

LA12

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON
67, LONG ACRE, REGENCY HOUSE**

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LA12 REGENCY HOUSE, LONG ACRE

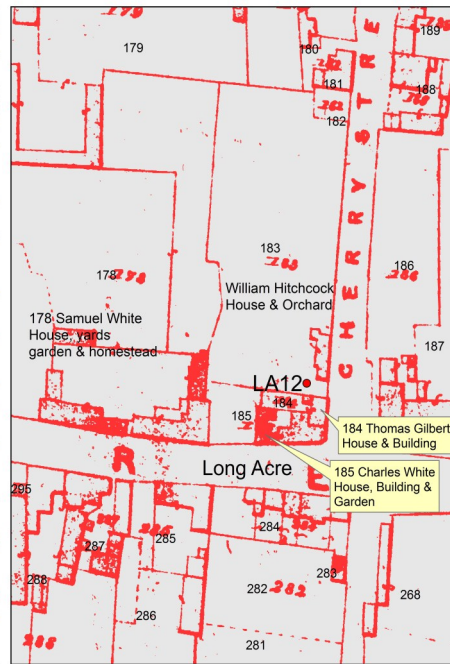
SITE HISTORY



Left hand map is the Tithe map of 1841 showing the location of the pit. The green lines are the scale measurements from parts of the house that were used to locate the pit. Right hand map is Map A (see text). Topography by permission of Western Power.



Map A1



Tithe map 1841

The site has an interesting occupation history and a comparison of the various maps we have suggests that the northern boundary was moved northwards three times after 1841. Map A shows the four boundary lines: red is 1841, green is 1883, purple is 1901/1910 and blue 2015. The maps correspond well when viewed layered together on our computerised mapping software so the differences appear to be real.

Map A1 shows the sale plan of October 1920 overlain on the modern OS map. The red outline makes it clear that when the land for 2- 8 Cherry Street was sold, a portion of the old orchard was retained for a new driveway to the rear of Regency House.

Comparison of the tithe map and the 1883 Ordnance Survey map suggests that the tithe map boundary had been extended northward, from the red line to the green line, sometime between those dates. Again, the extension may have been to provide vehicular (horse and cart) access to the yard behind the house/shop. The 1901 map shows the same boundary as 1910, so at some time between 1835 and 1901 the boundary was extended yet again.

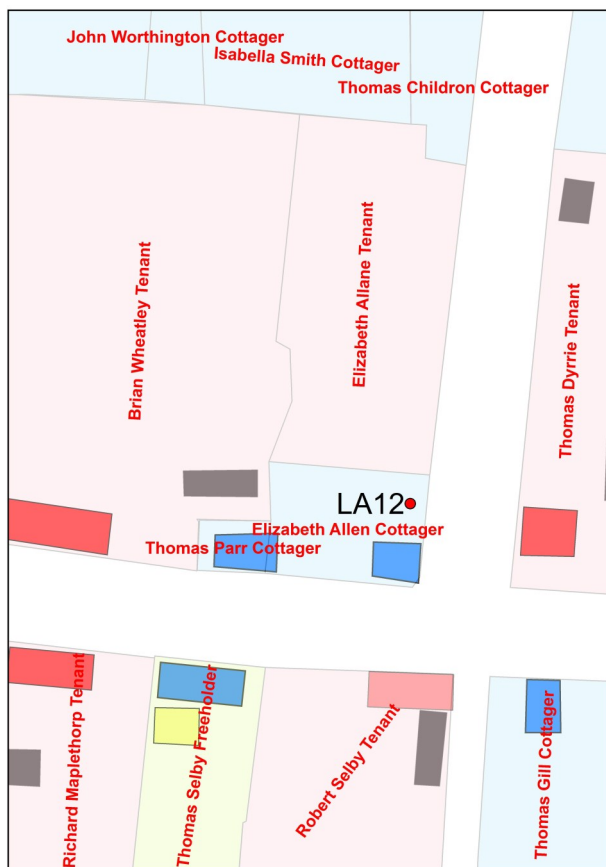
The three extra strips of land are marked on the map as:

- A: the strip added between 1841 and 1883
- B: the strip added between 1883 and 1901.
- C: the strip added after 1920.

The area of the plot of land on each map is:

Tithe 1841	450sq.yd.
1883 OS	510sq.yd.
1910 OS	592sq.yd.
2015 OS	750sq.yd.

