

Assessment of the Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipes from 11 Walmgate, York (OSA03 EV01)

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Description

The archaeological evaluation at 11, Walmgate, York carried out by On Site Archaeology (OSA03 EV01) produced thirty-four sherds of pottery and ten fragments of clay tobacco pipe. The earliest material present was some residual sherds of Roman pottery, followed by a small collection of mid 12th-century or later pottery. The remaining finds were of late medieval, 17th/18th-century and 19th-century date.

Given the small size of the collection, the frequency of sherds of late medieval bottles or drinking jugs is notable and may indicate the presence of a tavern nearby.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Ten fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Those from context 1018 are probably a small mid/late 17th-century assemblage since one of the stem fragments has a wide bore diameter indicative of an early/mid 17th-century date and two of the remaining fragments are from mid/late 17th-century bowls.

The fragments from context 1008 have narrow bore diameters consistent with a late 18th or 19th-century date. They include joining fragments, which may indicate that they come from a primary refuse deposit.

The final fragment is a late 18th/19th-century stem with splashes of brown lead glaze. Such glaze was used in the late 18th/19th century on the mouthpieces of pipes.

Pottery

Roman

Two sherds of Ebor ware were found in context 1043. They are probably of late 1st to 3rd century date and are in a fresher condition than the sherds of medieval pottery in the same deposit. .

Medieval

Context 1043 produced two abraded sherds of Staxton-type jars, used for cooking from the mid 12th century onwards. A sherd of Beverley glazed ware from the same deposit is consistent with a mid 12th/early 13th century date.

Sherds of late medieval Humber ware and Brandsby-type ware were recovered from several contexts. The sherds are remarkably fresh condition and probably come from primary or secondary refuse deposits. The sherds include a high proportion of unglazed, crudely-made drinking jugs or bottles, of the type known as Holme-upon-Spalding Moor type. This vessel type is known from the later 13th century (for example in London-type ware, 1985) but is particularly common in late medieval deposits. The exact function of the vessels is unknown but the typically rough finish suggests that perhaps they

were used as disposable drink containers, perhaps in a tavern or market stall. It is quite common for these vessels to occur, as at 11 Walmgate, in high concentrations. The remaining late medieval sherds all come from jugs, but the absence of jars or other kitchen wares may be due to the small size of the collection.

Early Modern

Sherds of black-glazed ware which might be of any date from the later 17th to the 19th century were recovered from contexts 1010 and 1011. These sherds are relatively large and fresh.

A small quantity of early modern pottery was recovered from contexts 1008 and 1019. They are all small sherds of factory-made wares and could all be of early/mid 19th-century date.

Assessment

The pottery and clay tobacco pipes provide *termini post quem* for the deposits in which they were found (Table 1). They seem to indicate four periods of activity. The earliest of these is represented by context 1043, dating to the mid 12th century or later. The medieval pottery in this context is abraded.

The next phase is represented by contexts 1024 to 1036. The pottery from these contexts is fresh and consistent with it coming from primary or secondary refuse deposits. Although the pottery is of types with a broad date range, the lack of distinctive 15th - and 16th-century types probably suggests that the pottery is of late 14th century date. The high frequency of unglazed, poorly finished bottles/drinking jugs from these deposits suggests a specialised activity in the area, involving the consumption of liquid.

Three deposits contain 17th/18th-century material (1010, 1011 and 1018). These finds are also in fresh condition.

Finally, 19th-century finds come from contexts 1008, 1019 and 1101.

Table 1

Context	Description
1008	19 TH C
1010	18 TH /19 TH C
1011	18 TH /19 TH C
1018	17 TH /18 TH C
1019	19 TH C
1024	L14 TH /16 TH C
1028	L14 TH /16 TH C
1031	L14 TH /16 TH C
1033	L14 TH /16 TH C
1035	L14 TH /16 TH C
1036	L14 TH /16 TH C
1043	M12 TH C+
1101	18 TH /19 TH C

The finds require no further study but should be retained for future study.

Bibliography

Pearce, J E, Vince, A G, and Jenner, M A (1985) *A Dated Type-series of London Medieval Pottery: Part 2, London-type Ware*. London Middlesex Archaeol Soc Spec Pap 6 London, London Middlesex Archaeol Soc.

Appendix

Context	class	cname	Subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Part	Condition
1008	CERAMIC	CREA		TANK	1	1	1		BS	
1008	CERAMIC	PEAR		CUP	1	1	1	BROWN LINE AROUND INSIDE OF RIM	R	
1008	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	5	2	10	18TH/19TH C BORE DIAM	STEM	
1008	CERAMIC	TPW		CUP	1	1	1		BS	
1008		ZDATE						19TH C		
1010	CERAMIC	BL	VARIEGATED FINE SANDY TEXTURE;PINK	BOWL	2	1	127	INT BLACK GL	BS	
1010		ZDATE						18TH/18TH C		
1011	CERAMIC	BL		BOWL	1	1	14	BLACK GLAZE INT AND EXT;BEADED RIM	R	
1011		ZDATE						18TH/19TH C		
1018	CERAMIC	BRANDS	BY	JUG	1	1	21	CUGL	BS	BROWN CONCRETION
1018	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	31	7TH C BORE	STEM	
1018	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	3	OVERFIRED/SUBSEQUENTLY BURNT;17TH/18TH C BORE	STEM	
1018	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	4	PLAIN 18TH? C BOWL	BOWL	
1018	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	1	OVERFIRED/SUBSEQUENTLY BURNT;17TH C BOWL RIM	BOWL	
1018		ZDATE						17TH/18TH C		
1019	CERAMIC	TPW		CUP	2	1	1		BS	
1019		ZDATE						19TH C		
1024	CERAMIC	HUM		JUG	1	1	1	GLOSSY EXT BROWN GL	BS	

Context	class	cname	Subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Part	Condition
1024		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1028	CERAMICHUM			JUG/JAR	2	1	14		BS	
1028	CERAMICWALMGATE			JUG/JAR	2	1	40		B	
1028		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1031	CERAMICHUM			BOT/DJ	1	1	11	UNGLAZED HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR BOTTLE	BS	FRESH
1031	CERAMICHUM			JUG/JAR	3	3	49		BS	FRESH
1031		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1033	CERAMICHUM			JUG	1	1	121	UNGLAZED;FLAT BASE	B	
1033		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1035	CERAMICHUM			JUG/JAR	1	1	23		BS	FRESH
1035	CERAMICHUM			BOT/DJ	1	1	11	UNGLAZED HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR BOTTLE	BS	
1035		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1036	CERAMICBRANDBY			JUG	3	3	31		BS	
1036	CERAMICHUM			BOT/DJ	3	3	18	UNGLAZED HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR BOTTLE	BS	
1036	CERAMICHUM			BOT/DJ	2	1	107	UNGLAZED HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR BOTTLE	R;H	
1036		ZDATE						L14TH/16TH C		
1043	CERAMICBEVO			JUG	1	1	2		BS	
1043	CERAMICSTAXT			JAR	1	1	18		BS	GREEN CONCRETIONS
1043	CERAMICSTAXT			JAR	1	1	3		BS	ABR

Context	class	cname	Subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Part	Condition
1043	CERAMICYATE1			B	2	2	10		BS	
1043		ZDATE						M12TH C+		
1101	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1		18TH/19TH C BORE DIAM;SPLASHES OF 3BROWN GLAZE	STEM	
1101		ZDATE						18TH/19TH C		