

## Assessment of the non-metallic finds from Stamford Bridge, North Yorkshire (OSA02 WB36)

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Two hundred and forty two artefacts from a watching brief at Stamford Bridge, North Yorkshire, carried out by On Site Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code OSA02 WB36).

### Description

#### Ceramic Building Material and fired clay

Four fragments of flat roof tile were recovered. Such tiles were first used in the Vale of York in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but continued to be used throughout the medieval and earlier post-medieval period. One of these is noteworthy in that it has a nib fastening, is either a second or a waster and was made from a salt-rich calcareous clay. Eleven brick fragments were submitted. None had any closely-datable features (bricks, presumably of Flemish origin, have been found in 13<sup>th</sup>-century contexts at Bawtry, South Yorkshire and it is therefore dangerous to assume a late or post-medieval date). One of these bricks too was made from a calcareous, untempered clay.

Sixteen fragments of low-fired clay were recovered. Those from context 1101 include some thick fragments which, if they came from a wattle and daub structure, might have been expected to have wattle impressions. Their fabric is distinctive, and contains rounded fragments of fine-grained sandstone and rounded grains of shelly limestone up to 4.0mm across in a fine sandy groundmass. Straw impressions occur throughout. It is possible that these fragments are indeed from early handmade bricks. The characteristics of the fabric do not necessarily suggest a local origin.

**Table 1**

Context	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	Subfabric	Part	Sitecode	Use
1101	MAY BE CRUDE BRICKS?	FCLAYDAUB?	15		FINE SANDY MATRIX;ROUNDED FINE- GRAINED SST <4.0MM;ROUNDED GREY SHELLY LST >4.0MM;STRAW IMPRESSIONS	BS	osa02wb36	
2201		FCLAYDAUB	1			BS	osa02wb36	
1011		MTIL	FLAT	1		BS	osa02wb36	
1015		MTIL	FLAT	1		BS	osa02wb36	
2201		MTIL	NIB	1	SALT-SURFACED	BS	osa02wb36	BLOATED SECOND/WASTER
2201		MTIL	FLAT	1	BEVO?	BS	osa02wb36	
1011		PMTIL	BRICK	7		BS	osa02wb36	
1015		PMTIL	BRICK	1	CALC BODY	BS	osa02wb36	
1015		PMTIL	BRICK	2		BS	osa02wb36	
2400		PMTIL	BRICK	1		BS	osa02wb36	

## **Pottery**

One hundred and seventy one sherds of pottery were submitted. All were of medieval or later date, with just one sherd being potentially earlier than the Norman conquest.

### **11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century**

A sherd of Stamford ware cooking pot was identified. These vessels were made in Stamford, Lincolnshire, in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the Vale of York cooking pots in this ware are uncommon, probably because similar whiteware vessels were available locally from the late 11<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It is possible, therefore, that the vessel dates to the period before York Gritty ware was introduced.

Two sherds of York Gritty ware were found. This ware was produced from the later 11<sup>th</sup> to the early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and there is at present no means of dating these sherds more closely. However, they are potentially some of the earliest sherds from the site.

### **12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century**

Fifteen sherds of types produced from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century were found. Apart from a single sherd of Staxton-type ware the sherds are of glazed sand-tempered whiteware vessels (York Glazed ware, YORK). Most of these sherds came from jugs. This high proportion of jugs to jars, together with the low number of York Gritty ware sherds present, suggest that most of these sherds date to the 13<sup>th</sup> rather than the late 12<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

Sixty-seven sherds of Brandsby-type ware jugs were found. These came from at most eighteen vessels. Several of these vessels were found in association with Humber ware jugs in contexts 1816 and 1818 and this suggests that they date to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later. Furthermore, of the seven remaining groups, two were noted as being either Brandsby-type ware or its successor, Hambleton-type ware which dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, there are few sherds on the site which are likely to date to the late 13<sup>th</sup>/early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Mid 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.**

