

CB32

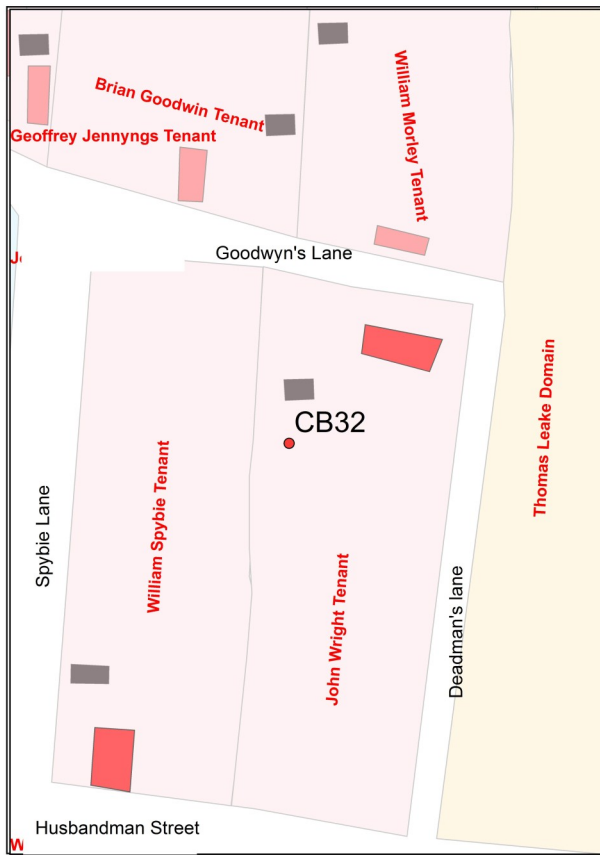
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FOR
8 EAST STREET**

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SITE HISTORY



Conjectural map for 1586

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 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 in the village. In the case of what is now 8 East Street, John Wright was a farmer who held a “A messuage (larger house) and 4 bovates of land with barn, yard and croft”. He held 40 acres of strips at a rent of 34 shillings per year.

The map is conjectural based on a textual description of boundaries and using the 1776 plans as a guide.

1776

By 1776 the plot had passed to Daniel Stafford who also occupied two small closes in neighbouring Cow Close. Daniel was a schoolteacher and compiled the *White's Ephemera*, having earlier been employed by the Bingham astronomer Robert White before the latter died in 1773. We might assume his school premises were in the house or grounds.

His son John, also a schoolteacher, carried on the work (he was a good mathematician) and was offered a post at the Greenwich Observatory by the director Dr Hutten, but declined. John had married Mary Chettle of the wealthy farming family. In 1813 he was the victim of a highway robbery but kept hold of his money (won at York Races) and recovered his horse. His son John was also a printer and manufactured the Stanhope printing press, invented in 1803 by Charles 3rd Earl Stanhope, a member of the Earl of Chesterfield's family who owned the Bingham estate.

