

Assessment of finds from 18 Bootham Terrace, York (OSA06 WB19)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A small quantity of finds were recovered from the fill of an inhumation recorded as part of an archaeological watching brief at 18 Bootham Terrace, York.

The finds suggest a late 2nd-century or later date for the inhumation, which was contained within a nailed wooden coffin.

Description

Iron

Fragments of eight iron objects were recovered. Most of these are probably coffin nails and on three of these mineralised wood was preserved in the corrosion products. Two of the objects, however, might be fittings of some sort and should be x-rayed, both as a more permanent record of the items and in the hope that the original form of the objects might be revealed.

Mortar

A single small fragment of mortar was recovered.

Pottery

Three fragments of pottery were recovered. All were small. They consist of a flake of Samian ware; a small fragment of a Nene Valley colour-coated ware beaker and a locally-produced greyware jar. The latest type present is the colour-coated ware, but even this could be of later 2nd century date.

Assessment

The pottery and is probably present as residual finds in the backfill of the grave and is consistent with the grave being cut through 2nd-century or later material, probably in the later Roman period.

The metal finds are almost certainly fittings from the wooden coffin and whilst most were probably nails, two may be other fittings and ought to be x-rayed, as a record and to establish the original shape of the objects.

The finds should all be retained for future study.

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight
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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/avac2006100.pdf>

AVAC Report 2006/100

502	POTTERY	YATC1		BEAKER	BS	1	1	1
502	POTTERY	YATS0	FLAKE	?	BS	1	1	1
502	POTTERY	YATG1		JAR	BS	2	2	5
502	IRON	IRON	COFFIN NAIL, HEADLESS; WOOD GRAIN VISIBLE ACROSS NAIL	NAIL	SHANK	1	1	2
502	IRON	IRON	HEADLESS NAIL	NAIL?	SHANK	1	1	8
503	IRON	IRON	HEAD 15 DIA	NAIL	HEAD	1	1	1
503	IRON	IRON	SQUARE 8 BY 8 WITH CENTRAL SPACE ONE END; SOLID OTHER END	FITTING	SHANK	1	1	7
503	MORTAR	MORTAR		MORTAR	FRAG	1	1	1
503	IRON	IRON	COFFIN NAIL, HEADLESS?	NAIL	SHANK	1	1	6
503	IRON	IRON	COFFIN NAIL, HEADLESS; WOOD GRAIN VISIBLE ACROSS NAIL	NAIL	SHANK	1	1	3
502	IRON	IRON	SQUARE 10 BY 10 WITH CENTRAL SPACE ONE END; OTHER END SOLID 8 BY 8	FITTING	SHANK	1	1	8
502	IRON	IRON	COFFIN NAILWITH POSSIBLE HEAD; WOOD GRAIN VISIBLE ACROSS NAIL	NAIL	SHANK; HEAD?	2	1	4