

# **Assessment of Ceramic Building Material and Pottery from Bell Auto Electrics, Laurence Street, York (OSA06 WB23)**

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A Small quantity of medieval pottery and a single fragment of roof tile of medieval or later date were recovered from an archaeological watching brief conducted at Bell Auto Electrics, Laurence Street, York, by on-Site Archaeology Ltd.

## Description

### **Ceramic Building Material**

Four fragments of flat roof tile was recovered from the site. They have salt-surfacing on one face, indicating that the clay was probably of estuarine or marine origin. This discounts a local, York-area, source and suggests either the use of Cawood or Beverley tiles, both of which were produced in the medieval period.

### **Pottery**

Two sherds of York Gritty ware jars were recovered. These could date to the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century but the ware was produced from that point onwards into the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The strap handle of a Brandsby-type ware jug was recovered. Jugs of this type were produced in the Hambleton Hills area from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Six sherds of Humberware were recovered. Humberware was produced at several centres in the Humber basin, including York, from the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and these examples cannot be closely dated nor, without further analysis, tied to a particular source.

## Assessment

### **Dating**

The finds could span a short period, from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to the mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, or a longer period, from the mid 11<sup>th</sup> to the early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and it is not possible from a small collection to determine which possibility is correct. Those from context 105 are smaller in size than those from context 102 but in both cases the earliest possible sealing date for the deposit is in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (based on Humberware).

### **Interpretation**

The two sherds of York Gritty ware are both small, with an average sherd weight of 2.5gm. This is consistent with their being brought to the site with manure/night soil and then being present in a ploughsoil. The Brandsby-type ware and Humberware sherds are larger,

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average sherd weights of 26gm and 11.5gm, but still small compared to those found on occupation sites. By contrast, the tile consists of large fragments which suggest that the tiles were used in the area. They all come from context 102.

**Retention**

The finds come from stratified deposits and should be retained for potential future study.

**Further work**

No further work is recommended at this stage.



## Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use
102	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	STRAP HANDLE 29 ACROSS; TWO RIDGES	BS	1	1	26	26.00		
102	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	2	2	7	3.50		
102	POTTERY	HUM	JAR		BS	1	1	11	11.00		
102	POTTERY	HUM	JUG	THUMBED RIM; FRAG OF BASE FROM KILN STACKING ADHERING TO RIM	R	1	1	26	26.00		
102	CBM	MTIL	FLAT		BS	4	4	787	196.75	SALT SURFACING	
105	POTTERY	HUM	JAR		BS	1	1	16	16.00		
105	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00		
105	POTTERY	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	4	4.00		SOOTED EXT
105	POTTERY	YG	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00		