



## Test Pit 6: The New House, 39 Main Street, SK 39576 05084

Test Pit 6 (Figure 1) was excavated in a paddock to the rear of The New House, set back 80m on the north side of Main Street. A plaque on the New House indicates that it was built in 1886, replacing an earlier building visible on the 1849 tithe map. LiDAR shows faint traces of ridge and furrow earthworks surviving in the paddock.



Figure 1: Test Pit 6 during excavation. Looking south



Figure 2: Test Pit 6 fully excavated, looking north



During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and grey brown clayey silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.2m of grey brown silty clay subsoil (Layers 3-4). The natural substratum, greyish yellow clay, was reached 0.4m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 206 individual finds (650g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was 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 handmade iron nail, piece of a clay tobacco pipe and modern bottle glass were also found. A cow tooth was also present.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity east of Carlton Green and west of St Andrew's Church. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 12th century through to the 14th century. Medieval pottery sherds 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 late medieval pottery, and the small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery both suggest that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation and turned over to pasture, perhaps in the 15th century. This is consistent with the faint traces of ridge and furrow still visible in the paddock and in fields to the north-east and north-west.

Many thanks to Dawn and James Igoe for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over one day on September 10, 2022 by David and Rosemary Leavesley and Nick and Stephanie Marlow.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 6

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards
2	Building material	101	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron nail	Modern	Handmade, square shafted
2	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	1	Medieval shelly wares	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
2	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
2	Pottery	1	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
2	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
2	Pottery	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	Cow tooth

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Building material	76	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	Modern	bore unknown
3	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
3	Pottery	8	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
3	Pottery	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

\* 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)