

# **Hand-made pottery and fired clay from Field 145, Catterick (A1L2B): An assessment**

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## **Introduction**

The pottery assemblage from Field 145 was examined by the author in July 2017. It consisted of 402 sherds of hand-made pottery and fragments of fired clay weighing 1271 grams representing a maximum of 399 vessels and objects. The details are summarised in Table 1.

## **The pottery**

The pottery was classified using the system established by Didsbury (2009, unpublished, Didsbury and Vince 2011) and refined by the author (Cumberpatch 2016, unpublished, Cumberpatch and Leary 2016). The range of fabric groups was wide with both H2 quartz and rock-tempered wares and vesicular H4 wares present, although hybrid H3 wares were notable by their absence.

Vessels identifiable to specific forms were rare with only one example, an Open Jar from context 10081, represented by a rim sherd. Open Jars, which are well-known from sites in eastern and northern Yorkshire, have a broad date range which spans the pre-Roman Iron Age and the whole of the Roman period (Cumberpatch 2016:114, Leary and Cumberpatch 2016:49).

The assemblage consisted largely of small sherds (average sherd weight; 3.18g) although some of the context groups (such as that from context 10002) may represent single vessels. Mechanical abrasion was common, represented by the groups of small shattered and rounded sherds. Chemical attrition in the form of the dissolution of calcareous inclusions affected all susceptible sherds with no sherds classifiable to the H1 type.

The majority of sherds appeared to be from hollow wares but in a few cases it was impossible to be certain of the vessel form as the sherds were either too small or too badly damaged for the shape to be identifiable.

## **Discussion**

The pottery from contexts 10000, 10010, 10025, 10029, 10107, 10111 and 0 was catalogued during an earlier stage of the assessment process and should perhaps be included in any full report produced on this field. The quantity involved totalled eighty-five sherds weighing 488 grams representing a maximum of eighty-four vessels. All but two of the sherds were body sherds, the exceptions being two rims, both from context 10010 and were identified as an Everted-rim Jar and a Vertical-rim Jar.

## **Further work**

A full report on the assemblage will include the following elements:

- A detailed discussion of the range of fabric types and groups represented in the assemblage
- Inclusion of the material catalogued earlier and mentioned in the 'discussion' section
- A detailed discussion of the parallels for the Open Jar (context 10081)
- Discussion of the relationship between the hand-made pottery assemblage and the wheel-thrown Roman and Romano-British assemblage (with R.S. Leary)

### **Archiving and curation**

Many questions remain to be addressed regarding the later prehistoric and Roman period and later hand-made wares from eastern and northern Yorkshire and neighbouring areas. It is too early to determine what contribution this assemblage might make to the resolution of the many issues surrounding the production, consumption and discard of pottery during these periods. For this reason the assemblage should be retained in its entirety in the appropriate museum or finds depository where it will be available for further study in the future.

### **Bibliography**

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