

CB22

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

9 CHURCH STREET

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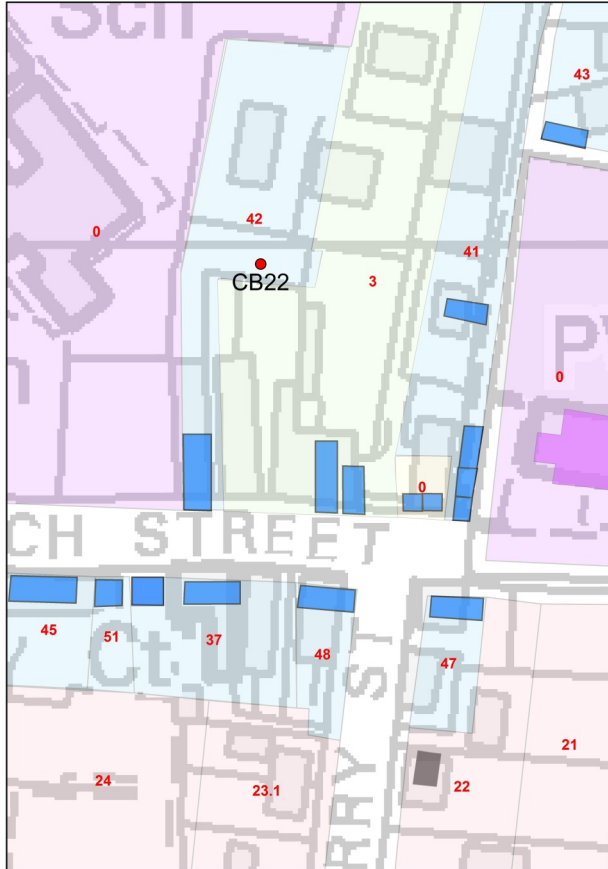
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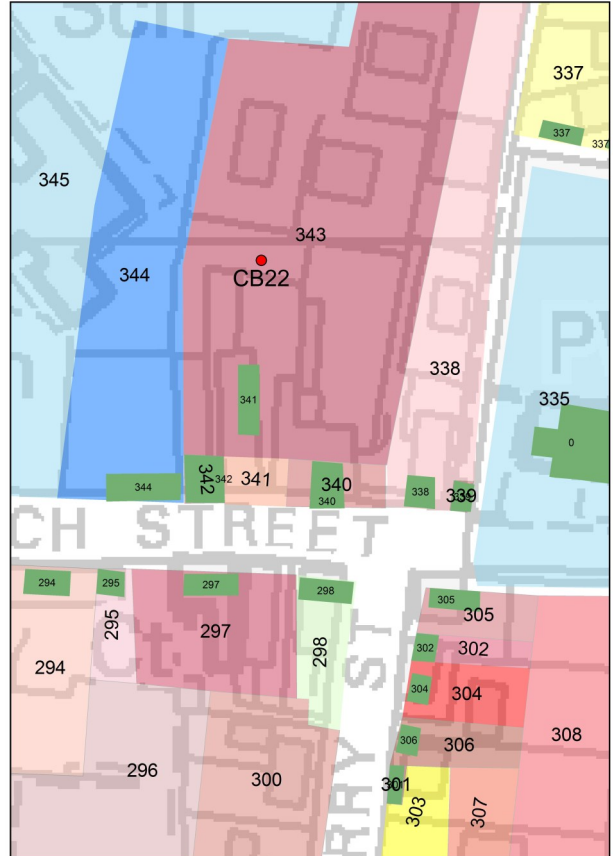
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9, CHURCH STREET

SITE HISTORY

Much of the land north of Church Street in this area has been freehold for centuries, never having been owned by the local estate landlord (Stapleton then Stanhope who became Earl of Chesterfield and then by marriage to the Earls of Carnarvon). Freeholds were not particularly well defined in any of the estate surveys that have survived and so boundaries are often conjectural.



