

**CC03**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON  
12 HOLME ROAD**

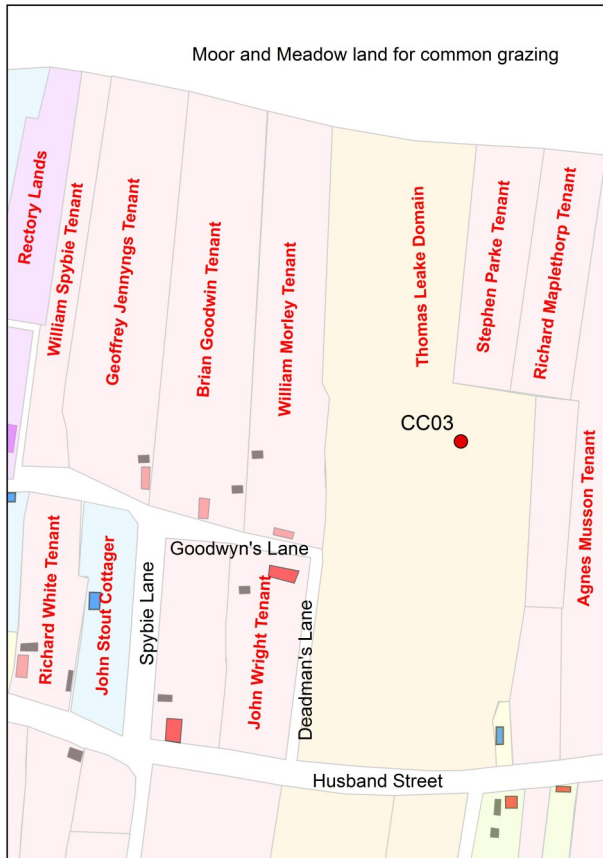
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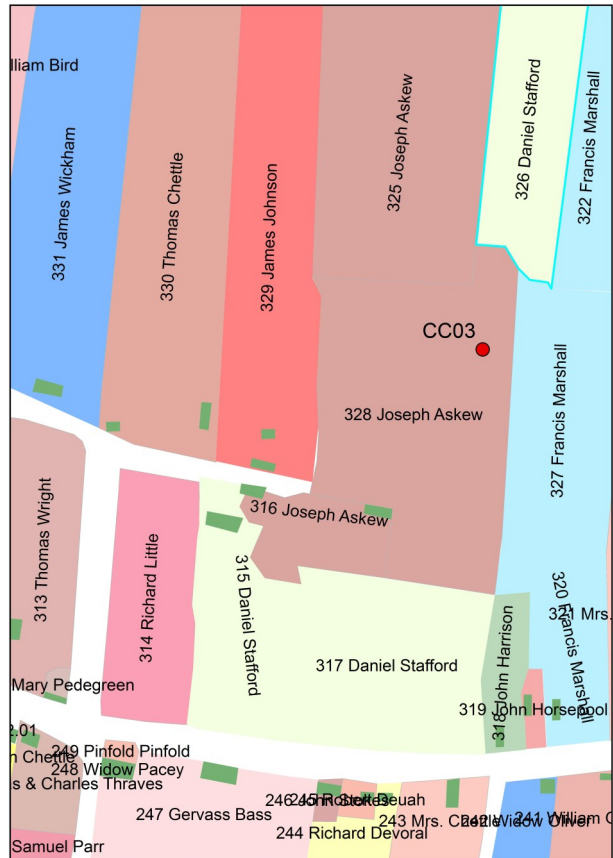
CC03  
12 HOLME ROAD

SITE HISTORY

Holme Road is part of the Church Farm estate built in the early 1960s on agricultural land. Until then the town development reached west only as a ribbon along Long Acre East and Cogley Lane. Before then the land on which we dug pit CC03 seems to have been pasture since at least the 1500s.



Conjectural map for 1586



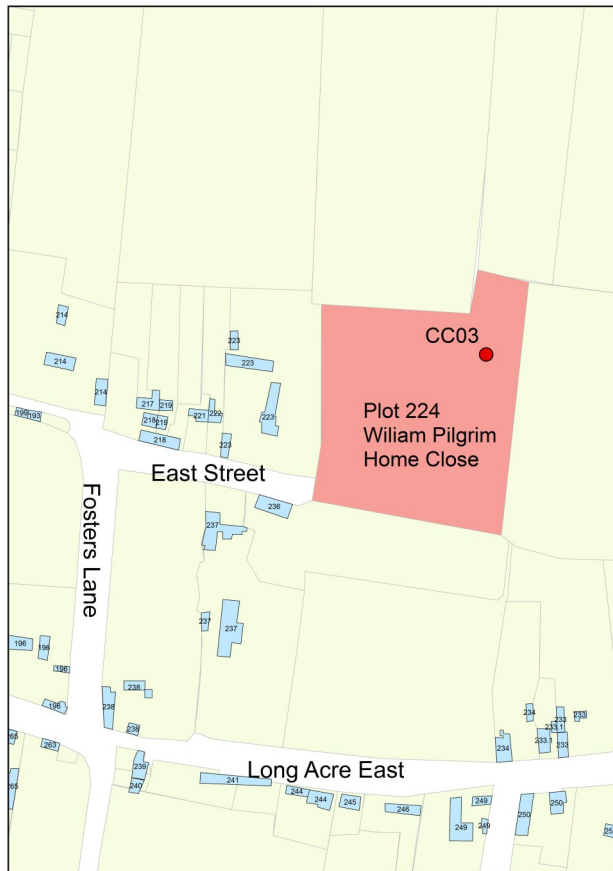
Map for 1776 made from the estate survey