Most of the medieval pottery from the watching brief could be dated to this period and most of that comes from three contexts: 1816, 1818 and 2303. The sherds from these contexts are from smashed vessels which either represent a single calamitous event, or the deliberate clearance of a household's goods. In either case, the vessels are most likely to be of one date. Since several of the vessels are Brandsby-type ware, one of which is a bung-hole pitcher, a type which first appears in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, whilst other vessels are of Humber ware, which came into use in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century it is likely that this deposit can be dated to the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The remaining sherds of late medieval type include some possible examples of Hambleton ware which suggest a 15<sup>th</sup> century date

but also an unglazed bottle or drinking jug of Holme upon Spalding Moor type. These vessels are thought to date mainly to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### 16<sup>th</sup> century

Ten sherds of late 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century date were submitted. They include black-glazed Cistercian ware cups and Ryedale ware bowls. In addition, a single sherd of a Martincamp grey stoneware flask may be of similar date, although such vessels were also used in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### Later Post-medieval and Modern

Seven sherds of later post-medieval or later pottery were submitted. They include Late Humber ware bowls, a type which was still in using in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but was probably first produced in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, an unidentified post-medieval redware of similar date and sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century factory-made products. The latter includes stoneware flagons of mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century or later date stamped with the names of local Stamford Bridge merchant(s).

### Stone

Twelve fragments of stone were submitted. Two of these were flint flakes, neither of which showed indisputable signs of being humanly worked. Nevertheless, flint is not a common component of Vale of York gravels and it is therefore possible that they are evidence for prehistoric activity. A fragment of burnt Coal Measures shale is probably waste from a domestic coal fire, quite possibly of recent date, and the remainder are, in the writer's opinion, unworked pebbles.

**Table 2**

ContextSF	Description	Form	NoShSubfabric	Use
1011 7	FLAKE OF WHITE FLINT WITH NO REAL EVIDENCE FOR BEING STRUCK	GEOL?	1	FLINT
1011 9	FLAKE OF WHITE FLINT WITH NO REAL EVIDENCE FOR BEING STRUCK	GEOL?	1	FLINT
1104		GEOL	1	FLINT
1816		CHIP	3	GREY LIMESTONE
1017		GEOL	1	
1400		GEOL	1	
1400		GEOL	1	
1405		GEOL	1	

1801	GEOL	1		
2400	WASTE1	CMSHALE	BURNT	

## Assessment

One hundred and eighty seven of the finds were intrinsically datable and each was assigned a *terminus post quem* (ie the date after which the deposit they were found in must have been laid down). These are shown in Table 00. It can be seen that in many cases the individual artefacts from a single context have different tpqs. In some cases this is because the finds are of types with differing periods of use and the assemblage actually contains items that could have been used at one time. In others, however, the sherds are of types which never overlapped and in these cases the deposit contains a mixed assemblage. In these cases interpretation of the date of deposition depends on the interpretation of the stratigraphy. Three deposits can be dated with more certainty to the later 14<sup>th</sup> century: contexts 1816, 1818 and 2308. In each case excavation produced fresh joining sherds suggesting the presence of vessels which had been smashed and discarded but not subsequently moved or redeposited. One of these groups contains a single 19<sup>th</sup>-century sherd (1818) which is probably intrusive and is ignored in assigning a *tpq*. In the case of contexts 1816 and 1818, the former deposit came from a ditch cutting through the latter and it is clear that the sherds in 1816 were disturbed from 1818. The third context, 2308, is interpreted as destruction debris from a building seen in Foundation Trench 13. If so, it is possible that the pottery consists of the latest contents of that building, some of which was left in the building's debris and the remainder disposed of in ditch 1819.

Context 2400 produced another relatively closely-datable assemblage, which taken as a whole points to an early 16<sup>th</sup>-century date. The remaining material provides only an earliest possible date for deposition.

