

The Pottery

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Methodology

The pottery from Elloughton was initially identified and recorded by Barbara Precious in 2002 and assessed by Alan Vince in the light of current information on the site stratigraphy (Precious & Vince 2002). As a result of the assessment, it was suggested that certain groups would repay further study. This further work was carried out in 2004 (Vince 2004) and the results of this study are here integrated with the original data and the revised stratigraphic data.

Wares

Four hundred and twenty one sherds of pottery were recorded, representing no more than two hundred and fifty three vessels. The total weight of pottery was 8.989 Kg. The wares present span the later prehistoric to late Roman periods (Table 1).

Phase 1. Prehistoric/Early Roman

Eighteen vessels were present in five Period 1 deposits: 1020, 1026, 1065, 1071 and 1073.

A single sherd contained angular flint temper, a widely used technique in the prehistoric period, from the Neolithic to the later Iron Age. The context producing this sherds (1073) might therefore be of any date from the early prehistoric onwards.

Most of the remaining sherds were handmade, black coarsewares containing fragments of oolitic and other limestone (LOOL). Thin section and chemical analysis of three such these sherds (all from later layers) shows that they have a variety of distinct fabrics, but all containing rocks and microfossils of lower Jurassic origin and therefore possibly of local origin. Although they lack the shell temper of the later Dales Shelly ware (DWSH), the other inclusions suggest that they were made in a similar area and hint that the source area for Dales Shelly ware ought to include the small outcrop of Jurassic strata north of the Humber which runs from the Elloughton area northwards to Market Weighton (although getting narrower and narrower the further north one goes).

Forms present in this collection include 'Native' jars (Fig 00. No.1) as well as late Iron Age or Roman-style jars (Fig 00. No.2) and a flanged rim bowl (Fig 00. No.3).

One context, 1020, includes three sherds of definite Roman pottery, a Dales shelly ware, a grog and shell-tempered ware (GRSH) jar? and an oxidized ware (OX) sherd of unknown

form. However, the presence of the Dales shelly ware suggests that these may be intrusive and of 3rd century date rather than evidence for a post-conquest, first-century date.

However, the lack of coarse rock-tempered wares, which are the norm in the pre-conquest period in East Yorkshire and in the Vale of York around York, either suggests that the Elloughton Phase 1 pottery belongs to a different ceramic zone, linked more with sites on the south bank of the Humber (e.g. Dragonby), or is indeed of post-conquest date.

Table 1

context	cname	BFL	CLSD	CPN	J?	JB	JBEV	JCUR	Grand Total
1020	DWSH	1						1	2
	OX					1			1
	LOOL		4					1	5
	GRSH				1				1
1020 Total		1	4		1	1	1	1	9
1026	LOOL			2					2
1026 Total				2					2
1065	LOOL	1							1
1065 Total		1							1
1071	LOOL	2	1						3
	LOOL?		1						1
1071 Total		2	1	1					4
1073	FLIN	1							1
1073 Total		1							1
	1020 DWSH?	1							1
1020 Total		1							1
Grand Total		6	1	5	2	1	1	1	18

Phase 2

Phase 2 is defined in ceramic terms by the presence of Roman wares which pre-date the introduction of Dales Shelly ware. Only two contexts in the excavation belonged to this phase, and one was filling a large ditch, 1228, located at some distance from the main settlement. Two fills in this ditch produced pottery, 1225 and 1224. The pottery from both is similar but the collection is small (Table 3). There are no sherds of handmade pottery (LOOL) such as dominated the Phase 1 assemblages but in a collection with only 10 sherds in total this may not be significant. The ditch is dated by a sherd of a Dr 37 central Gaulish samian ware bowl and the greyware sherds are consistent with this date.

Five vessels came from the filling of ditch 1279 (1280). These consist of greyware and fairly fine greyware jars and are not closely datable.

Table 2

context	cname	37	CLSD	J	JCUR	JCUR?	JEV	Grand Total
1224	GREY			1				1
1224 Total				1				1
1225	GREY			1			1	2
	SAMCG	1						1
1225 Total		1		1			1	3
	1280 GREY			3	1			4
	GRFF						1	1
1280 Total				3	1		1	5
Grand Total		1	1	4	1	1	1	9

Phase 3

There are three hundred and twenty three sherds of pottery from phase 3 deposits, coming from eighteen separate contexts. Most of these contexts are assigned to phase 3 either because they contain Dales shelly ware or greywares of 3rd/4th-century character or because of their stratigraphic position. Early handmade sherds occur in two contexts (1076 and 1077) and it is likely that these are residual from phase 1 activity, although it is possible that the use of these wares continued at a low level throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries. A small quantity of types which are more common in late Roman assemblages on the site (CALC and COAR) were found, also in contexts 1076 and 1077. By far the most common wares, however, were Dales shelly ware (149 sherds), greyware (GREY, 115 sherds) and fairly fine greyware (GRFF, 24 sherds).

