

Assessment of the Pottery from All Saint's Church, Pontefract, South Yorkshire (PAS '06)

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An archaeological evaluation at All Saint's Church, Pontefract, South Yorkshire, was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (Site Code: PAS '06). The evaluation was halted part way through the excavation of one of five trenches and material from five contexts was recovered. The finds consist of a mixture of post-medieval and early modern pottery and clay tobacco pipes. The earliest finds might be as early as the 17th century and no finds later than the mid 19th century were recovered.

Description

One hundred and ninety-two fragments were recovered and were recorded by fragment count (nosh), maximum number of vessels represented (nov) and weight in grams (Table 1). The submitted finds consisted of 19 fragments of clay tobacco pipe and 173 fragments of pottery.

Table 1

Class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CTP	19	19	49
POTTERY	173	163	2031
Grand Total	192	182	2080

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Nineteen fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Most consisted of undecorated stem fragments. These were roughly classified according to their bore diameters and include both 17th/18th and late 18th-century and later examples. One marked stem and two bowls were found. Marked stems were produced in Yorkshire in the 18th century but the design includes no lettering which would identify the maker. Two bowls were found. One is a plain spurred pipe of late 18th century character and the other is a moulded pipe modelled on an acorn in its shell. Similar pipes at Lincoln were dated c.1850 or later by Jen Mann ({Mann 1977 #20823}).

Pottery

One hundred and seventy three sherds of pottery were recovered, of which 58 are of types which could be of post-medieval date and 115 of later 18th century or later date.

Post-medieval

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The post-medieval pottery consists mostly of lead-glazed earthenwares, made from a mixture of red-firing and light-firing clays probably of local origin but including some which were probably products of the Staffordshire potteries. The types present are Brown-glazed earthenware (Brownware, BERTH), a type which was common in Yorkshire in the 17th century; Black-glazed earthenware (Blackware, BL), which was produced over a wide area of northern England and the midlands; Slipwares (SLIP), in this case with an overall, internal white slip decorated with mottled glazes, Staffordshire press-moulded slipware (STCO), in this case datable by their decoration to the mid/late 18th centuries; Staffordshire coarseware (STCO), a variety of Blackware made with mixed red- and light-firing clays; Staffordshire mottled ware (STMO), a wheelthrown light-firing ware decorated with a mottled brown glaze and produced throughout the 18th and possibly into the 19th centuries; Staffordshire redware (STRE), wheelthrown vessels made in a red-firing clay, in this case consisting of bowls with internal white slip. Other wares consist of a single sherd of Chinese export porcelain (CHPO) and the base of a tin-glazed ointment pot, of mid 18th-century date (TGW). Whilst some of these types are definitely earlier than the early 19th century, others are of types which continued to be produced into the 19th century and could therefore be contemporary with the early modern pottery in the same contexts.

Table 2

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight	Count of Cname
BERTH	BOWL	1	1	13	1
	JAR	1	1	7	1
	PANC	1	1	25	1
BL	BOWL	8	8	109	4
	JAR	6	5	57	3
	PANC	17	17	421	5
CHPO	BOWL	1	1	1	1
SLIP	BOWL	4	4	79	2
	PANC	6	4	215	3
STCO	DISH	4	3	44	1
STCOAR	BOWL	2	2	19	2
	PANC	1	1	104	1
STCOAR Total		3	3	123	3
STMO	DISH	1	1	12	1
	JAR	2	2	28	2
STRE	BOWL	2	2	36	1
TGW	OINTMENT	1	1	5	1
	POT				
Grand Total		58	54	1175	30

Early Modern

Early modern pottery (i.e. later than the introduction of Creamware in the mid 1760s) consists of a range of factory-produced types (Table 3). Creamware (CREA), Transfer-printed pearlware (TPW) and Pearlware (PEAR) are the most common types and all were produced from the late 18th century onwards. The Creamware, however, includes a sherd from a

remarkable vessel, presumably a ornamental jar or tea pot, which has a moulded, fluted body with the grooves filled with a black slip. The interior is lead-glazed but the exterior left unglazed, in imitation of Jasper ware. The Pearlware includes a small number of vessels decorated with sponging (known as Spongeware or Sponged ware). This type was mainly produced for export to North America and is most common in the later 19th century. However, it was produced from c.1820 to c.1900. Three sherds of miscellaneous refined whiteware (WHITE) were present. This ware is distinguished from Pearlware by the lack of cobalt in the glaze, which gives the latter ware a slight blue tinge to the glaze. This ware is usually dated to the second half of the 19th century and later. A few sherds of biscuit-fired refined whiteware were present, including the rim of a gravy boat. These cannot be closely dated without their glaze and could have been of Creamware, Pearlware or Miscellaneous Refined whiteware. They are evidence for pottery production in the locality.

A number of vessels of buff ware, also known as yellow ware or yellowware (NCBW) were present. This is a refined lead-glazed ware whose body has a buff or light brown colour. Some were decorated with slip panels and include vessels with mocha decoration. Although it usually first appears in archaeological assemblages of mid 19th-century date it was first produced in the late 18th century.

