

SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 33

Owners: Richard Atkinson

Address: The Black Bull Hotel, Reeth

Date: 21.6.14

Dug By: Stephen Eastmead, Flora and Graham Smith, Ann and John Russell, Linda Parrot and Nigel Bailey

Position:

- Grassed area behind Black Bull to N of yard behind double gate and between fence posts 1 and 2
- 54°23'20.06"N 1°56'37.37"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug following HEFA guidelines
- 100% of spoil was sieved
- Context 1 was grass
- Context 2 was mostly soil, some (2%) stones. Finds included glass, pot and bone
- Context 3 had 2% stones in soil, glass, pot and ironware which appeared to be 19th/ 20th century
- Context 4 was 97% soil, finds included ceramic, glass, ironware, a marble, pipe stem, bone, coal and mortar.
- Context 5 was 98% soil. Finds included coal, bone, glass and ceramic
- Context 6 was 100% soil. Finds included pipe stem, coal, glass, ceramic, mortar and bone.
- Context 7 had a darker area of soil in NW half. There was some pot and pipe stem.
- Context 8 seemed to be subsoil, colour 4.
- Context 9 was excavated in only the N half of the pit, revealing clay subsoil
- A section was taken of the NE quadrant down to 100cm. No finds at this level. Section drawings were completed.

Finds:

Test Pit 33: 149 sherds, 373grams

There were two fragments of medieval pottery present, both from context (6). There were also significant quantities of creamware and white salt-glazed stoneware together with a few fragments of tin-glazed earthenware, possible local early post-medieval wares and one or two other sherds of 17th/18th century types. It is possible that the tiny fragments of porcelain are also 18th century rather than later. There appears to be little mixing with necessarily later material. Several fragments of clay pipe were recovered from this test pit and a number of the stems had large bores, again indicating a 17th/early 18th century date. Three fragments of decorated bowls are later than this but not necessarily 19th century.

Conclusions:

- A wide range of types and dates of pottery found at this site; suggests continual habitation from medieval times.
- The presence of relatively later material being found in the lower contexts suggests continuing cultivation.

Thanks: to Richard Atkinson

written by: Sue Nicholson

date: 26.10.14

TP 33 Finds Catalogue:

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
2	blue	1	1		blue fabric
2	china	1	1		
2	pearlw?	1	3	e. 19th	
2	pipe stem	0	0?		
2	red	2	7		
2	red slipped	1	5		
2	stonew	3	7		misc. 'modern'
2	ungl red	2	4		
2	whiteware	14	18		very misc.
3	blue	1	2		as in 2
3	china	2	4		
3	pipe stem x 3	0	0		I may be 17th/18th
3	red	1	0		
3	red slipped	1	1		
3	whiteware	14	19		
4	black gl red	2	2		
4	creamw	5	5		
4	late post med	1	1		pinkish buff gl
4	pipe bowl	0	0	18th/19th	decorated frag
4	pipe stem x 2	0	0	17th/18th?	
4	red	1	1	17th?	
4	red	4	7		fairly thin walled
4	tin-glazed	2	2	17th/18th	dark blue on pale blue
4	ungl red	1	2		
4	whiteware	15	18		
5	blackware	3	7		Thin walled reduced dark grey fabric with near black gl
5	brown gl st	1	4		
5	burnt	1	1		
5	cream dec	1	1		with grooves coloured brown
5	creamware	16	61	18th c.	1 moulded 1 plain plate rim.
5	local pm	3	44	17th/18th	mostly oxidised with greenish and light brown gl.
5	mottled gl red	1	7	17th/18th	rim
5	pipe bowl frag	0	0		masonic
5	pipe stem	0	0		
5	porcelain	3	2		fine rim with blue red and brown dec. Chinese export?
5	red	3	8		thin walled rim
5	red slipped	1	16		
5	tin-glazed	1	1	17th/18th	dark blue on pale blue
5	white salt gl st	5	20	18th	hollow vessel rim and plate rim, base
6	black gl red	1	5		shiny

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
6	blackware	1	1		reduced fabric as in 5
6	china	1	3		rim with applied sprig
6	creamw	7	6	18th	1 has blue painting
6	local red	1	7	17th/18th	
6	medieval	1	17	13th/14th	abraded base, grey core buff surfaces
6	medieval oxidised	1	3	13th/14th	
6	pipe bowl frags x 2	0	0		1 is decorated
6	pipe stem x 4	0	0	17th/18th	2 x 17th/18th
6	porcelain	2	2		with blue dec
6	post med ew	2	1	17th/18th	poss. Staffs type
6	red	3	5		
6	red slipped	1	0		
6	tin-glazed	2	1	17th/18th	
6	ungl red	1	1		
6	white salt gl st	4	5	18th	base, rim
6	whiteware	4	10		
7	local red	2	23	17th/18th	
7	pipe stem	0	0	17th/18th	
7	white salt gl st	1	1	18th	

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