

APPENDIX 1

The project proposal as outlined below was prepared for and submitted to the County Archaeologist for comment prior to the dig starting.

PROPOSAL TO EXCAVATE IN ROBERT MILES JUNIOR SCHOOL, BINGHAM PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Background

As part of an HLF-funded project three 1-metre square archaeological test pits (Fig 1.) were dug in the grounds of Robert Miles Junior School in June 2012. In Pit 1 (BHTA code CB02) a posthole was encountered in the corner of the pit at the same level as a stone rubble floor feature, 75 cm below surface. A complex stratigraphy above the stone surface (Fig 2) contained plentiful building rubble with the highest significant level of rubble at 30 cm depth. The posthole, which was not filled in, had a void of about 30 cm from the top. It was probed to a depth of 1.80 metres; i.e. it was about one metre deep. Slivers of wood were found adhering to the sides and lumps of a peaty material that may be decayed wood were found in the hole. The posthole measured 27 x 23 cm at the top, tapering downwards. The long axis of the section was orientated approximately 350° and the hole was inclined 10° to the east. A clay pipe bowl found resting on the stone surface was

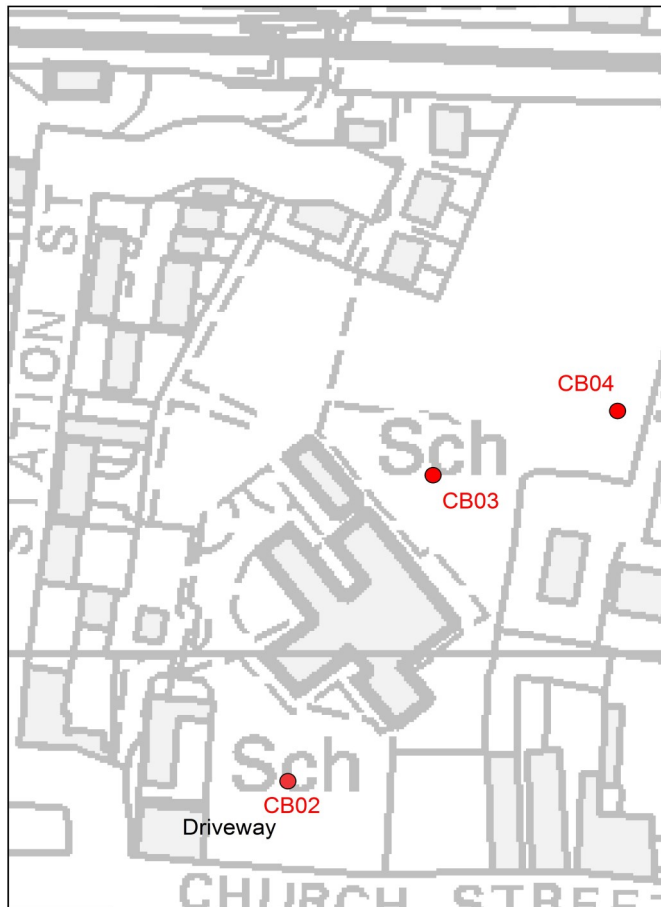


Fig 1 Location of the three test pits dug in Robert Miles Junior School

marked TC, which is the mark of Thomas Crew, a Nottingham clay pipe manufacturer who worked in the area between 1715 and 1720. He then moved to Sheffield.

It could not be established from the test pit whether the inclination of the posthole was original or an artefact of later activity, whether it was a part of a building or, if it were, whether it was a corner, internal or side post.

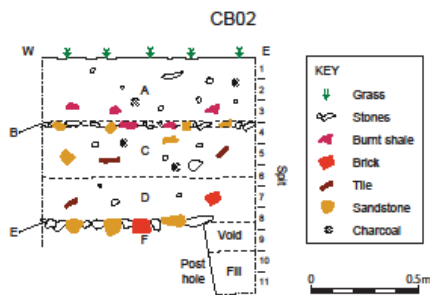
Robert Miles Junior School is sited in the grounds of what used to be Bingham Rectory. We have evidence that there was a rectory somewhere on this site in 1586 and it is likely that there was a tithe barn there with it, but no other evidence of any buildings until 1762 when the rectory was built that was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the present school.

Purpose of the excavation

The purpose of the excavation is to test the extent of the stone floor feature, to examine the stratigraphy in the 45 cm immediately above it with a view to determine the origin of the building rubble and other material and establish what relation the posthole has with

the floor. Evidence will also be collected in an attempt to put a date to the floor.

