

Assessment of the Post-medieval Finds from Ladybridge Farm, Nosterfield Quarry, North Yorkshire (OSA05 EV11)

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The post-medieval finds from the Ladybridge Farm evaluation carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Nosterfield Quarry were submitted to the author for identification and evaluation. They come from three excavated areas, Trenches TRA, TRB and TRC, and three test pits, TPA, TPB and TPC.

The finds indicate some possible activity in the late 17th to early 18th centuries but are mostly of later 18th century or later date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Thirty fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. Most were too small for the form to be identified (19 frags) and the remainder include fragments of brick, flat roof tile, pantile and field drain. Most have a fine-textured oxidized fabric with few inclusions over 0.1mm across.

Field drains of cylindrical form are probably of late 18th-century or later date. Pantiles are of post-medieval date and the remainder cannot be intrinsically dated, although their appearance suggests that all are of similar, late 18th-century or later date.

Table 1

Trench	-	BRICK	FLAT	FLAT/PANT	FLAT/PANT?	PANT	Grand Total
TPA	2						2
TPB	1					1	2
TPC	1			1	1		3
TRA	9	1		1		2	13
TRB	4	1	1			1	7
TRC	2					1	3
Grand Total	1	18	2	1	2	5	30

Glass

Three fragments of glass were recorded. One is from a thick, clear window, probably of 20th century date. The other two are from moulded bottles made in a light blue glass. One has a stamp on the base and the other comes from the shoulder of a bottle with a narrow neck. These are probably mid 19th century or later in date.

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Iron

Four fragments of iron were recorded. Three are probably from nails and the fourth is from an object with a trefoil attachment at one and a hook at the other, perhaps the handle from a metal or wooden bucket. Radiography would allow the object to be identified with more certainty, after which a conservation assessment might be necessary.

Pottery

Eighteen fragments of pottery were recorded (Table 2). The ware codes used to record them are given in Appendix 1.

Two fragments are probably of later 17th to mid 18th-century date (BL and STCO). Their condition (small and, in one case, spalled) is consistent with their being present in night soil or farmyard manure and then incorporated into the ploughsoil.

The remaining fragments are of later 18th or 19th-century date. Of these, fragments of Pearlware and Creamware were abraded or spalled, suggesting that these too had been present in the ploughsoil. Both Pearlware and Creamware were in use in the later 18th and early 19th centuries. Other sherds present include wares which are definitely of 19th- or 20th-century date (e.g. DERBS, NCBW and WHITE).

Table 2

Trench	BL	CREA	DERBS	ENGS	NCBW	PEAR	PMTIL	STCO	SUND	TPW	WHITE	Grand Total
TPB	1											1
TPC				1								1
TRA	1	2		1			2	1	1	1	2	11
TRC			1		1	1			1	1		5
Grand Total	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	18

Stone

One fragment of fine-grained sandstone was recovered. It is probably a natural chip off a large erratic cobble or boulder. A rounded pebble of vesicular texture may be a leached shelly limestone or a fragment of decayed volcanic tuff. In either case, it does not appear to have been worked and is probably a natural glacial erratic.

Assessment

The chip of fine-grained sandstone, from Test Pit A, (No. 12) is similar in character to those examined from Neolithic/early Bronze Age features, although it may be that such boulders were present in the local gravel.

The finds suggest that there was some manuring of fields in the later 17th/mid 18th century, continuing into the late 18th or early 19th century.

Later 19th-century and later finds appear less abraded although they include a fragment of a large diameter salt-glazed stoneware drain or sewer pipe which is abraded (from Test Pit C).

Two of the iron nails and the iron object were recovered from the fills of postholes, suggesting that they may have been used on fencing (in which case the iron object may be part of a gate hinge or latch). One of the postholes, 176 (fill 177) produced a sherd of later 19th or 20th-century date.

Pit 126 (fill 127) produced a fragment of flat tile or pantile which cannot be closely dated, although it is likely to be similar in date to the other CBM.

Retention

Unstratified finds could be discarded whilst those from features should be retained for future re-examination.

Further Work

No further work is recommended although it would be possible to identify the iron object through the use of radiography.

Bibliography

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Appendix 1

cname	Subfabric	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	Broad source	Narrow source	source	bibliography	Sherds	Vessels	Wt(gm)
BL		Black-glazed wares	pmed	1500	1750	England	Various	various		2	2	45
CBM		Ceramic building material	na	0	0	na	Na	na	na	3	3	1.5
CREA		Creamware	emod	1765	1830	England	Staffordshire		VVince 1985, 59, M6.G13-M7.A3;Vince 2002	2	1	3
DERBS		Derby Stoneware	emod	1800	1950	England	Derby	Derby	1993, 665	1	1	20
ENGS		Unspecified English Stoneware	emod	1750	1900	England	nk	? numerous sources	Mainman 1993, 665	2	2	345.5
IRON		Iron	na	0	0					4	4	104
NCBW		19th-century Buff ware	emod	1800	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources	Vince 1985, 59, M6.G13-M7.A3;Vince 2002	1	1	1
PEAR		Pearl ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various	Vince 1985;Vince 2002	1	1	3
PMGL	LTBL	Post-Medieval glass	pmed	1550	2000	England	Various	Various		2	2	22
PMGL	CLEAR	Post-Medieval glass	pmed	1550	2000	England	Various	Various		2	2	8
PMTIL		Post-medieval ceramic building material	pmed	0	0					29	28	157

