

## 6 Artefact Record

### Pottery by Ruth Leary

#### *Factual Data*

The pottery was examined in context groups and catalogued according to the Guidelines of the Study Group for Romano-British Pottery for basic archiving (Darling 2004) and the Guidelines for the Recording of later Prehistoric Pottery (Knight 1998). The fabrics were recorded in broad groups and source suggested where appropriate. Reference was made to the National Fabric Collection where appropriate (Tomber and Dore 1998). Forms were described. The sherds were counted and weighed within context group by ware and form.

#### *Quantity and provenance*

There were 902 sherds of Romano-British pottery (8614g.). The quantities of pottery sherds recovered from the excavated areas and trenches are shown in Table. 5. Detailed lists are provided as Appendix 4.

The pottery was not distributed evenly across the excavations but showed marked concentrations in Trenches 10 and 18 with smaller groups in Trenches 4, 16 and 21 and negligible amounts in Trenches 5, 9, 15, 19, 22, 26 and 33 with no pre-Roman Iron Age (PRIA) or Romano-British ceramic fragments from other trenches.

#### *Range and variety of material*

##### Wares

The fabrics of the pottery were examined by eye and sorted into ware groups primarily on the basis of inclusions and manufacturing technique but with colour, hardness, feel and fracture taken into account where relevant. Selective use of a x30 binocular microscope was made. National Roman fabric collection codes are given wherever possible (Tomber and Dore 1998).

The assemblage was made up overwhelmingly of handmade jars in the Iron Age tradition with most vessels being in a locally made calcite-gritted ware thought to have been made in the Vale of Pickering. This ware was used throughout the Iron Age and Roman period and, for the most part, the date range given to un-diagnostic bodysherds is regrettably wide. Rigby noted that evidence from Staple Howe and Castle Hill, Scarborough indicates that this type of temper began as early as the ninth century BC (Rigby 1986, 145) and although it is possible sometimes to pick out calcite-gritted sherds of the later Roman period (3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century) by reason of colour, surface finish and texture, it is by no means easy (Evans 1999, 2000, G01; 2004, 3143-4, fabric G). Two sherds of the late calcite-gritted Huntcliff ware were, however, readily identifiable. In addition several vessel forms were current from the late Iron Age through the early Roman period to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Since the inhabitants of rural settlements did not acquire Romano-British wheel-thrown wares with any enthusiasm during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD it can be difficult to date even quite large assemblages with any degree of certainty. A sub-group of the calcareous-tempered ware material had small white inclusions or vesicles, some of which were rounded but others were

rhomboidal. These were recorded and may include limestone or chalk inclusions although the detection of some calcite crystals and rhomboidal voids in this fabric means that further study of this fabric will be required.

Small amounts of handmade pottery with non-soluble inclusions were also present. Recent work on these wares suggests that their source can only be determined satisfactorily by petrological and chemical analyses (Vince 2007) and such further work is recommended. It is clear that most of this group falls into the "erratic-tempered" ware group with one sherd which seems to have only quartz inclusions and one slag-tempered ware jar. The erratic-tempered ware group is well-recognised and has been shown to be a fabric to which the potters added fragments from fire-cracked erratic rocks found in Yorkshire (Freestone and Middleton 1991, Wardle 1991). The quartz-tempered sherd may be from a different source and a source perhaps in East Yorkshire was suggested for a quartz-tempered group at Reighton (Vince 2007 fabric 6) which had similar somewhat rounded quartz inclusions. The slag tempered ware is known from other Iron Age sites in the region such as Dalton Parlours (Buckland, Runnacles and Sumpter 1990, 132), Ledston (Runnacles and Buckland 2005, 20-1) and Ferrybridge (Evans *et al.* 2005).

In addition to the handmade group, a small number of Roman wheel-thrown wares were identified. Forty-five sherds of grey ware were identified. Several individual fabrics were present but none could be unequivocally attributed to one of the large potteries at Norton (Hayes and Whitley 1950) or those at Holme-on-Spalding Moor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries (Corder 1930a; Halkon and Millett 1999). The fabrics were neither as hard and gritty as is typical of Norton nor as fine and hard as the most common Holme-on-Spalding wares. They were all somewhat soft, fairly light grey with moderate, medium quartz and are likely to belong to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. Typologically the forms present had affinities with types made in north Lincolnshire and Humberside and certainly to the south east at Shiptonthorpe such types were common in the later first and second century (Evans 2006, 139-40). Single bodysherds in a medium, quartz-tempered oxidised ware and a grey calcite-gritted ware cannot be adequately sourced. Two shoulder sherds from a Huntcliff or pre-Huntcliff shouldered jar were identified and two sherds of Crambeck grey ware, one from a developed bead and flange bowl were also present (Corder 1937, type 1). A further fragment from the flange of a reeded flanged mortarium was also identified (Corder 1937, type 6). This sherd was also from Crambeck and was probably in Crambeck white ware but is so blackened by fire that its original fabric is difficult to determine with any certainty. One bodysherd from a Dressel 20 oil amphora from the Roman province of Baetica in southern Spain was present.

