

# **Assessment of the Pottery from 2 Ogleforth, York, North Yorkshire (YOG'08)**

## ***Alan Vince and Kate Steane***

A small collection of clay tobacco pipe fragments and pottery was recovered from an excavation carried out by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd at 2, Ogleforth, York. The finds range in date from the Roman period to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century or later.

### Description

#### **Clay Tobacco Pipes**

Seven fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Three were plain stem fragments, which could be dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> century (C1104) and the later 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (C1103) by their bore diameters.

A group of 4 fragments from C1104 reconstruct to make a heeled bowl of mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date (c.1640-60) and a glazed mouthpiece, also from C1104, is probably of later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date.

#### **Pottery**

##### Roman

The turned base of a small greyware jar (Monaghan 1997, G0) was recovered from C1119. It is probably of later 1<sup>st</sup> to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century date.

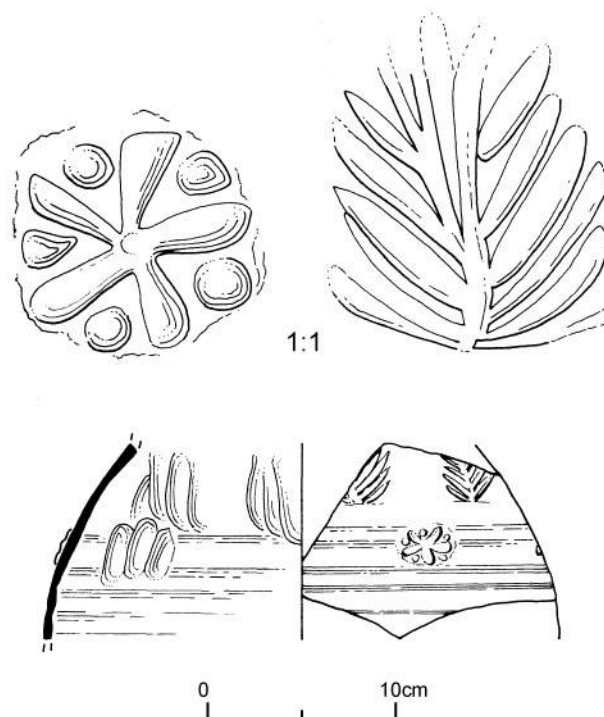
##### Anglo-Scandinavian

The sagging base of a Torksey-ware jar (TORK) was recovered from C1119 and an unstratified sherd of Stamford ware (ST) glazed pitcher was also present. The Torksey ware is definitely pre-conquest in date whilst the Stamford ware might date to the immediately pre-conquest 11<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century.

##### Medieval

Four sherds dating between the later 12<sup>th</sup> and the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century were recovered. They consist of three sherds of York Glazed ware (YORK) and one sherd of Beverley Glazed ware (BEVO2B). The York Glazed sherds include two from thumbled based jugs, probably of early to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The Beverley Glazed ware vessel is a rod-handed jug with thumb impressions at the body join. The rod handle appears on Beverley jugs sometime after the 1190s (Watkins 1991). It is therefore likely that all four vessels are actually of 13<sup>th</sup> century date.

The remaining medieval sherds are all of types which were current in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries: Brandsby-type ware (BRAN); Humberware (HUM) and Dutch Red Earthenware (DUTR). All 85 sherds are of types which are well-known from other sites in York. The lack of Hambleton ware and the relatively low ratio of Humberware to other types both suggest an early date, in the mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> century, for the majority of this pottery. Several of the Brandsby-type sherds come from decorated jugs, most of which can be paralleled in the Yorkshire Museum collections (Jennings 1992). One unusual vessel, however, is represented by a series of sherds from C1119. They come from a jug decorated with stamped bosses (Fig 1). This is a distinctive decorative technique found on highly decorated Flemish redwares (aka Aardenburg ware, Dunning 1968); Mill Green ware (Pearce et al. 1982), Kingston-type ware (Pearce and Vince 1988) and Beverley Glazed ware (Watkins 1991; Didsbury and Watkins 1992). These wares are all of later 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century date and this is clearly the date of the Ogleforth example. Two stamps were used. One is a stylised flower with five petals and the other is an ear of wheat or similar. This vessel has a standard Brandsby-type fabric but the core and interior are black, indicative of a high organic content in the potting clay and a reduced firing.



