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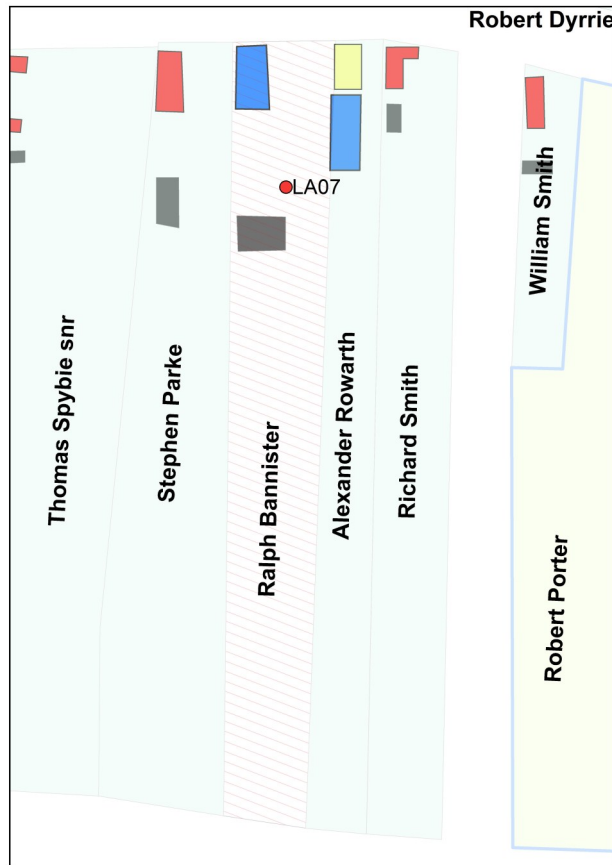
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
24 LONG ACRE**

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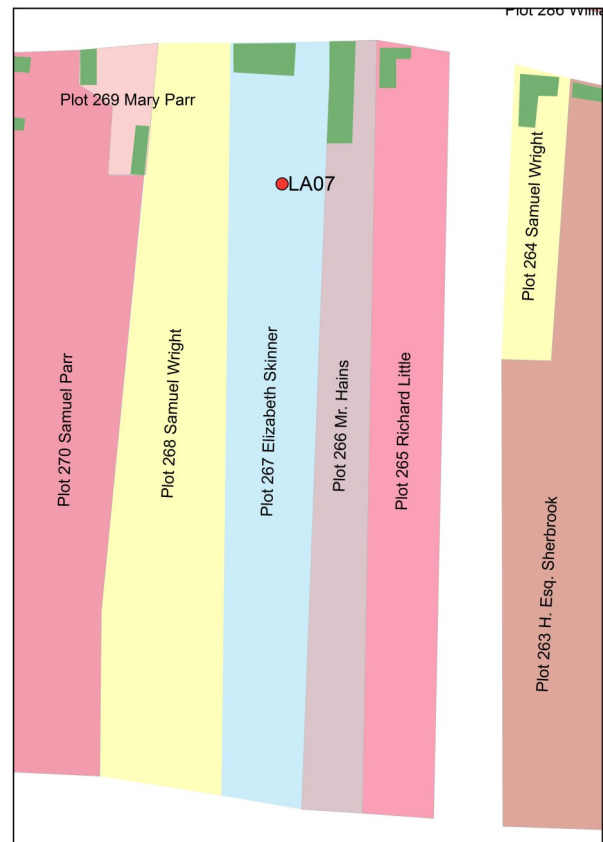
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LA07 24 LONG ACRE

SITE HISTORY



Conjectural map for 1586. Long Acre Is along the top of the map, Fisher Lane to the right and The Banks along the bottom



