

Assessment of the finds from Connaught Court, Fulford, North Yorkshire (OSA04 EV09)

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Two hundred and thirty one finds from an archaeological evaluation at Connaught Court, Fulford, were submitted for identification and assessment. The majority of these were potsherds, followed by fragments of ceramic building material (Table1). Other finds include animal bone, clay tobacco pipes, iron objects, slag and stone.

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
ANBN	1	1	1
CBM	76	76	1604
CTP	5	5	12
IRON	4	4	47
POTTERY	142	133	1410
SLAG	1	1	2
STONE	2	2	11
Grand Total	231	222	3087

The finds range in date from possibly later prehistoric (Iron Age or early Roman) to the 19th century and most date to the Roman period, and within that period range from the late 1st/early 2nd century to at least the later 3rd/early 4th century.

Description

Animal Bone

A single fragment of animal bone was submitted. It is unworked and presumably food debris.

Ceramic Building Material

Much of the ceramic building material recovered from the site is in extremely poor condition and the division into Roman, medieval and later is often unreliable. Nevertheless, there is clear evidence for the presence of tile fragments in association with pottery of Roman date and therefore for the presence of a Romanised structure in the vicinity. At most, 45 fragments of Romano-British tile were present, none of which could be identified to form level.

Thirty-one fragments were thought likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date, although again only seven could be positively identified as being from flat roof tiles (and even one of these, interpreted here as a warped and overfired flat tile, is possibly a piece of high-fired

imbrex tile). A small fragment of a tin-glazed wall tile of later 17th or 18th-century date was tentatively identified, although this might be a fragment from the base of a charger.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Five fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Two of these have the wide bore diameters characteristic of pipes of the early to mid 17th century and two have narrower bore diameters, indicating late 17th/19th and 19th-century dates respectively. A fragment from a bowl with a moulded decoration seam, of 19th-century date, was also present.

Iron

Four corroded iron nails were present. The degree of corrosion suggests that they are of post-medieval or earlier date but otherwise they are undatable and with no noteworthy features.

Pottery

Iron Age or early Roman

A single fragment of black, handmade pottery, broken into three, was recovered. The fabric contains large fragments of Millstone Grit sandstone and at least one piece of vesicular slag. Such slag-tempered vessels are definitely known in the Iron Age and have yet to be proved to continue into the Roman period, although similar coarse handmade vessels do occur in late 1st/early 2nd-century contexts in the Vale of York (for example the large collection from Dunnington excavated by D Stirk for the Dunnington through the Ages project).

Roman

Ninety-seven sherds of Roman date were identified (Table 2). The majority of these were of Eboracum 1 ware (E1), dating between the later 1st and the early 3rd centuries. These were followed by local greyware (G1), predominantly of later 1st to early 2nd-century date. Five sherds of local mortaria (M3) and a sherd from a rustic ware jar (R2) are of similar source and date.

In addition to these locally-produced wares, all of which might have been made in the outskirts of York ({Monaghan 1993 #21403}), there were sherds of Dressel 20 amphora (AP25), Dorset Black Burnished ware (B1), Dales shelly ware (H1), Calcite-tempered ware (K1), Southern Gaulish Samian ware (S1) and Central Gaulish Samian ware (S2).

As a group, the Roman pottery is predominantly early Roman in date (later 1st to early 3rd century) and the single sherd of Dales shelly ware might conceivably be dated to the end of this period, although a mid 3rd to early 4th-century date is more likely. The single sherd of Calcite-tempered ware could also be early, and, indeed, the same fabric was in use in the

pre-Roman Iron Age and early Roman period, although it is mainly found in the York area in the 4th century.

A high proportion of the Roman pottery is too abraded to be identified to form (40 sherds), but the remainder includes examples of jars, amphorae, mortaria, a flagon, a bowl, a dish, and two fragments of *tazza* (highly decorated pedestal bowls thought to have been used as incense burners). The only common early Roman forms which are absent are beakers and platters.

