

Assessment of the Finds from Flatiron Field, Dunnington, North Yorkshire (OSA04 EV08)

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Two hundred and four finds from an archaeological evaluation at Flatiron Field, Dunnington, carried out by On Site Archaeology Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment.

The material ranged in date from the pre-Roman Iron Age to the modern period and consists mainly of pieces of ceramic building material and pottery, with smaller quantities of clay tobacco pipe, glassware and metals (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Name	NoSH	NoV	Weight (gm)
CBM	Ceramic Building Material	109	109	878
COPP	Copper Alloy	5	5	93.5
CTP	Clay Tobacco Pipes	7	7	13
IRON	Iron	9	9	107
LEAD	Lead	1	1	46
PMGL	Post-medieval glassware	2	2	3
POTTERY	Pottery	63	52	1076
STONE	Stone (including natural pebbles)	8	7	51
Grand Total		204	192	2267.5

Description

Ceramic Building Material

One hundred and nine fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. Of these, about half were too fragmentary for the form of the brick or tile to be identified and of the remainder most were from flat roof tiles with ten pieces of brick, a fragment of land drain and a fragment of pantile.

Table 2

Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
?	52	52	76
BRICK	10	10	189
FLAT	45	45	538
LAND DRAIN	1	1	43
PANT	1	1	32
	109	109	878

The majority of these fragments were recovered from deposits which also contained late 18th-century or later finds, although most also contained earlier finds. Without a closely dated context and with no measurable fragments present there is little more that can be said about the files without recourse to detailed fabric analysis at x20 magnification.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Two of these had wide bore diameters, indicating an early to mid 17th-century date. Four had narrow bore diameters indicating a late 18th-century or later date and one fragment came from a decorated bowl of 19th-century type bearing a symbol which appears to be a monogram of F and M.

Copper Alloy

Five copper alloy artefacts were recovered.

US. Solid oval handle. Possibly from a piece of furniture. Probably made from a leaded bronze. Fragments of slag are adhering to the corrosion products.

US. Pin. A dressmaking pin with plating and a wound wire head. Similar pins were produced from the late 16th century to recent times

Context 3003. A fragment of cast openwork, possibly from a large curved rectangular buckle, possibly from footwear and of 19th-century date.

Context 3004. A cast double D-shaped buckle, possibly of later medieval or post-medieval date.

Context 3004. A strap end produced from a rectangular strip of sheet metal, folded around the strap and secured with a single circular-cross sectioned rivet. Possibly of medieval or post-medieval date.

Iron

Nine iron artefacts were recovered. All are corroded and are starting to disintegrate.

Context 3004. A square buckle with central bar and iron pin. Probably of post-medieval date.

Context 3004. Possibly the key from a barrel padlock. Such padlocks have a long ancestry, from the Anglian period onwards. However, this example has the wards in the same plane as the shank and may therefore not be a padlock key.

Context 3004. Fragments of three nails, including one with a large squared head.

Context 3017. An unidentified object, possibly simply a nail which has split laterally to give a d-shaped section.

Context 3025. A nail.

Context 3025. A tool with a circular cross section and a rectangular whittle tang. Possibly a rasp, although no grooving is visible on the body of the tool.

Context 4001. A nail.

Lead

A roughly rectangular lump of melted lead was recovered from an unstratified context. The lump has been bent in several directions after solidifying but appears to be waste.

Post-medieval Glass

Two fragments of light green moulded bottles were recovered, from contexts 3011 and 3023. Such bottles are mostly of later 19th-century date but continued to be produced into the 20th century.

Pottery

Iron Age to Roman

Seven fragments of handmade, calcite-tempered pottery (CALC) were recovered alongside two handmade sherds containing a coarse quartz sand temper (IASST).

