

## **SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 24**

**Owners:** Mo & Julia Usman  
**Address:** Burgoyne Hotel, Reeth  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Dug By:** Alan Mills, Rob Nicholson, Emma West, John & Ann Russel, Lesley Wolsey, Nigel Bailey, Jackie Snow and Kelly Snow.

### **Position:**

- Situated in the back garden of the Burgoyne Hotel which stands at the northern side of Reeth Green.
- Built in 1783 with later East and West end extensions in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries
- Occupied by the Medical Officer of the Work House
- Housed troops from the Reconnaissance Regiment in WWII.
- The second pit dug at the Burgoyne Hotel.
- 54°23'23.70"N 1°56'31.33"W

### **Pit Description:**

- The back garden of the Burgoyne had been an orchard.
- Ground was very compacted and trowelling was rather ineffective.
- A mattock was needed to make significant progress.
- Each context was remarkably similar to its predecessor
- No features encountered.
- A random scattering of a white material was interpreted as lime spreading.
- The natural was reached at a depth of 70cm

### **Finds:**

Test Pit 24: 58 sherds, 101 grams

Most of the sherds were very small. The lowest spit excavated ([7]) produced two pieces of medieval pottery, broadly 13<sup>th</sup> century. These were two of the larger fragments from the pit! Much of the rest of the group is not closely dateable and almost all could be encompassed within the 'late 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century' date range. The tin-glazed earthenware, creamware and some of the stoneware suggest a 18<sup>th</sup> century element which could also include the black-glazed and other redwares, although these can equally well fit into a 19<sup>th</sup> century group.

### **Conclusions:**

- The back garden of the Burgoyne has obviously been heavily cultivated
- A margarine wrapper and pieces of silver paper at contexts 4 & 5 confirmed this
- We found 70cms of compacted soil with little differentiation until the natural was reached although some 13<sup>th</sup> Century pottery was found.

### **Thanks:**

Once again we must thank Mo & Julia, this time for allowing us to dig up their back garden – we must have not made too much mess in their front garden (TP 10).

written by: Rob Nicholson  
date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## TP 24 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
1	black gl red	3	3	18th/19th	
1	tin-glazed	1	2	17th/18th	
1	creamware	1	2	18th	
1	white stoneware	1	1	18th	
1	salt gl stoneware	1	1	?	grey
2	red slipped	1	4	18th/19th	rim
2	red	1	1	?	
2	creamware	8	9	18th	
2	whiteware	3	2	19th	with decoration
2	stoneware	1	9	19th	
2	brown gl white	1	1		
2	pipe stem x 1	0		?18th	
3	black gl red	2	4		
3	china	1	5		
3	whiteware	5	4		miscellaneous
3	lustre dec.	1	2	19th	
4	brown gl stoneware	1	3	18th ?	
4	jam jar	1	2	19th	
4	black gl red	2	3		
4	red slipped	2	2		
4	whiteware	4	3		1 mottled gl
5	red slipped	1	8		rim
5	red	2	3		
5	ungl red	1	4		
5	whiteware	4	3	19th	1 has lathe cut green and brown check
5	miscellaneous	2	3	?	
6	black gl red	1	1		
6	whiteware	4	5		
6	medieval	2	11	13th	1 pink, 1 pink/grey, fairly coarse

## 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