Samples of the Dales shelly ware were analysed in thin section and by chemical analysis and this indicates that several distinct fabrics are present within this ware. The most common at Elloughton has a fairly clean groundmass and contains fragments of lower Jurassic limestones as well as fossil shell. The thin sections also indicate the presence of rare rocks and minerals of Cretaceous origin. These characteristics indicate a likely source in the Humber valley downstream of the outcrop of the chalk and the lower Jurassic strata. The Elloughton area itself lies within such a terrain although there is no suggestion that the ware was being produced on site. This sub-fabric has been given the code "C" here.

The second most common Dales shelly ware fabric on the site has a silty, micaceous groundmass but with a similar range of limestone and shell inclusions. This fabric, coded "S", is widely distributed and has been noted by the author at sites as far apart as York and Lincoln. It is also by far the most common fabric on sites in north Lincolnshire where Loughlin and Firman have both suggested the main production sites lay ({Loughlin 1977 #6743};{Firman #45293}). The petrology of the four thin-sectioned examples of this ware from Elloughton are consistent with a north Lincolnshire origin (Vince 2004).

Four jars of typical form from this phase were illustrated. Three are of Subfabric C (Fig 00. Nos. 6-8) and one of subfabric S (Fig 00. No.9).

Greyware vessels include bowls (Fig 00 No.11), beaded flanged bowls (Fig 00. No.12), wide mouthed bowls (Fig 00 Nos.13-15), plain-rimmed dishes (Fig 00. No.16) and narrow-necked jars (Fig 00 No.17).

Other illustrated vessels from this phase include a fairly fine greyware wide mouthed bowl (Fig 00. No.18), a coarseware curved-rimmed jar (Fig 00. No.5), a probably residual limestone-tempered curved-rimmed jar (Fig 00. No.19), a white-slipped oxidized ware grooved-rim bowl (Fig00. No.21), a fine greyware vessel (Fig 00. No.10), a calcite-tempered jar with a strongly-curved S-profile (Fig 00. No.4) and a mortaria with unusual flint trituration grit (Fig 00.No.20).

Table 3

context	cname	A	B	BFB	BGR	BK	BWM	BWM?	CLSD	DPR	J	J105	JB	JBCUR	JBK	JBL	JCUR	JCURS	JDW	JEV	JNN	L?	M	MBF	OPEN	Grand Total
1075	NVCC					1																				1
	OXF					1								1												2
	MORT																					1				1
	GRFF									1																1
	GREY	1	1						1	1																4
	DWSH									1									2							3
1075 Total		1	1			2			1	3				1				2				1				12
1076	CALC																	1								1
	OXWS				1																					1
	MORT																						1			1
	LOOL									2				1												3
	COAR									1												3				4
	GRFF									1																1
	GREY						3	1	17	4		2	1								1					29
	DWSH	35																	6							41
1076 Total		35			1	3	1	17	8	8		2	1	1	1	1	6		6		1	3	1			81
1077	OX								1																	1
	OXF																							1		1

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	MORT								1	1
	LOOL			1			1			2
	COAR			1			1			2
	GRFF			4	1					5
	GREY		3	6	1					10
	DWSH					13		6		19
1077 Total			3	13	15		2	6	1	1 41
1107	DR20	1								1
	GFIN	1								1
	SHEL				1					1
	DWSH?	2								2
	GRFF		1							1
	GREY		1		1					2
	DWSH				4			3		7
1107 Total		3	1	1	1	4		3		15
1111	GREY				1					1
	DWSH							1		1
1111 Total					1			1		2
1113	GREY				2					2
	DWSH							5		5
1113 Total					2			5		7
1119	GRFF							1		1
	GREY				2					2

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1119 Total			2		1	3
1123	GREY		1			1
1123 Total			1			1
1133	DWSH		1			1
1133 Total			1			1
1143	GREY	1				1
1143 Total		1				1
1154	GREY				1	1
1154 Total					1	1
1156	GYBN		1			1
	DWSH		1			1
1156 Total			2			2
1164	GREY			1		1
1164 Total				1		1
1167	GREY		1			1
	DWSH	3				3
1167 Total		3	1			4
1175	GREY	1	1			2
1175 Total		1	1			2
1177	GREY		1			1
1177 Total			1			1
1238	GREY		1	1		2
	DWSH	1				1

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1238 Total	1										1																			3
1263		GREY										2																		2
1263 Total												2																		2
Grand Total	43	1	2	1	1	2	8	1	35	1	41	1	3	1	1	1	3	1	23	1	1	3	2	1	1				180	

Phase 4

Fifty-five sherds of pottery (from no more than 47 vessels) were recovered from Phase 4 contexts (Table 5).

