

PITS LA06, LA20, LA21, LA24 and LA25

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
OF WARNER'S Paddock**

ARCHAEOLOGY OF WARNER'S PADDOCK

LA06, 20, 21,24 and 25

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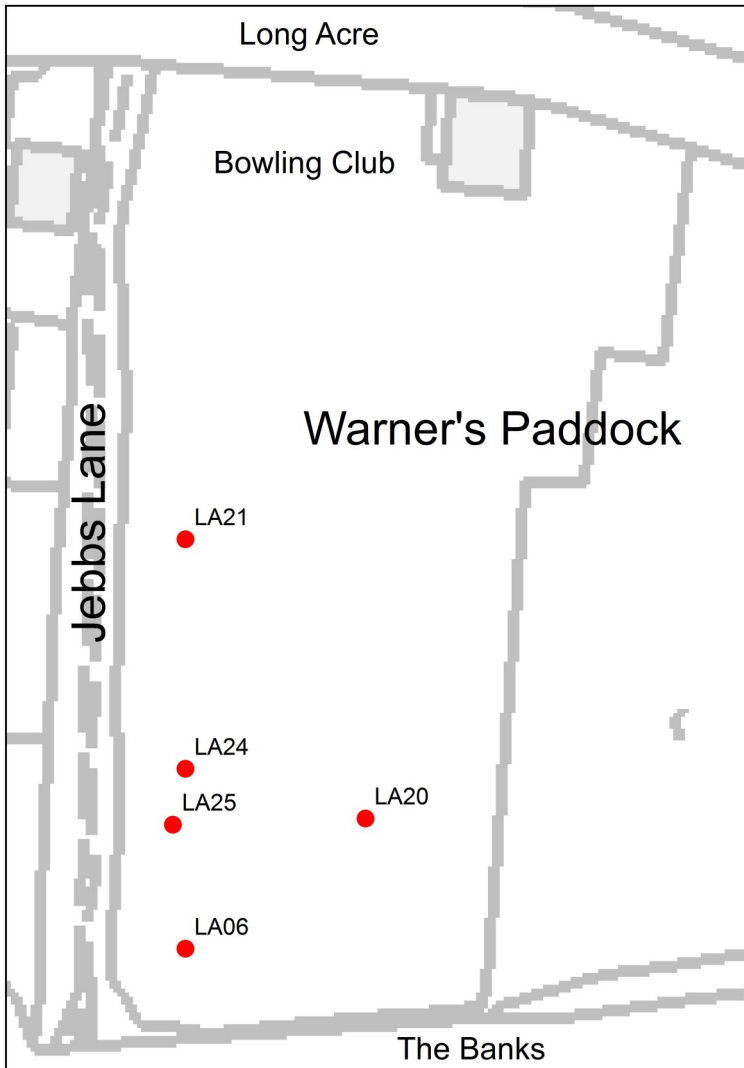
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ASSESSMENT OF ALL FIVE PITS

LA06, LA20, LA21, LA24 and LA25 WARNER'S PADDOCK

INTRODUCTION



Pit location on a modern map, by permission of OS Licence No 0100031673

Three pits were dug during 2012 and another two in 2013. Four of them were close to the boundary hedge with Jebb's Lane; one was sited on a possible old, field boundary that runs down the middle of the south western field.

The original objective of digging in this field was to find some evidence of the occupancy by Jebb, a person whose history is only sketchily known. It was intended only to dig two pits, one set close to where it is thought Jebb's house might have been (LA06) and the other to explore the old field boundary (LA20). These pits yielded few finds and gave no indication that there was a house anywhere nearby.

While digging it was noted that there were two slightly raised platforms covered in nettles along the western field boundary. A third pit (LA21) was dug on one of them in 2012. This yielded a large amount of Roman pottery, some Late Saxon and more slag than would normally be expected. We, therefore, sought permission to dig more pits in this field in 2013 to explore the other platforms (LA24 and LA25). Thus of the five pits four were dug along the western field boundary.

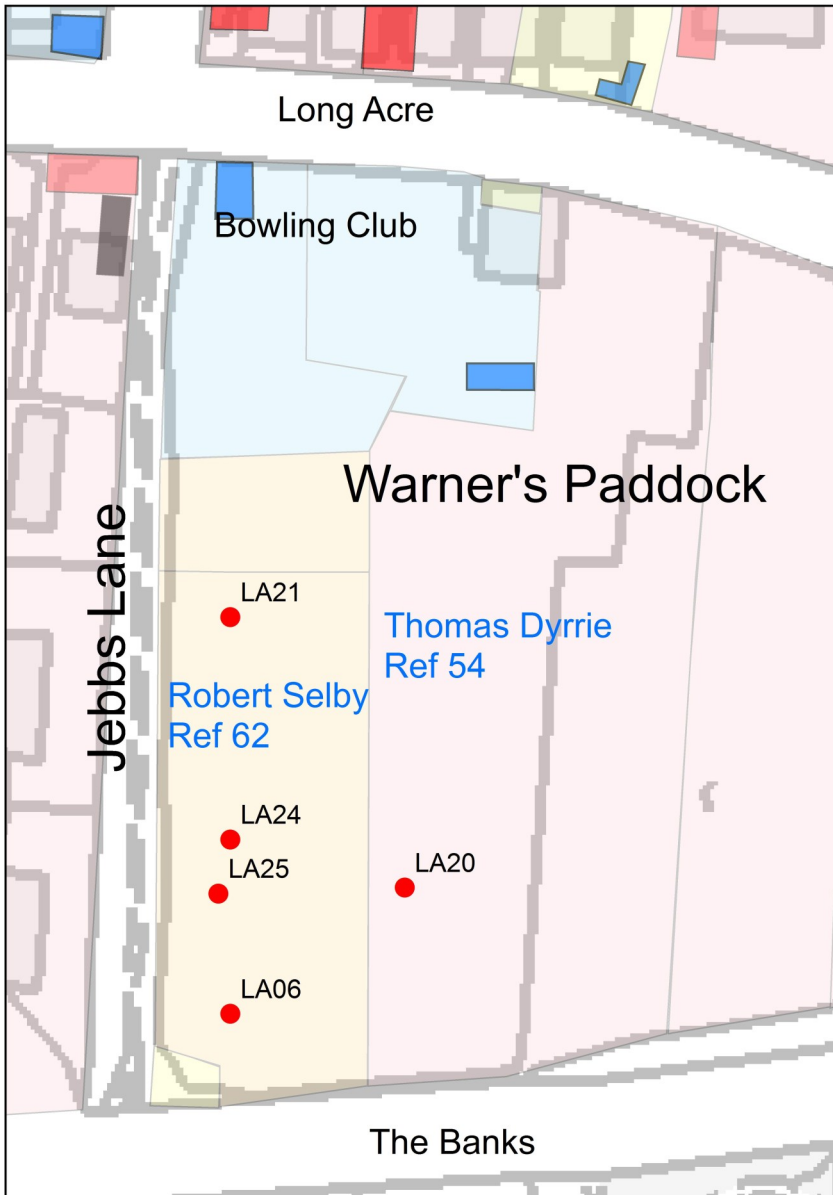
The land is currently owned by the Crown Estate and rented to Mrs Joan Miller for grazing horses. We are grateful to both of them for giving us permission to work in the field.

LA06, LA20, LA21, LA24 and LA25

SITE HISTORY

WARNER'S PADDOCK

The five test pits all lie on the north western part of the plot of land known as Warner's Paddock. This site history is confined to that part.



The field is bounded on the south by The Banks, on the west by Jebb's Lane and on the east by an untrimmed, wide hedge. On the north the field in which the pits were dug was separated from the land occupied by the Bowling Club by a strip that for the duration of the work was marked out by an electric fence.

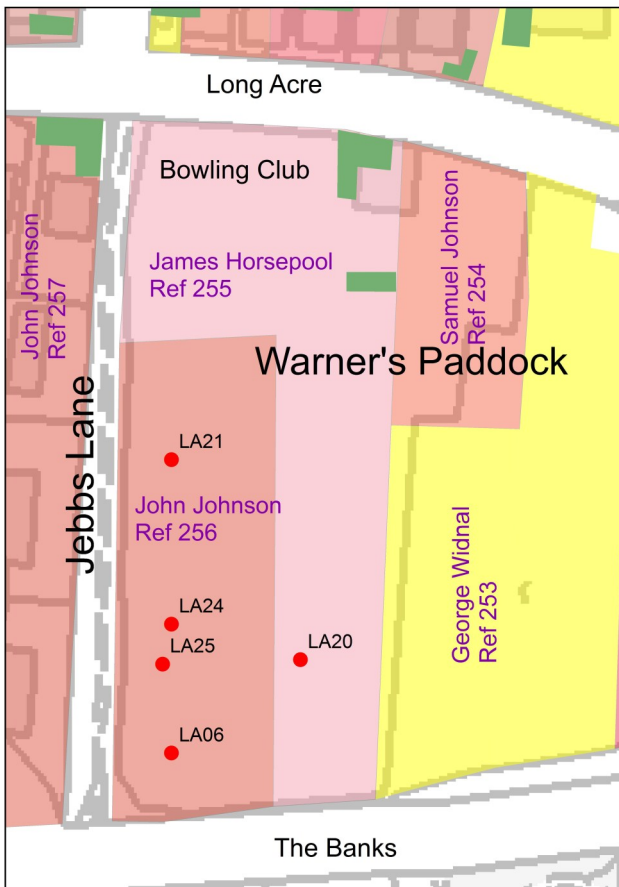
The field slopes to the north and there are steep banks at its boundary with The Banks and Jebb's Lane. The field is divided approximately into two parts by a shallow ditch along what appears to be an old field boundary. The field to the west of this ditch is about 1 metre higher than on the east. This difference fades out northwards just short of the electric fence.