Two sherds of stoneware were present, one of which is probably a Derbyshire stoneware blackleading bottle (DERBS) and the other a bodysherd of a salt-glazed jar of unknown source (ENGs).

Three sherds of unglazed red earthenware flowerpots can also be dated to this period (LPMLOC).

Table 3

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CREA	BOWL	8	8	76
	BOWL?	1	1	18
	JUG	2	2	19
	PLATE	18	16	102
	TPOT?	1	1	8
DERBS	BOTTLE	1	1	36
ENGs	JAR	1	1	21
NCBW	BOWL	15	14	89
	JUG	1	1	12
	JUG/BOWL	2	2	16
	OVAL BOWL	2	1	14
PEAR	BOWL	3	3	28
	CUP	2	2	3
	JAR	2	2	34
	JUG	2	2	11
	PLATE	9	7	57
LPMLOC	FLP	2	2	24
	FLP?	1	1	19
TPW	BOWL	5	5	40

	CUP	1	1	2
	DISH	1	1	1
	JUG	2	2	19
	LARGE BOWL	1	1	11
	PLATE	21	21	100
	SERVING DISH	2	2	23
	VASE	2	2	17
WHITE	JUG?	1	1	18
	LARGE BOWL?	1	1	7
	PLATE	1	1	4
WHITE/CREA	BOWL	3	3	22
	GRAVY BOAT	1	1	5
Grand Total		115	109	856

Assessment

Documentary sources indicate that soil was imported to the site in the early to mid 19th century to raise the ground for burial. However, only context 1004 is actually a dump of this period and the remaining contexts consist of the backfill of a grave cut through this soil (1002), the buried soil formed over 1004 (1003) and topsoil and unstratified finds (1000 and 1001 respectively). The pottery and clay tobacco pipes are consistent with an 1820s or later date for the soil (based on the sponged ware from context 1004). Most of the pottery in the later deposits is also consistent with an 1820s/1830s deposition date. Types which would usually be dated somewhat later are the clay tobacco pipe from context 1003 and a whiteware handle from context 1000 which is moulded and decorated with a brown glaze.

Future Work

No further work is recommended on this pottery although it would be useful for the dating of archaeological sites in the future if the documentary evidence for the importation of soil to the site and the onset of burial could be confirmed and integrated with this report. The biscuit ware sherds could be useful in future for the characterisation of whitewares produced in the Pontefract area.

Retention

Because of the likely sealing date for the majority of the pottery from this evaluation, the collection should be retained for comparison with later finds.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Description	date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BERTH		BOWL			BS	1	1	13
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BL		PANC			BS	6	6	121
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BL		BOWL			BS	2	2	16
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BL		PANC		SHERD COVERED IN MORTARY DEP	R	1	1	42
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BL		PANC	WHITE DEP INT		BS	1	1	18
1000	POTTERY		PMED	BL		JAR			BS	3	2	15
1000	POTTERY		PMED	CHPO		BOWL			BS	1	1	1
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		PLATE			R;BS	6	5	37
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		JUG			BS	1	1	11
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		BOWL?		WASTER?	R	1	1	18
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		PLATE			BS	4	3	14
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		BOWL			BS	2	2	6
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	DERBS		BOTTLE			B	1	1	36
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	ENGs		JAR			BS	1	1	21
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		JUG			H	1	1	12
1000	POTTERY	VARIOUS BANDS OF INDUST SLIP	EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	8	7	32
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		JUG/BOWL			BS	2	2	16
1000	POTTERY	HANDPAINTED DEC	EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			B	1	1	6
1000	POTTERY	HANDPAINTED DEC	EMOD	PEAR		JUG			H	1	1	5
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		JAR		CRAZED	B	1	1	29
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			BS	1	1	9
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		JAR			BS	1	1	5
1000	POTTERY	BLUE FEATHERING ROUND	EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			R	1	1	9

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Context	class	Description	date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
		EDGE										
1000	CTP	L17-19 BORE	PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE			STEM	7	7	14
1000	CTP	L18 PLAIN BOWL WITH SPUR	EMOD	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE	SOOT INT AND OUTSIDE ROUND RIM		BOWL;SPUR	1	1	11
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	PMLOC		FLP			BS	1	1	6
1000	POTTERY		PMED	SLIP		PANC			B;BS	4	2	178
1000	POTTERY		PMED	STCO		DISH			BS	4	3	44
1000	POTTERY		PMED	STMO		JAR			B	1	1	12
1000	POTTERY		PMED	STRE		BOWL			R;BS	2	2	36
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		PLATE			BS	8	8	51
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		VASE			BS	2	2	17
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		BOWL			R	1	1	9
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		CUP			BS	1	1	2
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		DISH			BS	1	1	1
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE		LARGE BOWL?		CRAZED	BS	1	1	7
1000	POTTERY	BROWN MOTTLED GLAZE OVER MOULDED DEC	EMOD	WHITE		JUG?			BS	1	1	18
1000	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE/CREA	BISCUIT	BOWL			BS	1	1	6
1000	COMMENT	M19		ZDATE					BS	1	1	0
1001	POTTERY		PMED	BERTH		JAR			BS	1	1	7
1001	POTTERY		PMED	BL		JAR			BS	2	2	39
1001	POTTERY		PMED	BL		PANC			BS	8	8	150
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		BOWL			R;BS	3	3	44
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		PLATE			BS	2	2	21
1001	POTTERY	GREEN FEATHERING ROUND RIM	EMOD	CREA		PLATE			R	1	1	4
1001	POTTERY	MOULDED FLUTING WITH	EMOD	CREA		TPOT?			BS	1	1	8

