

Assessment of the Post-Roman Pottery and Other Finds from the Asselby to Pannal Pipeline, Yorkshire (ASP-06)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A collection of finds retrieved from fieldwalking on the line of the Asselby to Pannal pipeline (ASP-06) carried out by Network Archaeology Ltd was submitted for identification and an assessment of medieval and post-medieval material.

The finds include a possible Roman imbrex tile, a piece of Roman pottery and a small collection of medieval pottery. The remaining finds were of post-medieval and later date.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Roman?

A fragment of a possible imbrex tile was recovered from PI.16/9. Some U-sectioned field drains can be mistaken for imbrex tiles but the sandy fabric and high abrasion suggest that this might be a genuine Roman tile.

Medieval

Four fragments of flat roof tiles are probably of medieval or early post-medieval date (PI.2/1, 9/1, 17/8 and 19/2). A further 9 fragments were too small to identify the form and could be medieval or post-medieval date.

A single fragment of a glazed ridge tile with an applied, knife-cut crest was recovered from PI.17/8. Such tiles are most common in Yorkshire in the later 13th to early 14th century but are quite rare in comparison with other areas of the country, suggesting that this piece might have come from a structure of relatively high status.

Post-medieval and later

Brick and tile fragments of post-medieval and later date were recorded. They include several fragments which probably have some industrial function and appear to be of later 19th or 20th-century date.

Copper Alloy

Four finds of copper alloy were recorded, all of 19th or 20th-century date.

Glass

A fragment of vessel glass was recorded, probably of 19th or 20th-century date.

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/avac2006134.pdf>

Iron

Six iron objects were recorded. Apart from a horseshoe, probably of post-medieval or early modern date, all are likely to be of 19th or 20th-century date. They include a cast iron eight ounce weight.

Pottery

Medieval

Thirty-nine sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. Eighteen of these are of York Gritty ware, which was produced from the late 11th to the mid 13th century (Holdsworth 1995). One centre producing this ware was at Potterton, on the outskirts of Leeds. All the finds come from sites within 20 miles (as the crow flies) from Potterton and therefore quite likely to be Potterton products.

Fourteen sherds of Northern Gritty ware were present (NGR). This ware was produced from the later 12th to the 14th century (or later) and was produced at several sites in West Yorkshire.

Five fragments of Humberware were recorded (HUM). This ware was also produced at a number of centres from the mid 14th to the early 16th centuries. All the ASP fragments come from sites close to the production centre at West Cowick, which is therefore likely to be their source.

Two fragments of high-fired Coal Measure Whiteware, in which the clay/iron inclusions have vitrified to form vesicular slag, were recorded. This high-fired version of the fabric was produced at Rawmarsh in the late 15th to 16th centuries and is known to have been traded down the Humber to Hull. These finds, however, come from sites about 35 miles north of Rawmarsh and could indicate that the ware was traded north on the Great North Road.

Table 1

Trench	CMW	HUM	NGR	YG	Grand Total
0/3		1			1
2/1				1	1
4/3		1			1
4/8			1		1
6/10			1		1
9/6		1			1
9/7		1			1
13/1		1			1
16/10			1	1	2
16/5			2		2
16/7				1	1
16/8				1	1
16/9			3	5	8
18/1				1	1
18/10			1		1
18/4				1	1

18/7	1				1
18/8			1	1	2
19/1				1	1
19/2			1		1
19/3				2	2
19/4				1	1
20/1	1				1
24/2			1		1
28/8			1	1	2
30/6				1	1
35/2			1		1
Grand Total	2	5	14	18	39

Post-medieval and later

125 sherds of Post-medieval pottery and 249 sherds of early modern pottery were recovered. The only finds of note were items of kiln furniture. These consist of a handmade flattened ring of mixed coal measures clays from plot 0/3 and moulded trivets from plots 5/10, 10/2, and 12/1. the former could have been used in a clay pipe kiln and should be submitted to Dr Allan Peacey, who has studied clay pipe production waste (Peacey 1996). The latter finds come from factory production of refined whitewares. The nearest known factories to the Gateforth area where these finds come from are at Castleford, Ferrybridge, Pontefract and Leeds, all about 10 to 20 miles away.

Silver

A single 20th-century silver coin was recovered.

Stone

Two fragments of slate were recovered. One was from a slate pencil, using in schools into the early 20th century, and the other from a flat roof tile, with a circular peghole. Slate in Yorkshire is usually of post-medieval and later date.

Assessment

Roman

The two fragments of possible Roman date, a greyware sherd and a fragment of imbrex tile, come from nearby plots, 16/7 and 16/9.

Medieval

Medieval and potentially medieval finds were retrieved from 21 plots (Table 2), mostly consisting of one or two sherds from plots scattered along the pipeline. The only exception consists of a group of plots close to Little Fenton (16/7 to 16/10).

Table 2

Trench	M/PMTIL	MTIL	CMW	HUM	NGR	YG	Grand Total
--------	---------	------	-----	-----	-----	----	-------------

0/3				1			1
02/1	2	1				1	4
02/3	1						1
04/3				1			1
04/8	2				1		3
06/10					1		1
08/1	2						2
09/1		1					1
09/6				1			1
09/7				1			1
13/1				1			1
16/10					1	1	2
16/5					1		1
16/7						1	1
16/8						1	1
16/9					3	5	8
17/8	1	2					3
18/1						1	1
18/10					1		1
18/4						1	1
18/7			1				1
18/8					1	1	2
19/1						1	1
19/2		1			1		2
19/3						2	2
19/4						1	1
20/1			1				1
24/2					1		1
28/8					1	1	2
30/6						1	1
35/2					1		1
Grand Total	8	5	2	5	13	18	51

Post-medieval

Thirty-seven fragments of post-medieval date were recorded, coming from 37 different plots. The finds range from 1 to 7 per plot and no large concentrations were present apart from the same group of sites around Little Fenton that produced the most medieval finds.

Early Modern and later

Two hundred and forty-nine fragments of later 18th, 19th and 20th-century date were recovered. Finds range from 1 to 27 per plot and concentrations of 10 or more sherds were recovered from plots 14/1, 15/1, 15/3, 16/9 and 16/11.

Further Work

The kiln furniture from plot 0/3 should be submitted for specialist assessment.

Retention

The Roman and medieval finds should be retained for future study, together with the kiln furniture fragment from Plot 0/3.

Bibliography

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

Peacey, Allan (1996) *The Development of the Clay Tobacco Pipe Kiln in the British Isles*.

Internet Archaeol, 1, 1996, [http: //intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue1/peacey_index.html](http://intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue1/peacey_index.html)