

**CB11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON  
THE RECTORY, EAST STREET**

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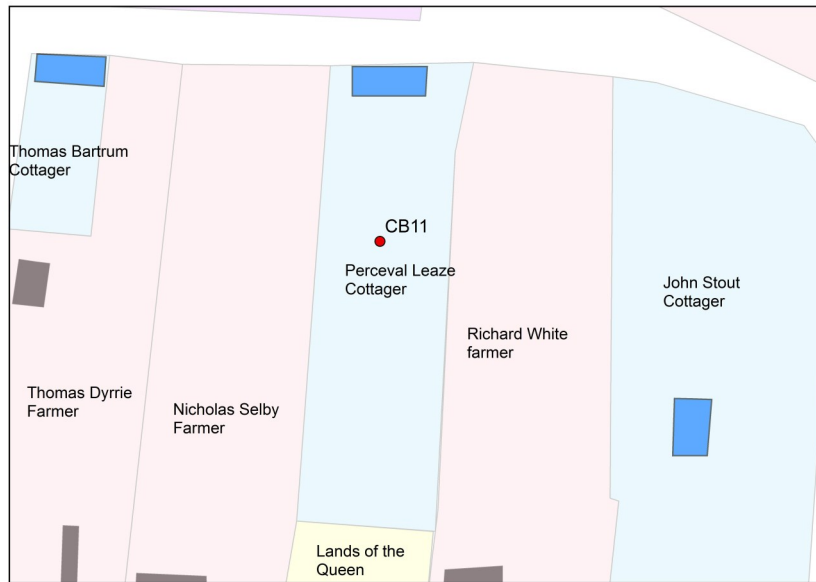
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# CB11 THE RECTORY, EAST STREET

## SITE HISTORY

The boundaries of the plot on which the Rectory stands have changed but little since the 1500s. The present Rectory in whose garden pit CB11 was dug was built in 1990 in the garden of the pre-

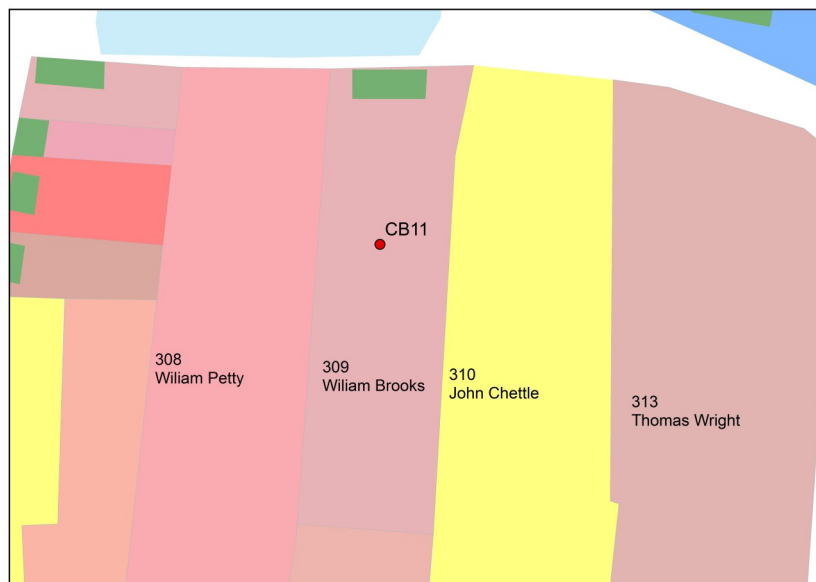
vious rectory, the white cottage (No 2 East Street) between it and the footpath from East Street to Church Street. That only became the rectory after the Georgian Rectory near the Market Place was demolished in 1964.



*The map of 1586 showing the tenants' holdings. East Street is along the northern boundary*

### 1586

BHTA's conjectural map of Bingham for 1586 suggests the plot was occupied by a cottager by the name of Perceval Leaze. He was recorded in the estate survey as holding a tenement or cottage and a croft amounting to about three quarters of an acre, for which he paid 7 shillings and 8 pence per annum. Being a cottager he had no strips in the open fields, although it is quite possible he worked for the landlord on the open fields.

