

## **Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material, Pottery and Clay Tobacco Pipes from St John's Church, York (OSA04 EX02)**

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Excavations at St John's Church, Micklegate, York, produced a quantity of finds of ceramic building material, pottery and clay tobacco pipes. Since most of the deposits from which these finds were recovered were dated by the excavators to the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century and later it was decided to restrict assessment to the provision of a terminus post quem for each assemblage, supported by a report based on the author's impression of the collection. The reasons for this are two-fold: (a) much of the material is clearly residual and (b) there are documentary records indicating that the floor level was raised as a response to flooding. This would have entailed the importation of hard core and it was thought likely that a large amount of the material recovered would have been brought onto the site, and therefore has no relevance to the history of the church.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

Seven assemblages of CBM contained only Roman tile. One contained a fragment of glazed curved tile, probably from a 12<sup>th</sup>-century tegula and imbrex roof. Such tiles are known from York but they are nevertheless rare finds and probably came from a high status structure, perhaps the church of St John itself, although the presence of only one tile of this type in the whole collection suggests not.

Only eight assemblages of flat roof tiles were submitted for assessment, since much of the CBM was recorded and discarded on site. There is little to be gained from the study of this partial, residual and quite possibly unprovenanced collection.

Two fragments of ridge tile were submitted, One of these, an unglazed tile, has a knife-cut crest, an unusual feature for York medieval tiles.

Ten assemblages contained medieval floor tiles. These include decorated examples and examples of atypically thin form.

A single fragment of a glazed separator tile from a red earthenware stove was submitted. These stoves were produced in northern Europe in the late medieval period and introduced into England in the later 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Without further work it is not possible to say whether this tile came from an imported stove or a local copy. Such a stove could have been

used in the church itself or in a large hall, either domestic (e.g a merchant's house) or public (e.g. a guild hall).

A single assemblage contained pantile of later 17<sup>th</sup>-century or later date.

### **Clay Tobacco Pipes**

Seventy nine assemblages contained tobacco pipe. The latest datable piece in each assemblage was noted and no record made of the remainder.

No pipes of the earliest period of pipe use in York were present (c.1580-1610) and only one bowl which might be dated to the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (c.1600-1640), a heeled example. A number of assemblages contained stems with a bore diameter indicative of an early to mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century date (coded 17.1+) and eight assemblages contained as their latest type one or more heeled bowls dated by the shape and size to the mid century (c.1640-60). Some of these were stamped: 'IB', 'MP', and a crowned 'ST'. One heel had a milled (i.e. rouletted) line across the cut heel, undoubtedly intentional.

A similar number of assemblages contained one or more pipe stems whose bore diameters indicated a late 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>-century date. These included two bowls whose size and form suggests a 1660-80 date (one stamped with a crowned 'RS') and one with a suggested date of c.1680-1710. A number of assemblages contained as their latest type a bowl of Atkinson and Oswald's London type 25. One of these had a crowned 'RS' stamp on the heel and another had the initials W and P on either side of the spur.

Only one assemblage contained pipe stems with a narrow bore typical of the later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Pottery**

One hundred and fifty-nine assemblages of pottery were examined and given a terminus post quem, noting the latest datable type in each case.

#### **Roman**

Only two assemblages produced only Roman pottery, but a small amount of residual Roman pottery was present throughout the collection. No obvious early Roman vessels (i.e. later 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century) were observed and the collection included Dales-type shelly ware of 3<sup>rd</sup> century date and Calcite-tempered ware of 4<sup>th</sup>-century date. The latter include the profile of a dish of 4<sup>th</sup>-century type.

#### **Anglo-Saxon**

No sherds datable between the later 5<sup>th</sup> and the mid 9<sup>th</sup> century were observed.

### Anglo-Scandinavian

Seventeen sherds of Anglo-Scandinavian date were noted. They consists of a jar rim of York A (York Anglo-Scandinavian ware), five sherds of Stamford ware unglazed jars, and 11 sherds of Torksey ware jars. The sherds were recovered from various parts of the church and mostly as single sherds (Table 1). The low frequency of types of the late 9<sup>th</sup> to mid 10<sup>th</sup> century (York A, York D and early Torksey wares) suggests that the activity with which these sherds were associated started in the later 10<sup>th</sup> or early to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century. It is tempting to link it with the foundation of the church in the 11<sup>th</sup> century or with the construction of Micklegate and the new bridge, presumably of similar or earlier date.