Some of the sherds found in these deposits are clearly residual and of prehistoric or early Roman date (FLINT, LOOL, PREH). The remainder are, in the main, types which occur in Phase 3 (GREY, CALC, DWSH, COAR, OX). However, the frequency of Calcite-tempered (CALC) and Coarseware (COAR) sherds is higher than in Phase 3 and these two wares, for certain, are likely to be contemporary with the deposits in which they were found. Only Crambeck greyware (CRGR) and Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (MOMH) are new types in this phase.

Only three vessels from this phase are illustrated: a calcite-tempered jar with an unusual cordon (Fig 00. No.22), a greyware un-necked wide mouthed bowl (Fig 00. No.23) and a greyware jar with a curved rim (Fig 00. No.24).

Table 4

context	oname	B	BD	BD?	BNN	CLSD	J	JB	JBL	JCUR	JDW	JNN	MHH	Grand Total
1079	CALC	1												1
	DWSH	1												1
1079 Total		2												2
1109	CALC					1								1
	GREY				1		5	1						7
	DWSH			1							2			3
	CRGR								1					1
1109 Total				1	1	1	5	1	1		2			12
1136	CALC					1								1
1136 Total						1								1
1148	CALC					1								1
1148 Total						1								1
1197	DWSH						1							1
1197 Total							1							1
1211	CALC					1								1
	OX	2												2
	LOOL	1												1
1211 Total		3				1								4
1215	GREY							1		1				2

	LOOL	1											1
	SHEL		1										1
1215 Total		1	1				1	1					4
1220	CALC	1											1
1220 Total		1											1
1249	GREY	1			1								2
	CRGR?						1						1
1249 Total		1			1	1							3
1251	GREY				2								2
	FLIN	1											1
1251 Total		1			2								3
1253	CALC				1								1
	COAR				1								1
	GREY				2	1							3
	MOMH											1	1
1253 Total					4	1						1	6
1257	COAR				1								1
	GREY	1								1			2
	DWSH	1											1
	GROG				1								1
1257 Total		2			2					1			5
1258	COAR	2											2
	GREY						1						1
	DWSH						1						1
	CRGR		1										1
	PREH						1						1
1258 Total		2	1			3							6
1271	CALC				1								1
1271 Total					1								1
Grand Total		12	1	1	1	14	11	1	1	2	1	1	46

Phase 5

There was no contemporary pottery associated with the oven which was dated to the 8th/9th centuries by C14 dating. A single sherd of calcite-tempered ware was incorporated into the oven base.

Discussion

Dating and interpretation

It seems likely that the main Elloughton site was occupied in two phases with an intervening phase in which there is either no occupation or at least no deposition of pottery. The first phase, Phase 1, probably dates to the first century, but whether pre- or post-conquest is uncertain. Sherds deriving from this phase of activity were stratified throughout the sequence, indicating a degree of residuality in later deposits which makes the interpretation of wares which are not independently datable difficult.

The hiatus occurs before the introduction of Romanised wares and continues until the commencement of the Dales shelly ware industry. The only pottery to fill this gap occurs in a feature about 500m from the main settlement and presumably unrelated to it. No residual pottery from this hiatus phase occurs in Phase 3 or 4 deposits, which is more evidence that the site was unoccupied at that time.

The final pottery-using phase started at some point in the 2nd or 3rd century (Phase 2) and continued into the 4th century (Phase 4) but there are no closely-datable wares present which could help to refine the dates of this period of activity and it is unsafe to date the start of this period too early simply on the basis of the lack of Dales Shelly ware in an assemblage of 5 vessels (context 1280).

A study of the mean weight of pottery vessels from the excavation (Table 6) indicates that by and large all of the pottery is very fragmentary but that the pottery in Phase 3 deposits is much less fragmentary than that in other phases. This pattern is visible both in wares interpreted as being residual and those which are interpreted as being contemporary. Therefore, either the assumption that residual sherds are prone to be smaller because of the greater opportunity for breakage is wrong in this case or the interpretation of the assemblages is incorrect.

