Melton (OSA04 EX03): Finds Reports

Alan Vince, Carol Allen, Peter Didsbury, Kevin Leahy, Barbara Precious, Ian Rowlandson, Kate Steane and others

Assessments were carried out on all finds and these, together with catalogues, are deposited in the site archive. Post-medieval and later material in the main comes from superficial deposits and is only summarised here. Similarly, only those finds which can be assigned a date by their context or intrinsic characteristics are described in detail. All of the metal artefacts were assessed at the York Archaeological Trust conservation Laboratory where x-radiographs were made. Metal artefacts with mineral-preserved organic remains were noted at YAT and those objects were submitted to Sonia O'Connor, Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Sciences, University of Bradford, who examined them using a mixture of using low magnification reflected light microscopy, con-focal light microscopy and scanning electron microscopy as appropriate. Any wood MPO were then submitted to Allan Hall, University of York for further study.

Pottery

The pottery was studied by a series of specialists: Carol Allen; Peter Didsbury; Barbara Precious and Alan Vince. However, Alan Vince and Kate Steane were responsible for fabric classification for all periods, giving an element of continuity to the study. Fabric classification was carried out at x20 magnification using a binocular microscope and on the basis of this initial study a large number of samples were taken for thin section and chemical analysis. The two main aims of this study were: to use the unique location of the Melton site in an area with petrologically distinct clay and sand resources in every direction from the settlement to study pottery supply and to use the long and continuous period of occupation of the site to study changes through time, from the Early Bronze Age to the 14th century AD. Samples of the fired clay (daub and loom weights) were also included.

The results of this study are given in a series of specialist reports (Vince 2006b; Vince 2006a; Vince 2007a; Vince 2007b) and only the conclusions are incorporated here. They indicate that there is a strong element of continuity in the selection of clays, inclusions and preparation techniques from the Early Bronze Age to the Roman conquest (which, locally, means AD 69-70) . Immediately thereafter, however, there is a sharp break and none of the post-conquest pottery, even the handmade pottery of Iron Age tradition used in the mid to late first century, was produced using the same clays as those used before the conquest. It is suggested here that this change is due to the foundation of the ferry service linking Winteringham to Brough since the pottery found in these early Roman deposits comes from sites which are not located on navigable rivers such as the Trent or the Ancholme but which are situated close to Ermine Street. This supply of pottery from north Lincolnshire continued to the end of the Roman occupation of the Melton site and extended into the 3rd century, when the cooking pottery

used in the Melton area was Dales shelly ware, produced somewhere in northwest Lincolnshire (Loughlin 1977). The early to mid Anglo-Saxon pottery from the site, however, was made locally, although using different sources of sand temper than those exploited in the prehistoric period. The Melton area seems to have become almost aceramic in the mid Saxon period, and there is no artefactual evidence for any activity on the site until the 10th century, when two Anglo-Scandinavian vessels were present. Both of these were produced at Lincoln and were found together in a pit in Area 17, perhaps indicating that the early to mid Anglo-Saxon settlement there continued into the mid Saxon period, but is archaeologically invisible. The site does appear to have been abandoned during the 11th and early 12th centuries, since by this time pottery was again in common use in the Melton area and none was found in the excavations, but was re-occupied in the later 12th century. A sizable collection of later 12th to 14th-century pottery was recovered from occupation on Area 1, all of which was commercially produced and traded to the site. This material includes handmade pottery made in the Staxton-type ware tradition which thin section and chemical analysis suggests may have been made at North Newbald. Glazed wares, however, were supplied first from Beverley and later from one of the Humberware production centres.

Bronze Age by Carol Allen

Quantifications and Catalogue

A total of 51 sherds and 38 fragments of pottery were found on this site weighing 805g. The pottery sherds represent approximately 8 separate vessels of prehistoric date which are all illustrated. In addition there are a few other sherds which can be identified as prehistoric but without form or decoration these could not be identified to a particular type. All the sherds are detailed in the attached catalogue (Table 1).

Methodology

The pottery has been recorded and described according to the guidelines of the PCRG (PCRG 1997). In addition, this report conforms to the standards and guidance of the IFA (2001). All the sherds were counted, weighed and recorded and are detailed on the catalogue attached. The wall thickness, fabric type and the abrasion level of the sherds is also given and the part of the pot remaining, rim, body or base is recorded.

All the sherds were examined by use of a x2 binocular microscope in order to allow the fabric types to be summarised. Two sherds representative of the main tempering type observed were sent for thin section analysis.

Fabrics

Three different fabric types were recognised by examination of all the sherds by eye and with a x2 binocular microscope. The division of the fabric types was made based upon the apparent tempering materials visible by eye and the appearance, colour and firing of the sherds. This assumes that the potters were aiming to produce pots with a distinctive appearance and tempering.

The three types are summarised on Table 2 and the results of petrological and chemical analyses are given in archive (Vince 2007b).
Most of the Beaker pottery was made from fabric 1, with only one vessel (2630/1) made from fabric 2. Fabric 3 was seen only in the middle Bronze Age bucket urn from area 14 (SF1).
Changes in fabric types used in prehistoric pottery through time are commonly seen even on the same site (Allen 1991, 4-5; Chowne et al. 2001). Traditions of pottery manufacture changed with each period and the tempering materials varied according to the region (Allen and Hopkins 2000, fig. 8; Cleal 1995).

Table 1: Summary of fabric types

Fabric	Code	Archive Code	Description	% of total pottery by weight
1	QURF/RORC/CPSC/VOSC	EBAERR	Quartz, igneous rock, clay pellets, voids	49
2	QUSF/CPSC		Quartz, clay pellets	1
3	GRMV	EBAGROG	Grog	50

Two sherds were sent for thin section analysis, selected from contexts in which there were suitable sherds. These were selected from fabric 1 (contexts 3415 and 3336), and represented the main tempering materials in the assemblage.
The results of the thin section analysis are presented in archive (Vince 2007b). The analysis indicated that it is very likely that the materials for tempering were obtained locally and that the vessels were manufactured from the local boulder clay. Fabric 1 contains angular pieces of igneous rock and it is very likely that this was also found within the local boulder clay.

Types of Pottery

General – Eight vessels were clearly identified and of these seven were early Bronze Age Beaker pottery and one was a middle Bronze Age bucket urn. Comparative pottery and dating is provided in the typological sections below.
The remaining sherds were of prehistoric date but due to the lack of form and decoration it has not proved possible to identify these with any certainty. Therefore, this report will concentrate on the sherds which are securely identified.

Early Bronze Age Beaker

Sherds from seven Beaker vessels were found in area 5. Sherds from one Beaker vessel provided an almost complete profile (Dr 20a) missing only the base (2630/3307/3336/3415). The pot has a rounded rim and is decorated with fine comb impressions in a variety of zoned patterns, chevron below the rim, herringbone on the neck, v-shape with infill on the upper body, more v-shape decoration on the lower body and lattice above the base, all within horizontal comb bands. There are four rows of horizontal comb bands above and below each pattern zone with alternating blank fields between decorated zones.
Vessels with very similar decoration are known elsewhere in Yorkshire, for example from Garton Slack (Clarke 1970, pl 555) and Garrowby Wold (*ibid*, pl 652). A vessel of exactly the

same form as Dr 20a was found at Broxa 4, Yorks (*ibid*, pl 174). This pot also had comb decoration in zones with alternating blank fields. This vessel was given the early Beaker period W/MR notation in Clarke's scheme. The similarities of the pots in the region suggest that this is a local type of Beaker vessel.

In recent work on Beakers a lineage of pottery has been established based on new dates (Needham 2005). The low carinated Beakers, of the form seen here (Dr20a), was shown to be one of the primary forms in Britain, thus agreeing with Clarke (*ibid*, 183). The decoration also conforms to the Maritime Derived scheme which is common on this type of Beaker. Dates for this type of vessel lie mainly between 2500 and 2100 cal BC.

Sherds of the remaining six Beaker pots have no form and thus can only be identified by their decoration and cannot be securely dated. However, most dating schemes (Needham 2005; Kinnes et al. 1991) place Beaker pottery between 2500 and 1800 cal BC. Comparative pottery from the region indicates that all the sherds are fairly typical of pottery of this type found in the area.

Two sherds from a second Beaker pot were found (Dr 20b, 3307/2). These show a long v-shaped comb decoration. A vessel with similar decoration was found at Huggate Wold (Clarke 1970, pl 772) and Broxa 4 in Yorks (*ibid* pl 173).

Incised geometric patterns were seen on three sherds from a third vessel (Dr 23, 2630) and diagonal incised decoration was also apparent on a rim sherd of this pot. A single sherd with incised herringbone (Dr 24, 2630) came from a fourth pot with a fabric which contained less shelly material than other Beaker sherds. Incised decoration is less common on Yorkshire Beakers but seen on a vessel from Skipsea (*ibid* pl 61). However, decorated rims are rare on Beakers, but occasionally seen as for example at Old Rothbury, Northumberland (*ibid* pl 893). These incised patterns do show some similarities to preceding Grooved Ware styles but there is no comparison in fabric type, finish or execution of decoration.

Six Beaker sherds were also found which came from the fifth pot. These were decorated with horizontal incised decoration (Dr A, 3307/3336), but no form of the vessel was apparent. A number of Yorkshire Beakers have similar decoration including pots from Pickering (*ibid* pl 267), Rudstone (*ibid* Pls 386 and 511) and Hanging Grimston (*ibid* 507).

Two sherds from a sixth Beaker pot were found and were decorated with a stabbed design (Dr B, 3336). This is an unusual decorative technique but others vessels with similar decoration are known in Yorkshire at Ashberry (*ibid*, pl 31) and Amotherby (*ibid* pl 539). Three joining undecorated base sherds from a seventh pot were found (2630/3415). These form part of a slightly concave base (Dr C), and may form part of one of the pots already identified, but the wall thickness suggests these sherds belong to a separate vessel.

In Area 17 six sherds of prehistoric pottery were found (5708, 5710, 5714), one of which may be Beaker (5710), but none of the sherds could be identified with certainty. Flint flakes and blades were also found in these contexts.

Middle Bronze Age Urn (SF1)

A small middle Bronze Age bucket-shaped pot was found in a pit in area 14 (Dr 85, 1019). The pot is about 70% complete and displays a complete profile. It has straight sides with a slightly inturning upper body and has finger nail decoration on the flat rim. The body is undecorated but has some finger smoothing. This vessel is typical of the type of middle Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury pottery seen in the midlands and north of England (Allen et al. 1987, 219). The vessel is unabraded and in reasonable condition.

Bucket-shaped pots of this period with finger smoothing are known from a number of other sites in Yorkshire, for example from the cremation cemetery of Catfoss in Yorkshire (McInnes 1968, 10), and a small bucket-shaped pot with finger smoothing and a flat rim was found at a possible ceremonial site at Thwing (Manby 1980, fig 10.6). Finger nail decoration on the rim is more unusual but was seen on two vessels from the cremation cemetery of Pasture Lodge, Lincs (Allen et al. 1987, figs 13.3 & 14.19).

This type of vessel has often been found at cremation cemeteries and settlements where dates are known. Remains of a bucket-shaped pot were found in a pit on the A1 (Site D) excavations near Ferrybridge (Allen 2004). A date was obtained from associated cremated bone of 1380-1110 cal BC (2 sigma, SUERC-4342). Material found with a small bucket-shaped pot at Swarkeston, Derbyshire within a hollow oak trunk provided a date of 1450-1130 cal BC (2 sigma: Beta-104495, Knight 2002, 123). Charcoal associated with similar pottery from the settlement site of Billingborough in Lincolnshire was dated to 1530-1260 cal BC (2 sigma: BM-1410, Chowne et al. 2001, 5).

Some Bronze Age urns have been found in association with early Bronze Age Collared Urns at the occupation site of Oversley Farm, Styal, Cheshire, and dated to 1965 to 1630 (Beta-127180, Allen 2007). These pots therefore have their origin in the earlier part of the Bronze Age, but were most commonly seen in the second half of the second millennium BC.

Context

Early Bronze Age

The sherds of the most complete Beaker pot (Dr 20a) were found in grave backfills (2630 and 3307) and the silting around the coffin box (3336 and 3415) of the first grave cut [2631]. All the remaining identifiable sherds, comprising another six vessels, were also found in these same contexts in Area 5 (Fig 1). The majority of the sherds (Table 3, 94% by weight) were either unabraded or only slightly abraded suggesting they had not been moved any great distance, and were either placed or moved into the grave from a nearby location. Alongside the burials found with these pots, one context (3307) also contained animal bone.

Pot no	Drawing no	Contexts	Description	Feature
1	DR20a	2630, 3307, 3336, 3415	back fill of grave & silting around coffin box	2631
2	DR20b	3307	back fill of grave	2631
3	DR23	2630	back fill of grave	2631

4	DR24	2630	back fill of grave	2631
5	DR86	3307, 3336	back fill of grave & silting around coffin box	2631
6	DR87	3336	silting around coffin box	2631
7	DR88	2630, 3415	back fill of grave & silting around coffin box	2631

Figure 1

Table 2: Abrasion Levels of Beaker pottery in area 5

Abrasion Level	% of surface affected	Weight of sherds g	% of total weight
Unabraded	<5%	285	77
Slightly abraded	5-25%	64	17
Abraded	50-75%	2	0.5
Very abraded	>75%	21	5.5
Totals		372	100

It appears that all the Beaker material may be associated with the first grave, but there were problems in distinguishing between the fills of the tree throw hole and the graves. The placing of Beakers with crouched inhumations in graves in Yorkshire, often in coffins, and the insertion of further burials into older graves is seen as a typical burial rite in this area (Manby et al. 2004, 60). This tradition and the problems of determining the fills suggests some of the sherds may be intrusive.

Middle Bronze Age

The small bucket-shaped urn contained a cremation burial and was found in a pit in Area 14. There were no other finds. This type of pottery is often associated with cremation burials placed in pits in flat cemeteries as at Coneygre Farm, Notts, and Pasture Lodge Farm, Lincs (Allen et al. 1987). Often too this type of vessel has been found placed into a pit outside a ring ditch or barrow as at Tucklesholme Farm, Staffs (Martin and Allen 2001) and at Ferrybridge Site D, Yorks (Allen 2004).

In eastern Yorkshire bucket urns are known from cemeteries such as Malton and Garton Slack. The urns were often placed in pits and usually contained cremation burials often within or outside ditched enclosures. Similar vessels have also been found on settlement sites such as Thwing (Manby 1980). This is a small vessel with a volume of approximately 760cc, and is therefore, amongst the smaller pots of this type, similar to several seen at Coneygre Farm, Notts (Allen et al. 1987, fig. 20).

Late Bronze Age to Iron Age by Peter Didsbury and Alan Vince

Fabrics (AGV)

The Late Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery was all examined at x20 magnification by the author and on this basis was divided into groups based on the predominant inclusion types (Table 3). Subsequently, a series of samples of the major fabric groups were taken for thin section and chemical analysis (Vince 2007b). Following that study it was realised that several of the visual groups could be subdivided but in most of these cases the diagnostic features could not be seen by eye, so that it is not possible to use this information to re-classify the whole collection. Table 3 gives the principal inclusion types used to classify the fabrics and the sub-fabric groups identified in thin section and through chemical analysis.

Table 3

Fabric Code	Sub-fabric	Distinguishing Features	Comments

Forms

A detailed discussion of the pottery forms is given below. Broad initial classification indicates that almost all the sherds come from jars of varying shapes and sizes with only 12 sherds definitely coming from bowls (representing no more than 9 vessels) with a further two possible examples. Sixty-two sherds could not be classified.

Use

Over two thirds of the sherds showed some signs of use, mostly in the form of burnt deposits on the interior or sooting on the exterior. These vessels were therefore either used for boiling water or cooking. A small number of sherds were leached on the interior only, or more on the interior than the exterior. These were therefore used to hold acidic liquids and in many cases this leaching was combined with evidence for sooting or internal deposits.

Source

The thin section and chemical analysis suggests that none of the pottery was made from the same clay sources as those used for the fired clay. However, several fabrics were broadly comparable. This suggests that some pottery was produced “locally” but it is not possible to precisely define what “local” might mean in this particular case.

Most of the remaining pottery contains suites of inclusions which suggest sources north of the Humber and mainly to the west of the Melton site. These include shelly types which might have been expected to be of Lincolnshire origin. This concentration to the west, however, is probably partly an artefact of the methodology, since fabrics produced to the east of the site would have similar petrological characteristics to those in the Melton area whilst those to the west are distinctive. A small number of sherds from what appear to be good pre-Roman deposits contain calcite temper. The thin section and chemical analysis suggests that these are probably products of the Vale of Pickering, as are the late Roman calcite-tempered wares from the site. Analysis of the distribution of calcite-tempered ware in East Yorkshire in the pre-

Roman Iron Age is consistent with this suggested source, and with the shell-tempered wares being from a source slightly to the west of the Melton site (2004).
Only a handful of sherds come from vessels which might have been produced in the Lincolnshire Wolds (and specifically on the western flanks of the Wolds) but thin section and chemical analysis suggests that many of these might be local products, since similar sands occur at the base of the scarp of the Yorkshire Wolds, the nearest source for which is immediately north of the site, and only those which contain Spilsby sandstone are definite Lincolnshire imports.
Finally, none of the pottery appears to be imported from further afield. Given the proximity of the site to the trading settlement of North Ferriby, and the presence of butt beakers of French origin on an earlier part of the same site (Didsbury 00) this is quite remarkable.

Cultural affinities and dating (P Didsbury)

The majority of the featured sherds (i.e. rims, bases, decorated sherds) from Period 3 or 4 contexts was submitted to the author for examination. The following comments are therefore based on a sub-sample of the collection, but one that includes most of the material likely to be contemporary with its context.

Introduction and methodology

Quantification and recording of the whole site assemblage was undertaken by the principal author (AV). Material for which preliminary identification suggested an Iron Age date was then extracted and submitted to this author (PD) for comment after fabric characterisation studies, C14 determinations and illustration of selected vessels. This report concentrates on establishing regional form parallels for the assemblage, and its broad chronology. These are discussed and catalogued according to fabric group in the following section. A concluding discussion summarises the findings.

The fabric categories

Calcite-tempered ware (IACALC)

Seven vessels were submitted for examination, all of which came from Period 3 contexts or were unstratified. The group was made up of IACALC (2 vessels), IACALC1 (3 vessels), IACALC2 (1 vessel) and IACALC3 (1 vessel). There was only one rim sherd (DR89). The jar with rounded, upright to slightly everted rim is a simple and long-lived form in the region. An example from Barmston, East Yorkshire, probably dates from the early first millennium BC (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 21, no. 2), while similar vessels from Hawling Road, Market Weighton, occur in contexts of the first century AD, cf. Evans and Creighton 1999, fig. 7.17, G096-J02. The latter vessel is in a calcite-tempered fabric and is probably of broadly similar date to the vessel under discussion here.

