

CB33

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

61, St MARY'S ROAD

CONTENTS

SITE HISTORY

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

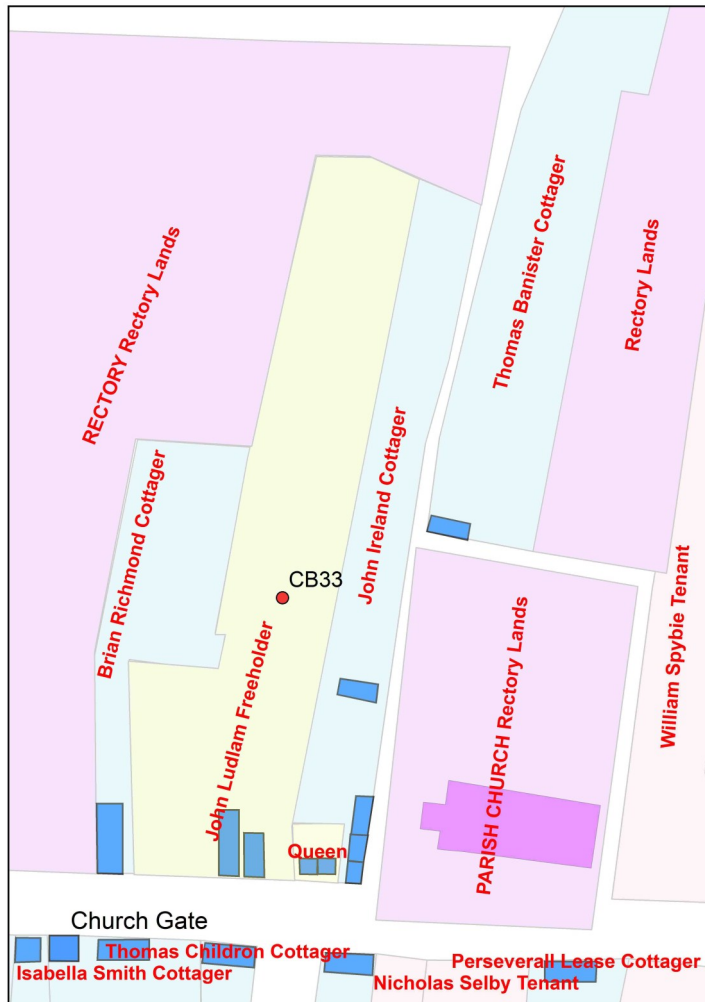
Finds

Interpretation

CB 33
61 St MARY'S ROAD

SITE HISTORY

The pit was in the garden of a bungalow built about ten years ago in what was previously the grounds of 19 Church Street. Two other bungalows share the original plot. The site has always been on the edge of Bingham village. The area to the north of the original plot, incorporating Butt Field and Parson's Hill, was glebe land until modern times.



Conjectural map for 1586

1586

The inhabitants of Bingham in the 16th century were largely divided into farming tenants of the Stapleton Estate or cottagers renting land from the estate. A small amount of the parish was in other hands as independent freeholders. In 1586 the plot of land on which CB33 stands was in the possession of John Ludlam, one of these independent freeholders. This holding was described as 2 cottages, half bovat of land and a toft in Bingham. As with other freeholders he was liable for military service, which was probably commuted to a monetary payment. He held 60 freehold strips in the four open fields totalling 67 acres. He very likely used this plot as pasture and possibly for growing vegetables. He also had two freehold tenements elsewhere in Bingham and 8 bovates of land, one of which was a newly built cottage (therefore without common) with a croft. He must have lived in one of the four tenements he seems to have owned, but we have no way of telling which one.

