

CB19

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

21 CHURCH STREET

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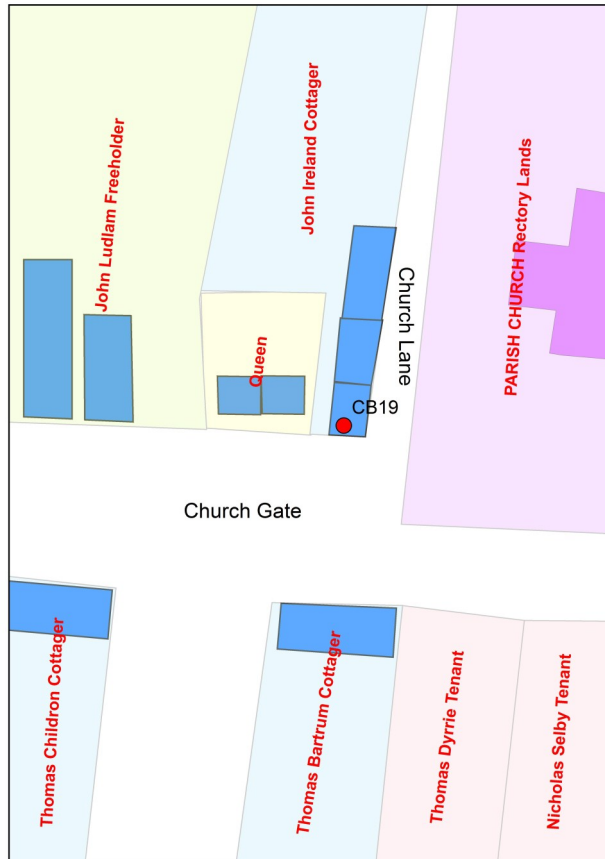
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CB19 21 CHURCH STREET

SITE HISTORY

The pit was dug in a side garden alongside the east wall of number 21, on the site of an old cottage which seems to have been demolished sometime before 1883, as the OS map of that time does not show it.



Conjectural map of 1586



Map of 1776 taken from the manorial survey

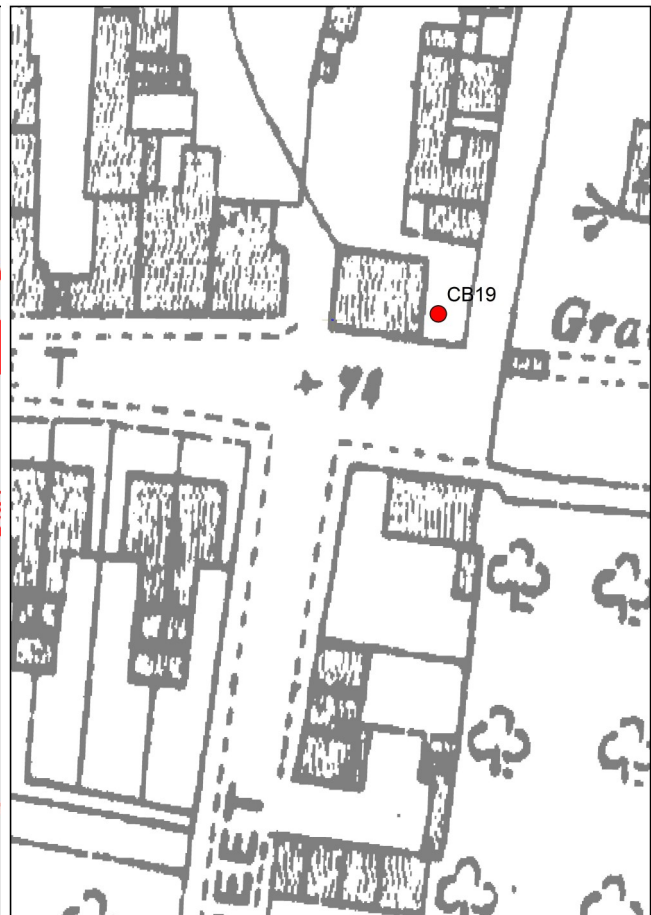
1586

Number 21 was at this time divided into two “cottages of the Queen”. We assume that before the Reformation when much ecclesiastical property was confiscated by the Crown these would have belonged to either the St Mary’s Chantry Guild who also owned the guild hall in the Market Place or less likely to the closed St Helen’s Chapel in Kirkhill. Eventually such properties were acquired by the Chesterfield estate, which owned most of Bingham from about 1690.

