

SBDG15 GRINTON TEST PIT 58

Owners: Simon and Mandy Barningham
Address: Coates Middle Field
Date: 18th July 2015
Dug By: Alan Mills, Andrea Dixon, Richard Farmery, Linda Parrott, Janet Royle, Jane Harrison

Position:

- The test pit is in Coates Middle Field, to the East of the Grinton to Leyburn road.
- Latitude 54°22'48.50"N; Longitude 1°55'43.81"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines
- All soil was sieved.
- Contexts 2 and 3 produced some medieval pottery, together with clay pipes, animal bone, and some medieval green glass
- In context 2 there was a large amount of coal (c0.5kg) and a small piece of lime mortar.
- There was coal and cinder in context 3- although less than in context 2
- Only a small piece of charcoal was found in context 4.
- The pit was closed when large stones were reached at a depth of 50cm and there had been no finds in the previous two contexts

Finds:

Test Pit 58: 65 sherds, 321 grams

The pottery from TP58 was the least fragmented of all the 2015 test pits with an average sherd weight of nearly 5 grams. (For 14 of the 23 pits the average weight was 3gms or less and only three were more than 4 grams). There were 21 (possibly 24) medieval sherds which included a thumbled base and a small section of rim. One fragment was late reduced ware and others were of Tees Valley B type. Other fragments were less diagnostic although broadly 13th to 14th century in date. There were eight quite large sherds of two vessels of local post-medieval type, a few fragments of tin-glazed earthenware and a small sherd of Staffordshire type slipware. With these clear indications of 17th to 18th century activity it seems likely that the black glazed redware present is in this date range rather than later. There is in fact very little clear indication of 19th century and later activity.

Conclusions:

There is strong evidence of occupation or other significant activity in the immediate vicinity in the medieval period, the 17th century and the modern period with some

evidence of cultivation or other low level of activity in between these three periods, in the late medieval and 18th century.

Thanks: To Simon and Mandy Barningham

written by: Judith Mills

date: 21/10/2015

TP 58

cont ext	type	Count	weight	dating	comment
1	med	2	5	13th/ 14th	ox ext with grey core
1	red	1	1		small thin frag
2	black gl red	2	29		Flanged dish rim, burnt (glaze bubbled)
2	black gl red	7	14		incl small strap handle
2	burnt	5	15		2 are flat, 1 has moulded dec (? figurine) all show signs of burning
2	late pm	3	3		not sure what these are, 2 have stabbed dec
2	local pm	8	139	17th/ 18th c.	5 bits (joining) base and 3 bits upper body not sv
2	med?	3	5	?	misc, worn
2	pipe stem x6	0	0		1 has start of bowl
2	porcelain	1	1		blue painted
2	red	3	11		1 is base
2	Staffs type	1	2	18th c.	feathered slip ext
2	tin glazed	4	10	17th/ 18th c.	3 +flake are 1 ves dish with blue dec on pale blue gl
2	white salt gl stoneware	1	0	18th	small very thin frag
2	whiteware	3	2		dec, 1 moulded
3	black gl red	1	1		
3	late medieval reduced	1	11	14th/ 15th	
3	local pm	1	8	17th/ 18th c.	
3	med misc	3	13	13th/ 14th	
3	medieval buff	5	14	13th/ 14th	1 is sooted, others have traces glaze
3	ox med	1	13	13th	base with thumbing, orange fabric sooted ext
3	pipe bowl frag	0	0		

cont ext	type	Count	weight	dating	comment
3	TVB type	9	24	13th/ 14th	with pale buff ext surface, traces bright green gl though worn on 3 (2 jn). 1 other is small section rim

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