

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 16

Owners: David and Norma Henderson

Address: Park Lea, Back Lane, Reeth

Date: 17.5.14

Dug By: Stephen Eastmead, Brian Dunn, Sally Tomlinson, Lesley Wolsey, Hilary Fawcett

Position:

- Gravelled parking area north side of Park Lane, South of Park Lea House.
- This property was a new build in 2008
- 54°23'15.64"N 1°56'28.42"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug following HEFA guidelines
- 100% of spoil was sieved
- Context 1 was uniform pea gravel
- Context 2 was stony soil, 55% stone. There was some modern tile which was later discarded
- Context 3 had 55% stone of small-medium size. Most of finds suggested modern rubbish eg batteries, tarmac, modern pot
- Context 4 was similar; all finds discarded except pot
- Context 5 was the same builder's rubble. Finds discarded (eg Coca-cola can) except for the pot.
- North part of pit taken down to 67cm to establish that this was all builder's rubble and the pit was closed down.

Finds:

Test Pit 16 : 26 sherds, 159 grams

There was no pottery dateable to before the 19th century from this pit and the possible electrical fitting from context (7) indicated relatively recent disturbance.

Conclusions:

- The amount of effort required to dig through the disturbed ground was considerable and the rewards rather slim.
- A disappointing pit.

Thanks:

To David and Norma Henderson

written by: Sue Nicholson

date: 26.10.14

TP 16 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
3	yellow	1	0		
3	whiteware	4	4		
3?		1	5		some sort of electrical fitting?
4	whiteware	2	24		rim with brown transf, plain ring base
4	ungl red	1	51		large rim - horticultural
4	red slipped	3	19		
5	ungl red	1	6		
5	stoneware	3	28		'modern'
5	china	1	10		small cup
6	whiteware	1	2		sponge stamped
7	whiteware	6	7		
7	stoneware	1	2		
7?		1	1		another electrical fitting

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