

Assessment of the Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from 8-9 St. Peters Grove, Clifton, York (OSA08 WB03)

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A watching brief carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at 8-9 St. Peters Grove, Clifton, York (Site Code: OSA08 WB03) revealed a ditch sealed by ploughsoil. The finds include Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery and post-medieval ceramic building material.

Description

A total of seven sherds of pottery and two ceramic building material were recovered and were identified and recorded using the terminology of the York Archaeological Trust (Appendix 1).

Ceramic Building Material

A small scrap of ceramic building material, not identifiable, was recovered from context 104. A fragment of brick of post-medieval date was recovered from context 108. This fragment has salt-surfacing, indicating that it was made from estuarine or marine clay. Such clay does not occur in the environs of York but is found at Cawood, 10 km to the south of the city. Ceramic building material is recorded as being purchased from Cawood for use in York in the later medieval period (Betts 1991) and wasters with salt surfacing have been recorded from the parish (Vince and Steane 2004).

Pottery

Roman

Five fragments of Roman pottery were recovered. All but one were noticeably abraded. All come from jars produced in the York area from the late 1st to the early 3rd centuries (Monaghan 1997, E1 – oxidized Eboracum ware and G1 – greyware).

Medieval

A small sherd of York Glazed ware was recovered from context 104. This came from a jug with stamped bossing, a technique which was probably introduced to England from the Low Countries in the later 13th century (for example Kingston-type ware, Pearce and Vince 1988; Mill Green ware, Pearce et al. 1982; and Beverley Glazed ware, Watkins 1991). The sherd is too small to determine the design (only 3gm).

Post-medieval

An abraded sherd of Ryedale ware jug was recovered from context 104. This ware was produced in the Hambleton Hills area, about 15 miles north of York (Brooks 1987) and was current from perhaps the later 15th century until the end of the 17th century.

Assessment

Stratigraphy

Ditch 109 (fill 108) produced two abraded sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of post-medieval brick. Given the condition of the pottery, it is quite possible that this is a post-medieval feature and that the sherds are residual. However, the site report indicates that the feature was overcut by machine during excavation and that the three fragments came from its surface, so a Roman date is still possible.

The sherds from ploughsoil 104 are consistent with the disturbance by ploughing of Roman strata and the continuation of ploughing from the medieval to the earlier part of the post-medieval period.

Retention

All of the finds should be retained for future re-examination.

Further work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

Bibliography

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Appendix 1

Context	class	Cname	Subfabric	Description	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
104	CBM	CBM			CBM	BS	1	1	3	ABR
104	POTTERY	RYEDALE			JUG	BS	1	1	29	ABR
104	POTTERY	YORK		STAMPED BOSSING	JUG	BS	1	1	3	
104	POTTERY	G1			JAR	BS	1	1	6	
104	POTTERY	G1			JAR	R	1	1	9	ABR
104	POTTERY	E1			JAR	BS	1	1	17	ABR
108	POTTERY	E1			JAR	BS	2	2	2	ABR
108	CBM	PMTIL			BRICK	BS	1	1	112	SALT SURFACING