CB20

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

No 2 EAST STREET

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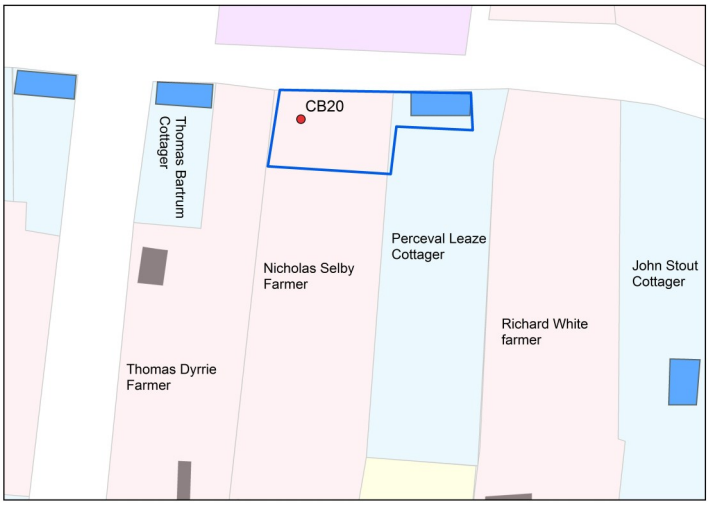
CB20
2 EAST STREET

SITE HISTORY

The boundaries of the plots on which No 2 East Street stands have changed but little since the 1500s.Number 2 became the rectory after the Georgian Rectory near the Market Place was demolished in 1964 and ceased to be the rectory when the new one was built in the grounds in 1990. It stands on parts of two ancient long narrow plots.



Land plot for 1586 showing the site of the test pit CB20 and the two plots that the present cottage and garden now occupies. The blue cottage is the one owned by Perceval Leaze, now gone and replaced by the modern house

1586

BHTA's conjectural map of Bingham for 1586 suggests the modern garden occupies part of a plot occupied by a farmer, Nicholas Selby. He held 30 acres of strips in the Open Fields. The plot extended to Husband Street (the modern Long Acre) where most tenant farmers, with holdings in the fields, had their farm houses, including Thomas Dyrrie and Richard White. The present house stands on part of what was a cottager's plot occupied by 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.

The plot to the south of the Leaze plot (yellow area on the 1586 map) 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.

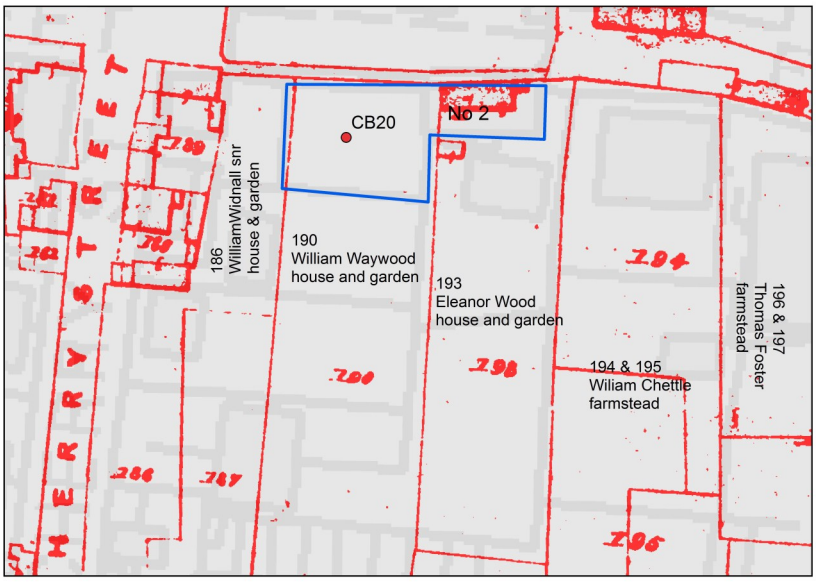
Map from 1776.

