

CCLM12

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON

50 ABBEY ROAD

CONTENTS

SITE HISTORY

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

Finds

Interpretation

CCLM 12 50 ABBEY ROAD

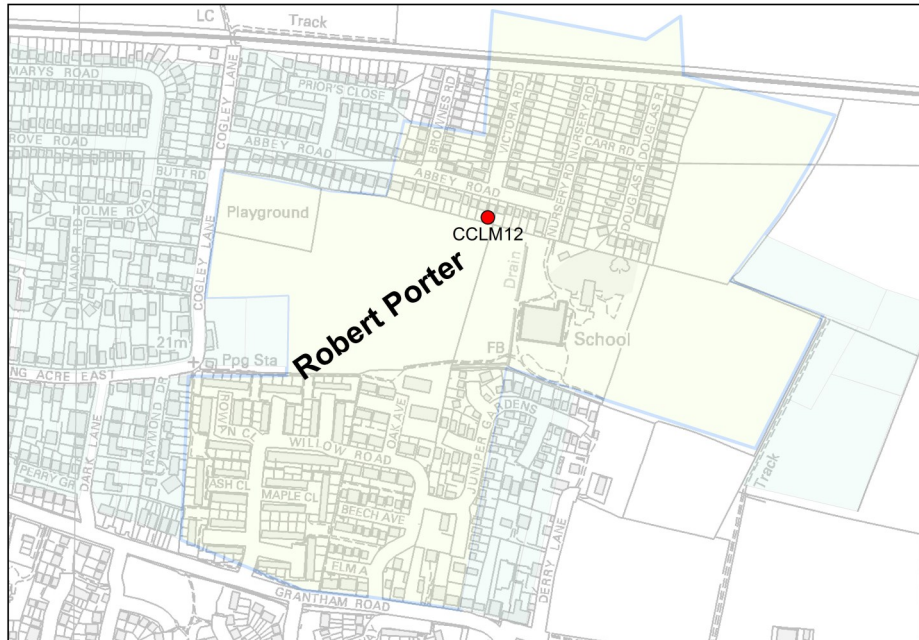
SITE HISTORY

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.

1586

Crow Close was the site of the Porter family manor house, but their land here extended well beyond the present boundaries of the Close and included the ground that included the test pit site. They

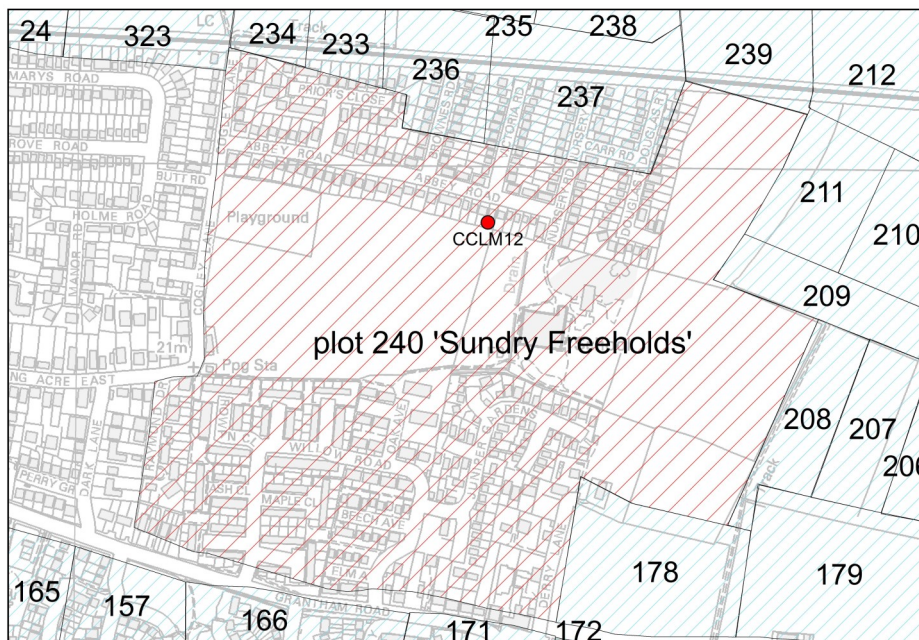
owned about 10% of Bingham including 100 acres of freehold land in South Field and a plot on Long Acre, now occupied by Long Acre House, the former Temperance Chapel.