1586

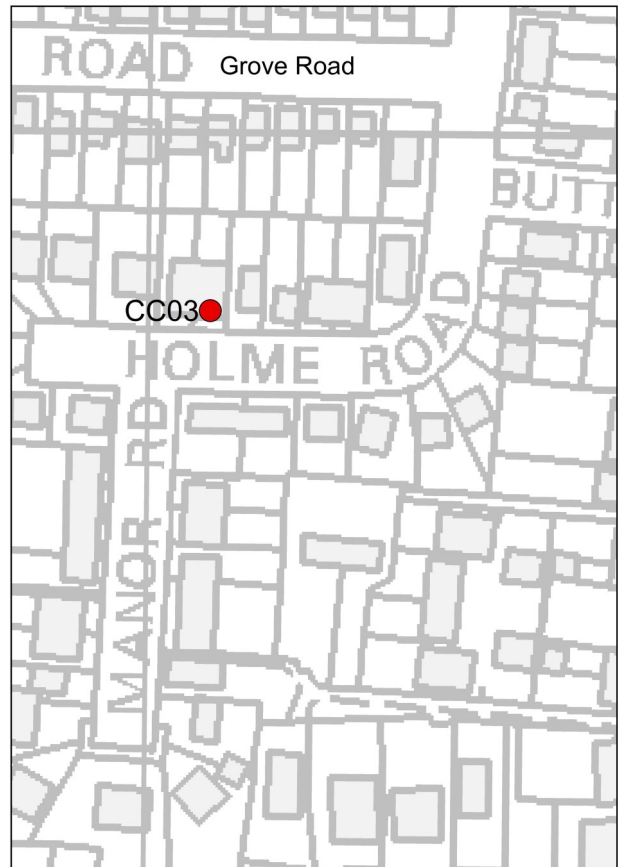
The most important landholder was the lord of the manor, Brian Stapleton, but the estate survey reveals that he had leased it to a relative, Thomas Leake. As he was an absentee landlord living in Derbyshire the estate was run for him by his bailiff, William Stapleton, probably related to Brian. He lived on Husband Street. Leake farmed a substantial amount of land directly (i.e. not leased to a tenant) which was known as ‘domain’ (demesne) land. It comprised some 280 acres of strips in the open fields scattered throughout the parish. He held another 150 acres. These were 28 ‘closes’ – enclosed parcels of meadow or pasture land independent of the common fields, which he had the freedom to farm as he wished. CC03 is on one of the large enclosures, called “Cow Close”, designated in the survey as pasture, which Leake would have used for grazing.

1776

Leake’s plot survived intact and in 1776 was held by Askew. His farmhouse and garden stood in



*Tithe map of 1841*



*Modern O.S. map  
OS Licence No 0100031673*

what is now 10 Manor Road which is vaguely appropriate! Askew held about 70 acres and was noted as a farmer in the 1795 trades directory. The 1776 estate survey descriptions imply that at least half of his land was grazing. Plots 325 and 328 still carried the name “Cow Close”.

### **1841**

The area between the town and the open farmland was taken up with various enclosed “closes” leased by different farmers, usually down to pasture. William Pilgrim occupied a pasture close in which CC03 was dug. It was now named “Home Close” (hence Holme Road?). He held 82 acres in total spread around the parish including the Chesterfield Arms and 7 Church Street. He seemed to be as much a farmer as an innkeeper, not unusual in those days.

## CC03

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

<b>NGR</b>	471018.339949
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	22.694 m [error 0.019]
<b>Dig dates</b>	12-13 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Front garden in 1970s house. A considerable amount of landscaping had been done when the houses were built here, but mainly in the back gardens.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	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 otherwise stated.

