

Assessment of the Pottery from Heworth Close, York (HEW'06)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

An archaeological watching brief carried out at Heworth Close, York, by Fern Archaeology produced a moderate sized collection of pottery which was submitted to the authors for identification and assessment.

The pottery ranged in date from the Roman period to the late 18th or 19th centuries.

Description

Pottery

Roman

Eighty-one sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. All were abraded, some extremely, and most had become powdery, either as a result of abnormally low firing or as a result of weathering.

The pottery was classified according to Monaghan's corpus of York Roman pottery (Monaghan 1997). Most of the sherds are of types which were produced in and around York in the later 1st to early/mid 3rd centuries: Eboracum ware (E1); Local Greyware (G1); and Rusticated Ware (R2). In total these account for 74 of the 81 sherds. Other wares present are Dorset Black Burnished ware (B1); Nene Valley Colour-Coated ware (C2); a coarse sandy greyware (G8) and Samian ware (S0).

Most of the sherds come from jars with a handful of other types represented (Table 1).

Most of the sherds cannot be dated closely but a sherd of Rusticated ware is of late 1st or early 2nd century date and the Dorset Black Burnished ware is likely to be of early 2nd century or later date.

Table 1

cname	?	BEAKER	BOWL	FLAGON	JAR	Grand Total
B1					1	1
C2		1				1
E1				4	54	58
G1					13	13
G8					2	2
R2					1	1
S0	3		2			5
Grand Total	3	1	2	4	71	81

Medieval

Seventy-three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered (Table 2). Most of the sherds are of types which are well-known from excavations in York: Brandsby-type ware (BRAN); Humberware (HUM); York Gritty ware (YG) and York Glazed ware (YORK). In addition, a number of sherds of glazed ware in a fine silty red earthenware were present. These are probably either Beverley products or produced in a similar clay but within the Vale of York. The various codes used to describe these denote the fabric and glaze, both of which are dating features: BEVO1BT – fine fabric, splash glazed, possibly local; BEVO2B – fine fabric, glossy glaze, possibly a Beverley product; BEVO2BT – fine fabric, glossy glaze, possibly local; BEVOBT – fine fabric, unglazed, possibly local; BEVOSANDYT – sand-tempered, unglazed, possibly local.

No Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian sherds were present and the earliest type is York Gritty ware, which was current from the mid 11th to the mid 13th centuries. Given the lack of other late 11th to mid 12th century types, it is likely that all of these sherds are of later 12th century or later date.

The Beverley and Beverley-type sherds are of similar late 12th to 13th-century date and include no examples with a calcareous fabric, a mid to late 12th-century type. The York glazed ware is of similar date, and includes one example of a tubular-spouted pitcher, a distinctive form first produced at Stamford in the late 12th century and copied elsewhere (e.g. Doncaster Hallgate in the early 13th century, Buckland and Magilton 1979).

Later medieval types are also present: Brandsby-type ware first came into use in the later 13th century but continued to be made into the 15th century whilst Humberware was introduced in the mid 14th century and continued to be produced into the early 16th century.

Table 2

cname	JAR	JUG	JUG/JAR	TUBULAR SPOUTED PITCHER	Grand Total
BEVO1BT		1			1
BEVO2B		2			2
BEVO2BT		1			1
BEVOBT			2		2
BEVOSANDYT	1	4			5
BRAN		5	1		6
HUM		2	18		20
MEDLOC	2				2
YG	16				16
YORK	5	11	1	1	18
Grand Total	24	26	22	1	73

Post-medieval

Twenty-eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered (Table 3). These consist of blackware (BL); glazed red earthenwares (GRE) and late Humberware (LHUM). All three types have a long period of use, from the later 16th to the 19th centuries.

Table 3

cname	BOWL	HANDLED JAR	JAR	JUG	Grand Total
BL			10		10
GRE	8	1	8		17
LHUM				1	1
Grand Total	8	1	18	1	28

Early Modern and unclassified

Seven sherds of late 18th century or later date were recovered (Table 4). Included in this total are two sherds which could not be identified (M/PMLOC).

The sherds consist of a porcelain basin fragment (ENPO, probably of late 19th or 20th-century date; and sherds of unglazed red earthenware flowerpots (LPMLOC).

Cname	?	BASIN	FLP	Grand Total
ENPO		1		1
LPMLOC			4	4
M/PMLOC	2			2
Grand Total	2	1	4	7

Assessment

Most of the pottery was recovered from the fills of a large, U-shaped ditch. This ditch is interpreted by the excavator as a post-medieval feature. The lowest fills, however, produced solely a few sherds of Roman pottery (one Ebor ware jar and one local greyware jar). The secondary fill of the feature produced a single sherd of Ebor ware.

The main backfill of the ditch produced 64 sherds of pottery ranging in date from the Roman period to the medieval period. Forty-three of the sherds are of Roman date and 21 are medieval. The latter are all of late 12th to mid 13th century types.