Alongside, on the east and north, was a property held by a cottager, John Ireland. He did not hold any strips in the open fields and so had just this plot on which to subsist. He may also have worked for the lord of the Manor on his lands. In the 1586 estate survey this was described as “a cottage and croft divided into two”, which we have interpreted as probably containing a separate cottage to the north and the three cottages on Church Lane, including one shown adjacent to “number 21”. However, these may not have existed so early.



Tithe map of 1841



O.S. map of 1910

1776

By 1776 John Lee held the majority of the plot including the “cottages of the Queen”, which seem to have become one by now—plot 338 described as “House Garden and Home Close”. He also held the mill at the top of Tithby Road and some grazing rights on the moorland north of the town.

The cottage on the east side, the location of CB19, was rented to Mary Vickerstaffe as “house only”, i.e. not even a garden. We have no information about her. The survey did not mention any other cottages in this location so the three cottages of 1586 might well have gone, perhaps to be rebuilt soon afterwards as the cottages along Church Lane that we know today. The first records of these are in the late 18th C.

1841

In 1841 the plot now occupied by number 21 was divided into two holdings, the present small garden on the east of the house being occupied by part of plot No 2. It was a small cottage held by “Mary Derry and others”. The tithe map apportionment document reveals it was one of four cottages. The other three, where the 1586 cottages are thought to have been, but which were not listed in 1776, eventually became the single, modern cottage, number 1 Church Lane. The census lists Sarah Derry, presumably Mary’s daughter, who was 24 and employed as a needle worker; she had a two year old daughter, Fanny. A lace runner, Ann Skellington and her three month old daughter, Fanny, lodged with Sarah. One of the other three cottages was unoccupied. The others were rented by Valentine Wilford, a stocking maker, and Rupert Horsepoole, an agricultural labourer. There were seven Wilfords and six Horsepooles living in these small cottages!

1855 onwards

The painting from 1855 and photograph from 1865 shows the small, corner cottage clearly. Sarah was still at the cottage in 1851, although on that census it was noted as Church Street, as were the other three – Wilford was still there and the remaining cottages were occupied by Elizabeth Shirley (annuitant) and John Fern, a wagoner. From 1861 onwards it is not possible to trace occupants reliably. It was not shown on the O.S. map of 1883.

The remainder of the plot from 1841, i.e. the modern No 21, was occupied by William Hemstock, who also ran the mill on Tithby Road, leading one to suppose this was a tied house for the miller.

We do not know when the plot of land that became No 21 came into one occupation. The old “Derry” cottage, where we dug the pit, had disappeared by the 1883 map. The three other cottages along Church Lane may have been occupied into the early 20th C. In c.1960 they were derelict and were restored to become the modern No 1 Church Lane. No 21 Church Street then took on its modern footprint with the site of the old “Derry” cottage now a side garden to it.



Map of Bingham in 1883 showing that the cottage next to No 21 is no longer there.

(Map thanks to Val Henstock)

The painting (above left) is dated 1855. The photograph (right) is roughly 1865. Note that the photo shows a gas lamp on the house, but the painting does not. Gas did not come to Bingham until 1854. The date of the photo is estimated with reference to the absence of a clock face on the western side of the tower. No 21 itself, the main building on the left of the painting has been completely remodelled since then. There is a suggestion of a bricked-up door in the middle of the house. The central chimney puts a likely date for this house and the small cottage to the right in the 17th-early 18th C.



Modern O.S. map

OS Licence No 0100031673

CB19

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

FIELD REPORT

NGR 470705.339940

**Height OD
(mid point rim of N face)** 22.72 m [error 0.029 m] (site used is pavement outside the wall c 3 cm higher than the flags in the garden)

Dig dates 18-20th July 2012

Pit site Under flags in the side garden close to the church

Pit protocol 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. A sondage dug on north side of pit. Spits are counted from beneath the hoggin under the flags. Measurements are from the level of the upper surface of the flags. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. Wall was not removed. Base of pit at 76cm.

