

**LA04**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON**

**50 LONG ACRE**

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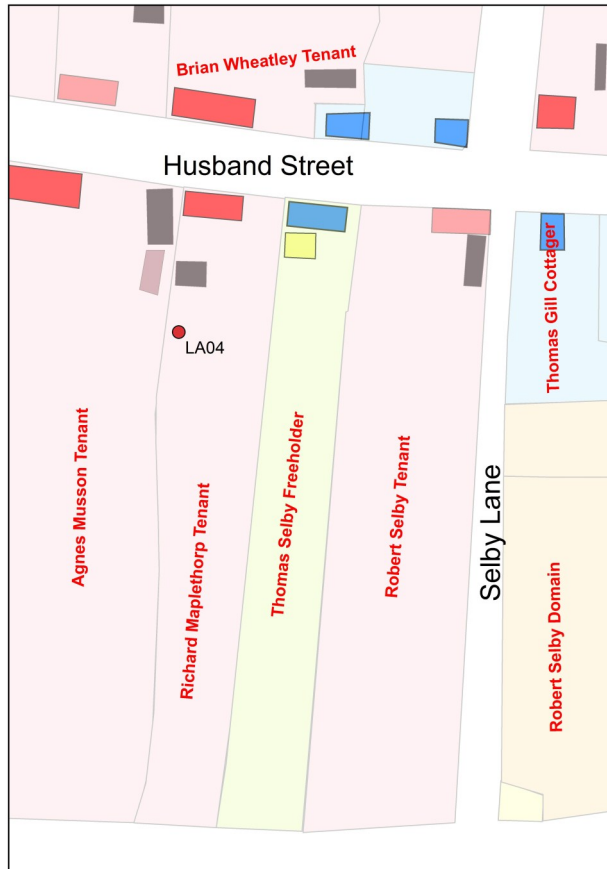
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**LA04  
50, LONG ACRE**

**SITE HISTORY**



*Conjectural map for 1586*



*Map for 1776 made from the estate survey documents.*

**1586**

In the 1500s the population of Bingham was largely divided into cottagers and farmers, the majority of whom were tenants of the Stapleton Estate which owned about 85% of Bingham. Cottagers tended to be self-sufficient and probably also worked for the lord of the manor on his open field strips. Farmers held strips in the open fields and usually a sizeable homestead in the village. Most farmers lived along Husband Street (now Long Acre) and Richard Maplethorpe was one of them. Most plots along the south side of Husband Street stitched to the waste, the edge of the South Field, now The Banks. He held “a messuage and 4 bovates of land, barn, yard and croft”, including about 40 acres of strips scattered around the four open fields as well as some common grazing. There were Maplethorpes in Bingham throughout the 1600s. Thomas Selby owned the plot next door, as one of the few independent freeholders of the village.

**1776**

Bingham’s open fields were probably enclosed in 1680-1690. In the Chesterfield Estate survey of 1776, John Timm Senior was recorded as the occupier of what had now become plot 259. It was described as a homestead. This was his only holding. However, in the newspaper of the time he was described as the landlord of *The Marquis of Granby Inn*. In 1776 we read how the Earl of Chesterfield’s coming of age was celebrated: “In the evening, several of the principal inhabitants



*Tithe map for 1841. top left in detail; top right showing the general setting*

assembled at Mr Timms, the Marquis of Granby, which was illuminated in a brilliant manner, to drink their landlord's health."

