

## Assessment of the Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from Beckside, Hayton, East Yorkshire (OSA06 WB37)

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An archaeological watching brief carried out at Beckside, Hayton, East Yorkshire, produced a small collection of ceramic building material and pottery. The Pottery is mostly of Iron Age to early Roman character with a small quantity of medieval and later material whilst the ceramic building material is most of post-medieval or later date.

### Description

#### Ceramic Building Material

Ten fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. They consist of seven fragments of brick and three fragments of pantile. The bricks include one of clearly modern character, from context 101, whilst the remainder were not closely datable. They include one fragment made from a calcareous fabric, with salt-surfacing. Such bricks were mostly produced from estuarine clays from the Humber Basin and deposits of this type were exploited for brickmaking and pottery production at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor and Cawood in the later medieval period. However, this brick could easily be of post-medieval or modern date.

The pantiles are of late 16<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

#### Pottery

Iron Age to early Roman

Thirty-one fragments of pottery of Iron Age to early Roman date were recovered. They represent no more than 17 vessels and weigh in total 442 gm. They show little sign of abrasion and clearly come from occupation on the site.

The sherds were examined at x20 magnification and assigned to fabric groups (table 1).

GRFF is a fairly-fine textured wheelthrown greyware of Roman date. The remainder are all handmade and contain large coarse inclusions of various types; Calcite (IACALC); basic igneous rock (IAERR); unspecified limestone (IALST); oolitic limestone (IAOOL); Rounded quartz sand (IASAND); crushed slag (IASLAG); and a sandstone-derived sand (IASST).

*Table 1*

Cname	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
GRFF	2	1	16
IACALC	3	3	63
IAERR	10	1	74
IALST	6	5	126

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IAOOL	1	1	15
IASAND	3	1	43
IASLAG	1	1	17
IASST	5	4	88
Total	31	17	442

The various fabric groups probably reflect both the choice of the potters (e.g. IASLAG) and the available temper. Calcite, for example, is commonly found in deposits in the Vale of Pickering, originating in veins formed in the chalk; The limestone and oolitic limestones were probably obtained from Jurassic outcrops along the west side of the Wolds; Basic igneous erratic rock occurs in boulder clay in the Vale of York and in the East Yorkshire tills. This wide variety of potential sources suggests that Hayton was part of a complex network connecting different parts of Yorkshire.

The sherds all come from jars of which only three are complete enough to assign to one of the vessel form groups identified by Rigby, all of which are pear-shaped jars (IALST, IAERR and IASLAG). In addition, one sherd comes from a vessel with a footring (IACALC).

### Medieval

A single sherd of Yorkshire Gritty ware (YG) was recovered. This ware was produced in West Yorkshire, using Coal Measures white-firing clays and a coarse gravel temper derived from Millstone Grit. It dates between the mid 11<sup>th</sup> and the early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Two sherds of Humberware were recovered, one from a jar and the other either a jug or a jar. This ware was produced from the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to the early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and the nearest sources were at York (15 miles to the west) and Holme-upon-Spalding Moor (7 miles south).

### Post-medieval and later

A single sherd from a wheelthrown chimney pot of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date was found.

## Assessment

### Dating

The finds came from five contexts of which 101 and 109 contain modern material. The remainder either contain solely Iron Age to early Roman handmade wares (contexts 104 and 106) or these wares with Roman greyware (context 104). Given the lack of typologically distinct sherds, the only possibility of obtaining a closer date from the pottery will be if it is found that the fabrics were used over different periods. However, it is already known that calcite tempered fabrics were used from the later Bronze Age into the early Anglo-Saxon period (C Haughton and D Powlesland, per comm and {Rigby 2004 #46083}) and it is likely that traditional sources of clay and temper were used throughout north and east Yorkshire throughout the Iron Age and into the Roman period. .

**Table 2**

Context	GRFF	HUM	IACALC	IAERR	IALST	IAOOL	IASAND	IASLAG	IASST	LPMLOC	YG	Grand Total
101		2										2
104					1							1
105	2		1	10	3	1	3	1	2			23
106			2		2				3			7
109										1	1	2
Grand Total	2	2	3	10	6	1	3	1	5	1	1	35

**Further Work**

Analysis of the pottery fabrics using thin section and chemical analysis would enable the source of the vessels to be determined and would therefore help to test the suggestion made here that the site was well-connected in the Iron Age. However, chemical analysis requires at least six samples of each fabric to be analysed and most of the wares present in this collection are not represented by more than a few examples. However, four of the sherds (the three pear-shaped jar rims and the footring base) could be drawn and these sherds should also be analysed to confirm the visual identification of their fabrics.

**Costing**

Task	Rate	Quantity	Amount
Thin Section Analysis	£24.00 plus VAT	4	£96.00 plus VAT
Chemical Analysis (ICPS)	£24.00 plus VAT	4	£96.00 plus VAT
Illustration	£15.00 plus VAT	4	£60.00 plus VAT
Total			£252.00 plus VAT
Total + VAT			£296.10

**Retention**

All of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery should be retained. The ceramic building material and chimney fragment could be discarded.

*Appendix 1*

Context	Action	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
106		POTTERY	IASST			JAR	BS	2	2	70		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
101		POTTERY	HUM			JAR	BS	1	1	11		
101		CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS	3	3	19		
101		CBM	MOD			BRICK	BS	1	1	397		
101		CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	5	5	116		
101		GEO	GEO	RED CHALK			BS	1	1	58		
109		CBM	PMTIL	CALCAREOUS		BRICK	BS	1	1	227	SALT SURFACING	
109		POTTERY	LPMLOC			CHIMNEY POT	R	1	1	264		SOOTED INT/RIM
109		POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	5		SOOTED EXT
106		POTTERY	IACALC			JAR	BS	1	1	15		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
106	DR	POTTERY	IALST		PEAR- SHAPED JAR	JAR	R	1	1	48		SOOTED EXT
101		POTTERY	HUM			JUG/JAR	BS	1	1	33		
106	DR	POTTERY	IACALC	FINE	FOOTRING	JAR	B	1	1	41		
105	DR	POTTERY	IAERR	SST,LST,OOLITE	PEAR- SHAPED JAR	JAR	R;BS	10	1	74		
106		POTTERY	IASST			JAR	BS	1	1	8		BLACK DEP INT
104		POTTERY	IALST			JAR	BS	1	1	14		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
105		POTTERY	IACALC			JAR	BS	1	1	7		
105		POTTERY	IAOOL			JAR	BS	1	1	15		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
105		POTTERY	GRFF	NON LOCAL		JBK	BS	2	1	16		
105		POTTERY	IASAND			JAR	BS	3	1	43		

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105	DR	POTTERY	IASLAG	PEAR-SHAPED JAR	JAR	R	1	1	17	
105		POTTERY	IALST	JAR	JAR	BS	2	1	25	
105		POTTERY	IALST	JAR	JAR	BS	1	1	16	
105		POTTERY	IASST	JAR	JAR	BS	2	1	10	SOOTED EXT
106		POTTERY	IALST	JAR	JAR	BS	1	1	23	