1700s

The deeds of 19 Church Street reveal that the whole of the plot defined by the 1586 map was sold in 1700 to John Bradshaw

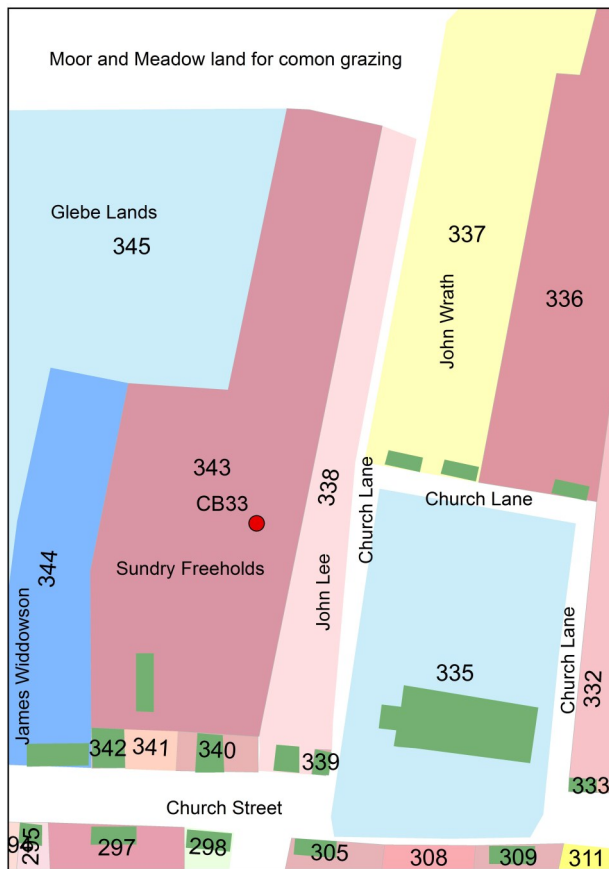
and described as:

All that cottage or tenement and croft with the garden thereto adjoining situate standing lying and being in Bingham aforesaid then late in the tenure or occupation of John Cockram, gent.

In a sale of 1751 the plot was described as:

'two messuages, two gardens, one acre of land, one acre of pasture and common pasture for all manner of cattle...'

In all cases the cottages and land were rented to tenants. The ancient boundaries survived until the bungalows were built.



1776 map from the manorial survey

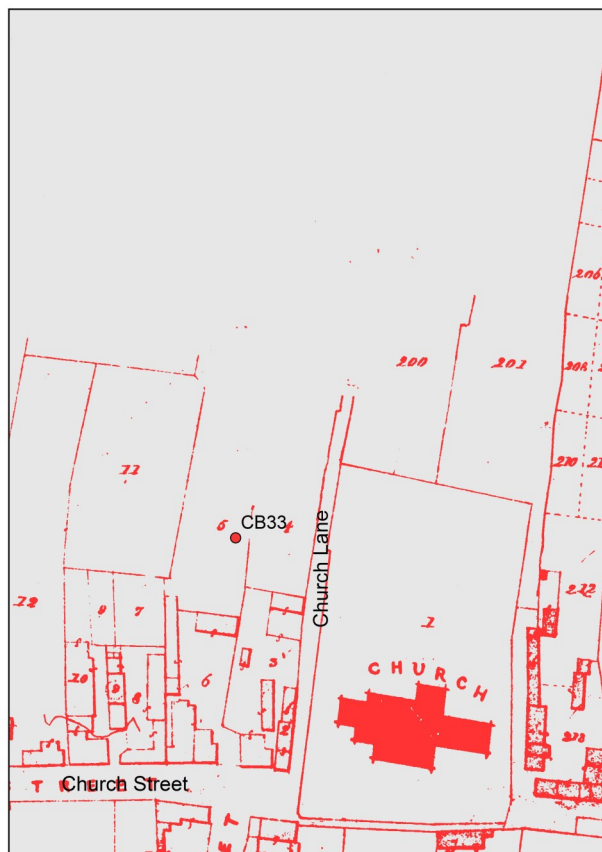
1776

In the survey of the Chesterfield Estate of 1776, freehold land holdings were not well described. The record shows only that this plot and next door were held by “Sundry Freeholders”. The houses/cottages numbered 339 to 342 had no extra land and were described in one or two cases as “house on waste”.

