

Appendix 2

Report on the Post-Roman Pottery from St. Mary's works, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire (BARF06)

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Introduction and Methodology

Seventy-seven sherds of post-Roman pottery (representing a maximum of thirty-one vessels), twenty-three fragments of ceramic building material and two joining fragments from a fired clay object were recovered from the site. The pottery and tile ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the early modern period and the fired clay object may be of Iron Age date.

The pottery assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context and the ceramic building material by a fragment and weight count. Where possible pottery was identified visually, otherwise fabric identification was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope comparing sherds with the existing Lincoln and St. Peter's Church, Barton pottery type series. Fabric codenames used are those developed during the analysis of the pottery from Lincoln (Young et al 2005) and the St. Peter's Church, Barton pottery project (Young and Didsbury forthcoming). The pottery and ceramic building material data was entered on an access database.

Condition

The assemblage is in a mixed condition with variable degrees of abrasion, although most is in a slightly abraded to fresh condition. The poor state and small size of some of the material is not consistent with primary deposition and it is probable that this material has been disturbed at least once if not being continually reworked through the stratigraphy. Other fragments however are in a fairly fresh condition and must represent primary deposition. This is especially the case with the substantial part of two vessels deposited in context 602, both of which are represented by a large number of joining sherds in a fresh condition. Both vessels are missing their

upper parts, possibly as a result of truncation of the feature. One possible cross-context join was noted (contexts 506 and 533). A number of vessels have external soot residues suggesting their use with an open flame and one vessel has a specific sooting pattern noted on vessels ranging in date from Middle Saxon to late medieval. The external base has soot residue only around the edges, whilst the internal carbonised deposit only occurs in the centre of the base suggesting that the hottest part of the vessel did in fact not come in contact with the flame. Limescale occurs on the interior surface of three jugs suggesting usage for containing, or heating liquids.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of sixteen different post-Roman, identifiable pottery types, twelve bricks, ten roof tiles and one ceramic object were found on the site. The type and general date range for the pottery fabrics are shown in Table 1 and the ceramic building material in Table 2. Most of the material comes from sources within Lincolnshire and East and North Yorkshire, the only exceptions being two sherds of late post-medieval and early modern date.

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd and vessel count with date range

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	total sherds	total vessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1	1
BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1	1100	1230	15	5
BEVO1T	Beverley Orange-type ware Fabric 1	1100	1230	1	1
BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	1	1
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	10	6
HUMB	Humber Basin fabrics	1250	1500	2	2
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	2	2
LSH	Lincoln shelly ware	850	1000	2	2
NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	1	1
NLEMS	North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	34	2
NLOXSW	North Lincolnshire Oxidised Sandy ware	1200	1450	1	1
NLQC	North Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk-	1050	1220	3	3
NOTTS	Nottingham Late Saxon sandy ware	0	0	1	1
RYDALE	Ryedale ware	1550	1750	1	1
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1100	1	1
YORKSPL	York Splashed ware	1080	1200	1	1

Table 2: Ceramic building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight with date range

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	total fragments	total weight in gms
BRK	Brick	1300	1920	12	10825
FIREDCLAY	fired clay	Iron Age ?	?	2	100
PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)	1780	2000	1	107
PEG	Peg tile	1150	1400	1	79
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1150	1400	9	738

The Pottery

Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman

Only five sherds of Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman date were recovered from the site. The two LSH small jar sherds may in fact be from the same vessel (contexts 506 and 533) and date to between the late 9th and late 10th centuries. The rim to shoulder sherd from context 506 is badly spalled and may have been decorated on the shoulder and rim edge with roller-stamping. The Torksey sherd found on the site is not of a diagnostic form or fabric and as such can only be dated to between the late 9th and mid/late 11th centuries. The two small LFS sherds are also undiagnostic and have a date range of the late 10th to late 12th centuries.