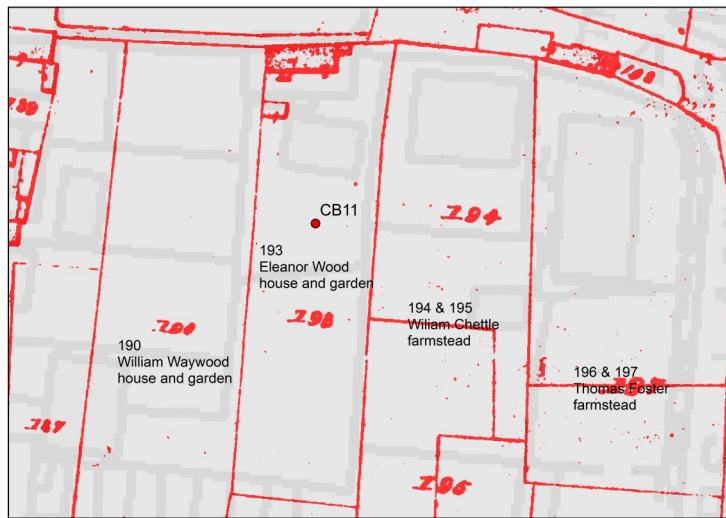


*Map for 1776.*

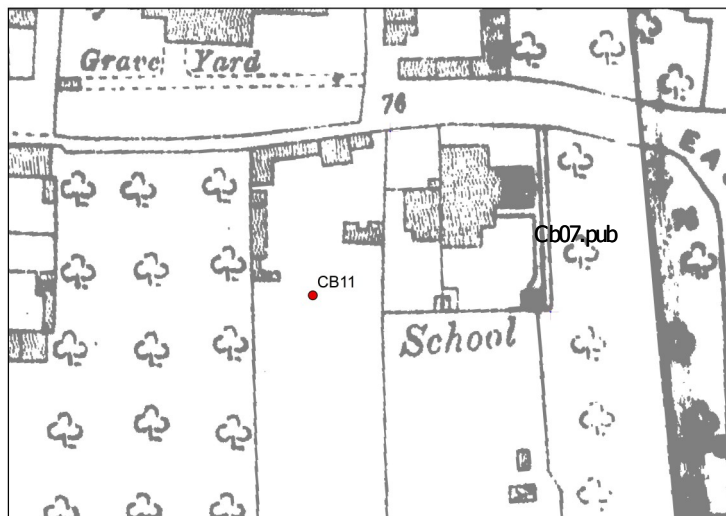
Most tenant farmers, with holdings in the fields, had their homesteads on Husband Street (the modern Long Acre) and Thomas Dyrrie, Nicholas Selby and Richard White were no exceptions to this. The Leaze family tenure could not have lasted long as the name do not appear in the parish Registers. The cottage was more than likely on the site of No 2 East Street. This would have left the whole of the garden plot south facing, which would have been the normal ori-

entation for a cottager's plot.

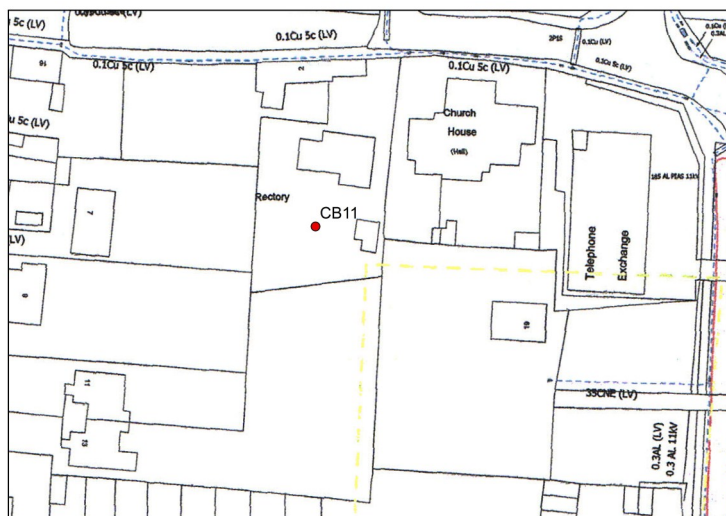
The plot to the south of the garden and shown on the plan as "Lands of the Queen" had almost certainly been owned by the Bingham Chantry which was dissolved at the Dissolution. One or two other plots in the town had a similar description.



