

SBDR15 REETH TEST PIT 43

Owners: Felicity Craig
Address: 8 Langhorne Drive, Reeth
Date: 16th May 2015
Dug By: Judith Mills, Jane Harrison, Andrea Dixon, Richard Farmery, Pat Chamberlain, Alan Mills

Position:

- Latitude 54°23'20.47"N Longitude 1°56'41.50"W
- The property is situated on the west side of Langhorne Drive and was built during the 1950s
- The site was originally part of the West field of Reeth and a quantity of clay pipe pieces had been found by the owner in the back garden
- The Test Pit was dug in the front garden to the north of the garden path (avoiding the electricity cable running from the NE corner to the house)

Pit Description:

- Each context was very similar, consisting mainly of dark small-grained soil
- No features were encountered
- The natural, consisting of bedrock, was reached at a depth of 36cm

Finds:

Test Pit 43: 21 sherds, 35 grams

There were two sherds of medieval pottery from context 3 which also produced some early post-medieval sherds and nothing necessarily later than the 18th century.

The clay pipes certainly indicate early post-medieval activity, though there is also the Tennant stem which is probably well into the second half of the 19th century.

A limited number of finds were uncovered including animal bone, coal, pottery, clay pipe, metal and glass

Conclusions:

Given the nature of the soil and the position of the property it is likely that the area of the pit has been cultivated both before and since the house was built. Some of the finds may be the result of manuring.

Thanks: Many thanks to Felicity for allowing us to dig in her garden.

written by: Andrea Dixon
 date: 21st May 2015
TP 43 Finds catalogue

cont ext	type	count	weight	dating	comment
0	pipe bowl	0	0		almost complete - looks 17th c.
0	pipe bowl frag	0	0		with GB mark on base
0	pipe frag	0	0		with spur
0	pipe stem x1	0	0	19th	TENNANT/BERWICK
0	pipe stem x1	0	0		with spur
0	pipe stem x11	0	0	17th/ 18th	these fairly large bores
0	pipe stem x20	0	0		sl smaller bores
0	pipe stem x8	0	0		
1	pipe bowl fragx2	0	0		v small
1	pipe stem x1	0	0	19th	
1	red	1	0		small
1	red?	1	4		hard chip of ?base with some brown gl
1	white salt gl stoneware	1	0	18th	v small
1	whiteware	5	4		
2	brown gl stoneware	1	1		
2	whiteware	3	2		2 are burnt with dark gl
3	?	1	1		orange flake not lpm
3	local pm	2	10	17th/ 18th	1 green, 1 yellowish gl
3	medieval buff	1	7	13th/ 14th	
3	medieval buff?	1	2	13th/ 14th	rim, hard

cont ext	type	co unt	wei ght	dating	comment
3	pipe stem x7	0	0	17th/ 18th	
3	red?	1	2	18th?	not lpm
3	Staffs type	1	1	18th c.	feathered slip
3	white salt gl stoneware	2	1	18th	
4	pipe stem x1	0	0	17th?	worn

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