1776

The plot boundaries had not changed much by 1776. The plot upon part of which the house stands 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 died in 1780 aged 50. The *Creswell and Burbidge Chronicle* reported "Thursday morning died at Bingham of an apoplectic fit, William Brookes, Gentleman, in the 51st year of his age. He was endowed with great abilities, of strict veracity and was skilled in Philology and Polite Literature. As a member of society, he was affable, entertaining and instructive. In short, he lived beloved by his neighbours who enjoyed the happiness of his acquaintance and his loss will be regretted by many admirers of the amiable qualities he possessed".

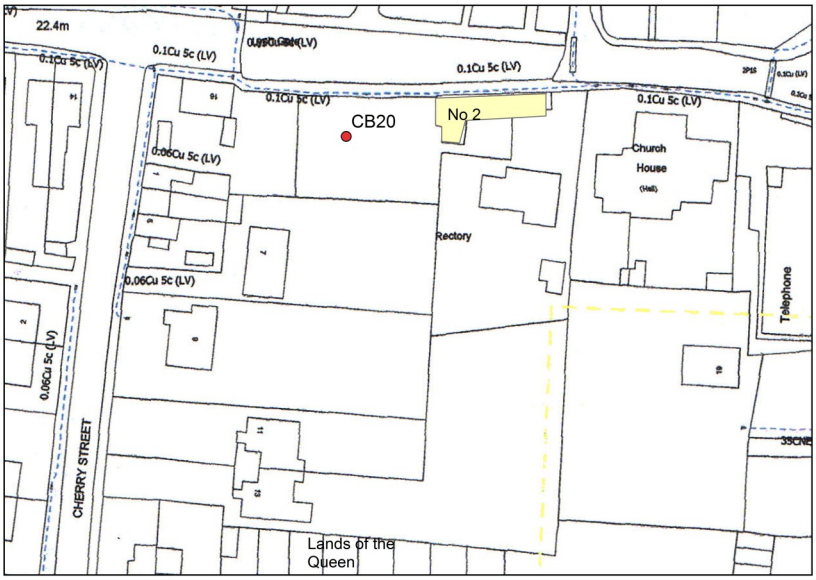
John Brooks held two fields, both measuring 1¼ acres together with a homestead in Newgate Street. The parish register has a John Brookes as a shoemaker who died aged 62, in 1786. He would not have required much land beyond subsistence activity, perhaps with a cow. He and his wife Ann (d 1779) had a son John who died aged only 2 months in 1756. His gravestone is in the churchyard (SE 134).



Tithe map of 1841.

The parish registers suggest That John and William were brothers, their parents being Richard and Mary Brooks.

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.



Modern map of No 2 East street and the neighbouring houses. By permission of Western Power

1841-1900

At the time of the tithe map and apportionment the house was part of 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 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.

In 1841 the garden of number 2 was part of plot 190 occupied by William Waywood. It was a house fronting onto Long Acre and garden of just over half an acre. In the 1841 census he was shown as a shoe maker living on Long Acre. He also kept an allotment in another part of Bingham. In the 1844 trades' directory he was shown as a boot and shoe maker in East Street, so he may have had separate workshop premises. He did not appear in subsequent censuses.

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2, EAST STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470729.339914
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	22.995 m [error 0.026 m]
Dig dates	5-6th May, 12th May
Pit site	Lawn in garden.
Pit protocol	This is the only one of the 62 pits that were dug that was carried out entirely by the family, Debbie and Spencer Nicholson, their children and friends. Peter Allen supervised the dig. 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits. Sieved down to 80 cm. Bottom at 93 cm. Excavated a narrow trench 30 cm wide along the south face to 100cm to examine the basal clay. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

