

Assessment of the Pottery and other finds from Bridge Street, Selby, North Yorkshire (OSA06ev01)

Alan Vince

A small collection of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes was recovered from an archaeological evaluation carried out at Bridge Street, Selby, North Yorkshire, by On-Site Archaeology Ltd (Site Code: OSA06 EV1). The finds are mostly of mid 19th-century or later date and come from a series of dumped deposits (which from the finds could well be part of a single event) in Trench 1. Earlier finds consist of a single sherd of post-medieval pottery associated with a wooden pile or post hole and a collection of unstratified post-medieval pottery from Trench 2. The post-medieval pottery includes a number of sherds which are either wasters or, at best, seconds. They are therefore evidence for local pottery production.

Description

The finds include ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe (CTP), glass (GLAS) and pottery (Table 1). All were identified and recorded by weight, fragment count and the maximum number of objects present (Appendix 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	4	4	233
CTP	2	2	5
GLAS	10	10	175
POTTERY	66	65	2642
Grand Total	82	81	3055

Ceramic Building Material

Only four fragments of ceramic building material were retained although a large amount of modern brick was also present. They consist of two fragments of flat roof tile and two fragments of pantile. One of the flat roof tiles has glaze on both surface which runs over cracks. This suggests that it has been used as a kiln spacer in the production of lead-glazed pottery. Its fabric is similar to that of much of the lead-glazed earthenware from the site (see below).

Pantiles were introduced to England from the Low Countries and the earliest English examples are of 16th century date. However, they become much more common in the later 17th century and in some parts of the country only appear in the later 18th or 19th centuries.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Clay tobacco Pipes

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered, all stems. One had a bore diameter typical of later 17th and 18th-century pipes and the other two have narrower bores, typical of the later 18th and 19th centuries. One of the latter has a brown glaze at one end of the fragment, indicating that it was close to the mouthpiece of the pipe.

Glass

Ten fragments of glass were recovered. They vary in colour, from clear to light blue, darker blue and light green. All appear to be of mid 19th century or later date. One fragment comes from a bottle with a raised inscription "SEL..", presumably from a local brewery. No examples of dark green bottle glass were present.

Pottery

Sixty-six fragments of pottery were recovered. A small number of these are of lead-glazed earthenwares which have been classified according to firing conditions and glaze as Glazed Red Earthenware (mainly oxidized), Humberware/Late Humberware (reduced) or late post-medieval local earthenware (LPMLOC, unglazed). All have a similar, sandy fabric with abundant quartz sand, mostly less than 0.3mm across with sparse inclusions of fine-grained sandstone up to 3.0mm and some possible white mudstone fragments up to 3.0mm across. These characteristics are consistent with the use of a local boulder clay. The range of forms present are shown in Table 2. Four of these sherds show sign of use but a handful have glaze over the edges and have firing patterns which suggest that they were cracked in the kiln. These are probably either wasters or seconds. They include one jug/jar body sherd, one bead rim from a jar and one large bowl rim.

Table 2

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
GRE	BOWL	19	18	513
	JAR	5	5	393
	JUG/JAR	4	4	130
	JUGJAR	2	2	59
	PANC	1	1	321
HUM	JUGJAR	3	3	41
LPMLOC	FLP	3	3	86
Grand Total		37	36	1543

The remaining pottery is all likely to be of mid 19th century to 20th-century date (Table 3). Most of the sherds come from mass-produced types which are impossible to source visually from small sherds but a fragment of Sunderland coarseware and several fragments of Nottingham stoneware were present.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Table 3

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
BL	BOWL	1	1	38
	CHP/JAR	1	1	11
BL Total		2	2	49
CONP	CUP	1	1	7
CONP Total		1	1	7
DERBS	SJ	1	1	608
DERBS Total		1	1	608
ENGS	BOT	2	2	241
ENGS Total		2	2	241
NCBW	BOWL	2	2	5
	JUG/JAR	1	1	2
NCBW Total		3	3	7
NOTS	BOT	3	3	68
	JAR	1	1	3
NOTS Total		4	4	71
PEAR	-	1	1	1
	PLATE	1	1	2
PEAR Total		2	2	3
SUND	BOWL	1	1	3
SUND Total		1	1	3
TPW	BOWL	1	1	5
	PLATE	1	1	1
TPW Total		2	2	6
WHITE	BOWL	7	7	72
	BOWL/CHP	1	1	6
	CUP	2	2	18
WHITE Total		10	10	96
Grand Total		28	28	1091

Assessment

The earliest stratified find comes from the fill of the construction cut for a wooden post, 140 and is a fragment of pantile. This is potentially late 16th century but is much more likely to be of later 17th or later date. It is overlain by an alluvial clay dump, 103, which produced mostly sherds of lead-glazed earthenwares, including examples with glaze over the cracks. A single small sherd of Sunderland coarseware, of late 18th or 19th-century date was present but is probably intrusive in a later 16th or 17th-century deposit.

Similar material was recovered from Trench 2, although it was all unstratified.

The remaining finds come from a series of dumps, which from the evidence of the finds themselves could all be very late and contemporary. They are certainly no earlier than the mid 19th century.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at
<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Recommendations

The evidence for pottery production is important. There is no mention in Peter Brears' *The English Country Pottery* (1971) of any pottery production at or near Selby and the fabric is consistent with a local origin.