The pit is so close to the 1901/10 boundary that it is difficult to determine on the map whether it should be north or south of the line. Physical inspection of the sites shows that the very old boundary brick wall along Cherry Street ends short of the “new” driveway. The remaining part is fenced and indicates the 1901/1910 boundary point. The pit was just south of the 1910 (purple) boundary line which meets the end of the brick wall.



Conjectural map for 1586 made from the manorial survey documents (no map).

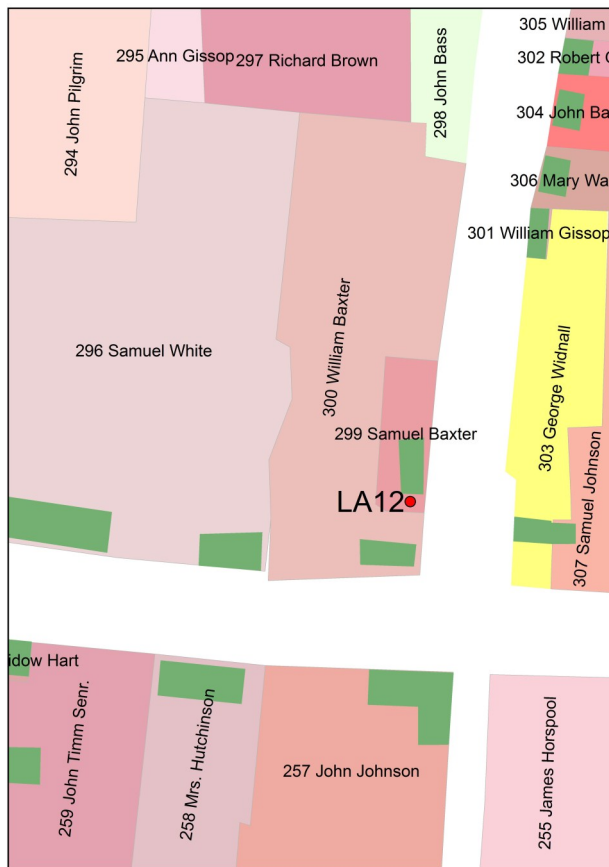
It can reasonably be assumed that the pit was outside the boundaries shown on both the 1841 and 1883 maps but inside the 1901 boundary. The boundary changes have implications for the origins of material found in the pit, as until sometime between 1883 and 1901 the material would not have originated from Regency House.

1586

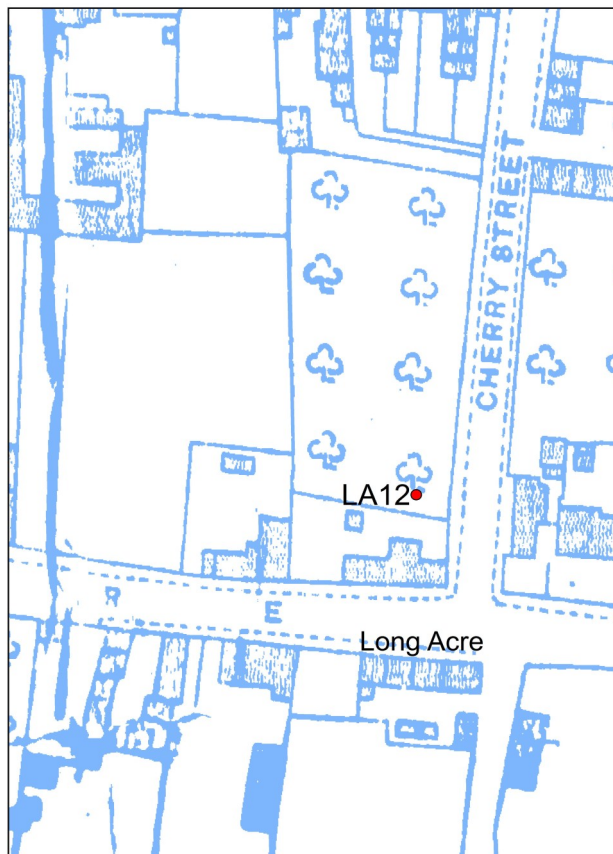
Our conjectural map of Bingham based on the 1586 Stapleford Estate survey, a text document without a map, suggests that the plot of land now occupied by Regency House was held by Elizabeth Allen. It was described as being adjacent to Husband Street (now Long Acre) by the “Selby Cross”. This may have referred to an actual cross or, possibly more likely, to the fact that Selby Lane crossed Husband Street at this point (today’s Jebbs Lane and Cherry Street).

Elizabeth was a cottager and would have been self-sufficient. She may have had a secondary occupation but we have no way of telling.