Drawing no.	Remarks
33	IACALC. Jar. Lower body with three post-firing perforations. Function

	unknown. Hard, with pinkish grey core and interior, and light brown exterior. Areas of thin dark residue on the interior. (2992, Period 3)
89	IACALC1. Jar. Hard, fully reduced throughout. Abundant ill-sorted inclusions to c. 7mm. Temper visible in both surfaces, though reasonably well masked on the exterior. (2136, period 3)

Figure 2

Erratic-tempered ware (IAERR)

Thirty-five vessels were submitted for identification, comprising IAERR (21 examples), and examples of sub-fabrics 1, 2, 3, and 4 (9, 3, 1 and 1 examples, respectively).

The majority of IAERR vessels (10 examples) occur in Period 3 contexts; in addition, there are 2 examples from Period 4, 5 from Period 3/4, and 4 which are unstratified. DR77 is a large necked jar with several broadly comparable parallels in the LPRIA assemblages at Dragonby in Ceramic Stages 9-10, cf. May 1996, fig.19.42, Nos 409, 414; fig. 19.52, no. 615. DR81 is an everted rim jar. Such vessels are difficult to date, with similar forms occurring into the Roman period, possibly cf. a first-century AD vessel from Rudston Villa (Rigby 1980, fig. 28, no. 17).

DR82, another everted rim jar, bears some resemblance to a Late Iron Age vessel from Normanby (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 48, no. 8), with closer parallels in the Roman period at Hawling Road, Market Weighton, where an early second-century AD context (4007) yielded several vessels described as Knapton types, cf. Evans and Creighton 1999 fig. 7.17, G28-J01.

DR90 is a small carinated bowl in a fine orange fabric. The surfaces are well finished and may bear faint brush marks on the exterior, while the erratic content is represented by very sparse igneous fragments. The extant portion is very close in shape and size (though it does not have concave sides) to the upper half of a carinated fineware bowl from Dragonby, described as 'a most unusual vessel' (May 1996, fig. 19.47, no. 487); it is otherwise difficult to see this as a late Iron Age vessel, or as having been produced under the influence of other angular forms of the period, *e.g.* in the Gallo-Belgic or samian series. It is possible that it is to be linked with the other small carinated bowl form from the site, the flint-tempered DR94 (*q.v.*, below).

The remaining, unillustrated, IAERR material confirms the impression of an essentially 'late' Iron Age assemblage. Fragments of upright flat-topped or slightly round-ended rims occur in contexts 3345 and 1264 (Period '3 and 4', and unstratified), the first finding a fairly close parallel at Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Didsbury in press, no. 102) and the second, which is internally dished, at Percy Rigg (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 46, no. 6. Two rim fragments which are probably from slack-profiled 'cemetery' jars with pinched rims occur in 2354 and 5181 (both Period 3), the first resembling 1975, fig. 39, no. 3, from Faxfleet 'A'.

Turning to sub-fabric 1, the majority of IAERR1 vessels (5 examples) were from Period 3 contexts, the remainder from Period 4. The only drawn vessel from Period 4 is DR04, which

may be compared to the same Knapton types cited above in respect of DR82. DR46 is a butt shape with a short curved rim, again with good parallels at Hawling Road, cf. Evans and Creighton 1999, fig. 7.17, G28-J07, which comes from a context of the first century AD. It may be noted that charred grain from feature 2718, from which DR46 comes, produced a calibrated C14 date of 360-100 BC. The date seems rather too early for the vessel form under discussion. DRs 48 and 53 are simple shapes, perhaps best regarded as barrel jars with modified rims; close parallels are precluded by the small size and relatively uncertain orientation of the sherds in question.

Sub-fabric IAERR2 occurs in two Period 3 contexts (not illustrated) and one from Period 4 (DR65). The latter vessel is very close to a vessel recovered in the earlier Melton excavations (Didsbury 1999, fig. 14, no. 60, from a pre-Roman context).

Sub-fabric IAERR3 is represented by a single rim fragment from Period 3 context 2886 (not drawn). The vessel is very similar to grog-tempered vessel DR34 (below).

Sub-fabric IAERR4 is represented by a single body sherd from a Period 3 context.

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR77	IAERR. Jar. Hard, dark grey with dark brown surfaces. Abundant temper, annotated as including limestone. The rim is possibly wheel-formed. *(Period 3 or 4, 3798)*
DR81	IAERR. Jar. Hard, crisp fabric, very dark grey with brown interior. Well smoothed, some small temper occasionally breaking the surface. *(Period 3 to 4, 3368)*
DR82	IAERR. Jar. Similar fabric to that of 81. *(Period 4, 3905)*
DR90	IAERR. Carinated small bowl. Hard, oxidized red brown throughout *(Period 3, 1457)*
DR04	IAERR1. Jar. Fabric similar to that of 81, 82. Light brown margins. External sooting patches. *(Period 4, 3309)*
DR46	IAERR1. Jar. Fabric similar to the above, but with harsher surfaces and temper to *c.* 3mm breaking both surfaces. *(Period 3, 2717)*
DR48	IAERR1. Jar. Hard, brown with well smoothed very dark grey surfaces, the exterior sooted in places. Some extrusive temper on interior, including mica to *c.* 2mm. *(Period 3, 2003)*
DR53	IAERR1. Jar. Hard, dark grey with light brown exterior and patchy red and brown interior. Lumpy, rather pustular texture. *(Period 3, 1706)*
DR65	IAERR2. Jar. Hard, smooth, well knit light brown fabric. Extensive dark interior residue and external sooting deposits. *(Period 4, 3527)*

DR28	IAERR4. Jar. *(Unphased posthole, 5128)*
DR30	IAERR1. Jar. (unphased posthole, 5122)

Figure 3

Flint-tempered ware (IAFLINT)

Twelve vessels were submitted for examination. With two exceptions (Period 4 and unstratified) these are from Period 3 contexts. With the exception of the almost untempered fineware discussed below (DR94) the fabrics are very similar and the catalogue descriptions will serve for the whole corpus. It may be noted that, with single exceptions from Areas 4 and 8, all the flint-tempered material comes from Area 5/5E.

Flint temper in East Yorkshire is principally, though not exclusively, associated with the Late Bronze Age (Rigby 1986, 146) and Early Iron Age. Having said this, it is difficult to cite close published parallels for DRs 26 and 27. Neither can easily be fitted into Rigby's British Museum typology of East Yorkshire pottery from the first millennium BC (2004), though it is tempting to see DR26 as being connected with her 'constricted tripartite' and 'ledged tripartite' jar forms, both attributed to 'typological grouping d' of 900-600 BC (*op. cit*. 37 and fig. 5); possibly similar forms occur in *c.* early fifth-century BC contexts at Manor Farm, Kilham (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 24, Nos 12, 13), while a vessel from Castle Hill, Scarborough, might count as a decorated version of the 'form' (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 44, no. 15). It is a pity in the case of DR27, a large carinated wide-mouthed jar, that more of the vessel profile is not extant, making it difficult to match precisely with any of the numerous carinated vessels which characterise the first half of the first millennium BC. There are no parallels among the carinated forms in the British Museum typology (see above), and the rim and carination lack the fingertip decoration which often, though not always, distinguishes such vessels at Castle Hill and Staple Howe.

DR94 is another small carinated bowl, this time with a concave upper wall and a thinned, slightly everted lip. The vessel, burnished and with only sparse and tiny flint tempering, clearly qualifies as a 'fineware'. It has a similar profile to, though is only two thirds the size of, a decorated vessel from Manor Farm, Kilham, for which a date of around 500 BC has been claimed (Challis & Harding 1975, 52-53, and fig. 26, no. 4). Context 2530 has been phased as Period 4 though a human skeleton (2554) which comes from the same feature (2532) has produced a radiocarbon date of 770-480 BC.

The remaining, unillustrated material in this fabric includes little that is diagnostic. Unstratified context 3411 contains a rim fragment from a possible barrel jar, and there is a large basal plate, possibly up to *c.* 180mm in diameter, from context 5224. An everted rim fragment which may be compared to another vessel from Kilham (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 24, no. 11) occurs in context 1443.

The only C14 date from a context containing IAFLINT came from Area 4 Period 4 feature 3410, where a horse skeleton provided a calibrated date of 170 BC to AD 70, suggesting that

the sherd was residual in its context. It will be noted that both the phasing and location of this feature are atypical for this fabric.

(The author gratefully acknowledges the help of T. G. Manby, who discussed the flint-tempered wares with him).

Drawing no	Remarks
DR26	IAFLINT. Jar. Hard, harsh. Moderately abundant angular white flint to c. 3mm visible through both surfaces. Greyish brown with darker patches. Horizontal wipe or tooling marks on the exterior, finger impressions on the interior. (Period 3, 1445)
DR27	IAFLINT. Jar. Hard, with mainly well masked surfaces, giving a leathery, slightly lumpy texture. Dark greyish brown with light reddish brown exterior margin and surface patches in places. (Period 3, 1445)
DR29	IAFLINT. Jar. (Period 3, 5229)
DR94	IAFLINT. Carinated bowl. Soft with smooth surfaces. The core is dark grey with light brown margins. The flint inclusions are sparse but range up to 2.0mm across (Period 4, 2530)

Figure 4

Grog-tempered ware (IAGROG)

Ten vessels were submitted for examination. With the exception of a vessel from 5479, allocated to 'Period 3 onwards', all were from Period 3 contexts. The group consisted of six vessels categorised as IAGROG, with single examples of sub-fabrics 1, 2, 3 and 5. There were three reasonably diagnostic vessels, all of which suggest a date within the later Iron Age, two of them possibly in *c.* the first century BC or AD.

The first of these (DR34) finds an extremely close parallel in a vessel from a 'late La Tène' assemblage from Driffield Aerodrome (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 38, no. 2).

A small jar with thinned, upright, flat-topped rim (DR92), closely resembles another 'late La Tène' vessel, from Hasholme Hall (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 37, no. 1). The Hasholme jar bears finger-topped decoration on the rim, but is otherwise almost identical.

A third vessel (DR95), with a long, slender, upright to slightly everted rim, can be compared broadly to a vessel from Thorpe Thewles (Swain 1987, fig. 58, no. 103) and more closely to one from Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Didsbury in press, illus. no. 65). Pottery from the same phase at Thorpe Thewles produced a mean thermoluminescence 'date' of 135 BC, while the Creyke Beck vessel comes from a feature which produced a radio-carbon determination in the third century BC.

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR34	IAGROG. Jar. Hard though slightly soapy fabric, very dark grey with light brown areas on the lower exterior. Reasonably well masked temper, lumpy

	texture. (2964, Period 3)
DR92	IAGROG. Jar. Grey core with light brown surfaces. Softer than drawing 34. (1392, Period 3)
DR95	IAGROG. Jar. Fabric and colouration as no. 34. (1457, Period 3)

Figure 5

Greensand quartz-tempered ware (IAGSQ)

Thirteen vessels were submitted for examination. The three illustrated vessels (drawings 32, 73, 79) are categorised as IAGSQ, in addition to which there are three examples of sub-fabric 1, and seven of sub-fabric 2. All the IAGSQ1 vessels are from Period 4 contexts, while the IAGSQ2 examples come from Periods 3 (2 examples), 4 (3 examples) and 3 or 4 (2 examples).

The first of the illustrated vessels, drawing 32, is from a Period 3 context. Good parallels can be cited from the peri-Conquest assemblage at Wharram Percy North Manor (Didsbury 2004, fig. 102, no. 28) and from Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Didsbury in press, illus. no. 106)

An everted rim jar (drawing 73), comes from a Period 3-4 context. Everted rims of this kind are the second of the common Late La Tène rim forms in the region listed by Challis and Harding (*op. cit.,* 96), and the vessel under discussion can be convincingly paralleled by a vessel of this period from Catcote (*op. cit*., fig 47, no. 15. However, it must also be noted that a wide range of similar everted rim jars occurs well into the Roman period on both sides of the Humber, cf. Rigby 1980, no. 37, from a ditch group at Rudston Villa which the author considered to have been deposited after AD 120.

From the same Period 3-4 context comes drawing 79. Despite its rather unusual squat profile, the vessel is perhaps best compared to Knapton-type jars or their immediate precursors in the Iron Age tradition. Corder and Kirk 1932, fig. 30, no. 3, is a quite acceptable parallel. In York, the type first occurs before the end of the second century though is more common in the mid third (Monaghan 1997, 985).

Among the remaining material may be mentioned a small body fragment in sub-fabric 1, from Period 4 context 2819. This bears a neat cordon demarcated by grooves, and is to be compared with Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (LPRIA) material from Dragonby.

Drawing no.	Remarks
32	IAGSQ. Jar. Hard, smooth, with generally well-masked fine temper. Very dark grey with patchy lighter areas. External sooting and dark internal residues. Crescentic ‘cracks’ below the rim. (1961, Period 3)
73	IAGSQ. Jar. Hard, smooth very dark grey surfaces, pinkish grey core and light red interior core margin. Moderate ill-sorted temper, much c. 1-2mm, the largest c. 5mm. Extensive external sooting. (3368, Period 3-4)

79	IAGSQ. Jar. Fabric and colouration similar to no. DR73, above, though with thick light red margins and surface patches. Extensive sooting on the exterior. (3368, Period 3-4)

Figure 6

Limestone-tempered ware (number of)

Twenty-three vessels were submitted for examination, of which seventeen are illustrated. The group consisted of thirteen examples coded IALST, seven sub-fabric 1 and three sub-fabric 2.

Of the IALST vessels, three were recovered from Period 4 contexts. All were everted rim jars. DR07 would not be out of place in the spectrum of such jars at Hawling Road, Market Weighton. The large sherd sizes may suggest that the vessel is broadly contemporary with the Romano-British wheelthrown material from the same context. DR75 is a wide-mouthed jar which bears comparison with a second-century vessel from Rudston (Rigby 1980, fig. 31, no. 41), and the presence of South Gaulish samian in the same context may be noted. The third example (not illustrated) is a flake of uncertain orientation, and comes from context 3521.

The remaining IALST vessels are all of probable Iron Age date, though it should be noted that the barrel jar (DRs 36 and 52) is a long-lived form which Challis and Harding (1975, 97-98) suggest continues into the Romano-British period in the north of the region. Rigby (2004, 31-34) discusses the form and lists examples. The form is attributed to 'typological groupings d and f' in the 'Pots in Pits' project, with dates 900-600 BC and 600-400 BC. It must be noted that the number of known barrel jars from the region is far larger than Rigby's list suggests, and that examples occur in such late assemblages as that from Wharram Percy North Manor (*e.g.* Didsbury 1999, no.95). The distinctive rim of DR38 occurs on a 'cemetery jar' from Danes Graves (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 31, no.2), and an unstratified jar from Rudston may also be compared. DR49 finds a parallel from the late site at Costa Beck (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 52, no. 2). The most unusual of the drawn IALST vessels is DR91, from a Period 3 context. Relatively similar externally hollowed rims, somewhat resembling the Roman cornice rim, may be cited from late Iron Age and early Roman contexts at Dragonby. Among these, May 1996, fig. 19.45, no. 462 is perhaps the closest, and comes from the fill of a gully which also produced imitation Terra Nigra; fig. 19.53, Nos 623 and 632 are also generically similar, the first of these being from LPRIA Ceramic Stage 9; fig..4, no. 806 is a less pronounced version on a slacker body, and comes from a Horizon II context (Flavian to early second century). Among the unillustrated material may be mentioned a jar rim comparable to material from the first century BC and AD sites at Faxfleet 'A' and Saltshouse School, Hull (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 39, no. 5 and fig. 41, no. 9. An everted rim fragment of late appearance came from Area 8 feature 2348, a sheep skeleton from which produced a calibrated C14 date of 410-200 BC. It should be noted that this is rather earlier than the vessels discussed above would tend to suggest.

Turning to sub-fabric 1, all the examples submitted are illustrated, and all except one vessel are from Period 3 contexts. The exception (DR22) comes from a Period 4 context but is probably residual. The form can be paralleled in various Late Iron Age regional assemblages; particularly close are vessels from earlier excavations at Melton (Didsbury 1999, fig. 14, Nos 56, 60). The first of these bears fingertip decoration on the rim; both come from pre-Conquest contexts.

The typical IALST1 jar has an upright or everted rim. Upright are DR54 and DR93, the first of which finds good parallels in the peri-Conquest groups from Wharram Percy North Manor (*e.g.* Didsbury 2004, nos. 24, 70) and is also a common type at Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Didsbury in press). DR35 is a fairly shapeless jar with a slightly everted rim; two depressions on the shoulder may either have been left by the potter's fingers during manufacture or be intended as decoration, though this would not be a typical Late Iron Age decorative technique. DR44 is very close to a vessel from The Enclosure at Rudston, Ditch SA1 (2004, fig. 56, no. 2). The assemblage is attributed to the author's 'typological grouping h', dated *c.* 100 BC – AD 100. DR51 has a wedge rim on a globular body. Vessels from Flixton and Faxfleet 'A' are very similar (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 38, no. 9; fig. 39, no. 5) and one from Saltshouse School, Hull may also be mentioned (*op. cit.*, fig. 41, no. 9). These are conventionally regarded as late sites belonging to the first centuries BC and AD. The vessel is probably acceptable as a 'wedge rim globular jar', *sensu* Rigby 2004 (40 and fig.7), also attributed to 'typological grouping h'. DR55 is a very distinctive rim which has close parallels at both Faxfleet 'A' (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 40, no. 4) and Wharram Percy North Manor (Didsbury 2004, no. 8).

All three IALST2 vessels have been drawn (DR5, 6, 76). The first two come from Period 4 contexts and the third from Period 3 or 4. DR05 is similar to early Roman jars in hand-made fabrics from Hawling Road, Market Weighton, *e.g.* Evans and Creighton 1999, fig. 7.17, G28-J01, from a second-century AD context. DR06, with its short, curved, slightly everted rim, is one of the basic jar shapes throughout the ceramic sequence at Dragonby, and continues into the Flavian to early second-century Horizon II (cf. May 1996, fig. 20.4, no. 807). DR76 falls within the group of globular vessels with sharply everted rims listed as the second of Challis and Harding's most common 'Late La Tène' forms (Challis & Harding 1975, 96). It may be compared to a group of such jars from Faxfleet 'A' (*op. cit.*, fig. 40, Nos 5-7), while a jar from Pale end (*op. cit.*, fig. 46, no. 2), 46/2 has the same high round shoulder.