There is no sign of ridge and furrow in the field, nor any obvious reason why one half of it should be higher than the other.

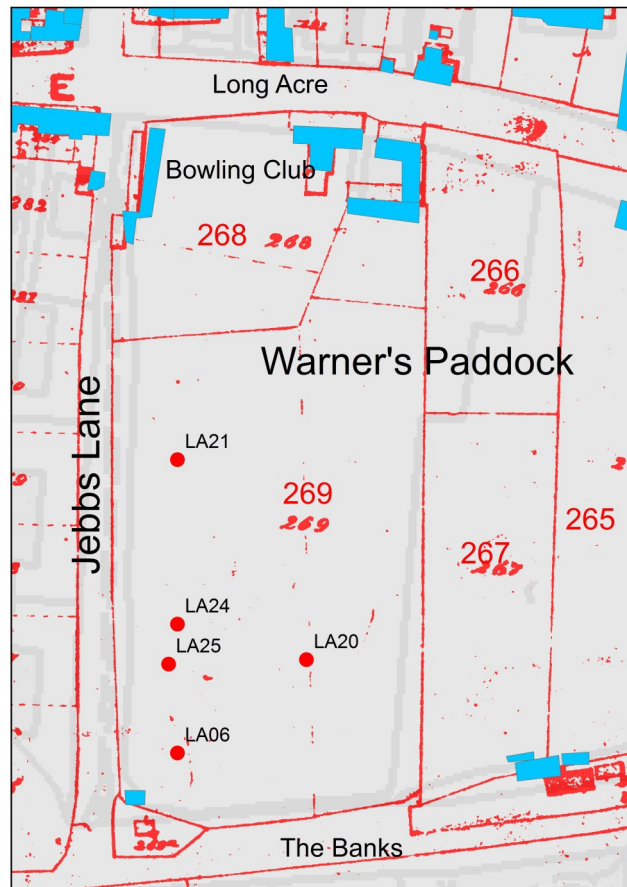
Extract from the 1586 map showing the land holdings as recorded in the manorial survey of 1586. This is a conjectural map. The five pits are located by grid references on the modern map, all of which seem to have shifted to the east in relation to the 1586 map. LA 20, for example, should be on the boundary between the holdings of Robert Selby and Thomas Dyrrie, while all the other pits are around 10 metres from the boundary with Jebb's Lane.
OS Licence No 0100031673

1586

As with all other Bingham properties, the estate survey of 1586 is the earliest reference we have to land holdings. The map showing holdings in 1586 is based on the BHTA conjectural map of the estate survey text produced for the then Lord



The land holdings as recorded in the estate survey of 1776. As with the 1586 map there has been a displacement to the west in relation to locations placed using the modern national grid. LA 20, for example should be on the boundary between the holdings of John Johnson and James Horsepool.



The holding in 1841 as shown on the tithe map.

of the Manor, Bryan Stapleton. Four of the Test pits were dug on an area of Warner's paddock held in 1586 by Robert Selby. The fifth was on the boundary with land held by Thomas Dyrrie. Both were farmers who had their homesteads on Husband Street – the “street of the farmers”. The lands on Warner's Paddock were “by-closes”, probably for keeping stock. There were no buildings here.

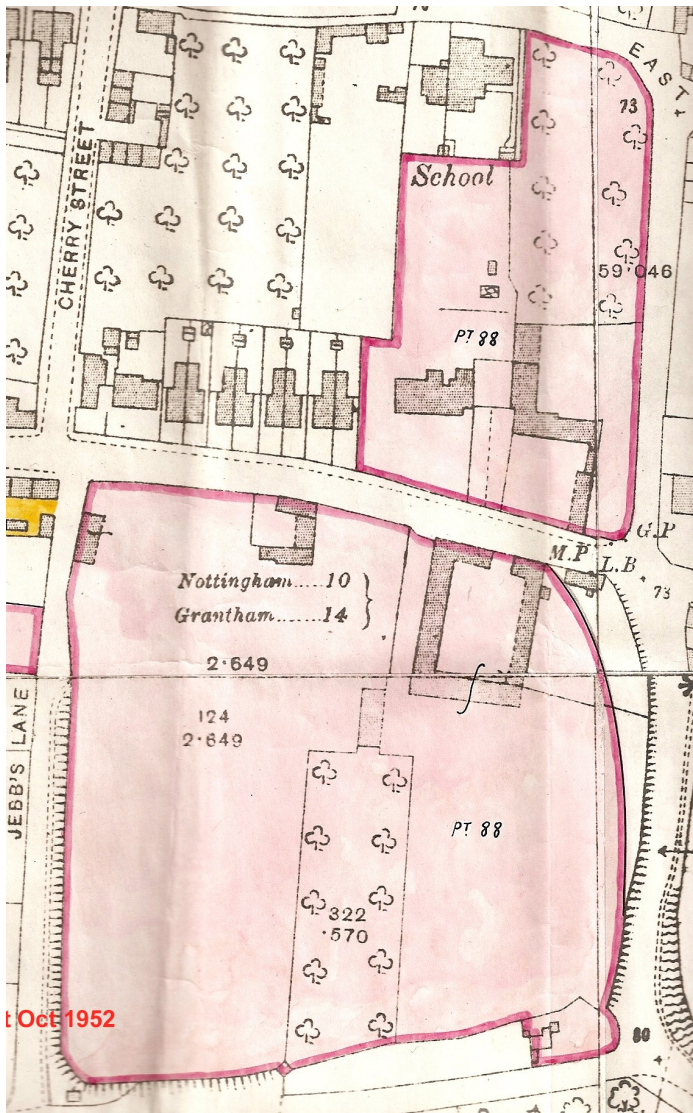
Dyrrie's house, barns etc were on the NE corner of Cherry Street and Long Acre (modern Dane Cottage). Selby's homestead was on the west side of Jebbs Lane stretching from Long Acre (Husband Street) to The Banks. Both were substantial farmers. Selby had 194 strips in the open fields and Dyrrie 124.

1776

In 1776 “Warner's Paddock” was divided into more plots than in 1586. Selby's lands had by now passed to John Johnson, who held a total of 15 acres in the rest of the parish. James Horsepool, with a total of 37 acres, had a farm house and stock yard on plot number 255 and used the southern part as a close. He probably built the dovecote and barn now used by the bowls club.

1841

By 1811 John Horsepool had consolidated the holding into plots 268 and 269, forming the whole



Land owned by Edward L Warner in 1952.

of western Warner's Paddock and including all the test pits. The small piece of land and the (blue) building at the extreme SW was a house and workshop held by John Nowell, described in the 1841 census as a stocking maker.

1930s – 1960s

The name *Warner's Paddock* is relatively recent. It was owned by Edward L Warner who lived opposite at Porchester Farm-house. He was a farmer and chairman of the Rural District Council for a number of years. The 1952 map shows there were still substantial farm buildings on the northern part of the site.

The paddock is currently used for grazing horses and for harvesting hay.

LA06**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

NGR	470691.339656
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	29.106 m [error 0.02 m]
Dig dates	8-10 th August 2012
Pit site	SW corner of the field, close to the trees along the fence. Field slopes to the north. The field boundary to the south and west is on the edge of a steep slope leading down to The Banks and Jebb's Lane.
Pit protocol	<p>1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. 22-cm wide sondage along the south face from 50 cm to the base at 80 cm. Bottom was kept horizontal.</p> <p>Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.</p>

LA06

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

There are three contexts, but there is a gradation between them.

