

## The Pottery from Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane, Fishergate, York: Period 6-8 Postholes and later

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Following an assessment of the pottery and its stratigraphical associations it was decided to record the later medieval and later pottery from the Fishergate House and Blue Bridge Lane sites in less detail than the earlier pottery, except for the Humberware, much of which was waste, produced on the Blue Bridge Lane site in Period 7 and which is the subject of a separate report.

### Description

#### Residuality

A high proportion of the pottery found in these later deposits is demonstrably residual, including Romano-British, Anglian, Anglo-Scandinavian, late 11<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup>-century and later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century sherds. In addition, a number of sherds which might be contemporary are of types which occur in the later 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Furthermore, a number of sherds of post-medieval and modern date occur in these deposits (Table 1).

*Table 1*

Pot date	6-8	7	7A	7B	7C	8	8A	8B	9A	9D	Grand Total
anglian	0.00%	0.00%	1.07%	0.31%	0.00%	2.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.27%
			8	3		1					12
ascan	48.39%	19.35%	30.71%	11.97%	1.73%	58.33%	3.51%	9.47%	11.98%	33.33%	12.66%
	30	6	230	115	6	21	41	78	23	5	555
emed	12.90%	12.90%	20.69%	8.53%	4.03%	16.67%	3.77%	9.47%	10.42%	6.67%	9.40%
	8	4	155	82	14	6	44	78	20	1	412
hmed	1.61%	22.58%	7.08%	11.45%	4.03%	2.78%	7.19%	3.88%	15.63%	13.33%	7.62%
	1	7	53	110	14	1	84	32	30	2	334
lmed	22.58%	29.03%	29.24%	59.94%	86.17%	11.11%	80.91%	70.39%	38.02%	6.67%	62.03%
	14	9	219	576	299	4	945	580	73	1	2720
mod	0.00%	0.00%	0.13%	0.21%	0.00%	0.00%	0.43%	0.61%	0.00%	0.00%	0.30%
			1	2			5	5			13
ND	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.12%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%
								1			1
pmed	0.00%	0.00%	0.53%	0.83%	0.00%	0.00%	0.60%	1.70%	16.67%	20.00%	1.55%
			4	8			7	14	32	3	68
rom	14.52%	16.13%	10.55%	6.76%	4.03%	8.33%	3.60%	4.37%	7.29%	20.00%	6.16%

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux/potcat/pdfs/avac2005000.pdf>

Pot date	6-8	7	7A	7B	7C	8	8A	8B	9A	9D	Grand Total
	9	5	79	65	14	3	42	36	14	3	270
Total Sum of Nosh	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total Sum of Nosh2	62	31	749	961	347	36	1168	824	192	15	4385

Where the residual sherds are of intrinsic interest (for example, the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian sherds) they have been mentioned in the appropriate reports and no further details are given here.

### Late Medieval Wares

3054 sherds of pottery datable to the high and later medieval periods (i.e. from the late 13<sup>th</sup> to the late 15<sup>th</sup> centuries) was recovered from the two sites. Most of this consists of Humberware ware wasters, all from Blue Bridge Lane. Only 479 sherds, 16% of the total, was of other wares and most of these are described and illustrated in previous publications, particularly the catalogue of the Yorkshire Museum collection (1992a) and the York Archaeological Trust fascicules (1987 and 1978).

### Local wares

In addition to Humberware, aka Walmgate ware, these consists of wares from the Hambleton Hills (Brandsby-type ware, BRAN, and Hambleton ware, HAMB), West Yorkshire (Northern Gritty ware, NGR) and unknown but probably local sources (Red Sandy ware, RED SANDY). Brandsby-type ware outnumbered the other wares by a large amount (252 sherds versus 52 sherds of Hambleton wares, 54 sherds of Northern Gritty ware and 22 sherds of Red Sandy ware).

### Non-Local wares

Five sherds of unknown origin but probable late medieval date were present (LMEDX) together with 3 sherds which might have an earlier date (MEDX); A single sherd of Coal Measures Whiteware was present (CMW). The high firing temperature, sufficient to turn the iron-rich inclusions to slag, is typical of the Rawmarsh industry, South Yorkshire, and if so a late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>-century date for this sherd (Per 8A, F219) is likely.

A single sherd of a Scarborough ware jug was present (SCAR). This ware was produced in Scarborough and the main period of exportation appears to be in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century, in which case this sherd is probably residual (Per 8A, F219).