Table 2

cname	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
AP25	10	10	219
B1	1	1	9
E1	49	46	356
G1	23	22	117
H1	1	1	4
K1	1	1	4
M3	5	3	202
R2	1	1	23
S1	3	3	5
S2	3	3	2
Grand Total	97	91	941

Table 3

Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
?	40	39	95
AMPH	10	10	219
BOWL	1	1	2
DISH	1	1	9
FLAG	1	1	2
JAR	17	17	335
JAR?	20	17	70
MORT	5	3	202
TAZZA	2	2	7
Grand Total	97	91	941

Medieval

Twenty-one sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. All are small, abraded sherds. They include sherds of York Gritty ware (YG) which are likely to be of later 11th to early 13th-century date, York Glazed ware (YORK) and red sandy ware (RED SANDY) likely to be of later 12th to mid 13th century date and Brandsby-type ware (BRAN) and Humberware (HUM), of later 13th to 15th and mid 14th to 15th-century date respectively. There is no obvious concentration of material of any particular date within the collection, which is likely, therefore, to reflect a low level of activity throughout the post-conquest medieval period, starting no later than the mid 13th century and continuing at least to the later 14th century.

Table 4

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
BRAN	JAR	2	2	37
	JUG	1	1	1
BRAN Total		3	3	38
HUM	DJ	1	1	13
	JUG	1	1	11
	JUG/JAR	6	6	47
HUM Total		8	8	71
RED SANDY	?	1	1	5
RED SANDY Total		1	1	5
YG	JAR	5	5	43
YG Total		5	5	43
YORK	JAR	4	4	56
YORK Total		4	4	56
Grand Total		21	21	213

Post-medieval

Seven sherds of post-medieval pottery were present (Table 5). They are slightly larger sherds than those of medieval date, although this could be explained by the larger, more robust, nature of the vessels. As a group, they would date to the later 16th to mid 17th centuries.

Table 5

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
FREC	DJ	1	1	2
	JAR?	1	1	32
FREC Total		2	2	34
GRE	BOWL	3	3	18
GRE Total		3	3	18

LHUM	PANC	1	1	88
LHUM Total		1	1	88
RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1	80
RYEDALE Total		1	1	80
Grand Total		7	7	220

Early Modern

Thirteen sherds of early modern pottery were recovered (Table 6). They include a sherd from a white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) teapot, which was probably made in the 1750s-60s, sherds of Creamware (CREA) of later 18th or early 19th-century date, Nottingham stoneware (NOTS), Pearlware (PEAR) and Transfer Printed Wares (TPW). The latter three wares have a long period of currency and might be as early as the 1770s or as late as the early 20th century. The range of forms present is typical of domestic occupation and includes no coarseware storage or cooking vessels.

Table 6

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CREA	?	1	1	1
	JUG?	1	1	4
	PLATE	3	3	5
CREA Total		5	5	10
NOTS	BOWL	1	1	7
	JAR	1	1	1
NOTS Total		2	2	8
PEAR	BOWL	1	1	3
PEAR Total		1	1	3
SWSG	TPOT	1	1	5
SWSG Total		1	1	5
TPW	?	1	1	1
	BOWL	2	2	2
	PLATE	1	1	2
TPW Total		4	4	5
Grand Total		13	13	31

Slag

A single small fragment of slag, which might be residue from an industrial process or merely fuel ash slag from a stove, was recovered.

Stone

Two fragments of organic shale, probably from the Coal Measures, were recovered and are probably evidence for the burning of coal.

Assessment

Trench 1

The fills of four features (F129, F133, F140, F135/137) produced only Roman pottery and, despite the abraded nature of the pottery, these are likely to be of Roman date. The first of these, F129, produced sherds of Dales shelly ware and Calcite-tempered ware, and one of the tile fragments was tentatively identified as being of post-medieval date. The remainder, however, all produced small collections of pottery which might be as early as the later 1st to early 2nd-century. All three included fragments of tile.

Contexts 104 and 105 also produced sherds of Roman pottery, alongside a fragment of possibly post-medieval tile (104) and a York glazed ware jug (105). In these cases the Roman finds, at least, are likely to be residual.

Context 110 produced a mixed assemblage which includes Roman pottery (including the rustic ware jar, certainly no later than the early 2nd century in date), medieval pottery, the latest sherd of which is a piece of Humberware of mid 14th-century or later date, and fragments of medieval or post-medieval tile. The deposit was interpreted on site as a ploughsoil, or subsoil or possibly a dump and the finds would be consistent with all three possibilities.

