



Test Pit 15: Field north of Cadeby Hall, SK 42307 02745

Test Pit 15 (Figure 1) was dug in pasture 230m north of Cadeby Hall and 15m east 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 15, looking south-west



Figure 2: Test Pit 15 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and 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, 19 individual finds (241g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A single sherd of High Medieval pottery (13th-14th century) was found. Other finds included a small amount of modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. Clay tobacco pipe and modern bottle glass was also found. 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 farmland for a long time, perhaps under cultivation or given over to pasture at different times. No evidence for nearby habitation of any period was identified.

The worked flint was debitage, a flake removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. It represents a low-level 'background noise' of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Kevin Brennan for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Chris Peat, Paul Ready and Andy Ridout.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 15

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Building material	2	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
2	Building material	7	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	Junction of bowl & stem with spur, 2.4mm bore
2	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Stone	1	Burnt sandstone	Undated	
2	Stone	1	Calcined and spalled flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Opaque grey material
3	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Typically small fragments of handmade brick and tile, some probably made locally from late 18th century onwards, others modern
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	2.4mm bore
4	Building material	1	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
4	Stone	1	Secondary elongated flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	1 margin abraded/utilised? Pat translucent grey brown

* 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)