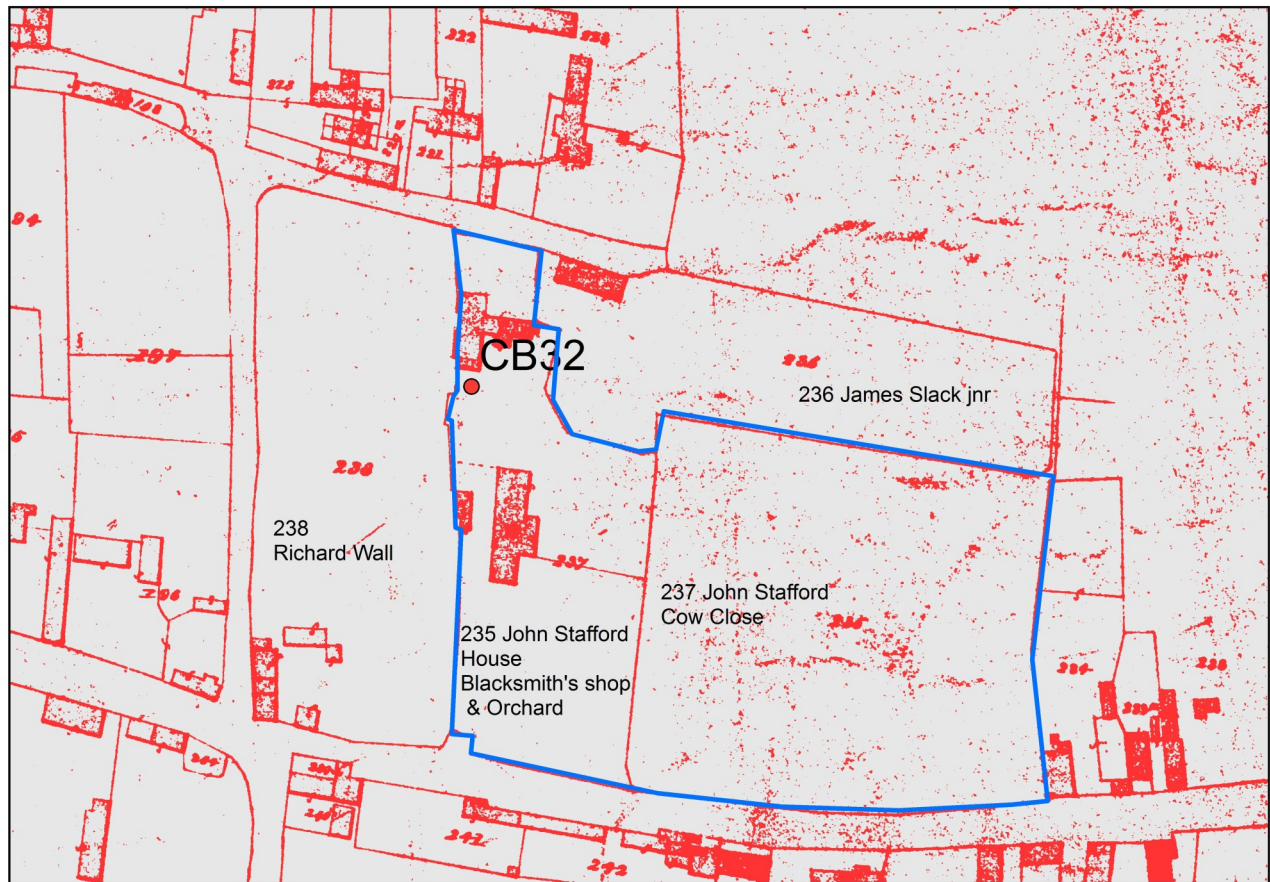


Map for 1776 derived from the manorial survey. It shows the full extent of the land holding of Daniel Stafford.

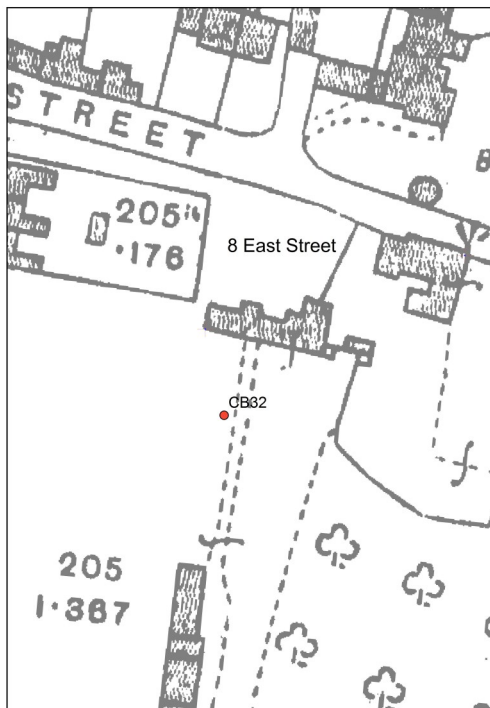
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1841