One feature, context 111, produced a small collection of post-medieval finds, probably dating the fill to the early to mid 17th century, or later.

Finally, a number of features contained early modern finds in their fills. They consist of features interpreted as horticultural features (101, 102, 103, 107, 108 (a posthole), 109, 112, and 114) and a small animal burial (F127, context 113). The presence of Creamware and white saltglazed stoneware in several of these assemblages suggests a late 18th/early 19th-century date.

Trench 2

The fills of two north-south ditches contain only Roman finds (F209 and F213). The former includes a sherd of Central Gaulish Samian ware and therefore is likely to be of 2nd-century or later date. Both contain fragments of Roman tile.

Context 202 is interpreted as being a ploughsoil/subsoil/dump, the equivalent of context 110 in Trench 1. It too contains a mixed assemblage, including the possible Iron Age/Early

Roman vessel, a collection of Roman sherds, all of which are of late 1st to early 3rd-century types and single sherds of late medieval and post-medieval date.

Trench 3

A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch F306. A further Roman potsherd was recovered from the spoil heap.

The fill of ditch F308 produced a mixed assemblage, of which the latest sherd was of post-medieval date. Ploughsoil 303 produced a similar small post-medieval assemblage.

Trench 5

The fill of ditch F506 and pit or ditch F504 produced small assemblages of Roman pottery and tile. That from F504 included a sherd of Central Gaulish Samian ware and probably dates to the 2nd century, or later.

The fill of plough furrow F508 produced sherd of medieval flat roof tile and possible Roman tile and ploughsoil/subsoil/dump 502 produced a sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Trench 8

Ploughsoil/subsoil/dump 802 produced a mixed collection of finds, of which the latest was a clay pipe stem of late 17th to 19th-century date.

An unstratified fragment of possible Roman tile was recovered from context 800.

Trench 9

Ploughsoil/subsoil/dump 902 produced a mixed collection of finds, of which the latest were sherds of post-medieval pottery.

Chronological Summary

The likelihood is that the black gritty sherd from context 202 is of pre-Roman Iron Age date. There is no evidence that manuring fields was practiced in the Iron Age in the Vale of York and in any case it is unlikely that such a friable fabric would have survived for long in an active ploughsoil. It is therefore likely that the deposit was either a dump or subsoil, protected from weathering. The various exposures of similar deposits contain mostly Roman pottery and tile, with a few sherds of medieval, late medieval and post-medieval date, the latest being the clay pipe stem from context 802. Again, if the deposits were active ploughsoils one would have imagined that the Roman pottery would be found in similar quantities to the later finds, if all were present as a result of manuring. It is therefore likely

that they represent subsoil, which includes finds from Roman occupation on or near the site as well as a small quantity of finds introduced from manuring.

Features dating to the Roman period, some of which can be assigned to the 2nd century or later, were found in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5. Residual Roman pottery was also recovered from Trench 9. The finds, however, are concentrated in Trenches 1 and 2.

This agricultural activity seems to have begun perhaps as early as the late 11th century, but arguably as late as the mid 13th century (the end date for the use of York Gritty and York glazed wares) and seems to have continued without any evident break into late 14th or 15th centuries. There is no evidence for finds which can be certainly assigned to the later 15th or 16th centuries and there is therefore a possible gap between this activity and the resumption of ploughing in the 17th century. However, it is just as likely that this is simply due to the small size of the total assemblage.

This medieval/post-medieval ploughing is represented in all the trenches.

Finally, there is evidence for early modern activity, probably dating mainly to the late 18th or early 19th centuries in Trench 1.

Further work

The Iron Age sherd might usefully be thin-sectioned and chemically analysed to establish its source. However, the sherd is very friable and it might be better to retain it for future study. None of the other finds require further study or publication.

Storage, retention and conservation

The iron nails will undoubtedly disintegrate without conservation. Two come from deposits of Roman date and the other two are from early modern features. It is recommended that no further work is carried out on the nails. The remaining finds are all stable and could survive in standard packaging. Since the majority of the finds come from stratified deposits, it is recommended that the entire collection is retained for future study.

