

SBDG15 GRINTON TEST PIT 57

Owners: Simon and Mandy Barningham
Address: Calf Garth, Grinton
Date: 18th July 2015
Dug By: Tom Sanders, Alan Mills, Graham Smith, Shelagh Standen, Janet Royle

Position:

- In a terrace feature in a field on the east side of the Grinton/Leyburn road in Grinton
- Latitude 54°22'46.55"N; Longitude 1°55'44.44"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines
- All soil was sieved.
- All the pottery was in contexts 2, 3 and 4
- Context 2 also had pipe stems and animal bone fragments
- Context 3 consisted of late medieval pottery – possibly Masham ware as well as a small amount of slag and an iron nail
- Context 5 produced a fired clay plug.
- There were no finds in context 6 and the pit was closed at a depth of 50cm.

Finds:

Test Pit 57: 47 sherds, 181 grams

Several sherds from this test pit were not clearly identifiable but the majority appeared to be medieval with a few fragments in the 'early post-medieval' date range (i.e. 17th/18th century). There was no clear indication of any more recent activity.

Conclusions:

There is strong evidence of occupation or other significant activity in the immediate vicinity in the medieval period, continuing at a lower level into the 17th century, with abandonment in the 18th, followed by cultivation or other low level of activity in the modern period.

Thanks: to Simon and Mandy Barningham for permission to dig.

written by: Judith Mills
date: 21/10/15

TP 57 Finds catalogue

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	dati ng	comment
2	?	5	2		Not sure what these small flakes are, some could even be tge.
2	brown gl red	5	7	17th/ 18th	rim of small hv
2	local pm?	1	1	17th/ 18th ?	
2	med?	3	10	?	worn
2	pipe stem x2	0	0		
2	red slip tr	1	1	17th/ 18th	
2	red slipped	1	1		mottled
3	glazed gritty	2	5	13th	2 joining, pale orange margins with grey core, coarse black and white inclusions
3	late medieval reduced?	4	18	14th/ 15th	worn
3	med misc	8	18	13th/ 14th	
3	medieval buff	2	4	13th/ 14th	
3	orange gl	1	54	epm ?	part of strap handle, orange green gl, int surface also gl. May be early post-med
3	oxidised?	1	4	?	
3	stoneware ?	3	26	14th/ 15th ?	mid grey vitrified fabric, traces gl ? over-fired LRW
3	TV type?	7	21	13th/ 14th	buff/orange

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	dati ng	comment
4	glazed gritty	1	5	13th	Coarse gritted pink/orange and light grey with yellow gl
4	med misc	2	4	13th/ 14th	

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

Roman – 1st to mid 5th Century

Medieval – 13th and early 14th Century

Late Medieval - mid 14th, 15th and 16th 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 18th 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 16th and 17th centuries as well as throughout the 18th and into the 19th century.
- *whiteware* refers to the refined table wares of 19th century onwards which can be transfer printed (eg. willow pattern), sponged etc.
- *yellow*, i.e. yellow ware refers to the 19th 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 18th century. It is still around in the early 19th c. but is basically a mid to late 18th 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 18th century and continues into the early 19th 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