

APPENDIX F POTTERY AND FIRED CLAY ASSESSMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The excavations produced a small quantity of pottery suggesting episodic and limited activity during the pre-Roman Iron Age and/or the Romano-British period, in the 13th and 14th centuries and again from the late 18th into the 19th century.

2.0 TREATMENT

In the fabric descriptions hyphenated colours indicate the variation in colour expected from poorly controlled firing conditions, the first colour being that most in evidence. Grit sizes are expressed as small (<3mm) and medium (3-6mm). Distinctive particles smaller than 0.02mm are described as dust. Sherd weights are given to the nearest 5g. No thin section analysis has been done - although recent cuts for TL sampling have provided a clean section for fabrics A and C - and identification has been using a 10x lens. Given the limited representation of a small number of vessels with widely varying chronologies the minimum number of vessels has been suggested on the basis of fabric and form. None of the pottery has been the subject of conservation, and no sherds justify illustration in the report.

3.0 CERAMIC RANGE AND CHRONOLOGY

3.1 PRE-ROMAN IRON AGE POTTERY

A small quantity of pottery may belong to the pre-Roman Iron Age and is restricted to the area of Intervention 2. The pottery comprises sherds in two fabrics which may derive from no more than two or three hand made jars. Little Iron Age pottery is known from West Yorkshire, and within the region pottery in Iron Age styles appears to have continued in manufacture and use into the Romano-British period. For these reasons, without additional chronological information, a pre-Roman Iron Age date is only tentatively ascribed. Iron Age and native material from Dalton Parlours, the most extensive published pottery assemblage from the area, contrasts with Fabrics B and C in the present assemblage in being tempered with either limestone or igneous grits (Sumpter 1990, 128-34). Pottery in Fabric B here is very similar to material excavated from Catterick race course (Vyner forthcoming) and a few other recent occasional finds from the area. Although Evans has suggested Iron Age pottery from the region seems mostly to be tempered with either igneous or calcitic rock (1995, 48-9), it appears that quartz was also a significant tempering element.

Fabric A is represented by five sherds, including one rim fragment and a wall base sherd - possibly from the same vessel. This is a medium-fired fabric which has become smooth and abraded, surfaces and fabric dark brown-grey. The fabric has numerous small and medium sized angular cavities from which calcitic grits have leached, a few small to medium fragments of a silt or mudstone remain. Typical wall thickness between 9 and 10 mm. Discounting scraps, 5 sherds; minimum number of vessels present: 1.

Fabric B is represented by a few undiagnostic body sherds. Hard-fired fabric, mid-grey surfaces and core, with numerous small angular and sub-angular milky quartz sands which gives the surfaces a sharply sandy texture, occasional small and medium sized igneous grits, quartz dust in the matrix. Average wall thickness 8 mm. No rim sherds present. Discounting scraps, 5 sherds; minimum number of vessels present: 1.

3.2 ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY

A very small quantity of Romano-British pottery of broadly 3rd century date is present in Intervention 2, including a few scraps of coarse grey and orange wares, and a couple of sherds of Black Burnished Ware. Fabric C is represented here by two small rim sherds, together with a few body sherds. The fabric is medium to hard fired, surfaces vary from brown-grey to dark grey, with the fabric interior being dark grey. The fine sandy matrix contains only very small quartz sands. From the small sherds present it is hard to know whether or not this pottery has been made on a wheel, but on balance it is concluded that it is, and that this is of Romano-British manufacture. Discounting scraps, 6 sherds; minimum number of

vessels present in this fabric: 2. Romano-British pottery is also present in small quantities in Intervention 19.

3.3 MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Interventions 2/3, 14 and 20 produced a few sherds of medieval pottery - from fineware jugs and plainware jars - which are probably of 14th century date.

3.4 POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY AND OTHER MATERIAL

Limited post-medieval activity, represented by pieces of earthenware of 18th and 19th century date, appears to have taken place away from the area of intervention 2.

4.0 SUMMARY

Features which may be of Iron Age date (i.e. contain occasional sherds of pottery which is hand formed in Iron Age or native Romano-British style)

F206 Post holes
F36 Linear gully
F38 Curvilinear gully
F59 Curvilinear gully
F234 Enclosure ditch level

Features which could be of Iron Age date (i.e. contain very small and undiagnostic sherds of what appear to be Iron Age or native style pottery)

F3 Enclosure ditch level
F66 Curvilinear gully
F216

Features which appear to be Romano-British in date (i.e contain pottery of Roman style or wheelthrown ceramics)

F43 Enclosure ditch level
F30

References

Evans, J. 1995. Later Iron Age and 'native' pottery in the north-east, in B E Vyner (ed) *Moorland Monuments*, CBA Research Report, 101, 46-68

Sumpter, A. B. 1990. Iron Age pottery, in S Wrathmell and A Nicholson (eds) *Dalton Parlours Iron Age Settlement and Roman Villa*, (Wakefield), 128-34