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR07	IALST. Jar. Hard. Dark grey with reddish brown margins in places. Well smoothed 'leathery' surfaces. (Period 4, 1279)
DR36	IALST. Jar. Hard. Fully reduced. rather harsh, lumpy surfaces, with visible temper , ill-sorted to c. 2mm. (Unstratified)
DR38	IALST. Jar. Hard. Greyish brown with reddish brown margins and

	surfaces. Well smoothed, but with visible temper. Ill-sorted inclusions to a maximum of 8mm. (Period uncertain, 2867)
DR49	IALST. Jar. Hard. Very dark grey with lighter surface patches. Temper mainly < 2mm, but up to 5mm. (Period 3, 1601)
DR52	IALST. Jar. Reduced throughout. (Period 3, 1706)
DR75	IALST. Jar. Very dark grey, with variably oxidised patches on exterior. Soapy texture, vesicular on interior. (Period 4, 3905)
DR91	IALST. Jar with rough external horizontal ridges from finishing. Hard. Light grey core with brown margins and surfaces. Both internal and external inclusions were leached. Sooted exterior, especially below the rim (Period 3, 4932)
DR22	IALST1. Jar. Hard, mid grey with darker brown/grey surfaces. Slightly lumpy. Rim hollowed on top. (Period 4, 3362)
DR35	IALST1. Jar. Hard, reduced. Ill-sorted temper to c. 4mm (Period 3, 2741)
DR44	IALST1. Jar. Hard, very dark grey with patchy brown and dark grey exterior. Slightly lumpy though well smoothed. Visible temper on exterior, much c. 4mm. (Period 3, 1599)
DR51	IALST1. Jar. Hard, very dark grey with brown interior and areas on exterior. Dense temper, visible on the interior face. (Period 3, 2538)
DR54	IALST1. Jar. Hard. Black with sooted exterior and leached inclusions on the interior from the neck downwards (Period 3, 2564)
DR55	IALST1. Jar. Hard. Mid grey with darker and browner surface patches. Well smoothed. (Period 3, 2434)
DR93	IALST1. Jar. Fairly soft. Light brown throughout. A white deposits is present on the interior, starting c.50mm from the rim and the exterior is sooted (Period 4, 1297)
DR05	IALST2. Jar. Hard, smooth, very dark grey with light brown surfaces, patchy on the exterior. There is an extensive dark internal residue below the change of angle at the neck. The neat demarcation of this zone suggests the vessel has been used with a lid. (Period 4, 3309)
DR06	IALST2. Jar. Hard, smooth, reduced with brown margins and surface patches. Extensive external sooting. (Period 4, 3576)
DR76	IALST2. Jar. Hard, smooth, light brown exterior, some temper visible where worn. Possible light sooting. (Period 3 or 4, 3487)

Figure 7

Oolitic limestone-tempered ware (IAOOL)

Fourteen vessels were submitted for examination. All were from Period 3 contexts, except for two vessels (Period 4 and unstratified). Three vessels are drawn. DR25 and DR45 are barrel jars. Very similar vessels are common at Creyke Beck. DR47 may be regarded as a barrel modified by a short stubby rim. The unillustrated material includes fragments of upright, beaded and 'pinched' or 'chamfered' rims. One of the latter resembles a vessel from Faxfleet 'A' (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 39, no. 3).

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR25	IAOOL. Jar. Hard. Black core with brown surfaces. The internal inclusions are leached from c.30mm from the rim downwards (Period 3, 1471)
DR45	IAOOL. Jar. Fairly hard, pinkish grey with light red margin in parts and patchy dark grey and brown surfaces. Aggressively hand made. Large temper to c. 7mm. (Period 3, 1599)
DR47	IAOOL. Jar. Hard. Very dark grey with light brown surfaces, slightly vesicular on the interior. Internal residue? (Period 3, 2418)

Figure 8

Shell-tempered ware (IASH)

Fifteen vessels were submitted for examination. The group consists of IASH (10 examples), and sub-fabrics 1, 2 and 3 (with 2, 2 and 1 examples, respectively).

The majority of the IASH vessels are from Period 3 or unstratified contexts, the only vessel from a Period 4 context being DR74 (from 3909). With its bucket-like profile and fingertipped rim, the vessel is, however, most likely to be residual in its context. Pots with this shape and decoration can occur in Middle Iron Age scored ware, *e.g.* at Ancaster Quarry (Challis and Harding 1975, fig. 11, no. 6; and Elsdon Nd., figs D.13, D.13a, D.13b). Two vessels from the earlier excavations at Melton (Didsbury 1999, fig. 14, Nos 55, 56) are also perhaps comparable. Both the latter come from LPRIA contexts. DR57, from an unstratified context, may also belong to the Roman period, or at least be peri-Conquest in date. The vessel is high shouldered, and resembles a Horizon I (Claudian to early Flavian) vessel from Dragonby (May 1996, fig. 20.3, no. 793). DR41, with its externally thickened rim, is to be linked with a group of vessels from the earlier Melton excavations (Didsbury 1999, fig. 14, Nos 54, 56, 60). DR58 is a globular bowl, the best parallels for such a profile occurring south of the Humber, though at Dragonby the form is usually equipped with a more slender rim, cf. May 1996, fig. 19.41, no. 387; fig. 19.48, no. 510. The first of the cited parallels comes from Ceramic Stage 7-9, probably the first half of the first century AD; the second, a decorated example, is described as an 'S-profile bowl'. DR42 is a barrel jar.

The most unusual and distinctive IASH vessels are DR43 and DR39. The first is closely similar, if not identical to, a vessel from the British Museum excavations at Hanging Cliff, Kilham (2004, fig. 76, no. 8). The form is described as a 'lid-seated cauldron' and attributed to 'typological grouping f' (BC 600-400). DR39, with its everted rim and apparent lid-seating, seems also likely to be connected and is probably, indeed, more deserving of the designation 'cauldron' than the Kilham vessel. DR39 is remarkably close in shape to a vessel from Thorpe Thewles, cf. Swain 1987, fig. 45, no. 62, which is described as a lid-seated barrel-shaped cooking pot. The vessel comes from Phase II at that site, thermoluminescence 'dates' for which suggested activity centring about 500 BC (*op. cit.,* 72). In her discussion of the Kilham vessel *(*2004*,* 39) the author points out that the most likely source for the shelly clay of which it is made is the (north or south) Humber bank, and that the clay might have been transported to Kilham by the potter in its 'raw' state. The Kilham vessel was unique at the time of publication. If the Melton vessels are truly to be compared they are not only among the earlier Iron Age vessels from the site but are possessed of some regional importance.

Only two vessels in IASH1 were submitted. Both were undiagnostic fragments from Period 3 contexts and neither is drawn.

IASH2 was also represented by two vessels, both from Period 4 contexts. Both are heavily beaded jar/bowls of the kinds common in the LPRIA horizons at Dragonby and which continue into the early Roman period. DR97 is similar in varying degrees to vessels from Ceramic Stages 8-9 at Dragonby, in the first half of the first century AD, cf. May 1996, fig. 19.28, no. 170; fig. 19.34, no. 262; and fig. 19.45, no. 449. Claudio-Neronian vessels from Old Winteringham (Rigby and Stead 1976, fig. 74, Nos 10-11) may also be cited. A concentric groove on the interior of the rim of the Melton vessel may have to do with wheel manufacture. The second vessel, represented by a rim fragment and not illustrated, comes from context 4046 and belongs to the same spectrum of vessels, cf. May 1996, fig. 19.40, no. 367; fig. 19.45, no. 459; fig. 19.48, no. 530; Rigby and Stead 1976, fig. 74, Nos 7, 9, 10. Once again the parallels are with LPRIA vessels of the earlier first century AD and Claudio-Neronian vessels from Old Winteringham, though the basic form continues into the second century AD.

IASH3 was represented by a single vessel from a Period 4 context, DR96. This is generically the same form as the IASH2 vessels discussed above, cf. May 1996, fig. 20.3, no. 793; Rigby and Stead 1976 fig. 74, Nos 9-11; fig. 76, no. 38 etc. The Dragonby and Old Winteringham vessels cited here are Claudian to early Flavian.

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR74	IASH. Jar. Hard, dark grey with light brown surface areas inside and out. Exterior quite well smoothed, though shell visible in both surfaces, up to c. 8mm. Fingertipped rim (Period 4, 3909)

DR57	IASH. Jar/bowl. Hard, very dark grey with worn brownish surfaces. Temper, to c. 3mm visible mainly in the interior surface. Sooting traces on the exterior. (Unstratified, 5409)
DR58	IASH. Bowl. Hard, well smoothed. Fine temper, giving a speckled appearance to the dark grey surfaces. (Unstratified, 5409)
DR41	IASH. Jar. Hard, smooth, slightly lumpy. Patchy greyish brown with dark grey areas on the exterior. Fine background temper with occasional fragments to c. 7mm. (Period 3, 1601)
DR42	IASH. Jar. Hard, slightly soapy. Dark brownish grey, temper mainly leached. Internal residue/carbonised deposits? (Period 3, 1601)
DR43	IASH. Lid-seated jar. Hard, smooth. Black core with dark brown surfaces. No leaching or deposits (Period 3, 1577)
DR39	IASH. Lid-seated jar/bowl. Hard, reddish brown core with red margins and brown surfaces. Abundant ill-sorted temper, mainly < 2mm but up to 4mm. (Period 3, 1854)
DR97	IASH2. Bowl in Iron Age tradition. Hard, dark grey. Abundant shell. Wheel-made with a shallow groove or lid-seating on inside of rim. Sooted under rim. (Period 4, 2819)
DR96	IASH3. Jar. Bowl in Iron Age tradition. Hard, dark grey with brown margins. Moderate shell. Wheel-made (Period 4, 2587)

Figure 9

Slag-tempered ware (IASLAG)

Only four vessels were submitted for examination, all from Period 4 contexts. There were no diagnostic elements, though a rounded upright rim fragment *may* possibly come from a vessel such as Evans and Creighton 1999, fig. 7.17, G096-J02, from a context of the first century AD at Hawling Road, Market Weighton.

Sandstone-tempered ware (IASST)

Only three vessels were submitted for examination, all represented by non-diagnostic body sherds. They come from Period 3, Period 3 or 4, and unstratified contexts.

Oolitic limonite-tempered ware (LOOL)

Twenty-eight vessels were submitted for examination. Most are from Period 4 contexts, and many appear to belong to jars with stubby or everted rims, of kinds which occur in both LPRIA and early Roman contexts at Dragonby and such sites as Old Winteringham. However, there are no clear instances of one of these vessels being contemporary with the Roman context in which it was found and several have typological features which are absent on definite post-

conquest handmade wares. On balance, therefore, they appear to be a LPRIA type which might continue in use into the post-Conquest period.

DR01 is an everted rim jar in a fabric which in many respects is visually reminiscent of Dalesware. There is a range of second-century pre-Dalesware everted rim jars at Dragonby and Winterton Villa with which this vessel may possibly be classed. The Dragonby examples are often labelled 'proto-Dalesware', though without much justification (cf. May 1996, fig. 20.15, no. 1049. Other probable examples, not drawn, come from Period 4 context 3948 and unstratified context 3398.

DR03 is a necked jar. The large necked jar, with a variety of rim shapes, is certainly an available pre-Conquest form, as witness May 1996, fig. 19.42, no. 414, from Ceramic Stage 9 at Dragonby. Very similar examples in wheel-thrown greyware were produced at Messingham in the fourth century AD (Rigby and Stead 1976, fig. 70). The context assemblage from which this vessel comes is very large and apparently extends into the mid second century.

DR50, from a Period 3 context, is a familiar Late Iron Age form, cf. vessels from Garton Slack and Levisham Moor Enclosure 'A' (Challis & Harding 1975, fig. 33, no. 2; fig. 49, no. 10). The form also occurred in the earlier Melton excavations (Didsbury 1999, no. 48).

Drawing no.	Remarks
DR01	LOOL. Jar. Hard, light red with black surfaces. Fairly well smoothed exterior, harsh interior with visible temper. Extensive sooting on exterior. (Period 4, 3954)
DR03	LOOL. Jar. Hard, dark grey with light red margins and surface patches. Rather lumpy surfaces, with fairly well masked temper. Ill-sorted temper up to c. 5mm. External sooting residues. (Period 3, 5218)
DR50	LOOL. Jar. Hard, dense fabric. Very dark grey with light brown exterior. Sparse visible temper c. 5mm, interior surface vesicular, perhaps through use. (Period 3, 2538)
DR100	LOOL Jar. Hard, dense fabric. Dark grey with dark brown surfaces. The vessel has a short, rounded everted rim (Period 4, 3916)

Figure 10

Discussion

Two basic fabric types, calcareous tempered wares on the one hand, and those tempered with non-soluble rock fragments on the other, are characteristic of East Yorkshire pottery assemblages throughout much of the first millennium BC. Common sense would seem to suggest geographical location as the main factor determining the dominant type in any given assemblage, with this fabric bipolarity reflecting the physical structure of the region, the two main components of which are the chalk Wolds and the till-covered lowlands of Holderness to the east. In practice, the situation is rarely clear cut and the composition of assemblages could be modified by a number of factors, *e.g.* the proximity of the settlement to geophysical

boundaries, so that its resource collection area encompasses more than one 'zone', and socio-economic considerations such as transhumance, marriage practices, and 'trade'. Perhaps most important, in the present case, is Melton's situation at the southern tip of the Wolds, and close to the Humber, with a number of different tempering agents available to it within a short distance. At least eleven different fabrics were used for handmade pottery in the Iron Age tradition, as indicated above.

Theoretically, Iron Age assemblages may be 'dated' by independent means (*e.g.* radiocarbon or thermoluminescence determinations); association with other objects of established date (*e.g.* brooch types, Roman coins); or, much less securely, by considerations of form and fabric types.

At Melton, dates are of little value in relation to the Iron Age pottery, except insofar as they indicate the possibility, at least, of site activity throughout the first millennium BC. Only four C14 dates are directly relevant to contexts containing Iron Age pottery, and all these are alluded to in the appropriate fabric discussions, above. It may be noted that a calibrated date of 770-480 BC adequately encompasses the suggested age of an IAFLINT fineware bowl (DR94), while another IAFLINT sherd (from Period 4, feature 3410) is presumably residual or redeposited in its context, given a C14 date for the latter of BC 170-AD 70. The other two dates, from Area 8 feature 2348, and Area 6-9 feature 2718, seem more or less too early for the associated IALST and IAERR1 pottery.

The dating of Iron Age pottery on form grounds is notoriously difficult; a number of the more distinctive types may be placed more or less securely, for example vessels with marked angular profiles or particular types of decoration, but many of the lowest common denominator jar types display rim forms which can occur throughout much of the period. A standardized way of classifying jar types, based on combinations of rim form and body profile, would be a useful tool for the future, especially since it would allow the growing corpus of published material to be codified; present approaches suffer too much from this lack of agreed terminology, with the result that published site or regional typologies can appear unwieldy, hard to reconcile one with another, and to be employing eccentric, unconvincing or over-complicated terminology (Evans and Creighton 1999, 2004, Swain 1987). Having said this, the overwhelming impression is that the majority of the Melton vessels is suggestive, on formal grounds, of comparison with vessels from regional sites which are conventionally agreed to belong to the Late Iron Age and early Roman period.

The different fabric groups are considered in more detail below; here it will suffice to note some principal sources of *comparanda*. A large number of parallels may be drawn with assemblages from sites for which Challis and Harding (1975) have suggested a 'Late La Tène' date in the first centuries BC and AD, for example Faxfleet 'A' and Saltshouse School, Hull; their discussion of the most common East Yorkshire rim and body combinations in this period is still most useful (*op. cit.*, 94-98). Apart from relevant sites in the aforementioned work, the most relevant comparative material has been found in assemblages from Creyke Beck, Cottingham (Didsbury in press); Wharram Percy North Manor (Didsbury 2004); Hawling

Road, Market Weighton (Evans and Creighton 1999); Dragonby (May 1996); and various sites in North Lincolnshire (Rigby and Stead 1976). Creyke Beck seems to have been occupied in the fifth to second centuries BC, while the remaining sites may be described as peri-Conquest, much of their material falling in the period from the first century BC to the late first or early second century AD. Needless to say, several parallels have been noted between this assemblage and that from the earlier excavations at Melton (Didsbury 1999).

Fabric and technology make limited but important contributions to the basic chronological discussion. The first of these is that the majority of the material, in whatever fabric, is hard-fired and dense, of a type which has been seen as perhaps indicative of kiln firing and to have been available in north-eastern England from at least the fourth century BC (Manby 1996). The second is that some of the latest vessels in the calcareous fabric groups may be suspected, if not of being wheel-thrown, at least of having wheel-formed rims.

The earliest material present would appear to be represented by the whole of the IAFLINT group, and two of the IASH vessels (see above). The flint-tempered forms, while difficult to date accurately, perhaps suggest an Early Iron Age date, at least one no later than the middle of the first millennium BC. It may be remarked that Areas 5 and 4, from which the majority of examples come, produced three calibrated C14 determinations in the range 800-480 BC.

The two IASH vessels which stand out from the rest of the fabric group by reason of their early appearance (DRs 43, 49) may both belong to the period *c.* 600-400 BC (see above) and have been made in East Yorkshire.

Among the calcareous tempered fabric groups, both LOOL and the remainder of the IASH category display a range of late forms which are familiar from the LPRIA phases at Dragonby (May 1996), many of them continuing into the early Roman period, as witness their occurrence, noted several times above, in Roman Horizon II at Dragonby (Flavian to early second century) and in Claudian to early second century assemblages at such sites as Old Winteringham (Rigby and Stead 1976). Most of the LOOL vessels are discussed by Precious (this report); for the remainder in these two fabrics, see above. Although it is considered (Vince, above) that the majority of the Iron Age material from Melton was made north of the Humber, there is a strong case to be made for Lincolnshire manufacture in the case of these two groups. Strictly pre-Roman examples of such forms, if any there be, would either have to have crossed the Humber or have been made on the north bank under the influence of North Lincolnshire vessels. The author has suggested elsewhere, on the evidence of the distribution of Dragonby style vessels and Corieltauvian silver coinage, that there existed on the north bank of the Humber a zone of acculturation from the south, perhaps a dozen miles deep (Didsbury 1990, *passim*), and this would provide a context for the second of these options. However, the very close parallels of some of these vessels with published examples from undoubted Roman contexts in Lincolnshire suggest at least a degree of cross-Humber distribution. This may have been coincident with, or have been facilitated by, the arrival of the Roman power on the south bank in the AD 40s, which issued in a period of a generation during which the river formed the north-western boundary of the Empire, and during which

diplomatic and/or trading contacts across the Humber are reflected, for example, in the distinctive pottery assemblages from Redcliff, North Ferriby (Didsbury 1990, *passim*).
The other calcareous tempered groups (IACALC, IALST and IAOOL) form a contrast to the above, in that, while probably encompassing a similar overall date-range, from the LPRIA perhaps into the second century AD, the forms involved show little sign of influence from south of the Humber (a possible exception being DR91). Two of these groups (IACALC and IAOOL) are admittedly small and contain little of diagnostic value, though IALST is large and varied enough to allow such a suggestion to be made.
Turning to the stone-tempered fabrics, the largest group (IAERR) is again suggestive of East Yorkshire production in the closing stages of the Iron Age and the earlier Roman period. It is possible that some of these vessels could belong to earlier dates within the 'Late Iron Age', and a range C14 dates from the site in the fourth to first centuries BC would certainly allow this, but it can not be demonstrated in any particular case, and the overwhelming impression is of 'late' assemblages. The same may be said of the small IAGROG and IAGSQ groups, while IASST and IASLAG afford nothing of evidential value.

