

CCLM10

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

16 ABBEY ROAD

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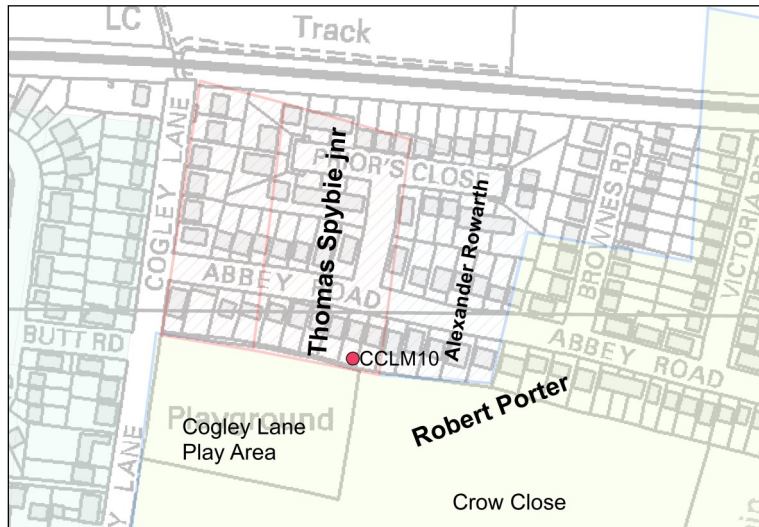
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CCLM10 16 ABBEY ROAD

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. Pit CCLM10 is only 5 metres away from the playground that was once part of Crow Close.

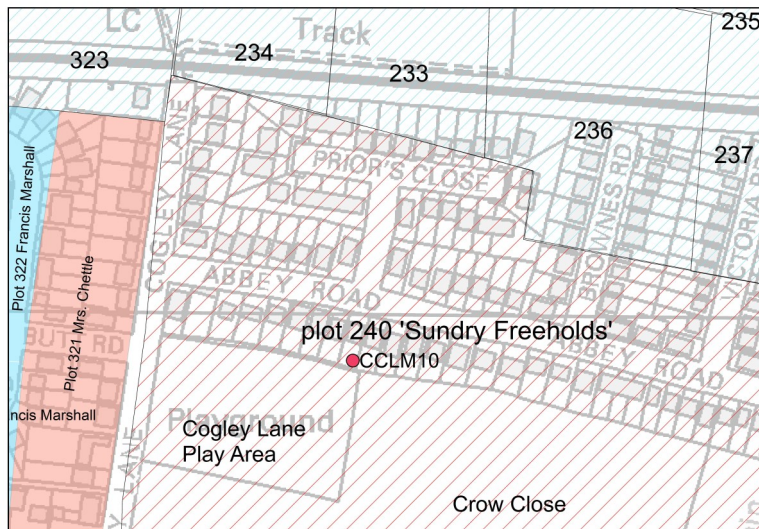


Conjectural map for 1586

NOTE: the modern topography on each map is by permission of OS Licence No 0100031673

1586

As well as Robert Porter there were some smaller freeholders, one of which was Alexander Rowarth who 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.

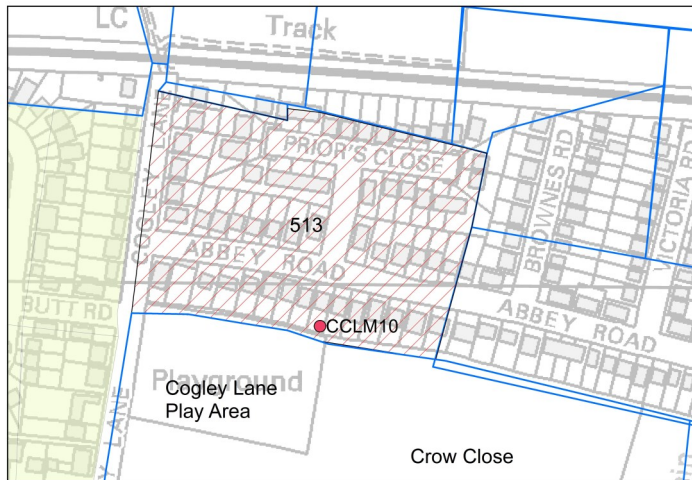
Pit CCLM10 is situated in one of two "domain closes" held by Thomas Spybie jnr. The style "Domain" indicates these were worked directly on behalf of the lord of the manor, not through normal tenancies. Spybie held "a messuage and 5 bovates of land, yard, barn and croft" indicating that he was a tenant 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 a 130 strips scattered around the open fields.