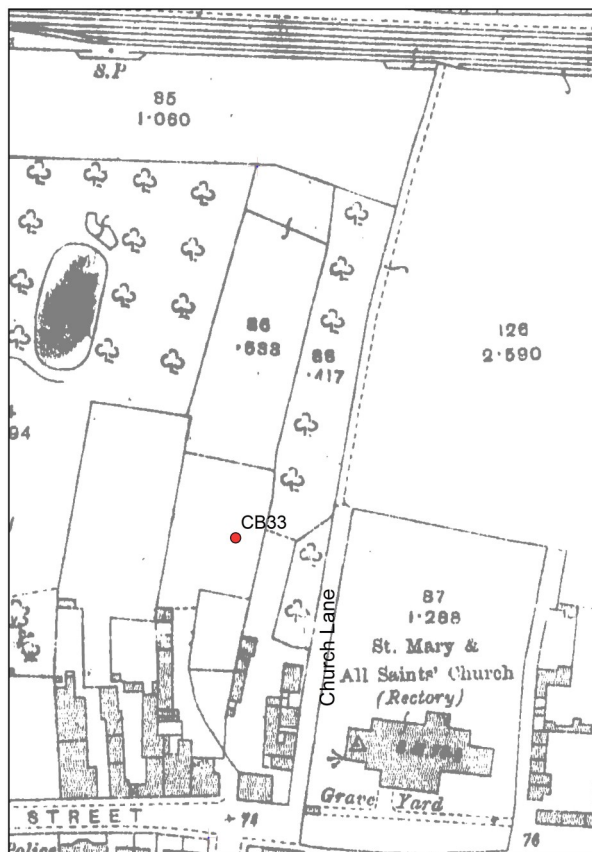
1841

On the tithe map of 1841 Pit CB33 is shown as being on plot 5 which together with plot 6 made up a long narrow plot stretching from Church Street almost to the eventual line of the railway (built in 1850), owned and occupied by James Horsepool, a well- to-do butcher. Plot 5 was described as homestead used as pasture. Plot 4 contained 2 houses, a yard, buildings and warehouse (now numbers 17 and 19 Church Street). We know from the census that James and his wife lived in number 19 and his aunt in number 17 which had only a small yard. The “warehouse” is thought to have been the slaughterhouse.

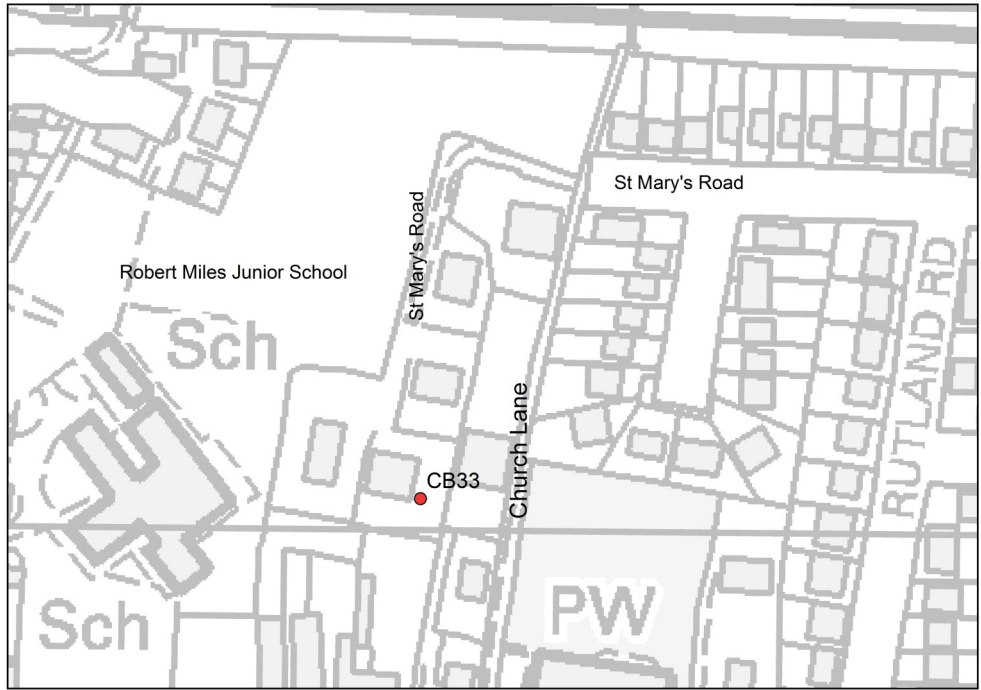
Plot 5 remained as a grass paddock, sometime



