

## **SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 18**

**Owners:** Peter and Judith Calow

**Address:** Hilltop, Reeth

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014

**Dug By:** Graham Smith, Alan Mills, Mike & Sheila Keenan, Leslie Wolsey

### **Position:**

- Lawned area in residential garden close to drystone wall on Eastern boundary.
- Beyond the wall is an overgrown access way shared with Reeth Primary School
- 54°23'21.40"N 1°56'58.26"W

### **Pit Description:**

- The pit was opened at approximately 09.30.
- The first context, into top soil, very few finds, all of which could be associated with the school.
- From Context 2 onward the dig was into good quality sub-soil which contained very few stones, etc.
- By Context 5 we had dug into the natural (glacial till).

### **Finds:**

Test Pit 18: 2 sherds, 9 grams

Only two sherds of pottery were found, one probably Roman and one from the 13<sup>th</sup> Century.

Additional finds included, a biro, metal screw, small piece of lead, glass marble, small piece of glass, cartridge metal end and a piece of roof slate

### **Conclusions:**

The dig was into what appeared to be undisturbed meadow that had been incorporated into the house garden. Several of the finds could be associated with the proximity to the school. Over all there was a disappointing lack of finds. All the soil that was removed was sieved and at 40 cm. we dug into the natural (glacial till). The pit was closed and back filled at approximately 14.00 hours

### **Thanks:**

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Calow

written by: Graham S. Smith

date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## TPI8 Finds Catalogue

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
2	grey ware	1	4	Roman?	
2	pipe stem x 1	0	0		
3	medieval buff	1	5	13th	
3	pipe stem x 2	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

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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