# **CB21**

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON**

# No 2 CHERRY STREET

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## CB21 2, CHERRY STREET

## SITE HISTORY

We are fairly convinced, from the results of pits on Warner's Paddock, that the line of Jebbs Lane, Cherry Street, Church Lane and the footpath from the railway line to Parson's Hill represents the



Part of Bingham on the conjectural map of 1586. On modern topography. OS Licence No 0100031673

line of an ancient trackway in the pre-historic, Roman and Saxon core of Bingham and which connected the village core with the Roman and Iron Age settlements on Parson's Hill and thence to the fort and town Margidunum in Roman times.

# 1586

As far as we can tell, Number 2 Cherry Street occupies the northern end of a croft occupied by Elizabeth Allen (pink area 23.1 on the map). The croft extended south to the boundary between the present day number 8 and Regency House, on the corner with Long Ace. There was no cottage and it may have been pasture but



could just as well have been used for growing vegetables. Elizabeth's cottage with a small garden was on Church Street, west of what is now the Chesterfield Arms.

# 1776

By 1776 the plot (300) had extended up to Long Acre, but still without a cottage or other building. The occupier was William Baxter, who had a house (300) (fore-runner of Regency House) and garden. The plot just north of this and fronting on Church Street was a house and garden (299) occupied by Baxter's father, Samuel.

# 1841

By 1841 a small cottage had been erected in the north east corner of the long plot. Tithe number 182 was occupied by Mary Hough; it was a house with no garden. Mary does not appear in the 1841 census so we know nothing about her. Several Houghs are listed in the early 1800s in the parish births, marriages and deaths registers but none of an appropriate date. Plot 181 was occupied by John Huskinson snr, a stocking

Map of 1776



Tithe map of 1841.

O.S. map of 1910

maker (Framework knitter) with his wife, son (also a framework knitter) and daughter, a seamstress. Plot 180 was occupied by John Strong the post master and school master. He had a schoolroom on the plot.

The test pit produced a considerable amount of brick and plaster demolition material which could have come from any or all of these three when they were demolished late in the 1800s. Plot 183 was a house (previously Samuel Baxter's) and orchard occupied by William Hitchcock. William was a stocking maker and his two daughters were seamers.

# 1910

By 1910 the plot had become an orchard (hence "Cherry Street" and the old buildings had disappeared. The Victorian villas had been built on Church Street.

# 1920s

The two pairs of large semi-detached houses were built in the early 1920s, but probably numbers 2 and 4 slightly later than 6 and 8.

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## **2 CHERRY STREET**

# LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470653.03 33988.74
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	22.952 m [error 0.04 m] Measured on the driveway outside the garage doors. Access to the back not possible on the day.
Dig dates	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> April 2012
Pit site	Back garden, mostly under flags. The site is to be redeveloped (April 2012) and will shortly be under a patio. An apple tree stump lay to the east of the pit and some large roots came into the pit area. Smaller roots were removed, but a large one was left in place. Some plants had to be removed from the bed to the east of the pit site to allow access. The top 10cm were breeze blocks used in the patio. These were laid on 3-5 cm sand. Measurements were made from the top of the breeze block; thus spit 1 was breeze block., spit 2 was a mixture of sand and top soil.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Stopped at a surface feature at 97cm. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described, meas- ured and drawn unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. This was one of the first pits excavat- ed and was done before the training pits were complete because the householder was planning to redesign the back garden and offered limited time for us to dig.

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#### **ANALYSIS OF RESULTS**

#### **Description of pit**

The pit was partly under a patio and to dig it some flags had to be removed. Part of the pit was under cultivated garden. There had been some apple trees growing nearby in the past. They had been felled, but their root system was still intact and some thick roots crossed the pit. One, crossing the SW corner of the pit, was left in place.

The upper part of the sequence is breeze block (10 cm thick) on 3-5 cm sand. The upper surface of the topsoil is at 13 to 15 cm depth. Below this the soil profile was fairly simple:

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Topsoil to 57 cm depth Subsoil to 97 cm depth Sand and stone rubble



Breeze blocks on sand at the top

- *A* Topsoil of dark brown loam with stones 2% and roots. Stones are rounded and sub rounded
- *B* Subsoil of brown-grey clay soil, organic with worm holes, stones to 2%.
- *C* Orange-brown sand with small pebbles embedded in it.
- *D* Brown-grey clay soil with plentiful large stones.

