

**SBDF15      FREMINGTON TEST PIT 53****Owners:** Emma and Anthony Stephenson**Address:** Wayside Cottage, Fremington**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> June 2015**Dug By:** Alan Mills, Judith Mills, James Wilkinson, Linda Parrott, Jane Harrison, Alex Wilkinson, Andrew Wilkinson, Lucy Stephenson, Jack Stephenson**Position:**

- In the triangular walled garden area opposite Wayside cottage. The garden borders the main Grinton to Reeth road in Fremington.
- Latitude 54°23'12.16"N; Longitude 1°55'57.13"W

**Pit Description:**

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines
- All soil was sieved.
- Contexts 1, 2 and 3 produced a selection of 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> pottery, small amounts of coal and cinder, animal bone, bottle glass and nails.
- In context 3 a large stone slab was uncovered in the north west corner. This was removed and used to support the edge of the pit. It would appear that this was part of a path sitting on a mortar base.
- In context 4 large stones were found in the north east corner. By context 6 it was clear that this was a rough wall which would have abutted the stone flag. 19<sup>th</sup> century pot was found in all these contexts.
- The 1841 tithe map was consulted and a wall was shown cutting the triangular garden. However, although the direction of both walls was similar, the one on the map, when placed in relation to existing buildings, appeared to be further to the east.
- The natural was reached at a depth of 80cm. The wall was placed on this natural.

**Finds:**

*Test Pit 53: 119 sherds, 517 grams*

None of the pottery from this test pit could be dated confidently to earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The stoneware jar (in [1]) with Hartley's mark and the FMF symbol is early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Conclusions:**

There is no evidence of any occupation or other activity before the modern period.

**Thanks:** to Emma and Anthony Stephenson for giving permission to dig in their garden; special thanks to their children Lucy, for her washing of finds and Jack, for his help digging!

written by: Judith Mills

date: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

## TP 53 Finds catalogue

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	dati ng	comment
1	china	1	1		with pink lustre band
1	china	1	2		ridged
1	misc lpm	1	1		chip buff fabric
1	stonew are	4	41	e. 20th c.	base with FMF and 'not genuine unless bearing the Hartley's label'.the F (retrograde)MF mark was registered in 1928!
1	ungl red	4	11		
1	whitew are	6	21		transfer print, looks like 1 ves.
1	whitew are	12	15		misc incl small teacup type handle frags
2	black gl red	2	30		
2	brown gl stonew are	3	17	19th	jar
2	china	3	10		
2	copper lustre	1	7		hard dull grey-red fabric
2	red	2	9		plain brown gl
2	red slipped	5	28		2 have brown mottling
2	ungl red	14	28		
2	whitew are	18	55		Many are flakes, 2 bits rod handle - one with gold line
2	whitew are dec	4	14		2 transf, one sponge dec (rim)

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	dati ng	comment
2	yellow	1	3		
3	black gl red	1	15		int gl, some concretion
3	pipe stem x1	0	0		
3	red	2	2		flakes with int gl
3	red slipped	2	29		rim
3	whitew are	15	28		2 transf, 1 sponged, 1 painted
3	yellow	6	13		2 biggest bits have white and dark brown banding
4	black gl red	1	80		thick, black gl int
4	red slipped	2	28		
5	china	1	15		ring base
5	cream ware	3	4		
5	whitew are	2	4		bit of base of slip banded (brown) hv, other is flake
6	stonew are	1	5		impossible to date
8	yellow	1	1		

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