

Assessment of the pottery from Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane, Fishergate, York (YFH00 and YBB01)

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Introduction

Eight thousand, four hundred and forty-nine sherds of pottery from the Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd excavation at Blue Bridge Lane (YBB) and nine hundred and forty-nine sherds from the excavation at Fishergate House (YFH), immediately to its south, were submitted for identification and assessment. Because of the large size of the collection and the limited amount of money available for its study the following strategy was agreed:

High priority was given to Mid Saxon pottery, to the evidence for pottery production on the Blue Bridge Lane site in the 14th century and to dating the medieval cemetery at Fishergate House.

Modern pottery (i.e. anything of later 18th-century or later date) was not recorded whilst residual Roman pottery, unless it could be related to disturbed cremation burials, was recorded only by sherd count and weight, with no other details.

The two sites have rather different ceramic histories. In the late 1st and early 2nd centuries there were cremation burials on both sites, but mainly at YFH. Roadside ditches on the YBB site are slightly later, and include some assemblages no earlier than the later 2nd century. There is later Roman pottery from both sites, but mainly later 3rd century rather than 4th century. After this, there is no further pottery deposited on the site until the mid Saxon period.

Both sites produced moderately large collections of mid Saxon pottery, of which only a small amount was possibly stratified (there is a high degree of residuality and intrusion on both sites, making it difficult to interpret small assemblages). Most of this pottery is probably of early 8th-century date, but there are a small number of sherds of later 8th to mid 9th-century date in later deposits.

Activity then continued into the Anglo-Scandinavian period, although only small quantities of pottery were recorded, and probably little or none from stratified assemblages. Activity on both sites increased in the later 10th to mid 11th centuries, and again in the later 11th and 12th centuries. Both sites were also occupied throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, although it was difficult to date small assemblages with any accuracy.

During the 14th century, both sites underwent a change of use. At YBB a pottery kiln was erected and a large number of pits, some interpreted as quarries for clay, were dug. Their backfill produced large quantities of pottery waste. On YFH, however, a cemetery

superseded the earlier occupation. The precise date of both of these changes will, be the subject of further work on the pottery.

Very little pottery deposition took place on the site in the later medieval and post-medieval periods. Some of the YBB pits were being filled in the later 14th, 15th and early 16th centuries and there is a scatter of clay pipes on both sites, all of which are of early to mid 17th-century date. Otherwise, however, activity of post-medieval date was absent.

Description

Pottery

Roman

Roman pottery from all contexts at YFH was identified according to the system published by Monaghan ({Monaghan 1997 #113}). For YBB, this work still has to take place, as in order to save time and money the Roman pottery was initially set aside until all the other pottery had been recorded and only selected for study if (a) no post-Roman sherds were found in the same context or other contexts in the same feature and (b) the assemblage consisted of more than one or two sherds. It is assumed that small assemblages, particularly if obviously abraded, even if the only pottery from a deposit are actually residual and only provide a *terminus post quem*.

The cremation vessels form a small but significant group, consisting of almost solely of Eboracum ware flagons and jars and rusticated jars, all datable to the later first or early 2nd centuries.

Pottery from ditches on YBB shows a wider range of forms and fabrics, as well as including several sherds of early 2nd-century or later 2nd-century or later date. These ditch fills are probably later than the cremations, which may indicate that the ditches themselves were open whilst the cremation cemetery was in use, or that they are entirely later in date.

A scatter of residual Dales Shelly ware sherds was noted, indicating later 3rd-century or later activity, but none of these came from stratified assemblages. Their condition is consistent with having been in the subsoil rather than in features totally destroyed by later activity.

Finally, a very small quantity of calcite-tempered ware and Crambeck greyware sherds were present, all of which were residual. It is clear that little deposition took place on the site in the 4th century.

Mid-Saxon

Forty-six sherds of Mid Saxon pottery were recovered from YFH and one hundred and seventy-nine sherds from YBB (Table 00). Northern Maxey ware, produced on the Lincoln

Edge in Lincolnshire somewhere between Lincoln and the Humber, is the most common ware at both sites and, indeed, the low quantity of other sherds from YFH suggests that the site might have been occupied at a time where this ware was the only coarseware in common use.

Coarse black handmade gritty wares were the next most common, being much more common at YBB than YFH. In appearance, these wares are very similar to the coarsewares found on early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites in Yorkshire and there are indications that at some point in the mid Saxon period (i.e. the later 7th to mid 9th centuries) pottery ceased to be used on sites in the Wolds and the Vale of Pickering.

Sherds of black burnished wheelthrown pitchers and jars were the next most common find, all of which came from YBB. These vessels were current in the later 7th and 8th centuries. Other wares found include a sherd of coarseware containing polished quartz grains (ESGS). This type is known to have been produced in east Lindsey in the early and mid Anglo-Saxon periods. Thin section analysis is required to confirm the discovery, which is the first from York.

Other Mid Saxon wares include Early Lincolnshire Fine Shelled ware, recognised first at Flixborough where it appears in the early 9th century although it seems from finds at Lincoln that it continued in use into the later 9th century (Young & Vince forthcoming #44553). Ipswich ware (of early 8th to mid 9th-century date) was uncommon, 3 sherds from YBB and one from YFH. Four sherds of Badorf ware were found, one of which is a jar used for cooking. This ware is thought to have been first produced in the late 8th century and by the later 9th century it was no longer exported to England (although still produced and used in the Rhineland).

Table 1

cname	YBB	YFH
MSAXIMP	0	1
ESGS	1	
IPS	3	1
BADO	4	
ELFS	4	
BLBURN	16	
SST	35	1
MAX	116	43
Grand Total	179	44

The Mid Saxon pottery contrasts somewhat with that from the Redfern's Glassworks site (Mainman 1993 #20763). All sites, however, seem to agree that the main period of activity was in the early to mid 8th century. YBB seems to have been occupied into the later 8th to

mid 9th centuries whilst YFH might have been occupied only for a short time in the early to mid 8th century, at which time locally-made pottery was in decline.

Anglo-Scandinavian

Two hundred and eight sherds of pottery of later 9th to 11th-century date were found on the sites (Table 2). Most of these were of Torksey-type ware which was produced from the late 9th century onwards at Torksey, on the Trent to the west of Lincoln. However, no sherds with definitely late 9th/early 10th-century features were noted and it is likely that none of the sherds is earlier than the mid 10th century. Indeed, only one roller-stamped sherd was present and this suggests that most of the sherds are of later 10th to mid 11th-century date.

Sherds of York A ware (aka Mainman's York Anglo-Scandinavian ware) and York D ware were present on both sites. These, by contrast, are unlikely to be later than the mid 10th century in date.

Finally, a single sherd of St Neot's type ware was found at YFH. This ware can be distinguished from Lincolnshire shelly wares at x20 magnification.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Anglo-Scandinavian pottery from these Fishergate sites is the lack of Lincoln Kiln Type shelly ware, considering the high frequency of its mid Saxon predecessor, Northern Maxey ware.

Table 2

cname	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
NEOT		1	1
TORK	43	133	176
YORKA	15	3	18
YORKD	11	2	13
Grand Total	69	139	208

A small group of sherds could be of pre-conquest date, but are as likely to be post-conquest (Table 3). They consist of Lincoln Fine-Shelled ware (LFS), Stamford ware (ST) and Pingsdorf ware (PING). In fact, several of the LFS sherds are likely to be misidentified Northern Maxey ware and should be examined in more detail. The Stamford ware is mainly unglazed jar sherds (72 sherds at YBB and 33 at YFH). Mainman has suggested that at Coppergate Stamford wares were particularly common in the period between the decline of Torksey ware in the mid 10th century and the emergence of the York Gritty industry in the later 11th century.

Table 3

cname	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
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LFS	59	1	60
PING	1	0	1
ST	91	38	129
Grand Total	151	39	190

Late 11th to mid 12th-century

Over 1500 sherds dating to the later 11th century or later were found (Table 4). However, the main ware present, York Gritty ware (YG) was used from the later 11th to the mid 13th centuries and cannot be used to indicate the intensity of activity on the sites in the late 11th to mid 12th centuries. On the other hand, splashed ware vessels have a more limited chronological range (YSP, early to mid 12th century) and these too are much more common than any of the earlier wares. This must indicate a sudden increase in activity, probably from the later 11th century onwards. The only other ware datable to this period is a handmade coarseware from eastern England (GSS) which has been found on sites along the east coast, from Scotland down to Lincolnshire. It is possible that the three sherds, all from YBB are from one vessel but this is still the first recognised occurrence of this ware in York and requires confirmation by thin-section and chemical analysis.

Table 4

cname	Form	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
GSS		1		1
	JAR	2		2
GSS Total		3		3
YG	BOWL	1		1
	JAR	1077	102	1179
YG Total		1078	102	1180
YSP	JAR	4		4
	JUG	300	47	347
YSP Total		304	47	351
YSP?	JUG		1	1
YSP? Total			1	1
Grand Total		1385	150	1535

Late 12th to mid 13th century

Over a thousand sherds from the two sites are of types which were current in the later 12th and early 13th centuries (Table 5). Given that YG is the main coarseware at the time that these wares were current, it is clear that there is considerable activity at both sites at this

time. Wares present include vessels produced at Beverley (BEVO, BEVO1 and BEVO2), Stamford (Developed Stamford ware, DEVS), Central Lincolnshire (LEMS), Northern France (probably Picardy, NFM, {Hillewaert 1992 #5093}), and Scarborough (SCAR, although probably most of the sherds found are of later 13th to early 14th-century date).

The majority of the sherds found, however, are of uncertain origin. They either consist of York Glazed ware (YORK), which Jennings has suggested might be an earlier predecessor of the Brandsby-type industry, {Jennings 1992 #19553}, or red sandy ware, also of unknown but presumably local origin.