*Table 1*

trench	context	STAM	TORK	YORKA	Grand Total
A	1024	1			1
F	6029		1		1
J	10041		1		1
	10043		1		1
K	11039		1		1
	11047		1		1
L	12024		1		1
	12063	1			1
Nave	7013		1		1
	7043	1	1	1	3
	7075	1			1
	7086		1		1
	7137		1		1
	7167	1			1
	7181		1		1
Grand Total		5	11	1	17

### Late 11<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century

Although there are sherds of York Gritty ware, Splashed wares and York Glazed ware in the collection, they are much rarer than in typical collections of medieval pottery from York.

### Later 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century

Sherds of Brandsby-type jugs, usually undecorated, are common in the collection, and form the latest datable sherds in 22 assemblages. The lack of Humberware and the lack of decoration suggests an early 14<sup>th</sup>-century date for most of these sherds.

### Later 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century

Sherds of Humberware were common in the collection, and form the latest datable sherds in 17 assemblages. It may be significant that most of these assemblages are in the area of the nave whereas those containing Brandsby-type ware as their latest type were mainly in the aisles (Table 2).

*Table 2*

trench	13.2+ (BRAN)	14.2+ (HUM)	Grand Total
A	1	2	3
B	2		2
C	1		1
E	2	1	3
F		1	1
J	5	1	6
K	2		2
L	4	1	5
Nave	5	11	16
Grand Total	22	17	39

#### Later 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries

Assemblages in which the latest sherds dated to the later 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries were common in the collection (27 contexts). The *tpqs* range from the later 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century (Raeren stoneware, Cistercian ware, Ryedale ware and a single sherd of a South Netherlands Maiolica waisted albarello) to the later 16<sup>th</sup> century (miscellaneous glazed red earthenwares, brown-glazed earthenwares, late Humberware and border ware).

#### Early 17<sup>th</sup> century

There are few assemblages where the latest sherds present date to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The only two noted contained as their latest types non-local vessels (a North Italian Marbled Slipware vessel and a lead-backed tin-glazed charger, probably of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date). This may either reflect a real gap in the pottery or the lack of types in York which can be dated to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Mid 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century

Thirty-seven assemblages contained as their latest datable type sherds of the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of these types continued in production into the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century and several only appeared at the very end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Nottingham stoneware, Staffordshire mottled ware and Staffordshire press-moulded combed slip plates (as opposed to the embossed and marbled plates which preceded them). The latest type which was

assigned to this phase is slipped Staffordshire white saltglazed stoneware. This type was produced for a short period c.1710-20 before being replaced by much finer, turned vessels.

An unusual find of this date is a large sherd of a Montelupo oil jar. These vessels were produced in central Italy and were imported to England filled with oil. This example has traces of a crescent-shaped lug handle and is internally glazed.

### Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century

Twenty-nine assemblages are dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century or later by the presence of types of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date. These include Agate ware, Staffordshire press-moulded plates with slip trailed (and not combed) decoration, Staffordshire wheelthrown light-bodied wares with a chocolate-coloured brown slip, sometimes combined with turning of the body, English white salt-glazed stoneware vessels (bowls, plates, tankards and teapots) and Westerwald stoneware chamber pots. These types had a relatively short period of currency because of the emergence of large-scale Creamware production in the mid 1760s. This collection is therefore one of the largest known from York (from personal experience and A Mainman pers comm).

### Late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

Eleven assemblages contain pottery of later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date. Only one contains Creamware, context 1022, and the remainder are likely to date to the later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is therefore likely that the "18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century" date assigned to the majority of the excavated strata on the site is slightly too late and that the bulk of this material dates to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Assessment

The CBM is only a partial collection and there are good grounds for discarding most of the tile without further record. However, a few unusual pieces are worthy of further work. At the very least a basic archive should be produced for these and all would repay further work.

The 12<sup>th</sup>-century glazed imbrex tile should be retained for future study whilst the unglazed ridge tile should be illustrated for future comparison with similar tiles. The medieval floor tiles should have a full record, including measurement of dimensions, illustration of the decorated tiles and at least a binocular microscope study of the tiles. It is almost certain that they originated in the church and therefore their study contributes to the history of the building.

The separator tile should be retained and illustrated.

The clay tobacco pipes mainly date from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and wherever assemblages of any size were present they contained pipes of mixed date. Nevertheless, it

is likely that all of these pipes were deposited before the early 1760s and therefore at least those of type AO25 (5 examples, including two marked) have a useful *TAQ*. These should be drawn and the marks photographed. The remaining pipes should be retained as they have potential to increase knowledge of late 17<sup>th</sup>-century pipes in York.

