

**LA09**

**8, CHERRY STREET**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT**

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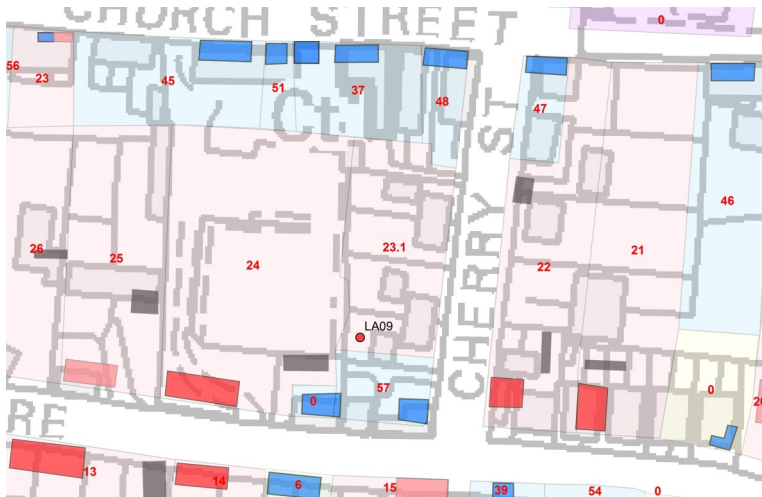
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## LA09 8 CHERRY STREET

### SITE HISTORY

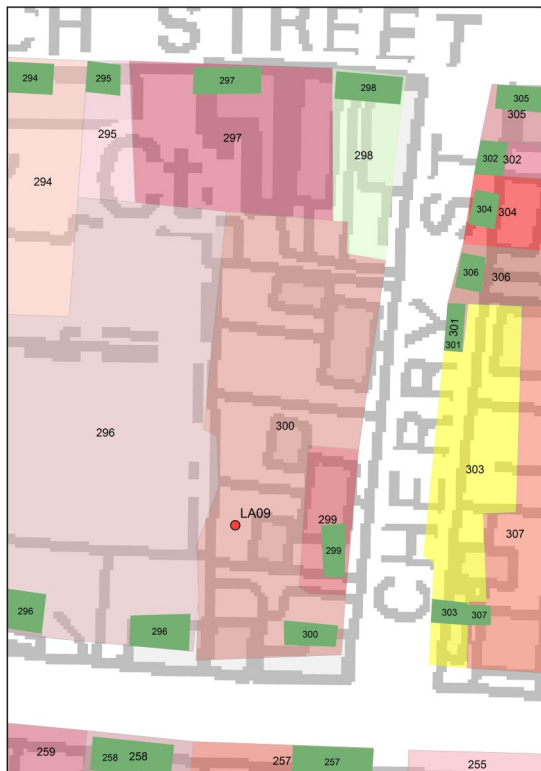
We are fairly convinced, from the results of pits on Warner's Paddock, that the line of Jebbs Lane, Cherry Street, Church Lane and the footpath from the railway line to Parson's Hill represents the line of an ancient trackway linking the pre-historic, Roman and Saxon settlements. It also linked the core of Bingham with the Margidunum Roman fort and town.



*Conjectural map of 1586*

#### 1586

As far as we can tell, Number 8 Cherry Street occupies the southern portion of a croft occupied by Elizabeth Allen (23.1 on the map). The croft extended to the boundary between the present day number 2 and The Old Courthouse access drive. There was no cottage and there may have been pasture but it could just as well have been used for growing vegetables. Elizabeth's cottage with a small garden was on Church Street, west of what is now the Chesterfield Arms. The plot to the south was a cottage occupied by Elizabeth Allen. Whether she was the same person as Elizabeth Allane or related in some way is not known.



*Map of 1776*

#### 1776

By 1776 the plot (300) had extended up to Long Acre, with a cottage and garden occupied by William Baxter, (300) on the site now occupied by Regency House. The plot just north of this was a house and garden (299) occupied by Baxter's father, Samuel. It covered part of the front of number 8's plot.

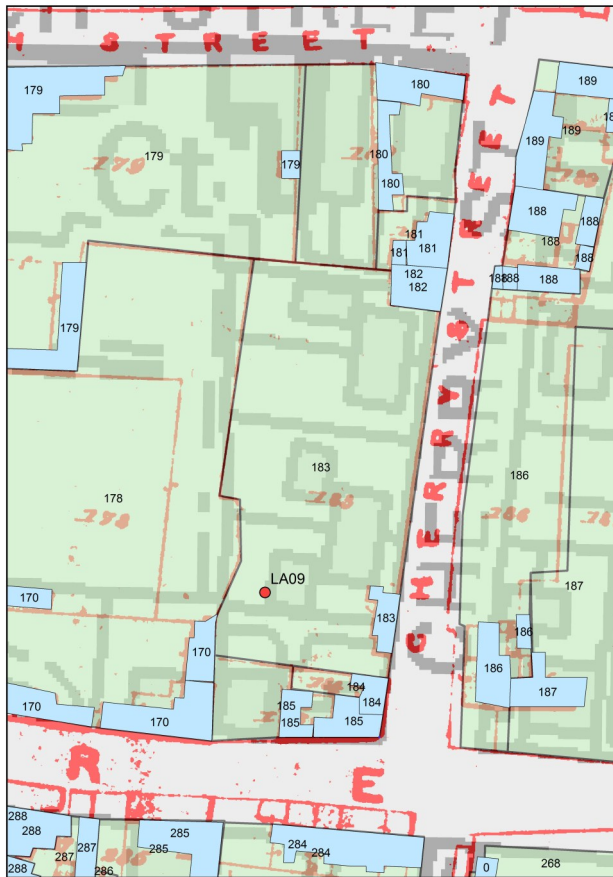
#### 1841

Plot 183 was a house (previously Samuel Baxter's) and orchard occupied by William Hitchcock. William was a stocking maker and his two daughters were seamers.

