

Assessment of the Medieval and Later Pottery from Plot 7-18 on the Pannal to Nether Kellet Pipeline (PNK06)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A large collection of medieval and later pottery was recovered from excavations on the line of the Pannal to Nether Kellet pipeline. The pottery concerned comes from several excavations of which by far the largest assemblage is from Site 7/18. The pottery from that site consists of high to late medieval and post-medieval pottery with a possible hiatus or lessening of activity between the two periods. The site seems to have been abandoned c.1800.

Description

Pottery

The pottery was classified into ware types, all of which are common in Yorkshire and the Midlands in the medieval to post-medieval periods. However, in many cases it is likely that these types refer to a tradition, in which vessels were made using similar fabrics, forms and decoration but whose production sites could not easily be determined. In particular, this appears to be true of much of the post-medieval slipwares, which was produced in the Staffordshire tradition but includes both vessels which would be indistinguishable from products from the Potteries and those whose fabric, or form or decoration mark them out as being local, Yorkshire, products (Cumberpatch 2003; Cumberpatch 2006).

Medieval

The earliest medieval pottery types known in West Yorkshire are York A ware, produced at Thorer and York Gritty ware, probably produced at Potterton. Thorer and Potterton are neighbouring parishes about 20 miles southeast of Plot 7-18. Both of these wares are found at York, 20 miles to the east of the production sites. It is, however, arguable whether the absence of these wares from Plot 7-18 is solid evidence that the site was not occupied during the currency of these wares, from the late 9th to the 12th centuries, since at present it seems that both were producing pottery mainly for the urban market, from where it was probable redistributed.

The earliest type present is Northern Gritty ware (NGR). Analysis of a large collection of pottery from Inganthorpe Manor, nr Wetherby, included comparative study of pottery from kiln sites at Baildon, Follifoot, Winksley and Grantley as well as pottery from a consumer site in Knaresborough (Vince 2005b; Vince 2005a; Bellamy and Le Patourel 1970). These studies concluded that Northern Gritty ware was produced from clays outcropping alongside coals in the Millstone Grit and Coal Measures formations and that individual potteries employed clays with a range of properties, depending on the purpose for which the pottery was intended and

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

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probably also the changing fashions in pottery appearance and decoration. Nevertheless, it was possible at Inganthorpe Manor to say that the source of the pottery was probable one or more potteries situated to the northwest of the site, and that no pottery from Baildon, Follifoot, Grantley or Winksley was present. The pottery from Knaresborough, on the other hand, could well have come from the same source.

Visually, the large collection of Northern Gritty ware from Plot 7-18 appears to have a great deal of uniformity, both in fabric and typology, and it is quite likely that it was all produced at a single centre. The typology of the jar rims is similar to that from the Upper Heaton kiln, located about 26 miles south of the site, but this might be due to the regional tradition of pottery production shared by potters over a large area of West Yorkshire, rather than because the Askwith vessels were made at Upper Heaton. In total, 276 sherds were recovered, representing no more than 178 vessels and weighing in total 2.985 Kg (Table 1).

Table 1

Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight	Sum of NoV
CAUL	22	128	1
JAR	239	2424	165
JUG	9	279	9
JUG/JAR	1	2	1
LARGE JAR	5	152	2
Grand Total	276	2985	178

The vessels mostly came from wheelthrown jars, which mostly have soot adhering to the exterior. Definite sherds of jug were rare (9 in total). Several sherds come from a cauldron, having opposed angled handles and a sharply everted rim. These features are common on late medieval metal vessels and this appears to have been a direct copy of such vessels, although similar vessels were produced in the Low Countries in the later 14th to early 16th centuries (Hurst, Neal, and van Beuningen 1986, Dutch Red Earthenware).

A small number of sherds have features which could be drawn (Rims from 19 vessels and 3 handles). Several of the vessels appear to offer the possibility of reconstruction which might reduce the number of vessels present but increase the value of the illustrations).

At Inganthorpe Manor, Northern Gritty ware was thought to have been in use from the late 12th to the mid 14th century, but a longer date range at Askwith is quite possible.

