

Assessment of the Roman and Medieval Pottery, Ceramic Building Material and Metal Finds from the Asselby to Pannell Pipeline (ASP06)

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The Roman and Medieval Pottery, Ceramic Building Material and metal finds from the Asselby to Pannell pipeline were submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

A handful of Roman potsherds were identified but these do not concentrate in any particular part of the pipeline. Similarly, there is a moderate-sized collection of medieval pottery, ranging in date from the late 11th to early 13th centuries to the late 14th to early 16th centuries. The metal finds and the ceramic building material appear to be mainly of recent (18th to 20th-century) date but include one possible enamelled harness fitting or brooch of medieval date.

Text in square brackets was added Wednesday, 23 May 2007 following the production of an x-ray plate (ASP06 PLATE1) of all the copper alloy objects.

Description

The finds were identified and recorded by number of fragments (NOSH), maximum number of objects in the record (NOV) and weight (Table 1).

Table 1

class	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CBM	59	59	2544
COPP	5	5	33
IRON	8	8	346
LEAD	1	1	1
POTTERY	68	67	428
STONE	10	10	271
Grand Total	151	150	3623

Ceramic Building Material

Roman

No definite Romano-British tile was present although one fragment was potentially of Roman date, but is more probably post-medieval or later.

Two fragments were too small and abraded to be identified.

Medieval

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A small number of fragments of flat roof tile are possibly of medieval date. None of these fragments had any distinguishing features, such as nibs, pegholes or glaze, and could be fragments of pantile and therefore of post-medieval date.

Post-medieval to early modern

Twenty-six fragments possibly dating to the post-medieval period were recorded. The majority of these were fragments of red earthenware brick, mainly made in a variegated fabric from mixed Coal Measures clays.

Three small fragments were similar in fabric to these bricks but were too abraded to identify the form. They have been assigned to the post-medieval or later periods.

Five fragments were identified as pantiles and therefore are at the earliest of late 16th century date, but most probably late 17th century or later.

A single fragment of pipeclay (of Coal Measures origin) was hand-formed into a bar, possibly used as a kiln support in the production of pottery, clay pipes or possibly some other product.

Twenty-five fragments are of factory-produced types of later 19th or 20th century date. They include a frogged brick, fragments of stoneware drainpipes, a fragment of a whiteware field drain, fragments of thin flat roof tiles, fragments of thin black moulded unglazed floor tiles, . pantiles and two further fragments tentatively identified here as kiln furniture. Both of these fragments are brown salt-glazed coarse whiteware which appear to have had an industrial use.

Copper Alloy

Five fragments of copper alloy were recorded. Two come from press-moulded buttons of late 19th or 20th-century date.

[After x-radiography one of these could be seen to have the inscription "OUR OWN MAKE" and the other has an inscription which includes the word "B'ham"]

One is a thin disk with traces of enamel on one side and the circular scars on the reverse where a loop attachment was soldered on. This is possibly a piece of later medieval horse furniture and merits a conservation assessment, x-ray and possibly submission to a specialist in medieval metalwork.

[After x-radiography, it could be seen that the "enamel" on the upper face of the disk is actually dense to x-rays and is probably also solder. It forms a band around the edge of the disk. Three small rivet holes are visible in the centre of the disk, arranged in an approximate isosceles triangle. The rivets and the solder suggest that the disk is actually the backing place to a more elaborate fitting. Probably, indeed, a piece of harness fitting. As such it is likely to be of late medieval or post-medieval date and, lacking any of the original decorative elements is probably not worth further analysis.]

One item is a disk, possibly an extremely worn coin or jetton. It is possible that x-ray would reveal hidden detail which might allow the coin (if it is one) to be identified.

[After x-radiography faint lettering and a bust were visible, confirming that the disk was indeed a coin. The size suggests a farthing of either George I or George II and the lack of an obvious border, which is quite prominent on the farthings of George I makes the later king a more likely candidate. George II farthings were produced from 1730 to 1754.]

The final object is a binding strip with a single nail or rivet hole. The lack of finishing suggests that the strip had a utilitarian purpose, perhaps in furniture or a packing case.