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Context	class	Description	date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
		BLACK SLIP IN BETWEEN										
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		BOWL		COVERED IN A MORTARY DEPOSIT	B	1	1	16
1001	POTTERY	WHITE BAND INDUST SLIP	EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	1	1	12
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	1	1	5
1001	POTTERY	BLUE FEATHERING ROUND RIM	EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			R	3	2	9
1001	POTTERY	BLUE SPONGING	EMOD	PEAR		BOWL			BS	1	1	6
1001	POTTERY	BLUE SPONGING	EMOD	PEAR		JUG			H	1	1	6
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			B	1	1	18
1001	CTP	18 CENT BORE	PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE			BS	2	2	3
1001	CTP	18 CENT BORE; DEC AROUND STEM NEAR BOWL	PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE			BS	1	1	3
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	PMLOC		FLP?			B	1	1	19
1001	POTTERY		PMED	SLIP		BOWL			B;BS	3	3	69
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		PLATE			BS	4	4	16
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		BOWL			BS	3	3	17
1001	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE/CREA		BOWL			BS	1	1	13
1001	COMMENT	M19		ZDATE					BS	1	1	0
1002	POTTERY		PMED	BL		BOWL			BS	2	2	35
1002	POTTERY		PMED	BL		JAR			BS	1	1	3
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		PLATE			BS	1	1	15
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		BOWL			BS	1	1	11
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	1	1	10
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		BOWL			BS	1	1	10
1002	CTP		PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE			BS	1	1	2
1002	POTTERY		PMED	SLIP		BOWL			BS	1	1	10

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Context	class	Description	date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
1002	POTTERY		PMED	STCOAR		BOWL			B	1	1	15
1002	POTTERY		PMED	STCOAR		PANC			R	1	1	104
1002	POTTERY		PMED	STMO		DISH			BS	1	1	12
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		PLATE			BS	1	1	3
1002	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		BOWL			B	1	1	14
1002	COMMENT	M19		ZDATE					BS	1	1	0
1003	POTTERY		PMED	BERTH		PANC			BS	1	1	25
1003	POTTERY		PMED	BL		PANC			BS	1	1	90
1003	POTTERY		PMED	BL		BOWL			BS	2	2	43
1003	POTTERY	BANDS OF INDUST BROWN/BLUE SLIP	EMOD	CREA		JUG			H	1	1	8
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		PLATE			BS	4	4	11
1003	POTTERY	BLUE/WHITE BANDS INDUST SLIP	EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	2	2	12
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	NCBW		OVAL BOWL			B	2	1	14
1003	POTTERY	MOCCHA	EMOD	NCBW		BOWL			BS	1	1	2
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		CUP			BS	2	2	3
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	PEAR		PLATE			BS	2	1	6
1003	CTP	L17-18 BORE	PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE			STEM	5	5	9
1003	CTP	COPY OF BRIAR PIPE; FOLIAGE DEC ALONG SEAM	EMOD	PIPECLAY		CLAYPIPE			BOWL	1	1	6
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	PMLOC		FLP			R	1	1	18
1003	POTTERY		PMED	SLIP		PANC			R	1	1	17
1003	POTTERY		PMED	STCOAR		BOWL			BS	1	1	4
1003	POTTERY		PMED	STMO		JAR			BS	1	1	16
1003	POTTERY	M18 TYPE WITH PINK GLAZE	PMED	TGW		OINTMENT POT			B	1	1	5

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Context	class	Description	date	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Use	Condition	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		PLATE			BS	5	5	22
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		LARGE BOWL			R	1	1	11
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		SERVING DISH			R;BS	2	2	23
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		JUG			H	2	2	19
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE		PLATE			BS	1	1	4
1003	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE/CREA	BISCUIT	GRAVY BOAT			R	1	1	5
1003	COMMENT	M19		ZDATE					BS	1	1	0
1004	POTTERY		PMED	BL		BOWL			BS	2	2	15
1004	POTTERY		EMOD	CREA		BOWL			B;BS	2	2	15
1004	POTTERY	BLUE SPONGED DEC	EMOD	PEAR		BOWL			PROF	1	1	12
1004	CTP	18 CENT BORE	PMED	PIPECLAY		CLAY PIPE			STEM	1	1	1
1004	POTTERY		PMED	SLIP		PANC			BS	1	1	20
1004	POTTERY		EMOD	TPW		PLATE			BS	3	3	8
1004	POTTERY		EMOD	WHITE/CREA	BISCUIT	BOWL			BS	1	1	3
1004	COMMENT	E19		ZDATE					BS	1	1	0

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