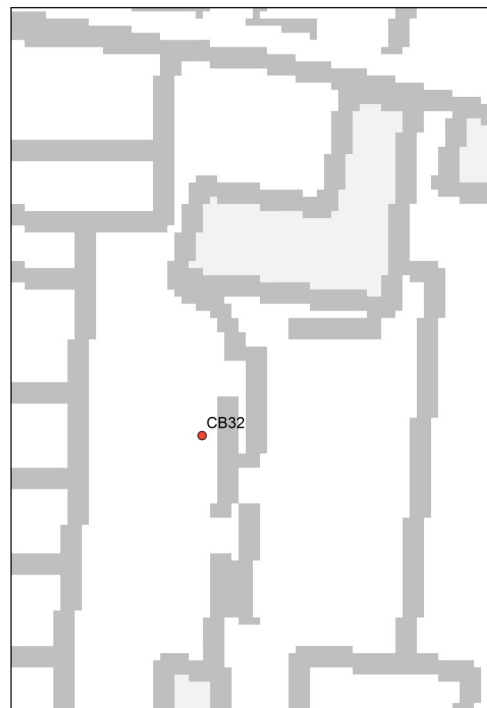
The 1841 Tithes Apportionment describes the property as a house with a blacksmith's shop and orchard. There is no documentary evidence of a blacksmith being here; it is



Tithe map of 1841 showing the full extent of the family holdings outlined in blue.



O.S. map of 1910



*Modern O.S. map
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possible this was how the tithe surveyor interpreted a printing machine manufactory. In the 1841 census the Staffords were described as cottagers, but in the 1851 census John was a printer. Through the 19th century John and his sons were variously described as printers, butchers, cottagers, farmers and carriers. The printing business

eventually outgrew Bingham and moved to Netherfield in Nottingham. Luke Stafford was described as a market gardener in East Street in 1901 and 1911.

CB32

8, EAST STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

| | |
|---|--|
| NGR | 470892.339851 (mid point along north edge) |
| Height OD (mid point along north edge) | 22.149 [error 0.022] |
| Dig dates | 22 nd April 2013 |
| Pit site | Lawn in back garden. |
| Pit protocol | 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Dug to clay surface. |

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

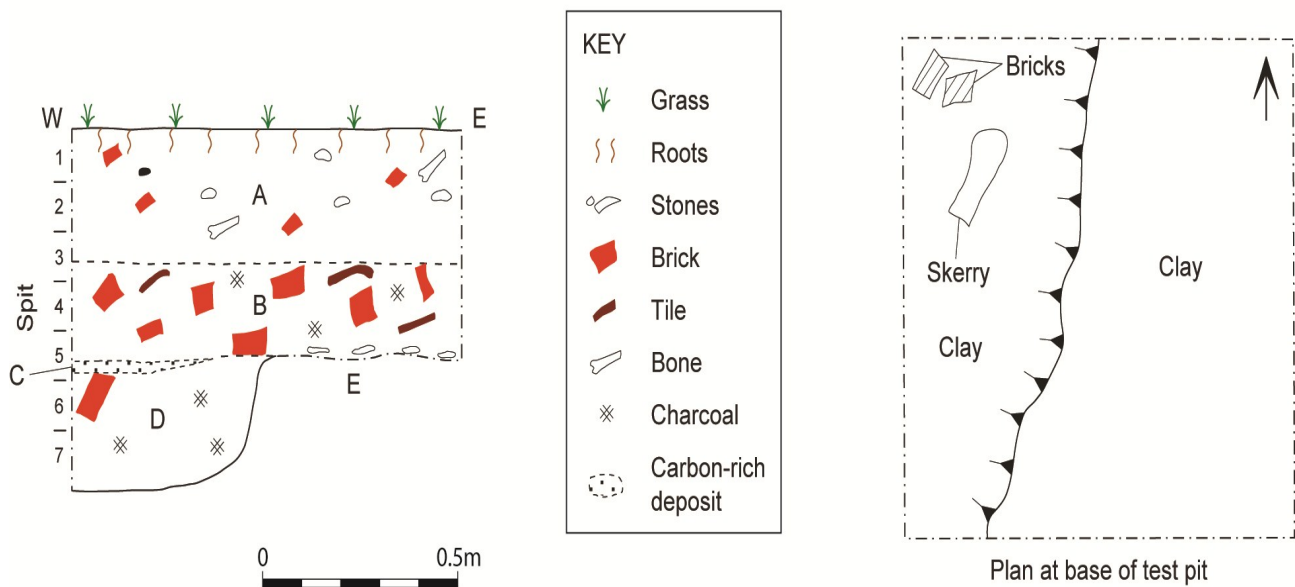
Description of pit

This back garden has had an interesting history. For a while it was the turning circle and parking area for the local bus company and there is evidence that the ground has been much disturbed over the years. Bricks and brick pieces are found at all depths.

