

Assessment of Finds from Langwith Hall, Nosterfield Quarry, North Yorkshire (revised March 2006)

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A small collection of finds from excavations carried out by On-Site Archaeology at Langwith Hall, Nosterfield Quarry were submitted to the authors for assessment (Site Code OSA05 EV10). The finds are all of recent date and are consistent with the suggested site history, that the area was an undrained marsh until the late 18th or 19th-century enclosure, after which field drains were inserted and the land divided into fields.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Twenty nine fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. Most of these were extremely fragmentary, probably as a result of frost action, and only nine could be identified. These consist of brick fragments from contexts 1 and 232; three fragments of field drain from context 144 and four fragments of pantile from contexts 144 and 261. The field drain is likely to be of mid 19th century or later date but could conceivably be dated as early as the late 18th century. The pantile is not closely datable, but is certainly of post-medieval or modern date.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recorded, from context 261. The bore diameter suggests a late 18th-century or later date.

Iron

Six fragments representing four objects of iron were recorded. Two nails from contexts 102 and 104 are not closely datable. An object from context 103 is interpreted as the handle attachment from a bucket, but could not be reliably identified without radiography. An object from context 130 is probably a hook although again it cannot be identified for certain without radiography. Both of the two objects appear to be 19th century or late in date but could conceivably be earlier.

Glass

A single fragment of a clear glass bottle from context 102 is likely to be from a 20th-century milk bottle, and is certainly no earlier than the late 19th century.

Pottery

A single fragment of a buff ware tankard from context 144 is of mid-19th-century or later date.

Stone

Three fragments of stone were recorded from context 102. All consist of Carboniferous chert pebbles, probably naturally present in the Quaternary gravel. One of the pebbles appears to be burnt, and might therefore have been used in the prehistoric period since mounds of burnt stones, usually of pebble size, are a feature of the Bronze Age throughout Britain.

Assessment

An iron object and the probable milk bottle fragment from Feature 107 (contexts 102, 103 and 104) suggest that this feature, whatever its age, was still a visible feature to be backfilled in the late 19th or 20th century.

The backfill of land drain 131 produced an iron object, and since the drain itself is clearly of later 18th or, more likely, 19th-century date this is probably the date of the object.

The fill of ditch 151 included some unidentifiable fragments of ceramic building material. Given the date of the identifiable CBM, it is likely that these fragments are of post-medieval or later date. However, since the two fragments together only weigh 3gm they could have worked their way into an earlier deposit through animal burrowing, cracks in the subsoil or whatever.

The recent backfill of possible ditch 217/134 can be dated to the mid 19th century or later through the presence of the buff ware tankard sherd.

The only other finds consist of unidentifiable CBM from the subsoil (context 139).

266 is the fill of hedgeline [228]. The two fragments of ceramic building material recovered from the fill include a possible fragment of land drain, although it has lost all of its surfaces through spalling. This would date the hedge to the 19th century or later.

Context 261 is the fill of a large boundary ditch [226] which is the same ditch as F1207. The finds are not closely datable but are of late 18th century or later date.

Buried plough soil, 232, produced an abraded fragment of brick, probably of post-medieval date. The soil seals a land drain and is therefore probably of late 18th or, more likely, 19th-century date.

Further Work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

Considering the likely recent date of the unidentified ironwork it is not recommended that radiography is carried out.

The ceramic building material and pottery could conceivably be more closely identified through future study and should be retained but the iron, glass and the two unburnt stone fragments could be discarded. The burnt stone could be retained.

Table 1

context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Part	Weight	Condition
1	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1		BS	89	
102	STONE	STONE	CARBONIFEROUS CERT	PEBBLE	1	1		BS	20	BURNT
102	STONE	STONE	CARBONIFEROUS CERT	GEO	2	1		BS	11	
102	FE	FE		NAIL	1	1		BS	7	
102	CBM				1	1	FRAG	BS	2	
102	GLASS	GLASS	CLEAR	BOT	1	1		BS	6	
103	FE	FE		BUCKET HANDLE	3	1		COMPLETE	102	
103	CBM				3	3	FRAGS	BS	3	
104	CBM				2	1	FRAGS	BS	6	
104	FE	FE		NAIL	1	1		BS	7	
130	FE	FE		HOOK WITH FERRULE	1	1	AGRIC MACHINERY?	BS	155	
139	CBM				2	1	FRAGS	BS	3	
144	POTTERY	NCBW		TANK	4	1	WHITE INDUST SLIP IN HORIZ LINES 2- 4MM APART	B;BS	23	
144	CBM	PMTIL		PANT	1	1		BS	165	
144	CBM	PMTIL		FIELD DRAIN	1	1	U-SHAPED	BS	101	
144	CBM	PMTIL		FIELD DRAIN	2	2	U-SHAPED	BS	387	

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144	CBM	PMTIL		PANT	1	1		BS	146
144	CBM				8	8	FRAGS	BS	57
150	CBM				1	1	FRAG	BS	1
266	CBM	PMTIL		-	1	1		BS	1
266	CBM	PMTIL		-	1	1	BRICK/FLAT/LAND DRAIN	BS	1
261	CBM	PMTIL		PANT	2	2		BS	37
261	CBM	PMTIL		-	1	1		BS	1
261	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	1	1	L18TH+ BORE	BS	1
232	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1		BS	33
232	STONE	STONE	RED MICACEOUS SST	GEO	1	1		BS	15