The pottery includes a small collection of Anglo-Scandinavian date which should be given an archive record (i.e. weights and details of typology added to the current record). The mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery is likewise of intrinsic interest because of the lack of pottery of this date from York. However, if a mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century horizon can be established by combining the provisional pottery dates given here and the stratigraphic evidence from the excavation then this material could be a very useful rung in the chronological framework of post-medieval pottery in York. In particular, it would be useful to see whether any local coarsewares might be contemporary with the factory-produced finewares or whether the coarseware industry had itself died by this date. To establish this, one would have to produce an archive record for both the late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century and the mid 18<sup>th</sup>-century assemblages and then to compare the incidence of the less obviously datable wares in the two groups.

*Appendix 1*

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
1000	CTP	17.1+
1000	POTTERY	19.2+ (ENGS)
10001	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
10003	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
10005	CTP	17.1+
10005	POTTERY	19.2+(WHITE JUG WITH YELLOW GL AND GILDING)
10006	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
10007	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG BOWL)
10007	CTP	17.3+;AO25 X1;1680-1700 X1
10009	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL)
10011	CTP	17.2+
10011	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG PLATE)
10012	POTTERY	18.1+ (STMO)
10012	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS)
10012	CTP	18.1+ (AO25)
1002	CTP	17.1+
1002	POTTERY	19.2+ (ENGS)
10028	POTTERY	12.2+
10029	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS)
10029	CTP	17.2+
10032	POTTERY	15.2+ (CSTN)
10032	CTP	17.2+
10035	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
10041	CTP	17.1+
10041	POTTERY	11.2+
10043	CTP	17.1+
10043	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
10046	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
10047	POTTERY	15.2+ (CSTN CUP)
10049	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
10050	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
10061	POTTERY	11.2+
1010	POTTERY	18.2+ (STSL SLIPPED)
1010	POTTERY	17.2+ (FREC BEL)
1010	CTP	18.1+;AO25 'WP'
1011	POTTERY	17.2+ (STRE DISH SLTR)

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
1018	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
1018	CTP	17.2+
1019	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW PLATE)
1019	CTP	17.3+;1660-80 'RS' STAMPED HEEL
1022	POTTERY	18.3+ (CREA)
1022	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED
1024	POTTERY	18.2+ (WEST CHP)
1029	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
1031	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
11003	POTTERY	19.1+
11005	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
11010	POTTERY	19.1+ (PEAR IND SLIP)
11016	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS)
11016	CTP	18.1+ (AO25)
11017	CTP	17.2+
11018	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT;SWSG BOWL)
11019	POTTERY	17.2+ (STMO)
11019	CTP	17.2+
11027	POTTERY	16.2+ (GRE)
11028	POTTERY	16.2+ (BERTH)
11033	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
11038	POTTERY	16.1+ (SNTG ALB)
11039	POTTERY	16.2+ (LHUM)
11045	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
11047	POTTERY	11.2+ (YG)
11055	POTTERY	12.2+
11056	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
12011	POTTERY	18.1+ (SWSG SLIPPED TANK)
12011	CTP	17.2+
12014	CTP	17.2+
12014	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS)
12018	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
12019	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED WITH MILLED LINE ACROSS CUT HEEL
12019	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
12023	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
12024	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
12032	CTP	17.1+;CROWNED 'ST'
12032	CTP	17.2+;1660-80 HEELED X1



context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
12032	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK;STSL TURNED AND SLIPPED)
12037	CTP	17.1+
12037	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW PLATE)
12043	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
12043	CTP	17.2+;AO25 FRAG?
12044	CTP	17.1+
12046	CTP	18.1;AO25? FRAG
12046	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
12047	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
12057	CTP	17.2+
12057	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS)
12058	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
12063	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
2001	CTP	17.1+
2004	POTTERY	11.2+ (YG)
2006	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK)
2007	POTTERY	17.2+ (STMO TANK)
2007	CTP	17.2+
2010	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW CUP)
2011	CTP	17.1+
2011	POTTERY	18.1+ (CHPO)
2011	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW OINT;STSL;CHPO)
2013	CTP	17.1+
2014	POTTERY	15.2+ (CSTN)
2026	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
2026	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
2026	CTP	17.2+
2030	POTTERY	16.2+ (GRE)
2032	CTP	17.1+
2032	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW CHP)
2032	CTP	17.2+
2034	CTP	17.1+
2034	POTTERY	17.1+ (TGW CHAR LEAD-BACKED)
2047	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
3012	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED X2
3012	POTTERY	18.2+ (STSL SLIPPED;STMO)
3014	CTP	17.1+
3014	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
3016	POTTERY	18.3+ (CREA)
3018	CTP	17.1+
4001	CTP	17.2+
4001	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK)
4005	CTP	17.1+
4005	POTTERY	19.2+ (ENGS DRAIN)
4008	POTTERY	17.2+ (STCO COMBED)
4008	CTP	18.2+
4009	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG PLATE;SWSG TPOT;STSL SLIPPED)
4009	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL)
4009	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED;ONE 18.2+ STEM
4011	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
4016	CTP	17.1+
4016	POTTERY	18.2+ (STCO SLTR)
5002	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
5003	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
5003	POTTERY	15.2+ (HUM BROWN GL;RAER;CSTN)
5004	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
5012	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
6000	POTTERY	17.2+ (WEST)
6000	CTP	17.2+;1680-1700
6004	CTP	17.1+
6004	POTTERY	16.2+ (BORD)
6005	CTP	17.1+
6009	CTP	17.1+
6009	POTTERY	18.2+ (STCO SLTR)
6011	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG BOWL)
6011	CTP	17.2+
6013	POTTERY	11.2+ (YG)
6013	CTP	17.2+
6016	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TPOT)
6016	CTP	17.2+ STAMPED STEM
6017	CTP	17.1+
6017	POTTERY	16.2+ (GRE)
6028	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
6029	POTTERY	15.2+ (CSTN)
7000	CTP	17.1+
7000	POTTERY	17.2+ (NOTS TANK)