*Modern topography underlying a coloured map showing the freeholds of 1586.
OS Licence No 0100031673*



*Modern topography underlying the coloured map showing the land holdings registered in 1776.
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1586

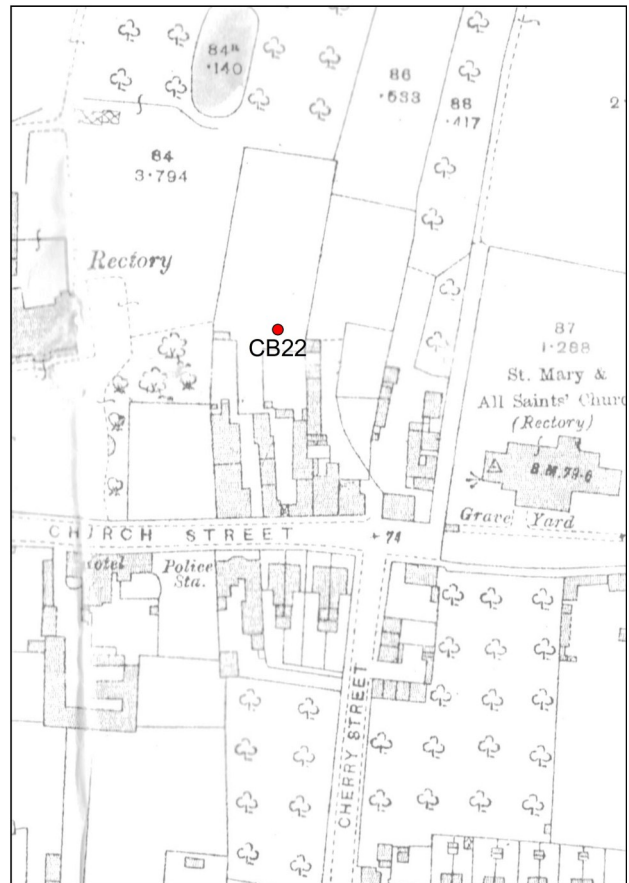
Plot 3, on which the present cottage stands (but not then), was owned and occupied by John Ludlam as a toft and two cottages. Plot 42, which is now number 7, was owned by the Estate and occupied by Bryan Richmond, a cottager. The pit seems to have been dug on this plot, although the boundaries we have drawn are somewhat conjectural.

1776

Plot 343 in which the pit was dug, was merely noted on the estate survey as “sundry freeholds”, with no occupier’s name. House number 341 (possibly the present number 9) was occupied, as “a house only”, by John Baxter, described in the Trades Directory for 1793 as a framework knitter and parish clerk. The precise position of the boundaries of the plot and the sundry freehold are



Tithe map of 1841 on modern topography.
OS Licence No 0100031673



The O.S. map of 1910

conjectural as the estate survey did not include plans for freehold properties.

1841

Plots 7 (garden piece) and 8 (house) were owned and occupied by Thomas and Samuel Walker. They were brothers who were bakers (here) and millers (School Lane). The cottage (now 15a and 15b Church Street) containing remains of the oven is still extant.

Plots 9 – now number 9 Church Street was owned by William Pilgrim and occupied by Samuel Marriet; it was described as a house. Unfortunately Marriett is not recorded in the 1841 census, so we know nothing about him. He may have been employed by Pilgrim in the Chesterfield Arms. Plots 10 (House, Malt office and garden) and 11 (orchard) (now number 7) were owned and occupied by William Pilgrim, who ran the Chesterfield Arms on the opposite side of Church Street.

After 1841

William Pilgrim's executors sold number 7 to Dr Smyth in 1847, but he left number 9 to his niece, Sarah Walker. In 1841 census she was listed as living in Church Street and a female servant, which suggests she worked for William. We do not know if she was related to the bakers next door. She died in 1871 and Jon Foster, the surviving trustee of William Pilgrim sold the cottage to Joseph Richmond of Tideswell, Derbyshire. Joseph Richmond is listed as a market gardener in Church Street in the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses. In 1923 Mr J Richmond sold the cottage to Dr and Mrs Cope, who by now owned number 7. The cottage remained in the ownership of the owners of number 7 until about the 1980s when it was sold by Mrs Wade.

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9,CHURCH STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR 470668. 339994

**Height OD
(mid point rim of N face)** 23.76 m [error 0.02 m]

Dig dates 10th-11th April 2012

Pit site Lawn site in the back garden. The site chosen was in a slight depression in the lawn, thought by the owner to be the site of an old well.

Pit protocol 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved.
Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north otherwise stated.