Romano-British by Barbara Precious and Alan Vince

One thousand, four hundred and seventy-one sherds of Romano-British pottery were recorded. These represent no more than 701 vessels and weigh in total 22.059 Kg. Most of these were small, abraded sherds with an average sherd weight of 18 gm which provide only a Roman or later TPQ for the deposit in which they were found. These were recorded by Alan Vince and Kate Steane with advice from Barbara Precious. However, a small number of contemporary assemblages were present and these were examined in detail by Barbara Precious, as was all of the Samian ware. The mortaria were all examined by Kay Hartley. Samples of various oxidized and grey sandy wares were taken for thin-section and chemical analysis and these suggest that much of the pottery was produced south of the Humber, in north Lincolnshire. Samples of three of the miscellaneous mortaria were also thin-sectioned and analysed using ICPS.

Fabrics

Table 4 lists the codes used to initially classify the Roman pottery. Subsequent analysis suggests that much of what is recorded as EBOR, OX and GREY is actually likely to be from North Lincolnshire. Samples of waste from Roxby were taken for comparison with Melton finds and, with one exception, a Dr30 copy, there is a strong similarity. The Dr30 copy is more similar to a vessel from a pit at Dragonby, which contained production waste (May 1996, Pit F2567). There are several other known kilns producing similar wheelthrown wares in north west Lincolnshire which have yet to be characterised, so it is probably premature to try and assign Melton vessels to specific production sites.

Table 4

Cname	Description	NoSH	NoV	Weight	ASW

AMPH	Misc Amphora	1	1	10	10
BB1	Dorset Black Burnished 1	7	2	12	2
CALC	Calcite-tempered	3	2	5	2
CC	Misc Colour-coated	1	1	2	2
COAR	Coarseware	28	7	1180	62
CRGR	Crambeck Greyware	2	2	5	3
DR20	Dressel 20 amphora	16	4	756	149
DWSH	Dales-type shelly ware	10	2	293	27
DWSH?	Dales-type shelly ware	30	13	265	23
EBOR	Eboracum ware	11	2	431	71
GFIN	Fine greyware	198	154	2516	15
GREY	Greyware	431	274	6902	18
GRFF	Fairly Fine greyware	1	1	14	14
GROG	Grog-tempered ware	2	2	22	11
GRSAN	Grey with a dark sandwich core	9	2	303	34
GYMS	Greyware with minimal shell	1	1	13	13
LOOL	Limonite oolith tempered	458	170	4650	14
LOOL/DWSH		1	1	2	2
LOOLFINE	Fine limonite oolith tempered ware	26	4	388	20
MOCO	Colchester Mortaria	9	1	486	54
MOMH	Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria	1	1	36	36
MORT	Misc Mortaria	4	3	384	90
NVCC	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	3	1	6	2
OX	Oxidized ware	41	23	374	15
OXF	Fine oxidized ware	13	2	97	5
PART	Parisian ware	5	1	103	21
ROXGR	Roxby-type greyware	30	2	513	21
RPOT	Misc Roman	1	1	11	11
RXOX	Roxby-type oxidized ware	15	1	178	12
SAMCG	Central Gaulish Samian ware	4	4	33	7
SAMLM	Central Gaulish Samian – Les Matres de Veyre	5	2	92	18
SAMMT	South Gaulish Samian – Montans	1	1	11	11
SAMSG	South Gaulish Samian ware	6	7	86	12
SHEL	Shell-tempered ware	92	4	1805	16
SHELF	Fine shell-tempered ware	2	1	66	33
VRW	Verulamium-Region Whiteware	1	1	6	6
Grand Total		1471	701	22059	18

The Samian by Barbara Precious with Ian Rowlandson (Table 5)

The samian pottery has been recorded according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) guidelines, using codes currently in use by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU), and sherd count and weight as measures. The full database is deposited with the site archive.

The samian assemblage consists of 16 sherds weighing 222 grams (mean weight 13.9 gm) and is distributed within five areas of the site (areas 4, 11,15,17 and 20), with almost equal quantities excavated from areas 4 (7 sherds, 61 grams) and 20 (6 sherds, 151 grams). The group is composed of *circa*11 individual vessels; but due the relatively high degree of abrasion it is not possible to give a precise figure. Several of the sherds have been burnt, some on the rim and body and one over the edge, which is indicative of destruction. There is evidence for sherd joins between contexts 3954 and 3956 (area 4), and the same fabric, but probably different vessel types, from contexts 3945 and 3948 (area 4).

Four different fabrics have been identified: South Gaulish samian from the Montans, and La Graufesenque kilns; and Central Gaulish samian from the Les Martres de Veyre, and Lezoux kilns. Dishes are the most common form (7 vessels), followed by cups (2 vessels). A single fragment with an ovolo represents mould-decorated bowls together with the base of a possible example consisting of three very abraded joining sherds. The fabrics together with the associated forms indicate a date range from the mid 1st century to the Antonine period. These are discussed in detail below by area.

Table 5

area	context	cname	form	join	alter	nosh	weight	sh/wt
4	3321	SAMSG	15/17-15/17R		Burnt rim	1	14	14
4	3945	SAMSG	15/17-15/17R?			1	3	3
4	3948	SAMSG	18-18R?			1	5	5
4	3954	SAMCG	B or D	3956	Burnt Vabr	1	11	11
4	3956	SAMCG	B or D	3954	Burnt Vabr	2	17	8.5
4	3980	SAMMT	22/23		Burnt worn	1	11	11
4		TOTAL				7	61	8.7
11	6127	SAMSG	27		Vabr	1	3	3
15	1071	SAMSG	37		Vabr	1	2	2
17	5663	SAMCG	33?		Vabr int	1	5	5
20	3862	SAMLM	18/31R		Burnt edge	4	90	22.5
20	3095	SAMSG	18/31			1	59	59
20	3909	SAMLM	27		Flaked	1	2	2
20		TOTAL				6	151	26.2
		GRAND TOTAL				16	222	13.9

Area 4

Seven sherds representing five vessels, and weighing 61 grams (mean weight 8.7 grams) of samian were recovered from this area. Paradoxically, this area produced samian of both the earliest and latest in date from the site.

Three of the vessels are in the typical white-flecked, pinkish-red fabric of the La Graufesenque kilns (SAMSG). The first, from context **3321**, is a rim to lower wall sherd of dish form Dr15/17 or15/17R with a diameter of 17.5 cms (1 sherd, 14 grams). The profile can be paralleled at Camulodunum, Pl 39, s6A" (Hawkes and Hull 1947), and Fig 18, type E, in Webster, 1996. Generally, the rims of Dr 15/17R tend to be deeper and more flared (Webster ibid. 30). Given this, the vessel from **3321** is likely to be a 15/17, dating from c. 50-80 AD. The rim is burnt, which is tends to be the result of destruction.

3945 produced a small fragment (3 grams) of the same form and kiln site, but only the internal ledge survives, and dates to the same period. A basal sherd with an internal, scored groove came from **3948** in a fabric identical to that from **3945**. However, the profile and internal groove is indicative of dish form 18 or 18R, broadly dating to mid to late 1st century.

A relatively uncommon form was recovered from **3980**, a base sherd (11 grams) from dish-type Dr 22/23**.** It is very burnt and the underside of the base is rather worn, virtually removing the basal bead. There is insufficient depth to the body wall to determine whether this dish is either the shallow form Dr 22 or deeper version, Dr 23.

Several unusual features relate to this vessel. The base is thick and the diameter is unusually large at 22 cms, and the fabric is pale cream in colour with dense calcareous inclusions and fine white mica, with a dull brownish-red slip. This is partly due to alteration of the fabric by burning, but it is clearly unlike the typical fabrics of the South Gaulish kilns at La Graufesenque, and more like the paler products of the South Gaulish kilns at Montans (SAMMT – 1998, 29). This fabric has an earlier bias than that of La Graufesenque (Neronian), but the form is generally assigned a Flavian date (Webster 1996, 36).

The vessel that is latest in date from this group is composed of three extremely abraded, flaked, and burnt footring/base sherds (28 grams) joined over two contexts, **3954** and **3956**. It is in a brown, micaceous fabric with a mixed, granular matrix typical of the fabric of the Central Gaulish kilns at Lezoux (SAMCG). These sherds are thicker than would normally be expected on dish forms, and what survives of the base appears relatively flat. It could be construed that these sherds are from a bowl form rather than a dish-type, and possibly from a mould-decorated vessel, either Dr 30 or 37. However, the degree of abrasion and flaking precludes certain identification and thus chronology, giving a broad Hadrianic to Antonine date for these sherds.

Area 11

Context **6127** from this area produced a single very abraded, rim to girth fragment of Dr.27 cup form in South Gaulish samian from the La Graufesenque kilns. The rim is very worn and the body has a relatively flat profile indicating a later 1st century date, c. 70-100 AD.

Area 15

Also from the La Graufesenque kilns is a small fragment of a mould-made bowl decorated with an egg and tongue ovolo from context **1071,** weighing just 2 grams. The ovolo is broken and composed of two narrow bands and a central elongated egg with a trident tongue. There is no indication of an internal groove, typical of form Dr 30, indicating that this example is from bowl-type Dr 37. There is insufficient detail to provide closer dating other than to the later 1st century, c. 70-100.

Area 17

This area produced a single sherd of Central Gaulish samian from context **5663** weighing 5 grams. It is thick, and appears to be from the basal region of a narrow vessel with a rough diameter of 10 cms, and is probably a large cup, form Dr. 33, or a small dish type Dr 31. The sherd is too small to provide reliable dating evidence other than broadly to the Hadrianic to Antonine period.

Area 20

The dating of the samian from this area is the most cohesive from the site, and is reflected in the mean sherd/weight ratio of 25 grams per sherd. There is no evidence of abrasion on the sherds, although one vessel (**3862**) is burnt over the edge and flaked, which is indicative of destruction. Taken together, this suggests that the group as a whole suffered little from taphonomic processes and was likely to have been from primary or secondary deposits.
The samian from **3862** consists of 4 sherds with conjoining flakes and internal rouletting from the footring of dish form 18/31R (90 grams). The fabric is high fired with the conchoidal break, lateral voids and minimal white flecks typical of the fabric of the Central Gaulish kilns at Les Martres de Veyre, dating to C 100-120 AD. A rim to girth flake from **3909** of cup form Dr 27 (2 grams) is in the same fabric and date range.
A single sherd forming a complete profile of dish-type Dr 18/31 (59 grams) in south Gaulish samian from the La Graufesenque kilns from 3905, dating from c 90-110 AD completes the group.

Discussion of Samian

This small group represents a relatively wide range of samian fabrics ranging in date from the mid-1st to the mid to late 2nd century. A date range that is virtually the same as that noted in earlier investigations at Melton (Bishop 1999). The abrasion, burning and fracture of much of

the assemblage provides evidence of destruction in all five areas. However, the group from Area 20 is more cohesive in terms of date and less fragmented than the rest of the material. Although the presence of samian in itself indicates a population of status, the small quantity of the more intricate mould-decorated vessels places the group within a moderate range.

Mortaria based on comments by Kay Hartley

Five sherds of mortarium were identified in the collection. All were examined by Kay Hartley and, following this, three were selected for thin section and chemical analysis. The only substantial fragment is a complete profile of a collared mortaria of Colchester type, from the fill of ditch 4037. A base and body sherd from the abandonment fill in oven 3948 is of Mancetter-Hartshill origin and the three remaining sherds are of unknown origin. These come from the fills of ditches 2401, 3287 and 5808. All have a non-calcareous whiteware fabric. Thin section and chemical analysis indicates that they are neither from Aldborough nor the Verulamium region and the most likely source is the South Carlton/Lincoln area. No comparative data for either of these production sites was available for study.

The Lincoln Technical College kiln was probably operating in the early to mid 2nd century (Baker 1936) whilst the South Carlton kiln is slightly later, Antonine (Webster 1944). The Mancetter-Hartshill industry was operating from the early 2nd century into the mid 3rd century but its products are particularly common in Yorkshire in the later 2nd and early 3rd centuries (e.g. Monaghan 1997). Finally, Colchester collared rim mortaria were produced from the mid 2nd century onwards (Symonds and Wade 1999). Given the dearth of later 2nd and 3rd century material on the site, the mortaria are probably contemporary with the main period of Roman activity, in the early to mid 2nd century.

Forms

Table 6 lists the various forms identified in the Romano-British pottery collection. B334 is a high-shouldered carinated jar, a distinctive form characteristic of the North Lincolnshire industries in the early 2nd century.

Table 6

Form	Description	NoSH	NoV	Weight	ASW
?	Unidentified	5	4	30	5
18/31R	Samian dish	4	1	91	23
AMPH	Amphora	17	5	766	121
B334	Carinated Bowl	46	9	1469	34
BEAKER	Beaker	4	2	8	2
BEAKER, FOLDED	Folded beaker	2	1	4	2
BKC120	Camulodunum 120 carinated beaker	5	1	103	21
BOWL	Bowl	63	8	1323	29
D452	Dish inturned	1	1	23	23

	at top of rim					
DISH	Dish	5	5	74		15
DOLIUM	Dolium	16	3	978		117
15/17	Samian dish or platter	1	1	13		13
18/31	Samian dish	1	1	59		59
18/31R	Samian dish	1	1	18		18
22	Samian dish	1	1	10		10
27	Samian cup	2	2	4		2
30 COPY	Imitation Samian bowl form DR30	14	2	410		27
33	Samian cup	2	2	9		5
36	Samian dish	1	1	2		2
37	Decorated Samian bowl	1	1	1		1
DREED	Reeded rim dish	13	1	96		7
FLAG	Flagon	5	5	26	5	
FLAGON?	Flagon	4	2	80		18
Grand Total		1471	701	22059		18
HM	Handmade vessel	2	1	66		33
JAR	Jar	1182	615	14709		15
JAR, RUSTICATED	Rusticated jar	2	2	10		5
JAR?	Jar	26	10	35		2
JBK	Jar or Beaker	1	1	19		19
JEV	Everted rim jar	14	4	471		32
JLH	Lug-handled jar	3	1	144		48
MORT	Mortarium	14	5	906		72
PGB	Gallo-Belgic plate	1	1	6		6
RDBK	Ring and Dot Beaker	12	1	96		8

Use

Just over a third of the sherds show signs of use. These signs consist of black, brown or white internal deposits; leaching; and external sooting. Often the same vessel will show signs of two or more of these traits. Almost all of the vessels with traces of use were jars but examples of bowls with internal deposits; and dishes and bowls with sooted exteriors were also present.

Source

There are clear differences in the supply of pottery to Melton during the 1st and 2nd centuries. In the pre-Roman Iron Age, presumably continuing up to and beyond the conquest, the

majority of the pottery used in the settlement was obtained from sources north of the Humber, and probably within 10-20 miles of the site. In the mid to late 1st century, however, this changed suddenly. The exact nature of the change depends on how one judges the status of the majority of handmade wares found in these Roman period deposits but it is argued here that in fact none of the "local" north of the Humber wares continued to be used after the conquest and in their place handmade LOOL jars were used, augmented with wheelthrown greyware vessels whose source has not been tested, and a small quantity of imported amphora and samian vessels. These LOOL jars are strongly Iron Age is tradition.
In the late 1st to early 2nd century, LOOL ceased to be used and was replaced by wheelthrown greywares most of which appear to have been produced in North Lincolnshire. The closest parallel for the Melton finds comes from a pit at Dragonby (May 1996, F2567) but the fabric of sampled vessels is also close to that of waste from Roxby, about 2 miles further north. North Lincolnshire was also the source for the oxidized wares and may also have been the source of the wheelthrown shell-tempered and fine shell-tempered (SHEL and SHELF) vessels. Specialised vessels – mortaria, amphora and samian, were the only types obtained from further afield. Even here, it is likely that the mortaria include examples from Lincoln or South Carlton brought to the site, presumably, using the same ferry crossing as that used to transport the greywares and oxidized wares. However, despite the clear difference in the composition of assemblages between the 1st and the early 2nd centuries the source of supply may well be quite similar, since, it is argued, LOOL is likely to have a north Lincolnshire source.
This North Lincolnshire domination of the supply of pottery to Melton can also be seen in the mid to late 3rd century importation of Dales shelly ware (DWSH), although pottery of this date is rare on the site, since activity had shifted elsewhere. Only in the very late 3rd or 4th century is there a substantial shift in supply, again not really represented at Melton but present at the neighbouring site of Elloughton, with the emergence of the Vale of Pickering as a major production centre, supplying wheelthrown whitewares and greywares (CRGR) and handmade calcite-gritted wares.

Chronology and typology of selected groups by B Precious and A Vince

The pottery from a series of contexts, mostly ditch fills, was identified during assessment as representing contemporary assemblages, in contrast to the majority of sherds which only provide a terminus post quem. The following discussion is therefore based mainly on these selected groups, augmented where appropriate by a consideration of the entire assemblage.

The Iron Age/Roman transition

In contrast to earlier work at Melton, there were no examples from this site of conquest-period pottery imports, such as Claudian samian ware or Gallo-Belgic finewares. Since some of these wares have been found in other parts of the Melton site, and in some quantities at the Redcliffe site in North Ferriby, their absence is either due to the lack of activity (or at least deposits) of this period or to some different in function between this site and others.

A series of features have fills which can be dated to the mid to late 1st century because of their stratigraphic position relative to features datable to the later 1st to mid 2nd centuries and the presence in large quantities of sherds of LOOL. This limestone-tempered ware, with its distinctive silty groundmass and limonite ooliths, is in fact not present at Melton in undisputably Iron Age contexts and seems to have been introduced at or just after the Roman conquest.

Nine features produced assemblages of this type: 3194, 3369, 3486, 3706, 3932, 4028, 4037, 4293 and 5507. In addition to LOOL jars (e.g. DR78, DR80 and DR83), a number of sherds of Iron Age character were present. Their relative frequency is similar to that found in definite Iron Age contexts, most being IAERR, followed by IAGSQ, IALST, IAOOL and IASH, with all other types represented by less than 5 sherds. Some of these Iron Age sherds are large and fresh, indeed some have been illustrated (e.g. DR22, DR73, DR77 and DR81). However, it is still thought unlikely that they were actually in use alongside the LOOL and Romanised wares. The latter are very much in a minority (only 25 out of 198 sherds) and most are wheelthrown greyware jar body sherds. They include one body sherd from a folded beaker and a fine greyware jar with a burnished exterior (GFIN). Other Romanised types include two sherds of wheelthrown shell-tempered ware and sherds of imported Dressel 20 amphora and Montans and South Gaulish samian ware (Table 7). Some of the samian vessels are of types which are only current in the mid 1st century, such as the DR15/17 vessel (c.50-80AD) and the Neronian Montans vessel.

Drawing Number	Remarks
DR78	Context 3368. Handmade. Oxidized light brown with darkened interior and exterior surfaces. Jar with everted rim. Possible deliberate vertical scoring on the shoulder.
DR83	Context 3368. Handmade. Oxidized with patchy reduction of exterior and interior surfaces. Jar or Bowl with everted rim. Flat base.
DR80	Context 3368. Possibly the same vessel as DR83.