Conjectural map for 1586. OS Licence No 0100031673

1776

By 1776 Bingham's open fields had been enclosed and the resulting parcels allocated to the main farmers. The Porter estate appears to have been re-modelled. The 1776 estate survey did not distinguish between various freeholders. We know from 1586 that a plot of land in the north-west corner was occupied by freeholders other than the Porters, but there are grounds for suggesting that in 1776 the Porter estate had been extended to include this land, possibly acquired during the general enclosure in 1680-90. In other places the freeholder boundary differs from 1586, perhaps suggesting exchange and negotiation during enclosure.



Map for 1776. OS Licence No 0100031673

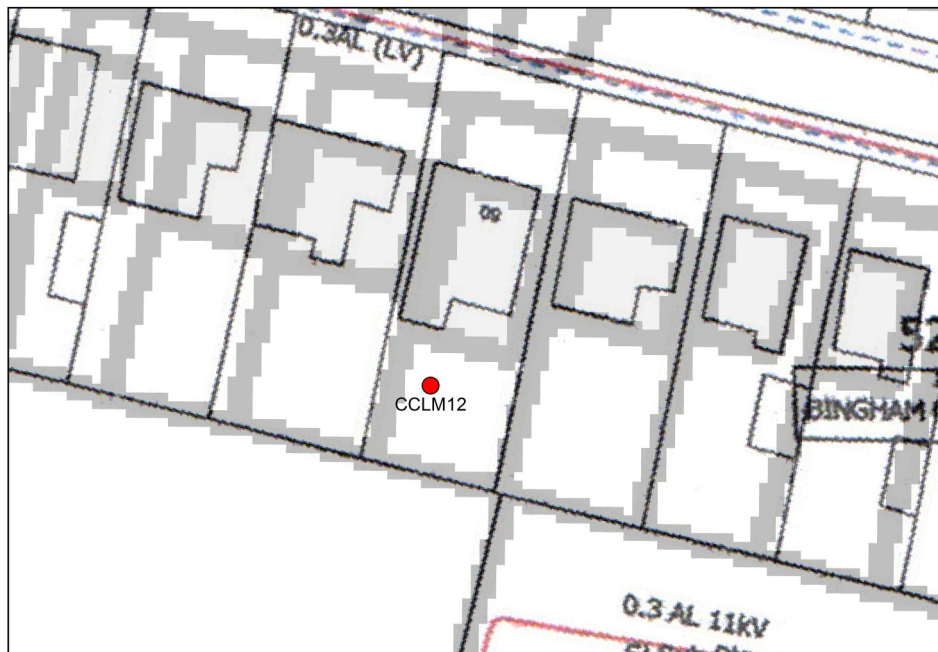


Tithe map of 1841. OS Licence No 0100031673

1841

By 1841 much of the Porter land (plots 515 and 511) had passed into the ownership of William Pacey, a substantial farmer whose homestead was in the Market Place. Plots 510 and 512, used for grazing, were now owned by William Pilgrim. These were his only agricultural holdings as he was landlord of the Chesterfield Arms.

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



Modern map, by permission of Western Power overlain on OS topography OS Licence No 0100031673

CCLM12

LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	471458.339938 (mid point north edge)
Height OD (mid point north edge)	20.441 m [error 0.038]
Dig dates	13 th May 2013
Pit site	Lawn in back garden
Pit protocol	1-metre square pit, 10 cm spits. All spits sieved. Dug to 33 cm then took out a feature to 50 cm. Cut a 34 cm-wide slot along the western side to 50 cm.

CCLM12 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

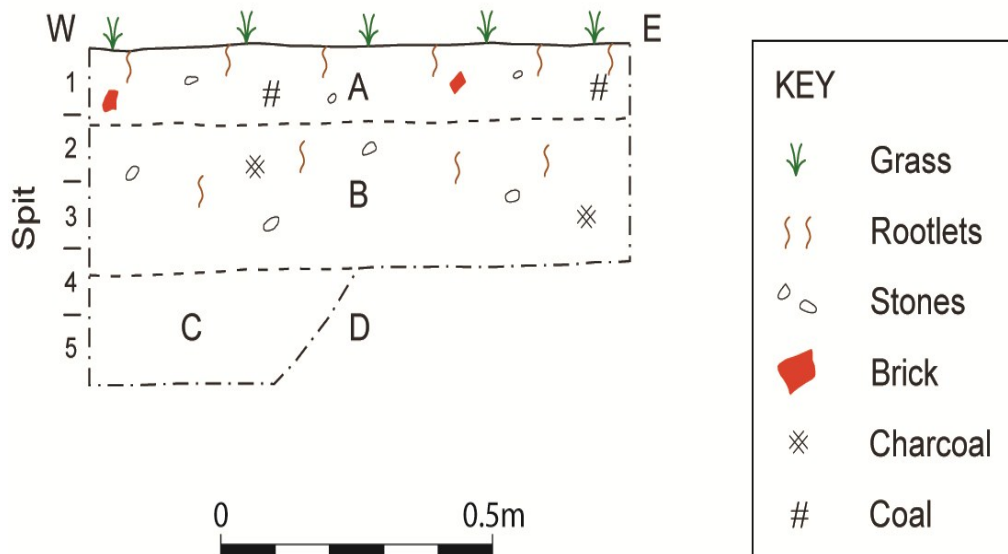
This is a complex, shallow pit. The succession seems to be:

Topsoil to 10 cm depth

Subsoil to 33 cm depth

Basal clay

CCLM12



A Topsoil of brown-grey sandy loam with rootlets under tree.

B Brown-grey clay subsoil. Roots 1-3 cm diameter, mostly in upper part.

C Grey clay loam infill in trench to south.

Ditch feature to c50 cm in south of pit.

The topsoil is a hard, brown sandy loam, probably re-introduced with turf to the site after completion of the house building in 1960s. The soil is compacted and has probably not been cultivated, but remained under lawn.

Brown-grey clay loam under the topsoil is probably best categorised as subsoil. It was dug to c33cm where it was observed as gradually merging



IMG_2103 View north at 10 cm depth. The roots and rootlets from a nearby cedar tree were present at all depths.



IMG_2106 View N. 33 cm depth. Ditch feature dug out. Piece of concrete in the near right hand side corner.

downwards into the underlying basal clay. This clay is grey-brown and free of any inclusions.

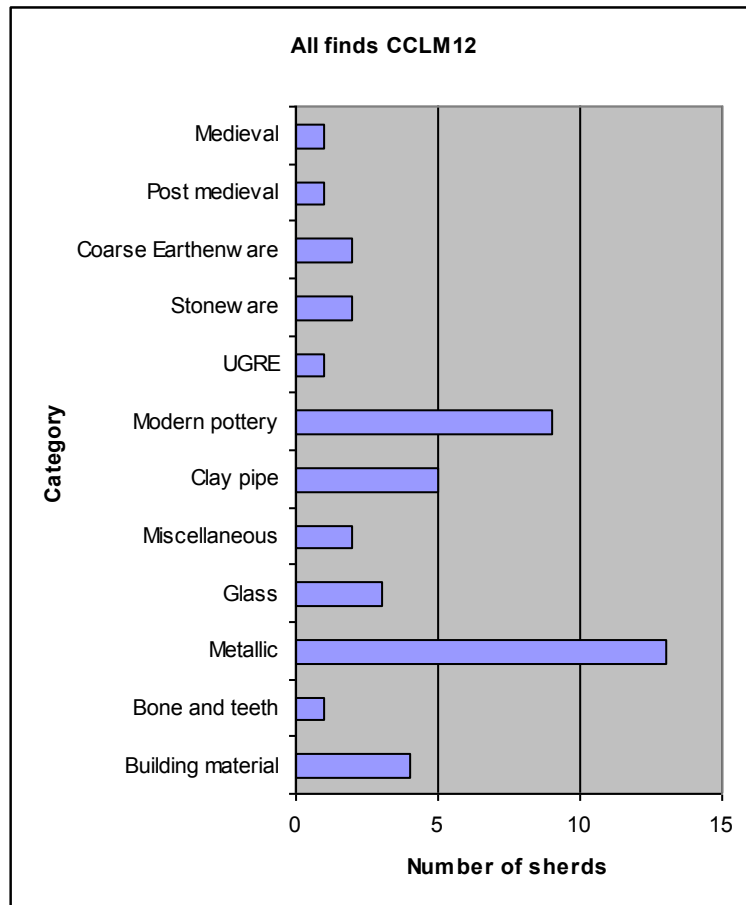


IMG_2109 View north. Base of pit, showing the 20 cm deep sondage cut along the western side .



IMG_2111 View East of finished wall with piece of concrete left in the corner. Roots were present throughout.

In the southern side of the pit there appears to be a ditch feature. The margin is straight across the pit trending roughly East-West. The fill is grey clay loam. The base of the ditch slopes to the south and reaches 50 cm depth on the western side and 44cm depth on the eastern side. A slot was dug, 34 cm wide along the western side of the pit to test the basal clay. It was not bottomed and is thought to be lake clay.



