

Assessment of Pottery from the Cattle Market, Wetherby, West Yorkshire (OSA05 WB09)

Alan Vince

A small collection of pottery was recovered from an archaeological watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd on the site of the Cattle Market, Wetherby (Site Code: OSA05 WB09).

The pottery can be dated between the mid 11th and the mid 13th centuries but is probably more closely datable to the mid 11th to mid 12th centuries.

Description

The pottery consists of four sherds of different Yorkshire Gritty ware (YG) jars. All came from the same pit fill, 205, on Trench A

This type was produced in south and west Yorkshire from the middle of the 11th century until some time in the mid 13th century. Analysis of samples from York, Doncaster and various sites on the A1 Wetherby to Washford road improvement works suggests that there are at least two production sites, one in the Doncaster area and the other supplying all three groups of sites. The latter is likely to have been at Potterton, since the placename is in the Domesday Book and at that time no other type of pottery is known in the southern part of the Vale of York. However, by the late 12th century a series of related but visually distinct wares, grouped together as Northern Gritty wares, is known from the A1 sites and their absence from this group, small though it is, is probably an indication of a mid 11th to mid 12th-century date.

The sherds are all from unglazed jars, one of which definitely has the cylindrical form typical of YG vessels (the others are too small to determine vessel shape).

Assessment

These finds suggest the presence of a mid 11th to mid 12th-century pit on the site.

Further Work

No further work is recommended at this stage.

Retention

The sherds should be retained for future study.

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW
<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

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