The only other ware present is Humberware (HUM). This is a fine red earthenware whose silty fabric is a result of the use of either post-glacial lacustrine clays or marine/estuarine clays in the Humber wetlands (Hayfield 1992). Fifty sherds of Humberware were present, mostly body sherds which might be from either jugs or jars. Eleven jug sherds, five jar sherds and three sherds from small unglazed drinking jugs were identified. The latter form is particularly characteristic of the later 14th century but Humberware was used from the mid 14th century to the early 16th century.

No other sherds which might be of medieval date were present.

Late Medieval/Transitional

Seventy three sherds of wares which could have been used either side of the mid 16th century dissolution were present. They represent no more than 50 vessels and weigh in totals 1.158 Kg (Table 2). The most common ware is Ryedale ware, produced in North Yorkshire at sites in the Hambleton Hills and the Ryedale. This ware appears to have been in use in the late 15th century and is certainly present at or before the dissolution on monastic sites. It is not certain how late the industry continued. At Castle Howard, for example, the ware was in use in the village which preceded the stately home, alongside late 17th century slipwares, but it is only an assumption that the smashed vessels of these two types were contemporary (Vince 2002). Similarly, the ware is often found in late 17th century deposits in York, but it is rare for these not to contain residual material. A range of vessels was represented but bowls were by far the most common type.

The other ware present is Cistercian ware, definitely in production in Yorkshire by the early 16th century but quite probably already present by the late 15th century (A Boyle pers comm). Most of these vessels are cups but the handle from a standing costrel was also present.

Table 2

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight	Sum of NoV
CSTN	COSTREL	1	19	1
	CUP	14	157	12
RYEDALE	BOWL	44	809	29
	BOWL/JAR	1	6	1
	HANDLED BOWL	1	18	1
	HANDLED JAR	8	93	3
	JAR	2	32	2
	JUG	2	22	1
Grand Total		73	1156	50

Early Post-Medieval (Late 16th to Mid 17th century)

From the late 16th century onwards, a series of pottery production centres were in operation in Yorkshire whose basic appearance does not vary much over a long period of time.

Examples at Plot 7-18 include several types – classed simply as “blackware” (BL) which might be of any date from the late 16th to the late 18th century. However, it is possible to identify other wares more closely and these indicate that there is a late 16th to mid 17th century component to the pottery collection.

Three wares in particular can be dated to this period (Table 3). These consist of Brownware (BERTH); Midlands Purple (MP) and Midlands Yellow ware (MY). Brownware has a red earthenware body and a brown glaze. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish this ware from glazed red earthenware, which has a plain lead glaze, but where the glaze can be accidentally coloured by bleeding of iron-rich inclusions into the glaze. Nevertheless, in most cases the intention to produce a brown glaze is evident. Midlands Purple and Midlands Yellow ware are both types which had a wide currency both in the midlands and Yorkshire. In

this collection, none of the finds has any features which would definitely prove that they were locally produced but a Yorkshire source is likely. There are a few forms and decorative types produced in this period which might allow a closer date but at Plot 7-18 only the broader, late 16th to mid 17th century, date is possible. Several of these vessels are smashed and the possibility of reconstruction of complete profiles exists.

Table 3

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight	Sum of NoV
BERTH	BOWL	2	5	2
	CHPT	21	187	5
	CUP	7	31	6
	JAR	10	50	10
	JUG	2	58	2
	POSS	3	18	3
	POSS/CHPT	6	42	6
MP	BOWL/CHPT	1	91	1
	CHPT	1	7	1
	CUP	6	90	5
	JAR	43	747	24
	JAR/CHPT	2	35	2
	LARGE JAR	1	42	1
	POSS	3	103	2
MY	BOWL	18	246	9
	JAR	8	634	4
	POSS	7	195	2
Grand Total		141	2581	85

Later Post-Medieval (Late 17th to Mid 18th century)

The majority of the datable post-medieval types date to the late 17th to mid 18th centuries. Most of these are of Staffordshire slipware tradition and include some probable Staffordshire products (such as a brown stoneware tankard of late 17th/early 18th century date) but a lot which are certainly not Staffordshire and are probably "local" (Table 4). By the end of the period, however, even this undefinable "feel" is likely to be unreliable since the same potters were setting up factories in Yorkshire and Staffordshire and there is likely to have been a movement of potters between the two regions. In total, 877 sherds of these definitely late 17th to mid 18th century types were present, representing no more than 671 vessels and weighing 7.745 Kg.

