

CB34

THE LIMES, No 18 MARKET PLACE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

CONTENTS

SITE HISTORY

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

 Description of pit

 Finds

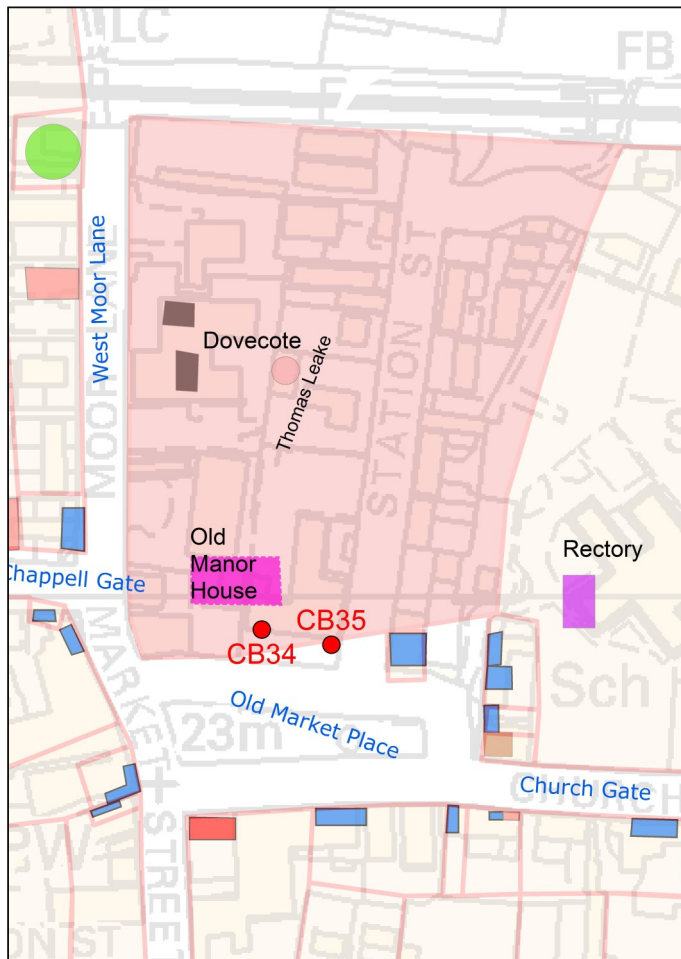
 Interpretation

CB34

THE LIMES, MARKET STREET

SITE HISTORY

This pit, CB34, together with CB01, CB01E and CB01A are on land that was in a single occupation from the 1500s until the mid-19th century. Originally the site of the medieval manor house of the de Bingham family it later became the homestead of various significant farmers. In the 1850s three plots were sold to three individuals who had large impressive houses erected on the plots – The Limes and Vernon House facing Market Place and Cromwell House in Station Street. During the late-20th century Bingham Rural District Council had its headquarters here. Pits 34 and 35 were in the gardens of the first two of these houses.



Conjectural map for 1586. The Manor House is shown schematically. We now know that it extended well beyond the limits shown in this diagram to include the land area around CB34.

Modern topography by permission of O.S. Licence No 0100031673

absentee landlord, who employed William Stapleton as his bailiff. We think William may have been related to Bryan. The parcel of land was classed as domain, or demesne, land and farmed directly on behalf of Thomas Leake, probably by his bailiff. There being no use for the Manor House it had clearly become derelict by the mid-1500s. The dovecote (only lords of the manor

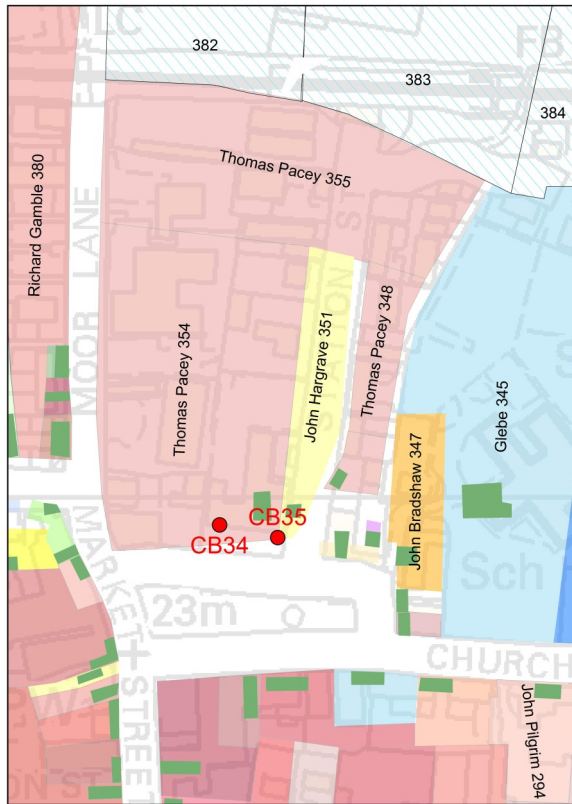
1586

Our conjectural map of Bingham is based on a text only estate survey which identified each plot and its tenant, its size, whether there was a building and its boundaries in terms of whom or what was adjacent. By and large the plots fitted the boundaries we could establish from a 1776 survey, so we are confident the plan of the town is reasonably accurate.

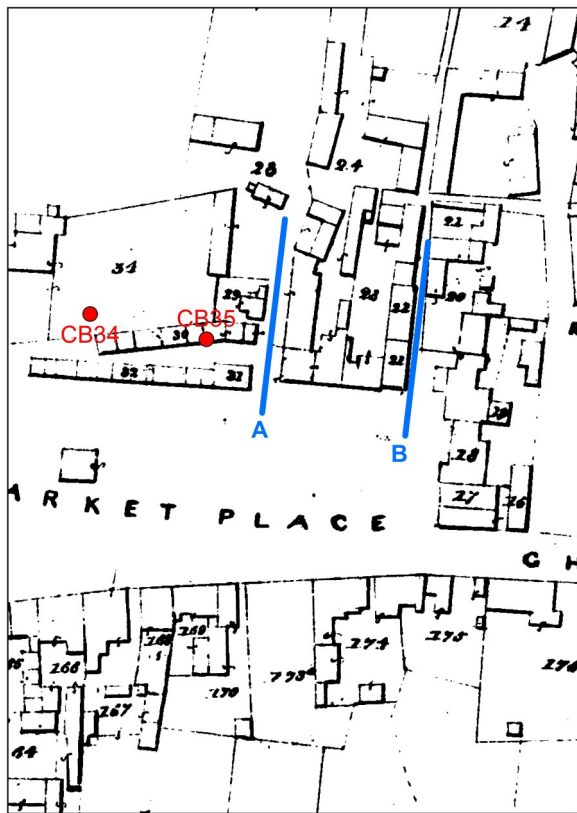
The whole area of land between what is now Moor Lane and Boot Alley (the road in front of the “new Manor House”) was a single parcel stretching from the Market Place to what is now the railway line. It was described as: “the site of the manor which is now in an exceedingly waste state and ruinous except for two barns and one dovecote”.