The sand-tempered sherds, from contexts 2005 and 2031, appear to come from the rim of same large jar. The rim is everted and decorated with thumb impressions. The sherds were examined at x20 magnification and contains abundant angular fragments of Millstone Grit sandstone, some with a red iron-rich cement, in a fine-textured groundmass containing quartz silt and muscovite laths up to 0.1mm across.

The calcite-tempered sherds come from at least four different vessels. That from context 3025 is represented by two joining sherds from a large jar with an everted rim. The fabric contains moderate fragments of sparry calcite up to 3.0mm long and the groundmass is fine-textured, but contains rounded brown inclusions, possibly altered glauconite. This fabric is identical visually to that used in the later Roman period and produced in the Vale of Pickering.

That from context 2031 consists of two sherds from a large, thick-walled jar. The fabric contains coarse fragments of sparry calcite and angular slag up to 4.0mm across. Slag-tempering is known in Yorkshire Iron Age pottery, for example, from Ferrybridge and Easingwold. However, the Ferrybridge vessels include flint and chalk inclusions absent from

this vessel whilst the Easingwold vessels include Millstone Grit sandstone and quartz sand derived from the same source. Thus, to the author's knowledge, this is the first evidence for slag-tempering in an Iron Age or Roman vessel of Vale of Pickering origin.

The vessel from context 3004 has lost all of its calcite inclusions, although it is quite clear from the voids that they once contained calcite. The sherd is from the everted rim of a large jar. The fabric at x20 magnification contains moderate rounded quartz sand of similar character to the cover sands found in the Vale of Pickering and which occur in some samples of late Roman calcite-tempered ware.

A single sherd of Roman greyware (G1), probably of early Roman date (later 1st to 2nd century) came from context 3017. It is abraded but of moderate size (15gm).

Medieval

Six sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Four of these are of York Gritty ware, current in the later 11th to early 13th centuries (Contexts 1010, 3004 and 3017). The other two are of Brandsby-type ware, which was produced in the later 13th to 15th centuries. All of the sherds are small and some are noticeably abraded.

Post-medieval

Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. One is of Ryedale ware, of later 15th to 16th-century date and the remainder are red earthenwares with brown (BERTH) or black (BL) glaze. These are likely to be of later 16th century or later date and might include sherds from vessels of late 18th century or later date.

Early Modern

Forty-one sherds of late 18th-century or later date were recovered. They include some types which were most common in the later 18th and early 19th centuries, such as Creamware (CREA, 13 sherds) and Pearl ware (PEAR, 1 sherd), as well as types which first appear in the mid 19th century, such as buff ware (NCBW, 8 sherds). The remaining types apparently occur in both the earlier and later periods, such as miscellaneous English stonewares (ENGS, 2 sherds), locally-produced horticultural earthenware (LPMLOC, 1 sherd), an unglazed lid produced in a mixed red-firing and white-firing Coal Measures clay (STCOAR), a Sunderland Coarseware pancheon (SUND) and transfer printed wares (TPW).

Most of the sherds are of standard domestic vessel forms, such as bowls, cups, plates, jars and jugs, but the lid is unusual and has a wide central hole, which suggests that it might have a specialised function.

Stone

Eight fragments of stone were submitted for identification. In the author's opinion, none are humanly worked and all are probably present in the local subsoil.

Assessment

The size and condition of the handmade sherds from contexts 2005, 2017, 2031 and 2032 suggest that these sherds were deposited in archaeological features soon after breakage and therefore indicate occupation on the site. The date of the occupation is disputable but the low number of finds suggests that they are of pre-Roman Iron Age date, since pottery at that period was in limited use in parts of the Vale of York. This may explain why the majority of the sherds appear to be of non-local origin (the calcite-tempered vessels).

The definite Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds, by contrast, are smaller and more abraded and are most likely evidence for the manuring of fields with night soil and farmyard manure. They seem to indicate that agriculture took place on the site from at least the early 13th century (the latest date at which York Gritty ware is likely to have been current) to at least the later 16th century. The presence of a few fragments of early 17th-century clay pipe stems probably takes this phase into the 17th century.

