

Assessment of the Finds from Kilham Road, Langtoft, East Yorkshire (ARC0801)

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A small collection of finds was recovered from an excavation at Kilham Road, Langtoft, East Yorkshire undertaken by Archaeoscope (Site Code: ARC0801).

The finds include artefacts datable to the Roman, medieval and early modern periods.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered but were featureless and too small to identify either their date or form. Two further fragments were large enough to identify as being post-medieval or modern but not to identify their form.

Fired Clay

Two fragments of fired clay contained large rounded chalk inclusions and were probably made from local boulder clay. One has a curved surface and may well be from a prehistoric or Roman pyramidal loom weight. The other is similar in appearance and breakage patterns and may be from a similar object.

Iron

Four iron objects were recovered. One can be identified as a nail with a rectangular head 14mm by 5mm with a shank bent at 30mm from the head and broken at 43mm from the head.

The three remaining objects are all too corroded for reliable identification and assessment without X-ray. All come from the fills of features and would therefore merit this treatment, after which they should be resubmitted for study.

Mortar

A single fragment of mortar was recovered. It comes from the backfill of an archaeological feature containing no finds later than the medieval period.

Pottery

Roman

Ten sherds, coming from no more than five vessels, probably date to the Iron Age or Roman period. Seven of these are of Calcite-tempered ware (Rigby 2004 #46083}, CTW, here CALC), Calcite-tempered ware is common in the Vale of Pickering and the northern Wolds

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from the Bronze Age through to the early Anglo-Saxon period and for much of this period the basic shape and manufacturing methods used to make the vessels did not evolve. Only rim and shoulder profiles can provide a date for many of these vessels. Early Anglo-Saxon examples often have a slightly sandier fabric and differ in shape and can be discounted as a possibility for these sherds. One of the sherds has abundant and prominent glauconite inclusions. This is a distinctive sub-fabric which can only have been made from the Speeton Clay, which forms a narrow outcrop along the foot of the chalk scarp between Malton and the sea.

The remaining sherds come from a single vessel and the fabric was not recognised by the authors. Inclusions of quartz, flint and chalk suggest a local origin and the condition of the sherds, which are abraded and have a chalky concretion all over, matches that of the calcite-tempered sherds and suggests a prehistoric or Roman date.

Medieval

Twenty sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. Most of these are of Staxton-type ware, produced at several centres in East Yorkshire and Cleveland but in this case almost certainly from either Staxton or Potter Brompton, both situated about 8 miles north of Langtoft. Fifteen sherds of Staxton-type ware were found of which five were base sherds. One of these has the typical sagging base and globular body found on Staxton-type ware jars but the remaining four have flatter bases and an acute base angle. They come from vessels termed "peat pots" whose function is unknown. They are similar in rim form and diameter to the jars but only about a third as tall.

It is possible that all four "peat pot" base sherds come from the same vessel but if not then they suggest that whatever function this type had was particularly common on this site.

The remaining sherds consist of Beverley-type glazed ware (BEVOB) and a sherd of York Gritty ware (YG), a gritty, off-white-firing ware produced in West Yorkshire between the mid 11th and the mid 13th centuries. Examples of this type occur on the Wolds at Wharram and in the Vale of Pickering at West Heslerton, in the medieval ploughsoil overlying the early to mid Anglo-Saxon settlement excavated by Dominic Powlesland but these are at the extreme eastern limit of the distribution of this type.

Early Modern

A single sherd of transfer-printed plate was recorded. Transfer-printed refined whiteware was produced from the late 18th century onwards and without considerable research small unmarked sherds cannot be closely dated.

Stone

Fragments of iron-rich stone were collected. These were identified as probably being goethite, concretionary nodules of which are common finds on the Yorkshire Wolds. They are apparently not suitable for use as a source of iron ore.

Assessment

The finds suggest that there was activity on or near the site in the prehistoric or, more probably, the Roman periods and that the site was probably occupied in the later 12th to 13th centuries.

Feature arc08011009

Two fills in this feature were excavated. Context arc08021010 produced a single sherd of calcite-tempered ware whilst context arc08011011 produced sherds of Staxton-type ware (including the peat pot base sherds), the fragment of mortar and two iron objects. A later 12th-century or later deposition date is given by the Staxton-type ware.

Feature arc08011025

Two fills in this feature were excavated. Arc08011019 produced sherds of probable prehistoric or Roman pottery, the iron nail and the possible loomweight fragment. Arc08011024 produced a single sherd of Calcite-tempered ware. Together the finds in these fills suggest a Roman (or later) deposition date since nails, in particular, are rare before the Roman period.

Feature arc08011032

The fill of this feature, arc08011033, produced a fragment of goethite which shows no sign of use.

Feature arc08011045

The fill of this feature (a dewpond) produced the head of an iron tool recommended for x-radiography.

Further work

Three iron objects require x-radiography after which the objects should be re-assessed. No other work is recommended.