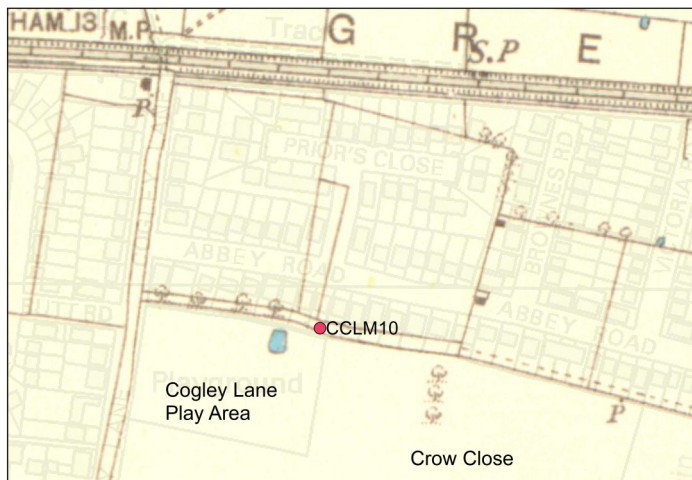
1776

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 free-

holds were not described or allocated between owners. In 1776 the plot where CCLM10 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.



Tithe map for 1841.



1883 map showing the roadway along the boundary between the fields and Crow Close to the south.



Close up of the 1883 map overlain on the modern map with the site of the pit carefully plotted. It is clearly within the road. The blue area is a pond that remained until the middle of the 20th C.

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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.

1883

The 1883 OS map of the parish shows the Barratts’ plot to have been divided into three. We might assume, but cannot demonstrate, that, as they were still at the Manor House, it was the Barratts who divided the field, maybe to improve the efficiency of grazing. The very narrow field is curious.

The roadway

The 1883 map also shows clearly a roadway that was driven to provide an access from Cogley Lane to the fields immediately north of Crow Close. It is not mentioned on the tithe apportionment or the 1841 map, as accommodation roads usually were, so one

must assume it was developed after 1841. The 1901/1915 maps also show the roadway, as does the modern 1:25000 map, but as a narrow track. The much overgrown track is still visible on the ground. Interestingly, on the modern map the track is 2.5 metres further south than it is on the 1883/1901/1910 maps.

All three maps have been matched in the computer mapping programme and so we know coincide well. Our tentative conclusion is that when the houses were built, the old roadway was incorporated into the gardens and a new narrow access path along the boundary of Crow Close was provided at the ends of the gardens. This is now overgrown and unusable.

CCLM10

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

| | |
|--|---|
| NGR | 471268.339976 |
| Height OD (mid point rim of N face) | 20.377 m [error 0.018 m] |
| Dig dates | 12-14 September 2012 |
| Pit site | Lawn in back garden of 1960s house bordering Crow Close. A farm track is known to have passed through or near the back garden. |
| Pit protocol | 1-metre pit, 10 cm spits; each spit sieved. Pit dug to 50 cm. Sondage 46 cm wide dug along the western side of the pit to 74 cm max depth Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. |

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ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

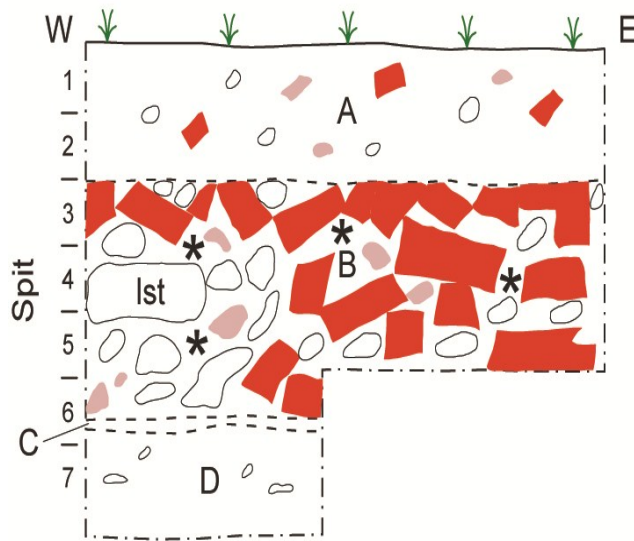
This pit encountered a farm track that was known to exist in this area prior to the building of the houses in the 1960s.

