

**POTTERY SUPPLY OVER THREE MILLENNIA:
PETROLOGICAL AND GEOCHEMICAL CERAMIC
CHARACTERISATION AT MELTON, EAST
YORKSHIRE, UK**

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Archaeological excavations in advance of road widening at Melton, East Yorkshire, revealed a sequence of rural land use starting with funerary monuments in the Early Bronze Age (c. 2300-1200 BC) and continuing, with breaks, into the late medieval period (14th century AD). A large programme of petrological and geochemical analysis was carried out on the pottery and fired clay artefacts from this site and the results reveal the changing sources of clay and sand utilised by potters in the area over a period of at least 3000 years. The unusual location of the site and the existence of a large database of petrological and geochemical data for the surrounding region enables ceramics to be characterised with a precision which is unusual in an area of sedimentary geology as well as allowing ceramics produced outside of the locality to be identified with some certainty. The results reveal the economic links of the occupants of this area; the radical effect of the Roman empire and its collapse and the emergence of a market-based economy in the medieval period.