The old Manor House had probably been built in the second half of the 13th century by Sir Richard de Bingham who owned the estate that accounted for about 90% of Bingham. His widow, Lady Alice, and their son, were granted a charter in 1314 by King Edward II to hold a weekly market.

The Bingham estate passed by marriage to Bryan Stapleton, of Carlton in Yorkshire. Stapleton did not live in Bingham and leased the estate to Thomas Leake, also an



Map for 1776.



Map showing the two roads Chesterfield Street (A) and Boot Alley (B) superimposed on the Tithe map of 1841.

were allowed to keep doves) and the barn were still in use; the close was probably used for grazing.

Stapleton sold the estate to Sir John Stanhope in 1590. His seat was at the nearby village of Shelford, so he also would have had no use the manor house.

1776

The Stanhopes became Earls of Chesterfield and in 1776 a survey was made of all their estates in Nottinghamshire for the Earl's 21st birthday, his coming of age and inheritance. By now the four open fields of medieval times had been enclosed and the new fields allocated to various farmers. This parcel, now split into three, passed into the occupation of Thomas Pacey. He held 21 separate plots around the parish, totalling 208 acres.

Plot 348 was described as his garden, 354 as his house and homestead and 355 as his home close, probably for pasture. The house is shown coloured green on the map, but we think the surveyor placed it incorrectly and it should have been shown further west in the location of the current Beauvale House.

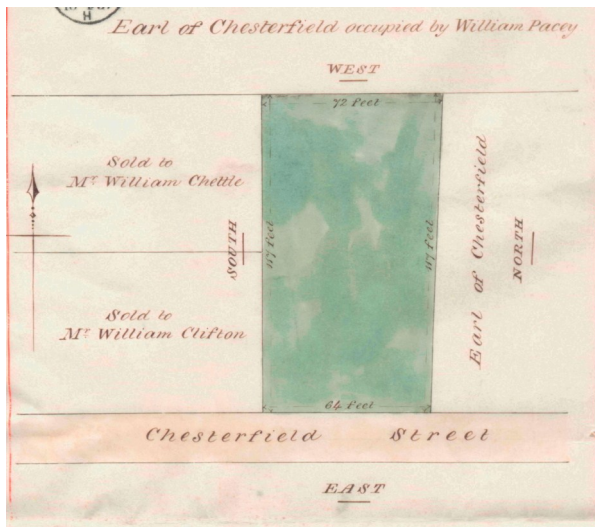
Our professional house history appraisal identified Beauvale House as being of mid-18th century build.

Plot 351 on the 1776 map, sandwiched between two of Pacey's holdings, exactly corresponds with the modern Station Street, which before 1857 was known as Chesterfield Street. It was John Hargrave's House and Garden. In 1841 it was occupied by John Harrison. There were access lanes on either side of plot 348, which presumably determined the eventual line of Chesterfield Street and what became Boot Alley, A and B respectively on the tithe map. It is not known when Hargrave's house was demolished but it was almost certainly before the railway arrived in 1851.

1841

By 1841 two lines of market stalls or shops had developed along the southern boundary of the plot. Many of them were butchers' premises and the area was therefore known as "The Shambles". As we do not know when these were developed we have used their northern boundary to determine the boundaries we used for 1586 and 1776.

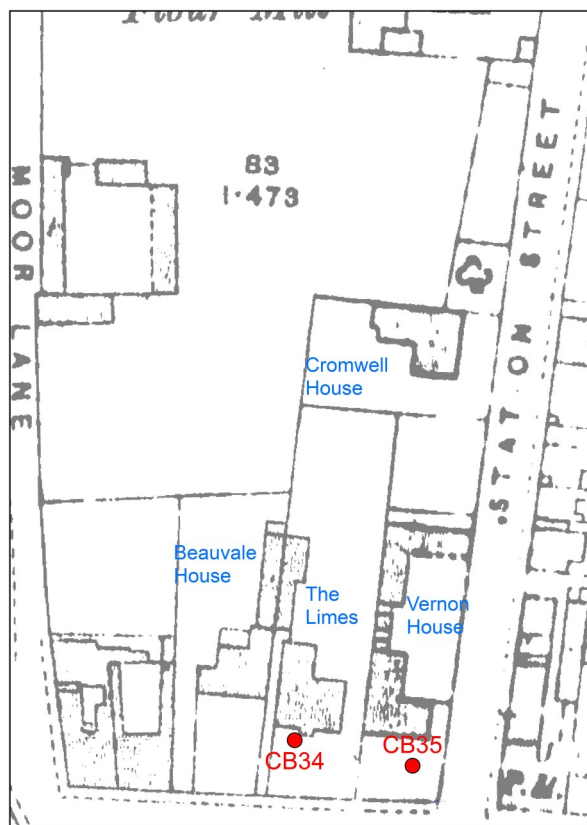
The house at plot 29 was occupied by John Harrison and lies outside our area of interest. Plot 34, part of the former 354, was occupied by William Pacey as a house and garden. Plot 33, also part of 354,



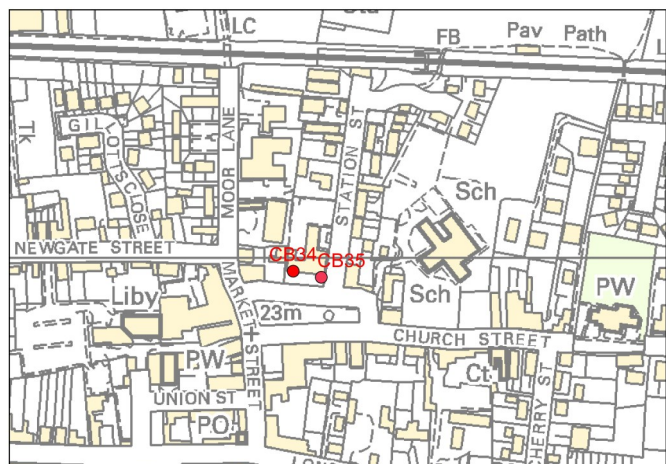
Plan A: North to the right. Dated 1857 this shows how the land was divided up and sold for development. The Limes was built on the piece sold to Mr Chettle. Vernon House was built on William Clifton's land. Chesterfield Street is now Station Street.

had evidently been separated and leased for a new house and shop to Elizabeth Brown, whose occupation was given in the census as “potter”, almost certainly denoting a pottery retailer. This was replaced in about 1851 by the present “chequer brick patterned” block including Picture Café.

