

## **Medieval and Later Pottery from All Saints School, Nunnery Lane, York (OSA01EX01)**

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One hundred and fifty-five fragments of medieval and later pottery were recovered from All Saints School, Nunnery Lane, York. They were submitted by On Site Archaeology for identification and assessment.

The material came from two deposits: a series of layers interpreted as medieval and later ploughsoil and dump layers (henceforth 'ploughsoil') and from building debris overlying this ploughsoil (henceforth 'modern'). The earliest post-Roman pottery present is of 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century date suggesting that during the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods the area was not occupied. The pottery sequence continues into the high medieval period (the later 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> century), the late medieval period (c.1350 to c.1550), the early post-medieval period (c.1550-c.1650), the later post-medieval period and the early modern period (c.1780 onwards). The latest pottery from the ploughsoil dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries whereas vessels of late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date were recovered from the modern building debris.

### **Description**

#### **Medieval Pottery**

Seventy-three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the site, 53 of these came from the ploughsoil and the remainder from modern deposits. There is little difference in character between the two groups and it is assumed that all the pottery originated in the 'ploughsoil'.

The earliest datable sherd is of a Stamford ware pitcher with a thin, drab glaze. Such vessels were produced in the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Its presence suggests that some of the York Gritty ware sherds from the site also date to this early period, although most are probably later. The Stamford ware sherd is small but no more abraded than other sherds from the site.

The next earliest wares present probably date to the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and consist of York Gritty ware sherds, York glazed ware, York Splash-glazed ware, Red Sandy ware, Beverley ware and a possible sherd of Hillam ware. Of the 27 sherds found, 16 are from glazed jugs whilst at least some of the remaining 7 York Gritty ware sherds are likely to be earlier. This very high frequency of glazed jugs is a feature of urban assemblages and indicates that the pottery found was probably from occupation in York or suburban development along Micklegate Bar.

Pottery dating to the later 13<sup>th</sup> or earlier 14<sup>th</sup> centuries is represented by 11 sherds of Brandsby ware and a sherd of Coal Measures Whiteware. These came from several layers classed as medieval or later ploughsoil: 1010, 1028 and 1036 as well as in the modern debris, 1000.

Later medieval wares consisted of Humber ware and Walmgate ware, a total of 16 sherds, spread through contexts 1001, 1003, 1010, 1012, 1028, 1034 and 1036.

There is thus a fairly even spread of medieval pottery from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Post-medieval Pottery**

Twenty-seven sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. They include both early post-medieval and later post-medieval wares.

The early post-medieval pottery consists of 11 sherds of Ryedale ware, 3 sherds of Cistercian ware and one sherd of Midlands Purple ware. These wares are of 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century date. A possible sherd of a Ryedale ware bowl has traces of use as a paint pot with deposits of two paints on the exterior. One of these was a blue paint whose colour was provided by a fine blue crystalline or glassy powder.

The later post-medieval pottery consists of Staffordshire slipwares (press-moulded plates or dishes, mottled-glazed posset pots and tankards and posset pots with slip decoration, one with feathered slip and one with white slip-trailing over a brown external slip), two sherds of black-glazed ware (unknown source), one sherd of a slipped posset pot with feathered slip on the exterior and an inclusionless pink coloured body and finally the spout from an ornate tin-glazed posset pot in which the drink was obtained through a hollow tube running down the body of the vessel. Given that the total later post-medieval assemblage consists of 9 sherds it is difficult to say whether this high proportion of finewares is significant but the high number of drinking vessels is consistent with the use of this area for temporary accommodation for visiting merchants.

### **Early Modern Pottery**

Thirteen sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date were recovered. The only items of note were two almost stoneware vessels with thick brown glaze. These have been identified by a Lincoln bottle collector as Buchan ware, from Portobello, near Edinburgh. Both were probably used for cream, one as a storage jar and the other as a jug. The vessels are dated to c.1895-1915 (Figs 1 and 2). The collection contains four sherds of flowerpots, which is consistent with the area being used as private then public gardens and part of a ceramic egg. These were used, apparently, to encourage broody hens and may therefore be evidence for the keeping of poultry on the site. The fabric is unglazed pipeclay and is essentially undatable, although probably of the post-medieval or early modern period.

