GLAS CLEAR S		WASTE	1	1	BS	RUNNEL	
401	T4	Emod	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	BS	HORIZ BLUE BANDS	
401	T4	Emod	NCBW		BOWL	1	1	BS		
401	T4	Pmed-emod	BL		JAR	1	1	BS	OVAL HANDLE;MOTTLED BROWN GL INT AND EXT	
401	T4	Pmed-emod	BL		PANC	1	1	BS	BROWN GL INT	
401	T4	Pmed-emod	STBR S		JAR/CUP	2	1	BS	SMALL PEDESTAL BASE, COMBED DEC	
402	T4	Emod	DERB S		BLACKLEADING BOT	1	1	R		
402	T4	Emod	ENGS SILTY;CF NOTTINGHAM BUT MUCH MORE IRON		JAR	1	1	BS	NARROW-NECKED BOTTLE FORM; HORIZ COMBED BANDS;PURPLE/BLACK BODY AND EXT GLAZE	
402	T4	Pmed-emod	BL		POSS?	1	1	B		
402	T4	Pmed-emod	BL			2	1	BS		
402	T4	Pmed-emod	PMRE D		BOWL	1	1	BS		