Map for 1776

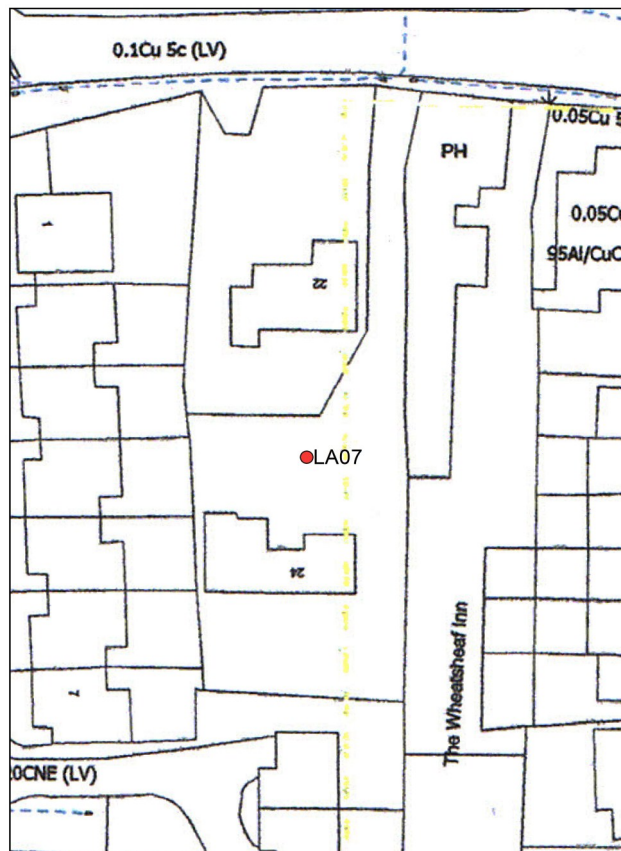
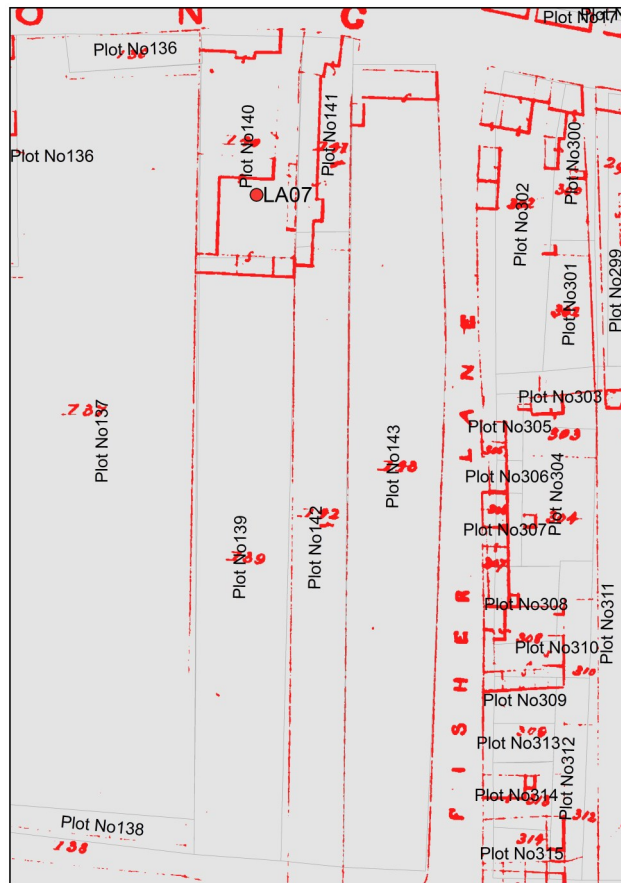
1586

Although most holdings along Long Acre (then called Husband Street) were farmers, Ralph Bannister was a cottager, holding “A cottage with barn and toft and 1 bovat of land”. Unusually for a cottager he held 21 strips in the open fields.

Alexander Rowarth, next door to the east, owned the freehold of “a cottage, house and croft and a bovat of land and meadow as appears in the common pasture under the name of Alexander Rowarth”. This is now occupied by *The Bingham Pub* (formerly *The Wheatsheaf*). Although not identified 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 of so few strips suggests he had another occupation.

1776

Bingham had been enclosed by 1776 and the land allocated in parcels to the main farmers. The pit was on plot 267, held by Elizabeth Skinner. She was quite possibly the widow of Thomas Skinner who had died in 1765, eleven years before the estate survey was produced. His inventory described him as a farmer and he left £268-19s-0d. Elizabeth had about 15 acres in three fields and an acre of grazing.



In the directory of 1795 Richard Skinner is listed a farmer. We have not yet worked out the relationship between him and Elizabeth.

The freehold next door (east) - now "*The Bingham*" - was held by "Mr Hains". Intriguingly, in 1769 the parish registers recorded the burial of "George Skinner, publican". Might he have run the pub and the cooperage business next door?

1841

George Skinner (cooper) held plots 139 (orchard) and 140 (house and buildings). We have not traced the family history yet but it would seem likely he was a direct descendent of the 1776 Skinners. He also held two small arable fields totalling about 8 acres.

Another George Skinner is listed as a farmer in the tithe apportionment; he held about 120 acres and was based at what is now 53 Long Acre. We have not yet been able to derive the family tree.

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LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

NGR	470422.339793 (mid point north face)
Height OD (mid point north edge)	26.058 [error 0.695]
Dig dates	29-30 th May 2013
Pit site	Front lawn among old Victoria plum trees.
Pit protocol	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all sieved. From 50-57 cm the finds were bagged as spit 6. From 57-60 they were bagged and recorded as 6.1. A quarter pit was opened in SW corner and dug to 70 cm into the till. Pit bottomed at 60 cm.

