

Assessment of the Pottery from the Mill Mount Watching Brief, York (YMM05)

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A small quantity of pottery from a watching brief at Mill Mount, York, carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, following on from an excavation on the same site was submitted for identification and assessment. The collection consists partly of later Roman wares and partly of early modern pottery.

Description

Two fragments of ceramic building material were submitted to determine whether they were pottery or tile. They are not included in this report. The remainder consists of a single fragment of clay tobacco pipe and 75 sherds of pottery (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	2	2	47
CTP	1	1	2
POTTERY	75	62	1709
Grand Total	78	65	1758

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered. Its bore diameter suggests a late 17th-century to mid 18th-century date.

Pottery

Roman

Forty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (Table 2). All are of types which are commonly found in York (1997). Most of the sherds can only be broadly dated, or dated only to the Roman period. Eighteen are of types earlier than the mid 3rd century, one is probably of mid/late 3rd century date (YATH3, Dales-type shelly ware) and 17 sherds are of types which continued in use into the 4th century although only 4 sherds are of a type which is certainly later 3rd century or late (YATK0). Vessels used in cooking and food preparation (mortaria and jars) were the most common type, followed by drinking vessels, and tableware. Storage vessels consisted of two sherds of amphora.

Table 2

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
YATAP25	AMPH	1	1	42

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YATAP27-30	AMPH	1	1	4
YATB1	BOWL/DISH	1	1	17
YATB3	JAR	12	7	324
YATC1	BEAKER	5	4	35
YATC2	BEAKER	1	1	3
YATC3	BEAKER	4	4	18
YATE1	JAR/FLAG	1	1	7
YATE8	FLAG	1	1	15
	PLATTER	1	1	15
YATG1	JAR	2	2	44
YATH3	JAR	1	1	12
YATK0	JAR	4	4	85
YATM14	MORT	3	3	61
YATP0	FLAG/JAR	1	1	4
YATS0	18/31	1	1	14
	31	1	1	16
	45	1	1	2
	72	1	1	4
	BOWL	2	2	19
	BOWL?	1	1	3
YATW1	FLAG	1	1	4
Grand Total		50	43	998

Post-Medieval

Eleven sherds of post-medieval pottery were present (Table 3). All are of types which were current in the later 17th to mid 18th centuries and there were no sherds of 16th to mid 17th century types. Bowls were the most common form, followed by pancheons with two sherds of posset pot and one sherd from a white stoneware cup.

Table 3

cname	Form	Grand Total
GRE	BOWL	1
	PANC	2
LHUM	BOWL	4
STCOAR	PANC	1
STSL	POSS	2
SWSG	CUP	1
Grand Total		11

Early Modern

Seventeen sherds of late 18th century- or later pottery were recovered (Table 4). Seven of these sherds are of miscellaneous refined whitewares of mid 19th-century or later date and only one is of a late 18th/early 19th-century type (Creamware – CREA). The forms present are mainly various types of tableware together with a dish and cup, probably from tea sets.

Table 4

cname	Form	Grand Total
CREA	CUP	1

PEAR	BOWL	1
	PLATE	1
SUND	JAR	1
	PANC	1
TPW	BOWL	2
	DISH	1
	LARGE DISH	1
WHITE	BOWL	4
	DISH	1
	PLATE	3
Grand Total		17

Assessment

Table 5 lists the terminus post quem of the 12 contexts from which pottery was retrieved. The Roman sherds are smaller than the later ones (mean sherd weight 13gm compared with 37gm for the post-medieval and 37gm for the early modern wares) and it is very likely that much of the Roman pottery is residual, especially in contexts 1509, 1510 and 1521 (Table 6). This suggests that the deposition date of the Roman pottery is probably considerably later than the terminus post quem (i.e. in the late 3rd or 4th century).

Table 5

Context	Description
1487	Late 19 th century
1489	Late 17 th century
1497	Late 19 th century
1509	Late 3 rd century
1510	Late 3 rd century
1512	Early 3 rd century
1519	Late 2 nd century
1521	Late 3 rd century
1523	Early 3 rd century
1527	Late 2 nd century
1542	Late 18 th century
1557	Early 18 th century

Table 6

Cname	1509	1510	1512	1519	1521	1523	1527	Grand Total
YATAP25					1			1
YATAP27-30						1		1
YATB1						1		1
YATB3	4	3						7
YATC1	1				1	1	1	4
YATC2			1					1
YATC3		2		1	1			4
YATE1	1							1

YATE8		1			1		2
YATG1				1		1	2
YATH3	1						1
YATK0	1	3					4
YATM14				1		2	3
YATP0				1			1
YATSO	1	1		1	2	2	7
YATW1					1		1
Grand Total	9	10	1	4	7	8	41

Further Work

The finds from the watching brief should be amalgamated with those from the excavation. None of the vessels requires illustration but a case can be made for the specialist identification of the seven stratified Samian ware sherds.

Retention

All of the pottery from stratified contexts should be retained for possible future study.

Bibliography

Monaghan, Jason (1997) *Roman Pottery from York*. The Archaeology of York 16/8 York, Council for British Archaeology.