## Forms

The most common ware group, H1, was used to make handmade jars predominantly with everted rims, sometimes with a slight internal rebate. Parallels for these types lie predominantly in the late Iron Age groups in east and north Yorkshire. The bucket shaped and carinated jars identified by Rigby in the East Riding as typical of the Bronze Age and Early Iron Age were absent and the lid-seated, convex and everted rim jars of Rigby's middle Iron Age group were not close parallels (Rigby 2004, figs 4 and 5). The H1 jars in the present assemblage have closer affinities with the necked jars with everted rims and the small jars with everted and wedge-shaped rims of Rigby's late Iron Age-early Roman group (2004, fig. 7) and it is to this period most of these jars are likely to belong. The rim forms of the medium-necked jars were overwhelmingly everted, often with a flat rim tip or a triangular rim tip formed by flattening the outer edge of the tip. A slight rebate on the inner face of the everted rim was common but was not as pronounced as in Rigby's middle Iron Age group of lid-seated jars (2004, fig. 6). Some jars may have had a smoothly curving everted rim but in most cases the eversion was sudden forming a distinct angle with the wall. A wide-mouthed jar from context 209 had an everted rim with slightly bifid rim tip and this type, although not common, can be paralleled at South Cave in the late Iron Age (Challis and Harding 1975, fig. 35 no. 9) and also in a second century AD context at Rudston (Rigby 1980, fig. 30 no. 35). In addition to these wide- and medium-mouthed jars there was a small group of smaller vessels with thinner walls and finer rims. These had short, finely made everted rim, some with slight rebating of the inner rim face and compare well with the smaller vessels in Rigby's late Iron Age groups (2004, fig. 7) and from a number of sites of late Iron Age to early Roman date cited by Challis and Harding (1975, at Faxfleet A and Littlethorpe, figs 40, nos 1-8, and at Salthouse School, fig. 41 nos 8-9) and present in similarly dated contexts at Hawling Road (Evans 1999, fig. 7.17 G25.J07 and G28.J07) and Rudston (Rigby 1980 fig. 27 nos 11-12). A simple shapeless jar with a flat rim pinched out around the outer edge from 255 may be of a slightly earlier tradition but can still be paralleled in late Iron Age groups (Challis and Harding 1975, fig. 41, nos 6 and 8 and fig. 48, no. 5). A large jar from context 180 with a distinctly squared rim is a form not otherwise represented from the site but is not dissimilar to vessels from a late Iron Age group at Garton Slack (Challis and Harding 1975, fig. 34, no. 8).

Similar forms to this range of "native" jars can also be found in late Iron Age and also early Roman contexts at Wharram North Manor as late as the second century (Didsbury 2004 fig. 101 nos 1, 14, 15, 20, fig. 102 nos 23, 26, 30, 36). Where no Roman wheel-thrown pottery is present, it is more likely that these long-lived types date to the pre-Roman Iron Age but the dating of small groups must be approached with caution since even in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the handmade jars of Iron Age type still dominate assemblages on rural settlements.

The vesicular H1 group was used to make two jars with flat upright rims which are likely to belong to the same period as the H1 jars. Amongst the finer H7 group was a concave bodysherds which may come from a beaker or bowl of late Iron Age type. A second vessel

was represented by a bodysherd with a shoulder groove such as that found on early Roman everted-rim jars of Flavian-Trajanic type. This fabric may be later than H1 and H2.

The H3 group included similar jars to the H1 group with everted rims while a single slag-tempered jar, H15, had an upright rounded rim. These vessels can be given the same date range as the H1 group.