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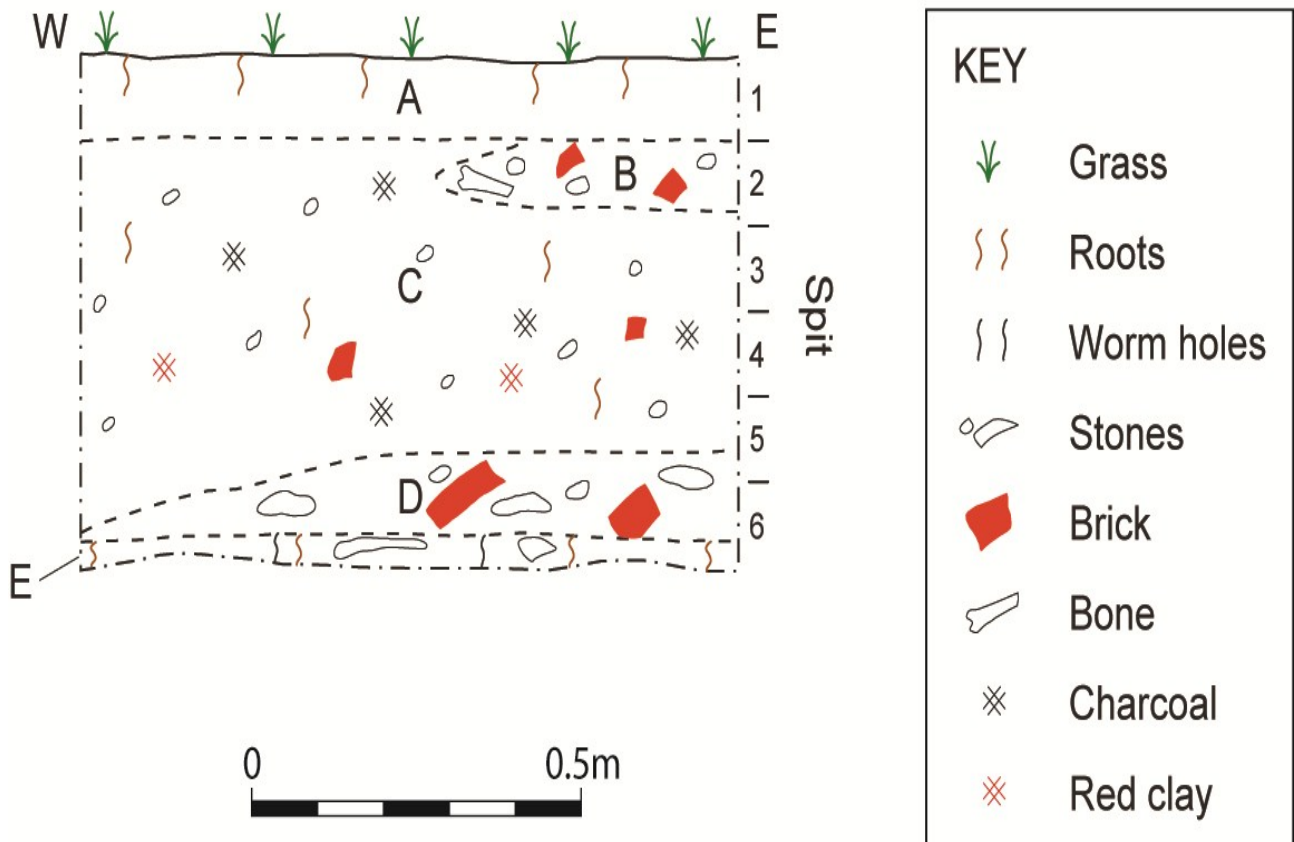
ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Description of pit

The sequence is:

Topsoil to 10cm
Gravel to 18 cm
Subsoil to 47– 55 cm
Hard standing to 57 cm
Basal clay

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- A Topsoil of dark brown-black sandy loam with rootlets beneath turf*
- B Layer of gravel and loam with rounded pebbles to 1.5 cm. Bricks, pot, bone. Thickens to the SE corner.*
- C Subsoil of brown-black sandy loam. 2% pebbles up to 2 cm, charcoal, roots. Red clay lumps to 3 cm with stones and brick between 30-40 cm depth. Colour lightens downwards.*
- D Layer of skerry, brick and rounded stones to 10cm.*
- E Orange-brown sandy clay with skerry to 14cm long embedded in the top. Disturbed with dark loam, roots, worm tubes, coal, brick to 15 cm. Upper surface is irregular.*



IMG_2303, view north at 20cm depth, showing the subsoil



IMG_2304 view north at 57cm depth showing the lower part of the hard standing.