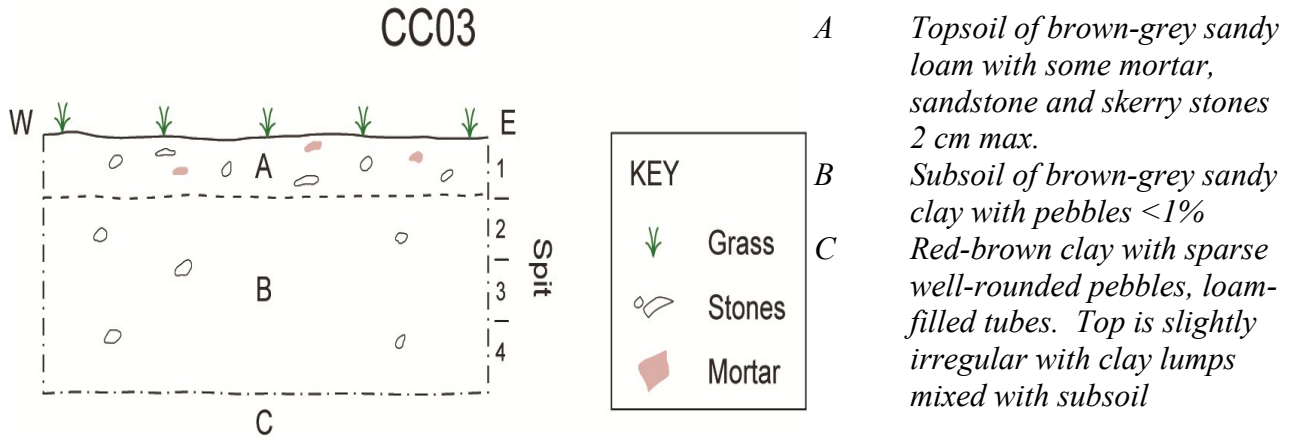
## CC03

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

The sequence here is simple and probably the original soil profile.

Topsoil down to 10cm  
 Subsoil down to 42 cm  
 Basal clay



IMG\_1849 Clay base at bottom of completed pit at 42cm.



IMG\_1850 North wall of completed pit showing the thin overall succession. The topsoil is lighter than the subsoil and not very organic rich.

The topsoil is brown-grey sandy loam with some building material and stones to 2 cm of skerry and sandstone. It is very hard and compacted as though heavily loaded during the building phase. At the base there is a gradual downward change into the subsoil

The subsoil is brown grey sandy clay with pebbles <1%.

The basal clay is red-brown with sparse well-rounded pebbles. The upper surface is irregular and

there is a mixture of the clay with lumps of subsoil. Loam-filled worm tubes are found throughout.

### **Finds**

Only 42 finds were recorded from this pit, but the date range among the Pottery finds is impressive.

A quarter of the total finds were building material and they were present down to 40 cm depth. They include brick, plaster, concrete and roof tile. They can all be related to the present buildings.

One piece of clear, window glass, 1/8th inch thick and modern, a shell, two pieces of clinker, some coal and several pieces of bones and teeth were found at all depths.

The pottery includes sherds of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Late Saxon, Saxo-Norman, medieval, post medieval, stoneware and modern.

There was one Modern Transfer Print sherd. It was small and blue and white, very likely 19th C.

Three Stoneware sherds included two with the orange fabric typical of stoneware made in Nottingham in the period 1690-1715. The third one is Derbyshire made in the period 1840-1950.

A single sherd of Tin Glaze is tiny and has a white body with a small patch of blue and white glaze. It could be any age from 1650 to 1900.

The medieval sherds presented some problems. Two were of unknown fabric types and, therefore, unknown ages. Two others were badly eroded Shelly Ware sherds that also could not be dated. The two that could be dated were Nottingham Splashed Ware. A bowl rim is of a type made in 1140-1180. The other one is tiny, but possibly dated 1180-1250.

Another single sherd is Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware fabric B dated 1000-1200.

A single sherd of Torksey Ware is 870-1070.

Two sherds of Anglo-Saxon wares are an Early AS Local ware, very abraded and dated 450-800, and a Charnwood type of hand made pottery from the same period.

There were two sherds of Roman Grey Ware, one a rim from a wide-mouthed bowl that can be dated 250-400. The other piece is White Ware, but is quite eroded and may have originally been colour-coated and from the same period.

### **Interpretation**

Despite the considerable amount of landscaping and movement of earth behind and probably under the house the front garden seems to have retained its integrity. The very hard packed soil beneath the turf seems to be the result of compaction due to the movement of heavy machinery over the site during building.

The distribution of dated pottery in the subsoil and topsoil is almost random. Late Saxon Torksey Ware occurs beneath Roman Grey Ware. This would be the result of turning the soil during ploughing over the centuries.

The amount of pottery is low and would not indicate that this is a habitation site, but the date range is very broad and shows some sort of activity here from the Roman period through to modern

times. The medieval collection is too small to draw any significant conclusions about the impact of the Black Death on the local community, but the sherds that could be dated are all early medieval. The range of dated pottery shows similarities with the assemblages in the heart of Bingham – Warner’s Paddock, Cherry Street, Church Lane, and Fosters Lane. The soil here is thin, the basal clay being encountered at 42 cm, whereas in the pits in central Bingham the basal clay was found at depths of around 100 cm. This might suggest that this area was not a settled one, but was within the field system that supported the central Bingham settlements from the Roman through to the medieval periods and beyond.