

**CB12, CB13, CB23 and CB24**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON  
FOUR PITS DUG ON  
FOSTER'S LANE**

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## **CB12, 13, 23 and 24**

### **FOSTER'S LANE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Two of these pits, CB12 and CB13 were training pits dug at the very beginning of the project. They were sited on an area of unused ground on Foster's Lane but owned by Mr and Mrs Sanderson who lived in an adjacent house, 87 Long Acre. Pits CB 23 and 24 were dug in the back garden of that house when work was just beginning on the construction of a new house in it. One pit was in what would be the front garden of the new house and the other was in the back garden of a bungalow that already exists in it.

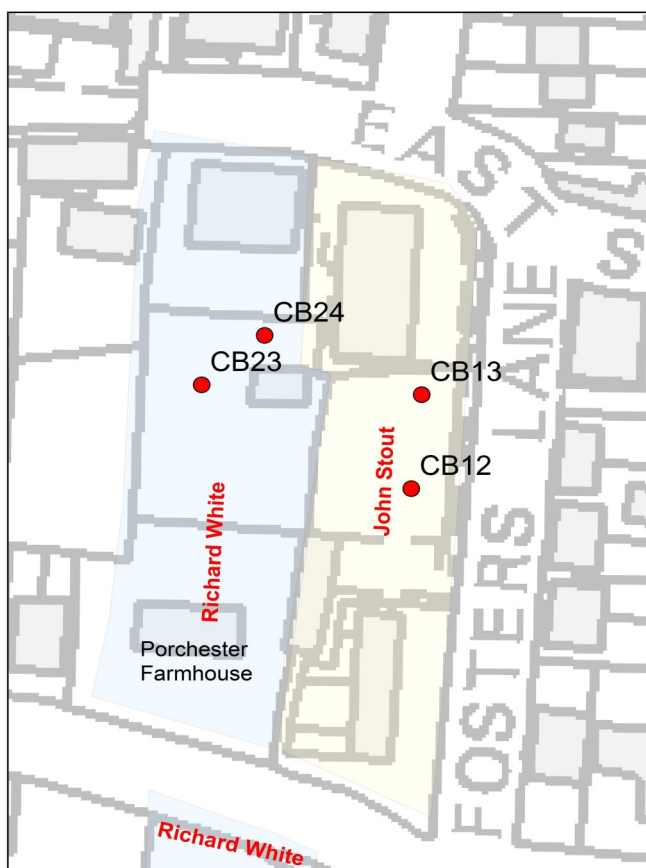
Training was supervised by Trent and Peak Archaeology. Several different individuals took part in each pit. The soil was removed in 5cm spits partly for training purposes. However, in CB23 and CB24 the 10 cm spit convention was followed. Because of this change the spits recorded in the drawn sections of CB12 and CB13 show the 5cm spit depth, but the data collected from these pits as entered into the database were standardised to 10 cm spits so that cross pit comparisons could be made.

Modern topography on the following maps is by permission of *OS, Licence No 0100031673*

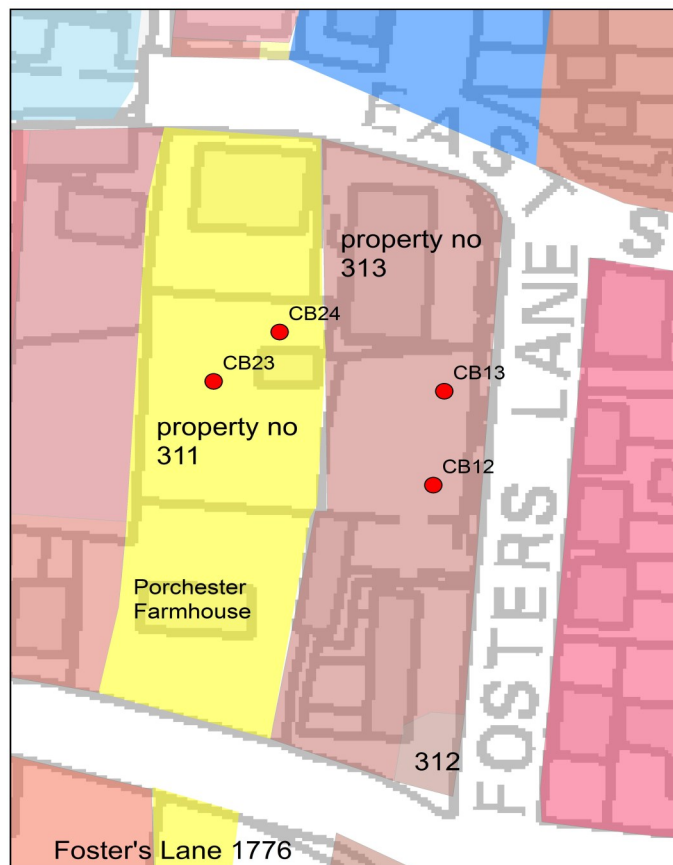
**SITE HISTORY**

When the pits were being excavated the land parcel shown in red on the modern plan was in the single ownership of Trevor and Sally Sanderson. Since the excavations were completed the farmhouse and garden have been sold but not the areas where the pits are located.

When the Sanderson's purchased the property in the 1960s, the whole parcel was a part of the Porchester working farm owned by the Crown Estate and had recently been farmed by the Warner family. From the middle ages until 1925 the land, as with most of Bingham was owned successively by the families of de



*Conjectural map for 1586*



*Map for 1776*

Bingham, Stapleton, Stanhope (Earls of Chesterfield) and Herbert (Earls of Carnarvon).

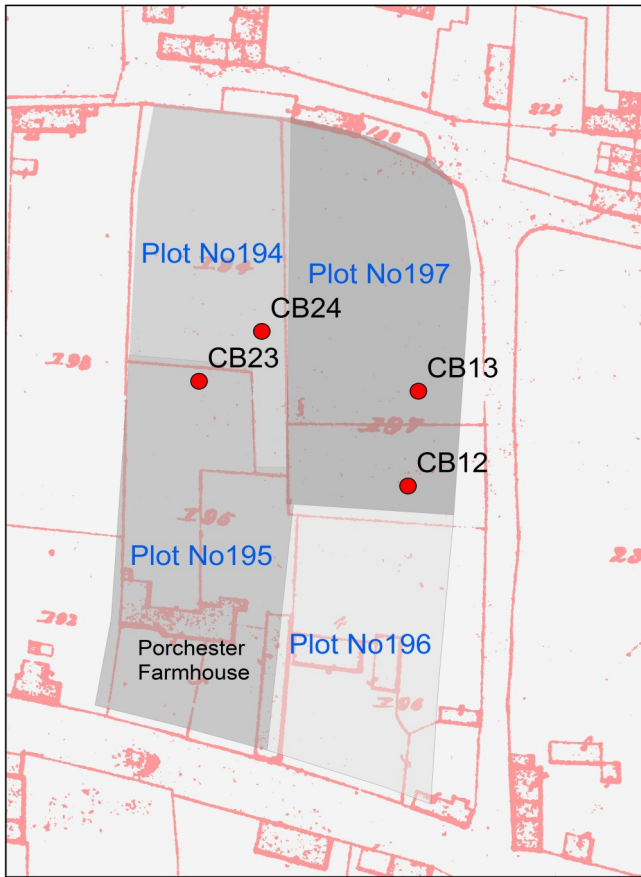
**1586** (map above left)