IMG_2306 view N. Base of pit



IMG_2308 north face, full depth showing the upper layer of gravel and the lower hard standing..

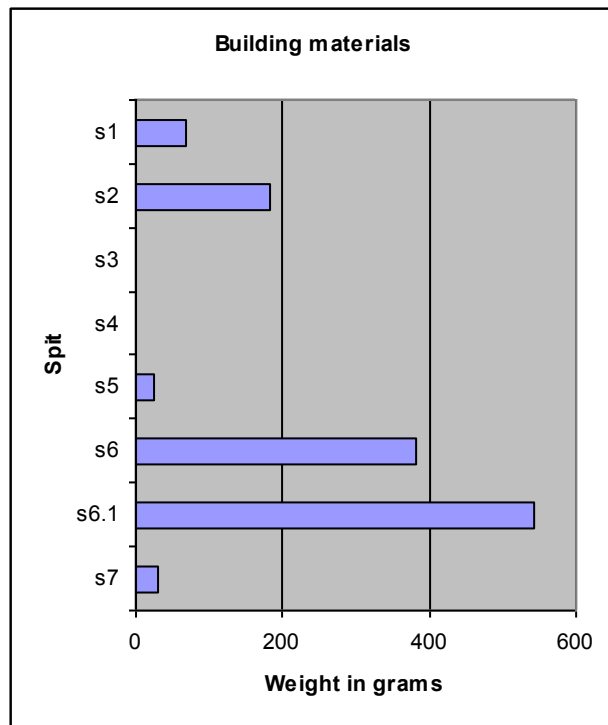
The topsoil beneath the turf is dense with rootlets and is as dark brown-black sandy loam.

A lens of gravel was evident only in the northern side of the pit extending and thickening to the south-eastern corner. It consists of rounded pebbles to 1.5 cm mixed with loam. Brick, pot and bone are all mixed with it.

The gravel is an impersistent layer beneath the topsoil and above the subsoil. The subsoil is brown-black sandy loam with 2% pebbles up to 2 cm, charcoal, roots, pot, brick and some small lumps of red clay between 30 and 40 cm depth. The colour lightens downwards.

The hard standing is a layer of skerry, brick and rounded sandstone pebbles. It is no more than 10 cm thick and compact. It covers most of the pit, but thins to the west.

This layer rests on the basal orange-brown sandy clay. At the surface there are skerry cobbles to 14 cm long embedded in the clay. The clay is disturbed by animal and plant action at least to a depth of 15 cm with dark loam, coal and brick mixed with it. The surface is irregular and there are roots and worm tubes near the top.



Finds

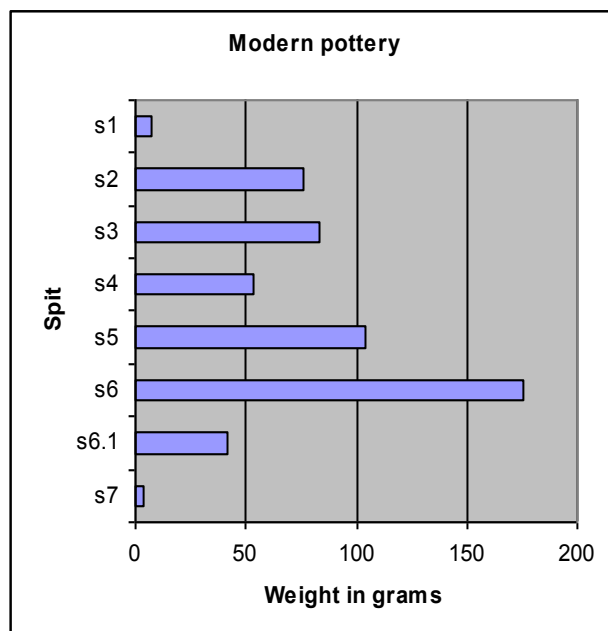
Building materials were present in two parts of the pit. The topmost 20 cm contained plaster, floor tile and brick pieces. One fragment of tile was roughly finished on one side and had a purple-brown slip on the other. A speck of black glaze suggests it might have been glazed. The rough finish suggests tile, not pantheon ware. From 40cm to the bottom of the pit were brick, floor tiles and roof tiles. One piece of brick in the lower part of the pit had impressions of straw or grass in it.

