

Assessment of the Finds from 4 Old Market Place, Ripon, North Yorkshire (OSA06 EV12)

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A small collection of finds, comprising ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and pottery, was recovered by On-Site Archaeology Ltd from an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 4, Old Market Place, Ripon.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded (App 1). They were quantified by sherd or fragment count, the maximum number of objects represented in the record (NoV) and weight in grams.

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	3	2	73
CTP	3	3	15
POTTERY	19	19	217
Grand Total	25	24	305

Figure 1

Ceramic Building Material

Two joining fragments from a glazed ridge tile were recorded. The fabric of this tile was examined at x20 magnification and found to contain abundant subangular quartz of fine grade, sparse sandstone fragments up to 2.0mm long, and moderate angular red clay/iron compound up to 1.0mm across in a light brown clay groundmass. This is a fairly distinctive fabric but its source is not known.

A featureless fragment of brick, probably of post-medieval or later date was recorded.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. Two were plain stem fragments, whose bore diameters suggest dates in the late 17th or later and late 18th century or later periods.

The third fragment is the bowl of a mid 19th-century pipe with leaf-decorated seams but otherwise plain was recorded.

Pottery

Medieval

Fourteen fragments of medieval pottery were recorded. Two of these are from handmade, dark grey-fired vessels containing large fragments of quartz and sandstone of Millstone Grit

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type (classed here as Northern Gritty ware, NGR). These are probably of 12th or 13th century date and are of interest because this handmade medieval pottery tradition is uncommon in West Yorkshire, where the potter's wheel was used from the Anglo-Scandinavian period onwards.

Two further sherds of Northern Gritty ware (defined on the basis of having moderate or abundant inclusions of Millstone Grit-type sandstone or quartz derived from such a sandstone), both from wheelthrown jugs with an external glaze (plain in one case, copper-mottled in the other) were also present.

Seven sherds all had a similar fabric; containing abundant red-stained subangular quartz grains, similar to those seen in the ridge tile. These included fragments of jars and jugs. The jugs were externally glazed and include plain glazed and copper-mottled examples. These have been classed as "MEDLOC", indicating a local but unknown source. Fragments of sandstone with a red haematite cement were present in the fabrics of pottery produced at Winksley and Lumley Farm, Grantley, but only as part of a mixed sand temper ({Bellamy & Le Patourel 1970 #45813}).

An eighth sherd comes from a glazed jug with sparse subangular quartz sand temper, including overgrown quartz grains up to 0.3mm across.

A final medieval sherd come from a York Gritty ware jar, probably produced in the Potterton area (YG).

Post-Medieval

A single sherd of a wheelthrown slipware vessel with a fine pink body and combed slip on the interior (STRE). Such vessels were produced in the later 17th and early 18th centuries and although this example is made in a similar manner to those made in the Staffordshire potteries a more local source is more likely.

Early Modern

Four sherds of pottery of late 18th century or later date were recorded. They consist of a buff ware jug? With a band of slip and mocha decoration (NCBW); a blue-feathered pearlware plate (PEARL) and two pieces of transfer-printed ware (TPW).

Assessment

It is possible that some of the medieval pottery dates to the later part late 11th century (YG) although identical vessels were produced throughout the 12th and early 13th centuries. The two handmade vessels are probably late 12th or 13th century and the various glazed wares and the ridge tile are of similar date although perhaps extending to the mid 14th century.

No later medieval wares were present. Subsequent activity on the site is represented by a thin scatter of pottery, clay tobacco pipes and the brick fragment.

Trench 1

Context 1010 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, associated with a piece of medieval ridge tile. Context 1003 produced two sherds of medieval pottery.

Context 1008 can be dated to the late 17th century or later through the presence of the fragment of slipware and a piece of clay tobacco pipe stem.

Context 1002 can be dated to the late 18th century or later through the presence of the pearlware plate fragment.

Context 1016 can be dated to the late 18th century or later through the presence of a clay tobacco pipe stem.

Trench 2

Context 2010 produced two sherds of medieval pottery, context 2009 produced 5 sherds of medieval pottery and context 2007 produced a sherd of medieval pottery.

Context 2004 can be dated to the early 19th century or later by the presence of the mocha-decorated jug sherd and context 2002 is dated to the mid 19th century or later through the presence of a clay tobacco pipe bowl.

Retention

All the finds come from stratified deposits and should be retained for potential future study.

Further Work

No further work is recommended at this stage.

Appendix 1

Context	class	potdate	cname	Form	Description	subfabric	Nosh	NoV	Part	Weight	Use	Condition
1002	POTTERY	emod	PEAR	PLATE	BLUE FEATHERED		1	1	BS	11		
1003	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JUG	PLAIN EXT GL	LIGHT BROWN BODY;S SAQ INC OVERGROWN Q <0.3MM	1	1	BS	3		
1003	POTTERY	med	YG	JAR			1	1	BS	8		
1008	POTTERY	med	NGR	JUG	EXT PLAIN GL		1	1	BS	1		
1008	POTTERY	pmed	STRE	BOWL	COMBED SLIP INT	FINE PINK	1	1	BS	25	SOOTED BASE	
1008	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	L17TH+ BORE DIAM;3.0MM		1	1	STEM	5		
1008	CBM		PMTIL	BRICK			1	1	BS	11		VITRIFIED
1010	CBM		MTIL	RIDGE	PLAIN GL	A SAQ <0.2MM;S FINE SST <2.0MM;M ANG RED FE <1.0MM;LIGHT BROWN BODY	2	1	BS	62		
1010	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JUG	PLAIN EXT GL;WT	FINE SAQ <0.2MM;LIGHT BROWN BODY	2	2	BS	22		
1016	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JAR		A RED-COATED SAQ <0.2MM	1	1	BS	5	SOOTED EXT	
1016	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	L18TH+ BORE DIAM;2.3MM		1	1	BS	1		
2002	CTP		PIPECLAY	PIPE	M19TH C;DECORATED SEAM AND SPUR		1	1	BOWL	9	SOOTED INT	
2004	POTTERY	emod	NCBW	JUG?	INDUSTRIAL SLIP;MOCHA BAND		1	1	BS	15		
2004	POTTERY	emod	TPW	PLATE			1	1	BS	11		MORTAR-COVERED

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2004	POTTERY	emod	TPW	VASE?	SMALL MOULDED VESSEL WITH WILLOW PATTERN DEC		1	1	BS	7	
2007	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JUG	EXT CUGL;TWO-THUMBED B/H JOIN	A SAQ <0.2MM;S SAQ <2.0MM	1	1	BS	38	
2009	POTTERY	med	NGR	JUG	EXT CUGL		2	2	R	16	
2009	POTTERY	med	NGR	JAR	HM	M SSTMG	1	1	B	16	SOOTED EXT
2009	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JAR		A RED-COATED SAQ <0.2MM	2	2	B	11	SOOTED EXT
2010	POTTERY	med	NGR	JAR	DKGREY HM	M SSTMG	1	1	B	26	SOOTED EXT
2010	POTTERY	med	MEDLOC	JAR		A RED-COATED SAQ <0.2MM	1	1	BS	2	