

The Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery and Ceramic Building Material from the People of Old Whitbourne Project, Herefordshire (POW 05)

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As part of a multidisciplinary project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund Local Heritage Initiative, a series of test pits (TP 1 to 14) and trenches (T1 to T6) was excavated in Old Whitbourne. The test pits were excavated in the grounds of properties on which a later medieval or post-medieval house still stands. These houses can be identified in documentary sources and the inhabitants in several cases can be identified. This provides the potential of linking the below-ground archaeology of the village with the social history and vernacular architecture.

The finds from the trial excavations are too few to date the brick working activity found there, but are consistent with a 19th-century date. The finds from the various test pits, however, include some reasonably large assemblages of pottery, clay tobacco pipes and a few other finds. They suggest that in some cases the test pit has dug into refuse which has not been reworked by subsequent gardening and consequently provides a snapshot of pottery use on the site during a limited period of time. In other cases, by contrast, it seems that the garden has been dug over and over, so that earlier finds are recycled into later layers. Given the small scale of the test pits, it is not possible to determine whether the datable assemblages are the result of the test pit finding areas of undisturbed midden or whether they represent landscaping of the site, perhaps associated with phases of rebuilding. Hopefully, comparing the results of the finds analysis with other strands of the People of Old Whitbourne project will allow us to decide in some cases which is the correct interpretation.

The finds indicate that there is no pottery in the excavated area of Old Whitbourne before the later 12th century and even some of this pottery has a very abraded appearance, possibly indicating that the land was under the plough rather than being occupied.

By the later medieval period, however, there is clear evidence from some test pits for occupation in the area and there are good groups of finds dating to the mid 16th/early 17th centuries; the mid to late 17th centuries and the early 18th century. Mid 18th-century finds are not as common as those of preceding centuries but are nevertheless found in several areas. Late 18th and 19th-century finds have not been recorded or studied here.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Small scraps of brick and tile were present in many of the assemblages collected from the test pits and trial excavations. Since these were unwashed, it was usually impossible to identify either the fabric or the form of the fragments, which have therefore not been recorded. Nevertheless, 125 fragments could be identified (Table 1). The majority of these were red earthenware with a coarse micaceous, silty texture, classified as Hereford Fabric A10. These include two fragments of brick from the Churchfields trenches which are probable evidence for local production. The similarity of the fabric to the soil matrix adhering to all the finds is consistent with this interpretation. Other wares present include Malvern Chase glazed ware (HERB4), which was produced from the later 13th to the mid 16th centuries, two medieval floor tiles of types produced in Worcestershire (CANYGNES and DROIT), five fragments of tile of unknown origin (but probably not produced in the village, since they have a visually-distinct fabric) and a single fragment of refined whiteware wall tile, a type produced in the 19th and 20th centuries at numerous factories throughout England.

Table 1

cname	Sum of Nosh	Sum of NoV	Sum of Weight
CANYNGES	1	1	39
DROIT	1	1	200
HERA10	109	109	3883
HERB4	8	8	208
PMTIL	5	5	250
WHITE	1	1	10
Grand Total	125	125	4590

The Malvern Chase glazed ware sherds come from ridge tiles which would have been used with thatch, wooden shingles or, possible, stone slates. Because of the relatively few tiles required on each structure (in comparison to flat roof tiles and bricks) it was normal for these ridge tiles to be produced by potters (or, at least, on the same sites as pottery was being produced). They come from the Churchfield trenches and the Rectory.

The floor tiles are of types which have only been found on the floors of parish churches and private chapels and on sites in towns where they might have come from destroyed churches or, possibly, from the floors of well-off townfolk. They were found on the Old Rectory site and might have come from the church, which lies immediately to the east, or perhaps from the Bishops Palace. These tiles cast doubt on the use of ridge tiles at the Rectory in the medieval period and suggest that these too may be debris from some other site.

The remaining brick and tile fragments were probably of later 16th to 19th-century date. They come from Collbridge Cottage, Nutshell Cottage, the Rectory, and Churchfields.

The tile from Collbridge Cottage is a flat roof tile (which in this part of the country is likely to be of later 16th-century or later date) and a visual examination of the fabric suggests that it was

made from weathered Mercian Mudstone, which outcrops as a narrow band running north-south through the Severn valley, but which is not exposed in the Teme valley. The tile was probably produced in the Worcester area, probably at a time before local brick and tile were available.