The topsoil is dark brown loam with 2% stones, plentiful roots and a wide range of pottery and other inclusions.



The pit site showing part of the sandy layer beneath the flags.



View north showing the roots of the apple tree. The root in the foreground was left in place



A second view of the bottom of the pit looking east and showing the remaining roots.

In the SW corner of the pit a pile of building rubble coincides with the base of the topsoil. The subsoil beneath this is brown-grey clay soil and stones to 3%. This context is full of worm holes. There is no significant variation downwards to the bottom of the hole except that at 70 cm depth there appeared to be a surface in which an apparent feature divided by a sharp line running NE to SW separated brown clay soil to the NW from organic soil with worm holes and charcoal to the SE. A strong Catscan signature was heard over the organic soil, but the feature did not persist downwards. Animal bones were scattered throughout the pit at depths of 70 to 80 cm. This is taken as further indication that there was an old



The bottom of the pit looking east. The clayey sand it to the right, the subsoil with stones is to the left.



North face showing the topsoil with tree roots and a peaty inclusion above the roots

surface here. There were few pottery sherds in the 10 cm of soil below this surface. Below 90 cm only Roman sherds were found.

The base of the pit was measured at 97 cm. At the bottom of the pit the southern half consists of orange-brown sand with pebbles, apparently compacted and separated across a line trending 116° from stone rubble in brown-grey clay soil. The sand was interpreted as an old road surface initially, but later, when other pits had been dug, it was re-interpreted as the weathered top of the basal clay deposit.

The northern half of the pit was essentially subsoil, but with plentiful stones, some closely packed and up to 18 cm long. This was interpreted as a ditch fill in the field and was not dug, but now it is thought that it is close to the weathered top of the underlying till in which some enclosed stones are mixed with the subsoil. The  $116^{\circ}$  orientated boundary between the sand and the stony subsoil is now believed to be accidental and of no significance outside the pit.

### Finds



The distribution of finds with depth seems to confirm the possibility of important surfaces at the change of context from topsoil to subsoil at 57 cm and again at around 70-80 cm where another surface was suspected.

Building materials, for example occur down to 80 cm depth but there is a high concentration between 40 and 70 cm depth. Most of the building material was brick, several with opposing surfaces showing a range of thickness from 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches. There were some

vitrified bricks. There was also a considerable amount of plaster much of it with reed impressions on the underside. Less abundant are slate, mortar, fragments of drain, red floor tile and modern ceramic tile. A clay ball was thought possibly to have been part of a cob building.

Metallic objects are present from 20 to the bottom of the pit with none between 70 and 80 cm depth. The objects include nails, bolts and pins. Some objects were not identifiable. One fat bolt was recovered from the bottom of the pit. There was clinker among the metallic objects.

Pieces of wood were recovered near the surface and may relate to the apple trees that grew here.

A few pieces of glass were found down to 70 cm. Above 40 cm depth there was modern clear, green and amber bottle glass with thin (1/16th inch) and clear 1/8th inch window glass. Below 40 cm depth the glass there was plentiful clear, thin window glass with a patina and aqua bottle glass including an angular sectioned bottle. One piece of thick bottle glass from 60-70 cm depth had a thick gold patina. There was also a piece of a white, opaque, moulded glass rim from this depth. While the upper levels contained 20th C glass the lower part was probably 19th C.

Coal is also present in nearly every spit from 10 to 90 cm. A few miscellaneous items include cockle shells at 50 cm down, a slate pencil at 30 cm and a carved ivory band at 70 cm.







A number of clay pipe fragments were collected. They were all stems and fragments of bowls. None were complete. About half fell into the general date range of 1600-1749, but two fragments of bowls could be tied down to 1675 to 1750. Of the later clay pipes the only bowl fragment that could be dated is 19<sup>th</sup> C. Two of the fragments were thoroughly burnt with slag attached.

Pottery sherds are present from all ages Roman to modern. The Modern pottery shows the highest concentration between 30 and 60 cm depth and nothing below 70 cm. Just over half of the sherds were White Ware and 30% were transfer printed ware types. All except one of the rest were Cream Ware. The solitary one was Scratched-blue. This is a variety of the Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware, which was made from 1720-1780, and was common in the middle of the 18th C. The Cream Ware was being made from 1740 onwards into the middle of the 19th C, while all the rest were entirely in the 19th C.

Unglazed Red Earthenware, mostly plant pot occurs only above 60 cm with the highest concentration between 40 and 50 cm depth.