### **Assessment**

The pottery collection is a mixed assemblage with similar quantities of pottery from every period from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The sherds are not heavily abraded, as would probably have been the case if they had been buried within a ploughsoil or garden soil, exposed to chemical and mechanical weathering. Therefore, they are probably evidence for the dumping of urban night soil on the site.

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The lack of pottery earlier than the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century may indicate that such manuring was a post-conquest phenomenon but the total size of the collection is too small for much weight to be put on this absence.

Should further ground disturbance take place on this site the collection of a larger assemblage of pottery should be a priority.

None of the pottery requires further treatment but the whole collection should be retained for future study.

Appendix

Context	Class	Cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Phase	Description	Part
AREA 1	ceramic	CREA		PLATE	1	1Us			BS
AREA 1	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	2	1Us			BS
AREA 1	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Us		GLAZE AND WHITE SLIP APPLIED EXT TOGETHER	BS
AREA 1	ceramic	LPMLOC		FLP	4	4Us			BS
AREA 1	ceramic	RYEDALE		BOWL	1	1Us		INT CUGL	BS
AREA 1	ceramic	STEM	LIGHT BROWN CMR? MOD MUSC >0.2MM	DISH	1	1Us		NO SLIPS	R
AREA 1	ceramic	TGW		PLATE	1	1Us		FLAT BASE;PLAIN	B
AREA 1	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Us		FE APPLIED DOTS;CUGL	BS
1000	ceramic	BL	IRON-RICH;ABUNDANT FINE SAND	BOWL	1	1Us			BS
1000	ceramic	BRANDSBY		JUG	1	1Us		CUGL	BS
1000	ceramic	BRANDSBY		JUG	1	1Us		PLAIN GL	BS
1000	ceramic	CREA		DISH	1	1Us			B
1000	ceramic	CSTN	INCLUSIONLESS	CUP	1	1Us		CYLINDRICAL BODY	BS
1000	ceramic	CSTN	INCLUSIONLESS	CUP	1	1Us			R
1000	ceramic	ENGS		CREAM JUG	1	1Us		COMPLETE;EXT BROWN GL;1890- 1915	PROF
1000	ceramic	ENGS	BUCHAN (SCOTLAND)	CREAM JAR	1	1Us		COMPLETE;EXT BROWN GL;1890- 1915	PROF
1000	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Us		WHITE SLIPPED EXT;CUGL DRIBBLEBS	

1000	ceramic	HUM		DJ	2	1Us	UNGLAZED HOLME-ON-SPALDING MOOR TYPE	B
1000	ceramic	LPMLOC		FLP	1	1Us		BS
1000	ceramic	MP		JUG	1	1Us	THICK WALLED;PLAIN > PURPLE GL;TWO HORIZ GROOVED LINES	BS
1000	ceramic	NCBW		BOWL	1	1Us		B
1000	ceramic	RED SANDY SA QUARTZ SAND >1.0MM		JUG	1	1Us	WHIT E SLIPPED EXT;CUGL;KEEL-SECTIONED HANDLE	H
1000	ceramic	RYEDALE		BOWL	1	1Us	OR RIDGE?	BS
1000	ceramic	RYEDALE		JAR	1	1Us	INT PLAIN GL	BS
1000	ceramic	STCO	PINKISH CMR	DISH	1	1Us	COMBED SLIP	BS
1000	ceramic	STSL		POSS	1	1Us	EXTWHITE SLTR OVER BROWN SLIP	BS
1000	ceramic	STSL		POSS	1	1Us	EXT COMBED SLIP	BS
1000	ceramic	YG		JUG	1	1Us	PLAIN GL;APPLIED VERT STRIP WITH HAMMERSCALE	BS
1000	ceramic	YG	COARSE MGSST GRAVEL	JAR	1	1Us		BS
1000	ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Us		BS
1000	ceramic	YORK		JUG	2	2Us		BS
1000	CTP	CTP		PIPE	1	1Us	SMALL HEEL BURNISHED AND SOOTED;CF AO25 SO PROBABLY 18TH C	BS
1001	ANBN	ANBN			1	1Ploughsoil	BURNT	BS
1001	ANBN	ANBN			1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1001	ceramic	CREA		PLATE	1	1Ploughsoil		BS

