

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 13

Owners: Paul & Rosemary Hawksworth
Address: Heatherdale, Back Lane, Reeth
Date: 21st June 2014
Dug By: Judith Mills, Rosemary Hawksworth, Alison and Will Orukotan, Richard Farmery, Andrea Dixon

Position:

- Heatherdale is situated on the south side of Back Lane.
- Test pit dug over an existing flower bed in the lawn behind the property.
- Lat. 54° 23' 15.45" N, Long. 1° 56' 33.09" W

Pit Description:

- Dark, small grained soil with small to medium sized stones to depth of 20cm (contexts 1 & 2), where the soil changed to subsoil.
- Subsoil with some medium sized stones and some small flecks of charcoal found between 20 and 30cm (context 3).
- Encountered what was thought to be shrub root in centre of pit between 20cm and 30cm with some flat stones. At 30cm it became apparent that this was a wooden post.
- Remaining contexts (4 & 5) consisted mainly of compacted clay, which was difficult to sieve, and stones, and no finds were uncovered.
- The natural was reached at a depth of 34cm.

Finds:

Test Pit 13 : 82 sherds, 134 grams

There was a single small flake of medieval pottery in context (3) which also produced a sherd of early blackware and a tiny piece of tin-glazed earthenware. A pipe stem with large bore in (1) also suggested an early post-medieval date. Other than this small sherds of creamware and possible pearlware point to later 18th and early 19th century activity but the rest of the pottery was later with a relatively large group of 19th century yellow ware.

Conclusions:

The cultivation of the ground may have resulted in later dated finds being uncovered at a lower level.

Thanks: Many thanks to Paul and Rosemary Hawksworth for allowing us to dig up their garden, and for the lovely home made biscuits.

written by: Andrea Dixon

date: 15th October 2014

TPI3 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	yellow	5	15		white and dark brown bands
1	whiteware	5	5		1 has blue and brown bands, others undec
1	pipe stem x	0	0	17th/18th	

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
	1				
1	pipe bowl frag	0	0		
1	pearlware?	3	6	e.19th	painting rather than transfer
2	yellow	19	36		base, brown and white bands
2	whiteware	17	17		
2	red slipped	1	8		
2	pearlware	6	5	e.19th	same ves as in (1)
2	creamware	9	11	18th	
2	black gl white	5	5		tea pot?
2	black gl red	4	15		misc
3	yellow?	1	1		
3	whiteware	4	4		1 is burnt
3	tin glazed	1	0	17th/18th	teeny tiny
3	pipe stem x1	0	0		
3	pipe bowl frag	0	0		decorated - v small
3	medieval	1	1	13th	small flake
3	early blackware	1	5	17th	actually very dark brown but as early blackwares

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