**Table 3**

Context	11.1	11.2	12.2	13.1	13.2	14.2	15.2	16.1	16.2	17.2	18.2	19.1	Total	TPQ
1010					2								2	L13th c
1011		1			1			7	1				10	L17th c
1015		1				1		3	1				6	L17th c
1017		4		1									5	L13th c
1100									1				1	L17th c
1104										1			1	L18th c

1816				2	22							24	L14th c	
1818				54	18						1	73	L14th c	
1901		1			3							4	L14th c	
2001				1								1	E13th c	
2003		1										1	L12th c	
2100		2										2	L12th c	
2201		2			1							3	L14th c	
2211				1								1	L13th c	
2212	1	1		1								3	L13th c	
2307		1										1	L12th c	
2308					11							11	L14th c	
2317	2	2	1									5	E13th c	
2400				5	12	4	3	1				25	E16th c	
US		1		1	1		1	1		1	2	8	NA	
Total	1	2	17	2	67	69	5	4	12	3	2	3	187	NA

These finds indicate that occupation started in the Manor House area at the latest in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and there are hints of earlier activity, possibly even extending back to the conquest period or before. However, this cannot be proved on the basis of this small collection. Of particular interest is the group of finds from 1816/1818 and 2308, which it is suggested here might be the results of the destruction of a single dwelling and its contents in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. These finds include three pottery vessels which should be reconstructed, photographed and drawn in order to make a proper record of the material. There are vague hints of later activity, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but the next definite phase recognised in the finds is the group of material from context 2400 which indicates occupation in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. This is clearly a different and much later episode than that in 1816/1818 and 2308.

## Costings

An estimate is being sought for the reconstruction (either permanent, using adhesive, or temporary, using masking tape) of the vessels from 1816/1818 and 2308 and their illustration and photography.

Two hours (at £22.00 per hour, plus VAT) would be required to write a short note to accompany the illustrations in an academic journal.

Appendix One

Context	REFNO	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
1010		CERAMIC	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
1010		CERAMIC	BRANDSBY/HAMBLETON	JUG	1	1		B				
1011		CBM	MTIL	FLAT	1	1		BS				
1011		CERAMIC	LHUM	BOWL	1	1		BS			ABR	
1011		CERAMIC	HUM	JUG/JAR	1	1		BS				
1011		CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	7	7		BS				
1011	7	STON	STON	GEOL?	1	1	FLINT	BS	FLAKE OF WHITE FLINT WITH NO REAL EVIDENCE FOR BEING STRUCK		ROLLED	
1011	9	STON	STON	GEOL?	1	1	FLINT	BS	FLAKE OF WHITE FLINT WITH NO REAL EVIDENCE FOR BEING STRUCK			
1011	1	IRON	IRON	NAIL	2	2		BS				
1015		CBM	MTIL	FLAT	1	1		BS				
1015		CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1	CALC BODY	BS				
1015		CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	2	2		BS				
1015		CERAMIC	LHUM	BOWL	1	1		BS				
1015		CERAMIC	CSTN	CUP	1	1		BS				
1017		IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
1017		CERAMIC	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
1017		CERAMIC	YORK	JUG	2	2		BS				

Context	REFN	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
		C										
1017		STONE	STONE	GEOL	1	1		BS				
1017	12	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
1017		CERAMI C	YORK	JAR	2	2		BS				
1017	13	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
1100		CERAMI C	PMR	BOWL	1	1		BS	18TH C?			
1101		FCLAY	FCLAY	DAUB?	15	15	FINE SANDY MATRIX;ROUNDED FINE- GRAINED SST <4.0MM;ROUNDED GREY SHELLY LST >4.0MM;STRAW IMPRESSIONS	BS	MAY BE CRUDE BRICKS?			
1104		CERAMI C	CREA	PLATE	1	1		BS				
1104		STON	STON	GEOL	1	1	FLINT	BS				
1400		STONE	STONE	GEOL	1	1		BS				
1400		STONE	STONE	GEOL	1	1		BS				
1405		STONE	STONE	GEOL	1	1		BS				
1801		STONE	STONE	GEOL	1	1		BS				
1816		STON	STON	CHIP	3	1	GREY LIMESTONE	BS				
1816		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
1816		IRON	IRON		11	1		BS	UNIDENTIFIED SCRAPS			
1816		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
1816		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	16	1		BS				