Most of the vessels are slipwares made from light-firing and red-firing Coal Measures clays. Most of the vessels were made on the wheel but a number of press-moulded vessels were also found.

Table 4

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight	Sum of NoV
AGATE	DISH	1	2	1
AGATE Total		1	2	1

NOTS	BOWL	18	66	15
	BOWL/JAR	2	51	2
	CUP	7	74	4
	CUP/TANK	1	3	1
	CUP/TANK/JAR	1	2	1
	DJ	9	168	2
	HANDLED JAR	27	719	2
	JAR	41	394	21
	JAR/TANK	1	2	1
	JUG	3	47	2
TANK	18	231	13	
NOTS Total		128	1757	64
REFR	CUP	1	1	1
	JUG	7	31	4
	TPOT	1	14	1
REFR Total		9	46	6
STBRS	TANK	6	105	5
STBRS Total		6	105	5
STCO		18	91	15
	DISH	40	552	24
STCO Total		58	643	39
STEM	DISH	4	85	3
STEM Total		4	85	3
STMO	BOWL	21	295	7
	CUP	36	149	29
	FLANGED BOWL	4	54	4
	JAR	2	8	2
	JUG	2	1	1
	POSS	28	174	16
	POSSET	1	4	1
	SMALL FLANGED BOWL	1	1	1
	TANK	12	44	7
STMO Total		107	730	68
STRE	BOWL	1	2	1
STRE Total		1	2	1
STRES	?	1	39	1
	BOWL	127	1513	112
	CHARGER	1	9	1
	FLANGED BOWL	3	43	2
	JAR	2	6	2
	LARGE SHALLOW DISH	3	91	1
	PANC	9	283	6
STRES Total		146	1984	125
STSL	?	1	2	1
	BOT	1	2	1
	BOWL	2	49	2
	CHPT	2	21	2
	CUP	199	890	174
	JAR	2	5	2
	JAR/BOWL	1	7	1
	LARGE POSSET	10	148	1

	POSS	100	858	83
	POSS/CUP	4	20	4
	POSSET	1	10	1
	SMALL FLANGED BOWL	1	4	1
	TANK	29	135	28
STSL Total		353	2151	301
SWSG	BOWL	6	11	6
	BOWL/JAR	1	1	1
	CUP	7	14	6
	DISH	17	50	14
	JAR	2	4	2
	JUG	1	10	1
	LID	2	11	2
	PLATE	4	14	4
	TANK	6	22	6
	TPOT	1	3	1
SWSG Total		47	140	43
TGW	ALB	6	69	5
	BOWL	3	5	2
	CHARGER	1	3	1
	DISH	1	8	1
	PLATE	5	12	5
TGW Total		16	97	14
WHIELDON	DISH	1	3	1
WHIELDON Total		1	3	1
Grand Total		877	7745	671

Wares made in Coal Measures light-firing clays consist of press-moulded slipware (STCO); embossed, press-moulded slipware (STEM); Mottled ware (STMO); some slip-decorated wheelthrown openwares (STRES) and slip-decorated wheelthrown closed wares (STSL). Wares made in Coal Measures red-firing clays consist of black-glazed redware (STRE) and some of the slip-decorated wheelthrown openwares (STRES). Nottingham and Staffordshire Brown stonewares were also produced from Coal Measures light-firing clays (NOTS and STBRS respectively). Many of these vessels appear to be reconstructable and the resulting reconstructed vessels are likely to be complete enough to allow the overall decorative scheme to be identified. There are several distinct types present, some of which were common in Staffordshire and other which are not. The latter include vessels in which the mottled glaze of the Staffordshire mottled ware was imitated by the use of a thin brown slip below a plain lead glaze. Initial study suggests that most of the types present are likely to have been in use in the late 17th to early 18th century and none, for example, were finished using lathe turning, a technique seen quite often in the mid 18th century as slipware producers adopted techniques introduced or invented by the fineware potters making stonewares and, later, refined earthenwares.

