

Assessment of the Finds from Southgate, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire (OSA06EV15)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

Description

Ceramic Building Material

The evaluation produced 16 fragments of ceramic building material, 12 of which were fragments of brick and 4 fragments of flat roof tile. The fabric of these fragments was not examined. Three of the flat roof tile fragments came from the fill of ditch 118 and could therefore be of medieval or early post-medieval date. The brick fragments include two from the chalk and flint rubble surface, 121, which may therefore be of 17th or 18th-century date and four from late 18th-century deposits (120 and the fill of the construction trench for wall 116). The remaining fragments come from modern deposits.

Glass

Nineteen fragments of glass were recorded. Of these, seven came from post-medieval deposits. They consist of fragments of dark green glass bottle of onion or mallet, mallet and tall forms and two fragments of light green window glass. The light green window glass is probably of 17th century date, the mallet bottle is of mid 18th-century date and the tall bottle of late 18th-century or later date.

Twelve fragments came from modern deposits and included clear glass bottle fragments (milk bottles?); sherds from white glass lampshade; fragments of dark green tall bottles and fragments of window glass in light green, light blue and clear glass. Some of the window glass and the tall bottle fragments might be of 18th century date but the remainder are consistent with a modern date.

Iron

A single iron object was submitted for assessment, a hook from context 121, dating to the late 18th century.

Pottery

Anglo-Scandinavian

A single sherd of wheelthrown shelly ware of Lincoln Kiln Type (LKT) was recovered. The sherd comes from a shallow dish, a form which was produced in the late 9th to mid 10th century at kilns in the lower city of Lincoln (Young and Vince 2006).

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

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Finds of this ware are rare in Yorkshire, but are known from York (principally Coppergate but also Fishergate) and Beverley (a single sherd from Eastgate and two sherds of a related type, LSH, probably also produced in Lincoln). Other finds from East Yorkshire consist of a few sherds from Wharram Percy (A Slowikowski and J Young pers comm) and two sherds of LSH from Melton.

The size and condition of the Market Weighton sherd suggest that it came from occupation on or near the site.

Medieval

12th to 14th centuries

Six sherds of later 12th to mid 14th century date were recovered. These consist of Beverley glazed ware (with a fine fabric and suspension glaze, BEVO2B, dating to the late 12th to 14th centuries); Brandsby-type ware (also known in East Yorkshire as North Yorkshire whiteware, BRAN), dating between the mid 13th and the 15th centuries) and a coarseware in the Staxton ware tradition with quartz and oolitic limestone inclusions (QC). The latter is associated with late 12th century glazed wares at Melton and occurs in small quantities in late 12th to 14th-century deposits in Beverley.

Mid 14th to early 16th centuries

It is possible that some of the Humberware found in later deposits is of late medieval date but otherwise there is no definite late medieval pottery from the excavation.

Post-Medieval

One hundred and nine sherds of early post-medieval pottery, probably dating to the mid/late 16th century, were recovered. The majority of these are of Humberware (HUM), followed by glazed red earthenware (GRE). Other types consist of Brownware (BERTH), Cistercian ware (CSTN), Dutch Red Earthenware with trailed white slip decoration (DUTR) and Ryedale ware (RYEDALE). The Humberware is probably from the Holme-upon-Spalding Moor kilns (Mayes and Hayfield 1980), which are the closest known source of Humberware to Market Weighton. However, one of the vessels from this site could be a waster, or at least a second, and it is possible that there was Humberware production in Market Weighton itself. The source of the Brownware, Cistercian ware and Glazed Red Earthenware is not known, although there is no reason to believe that they were not also produced locally (i.e. within 10-20 miles of Market Weighton). The one imported type is Dutch Red Earthenware, which is common in late and early post-medieval deposits in Hull, and from where, presumably, this vessel was obtained.

