



Test Pit 8: Manor House Farm, 45 Main Street (paddock), SK 39699 05048

Test Pit 8 (Figure 1) was excavated in a paddock on the north side of Main Street, east of Manor House Farm and west of 53 Main Street. Maps dating from the mid-19th century show that this has been agricultural land for the past two centuries.



Figure 1: Test Pit 8 during excavation. Looking north-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 8 fully excavated, looking north

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

In all, 356 individual finds (3.618kg) 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 large 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. Pieces of clay tobacco pipe and modern bottle glass were also found.

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. Post-medieval and modern material from the test pit is at odds with the site's more recent history as agricultural land and there are no other historical indications that there were properties on the site in the 16th-19th centuries. This later material is better attributed to domestic refuse being dumped in the field from other properties to the east and west.

Many thanks to John Smith for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Judy Buckell, Sian and Harrison Millward, Terry Ward and Richard Yates.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 8

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	16	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, probably made locally from late 18th century onwards. Includes part of a 12mm thick tile stamped (...TA) and a brick fragment 105mm wide and 75mm thick
3	Building material	86	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	5	Iron nails	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
3	Clay pipe	5	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments	Modern	2.4mm bore
3	Glass	2	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	4	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Includes rim of a traditional dimpled beer tankard
3	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
3	Pottery	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
3	Pottery	9	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
3	Pottery	55	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Bone & shell	8	Misc. animal bone	Undated	Includes bird and mammal, and pig tusk
4	Building material	47	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	3	Iron nails	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
4	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragments	Modern	2.4mm bore
4	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	With iridescence
4	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Includes body sherd stamped '_IGG_'
4	Pottery	1	Medieval shelly wares	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
4	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
4	Pottery	4	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
4	Pottery	3	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Pottery	1	Midland Yellow Ware	Post-medieval	Ticknall AD 1500-1725
4	Pottery	23	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD
4	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
4	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
4	Pottery	51	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Bone & shell	3	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
5	Building material	4	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Building material	2	Iron nails	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
5	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
5	Pottery	2	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
5	Pottery	2	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
5	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
5	Pottery	6	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)