

Assessment of the pottery and other finds from the VMS, York (OSA03 WB07)

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A watching brief carried out during the construction of the Vehicle Management System in York (Site Code: OSA03 WB07). Seven foundations produced pottery or other finds, ranging in date from the Roman period to the early modern period. These include a group of finds from Gillygate which, together with earlier finds in this area, suggest the existence of a short-lived extramural settlement in this area during the later 1st century. A second item of particular interest was an almost complete ceramic water pipe from Bootham, found associated with 3rd/4th-century Roman pottery.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Six fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, all of Roman date. Those from locations 17 and 19 were roof tiles, *tegulae* and *imbrices*. From location D came an almost complete water pipe. This pipe was wheelthrown and almost cylindrical for most of its length with a narrower neck at one end. This neck was broken off so it was not possible to see how it joined onto the next pipe. However, there was no sign of either mortar or wood tar on the pipe so it is likely that the seal was made good by padding the joint with something organic, such as moss.

The pipe has clearly not been moved far from its original place of use, otherwise it would undoubtedly have broken. Therefore, it provides evidence for a piped water supply presumably running along the line of Bootham to the west gate of the fortress.

Glass

Two pieces of glass were recovered. One, from Location D, is the neck of a post-medieval dark green bottle. The slight corrosion of the glass and the width and shape of the neck suggest that it came from a late 17th to mid 18th-century wine bottle.

The glass from Location 19 is from a blue glass square bottle. The glass was found on the site of a known extra-mural cemetery and such bottles were used as cremation containers and as grave goods in pagan inhumation burials.

Pottery

Roman

Roman pottery was recovered from four locations: C, D, 2 and 19.

Seven sherds were recovered from context 5003 in Location C. The collection is of early 3rd century date and includes an unusual calcite-tempered jar sherd which in addition to the standard sparry calcite contains numerous fragments of oolitic limestone.

Fragments of seven vessels were recovered from Location D. Context 6002 produced a handle from an unidentified amphora type whilst context 6003 produced a group of 3rd/4th century wares, including a body sherd from a Biv amphora (YATAP45), from the eastern Mediterranean.

Fragments of six vessels were recovered from Location 2. Context 2002 produced a body sherd of Dr 20 amphora, from southwestern Spain (YATAP25). Context 2005 produced a small collection of locally-produced wares of late 1st century date.

Location 19 produced a moderately large collection of pottery, all from context 1905. The collection dates between the later 2nd to early 3rd centuries and contains a range of amphora sherds and other imports. The amphora types present include Dressel 2-4 (YATAP10), Carrot amphora (YATAP12), a Rhodian amphora (YATAP09) as well as Dressel 20 and Gauloise 4 amphorae. Samian vessels of Central Gaulish, Southern Gaulish and Eastern Gaulish types are present. A Cologne colour-coated beaker was present and a Pompeian Red platter. The latter, however, does not seem to belong to any of the fabric groups identified by Peacock (1977) and may be a Romano-British imitation.

The remaining wares in this assemblage are mostly locally-made vessels but include some Dorset Black Burnished ware dishes. A sherd of a flat-based vessel with large granitic inclusions (mainly biotite with some feldspar) might be a local 'native' ware or possibly an imported coarseware vessel. Similar fabrics are known from central Gaul, for example.

Medieval

Medieval pottery was recovered from five locations: D, 2, 7, 9 and 17.

The earliest pottery was a sherd of York Gritty ware (YG) from Location 7. This ware was first produced in the immediately post-coquest period but continued in production into the 13th century. Other sherds from the same context are much later in date so it is impossible to date the sherd more closely.

Four sherds of later 12th to mid 13th-century date were recovered from context 6002. Three are of York glazed ware and one of Red Sandy ware. Context 6002 produced pottery of a wide range of dates, up to the later 16th century or later.

Three sherds of later 13th to 14th-century Brandsby-type ware were recovered, from contexts 1701 and 6002.

Six sherds of later medieval pottery were recovered, from contexts 2002, 700, 901 and 6002. Most of the sherds were Humber ware whilst one of the sherds from 6002 was Hambleton ware.

Post-medieval and later

Two vessels of Late Humber ware were recovered, from contexts 700 and 6002. The latter vessel is represented by three large sherds, from a conical pantheon. Late Humber ware was first produced in the later 16th century but is often found in association with early modern factory products and probably continued to be produced into the 19th century. However, the lack of such factory products from either context probably indicates an earlier date in this case.

A handle from a large stoneware tankard or flagon from context 1701 has a fine-textured grey fabric similar to that of Derbyshire stoneware, which was first produced in the early 19th century. However, the vessel has a brown wash which gives it a rather different appearance to vessels of that ware and it is therefore classed as an unidentified English Stoneware (ENGS).

Assessment

There is a difference in the type of assemblages found in these VMS foundations between the Roman examples, all of which appear to be closely-datable assemblages and the medieval and later ones, all of which are mixed and only provide a *terminus post quem* for the deposition of the context in which they were found.

