

Assessment of the pottery from Abbots Mews Hotel, York (OSA04 WB01)

Alan Vince with contributions by Barbara Precious

A small collection of pottery was recovered from an archaeological watching brief at Abbots Mews Hotel, York, carried out by *On Site Archaeology* (Site code OSA04 WB01). The finds ranged in date from the Roman to the modern periods.

Description

The pottery was identified and recorded using the common names used by York Archaeological Trust (Table 1). The Romano-British wares were coded according to the system established by Monaghan (Monaghan 1997 #113).

Table 1

Cname	full name	earliest date	latest date
BLUE	Refined blue ware	1850	1950
DEVS	Developed Stamford ware	1150	1250
DUTR	Dutch Red Earthenware	1250	1650
HAMBL	Hambleton-type ware	1400	1550
LPMLOC	Late Post-medieval wares (local to site)	1750	1950
YATB00	Misc Burn	0	0
YATB03	Grey B3	0	0
YATE03	Ebor 3	0	0
YATW02	Ebor white	0	0
YG	Yorkshire gritty ware	1050	1250
YORK	York glazed ware/York White ware	1150	1300

Roman pottery by Barbara Precious

Four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. They consist of the rim of a greyware jar (YATB03), the base of a burnished greyware dish (YATB00), a body sherd from a an Ebor white-slipped flagon (YATW02) and a body sherd from a fine-textured Ebor ware jar or flagon (YATE03). Although the Ebor ware vessels might date to the 2nd or early 3rd centuries as a group the sherds probably date to the 3rd century. Apart from the white-slipped flagon, the sherds are moderately large and unabraded and are unlikely to have been redeposited through ploughing.

Medieval pottery

A number of sherds of later 12th or earlier 13th century date were recovered. They consist of a York Gritty ware jar (YG) and sherds of York glazed ware and Developed Stamford ware jugs. The latter

sherd is the tubular spout of an elaborate comb-decorated jug with a bridge of clay linking the spout and rim.

Two sherds of late medieval pottery were found. These consist of a Hambleton ware jug body sherd and a white-slipped Dutch Red Earthenware pipkin. White-slipped vessels in this ware are present in the 14th and 15th centuries but are most common in the 16th century.

Early Modern pottery

A sherd of a refined blue ware plate was found. This type was certainly in production by the middle of the 19th century but could be of even later date. Four sherds of unglazed redware flowerpots were recovered from context 4003 (LPMLOC). Flowerpots of modern type first appear in the later 18th century but these examples appear to be of 19th or 20th century date.

Assessment

The only context to produce only pottery of Roman date is the soil, 3002, which produced a sherd of 3rd century greyware.

Pit 1006, containing fill 1003, contains two Roman sherds but one of late 12th century or early 13th-century date. Whilst this sherd might be contamination from the overlying capping layer, 1002, it is also possible that this is a medieval feature containing residual Roman pottery. The midden layer, 4004, produced a single sherd of late 12th/early 13th century pottery.

The three deposits identified as medieval ploughsoils contained pottery of different date in each trench. That from context 1002 produced five sherds of late 12th/early 13th-century date, which did not have the appearance of sherds which had been in a ploughsoil. Neither did the sherds from context 2003, which are both of late medieval date. Finally, the pot from context 4002 is of mid 19th-century or later date.

One interpretation of these finds would be that there was some activity in the area in the 3rd century whilst the next evidence dates to the late 12th or early 13th century. This could be interpreted as a short-lived domestic occupation associated with pitting and a midden. The phase of ploughing might then date to the late medieval period.

Although none of the finds requires further treatment at this stage, the Developed Stamford ware vessel is a particularly elaborate example and worthy of inclusion in any future study of this ware from York.

Appendix

Context	cname	Form	Nosh	Weight	Description
1002	DEVS	JUG	1		75 TUBULAR SPOUT;BRIDGE FROM SPOUT TO RIM COMBED
1002	YG	JAR	1	8	
1002	YORK	JAR	1		18 CUGL SPOTS
1002	YORK	JUG	2		31 CUGL
1003	YATE03	F	1		9 2ND/M3RD
1003	YATW02	F	1		5 2ND/M3RD
2003	HAMBL	JUG	1		20 SPALLED CUGL;EXT AND INT
2003	DUTR	PIP	1		18 WHITE SLIPPED INT;CLEAR GL INT
3002	YATB03	J	1		42 3RD C
4002	BLUE	PLATE	1	6	
4003	LPMLOC	FLP	4	25	
4004	YATB00	D	1		22 M3RD/4TH C
4004	YORK	JUG	1		9 CUGL EXT;HORIZ GROOVES ON SHOULDER