Eighteen sherds of later post-medieval slipware and stoneware, dating between the late 17th and the mid 18th centuries, were present and this probably indicates that some of the glazed red earthenware from the site is of similar date. They consist of a press-moulded plate with

broad slip trailed decoration, a mid/late 18th-century type (STCO); six sherds of Staffordshire mottled ware (four cup sherds, a jar and a tankard). This ware was being produced in Staffordshire from the 1680s onwards (Plott 1686) but is particularly common in early to mid 18th-century assemblages (STMO); seven sherds of yellow-glazed slipware including a cup with a brown slip and white slip-trailed blob, three sherds of posset pot; and three further possible examples, two of which have brown slip and one of which is decorated with marbling; three sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) including a cup, a possible cup and a teapot with moulded decoration. These are of mid 18th-century date, being replaced by Creamware in the mid 1760s; and finally a tin-glazed plate with a light blue tinge to the glaze and blue painted decoration. As a group, these sherds date to the mid 18th century, c.1750-60 although individual sherds could be earlier.

Early Modern

Twenty four sherds of later 18th century or later date were recovered. They consist of types which were current in the late 18th century (Creamware, CREA; Pearlware, PEAR; Nottingham stoneware, NOTS; Refined redware, REFR and Transfer-printed ware, TPW) and some types which are of mid 19th-century or later date (English Porcelain, ENPO; Misc Refined whiteware, WHITE). Some of the WHITE sherds are of forms to which a late 19th century or later date can be assigned, such as marmalade jars.

Assessment

The finds indicate that there is no stratigraphic evidence for activity on the site until the 16th century. The character of the few sherds of medieval pottery from the site are consistent in their condition with material brought onto fields with night soil or farmyard manure and hint that the site was used for agriculture at some stage in the 12th to 14th centuries. However, the sherd of LKT is too large and fresh to have been in a ploughsoil and indicates probably that nearby there are or were Anglo-Scandinavian occupation deposits. Settlement sites of this period are rare in East Yorkshire and consist of monastic sites, principally Beverley and Thwing. Developments in the area of Southgate should therefore be flagged as having potential for producing settlement evidence of Anglo-Scandinavian date.

The 16th-century finds from the Southgate site are also of interest, since it is rare to find well-preserved deposits of this date uncontaminated by earlier material. However, the size of the assemblages from the fills of Ditches 117, 118 and 119 are too small for statistical analysis and few illustratable sherds are present. Should further archaeological work take place on the site and further deposits of similar date be encountered then it would be worthwhile studying the finds from the evaluation in more detail.

Stratigraphy

Two trenches produced finds: Trench 1 and Trench 2.

Trench 1

The earliest stratigraphy on the site consisted of context 132, which overlay natural deposits and contained nine sherds of Humberware. Four of those sherds were purple glazed and come from an overfired vessel, possibly a waster.

The earliest feature excavated in Trench 1 was a ditch, 118. The fills produced 46 sherds, all of similar date and character (Table 1). Humberware is the most common ware present with others represented by one or two sherds each. Two of these minor wares, Brownware (BERTH) and Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) are types which typically came into use in the later 16th century and their presence in these fills could either be due to contamination from ditch 117, which cut through the fills of ditch 118, or be an indication that the ditch was filled at the time of transition from the late medieval style of pottery production represented by Humberware to the post-medieval tradition. The late types both come from the south section whilst the north section produced an assemblage of 19 sherds of Humberware and a Dutch Red Earthenware vessel with white slip-trailed decoration, a 15th/16th-century type.

Table 1

cname	BOWL	DJ	JAR	JUG	JUG/JAR	PIPKIN?	Grand Total
BERTH			1				1
BEVO2B				1			1
DUTR						1	1
GRE	2						2
HUM		1	11	16	12		40
RYEDALE	1						1
Grand Total	3	1	12	17	12	1	46

Ditch 118 was cut by ditch 117, which is interpreted as being part of the same feature as ditch 119. The fills of the two ditches produced 29 sherds of pottery, mostly Humberware but including glazed red earthenware (in both ditch fills) and Cistercian ware (in ditch 119). As a contemporary group, these two ditch fills would also date to the mid/late 16th century, but if we assume that the Humberwares are residual from the earlier ditch then the date could be later, although Cistercian ware forms seem to have given way to blackware forms early in the 17th century and unless these two cup sherds are also residual from the earlier occupation they would suggest a late 16th/early 17th-century date for these ditch fills.

