



### Test Pit 16: 79 Main Street, SK 39921 05144

Test Pit 16 (Figure 1) was excavated in the rear garden of 79 Main Street, set back 35m on the north side of Main Street. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this was agricultural land. In the late 19th / 20th century the site was allotment gardens until the present house was built in the late 20th century.



Figure 1: Test Pit 16 during excavation. Looking west



Figure 2: Test Pit 16 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.2m of greyish orange clayey sand subsoil (Layers 4-5). The natural substratum, greyish yellow clayey sand and gravel, was reached 0.5m below the ground. No archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 334 individual finds (894g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of medieval pottery (12th to mid-16th century) was found, along with a larger assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th-19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, fragments of clay tobacco pipe, and window and bottle glass 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 (n3) 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 absence of 16th-century pottery may suggest that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation and turned over to pasture. This is consistent with faint traces of ridge and furrow still visible in fields to the north of the test pit. Post-medieval and modern pottery was also small and abraded and would be consistent with domestic refuse being used to manure fields and allotment gardens. No evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period was found.

Many thanks to Mike and Marilyn Jones for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Jan Butler, Caroline Ellis, Laura Ellis, Masie Mansfield-Ellis and Mike Jones.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 16

| Layer | Category          | No | Description                     | Phase*        | Comments   |
|-------|-------------------|----|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1     | Building material | 24 | Red ceramic building material   | Modern        | Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards |
| 1     | Building material | 4  | Cement roof tile                | Modern        |  |
| 1     | Building material | 1  | Iron nail                       | Modern        | Handmade, square shafted   |
| 1     | Clay pipe         | 1  | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment | Modern        | 1.6mm bore   |
| 1     | Glass             | 4  | Clear bottle glass              | Modern        |  |
| 1     | Glass             | 3  | Clear window glass              | Modern        |  |
| 1     | Pottery           | 4  | Iron-Glazed Earthenware         | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD   |
| 1     | Pottery           | 18 | Modern earthenwares             | Modern        | AD 1800+   |
| 2     | Building material | 52 | Red ceramic building material   | Modern        |  |
| 2     | Building material | 1  | Iron nail                       | Undated       | Handmade, square shafted   |



| Layer | Category          | No | Description                      | Phase*        | Comments   |
|-------|-------------------|----|----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 2     | Clay pipe         | 5  | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment  | Modern        | Including stem with step, 1.6mm bore                                     |
| 2     | Glass             | 4  | Green bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 2     | Glass             | 6  | Clear bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 2     | Pottery           | 1  | Midland Purple Ware              | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550   |
| 2     | Pottery           | 7  | Iron-Glazed Earthenware          | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD                           |
| 2     | Pottery           | 27 | Modern earthenwares              | Modern        | AD 1800+   |
| 3     | Clay pipe         | 1  | Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment  | Modern        | Oswald type 27, front of thin brittle bowl with leaf pattern c.1780-1820 |
| 3     | Clay pipe         | 8  | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments | Modern        | x2 with 2.4mm bore, x6 with 1.6mm bore                                   |
| 3     | Glass             | 12 | Clear bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 3     | Pottery           | 1  | Staffordshire slipware           | Post-medieval | AD 1680-1750   |
| 3     | Pottery           | 3  | Iron-Glazed Earthenware          | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD                           |
| 3     | Pottery           | 44 | Modern earthenwares              | Modern        | AD 1800+   |
| 4     | Building material | 14 | Red ceramic building material    | Modern        |  |
| 4     | Clay pipe         | 1  | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment  | Modern        | 1.6mm bore   |
| 4     | Glass             | 1  | Clear bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 4     | Pottery           | 1  | Potters Marston ware             | High Medieval | AD 1100-1300/50+   |
| 4     | Pottery           | 1  | Iron-Glazed Earthenware          | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD                           |
| 4     | Pottery           | 9  | Modern earthenwares              | Modern        | AD 1800+   |
| 5     | Building material | 58 | Red ceramic building material    | Modern        |  |
| 5     | Clay pipe         | 8  | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments | Modern        | bore unknown   |
| 5     | Glass             | 7  | Clear bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 5     | Glass             | 2  | Green bottle glass               | Modern        |  |
| 5     | Pottery           | 1  | Cistercian Ware                  | Late Medieval | AD 1450/75-1550  |

\* 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)