Table 5

cname	Form	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
BEVO	JAR	3		3
	JUG	36	2	38
BEVO1	JUG	1		1
BEVO2	JUG	30		30
DEVS	JUG		1	1
LEMS	JAR	5		5
MEDLOC	JAR	1		1
MEDX	JAR	1		1
	JUG	7	1	8
NFM	JUG		2	2
RED SANDY	DRIP	1		1
	DRIPPING DISH	1		1
	JAR	11		11
	JUG	15	1	16
	JUG? LOUVE	1		1
	JUG? LOUVE?	3		3
SCAR	JUG	4		4
STAXT	CURFEW	2		2
	JAR	53		53
YORK	?		1	1
	CON/BAL JUG	1		1
	JAR	221	9	230
	JAR/JUG	1	1	2
	JUG	555	37	592
	JUG/JAR	10		10
	JUG?		1	1
	PIPKIN	1		1

	SPL	2		2
Grand Total		966	56	1022

Late 13th to early 14th century

Four hundred and eighty four sherds are of types which first appeared in the later 13th century (Table 6). Many, however, are likely to be of later date, for example the Dutch Red Earthenware (DUTR) is probably of mid 14th-century or later date, as is the unglazed Saintonge ware (SAIU) and the Siegburg stoneware (SIEG) and even the Tees Valley ware (TVW) and the Andalusian lustreware (ANDA). Therefore, only a proportion of the Brandsby-type ware is likely to be of later 13th to early 14th century date. This indicates a considerable decline in activity from the preceding period.

Table 6

cname	Form	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
ANDA	JUG	2		2
BRANDBY	DJ		1	1
	DRIP	1		1
	JAR	83	2	85
	JUG	255	30	285
	JUG/JAR	5		5
	LCUP		4	4
CMW	JUG	1		1
DUTR	?	1		1
	BOWL?		4	4
	CAUL	61	5	66
	CAULD	1		1
	FRYING PAN	4		4
	FRYP	1	2	3
	JUG	17		17
SAIU	JUG	1		1
SIEG	DJ	1	1	2
TVW	JUG	1		1
Grand Total		435	49	484

The production of a Humberware, visually indistinguishable from Walmgate ware, may belong in this period, although a large proportion of the waste sherds are associated with these probable mid 14th-century wares or later types. Several approaches to the dating of the industry can be pursued: firstly, to establish the date of the latest assemblages on the site which do not include waste; secondly to examine the range of wares which occur

alongside the waste and thirdly, to look for typological parallels for the various vessel forms and rim, base, spout and handle typology.

Mid 14th to mid 15th century

Thirty-nine sherds of types which are definitely of later 14th or 15th-century date were found (Table 00). All are from YBB, but given the scarcity of these types this need not mean that no pottery of this date was deposited at YFH. Sixteen sherds are of Hambleton ware, produced in the Hambleton Hills (including a recent discovery of waste from Castle Howard). This is datable to the 16th century. A single sherd of Low Countries Greyware was found (LCGR) this is common at port sites in the later medieval period but does not usually travel inland, unlike the Dutch Red Earthenware, which was produced in the same area and possibly in the same kilns. The remaining sherds are of Langerwehe stoneware (LANG) and a few sherds which might be either Langewehe or Raeren stoneware (LARA). These stonewares were produced from the mid 14th century onwards and examples from YBB include types of 14th and 15th-century dates.

Table 7

cname	Form	YBB01	Grand Total
HAMBLETON	JUG	16	16
LANG	?	1	1
	DJ	6	6
	JUG	7	7
LARA	DJ	8	8
LCGR	JAR	1	1
Grand Total		39	39

Late 15th to mid 16th century

Seventy-nine sherds of later 15th- to mid 16th-century date were recorded (Table 8). Those from YBB include types which are not current after c.1550, such as Raeren stoneware (RAER) and Tudor Green ware (TUDG) whilst those from YFH are of types which although they may start earlier are current in the later 16th or early 17th centuries, such as Blackwares (BL) and glazed red earthenwares (GRE).

Table 8

cname	Form	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
BL	BOWL	1		1
	CPOT		3	3
	JAR	9		9
CSTN	CUP	20	4	24

GRE	BOWL	26	1	27
	JUG	4		4
RAER	DJ	7		7
	JUG	2		2
TUDG	CUP?	1		1
	JUG	1		1
Grand Total		71	8	79

Later 16th century and later

Thirty-two sherds of later 16th, 17th and early 18th-century date were recorded (Table 9). Both sites include types of late 16th to mid 17th-century date, such as Midlands Yellow ware (MY), which despite the name was also produced in Yorkshire, for example at Wrenthorpe (Moorhouse & Roberts 1992 #21453) and Frechen stoneware together with a few Staffordshire wares (Brown Stoneware, of very late 18th and early 18th-century date, STBRS; Staffordshire wheelthrown slipwares, STSL, of later 17th to mid 18th-century date and mottled wares, STMO, of early 18th century and later date). The rarity of these finds indicates a lack of activity on the sites.

Table 9

cname	Form	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
BERTH			1	1
	?	1		1
	BOWL	2		2
	JUG		1	1
BERTH Total		3	2	5
FREC	BELLAMINE		1	1
FREC Total			1	1
LHUM	BALUSTER	1		1
	BOWL	1		1
LHUM Total		2		2
MY	?	1		1
MY Total		1		1
RYEDALE	BOWL	7	7	14
	CIST	1		1
	JAR	1		1
	JUG	1	1	2
RYEDALE Total		10	8	18

SLIP	PIPKIN	1		1
SLIP Total		1		1
STBRS	DJ	1		1
STBRS Total		1		1
STMO	TANK		1	1
STMO Total			1	1
STSL	POSS	1	1	2
STSL Total		1	1	2
Grand Total		19	13	32

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Forty-five fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded (Table 10), most of which came from YFH. Except for four fragments from YFH the stems all have a bore diameter which is indicative of an early to mid 17th-century date. Two stamped heels were also present, 'IS' and 'AB'. The lack of later 17th- and 18th-century pipes may be part of a general trend for snuff to replace clay pipes as the preferred way of taking tobacco.

Table 10

Form	subfabric	YBB01	YFH00	Grand Total
PIPE		2	1	3
	17TH CENTURY BORE DIAMETER	5	30	35
	18-19TH CENTURY BORE DIAMETER		4	4
	17 CENTURY BORE DIAMETER; 'IS' ON HEEL	1		1
	17TH CENTURY BORE DIAMETER; 'AB' ON HEEL		1	1
	17TH CENTURY BORE DIAMETER;PLAIN HEEL		1	1
Grand Total		8	37	45

Discussion

Fishergate House

Roman cemetery

Only four Roman cremations produced pottery (Table 11). F267 produced a single fragmentary greyware jar. F319 produced two fragmentary vessels, an Ebor 1 flagon and a greyware rustic ware jar. F320 produced two complete vessels, a Ebor 1 flagon and a rustic ware jar. F321 produce one primary Ebor 1 flagon and sherds from several fragmentary vessels in the grave backfill. These sherds include an unusual greyware jar (YATG00), a local greyware jar and sherds from a whiteware vessel (YATP00). Although these latter sherds might come from a disturbed, earlier cremation they include types which are not

present in any surviving grave and they may, for example, represent vessels used in grave-side ceremonies immediately prior to the burial. It is interesting to note that some of the pottery from these cremations is extremely well-preserved but other vessels have lost their surfaces, presumably because the vessels were less well fired or the grave fill was closer to the Roman ground level, exposing the vessels to chemical weathering. A third possibility is that there are differences in the biological and chemical activity of different parts of the site.

As a group, these cremation vessels clearly belong to the later 1st to early 2nd century. There are no burnished vessels, which may indicate a date prior to c.120 when the widespread trading of Dorset BB1 seems to have started a province-wide fashion. The rustic ware vessels, however, are of fabric YATR02, which superseded YATR01. There is therefore no evidence for burials on the site in the earliest phases of use of the fortress.

Table 11

context group	Data	YATE00	YATE01	YATG00	YATG01	YATP00	YATR02	Grand Total
F267	Nosh				35			35
	mean wt				55			55
	Weight				1,912			1,912
F319	Nosh		15				55	70
	mean wt		34				13	23
	Weight		506				692	1,198
F320	Nosh		1				1	2
	mean wt		651				1,142	897
	Weight		651				1,142	1,793
F321	Nosh	1	25	1	16	3		46
	mean wt	-	544	49	11	8		193
	Weight	-	1,552	49	182	24		1,807

Other Roman pottery from deposits dating to the Roman period is rare. Two small sherds came from context 1341. They are of types which could be contemporary with the cremations although one of these sherds is abraded and the layer was clearly exposed to weathering, if not agricultural disturbance.

F297, a gully, produced a small collection of Roman pottery (4 sherds). One of these, a local greyware lid, was notably fresh and could have been derived from a cremation burial (perhaps being used with a greyware or rustic ware jar) although two of the other sherds were abraded. Here too, it is possible that the gully is actually later in date than the cremation cemetery but contains no contemporary pottery.

Roman pottery residual in later deposits

A larger collection occurs as residual sherds in Mid Saxon or later deposits. This pottery, amounting to 111 sherds, 1363 gm, includes a high proportion of pottery of late 1st to 2nd century date, including a preponderance of flagon sherds and unidentified closed wares in Ebor 1 fabric which are quite likely to have come from flagons. Eleven of these sherds have fresh breaks and surfaces. These sherds presumably came from disturbed cremations and were found in the fill of the following features: F129, F263, F281, F283, F284 and F288. However, they include sherds from five burnished vessels and if these are indeed from disturbed burials then this is evidence for the continuation of use of the cemetery into the 2nd quarter of the 2nd century.

The residual Roman pottery also includes sherds which are clearly of much later date, all of which are abraded and small. These include Central Gaulish Samian ware, Nene Valley colour-coated ware beakers (YATC01) of later 2nd century or later date and a sherd of calcite-tempered ware (YATK01) of later 3rd or 4th-century date. However, the majority of the sherds are of similar date to the cremation cemetery, but include several wares and forms not found in the cemetery. These include sherds of 'black sand' amphora fabric, almost certainly from a Dr2-4 amphora (YATAP00) and Dressel 20 amphora. Such vessels could occur in graves, but only those of high status. They may be further evidence for grave-side ceremonies. Interestingly, there are no sherds of mortaria nor beakers present and most of the late 1st/2nd-century forms could be used for feasting (flagons – 46 sherds, plus 24 closed forms, jars – 34 sherds, platters – 3 sherds and Samian vessels, mostly too small to identify a form, but including bowls such as Dr38).

Occupation deposits and rubbish pits

A single pit appears to date to the mid Saxon period, F65. However, even this pit contains two sherds of intrusive pottery, of late 10th/11th century and 16th-century date. Ignoring these sherds, which come from context 1338, the remaining sherds form a coherent assemblage of early-to-mid 8th century date, containing Northern Maxey wares a single sherd of Ipswich ware and a sherd of possible imported pottery (MSAXIMP).

