



Test Pit 4: Field south of The Old House, Wood Lane, SK 42488 02212

Test Pit 4 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of pasture 100m south of Wood Lane. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area has been meadow/pasture for over 150 years. The test pit was in the lower area of the field, in a post-glacial tributary valley of the River Sense, at approximately 120m OD. A group of slight, anomalous earthworks were present in the vicinity of the test pit.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 4, looking south



Figure 2: Test Pit 4 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and greyish orange sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of greyish yellow clayey sand subsoil (Layers 3-4) and 0.2m of greyish yellow sandy clay (Layers 5-6), possibly natural material. The natural substratum, greyish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.6m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2). The test pit was noticeably wetter than other test pits, which were all on the top of the hill at 125m OD.

In all, 9 individual finds (30g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery (mid-17th – mid-18th 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. A piece of clay tobacco pipe and modern bottle glass were also present. The oldest finds were two pieces 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 suggest that it has been meadow/pasture for a very long time, with no habitation in the immediate vicinity. The worked flint (a bladelet and a core fragment) was debitage, waste material from tool manufacture and maintenance. The bladelet-like flake, and flake removals on the core are noteworthy and may suggest an earlier Prehistoric date, perhaps Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. The presence of a core fragment does indicate flint-working in the area, rather than chance losses, and suggests there may be a focus of activity nearby.

Many thanks to Gareth Pegg for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Judith Day, Simon Dodd, Selena Sawicka and Wendy Wallace.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 4

| Layer | Category | No | Description | Period | Notes |
|-------|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Building material | 1 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 2 | Building material | 2 | Red ceramic building material | Modern | |
| 2 | Glass | 1 | Clear privacy glass | Modern | |
| 3 | Clay pipe | 1 | Clay tobacco pipe stem | Post-medieval | 3mm bore |
| 3 | Glass | 1 | Clear window glass | Modern | |
| 3 | Pottery | 1 | Black glazed earthenware | Post-medieval | AD 1650-1750 |
| 3 | Stone | 1 | Tertiary bladelet | Mesolithic/Early Neolithic? | Abraded (poss dentic.), Wolds material? |
| 4 | Stone | 1 | Core fragment | Mesolithic/Early Neolithic? | Blade and flake removals, patinated, translucent brown 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)