

CB06

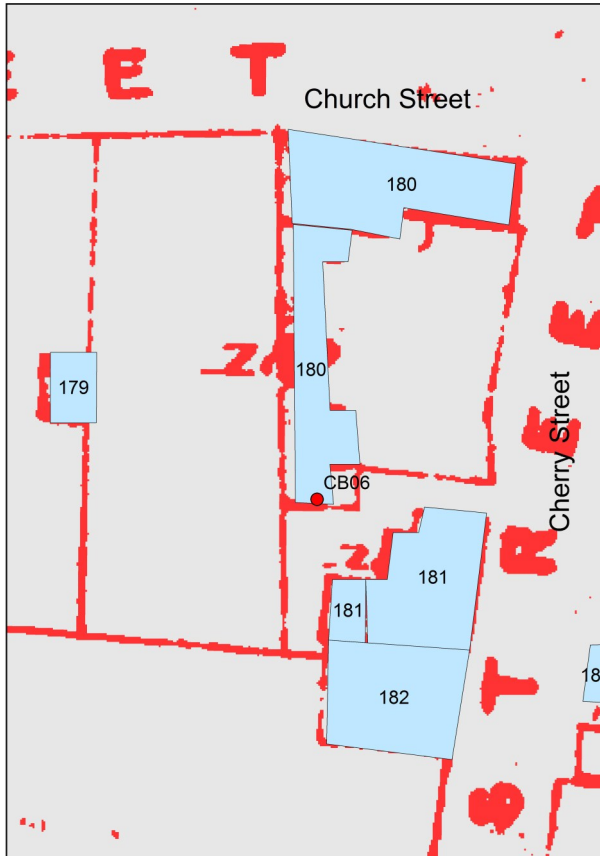
**ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
12 CHURCH STREET**

CONTENTS

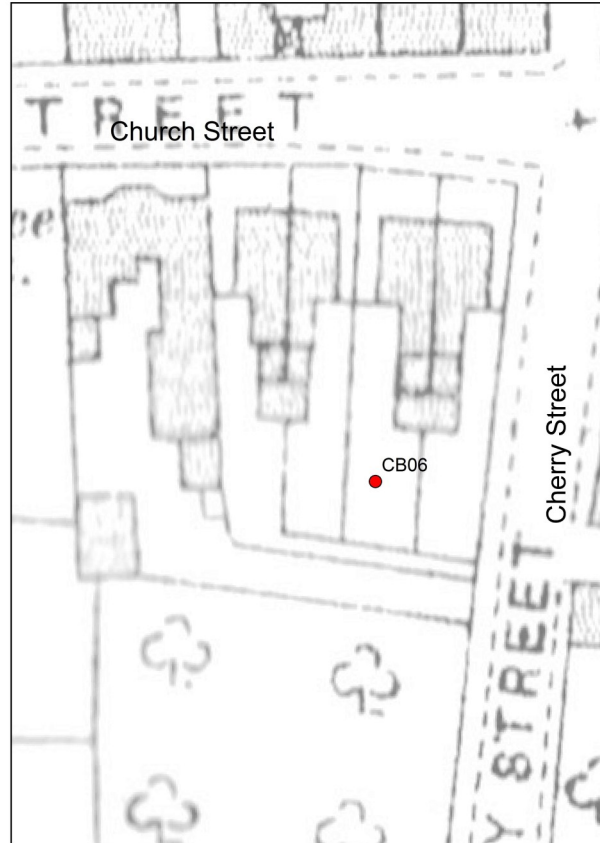
SITE HISTORY
LOCATION AND PROTOCOL
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS
 Description of pit
 Finds
 Interpretation

CB06
12 Church Street

HISTORY OF THE SITE



Tithe map of 1841



O.S. map of 1910

1586

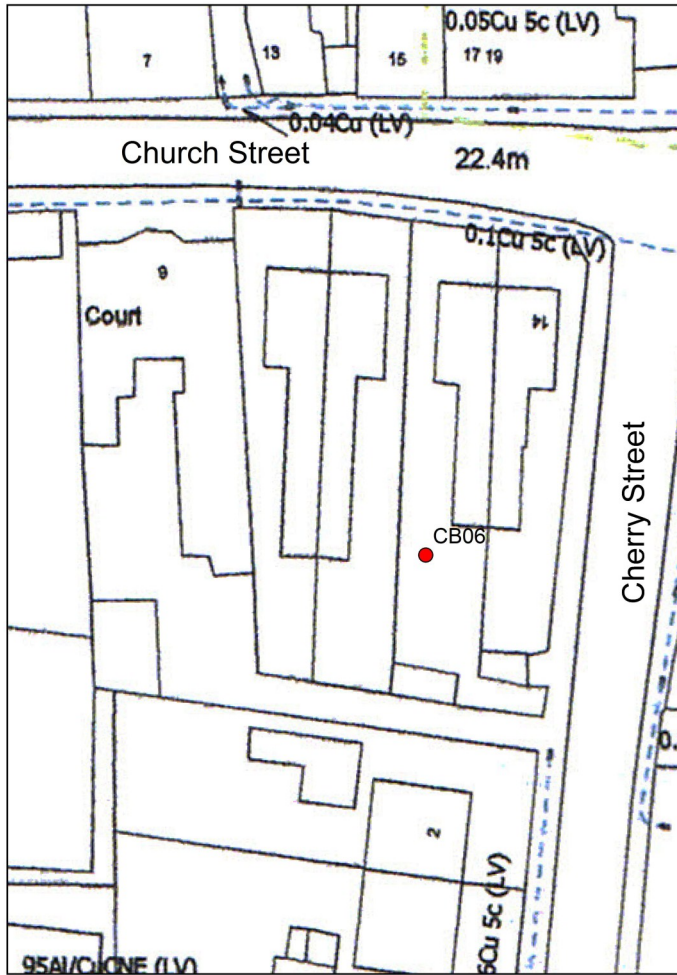
In 1586 the plot was occupied by Thomas Childron cottager. We do not know if his cottage occupied the same footprint as in 1776.

1776

The plot was part of plot 298 of the Chesterfield Estate, occupied by John Bass, who had a “house and garden” here. He was possibly the John Bass who died in 1780 as a gentleman aged 89. His daughter Ann married John Strong, father of the later postmaster. The Bass family were plumbers and glaziers.

1841

By 1841 various outbuildings had been added to the original house (if it was the original house - it is a similar footprint). The tithe apportionment shows that the site (plot 180) was occupied by William Strong and consisted of a house, shop and buildings. But William had another house elsewhere and the census shows the property was occupied by John Strong, postmaster. He was also a schoolmaster and very likely had his school room here – perhaps one of the outbuildings shown on the 1841 plan.



Separate from plot 180 was 181, now incorporated into the garden of number 12, then occupied by John Huskinson snr, a stocking maker (Framework Knitter) and with his wife, son (also a framework knitter) and daughter, a seamstress.

1897

In 1897 James Walker, local builder, leased this plot and the one next door from the Earl of Carnarvon and built the present two pairs of semi-detached houses.

Modern map with permission of Western Power

CB06

12, CHURCH STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470671.339900 (mid point along north edge)
Height OD (mid point on north edge)	22.902 m
Dig dates	29-30 th April 2013
Pit site	Narrow lawn in back garden.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Finds within a spit divided if there is a context change within it. Possible wall encountered in north of the pit was not removed. Excavation downwards only on the south of the wall. Below 120 cm dug out only the SE quadrant of the pit to bottom at 136 cm on the natural surface.

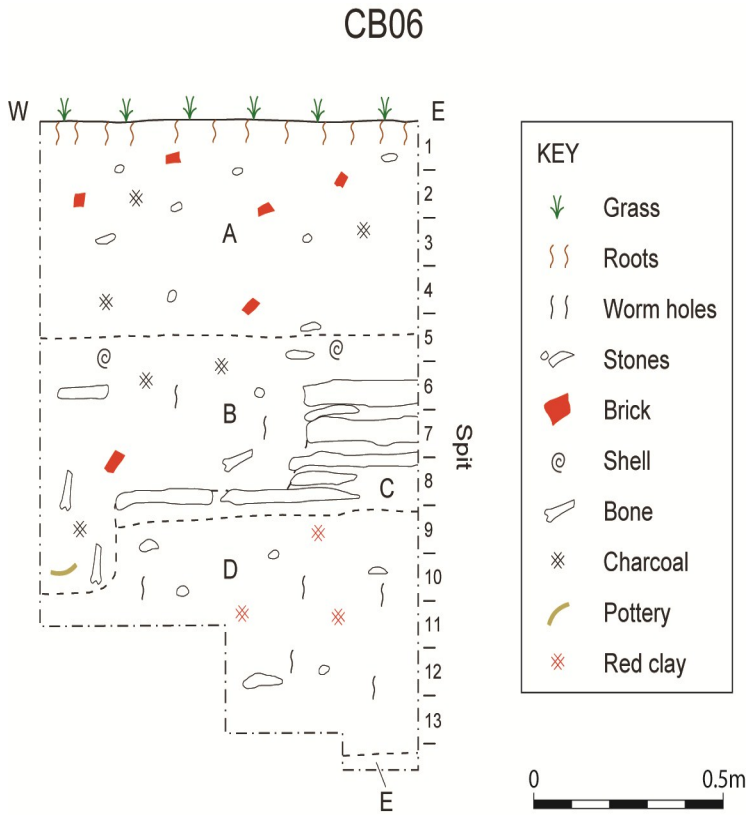
CB06

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

This is a complex pit, not least because of the presence of a stone wall in it. The best attempt to define a sequence is:

- Topsoil to 45 cm depth
- Subsoil to 70 cm depth
- Stone wall top appears at 55cm
- Clay layer 60 to 70 cm depth
- Subsoil to 136 cm
- Green sandy clay till



- A Topsoil of dark brown-black loam with small pebbles, brick, grit, charcoal etc. Sharp base.
- B and D Subsoil of brown-grey clay loam with stones, charcoal, bone, worm tubes, clay lumps.
- C Wall feature with orange-brown sandy clay mortar substitute and filler.
- D Green sandy clay with layer of stones on top

The topsoil is dark brown-black loam with pebbles, brick, grit, charcoal etc (see above). The colour lightens with depth, but the base is sharp at 45 cm. Skerry stones up to 14 cm long near the base, with oyster shells and charcoal and a patch of mortar sand some 5cm thick in the NE corner. An area of dark soil seems to be a rotted tree root. This suggests that all the topsoil has been re-deposited here after a building phase.



There is little variation in the subsoil from the base of the topsoil to the base of the pit at 136 cm. However, the succession is not a single entity. The subsoil is a brown-grey clay loam with clay lumps and other inclusions. At around 60 cm depth a layer of sandy clay was encountered. It extended over the whole of the pit, but seemed to form a lump in the central area. It is about 10 cm

IMG_2066 at 50 cm, base of topsoil. Mortar in NE corner, dark patch possibly a tree or tree root in SW corner.



IMG_2068 CB06 at 60 cm. Top stone of wall revealed at 55 cm.

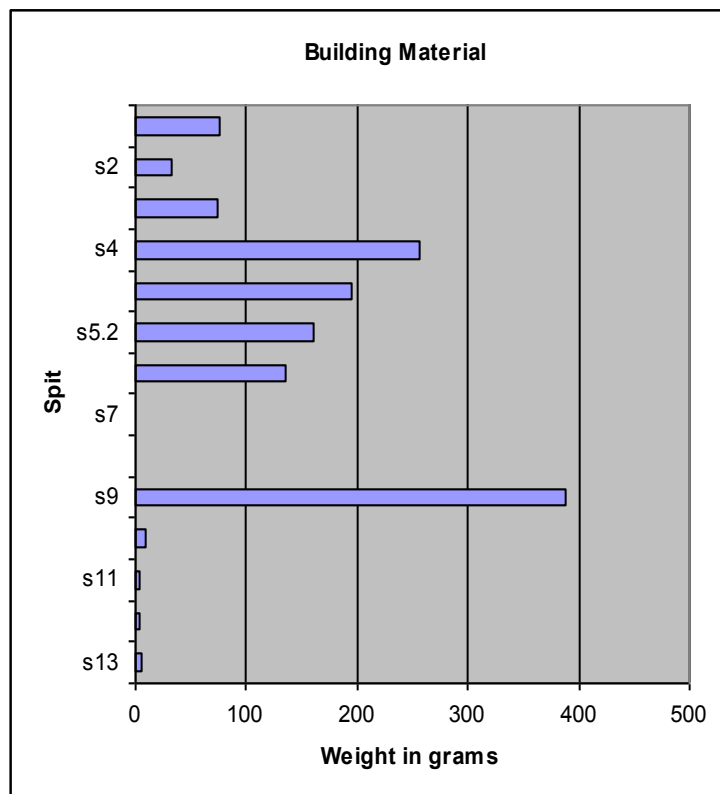


IMG_2074 CB06 at 90 cm Remains of wall feature with red clay mortar.

thick but its top is irregular and there is some dark subsoil mixed with it. Green-glaze pottery incorporated in it suggests that this might be a medieval surface.

The top of a stone wall was revealed at 55cm and it was dug to its base at about 80 cm. The stones were mostly sandstone and they were fixed with a red clay mortar, which was also used at a basal layer beneath the lowest course of stone. The remaining wall was 38 cm in height and about 30 cm wide. The medieval sandy clay layer coincided with the lowest part of this feature. Stones from the top of the wall had fallen off it.

The subsoil persists to the bottom of the pit. There are clay lumps in it beneath the stone wall feature to about 110 cm depth as well as pebbles of sandstone, skerry, siltstone and manganese-stained siltstone. There was no pottery beneath 90 cm depth except for tiny fragments of white ware with brick, coal, a shoe nail and rolled-up kitchen roll in worm tubes as low as 110 cm depth.

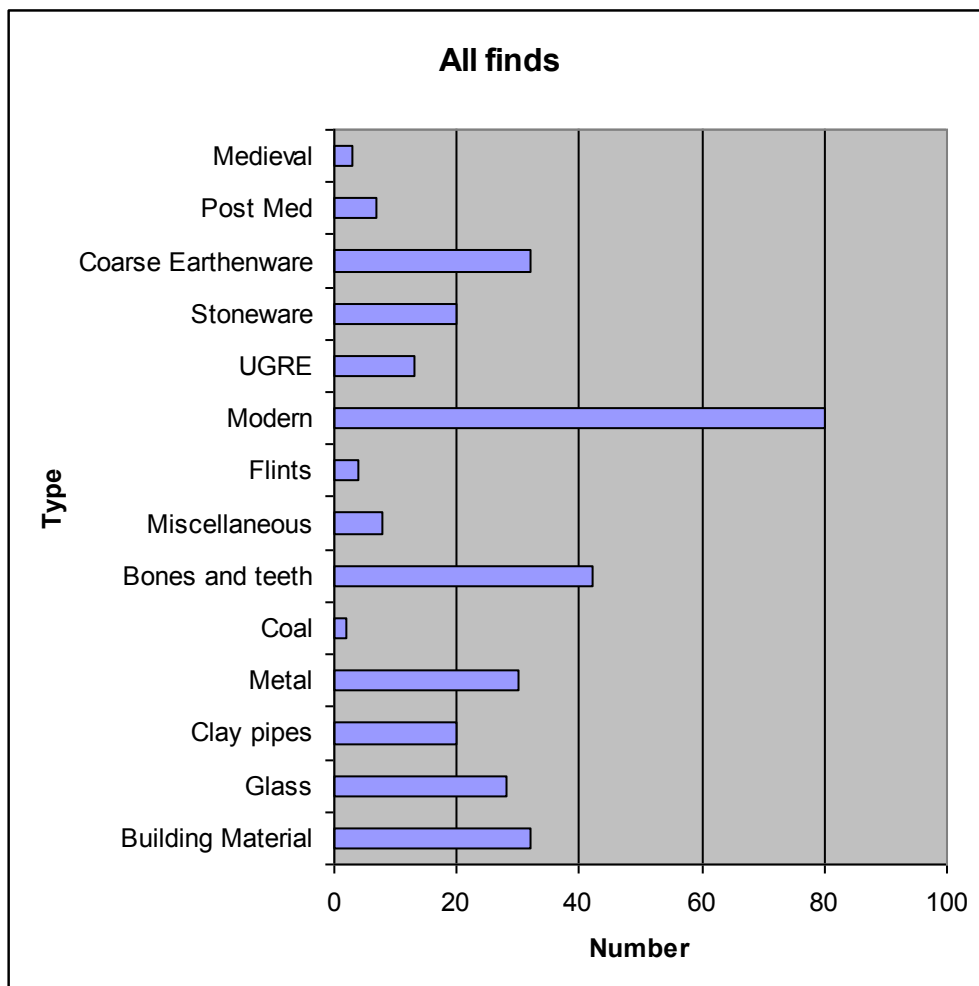
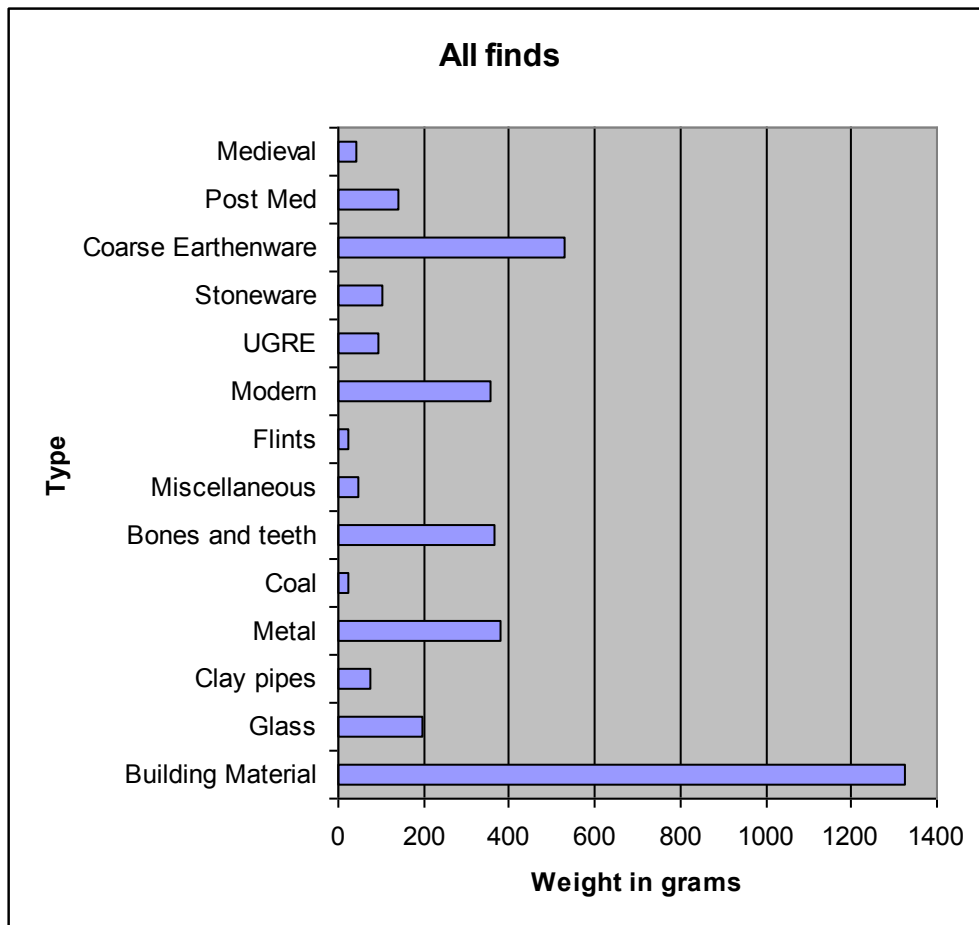


The sandy green clay at the bottom has a layer of stones overlying it and it probably weathered till.

Finds

Of all the categories of finds recovered only the Unglazed Red Earthenware, mostly plant pot was contained only in the topsoil. In all other categories, even though the majority were in the topsoil, there were some at all depths.

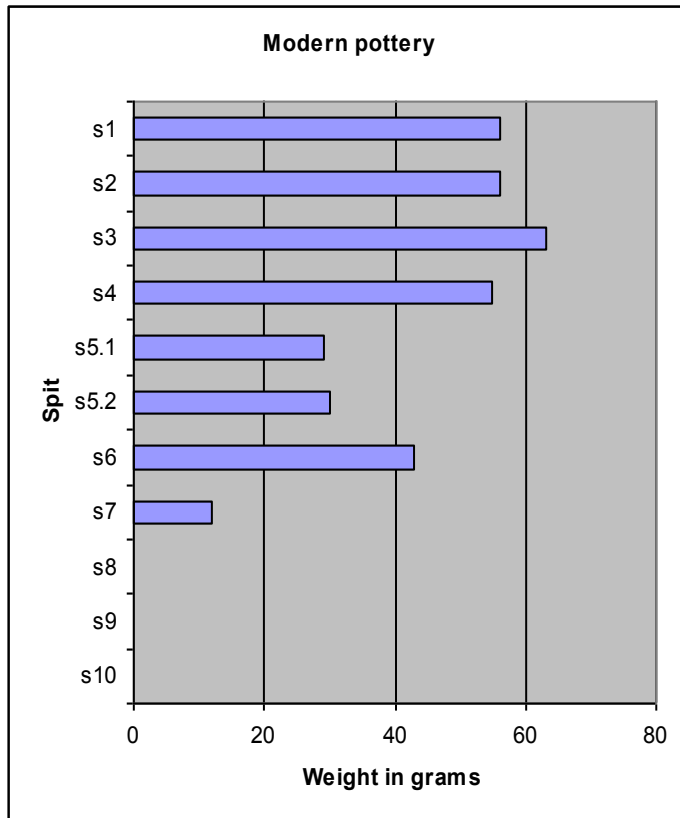
Building material, for example was predominantly in spits 1 to 6 where the range of materials included brick, plaster, roof tile, floor tile and slate. These were mostly in the topsoil and can be attributed to debris formed while the houses here were being built. Well below this there were pieces of brick from 80 cm down to the base of the pit and a large floor tile between 80-90 cm depth



(spit 9).

The glass fragments were present in the top 60 cm, but most were confined to the topsoil (above 45 cm). These were mostly late 19th to 29th C, including clear, light green, dark green and pale blue glass. Several were from bottles cylindrical and hexagonal bottles and were patterned or embossed, though no maker could be recognised. Clear modern window glass and thin (1/16th inch thick) old window glass was found, though a date cannot be ascribed to this. The glass from the upper subsoil was different and likely to be 19th C or older. These were green or aqua bottles, thin, flat aqua window glass, a pale blue hexagonal bottle and a very dark green/black heavy bottle or carboy fragment, probably 19th C. One clear, crinkly margin of a small bowl was also likely to be 19th C. A few pieces were patinated by chemical reaction with the soil.

Metal objects were found down to 90 cm. They were mostly nails, screws,



buckles, a curtain hook, metal cap, a padlock and a Dinky Car found high in the topsoil.

Miscellaneous items from within the topsoil include carbon rods, oyster shells, a small pearl and a metal button. The button from the base of the topsoil had the words Best Ring Edge around the rim. These buttons were common in the late 19th and early 20th C and were used for holding up braces, overalls and suspenders. Three pieces of “greenstone”, similar to the stone used to make Neolithic hand axes were found between 50 and 60 cm depth. A small piece of turquoise was recovered from between 70 and 80 cm depth associated with medieval pottery.

The clay pipes were predominantly stems and dated to the period after 1750. There were five early pipes. One bowl fragment was attributable to 1640 and was found

high in the topsoil. Three other stems were also within the topsoil, but one stem was found between 80 and 90 cm depth.

Two fragments of coal were recovered from between 70 and 80 cm depth.

Bones and teeth were found right to the bottom of the pit.

13 fragments of unglazed red earthenware ware found in the topsoil, most are likely to be plant pot.

The glazed pottery was dominated by Modern ware types, all found above 70 cm. And with a fairly even distribution in the top 40 cm. This distribution takes the range into the subsoil. Of the 95 sherds recorded more than half were Cane-coloured Wares (33%) and Transfer-printed Wares (24%). However, the identification of the cane-coloured wares was made difficult by the presence of a Mocha Ware sherd. This often had a cane-coloured base. It is likely that the amount of Mocha Ware has been underestimated. All of these ware types range through the 19th C. White Ware, which came into widespread production after 1830, was fairly abundant. Uncommon 19th C types, sometimes in only single occurrences, include Late Brown Glaze, Smear-glazed Stoneware and Flow Blue. Cream-bodied Pale Grey Earthenware came into production in about 1775, while Cream Ware preceded White Ware in popularity and was made between 1740 and 1850.

Coarse earthenware was mainly red-bodied, which is thought to be mainly 19th C, though there were some earlier pink-bodied, brown glazed and vitrified types. Most of it was found above 70 cm, but there were three large pieces of vitrified and pink-bodied coarse earthenware between 80 and 100 cm depth and associated with large pieces of Midland Yellow Ware and a German stoneware sherd dated 1525 to 1700. All of these pieces were found in a pile in the north west corner of the pit at the edge of the stone wall feature.

The rest of the stoneware can be divided equally between post 1800 pieces made in Derbyshire



IMG_2076 CB06 North wall. The large fragments of Midland Yellow Ware were found in the top left



IMG_2078 CB06 East wall. Showing yellow scar of fallen stones inclined to the right.



IMG_2071 CB06 at 80 cm. Fallen stones in SE embedded in the red clay, which forms a mound. Subsoil is around the clay.

and 18th century Nottingham-made sherds. Except for the German sherd they were all found above 70 cm. They include bowls, bottles, stewpots, jars and mugs. The German piece is a globular jug.

Older pottery is fairly scarce. There were only 7 post-medieval sherds, four of which were midland Yellow Ware. There was one piece each of Cistercian Ware, Coarse Black Ware, Yellow Slipware and an unknown fabric type. Apart from the Midland Yellow Ware pieces in spits 9 and 10 the rest were from the topsoil.

Only four medieval sherds were found. Two were Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze (1300-1400) and one a Shelly Ware sherd (1250-1400). This was from a shouldered, wide mouthed jar and was burnished on the outside. They were all found between 70 and 80 cm depth alongside the stone wall. The fourth sherd was Midland Purple Ware (1400-1500) found in the spit above.

One flint was recovered from the top of the subsoil. It seems to be a broken core, showing signs of having been used for small blades.

Interpretation

The topsoil is 45 cm thick and almost certainly re-deposited here at the end of the building of these late Victorian houses. Stones, charcoal and oyster shells, found alongside a squared off area of building sand at the base of the topsoil demonstrates this. One interesting item found at the base of the topsoil is a metal button with the words Best Ring Edge on it. This button was made in the late 19th and early 20th C mainly for overalls and braces. This nicely fits the dating of this level as coincident with the building of the house in 1897.

The content of the topsoil varies and includes Modern and post-medieval pottery, coarse earthenware, unglazed red earthenware and stoneware, all of which must have been at surface in this general area prior to the building phase. The Modern pottery is almost entirely 19th C with sherds of Smear-glazed Stoneware (1820-40) and Flow Blue (1840-60) giving a close mid century date. These and the 18th C Cream Ware may have been inher-

ited family pottery smashed after the new houses were built in 1897. The glass in the topsoil is largely late 19th and 20th centuries and includes some hexagonal bottles and other clear glass bottles with embossed lettering. One piece had the lettering along the horizontal axis.

Glass in the upper part of the subsoil looks 19th C, but tending to be older than in the topsoil. This does not conflict with the findings from the pottery.

The most distinctive feature in the pit is the stone wall. Only a part of it remains and it is 38 cm high and about 30 cm wide. It was built using the vernacular style commonly found in these pits; that is red clay has been used as a mortar and as a foundation layer beneath the feature. The top was encountered at 55 cm depth, but there were two large stones to the side of the wall that appear to have been dislodged from it. Underneath them was found pieces of coal and brick, a tiny fragment of turquoise, a bone and a sherd of Shelly Ware. The pottery seems to suggest that the wall collapsed after this was deposited; in other words in the period 1250-1400.

There is further evidence of a medieval age for this event in the presence of a layer of sandy clay, about 10 cm thick and covering the whole of the pit. The top first appeared between 60 and 70 cm deep and bottomed at just above 80 cm depth. The layer was humped in the middle and it contained a sherd of the Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze Ware. It was mixed with subsoil. This implies that the layer of sandy clay, which was above subsoil similar to the subsoil above it, had been spread in or just after the period 1300-1400 which suggests that there might be a medieval surface here alongside the lower course of the wall.

The problem with this interpretation is that at the end of the remaining wall in the north west corner of the pit between 80 and 90 cm depth and coincident with the base of the feature is a pile of large pieces of Midland Yellow Ware, a piece of German stoneware, vitrified coarse earthenware, lots of bones, a 17th C clay pipe stem, a large tusk and a piece of floor tile with mortar attached to it. The dateable material in this assemblage suggests a range of early 16th to end 17th C (1525 to 1700). This indicates that the wall feature was in place then, but this pile of pottery sherds was below the sandy clay layer containing the Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze.

The most likely explanation for the disposition of the Shelly Ware is that the stone wall feature was built in the 14th C and had fallen into disuse during the same period. At some time after this the sandy clay layer containing the Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze sherds was put into place, reason unknown. It is a very irregular layer, which seems to have been spread after the collapse of the wall, but it is also above the pile of Midland Yellow Ware pottery found in the NW corner of the pit at a depth of 80 to 90 cm. A solitary sherd of Midland Purple Ware was found just above this layer. This cannot be taken as firm evidence of age, but of the two possible explanations for the sandy clay layer; that is that it was either spread in the 16th or 17th centuries, or it was older and the post-medieval pottery was dumped in a pit dug through the sandy clay layer, the latter seems stronger.

No pottery was found below about 95 cm; that is beneath the deposit of large pieces of pottery in the NW corner of the pit. This is surprising because the site is close to an area at the back of the Chesterfield Inn that has been excavated and yielded evidence of extensive Roman activity.

One of the most unusual features of this pit was the worm holes found at around a metre depth. They were vertical and many of them contained a sand of coal, brick, white and blue and white pottery, a shoe nail and in one of them a tightly rolled up piece of modern kitchen paper.