

Assessment of the finds from Hall Farm, Long Marston, North Yorkshire (OSA06 EV06)

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A collection of pottery and ceramic building material from an archaeological evaluation at Hall Farm, Long Marston, North Yorkshire, carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd, was submitted to the authors for assessment.

The finds consist of medieval pottery, ranging in date from the late 11th/early 12th century to the late 13th or early 14th centuries, and a collection of modern pottery and tile.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Thirty-four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered (Table 1). All of the material is likely to be of 19th-century or later date.

Table 1

Cname	Nosh	Weigh	NoV	Sherds/vessel	Mean Sherd Wt
BRICK	12	284	9	1	33
FIELD DRAIN	2	54	1	2	27
PANT	17	256	17	1	28
PANT?	3	3	3	1	1
Grand Total	34	597	30	1	29

Glass

A single fragment of glass was recovered. The fragment is too small to determine the precise form, but it comes from a dark green bottle whose weathering indicates that it was probably produced in the mid 17th to mid 18th centuries.

Pottery

Medieval

Table 2

Cname	Nosh	Weigh	NoV	Sherds/vessel	Mean Sherd Wt
BEVO1A	1	7	1	1	7
BEVO2B	2	10	1	2	5
BRAN	5	52	3	2	11
MEDLOC	5	16	3	2	3
NGR	1	1	1	1	1
SCAR	1	3	1	1	3
YG	75	509	70	1	7
YORK	6	30	6	1	5

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YSP	11	40	10	1	3
Grand Total	107	668	96	1	6

One hundred and seven sherds of pottery of medieval date were recorded (Table 1). The earliest type present was York Gritty ware, which was also by far the most common medieval ware on the site. Vessels of York Gritty ware have been found in the construction levels of the Norman Minster at York (Holdsworth 1995). Thin section analysis of this ware indicates that it was produced from white-firing Coal Measures clay, which outcrops on the west side of the Vale of York (Vince 2003). One of the probable production sites was at Potterton, whose name indicates pottery production and which is so-named in Domesday book.

Most of the York Gritty sherds are from jars used in cooking (soot was observed on the exterior surfaces of 26 sherds and black internal deposits were noted on 5 sherds). However, one bowl was present, also used in cooking and with soot deposits under the rim, and one spouted pitcher. Both forms are rare in York Gritty ware. The spouted pitcher is a form which was superseded by the jug, which had a much narrower neck, by the mid 12th century and this is strong evidence to suggest that the Long Marston site was occupied before c.1150.

The remaining 32 sherds of medieval pottery are of types which were current in the later 12th and 13th centuries, apart from a sherd of Scarborough ware (SCAR) and five sherds of Brandsby-type ware (BRAN), both of which are probably late 13th to 14th century in date.

These sherds come from a variety of sources: the Beverley-type wares are either from Beverley itself or made by a daughter industry, since analysis of Beverley-type wares from York indicates that the fabric is chemically distinct from genuine Beverley wares (Vince 2003).

York Glazed ware (YORK), Brandsby-type ware (BRAN) and Scarborough ware (SCAR) were both produced from Middle Jurassic white-firing clays which outcrop around the fringes of the North Yorkshire Moors. York glazed ware was produced in the later 12th and early 13th centuries. Both it and Brandsby-type ware were produced in the Hambleton Hills area whilst Scarborough ware was made in Scarborough itself. Five sherds (MEDLOC) cannot be characterised by eye and would require thin section and chemical analysis to determine their source. The sherds are, however, too small for analysis. Northern Gritty ware (NGR) was produced on various sites in West Yorkshire in the later 12th to mid 14th centuries.

The York Splashed wares found at Long Marston include ten sherds with red sandy fabrics, whose source cannot be determined without further work, and one small sherd with a similar fabric to York Gritty ware.

Early Modern Wares

Seven sherds of pottery of late 18th-century or later date were recovered. None of the sherds is of a closely-datable type but a late 19th-century or later date is likely.

Table 3

Cname	Form	Nosh	Weight	NoV	Sherds/vessel	Mean Wt
BL	JAR	1	17	1	1	17
LHUM	JUG/JAR	1	1	1	1	1
PMLOC	FLP	2	17	2	1	9
WHITE	BOWL	1	2	1	1	2
Grand Total		5	37	5	1	7

Assessment

Trench 1

Finds were recovered from the fills of three features and from the ploughsoil. F119 could be dated to the late 11th to late 12th centuries or later. F113 could be dated to the later 12th to 13th century or later and F117 could be dated to the later 12th to early 14th centuries or later. It also contained a sherd of Brandsby-type ware which, if not intrusive, would date the feature fill to the mid 13th century or later. Sherds of similar date were recovered from the ploughsoil.

