

CB14 and CB15
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
No 19 CHURCH STREET

Two pits were dug in the garden of No 19 Church Street. This house is close to the church and we have a good history of the site. However, it is also within the historic core of Bingham and was considered to be a place where there might be evidence for the earliest origins of Bingham.

One of the pits was sited close to the house; the other at the far, northern end of the garden close to the summer house. The first was dug in June 2012, the second a year later.

SITE HISTORY

CB14 LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

CB14 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

Finds

Interpretation

CB15 LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

CB15 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

Finds

Interpretation

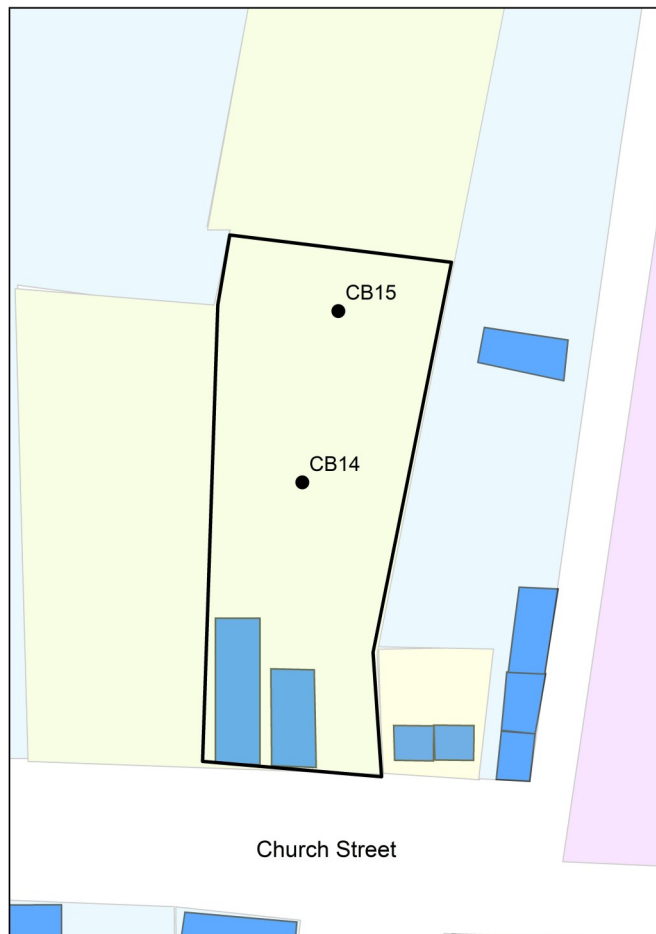
CB14 and CB15 19, CHURCH STREET

SITE HISTORY

For as far as records go back, this property and those adjoining to the west (numbers 7-17) have never been part of the Main Bingham estate owned successively by the Stapletons, the Chesterfields and the Carnarvons. The land adjoining the north west has always been glebe land until the junior school was built in the 1960s. More recently (1990 and 1995) the original long plot for No 19 has been shortened by sale for the development of three bungalows, one of which is No 61 St Mary's Road and where a pit which was dug (CB33).

The plot for No 19 has almost certainly been pasture since the introduction of the Open Field system and for which records are available back to the 14th/15th century.

The plot to the east now containing No 21 Church St. and 1 – 3 Church Path, has always been part of the Bingham estate.



The area outlined in black is the current land holding for No 19 Church Street with the pit sites marked. The area in yellow is the holding in the name of John Ludlam as recorded on the map of 1586