The sequence is:

- Topsoil to 21 cm
- Farm track to 57 cm
- Red clay to 59cm
- Clay to base

The topsoil is dark grey silty loam with well rounded pebbles, pot, brick, mortar and other building

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| KEY | |
|-----|------------------|
| | Grass |
| | Stones |
| | Limestone |
| | Brick |
| | Mortar |
| | Cinder / clinker |

rubble making up about 5%. The topsoil is now under lawn, but it has been cultivated by the householder in recent years.

The rubble making up the farm track is about 36 cm thick and there is an impersistent layer of red clay beneath it. The surface layer is essentially bricks, well laid and close fitted. It overlies a layer of rubble consisting of brick, mortar, stones, building rubble, pot, cinders and clinker. There are some whole bricks. The stones vary and include large (20cm) limestone boulders

- A *Topsoil of dark grey silty loam with well-rounded pebbles, pot, brick, mortar and other building rubble >5%.*
- B *Essentially brick surface to a well-compacted unit of bricks, including whole bricks, stones, pot and building rubble. Stones include large (20 cm) limestone, rounded cobbles, skerry, dressed sandstone. Cinders/clinker present. Plentiful pot particularly at the surface. Rubble base slopes to 54 cm depth on west face, thins in south face.*
- C *Red-brown clay layer 1-3 cm thick, impersistent.*
- D *Green-grey very sticky clay. Contains pot and pebbles to 2 cm, but mostly pea-sized near top. Changes down to purple-brown at base. Thin laminae of grey sandy clay and skerry pebbles within it*



IMG_1845 view north. Brick upper surface of track at 20 cm, dipping to the south, possibly indicating the edge of the track.



IMG_1848, view north in spit 3 showing the mixture of bricks and broken pot used to make the track.



IMG_1861 showing a slot dug along the western side of pit. The surface on the right is at 50 cm.



IMG_1863, close-up of the north wall in the slot. The bottom is lake deposit

and smaller cobbles, dressed sandstone and skerry. The base of the rubble layer slopes to the west and thins to the south.

The red clay at the base is impersistent and varies from 1 to 3 cm thick.

