

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 07

Owners: Tony and Gill Hayes

Address: Arkle Cottage, Reeth

Date: 17.4.14

Dug By: Alan Mills, Shirley Gale, Keith Webster, Jarvis Johnson, Doyle Johnson and Edie Johnson

Position:

- Walled area towards back of Arkle Cottage garden
- 54°23'23.57"N 1°56'21.92"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug following HEFA guidelines
- 100% of spoil was sieved
- Context 1 was grass, below which was soil with small stones, colour 1/2. Nails, glass, clay pipe, plant pot, mortar and charcoal were found.
- Context 2 was soil with small stones and some mortar.
- Context 3 had mostly soil with a sandy area apparent in the SW quadrant. There was pottery, bone and some 30 pieces of mortar
- Context 4 was a uniform layer of soil with sand and gravel. There were about 20 pieces of mortar in this level and one small piece of bone.
- Context 5 was sandy and contained some large river-washed rocks which may have been part of the original river bed. 5 pieces of mortar were found.
- Context 6 was sandy soil with large rocks, 5 pieces of mortar
- Context 7 was mostly large stones with grit and clay. 5 small pieces of mortar were found.
- Natural was reached at 70cm.

Finds:

Test Pit 7: 30 sherds, 70 grams

Only three contexts were excavated in this pit*. None of them produced any pottery or clay pipe datable to earlier than the mid-late 19th century.

(* Author's note; the pit was excavated down to 70cm but no finds were recorded after 30cm.)

Conclusions:

- Little of any interest was found in this pit and the natural layer was reached relatively early.
- The large stones and voids, at the bottom of the pit, was interpreted as river bed or the bank of the adjacent Arkle Beck.
- Local knowledge suggested that Arkle Cottage had been the site of a former tannery but no evidence was found to support this theory

Thanks: We would like to thank Tony and Gill for their hospitality and for allowing us to dig in their garden.

written by: Sue Nicholson
date: 25.10.14

TP 7 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	red slipped	2	6		rim
1	red	2	6		
1	stonew	1	5		base of jam jar
1	whiteware	4	4		
1	yellow	1	0		yellow gl with some white slip bands
1	pipe stem x 2	0	0		
1	pipe bowl frag	0	0		
2	ungl red	3	25		flower pot
2	whiteware	9	10		
2	stoneware	1	3		
2	misc	3	1		Very small
2	pipe stem x 2	0	0		
3	red	1	7		base
3	whiteware	3	3		miscellaneous
3	pipe stem x 1	0	0		

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