

Assessment of the finds from Mill Lane, Heworth Green, York (OSA04 WB11)

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A small collection of finds from a watching brief carried out at Mill Lane, Heworth Green, by On-Site Archaeology (Site code OSA04 WB11) was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds consist of a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, some medieval to late medieval pottery and some 18th-century pottery.

Description

Clay tobacco pipe

A single stem from a clay tobacco pipe, dated by its bore diameter to the later 17th or 18th century, was recovered from context 1001.

Pottery

Roman

A single sherd of a greyware bowl (YATG00) was recovered from context 1000. The fabric had a fine-textured, slightly micaceous groundmass and sparse polished, rounded quartz grains up to 2.0mm across. These characteristics suggest that the vessel was not made in the York area and the closest potential source to York would be along the western side of the Yorkshire Wolds, from Market Weighton southwards to the Humber. A number of pottery production sites are known in that area.

Medieval

Four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Context 1003 produced three sherds of Brandsby-type ware, including part of a lobed cup with a copper green glaze on the outside and a plain, yellow, lead glaze inside. A jug with a large oval-sectioned, grooved handle was also present. These three sherds probably date to the later 14th or 15th century. Context 1001 produced a single sherd of Humberware, probably of similar date.

Post-medieval and early modern

Nine sherds of post-medieval or early modern date were recovered, mostly from context 1001 with one sherd from context 1003. The wares present include brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH) probably of 17th century date, unsourced flowerpots (LPMLOC) of late 18th-century or later type, two sherds of Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS) including a roller-

stamp-decorated jar, a Pearlware (PEAR) plate with a blue-feathered edge, a press-moulded slipware vessel (STCO) decorated with trailing with two different coloured slips (a mid/late 18th-century type), a mottled ware vessel of unknown form (STMO) and a sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG), the reeded handle of a tankard.

None of these sherds need be later than c.1800 and the brown-glazed earthenware and the white stoneware are the earliest types present, dating to the 17th and early to mid 18th centuries respectively.

Discussion

The Romano-British sherd is not particularly small or abraded and therefore is not certainly evidence for ploughing and manuring. It may be evidence for Roman settlement nearby or for the dumping of material from the historic core of York on the site.

The late medieval sherds, by contrast, do appear to be slightly abraded, perhaps indicating agriculture or horticulture in the late in the late 14th or 15th centuries.

There is then a gap in deposition, which might last from the 15th to the 18th centuries, followed by the deposition of domestic refuse in the late 18th century (incorporating a few slightly earlier sherds).

Assessment

None of the pottery requires further study at present but should be retained for potential future study.

Appendix: List of recorded finds

Context	class	Cname	date	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Description	Condition
1000	POTTERY	YATG01	roman	B	1	1	11	S GSQ; FINE-TEXTURED GROUNDMASS	R		
1001	CTP	PIPECLAY	pmed	PIPE	1	1	3		STEM		
1001	POTTERY	BERTH	pmed	JAR	1	1	64		R	BR GL INT AND EXT	
1001	POTTERY	HUM	lmed	JAR	1	1	4		BS		SPALLED GL
1001	POTTERY	LPMLOC	emod	FLP?	1	1	39		BS	APPLIED STRIP; WHITE SLIPPED EXT	
1001	POTTERY	LPMLOC	emod	FLP	1	1	45		B		
1001	POTTERY	NOTS	pmed	JAR	1	1	4		BS	ROLLER-STAMPED ON SHOULDER	
1001	POTTERY	PEAR	emod	PLATE	1	1	14		R	BLUE FEATHERED	
1001	POTTERY	STCO	pmed-emod	DISH	1	1	3		BS	WHITE AND DK BROWN SLIP TRAILING OVER LTBR SLIP	
1001	POTTERY	STMO	pmed		1	1	31		BS	GLAZE INT AND HALF-WAY DOWN EXT; THICK-WALLED VESSEL	
1001	POTTERY	SWSG	pmed	TANK	1	1	5		BS	REEDED	
1003	POTTERY	BRANDSBY	med-lmed	LCUP	1	1	3		R	EXT CUGL; INT PLAIN GL	
1003	POTTERY	BRANDSBY	med-lmed	JUG	1	1	57		H	GROOVED ROD	
1003	POTTERY	BRANDSBY	med-lmed	JUG	1	1	6		BS	HORIZ COMBING ON SHOULDER; CUGL	
1003	POTTERY	NOTS	pmed	TANK	1	1	8		B		