*Tithe map of 1841.  
OS Licence No 0100031673*



*O.S. map for 1910*



*Modern map by permission of Western Power*

## 1776

The plot boundaries had not changed much by 1776. The Rectory plot was occupied as a house and garden by William Brooks, who also held plot 305, also as a house and garden, now Seymour Cottage on the corner of Cherry Street and Church Street. William Brooks farmed 46 acres in the by now enclosed fields around the parish. He probably used "Seymour Cottage" either as a tied house for a farm worker or for his extended family. His name does not appear in the trades' directory for 1793. Both present houses probably date from the early to mid-1700s.

William Petty held 15 acres spread around the parish. He is recorded in the 1795 trades' directory as the postmaster – Bingham's first. He also occupied a house (plot 276) which is now 21 Long Acre, one of the oldest houses in Bingham. We do not know which was used as the post office.

## 1841-1900

At the time of the tithe map and apportionment the site was plot 193 and occupied by Eleanor Wood as a house and garden. In the 1841 census she is recorded as Helen, aged 60, of independent means. Her son William, aged 35 and a bricklayer, lived with her together with his children Hellen, John, Joseph and William. By 1865 he was described as a builder, with wife Fanny and his sons John and Joseph as apprentice builders, clearly a family making their way. He had four other children. His by now 75 year old mother was still with them.

William died in 1854 and by 1861 his sons, both now builders, had moved to Cherry Street along with their widowed mother Frances. In 1870 John Wood married Mary Chettle (the farmer's daughter from next door!) and by 1871 they were back in East Street, quite possibly in the same house, as they are first

on the census list with the schoolmaster second (the schoolhouse is next door). The Woods stayed in the house until sometime between 1881 and 1891. In 1901 John Wood Snr, builder, was in Church Street. His son John Chettle Wood lived nearby in Church Street; he was now a teacher, after having been a school monitor in a previous census. John's other son, William, was also a builder living with his parents in Church Street.

We have no record of occupants after 1900 until the present day.

## **CB11**

### **LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

<b>NGR</b>	470757.339890
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	22.761 m [error 0.025 m]
<b>Dig dates</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> May to 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Lawn in back garden. Large trees surrounding it.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. At 100 cm the floor of pit shows a clear divide between east and west. Dark brown loam from the western side was sampled and bagged as 11.1, the eastern sand as 11.2. A post hole was encountered in spit 11. The fill was sampled as 11.3

**CB11**

The background material in this pit shows little variation down to a depth of about 80 cm, but it clearly has been reworked.

Topsoil to 80 cm

Glacial deposit

Post hole, top at 100 cm



The topsoil passes gradually into sandy, dark brown loam subsoil with plentiful skerry. The stones first appear in abundance at 80-90 cm. Several are 10-12 cm long, one is 12 x 20 cm. None of the stones is more than 2cm thick. There are a few 6 cm lumps of red-brown clay. The stones appear to be in piles that are not natural in origin.