Iron

Eight fragments of iron were submitted. One appears to be the handle of a scale-tang knife of late medieval or early post-medieval date. One is a piece of circular-sectioned wire, of post-medieval or early modern date and three are undatable: two loops from a heavy chain, probably of agricultural or industrial use; three nails; and a spoon bit, for use in woodworking.

Lead Alloy

A lead alloy press-moulded button was recorded. It has illegible lettering and is probably of later 19th or 20th-century date.

Pottery

Roman

Ten fragments of Romano-British pottery were mainly recorded using Monaghan's York fabric coding (Monaghan 1997 #113). These consist of sherds of greyware and oxidised ware, of which the latter is very similar visually to that produced at York, Eboracum ware; calcite-gritted ware (CALC); a whiteware jar or flagon (P0); and a fragment of Nene Valley colour-coated ware of later 2nd-century or later date.

If the oxidized ware is indeed Eboracum ware then it is of early 3rd century or earlier date and a similar date is likely for the whiteware sherd. The Nene Valley and Calcite-gritted wares are of later Roman date. Calcite gritted ware was produced in the Vale of Pickering and possibly elsewhere around the fringes of the Wolds from the Bronze Age onwards but is most likely in this part of the Vale of York to date to the later 3rd century or later. This small collection therefore spans at least two centuries, possibly four, and therefore indicates a very low level of activity.

Table 2

Cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight	Average of ASW
C1	BEAKER	1	1	1	1
CALC	JAR	1	1	16	16
E1	JAR	1	1	1	1
E7	JAR	1	1	5	5

G1	JAR	4	4	45	9
G2	JAR	1	1	7	7
P0	JAR/FLAG	1	1	3	3
Total		10	10	78	7

Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon

A single sherd comes from a handmade, low-fired vessel with a fabric containing abundant quartz sand derived from Carboniferous sandstones (SST). It is possibly of prehistoric, Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date but is most similar to early to middle Anglo-Saxon vessels, such as those from Newton Kyme and Otley.

Medieval

Fifty-seven sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. Six ware groups were identified. The earliest of these is York Gritty ware, which was produced between the later 11th and mid 13th centuries. Production sites probably included Potterton, 5 miles to the north-east of Leeds whose place-name is recorded in the Domesday survey. The ASP pipeline must run close to the production site. It also runs close to the earlier production site of Thorner, but no examples of York A ware, produced at Thorner, were present in the collection.

Wares dating between the later 12th and the mid 14th centuries were the most common. Northern Gritty ware (NGR) is tempered with a similar coarse quartz sand to York Gritty ware but has a higher iron content and often a higher firing temperature. Most of the NGR sherds were similar to those from Ingmanthorpe Manor, north of Wetherby, which appear to have been made from mudstones of later Millstone Grit age somewhere to the west or northwest of Wetherby (Vince 2005 #45973). Two sherds, however, appear to be North Yorkshire products, York Glazed ware (YORK) and are made in a finer, sandy whiteware fabric.

Later medieval pottery is represented by Humberware (HUM), Brandsby-type ware (BRAN) and Coal Measures whiteware (CMW). Of these, Brandsby-type ware is the earliest, being present from the later 13th century onwards, whilst Humberware first occurs in the mid 14th century. The Coal Measures Whiteware appears to be a small bowl, dish or crucible, although if the latter it has clearly not been used. It has a very high quartz sand content and is reminiscent of vessels produced in the Don valley in south Yorkshire (Firsby and Rawmarsh wares).

Table 3

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight	Average of ASW
BRAN	JAR	1	1	7	7
CMW	CRUC?	1	1	8	8
HUM	JAR	1	1	10	10
	JUG/JAR	5	4	58	14
NGR	JAR	23	23	136	6
	JUG	3	3	20	7
YG	JAR	21	21	61	3

YORK	JAR	1	1	4	4
	JUG	1	1	2	2
Total		57	56	306	6

Stone

Fragments of grey slate roof tiles were recorded, together with a single fragment of micaceous sandstone which might have been used as a roof tile. It is likely that the slates are of late 18th century or later date although an earlier use is possible.