Non-local flat roof tiles were also present at Churchfield (Trench 4). In this case however, it was not possible to identify the source of the clay visually, although it was clearly different from the local fabric.

The Hereford Fabric A10 fragments consist of bricks and flat roof tiles. The flat roof tiles were produced in a sanded mould and also contain a small quantity of this sand (which appears visually to consist of fragments derived from Devonian sandstones) in the body. The bricks, by contrast, were produced by a technique known as slop-moulding, in which the clay is mixed to a slurry and poured into a wooden mould where it dries out. This technique is not common but has been observed in the later 17th century (at Pontefract, pers comm C Spall and S Garside-Neville) and was in use at Barton-upon-Humber into the late 20th century. It is not known why this technique would have been preferred over the more normal method of pressing the plastic clay into a sanded or straw-lined mould but it may be significant that both the Whitbourne and Barton-upon-Humber clays are very silty, which would have allowed water to drain and evaporate quite quickly and which would also have provided the brick with some solidity whilst it was drying and stopped excessive shrinkage and warping. A single fragment of circular land drain in a similar fabric was found at Churchfields.

Clay Tobacco Pipes

One hundred and thirty-one fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recorded. The recording excluded fragments with narrow bore diameters of late 18th or 19th-century date. These were found at Brook Cottage, Collbridge, Nutshell Cottage and Ring O'Bells.

Most of the recorded fragments were undecorated stem pieces which could be divided into early to mid 17th century types (31 fragments) and later 17th to mid 18th-century types (61 fragments) on the basis of the bore diameter.

Thirty pipe bowls, or fragments of bowls, were recorded. Of these, 11 (from Ring O'Bells) were wall fragments with no typological features. The remainder could probably all be more closely dated and possibly attributed to a source if shown to Allan Peacey, who has studied the clay pipes of Herefordshire for over 30 years. These bowls come from four sites (Table 2). Two bowls can be singled out for special mention. They are both stamped with the name "Morris Shaw", who was operating at Pipe Aston, in north Herefordshire. One of these pipes not only has the heel stamp but also a wheel stamp, on the side of the bowl heel. This enables us to associate pipes stamped just with this wheel stamp with Morris Shaw.

Table 2

Sitecode	Description	Total
POW Churchfields	C.1660-80;HEART-SHAPED STAMP ON HEEL; RIGHT-HAND	1

	INITIAL PRESENT -"[]?"	
	ROUND HEEL;CIRCULAR STAMP "CW"	1
	STAMPED BASE; MO[]/R[]/HA[] IN CARTOUCHE	1
POW Collbridge	17TH C BOWL FRAG	1
	L17TH C BROSELEY-TYPE HEEL	1
	SMALL HEELED BOWL; UNSTAMPED C.1640-60?	1
	UNDATABLE FRAGS	4
POW Golds	C. 1640-60	1
	C.1680-1710	1
POW ring o'bells		11
	EM17TH BORE;HEEL STAMPED "?!" IN RING INCIRCLE	1
	EM17TH BORE;HEEL STAMPED "FB" IN CIRCLE	1
	EM17TH BORE;UNMARKED HEEL;C.1640-60 FORM	1
	EM17TH BORE;UNMARKED SPUR;C.1660-80 FORM	1
	PLAIN CIRCULAR HEEL	1
	SPLAYED FOOT CF BROSELEY	1
	STAMPED "MOR/RIS/[]HAW" WHEEL STAMP ON SIDE OF BASE	1

Copper Alloy

A late 16th-century copper alloy jetton, probably produced at Nuremberg, was recorded from Collbridge. Jettons such as this were originally made for use with reckoning boards, for accounting, but they seem to have had an unofficial use as small change and this piece has been cut in half and almost cut into quarters, which might suggest that it had been used as currency (there was a shortage of small-value coinage in the 16th and early 17th centuries, which lead to the production of copper alloy rose farthings in the reign of James I). The jetton is of the orb and sceptre type, with crowned roses on the reverse. The inscription is legible and could probably be identified with access to the literature.

