

# Assessment of the Finds from 95 Front Street, Acomb, North Yorkshire (OSA07 EV06)

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A small collection of finds from an archaeological evaluation carried out at 95 Front Street, Acomb by On-Site Archaeology was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds consisted of pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipes, iron and glass. The earliest finds date to the Roman period and the latest to the 19<sup>th</sup> century or later.

## Description

The finds were identified and recorded by fragment count (NOSH), the maximum number of vessels (NOV) and the weight in grams (Table 1).

*Table 1*

Class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	47	46	1477
IRON	2	2	50
PIPECLAY	9	8	34
PMGL	3	3	0
POTTERY	90	82	1911
Grand Total	151	141	3472

## Ceramic Building Material

Forty seven fragments of ceramic building material were recorded. Twelve were too small for easy identification, twenty were identified as medieval and the remainder, 15, as post-medieval.

The medieval examples are flat roof tiles, typical of later 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>-century deposits in York. Eight have salt-surfacing on the exterior, indicating that they were made from a brine-rich clay, such as Permo-Triassic marls or Quaternary estuarine mud. Wasters of tiles with a similar appearance have been found at Cawood (Vince and Steane 2004) which in the late medieval period is documented as supplying roof tiles to York (Betts 1991). The remaining tiles may be of similar origin or may be local.

The post-medieval tiles consist of ten fragments of brick, three of which have salt-surfacing, and five fragments of pantile, none of which were salt-surfaced. Bricks first regularly occur on archaeological sites in York in late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century deposits whilst pantiles are first found in post-medieval deposits (i.e. late 16<sup>th</sup> century or later) and are probably mostly later 17<sup>th</sup> century or later.

## Clay Tobacco Pipes

Nine fragment of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. The bore was present in five instances and the diameter in one case (context 206) was consistent with a later 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date and in the remainder was consistent with a later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. One fragment came from a spurred pipe with a relief-decorated bowl, a 19<sup>th</sup> century type but too incomplete for closer identification.

## Glass

Three fragments of glass were recovered but were not submitted for identification. That from context 204 is an unidentified clear fragment, probably later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. That from context 302 is a light green bottle fragment, which could be of 17<sup>th</sup> century or later date and that from context 210 is a fragment of window glass with a light blue tinge, probably of later 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

## Iron

Two fragments of iron were recorded. That from context 303 is a nail and that from context 316 is a fragment of drain or gutter, probably of recent date but potentially of later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. .

## Pottery

### Roman

A small fragment of mortaria, not identified to ware or fabric, was recorded from context 310. It can only be broadly dated between the late 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Medieval

Seventeen sherds of medieval pottery were recorded (Table 2). The earliest type present is York Gritty ware (YG) which could date to any point between the later 11<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Beverley-type ware (BEVO2B, fine-textured, suspension-glazed) is probably of later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date, although Beverley ware itself has a wider date range (mid 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, Watkins 1991). The York glazed ware (YORK) is also of later 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date. Brandsby-type ware (BRAN) is of later 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date whilst the Humberware is of mid 14<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Table 2*

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
BEVO2B	JUG	1	1	62
BRAN	JAR	1	1	64
HUM	JUG	1	1	4
	JUG/JAR	6	5	45
YG	JAR	4	4	15
YG/YORK	JAR	1	1	7

YORK	JAR	2	2	4
	JUG	1	1	2
Grand Total		17	16	203

Post-Medieval

Twenty-four sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded (Table 3). The blackwares (BL) and glazed red earthenwares (GRE) cannot be closely dated but Ryedale ware is of later 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>-century date and the Frechen stoneware is of later 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date. The refined redware (REFR) is probably of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date and the tin-glazed ware (TGW) is of later 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

Table 3

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
BL	BOWL	3	2	122
	CUP	1	1	5
	JAR	3	2	73
	PANC	1	1	114
FREC	BOT	1	1	176
GRE	BOWL	6	5	48
	JUG	2	1	399
	PANC	2	2	118
REFR	TANK	1	1	2
RYEDALE	JAR	1	1	10
	JUG	2	2	44
TGW	BOWL	1	1	3
Grand Total		24	20	1114

Early Modern

Forty-six sherds of later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date were recorded (Table 4). They include wares which are typical of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century (Creamware, CREA, and Pearlware, PEAR) and types which first occur in the 19<sup>th</sup> century such as buffware (NCBW) and misc refined whiteware (WHITE). The remaining types all have long periods of use and cannot be closely dated without further work.

