

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 19

Owners: Public space

Address: Anvil Square, Reeth Green

Date: 22.6.14

Dug By: Stephen Eastmead, Judith Mills, Lesley Addington, Philip Bastow, Shirley Gale

Position:

- In the centre of that part of Reeth Green known as Anvil Square
- A new tree was to be planted in place of the existing Cherry tree and the opportunity was taken to dig the pit where the tree was to be planted
- 54°23'17.00"N 1°56'38.77"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug following HEFA guidelines
- 100% of spoil was sieved
- Context 1 was grass and 99% soil. There was some clinker/ slag, ironware, ceramic, glass, wire and a bottle top
- Context 2 was 99% soil. Ironware, glass, plastic, ceramic, brick, bone, brass, coal and a marble was found.
- Context 3 had a cobbled surface across the whole pit. Coal, slag, bone and ironware were found as well as pot.
- Context 4 was random large stones presumably forming the foundation of the cobbled surface. The stones were carefully recorded. Bone, coal, ceramics, ironware, pipe stem.
- Context 5 was slightly darker soil with a few large stones (10%). Bone, clay pipe bowl, ceramics.
- Context 6 looked like subsoil, colour 3. Bone, ceramic and 3 pipe bowl/ stem fragments found.
- Context 7 was "nothing special", apparently subsoil.
- Natural was reached at 80cm

Finds:

Test Pit 19: 103 sherds, 681 grams

This pit produced an interesting range of pottery. Six were medieval and included some late medieval reduced ware. A group of early post-medieval pottery (17th to early 18th century) was much larger. This included material which is likely to be locally or regionally produced (see catalogue). The fragments were abraded and glazed flaked off but there were several joins although no profiles or clear indications of vessel forms. There were also a few small fragments of Staffordshire type early post-medieval wares. Most interesting was a rim with lug handle formed from a loop which had then been pushed into join the rim in the middle. This was in a hard pale orange-red fabric with a thin layer of white slip covered with orange glaze. The rim was from context (6). There were base fragments from this vessel in (4) and another bit of the rim in (5). Unfortunately I don't know where this vessel comes from but am confident it is of the same date range as the other associated pottery (i.e. 17th/early 18th century). [Normally one does not introduce 1st person to reports but I don't know how else to say this!] Clay pipe fragments from this pit confirm this dating although the two more complete bowls suggest 17th rather than 18th century.

Conclusions:

- The pottery dates suggest that this area was inhabited from 13th/ 14th century.
- As context 4, beneath the cobbles, contains material dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, the cobbles must have been laid after this date

Thanks:

Our thanks are due to Reeth Parish Council and the Green Wardens for allowing us to put test pits in Reeth Green

written by: Sue Nicholson

date: 26.10.14

TP 19

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	whiteware	3	2		
1	ungl red	2	2		Probably flakes of cbm
2	red	1	15?		possibly a small bit of roof furniture, splashes of gl
2	whiteware	10	14		
2	china	2	4		
3	pipe stem x 4	0	0	17th/e. 18th	
3	local pm	19	280	17th/18th	off-white/pale orange-buff fabric with green gl x2 on wall sherds, abraded and flaked, several join including bits of base, thick walled
3	Staffs type	4	26	17th/18th	some combed dec, base mottled gl
3	local red?	6	37	17th	joining frags of sooted vessel with horizontal grooves, 1 poss not same ves.
3	local red?	10	60	17th	jar rim, some joining sherds with greenish brown very flaked gl may belong,
3	late medieval reduced	1	1	15th/16th	
3	pm pink?	1	4?		may be slipware but very abraded and chipped.
3	black gl red	1	3		rim
3	red slipped	5	11		
3	whiteware	10	6		all small chips
3	pipe bowl frags x 3	0	0		
4	pipe stem x 3	0	0	17th/e. 18th	
4	pipe bowl frags x 2	0	0	17th/e. 18th	
4	red with slip	3	55	17th/18th	base, internal white slip with orange glaze, fabric is light orangey red so not like usual 'red slipped'
4	Staffs	1	1	17th/18th	brown ext yellow int
4	red	6	33	17th	base and some flakes with green gl - as in (3)
4	local pm	2	19	17th	1 is same vessel as in (3)
4	black gl red	1	2	17th	
4	pipe bowl	0	0	17th	Yorkshire bulbous type
4	pipe bowl	0	0	17th	
5	local pm?	1	2	17th?	mid grey fabric with some thin int gl.
5	pipe stem x 4	0	0	17th/e. 18th	
5	red with slip	1	10	17th/18th	rim, clubbed, seems to be same ves as in (4)
5	red	5	18	17th	most with green gl as other contexts, small bits of base
5	medieval	1	3	13th c.	pink/buff

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
5	?with slip	1	6	?17th/18th	flake with ext half gone, pale brown fabric with white slip
6	red with slip	1	37	17th/18th	rim with lug handle, same ves as other sherds in (4) and (5). ?provenance
7	late medieval reduced	2	19	15th/16th	
7	medieval pink	1	2	13th/14th	some yellow and green gl
7	?	1	1		not sure what this is
8	medieval	1	8	13th/14th	buff/grey fabric

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