The Romano-British wheel-thrown pottery falls into two date ranges: an early Roman group of late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century date and a very small number of sherds dating to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century. The grey ware fabrics did not compare well with the third to fourth century fabrics from Norton and Holme-on-Spalding and most sherds were undiagnostic or not closely datable. Fragments from three carinated jars/bowl were noted and these belonged to the range made in the late first to early 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Lincolnshire (as Rigby 1980 fig. 35 nos 90-1, 99-100, 102 and fig. 37 no. 129) rather than the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century group in Yorkshire (Hayes and Whitley 1950, type 10 and Corder 1930a, fig 16, nos 103-5). A rim from a rebated rim jar is likely to be of similar date and affinity being matched amongst the Antonine pottery at Roxby (Rigby 1976, Roxby type A; Evans 2006, fig. 7.15, nos R10.6a and 6b). An everted rim from a medium-necked jar is likely to be of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date or later but is not sufficiently diagnostic for close dating and three everted rims from wide-mouthed jars are likely to be of similar date. The small sherd size and lack of diagnostic feature make precise dating difficult. An everted rim from a narrow-mouthed jar is similar in form, but not fabric, to the large lugged jars such as those made at Norton in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century but earlier versions of this are well known in Lincolnshire and the fabric did not suggest a late date.

Two fabric groups belong to the late Roman period from the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century to the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. A flanged bowl in Crambeck grey ware lacked the internal wavy line of the latest bowls in this series but clearly belongs to a late phase. A further bodysherd of Crambeck ware was found and two adjoining sherds from the shoulder of a Huntcliff ware jar were also identified. Huntcliff jars with this distinct shoulder date from the mid-4<sup>th</sup> century (Evans 2002, fig 179, nos J6.3, J6.6 and J6.7). Part of the reeded flange of a Crambeck mortarium (Corder 1928, no., 120 Evans, Hartley and Mills forthcoming, no. 54, AD 285-355) was also identified and was presumably originally in white ware, although it had been severely burnt to a variously black, grey and greyish-white colour.

### Chronology

The majority of the pottery belongs to the late Iron Age to early Roman native tradition of the Vale of Pickering and much of north and east Yorkshire. Where groups are small and/or only undiagnostic bodysherds were present dating is problematic but since no early to mid Iron Age types were identified it seems reasonable to suggest a late Iron Age to early Roman date span for these groups also. A small number of contexts included small amounts of Roman material and much of this can only be broadly assigned to the late first to 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Single grey ware sherds or otherwise undiagnostic everted rim sherds cannot be dated precisely but the absence of fabrics typical of the Norton and Holme-on-Spalding industry

suggests no third century activity. A very small amount of fourth century material – some five sherds – was identified.

#### *Function and site status*

The ceramics were dominated by jar forms and the evidence of burnt-on matter suggests that these were largely cooking and storage pots. No Roman fine wares were present on the site although a single sherd from a Spanish oil amphora may indicate some taste for Roman luxury goods. On the other hand it is known that these large containers were frequently re-used in a variety of different ways (van der Werff 2003) such as containers for other commodities and as urinals so the presence of a fragment of this imported commodious vessel does not necessarily prove the presence of Spanish olive oil at the settlement. Vessels other than jars were restricted to three carinated jar/bowls, two straight-sided bowls or dishes and a single mortarium. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Roman conquest had minimal impact on this settlement and this is a common pattern for rural settlement in the region.

Burnt material found on the vessels are consistently located inside the jar with only one exception, contrasting with the external sooting and burnt deposits found on the Romano-British black burnished ware vessels and their copies. This appears to be a distinctive habit of the Iron Age inhabitants of Yorkshire. Although this has been noted by other specialists but (Evans 1999, 214; Rigby 1980, nos 5; 2004, 43-4), external sooting was more common. At Shiptonthorpe Evans found internal sooting was very uncommon but was most common in the first century AD at the rural site of Hawling Road (Evans 2006, 138). Internal sooting was also found to be common on vessels previously excavated at Newbridge (see Appendix 5). It implies a quite different cooking method to that employed by the Romans which would merit further investigation using analytical techniques. Rigby has suggested that this may result from smoking off or rendering fat (Rigby 2004, 43).

#### *Taphonomy*

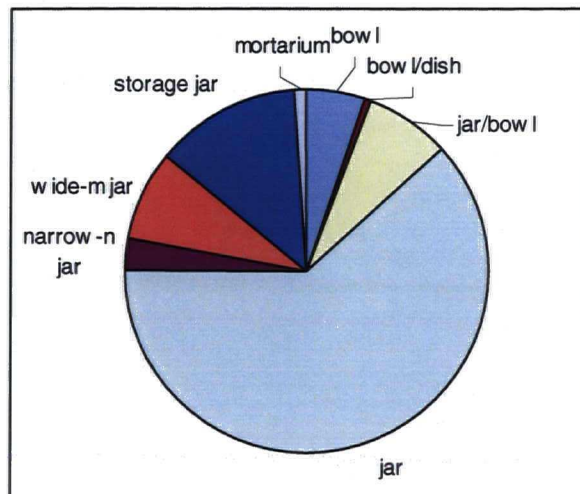
Most of the sherd groups were small comprising what appeared to be casual deposition of rubbish material. The group from trench 10 context 180 however represents most of a single vessel and may be a purposeful deposit. The other relatively large group, from Trench 18 (context 209), included fragments from many different vessels and is more likely to be a rubbish deposit.