In 1586 the plots containing pits CB23, CB24 were in the occupation of Richard White, a farmer. He held about 191 strips (totalling about 53 acres) in the open fields. John Stout (pits CB12, CB13), cottager, held the eastern plot. Long Acre was Husband Street (street of the farmers) and Foster's Lane was Selby Lane (as was also Jebb's Lane).

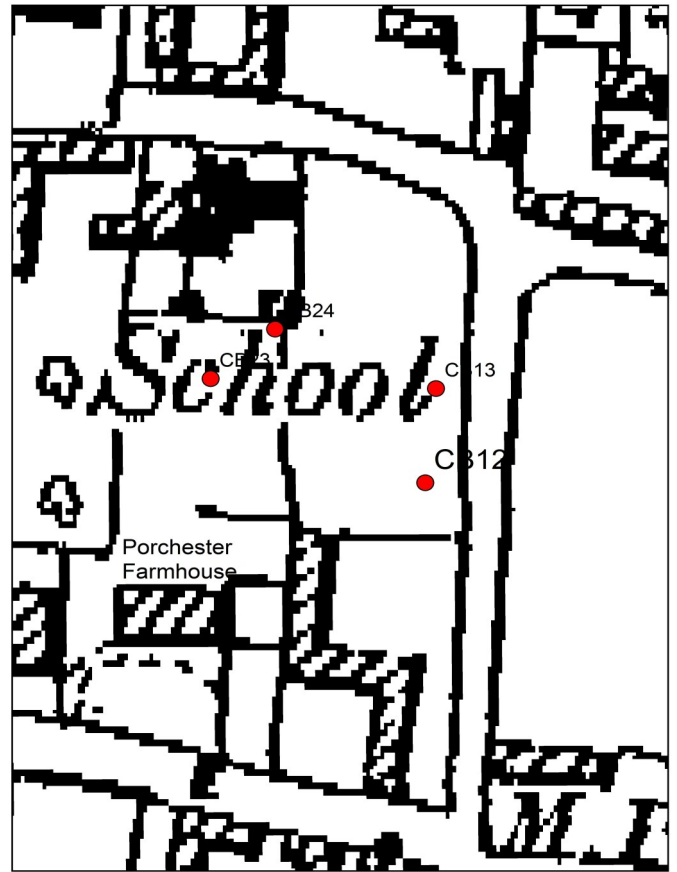
**1776** (map above right)

Plot 311 was occupied by John Chettle – homestead and garden held about 240 aces around the parish. He is noted as a farmer in the 1793 Trades Directory.

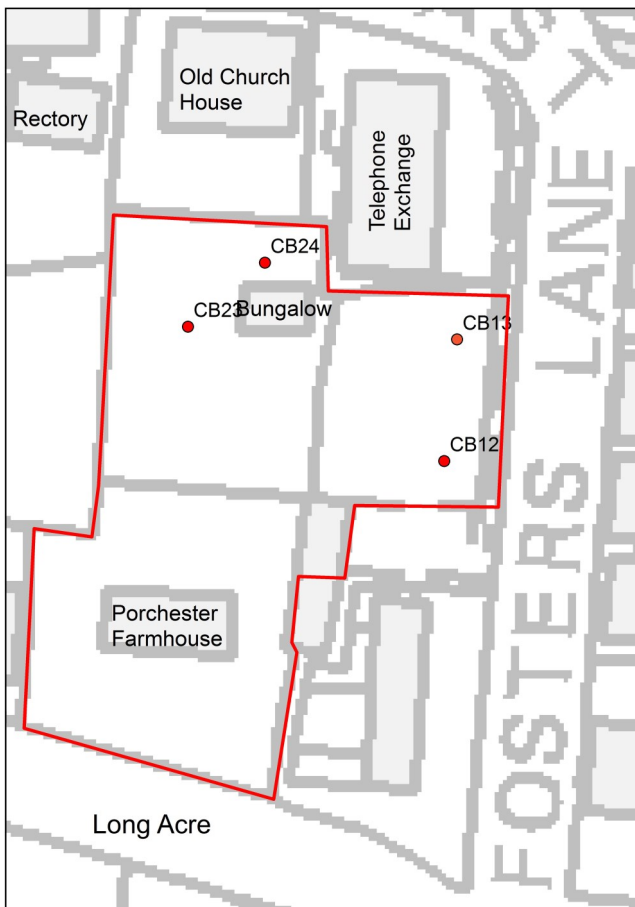
Plot 313 was occupied by Thomas Wright – homestead etc, total holdings around the parish of about 70 acres. He is noted as a farmer in the 1793 Trades Directory.



Tithe map 1841 above; Modern map below.



O.S. map 1910



Plot 312 was occupied by Mary Pedegreen who had a had a house and small garden.

#### 1841

The tithe map and apportionment of 1841 shows the following:

Plot 194 (Home Close), 195 (house, fold, stack yards and garden) was the farm and homestead of William Chettle. His total holding around the parish was about 150 acres. The Chettles left Porchester Farm in the 1850s. From 1861 until the 1930s the substantial farming family, the Brewsters, was in occupation.

Plot 196 (house fold and stack yards, 197 (garden piece) was the farm and homestead of Thomas Foster (hence the street name). His total holding around the parish was about 50 acres. Plot 196 today has a row of modern houses. The Fosters seem to have left the farm in the 1840s.

Pit CB23 is on the edge of plot 195, pit CB24 is on plot 194, both of which were Chettle land. Pits CB12 and 13 are on plot 197, Foster's garden piece.

#### 1911 and later

Charles Brewster was in 1911 census and 1918/1920 electoral registers at Porchester House. He was in 1932 Trades Directory as a farmer at Porchester House. In the 1936 directory William Walker had taken over and was succeeded by his son Edward by 1941.

