

## **Assessment of the Pottery and Glass from Trinity Lane, York (OSA05 EV01)**

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Seventy-three fragments of pottery and two pieces of glass from the archaeological evaluation at Trinity Lane, York, undertaken by On-Site Archaeology Ltd were submitted for identification and assessment.

The material ranges in date from the Roman period to the late 18<sup>th</sup>- or 19<sup>th</sup> century and suggests that stratigraphy of later medieval and later date was present on the site.

### **Description**

The material was recorded by ware type and form with notes made of decoration, traces of use and condition (Appendix 1).

### **Glassware**

Two fragments of window glass were recovered, from contexts 108 and 116. Both were made from a light-green-coloured glass which has suffered heavy weathering. This is typical of forest glass of the later medieval and post-medieval period (up to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, after which glass with less colour and more stable composition became common). The use of window glass in domestic housing was limited to high status structures in the later medieval period, becoming more common in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is probably to this later period that these two pieces belong.

### **Pottery**

#### **Roman**

Fifteen sherds of Roman date were recovered. All were residual in medieval or later deposits. The sherds include three fragments which might be of early Roman date (Gauloise amphora, YATAP27; a fragment of Ebor ware flagon, YAT E1; and a small sherd of a white-firing vessel, YAT P1). However, all three types had a long period of currency.

There are three sherds of later 2<sup>nd</sup>-century or later date (a South Yorkshire or Dorset Black Burnished ware jar, YAT B10; local grey burnished ware jars, YAT B3; and two sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated ware, YAT C1).

Finally, there are six sherds of later Roman date (two sherds of Crambeck greyware bowls, YAT B10; and four sherds of Calcite-gritted ware jars, YAT K1).

The mean sherd weight is higher for the calcite-gritted ware sherds than the remainder and this may indicate that these sherds had been recycled less than the remainder (Table 1).

*Table 1*

date	cname	Nosh	NoV	Weight	mean wt
1.2	YATAP27	1	1	4	4.00
	YATE1	1	1	5	5.00
	YATP0	1	1	1	1.00
1.2 Total		3	3	10	3.33
2.2	YATB10	1	1	4	4.00
	YATB3	3	3	21	7.00
	YATC1	2	2	21	10.50
2.2 Total		6	6	46	7.13
4.1	YATB12	2	2	12	6.00
	YATK1	4	4	67	12.83
4.1 Total		6	6	79	10.56

### Anglo-Scandinavian

Ten sherds of Anglo-Scandinavian pottery were recovered. They consist of two sherds of York A ware (aka Anglo-Scandinavian York ware, 1990), two sherds of Stamford ware unglazed jars and five sherds of Torksey ware. The latter are mostly from jars but include one bowl rim. All of these sherds are small (Table 2) but show little sign of abrasion and are probably evidence for Anglo-Scandinavian activity on or close to the site.

York A ware was used in the later 9<sup>th</sup> and earlier 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, after which it was either in decline or more likely no longer used. Both Stamford and Torksey wares were in production during the later 9<sup>th</sup> century but are much more common in the later 10<sup>th</sup> and early to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Table 2*

date	cname	Nosh	NoV	Weight	mean wt
9.2	YORKA	2	2	7	3.50
9.2 Total		2	2	7	3.50
10.2	ST	3	3	14	4.67
	TORK	5	4	33	8.67
10.2 Total		8	7	47	6.67

### Medieval to early Post-medieval

Forty-five sherds of later 11<sup>th</sup> to earlier 16<sup>th</sup>-century date were recovered. These include five sherds of York Gritty ware, which was current from the later 11<sup>th</sup> to the earlier 13<sup>th</sup> century; 9 sherds of York Glazed ware, datable to the later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries; eighteen sherds of Brandsby-type ware, datable to the later 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> centuries; a sherd of Coal Measures Whiteware, similar to that produced at Rawmarsh, South Yorkshire, in the later 15<sup>th</sup> and earlier 16<sup>th</sup> centuries; 10 sherds of Humberware, of later 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century date (one of which has a brown glaze, typical of later Humberwares); a single sherd of Langerwehe stoneware, of later 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century date and a sherd of Ryedale ware, of late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

The vessels are mainly jars and jugs but one of the Brandsby-type vessels, represented by 9 sherds, is a cistern, with a bung-hole in the side near the base. This form is thought to have been used in small-scale brewing of beer and becomes more common in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps as a result of the increased popularity of beer in relation to wine. Two of the Humberware sherds come from small unglazed drinking jugs, a form which is particularly common in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century (perhaps also as a result of the increased consumption of beer). Another Humberware sherd is the rim of a jug with a very wide diameter, suggestive of a very large vessel, perhaps also for beer or for storage of liquids or dry goods.

*Table 3*

date	cname	Nosh	NoV	Weight	mean wt
	11.2 YG	5	5	64	12.80
11.2 Total		5	5	64	12.80
	12.2 YORK	9	5	170	15.92
12.2 Total		9	5	170	15.92
	13.2 BRAN	18	9	683	18.12
	CMW	1	1	44	44.00
13.2 Total		19	10	727	22.44
	14.2 HUM	10	10	196	25.64
	LANG	1	1	38	38.00
14.2 Total		11	11	234	27.19
	15.2 RYEDALE	1	1	17	17.00
15.2 Total		1	1	17	17.00
Grand Total		45	32	1212	20.51

#### Post-medieval

A single sherd of a brown-glazed earthenware jar (BERTH) of later 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered.

