



Medieval & Later Pottery Research Group

TRAINING COURSE: THE PROCESSING, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING OF POST-ROMAN POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April 2026

York Archaeology, 47 Aldwark, York, North Yorkshire YO1 7BX

This two-day training course, led by specialists from the Medieval and Later Pottery Research Group, provides an introduction and overview of all stages of analysis and reporting of post-Roman pottery assemblages. Delegates will be guided through basic identification of medieval and post-medieval pottery in the North East, to more specific classifications according to fabric and form types. The selection of samples for scientific analysis and reporting will also be covered. The course comprises four sessions spread over two days, with each session being devoted to a specific theme (see over). It is aimed at early career pottery specialists and other individuals who would like to develop their knowledge and skills in this area.



COST

Waged/CPD: £225
Unwaged/students: £175
(this cost includes refreshments but not lunch)

BOOKING

Please book your place via the MLPRG website events page:
<https://www.medandlaterpottery.org.uk/events/>

Saturday 18th April 2026

Registration, tea and coffee: 10.00

Session 1: 10.30-13.00

Leaders: Anne Jenner and Katherine Bradshaw

This session will focus on the pottery of York. It will begin with a timeline from the 5th century to the present day, and will use the York Pottery Teaching Collections to provide a hands-on introduction to locally found ceramics. We will discuss and view the York Reference Collection as well as pottery, reports and illustrations from recent local and regional projects. Key sites and projects to be covered will include:

- The Ryedale Project, focusing on the work of Raymond Hayes and material from Soury Hill and Yearsley Mill
- The Cistercian Project, looking at Cistercian wares in the York Archaeological Trust and Yorkshire Museums Trust collections
- The 19th and 20th century pottery from Clifton Hospital in Rawcliffe, York
- The post-Roman pottery from the most recent excavations at Fishergate, York

Session 2: 14.00-16.30

Leader: Lorraine Mepham

A guide to the recovery, processing, classification and recording of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Classificatory systems for fabrics and forms will be discussed, as well as minimum standards for recording pottery. The archaeological ceramic collections of YAT and the York Pottery Reference Collection will again be used.

Sunday 19th April 2026

Registration, tea and coffee: 10:00

Session 1: 10.30-13.00

Leader: Gareth Perry

Ceramic specialists have a range of scientific techniques at their disposal which enable them to answer important questions about production and consumption of pottery, provenance, trade and ceramic use. This session provides a background to the types of analysis available, the limitations of these techniques and the selection of appropriate samples for analysis. A series of case studies will reveal how these techniques work in practice and participants will have the opportunity to interrogate and interpret analytical results.

Session 2: 14.00-16.30

Leader: Duncan Brown

The analysis and recording of pottery assemblages results in a good deal of data and the challenge of report writing is to translate data into something comprehensive and comprehensible. This session will cover the ways in which a pottery report is usually structured, the use of illustrations and presenting data in tabular or graph form. Different types of reports will also be presented, from site-specific projects to more general syntheses. Specific examples will be shown with the idea of encouraging a general discussion of the aims, content, language and composition of pottery publications.

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.