



Test Pit 14: Field north of Manor Farm, SK 42250 02711

Test Pit 14 (Figure 1) was dug in arable land 270m north of Manor Farm and 30m west of Cadeby Lane. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area has been farmland for over 150 years.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 14, looking south-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 14 post-excavation, looking north

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

In all, 7 individual finds (476g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery (mid-17th – late 18th century) was found. Other finds included clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass and iron slag. 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. The finds from the test pit were consistent with an area which was under arable cultivation for a long time. No evidence for nearby habitation of any period was identified.

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

Many thanks to Louis Massarella for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Paul Kettell, Joe Laughlin, Richard Liddington and Martin Thompson.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 14

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	2.4mm bore
1	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	
1	Stone	1	Gravel flake	Undated	Natural
2	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
2	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
3	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
3	Stone	1	Retouched tertiary flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Small utilised cutting piece? Slightly patinated, translucent grey material

* 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)