The post hole is situated in the SE corner of the pit. Its top is marked by a pile of stones and is coincident with the top of the basal clay deposit. There was no

evidence that it was higher, in the subsoil. The post hole fill is dark brown loam with sparse small skerry pebbles, pot and bone. The post hole measured 9 x 6 cm, but it was in the corner of the pit and this may not be its whole dimension. It was cleared out to a depth of 159 cm and a spike





*The Rectory site*



*IMG\_1432 Stones in NE corner at 90 cm.*



*IMG\_1438 N face At 100 cm. The gradual downward transition is clearly seen from organic topsoil with bricks and pebbles to a lighter sandy loam.*



*IMG\_1441 West face showing the layer of bricks at 20 cm depth and a pile of stones at 80-90 cm depth in the SW corner.*

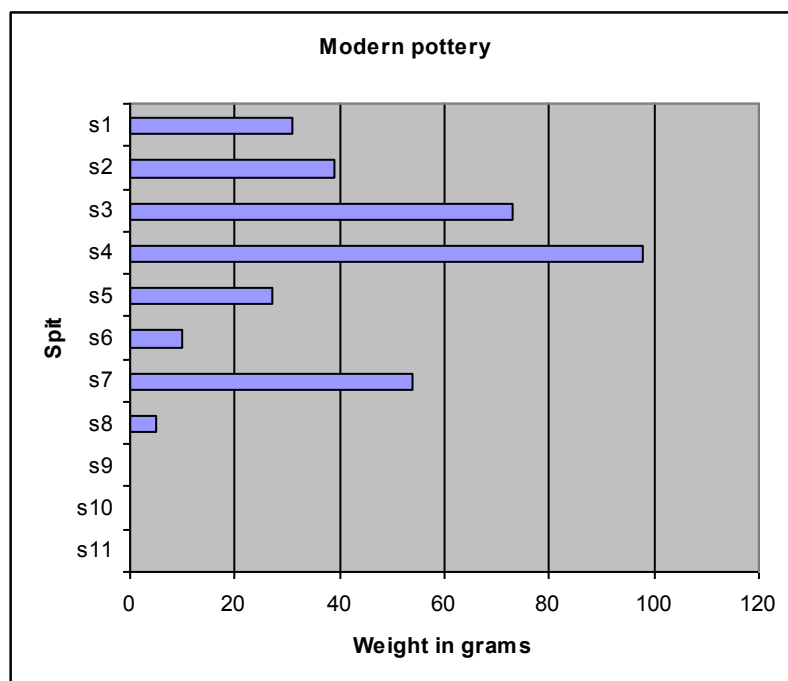
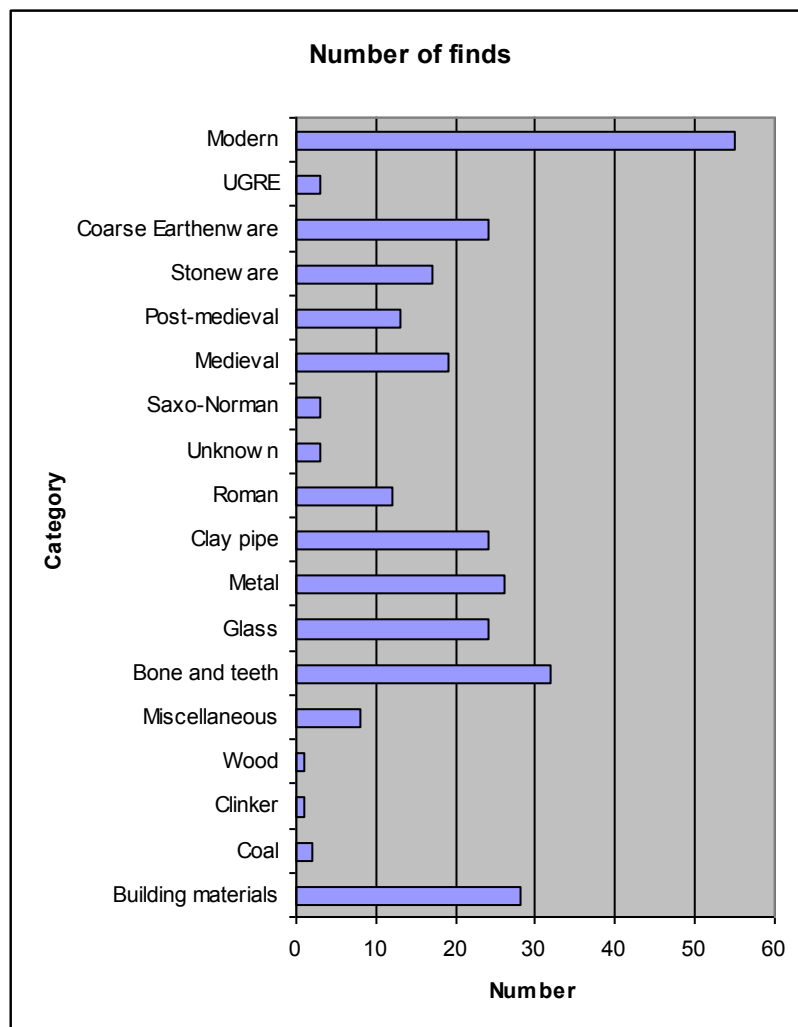
rammed to a depth of 211cm where it was bottomed in dark brown peaty soil overlying red-brown clay.