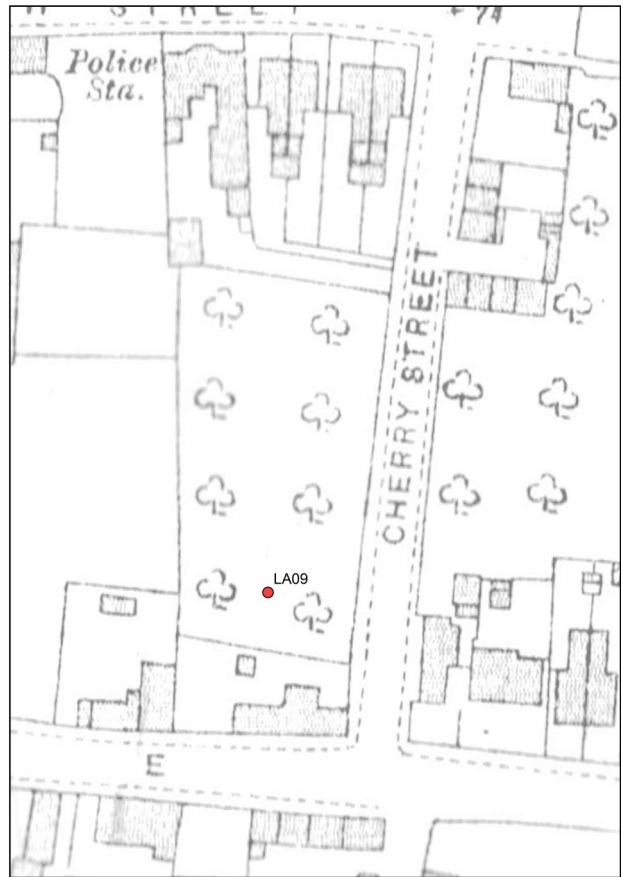
#### 1910

By 1910 the plot had become an orchard (hence "Cherry Street" and the old buildings on the whole plot had disappeared. The Victorian villas had been built on Church Street.

#### 1920s



*Tithe map of 1841*



*O.S map of 1910*

### 1920s

The two pairs of large semi-detached houses were built in the early 1920s, but probably numbers 2 and 4 slightly later than 6 and 8. Numbers 6 and 8 were designed by the Rural District Surveyor, Cyril Kendrick who lived in number 8. The pair were owned by the chemist Mr Cadge who lived at number 6.

*NOTE: Background topography by permission of OS Licence No 0100031573*

## LA09

### LOCATION AND PROTOCOL

<b>NGR</b>	470658.339844
<b>Height OD (mid point rim of N face)</b>	23.457 m [error 0.024 m]
<b>Dig dates</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> May 2012
<b>Pit site</b>	Back garden, lawn site. Backs onto the ground behind the Chesterfield Arms that was excavated in 2005. Some cut-down fruit trees under the lawn.
<b>Pit protocol</b>	1-metre pit, 10 cm spits, all spits sieved. Pit left open for a week because of bone discovery and rich RB pottery in the bottom, found after 2 days. Bones confirmed as animal; digging resumed. Pit orientated N-S. North face sections only described and measured unless otherwise stated. Photographs taken facing north unless otherwise stated. Bottom at 107 cm.

## LA09

### ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

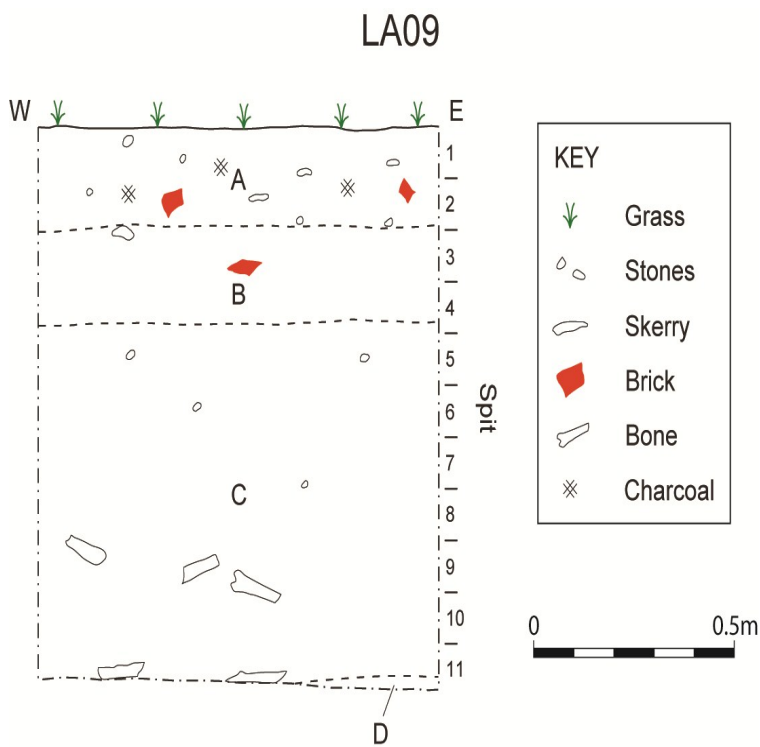
#### Description of pit

The striking thing about this pit is that the soil profile only gradually changes downwards and the distinction between topsoil and subsoil is not clear.