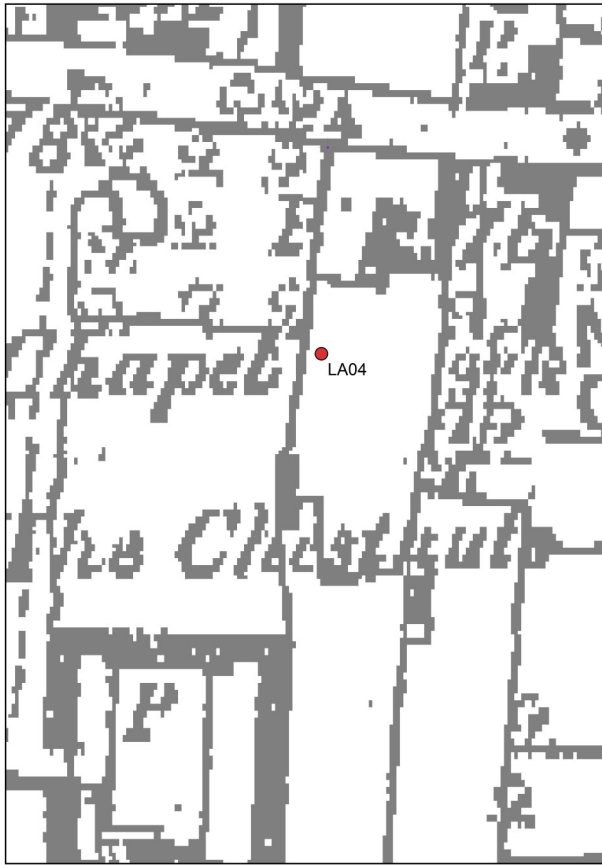
### 1841

The pattern of ownership and occupation had changed by 1841, as some of the buildings of the Marquis of Granby seem to have been split off to form plot number 287 (in blue on the close up plan). This portion had been sold to Samuel Brewster who in turn leased them as tenements to Elizabeth Becket. The parish baptismal registers suggest that Samuel Brewster was father of the William Brewster who occupied Holme Farm about this time. We can find no census record of Elizabeth but the parish registers record that she and husband John (a twist net maker) had a son Samuel in 1832 and who died in 1835. John died in 1836 (then described as a grocer) and Elizabeth in 1851, ten years after the tithe map was published, so she was perhaps an absentee sub-landlord.

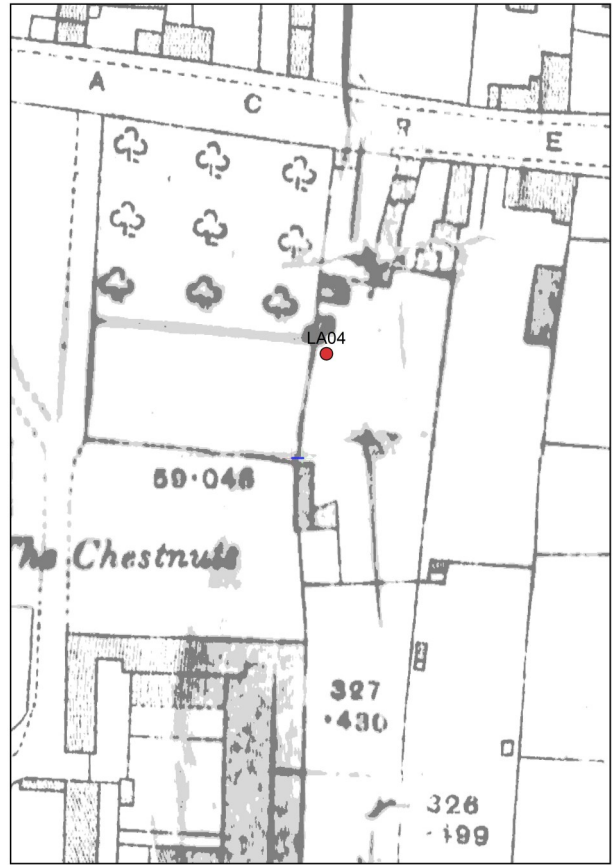
John Tinkler held plots 288 and 289 as house and homestead respectively (see main tithe map). The trades' directories show him to have been landlord of the Marquis of Granby on Long Acre between 1822 and 1855. He is in the 1861 census. The most recent reference to the Marquis of Granby in the newspapers for the period is 1828. Apart from being the starting point for carriers to Grantham and Nottingham; the Marquis of Granby is not mentioned in other directories, so we do not know when it ceased.

### 1883

By the time of the 1883 OS survey and shown more clearly on the 1910 map, the configuration of buildings had changed and one wonders if this is consistent with the demise of the Marquis of Granby as an inn.