## **Finds**

The pit produced a particularly abundant collection of finds with Modern pottery being most numerous.

Building materials include brick, plaster, slate, roofing tile, floor tile and ceramic tile. These finds were confined to the top 60 cm with a particular concentration at 20 cm where there was a layer of large pieces of brick. At this level and above it is likely that the material was all related to the building of the rectory itself, which dates from the 1990s. For all the non-pottery finds the main concentration lies in the top 60 cm.

Two pieces of coal were found above 30 cm. Several miscellaneous items were found some as low as 80 cm. They include a plastic comb, a bone domino piece, a bullet case, metal button, bone discs for velvet-covered buttons and a shell case. This garden produced a particularly rich assemblage of miscellaneous items in the garden survey, some with an interesting military provenance. For example, an officer's button from the Lincolnshire Regiment was found. The name was used



wood were found at 80-90 cm depth, which was just above the base and coincident with the findings of Roman pottery.

The pottery was dominated by the collection of Modern sherds. All were found above 80 cm, i.e. within the topsoil with most above 40 cm. Modern pottery includes three sherds of Unglazed Red

for the regiment only between 1881 and 1945. After this it was called the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and was amalgamated in 1960. Other finds included a Canadian 1 cent coin and a button from College St Marie at Riom (Puy de Dome). This was founded by the Marist Fathers in 1856 and is still going. This is possibly a uniform button and was made by A.M. & Cie Paris. Information on the Internet suggests that the company ceased manufacturing buttons in 1914.

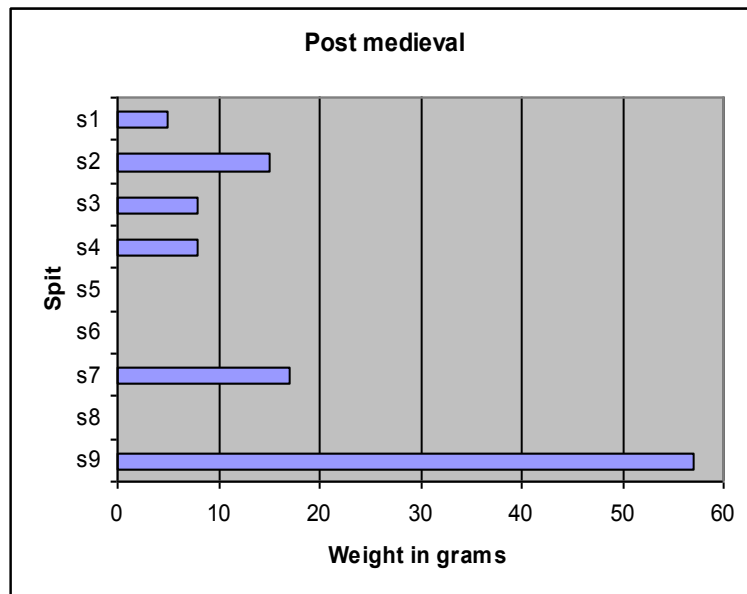
There is a reasonable variety of glass, all except two pieces above 50 cm with the most coming from the layer of bricks between 20 and 30 cm. Most of it was clear or aqua flat, with green, brown or clear bottle. One pale green piece is from an octagonal bottle. All are likely to be late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> C. One patterned piece is likely to be mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> C. Two pieces of opaque glass, white and pale green are likely to be from ornamental pieces. Two pieces came from the bottom of the subsoil. These were both aqua flat, thin window glass and likely to be earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> C.

