

Pottery impressions from Thorpe Thewles

(grid ref. NZ 396 243)

excavator: Dave Heslop  
Cleveland County Archaeology Unit  
Middlesbrough

by: M. van der Veen

The total pottery assemblage at Thorpe Thewles was 1540 sherds. To assess whether any of the sherds contained plant-impressions a 20% random sample of the pottery-containing-contexts was checked. This represented ca. 260 sherds, which is approx. 17% of the total.

Four sherds were found to contain possible plant impressions, and casts were made, using Latex Dipping Rubber. The results are listed in Table 1, and are briefly discussed below.

Three of the four selected sherds contained mineral tempering, but one (no.4) was tempered with organic material. One impression (in sherd no.1) turned out to be of a small stone or quartz inclusion, and one (sherd no.2) was too faint to allow any identification. The impressions on sherd no.3 were probably of organic origin, but were too incomplete to take the identification any further. Sherd no.4 (tempered with organic material) contained many impressions (probably chaff), but only three were identified. All were glumebases of a hulled wheat, in two cases it was probably spelt wheat.

It was decided that the results did not justify further work on the remaining sherds.

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Marijke van der Veen  
Biological Laboratory  
Department of Archaeology  
University of Durham

very faint impression, unidentifiable

sherd 3    TT81, C, 499, 19NW  
          mineral tempering  
          three impressions, prob. from organic material,  
          but too incomplete

sherd 4    TT80, B, 85, 48  
          organic tempering, probably chaff  
          many impresssions, mostly unidentifiable

Table 1:    Pottery impressions from Thorpe Thewles

<u>sherd 1</u>	TT81, C, 2059, 3NW/3SE mineral tempering impression in break, prob. little stone inclusion
<u>sherd 2</u>	TT81, LS 120, 1433, from 234 mineral tempering very faint impression, unidentifiable
<u>sherd 3</u>	TT81, C, 499, 19NW mineral tempering three impressions, prob. from organic material, but too incomplete
<u>sherd 4</u>	TT80, B, 85, 48 organic tempering, probably chaff many impresssions, mostly unidentifiable three identified: 2 x glumebase <u>Triticum cf. spelta</u> 1 x glumebase <u>Triticum sp.</u>