



Test Pit 2: Bumble Cott, Shackerstone Walk, SK 39344 04931

Test Pit 2 (Figure 1) was excavated in the garden of Bumble Cott, on the west side of Shackerstone Walk. The current brick-built house was converted from a farm building of Carlton House Farm, built in the early 19th century. The test-pit was located to the east of the property on ground which was formerly the farm's forecourt.



Figure 1: Test Pit 2 during excavation, looking south



Figure 2: Test Pit 2 mid-excavation, showing the top of the yard surface. Looking south

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (Layer 1) was removed. Beneath was 0.1m of dark brownish grey sandy silt mixed with abundant charcoal (Layer 2) and 0.1m of charcoal, ash and cinder (Layer 3), possibly a yard surface or trampled debris (Figure 2). Beneath this was a compact yard surface of brick and fieldstone (Layer 4) overlying an earlier surface of mortared brick, gravel and Carlton stone (Layer 5-6). Beneath this, 0.6m below the ground, was greyish yellow sandy clay and gravel (Layer 7), believed to be the natural substratum.

In all, 1327 individual finds (8.279kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small but significant assemblage of Late Medieval pottery (late 14th-mid-16th century) was found, along with a substantial assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th-19th century, Figure 3). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Hand- and machine-made iron nails, pieces of clay tobacco pipe, and modern bottle glass and glass tableware were also found. Unique items included a carbon rod from a battery and a modern button. A small group of animal bone was also present.



Figure 3: A sample of the post-medieval and modern pottery found at Test Pit 2. In total, 1128 sherds of pottery were recovered from the test pit, approximately 44% of the total pottery assemblage found in Carlton.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity west of Carlton Green. Finds reveal extensive post-medieval and modern activity in the vicinity, most likely associated with Carlton House Farm. The pottery was a mixture of table wares and kitchen wares, and the presence of numerous pancheons could suggest dairying too. This was consistent with nearby domestic and farming activities from the 17th century onwards and much of the material appeared to have been recycled as hardcore in farmyard surfaces. The absence of any pottery predating the 14th century and the presence of Late Medieval pottery may be significant and could represent expansion of dispersed activity around the village green in the late 14th / 15th century. This would suggest that activity in the vicinity predates the current 19th-century farm buildings by 400-500 years. However, given the extensive disturbance in the test pit from multiple yard surfaces, this may not be the complete picture.

Many thanks to Pat and Murray Lockwood for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Pat and Murray Lockwood with Judith Day, and John Whiting.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 2

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	28	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
1	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Household	1	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	Carbon rod with cu alloy cap, 5mm diam. 45mm long
1	Pottery	6	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
1	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
1	Pottery	9	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Bone & shell	4	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
2	Building material	24	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	8	Iron objects	Undated	Very corroded, probably nails
2	Building material	1	Decorative floor tile	Modern	Replica medieval floor tile with fleur de lis design
2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment	Modern	
2	Glass	21	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Included base and stem of a wine glass, and the neck, base and stopper from a perfume bottle
2	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	1	Midland Blackware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1550-1725
2	Pottery	4	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
2	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
2	Pottery	25	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Bone & shell	13	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	3	Iron nails	Undated	Handmade, square-shafted
3	Building material	25	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Building material	6	Cement roof tile	Modern	14mm thick
3	Glass	18	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	Loop button, 12mm diameter
3	Pottery	60	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
3	Pottery	150	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	1	Cement roof tile	Modern	
4	Building material	2	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
4	Clay pipe	4	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments	Modern	Including mouthpiece, 2.4mm bore
4	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	5	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Pottery	16	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
4	Pottery	3	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
4	Pottery	327	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
5	Building material	17	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Building material	3	Blue engineering brick	Modern	
5	Building material	1	Iron nail	Undated	Handmade, square shafted, 1"
5	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	Modern	2.4mm bore
5	Glass	2	Green bottle glass	Modern	
5	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
5	Pottery	149	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
5	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
5	Pottery	324	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
6	Building material	4	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
6	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	Modern	2.4mm bore
6	Pottery	10	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
6	Pottery	26	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
7	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
7	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
7	Pottery	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
7	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
7	Pottery	3	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)