Vyner, B. E. forthcoming *The Pottery*, in C Moloney et al *Excavations at Catterick*

Table 1 Catalogue of pottery

Intervention 2

Iron Age or hand-formed native Romano-British pottery

Feature		Description
F36	25	Single sherd from near the wall base of a medium-sized jar. Fabric B. (15 g)
F36	26	Single body sherd from a medium-sized jar. Fabric B. (>10 g)
F36	27	Single small body sherd from a medium-sized jar. Fabric B. (5 g)
F38	9	Spalling body sherd from a small jar. Fabric A. (5 g)
F43	34	Very small and undiagnostic. Fabric A.
F43	46	Small body sherd. Fabric A. (5 g)
F43	47	Small body sherd. Fabric A. (>5 g)
F43	48	Small body sherd. Fabric A. (5 g)
F59	206	Body sherd. Fabric B. (10 g)
F59	207	Small body sherd. Fabric B. (5 g)
F59	33	Four sherds from a medium-sized jar. Fabric B. (50 g)
F59	208	Scrap of ceramic, perhaps Fabric B.
F206	15	Single everted rim sherd from a large thick-walled jar, surfaces and fabric dark brown-grey. Wall thickness typically 12 mm. Fabric A. (20 g)
F216	35	Very small and undiagnostic, as 33 above.

Romano-British pottery

Feature		Description
F30	7	Body sherd from a jar, orange exterior, grey interior, fabric varying between the two colours, fine sandy fabric. Probably Romano-British.
F36	28	Single small sherd, dark grey surfaces and fabric. Very smooth and fine fabric with occasional medium sized igneous grits. Wall thickness uncertain. Fabric C. (>5 g)
F36	29	Very small and undiagnostic sherd, as 28 above.
F36	30	Very small and undiagnostic sherd, as 28 above.
F37	43	Very small and undiagnostic sherd, as 28 above.
F43	10	Base of a small jar, greyware, possibly Crambeck or Crambeck area, 2nd or 3rd century.
F43	32	Two small abraded fragments of orange/grey soft sandy fabric. Probably Romano-British. (>5 g)
F43	44	Body sherd from a medium-sized jar, abraded and further damaged. Fabric C. (10 g)
F43	49	Two small body sherds from a medium sized jar. Fabric C. (10 g)
F43	50	Rim sherd (in recently broken) from a small jar. Somewhat abraded, but showing the outline of a bead rim. Fabric C. (5 g)
F43	51	Small rim sherd from a small or medium-sized jar. The rim is everted and has a neatly-made external bead. Fabric C. (5 g)
F43	52	Body sherd from a small jar. Fabric C. (5 g)
F66	11	Very small and undiagnostic ceramic fragment.
F234	38	Body sherd from a jar, typical wall thickness 6 mm. Fabric C. (5 g)
F234	39	Small body sherd. Fabric C. (>5 g)
F234	40	Small body sherd. Fabric C. (>5 g)

Medieval and later pottery

Feature		Description
F30	8	Rim sherd of a jug, orange-brown exterior, orange interior, orange-grey fabric, probably 14th century.
F65	13	Sherd of earthenware, black glaze on exterior and part of interior, 18th or 19th century

Intervention 2/3

Context		Description
1000	1	Sherd of pie-crust base from a jar or jug, buff-brown exterior, light grey interior, fabric varying between the two colours, fine sandy fabric with few obvious grits. 14th century.
1000	2	Body sherd from a jar, dark grey surfaces, dark grey and brown banded fabric, numerous small rounded quartz grits, plentiful small calcitic (?limestone sands), occasional quartz dust. Probably 13th or 14th century.
1000	3	Body sherd from a jar, grey-brown exterior, light grey interior, fabric varying between the two colours, numerous small to medium sized rounded quartz grits and some quartz dust.
1000	4	Base sherd, as 1.
1000	5	Body sherd, as 1.
1000	6	Sherd from wall base of jar, as 2.

Intervention 4

Feature		Description
F65		Bar handle from a jug, similar fabric to 1000 sherd 2, Intervention 2/3 above.

Intervention 13

Feature		Description
F294		Rim sherd from an earthenware dish, pink-orange surfaces and fabric, clear internal glaze over a thin white slip. Late 18th century or early 19th century.
F294		Two small fragments of hard fired earthenware, one with traces of glaze. Probably 19th century.
F294		Short length of clay pipe stem. 19th century.

Intervention 14

Feature		Description
	178	Body sherd from a jar, hard grey fabric, similar to 1000 sherd 2, intervention 2, above.
	179	Body sherd from a jar, mid-grey surfaces and fabric, fine sandy fabric. Probably medieval.
	180	Body sherd from a jar, dark grey interior and fabric, olive green glaze. 13th or 14th century.
F221	41	Unfired clay - the orange element appears to be a ferruginous or other mineral inclusion.
	181	Sherd of steep-sided earthenware dish or even plant pot, brown-red surfaces and fabric. 19th century.