Tithe map of 1841



O.S. map of 1910



with a tennis court, until the bungalows were built. In the 1980s it was used as a lawn and a vegetable garden.

Modern map. OS Licence No 0100031673

CB33

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

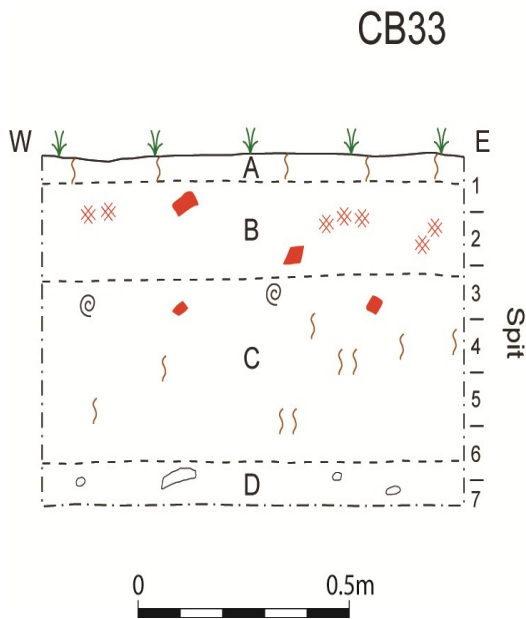
NGR	440691.340008 (mid point north edge)
Height OD (mid point north edge)	22.348 m
Dig dates	29-30 May 2013
Pit site	East side lawn of fairly modern bungalow. Possibly the site of a tennis court about 30 years ago. South of the garden with pits CB14 and 15.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 spits, all sieved. North face described and photographed. Dug to 75 cm.

CB33

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

- Top soil and turf 5 cm thick
- Made ground from 18 cm to 45 cm thick
- Soil 15 cm to 33 cm thick
- Basal clay



KEY	
	Grass
	Roots
	Stones
	Brick
	Shell
	Red clay

- A* Topsoil, sticky black clay loam with rootlets beneath turf.
- B* Made ground, a mixed layer with lumps of clay and lenses in dark brown sandy clay. Grey-green mottles in clay. Base of B at 32 cm in SE corner and at 43 cm in SW corner. A lens of pea gravel up to 4 cm thick at base in south wall. Clay mostly on east side.
- C* Soil of dark grey-brown sandy clay with reddish tinge. Plenty of roots.
- D* Reddish brown sandy clay with sandstone pebbles to 2 cm



IMG_2302 View N. At 15 cm depth. Showing the mix of clay and loam in the soil as a result of disturbance during building the house.



IMG_2316 View N at 65 cm depth. Full depth, with some not removed on the south side.

The topsoil is a thin layer beneath the turf and probably was imported with the turf when it was laid after building finished.

The layer of made ground is mixed red-brown clay lumps and lenses in dark brown sandy clay. The clay has grey-green mottles. This layer thickens to the south and there is more clay in the east of the pit. It contains coal, bits of brick, rotted oyster shells and a plastic bag at about 30 cm depth. It has clearly been re-deposited into its present location and was laid onto a very irregular



IMG_2317 View of N face at full depth



IMG_2318 East face at full depth.



IMG_2319 View of S face at full depth.

surface. There is a layer of pea gravel about 5 cm thick at 50 cm depth in the SW corner of the pit and beneath a lump of clay.

The layer of soil beneath the made ground appears at 23 cm depth in the north wall, but thins to nearly nothing in the south. It is dark grey-brown sandy clay with a reddish tinge and there are plenty of roots in it, some well rotted. There is very little pottery in this layer. It is hard and well compacted particularly near the bottom.

