

Assessment of the Pottery from 20-21 Clifton Green, York (OSA08 WB21)

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A small collection of pottery was recovered from a watching brief carried out at 20-21 Clifton Green, York, by On-Site Archaeology Ltd. The pottery includes a small quantity of Roman material, all abraded, and a collection of medieval pottery ranging in date from the late 11th to 13th centuries to the late 15th or early 16th century.

Description

Pottery

All of the pottery was identified and recorded using York Archaeological Trust codes (App 1).

Roman

Three sherds of Roman pottery were recorded. They consist of sherds of locally-made oxidized and greywares (Monaghan 1997 G1 and E1) and a body sherd of Dressel 20 amphora (Williams in Monaghan 1997). All three are abraded, in some cases strongly. They are of types which were current in the first half of the Roman occupation, from the later 1st century to the early 3rd century.

Late 11th to 13th century

Five sherds of medieval pottery dating between the later 11th and the mid 13th centuries were found. One of these was the rim of a jar in an unglazed, white wheelthrown gritty ware (YG). This type had a long period of currency in the York area from the late 11th century until the mid 13th century.

The remaining four sherds were of York Glazed ware jugs (Jennings 1992). This ware was produced in the Hambleton Hills prior to the production of the finer-textured Brandsby-type ware. Three were undecorated body sherds and the fourth was a rod handle, with shallow grooves running down the back of the handle. This ware was produced first in the later 12th century and continued to be produced into the mid/late 13th century.

Late 13th to 15th century

Seven sherds dating between the later 13th and the 15th centuries were recorded. Three were of Brandsby-type ware (BRAN), all jugs. A fourth sherd was of gritty Brandsby-type ware (GRBRAN), with a similar fabric to that of York Glazed ware but from a jar with a sharply everted rim, of a type probably not made until the later 13th century. Three sherds were of

Humberware jugs. This ware was produced in various centres in Yorkshire (including York itself) from the middle of the 14th century until the early 16th century.

Late 15th to 17th centuries

Four sherds of Ryedale ware (RYEDALE) were recorded. They come from two vessels, both internally-glazed bowls. Ryedale ware was produced in the same area as York Glazed and Brandsby-type wares and is first recorded in late 15th-century contexts. It was certainly still current in the late 17th century and may have continued to be produced even later.

Assessment

The pottery indicates some activity in the earlier part of the Roman period. However, the exact nature of that activity is unclear. The abraded nature of the finds suggests it may have been agriculture.

Although the earliest possible date for the start of medieval activity on the site is the late 11th century, the pottery cannot actually prove that there was anything happening on the site until the mid 13th century, and the York Glazed jug rod handle is more likely to be of 13th than 12th-century date. This pottery is noticeably fresher in condition than the Roman finds, indicating probably that it was associated with occupation on the site. Given the small quantity of pottery, there is no evidence for any break in activity during the medieval period and the latest finds consist of Ryedale ware bowl sherds, both found in separate contexts associated with late medieval pottery. This suggests that the sherds belong to the earlier part of the Ryedale ware production, in the later 15th or early 16th century.

The pottery comes from five different contexts (Table 1) and provides *termini post quem* for the filling of these features. However, it can be seen that the pottery from a single feature can span a long period of time (e.g. the fill of Ditch 108) and it cannot be assumed from this evidence, for example, that the filling of Cess Pit 110 took place before that of Cess Pit 114 and Ditch 108. Nor is it reasonable on the basis of a single, highly abraded sherd, to date the filling of Gully 102 to the Roman period.

The lack of clay tobacco pipe stems and later 17th-century or later wares, does however suggest that the features are all of early 17th century or earlier date.

Table 1

context group	Context	ROM	MED	LMED	PMED	Grand Total	TPQ
CESS PIT 110	109		1	1		2	Late 13 th century
CESS PIT 112	111			2	1	3	Late 15 th century
CESS PIT 114	113		1	1		2	Late 13 th century
DITCH 108	107	2	3	3	3	11	Late 15 th century
GULLY 102	101	1				1	Late 1 st century
Grand Total		3	5	7	4	19	

Further Work

No further work is recommended on this pottery.

Retention

All the pottery should be retained for possible future re-examination.

Bibliography

Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum

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

Appendix 1

Context	context group	class	cname	DATE	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	ASW	Condition
101	GULLY 102	POTTERY	G1	ROM	JAR		BS	1	1	1	1.00	VABR
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	AP25	ROM	AMPH		BS	1	1	48	48.00	ABR
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG		BS	2	2	34	17.00	
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	E1	ROM	JAR		BS	1	1	10	10.00	VABR
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	YORK	MED	JUG		BS	2	1	10	5.00	
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	YORK	MED	JUG	ROD HANDLE WITH GROOVES DOWN BACK	H	1	1	39	39.00	
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	GRBRAN	LMED	JAR	SHARPLY-EVERTED RIM;UNGLAZED	R	1	1	14	14.00	
107	DITCH 108	POTTERY	RYEDALE	PMED	BOWL	INT PLAIN GL	B	3	1	99	33.00	
109	CESS PIT 110	CBM	MTIL	LMED	FLOO?	WHITE SLIP UNDER CLEAR GLAZE	BS	1	1	3	3.00	
109	CESS PIT 110	POTTERY	YG	MED	JAR	SQUARED RIM	R	1	1	17	17.00	
109	CESS PIT 110	POTTERY	BRAN	LMED	JUG	INT AND EXT CUGL	BS	1	1	5	5.00	
111	CESS PIT 112	POTTERY	RYEDALE	PMED	BOWL		BS	1	1	7	7.00	
111	CESS PIT 112	POTTERY	BRAN	LMED	JUG	PULLED SPOUT;ROUNDED SQUARED RIM;CUGL INT	R;SP	1	1	17	17.00	
111	CESS PIT 112	POTTERY	HUM	LMED	JUG		BS	1	1	11	11.00	

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<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/index.html>
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<http://www.avac.uklinux.net/potcat/pdfs/avac2008110.pdf>

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113	CESS PIT 114	POTTERY	BRAN	LMED	JUG	THICK STRAP;PLAIN GL	H	1	1	0	0.00	
113	CESS PIT 114	CBM	RTIL	ROM	-		BS	1	1	6	6.00	VABR
113	CESS PIT 114	POTTERY	YORK	MED	JUG		BS	1	1	3	3.00	