

Wawne, East Yorkshire (OSA02 EX02)

The Non-Ceramic finds

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Thirty-six non-ceramic finds were recovered from the Wawne excavation, of which two were unstratified, fourteen found in Phase 1 deposits, thirteen in Phase 2 deposits and the seven from Phase 3 deposits.

The Phase 1 finds consist of a copper alloy strap end and buckle, iron nails, a key, an unidentified object, a horseshoe and a fiddle-key nail from a horseshoe, a lead or lead alloy repair patch, two hone stones and a mortar.

Of these 14 objects, about half can be assigned a date-range on account of their typology and these are in the main consistent with a late 12th to 13th-century date for this phase. However, the strap end, being made from openwork-decorated sheet metal, may be later medieval or post-medieval. It was found in the crewyard, however, where the pottery assemblage is consistent with a later 12th or 13th-century date.

The Phase 2 finds consist of a copper alloy spoon, probably of post-medieval date, and a fragment of bottle glass which is either of residual Roman or intrusive modern date (both from the chalk and cobble foundation 1038), together with iron nails, a hook, a staple and a possible unidentified tool, a jet bracelet, a hone stone and a spindle-whorl. Only the spoon and the glass bottle fragment are independently datable and both are most likely of modern date. There is, however, no reason to doubt the stratigraphic associations of the other finds.

Phase 3 deposits produced two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem, two iron nails, three fragments of mid-17th-century or later bottle glass and a fragment of window glass of similar date. Five of these finds came from 17th-century or later features (a land drain and a ditch) and the other two (a nail and a bottle fragment) from the subsoil.

The non-ceramic finds in general confirm the conclusions on the date and function of the Wawne site provided by the pottery and ceramic building material.

Catalogue

Copper Alloy

Three copper alloy artefacts were identified. These comprise the bowl of a spoon (SF20), a buckle (SF1) and a strap end (SF5).

The spoon (Fig 00, No. 1. Context 1037 SF20) has been deliberately bent and snapped so that only the bowl is present. The bowl has a low moulding at the base of the handle and is of an oval form. Both the form and the moulding suggest that this is a post-medieval object. Although identified visually as copper alloy the composition of the metal is uncertain and has not been analysed. The oval spoon is a post-medieval introduction and together with the blue glass bottle from the same deposit this suggests that the foundation is actually of modern date.

The buckle (Fig 00, No. 2. Context 1161 SF1) has been cast in the form of a scallop shell with two slots for the pins and a circular pin for riveting on the strap. The slotted end has then been folded back on itself to secure the buckle and pins, neither of which survive. There are traces of gilding on the upper surface. A similar buckle but with only a single slot has been published from London (1940, 272, Pl.LXXVI). The scallop shell form of the buckle plate was probably intended to recall the scallop shell worn by pilgrims to Compostella.

The strap end (Context 1220. SF5) is formed of a single sheet which has been decorated with openwork, traced lines and small circular holes. The strap end was attached by two circular copper alloy rivets, one of which survives. This form of decoration is probably late medieval or early post-medieval in date.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from context 1055, the fill of Ditch 1056. One is from a mid 17th-century heeled bowl and the other is a stem fragment with a bore diameter typical of the 17th century.

Glass

Five fragments of glass were recovered. SF21 has a similar appearance to Roman glass but given the complete absence of Roman finds from the site it is more probably of late post-medieval or early modern date. Light blue glass, probably coloured by cobalt, was in use by the late 16th century and similar glass, known as 'durable blue', was used as window glass in the medieval period.

The dark green bottle glass (SF11 and SF7) is typical of that made in England from the 1650s onwards but without typological features no closer date is possible. The light green window glass, SF32, is forest glass of the kind made both in England and the continent from the late medieval period to the end of the 17th century. It may well be contemporary with the bottle glass from the same context.

Iron

Twenty one fragments of iron were recorded. These include two fragments of natural iron pan and one unstratified lump, all of which were not further studied. The remainder were x-rayed and the following description is based on a study of the x-radiographs and the objects themselves.

The majority of the finds are either structural ironwork or horse furniture. The structural ironwork consists mainly of nails. Only five had complete shanks and these ranged from 33mm to 55mm in length with a single example 122mm long (SF31). This massive nail has traces of wood grain preserved in the corrosion products on one side only and might therefore have been lying next to a piece of wood rather than buried within one. There is no trace of a head for this nail and it is just possible that it is the tine of a fork, rake or similar implement.