Topsoil to 47 cm  
Subsoil to 107 cm  
Basal clay

The topsoil is a dark brown sandy loam with sparse stones to about 20 cm. It is clay rich and forms little balls when rolled. A slightly lighter dark brown loam underlies this and the boundary is gradual. Both are regarded as topsoil.

Subsoil is brown-grey sandy loam with some charcoal that is probably carbonised rootlets and sparse small stones. There is one 9 cm sandstone cobble at 80 cm depth and below this several skerry stones, smaller sandstone pebbles and small rounded quartz pebbles to 87 cm. There were several large bones among the stones, but no pattern was discerned. Although this is regarded as a

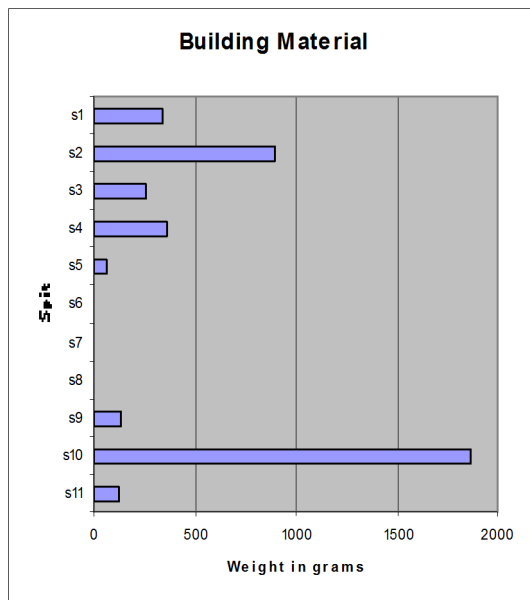


IMG\_1378 Dig site at 8 cherry Street.

- A Topsoil of dark brown sandy loam with stones, brick, pot, charcoal. Rolls into balls.
- B Topsoil of lighter dark brown loam. More clay rich. Sparse stones, soft bone.
- C Subsoil of brown-grey sandy loam. Some charcoal resembles carbonised rootlets. Sparse small stones, sandstone cobble to 9 cm. Skerry at 80 cm and base. Quartz pebbles.
- D Basal red-brown clayey sand.



IMG\_1423 The Roman level at 95 cm depth. Bones, skerry and pottery.



single context there is slight variation in colour above 60 cm forming layers. The significance of this was not found.

Skerry stones up to 16 cm long lie at the base of the pit on brown-grey clayey sand, which is thought to be the basal glacial clay.

### Finds

This was one of the richest pits dug in Bingham with a huge amount of Roman pottery. The pottery shows a rough stratigraphical distribution. Key distribution details are:

All modern and post-medieval material, including pottery, clay pipes and glass, was recovered in the top 50 cm.

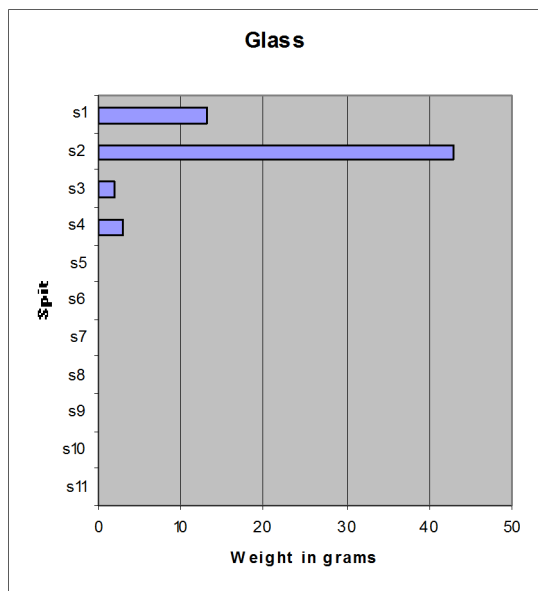
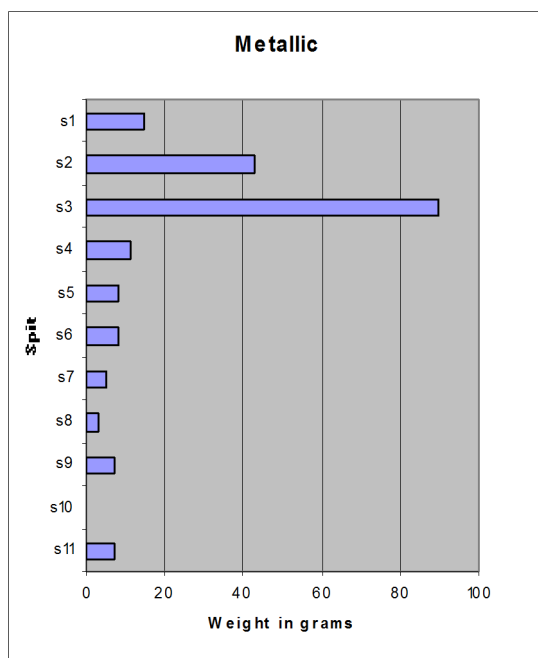
The medieval sherds were spread throughout the top 80 cm with a single sherd, considered to be medieval, but not firmly identified between 90 and 100 cm depth. The main concentration was between 40 and 80 cm.

