



Test Pit 9: 34 Main Street, SK 39665 05021

Test Pit 9 (Figure 1) was excavated in the front garden of 34 Main Street, on the south side of Main Street. Maps dating from the mid-19th century show that this was agricultural land until the present house was built in the late 20th century.



Figure 1: Test Pit 9 during excavation. Looking north



Figure 2: Test Pit 9 fully excavated, looking south

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, 224 individual finds (1.471kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small but significant assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with a large 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. An iron nail and modern bottle glass were also found. The oldest material recovered were three worked flints which are probably of Bronze Age date.

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-14th centuries and perhaps as early as the 12th century. This is consistent with test pits nearby, on the north side of Main Street, 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 17th-19th centuries. This later material is better attributed to domestic refuse being dumped on the field edge from other properties to the east, and over the road to the north.

The worked flints were debitage, flakes removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. 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 Bill and Tania Sharp for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 10-11, 2022 by Nicole Mecua, Carol Riddington, Janice Szewczuk and Richard Yates.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 9

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
1	Building material	4	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 bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1400
1	Pottery	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Building material	1	Cement roof tile	Modern	
2	Building material	21	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Flint	1	Secondary flakes	Bronze Age	
2	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	3	Iron-Glazed Earthenware	Post-medieval	Chilvers Coton / Ticknall 17th-19th century AD

Layer	Category	No	Description	Phase*	Comments
2	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
2	Pottery	19	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	54	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	1	Iron nail	Undated	Handmade, square shafted
3	Flint	2	Secondary flakes	Bronze Age	
3	Glass	5	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	9	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pottery	5	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	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
3	Pottery	47	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	13	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Flint	1	Natural gravel flint	Undated	
4	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	14	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Pottery	4	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)