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

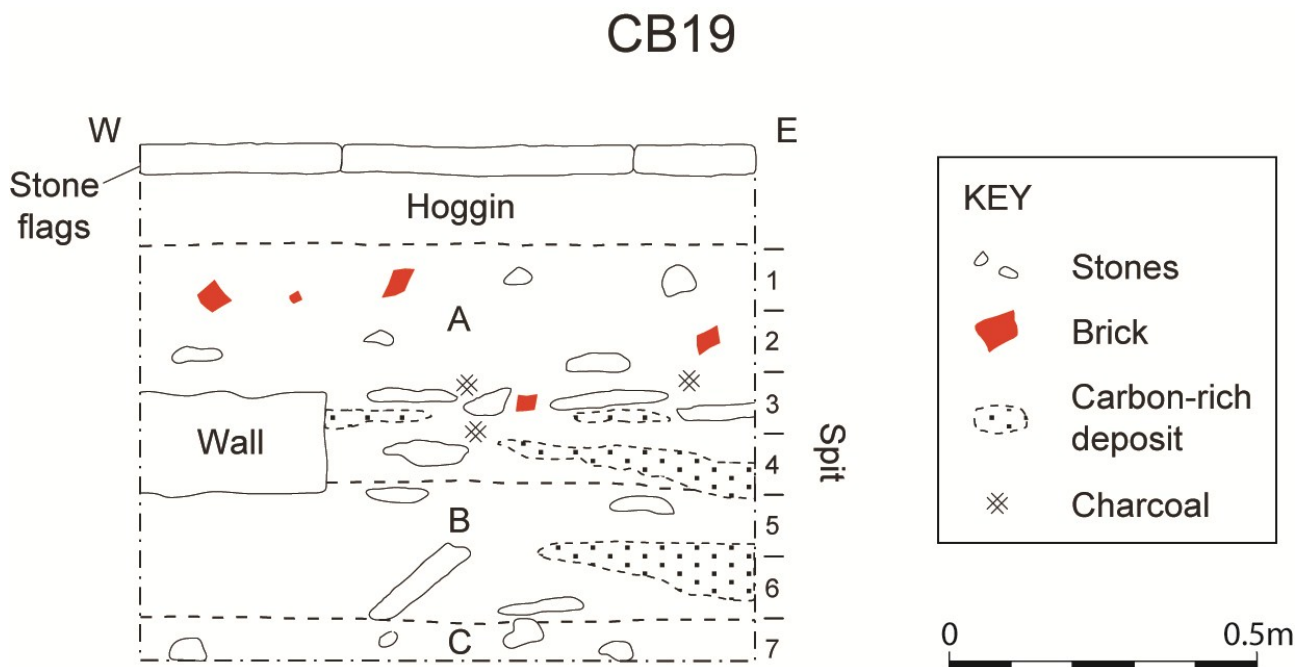
Old records show that there was a cottage between the existing 21 Church Street and the church-yard boundary. It seems to have been a narrow building, but it would have fitted onto the site now occupied by the paved area in the garden to the east of the house at 21 Church Street. This pit seems to have encountered the foundations of that old building.

The present ground surface is a layer of flags set on a base of crushed rock. This is 15 cm thick.

The measurements given below are from the original ground surface, which is beneath the flags and the foundation of crushed rock.

The sequence revealed in the pit is:

- Made ground to 40 cm
- Stone wall top at 25 cm, base at 40 cm
- Flood deposit to 60 cm
- Basal clay



- A Red-brown to brown-grey clay with grit, stones to 10 cm. Much mixed with large stones at 40 cm depth.*
- B Brown-grey clay sand with grit and stones. Large stones near top of the layer*
- C Grey-brown, hard, sandy clay with grit and stones to 5 cm.*

The made ground consists of what might be original clay loam mixed with red-brown to brown-grey clay, some in lumps, with grit, stones, charcoal and brick. There are some voids in this fill. It overlies the stone wall, but also continues down to the base of the wall abutting it. A small concentration of clay pipe stems was found at about 15 cm depth. The fill against the stone wall had plentiful large stones in it, mostly concentrated near the top and consists of skerry and siltstone. There are three layers of carbonaceous material in it.



IMG_1504 view N at 26 cm. The flags and the underlying crushed rock base are removed.



IMG_1508 view North at 40 cm depth. The wall is on the left, the jumble of stones that might represent a wall at right angles to it in the foreground.

The stone wall runs N-S along the western side of the pit and is 15cm high and 24 cm wide. It is well made and consists entirely of closely fitting skerry. There is no evidence of mortar.



IMG_1510 View S at c 60 cm depth.



IMG_1515 Bottom of pit, view E. Feet are on the stone wall.

The fill to the east of the wall consists of a jumble of large stones at a level with the top of the wall and there is a semblance of order in them forming an E-W structure across the south of the pit. It was not convincingly another wall, but doubts remain about it.



IMG_1514 SE corner of base of pit. Flash used for contrast. It shows the dark layers of coal dust and ash. in the south and east walls.

