

Assessment of the Ceramic Building Material, Copper Alloy, Clay Tobacco Pipe and Pottery from the Asselby to Pannal Pipeline (ASP 07)

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A collection of ceramic building material, copper alloy artefacts, clay tobacco pipes and medieval and later pottery recovered from the line of the Asselby to Pannal pipeline was submitted for identification and assessment.

The finds include a putative sherd of Roman date, a handful of medieval sherds, post-medieval and early modern wares.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Fifteen fragments of ceramic building material were present. Two are too small to identify. Three fragments of handmade bricks might be of post-medieval or later date and the remainder are probably of later 18th century or later date. These consist of seven definite and one possible fragment of field drain; a fragment which might be either a pantile or flat roof tile and one fragment of pantile in a white fabric.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Two fragments of clay pipe stem are probably of 18th century or later date, to judge by the bore diameters. A third fragment is from a bowl with a leaf-moulded seam, a type which is probably of mid 19th-century date. Similar examples are known from Lincoln where they were dated c.1840-80 (Mann 1977, No.168).

Copper Alloy

Five copper alloy artefacts were recorded. One of these from context 1002 is from a large buckle with an oval frame. A similar example from the City of London is dated to the late medieval period (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 263).

The remaining four objects are probably of late 18th-century or later date. Three from context 1002 consist of a probable cast toy soldier; a worn coin of the size of a halfpenny of Victoria; and a circular gilt button with the scar from an added loop attachment. That from context 1054 is a 36mm long nail with a round head. Similar nails are used at the present day and this example is probably of recent date.

Plastic

A small object when examined at x20 magnification was identified as melted plastic with straw inclusions. It is presumably associated with some agricultural activity.

Pottery

Roman

A single small abraded sherd from context 1002 is possibly from a very abraded piece of Samian ware.

Medieval

Eight sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. One is of York Gritty ware (YG). This ware was produced in West Yorkshire from the mid 11th to the 13th centuries and was the most common ware used in the southern part of the Vale of York (Holdsworth 1995; 1978). A sherd of Northern Gritty ware (NGR) was recorded. This ware was produced in West Yorkshire in several centres from the later 12th onwards. Three sherds are identified as probably being of jars of medieval date but are not of types known to the authors (MEDX). Finally, three sherds are of Humberware (HUM; one jar, one jug and one unidentified vessel). Humberware was produced at several centres in the Humber wetlands and the Vale of York and was the most common ware used in the Humber wetlands and Vale of York from the mid 14th to the 16th centuries (Hayfield 1992).

Post-medieval

Seven sherds of post-medieval pottery were recorded. They consist of brown-glazed earthenware (Brownware, BERTH); black-glazed earthenware (blackware, BL); plain lead-glazed earthenware (GRE); and Midlands Yellow ware (MY). The first four types were all made in numerous centres throughout Yorkshire whilst the Midlands Yellow ware was produced, amongst other places, at Wrenthorpe, near Wakefield (Moorhouse and Roberts 1992). The vessel forms found; jars, bowls, pancheons and cups, are the most common types found in the post-medieval period. None of the types is closely datable, although the Midlands Yellow ware is likely to be of later 16th to mid 17th century date.

Early Modern

Thirty sherds of later 18th century or later pottery were recorded. Most of these are of refined whiteware types produced in factories in Yorkshire and elsewhere (Creamware – CREA; buffware – NCBW; Pearlware – PEAR; transfer-printed wares – TPW and miscellaneous whitewares – WHITE). Other wares include English porcelain (ENPO); misc English stoneware (ENGS); Nottingham stoneware (NOTS); local country pottery (LPMLOC) and Sunderland coarseware (SUND). A wide range of forms was represented (bottles; bowls, cups; dishes; flowerpots; jars; jugs; plates; and tankards). These suggest that the pottery is

refuse from domestic occupation and is probably present as a result of the spreading of night soil from local towns on the fields.

Assessment

Further work

One of the copper alloy artefacts should be submitted for a conservation assessment (the later medieval buckle). The identity of the putative toy soldier could be investigated with the help of x-radiographs.

Bibliography

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Appendix 1

Context	period	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use	L
1002	nd	CBM	CBM	CBM			BS	1	1	6	6.00			
1002	emod	CBM	PMTIL	FLAT/PANT?			BS	1	1	12	12.00			
1002	emod	COPP	COPP	FIGURINE		TOY SOLDIER? POSS IRON ON BASE OF FOOT	LEG	1	1	18	18.00			
1002	emod	COPP	COPP	COIN		WORN VICTORIAN HALFPENNY?	COMPLETE	1	1	5	5.00			
1002	emod	COPP	COPP	BUTTON		GOLD GILT; LOOP ATTACHMENT MISSING	PART	1	1	3	3.00			
1002	lmed	COPP	COPP	BUCKLE		OVAL FRAME, NOTCH FOR PIN AND PUNCHED CIRCLES FORMING PATTERNS OF LINES AND FIELDS; ALSO ETCHED LINES. SIMILAR TO EGAN AND PRITCHARD 1991, 263	PART	1	1	14	14.00			
1002	pmed	POTTERY	BERTH	BOWL			BS	1	1	8	8.00			
1002	emod	POTTERY	ENPO	CUP		SMALL	B	1	1	3	3.00			
1002	pmed	POTTERY	GRE	BOWL			BS	2	2	22	11.00			
1002	lmed	POTTERY	HUM	JUG		STRAP 40 ACROSS; MULTI LINED TOP	H	1	1	60	60.00	ABRA		
1002	med	POTTERY	MEDX	JAR			R	1	1	7	7.00	ABRA		
1002	med	POTTERY	MEDX	JAR			BS	1	1	6	6.00	ABRA		
1002	med	POTTERY	MEDX	JAR			BS	1	1	11	11.00	ABRA		
1002	pmed	POTTERY	MY	CUP			B	1	1	8	8.00	LOST GLAZE BOTTOM INT		
1002	emod	POTTERY	NOTS	JAR			BS	1	1	9	9.00			