Iron

Two fragments of slag were recorded from Collbridge, from a spit probably dating between the mid 16th and early 17th centuries. Both iron smelting and smithing give rise to large quantities of slag and these finds are not sufficient to demonstrate any sort of iron working was taking place on the site. It would be possible to determine whether they come from smelting or smithing and broadly what date they might be by submitting the fragments to a specialist archaeometallurgist.

Lead

A fragment of lead came was recorded from Ring O'Bells. Lead comes were used to secure window glass from the medieval period until the production of larger panes made them redundant in the later 17th century. During the 17th century the lead, which was originally case in an H-sectioned strip, was produced by milling and the inner faces of milled comes show the impressions of the mill cogs. In this case, however, the lead is squashed flat and it is not possible to say if it is of medieval or post-medieval date. If medieval, the came is probably

derived from the Bishop's palace or the parish church but if 17th century then it might have been used on site.

Pottery

The full list of ware types recorded from Old Whitbourne is given in Appendix 1. In addition, a large quantity of later 18th and 19th-century wares were observed but not recorded in detail.

Medieval

Thirty-one sherds of medieval pottery were recorded (Table 3). They are of three fabrics: Malvern Chase coarseware (HERB1); Worcester handmade sandy ware (HERC1) and Worcester Glazed ware (HERC2). All the sherds are small and abraded but they include several rims sherds or decorated body sherds which can be dated from their typology. They consist of two HERC1 rims of 12th-century or 13th-century type; a late 12th-century HERB1 rim; a mid 13th-century HERB1 rim and a late 13th- to mid 14th-century HERB1 rim. There are no sherds which can definitely be said to date earlier than the later 12th century.

Table 3

Sitecode	HERB1	HERC1	HERC2	Grand Total
POW Brook Cottage	1			1
POW Churchfields	5			5
POW Collbridge	6			6
POW Golds	5			5
POW Kennetts	1			1
POW Nutshell Cottage	2	1	1	4
POW RECTORY			1	1
POW ring o'bells		1		1
POW Willow Bank		1		1
Grand Total	20	3	2	25

Later medieval pottery consists of 27 sherds in total, of which all but two are of Hereford Fabric B4, from the Malvern Chase potteries. The vessel form of most of these sherds could be identified and they include jugs, pipkins, bowls, and a dripping dish. The fabric and glazing of HERB4 vessels does not change much during the later medieval period, but there is an increasingly large range of forms used in the later 15th and 16th centuries, and it is likely that this is the period to which most of these sherds belong. The two non-local sherds come from Tudor Green jugs, produced on the Surrey/Hampshire border.

Table 4

Sitecode	HERB4							TUDG	
	BOWL	BOWL/PIP	DRIP	JAR/BOWL	JAR/JUG	JUG	PIP	CUP	
POW Brook Cottage						1			
POW Churchfields			1			4		1	
POW	4						1	1	

Collbridge

POW Golds	2	2					1	1	
POW Kennetts					1				
POW RECTORY		1	1						
POW ring o'bells						4			
POW TW								1	
Grand Total	2	7	1	1	1	4	6	3	2

Post-Medieval

Eighty-five sherds of pottery dating to the 16th or early 17th centuries were recorded (Table 5). The most common ware present is again a Malvern Chase product, HERB5. This fabric was in use by the 1530s (Vince & Bell 1992 #10233) and continued to be produced until the enclosure of Malvern Chase in the 1630s. Alongside this ware were sherds of black-glazed cups in Cistercian ware (CSTN) whose source is unknown; black-glazed cups with no visible inclusions, which may be North Herefordshire products (HERA7D) and sherds of three import types: Frechen stoneware (FREC); German whiteware (GERW), which was made at Frechen, amongst other places, alongside the stoneware and Martincamp ware (MART). The latter is certainly of northern French origin although the precise source is unknown.

Table 5

Sitecode	CSTN	FREC	GERW	HERA7D	HERB5	MART	Grand Total
POW Churchfields							1
POW Collbridge	29				25		54
POW Golds	5				4		9
POW RECTORY	2		1	2	2		7
POW ring o'bells	5	2		6	1		14
POW TW						1	1
Grand Total	41	2	1	8	32	1	85

A large number of vessel forms is present in this early post-medieval collection (Table 6). They include vessels used for cooking (pipkins), food preparation and storage (jars, bowls and pancheons), drinking (cups, drinking jugs, flasks, jugs); a medicine or cosmetic container (the German whiteware vessel, an albarello) and dining (chafing dishes).