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
7006	CTP	17.1+
7006	POTTERY	18.3+ (CREA)
7010	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7011	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7013	CTP	17.1+
7013	POTTERY	11.2+ (STAM JAR)
7013	POTTERY	18.1+ (STCO COMBED;STMO)
7013	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL BLACK SLIPPED)
7013	CTP	18.1+
7016	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG BOWL;STSL SLIPPED)
7016	POTTERY	18.1+ (CHPO PLATE)
7016	CTP	17.2+
7018	POTTERY	17.1+ (NIMS? BOWL)
7018	CTP	17.2+
7027	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL)
7027	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL)
7027	CTP	17.1+;1600-40 HEELED
7029	CTP	17.1+
7029	POTTERY	18.2+ (STSL SLIPPED)
7031	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7031	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
7033	CTP	17.1+
7033	CTP	17.2+
7033	POTTERY	18.1+ (STMO)
7033	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG BOWL)
7035	POTTERY	18.1+ (STMO; STCO COMBED)
7035	POTTERY	18.1+ (STSL;CHPO CUP;STMO TANK)
7035	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEEL STAMPED 'IB'
7035	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED 'MP'
7035	CTP	17.2+
7035	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
7038	CTP	17.1+
7038	POTTERY	18.1+ (STMO)
7040	POTTERY	19.2+ (WHITE BOWL)
7041	CTP	18.1+;AO25 HEELED CROWNED 'RS'
7043	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK;STCO COMBED)
7043	POTTERY	18.2+ (STSL SLIPPED)
7043	CTP	17.2+

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
7043	CTP	17.2+
7043	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7049	POTTERY	18.1+ (STMO)
7049	CTP	17.2+
7053	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG BOWL)
7055	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK)
7055	POTTERY	16.2+ (GRE)
7056	CTP	17.1+
7060	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL)
7068	POTTERY	18.2+ (AGATE TANK;STSL SLIPPED)
7068	CTP	17.2+
7069	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW MUG)
7072	POTTERY	18.2+ (SWSG TANK)
7072	CTP	17.2+
7075	POTTERY	18.2+ (AGATE BOWL)
7075	POTTERY	19.2+ (WHITE MIXING BOWL)
7075	CTP	18.1_;AO25
7075	CTP	18.1+;AO25
7076	CTP	17.2+
7076	POTTERY	16.2+ (GRE)
7083	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
7086	CTP	17.1+;1640-60 HEELED
7086	POTTERY	17.2+ (STSL;NOTS)
7088	POTTERY	15.2+ (CSTN)
7090	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW PLATE)
7090	PMGL	ND (WHITE OPAQUE VESSEL)
7094	POTTERY	17.2+ (TGW)
7095	CTP	17.1+
7095	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7096	POTTERY	11.2+ (YG)
7099	POTTERY	1+
7099	CBM	12.2+ (GLAZED IMBR)
7100	CTP	17.1+
7100	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)
7101	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7111	POTTERY	16.1+ (HUM BROWN GL)
7112	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7120	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)

context	class	Terminus Post Quem (and latest datable type)
7126	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7134	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7137	POTTERY	10.2+ (TORK)
7143	POTTERY	11.2+ (YG)
7154	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7159	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
7161	POTTERY	14.2+ (HUM)
7162	POTTERY	1+
7167	POTTERY	11.1+ (STAM)
7177	POTTERY	
7178	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
7181	POTTERY	13.2+ (BRAN)
7182	POTTERY	15.2+ (RYEDALE)