

Test-Pit 56: 37 Park Street (SK 40743 03166)

Test-pit 56 was excavated in soil at the north end of the rear garden of 37 Park Street, c.25m north of Park Street and c.3.5m east of the alleyway leading to St Peter's Church, at SK 40743 03166 (Figure 1). Over two days on 6-7 July 2019, the test-pit was dug to a depth of c.0.6m with six spits recorded.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test-pit 56, looking north-east.



Figure 2: Test-pit 56 post-excavation, looking north. The probable human remains are in the southern half of the test-pit.

During the excavation, c.0.4m of dark brownish-grey sandy-silt topsoil (Spits 1-4) was removed. This was imported material and lay over a layer of modern plastic sheeting. Beneath was c.0.2m of compacted brownish-grey clayey-silt, reddish-brown sandy-clay, yellow clay and building rubble. The natural substratum was not reached. Excavation was halted due to the discovery of probable human remains at the base of the test-pit. These were badly damaged by the overlying rubble layer but appeared to be the limbs of an east/west orientated individual (Figure 2).

In all, 443 individual finds (9.031kg) were recovered from the test-pit (Table 1). Unfortunately, 55% of the assemblage (242/443 finds) was recovered from the topsoil (Spites 1-4) which was clearly a modern importation. As such their original provenance is unknown and the finds cannot tell us anything about past activity at the property. Material in this topsoil included a large quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery including china, creamware and glazed earthenware (c.1750-present), as well as 2 sherds of Cistercian/Midland Blackware (c.1475-1550) and 3 sherds of Chilvers Coton ware (c.1250-1400) - Figure 3. Other finds included a large quantity of modern ceramic building material along with pieces of concrete, asphalt, plastic and modern bottle and window glass. A small quantity of clay tobacco pipe fragments was also present, including pipe bowls of c.1680-1710 and c.1810-40 date. Metalwork included modern plastic-coated garden wire and several corroded iron objects, probably nails.



Figure 3: A sample of pottery from the imported topsoil, including modern, post-medieval and medieval material.

The underlying rubble layer (Spits 5-6) contained a large quantity of modern ceramic building material and asphalt along with 4 sherds of china, creamware and glazed earthenware (c.1750-present). Other finds included 17 pieces of modern bottle and window glass and a small quantity of disarticulated bone, probably human (all fragments from the shaft of a single long bone).

No. 37 Park Street occupies part of the former Church of England School built on Park Street in 1848, closed in 1974 and subsequently converted to residential use. Past Ordnance Survey maps show that the present garden was formerly part of the school yard to the north of the school building. Prior to this, the land formed part of the parsonage, once occupying the entire plot of ground between the alleyway leading to the church to the west, Park Street to the south, the churchyard to the north and Bosworth Park to the east. This was certainly

the case in 1592 when Toby Mathews' survey of the manor of Bosworth showed the parsonage to be held by a Mr William Pelsant.

The soil sequence in the test-pit is consistent with this history. The rubble layer at the base is probably hardcore relating to the former school yard and/or the conversion of the school to residential use. The overlying topsoil, separated from the rubble by plastic sheeting, must have been imported post-1974 in order to create the present garden. The probable human remains at the base of the test-pit were badly degraded and were crushed by the overlying rubble. They appeared to be *in-situ* and were probably the remains of an articulated burial orientated broadly east to west. The bone was not removed and was immediately reburied.

In the past, human bone was found to the west of the property, beneath the lane running along the western boundary, where in 1965 workmen laying drains found most of the skeleton of a young woman. In 2013, archaeologists also found a quantity of disturbed human bone belonging to at least two individuals, an adult and a juvenile, at the Parish Hall c.20m to the west, and further disarticulated bone was found in 2017 in a test-pit in the rear garden of 31 Park Street, c.10m to the north-west (Test-Pit 3). These finds have been interpreted as medieval burials, most likely from St Peter's Church to the north. Evidence from this area of Market Bosworth now suggests that the churchyard associated with St Peter's Church may have once extended much further south than its present limit, possibly in the medieval period extending all the way down to the frontage on Park Street, before contracting northwards to its present location sometime after the 14th century.

Table 1: Catalogue of finds from Test-Pit 58.