The Roman sherds were spread throughout the full depth of the pit with the largest concentrations below 70 cm.

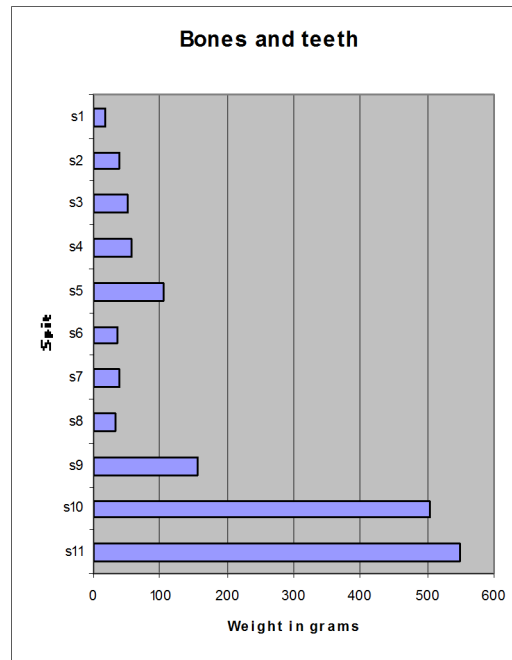
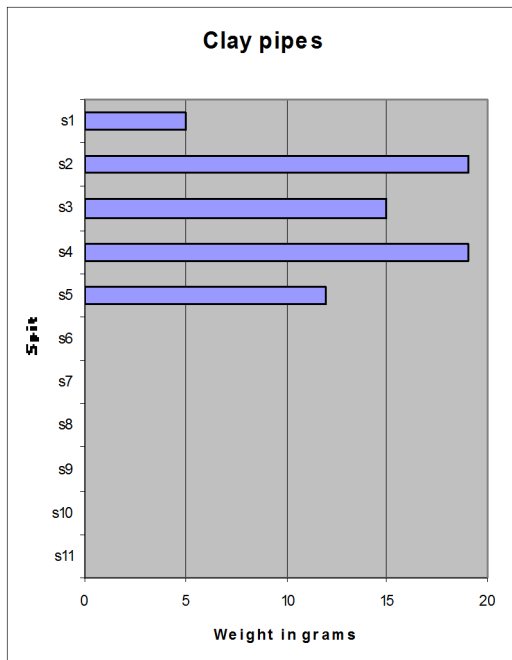
Building materials, bones and teeth and metallic objects were found at all depths.

**Building materials** distribution was bimodal with an abundance in the top 50 cm then a gap before more was recovered between 70 and 110 cm depth. In the upper 50 cm most of the finds were brick. They were small pieces and none were found that could be measured. There was in addition some plaster, lots of mortar, clay roof tiles, vitrified brick and a possible pan tile.

In the lower part of the pit most of the building material was found between 90 and 100 cm depth. Some of it was speculative; oddly shaped stone that might be part of a building stone, for example. Three pieces, however, are not in doubt. They are thinly laminated silty limestone and one is fossiliferous. This strongly resembles the stone found to have been used for roofing in the medieval period both at the rectory (CB02 to CB04) and in the old manor house (CB01 and CB01E). One piece of brick recovered from the bottom of the pit is the thickness typical of Roman brick.



**Metal objects** were found at all depths down to 90 cm.



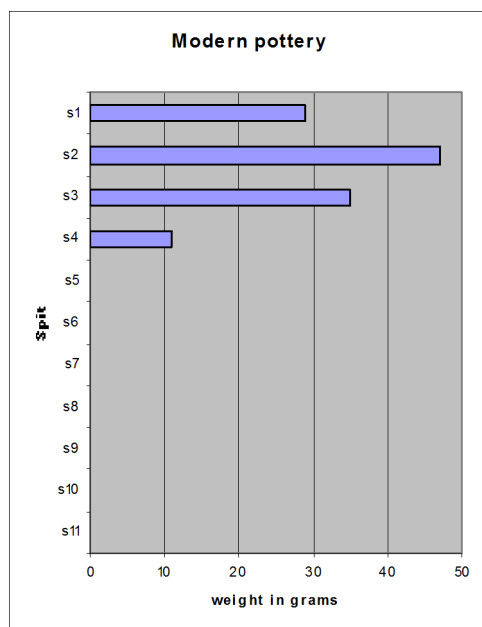
Most were lumps of rusted metal, but the others were largely nails including hand-made square nails. The end of a .22 bullet case was recovered in spit 2. This was the firing pin end of a calibre commonly used for killing pigs. A short brass

strip was recovered at 70-80 cm and a nail at 80-90 cm depth.

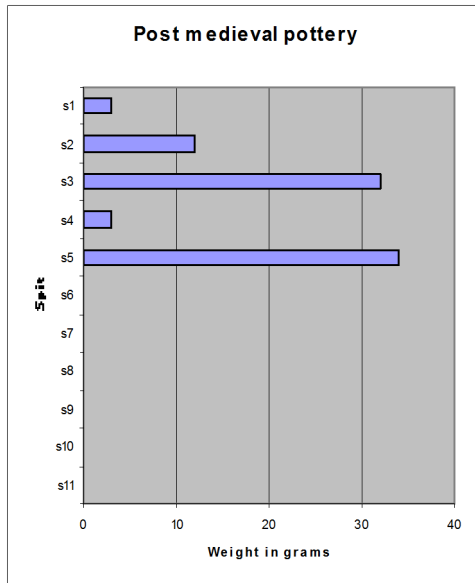
**Glass** was confined to the top 40 cm and was mostly modern. There was flat, clear possibly window glass, but some thin clear flat pieces seemed to curve at the edge and were possibly from small bottles. These include a part of a neck. Clear green, flat glass also may be from a small bottle, while other green pieces were definitely bottles. Some pieces have a patina, particularly a whole neck of a corked bottle.

