

Assessment of the Finds from Finkle Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire (OSA04 EV02)

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Eleven pieces of pottery and a piece of animal bone were recovered from an archaeological evaluation at Finkle Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, carried out by On-Site Archaeology (Site Code OSA04 E02).

The finds range in date from the medieval period to the 19th century.

Description

Pottery

Ceramic Building Material

A small fragment of flat roof tile was recovered from context 1003. The fabric is very fine textured with quartz and some muscovite silt visible in the groundmass. The tile has sooting on one face, suggesting that it was used on a roof above an open hall in which the smoke was allowed to rise to the roof.

Medieval

Two sherds of medieval pottery and one sliver of pottery or glazed roof tile were recovered from context 2006. One of the sherds has a light-firing fabric and contains numerous rounded dense white clay pellets up to 3.0mm across. There were few other visible inclusions and the groundmass was moderately micaceous. These characteristics suggest that the sherd was a Coal Measures Whiteware (CMW), a type produced at a number of centres in Yorkshire, Co Durham and the Midlands. Without further study it is not possible to say where this sherd was produced. This sherd has a copper-green glaze. CMW is predominantly a high and late medieval ware, produced between c.1250 and c.1500. The second sherd has a dark grey fabric with few inclusions larger than 0.1mm across. The groundmass is silty with abundant muscovite mica laths. The vessel had an external lead glaze which appears green because it was fired in a reducing atmosphere. The third piece is a fragment of tile or pot with one flat surface. It has a fabric tempered with abundant rounded and subangular quartz sand, probably of Permo-Triassic origin and has spots of external glaze. As a group these sherds are probably of late 13th to late 15th century date.

A sherd of Northern Gritty ware was recovered from context 1003. This ware contains large fragments of sandstone, in this case probably of lower Carboniferous Millstone Grit origin. The sherd has a single splash of external plain lead glaze. Northern Gritty wares were probably made at numerous sites to the west of the vale of York and requires further study to establish its chronology

and sources. This sherd, however, is a featureless body sherd and it is doubtful if even after this future study it could be closely dated.

Post-medieval

A fragment of a Staffordshire Mottled ware tankard was found in context 2001 and another fragment of Staffordshire Mottled ware, possibly from a jar, was present in context 1001. This ware was first produced in the late 17th or very early 18th century and continued to be produced to the end of the 18th or early 19th century.

Early Modern

Six sherds of 19th-century pottery were recovered from context 1001. As a group, they probably date to the mid/late 19th century. The wares present (Table 1) are all factory products made in a number of centres throughout the country.

Table 1

Code	Name
CONP	English or Continental Porcelain
NCBW	Buffware
TPW	Transfer-printed ware
WHITE	Miscellaneous 19 th /20 th -century whitewares

Animal bone

A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from context 2006.

Assessment

The finds from context 2006 indicate medieval activity in the area. The sherds are not particularly large or fresh but probably indicate high to late medieval occupation on the site.

Context 2001 must date to the early 18th century or later and context 1001 must date to the mid 19th century or later. None of the finds warrants further work at present although it is clear that the pottery supply to medieval Knaresborough requires further study which could include these finds.

Appendix

Context	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Description	Subfabric	Part	class
1001	NCBW	JUG	3	3	26	INDUSTRIAL SLIP		BS	POTTERY
1001	STMO	JAR	1	1	6			BS	POTTERY
1001	TPW	PLATE	1	1	6	WILLOW PATTERN		BS	POTTERY
1001	WHITE	PLATE	1	1	3			BS	POTTERY
1001	CONP	CUP	1	1	1			BS	POTTERY
2001	STMO	TANK	1	1	0.5			BS	POTTERY
2006	ANBN		1	1	2			BS	ANBN
2006	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	5	PLAIN EXT GL	FINE MICACEOUS GROUNDMASS;FEW LARGE INCLUSIONS	BS	POTTERY
2006	CMW	JUG	1	1	10	EXT CUGL	MICACEOUS GROUNDMASS	BS	POTTERY
2006	MTIL?	?	1	1	0.5	SPOTS OF BROWN GL	SUBANGULAR ROUNDED Q <0.3MM FE-STAINING	BS	POTTERY