

Assessment of the Pottery from 20 Clifton Green, Clifton, York (OSA06 WB41)

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A small collection of pottery was recovered from an archaeological watching brief carried out at 20 Clifton Green, Clifton, York (OSA06 WB41). The finds range in date from the late 11th or 12th century to the late 14th century or later.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded by sherd count, number of vessels represented and weight (App 1).

Pottery

Two sherds of York Gritty ware were recovered (Holdsworth 1978; Holdsworth 1995). Both come from jars with sooting on the exterior. This ware was produced in West Yorkshire from the late 11th century until the early 13th century.

A sherd of a splash-glaze jug (YSP) with an external white slip was recovered. The fabric is red-firing and contains mixed inclusions, including angular black ironstone fragments. This fabric has been recognised on several sites in York and the Vale of York northeast of the city and a source in this area is likely. The splashed glaze is probably an indication of an early to late 12th-century date and examples of this fabric have been found consistently in later 12th century assemblages in York and the surrounding area.

A sherd of a coarse-gritted whiteware jar (YORK) was recovered. This type is coarser in texture to York Glazed ware but has a similar chemical composition and is probably the earliest product of the North Yorkshire Whiteware industry, which is known to have been in operation from the late 12th century until the early post-medieval period (as demonstrated by chemical analysis of a series of sherds from Easingwold, Vince forthcoming).

Two joining sherds of a large Humberware jug or storage jar were recovered (HUM, Brooks 1987; Vince and Steane 2005). The vessel has plain glaze inside and out and a white slip on the interior. The base of the handle join was present and appears to have had three thumb impressions.

Assessment

The pottery indicates that context 2 was deposited in the 12th century or later; context 6 was deposited in the late 14th century or later and context 6 was deposited in the late 11th century or later. The condition of the sherds suggests that they come from occupation rather than a manure scatter.

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007018.pdf>

Retention

All the sherds come from stratified deposits and should be retained for future re-examination.

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Bibliography

Brooks, C M (1987) *Medieval and Later Pottery from Aldwark and Other Sites*. The Archaeology of York 16/3 London, York Archaeol Trust

Holdsworth, J. (1978) *Selected pottery groups AD 650-1780*, Council British Archaeol, London

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

Vince, A. (forthcoming) "The Origins of the North Yorkshire Whiteware Industry."

Vince, Alan and Steane, Kate (2005) *Blue Bridge Lane and Fishergate House: Artefacts & Environmental Evidence: The Humberware Pottery*.

http://www.archaeologicalplanningconsultancy.co.uk/mono/001/rep_ceramics_humber.html

Appendix 1

Context	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
002	YSP	LEP3	SPLASH GLAZE OVER WHITE SLIP	JUG	BS	1	1	21	FRESH	
002	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	4		SOOTED EXT
004	HUM	WALMGATE	PLAIN GL INT AND EXT;WHITE SLIP INT;B/H STRAP HANDLE JOIN PROBABY WITH THREE THUMB IMPRESSIONS	JUG	BS	2	1	92	FRESH	
004	YORK	LEP1	EXT SPLASH OF PLAIN GL	JAR	BS	1	1	10		SOOTED EXT
006	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	4	SOOTED OVER ONE BROKEN EDGE	SOOTED EXT