- Top soil to 23-27cm depth
- Builder's rubble to 45 cm depth
- Layer of carbon 3 cm thick
- Original soil 48 to 70 cm depth
- Basal clay with pebbles

The topsoil is dark brown loam with pebbles, bricks, pottery, bone, glass, cinders etc. The base is irregular and lies between 23 and 27 cm depth. This probably reflects the uneven top to the under-

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- A Topsoil of dark brown loam with skerry pebbles, brick, pot, glass, cinder, bone.*
- B Builder's rubble. Mortar, plaster, brick embedded in sandy loam. Top boundary is irregular 23—27 cm depth. Some melted glass and charcoal. One 2 1/2 inch brick.*
- C Black layer of carbon*
- D Dark brown clay soil with spots charcoal and bricks near the top.*
- E Reddish orange sandy clay with rounded pebbles to 3 cm. Layer of skerry and medium sandstone up to 7 cm on top.*

lying layer of builder's rubble. This is quite dense and contains whole bricks. Near the bottom there is melted glass. A thin layer of carbon suggestive of ash is present in the western side of the pit.

The ash overlies dark brown-grey soil on the western side of the pit. At the same level as the ash on the eastern side is reddish orange, sandy, pebbly glacial clay with a layer of skerry and sandstone pebbles on it. The overlying builder's rubble seems to be resting on an original, horizontal surface where both dark brown clay soil with rounded pebbles to 3 cm and basal, glacial clay are



IMG_1994 View to natural surface at base, looking north



IMG_1995 north wall of pit. Topsoil above the rubble layer. This rests on the basal clay on the right of the picture. Bricks in the NE corner are below the rubble and a thin, black ash layer just

exposed. There are pieces of brick and a large skerry stone in the lower soil near the top.

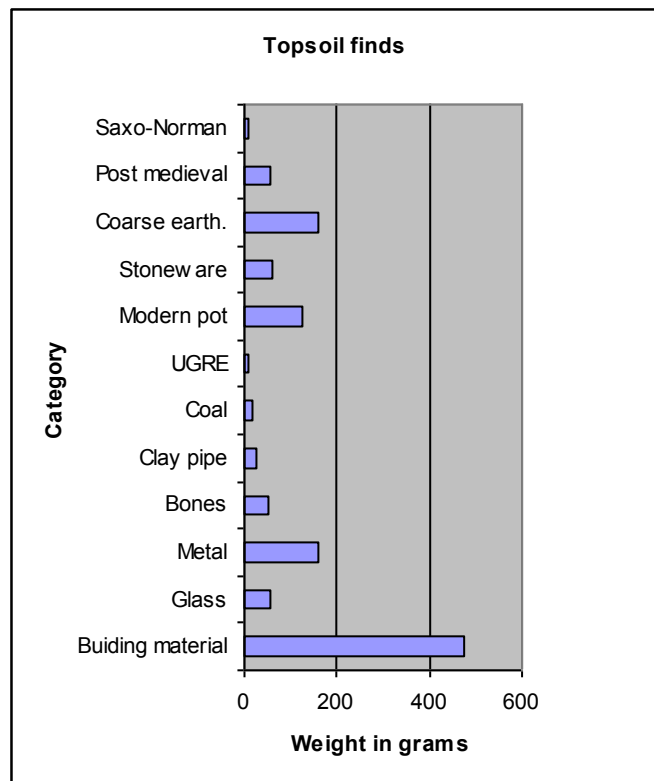
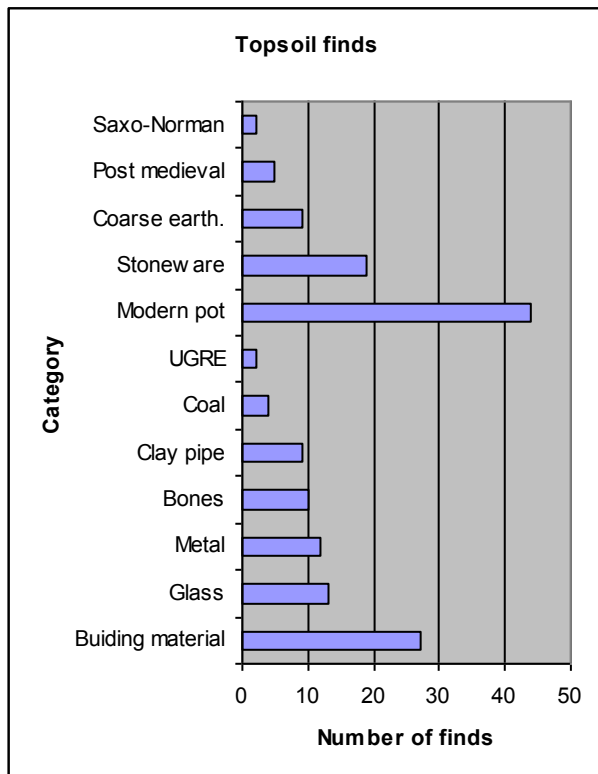
Finds