*Figure 1 York Glazed Ware jug with stamped bosses. Drawn by Charlotte Bentley*

**Table 1**

Form	BRAN	DUTR	HUM	Total
CAULD			1	1
JAR	5	1		6
JUG	63		11	74
JUG/JAR			4	4

Grand Total	68	2	15	85
-------------	----	---	----	----

### Post-medieval

Eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. They consist of a sherd of a Cistercian ware cup (CSTN); a Raeren stoneware drinking jug (RAER); four Ryedale ware vessels (RYEDALE) and a sherd of Staffordshire slipware (STSL).

The Raeren stoneware vessel is the earliest of these types, being current in the later 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (Hurst, Neal, and van Beuningen 1986).

The Cistercian ware vessel is of a type produced at Wrenthorpe, decorated with two vertical lines, Moorhouse and Roberts 1992, decorative element 23. Illustration 424). This is a late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup>-century type.

Ryedale ware was certainly in use at the Dissolution in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and appears to have been current in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century at Castle Howard where smashed vessels were found in the destruction debris of the houses demolished when work on the stately home started c.1699 (Vince 2002). The Ogleforth vessels include a chafing dish, a form which is most common in pottery in the later 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Staffordshire slipware vessel is decorated with brown and white marbled slip. Wheelthrown Staffordshire slipware vessels employing this technique were current in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, contemporary with the more common press-moulded combed slipware dishes.

### Early Modern

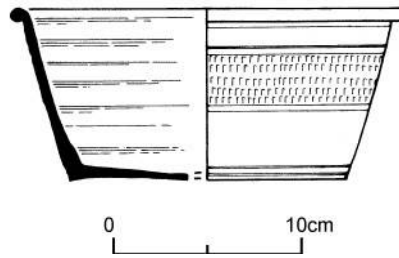
Eighteen sherds of pottery dating to the later 18<sup>th</sup> century or later were present. They represented two vessels. The first was a small refined redware vessel with a white slip and yellow glaze (REFR). Such vessels were produced from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, for example as coffee pots. The second vessel was a stoneware bowl (Figs 2, 3 and 4). The bowl has a rolled-out bead rim, a turned base and was decorated with a band of roller stamping on the centre of the straight, slightly flaring, body. Production of Nottingham stoneware apparently declined in the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century but continued into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps being finally eclipsed by the Derbyshire stoneware industry at Codnor Park which was founded in c.1820. The decline is documented in detail by Jewitt (Jewitt 1878, 416-7). In 1780 a list of Nottingham burgesses included 14 pot and mug makers but by 1802 the equivalent list only included four and in 1803 a list of voters in a contested election included only one and the "Old Pottery" is given as the residence of several people unconnected with pottery production. By 1815 a history of Nottingham discusses the demise of the Nottingham industry and blames the fact that clay had to be imported from a considerable distance, unlike in Staffordshire (or Derbyshire, where the stoneware clay was revealed during the cutting of the Erewash canal). From these records it seems certain that the Ogleforth bowl was made before c.1803.



*Figure 2*



*Figure 3*



*Figure 4 Nottingham Stoneware bowl. Drawn by Charlotte Bentley*

## Assessment

### **Stratigraphy and taphonomy**

The earliest pottery from the site, dating to the Roman period, the Anglo-Scandinavian period and the early to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, is all from much later contexts. It may have been disturbed during earth moving on the site itself or have arrived on site with material used to raise and level the ground.

#### Intervention 4

A single assemblage of pottery was recovered from C1019 in Intervention 4. It consists of large, fresh sherds of Ryedale ware and probably dates to the later 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> centuries although conceivably it could be earlier.

#### Intervention 6

The earliest deposit to produce any pottery was C1119, which produced an assemblage of probably mid 14<sup>th</sup>-century date. This date is given by the high incidence of Brandsby-type ware and the presence of Humberware. The deposit also included a small proportion of residual Roman, Anglo-Scandinavian and 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery.

This level was cut by the foundation, F15, of a structure, F10. The same foundation was reused throughout the sequence and it may be that the structure itself survived with modifications. The only associated pottery was a single sherd of Brandsby-type ware. The first surviving floor of this structure, C1110, produced a single sherd of Dutch Red Earthenware. A scoop in the surface of this floor, F50 contained two sherds of pottery, one of which is of Brandsby-type ware and the other Humberware. The latter has a brown overfired slip on the exterior. Vessels of this type are usually dated to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It may be, therefore, that the pottery from the construction of this structure (F15 and C1110) is derived from the underlying deposit, C1119, and that the structure itself was much later. However, the relationship of the scoop to two floors overlying C1110 is not discernable and it may be that this scoop fill is actually quite late in the structure's life. The first structure might therefore be of similar date to the material in C1119, i.e. mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> century.

