

## **SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 20 The Green, Reeth**

**Owners:** Reeth Parish Council

**Address:** The Green, Reeth

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Dug by:** Rob Nicholson, Sue Nicholson, James Spry, Emma Watson, Ric Carter, Jackie Snow, Shirley Gale, Graham Smith, Flora Smith, John Russell, Ann Russell, Judith Mills, Dave Brooks, Philip Bastow, Mike Walton.

### **Position:**

- Towards the South end of the “middle section” of Reeth Green, i.e. the section to the North-East, over the road from the War Memorial.
- 54°23'20.61"N , 1°56'31.80"W

### **Pit Description:**

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines.
- The weather was good; work proceeded well. Continued unhindered.
- A possible roughly cobbled surface was encountered at a depth of ca. 20cm with another 40-50cm.
- Natural clay was encountered at 60cm and work finished.
- The pit was completed by 4pm, in one day.

### **Finds:**

Test Pit 20 91 sherds; 205 grams.

Six sherds of medieval pottery (broadly 13th century) were recovered from context (5) and another single sherd from the lowest context excavated (6). Context (5) also contained a number of sherds of 17th/18th century wares – e.g. tin-glazed earthenware and 18th century type stonewares. A few fragments of clay pipe stems with wide bores confirmed there was a 17th/18th century element in this pit.

### **Conclusions:**

- The depth of the possible roughly cobbled surface at ca. 20cm coincides with that in TP 19, Anvil Square suggesting that the surface here might derive from the time of the Market Charter, 1694/5.
- Finds beneath this first cobbled surface are a mix of medieval or 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> C which is not inconsistent with a date of around 1700 for the surface. The roughly made surface would have allowed some later material to penetrate.
- The cobbled surface below, at around 40-50cm appeared to be an old surface, compacted down and re-laid, perhaps a medieval yard or enclosure.

**Thanks:** to Reeth Parish Council for permission to dig.

written by: Alan Mills

date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## TP20 Finds Catalogue

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
2	whiteware	9	21		incl. willow pattern rim
2	stoneware	1	4		
2	red slipped	1	4		light red so could be earlier than 19th
2	?	1	1		pale fabric with brown gl x 2
2	pipe bowl frag x 1			?	
3	pearlware	1	6	e. 19th	shell edge rim
3	whiteware	6	7		
3	red slipped	4	16	?	1 main bit with brown and green mottling
3	red	6	11		some slip lines
3	?	1	1		black gl buff fabric
3	basalt	1	9	18th	
4	floor tile?	1	18		thick fragment with black gl one side
4	black glazed red	8	17		small rim
4	red slipped	6	14		
4	whiteware	17	12		
4	brown gl stoneware	1	4	?	base
4	pipe stem x 4			18th/19th	
5	tin-glazed	4	6	17th/18th	pale blue
5	medieval buff	6	18	13th	
5	black glazed red	3	15		2 joining, 1 small
5	brown gl stoneware	5	7	18th?	
5	white salt gl	2	3	18th	
5	whiteware	3	1		tiny?
5	red	1	0		
5	?	1	1		
5	Local red?	1	3	17th/18th	
5	pipe stem x 2			17th/18th	small!
6	medieval	1	6	13th	greenish gl
6	pipe stem x 1			17th/18th	
6	pipe stem x 1			18th/19th	

## 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