Table 6

Sitecode	ALB	BOWL	CHAF	CUP	DJ	FLASK	JAR	JUG	JUG/JAR	PANC	PIP	Grand Total
POW Churchfields												1
POW Collbridge			5	29			2	1	8	3	6	54
POW Golds		2		5			1			1		9
POW	1			4			1	1				7

RECTORY

POW ring o'bells	1	9	2	1	1	14						
POW TW				1		1						
Grand Total	1	3	5	47	2	1	5	3	8	4	6	85

The early post-medieval pottery suggests that the inhabitants of Old Whitbourne were prosperous and had a varied lifestyle, comparable with that found in Hereford and Worcester, and with access to imported pottery.

Two hundred and fifty-eight sherds of pottery dating to the late 17th to mid 18th century were recorded. Most of these sherds are products of the Staffordshire potteries. These have been divided into several groups depending on their method of production, decoration or the clay used in their production.

The most common Staffordshire types present were made with local clays obtained from the Coal Measures. Some of these were red-firing (STRE), some were light-firing (STBRS, STCO, STEM, STSL, STMO) and some used a mixture of red- and light-firing clays (STCOAR).

The earliest Staffordshire products present were STRE blackwares (i.e. they have an opaque black glaze). These are mainly cups which followed the contemporary fashion for blackware cups such as the CSTN and HERA&B vessels found at Old Whitbourne. Some have a tall, flaring form with a footring, probably influenced by contemporary glass beakers. This style of blackware continued to be made in Staffordshire alongside later slipwares, especially for chamber pots (CHP) and jars (Table 7).

Table 7

Sitecode	CHP	CHP/JAR	CUP	JAR	JAR/CHP	Grand Total
POW Brook Cottage					1	1
POW Churchfields			1	1		2
POW Collbridge			7			7
POW Golds		1				1
POW Nutshell Cottage	2					2
POW RECTORY		1	1			2
POW ring o'bells			1			1
Grand Total	2	3	9	1	1	16

Contemporary and later than these were wheelthrown STRE openware vessels (dishes, bowls and plates) which either have light-firing slip trailed decoration direct onto the body, under a clear glaze, or have a white slip covering the interior, which may have white slip trailing on top. An unusual technique for this type of ware was combed slip, in which two or more layers of slip of contrasting colour were poured onto the vessel and then marbled, either freehand or using a tool shaped like a comb but with widely-spaced teeth. The technique is described in detail by Peter Brears (Brears 1971 #11803). A single example of this

decorative technique on red-bodied wheelthrown slipware was found at Golds (represented by five sherds).

Table 8

Site	Decoration	Bowl	Dish
POW Churchfields	NO DECORATION PRESENT	2	
POW Collbridge	SLTR		4
POW Golds	INT COMBED SLIP;L17TH?		5
	WHITE SLTR;M/L17TH		2
POW Nutshell Cottage	INT WHITE SLIPPED	1	

STRE openware vessels were being produced by the mid 17th century but continued to be made throughout the remainder of the 17th century and into the 18th century. They reached their technical height in the huge dishes made by the Tofts between c.1671 and c.1695 (to judge by the dates on surviving signed vessels).

A posset pot from Golds has a red-firing body, a black glaze and light-firing external slip trailed decoration. This type of decoration was more common on light-firing slipware and is probably contemporary with those vessels (late 17th to early 18th century).

Red-firing clay continued to be used into the 18th century and one dish from Old Whitbourne (from Collbridge) has been lathe-turned (a technique which only appeared in the 1720s) and coated internally with a brown slip.

By the 1670s, light-bodied slipwares were started to overtake the red-bodied wares in popularity in the Staffordshire potteries and a number of different types were found at Old Whitbourne. The earliest types were press-moulded (i.e. rolled out like pastry then draped over a former and shaped using a paddle, whose impressions are visible on the underside of the vessel. On the first press-moulded types to be made (STEM), the mould had incised decoration, which then appears in relief on the finished vessel. This decoration was usually enhanced by the use of coloured slips. Two examples of this type were found at Old Whitbourne. Such vessels have been found elsewhere in mid 17th-century deposits, but they were clearly still being made in the later 17th and early 18th centuries.