There is little pottery or other finds from the site which has to date between the late 17th and the mid 18th centuries. The next phase of activity which can be identified is of later 18th to early 19th century date and consists mainly of context 2007, whose latest datable find is the fragment of decorated clay pipe bowl, which could be of early 19th century date. Context 3012 might be of similar date, but contains so few finds that it could just as easily be later.

The remaining finds come from assemblages where the latest datable finds are of later 19th century or later date. These include two linear features in Trench 1 (1010 and 1015) and a series of deposits in Trench 3 (3003, 3011, 3017, 3023 and 3028).

Recommendations

Prehistoric pottery is uncommon in the southern part of the Vale of York and these sherds should therefore be studied and published. This study should include the illustration of the rim sherds and scientific analysis of the fabric of the various vessels present.

Costing

Table 3

Four illustrations @ £15.00 plus VAT	£70.50 inc
Five thin sections @ £22.50 plus VAT	£132.19 inc

Five ICPS analyses @ £23.50 plus VAT	£138.06 inc
Total	£341 inc VAT

Appendix

Context	trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Use	L	Condition
1007	1	CBM	PMTIL		PANT	1	1		32			
1010	1	POTTERY	ENGS		?	1	1		3			
1010	1	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	2	2		43			
1010	1	CBM	PMTIL		?	3	3	FRAGS	6			
1010	1	POTTERY	NCBW		JUG	1	1		29			
1010	1	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1		4			SPALLING
1010	1	POTTERY	YG		JAR	1	1		6			
1015	1	POTTERY	TPW		BOWL	1	1		4			SPALLING
1015	1	STONE	GEO		STONE	1	1		7			BURNT
1015	1	CBM	PMTIL		?	2	2	FRAGS	3			
1015	1	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	4	4		90			
1015	1	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	2	2		4			SPALLING
1015	1	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	2	2		5			SPALLING
2005	2	POTTERY	IASST		JAR	1	1		29			
2005	2	POTTERY	LHUM		PANC	1	1		5			
2007	2	POTTERY	BL		?	1	1	FLAKE	1			
2007	2	POTTERY	BL/BERTH		BOWL	1	1		6			
2007	2	POTTERY	CREA		?	3	1		2			SPALLING
2007	2	POTTERY	TPW		?	1	1		1			SPALLING
2007	2	POTTERY	TPW		?	1	1		1			
2007	2	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1		2			
2007	2	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1		3			BURNT
2007	2	POTTERY	CREA		BOWL	1	1		1			
2007	2	POTTERY	TPW		BOWL	1	1		4			

Context	trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Use	L	Condition
2007	2	STONE	GEO		MUDSTONE	1	1		4			BURNT
2007	2	STONE	GEO		STONE	1	1		5			BURNT
2007	2	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19 CENTURY BORE	1			
2007	2	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19 CENTURY BORE	2			
2007	2	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	FRAG WITH 'FM'	1			
2007	2	CBM	PMTIL		?	6	6	FRAGS	8			
2007	2	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		81			
2007	2	POTTERY	RYEDALE		JUG?	1	1		6			BURNT
2007	2	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	3	3		1			SPALLING
2007	2	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1	BLUE FEATHERING	6			
2017	2	POTTERY	CALC		JAR	2	1		88			
2031	2	POTTERY	CALC	SLAG INCLUSIONS	JAR	2	1		103			
2031	2	POTTERY	IASST		JAR	1	1		38			
2032	2	POTTERY	CALC		JAR	2	1		16			
3003	3	COPP	COPP		BUCKLE	1	1	CAST OPENWORK	6			
3003	3	POTTERY	STCOAR		LID	1	1	CENTRAL HOLE IN LID HANDLE	550			
3004	3	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	1	1		6			
3004	3	POTTERY	CALC		JAR	1	1		15			
3004	3	COPP	COPP		BUCKLE	1	1	CAST DOUBLE-D SHAPE	3			
3004	3	COPP	COPP		STPE	1	1	BENT SHEET METAL WITH SINGLE RIVET	2			
3004	3	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1	SQUARE HEAD	24			
3004	3	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1	SHAFT ONLY	6			
3004	3	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1	SHAFT ONLY	8			
3004	3	IRON	IRON		KEY	1	1		9			
3004	3	IRON	IRON		BUCKLE	1	1	SQUARE WITH CENTRAL BAR AND IRON	7			