Figure 11

Table 7

context group	DR20	GFIN	GREY	LOOL	SAMMT	SAMSG	SHEL	Grand Total
3369				121				121
3194			2	34				36
4037		1	13	5	1			20
4293				4			2	6
5507				3				3
3486			2	2				4
4028	1			2				3
3706			2	1		1		4
3932				1				1
Grand Total	1	1	19	173	1	1	2	198

These features cut some others which also produced Roman pottery, but no LOOL. In total, there were nine features of this type which produced 61 sherds of pottery in total (Table 8). Of these, only wheelthrown greywares were common and no feature produced more than nine sherds of Romanised pottery. Whilst it is possible that these sherds do represent a phase of activity before the use of LOOL the low quantities of pottery involved suggest that it is more likely that either LOOL was in use but that the assemblage is too small to have produced any sherds of it or that the Roman sherds are intrusive or present in the top fills of features of earlier date. In all but two instances the entire feature fill was excavated as a single deposit. The exceptions are ditch 5141 where the Roman sherds come from contexts 1154 and 3240 and ditch 5494, where the Roman sherds come from context 5491. Apart from three sherds of Dressel 20 amphora, the sherds consist of wheelthrown greywares. One fine greyware example (ditch 1482) had a turned exterior and two had angled shoulders and cordon and grooved decoration (ditch 5494). All these sherds are consistent with a mid to late 1st century date although they include no types diagnostic of this period. Some pottery of forms diagnostic of the Flavian period was found (e.g. Nos. DR8, DR99 and DR17) but associated finds indicate that these were discarded in the early 2nd century or later.

Table 8

context group	IAERR	IALST	IAOOL	IASH	IASAND	IACALC	DR20	GFIN	GREY	Grand Total
1482	3		1					1		5
1485									7	7
1756							3			3
1827									7	7
3482		3	7						9	19
5141		2		1	1				1	5
5328	1	1							2	4
5494						1			8	9
5513									2	2
Grand Total	4	6	8	1	1	1	3	1	36	61

There are also twelve deposits which produced rusticated jars, a mid first to early second-century type. These deposits consisted of ditches 2823, 3210, 3910, 5843, and 7056; gullies 4018 and 7053; pit 3324 and sunken-featured building 4026. All of these features produced types which date to the early 2nd century (Hadrianic) or later. LOOL is present in only two features, 3210 and 7056 and amounts to only 10% of the Roman sherds present. Wheelthrown greywares were the most common type (40%) followed by wheelthrown shell-tempered ware, LOOL, GFIN and several others.Mortaria and Samian wares were the only types which came from outside the North Lincolnshire/East Yorkshire area.

One of these deposits with a rusticated jar contains an early to mid 2nd century group (ditch 7056) and thin-section and chemical analysis suggested that this vessel (DR15) was a North Lincolnshire product, like the remaining sandy wares in the deposit. Therefore these vessels cannot be used as proof of late first-century activity but are unlikely to have still been in use by the mid 2nd century, when the influence of Black Burnished ware led to the adoption of

burnished decoration as the most common decorative type. A final probable late first to early 2nd-century piece is a sherd of carinated beaker, of Cam 120 form, in Parisian ware, an untempered fineware produced in north Lincolnshire in the early 2nd century. This piece comes from the fill of Ditch 3195. If all of these deposits actually date to the early 2nd century (or later) then it is possible that the LOOL horizon actually dates to the later 1st century rather than the mid to late 1st century. Or, it may be that there was a hiatus in activity on the site.

ORDER	DN	CNAME	FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	DR40	IASHF	BBR	Soft, dark grey, fine leached shell/quartz sand. Rim and upper body of a bead-rim bowl. Probably wheelthrown.

Figure 12

Figure 13

The Early to Late Second Century

The majority of the Roman pottery from Melton probably dates to the early to mid 2nd century. A comparison by maximum vessel count of the Roman pottery from deposits including rusticated jars (Table 9 MROM – E2C) and those without (Table 9 MROM) indicates little difference either in the range of wares present or their relative frequencies. Perhaps the main difference is in the incidence of GFIN (11 out of 84 vessels to 2 out of 36 vessels).

Table 9

cname	MROM - E2C	MROM	Grand Total
COAR	1.19%	8.33%	3.33%
GFIN	13.10%	5.56%	10.83%
GREY	55.95%	47.22%	53.33%
GRFF	1.19%	0.00%	0.83%
GRSAN	3.57%	0.00%	2.50%
GYMS	2.38%	0.00%	1.67%
LOOL	9.52%	11.11%	10.00%
MISC	1.19%	0.00%	0.83%
MORT	1.19%	2.78%	1.67%
OX	4.76%	13.89%	7.50%
PART	0.00%	2.78%	0.83%
SAMLM	1.19%	2.78%	1.67%
SAMSG	0.00%	2.78%	0.83%
SHEL	3.57%	2.78%	3.33%
SHELF	1.19%	0.00%	0.83%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

The assemblage from Ditch 7056 (Fig 00 Nos. 00-00) provides a good example of the major types present. A small number of sherds of Iron Age type are present, but mostly these are smaller than the Roman wares and, unlike them, occur as individual sherds rather than sherd families. The group also contains two shell-tempered vessels but the remainder consists entirely of North Lincolnshire sand-tempered wares, either greyware or oxidized (Fig 00). Five of these vessels are carinated jars classed here as B334 (Fig 00 Nos. 00-00). Three are bowls (Fig 00 Nos. 00-00); one is a reeded-rim dish (Fig 00 No.00) and the remainder are jars

(Fig 00 Nos. 00-00). Parallels for the precise vessel forms, from sites where the vessels could come from the same, North Lincolnshire, production sites, suggest that this is a group of the early to mid 2nd century, although some vessels are mainly paralleled in the late first to early 2nd century (i.e. Flavian/Trajanic to Trajanic/Hadrianic) and some in the Antonine period.
A particularly good parallel for the Melton material comes from Dragonby, where Pit F2567 contains production waste thought to indicate the presence on site of a kiln. The pit contains some vessels which were clearly not made on site (such as Samian ware) but at least four of the coarseware vessels parallel Melton examples closely (Table 00). Swan dates the Dragonby pit to the early to mid 2nd century (Trajanic to early Hadrianic), Swan in May 1996, 579-582).
Greyware vessels decorated with burnishing are likely to post-date the widespread distribution of Dorset Black Burnished ware and vessels, mostly jars, with this decoration occur in wheelthrown greywares (GFIN and GREY) in the fills of ditches 1297 and 3310; gullies 1279 and 3954 ; pit 3533; feature 3945 and the abandonment deposit in the backfill of oven 3948.

ORDER	DN	CNAME	FORM	DESCRIPTION
1	DR98	OX	B30	Rim, body and basal sherds forming a near profile. There are two bands of rouletting on the body below the cordon delineating the base of the rim, a medium panel and a fine panel separated by a narrow, plain strip, and again below and under the basal cordon (diameter 16 cms). The fabric is yellow-brown in colour with paler surfaces. It is fairly hard with a silty feel and contains abundant, mainly sub-angular pale quartz (0.3-1.5 mm), a large mudstone pellet and flakes of mica abundant in the surfaces. TS-5; V4552 An identical vessel is noted in the kiln debris at Dragonby, fig 20.34, no 1462 (Swan V G in May, 1996 (p575, 579-582). It is in a medium coarse, sandy fabric, but as it is kiln debris the colour is not given (Swan ibid p575), although the majority of these forms are in an oxidised fabric. It is dated from the Trajanic to early Hadrianic period (Swan ibid p579). There is also an identical parallel from Welton Road, Brough in an oxidised fabric (see ill80.gif, Internet Archaeology 9. Hunter-Mann., Pottery fabrics by M J Darling (intarch.ac.uk/journal/issue9/brough/potfabde.html). See also context 3792, Area 20, for another B30 vessel that has been burnt, and context 1279, Area 5, Reeded-rim dish, Drawing 9, in the same fabric. The latter is paralleled at Roxby fig 68, no 78, but the fabric is unlike anything else from Roxby Rigby, 1976 p 144-5). Ditch 4019, Per 4.
2	DR18	OX	B334	This vessel is a more unusual example of the carinated jar/bowl of type ‘E’ noted at the Roxby kilns (Rigby & Stead, 1976 p 141. It has a pronounced groove just above the carination, similar to no 866, from Dragonby phase IIIb (mid to late 2nd century – Gregory, in May, 1996 fig 20.7).

				However, the lip is slight in the Melton example, and the fabric is oxidised rather than the common grey fabric. It has the same dark inclusions noted at both the Roxby and Dragonby kilns (Rigby & Stead p 139, and Gregory, 1996 p 528).Oxidised examples are extremely rare, but have been noted amongst the Market Rasen kiln material (LRM05 Darling, forthcoming). This example is fairly heavily encrusted, and has a neatly turned footring base. The fabric has been analysed and is discussed below, TS-6 V4551). Vessels of this form are current from the Hadrianic to Antonine period and are a common component of the Dragonby (Gregory, 1996), Roxby (Rigby & Stead, 1976 and Market Rasen kilns (MRGF68 Darling, forthcoming; and LRM05 (Darling, 2007). Ditch 7056, Per 4.
3	DR09	OX	DREED	An abraded and fragmented reeded-rimmed dish with a scored, wavy line decoration under the rim in an oxidised fabric identical decoration under the clumsy, slightly bifurcated rim in an oxidised fabric identical to that of Drawing E, above. It is possible that the wavy line was meant to be seen, hence this vessel may have been used as a lid. It is very similar to a vessel from Roxby (Rigby, 1976 fig 68, no 78), in an oxidised fabric. Although oxidised wares were produced at Roxby, it is noted that this particular fabric is a non-kiln product. The Roxby kiln material is generally assigned a broad Antonine date, and the Melton vessel would fit within this date-range, possibly EM2.The Dragonby connection via the identical fabric with Drawing E, above, is further demonstrated by an oxidised dish from Horizon III-IV that is very similar to the Melton example(Gregory in May, 1996 fig 20.19, no 1148). A virtually identical rim in the same fabric came from Melton context **3386**, Area 20. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
4	DR16	GFIN	B334	A carinated bowl of type B334 with a groove at the base of the neck that delineates the typical ledge carination. This is a relatively fine example with thin walls and a narrow rim with a slight indentation internally. It is encrusted with a brown deposit and slightly abraded, especially on the edge of the carination. The fabric is pale grey in colour and silty to the touch with an irregular break. Silt-size quartz is the main inclusion with occasional larger fragments of sub-angular, clear and opaque quartz (0.5-0.8mm) and sparse rounded black, shiny inclusions of ironstone. Sparse to moderate amounts of white mica can be seen in the surface. The fabric is similar to both the Dragonby and Roxby kiln fabrics and the form fits within the Hadrianic to Antonine date range suggested for the other examples of this type from Melton (Drawing Nos 12, 14 and 18). Ditch 7056, Per 4.
5	DR11	GFIN	BFL	A relatively thin-walled flanged bowl with upright body walls that curves sharply towards a flat base. The rim is undercut on the interior and faint, faceted

				burnishing is present on the top of the rim and beneath the rim to the base on the exterior. There is a sooted, burnt area below the rim and over the broken rim edges. The fabric is silty textured, moderately fired, and pale to medium grey in colour with sparse amounts of sub-angular clear and opaque quartz grains (<0.5 mm), rounded limestone and shiny, black inclusions (0.2-0.4mm) set in a silty matrix. Moderate to abundant flakes of white mica can be seen in the fabric, but is more abundant in the surfaces. A similar vessel, also in a fine grey fabric, but with a low but sharper carination towards the base came from Pit F 2567 at Dragonby. It also appears to have faceted burnishing on the exterior and over the rim (Gregory, 1996, fig 20.34, no 1468) . Swan dates this group within the Trajanic- Hadrianic period (Swan, 1996 p579). However, as the Melton example lacks the carination it is likely to date to the Hadrianic-Antonine period. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
6	DR08	GRFF	BNK	A 'Belgic-style' 'S' profile, native tradition bowl, but fast-wheel thrown with a rounded shoulder, and a slight internal lid-seating. It is similar to vessels from Dragonby kiln 4, fig 20.32, nos1411 – 1413,which has the rounded shoulder of many of the Iron Age pre-cursors, and is dated to the early to mid-Flavian period (Swan in May, 1996 p576-578).The Melton example has a fairly fine fabric with a dark grey, almost black, core and lighter grey margins and surfaces, reminiscent of some Parisian-type fabrics. It is high fired, mainly consisting of silt-sized quartz with a scatter of sub-rounded clear and opaque quartz (SR 0.4-1.0 mm), most visible in the surface, together with small quantities of rounded, black and shiny inclusions of clay/ironstone. The surface is worn and may have been burnished in parts. This fabric is similar to the finer, grey wheel thrown fabric noted on a burnished, carinated bowl from Dragonby Kiln 3, (Rigby & Stead, 1976, fig 64, no 1: pers comm Ian Rowlandson). Drawing no 19, below, is in the same fabric. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
7	DR19	GRFF	B36	A finely turned shallow bowl similar to samian form Dr 36. It has incised grooves on the outside edge of the rim and two on the interior at the base of the rim, and finished with a neat footring. The high fired fabric is dark grey in colour with pale grey margins creating a sandwich effect, and is virtually the same fabric as Drawing 8, above. A similar vessel is noted from the Market Rasen kilns where it is dated to the early to mid 2nd century (Darling forthcoming, LRM05, no 53), and another from Dragonby in a similar fabric (Gregory, 1996 fig 20.6, no 836), where it is also dated to the early to mid 2nd century. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
8	DR99	GREY	JEV	Rim, body sherds and footring base, near profile with a rouletted zone beneath shoulder groove and another towards the lower wall, although the central

				area is very worn. There is sooting on the exterior and on the burnished rim (diameter 15 cms). The fabric is pale grey with medium grey margins and surfaces. It is fairly hard and silty to the touch, and consists mainly of moderate sized, mainly opaque grey and occasionally clear quartz (SA, 0.3 -4 and occasionally 1 – 1.3 mm).(L1-EM2) Similarly grooved , everted rimmed jars, but lacking the rouletting are noted at Roxby, fig 66, nos 18-21of broadly Antonine date (Rigby, 1976 p 136 & 140-141). Dragonby has two very similar vessels, one in fig 19.40, no 374 with a thick burnished rim but with a zone of vertical combed stamping, dated from the mid- to late 1st century (Elsdon in May, 1996 p475-6) .The other is in fig 20.18, no 1141dating from the early 2nd to the early 3rd (Gregory in May, 1996, p517 & 547-8).It is similar in form and fabric to Melton, Drawing no 10; TS- 4; V4554. Ditch 4019. Per 4.
9	DR17	GREY	JEV	An undecorated globular, everted-rim jar with a sloping shoulder. The exterior is slightly encrusted. The fabric is pale to medium grey in colour and silty to the touch, with moderate amounts of 37ll-sorted clear and opaque quartz (SA; 0.2- 1.2m set in a silty matrix. Sparse to moderate amounts of rounded, black and shiny inclusions (<1.5mm), and occasionally larger, can be seen in the hackly fracture. Sparse white mica is visible in the surface. It is similar to the typical Dragonby and Roxby fabrics. A fair parallel described as a kiln product came from kiln 4 at Dragonby where it is dated to the early to mid Flavian period (Swan, 1996, fig 20.32, no 1430),
10	DR15	GREY	JEV	A stubby, everted rim jar with linear rustication, below the shoulder groove, formed by rows of crescent-shaped rustication overlying each other in a roughly, linear fashion. This particular type of rustication is uncommon, and is not illustrated in any of the publications of sites in the vicinity: Dragonby, Roxby, (Winteringham, Winterton, Melton, Malton, Lincoln and York. The closest datable parallel is to be found in Phase 2 at Castleford, fig 56, no 220, where it is dated to the Hadrianic, early Antonine period (Rush, 2000, p114 & 117). The Melton example is slightly encrusted and is burnt, either as the result of misfiring or possibly heavy use in the fire. It is in a coarse fabric that has been analysed (TS-2) (see V4556 for a full description). Drawing 14 is in a similar fabric. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
11	DR10	GREY	JEV	A barrel-shaped, everted rim jar with a low sloping shoulder and a groove beneath the rim. It has a decoration of faint burnished wavy lines centrally placed in two bands delineated by incised grooves. Similar forms are noted at Dragonby, for example fig 20.6 nos 833-4 from Horizon IIIa dated to the early to mid 2nd century, but are still found in levels dated to Horizon IIIc – later 2nd to early 3rd century (Gregory, 1996 p 527 & 539). It is also broadly

				resembles Roxby form C (Rigby and Stead, 1976 fig 65), but lacks the burnished wavy line decoration. The fabric of the Melton example has been analysed (see TS-4; V4554) for a full description, although, in the hand, it resembles typical Roxby fabrics.
12	DR13	GREY	JLH	A lug-handled jar with burnished, scroll decoration on a band delineated at the shoulder and below the handle by grooves. The body shape is slightly squat and the rim has a prominent lid-seating. This form is present at Dragonby kiln 3 (as shown in Rigby 1976, fig 64, no 6) where it is dated to the Flavian-Trajanic period, but possibly into the Hadrianic (May, Gregory and Swan, 1996, p 575), and also at Roxby (Rigby, 1976 fig 67, no 38) dated largely to the Antonine period. The Melton vessel is rather a hybrid with a lid-seated rim that is paralleled with Roxby type A, and the form of Roxby type G (Rigby, 1976 fig. 65 nos 1-6, & fig. 67 no 38). A similarly lid-seated example but with wavy-line rather than scroll decoration, is noted at Dragonby (Gregory, 1996 fig. 20.34, no 1461) dated to at least the Flavian-Trajanic period, and possibly into the Hadrianic (Swan, 1976 p 579).The fabric is medium grey in colour and high-fired with a slightly silty feel. It is coarsely tempered with irregularly sorted clear and opaque quartz (SA, 0-2 – 1.3mm) and sparse amounts of rounded black ironstone (<1.2mm) and occasional limestone (R, <0.5mm). Sparse white mica is noted in the surface. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
13	DR14	GREY	B334V	A crude example of carinated bowl, type 334 in a coarse fabric similar to Drawing 15.The fabric has been analysed (see TS-1; V4555 for a full description). This example lacks the sharp carination noted on the typical examples (see Drawings 12 & 18). Two vessels from the Roxby kilns have a similarly more rounded carination (Rigby & Stead, 1976 fig 66 nos 31-2). A broad Antonine date is suggested for Roxby kiln material (ibid.), although this form is found on sites dating from the early to mid/late 2nd century (see also Drawings 12 & 18). The exterior surface may have been burnished originally, denoted by the faceted lower surface, but has been heavily burnt obscuring any traces of burnishing. The burning extends over the broken edge, an indication destruction rather than use. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
14	DR12	GREY	B334	This carinated bowl is very similar to Drawing no 18, with a slight lip but lacking the pronounced girth groove, and is of the same date-range. Black inclusions are very pronounced in the medium grey-coloured fabric that has been analysed and is discussed in detail below, TS-3; V4553. Ditch 7056, Per 4.
15	DR02	GREY	D452V	Context 3317, Area 4. A dish with a sharply incurved rim that is burnished on the exterior and

				interior with a band of burnished wavy-line decoration just below the rim on the inside. It shares some similarities with the early to mid-2nd century, Lincoln type D452, but has a sharper rim. The surfaces are dark grey in colour and the hard fabric is a paler grey with a brown core, with a hackly fracture showing abundant sub-angular quartz (< 0.2mm) and sparse amounts of larger, more rounded quartz (>0.4-0.6mm – rarely 1.5mm). Sparse amounts of white mica can be seen in the surfaces. Dragonby group Pit F 2567 has a close parallel (fig 20.34 no 1477), which is dated to the Trajanic-Hadrianic period (Swan, 1976, p 579 and 581). Pit 3318. Per 4.
16	DR21	GYMS	JLH	Context 1297. Area 5, Ditch 3210 (Hadrianic to Antonine. Neatly-made, lug-handled jar. Hard grey with brown margins with shell and quartz sand up to 1.0mm across. Ditch 3210. Per 4.
17	DR59	COAR	JEV	Context 6073. Area 11. Possibly handmade. Fabric contains moderate coarse quartzose sand, including polished quartz and subrounded flint in a soft dark grey groundmass. Everted rim with external beading and sharp internal lip. Possibly a carinated shoulder. Gully 7053. Per. 4.