There were 39 fragments of glass at all levels in the pit. Of these 64% were bottles. There were clear, green, brown and aqua, mostly small pieces, but one edge of a base was measured as 3 inches in diameter. Most were cylindrical bottles, but there were two angled pieces, one of which was likely to have belonged to a rounded-edged

rectangular bottle. Several pieces from all depths had a heavy patina that obscured the colour completely. All the other pieces were flat window glass. One piece was finely ribbed 1/8th inch, clearly modern bathroom glass. The rest were either 1/16th or 3/32nd inch glass varying in colour from clear to light green and slightly obscured by the start of the development of a patina. Little of the glass was likely to be much older than mid/late 19th C.

Metallic objects were also found at all depths. They were mostly iron nails of various sizes and ages, also there was a piece of wire, a broken buckle, chain link, a screw and two pieces of lead. One had nail holes in it and is of uncertain use. The other is clearly window lead.

The miscellaneous items were interesting. They include a 1946 shilling, two thimbles, one of which is silver and marked Chester 1832, a thin metal disc with a flower pattern on it and some buttons. These include metal, bone and mother of pearl. There were several carbon rods of unknown original use, one charcoal stick and a piece of a concrete garden ornament.



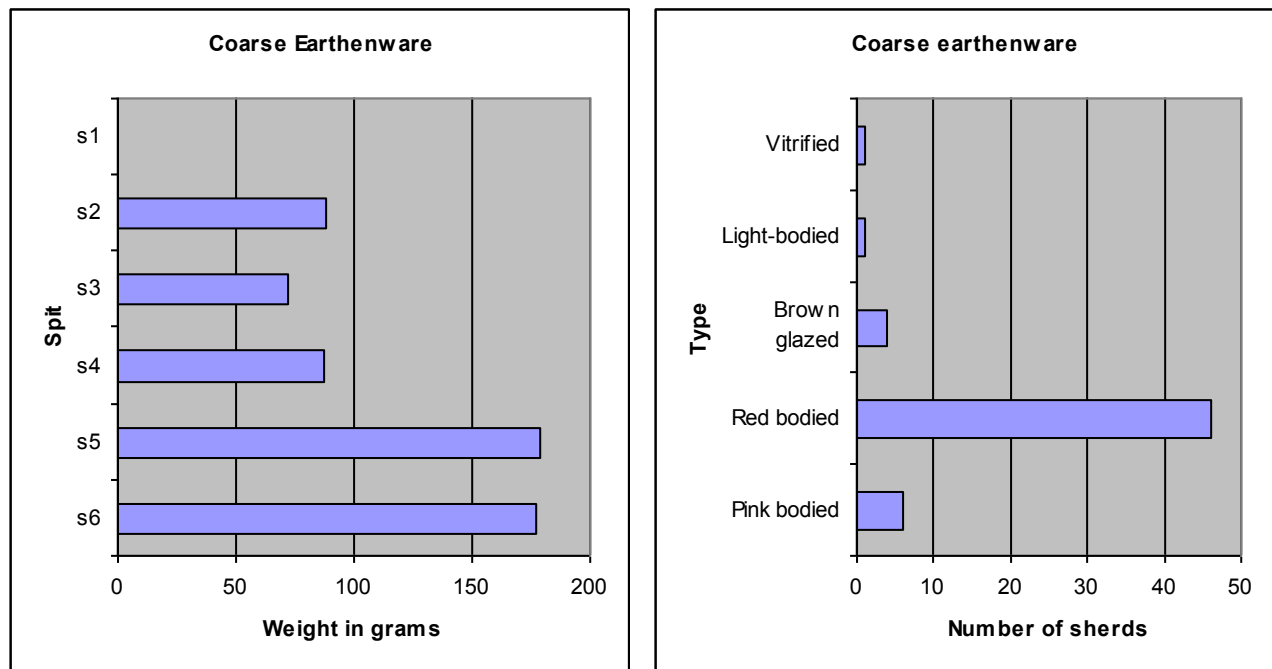
29 fragments of clay pipe were recovered, all beneath the topsoil. Two were possibly early 18th C. All the rest fell into the range mid 18th to end 19th C. However, a stem marked CONVENT S C WEST was attributed to Christopher West, who operated in Convent Street Nottingham and made this type of pipe between 1871 and 1875. Another dateable bowl fragment made between 1830-1840 was found below the one by Christopher West.

Some coal was recovered between 30-60 cm depths.

28 items classed as bones and teeth were recorded between 10 cm and the base of the pit.

120 sherds of modern pottery were recovered and were found at all depths in the pit. The main ware types were White Ware (30%), Transfer print (27%), Cane-coloured Ware (22%) and Mocha Ware (10%). Only 14 sherds did not fall into one of these categories. The White Ware sherds came from a variety of sources, including plates, cups, saucers and coarse ware. An everted rim to a coarse ware suggests that it might be from a chamber pot. Many of the pieces, though they did not fit together, looked like they might have come from the same vessel. The Transfer Print sherds were divided between blue and white, many of which were probably from Willow Pattern vessels and pale blue and white. There were also single sherds of green and white and brown and white. These came into production after 1840. As with the White Ware, it is possible that very few different vessels were represented here.