Test-pit	Spit	Material*	No.	Description	Date**	Notes
56	1	CBM	45	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	Brick fragments
56	1	Clay pipe	3	Clay tobacco pipe stems	Modern	1mm diam. Bore
56	1	Glass	6	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	1	Glass	1	Red curved glass	Modern	
56	1	Glass	2	Clear flat glass	Modern	
56	1	Metalwork	1	Green plastic-coated garden wire	Modern	
56	1	Plastic	1	Red plastic rawl plug	Modern	
56	1	Plastic	1	Brown plastic seam - sports ball?	Modern	
56	1	Pot	2	Cream ware	Modern	
56	1	Pot	11	China/porcelain	Modern	
56	1	Pot	1	Slipware	later Post-medieval	
56	1	Pot	2	Earthenware - unclassified	Modern	plant pot
56	1	Pot	3	Earthenware 2	later Post-medieval	
56	2	CBM	23	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
56	2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment	Post-medieval	Long bowl, spur, 2mm bore c.1680-1710
56	2	Glass	4	Green curved glass	Modern	
56	2	Glass	2	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	2	Glass	2	Clear flat glass	Modern	
56	2	Metalwork	3	Fe objects	Modern	Inc. modern 1 1/2" screw & 3 1/2" handmade nail
56	2	Pot	3	Earthenware - unclassified	Modern	plant pot
56	2	Pot	1	Earthenware 2	later Post-medieval	
56	2	Pot	2	Cream ware	Modern	
56	2	Pot	8	China/porcelain	Modern	
56	3	BM	1	pantile fragment	Modern	
56	3	BM	2	Asphalt fragments	Modern	
56	3	Bone	1	Calcined bone	Unknown	
56	3	Bone	2	Misc animal bone	Unknown	butchery marks
56	3	CBM	43	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	Brick fragments
56	3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	Post-medieval +	2mm bore

Test-pit	Spit	Material*	No.	Description	Date**	Notes
56	3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl fragment	Post-medieval	Long bowl, long pointed spur, 2mm bore c.1810-40, scorched inside
56	3	Glass	2	Green curved glass	Modern	
56	3	Glass	5	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	3	Glass	5	Clear flat glass	Modern	Inc. 1 fragment wired safety glass
56	3	Metalwork	1	Fe object	Unknown	Probably nail fragment
56	3	Metalwork	1	Fe object	Modern	part of circular disk over 100m diam. & 5mm thick, slightly concave with flat lip
56	3	Pot	5	China/porcelain	Modern	
56	3	Pot	2	Chilvers Coton B ware	later High medieval	
56	4	BM	3	Asphalt fragments	Modern	
56	4	CBM	22	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	Brick fragments & 1 piece of nib tile
56	4	Glass	1	Clear flat glass	Modern	
56	4	Glass	1	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	4	Metalwork	1	Fe object	Modern	Probably modern 4" nail
56	4	Pot	1	Chilvers Coton A ware	later High medieval	
56	4	Pot	2	Cistercian ware/Midland Blackware	late medieval/early Post-medieval	
56	4	Pot	4	China/porcelain	Modern	
56	4	Pot	3	Earthenware - unclassified	Modern	plant pot
56	4	Pot	4	Earthenware 2	later Post-medieval	
56	5	BM	43	Asphalt fragments	Modern	
56	5	Bone	17	Human bone?	Unknown	Fragments of shaft
56	5	CBM	80	Reddish orange CBM	Modern	
56	5	CBM	32	Yellow curved CBM	Modern	Brown glazed pipe
56	5	CBM	3	Yellow CBM	Modern	
56	5	Glass	2	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	5	Glass	13	Clear flat glass	Modern	
56	5	Metalwork	1	Fe object	Unknown	Probably nail fragment
56	5	Pot	1	China/porcelain	Modern	
56	5	Pot	2	Earthenware 2	later Post-medieval	
56	6	Bone	2	Calcined bone	Unknown	
56	6	Glass	1	Clear curved glass	Modern	
56	6	Glass	1	Clear flat glass	Modern	
56	6	Industrial	1	Slag	Unknown	
56	6	Metalwork	1	Lead sheet	Unknown	
56	6	Pot	1	Cream ware	Modern	

*BM – Building Material, CBM – Ceramic Building Material

**The following phasing is used in this report: later High Medieval (AD 1250-1400), Late Medieval (AD 1375-1550), early Post-medieval (AD 1500-1650), later Post-medieval (AD 1650-1850, Modern (AD 1850-present).