The topmost fill, which seems to fill the slight depression left after settlement of the backfill, produced 15 sherds, also a mixture of Roman and later sherds, but the later sherds include late medieval and a single post-medieval sherd.

The pottery, therefore, would be consistent with an earlier date for this ditch than that suggested by the excavator since it is difficult to see why late medieval and post-medieval sherds should be present in a deposit which post-dates the backfill of the ditch but absent from the larger collection from the backfill itself. However, if this ditch was dug in a rural landscape it is quite likely that the quantity of contemporary artefacts present in its fills would be low.

The ditch was replaced by a series of land drains of recent date and the coincidence of these with the ditch is the best argument for its late date. The earliest of these, C1005, produced a

mixed group of pottery of which the latest sherds were glazed red earthenware (11 out of 40 sherds). This drain contained a U-shaped field drain; this drain was replaced by another, C1006, which contained a cylindrical machine-extruded land drain of later 19th or 20th-century type. The pottery from its backfill also included glazed red earthenware, a sherd of flowerpot and the porcelain basin fragment. The third drain, C1004, produced a single sherd of blackware.

A separate ditch, C2002, includes late 18th or 19th-century flower pot sherds.

Interpretation

A feature of the archaeology of the Heworth Croft area is the high quantity of Roman pottery found in residual contexts. This may indicate that ploughing has removed Roman archaeological occupation traces. However, the high frequency of Eboracum ware and other locally-produced wares within the collection suggests that some may be production waste, although if so the lack of overfired sherds is notable.

The Roman pottery includes at least one early sherd and it is possible that the majority of the collection is of similar date, with a scatter of later sherds.

The next activity probably took place in the later 12th or early 13th centuries and sherds of this date and no later are present in the backfill of the ditch. Later activity is represented by a scatter of late 13th to early 16th century wares which occur in the uppermost fill of the ditch and in residual contexts in the fills of the drains, ditch 2002 and the buried soil.

Finally, there is evidence for late activity, probably of late 19th or 20th century date, associated with the laying of a field drain and the digging of ditch C2002.

Further Work

No further work is recommended on this collection.

Retention

The pottery all comes from stratified deposits and should be retained for future study.

Bibliography

Buckland, P C Dolby M J Hayfield C and Magilton, J R (1979) *The medieval pottery industry at Hallgate, Doncaster.* The Archaeology of Doncaster 2/1

Monaghan, Jason (1997) *Roman Pottery from York.* The Archaeology of York 16/8 York, Council for British Archaeology

Appendix 1

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
1001	HUM	JUG	WHITE SLIP AND TRACES OF GLAZE	BS	1	1	25	25.00	FRESH BREAK
1001	YORK	PITCHER	TUBULAR SPOUTED	R	1	1	10	10.00	ABRA
1001	BRAN	JUG		B;BS	3	1	37	12.33	
1001	BRAN	JUG		BS	1	1	4	4.00	
1001	BEVO1BT	JUG	PULLED LIP	R	1	1	11	11.00	ABRA
1001	LHUM	JUG	GLAZE INT	B	1	1	16	16.00	
1001	GRE	BOWL		B	1	1	24	24.00	
1001	GRE	BOWL		BS	1	1	8	8.00	
1001	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1001	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	3	20	6.67	ABRA
1001	HUM	JUG/JAR		B	1	1	20	20.00	ABRA
1001	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	3	48	16.00	
1001	E1	JAR		BS	9	9	25	2.78	VABRA
1001	BRAN	JUG/JAR		BS	1	1	5	5.00	
1002	BEVOSANDYT	JUG	WHITE SLIP AND TRACE OF GLAZE	BS	1	1	14	14.00	
1002	BEVOSANDYT	JUG	WHITE SLIP AND TRACE OF GLAZE	BS	3	1	5	1.67	ABRA
1002	BEVOSANDYT	JAR		BS	1	1	12	12.00	VABRA
1002	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	

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/avac2007054.pdf>

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
1002	E1	JAR		BS	6	6	37	6.17	VABRA
1002	BRAN	JUG		BS	1	1	27	27.00	ABRA
1002	YORK	JAR		BS	1	1	36	36.00	
1002	BEVOBT	JUG/JAR	SPOT OF GLAZE	BS	1	1	17	17.00	
1002	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	7	7.00	
1002	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA
1004	BL	JAR	POSS SHL=1010=1011	BS	1	1	28	28.00	
1007	BEVO2B	JUG		R	1	1	7	7.00	ABRA
1007	YORK	JUG/JAR		B	1	1	28	28.00	
1007	YORK	JUG		BS	2	2	8	4.00	ABRA
1007	S0	BOWL		BS	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA
1007	S0	BOWL		R	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA
1007	E1	JAR		BS	4	4	13	3.25	ABRA
1009	G1	JAR		BS	1	1	3	3.00	
1010	E1	JAR		BS	2	2	4	2.00	ABRA
1010	BL	JAR	POSS SHL=1004=1100	BS	2	1	38	19.00	
1010	YORK	JUG	ROD HANDLE 29 ACROSS	H	1	1	38	38.00	
1010	GRE	HANDLED JAR	STRAP HANDLE 28 ACROSS CENTRAL GROOVE	H	1	1	21	21.00	
1010	GRE	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	
1010	LPMLOC	FLP		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1010	M/PMTIL	?		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1010	ENPO	BASIN		BS	1	1	4	4.00	

