

## **Assessment of the Pottery from Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, North Yorkshire (OSA05 EV11)**

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The pottery from archaeological excavations on the site of the former Killingbeck Hospital was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

The finds come from three areas and consist of 55 sherds of pottery ranging in date from the Roman to the early modern periods.

### **Description**

#### **Ceramic Building Material**

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. Neither had any typological features and therefore have to be dated by their archaeological context. One, from Ditch 2045, is therefore likely to be of Roman date whilst the other, from Well 5014, is likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century (or earlier).

#### **Pottery**

The pottery was identified and recorded using the classifications of Roman and medieval pottery used in the City of York (1997; 1993; 1990; 1987; 1978). However, without the use of scientific techniques, such as thin section and chemical analysis, there cannot be any certainty that the wares found at Killingbeck Hospital are from the same sources as those supplying York.

#### **Roman**

One hundred and eighteen sherds of Roman pottery were recorded, representing no more than 19 vessels and weighing 1.335 Kg (Table 1). Nine ware groups were recognised (Appendix 1). Four of these cannot be closely dated, or were current in the later 1<sup>st</sup> to early/mid 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries (YATE1, YATG0, YATG1, YATP1); two are imitations of Dorset Black Burnished ware and therefore date to c.120 or later (YATB0, YATB7); Dales-type shelly ware is only common in Yorkshire in the earlier part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century (YATH1) whilst the other two wares, YATB12 and YATK1, are mainly of later 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century date (K1 was produced in the Vale of Pickering from the Bronze Age onwards, but is rarely found outside of the Vale until the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century).

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Only two forms were represented, the bowl and the jar. The four bowl sherds come from a single vessel whose rim survives. All the other sherds are either body sherds or bases, with no typological features which might be useful for dating.

*Table 1*

cname	Data	?	BOWL	JAR	Grand Total
YATB00	Sum of Nosh		1	12	13
	Sum of NoV		1	1	2
	Sum of Weight		93	90	183
YATB07	Sum of Nosh			2	2
	Sum of NoV			1	1
	Sum of Weight			6	6
YATB12	Sum of Nosh			6	6
	Sum of NoV			2	2
	Sum of Weight			72	72
YATE01	Sum of Nosh		4	1	5
	Sum of NoV		1	1	2
	Sum of Weight		21	1	22
YATG00	Sum of Nosh			1	1
	Sum of NoV			1	1
	Sum of Weight			10	10
YATG01	Sum of Nosh			22	22
	Sum of NoV			5	5
	Sum of Weight			707	707
YATH01	Sum of Nosh			63	63
	Sum of NoV			4	4
	Sum of Weight			289	289
YATK01	Sum of Nosh			5	5
	Sum of NoV			1	1
	Sum of Weight			45	45
YATP01	Sum of Nosh	1			1
	Sum of NoV	1			1
	Sum of Weight	1			1
Total Sum of Nosh		1	5	112	118
Total Sum of NoV		1	2	16	19
Total Sum of Weight		1	114	1220	1335

Six of the vessels present consist of groups of joining sherds and substantial parts of the vessels could be reconstructed on paper. These include a YATB0 bowl, a YATB0 jar, a YATE1 bowl and three YATH1 jars. The YATB0 vessels could probably be identified using thin section and chemical analysis whilst confirmation of the identity of the Dales-type shelly ware could also be provided using the same methods.

## Medieval

Two sherds of York Gritty ware (YG) were found. These were probably produced locally, perhaps at Potterton, and date between the mid 11<sup>th</sup> and the mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both come from jars.

## Post-Medieval

A single sherd of Midlands Purple ware was found (MP). This ware was produced at numerous centres in the north midlands/Yorkshire in the later medieval and early post-medieval period and is characterised by the presence of a brown glaze on a Coal Measures red- or white-firing body which has been fired at a high enough temperature to vitrify the body and cause the glaze to become vesicular.

Sherds of black-glazed ware (BL) and Brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH) date to the later 16<sup>th</sup> century or later. Most came from jars.

Two sherds of a slipped red earthenware (SLIP) bowl were present. This type is current from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Early Modern

Three sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date were recorded. They consist of a sherd of Chinese Export Porcelain (CHPO) of unknown form; a 19<sup>th</sup>-century buff ware bowl (NCBW) and a fragment of salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe (ENGS).

## Slag

Two fragments of slag, probably from iron working, were recovered from the fill of ditch 2045. They are therefore likely to be of Roman date and might be worthy of specialist study.

