

# Assessment of the Finds from Barnhill Farm, Howden, East Yorkshire (OSA06 WB33)

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A small collection of finds was recovered from excavations carried out at Barnhill Farm, Howden, East Yorkshire, by On-Site Archaeology Ltd (Site Code OSA06 WB33).

The finds were identified and recorded (App 1) and an assessment of their archaeological potential was made.

## Description

### **Animal Bone**

A fragment of animal bone was included in the submitted finds but is not assessed here.

### **Ceramic Building Material**

Twenty-five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered. All are likely to be of recent date (i.e. later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries).

They include bricks, field drain fragments, pantile fragments, a stoneware drainpipe fragment and a refined white earthenware wall tile (Table 1). All are typical of the materials used in late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses or ancillary buildings.

*Table 1*

subfabric	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
RED EARTHENWARE	BRICK	10	10	903
	FIELD DRAIN	2	2	84
	PANT	11	5	762
ENGS	DRAIN	1	1	63
WHITE	WALT	1	1	21
Grand Total		25	19	1833

### **Iron**

A fragment of cast iron pipe or guttering was recovered. It is likely to be of later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date.

### **Pottery**

One hundred and fifty-three sherds of pottery were recovered. Many of these come from a series of smashed vessels of medieval date and the maximum number of vessels represented by the collection is only 59. In total, the pottery weighs 2.091 Kg (Table 1).

cname	Form	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
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BEVO2B	JAR	5	2	61
	JUG	111	30	2324
BEVO2B Total		116	32	2385
BEVOB	JAR	8	8	166
	JUG	2	2	48
	PIPKIN	11	1	62
BEVOB Total		21	11	276
HUM	JUG/JAR	2	2	57
HUM Total		2	2	57
LEMS	BOWL	1	1	34
	BOWL/JAR	4	4	29
	BOWL?	7	7	83
LEMS Total		12	12	146
STAXT	JAR	1	1	24
STAXT Total		1	1	24
YORK	JUG	1	1	20
YORK Total		1	1	20
Grand Total		153	59	2908

Most of the pottery forms a contemporary group of early to mid 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, although it was recovered from a later medieval deposit. This group consists of Beverley glazed wares (BEVO2B), unglazed wheelthrown Beverley ware (BEVOB), a Lincolnshire shell-tempered ware (LEMS, {Young & Vince 2006 #44553}), Staxton-type ware (STAXT) and York Glazed ware (YORK).

There were several sources for Staxton-type ware in eastern Yorkshire of which the closest was located somewhere along the western scarp of the Wolds. However, the fabric of that ware contains oolites from the Cave Oolite, absent from this piece, and therefore a more distant source is likely, either Staxton/Potter Brompton itself, or Beverley, where handmade Staxton-type jars were produced in the later 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, before being replaced by wheelthrown vessels later in the century. The York glazed ware has recently been confirmed as a product of the Hambleton Hills area and waste has been recovered from Byland Abbey, about 6 miles north of the later 13<sup>th</sup> century and later production sites at Brandsby and Stearsby.

As a group, this pottery probably dates to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, although it could be composed of vessels discarded at different times, with outside limits of later 12<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Substantial parts of three Beverley ware jugs were found and these should be illustrated. They consist of the complete profile of a jug with a strap handle (DN1); the top half of a jug with a bridge spout (DN2) and the base and lower body of a jug with vertical applied white slip lines and thumbing around the base (DN1). The latter two vessels are definitely of 13<sup>th</sup>-century character whilst the first might be somewhat earlier, but could be their contemporary.

The source of the pottery indicates a strong reliance on the Humber and the various rivers leading into it (e.g. the LEMS vessels are likely to have been traded down the Trent). However, there is also evidence for an overland, north-south route along which the York Glazed ware and, possibly, the Staxton-type ware vessel were carried.

Later medieval pottery is represented by two sherds of Humberware, which date from the later 14<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This ware was also produced at several different centres of which the closest to Howden were Holme-upon-Spalding Moor, 8 miles to the northeast, and West Cowick, 9 miles to the southwest.

### **Stone**

A single fragment of micaceous sandstone was recovered. There are no signs of use, but it has angular edges and shows no sign of the weathering to be expected on an erratic fragment from the local gravels. It is therefore possibly a roof tile, obtained from the Carboniferous sandstone deposits of South or West Yorkshire. Such tiles were widely used in the medieval period and later.

## **Assessment**

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 revealed the moat of the medieval. The primary fill (103) produced two sherds of Humberware and this indicates that the moat was open until the late 14<sup>th</sup> to early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The later backfill of the moat, 102, produced the redeposited assemblage of 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, the stone roof tile, four pieces of brick and a pantile fragment. The pantile fragment is unlikely to have been used before the later 16<sup>th</sup> century and could be much later (they are still in use today and without detailed study of the fabric a 16<sup>th</sup> century example cannot be distinguished from a 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century one).

