

Assessment of the Pottery from the West Burton Gas Pipeline, Lincolnshire (AC1123)

Alan Vince

A small collection of pottery was recovered from fieldwork in advance of the construction of the West Burton Gas Pipeline, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. The finds are mainly of Roman date and include no types which can be dated closely. However, a mid/late Roman date is likely. Two very abraded medieval sherds are also present and probably indicate the manuring of open fields on the site in the 12th to 13th centuries. A single heavily abraded and concreted fragment of prehistoric pottery was also recovered.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

A minute chip has been identified as being ceramic building material. It is too small to identify the fabric, form or date.

Prehistoric or Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon

A single heavily abraded fragment, covered with iron-rich concretion, appears to be prehistoric pottery (IASST). The fabric contains moderate angular fragments of sandstone up to 2.0mm across but is completely featureless and cannot be closely dated. At Dragonby, situated about 13 miles to the north, most of the late Iron Age pottery was of shell-tempered types of a much finer character and this suggests that the sherd is actually of an earlier date (May 1996). Alternatively, the sherd might be of early to mid Anglo-Saxon date, and the poor condition of the sherd explained as being due to being present in ploughsoil.

Roman

Six sherds of Roman pottery were recorded. These were mainly of wheelthrown greywares (GREY) which, at x20 magnification, could be seen to be tempered with a rounded quartz sand, in which most of the grains are well-rounded with a matt surface. This is typical of Trent valley terrace sands and of the greywares produced at various sites in the lower part of the valley, the closest to the pipeline being at Knaith.

A single sherd contained voids from the presence of coarse fragments of shell, together with sparse grains of rounded quartz similar to those in the greywares (SHEL). This type is found in Lincoln, where it can be seen that the most common form is the lid-seated jar, which would allow the vessel to be classified as Dales ware (Loughlin 1977). However, unlike most Dales

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

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ware, these coarse, slightly sandy vessels are mainly of 4th century date (Darling and Precious forthcoming).

Medieval

Two sherds of pottery of medieval date were recovered. Both were very abraded. One is a shell-tempered ware, in which all of the shell inclusions have been leached and are now represented by voids, and the other is a wheelthrown glazed ware. Both have been identified as types found in Lincoln, but their condition means that these attributions should be treated with caution (Young and Vince 2005, LFS and LSW2).

Assessment

Dating

The pottery indicates some activity in the area in the prehistoric (or early to mid Anglo-Saxon) period and in the Roman period (probably towards the later end of the period). The two medieval sherds are probably present as a result of manuring, indicating that the site was ploughed in the medieval period.

Retention

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

Further Work

No further work is recommended.

Bibliography

- Darling, Maggi and Precious, Barbara (forthcoming) *A Corpus of Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Lincoln*. Lincoln Archaeological Reports Oxford, Oxbow
- Loughlin, N. (1977) "Dales ware: a contribution to the study of Roman coarse pottery." in D. P. S. Peacock, ed., *Pottery and Early Commerce*, Academic Press, London, 85-146
- May, J (1996) *Dragonby*. Oxbow Monograph 61 Oxford, Oxbow
- Young, Jane and Vince, Alan (2005) *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*. Lincoln Archaeological Reports Oxford, Oxbow

Appendix 1

Context	Trench	class	Cname	Form	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
301		CBM	CBM		BS	1	1	0.1	TINY CHIP
301		POTTERY	GREY	BOWL/JAR	R	1	1	4	
603		POTTERY	GREY	-	BS	1	1	10	
603		POTTERY	SHELL	-	BS	1	1	2	VABR
603		POTTERY	GREY	BOWL?	BS	1	1	30	ABR
800	TR8 CLEARANCE	POTTERY	IASST		BS	1	1	2	VABR
800	TR8 CLEARANCE	POTTERY	LSW2	JUG	BS	1	1	2	VABR
800	TR8 CLEARANCE	POTTERY	GREY	-	BS	1	1	0.5	VABR
800	TR8 CLEARANCE	POTTERY	LFS	-	BS	1	1	2	VABR
800	TR8 CLEARANCE	POTTERY	GREY	-	BS	1	1	17	

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