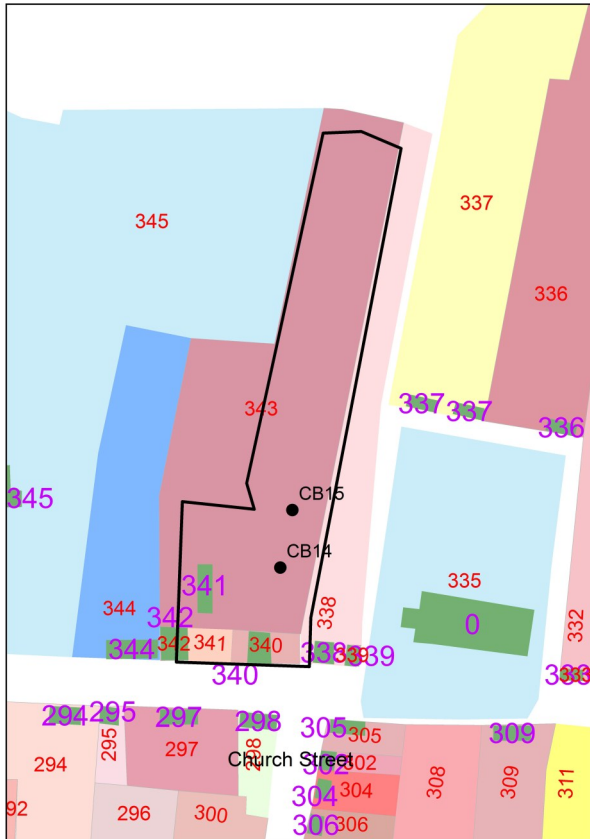
1586

Our conjectural map of Bingham for 1586 shows the location of plot 3 (our ID number) occupying their full extent of the modern plot for No 19 Church St before the development of bungalows in the 1990s. It is likely these are extremely ancient boundaries. The freehold was owned by John Ludlam and was described as “2 cottages, half bovate of land and a toft in Bingham”. Nothing is known of Ludlam; we assume he would have been an independent farmer. He had 379 strips in the old fields. Plot size was not given, as it was freehold, but would measure today about 1.6 acres.

1776

Although the plot at the rear of the house was still freehold, the house was described as a “town house on the waste”, with no tenant/owner name given. The plot to the north was described as “sundry freeholds” again with no names attached.

However we know from the deeds that in 1707 Edward Peat of Belton, gentleman and his wife sold the property to John Bradshaw, innkeeper, of Bingham. (He owned the red brick “Manor House” in the Market Place). A John Cockram, gent, was the tenant. In 1719 John Bradshaw left the property to his daughter Ann Markham.



The land holding in 1776.

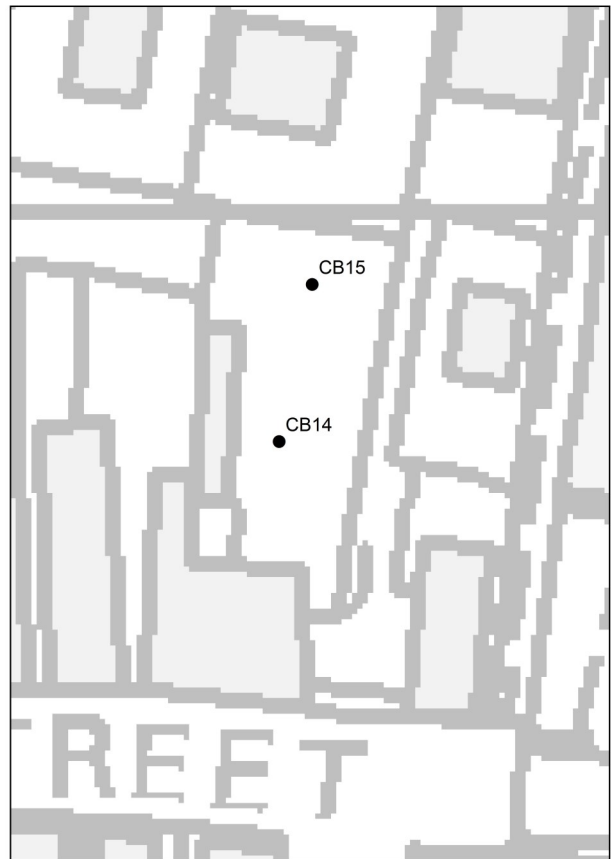


The land holding as shown on the Tithe map of 1841

1841

By 1841 Plots 5 and 6 occupied the area of the ancient boundaries and were in the freehold ownership of James Horsepool. He had purchased the property in 1811 from George Baxter, a member of the building club responsible for Union and Needham Streets. Baxter lived at number 7 Church Street. Plot 5 was a homestead and plot 6 was described as “2 houses yard buildings and warehouse”. James Horsepool was a butcher and we believe the “warehouse” was a slaughterhouse. Pit CB14 seems to be on the boundary of the slaughterhouse, but this may just be an accident of warping old maps to fit the modern OS map. The Horsepool family held the property until the 1880s. [A fuller history can be found on the house history section of BHTA web site.]

A later owner was Nicholson, a carrier, who we be-



The modern map showing the pit sites on the background OS map. Note the different location for CB 14 with respect to the outbuilding to the left compared with the tithe map. This may be an artefact of the process of warping the old map to fit the modern one.