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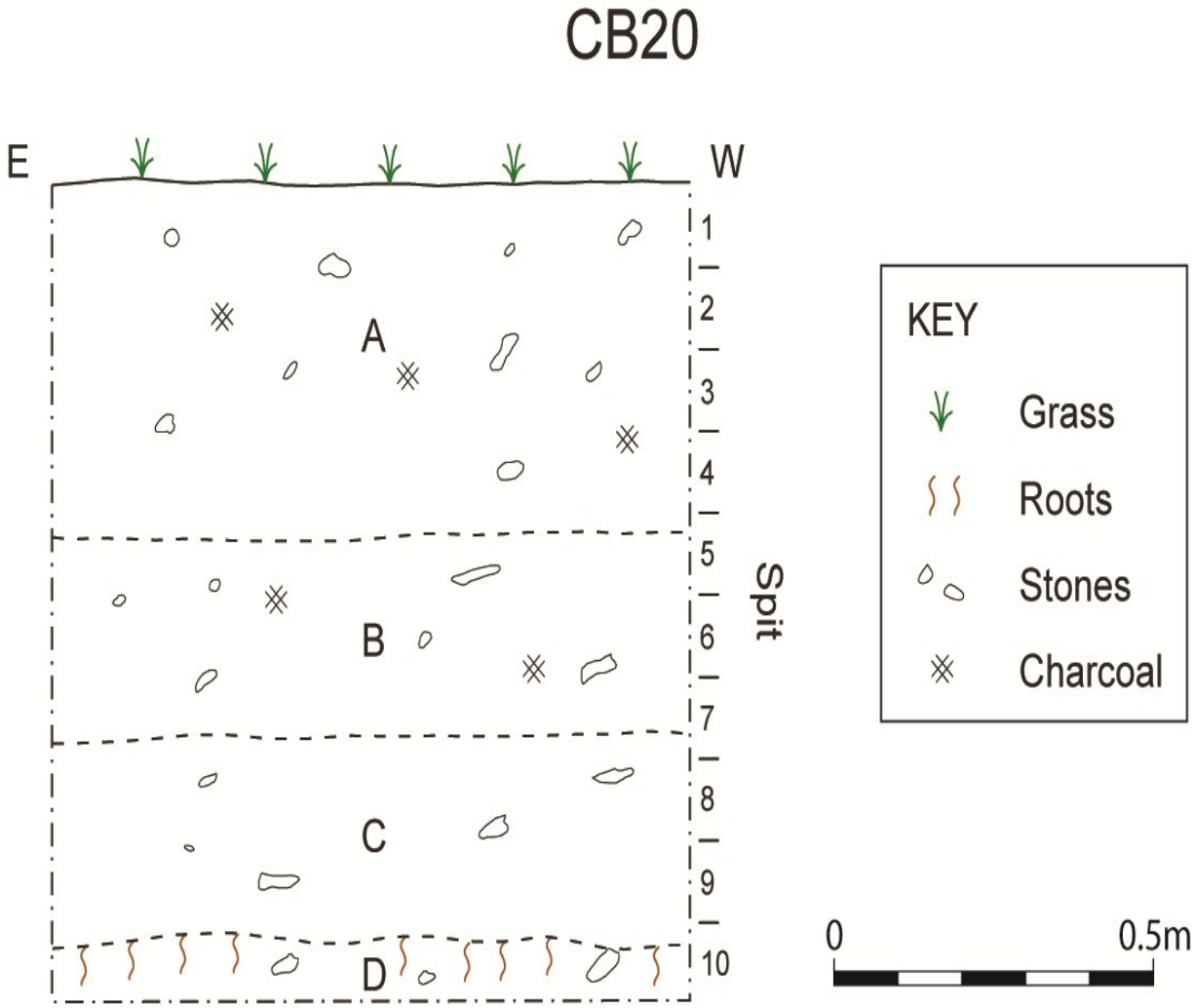
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of the pit
The sequence revealed in the pit is straight forward:

Topsoil to 43 cm depth
Subsoil to 68 cm depth
Flood deposit to 92 cm depth
Basal clay



A *Topsoil of dark brown-black loam with some stones 2-3 cm and charcoal.*
B *Subsoil of brown-grey loam with skerry and rounded sandstone.*
C *A grey-brown clayey, sandy silt with grit and pebbles, pot and bone. Very sticky and dries hard.*
D *Orange-red stiff clay with carbonised rootlets and stones. Stones include 5 cm Skerry, small rounded pebbles, quartz sandstone. Grey mottles and patches associated with the rootlets.*

The topsoil is a dark brown-black loam with some stones to 5 cm and charcoal. The basal boundary is transitional into the subsoil.