It is recommended that samples of the waste tile and pottery are analysed, to confirm that they could be of local origin, and that the rims are drawn.

Costing

Thin section analysis costs £23.50 plus VAT per sample and chemical analysis, using Inductively-Coupled Plasma Spectroscopy, is also £23.50 plus VAT per sample.

Illustration is £15.00 plus VAT per drawing.

Table 4

Action	Number	Cost inc VAT
TS;ICPS	1	£55.22
TS;ICPS;DR	2	£110.45
TS;ICSP	1	£55.23
Grand Total	4	£220.90

Reference List

Brears, P (1971) *The English Country Pottery: its History and Techniques*. Newton Abbot, David & Charles.

Appendix 1

Context	Action	Trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	pot catalogues.description
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	MOULDED WITH RAISED LETTERING "SEL.."
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	
102			GLAS	PMGL	BLUE	BOT	
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT/TUMBLER	
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	-	
102			GLAS	PMGL	CLEAR	-	
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JUGJAR	EXT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JUGJAR	PLAIN STRAP HANDLE
103			POTTERY	HUM	FINE SANDY GREY	JUGJAR	EXT PLAIN GL
103	TS;ICPS		POTTERY	HUM	FINE SANDY GREY	JUGJAR	INT AND EXT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JAR	DEVOLVED COLLAR
103	TS;ICPS		CBM	PMTIL	SANDY RED WITH SPARSE OFFWHITE PELLETS	FLAT	PLAIN GL OVER BOTH FACES AND CRACKED EDGES
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JUG/JAR	UNGLAZED

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Context	Action	Trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	pot catalogues.description
103			POTTERY	SUND		BOWL	INT WHSL;INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JAR	FOOT RING BASE;INT PLAIN GL;CRUMBS OF CLAY INCORPORATED INTO GLAZE
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
103			POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY;OXID EXT	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL
104			GLAS	PMGL	LTBL	INKWELL	MOULDED OCTAGONAL
104			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	MOULDED DEC INT
104			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	
104			POTTERY	WHITE		CUP	
104			POTTERY	BL	SANDY RED WITH SPARSE OFFWHITE PELLETS	BOWL	
104			POTTERY	DERBS		SJ	BROWN SALT GLAZED EXT;SALT GLAZED INT
106			GLAS	PMGL	LTGR	BOT	MOULDED
106			POTTERY	GRE	CM BUFF	BOWL	PLAIN INT GL
106			POTTERY	WHITE		CUP	EXT LTBL BAND
106			POTTERY	LPMLOC		FLP	
126			POTTERY	TPW		BOWL	
126			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	
126			POTTERY	CONP		CUP	OG ENAMELS;FLUTED
126			POTTERY	NOTS		BOT	
126			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	SPONGED DEC
130			POTTERY	NOTS		BOT	
133			POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	
134			POTTERY	NCBW		JUG/JAR	WHITE SLIP HORIZ LINES
134			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	SPONGED DEC
134			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	SPONGED DEC

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Context	Action	Trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	pot catalogues.description
134			POTTERY	ENGS		BOT	FELDSPATHIC GL
135			CBM	PMTIL		FLAT	
135			POTTERY	BL	CMR	CHP/JAR	
135			POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	
135			POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	
135			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL/CHP	
135			POTTERY	PIPECLAY		PIPE	L17TH+ BORE
136			CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	L18TH/19TH BORE
136			POTTERY	LPMLOC		FLP	
136			POTTERY	NOTS		BOT	
136			POTTERY	ENGS		BOT	CF BLACKLEADING BOTTLE
138			CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	BROWN GLAZED MOUTHPIECE;L18TH/19TH
138			POTTERY	PEAR		-	INDECIPHERABLE STAMP
138			POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	BLUE FEATHERED
138			POTTERY	WHITE		BOWL	
138			POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	
138			POTTERY	GRE		PANC	
138			POTTERY	LPMLOC		FLP	
139			CBM	PMTIL		PANT	
US	TS;ICPS;DR	TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JAR	BEAD RIM;INT GL
US		TR2	CBM	PMTIL	FINE SANDY;SPARSE MARL <3.0MM;SPARSE SST <1.0MM	PANT	
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	JAR	BEAD RIM;INT AND EXT GL
US	TS;ICPS;DR	TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY RED	BOWL	LARGE VESSEL;INT PLAIN GL
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY	BOWL	BEAD RIM;INT AND EXT PLAIN GL

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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

A copy of this report is archived online at <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2006020.pdf>

Context	Action	Trench	class	cname	subfabric	Form	pot catalogues.description
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY	JUG/JAR	INT AND EXT PLAIN GL
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINESANDY RED	JAR	PLAIN STRAP HANDLE;BEAD RIM;PLAIN GL INT AND EXT
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY	JUG/JAR	INT AND EXT PLAIN GL
US		TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINESANDY RED	BOWL	BEAD RIM
US	TS;ICSP	TR2	POTTERY	GRE	FINE SANDY GREY	JUG/JAR	EXT PLAIN GL