The 1851 census has William Pacey as a farmer here with 220 acres, a shade more than in 1776, and employing four labourers. By 1861 his son, also William, had taken over the 200 acres, employing 5 men and 3 boys. In 1857 three parcels of land were separated from plot 34 and sold. Plan A shows that what is now number 18 Market place was built By William Chettle, as “The Limes” and number 18a by William Clifton, as “Vernon House”. Clifton was a master builder and Chettle a seed cake merchant. The 1910 map shows outbuildings to Vernon House that are no longer present. Perhaps this was Clifton's work yard. In 1871 Clifton was listed as a timber



O.S. map for 1910



Modern map based on O.S. maps showing the two houses, The Limes and Vernon House having been joined together.

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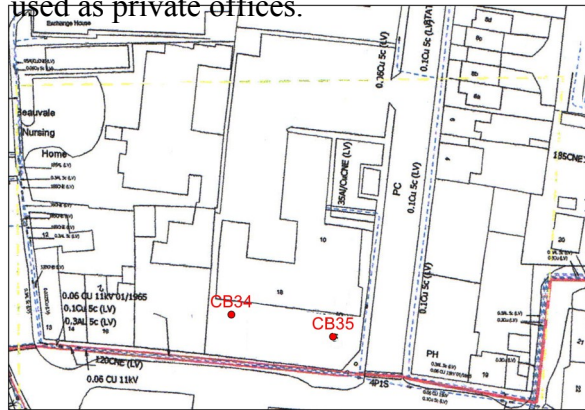
merchant.

Neither family was in occupation after that and the census returns do not help identify their successors as the order of entries is not necessarily the sequence on the ground.

20th century

The 1910 map shows all three “new houses”. From 1893 until at least 1918 a Lace Manufacturer named James Adcock lived at Vernon House. He was succeeded by 1922 by Mr William Topham, a private resident. The trades' directory for 1893 lists Henry Owen Westwood, MD, at The Limes but subsequent editions had him in Church Street. From 1922 until 1942 George Brown JP lived

there. The two houses were joined in about 1957 and later became the offices of Bingham Rural District Council until the formation of Rushcliffe Borough in 1974, since when they have been used as private offices.



*Modern map showing the two houses joined as one.
By permission of Western Power*

CB34

THE LIMES, MARKET STREET

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

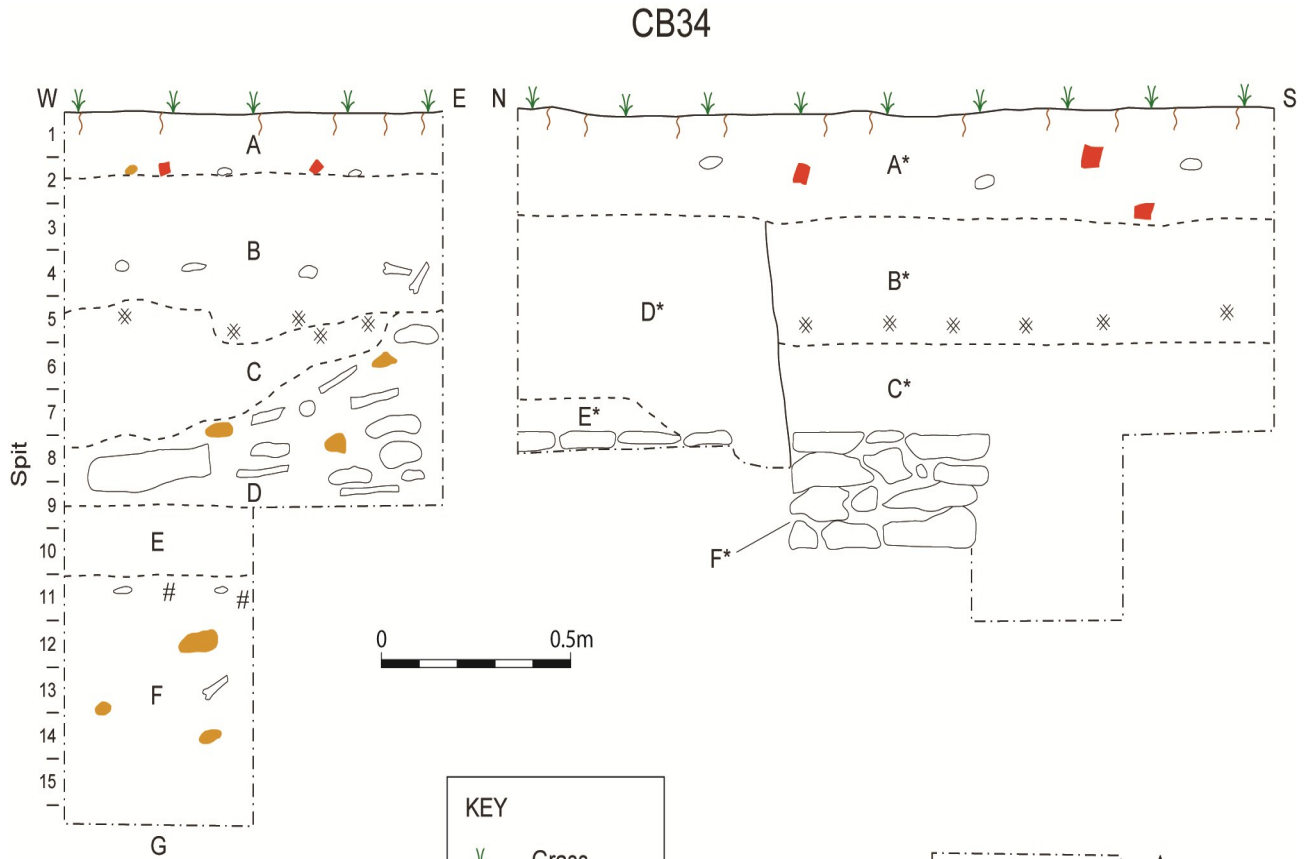
NGR	470481. 339989
Height OD	Not measured; close to CB01E c25.426 m [error .062 m]
Dig dates	13 – 20 th June 2014
Pit site	Narrow lawn in the front garden of the western side of Vernon House. Surface slopes to the south so that the edge of the pit is about 10 cm higher along the north than along the south. The house was rented by British Canoe Union at the time of the dig.
Pit protocol	<p>1 metre test pit started. Then it was extended 50 cm to the north (CB34N) and 30 cm to the south (CB34S). The western half of the pit was extended downwards below the “concrete” floor encountered at c80cm. It was bottomed at 160 cm. A 50 cm wide slot was then dug from the western side of the southern margin for 2 metres. Sieving was done at 10 cm spits in the test pit and at various intervals in the extensions.</p> <p>In CB34S finds from spits 1-3 were bagged as one. The soil below this was sieved in 10 cm spits.</p> <p>In CB34N also the finds in spits 1-3 were bagged as one. Below this the soil was sieved in 10 cm spits.</p>
Southern extension	<p>An extension was dug from the western side of the southern side of the pit. It was 50 cm wide and dug for 1 metre initially. The soil was removed to 40 cm and bagged as one. The top 23 cm formed a layer that extended over the whole of the extension and correlates with the topsoil context A measured in the north face of CB34. At 40 cm depth three sections were evident in plan, called CB34 A, B and C in the field, but logged as i, ii and iii on the plan drawing</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">CB34A was closest to the main pit. CB34A is dark brown sandy loam CB34B is loam with cobbles, tile pieces, skerry, mortar etc CB34C is orange-brown clay soil.</p> <p>CB34A and B were segments up to the inside edge of the wall. CB34C was over about 20cm width of the wall. Eventually the dig showed that there was a vertical boundary between CB34B and CB34 C. Each of these was bagged in spits.</p> <p>The stones and other inclusions in CB34B were not significant and there was no reason after digging to distinguish between A and B, except that a cat skeleton was removed from B. Both were removed</p>

