

Assessment of pottery from No.1 Clifton, The Grange Hotel, York (OSA07 WB15)

Alan Vince and Kate Steane

A small collection of pottery ranging in date from the Iron Age or early Roman period to the late 18th or 19th century was recovered from an archaeological watching brief at No.1 Clifton, The Grange Hotel, York, carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd.

Description

Pottery

Iron Age/Roman

Four sherds from a single jar with a fabric containing calcareous inclusions, probably limestone, were recovered. Limestone does not occur locally either in the solid geology of the Vale of York or as detrital grains in Quaternary sands or gravels. However, limestones outcrop to the west (Permian and Lower Carboniferous); north-east (Middle and Upper Jurassic oolites); east and south-east (Lower and middle Jurassic fossiliferous and recrystallised limestones). Since fabrics containing fragments of these limestones have been sampled extensively, it should therefore be possible to identify the source of this vessel using thin section and chemical analysis.

Roman

Eight sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. These include locally-made greywares (Monaghan 1997, G1); greywares with rusticated decoration (R2) and oxidized wares (Eboracum ware, E1) as well as a sherd from a whiteware flagon (P0). Most of the sherds come from jars with one greyware lid and the aforementioned flagon.

As a group, these sherds might date to between the later 1st and the early 2nd centuries but individual sherds could be of later date.

Early Modern

A single sherd of transfer-printed plate was recovered. This probably dates between the later 18th and the early 20th centuries.

Assessment

The limestone-tempered vessel comes from the backfill of a Roman inhumation burial, SK203. However, at Melton, East Yorkshire, limestone-tempered vessels seem to have ceased being used before the end of the 1st century and therefore either this is a very early

The Alan Vince Archaeology Consultancy, 25 West Parade, Lincoln, LN1 1NW

<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>

A copy of this report is archived online at

<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2007007.pdf>

post-conquest burial or the sherds are actually residual and of Iron Age date, or the vessel comes from an area of Yorkshire (or further afield) where the use of handmade limestone-tempered vessels continued for longer into the Roman period.

A small collection of three sherds came from context 120, a soil thought to take to the Roman period. The sherds are all from locally-made greyware vessels, two of which are decorated with rustication. This decoration ceased being used early in the 2nd century.

The remaining finds come from 18th/19th-century deposits although with the exception of one sherd of transfer-printed ware the finds are of Roman date.

Further Work

The source of the limestone-tempered vessel could be established using thin section and chemical analysis and comparison with other local limestone-tempered wares might then be able to establish the date of the vessel more closely.

At 2007/2008 prices a thin section, chemical analysis and report would cost £50.00 plus VAT

Bibliography

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

Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
107	POTTERY	R2	E1		JAR	BS	1	1	3		
107	POTTERY	E1			JAR	BS	2	1	2		
107	POTTERY	G1			LID	R	1	1	26		SOOTED ALONG RIM
108	POTTERY	P0			FLAGON	BS	1	1	10		
117	POTTERY	TPW			PLATE	R	1	1	3		
120	POTTERY	G1			JAR	BS	1	1	13		
120	POTTERY	R2	G1		JAR	BS	1	1	22		
120	POTTERY	R2	G1		JAR	BS	1	1	24		
202	POTTERY	IALST			JAR	BS	4	1	133		