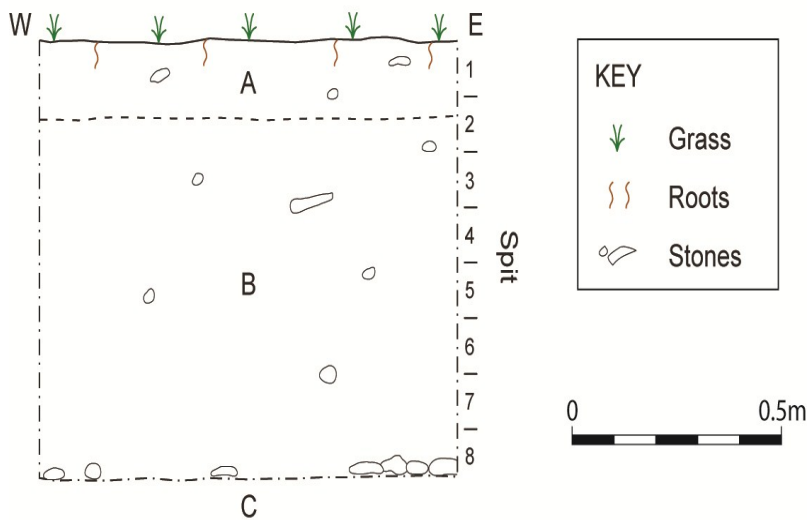
Topsoil to 13 cm

Subsoil to 80 cm

Till

The topsoil is a hard-packed, sandy loam with a low organic content. It contains a range of inclusions, among which are pebbles, coal and road stone gravel. The inclusions are sparse and accidental. There is no evidence of ploughing suggesting that the field may have been pasture for a long time.

LA06



- A Topsoil of dark brown silty sandy loam with root lets, sparse pebbles to 3 cm.*
- B Subsoil of reddish brown gritty clay with occasional stones*
- C Red-brown gritty clay with sparse pebbles on the surface*

The topsoil gradually merges downwards into the subsoil, which is clearly a derivative of the underlying till. The few stones in it are local Triassic varieties of skerry and sandstone. This is also hard and compacted, but there are layers of damp and softer material in it. Although the pit was dug to 80 cm there were no finds recovered from lower than 60 cm.

The basal till is a gritty red-brown clay with some pebbles in it. They are local Triassic types. A layer of stones, some up to 8 cm, rests on the irregular surface of the till. Some are very well rounded and pitted as though by wind erosion. Layers of stones like this have been recorded on top of the till in several other pits.



General view of the site.



IMG_1577LA06 south face showing sondage and the two main contexts.

Finds

Just over half (13) of the 24 finds that were catalogued were pottery. All the building material, which was brick and roof tile, was found in the top 20 cm. None of the pieces of brick were measurable. Coal was found above 40 cm as was a piece of a hack saw blade. One tooth was found above 40 cm and one small piece of bone between 50 and 60 cm. A piece of fuel-ash slag was recovered from between 40 and 50 cm. The significance of this find at that depth was not realized until the slag in the other pits was identified.

The three sherds of coarse earthenware were collected from the topsoil. There was no Modern glazed ware. They were small, eroded pieces of Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware.

The post medieval sherd is Cistercian Ware, dated roughly from 1450 to 1550 and was found in the upper part of the subsoil.

Four of the medieval sherds were Nottingham Splashed Ware, while one was Medieval Sandy Ware. These are mainly 12th C to early 13th C. The remaining sherd of Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glazed Ware spans the period 1275 to 1325. They were present at all depths to 50 cm. There was no pottery below this.

The Roman pot was a small piece of a bowl of Nene Valley colour-coated ware from the 3rd to 4th C. It was found in the upper part of the subsoil.

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Interpretation

The layer of wind eroded stones on top of the till suggests that this was once a land surface. The till is most likely to be derived during the Anglian glaciation dated 430,000 years ago. Wind erosion could have happened during periods of Arctic desert conditions after the ice had retreated. However, similar conditions occurred over a long period during the later Devensian glaciation when there was no ice in the East Midlands. The overlying subsoil and topsoil would have accumulated either after the Anglian or during the Devensian glaciations.

To the south of the site is The Banks, which in parts has the appearance of a hollow way. Its age is uncertain, but there is evidence that The Banks was a back lane used for gaining access to the open fields to the south of it in the late 16th century. The likelihood is that it served the same purpose in preceding centuries. Jebb's Lane to the west of Warner's Paddock is a sunken lane and evidence from the other pits dug in this field suggests that it might have been a right of way in the Iron Age.

The pottery finds in this pit, though meagre, tell an interesting story. Pits to the north show a high quantity of Roman pottery and indications that there might have been a house or houses nearby. It is not unusual for a single Roman sherd to be present in this locality.

The medieval sherds all pre-date the Black Death and most of them could possibly have been in use in the 12th C. The single piece of fuel-ash slag may be older, as a number of other pieces have been found in the other pits associated with Late Saxon pottery. After the Black Death there is only a single sherd of Cistercian Ware. This is similar to several other pits where there is evidence of a gap between the mid 14th C Black Death and the mid to late 15th C. Although there are earthworks in this field that suggest division into smaller units there is no evidence of ridge and furrow, which would indicate medieval ploughing. Elsewhere there is good evidence that the period up to the Black Death was one of intense agricultural activity: thus, it is likely that the field was never used for arable agriculture.

The younger material, the bricks, tiles, coal, coarse earthenware etc are all likely to be 19th or 20th C additions possibly associated with the occupation of this part of the field by the man called Jebb, or his ancestors. The absence of any modern pottery, however, is surprising unless he never had anything to break.

LA20**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

NGR	470720.339677
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	26.641 m [error 0.018]
Dig dates	8 th August 2012
Pit site	Ditch down the middle of the western paddock. Field is c 60 higher to the west of the ditch than to the east.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. The whole pit was dug only to 16 cm. A 30 x 30 cm slot was dug in the NW corner to 40 cm. Pit abandoned early. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.

LA20

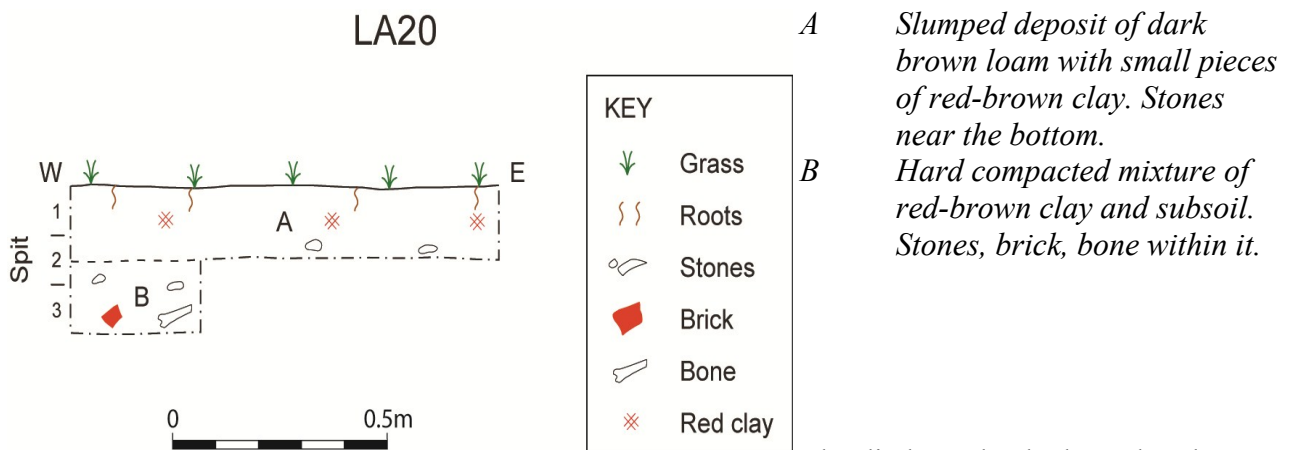
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

The pit was dug into the steep side of the ditch that marked the boundary between two fields. There was no stratigraphy at all in the pit. From a few cm down the contexts were mixed and it was clear that the pit was sited in a slumped deposit along the edge of the higher-level field. Red-brown clay, which is possibly the basal till was found mixed with loamy subsoil at all depths.

Finds

Only three finds were recorded: two pieces of bone and a piece of ironstone. There was no pottery.

Interpretation

IMG_1573 LA20 view north, final depth.

The ditch marks the boundary between two fields. It runs almost due north for nearly the whole length of the field and slopes in that direction, flattening out at the electric fence near the bottom. During periods of high rainfall it acts as a conduit. The fact that the western field is c 60 cm higher than the eastern field is not easy to explain and the pit was sited where it was partly to find an explanation. The whole of the deposit in the pit is likely to be the result of collapse of the side of the higher field. It might be that the original field surface was beneath it, but it is also possible that the mixture of red-brown clay and soil marks the top of the till. The ground was so hard and compacted that it was difficult to dig and the pit was abandoned at

30 cm.

Bone seems to occur everywhere and cannot be interpreted. The piece of ironstone, however, is unusual and not from the local geology. It was considered a possibility that there may have been industrial activity in the neighbourhood.

LA21**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

NGR	470691.339722	
Height OD (mid point rim of N face)	25.828 m [error 0.015	m]
Dig dates	9-10 th August 2012	
Pit site	Raised area covered in nettles near Jebb's Lane. One of possibly three such raised platforms. This one is the southernmost.	
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. From 72 to 82 cm dug an E-W trench 50 cm wide along the north side. From 82 cm took out a 50 cm square in the NE corner to 100 cm. Dug to 110 cm with a spade from the bottom of this to explore for the natural base. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated.	