Later in the 17th century, plain moulds were introduced (although rarely these could have limited embossed decoration, such as a circle around the rim or initials, probably those of the potter). These vessels were almost always decorated with marbled or combed slip. Marbling seems to have been the predominant technique in the later 17th century (and is not present at Old Whitbourne) whilst combing was almost universal in the early to mid 18th century. Later in the 18th century wide trailed lines of slip were used as decoration without subsequent treatment (Table 9).

Table 9

Sitecode	Combed	Type unknown	Slip trailed	Grand Total
POW Churchfields	3		1	4
POW Collbridge	8	5	2	15
POW RECTORY	1		1	2
POW ring o'bells	1	2	1	4
Grand Total	13	7	5	25

Wheelthrown vessels in light-firing clay were decorated in several ways. The most common was the use of a mottled brown glaze (STMO). Several different forms were found at Old Whitbourne (Table 10), mostly of types used in social drinking. The posset pot, for example, was a multi-handled vessel designed to be passed from person to person in a group. Posset was a drink of sweetened, milk curdled with ale or beer.

Table 10

Sitecode	-	BOWL	CUP	CUP/POSS	POSS	TANK	Grand Total
POW Brook Cottage		1			3		4
POW Churchfields	3	1				2	6
POW Collbridge		2			14		16
POW Golds			1				1
POW Nutshell Cottage			1				1
POW RECTORY						1	1
POW ring o'bells				10	2	5	17
Grand Total	3	4	2	10	19	8	46

Vessels decorated in various ways with slip were less common (Table 11). Ten sherds came from vessels with a black slip over which in some cases a light-firing slip-trailed was added. A variant of this decoration consisted of lathe-turning the vessel before applying the slip. One example of this type (datable to c.1720 or later) was found. In another variant, the slip is a lighter colour, appearing brown. Finally, a number of sherds come from vessels which would have been decorated with brown slip although only one sherd is large enough to show the exact type, two sherds from Ring O'Bells from a posset pot decorated in a band below the rim with brown blobs. This style is most common in the early to mid 18th centuries.

Table 11

subfabric	Sitecode	-	CUP	POSS	TANK
black-slipped	POW Churchfields			3	
	POW Collbridge			5	
	POW Golds				1
	POW Nutshell Cottage			1	
black-glazed, turned	POW ring o'bells				1
brown-slipped	POW Collbridge				1

	POW ring o'bells			4
Decorated with brown slip	POW Collbridge			1
	POW Golds	1	2	
	POW Nutshell Cottage		1	
	POW ring o'bells	1	2	

Two stoneware types were produced in Staffordshire using local light-firing clays. These are brown stoneware (STBRS) and slipped white stoneware (SWSG SLIPPED). Most of the sherds from Old Whitbourne come from tankards, sometimes decorated with zig-zag linear stamps (Table 12). However, one brown stoneware sherd from Nutshell Cottage comes from a small jug with an iron wash (i.e. a thin slip) applied to the upper part of the vessel. The slipped white stoneware vessels were coated with a thick white slip, said to made from imported china clay or local clay mixed with crushed flint. The white stoneware vessels were produced in the early 18th century but the brown stoneware vessels were first produced in the late 17th century and rapidly lost popularity to white stoneware in the 18th century.

Table 12

Sitecode	Description	STBRS		SWSG
		JUG	TANK	TANK
POW Brook Cottage			1	
POW Collbridge			3	1
POW Nutshell Cottage	GLOB BODY WITH IRON WASH ON UPPER HALF	1	1	
POW ring o'bells	STAMPED		8 5	10

The latest Staffordshire types dealt with in this report were made from refined clays, whose recipes varied but which were normally based on China Clay. These consist of vessels with a brown fabric, fired to earthenware temperatures and normally lead-glazed (REFR) and white Saltglazed stoneware (SWSG). The vessels found at Old Whitbourne are mostly associated with drinking (and especially tea drinking) and dining. The bowl sherds could be from a tea set or for use in dining. SWSG vessels were first made in the 1720s but were not common until the 1740s. After c.1765 they rapidly fell out of fashion, following the introduction of Creamware and Pearlware. Two of the SWSG vessels are decorated in scratch-blue style, in which decoration is incised freehand and then emphasised by cobalt-blue paint. These vessels probably date to the 1750s.