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	date	Description	Form	Nosh	NoV	Part	Weight
1487	POTTERY	CREA			CUP	1	1	BS	1
1487	POTTERY	PEAR		MOULDED DEC; BLUE EDGE TO RIM	PLATE	1	1	R	7
1487	POTTERY	SUND			JAR	1	1	BS	39
1487	POTTERY	SUND			PANC	1	1	R	150
1487	POTTERY	WHITE		HAND PAINTED FOLIAGE DESIGN	PLATE	1	1	BS	2
1487	POTTERY	WHITE		MOULDED DEC	PLATE	1	1	BS	6
1487		ZDATE	19.2			0	0	BS	0
1489	POTTERY	STCOAR			PANC	1	1	BS	18
1489		ZDATE	17.2			0	0	BS	0
1497	POTTERY	GRE			BOWL	1	1	R	99
1497	POTTERY	GRE			PANC	2	1	B	151
1497	POTTERY	PEAR			BOWL	1	1	B	33
1497	POTTERY	TPW			BOWL	2	1	PROF	92
1497	POTTERY	WHITE			PLATE	1	1	PROF	36
1497	POTTERY	WHITE			BOWL	4	1	R;BS	85
1497	POTTERY	WHITE		MOULDED DEC; BLUE EDGE TO RIM	DISH	1	1	R	67
1497		ZDATE	19.2			0	0	BS	0
1509	POTTERY	YATB3	11/4	HORIZ GROOVE	JAR	2	1	BS	25
1509	POTTERY	YATB3	11/4	HORIZ GROOVE	JAR	5	1	R;BS	243
1509	POTTERY	YATB3	11/4		JAR	2	2	R;BS	35

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1509	POTTERY	YATC1	m2/4		BEAKER	1	1	BS	1	
1509	POTTERY	YATE1	l1/m3		JAR/FLAG	1	1	BS	7	
1509	POTTERY	YATH3	m3/l3		JAR	1	1	BS	12	
1509	POTTERY	YATK0	l3/4		JAR	1	1	BS	36	
1509	POTTERY	YATS0	l1/m3		BOWL	1	1	BS	2	
1509		ZDATE		3.3		0	0	BS	0	
1510	POTTERY	YATB3	m2/4		JAR	2	2	BS	12	
1510	POTTERY	YATB3	m2/3	ACUTE LATTICE	JAR	1	1	BS	9	
1510	POTTERY	YATC3	m2/4	INDENTED	BEAKER	1	1	BS	1	
1510	POTTERY	YATC3	m2/4	BEADED RIM	BEAKER	1	1	R	6	
1510	POTTERY	YATE8	l1/m3		PLATTER	1	1	R	15	
1510	POTTERY	YATK0	l3/4		JAR	2	2	BS	42	SOOTED INT
1510	POTTERY	YATK0	l3/4		JAR	1	1	BS	7	BLACK DE
1510	POTTERY	YATS0	l2/m3		31	1	1	R	16	V WORN I
1510		ZDATE		3.3		0	0	BS	0	
1512	POTTERY	YATC2	m2/4	PENTICE MOULDED BEAKER; ROULETTING	BEAKER	1	1	BS	3	
1512		ZDATE		3.1		0	0	BS	0	
1519	POTTERY	YATC3	m2/4	PLAIN RIM; SCGRAFITTO - POST FIRING HORIZ LINE	BEAKER	1	1	R	8	
1519	POTTERY	YATM14	l2/3		MORT	1	1	R	10	
1519	POTTERY	YATP0	l1/4		FLAG/JAR	1	1	BS	4	
1519	POTTERY	YATS0	l1/m3		BOWL?	1	1	FOOTRING	3	
1519		ZDATE		2.2		0	0	BS	0	

1521	POTTERY	YATAP25	l1/3		AMPH	1	1	BS	42
1521	POTTERY	YATC1	m2/4	INDENTED WITH INVERTED SCALES	BEAKER	2	1	BS	6
1521	POTTERY	YATC3	m2/4		BEAKER	1	1	BS	3
1521	POTTERY	YATG1	l1/4		JAR	1	1	BS	33
1521	POTTERY	YATS0	l2/m3		45	1	1	BS	2
1521	POTTERY	YATS0	l1/m3	INT ROULETTING	18/31	1	1	FOOTRING	14
1521	POTTERY	YATW1	l1/m3		FLAG	1	1	R	4
1521		ZDATE		3.3		0	0	BS	0
1523	POTTERY	YATAP27-30	l1/2		AMPH	1	1	BS	4
1523	POTTERY	YATB1	m2/4		BOWL/DISH	1	1	B	17
1523	POTTERY	YATC1	m2/4	PENTICE MOULDED; ROULETTING	BEAKER	1	1	BS	8
1523	POTTERY	YATE8	l1/m3		FLAG	1	1	BS	15
1523	POTTERY	YATM14	l2/3		MORT	1	1	R	12
1523	POTTERY	YATM14	l2/3		MORT	1	1	BS	39
1523	POTTERY	YATS0	l2/m3		72	1	1	BS	4
1523	POTTERY	YATS0	l1/m3		BOWL	1	1	BS	17
1523		ZDATE		3.1		0	0	BS	0
1527	POTTERY	YATC1	m2/4		BEAKER	1	1	BS	20
1527	POTTERY	YATG1	l1/4		JAR	1	1	BS	11
1527		ZDATE		2.2		0	0	BS	0
1542	POTTERY	TPW			DISH	1	1	B	20
1542	POTTERY	TPW			LARGE DISH	1	1	PROF	47

1542		ZDATE	18.2			0	0	BS	0
1557	POTTERY	LHUM		BOWL		4	3	B;BS	99
1557	POTTERY	STSL	STRAP HANDLE	POSS		2	1	H;BS	8
1557	POTTERY	SWSG	SLIPPED; BROWN RIM	CUP		1	1	R	1
1557		ZDATE	18.1			0	0	BS	0

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