



### Test Pit 3: The Old Rectory, Church Lane, SK 42611 02366

Test Pit 3 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of lawn in the garden of The Old Rectory, to the north-west of the present house. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area was in the grounds of the original Rectory, now The Grange, until the present house was built in the mid-20th century. The Old Rectory was formerly the setting of the Cadeby Light Railway, a narrow-gauge railway built in the garden by the Rev. Teddy Boston. The test pit was sited close to the site of the former station and 00 gauge model shed.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 3, looking north-east

During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and brownish grey clayey silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.3m of greyish orange sandy silt subsoil (Layers 4-6). The natural substratum, yellowish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.6m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2).

In all, 144 individual finds (1.936kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A small assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) and a single sherd of Late Medieval pottery (15th – mid-16th century) were found, along with a larger assemblage of modern pottery (19th century – present). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. Pieces of modern bottle glass and plastic garden waste were also present, all associated with the modern house. One find, a 100mm long iron stake, might have been a railway spike from the Cadeby Light Railway.

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 12th century through to the early 16th 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 absence of a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery suggests that this agricultural land was taken out of cultivation in the 15th or 16th century and turned over to pasture, before eventually being incorporated into the grounds of the Rectory in the 19th century.





Figure 2: Test Pit 3 post-excavation, looking north

Many thanks to Sue Millward for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Carol Riddington with Amelia, Dawn, June and Steve.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 3

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Building material	7	Iron objects	Undated	Probably nails
1	Building material	1	Iron ring	Modern	Corroded, 34mm diameter
1	Building material	5	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Garden waste	2	Iron wire	Modern	2mm diameter
1	Garden waste	1	Modern plastic	Modern	Brown plastic fitting
1	Glass	1	Blue bottle glass	Modern	
1	Glass	5	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
1	Pottery	3	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
1	Pottery	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Building material	27	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Building material	10	Wire nails	Modern	1-2"

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
2	Garden waste	1	Clear hard plastic	Modern	Clear hard plastic
2	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	8	Green bottle glass	Modern	
2	Household	1	Plastic £2 coin	Modern	Children's play money
2	Industrial waste	1	Iron slag	Undated	
2	Pottery	1	Cistercian Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1450/75-1550
2	Pottery	13	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
3	Building material	2	Cement	Modern	
3	Building material	1	Iron bolt	Modern	With nut, corroded, 60mm long
3	Building material	1	Iron stake	Modern	100m long, possibly railway track spike from Cadeby Light Railway
3	Building material	13	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Building material	9	Wire nails	Modern	1-2"
3	Building material	6	Yellow ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Garden waste	2	Modern plastic	Modern	Inc. electrical wire insulation & grey plastic bracket from drainpipe
3	Glass	3	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Industrial waste	1	Clinker	Undated	
3	Pottery	4	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Building material	6	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Garden waste	1	Modern plastic	Modern	Brown plastic disc 44mm diam.
4	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
4	Pottery	1	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
5	Building material	1	Iron ring	Modern	Corroded, 34mm diameter

\* 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)