Table 5

cname	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
GREY		9.71	32.67	14.46		24.85
CALC			38.00	9.34	27.00	13.97
DWSH	15.00		29.30	8.81		24.39
COAR			22.29	3.83		14.38
OX	3.00		25.00	2.00		10.00
CRGR				18.50		18.50
LOOL	11.09		27.80	3.00		16.48
CRGR?				5.00		5.00
FLIN	2.00			2.00		2.00
GROG				4.00		4.00
MOMH				57.00		57.00

PREH				1.00		1.00
DR20			484.00			484.00
GFIN			1.00			1.00
GYBN			21.00			21.00
NVCC			23.00			23.00
OXWS			20.00			20.00
SHEL			1.00			1.00
DWSH?	3.00		5.00			4.00
OXF			7.33			7.33
MORT			42.00			42.00
GRFF		13.00	43.97			39.55
GRSH	27.00					27.00
LOOL?	11.00					11.00
NCBW						3.00
SAMCG		2.00				10.50
Grand Total	10.98	9.22	34.83	11.09	27.00	24.52

Source

Much remains to be discovered about the pattern of pottery supply of rural settlements such as that at Elloughton and only a small proportion of the pottery can be reliably assigned to a source, or even to a narrow source area.

As a contribution towards this problem, samples of various wares were selected for thin section and chemical analysis (Vince 2004).

One conclusion of this study was that there was a general similarity between the early LOOL fabric and some of the Dales Shelly ware samples and that both wares contained rock fragments of lower Jurassic age, including some fragments of Frodingham Ironstone as well as individual limonite pellets. This suggests that a small area north of the Humber is also a potential source for Dales shelly ware (previously, attention has been focussed on a limited area of north Lincolnshire). It seems likely that the Phase 1 LOOL vessels were made at a site north of the Humber whereas fabric and chemical analysis suggest at least four fabrics, and thus perhaps four separate sources, for the 3rd/4th century Dales shelly ware.

Analysis of a grog-tempered sherd from a phase 4 deposit indicates that it has a similar composition to the Dales shelly ware and probably originated in the same area.

Analysis of three sherds of Calcite-tempered ware was carried out because visual analysis suggested slight differences between the fabric of the calcite-tempered ware from Elloughton and that found elsewhere in northern Britain for which a source in the Vale of

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Pickering is now accepted, following the work of Jerry Evans. This analysis, however, indicates that they were made from a glauconitic clay, probably the Speeton clay, which does not outcrop in the north of Britain outside of the Vale of Pickering.

Finally, samples of COAR, a coarseware having a fine-textured groundmass and tempered with a rounded quartz sand. The sand contains flint, chalk and oolitic limestone as well as rounded quartz grains whereas the groundmass was identified from its characteristics in thin section and its chemical composition as being probably the Oxford clay. This clay outcrops along the west side of the Yorkshire Wolds and in the Humber valley to the southwest of the Wolds and it likely that this ware has a local origin since it is clearly different in character from wares made in the Vale of Ancholme, west of the river, which is the only other area close to Elloughton where this combination of traits might be expected.

Regional and continental imports are rare and consist of two sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware, a sherd from a Dressel 20 amphora from the Guadalquivir valley in southwest Spain, sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware and a Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria.

Acknowledgements

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Bibliography

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Appendix One. List of Ware codes used in Tables 1 to 5

cname	group	name
COAR	Reduced	Miscellaneous coarse wares
CRGR	Reduced	Crambeck grey wares
CRGR?	Reduced	Crambeck grey wares
DR20	Amphora	Dr 20 amphorae
DWSH	Shell	Late shell-tempered; Dales ware; lid-seated jars
DWSH?	Shell	Late shell-tempered; Dales ware; lid-seated jars
FLIN	Reduced	Flint-tempered
GFIN	Reduced	Miscellaneous fine grey wares

cname	group	name
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares
GRFF	Reduced	Grey fairly fine tempered ware
GROG	Reduced	Grog-tempered wares
GRSH	Shell	South Lincs Grog with shell
GYBN	Reduced	Grey with brown surfaces
LOOL	Reduced	Coarse sandy with ooliths
LOOL?	Reduced	Coarse sandy with ooliths
MOMH	Mort	Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria
MORT	Mort	Mortaria; undifferentiated
NVCC	Fine	Nene Valley colour-coated
OX	Oxidized	Miscellaneous oxidized wares
OXF	Oxidized	Fine oxidized wares
OXWS	Oxidized	Oxidized with white slip
PREH	Prehistoric	Miscellaneous Prehistoric wares
SAMCG	Samian	Central Gaulish
SHEL	Shell	Miscellaneous undifferentiated shell-tempered