down to the floor level, but the floor was degraded to the south and stopped near the boundary between A and B.

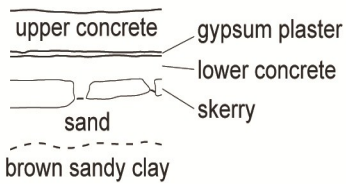
CB34C, however, was a mix of clay, loam, skerry, charcoal, coal, clay pipe stem, pottery and Welsh slate. This was measured down to 50 cm depth. Beneath it down to 68 cm is orange-brown sandy clay, which overlies a stone wall. About 20 cm of the wall thickness was evident. Its full thickness was not evident from this dig. The concrete had degraded and was not seen closer than c15 cm from the northern edge of the wall. The boundary between the dark brown sandy loam and the orange-brown clay is vertical and coincides with the northern edge of the wall.

An additional 1 metre to the south was added to the extension to find the thickness of the wall feature. This was removed down to the wall in one go and was not sieved or sampled. The wall is 20 inches (51cm) thick and trends 080 degrees (true N). This is not parallel to the present frontage of the buildings here, nor at right angles to the east wall of Beauvale House. The wall is 25 cm high and consists of three courses. It rests on orange-brown clay soil, which also abuts it on the south. All the stones examined are medium grained sandstone. The binding material is sandy mortar, which also forms an infill in the centre. It is well made. The top surface of the wall is 7.5 cm below the level of the concrete surface. On the southern side of the wall is mainly sandy clay with very little extraneous material in it. It was dug to c110 cm depth and bagged as D. There is no evidence of any man-made surface on the southern side of the wall.

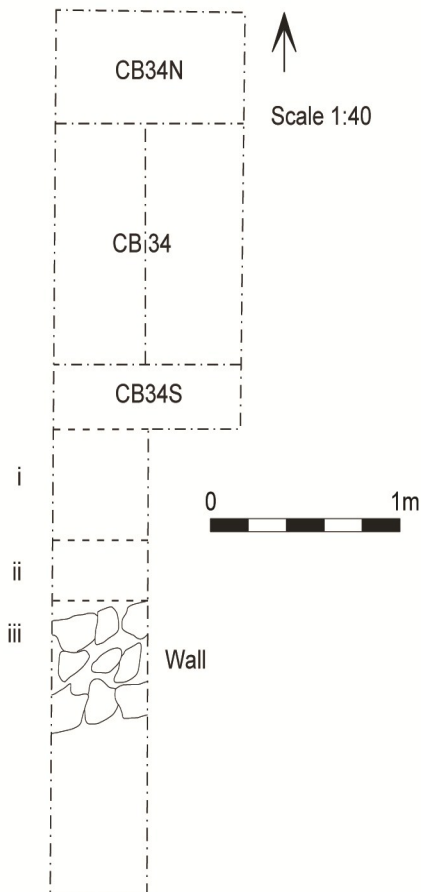
CB34 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS



Concrete floor section
Scale 1:5



KEY	
	Grass
	Rootlets
	Stones
	Stone slates
	Sandstone
	Brick
	Bone
	Coal
	Charcoal



Top left is the north face after the 50 cm extension (CB34N) was dug.

Top right is the 50 cm wide extension on the eastern side dug south from CB34S.

Bottom right shows the plan of the whole pit and how it was labelled for recording the finds in the database. The fill was removed in three sections shown as i, ii and iii.

Bottom left is a section through the 'concrete' floor.

KEY TO DRAWING ON TOP LEFT ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

- A* Topsoil of dark brown sandy loam with turf and rootlets.
B Dark brown sandy loam with a layer of 1-2 cm stones and brick pieces, red clay, dressed sandstone and bones at interface with the topsoil. At 40 cm depth a dog skeleton. Very stony at this level.
C Grey silty loam with very irregular upper surface with charcoal and ash.
D Rubble layer with irregular top rising to the NE. Skerry, sandstone, limestone slates with holes, lumps gypsum plaster, much skerry one dressed and measures 31 x 18 x 9 cm. Rest much smaller
E Gypsum plaster and lime floor (for details see drawing).
F Medium brown sandy clay with some cobbles of sandstone to 10 cm. Coal near top.
G Medium sandstone, uneven top. Red clay layer on sandstone, 18 cm max. thickness.