Pit 125 might also be of mid Saxon date, but contains three sherds of Torksey ware (one from the primary fill and two from the secondary backfill) compared with four sherds of early to mid Saxon coarsewares (SST). It is arguably more likely to be a later Anglo-Scandinavian feature containing some residual pottery.

Two features contained single sherds of York A ware (F161 and F229) and might therefore date to the later 9th to mid 10th centuries.

Two other pits (F129 and F150) date to the later 10th or 11th centuries or later, together with one hearth (F183). Of these, F129 produced a moderately large assemblage, of 42 sherds (372gm) consisting entirely of Torksey ware sherds (mainly jars, but including a bowl, a lamp

and a sherd from a large container with direct thumbing) apart from a sherd of York D ware from the primary fill. The lack of Stamford ware and the presence of the York D ware suggest a mid/late 10th century date for the filling.

Five pits, two post holes and a gully produced sherds of York Gritty ware jars with no later types. Of these, Pit 177 produced an assemblage which suggests a mid/late 11th century deposition date since it contains mostly Torksey ware sherds with single examples of Stamford and York Gritty wares. Two features produced just sherds of York Gritty ware (F228 and F242) and three produced sherds of York Gritty ware jars and splashed ware jugs (F214, F215, F241 and F323). These are probably to be dated to the later 11th to mid 12th centuries. A sherd of intrusive post-medieval pottery was present in the fill of F214 (context 1404).

Three features contained sherds of York glazed ware (and should be later 12th century or later in date. Of these, F239 produced a mixed assemblage, from the secondary packing of a post hole. F242 produced a small assemblage where the York ware consists of an unglazed jar and the remaining sherds are of later 11th to mid 12th-century types. This suggests a mid/late 12th-century date for this assemblage. Finally, F302 produced a small assemblage containing sherds of York glazed ware jug and North French Monochrome ware jug. Both types indicate a later 12th or early 13th-century or later deposition date.

There are no pit fills of late medieval date, which is consistent with the site having been given over to burial during this period, and two features produced sherds of 16th- to early 17th-century pottery. F103 contained a sherd of Frechen stoneware, probably from a narrow-necked bottle (of the type colloquially known as Belarmine bottles). This would date to the early to mid 17th century. F104 produced a single sherd of brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH). This ware is also typical of the early to mid 17th-century.

Ditches

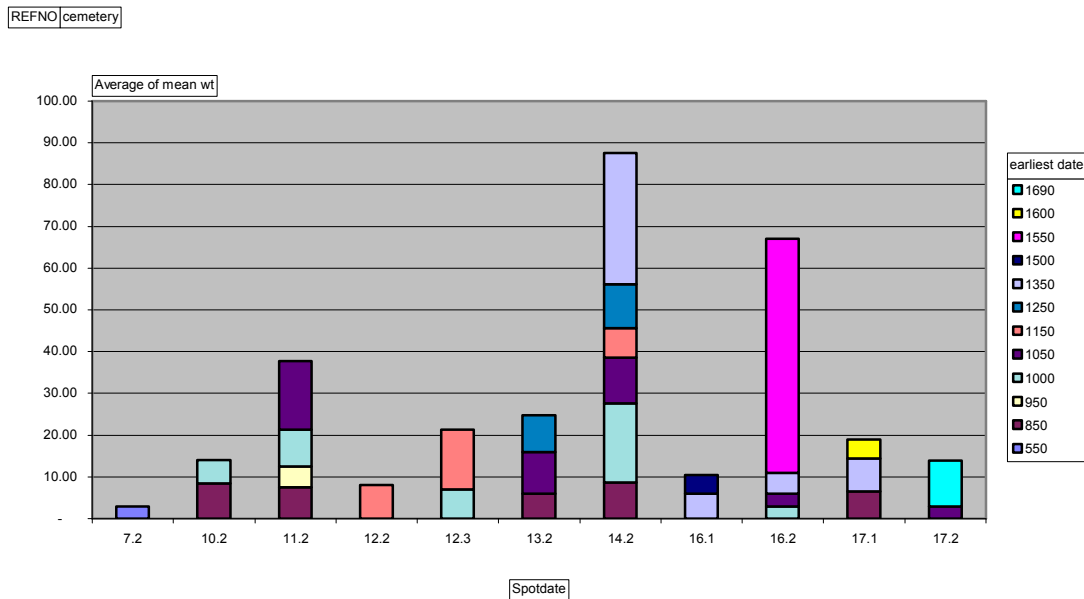
Seventy one sherds of pottery came from ditch backfills. F282 and F283 produced only small assemblages giving a later 11th-century or later deposition date. F284 produced a small collection of later 11th to mid 12th-century date. F281 produced 34 sherds which form a coherent later 12th or early 13th-century assemblage, containing not only York glazed ware but also Beverley ware and Developed Stamford ware. The assemblage from F282 contained only four sherds and is similar to that from F281 with the exception of a sherd of Brandsby-type ware. Finally, two ditch fills produced sherds of Humberware. F263 contains a range of residual wares alongside 9 sherds of Humberware whilst F274 produced single sherds of Humberware and York glazed ware.

Cemetery

Sixty five medieval graves produced sherds of pottery, totalling 143 sherds. The most common wares present date to the later 10th and 11th centuries (Torksey and Stamford wares), accounting for 55 sherds. In 25 graves these were the latest sherds present. 21 sherds date to the later 11th to mid 12th centuries, and in 12 contexts these are the latest sherds present. Eight sherds of Brandsby-type wares were present, and in four graves these were the latest type present. Twenty two sherds of later medieval pottery were present, and in 13 graves these were the latest types present. Finally, there were four sherds of 16th-century or later pottery and three clay tobacco pipe stems from the graves. The latest datable sherd was of Staffordshire Mottled ware (STMO) and is of very late 17th- or early 18th-century date.

It is likely that the few finds of 16th-century or later date are intrusive and should be discounted. For the remainder, the pottery evidence could be interpreted either as indicating a long-lasting medieval cemetery, established in the later 10th or 11th centuries and surviving until the later 14th to 15th centuries, or it could be interpreted as a late medieval cemetery in which the grave cuts disturbed earlier medieval occupation.

The mean sherd weight for the various grave assemblages was calculated and indicates that the size of the later medieval sherds is greater than that of earlier wares, and that there is no diminution in size of these earlier wares between those graves with no late medieval sherds and those with late medieval sherds. The mean sherd weight therefore points to all of the pottery in grave fills earlier than the later 14th century being residual and this in turn points to a substantial amount of later 10th or 11th-century occupation on the site beforehand (unless soil was deliberately imported in order to raise the ground level for burial). This is shown graphically in fig 00 although a single large sherd of a Ryedale ware bowl weighing 55gm distorts the pattern. The late medieval pottery from graves with late medieval pottery in their fills has an average weight of 31gm whereas no other group of pottery has a mean weight greater than 20gm.



From a study of the pottery, it seems most likely that the cemetery superseded occupation of the site (with the possible exception of some of the ditches) and that it was of short-lived duration. The pottery is consistent with a mid 14th-century date and a Black Death context would fit well. However, it cannot be said that the pottery finds *prove* the case for this being a short-lived plague overspill cemetery as they would be equally consistent with a longer period of use, from the mid 14th to some time in the mid 15th century.

Soil and makeup layers

One hundred and eighty sherds of pottery were recovered from horizontal deposits, mostly overlying the cemetery and medieval features but including three earlier layers. Layer 1501 produced a sherd of Stamford ware which gives a deposition date of 11th century or later. Layer 1401 produced 11 sherds of later 11th-century or later date. Layer 1609 produced a sherd of York glazed ware jar, indicating a later 12th-century or later deposition date.

The majority of the pottery in these horizontal deposits comes from four layers, 1003, 1005, 1439 and 1516. Most of the pottery in these layers is of later medieval date (66 sherds) together with 74 sherds of earlier medieval date, similar to that in the earlier features. Fourteen later sherds were present and these are a mixture of 11 early 17th century wares and 19th-century wares (3 sherds). These layers also produced 28 fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, all with early to mid 17th-century bore diameters.

Periods of low activity

The pottery and clay tobacco pipes provide evidence for activity on the site from the later 2nd to early/mid 2nd century and then from the 8th to the 19th centuries. However, the intensity of that activity seems to fluctuate through time. The post-Roman site sequence starts in the 8th century, but there is very little pottery of this date present and only one feature which can be

dated with certainty to this period. Activity is also present but limited in the later 9th to mid 10th centuries but in the later 10th to mid 11th century there is a huge increase in activity, represented both by stratified assemblages from features and by residual pottery, particularly in grave fills. This level of activity continued into the later 11th to mid 12th centuries and on into the later 12th to early 13th centuries. There is, however, a lack of pottery which can be reliably dated to the later 13th to early 14th centuries. It is not possible to say that there was no activity at this time since Brandsby ware was in use at this period and later, but there is a lack of any other diagnostic late 13th to early 14th-century pottery. It therefore seems that there is a gap between the occupation of the site and its use for burial and it is unlikely that all deposits associated with activity at this period have been removed during preparation of the site for use as a cemetery. Similarly, there are no diagnostic sherds of later 15th to 16th-century date from the site and there was probably also a gap between the use of the cemetery and the activity represented by the various finds in the overlying soil level and odd features, most of which can be dated to the early to mid 17th century with a few sherds of later 17th or early 18th-century date. With their exception, there is no pottery present which dates to the later 17th or 18th century whilst the later pottery is limited in quantity and probably dates to the mid 19th century or later.

Blue Bridge Lane

The Blue Bridge Lane site is immediately north of the Fishergate House site and immediately south of the Redfern's Glassworks site excavated by YAT (Mainman 1993 #20763). It has a different archaeological sequence to either of these sites, however. In the Roman period there is only one cremation burial and the most prominent features were roadside ditches, including those of a spur off the main road, the predecessor to Fishergate. In the Mid Saxon period, there is no stratigraphic evidence for occupation, and it is moot point whether any of the small quantity of residual Mid Saxon pottery need have been derived from occupation deposits on the site rather than being refuse from occupation to the north or south. In the Anglo-Scandinavian to early Norman periods there is evidence for settlement, mainly in the form of post-hole buildings rather than pits, ditches or wells. This occupation seems to continue into the early 14th century. At this point in the sequence the site was terraced and a pottery kiln constructed on the site. The majority of the excavated deposits on the site contain sherds of this pottery, a variety of Walmgate ware. Some of these deposits contain later 14th and 15th-century wares alongside the kiln waste, but whether they indicate that the kiln had a long period of use is doubtful. It is more likely that the quantity of waste on the site was so great that it forms a background to all subsequent archaeological deposition. There is a small quantity of 16th and 17th-century material, but little of this material comes from pits or other cut features and it is likely that the land use at that time did not entail pit digging. No pit groups of 17th or 18th-century date were present on the site whilst 19th-century assemblages were not assessed.