Figure 14

The Mid 3rd to 4th Century

A major change in pottery supply in the Melton area took place in the mid 3rd century, when Dales-type shelly ware (DWSH) appeared, quite suddenly. Analysis of pottery from the neighbouring site of Elloughton (Precious and Vince) indicates that there were several distinct fabrics in this ware, although by far the most common has a micaceous, silty groundmass (Subfabric S). This is the most common fabric throughout the distribution area of Dales-type shelly ware (Loughlin 1977). In York, the introduction of Dales-type shelly ware is contemporary with a sharp rise in the frequency of Nene Valley colour-coated wares (NVCC). No large assemblages of this period occur anywhere at Melton but odd sherds of both fabrics occur in the fills of ditches 3193, 4037, 6192 and 7056, the fill of pit 5667, posthole 2743 and the abandonment deposit in kiln 4374. The latter contained a moderate-sized, but mixed assemblage which includes BB1; unidentified colour-coated ware; fine greyware and greyware (GFIN and GREY); a sherd of Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria; a sherd of Nene Valley colour-coated ware and a piece of south Gaulish samian ware.

The Fourth Century

In the later 3rd century in the Melton area, to judge by the Elloughton site, Dales-type shelly ware seems to have fallen out of use and was replaced by Calcite-tempered ware from the Vale of Pickering. Unfortunately, only certain jar rim forms are datable (Huntcliffe and Knapton jars, Monaghan 1997 and body sherds are indistinguishable, even in thin section and using chemical analysis, from those present in the Iron Age. Fourteen sherds come from the fills of three Period 4 features, Ditches 6192, 4037 and 5494. Given the small quantities, and the

lack of featured sherds it is impossible to tell whether these are late Roman calcite-tempered ware or residual Iron Age sherds.

Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon

Area 17 produced pottery of early to mid Anglo-Saxon date, almost completely absent from elsewhere on the site (there is one putative sherd from Area 5E). In total, 264 sherds were recovered, forming no more than 73 vessels and weighing in total 2.884 Kg (Table 10). Horse bones from one of the Area 17 features gave a calibrated radiocarbon date of AD 573 to 665 (Pit 5667).

Table 10

context group	drawing no	Form	Description	Nosh	NoV	Weight
Area 17						
5560	ND	BOWL	Sooted exterior	5	2	67
		JAR	Large jar. Black internal deposit	112	7	357
	DR60	JAR	Plain rimmed globular jar. Sooted exterior and black internal deposit	41	1	957
	DR71	?	Rectangular grid stamps	1	1	4
	DR84	JAR		4	1	329
5563	ND	?	Sooted exterior and black internal deposit	1	1	2
		JAR	Sooted exterior	3	1	129
		JAR/BOWL	Black internal deposit	4	4	47
	DR62	JAR	Plain upright rim with slight neck and shoulder. Red external deposit	9	1	116
5614	ND	JAR	Black internal deposit	1	1	12
5667	ND	JAR/BOWL		10	10	51
		JAR?	Black internal deposit	7	1	10
5701	ND	JAR	Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	7	7	159
	DR68	BOWL	Plain upright rim	1	1	35
	DR72	JAR	Slightly everted rim. Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	3	1	28

5721	ND	BOWL	Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	4	4	44
		JAR	Sooted exterior.	1	1	6
		JAR/BOWL	Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	37	20	344
	DR63	BOWL	Plain rimmed upright bowl. Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	1	1	70
	DR64	JAR	Plain rimmed with thickened neck. Sooted exterior.	4	1	65
	DR66	JAR	Plain upright rim with curved body. Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	2	1	16
5774	ND	JAR/BOWL		1	1	2
	DR67	BOWL	Plain upright rim	1	1	14
5830	ND	JAR?		2	1	11
5928	DR70	BOWL?	Plain rim slightly everted. Sooted exterior. Black internal deposit	1	1	6
Area 5E						
5295	ND	JAR?	Internal and external burnishing	1	1	3

There is very little evidence for any typological progression within the domestic pottery used in the later 5th to mid 7th centuries in Yorkshire and none of the vessels was decorated with stamping, incision or the raising of the body into bosses. It is therefore not possible to give an independent date for the pottery. The only other evidence for early to mid Anglo-Saxon activity on the site consists of a series of inhumations, whose associated finds (a whittle-tang knife with horn handle; a wooden box with iron brackets; a spatulate tool and a buckle) are all consistent with a 7th century date. C14-dating of some of the skeletons confirms a date in the late pagan or early mid Saxon period. It is tempting therefore to relate the Area 17 pottery with the Area 5E inhumations.

Where early Anglo-Saxon sites have been investigated in East Yorkshire, pottery is in common use, both in domestic contexts and ritual (as at the large cremation cemetery at Sancton I and the mixed cremation/inhumation cemetery at Sancton II). By the later 7th century, however, pottery was much less common, even at sites such as the putative trading settlement at Fishergate, York (Mainman 1993; Vince and Steane 2005), and excavations at

Lurk Lane, Beverley have shown that no locally-made pottery was present in levels associated with the mid Saxon monastery and only one imported vessel, an Ipswich-type ware spouted pitcher (Watkins 1991). Excavations at the neighbouring site of Elloughton revealed an unexpected mid Saxon to Anglo-Scandinavian C14 date for a hearth, on a site which produced no sherds of contemporary pottery at all.

The lack of pottery accompanying the Area 5E burials may therefore be an indication that already by the 7th century the use of pottery was in decline, or a change in burial ritual, although pottery was still used to accompany inhumations at Castledyke South, Barton-on-Humber, at a similar or slightly later date (Drinkall and Foreman 1998).

Fabrics

A sample of ten vessels was selected for thin section and chemical analysis and the results indicate that all but one sample have very similar characteristics, being subdivided into a finer and coarser sand-tempered ware (ESAXLOC 1 and ESAX 2), both of which have the characteristic groundmass found in vessels made from Jurassic clays. The single outlier (ESAXLOC 3) has a fabric containing angular fragments of acid igneous rock and a coarse silt/fine sand grade quartz sand. All the early to Mid Anglo-Saxon pottery from the site can be assigned to one of these three fabric groups.

Forms

Two vessel forms were present in the collection, jars with a globular body and definite neck (Fig.00 Nos.00-00 [DN62, DN64, DN66, DN72, DN84]) and bowls, which often have similar sizes and body shape but have no neck (Fig.00 Nos. 00-00 [DN63, DN67, DN68]. One further vessel is probably also a bowl (Fig.00 No.00 [DN70]). All the vessels have sagging bases with only a slight base angle and were probably all made from thick coils about 30-50mm thick when present in the vessel reflected in the size of the sherds and the way in which the vessels fragmented.

The vessels have rough finishing marks on both the inside and outside of the vessels and show no sign of scraping of the interior or burnishing, both common early Anglo-Saxon techniques. None of the sherds was decorated.

Use

Traces of use were present in the case of no more than 34 vessels. These traces consist of internal black deposits, probably burnt food, and external sooting. Just over half of the vessels showed some sign of use and these traces occur on both vessel forms in similar quantities. Vessels with both internal deposits and external sooting are the most common (Table 11).

Table 11

Use	?	BOWL	BOWL?	JAR	JAR/BOWL	JAR?	Grand Total
	1	3		5	18	1	28
BLACK DEP INT				1	4		5
RED DEP EXT				1			1
SOOTED EXT		2		2	6		10

SOOTED EXT; BLACK DEP INT	1	3	1	5	7		17
SOOTED INT				1			1
Grand Total	2	8	1	15	35	1	62

Source

The groundmass of the two most common fabrics is paralleled by the fired clay fabric 2 which is either derived from weathered Upper Jurassic mudstone or from boulder clay formed from this mudstone. This clay presumably outcropped close to the site. However, chemical analysis shows that the fired clay is distinguishable from the Anglo-Saxon pottery fabric and from most of the Iron Age fabrics from the site and, furthermore, similar fabrics occur in the vessels from the cremation cemetery at Sancton, where they form one of the most common fabric groups. It is therefore quite likely that the pottery was obtained from a source which was close to the Melton site but that the vessels were not domestically produced on site.

Anglo-Scandinavian

Late 9th to mid 11th century pottery in the Humber estuary is known mainly from Beverley and from various sites in York, with isolated finds from other sites, such as Market Weighton. At the beginning of the period, York Anglo-Scandinavian ware (aka York A ware) was the most common ware found, in both York and Beverley. Smaller quantities of shell-tempered wares were present in both places and thin section and chemical analysis indicates that these are of Lincoln origin (e.g. Young and Vince 2005, LKT, LSH).

In the later 10th century Torksey wares, which were present in small quantities from the beginning of the period, become more common at both sites, whilst York A ware declined. A fine-textured wheelthrown greyware, York D ware, which was also present at both sites from the beginning of the period, also increased in frequency.

Finally, in the mid 11th century, at York at least, Stamford wares increased in frequency at the expense of the Torksey wares.

Only two sherds of shell-tempered Anglo-Scandinavian wares were recovered from the Melton excavations, from Area 17. In both cases thin section and chemical analysis confirm a Lincoln origin (Vince 2006b). Both vessels are identified as Lincoln Late Saxon Shelly ware (Young and Vince 2005, 56-62. Code LSH), which was produced from the late 9th to the late 10th centuries but was at its height of popularity in the mid 10th century. Interestingly, the only known Anglo-Scandinavian sherd from Market Weighton is also a sherd of this ware and it is likely that all three arrived in East Yorkshire as a result of the use of the ferry crossing from South to North Ferriby.

Medieval

Nine hundred and twenty-five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the Melton excavations. These represent no more than 718 vessels and weigh 10.345 Kg. Most of this material comes from 12th to 14th-century occupation deposits in Area 22. The remainder, 131 sherds, is scattered across the site, mostly in furrow and ditch fills and remnants of the medieval and later ploughsoil but including some occupation features, such as a sunken-

featured building in Area 12 and pits and post-holes in Areas 1, 2, 4, 5E, 11 and 17 (Table 12).

Table 12. Incidence of medieval pottery excluding unprovenanced material

Area 1-14	Sum of NoV 4	Sum of Nosh 4	Sum of Weight 9
1	24	27	170
2	1	1	3
4	1	1	6
5E	11	14	88
5	2	2	40
11	3	3	38
12	7	7	77
13	2	2	8
15	3	4	11
17	10	19	399
22	605	794	9106
Grand Total	673	878	9955

Fabrics

The most common wares are Beverley products (Table 13). Where a calcareous sand temper is present this has been coded with an “A” , fine micaceous fabrics are coded with “B” and high fired fine fabrics are coded “C” whilst splashed glaze is coded with a “1” and a glossy suspension glaze is coded “2”. In general the calcareous fabric and splash glaze are both 12th-century features. A study of Table 13 shows that only a small proportion of the Beverley ware has either feature and this suggests that the majority of the pottery is of later 12th, 13th and early 14th-century date.

A small quantity of handmade, oxidized unglazed vessels of Staxton-type ware were present (STAXT). Such vessels were produced at several places in East Yorkshire: Staxton and Potter Brompton in the Vale of Pickering; the Beverley area and, probably, the east Cleveland area. No analysis of the Melton sherds was undertaken, but they appear visually to be similar to the Beverley-area vessels.

In addition, a distinctive type of Staxton-type ware, containing oolitic limestone (EYQC), was subject to a study using thin section and chemical analysis. This study indicates that there are two fabrics present at Melton, but that the second is very uncommon. Both were probably made somewhere to the northwest of Melton, on the western scarp of the chalk, between Market Weighton and the Humber. Comparison with samples from North Newbald, which were thought to be possible production waste, indicates that the Melton and North Newbald finds are very similar (Vince 2006a). This ware is almost entirely limited in its distribution to this small area of east Yorkshire although stray examples have been noted at Doncaster, Beverley, Wawne and Alkborough, indicating that it was transported using the Humber river system. The typology and stratigraphic associations of this ware suggest a later 12th to 13th-century date.

The vessels were either wheelthrown or at least finished on a wheel. The majority were jars which can be grouped into several distinct types.

The first of these has a simple everted rim (DR101, DR102, DR106, DR111, DR119). All the examples of this type were small sherds whose diameter and orientation were uncertain, although it was clear that they were not flat-topped bowls (DR106 might, however, come from a bowl, but the profile has the same shape as the others). Type 2 has a flat-topped rim with a small projection at the outer edge, probably accidentally produced by the potter supporting the outer face of the rim and pressing down (DR104, DR116). Type 3 is similarly flat-topped, but with no projection. Several distinct shapes are included in this type (DR109, DR110, DR114, DR115, DR117, DR118). Type 4 consists of a globular jar with a bead rim (DR113) and Type 5 appears to be an example of the straight-sided jars produced in York Gritty ware (DR105). Type 6 has a simple rounded rim (DR107) and Type 7 has a lid-seated rim (DR112). A few jug sherds were present, some with traces of plain splashed glaze, and these include two rims (DR103 and DR108).

No.	drawing no	Sample No.	Description
1	DR101		Jar, rim type 1 Area 22 Pit 6353
2	DR111		Jar, rim type 1 Area 12 Sunken Featured Building 6160
3	DR102		Jar, rim type 1 Area 22 Pit 6353
4	DR119	V3933	Jar, rim type 1 Area 22 Feature 6231
5	DR106		Jar, rim type 1 Area 22 Pit 6273
6	DR116	V3931	Jar, rim type 2 Area 22 Pit 6231
7	DR104		Jar, rim type 2. Sooted exterior. Area 22 Floor 6394
8	DR115	V3929	Jar, rim type 3. Sooted exterior under rim. Area 22 Pit 6231
9	DR117	V3934	Jar, rim type 3. Sooted exterior under rim. Area 22 Feature 6231
10	DR110		Jar, rim type 3. Area 1 Pit 5145
11	DR118	V3925	Jar, rim type 3. Area 22 Pit 6326
12	DR109		Jar, rim type 3. Area 22 Feature 6286
13	DR114	V3927	Jar, rim type 3. Area 22 Pit 6317
14	DR113	V3926	Jar, rim type 4 Area 22 Pit 6326
15	DR105		Jar, rim type 5 Area 22 Pit 6273
16	DR107		Jar, rim type 6. Sooted exterior. Area 22 Pit 6273
17	DR112		Jar, rim type 7 Area 22 Pit 6240
18	DR108		Jug Area 22 Feature 6267
19	DR103		Jug Area 22 Pit 6353

Figure 15

Figure 16

Humberware (HUM) is present in signification quantities in Area 22 and in small quantities elsewhere. This ware replaced Beverley wares and others in the Humber basin during the mid to late 14th century and was produced at several centres (Hayfield 1992). The closest known source to Melton was at Holme-upon-Spalding Moor (22 miles to the northwest) followed by West Cowick (28 miles) and York (37 miles) whilst thin section chemical analysis indicates that there were also production sites to the east of the Wolds and south of the Humber (Vince 2004). A source east of the Wolds, in the Beverley area, would be closest to the site although West Cowick had the advantage of being situated on the river. Chemical analysis was undertaken of a sample of six Humberware sherds, three with early typological characteristics (i.e. mid to late 14th century) and three with late typological features (i.e. 15th or 16th century).

The analysis indicates that an East Yorkshire source is most likely, with the closest parallels coming from a consumer site at Wawne, to the south of Beverley (Vince 2008).
The remaining sherds of medieval date consist of three sherds of Yorkshire Gritty ware (YG). This was produced in West Yorkshire, probably at Potterton, identified as a potting centre through its place-name which was recorded in the Domesday Book. Production continued into the 13th century and there is no known difference between early and later products. The distribution of Yorkshire Gritty ware is mainly bounded by the chalk scarp and these finds either mark the eastern limit of the distribution of this ware or are strays outside of the normal distribution (examination of samples from High Street, Beverley, indicate that the Yorkshire Gritty wares from that site are from a different source).
Two sherds of North Yorkshire whiteware were present. One is of York glazed ware (YORK), dating to the later 12th to mid 13th century, and the other not identified to type (NYWW) and therefore of any date from the mid 12th to the 15th century. Finally, a single sherd of a Scarborough ware jug was present (SCAR). This ware was produced in Scarborough itself and most of the widely-distributed glazed ware vessels appear to be of mid 13th to mid 14th century date, as at Hull (Watkins 1982).

Table 13

cname	Sum of NoV	Sum of Nosh	Sum of Weight
BEVO	1	1	39
BEVO1A	7	8	124
BEVO1B	13	16	214
BEVO2	2	2	40
BEVO2A	13	25	408
BEVO2B	107	153	1570
BEVO2C	1	1	5
BEVOA	6	7	32
BEVOB	152	171	1401
HUM	100	183	3156
NYWW	1	2	54
EYQC	245	281	2583
SCAR	1	1	16
STAXT	20	23	251
YG	3	3	55
YORK	1	1	7
Grand Total	673	878	9955

Forms

Most of the sherds could be assigned to a broad form group (Table 14). Jars are the most common form, outnumbering jugs by over 2:1. This, however, ignores strong differences in the range of forms found in the different wares. Of the earlier (12th to early 14th-century) wares, most of the jars occur in EYQC, followed by Staxton-type ware whereas most of the jugs occur in Beverley ware. In the later medieval period both jars and jugs occur in Humberware and jug sherds outnumber jars (but since the jugs were larger vessels with more sherds per vessel this does not necessarily translated into the vessel ratio). Bowls were rare and occur in Beverley ware, EYQC, Staxton-type ware and Humberware. A single pipkin

(small handled jar or ladle) was present in Beverley ware and a single peat pot was present in Staxton-type ware. Peat pots were a minor bur distinctive part of the Staxton-type ware tradition and were shaped like the top third of a globular jar.