**Clay pipes** were all found in the top 50 cm. They were mostly stems ranging in thickness from thin to thick. Most were in brownish clay and they had a wide hole down the middle and were thought to be 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> C. One bowl fragment was early 17<sup>th</sup> C. Only two of the stems were definitely 19<sup>th</sup> C, but there was a beautifully decorated whole bowl from 1870-1900.

Among the **miscellaneous items** coal was found down to 60 cm. There were oyster shells, a Victorian farthing dated 1860, a ceramic marble and several pieces of clinker in the top 40 cm. Clinker was also recovered between 70 and 110 cm depth.



**Modern pottery** was entirely concentrated in the top 40 cm. It was mainly White Ware with no diagnostic characteristics and Cream Ware. These are hard to tell apart when dealing with sherds. Three pieces of Cream Ware fit together to make a small jar, 5 cm diameter and 5.5 cm tall. The rim has a distinctive 19th-20th C look about it suggesting that what has been classed as Cream Ware may not be correct and all of it could be late 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> C. A small number of sherds were blue and white transfer printed and may be Willow Pattern. The base colour, however, is very pale blue rather than white. These three fabric types account for 88% of the finds. Among the rest while there were two sherds of White Ware with a black metallic strip, a multicoloured sherd of Transfer Print and sherds of canecoloured ware. There was little to indicate that any of these

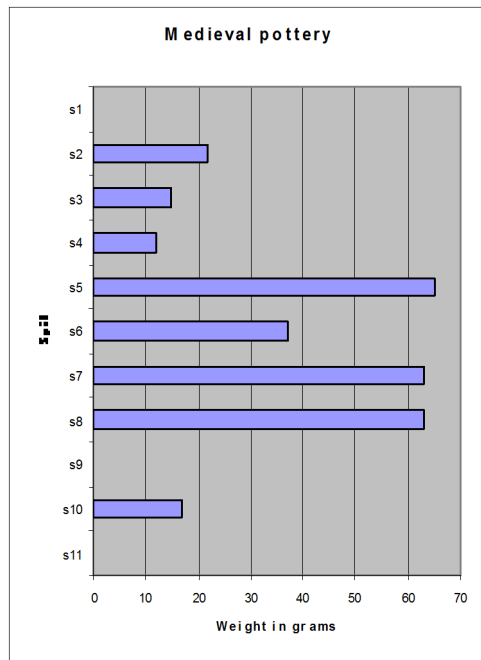


were older than 19<sup>th</sup> C.

A single sherd of *Unglazed Red Earthenware* was recovered from the top 10 cm.

All the *Coarse Earthenware* sherds were found in the top 40 cm. There were two Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware sherds, thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> C in origin, one with a black glaze and the other very dark brown and streaky. The others were slightly earlier pink bodied. The forms that could be identified were all pancheons.

Only five *Stoneware* sherds were recovered and they were in the top 40 cm. The oldest piece is a base and rim of a mug from Nottingham/Crich area and made between 1690 and 1715. The others were mostly Nottingham made and dated 1720 to 1790. One could be identified as a cup fragment. A single body sherd dated 1760-1840 was made in Derbyshire.



The *Post-medieval* pottery was confined to the top 50 cm and included Midland Yellow Ware (1 sherd), Slipware (6), Mottled Ware (4), coarse Black Ware (2) and a single sherd of Midland Black Ware.

The Midland Yellow Ware sherd has a partial glaze and slip on the inside only and an incised pattern on the outside. Impressions of fingernails stand out on this sherd. The Slipware sherds are either red bodied, purple bodied or, mostly, light bodied and come from different vessels. The forms that can be recognised are dishes and the typical slipware pie-crust rim is evident. None of the sherds showed combing such as is typical of the Staffordshire Slipware, but they all had yellow and brown slip stripes. One sherd had a glaze on both sides and is quite unusual. The Mottled

Ware also shows both red-bodied and light-bodied varieties. One piece is from a tankard, another from a cup. Two body sherds of Coarse Black Ware are from unknown vessels. A single sherd of Midland Black Ware with a shiny glaze is clearly fine ware, possibly a cup. The date range for these sherds is mid 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> C.

*Medieval* pottery is fairly abundant and present at all depths from 80 cm upwards. Several fabric types were recorded, mostly of the Nottingham types, but some are clearly imported from outside the region.

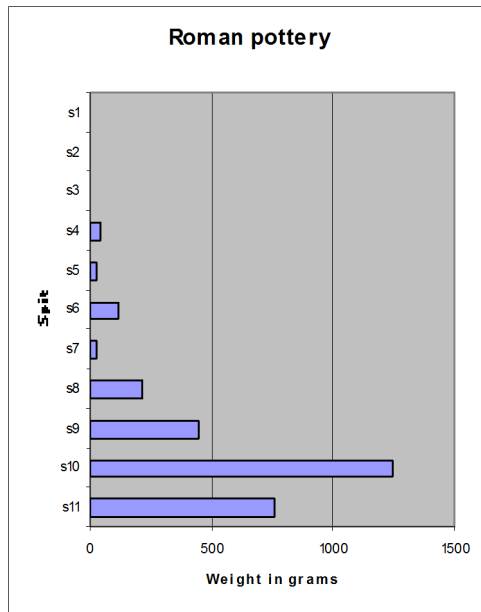
The earliest fabrics are Shelly Ware and Nottingham Splashed Ware. The Nottingham Splashed Ware appears in several fabrics, which show the change in this type of pottery with time. The earliest is a jug from 1170 to 1250. A cooking pot with a sandy fabric is dated 1180 to 1250. Several jugs and a bowl are dated 1190 to 1250. A very sandy fabric is dated 13<sup>th</sup> C (1230-1280). Neither of the Shelly Ware sherds could be closely dated, but fit 13<sup>th</sup> C.

The quality of the glazes evolved and improved with time. Several sherds of Nottingham Light-bodied Green Glaze were found mainly spanning 1270 to 1350 and all were jugs. Some of the ear-



lier forms show similarities with the Splashed Ware. Ribbed decoration was seen as well as rings in the glaze.

A number of Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange Sandy ware sherds were found mostly from cooking pots and bowls. They first appeared in 1200 and continued until 1400.



*Dark stains SE corner of base, suggesting that they represent organic residue within the rubbish pit deposited during the Roman period.*

Nottingham Green Glaze Ware is relatively uncommon. There are only two sherds and they span 1270 to 1325 or 1350.

Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze wares, some sherds with ribbed decoration, are mostly 14<sup>th</sup> C.

Light-bodied Gritty Ware dated mid 14<sup>th</sup> to mid/late 15<sup>th</sup> C is well represented and there are two sherds of Midland Purple Ware with a range 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Some sherds classed as Medieval Glazed or Green Glazed or Sandy ware are thought not to be from Nottingham. They range from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to end 15<sup>th</sup> C, but they are small pieces and little can be deduced from them. Others, while clearly medieval, cannot be classed at all.

There is little stratigraphical order to these different fabrics. Except for the Midland Purple Ware, which is the youngest of the medieval fabrics and which was found in spit 2, the rest are well spread throughout the section.

Only one sherd of *Saxo-Norman* pottery was found. This was Stamford Ware Fabric A (1000 – 1150).

Two sherds of Torksey Ware, attributable to the *Late Saxo-Norman* period (850-1050), were found. These and the Saxo-Norman pottery were collected between 50 and 60 cm depth.

**Roman** pottery sherds were found in large numbers in this pit. A total of 227 sherds were recorded. Around 82% by weight was Grey Ware. Among the rest there were fragments of mortaria from Mancetter- Hartshill, Swanpool and a single sherd of a Lincoln Early Mortarium. Colour-coated wares from Nene Valley and Swanpool were found. Other ware types are Samian, Shell-tempered, Grog-tempered and one sherd of Black Burnished Ware.

There were, in addition, several sherds about which there was disagreement between the specialists about their attribution and they have been left as unresolved Roman to medieval.

Four sherds were found, three of them shell-tempered and one a rough handmade pot, that were possibly Iron Age, but the date range for them extends into the 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> C.

Many of the Grey Ware sherds could be dated and they range from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, with most in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> C. Some grey-brown and brown fabrics are particularly likely to be early, that is mid 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> C, while there is an enclosed form with the pale core typical of a South Lincolnshire fabric that is most likely to be 350-400. Another, from Swanpool, is a flanged, burnished bowl with an inturned rim also dated 350-400. Several forms were identified between these two dates. One sherd of a Swanpool-type narrow-necked jar with a pie-crust frill (C41) is likely to be 4<sup>th</sup> C and no earlier. A wide-mouthed jar with a curvilinear burnish can be dated 270-400 while one more from Swanpool is a rouletted jar type 22 and Rookery Lane no. 17 and dated 270-400.

The full range of forms included jars, bowls, narrow-necked jars, enclosed forms, dishes, flanged bowls with inturned rims and jars with everted rims and wide-mouthed jars. Ornament is varied. Often it is in the form of a burnish defining a lattice, a curvilinear or a linear pattern and in some cases wavy lines around the vessel. Double-grooved incised decoration was also recorded. Frills and neck cordons were seen. Some Grey Ware sherds are burnished all over with one or two done in imitation of the Black Burnished Ware from Dorset. One Grey Ware jar has an everted, near cavetto rim. A particularly large bowl base was found upside down and surrounded by a dark, organic stain in the soil as though its content had been disposed with the broken bowl and had been soaked into the earth.

The fabrics ranged in colour from black through different greys to brown and the texture from sandy to smooth. Chalk inclusions were seen in one sherd and grog or clay pellets in another.

While most of the Grey Ware comes from unidentified kilns there were some that could be identified. Several pots from Trent Valley kilns were recognised; others from south Lincolnshire, Little London and Swanpool.

All the other fabric types were minor compared with Grey Ware and make up only 18% of the total. There were mortaria from Mancetter-Hartshill, Swanpool and Lincoln. One Mancetter-Hartshill sherd is from a large mortarium with a white fabric that is typically late (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> C). Others from this area include a cream vessel with decorative lines dated 220-300. More than one type of Swanpool mortarium was found. One is described as Swanpool/Cantley white-slipped type A10. Another is light brownish orange with a grey core and traces of white slip that is classed as A9. The Lincoln early mortarium is white, partially scorched and has quartz trituration grits. This is probably a 2<sup>nd</sup> C type.