KEY TO DRAWING ON TOP RIGHT ON PREVIOUS PAGE

- A'* Dark brown sandy loam with roots and rootlets, brick pieces and stones.
B' Brown sandy clay with lumps red clay, pebbles, bone, roots, coal. Charcoal layer at base.
C' Orange-brown sandy clay with pebbles to 1 cm.
D' Dark brown sandy loam with rubble near base. Rubble thickens to the E.
E' Gypsum plaster and lime floor.
F' Stone wall with mortar

Description of pit

This pit is on the site of the old manor house. The sequence above the floor of the old manor house is essentially disturbed ground either deposited by hand or through accumulation during centuries of neglect.

Inside the building:

Topsoil to 15 cm
Disturbed layer to 43 – 72 cm depth
Rubble to 85 cm
Gypsum plaster and lime floor to 100 cm
Original soil to 154 cm depth
Sandstone

Outside the building:

Topsoil to 12 cm
Disturbed layer to 53 cm depth
Sandy clay to 110 cm

Stone wall

Inside the building

The topsoil is dark brown sandy loam with rootlets from the turf, roots from nearby trees, stones and small pieces of brick. At 15cm a layer of small skerry pebbles, pieces of brick, red clay and sandstone marks base of the topsoil.

Beneath the topsoil there are two contexts. The soil in the upper context is a dark brown sandy loam with 1-2 cm stones, very like topsoil and may be an older soil profile. At about 40 cm the skull and other bones from either one or two dogs were found. The bones were removed and kept together. There was a stony layer at this level. The base of this layer is highly irregular. It is marked in the main pit by a layer of charcoal. Beneath this in the main pit is grey silty loam, which is somewhat ashy and contains some charcoal. This context is not visible in the southern

extension of the pit, where the dark brown sandy loam continues down to the level of the plaster and lime floor.

In the main pit there is a layer of rubble with a highly irregular top. It has a maximum thickness in the NE corner of the pit of about 50 cm and thins to the west and to a lesser extent to the south. It consists mainly of skerry, sandstone, limestone roofing tiles, large pieces of gypsum plaster and large pieces of pottery.

The plaster and lime floor comes in at around 85 cm depth and is 15 cm thick. The upper surface shows signs of serious degradation. It is horizontal, but not perfectly level. The sequence through the limestone is:

Skim of white gypsum plaster	
Upper plaster and lime	45 mm thick
Skim of white gypsum plaster	
Lower plaster and lime	25 mm thick
Layer of skerry stones	
Sand	45-50 mm thick

The upper floor layer is a very hard material that consists of an aggregate of large pieces (up to 2 cm) of charcoal, gypsum of various types, burned limestone, shale, sandstone, one piece of slag set in a fine-grained matrix of gypsum plaster and quicklime. The ratio plaster to lime is about 80:20. The lower floor layer is a crumbly material with small pieces of white gypsum (mostly less than 5mm) and smaller charcoal with red shale. It is highly porous and does not evidently fizz with dilute hydrochloric acid. This suggests that the amount of lime in the mix is very small.

Beneath the concrete is brown sandy clay with some stones to 10 cm, coal near the top.

This overlies well-jointed, medium-grained sandstone. There is a layer of red clay up to 18cm thick on the sandstone in the SW corner, but it thins to nothing to the north. There is a possibility of patches of it elsewhere. This might be the remains of the glacial till, but the sandstone under it is almost certainly Triassic Hollygate Sandstone, the local bedrock.

Outside the building

The topsoil continues southwards over the boundary wall of the manor house, but thickens to the south to around 23 cm.

However the sequence beneath it is different. The dark brown sandy loam ends at a vertical boundary coincident with the inside of the stone boundary wall. On the south side of the boundary wall are two contexts:

Brown sandy clay with lumps of red clay, bone, stones, charcoal, clay pipe stems, Welsh slate, pottery, roots and coal. There is a layer of charcoal at the bottom of it at about 53 cm. The charcoal layer does not pass through the vertical boundary to the north, but it is at the same level as a similar layer beneath the upper context of the disturbed layer. This context, however, does seem to abut the dark brown sandy loam to the north.

Underneath this is orange-brown sandy clay with pebbles to 1 cm down to the bottom of the pit at 110 cm. This level is deeper than the base of the stone boundary wall and was not dug further. This context extends underneath the boundary wall.

Stone wall

The wall is well made, 20 inches (51cm) thick and trends 080 degrees (true N), which is not parallel to the present frontage of the buildings here, nor at right angles to the east wall of Beauvale

House. The wall is 25 cm high and consists of three courses. All the stones examined are medium grained sandstone. The binding material is sandy lime mortar, which also forms an infill in the centre. The top surface of the wall is 7.5 cm below the level of the plaster and lime surface.



CB34 at 50 cm. Looking north. Grey patches are “ashy” context C.



Looking north. Dog skeleton revealed at between 30 and 40 cm depth.



CB34 looking N. Rubble revealed at 70 cm, with skerry building stones.



CB34 at 85 cm looking North. Plaster and lime floor, degraded in all directions. Stone foundation layer seen on the left with concrete filling in the interstices.



CB34 looking north. The slot on the left of the pit was dug to sandstone basal feature at c 154 cm. This is believed to be the natural level.



CB34 looking south. The full excavation showing the plaster and lime floor extending to the stone wall feature in the extension. The slot is filled in and is coloured dark grey on right. In the top left of the main pit the basal sand is revealed. The Midland Yellow Ware pot was found here.



CB34 looking south. Face in the slot showing the sandy layer beneath the 'concrete' at the top. Sandy clay beneath this and the red clay at the bottom. The red clay forms a thinning layer and is not seen on the north side. It is possibly Anglian till.



CB34. Close up of the plaster and lime floor showing the upper and lower layers, the stones beneath the lower layer and the sand under the stones.



CB34 looking north. Two plaster and lime layers and the underlying stone layer removed to show the basal sand layer.



CB34 southern extension looking east. 'Plaster and lime showing on the left. On the right the soil has been removed down to the stone wall feature. The central area left has plentiful stones and brick. These are the sections A, B and C from left to right.



