

Assessment of the Finds from South Lodge, Bardsey, West Yorkshire (OSA06 EV04)

Alan Vince

A small collection of finds was recovered from an archaeological evaluation carried out at South Lodge, Bardsey, West Yorkshire, by On-Site Archaeology Ltd. The evaluation revealed a layer of colluvium at the base of the slope (context 104) sealed by a layer of re-deposited natural. Other finds came from the fills of features interpreted as garden features. The finds consist of a group of early to mid 17th-century pottery and clay pipes and a few finds of 19th-century or later date.

Description

The finds were identified and catalogued (Appendix 1). They were quantified by fragment count (Nosh), Maximum number of vessels represented (NoV) and weight in grams. In total, 33 fragments were recovered, representing no more than 30 objects and weighing 345 grams (Table 1).

Table 1

Class	Data	em17	emod	Grand Total
ANBN	Nosh	4		4
	NoV	1		1
	Weight	4		4
CTP	Nosh	4		2
	NoV	4		2
	Weight	19		13
PMGL	Nosh		1	1
	NoV		1	1
	Weight		8	8
POTTERY	Nosh	19	5	26
	NoV	19	5	26
	Weight	284	36	320

Animal Bone

A single unstratified tooth was recovered.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Four fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. All were made in a very micaceous pipeclay and in some cases rounded clay pellets were visible at x20 magnification. These characteristics suggest the use of a Coal Measure clay rather than the Tertiary Ball Clay employed at London and Hull. The bore diameters were not measured but visually appear to be consistent with an early to mid 17th-century date. Three of the fragments are stems and

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/avac2006035.pdf>

the fourth is a fragment of a small bowl, coming from the rim. There is no milling around the rim and no sign of the rim being trimmed. All these features are consistent with an early to mid 17th-century date.

Post-medieval Glassware

A single fragment of dark green bottle glass was recovered. It comes from the shoulder of a bottle, probably of the tall form which was introduced in the mid 18th century but possibly from a small bottle of the mallet form, used between c.1730 and c.1760.

Pottery

17th-century

Nineteen sherds of pottery of 17th-century character were recovered from the evaluation. One comes from context 102, 15 from context 104 and three were unstratified. The sherds come from a range of wares and forms (Table 2). Most of these wares are likely to be of local (i.e. West Yorkshire) origin. They consist of brown-glazed earthenware (BERTH, also known as Brownware); black-glazed earthenware (BL, also known as Blackware); Cistercian-type ware (CSTN); Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) and Post-medieval Slipware (SLIP). All of these have a similar, fine sandy/silty red-firing body but one of the blackware sherds has the scar on the base from the saggar in which it was fired and the fabric of this scar shows that it was a coarse, Coal Measures whiteware.

Sherds of Midlands Yellow ware (MY); Staffordshire Redware (STRE) and Staffordshire Slipware (STSL) might be locally produced but are similar in visual fabric appearance and form to vessels from production sites in the Staffordshire Potteries.

Four sherds are certainly from non-local vessels. They consist of brown-glazed Border ware, from the Surrey/Hampshire border (BORDB, 1992), green-glazed Border ware (BORDG) and Tin-glazed ware (TGW). The BORDB sherd is the handle of a small cup or mug, The TGW, from visual examination, is probably an English piece of early to mid 17th-century date, although it has lost the external lead glaze which is characteristic of these vessels.

Table 2

Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	
BERTH	JAR		1	1	26
BL	JAR		3	3	65
	SJ		2	2	52
BORDB	MUG		1	1	8
BORDG	-		1	1	1
	ALB?		1	1	1
CSTN	CUP		3	3	67
GRE	JAR/CUP		1	1	1
MY	BOWL		1	1	38
SLIP	BOWL		1	1	8
STRE			1	1	1

STSL	CUP	1	1	2
	POSS	1	1	3
TGW	BOWL	1	1	5
Grand Total		19	19	278

These sherds appear to be a group of early to mid 17th-century date although the presence of STSL vessels would probably push the closing date of the group into the 1670s or later.

Early Modern Pottery

Five sherds of late 18th-century or later pottery were recovered. Three are locally-produced earthenware flower pots (LPMLOC), one is a pearlware bowl (PEAR) and the fifth sherd is part of a transfer-printed ware plate. Without further work, these sherds cannot be closely dated, but visual appearance suggested that they are probably of later 19th or 20th-century date.

