

Assessment of the pottery and ceramic building material from the Hessle Health Centre, Hull Road, Hessle, East Yorkshire (OSA04 EV08)

Alan Vince

Sixty fragments of pottery and ceramic building material from an archaeological evaluation at Hessle Health Centre, Hull Road, Hessle, East Yorkshire (site code OSA04 EV08) carried out by On Site Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Three fragments of flat roof tile were identified (contexts 2008, 2010 and 2016). All have the poorly mixed fabric typical of the products medieval Beverley tilery. This contains lenses of calcareous clay intermixed with lenses of silty clay, with or without rounded quartzose sand tempering. The tilery was in operation from the later 12th century onwards, surviving into the post-medieval period.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

A single stem from a clay tobacco pipe was recovered from context 1008. The bore diameter suggests an 18th- or 19th-century date for the pipe.

Mortar

A fragment of a coarse mortar or concrete was identified (context 2014). It contains a coarse rounded gravel aggregate.

Pottery

Medieval

The majority of the pottery recovered consisted of various Beverley products. The earliest type present is Staxton-type ware (STAXT), which was a handmade or wheel-finished ware tempered with a quartz sand with minor calcareous inclusions. Two Staxton-type sherds had fabrics which do not suggest a Beverley origin. That from context 2010 is similar to samples seen by the author at Hartlepool and that from context 2012 has a non-micaceous body, similar to samples seen at North Newbald. However, the latter ware had sparse rounded oolitic limestone inclusions not noted in the Hessle example. Staxton-type ware is probably of late 12th to mid 13th century date and is not common at Kingston upon Hull, which was founded in the late 13th century. Sherds of Beverley 1 glazed ware (BEVO1) were present but were rare and most of the glazed ware sherds were of Beverley 2 glazed ware (BEVO2).

Amongst the sherds of this ware was a sherd from a vessel decorated with stamped bosses. Parts of two jugs were represented by several sherds each. One of these was a squat or rounded bodied jug with thumbing around the base. The fabric of this vessel included streaks of lighter coloured silty clay of a type not normally noted in BEVO2. The second vessel was a rounded jug with a rod or oval-sectioned handle. The jug had been decorated with close-set horizontal grooves and then coated with a white slip and a copper-stained green glaze. The presence of several sherds from the same vessels suggests that they are in primary rubbish deposits rather than redeposited (contexts 2022 with joining sherds from context 2008 and context 2023). A single sherd of a wheelthrown sand-tempered Beverley ware (BEVO SANDY) was found. These vessels superseded the Staxton-type ware types in the 13th century.

A sherd of a sand-tempered, unglazed greyware jug from context 2022 is probably of similar date to these Beverley wares (MEDLOC).

Sherds of later medieval Humberware (HUMB) were recorded from contexts 2008, 2010 and 2016. None of these sherds were visually typical of the products of the West Cowick industry and are all from jugs. It is probable that they belong to the earlier part of the Humberware industry, in the early to mid 14th century. In addition, there is a single sherd from a Low Countries Greyware vessel (LCGR) from context 2010. Both unglazed jugs and jars in this ware were imported in small quantities from the mid 14th century onwards at ports along the east coast of England and the Hessle piece probably came via Kingston upon Hull.

Post-medieval

Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from context 1008. Five of these, representing no more than 3 vessels, were of brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH), a type which is common in 17th and early 18th-century deposits. The sixth sherd is a fragment from an unglazed tin-glazed ware *crespina* (a fluted dish, made in imitation of metal forms). These vessels were first produced in Italian maiolica in the 16th century but were copied in mid 17th to early 18th-century Dutch and English delftware industries. The Hessle piece is clearly of Anglo-Netherlandish origin but without chemical analysis of the fabric it is not possible to say where it was made. Since the vessel probably came to Hessle via Kingston upon Hull a source in the Low Countries is as likely as a London origin whereas tin-glazed ware factories on the west coast (such as Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow) can be discounted.

Discussion

Trench 1

The only deposit in Trench 1 to produce any finds was context 1008. As a group, these finds probably date to the early 18th century.

Trench 2

Table 1

Cname	Data	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2022	2023	Grand Total
ANBN	Nosh	1								1
	Weight	9								9
	NoV	1								1
BEVO SANDY	Nosh	1								1
	Weight	5								5
	NoV	1								1
BEVO1	Nosh		1							1
	Weight		4							4
	NoV		1							1
BEVO2	Nosh	6	11	1	5		1	4	8	36
	Weight	73	65	8	76		7	53	467	749
	NoV	3	5	1	5		1	3	1	19
HUMB	Nosh	3	1			4				8
	Weight	28	7			15				50
	NoV	3	1			4				8
LCGR	Nosh		1							1
	Weight		5							5
	NoV		1							1
MEDLOC	Nosh							1		1
	Weight							13		13
	NoV							1		1
MORTAR	Nosh				1					1
	Weight				26					26
	NoV				1					1
MTIL	Nosh	1	1			1				3
	Weight	34	4			0.5				38.5
	NoV	1	1			1				3
STAXT	Nosh	1	3	1	1			2		8
	Weight	5	13	6	6			9		39
	NoV	1	3	1	1			2		8
Total Nosh		13	18	2	7	5	1	7	8	61
Total Weight		154	98	14	108	15.5	7	75	467	938.5
Total NoV		10	12	2	7	5	1	6	1	44

Pottery and other finds were recovered from eight contexts (Table 1), of which one, 2008, contains sherds dislodged from earlier deposits during cleaning (for example the BEVO2 jug which cross-joins with that from context 2022).

