

**CB26**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON  
10, NEWGATE STREET**

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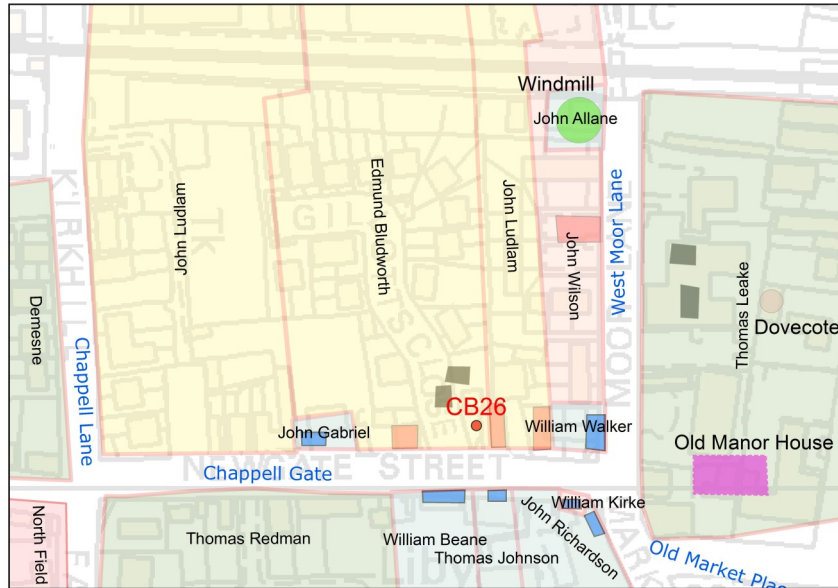
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## CB26 10, NEWGATE STREET

### SITE HISTORY

#### 1586

In the 1500s the population of Bingham was largely divided into cottagers and farmers, the majority of whom were tenants of the Stapleton Estate which owned about 85% of Bingham. Cottagers tended to be self-sufficient and some probably also worked for the lord of the manor on his open field strips. Farmers held strips in the open fields and usually a sizeable homestead where they lived in the village.



*Conjectural map for 1586.*

*Note: all maps on modern topography OS Licence No 0100031673*

Gate together with one of the few freeholders (John Wilson) and some demesne land (coloured green) which was worked directly on behalf of the lord of the manor).

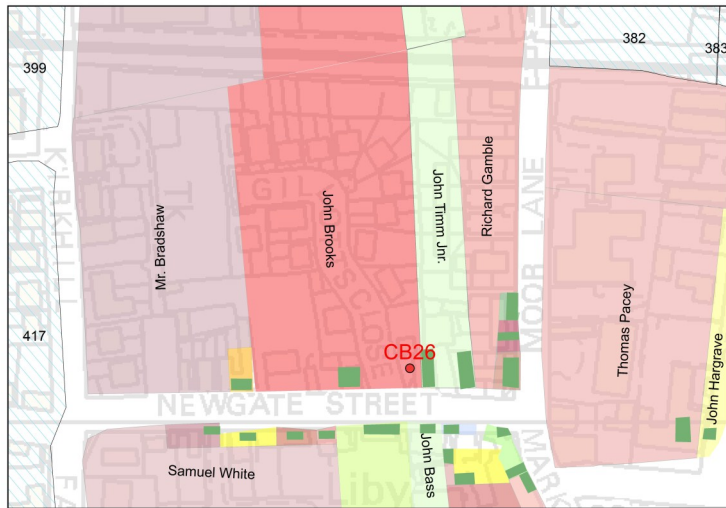
Bludworth's holding was described as "A tenement and 5 bovates of land with yard, barns and 3 crofts". His holding was largely made up of 162 strips (45 acres) in the open fields and some common grazing rights. Two of the three crofts (or closes) were elsewhere in the town. His homestead close would probably have been a farmyard and pasture. He was one of the more substantial farmers at the time.

The 1586 survey did not include a map. Our conceptual map is based on size of holdings and position relative to neighbours as described in the text survey report. In most cases it was logical to align the boundaries with the sketches from the 1776 survey. On this basis, the eastern boundary of Bludworth's land is unchanged to this day, one of several ancient boundaries in the town that have survived. Part of the western boundary is also ancient.