Nearly all the metal objects were nails (19 out of 26), including two horseshoe nails. In addition there were nuts a metal clip and a lead square of unknown use.

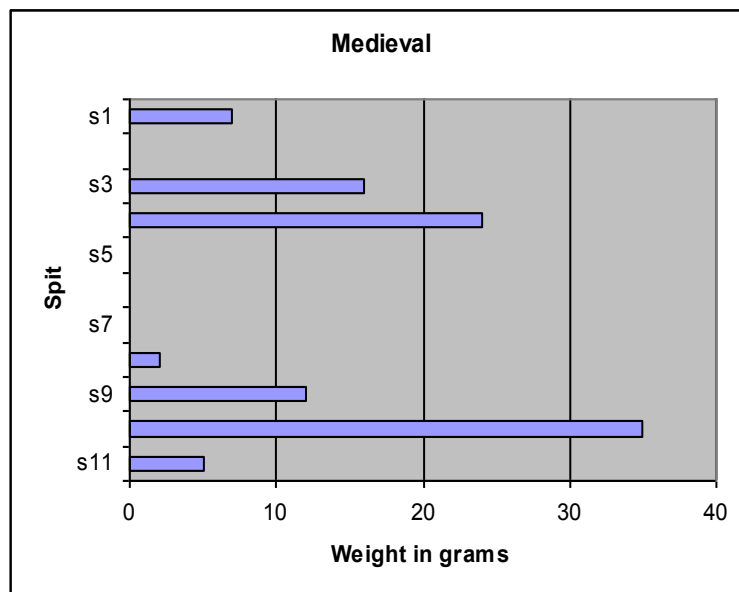
One fragment of a clay pipe bowl was 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> C, but all the other pieces were late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> C. Included here is a very good bowl dated 1850-1880.

