

CCLM08

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

13 ABBEY ROAD

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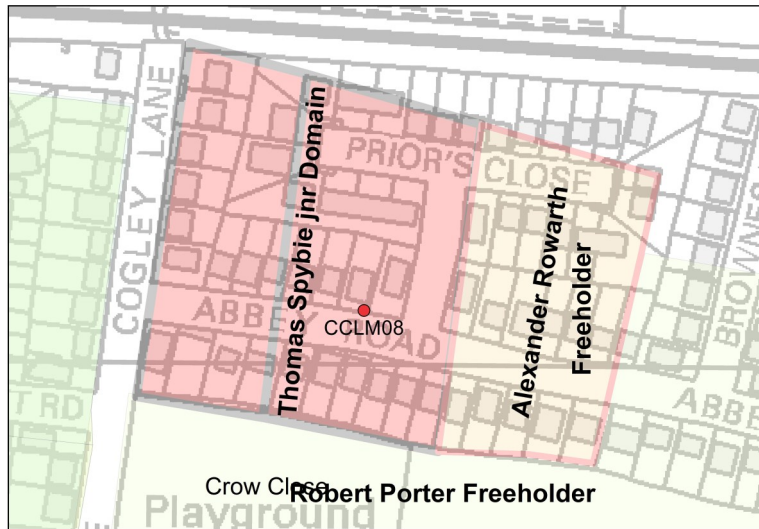
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CCLM08
13, ABBEY ROAD

SITE HISTORY

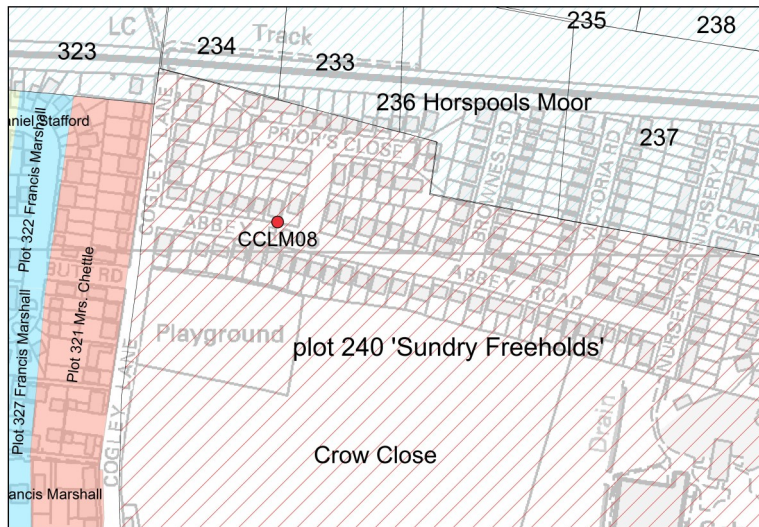
Abbey Road is part of a large housing development that dates from the early 1960s. Prior to that, it was a green field site. In the 1500s Crow Close, which is adjacent to the south side of Abbey Road was the site of Robert Porter's manor house. Porter owned about 10% of Bingham.

1586



Conjectural map for 1586

As well as Robert Porter there were some smaller freeholders, one of whom was Alexander Rowarth whom the estate survey of 1586 noted held "A cottage, house and croft and a bovate of land and meadow as appears in the common pasture under the name of Alexander Rowarth". He owned the freehold to a cottage and close which is now occupied by *The Bingham Pub* (formerly *The Wheat-sheaf*). Although not named as such, it is likely he was the landlord of an inn on this site, as inns were often freeholds in those days. He also held the freehold to 22 strips but rented none. His holding so few strips suggests he had another occupation.



Map for 1776

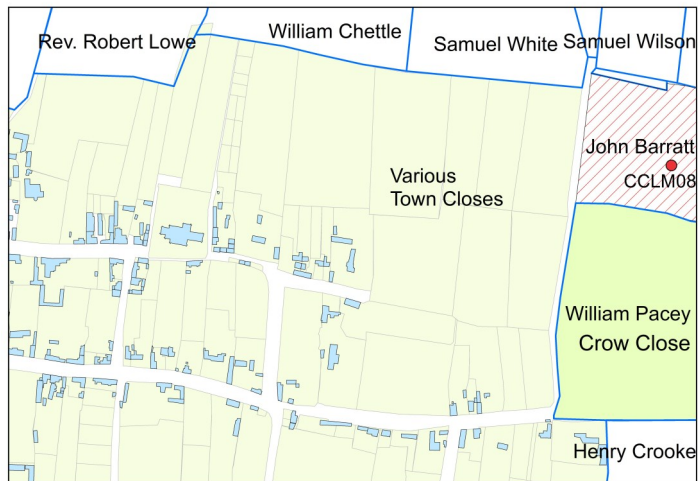
Pit CCLM08 is situated in one of two "domain closes" held by Thomas Spybie jnr. The style "Domain" indicates these were worked directly on behalf of the lord of the manor, not through normal tenancies. Spybie held "a mesuage and 5 bovates of land, yard, barn and croft" indicating that he was a tenant farmer. His farmhouse was where number 53 Long Acre is now. This was Husband Street and most properties along here were occupied by farmers as opposed to cottagers. Spybie held about 48 acres in 130 strips scattered around the open fields.

