

Assessment of Non-Ceramic Finds from Land off Main Street, Worlaby, North Lincolnshire (WORBB)

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A collection of non-ceramic finds from archaeological excavations at land off Main Street, Worlaby, North Lincolnshire, directed by Will Munford for Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) Ltd was submitted for identification and assessment (App 1). The finds come from a site occupied in the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods and most come from deposits which contain late 18th-century or later material and have little archaeological potential. They include one prehistoric flint blade and a rotary quern of Roman or medieval date, neither from contemporary deposits, and a complete awl, from a medieval deposit.

Description

Clay Tobacco Pipes

Two clay pipe bowls were recovered. Both are bowls of 19th-century design. That from context 106 is plain whilst that from context 108 has relief decoration which is possibly associated with a friendly society, such as the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos.

Copper Alloy

Two copper alloy objects were recovered. That from context 107 is an openwork sheet, perhaps part of a sundial or bracket. One edge has a projecting tenon, indicating that it was meant to fit into a second piece, probably with its plane at right angles to the surviving fragment. That from context 112 is probably the ferrule from a composite brush with a wooden handle and body into which bristles were inserted. Such brushes are used up to the present day.

Both objects are probably of 19th-century or later date.

Glass

Nine fragments of glass were recovered. All are of post-medieval or early modern date. Four fragments of bottles in dark green glass were present. One of these, from context 105, is of mallet form and likely to date to the mid 18th century whilst the other three, from contexts 116 (2 pieces) and 147, are from tall, free-blown bottles of late 18th or 19th-century date.

The remaining five fragments are of window glass. Two of these pieces are heavily weathered and may be of medieval or early post-medieval date. That from context 117 has

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staining along one edge which is probably due to the lead came in which it was mounted whilst the two pieces from context 144 have grozed edges and come from a triangular pane, used in the corner of a diamond-pane window. Such windows are mainly of mid 17th-century and earlier date. A piece from context 108 is in a similar light green glass but is not weathered. However, it too is likely to be of mid 17th-century or earlier date. The final fragment, from context 109, is made from a clear glass which is likely to be of 19th-century or later date (such glass was used earlier in mirrors, but there is no evidence for backing on this piece).

Iron

Sixteen fragments of iron were recovered. Most of these (11) are from nails. Of these, that from context 116 either comes from a very large nail or is part of a chisel. It has what appears to be coal dust trapped in the corrosion products. A nail from context 178 has small chips of brick in the corrosion products, dating it at the earliest to the later medieval period.

The remaining five objects consist of an awl from context 133. This is complete and has traces of mineralised wood from the handle at one end. This object was assigned to the medieval period in initial phasing and if confirmed by subsequent analysis it would be worth illustration. The other four objects are all likely to be late in date. That from context 105 consists of a strip of metal with non-ferrous plating. Fibres in the corrosion products suggest that this might be part of a brush. That from context 116 appears to be from a cast iron drain or gutter, of 19th-century or later date. The corrosion products enclose fragments of coal dust and vesicular slag. A scale tang knife from context 138 also includes coal dust in the corrosion products whilst a washer from context 190 includes both brick and coal dust in the corrosion products.

Lead alloy

A fragment of lead alloy from context 138 is probably a repair plug from a vessel, perhaps of pottery. Such plugs occur in pottery vessels of Roman date and again from the early 13th century onwards.

Shell

Two oyster shells were recovered, from contexts 123 and 138. A fragment of shell from context 106 appears to be from an exotic mollusc, of the kind brought back from tropical regions as souvenirs from the 19th century onwards.

Stone

23 fragments of stone were recovered from the excavations. Of these, five flints are probably unworked natural flakes whilst one flint, from context 138, is a blade, probably of earlier prehistoric date (ie. early Bronze Age or earlier). Given its context, it is clearly residual.

Fourteen fragments of coal were recovered, from contexts 105, 116 and 164. That from context 164 is a small fragment and may be an erratic of mid Jurassic age from the north Yorkshire moors but the remaining pieces are larger and probably came onto the site as fuel.

Two hone stones were recovered. That from context 157 is either a blue phyllite or a black micaceous siltstone. If the former, then it is probably an early medieval (i.e. late 9th to 11th-century) import whereas if it is the latter then it was probably found locally in fluvio-glacial gravels. The second hone, from context 106, is of Norwegian ragstone, a coarse silver-grey schist imported in large quantities from the 11th-century until at least the 14th century.

A fragment of rotary quern was recovered from context 118. The quern is made from Millstone Grit. Such querns were used in the mid/late Roman period and then again in the medieval period, although they tend to be rare since grain was mainly ground communally at water mills or, after the mid 12th century, windmills. Given that this piece was recovered from a wall, it may have been brought onto the site as rubble.

Wood

Two fragments of wood charcoal were recovered from context 146.

Assessment

Prehistoric

The single flint blade is, in itself, of no potential since it cannot be closely dated as has no contemporary context. However, it does indicate that the area has the potential to produce evidence of prehistoric activity.

Medieval

The rotary quern fragment from context 118 is probably of Roman or early medieval date and has clearly been reused as wall foundations. Seven medieval contexts produced non-ceramic finds. Context 117 produced a fragment of probably post-medieval window glass and an iron nail. Context 123 produced an oyster shell. Context 133 produced the iron awl. Context 146 produced wood charcoal. Context 157 produced the phyllite/siltstone hone. Context 164 produced two tiny chips of coal. Context 178 produced an unworked limestone fragment and an iron nail and context 192 produced an iron nail. Of these objects, those

from context 117 suggest either contamination of a medieval deposit or that the layer is mis-phased. The remaining finds are unexceptional in medieval contexts and add a little detail concerning the nature of the settlement. The awl was probably used in leather-working but similar tools were, and are, used in carpentry.