Costing

A thin section and chemical analysis of the Iron Age sherd from context 202 would cost £46 plus VAT.

Appendix 1

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
1	101	CBM	MTIL?		FLAT	1	1		27	
1	101	CBM	MTIL?			1	1		3	
1	101	POTTERY	CREA	EMOD	PLATE	1	1		1	
1	101	POTTERY	GRE	PMED	BOWL	1	1		9	
1	101	POTTERY	TPW	EMOD	BOWL	1	1		1	
1	101	POTTERY	YG	EMED	JAR	1	1		9	
1	102	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		4	
1	102	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19TH CENTURY BOWL	1	
1	102	POTTERY	NOTTS	EMOD	JAR	1	1		1	
1	102	POTTERY	PEAR	EMOD	BOWL	1	1		3	
1	102	STONE	STONE			1	1	COAL MEASURES SHALE	6	
1	103	CBM	M/PMTIL		FLAT	2	2		10	
1	103	POTTERY	CREA	EMOD	?	1	1		1	
1	103	POTTERY	YG	EMED	JAR	1	1		5	
1	104	CBM	PMTIL			1	1		5	
1	104	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR?	1	1		6	VABR
1	105	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		16	ABR
1	105	POTTERY	YORK	EMED	JAR	1	1		10	ABR
1	107	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	1	1		10	
1	107	CBM	PMTIL?		BRICK?	1	1		16	
1	107	CBM	TGW		TILE	1	1		1	ABR

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
1	107	CBM	RTIL			2	2		11	VABR
1	107	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	19TH CENTURY BORE	1	
1	107	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		13	
1	107	POTTERY	CREA	EMOD	PLATE	2	2		4	SHATTERED
1	108	CBM	PMTIL			2	2		9	
1	108	IRON	FE		NAIL	1	1		12	
1	108	POTTERY	TPW	EMOD	?	1	1		1	
1	109	CBM	PMTIL			3	3		14	
1	109	POTTERY	NOTTS	EMOD	BOWL	1	1		7	
1	109	POTTERY	TPW	EMOD	PLATE	1	1		2	
1	109	POTTERY	YG	EMED	JAR	1	1		16	ABR
1	110	CBM	MTIL?		FLAT?	6	6		85	
1	110	CBM	M/PMTIL?			1	1		1	ABR
1	110	CBM	RTIL			3	3		44	VABR
1	110	POTTERY	BRAN	HMED	JUG	1	1		1	ABR
1	110	POTTERY	BRAN	HMED	JAR	2	2		37	ABR
1	110	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG	1	1		11	ABR
1	110	POTTERY	YG	EMED	JAR	1	1		12	ABR
1	110	POTTERY	YORK	EMED	JAR	2	2		29	ABR
1	110	POTTERY	R2	RPOT	JAR	1	1		23	FRESH
1	110	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	5	5		9	VABR
1	110	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	?	3	3		6	VABR

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
1	111	CBM	PMTIL			2	2		4	
1	111	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	17TH CENTURY BORE	5	
1	111	POTTERY	FREC	PMED	DJ	1	1	POSS PANEL JUG?	2	
1	112	POTTERY	CREA	EMOD	JUG?	1	1		4	
1	113	CBM	PMTIL?			2	2		2	
1	113	IRON	FE		NAIL	1	1		1	
1	113	SLAG	SLAG			1	1		2	
1	113	STONE	STONE			1	1	COAL MEASURES SHALE	5	
1	114	POTTERY	SWSG	EMOD	TPOT	1	1		5	
1	114	POTTERY	TPW	EMOD	BOWL	1	1		1	
1	115	CBM	PMTIL?		FLAT	1	1	COULD BE OVERFIRED RTIL?	78	
1	115	CBM	RTIL		TILE	1	1		80	ABR
1	115	CBM	RTIL			1	1		3	VABR
1	115	CBM	RTIL			2	2		17	VABR
1	115	IRON	FE		NAILS	2	2		34	
1	115	POTTERY	M3	RPOT	MORT	3	1		27	
1	115	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	2	2		14	ABR
1	115	POTTERY	B1	RPOT	DISH	1	1		9	ABR
1	115	POTTERY	K1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		4	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	4	4		3	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	H1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		4	VABR

