

## **SBDF15      FREMINGTON TEST PIT 47**

**Owners:** Ron & Sue Bailey

**Address:** Fremington Mill Farm

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Dug By:** Emma West, Ben and Hilary Grisewood, Nigel Bailey, David Brooks

### **Position:**

- Latitude 54°23'15.97"N Longitude 1°55'56.15"W
- The Test Pit was dug in the field extending west from the western most road in Fremington.
- The field has at sometime in the past been ploughed and several lynchets running East-West are clearly visible.
- Today the field is used for grazing.
- The majority of the site is dominated by the middle limestone of the Lower Carboniferous period, part of one of the Yoredale Cyclothem. Sandstone is also evident and has been used in the walls and revetting of the lynchets and platforms.
- Topographic surveys of the field have shown possible house platforms - maybe crofts and tofts, - concentrated towards the eastern ends of the lynchets. Is this a deserted medieval settlement?
- The Test Pit was located towards eastern end of the top lynchet outside any possible building platform areas.

### **Pit Description:**

- Contexts 1 & 2 comprised top soil with no material content of stone.
- At Context 3 small and medium sized stones comprised some 30% of the excavated earth and that proportion increased to some 70% in Context 5.

- Context 6, was not excavated but the context plan showed a large proportion of sandstone and clay, reminiscent of having reached the natural.
- The dig was stopped at Context 6, 50cm down.

### **Finds:**

*Test Pit 47 : 37 sherds, 109 grams*

Apart from one small flake of possible creamware all the pottery from this test pit was probably medieval, though some was very worn. Most of the sherds were orange-buff or a mixture of pink and buff and are broadly of the Tees Valley type of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **Conclusions:**

Test Pit 47 was dug outside of the possible building platforms to avoid damage to any underlying archaeology. It was anticipated that the dig might reveal Finds discarded in the “garden” areas of the buildings. In practise the number of Finds was not extensive. Most significantly, the Finds analysis shows that sherds from Contexts 2 and 3 were probably from the same pot and dated to the about the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> centuries and that similarly dated pottery from Context 4 adds weight to the belief that a Medieval settlement once occupied this site.

### **Thanks:**

SWAAG would like to extend it thanks to Ron & Sue Bailey for permission to dig this Test Pit and also for permission to carryout a topographic survey of the field. Thanks also go to all of those who helped in the dig and the site surveys.

Written by: David Brooks

Date: 29th May 2015

## TP 47 Finds catalogue

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	dati ng	comment
2	creamwar e?	1	1		flake
2	medieval buff	7	15	13th/ 14th	small and abraded
3	medieval	1	7	13th/ 14th	?rim, very worn with grey core
3	medieval orange	4	20	13th/ 14th	2 with brown-green gl ext
3	medieval pink/buff	12	28	13th/ 14th	prob TV type, 1 has blib and green gl (very small and worn)
3	medieval?	6	9	?	prob med pot but very worn
4	med misc	4	4	13th/ 14th	misc small
4	medieval orange- buff	1	18	13th	very worn, squarish rim, int bevel
5	med gritty	1	7	13th	bit of base thin blue grey core disappears further up, sooted ext. orange buff

For the purposes of the pottery analysis, we have defined the following historical periods;

Roman – 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 5<sup>th</sup> Century

Medieval – 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> Century

Late Medieval - mid 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries

### Notes on the Pottery:

Generally speaking a meaningful date bracket cannot be applied to a large proportion of the sherds recovered from the test pits. Other than the medieval material present there are other datable types such as tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware; but red earthenware, of all types,

for instance, has a long life and particularly when only small fragments are present, is not closely dateable. Where it is associated with say, creamware or tin-glazed earthenware it could well be 18<sup>th</sup> century. For most redwares a date category has not been assigned. However, some Test Pit summaries may indicate how strong the earlier dating indicators are. Anything with no date against it in the catalogue falls into the general late post-medieval (lpm) background noise category.

A few more abbreviations have crept into the catalogue. I hope most will be obvious (eg. gl for glaze or glazed, misc for miscellaneous, int (inside) and ext (outside)). Let me know if not.

#### *Some explanations of wording used in the 'types' column*

- *red slipped* is the standard post-medieval kitchenware with internal white slip coating
- *red slip dec* means there is trailing or banding rather than an overall slip coat
- *red* on its own is any plain glazed red earthenware
- *black glazed red* is difficult to date especially in small fragments as there are black-glazed redwares in the later 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- *whiteware* refers to the refined table wares of 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards which can be transfer printed (eg. willow pattern), sponged etc.
- *yellow*, i.e. yellow ware refers to the 19<sup>th</sup> century type of pottery often found with white slip bands and sometimes 'mocha' decoration. Used for good quality kitchenwares, and vessels such as chamber pots. Sometimes within this category are other non-white glazed fragments which appear to be generally the same type, i.e. the background glaze colour may be buff or pale pinkish-buff rather than yellow.
- *local post-medieval* and *local red* are wares probably with a fairly local source. Similar types elsewhere in North Yorkshire are called Ryedale and Osmotherley type wares. The fabric can vary from light red to orange and buff or be partly reduced grey. Glazes often have a greenish tinge. Typical vessels would be bowls, dishes and jars.
- *creamware* is as described! The date assigned is 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is still around in the early 19<sup>th</sup> c. but is basically a mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> type. There is a general chronological trend to a lighter colour glaze so small later fragments may just get included with 'whiteware' in the table. Conversely when only small flakes are present dating must be open to some doubt.
- *pearlware* begins in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century and continues into the early 19<sup>th</sup> gradually becoming 'whiteware' as the blue-grey tint to the glaze lightens - again a broad chronological trend. Mostly decorated, frequently with shell edge rim mainly in blue. It is not easy to identify in small fragments.

Apart from the late reduced wares the medieval pottery present was mainly buff,

buff/pink or more iron-rich orange/oxidised wares. Although there was much that was not clearly diagnostic most of this material can probably be described as Tees Valley ware.

Jenny Vaughan  
September 2015