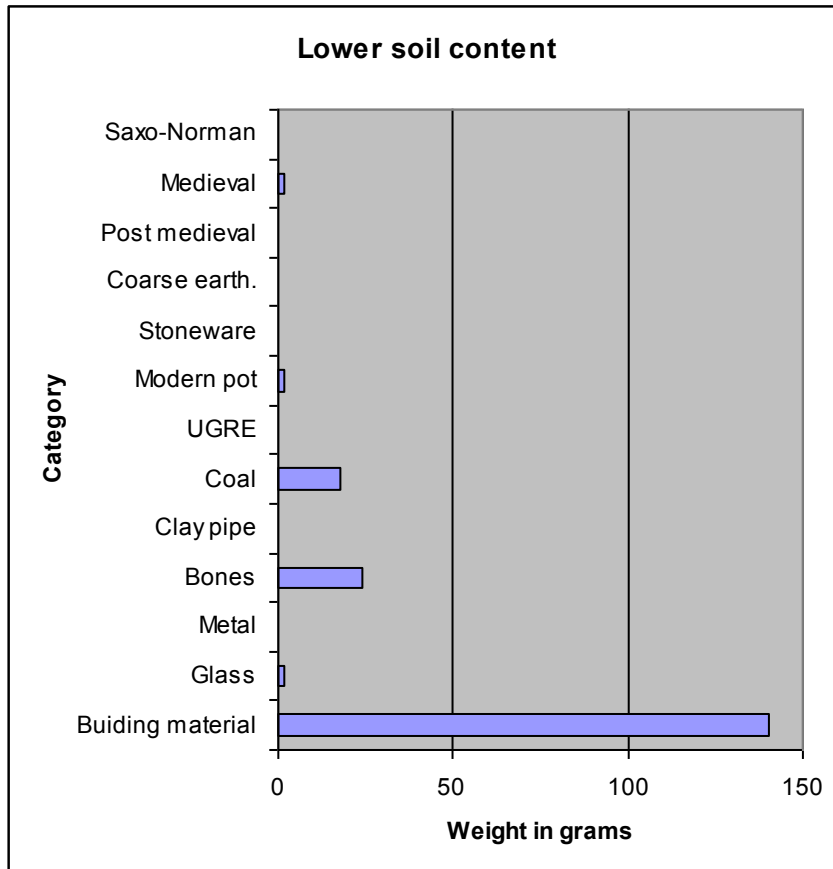
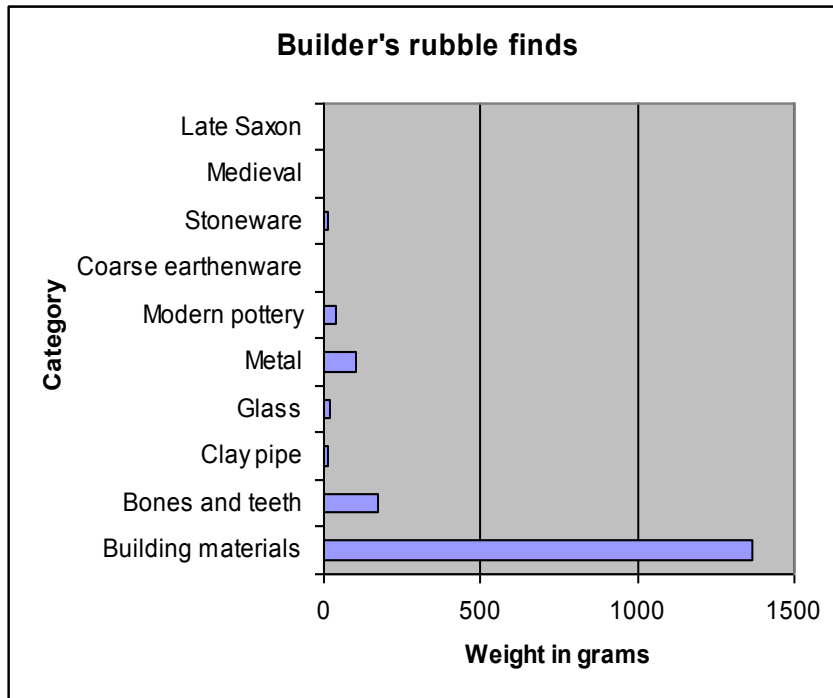
Topsoil contains a wide range of finds with building materials the most abundant in terms of weight and modern pottery in terms of number. These include brick, plaster, mortar, floor tile and slate. Coal and clay pipe stems were found at the bottom of the topsoil; the clay pipes are all 19th C, though one length of thin stem had a wide diameter hole similar to the earliest pipes and may be attributable to the 18th C.