1001	ceramic	ENGS		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	BROWN GL EXT;WHITE GL INT	BS
1001	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED	BS
1001	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN GL	BS
1001	ceramic	HUM		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED;SOOTED EXT	BS
1001	ceramic	PMX	INCLUSIONLESS PINK FABRIC;SOME RECT VOIDS	POSS	1	1Ploughsoil	WHITE SLIPPED WITH FEATHERED SLIP	BS
1001	ceramic	RYEDALE		BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil	SOOTED BASE;INT GL;INT KETTLE FUR	B
1001	ceramic	RYEDALE		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1001	ceramic	STMO		POSS	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1001	ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	SQUARED RIM	R
1001	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	CUGL	BS
1001	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	APPLIED STRIP;CUGL	BS
1001	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	BALUSTER BASE;KT	B
1001	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	STRAP HANDLE WITH COMBED DEC;CUGL	H
1001	CTP	CTP		PIPE	1	1Ploughsoil	18TH OR 19TH C BORE DIAMETER	BS
1002	ANBN	ANBN			1	1Roman	BURNT	BS
1002	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1Roman		BS
1003	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN GL	BS
1003	ceramic	WALMGATE		JUG	2	2Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED	BS
1003	ceramic	WALMGATE		JUG	3	3Ploughsoil	PLAIN GL	BS
1003	ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	COLLAR RIM;SOOTED EXT	R
1004	ANBN	ANBN			1	1Roman		BS

1006	ANBN	ANBN			2	2Ploughsoil	BURNT	BS
1010	ceramic	BRANDSBY		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	CUGL EXT	BS
1012	ceramic	HILLAM	SSTMG;FINEGRAINED REDUCED MATRIX OXID SURFACES	JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	EVERTED LID-SEATED RIM;THUMBED ON EXT	R
1012	ceramic	HUM	PURPLE GL	JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	PURPLE GL EXT	BS
1015	STON	STON	CARB LIMESTONE		1	1Roman	SPALL FROM IRREGULAR ROUNDED PEBBLE;NUMEROUS FOSSILS VISIBLE AT X20	BS
1019	ceramic	NOTS		BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil	TURNED FOOTRING	B
1019	ceramic	STRE		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	THIN-WALLED;BROWN SLIPPED EXT;BLACK GL INT AND EXT (APART FROM CLOSE TO BASE);SHL=1035	BS
1020	ceramic	BL	SANDY FABRIC (NOT CMR)	BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1020	ceramic	CSTN	WRENTHORPE TYPE	CUP	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1020	ceramic	STAM		PTCH	1	1Ploughsoil	DRAB GLAZED KT BODY-SHERD	BS
1020	ceramic	STMO		POSS	1	1Ploughsoil		H
1023	ceramic	RYEDALE		CHAF	1	1Roman	HOLLOW BASE;CIRCULAR HOLE IN SIDE;CUGL	B
1024	ceramic	LPMLOC		FLP	1	1Ploughsoil		R
1024	ceramic	NOTS		TANK	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1024	ceramic	RYEDALE		JUG/JAR	2	2Ploughsoil		BS
1024	ceramic	STRE		CHP	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1024	ceramic	STSL	FINE-TEXTURED CMR	POSS	1	1Ploughsoil	WHITE SLIPPED AND PLAIN GL INT AND EXT;EXT COMBED SLIP?	BS
1024	ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		BS

1028	ANBN	ANBN		3	3Ploughsoil		BS
1028	ceramic	BEVO1/2	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	SPALLED GLAZE;LOOKS POSTMED?	BS
1028	ceramic	BEVO1/2	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil	THUMBED STRIP AROUND RIM;INT AND EXT CUGL	R
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	COMBED;YELLOW GL	BS
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	APPLIED STRIP;CUGL	BS
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	CUGL	BS
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	JUG	3	3Ploughsoil		BS
1028	ceramic	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	GROUPED THUMBING (UNDERNEATH AND ON SIDE);SAGGING BASE	R
1028	ceramic	HUM	JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED;PLAIN SAGGING BASE	B
1028	ceramic	HUM	JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED	BS
1028	ceramic	HUM	DJ	1	1Ploughsoil	COMBED BAND ON SHOULDER;UNGLAZED	BS
1028	ceramic	LHUM	BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil		B
1028	ceramic	LPMLOC	FLP	1	1Ploughsoil	RED SLIPPED	R
1028	ceramic	LPMLOC	FLP	1	1Ploughsoil		R
1028	ceramic	NOTS	JAR/BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil		B
1028	ceramic	RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil	INT AND EXT PLAIN GL	BS
1028	ceramic	RYEDALE	JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	INT PLAIN GL;SOOTED EXT;TWO GROOVED LINES ON SHOULDER	BS
1028	ceramic	TGW	POSS	1	1Ploughsoil	TUBE SPOUT	BS
1028	ceramic	YG	JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		BS