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CB14

19, CHURCH STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470682.339965
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	22.622 m [error 0.027 m]
Dig dates	1 st June, 6 th - 7 th June, 2012
Pit site	Lawn at back of house
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits; all spits sieved. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs holes encountered Post holes encountered at 60 cm depth. Fill from the larger one collected separately as spit 7.1

CB14

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

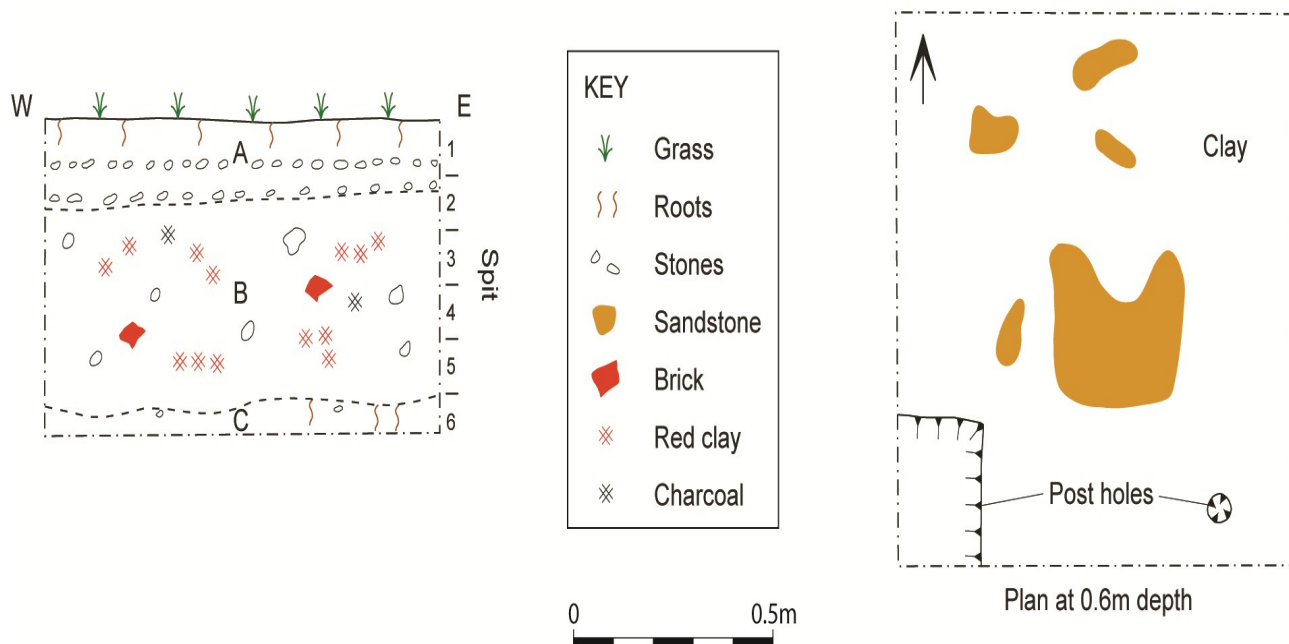
Description of the pit

The pit is relatively shallow with a sequence that has been much modified by previous activity.

Topsoil	17 cm thick
Made ground	33 cm thick
Till	

The topsoil is brown-grey loam beneath turf, but there are two layers of gravel; one at 9cm depth

CB14



A Topsoil of brown-grey loam under turf, layers of gravel at 9 cm and 15 cm, brick and chalk stones with flint gravel.

B Made ground of mixed lumps of red-brown clay, round stones, Skerry and brick in brown-grey silty loam. Some grey-green mottles in the clay.

C Red clay basal till. Irregular surface mixed with loam. Small pebbles, rootlets (carbonised and loam filled). Very large stones to the south of this face.



CB14 East wall, spit 5



CB14 North-facing at spit 5 with hole in SE quadrant.

and the other at the bottom c15 cm depth. The gravel consists mainly of well-rounded flint with some brick, chalk and charcoal.



IMG_1461 CB14 Stones in till excavated to 70 cm. Post hole in SE corner

The base of the topsoil is sharp and it overlies brown-grey silty loam with lumps of red-brown clay, stones and skerry pebbles and brick. There are some grey mottles in the loam. Bone and pottery sherds also were found in it. The deposit seems not to be natural, but has been shovelled into its present place.

At c40 cm a 3 cm diameter vertical hole was found near the SE corner. It was probed and found to be around 34 cm deep.