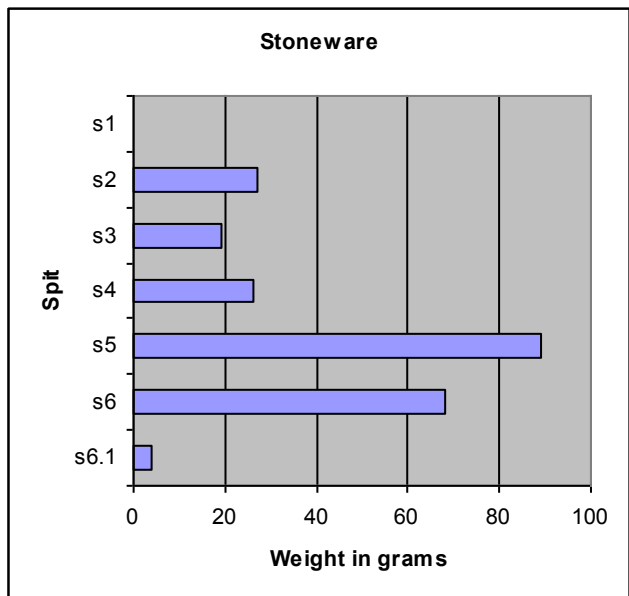
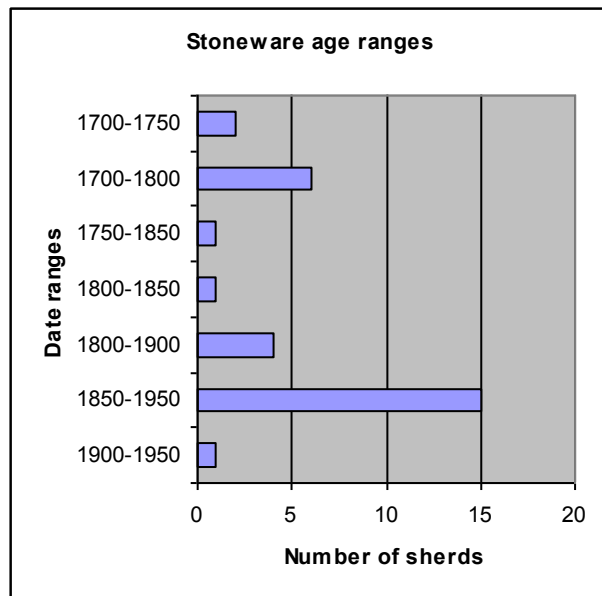
The Cane-coloured Ware and the Mocha Ware are rather interesting. The least common find was a cane-coloured sherd with a white internal glaze. This resembles similar sherds thought to have come from mixing bowls elsewhere. The rest of the cane-coloured sherds in which both sides are similarly coloured come as thick pieces of coarse ware and thin fine ware pieces. Many of the coarse ware pieces are from the base and side and could be from the same pot. These have been classed as Cane-coloured Ware, but a single piece had indications of the Mocha Ware design on it, making it possible that they are all Mocha Ware. There is a similar story for the fine ware pieces.



Where there was the Mocha Ware 'tree' or coloured rings there was no doubt, but it is likely that many of the pieces without any other coloured features may actually be Mocha Ware. There were some brightly colour-banded sherds that were based on a white background glaze and these have been tentatively considered to be Mocha Ware. The forms for these are varied, but include bowls and possibly jugs.

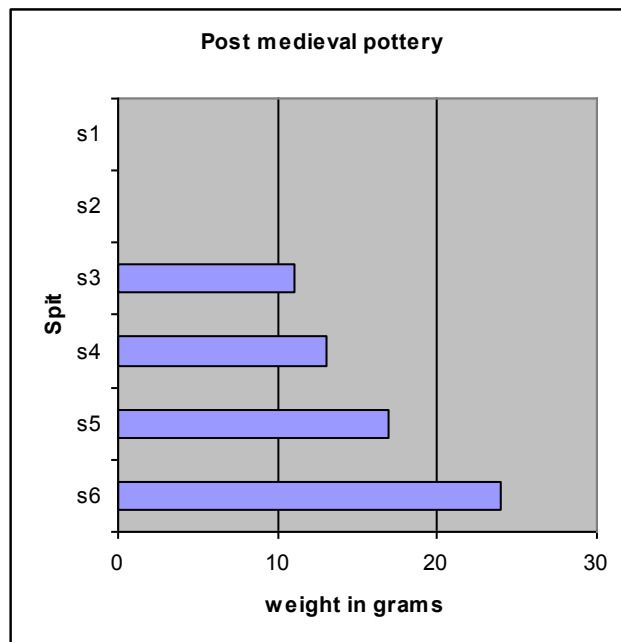
The few other pieces include Flow Blue. One body sherd showed the typical blue, diffuse pattern, but several were from the rim of a bowl or plate in which the blue rim grades as spikes into the white of the main body. Unknown types that did not fit easily into any of the usual recognised ware types were probably 20th C. In general, however, all these fit well into the mid to late 19th C.