## CB12

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

<b>NGR</b>	470822.339848
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	22.644 [error 0.022 m] Measured on the track midway between CB12 and CB13
<b>Dig dates</b>	Start 1 <sup>st</sup> April then finish 12-13 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>Pit site to</b>	Waste ground owned by the Sandersons on Foster's Lane. Part of the site was have a marquee on it for a wedding in early May 2012. Soil had been cleared from the site of the marquee and spread over the rest of the ground, including where the training pit was to be sited. The upper layer was the recently spread overburden resting on turf. The surface was rough grass, rich in couch.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 5cm spits, all sieved. Dig used for the second training session. Several members had a try at digging. Stopped at a lens of till overlying bed rock mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group at 85 cm. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. The spit numbers here relate to the 5cm spits that were dug. However, in the database, which has been adjusted to 10 cm spits they have been changed.

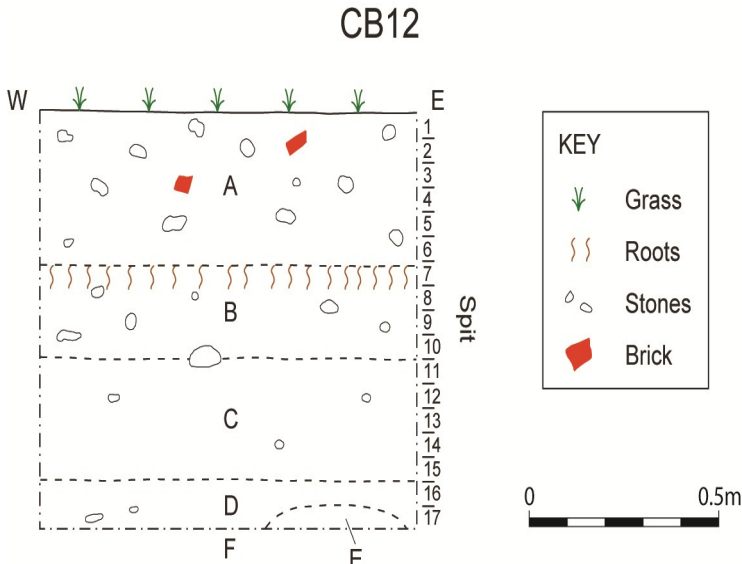
## CB12

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The sequence in this pit consists of:

- Topsoil 50 cm thick
- Subsoil 20 cm thick
- Till 10 cm thick
- Grey mudstone



- A* Topsoil of dark brown loam with stones up to 15%. Includes round pebbles, brick and skerry.
- B* Topsoil. Same as A beneath a layer of turf.
- C* Subsoil of orange-dark brown clay
- D* Subsoil of dark yellow sandy loam.
- E* Till of orange-brown clay.
- F* Grey mudstone



*North face, final section. Note the dense couch grass roots in the upper topsoil*



*IMG\_1427 Close-up of horse jaw at spit 11*

There are two generations of topsoil. The upper layer of 31cm thick has been deposited recently as a result of earthwork in one part of the plot. This layer rests on rotted turf at the surface of another layer of topsoil 19 cm thick. This is the original topsoil.

Beneath this is orange-dark brown clay soil that is likely to be the original subsoil.

The sequence below this is difficult to interpret. The bottom of the pit is grey mudstone, likely to be the bedrock Triassic Mercia Mudstone. This is overlain by 10 cm of dark yellow sandy loam with a lens of orange-brown clay. The clay might well be a sliver of till left over and the dark yellow sandy loam could be the weathered top to it. Material included in this lowest layer includes brick and burnt wood, suggesting that it is disturbed and possibly not original.



## Finds

A wide variety of miscellaneous material was found in both of the two units of topsoil. Most of the building material was in these units. They include bricks, modern drains, roof tile, ceramic tile, slate, plaster and mortar. Only brick occurred below this and the pieces were not diagnostic. Many of the finds showed signs of having been in a fire.

All the 35 metal objects except one nail were in the topsoil. They include nails, aluminium strips, modern curtain hooks, needles, washers, bolts, blade, a screw, door hinge and fastening clips. They were nearly all distinctly modern. Coal and clinker were also found in the topsoil. Several pieces of wood, half of them burned, were retrieved. The burnt specimens were found down to 80 cm depth. In the topsoil some of the wood had been used in building.

The glass was entirely in topsoil and the immediate 10 cm below. Nearly all of it was modern clear glass, either from bottles or window. Three thicknesses of window glass were evident: 1/16th, 3/32 and 1/8 inch. One piece was smoked as if it had been in a fire. Much of the bottle glass was from the same bottle. One large base piece was 3 inches in diameter. There were some fragments of green and brown bottle glass. Only one piece of green bottle glass had a patina formed by the chemical reaction between the soil and the glass. This might have been the only piece not 20th C in origin.

The bones and teeth came from an interesting range of animals, but all of it was in the top 60 cm, most in the topsoil. The animals were chicken, lamb, pig, cat, horse and cow. The presence of lamb rather than sheep indicates that this is mostly modern debris. One bone had gnaw marks left by a rat.

There were three clay pipe stems in the top 30 cm. Two were 19th C, the third a thick stem likely to be 17th to early 18th C.

Pottery was not plentiful. Most of it was modern (27 items); all was in the topsoil. Four pieces of Unglazed Red Earthenware, probably plant pot, were found in the top 20 cm beneath the topsoil. The glazed Modern pottery was limited to White Ware and Transfer-printed Wares with two unusual and unknown varieties. All of these are not likely to be dated to the second half of the 19th C.

One sherd of stoneware had a rouletted floral band around it and was from the period 1760 to 1840.

There was no post medieval pottery and only five sherds of medieval pot. Four of these were Nottingham Splashed Ware and one Nottingham Green Glaze Ware. All five can be attributed to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> C. They were found at the bottom of the topsoil.

A single sherd of Stamford Ware was found at the top of the underlying subsoil (between 50 and 60 cm depth).

A single sherd of Iron Age pot was found and 12 sherds of Roman pottery. They were at depths of 40 to 70 cm, most being immediately beneath the base of the topsoil. There was one sherd of burnished Fine Orange Ware, slightly burnt and attributed to the period 70 to 200. Another Dales Ware rim dated 200 – 350. All the rest of the Roman pottery was Grey Ware. Among it is a sherd of burnished grey ware and a fine ware piece. The date ranges for the ones that could be dated are 70-200 and 270 – 410. They were mostly body parts with three rims including one from a lid.

One flint was retrieved. It was a large flake, very likely late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

## Interpretation

The piece of land that was dug has not been built on and has been waste land for many years. Much of the content is rubbish that has been dumped on it and then incorporated into the soil. There is no difference in content between the two layers of topsoil, the upper one having been brought to the site from about 20 metres away, having been scraped up to level the ground before putting up a marquee. They are separated by old turf on the original ground surface. Much of the material was in some way fire damaged and possibly the residue of a fire used to burn rubbish on the site.