Trench 2

Three features contained finds which date their fills to the late 11th century or later: Ditch 2073, Ditch 2082 and Feature 2008.

Three features produced finds which date their filling to the later 12th century or later: Ditch 2010, Ditch 2052 and Pit 2054. The ploughsoil produced pottery of similar date.

Nine features produced finds of recent date: Ditch 2042, Feature 2011, Feature 2024, Feature 2040, Feature 2086, and postholes 2032, 2034, 2050 and 2058.

Trench 3

Two features in Trench 3 produced finds of recent ceramic building material: Ditch 3017 and Feature 3016.

Chronology of activity

The York Gritty ware spouted pitcher sherd indicates that settlement had begun on the site before c.1150. The lack of Anglo-Scandinavian wares, however, indicates that there was no activity on the site before the mid 11th century. The medieval settlement seems to have continued into the second half of the 13th century but the lack of Humberware definitely indicates that it did not continue into the second half of the 14th century. The lack of medieval ceramic building material is also worthy of note. By the later 12th century in York flat ceramic roof tiles were in common use and their lack here either indicates that the activity did not include permanent structures or that any structures present had thatch roofs.

The lack of even small abraded sherds of later 14th to 18th-century date suggests that the site was not ploughed, or at least that manure was not brought onto the site, since the spreading of night soil and farm yard manure normally produces a scatter of abraded pot sherds. The

seven medieval sherds recovered from recent features, however, have a mean weight of 3gm, compared with 6gm for those from medieval deposits. This suggests that the sherds were redeposited from topsoil on the site and that no evidence for late medieval/early post-medieval activity on the site was lost through the machining of the topsoil and ploughsoil.

The single fragment of glass (from Feature 2024) and the fragments of field drain (from posthole 2050) are probably the only evidence for activity between the 13th/14th centuries and the recent activity which is probably of later 19th century and later date.

Retention

The finds from medieval deposits should be retained for future study. The material from recent deposits and unstratified material could be discarded.

Further work

The York Gritty spouted pitcher and bowl sherds should certainly be illustrated.

Costing

Two illustrations at £20.00 plus VAT each = £40.00 plus VAT

Bibliography

Holdsworth, J. (1995) "6.2 Post-Roman pottery ." in D. Phillips and B. Heywood, eds.,
Excavations at York Minster, HMSO, London,

Vince, Alan (2003) Characterisation studies of Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian pottery from York. <http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2003078.pdf>

Appendix 1

Context	Action	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	sh/v	mean	Condition	DN NO
102	DR	POTTERY	YG		SIGN OF SPOUT	SPP	R	1	1	12	1	12		1
102	DR	POTTERY	YG			BOWL	R	1	1	32	1	32		2 SOOTED
102		POTTERY	YG			JAR	B	1	1	8	1	8		0 SOOTED
102		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	R	1	1	9	1	9		0
102		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	2	2	10	1	5		0 BLACK D
102		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	13	1	13		0
102		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	16	1	5.3333		0 SOOTED
102		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	BS	3	3	19	1	6.3333		0
102		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	5	5	34	1	6.8		0
114		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0 SOOTED
114		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0 SOOTED
114		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY	WHITE SLIP UNDER GLAZE	JUG	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0
114		POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS	1	1	8	1	8		0 SOOTED
114		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	16	1	5.3333		0
114		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	2	2	22	1	11		0
116		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	2	2	2	1	1		0
116		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	5	1	5		0
116		POTTERY	YORK			JUG	BS	1	1	5	1	5		0
116		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	6	1	6		0 SOOTED
116		POTTERY	BEVO1A			JUG	BS	1	1	7	1	7		0
116		POTTERY	BRAN			JAR	BS	1	1	10	1	10		0
116		POTTERY	YG			JAR	B	1	1	10	1	10		0 SOOTED
118		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	BS	1	1	2	1	2	ABRA	0
118		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0
118		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0 SOOTED
118		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	12	1	12		0
118		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	2	1	16	2	8		0 SOOTED
2001		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0