#### 1776

By 1776 Bloodworth's plot had passed to John Brooks. Enclosure of the open fields had been completed by 1776 and individual enclosures were allocated to the main farmers. Brooks was not one of them, holding only two fields, both measuring  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres. 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).

William Brooks held two homesteads, the present Seymour Cottage, 20 Church Street, and 2 East



Map for 1776

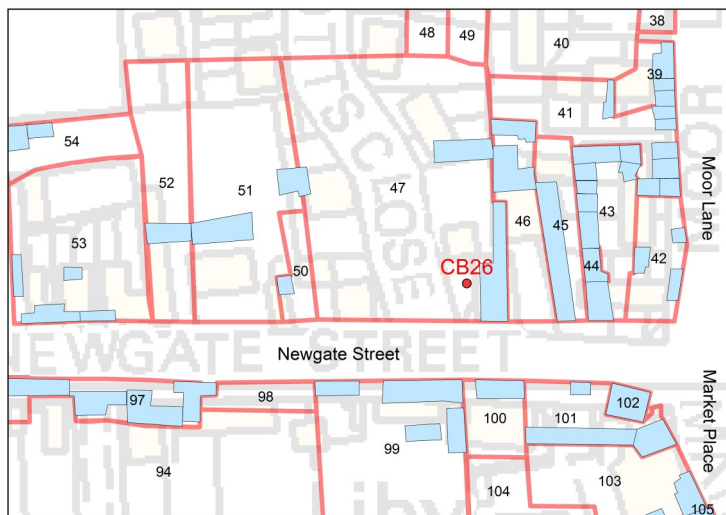
Street. He farmed 46 acres in the enclosed fields around the parish. He probably used “Seymour Cottage” either as a tied house for a farm worker or for his extended family. William died in 1780 aged 50. *The Creswell and Burbidge Chronicle* reported: “Thursday morning died at Bingham of an apoplectic 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”.

A review of the parish baptismal registers suggests that John and William were brothers, their parents being Richard and Mary Brooks.

John Timm, at what is now the Georgian farmhouse at number 8, was, by way of a contrast, a substantial farmer and maltster.

## 1841

For clarity the map of the disposition of the tithe plots is diagrammatic as the original is not very readable in this area and overlaying them makes for a cluttered image. Since 1776 plot boundaries had changed only in that the northern part had been sold off to the railway company in the mid 19th C. Plot 46 was “House, Fold & Stack yards & buildings” occupied by Thomas Lee who held 29 separate parcels of land, including those on Newgate Street. His total holding amounted to 200 acres, 150 of which were probably arable. Plot 47 had been absorbed into his lease and was described as a garden, perhaps for growing vegetables. In 1816 the *Nottingham Journal* reported that “Last week, a turnip of an extraordinary size, was got off a well-managed farm at Bingham, in the occupation of Mr Lee. It was of the English kind. Its greatest circumference, THREE FEET THREE INCHES, and its



Tithe map for 1841 overlain on the modern O.S. map

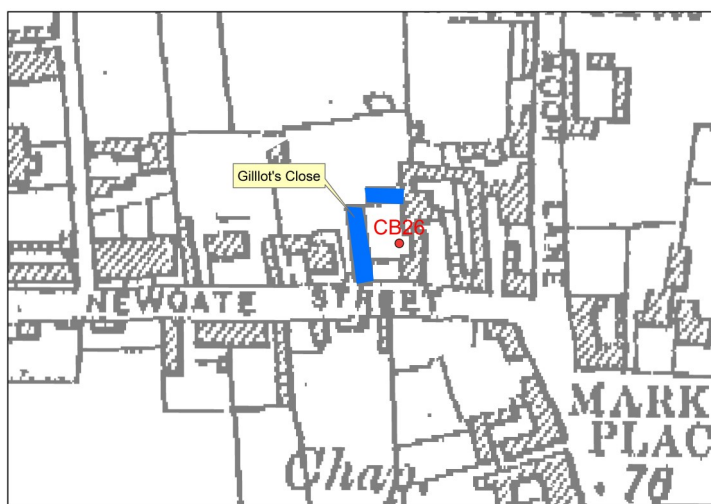
neat weight without the top, TWENTY SEVEN POUNDS!”