A few pieces of glass were found in the topsoil and the upper part of the underlying builder's rubble. They include 1/16th inch window glass as well as 1/8th inch, mostly clear, but in the lower parts of the sequence they have a patina from chemical reaction between the soil and the glass. Fragments of bottle are embossed and likely to be late 19th –20th centuries. Two pieces of blue glass were among them. One piece of glass appears to have been melted in a fire. Two pieces of glass from 60-70 cm deep are clear and therefore likely to be late 19th-20th C.

Among the metal objects are screws, nails, hooks and a tent peg, clearly modern.

Among the pottery sherds are 62 modern glazed pieces. Those with identifiable forms were from cups and





plates. Of these 27% are White Ware and 23% are Transfer Print. The Transfer Printed are mostly blue and white with some Willow pattern, but there are pale blue and white and one dark grey-black piece. These are all 19th C with some early in the century and some later. The White Ware will all be 18th C. Cane-coloured Ware makes up 18% of the total. Some of the sherds have a white internal glaze and are coarse wares likely to be from a mixing bowls. These were made at Sharpe's pottery at Swadlincote from the middle of the 19th C. Of the remainder there is 'Cream Ware (1740-1850), Flow Blue (1840-1860), single sherds of Majolica, Mocha Ware and Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware. The last is squarely in the 18th C (1720-1780). The unknown sherds were diverse and quite unusual for Bingham. They amount to 16% of the total. This is a higher percentage of unidentified sherds than in any other pit. One cup sherd is fluted in the lower half and has a gold rim and a fragment of what may be a coat of arms on the side. The lettering BE—RU is visible still in the rim of an encircling feature. It has the look of a late 18th C piece but it could not be identified. Other pieces of pale blue-grey and rich blue glazed wares are too small to identify, but look like they may be 20th C.

The modern finds were collected mainly from the top soil and the top of the underlying builder's rubble, there being no distinction in assemblage across the boundary.

Two pieces, probably of plant pot, were recovered from the topsoil.

The stoneware sherds come mainly from bottles, but with some mugs, jugs and bowls. Most are Nottingham or Derbyshire fabric types, including some with the distinctive early orange fabric.

Date ranges are from 1700-1750 to 1850-1950, with about 40% being the earlier. They are mostly in the topsoil, but a few extend downwards in the upper part of the builder's rubble.

A small number of heavy pieces of coarse earthenware are mostly brown glazed (4), but with two sherds of red-bodied black glazed and 3 pink-bodied black glazed fabric types. All except one of these were from the topsoil.

There is very little earlier pottery. Four sherds of black slipware are body and rim pieces of a bowl, probably the same vessel and one sherd of Coarse Black Ware was found. These are generally attributable to the late 17th and 18th centuries. They were found at the bottom of the topsoil.