Map dated 1883



O.S. map for 1910



Modern map.  
OS Licence No 0100031673

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### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

<b>NGR</b>	470595 339767
<b>Height OD (mid point north edge)</b>	25.847 m [error 0.051]
<b>Dig dates</b>	5-6 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013
<b>Pit site</b>	Lawn in back garden, somewhat elevated above the ground floor of the house.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pits, 10 spits, all sieved. Pit feature at the bottom excavated to the base at c90 cm.

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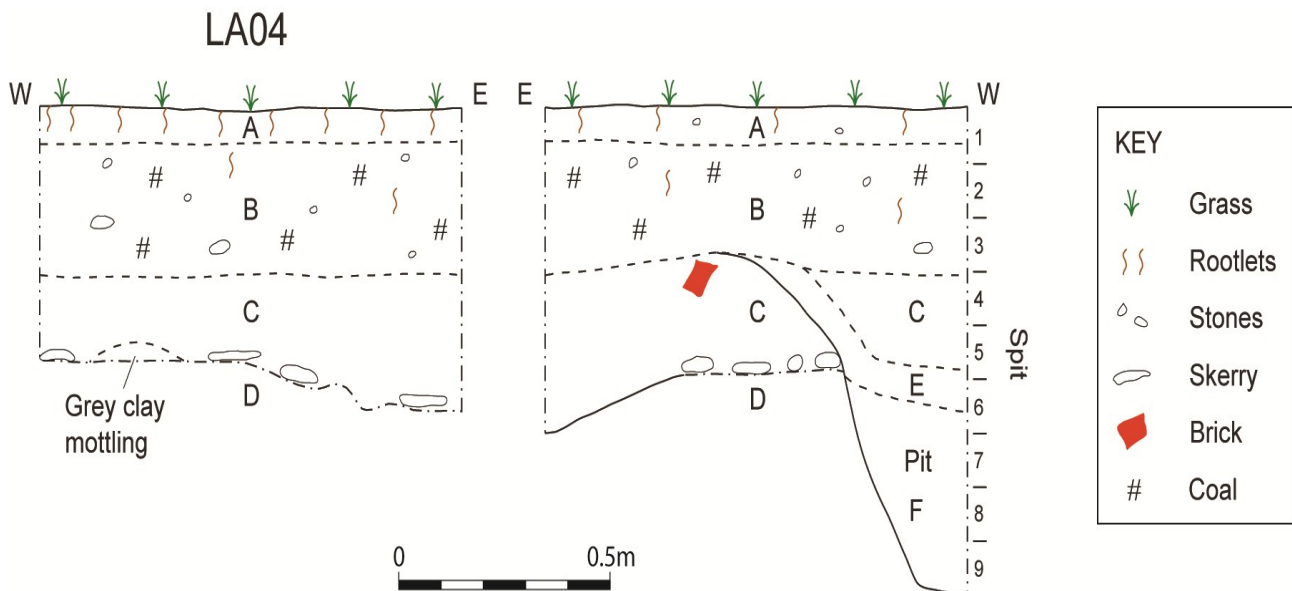
### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### Description of pit

This a complex pit. The topsoil and subsoil are clear, but there appears to be a thick weathered zone on top of the basal till with a pit dug through it.

- Topsoil to 8 cm depth
- Subsoil to 32 cm depth
- Weathered top to basal clay to c 60 cm
- Pit top at 48 cm with a rising spur to about 35cm.

The topsoil is dark brown-black sandy loam beneath turf.



- A topsoil of dark brown-black sandy loam beneath turf.*
- B Subsoil of brown-grey sandy loam with coal (5—10%), stones 1-5 cm, roots*
- C Grey-orange clay with grey mottles. Gradual passage upwards and downwards. Likely to be the weathered top of the till*
- D Orange-red clay till. Grey mottles. Skerry stones up to 12 cm scattered about on surface, pebbles in it. Upper surface is irregular.*
- E Layer rich in coal, 7 cm thick.*
- F Brown-grey sandy loam.*

The subsoil is brown-grey sandy loam with coal (5-10%), stones up to 5 cm with roots.

The weathered top to the basal clay is grey-orange clay with grey mottles and it goes through a gradual upward and downward change.