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
1	115	POTTERY	S1	RPOT	?	2	2		4	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR?	8	8		23	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR	4	4		38	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR?	6	6		31	VABR
1	115	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	FLAG	1	1		2	VABR
1	134	CBM	RTIL			3	3		14	
1	134	CBM	RTIL		TILE	1	1		142	ABR
1	134	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	2	2		4	VABR
1	136	CBM	RTIL			2	2		10	VABR
1	136	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	3	3		3	VABR
1	136	POTTERY	S1	RPOT	?	1	1		1	VABR
1	136	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR?	1	1		5	VABR
1	136	POTTERY	AP25	RPOT	AMPH	1	1		15	VABR
1	141	CBM	RTIL		TILE	1	1		670	ABR
1	141	CBM	RTIL			10	10		95	VABR
1	141	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	1	1	OVERFIRED; REDUCED INT	35	
1	141	POTTERY	M3	RPOT	MORT	1	1		45	
1	141	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	TAZZA	1	1		6	ABR
1	141	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	1	1		1	VABR
2	202	CBM	RTIL			2	2		20	VABR
2	202	CBM	RTIL			1	1		2	VABR
2	202	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG/JAR	1	1		3	ABR

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
2	202	POTTERY	M3	RPOT	MORT	1	1		130	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		149	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR?	4	1		5	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	TAZZA	1	1		1	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	AP25	RPOT	AMPH	9	9		204	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	?	2	1		4	ABR
2	202	POTTERY	GRE	PMED	BOWL	1	1		3	SHATTERED
2	202	POTTERY	IASST	SLAG	JAR	4	1		5	VABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	1	1		8	VABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	4	4		8	VABR
2	202	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	1	1		2	VABR
2	208	CBM	RTIL			2	2		8	VABR
2	208	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	1	1	WHITE SLIP	2	ABR
2	208	POTTERY	S2	RPOT	?	2	2		1	VABR
2	212	CBM	RTIL			2	2		15	VABR
3	301	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		8	VABR
3	303	ANBN	BONE			1	1		1	
3	303	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	17TH CENTURY BORE	2	
3	303	POTTERY	RED SANDY	EMED	?	1	1		5	ABR
3	305	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	?	1	1		4	VABR
3	307	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG/JAR	1	1		3	

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
3	307	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		10	ABR
3	307	POTTERY	RYEDALE	PMED	BOWL	1	1		80	ABR
3	307	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	2	2		10	VABR
5	502	POTTERY	GRE	PMED	BOWL	1	1		6	VABR
5	503	CBM	RTIL			1	1		13	VABR
5	503	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	BOWL	1	1		2	ABR
5	503	POTTERY	G1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		13	ABR
5	503	POTTERY	S2	RPOT	?	1	1		1	VABR
5	503	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	2	2		14	VABR
5	505	CBM	RTIL			1	1		1	VABR
5	505	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	JAR	1	1		8	ABR
5	507	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	1	1		128	
5	507	CBM	RTIL?			1	1		1	ABR
8	800	CBM	RTIL?			1	1		8	ABR
8	802	CBM	RTIL			1	1		5	ABR
8	802	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	18-19 CENTURY BORE	3	
8	802	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG/JAR	1	1		17	
8	802	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG/JAR	1	1		7	ABR
9	902	CBM	MTIL?			4	4		3	
9	902	CBM	RTIL			1	1		41	ABR
9	902	CBM	RTIL			6	6		4	ABR
9	902	POTTERY	FREC	PMED	JAR?	1	1		32	

Trench	Context	class	cname	Period	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Weight	Condition
9	902	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	DJ	1	1		13	
9	902	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG/JAR	2	2		17	
9	902	POTTERY	LHUM	PMED	PANC	1	1		88	
9	902	POTTERY	YG	EMED	JAR	1	1		1	
9	902	POTTERY	YORK	EMED	JAR	1	1		17	
9	902	POTTERY	E1	RPOT	?	2	2		10	VABR