The whole of the pit was penetrated by roots from the nearby cedar tree.

Finds

There are only 16 pottery finds, one of which is medieval and the others younger.

The building material is all in the top-soil. It is brick and concrete and almost certainly relates to the house building phase in the 1960s.

One piece of bone was found.

Three fragments of glass were found. One was from a green bottle, the other two were flat window glass 1/16th and 3/32nd inches thick.

Most numerous of all finds were the metal objects, but there was nothing among them to indicate any age.

Nearly all were nails, but there was a tack and two bits of a rake, all in the

top 20 cm and clearly 20th C. Below this there was a bolt at 20-30 cm; a broken chisel and a nail in the ditch feature fill.

Miscellaneous finds include a coin and a small shell.

There were five clay pipe fragments. These were found in the subsoil. One fragment of a fluted bowl can be dated to 1770-1830, while there are two stem fragments that post-date 1750. However, there is a bowl fragment dated 1675-1725 and another fragment that is 17th to early 18th C.

10 sherds of modern pottery were found. 8 were in the top 30 cm; 2 in the ditch feature. Most of the sherds were White Ware. One piece was a moulded and wavy plate rim; the other had an olive-green cross decoration. Both were probably 20th C. There was one Transfer Print, which was probably Willow Pattern. A mauve plate rim is also likely to be 20th C. The most interesting sherd is a finely moulded black ware rim. The body is deep purple and resembles a common fabric seen in Midland Black Ware. However, the rim is definitely late 19th or 20th C in the perfection of its manufacture and the sherd is provisionally identified as late Jackfield. This style of pottery was made in Jackfield, near Ironbridge from 1740 to the early 20th C. It is not uncommon, however, in the 20th C to find black ware teapots made elsewhere.

A single Unglazed Red Earthenware sherd is possibly a plant pot fragment, though it was found at the bottom of the pit.

Of the two sherds of stoneware, one is from a 19th C jug and the other an 18th C bowl. They cannot be dated more closely than that.

Two Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware sherds, one probably from a pantheon, were found high in the subsoil.

A single sherd of Midland Black Ware was recovered. This was from the rim of a fine ware bowl and is possibly 1575 to 1725.

The oldest sherd is a piece of Medieval Ware made 1250-1350. It was too small to postulate a form for the original vessel.

Interpretation

This pit is situated close to the boundary with Carnarvon School, which is a known Roman villa site. The purpose of the test pit was to see how far the Roman influence extended.

The identification of a sherd of Roman Grey Ware in the field was not confirmed; thus the pit yielded no Roman pottery at all, nor anything younger until the single sherd of Medieval Ware dated to the period 1250-1350. This gap actually reflects the situation in the school. Here there is nothing after the end of the Roman occupation until the 13th C and there is little medieval pottery in any of the school pits.

The building material, which occurs only in the topsoil, is all related to the building of the current housing. Most of the nails are also in the top 20 cm and were probably lost during building. The glass is most intriguing because it was found at all depths down to 40 cm and two of the three pieces are thin window glass, likely to have been used before the 20th C. There is no evidence of a building older than the current houses anywhere near here. The other finds show no clear distribution pattern in relation to depth.

The medieval sherd occurred above the post-medieval Midland Black Ware, the stoneware and some of the modern pottery. All the Modern pottery found is likely to be 20th C. The date range for these finds, therefore, is long, but there is so little until the 18th /20th C that it is difficult to suggest the nature of the activity here.

The clay pipes provide the most tantalising information. With a bowl dated 1675 – 1725 we have a fairly close date. A stem could also be from this period. However, there are three 18th /19th C fragments, one of which is a bowl fragment that can be fixed at 1770-1830. These may have been lost by farm workers of these times. There are two fragments of pottery, stoneware and Midland Black Ware that could fit into the earlier time frame, but this information is so sparse as to give no clue as to the nature of the agricultural activity. The modern pottery is more abundant and might be a result of manure scatter on arable land in the early to mid 20th C. The overall vertical distribution of the pottery does seem to show that the land had been turned over during ploughing.

The ditch feature contained a few finds. Among them were a nail, a chisel and two fragments of modern pottery, one near the bottom. One of these has no glaze and cannot be identified, while the other is fairly common White Ware. This seems to indicate that it is a modern, probably 20th C ditch.