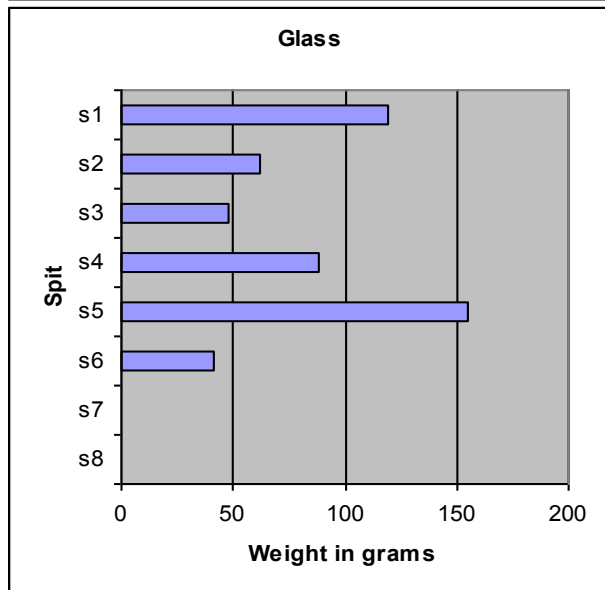
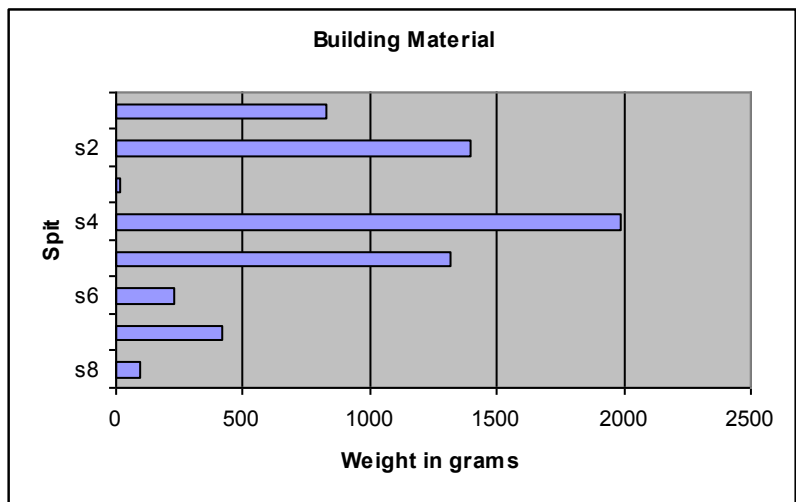
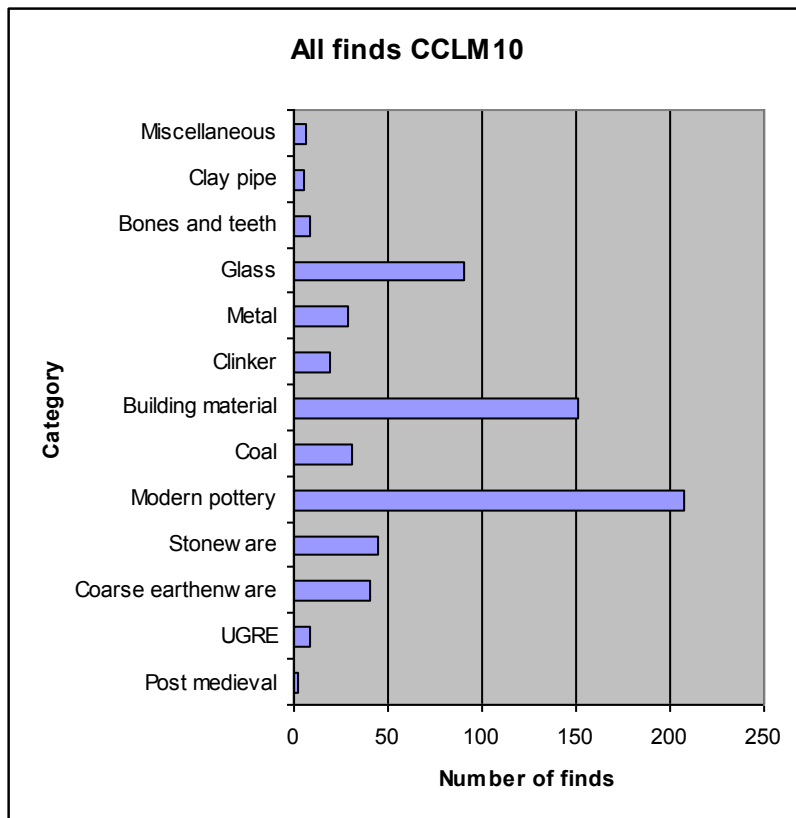
The clay beneath this is green-grey and very sticky. It contains pot and pebbles to 2 cm near the top, though most of the pebbles are pea-sized. The colour changes downwards to purple-brown, which appears to be the colour below the pit base. There are thin patches of grey sandy clay, which appear to be laminae and suggest that this is a natural deposit, probably of the lake sediment.

Finds

A considerable number of finds were recovered from this pit, largely because of the farm track, which contained much pottery as well as bricks and so on. Overall, building material, modern pottery and glass comprised the most abundant categories.

Among the pottery there was nothing older than post medieval.

Most of the building materials were recovered from the top 60 cm of the pit, but they were found



at all depths. Not everything that was found was recorded because the farm track was made almost entirely of it. A fertilizer bag was embedded in the corner of the pit at the top of the farm track. The surface layer of the track was mostly closely packed bricks, many of which were whole. They were mostly 2 ¾ inch or 3 inch thick. One nearly whole brick had embossed on it the letters CAFFER. This was a brick made by the Cafferata firm in Newark. The firm began operating in Newark in 1862, but it was not until the early 1930s when the Jericho works were opened that they took brick making seriously. From then until 1939 they were making up to 300,000 bricks a week and production continued until the works began to wind down in 1974. The bricks marked with the name of the firm were from the 1930s onwards.