Roman

Only stratified assemblages of Roman pottery will be examined in detail since there is a high percentage of small, abraded sherds in later assemblages and it was not thought that their study would add much to the history of the site. It is clear from those, however, that pottery of later 3rd-century date is present on the site (mainly Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware and Dales Shelly ware), even though the stratified assemblages are all earlier. Pottery of 4th-century date (principally Crambeck wares and calcite-tempered wares) is uncommon, suggesting a change in land-use on the site in the later 3rd/early 4th century.

In the event, it proved to be difficult to determine whether or not some assemblages of Roman pottery were stratified in Roman deposits or not, since they typically consist of a handful of extremely small and abraded sherds and come from deposits listed as the fills of post holes. Table 12 lists those contexts thought to contain contemporary groups of Romano-British pottery (1.2 indicates a later 1st to early 3rd-century date; 1.2* indicates the presence of intrusive sherds; 1.2+ indicates a *tpq* of late 1st century, whereas the deposition date is probably in the Anglo-Saxon or later periods; 2.2 indicates a late 2nd-century or later deposition date and 3.2 indicates a later 3rd-century or later deposition date).

Table 12

context group	context	spotdate	description
	2133	01.2	Plough soil
	1089	01.2	Probable layer
F110	1920	01.2	Secondary backfill from ditch
F392	1792	01.2	Secondary backfill of scoop
	2211	01.2	Layer
F110	1921	01.2	Secondary backfill from ditch
F439	1942	01.2	Secondary backfill of scoop
	1789	01.2	
	1233	01.2	Layer - possible early soil
F537	2160	01.2	Secondary backfill in ditch
	2143	01.2	Recovery context
F110	1258	01.2	Secondary recovery context from ditch
F537	2158	01.2	Secondary ploughsoil in ditch
F537	2159	01.2	Secondary backfill in ditch
F394	1790	01.2	Cremation fill
	1305	01.2	Buried soil
	2199	01.2	Layer

context group	context	spotdate	description
F438	1798	01.2	Secondary backfill of ditch
	2040	01.2	Buried soil
F110	2088	01.2*	Secondary backfill from ditch
F343	1753	01.2*	Secondary backfill of posthole
F203	1393	01.2*	Backfill of ditch
	1602	01.2+	Recovery context (for early med. Pit?)
F452	1961	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F143	1535	01.2+	Backfill of pit
F128	1280	01.2+	Secondary backfill of pit
F238	1511	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F409	1911	01.2+	Primary fill of pit
F512	2087	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F322	1718	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F320	1704	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F528	2138	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F417	1803	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F408	1906	01.2+	Backfill of cess pit
F283	1458	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F373	1816	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F278	1474	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F275	1479	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F359	1863	01.2+	Secondary backfill of pit
F270	1637	01.2+	Secondary backfill of posthole
F411	1895	01.2+	Backfill of posthole
F508	2072	01.2+	Backfill of pit
F557	2217	01.2+	Primary fill of pit
	2205	02.1	Layer
F519	2118	02.1	Secondary backfill of ditch
F389	1782	02.2	Secondary backfill of ditch
F305	1678	03.2	Secondary backfill of scoop
F564	2229	03.2	Backfill of pit
F043	1163	03.2	Backfill of roadside ditch

Mid Saxon

Surprisingly little pottery of Mid Saxon date was present on the Blue Bridge Lane site. This is not only true of stratified assemblages but also of sherds residual in later deposits. On the other hand, the residual sherds are of a moderate size and do appear to have come from the fills of features rather than a scatter in the subsoil. Thus, there is some evidence that the mid Saxon settlement continued into this area, but clearly as an extensive rather than intensive occupation.

About a third of the sherds found were of sandstone-tempered coarsewares, another third were Northern Maxey ware vessels and the remainder consisted of imports, such as Ipswich ware, black burnished ware and Badorf ware. The latter indicates activity in the later 8th century or later whilst all the remainder are probably of early to mid 8th-century date.

Table 13 lists contexts dated to the mid Saxon period, all of which have a *tpq* of early 8th century, since all the later sherds were found in residual contexts. Many of these contexts, however, have only produced residual Roman sherds whereas those marked 8.1* contain intrusive medieval or later material.

Table 13

context group	context	spotdate	description
F520	1811	08.1	Primary backfill of pit
F442	2004	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F273	1645	08.1	Final backfill of pit
F273	1588	08.1	Recovery context from pit
F273	2103	08.1	Backfill of pit
F299	1471	08.1	Secondary backfill of posthole
F520	2120	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F442	2011	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1881	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F353	1772	08.1	Primary refuse fill of pit
F013	1064	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F353	1449	08.1	Primary refuse fill of pit
F013	1065	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1147	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1148	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1880	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F442	1951	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1904	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit

context group	context	spotdate	description
F013	1908	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F164	1341	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F520	2122	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F013	1865	08.1	Recovery context
F184	1363	08.1	Secondary recovery context from pit
F413	1897	08.1	Secondary backfill of pit
F520	2130	08.1	Recovery context from pit
F520	2129	08.1	Backfill of pit
F164	1337	08.1	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F413	1903	08.1	Secondary backfill of pit
F273	2096	08.1*	Backfill of pit
F273	2074	08.1*	Recovery context from pit
F013	1144	08.1*	Primary refuse backfill of pit
F273	2095	08.1*	Backfill of pit
F520	2128	08.1*	Primary refuse backfill of pit

Anglo-Scandinavian

Sherds of late 9th to mid 11th-century pottery were found on the Blue Bridge Lane site and some of these sherds are of moderate size. However, a number are quite small and probably derive from soil horizons, before being incorporated into later deposits.

There are sherds of York Anglo-Scandinavian ware from the site, including moderate-sized fragments, indicating that the occupation which gave rise to them probably started in the late 9th or early 10th centuries, since after that date only Torksey ware and Stamford ware appear to have been current. However, the majority of the sherds are of these latter two wares, indicating, as at Fishergate House, that it was in the century before the Norman conquest that the suburb began to fill up. Torksey ware seems to have ceased manufacture in the mid 11th century and Stamford ware briefly became the most common ware in York. The quantity of Stamford jar sherds from the site suggests that, as at Fishergate House, this mid/late 11th-century phase is represented at Blue Bridge Lane. Finally, there are a few sherds of Rhenish red-painted ware, which might be of pre- or post-conquest date.

Table 14 lists contexts which have a *tpq* in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. All are likely to be late 10th-century at the earliest and it is quite likely that the smaller assemblages, for example from posthole fills, are residual.

Table 14

period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050
10.2		Buried soil	1306	1								1	
10.2	F046	Backfill of well	1167	9	3			1		1		1	
10.2	F112	Secondary backfill of pit	1261										1
10.2	F291	Secondary backfill of posthole	1598							1			
10.2	F336	Secondary backfill of posthole	1746							1			
10.2	F426	Backfill of scoop	1791	14						1		3	1
10.2	F460	Secondary backfill of pit	1975									1	
10.2	F480	Secondary backfill of posthole	2023							1			

Early Norman (late 11th to mid 12th century)

There are a large number of assemblages which contain no pottery types later than the mid 12th century. Many of these are, however, extremely small and consist of single sherds.

Many of these come from the fills of post-holes. The main wares present at this time are all present either earlier (e.g. Stamford ware) or later (i.e. York Gritty ware, Beverley glazed ware and Splashed ware) and assignment of a feature to this period on the basis of the pottery alone is not possible. Therefore, the list give here (Table 15) will contain assemblages from features which are actually of later 12th-century or 13th-century date.

Furthermore, some of the small assemblages containing only Stamford ware sherds, listed above, are likely to be contemporary with those listed here.

Table 15

period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
11.2		Buried soil	1930	1									3			
11.2		Dump	1583										1			
11.2		Soil spread	2018			1							1			
11.2	F179	Secondary backfill of	1350										1			

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		posthole														
11.2	F190	Backfill of posthole	1375	1									1			
11.2	F193	Secondary backfill of posthole	1378											2		
11.2	F197	Secondary backfill of posthole	1382	2										1		
11.2	F202	Secondary recovery context from posthole	1390											1		
11.2	F214	Secondary backfill of scoop	1404											1		
11.2	F234	Secondary backfill of posthole	1507											1		
11.2	F249	Secondary backfill of pit	1555	1										1		
11.2	F255	Secondary backfill of pit	1567	1										1		
11.2	F256	Backfill of posthole	1574	2										1		
11.2	F265	Secondary backfill of possible pit	1278							1				2		
11.2	F271	Secondary backfill of posthole	1480											2		
11.2	F276	Secondary backfill of posthole	1601							1				2		
11.2	F281	Secondary backfill of posthole	1457	2							1			10		
11.2	F296	Secondary backfill of posthole	1670								1				1	11
11.2	F304	Secondary backfill of posthole	1460											2		
11.2	F338	Secondary backfill of posthole	1748											1		
11.2	F339	Secondary backfill of posthole	1749	1										1		
11.2	F345	Backfill of beam slot	1757											2		
11.2	F416	Secondary backfill of posthole	1900											2		

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
11.2	F437	Primary fill of pit	1944	1												
11.2	F437	Secondary backfill of pit	1797	1									1			
11.2	F437	Secondary backfill of pit	1943	1												
11.2	F475	Primary material in spread	2014	1											1	
11.2	F489	Secondary backfill of scoop	2037									1		1		
11.2	F498	Secondary backfill of scoop	2052												1	
11.2	F514	Secondary backfill of pit	2100												1	
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2171	12											1	
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2175												1	
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2194	3		1										
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2195	4		1										
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2198	2							1					
11.2	F546	Backfill of pit	2201	1												
11.2	F546	Recovery context from pit	2192	5											3	
11.2	F551	Secondary backfill of construction	2176												1	
11.2	F555	Secondary backfill of pit	2209	9		1									3	
11.2*	F234	Secondary backfill of posthole	1506													1
11.2*	F329	Fill of hearth	1730												2	1
12.1			1371	1						2		1	3			
12.1		Backfill?	1578										1			
12.1		Dump	1566										2			
12.1	F262	Secondary backfill of pit	1605									1	5			
12.1	F266	Secondary	1279	6							1		3			

