



Test Pit 13: Manor Farm, Main Street, SK 42255 02447

Test Pit 13 (Figure 1) was dug in lawn north of Manor Farm, 145m west of Main Street. The Manor was built by the Dixie family in 1740 as a small country house, whilst the associated farm buildings date to the late 19th century. Pasture to the north of the test pit contained visible medieval ridge and furrow. The 1840 tithe map list the land as meadow called ‘Hop Yard Close’ owned by Sir Willoughby Wolstan Dixie and occupied by Samuel Watts.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 13, looking south-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 13 post-excavation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.1m of turf and brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layer 1) and greyish brown sandy silt soil (Layer 2) was removed. These appeared to be the product of modern garden landscaping. Beneath was a further 0.2m of brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 3-4), 0.1m of

greyish orange silty sand and gravel (Layer 5) and 0.2m of brownish orange silty sand subsoil (Layers 6-7). The natural substratum, reddish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.7m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2).

In all, 71 individual finds (507g) 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 modern pottery (19th century – present). Other finds included a small amount of modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. Modern bottle glass and iron slag was also present. The oldest find was a piece of worked flint of possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and pre-medieval activity in Cadeby. Finds recovered from the test pit were consistent with the area being under cultivation from at least the 13th century onwards. 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 absence of later medieval and post-medieval pottery, together with visible ridge and furrow earthworks in the pasture to the north of the test pit would suggest that this arable land was given over to pasture by the 15th century. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house from the 18th century onwards.

The worked flint was debitage, a flake removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. It appeared to have been deliberately retouched and may have been used as a tool. The flint represents a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

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Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 13

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Building material	5	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	1	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Building material	8	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	6	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	13	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	2	Wire nails	Modern	
3	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	4	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	Glassy vesicular slag

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
3	Pottery	3	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
3	Pottery	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	14	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Glass	2	Clear window glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	2	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Stone	1	Secondary elongated small flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Both margins retouched/abraded but unclear function, translucent dark grey material, polished

* Phasing: Mesozoic (252-66 million years ago), Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (10000-3300 BC), Roman (AD 43-410), Saxo-Norman (AD 850-1100), High Medieval (1100-1400), Later Medieval (1400-1550), Post-medieval (1550-1800), Modern (1800-present)