In 1820 it was reported that: “In the night of Monday last, the dovecote of Mr Lee, a respectable farmer, of Bingham, was broken into, and more than 300 pigeons stolen.” He later suffered an arson attack on a hayrick and one of his young labourers shot himself in the foot in a hay rick.

Thomas was 75 in 1841, living with his daughter Sarah. His wife Rachel had died in 1834; he died



*O.S. map for 1883*



*O. S. map for 1915 showing in blue the location of the barns.*

in 1847. Subsequent censuses have no members of the family listed in Bingham.

### 1883

By 1883 what appears to have been a stock or crew farm yard seems to have been developed on tithe map plot 47. This may have been for number 8 or it might have been for a new tenant. The drain found in the test pit may date from this construction. In the census of 1881 three farmers are listed in Newgate Street. One, Robert Marston with only 5.5 acres, is an unlikely candidate. One of James Harriman (127 acres) and William J Levers (119 acres) would probably have been at number 8, the other possibly a new tenant for the new stock yard. In 1871 only Levers was listed as a farmer in Newgate Street. Marston was a cottager, most likely at number 20. The occupant of the new yard could have been Harriman.

### 1915

Subsequent censuses show only Levers, so the new arrangement seems not to have lasted, although the new buildings were still there in 1915.

Between 1893 and 1932 Arthur Gillot farmed from number 8, which we think by

then had re-absorbed "plot 47", if indeed they had ever been separated.

The last farmer at Newgate Street Farm, as number 8 was named, was WA (Bill) Hutton, who started in 1946. He moved to Newgate Farm on Nottingham Road as part of the Crown Estate's concentration of distributed holdings into single farms. He held 176 acres. His son Richard now farms Holme Farm. Bill did not come from a farming family and neither did his wife. He had originally wanted to go into brewing but then developed an interest in farming. He became a farm pupil (a system whereby your family paid for you to be a pupil on the farm (a bit like barrister pupillage today)). He joined the army in WW2 and on demob wanted to become a farmer. Mr Carter Jonas (the Crown Estate's agent at the time) had a high regard for ex-servicemen and found Newgate Street Farm for Bill.

Mixed farming, which was the style for all Bingham farms, gradually ended in the 1960s as the economics of farming came to favour larger specialised enterprises. About the same time the Crown Estate (owners of all the parish farms) rationalised the pattern of land holding. Previously each farm had parcels of land in different parts of the parish. These were reallocated into single holdings. The old pattern was a relic of the open field system when each farmer held a few different strips on each of the three fields and pieces of pasture on each moor. It became highly inefficient, with workers spending a lot of time moving (with horses) from one piece to another.

W A Hutton was the first farmer in Bingham not to have horses. Mrs Hutton said he was trodden on one when he was an apprentice and disliked horses from that time forward! They bought a grey Fordson tractor from Dickinson, but only for a spare. Hutton bought a new tractor and was one of the first Bingham farmers to start using tractors.

The Crown Estate Commissioners sold the whole property in 1952 for £3500 to one Fred Bower, described as a Road Haulier. He obtained planning permission for a development of light industry and warehousing on what is now Gillotts Close, but for reasons that are not clear at present the plan was changed to a small housing estate.

Bower sold the house minus the Gillotts Close area to Mr and Mrs Heafford, of the family that owned Hardstaff and Brown in the 1930's, who passed on the piece of land on the corner of Gillotts Close to their son to build a house, number 10. The front garden, the site of pit CB26, contains an old barn of the farm with a primitive but readable date picked out in dark header bricks on the west gable end -1817. There are also old stables to the farm in the same garden.

**CB26**

**10, NEWGATE STREET**

**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

**NGR** 470371.340026

**Height OD**  
**(mid point rim of N face)** 25.299 m [error 0.032 m]

**Dig dates** 19 – 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012

**Pit site** Front lawn of a 1970s house at the corner of Newgate and Gillot's Close. Outbuildings belonging to the house are 19<sup>th</sup> C or earlier. Next door is a late Georgian farmhouse.

**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 unless other-



wise stated. A stone floor located at spit 9 was removed and in the NW corner only the pit was further dug to reveal a land drain. Two sections were taken out and the pit taken down to 120 cm here.