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		backfill of pit														
12.1	F289	Secondary backfill of posthole	1594	1									1			
12.2		Spread	1411	1									2			
12.2	F163	Backfill of posthole	1338												1	
12.2	F216	Secondary backfill of pit	1407	1							1		4		1	
12.2	F251	Backfill of pit	1561										1		8	
12.2	F272	Backfill of pit	1644	3		3						1			1	
12.2	F277	Secondary backfill of posthole	1599												1	
12.2	F422	Secondary backfill of pit	1802	3								5	61	30	6	
12.2	F422	Secondary backfill of pit	1914										1			
12.2	F427	Backfill of cess pit	1922	3		1									1	
12.2	F441	Secondary backfill of posthole	1950										2			
12.2	F448	Secondary backfill of posthole	1957										2			
12.2	F449	Secondary backfill of scoop	1958										4			
12.2	F545	Secondary backfill in robber trench	2177	4								1	6			
12.2	F547	Secondary layer of floor	2185	2									1		1	
12.2	F547	Secondary levelling of floor	2191	1							1		3			
12.2*	F422	Secondary backfill of pit	1915	3								1	5		1	1
12.2*	F547	Makeup of floor	2186													1

Late 12th to early 14th centuries

A large number of assemblages contain either York glazed ware or Brandsby-type ware without any Humberwares. They are thus datable to the later 12th to early 14th centuries. Although it would be possible to differentiate these groups further this would require a detailed study of the material, and such a study was specifically excluded from the assessment. Although a few of these whiteware sherds are easily assigned to either York Glazed ware or Brandsby-type ware, a number of the assemblages contain small, undecorated, copper-mottled lead-glazed sherds which cannot be assigned to either ware without microscope examination. In terms of the site history, it is clear that there is more activity in the earlier part of this period than the later and several diagnostic York glazed ware vessels were recognised, including tubular-spouted jugs and fragments of 'seals' or large medallions.

Three of these contexts contained Humberware (1513, 1541 and 1864) and none of the Humberware from these deposits was noted as being waste. It is therefore very likely that these deposits pre-date the start of pottery production on the site.

Table 16

period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
12.3		Layer	1717										2		1	
12.3		Layer	2157												1	
12.3		Recovery context	1995	1							1				1	
12.3		Recovery context	2169												1	
12.3		Soil spread	1636													2
12.3		Soil spread	2172	1								1	2		1	
12.3		Spread	1410										3		3	
12.3		Spread	1999	3			1				1		17		4	
12.3		Spread	2045												2	
12.3		Spread of levelling deposit	1255	7								1	13		2	13
12.3	F004	Final backfill of pit (cuts Anglian feature)	1006	1						6			11		4	
12.3	F004	Secondary backfill of pit	1028									1	3			
12.3	F004	Secondary backfill of pit	1029	1									1			

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
12.3	F004	Secondary backfill of pit	1030							2					3	
12.3	F004	Secondary backfill of pit	1031							2						
12.3	F004	Secondary backfill of pit	1039							1						
12.3	F044	Backfill of pit	1164	47							3	8	101		5	2
12.3	F078	Secondary backfill of pit	1553			1							2			1
12.3	F078	Secondary backfill of pit	1616										1			
12.3	F078	Secondary backfill of pit	1622	1											1	
12.3	F078	Secondary backfill of pit	1625	1											1	
12.3	F182		1149	2									1		1	
12.3	F213	Secondary backfill of pit	1403										2		3	1
12.3	F213	Secondary backfill of pit	1405										1			1
12.3	F230	Secondary backfill of pit	1505												1	
12.3	F232	Secondary backfill of pit	1501	2									12		2	
12.3	F237	Secondary backfill of pit	1510	2		1				3			12		6	
12.3	F241	Backfill of pit/post-pit	1517	2	2											
12.3	F241	Backfill of pit/post-pit	1518	5												
12.3	F241	Backfill of pit/post-pit	1526	4		1							1		1	
12.3	F241	Backfill of pit/post-pit	1531	1												
12.3	F241	Secondary backfill of pit	1529									1				
12.3	F246	Fill of hearth	1543	1		2									1	
12.3	F250	Backfill of foundation trench	1560	1						1			18		6	1

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
12.3	F252	Backfill of pit	1571	6								2	15		176	1
12.3	F252	Secondary backfill of pit	1570	2									11		18	1
12.3	F284	Secondary backfill of scoop	1649	1									9		26	
12.3	F315	Secondary backfill of posthole	1696	2											1	
12.3	F317	Primary fill of posthole	1702												1	
12.3	F337	Secondary backfill of posthole	1747										6		1	
12.3	F347	Secondary backfill of pit	1760										1		1	
12.3	F357	Backfill of cess pit	1779						1				3		1	
12.3	F357	Fill of cess pit	1919	3									1			
12.3	F357	Secondary backfill of pit	1777										7		3	
12.3	F388	Backfill of pit	1845	1									1			
12.3	F388	Secondary backfill of pit	1857								1		17		4	
12.3	F395	Secondary backfill of pit	1788									2	8		3	
12.3	F400	Secondary backfill of posthole	1879										5		2	
12.3	F418	Secondary backfill of pit	1807	20					1	1	4	32			17	
12.3	F424	Backfill of posthole	1918	2									6		6	2
12.3	F430	Secondary backfill of scoop	1785										2		1	
12.3	F440	Secondary backfill of posthole	1949						1						1	
12.3	F459	Secondary backfill of pit	1970	2					1	2					1	
12.3	F481	Secondary backfill of scoop	2025												1	

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
12.3	F488	Secondary backfill of posthole	2036												1	
12.3	F503	Backfill of pit	2065	2									3		4	2
12.3	F503	Primary fill of pit	2066	2												
12.3*	F232	Secondary backfill of pit	1509	1									2		1	2
12.3*	F252	Primary fill of pit	1562										5		95	
12.3*	F388	Secondary recovery context from pit	1843	1		1					1		3		1	2
12.3*	F424	Backfill of posthole	1916	5									6		3	3
12.3*	F548	Backfill of posthole	2187										1		1	1
13.2		Soil scoop	1473												6	2
13.2		Soil spread	1541	14						6		4	29		16	4
13.2	F084	Secondary layer in test pit	1216												1	
13.2	F148	Secondary backfill of posthole	1311													1
13.2	F199	Secondary backfill of stake hole	1386										1		1	1
13.2	F239	Backfill of pit	1520	6									4		4	
13.2	F239	Secondary backfill of pit	1512	2							1		7		10	
13.2	F239	Secondary backfill of pit	1513	2						3			8		10	5
13.2	F268	Secondary backfill of scoop	1634							1			4			1
13.2	F313	Secondary backfill of posthole	1454													1
13.2	F396	Fill of cess pit	1864	3									9			31
13.2*	F239	Secondary backfill of pit	1514	1						1			10		4	12

Early to Mid 14th century

The early to mid 14th century saw the construction of a pottery kiln on the site. The pottery produced is in the Humberware tradition and has a fabric which is very similar to that produced at Walmgate, York. The latter industry is thought to have been of later 14th or 15th-century date. The Blue Bridge Lane industry includes unglazed drinking jugs or bottles (i.e. they may not always have handles), a form which is known to have been current in the late 14th century. Several assemblages contain sherds of Humberware and Humberware waste, either with no other wares present at all or just small sherds of residual Roman or medieval date. However, there are also several assemblages which contain Brandsby-type ware which might be contemporary with the Humberware. Both of these assemblage types have been assigned to the early to mid 14th century, on the assumption that this is the date of production. However, it is equally possible that the production waste dates to the later 14th or 15th centuries, in which cases all of these assemblages should be grouped together with those which can definitely be assigned to a later 14th or 15th century date (see below). It is notable that the fill of the kiln itself, produced a sherd of Dutch Red Earthenware, which is uncommon on English sites before the middle of the 14th century.

period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
14.2			1266													1
14.2		Definition spit	1317	2									15		2	27
14.2		Layer	1136										2		3	1
14.2		Layer	1307	2									1		1	3
14.2		Layer	1550													1
14.2		Layer	1651								1		7		1	86
14.2		Layer	1673										1			1
14.2		Layer	1679	1							1		3		2	7
14.2		Layer	2184	19						1		1				1
14.2		Recovery context	1425													7
14.2		Recovery context	1681	1									1		1	45
14.2		Recovery context	1683													34
14.2		Recovery context	1716	1												10
14.2		Recovery context	1719									1	1			8
14.2		Recovery context	1732													67
14.2		Recovery context	1809													9
14.2		Recovery context for cleaning layer	1648										4		4	25
14.2		Recovery	1666													23

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		context for cleaning layer														
14.2		Soil spread	1331	13	1					1	1		15		1	5
14.2		Soil spread	1370	1									2			2
14.2		Soil spread	1433	9							5	2	51		7	6
14.2		Soil spread	1750	2								3	15		4	5
14.2		Soil spread?	1635												2	5
14.2		Spread	1166													2
14.2		Spread	1667	2											1	42
14.2		Spread	1668												1	61
14.2		Spread	1669													6
14.2		Spread	1805	2												2
14.2	F038	Backfill of scoop	1140	2									5		2	1
14.2	F038	Secondary backfill of scoop	1139						1				5		1	2
14.2	F049	Secondary backfill of manhole	1172										1			10
14.2	F050	Secondary backfill of pit	1173													289
14.2	F051	Secondary backfill of pit	1174													3
14.2	F052	Secondary backfill of pit	1175													1
14.2	F052	Spread in pit	1759										1		1	10
14.2	F055	Secondary backfill of possible posthole	1178													3
14.2	F057	Secondary backfill of scoop	1184													10
14.2	F062	Secondary backfill from posthole	1192												1	1
14.2	F086	Secondary deposit in test pit	1218	1												2
14.2	F087	Secondary backfill in possible	1224										1		2	11