Other structural items include a staple (Fig 00, No. 3. SF24), probably used with a hasp and possibly a padlock or metal wedge to provide a simple locking device for a door, gate or large box or chest, and a pintle, used as the support for a wooden shutter, door or gate.

A complete key, (Fig 00, No. 4. SF16), is of Ward Perkins type IV (1940, 138-9) which covers a range of types used as chest and casket keys as well as for doors. The type, when provided with toothings along the edge as in this example, is probably 13th-century or later. The x-radiograph shows the presence of non-ferrous plating. Together with the small size this might suggest that the key was used with a casket.

Horse furniture consists of a horseshoe (SF12, 13 and 14, Fig 00, No. 5, SF12, 13 and 14) and a fiddle key nail for use with such a shoe. The horseshoe has a plain outline and is of late medieval or later date although it was found in the crewyard, which produced a pottery assemblage of later 12th to 13th century character.

Finally, there is a hook fastener, (Fig 00, No. 6. SF22) from context 1057, made from a single rod of iron bent into a sub-rectangular loop with a hook, broken off. There are possible traces of non-ferrous plating visible in the x-radiograph. This style of fastener is well-known in the post-medieval period where it is usually smaller and made from copper alloy. However, a similar example was excavated in an 18th-century prison cemetery at Launceston castle, Cornwall (Mould forthcoming).

Lead alloy

A single lead artefact was recovered, (Fig 00, No. 7. SF25) from context 1155, the fill of Pit 1158. It consists of a repair patch of roughly rectangular shape. The lead has been melted and poured into a rectangular hole in a vessel or other object about 2mm thick. The surface onto which the lead was poured was rough but has left no identifiable impression such as would be found with wood, earth or sand. Probably, a piece of stone was placed under the hole. No attempt to smooth over the patch was made and it is possible that this was a temporary or failed repair.

Stone

A single piece of flint was submitted (SF36, from context 1195). It is most probably not a humanly-worked artefact or waste and is likely to have been accidentally struck during ploughing.

Three hones, all made of sandstone, were recovered. The stone was examined at x20 magnification and consists of a micaceous sandstone (context 1071), and two of a medium-grained sandstone (contexts 1101 and 1057). It is likely that all three stones were pebbles found in local fluvio-glacial deposits rather than widely-traded items.

A fragment of jet bracelet (Fig 00, No. 8) was recovered from context 1057, the abandonment of Phase 2. The bracelet was probably lathe-turned and is likely to have been made at Whitby.

A mudstone spindle-whorl (Fig 00 No. 9) was recovered from context 1111, a Phase 2 deposit.

An oolitic limestone mortar (Fig 00 No. 10) was recovered from context 1195, the Phase 1 crewyard. The mortar was examined by Prof D P S Peacock, University of Southampton, and identified as being probably from an outcrop of the Lincolnshire Limestone, probably from central Lincolnshire. The mortar is competently worked on the top, bottom and sides but the interior of the bowl is extremely rough with no sign of grinding at all. This, and the fact that the walls are so thick, might suggest that the mortar was unfinished. However, the pouring lip is expertly tooled. Perhaps, then the mortar was used for pounding and it is this process which has roughened the interior. Stone mortars are widely distributed in medieval England and seem to have been produced as a side-line in the major medieval building stone quarries, such as Purbeck and Quarr in England or Caen, in Normandy. Therefore, a source for the present piece in the Lincoln or Ancaster areas is a strong possibility.