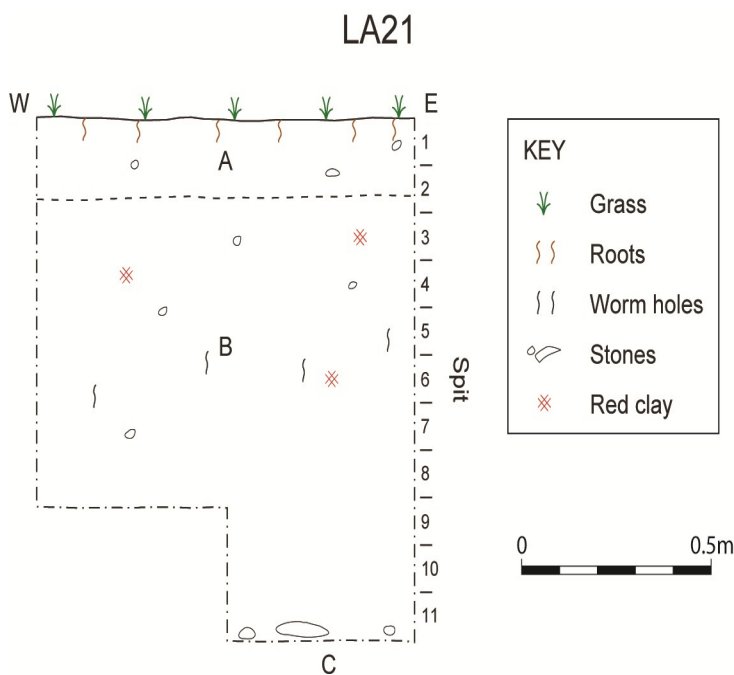
LA21

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

There was little variation in this pit. The topsoil graded down into subsoil, which rested on red-brown till.

Topsoil to 17 cm
Subsoil to 110 cm
Till



- A* Topsoil of very dark brown sandy loam with sparse stones.
- B* Subsoil of dark brown sandy, clayey loam. Rare stones, vertical worm tubes. Colour lightens with depth.
- C* Red-brown gritty clay with stones. Mixed with subsoil and a layer of stones at surface.



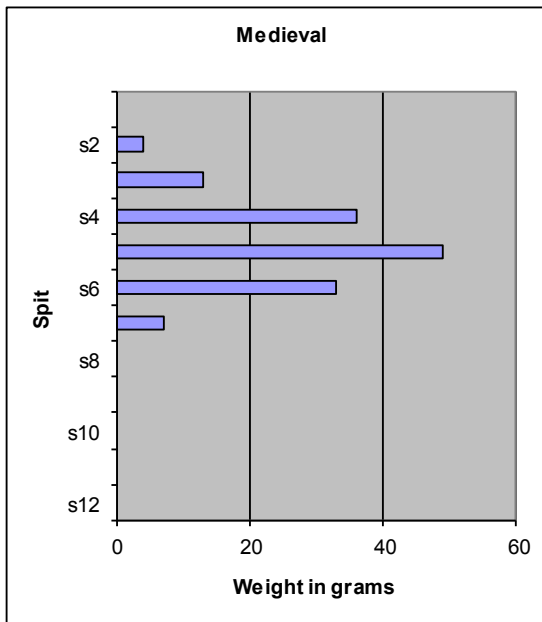
IMG_1579 LA21 view north, completed pit.

The topsoil is a very dark brown, organic, sandy loam with sparse stones. It passes downwards, lightening in colour into a more clay-rich sandy loam. Vertical worm tubes were seen. There are very few stones in it, but among them are nodules of grey-green siltstone, sand nodules, well rounded quartz and quartzite pebbles about 1 cm in diameter and some small lumps of red-brown clay. The colour continues to lighten downwards until the basal red-brown clay till is reached. The surface of the till is marked by a layer of large skerry stones, which is typical of the upper surface of the till in these parts.

Finds

224 finds were catalogued from this pit.

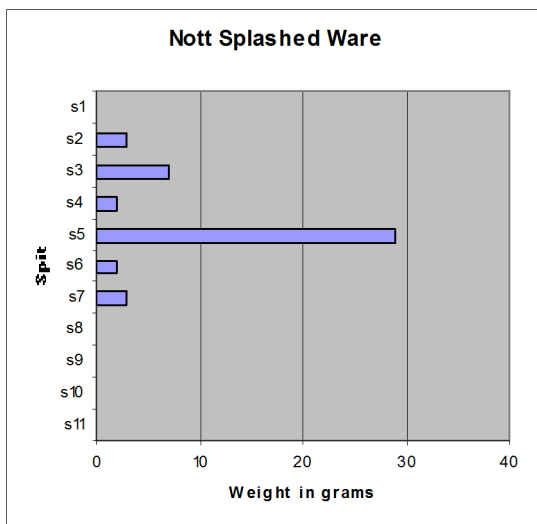
Apart from the pottery there are glass, metallic objects, coal, building materials, bones and teeth. These are mostly in the topsoil and the upper 10 cm of the subsoil and apart from the bones and teeth there are few items. The glass (4 pieces) was recovered from the top 30 cm and consisted of clear, 1/8th inch window, pale green window, green fine bottle and a clear bottle neck with a screw



top and a flat shoulder. The bottle is 20th C, but the other pieces could be 19th C. Brick and tile (3 pieces) are modern, probably 20th C. Only two pieces of coal were found and one of these was from between 60 and 70 cm depth. At this same level there were four pieces of lead thought to be window lead. Some wrought iron was recovered in spit 4. Among the bones and teeth, which were collected from all depths to 1 metre, is a boar tusk from spit 8.

There was very little pottery younger than Medieval.

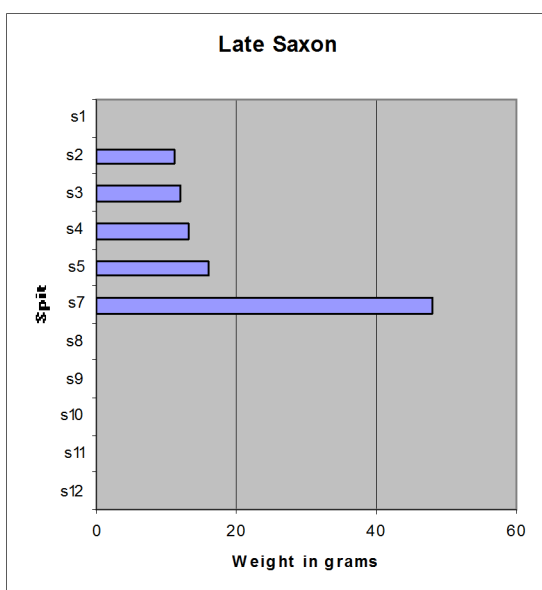
Among the modern pieces were two sherds of White Ware or Cream Ware. They were small and not diagnostic. Both were probably 19th C. One piece of plant pot and 3 sherds of red-bodied coarse earthenware, were all in the topsoil. Two sherds of Cistercian Ware were also found in the topsoil.



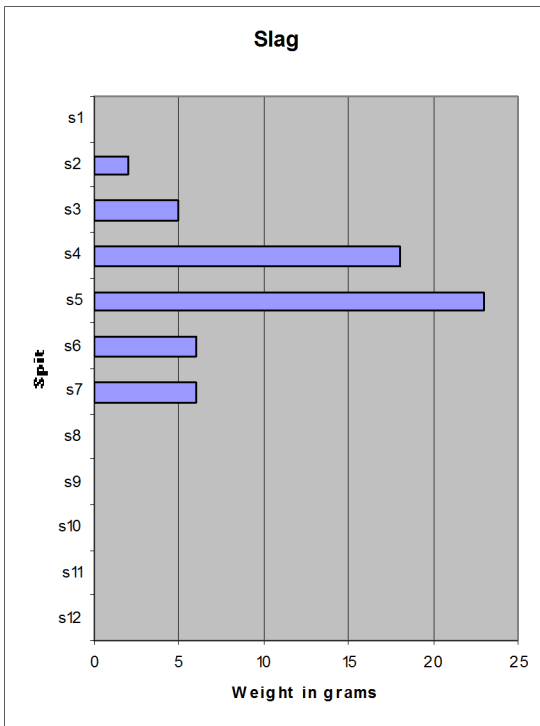
Medieval pottery was quite plentiful. It was found from the lower topsoil down to 70 cm with the most plentiful in the spit 5 between 40 and 50 cm. Most of the sherds are well abraded. The commonest type of ware found is Nottingham Splashed Ware from mid 12th to mid 13th C. While the distribution of this ware type is from spits 2 and 7, the same as for medieval as a whole, the greatest amount is in spit 5, which is also where the highest total for all medieval was recovered.

Others include Shell-tempered Ware, most of which was not well enough preserved to be able to date and a few single sherds of Medieval Sandy Ware, Nottingham Glazed Ware, Medieval Glazed Ware, Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze and Nottingham Coarse Pink Sandy Ware. The most unusual sherd is a medieval local fabric from the 12th C, which Jane Young has not seen elsewhere. Several sherds, though definitely medieval, could not be identified because their state of preservation was not good.