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		pit														
14.2	F089	not a feature	1231													4
14.2	F109	Backfill of terrace	1640										2		2	
14.2	F109	Secondary backfill of terrace	1643										1			
14.2	F109	Secondary recovery context from terrace	1260												1	5
14.2	F121	Secondary backfill of pit	1265	1												1
14.2	F125	Primary fill of pit	1275										1			2
14.2	F125	Secondary backfill of pit	1579													1
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1312	6									7		7	3
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1332	4											2	
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1333	2									6			2
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1334						1				6		2	1
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1335	1												
14.2	F150	Backfill of cess pit	1339	2									4			2
14.2	F151	Secondary backfill of posthole	1313													1
14.2	F153	Secondary backfill of pit	1182	3												13
14.2	F156		2333	2									5		1	1
14.2	F161	Backfill of pit	1329										2		1	2
14.2	F183	Backfill of pit	1358										1			3
14.2	F185	Secondary backfill of pit	1365													2
14.2	F186	Primary backfill of pit	1372	3									7		1	10
14.2	F186	Secondary backfill of scoop	1364												1	11
14.2	F187	Secondary	1180	9									1		1	2

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		make-up of surface														
14.2	F191	Secondary backfill of posthole	1376				1			1						1
14.2	F195	Secondary backfill of posthole	1380								1		3			1
14.2	F211	Backfill of brick-lined pit	1522	1						1						5
14.2	F211	Backfill of brick-lined pit	1523	1												1
14.2	F211	Backfill of brick-lined pit	1524									1	1			8
14.2	F211	Secondary make-up of kiln	1401													2
14.2	F211	Secondary recovery context from kiln	1525													1
14.2	F218	Backfill of pit	1515	1									3		2	6
14.2	F218	Secondary backfill of pit	1409	1							1		4		3	4
14.2	F223	Backfill of quarry pit	1484	5						1	1	1	38		15	16
14.2	F223	Backfill of quarry pit	1489	3		1				1			9		3	
14.2	F226	Secondary backfill of posthole	1492	1	1			2					1			3
14.2	F227	Backfill of pit	1495	4	1					3	1	3	14		7	2
14.2	F235	Secondary backfill of pit	1557	2									1			2
14.2	F235	Secondary backfill of pit	1559			1										
14.2	F236	Secondary backfill of pit	1431	2									1		3	23
14.2	F236	Secondary backfill of pit	1432									1	1		1	8
14.2	F240	Recovery context from pit	1210													10
14.2	F240	Secondary backfill of pit	1608	2									3			14

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
14.2	F248	Secondary backfill of scoop	1185	2												4
14.2	F257	Secondary backfill of posthole	1576										1			3
14.2	F259	Secondary backfill of pit	1585								1				2	3
14.2	F259	Secondary backfill of pit	1586	1					1			1	1			5
14.2	F260	Secondary deposit in scoop	1603	3					1	1			11		3	2
14.2	F274	Secondary backfill of posthole	1646										1			1
14.2	F286	Secondary backfill of posthole	1654	1												1
14.2	F298	Secondary backfill of posthole	1672										1			1
14.2	F325	Backfill of pit	1191	3									4		1	10
14.2	F325	Secondary backfill of pit	1715													10
14.2	F330	Secondary backfill of posthole	1188													13
14.2	F333	Primary fill of pit	1736	2		1				1						10
14.2	F333	Secondary backfill of pit	1734										2		1	29
14.2	F334	Fill of hearth	1740													3
14.2	F351	Primary refuse backfill of pit	2113	1												
14.2	F351	Primary refuse backfill of pit	2115	2									2			
14.2	F351	Recovery context from pit	2107	9							4		2		5	26
14.2	F351	Secondary backfill of pit	2106													1
14.2	F351	Secondary backfill of pit	2111	1												

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
14.2	F352	Backfill of terrace	1537	9									5		3	210
14.2	F352	Backfill of terrace	1685												1	
14.2	F352	Backfill of terrace	1689	4									1			8
14.2	F352	Backfill of terrace	1692	8									4			33
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1189										1			28
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1538	5												69
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1539													4
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1687	3									1		3	41
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1688												3	29
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1690										1		1	60
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1693													30
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1695	1									1		3	82
14.2	F352	Secondary backfill of terrace	1697	1									3		1	40
14.2	F352	Secondary definition spit in terrace	1774										5			59
14.2	F354	Secondary backfill of pit	1597	2									5			1
14.2	F382	Secondary backfill of posthole	1708													10
14.2	F383	Secondary backfill of posthole	1838													1
14.2	F384	Secondary backfill of posthole	1839													2
14.2	F391	Makeup of hearth	1844													2
14.2	F393	Backfill of posthole, primary	1061	1												

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
		refuse deposit														
14.2	F393	Secondary fill of posthole	1062	3		2				2	1	1	3		6	2
14.2	F397	Backfill of pit	1884	4												
14.2	F397	Secondary backfill of pit	1787	3								3				1
14.2	F401	Backfill of pit	1711	3									2			2
14.2	F401	Backfill of pit	1713	2												
14.2	F401	Secondary backfill of pit	1709										2		2	2
14.2	F425	Secondary backfill of pit	1786	1												1
14.2	F431	Secondary backfill of posthole	1931													2
14.2	F435	Secondary backfill of pit	1801										2			17
14.2	F435	Secondary backfill of pit	1938													1
14.2	F435	Secondary backfill of pit	1945													1
14.2	F450	Secondary backfill of ditch	1959	3								1	1			36
14.2	F451	Secondary backfill of pit	1960										2		8	21
14.2	F457	Primary fill of pit	1976	1												
14.2	F457	Secondary backfill of pit	1966	2								1	9			1
14.2	F458	Primary fill of pit	1973	2		2									1	
14.2	F458	Primary fill of pit	2030	11												
14.2	F458	Primary fill of pit	2031	1												
14.2	F458	Recovery context from pit	1968	2		3										
14.2	F458	Secondary backfill of pit	1969													1

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250
14.2	F458	Secondary backfill of pit	2041	2												
14.2	F458	Secondary backfill of pit	2055	9												
14.2	F458	Secondary backfill of pit	2057				1									1
14.2	F473	Secondary backfill of pit	2012													1
14.2	F474	Secondary backfill of ditch	2013													1
14.2	F478	Secondary backfill of posthole	2021													1
14.2	F497	Secondary backfill of scoop	2051										2			2
14.2	F515	Secondary backfill of posthole	2102	1												1
14.2	F516	Secondary backfill of posthole	2109													1
14.2	F518	Secondary backfill of pit	2117	4									1		6	198
14.2	F521	Secondary backfill of pit	2124													11
14.2	F549	Backfill of posthole	2188													1
14.2	F570	Backfill of pit	2235													4
14.2	F586	Material from pit excavated in watching brief	2285								1					4
14.2*	F186	Secondary backfill of scoop	1373	4						1	1	1	13			7
14.2*	F351	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1763	4		2					1		1			9

Over 1600 sherds of Humberware waste come from these deposits (Table 17). In addition to sherds of Humberware which show no signs of failure but are probably also, by association, wasters.

Table 17

Context	1250
1172	2
1173	229
1174	3
1184	2
1188	2
1189	26
1191	3
1210	10
1266	1
1307	3
1317	24
1372	8
1425	7
1431	10
1484	3
1524	7
1525	1
1537	201
1538	67
1539	4
1586	5
1608	14
1648	25
1651	86
1666	20
1667	40
1668	61
1681	45
1683	26
1687	40
1688	18
1690	25
1692	27
1693	30
1695	81
1697	21
1708	10

1711	2
1716	10
1732	66
1734	29
1736	3
1740	2
1759	6
1774	56
1809	9
1838	1
1931	1
1959	35
1960	21
2012	1
2107	20
2117	197
2124	4
Grand Total	1650

Later 14th to early 16th centuries

The diagnostic features of later medieval pottery assemblages are such that it is quite difficult to recognise groups of this date on the Blue Bridge Lane site. Not only are sherds of the kiln waste impossible to distinguish from later Humberwares (at present, hopefully a closer examination will provide distinguishing criteria) but also some of the over-fired wasters with a copper-stained lead glaze over a white slip have a surface which mimics the purple-glazed Humberware of the 16th century. We are therefore left with the incidence of Ryedale ware, which replaced Humberware in York during the later 15th and 16th centuries, Cistercian ware and imported vessels, mostly stonewares. On the basis of the incidence of these sherds a group of features can be identified as being of late medieval date. However, it is possible that several more features of this date cannot at present be distinguished from those contemporary with the kiln.

Table 18

period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
14.3		Buried soil	1385	11		3							38		2	20	
14.3		Recovery Context	1737										3		3	3	
14.3		Spread	1891										3		4	56	
14.3	F039	Backfill of scoop	1150	8	2	1				2		1	16		7	2	1

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
14.3	F058	Backfill of kiln	1367	1												27	
14.3	F058	Backfill of kiln	1368										2		1	2	
14.3	F058	Backfill of kiln	1369								1		1		2	3	
14.3	F058	Primary fill of kiln	1855	1													
14.3	F058	Recovery context from kiln	2226													10	
14.3	F058	Secondary backfill of kiln	1947										3		1		
14.3	F058	Secondary recovery context from kiln	1487													13	
14.3	F066	Secondary make-up of wall	1296	6									1			14	3
14.3	F078	Recovery context for cleaning layer	1206	2												25	
14.3	F122	Backfill of pit	1604	1									1		3	17	
14.3	F122	Secondary backfill of pit	1267	1									1		1	50	
14.3	F122	Secondary backfill of pit	1610													2	
14.3	F126	Primary fill of pit	1276													10	
14.3	F126	Primary fill of pit	1590										3		1	13	
14.3	F162	Backfill of quarry pit (cuts Anglian feature)	1314	6	1								13		9	36	
14.3	F162	Backfill of quarry pit (cuts Anglian feature)	1351	1												1	
14.3	F162	Backfill of quarry pit (cuts Anglian feature)	1352	10		1				1	1		9		2	40	
14.3	F162	Secondary backfill of pit	1315	5									6		1	116	
14.3	F162	Secondary backfill of	1359	2									4		1	24	