Table 2

context group	cname	BOWL	CUP	JAR	JUG	JUG/JAR	Grand Total
DITCH 117	GRE	1					1
	HUM			1	1	1	3
DITCH 119	CSTN		2				2
	GRE	1		1			2
	HUM			3	5	13	21

Ditches 117 and 119 were sealed by a spread of chalk and flint rubble, 121, which produced five sherds of glazed red earthenware bowls.

Above the chalk spread was a deposit, 120, which produced an assemblage of pottery ranging in date up to the late 18th century and including a number of early to mid 18th-century sherds (Table 3).

Table 3

cname	PLATE	BOWL	CUP	CUP?	DISH	JAR	JAR?	JUG	JUG/JAR	POSSET	POSSET?	TANK	TPOT
NOTS						2							
CREA	1												
REFR							1						
BERTH						1							
BL		1											
BRAND								2					
CSTN			1										
GRE		7				1							
HUM									1				
RYEDALE		1											
STCO					1								
STMO			4										1
STSL										3	3		
SWSG				1									1
TGW	1												

The backfill of the construction trench for wall 116 also produced a sherd of late 17th/18th-century slipware but alongside 3 sherds of Transfer-printed ware, absent from context 120. It is therefore probably later in date.

Several features in the northeast corner of Trench 1 (Gully 106, Postholes 108 and 110 and Pit 124) all contained pottery of mid 19th-century or later date.

Trench 2

Only two contexts in Trench 2 produced pottery: levelling 136 and dump 138. Dump 138 produced the single sherd of late 9th to mid 10th-century pottery and a sherd of medieval coarseware together with a sherd of Humberware and three glazed red earthenware sherds. The deposition date is therefore probably similar to that of the filling of ditches 117 and 119 and the chalk and flint rubble spread 121 in Trench 1.

Levelling deposit 136 included two sherds of miscellaneous refined whiteware of mid 19th century date or later.

Retention

All of the finds are from stratified deposits for which a case can be made for their retention for future study. However, the material from the various modern deposits could be discarded since they include no finds of intrinsic interest. These consist of 45 fragments from contexts 102, 107, 109, 111, 123, 124, 134, and 136.

Further work

The most important find from this evaluation is the sherd of late 9th to mid 10th-century pottery. To confirm the identification it is recommended that samples are taken for thin section and chemical analysis and that the sherd is drawn for publication.

Should further material of 16th-century date be excavated from the site then the pottery and ceramic building material from this evaluation should be re-assessed.

Costing

Thin section and chemical analysis = £48.00 plus VAT

Illustration = £20.00 plus VAT

Preparation of short note for publication in East Riding Archaeologist = £96.00 plus VAT

Total = £164.00 plus VAT = £192.70 inc VAT

Appendices

Appendix 1 List of Codes Used in Catalogue

Cname	Name	Date	Source	Total
BERTH	Brownware	Late 16 th to 17 th century	Various sites in Yorkshire	2
BEVO2B	Beverley glazed ware 2	Late 12 th to mid 14 th century	Beverley	3
BL	Blackware	Late 16 th to 19 th century	Various sites in Yorkshire and the midlands	2
BRAND	Brandsby-type ware aka North Yorkshire Whiteware	Late 13 th to 15 th century	Various sites in the Hambleton Hills	2
	Creamware	Late 18 th to early 19 th century	Various sites. Closest to Market Weighton are Castleford, Ferrybridge, Leeds and Sunderland	1
CREA	Cistercian ware	Late 15 th to 16 th century	Various	3
CSTN	Dutch Red Earthenware	Mid 14 th to 16 th century	Various in Low Countries	1
DUTR	English Porcelain	18 th to 20 th century	Various	1
ENPO	Unworked stone	NA	Various	8
GEO	Glazed Red Earthenware	Late 16 th to 19 th century	Various	23
GRE	Humberware	Mid 14 th to 16 th century	Various, including Holme-upon-Spalding	75
HUM	Iron	NA	NA	1
IRON	Lincoln Kiln-type shelly ware	Late 9 th to early 11 th century	Lincoln	1
LKT	Medieval Ceramic	Mid 11 th to 16 th century	Various	4
MTIL	Building Material	century		4
NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware	Late 17 th to 19 th century	Nottingham	4