All the identified sherds were 12th to early 14th C, with the majority being well into the mid 12th to 13th C.



The Saxo-Norman range of sherds is fairly abundant and overlaps with the early Nottingham Splashed Ware. Much of it, however, can be attributed to the Late Saxon period. The later fabric types are Stamford Ware A (11th to mid 12th C), Stamford Ware B

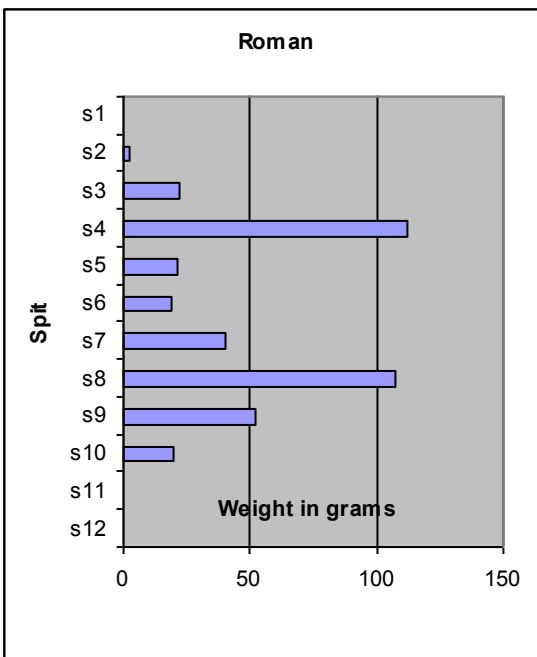


(slightly later mid 11 to 12th C) and Lincolnshire Fine-shelled Ware, also 11th to 12th C.

Among the Late Saxon fabrics Torksey Ware and Torksey-type Ware are the commonest. Other less common fabrics include Early Stamford A, Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware, Lincoln Shelly Ware and two sherds of local fabrics that Jane Young has not seen elsewhere.

The Saxo-Norman sherds are all between spit 2 and 7, but the majority are in spit 7, between 60 and 70 cm, which is below that maximum for the medieval range.

A number of pieces of slag were recovered from this pit. It was all identified as smithy slag, including fuel-ash slag. It ranged from the lower part of the topsoil to Spit 7, but it was most abundant in spits 4 and 5. One Stamford Ware fabric A sherd was recovered with a small piece of fuel-ash slag attached to it. Another piece of slag rested on a sherd of Torksey Ware.



63 Roman sherds were catalogued. Of these 48 were Grey Ware, most of which were not dated. A burnished piece has a date range 100 to 400, while another decorated piece is late (350 to 400). Their condition was not good, but some rim pieces suggest that they were from cooking pots. Of the remainder the earliest are Shell-tempered Ware (50 to 150) and a white mortarium sherd (70 to 300). There was a single piece of samian ware (150 to 230) and a single sherd of Dalesware-type, not precisely dated. There were two sherds of Medium Sandy Oxidised Ware, which cannot be dated with precision. The commonest sherd after the Grey Ware is Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware with a date range 170 to 350 or 200 to 400. One piece of Nene Valley Grey Ware was retrieved.

One piece of Iron Age pot was collected between 50 and 60 cm depth.

Interpretation

This pit was on a slightly raised platform which was suspected as being the site of a house.

Although the Roman, Saxo-Norman and Medieval sherds ranged through the pit profile there was a stratigraphy based on abundance. The Roman sherds show a bimodal distribution with high points in spits 4 and 8. The Late Saxon median is spit 7 and the medieval is spit 5. The single Iron Age sherd was found in spit 6. Thus, it is clear that there has been upward and downward movement of sherds within the soil, but overall the pattern of distribution shows that there was ac-

tivity on this site from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. Whether or not the abundance is sufficient to indicate habitation is unclear, but the total weight of Roman sherds in this pit is second only to the Cherry Street Pit (LA9) where there is good evidence of habitation. It cannot be ruled out that there was a Roman house near here. The dominance of Grey Ware (76%) is typical of rural sites, but the small proportion of more sophisticated ware types suggests a lowly farm. The low proportion of Nene Valley Colour-coated wares, the single sherd of a white ware mortarium, the single sherd of samian ware and absence of any of the other types of high status wares all support this conclusion.

Because there is so much Grey Ware it is difficult to put a date on the time of occupation. Indications are that the Romans were here very early are found in the presence of the Shell-tempered Ware, while samian ware is most commonly found among the possessions of the Army of occupation. Dateable sherds suggest possible occupancy until the end of the 4th C.

There is no indication of early to middle Anglo-Saxon activity here, but Late Saxon pottery is relatively abundant and this is maintained until the early 14th C. The smithy slag suggests that there was some form of industry here. One piece of slag was found resting on a sherd of Torksey Ware, but a sherd of Stamford Ware fabric A with a piece of fuel-ash slag stuck to it would indicate a later date for it. This sherd, however, was found in spit 4 and had clearly migrated upwards. The Stamford A date is 11th to mid 12th C. It is likely that the smithy slag reflects on activity late in the pre-Norman period, possibly continuing on afterwards.

The medieval sherds are predominantly Nottingham Splashed Ware and there is nothing that post-dates the Black Death in 1348-49. Most of the medieval sherds are highly abraded and were probably worked and reworked during ploughing. This is consistent with the story told elsewhere. Field walking distributions indicate that the mid 13th to early 14th C was a period of intense agricultural activity. However, there is no indication of ridge and furrow in this field, which usually indicates medieval ploughing. The raised level of the field surface on the western side relative to the east and the ditch between them seems to indicate that at some time this field was divided into two, but it may not have been ploughed. Certainly, the absence of post-Black Death sherds indicates abandonment of this land in the mid 14th C suggesting that the ridge and furrow ought to be preserved if it was ever there. Perhaps the best interpretation of the condition of the sherds is that they became abraded during horticultural activity close to settlement and that the settlement had continued on this site from the late 9th C when Torksey Ware was first made.

The most intriguing finds were the four pieces of lead thought to be window lead and one of the pieces of coal. They were found at the lowest level of occurrence of medieval pottery. Window lead and coal would indicate a high status house, for which there is no other evidence hereabouts. The glass found, though a single piece is pale green window glass, just a shade thinner than 1/8th inch, was found above 20 cm and cannot be related to the window lead.

After the 13th and early 14th C pottery there is a gap until Cistercian ware. Only two sherds of this were found. They date from 1450 at the earliest. Elsewhere where there are indications that activity stopped at the Black Death, this same length of gap is evident suggesting that it took about a century for the community to recover from the disaster of the plague.

All the younger pottery was found in the topsoil. There is very little of it and no indication that this land was cultivated for arable agriculture.

LA24**LOCATION AND PROTOCOL**

NGR	470689.339691 (mid point on north edge)
Height OD (mid point on north edge)	26.857 m
Dig dates	17 th -18 th June 2013
Pit site	Warner's Paddock, a slightly raised area with nettles 11.3 m from the boundary with Jebb's Lane and to the north of LA21.
Pit protocol	1-metre test pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. Bottom at 55 cm to 60 cm.

LA24

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

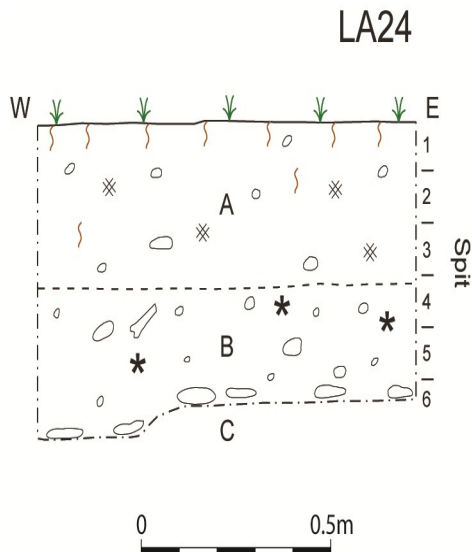
Description of pit

The soil profile seems to be natural and undisturbed:

Topsoil to 32 cm

Subsoil to 54 cm

Till



A Topsoil of brown sandy loam with rootlets under turf. 1-5% charcoal, sparse sandstone and skerry stones up to 4 cm. Pot, coal and an iron arrowhead in spit 3.

B Subsoil of grey-brown clay loam with 0.5 to 6 cm sandstone and skerry pebbles. Upper boundary is gradual. Abundant metallic slag.

C Basal till. Abundant Skerry up to 13 cm on the top surface. Orange-brown sandy clay mixed in the upper part with organic grey clay. Some charcoal in this layer.



IMG_2373 LA24. Finished pit view north showing irregular top of the till.



IMG_2374 LA24. North face of finished pit.

The topsoil beneath the turf is brown, sandy loam with rootlets, 1-5% charcoal and sparse, small pebbles up to 4 cm. It changes gradually downwards into grey-brown clay loam with pebbles of skerry and sandstone to 6 cm. The basal till is orange-brown and sandy. The upper surface is irregular and mixed with organic subsoil, but there is a spread of skerry stones on it on the east side. Some reach 13 cm long and are pitted as though they have suffered wind erosion. There is also some charcoal that may be carbonised rootlets at the lower levels.