These deposits are sealed by a floor, F2, and its makeup layer C1104 which produced the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Nottingham Stoneware bowl. This was found in several joining fragments and clearly was contemporary rubbish at the time of laying the floor. The glazed tobacco pipe mouthpiece is of a similar date.

### **Further Work**

This assessment does not reconsider the finds from the earlier evaluation of the site, which included material from the same deposits and structures as those revealed in 2008. It is likely that a consideration of both collections together, in the light of the stratigraphy revealed in 2008, would lead to further information on the chronology of the stratigraphic sequence.

### **Retention**

All of the pottery and clay tobacco pipe fragments from stratified deposits should be retained. The unstratified material includes some types not present in the stratified assemblages but could nevertheless be discarded.

### **Bibliography**

- Didsbury, P. and Watkins, G. (1992) "The Pottery." in D. H. Evans and D. G. Tomlinson, eds., *Excavations at 33-35 Eastgate, Beverley, 1983-86*, Sheffield Excavation Reps 3 J R Collis Publ, Sheffield, 81-120
- Dunning, G. C. (1968) "Medieval Pottery Roof Ventilators and Finials found at Aardenburg, Zeeland, and Post-Medieval Finials at Deventer, Overijssel." *Berichten van de Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek*, 209-25 Pls LXXII-LXXV
- Hurst, John G, Neal, David S, and van Beuningen, H J E (1986) *Pottery Produced and Traded in North-West Europe 1350-1650*. Rotterdam Papers VI Rotterdam, Museum Boymans-van Beuningen
- Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum
- Jewitt, L (1878) *The Ceramic Art of Great Britain 2 vols*. London, Virtue
- Monaghan, Jason (1997) *Roman Pottery from York*. The Archaeology of York 16/8 York, Council for British Archaeology
- Moorhouse, Stephen and Roberts, Ian (1992) *Wrenthorpe Potteries: Excavations of 16th and 17th-century Potting Tenements near Wakefield, 1983-86*. Yorkshire Archaeology 2 Wakefield, W Yorkshire Archaeol Service
- Pearce, J E and Vince, A G (1988) *A Dated Type-series of London Medieval Pottery: Part 4, Surrey Whitewares*. London Middlesex Archaeol Soc Spec Pap 10 London, London Middlesex Archaeol Soc

Pearce, J. E., Vince, A. G., and White, R. (1982) "A Dated Type-Series of medieval pottery in London, Part 1: Mill Green ware." *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc*, 33, 266-98

Vince, Alan (2002) *Assessment of the medieval and later pottery from Castle Howard, North Yorkshire (CASH02)*. AVAC Reports 2002/81 Lincoln,

Watkins, G. (1991) "The Pottery." in P. T. D. Armstrong and D. H. Evans, eds., *Excavations at Lurk Lane Beverley, 1979-82*, Sheffield Excavation Rep 1 J R Collis Publ , Sheffield, 61-103

## Appendix 1

Context	REFNO	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Action	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
1019	92	POTTERY	RYEDALE	BOWL				R	1	1	89		
1019	92	POTTERY	RYEDALE	BOWL				R	1	1	387		
1019	92	POTTERY	RYEDALE	JAR				BS	1	1	506		
1019	92	POTTERY	RYEDALE	CHAFFING DISH				B	1	1	256		
1019	92	POTTERY	RYEDALE	JUG			GLAZED INT/EXT; THUMBING FOR HANDLE	BS	1	1	42		
1103	88	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE			17-18TH CENTURY BORE	STEM	1	1	5		
1104	87	POTTERY	CSTN	CUP			2 WHITE VERT LINES; DEC ELEMENT 23; ILLUS 424 WRENTHORPE POTTERIES	BS	1	1	16	ASHY SOIL DEP	
1104	86	POTTERY	NOTS	BOWL				PROF	17	1	264		
1104	87	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE			18TH CENTURY BORE; GLAZED MOUTHPIECE	MOUTHPIECE	1	1	1		
1104	87	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE			17TH CENTURY BORE	STEM	2	2	2		
1104	87	PIPECLAY	PIPECLAY	CLAYPIPE			1640-60 BOWL WITH HEEL	BOWL/HEEL	4	1	5		
1104	87	POTTERY	RAER	DJ				BS	1	1	5		
1104	87	POTTERY	REFR	SMALL VESSEL			YELLOW GLAZE	BS	1	1	1		
1106		POTTERY	HUM	JUG	BROWN SLIP UNDER GLAZE			BS	1	1	11		

