

Assessment of the Pottery from Plot 8-5, Pannal to Nether Kellet Pipeline (PNK06)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

Excavations in advance of the Pannal to Nether Kellet pipeline were undertaken by Network Archaeology Ltd. At Plot 8-5 an iron-working site was discovered. The earliest activity revealed was a ditch, which was cut by a linear feature interpreted as a hedge which contained metalworking debris in its fill. This in turn was sealed by a spread of burnt material associated with iron working. Other features consist of a slag mound; a furnace; an area of crushed ore and charcoal; a trampled floor of small pebbles; a small pit interpreted as a clay quarry; and a complex of pits and hearths.

Description

Pottery

Medieval

Ninety-nine sherds of medieval pottery were recovered (Table 1). They consist of three sherds of Humberware and ninety-six sherds of northern gritty ware. Several of the northern gritty sherds come from the same vessels and the maximum total number of vessels represented is 82.

The pottery found is of two types: Humberware and Northern Gritty ware. Both are described in the assessment of the Plot 7-18 pottery.

The Humberware is of mid 14th to early 16th century date and the northern gritty ware could be slightly earlier or contemporary, since its date range probably extended from the later 12th to at least the 14th century.

Table 1

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight	Average of ASW
HUM	JUG/JAR	3	3	20	6.67
NGR	JAR	87	72	399	6.63
	JUG	9	7	115	11.65
Grand Total		99	82	534	7.64

Several of the sherds were abraded and six of the sherds have fresh breaks. This abrasion, taken alongside the low average sherd weight, mean that it is uncertain whether the pottery was contemporary refuse or incorporated in the deposits from earlier activity.

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/avac2007027.pdf>

Early Modern

A single very small fragment of Creamware was recovered.

Assessment

Stratigraphy and Chronology

Pottery was recovered from six contexts: the fill of the hedge line (11030); the spread of burnt material (11015 and 11021); the roasted ore and charcoal spread (11004); the slag mound (11003) and the slag pit of the furnace (11016). It therefore seems that the iron-working activity is later than late 12th century. The latest type comes from the slag mound, although with such small numbers of sherds this may not indicate that slag continued to be added to the mound after the excavated furnace and hearths were abandoned (i.e. that there were other furnaces and hearths in the vicinity). However, it does imply that the activity continued into the mid 14th century.

Table 2

context group	Form	HUM	NGR	Grand Total
burnt material (11015 and 11021)	JAR		62	62
	JUG		9	9
possible hedge line (11030)	JAR		10	10
roasted ore and charcoal (11004)	JAR		2	2
slag mound (11003)	JAR		5	5
	JUG/JAR	3		3
slag pit in furnace (11016)	JAR		8	8
Grand Total		3	96	99

Further Work

The collection of medieval pottery from this site is relatively small and only contains two featured sherds. However, because it provides the only dating evidence for the iron-working activity on the site it is worth trying to establish the date of the pottery more closely. There are three approaches: an examination of the typology of the sherds, concentrating on the two rims; an examination of the fabric, to establish their sources or, failing that, to establish whether or not the pottery came from the same sources as that supplying the Scales settlement investigated on Plot 7-18; and finally to establish local parallels for the rim forms by obtaining specialist advice from Steve Moorhouse.

Costing

Table 3 indicates the cost of this work and assumes that if this work takes place then that on the medieval pottery from Plot 7-18 will also take place and therefore there would be only a minimal extra. If not, then travel and specialist costs would be required.

Table 3

Task	Rate	Amount
Illustrate featured sherds	Not costed (drawings to be undertaken by Network Archaeology in-house staff)	£0
Selection of sherds, cataloguing and liaison with illustrator	£24.00 plus VAT per hour	£24.00
Thin section and chemical analysis of Northern Gritty (6) and Humberware (3) samples	£24.00 plus VAT per TS or ICPS sample	£432.00
Visit to Steve Moorhouse (assuming no share of travel and my time)	£30.00 minimum charge	£30.00
Production of report suitable for inclusion in publication	£24.00 plus VAT per hour	£96.00
Total		£582.00
VAT		£101.85
Grand Total		£683.85

Appendix 1

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use
11003	NGR	JAR		BS	5	5	12	2.40	ABRA	
11003	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	3	20	6.67	ABRA	
11003	CREA	JUG	BAND OF BROWN INDUST SLIP EXT	BS	1	1	1	1.00		
11004	NGR	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA	SOOTED EXT
11004	NGR	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00		
11015	NGR	JUG	GLAZE INT	BS	4	4	29	7.25	GLAZE DECAYED	
11015	NGR	JAR		R	1	1	4	4.00		SOOTED RIM EXT
11015	NGR	JAR		BS	18	18	85	4.72		
11015	NGR	JAR		BS	19	19	75	3.95		SOOTED EXT
11015	NGR	JAR		BS	2	2	35	17.50	LARGE IRON CONCRETIONS	SOOTED EXT

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								ADHERING		
11015	NGR	JAR		BS	4	4	48	12.00	LARGE IRON CONCRETIONS ADHERING	
11015	NGR	JUG	GLAZE INT	B;BS	3	1	70	23.33	GLAZE DECAYED	
11016	NGR	JAR		BS	2	1	4	2.00		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
11016	NGR	JAR		BS	6	1	14	2.33	FRESH BREAKS	SOOTED EXT
11021	NGR	JUG	GLAZE INT	BS	1	1	9	9.00	GLAZE DECAYED	
11021	NGR	JUG	DRIBBLES OF GLAZE EXT	BS	1	1	7	7.00		DARK DEP INT
11021	NGR	JAR		BS	1	1	35	35.00	LARGE IRON CONCRETIONS ADHERING	SOOTED EXT
11021	NGR	JAR		BS	1	1	5	5.00		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT
11021	NGR	JAR		BS	2	2	3	1.50		SOOTED EXT
11021	NGR	JAR		BS	14	14	52	3.71		
11030	NGR	JAR	SMALL; THIN WALLED	R;BS	10	1	24	2.40		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT