



Test Pit 7: Field north of Rectory Lane, SK 42549 02475

Test Pit 7 (Figure 1) was dug in an area of pasture 45m 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 7, looking north



Figure 2: Test Pit 7 post-excitation, looking north

During the excavation, 0.2m of turf and greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-2) was removed. Beneath was 0.3m of orangish brown sandy clay 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, 24 individual finds (496g) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). Small assemblages of High Medieval (12th-14th century) and post-medieval (mid-17th – late 18th century) pottery were found. Other finds included a small assemblage of modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. Clay tobacco pipe, modern garden waste and iron slag was also present.

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 18th century. 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 or post-medieval periods this pottery was likely imported from elsewhere, perhaps included in domestic refuse used to manure the fields surrounding the village. The absence of large quantities of post-medieval or modern material suggest that the land was subsequently given over to pasture and has remained as such 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 the Goodman family.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 7

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
1	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval	3mm bore
1	Pottery	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
1	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
2	Garden waste	1	Iron object	Modern	Very corroded, part of agricultural machinery?
2	Building material	2	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval	3mm bore
2	Garden waste	1	Iron packaging strap	Modern	6mm wide
2	Garden waste	3	Iron wire	Modern	1mm diam.
2	Industrial waste	7	Iron slag	Modern	Glassy vesicular slag
2	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
2	Pottery	2	Potters Marston ware	High Medieval	AD 1100-1300/50+
2	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780

* 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)