#### *Statement of potential*

##### The Pottery

The group is a valuable addition to the existing body of evidence for late Iron Age to early Roman settlement at Newbridge (see Appendix 5). Many of the groups from this area come from very old excavations or are unpublished. When further analytical work is carried out on the wares it is expected that this group will add significantly to our understanding of pre-Roman Iron Age and early Roman ceramics in the Vale of Pickering. It is recommended that efforts should be made to correlate the study of this assemblage with studies being carried out by other specialists in the region, particularly on the West Heselton Project.

Chart 1 Quantification of vessels by vessel types by rim % values



### Fabric Analysis

Petrological and chemical analysis of the handmade ware groups is highly desirable. More detailed definition of the Roman grey wares should also be carried out microscopically to see if their origin can be determined. This task is not onerous since the number of fabric variants is quite small

### Specialist Analysis

Specialist fabric analysis is desirable but no other specialist input is needed.

### *The Site*

#### Site Chronology

The long life of the pottery fabrics and forms result in rather less precise dating than is possible elsewhere in the country and it is expected that an radiocarbon dates submitted as part of the project may provide similar broad date ranges.

#### Spatial Analysis

There was a marked absence of pottery in many of the features. In the large enigmatic feature (216) in Trench 18 deposit 209 represents rubbish disposal of broken sherds from several different vessels suggest deliberate deposition of rubbish in a specific locations, while deliberate placement of at least one near complete pot was found in Ditch 180 in Trench 10, points to a more structured deposition.

#### Aspects of Trade and Exchange

The handmade pottery was overwhelmingly of local origin and the small number of potentially non-local fabrics needs to be studied further to determine their source. The early Roman material was either of local origin, with typological affinities to Lincolnshire and Humberside industries, or was traded material from that region. The grey wares of this

region can be notoriously difficult to attribute firmly to kiln sources (Monaghan 1998, 900; Didsbury 2004, 141-2).

#### *Previously excavated pottery*

This group belongs with a large group of late Iron Age to early Roman material already excavated from the settlement at Newbridge (Appendix 5). It was noticeable that some of the earlier Iron Age types noted during the spot-dating of the pottery from previous excavations at the settlement were not present at this assemblage. Similarly the 3<sup>rd</sup>-century Roman material from previous excavations was not identified suggesting some differences in the date range of this site although small numbers of late Roman wares such as Huntcliff ware and Crambeck ware were present in both groups.

#### *Recommendations*

Ideally the assemblage should be published as part of a report on the ceramics from all of the excavations at Newbridge. Selection of sherds for petrological and chemical analysis and for illustration should not be made from this group alone, but should be selected from the total assemblage from all excavations. The whole assemblage certainly merits full publication and forms an important group for the study of late Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery in the Vale of Pickering and in the wider region of north and east Yorkshire.

Table 5. Pottery quantification by trench and context

Trench	Context	Nos
TR4	134	98
TR4 Total		98
TR5	168	3
TR5	174	2
TR5	187	1
TR5 Total		6
TR9	101	2
TR9 Total		2
TR10	180	312
TR10	202	2
TR10	203	4
TR10	221	2
TR10	227	7
TR10 Total		327
TR14	118	11
TR14	119	35
TR14 Total		46
TR15	123	1
TR15	131	2
TR15 Total		3
TR16	Unstrat	1
TR16	238	9
TR16	249	2
TR16	251	2
TR16	253	3
TR16	255	2
TR16	259	4
TR16	279	5
TR16	285	2
TR16 Total		30
TR18	114	11
TR18	206	8
TR18	207	18
TR18	209	230
TR18	210	3
TR18	211	3
TR18	213	31
TR18	214	5
TR18	219	4



Trench	Context	Nos
TR18 Total		313
TR19	290	1
TR19 Total		1
TR20	104	4
TR20	107	3
TR20	230	2
TR20 Total		9
TR21	Unstrat	5
TR21	113	23
TR21	236	11
TR21	263	3
TR21	265	6
TR21	289	1
TR21 Total		49
TR22	108	2
TR22	110	2
TR22 Total		4
TR26	300	6
TR26 Total		6
TR33	154	3
TR33 Total		3
	Unstrat	5
Grand Total		902