Coarse earthenware is also mainly above 70 cm, but with one sherd recorded in spit 9. Red-bodied black glazed coarse earthenware is present only above 50 cm, while the possibly older pink-bodied coarse earthenware is below this. A single sherd of Yellow Coarse Earthenware was found between 50 and 60 cm depth.

Stoneware sherds are mostly small and only three offered any hint of the original form. These were a mug, storage vessel and a bottle. Five early types (1720-1790) were from Nottinghamshire, while there were four later types (1840-1950) made in Derbyshire. Sherds of the two ages of the stoneware were not found in any stratigraphical order.

Among the older pottery the post medieval shows a high concentration between 50 and 60 cm depth, but isolated pieces were recorded down to 90 cm. Staffordshire Slipware, Mottled Ware, Midland Black Ware, Midland Yellow Ware, Coarse Black Ware and Tudor Green were all recovered. A Staffordshire Slipware sherd was found at 90 cm, while older types, including Midland Yellow Ware were recovered higher in the pit section. One unusual type was found in four pieces from 40 to 80 cm depth. This is Tudor Green Ware, sometimes known as Border Ware, having been made on the Hampshire/Sussex border. The four pieces are sufficiently similar for them to have come from the same vessel. It has a mottled green glaze on a







buff-cream body and in three of the pieces recovered it was glazed on both sides. This type of ware was dominant in the SE of England for mid 15th to end 17th C, but has been found in Bingham before. For most of this period it was glazed only on one side, but was glazed on both sides towards the end of the 17th C, which dates these sherds.

Medieval pottery occurs mostly below 60 cm depth, but with some sherds in spits 3 and 5. Several fabric types were recovered representing jugs, jars and cisterns. Midland Purple Ware (5) is the most abundant. There were two sherds of Nottingham Splashed Ware and single sherds of Nottingham Coarse pink/orange Sandy Ware, Medieval Sandy Ware, Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze, Nottingham Green Glaze and an unidentified Green Glaze that may have been an import into the area. The Midland Purple Ware dates from c1400 to 1550, but all the other fabric types are characteristic of pre-Black Death period. Splashed Ware is the earliest with one sherd typical of 1125 to 1175. All the others are early/mid 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> C.

Four sherds of Late Saxon Torksey Ware and Torksey-type Ware (870-1050) and one of Stamford Ware fabric A were found, all below 50 cm and three earlier sherds classed as Early Anglo-Saxon Local Ware (450-800) below 40 cm.

The Roman sherds were almost all Grey Ware. Wide-mouthed bowls, one with an everted rim and jars were identified. One sherd could be Swanpool type C23, from near Lincoln and there is a possibility that others may be continental imports. The majority, though are likely to be locally made. There was some variation in fabric from rough surfaced, to burnished. One sherd had a lattice pattern, others were decorated with grooves and burnished wavy lines. Most could not be dated, but among those that could were 2<sup>nd</sup> C, late 2<sup>nd</sup> to late 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> C and late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>.

Two sherds of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> C Nene Valley Colourcoated Ware were found. One was slightly concave from a Castor box and had a rouletted pattern on it, the other was from a beaker.

One red-orange sherd has a beige body and resem-

bles colour coat but for the samian-type of pattern on it and it was considered more likely to be Samian Ware.



In this collection there were sherds that could not be classified and may be any date between Roman and medieval.

One worked flint was found right at the bottom of the pit. It was a flake taken off a small pebble and looked as though an attempt had been made to shape it into a scraper, but then abandoned. It was probably either late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

### Interpretation

The simple soil profile revealed in the pit, with only two contexts; topsoil and subsoil overlying the basal, natural formation is not reflected in the distribution of finds through the depth of the pit.

The building material is present at all depths down to the bottom of the pit, though the highest density lies between 40 and 70 cm, which strad-

dles the topsoil/subsoil boundary. In terms of quantity it suggests that there may have been a building nearby. The brick sizes range from 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 3 inches, which suggests a date range of Georgian to 20<sup>th</sup> C. The abundant plaster, however, with reed impressions on the back is clearly 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> C while the Welsh slate is most likely dated to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> C. This, however, may not have been the roofing on the original building. The glass content follows the building materials with a lot of thin window glass between 40 and 70 cm depth. The glass above 30- 40 cm is mostly modern, including the 1/8th inch thick window glass.