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A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007000.pdf>

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Context	period	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use	L
1002	roman	POTTERY	SAMIAN?	?			R	1	1	2	2.00	VABRA		
1003	emod	POTTERY	PMLOC	BOWL			R	1	1	17	17.00			
1011	emod	PLASTIC	PLASTIC	?		MELTED PLASTIC WITH STRAW INCLUSIONS	BS	1	1	1	1.00			
1021	lmed	POTTERY	HUM	JAR			BS	1	1	4	4.00	ABRA		
1021	lmed	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR			BS	1	1	9	9.00	ABRA		
1021	med	POTTERY	NGR	JAR			BS	1	1	8	8.00		SOOTED EXT	
1050	pmed+	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK			BS	1	1	78	78.00			
1050	emod	CBM	PMTIL	FIELD DRAIN			BS	1	1	20	20.00			
1050	emod	CBM	PMTIL	FIELD DRAIN			BS	5	1	42	8.40			
1050	emod	POTTERY	PEAR	PLATE			BS	1	1	1	1.00			
1054	pmed+	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK			BS	1	1	61	61.00	PART VITRIFIED		
1054	emod	COPP	COPP	NAIL		ROUND HEAD	COMPLETE	1	1	1	1.00			36
1054	emod	POTTERY	PEAR	PLATE		MOULDED DEC ON RIM	R	1	1	3	3.00			
1054	emod	POTTERY	PEAR	CUP			BS	1	1	4	4.00			
1054	emod	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE			R	1	1	8	8.00			
1074	emod	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE		18TH CENTURY BORE	STEM	2	2	3	1.50			
1074	pmed	POTTERY	GRE	BOWL		WHITE SLIP ON RIM AND BELOW	R	1	1	11	11.00			
1074	emod	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE			BS	2	2	4	2.00			
1074	emod	POTTERY	TPW	TANK			BS	1	1	1	1.00			
1074	emod	POTTERY	TPW	BOWL			BS	1	1	1	1.00			
1076	emod	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE		1840-80; PLANT LEAVES ON FRONT SEAM MANN 77 168	BOWL	1	1	3	3.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	ENGS	JAR		MARMALADE JAR	R	1	1	13	13.00			

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Context	period	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use	L
1076	emod	POTTERY	ENGS	JAR			BS	1	1	4	4.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	ENGS	BOT/JAR/JUG		STRAP 30 ACROSS 2 GROOVES	H	1	1	12	12.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	PEAR	JAR			B	1	1	6	6.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	PMLOC	FLP			B	1	1	52	52.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	SUND	BOWL			R	1	1	75	75.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	TPW	PLATE		STAMP ON BASE	BS	1	1	5	5.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	WHITE	JAR			BS	1	1	4	4.00			
1076	emod	POTTERY	WHITE	DISH		DEC MOULDED HANDLE	H	1	1	14	14.00			
1079	emod	POTTERY	TPW	CUP		FOOT RING	B	1	1	7	7.00			
1079	emod	POTTERY	WHITE	JUG		FLATTENED ROD MOULDED	H	1	1	12	12.00			
1096	emod	CBM	PMTIL	PANT	WHITE		BS	1	1	56	56.00			
1096	emod	POTTERY	ENGS	BOT			BS	1	1	9	9.00			
1104	pmed+	CBM	PMTIL	BRICK			BS	1	1	2	2.00			
1104	emod	PIPECLAY	PIPIECLAY	CLAYPIPE		18TH CENTURY BORE	STEM	2	2	6	3.00			
1104	med	POTTERY	YG	JAR			B	1	1	12	12.00			
1118	emod	CBM	PMTIL	FIELD DRAIN?			BS	1	1	10	10.00			
1118	pmed	POTTERY	BL	JAR			BS	1	1	13	13.00			
1118	emod	POTTERY	PMLOC	FLP			BS	1	1	28	28.00			
1129	emod	CBM	PMTIL	FIELD DRAIN			BS	1	1	2	2.00			
1129	emod	POTTERY	CREA	CUP			BS	1	1	1	1.00			
1138	nd	CBM	CBM	CBM			BS	1	1	3	3.00			
1138	pmed	POTTERY	BL	PANC		FLANGE	R	1	1	62	62.00		WORN INT	
1138	emod	POTTERY	NCBW	BOWL		PALE BLUE/WHITE BANDS INDUST SLIP EXT	BS	1	1	13	13.00			

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Context	period	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition	Use	L
1138	emod	POTTERY	PEAR	PLATE			BS	1	1	2	2.00			
1138	emod	POTTERY	WHITE	PLATE			BS	3	3	6	2.00			