## CB26

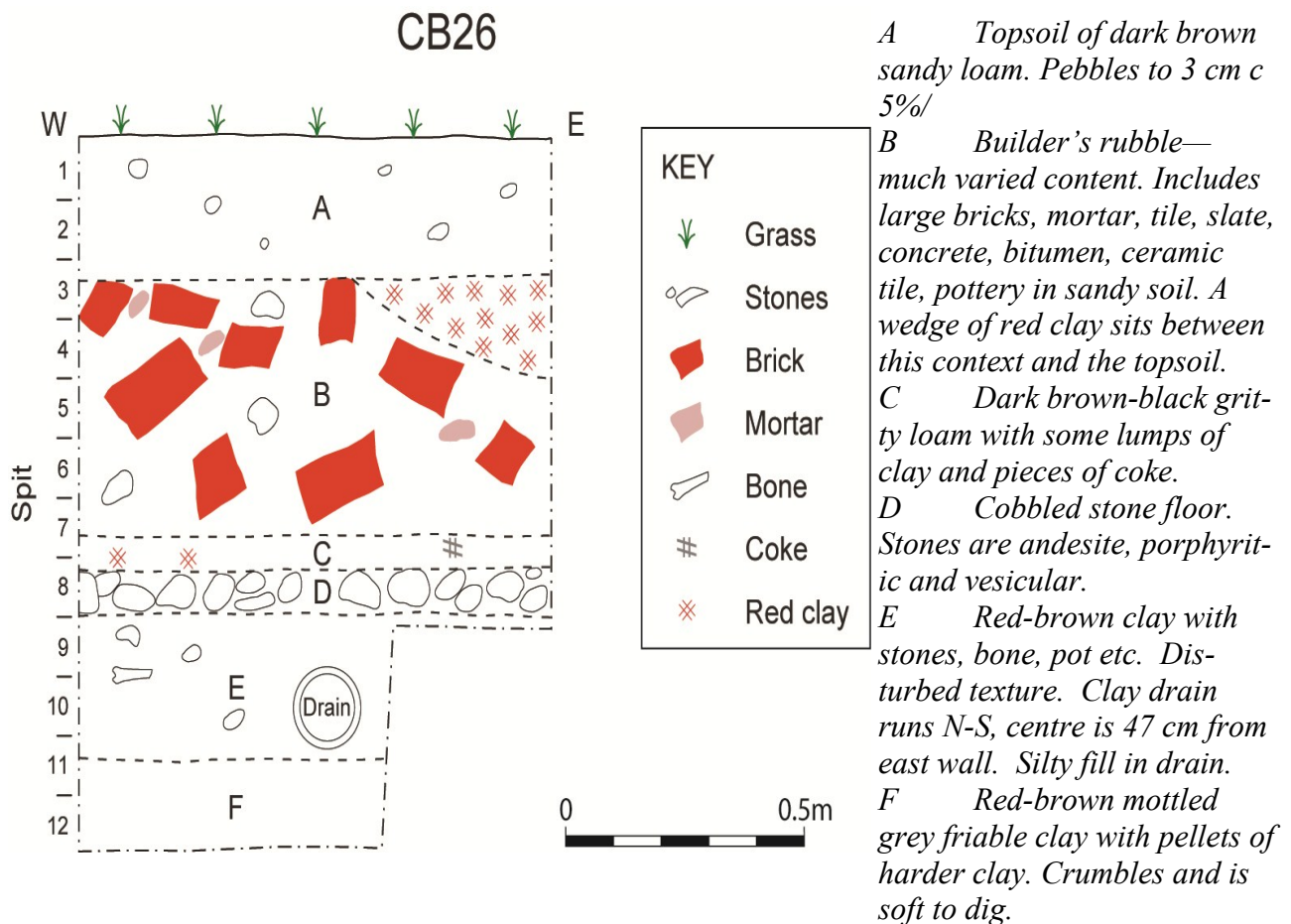
### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The site of the pit was in an area close to now demolished farm buildings. Some small; outbuildings remain to the east.

