

Assessment of the finds from 15 Main Street, Nether Poppleton, North Yorkshire (OSA06 WB32)

Alan Vince

A small collection of finds was retrieved from an archaeological watching brief at 15 Main Street, Nether Poppleton, North Yorkshire. The finds were recovered by On-Site Archaeology Ltd and given the site code OSA06 WB32. They all come from a site deposit and the deposition date is given by a sherd of Creamware, dating the deposit to the 1760s or later.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded by sherd count, the maximum number of vessels represented and weight in grams (Table 1, Appendix 1).

Table 1

class	Cname	Sum of NoV	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight
CBM	PMTIL	2	2	85
POTTERY	BL	2	3	209
	CREA	1	1	7
	GRE	3	4	92
	NOTS	2	4	22
	STSL	1	1	6

Ceramic Building Material

A single fragment of brick and a sliver, probably from a flat roof tile, were recovered.

Both fragments have a similar fabric, consisting of a fine clay which under x20 magnification could be seen to include abundant angular quartz, sparse heat-altered calcareous inclusions, and muscovite. Lenses of light-firing, inclusionless clay were present in the brick. The calcareous, silty nature of the fragment suggests a source in the Humber wetlands to the south of York. The fragments cannot be independently dated but are probably contemporary with the pottery.

Pottery

Thirteen fragments of pottery were recovered, representing no more than 9 vessels. All the types present can be dated to the post-medieval to early modern period and the latest type is a sherd of Creamware plate. Vessels of this sort were produced at several centres in northern and midland England in the later 18th and early 19th centuries. Sherds of Nottingham stoneware (NOTS) include roller-stamped bowl sherds, a type which is common in the later 18th and 19th centuries. A sherd of Staffordshire slipware posset pot was probably made in

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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the mid 18th century and is the earliest datable type present. The remainder of the collection consists of glazed red earthenware (GRE) which was produced from the later 16th to the 18th or 19th centuries and sherds of blackware (BL) whose fabric indicates the use of Coal Measures red-firing clays and thus probably a West Yorkshire source at the closest.

The range of forms present suggests that the assemblage is domestic waste and includes jars and bowls probably used in food preparation and storage; a pancheon, possibly used for separating cream, kneading dough or similar culinary uses; the decorated stoneware bowls, perhaps used for serving food or display around the house; a posset pot used for communal drinking and a plate used for serving food.

Assessment

If we could assume that the finds are all of one date, then they come from a deposit dating to the mid/late 18th century. However, if the deposit accumulated over some time then a broader post-medieval to early modern date is indicated.

None of the finds requires further treatment at this stage but it is likely that in future it will be possible to characterise the glazed earthenwares more closely and thus perhaps obtain a closer date. The assemblage should therefore be retained for future study.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
104	CBM	PMTIL		FLAT?	BS	1	1	1
104	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	BS	1	1	84
104	POTTERY	NOTS		BOWL	BS	4	2	22
104	POTTERY	GRE		JAR/BOWL	BS	4	3	92
104	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	R	1	1	7
104	POTTERY	STSL		POSS	H	1	1	6
104	POTTERY	BL	CM	PANC	R	2	1	181
104	POTTERY	BL	CM	JAR	R	1	1	28