

## Assessment of the finds from Skirpenbeck, North Yorkshire (OSA06 WB35)

### *Alan Vince and Kate Steane*

A small quantity of finds was recovered from an archaeological watching brief carried out at Skirpenbeck by On-Site Archaeology Ltd (Site Code osa06 wb35). The finds are mostly of recent date, the exception being a small, abraded sherd of medieval pottery.

### Description

The finds were identified and recorded (App 1). They consist of ceramic building material of postmedieval or early modern date (Table 1, CBM) and pottery. In total 11 fragments, representing no more than 9 objects and weighing 166gm were present.

*Table 1*

| class       | Cname | Sum of Nosh | Sum of NoV | Sum of Weight |
|-------------|-------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| CBM         | CBM   | 1           | 1          | 1             |
|             | PMTIL | 2           | 2          | 97            |
| POTTERY     | ENPO  | 1           | 1          | 15            |
|             | STMO  | 1           | 1          | 11            |
|             | TPW   | 4           | 2          | 8             |
|             | WHITE | 1           | 1          | 33            |
|             | YORK  | 1           | 1          | 1             |
| Grand Total |       | 11          | 9          | 166           |

### **Ceramic Building Material**

A small unidentifiable fragment of ceramic building material was recovered together with fragments of brick and pantile. The brick has a salt surface, indicating that it was made from clay containing brine and calcium carbonate, i.e. an estuarine marine clay. Such clays occur in the Humber wetlands as far north as Cawood and Holme-upon-Spalding moor. The appearance of the brick suggests a recent date (i.e. 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century). Pantiles were introduced into eastern England in the 16<sup>th</sup> century but became common inland mainly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Pottery**

#### Medieval

A single sherd of York glazed ware jug was recorded. The sherd is small and abraded and comes from a copper-green-glazed jug of late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century date (Jennings 1992).

#### Post-Medieval

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/avac2006105.pdf>

A base sherd from a mottled ware jar (STMO) was recorded. This ware has a light-firing body and mottled brown glaze. It was produced in the Staffordshire potteries from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries but the form of this vessel, with a rounded body and plain base angle, is unusual for Staffordshire and it is possible that the vessel was produced from similar raw materials but elsewhere.

### Early Modern

Sherds of a porcelain sanitary ware vessel, perhaps a toilet bowl or cistern (ENPO), transfer printed ware cup and teapot lid (TPW) and a miscellaneous refined whiteware bowl (WHITE) were recorded. The toilet bowl appears to be of 20<sup>th</sup> century date whilst the other vessels might be earlier.

### Assessment

The single medieval potsherd need not imply occupation on the site since its size and condition are similar to those recovered from ploughsoil. The remaining finds are fresher and larger but no earlier than the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### Appendix 1

| Context | class   | Cname | Description                        | Form                | Part | Nosh | NoV | Weight | Condition    | Use          |
|---------|---------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------|------|------|-----|--------|--------------|--------------|
| 104     | POTTERY | WHITE | BLUE INDUST<br>SLIP HORIZ<br>BANDS | BOWL                | R    | 1    | 1   | 33     |              |              |
| 104     | POTTERY | ENPO  | PALE BLUE<br>DAPPLED<br>GLAZE      | BATHROOM<br>FITTING | BS   | 1    | 1   | 15     |              |              |
| 107     | CBM     | PMTIL |                                    | PANT                | BS   | 1    | 1   | 56     |              |              |
| 114     | CBM     | CBM   |                                    |                     | BS   | 1    | 1   | 1      | TINY<br>FRAG |              |
| 114     | POTTERY | TPW   |                                    | CUP                 | BS   | 3    | 1   | 1      |              |              |
| 114     | POTTERY | YORK  |                                    | JUG                 | BS   | 1    | 1   | 1      |              |              |
| 114     | POTTERY | STMO  |                                    | BOWL/JAR            | B    | 1    | 1   | 11     |              | WORN<br>BASE |
| 117     | CBM     | PMTIL | SALT<br>SURFACING                  | BRICK               | BS   | 1    | 1   | 41     | FRAG         |              |
| 118     | POTTERY | TPW   |                                    | LID                 | R    | 1    | 1   | 7      |              |              |

### Bibliography

Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum