

***Test-Pit 59: Woodland at Bosworth Hall, Park Street (SK 40863 03083)***

Test-pit 59 was excavated in woodland in the grounds of Bosworth Hall c.9m north-east of Park Street at SK 40863 03083 (Figure 1). Over two days on 6-7 July 2019, the test-pit was dug to a depth of c.0.7m with seven spits recorded.



*Figure 1: Excavation of Test-pit 59, looking south-east.*



*Figure 2: Test-pit 59 post-excavation, looking north.*

During the excavation, c.0.1m of woodland loam (Spit 1) was removed. Beneath was c.0.5m of dark greyish-brown silty-sand topsoil (Spits 2-6) covering c.0.1m of dark greyish-brown silty-sand and gravel (Spit 7). The natural substratum, greyish-yellow clayey-sand, was reached c.0.7m below ground level. No other archaeological deposits or features were observed (Figure 2).

In all, 72 individual finds (219g) were recovered from the test-pit (Table 1). Post-medieval and modern material was found throughout the test-pit and it was evident that the ground here was extensively reworked in the past. The loam (Spit 1) contained a small quantity of modern brick and concrete, as well as 2 sherds of modern china (c.1750-present). Other finds included 14 shards of modern bottle glass, 2 metal bottle caps, a foil bottle top, a factory-made iron bolt, and several plastic objects.

A small quantity of modern brick and concrete was also found throughout topsoil (Spits 2-6), as well as 13 sherds of modern and post-medieval pottery, including china, cream ware and earthenware (c.1600-present). A small quantity of medieval pottery was also present including 1 sherd of reduced sandy ware (c.850-1400), 4 sherds of coarse shelly ware and 1 sherd of Potters Marston ware (c.1100-1400) and 1 sherd of Chilvers Coton B ware (c.1250-1400). Other finds from the topsoil included 7 shards of modern bottle and window glass, a corroded iron object probably part of a nail, a sheep tooth and a flint flake.



*Figure 3: Medieval pottery from Test-pit 59*

Finds of different periods, ranging from AD c.850 – present were together in the topsoil suggesting that it was repeatedly mixed and reworked over an extended period. The finds do not suggest occupation in the immediate vicinity of the test-pit. Instead, the small quantity of medieval pottery and animal bone is more characteristic of material being used to enrich soil through manuring fields with domestic waste brought in from elsewhere. Much of the pottery was small and very abraded, suggesting it was circulating in the soil for a prolonged period. This is also characteristic of material deposited in an arable context, which has been repeatedly turned over by the plough. The relative absence of later material in the topsoil is also in keeping with the area, which is within Bosworth Park. The park, part of the Bosworth Hall estate, dates to at least the 17th century when the Hall was built but is probably much older, potentially part of the medieval Southwood Park, a deer park first mentioned in the early 13th century. From the 17th century on, it was probably permanent grassland and there was no opportunity or need to enrich the soil with domestic waste. Modern finds of plastic, glass and china probably represent opportunistic refuse disposal within the corner of the park closest to the town.

A single flint flake probably waste from flint knapping was found at the bottom of the pit. The flake is identified as a tertiary flake associated with the initial stages of flint working, most likely in the Neolithic period or the Bronze Age (c.4000-700 BC). As an isolated find, it represents prehistoric activity in the wider landscape of Market Bosworth but does not suggest sustained activity was taking place in the immediate vicinity of the test-pit.

Table 1: Catalogue of finds from Test-Pit 59.

Test-pit	Spit	Material*	No.	Description	Date**	Notes
59	1	CBM	3	Orangeish red CBM	Modern	
59	1	Glass	4	Brown curved glass	Modern	
59	1	Glass	1	Green curved glass	Modern	
59	1	Glass	9	Clear curved glass	Modern	
59	1	Metalwork	1	Iron sheet	Modern	Black paint on one side
59	1	Metalwork	1	Bolt	Modern	Factory-made
59	1	Metalwork	1	Bottle cap	Modern	Black writing on white 'Sch' presumably Schweppes
59	1	Metalwork	1	Bottle cap	Modern	Gold writing on red 'Bud' presumably Budweiser
59	1	Metalwork	1	Foil bottle top	Modern	Bronze paint on one side
59	1	Plastic	1	Blue glue spreader?	Modern	
59	1	Plastic	1	Plastic bottle cork	Modern	
59	1	Plastic	1	Moulded plastic bike light?	Modern	Silver colour
59	1	Pot	2	China/porcelain	Modern	
59	2	CBM	3	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
59	2	Glass	3	Brown curved glass	Modern	
59	2	Glass	1	Clear curved glass	Modern	
59	2	Pot	1	Cream ware	Modern	
59	3	CBM	2	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
59	3	Glass	1	Brown curved glass	Modern	
59	3	Glass	2	Clear flat glass	Modern	Window glass
59	3	Metalwork	1	Fe object	Unknown	Probably nail fragment
59	3	Pot	3	China/porcelain	Modern	
59	3	Pot	1	Earthenware - unclassified	Modern	
59	4	Bone	1	Misc animal bone	Unknown	Sheep tooth
59	4	CBM	7	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
59	4	Pot	4	China/porcelain	Modern	
59	4	Pot	1	Potters Marston ware	early High medieval	
59	4	Pot	1	Reduced sandy ware	Saxo-Norman/early High Medieval	
59	4	Pot	3	Coarse Shelly ware	early High medieval	
59	4	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton B ware	later High medieval	
59	5	CBM	2	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
59	5	Flint	1	Tertiary flake	Unknown	
59	5	Pot	1	Coarse Shelly ware	early High medieval	
59	5	Pot	1	Earthenware 2	later Post-medieval	
59	6	Pot	1	China/porcelain	Modern	
59	6	Pot	2	Oxidised sandy ware	early High medieval	Base
59	6	Pot	1	Earthenware – unclassified	Modern	

\*BM – Building Material, CBM – Ceramic Building Material

\*\*The following phasing is used in this report: Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), early High Medieval (AD 1100-1250), later High Medieval (AD 1250-1400), Late Medieval (AD 1375-1550), early Post-medieval (AD 1500-1650), later Post-medieval (AD 1650-1850, Modern (AD 1850-present).