

Assessment of the pottery from 30-32 High Street, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire (OSA04 WB05)

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Thirty-three potsherds and a glass stopper from an archaeological watching brief carried out at 30-32 High Street, Market Weighton, by On-Site Archaeology were submitted for identification and assessment. The finds range in date from the later 13th to early 14th century to the 19th century and suggest that archaeological deposits dating to the late 13th to early 14th and later 14th to 16th centuries may survive on the site.

Description

Pottery

Medieval

Five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, from contexts 1002, 11004, 13001 and unstratified. The pottery is all unabraded and consists of medium-sized sherds (mean sherd weight 19.8 gm). Several fabrics are represented: Beverley 2 ware, from Beverley, dating to the late 13th to mid 14th centuries, a Beverley 2-type ware, possibly from Beverley but possibly from a related industry, also dating to the late 13th to mid 14th centuries, Humberware with a copper glaze (HUM3) and Humberware with plain lead glaze (HUM). The latter is visually similar to the fabric of material from Holme upon Spalding Moor.

All of the medieval sherds came from jugs and one vessel, the BEVO2 example, has a distinctive sooted base with the sooting forming a band about 5mm up the side of the vessel with a sharp break. This vessel also has an off-white deposit on the interior. It has been suggested by S Moorhouse that this use pattern reflects the heating of alcoholic liquid over a brazier (pers comm.), perhaps to produce a mulled wine or ale.

Post-medieval

Five post-medieval vessels were recovered, from contexts 1002 and 2009. They consist of brown-glazed earthenware of late 16th or 17th-century date (BERTH), Black-glazed earthenware (BL) and tin-glazed ware (TGW). The brown and black-glazed earthenware sherds come from jars whilst the tin-glazed ware is a later 17th- to mid-18th-century plates, decorated with light blue cobalt paint.

Early Modern

Eight late 18th- or 19th-century vessels were recovered. They come from contexts 2003 and 6000. In addition to factory-made products (Creamware – CREA; Pearlware – PEAR;

Transfer-printed ware – TPW and unprovenanced stoneware – ENGS) there are examples of late Humberware (LHUM) and a Blackware pancheon (BL).

Glass

A complete stopper in a light blue glass was recovered from context 2005. It was moulded and is likely to have used with a medicine bottle or, less likely given its poor finish, a decanter. It probably dates to the 19th century.

Discussion

Manhole 1

The two sherds from context 1002 differ in date although both are fresh in appearance. The late sherd is late 16th or 17th-century. A small group of tin-glazed sherds came from context 1008, dating its deposition to the late 17th century or later. .

Trench 2

Three contexts in Trench 2 produced finds: context 2009 produced two sherds of late 17th or 18th-century date whilst contexts 2003 and 2005 produced 19th-century finds.

Trench 6

Finds from context 6000 indicate a deposition date in the mid 19th-century or later (dated by the English stoneware jar which has a feldspathic glaze).

Trench 11

Two sherds of later medieval date, possibly as late as the 16th century, were recovered from context 11004.

Trench 13

A single sherd of medieval pottery (late 13th to mid 14th century) was recovered from context 13001.

Assessment

None of the finds require further study and, in my opinion, the early modern material need not be retained. However, the remaining eight sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery should be deposited in an archaeological store for potential future study.

Appendix: List of finds

Trench	Context	period	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description	Use
1	1002	PMED	BERTH	JAR	1	1	20	HUM	BS	BROWN GL INT AND EXT	
1	1002	MED	BEVO2T	JUG	1	1	76	HOSM?	B	KT SAGGING BASE;PAIRED THUMB IMPRESSIONS	
1	1008	PMED	TGW	PLAT	3	1	10		BS		
1	1008	PMED	TGW	-	1	1	0.5		BS		
2	2003	EMOD	PEAR	MUG	3	1	14		R	HORIZ LIGHT BLUE SLIP BANDS EXT	
2	2003	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	4	1	42		R	WILLOW PATTERN	
2	2003	EMOD	TPW	PLATE	1	1	9		R	PURPLE INK	
2	2005	EMOD	PMGL	STOPPER	1	1	14	LTBL	COMPLETE		
2	2009	PMED	BL	JAR	1	1	10	HUM	BS	INT BL GL	
2	2009	PMED	TGW	PLATE	4	1	23		B	RECESSED BASE;BLUE DEC;18TH C?	
6	6000	EMOD	BL	PANC	1	1	26	HUM	BS	FLANGED RIM	
6	6000	EMOD	CREA	BOWL	1	1	8		BS		
6	6000	EMOD	ENGS	BOT	5	1	347		BS	BRISTOL GLAZED;CYLINDRICAL BODY	
6	6000	EMOD	LHUM	JAR	2	1	50		BS	ROUNDED SLIGHTLY EVERTED RIM	
6	6000	EMOD	TPW	BOWL	1	1	37		B	WILLOW PATTERN	
11	11004	LMED	HUMB	JUG	2	2	18	HOSM?	BS		
13	13001	MED	BEVO2	JUG	1	1	23		BS	KT SAGGING BASE; THUMB IMPRESSIONS	SOOTED ON BASE;DEPO INT
	US	LMED	HUM3	JUG	1	1	128	HOSM?	H	M14/15	