This soil, which is probably *in situ*, passes down into basal reddish brown sandy clay with sandstone pebbles to 2 cm in it. This is highly disturbed, contains small bits of bone with the few

pebbles and is mixed with grey-brown sandy clay, which is probably the basal, natural clay and presumed to be a glacial deposit.

Finds

The content of the made ground includes clinker, glass, metal objects and building materials. Of these there were brick, plaster, mortar and slate. The new build here does not have slate roofs, so these finds may contain debris that relates to an earlier building episode.

Only seven pieces of glass were found. These included clear window glass ranging from 3/32nd to 1/8th inch thick, aqua, flat-sided bottles, a brown bottle possibly for beer and the neck of an aqua bottle that might have been for medicine.

Bones and teeth were found at all depths to the bottom of the pit.

Four clay pipe stems are all probably late 18th to early 20th C, but one may be rather early in this period.

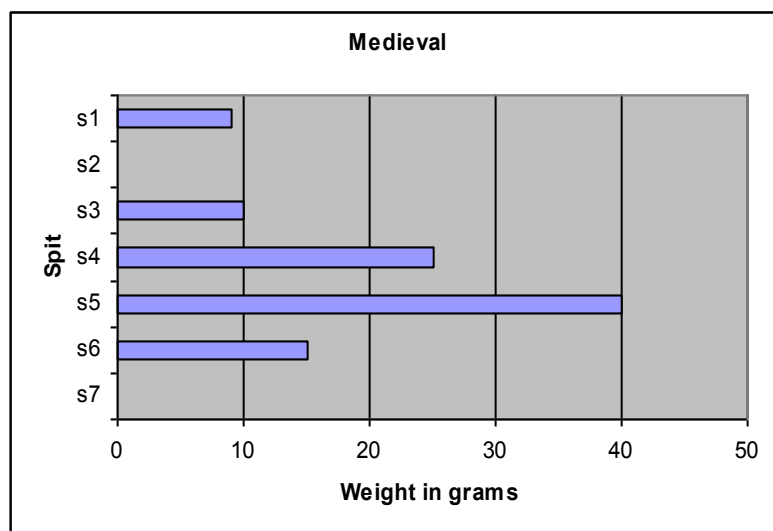
The pottery was found at all depths in both the made ground and the underlying soil. Unglazed Red Earthenware, Modern, Coarse Earthenware and stoneware were all confined to spits two and three (10 to 30 cm depth) and were entirely within the made ground. The glazed modern pottery was limited in range. There were 17 sherds of which White Ware was the most common.

Other types include Cream Ware, Flow Blue, a possible piece of Mocha Ware and a hand-painted fragment. Although the date range for these is wide and starts in the mid 18th C it is likely that the pottery mostly dates from the middle decades of the 19th C.

The single sherd of Stoneware was dated 1850-1925, while the single sherd of red-bodied coarse earthenware was probably also 19th C. One Unglazed Red Earthenware sherd is likely to be from a 19th-20th C plant pot.

Two post-medieval sherds, Slip-trailed Ware and Sandy Coarse earthenware were also confined to the made ground, while one piece of post-medieval tile was found between 30 and 40 cm. Its context was not recorded.

All the other pottery was recovered from both the made ground and the underlying soil:



A single sherd of Midland Purple Ware (1450-1550) was found.

The most numerous of all was the medieval pottery with 23 sherds. They were found from spit 1 to spit 6, but nearly all of them were from between 40-60 cm depth. There were seven ware types, but most of them were Medieval Sandy Ware (10) with a date range of 1150 to 1350 and Nottingham Splashed Ware (5) with a date range of 1100 to 1350. There was one sherd of Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze

(1300-1400). Two other sherds were of types that could not be ascribed to Nottingham. These were Medieval Green Glaze (1200-1300) and an undiagnostic Medieval Ware type (1250-1350). Two unusual sherds were classed as Splashed Ware, but not necessarily from Nottingham. They had the body typical of Stamford Ware but a splashed glaze. This type is likely to date 1250-1300.