The flint flake, probably Neolithic is one of the very few found in the pits that is thought to have been man made.

The pottery tells an interesting story. All the modern pottery, except four sherds of the unglazed red earthenware, which is mostly plant pot, and including the stoneware is within the topsoil. Beneath that the pottery is more or less in stratigraphical order with medieval above Saxo-Norman above Roman and Iron Age. All the medieval pottery is 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> C and there is nothing later than this until the modern period. This suggests little or no arable agricultural activity at this site after the 13<sup>th</sup> C.

The Roman pottery is mainly fairly common Grey Ware. The piece of Fine Orange Ware and the Dales Ware tell of a slightly higher status type of pottery, but overall with only 12 sherds there is insufficient to tell what sort of activity there was here. The date range is also ambiguous. The ranges from the dateable pots effectively cover the whole of the period of the Roman occupation.

The single piece of Iron Age pottery is of uncertain identification, but likely to be late Iron Age, if not first century.

The Neolithic flint flake was recovered from the bottom of the topsoil and gives no indication that there may have been activity at this time here.

**CB13**  
**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**



*IMG\_1343 Metal detecting the site before digging*



*IMG\_1356 metal detecting and use of Digicat*

<b>NGR</b>	470825.70 339870.32
<b>Height OD (midpoint rim of N face)</b>	22.644 m [error 0.022 m] Measured on the track mid-way between CB 12 and CB 13
<b>Dig dates</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March – 1 <sup>st</sup> April; then finished on 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Pit site</b>	Waste ground owned by the Sandersons on Fosters Lane. Part of the site is to have a marquee on it for a wedding in early May. Soil had been cleared from the site of the marquee and spread over the rest of the ground, including where the training pit was to be sited. The first layer was recently spread overburden resting on turf. The surface was rough grass, rich in couch.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 5cm spits, all sieved. Dig used for the first training session. Several members had a try at digging. Stopped in orange-brown clay with stones, which might be till. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

## CB13

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The same succession is present as in CB12, in which the topsoil consists of two layers.

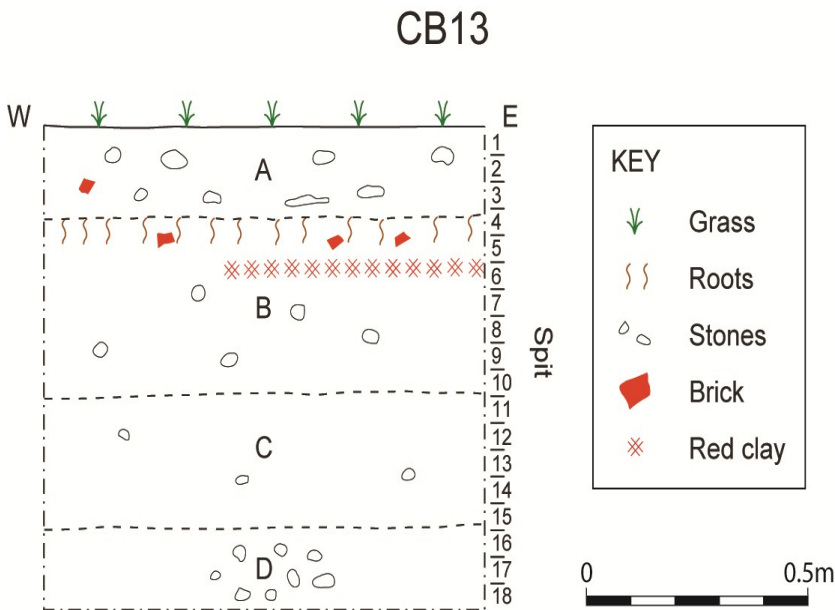
Topsoil 50 cm  
Subsoil 25 cm  
Till



IMG\_1397 Sieving



IMG\_1451 Spit 14 showing the original turf layer



- A* Topsoil of dark brown, organic loam with pebbles, brick to 7 cm, skerry to 5 cm, round pebbles flint etc. Total inclusions <20%
- B* Topsoil, same as A beneath a layer of turf (3-5cm thick) Layer of red-brown clay. Pebbles etc >20%.
- C* Dark brown loam subsoil
- D* Orange-brown clay, frequent stones at centre of pit.

The upper layer of topsoil is c 17cm thick and is a dark brown organic loam with pebbles of flint and quartz, pieces of brick to 7cm, skerry up to 5 cm. The inclusions are up to 20%. The lower topsoil rests on a turf horizon and is c32 cm thick. The content is similar to the upper layer. There is a layer of red-brown clay 4 cm thick and 7 cm from the top and was reported as having come from the footings of a new building on the neighbouring site.

The subsoil is a dark brown loam and passes down into orange-brown clay with stones near the central area.

#### Finds

The topsoil, as in CB12 contains a variety of miscellaneous and clearly modern material such as glass, metal, clinker and brick. The glass is all modern, probably 20th C. Included was frosted and patterned bathroom window glass, ribbed and clear window glass. Most of this was 1/8th inch thick, though there was a single piece of thin, 1/16th inch clear window glass. There was clear bottle glass, two pieces with an

embossed dot pattern, but also pieces of green and brown bottles. A clear meat paste jar was intact. Few of the pieces had any sort of chemical patina.

None of the bricks was measurable. 4 19<sup>th</sup> C clay pipe stems were found, one of which was possibly early 18<sup>th</sup> C, the others 19<sup>th</sup> C. Most of the coal was found in the topsoil, but one piece was recovered from a depth of 7-0-80 cm. Numerous animal bones and teeth were present at all depths down to 90 cm.

Modern pottery including stoneware and unglazed red earthenware occurs entirely in the topsoil. The glazed Modern ware was limited to White Ware and Transfer-printed Ware with one sherd unknown. Another provisionally called 19<sup>th</sup> Buff Ware was also found. All of these are most likely to be from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

Post-medieval pottery including Midland Black Ware, Mottled Ware and Coarse Black Ware was found between 10 and 60 cm, that is mostly in the topsoil. There were six sherds. There were also 6 sherds of coarse earthenware in the same range of 10 to 60 cm.