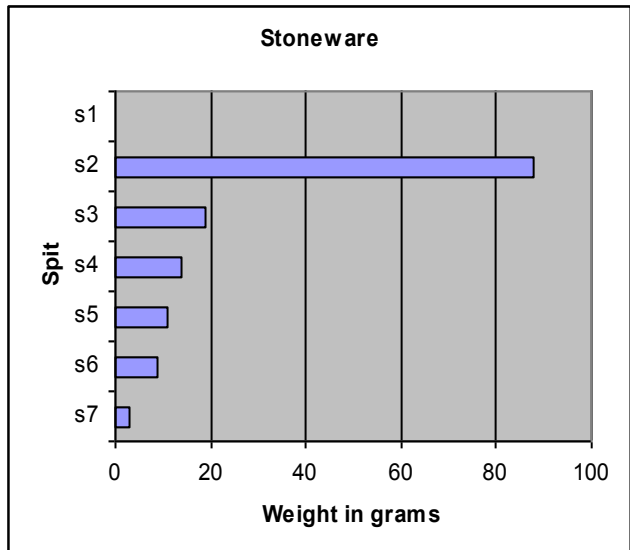
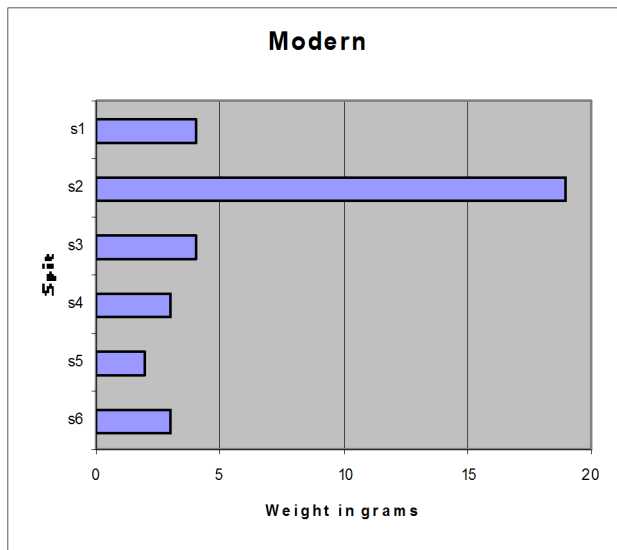
This unit bottomed at c58 cm. The basal surface is slightly irregular. A rectangular post-hole measuring 20 x 22 cm was found at this depth and probed. It was 25 cm deep. The

post-hole was filled with dark brown loam containing some pot sherds.

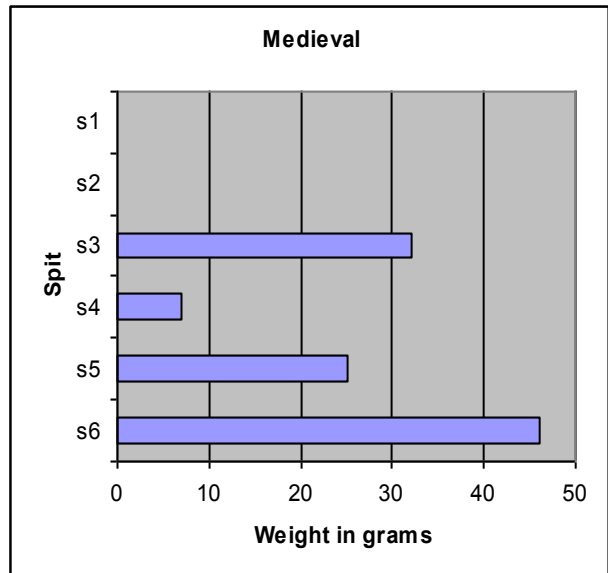
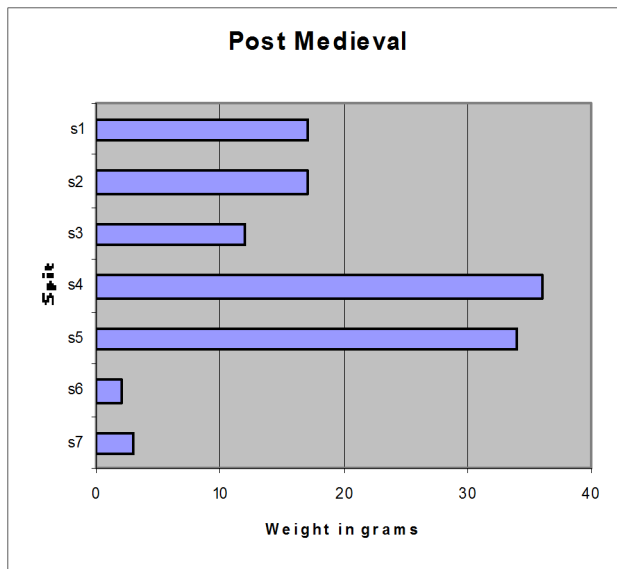
The basal unit is red-brown clay with stones and grey mottles in places. The upper surface is irregular and mixed with the overlying loam. It has small pebbles and rootlets, some carbonised. Large stones, one quartz sandstone measuring 29 x 26 cm, are set in the clay.

