

Assessment of Pottery from Ousecliffe Gardens, Clifton, York (OSA02 WB35)

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Five fragments of pottery and one piece of ceramic building material were submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds are small and abraded sherds of pottery, each coming from a different vessel. These characteristics are indicative of secondary or tertiary refuse, and an such might have arrived on site with manure/night soil or landfill derived from York itself, perhaps at some time much later than the period of currency of the finds. Nevertheless, they come from an isolated pit, 1002, and if taken at face value indicate that the pit was backfilled in the late 11th century or later but that it contained residual Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian finds. The fact that the pit was an isolated feature contrasts with this evidence for long-lived, multi-period, occupation.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

A small flake of tile with a curved surface was recovered. The fabric characteristics are typical of Romano-British bricks and tiles from York. This scrap might therefore be a fragment of an imbrex tile, as used on a tile roof on Romanised buildings.

Pottery

Anglo-Scandinavian

A base sherd from a thick-walled vessel with a coarse quartz sandstone-derived sand and an oxidized body. The sherd is both abraded and encrusted with an iron/phosphate-cemented deposit which makes identification uncertain. However, the fabric, thickness and presence of a flat base all suggest that this is a piece of Anglo-Scandinavian York ware (Mainman 1990 #20753). Excavations at Coppergate, York, suggest that this ware was in use in the late 9th and early 10th centuries and was replaced by Torksey ware during the mid 10th century.

11th to 12th century

Four sherds of York Gritty ware jars were found. This ware was first used in York in the late 11th century but continued in use throughout the 12th and into the 13th centuries.