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## **APPENDIX E POTTERY ASSESSMENT**

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### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The boxed sherds which have been examined are all of much the same fabric: thin-walled and hand-made, fired rather badly to a soft, rather laminated, black paste. Apart from a little fine sand, there are no obvious inclusions.

### **2.0 ASSESSMENT**

The rim form, seen in nos 50 and 51 (not from the same vessel) is a plain bead, classically Iron Age (Iron Age B). This should still be put rather late in the Iron Age (1st century BC to 1st century AD). The fabric occurs at Stanwick, although it is not particularly common, and something similar has recently been seen at a site in Weardale (current work by Rob Young of the University of Leicester), where the only associated datable find was a piece of early Roman glass.

It is interesting to see how little pottery there is overall from this site: there appears to be a general scarcity of pottery at this period in the Pennines and north-east (certainly compared with the East Riding).

The amount of non-pottery baked clay is rather striking: it looks like the material found as the superstructure of ovens or furnaces, and some sort of industrial process might be suggested (Bag 4 appeared to contain some sort of vitreous slag).

It is also clear that there is mediaeval activity of some sort on or near the site as there is as much mediaeval pottery as there is Iron Age.

### **3.0 SUMMARY**

- 1) Of the assemblage of 51 ceramic items, at least 9 were medieval, or later, in date. Most of these were from context 1000 or from the ridge and furrow horizon.
- 2) 7 sherds are Romano-British, such a small percentage of the assemblage might not be relevant to the site sequence. However, many of the Romano-British sherds were recovered from the backfill of F43 (square enclosure ditch).
- 3) A large quantity of the assemblage is fired clay, possibly associated with kiln or oven superstructures. They may indicate some sort of industrial process.
- 4) Approximately half the assemblage was identified as being Iron Age in date. The assemblage was principally low density, hand made fabric. Firing had produced a soft, laminated black fabric with few inclusions apart from rare quartz or sand grits. Despite the poor quality of the fabric the assemblage is dated to between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. There is a scarcity of pottery around the Pennines and the north-east at this period. However, the same is true of Yorkshire during the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC and an earlier date should not be ruled out.

Table 1 Ceramic Analysis Summary

Find	Int	Context	Feature	Date	Description
1	All	1000	-	Med	Bowl sherd with finger tip decoration. Poss. 12th - 13th century
2	All	1000	-	Med	Hard-fired grey, reduced fabric
3	All	1000	-	Med	Small body sherd, similar fabric to 4 & 5
4	All	1000	-	Med	Grey interior, orange exterior, conjoins with 1
5	All	1000	-	R-B?	Poss. body sherd from R-B flagon, grey-white interior, orange-buff exterior. Tiny vesiculae possibly a result of calcite grits being burnt out during firing
6	All	1000	-	R-B	Reduced fabric of bowl base angle and body sherd. Hard fired with quartz grits - 2nd century
7	2	1031	30	R-B	Body sherd, grey interior, oxidised to pale orange on the exterior. Similar to Doncaster/Rossington fabric - 1 1st to 2nd century
8	2	1031	30	Med	Small rim sherd, similar fabric to 7
9	2	1039	38	LIA	Worn fabric, poss. 2nd BC to 1st century AD
10	2	1044	43	R-B	Eroded base sherd of greyware, poss. Dalesware type - 2nd century
11	2	1059	66	IA?	Certainly fired clay/pottery, poss. IA fabric
12	4	1080	65	Med	Jug handle, grey hard fired fabric, unglazed
13	4	1080	65	P Med	Black glazed body sherd - 18th century
15	2	1158	206	IA	Low density hand made fabric with no obvious inclusions. Rim sherd from large storage jar with everted rim. Borderline briquetage/daub
16	2	1158	206	-	Poss. 'daub' of kiln or oven superstructure
17	2	1160	150	-	As above
18	2	1163	37	-	As above
19	2	1168	43	-	As above
20	2	1170	43	R-B / Med	Small pieces of pottery, not prehistoric
21	2	1170	43	R-B/ Med	As above
22	2	1220	98	IA	Similar to 15, very coarse pottery of basic technology but not necessarily early
23	2	1221	99	IA	As above
24	2	1222	103	IA	As above
25	2	1244	36	IA	As above
26	2	1244	36	IA	As above
27	2	1244	36	IA	As above
28	2	1244	36	IA	As above
29	2	1244	36	IA	As above
30	2	1244	36	IA	As above
31	2	1221	99	-	Structural clay from kiln or oven, some pieces show casts of wicker or timber
32	2	1286	43	R-B	Two small pieces of conjoining, eroded pottery, similar to 7 & 8
33	2	1068	59	IA	Very similar to 23-30, 4 sherds
34	2	1286	43	R-B?	Small lump poss. body sherd
35	2	1293	216	-	Structural burnt clay
36	2	1209	184	-	Structural burnt clay

Find	Int	Context	Feature	Date	Description
37	2	1300	219	IA	Very coarse pottery, similar to 22 - 30
38	2	1322	234	IA	Small body sherd of thin-walled, hand made vessel. Reduced to black in firing, rare quartz inclusions
39	2	1322	234	IA	As above
40	2	1322	234	IA	As above
41	14	1341	221	-	Structural burnt clay
42	2	1369	37	-	As above
43	2	1369	37	IA?	Possible piece of IA ceramic
44	2		43	LIA	Thin walled body sherd, handmade, no inclusions apart from a little sand
45	2		43	LIA	As above
46	2		43	LIA	As above
47	2		43	LIA	As above
48	2		43	LIA	As above
49	2		43	LIA	As above
50	2		43	LIA	Rim sherd, plain bead form, 1st BC to 1st century AD
51	2		43	LIA	Rim sherd as above
52	2		43	LIA	As 44-49