Context	REFN	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
1816		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	6	6		BS				
1818		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	16	1		R				DR
1818		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	24	1		B				DR
1818		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	CIST	25	1		B				DR
1818		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JAR	1	1		R				
1818		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	2	1		BS				
1818		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS	APPLUED THUMBED STRIP OVER HORIZ GROOVES			
1818		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	3	1		R				
1818		CERAMI C	ENGS	JAR	1	1		BS				
1901		CERAMI C	HUM	BOT	1	1		BS	HOLME-UPON-SPALDING MOOR TYPE			
1901		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	2	2		BS				
1901		CERAMI C	YORK	JAR	1	1		BS				
2001		CERAMI C	YORK/BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS	GREY (POST-FIRING REDUCTION?)			
2003		CERAMI C	YORK	JAR	1	1		BS		SOOTED EXT		
2100		CERAMI C	YORK	JUG	1	1		BS	INCISED DEC;CUGL			

Context	REFN	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
2100		CERAMI C	YSPL	JUG	1	1		BS				
2201		CBM	MTIL	NIB	1	1	SALT-SURFACED	BS		BLOATED SECOND/WASTE R		
2201		CBM	FCLAY	DAUB	1	1		BS				
2201		CBM	MTIL	FLAT	1	1	BEVO?	BS				
2201		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	1	1		BS				
2211		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
2212		CERAMI C	STAM	JAR	1	1		BS		SOOTED EXT		
2212		CERAMI C	STAXT	JAR	1	1		BS				
2212	20	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
2212		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
2307		CERAMI C	YORK	JUG	1	1		BS	INTERMITTENTLY THUMBED BASE		SOOTED POST- BREAKAGE	
2308		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	8	1		BS				
2308		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG	3	1		BS				
2317		CERAMI C	YG	JAR	2	2		BS				
2317		CERAMI C	YORK/BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS				
2317		CERAMI	YORK	JUG	2	1		BS				

Context	REFN	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
		C										
2400		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	1	1		BS		INT DEPO		
2400		CERAMI C	STONE	WASTE	1	1	CMSHALE	BS		BURNT		
2400		CERAMI C	RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	2	1		R				
2400		CERAMI C	CSTN	CUP	2	2		H				
2400		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	1	1		H	OVAL-SECTIONED			
2400		CERAMI C	HUM	JAR	1	1		R				
2400		CBM	PMTIL	BRICK	1	1		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	7	7		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	5	5	SOME HAMBLETON?	BS				
2400		CERAMI C	RYEDALE	JUG	1	1		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	CSTN	CUP	1	1		BS				
2400		CERAMI C	CSTN	CUP	1	1		BS	GROUP OF THREE WHITE BLOBS			
2400		IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				

Context	REFN	class	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use	Condition	Action
2400	18	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
2400	21	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
2400	17	IRON	IRON	PINTLE	1	1		BS				
US		CERAMI C	ENGS	FLAG	1	1		BS	STAMPED			PH
US		CERAMI C	ENGS	FLAG	1	1		BS	STAMPED			PH
US	14	IRON	IRON	NAIL	2	2		BS				
US	11	IRON	IRON	WEDGE	1	1		BS				
US		CERAMI C	YORK	JUG	1	1		BS	ROD HANDLE E13THC?			
US	5	IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
US		IRON	IRON	HOSH	1	1		BS	LARGE WITH ONE NAIL REMAINING			
US		CERAMI C	RYEDALE	JUG/JA R	1	1		BS	CORDON ON NECK;GL INT AND EXT			
US		CERAMI C	HUM	JUG/JA R	1	1		BS				
US		CERAMI C	BRANDSBY	JUG	1	1		BS			ABR	
US		CERAMI C	MART	FLASK	1	1		BS				
US		IRON	IRON	NAIL	1	1		BS				
US	3	COPP	COPP	COIN	1	1		BS	GEORGE III HALFPENNY 1775. LITTLE WEAR SO PROBABLY LOST IN L18TH/E19TH C		BRONZE DISEASE	