		century		
PEAR	Pearware	Late 18 th to 19 th century	Various	7
PMGL	Post-medieval glass	Mid 17 th to 20 th century	Various	20
PMTIL	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Late 16 th to 20 th century	Various	12
QC	Quartz and Calcareous tempered medieval coarseware	Late 12 th to 13 th century	Southeast Yorkshire Wolds	1
REFR	Refined Redware	Mid 18 th century	Various	1
	Ryedale ware	Late 15 th to 17 th century	Various around the fringes of the North Yorkshire Moors, e.g. in Ryedale and Hambleton Hills	2
RYEDALE				
STCO	Staffordshire Press-moulded slipware	Late 17 th to Late 18 th century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	1
STMO	Staffordshire Mottled ware	Late 17 th to Late 18 th century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	6
STSL	Staffordshire Slipware	Late 17 th to Late 18 th century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	7
SWSG	English White Saltglazed Stoneware	Early to mid 18 th -century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	3
	Tin-Glazed ware	Late 16 th to Mid 18 th centuries	Various in the British Isles and Low Countries	1
TGW				
TPW	Transfer-printed ware	Late 18 th to 20 th century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	5
WHITE	Miscellaneous Refined White ware	Mid 19 th to 20 th century	Various, including the Staffordshire potteries	5

Appendix 2 Catalogue of Finds

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description
102	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	2	2	
102	POTTERY	PEAR	SPONGED	PLATE	1	1	
102	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	2	2	
102	POTTERY	ENPO		CUP	1	1	'ER ME' IN GOLD OVERPAINTING TOGETHER WITH OVERPAINTED FLOWERS
102	GEO	GEO	FLINT		1	1	
107	POTTERY	PEAR		PLATE	1	1	
107	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT?	1	1	MODERN
107	PMGL	PMGL	WHITE	LAMPSHADE	1	1	
109	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	1	1	
109	POTTERY	BEVO2B		JUG/JAR	1	1	
111	POTTERY	SWSG		CUP	1	1	
111	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1	
111	POTTERY	WHITE		MARMALADE JAR	1	1	
111	PMGL	PMGL	LTBL	WIND	1	1	
111	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1	
111	POTTERY	BEVO2B		JUG	1	1	STRAP HANDLE 41 ACROSS WITH 4 GROOVES
111	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1	
115	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1	
115	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1	
115	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	ONION/MALLET	1	1	
115	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	3	3	
115	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1	
115	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1	
115	POTTERY	STSL	BROWN SLIP	CUP	1	1	WHITE SLIP BLOB
120	POTTERY	STSL		POSSET?	1	1	MARBLING
120	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	3	2	