Table 13

Sitecode	Description	REFR	REFR	SWSG	SWSG	SWSG	SWSG	SWSG	SWSG
		JUG	TPOT		BOWL	PLATE	TANK	TPOT	TPOT

			LID
POW Brook Cottage	SCRATCH-BLUE;M18TH C SHL=SPIT 5 SHL=SPIT 6	1 1	1
POW Brook Cottage Total		2	1
POW Churchfields	MOULDED BODY		1 1 1 1
POW Collbridge	MOULDED EDGE NECK SHERD HAS PARTIAL WHITE SLIP INT AND EXT SCRATCH-BLUE;M18TH	3	2 1 1
POW Golds	WAVY COMBED DEC	1	

The remaining late 17th to mid 18th-century types found consist of two sherds of Nottingham stoneware (NOTS), produced in Nottingham from the late 17th century, but mostly of 18th- or even 19th-century date, and two sherds of Westerwald stoneware (WEST), one of which comes from a drinking jug with a globular body and cylindrical neck. This form, when decorated in blue and purple, like the Old Whitbourne example, is mainly later 17th and early 18th century in date.

In summary, therefore, the Old Whitbourne sites produced pottery of all dates between the mid 17th and the mid 18th centuries. These included imported vessels and vessels used for tea drinking and dining. The pottery suggests that the users were fairly prosperous.

The Trial Excavations

Trial Trench 1

Context 1003 produced a stamped clay pipe heel, of later 17th or 18th-century date.

Trial Trench 2

Finds were recovered from contexts 2002, 2004, "2005 sondage", 2006 and "Sondage". All contained late 18th or 19th-century material. In addition, the trench produced finds of medieval and late medieval date; later 17th to early 18th and mid 18th century dates.

Trial Trench 3

Finds were recovered from contexts 3002 and 3003. Those from 3002 consist solely of ceramic building material which cannot be dated closely and those from 3003 include a small fragment of SWSG which dates the deposit to the mid 18th century. Other finds in this context consist of medieval and late 17th to early 18th-century pottery.

Trial Trench 4

Finds were recovered from context 4003. They consist of ceramic building material which cannot be closely dated and a sherd of Pearlware (PEAR) of late 18th-century or 19th-century date.

Trial Trench 5

Finds were recovered from context 5002. The latest pieces date to the late 18th or 19th century but also include medieval and late medieval pottery and post-medieval window glass.

Trial Trench 6

Context 3006 produced a single small sherd of HERB1 jar, dating to the 12th or 13th centuries.

The Test Pits

The Boat

A collection of pottery, clay pipe and ceramic building material was recovered from context 007. Most of the finds are definitely of 19th or 20th-century date and there is no definite residual material of earlier date.

Churchfields

Unstratified

Toby's pot is a small sherd from the wall of a late 15th or 16th-century HERB4 cup with a stamped, applied white clay prunt, glaze with a copper-mottled green lead glaze.

Test Pit 1

Spit 7 can be dated to early 15th century or later on the basis of a sherd of Tudor Green (TUDG) cup, which was the only find.

Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 is said on one finds bag to be at "TW" and on the other to be in Churchfields.

The finds from spit 1 include 19th-century material together with late medieval and late 17th to mid 18th-century pottery. The finds from spit 3 consist of a single fragment of Martincamp flask, dating the deposit to the later 16th century or later.

Ring O' Bells

Test Pit 4

Finds were recovered from spits 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. There were two bags of finds from spit 5 which were marked up by different hands and these have been recorded separately. The lowest spit contains a sherd of STMO, dating the deposit to the very late 17th or early 18th century or later, and material of similar date provides a terminus post quem for the deposition of spits, 7, 6, and 5 (one bag). The second bag from spit 5 contains a mid 18th-century or later sherd together with earlier types and the higher spits produced 19th-century finds, together with more late 17th to early 18th-century types. Definitely mid 18th-century material was absent, suggesting that there were two phases of activity represented, with a period of inactivity separating them.

Collbridge

Test Pit 5

Finds were recovered from spits 3, 4 and 5. The pottery from spit 5 dates to the early to mid 18th century (dated by a sherd of an SWSG SLIPPED tankard). That from spit 4 is mostly of similar date, with a few late 18th-century or later finds (and a refined redware jug), and that from spit 3 contains 19th-century pottery together with more early 18th-century finds.

As in Test Pit 4, the finds from this pit suggest that there was a phase of activity in the early 18th century followed by a hiatus and then further activity in the 19th century. The only mid 18th-century find present was the redware jug, a type which could easily have been an heirloom discarded in the 19th century.

Test Pit 6

Finds were recorded from spits 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10. The finds from spits 9 and 10 dates between the mid 16th and the early 17th centuries and that from spit 6 includes a late 16th-century copper alloy jetton and a clay pipe bowl, provisionally identified as being of mid 17th-century type.

Spits 3 and 4 produced 19th-century finds together with late 17th to early 18th and mid 18th-century finds.

It is possible that the jetton and clay pipe from spit 6 are contemporary with the finds from spits 9 and 10 and that together they represent a phase of activity in the early 17th century (conceivably the later 16th century, if the dating of the clay pipe bowl can be re-considered). Spits 3 and 4 then represent a long period of activity starting in the early to mid 18th century and continuing into the 19th century.

Nutshell Cottage

Test Pit 7

Finds were recorded from spits 1, 5, 6, 7, and 9. That from spit 9 includes medieval pottery (a mixed assemblage, including early to mid 13th and later 13th or 14th-century pieces); a clay pipe stem of late 17th century or later date and fragments of brick. Spits 6 and 7 produced late 18th-century or later pottery together with sherds of late 17th to 18th-century date. Spits 5 and 1 produced sherds of 19th century date together with sherds of early to mid 18th century date.

The Olde Rectory

Test Pit 8

Finds were recorded from spits 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 7 upper, and 8. Spit 8 can be dated to the early 17th century on the basis of a fragment of clay pipe stem. The finds from spit 7 could also be of early 17th-century date but those from spit 7 upper include 19th-century finds, brick and one of the late medieval floor tiles. Spit 6 produced similar finds, including a second late medieval floor tile, and spits 1, 3 and 4 produced 19th-century finds together with some later 17th to mid 18th-century finds.

Test Pit 9

Finds were recorded from spits 5 and 7. The finds from spit 7 consist of sherds of three different mid 16th to mid 17th-century blackware cup types. A date in the mid 17th century is probable for the deposit, since one of these cups is a Staffordshire redware. Spit 5 produced sherds of HERB4 and HERB5. These types were in contemporary use in the mid 16th century but the latter could also be of early 17th century date.

Willow Bank

Test Pit 10

A single sherd of medieval pottery, a HERC1 jar with a late 12th to early 13th-century rim form, was recorded from spit 5.

Brook Cottage

Test Pit 12

Finds were recorded from spits 5, 6, 8 and 11. Those from spit 11 date to the medieval period (late 13th century or later). Spit 8 produced sherds of early 18th century or later date and spits 6 and 5 produced sherds of later 18th century date, including parts of the same refined redware tea pot from both contexts. Both spits also produced sherds of early to mid 18th and mid 18th-century date.

Kennetts

Test Pit 13

Pottery was recorded from spits 7 and 9. That from spit 9 dates to the late medieval to early 16th century and that from spit 7 is a sherd of medieval date.

Golds

Test Pit 14

Pottery was recorded from spits 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. The latest sherds from spit 9 are of later 17th-century or early 18th-century date but the spit also produced a collection of mid 16th to early 17th-century pottery. Spit 8 also produced late 17th/early 18th century pottery with a small number of mid 16th to early 17th –century types. Spit 7 produced a single mid 17th-century clay pipe bowl. Spits 4 and 5 produced 19th-century pottery together with pottery of similar character to that in the earlier spits. In addition, it produced a fragment of refined redware teapot which might be of mid 18th-century date.

The finds from Test Pit 14 mainly belong to three periods: mid 16th to early 17th-century; late 17th to very early 18th century (there is only one sherd of STMO from the whole test pit) and 19th century.