Context	trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Use	L	Condition
								PIN				
3004	3	CBM	PMTIL		?	1	1	FRAG	4			
3004	3	CBM	PMTIL		?	4	4	FRAGS	26			
3004	3	POTTERY	YG		JAR	1	1		7	SOOTED EXT		
3004	3	POTTERY	YG		JAR	1	1		3			
3007	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		34			SHATTERED
3011	3	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	1	1		2			
3011	3	CBM	PMTIL		?	1	1	FRAG	2			
3011	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		61			
3011	3	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1		44			
3012	3	CBM	PMTIL		LAND DRAIN	1	1		43			
3012	3	POTTERY	PEAR		JUG	2	1		15			
3017	3	POTTERY	G1		JAR	1	1		15			ABRA
3017	3	STONE	GEO		LIMESTONE	1	1		3			
3017	3	IRON	IRON		OBJECT	1	1		10			
3017	3	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	2	1		10			SPALLING
3017	3	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19 CENTURY BORE	1			
3017	3	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	17 CENTURY BORE	1			
3017	3	POTTERY	ENGS		JAR	1	1		23			
3017	3	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	7	7	FRAGS	62			
3017	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	9	9	FRAGS	28			
3017	3	POTTERY	SUND		PANC	1	1		24			
3017	3	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1		3			
3017	3	POTTERY	YG		JAR	1	1		1			ABRA
3023	3	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	1	1		1			
3023	3	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1		13			

Context	trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Use	L	Condition
3023	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	7	7		41			
3023	3	CBM	PMTIL		?	35	35	FRAGS	27			
3023	3	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1		70			
3023	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		73			
3025	3	POTTERY	BL		JAR	1	1		9			
3025	3	POTTERY	BRAN		JUG	1	1		4			
3025	3	POTTERY	TPW		?	1	1		1			SPALLING
3025	3	STONE	GEO		SHALE	1	1		5			BURNT
3025	3	STONE	GEO		STONE	2	1		17			BURNT
3025	3	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1		3			
3025	3	IRON	IRON		TOOL	1	1	CIRCULAR CROSS SECTION WITH RECT-SECTIONED WHITTLE TANG	38			
3025	3	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	4	1		5			
3025	3	POTTERY	PEAR		BOWL	1	1		1			
3025	3	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	17 CENTURY BORE	6			
3025	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1	SQUARE PEG HOLE	31			
3025	3	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	17	17	FRAGS	45			
3025	3	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1		2			
3025?	3	STONE	GEO		STONE	1	1		10			
3028	3	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	1	1		1			
3028	3	POTTERY	CREA		CUP	2	1		1			
3028	3	POTTERY	PMLOC		FLP	1	1		3			
3028	3	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19 CENTURY BORE	1			
3028	3	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1		1			
4001	4	POTTERY	BRAN		JUG	1	1		8			
4001	4	IRON	IRON		NAIL	1	1		2			

Context	trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Use	L	Condition
4001	4	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		11			
US	us	COPP	COPP		PIN	1	1	NFP	0.5		28	
US	us	COPP	COPP		HANDLE	1	1	VERY HEAVY;LEADED BRONZE?;SOLID? OVAL KNOB HANDLE EG FURNITURE	82			
US	us	LEAD	LEAD		WASTE	1	1	IRREGULAR POOL OF LEAD BENT AFTER CASTING	46			