Appendix Two. List of Form codes used in Tables 1 to 4

form	group	Name	Nosh	NoV	Weight
37	Bowl	Dr 37	1	1	2
A	Amph	unclassified	1	1	484
B	Bowl	unclassified	44	2	619
BD	Bowl/dish	Bowl or dish	1	1	17
BD?	Bowl/dish	Bowl or dish	1	1	13
BFB	Bowl	Bead and flange bowl	6	1	276
BFL	Bowl	Flanged rimmed	1	1	11
BGR	Bowl	with grooved rim	1	1	20
BK	Beaker	unclassified	2	2	25
BNN	Bowl	BWM un-necked	1	1	43
BWM	Bowl	Wide-mouthed	21	8	820
BWM?	Bowl	Wide-mouthed	1	1	18
CLSD	Closed	form	78	57	798
CPN	Cook pot	native tradition	2	2	67
DPR	Dish	Plain rim	1	1	243
J	Jar	unclassified	61	53	1363
J?	Jar	unclassified	1	1	27

form	group	Name	Nosh	NoV	Weight
J105	Jar	Coppack 1973;fig 5;no 17; original ts	1	1	7
JB	Jar/bowl	unclassified	5	5	90
JBCUR	Jar/bowl	curved rim	1	1	12
JBEV	Jar/bowl	everted rim	1	1	14
JBK	Jar/beaker	Jar or beaker	1	1	5
JBL	Jar/bowl	large	2	2	55
JCUR	Jar	curved (not clearly cp)	5	4	95
JCUR?	Jar	curved (not clearly cp)	6	1	15
JCURS	Jar	Strongly curved S-profile	1	1	38
JDW	Jar	Dales ware	95	25	2457
JEV	Jar	everted rim	1	1	13
JHUNV	Jar	Huntcliff jar with no internal seating	1	1	27
JNN	Jar	Narrow-necked	2	2	153
L?	Lid	unclassified	3	3	80
M	Mortaria	unclassified	2	2	52
MBF	Mortaria	Bead-and-flange rimmed	4	1	296
MHH	Mortaria	Hammerhead	1	1	57
OPEN	Open	Bowl/dish	1	1	15

Appendix Three: Catalogue of sherds sampled for thin section and chemical analysis

TSNO	context	period	cname	subfabric	Form	REFNO
V2107	1274	5	CALC		JHUNV	
V2108	1211	4	LOOL	S		
V2109	1077	3	DWSH	S	JDW	
V2110	1271	4	CALC		CLSD	
V2111	1113	3	DWSH	S	JDW	
V2112	1076	3	COAR		L?	
V2113	1076	3	COAR		J	
V2114	1020	1	DWSH	D		
V2115	1020	1	DWSH	M	JBEV	
V2116	1113	3	DWSH	S	JDW	D21
V2117	1113	3	DWSH	C	JDW	
V2118	1077	3	LOOL	D	CLSD	
V2119	1257	4	GROG		CLSD	
V2120	1077	3	COAR		JCUR	D23

V2124	1077	3	COAR		CLSD	
V2125	1111	3	DWSH	C	JDW	D15
V2126	1113	3	DWSH	C	JDW	
V2127	1107	3	DWSH	C	JDW	D17
V2128	1077	3	LOOL	C	JCUR	D24
V2129	1107	3	DWSH	C	JDW	D14
V2130	1148	4	CALC		CLSD	D18

Appendix Four: Catalogue of illustrated sherds

No	context	phase	cname	subfabric	Form	TSNO	REFNO
1	1026	1	LOOL		CPN		D01
2	1020	1	LOOL		JCUR		D02
3	1071	1	LOOL?		BFL		D03
4	1076	3	CALC		JCURS		D09
5	1077	3	COAR		JCUR	V2120	D23
6	1107	3	DWSH	C	JDW	V2129	D14
7	1111	3	DWSH	C	JDW	V2125	D15
8	1107	3	DWSH	C	JDW	V2127	D17
9	1113	3	DWSH	S	JDW	V2116	D21
10	1107	3	GFIN				D12
11	1107	3	GREY		B		D11
12	1143	3	GREY		BFB		D16
13	1076	3	GREY		BWM		D06
14	1076	3	GREY		BWM		D07
15	1077	3	GREY		BWM		D22
16	1107	3	GREY		DPR		D13
17	1076	3	GREY		JNN		D05
18	1107	3	GRFF		BWM		D10
19	1077	3	LOOL	C	JCUR	V2128	D24
20	1076	3	MORT		MBF		D04
21	1076	3	OXWS		BGR		D08
22	1148	4	CALC		CLSD	V2130	D18
23	1109	4	GREY		BNN		D19
24	1215	4	GREY		JCUR		D20