A small house is shown close by on the 1841 map, though it does not seem to be there in 1776 or 1883. Throughout this period the land to the south was orchard. Thus, the building material debris found between 40 and 70 cm depth may have been derived from the demolition of a house put up after 1776 and brought down in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C. The material in the top 40 cm is likely to be from more recent activity.

The highest density of building material debris is at 50-60 cm, coincident with the boundary between topsoil and subsoil. This suggests that this boundary may have been at a contemporary land surface in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C when this building was demolished and that what has here been called subsoil was then the soil. However, this cannot be the full explanation. All the Unglazed Red Earthenware pottery, which tends to be 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> C, is above this boundary, but so is nearly all the post-medieval pottery and stoneware. Nearly all the medieval pottery is below it. The postmedieval pottery is mostly early 18<sup>th</sup> C; the stoneware has a date range 1720 to 1950. The implication of this is that the unit called topsoil here has an upper layer that was re-deposited at the time when the houses here were being built in the 1920s. The topsoil below this may well contain an element that has been carried to this place from elsewhere, quite possibly in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C when the small building here was demolished and the row of Victorian villas along Church Street was being built. However, Staffordshire Slipware found at 90 cm depth and medieval pottery in spits 3 and 5 suggest that the ground here was also turned as a result of either agricultural or horticultural activities.

Probably as significant in this pit is the possible surface at about 70 cm. Here brown clay soil in the north west of the pit was separated laterally from organic soil with worm holes and charcoal in

the south east of the pit. This context change did not persist downwards and it is thought that what was revealed here was an old ground surface.

There is a change in abundances of some types of pottery at around this mark. Roman pottery exists only below 70 cm. Three of the late 17th C Tudor Green sherds were also below 70 cm. Except for one sherd, all coarse earthenware and stoneware is above it and only one metal object occurs below 70 cm. All glass was found is above 70 cm. Modern pottery was all above 70 cm while the clay pipes extend down to 80 cm across this boundary, with only one of the early (1650-1750) bowl fragments below it. Most of the medieval pottery is below it, but like the Late Saxon and early Anglo-Saxon pottery it exists both above and below this surface. The coincidence of high abundances of all pottery types from medieval to Roman in spits 9 and 10 (80 to 100 cm depth) suggests that there may have been a medieval or post medieval surface just above this that was turned during agriculture or horticulture. This may have brought the younger pottery sherds down, but left the majority of the Roman sherds below the ground level. The best date for this ground level is around 1700.

The ceramic history of this pit provides evidence of activity here from the Roman period to the Black Death. The Roman pottery is nearly all utilitarian Grey Ware, but Nene Valley wares and Samian Ware hint at a moderately high status household hereabouts. The date range of the Roman pots is  $2^{nd}$  to  $4^{th}$  century.

Unusually, early Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in this pit and together with the Late Saxon Torksey Ware, Nottingham Splashed Ware and later green glazes suggests continuity of activity here from Roman times until the mid 14<sup>th</sup> C, when it ended. What this activity was cannot be stated with any certainty, but the pit CB06 dug in neighbouring 12 Church Street found evidence of a medieval wall. Cherry Street itself is a continuation of Jebb's Lane, which is thought to have been a roadway in the late Iron Age onwards. It is probable, then that the collection in CB21 is indicating that there were households hereabouts from the Roman period to the Black Death.

There is no late medieval pottery until Midland Purple Ware, which appears from 1400 to 1450. This is the same time gap following the Black Death as is shown elsewhere in the central area of Bingham. Post-medieval pottery finds include Midland Yellow Ware, which came into use in the late 16<sup>th</sup> C, but no Cistercian Ware, which is earlier. The return into use of this land, therefore, was not a smooth process.

The flint that was found seems to have been worked, possibly to make a scraper. Not being in the topsoil this could indicate activity in the area some time after 5000 years ago.

The bottom of the pit consists of compacted orange-brown clayey sand with skerry pebbles on the south and stony rubble on the north. The boundary between them is straight and trends 116 degrees. In the field the clayey sand was interpreted as a possible Roman road, but this was the first pit dug. Subsequently, this same material was seen in several other pits where it appeared to be the weathered top to the glacial clay. In some of these pits a layer of stones was also found over the sandy clay. It is likely that in this pit the glacial clay has an irregular top and the stony rubble thought to be ditch fill is the basal layer of the subsoil above it. However, it was not dug out and the interpretation cannot be validated.