



### Test Pit 15: 66 Main Street, SK 39932 05030

Test Pit 15 (Figure 1) was excavated in the rear garden of 66 Main Street, set back 50m on the south side of Main Street. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this was agricultural land until the present house was built in the late 20th century.



Figure 1: Test Pit 15 during excavation. Looking south-east



Figure 2: Test Pit 15 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.2m of greyish orange clayey sand subsoil (Layers 3-4) and 0.2m of greyish yellow/orange sandy clay (Layers 5-6). The natural substratum, greyish orange sandy clay, was reached 0.6m below the ground. No archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 64 individual finds (1.096kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th to 14th century) was found in the lower layers, along with two sherds of modern earthenware (19th-20th century) in the upper layers. Other finds included modern building material, typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Modern bottle glass and part of a red plastic laundry peg were also present.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential for pre-medieval activity in an area of known ridge and furrow beyond the expected extent of Carlton's medieval and post-medieval village core. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 12th century through to the 15th century. Medieval pottery sherds (n5) were typically small and abraded. This suggested that they were circulating in plough soil for a prolonged period of time. Rather than representing nearby habitation in the medieval period this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The noticeable absence of post-medieval pottery may suggest that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with the well-preserved ridge and furrow still visible in fields to the south of the test pit, and still faintly visible in the garden around the test pit. No evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period was found.

Many thanks to Nicola Morgan for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Amelia Garrad, June Lewis, Paul Ready and Andy Ridout.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 15

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	6	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
1	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Unglazed ceramic drainage pipe	Modern	
2	Building material	19	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron nail	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
2	Garden waste	1	Red plastic laundry peg	Modern	1/2 only
2	Glass	8	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Includes jar rim with joining shard in 15.3
2	Pottery	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	9	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Jar rim joining shard in 15.1
3	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Glass	1	Brown bottle glass	Modern	
4	Building material	5	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
4	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
6	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
6	Pottery	2	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475

\* 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)