

Assessment of pottery from the Waste Treatment Facilities, Goldsborough Village (OSA04 WB23)

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A small collection of pottery (together with one fragment of ceramic building material and one clay tobacco pipe stem) was recovered during an archaeological watching brief at Goldsborough carried out by On Site Archaeology Ltd.

The watching brief consisted of the recording of three separate trenches. Trench 1 is in the front garden of Cleveland House and produced two sherds of 12th to 13th-century pottery. Trench 2 produced a collection of medieval pottery ranging in date up to the late medieval period. Trench 3 produced a single sherd of late Roman pottery and a collection of medieval pottery of 12th-century date. Trench 4 produced a collection of medieval pottery ranging from the 12th to the 15th-century in date. Trench 5 produced no pottery earlier than the late 18th or 19th century. No pottery of 16th to mid 18th century was found on any site, suggesting shrinkage or desertion of the settlement in the post-medieval period.

Description

The pottery was examined visually and, where necessary, at x20 magnification using a stereo-microscope. The wares were coded using the author's own codes (Appendix 1) and the forms were classified using the Medieval Pottery Research Group dictionary of pottery forms (MPRG 1998 #45563). A digital record of the pottery was made, quantified by sherd count and weight (Appendix 2).

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of pantile was recovered from context 503. Such tiles were first introduced into England in the 17th century and by the late 18th and 19th centuries had become widespread, especially for use in outbuildings and barns. It is likely that this fragment is of late 18th or 19th century date (the date of all the other finds from this trench) and possibly came from an ancillary building.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered, possibly from Trench 4. The stem bore diameter suggests a late 18th or 19th-century date.

Pottery

Roman Pottery

A single sherd of Romano-British greyware was recovered, from context 302. The sherd comes from a flanged bowl of later 3rd or 4th-century date and is abraded.

Medieval Pottery

Nineteen sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, from Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. The earliest of these, possibly, are two sherds of mudstone-tempered, handmade coarseware (MEDLOC) from context 302 and 401. This fabric is known from Whitby Abbey and is presumably locally produced and only traded over a small area. Four sherds of Staxton-type ware were found, in contexts 104, 302 and 401. This handmade sandy ware was produced in the Vale of Pickering, at Staxton and Potter Brompton, but petrological analysis shows that most of the pottery identified as Staxton-type ware in Yorkshire does not come from these production sites. Without such analysis it is uncertain where the Goldsborough pieces were made. Excavations at Wharram Percy established that the ware was in use from the middle of the 12th century to the late 14th or 15th century, although is it clearly most common in the later 12th and 13th centuries.

Four sherds of Ruswarp Bank ware were recovered, from contexts 202 and 302. This ware was produced to the east of Whitby, probably in the 12th to early 13th centuries, and has an off-white fabric tempered with a sandstone-derived coarse sand.

Sherds of North Yorkshire whiteware (NYWW) were recovered from contexts 103, 202 and 401. This fine sandy white-firing ware, usually used for glazed jugs, was produced at a number of sites around the North Yorkshire Moors and at present cannot be reliably attributed to a specific source. Kilns producing the ware have been found at Brandsby and Stearsby to the east of the moors and sherds have also been found on the Ruswarp kiln site, although it is not certain that they were made there. NYWW dates to the later 12th to 15th centuries.

Finally, five sherds of Hambleton ware were found. This is another North Yorkshire whiteware whose fabric is usually extremely fine, with relict clay fragments, and often with a black core, due to the organic content of the clay. Ill-fitting copper-stained green glaze is a common feature of this ware. Waste from the production of Hambleton ware was found at Castle Howard and the ware is clearly of late medieval date, i.e. late 14th to early 16th centuries.

Table 1

Cname	103	104	202	302	401	402	Grand Total
HAMBLETON			4			1	5
MEDLOC				1	1		2
NYWW	1		2		1		4

RUSWARP			1	3			4
STAX		1		2	1		4
Grand Total	1	1	7	6	3	1	19

Early Modern Pottery

Eighteen sherds of early modern pottery were found, on trenches 2 and 5. They consist of a mixture of coarsewares (BL, STRE and SUND) and finewares (CREA, ENPO, PEAR). The coarsewares include vessels probably made in the north-east of England (SUND) and exported along the coast together with Sunderland finewares. The other wares include examples made from a Coal Measures redware clay (STRE) and are unprovenanced. The finewares, similarly, could have been made in numerous centres in northern England.

The lack of transfer-printed ware suggests that much of this pottery is probably of later 18th to early 19th-century date.

Table 2

Cname	200	207	503	504	505	506	Grand Total
BL						1	1
CREA			1		1		2
ENPO						1	1
PEAR	1		1	2	1		5
STRE				1			1
SUND			1	3	3	1	8
Grand Total	1	2	1	6	5	3	18

Assessment

The single sherd of late Roman pottery is contemporary with the signal station and indicates activity in the area in the late Roman period. There is then a gap in the ceramic sequence, with no pottery of early to mid Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian date. Pottery use was irregular in this part of Yorkshire in the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods but was certainly in use at Whitby and surrounding villages in the mid Saxon period.

