

## **SBDR14 REETH TEST PIT 34**

**Owners:** Public space

**Address:** Reeth Green pit G Reeth

**Date:** 20.7.14

**Dug By:** Dave Brooks, Sue Nicholson, Ric Carter, Lesley Wolsey, Lynn Cartwright, Kevin Brown and Lesley Addington

### **Position:**

- Top of Reeth Green in front of the Burgoyne Hotel and Fellside
- Behind the seats on strip of grass between two roads North West of the water pump
- 54°23'22.31"N 1°56'31.36"W

### **Pit Description:**

- The pit was dug following HEFA guidelines
- 100% of spoil was sieved
- Context 1 was grass then 100% soil. Finds included firework fuse covers, one 1991 5p piece, one French 5 centime piece dated 1979, one 10 centime piece dated 1968.
- Context 2 was stony soil, 25% large stones. Finds included pipe stem, butchered bone, a 1916 penny and a metal button
- Context 3 was soil with a group of stones along the centre of the trench. Finds included an 1874 halfpenny, a slate pencil, kettle spout, clog iron, pipe stem, glass and butchered bone as well as pottery.
- Context 4 was compact soil with some gravel appearing NW and SE corners. Finds included bone fragments, clay pipe stem and pot.
- Context 5 revealed some large stones and a change of soil colour to orange in the SW corner.
- Context 6 was a mixture of 35% soil, 40% clay and 25% small stones. A clay pipe bowl was found with an ear-of-corn decoration
- Context 7 was a mixture of subsoil, clay and stone.
- Context 8 revealed a 5cm cast iron water pipe running approx East-West, towards the water pump which is dated 1868.
- The pit was closed down once the water pipe had been exposed and recorded.

### **Finds:**

Test Pit 34: 131 sherds, 362 grams

There was no medieval pottery from this pit and, although there were a few indications of 18th century activity, the majority of the assemblage was later, or not closely dateable, i.e. whitewares, many with transfer printing, and the red earthenwares.

### **Conclusions:**

- This pit yielded lots of finds suggestive of 19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic refuse, so perhaps the area had been used as a dump at some point.
- It was disappointing to have to close down the pit due to the presence of a water pipe.

### **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 34 Finds Catalogue:**

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
2	whiteware	14	19		very miscellaneous
2	ungl red	1	2		flake
2	red slipped	7	27		1 main bit - a rim
2	red	4	14		
2	pipe stem x 5	0	0	18th/19th	
2	mottled	1	9?		a coarse white fabric with brown mottled on upper (glazed) surface.
2	brown gl stoneware	1	1		
2	black gl red	1	2		
3	whiteware dec	13	27		mostly transfer incl willow
3	whiteware	23	36		
3	white salt gl	1	2	18th	
3	stonew	2	6		
3	red slipped	12	28		some with brown mottling
3	red slip dec?	2	3	17th/18th	light red with gaps in glaze possibly flaked off slip trailing
3	red	8	25		base. 2 have very thick gl.
3	pipe stem x 7	0	0		
3	creamware	8	15	18th	
3	black gl red	3	19		
3	?	3	3		
4	whiteware	2	2		
4	white salt gl st	1	1	18th	
4	ungl red	1	6		
4	Staffs type	1	17	17th/18th	combed brown lines on white (yellow)
4	red slipped	1	3		
4	red slip dec	3	6		With slip lines
4	red	3	8		
4	pipe stem x 4	0	0		1 has a Darlington stamp but the other side is the pipe type (cutty) not the maker. Likely to be later 19th c.
4	pipe bowl frag x 1	0	0		
4	brown gl st	1	5		
4	black gl red	1	3		
5	red	1	2	17th	rim, has some sooting ext.
5	creamware	1	4	18th	
6	whiteware	2	2		
6	red slipped	2	19		rim, may be early
6	pipe bowl frag x 1	0	0		
6	black gl red	2	32		base.

context	type	count	weight	dating	comment
7	whiteware	1	1		
7	ungl red	1	7		
7	red	1	3		
7	pipe bowl frag	0	0		v. small!
7	china	1	1		
7	brown gl st	1	2		

## 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