## Assessment

The pottery suggests that there was occupation on the site in the Roman period, probably extending from the 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries into the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> centuries. No precise dating can be given on the basis of this small collection. The finds of medieval and post-medieval pottery probably come from ploughsoil and are likely to be present as a result of manuring of the fields whilst the 19<sup>th</sup>-century finds may be associated with Killingbeck Hospital or Killingbeck Hall.

## Area A

Five features in Area A produced pottery. That from feature 5038, a service trench, dates between the late 11<sup>th</sup> and the mid 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, but is clearly residual. The pottery from posthole 5004 and pit 5020 dates to the post-medieval period. The pottery from posthole 5014 includes a 19<sup>th</sup>-century sherd and the brick lining of well 5062 produced a fragment of stoneware drain pipe and is therefore of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date.

**Table 2**

context group	cname	?	BOWL	DRAIN	JAR	Grand Total
5004	SLIP		2			2
5014	CHPO	1				1
	MP				1	1
	NCBW		1			1
5020	BERTH				1	1
5038	YG				1	1
5062	ENGS			1		1
Grand Total		1	3	1	3	8

**Area B**

Most of the pottery from Area B was of Roman date. That from ditches 2003, 2014, 2019, 2064 and pit 2053 cannot be closely dated but is probably of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century date. It includes joining sherds from ditches 2014 and 2019.

The filling of ditch 2046 probably dates to the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later.

That from ditches 2041, 2073 and 2045 probably dates to the mid/late 3<sup>rd</sup> century, since it includes large numbers of sherds of Dales-type shelly ware together with types which first appear in the later 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

Finally, sherds of a post-medieval blackware jar were recovered from furrow 2023. Joining sherds are rarely found in ploughsoil and it is likely that these sherds represent a single sherd broken during excavation.

**Table 3**

context group	cname	BOWL	JAR	Grand Total
Ditch 2003	YATB00	1		1
Ditch 2014	YATG01		2	2
Ditch 2019	YATG01		9	9
Ditch 2041	YATB12		3	3
	YATK01		5	5
Ditch 2045	YATB12		3	3
	YATH01		52	52
	YATG01		9	9
	YATH01		6	6
	YATE01		1	1
	YATH01		1	1
Ditch 2046	YATB07		2	2
	YATG00		1	1
	YATG01		1	1
Pit 2053	YATG01		1	1
Ditch 2064	YATE01	4		4

Gully 2073	YATH01		4	4
Grand Total		5	100	105

**Area C**

Grave 1011 produced a small burnished greyware jar. This was presumably deliberately placed in the grave and if it could be identified it might be possible to give a closer date than the present “c.120 or later”.

Sherds of post-medieval blackware were recovered from the fill of furrow 1005.

*Table 4*

context group	cname	Form	Total
1005	BL	BOWL	1
		JAR	1
1011	YATB00	JAR	12
Grand Total			14

**Further Work**

The Roman pottery from the site should, where possible, be reconstructed (temporarily using tape) and illustrated. It would be possible to identify the fabrics of some of the vessels using thin section and chemical analysis and it would also be possible to test the identification of the Dales-type shelly ware, whose source is north Lincolnshire, some distance from Leeds, since the site is on the periphery of the known distribution of this ware (Loughlin 1977, Figs 4-6). Thin sections are prepared at the University of Manchester and petrological analysis carried out by Dr Vince at Lincoln. Chemical analysis is carried out at Royal Holloway College, London, under the supervision of Dr J N Walsh, and statistical analysis and comparison carried out at Lincoln by Dr Vince. These results would then have to be integrated with the archaeological data and a report written. Table 4 gives costings for this work.

*Table 5*

Task	Description	Unit cost	Quantity	Amount
1	Illustration of Roman pottery	£15.00	12	£180.00
2	Thin section analysis	£23.50	8	£188.00
3	Chemical analysis	£23.50	8	£188.00
4	Report	£23.50	4	£94.00
5	Slag ID and report	£25.00	1	£25.00
Total				£675.00
VAT				£118.00
Grand Total				£793.00

**Retention**

The Roman to post-medieval finds from stratified contexts should be retained for future study. The material from 19<sup>th</sup>-century contexts (5013 and 5061) could be discarded, since it

adds little to the knowledge of the history of the site, although an unstratified sherd of medieval date should be retained.