A sherd of a Tudor Green ware (TUDG) jug was present (Per 7B, F198). Small jugs with an external copper-green glaze were produced in the Surrey/Hampshire border in the later 15<sup>th</sup>

and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries whilst earlier vessels are usually lobed cups (1988;1992). This sherd was associated with other post-medieval and modern intrusive finds.

A sherd tentatively identified as Tees Valley ware was present (Per 7B, F121). This ware was produced in the Tees Valley in the late medieval period and is characterised by a red-firing body, and a white slip, applied whilst the pot was on the wheel. Similar fabrics were produced in West Yorkshire and the Low Countries although they can be distinguished in thin section or, with luck, at x20 magnification.

### Imported wares

Eighty-six sherds of imports datable to the later medieval period were present. The most common is Dutch Red Earthenware (DUTR), imported in quantities in the late 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries via Kingston-upon-Hull. Most of the sherds come from tripod vessels with two opposed handles (cauldrons) but frying pans and jugs were also present. One of the cauldrons was decorated with white slip (Per 7A F245), a feature which was particularly common in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Eighteen sherds of Langewehe (LANG) stoneware were found, most of which had a brown slip which had vitrified to form a brown glaze during firing. Some, however, were salt-glazed and very similar to Raeren stoneware (and recorded as LARA). Recent discoveries in Aachen indicate that production of salt-glazed vessels such as the latter began in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The brown-slipped vessels with an ash glaze were first produced in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Single sherds of an Andalusian lustreware jug (ANDA) and an unglazed Saintonge ware jug (SAIU) were present (Per 8A F219 and Per 7B F150 respectively). Both types are well-known imports in the later medieval period although both are uncommon in York. The lustreware is likely to be late 13<sup>th</sup> to late 14<sup>th</sup> century whilst the Saintonge ware could date from any part of the late 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century.

### Post-Medieval Wares

Fifty-nine sherds of pottery and 9 fragments of clay tobacco pipe dating to the post-medieval period were present in these later deposits. The post-medieval pottery of York has yet to be adequately studied and the sources of much of the pottery used are unknown. However, the collection from these two sites is so small and comes from mixed assemblages so that there would be little to be gained from undertaking a fuller study of these finds.

### 15<sup>th</sup>- to 16<sup>th</sup>-century wares

Six fragments of Raeren stoneware drinking jugs, also known as mugs, were found. These were produced in the later 15<sup>th</sup> and earlier 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and exported to England in large quantities.

Fifteen sherds of Cistercian ware were found. These high-fired thin-walled black- or purple-glazed red earthenware vessels were produced in the later 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Wrenthorpe, in West Yorkshire, is one of the major sources of this ware (1992b). Two sherds with pellets of white slip were present but no examples of the distinctive plastic decoration produced at Wrenthorpe.

Seven sherds of Ryedale ware were recorded. This ware was produced in the later 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Hambleton hills and is a continuation of the medieval whiteware industries mentioned above.

#### Late 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century wares

Twenty-three sherds of glazed red earthenware were present (GRE). Their source is unknown but they probably date between the later 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Three sherds of Brown-glazed earthenware were present (BERTH). This ware too is of unknown origin and probably dates to the late 16<sup>th</sup> to late 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Two sherds of Late Humber ware were present (LHUM). This ware shares the reduced grey core and fine sandy fabric found on much of the earlier medieval Humberware but is thicker-walled and the forms produced are typical of later 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>-century vessels.

A single sherd of unsourced slip-decorated ware was found (SLIP). Slip decoration on local red earthenwares is likely to be of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

A sherd of a Staffordshire Brown Stoneware drinking jug was present. This type was produced in Staffordshire in the very late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, being replaced by white salt-glazed stoneware by c.1720.

A sherd of Staffordshire slipware posset was found. This type was produced in Staffordshire, and elsewhere, from the 1670s onwards. Vessels of this type were still being produced c.1750.

#### **Modern Pottery**

Pottery of later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century date was recovered from the fills of various modern features on the site. The *terminus post quem* for each assemblage was established but no detailed recording of this material was undertaken. There appears to be a gap in deposition from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Presumably, no intrusive features were dug on the

sites during this period and any horizontal stratigraphy of this date was either removed by machine prior to hand excavation or was removed during the construction of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century structures on the site.

### **Clay Tobacco Pipes**

Nine fragments of clay tobacco pipe were present. Seven of these are stem fragments with a wide bore diameter, typical of the early to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. One is a bowl fragment, also of early to mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century date, with a stamped heel with the initials "IS". The final fragment cannot be closely dated but occurs with other 17<sup>th</sup>-century pipe fragments.