CB34 looking south. The stone wall feature is 20 inches wide and fixed with mortar. The excavation here is 50cm wide.



CB34 View of the stone wall feature from the south. It is 25 cm high and rests on sandy clay. Three courses are evident.

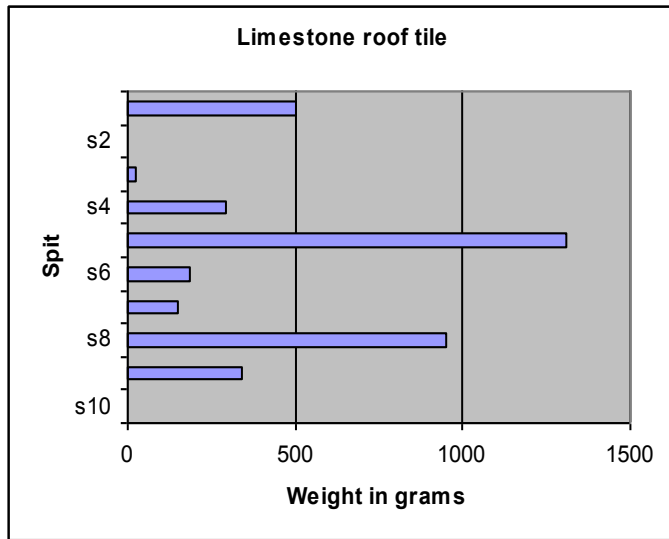
Finds

Building materials were found at all depths, but most were within the pile of building rubble that lay on the plaster and lime floor. Among the material found in all parts of the test pit are limestone roofing slate, most with 1/4 inch nail holes in them, building stone, brick, mortar, white plaster, plaster and lime, “brown plaster”, red clay roofing tile, red clay floor tile, glazed floor tile, glazed roof tile, brick and Welsh slate.

Small pieces of brick and the Welsh slate are all found only above 50 cm in the brown sandy clay context. Other finds in the upper 50 cm include the red clay floor and roof tiles and a single piece of “lime plaster”, but these also appear within the rubble pile and may have been recycled into the upper layer.

Within the pile of rubble red clay tiles are fairly abundant. Slightly curved roofing tiles with a sandy upper surface and smooth, striated underside were common, while there were flat red clay tiles with one sandy side and a smooth ridged other side that may have been roofing or floor tiles. Two red clay tiles, 300 mm thick with a remnant yellow glaze on one surface and found between 70 and 80 cm down are clearly medieval. Another piece of red clay ceramic with a well worked body similar to tile, but of unknown thickness has a sandy upper surface with a patch of glaze on it. It is tempting to interpret this as a partially glazed roof tile.

The material categorised as “brown plaster” was found within the rubble pile. It is thin and shaped sometime into curved shapes or cups. The material fizzes with dilute hydrochloric acid and is clearly lime based with a sandy infill. Most pieces are smoke blackened. It could be a lime-based plaster used to line a fireplace where it would have been smeared on a stone wall. Otherwise it is difficult to identify. A lot of the rubble consisted of lumps of white gypsum plaster. Some of these lumps were up to 15cm diameter. Although most of the pieces had one irregular, possibly eroded surface, the other showed that it had been impressed onto a stone wall. Several pieces of lime mortar were recovered. Some appeared to have been used to cement either brick or stones, but some also showed the impression of reeds on one side suggesting that it had been used as a plaster on a wall. Some pieces were also painted white. By far the most abundantly collected material was limestone roofing slate. Most pieces had a hole in it. The hole was not consistently the same size, but was more or less ¼ inch diameter. The limestone has been identified as coming from a quarry in Barnstone and is Liassic in age. It was quarried in the 19th C for paving stones, called ‘urrs’ in the vernacular.



While most of these materials were present in the rubble lying on the concrete floor small pieces of mortar and white plaster were collected from beneath the floor, though it is not certain if it was not contamination.

49 fragments of glass were collected, half of them in the southern extension of the pit. About one third of the total were fragments of window glass, mostly 1/16th or 3/32nd inch thick and with a varying patina, both in colour and intensity. It is impossible to date this type of glass. Several of the other fragments were of dark green, nearly black wine

bottle, which could be anything from 17th to 19th C in age. Two most unusual collections of pieces were characterised by an embossed teardrop pattern in green glass. One set belonged to the punted base of a bottle, some 5 cm diameter. The other set belonged to a drinking glass, some 7 cm in diameter with an embossed teardrop pattern that was rather finer than in the other. These were found in the pile of debris deposited on the "concrete" floor, associated with 17th and 18th C pottery. Apart from several pieces of a very fine, small, clear glass bottle found in the subsoil there was one other clear glass fragment from a large bottle collected from the topsoil. Also in the topsoil there were fragments of clean, green window glass, 1/6th inch thick.

Only one complete clay pipe bowl was recovered and three bowl fragments. The rest were stems and about half are dated 1650 to 1750. These ranged from thick, typical early stems, to quite thin ones with wide diameter holes. There was no stratigraphical arrangement with depth. In the main pit CB34 the highest density of the younger stems was below the spit with the highest density of older stems and both were present at all levels.

Five sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware were found in the top 20 cm and they were all from plant pots.

Other Modern earthenware is found mainly in the top 40 cm with none below 80 cm inside the building. Most are long-ranged fabric types with a predominance of Cream Ware (late 128th to 19th C) and White Ware (mid 19th to present). Two fabric types that can be more closely dated are Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware (1720-1780) and Wheildon-type of ware (1740-1760). Some unusual types, such as Cream-bodied Pale Grey Earthenware (1775-1825) and Pale Blue plus Blue Earthenware (1700-1800) are similar to fabric types found in the Robert Miles School digs.

Finds located in the rubble are only Transfer-printed Blue and White, which is an early 19th to 20th C fabric and Cream Ware and Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware. The white stoneware was made between 1720-1780, while the Cream Ware dates from 1775 to 1900. The Transfer-printed Ware type was only found at this level.

Only two sherds were found outside the building. These are an unknown, burnt fabric type that is unidentifiable and a sherd of a blue and white Transfer-printed ware from between 70 and 90 cm depth.