Almost certainly among the modern pottery are 28 sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware. They are most likely to be plant pots, though none of these was stamped. They were found throughout the



pit.

There were 58 coarse earthenware sherds in the collection. None was found in the topsoil, and the largest number was collected from the lower 20 cm of the pit. The most common type by a long way is Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware (c80%). Most were small body sherds, but a few bases and rims indicated that the main vessel represented is the pancheon. One base sherd was from an upright vessel, either a jar or cistern.

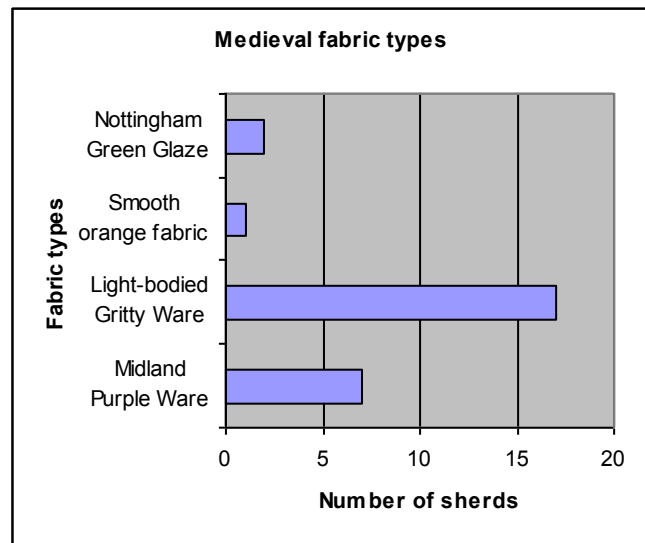
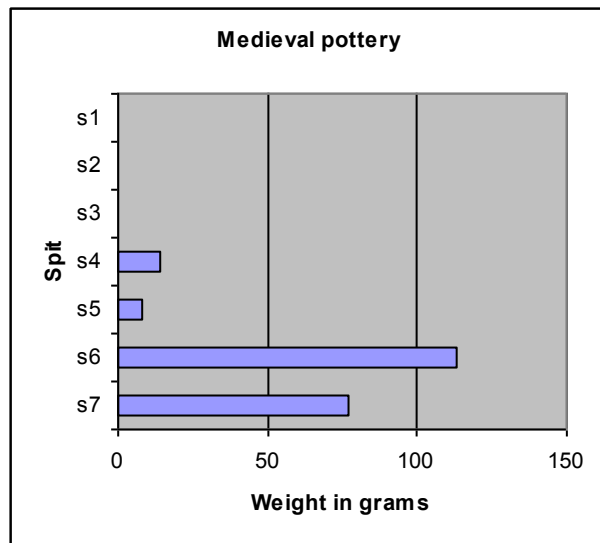


The other types of coarse earthenware found were pink-bodied, brown glazed, light bodied and vitrified. There is some doubt about the identification of the single sherd of vitrified coarse earthenware. The body was gritty, rather like Midland Purple Ware. The brown glazed sherds were thick, red bodied and the glaze dark brown. No slip was noticed under the glaze.

35 sherds of stoneware were collected. They were all from beneath the topsoil. Most were collected from the lower 20 cm with a significant number in the hard standing between 50 and 60 cm depth. There were several forms

identifiable. Most were bottles (17 sherds), with bowls, jugs, preserve jars and a mug. The date range covered the early 18th to mid 20th C. Most post-dated 1850 and are likely to be made in Derbyshire. The earliest are two sherds with the orange fabric typical of the period 1700-1750 where they were made in Nottingham.

Post medieval sherds numbered only 10. They were found from 20 cm to the base of the pit, increasing downwards. The most common fabric type was Cistercian Ware, mostly found in the bottom 20 cm of the pit. Two fabrics were observed; one chunky, purple-bodied type possibly of a coarse ware and the other a fine ware. This was made in the period mid to late 15th to mid 16th C, most likely in Ticknall. Next in abundance is Coarse Black Ware about which little is known.