Topsoil to 22cm  
 Builder's rubble to 66 cm depth  
 Gritty loam to c73 cm depth  
 Cobbled surface to c80 cm depth  
 Disturbed layer to 105 cm  
 Basal clay

Topsoil is dark brown sandy loam with about 5% pebbles to 3 cm. Small pieces of mortar, lumps



of red clay, brick and clay pipe stems within it suggest that it has been disturbed, possibly shovelled into place.

The builder's rubble contains a wide variety of materials, including whole bricks, slate and bitumen all set in a matrix of sandy soil. It is c44cm thick randomly mixed.





*IMG\_1866 View north at 10 cm depth.*



*IMG\_1867 View north at 20 cm showing the top of the builder's rubble. Patch of red-brown clay in the top right hand corner.*



*IMG\_1871 Building rubble at c70 cm, the bottom of the layer. Dressed sandstone slab on left.*



*IMG\_1885 Drain revealed*



*IMG\_1873 Dressed sandstone slab removed from pit.*



*IMG\_1870 Limestone slab removed from the layer of building rubble. Black chert pebble on top*





IMG\_1892 North face

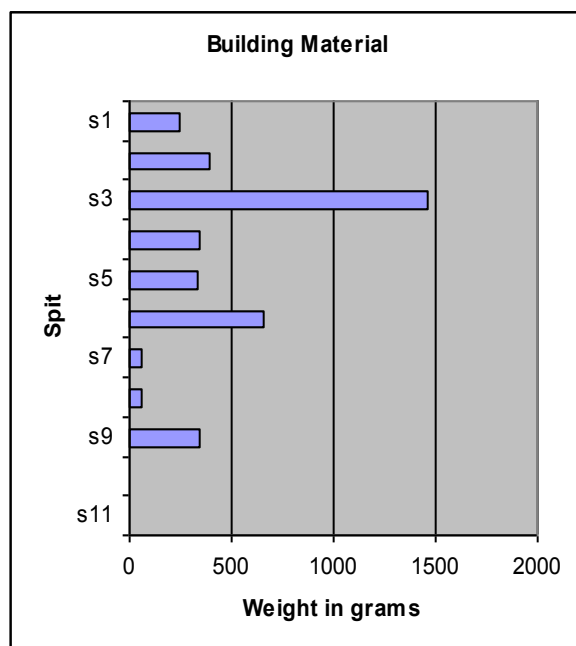


IMG\_1891 North view. Drains removed showing the basal clay at the bottom of the pit.

The rubble lies on a thin layer of brown-black gritty loam containing lumps of clay and pieces of coke. It is less than 10 cm thick. Also recorded here are pieces of basalt that may be roadstone, bitumen, railway ballast slag and a sawn bone.

This overlies a well-made cobbled surface made of tightly packed andesite with a few pieces of sandstone, some well rounded pebbles of black chert, rare pieces of brick. Red-brown clay with some coarse sand, gravel and flints is used for packing. Some pot-sherds are wedged in the clay. The andesite stones are tabular and blocky, none bigger than 20 cm long. It is a light to medium green rock with small phenocrysts of feldspar and a weak cleavage. Some pieces are vesicular. One large sandstone slab seems to be dressed.

The cobble surface is embedded in a layer of red-brown clay containing coal, stones, bone and grit. This is clearly a disturbed layer. It is about 23 cm thick and has been dug so that a drain could be laid in it. The top of the drain was measured as 85 cm to 87 cm depth. It is 15 cm in diameter and ran N-S with a centre point 47 cm from the eastern side of the pit. Three sections were present. Two were removed and the fill collected. One section disintegrated, the other remained whole. No date or other marking were found on the sections retrieved. Disturbance made it impossible to tell which direction the flow was. Encrustations of gypsum occurred at the join between the sections of the drain.



The basal clay is red-brown friable clay with grey mottles and pellets of harder clay. It has the appearance of Triassic Mercia Mudstone.

### Finds

Building materials were recovered down to 90 cm. Most were within the layer of builder's rubble, but pieces of brick were found in the cobbled surface and a piece of plaster was found just beneath the cobbled surface. The full list of building materials includes brick, mortar, cement, floor tile, plaster, some with reed impressions on the underside, also painted plaster, Welsh slate, drain, green ceramic fireplace tile, concrete and bitumen. Among the bricks are 3" thick vitrified bricks not used in the current house, 2 3/4" x 4 3/4" red brick, 2 5/8" x 4 1/2",

2 3/4" x 4" some with whitewash on them, 2 1/4" x 4 1/2". A large limestone flag was at the bottom of this succession. It measured 29 cm x 59 cm and was 9.5 cm thick. There was a slight depression in it on one edge suggesting that it had been dressed.