One 1 ½ inch-thick brick was found just beneath the farm track.

Other materials found are slate, found only in the track, plaster, mortar, stonework, roof and floor tiles and land drain.

Most of the plaster was recovered from the farm track; two bits came from depths of 60 to 80 cm; i.e. in the clay beneath the track. Two pieces had reed impressions embedded in the underside. Two of the tiles were stone, one shaped. A clay floor tile was found between 70 and 80 cm depth.

All the glass, metal objects, clinker and coal were found in the topsoil and the farm track, not below it.

Of the 90 pieces of glass recorded, 83% of which were bottles. Most of these were green, but there were some very thick brown pieces, and clear bottle or jars among them. Several pieces were clear or aqua embossed with a number of different letter combinations. None could be interpreted. One

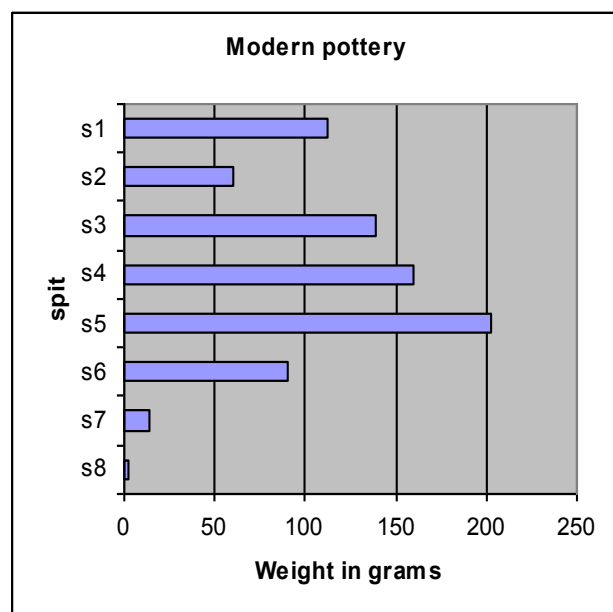
stopper had the words Registered No 6434 on it, but it could not be found on any relevant web site to identify the manufacturer. Some angled clear or aqua fragments are thought to be medicine bottles, but most were wine or beer bottles. Some of the bottle glass had a strong gold patina showing severe chemical reaction with the soil and glass. Among the 17% that were not bottles there was window glass. It ranged from 1/16th to 1/8th inch thick. Some pieces had a weak patina. While it is difficult to date the pieces with a strong patina it is likely that none of these pieces is older than late 19th C.

All 29 metal objects except one were nails. The exception was a piece of a blade.

Both coal and clinker were found throughout the farm track.

The 5 clay pipe fragments were found entirely within the farm track. Four of them were 19th C one of which was a fragment of a bowl from the mid 19th C. The other piece was a stem, which was brown, thick and had a large-diameter hole. These are characteristics of clay pipes made before c1750.

The bones and teeth came from several animals. These were cow, showing signs of butchery, lamb and sheep, chicken and a dog bone.



Miscellaneous objects include an oyster shell and a heel of a leather shoe with some small nails still in it. Both of these were found within the farm track. Objects collected from beneath the farm track include a large number of small snail shells. Around 29 were collected from the bottom of the pit and bagged for identification. They indicate a lake environment. A bag of pea-sized pebbles was also collected for later study.

The pottery collection was dominated by Modern pieces. 176 sherds were collected, of which only six were found beneath the farm track. These six included Cream Ware, blue and white transfer printed and Flow Blue. All of these existed in the mid 19th C.