Table 4

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
BBAS	TPOT LID	1	1	9
CREA	BOWL	5	2	57
	FOOTRING	1	1	4
	PLATE	12	12	29
ENPO	CUP	1	1	1
	PLATE	1	1	1
LPMLOC	FLP	1	1	6
LPMX	JAR	1	1	4
NCBW	BOWL	1	1	4
NOTS	BOT	1	1	8
	JAR	1	1	1
PEAR	BOWL	1	1	8

	PLATE	4	4	10
SUND	BOWL	7	7	341
TPW	BOWL	1	1	1
	PLATE	3	3	37
	TURINE LID	1	1	6
	VASE/JAR	1	1	12
WHITE	DISH	1	1	11
	PLATE	1	1	3
Grand Total		46	43	553

## Assessment

### Stratigraphy and Interpretation

#### Trench 1

Five contexts in Trench 1 produced finds (Table 5). TPQs for the deposition of these contexts are 102 (garden soil) - late 15<sup>th</sup> century; 104 (Ditch 105) – late 18<sup>th</sup> century; 106 (F107) – later 16<sup>th</sup> century; 108 (F109) – later 16<sup>th</sup> century; 110 (F111) – later 15<sup>th</sup> century.

These finds therefore indicate that there are three early post-medieval features in this trench which were each cut by ditch 105 which was sealed by a garden soil, 102, which cannot have been formed until after the backfill of 105 in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later.

*Table 5*

Cname	102	104	106	108	110	Grand Total	
BEVO2B				1		1	
BL		3				3	
CBM	1			1	1	4	
CREA		5				5	
GRE				2	2	4	
HUM				3		1	4
MTIL				2	1	2	5
PIPECLAY		1				1	
PMTIL					2	2	
RYEDALE	1					1	2
SUND		2				2	
TGW		1				1	
YG	1			1		2	
YORK	1					1	
Grand Total	4	12	10	6	8	40	

#### Trench 2

Four contexts in Trench 2 produced finds. The following TPQs can be assigned: 204 (indentations 205 cutting natural) – 19<sup>th</sup> century?, 206 (Pit 207) – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 208 (Pit 209) – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and 210 (Pit 211) – early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three pits are all of similar

form and their TPQs suggest that they are close in date. The post-medieval pottery types found in this trench are all types with a long life and could in fact be contemporary with the other wares. However, there is one sherd of residual medieval pottery, from context 208.

*Table 6*

Cname	204	206	208	210	Grand Total
BL				1	1
CREA			1		1
GRE			1	1	2
LPMX			1		1
MTIL			1		1
NCBW				1	1
NOTS			1		1
PEAR				2	2
PIPECLAY		4		1	5
PMGL	1			1	2
PMTIL	4		1		5
REFR			1		1
SUND		2		1	3
TPW		1	5		6
WHITE			2		2
YORK			1		1
Grand Total	5	7	15	8	35

### Trench 3

Fifteen contexts in Trench 3 produced finds (Table 7). These provide the following TPQs: 302 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 303 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 304 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 305 – early 17<sup>th</sup> century (dated by an undiagnostic fragment of claypipe), 307 – Late 16<sup>th</sup> century, 308 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 309 – late 14<sup>th</sup> century, 310 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 311 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 314 – late 16<sup>th</sup> century, 315 – late 11<sup>th</sup> century, 316 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century, 317 – late 12<sup>th</sup> century, 318 – late 18<sup>th</sup> century and 396 – late 16<sup>th</sup> century (dated by the presence of a fragment of pantile). The earliest deposit, stratigraphically, was 315 and all the other contexts are the fills of intercutting features which post-date this deposit.