### **Stratigraphy**

#### **Period 6-8 Postholes**

Only four post-holes produced potentially contemporary sherds:

F313. A sherd of Brandsby-type ware.

F161, F274, F296. Sherds of Humberware. That from F296 is probably waste.

#### **Period 7**

Two features assigned to Period 7 contained potentially contemporary pottery.

Fishergate House F263. Nine sherds of Humberware (no definitely waste), five sherds of Brandsby-type ware and one sherd of Red Sandy ware. Probably mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later.

F282. A sherd of Brandsby-type ware. Late 13<sup>th</sup> century or later.

#### **Period 7A**

Twenty-seven features assigned to Period 7A contained potentially contemporary pottery (Table 2).

One feature produced Brandsby-type ware with no Humberware (F431). It could therefore date to any period from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Seventeen of these features produced Humberware with no sign of being waste. These might date from the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards (F183, F185, F195, F218, F260, F274, F286, F298, F354, F397, F425, F435, F478, F497 and F516).

Six features produced Humberware waste and are probably therefore of late 14<sup>th</sup> century or later date (F223, F236, F259, F431, F451, F473).

Three features produced sherds of late medieval wares, such as Dutch Red Earthenware, Langewehe stoneware and Hambleton ware (F208, F235 and F254).

Finally, three features produced sherds of post-medieval date (F226, F239 and F245). F239 also produced a fragment of modern stoneware drainpipe.

*Table 2*

Feature	HUM	BRAN	DUTR	NGR	HAMB	RED SANDY	LANG	GRE	CSTN	RYEDALE	ENGS	Grand Total
F183	3											3
F185	2											2
F195	1											1
F208	51	6	3	7			1					68
F218	9	1		1								11
F223	10	6				1						17
F226	3							1				4
F235	2				1							3
F236	28	3				1						32
F239	2	15		1		2			1		1	22
F245	37	7	1				1		1	1		48
F254			2									2
F259	8											8
F260	2											2
F274	1											1
F286	1											1
F298	1											1
F354	1			1								2
F397	1											1
F425	1											1

F431	1	1																2
F435	19																	19
F451	21																	21
F473	1																	1
F478	1																	1
F497	2																	2
F516	1																	1
Grand Total	210	39	6	10	1	4	2	1	2	1	1	1						277

**Period 7B**

Fourteen features assigned to Period 7B contained potentially contemporary pottery (Table 3).

One produced a single sherd of Brandsby-type ware, dating the fill to the later 13<sup>th</sup> century or later (F148).

Two produced Humberware which was not definitely waste and might therefore be of mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later date (F121, F151).

One feature produced similar Humberware but included a sherd of unglazed Saintonge ware and a fragment of modern stoneware drainpipe (F150).

Eight features produced Humberware waste (F211, F215, F325, F330, F333, F382, F383, F521) dating their fills to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century or later.

One feature produced Humberware waste and a sherd of Ryedale ware (G162).

Finally, one feature produced Humberware ware together with sherds of Ryedale ware, Glazed Cistercian ware and a fragment of asbestos sheeting (F198).

**Table 3**

CG	HUM	BRAN	DUTR	NGR	RED SANDY	LMEDX	MEDX	SAIU	TUDG	TVW?	GRE	RYEDALE	ENGS	ASBESTOS	Grand Total
F121	1									1					2
F148		1													1
F150	5	2		1	1			1					1		11
F151	1														1
F162	179	40	2	2	1	3						1			228

F198	153	29	31	3	5	2			1		5	2		1	232
F211	15	2													17
F215	85	17	4		1			1							108
F325	20			2											22
F330	12	1													13
F333	39														39
F382	10														10
F383	1														1
F521	11														11
Grand Total	532	92	37	8	8	5	1	1	1	1	5	3	1	1	696

### Period 7C

Five features assigned to Period 7C produced sherds of potentially contemporary pottery (Table 4).

One feature produced Humberware which may not be waste (F384) and the remaining features produced Humberware waste, in one case associated with late 14<sup>th</sup> century imports (F122).

*Table 4*

CG	HUM	BRAN	DUTR	NGR	RED SANDY	SIEG	Grand Total
F122	52	8	8			1	69
F384	2						2
F401	4			1			5
F450	35	1					36
F518	197	1		1	2		201
Grand Total	54	10	8	2	2	1	313

### Period 8

One feature assigned to Period 8 produced potentially contemporary pottery. This feature, Fishergate House F288, could be dated to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later.

