

Assessment of the finds from Brook House, Barmby Moor (OSA06 WB42)

Alan Vince

A small collection of finds from a watching brief carried out at Brook House, Barmby Moor, by On-Site Archaeology Ltd was submitted for identification and assessment (Site Code OSA06 WB42). The finds include medieval pottery and medieval or post-medieval ceramic building material and a fragment of modern roof tile, made of concrete.

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	2	2	4
CONCRETE	1	1	111
POTTERY	4	4	82
STONE	3	3	229
Grand Total	10	10	426

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Two pieces of ceramic building material were recovered. One was too small to identify the form and had a fine sandy, micaceous fabric. The other had a calcareous groundmass and was visually similar to fabrics produced at the Beverley tiler during the medieval and early post-medieval period. However, very similar fabrics are now known to have been produced at Cawood, from where they were supplied to York, and similar fabrics could have been made elsewhere in the Humber wetlands to the south and southeast of York (Vince and Steane 2004).

Concrete

A single fragment from a concrete roof tile of 20th-century date was recovered. It is not known (to the author) when in the 20th century such tiles were introduced but probably it was between the wars (1920s-30s). The tile has a coating of red quartzose moulding sand.

Pottery

Four sherds of pottery were recovered, all dating to the medieval period. Two are of York Glazed ware (Jennings 1992) and date between the later 12th and the mid 13th centuries and two are of Humberware (Hayfield 1992), dating from the mid 14th to the early 16th centuries. The latter vessels include a sherd from an unglazed bottle or small drinking jug, a form which seems to be characteristic of the later 14th century. Humberware was produced at several centres in the Humber wetlands, as well as in the suburbs of York itself, and the closest

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/avac2007016.pdf>

source to Barmby Moor would have been at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor (Humber Archaeology Partnership 2001; Mayes and Hayfield 1980).

Stone

Two fragments of stone were submitted. Both appear to be marl, probably from the Mercian Mudstone, which underlies much of the Vale of York, outcrops intermittently where not blanketed by Quaternary deposits and is present as pebbles and cobbles in fluvio-glacial sands and gravels. Neither appears to have been used.

Assessment

The material comes from five contexts. That from contexts 103 and 111 is of late 12th-century or later date; that from contexts 101 and 105 is of late 14th century or later date and that from context 115 is of 20th-century date. On average the medieval finds weigh around 14gm each, and none show notable signs of abrasion. Therefore, they may represent occupation in the immediate area in the later 12th to later 14th centuries.

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Retention

The finds come from stratified deposits and should therefore be retained so that their identification can be checked and enhanced at some future date.

Bibliography

- Hayfield, C. (1992) "Humberware: the development of a later medieval pottery tradition." in D. Gaimster and M. Redknapp, eds., *Everyday and Exotic Pottery from Europe: Studies in honour of John G. Hurst*, Oxbow Books, Oxford, 38-44
- Humber Archaeology Partnership (2001) Humber Archaeology Partnership Newsletter: Issue 3. http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/archaeology/newsletter_03.pdf
- Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum
- Mayes, P. and Hayfield, C. (1980) "A Late Medieval Kiln at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, North Humberside." *East Riding Archaeologist*, 6, 99-113
- Vince, Alan and Steane, Kate (2004) *Assessment of the finds from Cawood, North Yorkshire (OSA04EV07)*. AVAC Reports 2004/138 Lincoln, Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Use
101	POTTERY	HUM	OXID	UNGLAZED	DJ	BS	1	1	27	
101	CBM	MTIL	FINE SANDY MICACEOUS			BS	1	1	1	
103	CBM	MTIL	CALC GROUNDMASS;BEVOT		FLAT	BS	1	1	3	
103	STONE	STONE	TRIASSIC MARL?		GEO	BS	2	2	152	
105	POTTERY	HUM		PURP EXT	JUG/JAR	BS	1	1	11	
111	POTTERY	YORK		CUGL	JUG	BS	1	1	11	
111	POTTERY	YORK			JAR	B	1	1	33	SOOTED EXT
115	STONE	GEO	TRIASSIC MARL?		GEO	BS	1	1	77	
115	CONCRETE	CONCRETE	GREY SANDY CONCRETE WITH RED SAND COATING	PANTILE?	TILE	BS	1	1	111	

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/avac2007016.pdf>