Most of the glass is clear and flat and ranges in thickness from 1/16th inch to 1/8th inch. The sizes are found mixed at all depths and are probably from different windows. Pieces of finely ribbed glass were found within the layer of builder's rubble and below it on the cobbled surface. Some pieces of clear glass are molten nodules and otherwise fire-damaged. There was very little brown, green or clear bottle glass. Most of the glass is above 60 cm depth. With only one piece (ridged window glass) found between 70-80 cm depth.

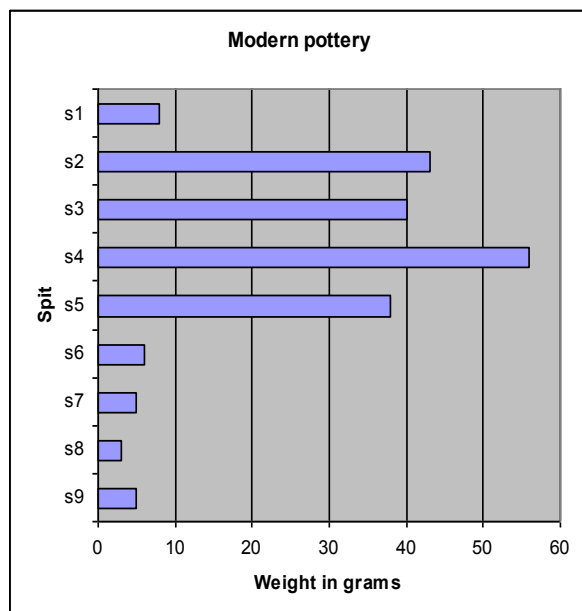
Miscellaneous items include a winkle shell, pencil lead, a small mother of pearl button and a metal head of a modern glass cutter, all above 40 cm.

There are five clay pipe stems, all above 40 cm depth. Two appeared to be burnt. They were typical of the period 1750-1900, except that one was a little thicker and more brown. The hole was wide and not central. This stem could be from the early 18<sup>th</sup> C.

There were several pieces of clinker and a range of metal objects all above 70 cm. Most were nails of various kinds including horse-shoe nails. There was also a metal clip, a decorative furniture knob, some rods, a handle for a razor and a broken hacksaw blade.

Coal occurs in spits 3, 6 and 10.

The cobbled layer encountered at 72 cm depth consists mainly of cobbles of andesite. This is a volcanic rock which may have come from Charnwood Forest.



Modern pottery was recovered from all depths to 90 cm, which is just at the top of the drain pipe. There is no stratigraphical order to the finds. They are all 19<sup>th</sup> C, possibly all after around 1825. In terms of number of sherds 62% were White Ware. They were nearly all small and damaged. Some larger pieces with a crazed glaze were most likely to be from a large utility vessel and may be part of a large washbowl that had a blue pattern on parts of it. Next in abundance is transfer printed ware types. These were blue and white, both [pale blue and dark blue, the latter likely to be Willow pattern. One piece of Flow Blue, typical of the period 1840-1860 seems to be the knob at the top of an ornamental cup handle. There were several pieces of possibly hand-painted ware type. This has a sparse blue design on it. All the pieces were from the same vessels likely to be a washbowl. Three pieces of Cane-coloured Ware are too small to be sure what sort of form they came from, but are likely to date from after 1850. 6 other sherds were hard to classify. One blue and white banded sherd resembled the pattern found widely on 20<sup>th</sup> C jugs. The others, all found very low in the pit, were pale blue-grey utility wares. The glaze tended to chip around the edges. Elsewhere similar pots have been found that could be attributed to a cheap chamber pot.

A single sherd of Unglazed Red Earthenware was recovered from the topsoil.

Nine sherds of stoneware were recovered, mostly in spits 2 to 4, but with two from spit 8. Four of them were dated 1840-1950 and made in Derbyshire. One of these is from an inkwell. Another one from Derbyshire was made in the period 1760-1840. The rest were made in Nottingham and include two pieces from 1760-1840. One honey-coloured outer base with the remains of a corroded footrim dated to 1690-1715.