The basal clay is orange-red with grey mottles and some pebbles in it. Skerry cobbles up to 12 cm form a layer on the irregular top of the basal clay.

The pit feature seen in the southern side of the test pit has a top at c50 cm and was excavated down to 90 cm, where it bottomed. A smaller, shallow pit occurs about half way up the western side of the test pit. At the top of the larger depression in the SW corner is a coal-rich upper component,



*IMG\_2329 view N at 30 cm depth, just above the surface of the weathered top to the basal clay.*



*IMG\_2331 SW corner, view S at 40 cm. The arcuate section of coal-rich loam extends into the southern wall of the pit and rises into the subsoil..*



*IMG\_2333 SW corner. Fill and coal-rich unit removed at 40 cm.*



*IMG\_2340 S face full depth showing the excavated pit in the SW corner. The coal-rich unit extends upwards into the subsoil layer.*

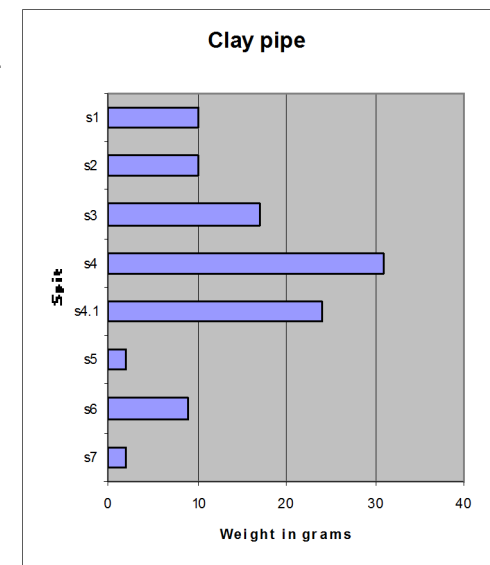
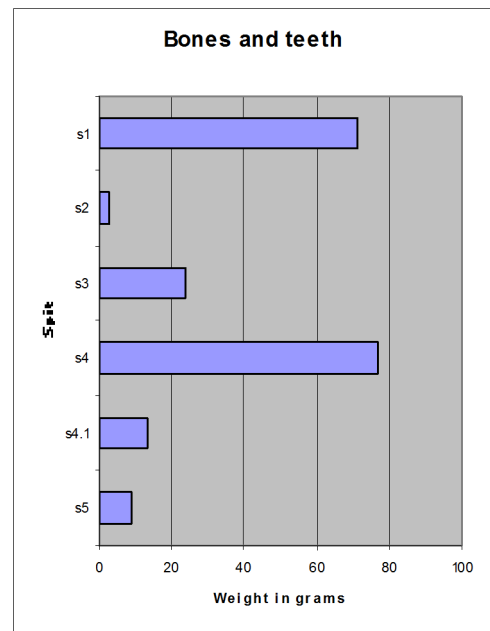
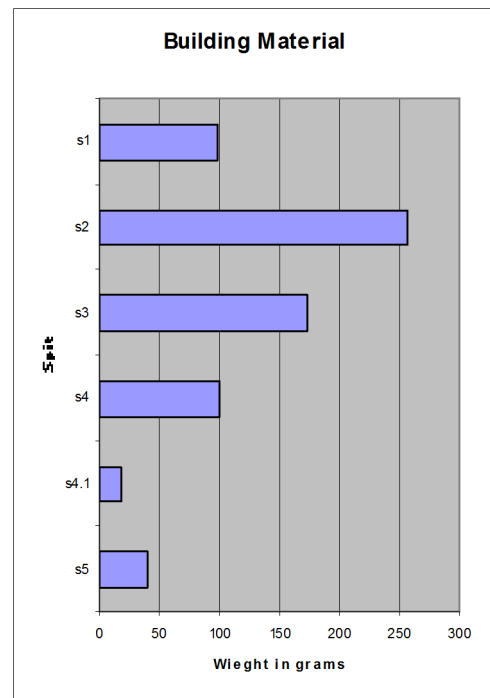
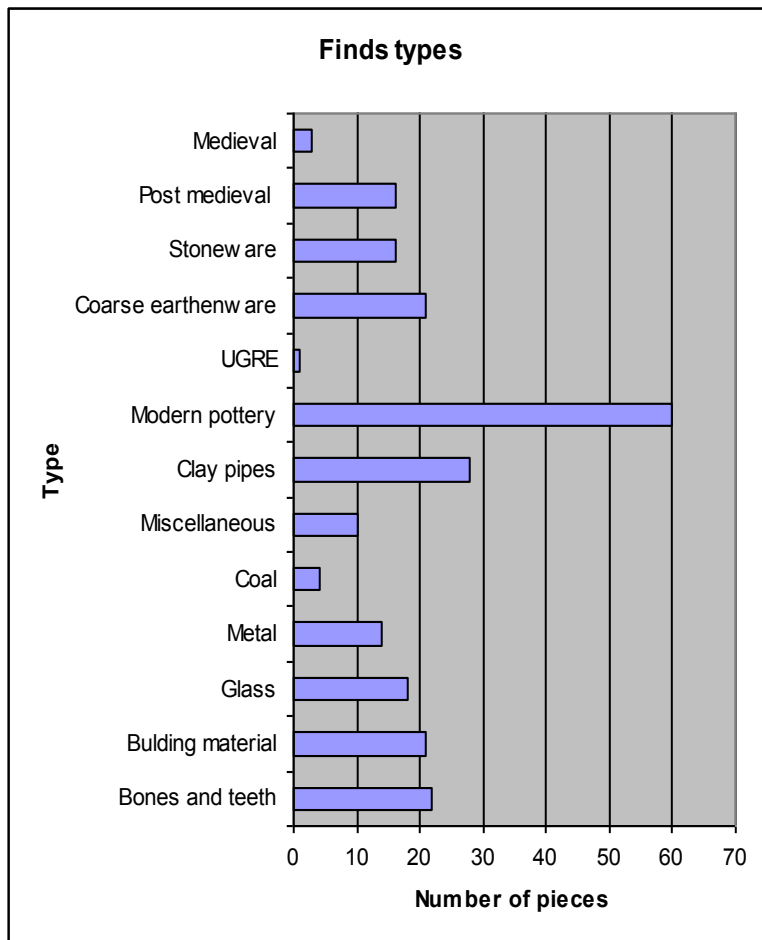
which forms a rising spur from one side of the pit up into the subsoil. It is very difficult to explain this feature as it seems to intersect the boundary between the weathered top to the basal clay and the subsoil. The most realistic explanation is that it is an animal burrow with an origin outside the boundary of the pit and that all the coal-rich material is infill to the burrow. The fill beneath this coal-rich component is brown-grey sandy loam. Various artefacts were recovered from the fill.