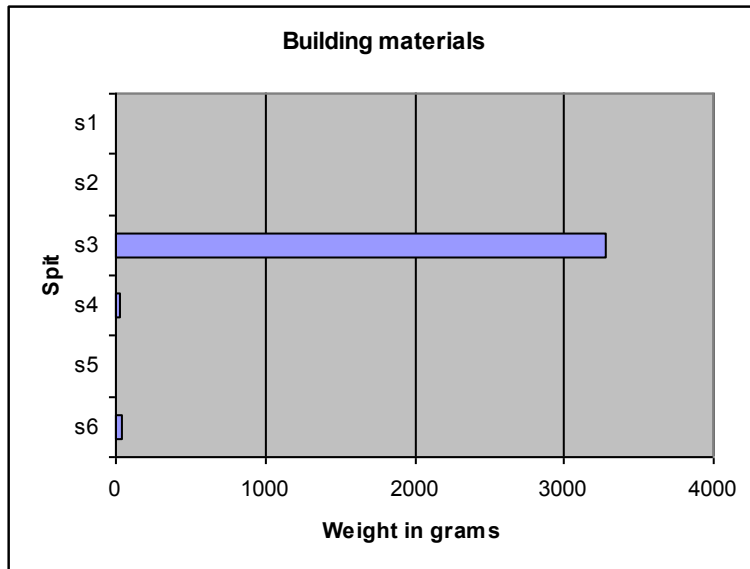


IMG_1521. View west showing the stone wall overlying the flood deposit

Beneath the stone wall is a gritty clay sand, which was wet and strongly resembled the flood deposit found at No 2 East Street. Some stones, including a large one near the bottom, medieval green glaze sherd

and pieces of bone occur within it. There is a layer of carbonaceous material, maximum 9 cm thick, near the bottom of flood deposit. Its relationship to the flood deposit is not clear.

The basal clay is grey-brown, hard, sandy clay with grit and stones including Triassic siltstone. It is probably a glacial till.



Finds

Most of the building material was found at the level of the top of the wall in spits 3 and 4. It was nearly all brick and plaster. Two large pieces of brick measured 2 inches thick and could be Tudor. Among the plaster some pieces were burnt. Only 5 fragments of the 20 retrieved were floor or roof tile and all were burnt. Two were found spits 5 to 6, that is beneath the made ground layer and in the underlying flood deposit.

Five pieces of coal were found, one of which was in a layer of coal dust. The

organic layers in the lower part of the made ground were all primarily coal dust.

The wood found in spit 4 was burnt.

Glass fragments, mostly in the top 30 cm are mostly flat, though with a strong patina. The thickest piece is 3/32 inch. Two of them have a rounded edge and they vary in colour from aqua, through pale green to blue. Two pieces of green bottle glass are from substantial bottles. One of them is full of bubbles. These are all earlier than late 19th C. A single piece of very thin clear glass from a fine bottle was found between 40-50 cm depth.

Clay pipes were all stems and found in the top 20 cm. There were 17 of them and only 3 are possibly early. The rest are clearly post 1750. There were some oddities; a very thin white stem with an exceptionally wide hole and a thick stem with brown clay and a small hole.

All the metal retrieved were nails, but there was some clinker and several pieces of a material that were thought to be metal in the field but turned out to be wood or leather.

There was little pottery. All the modern, coarse earthenware and stoneware was found in the top 40 cm. There were only three sherds of Modern pottery and they all fitted together. It looks like a hand-painted plate in blue and gold on white, possibly mid 18th C to mid 19th C or earlier. Four pieces of stoneware include one Derbyshire-made pot dated 1840-1950. The others were Nottingham made and ranged from 1690-1715 to 1720-1790. There were only four sherds of coarse earthenware. They include Vitrified Black-glazed Coarse Earthenware, Yellow Coarse Earthenware and Brown-glazed Coarse Earthenware. Elsewhere, these have been thought to be more likely to be 18th than 19th C.

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was Light-bodied Black Ware. This was also found in the top 30 cm. Its date range is not known, but it could be as early as late 16th to 17th C

There were five medieval sherds and they were found in spits 3 to 6. They include Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1275-1350), Medieval Glazed Ware (1200-1400) found in a coal dust layer, Medieval Sandy Ware (1200-1400) and Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze (1340-1450). All were from jugs.