Starting the family pit.

IMG_1357 North face, diamictite at base. Soil and subsoil profile above. The lumpy nature of the deposit is a function of it being wet and sticky.

IMG_1374 South face with 5 cm sontage, Full profile

The subsoil is brown-grey loam with stones of skerry and medium sandstone and charcoal. The subsoil overlies a very sticky grey-brown clayey, sandy silt with grit and pebbles in it. It dries very hard with a skin of sand on the surface. The enclosed stones include skerry up to 14 cm long at the base and bones. This shows the characteristics of a diamictite; that is it is a mixture of fine-grained silt and clay with large stones. This sort of material is formed in only a few natural environments. Glacial deposits such as the till underneath this are also diamictites, but the particular characteristics of this one suggest that it is a deposit laid down in a flood.

The basal deposit is a stiff orange-red clay with grey mottles in the form of spots and patches and a slightly irregular upper surface. It includes pebbles and grit, which suggests that it is a glacial deposit. Carbonised rootlets show that it was once a soil at the surface.

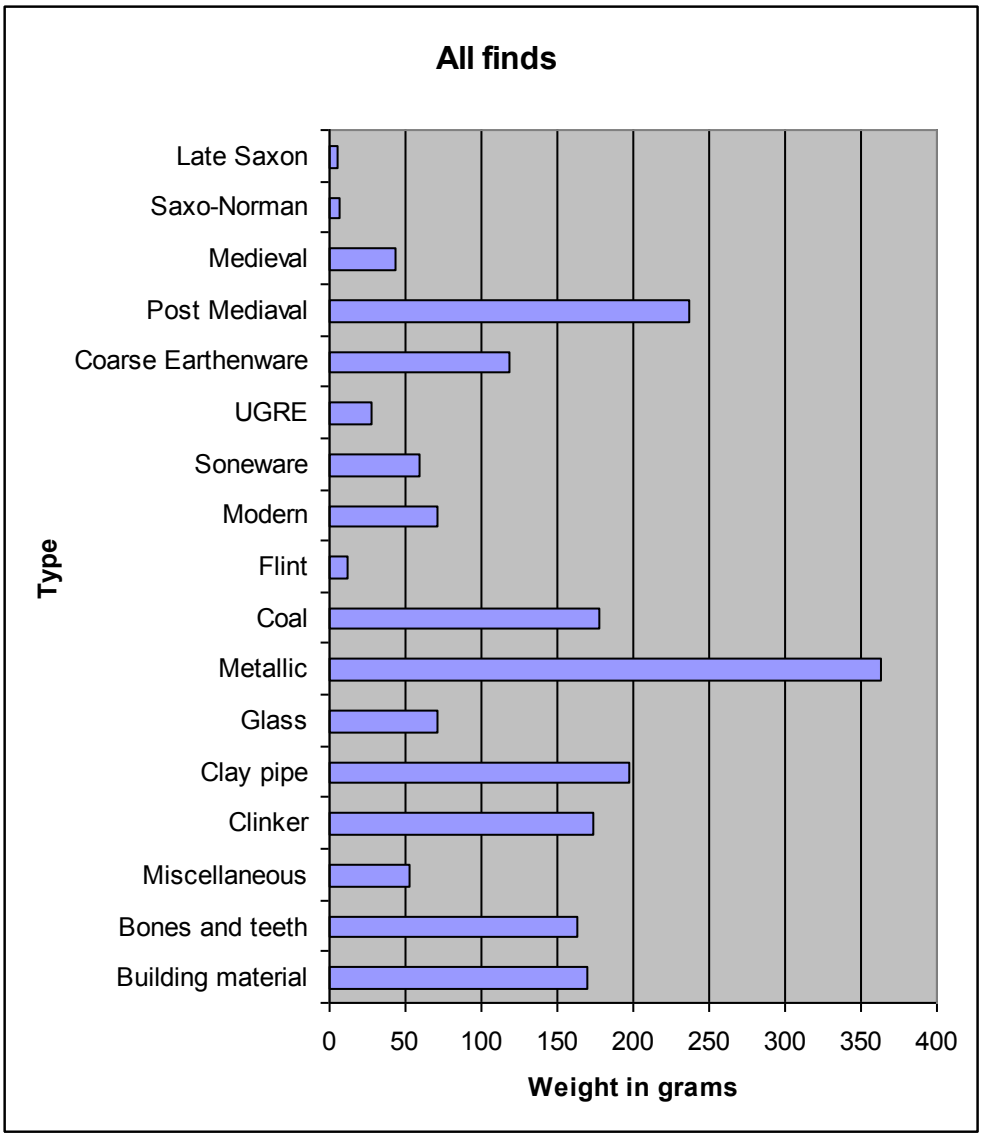
Finds

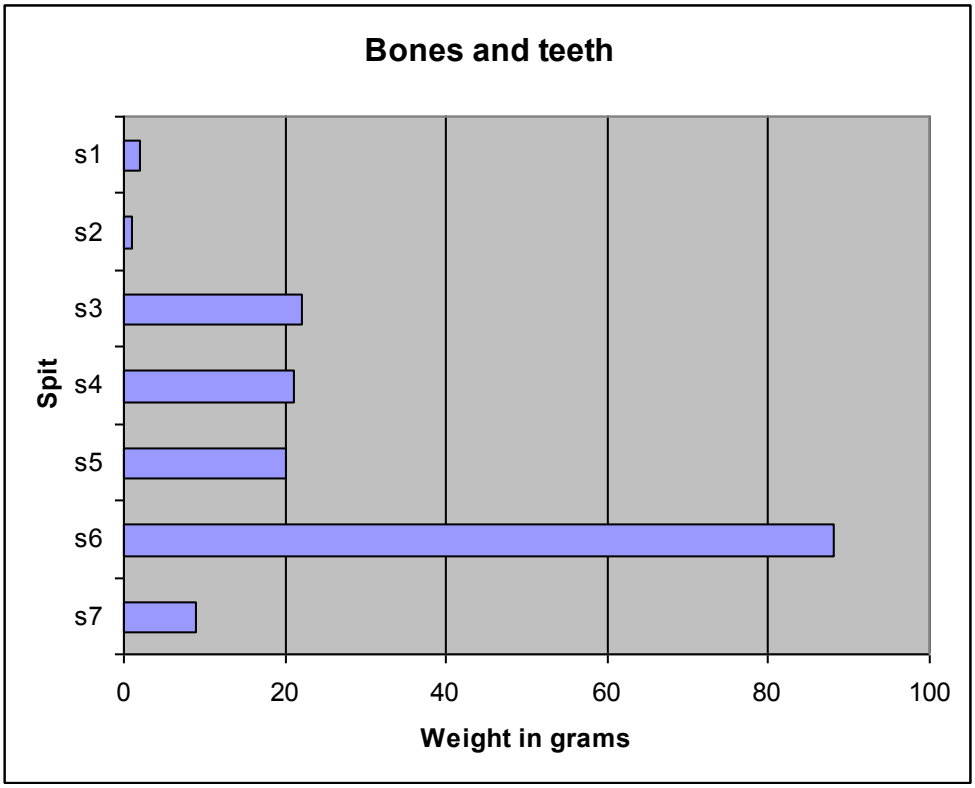
All the finds except some pieces of bone were collected from the topsoil and subsoil. The gradational boundary between the two is reflected in the depth range of the finds, which show no significant change at the boundary. The bone fragments from spit 7, which includes the flood deposit were found within the top of the deposit. Nothing was collected from within the main body of it.