### **Finds**

The most striking feature about this pit is the large amount of Modern pottery, the lesser amount of post medieval pottery, the very small amount of medieval pottery and nothing older. The pit was situated on or close to the site of an 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> C pub and it is likely that most of the finds relate to that episode in the history of the site.

The depth range of all the categories of find ignored the boundary between the topsoil and subsoil.

Building material found down to 50 cm depth includes brick, floor tile, ceramic tile, slate and roof tile. It is possible that this material is derived from the pre-existing building on this site rather than



from the building phase leading to the erection of the current house.

Bones and teeth were found down to 50 cm.

Glass was found to 40 cm depth. Of the 20 fragments, 9 were of bottles: clear, green, brown and embossed blue. All were round. Some fragments had a strong patina. The embossed fragment is definitely late 19th or 20th C, but the others could be slightly earlier. The remaining pieces were flat, window glass. One was 1/8th inch. All the rest were 1/16th inch and clear to aqua in colour. One piece showed marking around the edge where it had been set in lead. These pieces could be from any age pre 20th C.

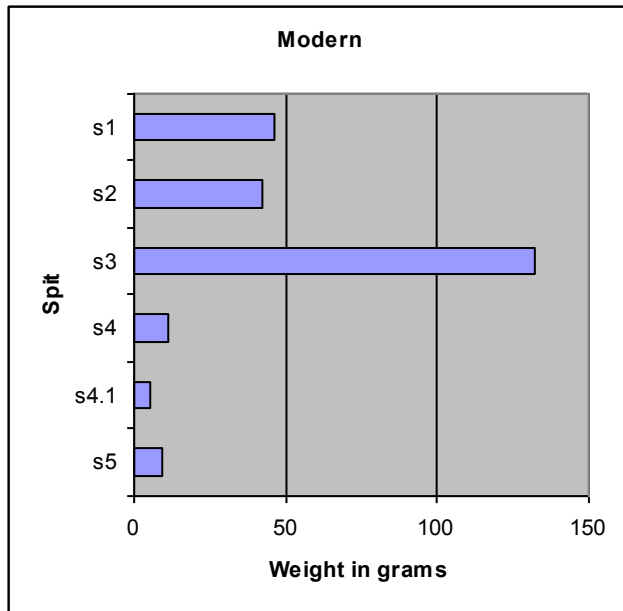
Metal objects include a nail and a screw, but little else of distinction. etc

Two pieces of clinker were found in the pit feature.

Coal occurred in quantity within parts of the subsoil and in the possible animal burrow. Large pieces were recovered mostly below 20 cm depth, including the pit feature.

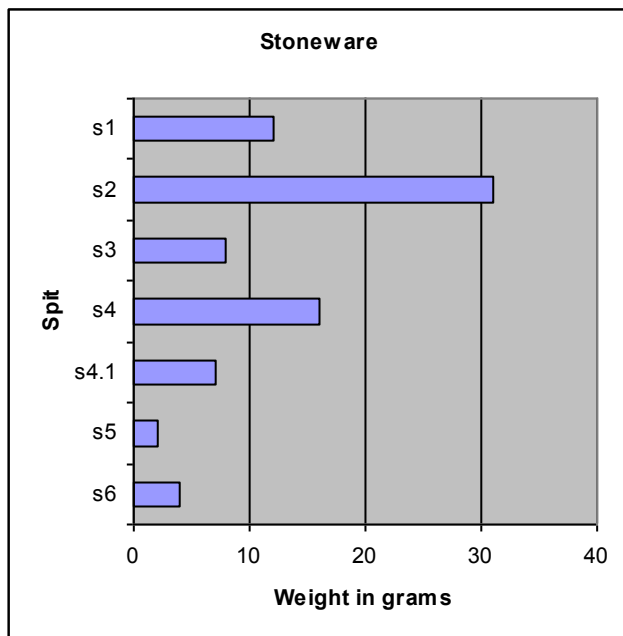
There was a variety of miscellaneous items mostly between 10 and 30 cm depth. These include buttons, slate pencil, a



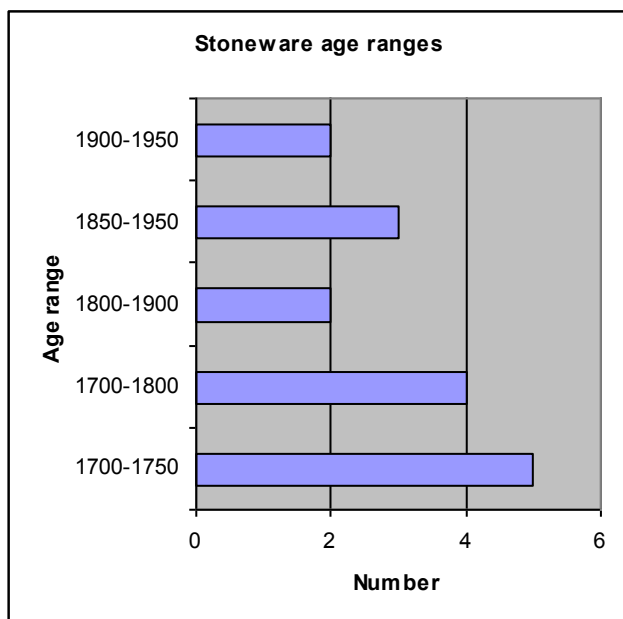


bit of plastic, bone discs that were probably the core of a fabric-covered button, a pencil lead, a hook/eye and a foreign sea shell, possibly a souvenir from a foreign holiday.