IMG_2372 LA24 Arrowhead found at spit 3.

Finds

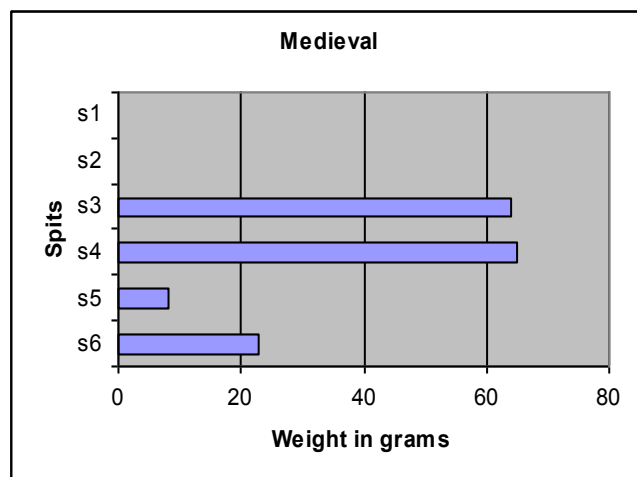
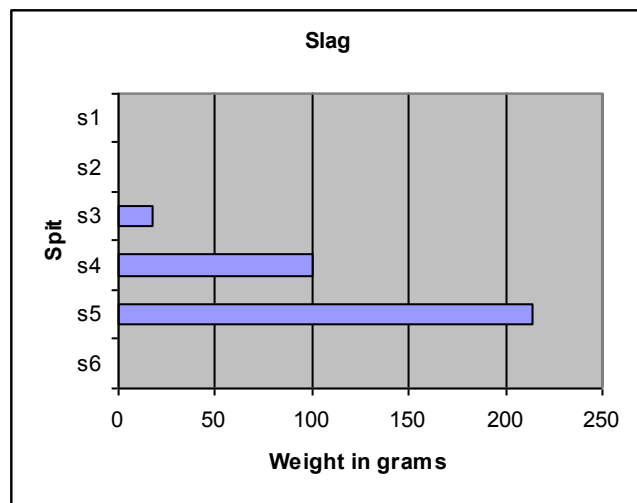
Among the miscellaneous items found are building material, clay pipe stems, coal, glass, metal objects, slag and bones and teeth.

Most of these were collected from the upper 30 cm of topsoil. The building material consists of tile, brick, plaster and mortar. Three clay pipe stems were found in the top 30 cm. Two were 19th C, the third a short piece of 17th-early 18th C stem. There was one sherd of glass, which was 1/16th inch thick green window glass. Also there were two pieces of coal and three metal objects. One of these, from between 30-40cm depth was an arrow head thought to be a 12th century hunting arrow.

The slag was found mostly in spit 4, 30 to 40 cm depth. All of it was smithy slag and included iron smithing slag, fuel-ash slag, much of it iron rich, hearth waste, hearth bottom and proto hearth bottom slag. Some of the hearth waste was highly magnetic. A piece of stone with a vitrified covering was possibly from the hearth structure itself. Quartz is intact in some of the fuel-ash slag indicating that the temperatures were not high. None of the pieces was very abraded and might be close to the source. The evidence suggests that this slag was generated in a smithy, where mostly iron objects were handled.

There were 24 pieces of bone and teeth found between 20 and 60 cm depth, including a boar tusk between 30 and 40 cm depth.

The Modern pottery is limited to two sherds of White Ware (1830-2000) and three sherds of coarse earthenware, all in the topsoil. A single sherd of stoneware, dated 1700 to 1750 was collected from the topsoil.



Five sherds of post-medieval pottery were found between 10 and 30 cm depth. The oldest is a single sherd of Glazed Red Earthenware, dated early 16th to mid 17th C. A Midland Yellow Ware sherd from the late 17th to 18th C, a brown-glazed, red-bodied sherd of unknown affinity and two sherds of Mottled Ware dated c1700 to 1750 were also found.

33 sherds of medieval pottery were collected, of which 16 were Nottingham Splashed Ware. As in LA21 some of the sherds are very abraded.

Of the remaining 7 fabric types Medieval Sandy Ware (7) sherds was the most abundant. The other types were present as one or two sherds only and include: Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange

Sandy Ware, Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze, Nottingham Green Glaze, Medieval Ware, Dalesware and two unknown types. The majority are 12th to mid 13th C, but none were types that are found after the mid 14th C.

12 sherds of Saxo-Norman fabric types were recovered, of which three were Late Saxon Torksey Ware. All came from spits 2 to 6, a similar distribution as for the medieval sherds. Four of the sherds were non-local fabric, which Jane Young was not able to identify more precisely. In addition there was a sherd of Lincoln Fine-shelled Ware from the 11th to 12th C and several sherds of Stamford Ware fabrics A and A/B from the 11th to mid 12th C and two sherds of Stamford Ware C, mid 12th to early 13th C were also present.

Two pieces of early/middle Anglo-Saxon pottery were found in spit 4. They were both Charnwood Ware and could be from the same vessel.

29 sherds of Roman pottery were found in spits 3 to 6, including the very lowest levels in the mixed zone just above the surface of the till. 23 of them were Grey

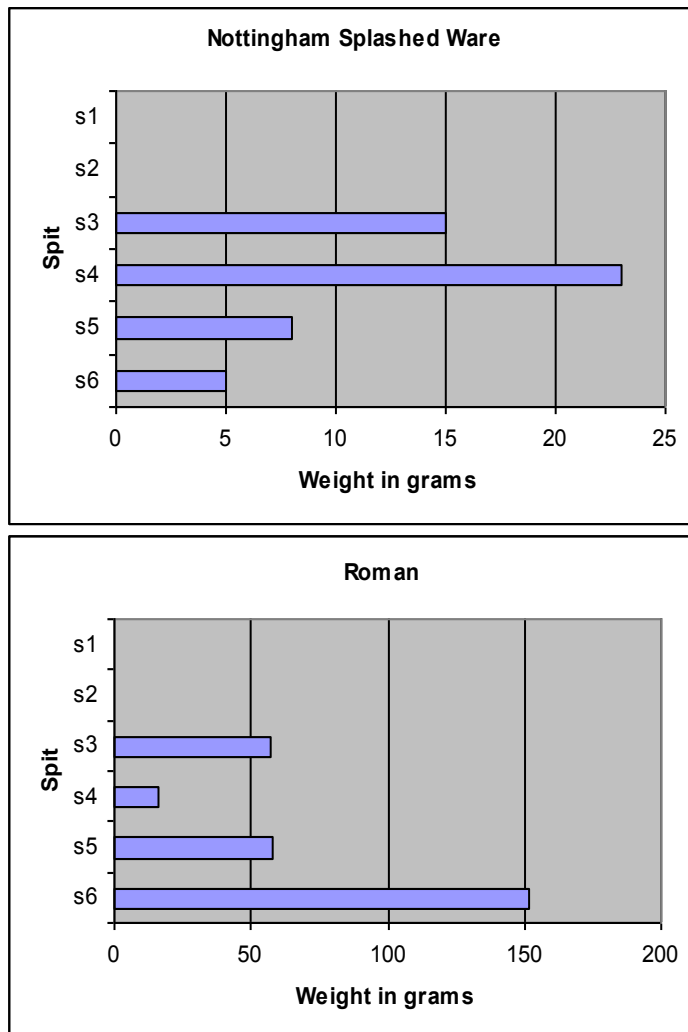
Ware, most of which were not dated. Three dark grey, burnished sherds, however, could be dated. They ranged from late 1st to 4th C. A 7-cm diameter Grey Ware base was found embedded in the top of the basal till. One hand-made shell-tempered pot is 1st C. The others are Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware. One jar sherd could be dated to late 3rd to early 4th C; the others were small pieces and not attributable better than to mid 2nd to early 4th C.

Interpretation

As in other pits in this field the basal deposit of till has a layer of stones on it and the surface is irregular and mixed with the overlying subsoil. Roman pottery is found very low in this pit, but the stones on the till show signs of wind erosion, which may indicate that they were exposed to the weather through the Devensian glaciation if not during the earlier Anglian episode.

Unlike in LA 21 the soil profile in this pit is short; 60 cm contrasting with 110 cm, but the profile seems to be a natural one undisturbed by human action. This is difficult to understand because, despite the lack of any evidence of ridge and furrow in this field, the medieval finds, particularly the Nottingham Splashed Ware, are quite abraded suggesting that the pottery was exposed at the surface of the ground and subjected to the plough, though the undisturbed sequence suggests that the ground was not subjected to deep ploughing.