Location C

Context 5003 produced a small but coherent group of early 3rd century pottery.

Location D

Context 6003 produced a small group of 3rd to 4th-century pottery and a nearly complete water pipe. Context 6002 contained a mixed assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery, the earliest sherds of which are of later 12th to mid 13th-century date.

Location 2

Context 2005 produced a small but coherent group of late 1st-century date and context 2002 produced two sherds of later medieval pottery.

The Roman pottery is of the same date as that from two earlier excavations in Gillygate and suggests that there was short-lived extramural settlement in front of the fortress defences on its northwest side. The character of the pottery suggests that this activity was broad-based domestic occupation rather than a specialised activity.

Location 7

Context 700 produced three sherds of medieval and later pottery, ranging in date from the later 11th/early 13th centuries to the later 16th to 19th centuries.

Location 9

Context 901 produced a single sherd of Humber ware, dating to the later medieval period.

Location 17

Context 1701 produced fragments of Roman building material, a sherd of later 13th to 14th-century date and a sherd of later 18th or 19th-century date.

Location 19

Context 1905 produced a moderate sized group of later 2nd to early 3rd-century pottery, a fragment of a Roman glass bottle and fragments of Roman ceramic building material.

Further study

Three of the Roman vessels are of types which cannot be paralleled precisely in Monaghan's corpus of Roman pottery from York and it is suggested that these are illustrated for future reference (Table 1). The water pipe from location 2 is also worthy of illustration.

Table 1

Location	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	cname	full name	Form	Broad Class
LOC02	2005	1	1D1	YATE01	Ebor 1	KP2	Beaker	
LOC02	2005	5	1D?	YATE01	Ebor 1	FR1	Flagons	
LOC19	1905	1	1D2	YATT03	Pompeian Red	P?	Platters	

The pottery does not justify further study at this stage but should be retained for future study.

Appendix

Sitecode	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	Form	Class	cname	Description	Part	Use	Condition
LOC02	2002	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP25			BS		
LOC02	2002	1	1		JUG/JAR	POTTERYHUM			BS		
LOC02	2002	1	1		JUG/JAR	POTTERYHUM			H		
LOC02	2005					POTTERYZDATE	CP1B		BS		
LOC02	2005					POTTERYZZZ	GILLYGATE;TR2; BAG MARKED 2003		BS		
LOC02	2005	1	1		CLSD	POTTERYYATE01	BASE MOULDED POSS FLAGON		BS		BURNTE
LOC02	2005	1	1D1		KP2	POTTERYYATE01	RIM SHLDR; CF 3916		BS		
LOC02	2005	3	1		J	POTTERYYATF02	BASES BS MOULDED; SLIGHT BURNISH		BS		SOOTIN
LOC02	2005	3	1		J;K	POTTERYYATG01	BSS SCORED BODY GROOVES; THIN WALLED		BS		
LOC02	2005	5	1D?		FR1	POTTERYYATE01	RIMS BS NECK BASE; GOOD EG		BS		
loc07	700	1	1		JAR	POTTERYYG			BS		SOOTED EXT
loc07	700	1	1		JUG/JAR	POTTERYHUM			BS		
loc07	700	1	1		DISH	POTTERYLHUM			R		
loc09	901	1	1		JUG/JAR	POTTERYHUM			BS		
loc17	1701	1	1		JUG	POTTERYBRANDBY	ROD HANDLE		R		
loc17	1701	1	1		IMBR	CBM	RTIL		BS		
loc17	1701	1	1		TEG	CBM	RTIL		BS		
loc17	1701	1	1		JUG	POTTERYENG	WIDE OVAL HANDLE, RATS TAIL AT B/H. MIGHT BE V LARGE TANKARD;BROWN WASH		BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP09	BS W SERPENTINE		BS		

Sitecode	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	Form	Class	cname	Description	Part	Use	Condition
LOC19	1905	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP10		RIM BLK SAND ? ITALIAN	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP12		BS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP25		BS	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	1	1		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP25		BS 2C FAB	BS		
LOC19	1905	2	1		AP27	POTTERYYATAP27		BSS	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	4	4		AMPH	POTTERYYATAP27		FLAKES	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	1	1		D	POTTERYYATB01		BS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		DP	POTTERYYATB01		RIM UPPER WALL	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		DP1	POTTERYYATB01		RIM GIRTH FINE VARIANT	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	1	1		D	POTTERYYATB02		BS BASAL	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	2	2		D	POTTERYYATB02		BASE BS FINE CF KENT	BS		
LOC19	1905	4	1		DP7	POTTERYYATB02		RIM BSS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		CLSD?	POTTERYYATB03		BS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		J	POTTERYYATB03		RIM CURVED	BS		
LOC19	1905	3	3		CLSD	POTTERYYATB03		BSS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		KB1?	POTTERYYATC27?		BS; PROB KOLN HIUNT BEAKER BUT TOO SMALL	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		BB	POTTERYYATE01		RIM UPPR WALL	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		CLSD	POTTERYYATE01		BASE	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		JB2	POTTERYYATE01		RIM SHLDR; CF 3767	BS		
LOC19	1905	2	1		CLSD	POTTERYYATE01		BS SCORED GROOVES	BS		
LOC19	1905	2	2		J;K	POTTERYYATE01		BSS; THIN	BS		
LOC19	1905	5	5		CLSD	POTTERYYATE01		BSS	BS		

