



Test Pit 10: Orchard behind 34 Main Street, SK 39688 04897

Test Pit 10 (Figure 1) was excavated in an orchard to the rear of 34 Main Street, set back 125m on the south side of Main Street. Maps dating from the mid-19th century show that this was at the western end of a trackway leading from Main Street around the back of Carlton Hall and exiting into fields to the south of Carlton.



Figure 1: Test Pit 10 during excavation. Looking north-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 10 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (Layer 1) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.2m of brownish grey clayey silt and large pebbles (Layers 2-3) and 0.2m of greyish orange clayey sand and large pebbles (Layers 4-5). This was probably a cobbled surface. The natural substratum, mixed greyish yellow clay and greyish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below the ground.

In all, 58 individual finds (1.944kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). Single sherds of Roman (2nd-4th century AD), High Medieval (12th-14th century) and Late Medieval (15th-mid-16th century) pottery were found, along with a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th-19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. A modern iron nail and bottle glass were also found. A small group of animal bones showed signs of butchery.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity around St Andrew's Church. The thick layer of closely packed cobbles confirmed the presence of the trackway which was a well-constructed route into the fields to the south of the village. Pottery from the cobbled surface was of mixed periods and the surface cannot be earlier than the 15th century and was likely to date to the 18th-19th century. Construction of the trackway had removed all other soils from the test pit and the finds recovered cannot provide further information on other activity in the vicinity.

The Roman pottery was small and abraded and was recovered from the cobbled surface. As such, its provenance was uncertain. If it has come from the area around the test pit it represents a low-level 'background noise' of Roman activity in the wider landscape, perhaps associated with a small farmstead located 90m to the north-east, behind 42-44 Main Street.

Many thanks to Bill and Tania Sharp for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Alice, Annabelle, Jan, Joy and Steven Goodman, and Amelia and Brayden McDonald.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 10

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Building material | 2 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards |
| 1 | Glass | 1 | Green bottle glass | Modern | |
| 1 | Pottery | 1 | Potters Marston ware | High Medieval | AD 1100-1300/50+ |
| 2 | Bone & shell | 1 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | Shaft with butchery marks |
| 2 | Building material | 13 | Cement roof tile | Modern | |
| 2 | Building material | 19 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 2 | Building material | 1 | Iron nail | Modern | Machine-made, 6" |
| 2 | Pottery | 4 | Staffordshire Creamware | Post-medieval | AD 1730-1850 |
| 3 | Building material | 5 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 3 | Building material | 2 | Cement roof tile | Modern | |

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 3 | Pottery | 1 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 5 | Bone & shell | 3 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | Includes cow tooth |
| 5 | Building material | 1 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 5 | Pottery | 1 | Roman pottery | Roman | 2nd - 4th century AD |
| 5 | Pottery | 1 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 6 | Building material | 1 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 6 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |

* 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)