Retention

All the finds from stratified deposits should be retained. Those from the topsoil include medieval pottery types not represented in stratified deposits and these too should be retained.

The iron finds should be assessed by a qualified conservator to determine their stability and storage requirements.

Appendix 1

| Context | REFNO | class | cname | Form | subfabric | type | Action | Description | Part | Nosh | NoV | Weight | Condition | Use |
|-------------|-------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------|---------|--------|--------------------------------------|------|------|-----|--------|--------------------|---------------|
| arc08011000 | arc08010001 | CBM | CBM | CBM | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 1 | ABRA | |
| arc08011000 | arc08010002 | CBM | CBM | CBM | YORK? | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 12 | ABRA | |
| arc08011000 | arc08010003 | POTTERY | CALC | JAR | | deposit | | | BS | 4 | 1 | 8 | CONCRETED | |
| arc08011000 | arc08010004 | POTTERY | STAXT | VESSEL | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 1 | ABRA | |
| arc08011000 | arc08010007 | POTTERY | YG | JAR | | deposit | | | R | 1 | 1 | 11 | | |
| arc08011000 | | POTTERY | STAXT | JAR | | deposit | | | B | 1 | 1 | 30 | | SOOTED EXT |
| arc08011000 | | POTTERY | BEVOB | JUG | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| arc08011001 | | POTTERY | TPW | PLATE | | | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 6 | | |
| arc08011001 | | CBM | PMTIL | PMTIL | | | | | BS | 2 | 1 | 8 | | |
| arc08011010 | arc08010030 | POTTERY | CALC | JAR | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 2 | ABRA; CONCRETED | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010010 | POTTERY | STAXT | VESSEL | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 8 | | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010011 | POTTERY | STAXT | VESSEL | | deposit | | | BS | 2 | 1 | 8 | | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010012 | POTTERY | STAXT | PEAT POT | | deposit | | | B | 1 | 1 | 8 | | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010016 | POTTERY | STAXT | JAR | | deposit | | FLAT TOPPED EVERTED BEADED RIM | R | 1 | 1 | 11 | | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010017 | POTTERY | STAXT | PEAT POT | | deposit | | | B | 1 | 1 | 2 | ABRA | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010019 | POTTERY | STAXT | JAR | | deposit | | FLAT TOPPED EVERTED BEADED RIM | R | 1 | 1 | 4 | ABRA | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010020 | POTTERY | STAXT | PEAT POT | | deposit | | | B | 3 | 1 | 12 | | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010021 | POTTERY | STAXT | VESSEL | | deposit | | | BS | 1 | 1 | 2 | ABRA | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010023 | POTTERY | STAXT | JAR | | deposit | | FLAT TOPPED EVERTED BEADED RIM | R | 1 | 1 | 8 | ABRA | |

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|-------------|-------------|---------|--------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|----|---|---|-----|--|
| arc08011011 | arc08010024 | POTTERY | STAXT | VESSEL | | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 11 | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010025 | MORTAR | MORTAR | MORTAR | | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 52 | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010018 | IRON | IRON | TOOL/KNIFE? | | deposit | X-RAY | BS | 2 | 1 | 11 | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010015 | GEO | GEO | | GOETHITE | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 12 | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010027 | GEO | GEO | GEO | GOETHITE | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| arc08011011 | arc08010041 | IRON | IRON | STRIP | | deposit | X-RAY | BS | 1 | 1 | 19 | STRIP 36 WIDE, BROKEN LENGTH AT 45 |
| arc08011019 | arc08010031 | POTTERY | MISC | VESSEL | QUARTZ, FLINT, CHALK INCLUSIONS | deposit | | BS | 3 | 1 | 2 | ABRA; CONCRETED |
| arc08011019 | arc08010032 | POTTERY | CALC? | | | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 1 | V ABRA; CONCRETED |
| arc08011019 | arc08010033 | FCLAY | FCLAY | LOOMWT? | | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 1 | SIMILAR TO arc08010034 |
| arc08011019 | arc08010034 | FCLAY | FCLAY | LOOMWT? | LARGE CHALK FRAGS | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| arc08011019 | arc08010035 | IRON | IRON | NAIL | | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 8 | RECTANGULAR HEADED 14 BY 5; SHANK BENT AT 30, BROKEN AT 43 |
| arc08011024 | arc08010043 | POTTERY | CALC | JAR | GLAUCANITIC | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 3 | ABRA; CONCRETED |
| arc08011033 | arc08010028 | GEO | GEO | GEO | GOETHITE | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| arc08011033 | arc08010029 | GEO | GEO | GEO | GOETHITE | deposit | | BS | 1 | 1 | 34 | |
| arc08011039 | arc08010053 | IRON | IRON | TOOL/HOE? | | deposit | X-RAY | BS | 1 | 1 | 232 | SHANK BROKEN LENGTH AT 90, WIDEST INT DIA 22 TAPERING; POSS BROKEN BLADE 94 WIDE AT TIP, |

ROUGHLY SEMI
CIRCULAR
BLADE