Assessment

Roman

There is a small scatter of Roman pottery, spanning both the earlier and later parts of the Roman period. The average sherd weight is 7 grams. No More than two sherds came from any particular plot (Table 4)

Table 4

cname	1/3	1/4	3/14	3/18	5/1	7/8	10/4	18/11	Grand Total
CALC	1								
C1							1		1
E1				1					1
E7								1	1
G1			1		1	2			4
G2			1						1
GREY									1
P0			1						1
Grand Total	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	10

Anglo-Saxon

A single possible sherd of early or mid Anglo-Saxon date was recorded. The pipeline runs along the western edge of the pottery-using Anglo-Saxon Yorkshire close to its border with the aceramic area corresponding to the 5th to 7th-century British kingdom of Elmet. Every find of pottery of this period is of interest in that it helps to define the boundary between these two cultural areas.

Medieval

There is a much larger scatter of medieval pottery, covering a similar period of time to the Roman pottery. The various wares present have overlapping date ranges but it is clear that there are considerably more sherds of late 12th to mid 14th century date than there are of mid 14th century or later date. There is a concentration of sherds in plot 16/6, all but one of which are 11th to mid 14th century in date. These may indicate settlement on or immediately adjacent to the site. However, the sherds are all small, with an average sherd weight of 4.61gm compared with a mean of 5.59gm for the entire medieval pot collection.

Table 5

cname	3/18	5/1	5/2	7/8	9/6	12/1	15/5	16/4	16/6	18/11	18/5	18/8	18/9	20/7	22/2	22/3	23/8
BRAN						1											
CMW				1													
HUM		5							1								
NGR	2		1		1			2	6	9				3	1		1
YG							1	5	7	1	1	1	1	1		2	
YGR									1								
YORK									1						1		
Total	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	7	16	10	1	1	1	4	2	2	1

Post-medieval and Early Modern

The ceramic building material is mainly of late date and this is probably an indication that ceramic roof tiles were little used in the medieval period in this area. It is interesting, in comparison to other Yorkshire pipeline collections, that there are more fragments of possible industrial use and stoneware drain pipes and this is probably a reflection of the industrialised landscape which the pipeline skirts.

Further Study

The copper alloy brooch/horse furniture and the possible coin both require x-ray and a conservation assessment. Depending on the results of the x-rays the items could then be identified by authors or submitted to specialists. [This work was subsequently carried out and no further work is now required on these items].

The possible Anglo-Saxon sherd should be analysed using thin section and chemical analysis to compare its composition with other known sandstone-sand tempered coarsewares with a view to establishing its date and place of manufacture.

Retention

All of the Roman and medieval pottery should be retained, together with the copper alloy brooch and coin. The remaining finds could be discarded.

Appendix 1

Context	class	date	cname	subfabric	Form	
3111003	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3111003	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3111004	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3111009	COPP	emod	COPP		BUTTON	FOUR HOLES EDGE
3111022	LEAD	emod	LEAD		BUTTON	
3111120	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		PANT	
3111127	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	KILN FURNITURE	
3111135	CBM	emod	MOD		DRAIN	
3111149	CBM	emod	MOD		FLAT	
3111150	CBM	emod	MOD		PANT	
3111153	POTTERY	emsax	SST		JAR	
3111171	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3111177	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	RED SLIP
3111178	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3111179	CBM	rom-mod	CBM			
3111180	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3111190	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		PANT	
3111191	CBM	emod	MOD		BRICK	
3111203	CBM	emod	MOD		DRAIN	
3111206	POTTERY	med	BRAN		JAR	
3111209	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		?	
3111220	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3111221	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3111222	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		?	
3111224	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3111227	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3111245	POTTERY	rom	C1		BEAKER	
3111317	CBM	emod	MOD		PANT	
3111349	POTTERY	rom	E1		JAR	
3111350	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3111351	POTTERY	med	NGR		JUG	GLAZE INT
3111364	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		NAIL	
3111375	POTTERY	rom	P0		JAR/FLAG	
3111380	POTTERY	rom	G2		JAR	
3111401	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3112017	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	