There is a stratigraphy to the distribution of the finds. The median distribution for the Roman pot-



tery is spit 6, which is the bottom of the pit and it is at this level that the single piece of 1st C hand-made pottery was found. The median for the Saxo-Norman pottery and the slag is spit 5, while for the medieval pottery, in particular the Nottingham Splashed Ware, it is spit 4. The iron arrow head was also found at this level, which could put a 12th C date to it. Stylistically, it is a hunting arrow-head. Perhaps it is of significance that the boar tusk was also found at spit 4. Interestingly, the two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered from spit 4, which is above the younger Saxo-Norman pottery.

After the Black Death there is a significant gap. There is no post-Black Death medieval pottery. Indeed there is nothing younger until the Glazed Red Earthenware of early 16th to mid 17th C. This is about half a century later than the Cistercian Ware found in LA 21.

All the modern pottery and most of the miscellaneous material was found well within the topsoil and probably relates to the usage put to this site in the 19th C when it formed the paddock at the back of a farm.

LA25**LOCATION AND PTOTOCOL**

NGR	470688.339675 (mid point on north edge)
Height OD (mid point on north edge)	27.758 m
Dig dates	19 –20 th June 2013
Pit site	Warner's Paddock, along the boundary with Jebb's Lane. Sited on a slightly raised platform.
Pit protocol	1-metre test pit, 10 cm spits and all sieved. 50 cm-wide trench cut from 55cm to c70 cm along east face into bedrock.

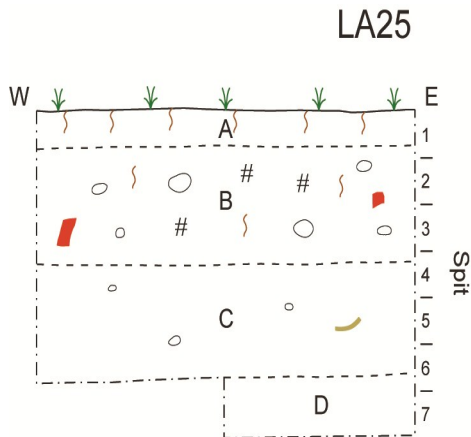
LA25

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

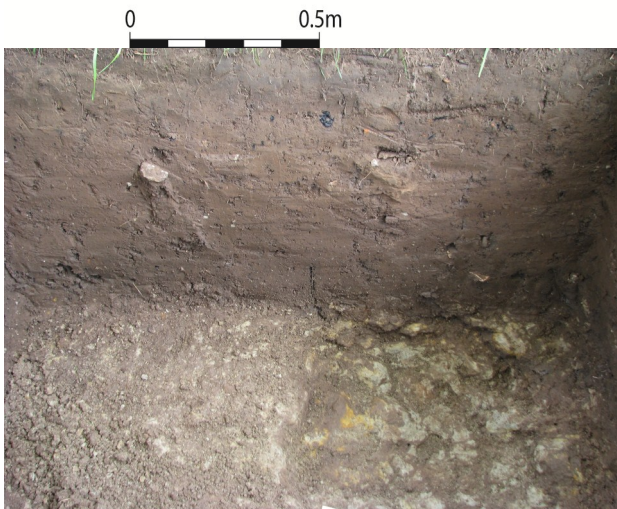
Description of pit

This is the third site along Jebb's Lane that was identified as a possible house platform. It was about 9 metres from the boundary and lay to the north of LA24. The sequence in the pit is:

Topsoil to 32 cm
Subsoil to 57 cm
Bedrock sandstone



- A Topsoil of brown sandy clay beneath turf. Rootlets
- B Topsoil of light brown fine sandy clay. Bits of coal, pebbles to 6 cm, vertical carbonised roots. Pebbles include medium sandstone, skerry and well rounded quartz.
- C Subsoil of grey-brown fine sandy clay, sparse pebbles.
- D Bedrock of soft, clayey medium-grained sandstone. Well jointed. Weathered top to orange-rust clay in joints. Broken top mixed with soil.



IMG_2381. North face of the pit showing gradual downward change from the topsoil and the sandstone bedrock on the right.



IMG_2382. Eroded sandstone bedrock

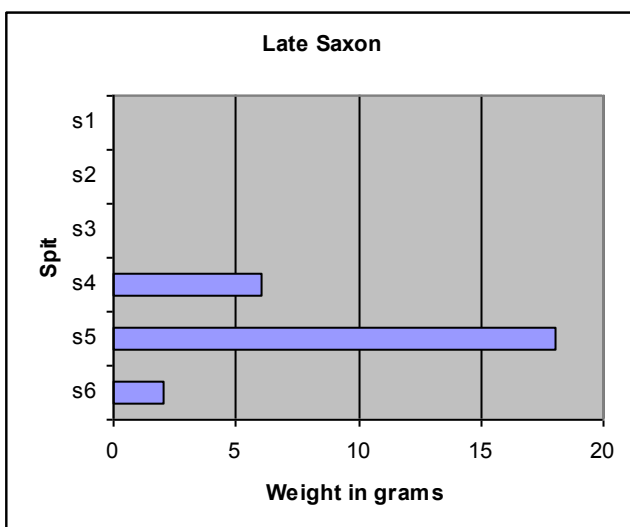
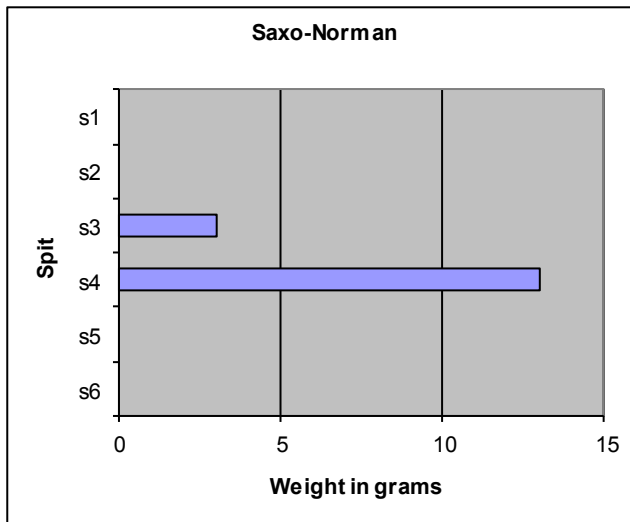
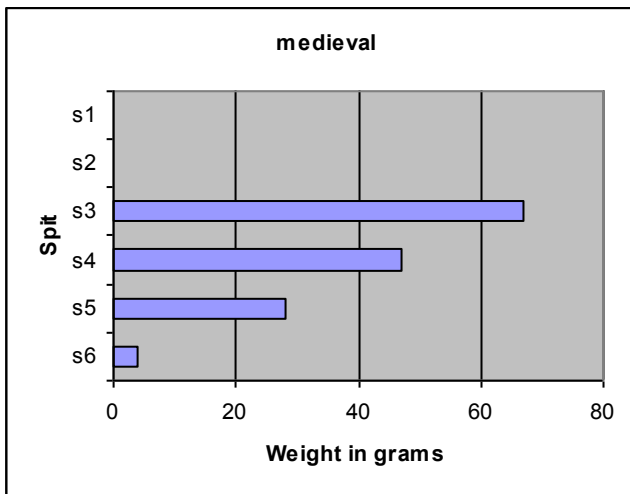
The top 7 cm consists of brown sandy clay with rootlets. This passes down to a slightly lighter coloured fine sandy clay topsoil containing bits of coal, pebbles to 6 cm and carbonised rootlets. The pebbles are medium sandstone, skerry and well-rounded quartz. Beneath the topsoil is grey-brown fine sandy clay subsoil with few pebbles.

The bedrock is grey-green soft medium grained clayey sandstone. It is well jointed and rotted at the top to an orange-rust colour. There is clay in the joints and the broken top is mixed with sub-

soil.

Finds

There were few items not classed as pottery in this pit. Among them are four clay pipe stems and a rusty “D” bolt in the topsoil. The clay pipe stems were all 18th or 19th C, one stem being unusually thin with a wide hole and probably 18th C. Several pieces of bone were found at all depths and pieces of brick and mortar were found in spits 4 and 5. The most unusual find was a piece of black volcanic sandstone lying above the basal sandstone. This is a type of rock not found in the UK. It was present with Roman pottery and it is possible that it is a piece of a broken object that may have been imported into the country.



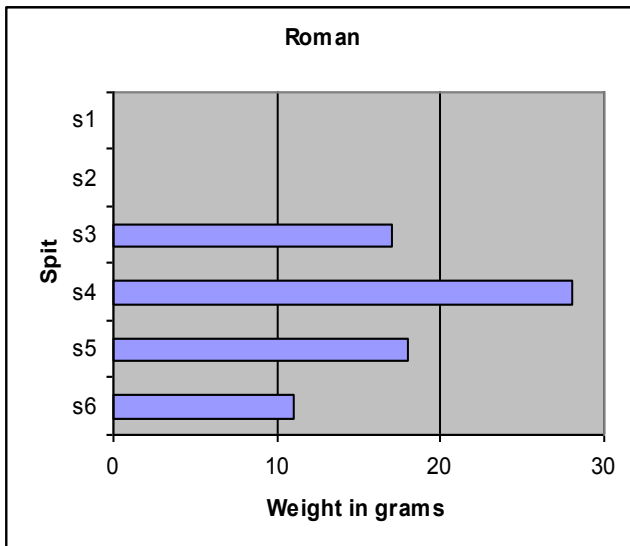
In common with all the other pits in this field there were several pieces of slag including iron smithing slag, secondary smithing slag, fuel-ash slag and proto hearth bottom. One piece of fuel-ash slag is highly abraded suggesting it was on the ground surface and it may possibly be from an earlier period than Late Saxon, which is thought to be when most of the slag was generated. The intact quartz content, as in other pits, suggests relatively low working temperatures, which favour smithing as the activity rather than smelting.

