



Test Pit 6: Field north of Rectory Lane, SK 42568 02454

Test Pit 6 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of pasture 20m north-west of Rectory Lane. Maps dating back to the mid-19th century show that this area has been agricultural land for a long time. The 1840 tithe map shows that the land was pasture and part of the 'Wilderness and Orchard' associated with Cadeby Hall. The land was owned by Sir Robert Horton and occupied by Elizabeth Worthington.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 6, looking south



Figure 2: Test Pit 6 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of orangish brown sandy clay subsoil (Layers 3-4). The natural substratum was not reached; no archaeological features were recorded (Figure 2).

In all, 63 individual finds (335g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). A large assemblage of High Medieval pottery (12th-14th century) was found, along with a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery (late 17th – mid 18th century). Other finds included modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. A single piece of clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass and a single piece of animal bone was also present.

The test pit was sited to assess the potential extent of medieval and pre-medieval activity in Cadeby. The medieval pottery suggests that there may have been habitation nearby, perhaps on the Rectory Lane frontage, during the 12th-14th century which was abandoned during the 14th or 15th centuries. The absence of large quantities of post-medieval or modern material suggest that the land was subsequently given over to agricultural land and has probably been pasture for a long time.

Many thanks to Ian Smith for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Judy Buckell and Jane Southgate and 'drop-in' volunteers.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 6

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
1	Building material	22	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Glass	14	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
1	Glass	2	Green bottle glass	Modern	
1	Pottery	1	Medieval sandy ware	High Medieval	Unclassified, AD 1100-1400
2	Building material	4	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	1	Red bottle glass	Modern	
3	Building material	3	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	3mm bore
3	Pottery	2	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pottery	6	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
3	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
4	Pottery	3	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+

* 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)