*Table 7*

Cname	302	303	304	305	307	308	309	310	311	314	315	316	317	318	396	Grand Total
BBAS												1				1
BL						1						1				2
BRAN				1				2								1
CBM				2			1	2								5
CREA	2	2	1					5	1					1		12
ENPO	2															2
FREC						1										1
GRE			1	1						1		1				4
HUM							1			2						3
IRON		1										1				2

LHUM																			1
LPMLOC	1																		1
M0																			1
MTIL		1		1			3		4		1		3				1		14
NOTS							1												1
PEAR							1		1				1						3
PIPECLAY	1			1									1						3
PMGL	1																		1
PMTIL	1	2					3		2									1	9
RYEDALE		1																	1
SUND	1								1										2
YG							1	1											2
YG/YORK													1						1
YORK																			1
Grand Total	9	7	2	7	1	10	3	18	1	4	1	9	1	1	2				76

## Interpretation

The single residual fragment of Roman pottery suggests that there was no occupation on or near the site in the Roman period. There are few if any features datable to the medieval period and the earlier medieval pottery present on the site might well be associated with a manuring scatter rather than occupation. However, the later medieval types include some fairly large sherds which may indicate a change of use at this time. Activity appears to intensify in the later 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century at which time there were certainly features being dug on the site, and certainly increased in the later 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Further Work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

## Retention

All the finds from stratified deposits should be retained for future study.

## Storage

Most of the finds require no special storage conditions and the glass and iron come from deposits which are early modern in date and therefore do not justify a conservation assessment.

## Bibliography

- Betts, I. (1991) "Thin-section and Neutron Activation Analysis of Brick and Tile from York and Surrounding Sites." in A. Middleton and I. Freestone, eds., *Recent Developments in Ceramic Petrology*, Brit Mus Occas Pap 8 British Museum, London, 39-55
- Vince, Alan and Steane, Kate (2004) *Assessment of the finds from Cawood, North Yorkshire (OSA04EV07)*. AVAC Reports 2004/138 Lincoln, Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy

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## Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
102	POTTERY	RYEDALE			JUG	BS
102	POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS
102	CBM	CBM	FRAG			BS
102	POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS
104	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	R
104	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	BS
104	POTTERY	BL			BOWL	R;BS
104	POTTERY	BL			BOWL	BS
104	POTTERY	TGW		BLUE DEC ON WHITE INT; LEAD BACKED	BOWL	BS
104	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	18-19 BORE		CLAYPIPE	STEM
104	POTTERY	CREA			BOWL	R;BS
104	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS
106	POTTERY	BEVQ2B		STRAP HANDLE 41-44 ACROSS; SHALLOW CENTRAL GROOVE	JUG	H
106	POTTERY	HUM			JUG/JAR	BS
106	POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS
106	POTTERY	GRE			BOWL	BS
106	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
106	CBM	CBM	FRAG			BS
108	POTTERY	GRE		STRAP HANDLE 36-40 ACROSS; ONE SLIGHT CENTRAL GROOVE; HANDLE FROM TOP OF RIM; GLAZED INT ONLY	JUG	R;H;BS
108	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
108	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
108	CBM	CBM	FRAG			BS
110	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
110	CBM	MTIL		RECT PEG HOLE 9 BY 14	FLAT	BS
110	CBM	CBM		FRAGS		BS
110	POTTERY	RYEDALE		SQUASHED ROD 28 ACROSS	JUG	H
110	POTTERY	HUM			JUG/JAR	BS
204	CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS
204	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
204	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	UNSEEN		BS
206	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	B
206	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	BS
206	POTTERY	TPW			VASE/JAR	BS
206	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		17-18TH BORE	CLAYPIPE	STEM
206	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		19TH BORE	CLAYPIPE	STEM
206	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		19TH SPUR; UNID MOULDED DEC ON BOWL	CLAYPIPE	BOWL/SPUR/STEM
208	CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS
208	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
208	POTTERY	TPW			PLATE	R;BS
208	POTTERY	TPW			TURINE LID	BS
208	POTTERY	TPW			BOWL	BS
208	POTTERY	CREA			BOWL	FOOTRING
208	POTTERY	YORK			JUG	BS
208	POTTERY	GRE			PANC	BS
208	POTTERY	NOTS			BOT	BS
208	POTTERY	LPMX		RED SLIPPED; UNGLAZED	JAR	BS

