

Assessment of the finds from Seamer Road, Falsgrave, North Yorkshire (OSA04 EV11)

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Twenty seven finds from an archaeological evaluation at Seamer Road, Falsgrave, North Yorkshire (Site Code OSA04 EV11), were submitted for identification and assessment.

They include one putative sherd of Romano-British pottery and a fragment of fired clay from the same deposit (1029) but since this deposit also produced a definite fragment of post-medieval pantile it is possible that all of these finds are actually post-medieval in date.

The remaining finds are of early modern date, probably dating to the later 19th or early 20th century.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Three fragments of pantile and one brick were recovered. The brick has a coarse fabric, probably made from a calcareous boulder clay, and was produced in a sanded mould.

The pantiles have a much finer fabric, containing no visible inclusions apart from moderate laths of muscovite and in one case calcareous mudstone pellets. The tiles were formed in a sanded mould and the sand, which is well-sorted and between c.0.1 and 0.2mm across, includes rounded grains with an iron cement adhering to them.

Fired clay

A single fragment of fired clay was recovered. It is not large enough to tell whether it was from a wattle and daub structure and has no original faces.

Glass

Three fragments of light green moulded bottles of late 19th or early 20th century date were recovered.

Pottery

Roman?

A small abraded fragment of pottery might be of Roman date. It contains silt or fine-sand-sized inclusions and does not match either the Roman fabric series of York (Monaghan 1993 #21403) nor the late Roman fabrics found at West Heslerton (Darling and Precious forthcoming).

Early Modern

Fifteen sherds of early modern pottery were recovered (Table 1). They include a single sherd of presumed local manufacture, an unstratified piece of chimney pot. The other lead-glazed red earthenware present is probably a northeastern product (SUND), in this case a wheelthrown pancheon with an internal white slip. Factory-made vessels made in refined clays form the majority of the collection (BLUE, CREA, TPW and WHITE). There are also a stoneware blackleading bottle, probably from the Codnor Park factory in Derbyshire and a salt-glazed stoneware drain. A single imported sherd was found, a fragment from a Chinese export porcelain bowl with underglaze blue and overglaze enamel decoration. Such bowls were exported to England in the early and mid 18th century but were highly prized and often survive as antiques and heirlooms to the present day. This piece does not therefore indicate early to mid 18th-century activity on the site.

Table 1

Cname	Description	NoSH	NoV	Weight
BLUE	Refined light blue ware	1	1	10
CHPO	Chinese export porcelain	1	1	8
CREA	Creamware	1	1	4
DERBS	Derbyshire stoneware	3	1	514
ENGS	English stoneware	1	1	119
ENPO	English porcelain	1	1	3
LPMLOC	Late Post-medieval coarsewares	1	1	69
SUND	Sunderland-type coarseware	1	1	22
TPW	Transfer-printed ware	2	1	30
WHITE	Miscellaneous whitewares	3	3	42
Grand Total		15	12	821

Stone

Fragments of Middle Jurassic mudstone were submitted from context 1029. They are probably natural inclusions in local boulder clay rather than evidence for the use of North Yorkshire coal (which outcrops in the same strata).

Wood

A single fragment of wood was submitted, from context 1029. It appears to be a splinter from a tool and has a flat end which has received numerous blows and is impregnated with a dark unidentified granular material (similar to coal dust).

Assessment

Stratigraphy

Context 1016 produced a group of finds with a terminus post quem of c.1765. The actual deposition date could be much later.

Context 1020 produced a single fragment of brick and cannot be closely dated

Context 1022 can be dated to the later 19th or early 20th century by glass bottle fragments.

Context 1028 can be dated to the mid 19th century or later.

Context 1029 might either be a Romano-British or later deposit, based on the potsherd and fired clay finds, or be of late 17th-century or later date, based on the pantile fragment.

Retention

All the finds from stratified contexts should be retained for possible future study. The unstratified finds of early modern date could be discarded.

Further work

No further work is suggested on this collection.

Appendix

Context	Class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
1016	CBM	PMTIL	PROBABLY WEATHERED MICACEOUS MUDSTONE WITH ROUNDED CALC MARL PELLETS <4.0MM	PANT	BS		1	1	7		
1016	WOOD	WOOD			BS		1	1	1		
1016	EMOD	CREA		PLATE	B		1	1	4		BURNT
1016	EMOD	ENPO		BOWL	BS	FAINT TRACES OF OG DEC (GILDING/LUSTRE)	1	1	3		
1016	EMOD	CHPO		BOWL	B	BLUE UG DEC INT AND EXT;OG ENAMELS INT	1	1	8		
1020	CBM	PMTIL	CALCAREOUS BOULDER CLAY?	BRICK	BS	SANDED MOULD	1	1	54		
1022	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	BS	MOULDED BOTTLE	1	1	30		
1028	EMOD	SUND		PANC	BS	WHITE SLIPPED INT;PLAIN INT GL	1	1	22		
1028	EMOD	ENGS		DRAIN	BS	SALT GLAZED INT AND EXT	1	1	119		
1028	EMOD	WHITE		JUG	BS	INDUSTRIAL SLIP; LIGHT BLUE BANDS	1	1	34		
1028	EMOD	WHITE		JUG	R	INDUSTRIAL SLIP; LIGHT GREY SLIPPED EXT	1	1	3		
1028	EMOD	WHITE		BOWL	R	INDUSTRIAL SLIP; NAVY BLUE BANDS EXT	1	1	5		

1028	EMOD	TPW		PLATE	R		2	1	30	
1028	EMOD	BLUE		JUG	R	MOULDED JUG OR GRAVY BOAT	1	1	10	
1028	EMOD	DERBS		BLACKLEADING BOTTLE	PROF		3	1	514	
1028	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	BS	MOULDED BOTTLE	2	1	21	
1029	STONE	STONE	JURASSIC MUDSTONE	GEO	BS		2	2	15	
1029	RPOT?	RPOT?	FINE SANDY	JAR	BS		1	1	1	
1029	FCLAY	FCLAY	BOULDER CLAY?	DAUB?	BS		1	1	4	
1029	CBM	PMTIL	PROBABLY WEATHERED MICACEOUS MUDSTONE	PANT	BS		1	1	19	
US	EMOD	LPMLOC	SILTY MICACEOUS RED EARTHENWARE	CHIMNEY	BS		1	1	69	SOOTED INT
US	CBM	PMTIL	PROBABLY WEATHERED MICACEOUS MUDSTONE	PANT	BS		1	1	5	