Older pottery was fairly abundant in this pit. The sequence is:

Medieval	19 sherds	spits 4 to 9
Saxo-Norman	9	spits 4 to 7
Late Saxon	5	spits 1,4 and 6
Anglo-Saxon	1	spit 8
Roman	14	spits 4 to 6

The medieval pottery is from jugs, jars, bowls and cooking pot. Half of the finds are Nottingham Splashed Ware. The rest are mostly single items of a particular fabric type. They include: Shelly Ware, Medieval Glazed Ware, Reduced Sandy Ware, Nottingham Coarse Pink Ware, Stamford C, Lincoln Early Shelly Ware, Green Glaze and three sherds of unusual ware types possibly local in origin. All except two of these is 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> C. The exceptions are Medieval Glazed Ware and one of the local fabrics, both of which range into the 15<sup>th</sup> C.

The Saxo-Norman fabrics are equally diverse. The earliest is St Neot's Ware with a date range 960 to 1150 of which there were two sherds. All the others are 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> C fabrics. They include two Stamford Ware A, two Stamford Ware B and three non-local fabrics, which are quite unusual.

Five Late Saxon sherds include Torksey Ware, Lincoln Shelly Ware and a shell-tempered non-local ware type.

A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in spit 8, the lowest of any of the sherds recovered. This is beneath all the Roman pottery and a question has to be put over the identification. Anglo-Saxon pottery is notoriously difficult to distinguish from Iron Age pot.

Roman pottery was fairly abundant. There were 14 sherds, 12 of which were undistinguished Grey Ware. One sherd of Grog-tempered Ware has a date range of 50 to 150. Another sherd of Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware is typically 170 to 230.

### **Interpretation**

There is nothing unusual in the content of the upper topsoil. All the material in it is modern. The lower topsoil, however, shows a gradation with the underlying subsoil and many of the older pottery fabric types are found in the lower part of the topsoil and the subsoil beneath. This includes the post-medieval pottery and the coarse earthenware, which are found down to 60cm depth.

The older fabrics, medieval to Roman, overlap in their depth ranges and must have been subject to movement in the soil, either by ploughing, some other form of movement during cultivation or animal action.

The age range of the older pottery is interesting. There is good representation of the periods from Roman to 13<sup>th</sup> C. Then, there are only two sherds that may come after that. One of these has a range of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> C. The other, Medieval Glazed Ware is 1350 to 1450. This is the only one that is unequivocally post Black Death.

The Saxo-Norman and Late Saxon pottery is fairly diverse in type and seems to indicate a vigorous trading culture here. St Neot's Ware is at the northern limit of its traded range in Bingham. Very little of it was found in field walking.

The single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery is in keeping with the usual proportion of this type of fabric. However, unless it can be demonstrated that it has been subjected to movement within the pit it might be misidentified and be Iron Age.

The Roman pottery, being mostly Grey Ware gives little information about date range. The Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware indicated activity here in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to mid 3<sup>rd</sup> C; the Grog-tempered Ware is earlier, mid 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> C. The quality of the ware types suggests that if there is a household nearby it is a simple farmstead. There are no high status ware types here.

In summary, it seems that there might have been a Roman household nearby, but there was almost certainly an active community here from the late 9<sup>th</sup> C to the mid/late 13<sup>th</sup> C. There is a general absence of 14<sup>th</sup> C pottery and only one sherd that is definitely post Black Death. This would seem to indicate that the Late Saxon settlement that became established here continued only into the 13<sup>th</sup> C and may have been abandoned even before the Black Death struck Bingham.

## CB23

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

**NGR** 470782.339869

**Height OD  
(mid point rim of N face)** 22.588 m [error 0.022 m] Measured near the brick edge to the gravel apron. The original site is buried.

**Dig dates** 12-13<sup>th</sup> April start; finished 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April

**Pit site** Lawn in the garden in front of the bungalow in the Sanderson's garden. The site is close to where a new house is being dug and had to be done before the footings were taken out as it was going to be covered in spoil.

**Pit protocol** 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. The first pit dug to the new spit depth after the training pits were dug at 5 cm spits. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. Maximum depth of pit at 110 cm.



*P1030639 View of CB23 site*

## CB23

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

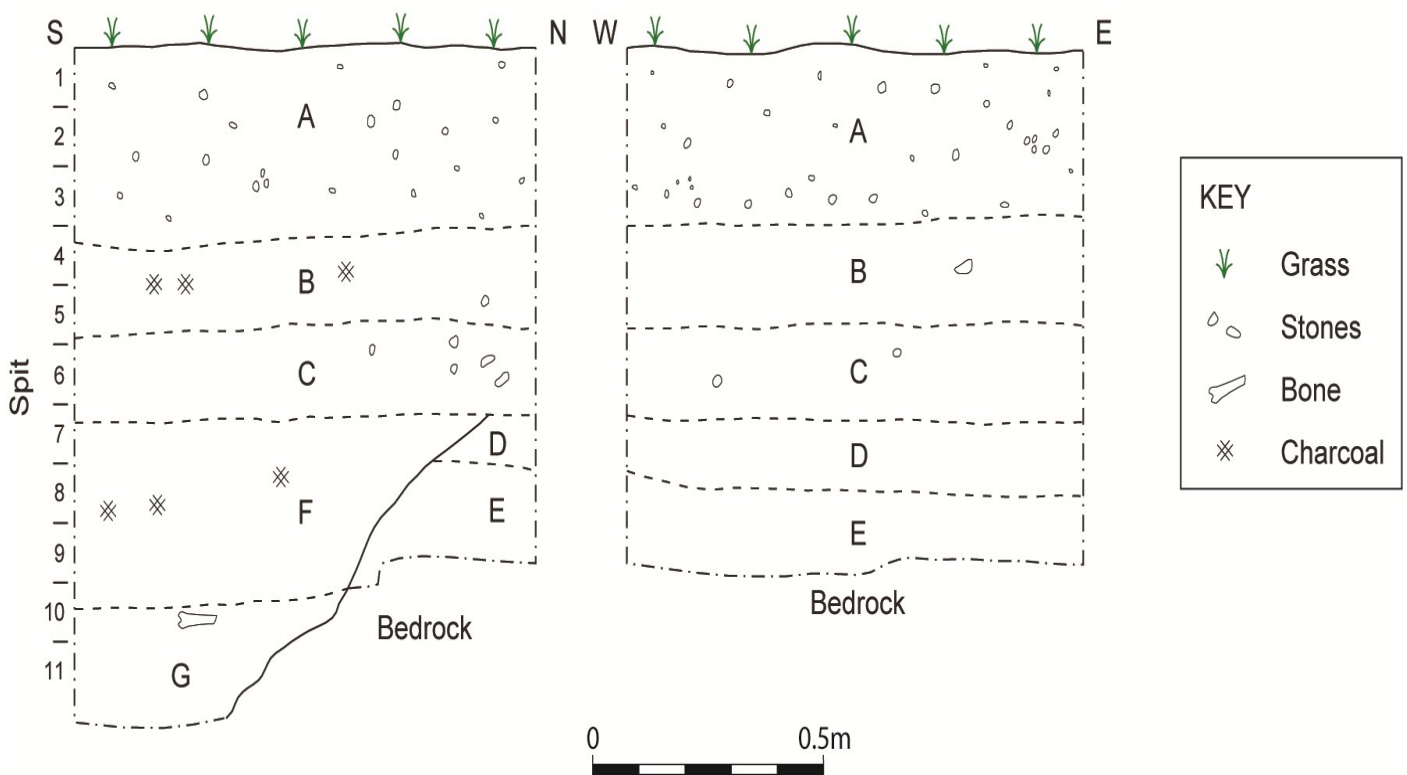
#### Description of pit

The sequence is:

- Topsoil to 32 cm
- Subsoil to 60 cm
- Bedrock

In this pit the bedrock is Mercia Mudstone Group sandstone and mudstone, but apparently with a layer of till still preserved on it. The structures preserved in the subsoil hint at permafrost action, but the size of the pit limits the accuracy of the interpretation.

## CB23



- A Topsoil of dark brown-black silty loam, frequent stones and rubble.*
- B Subsoil of dark brown clay loam, frequent rounded stones, rubble and charcoal.*
- C Subsoil of firm mid brown clay loam with sandstone inclusions.*
- D Till of firm mid orange-brown clay with few stones*
- E Firm mid green-grey clay bedrock resting on sandstone bedrock*
- F Firm dark brown clay loam, occasional charcoal, flecks of sandstone inclusions. Seems to cut across D and E. Fill.*
- G Firm dark brown gritty clay loam, bone in section plus Roman pot. Angular stones. Fill*

The topsoil (A) is dark brown-black silty loam with frequent stones and rubble. It passes down into dark brown clay loam (B) with frequent rounded stones, rubble and charcoal. This in turn passes down into clay that changes in colour downwards from mid brown (C) through orange-brown (D) to mid green-grey (E).



These three lower stratified layers are of uncertain provenance. In the north and west walls of the pit the subsoil (contexts B and C) bottoms at 60 cm. It rests on a layer of orange-brown clay (D) that overlies firm mid green-grey clay (E). The orange-brown clay is thought to be the remains of a layer of till, which lies on a bed of bedrock clay (E) which rests on skerry bedrock.

In the western wall the contexts D and E are cut out by a ditch fill (contexts F and G) containing Roman pot and bones.



*CB23 view north, showing top of bedrock in N with bones in the fill to the S.*

*CB23 north and west faces with the fill removed. Showing the basal sandstone.*

On the south and east walls the bedrock is again cut out and the subsoil continues downwards as firm dark brown clay with charcoal, sandstone inclusions and some pottery. This seems to back up against the bedrock and continues down to green-grey mudstone at 110 cm depth. This mudstone is presumed to be the bed that underlies the sandstone in the other half of the pit. Bones and pottery are found down to near the bottom in this half of the pit.

### **Finds**

Wood, clinker, coal, an oyster shell and all the metal objects, which include as large modern staple are confined to the topsoil.

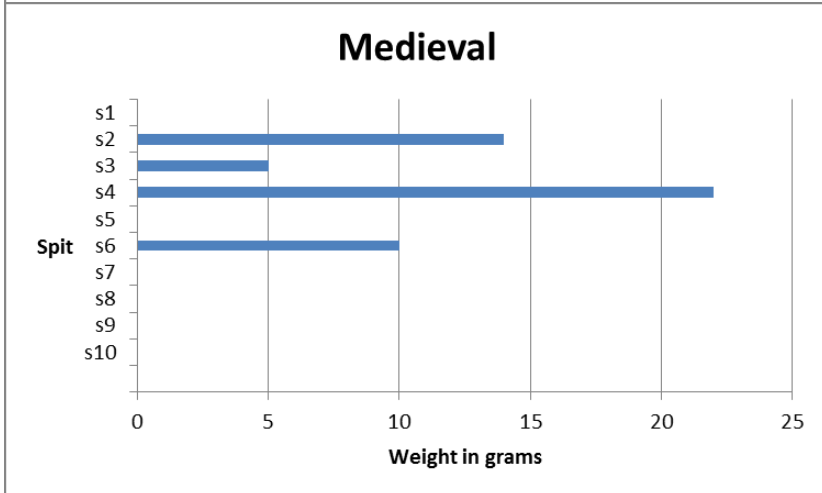
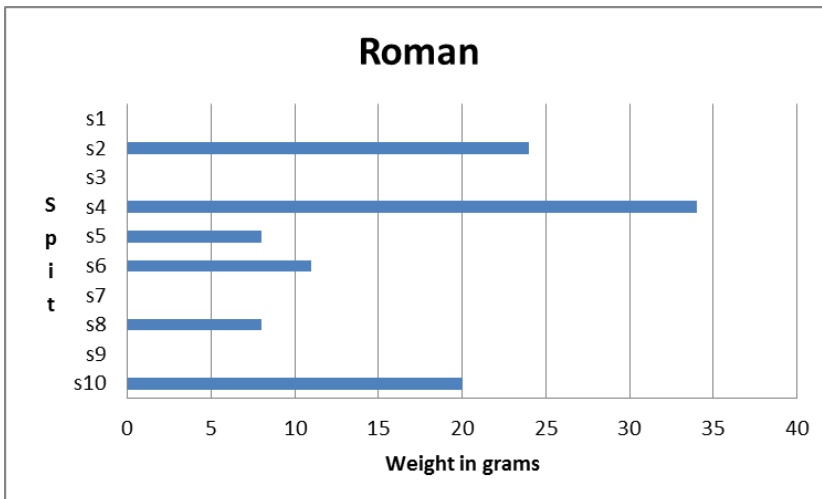
There were only 7 fragments of glass, all found in the top 40 cm. There was piece of modern green bottle glass and one with a strong gold patina from the shoulder of a bottle. The rest were flat window glass ranging from 1/16th to 1/8th inch thick. All except the patinated piece are likely to be 20th C. This one may be a little older.

The clay pipes, most of which are stems are 19<sup>th</sup> C, with one early 18th C stem. They are present in the topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil.

Among the building material finds the one piece of floor tile was in the topsoil, but the pieces of brick and the plaster occur down to 60cm depth, but are not present below the highest level of the Triassic bedrock.

Bones and teeth are present at all depths to the very bottom of the pit. About 40% are sheep, that is the meat was mutton rather than lamb, though two lamb bones were found. Among the rest are pig, cow and a cat.