Among the pottery finds there are two Modern White Ware sherds (1830-2000). There was nothing else until medieval.

Here all the medieval pottery recovered pre-dates 1350, with most in the 12th to 13th C. The two main fabric types are Medieval Sandy Ware and Nottingham Splashed Ware, together making up half the total by number. Other fabrics are Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange Sandy Ware, Green Glaze, Medieval Glazed Ware and two sherds of Shelly Ware. Several, mostly Shelly Ware finds, could not be accurately identified and dated.

There were four sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery. These included Stamford Ware A and B and a non-local fabric that is essentially unknown.

The Late Saxon pottery consists of 8 sherds of Torksey Ware, Torksey-type Ware, Lincoln Shelly Ware and Lincoln kiln-type Shelly Ware. The date range is mostly late 9th to mid 11th C, but the shelly wares tend to be older, possibly even extending into the 8th C.



No Anglo-Saxon finds were recovered, but there are 12 Roman pot sherds. Half of these are Grey Ware, including early dark grey types and burnished pieces, one of a narrow necked jar. There were two White Ware and two Nene Valley Colour-coated Ware sherds. One of the latter was a cornice-rim beaker sherd. Two others, though probably Roman, could not be specifically identified. They range from late 1st to end 4th C.

A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was found in spit 4.

Interpretation

As with LA24 this is a shallow pit. There is little in the topsoil apart from two pieces of modern pottery. Other than these there is no pottery younger than mid 14th C. This is consistent with the other pits in this field.

For the finds of medieval age or older there is a stratigraphy of sorts.

The median for the medieval collection rests at spit 3; for the Saxo-Norman at spit 4 and for the Late Saxon it is spit 5. The slag is found from spit 3 to 5.

Interestingly there were no sherds of these periods in the topsoil. The distribution of Roman sherds was not clear cut. They were found from spits 3 to 6 with the median at spit 4. This probably indicates that the soil was disturbed by ploughing after the Roman period, bringing up Roman pottery to the newly created surface.

Compared with the other pits there was comparatively less Nottingham Splashed Ware in this pit, but the age range for the medieval pottery is no different. Rather more of the sherds were of medieval fabrics that could not be attributed to Nottingham

ASSESSMENT OF ALL FIVE PITS

WARNER'S PADDOCK

Two Iron Age sherds were not well enough preserved to provide evidence of age, but the presence of 1st century pottery among the Roman collections is probably enough to suggest that there was a late Iron Age presence here at the time of the Roman conquest. During the field walking project nearly all the Iron Age sherds were found in a small number of discrete scatters probably indicative of a settlement. There are no reasons to assume that this does not apply here.

Pits LA 21, LA24 and LA25 were sited close to the boundary with Jebb's Lane, two of them on slightly raised platforms, which were thought at the time to be indicative of housing, but only in pit LA21 with 63 sherds was there sufficient Roman pottery to suggest the possibility of a habitation close by in the Roman period. Most of the sherds were Grey Ware and very few were of high status pottery, but such fabrics, like samian ware, did appear. The age range is 1st to 4th C, though because so much was Grey Ware it is not possible to estimate proportions, nor find if there is continuity in the age distribution. No clear conclusions can be reached about this assemblage, but the likelihood is that it suggests that there was a Roman house hereabouts for some of the period of the Roman conquest and that it was likely to be a small farm, not a place occupied by high status Romans.

Only one pit yielded any Anglo-Saxon pottery. Two sherds of Charnwood type fabric were recovered from the same pit. This fabric has a broad date range of mid 5th to end 8th C, but one or two other sherds attributed to the Late Saxon period may be types with a range that starts in the 8th C. This is not uncommon in the parish. The Anglo-Saxons did not use a great deal of pottery and much of what they did use was in burial urns. Nonetheless, there is a presence here.

In the late Saxon period, however, there is plentiful evidence of occupation. A variety of fabric types spanning the 9th to mid 11th C was recovered, but mostly it was Torksey Ware, a fabric type that originated in the Trent Valley near Lincoln, but was also made in Newark. There is more of this type here than anywhere else in Bingham. Closely associated with it is smithy slag and though the range of the slag takes it into the later medieval period two pieces are in such close proximity to Torksey Ware that some of it must date from that same period. Indeed in LA24 the median distribution coincided with that of the Late Saxon finds, but the distribution plots for the slag in two other pits showed a later peak and one that coincided more closely with the medieval plots. A single piece of ironstone found in one pit hints at other activity here besides smithing. In no pit was there a concentration sufficiently large to indicate that a smithy had been dug, but as much of it is magnetic it ought not to be difficult to locate the site with a magnetometer. Unless the smithy is actually dug it is not possible to say if this is a permanent site or where a peripatetic smith set up his place of work in the community. In either case it seems that the smith was active hereabouts from the Late Saxon period probably until the mid 14th century. One piece of slag was so badly abraded that it could have indicated an origin as early as the Roman period.

The evidence from field walking is that the dispersed settlement pattern that characterised the early and middle Anglo-Saxon period came to an end before the late 9th C. It seems that there is sufficient evidence for settlement at this site in the Late Saxon period for it to be part of the original Bingham, as recorded in the Domesday Book. This sheds a new light on Jebb's Lane. This is a sunken lane, in places as much as 3 m below the field level. Pottery from Iron Age, Roman and early to middle Anglo-Saxon periods has been found in pits in Warner's Paddock, Cherry Street and Church Lane. These lie in a line linking Warner's Paddock via a footpath north of the railway line to Parson's Hill and thence possibly on to Margidunum. It is suggested that this was a road

linking the settlements between Warner's Paddock and Parson's Hill from the Iron Age at least until the Late Saxon period and that when the village of Bingham developed in the 9th and 10th centuries the houses were strung along this road.

The abundance of Saxo-Norman and early medieval sherds in these pits indicated that the village continued to grow until the mid 14th C. There are no finds for the period after the mid 14th C until the mid 15th C. The indications are that whatever the level of activity in Warner's Paddock it came to an end with the Black Death. In other places in the parish where there was arable agriculture in the 12th and early 13th centuries the ridge and furrow remained in evidence until the 1960s when it was generally ploughed out. The absence of any sign of ridge and furrow here is intriguing because the Roman pottery in all the pits shows signs of having been moved during ground disturbance such as ploughing. Much of the Nottingham Splashed Ware is also well abraded as though it had been churned about in the topsoil during ploughing or digging. It seems very likely that this area had been one in which arable agriculture had taken place.

The one iron arrowhead that was found most closely resembles a 12th century type and it is interesting that one of the boar tusks found was at this same level. The other might have been Roman.

The oldest post-medieval pottery found in this field is Cistercian Ware. This first appeared at around 1450. With no late medieval pottery present in any of the pits it indicates that after this area fell into disuse at the time of the Black Death it did not come into use again for about 100 years. This gap is evident in pits in other places in Bingham. Thereafter, there was no great abundance of pottery here of any age to suggest that this land was ever farmed for arable agriculture. The low density is more in keeping with the land having been used for pasture. To the north of the area of the pits, under the present-day Bowling Club, was a farm from the 18th to 20th centuries and the small amount of pottery and other finds from this period that was recovered can probably be attributed to breakages in the farm. Even the clay pipe pieces were scarce with only one short piece attributable to the late 17th or early 18th C.

One mysterious find is that of four pieces of possible window lead. There is no indication anywhere near here of any building of such a standard as to have leaded windows in it.

The original objective of trying to find some evidence of the occupation of the area by the man called Jebb was not achieved. The first pit dug, LA 06, was close to the house known to have been occupied by John Nowell in 1841, but there were no signs of him either. Nor was any indication found of the evidence of the age of the old field boundary that runs northwards through the middle of this field.

In summary, Warner's Paddock seems to have been a place where people lived, worked and farmed from the late Iron Age though to the Black Death in the mid 14th C. It is linked to the centres of habitation in Cherry Street, at the back of the Chesterfield Inn and Church Lane in such a way as to suggest that there was a roadway between Warner's Paddock through here possibly to Parson's Hill in the Iron Age and Roman periods. There is the possibility that there was a settlement here in early to middle Anglo-Saxon times, but from the Late Saxon period to the Black Death the Warner's Paddock area was an important part of the nucleated village of Bingham. At the time of the Black Death it became depopulated and from then onwards Warner's Paddock was a sideline in Bingham's history.