

## **Assessment of pottery and other finds from White House, Bishopthorpe, North Yorkshire**

### ***Alan Vince***

One hundred and nineteen objects from a watching brief at White House, Bishopthorpe, North Yorkshire, were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code OSA02 WB31). The finds consisted mainly of medieval and later pottery with smaller quantities of animal bone, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, glass, iron, Romano-British pottery and stone.

The first indicate some activity in the Romano-British period, probably manuring rather than occupation. The main period of activity started in the medieval period and the earliest sherds present date to the early 13<sup>th</sup> century at the latest (they might be as early as the late 11<sup>th</sup> century). The medieval pottery indicates activity throughout the period with a slight emphasis on the late medieval material. The post-medieval period is mainly represented by fragments of several smashed vessels of mid/late 17<sup>th</sup>-century date but with some earlier and later finds. Later finds include sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and a clay pipe.

### **Animal Bone**

A single boar's tusk was recovered. There was no sign of reuse and it might be food debris.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

Twenty-seven fragments of ceramic building material were present. Nine pieces were too fragmentary for identification of the form but bricks (9), flat roof tiles (6) and pan tiles (2) were identified. In addition, a single piece of burnt clay, probably daub, was present. The latter piece, from context 1023 was at least 20mm thick and had a single flat face. It might therefore have been used with either wattles or laths and is probably of medieval date. The fired clay, however, is probably post-medieval. The bricks include one with grass impressions and another which was either knife-trimmed or machine-extruded. The pantiles are likely to be of later 17<sup>th</sup>-century or later date. They have fine quartz moulding sand on their surfaces.

### **Clay Tobacco Pipe**

A single pipe fragment was found, part of the bowl of a decorated spurred pipe of late 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>-century date.

### **Glass**

A single fragment of glass was found. It is probably the rim of a cup or tankard of late 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

## Iron

Four iron objects were found. All are heavily corroded but appear to be nails or nail shafts.

## Pottery

### Romano-British Pottery

Four sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. All were abraded and probably of mid/late Roman date (i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century). The wares represented are unsourced greyware, Eboracum ware and calcite-tempered ware.

### Medieval Pottery

Thirty-five sherds of medieval pottery were identified (Table 1). The earliest type present was York Gritty ware, which was in use in York from the later 11<sup>th</sup> century until the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. In the absence of any more closely-datable types it is not possible to prove that occupation began any earlier than the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A number of wares present probably date to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (BEVO, BRANDSBY, NLFS, RED SANDY, YORK) and a similar number to the late medieval period (DUTR, HUM, MP). The wares and forms present are typical of those found in York, from where it is likely that the pottery was obtained.

**Table 1**

Cname:	1005	1006	1021	1025	1039	1040	1046	1116	1119	us	Grand Total
BEVO		1									1
BRANDBY	1				1	2		1			5
DUTR										2	2
HUM	1	4	1							4	10
MP										1	1
NLFS										2	2
RED SANDY	1										1
YG	1			5	1		1			2	10
YORK	1								1		2
YORK?									1		1
Total	5	5	1	5	2	2	1	1	2	11	35

### Post-Medieval Pottery

Thirty-six sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. They include one ware which first occurred in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but was still in use in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Much of the pottery, however, was made from Coal Measure white-firing and red-firing clays. It might be of Staffordshire origin although a closer source is also possible. The sherds from 1094 form a mid/late 17<sup>th</sup>-century assemblage containing a tin-glazed chamber pot, a press-moulded Staffordshire embossed dish and Staffordshire wheelthrown

redware slip-trailed dishes. Context 1050 produced slightly later wares, of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. Context 1013 produced a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup>-century salt glazed ware.