Table 14

cname	BOWL	JAR	JAR?	JUG	JUG/JAR	JUG?	PEAT POT	PIPKIN	Grand Total
BEVO1A				7					7
BEVO1B				13					13
BEVO2		2							2
BEVO2A				13					13
BEVO2B	2	5		99				1	107
BEVO2C				1					1
BEVOA		6							6
BEVOB		149		2		1			152
HUM	1	29	1	65	4				100
NYWW				1					1
EYQC	2	242		1					245
SCAR				1					1
STAXT	1	18					1		20
YG		3							3
YORK		1							1
Grand Total	6	455	1	203	4	1	1	1	672

Use

Traces of use were noted on 31% of sherds. On jar sherds, however, the percentage is higher, 43%. On these vessels the traces consist mostly of external sooting followed by black internal deposits and white internal deposits (either kettle fur from the boiling of water or perhaps from the use of the vessels as urinals). Only ten jug sherds show any sign of use and these consist of external sooting (2 sherds) and a white internal deposit (nine sherds).

Source

The medieval pottery was mainly obtained from sources within 15 miles of the site and the few regional imports account for a very small part of the assemblage. Neither Doncaster (42 miles west) nor Lincoln products (41 miles south) are present, for example, even though both of these sites were connected to Melton by navigable rivers.

Post-medieval

Eleven sherds of pottery dating between the 16th and the 18th centuries were recovered. Nine are of various earthenware types, probably of Yorkshire manufacture (as the three sherds of Ryedale ware certainly are). The remainder are Brownware (i.e. brown-glazed red earthenware, BERTH); miscellaneous glazed red earthenware (GRE); and miscellaneous slipped red earthenware (SLIP). One sherd is from a slipware vessel of possible Staffordshire manufacture (STSL). A single sherd of imported stoneware, a body sherd from a Frechen bottle or drinking jug, dates between the mid 16th and the late 17th centuries. The sherds are scattered across the site, in areas 4, 5E, 7, 13 and 22 but do appear to be associated with occupation on the site rather than manuring of fields. In particular, the sherds from areas 4,

5E and 7 come from the fills of pits (2196; 3332; 5330; and 5498) and the sherd from area 22 comes from the fill of a post-hole (6263).

Early Modern

Five sherds of creamware (CREA), representing no more than 3 vessels, are the only pottery of later 18th century or later date from the site. One comes from the fill of a pit in Area 8 (2899) and the others come from the fill of a ditch in Area 13 (6197).

Bone

Four bone artefacts were recovered from the Melton excavations, together with an unworked piece of burnt bone (ignored).

Fig 00. No.00. SF23

A complete bone needle made from a section of hollow long bone, 67mm long, 8mm wide at end with an oval hole 2.5mm by 2mm cut at the end. The edges and tip are heavily polished from use and this polish extends the hole length of the needle, confirming that it was used in sewing. The object was recovered from the fill of ring ditch 2868 which also produced Iron Age pottery.

Fig 00. No.00. SF24.

The tip of a pin or needle with a polished surface (either applied during manufacture or possibly through use). The object was recovered from the fill of ring ditch 2868 which also produced Iron Age pottery. Bone tools of various kinds were used in the Iron Age and this example cannot be identified more closely.

Fig.00 No.00 SF32

A spindle whorl, probably formed from a femur head using a lathe. It has one flat plain face and one convex face decorated with lathe-turned lines. The object was found in the fill of a sunken-featured building, 4026, which was dated by associated finds to the Roman period.

SF3

A boars tusk with a circular suspension hole 4mm in diameter at the end. This was recovered from one of the fills (1343) of a Period 3 fence line (7059) in Area 8.

Ceramic Building Material

Roman

Nine fragments of Roman ceramic building material were recovered. They have several different fabrics but given the small number of examples, and the likelihood that they are stray finds from a Romanised structure not present in the excavation no further work was carried out on the fabrics.

They include one fragment of a *tegula*, two definite and one possible fragment of *Imbrex*, two joining fragments of brick and a fragment from a box flue tile. All these tiles would have been

used on Romanised structures. The *tegula* and *imbrex* tiles were used together to form roofs; bricks were used either on their own to form brick structures or with stone to provide decorative tile courses and architectural features. They could also be used to form hypocaust *pilae;* the box flue tiles were made to be used to channel the heated gases from a hypocaust up the walls of the building. Given the small number of fragments present it is impossible to say that such Romanised structures existed locally; the tiles might have been plundered from abandoned villas or from the nearby town of *Petuaria,* for example. However, four of the fragments were found in Period 4 deposits and therefore probably arrived on the site within the Roman period. These include the tegula fragment, found in the abandonment deposit in kiln 4374.

Medieval

Sixteen fragments of medieval or later ceramic building material were recovered. Several of these were too small for reliable identification and some come from deposits earlier than the medieval period, and are therefore either misidentifications of earlier material or are intrusive. The fabrics present include Beverley-type silty, calcareous tiles and a fine calcareous fabric which is almost certainly of modern date.

Where forms were discernable, they consist of bricks, flat roof tiles and pantiles, the latter being definitely of post-medieval or later date. Brick was first used in the Humber estuary in the later 13th century but the fragments from Melton are likely to be of post-medieval date, since this is the period during which brick use spread rapidly, both down the social hierarchy and outwards from towns to the countryside.

None of the fragments showed any sign of use (i.e. mortar, wear, sooting) but this is probably because their surfaces are not well-preserved.

No fragments were recovered from the main area of medieval activity (Period 6, Area 1) which probably indicates that structures in this area had roofs of perishable materials, such as thatch or wooden shingles, and most of the fragments (3 definite brick fragments and 3 definite flat tiles, together with 6 indeterminate fragments) come from Period 6 deposits in Area 22. Eleven fragments, including bricks, flat roof tiles and pantiles, came from post-medieval and modern deposits.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A stem from a clay tobacco pipe, datable by its bore diameter to the late 17th century or later, was recovered from the fill of ditch 7056, which is dated to the Roman period by other finds. Presumably this is intrusive from overlying ploughsoil.

Copper Alloy

Sixteen copper alloy objects were recovered including a contemporary forgery of a gold stater. Only stratified pieces are catalogued.

Coin by John A Sills Fig.00 No.00 [DN38]

An Iron Age coin was recovered from the fill of the ditch of Period 3 square barrow, 2100. Other finds from this deposit include an iron nail (SF117) and an assemblage of Iron Age pottery.

The coin is a contemporary forgery of a Corieltauvian gold stater. The coin would originally have been gold plated, but all or most of the plating has gone, leaving only the bronze core. The design is virtually illegible but on the obverse faint traces of a rosette either side of a central wreath are visible and on the reverse the body and neck of a highly stylized horse are reasonably clear. Above the horse's body is part of a letter N and below a small trefoil with the outline of a T next to it, sufficient to identify it as a copy of an AVN COST stater (Allen 1963, Nos 91-93, 375; 1996, Nos 3258-3260). The full legend on this particular variety would have been AVN TCOST, with TCOST retrograde; it may contain the first elements of two Celtic personal names, or be a blundered version of the known Gaulish name AVNICOS. Prior to conservation with some surface encrustation and corrosion products still remaining the coin weighed 4.15 g, against a mean weight of 5.16 g for the ten genuine specimens of this type recorded by the Oxford Celtic Coin Index. 31 plated examples have been recorded to date, with weights fluctuating between 2.16 and 5.01 g depending on the level of corrosion. Allen arranged the inscribed Corieltauvian series as a single sequence beginning with AVN COST and ending with VOLISIOS CARTIVEL (Allen 1963, p. 28-29), and implied that it was struck between the turn of the millennium and the Roman arrival at the Humber. Recent work suggests that several of the inscribed issues were struck in parallel rather than in sequence, which allows their inception to be pushed forward slightly to *c.* AD 10 or even a little later (2006). Reliable outer date brackets of *c.* AD 10-40 can be given for the AVN COST series as a whole, but plated copies could have been produced at any time up to or even slightly beyond the Roman invasion.

The distribution of AVN COST coins of all types is centred on Lincolnshire but there are several finds of both genuine and plated staters from north of the Humber; coins could have found their way north by a variety of mechanisms, but for genuine examples the two most likely are trade and refugee flight following the Claudian invasion. Plated copies are somewhat different as there is a tendency for a higher proportion to be found outside their normal area of circulation, probably because it would have been easier to pass them off as genuine where they were less familiar.

SF17

Three melted lumps of a heavy metal, probably a leaded bronze (11gm), recovered from a Period 3 pit, 1993 and may be evidence for metalworking.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN34] SF18

A cast loop, recovered from the fill of a Period 3 ditch, 1892.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN29] SF19

A buckle cast in a one-piece mould. The buckle is oval, 19 mm by 18 mm with room for a strap 12 mm wide. The buckle plate and pin are missing. Decoration consists of a groove to accommodate the pin and two raised ribs to either side. Recovered from the fill of ditch 7015, Area 5. Buckles of broadly similar appearance, size and manufacture are found in the later medieval period (later 13th and 14th centuries, and this example can be classified as Egan and Pritchard's buckles with oval frames with ornate outer edges (Egan and Pritchard 1991, Fig 44 No.295). Although ditch 7015 probably dates to Period 4 a later date is possible and supported by this find.

SF26

A staple, made from sheet metal, was recovered from Period 4gully, 3955.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN37] SF31

A strap end, made from a strip of sheet metal, bent over and attached by a single rivet, was recovered from the fill of Period 4 pit 3347.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN35] SF46

A buckle with traces of a textile strap preserved in the corrosion products. Recovered from a Period 5 grave, 5401, together with two Iron objects, SF44 and SF45). A C14 determination from the skeleton, calibrated at at 95% probability, dates the burial between AD 590 and 700. The buckle was examined using a SEM by S O'Connor who suggested that the textile might be silk. It was therefore submitted to P Rogers who identified the textile as linen (Rogers, pers comm).

Specialist Report on Buckle by Kevin Leahy

Description

Copper alloy buckle with tongue and a sheet-metal buckle plate. The hoop is oval and measures 16.2mm x 7.5mm; it has a 2.5mm diameter round section. Folded around this is a square buckle plate measuring 10.0mm x 10.0mm, with a recess to accommodate the tongue. The buckle plate is made from 0.9mm thick sheet metal and is secured by two, 2.1mm diameter x 5.0mm long copper alloy rivets, expanded at one end to form 3.8mm diameter domed heads. Bent around the hoop is a tongue, made from a 2.0mm x 1.6mm strip of copper alloy.

Discussion

Anglo-Saxon buckles have been studied and classified by Sonja Marzinzik (Marzinzik 2003) and the Melton find can be placed into her Type II 24a which were in use c. 570-750 AD. The size of the Melton buckle also helps confirm its date, as the use of small, narrow buckles is one characteristic of the seventh century 'Final Phase' graves occurring at Castledyke, Cleatham and in the East Yorkshire graves excavated by Mortimer.

SF49
A late 3rd-century coin of Allectus (293-6). Reverse shows a galley and is inscribed 'LAETITIA AUG'. The coin was recovered from the fill of trackway 1890 in Area 5E. This is a long-lived feature surviving into the post-medieval period.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN33] SF50
The catch plate and spring of a simple one-piece brooch of a type produced in the pre-conquest first century (e.g. 1958, Fig 8 No.1). Recovered from the fill of ditch 5484, Area 5E, which produced no other finds and is therefore dated by this brooch to the late Iron Age or later.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN31] SF55
A fragment from a cast object recovered from the fill of Period 7 furrow, 5345. Leahy has tentatively identified this as part of a burnt Great Square-Headed brooch of 6th century date and if so then this might be evidence that the 7th-century inhumation cemetery in this area was preceded by a cremation cemetery.

Specialist Report by Kevin Leahy

Description
Fragment of decorated cast copper, no surviving original edges, distortion and cracking suggest that this object has been burnt. The decoration is in three bands, two plain, which lie either side of a wider band containing small rectangular panels each bearing a series incised lines. Three of the panels are set at 90° to the narrow bands, and two parallel to them. The fragment is 14.5mm long and15.0mm wide; it is 3.1mm thick.

Discussion
While it is impossible to be sure, this fragment may have come from the head plate of an Early Anglo great square-headed brooch, for example Welbeck Hill, Lincs. (Hines 1997, Pl.66b). The condition of this find resembles that of metal objects found with early Anglo-Saxon cremation burials. If this fragment is part of a brooch, a sixth century date would be appropriate.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN32] SF59
A brooch of British Museum Group F with a catch plate pierced by round holes. The brooch is cast with an iron spring and much-decayed copper alloy pin. This type is normally first century. Recovered from the fill of Pit 5667, Area 17, dated to Period 5.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN36] SF64
Sheet metal cut into an annular shape, with iron corrosion on both surfaces. Recovered from the fill of Period 5 hollow 5721.

SF67
A triangle cut from sheet metal. Recovered from the fill of Period 6 pit, 6079.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN26] SF74

A D-shaped buckle recovered from the fill of Period 6 pit 6331. Length 20mm; Breadth 13mm; Thickness 3mm.

SF76

A fragment of sheet metal, of trapezoidal shape with the widest end bent and snapped. 40mm long. 37mm wide at widest end and 19mm at narrowest end. From the fill of Pit 6350, Period 6 Area 22.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN30] SF135

A fragmentary finger ring with a missing bezel. The hoop has an oval cross section 1.5mm by 1.4mm and the bezel is oval and would have been secured by a grey cement. Similar examples from the City of London date to the 13th and 14th centuries and the cement in these cases has been demonstrated to be calcium carbonate based (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 328-9). Recovered from the backfill of Period 6 well 6283, dating to the later 14th century or later by associated pottery.

Fired Clay

Four hundred and thirty-seven fragments of fired clay were recorded from Melton. They represent no more than 165 objects and weigh in total 23.384 Kg. Several of the fragments are very small and abraded and cannot be identified. Even if they could, they are likely to be redeposited and are not further discussed here.

Fabrics

The fabric of the fired clay is variable, indicating little attempt to mix the clay. Two main fabrics were recognised. Thin section and chemical analysis was carried out on a sample of these fabrics and this indicated that they did indeed fall into two groups which are tentatively identified as weathered Jurassic mudstone (Fabric 2) and a Quaternary deposit, probably associated with Lake Humber (Fabric 1, Vince 2007a). There is a strong correlation between the area in which the samples were found and their petrological and chemical composition but only the deepest features actually pierced the terrace sands which overlay these two deposits and it is unlikely that the clays were actually revealed by chance during ditch or pit digging and more likely that clay pits on the sides of valleys cutting through the terrace deposits were utilised.

Forms

The fired clay seems to have been used mainly for two purposes: loom weights and as daub covering on wattle structures. A single fragment of slagged clay was found, suggesting that metalworking debris is not present to any great extent in the collection. However, about a third of the pieces have no surfaces or impressions and their function is totally unknown whilst a small number of fragments have a roughly flattened face but no evidence for wattle impressions. These have been coded as “DAUB?”

The loomweights appear to be of two types: one is cylindrical with a central hole and the other has a tapering pyramidal form with a transverse hole. The latter is the more normal loom weight form in the Iron Age but in this collection there are three cylindrical examples (Fig.00 Nos. 00-00 [DN2, DN5, DN6]) and only two definite and one probable triangular example (Fig.00 Nos. 00-00. [DN1, DN3, DN4]). In addition, two loomweights could be positively identified but without being able to determine their shape, one is either a loom weight or a spindle whorl (Fig.00 No.00 [DN7]). whilst two groups of fired clay might be from loomweights but could not be positively identified. Fragments of fabric 1 loom weight come from the fill of a cremation, 1732, dated to the Bronze Age by a radiocarbon date. Unfortunately, they are too fragmentary to identify the form.

The daub comes mainly from the backfill of a corn-drying oven and probably formed part of the superstructure. Most of the fragments have wattle impressions on the inner face with a very rough outer surface. This outer surface is mostly almost flat but in some cases has a convex shape and in a few rare examples appears to form a rounded corner. These features suggest that the oven was probably formed of flat panels of wattle bound together to form a cubic form onto which the daub was spread. In several cases, individual coatings of daub were visible, because of the poor adhesion of the different layers. This, and the lack of any attempt to smooth off the surface distinguish these pieces from structural wattle and daub, but otherwise the remains are very similar to other wattle and daub. Ninety-three wattle impressions could be measured. They range from 7mm to 20mm with a sharp decline in quantity over 15mm (Fig 1). All come from the horizontal wattle members.

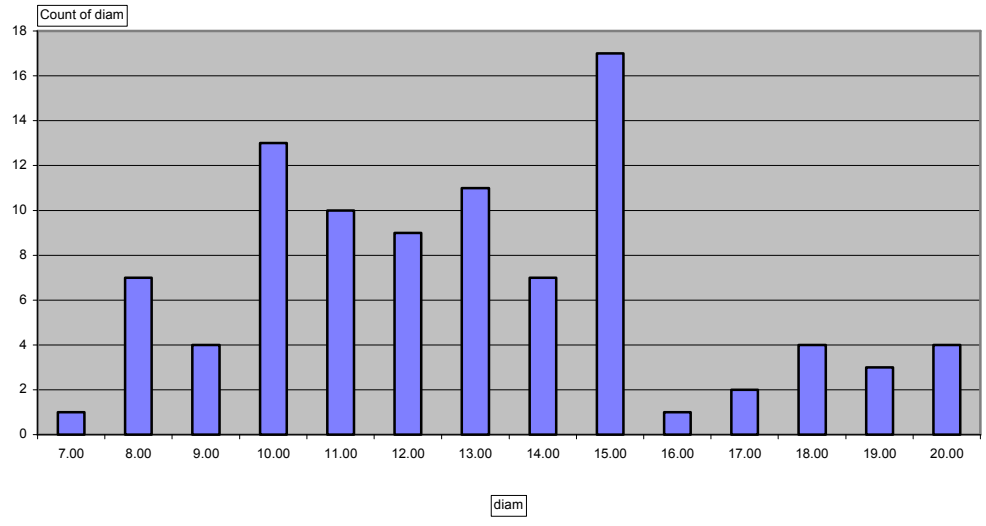

Figure 17

Finally, a fragment of fired clay in Fabric 2 from context 1602 is similar to the debris found on salt-working sites, where rough balls of clay were used to secure briquettage trays in position and then accidentally burnt. It is the only piece from Melton with this appearance and might therefore be a fragment of salt-working debris accidentally transported to the site along with

trays of salt, or alternatively this similarity may be accidental. In either case, a single fragment is not sufficient evidence to suggest salt extraction took place close to the site.

Table 15

TSNO	DN NO	Area	Action	Context	Subfabric	Description	Form
V4067	Fig 00 No. 00 DN01	8	DRSF; ICPS	2564	FAB 2	TRIANGULAR LOOMWEIGHT	LOOMWEIGHT
V4068	Fig 00 No. 00 DN02	5	DRSF; ICPS	1527	FAB 1	CYLINDRICAL WEIGHT; RADIUS FROM HOLE 45	LOOMWEIGHT
V4069	Fig 00 No. 00 DN03	20	DRSF; TS; ICPS	3502	FAB 3	TRIANGULAR DIA 40; ROUGH IN CONSTRUCTION	LOOMWEIGHT
V4070	Fig 00 No. 00 DN04	8	DRSF; TS; ICPS	1961	FAB 3	TRIANGULAR? WITH HOLE 21 DIA	LOOMWEIGHT
V4071	Fig 00 No. 00 DN05	5	DRSF; ICPS	1527	FAB 1	CYLINDRICAL WT; HOLE 23-9 DIA; PROB 140 ACROSS	LOOMWEIGHT
V4072	Fig 00 No. 00 DN06	5	DRSF; TS; ICPS	1527	FAB 1	CYLINDRICAL WEIGHT; RADIUS FROM HOLE 60	LOOMWEIGHT
	Fig 00 No. 00 DN07		DRSF	1371		3/4 OZ	SPINDLE WHORL/WEIGHT

Glass

Two fragments of glass were recovered. One is a fragment of bowl of Roman date and the other a post-medieval bottle.

