

Assessment of the Pottery from Pannal to Nether Kellet (PNK04)

Alan Vince

A very small quantity of pottey was recovered from fieldwork on the line of the Pannal to Nether Kellet pipeline carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd (Site Code PNK04).

The finds consist of a single sherd of a blackware jar, which is not closely datable between the later 16th and the 19th (or even 20th) centuries and three sherds of 19th- or 20th-century date.

Description

Pottery

Post-medieval

A single sherd of blackware (BL) made from a red-firing Coal Measures clay and with an internal black glaze and external red slip was found in Plot 501 (Find 5002).

Such vessels were produced at numerous centres in the northwest midlands, north Wales and northern England and their height of production and use was the 18th and 19th centuries.

Early Modern

Three sherds of late 18th-century or later date were recovered.

A refined whiteware bowl (WHITE) from Plot 339A (find 5003) is probably of later 19th or 20th-century date. It has brown-stained crazing which might be indicative of use in an oven or might be evidence for a high iron content in groundwater (except that the broken edges of the sherd are not stained).

A fragment of a moulded, glazed, refined whiteware egg was recovered from Plot 286 (find 467). Such eggs were (and are) used to encourage laying hens to become broody (nowadays, ceramic eggs are being replaced by plastic ones, see <http://www.the-coop.org/wwwboard/discus/messages/1/6087.html>). It has been suggested that the need to use an artificial egg to stimulate broody behaviour is due to the fact that chickens have had the instinct bred out of them. If so, then the artificial eggs used before the later 18th century must have been made of organic materials, since they do not occur in the archaeological record. In the past 7 years, the author has only seen two similar eggs. One, also in refined whiteware, was found at All Saints School, Nunnery Lane, York, and the other, a Creamware example, came from the line of the Hadlow the High Halden pipeline in Kent.

Finally, a fragment from a Derbyshire Stoneware bottle was recovered from Plot 276 (Find No. 1485). Derbyshire Stoneware was mostly produced by Bourne & Co at their Codnor Park factory on the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border. The main products of the industry were inkwells and black-leading bottles. Both had cylindrical bodies of similar diameters but differ in their height and in the width of the neck and rim.

Discussion

The remarkable feature of this collection is its extremely small size. This is partly explained by the lack of ploughed fields along the pipeline (only 6 in a distance of 94 km) and partly by the fact that the fields had been sprayed with manure before the fieldwalking. Even so, it does seem to be evidence for either a very low degree of field manuring in the 19th century or for a low use of pottery in the area.

Appendix 1

Trench	REFN	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
PL296	1485	POTTERY	DERBS		JAR	BS	EITHER INKWELL OR BLACKLEADING JAR	1	1	9	
PL501	5002	POTTERY	BL	CM RED	POSS	B	INT BLACK GL;EXT RED SLIP	1	1	5	
PL286	467	POTTERY	WHITE		EGG	BS	MOULDED;GLAZED	1	1	10	
PL339A	5003	POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	BS		1	1	6	BROWN- STAINED CRAZIN G INT AND EXT