

SBDG15 GRINTON TEST PIT 62

Owners: Leo and Margaret Macknight
Address: Manor House, Grinton
Date: 19th July 2015
Dug By: Nigel Bailey, Shirley Gale, Sheila Ickringill, Miles Johnson, Linda Parrott, Judith Staples

Position:

- Latitude 54°22'43.29"N Longitude 1°55'45.21"W
- Manor House is understood to date from 1670 and to have been built by the lord of the manor of Grinton East (North Yorkshire and Cleveland Building Study Group Report vol 18). It provided a very pleasant setting for digging and contemplating the historical development of Grinton.
- Test Pit 62 was dug approximately centrally in a sheep grazed field to the south of the Manor House, the north south location of the test pit is approximately aligned with a gateway in the drystone wall to the east.
- TP 56 was dug to the south of this field on the previous day.
- To the west of the field is a drystone wall and, beyond that, the main road between Leyburn and Grinton. To the south and east is pasture separated from the field by a stone wall, though still allowing occasional visits from the grazers. To the north is a wire fence separating the Manor House from the field.
- The field slopes from the south-east to the north-west, however the test pit area was roughly level – and judged to be in a garden area to a dwelling – possibly mediaeval.
- In the south west corner of the field is a water course which enters a small pond and then follows an underground route.
- Lidar image of the area suggests a deserted medieval settlement with what appear to be tofts and crofts.
- On walking the field the visible features are suggestive of house platforms at right angles to the Leyburn-Grinton road and with gardens to the south.

Pit Description:

- Top-soil to a level of 200mm below the surface with increased clay content and small stone inclusions as the depth of excavation increased, some fragments of burnt shale (from local coal), coal and charcoal mostly found up to 300mm below ground. Chert fragments were found between 300mm and 600mm. Larger stones were found at Context 7 (600mm below ground level).
- The natural level was found at about 700mm below ground level.

Finds:

Test Pit 62: 12 sherds, 32 grams

Six of the sherds from this test pit were medieval.

Conclusions:

A rather small assemblage of finds from this pit but the preponderance of earlier material suggests there has been little human activity on this site in later years.

Thanks:

SWAAG are very grateful to Leo and Margaret Macknight for granting permission to dig this Test Pit and providing parking space, very welcome tea and biscuits and taking so much interest in what was happening during the dig.

SWAAG also thanks the members, volunteers and professional archaeologist who helped in the dig.

written by: Sheila Ickringill
date: 23rd July 2015

TP 62

cont ext	type	Co unt	wei ght	dating	comment
2	black gl red	1	1		
2	brown gl stoneware	1	1		
2	pipe stem x1	0	0		
2	red slipped	1	5		brown mottling, light red
2	whiteware	3	2		1 is tiny
3	ox med	1	1	13th/ 14th	TV type - ungl
4	med	1	13	13th/ 14th	buff outer, pale orange, prob Tees V. type
4	med oxidised	2	2	13th/ 14th	
4	medieval buff	2	7	13th/ 14th	1 with some gl

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