Intervention 18

Feature		Description
	195	Rim sherd from earthenware dish, orange-pink fabric and surfaces, pink slip on internal surface, damaged and abraded. Probably 19th century.
	196	Another fragment, similar to sherd from 195.
	191	Body sherd from an earthenware dish, orange fabric and external surface, red-orange internal surface. 19th century.
	192	Body sherd from earthenware dish, mid-orange fabric, dark orange-terracotta external surface, trace of clear glaze on interior. 19th century.

Feature		Description
	193	Sherd from press-moulded dish, exterior and fabric red-brown, interior has clear glaze over marbled slip. Late 18th or early 19th century.
	194	Sherd from a dish, stoneware with dark brown glaze. 19th century.

Intervention 19

Feature		Description
F243	175	Thin abraded sherd in grey sandy fabric. Probably Romano-British.
F243	174	Body sherd, Black Burnished Ware, traces of lattice decoration on exterior. 3rd century.
	187	Jar rim, rolled, surfaces and fabric varying from dark grey to brown-orange, a few variably sized quartz grits and numerous cavities from which small to medium sized angular calcitic grits have leached. Dales Ware, 3rd century.
	188	Another piece, as 187.
	189	Base and lower body sherd, earthenware jar, surfaces and fabric brown-red. 19th century.
	190	Body sherd from a mug or tyg, hard-fired fine grey fabric, black vitreous surfaces. Probably 18th century.

Intervention 20

Feature		Description
F243	171	Piece of brick, hand-made, late 18th or earlier 19th century.
F243	172	As above, 171.
F243	173	Piece of roof tile, hand made, late 18th or earlier 19th century.
	184	Handle from mug, purple glaze, late 18th or early 19th century.
	185	Small fragment of jar, buff-orange surfaces, grey-buff fabric with numerous small and medium angular quartz grits. Probably 13th or 14th century.
	186	Jar rim, rolled, orange surfaces and fabric, numerous small and medium sized angular quartz grits and sands. Probably 13th or 14th century.

Intervention 22

Feature		Description
F246		Piece of roof tile, 19th century

Intervention 24

Feature		Description
F276	176	Head of china doll, 19th century.

5.0 FIRED CLAY

A number of features contained fragments of fired clay, mostly in only small quantities. These appear to have been related to metal- perhaps bronze-working, rather than representing the remains of a house wall demolished by fire. None of the pieces has unequivocal impressions of wattle or other timber, while the greater part of the material shows evidence of having been fired to higher temperatures than would usually have been achieved in a building conflagration. Additionally, a few pieces show signs of having been surface fragments from a furnace, while one piece (F111, 14) the surface has acquired a vitreous coating.

The fired clay falls into three types. Type 1 has been fired to only low temperatures, it has a soft fabric and is pinkish-orange in colour. Type 2 has been fired to higher temperatures, it has a hard fabric with orange outer surfaces and around 15 mm into the interior, a reduced grey core. Several of these pieces seem to derive from the outer surface of a furnace or, perhaps, a mould. Type 3 fired clay has been fired to higher temperatures and has a hard brittle fabric which varies in colour from

orange to pale pink where the heat has been most intense. Two of these fragments have limited surviving traces of indentation and appear to be parts of moulds.

Table 2 Catalogue of fired clay

Feature		Description
F111	14	Fragment of furnace bottom or other surface, innermost part brittle pinkish-grey, the core hard bubbly grey-black, the surface dark green-black vitrified material. Part of a furnace internal surface. (5g)
F206	16	Fragment, type 2. (20g)
F150	17	Fragments, type 1. (5g)
F43	19	Fragment, type 2. (20g)
F43	20	Fragment, type 1. (>5g)
F43	21	Fragment, type 1. (>5g)
F98	22	Fragments, type 2, irregular outer edge, as if at an angle or join in a furnace exterior. (20g)
F99	23	Fragments, type 2. (40g)
F24	24	Fragment, type 1. (5g)
F99	31	Numerous fragments of type 2 and type 3 fired clay, some pieces comprising both degrees of firing. One piece has what appears to be the corner of a sub-rectangular mould, another has a possibly similar, but less convincing indentation. Two pieces have impressions as if from binds, one an impression 3 mm wide and deep, which extends 35 mm across the uneven surface, the other traces of a shallower impression. Neither impression looks to have been caused by wood or other vegetable material, but might be evidence for the use of leather ties. (325 g)
F184	36	Fragments, type 1 (15g)
F219	37	Fragments, type 1 (>5g)
F37	42	Fragment, type 1 (<5g)

6.0 OBJECT OF BRONZE

Table 3 Catalogue of bronze objects

Intervention 2

Feature	Description
F43	Finger ring, plain and with much of the outer surface corroded away. Internal diameter average 21 mm, external diameter average 29 mm, width 8 mm.