

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: CERAMIC AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM STILE HOUSE, SHERIFF HUTTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

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INTRODUCTION

All the material submitted came from context 001, a layer of black humic loam. Ceramic material amounted to 38 items, weighing 1294 grams, and comprised pottery, roof and wall tile fragments, and clay tobacco pipe. There were in addition four pieces of animal bone, six sherds of bottle glass, a copper alloy dome from a bicycle bell, and a large fragment of roofing tile in a fine-grained limestone, with extant peg-hole. The non-ceramic material is not considered further, though it is perhaps allowable to observe that the glass has all the appearance of being of 19th or 20th century date.

METHODOLOGY

All the ceramic material was examined and then quantified by number and weight of sherds according to fabric category (see Catalogue, below). The fabric terms employed are either in common usage, are self-explanatory, or conform to the regional terminology adopted by the Humber Archaeology Partnership. The composition and depositional history of the assemblage was then considered in the light of this information.

CATALOGUE

Fabric	No./wt (gms)	Remarks
<i>Group A: 17th century</i>		
Ryedale Ware	1/37	Basal angle, internally glazed
Midland Yellow-type	1/23	Basal angle, internally glazed
Tin-Glazed	1/1	Body fragment, closed form, mottled blue glaze
Clay pipe stem	1/6	Wide stem bore
<i>Group B: Later 18th or earlier 19th century</i>		
Creamware	2/19	Plate rims, dished and beaded
Pearlware	1/3	Plate rim, feathered edge
<i>Group C: 18th or 19th century</i>		
Late Blackware	2/26	Body sherds
Notts -type stoneware?	1/9	Rim sherd
<i>Group D: 19th or early 20th century</i>		
Domestic stonewares	5/170	Bottles, jars
Transfer-printed whitewares	7/121	Tablewares
Unglazed red earthenwares	4/325	Includes internally sooted industrial ceramic, possibly chimney pots
Porcelain	2/28	Plain footring base, printed body sherd
Colour-glazed wares	6/266	Kitchen wares
Floral wall-tile	1/113	

Group E- Undated post-medieval

Late Humberware	2/126	One with copper-nch internal glaze, may be contemporary with Group A. The other is not closely datable.
Pantile	1/21	

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The major part of the assemblage clearly derives from depositional activity, or even a single dumping episode, taking place after the mid 19th century. There are, however, clearly discernible 17th century and late 18th/early 19th century components in the assemblage. The earliest material, from Group A, may suggest, though it cannot conclusively demonstrate, a 17th-century *terminus ante quem* for the emplacement of rubble layer 003.

There is no need to retain any of this material, though selection of sherds to augment the regional fabric series held at the Humber Archaeology Partnership could be undertaken if the material were to be disposed of.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: THE RECORDED FINDS, STILE HOUSE, SHERIFF HUTTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

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Two recorded finds were recovered during the work at Stile House. A button of copper alloy and iron (001AA) and a plaque or mount of plated copper alloy, inlaid with champlevé enamel (003AA), and bearing an heraldic design set within a lozenge.

The mount may have been attached to a casket, book, furniture or panelling, or perhaps used as a brooch or badge, as either jewellery or a badge of livery. To the modern eye it appears large for an item of jewellery, though the dimensions of the lozenge are comparable to those of the Middleham jewel c 1450, which has a height of 65mm (Campbell 1991, 139).

The huge increase in the use of heraldry in the second half of the 13th century is thought to be associated with the Welsh and Scottish wars of Edward I (1272-1307) (Griffiths 1995, 62). The flourish of heraldic horse pendants was the 14th century (Griffiths 1986), as was heraldic decoration on leather scabbards (de Neergaard 1987, 42). Both occasionally bore heraldic designs within lozenges as an alternative to the shield. Griffiths (1995, 62) cites a decline of heraldic harness pendants by the end of the 14th century though the reason stated is that fashions in harness changed to leather or textile rather than a general decline in heraldic imagery. Heraldic designs on ceramic floor tiles are mainly of 13th to 15th century date with occasional 16th century examples. Again the peak of production appears to be the 14th century.