The diagrams showing the weight and the number of all finds shows a reasonably good correlation for the pottery types, but not for anything else.

Among the non-pottery items only those classed as Miscellaneous are contained entirely within the topsoil. They include such modern items as a 50p piece, a Yale key, a lead pencil in addition to glass and ceramic marbles and small pieces of ceramic tile.

Building materials include brick, floor and roof tile and slate. There are three pieces of clinker

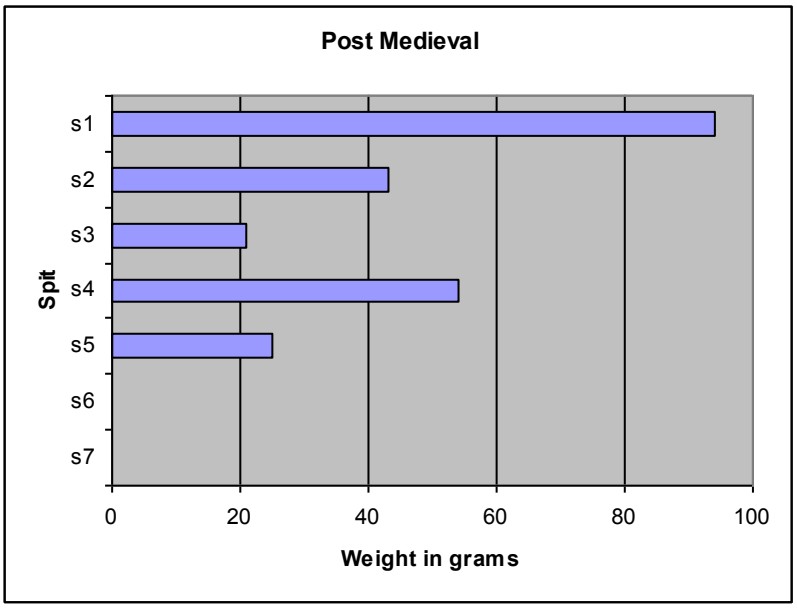


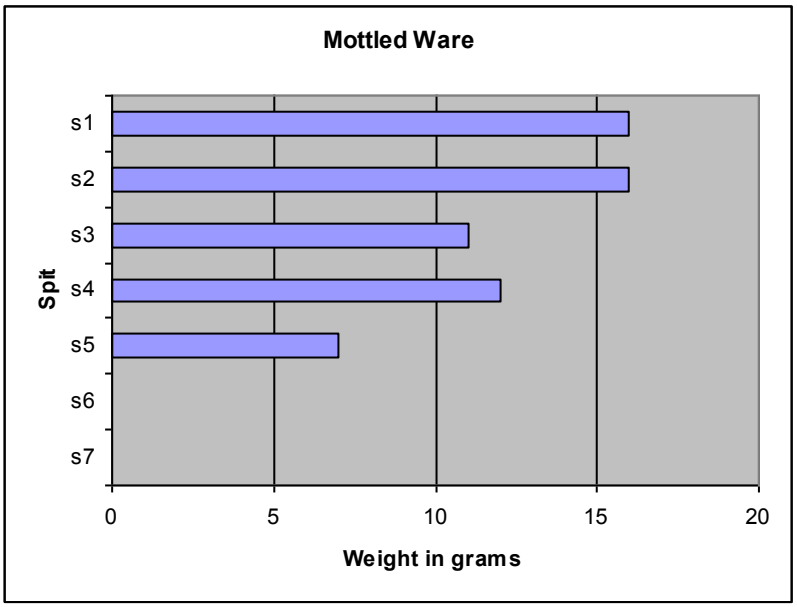


possibly from a stove, though one was from spit 6 and several pieces of coal. Metal objects are mostly modern and include nails, screws, bolts a nut and a door latch receiver.