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2001		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	BLACK D
2001		POTTERY	YSP	YG		JUG	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	
2001		POTTERY	SCAR			JUG	BS	1	1	3	1	3		0	
2001		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	6	1	6		0	SOOTED
2001		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	4	3	11	1.3333	2.75		0	
2001		POTTERY	YG			JAR	B	1	1	16	1	16		0	SOOTED
2007		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0	
2007		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	16	1	16	SHL= TR2 U/S	0	
2009		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0	
2009		CBM	PMTIL			PANT?	BS	3	3	3	1	1		0	
2009		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	BS	1	1	4	1	4		0	
2009		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	7	1	2.3333		0	SOOTED
2011		POTTERY	MEDLOC			JAR	BS	1	1	3	1	3		0	
2011		POTTERY	MEDLOC			JAR	BS	1	1	3	1	3		0	SOOTED
2011		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	2	2	8	1	4		0	
2011		CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	4	1	60	4	15		0	MORTAR
2023		POTTERY	LHUM			JUG/JAR	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0	
2023		PMGL	PMGL	DKGR	M17-M18TH CENTURY	BOTTLE	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	
2023		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	SOOTED
2023		POTTERY	WHITE		PURPLE SPONGING	BOWL	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	
2023		POTTERY	BL			JAR	BS	1	1	17	1	17		0	
2023		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	5	5	27	1	5.4		0	
2031		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	1	1	128	1	128		0	
2035		CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	1	1	160	1	160		0	
2039		POTTERY	PMLOC			FLP	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	
2039		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	6	6	68	1	11.333		0	
2041		CBM	PMTIL		FRAGS	BRICK	BS	2	2	6	1	3		0	
2043		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	4	1	4		0	
2043		POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS	1	1	5	1	5		0	SOOTED
2049		CBM	PMTIL			FIELD DRAIN	BS	2	1	54	2	27		0	

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Context	Action	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	sh/v	mean	Condition	DN NO	
2051		POTTERY	NGR	THICK WHITE SLIP INT	GLAZE EXT	JUG	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0	
2051		POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS	1	1	4	1	4		0	FAINT SC
2057		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	2	1	2		0	
2057		CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	2	2	13	1	6.5		0	
2072		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	2	2	9	1	4.5		0	SOOTED
2072		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	2	2	24	1	12		0	
2078		POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS	1	1	4	1	4	ABRA	0	SOOTED
2078		POTTERY	YG			JAR	B	1	1	5	1	5		0	
2078		POTTERY	YG			JAR	B	2	2	12	1	6		0	SOOTED
2078		CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	1	1	13	1	13		0	
2078		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	21	1	21	ABRA	0	
2081		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	5	1	5	ABRA	0	SOOTED
2081		POTTERY	MEDLOC			JAR	BS	3	1	10	3	3.3333	ABRA	0	
2081		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	13	1	13	ABRA	0	
2081		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	17	1	5.6667		0	
2085		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	3	1	3		0	
2085		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	2	2	7	1	3.5		0	
2085		CBM	PMTIL		SALT SURFACING	BRICK	BS	1	1	18	1	18		0	
2087		POTTERY	BEVO2B		MARK OF RIM ON BASE FROM KILN	JUG	BS	2	1	10	2	5		0	
3005		POTTERY	YSP	RED SANDY		JUG	BS	2	1	1	2	0.5		0	
3005		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	11	1	3.6667		0	
3005		CBM	PMTIL		SALT SURFACING	BRICK	BS	1	1	14	1	14		0	
3009		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	4	1	4	ABRA	0	
3009		POTTERY	YORK			JUG	BS	1	1	4	1	4		0	
3009		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	3	3	10	1	3.3333	ABRA	0	SOOTED
3015		POTTERY	PMLOC			FLP	BS	1	1	15	1	15		0	
3017		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	1	1	18	1	18		0	
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	1	1	1		0	
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	BRAN	VERY FINE FABRIC	BROWN GLAZE	JUG	BS	1	1	12	1	12		0	

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Context	Action	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	sh/v	mean	Condition	DN NO	
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	15	1	15		0	SOOTED
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	YG			JAR	R	1	1	18	1	18		0	
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	BRAN			JUG	BS	3	1	30	3	10		0	
TR2 U/S		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	4	1	51	4	12.75	SHL=2007	0	

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