

## **Assessment of the Finds from Lynham Road, Bempton, East Yorkshire (OSA05WB07)**

### ***Alan Vince***

Eighty-one sherds of pottery and a piece of fired clay were recovered from an archaeological watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at Lynham Road, Bempton (OSA05 WB07). The finds range in date from the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age to the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Description**

#### **Fired Clay**

A single very abraded fragment of fired clay was recovered from context 1001. At x20 magnification it appears to be similar to sample of local boulder clay with no added inclusions. The fragment is completely rounded with no flat faces or wattle impressions.

#### **Pottery**

##### **Prehistoric**

Nineteen sherds of erratic-tempered ware of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (or very early Roman) date were recovered from the site. They include six sherds from a barrel-shaped jar with a flat topped rim from context 1001. The sherds make up the top half of the vessel and a drawing of the vessel should be made to allow the form to be compared with stratified material from other sites in the area.

Thin section analysis of erratic-tempered ware from various sites in Yorkshire (mostly East Yorkshire) by Peter Wardle, Ian Freestone, Andrew Middleton and others have suggested that in most cases the rock fragments consist of crushed or fire-cracked erratic rocks, normally those with a black crystalline appearance, added to the parent clay. In this case, however, the inclusions appear to be quite varied in character (those in the sampled previously studied normally consist of two or three rock types per vessel) and might indicate the use of a gritty boulder clay in which the rock fragments were already present. This could be established by the production and analysis of a thin section. If chemical analysis was also undertaken this would allow the composition of the clay to be compared with samples of boulder clay from various localities on the east coast.

##### **Romano-British**

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Fifty-seven sherds of calcite-tempered ware were recovered from the watching brief. The calcite temper is derived from sparry calcite veins filling fissures in the chalk and was probably deliberately crushed and added as temper. The use of calcite as a pottery temper in the Vale of Pickering, where the calcite can be obtained locally, appears to begin in the Bronze Age and continue into the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period. However, the one rim sherd present, from context 1006, is an everted jar rim of late Roman date. Since the sherds all have a similar appearance and mostly are in a similar condition, heavily abraded, it is assumed that all are of the same date.

### Medieval

A single sherd of Staxton-type ware was recovered from context 2000. Staxton ware was produced at Staxton and Potter Brompton in the Vale of Pickering and it is likely that this sherd is from one of these sources. Elsewhere in Yorkshire the forms and manufacturing methods used at Staxton were copied locally to produce Staxton-type ware. The Staxton/Potter Brompton industry probably started in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and is thought to have continued into the late medieval period (the late 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries).

### Early Modern

A sherd of Sunderland coarseware was found in context 1000. This ware was produced in the northeast of England and traded down the east coast alongside Sunderland lustreware in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Assessment

Assuming that the calcite-tempered ware is indeed of Roman date, then the only contexts which produced solely prehistoric pottery are 1002 and 1004. However, the sherds from context 1001 are large and relatively fresh, and join. Therefore, they too were probably recovered from close to where they were originally discarded.

It is recommended that the vessel from context 1001 is drawn, thin sectioned and a chemical analysis obtained. The total cost of this work at 2005/6 prices is £71.00 plus VAT.

The calcite-tempered ware sherds, by contrast, include few fresh-looking sherds (just those from context 1006) and have mostly been extremely abraded. In the main, therefore, they seem to have come from occupation elsewhere and have suffered erosion before being finally deposited. No further work is recommended on this pottery at this stage.

The medieval and later sherds are both from topsoil and do not necessarily indicate any activity taking place on the site itself.

*Appendix 1*

Trench	Context	Action	class	Cname	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
1	1005		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		1	1	3		
1	1006		POTTERY	CALC	JAR	R		1	1	37		LEACHED
1	1006		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		1	1	3		
1	1008		POTTERY	CALC	JAR	BS		5	5	10		VABR
1	1000		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		1	1	3		VABR
1	1000		POTTERY	SUND	BOWL	R	INT WHITE SLIP	1	1	11		
1	1000		POTTERY	HUM	JAR	BS		1	1	54	SOOTED EXT	
1	1000		POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR	B		1	1	8		ABR
1	1006		POTTERY	CALC	JAR	BS		14	14	50		VABR;LEACHED
1	1005		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		3	1	27		
1	1001		FCLAY	FCLAY		BS		1	1	3		VABR
2	2000		POTTERY	STAX	JAR	BS		1	1	4		ABR
1	1002		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		2	1	18		VABR
1	1004		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		2	2	3		ABR
1	1000		POTTERY	HUM	JAR	R	OXID;EXT GLAZE SPOT	1	1	3		
1	1001	DR;TS;ICPS	POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	R	FLAT- TOPPED RIM	6	1	331		

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Trench	Context	Action	class	Cname	Form	Part	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use	Condition
1	1001		POTTERY	CALC	JAR	BS		25	25	50		VABR
1	1001		POTTERY	IAERR	JAR	BS		3	3	10		VABR
1	1005		POTTERY	CALC	JAR	BS		12	12	61		ABR;LEACHED