16 fragments of glass were found, all above 50 cm depth; i.e. mainly in topsoil and the upper few cm of the subsoil. Only the sherds found near the bottom of this depth range showed the gold patina that is characteristic of chemical reaction with the soil. Included are green bottle glass, a piece of a corrugated side to a green bottle, clear drinking glass, blue glass decorated with concentric white arcs that might be a decorative drinking glass and one piece of flat, thin (1/16th inch) window glass. None of the glass is older than mid/late 19th C

Over 50 pieces of clay pipe, mostly stems, were collected. There were no complete bowls and none had markings that would identify the maker. 75% of them were 17th to early 18th centuries. However, there is some doubt about the





stems that would normally be classed as 1750 to 1900. Several of them, though thin, and have a small hole, are made of brown clay similar to the older pipes. Others, though thin and made of a brownish clay have a large hole. Overall it is likely that nearly all the clay pipes are older than mid 19th C.

There is a good range of pottery types. The Modern glazed ceramics are varied. About a quarter of the sherds were White Ware (1830-1950), but here were five other types present among the rest. These include Cream Ware, the next in abundance (1740-1850) and Flow Blue, a mid 19th C blue and white transfer printed ware type. Two of the pieces fit together and form a rim to a plate. There is also a piece of Mocha Ware and another of Majolica, both common in the second half of the 19th C and a single sherd of Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware (1720-1780).

Among the late post-medieval to modern pottery there is little Unglazed Red Earthenware, usually used for plant pots (3 sherds). The Coarse Earthenware made up a significant proportion of the collections and consisted mostly of pink-bodied coarse earthenware (45%). Red-bodied and Brown glazed made up most of the rest with one sherd of vitrified coarse earthenware.

The stoneware was all locally made and fell into three age groups. The oldest (1720-1790) was made in Nottingham. The other two (1760-1840 and 1840-1950) are typical Derbyshire types. The forms of few of the sherds could be identified, but they included plates and a bowl.

The post-medieval pottery is the most abundant of all in this pit and is all included in the top 50 cm. Most of the finds are Mottled Ware (45%). The rest include Staffordshire Slipware, Black Slipware and slip-trailed Ware, Midland Black Ware, Coarse Black Ware and Light-bodied Black Ware. There were six sherds of Midland Yellow Ware, including a brownish-yellow type with dark brown possibly manganese spots. This type has been found elsewhere, where it has been considered to be an over-fired version of the typical Midland Yellow Ware. There were also six sherds of Cistercian Ware.

The date range for these sherds is c1450 to the mid 18th C.

There were 8 medieval sherds, ranging from spits 1 to 6. They include Midland Purple Ware

(1400-1550), Light-bodied Gritty Ware (1350-1450), Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze (14th C), Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1270-1350) and Nottingham Splashed Ware (1180-1250). The broad date range for these fabric types shows that activity here continues through the Black Death of 1348-1349. The vessel types represented by these sherds include, pancheons, jugs, cisterns, storage jars and a bowl.

The oldest sherd isTorksey Ware (850-1050). This and one of the non-local fabric types of Saxo-Norman ware (870-1150) was found between 50-60 cm depth. A second non-local fabric type of Saxo-Norman ware (1000-1200), possibly from a cooking pot was collected between 20 and 30 cm depth.

Two worked flints were found, both flakes. Both are from the topsoil . One of them is a rich, dark honey colour and has some of the cortex remaining. It is clearly debitage (roughly shaped fragments). The other one has the characteristic percussion bulb of a flake.

Interpretation

The garden at 2 East Street has been subject to landscaping during and after building phases and the part dug has been put to different uses over the years from cultivated to lawn. It is no surprise, therefore that a 50p pieces and a key should be found in the topsoil. However, the topsoil is thick (42cm) and shows a gradual downward change to the subsoil. The modern miscellaneous items and the Unglazed Red Earthenware, usually from plant pots, are confined to the top 30cm. This suggests that disturbance may be confined to this top level and the profile below might be a natural one. There is some support for this in the glass content. This is mostly mid/late 19th C or younger, but there is a distinction between the glass found in the 40-50 cm depth range and that found above. The lower pieces have suffered strong chemical reaction with the soil, the glass from above is all clean with no patina at all.