There is a tremendous amount of variability in the slipwares. To give one example, the wheelthrown redware slipwares (STRES) include six sherds from large bowls with a combed

slipware panel on the flat centre of the vessel. Comparison of these sherds indicates that they all come from different vessels and were decorated in three different styles:

a) An overall very pale brown slip, with dark brown and white slips trailed over each other in the flat centre of the bowl and then feathered by running a tool through the slips in a wavy pattern.

b) An overall very pale brown slip, with light brown and white slips trailed over each other in the flat centre of the bowl and then feathered by running a tool through the slips in a wavy pattern.

c) An overall pale brown slip (darker than in (a) or (b), with parallel white trailed lines in the central band, combed at right angles to the lines.

A small number of refined wares were present, made from clays which were heavily prepared (by sieving, levigation, addition of crushed bone, flint or china clay and the like) before use. These consist of a sherd from an Agate ware vessel (AGATE); nine sherds of refined redware (REFR); 47 sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG) and a sherd of Whieldon ware (WHIELDON). All of these types are likely to have been made in the mid 18th century, c.1740s to c.1770s although it is impossible to say how long they would have remained in use, quite possibly until the end of the century. The white stoneware, for example, includes very few plain tankards, a type which was produced from c.1720 until c.1760 but which is most common in the earlier decades, and includes a high proportion of scratch-blue decorated vessels. Scratch blue was introduced in imitation of Westerwald stoneware in the 1740s and is most common in the 1750s. It rapidly fell out of fashion with the introduction of Creamware which was in commercial production from c.1765 onwards.

There is a large amount of potential information on the typology of these vessels, including vessel profile shapes, rim, base and handle forms and decorative methods and schemes. Some of these have been recorded in the catalogue (App 1) but much more could be done.

Early Modern (Late 18th century)

A small quantity of pottery is of types which were introduced in the 1760s, Creamware (CREA), and 1770s, Pearlware (PEAR). A total of 88 sherds were recovered, representing no more than 28 vessels and weighing in total 0.511 Kg (Table 5). In addition, a number of vessels of Sunderland slipware were present (SUND). These are known to have been produced alongside finewares and exported down the eastern seaboard. They occur widely in Yorkshire and this site is one of the few where a late 18th century, as opposed to a 19th-century, date can be reliably assigned.

The Creamware vessels include several plates whose moulded rims are capable of being classified and more closely dated. Some of the other Creamware forms are also potentially datable.

Table 5

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight	Sum of NoV
CREA	BOWL	5	9	2
	CUP	1	1	1
	DISH	2	3	1
	LID	1	3	1
	PLATE	70	451	19
	PLATE?	1	1	1
	TANK	1	4	1
PEAR	BOWL	6	38	1
	PLATE	1	1	1
SUND	BOWL	24	600	14
	FLANGED BOWL	11	302	9
	LARGE BOWL	1	46	1
Grand Total		124	1459	52

Early Modern (19th century and later)

Only one sherd of definitely 19th-century date was present, a refined whiteware dish with a light blue sprigged flower decoration. Transfer printed ware, buff ware, and Derbyshire stoneware, all of which are typical of early 19th century assemblages, are all absent.

Assessment

Phase 1

Pottery was recovered from five phase 1 contexts: 13065, a buried soil predating the Phase 1 stone building; 13098 – a cultivation horizon which is the earliest deposit excavated; 13087 – the primary fill of ditch 13058; 13101 – the fill of ditch 13102 and 13016, the fill of the robber trench of the south wall of the Phase 1 building, 13017.