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cname	Subfabric	full name	period	earliest date	latest date	Broad source	Narrow source	source	bibliography	Sherds	Vessels	Wt(gm)
STCO		Staffordshire combed press-moulded ware	pmed	1650	1800	England	Staffordshire/Bristol	various	Vince 1985, 59, M6.G13-M7.A3;Vince 2002	1	1	4
STONE	FINE-GRAINED SST	Stone	na	0	0					2	2	24
STONE	STRANGE TEXTURE;GREY FINEGRAINED GROUNDMASS CF LAVA BUT ABUNDANT VOIDS APPEAR TO BE SHELL/OSTRACOD	Stone	na	0	0					1	1	19
SUND		Sunderland coarseware	pmed	1800	1900	England	North-East	Sunderland	Mainman 1993, 665	2	2	50
TPW		Transfer printed ware	emod	1770	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources	Vince 1985, 59, M6.G13-M7.A3;Vince 2002	2	2	4
WHITE		Modern whiteware	emod	1850	1900	England	Staffordshire	? numerous sources	Vince 1985, 59, M6.G13-M7.A3;Vince 2002	2	2	5.5

Appendix 2

Trench	Context	feature	class	date	Cname	Subfabric	Weight	Form	Description	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
TPA	12		STONE		STONE	FINE-GRAINED SST	17	GEO	CHIP WITH ONE WORN FACE		BS	1	1
TPA	10		CBM		CBM		0.5	-			BS	1	1
TPA	8		CBM		PMTIL		7	-			BS	1	1
TPB	3		CBM		PMTIL		3	PANT		VABR	BS	1	1

Trench	Context	feature	class	date	Cname	Subfabric	Weight	Form	Description	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
TPB	1		CBM		CBM		0.5				BS	1	1
TPB	2		POTTERY		BL		1	JAR/CHP	?17THC/18THC?		BS	1	1
TPC	6		CBM		CBM		0.5	-			BS	1	1
TPC	7		CBM		PMTIL		15	FLAT/PANT?			BS	1	1
TPC	SPIT 2		CBM		PMTIL		0.5	FLAT/PANT			BS	1	1
TPC	SPIT 10		POTTERY		ENGs		345	DRAIN	LARGE DIAMETER SEWER PIPE FRAG; BROWN SALT GLAZE INT AND EXT		BS	1	1
TPC	SPIT 01		PMGL		PMGL	CLEAR	3	BOT	MODERN		BS	1	1
TPC	4		PMGL		PMGL	CLEAR	5	WIND	MODERN		BS	1	1
TRA	145		POTTERY	l17+	BL		44	JAR	FOOTRING BASE;INT BLGL		B	1	1
TRA	NW CORNER		POTTERY	l17+	STCO		4	DISH	COMBED	SPALLED	BS	1	1
TRA	NW CORNER		POTTERY	l18+	CREA		3	PLATE		SPALLED	BS	2	1
TRC	NW CORNER		POTTERY	l18+	PEAR		3	-		ABR	BS	1	1
TRC	339		POTTERY	m19+	DERBS		20	BLACK-LEADING BOT			BS	1	1
TRA	145		POTTERY	m19+	ENGs		0.5	BOT			BS	1	1
TRC	NW CORNER		POTTERY	m19+	NCBW		1	BOWL			BS	1	1
TRA	146		PMGL	m19+	PMGL	LTBL	19	BOT	MOULDED STAMP ON BASE		BS	1	1
TRA	145		PMGL	m19+	PMGL	LTBL	3	BOT	MOULDED SHOULDER WITH RAISED SEAM		BS	1	1
TRA	NW CORNER		POTTERY	m19+	WHITE		0.5	CUP	LTBL SLIP EXT		BS	1	1
TRA	177	Post-Hole 176	POTTERY	m19+	WHITE		5	-			BS	1	1
TRA	179	Post-Hole 178	IRON		IRON		14	NAIL			BS	1	1

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Trench	Context	feature	class	date	Cname	Subfabric	Weight	Form	Description	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
TRA	177	Post-Hole 176	IRON		IRON		6	NAIL			BS	1	1
TRA	177	Post-Hole 176	IRON		IRON		71	OBJECT	PERHAPS A BUCKET HANDLE		BS	1	1
TRA	145		IRON		IRON		13	NAIL			BS	1	1
TRA	127	Pit 126	POTTERY		PMTIL		0.5	FLAT/PANT		VABR	BS	2	1
TRA	NE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		7	PANT		ABR	BS	1	1
TRA	NE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		11	PANT		ABR	BS	1	1
TRA	NE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		3	-			BS	5	5
TRA	SE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		13	-			BS	2	2
TRA	NW CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		3	-			BS	2	2
TRA	145		CBM		PMTIL		3	BRICK			BS	1	1
TRA	145		CBM		PMTIL		4	FLAT/PANT			BS	1	1
TRB	NE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		9	FLAT			BS	1	1
TRB	SE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		57	PANT			BS	1	1
TRB	SE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		8	BRICK			BS	1	1
TRB	SE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		3	-			BS	4	4
TRC	NW CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		3	PANT			BS	1	1
TRC	NE CORNER		CBM		PMTIL		7	-			BS	2	2
TRA	146		POTTERY		SUND		34	BOWL	INT BLGL		R	1	1

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Trench	Context	feature	class	date	Cname	Subfabric	Weight	Form	Description	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV
TRC	339		POTTERY		SUND		16	BOWL	INT BLGL		BS	1	1
TRA	NE CORNER		POTTERY		TPW		2	PLATE			BS	1	1
TRC	339		POTTERY		TPW		2	CUP			BS	1	1