The main assemblage of sherds included transfer-printed (28%), White Ware (27%), Cane-coloured Ware (15%) and Cream Ware (6%). These together made up 76% of the total amount of pottery recovered. The transfer-printed wares were mostly blue and white, including Willow Pattern, and pale blue and white. These came into production in a big way in about 1800, though they were being made earlier. Small numbers of brown and white, red and white, black and white and green and white transfer printed sherds were found. The green sherd showed part of the body of a Chinese man holding a clay pipe. This sort of Chinese design was widespread in the 19th C. These all came into production after 1840. The original vessels were mostly plates and servers, but include bowls and other forms that could not be identified. The White Ware and the Cream Ware are not easy to distinguish. Originally, Cream Ware was made as the standard earthenware product from about 1740 to the mid 19th C and was replaced by the more technologically advanced White Ware early in the 19th C. Both were used as the base form for decorated pottery. Most of the forms identified were plates, but there were cups, a saucer and utility wares that might have been wash bowls or sanitary ware. A few were decorated by painting over glaze. The decoration is largely rubbed off. White Ware

continues in production today and it thought that some of the finds recorded are 20th C.

The Cane-coloured Wares came in three varieties. Several pieces with a white internal glaze are probably from the same vessel, which is thought to be a mixing bowl. Other large pieces which are cane coloured on both sides are classed as coarse ware or fine ware. A number of coarse ware pieces fitted together and were from a lidded bowl, probably used for storage. The fine ware may have been part of Mocha Ware pots. Some of them have several thin white lines parallel to the top on the outside surface. Where other coloured lines are present among the white, such as blue, it is possible that they are from Mocha Ware jugs or mugs.

The other types of pottery found include Flow Blue, Mocha Ware, Jackfield Ware, Portmeirion Ware and three classes that are difficult to match. They have been classed as Kitchen Ware, Unknown and Utility Ware.

Flow Blue was found within the farm track and beneath it. This type of ware is characterised by the accidental discovery that the blue colour used when this pottery was first made ran when it was fired and gave off a smudged look to the design. It was popular between 1840 and 1860, then fell out of fashion coming back later in the 19th C. The sherds found here have a characteristic blue rim to the plate or bowl which fades into the white away from the rim. Mocha Ware was made throughout the 19th C. It is quite colourful, but distinguished by another effect found accidentally. The blue colour used made dendritic patterns rather like when an ink blot forms and give tree-like forms. These are usually set in a white background with bands of different colours above and below the tree-like form. The base colour can be white or, more commonly here, cane-coloured. Most of these sherds were from mugs, jugs and bowls. Jackfield Ware was made in the village of Jackfield near Ironbridge from 1740 and is still made in small quantities for tourists now. It is typically shiny black with intricate designs made by rouletting. Several pieces were found here between 40 and 50 cm depth within the farm track. All except one of them are similar and possibly from a teapot. The exception is a single sherd with a distinctive bubble design feature and a different body to the teapot sherds. Two sherds of Portmeirion Ware were found. They were both from a green version of Totem a design that was introduced in the 1960s.

The Kitchen Ware is so called because the sherds were from coarse ware and might have been storage jars or mixing bowls. One had a dark brown external glaze and white internal and looked very like the cane-coloured variety that has been identified as from a mixing bowl. The other kind is similar in thickness and has a buff body with a clear glaze giving a buff external colour. The inside is white. The third type is grey glaze and body, rather like stoneware. The sherds found could be from the neck of a bottle. All of these are thought to be late 19th to 20th C, but there is no strong evidence for this. Another fairly common type of sherd is a white ware with blue concentric bands near the rim. Some of the sherds were from a plate, but others might be from a jug or bowl. Again this looks rather more 20th C than earlier.

There are two types classed as unknown. In one the glaze is grey-green and the body similar. It is very hard fired and might be ironstone. This was made from the middle of the 19th C, largely by Mason's and was very popular. The second type is unique within the pits project. The body is chocolate-red, which has never been seen before and the glaze colours are varied inside and outside. One sherd has a green handle stub that suggests that it might have been a cup. It could be 20th C.

The Utility Ware is a rather cheap looking white ware plate with a deep green decoration on it. It is likely to be 20th C.

8 sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware were found in the topsoil and upper part of the farm track.

Both the Stoneware and the coarse earthenware were found throughout the whole 80 cm depth of the pit, but only 2 sherds of stoneware and 4 of coarse earthenware were found beneath the farm track.