An unusual find was a sherd from a redware dish whose fabric contains abundant micaceous silt. Visually, this is similar to the fabric of redwares made at Harlow and Stock in Essex alongside the better-known Metropolitan slipware. If this is indeed a sherd of London Post-medieval fine redware (PMFR) it should date to the early to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

**Table 2**

Cname:	1013	1048	1050	1094	us	Grand Total
PMFR					1	1
RYEDALE					3	3
STCO			8			8
STEM				6	1	7
STRE		1		6		7
STSL			1		4	5
SWSG	1					1
TGW				4		4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>

### Early Modern Pottery

Ten sherds of early modern pottery were present. Most of these were late Humber ware bowls together with single sherds of English stoneware (of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century or later date), a locally-produced flowerpot and a white ware bowl with a band of light blue slip on the exterior.

### Stone

Three fragments of stone were submitted. None is likely to have been humanly worked.

## Appendix One: List of submitted artefacts

Context:	Description:	Cname:	category	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	SUBFABRIC:	PART:
1005	DARK COATING ON ONE FACE (IRON? PAINT?);LOOKS MODERN	PMTIL	cbm	BRICK	1	1		BS
1005	CUGL	BRANDSBY	mpot	JUG	1	1		BS
1005		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS
1005	INT PLAIN GLAZE;NO SOOTING ON BASE (WHICH HAS WHITE SLIP)	RED SANDY	mpot	JAR/BOWL/DISH	1	1		BS
1005	SOOTED EXT	YG	mpot	JAR	1	1		BS
1005	CUGL;RECT RSD	YORK	mpot	JUG	1	1		BS
1006	VABR SCRAPS	PMTIL	cbm		2	2		BS
1006		PMTIL	cbm	FLAT	3	3		BS
1006		PMTIL	cbm	BRICK	4	4		BS
1006	PROBABLY A CORRODED NAIL HEAD	IRON	iron	NAIL	1	1		BS
1006	VABR;BURNT POST-BREAKAGE	BEVO	mpot	JUG	1	1		BS
1006		HUM	mpot	CIST	1	1		BS
1006		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS
1006		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS
1006	HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR BOTTLE FRAGS;UNGLAZED	HUM	mpot	DJ	1	1		BS
1010	GRASS IMPRESSIONS ON FACE	PMTIL	cbm	BRICK	1	1		BS
1010		LHUM	emod	JAR	2	1		BS
1013		PMTIL	cbm		2	2		BS
1013	VABR	LHUM	emod	BOWL	1	1		BS
1013	?SLIPPED;E18TH	SWSG	ppot	TANK	1	1		BS
1021		IRON	iron	NAIL	1	1		COMPLETE
1021	HEAVILY CORRODED AND INCOMPLETE	IRON	iron	PINTLE	1	1		BS
1021		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS
1023	AT LEAST 20MM THICK;ONE FLAT FACE;CONCRETIONS ON SURFACES (CALCIUM PHOSPHATE?)	BURNT CLAY	cbm	DAUB	1	1	ABUNDANT SA FINE SAND	BS
1025		YG	mpot	JAR	5	1		BS
1038	FINE SA SANDSTONE PEBBLE COATED WITH IRON PANNING	STONE	stone	GEO	1	1		BS
1039	VABR	MTIL	cbm		4	4		BS
1039	CYLINDRICAL NECK;ROUNDED RIM;ROD HANDLE;CUGL	BRANDSBY	mpot	JUG	1	1		BS
1039	SOOTED EXT	YG	mpot	JAR	1	1		BS
1039		STONE	stone	ROOFER?	1	1	MICACEOUS SST	BS
1039	ROUNDED PEBBLE	STONE	stone	GEO	1	1	GREY LIMESTONE	BS
1040	CYLINDRICAL NECK;FLAT RIM;CUGL	BRANDSBY	mpot	JUG	2	1		BS
1041	ID UNCERTAIN	LPMLOC	emod	FLP	1	1		BS
1046		PMTIL	cbm	BRICK	2	2		BS
1046	KT SURFACE UNDER MORTAR AND CONCRETION; MIGHT BE ROMAN?	PMTIL	cbm	BRICK	1	1		BS
1046	SOOTED EXT	YG	mpot	JAR	1	1		BS