Context	class	date	cname	subfabric	Form	
3112041	CBM	emod	MOD		FLOOR TILE	
3112043	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112046	POTTERY	med	YORK		JAR	
3112058	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3112072	CBM	emod	MOD		FLAT	
3112077	COPP	pmed- emod	COPP		COIN?	
3112088	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3112102	POTTERY	med	NGR		JUG	
3112107	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		PANT	
3112107	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	MICACEOUS SANDSTONE	ROOFER	
3112108	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	KILN FURNITURE	
3112110	CBM	emod	MOD		DRAIN	
3112112	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112123	POTTERY	med	NGR		JUG	
3112128	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		PANT	
3112144	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		SPOON BIT	
3112145	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3112151	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3112153	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3112154	CBM	emod	MOD		FROGGED BRICK	
3112155	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		?	FRAG
3112156	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112157	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3112160	POTTERY	med	HUM		JAR	
3112161	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3112162	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3112172	CBM	emod	MOD		DRAIN	
3112175	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		NAIL	
3112192	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112207	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112209	CBM	med	MTIL		FLAT	
3112213	CBM	emod	MOD	CMW	FIELD DRAIN	
3112220	POTTERY	rom	G1		JAR	
3112221	POTTERY	med	CMW	VERY SANDY POSS RAW	CRUC?	JY
3112228	CBM	emod	MOD		FLAT	
3112231	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112233	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112243	CBM	emod	MOD		FLOOR TILE	
3112247	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		NAIL	
3112255	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3112261	CBM	emod	MOD	ENGS	DRAIN	
3112332	POTTERY	rom	G1		JAR	

Context	class	date	cname	subfabric	Form	
3112344	POTTERY	rom	CALC		JAR	
3113002	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3113015	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113038	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113045	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113046	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3113050	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113051	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113053	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113058	CBM	med	MTIL		FLAT	
3113064	IRON	med- pmed	IRON		KNIFE?	
3113075	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113085	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113085	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113089	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		PANT	
3113159	CBM	pmed- emod	PMTIL		BRICK	
3113163	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	RED SLIP
3113178	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3113186	CBM	med	MTIL		FLAT	
3113187	CBM	med	MTIL		FLAT	
3113187	CBM	rom-mod	PM/RTIL		BRICK	
3113200	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113202	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113202	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113203	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113204	POTTERY	rom	E7		JAR	
3113210	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113213	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113215	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113222	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113223	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113224	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113228	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3113230	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113246	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113253	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113257	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113259	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113261	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113262	STONE	pmed- emod	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
3113263	CBM	pmed-	PMTIL		BRICK	

Context	class	date	cname	subfabric	Form	
		emod				
3113264	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113265	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113266	POTTERY	med	YORK		JUG	TINY SPOT OF
3113267	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113268	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113271	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113273	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113277	CBM	rom-mod	CBM		CBM	FRAG
3113278	CBM	med	MTIL		FLAT	
3113287	POTTERY	med	YG		JAR	
3113290	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		SPOON BIT	
3113297	CBM	pmed-	PMTIL		KILN	
		emod			FURNITURE	
3113317	CBM	pmed-	PMTIL		BRICK	
		emod				
3113330	IRON	rom-mod	IRON		CHAIN	
3113349	COPP	emod	COPP		BUTTON	FOUR HOLES
3113354	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	
3113359	IRON	emod	IRON		WIRE	
3113395	COPP	rom-mod	COPP		BINDING STRIP	
3113403	CBM	pmed-	PMTIL		BRICK	
		emod				
3113436	STONE	pmed-	STONE	SLATE	ROOFER	
		emod				
3113439	POTTERY	med	HUM		JUG/JAR	
3113440	POTTERY	med	HUM		JUG/JAR	
3113442	POTTERY	rom	G1		JAR	
3113446	POTTERY	med	HUM		JUG/JAR	
3113447	POTTERY	med	HUM		JUG/JAR	
3113448	COPP	pmed-	COPP		BROOCH?	ENAMEL
		emod				
3113455	POTTERY	med	NGR		JAR	

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