
APPENDIX 3:

**THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY FROM LAND OFF CAISTOR ROAD/THORNTON ROAD,
SOUTH KELSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE (CTSK07).**

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INTRODUCTION

In total, fifty-seven sherds of pottery representing thirty-six vessels were recovered from the site. The pottery ranges in date from the middle Saxon to the medieval period. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit and other nationally agreed codenames. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database (Appendix ??). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

CONDITION

With the exception of a few abraded sherds the pottery is mainly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium range (below 50grams). In total only nine vessels are represented by more than one sherd and one cross-context vessel is present. Several vessels from the Late Saxon to early medieval periods have exterior soot residues showing that they have been used over an open fire. Three of the shell-tempered vessels have evidence for use: the POTT jar has a leached internal surface suggesting storage of acidic liquid, the NLEMS jar/bowl has evidence for a post-firing hole in the base and the NLST bowl appears to have been used upside-down as a curfew.

THE POTTERY

In total thirty-six vessels in nineteen identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types were recovered from the site (Tables 1 and 2). The range of form types is extremely limited with examples of various types of jugs, jars and bowls forming the body of the assemblage.

Table 1 Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	3	3
ELQC	East Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk fabrics	1100	1220	5	4
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	4	1
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	5	2
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	3	3
LSH	Lincoln shelly ware	850	1000	5	5

LSLOC	Late Saxon Local Fabrics	850	1050	2	2
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320	5	1
LSWV	Lincoln Sandy ware Variant Generic	1200	1450	4	2
MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	680	870	1	1
NLEMS	North Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	1	1
NLFSW	North Lincolnshire Fine Sandy ware	1150	1320	1	1
NLGCS	North Lincolnshire Glazed Coarse Sandy ware	1150	1300	1	1
NLQC	North Lincolnshire Quartz and Chalk-tempered	1050	1220	1	1
NLSQ	North Lincolnshire Shell and Quartz	1100	1300	7	3
NLST	North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered	1180	1450	1	1
NLSTCW	North Lincolnshire Sand-tempered Coarse ware	1000	1200	1	1
NSP	Nottingham Splashed ware	1100	1250	4	3
POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1250	1500	3	1

The post-Roman pottery was recovered from pit fills 102 and 110 (Pit 109) and pit fill 104 (Pit 103) Most of the pottery came from Pit 109 and appears to be quite mixed in character. None of the pottery from the site is likely to post-date the mid 14th century, although late medieval to post-medieval bricks were also found in Pit fill 110.

Table 2 Ceramic dating of the post-Roman pottery found on the site

Ceramic period	total sherds	total vessels
Middle Saxon (late 7 th to mid 9 th)	1	1
Late Saxon (mid/late 9 th to mid/late 11 th)	10	10
Saxo-Norman (11 th to 12 th)	6	3
Early Medieval (12 th to early/mid 13 th)	18	11
Medieval (13 th to 15 th)	22	11
Totals	57	36

Middle Saxon

A single small Maxey-type ware sherd from a large jar or bowl came from Pit fill 102. The sherd is in Fabric B and is only generally dateable to the Middle Saxon period.

Late Saxon

Ten single sherd vessels, all jars or bowls date to the period between the late 9th and late 10th centuries. All of the vessels are in shell -tempered coarseware fabrics made either in Lincoln (LKT and LSH) or the Lincoln area (LSLOC). Four vessels from this site (all from Pit 109) are chronologically diagnostic: two inturned-rim bowls in LSH Fabric E are of early/mid to mid/late 10th century date and the two LSLOC Fabric A jars date to between the mid/late 9th and early 10th century.

Saxo-Norman

Three vessels (represented by six sherds) post-date the late 10th century and predate the second quarter 13th century. Two of the vessels are shell-tempered coarsewares (LFS) dating to the 11th or 12th centuries.

The third vessel is a small jar in a greyware fabric (NLSTCW) previously only found in the Barton-on-Humber area and thought to be of post-conquest date.

Early medieval

Eighteen sherds representing eleven vessels are of late 11th to early/mid 13th century date. Nine of the vessels are coarsewares (ELQC, NLEMS, NLQC and NLSQ) and two are finewares from Nottingham (NSP). With the exception of the NLEMS vessel which dates from the mid 12th century onwards the coarseware sherds can only be generally dated to between late 11th to 12th centuries. This small assemblage is of note however because of the presence of both typical North Lincolnshire types (NLEMS, NLQC and NLSQ) and East Lincolnshire types (ELQC). The two Nottingham Splashed ware (NSP) vessels are both jugs in the sandy fabric which is of mid/late 12th to early/mid 13th century date. The presence of a decorated NSP jug (found in contexts 102 and 110) is unusual for a rural site. This jug has several bands of combed wavy lines on the shoulder of the vessel and is in a fairly fresh condition.

Medieval

Overall, only eleven of the pottery vessels (represented by twenty-two sherds) submitted for examination are of medieval type and these can probably be dated to the period between the early 13th and mid 14th centuries. The vessels are from a number of known (BEVO2, LSW2 and POTT) and unknown sources (HUM, LSWV, NLFSW, NLGCS and NLST) in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Most of these vessels are glazed jugs or jars from Lincoln (LSW2), the Lincoln area (LSWV), Beverley (BEVO2) or the Humber region (HUM, NLFSW and NLGCS). With the exception of one of the LSWV jugs none of the sherds show signs of decoration. The tall-necked jug in LSW2 is from a form not yet fully defined in Lincoln but probably dating to between the late 13th and early/mid 14th centuries. A jar in Potterhanworth ware (POTT) and a bowl in North Lincolnshire Shell-tempered ware are the only coarsewares present.

DISCUSSION

This is a small but significant assemblage. Few post-Roman ceramic assemblages have been recovered from the area between Market Rasen and Brigg and the ceramic sequence of the area is little understood. The pottery recovered from this site hints at a complex pottery distribution network in the area with a wide range of pottery type available from at least the 12th century onwards. The pottery suggests that the area was occupied by the Middle Saxon period and remained in use until the medieval period. It is of note that unless the handmade bricks found in Pit 109 are of an early date (they are in an unknown fabric) all of the pottery recovered from this feature is residual.

Most of the vessels are represented by single sherds and there is only one cross-joining pot. This, together with the fragmentary nature of most of the pottery suggests that much if not all of the pottery recovered from this site was deposited as part of clearing, dumping or levelling episodes. Despite occurring

residually however some of the sherds are in a fairly fresh condition, indicating perhaps that primary deposits are possibly to be found nearby. The entire collection should be kept for future study.

REFERENCES

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.