



Test Pit 5: The Old House, Wood Lane, SK 42479 02318

Test Pit 5 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of vegetable garden in the rear garden of The Old House, 20m south of Wood Lane. The Old House is a late 16th/early 17th century L-shaped timber, box-framed farmhouse with a main range and cross wing divided by a cross passage. The 1840 tithe map shows that the property was a house with outbuildings, yards and garden owned by Sir Willoughby Wolstan Dixie and occupied by Elizabeth Watts.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 5, looking north-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 5 post-excitation showing the possible post-hole in the bottom of the test pit and stone 'plinth' in the south-facing section, looking north-east

During the excavation, 0.3m of greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.1m of greyish orange sandy silt soil (Layer 4) and 0.5m of brownish orange silty sand (Layers 5-9). The natural substratum, greyish orange clayey sand was reached 0.9m below the ground. At the base of the test pit, in the south-east corner a cluster of large stones appeared to sit within a circular feature, 0.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep, cut into the natural. This may have been a post-hole with post-packing. In the north section of the test pit, 0.4m down, large stones were visible (Figure 2). If associated with the post-hole they may have been the footing for a wall, or a plinth for a timber-framed structure.

In all, 451 individual finds (1.499kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of Saxo-Norman pottery (mid-9th – mid-12th century), a significant assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) and a small assemblage of Late Medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century) was found, along with large assemblages of post-medieval and modern pottery (mid-17th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. Modern bottle glass, iron nails and screws, plastic garden waste and a small assemblage of animal bone was also present. 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 pottery, together with the archaeological evidence for a possible post-hole and stone wall footing, suggest very strongly that this site was settled during the earlier part of the medieval period, most likely during the 11th century. The absence of later medieval and early post-medieval pottery also suggests that the site was more or less abandoned at some point in the late 14th or 15th century until the 17th century. Post medieval finds are consistent with occupation of the extant late 16th/early 17th century timber-framed farmhouse.

The worked flint was debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The bladelet-like flake is noteworthy and may suggesting an earlier Prehistoric date, perhaps Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and the flint represents a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Gareth Pegg for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Dick, Judith, Paul, Sharon and Sian.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 5

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
1	Building material	1	Iron screw	Modern	Phillips head, 1½"
1	Building material	87	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Building material	22	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 1-4"
1	Garden waste	1	Iron wire	Modern	
1	Garden waste	3	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. piece of plant label for Penstemons & melted black plastic
1	Glass	6	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	3	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
1	Pottery	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Pottery	2	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
1	Pottery	15	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
1	Pottery	1	Stamford ware	Saxo-Norman	AD 850/900-1150
2	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
2	Building material	81	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	9	Wire nails	Modern	Assorted sizes, 20mm long tack - 3½"
2	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	2	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
2	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pottery	1	Medieval sandy ware	High Medieval	Unclassified, AD 1100-1400
2	Pottery	9	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pottery	3	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
3	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	1	Iron staple	Modern	40x20mm
3	Building material	97	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	9	Wire nails	Modern	
3	Garden waste	3	Modern plastic	Modern	inc. inner lining of a tennis ball, rigid blue plastic & broken red plastic laundry peg
3	Glass	4	Brown bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	4	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Glass	3	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Pink bottle glass	Modern	Opaque
3	Pottery	6	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
3	Pottery	5	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
3	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
3	Pottery	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
3	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
3	Pottery	18	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Pottery	4	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
3	Stone	1	Tertiary flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Edge nicks, distal end broken with hinge fracture, patinated, translucent grey material
4	Building material	4	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Pottery	3	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
4	Pottery	1	Medieval sandy ware	High Medieval	Unclassified, AD 1100-1400
4	Pottery	1	Medieval shelly wares	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
4	Pottery	1	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Pottery	5	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Bone & shell	2	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
5	Pottery	1	Medieval sandy ware	High Medieval	Unclassified, AD 1100-1400
5	Pottery	1	Medieval shelly wares	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
5	Pottery	4	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Stone	1	Secondary bladlet-like flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Wolds material?
6	Pottery	2	Medieval sandy ware	High Medieval	Unclassified, AD 1100-1400
6	Pottery	4	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
6	Pottery	1	Stamford ware	Saxo-Norman	AD 850/900-1150
7	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
7	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	

* 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)