Coarse Earthenware was present down to the cobbled floor, but mostly in the top 30 cm. Eleven of the sherds recovered were Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware and four were Pink-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware. The glaze on the red-bodied coarse earthenware was usually dark brown-black, always on the inside only. Apart from one base sherd which was from a pancheon and a rim sherd from a jar the form of the original vessel could not be determined. The pink-bodied coarse earthenware sherds were small with a black glaze and orange slip on the outside. Experience from elsewhere suggest that the red-bodied coarse earthenware is probably 19<sup>th</sup> C and the pink-bodied usually earlier.

Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were found. Midland Yellow Ware (1550-1700) was found in the topsoil, while a sherd of Midland Black Ware (1575-1700) was recovered from just beneath the cobbled surface.

Three sherds of medieval pottery were found. All were in the top 20 cm. Two were Nottingham Coarse orange/pink Sandy Ware (1250-1350) and one was Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze (1375-1400).

A single worked flint was recovered from the topsoil. It was a small flake from dark, nearly black flint, possibly dating from the late Neolithic (c 3000 BC)

### **Interpretation**

The topsoil, 22 cm thick, is not original. It has probably been brought into position during landscaping when the current house was built. Most of the pottery was found in it, including all the medieval, two of the post-medieval, the Unglazed Red Earthenware, most of the Modern and stoneware and about half of the coarse earthenware. This reflects on the typical assemblage in the topsoil in the parish and gives an indication of the previous use of the land. The low concentrations of all these fabric types with dates up to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> C suggests that the most likely explanation for their presence is in manure scatters. There are no indications that there were habitations here at any time covered before this. The relatively high concentration of modern pottery, however, confirms a pre-existing building here. The quality of the modern pottery is not high, probably indicative of the sort that would be found in a farm worker's house.

The layer of builder's rubble contains a range of brick types and thickness that suggests multiple phases of rebuilding during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Bricks 2 ¼ inches thick are more typical of Georgian buildings than later. The fact that there are whole bricks here plus all the debris that would be expected from a demolished brick house suggests that this is, in fact, a demolition layer. A large lump of red clay occurs at the top in the NE side of the pit.

A dark thin layer of brown-black gritty loam occurs beneath the demolition layer, but it contains debris from the demolition layer. Some unusual pieces are present including coke, railway ballast slag and bitumen-covered basalt. The last is usually used for road stone, but all of it suggests that the demolition took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> C.

All the glass is modern and all except one piece was found in the layer of builder's rubble. Being mostly window glass it must count as debris from a demolished building. The one piece of ribbed

glass from just on top of the cobbled surface is the same as glass from within the builder's rubble. This suggests that the whole of the sequence above the cobbled surface is a single inter-layered unit of re-deposited material.

The cobbled surface is complete across the pit. It is well made and compacted. The predominant stone used is well rounded andesite, a type of volcanic rock found only in Charnwood Forest within this region. It has almost certainly been imported to make the cobbled surface. The thickness is no more than 15 cm. It is most likely that the cobbled surface is a crew yard attached to the now demolished farm.

The cobbled surface overlies a messy mixture of clay, stones, pottery, bones and a clay pipe stem within which is a land drain. Modern pottery found immediately above the land drain is 19th C. The drain is 15 cm diameter, circular and has no manufacturing marks on it. It runs north-south, but is too disturbed to tell in which direction is the gradient. Cylindrical pipes like these were made mostly in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> C.

The drain lies directly on clay that is thought to be the original Mercia Mudstone, which is Triassic in age and the bedrock geology of this area. Above it the clay has been much disturbed. It would have been dug to lay the drain, but the excavation in the test pit did not reveal the edge to the trench in either the east or the west of the drain. The archaeological content of the disturbed clay is minimal, but includes 19<sup>th</sup> C pottery as well as a sherd of Midland Black Ware pottery. The evidence at hand is that the drain was probably laid in the late 19<sup>th</sup> C and the cobbled surface laid on top of it afterwards, also in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. It does not look like the cobbles had been removed so that a trench for the drain could be dug through the surface.