Confusingly what became the orchard to the north was held by Elizabeth Allane, a tenant farmer who held “a tenement or cottage with small yard and cottage and 3 bovates of land”. The cottage was on Church Gate (Street) near the market place. She held a total of 25 acres of land in the



Map for 1776 made from the estate survey.



O.S. map for 1910

open fields. We do not know if the two Elizabeths were related; it could be their surnames were recorded differently so as to differentiate them on the survey. The surname Allan survived in Bingham until the 1650s.

Our selection of the boundary line between the two plots had to be highly speculative as we had no guide from the 1776 plan which showed the two plots as one (but surrounding Samuel Baxter's plot - see below). Arbitrarily we chose to follow the modern boundary, which was clearly incorrect! Finds in pit LA12 dating up to the mid-16th century in may therefore relate to either of the Elizabeths, more likely perhaps Elizabeth Allane.

1776

By 1776 the pattern of land holding had changed completely. What became Regency House and the Cherry Street orchard were leased by the Chesterfield Estate to William Baxter (plot 300) except for a piece about where number 6 and 8 Cherry Street now are, held by Samuel Baxter (plot 299). Both had houses. Pit LA12 appears to have been on Samuel's land, but the matching of old maps at this scale makes it difficult to be certain. Samuel had no other land, William rented about an acre of grazing on the moors. Neither appears in the 1795 trades' directory, but other Baxters do. Finds relating to this period are therefore most likely to be from Samuel's household.

1841

By 1841 there were three plots on the "Regency House/Orchard land". The tithe map boundaries bear no relationship to previous boundaries. The plot occupied by White was much smaller than it eventually became. Early 19th century finds probably originate from William Hitchcock. From an unknown date between 1883 and 1901 the finds are likely to be from the Whites and their successors at Regency House.



Modern map. OS Licence No 0100031673

William Hitchcock held plot 183 as a house and orchard, clearly one of Bingham's established orchards for which the town was famous for many years. They were more likely to have been plums than cherries! Pit LA12 was on this plot and the contents may reflect Hitchcock's tenancy not White's or Gilbert's. William was a stocking maker (framework knitter) and his two daughters assisted him as seamers. Given the size of the house and holding it is likely his workshop was here. He was still here in 1871 with a new wife aged 59, his first wife Ann having died in 1860.

Plot 185 was the present Regency House and its west side garden (on which Hope Cottage now stands). This was occupied by the White family who were to remain there until the early 1900s. They were grocers and had a shop here with the door on the curved corner of the building. By the 1911 census the widowed Jane had died and her two unmarried daughters, Jane and Mary, lived in the house.

Plot 184 has since been absorbed into Regency House but in 1841 was a separate house and building occupied by Thomas Gilbert, a shoemaker. The present owners of Regency House excavated a small area just south of LA12 and discovered some old leather shoes; none were found in LA12. Gilbert and family were here in 1851, his daughter working as a lace runner. They had left by 1861 but we do not know when the house was demolished. It does not appear on the 1883 map, which is consistent with the change of boundary line reported above.

1920

The northern driveway to Regency House was added to the plot to produce the land ownership plan we have today.

Regency House was named Fontaine and later used as a café and bed & breakfast, particularly attracting members of the Cyclists Touring Club. Later it was occupied by a painter and decorator.

LA12

FIELD REPORT

NGR 470666.339827 (mid point along north edge)

Height OD 23.169 m (mid point along north edge)

Dig dates 7-8th May 2013

Pit site Beneath a patio in the back garden. Flags lifted by the householder.

Pit protocol 1-metre test pit; 10 cm spits all sieved. Content of features bagged separately. In spits 6 and 7 the finds from the fill in the trench were bagged as 6.1; those from the main dig as the appropriate spit. The fill from the SW post hole was bagged as 8.2. The fill from the SE post hole was bagged as 8.4. Dug to 100 cm.