SF25

A body sherd of a vessel made in a light blue glass comes from a Period 4 pit fill, 3192.

SF 123

A fragment of glass jar. the vessel wall ranges from 1.0mm to 2.0mm thick. The glass has a light blue tinge and was blown. Numerous vesicles are present. Recovered from the abandonment of the crop dryer in Area 4 (3951), dated to the mid 3rd century by an archaeomagnetic date.

SF 124

A fragment of glass vessel. The vessel wall is 2.5mm thick and comes from a narrow cylindrical vessel about 10cm diameter. The glass has a light green colour and has thin iridescent weathering. Recovered from the fill of Pit 2901, unknown date Area 9. (2900). This could be from a phial of later 17th century or later date but an earlier date cannot be ruled out.

SF127

The rim and neck of a bottle. The degree of corrosion suggests a mid 18th-century or earlier date whilst the form indicates that it is of 'onion' or 'mallet' form, i.e. c.1680-1750. It was recovered from a Period 8 ditch fill, 6197.

SF128

Two fragments from the base of a dark green tall bottle of mid 18th to 19th-century date. This fragment comes from the fill of post hole 6228 in Area 12.

Iron

Metallurgical Waste by Jane Cowgill

A total of four pieces of slag and associated finds were submitted for recording (Table 16) together with two items subsequently identified as stone and discarded. The finds were identified solely on morphological grounds by visual examination, sometimes with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. It was recorded on a *pro forma* recording sheet and this information was entered directly into the Catalogue below (Table 16).

Table 16

Area	Context	Type	Count	Weight	Comments
5	1371	Stone	1	5g	Discarded
8	1815	Hearth bottom	1	14g	Small fragment.
8	1961	Hearth bottom	1	403g	Once large; very dense; abraded and encrusted.
8	2059	Ironstone	1	12g	Discarded.
11	5327	Tap slag	1	48g	Part of a layered tap cake.
11	5331	Hearth bottom	1	71g	Fragment of a small cindery hearth bottom.

Discussion

The slags are all by-products of either iron smithing - the fabrication, repair or recycling of iron objects, or iron smelting - the production of metallic iron from suitable ores. The hearth bottom fragments are all very variable in form and density which suggests they are the waste products of different smiths, that from context 1961 is very large and exceptionally dense in complete contrast to the small cindery example from ditch fill 5331. No evidence for the fuel used in the hearths is present but charcoal would be the most likely candidate. The small and thin piece of tap slag may suggest that some iron smelting was undertaken close to Melton

during the Late Iron Age - Roman period. Occasionally, however, single pieces are found on sites where the resources for smelting would not have been present, suggesting that they may have been collected and perhaps kept as 'keep sakes'.

Artefacts

Seventy-four iron objects were recovered from the Melton excavations. These represent no more than 58 objects, weighing 2.199 Kg. The majority are either unstratified or come from deposits which cannot be dated (21 objects) and the remainder come from deposits dating to Periods 3 to 7.

All the nails were examined before X-radiography and the type of head, length, breadth and thickness were recorded. This information is included in the archive and no further study is included here. These nails come from deposits dated to Periods 3 to 7 but with the majority coming from Periods 6 (7 nails) and 7 (4 nails).

The remaining iron finds were submitted for x-radiography and this catalogue includes information taken from the conservation assessment by Erica Patterson, of the York Archaeological Trust Conservation Laboratory.

Fig.00 No.00 SF14

A small D-shaped object with a wedge-shaped cross section. 30mm long. 11mm wide and 6mm thick. Recovered from grave 1822 (fill 1821) in Late Iron Age square barrow. The object appears to be complete and might be a strike-a-light.

SF121

Strip of metal recovered from the fill of a Period 4 sunken-featured building, 4036. Patterson comments: Iron ?blade fragment in poor condition. Fragile with fresh breaks at both ends. Triangular-shaped cross section is visible. Curving down and narrowing towards one end.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN24]. SF27

A spiral-headed pin recovered from the fill of a Period 4 gully, 7026. SF027.

Specialist report by Kevin Leahy

Description

Iron spiral-headed pin, 124.0mm + long with a c. 3.0mm diameter, round-sectioned shaft. At the head of the pin the metal section appears to be square (2.5mm x 2.5mm) and is wound into a four turn spiral, tapering towards its centre. The tip of the pin is missing but it is otherwise intact.

Discussion

It is not easy to date this pin. Superficially, it might be linked to a series of spiral headed pins that occur on Early Anglo-Saxon sites, as at Shaken Oak, Oxfordshire (Pretty 1972, 84-5) Brandon, Eccles and Flixborough (Webster and Backhouse 1991, 84). Pretty believed these pins to be sixth century, but Webster preferred a seventh century dating. These Anglo-Saxon

pins, however, differ from the Melton example in a number of particulars: their heads consist of two, confronted spirals and they are made, not from iron, but copper alloy. Single spiral pins, like Melton, have been found, as in Grave 134 at Barton on Humber (Drinkall and Foreman 1998, 181, Fig. 95), but they are made from copper alloy and their heads resemble, not a spiral, but a shepherd's crook with the end of the loop turned out. Pins with true, single spiral heads are found on sites producing Anglo-Saxon material, but these differ from the Melton find in other ways; some being made from rolled sheet metal and, on all of them, the spiral heads are off-set to one side of the shaft.

While the evidence suggests that the Melton pin is Anglo-Saxon it is far from conclusive and it is worth considering if it might be earlier. In discussing the double-spiral pins Pretty (op cit) rejected a Roman origin but it is possible that they are still earlier. Pins are known from the British Iron Age, 1925, 97-100, Figs 103-112) with example from the Yorkshire 'Arras Culture' graves (Stead 1979, 77-8 Fig 30). Many of these pins have ring (but not spiral) heads, and the 'swan's neck' double curve on the pin shaft, which typifies Iron Age pins, is absent on the Melton find. However, if the Melton pin is from a secure Iron Age context, an early date cannot be excluded on typological grounds.

Fig.00 Nos. 00 [DN18]. SF44

A tool from Period 5? grave 5401. Associated with a whittle-tang knife and copper alloy buckle.

Specialist Report by Kevin Leahy

Description

Iron 'spatulate' tool. This has a centrally set, 17.0mm long tang, which curves into a flat 'blade'. A faint line on the x-ray suggests the extent of a handle. The 'blade' has a surviving length of 87.4mm and a width of 15.7mm, tapering slightly. Its thickness is, at one side, 2.7mm and 4.4mm at the other. As is typical of these objects there was no sharpened edge. Associated with this object were two small fragments of iron, neither of which can be re-fitted onto its surface.

MPO on the handle were tentatively identified as wood but re-identified as textile by S O'Connor. The object was then submitted to P Rogers who identified the material as linen.

Discussion

This is an example of an object known, for the want of a better term, as a 'spatulate tool'. Its central tang, blunt edges and rounded tip are all typical. While many spatulate tools have, like the find from Melton, a rectangular cross section and blunt edges there are examples which have a sharp edge, combined with the typical central tang and a rounded tip. The interpretation of 'spatulate tools' has been the subject of some discussion, Evison (1987, 110) suggested that they could be sharpening steels, but the metallographic examination of examples from Sewerby showed them to be softer than the knives which accompanied them (Hirst 1985, 88-9). They would, however, have been effective if sand was embedded into

their surfaces. A second interpretation is that they were firesteels, used for striking sparks from a flint for making fire. This is plausible, but so far as this writer is aware, no spatulate tool has been found with a flint.

Spatulate tools can be securely dated to the seventh century and occur in graves of the so-called 'Final Phase' of Early Anglo-Saxon burial (Boddington 1990, 177-99). An example of a spatulate tool was found at Cleatham in Grave 23, which could be dated to the seventh century by a Type E2 spearhead. Cleatham Grave 23 contained the remains of a young adult male but spatulate tools also occur with women. At Castledyke, spatulate tools were found in Grave 164 (sixth-seventh century) and Grave 183 (late seventh century) (Drinkall and Foreman 1998, 283-4). At Sewerby, East Yorkshire, examples were found in Graves 37/3; 48/1; 52/6 and 56/3 and were considered to be of seventh century date (Hirst 1985, 88-9). Other examples have been found in seventh century graves at Uncleby, East Yorkshire (Smith 1912, 157) and Garton Slack (Mortimer 1905, pl 83, fig 625: pl 88, fig 680).

Fig.00 Nos. 00 [DN15]. SF45. Period 5? grave 5401.

Associated with an iron spatulate tool and a copper alloy buckle. A C14 date of AD 590 to 700 (calibrated and at 95% probability levels) was obtained from the skeleton.

Specialist Report by Kevin Leahy

Description

Whittle tanged iron knife with an over all length 152.0mm, of which the blade forms103.8mm. The tang is marked with fine striations suggesting that the handle was made from horn, the extent of which is marked by a transverse line visible on both the object and the x-ray. The blade has a triangular section, although its faces are slightly curved. Both its back and blade's cutting edge curve towards the point. The x-ray reveals a line running down the length of the blade around 4.0mm from the cutting edge. This suggests that the knife may have had a steeled edge.

The handle was minerally-preserved and was tentatively identified by S O'Connor as horn.

Discussion

Anglo-Saxon knives have been classified by Evison (1987, 113-17), who based her work on the sequence of blade shapes established by Böhner for the Trier region of Germany, a classification which, in spite of its Continental basis, has been found applicable to English material. The curved back and cutting edge of the Melton knife allow it to be placed into Evison's Type A which, unfortunately, was in use over a long period of time. All that can be said is that knives of this type is that they date from the mid-fifth to the late seventh century AD.

Heinrich Härke (Härke 1989, 144-8) has shown that knives could be usefully classified on the basis of their size and the Melton find can be place in his Class 2; knives with blade lengths of between 100 and 129mm. Work on the large number of knives found at Castledyke (Drinkall and Foreman 1998, 279-83) showed that the intermediate Class 2 knives were most

commonly found in seventh century graves, supporting the dating suggested by the spatulate tool.

Fig.00 Nos. 00-00 [DN19, DN22]. SF114 and SF47

Brackets from a wooden box. The box accompanied a Period 5? Inhumation, 5405, and was found at the head end. A C14 determination from the skeleton in this grave dates the burial between AD 430 and 640. O Connor and Hall comment that MPO wood remains with some quite coarse vessels visible in surfaces revealing the longitudinal aspect. This would be consistent with a ring-porous type such as oak or ash, but a tiny area of transverse aspect visible on one fragment seemed to be not so much like oak as alder with vessels apparently in radial files and no ring porosity visible. No definitive identification beyond 'hardwood'.

Specialist Report by Kevin Leahy

Description

SF47: Iron bracket made from a 2.1mm thick, iron plate which was bent to form two tong-shaped leaves set at 90^{o} to each other. Through each side of the bracket is a nail, one of which is straight and is 18mm long and the other bent into a curving line showing that it had been attached to a 10mm thick board. The latter nail had a c.12mm diameter head, there is no trace of a head on its counterpart. The nails may have had a square section and traces of wood grain on them show that the wood had decayed in situ. There are also traces of wood grain on the inner faces of the bracket. These marks run parallel to its length which is in keeping with them being fitted to the sides of a wooden box.

SF114: Five fragments of sheet iron representing the remains of two (or possibly more) corner brackets. Damage makes it impossible to define the shape of these objects, but it is likely that they consisted of a plate bent to form two tongue-shaped leaves, set at 90^{o} to each other (cf SF47). Assuming that they were symmetrical, each side of the bracket would have been around 47mm long with a width of around 31mm. They were made from sheet metal with a thickness of 2.5mm. Two nails survive, one of which had a slightly domed, 12.0mm diameter head. Both nails had been clenched over at 90^{o} and show that the brackets were attached to c.12mm thick wooden boards, traces of which can be seen on the inner faces of the brackets. In each case the wood-grain ran parallel to the length of the bracket.

Discussion

These objects represent the corner fittings from a wooden box. Wooden boxes occur in Anglo-Saxon graves of seventh, or late seventh century date and are, like the Melton find, usually found in the area of the skull. A good parallel for the Melton box was found in Grave 35 at Castledyke South, Barton on Humber (Drinkall and Foreman 1998, 46. Figs. 18, 65). The remains of boxes were found in eight of the Castledyke graves and, like the Melton find, most lacked any trace of their original contents.

SF66 and SF115 are fiddle-key nails from horse shoes. The former comes from the fill of Period 6 pit 6079 and the latter from the fill of Period 6 well, 6283.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN20] SF116 is a horse shoe, from the fill of Period 6 pit, 6231.
SF118. Patterson comments: Dense iron fragment in fair condition. A bright white border around the object visible on X-ray suggests possible non-ferrous plating. The object comes from the fill of Period 6 pit, 6291,
SF82. An unidentified triangular object formed from an 8mm thick strip of metal, 57mm long tapering from 28mm at one end to a point at the other.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN27]. SF87
A rove nail with both diamond-shaped rivets in place. Such nails were used in boat construction in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The find comes from the fill of Period 6 pit, 6371.

SF88
An amorphous lump from layer 6393, Period 6.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN16]. SF75
A possible tool. Recovered from the fill of Period 6 feature 6307.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN23]. SF40
A bracket from the fill of Period 7 pit, 5330.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN14] SF33
Iron knife with broad whittle tang and an angled back. Total length 130mm. Blade 93mm long, 15mm wide and 3mm thick. Tang 40mm long. Sonia O'Connor comments that the handle was of horn The finely corrugated sheets of horn are quite well preserved in places with the grain running parallel to the tang.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN17] SF39A
Unidentified Iron tool. Trapezoidal shape. 105mm long. 16mm wide at narrow end and 30mm wide at widest end which narrows to a blade. 10mm thick probably with H cross-section. Fill of ditch 5143, area 3. Period 3-4. long-lasting boundary ditch

Fig.00 No.00 [DN39] SF39B
Iron tool or possible knife. Rectangular-sectioned tang, c.8mm square, and rectangular blade 18mm by 3mm. Incomplete blade length 40mm long. Fill of ditch 5143, area 3. Period 3-4. long-lasting boundary ditch

SF42
A horse shoe nail from the fill of Period 7 pit, 5330.

SF43
A fragment of very corroded sheet metal from the fill of Period 7 pit, 5330.

SF113
An amorphous iron lump, 11mm by 8mm. From the fill of Pit 2348, dated to Period 3 by associated pottery and a C14 date of 410 BC to 200 BC from sheep bone.

Lead

Four fragments of lead were recovered from Melton. Three are lead sheet and melted waste, all from the fill of an early Anglo-Saxon hollow and the forth fragment is from the fill of an Iron Age trackway which has produced medieval pottery.

SF48
A roughly circular runnel of lead, from the fill of trackway 1890.

SF61 to 63
A fragment of lead sheet, a corroded, roughly rectangular lump and a runnel, folded in half, all from the early Anglo-Saxon fill of hollow 5683.

Plaster?

Eight fragments of plaster were recovered. They appear to be a plaster skim, between 15mm and 20mm thick laid over a flat surface, presumably wood. Lime plaster was introduced to Britain in the Roman period and was initially used on Romanised structures, although its use spread down the social hierarchy in the later Roman period. However, two of the fragments come from the fill of a pit, 1600, in Area 8 dated to the Iron Age by the associated pottery, which includes smashed vessels, and therefore unlikely to be residual. The other fragments come from the fill of a natural feature and the backfill of a Period 4 drying oven, 4374. It may be, therefore, that these fragments are not lime plaster, but either a naturally-occurring geological material or perhaps a cob made from chalky subsoil.

Stone

Querns

[insert separate report on querns]

Other Finds

Forty-seven stone fragments which might have been artefacts were recovered. Of these, 39 were probably unworked pebbles which include fragments of organic shale (of Jurassic or Carboniferous age, and clearly derived from glacial till), flint, chalk and ironstone. Some of these might have been used for sharpening tools, but if so this use has left no obvious wear patterns at x20 magnification. In addition, three fragments of ironstone might have a sufficiently high iron content to have been used as ore, although their distribution does not correlate with that of the slag. Two, of these pieces come from early Anglo-Saxon contexts in Area 17.
This leaves four stone objects which might be artefacts, although even two of these are very dubious.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN12]. SF21

A broken piece of a fine-grained sedimentary rock (siltstone or mudstone) which has been shaped using a knife and a hole bored through it from either side, leaving an hour-glass-shaped hole. The object is irregular in shape and therefore probably not used as a spindle whorl. The object comes from the fill of a posthole of Roman date and is presumably a net sinker or similar weight.

Fig.00 No.00 [DN10]. SF37

A small pebble of chalk which has been roughly shaped into a sub-rectangular disk with a central hole, bored from both sides as in SF21. This object is probably also a net sinker or similar weight and was found in the fill of a posthole of Iron Age date.

~~[However, Kevin Leahy comments that it is very similar in appearance to amulets found in early Anglo-Saxon contexts (see below).~~

~~Specialist Report by Kevin Leahy~~

~~Description~~

~~Perforated chalk object, roughly square in plan, (25.0mm x 24.0mm) with a thickness of 9.9mm -8.6mm. Its edges are rounded. The perforation was formed from both sides giving it an 'hour-glass' form, 8.0mm at the widest point but constricted to c.3.5mm at its centre. Scratched on one face are three symbols which seem unlikely to be accidental.~~

~~Discussion~~

~~The interpretation of this object is largely dependent on the context in which it was found. Pieces of chalk, often perforated, occur in Anglo-Saxon graves and have been discussed by Meaney (1981, 96-8) who considered them to be amulets. If this object is an amulet the scratch-marks could be seen as pseudo-runes. In view of the lack of any practical function and the possible pseudo runic inscription, this object could, if found in an appropriate context, be interpreted as an Anglo-Saxon amulet.]~~

SF73

A fragment of a hone of dark fine-grained stone (blue phyllite?) with a suspension hole, bored from both sides, at one end. It has one flat, smooth face. 56mm long. 16mm wide and 6 mm thick. From the late 12th century or later backfill of Feature 6307 in Area 6. Blue phyllite holes were mass produced in southern Norway and exported to the British Isles in the 10th to 12th centuries (Crosby and Mitchell 1987).

SF131

A flake from an oval pebble of micaceous sandstone, probably of Carboniferous age. It might have been used as a whetstone, although there is no definite evidence for wear. It was found in the fill of an Iron Age pit.

SF132

An oval pebble of a dark-coloured basic igneous rock. The pebble has been split diagonally and the broken edge has then received further abrasion. The flatter surfaces might have been used as a whetstone, although there is no positive evidence for artificial wear.

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