

SBDR15 REETH TEST PIT 40

Owners: Margaret Abson
Address: Tynedale, Reeth
Date: 10th April 2015
Dug by: Judith Mills, Alan Mills, Andrea Dixon, Richard Farmery., John Russell, Ann Russell, Judy Abson, Jane Harrison, Amy Proudlock, Rob Nicholson, David Brooks.

Position:

- In the rear garden of Tynedale on the top lawn, beyond the barn.
- Latitude 54°23'19.16"N; Longitude 1°56'25.35"W

Pit Description:

- The pit was dug and recorded in accord with the HEFA guidelines
- All soil was sieved.
- Context 1 produced some glass and pottery with some building material – lime mortar, possible roof tile as well as a clay marble, and slate pencil.
- Contexts 2, 3 and 4 were very similar to context 1 in both finds and composition.
- Context 5 produced a rough cobbled surface which could possibly have been the interior of a barn or a yard. It possibly continued to the south to a lower depth. The stones making up the surface were approximately 8-10 cm in diameter. There was a lot of lime mortar at this depth suggesting that this was a demolition layer.
- The small stones continued through context 6. Some medieval pottery was found at this level.
- Context 7 produced no pottery or other finds.
- Natural clay was encountered at 70cm with stones sitting on the glacial till.
- The pit was completed by 5pm, in one day.

Finds:

Test Pit 40: 116 sherds, 263 grams

There were two pieces of medieval pottery, one from context 3 and one from context 6 the lowest level reached. A few fragments, including two of Staffordshire type slipware, indicate some earlier post-medieval activity. Later material, however, much of it heavily fragmented, occurred throughout the levels excavated.

Conclusions:

There is some evidence of cultivation or other low level of activity in the immediate vicinity during both the medieval period and the 17th century but with no activity in between. Thereafter there is good evidence of occupation in the 18th century and into the modern period. It is known that the house was the 19th C village police station with a cell, still extant, adjoining to the rear. The lime mortar found, particularly in context 5, suggests a nearby building was demolished, possibly in the 18th C or 19th C.

Thanks: to Margaret Abson for permission to dig.

TP 40 Finds catalogue

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	datin g	comment
1	black gl red	2	3		
1	china	1	1		
1	pipe stem x1	0	0		mouthpiece
1	post- med ew	4	3	18th/ 19th	misc chips of mainly brown gl white ew
1	red	3	9		
1	stonew are	1	5		utilitarian
1	whitew are	12	16		misc
2	china	1	3		
2	red slipped	1	5		
2	ref red	1	1		
2	ungl red	1	3		rim
2	whitew are	20	26		some tiny
3	brown gl whitew are	1	6		
3	china	4	15		2 biggest are same ves with transf print. Small bit of pink lustre and rim with gold band
3	local pm	1	3	17th/ e. 18th	
3	mediev al gritty	1	3	13th	small flat frag sooted one side, red brown

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	datin g	comment
3	pipe stem x1	0	0		with spur
3	porcelai n?	1	4		bit of figurine
3	red slipped	1	2		
3	ungl red	1	3		
3	whitew are	25	35		misc incl blue and brown tp.
3	yellow	2	3		flakes
4	red	1	3		
4	red slipped	2	9		
4	whitew are	10	24		5 TP, 4 sponge, 1 burnt
5	black gl red	5	28	18th	incl rim of bowl
5	brown gl whitew are	1	1		
5	pipe bowl frag	0	0	?	
5	pipe clay?	0	0		not sure what this is
5	pipe stem x1	0	0	17th/ 18th	
5	pm ew	1	3		burnt bit of base
5	Staffs slip	2	11	18th c.	pie crust rim. Feathered slip
5	whitew are	6	6		misc
6	black gl red	3	10		

cont xt	type	Cou nt	weig ht	datin g	comment
6	mediev al buff	1	19	12th/ 13th c.	typical Tees Valley 'bifid' rim, quite coarse

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

Notes on the Pottery:

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. For most redwares a date category has not been assigned. 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 (lpm) background noise category.

A few more abbreviations have crept into the catalogue. I hope most will be obvious (eg. gl for glaze or glazed, misc for miscellaneous, int (inside) and ext (outside)). Let me know if not.

Some explanations of wording used in the 'types' column

- *red slipped* is the standard post-medieval kitchenware with internal white slip coating
- *red slip dec* means there is trailing or banding rather than an overall slip coat
- *red* on its own is any plain glazed red earthenware
- *black glazed red* is 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 kitchenwares, 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 wares probably with a fairly local source. Similar types elsewhere in North Yorkshire are called Ryedale and Osmotherley type 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.

Apart from the late reduced wares the medieval pottery present was mainly buff, buff/pink or more iron-rich orange/oxidised wares. Although there was much that was not clearly diagnostic most of this material can probably be described as Tees Valley ware.

Jenny Vaughan
September 2015