Table 6. Pottery quantification by wares

Ware group	Common ware name	Tomber and Dore code	Nos
H1	Gritted ware (calcareous)		779
H1 VESIC	Gritted ware (calcareous) - vesicular		33
H3	Gritted ware - stone inclusions, erratics		16
H5	Gritted ware - stone inclusions, quartz		1
H7	Fine gritted ware (calcareous)		4
H7 VESIC	Fine gritted ware (calcareous) - vesicular		11
H15	Slag-tempered ware		1
H	Handmade ware		2
H/FC	Handmade ware or fired clay		2
CRA RE	Crambeck grey ware	CRA RE	2
CRA RE/WH?	Crambeck grey or white ware (burnt)	CRA RE or CRA WH	1
DR20	Dressel 20 oil amphora	BAT AM	1
GRB CALC	Grey calcite-gritted ware		1
GRB1	Grey ware		45
OAB1	Oxidised ware		1
EYCT	Late East Yorkshire calcite-gritted ware	HUN CG	2
Total			902

Table 7. Pottery spot dating by feature and context

(PRIA=Pre-Roman Iron Age; RB=Romano-British)

Trench	Context	Description	Date range	No.
4	134	Upper fill of gully 136	PRIA-early RB, optimum late PRIA	98
5	168	Primary fill of 169	PRIA-early RB, optimum late PRIA	3
5	174	Primary fill of 176	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
5	187	Upper fill of ditch 190	Late 3rd-early 5 <sup>th</sup> century	1
10	180	Fill of ditch 177	Late PRIA	312
10	202	Fill of ditch 201	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
10	203	Fill of ditch 201	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	4
10	221	Fill of 220	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
10	227	Fill of ditch 226 (same as 198, 199 and 200)	Late PRIA-early RB, optimum late PRIA	7
14	118	Upper fill of ditch 120	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	11
14	119	Lower fill of ditch 120	PRIA-early RB. The finish of the base points to a late PRIA or early RB date	35
15	123	Fill of ditch 124	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	1
15	131	Fill of gully 130	PRIA-early RB, optimum late PRIA	2
16	238	Fill of pit 237	PRIA, optimum mid-late PRIA	9
16	249	Fill of post-hole 248	Early RB, late 1st-early 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	2
16	251	Fill of post-hole 250	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
16	253	Fill of pit 252	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	3
16	255	Fill of pit 254	PRIA-early RB, optimum late PRIA	2
16	259	Fill of post-hole 258	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	4
16	279	Fill of post-hole 278	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	5
16	285	Fill of post-hole 284	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
18	114	Fill of ditch 115	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	11
18	206	Fill of ditch 208	Early RB, probably second century	8
18	207	Fill of ditch 208	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	18

Trench	Context	Description	Date range	No.
18	209	Fill of ditch 212	The Roman material in this group points to a date in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	230
18	210	Burnt deposit in ditch 212	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	3
18	211	Fill of ditch 212	RB, likely to be 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	3
18	213	Fill of feature 216	Early RB, late first to 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	31
18	214	Fill of feature 216	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	5
18	219	Deposit in square feature 216	RB, probably 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	4
19	290	Upper fill of 293	PRIA-RB, probably late PRIA	1
20	104	Fill of ditch 105	Early RB	4
20	107	Fill of ditch 106	Early RB	3
20	230	Upper fill of pit 232	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
21	236	Fill of gully 235	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	11
21	263	Fill of gully 262	Late PRIA	3
21	265	Fill of gully 264	Late PRIA	6
21	289	Fill of pit 288	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	1
22	108	Fill of ditch 109	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
22	110	Fill of ditch 111	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	2
22	113	Fill of ditch 112	Early RB, most likely to 2 <sup>nd</sup> century	23
26	300	Fill of post-hole 301	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	6
33	154	Upper fill of 155	PRIA-early RB, optimum PRIA	3
	0	unstratified		11
All	101	Subsoil	PRIA-early RB, optimum LPRIA	2

### Ceramic Building Material

Some 20+ small fragments of ceramic building material, mostly oxidised, weighing a total of just 105g, were recovered from across the site. The material is mostly un-diagnostic, although a fragment from Trench 14 (151) had straw impressions in it and a fragment from Trench 18 (206) was clearly part of a tile of some description. The material is clearly residual, not in any significant concentrations, and serves merely to demonstrate the use of daub and ceramic tiles somewhere on this site in either the Later Iron Age or Roman period.