55% of the coarse earthenware sherds were from Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware. The pieces included mostly body parts, but there were base and rim parts. All seemed to be from pancheons. Pink-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware made up 17%. The glaze was dark-brown/black. Of the rest the light-bodied coarse earthenware sherds were small and sheared and little could be learned from them. Most of the brown glazed coarse earthenware had a pink body.

The stoneware was made in Derbyshire and, except for four sherds, was dated 1840 to 1950. The other four were from the period 1760-1840. All except two were from the topsoil or farm track. The exceptions were dated one each 1760-1840 and 1840-1950. Few had distinctive body shapes. Those that did could be identified as bottle or wine jars, a preserve jar and a bowl.

Of the three sherds of post-medieval pottery two eroded ones of a once shiny Midland Black Ware vessel were found in the farm track deposit. The sherd of Coarse Black Ware was also eroded with an internal very dark brown glaze on a deep red-purple body of a bowl. It was found at the bottom of the pit.

One anomalous piece is a flint found near the top of the road rubble. It is a core, which appears to have been shaped to a flat top so that thin blade flakes could be taken from it. It is not easy to date these, but it could be a Mesolithic to early Neolithic piece, that is older than 3000 BC. However, it could have come from anywhere to get into this road.

Interpretation

The topsoil laid on the farm track here as in much of Bingham has been re-deposited after the house building in the 1960s. There is nothing of any antiquity in it and also nothing to suggest that it had been brought far. Maybe it was originally on the site of the house. The clearly dateable 20th pottery like the Portmeirion Ware and the chocolate-red bodied ware type were from the topsoil and immediately below it in the top of the farm track deposit.

This row of houses borders Crow Close and there is a gap of about 2 metres between the Crow Close fence and the fence marking the bottom of the gardens. It was believed that an old farm track ran along the bottom of these gardens, but as it had been covered during building and is now overgrown its exact location was not always evident.

The evidence for the farm track revealed here suggests that the pit was sited near the southern edge of the track which means that it ran to the north of the gap at the bottom of the garden where it was traditionally thought to be. Evidence from the mapping, particularly the 1883 map, now suggests that the original track does run through the garden, which was built over it and the gap at the foot of the garden is a new track laid to the south of the original one after the houses were put up.

The bricks forming the top layer are 20th C. The Cafferata brick, in particular, gives them a date range after 1930. While taking the rubble out there were indications that there may have been earlier surfaces beneath the current top. In other words, the track had been repaired or partially re-laid at intervals during its life. Most of the dateable objects found in it come with a date range that starts in the 18th C. The oldest sherds, the Midland Black Ware, though appearing first in the late 16th C extend into the early 18th C. However, the majority of the finds from it seem to date from the mid 19th C. The stoneware is particularly useful here, where nearly all the finds date after 1840. The rubble used to make it could have come from almost anywhere in Bingham. Some of

the sandstone is dressed and could have been from old buildings. The Carboniferous limestone, which is not a local stone, shows no form and it is uncertain where that came from. The skerry is local. It is possible that whenever an old building was demolished and there was a need to remove the rubble from the site it could have ended up repairing this farm track. This might explain the presence of some older sherds in the rubble

Beneath the farm track rubble is a layer of red-brown clay. Clay has been used in Bingham in place of mortar and as a damp course equivalent since the medieval period. It was clearly used beneath the floor feature in the 13th – 14th C old manor house on the north west side of the Market Place and was used as a basal layer beneath what we think is a garden feature of 18th or 19th C date in the old rectory garden. Finding red-brown clay beneath the farm track suggests that it was laid with care possibly to serve as a barrier on unstable, wet ground.

Few finds were recovered from beneath the farm track. They include, in spit 8, the Coarse Black Ware, a sherd of Light-bodied Coarse Earthenware, the 1760-1840 sherd of Stoneware, several Modern sherds that give possible dates in the mid 19th C, a piece of floor tile and plaster and a lamb bone.

The natural deposits here are lake sediments and the abundant small water snail shells at the bottom of this pit seem to indicate that the base of the pit is in natural lake deposit. Shells like this have been found in several areas of this lake sediment. The lake was silted up before Roman times and the area was rough grazing for much of its subsequent history. The pottery finds collected just above the basal lake clay may have got there by being deposited with rubbish on this common land or with manure during a period in the mid 19th C when it was under arable cultivation.