Finds

There is no stratification in the distribution pattern for all the finds; all the classes occur at all levels in the pit.



The building materials consist primarily of brick with one each of plaster, tile and slate. The metal objects are nearly all nails. There was one piece of clinker and three pieces of coal. 15 pieces of glass were retrieved. Flat or aqua widow glass varied from 1/16th to 1/8th inch thick. The others were bottle glass ranging from dark green to clear. Some pieces were densely covered in a gold patina and could not be identified with certainty. A piece of a patinated neck rim resem-



bled the necks of onion bottles which were made from the late 17th through the 18th centuries. Overall, however, the glass seems to be mainly 20th C in the top 30 cm and possibly older below that.

Bones and teeth occur throughout the pit

Clay pipes were common with 38 pieces, mostly stems. About two thirds of them were late 18th to 19th C.. There were no complete bowls, but several bowl fragments, among which were some with a brown fabric that were clearly 17th C. One piece found in the post hole fill was clearly 19th C.

The pottery included modern, stoneware, coarse earthenware, post medieval, medieval and one Saxo-Norman sherd.

The Modern pottery includes several sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware plant pot, one of which was stamped Sankeys. The glazed earthenware consists of only two types: Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware (1720-1780) and Cream Ware (1740-1850). The sherds were found at all depths to 60 cm.

Stoneware is the second most numerous of the fabric types. There were 23 sherds of which 15 were Nottingham-made 18th century types. Of two earlier types, ranging from c1675 into the 18th C one had the typical orange fabric of the early Nottingham stoneware. Three sherds were dated 1760 to 1840 and four were late (1840-1950). Where recognisable the forms were jardinière, cup, bowl and a plate.

This essentially 18th date range is reflected in the coarse earthenware. Altogether there were 22 sherds of this type, most of which were brown glazed and pink-bodied black glazed coarse earthenware. There were two sherds of vitrified coarse earthenware. These types in other places tend to be early, that is from late 17th through the 18th centuries. There was only one red-bodied sherd, which is usually 19th C.

The post medieval pottery is the most numerous (27). Mottled Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and Coarse Black Ware made up most of the collection with the rest being Light-bodied Black Ware and Midland Black Ware. These last two are mainly 17th to early 18th C, while the majority range from the late 17th to mid/late 18th C.

Among the medieval fabrics, all of which are jugs, are Nottingham Splashed Ware and Shelly

Ware, which range from the 12th to mid 13th C. Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze and Nottingham Green Glaze span 1270 to mid 14th C, while there was one sherd of a transitional light-bodied gritty ware with a date range 1400 to 1500.

The oldest sherd was Stamford Ware fabric B, an 11th to 12th C fabric type.

Interpretation

The topsoil with the two layers of gravel is almost devoid of finds except near the bottom and is relatively recent, possibly having been laid during a 20th C landscaping job.

The rectangular post-hole dug into the basal glacial clay suggests that some sort of structure was here. Finds collected from the fill in the post hole include Nottingham-made stoneware dated 1720-1790, a post 1750 clay pipe stem and a piece of Coarse Black Ware, which is difficult to date, but could be 18th C. This suggests a late 18th C date for the structure. The 19th C records suggest that this might have been a slaughterhouse.

The second, round post-hole is younger and has been driven through the made ground that overlies the clay. Its function is not known. There were no finds in it.

Between the topsoil and the basal clay is a 33 cm layer of made ground. This was laid over the top of the post-hole and clearly post-dates it. The mix of clay lumps and loam suggests that it had been dug out of a pit or trench somewhere nearby and re-deposited here. Most of the finds came out of this layer. They are not stratified, but thoroughly mixed.