Two post-medieval sherds were present, a Brownware from 13065 and a press-moulded slipware from 13098. Both are probably intrusive. With their exception, the latest types present are Humberware, from ditch 13058 and cultivation horizon 13098, and possibly the cauldron handle from robber trench 13016 (although this could, as suggested above, date to the late 13th to 14th centuries and be a direct copy of contemporary metalware). The Humberware is of later 14th century or later date. It is not clear whether the Humberware is contemporary with the Northern Gritty ware in this phase or replaced that ware. This leaves two alternative chronologies:

- a) A long chronology in which the Phase 1 building was built, used and its south wall demolished before Humberware arrived on the site and there is a hiatus in the later 14th century and later or
- b) A short chronology in which all the Phase 1 activity took place in the later 14th century and later.

Table 6

Context group	Context	BERTH	HUM	NGR	STCO	Grand Total
BURIED SOIL	13065	1		2		3
CULTIVATION HORIZON	13098		1	46	1	48
DITCH 13058	13087		3			3
DITCH 13102	13103			14		14
ROBBER TRENCH 13017	13016			145		145
Grand Total		1	4	207	1	213

Phase 1 to 2

A layer of silt (13085) overlay the backfilled ditch 13058. It produced three sherds: one Northern Gritty ware, one Humberware and one sherd of a tin-glazed vessel.

A similar layer (13096) pre-dates the south and east walls of the Phase 2 structure. It produced 52 sherds, ranging in date to the mid 18th century. However, this late date relies on a single small sherd of white salt-glazed stoneware and if that is ignored then a date in the late 17th century can be given, on the basis of sherds of Nottingham Stoneware and a range of Staffordshire-type slipwares. The largest sherds, all of which come from smashed vessels, are of Ryedale ware, Midlands Purple ware and Midlands Yellow ware, all of which can be dated to the later 16th to mid 17th centuries.

These two deposits suggest that there was a hiatus between the Phase 1 occupation, whatever its absolute date, and the construction of the Phase 2 building.

Phase 2

One wall of the medieval Phase 1 structure was reused as the wall of a new building whose other walls were new. Very few deposits can be associated with the construction or use of the building. A single sherd of pottery, the rim of a pancheon in a mixed red/white clay (STCOAR) is recorded as coming from the east wall, and, assuming that it was present in the wall before its destruction, this would date the construction to the later 17th century at the earliest. Twelve sherds come from the surface of the cross passage, 13043. These include sherds of mottled ware and a light-bodied wheelthrown slipware cup which also indicate a late 17th century or later date. However, these sherds could have been trodden into the surface during the use of the building and do not date its construction. Finally, five sherds come from the fill of a cess pit, 13029. Three of these come from the same vessel, which has been burnt and is impossible to identify. The other two sherds are of glazed red earthenware, which is impossible to date closely, and another sherd of a STCOAR flanged bowl, like that from the east wall.

These finds are consistent with the building having been constructed in the 17th century but leave the precise date uncertain.

Phase 3

An addition was added to the Phase 2 building and the original building and its annex were then in use together until the abandonment and collapse of both structures.

A small quantity of pottery is associated with the construction of the Phase 3 structure. Twenty-five sherds were recovered from a dump, 13050, which pre-dated the construction and is probably contemporary with it. All of the types present are of wares present in the 17th century, including several of late 17th-century or later date. Four sherds were recovered from the paved floor of the structure, 13006. These are of Ryedale ware and wheelthrown slip-decorated redware (STRES). The latter indicates a late 17th century or later date. Eight sherds were recovered from a clay floor, 13028, of which one was a white saltglazed plate, of mid 18th century date.

On the basis of this single plate sherd, a mid 18th century date can be assigned to the Phase 3 structure.

A small amount of pottery can be associated with the use of this Phase 3 structure. 43 sherds come from occupation layer 13015. Several of these are clearly residual and of medieval or late 16th/early 17th century date. The remainder are mostly of types which were used in the late 17th to mid 18th centuries. Four sherds are of mid 18th century types: a refined redware jug; two Sunderland coarseware bowl sherds; and a white saltglazed dish. Two sherds were recovered from the fill of a sump, 13063. Both are of types with a long date-range in the later 17th to mid 18th centuries.

The material from 13015 indicates that the Phase 3 structure was in use in the mid 18th century.

