

Test Pit 2: Nether End, Sutton Lane, SK 42657 02281

Test Pit 2 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of lawn in the rear garden of Nether End, to the east of the present house. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area was agricultural land until the house was built in the mid-20th century. The 1840 tithe map shows that the property was part of a large pasture called Little Townsend Close, owned by the Corporation of Leicester and leased to Joseph Marston.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 2, looking east

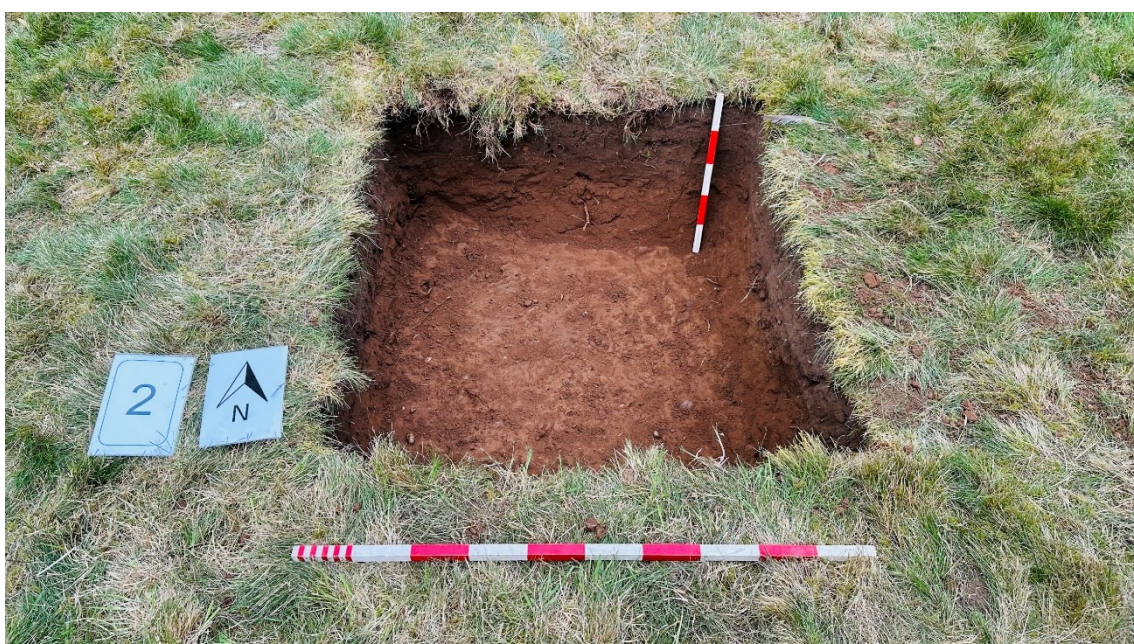


Figure 2: Test Pit 2 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of orangish brown sandy silt subsoil (Layers 4-5). The natural substratum, yellowish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.5m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2).

In all, 184 individual finds (713g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A single sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery (mid-9th – mid-12th century) was found, along with small assemblages of High Medieval (12th-14th century) and Late Medieval (15th – mid-16th century) pottery. Larger assemblages of post-medieval and modern pottery were also present (mid-16th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. A small assemblage of clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass and iron slag was also present. The oldest material recovered was a 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 late 9th century through to the 19th century. 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 land was given over to pasture by the mid-19th century and finds after this date probably relate to domestic waste associated with properties backing onto the site to the north. Most of the modern finds probably represent occupation of the present house in the 20th century.

The worked flint was debitage, a flake removed during tool manufacture and maintenance. The blade-like flake is noteworthy and may suggesting an earlier Prehistoric date, perhaps Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and the flint represents a low-level ‘background noise’ of prehistoric activity in the wider landscape.

Many thanks to Tina and Denis Winterbottom for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Gill Higgins, Robin Matthewman, Eamonn Quinn and Thomas Quinn.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 2

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
2	Building material	55	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Clay pipe	3	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bores
2	Glass	8	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	3	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Pottery	16	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
2	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
2	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
2	Pottery	26	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
3	Building material	15	Red ceramic building material	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bore
3	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	Glassy vesicular slag
3	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
3	Pottery	1	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Stone	1	Tertiary blade-like flake	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Abraded, grey material, burnt
4	Building material	12	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Building material	1	Swithland roof slate	Undated	Drilled hole 8mm in diameter
4	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	rear of bowl with broken spur & stem, 1.6mm bore, Stamped 'ES' on back, Oswald Type 28 (c.1820-1840)
4	Clay pipe	8	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	6 with 2.4mm bore & 2 with 1.6mm bore
4	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
4	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
4	Glass	2	Green bottle glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
4	Pottery	6	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
4	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
4	Pottery	4	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
5	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
5	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'B' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1400
5	Pottery	2	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
5	Pottery	3	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Pottery	1	Stamford ware	Saxo-Norman	AD 850/900-1150

* 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)