### Period 8A

Six features assigned to Period 8A produced potentially contemporary pottery (Table 5).

One of these features contained pottery dating its fill to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later (F153), one contained Humberware ware dating its fill to the later 14<sup>th</sup> century or later (F352) and the remainder could be dated to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, through the presence of Hambleton ware, Raeren stoneware or saltglazed Langewehe/Raeren stoneware (F109, F219, F220, F221).



**Table 5**

	CG	HUM	BRAN	DUTR	NGR	HAMB	RED SANDY	LANG	LARA	MEDX	ANDA	CMW	SCAR	GRE	RAER	RYEDALE	ASBESTOS	STSL	Grand Total
F109		5				3	1												9
F153		13	1																14
F219		175	23	6	28	6		4	2	1	1	1	1	3		2	5	1	259
F220		21	5	2					6										34
F221		19	4		2										1				26
F352		682	15		1		1												699
Grand Total	915	48	8	31	9	2	4	8	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	5	1		1041

**Period 8B**

Twenty features assigned to Period 8B produced potentially contemporary potsherds (Table 6).

Two of these features could be dated to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century or later (F199 and F268).

Ten features could be dated to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later (F126, F187, F248, F257, F310, F329, F360, F391, F497, F515).

Three features could be dated to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century or later (F126, F253, F334)

The remainder contained intrusive or probably intrusive sherds (F178, F186, F242, F269 and F403). Without these intrusive sherds the assemblages had the following *termini post quem*: 15th century; 14th century; 15th century; 14th century; 14<sup>th</sup> century).

**Table 6**

CG	HUM	BRAN	DUTR	NGR	HAMB	RED SANDY	LANG	RAER	CSTN	BERTH	ENGS	ASBESTOS	SLIP	Grand Total
F125	2	1												3
F126	21		2											23
F178	1	2				1		1					1	6
F186	23	5									3			31
F187	2													2
F199	0	1												1
F242	65	1	2		42	1			9	1		1		122
F248	3	1												4
F253	34							1						35
F257	3													3
F268	0	1												1
F269	328	10		1					1			1		341
F310	10	1					2							13

F329	1													1
F334	3													3
F360	0		2					1						3
F391	2													2
F403	27	5				1				1				34
F497	2													2
F515	1													1
Grand Total	528	28	6	1	42	3	4	1	11	1	3	2	1	631

**Period 9A**

Five layers and one feature assigned to Period 9A contained potentially contemporary sherds, although the likelihood is that most of these sherds too are residual (Table 7).

The fill of F200 could be dated to the later 17<sup>th</sup> century, although if so then the majority of sherds recovered from the fill were residual.

**Table 7**

	CG	HUM	BRAN	RED SANDY PIPECLAY	GRE	RAER	CSTN	BERTH	LHUM	RYEDALE	STBR	HUMW	Grand Total	
1166		1	1										2	
1169			1	1									2	
1216				1									1	
1228									1				1	
1255		2	11										13	
1307												3	3	
F200		23	15	1	5	14	4	2	2	1	1	1	44	113
Grand Total		26	28	2	6	14	4	2	2	2	1	1	47	135

**Period 9D**

Two features assigned to Period 9D produced potentially contemporary sherds.

F156 produced sherds of Humberware dating its fill to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century or later and Fishergate House F3 produced three clay pipe fragments dating its fill to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century or later. This feature, however, is a service trench and it is likely that these fragments are also residual.

## Discussion

The pottery from Period 7 and later deposits at these two Fishergate sites indicates that little activity took place on the Fishergate house site, which was occupied during this period by a cemetery.

At Blue Bridge Lane, by contrast, there is evidence for occupation associated with Humberware which might pre-date the inception of potting on the site, followed by a phase of Humberware production in the later 14<sup>th</sup> century which was itself probably superseded by domestic occupation in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, the later 16<sup>th</sup> century and later pottery from the site either seems to be intrusive in earlier features or comes from the overlying soil layers.

The character of the later medieval pottery, excluding the Humberware, is typical of contemporary deposits within the city walls, including the presence in significant numbers of imported sherds. The post-medieval sherds, however, include no imports and this too suggests a change in status as well as land use in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. However, the post-medieval assemblage is extremely small and this also probably affects its perceived character.

## Bibliography

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