A large quantity of material was present in the rubble spread which covered the site of both structures. The material was recorded in six contexts (13001; 13002; 13007; 13010; 13011 and 13014). In addition, much of this material was recorded by grid square, allowing spatial variability to be sought. In total 1497 sherds were recovered from this spread, representing no more than 1045 vessels and weighing 23.872 Kg.

The deposit includes a number of late 18th century types, including 64 sherds of Creamware and 6 sherds of Pearlware, all from one vessel, a bowl for which a complete profile can be reconstructed. The low quantity of Pearlware and the absence of transfer-printed ware suggests an end date before 1800.

Several of the sherds in this rubble were parts of vessels spread across contexts although most of the joining sherds come from the same context and grid square. This suggests that vessels were mostly lying where they were discarded and smashed which would imply that these vessels were in use at the end of the site's occupation (or that the site was used as dumping ground). However, the list of smashed vessel types in this deposit includes types of

mid 17th century or earlier date and this would imply that these vessels were in use for perhaps 150 years.

The pottery from this deposit consists of a wide variety of forms, of varying functions, and if the material was indeed in use in this complex there is a strong possibility that the distribution of vessel forms reflects the use of the structures.

Pottery was recorded context 13081, the fill of a stone structure, interpreted as a fireplace. Three sherds were present, a flanged bowl of Sunderland Coarseware and a Creamware plate and tankard.

Twenty-two sherds were recovered from context 13074, the fill of a drain, 13069. However, all of the types present are of medieval or early post-medieval date, apart from a single sherd of a Staffordshire-type white slipware posset pot, which could also predate the construction of the Phase 2 building.

Further Work

Two importance and potential of the pottery from Plot 7-18 can be considered separately for the medieval and post-medieval assemblages.

Medieval

There is a reasonably large collection of stratified medieval pottery from the site and when residual sherds are included this becomes a large collection. 322 sherds. However, many of these sherds come from the same vessels and looking only at material from the same contexts the maximum number of vessels present can be reduced to 100. Undoubtedly, a cross-context search for joins would reduce the number of vessels further and also probably provide more information about the phasing of the site in the medieval period, by showing whether or not certain contexts were filled contemporaneously or, if not, their relative sequence. A maximum of 26 vessels could be drawn, probably reducible to around 20 following cross-context comparison. These vessels are represented by sizeable fragments of vessel, in which the profile, rim diameter and perhaps even the complete profile can be established. On rural settlements such assemblages are rare. It is therefore recommended that this searching for complete vessels is undertaken and when completed that all the vessels are drawn unless a close match can be made with other vessels in the assemblage.

At this stage, it would be useful to consult a local specialist, Steve Moorhouse, who has over 30 years experience of Dales medieval pottery.

It is then recommended that the source of the vessels is investigated. This should include analysis of a sample of vessels from the Upper Heaton kiln, whose products are close in form to the Askwith vessels, and that a sample of the Askwith Northern Gritty vessels are compared with these Upper Heaton samples, and with the data collected from Baildon and other kiln and consumer sites.

Similarly, a sample of the Humberware vessels should be analysed for comparison with the material from Follifoot, York, Holme-upon-Spalding Moor and West Cowick. This would test whether or not the Askwith site was relying on a remote pottery source in the later medieval period (Follifoot is only 14 miles to the east but West Cowick is 44 miles to the east and Holme-upon-Spalding Moor is 62 miles to the east).

Finally, the Ryedale ware from Askwith could be sampled and compared with material from production sites in the Hambleton Hills and Ryedale ware from a consumer site in York. If it could be proved that the site was relying on these remote sources then the lack of more exotic wares in the collection would tell us something new about the way in which sites such as Askwith were provisioned and suggest that distribution was in the hands of travelling hawkers who bought supplies of pottery direct from the producer rather than the occupants themselves travelling to market towns such as Otley or Ikley where they would have had a wider choice. The results of these studies should then be prepared for publication.

The recommended work is summarised in Table 7.