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
		pit															
14.3	F162	Secondary backfill of pit	1360										2		1	4	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1400	7								1	3		1	10	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1764										1			2	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1765	1								1			1	10	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1766										4			6	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1767										1			6	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1768												1	3	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1769	1									1			14	1
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1770										4		1	9	
14.3	F208	Secondary backfill of ditch	1771													3	
14.3	F215	Backfill of quarry pit	1435	1								2	6		6	14	
14.3	F215	Backfill of quarry pit	1436	3								2	14		7	15	
14.3	F215	Backfill of quarry pit	1439										2		1	11	
14.3	F215	Secondary backfill of pit	1406	1									3		4	54	
14.3	F215	Secondary backfill of pit	1412										1		2	5	
14.3	F215	Secondary backfill of pit	1441	1									2			7	
14.3	F215	Secondary spread in pit	1446												2		
14.3	F219	Backfill of pit	1429										7		1	15	2
14.3	F219	Backfill of pit	1485	2												8	
14.3	F219	Backfill of pit	1486													14	

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
14.3	F219	Deposit in ditch	1714													3	
14.3	F219	Recovery context from ditch	1426									3			4	34	
14.3	F219	Recovery context from ditch	1946												1	10	
14.3	F219	Secondary backfill of ditch	1427	2									6		2	38	
14.3	F219	Secondary backfill of ditch	1428												1	19	2
14.3	F219	Secondary backfill of ditch	1430									1	7		1	19	1
14.3	F220	Backfill of pit	1447													9	
14.3	F220	Secondary backfill of pit	1482													19	6
14.3	F225	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1491	3		1					1		3			4	
14.3	F225	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1493	2	5											1	
14.3	F225	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1494	1													
14.3	F242	Primary fill of pit	1527									1	3				
14.3	F242	Primary fill of pit	1528										2		1	8	
14.3	F242	Recovery context from pit	1536													33	
14.3	F245	Primary backfill of pit	1549	5									13		7	17	
14.3	F245	Secondary backfill of pit	1542	5	2						1	3	41		8	13	
14.3	F245	Secondary backfill of pit	1545										4				
14.3	F245	Secondary backfill of pit	1546										14		11	12	1
14.3	F245	Secondary backfill of pit	1548	14	1							2	33		14	2	

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
14.3	F245	Secondary backfill of pit	1551										1			2	
14.3	F253	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1569	5									3		2	22	1
14.3	F253	Secondary backfill of pit	1563													2	
14.3	F253	Secondary backfill of pit	1568										2			10	
14.3	F254	Backfill of pit	1650										1		2		
14.3	F254	Secondary backfill of pit	1572	1												2	
14.3	F269	Backfill of well	1592												1	1	
14.3	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1591	1							1		2		3	10	
14.3	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1593	3									7		4	4	
14.3	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1612	5									3		4	6	
14.3	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1621	1									1				
14.3	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1639										1				
14.3	F310	Secondary backfill of pit	1288										1		1	8	2
14.3	F310	Secondary backfill of pit	1682										1			3	
14.3	F360	Secondary backfill of pit	1810													2	1
14.3	F381	Fill of cess pit	1858	1				1									
14.3	F381	Fill of cess pit	1859	2						1							
14.3	F381	Fill of cess pit	2054	1													
14.3	F381	Fill of cess pit	2062	3						2		1					
14.3	F381	Fill of cess pit	2063	7	1											1	
14.3	F381	Primary	1846	4	2	1				1			1		2		

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period	context group	description	Context	40	550	650	700	750	800	850	950	1000	1050	1140	1150	1250	1350
		refuse backfill of cess pit															
14.3	F381	Primary refuse backfill of cess pit	1848	1		1											
14.3	F381	Primary refuse backfill of cess pit	1849												1		
14.3	F381	Primary refuse backfill of cess pit	1850		2	4											
14.3	F381	Primary refuse backfill of cess pit	1851	1	2												
14.3	F381	Primary refuse backfill of cess pit	1852								1						
14.3	F381	Recovery context from pit	1836	1		1				2	7	1	3				6
14.3	F381	Recovery context from pit	1861										1		2		
14.3	F381	Recovery context from pit	2049			1											
14.3	F538	Secondary backfill of construction	2142														1
14.3	F568	Secondary backfill of pit	2233														2
14.3*	F058	Backfill of kiln	1186												2		73
14.3*	F219	Secondary backfill of ditch	1270	1								1	5		2	46	1
14.3*	F242	Secondary backfill of pit	1212										1		1	27	14
14.3*	F269	Secondary backfill of pit	1552	1								1	10		7	317	

These deposits produced 847 sherds of Humberware, of which 244 are waste (Table 19). Furthermore, the waste and non-waste sherds do not correlate, suggesting that some of these assemblages post-date the pottery production. The Humberware from these assemblages therefore needs to be examined closely to see if there are any distinguishing features, of fabric or form.

Table 19

Context	non-waste	waste	Grand Total
1150	1		1
1206		23	23
1267	41	2	43
1276	10		10
1288	7		7
1296		9	9
1314	31		31
1315	103		103
1351	1		1
1352	26		26
1359		15	15
1360	3		3
1367	1	26	27
1368		2	2
1369	2		2
1385	7		7
1400	7		7
1406	46		46
1412		5	5
1426		28	28
1427	7	25	32
1428	17		17
1429	13		13
1430	10	8	18
1435	13		13
1436	5		5
1439	9		9
1441	7		7
1447		6	6
1482	2	13	15
1485	7		7
1486	13		13
1487	13		13
1491		4	4
1528	4	4	8
1536		32	32
1542	9		9

1546	12		12
1548	2		2
1549	14		14
1551	2		2
1563	2		2
1568	10		10
1569	9	13	22
1590	11		11
1591		10	10
1592	1		1
1593	1	2	3
1604	8		8
1610	2		2
1612	2		2
1682	3		3
1714	3		3
1737	2		2
1764		2	2
1765	10		10
1766	6		6
1767	5		5
1768	2		2
1769	10		10
1770	9		9
1771	3		3
1836	3		3
1891	46	5	51
1946	9		9
2063	1		1
2226		10	10
Grand Total	603	244	847

Later activity

The assessment did not include any assemblage containing predominantly late 18th- or 19th-century pottery. However, odd sherds of that date were present in earlier deposits and have been recorded simply to document the incidence of intrusion. There was an almost complete absence of later 17th-century and later wares, many of which are not only common in York but extremely easy to identify. Thus, it seems that there was little archaeological deposition

on the site from c.1650 to sometime later than c.1770. Table 20 lists those contexts dated to the later 15th-century or later by their ceramics. Earlier pottery is omitted for reasons of space. This shows that in most cases these deposits are dated on a very few sherds, or by their stratigraphic relationship to other contexts containing later 15th-century or later sherds. It is quite possible that some of these contexts actually contain intrusive sherds and are of earlier date.

Table 20

period	context group	description	Context	1400	1450	1500	1550	1650	1680	1690	1750
15.2		Levelling layer for concrete floor	1054				1				
15.2	F077	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1743								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1721		2						
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1722				1				
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1723								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1724								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1738								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1742								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1744								
15.2	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1756								
15.2	F077	Secondary surface in pit	1741								
15.2	F178	Backfill of pit	1292		1			1			
15.2	F178	Backfill of pit	1336								
15.2	F178	Backfill of pit	1347								
15.2	F178	Backfill of pit	1348								
15.2	F198	Backfill of pit	1442				1				
15.2	F198	Backfill of pit	1443								

period	context group	description	Context	1400	1450	1500	1550	1650	1680	1690	1750
15.2	F198	Backfill of pit	1444			1	1				
15.2	F212	Secondary backfill of pit	1402			1					
15.2	F221	Backfill of pit	1343								
15.2	F221	Secondary backfill of pit	1483		1						
15.2	F403	Secondary backfill of possible well	1800			1					
15.2	F403	Secondary backfill of possible well	1923								
15.2*	F077	Secondary backfill of pit	1720	1							2
15.2*	F198	Backfill of pit	1383	1		4					
15.2*	F198	Backfill of pit	1384								
16.1		Layer	1283		1	1					
16.1		Soil spread	1286				1				
16.1	F075	Secondary backfill of pit	1203			1				1	
16.1	F088	Primary refuse backfill of pit	2001								
16.1	F088	Secondary backfill of pit	1229								
16.1	F088	Secondary backfill of pit	1230			2					
16.1	F088	Secondary backfill of pit	2002								
16.1	F088	Spread in pit	2000								
16.1	F200	Secondary backfill of ditch	1273		1	4	1				
16.1	F200	Secondary backfill of ditch	1387		3	10	3			1	
16.1	F200	Secondary backfill of ditch	1437			2					
16.2		Layer	1228				1				

period	context group	description	Context	1400	1450	1500	1550	1650	1680	1690	1750
16.2		Layer	2015			9				8	
16.2		Recovery context for cleaning layer	1388			4	1				
16.2	F192	Secondary backfill of posthole	1377			1	1				
17.1		Cobble backfill?	1291								
17.1		Spread	1169								
17.1	F054	Secondary backfill of pit	1177				1				
17.2		Recovery context (finds from machining)	1162							1	
17.2	F097	Layer in linear	1252			1				1	
17.2	F155	Secondary backfill of possible posthole	1194			1					
18.2		Redeposited subsoil	1632								1
19.2	F402	Primary refuse backfill of pit	1883								
us		Recovery context for cleaning layer	1263								

Assessment

The Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane sites together form one of the most interesting archaeological sites to have been investigated in York in recent years. By comparing the results of these excavations with those of the Redfern's glassworks site excavated in the late 1980s and early 1990s by YAT, it is possible to provide a context for the mid Saxon activity revealed at the Redfern's site and to study the suburban development along Fishergate from the Anglo-Scandinavian period into the 13th or 14th centuries.

From the early 14th century onwards, however, there is some difficulty in correlating the results of the two FAS excavations. At Fishergate House occupation ceased and a cemetery was established on the site. The backfill of the graves, unsurprisingly, includes large quantities of residual pottery with just a handful of Humberware and other later medieval sherds which are likely to provide a date for the duration of the cemetery. At Blue Bridge Lane, by contrast, the 14th-century and later deposits contain large amounts of Humberware, much of it probably made on the site. Disentangling the later medieval assemblages from this site could prove a long and costly operation, and yet the establishment of the sequence of activity on the site, and its duration, should be one of the priorities for further work on the site.

Further Recording and Study

The stratified Roman pottery from YBB requires full recording (Table 22: Task 1).

The Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane sites together contribute a sizable assemblage of mid Saxon pottery which should be studied in detail for comparison with that from Redfern's glassworks ({{Mainman 1993 #20763}}). To make it easier to study, all of the Mid Saxon sherds require extraction and laying out (Table 22: Task 2).

The handmade, gritty wares which form about a third of the assemblage should be examined in detail at x20 magnification, as should the other wares (Table 22: Task 3) and selected samples taken for thin section and chemical analysis (see below, Characterisation Studies). The Ipswich wares require no further work, but the other imported wares should be sampled for comparison with finds from Flixborough and *Lundenwic* (the trading settlement along the Strand in the City of Westminster).

The Northern Maxey and other Lincolnshire shelly wares should be examined by Jane Young for comparison with the material from Flixborough, where a datable sequence of Northern Maxey wares spanning the later 7th to mid 9th centuries was established (Table 22: Task 4). This too may require some sampling.

It is proposed that those deposits at Fishergate House which produced Humberware are re-examined to see whether they either include products of the Blue Bridge Lane kiln or waste from that kiln, and if not whether we can determine whether the assemblages pre-date or post-date the Blue Bridge Lane potting. In total this involves the study of 19 assemblages (Table 21), with a total of 42 potentially contemporary sherds and 33 definitely residual Roman, Mid Saxon and earlier medieval sherds. It is estimated that this re-examination could be achieved within 2 days, allowing for the fact that the Humberwares were not extracted during the assessment and are distributed throughout the boxes (Table 22: Task 5).

Table 21

context group	Context no	BRANDSBY	DUTR	HUM	MEDX	Grand Total	
Layer	1394			3		3	
F116	1219			2		2	
F120	1227			1		1	
F135	1258			1		1	
F157	1300			2		2	
F263	1495			2		2	
"	1513		2	2		4	
"	1514		3	5		8	
F274	1515			1		1	
F279	1524		2	1		3	
F28	1050			1		1	
F288	1542		1	3		4	
"	1543				1	1	
F29	1052			2		2	
F31	1056			2		2	
F310	1582			1		1	
F61	1114			1		1	
F9	1016			2		2	
F93	1177			1		1	
Grand Total			7	2	32	1	42

With this one exception, none of the Fishergate House pottery needs to be examined further (except as part of a proposed series of characterisation studies, see below).

For the Blue Bridge Lane site, however, the vast quantity of Humberware requires further study:

- a) to establish the range of products of the kiln and to select typical examples for illustration and further study.
- b) to establish that there are no obvious differences in the waste from different deposits which might indicate that potting continued over a long period of time, during which the character of the pottery changed.

In practice, these two aims can be satisfied by first proving which vessel types, rim forms, handle forms, spout forms, decoration types and base forms and decoration were being made at the site (by finding obvious waste examples of those forms), then by noting the incidence of these forms in waste deposits and finally by examining the assemblages of Humberware in three groups:

- i) those assemblages which can be directly associated with the kiln remains
- ii) waster groups associated with later 13th/14th-century wares (mainly Brandsby-type ware)
- iii) waster groups associated with later 14th and 15th-century wares (mainly Dutch Red Earthenwares and Rhenish stonewares of various kinds).

If no differences occur in the range of types found in these four groups we can assume that the Humberware production forms a single phase, of limited duration. If differences are found then we might conclude that the material found associated with the kiln is simply one phase in a longer phase of activity.

There are upwards of 90 contexts which have produced sherds of Humberware wasters, totalling more than 2300 sherds of waste and over 1500 sherds of Humberware which are not obvious waste.

An estimate for the amount of time required to undertake this study is given here:

- a) trawl through every group of Humberware making a list of types and forms (Table 22: Task 6)
- b) examine every group to note the incidence of these types and forms. Undecorated body sherds will be assigned to a basic class (jug, jar, drinking jug, dripping dish, jug/jar) whilst rims, spouts, handles, bases and decorated body sherds will be recorded according to the typology and the most complete examples selected for illustration. The material will be quantified by EVEs and rim and base diameters and handle widths and thicknesses recorded (Table 22: Task 7).
- c) Analysis of resulting dataset alongside other stratigraphic information and production of text for report (Table 22: Task 8).

Characterisation Studies

A small number of unusual wares were noted in the collection, mainly from Blue Bridge Lane. It is proposed that these are examined, using thin section and chemical analysis, to establish their identity, either because this provides new knowledge of York's pottery supply or for the information which it might provide about the topographical development of the site.

These wares include:

ESGS. The first find of this ware in York requires confirmation.

SST. Sampling of this ware from the Redfern's Glassworks site has shown that there are several distinct fabrics present. These may indicate different contemporary sources or a change through time. In either case, it would be useful to demonstrate the incidence of these fabrics on the two new sites.

MAX. Samples of Northern Maxey wares from the Redfern's Glassworks site have been analysed using thin section and chemical analysis. This indicated that the York vessels are indeed Lincolnshire products but the number of samples was too low to be able to determine whether the York wares were made in the Lincoln area or further north, closer to the Humber. Furthermore, a small quantity of Northern Maxey wares from Flixborough have fabrics which suggest that they were either produced at minor centres in north Lincolnshire or are the results of using distinct clays at a major centre. If visual examination reveals any possible candidates for these types they would require sampling.

BLBURN. Some of these sherds have a sandier fabric than those published from Redfern's Glassworks and other sites in York. Sampling could establish whether this is due to a different source or a different temper being used at the same source.

It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the number of samples required until the material has been laid out and examined as a group. However, a maximum figure of 17 thin sections and 25 chemical analyses.

Of equal importance, is the Humberware waste. Samples of West Cowick and Holme-upon-Spalding Moor Humberwares have already been analysed, for comparison with material from East Yorkshire. This established that the East Yorkshire wares came from three separate sites, none of them either West Cowick or Holme-upon-Spalding Moor.

In addition to samples of the YBB waste, samples of Walmgate ware, which is visually identical, should be analysed, to see if the ware can be distinguished.

A total of 6 thin sections and 12 chemical analyses is recommended, given that both groups are fine-textured and probably have limited variability (Table 22: Task 10).

A small number of other wares requires analysis, mainly to confirm visual identification (e.g. GSS;SIEG SANDY).

Possible early, sand-tempered Siegburg ware. This is a rare import to England and chemical data exist for the production sites.

GSS. Several examples of handmade jars containing polished quartz grains were recorded. The vessels cannot have been made in the York area and comparative data exist for finds from the Tees Valley and Lincolnshire;

LMEDX. Vessels with a fine, untempered body, similar to that of Bourne ware from South Lincolnshire but clearly from a different source were found;

In total, it is likely that these studies might require 5 thin sections and 5 chemical analyses (Table 22: Task 11).

Illustrations and Photography

Several vessels and sherds were noted during the assessment as being worthy of illustration or photography, on the grounds that they could not be paralleled in any of the published works on York pottery or were particularly good examples of their types, with details which were not found elsewhere. These include the Roman cremation vessels. It is understood that these will be drawn by FAS Ltd and this assessment does not include estimates for the illustration, nor for returning the vessels to York. The drawings will require checking at the pencil stage, which will involve either a visit to York or the return of the pottery to Lincoln. Time has been allowed for the administration (e.g. captions) and checking of the drawings (Table 22: Tasks 11 and 12).

Academic Report

The pottery from the Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane sites requires academic publication. Whether this publication is online or printed makes no difference to the work which is required to produce the text and integrate the text (except to say that colour photographs and diagrams are certainly cheaper to publish online than in print.

Once a revised phasing of the sites has been established, the pottery from both sites can then be written up, in the form of stratigraphic sections describing what pottery came from which features, what evidence it provides for the date of the sites and what it says about the trading contacts of the inhabitants of the Fishergate suburb.

Most of the background information on ware descriptions and sources is already available but sections on the range of vessel types present and any unusual features will need to be written. Furthermore, the results of the further work proposed above require integration with the data recording during the assessment. The results then require comparison with other data for York and, where appropriate, the surrounding region. Finally, catalogues for the illustrated vessels will need to be prepared and references to the illustrations need to be put into the text (Table 22: Task 13).

Costing of further work

Table 00 summarises the various proposed tasks which this assessment suggests are required to complete the study of the Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane pottery assemblages and to produce a single academic report on them. It does not include the cost

of reconstruction, illustration or photography. This is partly because this work will be done by FAS staff (or at least not by AVAC) and partly because it is not yet possible to establish how large a task the illustration will be.

VAT will be charged on all this work.

Table 22

Task	Description	Unit Cost	Actual Cost	Status
1	Recording of YBB Roman pottery from stratified contexts	£180 per day plus VAT	£360 plus VAT	Agreed
2	Extraction of all Mid Saxon pottery. Rebagging of residual sherds	£180 per day plus VAT	£360 plus VAT	claimed
3	Examination of SST, BLBURN etc at x20 magnification, selection of samples for further analysis	£180 per day plus VAT	£180 plus VAT	Agreed
4	Examination of MAX and other Lincolnshire Shelly wares	£180 per day plus VAT	£180 plus VAT	Agreed
5	Re-examination of YFH Humberwares	£180 per day plus VAT	£360 plus VAT	claimed
6	Establishing a Humberware typology for YBB	£180 per day plus VAT	£360 plus VAT	Claimed
7	Recording YBB Humberware	£180 per day plus VAT	£900 plus VAT	Claimed
8	Analysis of YBB Humberware data and text production.	£180 per day plus VAT	£360 plus VAT	Claimed
9	Thin section and chemical analysis of Mid Saxon wares.	£22.50 plus VAT for TS and £29.00 plus VAT for ICPS	£1107.50 plus VAT	agreed
10	TS and Chemical Analysis (ICP-AES and ICP-MS) of Humberware wasters	£22.50 plus VAT for TS and £29.00 plus VAT for ICPS	£483.00 plus VAT	agreed
11a	TS and Chemical Analysis (ICP-AES and ICP-MS) of various medieval wares	£22.50 plus VAT for TS and £29.00 plus VAT for ICPS	£257.50 plus VAT	not agreed
11b	Extraction and labelling of sherds for illustration	£150 per day plus VAT	£150 plus VAT	agreed

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12	Checking of illustrations in pencil stage and photographs. Production of captions and catalogues	£180 per day plus VAT	£90 plus VAT	agreed
13	Production of academic report	£180 per day plus VAT	£540 plus VAT	agreed
Total		£5,688		
VAT		£995.40		
Grand Total		£6,683.40		