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
1010	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	
1010	YG	JAR		BS	2	2	3	1.50	
1010	YORK	JAR		BS	1	1	3	3.00	
1010	R2	JAR		BS	1	1	4	4.00	ABRA
1011	YORK	JAR		BS	1	1	6	6.00	
1011	S0	?		BS	2	2	1	0.50	VABRA
1011	G1	JAR		BS	2	2	7	3.50	ABRA
1011	G1	JAR		BS	3	3	29	9.67	
1011	B1	JAR		BS	1	1	9	9.00	ABRA
1011	GRE	JAR		BS	6	6	30	5.00	
1011	GRE	BOWL		B	1	1	31	31.00	GLAZE OVER BREAK
1011	E1	JAR		BS	6	6	8	1.33	ABRA
1011	BL	JAR		BS	1	1	3	3.00	
1011	YORK	JUG		BS	1	1	13	13.00	ABRA
1011	BL	JAR		B	1	1	16	16.00	BURNT EXT
1011	BL	JAR	POSS SHL=1004=1010	BS	4	4	45	11.25	
1011	GRE	BOWL		BS	1	1	12	12.00	
1011	GRE	BOWL		B	2	1	56	28.00	
1011	GRE	BOWL		R	1	1	17	17.00	
1011	YG	JAR		R	1	1	9	9.00	
1011	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1011	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	3	20	6.67	ABRA

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
1011	BEVO2B	JUG		BS	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA
1011	BL	JAR		BS	1	1	26	26.00	BURNT EXT; FRIED GLAZE
1013	GRE	BOWL		R	1	1	31	31.00	
1013	YORK	JUG	HORIZ GROOVES	BS	2	2	8	4.00	
1013	G1	JAR		BS	1	1	3	3.00	
1013	M/PMLOC	?		BS	2	2	1	0.50	
1013	MEDLOC	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00	ABRA
1013	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	
1013	E1	JAR		BS	2	2	1	0.50	ABRA
1013	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	1	53	17.67	
1013	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	1	1	11	11.00	ABRA
1013	HUM	JUG	GLAZE INT/EXT	BS	1	1	11	11.00	ABRA
1014	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1014	YORK	JUG		BS	1	1	8	8.00	
1014	E1	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	VABRA
1014	BEVO2BT	JUG	STRAP HANDLE 34 ACROSS WITH CENTRAL GROOVE	BS	1	1	24	24.00	ABRA
1014	G8	JAR		BS	1	1	13	13.00	ABRA
1014	YG	JAR		B	1	1	3	3.00	ABRA
1014	BEVOBT	JUG/JAR	REDSLIP	BS	1	1	3	3.00	ABRA
1015	YG	JAR		BS	2	1	8	4.00	
1015	YORK	JUG	STRAP HANDLE 28 ACROSS,	R/H	1	1	47	47.00	ABRA

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
			GROOVE ALONG CENTRE						
1015	YORK	JAR		BS	1	1	17	17.00	ABRA
1015	E1	FLAGON		H	1	1	37	37.00	
1015	MEDLOC	JAR		BS	1	1	6	6.00	ABRA
1015	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	11	11.00	
1015	YORK	JUG		BS	3	2	8	2.67	ABRA
1015	S0	?		BS	1	1	1	1.00	VABRA
1015	E1	JAR		BS	17	16	55	3.24	VABRA
1015	G1	JAR		BS	3	3	13	4.33	ABRA
1015	E1	FLAGON		H	2	1	25	12.50	ABRA
1016	E1	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	ABRA
1017	E1	JAR		BS	1	1	2	2.00	
1020	E1	FLAGON		H	1	1	57	57.00	ABRA
1020	E1	JAR		BS	5	5	12	2.40	ABRA
1020	C2	BEAKER		BS	1	1	2	2.00	ABRA
1020	G1	JAR		BS	3	3	7	2.33	ABRA
1020	G8	JAR		B	1	1	18	18.00	
1020	YG	JAR		BS	2	2	2	1.00	
1020	YORK	JAR		BS	1	1	6	6.00	
2002	LPMLOC	FLP	RED SLIP EXT	BS	2	1	25	12.50	
2002	GRE	JAR		BS	1	1	4	4.00	
2002	LPMLOC	FLP		B	1	1	51	51.00	SALT SURFACING

Context	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
2002	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	3	1	4	1.33	FRACTURED