The medieval pottery sequence starts in the 12th century (Trenches 1 to 4) and continues into the late medieval period (Trenches 2 and 4).

There is a break in pottery deposition in the post-medieval period and resumption in the late 18th or 19th century.

The pottery includes no vessels requiring immediate further treatment, although the pottery should be retained for potential future study.

Appendix 1. List of Ware codes used

cname	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	broad source	narrow source	source
BL	Black-glazed wares	pmed	1500	1900	England	various	various
CREA	Creamware	emod	1765	1830	England	Staffordshire	
ENPO	English porcelain	emod	1700	2000	England	various	various
HAMBLETON		lmed	1350	1550			
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	med	1150	1350	England	Lincolnshire	various
NYWW	North Yorkshire whiteware	med	1250	1350	England	Yorkshire	Hambleton Hills
PEAR	Pearl ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire/ Bristol	various
PIPECLAY	Pipeclay	na	0	0			
PMTIL	Post-medieval ceramic building material	pmed	0	0			
RPOT	unidentified Roman wares	rom	40	400	na	na	na
RUSWARP		EMED	1150	1250			
STAX	Staxton-type ware	med	1150	1500	England	Yorkshire	Staxton; Potter Brompton
STRE	Staffordshire redware	pmed	1630	1750	England	Staffordshire	various
SUND	Sunderland coarseware	pmed	1800	1900	England	North-East	Sunderland

Appendix 2

Trench	Context	class	Date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Condition
	US	CTP	emod	PIPECLAY		PIPE	18TH/19TH C BORE DIAM	1	1	3	BS	
1	103	POTTERY	emed-hmed	NYWW		JUG	HANDMADE? REDUCED CORE AND INT;PLAIN SPLASHED GL	1	1	10	BS	
1	104	POTTERY	emed	STAX		JAR	HORIZ COMBING	1	1	13	BS	
2	200	POTTERY	emod	PEAR		FIGU	HEAD OF FEMALE FIGURE IN BONNET, PAINTED IN BLUE, YELLOW AND BROWN	1	1	9	BS	
2	202	POTTERY	lmed	HAMBLETON		DJ	UNGLAZED, THICK WALLED	4	1	20	BS	
2	202	POTTERY	emed-hmed	NYWW		JUG	FLAT BASED SMALL JUG OR DJ	1	1	13	BS	
2	202	POTTERY	emed-hmed	NYWW		JUG		1	1	2	BS	
2	202	POTTERY	emed	RUSWARP		JUG	PLAIN EXT GL	1	1	3	BS	
2	207	POTTERY	emod	CREA				1	1	0.5	BS	

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Trench	Context	class	Date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Condition
2	207	POTTERY	emed	SUND		BOWL	WHITE SLIPPED INT;PLAIN GL INT AND EXT	1	1	4	BS	
3	302	POTTERY	emed	MEDLOC	MUDSTONE TEMPERED	JAR		1	1	3	BS	VABR
3	302	POTTERY	rom	RPOT	GREY	FB		1	1	5	R	ABR
3	302	POTTERY	emed	RUSWARP		JAR		2	2	7	BS	VABR
3	302	POTTERY	emed	RUSWARP		JAR	HIGH FIRED	1	1	4	BS	
3	302	POTTERY	emed	STAX		JAR		2	2	7	BS	VABR
4	401	POTTERY	emed	MEDLOC	MUDSTONE TEMPERED	JAR		1	1	2	BS	
4	401	POTTERY	emed-hmed	NYWW		JAR	INT PLAIN GL	1	1	5	B	
4	401	POTTERY	emed	STAX		JAR		1	1	10	BS	
4	402	POTTERY	lmed	HAMBLETON		JUG	PLAIN EXT GL	1	1	4	BS	
5	503	CBM	emod	PMTIL		PANT		1	1	7	BS	
5	503	POTTERY	emod	PEAR		TPOT LID		1	1	3	BS	
5	504	POTTERY	emod	PEAR		BOWL		1	1	3	B	
5	504	POTTERY	emod	PEAR		PLATE	BLUE FEATHERED EDGE	1	1	8	R	
5	504	POTTERY	emod	STRE		CHP/JAR		1	1	4	BS	
5	504	POTTERY	emod	SUND		BOWL	WHITE SLIPPED INT	2	1	32	B	

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Trench	Context	class	Date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Part	Condition
5	504	POTTERY	emod	SUND		BOWL	WHITE SLIPPED INT;MOTTLED BROWN GLAZE	1	1	7	R	
5	505	POTTERY	emod	CREA		PLATE		1	1	10	BS	
5	505	POTTERY	emod	PEAR		CUP	HAND PAINTED BLUE	1	1	1	BS	
5	505	POTTERY	emod	SUND		BOWL	WHITE SLIPPED, PLAIN GLAZED INT	3	3	50	BS	
5	506	POTTERY	emod	BL		JAR		1	1	9	BS	
5	506	POTTERY	emod	ENPO		BOWL		1	1	3	BS	
5	506	POTTERY	emod	SUND		BOWL	WHITE SLIPPED INT;PLAIN GL INT AND EXT	1	1	12	BS	