Other sherds were Midland Yellow Ware (late 16th to 17th C). There were two sherds, one with a common yellow glaze, the other with a green glaze found in vessels that had been over-fired. One Midland Black Ware body sherd of unknown form had a shiny black glaze. The date range for this is late 16th to early 18th C. A single body sherd of a Sandy Coarse Earthenware upright vessel had an indented ornamentation. This fabric is likely to be a late development of Midland Purple Ware and has a possible date range of early 16th to mid 17th C.

Medieval sherds were found entirely below 30 cm with most in the bottom 15cm. There was a limited range of fabric types (4), which is unlike most other pits where as many as 11 fabric types were recorded. Also unusually there was a strong dominance of one type of fabric, Light-bodied Gritty Ware. Several of these sherds fitted together, probably originally a jug. They are attributed to 1375-1450, a useful post-Black Death fabric.

The Midland Purple Ware was next in abundance to Light-bodied Gritty Ware. Three distinct fabrics were seen, but in one of them it is likely that the three sherds were from the same vessel. While there was one chunky rim from a pancheon, the other sherds were too small to determine the nature of the original vessel. One sherd was vitrified with a green glaze. The date range for Midland Purple Ware is early to mid 15th C to mid 16th C. There is a body of opinion that Midland Purple Ware is a derivative of Light-bodied Gritty Ware.

A single sherd of a medieval smooth orange fabric is unusual and not recorded elsewhere. It is considered to be a contemporary of Light-bodied Gritty Ware.

The earliest fabric is Nottingham Green Glaze, probably jugs. The two sherds were attributed to different periods; the earlier being 1270-1350, the later one 14th C.

Interpretation

Apart from bones and teeth and fragments of Unglazed Red Earthenware there was little in the topsoil. The pit itself is set among plum trees, which have been there possibly for over 100 years, but the presence of the gravel layer immediately beneath 10cm of topsoil seems to indicate that there has been some landscaping in recent decades.

The subsoil cannot be in its natural position because for part of the pit it overlies what we have called hard standing. This unit, 10 cm thick, of closely packed stones and brick overlies the natural, basal clay. This looks like a yard surface and it must have been covered at some time by shovelling what is called here the subsoil onto it during some sort of rebuild or remodelling of the grounds around the house. Finds removed from the hard standing include brick, floor tile, glass,

nails, a late 18th- 19th C clay pipe stem, several bones and teeth, late 19th C stoneware and several sherds of modern pottery. This seems to suggest that the hard standing was laid in the second half of the 19th C and covered after that. This would be consistent with the age of the plum trees.

The dated pottery in the subsoil shows no clear stratigraphical relationships. Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery show their highest concentrations in spits 5 and 6; i.e. between 40 and 60 cm deep. Like subsoil in most Bingham pits it has probably been ploughed or dug and the contents turned over. That this subsoil overlies a surface that had been laid in the late 19th C means that it has been brought in from elsewhere, but this need not have been far. It is an interesting material. Described here as brown-black sandy loam it contains small lumps of red clay, which would not normally be expected in it. Most interesting, though, is that when the test pit was refilled all the material taken out was returned to the pit and did not fill it. There was subsequent subsidence lowering the top of the test pit even more. This clay-poor loam would not be expected to be the subsoil derived from the basal clay that is present here.

The front garden is about 2 metres lower than the back garden where the basal clay is very near the surface. The house itself dates from the late 18th C, so the material used in the front garden could not have been derived during ground clearance when building the house. The plum trees here are the remnants of an orchard that ran down to the main road. The date this orchard was planted is not known. The land south of the house was recorded as orchard in 1841 and shown as such on the 1883 map. The trees in the front of the house cannot be this age if the hard standing was not laid until the second half of the 19th C. It is suggested that this being so the soil in the front garden was brought in from another part of the farm to improve the growing conditions.

Accepting that the early pottery finds were locally derived it is interesting that so many of the medieval sherds were Light-bodied Gritty Ware and only two sherds of Nottingham Green Glaze dated from the late 13th to early 14th C. This difference in proportion of pre- and post-Black Death pottery raises the possibility that this part of Bingham was not settled before the mid 14th C, but someone came to live here after the Black Death. The presence of Midland Purple Ware, Cistercian Ware and Midland Yellow Ware shows that there was continuity of activity thereafter.

There is no evidence at all of any sort of activity here from the Iron Age through to the 14th C.

The basal clay is orange-brown and sandy with skerry embedded in the top. It has an irregular top, where the clay is mixed with loam. This is typical of the top of the local glacial till. Rootlets and worm tubes in it show that it has had something growing on it at some time.