Table 7

Task	Rate	Amount excl VAT
Searching for cross-fits	£196 plus VAT per day	£392.00
Selecting sherds for illustration and analysis	£24.00 plus VAT per hour	£96.00
Obtaining comments on the medieval assemblage	£196 plus VAT per day (AGV), £200 per day (SM) plus travel (car hire and fuel)	£300.00
Thin section and chemical analysis of Upper Heaton samples (6 sherds in total, 12 samples)	£24.00 plus VAT per sample	£288.00
Thin section and chemical analysis of Askwith samples (18 sherds in total, 36 samples)	£24.00 plus VAT per sample	£864.00
Report preparation	£196 plus VAT per day	£392.00
Total		£2,332.00
VAT		£408.10
Grand Total		£2740.10

Post-Medieval

The post-medieval pottery is at least as important as the medieval pottery and is certainly a much larger and more varied collection. With a few exceptions, it is likely that much of the material was locally produced, but using similar techniques to those employed in the Staffordshire potteries. The exceptions include the tin-glazed ware and the Sunderland coarseware. The latter is present as a remarkably high proportion of the late 18th century pottery found and it would be worthwhile testing this identification using thin section and chemical analysis since the implication is that pottery was carried overland for a distance of about 90 miles from Sunderland to Wharfedale. It is possible that the pottery was transported by sea to the Tees but until the Tees Navigation act of 1808 (48 George III. Cap. 48, Royal Assent 27th May, 1808) the Tees itself was not navigable as far upriver as Stockton, which is itself 64 miles from Askwith. The possibility of a local source for the Sunderland coarseware should therefore be explored, although several sherds were noted as having a "salt-surfacing", an accidental result of making pottery from a brine-rich calcareous clay, certainly not to be expected in local West Yorkshire potteries.

It would also be worthwhile examining the fabric of red-firing and light-firing vessels which are clearly not of Staffordshire origin and comparing them with vessels where a Staffordshire source is either likely or possible. By this means it would be possible to estimate the amount of pottery from the site which was of "local" origin. Here, "local" can be glossed as "West Yorkshire". It is not thought that this slipware was actually produced in Wharfedale.

A typological study of the pottery should then be undertaken. This is necessary because it is clear from the assessment that parts of the same vessel lie scattered across the site, and it should be possible to reconstruct complete profiles of numerous vessels. Since most of these reconstructable vessels come from the spread of rubble over the top of the Phase 2 and 3 structures which was clearly deposited in the late 18th century, it is likely that many are vessels which were in use at the end of the 18th century, long after such slipware types had ceased to be produced in Staffordshire or are found on consumer sites in the west midlands. Being aware of the precise forms, fabrics and decoration of these late types could affect the dating of other sites in West Yorkshire and could either indicate the late production of such types for a conservative Dales market or may indicate that pottery on this site had a long lifespan, in which case it would be useful to know precisely which types lasted longest. It is also possible that this rubble spread incorporates material discarded outside the house during its occupation but spread back onto the house site at the demolition period, levelling the plot for further building. The results of a detailed analysis of the material may well allow us to choose between these options.

Table 8 lists the recommended tasks for the post-medieval pottery. The daily charge-out rate and the cost of thin section and chemical analysis is due to increase, to £25.00 per hour and £25.00 per thin section or chemical analysis

Table 8

Task	Rate	Amount excl VAT
Searching for cross-fits	£196 plus VAT per day	£980.00
Selecting sherds for illustration and analysis	£24.00 plus VAT per hour	£588.00
Illustration	Not quoted	Not quoted
Thin section and chemical analysis of Sunderland Coarseware samples and comparanda from Gateshead/Sunderland (18 sherds in total, 36 samples)	£24.00 plus VAT per sample	£864.00
Thin section and chemical analysis of Staffordshire-type slipware samples (36 samples).	£24.00 plus VAT per sample	£864.00
Report preparation	£196 plus VAT per day	£980.00
Total		£4,276.00
VAT		£748.30
Grand Total		£5,024.30

Retention

The collection is a valuable archaeological resource, because of the methods used to excavate and record it. It should therefore be retained in its entirety, with the possible exception of unstratified material. However, even the unstratified collection appears to be of exactly the same character as the stratified material and may well include missing parts of stratified vessels. Therefore, in this instance, the unstratified material too should be retained.

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