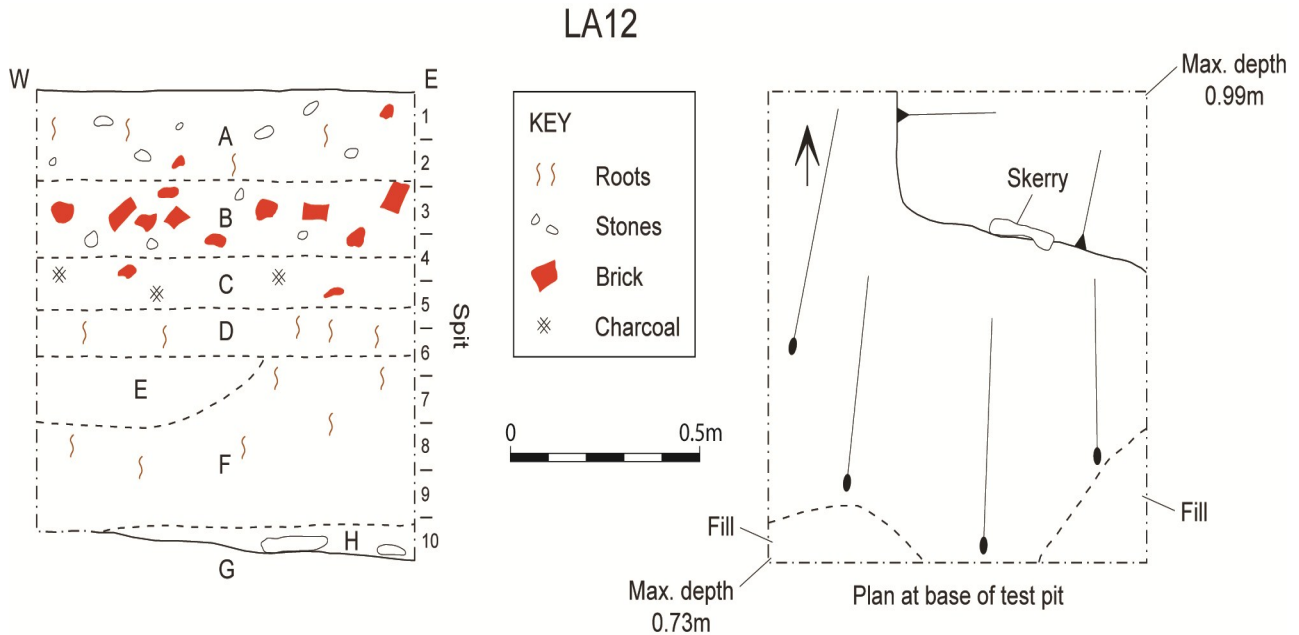
LA12

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

Description of pit

As with many of the houses where there is known to have been a long history of building on the site this has a complex history. The section recorded in this pit is:

- Topsoil to 18cm
- Demolition layer mixed with topsoil to 35-40 cm
- Lower topsoil to 45 cm
- Subsoil to 90 cm
- Fill between 56 and 73 cm
- Postholes top at 73 cm



- A* Topsoil of dark brown-grey loam. Rounded pebbles to 4 cm. Rare brick.
- B* Dark brown-grey loam with plentiful brick pieces and some rounded pebbles.
- C* Lower topsoil of dark brown-grey loam with sparse brick, but plentiful charcoal. Gradual change downwards.
- D* Subsoil of brown-grey sandy loam with rootlets
- E* Fill of dark brown-grey loam with pots.
- F* Subsoil of light brown sandy clay with vertical carbonised roots.
- H* Similar to F, but smoother and with fewer roots
- G* Orange-brown sandy clay with rootlets, skerry stones to 17cm on the top.

The topsoil is dark brown-grey loam with rootlets, rounded pebbles to 4 cm, pottery sherds and rare brick. It overlies a layer with plentiful brick pieces. Some that were measured were 2.5 inches, the same as in the old part of the house. This is presumed to be a demolition layer. Bricks persist down to 40 cm, but the base is irregular.

Dark brown-grey loam beneath the layer of bricks is similar to the upper topsoil, but clearly predates the demolition layer and is an earlier topsoil. Bits of coal, pot and charcoal are in it.

The lower topsoil passes down into a lighter brown-grey sandy loam, which is thought to be the



IMG_2083 View N at 30 cm depth at top of brick layer.



IMG_2088 NW corner, the fill feature at 55cm dug out.



IMG_2093 Two fill features in southern corners dug out at 73 cm in S wall.