The lozenge has been used to bear the arms of widows and spinsters, though this custom is not thought to have been used much earlier than the mid 16th century (St John Hope 1913). The earliest proven example of the lozenge enclosing the coat of arms of a woman is that of Frances Brandon who died in 1559 (de Neergaard 1987, 43). Two types of heraldic design were used, that depicting the arms of a family, and non-representational heraldry with a purely decorative function. The complexity of the design on the Stile House mount and its manner of execution suggests that it is unlikely to be the latter.

A precursory search of records of archaeological material bearing heraldic decoration, and reference material on coats of arms contained within the Reference Library in Hull and the Brynmor Jones Library of the University of Hull failed to find a parallel for the arms represented. Using evidence from the other types of objects bearing heraldic decoration, such as those mentioned above, the object would be within a date range of mid to late 13th to 15th century, if it is intended to show the arms in a lozenge as a variant to the shield. It would date from the 16th century onwards if intended to show the arms of a widow or spinster. The appearance of the object itself would seem to suggest the former.

A search of rolls of arms between the mid 12th to 15th centuries may reveal the family represented and further refine the dating for this object. The fine quality of manufacture of the mount suggests that it was made for an armigerous member of the nobility rather than retainers of lower rank, and as such is an important object of intrinsic value.

The button is of a decorative type and likely to be a coat or jacket button. It is interesting that it displays a stag, an animal associated with heraldry and status. This form of button was dated from 1837 to 1865 by Stanley South in his typology based on excavations at Brunswick Town and Fort Fisher in North Carolina (Hume 1969, 90-1). The end of this date range is however likely to exceed 1865 as the South's end date for this type coincides with the end of the fort.

Catalogue

Button Incomplete. With a stamped copper alloy face over an iron back. The attachment eye is incomplete. Decorated with a stag's head on a background of fine horizontal lines, with swirls above and in between the antlers. Type 25 in South's typology (Hume 1969, fig 23) with a date range for this form of manufacture from 1837 to 1865.

Diameter 28mm Thickness 5mm Length of attachment eye 3mm 001AA

Mount or plaque Near complete. Lozenge shaped with bevelled edges. Of copper alloy inlaid with champlevé enamel. Decorated with an heraldic design consisting of a cross engrailed with a leopard's face facing front, in the centre of the cross. The engrailed cross-shaped recess is filled with a mixture of translucent red, opaque red and translucent greenish-blue enamel. The predominant colour appears to be red. These three colours appear to be mixed together, possibly to create a darker reddish shade or a purple-type hue. It may be the case that blue-green component of the enamel is unfused soda or potash glass intended to be subsumed by the red glass on fusing. Of the two reds one has the translucent red of garnet and the other is opaque red. The colour of the opaque red is comparable to that used in the diptych showing the Ascension and Resurrection of Christ, the Coronation of the Virgin, and St Christopher and St George c.1340 and in the Victoria and Albert Museum (Campbell 1991, Plate 2).

Toolmarks are visible in the base of the recess. The leopard's head is part of the raised field and has fine detail engraved upon its surface. The surface of the head bears traces of possible gilding. The field of the plaque bears traces of what appears to be silvering around the edges. This may have originally covered the whole area. Each side of the plaque/mount has a notch where it was originally fixed to a backing or larger object. It has been bent slightly due to having been prised from its setting. If the silvering covered the whole field of the plaque then blazoned in heraldic terms, the two options would possibly be as follows.

If red enamel: Argent, on a cross engrailed gules a leopard's face affronté or

If purple enamel: Argent, on a cross engrailed purpure a leopard's face affronté or

Length 67mm Width 55mm. Thickness 2mm 003AA

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