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

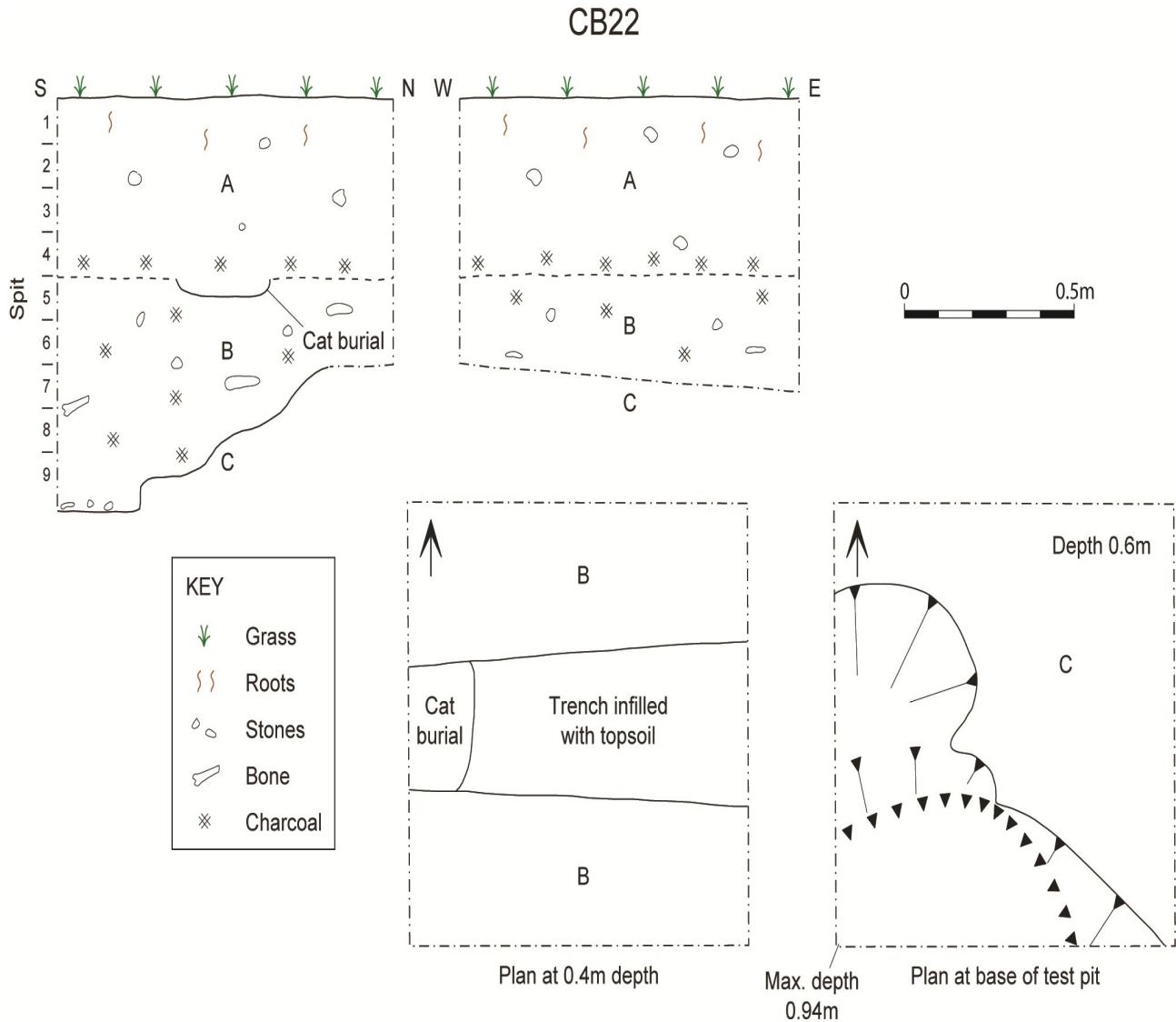
Description of pit

The sequence is:

Topsoil to 41 cm with a trench in the subsoil to 46cm depth

Subsoil to 60-65 cm depth in north and 94 cm to the south

Clay



- A Topsoil of dark brown loam with pebbles*
- B Subsoil of brown-grey clay with charcoal, stones, worm holes*
- C Basal clay. Stiff red-brown clay with charcoal at the top.*

Topsoil is dark brown loam with pebbles. Charcoal appears below 35 cm depth. A shallow, E-W trench appears in the underlying subsoil through the middle of the pit. It measures c23 cm at the western end and c30 cm at the eastern end and is cut about 5cm deep into the subsoil. Because there is no contrast between the fill and the overlying topsoil there is no way of knowing where the



Topsoil removed to reveal a trench across the pit with the bones of a cat near one end (top of picture)



Close-up of the cat bones



Finished pit showing the shape of the pit within the pit. Bottom left corner is the SW

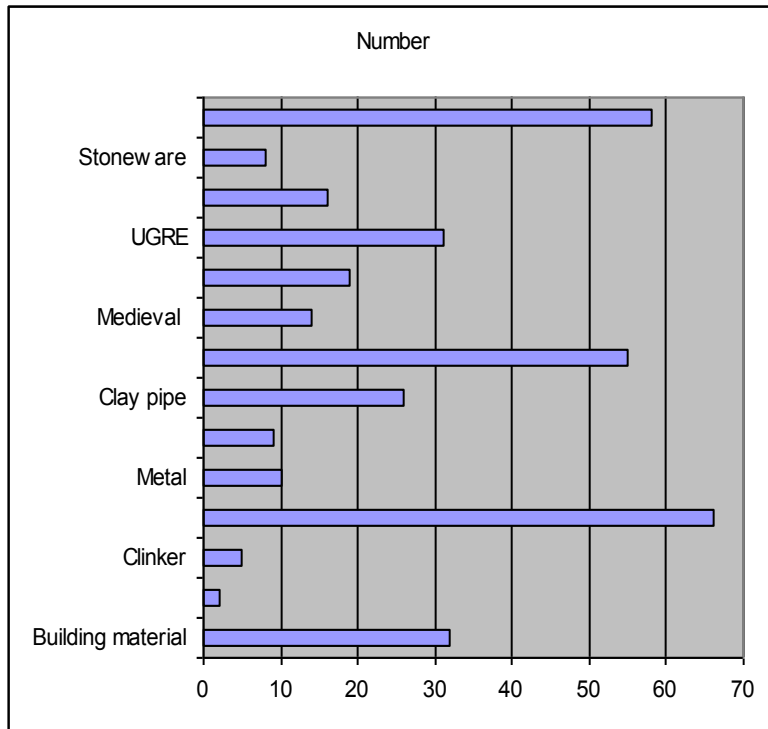


South wall of the test pit to depth of 94 cm showing the subsoil infill to the rubbish pit. There is slight change of colour at the top of this pit distinguishing the infill from the subsoil above it.

top of the trench is. The bones of a cat were found in the western side of the trench and it possible that this is the site a cat burial. A nylon stocking was recovered from about 40 cm depth in the trench.

The subsoil is brown-grey clay with pebbles, charcoal and wormholes. Its colour lightens with depth. Pebbles in it are sandstone and flaky siltstone. It persists down to about 60 cm along the northern edge of the pit where it rests on stiff red-brown clay. The base of the subsoil slopes to the south west rather irregularly on the sides of a pit dug into the basal clay. The bottom of the pit is at 94 cm. The infill is subsoil with abundant bones, charcoal and pottery right to the bottom. It appears that this might be a rubbish pit dug into the basal clay.

The basal clay is stiff, red-brown and contains some small pebbles. It is most likely to be a glacial till deposit.