Interpretation

The stone wall found in the test pit is thought to be the wall of the cottage shown on 19th C pic-

tures of this site. This was a small cottage squeezed between the present 21 Church Street and the boundary wall with Church Lane. The wall in the test pit lies parallel to the wall of the house and is 75 cm away from it. This was wide enough for a narrow alley between two houses. There is some uncertainty about whether the stonework at right angles to it along the southern side of the pit is another wall. If so it would have been 1.5 metres north of an eastward extension of the front wall of the existing house. The images of the original cottage that are known seem to show that the two frontages were aligned, thus the stonework is not likely to be of an original wall.

Cottages are shown on this site on the maps of 1586 and 1776, so it is not unlikely that the 2-inch bricks relate to the earliest building on this site. Besides the sherds of medieval pottery the pottery found here consists of ware types attributable mainly to periods from the late 17th C. The date range of the post-medieval Light-bodied Black Ware is not known with any certainty, but it could date from the late 16th to 17th C. There is stoneware attributable to the periods 1690-1715 and 1720-1790 and all three types of coarse earthenware are possibly 18th C. The Modern pottery is mid 18th C to early/mid 19th C. There is nothing younger. The glass is also mid to late 19th C or earlier, except for a single sherd of clear bottle glass which must be from the late 19th or 20th centuries.

The wall is made entirely of stone and is probably the lower courses of a building that may have been mainly brick and timber. The photograph of the cottage from 1865 seems to show that it is half timber and half brick. The outline of the end of the building can be seen on the south end gable of No 1 Church Lane, where a change in the brickwork shows a slightly smaller cottage abutting the existing house. The building material recovered from the fill alongside the wall consists mainly of bricks and plaster. Other material found here includes ceramic tiles. Evidence of burning was visible on several of the pieces of plaster and all the ceramic tiles. The wood found with it is also burnt. Most of the metal found consists of nails that may have been used in the house construction. There were also four layers of black organic material either ash or coal dust with pieces of coal.

It seems that there is a possibility that the original cottage on this site was destroyed by fire.

The test pit was dug on the inside of the building, which makes it interesting in that there was no evidence of a floor. Four large pieces of ceramic tile are thought to be floor tiles, but there is no sign of a foundation for them to be laid on. Instead, all the material found above the stone wall and alongside it is made ground, that is it was put there by human agency. It is a very heterogeneous mix of debris from the burnt house with clinker, modern glass, coal, a small concentration of clay pipe stems, clay lumps, loam, stones and pottery. The clay pipe stems are most likely to be late 18th or 19th C, though there is the possibility that some of them are earlier 18th C. There is no pottery later than mid 19th C. All this is considered to have been put here to level the ground on the site of the cottage after the destruction of the cottage by fire. A likely date for this event is late 19th C. It has to be later than 1865, the date of a photograph of this corner of the village showing the cottage.

The only difficulty with this interpretation is the presence of layers of coal dust and ash in the made ground. It seems that they may be sites of small fires, but they may also have been shovelled into their current position when the site was being levelled.

The stone wall is laid on gritty clay sand that has been interpreted as a flood deposit and would have been the natural ground level at the time of the building. This is a similar deposit to the one interpreted as flood deposit in 2 East Street about 50 metres to the south east. This gritty clay sand is best preserved under the stonework of the wall along the western side of the pit and beneath the stones that may be an E-W wall along the southern side of the pit. One of the sherds of medieval

pottery was found under the wall. In the rest of the pit, while the gritty clay sand is in evidence, the boundary with the overlying made ground is not clear and it is mixed with stones, plaster, glass, a nail and one other medieval sherd. There is also a layer of coal dust with coal pieces. Neither the plaster, the nail nor the glass are likely to be original within the flood deposit, which suggests that it has been disturbed by later working except under the wall.

Both the medieval sherds from within the gritty clay sand date from the 13th-14th C, but one of them was mixed with a layer of coal dust and cannot be used to date the flood deposit. Indeed it is not certain that there has not been a general disturbance of this deposit. The flooding event recorded across the street in 2 East Street is thought to be post Roman and earlier than the Late Saxon period. The material is similar and it cannot be ruled out that it is part of the same deposit.

Flooding in this area is well documented. The Market Place, Church Street and Cherry Street were all flooded in the 1950s and there is a record in the *Nottingham Journal* of an extensive flood covering this same area in 1857. Although the 1857 event was said at the time to be the worst in living memory it is likely that there have been others in the centuries before this.

The flood deposit lies on hard, grey-brown sandy clay with grit and stones up to 5 cm diameter. This is presumed to be a glacial deposit.