1048		PMTIL	cbm	FLAT	1	1		BS
1048	SPURRED BOWL WITH MOULDED DEC;L18TH/19TH C	CTP	ctp	PIPE	1	1		BS
1048	MARBLED SLIP INT;MIGHT BE PRESS-MOULDED	STRE	ppot	DISH	1	1	CMR	BS
1050	FORMER HAS EMBOSSED INITIALS AND CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	STCO	ppot	DISH	8	1		BS
1050	MARBLED SLIP EXT	STSL	ppot	POSS	1	1		BS
1052	VABR SCRAP	PMTIL	cbm		1	1		BS
1052	MORTAR;SALT SURFACED	PMTIL	cbm	FLAT	1	1		BS
1052	MIGHT BE A NAIL SHAFT	IRON	iron		1	1		BS
1080	FLARING THICKENED RIM OR POSSIBLY PEDESTAL BASE	PMGL	glass	CUP	1	1	LTGR	R
1094		PMTIL	cbm	PANT	1	1	FINE SANDED BASE	BS
1094		PMTIL	cbm	FLAT	1	1		BS
1094		LHUM	emod	JAR	1	1		BS
1094	CENTRAL ANIMAL WITHIN DOTTED CIRCLE	STEM	ppot	DISH	6	1		R
1094	SLIP-TRAILED	STRE	ppot	DISH	2	1		R
1094	SLIP-TRAILED	STRE	ppot	DISH	1	1		R
1094		STRE	ppot	DISH	1	1		BS
1094		STRE	ppot	BOWL	2	1		R
1094		TGW	ppot	CHP	4	1		R
1116	INT PLAIN GL;EXT SOOT;VABR	BRANDSBY	mpot	JAR	1	1		BS
1116	INT BRISTOL GLAZE	ENGS	emod	JAR	1	1		BS
1116	INDUSTRIAL SLIP;LT BLUE BAND	WHITE	emod	BOWL	1	1		BS
1119	SOOTED EXT	YORK	mpot	JAR	1	1		B
1119	SOOTED EXT;EVERTED RIM	YORK?	mpot	JAR	1	1		R
us	BOARS TUSK - NO SIGN OF WORKING	ANBN	anbn	TOOTH	1	1		BS
US		PMTIL	cbm	PANT	1	1	FINE SANDED BASE	BS
US	SOOTED EXT	DUTR	mpot	FRYP	1	1		B
US		DUTR	mpot	JAR	1	1		R
US		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS
US		HUM	mpot	JUG/JAR	2	2		BS
US		HUM	mpot	BOT?	1	1		BS
US	BROWN WASH EXT	MP	mpot	JAR	1	1		BS
US	VABR	NLFS	mpot	JAR	2	2		BS
US		YG	mpot	JAR	2	2		BS
US		LHUM	emod	BOWL	1	1		R
US		LHUM	emod	BOWL	1	1		B
US		LHUM	emod	BOWL	1	1		BS
US	BROWN SLIP UNDER INT PLAIN GLAZE	PMFR	ppot	BOWL	1	1	SILTY MICACEOUS REDWARE	BS
US		RYEDALE	ppot	BOWL	1	1		BS
US		RYEDALE	ppot	BOWL	2	1		R
US	LIGHT AND BROWN TRAILED SLIP OVER	STEM	ppot	DISH	1	1		BS

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EMBOSSSED DEC							
US		STSL	ppot	POSS	1	1	B
US	EXT BROWN SLIP WITH JEWELLED WHITE SLIP OVER	STSL	ppot	POSS	1	1	BS
US	EXT BROWN SLIP	STSL	ppot	POSS	2	1	B
US	VABR	YORKE1	rpot		1	1	BS

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