

Assessment of the pottery from 75 Lawrence Street, York (OSA04 WB04)

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Six sherds of pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material from a watching brief at 75 Lawrence Street, York, carried out by On-Site Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment. The material ranged in date from the Romano-British to the late medieval periods.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of flat roof tile were recovered, from contexts 1004 and 2002. Both have fabrics visually identical to those produced at Beverley, East Yorkshire, from the middle of the 12th century until the end of the medieval period. That from context 1004 is an untempered micaceous silty fabric and that from context 2002 is a sand-tempered, calcareous fabric.

Pottery

Roman (Identified by Maggi Darling)

A small flake from a Central Gaulish Samian ware vessel was recovered from context 1001 (YATS03). The form of the vessel could not be determined although it is probably a bowl or dish.

Medieval

An unabrased rim sherd from a Stamford ware (ST) jar, with sooting on the exterior, was recovered from context 2002. This vessel is likely to date between the early 11th and the mid 12th centuries but Stamford ware is particularly common in York in the mid 11th century. Deposits of this date from Coppergate have been studied in detail by Mainman (1990).

A body sherd, decorated with a curved combed line, of a York white ware (YORK) jar was recovered from context 3006. It probably dates between the later 12th and the mid 13th centuries.

Three sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from context 1004. They consist of a Brandsby-type ware (BRANDSBY) jug, an unglazed Humberware drinking jug (HUM) and a body sherd from a Hambleton-type (HAMBLETON) ware vessel with mottled copper-green glaze on the interior and exterior. As a group, these sherds are likely to date to the late 14th or 15th century.

Assessment

The sherd of Samian ware is a small flake and in York cannot be interpreted as indicating activity on the site in the Roman period. The earliest evidence, from the finds, for human activity is the Stamford ware jar sherd which probably dates from the mid 11th century, i.e. either side of the Norman conquest.

The small assemblage from context 1004 (three sherds and a piece of tile) indicate a probable deposition date in the late medieval period.

The finds do not warrant further study at present but should be retained for future study.

Bibliography

Mainman, A J (1990) *Anglo-Scandinavian Pottery from 16-22 Coppergate*. The Archaeology of York 16/5 London, Council British Archaeol.

Appendix: List of finds

Context	class	Weight	Part	Nosh	NoV	cname	Form	subfabric	REFNO	Condition	Use	Description
1004	POTTERY	13	BS	1	1	BRANDSBY	JUG					
1004	POTTERY	21	BS	1	1	HAMBLETON	JUG/JAR			SPALLED INT AND EXT		CUGL INT AND EXT
1004	POTTERY	14	BS	1	1	HUM	DJ		BY SKELETON 1001			UNGLAZED;NARROW- NECKED;ROD HANDLE
1004	CBM	8	BS	1	1	MTIL	FLAT	BEVO				ROUND PEG HOLE
2002	CBM	45	BS	1	1	MTIL	FLAT	BEVO;CALC SANDY				
2002	POTTERY	11	R	1	1	ST	JAR			FRESH	SOOTED EXT	
1001	POTTERY	1	BS	1	1	YATS03	B/D					FLAKE;ID MJD
3006	POTTERY	3	BS	1	1	YORK	JAR					CURVED COMBED DEC