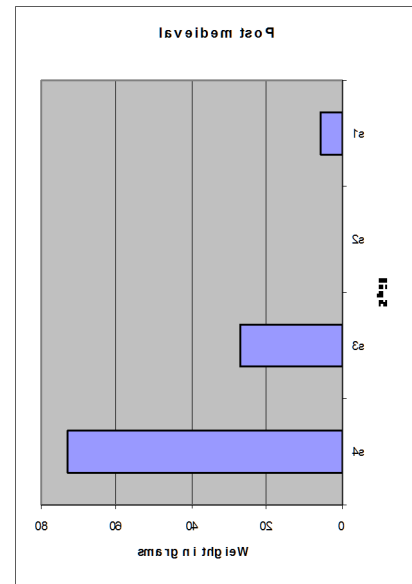
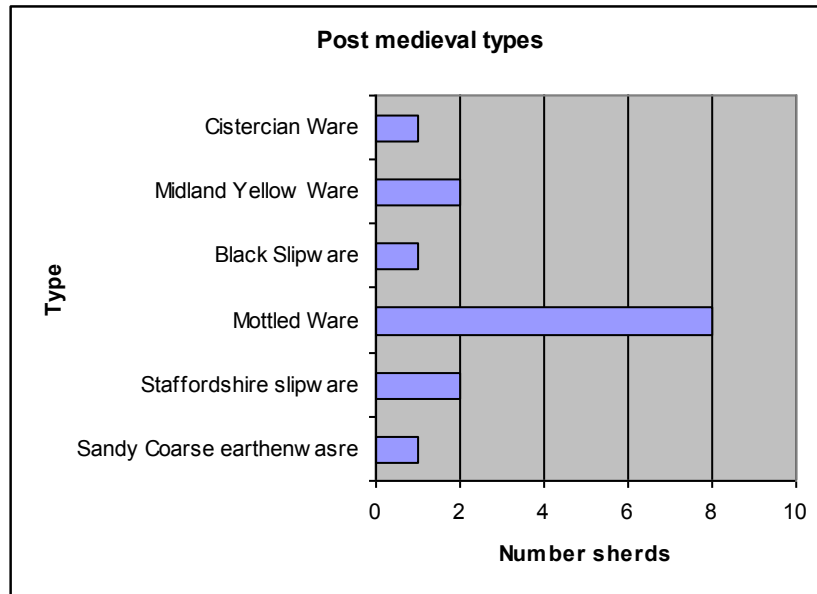
The clay pipes were all above 50 cm depth. One bowl fragment could be tightly dated between 1850-60 and three others were after 1800. However, all except two of the stem fragments are late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> C. The two exceptions are stem fragments dated 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> C. These were both found near the top of the subsoil. Several late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> C stems were found in the top of the pit feature.



59 sherds of Modern pottery were found. All of them were above 50 cm depth. 46% of these were White Ware. Most were body parts from unidentifiable forms, though they were most likely to be plates. Some thick pieces could be sanitary ware. Two rounded rims of bowls were identified. They differed in size; one was 22 cm diameter and the other 16 cm. The larger one might be a chamber pot. One other sherd had in it a glazed hole such as would be found in a colander. A sherd from a possible plate was decorated with thin, concentric gold lines and a leafy pattern, also in gold. Transfer printed wares comprised 32%. Included here are some that might be hand painted, but were too small to be sure. These could be late 18<sup>th</sup> C, but the rest were 19<sup>th</sup> C. A small number of sherds could have come from Willow pattern plates. Nearly all were either blue and white or pale blue and white, but one was red and white. This one would post-date 1840. Some sherds were thought to be Flow Blue. This is typically a mid 19<sup>th</sup> C design. The remaining 13 sherds were: Cream Ware, Cane-coloured Ware, Mocha Ware and Kitchen Ware. The cane-coloured sherds were made up of coarse wares that were most likely to be large bowls. There were several others mainly cane-coloured that were parts of Mocha Ware jugs and mugs. Two sherds from a very distinctive type of coarse ware had a white internal glaze and a buff outer colour made by applying a clear glaze to the buff body. This had the look of a mixing bowl, but was categorized as Kitchen Ware. Apart from the small number of Cream Ware sherds and possibly the hand painted blue and white, most were 19<sup>th</sup> C. There was, however, one sherd of Staffordshire



White Salt-glaze Stoneware which has a date range 1720-1780. There was nothing that could be attributed to the 20th C.