Coarse earthenware was common, but the assemblages in the top 50 cm and below are quite different. In the top 50 cm were found Red-bodied CE, Brown CE and Brown slip-coated CE, Vitriified

CE and Pink-bodied CE. In the lower part, particularly in the rubble were only three varieties. These were Pink-bodied, Vitrified and Brown Glazed Slip-coated CE. These are all early types, dating from c1675 to 1800 or so, though so little research has been done on the date ranges that there is no certainty about this. Where they can be deduced the forms were pancheons for the pink-bodied and brown-glazed CE and butterpots for the Vitrified CE. Several sherds of Vitrified Black-glazed CE found above the assembly of large pieces of Midland Yellow Ware were likely to be from the same pot.

The assemblage of post-medieval pottery in the upper 50 cm is broad and includes Cistercian Ware, Staffordshire Slipware, Coarse Black Ware, Midland Black Ware, Midland Yellow Ware, a late version of Midland Purple Ware, Sandy Coarse Earthenware and Mottled Ware. One sherd of Midland Yellow Ware was from a greenish-yellow, hard fired vessel 22cm in diameter and with vertical sides. It was glazed on both sides.

In the rubble the most impressive set of finds is a selection of large Midland Yellow Ware (1575-1700) sherds that fit together and make about 40% of a pancheon. Most of the 108 cm diameter rim was recovered with only about 10% not present. The sherds lay in a pile on the degraded concrete floor. Other finds were rather less common and include Mottled Ware (1675-1750), Coarse Black War (1550-1800) and Sandy Coarse Earthenware (1500-1650). The forms represented include pancheons, jugs and bowls.

Medieval pottery was found both above and below the concrete floor.

Sherds of a Midland Purple Ware jar (1400-1600) and a possible Stannion/ Liveden jug (1150-1450) were found in the topsoil. More significant than these are sherds of a sooty Nottingham Glazed Ware Variant jar or bowl (1200-1400) and a Medieval Local Fabric jar or bowl with a glaze inside and sooted (1200-1500) between 70 and 80 cm depth. These were collected low in the rubble layer just north of the boundary wall.

Other medieval sherds were found beneath the plaster and lime floor between 90 and 110 cm depth. These include a Medieval Local Fabrics jug (1200-1300), Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze jug (1220-1320) and a hand-made, sooty, early Medieval Local Fabric jar (1100-1400).

Between 120 and 150 cm depth, beneath the layer containing medieval finds, were several sherds of Late Saxon pottery. These include a Lincoln Shelly Ware jar dated 1100-1400 and three sherds of an earlier Lincoln Shelly Ware jar (875-1000). There were also two sherds of Lincoln Kiln-type Shelly Ware ((875-1000).

A single sherd of a Middle Saxon Non-local Fabric jar (650-870) was recovered from 140-150 cm depth. This was a hand made pot with a specific type of inclusion. Pottery that can be attributed to this age is especially uncommon in Bingham.

An Early Saxon Local Ware sherd (450-650) was found between 130-140 cm depth. This was also hand made and was sooty inside.

A single, small sherd of Roman Grey Ware was found between 140-150 cm depth. It was eroded and could not be precisely dated.

Interpretation

Topsoil

The topsoil, which is about 15 cm thick is separated from the underlying material by a layer of small stones mainly skerry and sandstone, brick and lumps of red-brown clay. Among the pottery

sherds in it were fragments of clear glass and clean, thin green window glass, possibly from leaded windows. There was also medieval and post medieval pottery. However, there is also a wide range of coarse earthenware fabric types, stoneware and late 18th to 20th modern, including the Un-glazed Red Earthenware plant pots. One piece of mortar has white paint on one side. This is clearly a fairly recent feature probably the result of landscaping after the two main buildings were joined in 1957 or soon after.

Mid 19th C level

Beneath the topsoil is a soil layer to about 50 cm that contains an overall assemblage that is different from the builder's rubble below it. It contains a wide range of modern fabric types, most of which are firmly in the 18th and 19th centuries. The coarse earthenware includes all the red-bodied variety and examples of brown-glazed, brown slip-coated, vitrified, pink-bodied and Sandy Coarse Earthenware. These are all the varieties that have been found in this pit. Among the post-medieval pottery are Midland Black Ware, Midland Yellow Ware, Mottled Ware, Coarse Black Ware and Cistercian Ware. It is clear that there is a wide date range from 1550 to 19th C transfer printed ware types. This does not enable the deposit to be dated, because this sort of assemblage is common at surface in all parts of the parish. However, it is likely that this layer is, like the upper one, the result of landscaping at the time the houses here were built, but in this case from an earlier period in the mid 19th C. The layer has not lain undisturbed. At the eastern side of the pit between 30 and 40 cm depth the bones of possibly two dogs were recovered, clearly buried here.

The base of this layer is very irregular and overlies around 40 cm of builder's rubble on the eastern side of the pit and a grey silty loam on the west. The rubble slopes to the west and is only a few cm thick in the western wall. There is a layer of charcoal near the top of the grey, silty loam and the grey coloration is possibly a result of coal ash. Large pieces of mortar were recovered from here and a pile of stones at about 60 cm depth. This grey silty loam is likely to be a part of the landscaping that followed the erection of the buildings here, but the rubble beneath it is older (see below)

Manor house debris

The rubble is laid on an eroded and degraded surface made of gypsum plaster and lime. It consists of a range of materials used for building. Most of the rubble is skerry including a piece measuring 31 x 18 x 9 cm that seems to be dressed. Most are smaller and irregular in shape. There are a few of medium-grained sandstone. Limestone roofing slate with holes for fixing are also common. There is no brick, but there are red clay roofing tiles, some of which are sandy and distinctly different from the more common type. There are also some red clay tiles 12-15 mm thick and hard to distinguish from the roofing tiles except that they are flat. There are a few fragments of 3 cm-thick red clay, glazed, medieval floor tiles.

Mortar was recorded as used on the segment of the outside wall that was uncovered, suggesting that the mortar in the rubble may have been used in the stone manor house walls. There was one piece, however, that had reed impressions on the back and was flat on the other side. This seems to imply that it was used either for an upper storey floor or as an internal wall covering. A floor is more likely because large amounts of white gypsum plaster were recovered that had clearly been used for wall covering. Though one side was irregular and probably eroded by water while in the ground, the other side showed clear impressions of stonework as though it has been pressed against the stone wall. Plentiful, rather fragile and thin pieces of smoke-blackened lime mortar seem to have come from a fireplace.