Post-Medieval

Most of the contexts phased as being of post-medieval date contained material of late 18th-century or later date (contexts 106, 108, 109, 112, 116, 147 and 190). The remaining three contexts are:

- 107, which produced the openwork copper alloy object, which is undated, but probably of late medieval or later date.
- 138, which produced the flint blade, an oyster shell, the lead repair plug and the scale-tang knife. Such knives are mainly of late medieval or later date.
- 144, which produced the fragments of diamond-pane window glass, of mid 17th-century or earlier date.

Retention

It is recommended that the stratified medieval and post-medieval finds are retained for potential future study. The finds from contexts identified here as containing late 18th-century or later finds could be discarded, unless, as with the rotary quern, they have some intrinsic interest. However, before any objects are discarded the evidence for the date of the context should be checked against stratigraphy, pottery and any other finds.

Further work

The awl should be illustrated if it is indeed from a medieval context. The rotary quern, the two hones, and the openwork copper alloy object could also be illustrated if a catalogue of the finds is to be published.

Appendix 1

context	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Action	Description	Weight	Use	L	B	TH	Condition
105	STONE	COAL	COAL	10	10			45					
105	IRON		NAIL	5	5			49					
105	IRON		STRIP	1	1		STRIP WITH NFP ON ONE SIDE;GLOSSY BLACK MATERIAL IN CORROSION PRODUCTS, COULD BE TAR? ALSO FIBRES;COULD BE BINDING AROUND RECT BRUSH	5					
105	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1	1		MALLET	15					WEATHERED
105	STONE	FLINT	GEO	2	2			7					
106	SHELL	HAS TRANSLUCENT SURFACES AND WHITE FIRBOUS CORE	SHELL	1	1		POSSIBLY A CONCH OR SIMILAR?	7	IRON STAINED EXT				
106	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1		19TH C BOWL DIAM	4					
106	STONE	NORWEGIAN RAG	HONE	1	1	DR?	RECT CROSS-SECTION	85	WEAR ON ALL FOUR LONG FACES				PROB COMPLETE
107	COPP		OBJECT	1	1	DR?	SHEET METAL WITH OPENWORK DECORATION;TWO	61					BENT PARALLEL TO TENONED EDGE

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						FLAT SIDES AT APPROX 45 DEGREES WITH TWO TENONS ON ONE FACE; OPENWORK IN FOLIAGE DESIGN					
108	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	MOULDED BOWL WITH SHORT SPUR; POSSIBLY RAOB DESIGN	9		BLACKENED INT		
108	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1	2.3MM THICK	3				
109	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1	2.6MM THICK; SCORED AND SNAPPED ALONG ONE EDGE	3				
112	COPP		BRUSH?	1	1	POSSIBLE BARREL-SHAPED FERRULE FROM BRUSH; TRACES OF FIBRES; FORMED FROM SHEET METAL WRAPPED INTO A CYLINDER	6				
116	STONE	COAL	COAL	2	2		43				
116	IRON		NAIL	1	1	OR CHISEL	21	41	12	12	BROKEN; SPLAYING AT ONE END; COAL DUST IN CORROSION
116	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	2	1	TALL HANDBLOWN	213				WEATHERED
116	IRON		DRAIN?	1	1	POSSIBLE SHARD	49				FRAGMENTS OF

							FROM CAST IRON DRAIN/GUTTER				BRICK AND BLACK VESICULAR SLAG IN RUS
116	STONE	FLINT	GEO	1	1			24			
117	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1		2.0MM THICK;L16TH/17TH?	3	WEATHERED ALONG ONE EDGE REACTION WITH LEAD CAME?		WEATHERED
117	IRON		NAIL	1	1			11			
118	STONE	SSTMG; GRAINS <0.5MM;SPARSE MUSC	ROTARY QUERN	1	1		UPPER STONE WITH TRACE OF RECT HOLE FOR HANDLE	1464	WEAR ON BASE AND SIDE		
123	SHELL	OYSTER		1	1			6			
133	IRON		AWL	1	1	DR		16		109 6 5	MINERALISED WOOD AT ONE END
138	SHELL	OYSTER		1	1			8			
138	IRON		KNIFE	1	1	DR?	SCALE TANG	20			COAL DUST IN CORROSION PRODUCTS
138	LEAD		REPAIR	1	1		ROUGHLY CIRCULAR PLUG	107			
138	STONE	FLINT	BLADE	1	1			3			
144	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	2	1		FROM RIGHT- ANGLED TRIANGULAR PIECE;GROZED ON	3			VERY WEATHERED

ORIGINAL EDGES										
146	WOOD		CHARCOAL	2	2			11	CHARRED	
147	IRON		NAIL	2	2			18		
147	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1	1		TALL HANDBLOWN	1		WEATHERED
147	STONE	FLINT	GEO	1	1			5		
157	STONE	BLUE PHYLLITE? OR BLACK MICACEOUS SILTSTONE	HONE	1	1	DR?	SQUARE CROSS- SECTION	23	WEAR OR POLISH ON ONE FACE	PROB COMPLETE
164	STONE	COAL	COAL	2	2			1		
178	STONE	DARK GREY LIMESTONE WITH CRINOIDS AND BIVALVE SHELLS	GEO	1	1		ROUGH COBBLE WITH ONE FLAT FACE (NATURAL JOINT?)	2605		
178	IRON		NAIL	1	1			6		BRICK IN CORROSION PRODUCTS
190	IRON		WASHER	1	1			42		BRICK AND COAL DUST IN CORROSION PRODUCTS
192	IRON		NAIL	1	1			26		