



Test Pit 12: The Limes, Main Street, SK 42389 02495

Test Pit 12 (Figure 1) was dug in the front garden of The Limes, 10m west of Main Street. The property was a modern house, built in the late 20th century on pasture associated with Manor Farm. The 1840 title map lists the property as a croft owned by Sir Willoughby Wolstan Dixie and occupied by Samuel Watts.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 12, looking south-east



Figure 2: Test Pit 12 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed. Beneath was 0.5m of greyish brown sandy silt subsoil (Layers 3-7) and greyish orange silty sand (Layers 8-9). The natural substratum, greyish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.9m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2).

In all, 139 individual finds (1.153kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A very large assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with small assemblages of Late Medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century) and modern pottery (19th century – present). Other finds included a small amount of modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. A single sherd of modern bottle glass and a small assemblage of iron slag was also found. The oldest finds were two pieces of worked flint of possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and pre-medieval activity in Cadeby. The range of pottery types present and their occurrence suggest very strongly that this site was settled throughout the medieval period, from at least the 12th century onwards, and then was abandoned from the 15th - 16th century onwards. The total absence of post-medieval pottery, and relative scarcity of modern finds, suggests that the site was given over to pasture until the 20th century. The presence of iron slag may indicate that iron working was taking place in the vicinity, most likely in the medieval period.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The bladelet-like flake was noteworthy and may suggest an earlier Prehistoric date, perhaps Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. Given that more than one flake was recovered from the test pit, this may indicate flint-working in the area, rather than chance losses, and suggests there may be a focus of activity nearby.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Karkowski for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Alison, Martin, Harriet and Edward Taylor, and John Whiting.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 12

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	Broken bottle neck
1	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
1	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Building material	21	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Industrial waste	5	Iron slag	Undated	Glassy vesicular slag
2	Pottery	11	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pottery	8	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
2	Pottery	5	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pottery	5	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Stone	1	Secondary flake/chunck	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Translucent grey-brown material
3	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	Glassy vesicular slag

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
3	Pottery	6	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pottery	3	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
3	Pottery	3	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
3	Pottery	17	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
4	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	Glassy vesicular slag
4	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
4	Pottery	5	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
4	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Pottery	12	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Pottery	2	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
5	Pottery	8	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
5	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
5	Pottery	11	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
6	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	
6	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
6	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
6	Stone	1	Tertiary bladelet	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Hinge distal, microdenticulations/abrasion, Wolds material?

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (10000-3300 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)