On balance, it seems likely that the moat was open until the post-medieval period and a suitable occasion for its backfill might be the construction of the present house, parts of which date back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 revealed a cobble surface with underlying make-up (203) cut by a cow burial (201) and overlain by a layer of debris (200). The make-up produced a fragment of field drain which is unlikely to be earlier than the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the earliest ceramic field drains may well be of later 18<sup>th</sup> century date. It also produced a sherd of medieval pottery and a pantile, broken into 7 fragments. The cow burial produced the fragment of cast iron drain/gutter and is therefore of later 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>-century date whilst the overlying layer

produced modern brick and wall tile and the fragment of stoneware drain pipe, all consistent with a recent date.

### **Further work**

It is recommended that three Beverley jugs are reconstructed and drawn since it is unusual to find substantial parts of these vessels and a case can be made for these three being contemporary with each other, even if redeposited much later.

### **Costing**

Production of 3 illustrations, scanning and importing into this report and revision of the report: £85.00 plus VAT.

### **Retention**

The medieval pottery should be retained, as should the ceramic building material from associated deposits. The finds from context 200 and probably 201 could be discarded.

## Appendix 1

Context	Action	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use	TH
102	DR	BEVO2B		JUG	STRAP HANDLE 32 ACROSS WITH CENTRAL GROOVE	PROF	40	1	617	15.43		SOOTED BASE	
102	DR	BEVO2B		JUG	BRIDGE SPOUT	R;SPOUT;BS	9	1	238	26.44			
102	DR	BEVO2B		JUG	APPLIED VERT WHITE STRIP; THUMBED BASE	B;BS	17	1	411	24.18			
102		BEVOB		PIPKIN		R;B;BS	11	1	62	5.64		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR	GLAZE SPOTS EXT	B	2	2	77	38.50		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR		BS	1	1	15	15.00		POCKED SPALLING EXT	
102		BEVO2B		JAR	GLAZE EXT	BS	1	1	18	18.00		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR		B	2	2	41	20.50		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR	SPOT GLAZE INT	B	1	1	19	19.00		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR		BS	1	1	8	8.00		SOOTED EXT	
102		BEVOB		JAR		BS	1	1	6	6.00		SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT	
102		BEVO2B		JUG	APPLIED VERT STRIP	BS	11	1	215	19.55			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	APPLIED VERT STRIP	BS	3	1	50	16.67			
102		BEVO2B		JUG		BS	6	1	102	17.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG		BS	2	1	101	50.50			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	STRAP HANDLE 48 ACROSS; TWO GROOVES	R;H	1	1	128	128.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	STRAP HANDLE 31 ACROSS; THREE GROOVES	H	1	1	121	121.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG		R	1	1	10	10.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	ONE THUMB	B	1	1	55	55.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	TWO THUMBS	B	1	1	41	41.00	ABRA		
102		BEVO2B		JUG	KNIFE TRIMMING	B	1	1	16	16.00			
102		BEVO2B		JUG	NOTCHED VERT APPLIED STRIP	BS	1	1	30	30.00			
102		BEVOB		JUG	THUMBING	BS	2	2	48	24.00			

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102	BEVO2B		JUG		BS	15	15	182	12.13		
102	BEVO2B		JAR		BS	4	1	43	10.75		SOOTED EXT
102	STAXT		JAR		BS	1	1	24	24.00		
102	YORK		JUG		BS	1	1	20	20.00		
102	LEMS		BOWL		R	1	1	34	34.00	LEACHED	SOOTED EXT
102	LEMS		BOWL?		BS	7	7	83	11.86	LEACHED	
102	LEMS		BOWL/JAR		BS	4	4	29	7.25	LEACHED	SOOTED EXT
102	PMTIL		BRICK	SALT SURFACING ON SIDE; STRAW MARKS ON BASE	BS	1	1	450	450.00		
102	PMTIL		PANT		BS	1	1	106	106.00		SOOTED TOP/SIDE
102	PMTIL		BRICK	FRAGS	BS	3	3	16	5.33		
102	STONE	MICACEOUS SANDSTONE	ROOFER		BS	1	1	137	137.00		12
102	ANBN				BS	1	1	2	2.00		
103	HUM		JUG/JAR		BS	2	2	57	28.50		
200	PMTIL	ENGS	DRAIN		BS	1	1	63	63.00		
200	MOD		BRICK	SALT SURFACING	BS	1	1	50	50.00		
200	MOD	WHITE	WALT		BS	1	1	21	21.00		
201	PMTIL		BRICK		BS	1	1	165	165.00	OVERFIRED; VITRIFIED	
201	IRON		GUTTER/DRAIN PIPE		BS	1	1	42	42.00		
201	PMTIL		BRICK	SALT SURFACING	BS	2	2	201	100.50		
201	PMTIL		BRICK		BS	2	2	21	10.50		
201	PMTIL		PANT		BS	1	1	454	454.00		SOOTED UNDERNEATH; MORTAR SOOTED TOP
201	PMTIL		PANT		BS	1	1	63	63.00		SOOTED UNDERNEATH
201	PMTIL		PANT		BS	1	1	51	51.00		
203	BEVO2B		JUG		BS	1	1	7	7.00		
203	PMTIL		FIELD DRAIN		BS	2	2	84	42.00		
203	PMTIL		PANT		BS	7	1	88	12.57		