

Assessment of Pottery and Other Finds from 131 The Mount, York

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A small quantity of pottery and ceramic building material from an evaluation at No 131, The Mount, York, was submitted for identification and assessment. The finds include Romano-British and medieval pottery and Romano-British and later ceramic building material, including a stamped imbrex tile.

Ceramic Building Material

Six fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. They vary considerably in fabric and firing. On the basis of their form, three fragments from context 205 are identified as medieval flat roof tiles. They have reduced cores and were produced in a slightly calcareous fabric tempered with a coarse sand similar to that to be found in and around York.

Two fragments from context 205 and one from context 109 appear to be of Romano-British date. One of these, from 205, may be an imbrex tile and is stamped on the crest. The stamp retains only two letters, both in Roman capitals. The first letter is D followed by B, E, P or R. It should be noted, however, that the 'Roman' tiles are fresher in appearance than the medieval ones and it is possible that they might be of modern date.

Table 1

Cname:SUBFABRIC:		109	205	Grand Total
MTIL	SLIGHTLY CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS;SA QUARTZOSE SAND INC SSTMG		3	3
RTIL	SILTY		1	1
RTIL	SILTY, SLIGHTLY CALCAREOUS		1	1
RTIL	VARIEGATED CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS;FEW LARGE INCLUSIONS	1		1

Pottery

Romano-British

Three sherds of Romano-British pottery were recorded. All were abraded, having lost their surfaces. They contrast with the supposed Romano-British tile. The sherds are of two fabrics, Eboracum ware and a local greyware. They are likely to be of 2nd/3rd century date.

Cname:	Form:	109	205	US	Grand Total
YORKE1			1		1
	FLAGON		1		1
YORKG1	JAR			1	1

Grand Total	1	1	1	3
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Medieval

Four sherds of medieval pottery were present. They range in date from the late 11th/early 13th century (York Gritty - YG) to the later 14th or 15th century (Humber ware – HUM). An unusual find is part of a Coal Measures Whiteware jug with a rod handle and copper-green glaze. The handle section is flattened and the handle is joined to the body with two large thumb impressions. Such vessels were produced at a number of centres to the south and west of York and without further analysis it is not possible to say which, if any, of the known production sites this vessel was made at.

Cname:	Form:	109	205	US	Grand Total
CMW	JUG	1			1
HUM	JAR		1		1
YG	JAR			1	1
YORK	JUG			1	1
Grand Total		1	1	2	4

Post-medieval

Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. One is a late 16th to mid 17th-century Midlands Yellow ware (MY) and the other a fragment of a Chinese export porcelain cup (CHPO), probably of 18th-century date.

Assessment

The large size and fresh appearance of the finds indicate that Romano-British and medieval activity took place on or close to the site. However, the *terminus post quem* for the deposition of context 109 is 18th century and that for context 205 is late 16th century.

Context:	Description:	Cname:	Form:	Nosh:	NoV:	SUBFABRIC:	PART:
109	ROD HANDLE WITH FLATTENED OVAL SECTION AND TWO THUMBED IMPRESSIONS AT B/H JOIN;CUGL	CMW	JUG	1	1		BS
109	MIGHT BE MODERN	RTIL		1	1	VARIEGATED CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS;FEW LARGE INCLUSIONS	BS
109		YORKE1		1	1		BS
109		CHPO	CUP	1	1		BS
205	ABR	MTIL	FLAT	3	3	SLIGHTLY CALCAREOUS GROUNDMASS;SA QUARTZOSE SAND INC SSTMG	BS
205	MIGHT BE MODERN	RTIL		1	1	SILTY	BS
205	MIGHT BE MODERN LAND DRAIN?;STAMPED. FIRST LETTER IS A CAPITAL D, FOLLOWED BY A P, R, B OR E	RTIL	IMPREX	1	1	SILTY, SLIGHTLY CALCAREOUS	BS
205	TURNED EXT;ABR	YORKE1	FLAGON	1	1		BS
205	VABR	HUM	JAR	1	1		BS
205	YELLOW GLAZED INT AND EXT	MY	JAR	1	1		BS
US	ABR	YORKG1	JAR	1	1		BS
US	ABR	YG	JAR	1	1		B
US	ABR	YORK	JUG	1	1	SOME WHITE CLAY PELLETS CF CMW	BS