Catalogue

Context	context group	Material	Detail	Form	Fragments	Action	Description	L	B	TH	Condition
Phase 1											
1071	Crewyard 1072/1191/1198	STONE	MICACEOUS SANDSTONE	HONE	1						BROKEN
1101	Ditch 1025/1102	STONE	MEDIUM-GRAINED SANDSTONE	HONE	1						COMPLETE
1149	Ditch 1196	IRON		NAIL?	1		XRAY OSA02:1;TAPERING SHAFT WITH POSSIBLE EVIDENCE FOR HEAD;MODERN BREAK AT HEAD END				COMPLETE
1151	Path 1151	IRON		KEY	1	No. 4	XRAY OSA02:2;NFP ON BUSINESS END;KIDNEY-SHAPED HANDLE				COMPLETE
1155	Pit 1158	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1;SQUARE-SECTIONED SHAFT				
1155	Pit 1158	IRON		OBJECT	1		XRAY OSA02:1; AMORPHOUS LUMP;NO SIGN OF SOLID METAL IN XRAY				
1155	Pit 1158	LEAD		OBJECT	1	No. 7	ROUGHLY RECTANGULAR REPAIR				COMPLETE
1161	Path 1152	COPP		BUCKLE	1	No. 2	XRAY OSA02:2;CAST:WITH SPRUE ON UNDERSIDE;PLATE IS IN THE FORM OF A SCALLOP SHELL;THE BODY IS FOLDED BACK ON ITSELF TO CONTAIN THE BUCKLE;TWO SLOTS INDICATE TWO PINS;TRACES OF GILDING ON UPPER SURFACE;DECORATION IN THE FORM OF GROOVES ON THE PLATE				BUCKLE AND PINS MISSING
1163	Pit 1164	IRON		NAIL	1						COMPLETE
1195	Crewyard	FLINT		NATURAL OR FLAKE?	1						COMPLETE
1195	Crewyard	STONE	OOLITIC LIMESTONE	MORTAR	1	No. 10					
1197	Crewyard	IRON		HORSESHOE	3	No. 5	XRAY OSA02:3;ABOUT ONE THIRD PRESENT;PLAIN EDGED;TWO RECTANGULAR HOLES;16MM WIDE AT FRONT;23MM WIDE AT SIDE;FOLDED OVER AT ENDS				BROKEN
1220	Crewyard	COPP		STRAP END	1		XRAY OSA02:2;FORMED OF SHEET FOLDED OVER; TOP DECORATED WITH OPENWORK, GROOVED 21 LINES AND CIRCULAR HOLES;ONE CIRCULAR CU ALLOY RIVET IN PLACE			36 7	
1220	Crewyard	IRON		FIDDLE KEY NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:3;HEAD 10MM TALL AND 9MM WIDE IN XRAY			25	COMPLETE
Phase 2											
1037	Foundation 1038	COPP		SPOON	1	No. 1	XRAY OSA02:2; OVAL BOWL WITH ROUNDED MOULDING AT JOIN WITH STEM;BENT AND SNAPPED AT HANDLE JOIN;METAL ID DOUBTFUL;BOWL DIMENSIONS 45MM BY 29MM				BROKEN

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Context	context group	Material	Detail	Form	Fragments	Action	Description	L	B	TH	Condition
1037	Foundation 1038	GLAS	LIGHT BLUE	BOTTLE	1						
1041	Post pit 1043	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1; SQUARE-SECTIONED SHAFT AND ROUND HEAD	33			
1042	Post pit 1043	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:3; BENT SHAFT; FLAT HEAD OF UNCERTAIN SHAPE	38			
1057	Abandonment	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1	55			
1057	Abandonment	IRON		STAPLE	1	No. 3	XRAY OSA02:1	55			
1057	Abandonment	IRON		HOOK	1	No. 6	XRAY OSA02:2; MADE FROM A SINGLE ROD OF SQUARE-SECTIONED METAL; POSSIBLE NFP				BROKEN
1057	Abandonment	STONE	MEDIUM-GRAINED SANDSTONE	HONE	1						COMPLETE
1057	Abandonment	STONE	JET	BRACELET	1	No. 8					SPLIT AND BROKEN
1063	Post pit 1064	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1; OVAL HEAD				BROKEN
1111	Layer 1111	STONE	MUDSTONE	SPWH	1	No. 9					
1133	Post hole 1134	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1; SQUARE-SECTIONED TAPERING SHAFT; TRACES OF WOOD GRAIN	122			
1135	Post hole 1136	IRON		TOOL?	1						COMPLETE
Phase 3											
1001	Subsoil 1001	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1; BENT SQUARE-SECTIONED SHAFT	44			
1001	Subsoil 1001	PMGL	DARK GREEN	BOTTLE	1						
1022	Land drain 1023	PMGL	DARK GREEN	BOTTLE	1						
1022	Land drain 1023	PMGL	LIGHT GREEN	WINDOW	1						
1055	Ditch 1056	IRON		NAIL	1		XRAY OSA02:1; SQUARE-SECTIONED SHAFT AND CIRCULAR HEAD 19MM DIAM	43			
1055	Ditch 1056	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1		17TH-CENTURY CUT MOUTHPIECE				
1055	Ditch 1056	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1		MID 17TH-CENTURY HEELED BOWL				
Unstratified											
surface	us	IRON		PINTLE	1						COMPLETE
us	us	PMGL		BOTTLE	1						

Bibliography

Ward Perkins, J B (1940) *Medieval Catalogue*. London Museum Catalogue 7