Fig 2 Drawing of the north face of CB02 with context descriptions



A Topsoil of dark brown loam with pebbles and cobbles of rounded quartz and subangular skerry, burnt shale, charcoal. 30 cm thick on north face, 22 cm on south face.

B Layer of brick, burnt shale, Skerry, rounded stones. Thickens to 22 cm on south face where a layer of mortar 4 cm is at the base.

C Reddish brown gritty clay loam with bricks, tiles, stones and clay lumps

D Brown gritty clay loam with fewer inclusions

E Layer of closely packed skerry, sandstone, some brick with variable thickness. It forms an irregular surface. Sandy clay with mortar and charcoal in interstices, large stones partly overlap a post hole.

F Rubble of skerry, tile, brick with sandy clay and mortar.

Post hole probed to 180 cm depth. Walls grey-green sandy clay. Wood preserved on the side. Rectangular section 27 x 23 cm at top. Narrows downwards, inclined 10° to the east.

Proposal

It is proposed to excavate this site between 22nd and 26th July 2013 to coincide with the CBA festival of archaeology. Members of the public will be invited to view the work, as required during the festival. The dig will be carried out by volunteers who have experience of the Bingham test pits project and will be overseen by Trent & Peak Archaeology. A member of staff from TPA will be on site for the duration of the project.

The following stages are expected, though it is understood that at each stage there may be a requirement to modify the practice:

- Geophysical survey of the target area. A preliminary visit and evaluation took place on 11th June.
- Mark out an area for excavation taking account of the geophysical results, proximity of trees and services. Ideally the test pit site will be as near to the centre as feasible. Provisionally it is intended to mark out an

area of 3 x 10 metres, but this may be adjusted depending on resources and geophysical results.

- Carefully remove turf and put into sheltered storage.
- Strip off the topsoil to a depth of approx 30 cm mechanically.
- Dig out the test pit to the level of the stone floor feature
- Remove the material below the topsoil down to the stone floor feature in 10 cm spits or in units determined by the context changes. The material will be hand sorted and about 10% will be sieved. We are likely to use a 10mm sieve. Either all 30m² or a smaller part of it will be excavated, determined by findings as the project progresses.
- If the stone floor feature is found and is extensive it will be left intact.

If there is evidence to guide us, and time, the excavation may be extended in search of another posthole.

The excavation will be recorded by digital photography and drawing at all stages. Finds will be included with material collected from the test pits project for identification.

Geophysical investigation

Grantham Archaeological Group has been invited to carry out the geophysical investigation. The team that will do it was previously known as GridNine Geophysics and has considerable experience of doing geophysical research in support of archaeology. They will use earth resistance initially with magnetometry as a backup should it be necessary. The survey will be started on 2nd July and continued if necessary at a later date.

Completion

On completion the excavation will be backfilled mechanically and compacted and the turf replaced. However, it is possible that the results of the dig may justify a revisit at a later date. In this case a plastic membrane will be laid at the base of the excavation and it will be backfilled on top of this.

Other matters

Although this project is a consequence of work carried out during the test-pitting project that is funded by the HLF, it is being funded by BHTA as an additional activity to coincide with the CBA Festival of Archaeology.

Most of the volunteers will be experienced members of the team that by then will have dug 60 1-metre test pits in Bingham. They are all familiar with the appropriate safety practices. Any participant will have to be a member of BHTA and will be covered by the association's third party insurance. Personal insurance is a matter for each individual.

Permission has been obtained by the school for this dig and the timing, 22-26 July, has been chosen to fit with the requirements of the school. Pupils will be invited to visit the site with a responsible adult.

Provisional Programme and outputs

1. Geophysical survey 2nd July
2. Evaluation of geophysics report, consultation with TPA and selection of the excavation site in the week beginning 8th July.
3. Finalisation of the work plan and the protocol for the dig, and decisions about archiving the results and material finds in the week beginning 15th July.
4. Stripping turf and topsoil Saturday 20th July.
5. Dig from Monday 22nd July to noon on Friday 26th July.
6. Final recording of the dig pm 22nd July.
7. Backfill and replacement of turf on Saturday 27th July.
8. Preparation of preliminary report on the dig during August 2013.
9. The timing of the preparation and publication of the final report will depend on whether expert opinion is needed for the interpretation and identification of finds recovered and its availability. Should the findings justify it consideration will be given to publishing the results in the TTS.

Peter Allen
Chairman BHTA

28th June 2013