



### Test Pit 20: 56 Main Street, SK 39849 05012

Test Pit 20 (Figure 1) was excavated in the rear garden of 56 Main Street, set back 40m 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 mid-20th century.



Figure 1: Test Pit 20 during excavation. Looking south



Figure 2: Test Pit 20 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and orangish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layer 1) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.4m of greyish orange silty sand subsoil (Layers 2-5). The natural substratum, greyish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below the ground. No archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 50 individual finds (160g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with a single sherd of Late Medieval pottery (15th-mid-16th century) and a small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (17th-19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from the late 18th century onwards, and modern window glass.

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 (n6) 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 small amount of post-medieval and modern pottery (n4) probably suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 16th century 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. No evidence of activity pre-dating the medieval period was found.

Excavation was carried out over one day on September 11, 2022 by Joe Ecob, Gill Higgings, Jenny Owen and Judy Smithers.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 20

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	8	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
1	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Building material	23	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron nail	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
2	Pottery	3	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
2	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
2	Pottery	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
4	Building material	7	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Pottery	1	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)