None of these finds were located in the larger pit feature, but two sherds of White Ware were collected from the small feature at around 40 cm depth.

A single sherd of Unglazed Red Earthenware was found.

Just over 50% of the coarse earthenware was pink bodied, which is thought to have been a predominantly 18<sup>th</sup> C fabric, but the rest consisted of red-bodied, light-bodied and vitrified coarse earthenware. The few pieces that could be identified came from pancheons and a bowl. Two of the light-bodied coarse earthenware sherds were from the pit feature fill.

More than half of the Stoneware is 18<sup>th</sup> C, but there are three sherds post-dating 1850. One early sherd has the orange fabric that characterises the early 18<sup>th</sup> C pottery made in Nottingham. The forms were bottles, preserving jars, mugs, bowls, a pancheon, a plate and a loving cup.

The post-medieval pottery collection was dominated by Mottled Ware, a late 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> C pottery type. The sherds were from bowls, cups and a jug. Five of them were from the pit feature. There was also Staffordshire Slipware and Black Slipware dishes from roughly the same period. Earlier fabric types include Midland Yellow Ware (late 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> C), a Cistercian Ware jug (mid 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> C) and Sandy Coarse Earthenware, which is a late form of Midland Purple Ware, probably 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> C. A piece of post-medieval tile is undated.

There were only three sherds of medieval pottery. Two were Midland Purple Ware (1450-1550) and one Nottingham Green Glaze (1270-1350). All were small and not well preserved.

### Interpretation

The relatively shallow succession of topsoil and subsoil, little more than 32 cm thick resting on a thick weathered top to the basal clay, shows no stratification of pottery sherds. The medieval finds occur in spits 1, 3 and 4. There is no stratigraphical order to the post-medieval pottery either. This suggests that, as elsewhere, the ground, while showing an undisturbed profile from weathered basal clay upwards through subsoil to organic topsoil, has been turned either during agricultural or horticultural practices.

The small depression on the western side of the test pit contained two sherds of White Ware, a piece of clinker, coarse earthenware, some late 18th to 19th C clay pipe stems, two sherds of 18th C stoneware, bits of floor tile, a piece of bone and coal. It was recorded as a post hole to start with, but it is too shallow for that and is thought to be nothing more than an irregularity in the surface of the basal clay.

The bigger pit feature that figures so strongly in the south-western part of the test pit with a top at 47 cm depth contains very little, but it includes a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> C stoneware and some coal. The shape of the pit suggests that it is a quadrant of a circular excavation, some 40 cm deep and largely outside the limits of the test pit. The components in the fill are inconclusive, but suggests that it may have been dug during the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> C. The absence of much solid material in it suggests that it might have been dug for the disposal of night soil.

Mottled Ware is the most common of the post-medieval pottery. Elsewhere many of the Mottled Ware fragments are pieces of tankard and thought to be closely associated with pubs. The stoneware is most interesting in that it comes from a very wide range of forms including plates. There was a period during the 18<sup>th</sup> C before the mass-produced ceramics coming out of Stoke-on-Trent had come to dominate the market, when Stoneware was widely used for tableware and kitchen ware. It was then that the Staffordshire White Salt-glaze Stoneware came into prominence. Later stoneware came to be used mostly in the kitchen and pantry. Nearly all the glazed Modern pottery is 19th C, as is most of the glass, though the thin window glass with signs of having been fitted into lead may be older. The soil profile above the pit feature contains 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> C material with no recognisable 20th C pottery, though the blue, embossed glass would be late 19th C. The relatively higher concentration of 19th C over 18th C pottery suggests that there was greater activity during that century.

The strange feature above the possible rubbish pit containing coal mixed with loam is likely to be an animal burrow originating outside the limits of the test pit. It is no more than 7 cm in diameter.