One piece of clinker and another of

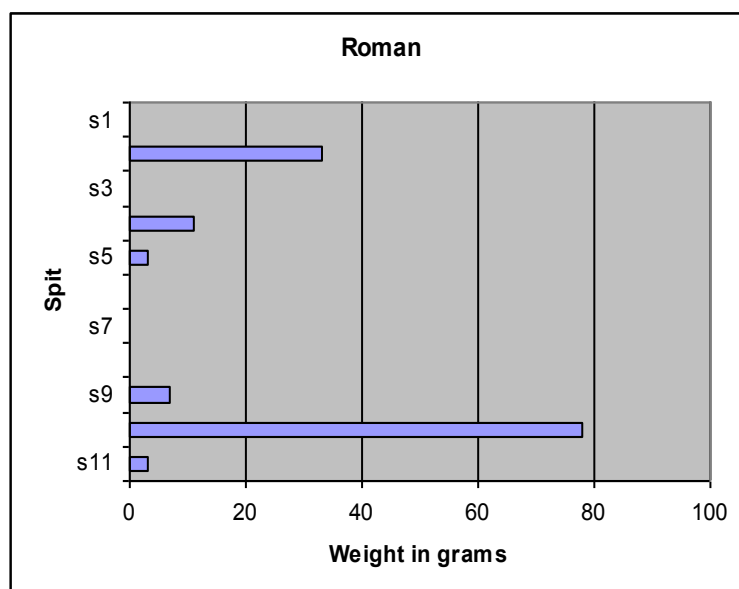




Earthenware, probably plant pot. Of the total of 126 sherds of glazed ware types found 38% were Transfer Printed. This has a long range, 1800 to present day, however, a number were pale blue on blue, green and grey, all of which are more common in the early to mid 19th C. There were, however, a lot of Willow pattern sherds, which are more long ranging. In addition there was some cane-coloured ware types, usually post 1950 and Mocha Ware, which ranges through the 19th C. A small number were 20th C kitchen ware and commercially produced types. There was very little Cream Ware, which is more characteristically mid 18th to mid 19th C. Overall, the assemblage is typically 19th C.



The stoneware was constrained to the top 70 cm. Mostly it was Derbyshire-made dated 1840-1950 (9). There were 3 sherds of Derbyshire ware from 1760-1840. The remainder consisted of Nottingham-made pottery dated 1720-1790 (3 sherds) and one dated 1690-1715. Forms represented include bottles, a jar, a preserving jar, a plate, a bowl and a possible wine bottle.



The coarse earthenware is almost all red-bodied (71%) and many of the pieces appear to come from a single vessel with a distinctive body containing a fine sand and some iron oxide temper. The glaze is dark brown-black. Most of the pink bodied sherds, the light-bodied sherd and a red-bodied with a distinctive orange-red body were found below 60 cm down to 100 cm depth.

Post medieval pottery was not abundant, only 13 sherds. All except one was constrained to the top 70 cm. They include Cistercian Ware, Midland Yellow Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and Mottled Ware. These were mostly small pieces. However, a large base of a Cistercian Ware cup was recovered from spit 9.

Medieval sherds were quite numerous (19) and spanned spits 1 to 11, though most occurred below 70 cm depth. The fabrics include Midland Purple Ware (1450- 1550), Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1340-1450), Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1270-1300), Nottingham Green Glaze (1270-1350), Nottingham Coarse Pink or Orange Sandy Ware (1200-1350), Nottingham Splashed Ware (in the range 1140 to 1270) and Shelly Ware (1100-1200). The forms represented are jugs, a bowl, a cistern and a cooking pot.

Three sherds of Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware were retrieved. These conform to the standard classification of Stamford Ware in which different types of fabric are identified by letter. They were Stamford Ware Fabric A (1000-1200) carinated bowl, fabric B (1050-1200) and a possible fabric G (up to 1250). The fabric A piece was found between 50-6- cm depth, while the other two were from spits 9 and 10 (80-100cm depth).

There were 12 sherds of Roman pottery. Most were Grey Ware, one of which was a wide-mouthed vessel dated 170-300. Two sherds of Nene Valley Colour Coat were found, one of which had a low barbotine linear decoration and was attributable to 170-400. The other was an open form and was a little later. One shell tempered sherd could not be dated.

The most intriguing finds were three sherds from the post-hole fill. Two were shell tempered, the other was hand thrown. The Roman and medieval specialist ceramicists could not agree on their age and provenance, leaving them as unresolved Roman to medieval pieces.

### **Interpretation**

While the top 20 cm and the layer of bricks at 20 cm depth is most likely to have been re-deposited after the Rectory was built in the 1990s the sequence below this appears to be relatively undisturbed down to the basal clay and the transition from topsoil to subsoil at about 80 cm depth is gradual. However, while most of the building material was found above 40 cm two pieces of brick were found between 50 and 80 cm. This suggests some sort of disturbance to this level, though it might have been by animal action.

Most interesting of the finds from the upper levels of this pit are the miscellaneous items. These include some with a military provenance, the Canadian coin and the button from the College St Marie at Riom (Puy de Dome). These, together with the buttons, the domino piece and the bone dice, indicate the presence locally of some fairly exotic late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> C rubbish. To date we have no idea who the people to whom it belonged were, having found no records of occupants from 1900 to the present day.