1776

Bingham had been enclosed by 1776 and the land allocated in parcels to the main farmers. The Estate survey upon which our maps are based dealt in detail with estate owned land. Other freeholds were not described or allocated between owners. In 1776 the plot where CCLM08 was dug was described as "sundry freeholds". We know nothing more than that. The closes to the north were all described as "moor" and would have been used by their respective occupiers to run stock.

However, the land to the south belonged to the Porter family of freeholders and it is possible that they took on this piece after negotiations with the Chesterfield estate during enclosure in 1680-90. There is some support for this proposal in the work done by BHTA on Crow Close. BHTA has

reinterpreted the evidence used to say that Crow Close was a deserted medieval village and proposed that it was a complex of fields, roadways and buildings on the Porter estate. Field boundaries attributed to the Porter estate in the area of the playing field on the NW corner can be seen to extend northwards on air photographs taken before the housing estate was built.



General map of central Bingham in 1841 showing the relative position of the Barrott holding

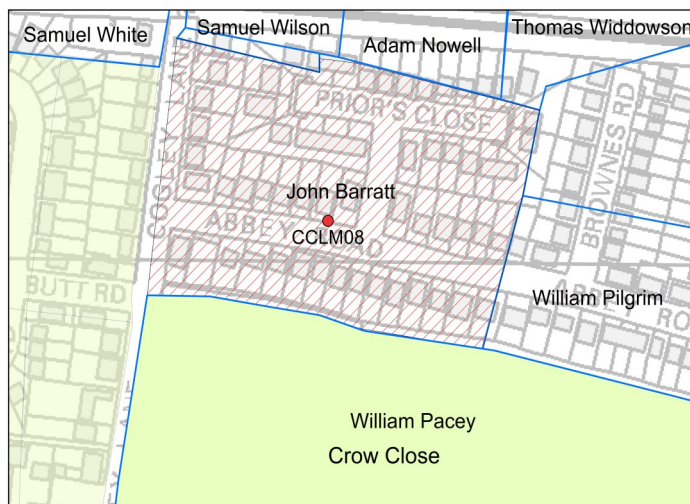
1841

By 1841 the plot was freehold and in the ownership and occupation of John Barratt. It was described as meadow. The Barratt name was spelled Barrott in the 1841 census. The family lived at the "Manor House" in the Market Square and were described as cottagers. Some of their gravestones are to the left of the East Street entrance to the churchyard.

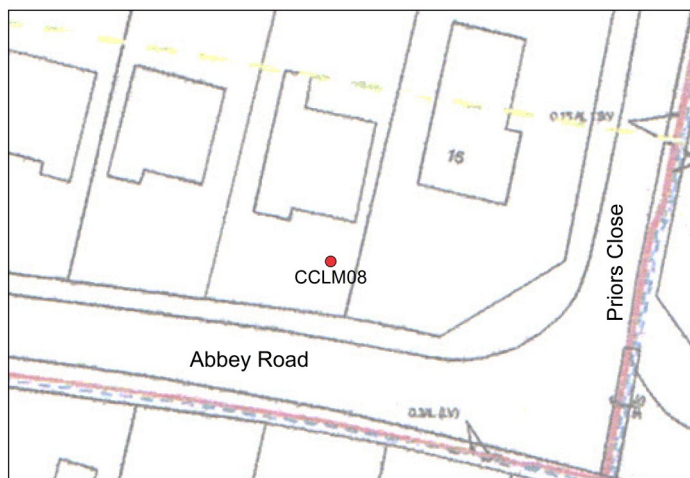
Crow Close was now owned by local farmer William Pacey.

We do not know the ownership of John Barratt's close after 1851. The 1935 national land use survey indicates this was an area of mixed farming, with "Abbey Road" being pasture.

NOTE: The modern topography on all the maps is by permission of OS Licence No 0100031673



Tithe map of 1841



Modern map. By permission of Western Power

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LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	471253.340023
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	20.567 m [error 0.016 m]
Dig dates	10 – 11 Oct 2012
Pit site	Lawn in front garden.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all spits sieved. Dug to 35 cm then a slot measuring 46 x 47 cm was dug in SE corner. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