Five contexts produced sherds of BEVO2 jugs and no sherds of Humberware and these are clearly earlier than c.1350 in date. Three of these also produced sherds of Staxton-type

ware and are probably of early to mid 13th-century date (2012, 2014 and 2022) although none of these sherds is large or particularly fresh in appearance and it is also possible that the sherds are residual.

Later medieval wares are present in contexts 2008, 2010 and 2016 although all of the Humberware looks early (i.e. early to mid 14th century). It is noteworthy that the fragments of flat roof tiles occur in the same three contexts, suggesting that 13th-century structures on the site may have had roof coverings of organic materials (thatch, turf or shingles).

In summary, it seems that Trench 2 may have been occupied in the 13th to early/mid 14th centuries with two phases of occupation identifiable, one with Humberware and one without.

Recommendations

The pottery and other finds are all of well-known types and have no intrinsic significance. However, the rod-handled BEVO2 jug can be reconstructed and would provide a drawing of a vessel complete from the rim to the body/handle join. Estimated cost: £25.00

It would be possible to clarify the identity of several of the wares found by further analysis but such work is probably better carried out on a larger stratified sequence and therefore no further work is recommended on this aspect.

Appendix

Context	class	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Use	Condition
2023	POTTERY	ROUNDED BODY;CYLINDRICAL NECK;ROUNDED RIM;WHITE SLIPPED EXT;ROD HANDLE;CUGL;EXT HORIZ GROOVES;B/H INSERTED WITH TWO THUMB IMPRESSIONS	BEVO2	JUG	8	1	467		R;H		
2022	POTTERY		BEVO2	JUG	2	2	8		BS		ABR
2022	POTTERY	SHL=2008	BEVO2	JUG	2	1	45		B		
2022	POTTERY	WT	MEDLOC	JUG	1	1	13	SANDY GREY	BS		
2022	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	2	2	9		BS		ABR
2018	POTTERY		BEVO2	JUG	1	1	7		BS		
2016	POTTERY		HUMB	JUG	4	4	15		BS		
2016	POTTERY		MTIL	FLAT	1	1	0.5		BS		
2014	POTTERY	SAGGING BASE;INTERMITTED THUMBING	BEVO2	JUG	1	1	53		B	BLACK DEPO INT	
2014	POTTERY		BEVO2	JAR	2	2	3		BS		ABR
2014	POTTERY	THICK WHITE SLIP APPLIED BEFORE HANDLE;CUGL	BEVO2	JUG	1	1	7		BS		
2014	POTTERY		BEVO2	JUG	1	1	13		BS		
2014	POTTERY		MORTAR		1	1	26	COARSE ROUNDED GRAVEL	BS		
2014	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	1	1	6		BS		
2012	POTTERY	CORDON AT NECK/BODY	BEVO2	JUG	1	1	8		BS		
2012	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	1	1	6	NOT MICACEOUS	BS		
2010	POTTERY		BEVO1	JUG	1	1	4		BS		
2010	POTTERY	STAMPED BOSS	BEVO2	JUG	2	1	5		BS		
2010	POTTERY		BEVO2	JUG	3	1	45		BS		

Context	class	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Use	Condition
2010	POTTERY		BEVO2	JAR	1	1	4		BS		SOOTED EXT
2010	POTTERY	EXT CUGL	BEVO2	JAR	1	1	4		BS		
2010	POTTERY		BEVO2	JAR	4	1	7		BS		
2010	POTTERY		HUMB	JUG	1	1	7		BS		
2010	POTTERY		LCGR	JUG/JAR	1	1	5		BS		
2010	POTTERY		MTIL	FLAT	1	1	4	SANDY	BS		
2010	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	1	1	2		BS		
2010	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	1	1	7	SST SAND CF HARTLEPOOL	B		SOOTED EXT
2010	POTTERY		STAXT	JAR	1	1	4		BS		
2008	POTTERY		ANBN		1	1	9		BS		
2008	POTTERY	WT	BEVO SANDY	JAR	1	1	5		BS		
2008	POTTERY	ROUNDED BODY;SAGGING BASE;THUMBED AROUND BASE	BEVO2	JUG	4	1	66	PELLETS AND STREAKS OF LIGHT- COLOURED SILTY CLAY	B		
2008	POTTERY		BEVO2	JUG	2	2	7		BS		
2008	POTTERY		HUMB	JUG	3	3	28		BS		
2008	POTTERY		MTIL	FLAT	1	1	34		BS		
2008	POTTERY	EVERTED THUMBED	STAXT	JAR	1	1	5		BS		
1008	POTTERY	INT BR GL;ROUND HOLE THROUGH BODY BEFORE FIRING	BERTH	-	1	1	14		R		SOOTED EXT
1008	POTTERY	INT BR GL	BERTH	BOWL	3	1	18		BS		

Context	class	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Use	Condition
1008	POTTERY	INT AND EXT BR GL;GLAZE POOLED INT	BERTH	JAR	1	1	37	FINE MICACEOUS	B		
1008	POTTERY	18TH/19TH C BORE DIAM	PIPECLAY	PIPE	1	1	3		BS		
1008	POTTERY		TGW	CRESPINA	1	1	8		BS		