The age distribution, though it tells little about the actual site, does reflect on the history of this general area. The single Stamford B and all except one medieval sherd tell of activity from the 11th to early 14th C. This compares with other places nearby where there is a marked cut-off at the Black Death. Only one sherd has been dated as 15th C. Thereafter, there is a gap before the next dated sherds, which range from the late 17th C. Activity from then onwards is reflected in the post medieval sherds, the stoneware and the coarse earthenware, nearly all of which occur in the 18th C. All the glazed Modern pottery can be attributed to the 18th C, though there are Unglazed Red Earthenware plant pots and some of the later stoneware. Thus there is good continuity hereabouts from the late 17th C to modern times.

CB15

19, CHURCH STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470688.339991 (mid point along north edge)
Height OD (mid point on north edge)	22.89 m [error 0.02]
Dig dates	5-6 th June 2013.
Pit site	Lawn at the bottom of the garden. This is the second pit in this garden.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved.

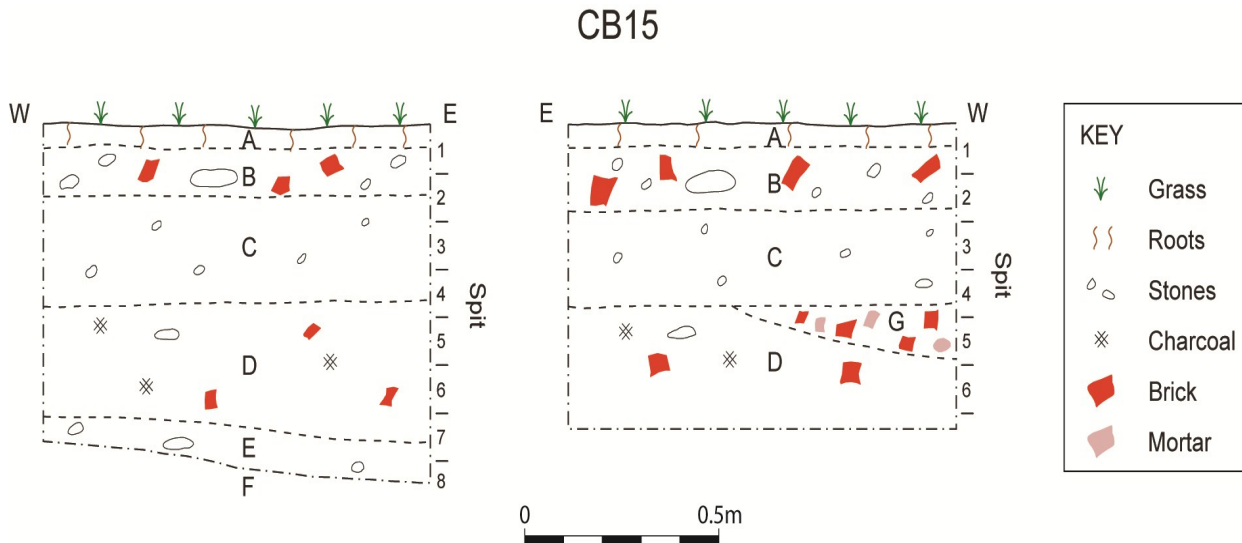
CB15

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

The sequence is:

Topsoil	5cm thick
Made ground	10 cm thick
Topsoil	23 cm thick
Subsoil	28 cm thick
Till	



- A* Topsoil of dark brown-black sandy loam beneath turf with rootlets.
- B* Made ground of lumps red-brown clay with brick, stones to 12 cm
- C* Topsoil of dark brown-black sandy loam . 1-2% rounded pebbles up to 2-3 cm, both sand stone and skerry.
- G* Layer just below C same matrix, but plentiful brick and mortar. Max thickness 17 cm in west face; 11 cm in south face.
- D* Subsoil of grey-brown clay loam with skerry, up to 5cm, small brick, sparse coal and char coal.
- E* Weathered top of till. Orange-brown and grey-brown clay. Stones in it. Irregular top.
- F* Orange-red clay with sand and stones in it. Grey mottles c5%.



The pit was dug into a lawn close to the summer house and some elements of the pit reflect on the building phase of this small structure.

The upper topsoil is no more than 5cm thick including turf and has been laid on a layer of made ground consisting of lumps of red-brown clay with bricks and stones up to 12 cm.