Early Medieval

Twelve vessels date to the period between the late 11th and early/mid 13th centuries. The three vessels in a quartz and chalk-tempered coarseware (NLQC) could date as early as the 11th century but are more likely to be of 12th to early 13th century date. All of the glazed wares (BEVO1, BEVO1T and YORKSPL) are unlikely to predate the early/mid 12th century or post-date the early 13th century as all the vessels have 'splashed' glazes. Beverley type 1 jugs (BEVO1) similar to those found on this site are common in 12th century deposits in Barton but the small Beverley-type (BEVO1T) jug in context 406 is

an unusual find. The fabric contains fairly common small rounded chalk grains – far more than is usual for a Beverley product and there are at least two spaced rows of triangular roller-stamping around the body. Context 602 contained ten sherds from a single small BEVO1 jug and thirty-three sherds from a NLEMS jar. The sherds from both vessels are in a fresh condition suggesting that they represent primary deposition. The upper part of both vessels is missing and this may have been due to truncation of the feature. The handmade NLEMS jar has an unusual row of slashing around the belly and it is unclear if this is meant to be decorative or is simply the remains of the manufacturing technique.

Medieval

Only ten vessels represented by fourteen sherds can be shown to date to the medieval period. None of the vessels are typologically distinct and can only be dated to within the general date span for the individual ware types. Six of the vessels are in Humber-type ware (HUM), known to have been made at several centres in East Yorkshire and also in York between the late 13th and mid 16th centuries. One vessel is a Beverley type 2 jug of 13th to early/mid 14th century date, one is a North Lincolnshire Oxidised Sandy ware jug (NLOXSW) of 13th or 14th century date and the other two are undiagnostic local types (HUMB) dating to the 13th to 15th centuries

Post-Medieval to Early Modern

Only four single sherd vessels post-date the medieval period. Three are probably of 18th century date whilst the fourth could date as late as the 20th century.

The Ceramic Building Material

The Roof Tile

Eleven fragments of roof tile representing ten different tiles were recovered from the site. One fragment came from an early modern pantile and has been discarded; the other fragments are all from medieval flat roof tiles. Eight of the tiles, including one with a square peg-hole are of Beverley-type. Several of the fragments have characteristic finger ridging on the upper surface of the tiles. One other tile is in a

similar but coarser fabric that may also be a Beverley product, or could have been more locally produced.

The Brick

The site produced a small assemblage of handmade bricks from a number of contexts. The bricks vary little in fabric, suggesting perhaps that they were all from the same source, but do seem to be of different sizes and dates. Six of the fragments are of a medieval to post-medieval type usually occurring on sites in the county in 14th to 16th century deposits. None of the medieval-type bricks from this site were complete enough to measure either length or width, but measurable thicknesses are between 47-57mm. Three of the bricks are unlikely to predate the 15th century and are deemed of late medieval to post-medieval type with measurable width and thickness measurements of 134x57mm and 129x66mm. Two bricks, both from context 520 are most likely to be of post-medieval date. These slightly narrower bricks are more common in 16th to 18th century contexts and have measurements of 280x115x60mm and 208+x125x65mm. A single later 18th to 20th century brick (218x98x55mm) was recovered from context 522.

The Fired Clay

Two fragments of fired clay from a single object were found in context 531. They are similar in shape and fabric to fragments found at Barrow Road, Barton-on Humber, and interpreted as supports or stands (Wastling in Bradley 2002, 15-16). The two fragments have a flat base and fit together to form a rounded cornered object with a slightly tapering side. It is also possible that they may be from an Iron Age pyramidal loom-weight, but given the similarity to the Barrow Road examples, interpretation as a support/stand seems more likely. There is no evidence for direct contact with heat on the sample from this site although it has been well fired.

Discussion

The ceramic material recovered is a small collection, mainly of medieval pottery and medieval to post-medieval brick, although it also contains some unusual items. The

nature and small size of the assemblage limits its usefulness in answering questions of chronology and function on the site. Nevertheless the material provides evidence for intermittent activity in the area from the Iron Age to the early modern period.

It is recommended that all of the material is retained and that the NLEMS vessel is drawn as part of any type series for this ware type. The fired clay object could also usefully be sampled for a more direct comparison with the Barrow Road material.

Bibliography

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