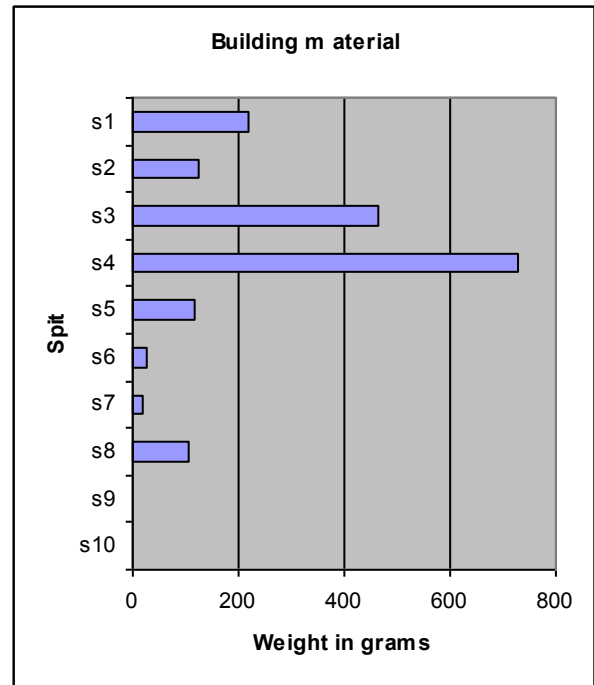
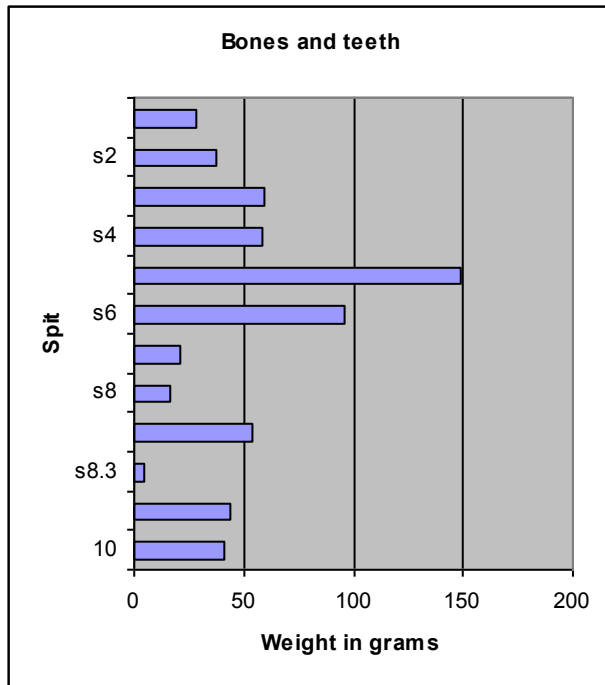
IMG_2099 S face showing the upward change from subsoil to organic topsoil

subsoil. This persists to the bottom of the pit, becoming sandy clay and lighter and redder in colour downwards. A layer of large, angular stones, some up to 12 cm long, is between 60 and 70 cm depth and is associated with a lot of charcoal. A layer rich in charcoal occurs at the top of the subsoil on the north side of the pit.

At 56 cm depth a rectangular dark patch appears in the NE corner of the pit. It was dug out and found to be a maximum of 17 cm deep. The fill is a dark brown-grey loam similar to the lower topsoil. This is too shallow to be a posthole, but may be the end of a trench.

Towards the bottom of the pit orange-brown clay appears and there are two possible post holes dug into it. One in the SW corner was encountered at 73 cm. The bottom was at 93 cm. The fill was brown clay sand. In the SE corner another posthole was encountered. The fill was clayey sand. Small bits of coal were seen in it.

The orange-brown clay is possibly the weathered top to the underlying basal clay. Stones up to 17cm long and rootlets were encountered on top of the basal orange-brown sandy clay, which is presumed to be glacial in origin and forms the bottom of the pit. It is uneven and slopes to the north from 73 cm depth in south wall to 93 cm depth in the north wall.



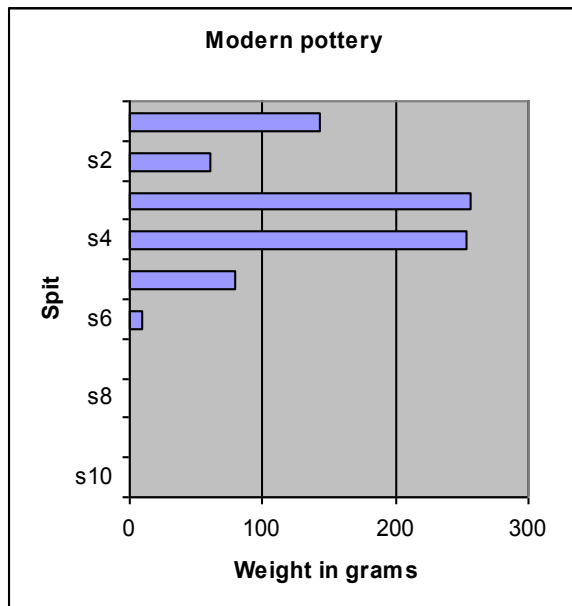
Finds

The building materials found are mostly brick. Not all the brick was taken out, particularly from the demolition layer. Several pieces could be measured and they were 2.5 inches thick. Other material included slate, floor tile, roof tile, a modern drain and a single piece of ceramic tile.