IMG_2326 CB15 View N. Split level, Clay layer in N at c10 cm; 15 cm max depth in S below clay layer. Lower topsoil shown in southern part

The bottom of the made ground is very sharp and laid on more topsoil. This is the same as at the surface, a dark brown-black sandy loam containing rounded pebbles of skerry and sandstone. This soil is about 23 cm thick and it passes down into subsoil through a gradational boundary. However, in the western and southern faces of the pit there is a wedge of soggy clay soil containing brick and mortar. This is no more than 17th cm thick.

The subsoil is grey-brown clay loam with skerry pebbles, small brick pieces, coal and charcoal.

The basal till has a weathered top of orange-brown and grey-brown clay with stones passing down into orange-red clay with sand and skerry stones in it. Grey mottles make up about 5%.

Finds

The building material consists of brick, floor tile, plaster, mortar, possible roof tile and one piece of slate and it is all in the top 40cm, which is mainly topsoil. All the charcoal found was also at this level.

The glass was all above 50 cm. Clear, flat window glass 1/8th inch thick was present only in the top 30 cm, while below it the window glass was aqua and 1/16th inch thick. Most of the rest of the finds were from bottles, ranging from cylindrical section to polygonal. Glass was green, clear, pale amber, brown, frosted clear, aqua, pale lilac and dark blue. One piece of a brown, embossed patterned piece is from an ornamental bowl. All of the glass could be 19th and 20th C, nothing older.

14 fragments of clay pipe were collected. Most were stems from the late 18th and 19th C, but one stem was clearly late 17th to early 18th C. The earliest bowl fragment was early 18thC

The pottery spans the whole period from Roman to Modern and is in stratigraphical order.

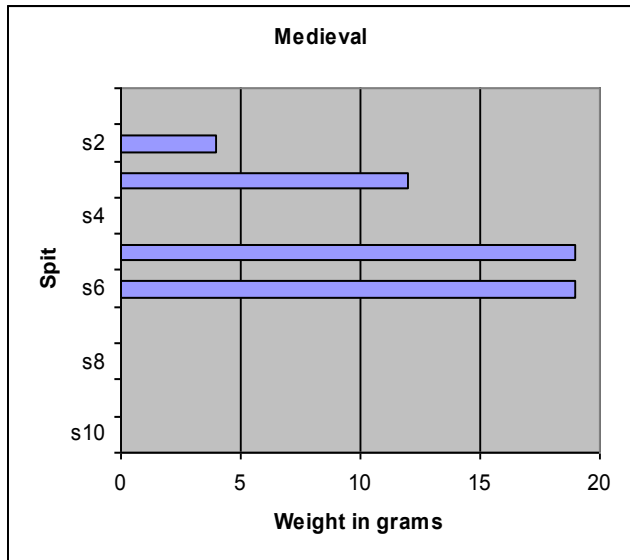
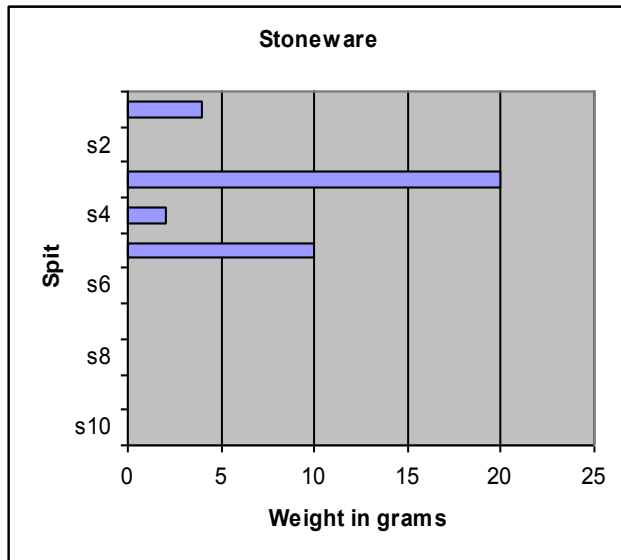
Modern	spits 1-4
Unglazed Red Earthenware	spits 2-4
Coarse Earthenware	spits 2-4
Post medieval	spits 2-4
Stoneware	spits 1-5
Medieval	spits 2-6
Saxo-Norman	spits 5-7
Late Saxon	spits 2-8
Anglo-Saxon	spit 8
Roman	spit 10

All the Modern, Unglazed Red Earthenware, Coarse Earthenware and post medieval finds were within the top 40, which includes two layers of topsoil and a layer of made ground between them.