Samian Ware sherds include DR18/31. DR18 stands for Dragendorff 18, he being the man who first classified Samian Ware pottery. This one was in production from mid 1<sup>st</sup> C to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Mostly Samian Ware was imported from the continent, but examples were found of British copies. One such is a colour coat made in Swanpool, probably a copy of a DR36 type. Other sherds were more difficult to distinguish between genuine Samian Ware and British-made colour coated copies. Among these is a Nene Valley Colour Coat with a plain rim thought to be a copy of Samian ware DR38 or a dog dish, dated 270-400.

Several sherds of Nene Valley wares were collected. They include colour-coat indented beakers from the late 2<sup>nd</sup> to end 3<sup>rd</sup> C and late 3<sup>rd</sup> to mid 4<sup>th</sup> C. Grey beakers are dated 170-400. A light brown colour coat with babotine dots and multiple groove decoration was dated 170-300. Other sherds were dark brown colour coat rims from a late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> C bowl. A thick-walled box with rouletting is later (300-400). Colour coated wares were also made in Swanpool; one bowl or dish is red and dated 200-400.

Shell-tempered Ware is fairly common. One form is a mid 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> C sooted jar. Others are possibly Dales Ware dated 170-330. Often the shells were eroded out of the pot leaving holes and

could not be dated. An example of a rim of a jar could be attributed to Harrold and is late, possibly 300-400. This is grey-brown, shell tempered, with an everted rim thickened at the tip. It was compared with Darling 1977, late fourth group at Lincoln. Another Harrold type is a sooted jar from the late 4<sup>th</sup> C. Grey, shell-tempered wares from Trent Valley kilns were identified. They are sooted and maybe cooking pots with a date range 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> C. Grey/black shell tempered ware types with thin walls were thought to be 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> C at the earliest, but there were at least two dark grey sherds from mid 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Several of the sherds were too small to identify precisely. They ranged from grey rilled types to orange and black and they could be middle 1<sup>st</sup> to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> C or very late.

Some grey and rough Shell-tempered Wares are possibly Iron Age to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> C

Black Burnished Ware (BB1) was one of the high quality types of ware afforded only by the well off. A single body sherd was recovered and it might well be a copy. It was dated 150-400.

### **Interpretation**

The 110 cm dug into this garden revealed it to have one of the best ordered sequences in any of the pits dug in Bingham.

At the base of the pit skerry stones up to 16 cm long lie on brown-grey clayey sand, which is thought to be the weathered top to the basal glacial clay. This clay was not dug into, but the weathered top as seen here is something that has been recorded in many other pits.

The weathered top to the basal clay would have been at the bottom of the original soil profile, above which there would have been an organic layer. This is missing here. Instead there are abundant fragments of Roman pottery, building materials, bones and teeth, clinker and metal objects with some stones. 227 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this pit, mostly from the lower 30 cm. This is by far the most recovered from any pit in Bingham and in the opinion of the Roman ceramics specialist who examined the finds it probably indicates that this is a site where domestic rubbish was deposited. The association of the pottery with other types of rubbish may be taken as confirmation of this interpretation. The rubbish was dumped either in a pit or a ditch that may have been dug through soil down to the clay level.

Throughout the pit there was little variation in context; the distribution with depth of pottery of different ages is internally logical with the maximum development of the oldest at the bottom and the youngest at the top. Roman finds, for example are found at all depths, but peaks at spit 10. Medieval finds occur at all depths to spit 8. This is thought to indicate continuing agricultural use for this land throughout time, but show that none of the soil has been brought in to the site from elsewhere.

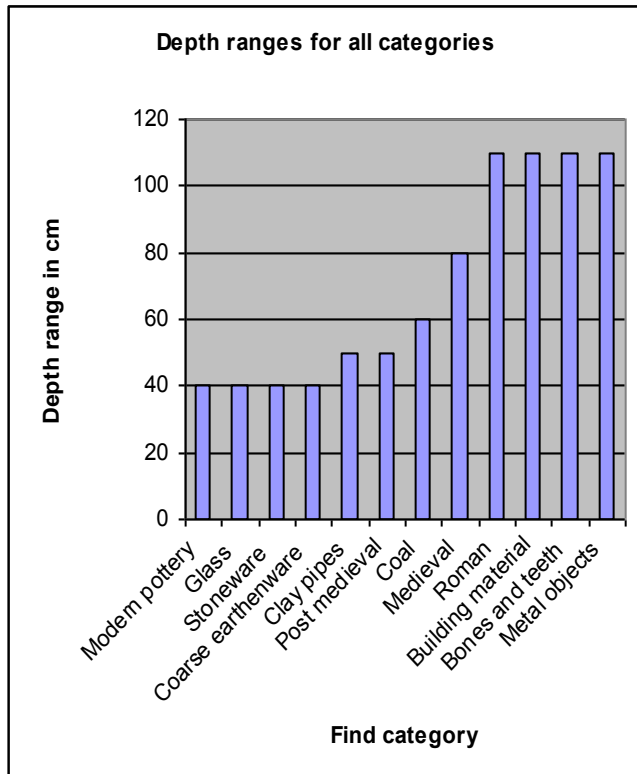
Modern pottery, glass, coarse earthenware and stoneware were all found entirely within the top 40 cm. The best dating evidence for any of these materials is from the stoneware, which has a range from 1690 to 1840. The glazed Modern pottery would be at the upper end of this range, possibly into the late 19<sup>th</sup> C.