The metallic objects were nearly all nails, both short and long, but there was a piece of lead in the trench fill and a bayonet socket.

Glass was present in the top 60 cm with a maximum abundance between 40 and 60 cm. 79% of it was bottle glass. There was clear, light green, dark green and one piece of brown bottle glass. Among the clear was a rim that is most likely to be from a jam jar. Very few pieces had a good patina. The window glass was mostly 1/8th inch, but with some thinner. All of it was in the building rubble context. It was clear and the thin (1/16th inch) pieces were not aged. There are no indications that any of this glass is older than 19th C.

Most of the clay pipe fragments (14) were stems dated 1750-1900, but two bowl fragments were more closely dated at 1780-1825 and 1860-1900.



Nine pieces of stem and a bowl were dated 1600-1749 and were found only below 40cm depth. One bowl was closely dated to 1650-1670.

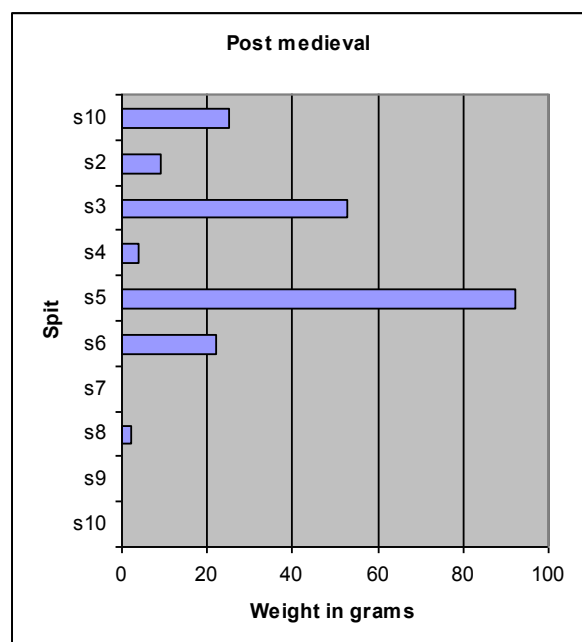
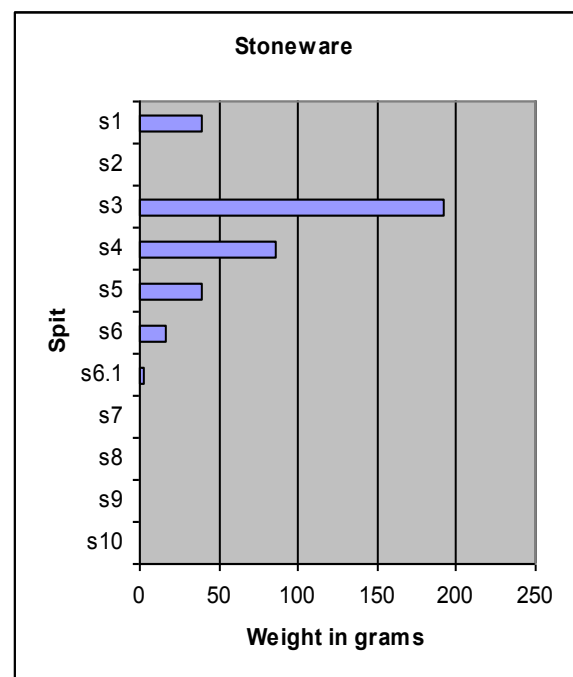
A few miscellaneous items include a 1947 6d piece, a bone nib and copper buttons. One of these was in the trench fill.