The most abundant pottery is Roman, followed by medieval, though the range is similar to in the adjacent pit CB13. The distribution of the finds is:



Modern	spits 1-4
Stoneware	spits 2-5
Unglazed Red earthenware	spits 1-4
Coarse Earthenware	spits 1-3
Post medieval	spit 2
Medieval	spits 2-6
Saxo-Norman	spit 4
Late Saxon	spit 7
Roman	spits 2-10

There is a suggestion of a stratigraphy in this succession, but there is also a considerable overlap in depth ranges suggesting either animal action or disturbance through cultivation.

There were nine sherds of Modern pottery. Of these one was Transfer printed (1800-2000). Another was Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware (1720-1780). All the others were variations of white or cream coloured with date granges from the late 18th C to the 21st C. The salt glaze stoneware included Tiger Ware, probably made in Germany between 1540 and 1650. The rest was made in Nottingham or Derbyshire between 1720 and 1840. The Un-

glazed Red Earthenware was mostly plant pot.

The two sherds of post medieval pottery were Mottled Ware and Coarse Black Ware, both likely to be 18<sup>th</sup> C, but they were found in the topsoil. The Coarse Earthenware was also confined to the topsoil.

Among the seven medieval pottery sherds represented six were different fabric types. These were Nottingham Splashed Ware (1200-1250), Stanion/Livedon Ware (1150-1400), Nottingham Green Glaze (1300-1350), medieval Sandy Ware with a Coal Measures tempered fabric (13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> C), an unknown fabric type possibly 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> C and two sherds of Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze with date ranges 1275-1325 and 1300-1350.

The date ranges of some of these is long and not helpful, though all of these start in the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> C. Those that can be precisely dated fall into the 12<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> C range, which is before the Black Death and not unlike the other pits in this area.

There is a single sherd of Stamford A, with a range of 11<sup>th</sup> to mid 12<sup>th</sup> C.

Two sherds can clearly be attributed to the Late Saxon period. These are Torksey-type Ware and Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware, which is clearly wheel thrown.

The Roman pottery consists of 17 sherds of Grey Ware, two of Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware, one samian ware and one White Ware. Among the Grey Ware is a sherd from a fine carinated bowl dated 70-230. Another is a dark grey fabric, while a third has a horizontal groove pattern. Neither of these can be

dated. One curvilinear sherd with a burnish is 170-400. The two Nene Valley sherds have slightly different date ranges; one is 170 to 400, the other 200 to 400. The samian ware sherd is sheared and has glaze on only one side. Its date range is probably mid 1st to 3rd C. The White Ware sherd has a trace of the original orange paint left on it. It has a micaceous, creamy fabric and dates from 140 to 200. It is probably a South Carlton painted ware from Lincoln.

### **Interpretation**

The relative abundance of Roman pottery compares with the other pits in this area. It is predominantly Grey Ware, indicative of a lowly household, probably a small farm. The absence of any Anglo-Saxon pottery is not unusual. However, there is sequence from Late Saxon into the early 14<sup>th</sup> C, which again accords well with the other pits here. Though some of the medieval sherds have a date range that goes beyond the Black Death of 1348-49 it is likely that the sherds date from before it.

Thereafter there is nothing until the 18<sup>th</sup> C Mottled Ware and the Coarse Black Ware, though this could be slightly older.

The distribution of the Roman pottery suggests that though it is found at the bottom of the pit is most plentiful between 30 and 40 cm depth, the same depth as for the medieval finds. Roman sherds were also found in the topsoil. This suggests that there was some redistribution of the Roman material. This could have been either by animals or, more likely, during medieval cultivation practices. Many of the Roman and medieval sherds are abraded.

The medieval material is quite varied, so there were several different types of vessel represented. Most were made in Nottingham, though the Stanion/Livedon Ware item was not. The earlier Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman wares were also made outside the area, suggesting an effective trading network was in operation from before the Norman Conquest.

After the Black Death there is no indication of renewed activity in this area until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The paucity of finds from this period onwards does not indicate arable agriculture, but rather a casual loss through domestic breakages.

## CB24

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

<b>NGR</b>	470794.339879
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	22.652 m [error 0.022m]
<b>Dig dates</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Lawn behind the bungalow in the grounds of 87 Long Acre
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Pit dug to 75 cm, but extended to 85 cm in the NE corner to test the thickness of the basal rubble. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

## CB24

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The sequence is simple:

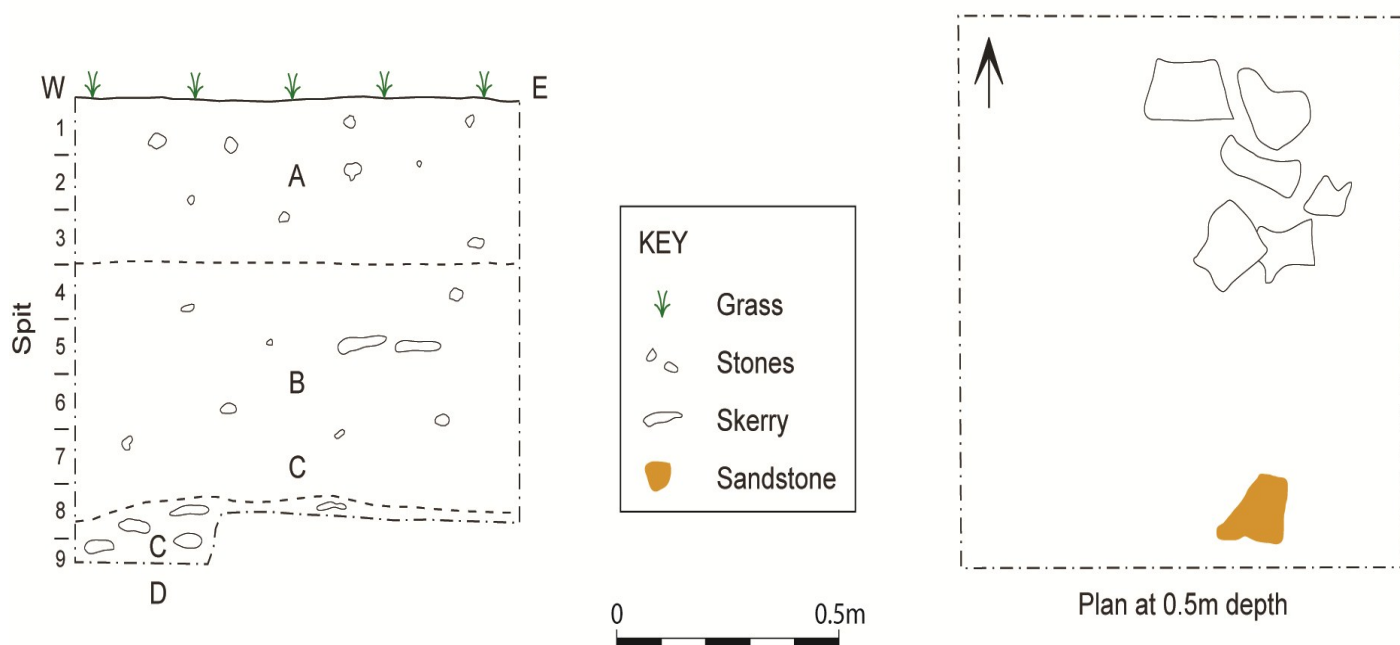
Topsoil to 30 cm

Subsoil to 75 cm

Bedrock

The topsoil is dark brown clay loam with some pebbles. It passes down gradually and irregularly into brownish-grey silty loam subsoil. There are stones of skerry up to 14 cm long in the subsoil between 40