The clay pipes and post-medieval pottery were found down to 50 cm. The oldest clay pipe fragment is possibly early 17<sup>th</sup> C, while the Midland Black Ware and Midland Yellow Ware that was found date from mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> C.

Medieval pottery starts above 80 cm depth. The one sherd from spit 10 is of uncertain identification and should be treated with caution here. Within this depth range is pottery ascribed to the Late

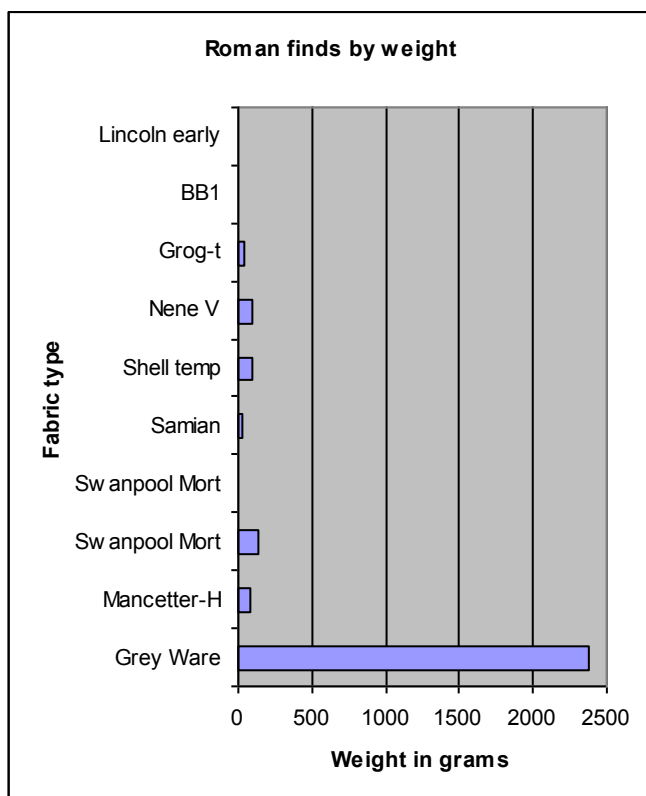
Saxon period, 850-1050, but most of it dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> C. There is no stratigraphical order to the medieval pottery, except for the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> C Midland Purple Ware, which was found in spit 2. The other fabric types, which include the Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman sherds, are well spread throughout the section. In terms of concentration most of the medieval sherds both in terms of weight and number of sherds were found between 40 and 80 cm depth. This is below the bottom limit to the modern and post medieval pottery.

Interestingly, coal was found down to 60 cm. It would have been subjected to the same redistribution processes as pottery, but its presence at 60 cm depth, while it may have got there by animal action, could indicate that some of it was medieval in origin. There is strong evidence elsewhere in Bingham that coal was used in households during the 13<sup>th</sup> C.



The oldest pottery found is Shell-tempered Ware and a rough, handmade sherd with an age range from Iron Age into the late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Though it cannot be tied down more precisely it seems that the Romans probably came here to an already settled community. There is no doubt that there was a Romano-British household nearby. There is a diversity of ware types found that suggests a fairly affluent householder, one that could afford Samian Ware and Black Burnished Ware lived here. The high percentage of Grey Ware (82%) is typical for rural settlements. The dates of the pottery go from the time of the Roman Conquest in the mid 1<sup>st</sup> C to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> C, in other words settlement here lasted the whole of the time of the Roman occupation.

There is a useful indication of the type of household from the building materials. The distribution with depth of building material was bimodal with a lower maximum between 90 and 100 cm. At this level a piece of thin Roman brick was recovered and some pieces of limestone roofing material. This material is thinly laminated sandy limestone. One piece had fossil shells and it is very similar to the stone found as roofing slate in association with the medieval manor house, north of Market Place. The rock is a Liassic limestone and has been worked in quarries near Barnstone. The depth this stone was found is below the level of the lowest certain medieval pottery, which seems to suggest that this limestone was being used for roofing by the Romans. Several other pieces of stone were recovered from this depth. They include a broken quern stone and



They include a broken quern stone and

a black sandstone that is not local and may have belonged to the Roman household for an unknown use. A nail and some clinker were also recovered from 90-100 cm depth and a short piece of brass from 10cm higher up. These are Roman levels. All the information recovered seems to show there was a Roman household of some substance near here and possibly some industry.

The quantity of medieval pottery is probably not enough to indicate a medieval household in the immediate vicinity, though there is probably a hint of one given by the coal found. However, the upward spread of the medieval pottery indicates disturbance due to agricultural practices suggesting that this area may have been under cultivation during the medieval period. No early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered, but the date range for the rest shows that there was some form of activity hereabouts from the Late Saxon period through to the late 15<sup>th</sup> C. The Black Death had no impact. Most of the pottery was made locally, but there were some imports.

The late medieval/early post-medieval pottery is scarce: two sherds of Midland Purple Ware, one each of Midland Black Ware and Midland Yellow Ware. However, their presence shows that there are no major gaps in the chronology of the site.

One of the most interesting aspects of this collection is that the distribution of the building material with depth has a peak between 10 and 20 cm and a gap between 50 and 70 cm depth below which is the Roman part of the collection. The upper cluster is made mainly of brick pieces, none of which can be measured, but their presence here suggests that there may have been a building hereabouts in the later period represented in this pit. It is not known when this might be, but it would have to fit between the 17<sup>th</sup> C and the mid 20<sup>th</sup> C, most likely during the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> C.