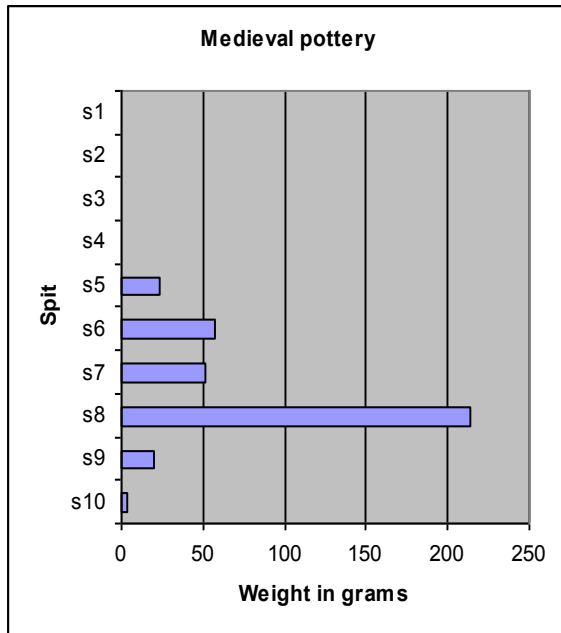
Among the pottery sherds glazed Modern pots comprised the largest amount with 138 sherds present down to 60 cm depth. Among these 31% were White Ware, 33% Transfer Print and 15% Cane-coloured Ware.. Among the rest were Cream Ware, Flow Blue, Mocha Ware, one sherd of porcelain, five pieces that fitted together to make a late 18th C Chinese hand-painted blue and white bowl and some

unknown pieces. The White Ware, which ranges from about 1830 to 1950 in date range, was from plates, bowls, a chamber pot and other coarse ware that may possibly be sanitary ware. Some had decoration in the form of gold lines near the rim and several pieces had three gold lines close together. Two fitted together, but it is likely that they were all from the same object, which was an upright vessel 16 cm in diameter. This is too big for a cup or a sugar bowl and may be a vase. There were some pieces classed as Transfer Print that were White Ware with a delicate multicoloured decoration. They were fragments of a cup. Nearly all the Transfer Print, which ranges from c1800 to 1950, were blue and white or pale blue and white. The pale blue came in at the start of the 19th C. One of these seems to be from a mug with a partial crest preserved in which the letters ...RANDOM... were preserved. Many others are from Willow Pattern plates and they could be from the same one. Willow pattern came into being in England in the mid 18th C, but was most common after the mid 19th C. Plates, cups and a chamber pot rim were all found. There were a few multicoloured transfer printed pieces and some green and white, one purple and white and black and white. These would all have been made after c1830, but they were very few. There were some Flow Blue. These are usually attributed to the mid 19th C, though the design became popular later and persisted into the 20th C. The Cane-coloured Wares come from chunky mixing bowls with a white internal glaze, upright jars with cane-coloured glaze on both sides and a 22cm diameter vessel with a round rim that might be a chamber pot. Some were from fine ware, though it is not possible to be sure that these are not Mocha Ware. One piece of Mocha, which ranges through the 19th C, had the characteristic tree pattern, but some others had the coloured rings that are also fairly typical. Because the base colour to Mocha is usually cane-coloured some of the fine ware examples may be this. One piece of porcelain was found and a small number of blue and white banded sherds that are typical of milk jugs and likely to be 20th C. A small number of sherds were classed as Cream Ware. They appear to be from plates. Both body and glaze are creamy. This is difficult to distinguish from White Ware and it is by no means a certain identification. Several pieces of a yellow glazed plate were classed as unknown as they do not fit any of the known types except from the 20th C when there was considerable diversity. Finally, five pieces were found together that fitted and were from a shallow dish 14cm in diameter that is characteristically Chinese. The pattern was blue and white. It cannot be certain when this was imported, but Chinese imports fell away after 1800 as Stoke-on-Trent came to dominate the market with cheaper products. This find came from about 50 cm down.

There were 11 sherds of Unglazed Red Earthenware in the top 40 cm.

The Stoneware was wide ranging in age. Most (31) fell within the date range 1850 to 1950. Only three were dated 1750-1850, while there were 13 1700-





1750. All the early stoneware is Nottingham made. The diversity of form is considerable. There were bowls, bottles, mugs, jars, preserving jars, plates, flared jars a teapot, a loving cup and a pancheon.

Coarse Earthenware was also diverse. Red-bodied Black Glazed Coarse Earthenware was dominant with Pink-bodied next, but in addition there were Vitrified Coarse Earthenware, Coarse Black Ware, Brown-glazed Coarse Earthenware, Light-bodied Coarse Earthenware and Yellow Coarse Earthenware.

Other post-medieval pottery was predominantly Mottled Ware (7) with Sandy Coarse Earthenware (4) and Light-bodied Black Ware (4) second in abundance. Single sherds of Midland Black Ware, Cistercian Ware, Black Slipware, Midland Yellow Ware, Staffordshire Slipware and a brown glazed fabric not

seen elsewhere. These span the date range late 16th to mid 18th C.