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/avac2008053.pdf>



AVAC Report 2008/53

Context	REFNO	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Action	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
1106		POTTERY	YORK	JUG			THUMBED BASE	BS	1	1	21		
1110	90	POTTERY	DUTR	CAULD				BS	1	1	11		SOOTED EXT
1111	89	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				BS	1	1	17	FLAKED GLAZE	
1111	89	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			RST	BS	1	1	5		
1119	85	POTTERY	BEVO2B	JUG			ROD HANDLE 23 ACROSS; 2 THUMBS AT LOWER JOIN	H	2	1	71		
1119	84	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			THUMBING ON BASE; KILN SCAR ON BASE	B;BS	7	1	141	SOIL DEP INT	
1119	82	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	BLACK CORE/INT	DR	STAMPED BOSSES	BS	11	1	151	FLAKED GLAZE	
1119	83	POTTERY	BRAN	JAR				B	4	1	165		SOOTED EXT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			4 GROOVES; STRAP HANDLE 35 ACROSS	H	1	1	253		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			STRAP HANDLE 28 ACROSS	R/H	1	1	92		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			ROD HANDLE, 6 GROOVES; 27 DIA	H	1	1	93		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			FRAG	H	1	1	53		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				B	1	1	257		SOME SOOTING EXT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			THUMBED BASE	B	1	1	56		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	REDUCED CORE/INT			BS	1	1	9		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	REDUCED			BS	1	1	5		

AVAC Report 2008/53

Context	REFNO	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Action	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	REDUCED CORE/INT		HORIZ GROOVES; COMBED WAVY LINE	BS	1	1	12		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	REDUCED INT		CORDONS	BS	1	1	6		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JAR				BS	1	1	20		HEAVILY SOOTED EXT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			COMBED WAVY LINES	BS	1	1	13	BONFIRE SOOTED	
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				BS	1	1	17		BLACK DEP INT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	PINK INT			BS	1	1	3		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				BS	1	1	82		SOOTED EXT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			GLAZED INT/EXT	BS	1	1	7		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			HORIZ GROOVES	BS	2	2	25		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	PINK INT		SINGLE HORIZ GROOVE	BS	1	1	7		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	ORANGE		TWO HORIZ GROOVES	BS	1	1	14		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				R	1	1	5		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			DIAGONAL APPLIED STRIP	BS	1	1	7		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			COMBED WAVY LINES	BS	1	1	5		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			APPLIED PELLET	BS	1	1	8		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				BS	1	1	4		BROWN DEP INT
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG				BS	16	16	225		

AVAC Report 2008/53

Context	REFNO	class	cname	Form	subfabric	Action	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition	Use
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	REDUCED CORE/INT			BS	1	1	5		
1119	85	POTTERY	BRAN	JUG	GREY CORE WITH PINK INT/EXT			BS	1	1	3		
1119	85	POTTERY	G0	JAR				B	1	1	27		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG	PURPLE			BS	6	1	214		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR			KILN SCAR	BS	1	1	92		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG			STRAP HANDLE	H	1	1	86		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG			THUMBED BASE	B	1	1	52		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG			STRAP HANDLE, UNGLAZED, CENTRAL GROOVE; 38 ACROSS	H	1	1	59		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG				R	1	1	33		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR				BS	2	2	44		
1119	85	POTTERY	HUM	JUG/JAR			HORIZ GROOVES	BS	1	1	23		
1119	85	POTTERY	TORK	JAR				B	1	1	24		
1119	85	POTTERY	YORK	JUG			THUMBED BASE	B	1	1	20		THICK WHITE DEP INT
1119	85	POTTERY	YORK	JUG				BS	1	1	7		
U/S		POTTERY	BRAN	JUG			HORIZ GROOVES	BS	1	1	16		
U/S		POTTERY	DUTR	JAR	LIGHT COLOURED BODY		SPOTS GLAZE INT	BS	1	1	10		
U/S		POTTERY	ST	PITCHER				BS	2	1	1		
U/S		POTTERY	STSL	CUP			FEATHERED BROWN/WHITE	R	1	1	2		