CCLM08 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

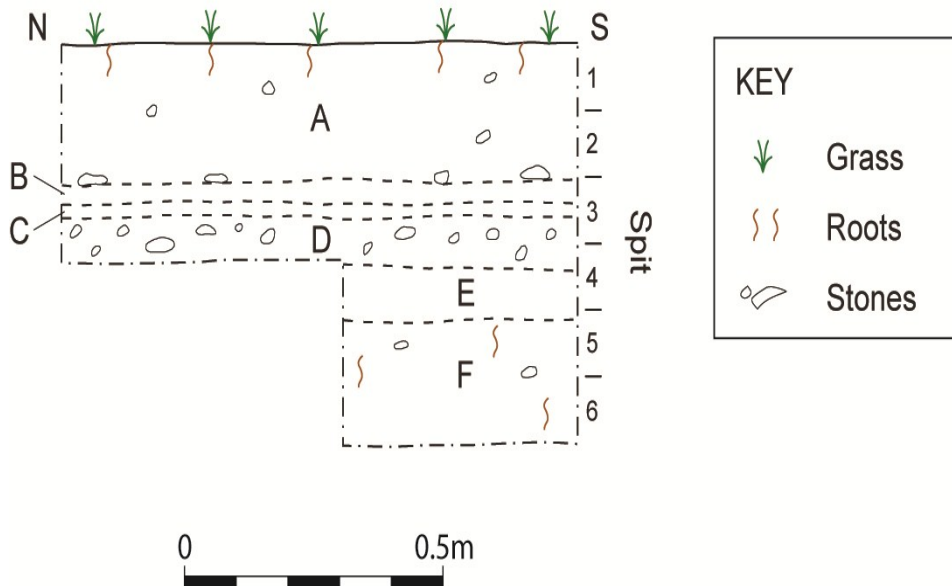
Description of pit

Topsoil to 20 cm

Builder's debris to c35 cm

Clay

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The topsoil is a dark brown clay loam, probably imported from elsewhere on the site after completion of building in 1960s.

The builder's debris consists of layers of building sand and sand and gravel with a thin loam between the two. Rotting timber, a large slab of concrete and several broken roof tiles were found at the level of the upper sand.

The layers of sand and the sand and gravel lie on dark brown clay that passes down into a lighter, structureless brown clay with rootlets, pebbles and sand grains, rusty spots and 1 cm sand nodules. The pit was bottomed at 60 cm and did not change,

but it was dug to 70 to explore the downward extension. The clay did not change, but a layer of rusty sand was en-



IMG_1948 view north at 25 cm, the bottom of the topsoil showing the rotted timber and the slab of concrete set in the patchy builder's sand.



IMG_1956 View N close up at c30 cm showing the sand and gravel.



IMG_1959 View E of slot, final depth

countered at 70 cm. The clay was barren below 50 cm and is possibly a lake margin clay with thin sand beds.

Finds

Only 45 finds were recovered from this pit, only seven of which were pottery.

Apart from the metallic objects, all nails, which were present only in the topsoil, each of the categories with several finds was spread throughout the top 50 cm of the pit. Below this the pit was barren.



IMG_1960 East wall final depth showing sand and gravel lying on clay at about 35 cm depth. The transition downwards from the subsoil in the lake clay takes place within the slot

The building material was limited to brick, mortar, roof tile and slate. The roof tile was the same as on the house.

A single piece of bone was recovered from the topsoil, while there was coal at intervals from the topsoil down to 40-50 cm depth.

Most of the glass was found at the base of the topsoil, just above the sand. Two pieces were flat, clear window glass either 1/16th or 3/32nd inches thick. The others were clear bottle glass. One piece of clear bottle glass was found in the underlying clay.

Miscellaneous items include a plastic rhinoceros, and several fossil shells found in the topsoil and the underlying clay.

Five pieces of clay pipe stem were recovered. They were all 19th C. Two were found in the base of the topsoil, while the other three were in the clay beneath the builder's debris

One flint was recovered.

The pottery includes 5 sherds of modern, four of which were in the topsoil and one in the clay beneath the builder's debris. The fabric types are not very informative, apart from a single piece of Mocha Ware, which is usually found in the 19th C.

One sherd of Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware and one piece of Unglazed Red earthenware were found low in the topsoil.

Interpretation

Nothing was found indicative of any great antiquity.

The topsoil was probably re-laid after house building in the 1960s, but it is unlikely that it came from far away. It suggests that prior to building the topsoil was stripped from the ground leaving the clay subsoil exposed. The layers of sand, sand and gravel, broken tiles, concrete and rotting timber are all likely to have been left over after building. The thin layer of loam between the sand

and the sand and gravel is possibly either some of the original topsoil or an impersistent layer of soil that has found itself among the debris.

Below this layer of builder's debris is the original subsoil, which passes down into basal clay. The boundary is hardly noticeable, but is about 10 cm from the bottom of the slot. The clay pipes and modern pottery found in the subsoil are clearly 19th C.

The basal clay is barren of any finds except one piece of clear bottle glass near the top. It is stiff, sticky and structureless with rare pebbles and sand grains. Rootlets show that something grew on it before the house building and the piece of glass shows that it has been disturbed during building. This was traced down to 60 in the slot at which point the pit was bottomed. However, a spade was used for an exploratory dig down to 70 cm and a layer of natural sand was encountered there. The test pit site is near the southern boundary of the Bingham lake deposit and it is most likely that the clay and sand are part of the deposit.