There were 24 sherds of medieval pottery and like most places hereabouts there was some diversity in fabric type. Among them were Nottingham Reduced Green Glaze, date range 1270 to 1400, Nottingham Green Glaze, 1270-1400, but with some later 1370-1450, Shelly Ware, 1270-1400, Nottingham Coarse Pink/orange Sandy Ware, 1250-1400 and two Midland Purple Ware sherds, 1450-1550. Interestingly, there was no Light-bodied Gritty Ware, but several of the fabric types spanned the date of the Black Death (1348-9) and two came later than it.

Right at the bottom of the pit there was a single sherd of Roman Grey Ware. It came from a jar and had sparse shell and clay temper. There was a grooved pattern on the outside. It is likely to be a 2nd C fabric. Another handmade pot sherd was thought to be Iron Age. Both of these were found near the bottom of the pit.

A single flint found in spit 3 may be worked. It looks like a broken scraper, but the flint is white and the retouching not sharp. There is some doubt about this one.

Interpretation

The topsoil shows the characteristics of soil that has been re-deposited, which is highly likely in that it overlies a layer of builder's rubble. The rubble is a high-density spread of mainly bricks mixed with the same loam as the topsoil and underneath it. Some of the pieces were measured and were similar in thickness and type to the older bricks on the house. However, they would have also been the same as those in the cottage built to the north of Regency House which was demolished in 1920. The likelihood is that this rubble is debris from this building. The soil beneath it would have been the contemporary ground level at the time of the demolition.

The modern pottery continues down to 50 cm depth, which is the base of the dark, organic soil layer. The date range for them is almost entirely 19th C. Only the Chinese import is likely to be late 18th C. This was found between 40 and 50 cm down. The brown stoneware is mainly 19th C above 30 cm and 18th C below, though there is some mixing. There is none below 60 cm, which is just below the boundary between topsoil and subsoil in the northern side of the pit. The modern pottery sherds were mostly table ware, kitchen ware and some chamber pots. Interestingly White Ware, Cane-coloured Ware and Transfer Printed Ware were all represented as possibly from chamber pots.

Post medieval pottery is present down to 60 cm. It is mostly early 18th C, with only single sherds of older varieties. A single sherd thought to be 18th C, but not categorically identified was found at 70-80 cm. This is probably not significant as animals including worms can take sherds downwards. It is likely that the boundary at the base of the subsoil at about 55—60 cm marks the late 17th C to early 18th C, but the presence of some older pottery above this level demonstrates, as elsewhere, turning of the soil during agriculture or horticulture.

The fill in the trench seen in the NE corner of the pit contained only three artefacts. These were a copper button, a piece of lead and a sherd of an early, Nottingham-made stoneware mug. The pot was dated 1700–1750. Three sherds of modern pottery were found between 50 and 60 cm. These were Cream Ware, coarse White Ware and a thin green-glazed type that could not be identified. The Cream Ware was being made from around 1740 and the White ware came later but was common after around 1830. It seems that whatever the fill was in, whether it was a trench or a pit, it was probably dug in the mid 18th C.

Medieval pottery was first encountered in spit 5, though it was most abundant in spit 8. There is some overlap with the post-medieval pottery above it, probably due to mixing during ploughing or digging. The date range of the different types of medieval pottery covers the mid 13th to the mid 15th C. This spans the Black Death (1348-1349). In this respect this assemblage differs little from that in adjacent gardens. Also, as in adjacent gardens, there is Midland Purple Ware here, a late medieval/early post-medieval fabric type. The range of fabric types and their ages suggests that though a fairly significant number of sherds were recovered the annual contribution to the total is very small. What is interesting is that there is no Nottingham Splashed Ware, the earliest of the Nottingham fabrics. Nor is there any Saxo-Norman or Late Saxon material. There is only one sherd of Roman pottery and one that is thought to be Iron Age. These are at the very bottom of the pit.

The two post holes appear at c75 cm depth, which is within the spit of maximum medieval pottery. The only material found in the fill is bone, so there is no direct evidence of age. Their situation below 75 cm, however, suggests that whatever these are they were likely to have been dug in medieval times.

Pit LA09 is only 20 metres away and in it there were over 220 Roman sherds and an almost unbroken record to modern times. The contrast between the two pits could hardly have been more marked. There is no doubt that LA12 is stratigraphically sound and that there has not been any significant movement of soil. The contrast with LA 09, therefore, must show that the Regency House pit is just outside the field of influence of the Roman house represented in LA09. None of the rubbish generated in it made it even to 20 metres away. Moreover, if the site near LA09 was inhabited after the Roman period the later rubbish did not find its way north to LA12.

In summary, there is no indication of any habitation on this site before the 18/19th C.