**Table 4**

date	cname	Nosh	NoV	Weight	mean wt
16.2	BERTH	1	1	15	15.00
16.2 Total		1	1	15	15.00

### Early Modern

Two sherds of Creamware were recovered. This ware was mass-produced in the Staffordshire potteries and elsewhere (e.g. Leeds) from the mid 1760s onwards and is mainly found in late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century deposits. The two sherds are from plates, one of which has incised decoration, probably produced on a lathe.

### Assessment

#### Trench 1

Forty-six sherds were recovered from Trench 1. The earliest stratified material comes from context 124 but this consists of seven small sherds, spanning a considerable period of time (from the Roman period to the later 14<sup>th</sup> century). The latest type is of Humberware, indicating a probable later 14<sup>th</sup>-century or later deposition date.

The next assemblage comes from the fill of Pit 120, cutting through floor 124. This assemblage also contains residual sherds but has nine large sherds from a single Brandsby-type cistern. This vessel is probably contemporary with the deposition date and dates probably to the later 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century.

A subsequent layer of material, probably imported as levelling material, context 118, contains a mixed assemblage of which the latest type present is again Brandsby-type ware.

Contexts 111 and 112, the fills of Pit 113, which cut through this deposit, produced three sherds, one of which was a Humberware jar.

A posthole cutting this same deposit produced a single fragment of probable post-medieval window glass in its fill.

Finally, a large cut, 117, produced two sherds of Creamware in its backfill, together with a sherd of later 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>-century brown-glazed earthenware and a fragment of window glass.

Unstratified finds from this trench include early 16<sup>th</sup>-century Humberware and a sherd of later medieval Langerwehe stoneware.

The finds are consistent with a sequence of late medieval and post-medieval activity whilst the presence of unabraded residual Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian material suggests that earlier strata of these dates exists, or once existed, nearby.

## **Trench 2**

Only one deposit in Trench 2 produced any finds, context 207. This moderately large assemblage (27 sherds) is extremely mixed and contains material ranging from the Roman period to the late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is interpreted as a garden soil resulting from a slow accumulation of material and this is consistent with the pottery assemblage.

## **Storage and Retention**

All of the material was recovered from stratified deposits and should be retained for possible future study. The two glass fragments are unstable but are probably not worthy of special packaging or conservation and so will eventually disintegrate.

## **Further study**

None of the finds requires further study at present.

*Appendix 1*

trench	context	context group	class	cname	Form	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
1	108		GLASS	GLASS	WIND		1	1	1	WEATHERED
1	116		GLASS	GLASS	WIND		1	1	1	WEATHERED
1	100		POTTERY	HUM	JUG	BROWN-GLAZED	1	1	50	
1	100		POTTERY	YG	JAR		1	1	33	
1	100		POTTERY	YORK	JAR		1	1	34	
1	100		POTTERY	HUM	VERY LARGE JUG		1	1	93	ABRA
1	100		POTTERY	LANG	DJ		1	1	38	
1	111	Pit 113	POTTERY	BRAN	JAR		1	1	2	
1	111	Pit 113	POTTERY	HUM	JAR		1	1	14	
1	112	Pit 113	POTTERY	YATE1	FLAG		1	1	5	
1	116	Cut 117	POTTERY	BERTH	JAR		1	1	15	
1	116	Cut 117	POTTERY	CREA	PLATE		1	1	2	
1	116	Cut 117	POTTERY	CREA	PLATE		1	1	1	
1	118		POTTERY	YATP0	?		1	1	1	
1	118		POTTERY	YATB3	BOWL		1	1	7	
1	118		POTTERY	YORKA	JAR		1	1	2	
1	118		POTTERY	BRAN	JUG		5	4	17	
1	118		POTTERY	BRAN	JAR		1	1	5	
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	ST	JUG		1	1	9	
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	TORK	BOWL		1	1	19	ABRA
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	TORK	JAR		2	2	10	
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	YG	JAR		1	1	4	
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	YORK	JUG		5	1	113	SOME ABRA EXT
1	119	Pit 120	POTTERY	BRAN	CIST	BASE GLAZED INT	9	1	641	
1	124		POTTERY	YATK1	JAR		1	1	5	
1	124		POTTERY	ST	JAR		1	1	1	ABRA
1	124		POTTERY	TORK	JAR		2	1	4	
1	124		POTTERY	YG	JAR		1	1	6	
1	124		POTTERY	YORK	JAR		1	1	2	
1	124		POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR		1	1	5	
2	207		POTTERY	YATAP27	AMPH		1	1	4	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YATB10	DISH		1	1	4	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YATB3	JAR		2	2	14	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YATC1	JAR		2	2	21	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YATB12	JAR		2	2	12	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YATK1	JAR		3	3	62	ABRA
2	207		POTTERY	YORKA	JAR		1	1	5	
2	207		POTTERY	ST	JAR		1	1	4	
2	207		POTTERY	YG	JAR		1	1	7	

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2	207	POTTERY YG	JAR	1	1	14	
2	207	POTTERY YORK	JAR	1	1	12	
2	207	POTTERY YORK	JUG	1	1	9	
2	207	POTTERY BRAN	JUG	2	2	18	
2	207	POTTERY CMW	JUG	1	1	44	ABRA
2	207	POTTERY HUM	JAR	1	1	5	
2	207	POTTERY HUM	DJ	1	1	7	
2	207	POTTERY HUM	JUG	4	4	22	
2	207	POTTERY RYEDALE	BOWL	1	1	17	

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## Bibliography

Mainman, A J (1990) *Anglo-Scandinavian Pottery from 16-22 Coppergate*. The Archaeology of York 16/5 London, Council British Archaeol.