The archaeological content of the soil also shows no significant change at the topsoil and subsoil boundary. Many categories of item collected were present from the top to between 50 and 60 cm depth, though there is as hint of a stratigraphy. The Modern, Stoneware and Unglazed Red Earthenware were all confined to the top 40 cm within the topsoil. The post-medieval pottery and coarse earthenware was present down to 50 cm, while the older pottery; medieval, Saxo-Norman and Late Saxon, were present down to or confined to about 60 cm.

The most interesting feature of the pottery is that the date range is near complete for the Late Saxon to Modern period. The medieval pottery contains fabric types that would have existed from the time the church was being built (1220) and extending to the time both before and after the Black Death. The Light-bodied Gritty Ware, which is the characteristic fabric type for the period after 1348-49 is followed by Midland Purple Ware, which is believed to be a derivative of it and the Midland Purple Ware is followed by Cistercian Ware, which has an overlapping date range. There is no evidence of a habitation here in the medieval period, which implies that the medieval pottery came here either as manure scatter or as rubbish deposited down the garden with the cottage, as in later times, at the other end of the plot..

Pottery from the post-medieval period is the most abundant here and about half of it (45%) is Mottled Ware. Nine fabric types were collected. They range from Cistercian Ware (c1450-1550), Midland Yellow Ware (late 16th to end 17th C), Slip-trailed Ware (current from the middle 17th C to 18th C) to Mottled Ware (mostly first half of the 18th C). Even the Stoneware consists of a significant proportion of 18th C (1720-1790) finds. Throughout Bingham the majority of the Mottled Ware sherds found both field walking and in the pits consists of fragments of tankards or mugs. Some pieces from this pit show the characteristics of a tankard. The 1586 map does not show a

house at this end of the plot, though there is a cottage in the next plot east. It seems likely that in 1586 as in 1776 the house was at the southern end of the plot, facing onto Long Acre (or Husband Street as it was then) which means that the householders could have had a rubbish pit at the bottom of the garden, near this test pit.

The Modern pottery is mostly 19th C, but the Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware is mid 18th C (1720-1789) and the Cream Ware first appears on the first half of the 18th C. Interestingly, the White Salt-glaze Stoneware is common in Bingham only in high status buildings, like the rectory and associated with rich tenant farmers. The Modern pottery is not abundant, but it is clear that there was activity here throughout the modern period.

Below the subsoil a unit of very sticky, wet, clayey, sandy silt with pebbles in it was present across the pit. In geological descriptive terms it is a diamictite, which means that it consists both of very fine-grained material (clay and silt) and pebbles. Deposits like this are found in a limited number of geological environments. The two most common are glacial deposits and flood deposits. There is no doubt that the basal clay in this pit is a glacial deposit. The unit above it, however, contains bone fragments near the top and a pottery sherd was retrieved during digging, but was subsequently lost. The pot was not formally identified, but it appeared when seen on site to have the characteristics of Roman Grey Ware. Bones and pottery would not be found within a glacial deposit. The most likely environment for the formation of a wet, fairly homogeneous diamictite like this is as a deposit laid down during a flood.

Flooding in this part of Bingham is not uncommon. In the late 1950s the Market Place and the streets to the east including Church Street and Cherry Street were flooded after a period of heavy rain and there is a record of floods extending to these same streets in the *Nottingham Journal* for 21st August 1857. The best date for the deposit in this test pit can be set by the occurrence of the assemblage of medieval sherds between 50 and 60 cm depth. These include the Late Saxon Torksey Ware sherd, which spans the period 850 to 1050. They are all immediately above the flood deposit suggesting that the flooding happened in the middle Saxon period.