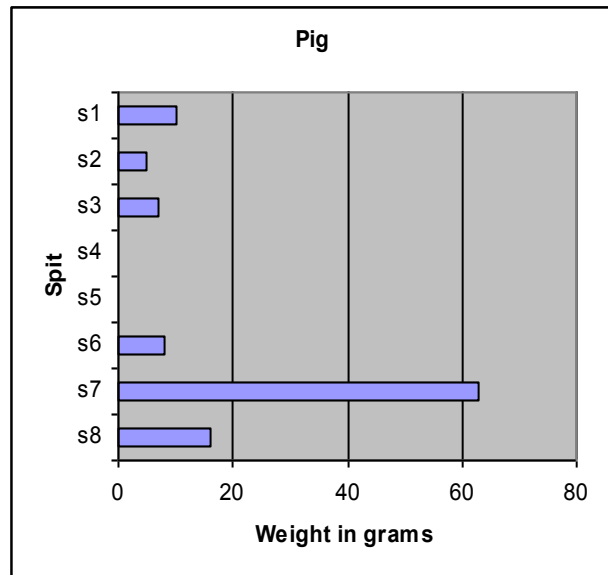
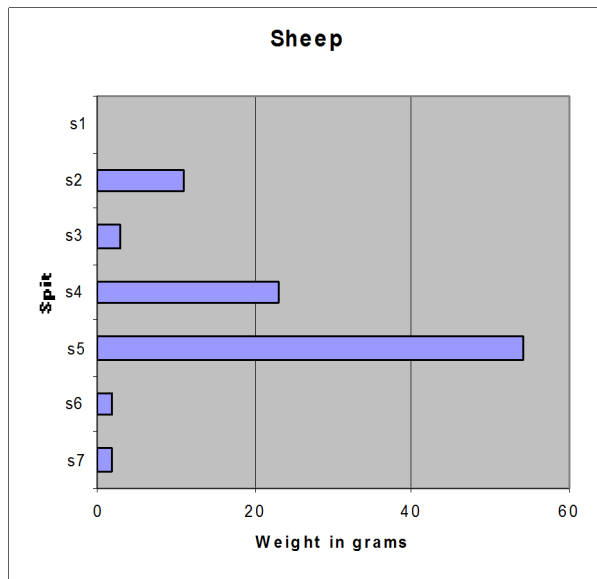


Finds

There is a high concentration of finds in the topsoil and the upper part of the subsoil. The building material, about half of which is plaster, consists of brick, roof tile, floor tile, ceramic tile and slate. They are mainly in the upper 50 cm and clearly relate to recent building phases.

Glass is most abundant of all types of find and is present down to 70 cm. There is a clear difference between the glass above 40 cm and from below. Above it the glass is mostly clear, flat or bottle. The flat glass is likely to be window glass and is present as 1/16th, 3/32nd and 1/8th inch thickness. Among the bottle glass are pieces with a graduated scale that is presumed to be a medicine bottle.

There are one or two pieces of green bottle glass and three with a heavy gold patina. Below 40 there is very little clear, flat, window glass. Some is coloured bottle glass and there is a high proportion of glass with a strong gold patina. At around 70 cm depth there is a piece of patinated flat, green window glass. Most of the glass above 40 cm is modern, probably 20th C, but the large pieces of bottle glass with a heavy patina found below 40 cm could be a lot older.



Metal objects such as nails, washers, lead wire and part of a horse shoe are present in the top 50 cm, while a bolt and a pin were found at greater depths. Several pieces of clinker were found down to 90 cm depth that may be from fire stove ash, rather than any smithing activity.

A carbon rod and a worn oyster shell were found between 30 and 50 cm depth.

Other non-pottery finds include coal present to 60 cm, which is the bottom of the subsoil above the rubbish pit.

Clay pipes were present to 70 cm depth with nearly half of them between 50 and 70 cm. Some were burnt. The date range includes 40% pre-1750 stems. A bowl fragment can be dated to late 19th C and a whole bowl to 1700-1750. Both of these were found in the upper topsoil level.

Bones and teeth were found down to 80 cm. They consist of sheep and lamb (38%), pig including a tusk (25%), goat, a horse's tooth, chicken, a dog skull and a set of cat bones from a nearly whole skeleton.

There is more modern pottery than any other and it is almost entirely confined to the top 40 cm. Most of it is White Ware (51%), with Transfer Print next (37%). These include some Willow pattern sherds. These are typical 19th C. Only 5 of the 57 sherds are not one of these. One is possibly Whieldon-type Ware (1740-1760) and there are two that may be Cream Ware. This typically was made between 1740 and 1850, but it is difficult to be sure of the identification when only small sherds are available. One dinner plate rim with a gilt glaze could not be firmly identified. The other sherd was of Cane-coloured Ware, typically made after 1850.

There were 31 pieces of Unglazed Red Earthenware (UGRE), mostly plant pot in the top 50 cm.