Sitecode	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	Form	Class	cname	Description	Part	Use	Condition
LOC19	1905	1	1		CLSD	POTTERYYATE08	BS		BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		CLSD	POTTERYYATG00	BS	VITIRIFIED	BS		SACLE
LOC19	1905	1	1		BC	POTTERYYATG01		RIM UPPER WALL	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		JE	POTTERYYATG01		RIM NECK	BS		
LOC19	1905	2	2		J	POTTERYYATG01		BSS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		J	POTTERYYATG01?		BASE STRING MOULDED NARROW JAR; 50%	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		L?	POTTERYYATO00		RIM? SOOT	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	1	1		P?	POTTERYYATO00		BASE;EXOTICA ;COARSE EARLY C GAUL CF TYERS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		18	POTTERYYATS01		FTRG	BS		
LOC19	1905	2	1		37	POTTERYYATS01B?		BSS DEC MONTANS?	BS		ABR
LOC19	1905	1	1		18/31	POTTERYYATS03		FTRG	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		37	POTTERYYATS04?		RIM	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1D2		P?	POTTERYYATT03		RIM V UNUS FAB COARSE Q CF DORSET; LID?	BS		SOOTIN
LOC19	1905	1	1		F?	POTTERYYATW01		BS	BS		
LOC19	1905					POTTERYZDATE		CP2B-3A	BS		
LOC19	1905					POTTERYZZZ		STATION ROAD; GOOD RANGE AMPH;IMPORTS	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		BOT	GLAS	RGLAS	SQUARE BOTTLE	BS		
LOC19	1905	1	1		TEG	CBM	RTIL		BS		
LOC19	1905	2	2			CBM	RTIL		BS		
OSA03WB07C5003						POTTERYZDATE		CP3A	BS		
OSA03WB07C5003						POTTERYZZZ		BLOSSOM STREET	BS		
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1		31?	POTTERYYATS03		BS OR 37 GROOVED	BS		MORTAR

Sitecode	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	Form	Class	cname	Description	Part	Use	Condition
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1	J		POTTERYYATE01	BS		BS		
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1	J		POTTERYYATE02	BS		BS		BURNT
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1	J		POTTERYYATB03	BS		BS		
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1	J		POTTERYYATB03	BS THICKISH 2 SCOTRED GROOVES		BS		
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1			POTTERYYATK00	FLAKE W OOLITHS		BS		ENCRUST
OSA03WB07C5003		1	1	K		POTTERYYATC1A	BS		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	JUG		POTTERYRED SANDY	CUGL		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	JUG		POTTERYYORK	CUGL		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		2	1	JUG		POTTERYYORK	CUGL;RECT RSD		R		
OSA03WB07D6002		2	2	JUG		POTTERYYORK	CUGL;VERT TRIAPP		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	JUG		POTTERYBRANDBY	CUGL;ROD		H		
OSA03WB07D6002		2	2	JUG		POTTERYBRANDBY	CUGL		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	BOT		GLAS PMGL	NECK;L17TH/M18THC (ONION/MALLET)		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	JUG		POTTERYHAMBLETON	CUGL		BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	AMPH		POTTERYYATAA			H		
OSA03WB07D6002		1	1	JUG/JAR		POTTERYHUM			BS		
OSA03WB07D6002		3	1	PANC		POTTERYLHUM			R		
OSA03WB07D6003						POTTERYZDATE	CP3-4		BS		
OSA03WB07D6003						POTTERYZZZ	BOOTHAM		BS		
OSA03WB07D6003		1	1	AP45		POTTERYYATAP45	BS WHT V MICA SLIP; FAINT RIB		BS		
OSA03WB07D6003		1	1	D		POTTERYYATB02	BASE FINE ENTISH FAB CF NEW FRESH WHARF		BS		
OSA03WB07D6003		1	1	79		POTTERYYATS03	RIM		BS		

Sitecode	Context	Nosh	NoV	Action	Form	Class	cname	Description	Part	Use	Condition
OSA03WB07D6003		1	1		JD1	POTTERYYATH01	RIM		BS		SOOT
OSA03WB07D6003		1	1		31	POTTERYYATS04	RIM GIRTH		BS		ENCRUST
OSA03WB07D6003		7	1		JC	POTTERYYATB03	BSS; OPEN LATICE DEC L2C-E3		BS		