## CB24



A Topsoil of dark brown clay loam with pebbles. Passes down into:

B Subsoil of brownish grey silty loam with pebbles. Sandstone and skerry stones to 14 cm.

C Skerry rubble and bones in subsoil.

D Red-brown clay with grey mottles (30%)



IMG\_1334 CB24 base



IMG\_1336 CB24 north face with pit in NE corner.

and 50 cm down and they appear to fit together. There is downward persistence of this feature.

At the bottom of the pit is a jumble of skerry stones overlying red-brown clay with grey mottles (c30%). It is thought that the stones are a broken bed of sandstone within the Mercia Mudstone Group mottled mudstone. Alternatively the basal stones could be in the weathered top to red-brown mottled clay till.

**Finds**

There were fewer finds in this pit than the others from this area. Also there were no classes of find that were confined to the topsoil except roof and floor tile. Brick was present down to 50 cm.

Metal objects included decidedly modern shotgun cartridge cases, a flattened copper funnel, a nail and buttons were all from the topsoil and the immediate top of the subsoil.

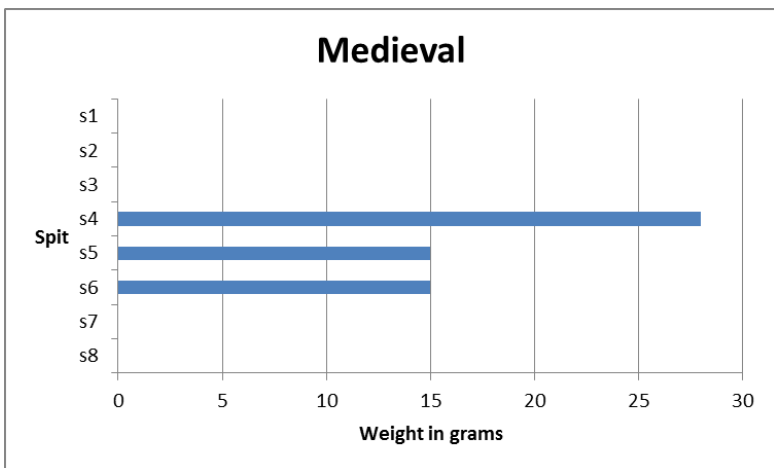
13 pieces of glass were mostly clear, late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C bottles or window. Two pieces of green bottle glass, one that was flat-sided, were found and one multi-coloured piece on white decorative glass from an ornament, but which may have been melted. These were all above 40 cm depth.

A single piece of coal was found at 60 cm. There were 5 clay pipe stems in the top 40 cm and all 19<sup>th</sup> C.

Bones and teeth were found down to 80 cm and one was among the skerry at the bottom of the pit. They included a cat skull and pig bones, one of them burnt.

Unusually, there were three flint flakes, none identified by age, but likely to be humanly made.

As elsewhere the pottery finds overlapped in their distribution. There were 11 Modern sherds down to 40 cm depth. There were three thick, chunky creamy-grey glazed sherds that might have been from the same vessel. Their date is not known. Others include a range of white and cream sherds that could be Cream Ware and White Ware. These range from 1740 to the present day, though it is more likely that they are all 19<sup>th</sup> C. One Transfer printed sherd is 1800-1950 A cane-coloured sherd with a white internal glaze is post 1850.



There were 5 coarse earthenware sherds, mostly Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware, probably from a pancheon. This tends to be 19<sup>th</sup> C. One pink-bodied and one brown glazed sherd were among them and could be earlier. All were found in the top 60 cm.

There was no post-medieval material or stone-ware in the pit and while the modern and coarse earthenware were found in the top 60 cm and overlapped with the older finds the medieval and older formed a sort of stratigraphy so that below 30 cm the sequence was:

- Medieval spits 4 to 6
- Saxo-Norman spit 5
- Late Saxon spit 6
- Roman spits 5-6

There are 9 sherds of medieval pottery and almost as many fabric types. Half of them are Nottingham-made ware types: Nottingham Green Glaze, Coarse Pink Sandy Ware, Light-bodied Green Glaze and Splashed Ware. One sherd of green glaze is rather softer than Nottingham fabrics and is probably made elsewhere. There is a sherd of Medieval Sandy Ware, one unknown fabric and another of an unknown, but local early medieval fabric. Finally, there is a light-bodied dark beige type of early black ware, not seen anywhere else in this collection. All except the Medieval Sandy Ware are 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> C fabrics. The Medieval Sandy Ware has a range of 1200 to 1500, so may well be from a pre-Black Death ware type, like the others.

There is one sherd of Stamford Ware fabric A, found between 40 and 50 cm depth and in the spit below that a Late Saxon Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware from the late 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> C.

Only four sherds of Roman pottery were found. They were all Grey Ware. One was dated to 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> C. They were found between 40 and 60 depth.

### **Interpretation**

There was too little modern pottery for a helpful interpretation, but it is interesting that the glass should be so consistent. It is unusual in any pit in this area for there to be so much clear glass. It is thin window or from a bottle and it is likely that the pieces are from the same bottle with a screw thread. It is most likely to be 20th C. All the modern pottery and the glass was found in the top 40 cm, that is in the topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil.

The overlap in occurrence between the Modern and older finds and again between the medieval and Roman finds suggests that there were at least two phases of ground disturbance, probably agricultural. One is in modern times and the other during the medieval period. The Roman Grey Ware suggests a farmhouse origin, while the later pottery is so diverse that it suggests substantial trading from the Late Saxon period onwards.

As elsewhere near here there is a gap after the mid 14<sup>th</sup> C Black Death. In most places the gap is closed with the find of Cistercian ware (mid 15<sup>th</sup> –mid 16<sup>th</sup> C), but here there is nothing before mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> C. It is assumed that the land at this time was either waste or pasture.