

## Assessment of the Finds from Airmyn, East Yorkshire (OSA05 WB6)

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An archaeological watching brief at Airmyn, East Yorkshire, carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd, produced a group of finds ranging in date from the late medieval period to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Description

Fifteen finds were recovered (Appendix 1). These consist of ceramic building material; a composite copper alloy/iron/bone button and sherds of pottery.

### Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of brick and two fragments of pantile were recovered. The brick fragments include one with a silty, micaceous fabric and salt surface typical of Beverley products (Context 1007), and thus possibly of medieval date. It is 50mm thick. The other fragment has a sandy fabric and cannot be closely dated. The pantile fragments include one containing water-polished quartz grains which is unlikely to be of local manufacture (Context 1003).

### Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single stem of clay tobacco pipe was recovered, from context 1009. The bore diameter suggests an early to mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century date.

### Copper Alloy/Bone/Iron composite

A fragment of a button, composed of a flat bone disk (lathe-turned) pierced in the centre with an iron loop inserted through it and traces of a copper alloy front was recovered (unstratified context). This type of composite button is of early modern date, although most recent examples are made from two hemispherical pieces of sheet metal rather than one bone and one of copper alloy.

### Pottery

Pottery ranging in date from the late medieval to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered (Table 1).

Table 1

cname	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	broad source	narrow source	source
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cname	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	broad source	narrow source	source
BERTH	Black glazed earthenware	pmed	1550	1800	England	various	various
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	pmed	1500	1650	England	various	various
HUM	Humberware	lmed	1250	1500	England	Humber Estuary	various
PEAR	Pearl ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	pmed	1690	1800	England	Staffordshire	
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	pmed	1680	1800	England	Staffordshire or Bristol	Staffordshire or Bristol
SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	pmed	1700	1770	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources

### Late Medieval

A single sherd of late medieval Humberware was recovered, the rim of a jug with a cylindrical neck with a flat-topped rim and an external plain lead glaze (Context 1020).

A second fragment of Humberware, an oval-sectioned jug handle, has a brown slip and is likely to be of 16<sup>th</sup> century date (context 1020).

### Post-Medieval

Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. These include sherds of brown earthenware, red earthenware with a mottled brown glaze, from contexts 1002 and 1009. This ware was produced during the later 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. A fragment of a glazed red earthenware bowl was recovered from context 1009. This type too has a long life-span, from the later 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century (or later).

Two sherds of Staffordshire-type slipware were recovered. One was the base of a posset pot with an external brown slip and yellow glaze internally and externally (context 1007). Such vessels were produced in the later 17<sup>th</sup> and earlier parts of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A sherd of mottled ware (context 1002) probably comes from a straight-sided bowl, a form found mainly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally, the base of a English white salt-glazed stoneware bowl was recovered (context 1002). This type is likely to date to the 1730s to 1760s.

### Early Modern

A single fragment of Pearlware, a hemispherical cup or bowl with internal hand-painted dark blue decoration, was recovered from context 1002. This vessel might date from the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Assessment

The finds come from five contexts and provide dates after which the deposit must have been laid down (tpqs). Context 1002 is late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later. Context 1003 is later 17<sup>th</sup> century or later. Context 1007 is late 17<sup>th</sup> century or later. Context 1009 dates to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century or later and context 1020 dates to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century or later.

None of the finds requires further treatment or study at present but should be retained for future study. The remaining copper alloy on the button will decay unless remedial treatment is undertaken but since it is unstratified and likely to be of early modern date no such treatment is recommended.

*Appendix 1*

Context	cname	class	source	NoV	NoSh	Weight	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Use	diameter	TH
1002	BERTH	POTTERY	various	1	1	12		JAR	INT AND EXT BRGL	BS		0	
1002	PEAR	POTTERY	various	1	1	2		BOWL	INT DKBL PAINTED DEC	R		0	
1002	STMO	POTTERY		1	1	7		BOWL	EXT BLACK SLIP;INT AND EXT GL	BS		0	
1002	SWSG	POTTERY	? numerous sources	1	1	12		BOWL	TURNED BASE	B		0	
1003	PMTIL	CBM		2	2	15		PANT?		BS		0	
1007	PMTIL	CBM		1	1	175	BEVERLEY? SALT- SURFACED	BRICK		BS		0	50
1007	STSL	POTTERY	Staffordshire or Bristol	1	1	15		POSS	BROWN SLIPPED EXT	B		0	
1009	BERTH	POTTERY	various	1	1	1		JAR	INT AND EXT BRGL	BS		0	
1009	GRE	POTTERY	various	1	1	10	MICACEOUS, SILTY GROUNDMASS;R FINE-GRAINED FE SST	BOWL		B	WORN BASE	0	
1009	PIPECLAY	CTP		1	1	1		PIPE	17THC BORE DIAM	BS		0	
1020	HUM	POTTERY	various	1	1	25		JUG		R		0	
1020	HUM	POTTERY	various	1	1	54	BROWN-SLIPPED	JUG	OVAL-SECTIONED HANDLE	H		0	
1020	PMTIL	CBM		1	1	531	BEVERLEY?	BRICK		BS		0	
US	COPP	COPP		1	1	2	COMPOSITE COPP,	BUTTON	TURNED, GREEN-	BS		21	

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Context	cname	class	source	NoV	NoSh	Weight	subfabric	Form	Description	Part Use	diameter	TH
							IRON, BONE		STAINED BONE WITH IRON LOOP AND TRACES OF COPPER ALLOY FRONT			

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