

Site OSA02 EX07 on the Transco West Hull Pipeline:

The Finds

Pottery

Barbara Precious and Alan Vince

Pottery was recovered from three contexts: 1065, 1066 and 1068. One sherd from 1066 is tentatively identified as a medieval Staxton-type ware, of mid 12th-century or later date. The remaining five sherds are probably of Iron Age or early Romano-British date.

Description

Pottery

Context 1065

A very small, abraded sherd of grog-tempered coarseware (GROG) was recovered from this context, with a total weight of 1gm. It has recently been broken in two. Grog is an unusual tempering material in the pre-Roman Iron Age of East Yorkshire but spread rapidly in the immediately post-conquest period. Little more can be said about the dating except that it is very likely to be mid/late 1st century or later.

Context 1066

A sherd of a wheelthrown vessel with a dark grey core and light brown surfaces was found in this context. This is tentatively identified as a sherd of medieval Staxton-type ware, of mid 12th-century or later date. The fabric, at x20 magnification, can be identified as containing a well-sorted rounded quartz sand and sparse rounded ooliths. Similar fabrics were produced along the east scarp of the Yorkshire Wolds, potentially from the Market Weighton area southwards and it has recently been suggested that North Newbald might be a source for this ware, which has been given the code QC.

A handmade sherd, broken into three, is possibly of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date. It contains rounded, polished quartz, angular flint, and an echinoid spine, and has a black, carbon-rich groundmass. These characteristics suggest an origin in an area of lower Cretaceous rocks. However, these do not outcrop in the area of the site, the chalk resting unconformably on Jurassic strata, and the closest source would be in Lincolnshire, where such rocks outcrop extensively on the west side of the Wolds. A recent study of the fabrics of early to mid Iron Age pottery from a site at Immingham indicates that there, as on the boulder clay land of East Yorkshire, the predominant fabric contains large angular fragments of dolerite, or similar erratic rock. A source in the Vale of Pickering would also be possible

from a geological viewpoint but is considerably further away, although not requiring a crossing of the Humber.

A third fragment is either a heavily abraded coarseware bodysherd or a fragment of daub, of which the latter is the more likely suggestion.

Context 1068

Two sherds of wheelthrown Romano-British greyware vessels were recovered from this context. The fabric, at x20 magnification, can be seen to have a silty groundmass with a fine rounded quartz sand, with grains up to 0.2mm across. Similar fabrics have been seen at Immingham, North Lincolnshire, but their source is unknown. They probably range in date from the later 1st to the 3rd centuries.

Unstratified

The abraded rim from a blackware jar. The jar appears to have been cylindrical and of a considerable diameter (upwards of 0.4m) with a squared rim. It has a u-sectioned handle attached just below the rim. The fabric is dark brown and under x20 magnification is seen to have been calcareous with silt-sized quartz inclusions. It might therefore have been made from Humber basin estuarine clay, on either side of the river. Blackwares of this kind were produced from the late 17th century into the 18th and 19th centuries.

Iron

An iron object, SF5, was recovered from context 1066. The object is a rectangular strip of unknown function or date.

Lead alloy



Figure 1 SF1 Scale in mm.

One lead alloy object, SF1 (Fig 1), was recovered, unstratified from Field 14 Area F. It was sent to Dr G Egan, Museum of London, who comments:

The seal was shown to John Sullivan and both of us agree there are some points of similarity with Russian seals of the 18th century and later, all of which relate to flax exports and derivative goods. There is nothing absolutely definitively in Cyrillic among the limited legible characters. The central device possibly represents windmill sails or a conventional representation of a ship, 1 8 0 2 around. The outer legend is problematic, it may contain Cyrillic characters but cannot be interpreted either in English or Russian. the letters are probably abbreviations. It is possible that the windmill represents flour or grain, and the findspot might suggest seed corn.

Appendix One

Trench	Context	REFN	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Use	Condition	class
	1065	O	SCRAPS J; GRY SURF BLK CORE SILTY	GROG		2	1	1	BS		ABR	POTTERY
field 14 area f	1066	5	XRAY OSA02:4;RECT- SECTIONED	IRON	object	1	1	0	BS			IRON

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Trench	Context	REFN O	Description	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Use	Condition	class
			STRIP									
field 14 area f	us	1	CIRCULAR DISK; TWO OVAL HOLES, 1 BY 3 MM ON THE SIDE AND A CASTING SPRUE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE; STAMPED ON ONE FACE WITH A CIRCULAR BAND OF ROMAN CAPITAL LETTERS AND A 5-POINTED STAR; CENTRAL SYMBOL SURROUNDED BY NUMBERS 1 8 0 5,	LEAD	object	1	1	0	BS			LEAD
		1066	FRAG POSS FIRED CLAY	LOOL?		1		5	BS		VABR	POTTERY
		1066	SCRAPS J; 1.5 R Q OCC SHEL; BLK CORE	NAT		3	1	5	BS			POTTERY
		1066	BS W OCC LOOL?	QC	CLSD	1		9	BS	SOOT		POTTERY
		1068		GREY	J	2		9	BS			POTTERY