



### Test Pit 8: Ambion Cottage, Main Street, SK 42475 02390

Test Pit 8 (Figure 1) was dug in the rear garden of Ambion Cottage, 15m to the west of Main Street. The property is part of a terrace of brick cottages originally built in the 18th century as a fulling mill. The 1840 tithe map lists the property as a house, out offices and garden owned by John Brurley. The mill was converted into cottages in the 19th century.



Figure 1: Excavation of Test Pit 8, looking east



Figure 2: Test Pit 8 post-excitation, looking east



During the excavation, 0.3m of turf and greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (Layers 1-3) was removed. Beneath was 0.2m of brownish grey sandy silt soil (Layers 4-5) and 0.4m of greyish orange clayey sand subsoil (Layers 6-9). The natural substratum, greyish orange clayey sand, was reached 0.9m below the ground; no archaeological features were recorded. The south-eastern corner of the trench was disturbed by a glazed ceramic service pipe 0.6m below the ground (Figure 2).

In all, 7328 individual finds (4.520kg) were recovered from the test pit (Table 1). Small assemblages of High Medieval (13th-14th century) and Late Medieval (15th – mid-16th century) were found, along with large assemblages of post-medieval and modern pottery (mid-17th century – present). Other finds included a large amount of modern building material, typically fragments of handmade brick and tile made locally from the 18th century onwards. A large assemblage of clay tobacco pipe, modern bottle glass, iron nails, domestic and garden waste and animal bone. 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 there was activity in the vicinity from around the 13th century to the present day. However, the area appears to have had a somewhat marginal use in the medieval period. Pottery sherds were typically small and abraded. This suggests that they were circulating in the soil for a prolonged period of time and were likely domestic refuse imported as manure into an area under cultivation. Habitation at the site is suggested to have started in the later 17th or 18th century. This is consistent with the known history of the property, which was built in the 18th century.

The worked flint (a core piece) was debitage, waste material from tool manufacture and maintenance. The bladelet-like flake removals on the core are noteworthy and may suggest an earlier Prehistoric date, perhaps Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. The presence of a core piece does indicate flint-working in the area, rather than chance losses, and suggests there may be a focus of activity nearby.

Many thanks to Andy Jones for the test pit location. Excavation was carried out over two days on September 9-10, 2023 by Elizabeth Babington, Katie Berry, Dineke ten Hove and Darianne Hoyen-Chung.

Table 1: The finds from Test Pit 8

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Bone & shell	1	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
1	Building material	1	Blue ceramic building material	Modern	Reduced tile, 16mm thick
1	Building material	4	Iron objects	Modern	Probably nails
1	Building material	30	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
1	Glass	8	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. melted glass
1	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
1	Munitions	1	Shotgun cartridge	Modern	End cap with wadding, stamped "16" (16 gauge), pinfired shotgun cartridge, mid-19th century, 18mm diameter x 7mm
1	Pottery	3	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
1	Pottery	21	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
1	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
1	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
1	Stone	1	Calcined and spalled flint	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Burnt, small ball-like nodule
2	Bone & shell	4	Misc. animal bone	Modern	
2	Building material	1	Forged nail	Modern	1½"
2	Building material	1	Iron bracket	Modern	1mm thick, right-angled with fixing holes, 45x66x15mm
2	Building material	6	Iron objects	Modern	Probably nails
2	Building material	58	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
2	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Fragment, thin walled
2	Clay pipe	4	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bores
2	Garden waste	1	Iron wire	Modern	3mm diam.
2	Glass	18	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
2	Glass	15	Clear window glass	Modern	
2	Household	1	Jar lid	Modern	50mm diam, screw lid for glass jar
2	Personal adornment	1	Clear glass lense	Modern	Broken oval lense from spectacles
2	Pottery	7	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
2	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
2	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
2	Pottery	54	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
2	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
3	Bone & shell	7	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
3	Building material	1	Forged nail	Undated	3"
3	Building material	23	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
3	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	
3	Clay pipe	2	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bores
3	Glass	1	Bright green bottle glass	Modern	

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
3	Glass	18	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
3	Glass	5	Clear window glass	Modern	
3	Household	1	Carbon rod from battery	Modern	
3	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
3	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
3	Pottery	3	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
3	Pottery	48	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
4	Bone & shell	5	Misc. animal bone	Undated	Signs of butchery
4	Building material	2	Iron objects	Undated	Probably nails
4	Building material	1	Lead window came	Undated	
4	Building material	21	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
4	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Thin bowl
4	Clay pipe	4	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	3 with 1.6mm bores & 1 with 2.4mm bore, 1.6mm bore with partial makers stamp 'G ISLA'
4	Glass	1	Black bottle glass	Modern	Opaque
4	Glass	11	Clear bottle glass	Modern	Inc. melted glass
4	Glass	1	Clear window glass	Modern	
4	Personal adornment	1	Brooch	Modern	Rectangular brooch back, 25x16mm with broken corner and missing pin. Poss. missing enamel decoration
4	Personal adornment	1	Button	Modern	2-hole, 15mm diameter, burnt
4	Pottery	2	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
4	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1200-1475
4	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
4	Pottery	36	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Bone & shell	2	Calcined bone	Undated	
5	Bone & shell	27	Misc. animal bone	Undated	Signs of butchery

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
5	Building material	3	Cement	Modern	
5	Building material	3	Iron objects	Undated	Probably nails
5	Building material	17	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
5	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bore
5	Glass	2	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
5	Glass	5	Clear window glass	Modern	
5	Pottery	2	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
5	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
5	Pottery	20	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
5	Stone	1	Tested core piece, bladelet-like	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic?	Opaque pale grey, Wolds material?
6	Bone & shell	1	Calcined bone	Undated	
6	Bone & shell	45	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
6	Building material	29	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
6	Glass	3	Clear bottle glass	Modern	
6	Glass	1	Green bottle glass	Modern	
6	Pottery	1	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
6	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
6	Pottery	5	Modern earthenwares	Modern	AD 1800+
6	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
6	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
6	Pottery	2	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
7	Bone & shell	1	Calcined bone	Undated	Skull fragment?
7	Bone & shell	8	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
7	Building material	6	Cement	Modern	
7	Building material	3	Iron objects	Undated	Probably nails
7	Building material	33	Red ceramic building material	Modern	Inc. handmade, unfrogged brick 94mm wide x 58mm thick
7	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Post-medieval +	2.4mm bore, scorched

Layer	Category	No	Description	Period	Notes
7	Glass	3	Green bottle glass	Modern	
7	Pottery	3	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
7	Pottery	1	Chilvers Coton 'A' Ware	High Medieval	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire AD 1250-1395
7	Pottery	1	English Brown Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1670-1900
7	Pottery	1	Midland Purple Ware	Late Medieval	AD 1370-1550
7	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1780
7	Pottery	1	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
7	Pottery	3	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770
8	Bone & shell	10	Misc. animal bone	Undated	
8	Building material	1	Iron object	Undated	Probably a nail
8	Building material	10	Red ceramic building material	Modern	
8	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	Modern	Fragment of base with spur, thin walled, 1.6mm bore, Oswald Type 27 (c.1780-1820)
8	Clay pipe	1	Clay tobacco pipe stem	Modern	1.6mm bore
8	Glass	7	Green bottle glass	Modern	
8	Pottery	2	Black glazed earthenware	Post-medieval	AD 1650-1750
8	Pottery	2	Staffordshire Slipware	Post-medieval	AD 1680-1750
8	Pottery	3	White Salt-Glazed Stoneware	Post-medieval	Staffordshire AD 1730-1770

\* 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)