The predominant age range for these ware types precedes the Black Death, with only the Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze possibly extending after 1350.

A single sherd of Saxo-Norman Lincoln Fine Shelled Ware (1000-1200) was recovered from 40-50 cm depth.

Five sherds of Late Saxon ware types were found. Two were Lincoln-type Shelly Ware (870-1000) and three were Torksey Ware (870-1050). Two of these seem to be from the same pot. They ranged in depths from 10-50 cm.

A single Roman sherd of Grey Ware was recovered from 60-70cm

There was a single Iron Age sherd of black, handmade pottery (40-50cm)

Interpretation

The basal, glacial clay is overlain by a weathered zone of sandy clay and pebbles containing bone and this passes up into the soil layer. There appears to be no doubt that this is an undisturbed, original part of the section. The soil, however, is very hard and compacted and it is likely that this is

the result of machine compaction during the building of the present house. The upper surface of the soil is irregular and overlain by re-deposited material, which would have been spread over this area during landscaping after the new bungalow was built. It may not have been moved far, possibly only from the site of the new house, which is around 10 metres away.

The archaeological content of this pit is richest in the re-deposited layer. All the post-medieval to modern pottery, building materials, metal objects, glass and clay pipes stems are here as well as two sherds of Late Saxon, a few bits of medieval pottery and all the post-medieval pots. However, there is also a plastic bag and at the base a layer of pea gravel probably left over from when the house was built. This site was originally part of the back garden to No 19 Church Street, sold for building in the late 1990s. The abundance of modern material here suggests that rubbish generated from No 19 Church Street had been dumped in this part of the garden. This is particularly indicated by the presence of slate. Slate has not been used on the roof of the new house, but is found on the roofs of older houses hereabouts. The older pottery sherds were likely to have been at or near the surface of the original soil profile, prior to re-deposition, like almost everywhere else in Bingham. All the modern glazed pottery is likely to be from the middle decades of the 19th C. Fragments of a tea cup make it look like this was domestic debris from that time. This assemblage is similar in some respects to the one from the pit in 19 Church Street (CB15), just to the south, though there is a clear 18th C component in Church Street. The other pit in 19 church Street (CB14) has a strong 18th C component, and minimal 19th C material.

Most of the medieval and earlier pottery occurs below 40 cm depth predominantly in the soil layer. There are single sherds of Iron Age and Roman Grey Ware pottery, three sherds of Late Saxon Torksey Ware and one of Saxo-Norman Lincoln fine Shelled Ware pottery. The Roman pot was found near the bottom of the pit between 60 – 70 cm depth, but the others are not stratigraphically arranged, which suggests that although the soil may be in its original position it has been turned, possibly by spade or plough.

Medieval sherds were the most numerous in the whole pit and all except one of them pre-date the Black Death. The exception has a date arrange that does not exclude the possibility that it was in use before the mid 14th C. The range of fabric types is wide. Most are Nottingham types, but there are some unusual pots, which may not be locally made and indicate there would have been trading links between Bingham and the outside world. Two sherds of a Stamford Ware type of pot with a splashed glaze are highly unusual and not known locally.

It is possible to conclude that there was some form of activity hereabouts from the Iron Age onwards, though there is probably not enough pottery to indicate a habitation nearby. The abundance of medieval pottery suggests it is more likely to be indicative of agricultural activity than a habitation, though this cannot be ruled so near to the church. Nottingham Splashed Ware was relatively common and could have been present at the time the church was being built (1220 onwards). Workmen would have lived hereabouts and the presence of the exotic medieval fabric types may reflect this.

Nothing younger than mid 14th C was recovered from the soil layer. The next in age is the Midland Purple Ware found in the re-deposited layer. This indicates a gap of up to a century after the Black Death in which there was no pottery and is typical of this area. It suggests a vibrant period of activity coming to an abrupt end during the Black Death and a recovery period of up to a century before the land was brought back fully into use.