



### Test Pit 17: The Nook, 93 Main Street, SK 40039 05199

Test Pit 17 (Figure 1) was excavated in the front garden of 93 Main Street on the north 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 mid-20th century.



Figure 1: Test Pit 17 during excavation. Looking south-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 17 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 0.3m of greyish orange clayey sand subsoil (Layers 4-6). The natural substratum, greyish yellow clayey sand, was reached 0.6m below the ground. No archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 129 individual finds (1.158kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of pottery, all post-medieval or modern in date (17th-19th century) was found. Other finds included modern building material, typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron nails, modern window and bottle glass, foil bottle tops and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem were also present. A small group of animal bone included a dog jaw. An iron sphere, 25mm in diameter, weighing 53g, was too corroded to identify with certainty but may be an iron shot. A worked flint was of probable Bronze Age date.

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. The pottery, rather than representing nearby habitation in the post-medieval period was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village or dumped as refuse from the roadside. No evidence of activity dating to the Roman or medieval periods was found.

The worked flint was debitage, a flake removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. It was retouched, indicating that it had been used as crude tool. The rather impromptu nature of the material may suggest a Bronze Age date and the flint represents a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Mandie Bristlin for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Mandy Bristlin, Fiona Bennett and Nigel Hutchinson.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 17

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	Dog jaw
1	Building material	4	Cement	Modern	
1	Building material	28	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
1	Building material	3	Iron nails	Modern	Machine-made, 1.5" with white plastic head, 2.5" + shaft fragment
1	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Building material	17	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	3	Iron nails	Modern	
2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	Modern	2.4mm bore
2	Glass	4	Clear bottle glass	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Pottery	2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pottery	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	15	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Flint	1	Primary flake	Bronze Age	Small amount of retouch on
3	Garden waste	1	Foil bottle top	Modern	
3	Glass	8	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	White opaque bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pottery	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pottery	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	7	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	2	Cement roof tile	Modern	
4	Garden waste	1	Foil bottle top	Modern	
4	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Munitions	1	Iron sphere	Undated	25mm diameter, possible shot?
4	Pottery	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Building material	1	Iron nail	Undated	Handmade, square-shafted, 3"
6	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

\* 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)