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Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description
120	POTTERY	BL		BOWL	1	1	
120	POTTERY	STMO		CUP	1	1	
120	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	BOT?	2	2	
120	POTTERY	STMO		TANK	1	1	
120	POTTERY	GRE		JAR	1	1	HANDLED; STRAP HANDLE 34 ACROSS WITH CENTRAL GROOVE
120	POTTERY	STSL		POSSET?	2	2	BROWN SLIP
120	GEO	GEO	FLINT		1	1	
120	POTTERY	CSTN		CUP	1	1	STRAP HANDLE 13 ACROSS
120	POTTERY	RYEDALE		BOWL	1	1	
120	POTTERY	SWSG		TPOT	1	1	MOULDED EXT DEC
120	POTTERY	STMO		CUP	3	1	
120	POTTERY	STCO		DISH	1	1	BROWN SLIP WITH THICK BANDS OF WHITE SLIP LEAVING THIN BROWN LINES
120	POTTERY	TGW		PLATE	1	1	PALE BLUE TIN GLAZE WITH OVERPAINTING
120	POTTERY	STSL		POSSET	3	1	
120	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1	
120	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	MALLET	1	1	
120	POTTERY	CREA		PLATE	1	1	
120	POTTERY	REFR		JAR?	1	1	TRAILED WHITE SLIP
120	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	1	1	
120	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1	
120	POTTERY	BRAND		JUG	2	2	
120	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	2	2	
120	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	2	2	
120	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	4	4	
120	POTTERY	SWSG		CUP?	1	1	
120	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1	HANDLED; ROD 12 ACROSS SIDE HANDLE
121	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1	

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description
121	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	2	2	
121	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	4	4	
121	IRON	IRON		HOOK	1	1	
123	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	3	3	
123	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1	
123	PMGL	PMGL	WHITE	LAMPSHADE	1	1	MOULDED DEC
123	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	1	1	
123	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1	
123	PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	TALL	1	1	
123	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	WIND	1	1	
123	POTTERY	PEAR		JUG/VASE	3	1	BLUE SLIP WITH OVERGLAZE PAINTING INCLUDING GOLD OVER THE BLUE
123	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	1	1	
123	POTTERY	STMO		JAR	1	1	
123	POTTERY	NOTS		JAR	1	1	
123	GEO	GEO	FLINT		1	1	
123	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	1	1	BAND OF PINK INDUST SLIP ROUND RIM WITH GOLD OVER GLAZE LINE BELOW
124	GEO	GEO	FLINT		2	2	
126	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1	
126	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	
126	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1	
126	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	
129	CBM	MTIL		FLAT	3	3	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	WAVY COMBING
131	GEO	GEO			1	1	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	WAVY COMBING
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	CURVED APPLIED STRIP
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	STRAP HANDLE 35 ACROSS

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description
131	POTTERY	GRE		JAR	1	1	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	5	5	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	2	1	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	6	1	
131	POTTERY	CSTN		CUP	2	1	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	2	1	
131	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	1	1	
131	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	
131	POTTERY	ZDATE			1	1	16TH CENTURY
131	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	
132	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	5	3	
132	POTTERY	HUM	PURPLE	JUG	4	1	
134	POTTERY	WHITE		CUP	1	1	RING BASE
136	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE	1	1	
136	POTTERY	PEAR		?	1	1	BLUE SLIP
136	POTTERY	PEAR		JUG	1	1	
136	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	1	1	MOULDED 'DE MARK' OF TRADE MARK
136	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	2	2	
138	GEO	GEO			2	2	
138	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	3	2	
138	POTTERY	QC		JAR	1	1	
138	CBM	PMTIL		BRICK	2	2	
138	POTTERY	LKT		JAR	1	1	L9-E10
138	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	ZDATE			1	1	15-16TH CENTURY
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	7	7	
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	3	1	SCORED GROOVES ROUND SHOULDER

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	WAVY COMBING
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		DJ	1	1	
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	DUTR	TRAILED WHITE SLIP	PIPKIN?	1	1	
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	2	2	
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	2	2	HANDLE TRACES
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	SCORED GROOVES ROUND SHOULDER
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	WAVY COMBING
129 NE SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	GROOVE
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	2	2	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	BERTH		JAR	1	1	HANDLED; HANDLE SQUASHED ROD 24 ACROSS
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	HANDLED (TRACE OF HANDLE)
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	GRE		BOWL	2	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG/JAR	1	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	BEVO2B		JUG	1	1	WHITE SLIP UNDER GLAZE; STRAP HANDLE 40 ACROSS 6 GROOVES
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	RYEDALE		BOWL	1	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	3	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	1	1	STRAP HANDLE 42 ACROSS
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	5	5	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JUG	6	1	
129 S SECTION	POTTERY	HUM		JAR	1	1	

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