



Test Pit 1: Woodmill, Congerstone Lane, SK 39355 04829

Test Pit 1 (Figure 1) was excavated in the front garden of Woodmill, on the north side of Congerstone Lane. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area was agricultural land until the late 20th century. The present house was built in the early 21st century, replacing a late 20th century dwelling. The test pit was located near the Congerstone Lane frontage close to the site of a former Primitive Methodist Chapel, built in 1852 and demolished in the 1950s (located at SK 39372 04841).



Figure 1: Test Pit 1 during the excavation, looking north



Figure 2: Test Pit 1 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and greyish brown sandy clay topsoil (Layer 1) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of greyish brown clay (Layers 2-3) - Figure 2. Excavation was halted at a depth of 0.3m due to the hard, dry nature of the soil which made digging and sieving impossible. Given the dry ground conditions, it was difficult to determine whether the clay was subsoil or the natural substratum, possibly redeposited during modern landscaping of the garden. No archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 17 individual finds (217g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (late 17th-19th century) was found. Other finds included modern buildings materials, window glass and a plastic button.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity west of Carlton Green. Finds revealed limited post-medieval and modern activity in the vicinity and no evidence of medieval or earlier activity. This was consistent with the site's recent conversion from agricultural to domestic use and suggested that the area was previously farmland for a prolonged period of time. Pottery in the test-pit was likely to have been imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure fields surrounding the village. No clear connection could be made between the finds and the former Primitive Methodist Chapel which was once located to the east.

Many thanks to Tom and Liz Alun-Jones for providing the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on September 10, 2022 by Christine Hall, Gill Higgins, Iain Jones and Jenny Owen.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 1

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	1	Cement roof tile	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Yellow-glazed ceramic drainage pipe	Modern	
1	Building material	1	Iron nail	Modern	Modern 2" nail
1	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
2	Bone & shell	1	Misc animal bone	Undated	
2	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
2	Building material	1	Unglazed ceramic drainage pipe	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Brown-glazed ceramic drainage pipe	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
2	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	Black plastic, 2-hole, 18mm diameter.
2	Pottery	2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pottery	5	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

* Phasing: Bronze Age (2600-700 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)