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*Appendix 1*

cname	subfabric	Listed	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	Broad source	Narrow source	source	bibliography	Sherds	Vessels	Wt(gm)
BERTH		BERTH	Black glazed earthenware	pmed	1550	1800	England	various	various		1	1	2
BL		BL	Black-glazed wares	pmed	1500	1750	England	various	various		8	3	157
CBM		cbm	Ceramic building material	na	0	0	na	na	na	na	6	2	22
CHPO		CHPO	Chinese Export Porcelain	pmed- emod	1620	1900	China	various	various		1	1	1
ENGS		ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	emod	1750	1900	England	nk	? numerous sources	1993, 665	1	1	135
MP		MP	Midlands Purple ware	pmed	1450	1650	England	Midlands			1	1	17
NCBW		NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	emod	1800	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources		1	1	7
SLAG		SLAG	Slag - type unspecified	nk	0	0	nk				2	1	19
SLIP		SLIP	Unidentified slipware	pmed	1650	1750	England				2	1	10
YATB00		YATB00	Misc Burn	rom	40	400				1997	1	1	93
YATB00	FAIRLY FINE FABRIC	YATB00	Misc Burn	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	12	1	90
YATB07		YATB07	Black Burnished ware 2	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	2	1	6

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cname	subfabric	Listed	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	Broad source	Narrow source	source	bibliography	Sherds	Vessels	Wt(gm)
YATB12		YATB12	Crambeck B12	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	6	2	72
YATE01		YATE01	Ebor 1	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	5	2	22
YATG00		YATG00	Misc grey	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	1	1	10
YATG01		YATG01	Dales-type greyware	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	22	5	707
YATH01		YATH01	Dales	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	63	4	289
YATK01		YATK01	Calcite gritted	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	5	1	45
YATP01		YATP01	White	rom	40	400				Monaghan 1997	1	1	1
YG		YG	Yorkshire gritty ware	sn-emed	1050	1250	England	Yorkshire/North		Mainman 1993, 585;Watkins 1991, 78, 87	2	2	4
ZDATE		ZDATE	General context date	na	0	0	na	na	na		0	0	0

*Appendix 2*

Context	class	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use	earliest date
1005	POTTERY	BL	BOWL		BS	1	1	30			1500
1005	POTTERY	BL	JAR		BS	1	1	25			1500
1010	POTTERY	YATB00	JAR	SMALL JAR FROM GRAVE	R;BS	12	1	90			40
2001	POTTERY	YATB00	BOWL	POSS MORT; WAVY DEC BETWEEN HORIZ LINES	R	1	1	93			40
2015	POTTERY	YATG01	JAR	SHL=2017	B;BS	2	1	467			40
2017	POTTERY	YATG01	JAR	SHL=2015	BS	9	1	194			40



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2022	POTTERY	BL	JAR		B	6	1	102	1500
2039	POTTERY	YATB12	JAR		B	3	1	59	40
2039	POTTERY	YATK01	JAR		BS	5	1	45	40
2042	POTTERY	YATE01	JAR		BS	1	1	1	40
2042	POTTERY	YATH01	JAR	POSS SHL=2043; 2044	R;BS	1	1	9	40
2042	CBM	CBM	BRICK?		BS	2	1	8	0
2042	SLAG	SLAG			BS	2	1	19	0
2043	POTTERY	YATH01	JAR	POSS SHL=2044; 2042	R;BS	52	1	265	40
2043	POTTERY	YATB12	JAR		BS	3	1	13	40
2044	POTTERY	YATG01	JAR		BS	9	1	36	40
2044	POTTERY	YATH01	JAR	POSS SHL=2043; 2042	R;BS	6	1	14	40
2046	POTTERY	YATG00	JAR		BS	1	1	10	40
2046	POTTERY	YATB07	JAR		BS	2	1	6	40
2046	POTTERY	YATG01	JAR		BS	1	1	2	40
2052	POTTERY	YATG01	JAR		BS	1	1	8	40
2062	POTTERY	YATE01	BOWL		R;BS	4	1	21	40
2072	POTTERY	YATH01	JAR		BS	4	1	1	40
5003	POTTERY	SLIP	BOWL	COMBED SLIP DEC	BS	2	1	10	1650
5011	POTTERY	YATP01	?	FRAG	BS	1	1	1	40
5013	POTTERY	CHPO	?		BS	1	1	1	1620
5013	CBM	CBM	BRICK?		BS	4	1	14	0
5013	POTTERY	MP	JAR		BS	1	1	17	1450
5013	POTTERY	NCBW	BOWL		BS	1	1	7	1800
5019	POTTERY	BERTH	JAR		BS	1	1	2	1550
5038	POTTERY	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1050
5061	POTTERY	ENGS	DRAIN		BS	1	1	135	1750
U/S	POTTERY	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	3	1050