Though there is evidence of ground disturbance down to the Roman level, the pottery shows an over-lapping stratigraphy:

Modern	spits 1-8
Stoneware	spits 1-7
Coarse Earthenware	spits 1-10
Post-medieval	spits 1-9
Medieval	spits 1-11
Saxo-Norman	spits 6-10
Roman	spits 2-5 and 10-11

The Modern pottery is dominated by Transfer Printed ware types and includes green and grey types. There is relatively little of the utilitarian White Ware. Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware, a typical 18<sup>th</sup> ware type in affluent homes, is uncommon. This is probably because the assemblages of most types is dominated by 19<sup>th</sup> C wares, but the rare presence of the white stone-

ware suggests an heirloom from 18th C ancestors. It seems that the occupants of this site were middle income people.

As with No 2 East Street, the neighbouring house, this pit shows a continuity of pottery dates



*IMG\_1444 South wall showing the post hole in SE corner. The Roman sherd is seen protruding from the middle of the wall just above the top of the sandy basal layer. The remains of the pile of stones that overlay the post hole is in the wall to the left.*

through the medieval period. In age terms the Saxo-Norman pottery would have been followed by Nottingham Splashed Ware, other green glazes and Nottingham Coarse orange/pink sandy Ware. These largely cover the period up until the mid 14<sup>th</sup> C. Light-bodied Gritty Ware follows in c1350 and then Midland Purple Ware from about 1450. Cistercian Ware is slightly later than the Midland Purple Ware. This is a continuity of ware type that spans the Black Death and seems to suggest that activity here was not interrupted by the plague as in areas to the south east of here.

The presence of most categories of pottery in the upper levels, including Roman, is indicative of soil disturbance of some kind or another. Similarly with the downward extent of their presence.

However, most of the medieval pottery was found below 70 cm, which is under

the lowest level of find for post-medieval sherds. Two of the three Saxo-Norman sherds were below 80 cm and the lowest finds of all were Roman pottery at 100-110 cm depth.

The most difficult problem to deal with is dating the post hole. It was dug into the basal clay, which shows the characteristics of the local glacial clay; that is there is a thin layer of sand probably derived by weathering the clay resting on the surface. The top of the post hole coincides with the surface of the basal clay and there are piles of stones immediately above the clay, including one thought to be actually over the post hole.

Three sherds were recovered from the post-hole fill. Two of them are Shelly Ware, which has a date range from the Iron Age to the medieval period, and in this case were not easily categorised. Neither of them was typically medieval, however, and it was suggested that the most likely date range for them was Roman to Saxo-Norman. The third sherd was from a hand thrown pot and did not resemble any medieval fabrics known from this area giving it a similar range of Roman to Saxo-Norman, though Jane Young was convinced that it was not post-Roman.

There is a possibility that the post hole indicates the presence of a building that coincided with the period of construction of the stone church, which was from 1220. There is certainly some pottery from this period in the pit. In spits 10 and 11, that is between 90 and 110 cm depth, are 10 sherds covering the whole medieval date range from Nottingham Splashed Ware (1170-1270) to Midland Purple Ware (1450-1550). The Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware G sherd was among them. This distribution suggests an element of post-medieval ground disturbance and, as there are Roman and medieval sherds high in the topsoil, it makes it difficult to use this as evidence of age. The sherds in the post-hole fill, however are not medieval, but can be attributed to the Roman to Saxo-Norman period. This would rule out a building erected when the stone church was being built.

Whether or not there was a church on this site before the stone church is not known.

Probably the most convincing evidence of age is the Nene Valley Colour Coat sherd in the soil immediately above the layer of sand that rests on the basal clay. The clay layer is not disturbed except by the digging of the post hole. After use the post hole was covered by a pile of stones. Other large stones hereabouts are higher stratigraphically than the Roman sherd. This sherd dates from 200 to 400.

While there is no convincing evidence that gives a tight age for the post hole, the available evidence seems to indicate that it was dug at some time between the late Roman period and the Norman Conquest.