

Assessment of pottery from High Catton, North Yorkshire (OSA04 WB07)

Alan Vince

Four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from three trenches at High Catton, North Yorkshire, recorded by On Site Archaeology Ltd (Site Code: OSA04 WB07).

Description

Medieval Pottery

Two sherds of York Gritty jars, a sherd of Staxton-type ware jar and an unidentified local medieval wheelthrown ware were recovered (Table 1). The latter fabric is tempered with a well-sorted subangular quartz sand in which the quartz grains are overgrown, giving a sparkly appearance to the sand in the hand specimen. All are moderately abraded and of similar size (mean weight 7.2gm).

The York Gritty ware could date to any time between the later 11th and the early 13th centuries whilst the Staxton-type ware is slightly later in inception, first being produced in the mid 12th century. The wheelthrown sandy ware is not closely datable as it is not a common type in York.

Table 1

Context	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
1001	YG		JAR	BS		1	1	6	
2000	MEDLOC	FINE SA Q <0.3MM	JAR	BS	WT;BLACK	1	1	7	SOOTED EXT
3001	STAXT		JAR	BS		1	1	3	SOOTED EXT
3001	YG		JAR	B		1	1	13	

Assessment

The pottery is of post-conquest medieval date and includes sherds which are no later than the 13th century in date. The size and condition of the sherds is consistent with a plough scatter, present as a result of the manuring of open fields with farmyard manure or urban night soil.

The sherds should be retained for future study, since analytical work is ongoing on these and other medieval wares in North Yorkshire and this will lead to greater insight into the dating and source of these wares.