It is considered that this rubble results from the demolition of the original manor house. Indications are that it was stone built and roofed with limestone slates and red clay tiles. It is unclear if the red clay tiles were flat or curved pan tiles; curved tiles were recorded but they may well have

been meant to be flat. Red clay roofing tiles were used in England from the 12th C and became standardised in size at half an inch (13 mm) in 1477. Some individual tiles recovered from the rubble were irregular in thickness varying in a single tile from 15 to 22 mm thick. This thickness range is typical for the whole assemblage and suggests that the tiles were made before 1477. One curved, red clay tile, found in the topsoil, had the remnants of a brown glaze on it. It was associated with fragments of red clay tile 17-18 mm thick, which is consistent with the thickness of the older roof tiles found here.

Some of the red clay tiles are thought to have been floor tiles, but there is some uncertainty about this. What is certain is that the small number of 3 cm-thick red clay tiles with a remnant glaze on one side and a slightly inclined side, were floor tiles. The type of glaze and the thickness are good indications of a medieval age.

The most difficult material to interpret is the thin, fragile lime mortar. It is sandy, but fizzes vigorously with dilute hydrochloric acid suggesting it is lime mortar. Many of the pieces are flat on one side, but cup shaped. The internal surface has impressions of pebbles in it. The flat side is blackened as though by smoke. It is thought that this material was a lining smeared onto stonework in the back of a fireplace.

Ceramic material included in the rubble dates mostly from the post-medieval period. At the top are sherds of Staffordshire Slipware and Cistercian Ware, with widely contrasting age ranges. Just below are sherds of Midland Black Ware, Coarse Black Ware, Mottled Ware and Midland Purple Ware, again with a wide date range. Below these are several large sherds of Midland Yellow Ware. Most fit together to make a pancheon with a rim circumference of c108 cm. Only one short length is missing. These pieces were all piled on top of each other as though dumped at the same time. Midland Yellow Ware was being made hereabouts from around 1575.

The only glass recovered from this rubble was the teardrop patterned drinking glass and bottle base. This is a highly unusual type and has not been identified and dated. At this same level in the pit extension to the south there is window glass and dark green, almost black wine bottle glass similar to that used in the onion bottles common in the 17th to the end of the 18th centuries.

Two medieval sherds found right at the bottom of the pile of rubble on the concrete floor. One is a Nottingham Glazed Ware Variant ranging from 1200 to 1400 in date range. The other piece is from a Medieval Local Ware vessel with a date range of 1200-1500. There are not enough of these to make a case for the date of the floor, but their date range is consistent with the floor having been laid before c1400. Most of the rubble, however, was dumped around the end of the 16th C when the manor house was known to be a ruin.

Plaster and lime floor

The rubble has been tipped onto a floor initially described as concrete, but now known to be a gypsum plaster and lime mix made roughly in the ratio 8 plaster to 2 lime. The floor at the time the rubbish was tipped on it was severely degraded and there was little of it left immediately underneath where the Midland Yellow Ware pancheon was found. The upper surface was 75 mm above the top of the remaining course of stones in the boundary wall to the manor house and did not quite reach the wall, having been degraded a few cm short of it.

Putting a date to this floor is difficult. The best estimate using documentary evidence and ceramics is that it was laid between 1266 and c1450. The de Bingham were known to be in residence until the Black Death and it is possible that the Rempstones lived here until around 1440. By 1586 the manor house was in a state of ruin. The archaeology in CB01, next door, suggests that there was a roof collapse in the 15th C, which is consistent with the end of occupancy of the house by a

lord of the manor. Limestone tile and red clay tile roofs were not cheap and neither was this sort of flooring. Only someone made rich by looting and ransoms during war could be expected to have the money to afford such luxuries and all the lords of the manor who lived here spent much of their adult lives fighting in Wales, Scotland or France.

The floor itself is well constructed, possibly by accident. The surface is horizontal, but slightly irregular. There are two layers of plaster and lime. The lower one was laid on a bed of skerry stones, mostly laid flat and this was laid on sand. The plaster and lime penetrates into the crevices around the stones. It is possible that this material was meant to be the actual floor, but the mix failed. It has virtually no strength and would not have served as a floor. It was covered with a thin skim of white gypsum plaster and a second layer of plaster and lime was laid on that. This upper layer was extremely hard and was clearly a success. Remnants of a white plaster skim at the surface remain suggesting that this was how it was finished.

There are records of the use of gypsum plaster in Nottingham castle in the mid 13th C, but it is not clear if it is for a wall or a floor. Plaster of Paris, which this is, sets very quickly and is difficult to work. Lime plaster, however, sets very slowly and it is thought that at some time after the end of the 13th C someone had the idea that to mix the two would slow the setting time of the plaster to make it more workable. It is not known when this happened.

The manor house wall

The boundary wall to the manor house is made of stone and it is fixed with sandy mortar. The wall is 51 cm thick and is well made. The stone is a medium-grained sandstone and is believed to be the Hollygate Sandstone, which is the local Triassic bedrock. It is indistinguishable from the bedrock encountered in pit CB35 a few metres away.

Sub-floor succession

Beneath the floor the succession is stratigraphical. Medieval finds were recovered from between 90 and 130 cm depth. Below this is a mixed assemblage of Roman, Late Saxon, Middle Saxon and Early Saxon sherds. The single sherd of Roman Grey Ware, which is undated, came from the bottom of the pit. The Middle Saxon sherd is uncommon in Bingham, but its presence here shows that there was continuity of activity here from the Roman Conquest to the medieval period. Whether this signified habitation is not known.

All the medieval fabric types have date ranges that end at 1400. The Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze ranges between 1220 and 1320. The others are Medieval Local Fabric types with long date ranges that cover the period 1100 to 1400. Interestingly there is no Nottingham Splashed Ware, which is commonly 12th-13th C in this pit. This fabric type is usually quite common in early medieval assemblages in Bingham. While these date ranges are not very precise, it is clear that the plaster and lime floor could have been laid as early as the late 13th century.

Outside the manor house

Excavations outside the manor house yielded very little pottery and no evidence of an outside ground level. The orange-brown sandy clay that lies outside the manor house wall actually overlies the remains of the wall and comes to a sharp end coincident with its inside edge. A sherd of blue and white transfer printed ware type was recovered from 70-80 cm depth outside the wall, which probably means that this material had been re-deposited in landscaping well after the wall was demolished and robbed.