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
208	POTTERY	WHITE			PLATE	BS
208	POTTERY	WHITE		GOLD LINE ON RIM AND 22 BELOW RIM	DISH	R
208	POTTERY	REFR		YELLOW PAINTED DEC EXT; INDUST WHITE SLIP INT	TANK	BS
210	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	R
210	POTTERY	BL			CUP	BS
210	POTTERY	GRE		GLAZE INT/EXT	BOWL	BS
210	POTTERY	NCBW			BOWL	BS
210	POTTERY	PEAR		BLUE FEATHERED RIM	PLATE	R
210	POTTERY	PEAR			PLATE	B
210	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY			CLAYPIPE	STEM
210	PMGL	PMGL	LTBL	UNSEEN	WIND	BS
302	POTTERY	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
302	POTTERY	LPMLOC			FLP	R
302	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	BS
302	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS
302	POTTERY	ENPO			PLATE	BS
302	POTTERY	ENPO		3 GOLD HORIZ LINES BELOW RIM	CUP	R
302	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY		18-19 BORE	CLAYPIPE	STEM
302	PMGL	PMGL	LTGR	UNSEEN	BOT	BS
303	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
303	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
303	POTTERY	CREA			FOOTRING	B
303	POTTERY	CREA		DEC ROUND RIM	PLATE	R
303	POTTERY	RYEDALE			JAR	BS

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
303	IRON	IRON			NAIL	BS
304	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS
304	POTTERY	GRE			BOWL	BS
305	POTTERY	BRAN			JAR	BS
305	POTTERY	GRE		GLAZE INT/EXT	BOWL	BS
305	POTTERY	LHUM			JUG/JAR	BS
305	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY			CLAY PIPE	BS
305	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
305	CBM	CBM		FRAGS		BS
307	POTTERY	FREC			BOT	R/H
308	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
308	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
308	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
308	POTTERY	YG			JAR	BS
308	POTTERY	NOTS			JAR	BS
308	POTTERY	PEAR			PLATE	B
308	POTTERY	BL			JAR	BS
309	POTTERY	HUM			JUG	BS
309	POTTERY	YG			JAR	B
309	CBM	CBM		FRAG		BS
310	POTTERY	BL	CM RED		JAR	BS
310	POTTERY	M0			MORT	BS
310	POTTERY	PEAR			PLATE	BS
310	POTTERY	SUND			BOWL	BS
310	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
310	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	R
310	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
310	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
310	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
310	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
310	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS
310	CBM	CBM	FRAGS			BS
311	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS
314	POTTERY	GRE			BOWL	BS
314	POTTERY	HUM			JUG/JAR	BS
314	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
315	POTTERY	YG/YORK	LEP1?	PLENTIFUL SPLASHES OF GLAZE EXT	JAR	BS
316	IRON	IRON			DRAIN PIPE	BS
316	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
316	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS
316	POTTERY	BL			PANC	BS
316	POTTERY	GRE			PANC	B
316	POTTERY	BBAS			TPOT LID	BS
316	POTTERY	PEAR			BOWL	B
316	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	18-19 BORE		CLAYPIPE	STEM
317	POTTERY	YORK			JAR	BS
318	POTTERY	CREA			PLATE	BS
396	CBM	PMTIL			PANT	BS

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Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part
396	CBM	MTIL			FLAT	BS