41 sherds of Modern pottery were collected. Of these half were White Ware and most of these were well worn. Transfer printed came next with 15%. The rest included Cream Ware, Flow Blue, Cane-coloured Ware, Scratched Blue Stoneware and Late Brown glaze. Of these the Scratched –blue can be dated to 1744-1775 with a median at 1760. Flow Blue was made between 1840 and 1860.

The coarse earthenware is evenly divided between the red-bodied and pink-bodied varieties. The red-bodied is mainly 19th C, while the pink-bodied and the one brown glazed sherd are typically 18th C or earlier.

The stoneware is mostly Nottingham and Derbyshire fabrics dated to the first half of the 18th C.



Three are clearly 19th C. The forms represented are bottles, mugs, bowls and a plate.

The post medieval pottery consists of Mottled Ware, Staffordshire Slipware, Yellow Slipware, Coarse Black Ware and Midland Yellow Ware. These are predominantly late 17th and 18th C fabric



IMG_2345 CB15, base of pit at 75 cm.



IMG_2346 CB15 full depth north face

types, though the Midland Yellow Ware could be as early as the late 16th C.

The medieval finds, while there are a few in the topsoil, are mainly at the interface with the subsoil and in the subsoil. Half the finds were Nottingham Splashed Ware with a date range 1150-1300. However, there were also Medieval Sandy Ware (1200-1325) and Nottingham Coarse Pink Sandy Ware (1250-1350). All these predate the Black Death, but there was one sherd of a late variety of Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1400-1525).

Three sherds of Saxo-Norman ware types were found. One, St Neot's Ware sherd (900-1170) is near the northern limit of its traded area. Two sherds of non-local fabrics are difficult to attribute because they are relatively unknown. However form and fabric type put these in the date range 900 to 1200.

The Late Saxon sherds are Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware (875-1000), a Local Fabric-type Shelly

Ware (850-1000) and Torksey Ware (875-1050). Of these only the Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware was found below the topsoil.

A single sherd of sandstone-tempered Anglo-Saxon ware (450-800) was found at c80 cm.

One sherd of fine, shell-tempered ware from a shouldered jar dates to the first century and is the only Roman piece. It was found at the bottom of the pit.

Interpretation

The ground here has clearly been disturbed during the building of the summer house, with the upper topsoil and the layer of made ground in the top 15cm clearly re-deposited here. The lower topsoil passes down into subsoil which rests on the natural till deposit suggesting that this may be a natural sequence, though it has been dug into.

All the modern, unglazed red earthenware, coarse earthenware, stoneware and post-medieval pottery, the clay pipes and the glass occur in the top 60 cm, which includes both the layers of topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil. The older pottery is concentrated below this level, though as always turning the soil during agriculture brings a small number of the older finds to higher levels.

From the Roman sherd in spit 10 to the medieval sherds there seems to be a stratigraphical order that suggests that they may be *in situ* and not much disturbed by later ground movements, though Bingham was such a busy place in the early middle ages that some form of cultivation is inevitable at that time. As elsewhere in central Bingham there is a gap after the mid 14th C, which suggests that the impact of the Black Death was felt here. The single sherd of the late variety of the Light-bodied Gritty Ware has a date range 1400 to 1525 and overlaps with Cistercian Ware, which is more commonly found as the first ware type after a period of inactivity following the Black Death in areas most effected.

Most of the post-medieval ware types are within the made ground layer and originate elsewhere. In this segment of the collection only the Midland Yellow Ware may be as old as late 16th C. Evidence from the history of the site shows that it was occupied in 1586, which is when Midland Yellow Ware would have been in use.

The full post-medieval date range seems to show a full resumption of activity here in the late 17th and 18th centuries. This is reflected in the stoneware, more than half of which is dated to the 18th C, coinciding with the known occupancy of the site in 1776.

The Modern pottery covers the date range mid 18th to end of 19th C, but there are two types of pot collected that give precise dates. These are scratched-blue stoneware (1744-1775) and Flow Blue (1840-60). Of the other types only the Cream Ware and the Cream-bodied Pale Grey Earthenware appears in the late 18th C. What this suggests is that the collection is predominantly 19th C with a few earlier sherds. One particular type, Cream-bodied Pale Grey Earthenware, has been found in several pits now and was abundant in the big dig in the Robert Miles School front lawn where it appeared to be from a chamber pot. Perhaps many chamber pots in Bingham in the late 18th and early 19th centuries were from the same supplier.

Perhaps the most significant element of the collection is the presence of Anglo-Saxon, Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman finds. They are only few in number, but their presence does indicate a continuing level of activity through this period here.