There are two small sherds of Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware fabric A dated 11th-12th C in the topsoil. And one sherd of Late Saxon Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware.

At the bottom of the topsoil a curious flint object was recovered. It is a fragment of a circular object possibly 1/5 cm in diameter and conical in shape. The broad base is black grading upwards into a nearly white apex. Its identity is not known, nor whether is it prehistoric or modern.

The builder's rubble **below the topsoil** predictably contains a large proportion of building materials. These are brick, mortar, plaster and slate. One piece of brick was 1 5/8th inch thick, but is thought to have been rubbed for a lintel, rather than being Elizabethan. The only other one that could be measured was 2 1/2 inches thick, which would make it Victorian.

Next in abundance in terms of weight are bones and teeth. Metal objects include a long iron shaft and a metal button. There is nothing distinctive about the glass other than some bits have a patina through chemical reaction with the soil. The clay pipe fragments are all 19th C. Two sherds of coarse earthenware include a red-bodied black glazed fabric type and a vitrified black-glazed coarse earthenware sherd. A single sherd of Late Saxon Lincoln shelly ware (870-1000) and a medieval sherd (1200-1300) were the only bits of old pottery found.

The **lower soil layer**, excavated to the west side of the pit and extending below the topmost level of the basal clay contains relatively little in the way of inclusions. The main element is building materials, plaster, brick and slate with some bones and teeth. Two pieces of coal were found, some glass, two pieces of modern pottery and a single sherd of Nottingham Green glaze from c1250 to 1350.

Interpretation

As in many other pits the topsoil here has been re-deposited over a layer of building rubble. It contains the usual assemblage ranging from building materials to Saxo-Norman pottery, all of which would normally be present in the topsoil. The dating of the re-deposition is not known, but it is likely to be 20th C. All of the glass in the topsoil and the upper part of the builder's rubble is 20th C or late 19th.

The layer of building rubble overlies a surface that appears to have had any natural soil scraped off it on the eastern side of the pit. A layer of ash beneath the builder's rubble indicates that there was a fire. The building rubble in all three contexts in this pit is essentially the same. The house here has undergone several periods of rebuilding or extending and it is likely that all of this material is waste generated during these activities. The ash and a piece of molten glass suggest that some of the rubbish was burned during one of these rebuilding phases.

Beneath the builder's rubble on the east side of the pit is the basal clay with a weathered top and a layer of stones, but a pit has been dug into it on the west. The pit extends down from 45 cm to 70

cm. There is only one piece of pottery in it and that is Nottingham Green Glaze, but there is some other material including large bricks just underneath the ash and just below the level of the top of the basal clay in the east side of the pit, together with mortar and plaster. These extend down to 60 cm depth. Two pieces of clear glass were found between 60 and 70 cm depth. Also there are two sherds of modern pottery above 60 cm. It is not clear whether the dark brown clay soil beneath the layer of ash on the western side of the pit is natural soil or infill to a pit dug into the basal clay. The presence of bricks, mortar, plaster, coal, clear glass and modern pottery indicate that the ground was disturbed at the time that the builder's rubble was being laid down. The single medieval sherd lies below this level of disturbance and may have a different significance in that it could be in its original depositional position.

There is little older pottery in any part of this pit, but the date range is interesting, ranging from Late Saxon to mid 14th century. The closest neighbouring pits to this one are in Foster's Lane, where four pits were dug. There, as here, there was no medieval pottery that was unequivocally after the Black Death in three of the pits. A single sherd in one pit had a date range 1350-1450. Also in these pits there were Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman sherds. In CB32 there is a gap in the assemblage represented by the absence of any sherds of pottery for the period 1350 to late 17th C.

It appears that the same story is being told in these five pits. In CB32 activity of some kind is represented by pottery from the period Late Saxon to the Black Death. After that there was a hiatus in which little use seems to have been made of the ground except possibly as pasture. Post-medieval pottery is uncommon indicating the continued use of the land as pasture or waste. It is only for the 18th and 19th centuries, the period after the house was built that there is any abundance of pottery, all of which probably is derived from domestic rubbish linked to the household.