

Assessment of Finds from Swillington Brick Quarry, Swillington, West Yorkshire (SWI06)

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A small collection of finds from Swillington Brick Quarry, Swillington, West Yorkshire, was submitted for identification and assessment. This is the third group of finds from this site to be assessed.

The finds consist of medieval pottery, none earlier than the late 11th century, and a few late finds, probably all early modern (later 18th century and later).

Description

Copper Alloy

Two coins were recovered.

SF003. A halfpenny of George V, 1914 (Seaby 4051).

SF004. A penny of George III, 1797 (Seaby 3777).

Fired Clay

A single abraded fragment of fired clay was recovered. The fabric suggests that it was made from a Coal Measures clay and contains sparse fragments of tabular iron ore; sparse fragments of red sandstone; abundant rounded red clay concretions up to 2.0mm across; and sparse subangular quartz grains up to 1.0mm across. The groundmass is a light brown, micaceous clay.

Pottery

Roman

Fragments of a flanged dish were recovered from two contexts on Site 14 (contexts 217 and 219). The fabric contains sparse rounded quartz grains of Triassic origin, not found in Eboracum ware from York but the source is otherwise not known. The form was introduced in Black Burnished ware in the early 2nd century and copied extensively in other industries. It is mostly found in 2nd century assemblages.

. A sherd of jar from Site 16, context 235, contains sparse polished, rounded quartz grains. The closest source of such greyware to Swillington is Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, where a pottery industry emerged in the later 2nd century, becoming important in the 3rd and 4th centuries.

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Medieval

Ten sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. All were abraded and are of a size typical of manure scatter, i.e. present with night soil and midden waste spread on the fields.

Nine sherds of York Gritty ware were recovered. These are of late 11th to early 13th century date and were produced in West Yorkshire. The closest source to Swillington was probably at Potterton, ten miles to the north.

A single sherd of Northern Gritty ware, the rim of a jug, was recovered. This type is probably of later 12th to 14th century date and several possible production centres are known in West Yorkshire.

Post-Medieval and Early Modern

Four sherds of post-medieval and early modern pottery were recovered. All were in an unabraded condition.

A single sherd of a slipware made from a red-firing Coal Measures clay was recovered (STRES). It comes from a bowl with an internal white slip and plain yellow glaze. Such vessels were produced in numerous centres in Yorkshire and the Midlands from the mid 17th to the mid 18th centuries.

A blackware vessel made from variegated red- and white- firing clays was recovered (STCOAR). The sherd comes from a large flanged bowl or pancheon, and is a type which was made at numerous sites in West Yorkshire and the midlands in the 17th and 18th centuries.

A rim from a grey salt-glazed stoneware jar was recovered (ENGS). The form is similar to that of vessels made in the later 19th and early 20th centuries as containers for preserves such as marmalade and jam. A similar date for this vessel is likely.

Two marbles were recovered. One of these appears to have been carved out of a brick fragment or possibly from a thick sherd of blackware whilst the other is a grey stoneware with decoration in the form of painted enamel lines. One set of lines was in a green enamel and the other, at 90 degrees to the first, is in a purple enamel. The colour of the enamels suggests an 18th-century or later date.

Assessment

The Roman finds are probably of different dates and come from different sites. Therefore, the level of activity they represent is limited. However, the flanged dish sherds consist of three sherds from a single vessel and this, plus the size and condition of the sherds, suggests that they may indicate occupation rather than a manure scatter.

The medieval sherds however were probably spread on the fields with manure whilst the post-medieval and later pottery show no evidence for abrasion and this suggests that they were not from a manure scatter.

Retention

Those finds from stratified contexts should be retained for potential re-examination at a future date. The marbles are unusual finds and should therefore also be retained.

Further Work

None of the finds require further study at present.

Appendix 1

Trench	Context	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Diam
18	123	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	5	ABR	0
14	217	GREY		FLANGED DISH	DISH	PROF	2	1	15	ABR	0
18	93	YG	GREY		JAR	B	1	1	14	ABR	0
22	79	YG			JAR	B	1	1	18	ABR	0
22	79	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	13	ABR	0
18	93	NGR		COLLAR RIM;PLAIN SPLASHED GL	JUG	R	1	1	9	ABR	0
09	23	STCOAR		BROWN SLIP INT AND EXT;BL GLAZE INT	BOWL	R	1	1	14		0
16	235	GREY	HOSM? SPARSE GSQ		JAR	BS	1	1	17	ABR	0
14	219	GREY	RQ TRIASSIC	FLANGED DISH	DISH	PROF	1	1	22	ABR	0
10	055	ENGS	GREY	SALTGLAZED JAR WITH BEAD RIM AND GROOVE AROUND NECK	JAR	R	1	1	20		0
10	054	STRES		WHITE SLIPPED INT;YELLOW GL INT	BOWL	B	1	1	7		0
20	291	YG			JAR	BS	3	2	25	ABR	0
21	239	YG		TRIANGULAR RIM	JAR	R	1	1	11	ABR	0
21	239	YG			JAR	BS	1	1	4	ABR	0
21	239	PMTIL	VARIEGATED RED/CREAM; FINE-GRAINED WHITE SST <3.0MM	PROBABLY A MARBLE CARVED OUT OF A BRICK FRAGMENT	MARBLE	WHOLE	1	1	5		0
	12130	ENGS	WHITE STONEWARE	TWO SETS OF CONCENTRIC RINGS OF ENAMEL AT 90 DEGREES TO EACH OTHER.; ONE SET IS GREEN ENAMEL AND THE OTHER IS PURPLE	MARBLE	BS	1	1	2		13

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