Coarse earthenware and stoneware are also confined to the top 60 cm. The stoneware is evenly divided between 18th C Nottingham made ware types and Derbyshire wares from the period 1840 to 1950. Of the coarse earthenware 56% is red-bodied black glazed. This is usually thought to be mainly 19th C, but little research has been done on the dating of coarse earthenware. The other types are brown glazed on a red body and thought to be a variant of the red bodied wares, and pink bodied black glazed ware/ This usually has a less well made body to the red-bodied earthenware and is thought to be earlier, say 18th C

Only one piece of post-medieval pottery was found in the topsoil. All the rest occurred in the lower part of spits 5 to 7. Mottled Ware was most abundant, but there was also Coarse Black Ware, Midland Black Ware, Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700), Staffordshire Slipware, Black Slipware and an unusual piece of Reduced Glazed Earthenware dated to the 16th to 18th C. These are all dated late 17th and 18th C.

14 pieces of medieval pottery were recovered, all below 30cm right to the base of the pit. They include a range of Nottingham-made ware types including Reduced Green Glaze (1270-1325), Green Glaze (1300-1400), Coarse Orange/pink Sandy Ware (1275-1300) and Splashed Ware (1100-1250) three variants of the splashed ware were collected, all with different date ranges. In addition there were sherds of Shelly Ware (1175-1200) and Midland Purple Ware. The latter was also present in variants that cover a wide date range. The earliest resembles Light-bodied Gritty Ware and spans the same date range (1300-1400). The others are 1400-1500 and 1500-1650. One sherd of Nottingham Splashed Ware and both Shelly Ware sherds were found at the bottom of the rubbish pit.

Interpretation

The amount of building material in the top 60 cm, particularly the top 30 cm suggests that the ground has been reworked in some way during a building phase. The medieval, post medieval and stoneware sherds are present only below 30 cm depth, while all except two sherds of Modern pottery were found above 40 cm. The glass shows a marked difference at the 40 cm depth mark with that above it mostly flat, modern window glass and that below 40 cm probably 19th C or older. This implies that the soil below 40 cm might be *in situ* with only the level above that having been involved in a significant ground disturbance. The presence of a nylon stocking at 40 cm and a trench that had been dug through the topsoil into the subsoil for the purpose of burying a cat confirms a high degree of disturbance to the topsoil, most likely in the second half of the twentieth

century. The occurrence of brick and Modern pottery sherds as deep as 60 cm shows that some disturbance took place down to this depth.

There is a clear distinction between the ware types attributable to the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 19th C there is plentiful fairly common glazed ceramics, White Ware and Transfer Print and over half of the coarse earthenware (red bodied) is likely to be 19th C. There are three sherds of Modern wares that may be 18th C, that is the Whieldon-type Ware and Cream Ware, but about half of the brown stoneware was Nottingham made in the 18th C and some of the coarse earthenware (pink bodied) is likely to be 18th C. The inference from this is that there was a fairly constant level of activity here throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.

The shape of the top surface of the basal clay suggests that a pit had been dug into it. The highest level of the top of this deeper excavation is 60-65 cm deep; the pit was bottomed at 94 cm. The shape of the pit in plan suggests that about 40% of it has been revealed in this test pit. The fill is indistinguishable from the subsoil and contained most of the medieval sherds. Among these the Shelly Ware and Nottingham Splashed Ware were right at the bottom. Bones and teeth, which cannot easily be dated, were found down to 80 cm depth and a metal pin at the very bottom

All the post-medieval pottery was found between 45 and 70 cm depth. Most clay pipes were found above the top of the rubbish pit, but two 17th stems were found within the top (60-70 cm down). Also at this level were the Midland Yellow Ware and two of the Midland Purple Ware sherds. This seems to suggest that the pit was capped by the late 16th C. When it was dug is difficult to say, but like many of the test pits around here there are very few to no pottery sherds for the period after the Black Death (1348-49). The inference elsewhere is that a lot of the people hereabouts died in the plague and that it took up to a century for the land around it to come back into full use. The markers used in these other pits, like Cistercian Ware, which came into production in about 1450, are absent from this pit, but there is Midland Purple Ware, which is slightly earlier. Because the content of the pit is strongly 12th to early 14th centuries it is possible that it had been dug for the purpose of disposing rubbish during this period. It lay unused after the Black Death and was gradually covered over.

The bones give some idea of what the people ate in this area. The main item in their diet was mutton or lamb (38 % of the total bones and teeth) with pork second at 25 %. Goat and chicken also featured, but there is no evidence of beef among this set of bones.

The vertical distribution of the bones shows that most of the bones in the medieval rubbish pit were pig with a minority of mutton, while all the goat bones occurs at the level of the top of the medieval rubbish pit.