Assessment

Early to Mid 17th-century Finds

The clay pipes and pottery form a coherent group of early to mid 17th-century date. The group is too small to indicate the range of activities which gave rise to the finds, but the vessel forms include types used in cooking, storage, drinking and dining, whilst the presence of non-local wares probably indicates a moderately high wealth.

The precise date of the material and the date range of the assemblage is difficult to determine, but it could represent a short-lived period of activity in the third quarter of the 17th century (c.1650-75) or a longer period, starting in the later 16th century but continuing to the mid/late 17th century.

It was thought that the layer of redeposited natural clay which overlay the colluvium was associated with the construction of a pond. However, it is possible that it represented landscaping of mid/late 17th-century date.

Retention

The finds should be retained for future study, with the possible exception of the animal bone and unstratified flower pot sherds.

Further Work

The 17th-century assemblage is of interest, but too small to warrant further study on its own.

Bibliography

Pearce, Jacqueline (1992) *Border Wares*. Post-Medieval Pottery in London, 1500-1700
London, HMSO for Museum of London.

Appendix 1

Context	Class	group	Cname	Description	Subfabric	Form	REFNO	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
102	POTTERY	em17	SLIP	INT WHITE SLIP AND PLAIN GL	RED SILTY BODY WITH MODERATE ORGANIC SHALE INCLUSIONS	BOWL			BS	1	1	8
104	PMGL	emod	PMGL	SHOULDER OF A TALL, OR JUST POSSIBLY A MALLET-SHAPED BOTTLE	DKGR	TALL	SF1		BS	1	1	8
104	CTP	em17	PIPECLAY	EM17 BORE	V MICACEOUS;SOME CLAY PELLETS	PIPE			S	1	1	4
104	CTP	em17	PIPECLAY	SMALL BOWL FRAG;NO MILLING ON RIM;M17?	V MICACEOUS;SOME CLAY PELLETS	PIPE			BS	1	1	2
104	POTTERY	em17	BORDG	CYLINDRICAL VESSEL		ALB?			BS	1	1	1
104	POTTERY	em17	BORDG	DEFINITELY A DIFFERENT VESSEL FROM THE ?ALB		-			BS	1	1	1
104	POTTERY	em17	STRE	INT WHITE-SLIPPED				VABR	BS	1	1	1
104	POTTERY	em17	GRE	SMALL VESSEL;INT AND EXT PLAIN GL;SLTR EXT	FINE SILTY RED CF METS	JAR/CUP			BS	1	1	1
104	POTTERY	em17	STSL	BROWN/BLACK SLIP INT AND EXT		CUP			BS	1	1	2
104	POTTERY	em17	BORDB	OVAL HANDLE WITH GROOVE DOWN BACK		MUG			BS	1	1	8
104	POTTERY	em17	BERTH			JAR			BS	1	1	26
104	POTTERY	em17	MY			BOWL			R	1	1	38
104	POTTERY	em17	CSTN	WIRE-CUT FOOTRING BASE		CUP			B	1	1	62

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/avac2006035.pdf>

AVAC Report 2005/35

Context	Class	group	Cname	Description	Subfabric	Form	REFNO	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
104	POTTERY	em17	CSTN			CUP			BS	2	2	5
104	POTTERY	em17	BL	CLOSED VESSEL;EXTERNAL GLAZE		SJ			BS	2	2	52
104	POTTERY	em17	BL	INT AND EXT GL;CLYLINDRICAL FORM;SCAR OF SAGGAR ON BASE - A WHITE-FIRING FABRIC WITH ABUNDANT ANGULAR CLAY PELLETS	SILTY RED	JAR			B	1	1	45
104	POTTERY	em17	BL	INT AND EXT GL;CLYLINDRICAL FORM	SILTY RED	JAR			BS	1	1	9
105	POTTERY	emod	TPW			PLATE			B	1	1	18
105	POTTERY	emod	PEAR	BLUE FEATHERED		BOWL?			BS	1	1	1
US	ANBN	em17	ANBN						BS	4	1	4
US	POTTERY	em17	BL			JAR			BS	1	1	11
US	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC			FLP			R	2	2	13
US	POTTERY	emod	LPMLOC			FLP			BS	1	1	4
US	POTTERY	em17	STSL			POSS			BS	1	1	3
US	POTTERY	em17	TGW	DKBL LINES INT		BOWL		VABR	BS	1	1	5
US	CTP	em17	PIPECLAY	EM17 BORE	V MICACEOUS;SOME CLAY PELLETS	PIPE			S	2	2	13