1028	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	VERT ROW OF DASHES BETWEEN A PAIR OF GROOVED LINES;CUGL	BS
1028	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	SQUARED RIM;CUGL	BS
1028	ceramic	YORK		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	UNGLAZED	BS
1028	ceramic	YORKE1		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		R
1028	CTP	CTP		PIPE	1	1Ploughsoil	17TH C BORE DIAMETER	BS
1028	CTP	CTP		PIPE	1	1Ploughsoil	17TH C BORE DIAM	BS
1028	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1Ploughsoil	PROBABLE NAIL SHAFT	BS
1028	PMGL	PMGL	DK GREEN	BOT	1	1Ploughsoil	FROM THE BASE OF AN ONION OR, MORE LIKELY, A MALLET BOTTLE	BS
1028	RUBBER	RUBBER		LID	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1028	STON	STON	MICACEOUS SST	ROOFER	1	1Ploughsoil	SMALL FRAGMENT POSSIBLY FROM ROOF TILE	BS
1030	Ceramic	BRANDSBY		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	SAGGING BASE WITH GROUPS OF THUMB IMPRESSIONS;SPOTS OF GLAZE	B
1030	ceramic	CSTN		CUP	1	1Ploughsoil	WIRE-CUT BASE (WHORLED TWISTED WIRE)	B
1030	ceramic	RYEDALE		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN GL EXT;GROOVES ON SHOULDER	BS
1034	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1034	ceramic	STCO		DISH	1	1Ploughsoil	COMBED SLIP	BS
1034	Ceramic	WHITE		EGG	1	1Ploughsoil	MOULDED IN TWO PIECES	BS
1034	Ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	COLLARED/SQUARE RIM	R
1034	Ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1035	ceramic	STRE		POSS	1	1Ploughsoil	SHL=1019	BS

1036	ceramic	CMW	SA Q >0.5MM;ROUNDED WHITE CLAY PELLETS	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	KT LOWER BODY;CUGL SPLASH	BS
1036	ceramic	FREC		DJ	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
1036	ceramic	GERW	A ANG Q >0.1MM;M MUSC >0.1MM BOWL		1	1Ploughsoil	CUGL	BS
1036	ceramic	HUM		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	ROLLED-OUT RIM;PURP GL	BS
1036	ceramic	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	WIRECUT BASE;RIM SCAR	BS
1036	ceramic	NOTS		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	RSD ON SHOULDER	BS
1036	ceramic	RED SANDY		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	WHITE SLIPPED EXT UNDER PLAIN GL;ABR	BS
1036	ceramic	RYEDALE		JUG/JAR	3	3Ploughsoil	PLAIN EXT GL	BS
1036	ceramic	RYEDALE		JUG/JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	STRAP HANDLE WITH THUMBED IMPRESSIONS B/H JOIN	BS
1036	ceramic	RYEDALE?		BOWL	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN GL INT;PAINT (2 LAYERS, PINK AND BLUE WITH GLASS/MINERAL INCLUSIONS) EXT	BS
1036	ceramic	STMO		TANK	1	1Ploughsoil		B
1036	ceramic	TPW		DISH	1	1Ploughsoil	WILLOW PATTERN EXT;CHRYSANTHS INT	R
1036	ceramic	YG		JAR	2	2Ploughsoil		BS
1036	ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil		R
1036	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	ROD HANDLE;CUGL	BS
1036	ceramic	YORK		JUG	4	4Ploughsoil	CUGL	BS
1038	Ceramic	YG		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	DEPO INT;SOOTED EXT	BS
1038	ceramic	YSPL	SHALE;FINE-GRAINED RED SST;LIGHT BODIED	JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN EXT GL	BS

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1039	ceramic	CSTN	FINE-TEXTURED CF WRENTHORPE	CUP	1	1Roman		BS
2004	ceramic	LPMLOC		FLP	1	1Ploughsoil		BS
2004	ceramic	YORK		JUG	1	1Ploughsoil	PLAIN SAGGING BASE;KT	B
2004	ceramic	YORK		JAR	1	1Ploughsoil	SQUARED RIM;REDUCED CORE AND INT	R

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**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**