



Test Pit 7: Manor House Farm, 45 Main Street (garden), SK 39638 05039

Test Pit 7 (Figure 1) was excavated in garden/orchard to the west of Manor House Farmhouse, on the north side of Main Street. The farmhouse is Grade II listed, described as a late 18th-century structure built using local Carlton stone with later brick extensions. However, two original, first-floor windows on the east side, both square headed with splayed mullions, might suggest that the stone part is much earlier.



Figure 1: Test Pit 7 during excavation. Looking north-east



Figure 2: Test Pit 7 fully excavated, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed (Figure 2). Beneath was 0.4m of greyish brown silty clay subsoil (Layers 4-7). The natural substratum, greyish yellow clay, was reached 0.7m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded.

In all, 415 individual finds (3.388kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). Small but significant assemblages of High Medieval (12th-14th century) and Late Medieval (15th-mid-16th century) pottery were found, along with a larger assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery (16th-19th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the late 18th century onwards. Iron slag, hand- and machine-made iron nails, pieces of clay tobacco pipe, plastic garden waste and modern window and bottle glass were also found. Unique items included a decorative copper alloy fitting and a modern button. A large assemblage of animal bones was also present.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and post-medieval activity around St Andrew's Church and Manor House Farm. The medieval pottery suggests that there was activity in the vicinity in the 13th-15th centuries and perhaps as early as the 12th century. This is consistent with test pits nearby, which have produced similar assemblages. Together, they suggest a focus of medieval settlement in the area along Main Street immediately around the church and Manor House Farm. Occupation at the site of Manor House Farmhouse can be dated back to at least the 15th century and probably earlier to the 13th-14th centuries. Post-medieval and modern material from the test pit, dating from the 16th century onwards suggests, that this occupation has continued, unbroken, to the present day. How this relates to the date of the current farmhouse remains unclear but strongly supports the idea that it is earlier than the late 18th century, and perhaps dates to the 16th-17th centuries, probably replacing an earlier medieval structure.

Many thanks to John Smith for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Richard Liddington, Paul Kettell and Jonah, Mathew and Tina Tallis.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 7

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|-------------------|-----|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Bone & shell | 1 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |
| 1 | Building material | 1 | Iron nail | Modern | Machine-made, 3" |
| 1 | Building material | 1 | Blue engineering brick | Modern | |
| 1 | Building material | 100 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 1 | Garden waste | 1 | Modern plastic | Modern | Hard, thin grey plastic |
| 1 | Glass | 15 | Clear bottle glass | Modern | |
| 1 | Industrial | 3 | Iron slag | Undated | |
| 1 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 1 | Pottery | 4 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 1 | Pottery | 5 | Modern earthenwares | Modern | AD 1800+ |
| 2 | Building material | 3 | Iron nails | Undated | Handmade, square shafted |
| 2 | Building material | 1 | Iron nail | Modern | Machine-made, 4" |

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|--------------------|----|--------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 2 | Building material | 26 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 2 | Clay pipe | 1 | Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment | Modern | 2.4mm bore |
| 2 | Glass | 12 | Clear bottle glass | Modern | |
| 2 | Personal adornment | 1 | Button | Modern | 2 hole, 16mm diameter |
| 2 | Pottery | 1 | Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware | High Medieval | Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475 |
| 2 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Blackware | Post-medieval | Ticknall AD 1550-1725 |
| 2 | Pottery | 2 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 2 | Pottery | 5 | Modern earthenwares | Modern | AD 1800+ |
| 3 | Bone & shell | 1 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |
| 3 | Building material | 1 | Iron nail | Undated | Handmade, square-shafted |
| 3 | Building material | 52 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 3 | Glass | 9 | Clear window glass | Modern | |
| 3 | Household | 1 | Decorative fitting | Modern | |
| 3 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 3 | Pottery | 1 | Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware | Post-medieval | AD 1680-1780 |
| 3 | Pottery | 2 | Staffordshire Creamware | Post-medieval | AD 1730-1850 |
| 3 | Pottery | 2 | Modern earthenwares | Modern | AD 1800+ |
| 4 | Bone & shell | 6 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |
| 4 | Building material | 23 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | Includes tile 11mm thick |
| 4 | Glass | 2 | Clear bottle glass | Modern | |
| 4 | Glass | 1 | Green bottle glass | Modern | With iridescence |
| 4 | Pottery | 1 | Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware | High Medieval | Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395 |
| 4 | Pottery | 6 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 4 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Yellow Ware | Post-medieval | Ticknall AD 1500-1725 |
| 4 | Pottery | 2 | Midland Blackware | Post-medieval | Ticknall AD 1550-1725 |

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|-------------------|----|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 4 | Pottery | 4 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 4 | Pottery | 1 | Staffordshire Slipware | Post-medieval | AD 1680-1750 |
| 4 | Pottery | 2 | Modern earthenwares | Modern | AD 1800+ |
| 5 | Bone & shell | 4 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |
| 5 | Building material | 11 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 5 | Pottery | 1 | Potters Marston ware | High Medieval | AD 1100-1300/50+ |
| 5 | Pottery | 1 | Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware | High Medieval | Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395 |
| 5 | Pottery | 3 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 5 | Pottery | 1 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 6 | Bone & shell | 23 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |
| 6 | Building material | 1 | Iron nail | Undated | Handmade, square shafted, fragment |
| 6 | Building material | 27 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 6 | Clay pipe | 1 | Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment | Modern | |
| 6 | Glass | 1 | Green bottle glass | Modern | With iridescence |
| 6 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 6 | Pottery | 1 | Midland Yellow Ware | Post-medieval | Ticknall AD 1500-1725 |
| 6 | Pottery | 3 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 7 | Bone & shell | 10 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | Mostly bird bones |
| 7 | Building material | 9 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 7 | Pottery | 1 | Potters Marston ware | High Medieval | AD 1100-1300/50+ |
| 7 | Pottery | 1 | Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware | High Medieval | Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395 |
| 7 | Pottery | 2 | Midland Purple Ware | Late Medieval | AD 1370-1550 |
| 7 | Pottery | 2 | Iron-Glazed Earthenware | Post-medieval | Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD |
| 8 | Bone & shell | 3 | Misc. animal bone | Undated | |

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Phase* | Comments |
|-------|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| 8 | Building material | 2 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 8 | Building material | 1 | Swithland roof slate | Undated | Rectangular, 8mm diameter drilled hole |
| 8 | Building material | 1 | Swithland roof slate | Undated | 106mm wide, drilled hole 8mm diam, broken at top and bottom |

* 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)