

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 12

Owners: William & Felicity Manning
Address: The Nook, Reeth
Date: 17th May 2014
Dug By: Philip & Kathryn Bastow, Rachel & Claire Lambert, Ian & Helen Schofield, Sophie & Gareth Meadows, Jayne, Tom & Alastair Dinsdale, Rob & Tom Wilkins, John Russell (leader), Barry Ward, William Manning (recorder)

Position:

- Test pit sited in garden
- Latitude 54°23'17.00"N Longitude 1°56'38.77"W

Pit Description:

- Pit sited in grassland thought by owners to have been undisturbed for several generations.
- Pit dug and recorded in accordance with the HEFA guidelines.
- Context 1 excavated to a depth of 10cm in vegetable soil containing pieces of iron rich sandstone of glacial origin.
- Context 2 excavated to a depth of 20cm in vegetable soil.
- Context 3 excavated to a depth of 30cm in vegetable soil turning to clay and rock towards base.
- Context 4 excavated to a depth of 40cm in clay containing rounded stone boulders and friable sandstone
- Context 5 excavated to a depth of 50cm in clay containing rounded stone boulders.
- Base of Context 5 comprised bed rock of malleable orange glacial clay with limestone and iron rich (partially rotten) sandstone boulders.

Finds:

Test Pit 12 : 71 sherds, 87 grams

There was one sherd of medieval pottery from this pit, in context (3). Two other sherds were of earlier post-medieval date but the rest were broadly 19th century or later.

Conclusions:

- The dig went well and was completed by mid-afternoon.
- Junior members of the team were enthusiastic and well disciplined
- The team worked well together but some disruption was experienced as the dynamic established in the morning re-established itself in the afternoon following changes to personnel mid-day.
- Special thanks to Barry Ward who made a 120 mile round trip to be with us and undertook a lion's share of the heavier works
- All excavated material was sieved
- Finds were as summarised above and listed in the catalogue attached below.
- A disused water pipe (known to have formerly supplied Garden House) was exposed within Context 5

Written by: William Manning

Date: 7th November 2014

TPI2 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	whiteware	3	4		1 transfer
1	ungl red	1	2		
1	red slipped	2	4		
1	china	1	2		base chip
1	?	1	2		v hard fired dark red, thin
2	yellow	1	2		with blue wavey band
2	whiteware	33	29		many small flakes, some transfer
2	white st	1	1		
2	slip dec	1	2	18th	pale orange with dark and lighter brown swirls
2	red slipped	1	1		worn
2	pipe stem x 8	0	0		
2	pipe bowl frag	0	0		with leaves on seam
2	local post-med	1	3	17th/18th	pale orange with greenish gl
2	creamware?	2	4	?18th	
2	china	2	4		ring base seems burnt, plate rim with trace of overglaze gold band
2	black gl white	1	1		
3	whiteware	11	7		
3	red	3	7		
3	pipe stem x 1	0	0		
3	pipe bowl frag	0	0		small
3	medieval buff	1	5	13th	
3	lpm	1	1		?yellow ware
4	whiteware	3	3		
4	black gl red	1	3		

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