

SBDR13 REETH TEST PIT 02 Silver St, Reeth

Owners: Tracy & John Little
Address: 11 Silver St, Reeth
Date: 5th June 2013
Dug by: SWAAG members including Rob Nicholson, Ric Carter, Shirley Gale, John Russell, Ann Russell, Judith Mills, Alan Mills, Philip Bastow, Stephen Eastmead, Mike Walton.

Position:

- In the rear garden of 11 Silver St, accessible only via the locked passage to the left of the house.
- 54°23'23.23"N, 1°56'40.50"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines but note that the soil was not sieved.
- The weather was good; work proceeded well.
- A thin layer of charcoal was found at the top of context 4, ca. 35cm deep.
- Animal bone identified as cat was found at ca. 55cm deep.
- Large amounts of charcoal and cinders were found at ca. 45cm and ca. 65cm.
- In addition to the pottery and clay pipe fragments (ctp) listed below, the pit contained glass, flower pot, sundry pieces of animal bone, metal, and lime mortar.
- Natural clay was encountered at ca. 73cm. A slot ca. 40cm wide and ca. 18cm deep was dug in the clay to confirm it was natural with no further finds.
- The pit was completed by 5pm, in one day.

Finds:

Test Pit 2 (SBDR 13): 169 sherds, 386 grams

There were three small fragments of medieval pottery in this pit, two from (7) and one from (4). The latter was possibly Tees Valley type B, an iron-rich fabric used to make glazed decorated jugs. There was some creamware present, a single piece of white salt-glazed stoneware and another possible early post-medieval earthenware (see catalogue) but the great majority of sherds were broadly 19th century or later.

Conclusions:

- The finds suggest that the location was either occupied in the medieval area or was perhaps the garth / garden of a nearby property and that occupation declined in the late-medieval period picking up again in the 17th / 18th C.

Thanks: to Tracy and John Little for permission to dig and for copious amounts of tea and coffee!

written by: Alan Mills
date: 28th October 2014

TP 2 (SBDRI3) Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	yellow	1	10		with white bands
1	whiteware	26	49		misc
1	stoneware	1	4		
1	red slipped	1	5		
1	red	1	1		
1	creamware?	4	14	18th?	
1	china	2	6		1 is base with HARROGATE , ?motto above ?coat of arms
1	black gl red	1	5		
2	whiteware	27	14		
2	white salt gl stoneware	1	1	18th	
2	stoneware	1	3		
2	2 pipe stem	0	0		decorated
2	pipe stem	0	0	17th/18th	large bore
2	creamware	1	2	18th	
2	?	1	2		? But late
3	whiteware	25	56		ring base (largest!) misc dec and undec
3	ungl red	2	5		
3	stoneware	2	5		1 is ridged jam jar, other flake of brown gl
3	red	4	17		1 v thick
3	pipe stem	0	0		
3	misc lpm	3	9		
3	creamware	2	6	18th	
3	brown gl stoneware	1	9		ink bottle?
4	whiteware	14	13		misc
4	Tees V?	1	1	13th	pinkish orange frag, small but has green gl and applied scale ext so may be TV B
4	red slipped	3	13		
4	red	3	11		1 is thin flake
4	3 pipe stem	0	0		
4	pipe bowl frag	0	0		small decorated frag
4	early post med?	1	3	18th?	buff with yellow gl and brown slip dec
4	creamware	8	15	18th	

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
4	brown gl stoneware	1	2		
4	black gl red	2	3		
5	whiteware	10	16		misc
5	refined red slip	1	4		
5	red slipped	4	40		
5	red	1	1		small rim, ?18th, slip line round
5	porcelain	1	2?		
5	pipe stem	0	0		
5	pipe bowl frags	0	0		2 joining
5	early red	1	5	17th/18th	looks early, light orange-red with orange gl x2
5	creamware	7	22	18th	
5	China	1	1		
6	Red	1	5		bit of base
6	pipe stem x 1	0	0		
7	Medieval	1	2	13th/14th	grey with white ext margin and some green gl but doesn't look late
7	medieval oxidised	1	4	13th	

Pottery Analysis

Notes on the Pottery:

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

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. As far as plotting the distribution of sherds in date categories is concerned there are obvious problems with assigning the redwares and for most this has not been done. 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 background noise category.

I have tried to keep abbreviations to a minimum in the catalogue to avoid long lists of explanation. Those that are there, or have crept in, I hope will be obvious (eg. gl for glaze or glazed, misc for miscellaneous, int (inside) and ext (outside)).

Some explanations of wording used in the 'types' column

- red slipped is the standard post-medieval kitchenware with internal white slip coating
- red on its own is any plain glazed red earthenware
- black glazed red is very 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 kitchenware, 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, as the names suggest, wares probably with a fairly local source. Similar types elsewhere in North Yorkshire are called Ryedale 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.

Jenny Vaughan October 2014